Double Palladium-Catalyzed Synthesis of Azepines

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Abstract: The synthesis of new 5H-pyridobenzazepine and 5H-dipyridoazepine compounds using as key step a palladium-catalyzed amination–cyclization reaction is reported. By choosing an appropriate combination of ligands and reactants under standardized reaction conditions, N- and S-tricyclic products can be prepared in one step from the appropriate stilbenes.

Key words: azepines, thiepines, palladium, double N- and S-arylation, fused heterocycles

The tricyclic 5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine (iminostilbene) core 1 is a pharmaceutically important subunit in tricyclic therapeutic agents such as carbamazepine (2) and opipramol (3, Figure 1). Carbamazepine (2), a member of tricyclic antidepressant (TCA), was approved by the FDA in 1968 for treatment of complex partial, tonic-clonic, and mixed-action conditions, N- and S-tricyclic products can be prepared in one step from the appropriate stilbenes.

There are several classical efficient synthetic routes available for the synthesis of the iminostilbene moiety: dehydrogenation of 10,11-dihydrodibenz[b,f]azepines, dehydrobromination of 10-bromo-10,11-dihydrodibenz[b,f]azepines, Wagner–Meerwein rearrangement of 9-hydroxymethyl-9,10-dihydroacridine derivatives, dehydration of 10,11-dihydro-10-hydroxydibenz[b,f]azepines, and acid-catalyzed rearrangement of 1-arylindoles. In addition, a highly efficient Pd/ligand-controlled selective synthesis of 5H-dibenz[b,f]azepines in high yield using a two-step reaction sequence has been reported. Thus, using a variety of phosphines, DavePhos was established as the most effective among the ligands investigated for the synthesis of 1.

Recently, a very interesting approach to the synthesis of 5H-dibenz[b,f]azepines was developed. It comprised the reaction of three components, ortho-substituted aryl iodides, o-bromoanilines, and norbornadiene in a palladium-catalyzed reaction, followed by retro-Diels–Alder reaction of the norbornadiene intermediate to afford the corresponding iminostilbene products in good yields.

The palladium-catalyzed double N-arylation reaction has been widely used for the construction of different heterocyclic skeletons: carbazoles, thienopyrroles, indoles, and phenazines. On the other hand, very few examples of double palladium-catalyzed amination reactions for the formation of azepine ring system are known. The synthesis of symmetric and unsymmetric analogues of antidepressant imipramine was investigated in the presence of Pd(OAc)₂/Xphos or Pd II–XPhos precatalyst which were recently developed by Buchwald and co-workers. The yields of synthesized 3,7-disubstituted imipramines were moderate to good. Herein, we report on the synthesis of new 5H-pyridobenzazepine and 5H-dipyridoazepine compounds using as the key step a palladium-catalyzed amination–cyclization reaction. We reasoned that co-operative ortho effects could be exploited to obtain stilbenes (Z)-8 and (Z)-9 with good selectivity. To that end, the alcohol 18 was transformed into its corresponding bromo derivative, which was used for the preparation of phosphonium salt 5. On the other hand, phosphonium salt 7 was prepared using a similar reaction sequence starting from commercially available 2-bromobenzaldehyde (Scheme 1). The Wittig reaction of phosphonium salts with freshly prepared 4-chloropyridine-3-carbaldehyde afforded the desired expected ethylene derivatives 8 and 9. The unstable 4-chloropyridine-3-carbaldehyde was always prepared immediately before its use. After subsequent chromatographic separation Z isomer 8 was obtained in 54% yield, and corresponding E isomer in 12% yield. Structural characterization of two separated isomers was achieved by 1H NMR spectroscopy (see Supporting Information).

Stilbene (Z,E)-9 were obtained in lower yields, but better stereoselectivity of two geometric isomers ([Z]-9 and (E)-9, 24:1) were observed (see Supporting Information). The
Synthesis of ethylene derivatives 8 and 9

Table 1 Palladium-Catalyzed Double Amination Reactions of 8 under Various Conditions$^a,b$

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>Pd source (mol%)</th>
<th>Ligand (mol%)</th>
<th>Yield (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pd(OAc)$_2$ (5)</td>
<td>L1 (10)</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pd(OAc)$_2$ (10)</td>
<td>L1 (30)</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pd(OAc)$_2$ (5)</td>
<td>L2 (10)</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pd(OAc)$_2$ (5)</td>
<td>L3 (10)</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Pd(OAc)$_2$ (5)</td>
<td>L4 (10)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$^a$ Reaction conditions: Pd(OAc)$_2$, L, amine (3 equiv), NaOt-Bu (2.8 equiv) in toluene at 100 °C for 48 h under argon atmosphere; isolated yields.

