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Selective Palladium-Catalyzed Arylation of Ammonia: Synthesis of Anilines as Well as Symmetrical and Unsymmetrical Di- and Triarylamines

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Traditionally di- and triarylamines have been prepared by the reaction of an aromatic amine and an aryl halide mediated by palladium,¹ copper,² or nickel.³ The palladium-catalyzed conversion of aryl halides and pseudo-halides to anilines with ammonia surrogates⁴ has also become a process of increasing importance in pharmaceutical research,⁵ materials science,⁶ and synthetic chemistry.7 The coupling of ammonia with aryl halides as a means to access aromatic amines is thus an attractive goal.^{8,9} Recently the first example of such a transformation to yield anilines was reported by Hartwig employing a Josiphos-ligated palladium complex.¹⁰ In this paper it was quite reasonably suggested that a tightly chelating ligand was necessary to achieve selective monoarylation. Our recent studies in the production of phenols by the arylation of KOH¹¹ prompted us to examine the reaction of ammonia and aryl halides using monodentate ligands. We now report that with a judicious choice of ligand it is possible to prepare, in a selective manner, not only anilines but also symmetrical and unsymmetrical di- and triarylamines.

These new investigations revealed that an efficient catalyst for the synthesis of anilines was formed from the combination of 1.0 mol % Pd₂dba₃ and 5.0 mol % of biaryl phosphine ligand 4 in the presence of 5 equiv of ammonia and NaOt-Bu (1.4 equiv) at 80 °C in a sealed test tube (Table 1). Use of 1,4-dioxane as solvent provided the optimal yield of product and allowed a convenient protocol to be developed in which a commercially available solution of ammonia 0.5 M in 1,4-dioxane could be used as the source of ammonia (thereby allowing accurate control over the stoichiometry of the reaction). The identity of the dialkylphosphino group of the ligand was important, ligands bearing a dicyclohexylphosphino group (ligands 1, 3, and 5) gave predominantly diarylamine products under these conditions, whereas those with a di(t-butyl)phosphino group yielded mainly the aniline (ligands 2, 4, and 6). The concentration of the reactants was also found to be significant, when the concentration of aryl halide was increased above 0.05 M, the diarylamine became the major product with all ligands examined, in accordance with Hartwig's results. The process had a broad scope and was equally useful for electron-deficient and electron-rich aryl chlorides and bromides with or without ortho substituents (Table 2).

We next turned our attention to the synthesis of symmetrical diarylamines. The best yield of the desired products was achieved by using ligand **5** and performing the reactions at a slightly higher concentration of the aryl halide (0.0625 M) in the presence of 3 equiv of ammonia at 80 $^{\circ}$ C.

Triarylamines have a wide range of optoelectronic applications because of their ability to act as hole transport materials.¹² In a similar fashion to that employed for the preparation of diarylamines, high yields of triarylamine could be obtained using **5** at a higher concentration of aryl halide (0.66 M) and at 100 °C.

The results described above indicated an ability to selectively mono-, di-, and triarylate ammonia using the same aryl halide. A more challenging task was to devise a process that enabled us to convert ammonia to unsymmetrical di- and triarylamines using two or three different aryl halides.¹³ After some experimentation, it

Table 1. Comparison of Ligands for the Pd-Catalyzed Coupling of Ammonia and Aryl Chlorides







^{*a*} All yields are isolated and the average of two runs. Conditions A: (i) Pd₂dba₃, 1 mol %; ligand **4**, 5 mol %; NaOt-Bu, 1.4 equiv; NH₃, 5 equiv; 0.042 M, 1,4-dioxane; 80 °C. Conditions B: Pd₂dba₃, 1 mol %; ligand **5**, 5 mol %; NaOt-Bu, 1.4 equiv; NH₃, 3 equiv; 0.0625 M, 1,4-dioxane; 80 °C. Conditions C: Pd₂dba₃, 1 mol %; ligand **5**, 5 mol %; NaOt-Bu, 1.4 equiv; NH₃, 0.75 equiv; 0.66 M, 1,4-dioxane; 100 °C. ^{*b*} Estimated from ¹H NMR spectrum of crude reaction mixture.

proved possible to devise a protocol in which different aryl halides were coupled with ammonia by sequential addition to the same



^{*a*} Conditions: Pd₂dba₃, 1 mol %; ligand **4**, 5 mol %; NaO*t*-Bu, 2.8 equiv; NH₃, 5 equiv; 1,4-dioxane; 80 °C, 3 h. ^{*b*} Conditions: (i) -NH₃, (ii) reduce volume, (iii) Ar'Y, 0.9 equiv; ligand **5**, 5 mol %; 80 °C, 16 h.

Table 4. Synthesis of Unsymmetrical Triarylamines from Aryl Halides and Ammonia



 a Conditions: Pd₂dba₃, 1 mol %; ligand 4, 5 mol %; NaOt-Bu, 4.2 equiv; NH₃, 5 equiv; 1,4-dioxane; 80 °C, 3 h. b Conditions: (i) -NH₃, (ii) reduce volume, (iii) Ar'Y 0.9, equiv; ligand 5, 5 mol %; 80 °C, 3 h. c Conditions: Ar''Z, 0.9 equiv; 100 °C, 16 h.

reaction vessel (Tables 3 and 4). The key to success was to remove excess ammonia from the solution of the aniline initially formed and to reduce the solvent volume before addition of the second aryl halide and $5.^{14}$ It is interesting that 5 can efficiently displace 4 from the palladium center; this is presumably due to the smaller size of the cyclohexyl- versus *tert*-butylphosphino substituents.¹⁵ Under these conditions functional groups such as alkenes and THP-protected phenols and heterocycles such as pyridines and pyrroles were tolerated. Of particular note is the ability to make the diamine TPD, a molecule which has numerous applications as an organic photoconductor and hole transporter.¹⁶

In summary we have developed new systems for the palladiumcatalyzed coupling of ammonia with aryl halides which allow the selective synthesis of either anilines or di- or triarylamines as desired.

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Supporting Information Available: Complete refs 5b and 5c and experimental information and spectral data for all compounds. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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