Boosting the activity of Mizoroki-Heck cross-coupling reactions with a supramolecular palladium catalyst favouring remote Zn…pyridine interactions

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Table of contents

L. General methodsS3
2. Synthesis of the supramolecular ligand LS3
3. NMR experimentsS4
I. General procedure for the Mizoroki-Heck cross-coupling reactionsS16
5. Control experimentsS17
5. Preliminary kinetic studyS21
7. Characterization of productsS22
3. ReferencesS26
). NMR dataS27

1. General methods.

Solvents were purified with an MB SPS-800 purification system or dried with CaH₂ and distillated prior to use. CDCl₃ was filtered through alumina and stored under argon over molecular sieves. All chemicals were purchased from commercial sources and used as received. Unless otherwise specified, reactions were carried out under argon atmosphere by employing standard Schlenk and vacuum-line techniques. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded with a Bruker GPX (400 MHz) spectrometer. ¹H NMR spectra were referenced to residual protiated solvent (δ = 7.26 ppm for CDCl₃). ¹³C NMR spectra were referenced to CDCl₃ (δ = 77.00 ppm). Abbreviations for signal couplings are: br, broad; s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quadruplet; p, pentuplet; hept, heptuplet; m, multiplet; dd, doublet of doublets; dt, triplet of doublets; td, doublet of triplets; tt, triplet of triplets; tdd, doublet of doublet of triplets. Coupling constants, *J*, were reported in hertz unit (Hz). The reactions were monitored by using a Shimadzu 2014 gas chromatograph equipped with an EquityTM-1 Fused Silica capillary column (30 m x 0.25 mm x 0.25 µm) and an FID detector. Purifications were done by combiflash nextgen 300 teledyne flash chromatography.

2. Synthesis of the supramolecular ligand L.

With exclusion of light, 2-cyanobenzaldehyde (1.89 g, 14 mmol) was dissolved in propionic acid (100 mL) and the mixture heated to reflux. Pyrrole (1.0 mL, 14 mmol) was added and the thusobtained dark mixture was further heated at reflux for 2 h. The solvent was removed by vacuum distillation and the crude product was purified by chromatography (SiO₂, CH₂Cl₂ as eluent). The fraction containing the porphyrin was evaporated to dryness and crystallized from CH_2Cl_2 /heptane to give free-base porphyrin as a dark violet solid (121 mg, 4.7 %). In air atmosphere, the free-base porphyrin (0.16 mmol) and $Zn(AcO)_2 \cdot 2H_2O$ (140 mg, 0.64 mmol) were dissolved in $CHCl_3$ /MeOH (4:1, 25 mL). The mixture was heated to reflux for 2 h, after which no free-base porphyrin was detected by TLC analysis, and evaporated to dryness. The crude reaction mixture was filtered through a short pad of alumina with CH_2Cl_2 as eluent. The fraction containing L evaporated to dryness. The NMR data is in agreement with the literature.¹

3. NMR experiments.

All experiments were performed in a dried NMR tube.

- For experiments described in Section 3.1 and 3.2., L (2.3 ×10⁻³ mmol) was dissolved in deuterated solvent (1.0 mL). A 2.3 × 10⁻² M solution of 1a and 2a in deuterated solvent CDCl₃ were added and a ¹H NMR spectrum was recorded at room temperature.
- The competition experiment in Section 3.3. between 1a and 2a for L coordination was performed by dissolving an equimolar amount of L and 1a (2.3 ×10⁻³mmol) in 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane-d₂ (0.6 mL) and by adding 2a (2.3 ×10⁻³ mmol). ¹H NMR spectra were before and after 2a addition.





Figrue S1. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) spectra of pure 3-bromopyridine **1** (bottom), **L** (middle) and self-assembly [$L \subset 1$] in an equimolar ratio (top).



Figure S2. Variable high-temperature ¹H NMR (1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane- d_2 , 400 MHz) spectra of **1** and **L** in an equimolar ratio in the range 30-120 °C (bottom to top).



