

Novel Homologation Reaction of Arylzincates Bearing a Leaving Group at the Ortho and Meta Positions

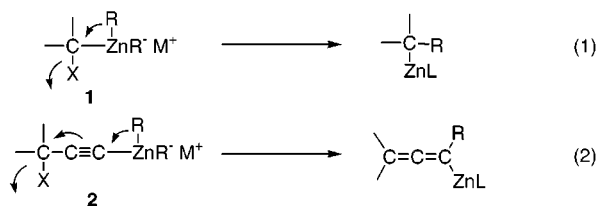
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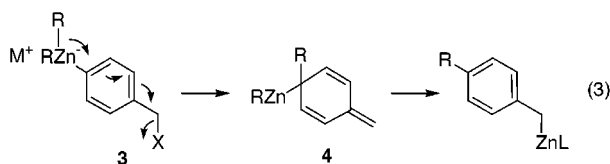
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Arylzincates bearing a leaving group at the ortho, meta, and para positions were generated by iodine/zinc exchange reaction of the corresponding iodoaryl sulfonates with Bu_3ZnLi , and their reactivity was investigated via product analysis after hydrolysis and treatment with iodine. Zincates derived from *o*-iodophenyl triflates and tosylate underwent homologation reaction to give *o*-butylphenylzinc species. *o*-Benzyne as an intermediate of the reaction was demonstrated by the lack of regioselectivity for trisubstituted zincates. Zincates derived from *m*-iodophenyl triflates also underwent homologation leading to *m*-butylphenylzinc species. Similar product ratios observed in the reactions of regioisomeric trisubstituted iodoaryl triflates as well as the formation of radical reaction byproducts suggested the involvement of *m*-benzyne intermediate. *p*-(Trifluoromethanesulfonyloxy)phenylzincate was thermally stable at room temperature; generation of *p*-benzyne was not observed.

Homologation of organometallics is becoming of increasing importance in organic synthesis because subsequent bond formation of the resulting organometallics leads to the convergent construction of complex carbon frameworks by a one-pot procedure.¹ Recent reports from this laboratory revealed that organozincates **1** and **2** bearing leaving groups at the α - and γ -position, respectively, undergo 1,2-migration at low temperatures to give the corresponding homologated organozinc reagents (eqs 1 and 2).² More recently, we have shown that facile 1,2-

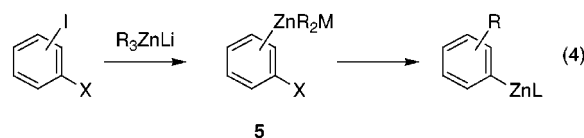


migration is also observed for arylzincates **3**, bearing a leaving group at the benzylic position, despite the initial formation of dearomatized organozinc species **4** (eq 3).³



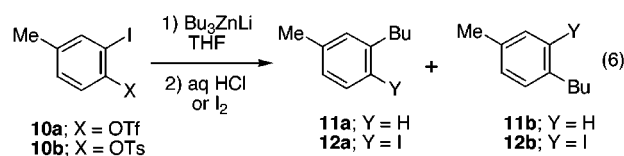
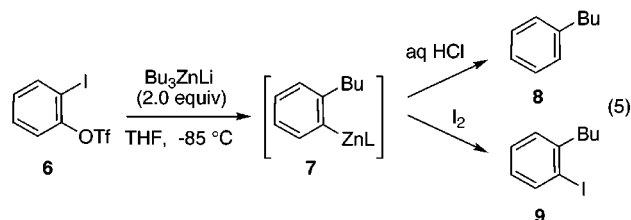
To clarify the scope of 1,2-migration of organozincates, we investigated the reactivity of phenylzincates **5** bearing

a leaving group directly at the benzene ring (eq 4). Phenylzincates **5** ($\text{R} = \text{Bu}$) were generated from the corresponding iodoarenes by iodine/zinc exchange^{4,2} with Bu_3ZnLi , and their reactions were studied on the basis of product analysis after hydrolysis and treatment with iodine. We wish to report herein the results of the study that revealed that arylzincates bearing a leaving group at the ortho and meta position undergo a novel homologation reaction not through a pathway involving 1,2-migration.



