Highly Selective Coupling of Alkenes and Aldehydes Catalyzed by

NHC–Ni–P(OPh)₃: Synergy Between a Strong σ-Donor and a Strong π-Acceptor

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Supporting Information

Experimental Procedures, Analytical and Spectroscopic Data for Compounds

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General Experimental Procedures.

Unless otherwise indicated, all reactions were performed under an oxygen–free atmosphere of argon with rigid exclusion of moisture from reagents and glassware. All alkenes and aldehydes were used as received without further purification. Diphenylcyclohexylphosphine, ethyl diphenylphosphinite and diethyl phenylphosphonite were purchased from Aldrich Chemical Co. and were used as received. Other phosphorous ligands, 1,3-Bis(2,6-di-isopropylphenyl)imidazol-2-ylidene (IPr) and Bis(cyclooctadienyl) nickel(0) (Ni(cod)₂) were purchased from Strem Chemicals, Inc., stored under nitrogen atomosphere and used without further purification. Triethylamine, toluene and Triethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (TESOTf) were distilled over calcium hydride before use.

Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed using EM Science silica gel 60 F254 plates. The developed chromatogram was analyzed by UV lamp (254 nm), ethanolic phosphomolybdic acid (PMA) or potassium permanganate (KMnO₄). Liquid chromatography was performed using a forced flow (flash chromatography) of the indicated solvent system on Silicycle Silica Gel (230–400 mesh). ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker 400 MHz spectrometers in CDCl₃. Chemical shifts in ¹H NMR spectra are reported in ppm on the δ scale from residual chloroform (7.27 ppm). Chemical shifts of ¹³C NMR spectra are reported in ppm from the central peak of CDCl₃ (77.23 ppm) on the δ scale. Infrared (IR) spectra were recorded on a Perkin–Elmer 2000 FT–IR. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained on a Bruker Daltonics APEXII 3 Tesla Fourier Transform Mass Spectrometer by Dr. Li Li of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Department of Chemistry Instrument Facility.



With an additional double bond



Procedure for the Evaluation of Additives in Ni-IPr Mediated Alkene-Aldehyde Coupling Reactions (Table 1).

1,3-Bis(2,6-di-isopropylphenyl)imidazol-2-ylidene (IPr) (0.05 mmol, 20 mol%) and Ni(cod)₂ (0.05 mmol, 20 mol%) were added to an oven-dried test tube equipped with a stir bar in glove box. The tube was sealed with a septum, brought out of the glove box and connected to an argon line. The catalyst mixture was dissolved in degassed toluene (3.0 mL) under argon and stirred 1 h at room temperature. Vinylcyclohexene (0.25 mL), triethylamine (1.5 mmol, 600 mol%), *p*-anisaldehyde (0.25 mmol, 100 mol%), and the additive (0.05 mmol, 20 mol%) were added sequentially to the reaction mixture. Triethylsilyltriflate (0.44 mmol, 175 mol%) was added to the reaction mixture dropwise and the mixture was stirred 21 h at room temperature. The mixture was diluted with ether (5 mL) and was allowed to stir 30 mins in open air. The mixture was filtered through a short plug of silica gel and rinsed with 20% ethyl acetate/hexane (50 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, purification via flash chromatography on silica gel (1% ethyl acetate in hexane, unless otherwise indicated) afforded the coupling product.

General Procedure for IPr-Ni-P(OPh)₃ Catalyzed Alkene-Aldehyde Coupling Reactions (Table 2).

