JOC*Article*

Synthesis of 3-Iodoindoles by the Pd/Cu-Catalyzed Coupling of *N*,*N*-Dialkyl-2-iodoanilines and Terminal Acetylenes, Followed by Electrophilic Cyclization

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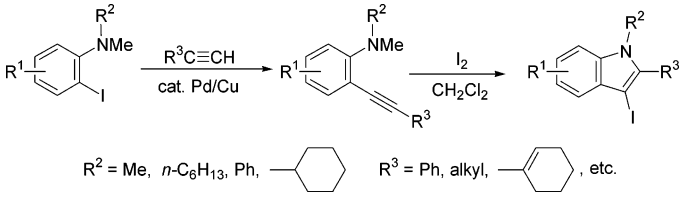
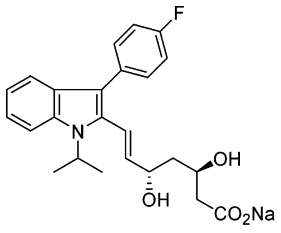


3-Iodoindoles have been prepared in excellent yields by coupling terminal acetylenes with *N*,*N*-dialkyl-*o*-iodoanilines in the presence of a Pd/Cu catalyst, followed by an electrophilic cyclization of the resulting *N*,*N*-dialkyl-*o*-(1-alkynyl)anilines using I_2 in CH_2Cl_2. Aryl-, vinylic-, alkyl-, and silyl-substituted terminal acetylenes undergo this process to produce excellent yields of 3-iodoindoles. The reactivity of the carbon−nitrogen bond cleavage during cyclization follows the following order: Me > *n*-Bu, Me > Ph, and cyclohexyl > Me. Subsequent palladium-catalyzed Sonogashira, Suzuki, and Heck reactions of the resulting 3-iodoindoles proceed smoothly in good yields.

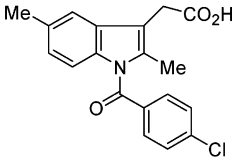
Introduction

The substituted indole nucleus is prevalent in numerous natural products and is extremely important in medicinal chemistry.[1] For example, lescol has been identified as a 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl coenzyme A reductase inhibitor[1c] and indomethacin is an antitumor agent for endometrial cancers.[1d] Thus, research directed toward concise and novel syntheses of substituted indoles is highly desirable.

Electrophilic cyclization via "vinylic cations" to make heterocycles, such as benzo[*b*]furans and benzo[*b*]thiophenes, has been explored, and the mechanism of this process has been studied by Taniguchi et al.[2] However, significant limitations have been found in generating the "vinylic cations". Only recently, the electrophilic cyclization of functionally substituted alkynes has been reported to provide very general and efficient preparations of benzo[*b*]thiophenes,[3] isoquinolines and naphthyridines,[4] isocoumarins and α-pyrones,[5] benzofurans,[6] furans,[7] indoles,[8] furopyridines,[9] cyclic carbonates,[10] 2,3-dihydropyrroles and pyrroles,[11] pyrilium salts,[12] bicyclic β-lactams,[13] isochromenes,[12a,14] phosphaisocoumarins,[15] isoindolin-1-ones,[16] and benzopyrans



Lescol



Indomethacin

(1) For reviews, see: (a) Sundberg, R. J. *Prog. Heterocycl. Chem.* **1989**, *1*, 111. (b) Saxton, J. E. *Nat. Prod. Rep.* **1986**, *3*, 357; **1987**, *4*, 591; **1989**, *6*, 1. (c) Sundberg, R. J. *Indoles*; Academic Press: New York, 1996. (d) Mori, H.; Yoshimi, N. *Mutat. Res.* **2001**, *480*, 201. (e) Gribble, G. W. *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 1* **2000**, 1045. (f) Toyota, M.; Ihara, M. *Nat. Prod. Rep*. **1998**, *15*, 327. (g) Lobo, A. M.; Prabhakar, S. *J. Heterocycl. Chem.* **2002**, *39*, 429. (h) Tokuyama, H.; Fukuyama, T. *Kagaku Kogyo* **2001**, *52*, 416. (i) Xiong, W. N.; Yang, C. G.; Jiang, B. *Bioorg. Med. Chem.* **2001**, *9*, 1773. (j) Ezquerra, J.; Pedregal, C.; Lamas, C. *J. Org. Chem*. **1996**, *61*, 5804.

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(6) Arcadi, A.; Cacchi, S.; Fabrizi, G.; Marinelli, F.; Moro, L. *Synlett* **1999**, 1432.