Results and Discussion

2-Iodophenyl triflate (**6**) was treated with Bu_3ZnLi (2.0 equiv) in THF at -85°C for 0.5 h. Hydrolysis of the resulting mixture with aqueous HCl–THF gave butylbenzene (**8**) in 62% yield⁵ (eq 5). On the other hand, iodination product **9** was obtained in 68% yield by treatment of the same reaction mixture with I_2 , demonstrating the generation of 2-butylphenylzinc species **7**.



Under similar conditions at -85°C , 4-methyl-2-iodophenyl triflate (**10a**) gave a mixture of the butylation

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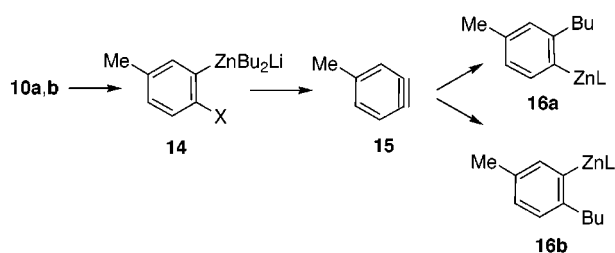
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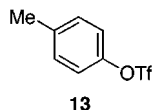
Table 1. Reaction of Iodophenyl Sulfonates **10a,b** with Bu_3ZnLi^a

entry	sub- strate	electro- phile	conditions	products	ratio ^b	yield (%)
1	10a	aq HCl	-85 °C, 0.5 h	11a, 11b	1.1:1	65
2	10b	aq HCl	-85 °C, 0.5 h	13		87
3	10b	aq HCl	0 °C, 1 h	11a, 11b	1.1:1	63
4	10a	I ₂	-85 °C, 0.5 h	12a, 12b	1.3:1	55
5	10b	I ₂	0 °C, 1 h	12a, 12b	1.3:1	66

^a All reactions were carried out by adding substrate to a THF solution of Bu_3ZnLi (2.0 equiv) at -85 °C. ^b Determined by GC analysis.

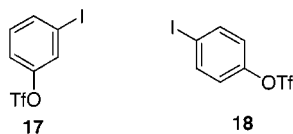
Scheme 1

products **11a** and **11b** nonselectively (eq 6, entry 1 in Table 1). Arylzincate derived from tosylate **10b** was less reactive at -85 °C and afforded 4-methylphenyl tosylate (**13**) (entry 2). At 0 °C, nonselective formation of **11a** and



11b (1.1:1, 63%) was observed also from **10b** (entry 3). Generation of the corresponding arylzinc species **16a,b** (Scheme 1) was verified by the formation of iodoarenes **12a** and **12b** in I₂ trapping experiments (entries 4 and 5). Arylzincate **14**, produced by iodine/zinc exchange reaction, would undergo 1,2-migration to give **16a**. The lack of regioselectivity observed indicates that such concerted pathway is energetically less favorable than a stepwise pathways involving *o*-benzyne⁶⁻⁷ as an intermediate. Thus, arylzincate **14** undergoes β elimination to generate *o*-benzyne **15**. Subsequent nonselective carbometalation by Bu_2Zn and/or Bu_3ZnLi gives a mixture of **16a** and **16b**.

In comparison with arylzincates derived from *o*-iodophenyl triflates, those derived from *m*- and *p*-iodophenyl triflates were found to be considerably more stable. Thus, treatment of 3- and 4-iodophenyl triflate **17** and **18** with Bu_3ZnLi (2.0 equiv) in THF at -85 °C for 0.5 h and hydrolysis of the resulting mixture gave phenyl triflate in 95% and 93% yield, respectively. An arylzincate



