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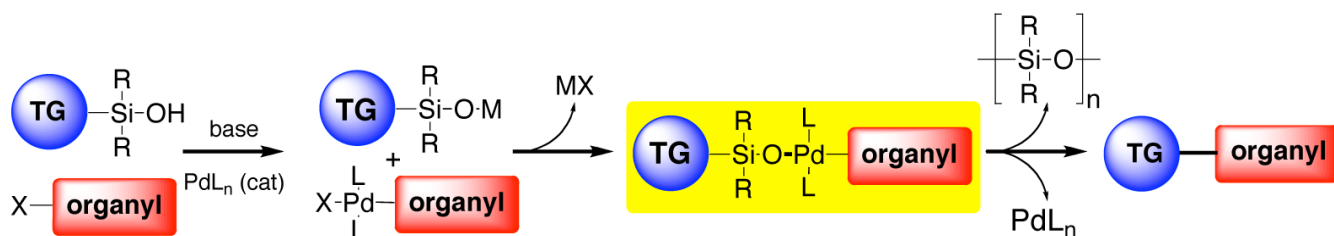
## Palladium-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling Reactions of Organosilanols and their Salts:

### Practical Alternatives to Boron- and Tin-based Methods

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### Conspectus



In the panoply of modern synthetic methods for forming carbon-carbon and carbon-heteroatom bonds, the transition metal-catalyzed cross coupling of organometallic nucleophiles with organic electrophiles enjoys a preeminent status. The preparative utility of these reactions is, in large measure, a consequence of the wide variety of organometallic donors that have been conscripted into service. The most common of these reagents are organic derivatives of tin, boron, and zinc, which each possess unique advantages and shortcomings. Because of their low cost, low toxicity, and high chemical stability, organosilanes have emerged as viable alternatives to the conventional reagents in recent years. However, unlike the tin- and zinc-based reactions that require no activation or the boron-based reactions that require only heating with mild bases, silicon-based cross-coupling reactions often require heating in the presence of a fluoride source; this has significantly hampered the widespread acceptance of organosilanols.

To address the “fluoride problem”, we have introduced a new paradigm for palladium-catalyzed, silicon-based cross-coupling reactions that employs organosilanols, a previously underutilized class of silicon reagents. The use of organosilanols either in the presence of Brønsted bases or as their silanolate salts represents a simple and mild alternative to the classic fluoride-based activation method. Organosilanols are easily available by many well-established methods for introducing carbon-silicon bonds onto alkenes, alkynes and arenes, and heteroarenes. Moreover, we have developed four different protocols for the generation of alkali metal salts of, vinyl-, alkenyl-, alkynyl-, aryl-, and heteroarylsilanolates: (1) reversible deprotonation with weak Brønsted bases, (2) irreversible deprotonation with strong Brønsted bases, (3) isolation of the salts from irreversible deprotonation, and (4) silanolate exchange with disiloxanes. We have demonstrated the advantages of each of these methods for a number of different coupling classes.

The defining feature of this new process is the formation of a covalently linked palladium silanolate species that facilitates the critical transmetalation step. We have verified the intermediacy of a critical species that contains the key Si-O-Pd linkage by its identification as the resting state in reaction mixtures, by X-ray analysis, and by demonstrating its competence in thermal cross-coupling with no

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additives. Our conclusions contradict the long-standing dogma that silicon-based cross-coupling reactions require the generation of a pentacoordinate silicate prior to transmetalation. This revelation has opened a new vista for discovery of new reactions that involve this critical process.

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“...Work in this field (silicon-based cross-coupling) has been quite active since the initial disclosure of siletane cross-coupling from these laboratories... Future studies are focused on several fronts, including the extension of scope to incorporate less reactive substrates such as chlorides and triflates, further optimization of alkenyl/alkenyl coupling, and creation of an efficient biaryl (and heteroaryl) synthesis using silanols. In addition, synthetic endeavors are underway that highlight the power of this cross-coupling through key steps in the total synthesis of natural products. It must also be noted that the mechanistic work is still at its infancy, and more detailed analysis of the reaction through kinetics and reactive-intermediate isolation is underway...”

—*Acc. Chem. Res.* **2002**, 35, 835.

## Introduction

Transition-metal-catalyzed, cross-coupling reactions are now considered to be among the most general methods for the formation of carbon-carbon and carbon-heteroatom bonds.<sup>1</sup> Since the independent reports from Kumada and Corriu,<sup>2</sup> on the reaction of organomagnesium reagents with organic halides, numerous other organometallic nucleophiles have been developed with varying levels of utility. The most popular among these are organotin, organoboron, and organozinc reagents because of their stability and good functional group compatibility.<sup>1</sup> Nevertheless, an enduring objective in this field is the search for reactions that proceed under mild conditions without toxic byproducts and that employ cheap, readily available starting materials.

In recent years, the cross-coupling reactions of organosilicon compounds have emerged as viable alternatives.<sup>3</sup> The development of organosilanes as cross-coupling partners has been slower than that of the other organometallic compounds because of the lower reactivity of organosilanes. However, in 1989, Hiyama reported a major breakthrough by capitalizing on the high affinity of fluoride for organosilanes,<sup>4</sup> to enhance the rate of transmetalation through the formation of pentacoordinate silicates.<sup>5</sup> In the pentacoordinate complex, transmetalation is facilitated by the enhanced polarization of the Si-C bond. Since the pioneering work of Hiyama and Hatanaka,<sup>6</sup> organosilanes have achieved broader utility through the introduction of heteroatoms<sup>7</sup> on the silicon moiety. In particular, chloro-, and fluorosilanes are more potent cross-coupling partners, but they are also hydrolytically sensitive and thus more difficult to handle. Accordingly, heteroatom surrogates (siletanes, 2-pyridyl-, 2-thienyl-, and benzylsilanes),<sup>8</sup> have been introduced, that have a greater stability and can be converted to more reactive heterofunctional silanes in the presence of fluoride sources.<sup>7,8</sup> For example, studies from these laboratories showed that siletane (*E*)-**1** undergoes facile cross-coupling with aryl halides under standard conditions in the presence of tetrabutylammonium fluoride (TBAF·3H<sub>2</sub>O). Subsequent studies revealed that (*E*)-**1** suffers rapid ring opening with TBAF·3H<sub>2</sub>O to afford a mixture of silanol **2** and disiloxane **3** (Scheme 1). The dimethyl analogs of both the silanol and the disiloxane were independently synthesized and both underwent smooth cross-coupling with similar substrates to provide comparable yields of coupling products.<sup>9</sup>

Kinetic analysis (of reactions of the dimethyl analogs), provided a mechanistic picture that is consistent with a turnover limiting transmetalation from a fluoride-activated disiloxane (*E,E*)-**7** to the organopalladium halide complex (Scheme 2) in line with the Hiyama-Hatanaka paradigm.<sup>10</sup>

Many useful cross-coupling reactions have been developed on the basis of these findings. For example, cross-coupling of silanes, silanols, silyl hydrides, cyclic silyl ethers, disiloxanes, and oligosiloxanes, all proceed efficiently and stereospecifically under mild reaction conditions, with good functional group compatibility and easily removed byproducts.<sup>11</sup> Although the scope and selectivity of these transformations are high, the requirement for superstoichiometric amounts of fluoride is a significant drawback. To achieve the same breadth and utility enjoyed by organostannanes and organoboranes, the requirement to use fluoride as a means of activation must be eliminated so that the reaction would be compatible with substrates bearing silylprotecting groups and be amenable to large-scale operation.

The development of non-fluoride-based cross-coupling reactions of organosilanes was a challenging prospect given the reigning dogma that a pentacoordinate silicate was required to effect transmetalation to an organopalladium halide. How else can the Si-C bond be activated for transmetalation in the absence of fluoride? Initial hypotheses proposed that the conjugate base of silanol (*E*)-**4** could serve this function in two ways (Figure 1): (1) the *in-situ*-generated silanolate (*i*) could form an organopalladium(II) silanolate complex (*ii*) by the displacement of the halide from the organopalladium(II) complex (ArylPdL<sub>n</sub>X), and (2) a second equiv of *i* could serve as the nucleophilic activator to form the desired pentacoordinate silicate (*iii*). This species would undergo intramolecular transmetalation with simultaneous formation of polysiloxanes. In this proposal, the role of the second silanolate is analogous to the established role of fluoride in the preceding transformation.

In the event, the use of potassium trimethylsilanolate (KOSiMe<sub>3</sub>) with (*E*)-**4** and (*Z*)-**4** or their independently prepared conjugate bases underwent clean cross-coupling in DME with a range of aryl iodides (Scheme 3).<sup>12</sup> This discovery was a watershed event in the development of a new paradigm for silicon-based cross-coupling reactions. These early observations launched campaigns on both preparative and mechanistic fronts to map out the uncharted landscape before us. This Account chronicles the most recent advances in the evolution of alkali organosilanolate cross-coupling reactions, provides mechanistic insight into reactive intermediates, and summarizes the scope and applicability of this new method. Although we thought that a simple solution to the “fluoride problem” had been found, we did not anticipate how intellectually stimulating this investigation would be, and what surprises lay waiting to be discovered.

## Kinetic Analysis and Mechanistic Implications

The palladium-catalyzed cross-coupling reactions of various organometallic donors involve three elementary steps: (1) oxidative addition of the transition metal catalyst to the halide or pseudohalide, (2) transmetalation of the organometallic reagent to provide a diorganopalladium (II) complex and (3) reductive elimination of the diorganopalladium(II) complex to form the product with regeneration of the palladium(0) catalyst.<sup>13</sup> Of the three elementary steps, the transmetalation remains the most controversial and likely depends upon the organometallic donor.<sup>14</sup>

Unlike the fluoride-promoted reaction of organosilanol, the Brønsted base-promoted reaction exhibits significant rate dependence on the reaction conditions and on the steric and electronic properties of the silicon center.<sup>15</sup> Accordingly, it was not prudent to assume that the fluoride-free process operates by the same mechanism as the TBAF-promoted cross-coupling.<sup>10,16</sup> Thus, a full kinetic analysis was undertaken with the following objectives in mind: (1) determine the intermediacy of a tetracoordinate species (*ii*, Figure 1) (2) determine if *ii* undergoes anionic activation by a second equivalent of silanolate, (3) provide insight into the transmetalation event of organosilanol and, (4) isolate or spectroscopically characterize the catalyst resting state.

To test the validity of the proposed mechanism, the reaction order with respect to each component in the cross-coupling reaction of  $K^+(E)-4^-$  with 2-iodothiophene was determined (Figure 2).<sup>17</sup> The experimentally derived rate equation is:<sup>16</sup>

$$\begin{aligned} \text{rate} &= k_{\text{obs}} [K^+(E)-4^-]^n \\ k_{\text{obs}} &= k [Pd]^1 \end{aligned} \quad (\text{eq. 1})$$

$$n=1 \quad \text{when} \quad K^+(E)-4^-/Pd < 20/1 \quad (\text{eq. 2})$$

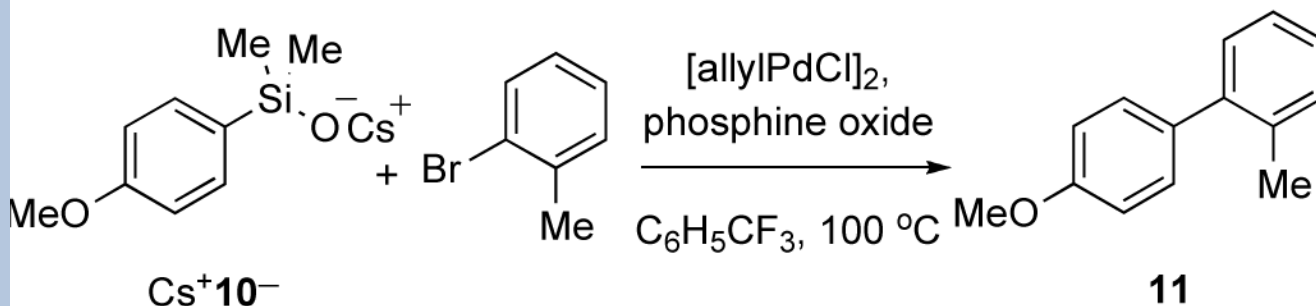
$$n=0 \quad \text{when} \quad K^+(E)-4^-/Pd > 20/1 \quad (\text{eq. 3})$$

This equation is consistent with the saturation of a reactive intermediate prior to transmetalation, but it was not clear whether that species is *ii* or *iii*. These possibilities were distinguished by kinetic analysis using a superstoichiometric amount of palladium relative to  $K^+(E)-4^-$ . Under these conditions, a first-order dependence on silanolate was observed. These critical experiments revealed an inconsistency with our original proposal (Figure 1).<sup>16</sup> If *iii* were a reactive intermediate prior to transmetalation a *second order dependence* on  $K^+(E)-4^-$  should be observed with a superstoichiometric loading of palladium and substoichiometric amount of  $K^+(E)-4^-$ . This result suggests that the transmetalation proceeds directly from an arylpalladium(II)silanolate *ii* complex (Figure 2). These data also imply that the first-order dependence on  $K^+(E)-4^-$  (under catalytic conditions) is consistent with a turnover-limiting bimolecular displacement of halide by  $K^+(E)-4^-$  (*i* to *ii*). Therefore, at high concentrations of  $K^+(E)-4^-$  intramolecular transmetalation from an arylpalladium(II) silanolate (*ii* to *iv*) becomes turnover limiting.

These results mandated a revision of the original mechanistic proposal to incorporate an intramolecular transmetalation from a neutral species (Figure 2, *ii* to *iv*), thus contradicting the dogma that silicon-based cross-coupling reactions require the generation of a pentacoordinate silicate prior to transmetalation (Hiyama-Hatanaka paradigm). Furthermore, these observations illustrate the critical importance of the Si-O-Pd linkage for this new transmetalation pathway. To confirm this new hypothesis, additional evidence was needed to support the intermediacy of *ii* by its isolation and demonstration of its kinetic competence in the absence of additional silanolate. Unfortunately, the high reactivity of  $K^+(E)-4^-$  precluded the isolation of any intermediates.

The problem was addressed by making recourse to the palladium-catalyzed cross-coupling reactions of aryldimethylsilanolates, which are considerably slower compared to their alkenyl congeners (Figure 3).<sup>18</sup>

Kinetic analysis of the reaction of cesium silanolate ( $Cs^+10^-$ ) with 2-bromotoluene in the presence of allylpalladium chloride dimer ( $[allylPdCl]_2$ ), at 100 °C established that the cross-coupling is in the same mechanistic regime as  $K^+(E)-4^-$  (equation 4).



$$\text{rate} = k_{\text{obs}}[\text{Cs}^+10^-]^0[\text{bromide}]^0 \quad \text{with } k_{\text{obs}} = k[\text{Pd}]$$

(eq. 4)

This rate equation is consistent with a turnover-limiting transmetalation of an arylpalladium (II) silanolate and is similar to the observed rate equation for the cross-coupling of  $\text{K}^+(E)\text{-4}^-$  (equation 3). These data once again rule out activation by a second equivalent of silanolate to generate a pentacoordinate siliconate prior to transmetalation. Moreover, the key arylpalladium (II) silanolate intermediate (*iii*) could be detected by  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectroscopy in reaction mixtures (L-L = dppp). Finally, complex **12** was independently synthesized and fully characterized including single crystal X-ray analysis (Figure 4).<sup>19</sup>

The isolation of **12** allowed for the demonstration that arylpalladium(II) silanolate complexes can undergo transmetalation in the absence of an activator. Heating **12** to  $100^\circ\text{C}$  provides the biaryl product in quantitative yield. This result unambiguously demonstrates that a neutral arylpalladium(II) silanolate complex can undergo direct transmetalation to give a cross-coupled product.

The mechanistic studies forced a radical rethinking of how the fluoride-free cross-coupling reactions occur. Through a combination of kinetics, spectroscopy and synthesis, a new pathway was elucidated in which transmetalation occurs from a tetracoordinate species containing an Si-O-Pd linkage. This discovery led to the design of new silicon-based cross-coupling reactions, improvements upon existing methods, and application in total synthesis.

## Methods Development and Applications

### Methods for Fluoride-Free Activation of Organosilanols

The crucial discovery that the fluoride-free cross-coupling of silanols proceeds through an Si-O-Pd linkage, stimulated development of conditions for the formation of metal silanolate precursors. To date a wide variety of Brønsted bases have been implemented for the formation of silanolates including:  $\text{KOSiMe}_3$ ,  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$ ,  $\text{NaOt-Bu}$ ,  $\text{NaH}$ ,  $\text{NaHMDS}$ ,  $\text{KH}$ , and  $\text{Cs(0)}$ . Presently, four different modes of activation have been developed: (1) reversible deprotonation, (2) irreversible deprotonation, (3) isolation, and (4) silanolate exchange. The experimental protocol, scope and utility of each mode of activation are detailed below.

#### 1. Reversible Deprotonation

**1.1. Alkenyl Metal Silanolates:** The first studies to expand the scope of silanolate cross-coupling reactions focused on alkenyldimethylsilanolates such as  $(E)\text{-4}$  and  $(Z)\text{-4}$ .<sup>12,20</sup> With 2.0

equiv of  $\text{KOSiMe}_3$  in DME at ambient temperature, the cross-coupling of (*E*)-**4** and (*Z*)-**4** with a variety of aryl iodides proceeds with high generality and stereospecificity (Scheme 4). These conditions are mild enough to engage halides bearing esters, ketones and silyl-protected substrates for the generation of both (*E*)-**13**, and (*Z*)-**13**.

**1.2. Alkynyl Silanolates:** Conjugated alkynes play a major role in synthetic, pharmaceutical, and polymer industries.<sup>21</sup> Since the introduction of the Sonogashira reaction<sup>22</sup> a wide variety of alkynyl organometallic reagents have been developed as cross-coupling partners.<sup>23</sup>

Alkynylsilicon reagents do participate in the Sonogashira reaction; however, they are usually activated by fluoride ion<sup>24a-b</sup> and / or silver salts.<sup>24c-d</sup> Hence, it was of interest to investigate if alkynylsilanols could be activated by  $\text{KOSiMe}_3$  for this process.

Initial studies revealed that dimethyl(1-heptynyl)silanol **14** is a much more effective coupling partner than 1-heptyne or (1-heptynyl)trimethylsilane under silanolate activation.<sup>25</sup> With 2.0 equiv of  $\text{KOSiMe}_3$ ,  $(\text{Ph}_3\text{P})_2\text{PdCl}_2$ , and CuI, the cross-coupling reaction of **14** with 4-iodoanisole is complete after 3 h whereas 1-heptyne, (1-heptynyl)trimethyl silane afford <20% conversion. Clearly,  $\text{KOSiMe}_3$  must activate the silanol without cleavage of the Si-C bond, because *in-situ* deprotection would give identical rates for alkynes **14** and 1-heptyne. The scope of the electrophile in this process is good; both electron rich and electron deficient aryl iodides bearing a variety of functional groups provide the desired products in high yields (Scheme 5).