1,3-Bis(2,6-di-isopropylphenyl)imidazol-2-ylidene (IPr) (0.075 mmol, 30 mol%) and Ni(cod)₂ (0.075 mmol, 30 mol%) were added to an oven-dried test tube equipped with a stir bar in glove box. The tube was sealed with a septum, brought out of the glove box, and connected to an argon line. The catalyst mixture was dissolved in degassed toluene (3 mL) under argon and stirred at room temperature for 1 hour. The alkene (1.25 mmol, 500 mol% or indicated amount in Table 2), triethylamine (1.5 mmol, 600 mol%), aldehyde (0.25 mmol, 100 mol%), triphenylphosphite (0.11 mmol, 45 mol%) were then added sequentially to the reaction mixture. (When a solid aldehyde was used, the aldehyde was added as a stock solution in toluene.) Triethylsilyltriflate (0.44 mmol, 175 mol%) was added to the reaction mixture dropwise, and the mixture was stirred 48 h at 35 °C. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was diluted with ether (5 mL) and was allowed to stir 30 mins in open air. The mixture was then filtered through a short plug of silica gel and rinsed with 20% ethyl acetate/hexane (50 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and purification via flash chromatography on silica gel (1% ethyl acetate in hexane, unless otherwise indicated) afforded the coupling product.

In some cases, the coupling product coeluted with the starting materials, and characterization data of the corresponding alcohol was reported instead. The corresponding alcohol product was obtained by treating the mixture with 1 M TBAF in THF at 0 °C and allowed to stir 2 h at room temperature, followed by flash column chromatography on silica (15% ethyl acetate in hexane, or 80% DCM in hexane).

Compound Characterization Data



Side Product from *m*-CF₃ styrene as additive:

Table 1, entry 2. Yield: < 5%.

Characterization data of the corresponding alcohol:

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 7.59 (s, 1H), 7.50–7.46 (m, 2H), 7.39–7.36 (m, 1H), 7.31

(d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.87 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.68 (d, J = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 5.63 (t, J = 1.1 Hz,

1H), 5.67 (s, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 2.07 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 159.6, 149.5, 140.4, 133.6, 130.6, 130.5, 128.9, 128.5, 124.5, 124.0, 115.3, 114.2, 75.6, 55.5.

IR (NaCl, thin film): 3398, 2925, 2852, 1669, 1611, 1587, 1513, 1490, 1465, 1442, 1332,

1251, 1167, 1125, 1074, 1034, 905, 832, 807, 701, 666.

HRMS-ESI (m/z): $[M+Na]^+$ calcd for $C_{17}H_{15}F_3O_2Na$, 331.0916; found, 331.0924.



The standard procedure was followed, except only 1.5 equiv of alkene was used. Yield: 91%.

Characterization data of the corresponding alcohol:

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 7.28 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H); 6.89 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H); 5.27 (s,

1H); 5.09 (s, 1H); 4.97 (s, 1H); 3.81 (s, 3H); 2.06 (brs, 1H); 1.97-1.75 (m, 2H);

1.48–1.29 (m, 2H); 1.28–1.23 (m, 6H); 0.87 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 159.3, 151.5, 134.6, 128.2, 113.9, 109.2, 76.9, 55.4, 32.2, 31.9, 29.3, 27.9, 22.8, 14.3.

IR (NaCl, thin film): 3405, 2955, 2928, 2857, 1647, 1611, 1586, 1511, 1465, 1303, 1248,

1172, 1109, 1037, 903, 830, 779.

HRMS-ESI (m/z): $[M+Na]^+$ calcd for C₁₆H₂₄O₂Na, 271.1669; found, 271.1679.

Table 2, entry 3

The standard procedure was followed. Yield: 60%.

Characterization data of the corresponding alcohol:

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 7.31–7.26 (m, 2H), 6.98 (dt, J = 7.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H); 6.92 (d,

J = 8.1 Hz, 2H); 5.44 (d, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 1H); 5.16 (s, 1H); 4.99 (t, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1H); 3.87 (s,

3H); 2.63 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H); 2.20–1.90 (m, 2H); 1.50–1.42 (m, 2H); 1.32–1.24 (m, 6H);

0.89 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 157.3, 150.9, 130.6, 128.9, 128.2, 121.0, 110.9, 109.5, 72.4, 55.6, 33.1, 31.9, 29.3, 28.1, 22.8, 14.3.

IR (NaCl, thin film): 3365, 2928, 2857, 1653, 1596, 1559, 1491, 1473, 1244, 1029, 904, 813, 753, 691.

HRMS-ESI (m/z): $[M+Na]^+$ calcd for C₁₆H₂₄O₂Na, 271.1669; found, 271.1672.



Table 2, entry 4:

The standard procedure was followed. Yield: 84%.

