Short Communication
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An efficient metal-ligand catalyzed Heck-type reaction for β,β-double arylation of acrylates

Abstract

The Heck-Mizoroki reaction was further developed into a straightforward and efficient procedure that uses a basic metal-ligand system to synthesize β,β-diarylated acrylates and gives access to a pharmaceutical interesting class of products that is usually obtained under considerably harsher conditions and worse yields.

Keywords: alkenes, catalysis, one-pot synthesis, microwave reactions, Heck-Mizoroki reaction, tri(o-tolyl)phosphine

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Benjamin Wolff, Franz-Josef Meyer-Almes
Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology, University of Applied Sciences, Germany

Correspondence: Franz-Josef Meyer-Almes, Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology, University of Applied Sciences, Germany, Tel +4961 5116 8406, Fax +4961 5116 8404, Email franz-josef.meyer-almes@h-da.de

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Introduction

As a part of Pd-catalyzed reactions the Heck-Mizoroki reaction has a huge significance in R&D of pharmaceuticals.[1] Since the very first steps in the discovery of this reaction type, double arylation of acrylic esters have been known, but just recently investigated in greater detail. In most cases β,β-diarylated acrylates were obtained under demanding conditions such as high pressure,[2] special metal-ligand systems,[3,4] ionic liquids[5] or special auxiliary reactants.[6] Double arylation has also been observed in microwave reactions.[7] By using propenols as starting material double arylation could be achieved in a domino Heck-isomerization/Saegusa/Heck reaction resulting in β,β-diarylated propenals.[8] Yet no study focused on the basic conditions that were already used in the very first years after discovering this reaction type. Going back to its origins, we developed a simple and straightforward procedure that uses a basic metal-ligand system to synthesize β,β-diarylated acrylates and gives access to a pharmaceutical interesting class of products that is usually received under harsh conditions and in bad yields.

General procedure

Methyl acrylate (600mg, 6.97mmol), aryl iodide (27.9mmol, 4eq), potassiumcarbonate (2.12g, 15.3mmol), palladium acetate (78.2mg, 348µmol) and tri-o-tolylphosphine (212mg, 697µmol) are dissolved in dimethylformamide (5ml) and stirred for 3hours at 70°C. Then the mixture is stirred for 72hours at 110°C. Ethyl acetate (30ml) is added, the solution washed with brine (15ml) and water (15ml) and the organic layer is dried with sodium thiosulfate. The solvent is removed under reduced pressure and the product is obtained after column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/ethylacetate 20:1v/v).

3,3-Di-p-tolylmethylacrylate (2a)

Yield: 562.7mg, yellow oil: ^{1}H-NMR (500MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ=7.23 (dd, J=8.0, 3.9 Hz, 4H), 7.15 (dd, J=7.7, 5.6 Hz, 4H), 6.35 (s, 1H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.39 (s, 3H).

^{13}C-NMR (126MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ=166.62 (s), 157.43 (s), 139.70 (s), 138.40 (s), 138.04 (s), 136.05 (s), 129.25 (s), 129.14 (s), 128.64 (s), 128.43 (s), 115.66 (s), 51.19 (s), 21.47 (s), 21.30 (s).

MS (70 eV, EI): *m/z* (%)=266.1 (100), 235.1 (98), 219.1 (6), 207.1 (26), 191.1 (40), 178.1 (13), 165.1 (18), 119.1 (33), 91.1 (13)

3,3-Di-m-tolylmethylacrylate (2b)

Yield: 527.4mg, colourless oil: ^{1}H-NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ=7.38–7.27 (m, 1H), 7.26 – 7.14 (m, 4H), 7.08 (dd, J=24.4, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 6.36 (s, 1H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H).

^{13}C-NMR (126MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ=166.54 (s), 157.50 (s), 145.12 (s), 141.08 (s), 138.94 (s), 138.06 (s), 137.46 (s), 131.20 (s), 130.27 (s), 129.66 (s), 129.02 (s), 128.92 (s), 128.32 (s), 127.77 (s), 126.36 (s), 125.71 (s), 116.71 (s), 51.25 (s), 21.53 (s), 21.47 (s).

MS (70 eV, EI): *m/z* (%)=266.1 (94), 235.1 (100), 219.1 (9), 207.1 (62), 192.1 (53), 178.1 (16), 165.1 (24), 115.1 (38), 89.1 (14)

3,3-Di-o-tolylmethylacrylate (2c)

Yield: 134mg, colourless oil: ^{1}H-NMR (500MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ=7.32–7.13 (m, 8H), 6.21 (s, 1H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 2.22 (s, 3H).

^{13}C-NMR (126MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ=166.20 (s), 156.83 (s), 140.80 (s), 139.42 (s), 135.77 (s), 135.60 (s), 131.30 (s), 130.18 (s), 129.92 (s), 129.21 (s), 128.45 (s), 128.05 (s), 125.86 (s), 125.33 (s), 121.64 (s), 51.35 (s), 20.93 (s), 19.96 (s).