**Aryl Silanolates:** In contrast to alkenyl- and alkynylsilanolates, arylsilanolates are less reactive cross-coupling partners, and require more forcing conditions to undergo productive reaction. After thorough optimization we found that  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$  in toluene at 90 °C effects the cross-coupling of dimethyl(4-methoxyphenyl)silanol **16** with ethyl 4-iodobenzoate.<sup>18</sup> Optimization studies revealed that the level of hydration of  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$  significantly influences the overall conversion. The addition of 3.0 equiv of water per equiv of  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$  proves to be general for reactions of a range of aryl bromides and aryl iodides in the presence of  $[\text{allylPdCl}]_2$  with dppb or  $\text{Ph}_3\text{As}$  to suppress homocoupling of the halide (Scheme 6). The scope in the aryl halide partner is broad, however a similar range is not found for the dimethyl(aryl)silanol component. For example, cross-coupling of dimethyl(4-trifluorotolyl)silanol with 4-bromoanisole provides the product with poor selectivity and low yield (54%). A solution to these problems will be addressed in the *Isolation* section below.

**Five-Membered Heterocyclic Silanolates:** Five-membered heterocycles are well represented within the fields of pharmaceutical, materials and natural product chemistry. Moreover, indole-containing compounds are among the most common heterocycles in nature, and the broad range of biological activity has stimulated research into their construction for decades.<sup>26</sup>

Given the importance of 2-substituted indoles, *N*-Boc-dimethyl(2-indolyl)silanol (**18**) and *N*-methyl-dimethyl(2-indolyl)silanol (**19**) were prepared to evaluate the utility of silanol-based reagents.<sup>27</sup> The sodium silanolates of **18** and **19** are formed *in situ* under the action of  $\text{NaOt-Bu}$  and these salts are excellent coupling partners for a range of aryl halides. Optimal conditions for the cross-coupling reaction of **18** and **19** employ  $\text{NaOt-Bu}$  (2.0 equiv),  $[\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3] \cdot \text{CHCl}_3$  (5 mol %), and CuI (1.0 equiv). A variety of substrates including electron-rich, electron-poor, and 2-substituted aryl iodides react smoothly under these conditions (Scheme 7).

However, the cross-coupling of **19** with electron-deficient aryl iodides affords the desired product in lower yields because of the formation of the 2,3-bisaryl indole as the major product. Fortunately, the less reactive aryl bromides led to the generation of the desired products in good yields (Scheme 8).

4-Isoxazolylsilanols (**22**) are also viable substrates for the cross-coupling reaction under  $\text{NaOt-Bu}$  activation. The isoxazole is constructed by dipolar cycloaddition of alkynyldimethylsilyl ethers (**23**) and in-situ prepared aryl nitrile oxides (Scheme 9). The silicon function controls the regioselectivity of the [3+2] cycloaddition and it enables further functionalization through the cross-coupling reaction. Optimal conditions for the coupling employ  $\text{NaOt-Bu}$  and  $[\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3]\cdot\text{CHCl}_3$  in toluene or dioxane at 80 °C to produce the 3,4,5-trisubstituted isoxazoles **25**.<sup>28</sup>

**1.6. Synthetic Application:** The reversible deprotonation protocol was highlighted in the total synthesis of the antifungal agent, (+)-papulacandin D (**26**).<sup>29</sup> One of the key steps in the synthesis is the cross-coupling reaction of glucal silanol **27** with aromatic iodide **28** (Scheme 10).

This cross-coupling reaction is very challenging because the aromatic iodide is hindered and the protected glucal silanol is sensitive to strongly basic conditions. Fortunately, it was found that the use of  $\text{NaOt-Bu}$  (2.0 equiv) and  $[\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3]\cdot\text{CHCl}_3$  (5 mol %) with an equal molar ratio of **27** and **28** in toluene at 50 °C provides the desired (1-aryl)hexenopyranose **29** in 82% yield. In this single transformation the entire carbon-skeleton of the spiroketal portion of (+)-papulacandin D was assembled. The mildness of this method is highlighted by the compatibility of the sodium silanolate of **27** with different silicon protecting groups.

Finally, a strategy that combines both fluoride-free and fluoride-promoted reactions has been developed for the sequential cross-coupling reaction of differently functionalized 1,4-bissilylbutadienes.<sup>30</sup> One end of the 1,4-bissilylbutadiene bears a silanol that can easily be converted to the potassium silanolate with  $\text{KOSiMe}_3$ . The other end bears a “safety-catch” silanol surrogate that is revealed to the corresponding silanol upon treatment with TBAF.

Under  $\text{KOSiMe}_3$  activation, silanol **30** exhibits reactivity similar to the alkenylsilanol (*E*)-**4** discussed above. With  $\text{KOSiMe}_3$  (2.0 equiv) and  $[\text{Pd}(\text{dba})_2]$  (2.5 mol %) in dioxane at ambient temperature a wide range of substituted aryl iodides provide the dienylsilanes **31** in good yields (Scheme 11). The presence of electron-rich or deficient groups on the aryl iodide has little to no effect on the rate of the cross-coupling reaction. Under fluoride activation, the silanol is revealed from the benzylsilane and the cross-coupling proceeds smoothly with a variety of aryl iodides in good yields (Scheme 11). A more dramatic substituent effect was observed in the fluoride-promoted reaction manifold. For example, it was found that the cross-coupling reaction with electron-rich substrates is significantly faster than the corresponding reactions with the electronically neutral dienylsilanes, and electron-poor dienylsilanes (e.g. **31a**) undergo a competitive migration of the benzyl group to the diene.

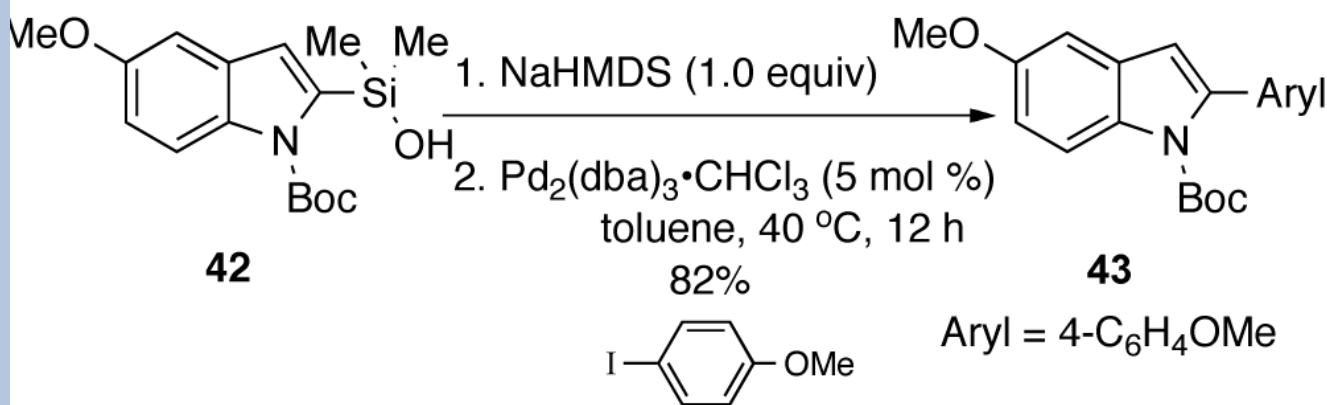
This problem was remedied by replacing the benzyl with a 2-thienyl group in **33** (Scheme 12). This group survives the initial Brønsted base-promoted cross-coupling and provides the desired silanol upon treatment with TBAF without the undesired migration.

## 2. Irreversible Deprotonation

**2.1. Heterocyclic Silanولات:** Although the cross-coupling reaction of **18** is successful with  $\text{NaOt-Bu}$  alone (no  $\text{CuI}$ ), a minor amount of the protodesilylated product is observed. This problem can be avoided by the stoichiometric generation of sodium *N*-Boc-dimethyl (2-indolyl)silanolate ( $\text{Na}^+\text{18}^-$ ) through deprotonation of **18** with  $\text{NaH}$ .<sup>27</sup> The in-situ preparation of  $\text{Na}^+\text{18}^-$  provides an active reagent for the cross-coupling of aryl iodides and extends the scope of the cross-coupling partners to aryl iodides containing esters and nitriles without the need for  $\text{CuI}$  (Scheme 13).

The irreversible deprotonation protocol can be employed in the cross-coupling reactions of other  $\pi$ -rich heterocycles with aryl iodides and bromides.<sup>27</sup> The preformed sodium *N*-Boc-dimethyl(2-pyrrolyl)silanolate  $\text{Na}^+\mathbf{35}^-$  cross-couples smoothly electron-deficient, electron-rich and 2-substituted aryl iodides (Scheme 14). The cross-coupling reactions of both preformed sodium 2-furylsilanolate  $\text{Na}^+\mathbf{36}^-$  and 2-thienylsilanolate  $\text{Na}^+\mathbf{37}^-$  proceed in an analogous fashion to  $\text{Na}^+\mathbf{35}^-$  with electron-deficient and electron-rich aryl iodides. In addition, the cross-coupling of  $\text{Na}^+\mathbf{36}^-$  and  $\text{Na}^+\mathbf{37}^-$  with aryl bromides can be effected with the Pd(I) catalyst **41** (Scheme 15).

Unfortunately, the preformation protocol could not be extended to *N*-Boc-dimethyl[(5-methoxy)-2-indolyl]silanol **42**. Attempts to prepare  $\text{Na}^+\mathbf{42}^-$  with 1.0 equiv of NaH led to ~20% protodesilylation. The problem of protodesilylation in the preformation of **42** could be solved by the use of NaHMDS which provided an 82% yield of the desired cross-coupling product **43** after 12 h at 40 °C (equation 5). This form of activation can also be used with other silanolate precursors that are sensitive to protodesilylation such as **44** and **45** (Scheme 16).<sup>27</sup>



(eq. 5)

**2.2. Cross-Coupling of Alkenylsilanolates with Aryl Chlorides:** Although silanols (*E*)-**4** and (*Z*)-**4** couple easily with a range of aryl iodides, these electrophiles have obvious disadvantages compared to the corresponding aryl chlorides (higher cost, lesser availability, higher molecular weight). In recent years, the development of ligands that facilitate the oxidative additions of the stronger C-Cl bonds<sup>31</sup> to palladium(0) catalysts has made the cross-coupling of aryl chlorides possible.<sup>32</sup> However, the use of silanolate salts in cross-coupling reactions would still require the displacement of a stronger Pd-Cl bond and as such could change the turnover limiting step.

Optimization experiments began with the combination of  $\text{K}^+(\text{E})\text{-4}$  with the biphenyl-based ligands developed by Buchwald<sup>33</sup> in the presence of  $[\text{allylPdCl}]_2$ .<sup>34</sup> The use of 1.3 equiv of  $\text{K}^+(\text{E})\text{-4}$ ,  $[\text{allylPdCl}]_2$ , and **47** (S-Phos) in THF at 60 °C provides excellent yield of **13** with a variety of aryl chlorides bearing nitrile, ester, nitro and ketone substituents. Furthermore, pyridines react smoothly, as do mono- and diortho-substituted substrates (Scheme 17). In all cases the cross-coupling reaction is highly stereospecific, even for  $\text{K}^+(\text{Z})\text{-4}$ . The scope in silanolate was further expanded to (*E*)- and (*Z*)-styrylsilanolates, and tri- and tetrasubstituted alkenylsilanolates with similar results.

**2.3. Application of Irreversible Deprotonation in Total Synthesis:** The synthetic utility of the irreversible deprotonation protocol was illustrated in the total synthesis of the polyene macrolide RK-397.<sup>35</sup> Retrosynthetic analysis revealed that the polyene chain could be accessed

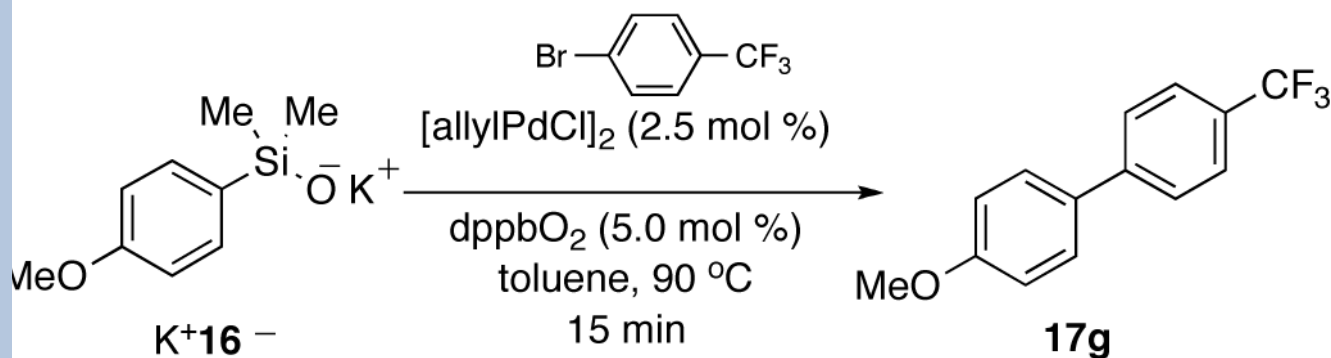
rapidly through the sequential cross-coupling reaction of **30** to prepare the tetraene portion of the polyene phosphonate **48** (Scheme 18).

The first cross-coupling reaction is initiated by the preformation of  $\text{Na}^+\text{30}^-$  with NaH. The resulting silanolate reacts smoothly with **50** in the presence of  $\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3\cdot\text{CHCl}_3$ , to afford triene **51** in 77% yield. The second cross-coupling reaction is initiated by in-situ unmasking of the benzylsilane, to the corresponding silanol in with TBAF·3H<sub>2</sub>O. The cross-coupling reaction of **51** with (*E*)-iodopropenoate **49** provides the key tetraene **52** in 79% yield (Scheme 18).

**3. Isolation**—To streamline the manipulation of (aryl)- and (heteroaryl)dimethyl-silanolates, their salts can be isolated from the irreversible deprotonation protocol. The salts are stable, storable, solids that can be charged directly into a reaction mixture and are competent nucleophiles for a broad range of organic halides.

**3.1. Sodium *N*-SEM-Dimethyl(2-indolyl)silanolate:** The sodium salt of *N*-SEM-dimethyl(2-indolyl)silanolate (**53**) is easily prepared following the irreversible deprotonation protocol using NaH. Removal of the solvent affords  $\text{Na}^+\text{53}^-$  as a colorless, free-flowing solid. This silanolate undergoes smooth cross coupling with aryl chlorides (under conditions developed for  $\text{K}^+\text{4}^-$ ) to provide excellent yields of 2-substituted indoles **54** with a broad substrate scope (Scheme 19).<sup>27</sup>

**3.2. Aryldimethylsilanolates:** Although the rates and yields of the cross-coupling reactions of **16** promoted by  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$  were good, other arylsilanols are poor substrates. The potassium salt  $\text{K}^+\text{16}^-$  was prepared to evaluate the influence of experimental conditions on rate of cross-coupling of a stoichiometrically formed silanolate with aryl bromides. Not surprisingly, a substantial rate increase was observed (compared to the use of  $\text{KOSiMe}_3$ ) when the isolated arylsilanolate is used. Moreover, a significant rate effect was observed upon the addition of 1-5 mol % of  $\text{dppbO}_2$  to a mixture of  $\text{K}^+\text{16}^-$  with 4-iodoanisole and 2.5 mol % of  $[\text{allylPdCl}]_2$  in toluene at 90 °C.<sup>36</sup> With this additive, complete conversion is observed in 15 min compared to ca. 180 min under the previous conditions (equation 6).



(eq. 6)

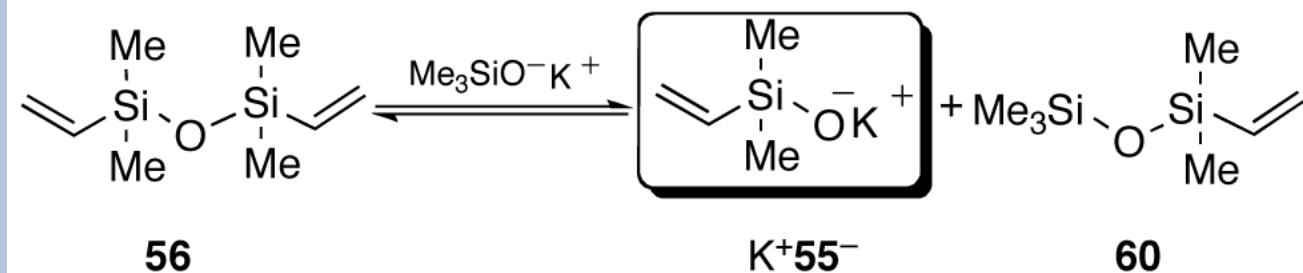
The general utility of phosphine oxides in preparative reactions of aryl bromides was established by a survey in the presence of 5 mol % of  $\text{Ph}_3\text{P}=\text{O}$  with 2.5 mol % of  $[\text{allylPdCl}]_2$ . Both electron-deficient and electron-rich aryl bromides reacted within 1 h to afford moderate yields of the desired unsymmetrical biaryl products (Scheme 20).<sup>36</sup>

Preliminary results show that a broader range silanolates can participate in aryl-aryl cross-coupling reactions when  $(t\text{-Bu}_3\text{P})_2\text{Pd}$  is employed as the catalyst.<sup>37</sup> Substrates such as

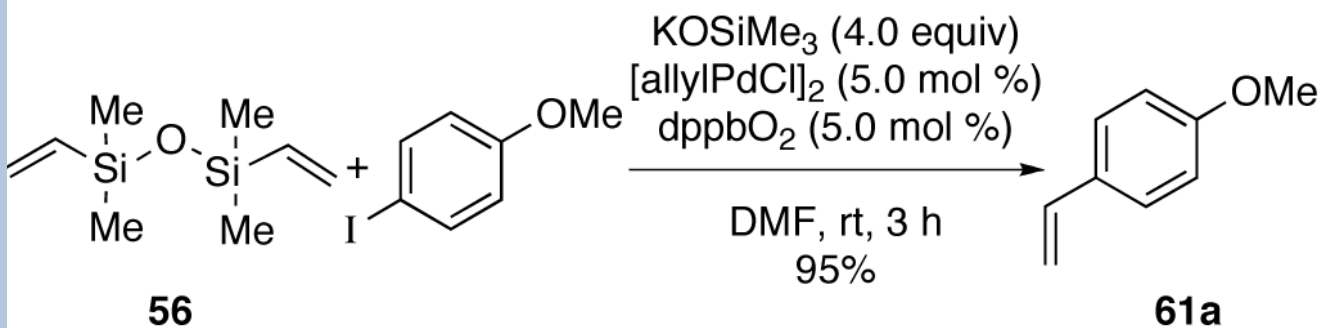
potassium (4-trifluorotolyl)dimethylsilanolate, potassium (4-fluorophenyl)dimethylsilanolate, and potassium (1-naphthyl)dimethylsilanolate all cross-couple successfully to give high yields of the desired unsymmetrical biaryls (Scheme 21). Current efforts are focused on expanding the scope in both the aryl dimethylsilanolate and aryl halide.

