



**PREPARATION AND QUANTITATIVE STRUCTURE-ACTIVITY
RELATIONSHIPS PROPERTIES OF PRECURSORS FOR THE SYNTHESIS OF
IMIDAZOLIUM SALTS USED AS LIGANDS FOR THE ENANTIOSELECTIVE
SYNTHESIS OF HETEROSTEROIDS COMPOUNDS**

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ABSTRACT

1-phenyl-1H-imidazole (**3**) and 2-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)pyridine(**5**), have respectively been prepared by the reaction of 1-bromobenzene (**1**) and 2-bromopyridine (**4**) with imidazole (**2**) in DMF. While, 1-mesityl-1H-imidazole (**7**) and 2-(1H-imidazol-1-yl) pyrimidine (**9**) have been respectively prepared by the reaction of 2-iodo mesitylene **6** and 2-chloropyrimidine (**8**) with imidazole (**2**) in DMF. The purity of these compounds was confirmed by spectroscopic data. The NMR spectra showed all the signals and the structures were confirmed by HRMS. Quantitative structure-activity relationships properties of the fourth compounds; octanol/water partition coefficient, hydration energy, molar polarisability, molar refractivity, molar volume, molar weight and surface grid calculated.

KEYWORDS: Imidazolium salts; Synthesis; Ligands; Enantioselective; Heterosteroids; QSAR

INTRODUCTION

N-Arylimidazoles compounds have received great attention in a variety of fields throughout the chemical, pharmaceutical, and material sciences [i-vi]. Traditionally, these N-arylazoles have been synthesized via S_NAr (nucleophilic aromatic substitution) of N-containing heterocycles with electron-deficient aryl halides [vii-x] or via the classical Ullmann-type coupling with aryl halides [xi-xiii]. These well-known reactions, however, generally suffer from several limitations : (i) high reaction temperatures (Often 120 °C), (ii) the use of stoichiometric amounts of copper reagents, (iii) moderate yields, and (iv) poor substrate generality.

Despite significant progress in the Cu-catalyzed N-arylation of nitrogen heterocycles with aryl halides, only a few reports have appeared describing the couplings of imidazoles with aryl bromides or of functional substrates or of hindered substrates [xiv-xxxvii]. After optimizing of the conditions, we explored the scope of the coupling reactions of aryl and heteroaryl halides with imidazole in the presence of 20 % of CuI and 2 equiv of Cs₂CO₃ in DMF at 120 °C under Argon, and the results are summarized in the Scheme 1.

EXPERIMENTAL

Synthesis

Preparation of 1-phenyl-1H-imidazole (3)

To a flame-dried Schlenk test tube with a magnetic stirring bar was charged with CuI (0.76 g, 4.0 mmol, 0.2 equiv), Cs₂CO₃ (13.00 g, 40.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv), Imidazole (1.90 g, 28.0 mmol, 1.4 equiv), 1-bromobenzene (2.10 g, 20.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and DMF (40 mL) under argon. A rubber septum was replaced with a glass stopper, and the system was then evacuated twice and back filled with argon. The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min at room temperature, and then heated at 120 °C for 24 hours. The reaction mixture was then cooled to ambient temperature, diluted with (20 mL) of ethyl acetate, filtered through a plug of silica gel, and washed with ethyl acetate (100 mL). The combined organic extracts were concentrated and the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (Petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:80) to yield 1-phenyl-1H-imidazole as a yellow oil (2.30 g, 80 % yield).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ=7.20 (s, 1H), 7.23-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.43-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.84 (s, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ=118.1, 121.4, 127.3, 129.8, 130.3, 135.5, 137.3 ppm.

HRMS (ESI) Calcd for C₉H₈N₂ [M+H]⁺: 145.0760. Found : 145.0760.