Characterization data of the corresponding alcohol:

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 7.29–7.25 (m, 1H); 6.96–6.93 (m, 2H); 6.85–6.82 (m,

1H), 5.26 (s, 1H); 5.14 (s, 1H); 4.98 (s, 1H); 3.82 (s, 3H); 1.98–1.81 (m, 2H); 1.94 (d, J =

3.7 Hz, 1H); 1.44–1.37 (m, 2H); 1.29–1.20 (m, 6H); 0.86 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 159.9, 151.2, 144.1, 129.6, 119.3, 113.4, 112.3, 109.9, 77.5, 55.4, 32.0, 31.9, 29.3, 27.9, 22.8, 14.3.

IR (NaCl, thin film): 3403, 2927, 2857, 1684, 1636, 1653, 1602, 1559, 1540, 1507, 1489,

1457, 1437, 1260, 1156, 1042.

HRMS-ESI (m/z): $[M+Na]^+$ calcd for $C_{16}H_{24}O_2Na$, 271.1669; found, 271.1680.



The standard procedure was followed. Yield: 58%.

Characterization data of the corresponding alcohol:

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 7.35–7.22 (m, 7H); 6.86 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H); 5.68 (s, 1H);

5.53 (brs, 2H); 3.80 (s, 3H); 2.04 (brs, 1H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 159.4, 150.6, 139.6, 134.2, 128.6, 128.5, 127.8, 127.1,

114.1, 113.8, 75.6, 55.5.

IR (NaCl, thin film): 3406, 2922, 2852, 1611, 1552, 1512, 1462, 1248, 1173, 1027, 832, 666.

HRMS-ESI (m/z): $[M+Na]^+$ calcd for $C_{16}H_{16}O_2Na$, 263.1043; found, 263.1053.



The standard procedure was followed, except only 1.5 equiv of alkene was used. Yield: 74%.

Characterization data of the corresponding alcohol:

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 7.31–7.27 (m, 4H); 7.23–7.22 (m, 1H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H); 6.91 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H); 5.37 (s, 1H); 5.06 (s, 1H); 4.91 (s, 1H); 3.84 (s, 3H); 3.36 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz, 1H); 3.11 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz, 1H); 1.93 (brs, 1H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 159.5, 150.8, 139.4, 134.2, 129.4, 128.5, 128.4, 126.4, 114.1, 111.9, 76.1, 55.5, 39.4.

IR (NaCl, thin film): 3406, 2959, 2923, 2852, 1642, 1511, 1463, 1378, 1250, 1159, 1071, 666.

HRMS-ESI (m/z): $[M+Na]^+$ calcd for $C_{17}H_{18}O_2Na$, 277.1199; found, 277.1209.



The standard procedure was followed. Yield: 87%.

Characterization data of the corresponding alcohol:

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 7.39–7.15 (m, 5H); 7.13 (d, J = 1.3 Hz, 2H), 6.88 (d, J =

6.8 Hz, 2H); 5.34 (s, 1H); 5.12 (s, 1H); 5.05 (s, 1H); 3.82 (s, 3H); 2.72 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H);

2.31 (m, 2H), 1.85 (brs, 1H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 159.4, 150.7, 149.2, 142.1, 134.3, 128.5, 128.2, 126.0, 114.0, 110.1, 77.1, 55.5, 34.5, 33.8.

IR (NaCl, thin film): 3420, 2925, 1611, 1511, 1454, 1248, 1172, 1034, 831, 665.

HRMS-ESI (m/z): $[M+Na]^+$ calcd for $C_{18}H_{20}O_2Na$, 291.1356; found, 291.1358.



The standard procedure was followed. Yield: 96%.

Characterization data of the corresponding alcohol:

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 7.24 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H); 6.82 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H); 5.21 (s,

1H); 5.08 (s, 1H); 4.88 (s, 1H); 3.80 (s, 3H); 1.74–1.53 (m, 6H); 1.22–1.02 (m, 2H); 0.90

(t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 9H); 0.56 (dq, *J* = 8.0, 1.5 Hz, 6H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 158.8, 157.9, 136.0, 128.1, 113.4, 107.8, 77.1, 55.4, 39.7,
34.5, 33.5, 27.2, 27.0, 26.6, 7.1, 5.1.

