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Transition-Metal-Catalyzed Regioselective Arylation and Vinylation of Carboxylic Acids

Tetsuya Satoh* and Masahiro Miura*

Department of Applied Chemistry, Faculty of Engineering, Osaka University, Suita, Osaka 565-0871, Japan
Fax +81(6)68797362; E-mail: satoh@chem.eng.osaka-u.ac.jp; miura@chem.eng.osaka-u.ac.jp

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Abstract: Arene and heteroarene carboxylic acids undergo regioslective arylation and vinylation reactions at the ortho-(cine-) and ipso-positions of their carboxyl function under transition-metal catalysis accompanied by C–H and C–C bond cleavages, respectively. The recent progress of the directed reactions is summarized in this article.

1 Introduction

The transition-metal-catalyzed C–C bond formation reactions via C–H1 and C–C2 bond cleavages have attracted much attention from the atom- and step-economic and chemoselective points of view. So far, a variety of catalytic processes involving different modes to activate the relatively inert bonds have been developed. Among the most promising activation strategies is to utilize the proximate effect by coordination of a functional group in a given substrate to the metal center of a catalyst, which enables regioselective functionalization.

As pioneering work in this area, Murai and co-workers reported the ruthenium-catalyzed ortho-alkylation of aromatic ketones with alkenes.3 Since the breakthrough, not only alkylation but also arylation and vinylation have been developed, which are recognized to be powerful tools to precisely construct π-conjugated molecules. As such examples, we reported the ortho- and ipso-arylation reactions of tert-benzyl alcohols under palladium catalysis (Scheme 1).4,8

These reactions proceed via (1) oxidative addition of aryl halide (ArX) to Pd0 generated in situ to give an arylpalladium species (ArPdX) and (2) coordination of the alcoholic oxygen to the palladium center to form an arylpalladium alkoxide as a key intermediate (Scheme 2). Depending on the reaction conditions, the intermediate selectively undergoes cyclopalladation to produce an ortho-arylated product (step (3), path a) or β-carbon elimination to yield an ipso-arylated product with the release of a ketone (path b).

On the other hand, a carboxyl group is also known to act as a good anchor to bring about the directed substitution. The stoichiometric reactions of transition-metal complexes with benzoic and acrylic acids involving the directed C–H bond cleavages were reported (Scheme 4).12,13 Larock and co-workers also disclosed the stoichi-
metric ortho-vinylation of benzoic acid via ortho-thallation, transmetalation, and alkene insertion (Scheme 5).¹⁴

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{CO}_2\text{H} + \text{MX}_2 & \rightarrow \text{CX}_2 \rightarrow \text{CO}_2\text{C}_2\text{HX} \\
\text{R} & \rightarrow \text{CO}_2\text{R} \rightarrow \text{CO}_2\text{R} - \text{HX}
\end{align*}
\]

Scheme 4

In 1998, we succeeded in conducting this transformation catalytically by using a Pd/Cu catalyst system under air (Scheme 5).¹⁵ Then, as shown in Scheme 7, not only ortho- (cine-) functionalization (path a) but also ipso-arylation¹⁶,¹⁷ and vinylation reactions accompanied by decarboxylation (path b) have been developed. The reactions of carboxylic acids appear to be synthetically more important because of their wide availability as building blocks. In this review, recent examples of such regioselective arylation and vinylation reactions directed by the key substituent are presented.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{CO}_2\text{H} + \text{Ti(OCOCF}_3)_3 & \rightarrow \text{CO}_2\text{H} \\
\text{CO}_2\text{Me} & \rightarrow \text{CO}_2\text{Me} \\
\end{align*}
\]

Scheme 5

2 ortho- (cine-) Arylation

In 2007, Yu and co-workers reported that the regioselective phenylation of benzoic acids at the ortho-position takes place by treatment with a phenylboronate in the presence of Pd(OAc)₂, benzoquinone/Ag₂CO₃, and K₂HPO₄ as catalyst, oxidant, and base, respectively (Scheme 8).¹⁸ Under similar conditions, aliphatic acids such as pivalic acid also undergo phenylation at the β-position, albeit with low efficiency.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{CO}_2\text{H} + \text{PhB} & \rightarrow \text{CO}_2\text{Ph} \\
\text{Pd(OAc)}_2 & \rightarrow \text{PhCO}_2\text{Ph}
\end{align*}
\]