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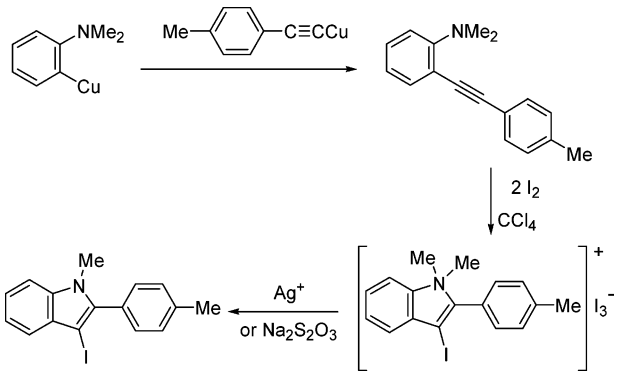
and 1,2-dihydroquinolines.[17] The intramolecular transition-metal-catalyzed hydroarylation of alkynes has also proven useful for the synthesis of heterocycles and carbocycles.[18] This chemistry is generally viewed as proceeding through electrophilic addition to the alkyne by a cationic intermediate.

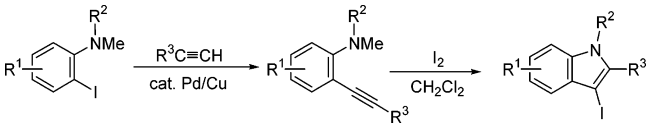
Our success employing this process for the synthesis of benzo[*b*]thiophenes[3a,b] inspired us to explore the possibility of preparing indoles by this same approach. During our investigation of the electrophilic cyclization of *N*,*N*-disubstituted *o*-(1-alkynyl)anilines to substituted indoles, Barluenga et al.[8a] and Knight and Amjad[8c] reported similar electrophilic cyclizations of *o*-(1-alkynyl)anilines and their carbamate, sulfonamide, and amide derivatives bearing nitrogen−hydrogen bonds using IPy_2BF_4/HBF_4 and I_2/K_2CO_3, respectively. However, the use of either a strong acid or a base during these cyclizations might affect certain acid- or base-sensitive functional groups. The use of an expensive iodonium salt, IPy_2BF_4, and the strong, toxic acid HBF_4, the apparent need to carefully control the reaction temperature, and the highly variable yields make the former approach less appealing.[8a] The latter I_2 approach apparently only works on sulfonamides bearing a nitrogen−hydrogen bond.[8c] From preliminary results,[8b] our approach, utilizing neutral reaction conditions, appeared to be more efficient and convenient and appeared to produce *N*-alkylindoles in high yields.

Ten Hoedt et al. has reported an approach to the synthesis of 1-methyl-2-*p*-tolylindole and its 3-iodo derivative by a related process involving iodocyclization (Scheme 1).[19] Unfortunately, the unusual synthesis of the starting acetylene, the separation of the key tri-iodide intermediate salt, and the stepwise addition of an expensive silver reagent or sodium thiosulfate are not particularly attractive synthetically. Furthermore, the yield of the above process was only 66% or less, and the scope of the cyclization step has not been examined. Herein, we report a more convenient synthesis of the starting 2-(1-alkynyl)anilines and the successful application of this electrophilic cyclization strategy as a convenient and general synthetic method for the synthesis of 3-iodoindoles.

SCHEME 1



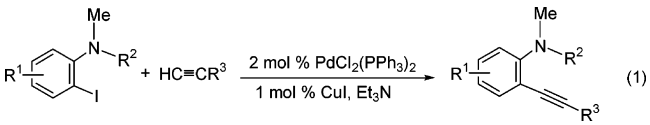
SCHEME 2



Results and Discussion

A two-step approach to 3-iodoindoles has been examined involving (i) the Sonogashira coupling[20] of *N*,*N*-dialkyl-*o*-iodoanilines with terminal alkynes and (ii) an electrophilic cyclization (Scheme 2).

To assess the generality of this overall approach, the scope of the Sonogashira coupling of *N*,*N*-dialkyl-*o*-iodoanilines and terminal alkynes was first studied. Treatment of *N*,*N*-dialkyl-*o*-iodoanilines bearing different functionalities with a variety of terminal alkynes under standard Sonogashira coupling conditions (5 mmol of *N*,*N*-dialkyl-*o*-iodoaniline, 1.2 equiv of terminal alkyne, 2 mol % of $PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$, 1 mol % of CuI, and 12.5 mL of Et_3N at room temperature for 5−24 h) affords high yields of the coupling products (eq 1, Table 1).



(1)

N,*N*-Dialkyl-*o*-iodoanilines show high reactivity toward the Sonogashira coupling, and this allows the preparation of a wide variety of functionalized *N*,*N*-dialkyl-*o*-(1-alkynyl)anilines. *N*,*N*-Dialkyl-*o*-iodoanilines bearing nitro, ester, methyl, and methoxy groups undergo smooth Sonogashira coupling with alkynes bearing various substituents, including aryl, vinylic, alkyl, and silyl groups. High yields were obtained in almost all cases (Table 1). Most terminal alkynes have afforded high yields in this Sonogashira reaction. However, because it is extremely reactive toward homocoupling, 5-hexynenitrile affords only a relatively low yield and a large amount of the homocoupling diyne product is formed (entry 6).

