



Decarboxylative Cross-Coupling Reactions

A Modern Strategy for C-C-Bond Formation

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Reactions in which two molecules are connected at positions defined by leaving groups to give a target molecule and a byproduct



- Selective bond formation at a given position A-M
- No reaction at other functional groups B, C, D...

Cross-coupling reactions are indispensable tools in organic synthesis



V. Nair et al., *Chem. Commun.* **1989**, 878



C-Nucleophiles in catalytic cross-couplings





 $R^{1}-X + R^{2}-SnR_{3} \xrightarrow{Cat. [Pd^{0}L_{n}]} R^{1}-R^{2} \qquad R^{1} = alkyl, alkynyl, aryl, vinyl R^{2} = acyl, alkynyl, aryl, benzyl, vinyl X = Br, Cl, I, OAc, OP(=O)(OR)_{2}, OTf$

M. Kosugi, T. Migita, et al., Chem. Lett. 1977, 301; Chem. Lett. 1977, 1423; J. K. Stille, et al., J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1978, 100, 3636; J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1979, 101, 4992.



Excellent availability

- Huge variety of carboxylic acids are commercially available and cheap
- Many natural products contain acid functionalities
- Environmentally benign syntheses of carboxylic acids by (air) oxidations

At least four reaction modes are conceivable:



Science 2006, 313, 662ChemComm. 2003, 706Angew. Chem. 2001, 113, 3566Angew. Chem. 2002, 114, 1285JACS 2007, 129, 4824Angew. Chem. 2005, 117, 4110JACS 2005, 127, 11102Angew. Chem. 2004, 116, 1115



1st Reaction Mode

Reactions via metal carboxylate species

Addition of carboxylic acids to multiple bond



ChemComm **2003**, 706 Angew. Chem. **2005**, *117*, 4110







2nd Reaction Mode

Reactions via acyl metalspecies:

Carboxylic acids as synthetic equivalents of acyl halides





2nd Reaction Mode: Arylation of Carboxylic Acids





Reactions via the decarboxylation of acyl metal species:

Carboxylic acids as synthetic equivalents of aryl or alkyl halides



Angew. Chem. **2002**, *114*, 1285 Angew. Chem. **2004**, *116*, 1115



Decarbonylative Heck Reactions





4th Reaction Mode

Reactions via decarboxylation of metal carboxylates

Carboxylate salts as synthetic equivalents of aryl metal species





Biaryls are a privileged motif in pharmaceuticals and functional materials

Syntheses via Suzuki couplings are troublesome in industrial production





Method of choice for regiospecific arylations: Suzuki reaction

The problem in cross-couplings is the synthesis of the carbon nucleophiles



Alternative direct arylations are regioselective not for all arenes

Regiospecific decarboxylative coupling of carboxylates

- Generation of organometallic reagents from simple metal carboxylates
- The carboxylate group predefines the position of C-C-bond formation





Combination of a decarboxylation with a Pd-catalyzed cross-coupling



Key step: decarboxylation of a metal carboxylate to an aryl metal species
Insertion of the metal into the aromatic C-C bond: Ag⁺, Cu⁺, Au⁺...



- Decarboxylation at a Cu(I)-phenanthroline complex
- Removal of the reaction water *via* azeotropic distillation or molecular sieves avoids protodecarboxylation
- Transfer of the aryl group to a phosphine-free palladium co-catalyst





- + catalytic in Pd: 0.5 mol%
- + catalytic in Cu: 1.5 mol%
- + inexpensive bipyridine as ligand

with G. Deng, L. M. Levy, Science 2006, 313, 662;



Smooth reaction of o-nitrobenzoic with a wealth of aryl bromides...











NO₂

87%















98%



with G. Deng, L. M. Levy, Science 2006, 313, 662;

...and meanwhile also aryl chlorides!

СНО







with B. Melzer, T. Knauber, Angew. Chem. 2008, 120,



"Double-catalytic" protocol already works for many carboxylic acids, particularly when bearing a coordinating *o*-substituent

Fine tuning of the catalyst is required for every substrate



Some other carboxylates also work but still require stoichiometric amounts of Cu





with N. Rodríguez, B. Melzer, C. Linder, G. Deng, L. M. Levy, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2007, 129, 4824.



Optimized protocol for a commercial substrate (pilot scale: 100 kg)

- 1:1 substrate ratio, in situ deprotonation with KOH
- Small amount (60%) mesitylene as solvent
- Only 0.03 mol% Pd, 0.3 % Cu
- Simple workup: 80 % yield after crystallization





Compare with:



Preparative scale procedures: with N. Rodríguez, C. Linder, B. Melzer, T. Knauber, Org. Synth. 2008, 85, 196-204.