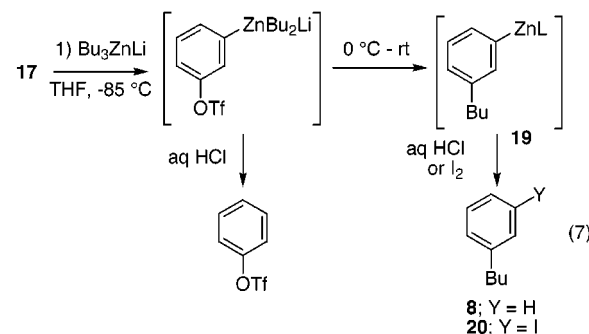
derived from **18** was stable even at room temperature, affording phenyl triflate (85%) in the reaction at room temperature for 20 h. On the other hand, at the temper-

Table 2. Reaction of 3-Iodophenyl Triflate (**17**) with Bu_3ZnLi^a

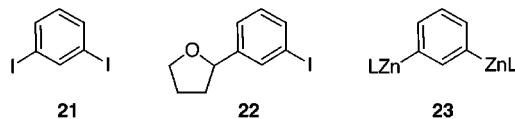
entry	Bu_3ZnLi (equiv)	concn (M) ^b	time (h)	GC yield (%) of 8
1	1.2	0.3	5	24
2	2.0	0.3	1	47
3 ^c	2.0	0.3	7	39
4 ^d	2.0	0.3	2	35
5	3.0	0.3	2	53
6	2.0	0.6	1	53
7	3.0	0.6	1	60

^a Unless otherwise noted, reactions were carried out at room temperature in THF. ^b Concentration of Bu_3ZnLi . ^c The reaction was performed at 0 °C. ^d Et_2O was used as a solvent.

ature above 0 °C, a zincate derived from **17** was unstable undergoing novel butylation reaction (eq 7, Table 2).



Thus, hydrolysis of the reaction mixture of **17** and Bu_3ZnLi (2.0 equiv) after being stirred for 1 h at room temperature afforded butylbenzene (**8**) in 47% yield (entry 2). Lower reaction temperature or Et_2O as a solvent did not give better results (entries 3 and 4). The yield of **8** was improved by the use of the excess zincate (entry 5 vs entries 1 and 2) and by carrying out the reaction at higher concentration (entries 6 and 7). The reaction of **17** with 3.0 equiv of the zincate at 0.6 M in THF gave **8** in 60% yield (entry 7). It should be noted that the reaction of **17** with butyllithium gave a complex mixture even at -85 °C. The formation of 3-butylphenylzinc species **19** was verified by the formation of iodoarene **20** (56%) in the I₂ trapping experiment (eq 7). In this reaction, *m*-diiodobenzene (**21**) (15%) and tetrahydrofuran derivative **22** (6%) were also obtained as byproducts.

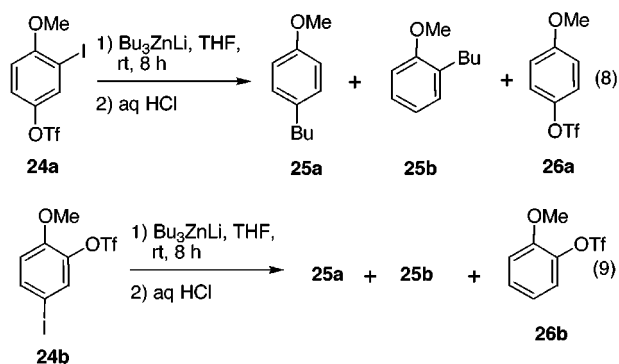


To clarify the regiochemistry of butylation, the reaction of isomeric iodo(methoxy)phenyl triflates **24a** and **24b** were examined (eqs 8 and 9). The reaction of **24a** with Bu_3ZnLi (3 equiv, 0.6 M) at room temperature for 8 h gave *p*-isomer **25a** as a major butylation product together with a minor formation of *o*-isomer **25b** (**25a**:**25b** = 6.6:1, 17% combined yield). The butylation reaction was relatively slow and triflate **26a** was also obtained in 24%. Under similar conditions, **24b** also afforded a mixture of **25a** and **25b** (8.1:1) in 13% combined yield as well as triflate **26b** (40% yield).

