



Smith, Joshua J. and Best, Daniel and Lam, Hon Wai
(2016) Copper-catalyzed borylative coupling of
vinylazaarenes and N-Boc imines. Chemical
Communications . ISSN 1364-548X

Access from the University of Nottingham repository:

<http://eprints.nottingham.ac.uk/31806/1/HWL%20JoshDan%20Vinylazaarene%20Borylative%20Coupling%20with%20Imines%20Submission%20%28Revised%29%20Feb%202016.pdf>

Copyright and reuse:

The Nottingham ePrints service makes this work by researchers of the University of Nottingham available open access under the following conditions.

This article is made available under the University of Nottingham End User licence and may be reused according to the conditions of the licence. For more details see:
http://eprints.nottingham.ac.uk/end_user_agreement.pdf

A note on versions:

The version presented here may differ from the published version or from the version of record. If you wish to cite this item you are advised to consult the publisher's version. Please see the repository url above for details on accessing the published version and note that access may require a subscription.

For more information, please contact eprints@nottingham.ac.uk

Copper-catalyzed borylative coupling of vinylazaarenes and *N*-Boc imines

Received 00th January 20xx,
Accepted 00th January 20xx

Joshua. J. Smith,^{ab} Daniel Best,^{ab} and Hon Wai Lam^{*ab}

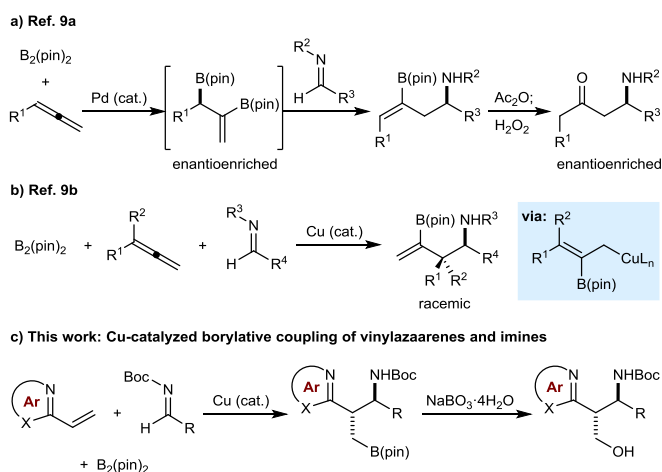
DOI: 10.1039/x0xx00000x

www.rsc.org/

Cu-catalyzed three-component couplings of vinylazaarenes, $B_2(\text{pin})_2$, and *N*-Boc imines are described. Oxidation of the initially formed boronate gives azaarene-containing, Boc-protected amino alcohols with reasonable to good diastereoselectivities.

Nitrogen-containing aromatic heterocycles (azaarenes) and α -branched amines are common structures in biologically active molecules. New catalytic reactions that can assemble compounds containing both of these motifs in a convergent and stereocontrolled manner are therefore highly valuable.¹ In this context, we have described enantioselective Pd-catalyzed additions of alkylazaarenes to *N*-Boc imines,² and enantioselective Cu-catalyzed reductive couplings of vinylazaarenes with *N*-Boc imines.³ However, the integration of such coupling reactions with the simultaneous introduction of another, versatile functional group that can be exploited in subsequent manipulations would open up additional synthetic possibilities. Given the widely recognized utility of organoboron compounds,⁴ and in connection with our interest in the use of azaarenes as activating groups in catalytic reactions,^{5,6,7} we were prompted to examine the borylative coupling of vinylazaarenes with imines. Precedent for such a transformation is limited; although numerous borylative three-component coupling reactions have been described,^{8,9} none employ alkenylazaarenes, and to our knowledge, only two examples employ imines (Scheme 1a and 1b).⁹ The Morken group has reported enantioselective Pd-catalyzed diborations of allenes, followed by the addition of imines to the resulting bisboronates to give homoallylic amines (Scheme 1a).^{9a} After acetylation of the amine and oxidation, β -acetamidoketones were isolated in good yields and high enantioselectivities.^{9a} Recently, Procter and co-workers described Cu-catalyzed

Previous three-component borylative couplings of imines



Scheme 1 Catalytic borylative three-component couplings of imines.