IR (NaCl, thin film): 3425, 2925, 2852, 1643, 1511, 1462, 1247, 1171, 1073, 890, 855, 665.

HRMS-ESI (m/z): $[M+Na]^+$ calcd for C₂₂H₃₆O₂SiNa, 383.2377; found, 383.2387.



Table 2, entry 9:

The standard procedure was followed, except the reaction was carried out in sealed tube and using 1 mL of alkene. Yield: 93%.

Characterization data of the corresponding alcohol:

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 7.30 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.89 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.29 (s,

1H), 5.17 (d, J = 3.3 Hz, 1H), 5.06 (s, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 2.11 (m, 1H), 1.91 (brs, 1H),

1.01 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.00 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 159.4, 158.1, 134.8, 128.5, 114.0, 107.3, 76.3, 55.4, 30.4, 23.4, 22.5.

IR (NaCl, thin film): 3395, 2960, 2930, 2871, 1644, 1611, 1586, 1511, 1463, 1303, 1249, 1173, 1096, 1035, 904, 853, 831.

HRMS-ESI (m/z): $[M+Na]^+$ calcd for C₁₃H₁₈O₂Na, 229.1199; found, 229.1206.



Table 2, entry 10:

The standard procedure was followed, except the reaction was carried out in sealed tube and using 40 mol% of Ni(cod)₂, IPr and 60 mol% of P(OPh)₃. Yield: 13%.

Characterization data of the corresponding alcohol:

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 7.34 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.89 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.39 (d,

J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 5.27 (s, 1H), 5.24 (d, *J* = 0.7 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 1.73 (d, *J* = Hz, 1H),

1.10 (s, 9H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 160.6, 159.3, 136.0, 128.5, 113.9, 110.0, 72.8, 55.5, 35.7,
30.1.

IR (NaCl, thin film): 3405, 2956, 2876, 1698, 1598, 1511, 1489, 1462, 1314, 1261, 1191,

1161, 1072, 1025, 9625, 861, 833, 727, 690, 666.

HRMS-ESI (m/z): $[M+Na]^+$ calcd for $C_{14}H_{20}O_2Na$, 243.1356; found, 243.1367.



The standard procedure was followed. Yield: 99%.

Characterization data of the corresponding alcohol:

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 7.28 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H); 6.89 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H); 5.32,

(s, 1H); 5.06 (s, 1H); 4.96 (s, 1H); 3.81 (s, 3H); 1.94 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H); 1.83–1.71 (m,

3H); 0.85 (t, J = 5.6 Hz, 9H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 159.4, 150.0, 134.5, 128.4, 114.0, 110.5, 76.7, 55.5, 42.3, 26.5, 23.0, 22.5.

IR (NaCl, thin film): 3402, 2954, 2869, 2837, 1647, 1611, 1587, 1512, 1465, 1384, 1366, 1303, 1249, 1173, 1109, 1036, 906, 851, 829, 780.

HRMS-ESI (m/z): [M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₂₀H₃₄O₂SiNa, 357.2220; found, 357.2214.



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The standard procedure was followed. Yield: 94%.

Characterization data of the corresponding alcohol:

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 7.29 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H); 6.88 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H); 5.27 (s,

1H); 5.10 (d, J = 3.1 Hz, 1H); 5.06 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H); 4.98 (s, 1), 3.82 (s, 3H); 1.96–1.84

(m, 5H); 1.67 (s, 3H); 1.56 (s, 3H); 1.48–1.42 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 159.3, 151.4, 134.6, 131.9, 128.2, 124.5, 114.0, 109.4, 77.0, 55.5, 31.9, 28.2, 27.9, 25.9, 17.9.

IR (NaCl, thin film): 3404, 2929, 1644, 1611, 1586, 1511, 1442, 1377, 1303, 1248, 1172,

1108, 1036, 902, 830.

HRMS-ESI (m/z): [M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₂₃H₃₈O₂SiNa, 397.2533; found, 397.2544.

