Effect of electronic enrichment of NHCs on the catalytic activity of [Pd(NHC)(acac)Cl] in Buchwald-Hartwig coupling

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General information

Reagents, reactants and solvents were purchased and used as received unless otherwise stated in the text. Some aryl halides were prepared using literature procedures. LiHMDS, KO^rBu, anhydrous 1,4-dioxane, anhydrous toluene and anhydrous dimethoxyethane (DME) were used as received and stored in a glovebox. KO^rAm was prepared by evaporation of the solvent of a commercial solution *in vacuo* and stored under nitrogen. Commercially available Pd(acac)₂ was obtained from UMICORE. Gas chromatography was performed on an Agilent Technologies 7890A GC-System equipped with a 7683B series injector and a 7683 series autosampler. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was carried out using Merck silica gel 60 F254 glass-backed plates and visualized under UV light (254 and/or 366 nm). Flash column chromatography was performed on silica gel with a 60 Å pore diameter and 40–63 µm particle size. ¹H, ¹³C and ¹⁹F nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were recorded on a Bruker-300 MHz spectrometer at ambient temperature in CDCl₃ without TMSCl as an internal standard. Elemental analyses were performed at London Metropolitan University (166-220 Holloway Road, London, N7 8DB, U.K.).

General Procedure for Buchwald-Hartwig Cross Coupling of Aryl Halides with Anilines

In a glovebox, a glass vial equipped with a stirring bar was charged with KO^tAm (0.55 mmole) and sealed with a screw cap fitted with a septum. The vial was then loaded with the neat aniline (0.55 mmole) and the aryl halide (0.50 mmole) outside the glovebox. Finally, a pre-made solution of the precatalyst in anhydrous solvent (prepared in the glovebox) was injected at room temperature under nitrogen and the reaction mixture was stirred and heated until completion, as indicated by GC. Then, water was added to the reaction mixture and the organic layer was extracted with Et₂O, dried over magnesium sulfate and the solvent was evaporated *in vacuo*. The product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel.

(*N*-4-fluorophenyl)-4'-methoxy-aniline (Table 3, Entry 1). The general procedure yielded (103 mg, 95%) of the pure arylamine as beige solid. Data were in full agreement with those reported in literature.^{1 1}H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.01 (d, *J* = 8.8, 2H), 6.95-6.83 (m, 6H), 5.38 (bs, 1H), 3.79 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.1 (d, *J* = 238 Hz), 155.0, 141.09, 136.5, 121.2, 117.7 (d, *J* = 8 Hz), 115.8 (d, *J* = 22 Hz), 114.7, 55.6. ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -124.7.

4-fluoro-*N***-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)aniline** (Table 3, Entry 2). The general procedure yielded (98 mg, 91%) of the pure arylamine as a white solid. Data were in full agreement with those reported in literature.² ¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.14-7.05 (m, 3H), 6.86 (tt, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2.3 Hz, 2H), 6.47 (m, 2H), 5.20 (bs, 1H), 2.21 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.3 (d, *J* = 240 Hz, C-F), 142.4, 138.5, 135.4, 128.6, 125.7, 115.6 (d, *J* = 22 Hz), 114.5 (d, *J* = 7 Hz), 18.3. ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ - 126.7.

(*N*-4-fluoro)-2-methoxy-aniline (Table 3, Entry 3) The general procedure yielded (104 mg, 96%) of the pure arylamine as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.17-7.09 (m, 3H), 7 (t, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H),

6.91-6.82 (m, 3H), 6.08 (bs, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.0 (d, J = 238 Hz), 156.6, 147.9, 138.6 (d, J = 2 Hz), 133.8, 121.3 (d, J = 8 Hz), 120.9, 119.6, 115.9 (d, J = 22 Hz), 113.7, 110.5, 55.6. ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -122.4.

2-fluoro-*N***-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)aniline** (Table 3, Entry 4). The general procedure yielded (99 mg, 92%) of the pure arylamine as a white solid. Data were in full agreement with those reported in literature.^{3 1}H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.19-7.16 (m, 3H), 7.10 (ddd, *J* = 11.9 Hz, 8.7 Hz, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (ddd, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 2.1 Hz, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (m, 1H) 6.25 (ddd, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 7.9 Hz, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 5.38 (bs, 1H), 2.27 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.5 (d, *J* = 237 Hz), 137.2, 136.4, 134.6 (d, *J* = 11 Hz), 128.6, 126.3, 124.4 (d, *J* = 3 Hz), 117.4 (d, *J* = 7 Hz), 114.7 (d, *J* = 18 Hz), 113.2 (d, *J* = 3 Hz), 18.2. ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -137.0.

(N-dimethoxyphenyl)-N-methyl-aniline (Table 3, Entry 5). The general procedure yielded (112 mg, 92 %) of the pure arylamine as white solid. Data were in full agreement with those reported in literature.⁴ ¹**H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl**₃) δ 7.22 (t, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (m, 2H), 6.67 (dt, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1 Hz, 3H), 6.62 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.54 (m, 2H), 3.74 (s, 6H), 3.19 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.0, 149.0, 128.7, 127.4, 124.2, 116.1, 111.7, 105.0, 56.0, 38.1.

(*N*-2,6-dimethoxyphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-aniline (Table 3, Entry 6). The general procedure yielded (102 mg, 79 %) of the pure arylamine as a white solid. Data were in full agreement with those reported in literature.⁴ ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.00-6.90 (m, 3H), 6.78 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.56 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 4.65 (bs, 1H), 3.64 (s, 6H), 2.17 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.5, 141.5, 133.9, 127.5, 125.8, 123.5, 118.2, 105.7, 56.3, 18.8.

