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Review

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# On the behavior of amines in the presence of Pd<sup>0</sup> and Pd<sup>II</sup> species

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ABSTRACT

comments.

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## Contents

1. 2. 3. 4.	Introduction	15 15 17 23
4.	Concluding remarks	23
	Acknowledgments	23
	References	23

## 1. Introduction

Although an array of stable palladium complexes bearing nitrogen ligands have been isolated since more than 40 years [1], their use as catalysts has only emerged over the last 20 years [2]. Furthermore, various Pd-catalyzed reactions that require bases, appeal to tertiary amines [3,4], but the stability of these latter depends on the experimental conditions. This short review, that is not exhaustive, highlights the intrinsic reactions, in the presence of Pd<sup>0</sup> and Pd<sup>II</sup> species, of amines having, at least, a C–H bond adjacent to

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the nitrogen atom. The synthesis of amine-coordinated palladium complexes and the intermolecular formation of C–N bonds, such as the Buchwald–Hartwig [5] and Tsuji–Trost reactions [6], are out of the scope of this review; they will be only mentioned when they support the proposed mechanisms.

## 2. Primary and secondary amines

This review summarizes the different intrinsic reactions, with palladium, of amines having a C-H bond

adjacent to the nitrogen atom. The proposed mechanisms are described with, in some cases, personal

In 1973, Murahashi and co-workers disclosed the Pd blackcatalyzed dehydrogenation, at  $25-200 \,^{\circ}$ C, of amines having hydrogens in  $\alpha$ -position [7]. The formation of tertiary amines from secondary amines was explained by the addition of the substrate to the imine complex **1A** formed from the insertion of palladium into the N–H bond followed by a  $\beta$ -H elimination (Scheme 1). Comparison with the reduction of amidines led the authors to propose that the aminal thus formed, is coordinated to PdH<sub>2</sub>, this allowing its hydrogenolysis [8]. The proposal of an imine as intermediate has been demonstrated from its trapping by a second amine (Eq. (1))

*Abbreviations:* Ar, aryl; BINAP, 2,2'-bis(diphenylphosphino)-1,1'-binaphthalene; Bn, benzyl; cat., catalytic; Cy, cyclohexyl; dppp, 1,3-bis(dipheny1phosphino) propane; equiv., equivalent; rt, room temperature; scCO<sub>2</sub>, supercritical carbon dioxide; Tf, trifluoromethanesulfonyl; X, halogen.

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 $R^1 = Ph, R^2 = Me, 120 \ ^{\circ}C, 20 h: 28\%$  conversion, 85% selectivity  $R^1 = H, R^2 = Ph, 120 \ ^{\circ}C, 20 h: 7\%$  conversion, 98% selectivity  $R^1 = Me, R^2 = Ph, 150 \ ^{\circ}C, 48 h: 5\%$  conversion, 98% selectivity  $R^1 = n-Pr, R^2 = Me, 160 \ ^{\circ}C, 5 h: 70\%$  conversion, 85% selectivity

Ph  
NH + HN  
$$130 \degree C, 10 h$$
  
 $87\%$  (1)

$$RCH_{2}NH_{2} \xrightarrow{Pd \ black \ (5 \ wt\%)} \underbrace{Pd \ black \ (5 \ wt\%)}_{R = CH_{2} = CH$$

$$\begin{array}{c} R^{1} \\ R^{2} \\ R^{2} \\ R^{2} \\ R^{2} \\ R^{1} \\ R^{1} \\ R^{2} \\ R^{1} \\ R^{2} \\ R^{1} \\ R^{2} \\ R^{2} \\ R^{2} \\ R^{2} \\ R^{1} \\ R^{2} \\ R^{2} \\ R^{2} \\ R^{2} \\ R^{1} \\ R^{2} \\$$

Scheme 1.

