Functionalization of C–O Bonds



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## Functionalization of C–O Bonds





#### Lignin

- Second most abundant biopolymer
- About 30% of organic carbon on earth
- Byproduct of paper production
- Potential fine chemical feedstock















startup company (founded 2014) based on one step removal of lignin from biological feedstocks and upgrading to valuable commodity chemicals





Nicolau, K. C.; Vassilikogiannakis, W.; Mägerlein, W.; Kranich, R. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2001, 40, 2482

## Activation of C–O Bonds is Challenging



carbon-oxygen bonds are much stronger than the corresponding carbon-halide bonds

#### Functionalization of C–O Bonds

- Radical alcohol deoxygenation
  - Thiocarbonyl methods
  - Phosphite activation
  - Thiol catalysis
  - Titanium-mediated deoxygenation
- Transition metal C–O bond insertion
  - Aryl methyl ether electrophiles
  - Ru directed C–O bond insertion
  - Phenol cross-coupling



Η

.0、<sub>X</sub>

## Reduction of C–O Bonds



## Reduction of C–O Bonds



Herrmann, J. F.; König, B. Eur. J. Org. Chem. 2013, 7017

## General Functionalization Methods are Not Yet Available



### The Barton-McCombie Alcohol Deoxygenation



conversion from C=S to C=O provides thermodynamic driving force

Barton, D. H. R.; McCombie, S. W. Perkin Trans. I. 1975, 1574

### Catalytic Barton-McCombie Deoxygenation



## *Tin-Free C–O Bond Reductions*













solvent	yield	
DMSO	0%	
MeCN	0%	
NMP	43%	
DMF	44%	

Lam, K.; Marko<sup>´</sup>, I. E. Org. Lett. 2011, 13, 406

fragmentation rates support a radical mechanism



R	k
ethyl	0.19
cyclohexyl	0.33
1-adamantyl	0.70
allyl	too fast to measure





can the phosphine intermediate be formed in situ?

Maeda, H.; Maki, T.; Eguchi, K.; Koide, T.; Ohmori, H. Tet. Lett. 1994, 35, 4129



phosphine	triethylammonium salt	total electricity	yield
PPh <sub>3</sub>	BF <sub>4</sub> -	5 F/mol	trace
PPh <sub>3</sub>	CI-	5 F/mol	66%
PPh <sub>3</sub>	Br-	5 F/mol	94%
PPh <sub>3</sub>	Br-	4 F/mol	70%
PBu <sub>3</sub>	Br-	5 F/mol	68%
none	Br <sup>_</sup>	5 F/mol	0%

#### phosphine necessary for reduction to occur







Maeda, H.; Maki, T.; Eguchi, K.; Koide, T.; Ohmori, H. Tet. Lett. 1994, 35, 4129







Dang, H.-S.; Franchi, P.; Roberts, B. P. Chem. Commun. 2000, 499





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Dang, H.-S.; Franchi, P.; Roberts, B. P. Chem. Commun. 2000, 499









alcohol coordination to Ti(III)

inner sphere reduction

trapping of radical by Ti(III)









Barrero, A. F. et al J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2010, 132, 254





Barrero, A. F. et al Org. Biomol. Chem. 2015, 13, 3462

## Titanium Catalyzed Alcohol Reduction



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Η

.0、<sub>X</sub>

## First Report of Aryl Methyl Ether Cross-Coupling



much more efficient for napthyl ethers, although some reactivity observed for anisoles

# Extension to Anisole Electrophiles



ligand	ArOMe	yield
PEt <sub>3</sub>	75%	7%
P <i>i</i> Bu <sub>3</sub>	32%	42%
P <i>I</i> Pr <sub>3</sub>	<1%	82%
PCy <sub>3</sub>	0%	93%
PPh <sub>2</sub> Cy	7%	81%
PPh <sub>3</sub>	74%	15%

### Extension to Anisole Electrophiles



Dankwardt, J. W. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2004, 43, 2428

# Methyl Ether Kumada Cross-Couplings





## Aryl Methyl Ether Cross-Couplings



development of an aryl methyl ether Suzuki-Miyaura coupling would be highly advantageous





Tobisu, M.; Shimasaki, T.; Chatani, N. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2008, 47, 4866







requirement for extended conjugation suggests an alternative oxidative addition mechanism



#### ArOMe effective electrophile in Kumada but not Suzuki-Miyaura coupling



Dankwardt, J. W. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2004, 43, 2428

Wenkert, E.; Michelotti, E. L.; Swindell, C. S. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1979, 101, 2246











Kakiuchi, F.; Tsui, M.; Ueno, S.; Chatani, N.; Murai, S. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2004, 126, 2706





first example of an isolated aryl C–O bond

oxidative addition complex with transition metal





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Phenolic C–O Bond Cross-Coupling



## Phenolic C–O Bond Cross-Coupling



metal salt	halide	GC yield
Li+	Br <sup>_</sup>	8%
K+	Br−	14%
Na <sup>+</sup>	Br-	81%
Mg <sup>+2</sup>	Br-	99%
Mg <sup>+2</sup>	CI-	64%
Mg <sup>+2</sup>	I–	87%



## Phenolic C–O Bond Cross-Coupling



Yu, D.-G.; Li, B.-J.; Zheng, S.-F.; Guan, B.-T.; Wang, B.-Q.; Shi, Z.-J. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2010, 49, 4566

#### Benzylic Alcohol C–O Bond Cross-Coupling



methyl Grignard reagent to form magnesium alkoxide

benzylic alcohol C–O bond weaker than phenol - reflected in lower T required

Yu, D.-G.; Wang, X.; Zhu, R.-Y.; Luo, S.; Zhang, X.-B.; Wang, B.-Q.; Wang, L.; Shi, Z.-J. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2012, 134, 14638

## Benzylic Alcohol C–O Bond Cross-Coupling



alkyl Grignard reagents were not effective

Yu, D.-G.; Wang, X.; Zhu, R.-Y.; Luo, S.; Zhang, X.-B.; Wang, B.-Q.; Wang, L.; Shi, Z.-J. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2012, 134, 14638

## Benzylic Alcohol C–O Suzuki-Miyaura





### Benzylic Alcohol C–O Suzuki-Miyaura



Cao, Z.-C.; Yu, D.-G.; Zhu, R.-Y.; Wei, J.-B.; Shi, Z.-J. Chem. Commun. 2015, 51, 2683

# Benzylic Alcohol C–O Suzuki-Miyaura



Cao, Z.-C.; Yu, D.-G.; Zhu, R.-Y.; Wei, J.-B.; Shi, Z.-J. *Chem. Commun.* **2015**, *51*, 2683