We have found that *N*,*N*-dimethyl-*o*-(phenylethynyl)aniline (**2**), when treated with I_2 in CH_2Cl_2, undergoes smooth iodocyclization at room temperature and affords an essentially

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(14) (a) Asao, N.; Nogami, T.; Takahashi, K.; Yamamoto, Y. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2002**, *124*, 764. (b) Nakamura, H.; Ohtaka, M.; Yamamoto, Y. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2002**, *43*, 7631. (c) Yue, D.; Della Cá, N.; Larock, R. C. *Org. Lett.* **2004**, *6*, 1581.

(15) Peng, A.-Y.; Ding, Y.-X. *Org. Lett*. **2004**, *6*, 1119.

(16) Yao, T.; Larock, R. C. *J. Org. Chem.* **2005**, *70*, 1432.

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TABLE 1. Sonogashira Coupling of *N,N*-Dialkyl-2-iodoanilines and Terminal Acetylenes[a]

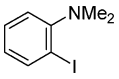
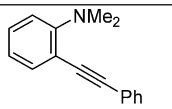
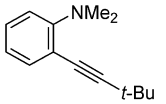
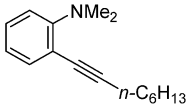
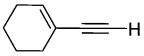
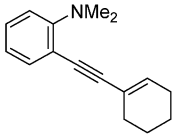
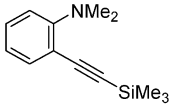
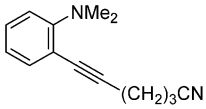
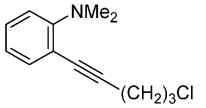
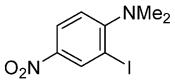
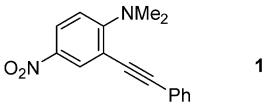
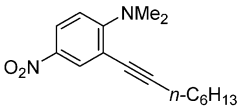
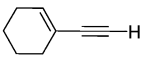
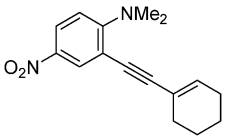
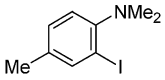
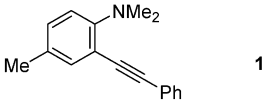
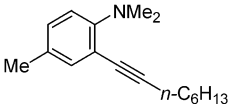
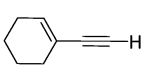
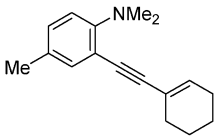
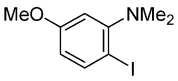
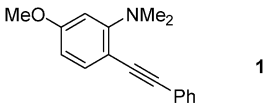
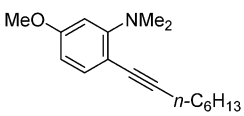
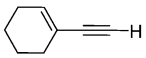
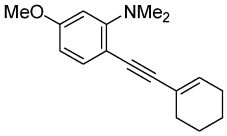
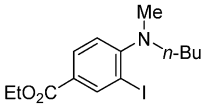
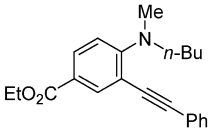
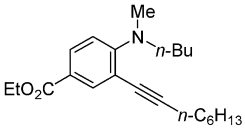
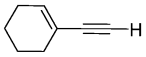
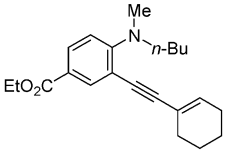
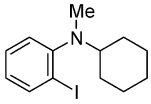
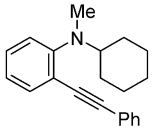
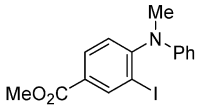
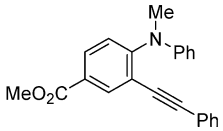
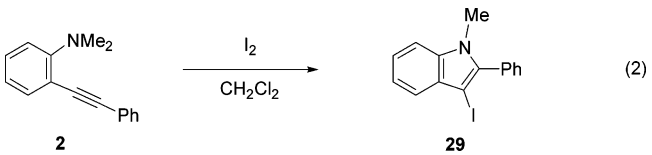
entry	2-iodoaniline		terminal acetylene	arylalkyne		reaction time (h)	yield (%)
1		**1**	PhC≡CH		**2**	7	84
2			*t*-BuC≡CH		**3**	7	85
3			*n*-C_6H_{13}C≡CH		**4**	7	94
4					**5**	5	84
5			$Me_3SiC{\equiv}CH$		**6**	7	70
6			$NC(CH_2)_3C{\equiv}CH$		**7**	7	40
7			$Cl(CH_2)_3C{\equiv}CH$		**8**	7	87
8		**9**	PhC≡CH		**10**	5	89
9			*n*-C_6H_{13}C≡CH		**11**	5	83
10					**12**	5	100
11		**13**	PhC≡CH		**14**	5	98
12			*n*-C_6H_{13}C≡CH		**15**	5	67
13					**16**	5	83
14		**17**	PhC≡CH		**18**	24	98
15			*n*-C_6H_{13}C≡CH		**19**	24	93