[7,8]. Primary amines lead to secondary amines and/or imines (Eqs. (2) and (3)) [7,8]. Miyazawa et al. have exploited these transformations for the effective synthesis, under microwave irradiation, of ketones from primary and secondary amines via the hydrolysis of their imines [9]. Under these conditions, the hydridopalladium species, in situ produced, cause the reduction of the aromatic ketones (Eq. (4)).

Murahashi's team has observed the influence of the temperature on the selectivity of the Pd-catalyzed reaction of pyrrolidine (Scheme 2): the increase of the temperature promotes the reductive cleavage of the NC–NH bond of **2B**, and then, the reaction of the corresponding primary amine with **2A**. Under similar experimental conditions, morpholine and *N*-methylpiperazine are *N*-formylated, the oxygen atom coming from the attack of the dimeric intermediate by the moisture (Scheme 3) [10].

Primary and secondary amines having hydrogens in  $\alpha$ -position can reduce ArPdX intermediates to afford ArH [11–13], the best efficiency being obtained with secondary amines [14]. The reduction occurs through complex **4A** derived from the insertion of the Pd<sup>II</sup> species into the N–H bond (Scheme 4).  $\beta$ -H elimination from **4A** leads to an imine and ArPdH; this latter evolving into ArH and Pd<sup>0</sup>. Consistent with this mechanism, *N*-methyl-*N*benzylidenamine has been detected when *N*-methylbenzylamine was used [11]. Nevertheless, phosphine ligands could be involved in the reduction of the corresponding ArPdX complexes.

For the reduction of  $(BINAP)Pd(OAc)_2$  in  $C_6D_6$  containing *t*-BuONa and benzylamine, it has been proposed the involvement

of both base and benzylamine in the formation of  $(BINAP)Pd^0$ (Scheme 5) [15]. At this level, it is necessary to point out that the reduction of Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> can be carried out with phosphines [16,17]. It has been nevertheless considered that the synthesis of Pd(P(OEt)<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>







from a saturated aqueous solution of K<sub>2</sub>PdCl<sub>4</sub> containing P(OEt)<sub>3</sub> and HNEt<sub>2</sub> at 0 °C in MeOH [18] is due to the reducing properties of the amine [19]. Hidai et al. have observed the influence of the nature of the amine on the reaction of PdCl<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> in MeOH under carbon monoxide atmosphere [20]. At room temperature, reduction of the complex occurred in the presence of primary and secondary amines, while tertiary amines led to  $ClPd(CO_2Me)(PPh_3)_2$ (Scheme 6) [21]. This Pd<sup>II</sup> complex is also obtained with primary and secondary amines when the reaction temperature was decreased to  $-70 \circ C$  (Scheme 6). These results indicate that the carbomethoxy complex is, at room temperature, easily converted into Pd<sup>0</sup> species using CO/HNR<sup>1</sup>R<sup>2</sup>/MeOH conditions, in contrast with its stability under CO/NR<sub>3</sub>/MeOH conditions [20]. It remains however not obvious to determine the role of the amines in this  $Pd^{II} \rightarrow Pd^0$  reaction, since such a reduction can also occur with alcohols [22] and carbon monoxide [23]. Moreover, palladium complexes such as PdCl<sub>2</sub>(HNEt<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub> [19] and PdCl<sub>2</sub>(HNPhEt)<sub>2</sub> [24] have been isolated from CHCl<sub>3</sub> mixtures of the corresponding amines and PdCl<sub>2</sub>(PhCN)<sub>2</sub> [19] or PdCl<sub>2</sub> [24]. Klabunde and co-workers have recently reported that the Pd<sup>II</sup>-amine complexes obtained, at room temperature, from mixtures of Na<sub>2</sub>PdCl<sub>4</sub> and primary



amines having hydrogens in  $\alpha$ -position, evolved, at 192 °C, into Pd<sup>0</sup> nanoparticles [25,26]. According to the IR spectra of the solutions, the amine ligands are oxidized to nitriles (Scheme 7) [25].

