Inspecting Insertions:

Recent Advances in Palladium Carbenoid-Mediated

Carbon-Carbon Bond Forming Reactions



Outline of the Proceedings

- 1. Brief Overview of Metal Carbenoids in Synthesis
- 2. Palladium Carbenoids
- 3. Reactions of Palladium Carbenoids
 - a. Insertions
 - **b. Cross-Couplings**
 - c. Extensions of Cross-Couplings
 - d. Outliers and Oddities



4. Outlook





An Overview of Metal Carbenoids in Synthesis: What Is a Carbene? A Brief Review

Carbenes are neutral molecules containing divalent carbon atoms with 2 unshared electrons:



2 possible electronic structures: *singlet* and *triplet*



singlet

- · resembles carbocation and carbanion united on same carbon
- "sp²" filled orbital with empty "p" oribtal
- many R groups (with unshared electrons) can stabilize singlet more than triplet



- triplet
 resembles diradical
 R groups in "sp" orbital, 2 partially filled orthogonal "p" oribtals
 usually more stable than singlet form (Hund's rule)

What the hell is a "carbenoid"?

Carbenoid is a vague term used for a molecule in which all carbons are tetravalent but still has properties resembling those of a carbene, typically the carbene-like carbon has multiple bonds with a metal



Yates postulated: "reaction of ROC:H (or of the RCOC:H-copper complex) probably involves an attack by the unshared pair of electrons on oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur at the electron-deficient methine carbon followed by a prototropic shift" (*JACS* **1952**, *74*, 5376)

Carbene Formation via Diazo Decomposition

Diazo compounds readily decompose thermally or photochemically

- Activation barrier ca. 30 kcal/mol
- Formation of N_2 bond, liberation of $N_{2(q)}$ serve as driving forces



NOTE: it is difficult to know if a "free carbene" reaction in solution actually involves a free carbene or some carbene-like species that reacts in a similar manner

Diazo compounds also readily undergo acid-mediated docomposition



This reactivity is the basis for diazo decomposition catalyzed by lewis acidic metal complexes



Metal Carbenoid Formation via Diazo Decomposition

Lewis acidic transition metal complexes are effective means of decomposing a diazo compound to a metal carbenoids. Note that this mechanism requires the metal complex to act as an "electrophile" for the diazo compound and requires coordinative unsaturation at the metal center



There is relatively little data supporting the mechanistic reality of metal carbenoids, but P. Hoffmann and coworkers have observed Cu-carbenoids as intermediates in cyclopropanation



Mechanism: *JACS* **1996**, *118*, 8162 Rh(II) Mechnistic evidence: *Science*, **1992**, *256*, 1544 Cu carbenoid spectroscopy: *ACIE*, **2001**, *40*, 1288

Common Modes of Reactivity



Common Modes of Reactivity: Cyclopropanation



This mode of carbenoid reaction needs little introduction. Many examples of "free" carbene cyclopropanations in addition to Rh and Cu based carbenoid cyclopropanations.

A familiar example:



Common Modes of Reactivity: Insertion Examples



Carbenes are capable of inserting into many sigma bonds, particularly succesptible are X-H bonds where X = C, N, O, S etc. These reactions are useful for quickly building structural complexity.

Another familiar examples:



Common Modes of Reactivity: Ylide Formation



Lewis bases can often react with metal carbenoids to form ylides, which often undergo subsequent reaction in situ. In cases where pendant olefins are present, these ylides often react as dipoles and participate in [3+2] cycloadditions



TL, 1988, 29, 1677

Testing Your Metal:

Palladium Makes an Appearance

Early reports by Taber described a cyclization of diazo ketones with pendant olefins

Taber postulated that these reactions proceeded through a metalocyclobutane, presumably via Pd-carbenoid



JOC, **1986**, *51*, 3383

Testing Your Metal:

Palladium Makes an Appearance

- Likewise, work by Hoye demonstrates that various Pd sources are capable of yielding similar products as Rh



JOC, 1990, 55, 4519

Palladium-Catalyzed Insertions: Making the Mental Leap

Van Vranken and coworkers report the Kirmse reaction of phenyl dimethylallyl sulfide with TMSCHN₂



They remark that it is not surprising that tetrakis triphenylphosphine palladium was an insufficient catalyst.