$^b$ Reactions were monitored by TLC and GC–MS.

To conclude, we have developed a simple and efficient palladium-catalyzed method for the synthesis of azepine derivatives. In addition, to the best of our knowledge, for the first time this methodology has been applied to thiepine-core synthesis. Further studies on dibenzostilbene cyclization, optimization of the reaction conditions, and evaluation of medicinal importance of these compounds are under way.

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Table 2  Palladium-Catalyzed Double Amination Reactions of 8 and 9 with Various Aminesa,b

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>R</th>
<th>Pd(OAc)2, JohnPhos RPhMe, NaO-Bu, t-Bu (2.8 equiv) in toluene at 175 °C</th>
<th>PhMe, 100 °C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cl</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Br</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CI</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a Reaction conditions: Pd(OAc)2 (5 mol%), JohnPhos (10 mol%), potassium thioacetate (1 equiv), NaO-Bu (1.2 equiv) in toluene at 70 °C for 1 h, and subsequently at 110 °C for 14 h under argon atmosphere; isolated yields.

b Reaction conditions: Pd(OAc)2 (5 mol%), dppf (10 mol%), potassium thioacetate (1 equiv), NaO-Bu (1.2 equiv) in toluene at 175 °C for 90 min (microwave) under argon atmosphere; isolated yields.

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Supporting Information for this article is available online at http://www.thieme-connect.com/ejournals/toc/synlett. Included are detailed experimental procedures and spectra for all isolated compounds.

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Table 3  Synthesis of Thiepine Derivatives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>R</th>
<th>Pd(OAc)2 (5 mol%) dppf (10 mol%) KSAc, NaO-Bu</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cl</td>
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<td>Br</td>
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General Procedure for Pd-Catalyzed Synthesis of Azepines

A reaction tube containing a stirrer bar was evacuated and backfilled with argon. The tube was then charged with Pd(OAc)$_2$ (5 mol%), JohnPhos (10 mol%), and NaO-t-Bu (2.8 equiv) under argon. Toluene was added. After stirring at r.t. for 5 min, aryl halide (1 equiv) and amine (3 equiv) were added, and the tube was returned under argon and capped. The reaction mixture was heated with stirring to 100 °C for the appropriate time. Products were purified by preparative column chromatography.

N-N-Dimethyl-3-[(5H-pyrido[4,3-b][1]benzazepin-5-yl)propan-1-amine (10)

Yield 81%; yellow oil. $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl$_3$): $\delta$ = 8.35 (d, $J$ = 5.5 Hz, 1 H), 7.87–7.72 (m, 1 H), 7.50–7.35 (m, 1 H). $^1$C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl$_3$): $\delta$ = 150.0, 149.1, 134.1, 133.6, 129.5, 129.2, 129.1, 124.1, 121.1, 114.7, 51.7, 48.2, 45.5, 25.4. IR (ATR): 3413, 3023, 2944, 2858, 2817, 1635, 1578, 1481, 1419, 1392, 1332, 1244, 1184, 1100, 919, 831, 794, 766 cm$^{-1}$. ESI-HRMS (+): $m/z$ = 280.18125 [M + H]$^+$ (error: 1.51 ppm).

(24) Procedure for the Microwave Pd-Catalyzed Synthesis of Thiepines 18 and 19

A reaction tube containing a stirring bar was evacuated and backfilled with argon. The tube was charged with Pd(OAc)$_2$ (5 mol%), dppf (10 mol%), NaO-t-Bu (1.2 equiv), and KS[Ac] (1.2 equiv) under argon. The flask was capped with a rubber septum, and toluene was added. The reaction mixture was heated in a Biotage Initiator 2.5 microwave at 175 °C for 90 min. After completion, the reaction mixture was cooled to r.t., and the products were purified by preparative column chromatography.


Yield 51%; white solid; mp 80–82 °C. $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl$_3$): $\delta$ = 8.48–8.44 (m, 2 H), 7.48–7.44 (m, 1 H), 7.36–7.28 (m, 1 H), 7.28–7.24 (m, 1 H), 7.13 (d, $J$ = 12.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.69 (d, $J$ = 12.5 Hz, 1 H). $^1$C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl$_3$): $\delta$ = 149.9, 149.8, 144.7, 139.7, 136.1, 135.4, 133.0, 132.7, 130.4, 129.9, 129.7, 128.7, 126.3. IR (ATR): 3056, 3025, 2927, 2855, 1738, 1629, 1563, 1538, 1471, 1442, 1416, 1389, 1306, 1275, 1174, 1056, 885, 836 cm$^{-1}$. ESI-HRMS (+): $m/z$ = 212.05209 [M + H]$^+$ (error: –3.58 ppm).