Scheme 8

It has been suggested that this type of C–H substitution reactions with the aid of a directing group using organometallic reagents proceeds through Pd⁹⁰/Pd⁰ catalysis.¹⁴ Thus, as shown in Scheme 9, the reaction begins with the formation of a palladacycle intermediate via coordination of the directing group (Y) to Pd⁹⁰X₂ species and cyclopalladation. Transmetalation between the intermediate and organometallic reagent RM and the subsequent reductive elimination results in the formation of an ortho- (cine-) substituted product and Pd⁰ species. The latter is reoxidized to regenerate the active Pd⁹⁰ species.
bulky PBu(adamantyl)₂ ligand, gives an arylpalladium intermediate, followed by anionic ligand exchange with cesium benzoate to form an arylpalladium benzoate. Then, cyclopalladation and reductive elimination take place to release an ortho-arylated benzoate and regenerate Pd⁰ species. The high magnitude of KIE (k_D/k_H = 4.4), observed in the reactions using ortho-deuterated benzoic acids, indicates that the rate-determining step may be the cyclopalladation step.

Later, the ortho-arylation reactions of benzoic acids as well as phenylacetic acids with potassium aryltrifluoroborate salts have been disclosed (Scheme 10). These reactions proceed smoothly even under conditions using O₂ or air (20 atm) in place of the silver salt as oxidant.

Daugulis and co-workers reported that the ortho-arylation of benzoic acids can also be conducted with aryl chlorides, which are less expensive and more widely available than the arylboron reagents (Scheme 11).

The proposed reaction mechanism is illustrated in Scheme 12, which is similar to that for the ortho-arylation of tert-benzyl alcohols via Pd⁰/Pd²⁰ catalysis (Scheme 2, path a). Thus, oxidative addition of ArCl toward Pd⁰ species, activated by an electron-donating,
arylation (type a) and ipso-arylation (type b) (Scheme 14).

![Scheme 14](image)

Plausible pathways for the formation of tetraarylthiophenes are depicted in Scheme 15. The cine-arylation (type a) at the 4-position appears to occur prior to the decarboxylative ipso-arylation (type b) at the 3-position. The direct arylation (type c) at the 2- and 5-positions may take place in any sequences.

![Scheme 15](image)

Similarly, 3-furancarboxylic acid and 1-methyl-2-indolecarboxylic acid also undergo tetra- and diarylation, respectively (Schemes 16 and 17).

![Scheme 16](image)

3 ortho- (cine-) Vinylation

As shown in Scheme 6, we reported an early example for the ortho-vinylation of benzoic acid, in which the substrate oxidatively couples with butyl acrylate in a 1:1 manner under palladium catalysis to afford the corresponding phthalide derivative. In contrast, by using a rhodium catalyst in place of Pd, the 1:2 coupling of these substrates involving dissubstitution at both the ortho-positions takes place selectively. Thus, treatment of benzoic acid with butyl or ethyl acrylate in the presence of [Cp*RhCl2]2 (1 mol%), Cp* = η5-pentamethylcyclopentadienyl and Cu(OAc)2·H2O (5 mol%) under air affords 7-vinylphthalides (Scheme 18).

![Scheme 18](image)

A plausible mechanism for the rhodium-catalyzed divinylation of benzoic acid is illustrated in Scheme 19. Coordination of the carboxylate oxygen to Cp*RhIII species gives an RhIII benzoate A. Subsequent cyclorhodation to form a rhodacycle intermediate B, alkene insertion, and β-hydride elimination occur to produce an ortho-monovinylated benzoic acid. The second vinylation takes place via similar steps to lead to a 2,6-divinylated benzoic acid, which may undergo nucleophilic cyclization to form the final product.
In contrast to the acrylates, N,N-dimethylacrylamide and acrylonitrile react with benzoic acid in a 1:1 manner under similar conditions (Scheme 20). In the cases with these alkenes, the cyclization exclusively occurs after the first vinylation (see Scheme 19), as does in the palladium-catalyzed reaction.\(^\text{15}\)

This reaction proceeds smoothly by using stoichiometric or excess amounts of Cu(OAc)\(_2\)•H\(_2\)O and LiOAc (Scheme 22). Without the latter additive, the product yields decrease to less than half.

