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Palladium-Catalyzed Successive C–H Bond Arylations and Annulations toward the π -Extension of Selenophene-Containing Aromatic Skeletons

Xinzhe Shi, Shuxin Mao, Thierry Roisnel, Henri Doucet* and Jean-François Soulé*

Univ Rennes, CNRS UMR6226, F-3500 Rennes, France henri.doucet@univ-rennes1.fr and jean-francois.soule@univ-rennes1.fr

A modular approach for the synthesis of planar π -extended selenium containing molecules from selenophene has been developed. Different combinations of Pd-catalyzed desulfitative C–H bond arylations with (2-bromo)arylsulfonyl chlorides and Pd-catalyzed intra- or/and inter-molecular C–H bond arylations with aryl bromides allowed to extend the selenophene-containing aromatic skeleton at the [*b*]-, [*c*]- or [*b*:*d*]-junctions to give phenanthro[*b*]selenophenes, phenanthro[*c*]selenophenes or diphenanthro[*b*:*d*]selenophenes

Introduction

Planar π -extended organic molecules are considered the next generation of charge carrier trasnporting materials for optoelectronic devices.1 Several analogues containing an heteroaromatic unit such as thiophene, or pyrrole have been synthetized and have found number of applications as electronic components for the preparation of devices.² Despite the recent interest of selenophenes as building blocks for the preparation of optoelectronic organic materials,³ only scarce examples of planar π -extended molecules containing Se atoms have been prepared.⁴ In 2016, Zeni et al prepared two phenanthroselenophenes in three steps via two electrophilic cyclizations as the key steps.⁵ Other methods involved the use of elemental selenium and multi-steps-synthesis, which often prevent the access to well-decorated π -extended selenophene derivatives bearing sensitive functional groups.⁶

Nowadays C-H bond functionalization has emerged as a suitable alternative to other cross-coupling reactions owing its steps and atom economy and its broad functional group tolerance.⁷ Interestingly, a more direct strategy enabling C–H bond functionalization coupled with annulation reaction allowed to prepare planar π -extended organic molecules⁸ including sulfur-,⁹ nitrogen-,¹⁰ or oxygen- analogues.¹¹ However, to our knowledge, a protocol enabling successive C-H bond arylations for the preparation of selenium-containing π extended organic molecules was not reported yet.¹² Indeed, only a few reports focused on the reactivity of selenophenes via transition metal-catalyzed C-H bond functionalizations. In 2011, Mori, Koumura et al. reported the first examples of Pdcatalyzed α -arylations of selenophenes using aryl iodides for the preparation of new dyes incorporated in photovoltaic cells.13 Later, Schneider and co-workers succeeded to generalize α arylation of selenophenes with other aryl halides (bromides and iodides).¹⁴ The arylation of heteroarenes at β -position is still more challenging.¹⁵ There are four main strategies to control the regioselectivity toward the C3 or C4 arylations of thiophenes: i) using a directing group,¹⁶ ii) using a specific catalytic system, $^{\rm 17}$ iii) using C2, C5-disubstituted thiophenes $^{\rm 18}$ or iv) using specific arylating sources (e.g., ArB(OH)₂,¹⁹ ArSiMe₃,²⁰ ArSO₂Cl²¹). In 2017, our group achieved the first Pd-catalyzed βarylation of selenophenes using ArSO₂Cl.²² We also demonstrated that well-decorated tetraarylated selenophenes could be obtained in good yields via successive C-H bond

arylations. Besides the switch of regioselectivity, Pd-catalyzed C–H bond arylations with ArSO₂Cl allowed orthogonal transformations owing their chemoselectivity with halogenated substrates.²³ As a continuation of our research program dealing with the synthesis of heteroaromatic analogues of planar π -extended organic molecules,²⁴ we became interested in the phenanthroselenophene series.

