Graphical Abstract

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formation					
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Nishikyo-ku, Kyoto 615-8510, Japan Pd cat.,	Cu cat.				
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TETRAHEDRON LETTERS

Synthesis of (1-alkynyl)dicarbonylcyclopentadienyliron complexes by palladium-catalyzed Sonogashira-type carbon–iron bond formation

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Abstract—Treatment of $[CpFe(CO)_2I]$ with terminal alkynes in the presence of catalytic amounts of dichlorobis(triphenylphosphine)palladium and copper iodide in aliphatic amine/THF results in Sonogashira-type carbon–iron bond formation to yield $[CpFe(CO)_2(C\equiv CR)]$ in good yields. © 2010 Elsevier Science. All rights reserved

Dicarbonylcyclopentadienylorganoiron complexes $[CpFe(CO)_2R]$ have been attracting considerable attention in the field of coordination chemistry.¹ Among them, the corresponding (1-alkynyl)iron complexes $[CpFe(CO)_2(C\equiv CR)]$ are interesting not only as fundamental organometallic compounds² but also as potentially useful precursors for molecular electronic devices.³

The synthesis of the (1-alkynyl)iron complexes often employs the reactions of $[CpFe(CO)_2X]$ (X = halogen) with lithium or magnesium acetylides, which lack generality and functional group compatibility.⁴ Although palladiumcatalyzed Migita-Kosugi-Stille-type reactions of [CpFe(CO)₂I] with (1-alkynyl)stannanes offer an alternative route,⁵ preparation of the tin reagents and removal of tin impurities would be troublesome. Coppercatalyzed reactions of $[CpFe(CO)_2X]$ (X = Cl or Br) with terminal acetylenes providing [CpFe(CO)₂(C≡CR)] are most useful at present due to their reasonable scope and efficiency.^{4d,6} However, the yields heavily depended on the alkynes used and [CpFe(CO)₂I] would not react under the copper-catalyzed conditions. More efficient and versatile methods for the synthesis of [CpFe(CO)₂(C=CR)] are hence awaited.7,8

Recently, we have developed easy and efficient methods for the synthesis of $[CpFe(CO)_2Ar]$, the palladiumcatalyzed Kumada-Tamao-Corriu-,^{9a} Negishi-,^{9b} and Suzuki-Miyaura-type^{9b} reactions of $[CpFe(CO)_2I]$ with arylmetal reagents. Here we report the synthesis of $[CpFe(CO)_2(C\equiv CR)]$ by palladium-catalyzed Sonogashira-type carbon–iron bond formation.¹⁰

Treatment of [CpFe(CO)₂I] with phenylacetylene in the presence of catalytic amounts of CuI and [PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂] in triethylamine/THF mixed solvent afforded $[CpFe(CO)_2(C\equiv CPh)]^{11}$ (1a) in 60% yield (Eq 1). The combination of CuI and the palladium catalyst is important. The reaction was sluggish when copper iodide (11% yield) or the palladium complex (18%) was omitted. After screening reaction conditions, we found that diisopropylamine is the most effective base (Eq 2). The reaction in a diisopropylamine/THF mixed solvent at 25 °C for 30 min afforded 1a in 81% yield, albeit with a smaller amount, 2.5 mol%, of the palladium catalyst.¹²

$$\begin{array}{c} & 5 \text{ mol}\% \text{ PdCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_2 \\ & 5 \text{ mol}\% \text{ Cul} \\ & 5 \text{ mol}\% \text{ Cul} \\ & 1.5 \text{ equiv} \text{ H-C} \equiv \text{C} - \text{Ph} \\ & \hline 1.5 \text{ equiv} \text{ H-C} \equiv \text{C} - \text{Ph} \\ & \hline 1.5 \text{ equiv} \text{ H-C} \equiv \text{C} - \text{Ph} \\ & \text{C}^{-Fe-C} \equiv \text{C} = \text{C} - \text{Ph} \\ & \text{C}^{-Fe-C} \equiv \text{C} - \text{Ph} \\ & \text{C}^{-Fe-C} \equiv \text{C} = \text{C} - \text{Ph} \\ & \text{C}^{-Fe-C} \equiv \text{C} = \text{C} - \text{Ph} \\ & \text{C}^{-Fe-C} \equiv \text{C} = \text{C} = \text{C} + \text{C} = \text{C} + \text{C} = \text{C} = \text{C} + \text{C} = \text{C} + \text{C} = \text{C}$$

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The scope of alkynes is summarized in Table 1. A methyl or methoxy group at the 4 position of the arylacetylene had little influence on the reaction (entries 1 and 2). The steric effect of a 2-methyl group was also negligible (entry 3). On the other hand, electron-withdrawing groups retarded the reaction. The reaction with 4-fluorophenylacetylene required a higher temperature and a longer reaction time to attain a satisfactory result (entry 4). More disappointingly, very inefficient conversions were observed in the reactions of 4-trifluoromethyl- and 4-cyanophenylacetylene (entries 5 and 6).