N-(2,6-dimethoxyphenyl)aniline (Table 3, Entry 7). The general procedure yielded (85 mg, 74 %) of the pure arylamine as a white solid. Data were in full agreement with those reported in literature.^{5 1}H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.20-7.07 (m, 3H), 6.83 (t, J = 7.5Hz, 1H), 6, 74 (d, J = 8.4Hz, 2H), 6.64 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.80 (bs, 1H) 3.82 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 154.0, 145.4, 128.5, 124.3, 119.7, 115.1, 104.4, 55.8.

(*N*-4-methoxyphenyl)-3-trifluoromethyl-aniline (Table 3, Entry 8). The general procedure yielded (122 mg, 91%) of the pure arylamine as a brown solid. Data were in full agreement with those reported in literature.⁶ ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.30 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (m, 3H), 6.92 (dt, *J* = 8.5 Hz, *J* = 2.5Hz, 2H), 5.61 (bs, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.2, 146.0, 134.3, 131.7 (q, *J* = 31 Hz), 129.8, 124.2 (q, *J* = 270 Hz), 123.5, 117.9, 115.6 (q, *J* = 4 Hz), 114.9, 111.3 (q, *J* = 4Hz), 55.6. ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ – 63.2.

(*N*-2-methoxyphenyl)-3-trifluoromethyl-aniline (Table 3, Entry 9). The general procedure yielded (118 mg, 88 %) of the pure arylamine as colourless oil. Data were in full agreement with those reported in literature.⁷ ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39-7.29 (m, 4H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.98-6.89 (m, 3H), 6.25 (bs, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.9, 143.6, 131.5 (q, *J* = 32 Hz), 131.4, 129.7, 124.1 (q, *J* = 271 Hz), 121.3, 120.8, 120.1, 116.9 (q, *J* = 4 Hz), 116.0, 113.8 (q, *J* = 4 Hz), 110.8, 55.5. ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ – 63.3.

(*N*-4-fluorophenyl)-2,6-dimethoxy-aniline (Table 3, Entry 10). The general procedure yielded (110 mg, 90 %) of the pure arylamine as a white solid. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.11 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (m, 2H), 6.68-6.63 (m, 2H), 6.63 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.0

(d, J = 234 Hz, C-F), 153.6, 141.4, 124.2, 120.0, 116.7 (d, J = 7.5 Hz), 114.9 (d, J = 22 Hz), 104.4, 55.8. ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = -126.2$. Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₁₄FNO₂: C, 68.00; H, 5.71; N, 5.66. Found: C, 68.05; H, 5.76; N, 5.67.

(*N*-2,4,6-trimethoxyphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-aniline (Table 3, Entry 11). The general procedure yielded (119 mg, 83%) of the pure arylamine as a white solid. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.95-6.79 (m, 3H), 6.16 (s, 2H), 4.86 (bs, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.65 (s, 6H), 2.12 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 154.6, 152.2, 142.8, 131.4, 127.9, 121.9, 118.6, 92.1, 56.2, 55.6, 18.7. Anal. Calcd for C₁₇H₂₁NO₃: C, 71.06; H, 7.37; N, 4.87. Found: C, 71.13; H, 7.37; N, 4.87.

N-Methyl-N-2-tolylaniline (Table 4, Entry 2). The general procedure yielded (90 mg, 91%) of the pure arylamine as colourless oil. Data were in full agreement with those reported in literature.⁸ ¹**H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.30-7.13 (m, 6H) 6.71 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.53 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 3.22 (s, 3H), 2.15 (s, 3H). ¹³**C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 149.1, 146.8, 136.8, 131.4, 129.0, 128.3, 127.5, 116.4, 112.8, 39.0, 17.8.

N-Methyl-N-3-tolylaniline (Table 4, Entry 3). The general procedure yielded (83 mg, 84%) of the pure arylamine as yellow oil. Data were in full agreement with those reported in literature.⁸ ¹**H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl**₃) δ 7.65-7.60 (m, 2H), 7.52 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.27 (m, 3H), 7.21-7.41 (m, 3H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 2.66 (s, 3H). ¹³**C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl**₃) δ 149.1, 149.0, 139.0, 129.1, 129.0, 122.3, 121.4, 120.9, 120.1, 117.9, 40.2, 21.5.

N-Methyl-N-4-tolylaniline (Table 4, Entry 4). The general procedure yielded (83 mg, 84%) of the pure arylamine as yellow oil. Data were in full agreement with those reported in literature.⁹ ¹**H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.33-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.07 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.02-6.92 (m, 3H), 3.36 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H). ¹³**C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 149.3, 146.5, 132.0, 129.9, 129.0, 122.5, 119.8, 118.2, 40.3, 20.7.

4-methoxy-N-Methyl-N-phenylaniline (Table 4, Entry 5). The general procedure yielded (89 mg, 83%) of the pure arylamine as yellow oil. Data were in full agreement with those reported in literature.¹⁰ ¹**H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.62-7.68 (m, 2H), 7.53-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.21-7.26 (m, 3H), 4.26 (s, 3H), 3.71 (s, 3H). ¹³**C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 156.2, 149.7, 142.15, 128.9, 126.1, 118.3, 115.7, 114.7, 55.4, 40.4

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¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR and ¹⁹F NMR Spectra of arylamination products







S12





