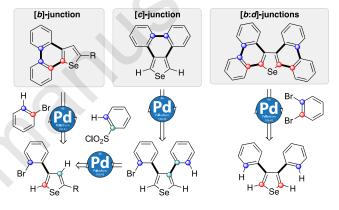


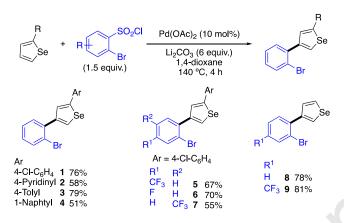
Figure 1. Unified Strategy for the Preparation of Phenanthroselenophenes

Our retrosynthetic analysis is outlined in Figure 2. Firstly, we planned to build phenanthro[b]selenophenes in two-operations via Pd-catalyzed desulfitative β-arylation with 2bromobenzenesulfonyl chlorides, followed by Pd-catalyzed α arylation coupled with annulation; while phenanthro[c]selenophenes will be obtained via three consecutive C–H bond arylations, namely Pd-catalyzed desulfitative C3-arylation with 2-bromobenzenesulfonyl chlorides of selenophene followed by a second desulfitative C4arylation and intramolecular C-H bond arylation. Finally, diphenanthro[b:d]selenophenes will be synthetized from 3,4diarylselenophenes and 1,2-dibromobenzene via Pd-catalyzed double Pd-catalyzed α -arylation coupled with annulation.

Results

Using our previous reaction conditions for the β C–H bond arylation of selenophenes,²² we firstly prepared the 4-(2-bromophenyl)selenophene intermediates **1-7** from 2-arylselenophene derivatives and diversely substituted 2-bromobenzenesulfonyl chlorides (Scheme 1). This unique regioselectivity might be due to Pd^{II}/Pd^{IV} catalytic cycle rather

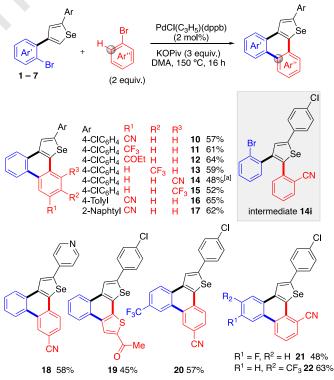
than Pd⁰/Pd^{II} owing the fast oxidative addition of ArSO₂Cl to Pd^{II.25} Notably, 2-arylated selenophenes were prepared from selenophene via C-H bond arylation with aryl bromides using slightly modified literature procedures (see SI).¹⁴ In the presence of 10 mol% Pd(OAc)₂ and 6 equivalents of base (Li₂CO₃) in 1,4-dioxane, selenophenes substituted at C2-position by 4-chlorophenyl, 4-pyridyl, 4-tolyl or 1-naphtyl groups reacted with 2-bromobenzenesulfonyl chloride to afford the C2,C4diarylated selenophenes 1-4 in moderate to good yields, without C-Br bond cleavage. The reactions tolerated substituents on the 2-bromobenzenesulfonyl chloride, such as 4-trifluoromethyl-, 4-fluoro-, or 3-trifluoromethyl and their coupling with 2-(4-chlorophenyl)selenophene afforded the 2,4diarylselenophenes 5-7 in 55-70% yields. Compounds 8 and 9 were prepared via our reported procedure.²²



Scheme 1. Pd-Catalyzed Direct C4 Arylations of 2-Arylselenophenes Using 2-Bromobenzenesulfonyl Chlorides

