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Reaction of Co-ordinated Phosphines: Arylation of Olefins by Palladium(II) Acetate and Triarylphosphine

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Summary Olefins are arylated by $Pd(OAc)_2$ and PAr_3 ; a phenylpalladium complex is presumed to be an intermediate.

LITTLE is known about the reactivity of triarylphosphines co-ordinated to metal ions.¹ Here, we report a novel reaction of olefins with triarylphosphines co-ordinated to $Pd(OAc)_2$.

The complex, $Pd(OAc)_2(PAr_3)_2$, which on heating in acetic acid decomposes to biaryl and metallic palladium, reacted with olefins to produce the corresponding arylated olefins in good yield. A similar arylation occurred when a mixture of olefin and PAr_3 was added to $Pd(OAc)_2$ in acetic acid. However, excess of PAr_3 (> 2 moles per Pd atom) inhibited the arylation. The reaction between $Pd(OAc)_2$ [P(p-tolyl)₃]₂ and oct-1-ene is formulated in Scheme 1.[†] The reaction of $PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$ -NaOMe with oct-1-ene in methanol produced benzene (ca. 0.14 mole per mole of PPh_3) instead of arylated octenes. These results suggest that a



† Little is known at present about the fate of the dearylated triarylphosphines, although a small amount of diphenylphosphinic acid was isolated.



nucleophilic substitution on phosphorus may be involved in the initiation of the reaction.²

The reaction was followed by g.l.c. and was complete in 1-2 h at 40 °C. With oct-1-ene (I), (II), and (IV) were produced. With cyclohexene the products were 3- and 4phenylcyclohexene, while 1-phenylcyclohexene, the main product from the phenylation of cyclohexene with Pd(OAc)2 and benzene,³ was only detected in small amounts.[‡] This is similar to the acetoxylation of cyclohexene and acyclic olefins by Pd(OAc)2.4

These observations strongly suggest a phenylpalladium intermediate (Scheme 2).

Other olefinic compounds such as styrene, hexa-1,5-diene, vinyl acetate, acrylonitrile, and ethyl acrylate are also arylated in good yield.

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 \ddagger Considerable amounts (15–20%) of biphenyl were detected in both cases. The amount decreased as the reaction proceeded or on the addition of copper(II) acetate. Thus, it was probably produced during g.l.c. (ca. 250 °C).

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