Effective Synthesis of Aryl Ethers and Coumaranones Employing the Palladium-Catalyzed Enyne–Diyne [4 + 2] Cycloaddition Protocol

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Received September 27, 1999

Alkyl-, alkoxy-, and aryloxy-substituted conjugated enynes **1** in the presence of $Pd(PPh_3)_4$ catalyst smoothly underwent the regiospecific [4 + 2] cycloaddition reaction with conjugated alkyl- and alkoxy-substituted symmetric diynes **2** to give multisubstituted aryl ethers **3** in good to high yields. Benzannulation of enynes 1d-g with unsymmetric diyne **6**, possessing alkyl and alkoxy groups at acetylenic terminii, in most cases produced an aromatic product **8** with an alkoxy group of diyne attached to the ethynyl moiety of the aromatic product. Remarkably, alkoxy-substituted diynes **2c** and **6** underwent the benzannulation of alkyl-substituted enynes 1d,e and alkoxy-substituted enynes **1f**,g with alkoxy-substituted diynes **2c** and **6** followed by protonolysis with TsOH afforded coumaranones **9a**–**c** and **10** in reasonable to high overall yields.

Aryl ethers are ubiquitous structural units in biologically important molecules and thus are of great importance for synthetic organic chemistry. Generally, aryl ethers (aryl–OR) are prepared either through aryl carbon–OR or through aryl oxygen–R bond-forming reactions: aromatic compounds are used as precursors in both methods.¹ Accordingly, development of complementary methods for the preparation of aryl ethers from aliphatic precursors should be highly desired. We have recently developed an effective methodology for the synthesis of polysubstituted benzenes² and phenols³ via the palladium-catalyzed enyne–diyne [4 + 2] benzannulation motif (eq 1).⁴ Herein we report an extension of this



AG= activating group (alkynyl or alkenyl)

cycloaddition methodology to the regiospecific synthesis of polysubstituted aryl ethers,⁵ and to the one-pot preparation of coumaranones via the benzannulation–cyclization sequence.

Results and Discussion

Synthesis of Aryl Ethers. To apply the aforementioned cycloaddition methodology (eq 1)^{2.3} for the preparation of aryl ethers, we tested the palladium-catalyzed benzannulation of the alkoxy-substituted enynes 1a-c with dodecadiyne 2a and diphenyldiyne 2b (eq 2, Table



1). We found that the standard conditions for our benzannulation reaction $(Pd(PPh_3)_4$ (5 mol %), 0.5M in THF)^{2.3} were effective for the preparation of the aryl ethers **3**. Thus, the monosubstituted enyne **1a** smoothly reacted at 65 °C with **2a** and **2b** to give the trisubstituted diaryl ethers **3a** and **3b** in 56 and 65% isolated yields, respectively (eq 2, Table 1, entries 1 and 2). As expected,^{2b} the cycloaddition of the disubstituted enynes **1b** and **1c** with diynes **2a**,**b** required more drastic reaction conditions in comparison with the reaction of monosubstituted

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Table 1. Synthesis of Aryl Ethers 3 via Palladium-Catalyzed [4 + 2] Cycloaddition of Conjugated Enynes 1 with
Symmetric Diynes 2

entry	eny R	/ne 1	diyne 2 time	e/temp (h/°C)	product 3	isolated	yield (%)
1	Н	OPh (1a)	Bu (2a)	8/65	Bu Bu	OPh 3a	56
2	н	OPh (1a)	Ph (2b)	24/65	Ph Ph	OPh 3b	65
3	Hex	OPh (1b)	Bu (2a)	24/100	Hex Bu Bu	OPh 3c	83
4	Hex	OPh (1b)	Ph (2b)	48/100	Hex Ph Ph	OPh 3d	73
5	Ph	OPh (1c)	Bu (2a)	24/100	Ph Bu Bu	OPh 3e	82
6	Ph	OPh (1c)	Ph (2b)	48/100	Ph Ph Ph	OPh 3f	61
7	н	Me (1 d)	^t BuO (2c)	48/0	Bu'O OBL	Me 3g	91
8	н	Hex (1e)	^t BuO (2c)	48/0	Buto OBL	Hex 3h	81
9	н	OMe (1f)	^t BuO (2c)	48/0	Bu ⁱ O OBu	OMe 3i	78
10	^t BuO	H (1g)	^t BuO (2c)	48/0	Bu ⁱ O Bu ⁱ O OBu	, 3 j	66

enyne **1a** with **2a**,**b**. Hence, heating the reaction mixtures for 1-2 days at 100 °C was effective for the synthesis of the tetrasubstituted diaryl ethers **3c**-**f** in rather high yields (entries 3–6).