It should be noted that the palladium-catalyzed direct vinylation (Fujiwara-Moritani reaction) of the parent indoles such as 1-methylindole usually occurs at the electron-rich C3-position due to the electrophilic nature of the reaction.\(^\text{35}\) Actually, under similar conditions with the Pd(OAc)\(_2\)/Cu(OAc)\(_2\)/H\(_2\)O/LiCl system, 1-methylindole reacts with butyl acrylate to give C3-vinylated product selectively (Scheme 23).

Gaunt and co-workers reported the solvent-controlled regioselective vinylation of indoles by Fujiwara-Moritani reaction.\(^\text{36}\) Thus, C3-vinylated products are produced almost exclusively in DMF/DMSO, whereas C2-vinylation takes place predominantly in dioxane/AcOH. However, the scope for the C2-vinylation is still limited and a relatively high palladium loading is required. The reaction of the carboxylic acid enables vinylation at a complimentary position to that of Fujiwara-Moritani reaction. Using this procedure, C3-vinylation on pyrrole\(^\text{37}\) and benzofuran rings can also be achieved (Scheme 24), which are known to be more difficult in Fujiwara-Moritani reaction without the aid of the removable directing group.

---

In Scheme 20, 1-Methylindole-3-carboxylic acid undergoes similar cine-vinylation directed by its carboxyl function on treatment with acrylates in the presence of a palladium catalyst and a copper salt oxidant.\(^\text{27}\) On the heterocyclic system, interestingly, the subsequent decarboxylation\(^\text{28-34}\) takes place readily prior to the nucleophilic cyclization (Scheme 21).

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In 2010, Yu and co-workers reported that phenylacetic acids undergo ortho-vinylation in the presence of Pd(OAc)₂ (5 mol%), benzoquinone (5 mol%), and KHCO₃ (2 equiv) under oxygen (1 atm) in tert-amyl alcohol to afford the corresponding (2-vinylphenyl)acetic acids (Scheme 25).  

\[
\text{Scheme 25}
\]

In some cases, the regioselectivity of the vinylation on unsymmetrically substituted phenylacetic acids is enhanced by the addition of a suitable amino acid ligand, such as N-formylisoleucine (Scheme 26).

\[
\text{Scheme 26}
\]

By using a chiral amino acid ligand, the enantioselective vinylation of diphenylacetic acids can be achieved (Scheme 27). N-Boc protected L-isoleucine is the ligand of choice in this reaction.

\[
\text{Scheme 27}
\]

Benzoic acids are found to couple not only with alkenes but also with alkynes via the cleavage of ortho C–H bond under rhodium catalysis. Thus, the reaction of benzoic acid with diphenylacetylene (1.2 equiv) proceeds efficiently in the presence of [Cp*RhCl]₂ (1 mol%) and Cu(OAc)₂•H₂O (2 equiv) under N₂ in o-xylene to produce a 1:1 oxidative coupling product, 3,4-diphenylisocoumarin (Scheme 28). Dialkylacetylenes such as 4-octyne and 8-hexadecyne also undergo the coupling with benzoic acid effectively to afford the corresponding 3,4-dialkylisocoumarins in good yields. The reactions of unsymmetrical alkyphenylacetylenes give 4-alkyl-3-phenylisocoumarins predominantly. In these reactions, a rhodacycle intermediate B*, generated in a similar manner to that in the reaction with alkenes (B in Scheme 19), may undergo alkyne insertion to form a seven-membered intermediate C and successive reductive elimination to form an isocoumarin.

\[
\text{Scheme 28}
\]

From the same substrates, benzoic acids and alkynes, 1,2,3,4-tetrasubstituted naphthalenes can be exclusively produced as 1:2 coupling products by using [Cp*RhCl]₂ and Ag₂CO₃ as catalyst and oxidant, respectively (Scheme 29). In these cases, a seven-membered iridacycle intermediate C*, generated in a similar manner to that in the rhodium-catalyzed reaction (C in Scheme 28), may undergo decarboxylation rather than reductive elimination. Subsequently, the second alkyne insertion and reductive elimination take place to produce a tetrasubstituted naphthalene.
Besides benzoic acids, heteroaromatic carboxylic acids also undergo the 1:1 coupling with diphenylacetylene in DMF under rhodium catalysis. As shown in Scheme 30, bi- and tricyclic fused heteroaromatic systems can be constructed effectively through the process.

