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## COMMUNICATION

Heck reaction of arenediazonium salts with *N,N*-diprotected allyl amines. Synthesis of cinnamylamines and indoles†

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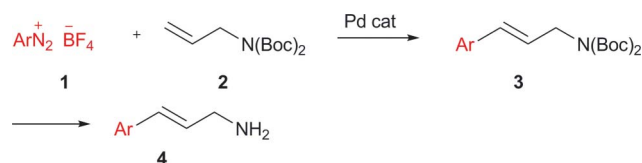
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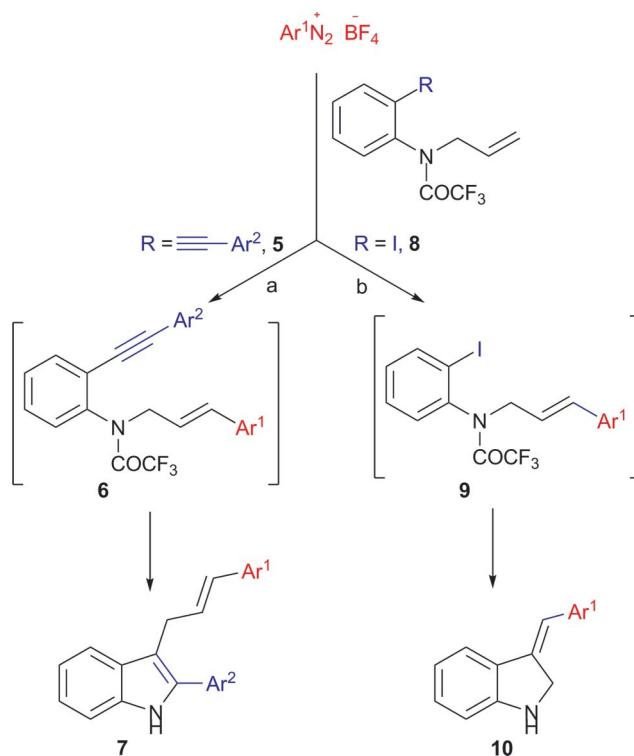
Novel palladium-catalyzed reactions of arenediazonium tetrafluoroborates with *N,N*-diprotected allyl amines are presented. The reaction of arenediazonium tetrafluoroborates with *N,N*-(Boc)<sub>2</sub> allylamine allows for an easy approach to cinnamylamines whereas using 2-alkynyl-*N*-(allyl)-trifluoroacetanilides and 2-iodo-*N*-(allyl)-trifluoroacetanilides the reaction provides a useful tool for appending indole rings to aniline fragments.

Because of their importance as synthetic intermediates<sup>1</sup> and as functional groups in many biologically active compounds,<sup>2</sup> considerable effort has been directed toward the development of methodologies for the synthesis of primary allylic amines.<sup>3</sup> Palladium catalysis has provided some of the most efficient procedures, typically *via* amination of allylic esters<sup>3a,4</sup> or alcohols,<sup>5</sup> allylic C–H amination,<sup>6</sup> aza-Claisen rearrangement,<sup>7</sup> and Heck reaction of allylamine derivatives.<sup>1f,3a,8</sup> As to the latter, reactions have been usually performed with aryl halides or triflates. However, although arenediazonium salts offer significant advantages over aryl halides and triflates (for example, they are less expensive and more reactive, react under milder conditions, Heck arylations can be carried out in air and omitting phosphine ligands) and despite their broad application in the Heck reaction,<sup>9,10</sup> no example using arenediazonium salts has been described.

Therefore, as part of our on-going research in palladium-catalyzed reactions of arenediazonium salts,<sup>9j,k,11</sup> it appeared of interest to us to investigate their involvement in a new approach to cinnamylamines *via* Heck reaction with the *N,N*-(Boc)<sub>2</sub> allylamine **2** (Scheme 1). Our planning also included the application of this chemistry to allyl amines bearing functional groups able to undergo a subsequent cyclization reaction. In particular, we considered that the reaction of 2-alkynyl-*N*-(allyl)-trifluoroacetanilides **5** with arenediazonium salts would lead to 2,3-disubstituted indoles **7**<sup>12</sup> through a sequential Heck reaction/aminopalladation/reductive elimination process<sup>13</sup> (Scheme 2a). Furthermore, 2-iodo-*N*-(allyl)-trifluoroacetanilides **8** would afford alkylidene indolines **10** (Scheme 2b).



