T. QIN, J. CORNELLA, C. LI, L. R. MALINS, J. T. EDWARDS, S. KAWAMURA, B. D. MAXWELL, M. D. EASTGATE, P. S. BARAN* (THE SCRIPPS RESEARCH INSTITUTE, LA JOLLA BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB, PRINCETON AND NEW BRUNSWICK, USA) A General Alkyl-Alkyl Cross-Coupling Enabled by Redox-Active Esters and Alkylzinc Reagents *Science* **2016**, *352*, 801–805.

Nickel-Catalyzed Decarboxylative Alkyl-Alkyl Cross-Coupling

Decarboxylative alkyl-alkyl cross-coupling:

$$R^{1}/R^{2} = 1^{\circ}, 2^{\circ}, 3^{\circ} \text{ Alk }$$

$$R^{3} = 1^{\circ}, 2^{\circ} \text{ Alk }$$

$$R^{1}/R^{2} = 1^{\circ}, 2^{\circ} \text{ Alk }$$

$$R^{2}/R^{2} = 1^{\circ}, 2^{\circ} \text{ Alk }$$

$$R^{3}/R^{2} = 1^{\circ}, 2^{\circ} \text{ Alk }$$

$$R^{3}/R^{2}/R^{2} = 1^{\circ}, 2^{\circ} \text{ Alk }$$

Selected examples:

TosN

R = Me, 79% yield

R =
$$n$$
-C₈ H ₁₇, 62% yield

AcO

AcO

AcO

AcO

AcO

OAc

70% yield

Three-component conjunctive cross-coupling:

$$R^{1}, R^{2} = Alk$$

$$R^{3} = Alk, O(4-ClC_{6}H_{4}), OMe, SMe, N(Me)Boc$$

$$R^{1} = Alk, O(4-ClC_{6}H_{4}), OMe, SMe, N(Me)Boc$$

$$R^{2} = Alk, O(4-ClC_{6}H_{4}), OMe, SMe, N(Me)Boc$$

$$R^{3} = Alk, O(4-ClC_{6}H_{4}), OMe, SMe, N(Me)Boc$$

Selected examples:

Significance: Baran and co-workers report a nickel-catalyzed decarboxylative cross-coupling of redox-active alkyl esters with dialkylzinc reagents by using a bipyridine ligand to afford a variety of products in very high yields. Remarkable are the high functional group tolerances as well as the mild reaction conditions.

Comment: The authors present a three-component conjunctive cross-coupling by employing benzylacrylate as an acceptor molecule. The formation of quaternary centers is accomplished by the formation of two C–C bonds and the corresponding products are obtained in very high yields.

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Metal-Mediated Synthesis

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decarboxylative cross-coupling

nicke

