

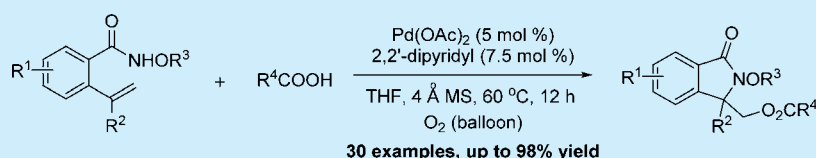
Palladium-Catalyzed Aerobic Aminooxygenation of Alkenes for Preparation of Isoindolinones

Xuezhen Kou,[†] Yu Li,[‡] Liang Wu,[†] Xinghua Zhang,[‡] Guoqiang Yang,^{*,†} and Wanbin Zhang^{*,†}

[†]School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, 800 Dongchuan Road, Shanghai 200240, China

[‡]School of Chemical and Environmental Engineering, Shanghai Institute of Technology, 100 Haiquan Road, Shanghai 201418, China

S Supporting Information

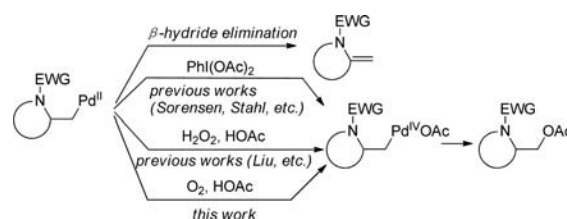


ABSTRACT: A palladium-catalyzed intramolecular isoindolinone-forming aminooxygenation of alkenes with 1 atm of oxygen as oxidant is reported. A variety of functionalized alkenes and carboxylic acids can be used, and high yields were observed. Preliminary mechanistic studies revealed that the aminooxygenation products were formed through the oxidation of a C–Pd^{II} species using a strong oxidant, peroxide, which is generated in situ from a Pd(OAc)₂/bpy/O₂/HOAc catalytic system.

The oxidative functionalization of alkenes is one of the most powerful and fundamental transformations known in organic synthesis.¹ Palladium catalyst systems have enabled a wide variety of practical and broadly used oxidative reactions.² Among them, the palladium-catalyzed addition of nitrogen nucleophiles to alkenes is a well-developed strategy for the construction of C–N bonds.³ Although methods for the direct functionalization of alkyl Pd^{II} intermediates exist,⁴ β -hydride elimination can be a rapid process (Scheme 1),^{3a,5} while transformations involving alkyl Pd^{IV} intermediates can readily undergo reductive elimination reactions to realize a palladium-catalyzed difunctionalization of olefins.⁶ Recently, Sorensen,^{7a} Stahl,^{7b} Sanford,^{7c,d} Muñiz,^{7e} Dong,^{7f} and Liu^{7g} reported that the palladium-catalyzed aminooxygenation of alkenes could be achieved using PhI(OAc)₂ as a strong oxidant. This oxidant traps the Pd–C bond and oxidizes Pd^{II} to high-valent Pd^{IV} to facilitate C–O^{7a–h} (also C–C,^{7i–k} C–N,^{7l–n} C–F^{7o}) bond formation (Scheme 1). Additionally, Liu and co-workers have shown that hydrogen peroxide can be used as the sole oxidant to oxidize Pd^{II} to Pd^{IV} for the construction of C–Cl^{8a,b} and C–O^{8c,d} bonds with a palladium catalyst (Scheme 1). Furthermore, NFSI,^{9a,b} Oxone,^{9c,d} PhICl₂,^{9e–g} and NXS^{9h,i} can also be used as strong oxidants to generate Pd^{IV} species.⁹ Unfortunately, stoichiometric quantities of these wasteful high-energy oxidants often produce large quantities of byproducts.