It is difficult to rationalize similar product ratios (**25a**:**25b**) observed for the reactions of isomeric triflates **24a** and **24b** by a direct alkylation pathway from the corresponding arylzincate intermediates **27a,b**. The

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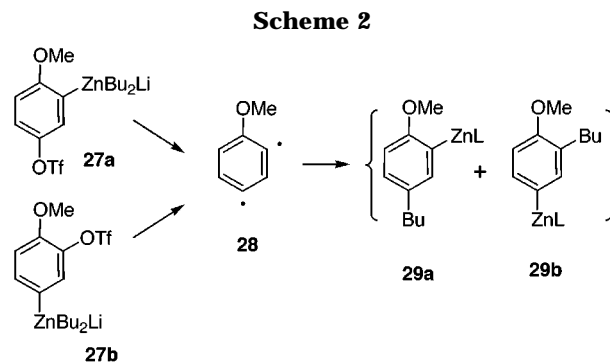
(5) The yield was determined by GC.



result rather implies a stepwise pathway, which may involve a common intermediate derived from **27a** and **27b**. *m*-Benzyne⁹ is a σ,σ -biradical intermediate possessing a singlet ground state with a singlet–triplet gap of 21 kcal/mol,¹⁰ whose chemistry has been less studied than that of *o*- and *p*-benzenes.¹¹ Recent gas-phase study using Fourier transform ion cyclotron resonance mass spectrometry showed that *m*-benzyne undergoes both addition reactions, characteristic of *o*-benzyne, and radical reactions, characteristic of *p*-benzyne.¹² One possible explanation for the result of the reaction of **24a,b** could be the involvement of *m*-benzyne as an intermediate (Scheme 2). Thus, both zincates **27a** and **27b** would undergo elimination to give *m*-benzyne **28**, which may undergo regioselective carbometalation by Bu₂Zn and/or Bu₃ZnLi to form *p*-butylphenylzinc **29a** preferentially over *o*-butyl isomer **29b** probably due to the steric reason. Diiodobenzene **21** and tetrahydrofuran derivative **22** were produced as byproducts in the reaction of parent 3-iodophenyl triflate (**17**) followed by I₂ trap. The formation of **21** implies the generation of dimetal species **23**. The radical-type reactivity of *m*-benzyne¹² may allow iodine abstraction from iodobutane, which was produced in the initial iodine/zinc exchange of Bu₃ZnLi. Dimetalation of the resulting diiodobenzene by Bu₃ZnLi may lead to generation of **23**. Formation of **22** can be rationalized by the reaction of **23** with 2-iodotetrahydrofuran, which might be formed through a pathway involving hydrogen abstraction of tetrahydrofuran by *m*-benzyne and iodine abstraction of the resulting radical from iodobutane.

Conclusion

We have described the results of the study on the reactivity of arylzincates bearing a leaving group at the ortho, meta, and para position. The arylzincates were



prepared by iodine/zinc exchange reaction of the corresponding iodoaryl sulfonates with Bu₃ZnLi. Zincates derived from *o*- and *m*-iodoaryl sulfonates were found to undergo homologation to give the corresponding butylphenylzinc species while a zincate derived from a para derivative was stable. The lack in regioselectivity observed for trisubstituted zincates demonstrated that *o*-benzyne is an intermediate for the reaction of *o*-iodo derivatives. Based on a similar product ratios in the reactions of regioisomeric trisubstituted zincates as well as the formation of radical reaction byproducts, we proposed a pathway involving *m*-benzyne as an intermediate for the reaction of *m*-iodo derivatives.

Experimental Section

NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl₃. All commercially available reagents were used without further purification unless otherwise noted. THF was distilled from sodium benzophenone ketyl. Commercial anhydrous ZnCl₂ was dried in *vacuo* at 100 °C for 10 h over P₂O₅. All reactions were performed under argon. Reactions at –85 °C were performed with a Neslab Cryo Cool immersion cooler. Organic extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄. Flash chromatography was conducted on silica gel (Wakogel C-300).