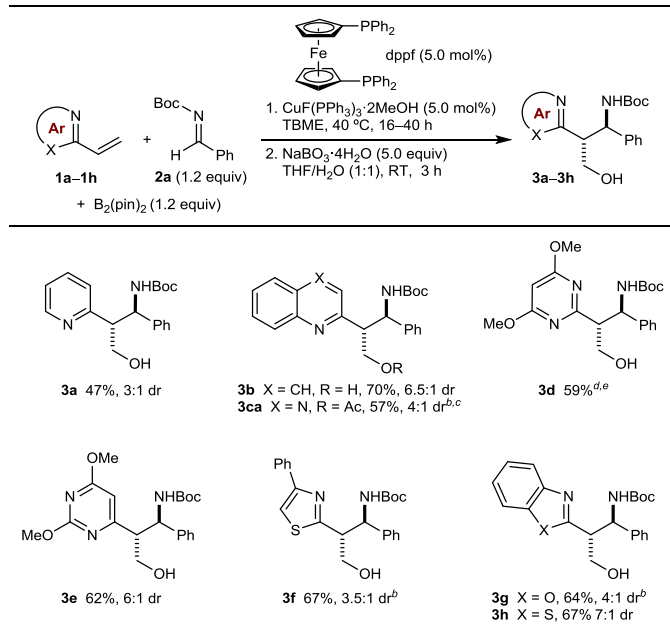
borylative couplings of allenes with imines that give branched homoallylic amines containing an alkenylboronate (Scheme 1b).^{9b} Extension of these processes to other substrate classes would lead to important increases in reaction scope. Herein, we report the first examples of Cu-catalyzed borylative couplings of vinylazaarenes with *N*-Boc imines to give highly functionalized heterocycle-containing building blocks (Scheme 1b).^{10,11}

Our investigation began with a search for effective conditions for the three-component coupling of various vinylazaarenes and aldimines with bis(pinacolato)diboron. From these studies, we found that stirring a solution of the vinylazaarene (1.0 equiv), *N*-Boc aldimine (1.2 equiv), and $B_2(\text{pin})_2$ (1.2 equiv) in TBME at 40 °C in the presence of $\text{CuF}(\text{PPh})_3 \cdot 2\text{MeOH}$ (5.0 mol%) and dppf (5.0 mol%) successfully gave borylative coupling products with high conversions.^{12,13,14} These products undergo decomposition on silica gel, and were therefore oxidized to the corresponding chromatographically stable primary alcohols with $\text{NaBO}_3 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$.¹⁵ Under these conditions, a range of vinylazaarenes **1a–1h** underwent smooth reaction with the *N*-Boc imine **2a** derived from

^a EaStCHEM, School of Chemistry, University of Edinburgh, Joseph Black Building, The King's Buildings, David Brewster Road, Edinburgh, EH9 3FJ, UK.

^b School of Chemistry, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD, UK. E-mail: hon.lam@nottingham.ac.uk

† Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) available: Experimental procedures, spectroscopic data for new compounds, and crystallographic data for **3b** and **3h**. CCDC 1431894 and 1431895. See DOI: 10.1039/x0xx00000x

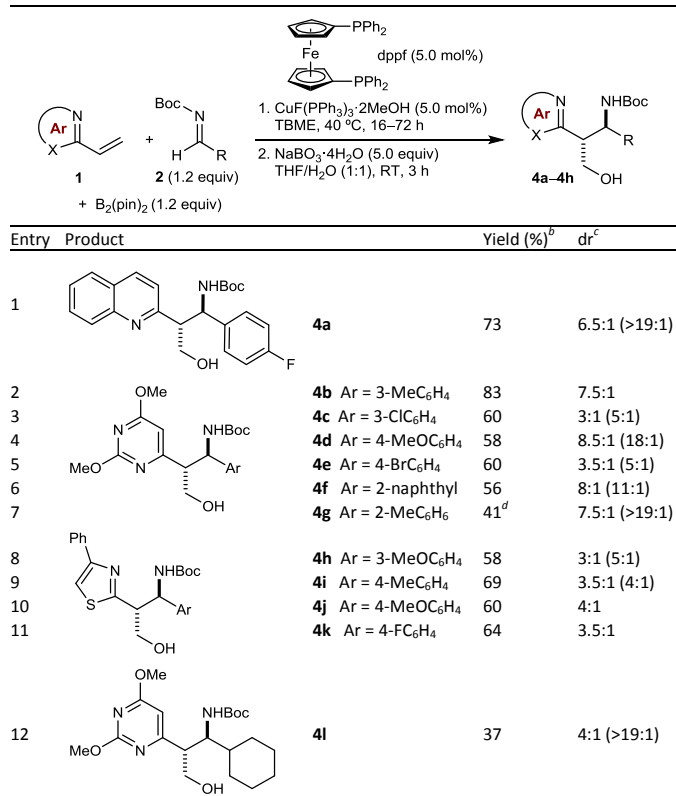
Table 1 Borylative coupling of vinylazaarenes with imine **2a**.^a