Recently, the development of environmentally sustainable oxidants for use in oxidative transformations has gained increased prominence.^{9l,10} Molecular O₂ should be an ideal oxidant because it is environmentally benign, economical, practical, and readily available. Compared to the oxidation of Pd⁰ to Pd^{II}, strategies that utilize molecular O₂ for the oxidation of Pd^{II} to Pd^{IV} are underdeveloped. Therefore, using O₂ as a sole oxidant remains a tremendous challenge in palladium-catalyzed oxidation reactions.^{3g,11} Recently, Grubbs,^{12a} Loh,^{12b} and Jiang^{12c} disclosed the palladium-catalyzed dioxygenation of alkenes with O₂ as an

Scheme 1. Pathways for Oxidation via Alkyl C–Pd^{II} Intermediates

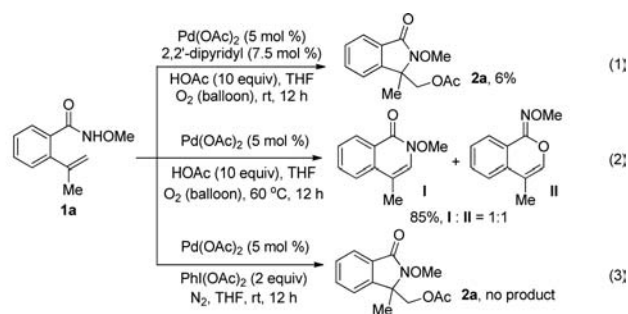


oxidant using high-valent palladium catalysis. However, palladium-catalyzed aminooxygenations of alkenes that utilize O₂ as the sole oxidant have not been reported.¹³ Herein, we report an efficient palladium-catalyzed intramolecular isoindolinone-forming aminooxygenation of alkenes with 1 atm of O₂ as oxidant (Scheme 1). These reactions may proceed through a mechanism involving the oxidation of Pd^{II} to Pd^{IV} by oxidants (hydrogen peroxide and organic peroxyacids) generated in situ from O₂.

During our initial studies on palladium-catalyzed asymmetric aerobic aza-Wacker-type cyclization of alkenes,¹⁴ we found that treatment of **1a** with 5 mol % Pd(OAc)₂, 7.5 mol % 2,2'-dipyridyl, and 10 equiv of HOAc under 1 atm of O₂ afforded aminoacetoxylation product **2a** in very low yield (6%). The reaction was carried out at room temperature for 12 h (eq 1). Although the reaction yield was very low, no six-membered ring olefin products (**I** and **II**)¹⁵ arising from an aerobic aza-Wacker cyclization were observed. The aza-Wacker cyclization products (**I** and **II**) were obtained as the major products in the absence of ligand bpy (eq 2). However, the reaction failed to give aminooxygenation product **2a** when PhI(OAc)₂ was employed as the oxidant under a nitrogen atmosphere (eq 3), an oxidant

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that has been widely used in palladium-catalyzed C–O bond forming reactions.^{7a–h}

Further optimization of the reaction conditions for palladium-catalyzed intramolecular aminooxygenation of alkenes revealed that the yield of **2a** improved to 93% when the temperature was raised from room temperature to 60 °C (Table 1, entry 1). To

Table 1. Optimization of Reaction Conditions^a

| entry | ligand | solvent | yield ^b (%) |
|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | bpy | THF | 93 |
| 2 | pyridine ^c | THF | 86 |
| 3 | 4,4'-Me-bpy | THF | 54 |
| 4 | 4,4'-OMe-bpy | THF | 60 |
| 5 | 4,4'- ^t Bu-bpy | THF | 78 |
| 6 | 5,5'-Me-bpy | THF | 74 |
| 7 | 1,10-phenanthroline | THF | 66 |
| 8 | bpy | MeOH | 44 |
| 9 | bpy | DMF | 0 |
| 10 | bpy | DCE | 26 |
| 11 | bpy | CH ₃ CN | trace |
| 12 ^d | bpy | THF | 83 |
| 13 ^e | bpy | THF | 98 |

^aReaction conditions: **1a** (0.2 mmol), **3a** (2 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (5 mol %), ligand (7.5 mol %), THF (1.5 mL), at 60 °C for 12 h under O₂ (1 atm). ^bIsolated yield. ^cPyridine (0.06 mmol). ^dUnder air. ^e4 Å MS (80 mg) was added. bpy = 2,2'-dipyridyl, DMF = *N,N*-dimethylformamide, DCE = dichloroethane, THF = tetrahydrofuran.