We thus reexamined the conditions for the reactions with electron-deficient arylacetylenes. To our delight, ethyldiisopropylamine proved to be effective. In addition, the amounts of $[PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2]$ and CuI were changed from 2.5 mol% and 5 mol% to 5 mol% and 2.5 mol%, respectively. For instance, treatment of $[CpFe(CO)_2I]$ with 4-trifluoromethylphenylacetylene under the reoptimized conditions (Conditions B) furnished the corresponding alkynyliron **1f** in 86% yield (entry 7). Cyano or halo-substituted arylacetylenes were also transformed efficiently (entries 8–11). Iron complex **1k** bearing a carbonyl group was obtained in high yield (entry 12) although **1k** was unstable under air and decomposed during chromatographic purification on silica gel.¹³

Table 1. Scope of alkynes

OC-Fe OC	cat. $PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$ cat. Cul 1.5 equiv H-C=C-F amine/THF = 1:2 25 °C, 30 min	CC-Fe-CE OC	≣C-R 1	
entry	R	conditions ^a	1	yield /%
1	4-MeC ₆ H ₄	А	1b	85
2	4-MeOC ₆ H ₄	А	1c	76
3	$2-MeC_6H_4$	А	1d	88
4	$4-FC_6H_4$	А	1e	77 ^b
5	$4-CF_3C_6H_4$	А	1f	13
6	$4-NCC_6H_4$	А	1g	23
7	$4-CF_3C_6H_4$	В	1f	86
8	4-NCC ₆ H ₄	В	1g	84
9	2-NCC ₆ H ₄	В	1h	91
10	$4-ClC_6H_4$	В	1i	75
11	$4-BrC_6H_4$	В	1j	74
12	$4-MeOC(=O)C_6H_4$	В	1k	85°
13	$^{n}C_{4}H_{9}$	А	11	34 ^c
14	$^{t}C_{4}H_{9}$	А	1m	66 ^c
15	Me ₃ Si	А	1n	73°

^a Conditions A: 2.5 mol% [PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂], 5 mol% CuI, ⁱPr₂NH; Conditions B: 5 mol% [PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂], 2.5 mol% CuI, ⁱPr₂EtN. ^bAt 50 °C for 1 h. ^cBased on NMR analysis of a crude mixture.

Although the reaction of $[CpFe(CO)_2I]$ with aliphatic terminal acetylene or trimethylsilylacetylene proceeded under Conditions A (entries 13–15), products **11–1n** were

not isolated efficiently in our hands due to the instability under air. 13

The Sonogashira-type reaction is so chemoselective that 4ethynylbenzyl alcohol underwent smooth carbon–iron bond formation without affecting the hydroxy group (Scheme 1). To verify that the hydroxy group remained intact, the hydroxy group of **10** was acetylated to yield **1p**. The benzylic protons of the starting alcohol and **10** appeared around 4.6–4.7ppm in ¹H NMR analysis, whereas those of **1p** appeared at a clearly different chemical shift of 5.04ppm. These NMR analyses strongly support the inertness of the hydroxy group under the palladium catalysis.

Scheme 1. Chemoselective reaction of 4-ethynylbenzyl alcohol



The reaction of $[CpFe(CO)_2I]$ with 1,4-diethynylbenzene afforded dinuclear iron complex **1q** in high yield (Eq 3), highlighting the efficiency of the carbon–iron bond formation.



Not only iodoiron complexes but also similar molybdenum and tungsten complexes underwent alkynylation under Conditions A (Eq 4).



The Sonogashira-type reaction was applicable to the alkynylation of $[Cp*Fe(CO)_2I]$ (Eq 5). Due to the more bulky and electron-donating Cp* group, $[Cp*Fe(CO)_2I]$ was less reactive. The reaction required larger catalyst

loadings and a longer reaction time. Tetrabutylammonium fluoride (TBAF) served as a base more efficiently than ethyldiisopropylamine and diisopropylamine. It is worth noting that the precedented copper-catalyzed alkynylation of $[Cp*Fe(CO)_2Br]$ is low-yielding.^{6b}



The TBAF-mediated alkynylation conditions were also effective for the alkynylation with diynylsilane **3**, which represents a model synthesis of oligoynylirons as molecular electronic devices³ (Eq 6). Diynylsilane **3** reacted with $[CpFe(CO)_2I]$ in the presence of TBAF and the $[PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2]/CuI$ catalyst to yield diynyliron complex **1r** in 80% yield.¹⁴ It is worth noting that **3** is readily available¹⁵ and stable whereas phenylbutadiyne is difficult to synthesize and to handle.¹⁶



In summary, we have applied an important carbon–carbon bond forming reaction, the Sonogashira reaction, to the construction of carbon–iron bonds. We have thus developed a method for the synthesis of 1-alkynyliron complexes [CpFe(CO)₂(C≡CR)]. The iron complexes will find many applications in advanced material sciences as well as coordination chemistry and organic synthesis.

Acknowledgments

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Supplementary Material

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Characterization data of the products. Supplementary data associated with this article can be found in the online version.