**4. Silanolate Exchange. Vinylation of Aryl Iodides and Bromides**—Logically, dimethylvinylsilanol (**55**) would be the reagent of choice for the vinylation of aryl halides, but this compound suffers spontaneous dehydrative dimerization to form divinyltetramethyldisiloxane (**56**, DVDS). Given the facility of siloxane formation from unhindered silanols, we considered the intriguing possibility of employing an in-situ generation of a dimethylvinylsilanolate (or its equivalent) from readily available precursors (Chart 1).

For this strategy to be successful, the active silanolate must be generated in equilibrium by the action of a non-participating activator with a siloxane precursor. A series of orienting experiments revealed that KOSiMe<sub>3</sub> facilitates rapid exchange with DVDS in DMF at room temperature to form potassium dimethylvinylsilanolate (K<sup>+</sup>**55**<sup>−</sup>) in-situ (equation 7).<sup>38</sup>



(eq. 7)



(eq. 8)

Optimization studies demonstrated that the combination of DVDS, 4.0 equiv of KOSiMe<sub>3</sub>, [allylPdCl]<sub>2</sub> and a phosphine oxide efficiently converts 4-iodoanisole to the corresponding styrene **61a** in 95% yield (equation 8). For preparative reactions, KOSiMe<sub>3</sub> (3.5 equiv, per iodide), DVDS (0.75 equiv), 2.5 mol % of Pd(dba)<sub>2</sub>, and 5 mol % of Ph<sub>3</sub>P=O at room temperature provide facile vinylations with a variety of aryl iodides (Scheme 22).

Only minor modifications of these conditions were required to extend the reaction to include aryl bromides (Scheme 23).<sup>38</sup> Still milder reaction conditions were developed that employ 3.0

equiv of  $\text{KOSiEt}_3$ , 2.5 mol % of  $[\text{allylPdCl}]_2$  with 5 mol % of ligand **62**. These conditions proved to be general for a wider range of aryl bromides (Scheme 24).

## Conclusion and Outlook

The initial efforts to develop a fluoride-free method of cross-coupling of organosilanols were based upon a simple hypothesis that ultimately led to the development of a new paradigm for cross-coupling reactions. The defining feature of this process is the competency of a neutral palladium silanolate that refutes the longstanding notion that pentacoordinate silicates are required for successful transmetalation of organosilanes. With this knowledge, four different protocols were developed for the formation of the active silanolate species ranging from alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, to bisilylbutadienes. In addition, the unique nature of silicon has enabled for the amalgamation of the fluoride-promoted cross-coupling of organosilanes and this new silanolate-based process for the development of sequential cross-coupling reactions.

The discovery of the fluoride-free process continues to stimulate the development of milder and more diverse conditions and reagents for organosilicon cross-coupling reactions. Current studies are focused on the demonstration of vinyl-vinyl cross-coupling and the more difficult cross-coupling of alkylsilanols. Mechanistic studies are underway to elucidate the molecular detail of the elementary steps in the transmetalation of palladium silanolates as well as the potential similarities to the transmetalation process for organoboron compounds. Finally, more exploratory endeavors involve the use of silanolates as precursors for the generation of organometallic species derived from other elements, such as gold, nickel, copper, and rhodium.

From our current vantage point, it is remarkable that our initial foray into the field of cross-coupling chemistry began modestly with the testing of the strain-release Lewis acidity concept and now has developed into a stimulating and rewarding endeavor that continues to surprise, entice, and challenge us at many different levels.

## Acknowledgements

We are pleased to acknowledge the experimental and intellectual contributions of our co-workers in the cross-coupling subgroup, Aaron Bailey, John Baird, Christopher Butler, Timothy Chang, Christophe Eggertswyler, Jack Liu, Jeff Kallemeyn, Tetsuya Kobayashi, Joseck Muhuhi, Michael Ober, Russell Smith, Ramzi Sweis, Steve Tymonko, and Nathan Werner, whose efforts have forged ideas into realities. Funding for this research was provided by the National Institutes of Health (GM63167), Johnson and Johnson, Merck, and Aldrich. We are also grateful to Johnson Mathey for gifts of palladium catalysts.

## Biography

**Scott E. Denmark** was born in Lynbrook, New York on 17 June 1953. He obtained an S.B. degree from MIT in 1975 and his D.Sc.Tech from the ETH Zürich in 1980. That same year he began his career at the University of Illinois and since 1991 he has been the Reynold C. Fuson Professor of Chemistry. He is primarily interested in the invention of new synthetic reactions and the origin of stereocontrol in fundamental bond forming processes. Professor Denmark is currently the Editor-in-Chief of *Organic Reactions*, he is on the Board of Editors of *Organic Syntheses* and is a Co-Editor of *Topics in Stereochemistry*.

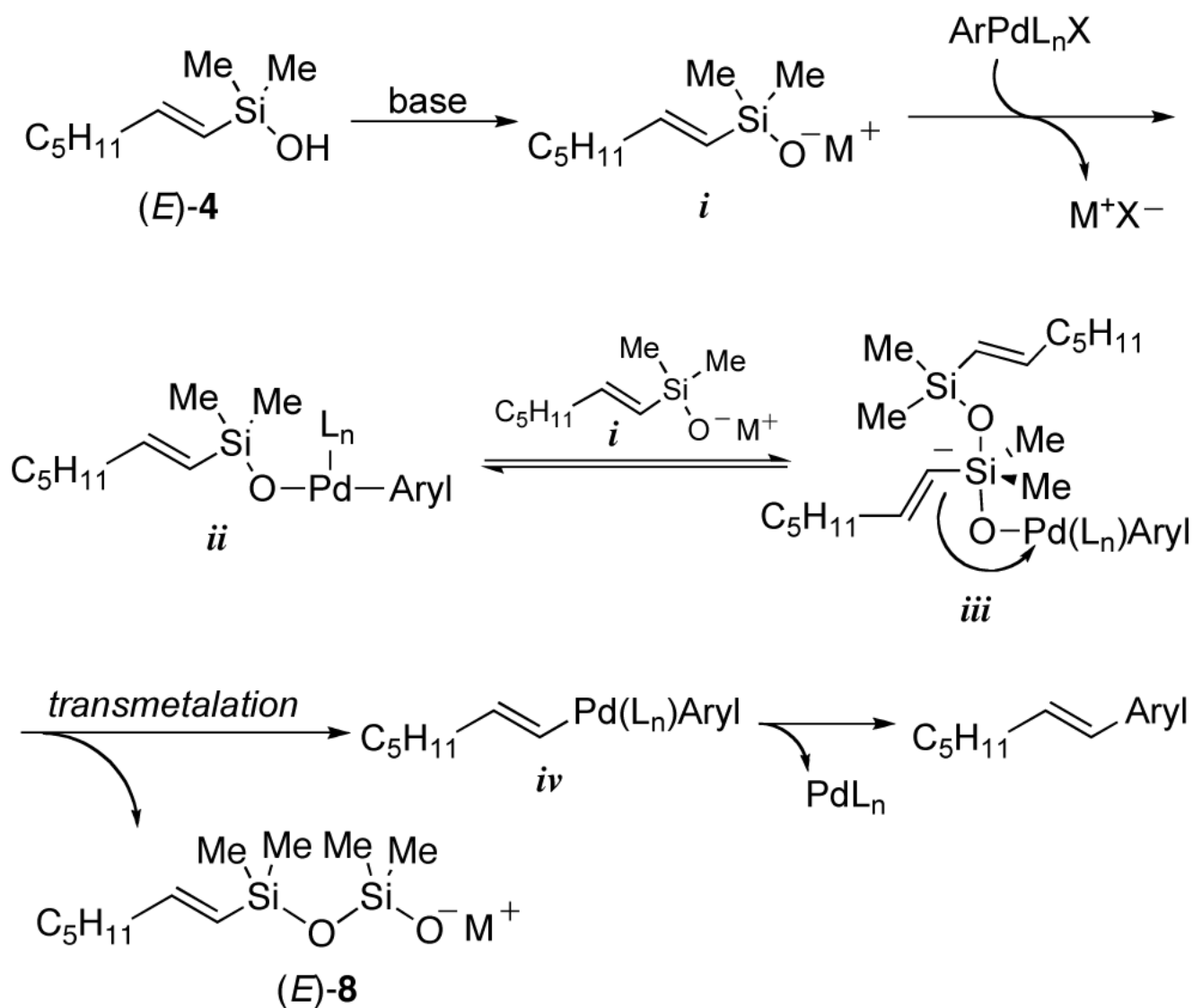
**Christopher S. Regens** was born in Chicago IL, on 18 November 1980. He received a B.A. degree in chemistry from Lake Forest College in 2003. He is currently a graduate student in the Denmark group at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where he is applying silicon-based cross-coupling reactions in the total synthesis of complex natural products.

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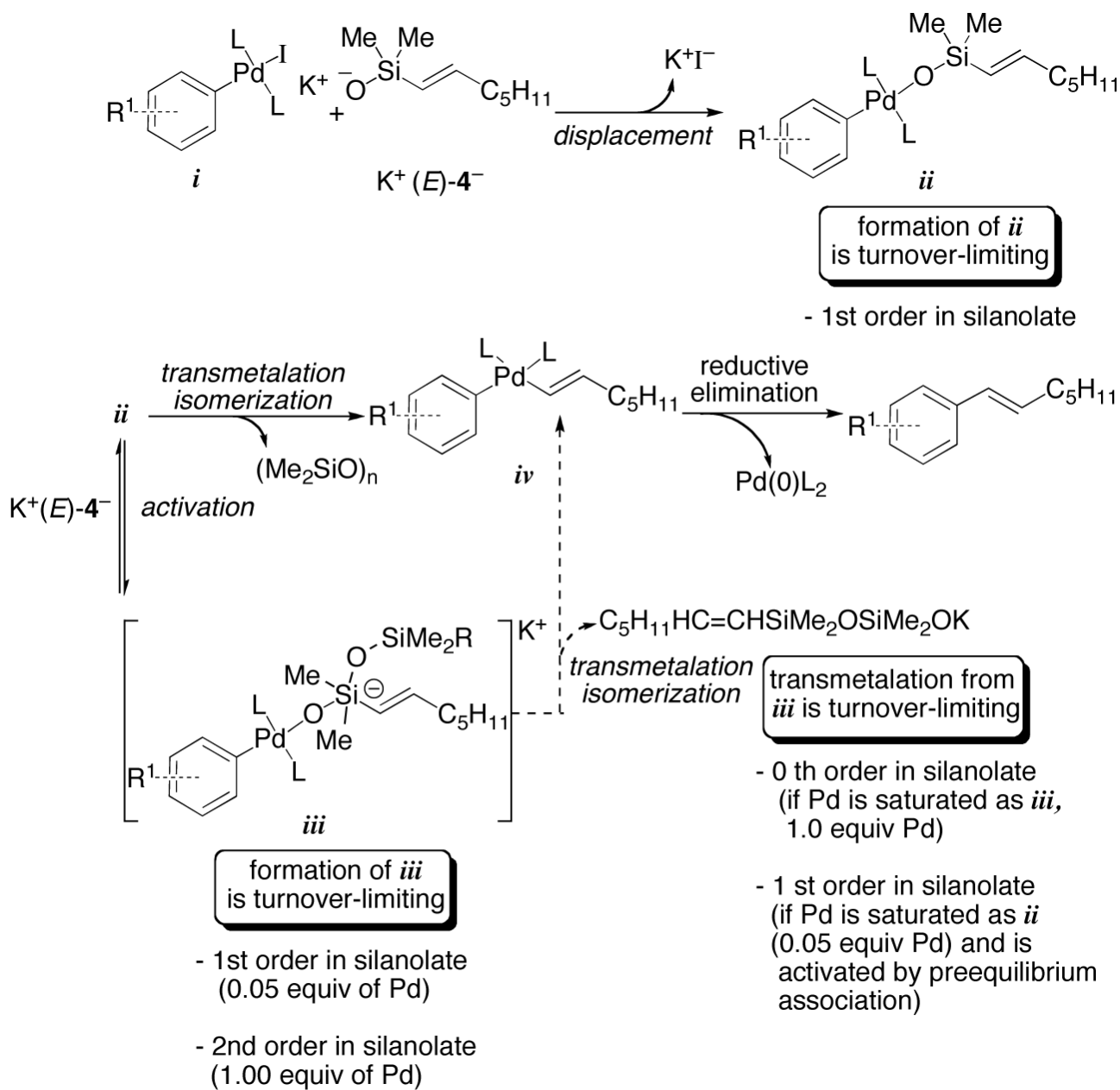
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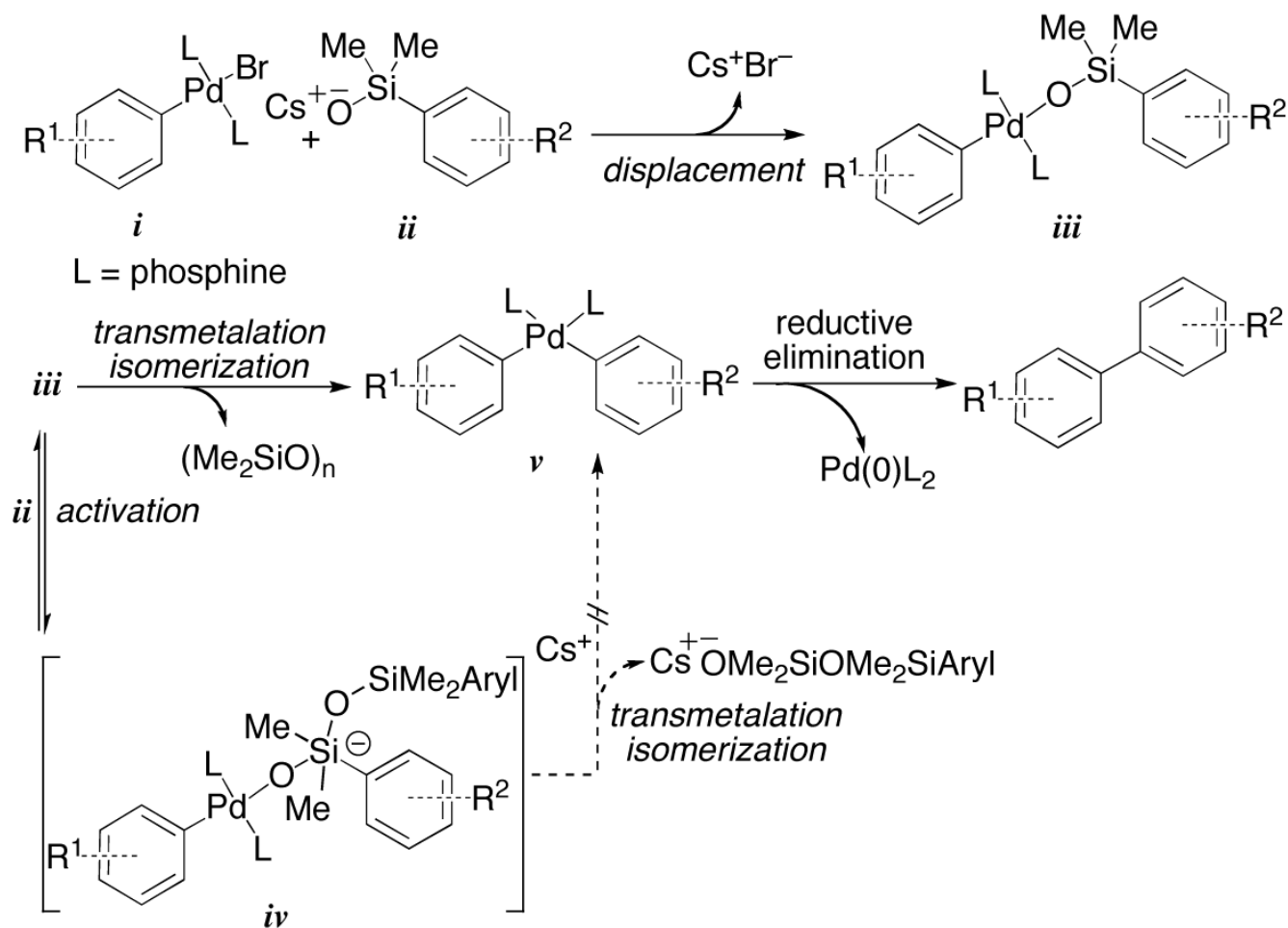
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**Figure 1.**

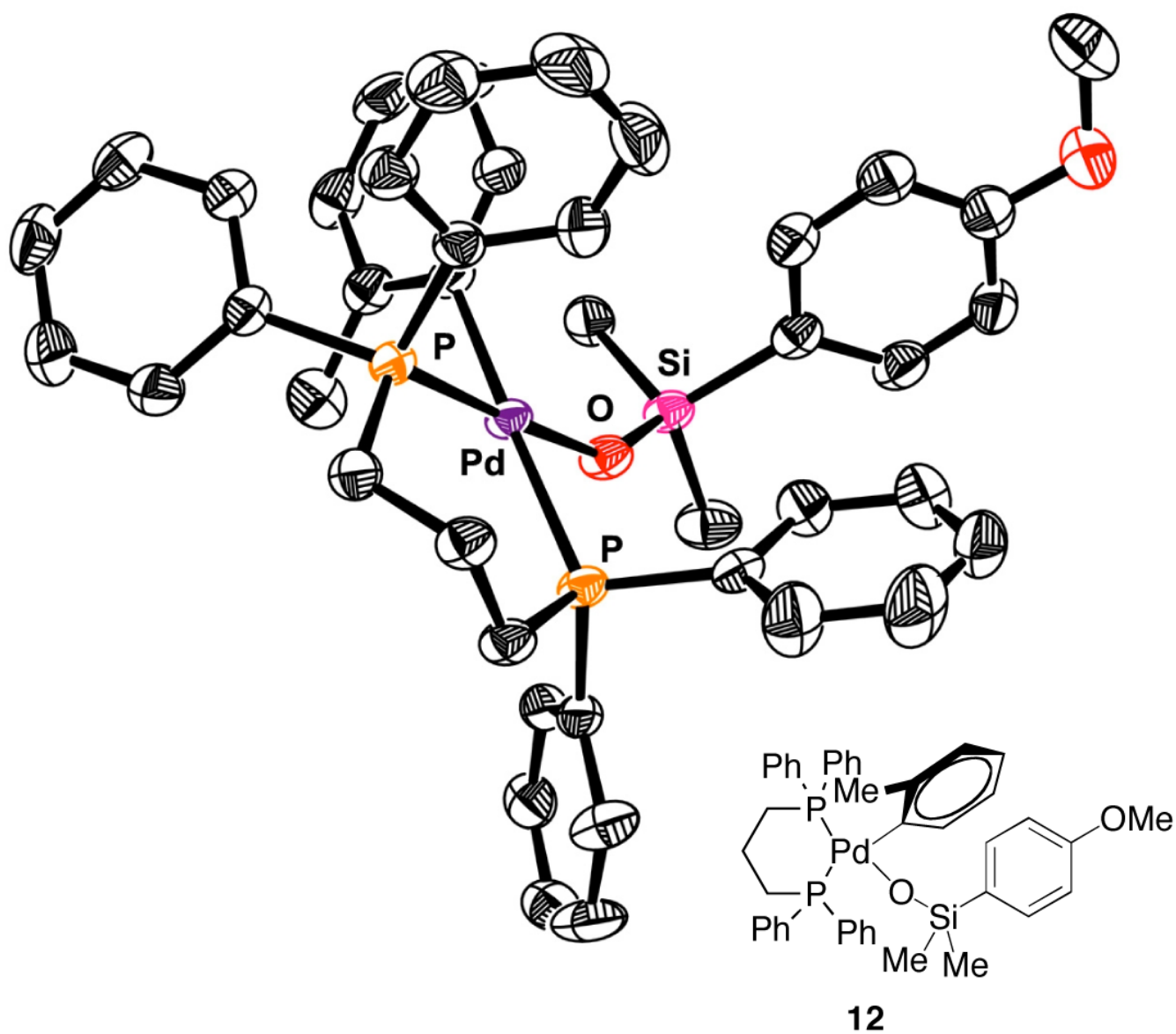
Early proposal for the mechanism for the fluoride-free cross-coupling of silanols.