## 3. Tertiary amines

In 1978, Murahashi et al. reported Pd black-catalyzed intermolecular alkyl exchanges from aliphatic tertiary amines (Eq. (5)) [27]. Their interpretation of these exchanges was the coordination of palladium to nitrogen, followed by its reversible insertion into the adjacent C–H bond, affording **8A** which is in equilibrium with the iminium ion complex **8B** (Scheme 8). Attack of **8B** with a second molecule of the amine leads to **8C**, from which, alkyl exchanges occur. The Pd black-catalyzed racemization at 100–200 °C of (+)-*N*,*N*-dimethyl-*sec*-butylamine [27–29], the formation in acidified water of compounds corresponding to the hydrolysis of **8B** (Eq. (6)) [28], and the addition of thiolate anions to **8B** (Eq. (7)) [30], support this mechanistic scheme.



Scheme 7.





The Li<sub>2</sub>PdCl<sub>4</sub>-mediated dealkylation, at room temperature in MeOH, of *N*,*N*-dialkylanilines yielding their corresponding complexes, as shown in Eq. (8), has been reported by Pfeffer and co-workers [31]. The mechanism of this dealkylation remains unclear; the concomitant precipitation of large amounts of Pd<sup>0</sup> leads to suspect an heterogeneous catalysis [32]. In our opinion, the methanolysis or hydrolysis, by traces of water, of in situ produced iminium ions is conceivable. Indeed, cleavage by ubiquitous water

of *N*,*N*-diethylaniline leading to acetaldehyde has been reported, at room temperature in  $CDCl_3$ , in the presence of  $PdCl_2(PhCN)_2$  [33]. Nevertheless, a more recent report from Pfeffer et al. highlights the difficulty to rationalize the dealkylation of tertiary arylamines [34]. Actually, palladation of 9-(dimethylamino)phenanthrene with Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> afforded effectively the corresponding cyclopalladated complex (Eq. (9)), while that of 9-(diethylamino)naphthalene was problematic: screening of different metallic agents and condi-



Scheme 11.



tions led to obtain the expected complex using  $PdCl_2(PhCN)_2$  in MeOH (Eq. (10)), while  $Li_2PdCl_4$  yielded a dealkylated complex and metallic palladium (Eq. (11)). Besides, Aresta et al. have observed the deallylation with time of  $PdCl_2(PhNHallyl)_2$ , this leading to  $PdCl_2(PhNH_2)$ , methylacetylene and allene [35].

In the course of the synthesis of biaryls from ArI, in presence of catalytic amounts of  $Pd(OAc)_2$  at  $100 \,^{\circ}C$  in NEt<sub>3</sub> or  $N(n-Bu)_3$ , Norman and co-workers have isolated ArCO*n*-Pr as side-product in the latter solvent [36]. The mechanism adopted by this team, is a Heck-type addition to the enamine **9B** derived from the imimium ion **9A**. Hydrolysis of the corresponding adduct (**9C**) provides the isolated ketone (Scheme 9). The absence of ArCOMe when NEt<sub>3</sub> is the solvent, would be due to the lower susceptibility of this amine to oxidation [36,37].

According to Saá et al., the enamine (**9B**) can also be produced under Pd<sup>0</sup> catalysis [38]. In the course of their study of Pd-catalyzed reduction of aryl triflates in DMF in the presence of N(*n*-Bu)<sub>3</sub>, dibutylformamide has been isolated in a yield increasing with acetic acid as co-solvent (Eq. (12)). According to the authors, dibutylformamide is produced from the reaction of DMF with HN(*n*-Bu)<sub>2</sub>, this latter resulting from hydrolysis of the enamine (Scheme 10). In the absence of acid, the hydrogen donor leading to the reduction product would be N(*n*-Bu)<sub>3</sub> through its protons on the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -carbons [38,39].

