

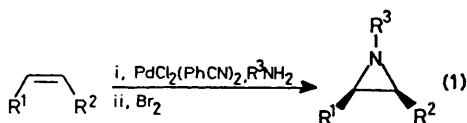
Formation of Aziridines in the Oxidation of β -Aminoalkylpalladium Complexes by Bromine. Aziridination of Olefins

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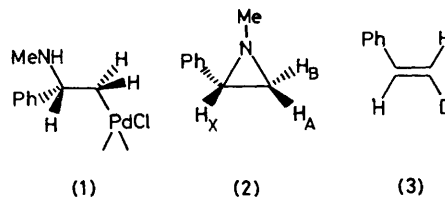
Summary Palladium-promoted amination of olefins, using primary amines followed by oxidation by bromine, results in the formation of *N*-substituted aziridines.

We have recently observed that palladium-promoted oxyamination¹ and diamination^{1,2} of olefins take place at low temperature. These reactions are stereospecific and are achieved by aminopalladation³ of the olefin followed by oxidation of the organometallic adduct in the presence of added nucleophile. During the course of these studies we observed that formation of aziridines takes place with primary amines, when bromine is used as an oxidant. We now report on this reaction [equation (1)], which involves an intramolecular replacement of palladium and permits transformation of an olefin into the corresponding aziridine.



† Prepared by hydroalumination of phenylacetylene followed by D₂O quenching (G. Wilke and H. Müller, *Annalen*, 1958, **618**, 267). Unchanged phenylacetylene was removed by treatment with CuCl-NH₃. In this way β -deuteriostyrene with a *trans*:*cis* ratio of 88:12 was obtained.

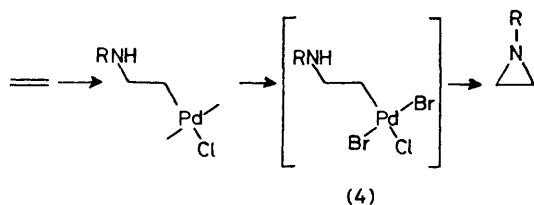
Aminopalladation³ of styrene with methylamine at -50°C gave the σ -bonded complex (1) which, on subsequent bromination⁴, afforded the aziridine (2) identified by its n.m.r. spectrum⁴ [(CCl₄, Me₄Si) δ_A 1.34, δ_B 1.58, and δ_X 2.02; J_{AX} 6.4, J_{BX} 3.2, and J_{AB} 1.3 Hz]. Other olefins, for example dec-1-ene and oct-2-enes, were also shown to



undergo the aziridination reaction. Thus dec-1-ene gave the corresponding *N*-methylaziridine in an isolated yield of 43%.

As shown by reaction with the specifically deuteriated styrene (3),† there is a preference for formation of the

aziridine isomer (**2**; $H_A = D$) with the same geometry as the starting olefin. N.m.r. analysis of the aziridine product indicated the ratio of overall *cis*:*trans* addition to be 4:1.‡



SCHEME

The formation of the main isomer (**2**; $H_A = D$) is consistent with a *trans*-aminopalladation⁵ followed by an oxidative internal replacement of palladium by nitrogen with inversion

‡ Isolation of unchanged β -deuteriostyrene and subsequent n.m.r. analysis showed that the extent of isomerisation was <2% and thus cannot account for the partial loss of stereospecificity.

¹ J. E. Bäckvall, *Tetrahedron Letters*, 1975, 2225.

² J. E. Bäckvall, unpublished results.

³ B. Åkermark, J. E. Bäckvall, L. S. Hegedus, K. Zetterberg, K. Siirala-Hansén, and K. Sjöberg, *J. Organometallic Chem.*, 1974, **72**, 127.

⁴ S. J. Brois, *Tetrahedron*, 1970 **26**, 227.

⁵ B. Åkermark, J. E. Bäckvall, K. Siirala-Hansén, K. Sjöberg, and K. Zetterberg, *Tetrahedron Letters*, 1974, 1363.

⁶ P. K. Wong and J. K. Stille, *J. Organometallic Chem.*, 1974, **70**, 121.

⁷ P. M. Henry, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1974, **39**, 3871; *Adv. Organometallic Chem.*, 1975, **13**, 363; J. E. Bäckvall, *Tetrahedron Letters*, 1977, 467.

⁸ O. C. Dermer and G. E. Ham, 'Ethylenimine and other aziridines,' Academic Press, New York and London, 1969; H. Wenker, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.*, 1935, **57**, 2328; W. Lwowski and T. W. Mattingly, *ibid.*, 1965, **87**, 1947; A. Hassner, G. J. Matthews, and F. W. Fowler, *ibid.*, 1969, **91**, 5046.

of configuration at carbon (Scheme). A palladium(IV) intermediate (**4**) is possible and has been suggested previously in the oxidative cleavage of palladium-carbon bonds.^{1,6} The inversion at carbon found here for the oxidative cleavage by bromine is in accordance with results from other oxidative cleavages of palladium-carbon bonds in the presence of free nucleophile.^{1,6,7}

A few methods for transforming an olefin into an aziridine are known⁸ but they suffer from lack of either generality or simplicity. The procedure presented here appears promising and further work along these lines is in progress.

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