Big Idea: Pd (0) is insufficiently lewis acidic to react with diazo compounds to rapidly form a Pd-carbenoid, so the Pd(II) source can be formed in situ from Pd(0)

TL,**1999**, *40*, 1617

Palladium-Catalyzed Insertions: Mechanistic Hypothesis



Tetrahedron, **2001**, *57*, 5219

Palladium-Catalyzed Insertions: Homologations

As transmetallation seemed to work poorly, what about β -hydride eliminations?



However, a surprising desilylation was observed:



Tetrahedron, 2001, 57, 5219

Palladium-Catalyzed Insertions: Benzyl Bromides

Precedent for the observed desilylation:



Palladium-Catalyzed Insertions: External Nucleophiles

Can external nucleophiles be utilized as well?



Palladium-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling with Ethyl Diazoacetate

In 2007, J. Wang and coworkers reported the cross-coupling of vinyl halides with ethyl diazoacetate:



- This formal C-H activation was unexpected, as the insertion of the alkene into the metal carbenoid was the desired product.
- The mechanism is rationalized by the incomplete decomposition of the diazo compound
- Perhaps the lower temperature or lewis basic lone pairs of the ester contribute to diazo stability.



JACS, 2007, 129, 8709

Palladium-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling with Ethyl Diazoacetate

Reaction with corresponding aryl iodide or vinyl iodide



TTT 1 1

Palladium-Carbenoid Catalyzed Cross-Coupling with Arylboronic Acids

In 2008, J. Wang's group reported the successful cross-coupling of diazo compounds with arylboronic acids, utilizing super-stoicheometric benzoquinone as an oxidant





Palladium-Carbenoid Catalyzed Cross-Coupling of N-Tosylhydrazones with Aryl Halides

However, before Wang's report of cross-coupling, Barluenga and coworkers reported the direct cross-coupling of N-tosylhydrazones with aryl halides, utilizing XPhos as a ligand



Palladium-Carbenoid Catalyzed Cross-Coupling of N-Tosylhydrazones with Aryl Halides



Palladium-Carbenoid Catalyzed Cross-Coupling of N-Tosylhydrazones with Aryl Halides



Extensions of the Barluenga Coupling Methodology: Telescoping the Method, Application to Piperidones

Barluenga and coworkers later determined that their coupling reaction could be telescoped directly from the ketone substrate, i.e. the N-tosylhydrazone could be formed *in situ* and reacted upon formation



Chem. Eur. J. 2008, 14, 4792

Further Extensions of the Barluenga Coupling Methodology

Synthesis of enol ethers and enamiens:



- Y = OMe, OBn, N-morpholine
- Can also start with ketone and use "telescope" method for most substrate, yields 5-10% lower

- The authors note that diaryl aldehydes of the type shown above are very unstable, but are useful intermediates in the synthesis of various heterocycles

Synthesis of 3-phenyl indole as a demonstration of method scope:



Chem. Eur. J. 2009, 15, 13291

Further Extensions of the Barluenga Coupling Methodology

Stability of α -chiral ketones to coupling conditions: avoiding loss of stereochemical information associated with kinetic deprotonations by strong amide bases:



Application to amino ketones, positive effect of H₂O on the reaction:



Further Extensions of the Barluenga Coupling Methodology:

Model for High Regioselectivity Observed in Coupling



The insertion is favored from the face opposite of the ring substituent, yielding an intermediate Pd species that only has one proton available for β -hydride elimination

Further Extensions of the Barluenga Coupling Methodology: Aryl Nonaflates Coupled to Make Di– Tri– and Tetrasubstituted Olefins



Looking Forward: New Reactivities, Pushing the Boundaries

Wang and coworkers publish the carbonylation/acyl migratory insertion of Palladium carbenoids:



Note: the reaction is also performed with N-tosylhydrazones, utilizing LiOt-Bu at the base

Looking Forward: New Reactivities, Pushing the Boundaries

Recent work from the Wang group:



Alkyne coupling: *JACS*, **2010**, *132*, 13590 Diazirine coupling: *OL*, **2010**, *12*, 5580

Not Palladium, But Worth Mentioning...

Recently, from the Barluenga group:

- Metal-free reductive coupling of aryl boronic acids and N-tosylhydrazones



- Work on the synthesis of heterocycles using Cu catalysts



Metal-free coupling: *Nature Chem.* **2009**, *1*, 494 CuBr heterocycles: *JACS*, **2010**, *132*, 13200

Summary and Outlook



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