facilitate the desired aminooxygenation, a series of monodentate and bidentate pyridine ligands were examined; however, yields of **2a** failed to improve (entries 2–6). 1,10-Phenanthroline was also tested as a ligand and gave the desired product in moderate yield (entry 7). According to these results, different solvents were screened, showing that the type of solvent noticeably affects the reaction efficiency (entries 8–11). THF was found to be the best solvent for the aminooxygenation. Conversely, polar solvents such as DMF and CH₃CN were incompatible with our reaction system. Reaction under 1 atm of air provided **2a** in 83% yield using THF as a solvent (entry 12). To our delight, the efficiency of this reaction could be further enhanced by the addition of 4 Å molecular sieves (MS, 80 mg, entry 13).

With the optimized reaction conditions in hand, a variety of alkene substrates were examined (Table 2). First, substrates with various functional groups on the benzene ring were surveyed. Substrates bearing benzene rings with electron-withdrawing substituents such as fluoro (**1b** and **1c**), chloro (**1d** and **1e**), and trifluoromethyl (**1f**) groups gave their corresponding products

Table 2. Alkene Substrate Scope^a

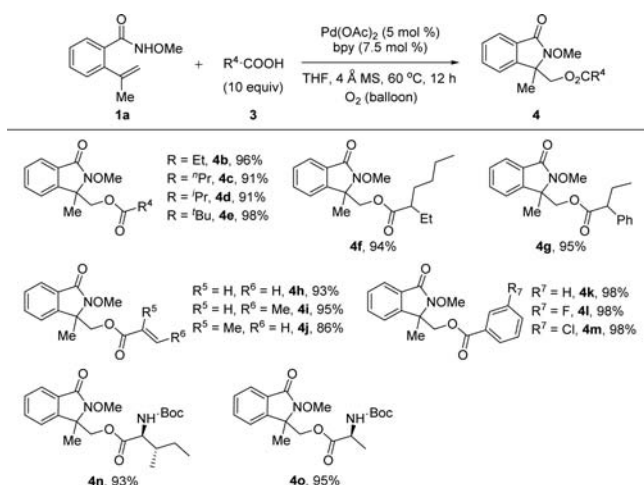
| entry | substrate | product | yield (%) ^b |
|----------------|--|-----------|------------------------|
| 1 | 1a , R ¹ = H | 2a | 98 |
| 2 | 1b , R ¹ = 5-F | 2b | 91 |
| 3 | 1c , R ¹ = 4-F | 2c | 94 |
| 4 | 1d , R ¹ = 5-Cl | 2d | 91 |
| 5 | 1e , R ¹ = 4-Cl | 2e | 96 |
| 6 | 1f , R ¹ = 4-CF ₃ | 2f | 94 |
| 7 | 1g , R ¹ = 4-OMe | 2g | 92 |
| 8 ^c | 1h , R ¹ = 4,5-dimethoxy | 2h | 90 |
| 9 ^c | 1i | 2i | 70 |
| 10 | 1j , R ² = Et | 2j | 98 |
| 11 | 1k , R ² = <i>n</i> -hexyl | 2k | 90 |
| 12 | 1l , R ² = cyclopentyl | 2l | 95 |
| 13 | 1m , R ² = cyclohexyl | 2m | 91 |
| 14 | 1n , R ² = phenethyl | 2n | 93 |
| 15 | 1o , R ² = phenylpropyl | 2o | 97 |
| 16 | 1p , R ³ = benzyloxy | 2p | 87 |
| 17 | 1q , R ³ = Ts | 2q | 0 |
| 18 | 1r , R ³ = Boc | 2r | 0 |
| 19 | 1s , R ³ = benzyl | 2s | 0 |
| 20 | 1t , R ³ = phenyl | 2t | 0 |
| 21 | 1u , R ³ = ^t Bu | 2u | 0 |

^aReaction conditions: **1** (0.2 mmol), **3a** (2 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (5 mol %), bpy (7.5 mol %), THF (1.5 mL), 4 Å MS (80 mg) at 60 °C for 12 h under O₂ (1 atm). ^bIsolated yield. ^c24 h.