- In the absence of halide salts, a broad variety of substrates decarboxylate
- The presence of halide salts has little influence on the decarboxylation of some benzoates, mostly o-substituted derivatives, while for other benzoates, an excess of halide with regard to Cu inhibits decarboxylation



Conditions: 0.15 mmol CuO, 0.15 mmol 1,10-phenanthroline, 0.15 mmol quinoline, 0.15 mmol K₂CO₃, 3 mL NMP, 160 °C, 24 h



Andreas Fromm



- Modified Cu-catalysts give full conversion for most benzoic acids
 - L. J. Gooßen, W. R. Thiel, N. Rodríguez, C. Linder, B. Melzer, Adv. Synth. Catal. 2007, 349, 2241-2246



The ligand exchange between potassium carboxylate and copper halide is apparently more difficult for non-ortho-functionalized arene carboxlates



 Improved Cu-catalyst with a higher preference for carboxylates over halides may lead to general reaction protocols for decarboxylative cross-couplings



Aryl triflates as coupling partners preclude the formation of halide salt

The most recent systems allow the turnover of less costly tosylates



with N. Rodriguez, C. Linder, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2008**, *130*, 15248-15249; L. J. Gooßen, C. Linder, N. Rodríguez, P. P. Lange, *Chem. Eur. J.* **2009**, *15*, 9336-9349.

Nuria Rodriguez



Microwave irradiation shortens reaction time to five minutes

- Sealed vessels, 1 mmol scale, 1 ml solvent, 50W (190°C), 5 min
- Reduces thermal strain, simplifies reaction layout, ideal for parallel synthesis
- Advantageous for all substrate combinations

with B. Zimmermann, C. Linder, N. Rodríguez, P. P. Lange, J. Hartung, Adv. Synth. Catal. 2009, 351, 2667

Coupling of non-activated benzoates with tosylates

Use of microwave irradiation effectively suppresses side reactions



with N. Rodríguez, P. P. Lange, C. Linder, Angew. Chem. 2010, 122, 1129





Development of low-temperature catalysts guided by DFT calculations

- Modifications at the N-N-ligand will have only limited effect on the Cu-catalyst
- decarboxylations with silver or gold catalysts should be much faster

$$\begin{array}{c} OMe \\ \hline \\ \hline \\ COOH \end{array} \xrightarrow{10 \text{ mol}\% \text{ AgOAc/K}_2\text{CO}_3} \\ \hline \\ NMP, 120 \ ^\circ\text{C}, 16h \end{array} \xrightarrow{OMe} \\ \hline \\ \hline \\ \hline \\ \hline \\ \hline \\ \hline \\ \hline \\ \\ \hline \\ \hline \\ \hline \\ \hline \\ \\ \hline \\ \\ \hline \\ \hline \\ \hline \\ \hline \\ \\ \hline \\ \hline \\ \hline \\ \hline \\ \\ \hline \\ \hline \\ \hline \\ \hline \\ \\ \hline \\ \\ \hline \\ \\ \hline \\ \\ \hline \\ \\ \hline \\ \hline \\ \hline \\ \hline \\ \hline \\ \hline \\ \hline \\ \\ \hline \\ \\ \hline \\ \hline$$

with C. Linder, N. Rodríguez, P. P. Lange, A. Fromm, Chem. Comm. 2009, 7173.

Low-temperature Pd/Ag-catalyzed decarboxylative cross-coupling

The new protodecarboxylation catalysts are also effective as co-catalysts



with P. P. Lange, N. Rodríguez, C. Linder, A. Fromm, Chem. Eur. J. 2010, 16, 3906.



- Synthesis of arylketones via decarboxylative coupling of α-ketocarboxylates
 - In situ generation of "acyl anions" by decarboxylation and coupling with aryl halides



with F. Rudolphi, C. Oppel, N. Rodriguez, Angew. Chem. 2008, 120, 3085-3088.

Inverse approach to traditional ketone syntheses





Combining Organo- with Bimetallic Catalysis



- imine condensation directly of the carboxylate salt
- decarboxylative cross-coupling
- Optional: hydrolysis of the imine after the reaction is complete

TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT One-Pot Three Component Azomethine Synthesis



with F. Rudolphi, B. Song, Adv. Synth. Catal. 2011, 353, 337



Optimized decarboxylative/isomerization tandem reaction:



neutral conditions, no organometallic reagents
alternatively: in-situ generation of esters from carboxylate salts



M. F. Grünberg



F. Manjolinho



with N. Rodriguez, F. Manjolinho, M. F. Grünberg, **2011**, manuscript in preparation.