2-Iodo-4-methylphenol¹⁴ and 5-iodo-2-methoxyphenol¹⁵ were prepared according to the literature procedures. The following aryl triflates were prepared from the corresponding phenols by the standard procedure.¹⁶

2-Iodophenyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (6): 85% yield; ¹H NMR (300 MHz) δ 7.10 (1H, dt, $J = 1.5, 7.8$ Hz), 7.32 (1H, dd, $J = 1.2, 8.1$ Hz), 7.42 (1H, dt, $J = 1.5, 8.1$ Hz), 7.91 (1H, dd, $J = 1.5, 8.1$ Hz); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz) δ 89.05, 118.69 (q, $J = 321$ Hz), 122.04, 129.60, 130.05, 140.77, 150.22; IR (liquid film) 1425, 1215, 890, 765 cm⁻¹. Anal. Calcd for C₇H₄O₃F₃SI: C, 23.88; H, 1.15. Found: C, 23.57; H, 1.15.

2-Iodo-4-methylphenyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (10b): 75% yield; ¹H NMR (500 MHz) δ 2.37 (s, 3H), 7.21 (2H, m), 7.74 (1H, br s); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz) δ 20.39, 88.78, 118.70 (q, $J = 321$ Hz), 121.50, 130.61, 140.07, 140.96, 141.89, 148.18; IR (liquid film) 1440, 1225, 900 cm⁻¹. Anal. Calcd for C₈H₆O₃F₃SI: C, 26.25; H, 1.65. Found: C, 25.94; H, 1.59.

3-Iodophenyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (17): 90% yield; ¹H NMR (300 MHz) δ 7.19 (1H, t, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 7.27 (1H, br d, $J = \text{ca. } 8.5$ Hz), 7.63 (1H, t, $J = 2.1$ Hz), 7.74 (1H, br d, $J = \text{ca. } 8$ Hz); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz) δ 93.83, 115.00, 118.65 (q, $J = 321$ Hz), 120.82, 122.00, 130.42, 131.45, 137.66, 149.20; IR (liquid film) 1430, 1215, 995, 795 cm⁻¹. Anal. Calcd for C₇H₄O₃F₃SI: C, 23.88; H, 1.15. Found: C, 23.61; H, 1.17.

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4-Iodophenyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (18): 67% yield; ^1H NMR (500 MHz) δ 7.06 and 7.81 (4H, AA'BB', $J = \text{ca. } 9$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125.8 MHz) δ 93.15, 118.66 (q, $J = 321$ Hz), 123.30, 139.39, 149.37; IR (liquid film) 1435, 1220, 890, 830, 750 cm^{-1} . Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_7\text{H}_4\text{O}_3\text{F}_3\text{SI}$: C, 23.88; H, 1.15. Found: C, 23.61; H, 1.14.

5-Iodo-2-methoxyphenyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (24b): 90% yield; ^1H NMR (300 MHz) δ 3.90 (3H, s), 6.80 (1H, d, $J = 8.7$ Hz), 7.49 (1H, d, $J = 2.1$ Hz), 7.62 (1H, dd, $J = 2.1$, 8.7 Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125.8 MHz) δ 55.27, 80.72, 118.63 (q, $J = 320$ Hz), 131.06, 138.09, 138.75, 151.51; IR (liquid film) 1425, 1220, 905, 810 cm^{-1} . Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_6\text{O}_4\text{F}_3\text{SI}$: C, 25.15; H, 1.58. Found: C, 25.00; H, 1.64.

2-Iodo-4-methylphenyl *p*-Toluenesulfonate (10a). The tosylate was prepared in 85% yield by the reaction of the corresponding phenol with *p*-toluenesulfonyl chloride under the Schotten-Baumann conditions in benzene-aqueous NaOH. **10a:** mp 104–105 °C (recrystallized from benzene and hexane); ^1H NMR (500 MHz) δ 2.31 (3H, s), 2.48 (3H, 1), 7.14 (1H, br d, $J = \text{ca. } 8.5$ Hz), 7.20 (1H, d, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 7.35 and 7.83 (4H, AA'BB', $J = \text{ca. } 8.5$ Hz), 7.60 (1H, br s); ^{13}C NMR (125.8 MHz) δ 20.31, 21.72, 89.91, 122.43, 128.80, 129.72, 130.09, 132.76, 138.53, 140.24, 145.59, 147.78; IR (KBr disk) 1385, 1185, 840, 690 cm^{-1} . Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}_4\text{SI}$: C, 43.31; H, 3.38. Found: C, 43.30; H, 3.34.