Although the dialkoxysubstituted diyne **2c** appeared to be unstable under the standard benzannulation conditions,³ surprisingly it underwent the benzannulation reaction with the conjugated enynes **1d**-**g** under a remarkably low temperature of 0 °C! Thus, the benzannulation of **2c** with the 2-substituted alkyl enynes **1d**,**e** and alkoxy enyne **1f** under these mild conditions produced the 1,2,4-trisubstituted aryl ethers **3g**, **3h**, and **3i** in 91, 81, and 78% yields, respectively (entries 7–9). The cycloaddition of **2c** with the 1-substituted enyne **1g** gave the 1,2,3-trisubstituted arene **3j** in 66% isolated yield (entry 10).

It is worth noting that in all cases tested the enyne– diyne [4 + 2] cycloaddition reactions proceeded not only in the *regiospecific* fashion, producing the *single regioisomers* of the aromatic products **3**, but also in a highly *chemoselective* manner, affording exclusively the *cross*benzannulation products **3**, with no traces of the *homo*dimerization products **4** being produced (eq 2).⁶ However, the control experiments revealed that the alkoxysubstituted enyne **1g**, in the absence of diyne component, smoothly underwent the [4 + 2] *homodimerization* reac-

⁽⁶⁾ We have reported that the *chemoselectivity* of benzannulation of monosubstituted enynes^{2a,c,3} with diynes was not perfect; in most cases the enyne–diyne *cross*-benzannulation products were contaminated with trace to notable amounts of enyne-enyne *homo*-dimerization products.^{2a,c,3}

Table 2. Palladium-Catalyzed [4 + 2] Cycloaddition of Conjugated Enynes 1 with Unsymmetric Diyne 6



^a Isolated in 70% combined yield, as 18:82 nonseparable mixture of 7d and 8d. The ratio of 7d:8d was determined by ¹H NMR analysis.

tion to afford the vinyl resorcinol derivative **5** in 61% isolated yield (eq 3).⁷



Next, we examined the palladium-catalyzed cycloaddition of 1 with the unsymmetric diyne 6 (eq 4). Two



different alkyne moieties of 6 could act as enynophiles in the reaction with 1, and accordingly two regioisomeric products could be expected; the desired aryl ether 7 and alkoxy aryl alkyne 8 (eq 4). We found that the alkylsubstituted envnes 1d and 1e completely preferred the alkyl-substituted triple bond of 6, producing the corresponding alkoxy-substituted aryl alkynes 8a and 8b in 72 and 70% yields, respectively, with none of the desired aryl ethers 7a and 7b being produced (Table 2, entries 1 and 2). The aryl ether 8c, however, was obtained as a single reaction product in 52% yield by the reaction between 6 and alkoxy-substituted envne 1g (entry 3). The benzannulation reaction of 1f with 6, in contrast to that of **1d**, **e**, **g**, was not perfectly regioselective. Accordingly, the major aromatic acetylenic ether 8d (57%) was contaminated with a notable amount of isomeric dialkoxybenzene 7d (13%) (Table 2, entry 4). It should be pointed

out that the all above-mentioned [4 + 2] benzannulation reactions (Tables 1, 2) are truly palladium-catalyzed processes, since the test experiments ruled out any background reaction catalyzed by PPh₃.

