1,4-rhodium(I) migration

three-component coupling

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Enantioselective Rhodium-Catalyzed Coupling of Arylboronic Acids, 1,3-Enynes, and Imines by Alkenyl-to-Allyl 1,4-Rhodium(I) Migration

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Coupling of Boronic Acids, 1,3-Enynes and Cyclic Imines

Selected examples:

70% yield, 99% ee, dr >19:1

52% yield, 99% ee, dr >19:1

46% yield, 99% ee, dr >19:1

53% yield, 99% ee, dr >19:1

ONH Ph OME Ph Ph Ph

O S NH F

66% yield, 69% ee, dr >19:1 43% yield, 90% ee, dr >19:1

68% yield, 99% ee, dr >19:1

68% yield, 98% ee, dr >19:1

Significance: The authors describe a rhodium-catalyzed highly stereoselective coupling of arylboronic acids, 1,3-enynes and cyclic imines. The key step is an alkenyl-to-allyl 1,4-Rh(I) migration, which leads to enantioselective allylation with the cyclic imine. Given the number of alternative pathways, the chemoselectivity of this method is notable

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Comment: Deuterium-labeling experiments suggest that the 1,4-Rh(I) migration occurs by C–H oxidative addition to give a Rh(III) hydride, followed by C–H reductive elimination. Use of ZnCl₂ gave more consistent results. The authors suggest an acceleration of the allylation by Lewis acid activation or improvement of catalyst turnover.