**Scheme 1** Synthesis of cinnamylamines from arenediazonium tetrafluoroborates and *N,N*-(Boc)<sub>2</sub> allylamine.



**Scheme 2** Synthesis of indole derivatives from arenediazonium tetrafluoroborates and 2-alkynyl-*N*-(allyl)-trifluoroacetanilides **5** or 2-iodo-*N*-(allyl)-trifluoroacetanilides **8**.

We started our study by examining the reaction of **2** with 4-methoxydiazobenzene tetrafluoroborate **1a**, a model of electron-rich arenediazonium salts. After an initial screening of solvents, bases, temperature, and precursors of Pd(0), we found that the use of 0.04 equiv of Pd<sub>2</sub>(dba)<sub>3</sub> and 4.5 equiv of NaOAc, in MeCN at 35 °C produced **3a** after 0.5 h in 61% yield (Table 1, entry 5) along with a 24% yield of the  $\gamma,\gamma$ -diarylated derivative **11a**. Further

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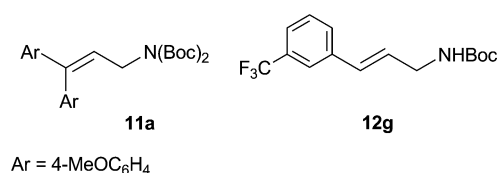
† Electronic supplementary information (ESI) available: A complete description of experimental details and product characterization. See DOI: 10.1039/c0ob01052a

**Table 1** Optimization of the reaction of 4-methoxydiazobenzene tetrafluoroborate **1a** with *N,N*-(Boc)<sub>2</sub> allylamine **2**<sup>a</sup>

entry	<b>1a</b> : <b>2</b>	[Pd] (equiv)	base (equiv)	solvent	<i>T</i> /°C	time (h)	yield% <sup>b</sup> of <b>3a</b>
1	2 : 1	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub> (0.05)	—	MeOH	35	18	traces
2	2 : 1	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub> (0.05)	CaCO <sub>3</sub> (2)	MeOH	50	6	traces
3	2 : 1	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub> (0.05)	EtN( <i>i</i> -Pr) <sub>2</sub> (2)	MeOH	50	4	— <sup>c</sup>
4	1 : 1.1	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub> (0.05)	DABCO (3)	MeCN	rt	8	—
5	1.5 : 1	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub> (0.04)	NaOAc (4.5)	MeCN	35	0.5	61 <sup>d</sup>
6	1 : 1.1	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub> (0.04)	NaOAc (3)	MeCN	rt	0.5	92
7	1 : 1.1	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub> (0.02)	NaOAc (3)	MeCN	rt	3	90

<sup>a</sup> Reactions were carried out on a 0.5 mmol scale in 5 mL of solvent. <sup>b</sup> Yields are given for isolated products. <sup>c</sup> An almost quantitative reduction of **1a** to anisole was observed. <sup>d</sup> The  $\gamma,\gamma$ -diarylated derivative **11a** was isolated in 24% yield.

optimization of the reaction conditions led to the isolation of **3a** in 90% yield using 0.02 equiv of Pd<sub>2</sub>(dba)<sub>3</sub> and 3 equiv of NaOAc at room temperature (Table 1, entry 7).<sup>‡</sup>



However, no vinylic substitution product formation was observed when these conditions were applied to 3-trifluoromethyldiazobenzene tetrafluoroborate **1g**, a model of electron-poor arenediazonium salts. Better results, although unsatisfactory from a synthetic point of view, were obtained omitting the base and using MeOH as the solvent. The corresponding vinylic substitution derivative **3g** was isolated in 35% yield after 5 h at room temperature. The main reaction product (59% yield) was the monoprotected vinylic substitution derivative **12g**, most probably formed by a partial deprotection process due to the acidity of the reaction medium.