The Pd<sup>0</sup>-catalyzed dehydrogenation of amines produces hydridopalladium species which can mediate the hydrogenation of C=C bonds (Scheme 11) and the isomerisation of secondary allylic alcohols into ketones [40,41]. The formation of hydrogenated ethyl amides as by-products of the Pd/C-catalyzed reduction of  $\alpha$ ,B- unsaturated esters with NEt<sub>3</sub> at 140 °C in dry PhMe (Eq. (13)) suggests the in situ production of ethylamine [41]. Under these experimental conditions, a solution of NEt<sub>3</sub> affords a complex mixture containing volatile compounds and longer-chain alkyl amines [41].

The hydrogen donor capacity of tertiary amines having hydrogens in  $\alpha$ -position has been used to reduce RPd<sup>II</sup>X intermediates, leading to Pd<sup>0</sup> species and RH [38,42–44]; a recent example is presented in Eq. (14) [45]. According to a proposal from Konopelski et al. [43], the reaction occurs via *N*-coordination to RPd<sup>II</sup>X; this would allow a hydride transfer to the palladium atom to afford the cationic Pd<sup>IV</sup> complex **12A**, reductive elimination from **12A** leading to RH (Scheme 12). In agreement with this mechanism, the use of N(CD<sub>2</sub>CD<sub>2</sub>CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> instead of NEt<sub>3</sub> led to RD [44]. When a β-H elimination is possible from RPdX, both RH (Schemes 12 and 13) and R(–H) (Scheme 13) can be obtained, the former resulting from the reaction with either NEt<sub>3</sub> (Scheme 12), or the ammonium salt, HNEt<sub>3</sub>X, in situ produced (Scheme 13) [46].

The unexpected dealkylation of triethylamine and cyclohexyldimethylamine has been observed, when they have been used as bases, for Heck reactions under an oxygen atmosphere (Eq. (15)) [47]. According to Hosokawa et al., the dealkylation could be mediated by hydroperoxy-iodopalladium species produced from either HPdI or PdO<sub>2</sub> [47,48]. The authors proposed that HOOPdI reacts with NR<sub>3</sub> to yield an iminium salt, which is involved in the formation of the HNR<sub>2</sub> (Scheme 14, path *a*). Since cyclohexanone has been isolated when cyclohexyldimethylamine was used as base under their experimental conditions (Eq. (16)), we suggest another mechanism (Scheme 14, path *b*). Coordination of the tertiary amine to Pd<sup>II</sup> would mediate the activation of hydrogens in β-position of the nitrogen atom, leading to the formation of the palladacycle 14A which suffers the  $\beta$ -NR'<sub>2</sub> elimination yielding **14B** [49]. Protonolysis of **14B** by HI delivers the secondary amine and **14C**. The carbonyl compound is produced from 14C via the reaction pathway proposed by Roussel and Mimoun [50].

In 1983, McCrindle et al. disclosed the synthesis of  $\eta^1$ -ylidic complexes from tertiary amines and PdCl<sub>2</sub>(PhCN)<sub>2</sub> (Eq. (17)) [51]. The authors suggest the dehydrogenation of the substrate and then, complexation of the enamine (Scheme 15) [33,51]. This cascade reaction would also produce HPdCl, the reaction of which with the amine leading to the corresponding ammonium salt and Pd<sup>0</sup> [51].

The reduction of  $PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$  and  $Pd(OAc)_2$  with NR<sub>3</sub> (R = Et or *n*-Bu) is mentioned in 1988 Hegedus review [52], but, in 1993, Grushin and Alper reported the absence of reaction from the treatment of  $PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$  with dry NEt<sub>3</sub>, even at 80 °C [53]. In contrast, the addition of water to this mixture entailed the precipitation



Scheme 13.