In contrast to benzoic acids (Scheme 29), heteroaromatic carboxylic acids such as 1-methylindole-3-carboxylic acid hardly undergo the decarboxylative 1:2 coupling with the iridium catalyst (Scheme 31, path a). To our delight, the 1:2 coupling was found to proceed efficiently by the use of a palladium catalyst in place of Ir to produce the corresponding 1,2,3,4-tetrasubstituted carbazole derivatives selectively (path b).  

1-Phenylindole-3-carboxylic acid undergoes a unique 1:1 coupling with diarylacetylene under similar conditions via double C–H bond cleavage and decarboxylation to produce 5,6-diarylindolo[1,2-α]quinolines predominantly (Scheme 33).
Interestingly, the rhodium-catalyzed 1:1 coupling of benzoic acids with alkynes takes place efficiently even with a catalytic amount (5 mol%) of Cu(OAc)₂•H₂O under air. Thus, the aerobic oxidative coupling using a catalyst system of [Cp*RhCl₂]₂/Cu(OAc)₂•H₂O proceeds in DMF to afford isocoumarins in good to excellent yields (Scheme 34). In particular, anthranilic- and salicylic acid derivatives smoothly undergo the reaction to produce 8-amino- and 8-hydroxyisoquinolines, which are known to exhibit interesting biological and photochemical properties.⁴³-⁴⁷

\[
\text{[Cp*RhCl₂]₂ (1 mol%) } \quad \text{Cu(OAc)₂•H₂O (5 mol%)} \\
\text{MS4A, DMAC, 120 °C, 12 h} \\
\text{Ar = Ph, 52%} \\
\text{Ar = 4-MeC₆H₄, 55%} \\
\text{Ar = 4-MeOC₆H₄, 40%} \\
\text{Ar = 4-\{t-Bu\}C₆H₄, 50%}
\]

Scheme 34

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Pd(OAc)₂ (10 mol%)} \\
\text{Cu(OAc)₂•H₂O (2 equiv)} \\
\text{LiOAc (6 equiv)} \\
\text{MS4A, DMAC, 120 °C, 12 h} \\
\text{Ar = Ph, 94%} \\
\text{Ar = 4-MeC₆H₄, 89%} \\
\text{Ar = 4-MeOC₆H₄, 91%} \\
\text{Ar = 4-ClC₆H₄, 77%}
\end{align*}
\]

Scheme 35

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{[Cp*RhCl₂]₂ (1 mol%)} \\
\text{Cu(OAc)₂•H₂O (5 mol%)} \\
\text{air, α-xylene, 120 °C, 2 h} \\
\text{Ar = Ph, 94%} \\
\text{Ar = 4-MeC₆H₄, 89%} \\
\text{Ar = 4-MeOC₆H₄, 91%} \\
\text{Ar = 4-ClC₆H₄, 77%}
\end{align*}
\]

Scheme 36

N-Phenylantranilic acid also reacts with diarylacetylenes under the aerobic conditions in α-xylene to form the corresponding 8-(N-phenylamino)isocoumarins in good yields (Scheme 35).⁴⁰ However, the use of a different rhodium catalyst system, [RhCl(cod)]²/C₅H₅Rh₂, in place of [Cp*RhCl₂]₂ dramatically changes the reaction pathway (cod = 1,5-cyclooctadiene, C₅H₅Rh₂ = 1,2,3,4-tetraphenyl-1,3-cyclopentadiene). Thus, the reaction with this catalyst in DMF proceeds through double C–H bond cleavage and decarbonylation to afford 4-(1,2-diarylethenyl)-9H-carbazoles.

