

Palladium-Catalyzed Carbonylative Reaction of 1-(2,2-Dibromovinyl)-2-alkenylbenzene and Carbon Monoxide, with Phenol or Alcohol

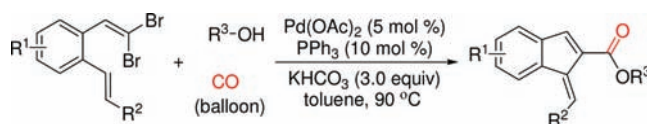
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ABSTRACT



A palladium-catalyzed carbonylative reaction of 1-(2,2-dibromovinyl)-2-alkenylbenzene and carbon monoxide, with phenol or alcohol, is reported, which affords 1-methylene-1H-indene-2-carboxylates in moderate to good yields. This cascade process, which includes carbonylation and Heck reaction, proceeds smoothly with good functional group tolerance and high selectivity.

Currently, palladium-catalyzed carbonylation reactions have become a powerful device in synthetic organic

chemistry, which provide straightforward access to (hetero)-aromatic carboxylic acid derivatives.¹ The synthesis of acids, amides, esters, ketones, and aldehydes has been well established by using this method, starting from easily available aryl halides.² Recently, *gem*-dihaloolefins have found broad applications in organic synthesis with good stereoselectivity.^{3–5} For example, Lautens and co-workers reported efficient pathways for the construction of carbonyl and heterocycles starting from *gem*-dihaloolefins.⁵ We also

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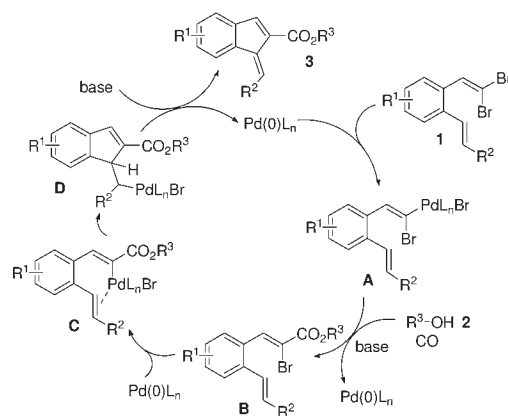
used *gem*-dibromoolefins as substrates for the synthesis of 1-methyleneindenes through palladium-catalyzed tandem reactions⁶ with arylboronic acids.^{4k,1}

Indene has been recognized as a privileged fragment, which can be found in many natural products and drug candidates.⁷ Additionally, applications of indenes in materials science have been discovered.⁸ So far, synthetic methodologies to this carbocycle (including 1-methyleneindene) have been developed.^{9,10} Due to its importance, it is still of high interest and great demand to develop novel approaches for efficient generation of functionalized indenes, especially in the field of chemical biology. Prompted by the achievement of palladium-catalyzed carbonylation reactions and the versatility of *gem*-dihaloolefins, we conceived that the combination of 1-(2,2-dibromovinyl)-2-alkenylbenzene and carbon monoxide would provide a novel and efficient pathway for the formation of indene derivatives. Herein, we report a palladium-catalyzed

carbonylation tandem reaction of 1-(2,2-dibromovinyl)-2-alkenylbenzene, carbon monoxide, and phenol or alcohol, which affords 1-methylene-1*H*-indene-2-carboxylates. Although several routes to the 1-methylene-1*H*-indene-2-carboxylates were reported,^{9g–i} they usually suffered from multiple steps, low yields, and high temperature. Additionally, the functional group tolerance is not satisfactory, which limits its diversity-oriented synthesis.

Our proposed synthetic route is shown in Scheme 1, which includes a cascade carbonylation and Heck reaction. 1-(2,2-Dibromovinyl)-2-alkenylbenzene **1** could be easily accessed using a well-known method.^{4k} We hypothesized that, in this reaction process, an oxidative addition would occur in the presence of Pd(0) to produce intermediate **A**. Subsequently, a nucleophile (phenol or alcohol) and carbon monoxide were involved through a palladium-catalyzed carbonylation reaction to afford compound **B**. Concurrently the Pd(0) was released, which then underwent oxidative addition of vinyl bromide **B** again to furnish intermediate **C**. After intramolecular insertion and β -hydrogen elimination, (*Z*)-1-methylene-1*H*-indene-2-carboxylate **3** would be generated according to the Heck reaction mechanism.¹¹ In the meantime, the Pd(0) would re-enter the catalytic cycle. We believed that this hypothesis was feasible, although several competitive reactions seemed inevitable.

Scheme 1. Proposed Route for the Palladium-Catalyzed Carbonylative Reaction of 1-(2,2-Dibromovinyl)-2-alkenylbenzene, Alcohol or Phenol, and Carbon Monoxide



In an initial attempt, 1-(2,2-dibromovinyl)-2-alkenylbenzene **1a** and *n*-butyl alcohol **2a** were used as model substrates for reaction development. At the outset, the reaction was catalyzed by Pd(OAc)₂ (5 mol %) and PPh₃ (10 mol %) in the presence of K₂CO₃ (3.0 equiv) as a base in toluene at 100 °C with a balloon of carbon monoxide (Table 1, entry 1). However, only a trace amount of product was observed. To our delight, the expected product **3aa** (50% yield) was formed when KHCO₃ was employed as a replacement of base in the reaction (Table 1, entry 2).