Preparation of 2-(1H-imidazol-1-yl) pyridine(5)

To a flame-dried Schlenk test tube with a magnetic stirring bar was charged with CuI (0.76 g, 4.0 mmol, 0.2 equiv), Cs₂CO₃ (13.00 g, 40.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv), Imidazole (1.90 g, 28.0 mmol, 1.4 equiv), 2-bromopyridine (1.9 mL, 20.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and DMF (40 mL) under argon. A rubber septum was replaced with a glass stopper, and the system was then evacuated twice and back filled with argon. The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min at room temperature, and then heated at 120 °C for 40 hours. The reaction mixture was then cooled to ambient temperature, diluted with 20 mL of ethyl acetate, filtered through a plug of silica gel, and washed with 100 mL of ethyl acetate. The combined organic extracts were concentrated and the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (Petroleum ether/EtOAc = 2:8) to yield 2-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)pyridine as a clear yellow solid (1.98 g, 68 % yield) m.p : 36 – 38 °C.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ=7.14 (bs, 1H), 7.17 (ddd, ³J = 7.5 Hz, ³J = 4.9 Hz, ⁴J = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (dt, ³J = 8.2 Hz, ⁴J = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (bs, 1H), 7.75 (ddd, ³J = 8.2 Hz, ³J = 7.5 Hz, ⁴J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 8.29 (bs, 1H), 8.41 (ddd, ³J = 4.9 Hz, ⁴J = 1.8 Hz, ⁵J = 0.8 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ=112.3, 116.1, 121.5, 122.0, 130.6, 135.0, 139.0, 149.1 ppm.

Preparation of 1-mesityl-1H-imidazole (7)

To a flame-dried Schlenk test tube with a magnetic stirring bar was charged with CuI (0.38 g, 2.0 mmol, 0.1 equiv), Cs₂CO₃ (13.70 g, 42.0 mmol, 2.1 equiv), Imidazole (1.63 g, 24.0 mmol, 1.2 equiv), 2-iodo mesitylene (4.92 g, 20.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), *N,N'*-dimethylethylenediamine (0.9 mL, 8.0 mmol, 0.4 equiv) and DMF (20 mL) under argon. A rubber septum was replaced with a glass stopper, and the system was then evacuated twice and back filled with argon. The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min at room temperature, and then heated at 170 °C for 48 hours. The reaction mixture was then cooled to ambient

temperature, diluted with 20 mL of ethyl acetate, filtered through a plug of silica gel, and washed with 100 mL of ethyl acetate. The combined organic extracts were concentrated and the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (Petroleum ether/EtOAc = 2:8) to yield 1-mesityl-1H-imidazole as a clear yellow solid (1.2 g, 33 % yield) m.p : 115 – 116 °C.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ=1.97 (s, 6H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 6.95 (s, 2H), 7.21 (s, 1H), 7.42 (s, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ=17.2, 20.9, 120.0, 128.9, 129.4, 133.3, 135.3, 137.4, 138.7 ppm.

HRMS (ESI) Calcd for C₁₂H₁₄N₂ [M+H]⁺: 187.1230. Found : 187.1234.

Preparation of 2-(1H-imidazol-1-yl) pyrimidine (9)

To a flame-dried Schlenk test tube with a magnetic stirring bar was charged with CuI (0.76 g, 4.0 mmol, 0.2 equiv), Cs₂CO₃ (13.00 g, 40.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv), imidazole (1.90 g, 28.0 mmol, 1.4 equiv), 2-chloropyrimidine (2.28 g, 20.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and DMF (40 mL) under argon. A rubber septum was replaced with a glass stopper, and the system was then evacuated twice and back filled with argon. The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min at room temperature, and then heated at 120 °C for 40 hours. The reaction mixture was then cooled to ambient temperature, diluted with (20 mL) of ethyl acetate, filtered through a plug of silica gel, and washed with ethyl acetate (100 mL). The combined organic extracts were concentrated and the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (Petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:80) to yield 2-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)pyrimidine as a white solid (2.29 g, 78 % yield) m.p : 128-129 °C .

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ=7.12 (s, 1H), 7.16 (t, ³J = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (t, ⁴J = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 8.58 (s, 1H), 8.65 (d, ³J = 4.9 Hz, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ=116.4, 118.8, 130.6, 136.0, 158.6 ppm.

Ms (ESI) for C₇H₆N₄ [M+Na]⁺: 168.7.

HRMS (ESI) Calcd for C₇H₆N₄ [M+H]⁺: 147.0665. Found : 147.0666.

Anal. Calcd for C₇H₆N₄ (146.15) : C, 57.53; H, 4.4; N, 38.34 %.

Found : C, 57.61; H, 4.12; N, 38.09 %.