One-Pot Synthesis of Coumaranones via the Benzannulation–**Lactonization Sequence.** Danishefsky and co-workers demonstrated that β -hydroxy alkynyl ethers are suitable precursors for the synthesis of lactones (eq 5).^{8a} Thus, lactone **11** could be directly obtained from the alcohol **9** by refluxing it in the presence of TsOH, or by the stepwise alcoholysis–lactonization sequence: $9 \rightarrow 10 \rightarrow 11$ (eq 5).^{8a} Later, Miller and Matthews utilized



thioalkyne precursors in the similar protocol.^{8b}

The presence of a masked hydroxyl group at the *ortho*position to the acetylenic ether moiety of the aromatic products 3g-j (Table 1, entries 7–10) and **8c** (Table 2, entry 3) encouraged us to test the possibility of their transformation into substituted coumaranones, similarly to the transformation $9 \rightarrow 11$ (eq 5).⁸ In other words, to complete the sequence, we need to deprotect the *tert*butoxy group attached to an aromatic ring under relatively mild reaction conditions (e.g., in the presence of TsOH).⁹ The experiment surpassed the above expectations; the acetylenic ether **3g** in the presence of TsOH (5 equiv) in 48 h at room temperature (!) was completely converted into the coumaranone **12a** (eq 6).

Inspired by the successful lactonization of **3g** into **12a**, we attempted the one-pot synthesis of the coumaranones

⁽⁷⁾ For the palladium-catalyzed [4 + 2] *homo*-dimerization of monosubstituted enynes, see: (a) Saito, S.; Salter, M. M.; Gevorgyan, V.; Tsuboya, N.; Tando, K.; Yamamoto, Y. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1996**, *118*, 3970. (b) Gevorgyan, V.; Tando, K.; Uchiyama, N.; Yamamoto, Y. *J. Org. Chem.* **1998**, *63*, 7022.

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⁽⁹⁾ Normally, for cleavage of the *tert*-butyl protection of phelols more strong acids, such as TfOH are needed; see for example: Holcombe, J. L.; Livinghouse, T. *J. Org. Chem.* **1986**, *51*, 111.



12 from the conjugated enynes 1d-f and divnes 2c and **6** (eqs 7 and 8). Hence, the benzannulation reaction of



R=Me, 1d

R=Hex, 1e

R=OMe, 1f



the enynes **1d**, **1e**, and **1f** with the diyne **2c** was performed under the conditions indicated in the Tables 1 and 2. After completion of the first step (formation of the aryl ethers **3g**-**i** was monitored by capillary GLC analysis), TsOH was directly added to the reaction mixtures. Additional stirring of the reaction mixtures for 2 days gave the coumaranones **12a**, **12b**, and **12c** in 84, 83, and 58% isolated yields, respectively (eq 7). Analogous one pot benzannulation-lactonization sequential transformation of **1g** and **6** produced the butyl-substituted coumaranone **13** in 45% yield (eq 8).

Conclusion

A number of differently substituted aryl ethers **3** was synthesized via the [4 + 2] enyne-diyne *cross*-cycloaddition reaction. A remarkably mild condition (0 °C!) for the palladium-catalyzed benzannulation of alkoxy enynes and/or alkoxy diynes was found. A synthetically useful and effective method for the synthesis of substituted coumaranones **12** and **13** from easily available conjugated enynes and diynes via the one-pot benzannulationcyclization sequence was developed.

Experimental Section

General Information. All solvents were purified and dried before use according to standard procedures. Reactions were performed under an argon atmosphere in oven-dried glassware. Enyne **1d** and the diynes **2a,b** were purchased from Aldrich. Enyne **1a** was prepared by consecutive Sonogashira coupling¹⁰ of (*E*)-1,2-dibromo-1-phenyloxyethene¹¹ with TMS acetylene, followed by the reduction of the resulting vinylic bromide¹² and a desilylation step with K₂CO₃/MeOH. Enynes **1b** and **1c** were obtained through a similar protocol for the preparation of **1a**, except for the last desilylation step, employing 1-octyne and phenylacetylene, respectively. Enynes **1e**,¹³ **1f**,¹⁴ and **1g**¹⁴ were prepared according to the described methods. Symmetrical diyne **2c** and unsymmetrical diyne **6** were synthesized by Glaser oxidative homocoupling of *tert*-butoxyacetylene¹⁵ and its heterocoupling with 1-hexyne, respectively.¹⁶

Synthesis of Aryl Ethers 3 (General Procedure). Diyne **2** (1.0 mmol) and enyne **1** (1.0 mmol) were consecutively added at room temperature to a solution of $Pd(PPh_3)_4$ (5 mol %) in THF (1.0 mL) in a 5 mL Wheaton microreactor under an argon atmosphere. After being stirred under the conditions indicated in the Table 1, THF was evaporated off, hexane was added, and the resulting mixture was filtered through silica gel. Purification by silica gel column chromatography using hexanes—ethyl acetate as an eluent gave aryl ethers **3** in 61–91% yields.