Table 1 (Continued)

entry	2-iodoaniline	terminal acetylene	arylalkyne	reaction time (h)	yield (%)
16			 **20**	24	100
17	 **21**	PhC≡CH	 **22**	5	100
18		*n*-C_6H_{13}C≡CH	 **23**	5	54
19			 **24**	5	95
20	 **25**	PhC≡CH	 **26**	24	80
21	 **27**	PhC≡CH	 **28**	24	84

[a] All reactions were run with 5 mmol of the *N*,*N*-dialkyl-2-iodoaniline, 1.2 equiv of the terminal acetylene, 2 mol % of $PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$, 1 mol % of CuI, and 12.5 mL of Et_3N at 50 °C.

quantitative yield of the corresponding 3-iodo-1-methyl-2-phenylindole (**29**; eq 2; Table 2, entry 1). Only a trace of the tri-iodide salt was observed upon TLC analysis. However, under Ten Hoedt's reaction conditions,[19] the tri-iodide salt appears to be the major product. The mild reaction conditions as well as the high yield of this reaction encouraged us to extend this methodology to a range of *N*,*N*-dimethyl-*o*-(1-alkynyl)anilines (Table 2, entries 1−7). The cyclization proceeds smoothly when the substituent on the distal end of the alkyne is aryl, vinylic, alkyl, functionally substituted alkyl, or silyl. Even hindered *tert*-butyl-substituted (**3**; entry 2) or trimethylsilyl-substituted (**6**; entry 5) alkynes react rapidly in high yields. However, 3-iodo-1-methyl-2-(trimethylsilyl)indole, formed by the iodocyclization of alkyne **6**, is extremely unstable. Although the cyclization product was detected by TLC and by ^{1}H NMR spectroscopic analysis of the crude product, we were not able to separate and fully characterize this 3-iodoindole.



2 **29** (2)

The substituents on the triple bond of the *N*,*N*-dimethyl-*o*-(1-alkynyl)anilines affect the yields of the cyclization reactions. Substrates with substituents, which are in conjugation with the triple bond, such as the phenyl group in alkyne **2** and the vinylic group in alkyne **5**, appear to cyclize more rapidly and generally produce higher yields of products. The bulky trimethylsilyl group in **6** tends to hinder cyclization and requires a longer reaction time (entry 5). The reactions of 6-[2-(dimethylamino)-phenyl]-5-hexynenitrile (**7**) and *N*,*N*-dimethyl-2-(5-chloro-1-pentynyl)aniline (**8**) with iodine (entries 6 and 7) afford somewhat lower yields than the simple alkyl-substituted alkyne **4** (entry 3) and require a significantly longer reaction time. This may be because the electron-withdrawing cyano- and chloro-groups on the alkyl chain make the corresponding vinylic cation intermediates less stable (see the later mechanistic discussion). However, no products involving the simple addition of the electrophile I_2 to the alkyne triple bond are observed with any of these alkynes.

The substituents on the aniline moiety also play a significant role in the cyclization. The presence of electron-withdrawing groups, such as a nitro or an ester group, para to the aniline nitrogen enhances the electrophilic cyclization. The reaction time is shorter, and higher yields are generally obtained (entries 8−10 and 17−19). Similarly, for a weak electron-donating methyl group, short reaction times and high yields are also observed (entries 11−13). However, the stronger electron-donating methoxy group meta to the aniline nitrogen requires longer reaction times and tends to lower the yield (entries 14−16).

The use of two different alkyl groups on the nitrogen of the aniline affords interesting selectivity. Compounds **22**−**24**, with a methyl and an *n*-butyl group on the nitrogen, undergo electrophilic cyclization smoothly, and the total conversions are

TABLE 2. Synthesis of 3-Iodoindoles[a]