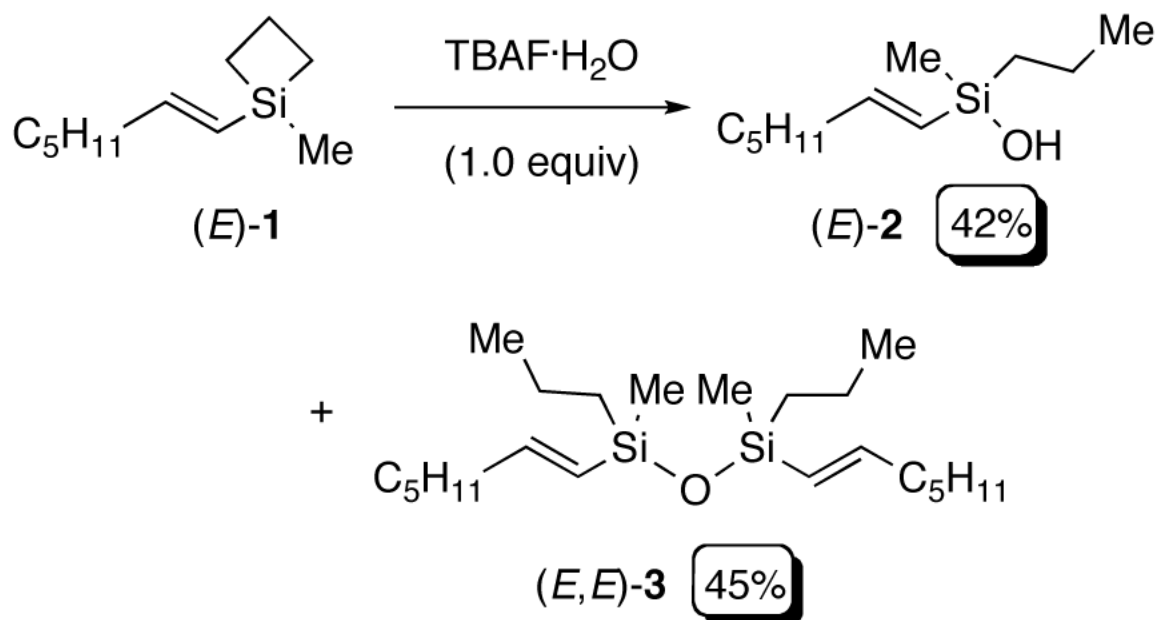
**Figure 2.**  
Revised mechanistic proposal for the fluoride-free cross-coupling.



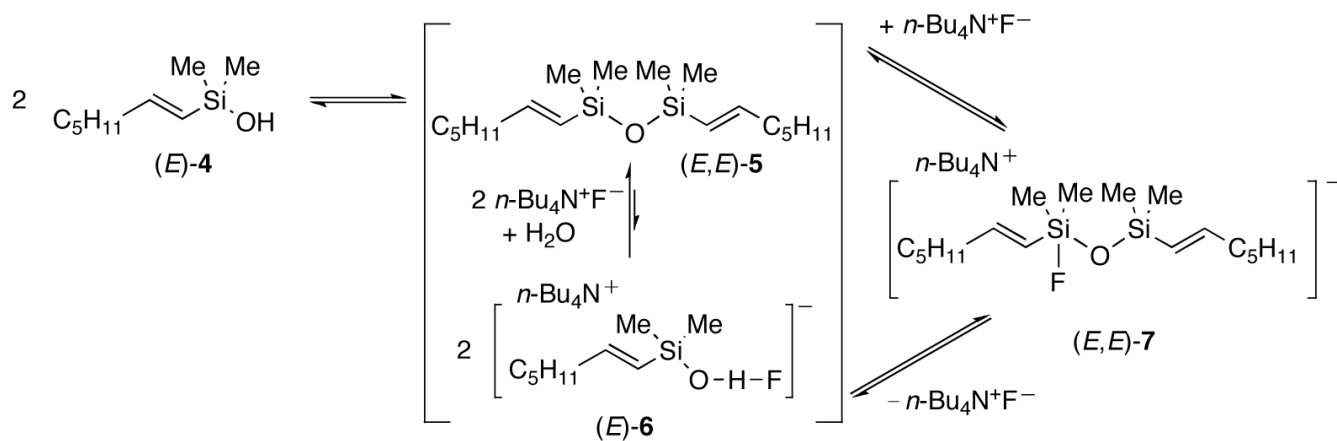
**Figure 3.**  
Mechanistic proposal for the coupling of aryldimethylsilanols.



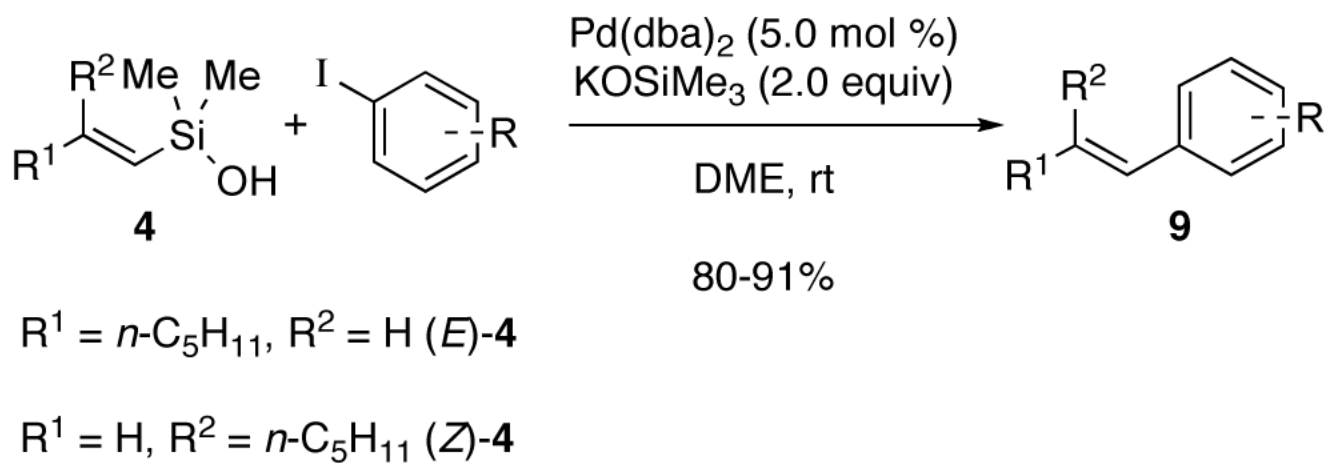
**Figure 4.**  
X-ray crystal structure of complex **12** (ORTEP drawing with thermal ellipsoids drawn at 50% probability level).



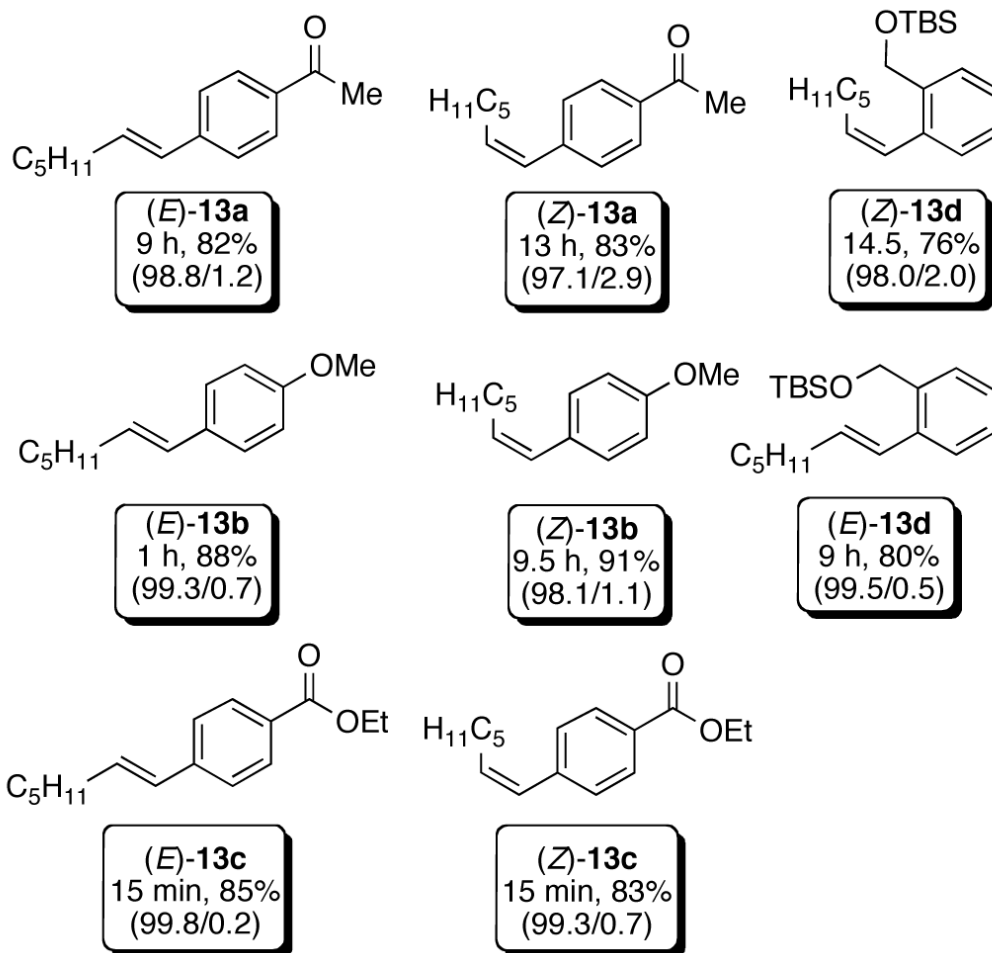
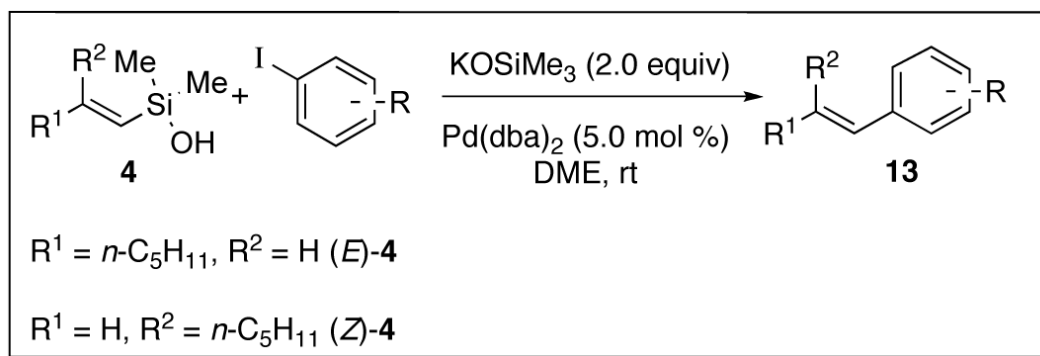
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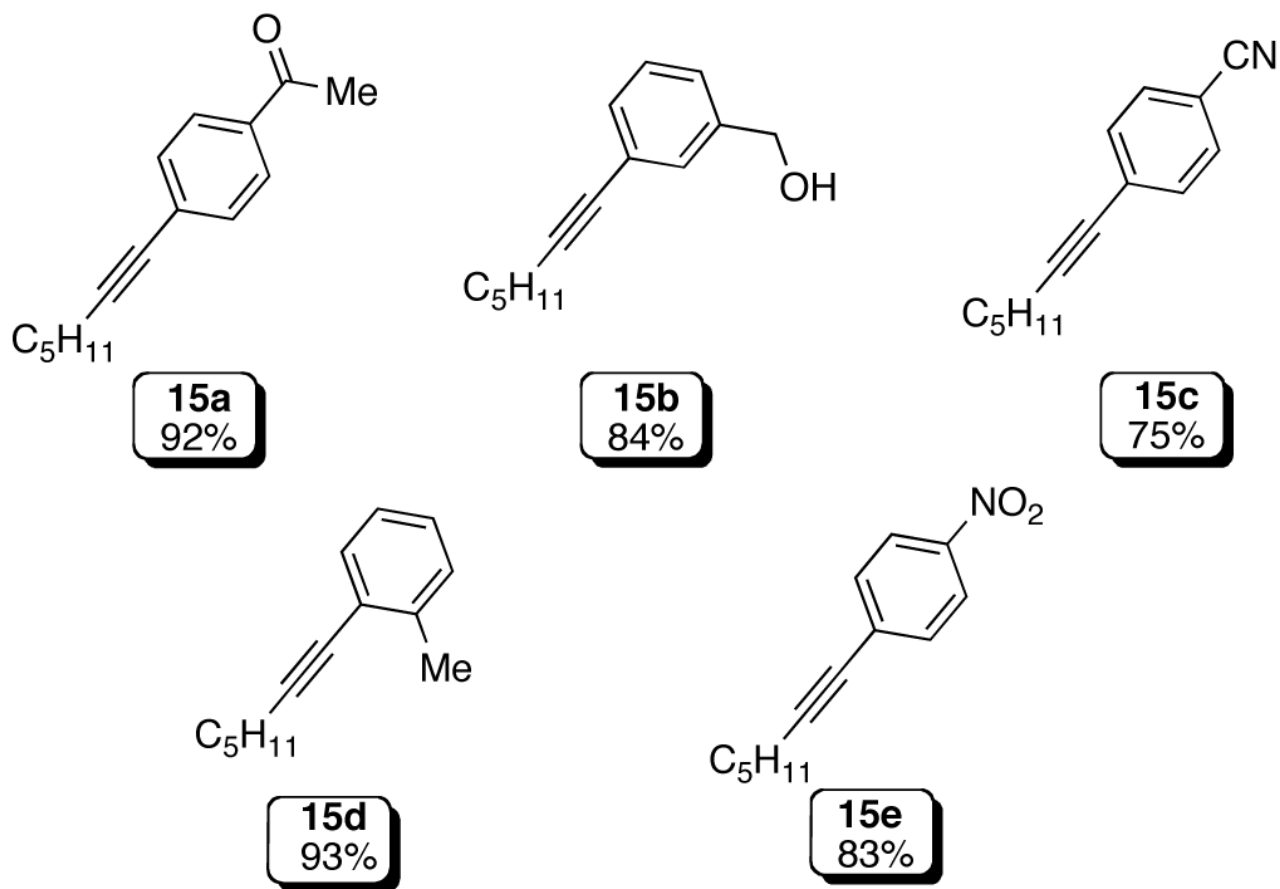
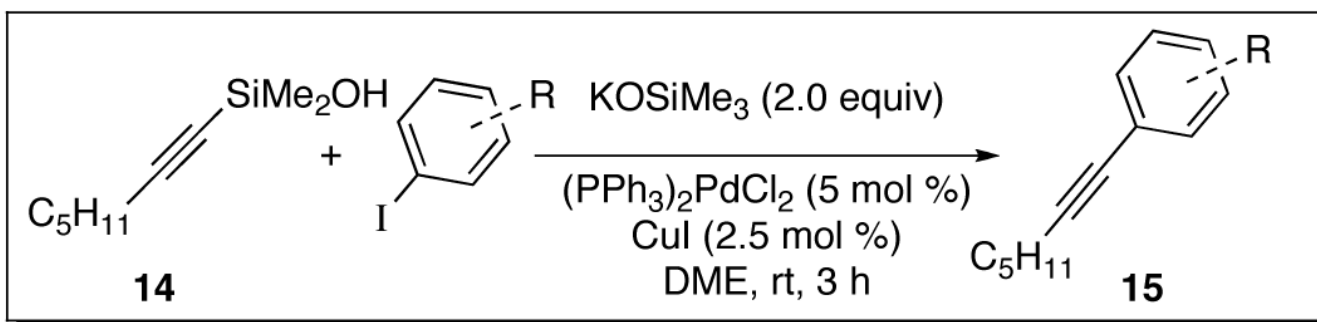
Scheme 2.