We then came back to optimizing reaction conditions with electron-poor arenediazonium salts and found that the vinylic substitution derivative **3g** could be obtained in 83% yield in the presence of 0.02 equiv of Pd<sub>2</sub>(dba)<sub>3</sub> and 1.5 equiv of CaCO<sub>3</sub> in MeOH<sup>14</sup> (3.5 h, room temperature). Nevertheless, these conditions proved less successful with electron-rich arenediazonium salts. Compound **1a** produced **3a** only in 65% yield after 4 h.

Therefore, two protocols were used when we next explored the scope and generality of the reaction: Pd<sub>2</sub>(dba)<sub>3</sub>, NaOAc, MeCN, room temperature with neutral and electron-rich arenediazonium salts (procedure A); Pd<sub>2</sub>(dba)<sub>3</sub>, CaCO<sub>3</sub>, MeOH, room temperature with electron-poor arenediazonium salts (procedure B).

As shown by Table 2, vinylic substitution products **3** were isolated in good to excellent yields under these conditions and several useful functional groups are tolerated, including *ortho* as well as chloro, bromo, and iodo substituents. The ability to incorporate the latter makes this reaction particularly attractive for increasing the molecular complexity, for example *via* transition metal-catalyzed coupling reactions.

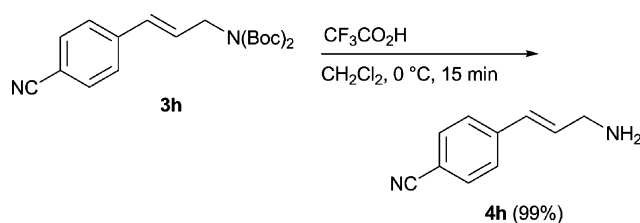
Compounds **3** can be readily converted into the corresponding cinnamylamines **4** as shown by the preparation of cinnamylamine **4h** from **3h** in almost quantitative yield (Scheme 3).

The synthesis of 2,3-disubstituted indoles **7** from the *N,N*-diprotected allylamine **5** involves a vinylic substitution step to give **6** followed by an intramolecular aminopalladation/reductive

**Table 2** Palladium-catalyzed reaction of arenediazonium tetrafluoroborates **1** with *N,N*-(Boc)<sub>2</sub> allylamine **2**<sup>a</sup>

entry	<b>1</b>	proc	time (h)	yield% <sup>b</sup> of <b>3</b>	
1	4-MeOC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> N <sub>2</sub> BF <sub>4</sub>	A	3	90	<b>3a</b>
2	2-MeOC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> N <sub>2</sub> BF <sub>4</sub>	A	2	85	<b>3b</b>
3	2,4-Me <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N <sub>2</sub> BF <sub>4</sub>	A	5	83	<b>3c</b>
4	3,5-Me <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N <sub>2</sub> BF <sub>4</sub>	A	3	72	<b>3d</b>
5	2-PhC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> N <sub>2</sub> BF <sub>4</sub>	A	3	61	<b>3e</b>
6	PhN <sub>2</sub> BF <sub>4</sub>	A	2.5	80	<b>3f</b>
7	3-CF <sub>3</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> N <sub>2</sub> BF <sub>4</sub>	B	3.5	83	<b>3g</b>
8	4-CNC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> N <sub>2</sub> BF <sub>4</sub>	B	1.5	83	<b>3h</b>
9	4-MeCOC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> N <sub>2</sub> BF <sub>4</sub>	B	5	70	<b>3i</b>
10	4-MeO <sub>2</sub> CC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> N <sub>2</sub> BF <sub>4</sub>	B	6	67	<b>3j</b>
11	2-ClC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> N <sub>2</sub> BF <sub>4</sub>	B	4	83	<b>3k</b>
12	2-BrC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> N <sub>2</sub> BF <sub>4</sub>	B	4	74	<b>3l</b>
13	4-IC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> N <sub>2</sub> BF <sub>4</sub>	B	4	63	<b>3m</b>
14	4-BrC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> N <sub>2</sub> BF <sub>4</sub>	B	3	63	<b>3n</b>
15	4-ClC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> N <sub>2</sub> BF <sub>4</sub>	B	4	77	<b>3o</b>