Then, with the selenophene derivatives 1-7 bearing a 2bromophenyl unit at C4 position in hand, we turned our attention to the second step, namely Pd-catalyzed tandem C5arylation with aryl bromides followed by annulation reaction to generate the phenanthroselenophenes in a one-pot two steps process (Scheme 2). Firstly, the reactivity of a set of aryl bromides was evaluated with 4-(2-bromophenyl)-2-(4chlorophenyl)selenophene (1) using a diphosphine-palladium catalyst [PdCl(C₃H₅)(dppb)] in the presence of KOPiv in DMA at 150 ºC. Reactions with electron-poor aryl bromides (e.g., 4bromobenzonitrile, 4-bromobenzotrifluoride, 4bromopropiophenone) with which the oxidative addition of the C–Br bond to Pd(0) is faster than the C–Br of the C4-phenyl unit of selenophene 1, gave C5-arylation followed by annulation reaction to afford the desired phenanthroselenophenes 10-12 in good yields. Notably, the C–Cl bond was untouched during this tandem reaction. From a meta-substituted aryl bromide, the product 13 was isolated in moderate yield as a single regioisomer because the intramolecular C-H bond arylation (annulation) occurred at the less hindered position. ortho-Substituted aryl bromides yielded 14 and 15. Notably, with 2bromobenzonitrile, the phenanthroselenophene 14 was obtained in a two-pots procedure. In the first instance, only the C5-arylated selenophene intermediate 14i was obtained due to

the formation of non-active black palladium species. However, when this isolated intermediate was subjected to the same reaction conditions, namely PdCl(C₃H₅)(dppb) in the presence of KOPiv in DMA, we were pleased to find that cyclization reaction occurred to deliver the phenanthroselenophene 14. The use of larger amount of PdCl(C₃H₅)(dppb) affords the desired product 14 in one-pot, albeit in a lower yield. Next, we found that the nature of C2-aryl group on the selenophene exhibits a minor effect on the reactivity, as 4-tolyl, 1-naphtyl or 4-pyridyl C2substituted selenophenes 2-4 nicely reacted with 4bromobenzonitrile to give the phenanthroselenophenes 16-18 in good yields. Interestingly, the reaction was not limited to ary bromides, and heteroaryl bromides could also be employed. The π -extended aromatic **19** containing both selenophene and thiophene units with a 2,2'-link was obtained in 45% yield from 1 and 2-acetyl-5-bromothiophene. Then, the influence of an additional substituent on the 4-aryl group of 4-(2-bromoaryl)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)selenophenes was investigated. 4-Arylselenophene derivatives 5 or 6 bearing trifluoromethyl or fluoro substituents at the meta position of the C-Br bond, nicely reacted with 4-bromobenzonitrile to afford the phenanthroselenophenes 20 and 21 in 57% and 48% yield, respectively. This tandem C5-arylation-annulation was also successful with the selenophene derivative 7 bearing a trifluoromethyl at the para-position of the C–Br bond, yielding the target product **22** in one step. However, it should be noted that reactions with electron-rich aryl bromides afforded complexes mixtures without the formation of the desired planar π -extended compounds.



[a] Overall yield over two steps, intermediate **14i** was isolated and reacted with $PdCl(C_3H_5)(dppb)$ (2 mol%), KOPiv (2 equiv.) in DMA at 150 °C, 16 h

Scheme 2. Pd-Catalyzed Tandem C5-Arylation – Annulation of 4-(2-Bromophenyl)selenophene Derivatives 1–7 with Aryl Bromides for the Synthesis of Phenanthro[*b*]selenophenes