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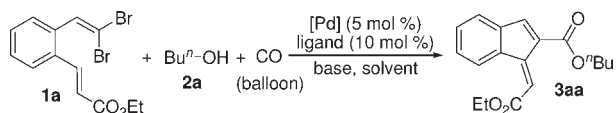
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Other bases such as KOAc, K₃PO₄, and ⁱPr₂NEt were not effective in the transformation (Table 1, entries 3–5). The yields could not be improved when other ligands were screened (Table 1, entries 6–9). The palladium source was examined subsequently, which showed that the acetate anion was crucial for the successful conversion (Table 1, entries 10–15). Solvent effect was then explored, and no better results were obtained (Table 1, entries 16–18). The same outcome was obtained when the reaction was performed at 90 °C (Table 1, entry 19). The yield was decreased when the reaction occurred at 70 °C (12% yield, Table 1, entry 20). The reaction was retarded when a catalytic amount of palladium acetate was reduced to 2.5 mol % (Table 1, entry 21). No improvement was observed when the amount of palladium catalyst was increased to 10 mol % (Table 1, entry 22).

Table 1. Initial Studies for the Palladium-Catalyzed Reaction of 1-(2,2-Dibromovinyl)-2-alkenylbenzene **1a**, *n*-Butyl Alcohol **2a**, and Carbon Monoxide



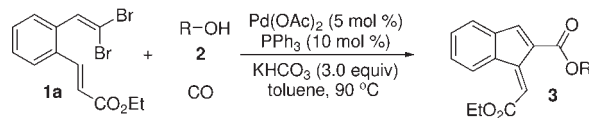
entry	[Pd]	ligand	base	solvent	yield (%) ^a
1	Pd(OAc) ₂	PPh ₃	K ₂ CO ₃	toluene	trace
2	Pd(OAc) ₂	PPh ₃	KHCO ₃	toluene	50
3	Pd(OAc) ₂	PPh ₃	KOAc	toluene	trace
4	Pd(OAc) ₂	PPh ₃	K ₃ PO ₄	toluene	trace
5	Pd(OAc) ₂	PPh ₃	ⁱ Pr ₂ NEt	toluene	nr
6	Pd(OAc) ₂	PCy ₃	KHCO ₃	toluene	30
7	Pd(OAc) ₂	DPPF	KHCO ₃	toluene	26
8	Pd(OAc) ₂	DPPP	KHCO ₃	toluene	24
9	Pd(OAc) ₂	S-Phos	KHCO ₃	toluene	20
10	Pd(PPh ₃) ₂ Cl ₂	PPh ₃	KHCO ₃	toluene	nr
11 ^b	Pd(PPh ₃) ₂ Cl ₂	PPh ₃	KHCO ₃	toluene	24
12	Pd(PhCN) ₂ Cl ₂	PPh ₃	KHCO ₃	toluene	nr
13 ^b	Pd(PhCN) ₂ Cl ₂	PPh ₃	KHCO ₃	toluene	33
14	Pd ₂ (dba) ₃	PPh ₃	KHCO ₃	toluene	nr
15 ^b	Pd ₂ (dba) ₃	PPh ₃	KHCO ₃	toluene	33
16	Pd(OAc) ₂	PPh ₃	KHCO ₃	dioxane	trace
17	Pd(OAc) ₂	PPh ₃	KHCO ₃	DMF	nr
18	Pd(OAc) ₂	PPh ₃	KHCO ₃	DMSO	nr
19 ^c	Pd(OAc) ₂	PPh ₃	KHCO ₃	toluene	50
20 ^d	Pd(OAc) ₂	PPh ₃	KHCO ₃	toluene	12
21 ^{e,e}	Pd(OAc) ₂	PPh ₃	KHCO ₃	toluene	trace
22 ^{e,f}	Pd(OAc) ₂	PPh ₃	KHCO ₃	toluene	40

^a Isolated yield based on 1-(2,2-dibromovinyl)-2-alkenylbenzene **1a**.

^b In the presence of 10 mol % of AgOAc. ^c The reaction was performed at 90 °C. ^d The reaction was performed at 70 °C. ^e In the presence of 2.5 mol % of Pd(OAc)₂ and 5 mol % of PPh₃. ^f In the presence of 10 mol % of Pd(OAc)₂ and 20 mol % of PPh₃.

