C. HAN, S. L. BUCHWALD* (MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, CAMBRIDGE, USA)

Negishi Coupling of Secondary Alkylzinc Halides with Aryl Bromides and Chlorides *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, *131*, 7532-7533.

Coupling of Secondary Alkylzinc Halides with Aryl Bromides and Chlorides

Pd(OAc)₂ (1 mol%)
CPhos (2 mol%)
THF, r.t., 30 min to 1 h

$$X = CI$$
, Br

 $X = CI$,

Significance: Direct cross-coupling of secondary acyclic organometallic species is a rather challenging task. This reaction is often plagued by β -hydride elimination or metal migration. The fine tuning of the ligand for the Negishi coupling allowed the development of a high-yielding, simple procedure for this coupling reaction, suitable for a broad substrate range with excellent functional group tolerance.

Comment: One of the main side products of the sp^2-sp^3 coupling of *i*-PrZnHal and similar species is the *n*-propyl adduct. Mechanistic studies of the authors showed that the ratio of *i*-Pr to *n*-Pr products depends on the rate of reductive elimination from the ligated ArPd(*i*-Pr) species, which competes with the β -hydride elimination–reinsertion process. Interestingly, free alcohols are tolerated in this coupling.

 SYNFACTS Contributors: Paul Knochel, Andrei Gavryushin

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1015