QSAR's properties study

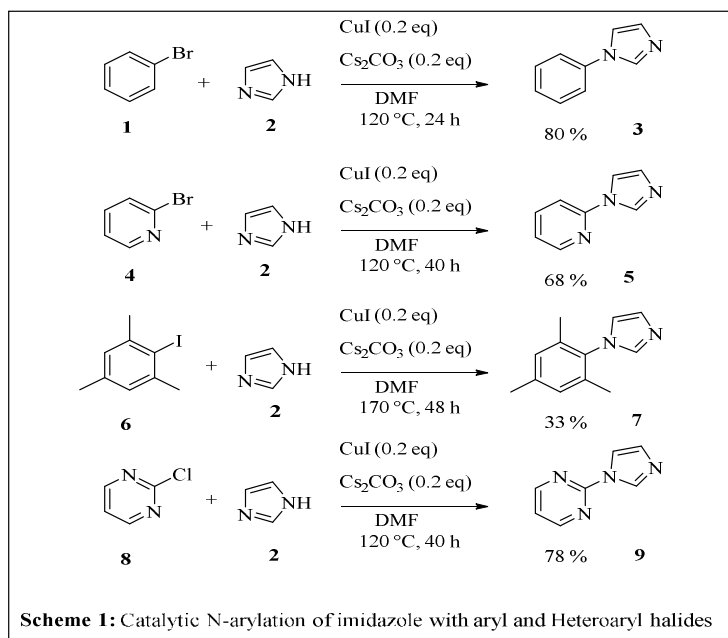
The four prepared molecules have been pre-optimized using the Molecular Mechanics (MM⁺) force field included in HyperChem version 8.0.3.

HyperChem's QSAR property module was used to calculate: molar weight (MW), molar polarisability (Pol), molar refractivity (MR), octanol/water partition coefficient (logP), hydration energy (HE), molar volume (MV), surface grid (SAG) and Surface Area Approx (SAA).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Synthesis

We were delighted to find that the catalytic system was able to tolerate a broad range of aryl bromides such as 1-bromobenzene (**1**) and 2-bromopyridine (**4**) to afford respectively the corresponding N-arylimidazoles such as 1-phenyl-1H-imidazole (**3**) and 2-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)pyridine (**5**). In addition, Ullmann-type condensations are generally sensitive to steric hindrance near the halogen atom, and there are rare examples describing the Cu-catalyzed couplings of imidazoles with sterically hindered aryl halides. Our catalytic system could be applied to N-arylation of imidazole with ortho, meta and para substituted aryl iodide such as 2-iodo mesitylene (**6**) to afford 1-mesityl-1H-imidazole (**7**). Preliminary results suggest that the current system could be applicable to aryl chlorides such as 2-chloropyrimidine (**8**) to yield 2-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)pyrimidine (**9**). Scheme 1 presents the catalytic N-arylation of imidazole with aryl and heteroaryl halides



Relationship structure-activity (SAR)

We studied 8 physico-chemical properties of series of 4 imidazole derivatives (3, 5, 7 and 9), using HyperChem software. QSAR properties such as van der Waals surface, molecular volume (MV), Surface Area Grid (SAG) and Surface Area Approx (SAA), octanol-water partition coefficient (log P), molar refractivity (MR), polarisability (Pol), molecular volume and molecular weight (MW) accessible to solvents and bound to the surface were studied and are gathered in the table 1.

Table 1. QSAR Properties

Compound ds	(MW) amu	(Pol) Cm ³	(MR) Cm ³	(log P)	(HE) kcal/mol	(MV) Cm ³	(SAG) Cm ²	(SAA) Cm ²
3	144.176	17.258	49.598	-5.231	-5.231	476.417	316.670	250.423
5	145.164	16.549	45.468	-0.039	-6.003	465.197	316.537	237.158
7	186.257	22.763	62.444	0.202	-1.914	615.663	382.014	334.140
9	146.151	15.840	42.581	-0.475	-6.853	455.423	313.700	224.068

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we have developed relatively mild and highly efficient CuI-catalyzed N-arylation procedures for nitrogen containing heterocycles with aryl and heteroaryl halides. The system is effective for aryl bromides and aryl chlorides, but to a less extent, for aryl iodides. In addition, the procedures could be performed easily. This work should find wide application for synthesis of imidazolium salts used as ligands for the enantioselective synthesis of Heterosteroids compounds.

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Received on May 29, 2020