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Aminomethylations *via* Cross-Coupling of Potassium Organotrifluoroborates with Aryl Bromides

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Abstract

The Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling reaction of *N,N*-dialkylaminomethyltrifluoroborates with aryl halides allows the construction of an aminomethyl aryl linkage through a disconnection based on dissonant reactivity patterns. A variety of these aminomethyltrifluoroborate substrates were prepared in good to excellent yields and then shown to cross-couple with equal facility to both electron-rich and electron-poor aryl halides as well as to a variety of heteroaromatic bromides.

Alkaloid natural products and nitrogen-containing pharmaceuticals are highly prominent synthetic targets.¹ This is a direct result not only of the structural complexity that many of these molecules possess, but also of their marked biological activity. The properties associated with the nitrogen atom itself, however, often make alkaloid synthesis a more painstaking endeavor than the synthesis of polyketide- or terpene-derived structures. Thus new, facile methods of nitrogen incorporation are in high demand.

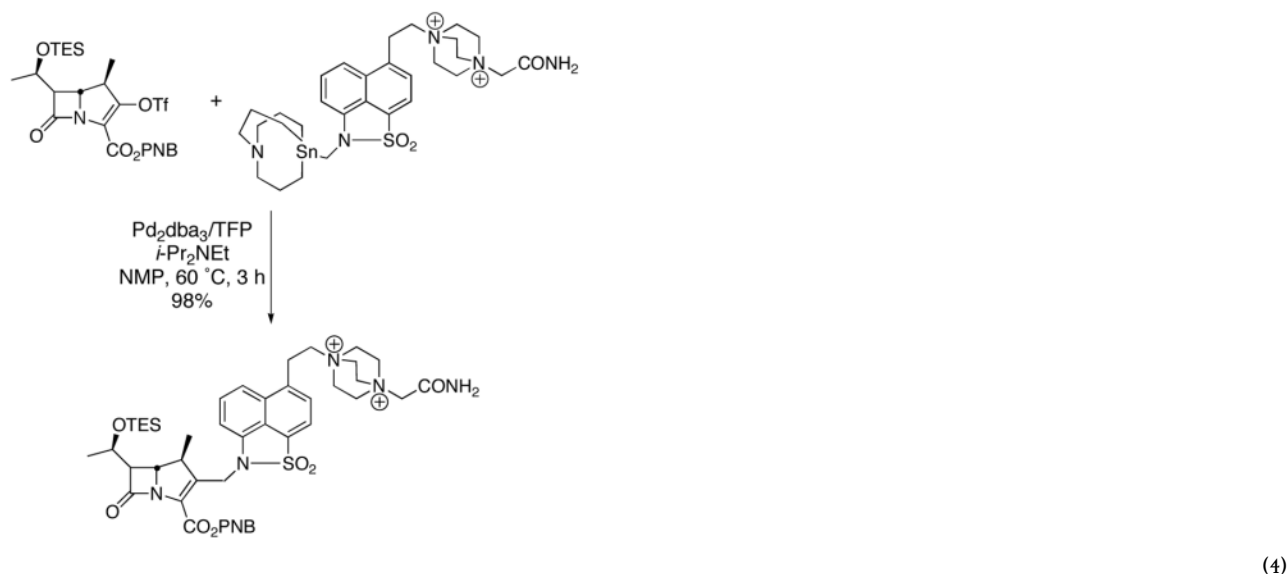
Many bioactive molecules possess an aminomethyl alkenyl- or aryl linkage (Figure 1). There is ample precedent for the installation of this aminomethyl moiety by nucleophilic displacement,² alkylation of iminium ions, or reductive amination.³ These more classical strategies possess consonant reactivity patterns in line with the polarities of the functional groups involved (eqs 1–2).

Although these tactics have been employed extensively and effectively, a new strategy employing a fundamentally different aminomethyl disconnection would provide a complementary (dissonant) C-C bond construction (eq 3). Consideration of dissonant disconnects logically leads to a class of carbanions that are generally difficult to access, somewhat unstable, and consequently only employed to a limited extent in this context.





Fortunately, cross-coupling reactions and the organometallics used therein possess the potential to circumvent these limitations. To date, however, a single cross-coupling has been reported that takes advantage of this type of transformation (eq 4).



This procedure partnered a highly specialized aminomethylstannane and an enol triflate.⁴ Because of the complexity of this reagent, the inherent toxicity associated with organotin reagents, as well as difficulties associated with purification of the resulting cross-coupled product, the Stille reaction is a less than ideal aminomethylating platform. The possibility of applying nontoxic, air- and moisture stable potassium *N*, *N*-dialkylaminomethyltrifluoroborates makes Suzuki-Miyaura cross-couplings with organic halides an attractive alternative.⁵ Herein, preliminary studies toward that end are disclosed.