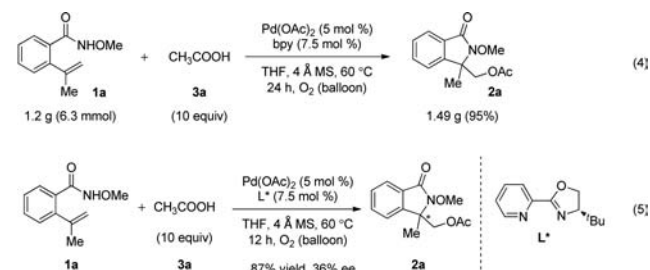
2b–f in excellent yields with high efficiency. Strongly electron-donating substituents reduced the reactivity of the substrates (**1h** and **1i** vs **1g**). To our disappointment, reaction of substrate **1i** bearing a 4,5-methylenedioxy group only gave its corresponding product **2i** in modest yield and was accompanied by many byproducts. By varying R², substrates **1j–o** bearing different substituents were tested, and the reactions proceeded well to provide the corresponding products **2j–o** in excellent yields. Replacement of R² from a methyl group (**1a**) to ethyl (**1j**), cyclopentyl (**1l**), and phenylpropyl (**1o**) groups had little influence on the aminoacetoxylation of alkenes, while the presence of *n*-hexyl (**1k**), cyclohexyl (**1m**), and phenethyl (**1n**) groups led to a slight decrease in yield. Furthermore, substrates bearing various protecting groups on the nitrogen were surveyed. Substrate **1p** possessing a benzyloxy protecting group gave its corresponding product **2p** in good yield. However, the introduction of Ts (**1q**), Boc (**1r**), benzyl (**1s**), phenyl (**1t**), or butyl (**1u**) groups at R³ prevented any reaction from occurring.

To further explore the applicability of the Pd(OAc)₂/bpy/O₂ catalytic system, we investigated whether this methodology was suitable for different types of carboxylic acids. As shown in Scheme 2, reactions with alkyl carboxylic acids proceeded very well to provide the desired products (**4b–g**) in excellent yields. Interestingly, acrylic acid substrates gave their corresponding products (**4h–j**) in good to excellent yields. It is worth noting that aryl carboxylic acids were also tolerated (**4k–m**). Importantly, the present strategy was also successfully applied to amino acid substrates (**4n** and **4o**).

To test the practicality of our methodology, a gram-scale reaction using substrate **1a** and HOAc was carried out (eq 4). The product **2a** was obtained with results comparable to those shown in Table 2. When a chiral ligand L* was added to this

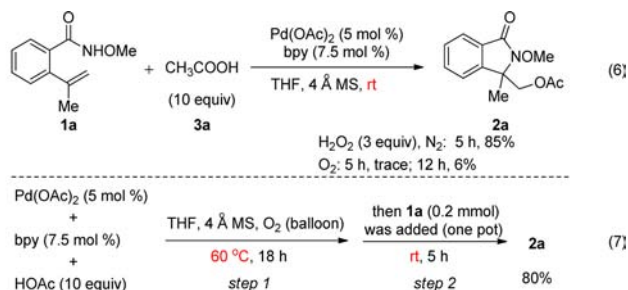
Scheme 2. Carboxylic Acid Substrate Scope^{a,b}

^aReaction conditions: **1** (0.2 mmol), **3a** (2 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (5 mol %), bpy (7.5 mol %), THF (1.5 mL), 4 Å MS (80 mg) at 60 °C for 12 h under 1 atm O₂. ^bIsolated yield.



catalytic system, product **2a** could be isolated in 87% yield and 36% ee (eq 5).

To gain more insight into the mechanism of the amino-oxygenation process, several experiments were conducted. No reaction occurred when **1a** was treated with stoichiometric amounts of Pd(OAc)₂ and ligand in the absence of O₂ or air. Similar results with O₂ were observed (**2a**, 85%) when H₂O₂ was used as an oxidant at room temperature for 5 h under a N₂ atmosphere (eq 6). Furthermore, the reductive elimination of

