# Evaluating the influence of the protecting group on the enantioselective Heck-Matsuda reaction of 3-cyclo-penten-1-ol.

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#### Introduction

The first examples of the enantioselective Heck-Matsuda reaction were reported by Correia et al in 2012 and since then many improvements have been made.<sup>1,2</sup> In a recent paper we described a new enantioselective Heck-Matsuda desymmetrization reaction using 3-cyclopentenol to produce chiral fivemembered 4-aryl cyclopentenol scaffolds as main products.<sup>2</sup> Mechanistically, it was postulated that the hydroxyl group of 3-cyclopentenol acts as a directing group and is responsible for the unexpected cis stereochemistry observed 4-arylin the cyclopentenols. To evaluate the influence of the hydroxyl group in the arylating process we disclose here our results of the Heck-Matsuda reaction of protected derivatives of 3-cyclo-penten-1-ol 1.

### **Results and discussion**

We prepared three new cyclopentenol derivatives **2a-c** containing different protecting groups such as TBDMS, Ac and Me. The derivatives **2a-c** were prepared in good yields using well established procedures (**Scheme 1**).



Scheme 1: Preparation of derivatives 2a-c.

Next, the compounds were submitted to the enantioselective Heck-Matsuda reaction using previous reported conditions. In all cases the reaction led to a mixture of the *cis* and *trans* 4-arilcyclopentenols (**Scheme 2**).



Scheme 2: HM reaction of compounds 2a-c.<sup>a</sup>

Interestingly, the *cis/trans* ratio of the products depended strongly on the protecting group on the oxygen atom. The best selectivity was obtained with derivative **4c** (OAc) (**Entry 3, Table 1**).

Table 1: Selectivity of HM reaction of compounds 2a-c.

| Entry | R group | <i>cis:tran</i> s ratio <sup>b</sup> | yield % |
|-------|---------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| 1     | TBDMS   | 0.7:1                                | 56      |
| 2     | Me      | 0.9:1                                | 71      |
| 3     | Ac      | 0.2:1                                | 77      |

<sup>b</sup> Determined by <sup>1</sup>H RMN. *ee's* were not evaluated.

These results supports our hypothesis that a weak Lewis acid-base interaction of the *endo* oriented hydroxyl protected group towards the cationic Pd (II) is the major driving force favoring the formation of the *cis*-4-arilcyclopent-2-enol Heck product. This influence is minimized when the hydroxyl group is protected leading to the formation of *trans*-4arilcyclopent-2-enol as the major Heck product.

#### Conclusion

In conclusion, we have shown that the interaction between the hydroxyl group and the palladium metallic center plays an important role to the formation of aril-cyclopentenols in the *cis* configuration. The presence of a protecting group on the hydroxyl resulted in the formation of the *trans* aril-cyclopentenols as the major Heck products.

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 $<sup>^</sup>a$  Pd(TFA)\_2 (2.5 mol%), L (3.0 mol%), 1 equiv of DTBMP, 40  $^oC,$  0.1 mmol scale.

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