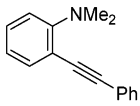
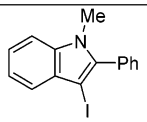
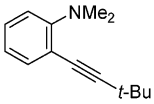
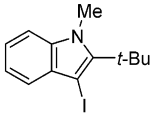
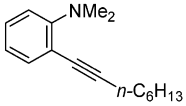
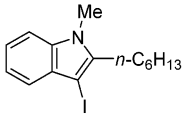
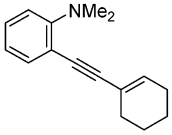
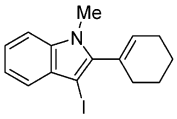
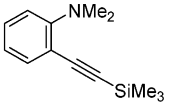
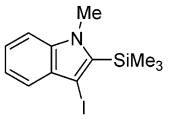
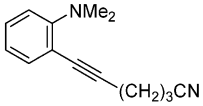
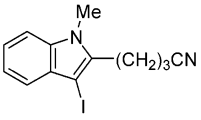
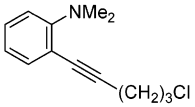
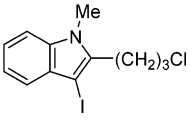
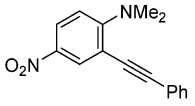
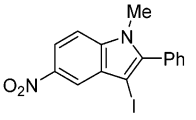
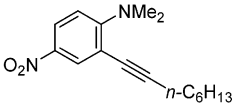
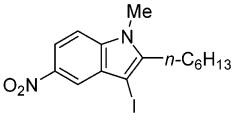
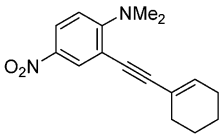
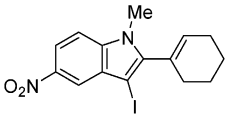
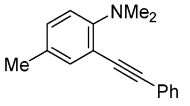
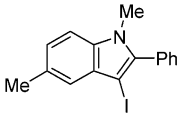
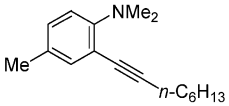
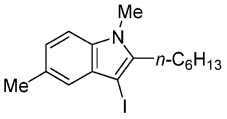
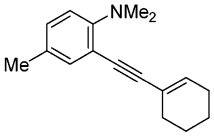
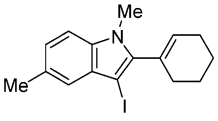
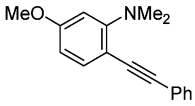
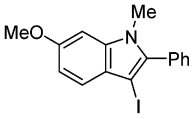
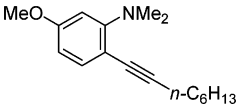
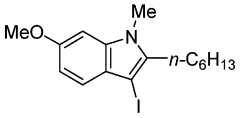
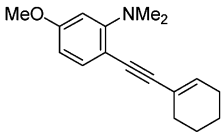
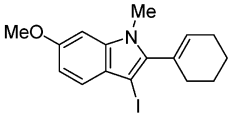
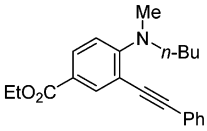
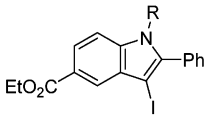
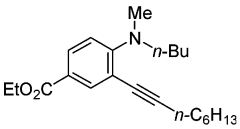
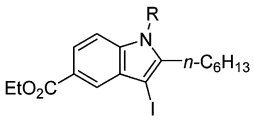
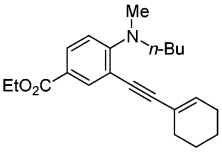
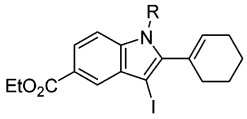
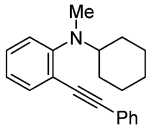
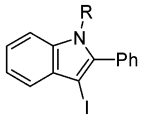
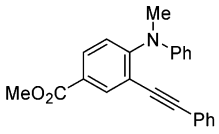
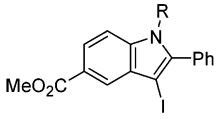
entry	alkyne		time (h)	product		isolated yield (%)
1		**2**	2		**29**	100
2		**3**	2		**30**	96
3		**4**	2		**31**	94
4		**5**	2		**32**	85
5		**6**	4		**33**	?
6		**7**	4		**34**	86
7		**8**	4		**35**	73
8		**10**	0.5		**36**	100
9		**11**	0.5		**37**	95
10		**12**	0.5		**38**	100
11		**14**	0.5		**39**	100
12		**15**	0.5		**40**	100
13		**16**	0.5		**41**	98