One-Pot Synthesis of Coumaranones 12 and 13 (General Procedure). Diyne **2** (1.0 mmol) and enyne **1** (1.0 mmol) were consecutively added at room temperature to a solution of Pd(PPh₃)₄ (5 mol %) in CH₂Cl₂ (2.0 mL) in a 20 mL two-neck round-bottom flask under an argon atmosphere. After completion of the first benzannulation step, which was monitored by capillary GLC analysis, TsOH (5 mmol) and toluene (10 mL) were directly added to the reaction mixture at room temperature. The mixture was stirred for 2 days at room temperature. The mixture was extracted (Et₂O–water), dried (Na₂SO₄), and concentrated. Purification by silica gel column chromatography using hexanes–ethyl acetate as an eluent gave coumaranones **12** and **13** in 45–84% yields.

3a: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.35–6.98 (m, 6H), 6.83 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 2.72 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.62–1.34 (m, 8H), 0.98–0.90 (m, 6H).); ¹³C NMR (75.45 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.0, 156.5, 146.8, 133.4, 129.7, 123.3, 118.93, 118.91, 118.34, 115.9, 92.9, 78.8, 34.4, 32.6, 31.0, 22.5, 21.9, 19.2, 13.9, 13.6; IR (neat) 2956, 1591, 1487 cm⁻¹. Anal. Calcd for C₂₂H₂₆O: C, 86.23; H, 8.55. Found: C, 86.17; H, 8.25.

3d: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.69–7.06 (m, 15H), 6.88 (s, 2H), 2.90 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 1.78–1.26 (m, 8H), 0.88 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75.45 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.9, 147.8, 146.2, 140.6, 130.9, 129.8, 129.4, 128.7, 128.5, 128.4, 128.2, 127.7, 127.5, 123.8, 123.6, 119.3, 117.6, 116.8, 95.3, 87.7, 35.5, 31.8, 30.6, 29.4, 22.7, 14.2; IR (neat) 2927, 2856, 1585, 1488, 1456, cm⁻¹. Anal. Calcd for C₃₂H₃₀O: C, 89.26; H, 7.02. Found: C, 89.30; H, 7.18.

3g: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.22 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (d, J = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (dd, J = 7.8, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 1.48 (s, 9H), 1.40 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (75.45 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.1, 136.7, 132.9, 124.2, 123.7, 117.6, 97.7, 86.2, 79.8, 40.4, 29.0, 27.3, 21.4; IR (neat) 2979, 2250, 1502, 1365, cm⁻¹. Anal. Calcd for C₁₇H₂₄O₂: C, 78.42; H,9.29. Found: C, 78.31; H, 9.25.

3i: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.25 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.59 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.54 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 1.47 (s, 9H), 1.42 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (75.45 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.5, 157.4, 133.7, 113.0, 109.6, 108.3, 97.0, 86.1, 80.2, 55.3,

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39.9, 29.0, 27.3; IR (neat) 2979, 1604, 1502, 1367, cm⁻¹; MS (EI) m/z 276 (M⁺ 1.08); HRMS Calcd for C₁₇H₂₄O₃ 276.1724, Found 276.1725.

3j: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 6.97 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.50 (s, 9H), 1.40 (s, 18H); ¹³C NMR (75.45 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.7, 125.3, 118.4, 117.7, 102.1, 86.1, 80.2, 37.9, 29.0, 27.4. Anal. Calcd for C₂₀H₃₀O₃: C, 75.43; H,9.49. Found: C, 75.13; H, 9.11.