Initial analysis focused on the use of potassium *N*-(trifluoroboratomethyl)piperidine, which is easily prepared according to a previously published procedure.⁶ Optimization was conducted utilizing 4-bromobenzonitrile **1a** as the electrophile. After investigating several catalyst and ligand systems, the combination of 3 mol % of Pd(OAc)₂ and 6 mol % of 2-dicyclohexylphosphino-2',4',6'-triisopropylbiphenyl (XPhos)⁷ was determined to be the most effective catalyst system. Cs₂CO₃ (3 equiv) and a 10:1 THF/H₂O mixture proved to be a satisfactory base and solvent, respectively. **2a** could be produced in 83% yield under these conditions (Table 1, entry 1).

To investigate the method further, both electron-poor (Table 1, entries 1–5) and electron-rich (Table 1, entries 6–10) aryl halides were examined. Both were found to cross-couple with equal facility, providing the aminomethylated products in good to excellent yields. A variety of functional groups including nitriles, esters, ketones, aldehydes, amides, and amines were successfully incorporated within the electrophiles. The effects of steric hindrance were probed using mesityl bromide as the electrophile. Thus, despite the presence of two *ortho* substituents, **1h** was found to couple effectively, yielding **2h** in 69% isolated yield (Table 1, entry 8).

To improve the yields in some of the transformations, an alternative solvent system consisting of cyclopentyl methyl ether (CPME) and water was investigated. In all cases, use of the CPME/H₂O solvent system (10:1) increased the yield and decreased the reaction time, presumably because it allowed a higher reaction temperature (Table 1, entries 3–5, 8, and 10). This solvent system offers greatly improved yields for the coupling of 2-bromomesitylene and 4-bromo-*N,N*-dimethylaniline (**1j**) to yield **2h** (77%) and **2j** (82%), respectively.

To expand the array of electrophiles that can be utilized, we coupled the potassium *N*-(trifluoroboratomethyl)-piperidine with a variety of heteroaromatic bromides (Table 2). We found that the highest yields of these substrates could be obtained by using the original THF/H₂O solvent system conditions. An assortment of these substrates were examined including furan-, thiophene-, pyrimidine-, isoquinoline-, and pyridine derivatives. The resulting aminomethylated heteroaromatics were obtained in modest to good yields. 5-Bromo-2-furaldehyde (**3a**) and 5-bromopyrimidine (**3d**) coupled with the greatest facility to afford coupled products **4a** and **4d**, respectively.

To demonstrate the scope of this method further, we prepared a variety of potassium *N,N*-dialkylaminomethyl-trifluoroborates (Table 3) to use as coupling substrates. We have previously disclosed a method of aminomethyltrifluoroborate preparation that necessitated the use of superstoichiometric quantities of the amine,⁶ which, though functional, cannot be applied on a synthetically useful scale with valuable amines. Table 3 (entries 3–5) illustrates stoichiometric reaction conditions, which yield tertiary amine products in good yields.

Both cyclic and acyclic aminomethyltrifluoroborates were found to be effective coupling partners using the conditions presented here (Table 4). Of special interest are the successes in coupling the benzyl-protected *N*-methylaminomethyl- (**5c**) and the protected piperazinomethyl- (**5d**) trifluoroborate derivatives to yield the respective products, both of which offer the potential for further functionalization of the amines following deprotection.

Though the proline methyl ester- and diallylamine nucleophiles were acceptable substrates for the preparation of their trifluoroborate derivatives (Table 3, entries 5 and 6) initial studies have shown that they were ineffective substrates with the optimized coupling conditions in both THF/H₂O and CPME/H₂O solvent systems.

In conclusion, we have synthesized a variety of potassium dialkylaminomethyltrifluoroborates and demonstrated their suitability as coupling partners in Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling reactions with both electron-rich and electron-poor aryl bromides. The ease with which these potassium organotrifluoroborates can be prepared through a synthetically useful one-step process from bromomethyltrifluoroborate⁶ provides a new means for accessing structurally significant nitrogen-containing molecules. Efforts toward the further elaboration of this method, as well as applications to complex molecule synthesis, are currently underway.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