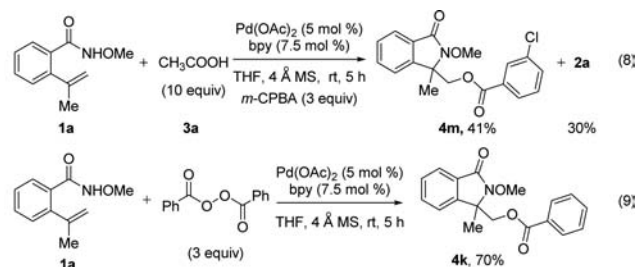


C–Pd–OAc intermediates to form C–O bond is often observed in Pd^{II/IV}-catalyzed oxidative transformations.^{7a–h,8c,11a,12c} Thus, a Pd^{II/IV}-catalyzed amino-oxygenation of alkenes seems to be more probable than Pd^{0/II} catalysis.

With the above results in hand, we questioned whether O₂ was able to act as a strong enough oxidant to directly oxidize Pd^{II} to Pd^{IV}. Control experiments showed that reaction of **1a** at room temperature afforded only a trace amount of **2a** after 5 h (eq 6). Interestingly, a stepwise experiment provided results similar to experiments using H₂O₂ as an oxidant (eq 7). Furthermore, H₂O₂ can be generated in situ from Pd/ligand/O₂

catalytic systems.^{3g,8b} On the basis of these experiments, we assume that the most feasible reagent for the oxidation of Pd^{II} to Pd^{IV} is H₂O₂, generated in situ from O₂.

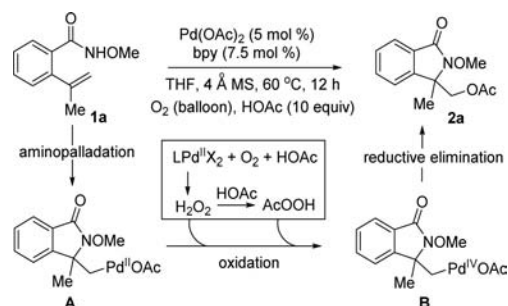
We also wanted to address whether or not organic peroxyacids, which could potentially be formed in situ from H₂O₂ and carboxylic acid, were able to serve as oxidants. The addition of 3 equiv of *m*-CPBA to the reaction mixture successfully gave the product **4m** in 41% yield and **2a** in 30% yield at room temperature after 5 h (eq 8). A similar experiment was carried



out with 3 equiv of benzoyl peroxide at room temperature, giving product **4k** in 70% yield (eq 9). Thus, peroxyacids acting as the active oxidants cannot be completely excluded,¹⁶ even though H₂O₂ is also an efficient oxidant.

When radical inhibitors such as TEMPO and 1,4-dinitrobenzene were added to the standard reaction conditions, product **2a** was isolated in low yield, while a BHT additive strongly inhibited the amino-oxygenation (see the Supporting Information). Since the chiral ligand can induce enantioselectivity (36% ee) in the product (eq 5), we believe that the C–N bond formation step is an aminopalladation process and not a radical process, but a radical process cannot be definitely excluded for the steps of the generation of peroxide and the steps after the C–N bond formation.

In light of these results, we propose a reaction pathway in which aminopalladation of **1a** is followed by oxidation of a Pd^{II} intermediate **A** to Pd^{IV} intermediate **B** via the in situ generation of H₂O₂ or AcOOH from O₂. This high-valent palladium intermediate **B** then undergoes reductive elimination to generate product **2a** (Scheme 3).

Scheme 3. Possible Pd^{II}/Pd^{IV} Mechanism with O₂ as Oxidant

In summary, we have developed a palladium-catalyzed intramolecular benzoheterocyclic ring forming amino-oxygenation of alkenes using environmentally benign O₂ (1 atm) as the sole oxidant. The reaction is proposed to proceed through a challenging C–O bond-forming reductive elimination from a high-valent Pd^{IV} intermediate. On the basis of mechanistic studies, we assume that the Pd^{IV} intermediate is generated from the oxidation of Pd^{II} via the in situ generation of H₂O₂ and/or organic peroxyacid from O₂.

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

■ Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/acs.orglett.5b02703.

Experimental procedures, characterization details, and additional data (PDF)

■ AUTHOR INFORMATION

Corresponding Authors

*E-mail: gqyang@sju.edu.cn.

*E-mail: wanbin@sju.edu.cn.

Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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