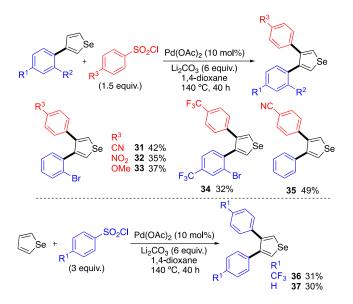
Interestingly we found that using the same catalyst $[PdCl(C_3H_5)(dppb)]$ in the presence of a larger amount of KOPiv (4 equiv.) in DMA at 150 °C, 3-(2-bromophenyl)selenophene (8) was diarylated at C2 and C5 positions with aryl bromides and that intramolecular C–H bond arylation also occurred affording protocol for the preparation а one-pot of phenanthroselenophenes via a three-fold C-H bond arylation (Scheme 3). From aryl bromides para-substituted by chloro, cyano, or propionyl groups, the seleno π -extended compounds 23-25 were obtained in a two-steps procedure after isolation of the non-cyclized 2,5-diaryl-4-(2-bromophenyl)selenophene intermediates 23i-25i. In contrast, aryl bromides parasubstituted by fluoro or trifluoromethyl groups underwent Pdcatalyzed three-fold direct arylations to afford the desired phenanthroselenophenes 26 and 27 in one-pot. Moreover, the use of 4-fluoro-1-iodobenzene instead of 1-bromo-4fluorobenzene gives a lower yield in the desired phenanthroselenophene 26. Reactions with 1-bromo-4-tertbutylbenzene or 4-iodotoluene did not resulted in the formation of the corresponding phenanthro[b]selenophenes. 2-Bromobenzonitrile and 2-bromobenzotrifluoride were efficiently coupled with 8 to afford the fused selenophenes 28 and 29 in 51% and 53% yield, respectively. The structure of 29 was secured by X-Ray analysis.²⁶ To prepare a π -extended aromatics containing both selenophene and pyridine units, an excess amount of base was required to neutralize the HCl salt of 4-bromopyridine, but the C2,C5-diarylation reaction followed by annulation reaction proceeded in one-pot affording 30 in 56% yield.

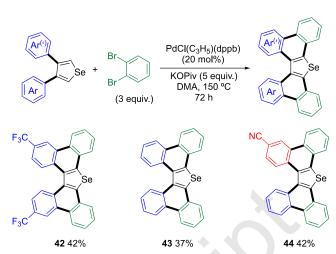
PdCI(C₃H₅)(dppb) (2 mol%) Δr KOPiv (4 equiv.) DMA, 150 °C, 16 h (3 equiv.) 8 23 38%^[a] CL **28** 51% 24 41%^[a] CN CN 24i COEt 25 37%[a] COEt 25i **26** 48% (45%)^[b] **27** 57% 30 56%^[c] X-ray structure of 29 29 53%

[a] Overall yield over two steps, intermediates **23i-25i** were isolated and reacted with $PdCl(C_3H_5)(dppb)$ (2 mol%), KOPiv (2 equiv.) in DMA at 150 °C, 16 h. [b] Using Arl instead of ArBr. [c] 7 Equiv. of KOPiv.

Scheme3.Pd-CatalyzedOne-PotThree-FoldDirectArylationsof3-(2-Bromophenyl)selenophene8withArylBromidesfortheSynthesisofPhenanthro[b]selenophenes

Then, from a mixture of 3-(2-bromophenyl)selenophene (8) and 4-CN-, 4-NO2- or 4-MeO-benzenesulfonyl chlorides the 3,4diarylated selenophenes 31-33 were obtained in moderate yields (Scheme 4). The introduction of a second aryl group at C4 position of 9 and 3-phenylselenophene was also achieved to give 34 and 35 in 32% and 49% yield, respectively. The second C4-arylation was more sluggish than the C3-arylation, but could be conducted using the same catalytic system provided that the reaction time was extended to 40 h. Similarly, using this extended reaction time, the one-pot 3,4-diarylation of selenophene has been performed with 4-(trifluoromethyl)benzenesulfonyl chloride, benzenesulfonyl chloride or 4-chlorobenzenesulfonyl chloride to give the symmetrical 3,4-diarylated selenophenes 36 and 37 in low yields.