MS (70 eV, EI): *m/z* (%)=266.1 (12), 251.1 (42), 235.1 (100), 219.1 (19), 205.1 (41), 191.1 (99), 178.1 (45), 165.1 (28), 115.1 (55), 91.1 (23)

3,3-Bis(4-methoxyphenyl)methylacrylate (2d)

Yield: 868.4mg, yellow oil: ^{1}H-NMR (500MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ=7.28–7.23 (m, 2H), 7.19–7.14 (m, 2H), 6.95–6.89 (m, 2H), 6.88–6.82 (m, 2H), 6.25 (s, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 3H).

^{13}C-NMR (126MHz, CDCl3): δ=166.73 (s), 160.85 (s), 159.76 (s), 156.85 (s), 133.84 (s), 130.90 (s), 130.03 (s), 114.30 (s), 113.76 (s), 113.26 (s), 55.33 (s), 55.19 (s), 51.09 (s).

MS (70 eV, EI): *m/z* (%)=298.1 (100), 267.1 (59), 240.1 (17), 225.1 (27), 209.1 (10), 195.1 (8), 181.1 (10), 165.1 (15), 152.1 (26), 135.1 (51)

3,3-Bis(3-methoxyphenyl)methylacrylate (2e)

For this derivate 300mg (3.48mmol) of methyl acrylate were used as educt.

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Yield: 234mg, yellow oil: ^{1}H-NMR (500MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ=7.32–7.28 (m, 1H), 7.24 (t, J=8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (dd, J=2.6, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.92 – 6.89 (m, 2H), 6.87–6.84 (m, 1H), 6.83 – 6.80 (m, 1H), 6.76 (dd, J=2.5, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (s, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.62 (s, 3H).

^{13}C-NMR (126MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ=166.38 (s), 159.64 (s), 159.29 (s), 156.48 (s), 142.11 (s), 140.16 (s), 129.42 (s), 128.99 (s), 121.65 (s), 120.93 (s), 117.22 (s), 114.95 (s), 114.78 (s), 114.07 (s), 113.80 (s), 55.36 (s), 55.29 (s), 51.35 (s).

MS (70 eV, EI): *m/z* (%)=300.1 (3), 298.1 (100), 267.1 (71), 239.1 (59), 224.1 (24), 208.1 (11), 195.1 (11), 181.1 (16), 165.1 (27), 152.1 (33), 135.1 (21)

3,3-Bis(4-chlorophenyl)methylacrylate (2f)

Yield: 898mg, yellow solid: ^{1}H-NMR (500MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ=7.36 (d, J=8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, J=8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d, J=8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (d, J=8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.33 (s, 1H), 3.62 (s, 3H).

MS (70 eV, EI): *m/z* (%)=309.0 (9), 308.0 (45), 306.0 (68), 277.0 (65), 275.0 (100), 247.0 (20), 212.0 (78), 176.1 (70), 139.0 (24)

3,3-Bis(3-chlorophenyl)methylacrylate (2g)

Yield: 433mg, yellow oil: ^{1}H-NMR (500MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ=7.38 (ddd, J=8.1, 2.0, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (ddd, J=7.4, 2.2, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t, J=7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (t, J=7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (t, J=4.6 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (t, J=1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.17 – 7.13 (m, 1H), 7.10 (dt, J=7.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (s, 1H), 3.64 (s, 3H).

^{13}C-NMR (126MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ=165.80 (s), 153.89 (s), 142.08 (s), 139.96 (s), 134.80 (s), 134.20 (s), 129.89 (s), 129.78 (s), 129.46 (s), 129.12 (s), 128.72 (s), 128.24 (s), 127.41 (s), 126.49 (s), 118.82 (s), 51.59 (s), 31.70 (s), 22.77 (s), 14.22 (s).

MS (70 eV, EI): *m/z* (%)=309.0 (10), 308.0 (44), 306.0 (67), 277.0 (66), 275.0 (100), 247.0 (35), 212.0 (97), 176.1 (87), 139.0 (16)

3,3-Bis(4-fluorophenyl)methylacrylate (2h)

Yield: 167mg, yellow solid: ^{1}H-NMR (500MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ=7.26 (dd, J=9.0, 5.3 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (dd, J=8.8, 5.4 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (t, J=8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (t, J=8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.31 (s, 1H), 3.62 (s, 3H).

^{13}C-NMR (126MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ=166.27 (s), 164.75 (s), 163.92 (s), 162.75 (s), 161.95 (s), 155.04 (s), 143.64 (s), 136.99 (d, J=2.9 Hz), 134.50 (d, J=3.2 Hz), 131.21 (s), 131.15 (s), 130.34 (s), 130.28 (s), 130.08 (s), 130.01 (s), 117.06 (s), 115.72 (s), 115.54 (s), 115.28 (s), 115.11 (s), 51.41 (s).

MS (70 eV, EI): *m/z* (%)=274.1 (77), 243.1 (100), 214.1 (72), 194.1 (30), 175.1 (15), 123.0 (27)

3,3-Di(naphthalene-1-yl)methylacrylate (2i)

Yield: 164mg, yellow oil: ^{1}H-NMR (500MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ=8.52 (dd, J=8.3, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 8.06 (d, J=8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.96–7.85 (m, 3H), 7.82 (dd, J=5.9, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 7.60–7.51 (m, 2H), 7.50–7.45 (m, 2H), 7.45–7.39 (m, 2H), 7.38–7.33 (m, 2H), 6.64 (s, 1H), 3.50 (s, 3H).

