

THE USE OF THE *N*-SUBSTITUTED TRIETHYL-(INDOL-2-YL)BORATE FOR THE PALLADIUM CATALYZED CROSS-COUPPLING REACTION

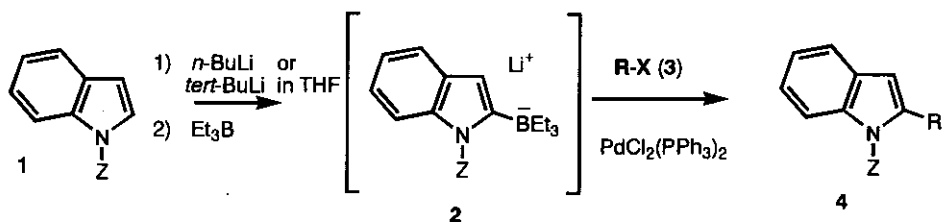
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Abstract - The influence of *N*-substituent of triethyl(indol-2-yl)borate (**2**) on the palladium catalyzed cross-coupling reaction was examined, and an efficiency of triethyl(1-*tert*-butoxycarbonylindol-2-yl)borate (**2e**) could be shown.

In the course of our investigations toward the development of an efficient synthetic methodology based on the synthetic capabilities of indolylborate,¹ we have become interested in the replacement of 1-methyl group of indolylborate (**2a**) for a successful and removable group, and demonstrated some interesting reaction features of 1-methoxymethylindolylborate (**2b**) and 1-methoxyindolylborate (**2f**) in the intramolecular alkyl migration reaction in our previous report.² The palladium catalyzed cross-coupling reaction is one of the synthetic advantages of indolylborate (**2a**), and studies devoted to develop the synthetic potential of the procedure have been our recent interest.³ Therefore, we perceived the need to perform a preliminary assessment of the scope of the applicability of *N*-protecting group of indolylborate (**2**) for the cross-coupling reaction.

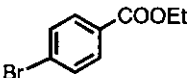
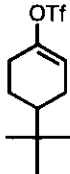
We first examined the palladium catalyzed cross-coupling reaction of indolylborates (**2a** - **f**), and the experimental results are summarized in Table. The lithiation of *N*-substituted indole (**1**) was simply effected by treating a THF solution of indole (**1**) with *tert*-BuLi or *n*-BuLi under an argon atmosphere, and subsequent addition of triethylborane generated indolylborate (**2**) *in situ*.⁴ Only trimethylsilyl migration leading to 2-trimethylsilylindole was observed on the lithiation of 1-trimethylsilylindole (**1g**) with *tert*-



- a: Z = Me
 b: Z = CH₂OMe
 c: Z = CH₂OCH₂CH₂SiMe₃ (SEM)
 d: Z = SO₂Ph
 e: Z = COO-*tert*-Bu (Boc)
 f: Z = OMe
 g: Z = SiMe₃
 h: Z = SiMe₂ *tert*-Bu

Scheme 1

Table The palladium catalyzed cross-coupling reaction of indolylborate (2) with R-X (3)

R-X (3)	Z in 2	Yield (%) of 4 ^{a)}	R-X (3)	Z in 2	Yield (%) of 4 ^{a)}
Ph-I	Me	80		Me	60
	Boc	80		Boc	41
	SO ₂ Ph	35	Ph-CH=CH-Br	Me	80
	MOM	— ^{b)}		Boc	78
	SEM	35		SO ₂ Ph	15
	OMe	70		MOM	— ^{b)}
Ph-Br	Me	80		SEM	30
	Boc	79		OMe	60
	Me	73		Me	80
	Boc	72		Boc	77
				SEM	21
				OMe	73