4  Ipso-Arylation

The transition-metal-catalyzed cross-coupling of aryl halides with arylmetal reagents such as arylboronic acids has been recognized to be one of the most powerful methods for constructing biaryl structures,⁴⁹ which are found in a wide range of important compounds including natural products and organic functional materials. However, the organometallic reagents are usually prepared from air- and moisture-sensitive precursors to be expensive. Recently, during our study of the palladium-catalyzed decarbamoylation/arylation of thiophencarboxamides with aryl bromides,⁵⁰ we observed that 3-phenylbenzoquinone-2-carboxylic acid underwent the regioselective phenylation under similar conditions with bromobenzene accompanied by decarboxylation to form 2,3-diphenylbenzoquinone.⁵¹ As a further earlier
example, Steglich and co-workers reported the stoichiometric intramolecular version of the decarboxylative arylation on only one substrate. In contrast to arylmetal reagents, arene and heteroarene carboxylic acids are an attractive aryl source because of their wide availability and stability. Later, the decarboxylative coupling of various carboxylic acids with aryl halides has been developed.

In 2006, Forgione, Bilodeau, and co-workers reported that a remarkably wider range of heteroarene carboxylic acids undergo the decarboxylative ipso-arylation. As shown in Scheme 37, treatment of 1-methylpyrrole-2-carboxylic acid with aryl bromides in the presence of Pd[P(t-Bu)3]2 (5 mol%), Bu4N+Cl– (1 equiv), and Cs2CO3 (1.5 equiv) in DMF under microwave heating at 170 °C for 8 min produces 2-aryl-1-methylpyroles.

Scheme 37

The ipso-arylation, which is included in the perarylation described above (Schemes 14 and 15, type b), seems to proceed via i) oxidative addition of ArBr toward Pd0 species generated in situ, ii) coordination of carboxyl oxygen, iii) decarboxylation, and iv) reductive elimination (Scheme 38).

Scheme 38

In the same year, Gooßen and co-workers disclosed that 2-substituted benzoic acids also undergo the decarboxylative coupling with aryl bromides in the presence of Pd(acac)2 (1 mol%), Cul (3 mol%), 1,10-phenanthroline (5 mol%), K2CO3 (1.2 equiv), and MS3A in NMP at 160 °C to form the corresponding biaryls (Scheme 39). Without the nitro group or other coordinating substituents at the ortho-position of benzoic acids, the reaction becomes sluggish.

Scheme 39

Becht, Wagner, and co-workers showed that the coupling of even electron-rich benzoic acids with aryl iodides can be conducted efficiently by using a PdCl2/AsPh3 catalyst system in the presence of Ag2CO3 as base. Liu and co-workers reported that potassium perfluorobenzoates undergo the decarboxylative coupling with aryl iodides and bromides even under copper catalysis in the absence of Pd. Recently, a copper-free catalyst system, Pd(acac)2/P(o-tolyl)3 was shown to be effective in the decarboxylative coupling of pyrrole-2-carboxylic acid derivatives with arene dibromides as a conjugated oligomer synthesis.

The decarboxylative arylation of ortho-unsubstituted benzoic acids can be achieved by using aryl triflates in
place of aryl halides.\textsuperscript{62,63} For example, potassium 3-nitrobenzoate reacts with various aryl triflates (2 equiv) smoothly in the presence of PdBr\textsubscript{2} (3 mol%), Cu\textsubscript{2}O (7.5 mol%), Tol-BINAP (4.5 mol%), Tol-BINAP = 2,2′-bis(di-p-tolylphosphino)-1,1′-binaphthyl, and 1,10-phenanthroline (10 mol%) in NMP at 170 °C to form the corresponding biaryl (Scheme 41). The reaction temperature can be reduced to 130 °C, when a Pd/Ag catalyst is employed.\textsuperscript{64}

\begin{align*}
\text{Scheme 41}
\end{align*}

Less expensive aryl tosylates also undergo the decarboxylative coupling with potassium benzoates (Scheme 42).\textsuperscript{65} In these cases, XPhos (XPhos = 2-dicyclohexylphosphino-2′,4′,6′-triisopropylbiphenyl) is the ligand of choice.