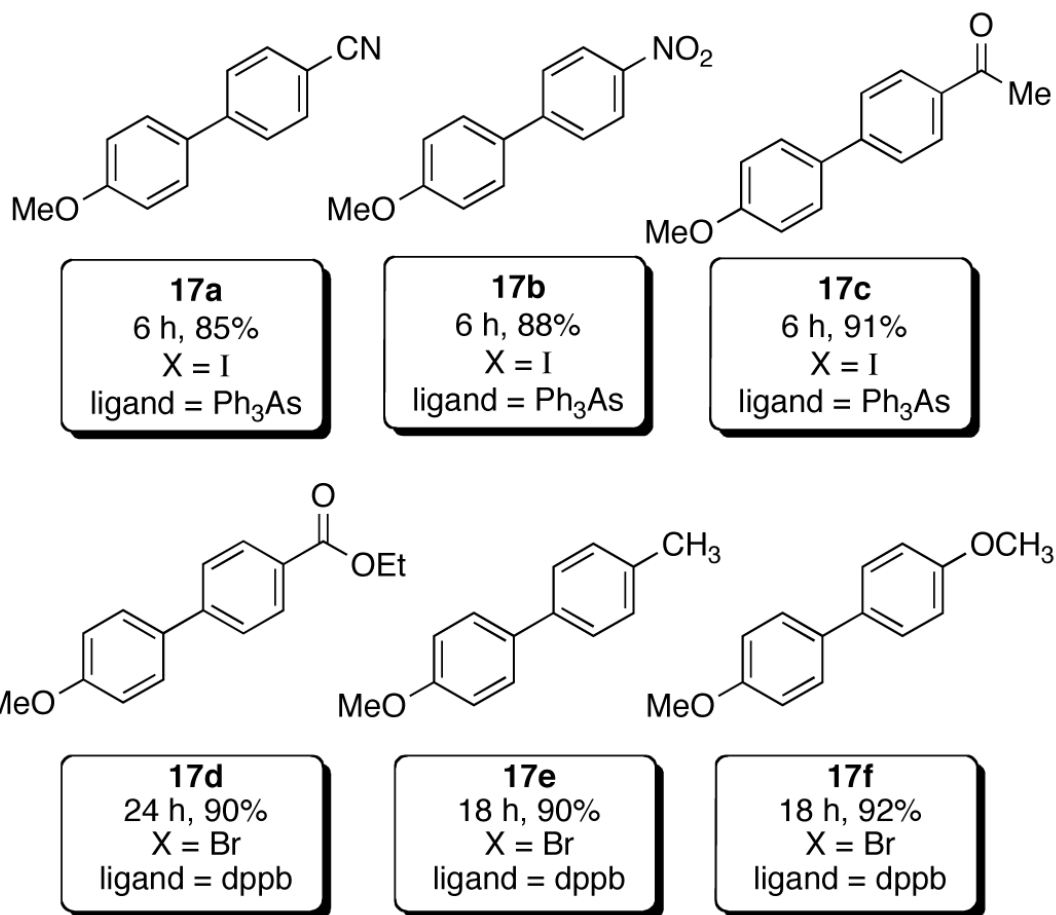
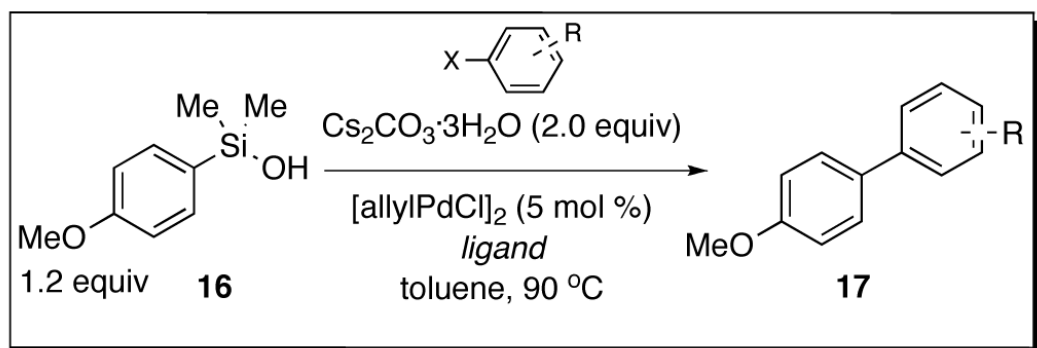
Scheme 3.



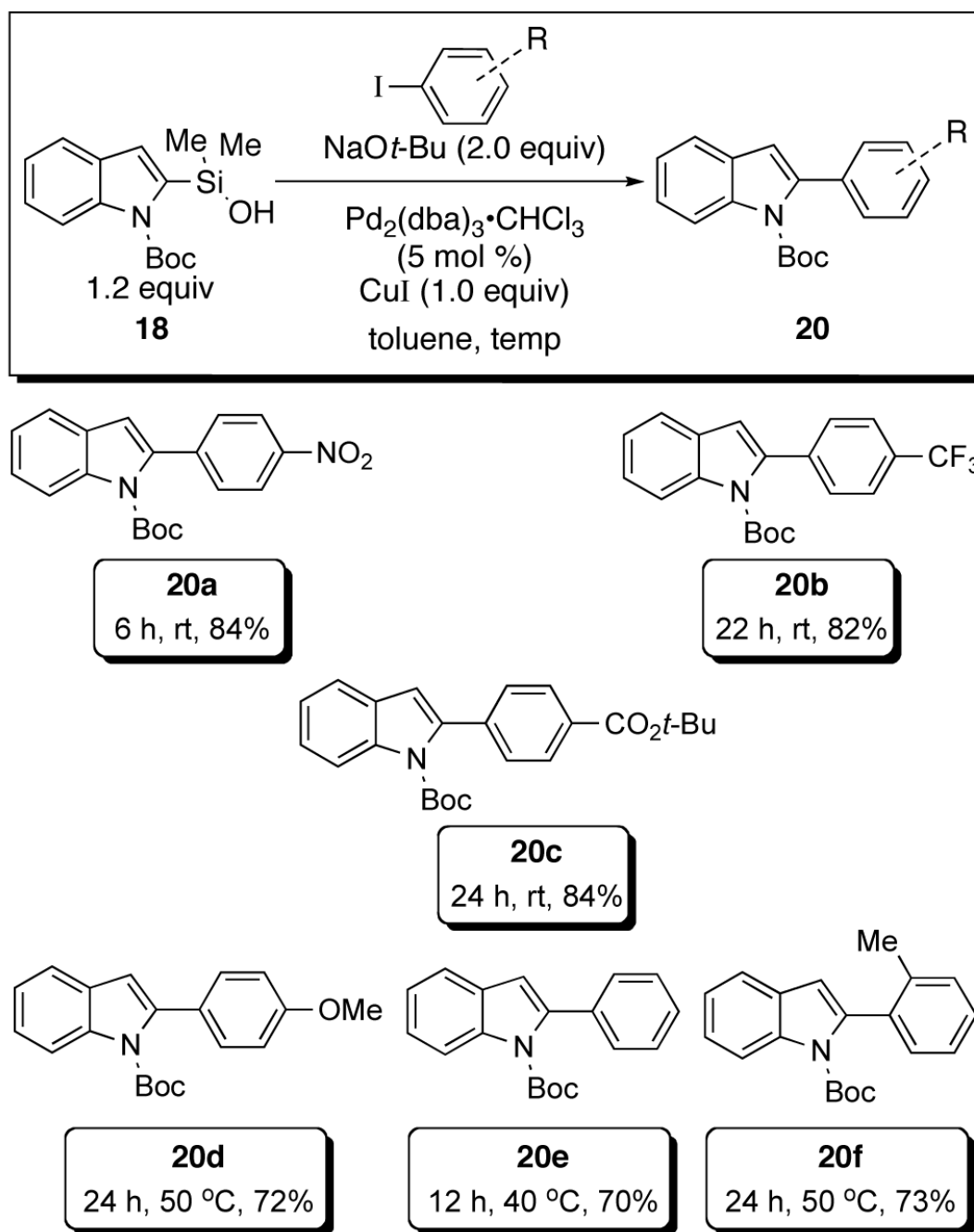
Scheme 4.



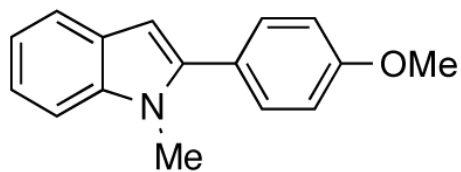
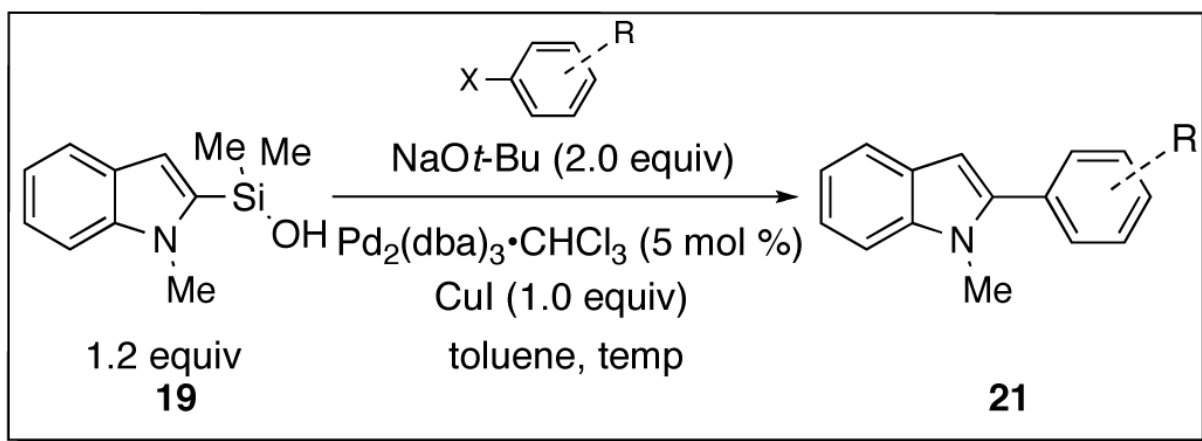
Scheme 5.



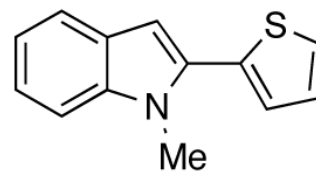
Scheme 6.



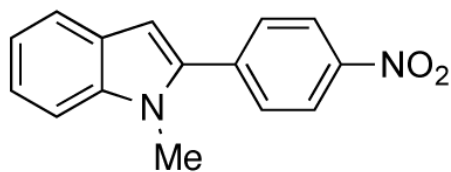
Scheme 7.



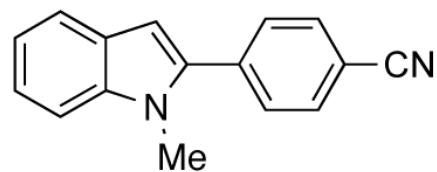
**21a**  
3 h, rt, 80%  
X = I



**21b**  
6 h, rt, 73%  
X = I

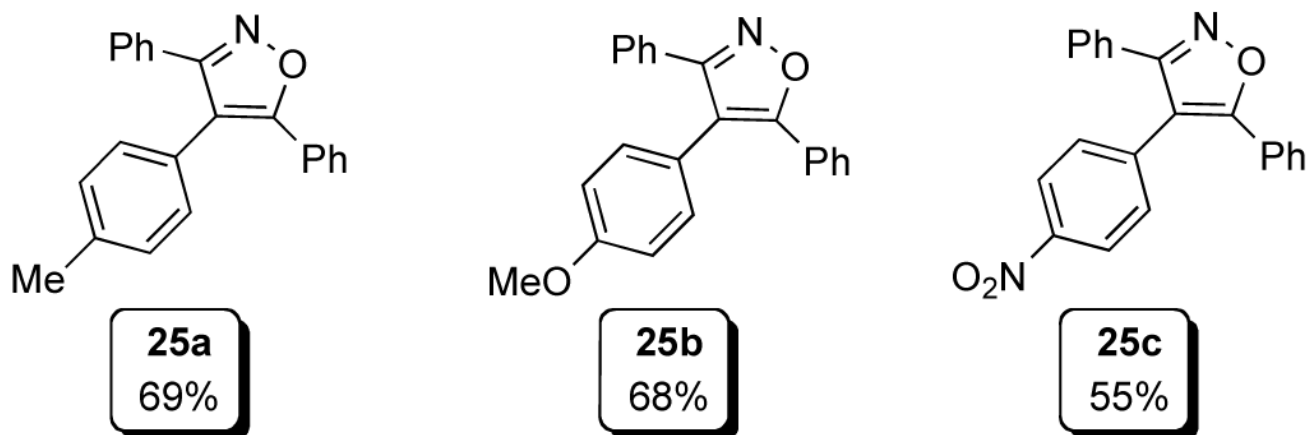
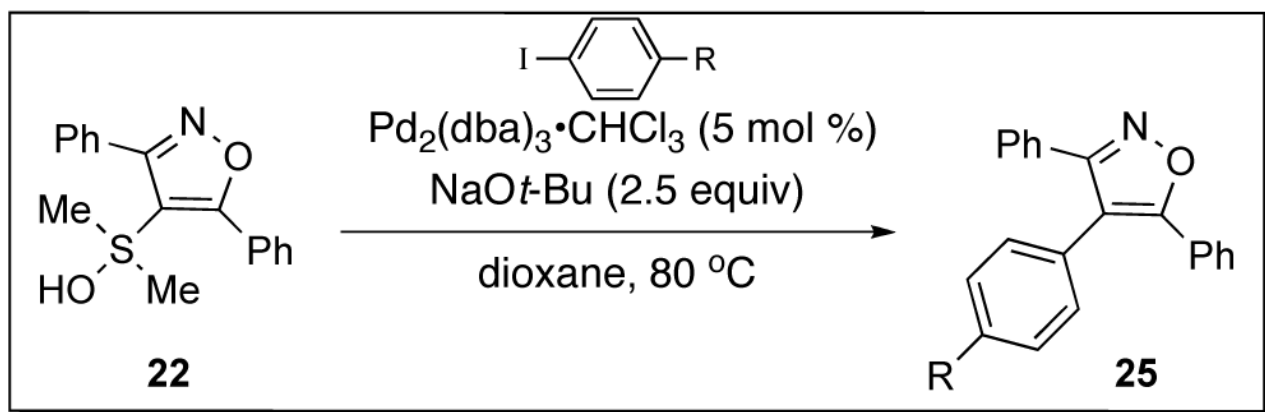
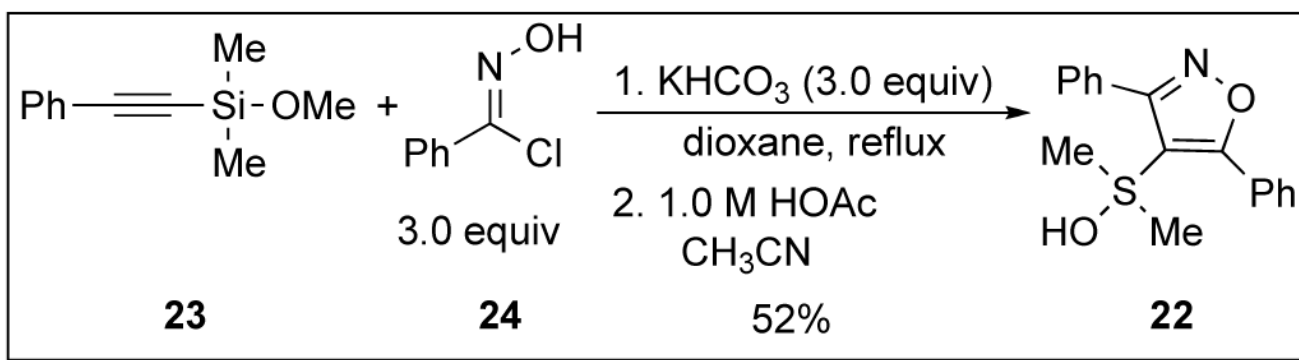


**21c**  
20 h, 55 °C, 84%  
X = Br

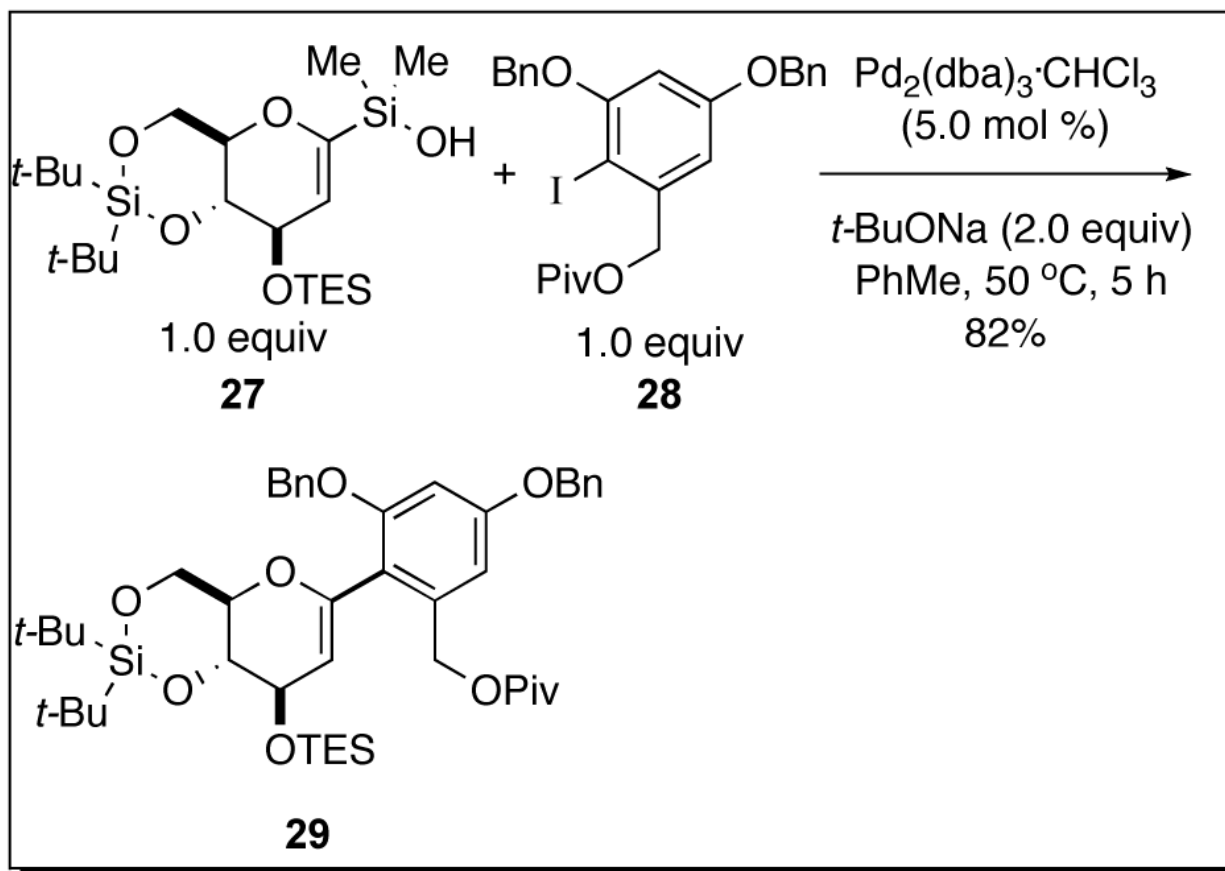
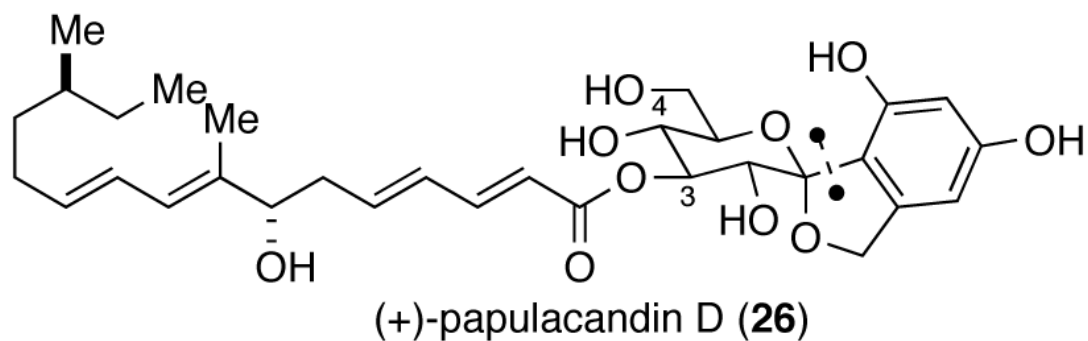