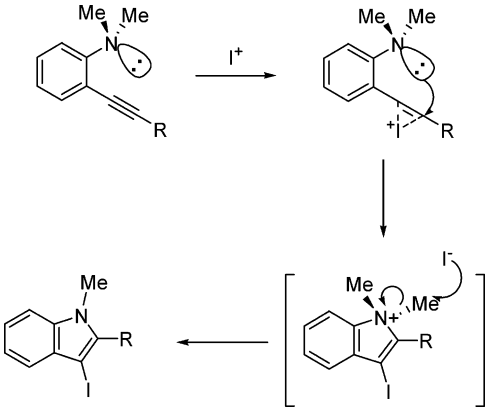
Table 2. (Continued)

entry	alkyne		time (h)	product		isolated yield (%)
14		**18**	2		**42**	84
15		**19**	2		**43**	84
16		**20**	2		**44**	100
17		**22**	0.5	 R = *n*-Bu (**45**) R = Me (**46**)		98 (72:28)[b] (**45**:**46**)
18		**23**	0.5	 R = *n*-Bu (**47**) R = Me (**48**)		84 (62:38)[b] (**47**:**48**)
19		**24**	0.5	 R = *n*-Bu (**49**) R = Me (**50**)		92 (66:34)[b] (**49**:**50**)
20		**26**	2	 R = Me (**27**) R =  (**51**)		50 (90:10)[b] (**27**:**51**)
21		**28**	1	 R = Ph (**52**) R = Me (**27**)		80 (100:0)[b] (**52**:**27**)

[a] All reactions were run with 0.25 mmol of the alkyne and 2 equiv of I_2 in 5 mL of CH_2Cl_2 at 25 °C, followed by the addition of 5 mL of saturated aq $Na_2S_2O_3$ to remove the excess I_2. [b] A ratio of the products is shown immediately below.

quite high (entries 17−19). The less-hindered methyl group is more easily removed than is the *n*-butyl group, suggesting that alkyl cleavage is proceeding by an S_N2 process. The corresponding *N*-methyl-3-iodoindoles and *N*-*n*-butyl-3-iodoindoles were obtained in approximately a 2 to 1 ratio. Compound **26**, bearing a methyl and a cyclohexyl group on the nitrogen of the aniline, would thus be expected to afford exclusively the corresponding *N*-cyclohexylindole (entry 20). In fact, we isolated a 45% yield of *N*-methylindole and only about a 5% yield of the *N*-cyclohexylindole was formed. These results suggest that the loss of the alkyl group can occur by either an S_N1 or an S_N2 mechanism, or perhaps the loss of the cyclohexyl group

SCHEME 3



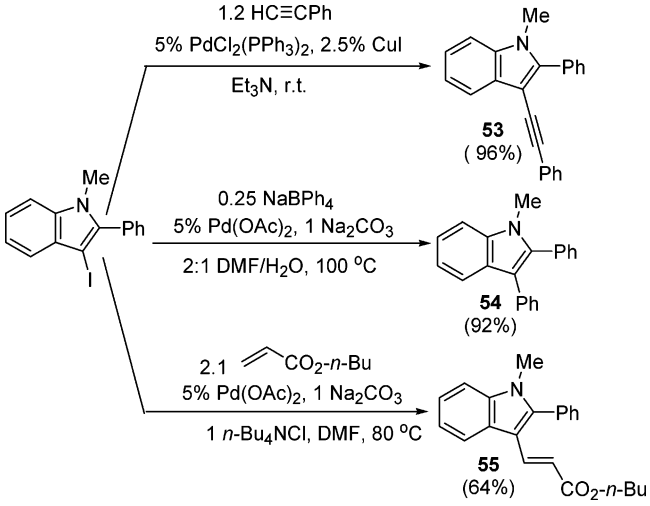
occurs by an E_2 elimination instead. When this reaction was carried out in a NMR tube using CD_2Cl_2 as the solvent, MeI, cyclohexene, and cyclohexyl iodide were observed in the ^1H NMR spectrum. Unfortunately, the yield of these byproducts could not be easily determined. Finally, compound **28**, containing a methyl and a phenyl group on the aniline nitrogen, affords exclusively the expected *N*-phenylindole **52** in an 80% yield (entry 21). Unfortunately, neither 1-[2-(phenylethynyl)phenyl]-pyrrolidine nor *N*-methyl-*N*-[2-(phenylethynyl)phenyl]acetamide afforded the desired indole product under our standard reaction conditions.

To explore the scope of this indole synthesis, four other electrophiles, Br_2, NBS, *p*-$O_2NC_6H_4SCl$, and PhSeCl, have also been examined. Only iodine exhibits high reactivity in this electrophilic cyclization. The other electrophiles provide either very poor or no yields of the desired cyclization products. The predominant reaction with these electrophiles is addition across the C−C triple bond.

We believe that these cyclizations proceed by an anti attack of the electrophile and the nitrogen of the *N*,*N*-dialkylamino group on the alkyne to produce an indolium salt, which loses an alkyl group via either S_N1 or S_N2 substitution or possibly E_2 elimination, promoted by the iodide nucleophile present in the reaction mixture (Scheme 3). The success of this reaction is presumably due to several factors. First, the two alkyl groups on the nitrogen make the nitrogen highly nucleophilic. Second, the interaction between the two alkyl groups and the internal triple bond favors an orientation of the nitrogen with its lone pair of electrons pointing toward the triple bond. Third, the highly nucleophilic iodide ion formed after the cyclization facilitates removal of the methyl or other alkyl group.