5: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.01–6.84 (m, 2H), 6.76 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.11 (dd, J = 18, 3 Hz, 1H), 5.39 (dd, J = 12, 3 Hz, 1H), 1.35 (s, 18H); ¹³C NMR (75.45 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.1, 147.8, 130.4, 126.2, 119.1, 117.7, 80.0, 29.1; IR (neat) 2979, 1569, 1458, 1367, cm⁻¹; MS (EI) *m*/*z* 248 (M⁺ 3.68); HRMS Calcd for C₁₆H₂₄O₂ 248.1775, Found 248.1768.

7d:8d (18:82 mixture): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.30–7.25 [m, 1H (1 × 0.82H + 1 × 0.18H)], 6.72–6.54 [m, 2H (2 × 0.82H + 2 × 0.18H)], 3.77 [d, 3H (3 × 0.82H + 3 × 0.18H)], 2.72 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2 × 0.82H), 2.43 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2 × 0.18H), 1.54–1.35 [m, 13H (13 × 0.82H + 13 × 0.18H)], 0.98–0.91 (m, 3H (3 × 0.82H + 3 × 0.18H)].

8a: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.22 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (d, J = 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 2.71 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 1.68–1.53 (m, 2H), 1.48 (s, 9H), 1.44–1.26 (m, 2H), 0.93 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75.45 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.8, 136.0, 132.0, 129.3, 126.2, 120.7, 97.9, 86.3, 41.3, 34.6, 32.9, 27.2, 22.7, 21.3, 14.1; IR (neat) 2979, 2929, 2248, 1610, 1369, cm⁻¹; MS (E1) m/z 244 (M⁺, 1.8); HRMS Calcd for C₁₇H₂₄O 244.1826, Found 244.1823.

8b: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.24 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 2.72 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.54 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.66–1.28 (m, 21H), 0.95–0.88 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (75.45 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.8, 141.2, 132.0, 128.7, 125.6, 120.9, 97.9, 86.3, 41.3, 35.8, 34.7, 32.9, 31.7, 31.4, 29.0, 27.2, 22.7, 22.6, 14.1, 14.0; IR (neat) 2929,

2856, 2248, 1610, cm⁻¹. Anal. Calcd for $C_{22}H_{34}O$: C, 84.02; H, 10.90. Found: C, 83.85; H, 10.84.

8c: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.03–6.85 (m, 3H), 2.74 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.63–1.28 (m, 22H), 0.90 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75.45 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.8, 145.9, 125.7, 123.1, 120.2, 120.0, 102.2, 86.2, 79.7, 38.8, 34.9, 32.7, 29.1, 27.3, 22.6, 14.1; IR (neat) 2979, 2248, 1568, 1460, 1390, 1365, 1321 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) m/z 302 (M⁺, 0.31); HRMS Calcd for C₂₀H₃₀O₂ 302.2244, Found 302.2242.

12b: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.16 (dd, J = 7.5, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.96–6.93 (m, 2H), 3.70 (s, 2H), 2.62 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.61–1.29 (m, 8H), 0.88 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75.45 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.6, 154.8, 144.5, 124.2, 124.1, 120.0, 110.7, 36.0, 32.9, 31.6, 31.4, 28.8, 22.6, 14.1; IR (neat) 2927, 2856, 1809, 1631, 1434, cm⁻¹; MS (EI) m/z 218 (M⁺, 74.5); HRMS Calcd for C₁₄H₁₈O₂ 218.1291, Found 218.1289.

12c: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.14 (dd, J = 7.8, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.67–6.63 (m, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.66 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (75.45 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.7, 160.4, 155.6, 124.9, 114.5, 109.7, 97.5, 55.6, 32.6; IR (KBr) 2936, 1803, 1633, 1500 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) m/z 164 (M⁺, 100); HRMS Calcd for C₉H₈O₃ 164.0464, Found 164.0463.

13: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.25–6.92 (m, 3H), 3.66 (s, 2H), 2.56 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.61–1.28 (m, 4H), 0.91 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75.45 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.3, 154.5, 139.6, 128.6, 124.1, 121.7, 108.1, 32.9, 31.9, 31.8, 22.4, 13.9; IR (neat) 2956, 2931, 1809, 1452 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) *m*/*z* 190 (M⁺, 92.8); HRMS Calcd for C₁₂H₁₄O₂ 190.0985, Found 190.0984.

Supporting Information Available: ¹H NMR spectra of all new compounds. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

JO991519K