3-Iodo-4-methoxyphenyl Trifluoromethanesulfonate (24a). A mixture of *p*-methoxyphenyl triflate¹⁶ (2.31 g, 9.00 mmol), iodine (1.83 g, 7.20 mmol), iodic acid (0.633 g, 3.6 mmol) in H_2SO_4 (10.4 mL), CCl_4 (1.8 mL), acetic acid (4.3 mL), and H_2O (2.2 mL) was heated under reflux for 2 days. The mixture was poured into water and extracted twice with ether. The organic layers were washed successively with water, aqueous $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$, 10% aqueous NaOH, and brine, dried, and concentrated in vacuo. Purification of the residue by flash chromatography gave 3.15 g (92%) of **24a**: ^1H NMR (300 MHz) δ 3.90 (3H, s), 6.82 (1H, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 7.26 (1H, dd, $J = 3.0$, 9.0 Hz), 7.68 (1H, d, $J = 3.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125.8 MHz) δ 55.79, 85.60, 110.62, 118.63 (q, $J = 321$ Hz), 122.14, 132.01, 142.58, 157.99; IR (liquid film) 1420, 1220, 900, 820 cm^{-1} . Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_6\text{O}_4\text{F}_3\text{SI}$: C, 25.15; H, 1.58. Found: C, 25.05; H, 1.64.

Representative Procedure for the Reaction of Arene-sulfonates with Bu_3ZnLi : Hydrolysis of the Reaction Mixture (Table 1, Entry 1). To a solution of ZnCl_2 (0.27 g, 2.0 mmol) in THF (6 mL) at 0 °C was added a solution of BuLi (6.0 mmol) (BuLi; 1.6 M in hexane, 3.75 mL). The mixture was stirred for 15 min at 0 °C. To the resulting solution of Bu_3ZnLi (2.0 mmol) at -85 °C was added a THF (1 mL) solution of triflate **10a** (0.39 g, 1.0 mmol), and the mixture was stirred for 30 min at this temperature. The reaction was quenched by the addition of aqueous HCl-THF. The mixture was poured into 1 N aqueous HCl and extracted twice with hexane. The organic layers were washed with aqueous NaHCO_3 , dried, and concentrated in vacuo. Kugelrohr distillation (80–130 °C/20 mmHg) of the residue gave 0.185 g (65% combined yield) of a 1.1:1 mixture of 3-butyltoluene (**11a**)¹⁷ and 4-butyltoluene (**11b**).¹⁷

For the reactions of **6**, **10b** (Table 1, entry 3), and **17** (Table 2), the yields of the product **8** were determined by capillary GC (OV-1, 30 m) analysis by using dodecane as an internal standard. For the reaction of **10b** (Table 1, entry 2), **18**, and **24a,b**, the crude products were purified by flash chromatography. The spectral data of products, **13**,¹⁸ **25a**,¹⁹ **25b**,²⁰ **26a**,¹⁶ and **26b**²¹ were in good accordance with reported values.

Representative Procedure for the Reaction of Arene-sulfonates with Bu_3ZnLi : I_2 Trap (Eq 5). Triflate **6** (0.35 g, 1.0 mmol) was treated with Bu_3ZnLi (2.0 mmol) in THF (7 mL) at -85 °C for 30 min by a procedure similar to that described above. To the resulting mixture at -85 °C was added a THF (3 mL) solution of iodine (1.52 g, 6.0 mmol). After being

stirred for 15 min, the mixture was poured into 1 N aqueous HCl and extracted twice with hexane. The organic layers were washed successively with aqueous $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ and aqueous NaHCO_3 , dried, and concentrated in vacuo. Kugelrohr distillation (60–150 °C/0.5 mmHg) of the residue gave 0.185 g (68%) of 2-butylidobenzene (**9**).²²

