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LETTERS

Palladium-catalyzed Heck reaction in perfluorinated solvents

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Abstract

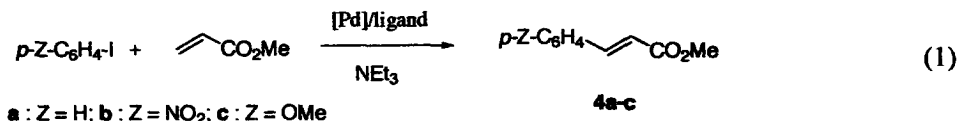
Palladium-catalyzed coupling reaction of aryl iodides with methyl acrylate, commonly designated as the Heck reaction, can be performed in perfluorinated solvents, using perfluorocarbon-soluble triarylphosphines as ligands. The easy separation and recycling of the catalyst is also possible. © 1999 Elsevier Science Ltd. All rights reserved.

Keywords: Heck reactions; palladium; perfluorinated solvents; perfluorinated ligands; recycling.

There is growing interest in the development of new liquid–liquid biphasic catalytic systems.¹ One of the most recent approaches in this field is based on the use of ‘fluorous biphasic systems’ (FBS).² In this concept, the organometallic catalyst is solubilized in the fluorous phase via the use of perfluorinated ligands and is segregated from reagents and products, either during the whole process or during the work-up only. This approach has been successfully applied to the hydroformylation of alkenes,^{2a,3} the hydroboration of alkenes,⁴ the oligomerization of ethylene,⁵ the palladium cross-coupling of organozinc bromides with aryl iodides,⁶ the epoxidation of alkenes,^{7,8} the oxidation of aldehydes,⁷ thioethers⁷ and alkanes,^{9,10} the Wacker oxidation of alkenes,¹¹ and the palladium allylic alkylation.¹²

The Heck coupling reaction has emerged as one of the most powerful tools for the creation of carbon–carbon bonds.¹³ In this communication, we describe our preliminary results concerning the extension of the FBS concept to the Heck reaction.

We first examined the palladium-catalyzed Heck coupling of iodobenzene with methyl acrylate in the presence of palladium complexes at 80°C (Eq. 1), using the perfluorinated phosphines 1–3, whose synthesis was previously described,^{6,14} as ligands (Scheme 1). The results are summarized in Table 1.



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The reaction was then performed directly in a two-phase system.¹⁵ The fluorous-soluble palladium complexes were prepared by stirring Pd(OAc)₂ or Pd₂(dba)₃ and a solution of perfluorinated phosphine **1**, **2** or **3** in D-100 for 30 min at room temperature (ratio [Pd]/[P]=1/2). An acetonitrile solution of iodobenzene and methyl acrylate was added, and the two-phase system was stirred at 80°C for 4 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to 0°C, and the acetonitrile phase containing the coupling product **4** was easily separated by simple decantation, whereas the palladium catalyst remained in the fluorous phase. The three ligands gave complete conversion of iodobenzene in the first run, with high selectivity in compound **4** (Table 1, entries 3, 4 and 5). Recycling of the catalyst solution was also possible, although a decrease in activity was observed; this could be due to the formation of some metallic palladium or the loss of perfluorinated ligand in the acetonitrile phase. In order to avoid the deactivation of the catalyst, we prepared two catalysts from Pd₂(dba)₃ (2.5 μmol) and ligands **1** or **2** in excess (ratio [Pd]/[P]=1/4). However, when the reaction was carried out in a mixture CH₃CN–D-100, no coupling product was observed at all, although performing the reaction in CH₃CN with **1** gave, after 4 h, a moderate conversion (45%) of iodobenzene, with 100% selectivity in **4**. So an excess of perfluorinated phosphine exhibits a detrimental effect on the reaction. The loss of activity during the recycling was more pronounced for the catalyst obtained using **3** as the ligand; this is probably due to the higher solubility of this ligand, compared to **1** and **2**, in acetonitrile, matching the lower fluorine content of the ligands.

The coupling reaction was extended to *p*-nitrophenyl iodide and *p*-methoxyphenyl iodide, using perfluorinated ligand **2**. We observed for the first cycle a very high conversion and selectivity in compound **4** after 4 h, with a slight decrease in activity for the first recycling (Table 1, entries 6 and 7).

In summary we have observed that Heck coupling in perfluorinated solvents can proceed in the presence of palladium complexes of perfluorinated phosphines. The recycling of the catalyst was possible, although some loss of activity was observed. Work is presently in progress in order to circumvent this loss of activity and to extend this concept to other palladium-catalyzed reactions.

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15. A typical procedure is as follow (Table 1, entry 4): A mixture of Pd₂(dba)₃ (2.3 mg, 2.5×10⁻³ mmol) and phosphine **2** (13.2 mg, 10⁻⁴ mmol) was stirred in D-100 (2 mL) at room temperature for 0.5 h. A solution of iodobenzene (102 mg, 0.5 mmol), methyl acrylate (54 mg, 0.62 mmol), and triethylamine (43 mg, 1 mmol), in acetonitrile (2 mL) was added. After being stirred at 80°C for 4 h, the reaction mixture was cooled to 0°C, and the acetonitrile phase was separated by simple decantation. For the recycling of the catalyst, another acetonitrile solution of reactants was simply added to the fluoruous phase containing the catalyst.