\begin{align*}
\text{Scheme 42}
\end{align*}

From atom- and step-economical points of view, arenes and heteroarenes without prefuctionalization are more attractive coupling partners in the decarboxylative coupling, compared with aryl halides and sulfonates. So far, few examples with restricted substrates have appeared in recent papers. Crabtree and co-workers reported that 2,6-dimethoxybenzoic acid couples with 2-phenylpyridine under the conditions using Pd(OAc)\textsubscript{2} (10 mol%), (t-Bu)-XPhos (20 mol%), PPh\textsubscript{3} (40 mol%), and Ag\textsubscript{2}CO\textsubscript{3} (3 equiv) in DMF/DMSO at 130 °C for 12 h (Scheme 45).\textsuperscript{69}

\begin{align*}
\text{Scheme 45}
\end{align*}

The intramolecular version for preparing dibenzofuran derivatives from 2-phenoxoanisic acids was reported by Glorius and co-workers (Scheme 46).\textsuperscript{70}
Besides arene and heteroarene carboxylic acids, electron-deficient and -neutral cinnamic acids decarboxylatively couple with aryl iodides in the presence of PdCl₂ (10 mol%), CyJohnPhos (20 mol%), CyJohnPhos = 2-dicyclohexylphosphinobiphenyl, and Ag₂CO₃ (3 equiv) in DMac (DMac = N,N-dimethylacetamide) at 150 °C to afford stilbenes (Scheme 47), as reported by Wu and co-workers.¹¹

Electron-rich cinnamic acids including ferulic acid (4-hydroxy-3-methoxycinnamic acid) also undergo the decarboxylative arylation upon treatment with arylboronic acids in the presence of Pd(acac)₂ (5 mol%), Cu(OAc)₂·H₂O (2 equiv) and LiOAc (4 equiv) in DMF to produce the corresponding hydroxylated stilbene derivatives (Scheme 48).¹² which are of considerable interest due to their interesting biological³³⁻⁷² and photophysical properties.⁷⁶⁻⁷⁸ Particularly, the decarboxylative reaction of ferulic acid readily takes place even under mild conditions at 60 °C. It should also be noted that the starting materials, hydroxylated cinnamic acids, are widely present in plants and are readily available from biomass as building blocks for high-volume manufacturing.⁷⁹⁻⁸¹

Similar decarboxylative arylation of 5-phenyl-1,3-pentadienoic acid proceeds efficiently at 40 °C (Scheme 49).

The one-pot synthesis of unsymmetrical diarylacetylene from propiolic acid and two kinds of aryl halides via a combination of Sonogashira and decarboxylative couplings has been conducted by Lee and co-workers (Scheme 50).⁸²⁻⁸³ An excess amount of TBAF (6 equiv) is employed as base, together with the catalyst system of Pd₂(dba)₃ (5 mol%, dba = dibenzylideneacetone) and dpdf (10 mol%, dpdf = 1,1'-bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene).

The decarboxylative coupling of various α,β-ynic acids with aryl and vinyl halides and triflates also proceeds smoothly. For example, 3-phenylpropionic acid couples with β-bromostyrene in the presence of Pd₂(dba)₃·CHCl₃ (2 mol%), XantPhos (8 mol%), XantPhos = 4,5-

"\n
Scheme 46

Scheme 48

Scheme 49

Scheme 50
bis(diphenylphosphino)-9,9-dimethylxanthene), Ag2O (1.2 equiv), and LiCl (3 equiv) in DMF at 80 °C to afford (E)-1,4-diphenyl-1-buten-3-yne in 92% yield (Scheme 51).

\[
\text{PhCOOH} + \text{BrPh} \xrightarrow{\text{Pd(dba)$_2$CHCl$_3$ (2 mol%)}} \text{PhCOBrPh}
\]