Acknowledgements

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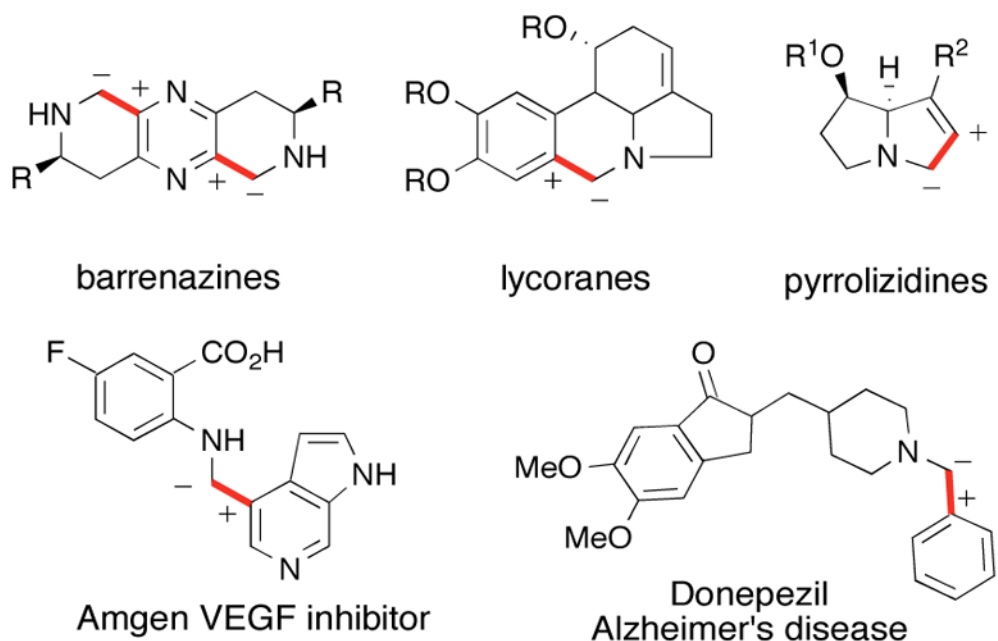


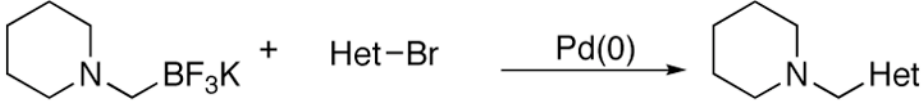
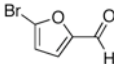
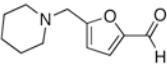
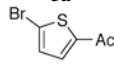
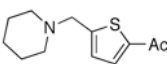

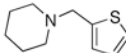

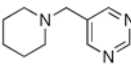

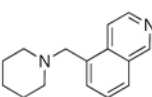

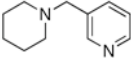
Figure 1.
Dissonant disconnects for the construction of nitrogen-containing compounds.

Table 1Cross-Coupling of Potassium *N*-(Trifluoroboratomethyl)piperidine with Various Aryl Halides^a

entry	bromide	reaction conditions	product	% isolated yield
1		A		83
2		A		83
3		A B		68 75
4		A B		72 76
5		A B		66 73
6		A		80
7		A		75
8		A B		69 77
9		A		80
10		A B		72 82

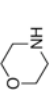
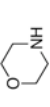
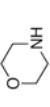
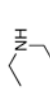
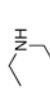
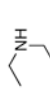
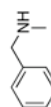
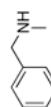
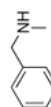
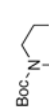
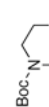
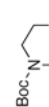



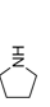
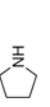
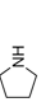
^aConditions: All used Pd(OAc)₂ (3 mol %), XPhos (6 mol %), Cs₂CO₃ (3.0 equiv), and 0.25 M solvent system; A: 10:1 THF/H₂O, 80 °C, 22–24 h; B: 10:1 CPME/H₂O, 95 °C, 12–18 h.

Table 2Cross-Coupling of Potassium *N*-(Trifluoroboratomethyl)piperidine with Various Heteroaromatic Bromides^a

			
entry	bromide	product	% isolated yield
1	 3a	 4a	80
2	 3b	 4b	77
3	 3c	 4c	62
4	 3d	 4d	84
5	 3e	 4e	76
6	 3f	 4f	63

^a Conditions: All used Pd(OAc)₂ (3 mol %), XPhos (6 mol %), Cs₂CO₃ (3.0 equiv), and 10:1 THF/H₂O (0.25 M), 80 °C, 18–24 h.

Table 3
Preparation of Various Potassium *N,N*-Dialkyl Aminomethyltrifluoroborates^a

entry	bromide	nucleophile			product	% isolated yield
		$\text{Br}-\text{CH}_2-\text{BF}_3\text{K}$	reaction conditions	time (h)		
1			A	0.5		70
2			B	7		96
3			C	2		87
4			C	3		86
5			C	3		76
6			A	0.5		93

^a Conditions: **A**: Alkylamine (solvent), 80 °C; **B**: Alkylamine (solvent), 45 °C; **C**: Alkylamine (1.05 equiv), THF, 80 °C.

Table 4Cross-Coupling of *N,N*-Dialkyl Aminomethyl-trifluoroborates with 4-Bromoanisole^a

entry	substrate	product	% isolated yield
1	 5a	 6a	81
2	 5b	 6b	85
3	 5c	 6c	81
4	 5d	 6d	72

^a Conditions: All used Pd(OAc)₂ (3 mol %), XPhos (6 mol %), Cs₂CO₃ (3.0 equiv), and 10:1 THF/H₂O (0.25 M), 80 °C, 18–24 h.