**21d**  
20 h, 55 °C, 80%  
X = Br

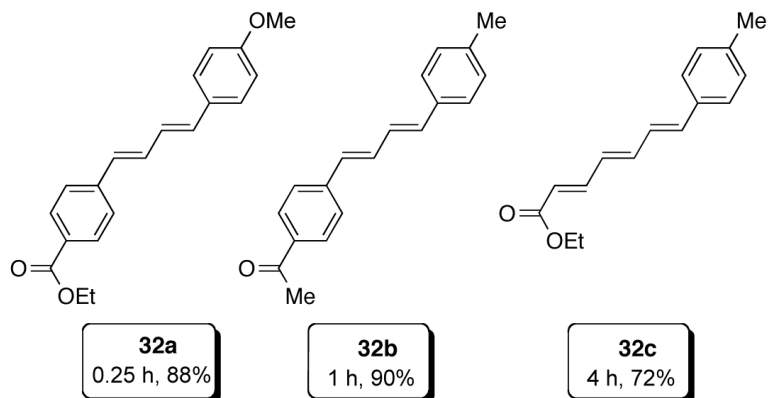
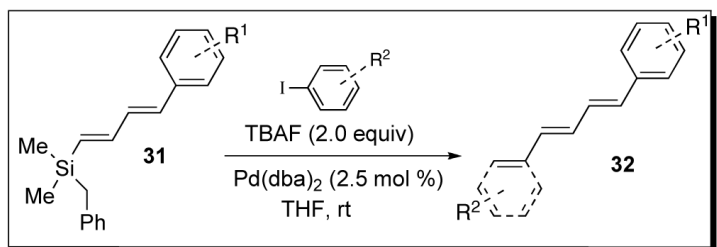
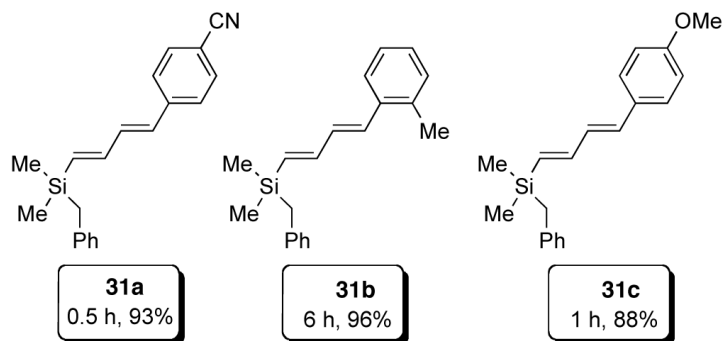
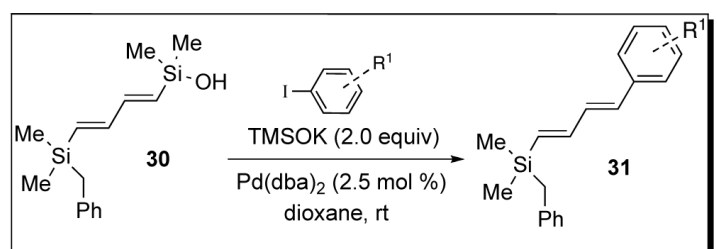
Scheme 8.



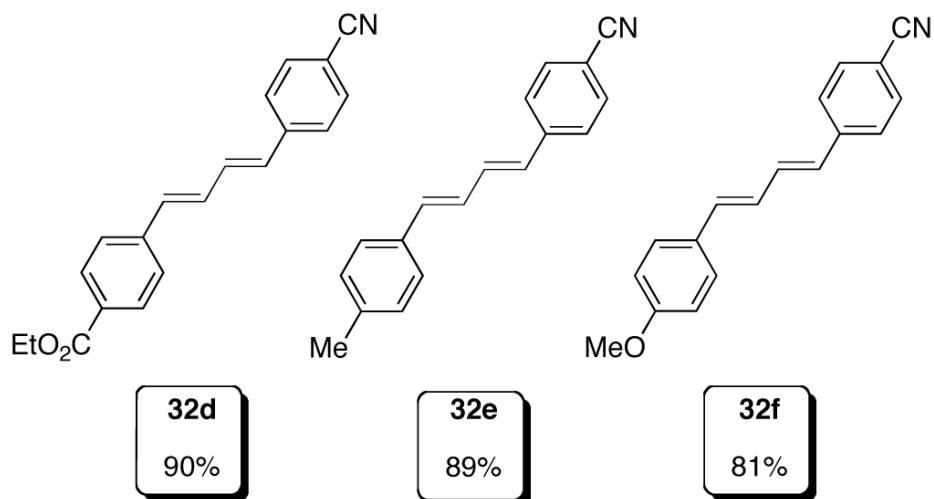
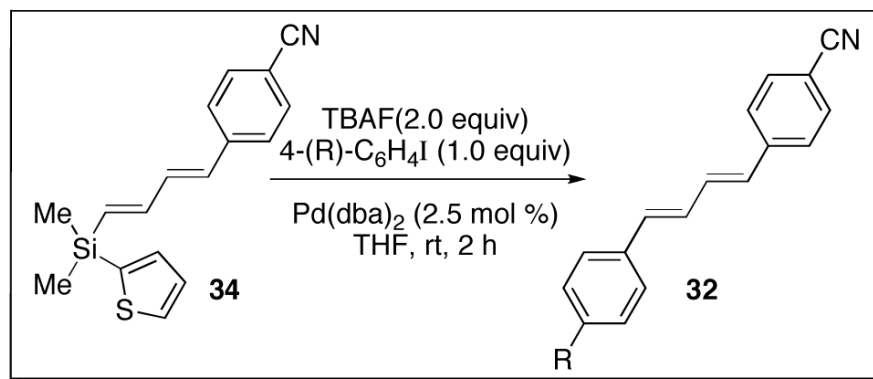
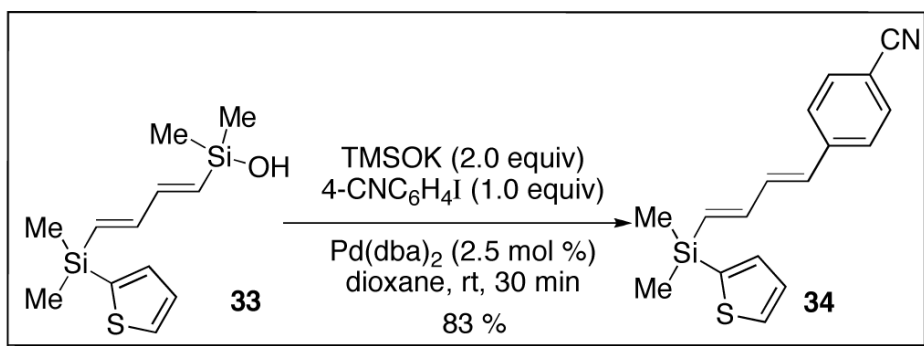
Scheme 9.



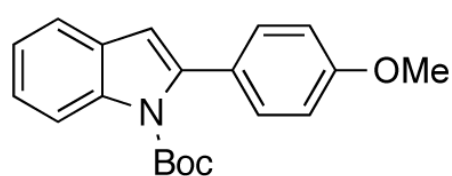
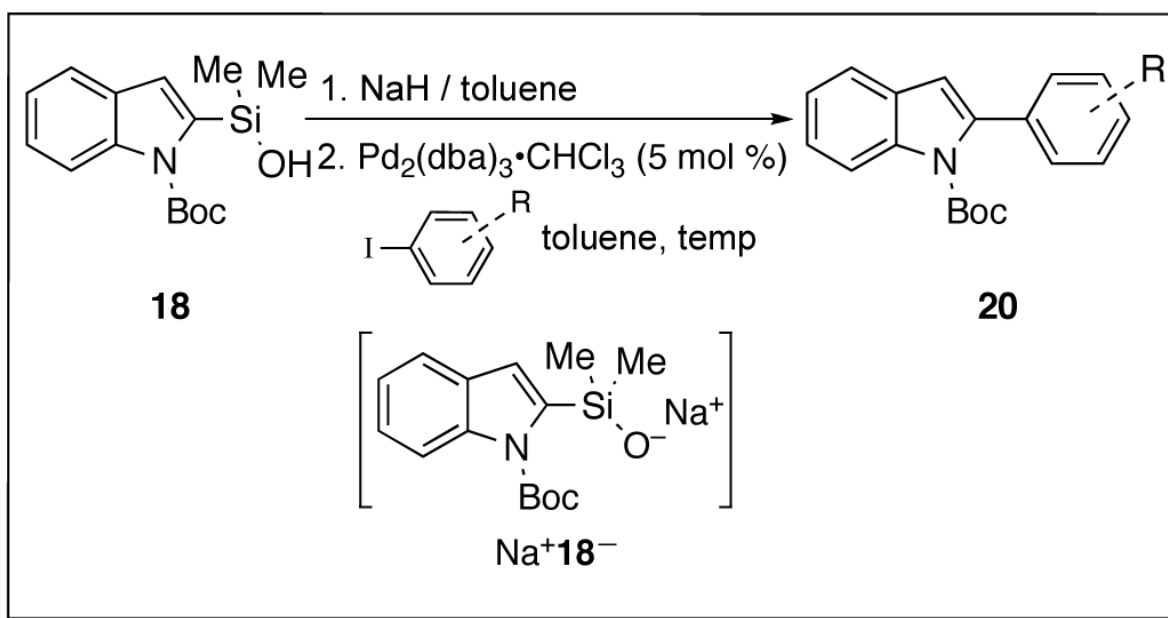
Scheme 10.



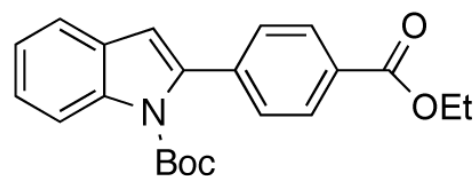
Scheme 11.



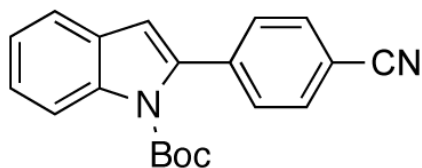
Scheme 12.



**20d**  
3 h, 80 °C, 68%

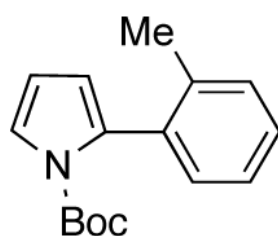
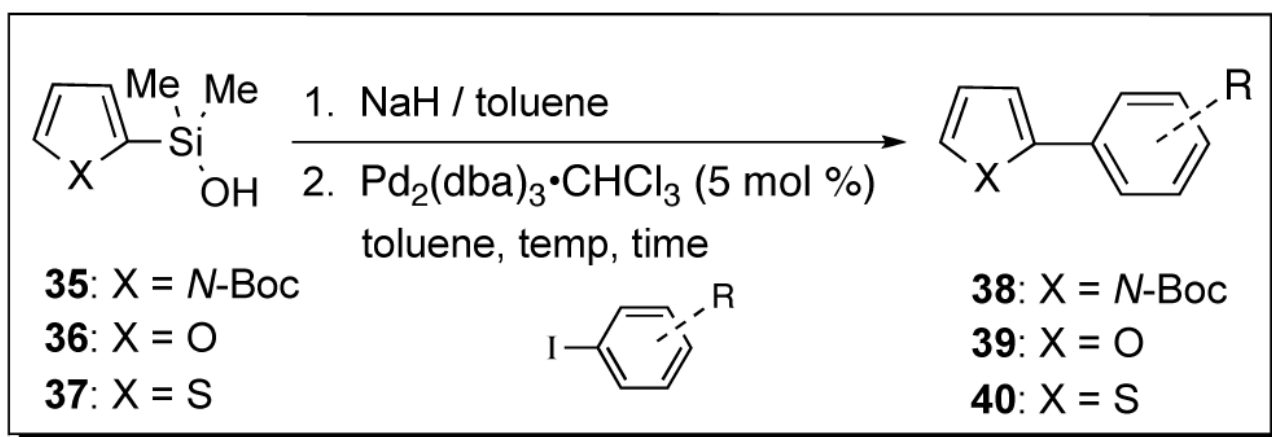


**20g**  
3 h, rt, 82%

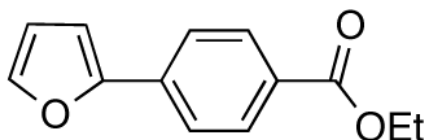


**20h**  
3 h, rt, 81%

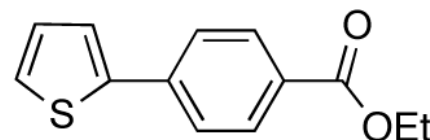
Scheme 13.



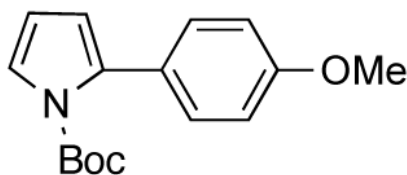
**38a**  
3 h, rt, 80%



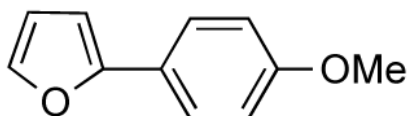
**39a**  
1 h, rt, 82%



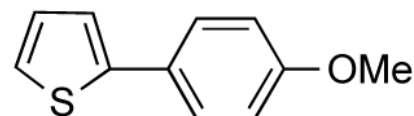
**40a**  
3 h, rt, 78%



**38b**  
36 h, 50 °C, 72%

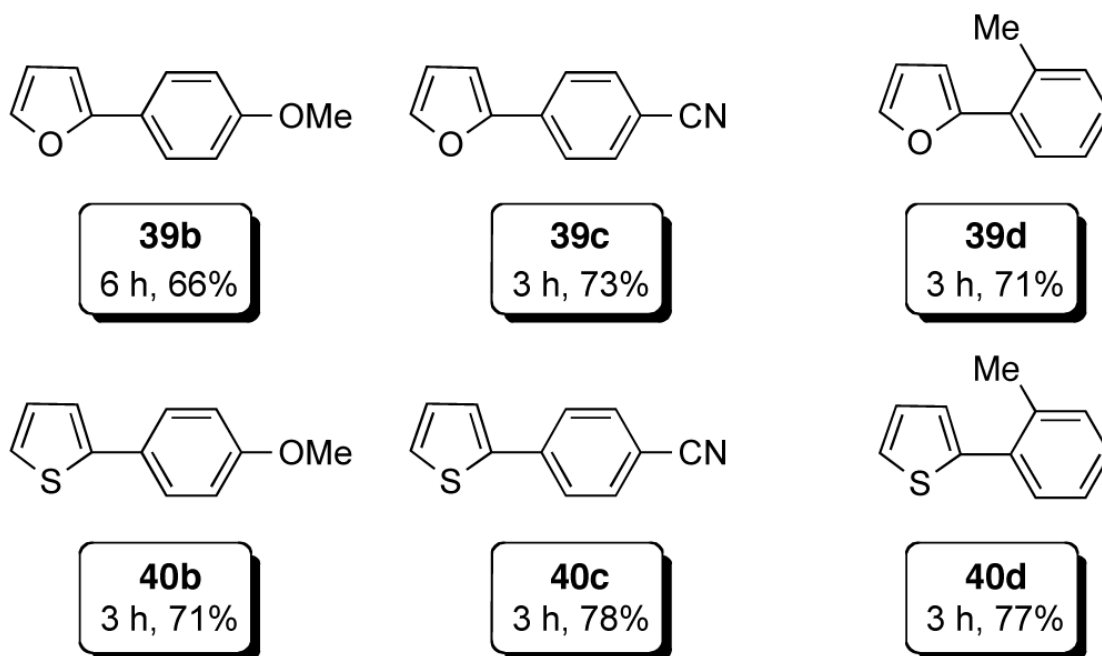
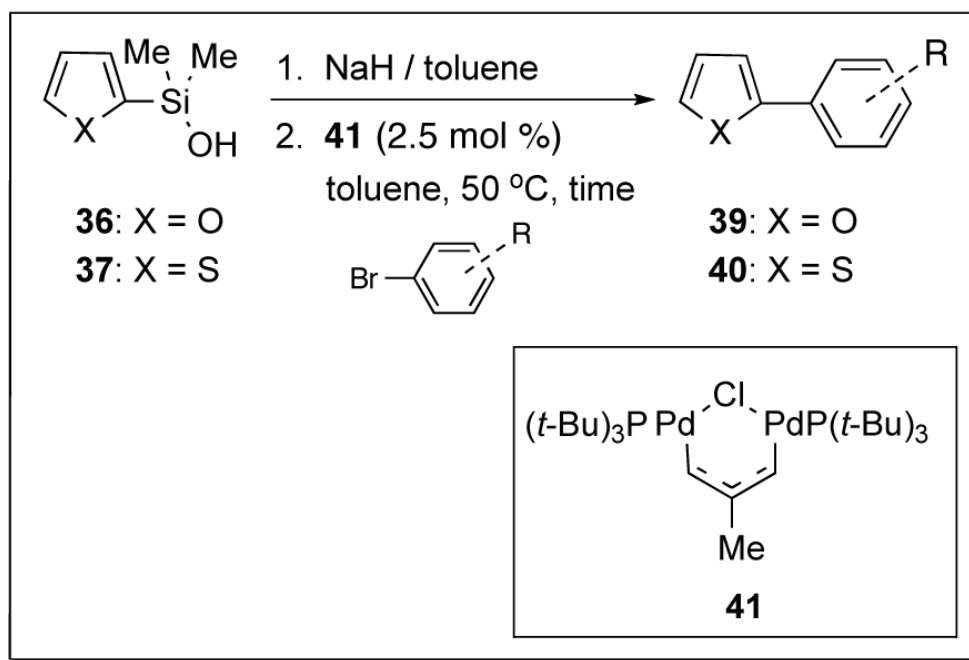