R<sub>2</sub>

of palladium. According to these authors, the reduction is caused by the hydroxide anion formed from the reversible deprotonation of H<sub>2</sub>O with NEt<sub>3</sub>. From the study of the reactivity of a palladium chloride complex bearing an optically active phosphine, a mechanism involving the substitution of Cl<sup>-</sup> by OH<sup>-</sup> and then, the reductive elimination of the phosphine oxide, has been proposed (Scheme 16). In agreement with this report, the addition of NEt<sub>3</sub> to a DMF solution of 1:10 Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub>/PPh<sub>3</sub> mixture has any detectable influence on the rate, at 25 °C, of the Pd<sup>II</sup>  $\rightarrow$  Pd<sup>0</sup> reaction [54,55]. The apathy or low reactivity of NEt<sub>3</sub> vis-à-vis the reduction of PdX<sub>2</sub>

under anhydrous conditions, is also demonstrated with the synthesis of  $PdCl_2(NEt_3)_2$  from a mixture of  $PdCl_2(PhCN)_2$  and  $NEt_3$  [19].

Scheme 17.

Given Schemes 15 and 16, the formation of  $Pd^0$  from HPdCl and NR<sub>3</sub> affords also the corresponding ammonium salt. Such a proposal is common in the literature. This reaction could be reversible, since Ling and co-workers have proposed that the reaction of triethylammonium iodide with Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> and PPh<sub>3</sub> leads to HPdI(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> and NEt<sub>3</sub> [56].



Scheme 16.



Scheme 18.



Scheme 19.



AcOPdI +  $(i-Pr)_2$ NEt  $\longrightarrow$  AcOH + Pd<sup>0</sup> + HI +  $(i-Pr)_2$ N (18)

 $\begin{array}{c} & \begin{array}{c} & PdCl_{2} \ (0.03 \ equiv.) \\ \hline CO_{2}Me \end{array} + \underbrace{NEt_{3}}_{(2 \ equiv.)} & \begin{array}{c} AcOH \ (1 \ equiv.) \\ \hline solvent \\ \hline 70 \ ^{\circ}C, \ 48 \ h \end{array} \\ \\ solvent: MeOH/scCO_{2} \ (95\%), EtOH/scCO_{2} \ (26\%), \ H_{2}O/scCO_{2} \ (0\%), \\ MeCN \ (90\%), \ THF \ (89\%), \ DMF \ (86\%), \ dioxane \ (73\%), \ PhMe \ (37\%) \end{array}$ 





In 2002, Ziółkowski and co-workers disclosed that the reduction of  $PdCl_2(P(OPh)_3)_2$  with NR<sub>3</sub> (R=Et, *n*-Pr or *n*-Bu) requires addition of water to reach complete conversion of the PdII salt (Scheme 17) [57]. The low conversion, in the absence of added water, would be due to the minute amount of water present in the hygroscopic reagents. Aldehydes arising for the cleavage of the N-R bond have been isolated. Experiments using deuterated amines and/or D<sub>2</sub>O have led the authors to propose the mechanism shown in Scheme 18, which differs completely from Scheme 16 but, both the starting complex and the reaction temperature, are also different. Actually, the differences of reactivity of NR<sub>3</sub> towards  $PdCl_2(P(OPh)_3)_2$  and  $PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$  have been pointed out [19,57,58]. A mechanism involving the production, as intermediates, of enamine palladium complexes from the reaction of PdCl<sub>2</sub>(P(OPh)<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> with NR<sub>3</sub> has not been retained, because complexes similar to those disclosed by McCrindle et al. (Eq. (17)) [33] have not been observed [57]. Nevertheless, we propose that the transient enamine palladium complex 19A can be considered (Scheme 19); activation of the C=C bond of the enamine, by coordination to Pd<sup>II</sup>, would mediate the Wacker-type addition of H<sub>2</sub>O leading to the anionic complex **19B**. This latter will suffer a  $\beta$ -NEt<sub>2</sub> elimination [49], liberating compounds that evolve towards Pd<sup>0</sup>, acetaldehyde and the ammonium salt.

A few months later, Larock and co-workers suggested two mechanisms for the reduction of iminopalladium<sup>II</sup> species **20A** with NEt<sub>3</sub>; both lead to the iminium salt **20B** and Pd<sup>0</sup>, but one of them involves the Pd<sup>IV</sup> intermediate **20C** (Scheme 20) [59]. The authors did not comment upon the behavior of **20B**; this compound evolves probably towards Et<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>I and MeCHO during the aqueous workup. Another possibility is the transformation of **20B** into the corresponding enamine and HI. Such a reaction has been proposed by Cacchi et al. to rationalize the reduction of AcOPdI with (*i*-Pr)<sub>2</sub>NEt (Eq. (18)) [60].