Table 2, entry 13 compound characterization has been reported in previous phosphine system, see: Ng, S.-S.; Jamison, T. F. J. Am. Chem. Soc. **2005**, *127*, 14194-14195.



Table 2, entry 14:

The standard procedure was followed. Yield: 73%.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 7.87–7.78 (m, 4H); 7.50–7.27 (m, 3H); 5.30 (s, 2H); 4.92

(s, 1H); 2.00–1.94 (m, 2H); 1.80–1.76 (m, 2H); 1.40–1.34 (m, 2H); 1.26–1.19 (m, 6H),

0.95 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 9H), 0.84 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 0.63 (dq, *J* = 7.9, 1.9 Hz, 6H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 152.0, 141.2, 133.4, 133.0, 128.2, 127.9, 127.8, 126.0,

125.7, 125.1, 125.1, 109.7, 78.3, 31.9, 30.8, 29.3, 27.8, 22.8, 14.3, 7.1, 5.1.

IR (NaCl, thin film): 2955, 2929, 2875, 1652, 1559, 1507, 1458, 1239, 1122, 1080, 1006, 901, 857, 818, 743.

HRMS–ESI (m/z): [M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₂₅H₃₈OSiNa, 405.2590; found, 405.2583.



The standard procedure was followed, except 40 mol% of $Ni(cod)_2$, IPr and 60 mol% of $P(OPh)_3$ was used, and the product was purified with hexane. Yield: 64%.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 7.32–7.27 (m, 4H), 5.21 (s, 1H), 5.12 (s, 1H), 4.89 (s,

1H), 1.96–1.90 (m, 1H), 1.76–1.72 (m, 1H), 1.57–1.21 (m, 8H), 0.94 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 9H),

0.88 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.60 (q, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 6H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 151.9, 142.4, 132.8, 128.3, 127.9, 109.9 77.7, 31.9, 30.6, 29.3, 27.9, 22.8, 14.3, 7.0, 5.0.

IR (NaCl, thin film): 2928, 2857, 1653, 1596, 1457, 1076, 1029, 904.

HRMS-ESI (m/z): [M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₂₁H₃₅OClSiNa, 389.2038; found, 389.2055.



The standard procedure was followed, except the product was purified with hexane only. Yield: 21%.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 7.30–7.26 (m, 4H), 5.22 (t, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 5.12 (s, 1H), 4.92 (s, 1H), 1.73–1.56 (m, 6H); 1.16–1.11 (m, 2H); 0.92 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 9H); 0.59 (dq, *J* = 7.9, 0.4 Hz, 6H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 157.3, 142.5, 132.8, 128.3, 108.7, 78.2, 39.5, 34.5, 33.6, 27.1, 26.5, 7.0, 5.1.

IR (NaCl, thin film): 2926, 2876, 2852, 1644, 1596, 1489, 1448, 1408, 1239, 1130, 1080,

1015, 975, 890, 853, 808, 726, 666.

HRMS–ESI (m/z): [M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₂₁H₃₃OClSiNa, 387.1881; found, 387.1899.



The standard procedure was followed, except the reaction was carried out at room temperature, and with 40 mol% of Ni(cod)2, IPr and 60 mol% of P(OPh)₃. Yield: 36%.

Characterization data of the corresponding alcohol:

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 7.41 (m, 1H), 6.36 (m, 1H), 6.28 (m, 1H), 5.27 (s, 1H),

5.20 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 5.06 (s, 1H), 2.08 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 2.11–1.91 (m, 2H),

1.52–1.37 (m, 2H), 1.36–1.19 (m, 6H), 0.84 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 155.1, 149.0, 142.5, 110.7, 110.5, 107.4, 71.0, 32.5, 31.9, 29.3, 28.0, 22.8, 14.3.

IR (NaCl, thin film): 3367, 2957, 2929, 2858, 1651, 1503, 1466, 1378, 1223, 1143, 1039, 1010, 907, 798, 735, 598.

HRMS-ESI (m/z): $[M+Na]^+$ calcd for $C_{13}H_{20}O_2Na$, 231.1356; found, 231.1358.











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