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Synthesis of Substituted Benzo[*ij*]imidazo[2,1,5-*de*]quinolizine by Rhodium(III)-Catalyzed Multiple C–H Activation and Annulation

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1. Mechanistic Studies

(1) Deuterium Exchange Experiment



a) A mixture of phenylimidazole **1a** (28.8 mg, 0.2 mmol), $[Cp*RhCl_2]_2$ (6.2 mg, 0.01 mmol), and Cu(OAc)₂·H₂O (160.0 mg, 0.8 mmol) were weighted in a Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar. Dry toluene (1.8 mL) and D₂O (0.2 mL) were added and the mixture was stirred at 110 °C for 5 h under Ar atmosphere. After the mixture was cooled to room temperature, the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was absorbed onto small amounts of alumina. The mixed products were purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/2-1/1).

b) A mixture of phenylimidazole **1a** (28.8 mg, 0.2 mmol) and $Cu(OAc)_2 \cdot H_2O$ (160.0 mg, 0.8 mmol) were weighted in a Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar. Dry toluene (1.8 mL) and D₂O (0.2 mL) were added and the mixture was stirred at 110 °C for 5 h under Ar atmosphere. After the mixture was cooled to room temperature, the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was absorbed onto small amounts of alumina. The mixed products were purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/2-1/1).

c) A mixture of phenylimidazole 1a (28.8 mg, 0.2 mmol), 4-Octyne 2j (48.5 mg, 0.44mmol),

 $[Cp*RhCl_2]_2$ (6.2 mg, 0.01 mmol), and Cu(OAc)_2·H_2O (160.0 mg, 0.8 mmol) were weighted in a Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar. Dry toluene (1.8 mL) and H₂O (0.2 mL) were added and the mixture was stirred at 110 °C for 12 h under Ar atmosphere. After the mixture was cooled to room temperature, the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was absorbed onto small amounts of alumina. The mixed products were purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/8).

a) ¹H NMR of the substrate recovered in the reaction without 4-Octyne.



b) ¹H NMR of the substrate recovered in the reaction without 4-Octyne and [Cp*RhCl₂]₂.





c) ¹H NMR of the product obtained in the reaction in the presence of 4-Octyne.

(2) KIE Experiments



a) Competition Experiment between 1a and $[D_5]$ -1a



b) Independent Experiment Using the Deuterated and the Protonated Substrates



2. Copies of ¹H, ¹³C and ¹⁹F NMR Spectra for Compounds

¹H NMR spectrum of **3aa**





¹H NMR spectrum of **3ba**





ppm (t1)

¹⁹F NMR spectrum of **3ba**



¹H NMR spectrum of **3ca**



¹H NMR spectrum of **3da**





¹H NMR spectrum of **3ea**



ppm (t1)

¹H NMR spectrum of **3fa**



¹H NMR spectrum of **3ga**

| 150

ppm (t1)



S13

50

0

100

¹H NMR spectrum of **3ha**



¹H NMR spectrum of **3ia**





¹H NMR spectrum of **3ja**





¹⁹F NMR spectrum of **3ja**



¹H NMR spectrum of **3ka**



¹³C NMR spectrum of **3ka**



¹H NMR spectrum of **3ab**



¹³C NMR spectrum of **3ab**



ppm (t1)

¹⁹F NMR spectrum of **3ab**



¹H NMR spectrum of **3ac**



¹³C NMR spectrum of **3ac**



¹H NMR spectrum of **3ad**



¹³C NMR spectrum of **3ad**



¹H NMR spectrum of **3ae**



¹³C NMR spectrum of **3ae**



¹H NMR spectrum of **3af**





¹H NMR spectrum of **3ag**



¹³C NMR spectrum of **3ag**



ppm (t1)

¹H NMR spectrum of **3ah**



¹³C NMR spectrum of **3ah**



¹⁹F NMR spectrum of **3ah**



¹H NMR spectrum of **3ai**



¹H NMR spectrum of **3aj**

ppm (t1)





¹H NMR spectrum of **3ak**



¹³C NMR spectrum of **3ak**



¹H NMR spectrum of **5aa**