Palladium nanoparticles have been isolated from heating, at 120 °C under vacuum, a mixture of PdCl<sub>2</sub> or Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub>, N(*n*-Bu)<sub>3</sub> and *n*-Bu<sub>4</sub>NBr [61]. The mechanism of this Pd<sup>II</sup> reduction remains unclear. As the ammonium salts are hygroscopic, the possible mediation of the process by traces of water cannot be discarded. Another possibility is the in situ formation of reducing radicals from *n*-Bu<sub>4</sub>NBr, which act for the Pd<sup>II</sup>  $\rightarrow$  Pd<sup>0</sup> reaction [62].

When studying the Pd-catalyzed acetalization of terminal olefins with methanol in the presence of NEt<sub>3</sub> using scCO<sub>2</sub> as the solvent [63], Jiang and co-workers have observed the possible Michael-type addition of the NEt<sub>2</sub> unit to the C=C bond of methyl acrylate. With AcOH as additive in the absence of oxygen, methyl 3-diethylaminopropionate is produced efficiently in various solvents, but water has a strong detrimental effect (Eq. (19)) [64]. With N(*n*-octyl)<sub>3</sub> instead of NEt<sub>3</sub>, the formation of HN(*n*-octyl)<sub>2</sub>, 1-octene and

1,1-dimethoxyoctane has been detected. Given these results, the authors have assumed that the Pd-catalyzed C-N bond cleavage of tertiary amines can occur in the absence of water. Two reaction pathways for which the oxidation state of palladium is preserved all along the catalytic cycle have been proposed (Scheme 21). Both proposed pathways involve, once more, a  $\beta$ -NEt<sub>2</sub> elimination from a palladacycle [64,65]. The preservation of the Pd<sup>II</sup> oxidation state is due to the protonolysis with AcOH of the N-Pd (path a) or C-Pd bond (path *b*).

## 4. Concluding remarks

Although it is considered in some papers that PdX<sub>2</sub> reacts with tertiary amines to form Pd<sup>0</sup> species [19,47,52,58], it seems now admitted that the concomitant presence of  $H_2O$  is, under most experimental conditions, required to obtain active Pd<sup>0</sup> catalysts [66]. The reactivity of PdX<sub>2</sub> in the presence of H<sub>2</sub>O/primary or secondary amines mixtures can be different, since complexes such as  $PdCl_2(HN(CH_2R)_2)_2$  have been isolated from reactions in aqueous media [67]. Besides, the reduction of ArPdX leading to ArH, Pd<sup>0</sup> and HX with primary, secondary or tertiary amines is a step of catalytic reactions which occur without apparent participation of water (Schemes 4 and 11).

The efficiency of some Pd-catalyzed reactions, in particular the telomerization of butadiene with alcohols, is increased by addition of tertiary amines [68–70]. It has been suggested that their role is to facilitate the reduction of Pd<sup>II</sup> intermediates [68], but their coordination to key Pd<sup>II</sup> species could be also involved [71]. In fact, the role of the added amine, towards the mechanism and the efficiency of Pd-catalyzed reactions, could be more subtle than usually considered, as pointed out by Amatore and Jutand for Heck reactions [72].

#### Note added in proof

Cho et al. have recently reported the Pd-catalyzed reductive alkyl group transfer from NR<sub>3</sub> (R=n-butyl, *n*-hexyl, *n*-octyl) to nitroarenes [73]. The reaction occurs at 120 °C in the presence of a stoichiometric amount of SnCl<sub>2</sub>, and leads to quinoleines Eq. (20) through an obscure mechanism. According to the proposal for a similar Ru-catalyzed reaction [74], an iminium ion complex corresponding to 8B (Scheme 8) could be involved.



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