2-Butyl-4-methyliodobenzene (12a) and 2-butyl-5-methyliodobenzene (12b): obtained as a mixture (**12a**:**12b** = 1.3:1) by Kugelrohr distillation (70–100 °C/0.3 mmHg); ^1H NMR (300 MHz) δ 0.95 (3H for **12b**, d, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 0.96 (3H for **12a**, d, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 1.4 (2H, m), 1.55 (2H, m), 2.26 (3H for **12a**, s), 2.27 (3H for **12a**, s), 2.66 (2H, t), 6.77 (1H for **12a**, dd, $J = 2.4$, 7.2 Hz), 7.02 (1H for **12a**, d, $J = 2.4$ Hz), 7.07 (2H for **12b**, br s), 7.64 (1H for **12b**, br s), 7.66 (1H for **12a**, d, $J = 7.2$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125.8 MHz) δ 13.97 (for **12a,b**), 20.25 (for **12a**), 20.89 (for **12b**), 22.40 (for **12b**), 22.49 (for **12a**), 32.52 (for **12a,b**), 39.98 (for **12a**), 40.41 (for **12b**), 96.47 (for **12b**), 100.49 (for **12a**), 128.49 (for **12b**), 128.89 (for **12a**), 129.02 (for **12b**), 130.25 (for **12a**), 137.28 (for **12a**), 138.09 (for **12b**), 139.07 (for **12a**), 139.76 (for **12b**), 142.23 (for **12b**), 145.06 (for **12a**). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{15}\text{I}$: C, 48.19; H, 5.51. Found: C, 47.88; H, 5.23.

Reaction of Triflate 17 with Bu_3ZnLi : I_2 Trap (Eq 7). Triflate **17** (1.06 g, 3.01 mmol) was treated with Bu_3ZnLi (6.0 mmol) in THF (21 mL) at -85 °C for 30 min by a procedure similar to that described above. The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature during 0.5 h and stirred further for 1 h at room temperature. To the resulting mixture at -85 °C was added a THF (9 mL) solution of iodine (4.6 g, 18 mmol). After being stirred for 15 min, the mixture was poured into 1 N aqueous HCl and extracted twice with hexane. The organic layers were washed successively with aqueous $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ and aqueous NaHCO_3 , dried, and concentrated in vacuo. Purification of the residue by flash chromatography (0.5–15% ethyl acetate/hexane) gave, in order of elution, a 3.8:1 mixture of **20** (56%) and **21**²³ (15%) (0.587 g) and **22** (48.4 mg, 6%). Separation of the mixture by a recycling preparative HPLC, equipped with a GPC column (JAIGEL-1H column, Japan Analytical Industry) using CHCl_3 as an eluent, afforded pure **20**. 3-Butyl-1-iodobenzene (**20**): ^1H NMR (300 MHz) δ 0.93 (3H, t, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 1.34 (2H, m), 1.58 (2H, m), 2.55 (2H, t, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 7.00 (1H, t, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 7.14 (1H, br d, $J = \text{ca. } 8$ Hz), 7.51 (1H, br d, $J = \text{ca. } 8$ Hz), 7.55 (1H, br s); ^{13}C NMR (125.8 MHz) δ 13.89, 22.25, 33.38, 35.19, 94.40, 127.66, 129.93, 134.61, 137.39, 145.30; IR (liquid film) 790, 695 cm^{-1} . Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{13}\text{I}$: C, 46.18; H, 5.04. Found: C, 45.99; H, 4.91. (3-Iodophenyl)tetrahydrofuran (**22**): ^1H NMR (300 MHz) δ 1.77 (1H, m), 1.99 (2H, m), 2.32 (1H, m), 3.93 (1H, m), 4.08 (1H, m), 4.83 (1H, t, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 7.05 (1H, t, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 7.25 (1H, br d, $J = \text{ca. } 8$ Hz), 7.58 (1H, br d, $J = \text{ca. } 8$ Hz), 7.68 (1H, br s); ^{13}C NMR (125.8 MHz) δ 25.91, 34.63, 68.78, 79.75, 94.39, 124.85, 130.03, 134.55, 136.10, 145.99; IR (liquid film) 1070, 785, 735, 695 cm^{-1} . Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{11}\text{OI}$: C, 43.82; H, 4.04. Found: C, 43.78; H, 4.01.

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