^a Reactions were conducted using 0.50 mmol of vinylazaarene in TBME (1.25 mL). Yields are of isolated single diastereomers unless otherwise stated. Diastereomeric ratios were determined by ¹H NMR analysis of the unpurified reaction mixtures. ^b Isolated as a mixture of diastereomers in the same ratio as in the unpurified reaction mixture. ^c Unpurified **3c** was treated with Ac₂O/pyridine to give **3ca** to facilitate purification. ^d Reaction performed at 60 °C. ^e Overlapping signals precluded accurate determination of dr by ¹H NMR analysis.

benzaldehyde to give azaarene-containing, Boc-protected amino alcohols **3a**, **3b**, and **3d–3h** (Table 1). Products containing pyridine (**3a**), quinoline (**3b**), one of two different dimethoxypyrimidines (**3d** and **3e**), 5-phenylthiazole (**3f**), benzoxazole (**3g**), or benzothiazole (**3h**) groups were prepared in reasonable to good yields and diastereoselectivities (up to 73% yield over two steps and up to 7:1 dr). The relative configurations of the products were assigned by analogy with those of **3b** and **3h**, which were determined by X-ray crystallography to be the *anti*-diastereomers.¹⁶ In the case of **3d**, a higher temperature of 60 °C was required for good conversion. When 2-vinylquinoxaline was employed as the substrate, acetylation of the primary alcohol **3c** was performed to give **3ca** to facilitate separation from pinacol, a byproduct of the boronate oxidation.¹⁵

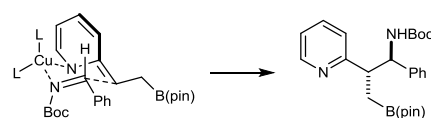
Table 2 presents the results of borylative coupling of various vinylazaarenes with a range of *N*-Boc aldimines, which gave products with diastereoselectivities ranging from 3:1 dr (entry 8) to 8.5:1 dr (entry 4). Imines derived from benzaldehydes containing methyl (entries 2, 7, and 9), fluoro (entries 1 and 11), chloro (entry 3), bromo (entry 5), or methoxy substituents (entries 4 and 8) at various positions of the aromatic ring are compatible with this process. The *N*-Boc imine derived from cyclohexane carboxaldehyde also successfully underwent borylative coupling, although with moderate conversion and diastereoselectivity (entry 12).

A tentative stereochemical model that could account for

Table 2 Borylative coupling of vinylazaarenes with various imines.^a

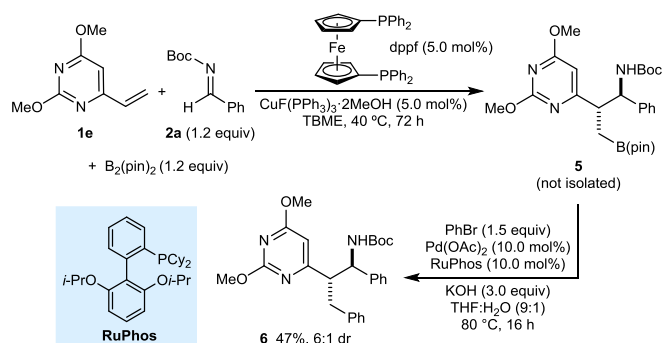
^a Reactions were conducted using 0.50 mmol of vinylazaarene in TBME (1.25 mL). ^b Yield of isolated products. ^c Diastereomeric ratios were determined by ¹H NMR analysis of the unpurified reaction mixtures. Ratios in parentheses are those of the isolated product. Where ratios in parentheses are absent, the products were isolated in the same ratio as in unpurified reaction mixture. ^d A second fraction consisting of a 2:1 mixture of diastereomers was also obtained in 17% yield.

the *anti*-selectivity of these reactions involves the addition of an *E*-azaallylcopper species to the imine in a chair-like transition state (Figure 1). However, we cannot exclude alternative models involving boat-like structures or open transition states.

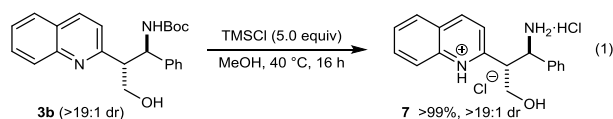
**Figure 1** Possible stereochemical model.

