

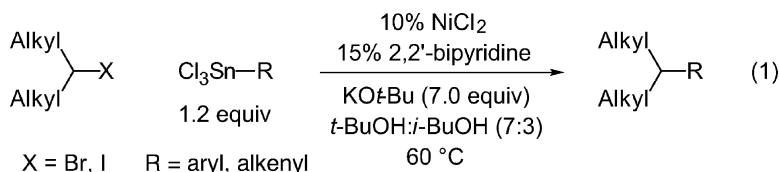
Communication

Stille Cross-Couplings of Unactivated Secondary Alkyl Halides Using Monoorganotin Reagents

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J. Am. Chem. Soc., **2005**, 127 (2), 510-511 • DOI: 10.1021/ja0436300 • Publication Date (Web): 23 December 2004

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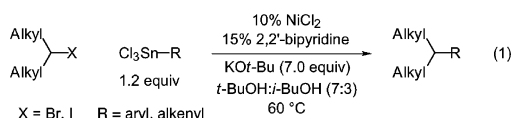
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The Stille cross-coupling reaction¹ is a very powerful method for the construction of new carbon–carbon bonds that has found application in disciplines ranging from natural-products synthesis (e.g., chloropectin² and apoptolidin³) to materials science (e.g., conducting polymers⁴). A significant impediment to even more widespread use of this process is the toxicity of triorganotin compounds (R₃-SnX),⁵ which are the usual stoichiometric side products of Stille reactions. A second practical issue is the difficulty that is often encountered in separating R₃SnX from the desired cross-coupling adduct. A few clever approaches to circumventing these problems have been described, but none has yet found general use.⁶

Of course, one simple way to avoid trialkyltin-related issues is to employ an organotin coupling partner that does not generate R₃SnX as a side product. In fact, a few groups have reported Stille reactions of monoorganotin compounds.⁷ The tin-based products of such processes are inorganic species that generally do not suffer from the purification and toxicity problems common to triorganotins.⁸

Recently, we and others have devoted considerable effort to expanding the scope of palladium- and nickel-catalyzed coupling reactions to include unactivated, β -hydrogen-containing alkyl halides as partners.⁹ A particularly synthetically useful, although challenging (due to slow oxidative addition and facile β -hydride elimination), objective is the cross-coupling of *secondary* alkyl halides. To date, progress with this family of substrates has been limited to couplings with organozinc,¹⁰ -boron,¹¹ -silicon,^{9c} and -magnesium¹² reagents.¹³ In this communication, we establish that a new family of partners, organotin compounds, can be cross-coupled with secondary alkyl halides (eq 1); monoorganotin reagents are the substrates of choice for this nickel-catalyzed process.

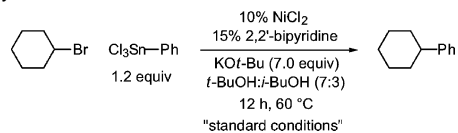


Unfortunately, the conditions that had previously been described for Negishi,¹⁰ Suzuki,¹¹ and Hiyama^{9c} couplings of secondary alkyl halides were ineffective for the corresponding Stille reactions. However, we determined that 10% NiCl₂/15% 2,2'-bipyridine, in the presence of KO*t*-Bu, catalyzes the cross-coupling of cyclohexyl bromide with PhSnCl₃ in good yield (Table 1, entry 1).

Essentially none of the desired carbon–carbon bond formation is observed in the absence of NiCl₂ (Table 1, entry 2) or in the presence of a range of palladium complexes (entry 3). Other nickel complexes can furnish reactivity that is comparable to NiCl₂ (entry 4); for the studies described below, we chose to use NiCl₂, since it is air-stable and inexpensive.¹⁴

If 2,2'-bipyridine is omitted, cross-coupling does not occur (entry 5), and other bipyridine-based ligands that we have explored have proved to be less effective (e.g., entry 6). The stoichiometry of KO*t*-Bu and the solvent have a significant impact on reaction efficiency (entries 7–11);¹⁵ from the standpoint of convenience, it is worth noting that commercially available KO*i*-Bu in *i*-BuOH provides a useful amount of product (entry 11). Decreasing the catalyst loading


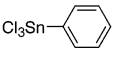

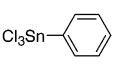

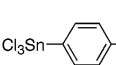

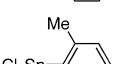

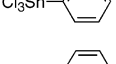

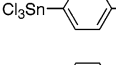
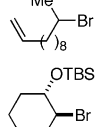
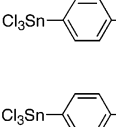
Table 1. Impact of Reaction Parameters on the Cross-Coupling of Cyclohexyl Bromide with PhSnCl₃



entry	variation from the "standard conditions"	yield ^a (%)
1	none	83
2	no NiCl ₂	<5
3	10% Pd(OAc) ₂ or Pd ₂ (dba) ₃ [instead of NiCl ₂]	<5
4	10% Ni(cod) ₂ , NiBr ₂ , or NiBr ₂ -diglyme [instead of NiCl ₂]	82–86
5	no 2,2'-bipyridine	<5
6	15% bathophenanthroline [instead of 2,2'-bipyridine]	33
7	no KO <i>t</i> -Bu	<5
8	5.0 equiv of KO <i>t</i> -Bu [instead of 7.0 equiv]	55
9	<i>i</i> -BuOH [instead of <i>t</i> -BuOH/ <i>i</i> -BuOH]	76
10	<i>t</i> -BuOH [instead of <i>t</i> -BuOH/ <i>i</i> -BuOH]	<5
11	KO <i>i</i> -Bu in <i>i</i> -BuOH [instead of KO <i>t</i> -Bu in <i>t</i> -BuOH/ <i>i</i> -BuOH]	61
12	5% NiCl ₂ , 7.5% 2,2'-bipyridine [instead of 10% NiCl ₂ , 15% 2,2'-bipyridine]	69
13	room temperature [instead of 60 °C]	<5

