

# **PEt<sub>3</sub>-Mediated Deoxygenative C–N Coupling of Nitroarenes and Boronic Acids**

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## I. General Methods

All reagents (including commercial phosphorus reagents used in optimization studies) were purchased from commercial vendors (Sigma-Aldrich, Alfa Aesar, Acros, TCI, or Oakwood Chemical, Combi-Blocks) and used without further purification unless otherwise indicated. Nitrobenzene was distilled over CaH prior to use. Anhydrous *m*-xylene was obtained from a Sigma-Aldrich (sure-seal<sup>®</sup> bottle) and used as received. All other solvents were ACS grade or better and were used without further purification. Manipulations were conducted under an atmosphere of dry N<sub>2</sub> gas unless otherwise noted. The phosphine-mediated C–N coupling reactions were carried out in glass culture tubes with threaded end (20 x 125 mm; Fisher Scientific part # 14-959-35A), outfitted with a phenolic screw-thread open top cap (Kimble-Chase part #73804-15425), and PTFE-lined silicone septum (Thermo Fisher part # B7995-15). Column chromatography was carried out on silica gel (SiliFlash<sup>®</sup> Irregular Silica Gel, P60 40-63 $\mu$ m). <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C, and <sup>19</sup>F NMR were collected with a Bruker AVANCE III DRX 400 spectrometer and processed using MestReNova. <sup>1</sup>H NMR chemical shifts are given in ppm with respect to solvent residual peak (CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$  7.26 ppm) and <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR shifts are given in ppm with respect to (CDCl<sub>3</sub>  $\delta$  77.16 ppm). Multiplicities are described as s = singlet, br s = broad singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, dd = doublet of doublets, tt = triplet of triplets, m = multiplet. Coupling constants are reported in Hertz (Hz). High-resolution ESI mass spectra were obtained from the MIT department of chemistry instrumentation facility on an Agilent 6545 Q-TOF instrument.

## II. Reaction Optimization

### Procedure:

Reaction vessels as described in the General Methods section were equipped with a PTFE stir bar and charged with phenylboronic acid (67 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1.1 equiv), nitrobenzene (51  $\mu$ L, 0.50 mmol, 1 equiv), and dodecane as standard (~0.50 mmol, gravimetrically determined). The vessels were sealed, evacuated on a Schlenk line for 30 sec, and backfilled with N<sub>2</sub> (1x). Each vessel was then charged with 1 mL of *m*-xylene via syringe, followed by the appropriate phosphine reagent via microliter syringe. In instances where the phosphine reagent was a solid, the solid was added prior to evacuation. The reactions were then heated to 120 °C and stirred for 4 h. Then the reaction mixtures were cooled to room temperature and diluted with 1 mL of denatured EtOH. After stirring thoroughly, a 40  $\mu$ L reaction aliquot was taken from each reaction mixture and charged into a GC vial containing 1.5 mL of denatured EtOH. The GC vial was capped and the shaken in order to mix thoroughly. Reaction yields were quantified by GC-FID by reference to calibration curves that were made using authentic analytes prior to the start of this study.

### GC-FID information:

An Agilent 7890A gas chromatograph was used for the analysis, outfitted with a J&W 127-1012 column (10m X 100  $\mu$ m X 0.1 $\mu$ m). The initial carrier gas flow rate was 0.38586 mL/min (He) and the temperature program started at 70 °C holding for 1 min, then ramped at 50 °C/min until 250 °C, and held at that temperature for 2 min. The retention times are as follows: 2.3 minutes (nitrobenzene), 2.7 minutes (dodecane), 3.9 minutes (diphenylamine).







