Under the optimized conditions [Pd(OAc)₂ (5 mol %), PPh₃ (10 mol %), KHCO₃ (3.0 equiv), toluene, 90 °C], we investigated the scope of this palladium-catalyzed carbonylation tandem reaction. The results are summarized in

Table 2. Palladium-Catalyzed Carbonylative Reaction of 1-(2,2-Dibromovinyl)-2-alkenylbenzene **1a**, Alcohol or Phenol **2**, and Carbon Monoxide

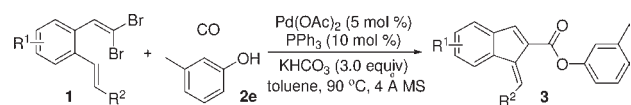


entry	ROH	product	yield (%) ^a
1	2a	3aa	50
2	2b	3ab	46
3	2c	3ac	50
4	2d	3ad	40
5	2e	3ae	67
6	2f	3af	64
7	2g	3ag	75
8	2h	3ah	55
9	2i	3ai	61
10	2j	3aj	70
11	2k	3ak	45
12	2l	3al	76
13	2m	3am	48
14	2n	3an	58
15	2o	3ao	52
16	2p	3ap	60
17	2q	3aq	70
18	2r	3ar	64

^a Isolated yield based on 1-(2,2-dibromovinyl)-2-alkenylbenzene **1a**. Molecular sieves (4 Å) were added for the reactions of phenols.

Tables 2 and 3. Various alcohols and phenols were examined for the reaction of 1-(2,2-dibromovinyl)-2-alkenylbenzene **1a** with carbon monoxide. All reactions worked well to give the desired product **3** in moderate to good yields. For instance, when 2-phenylethanol **2b** was used as a nucleophile, the corresponding indene **3ab** was afforded in 46% yield (Table 2, entry 2). The conditions could be

Table 3. Palladium-Catalyzed Carbonylative Reaction of 1-(2,2-Dibromovinyl)-2-alkenylbenzene **1**, Phenol **2e**, and Carbon Monoxide



entry	substrate 1	product	yield (%) ^a
1		3be	80
2		3ce	82
3		3de	50
4		3ee	44
5		3fe	72
6		3ge	68
7		3he	57
8		3ie	40
9		3je	trace
10		3ke	trace
11		3le	30

^a Isolated yield based on 1-(2,2-dibromovinyl)-2-alkenylbenzene **1**.

applicable to the reaction of benzyl alcohol **2c** or 2,2,2-trifluoroethanol **2d** as well, which gave rise to the expected product **3ac** or **3ad** in 50% and 40% yield, respectively (Table 2, entries 3 and 4). Further investigations with

various phenols were conducted under the standard conditions. However, the yields were very low. We finally realized that the results could be improved after adding 4 Å molecular sieves, which was not effective for the reaction of alcohols. Thus, reaction of 1-(2,2-dibromovinyl)-2-alkenylbenzene **1a**, 3-methylphenol **2e**, and carbon monoxide led to the desired product **3ae** in 67% yield (Table 2, entry 5). Reaction of 2-methylphenol **2f** showed similar reactivity (64% yield, Table 2, entry 6). 1-(2,2-Dibromovinyl)-2-alkenylbenzene **1a** reacted with 4-methoxyphenol **2g** in the presence of carbon monoxide, leading to the corresponding product **3ag** in 75% yield (Table 2, entry 7). Lower yields were generated when benzo[*d*][1,3]dioxol-5-ol **2h**, 4-phenylphenol **2i**, 4-benzoyloxyphenol **2j**, or 2-naphthalenol **2k** was employed in the reaction (Table 2, entries 8–11). Noticeably, phenols with chloro, nitro, ester, ketone, cyano, and fluoro groups attached on the aromatic ring were all compatible under the standard conditions (Table 2, entries 12–18).

Next, investigations with various 1-(2,2-dibromovinyl)-2-alkenylbenzenes **1** were conducted in the reaction of 3-methylphenol **2e** with carbon monoxide under the optimized conditions (Table 3). Compound **1b** displayed good reactivity during the transformation (Table 3, entry 1). Different functional groups in the aromatic ring of 1-(2,2-dibromovinyl)-2-alkenylbenzenes **1** were all tolerated when an ester group was located at the R² position (Table 3, entries 3–7). When R² is a cyano group, the corresponding product **3ie** was generated in 40% yield (Table 3, entry 8). However, only a trace amount of product was observed when the R² position was replaced by a ketone or phenyl group (Table 3, entries 9 and 10). It is noteworthy that thiophenyl incorporated substrate **1l** was a good reactant as well in this palladium-catalyzed carbonylation cascade reaction, although the yield is low (30% yield, Table 3, entry 11).

In conclusion, we have described a novel and efficient approach for the synthesis of 1-methylene-1*H*-indene-2-carboxylates via a palladium-catalyzed carbonylation cascade reaction of 1-(2,2-dibromovinyl)-2-alkenylbenzene, carbon monoxide, and phenol or alcohol. This cascade process, which includes carbonylation and a Heck reaction, proceeds smoothly with good functional group tolerance and high selectivity. Currently, application of *gem*-dihaloolefins in other tandem processes is under investigation in our laboratory, and the results will be reported in due course.

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Supporting Information Available. Experimental procedure, characterization data, ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of compounds **3**. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.