^a Determined by GC analysis versus a calibrated internal standard (average of two experiments).

Table 2. Stille Cross-Couplings of Secondary Alkyl Bromides with Aryltrichlorotin Reagents (eq 1)

entry	R _{alkyl} -Br	Cl ₃ Sn-R	yield (%) ^a
1			72
2			74
3			83
4			47
5			67
6			68
7			48 ^b

^a Isolated yield (average of two experiments). ^b Catalyst: 20% NiCl₂/30% 2,2'-bipyridine. The unpurified product was a 96:4 *trans/cis* mixture. The reported yield is for the diastereomerically pure *trans* isomer.

leads to a somewhat diminished yield (entry 12), and virtually no cross-coupling is observed at room temperature (entry 13).

NiCl₂/2,2'-bipyridine catalyzes a range of couplings of secondary alkyl bromides with aryltrichlorotin reagents (Table 2);¹⁶ thus, both cyclic and acyclic bromides can be cross-coupled with a sterically and electronically diverse set of organotin compounds. The same catalyst system can also be applied directly to Stille reactions of

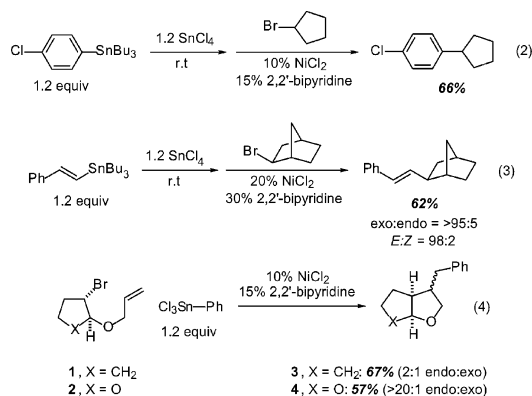
Table 3. Stille Cross-Couplings of Primary and Secondary Alkyl Bromides and Iodides with Aryltrichlorotin Reagents (eq 1)

entry	R _{alkyl} -X	Cl ₃ Sn-R	yield (%) ^a
1			55 ^b
2			61
3			62

^a Isolated yield (average of two experiments). ^b Only the 3*S* isomer is observed.

other families of alkyl electrophiles (secondary iodides, primary bromides, and primary iodides; Table 3).

Because a large number of aryl- and alkenyltributylstannanes are commercially available, we decided to determine if we could make use of these families of compounds in cross-couplings with alkyl electrophiles. These stannanes are not themselves suitable partners for NiCl₂/2,2'-bipyridine-catalyzed Stille couplings, but through a redistribution reaction with SnCl₄, they can be converted into aryl- and alkenyltrichlorotin reagents.¹⁷ Upon the addition of the other components of the cross-coupling reaction, the desired carbon-carbon bond formation occurs (eqs 2 and 3).



In earlier studies, we suggested that nickel-catalyzed couplings of secondary alkyl halides may proceed through the initial generation of an alkyl radical, which then combines with nickel to afford an alkyl-nickel complex.^{10,11,18} We subjected secondary bromides **1** and **2** to our Stille conditions and determined that both substrates undergo cyclization/cross-coupling to yield cis-fused 5,5 ring systems (eq 4); product **3** is formed with a low endo/exo ratio (2:1), whereas **4** is generated with high stereoselection (>20:1). Interestingly, these diastereoselectivities are independent of ligand structure (e.g., 2,2'-bipyridine, bathophenanthroline, or 4,4'-dimethoxy-2,2'-bipyridine), and they correlate with those observed in radical cyclizations of these compounds,^{19,20} consistent with the possibility that an initially formed secondary alkyl radical cyclizes before reacting with nickel.

In summary, we have developed the first catalyst that achieves Stille cross-couplings of secondary (as well as primary) alkyl halides. The method employs easily handled and inexpensive catalyst components (NiCl₂ and 2,2'-bipyridine) and, through the use of monoorganotin reagents, avoids the formation of toxic and difficult-to-remove triorganotin side products. Efforts to expand the scope of Stille cross-couplings of alkyl electrophiles, as well as to achieve catalytic asymmetric reactions, are underway.

Acknowledgment. Support has been provided by the NIH (NIGMS, R01-GM62871), NSERC of Canada (postdoctoral fel-

lowship to D.A.P.), Merck, and Novartis. We thank Luke Firmansjah for assistance with X-ray crystallography.

Supporting Information Available: Experimental procedures and compound characterization data. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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