<sup>a</sup> Reactions were carried out on a 0.5 mmol scale at room temperature using 1 equiv of **1**, 1.1 equiv of **2**, 0.02 equiv of Pd<sub>2</sub>(dba)<sub>3</sub>, and (procedure A) 3 equiv of NaOAc in 5 mL of MeCN or (procedure B) 1.5 equiv of CaCO<sub>3</sub> in 5 mL MeOH. <sup>b</sup> Yields are given for isolated products.

**Scheme 3** Typical procedure for the preparation of cinnamylamines from the corresponding *N,N*-(Boc)<sub>2</sub> precursors.

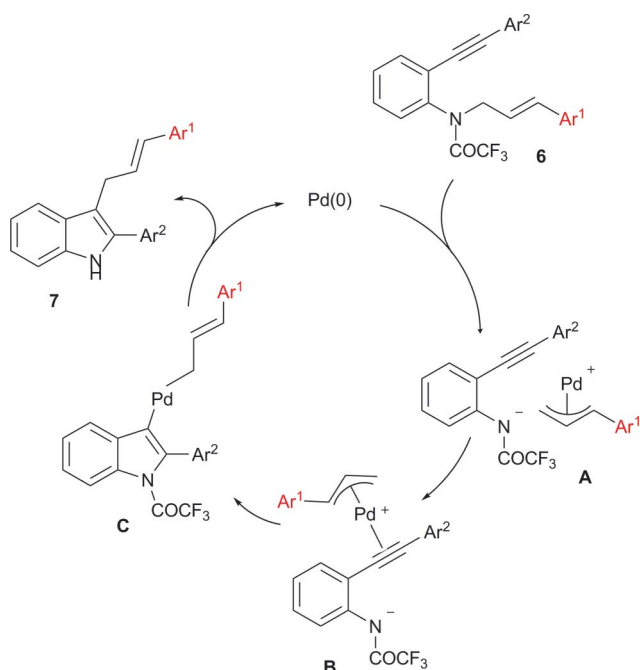
elimination step. It would help immensely if the Heck reaction/aminopalladation/reductive elimination sequence could be done without isolating the intermediates. Herein we report that this process can be performed through a one-pot protocol adding PPh<sub>3</sub> and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> to the crude mixture formed in the Heck reaction (when carried out in MeCN) or to the crude mixture formed in the first step after evaporating the volatile material (when carried out in MeOH) and increasing the temperature to 100 °C. Our preparative results are summarized in Table 3.

The mechanism of the aminopalladation/reductive elimination reaction most probably involves the basic steps outlined in Scheme 4. The reaction of Pd(0) with **6** affords the  $\pi$ -allylpalladium complex **A**, from which **B** is formed *via* coordination of the C–C triple bond to palladium. A subsequent intramolecular

**Table 3** Synthesis of 2,3-disubstituted indoles **7** from arenediazonium tetrafluoroborates **1** and 2-alkynyl-*N*-(allyl)trifluoroacetanilides **5**<sup>a</sup>