The 3-iodoindoles produced by this chemistry should be very useful for the synthesis of a wide variety of substituted indoles. For example, the 3-iodoindoles produced by this strategy can be further functionalized by applying palladium-catalyzed coupling reactions. We have found that *N*-methyl-2-phenyl-3-(phenylethynyl)indole (**53**), *N*-methyl-2,3-diphenylindole (**54**), and *n*-butyl *E*-3-(1-methyl-2-phenylindol-3-yl)propenoate (**55**) can be obtained in 92, 90, and 64% overall yields, respectively, from *N*,*N*-dimethyl-*o*-iodoaniline and phenyl acetylene by our two-step coupling/cyclization process, followed by palladium-catalyzed cross-couplings (Scheme 4). One should be able to prepare many other 2,3-disubstituted indoles using these iodo substrates and other known palladium methodology.

SCHEME 4



Conclusions

A very efficient synthesis of 2,3-disubstituted indoles has been developed by a two-step approach involving the Sonogashira cross-coupling of terminal alkynes and *N*,*N*-dialkyl-*o*-iodoanilines, followed by electrophilic cyclization using I_2 in CH_2Cl_2. While I_2 gives 3-iodoindoles in excellent yields, Br_2, NBS, *p*-$O_2NC_6H_4SCl$, and PhSeCl give mixtures of both cyclization products and products of simple addition to the triple bond, with the latter predominating. A wide variety of aniline-containing acetylenes with various functional groups undergo this overall process in good to excellent yields. The steric and electronic effects of the substituents on the carbon−carbon triple bond of the *N*,*N*-dialkyl-2-(1-alkynyl)aniline intermediates have been studied.

Experimental Section

General Procedure for the Preparation of the *N*,*N*-Dimethyl-*o*-iodoanilines. These compounds were prepared by a procedure reported by Cadogan et al.[21] A solution of the corresponding aniline (2.0 mmol) and iodomethane (0.85 g, 6.0 mmol) in DMF (10 mL) containing K_2CO_3 (0.55 g, 4.0 mmol) was stirred for 48 h at room temperature. Water (10 mL) was then added, and the solution was extracted with diethyl ether (3 × 10 mL). The organic extracts were washed with water (4 × 20 mL) to remove any remaining DMF and dried (Na_2SO_4), and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to yield the crude product, which was further purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/hexane as the eluent.

***N*,*N*-Dimethyl-2-iodoaniline (1).** The product was obtained as a yellow oil: ^1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 2.76 (s, 6H), 6.76 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 45.2, 97.3, 120.6, 125.2, 129.2, 140.4, 155.1; IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 3002, 1944, 2830, 2783. HRMS calcd for $C_8H_{10}IN$, 246.985 80; found, 246.986 05.

General Procedure for the Synthesis of the *N*,*N*-Dialkyl-2-(1-alkynyl)anilines. To a solution of Et_3N (12.5 mL), $PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$ (0.070 g, 2 mol %), 5 mmol of *N*,*N*-dialkyl-*o*-iodoaniline, and 6.0 mmol of terminal acetylene (stirring for 5 min beforehand) was added CuI (0.010 g, 1 mol %), and stirring was continued for another 2 min before flushing with Ar. The flask was then sealed. The mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for the desired

(21) Cadogan, J. T. G.; Hickson, C. L.; Husband, J. B.; McNab, H. *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 1* **1985**, 1891.

time, and the resulting solution was filtered, washed with a saturated aq NaCl solution, and extracted with diethyl ether (2 × 10 mL). The combined ether fractions were dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under vacuum to yield the crude product. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/hexane as the eluent.

***N,N*-Dimethyl-2-(phenylethynyl)aniline (2).** The product was obtained as a yellow oil: ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 3.01 (s, 6H), 6.88−6.94 (m, 2H), 7.25 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 7.31−7.37 (m, 3H), 7.49 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 43.8, 89.1, 95.0, 115.3, 117.2, 120.7, 124.1, 128.2, 128.5, 129.5, 131.5, 134.6, 155.0; IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 3059, 2943, 2833, 2785, 2209. HRMS calcd for $C_{16}H_{15}N$, 221.120 45; found, 221.120 76.

General Procedure for Iodocyclization. To a solution of 0.25 mmol of *N*,*N*-dialkyl-2-(1-alkynyl)aniline and 3 mL of CH_2Cl_2 was added gradually 2 equiv of I_2 dissolved in 2 mL of CH_2Cl_2. The reaction mixture was flushed with Ar and allowed to stir at room temperature for the desired time. The excess I_2 was removed by washing with a saturated aq solution of $Na_2S_2O_3$. The aq solution was then extracted with diethyl ether (2 × 10 mL). The combined ether layers were dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under vacuum to yield the crude product, which was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/hexanes as the eluent.