To further demonstrate the synthetic utility of the borylative coupling products, the reaction of vinylpyrimidine **1e** and *N*-Boc imine **2a** was repeated to give alkylboronate **5**. Without isolation, **5** was reacted with bromobenzene under Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling conditions described previously¹⁷ using RuPhos¹⁸ as the ligand, to give the phenylated product **6** in 47% yield over two steps as a single diastereoisomer (crude dr 6:1) (Scheme 2).^{19,20}

The Boc group of the products may be removed under acidic conditions, as demonstrated by the deprotection of **3b** using TMSCl in MeOH,^{2,3} which provided the bishydrochloride



Scheme 2 Sequential borylative coupling and Suzuki reaction.



salt **7** in >99% yield (eq 1).

In conclusion, we have demonstrated the utility of vinylazaarenes as substrates for copper-catalyzed borylative couplings with *N*-Boc imines. The reactions provide, after oxidation of the initially formed alkylboronates, azaarene-containing, Boc-protected amino alcohols with moderate-to-good diastereoselectivities. Future work will be focused on the development of enantioselective variants of this process.²¹

We thank the EPSRC (Industrial CASE studentship to J.J.S. and Leadership Fellowship to H.W.L, grant nos. EP/I004769/1 and EP/I004769/2), GlaxoSmithKline, and the ERC (Starting Grant No. 258580) for financial support. We thank Dr William Lewis at the University of Nottingham for X-ray crystallography, and Dr. Alan Nadin (GlaxoSmithKline) for helpful discussions.

Notes and references

- For reviews of catalytic enantioselective Friedel-Crafts additions of electron-rich azaarenes to imines or enamides, see: (a) T. B. Poulsen and K. A. Jørgensen, *Chem. Rev.*, 2008, **108**, 2903-2915. (b) M. Bandini and A. Eichholzer, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2009, **48**, 9608-9644. (c) S.-L. You, Q. Cai and M. Zeng, *Chem. Soc. Rev.*, 2009, **38**, 2190-2201. (d) G. Bartoli, G. Bencivenni and R. Dalpozzo, *Chem. Soc. Rev.*, 2010, **39**, 4449-4465. (e) V. Terrasson, R. M. de Figueiredo and J. M. Campagne, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.*, 2010, 2635-2655. (f) S. Kobayashi, Y. Mori, J. S. Fossey and M. M. Salter, *Chem. Rev.*, 2011, **111**, 2626-2704.
- D. Best, S. Kujawa and H. W. Lam, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2012, **134**, 18193-18196.
- B. Choi, A. Saxena, J. J. Smith, G. H. Churchill and H. W. Lam, *Synlett*, 2015, **26**, 350-351.
- For reviews, see: (a) in *Boronic Acids: Preparation and Applications in Organic Synthesis, Medicine and Materials (Volume 1 and 2), Second Edition*, ed. D. G. Hall, Wiley-VCH Verlag GmbH & Co. KGaA, Weinheim, Germany, 2011. (b) D. S. Matteson, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2013, **78**, 10009-10023. (c) D. Leonori and V. K. Aggarwal, *Acc. Chem. Res.*, 2014, **47**, 3174-3183.
- D. Best and H. W. Lam, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2014, **79**, 831-845.
- For previous work from our group on C=N-containing azaarenes as activating groups in enantioselective catalysis, see: (a) L. Rupnicki, A. Saxena and H. W. Lam, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2009, **131**, 10386-10387. (b) G. Pattison, G. Piraux and H. W. Lam, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2010, **132**, 14373-14375. (c) A. Saxena and H. W. Lam, *Chem. Sci.*, 2011, **2**, 2326-2331. (d) A. Saxena, B. Choi and H. W. Lam, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2012, **134**, 8428-8431. (e) C. Fallan and H. W. Lam, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2012, **18**, 11214-11218. (f) (g) I. D. Roy, A. R. Burns, G. Pattison, B. Michel, A. J. Parker and H. W. Lam, *Chem. Commun.*, 2014, **50**, 2865-2868.
- For examples of C=N-containing azaarenes as activating groups in enantioselective catalysis from other groups, see: (a) B. M. Trost and D. A. Thaisrivongs, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2008, **130**, 14092-14093. (b) B. M. Trost and D. A. Thaisrivongs, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2009, **131**, 12056-12057. (c) B. M. Trost, D. A. Thaisrivongs and J. Hartwig, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2011, **133**, 12439-12441. (d) S. Vera, Y. K. Liu, M. Marigo, E. C. Escudero-Adan and P. Melchiorre, *Synlett*, 2011, 489-494. (e) T. Li, J. Zhu, D. Wu, X. Li, S. Wang, H. Li, J. Li and W. Wang, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2013, **19**, 9147-9150. (f) M. Meazza, V. Ceban, M. B. Pitak, S. J. Coles and R. Rios, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2014, **20**, 16853-16857.
- For selected examples of borylative three-component coupling reactions not involving imines, see: (a) H. Y. Cho and J. P. Morken, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2008, **130**, 16140-16141. (b) S. Mannathan, M. Jeganmohan and C.-H. Cheng, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2009, **48**, 2192-2195. (c) H. Y. Cho and J. P. Morken, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2010, **132**, 7576-7577. (d) H. Y. Cho, Z. Yu and J. P. Morken, *Org. Lett.*, 2011, **13**, 5267-5269. (e) A. Welle, V. Cirriez and O. Riant, *Tetrahedron*, 2012, **68**, 3435-3443. (f) F. Meng, H. Jang, B. Jung and A. H. Hoveyda, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2013, **52**, 5046-5051. (g) F. Meng, K. P. McGrath and A. H. Hoveyda, *Nature*, 2014, **513**, 367-374. (h) K. Semba, N. Bessho, T. Fujihara, J. Terao and Y. Tsuji, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2014, **53**, 9007-9011. (i) F. Meng, F. Haefner and A. H. Hoveyda, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2014, **136**, 11304-11307.
- For borylative three-component coupling reactions of allenes and imines, see: (a) J. D. Sieber and J. P. Morken, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2006, **128**, 74-75. (b) J. Rae, K. Yeung, J. J. W. McDouall and D. J. Procter, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2016, **55**, 1102-1107.
- For Cu-catalyzed three-component borylative aldol reactions of α,β -unsaturated carbonyl compounds with carbonyl compounds, see ref. 8e.
- For examples of biologically active compounds containing a 2-(aminoalkyl)azaarene substructure, which are produced using the methodology described herein, see references cited within ref. 2.
- In several cases, increasing the temperature significantly above 40 °C led to appreciable quantities of the products resulting from 1,4-boration of the vinylazaarene without coupling to the imine. Attempts to decrease the reaction times by increasing the concentration led to solubility problems.
- Other bidentate ligands examined included DPEphos, dppe, dppbz, and bipy. No significant impact on the rate of the reaction was observed, but compared with dppf, these ligands gave products in poorer diastereomeric ratios. Using CuF(PPh₃)₃·2MeOH without an additional bidentate ligand gave low yields of borylative coupling products in poor diastereomeric ratios, along with significant quantities of products resulting from 1,4-boration of the vinylazaarene without coupling to the imine.
- Control reactions conducted in the absence of the copper salt, but using PPh₃ (15.0 mol%) or dppf (5.0 mol%), with or without