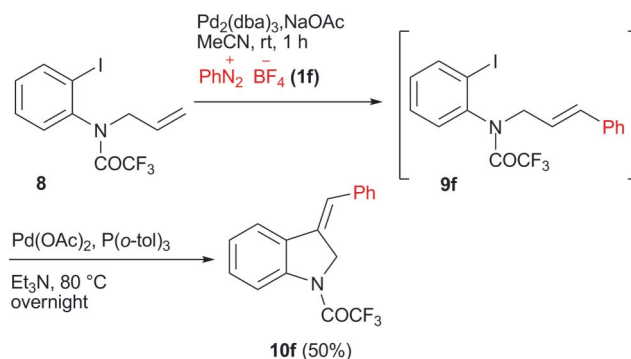
entry	<b>1</b> Ar <sup>1</sup>	<b>5</b> Ar <sup>2</sup>	time (h) <sup>b</sup>	yield% <sup>c</sup> of <b>7</b>	
1	4-MeOC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	Ph	2 + 8	68	<b>7a</b>
2	4-MeOC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	4-MeCOC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	1 + 12	79	<b>7b</b>
3	4-MeOC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	2-ClC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	1 + 12	88	<b>7c</b>
4	Ph	Ph	0.5 + 12	83	<b>7d</b>
5	4-CNC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	4-MeOC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	2 + 12	69	<b>7e</b>
6	4-CNC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	4-ClC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	1 + 6	72	<b>7f</b>
7	4-CNC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	Ph	1 + 10	73	<b>7g</b>
8	4-CNC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	4-MeCOC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	1 + 12	73	<b>7h</b>

<sup>a</sup> Reactions were carried out on a 0.25 mmol scale under the following conditions: *first step*: room temperature, 1.1 equiv of **1**, 1 equiv of **5**, 0.02 equiv of Pd<sub>2</sub>(dba)<sub>3</sub>, and (procedure A) 3 equiv of NaOAc in 2.5 mL of MeCN or (procedure B) 1.5 equiv of CaCO<sub>3</sub> in 2.5 mL of MeOH; *second step*: 100 °C after the addition of 0.16 equiv of PPh<sub>3</sub> and 2 equiv of K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> to the crude mixture formed in the first step (when carried out in MeCN) or to the crude mixture formed in the first step after evaporating the volatile material (when carried out in MeOH). <sup>b</sup> Reaction times refer to the first and to the second step, respectively. <sup>c</sup> Yields are given for isolated products.

**Scheme 4** Proposed mechanism for the cyclization of **6** to 3-allylic 2-arylidene indoles.

aminopalladation reaction gives rise to the regioselective formation of **C** that undergoes a reductive elimination reaction to give **7** and regenerates the active palladium catalyst.

The potential of the Heck reaction of arenediazonium salts with *N,N*-disubstituted allylamines in appending indole moieties to aniline fragments is further demonstrated by the synthesis of alkylidene indolines from readily available 2-iodo-*N*-(allyl)trifluoroacetanilide **8**. As an example, we report that the reaction of **8** with **1f** followed by the intramolecular Heck reaction of the resultant **9f** affords the indoline **10f** in 50% overall yield (Scheme 5). **10f** was isolated as a single stereoisomer and its *Z* configuration was established by NOESY experiments. The synthesis has been performed as a one-pot process adding the

**Scheme 5** Typical procedure for the preparation of alkylidene indoline from *o*-iodo-*N*-allyl-trifluoroacetanilide.

reagents required for the cyclization step to the crude mixture formed in the first step after evaporating the volatile material.

In conclusion, novel palladium-catalyzed reactions of arenediazonium tetrafluoroborates with *N,N*-diprotected allylamines have been developed. The reaction of arenediazonium tetrafluoroborates with *N,N*-(Boc)<sub>2</sub> allylamine allows for an easy approach to cinnamylamines. The new method tolerates a variety of useful functional groups, including *ortho* as well as chloro, bromo, and iodo substituents. With 2-alkynyl-*N*-(allyl)trifluoroacetanilides and 2-iodo-*N*-(allyl)trifluoroacetanilide the reaction provides an exceedingly useful tool for appending indole rings to aniline fragments.

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## Notes and references

‡ No vinylic substitution derivative was formed after 8 h when the same reaction was carried out with free NH allylamine. Using *N*-Boc allylamine produced after 4 h a 57% yield of a regioisomeric mixture of monoarylated derivatives ( $\gamma$ -arylated :  $\beta$ -arylated = 3 : 1).

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