Scheme 51

Gooßen and co-workers showed that α-oxocarboxylic acids undergo the decarboxylation arylation upon treatment with aryl bromides, Pd(acac-F$_3$)$_2$ (1 mol%), acac = 1,1,1,5,5,5-hexafluoroacetacetonate, CuBr (15 mol%), P(o-tolyl)$_3$ (2 mol%), and 1,10-phenanthroline (15 mol%) in NMP/quinoline at 170 °C for 16 h to form the corresponding aryl ketones (Scheme 52).

\[
\text{R} = \text{H, 83%} \\
\text{R} = \text{Me, 72%} \\
\text{R} = \text{OMe, 64%} \\
\text{R} = \text{NMe$_2$, 59%} \\
\text{R} = \text{CN, 96%}
\]

Scheme 52

Aromatic esters can also be synthesized by the decarboxylative arylation of potassium oxalate monoesters with aryl bromides and chlorides, as reported by Fu, Liu, and co-workers (Scheme 53). The catalyst system of Pd(OOCOCF$_3$)$_2$ (3 mol%) and dCypp (6 mol%), dCypp = 1,3-bis(dicyclohexylphosphino)propane) is effective for the reaction.

\[
\text{O} + \text{BrPh} \xrightarrow{\text{Pd(acac-F$_3$)$_2$ (1 mol%)}} \text{MeOOCPh}
\]

Scheme 53

5 ipso-Vinylation

In 2002, Myers and co-workers disclosed the first effective example of catalytic decarboxylative Mizoroki-Heck-type coupling. For example, treatment of ortho-substituted benzoic acids with styrene in the presence of Pd(OOCOCF$_3$)$_2$ (20 mol%) and Ag$_2$CO$_3$ (3 equiv) in DMF/DMSO at 80-120 °C produces the corresponding stilbenes selectively (Scheme 54).

\[
\text{R} = \text{H, 70%} \\
\text{R} = \text{Me, 66%} \\
\text{R} = \text{OMe, 74%} \\
\text{R} = \text{CF$_3$, 77%} \\
\text{R} = \text{F, 80%} \\
\text{R} = \text{CO$_2$Et, 75%}
\]

Scheme 54

A plausible mechanism for the palladium-catalyzed ipso-vinylation of an ortho-substituted benzoic acid is illustrated in Scheme 55. The reaction seems to proceed via coordination of the carboxylate oxygen to an electron-deficient PdX$_2$ species, decarboxylation, alkene insertion, and β-hydride elimination.
With benzoic acids having no ortho-substituent, not ipso- but ortho-vinylation takes place. The theoretical study by Fu, Liu, and co-workers indicates that electron-donating substituents at the ortho-positions promote the rate-determining decarboxylation step effectively.\(^9\) Recently, Su and co-workers reported that a less expensive oxidant, benzoquinone, can also be employed in place of the silver salt for the decarboxylative vinylation.\(^9\)

The decarboxylative vinylation of o-fluorinated benzoic acids can be conducted by using a Rh\(^1\)-catalyst, as reported by Zhao and co-workers (Scheme 56).\(^9\),\(^9\) In this reaction, small amounts of conjugate addition products are also formed.

Electron-rich cinnamic acids such as ferulic acid undergo the decarboxylative vinylation upon treatment with bromostyrenes in the presence of Pd(OAc)\(_2\) (3 mol%), LiOAc (2 equiv), and LiCl (1.5 equiv) in DMF at 120 °C for 6 h to produce the corresponding 1,4-diaryl-1,3-butadiene derivatives (Scheme 57).\(^9\) 5-Phenyl-2,4-pentadienoic acid also couples with the bromides efficiently to afford 1,6-diaryl-1,3,5-hexatrienes. Such \(\alpha,\alpha\)-diarylbutadiene and hexatriene derivatives are highly important for their application to liquid crystals, illuminants, and nonlinear optical materials.\(^9\)

### 6 Conclusions

The transition-metal-catalyzed arylation and vinylation at the ortho- (cine-) and the ipso-positions of carboxylic acids, in which the carboxylic function acts as directing group and leaving group, respectively, have been significantly developed in recent years. Since a wide range of the substrates are readily available, these reactions can be useful tools in organic synthesis. Further effort will be made continuously to improve catalytic efficiency under milder conditions and to develop new types of coupling.

### References