^{13}C-NMR (126MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ=166.10 (s), 153.58 (s), 139.57 (s), 138.36 (s), 134.31 (s), 133.70 (s), 131.42 (s), 130.87 (s), 129.22 (s), 128.86 (s), 128.67 (s), 128.61 (s), 127.25 (s), 126.98 (s), 126.58 (s), 126.46 (s), 126.08 (s), 125.85 (s), 125.31 (s), 125.22 (s), 125.18 (s), 125.11 (s), 124.36 (s), 60.47 (s), 51.41 (s), 21.13 (s), 14.31 (s).

MS (70 eV, EI): *m/z* (%)=338.1 (19), 305.1 (12), 278.1 (100), 263.1 (11), 210.1 (23), 179.0 (10), 152.1 (10), 138.1 (26)

3,3-Bis(3,4-dimethylphenyl)methylacrylate (2j)

Yield: 90.5mg, yellow oil: ^{1}H-NMR (500MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ=7.17 (d, J=7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (s, 1H), 7.10 (d, J=7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (dd, J=7.9, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (dd, J=10.3, 2.6 Hz, 2H), 6.31 (s, 1H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.29 (s, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.26 (s, 2H).

^{13}C-NMR (126MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ=166.73 (s), 157.84 (s), 139.01 (s), 138.37 (s), 136.64 (s), 136.59 (s), 136.53 (s), 135.97 (s), 130.34 (s), 129.69 (s), 129.54 (s), 129.16 (s), 126.91 (s), 126.24 (s), 115.50 (s), 51.19 (s), 31.71 (s), 22.77 (s), 19.87 (s), 19.79 (s), 19.68 (s), 14.21 (s).

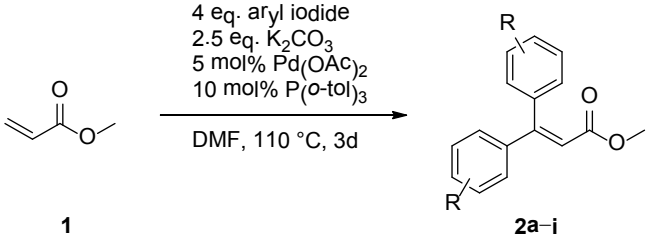
MS (70 eV, EI): *m/z* (%)=294.2 (100), 263.1 (81), 235.1 (25), 220.1 (29), 205.1 (25), 189.1 (19), 133.1 (34)

Conclusion

This study reports a simple as efficient metal-ligand catalyzed way to generate β,β-diarylated acrylic acids from standard chemicals. Moreno-Mañas et al. showed the double arylation of ethyl cinnamates using similar conditions and a phase-transfer catalyst.[9] Unfortunately, this study only produced asymmetric ethyl 3-aryl-3-phenyl propenoates with para-substituted aryls. To get a wider view on this reaction, we varied the position of the substitutes and generated symmetric 3,3-diarylic esters. While usual ways to generate diarylated acrylic acids need complex ligands for the palladium, we used tri(o-tolyl)phosphine as ligand. As base potassium carbonate showed to have the best results yield-wise. The reaction was carried out in dimethylformamide and stirred for 3 days at 110°C. The aryl iodides were used in excess and the unreacted aryl iodides were retrieved from the reaction mixture. The results are listed in Table 1.

Table 1 Double arylation of acrylic esters via Heck reaction

Entry	Aryl iodide	Product	Yield (%)
1	4-MeC_6H_4I	2a	30
2	3-MeC_6H_4I	2b	28
3	2-MeC_6H_4I	2c	7
4	4-MeOC_6H_4I	2d	42
5	3-MeOC_6H_4I	2e	23
6	4-ClC_6H_4I	2f	8
7	3-ClC_6H_4I	2g	20
8	4-FC_6H_4I	2h	9
9	$C_{10}H_7$I	2i	7
10	3,4-$Me_2C_6H_3$I	2j	4



1 **2a–i**

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The highest yields were achieved by using methyl acrylic esters; benzyl and tert-butyl esters did only produce the monoarylated products. The equivalents for the aryl halides were raised from 2 equivalents up to 4 equivalents, where no yield improvement was observed above this amount. Potassium carbonate proved to be a better choice for the base than trimethylamine and tri(o-tolyl) phosphine showed to be the ligand of choice in comparison to triphenylphosphine and dppe. Electron deficient aryl halides such as iodopyridin or 3-chloro-4-iodobenzotrifuoride only delivered the monoarylated product. Depending on the substitution pattern, the yield was highest for para-substituted and lowest for ortho-substituted aryl halides. Most ortho-substituted aryl halides only produced the monoarylated product.

Acknowledgments

None.

Conflicts of interest

There exists no conflict of financial or any other interest.

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