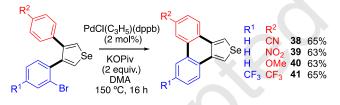




Scheme 6. Pd-Catalyzed One-Pot Four-Fold Direct Arylations of 3,4-Diarylselenophenes with 1,2-Dibromobenzene for the Synthesis of Diphenanthro[b:d]selenophenes

Scheme 4. Pd-Catalyzed Direct C4 Arylations of 3-Arylselenophenes (top) or C3,C4diarylation of Selenophene (bottom)

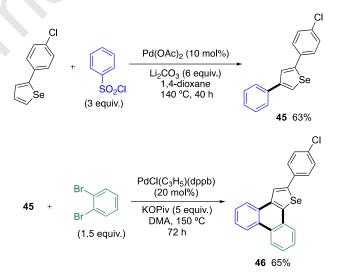
Having synthetized 3,4-diarylselenophenes, in which one of the aryl groups is a 2-bromoaryl, we investigated the Pd-catalyzed intramolecular C–H bond arylation to access to phenanthro[c]selenophene structures (Scheme 5). The treatment of **31–35** by annulative conditions, namely 2 mol% of PdCl(C₃H₅)(dppb) in the presence of KOPiv (4 equiv.) in DMA at 150 °C led to the phenanthro[c]selenophene derivatives **38–41** in good yields *via* a 6-membered ring formation. The reaction tolerated different functional group on the aryl unit such as CN, NO₂, OMe and CF₃.



Scheme 5. Pd-Catalyzed Intramolecular C–H Bond Arylation of 3-(2-Bromoaryl)-4arylselenophenes for the Synthesis of Phenanthro[c]selenophene Derivatives

pleased find Later. we were to that diphenanthro[b:d]selenophenes could be synthetized in a onepot operation from 3,4-diarylselenophenes and 3 equivalents of 1,2-dibromobenzene *via* double Pd-catalyzed α -arylation coupled with C–H annulation. The symmetrical diphenanthro[b:d]selenophenes 42 and 43 were isolated in moderate yields from 36 and 37 using 20 mol% of PdCl(C₃H₅)(dppb) in the presence of KOPiv (5 equiv.) in DMA at 150 ºC. Interestingly, from unsymmetrical C3,C4diarylselenophene 35, prepared from selenophene via two successive desulfitative C–H bond arylations, the diphenanthro[b:d]selenophene 44 was isolated in 42% yield.

explored Finally. we the preparation of phenanthro[b]selenophenes from 2,4-diarylselenophenes (Scheme 7). From 2-(4-chlorophenyl)selenophene, Pdcatalyzed desulfitative arylation using benzenesulfonyl chloride afforded the 2,4-diarylselenophene 45 in 63% yield. Then, in the presence of 1,2-dibromobenzene, C5-H bond arylation followed by annulation reaction gives the desired phenanthro[b]selenophene 46 in 65% yield using 20 mol% of PdCl(C₃H₅)(dppb) associated with KOPiv (5 equiv.) in DMA at 150 ºC.



Scheme 7. Synthesis of a Phenanthro[b]selenophene via Pd-Catalyzed C4 Desulfitative arylation followed by One-Pot Two-Fold Direct Arylation of a 2,4-Diarylselenophene with 1,2-Dibromobenzene

Conclusions

In summary, we have achieved the synthesis of a wide diversity of well-decorated π -extended aromatics containing selenium atom from selenophene using the combination of three to six C–H bond arylations. The key step was the introduction of (2bromo)aryl group(s) at β -position of selenophenes using Pdcatalyzed desulfitative arylation with (2-bromo)arylsulfonyl

Then, Pd-catalyzed one-pot tandem C-H direct chorides. arylations of selenophene rings at α -position with aryl bromides followed annulation reactions afforded bv phenanthro[b]selenophenes. In contrast, using a second Pdarylation β'-position desulfitative catalyzed at of selenophenenes followed by a cyclization reaction, phenanthro[c]selenophenes were obtained. Rapid construction to exotic scaffolds such as diphenanthro[b:d]selenophenes has also been achieved by double Pd-catalyzed α -arylation – annulation reaction.

Conclusions

The conclusions section should come in this section at the end of the article, before the acknowledgements.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts to declare

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