- MeOH (10.0 mol% or 5.0 equiv), did not provide any products. For PPh₃- or dppf-catalyzed 1,4-boration of α,β -unsaturated ketones, see: A. Bonet, H. Gulyás and E. Fernández, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2010, **49**, 5130-5134.
- 15 C. N. Farthing and S. P. Marsden, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 2000, **41**, 4235-4238.
- 16 See the ESI.†
- 17 S. N. Mlynarski, C. H. Schuster and J. P. Morken, *Nature*, 2014, **505**, 386-390.
- 18 M. D. Charles, P. Schultz and S. L. Buchwald, *Org. Lett.*, 2005, **7**, 3965-3968.
- 19 For other examples of Suzuki-Miyaura coupling reactions of non-benzylic, non-allylic, alkyl pinacol boronates, see refs. 8e, 17 and: (a) M. Sato, N. Miyaura and A. Suzuki, *Chem. Lett.*, 1989, **18**, 1405-1408. (b) G. Zou and J. R. Falck, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 2001, **42**, 5817-5819. (c) J. D. Lawrence, M. Takahashi, C. Bae and J. F. Hartwig, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2004, **126**, 15334-15335. (d) C.-T. Yang, Z.-Q. Zhang, H. Tajuddin, C.-C. Wu, J. Liang, J.-H. Liu, Y. Fu, M. Czyzewska, P. G. Steel, T. B. Marder and L. Liu, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2012, **51**, 528-532. (e) R. Sakae, N. Matsuda, K. Hirano, T. Satoh and M. Miura, *Org. Lett.*, 2014, **16**, 1228-1231. (f) L. Zhang, Z. Zuo, X. Leng and Z. Huang, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2014, **53**, 2696-2700.
- 20 For Suzuki-Miyaura coupling of primary alkyltrifluoroborates, see: S. D. Dreher, S.-E. Lim, D. L. Sandrock and G. A. Molander, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2009, **74**, 3626-3631.
- 21 Thus far, our preliminary efforts at developing an enantioselective variant of these reactions have given only low enantiomeric excesses.