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## Nickel and Palladium Catalysed Coupling of Vinyl Selenides with Trimethylsilylmethylmagnesium Chloride : A New Synthesis of Allyl Silanes

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**Abstract :** A new access to allyl silanes by the Ni and Pd catalysed cross-coupling reactions of vinyl selenides and trimethylsilylmethylmagnesium chloride (DME / Rfx / 65-83 % yield) is reported.

As a result of the progressive recognition of their unique chemical reactivity, organosilicon compounds find increasing applications in organic synthesis <sup>1</sup>. Among others, allyl silanes are of particular importance <sup>2</sup>, and a fair variety of methods are now available for their preparation <sup>3</sup>. On the other hand, it has also been recognised that transition metal (especially nickel and palladium) catalysed C-C bond forming reactions could be applied to the coupling of the appropriate vinyl (or aryl) and silicon moieties in order to produce the desired allyl silanes <sup>4</sup>. Herein we report our preliminary findings on a novel combination of reagents in this type of process, the coupling of vinyl selenides <sup>5</sup> with trimethylsilylmethylmagnesium chloride (TMSCH<sub>2</sub>MgCl).

In a typical experiment 209 mg (1 mM) of vinyl selenide **1d**, 33 mg (5 mol.%) of NiCl<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> and 4 ml of dimethoxyethane (DME, freshly distilled from sodium, THF and ether gave much lower yields) were placed under argon and 2.2 ml of an ethereal stock solution of TMSCH<sub>2</sub>MgCl (1M) was added by a syringe. The mixture was refluxed for 1 h, cooled to room temperature and diluted with 30 ml of ether. After washing twice with a 1N solution of sodium hydroxide and twice with water, the ethereal solution was dried and concentrated. The reddish-brown crude product was purified by column chromatography (basic Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, activity grade IV, eluent pentane) to give 156 mg (77 % yield) of **2d** as a white solid, which can be recrystallized from pentane : m.p. 56 °C. The results of the other coupling reactions are displayed in the Scheme <sup>6</sup>.

Entries 1-8 show that all these reactions are efficiently catalysed by both of the Ni and Pd complexes, but in general, they are considerably faster using NiCl<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, and they take place with a high degree of conservation of the double bond geometry (entries 1-4). The results in entries 9 and 10 are surprising in that the main product appears to be indene in both cases; the indene : **2e** ratio being higher using PdCl<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> than with NiCl<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>. The origin of this reduction of **1e** is not clear at present, but it is remarkable that, among the methylselenostyrenes, vinyl selenide **1c** (structurally related to **1e**) gives the lowest yield in allyl silane.

As for many transition metal catalysed reactions, not only the metal, but also the nature of the phosphine ligand plays a crucial role. This is also true here: when the reaction of entry 3 was tried under the same conditions and using NiCl<sub>2</sub>(dpppe) as catalyst, after 10 h of reaction only 40 % conversion of **1b** into **2b** was reached.



Entry	Vinyl Selenide	Catalyst	time	Allyl Silane, Yield
1	1a <sup>a)</sup>	5 mol % NiCl <sub>2</sub> (PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	1.5 h	2a 79 % <sup>a)</sup>
2		5 mol % PdCl <sub>2</sub> (PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	1.5 h	77 % <sup>a)</sup>
3	1b <sup>b)</sup>	5 mol % NiCl <sub>2</sub> (PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	3 h	2b 73 % <sup>c)</sup>
4		5 mol % PdCl <sub>2</sub> (PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	6.5 h	70 % <sup>c)</sup>
5	1c	5 mol % NiCl <sub>2</sub> (PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	4.5 h	2c 71 %
6		5 mol % PdCl <sub>2</sub> (PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	8.5 h	65 %
7	1d	5 mol % NiCl <sub>2</sub> (PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	1 h	2d 77 %
8		5 mol % PdCl <sub>2</sub> (PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	4.5 h	83 %
9	1e	5 mol % NiCl <sub>2</sub> (PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	6.5 h	(-) <sup>d)</sup>
10		5 mol % PdCl <sub>2</sub> (PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	6 h	(-) <sup>d)</sup>

a) Mixture of stereoisomers (1a/1b = 87/13); b) Obtained from phenylacetylene (MeSeNa/EtOH/Rfx/24 h) as a 93/7 mixture of 1b and 1c which isomerises on standing (-18 °C, 3 weeks) into a 91/3/6 mixture of 1a/1b/1c, the latter mixture was used in the coupling reaction; c) GC analysis showed this to be a 94/2/4 mixture of 2a/2b/2c; d) Complex mixture of products containing a large amount of a 2/1 mixture of indene and 2e; e) Same as d) with indene/2e = 4/1

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- All new compounds gave satisfactory elemental analyses, and their spectral (IR, MS, <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR) data agree with the proposed structures.

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