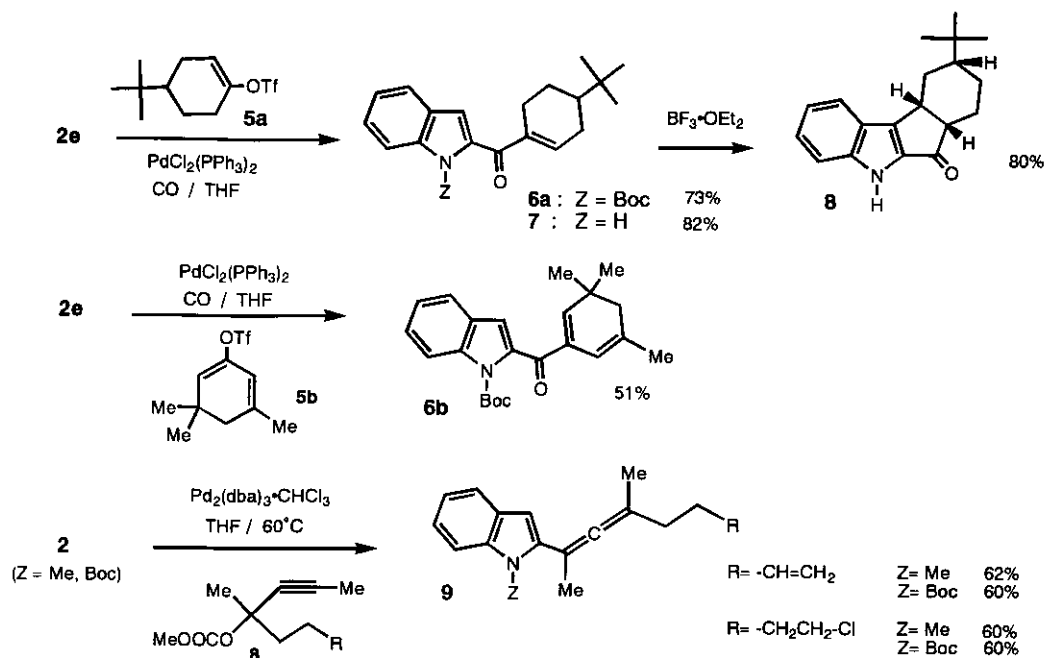
^{a)} All yields are based on indole (1) ^{b)} No isolable products

BuLi, and bulky *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl substituted indole (**1h**) did not undergo any lithiation with *tert*-BuLi.⁵ The cross-coupling reaction was undertaken by heating a mixture of indolylborate (**2**) with R-X (**3**) (1.5 equiv.) in the presence of PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂ (5 mol%) in THF at 60°C under an argon atmosphere for 0.5 h, except for the case of indolylborate (**2d**) for 2 h.

As reported previously,² the problem with indolylborate (**2b**) in the intramolecular alkyl migration process was an unexpected reduction of methoxymethyl (MOM) group to methyl group. The use of **2b** for the present cross-coupling reaction was initially attempted, but with very little success. Subsequently, we turned to the reaction of indolylborate (**2c**) with *N*-trimethylsilylethoxymethyl (SEM) group exerting higher stability,⁶ which permitted the formation of the cross-coupling products (**4**) in still low yields. Less efficiency of indolylborate (**2d**) with strongly electron withdrawing benzenesulfonyl group in this reaction suggested the requirement of the increased electron density at the indole enamine system, as anticipated. However, using weaker electron withdrawing Boc group,⁷ the reaction allowed the formation of the expected cross-coupling products (**4**) from indolylborate (**2e**) in comparable yields to those of **2a**. The thermolability of 1-methoxyindole increases with an increase in temperature,⁸ but 1-methoxyindolylborate (**2f**) nevertheless appeared to be applicable to the present reaction.

Furthermore, indolylborate (**2e**) could be employed for the carbonylative cross-coupling process.⁹ Treatment of **2e** with vinyltriflates (**5**) in the presence of PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂ (5 mol%) in THF at 60°C under carbon monoxide atmosphere (10 atm) for 60 h afforded indolylketones (**6**) in moderate to good yields (the reaction of **2a** with **5a** and **5b** produced the corresponding ketones in 77% and 69%, respectively). The deprotection of indole nitrogen of **6a** under an acidic condition gave ketone (**7**) in 82% yield, and subsequent exposure of **7** to the cyclization reaction with BF₃•OEt₂ in benzene provided cyclopenta-[*b*]indole (**8**) in 80% yield. Also, the use of **2e** could be extended to the reaction with propargyl carbonate (**9**) in the presence of Pd₂(dba)₃•CHCl₃ (5 mol%) in THF at 60°C,¹⁰ producing 2-allenylindoles (**10**) as well as **2a**.

We have demonstrated that triethyl(1-*tert*-butoxycarbonylindol-2-yl)borate (**2e**) can be used for the palladium catalyzed cross-coupling reaction, and we are currently exploiting the use of **2e** as a potential intermediate for the construction of more complex indole derivatives.



Scheme 2

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