**39b**  
24 h, 50 °C, 71%

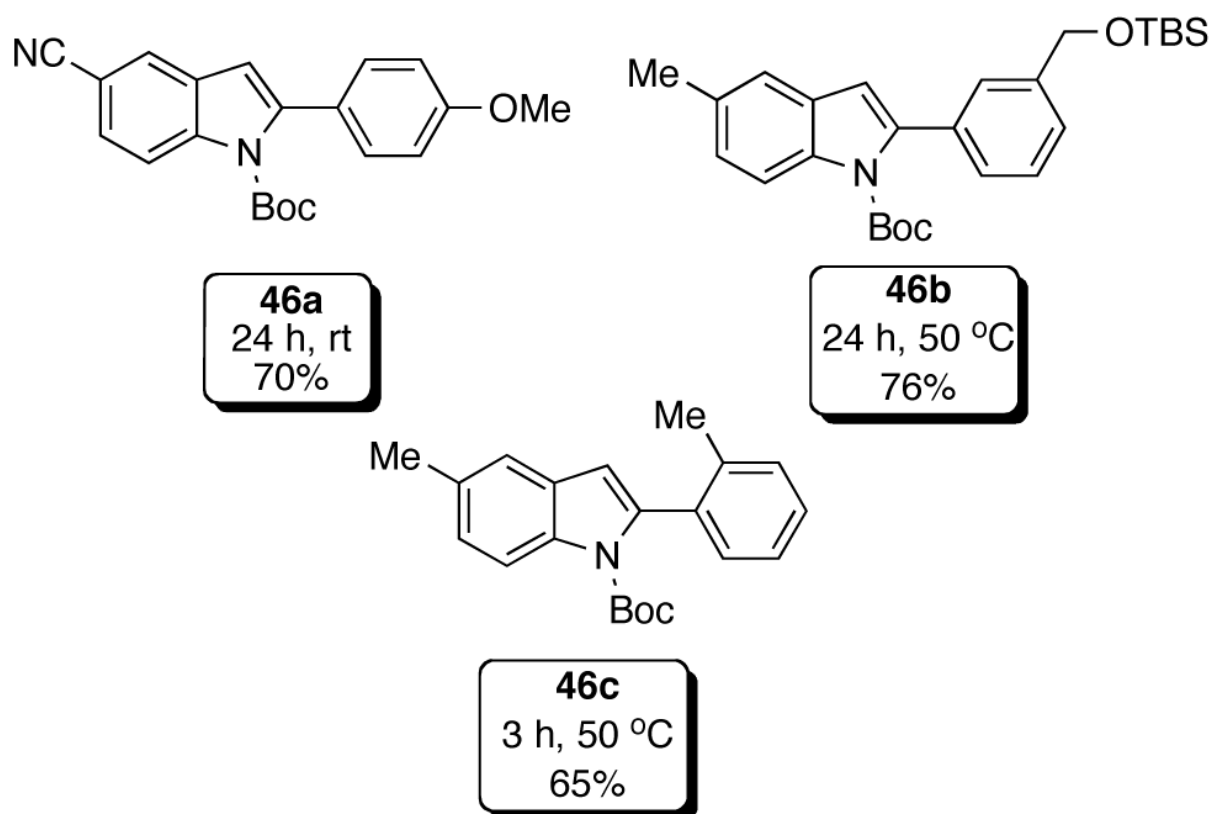
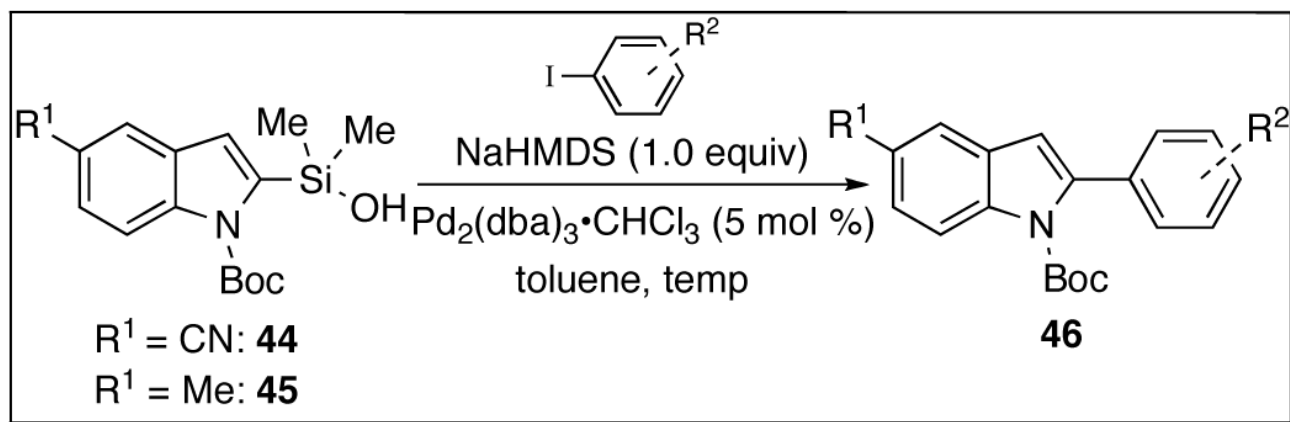


**40b**  
24 h, 80 °C, 72%

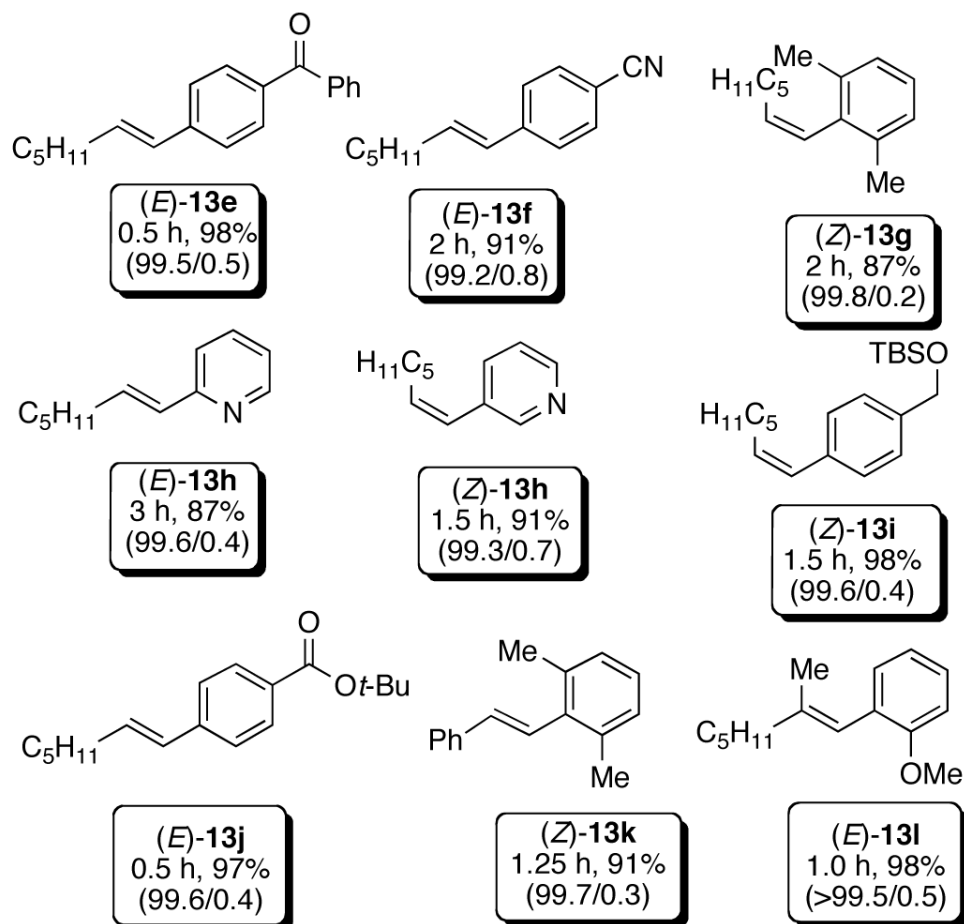
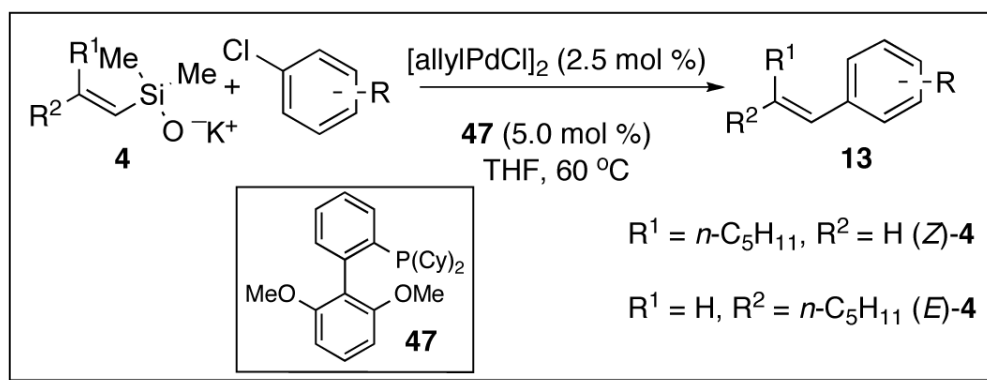
Scheme 14.



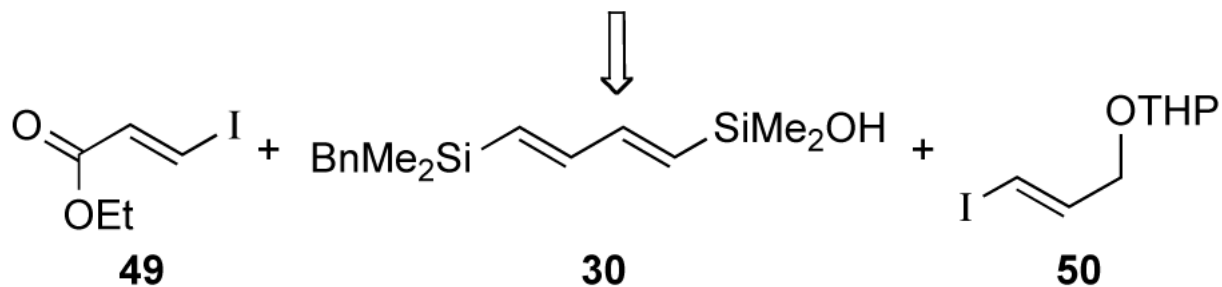
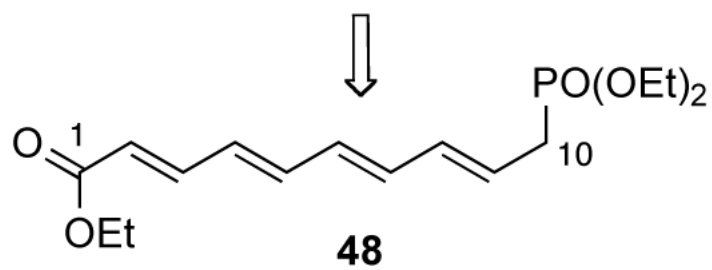
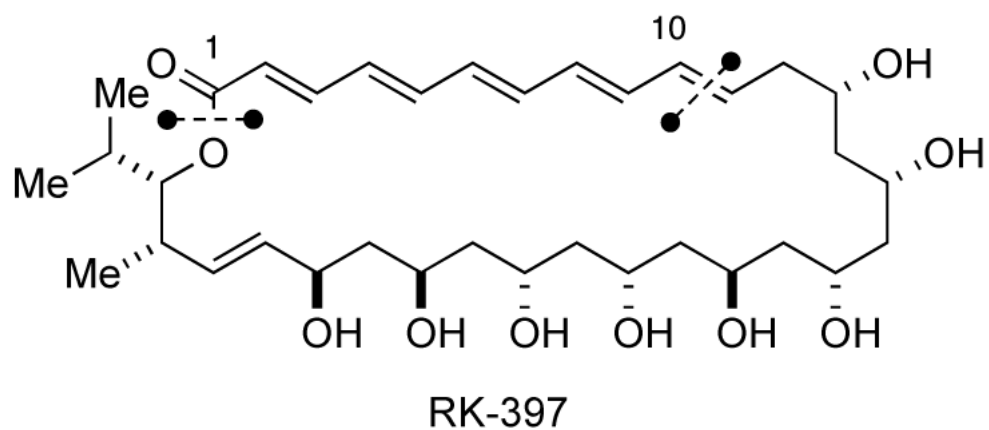
Scheme 15.

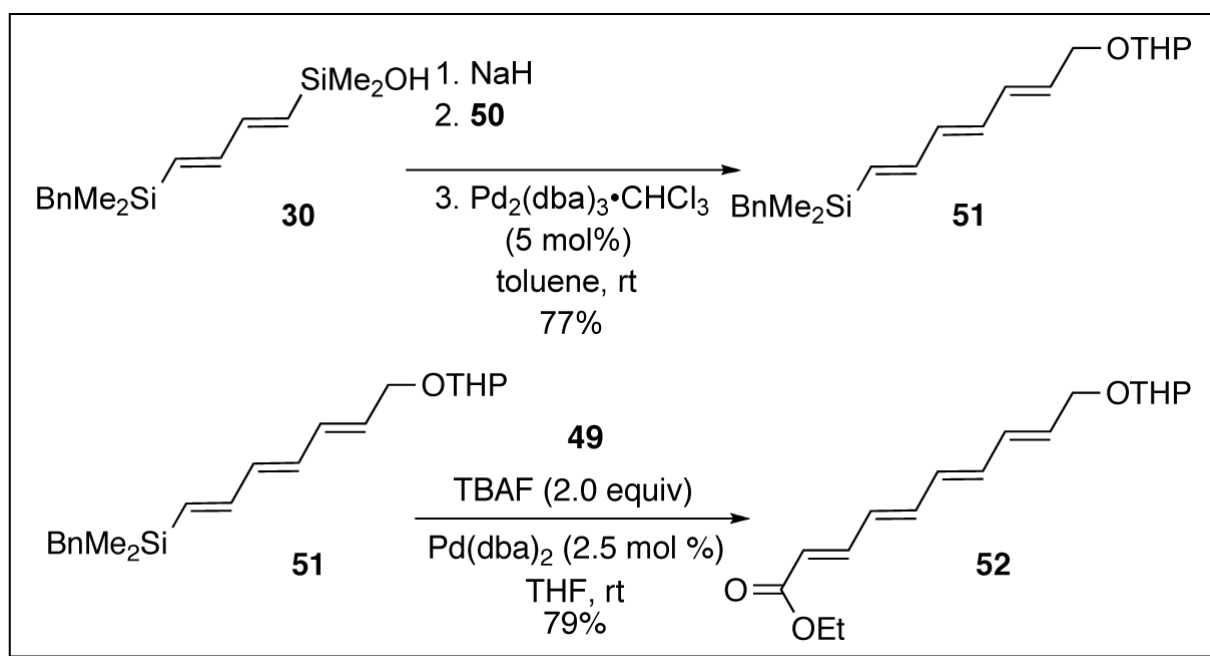


Scheme 16.

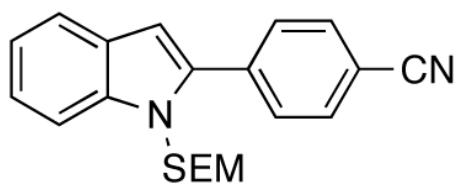
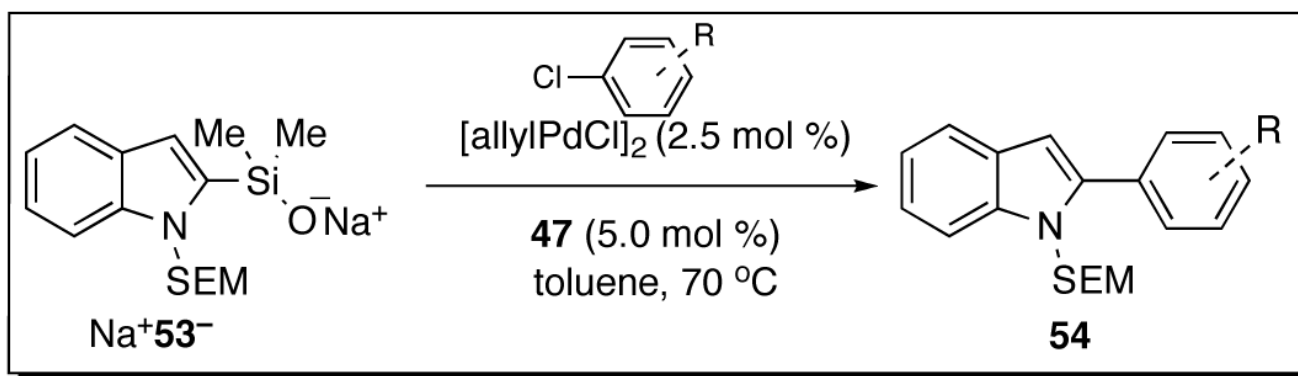


Scheme 17.

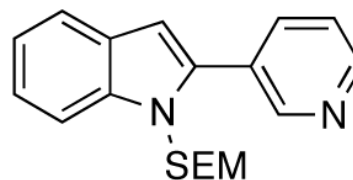




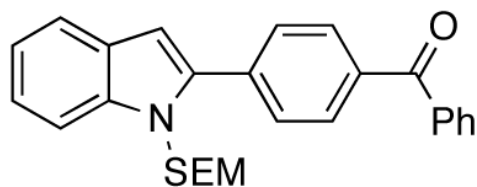
Scheme 18.