Pioneer work: pyrolysis of lead or calcium carboxylates



Homo-ketonization (Librarius, 1606)

Cross-ketonization (Friedel, 1858)



stoichiometric processes, high temperatures, low yields and selectivity

<sup>a) T. H. Easterfield, C. M. Taylor, J. Chem. Soc. 1911, 99, 2298; b) D. M. Cowan, G. H. Jeffrey, A. I. Vogel, J. Chem. Soc. 1940, 171; c) R. Davis, H. P. Schultz, J. Org. Chem. 1962, 27, 854; C. Granito, H. P. Schultz, J. Org. Chem. 1963, 28, 879;
S. Gerchakov, H. P. Schultz, J. Org. Chem. 1967, 32, 1656; d) E. Müller-Erlwein, Chem. Ing. Tech. 1990, 62, 416; e) M. Renz, A. Corma, Eur. J. Org. Chem. 2004, 2036.</sup>



How could one achieve selectivity for the aryl alkyl ketone?

- Aromatic carboxylic acids are more acidic and thus bind preferentially
- Attack at b-position is possible only after exchange with alkyl derivatives



S. Rajadurai, Catal. Rev.-Sci. Eng. 1994, 36,385.



First Catalytic Protocol for Cross-Ketonizations





Scope Regarding Aliphatic Carboxylic Acids



 Various aryl alkyl ketones were synthesized in good yields, many of them inaccessible via Friedel-Crafts-type chemistry :





 Many decarboxylative couplings are being disclosed by a rapidly growing number of scientists, e.g., Myers, Steglich, Toste, Stoltz, Crabtree, Forgione, Becht, Liu, Kanai, Moon, Larrosa, Glorius



P. Zhao, et al., Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2009, 121, 6854.



Oxidative Decarboxylative Couplings





Copper-Catalyzed Insertion of CO₂ into the C–H Bond of Terminal Alkynes



with N. Rodriguez, F. Manjolinho, P. P. Lange, Adv. Synth. Catal. 2010, 352, 2913



Stoichiometric reactions are known:

- Cu-mediated decarboxylative trifluoromethylation by Chambers et al.
 - Large amounts of copper, varying yields, expensive aryl iodides

+
$$CF_3 - CO_2M - \frac{2 \text{ eq. Cul}}{NMP, 16 \text{ h}}$$

G. E. Carr, R. D. Chambers, T. F. Holmes, D. G. Parker, *J. Chem. Soc. Perkin Trans.* **1988**, 921

Dream Reaction: Pd/Cu catalyzed decarboxylative Trifluoromethylation

$$R + CF_{3} - CO_{2}M + CF_{3} - CO_{2}, - MCI + CF_{3} + CF_{3} + CCF_{3}$$

Key issues:

- generate CF₃- using only catalytic amounts of metal
- Transfer the CF₃-group to a cross-coupling catalyst (Pd)
- Find a way to reductively eliminate aryl-CF₃ from Pd catalysts



Successful spot-checks using Ruppert's reagent Jan. 2010



- Fluoride free, more stable CF₃-source required
 - Decarboxylations also involve fluoride additives
 - Idea: Potassium (trifluoromethyl)trimethoxyborate K⁺[CF₃BOR₃]⁻

Break-through by Buchwald et al.

CF₃SiEt₃ as the reagent, aryl chlorides rather than triflates



reductive elimination of CF₃-groups from Pd-complexes works!

E. J. Cho, T. D. Senecal, T. Kinzel, Y. Zhang, D. A. Watson, S. L. Buchwald, Science 2010, 328, 1679.



- Transformation of volatile CF₃SiMe₃ into a crystalline salt
 - Collaboration with G.-V. Röschenthaler, 2003:



Molecular structure of the anion

- Access to multigram quantities, potentially accessible via direct fluorination
- Easy-to-handle, crystalline solid
- Shelf-stable, mp. 116-118°C (decomposition)
- Stable in aprotic polar solvents (e.g. DMF) up to 80°C
- Meanwhile commercially available, ca 300 € / 100g

A. A. Kolomeitsev, A. A. Kadyrov, J. Szczepkowska-Sztolcman, M. Milewska, H. Koroniak, G. Bissky, J. A. Bartene, G.-V. Röschenthaler, *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2003**, *44*, 8273. Single crystall structure: thermal ellipsoids at 50% probability level. Selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [°]: B3-O7 1.488(6), B3-O8 1.1.473(6), B3-O9 1.455(6), B3-C12 1.646(7); O7-B3-O8 115.1(4), O7-B3-O9 116.4(4), O9-B3-O8 101.2(4), O7-B3-C12 103.7(4), O8-B3-C12 110.0(4), O9-B3-C12 110.6(4).



Development of a Cu-catalyzed protocol:

chelating nitrogen containing ligands, DMSO as the solvent





Conversion of carbonyl compounds into trifluoromethylated alcohols

Base-free conditions, good yields, easy workup



Research perspective: Use trifluoroacetate as source of CF₃-groups



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