PALLADIUM CATALYZED COUPLING OF 5-HYDROXYURACIL TRIFLUOROMETHANE-SULFONATES (TRIFLATES) WITH ALKENES AND ALKYNES

Kosaku Hirota,^{*} Yukio Kitade, Yoshiaki Isobe, and Yoshifumi Maki Gifu Pharmaceutical University, Mitahora-Higashi, Gifu 502, Japan

Abstract - Cross coupling of 5-hydroxyuracil triflates (1) with alkenes and alkynes in the presence of a palladium catalyst and triphenylphosphine affords 5-vinyluracils (2) and 5-alkynyluracils **(3).** respectively, in good yields. Coupling of the triflate (la1 with organocopper reagents $[R_2Cu(CN)Li_2]$ is also described.

The palladium catalyzed reaction of vinyl or aryl triflates has been extensively studied as one of the efficient approach to carbon-carbon bond formation.¹ To our best knowledge, no example of palladium catalyzed vinylation and alkynylation of heterocyclic triflates has been appeared in the literatures. 1,2 We attempted the application of this type of reaction to 5-hydroxyuracil triflates because some 5 carbon substituted uracil derivatives have interesting biological activities.³ The present result provides a novel method 4 for the preparation of uracil derivatives possessing the carbon functional groups at the 5-position, which is the first demonstration of the C-C coupling of heterocyclic triflates.

The 5-hydroxyuracil triflates (la and lb), 5 employed here as starting materials, were prepared in 99% and 54% yields, respectively, upon treatment of the corresponding 5-hydroxyuracils6 with **trifluoromethanesulfonic** anhydride in dry pyridine under ice cooling.

A mixture of the triflate (la)[1 mM], methyl acrylate [1.5 mM], triethylamine [2 mM], palladium chloride [0.02 mM], and triphenylphosphine [0.04 mM] in dry dimethylformamide was heated at 60-70 'C for 6 h. After removal of the solvent. the residue was triturated with water. The mixture thus obtained was extracted with chloroform to obtain 5-(2-E-methoxycarbonyl)vinyl-1,3-dimethyluracil (2a) in 76% yield. No formation of other products 1e.g. (2)-isomer of 2a) in this reaction was shown by T.L.C. analysis of the reaction mixture and ¹H-NMR spectrum of

Table. Formation of 5-Vinyluracils (2) and 5-Alkynyluracils **(3)**

* Isolated yields.

the crude product. The coupling reaction did not proceed in the absence of palladium chloride and triphenylphosphine.

Analogous coupling reaction of la with other alkenes such as methyl vinyl ketone.

acrylonitrile, and styrene gave the corresponding 5-vinyluracils (2b-2d) in high yields. The 5-hydroxy-1-methyluracil triflate (lb), which possesses no substituent at the 3-position, also reacted with methyl acrylate to give a coupling product (2e). All results of the vinylation of la and lb are summarized in Table. The trans configuration of the vinyl group of 2a-e was determined on the basis of a large coupling constant (16 Hz) in the 1 H-NMR spectrum.

When the methanesulfonate (4) of 5-hydroxy-1,3-dimethyluracil was used instead of the triflates (1) in the palladium-catalyzed coupling reaction, the sulfonate (4) **was** recovered unchanged. This result indicates that the 0-triflate function is an excellent leaving group for the palladium catalyzed C-C coupling reaction. Treatment of la with alkynes such as 2-propyn-1-01. phenylacetylene, and trimethylsilylacetylene in the presence of palladium acetate,⁷ triphenylphosphine, triethylamine, and copper iodide⁸ resulted in the formation of the 5alkynyluracils **(3a-c)** in good yields (see Table).

Direct introduction of an alkyl group into the 5-position of uracil derivatives has been scarcely investigated.⁹ Thus, coupling of the triflate (la) with organocuprate $\texttt{[R_2Cu(CN)Li_2]}^{10}$ in the absence of a palladium catalyst was examined. When the triflate (1a) was treated with Me₂Cu(CN)Li₂ in tetrahydrofuran under argon atmosphere, the expected thymine derivative $(5a)^{11}$ was obtained in 71% yield. On the other hand, analogous coupling of la with $Bu_2Cu(CN)Li_2$ led to the formation of 5-butyl-1,3-dimethyluracil (5b), 12 6-butyl-1,3-dimethyluracil (6), and 1,3dimethyluracil in 20%. 10%. and 29% yields, respectively.

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