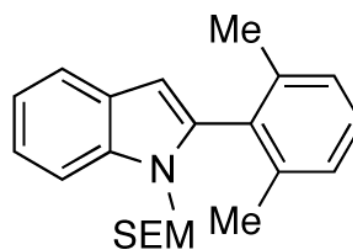
**54a**  
1 h, 92%



**54b**  
2 h, 84%

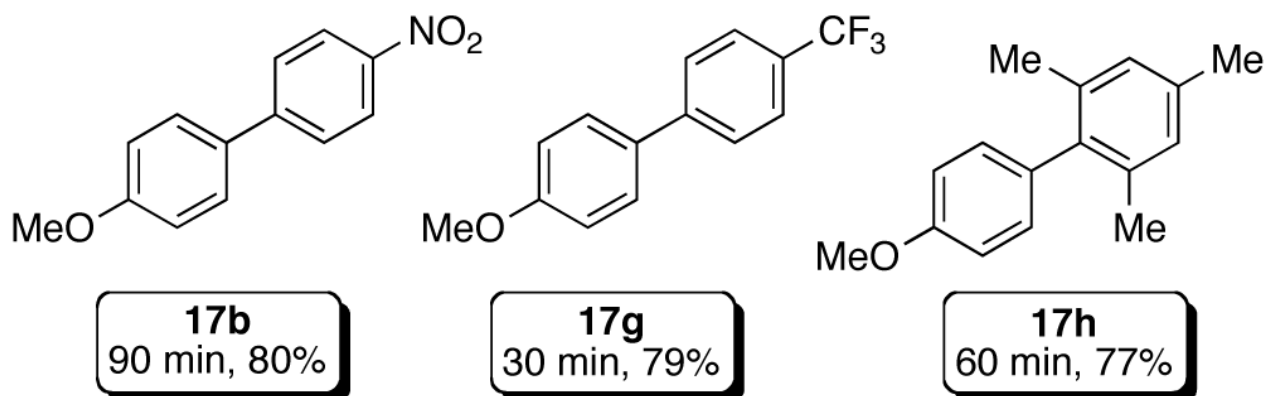
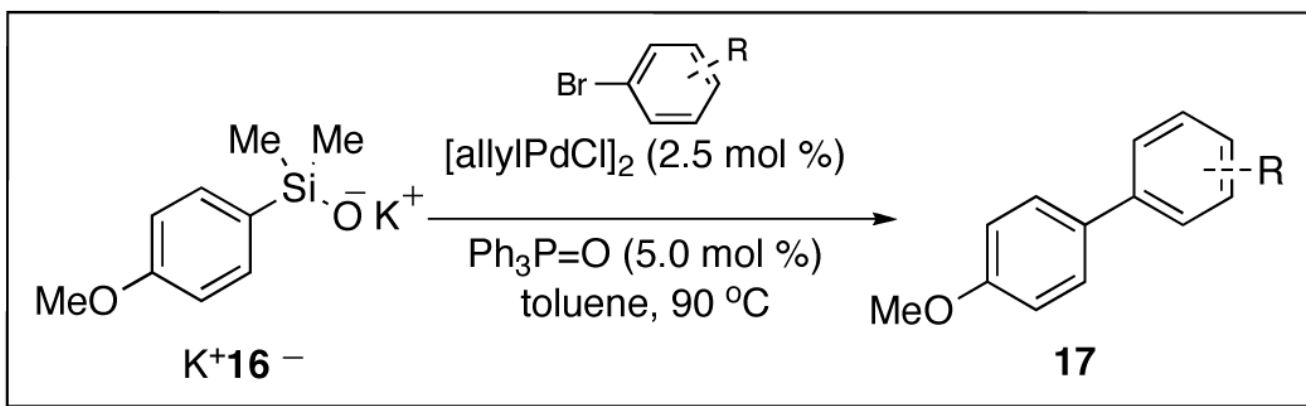


**54c**  
1 h, 93%

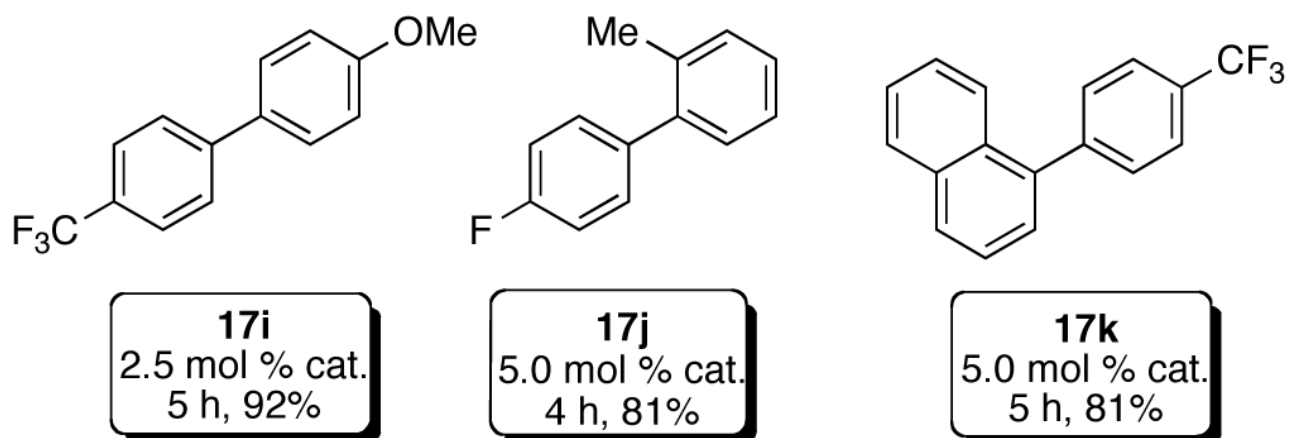
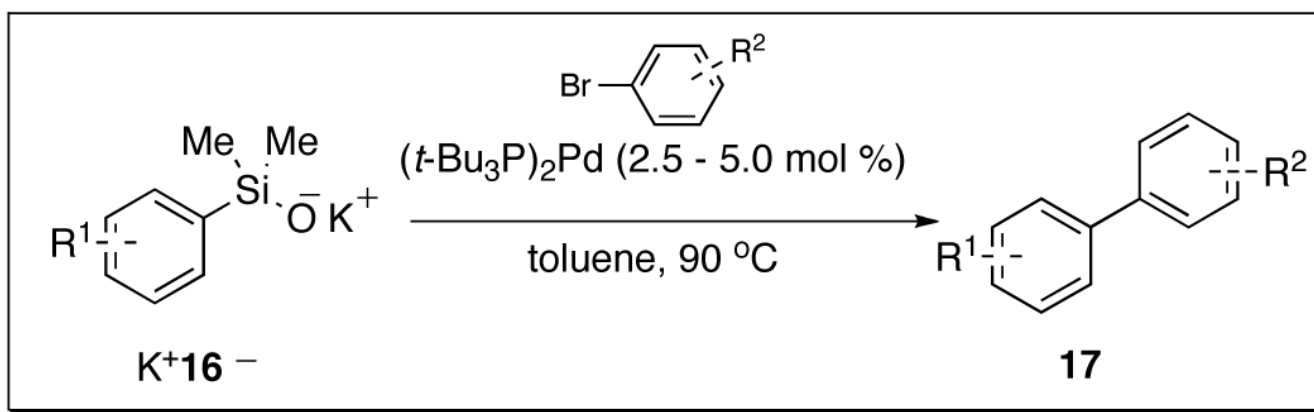


**54d**  
3 h, 88%

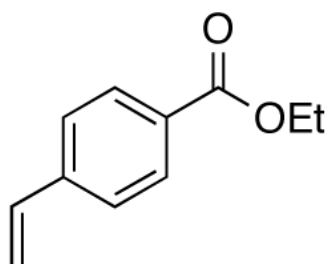
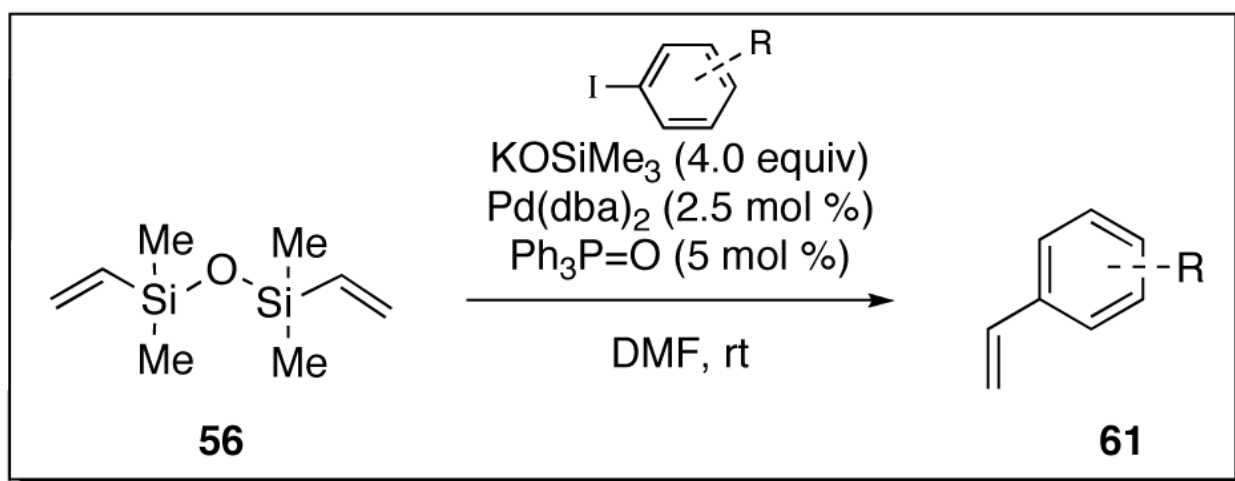
Scheme 19.



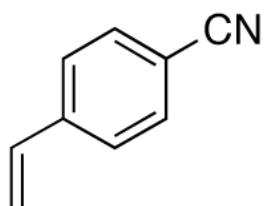
Scheme 20.



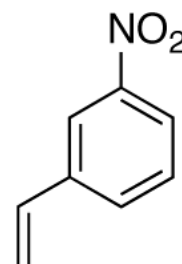
Scheme 21.



**61b**  
0.5 h, 81%

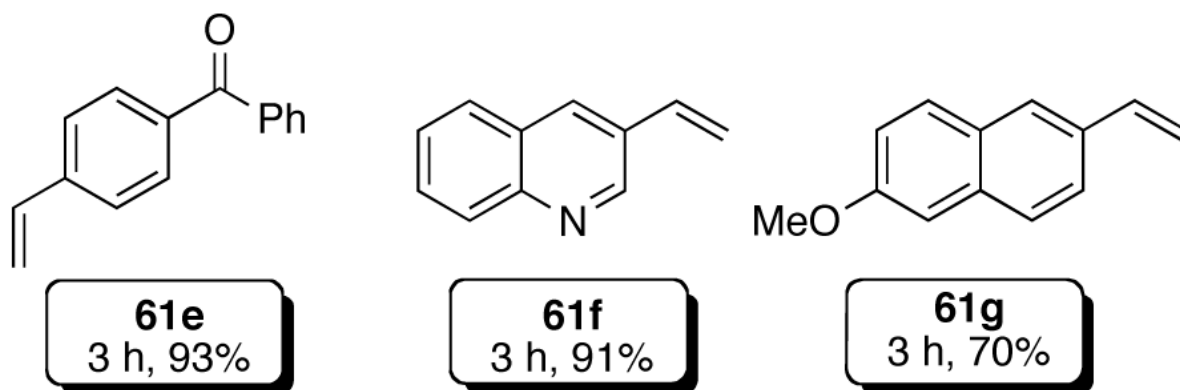
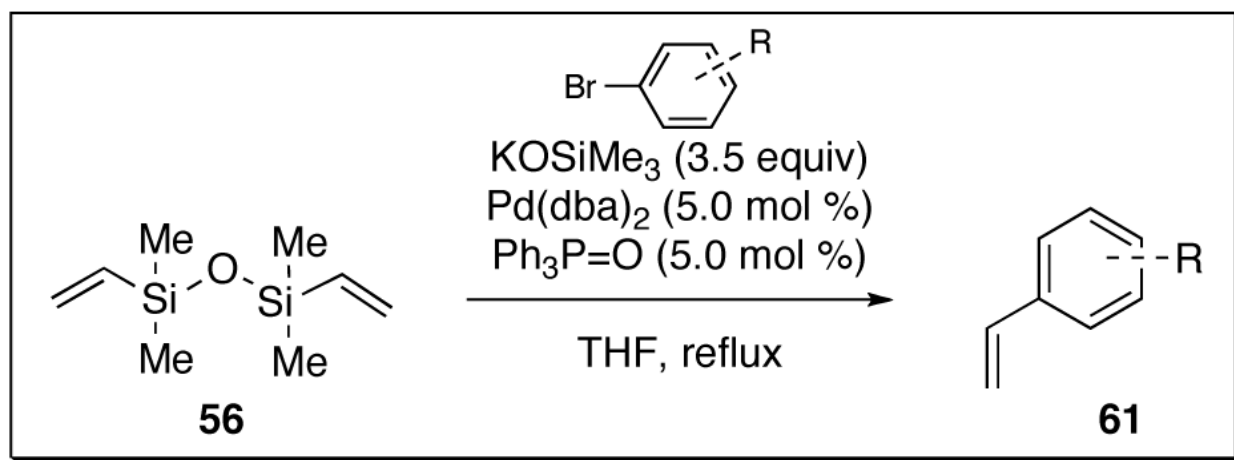


**61c**  
0.5 h, 81%

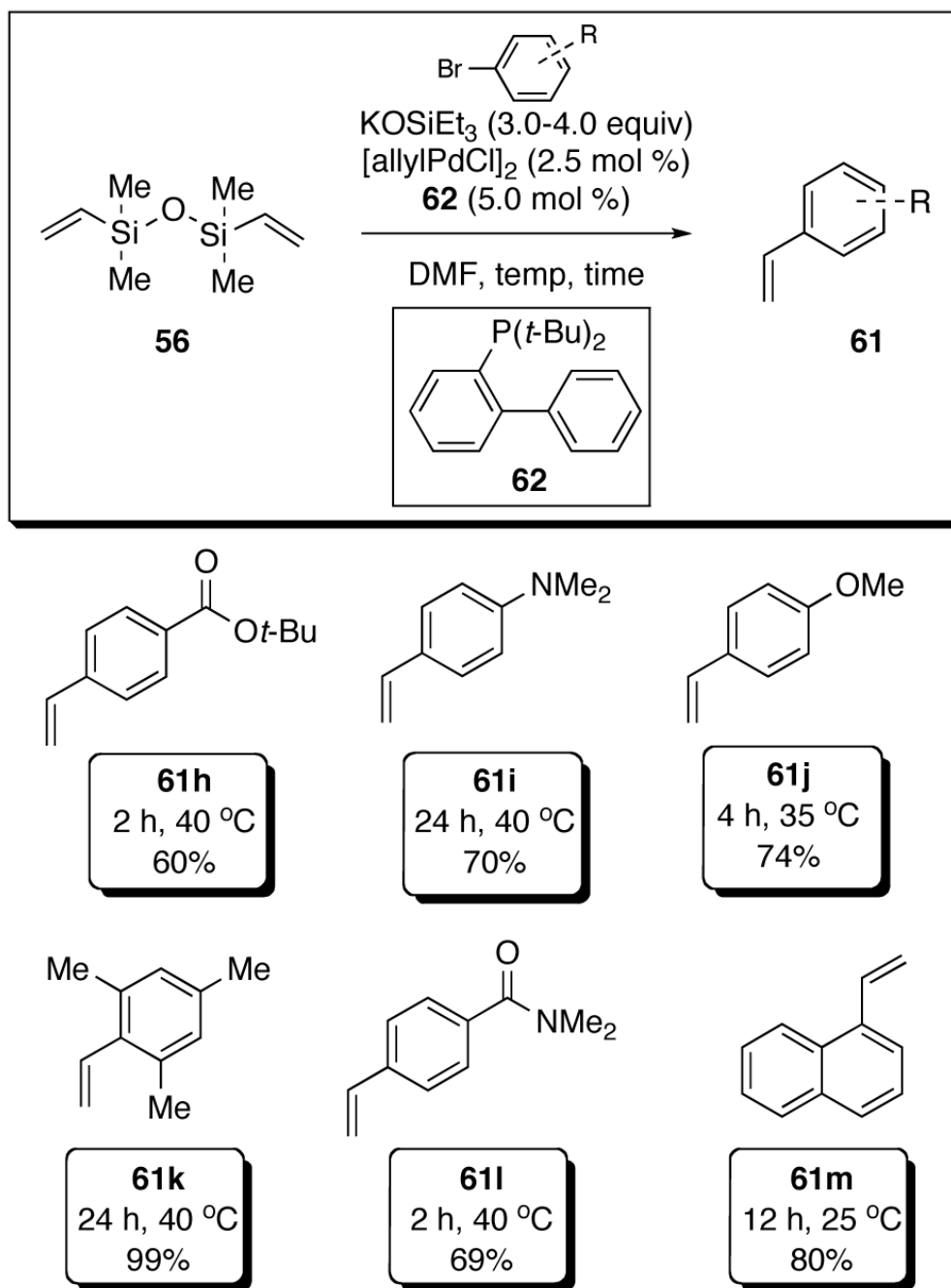


**61d**  
1.0 h, 76%

Scheme 22.



Scheme 23.



Scheme 24.

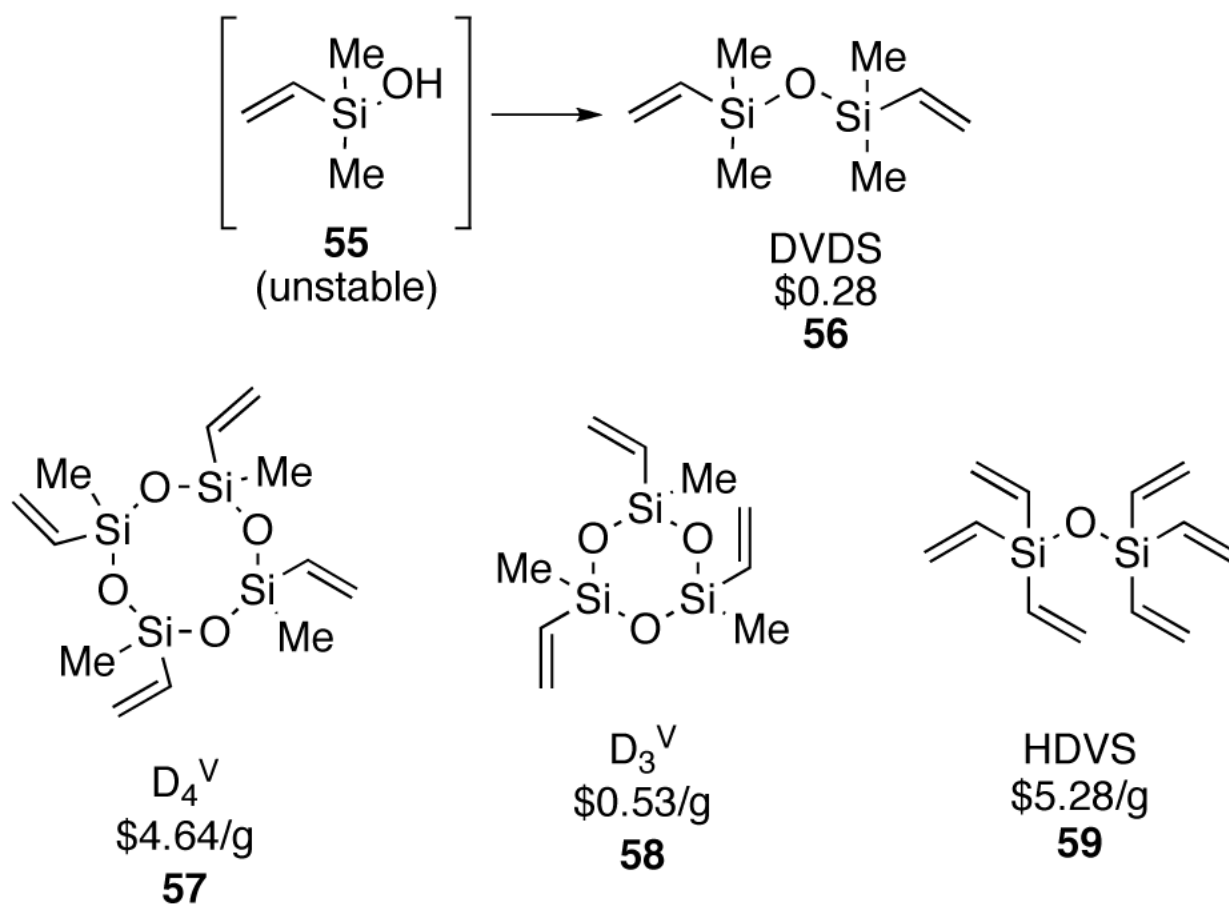


Chart 1.