3-Iodo-1-methyl-2-phenylindole (29). The product was obtained as a yellow oil: ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 3.63 (s, 3H), 7.21−7.28 (m, 3H), 7.43−7.51 (m, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 32.2, 59.0, 110.0, 120.9, 121.6, 123.1, 128.6, 129.0, 130.5, 131.1, 131.8, 137.9, 141.9; IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 3054, 2937. HRMS calcd for $C_{15}H_{12}IN$, 333.001 45; found, 333.001 94.

1-Methyl-2-phenyl-3-(phenylethynyl)indole (53). This indole was prepared by the following procedure. Into a well-mixed Et_3N solution (5 mL) containing 5.0 mmol of 3-iodo-1-methyl-2-phenylindole, 6.0 mmol of phenylacetylene, and $PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$ (5 mol %) was added CuI (2.5 mol %), and the flask was flushed with Ar, sealed, and allowed to stir at room temperature for 2 h. The resulting precipitate was filtered off and washed with diethyl ether (10 mL). The combined ether layers were dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under vacuum to afford a yellow oil: ^{1}H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 3.69 (s, 3H), 7.21−7.32 (m, 6H), 7.41−7.44 (m, 3H), 7.49 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (dd, J = 10.8, 2.0 Hz, 2H), 7.85 (dd, J = 10.4, 2.0 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 31.8, 84.5, 91.9, 110.0, 120.2, 121.0, 123.1, 124.7, 127.4, 128.1, 128.4, 128.5, 128.7, 129.0, 130.4, 131.0, 131.3, 137.4, 144.0; IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 3004, 2962, 2923, 2204. HRMS calcd for $C_{23}H_{17}N$, 307.136 10; found, 307.136 98.

1-Methyl-2,3-diphenylindole (54). This indole was prepared according to a literature procedure.[22] To 10 mL of a 2:1 DMF/H_2O solution containing 5.0 mmol of 3-iodo-1-methyl-2-phenylindole were added 5.0 mmol of Na_2CO_3 and 1.25 mmol of $NaBPh_4$, and the reaction mixture was stirred for 2 min. $Pd(OAc)_2$ (5 mol %) was then added, and the flask was flushed with Ar, sealed, and allowed to stir at 100 °C for 2 h. The resulting reaction mixture was extracted with diethyl ether (2 × 10 mL). The combined ether layers were dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under vacuum to afford a white solid. Recrystallization afforded a 92% yield of a crystalline solid. The product was obtained as white needles: mp 113−114 °C; ^{1}H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 3.67 (s, 3H), 7.16−7.39 (m, 13H), 7.80 (d, J = 10.6 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 31.1, 109.8, 115.3, 119.8, 120.4, 122.4, 125.7, 127.2, 128.2, 128.4, 128.6, 130.1, 131.4, 132.1, 135.4, 137.5, 137.9; IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 3058, 2923, 2849. HRMS calcd for $C_{21}H_{17}N$, 283.136 10; found, 283.136 90.

***n*-Butyl (*E*)-3-[1-Methyl-2-phenylindol-3-yl]propenoate (55).** This indole was prepared by the following procedure. Into 1 mL of DMF containing 0.25 mmol of 3-iodo-1-methyl-2-phenylindole and 0.25 mmol of Na_2CO_3 were added 0.25 mmol of *n*-Bu_4NCl and 0.525 mmol of *n*-butyl acrylate, and the reaction mixture was stirred for 2 min. $Pd(OAc)_2$ (5 mol %) was then added, and the flask was flushed with Ar, sealed, and allowed to stir at 80 °C for 24 h.[23] The resulting reaction mixture was extracted with diethyl ether (2 × 10 mL). The combined ether layers were dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under vacuum to afford a pale yellow oil: ^{1}H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 0.94 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 1.37−1.44 (m, 2H), 1.62−1.67 (m, 2H), 3.61 (s, 3H), 4.15 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 6.48 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 7.32−7.40 (m, 5H), 7.50−7.53 (m, 3H), 7.72 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 14.0, 19.4, 31.1, 31.3, 64.0, 110.2, 110.6, 113.1, 120.9, 121.9, 123.2, 125.8, 128.8, 129.4, 130.2, 131.1, 138.1, 139.0, 145.6, 168.8; IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 3004, 2963, 2925, 1711. HRMS calcd for $C_{22}H_{23}NO_2$, 333.172 88; found, 333.173 70.

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Supporting Information Available: General experimental procedures and spectral data for all previously unreported starting materials and products. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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