



# Reaction of vinylbromides with alkynes using ppm amounts of Pd as catalyst

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## INTRODUCTION

The 1,3-enyne is an important core structure often found in many naturally occurring and biologically active compounds. In addition, 1,3-enynes are also very useful synthetic intermediates. The Pd-catalyzed Sonogashira reaction is one of the most powerful methods for the synthesis of such compounds. Pd complexes containing phosphine ligands associated with copper(I) iodide are the most widely used catalysts for this reaction.<sup>1</sup> In the past several years, some protocols using copper catalysts have been developed.<sup>2</sup> Recently, we have shown that a catalytic system based on CuI/1,10-phenanthroline efficiently promotes the coupling between phenols or pyrazole with (E)-bromostilbene.<sup>3</sup> Here we present our first results about the coupling of vinyl bromides with alkynes.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

We choose as reaction model the cross-coupling of (E)-bromostilbene with phenylacetylene (Figure 1).

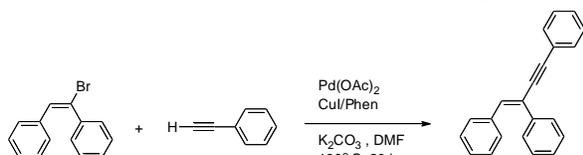


Figure 1. Coupling of (E)-bromostilbene with phenylacetylene

We have performed a screening of bases, solvents, temperature and ligand using CuI as catalyst. Despite an initial observation of the cross-coupling product, the results obtained indicated that contamination with Pd was responsible for the reaction. In fact, the dramatic effect of ppb levels of Pd on the Cu-catalyzed Sonogashira coupling of aryl halides has been recently pointed out.<sup>4</sup> Therefore, we decided to investigate the effect of low palladium concentrations in the reaction (Figure 1 and Table 1). After an optimization, we obtained most complete conversion on the 1,3-enyne product using only 40 ppm of Pd and 5 mol% of CuI (entry 3). Lower yields were obtained when lower amounts of Cu (entries 1-2) or Pd (entries 4-6) were used. It is important to

mention that the desired product was obtained in moderate yield using only 0,1 ppm of Pd with a TON of 196,000 (entry 6). On the other hand, a 9% yield was observed when Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> was not added (entry 7).

Table 1. Effect of Pd and Cu on the cross-coupling of (E)-bromostilbene with phenylacetylene<sup>a</sup>

Entry	Ratio Substrate/Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	CuI (mol%)	Yield <sup>b</sup> (%)
1	1,000	1	57
2	1,000	2.5	70
3	1,000	5	99
4	4,000	5	86
5	40,000	5	72
6	400,000	5	48
7 <sup>c</sup>	-	5	9

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: (E)-bromostilbene (0,5 mmol), phenylacetylene (0,6 mmol), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1,5 mmol), CuI : 1,10-phenanthroline = 1 : 1, DMF (1 mL), 100°C, 20 hours. b) GC yield. c) Without Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub>

## CONCLUSION

The Sonogashira coupling reaction of vinyl bromides was efficiently performed using low amounts of Pd. Further studies concerning the application of this reaction and the role of Pd and Cu are in progress.

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