Figure S3. ¹H-¹H COSY (1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane- d_2 , 400 MHz) experiment of **1** and **L** combined in equimolar ratio.





Figure S5. DOSY (1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane- d_2 , 400 MHz) experiment of **1** and **L** combined in equimolar ratio.

3.2. NMR binding experiment between L and butylacrylate (1:1 ratio).



Figure S6. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) spectra of 1.0 equivalent of **2a** combined with **L** solution (top) and pure **2a** (bottom).



Figure S7. DOSY (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) experiment of pure 2a.



Figure S8. DOSY (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) experiment of 2a and L combined in equimolar ratio.

3.3. Competition experiment between 1a and 2a for coordination to L.



Figure S9. ¹H NMR (1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane- d_2 , 400 MHz) spectra of 1.0 equivalent of **1** combined with 1.0 equivalent **L** solution (bottom) and after addition of 1.0 equivalent of **2a** (top) at room temperature. Asterisks (*) denote traces of solvents (water and heptane).



Figure S10. DOSY (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) experiment of equimolar amounts of 1 : 2a : L at room temperature.



Figure S11. Variable high-temperature ¹H NMR (1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane- d_2 , 400 MHz) spectra of equimolar amounts of **1** : **2a** : **L** in the range 40-120 °C (bottom to top).

4. General procedure for heck cross-coupling reactions:

An overnight-dried Schlenk tube was filled, under an argon atmosphere, with 3-bromopyridine **1** (7.9 mg, 4.8 μ L, 0.05 mmol, 1 equiv.), butyl acrylate **2a** (19.2 mg, 21.6 μ L, 0.15 mmol, 3 equiv.), potassium carbonate (20.7 mg, 0.15 mmol, 3 equiv.), the supramolecular ligand **L** (7.8 mg, 0.01 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), Pd(OAc)₂ (1.12 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.1 equiv.) and toluene (1 mL). After 5 min stirring at room temperature the mixture was placed in a preheated oil bath at 130 °C and stirred for one hour. The reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature and further analyzed



by GC-MS.

entry	Pd(OAc) ₂ (x mol%)	L (y mol%)	Base	Temperature (°C)	Yield of 3a (%)
1	5	10	K ₂ CO ₃	130	50
2	5	10	DIPEA	130	5
3	5	10	CsCO3	130	12
4	5	10	tBuOK	130	-
5	5	10	NaOAc	130	5
6	5	10	2,6-lutidine	130	7
7	5	10	K ₂ CO ₃	80	21
8	5	10	K ₂ CO ₃	100	26
9	5	10	K ₂ CO ₃	120	32
10	5	10	K ₂ CO ₃	140	60
11	10	20	K ₂ CO ₃	130	78

Table S1. Reaction optimization.

Table S	52.			Study
	Br +		$I(OAc)_2 (10 \text{ mol}\%)$ L (20 mol%) K_2CO_3 L (200 mol%)	
Entry	toluene:DMF	Yield of 3a with L	Went 130 of 3a w/o L (%)	Relative Reactivity
1	100:0	50	10	6
2	80:20	30	10	3
3	70:30	34	16	2
4	50:50	90	70	1.3

concerning polarity of the solvent.

5. Control experiments.

Control experiment without L: An overnight-dried Schlenk tube was filled, under an argon atmosphere, with 3-bromopyridine **1** (7.9 mg, 4.8 μ L, 0.05 mmol, 1 equiv.), butyl acrylate **2a** (19.2 mg, 21.6 μ L, 0.15 mmol, 3 equiv.), potassium carbonate (20.7 mg, 0.15 mmol, 3 equiv.), Pd(OAc)₂ (1.12 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.1 equiv.) and toluene (1 mL). After 5 min stirring at room temperature the mixture was placed in a preheated oil bath at 130 °C and stirred for one hour. The reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature and further analyzed by GC-MS showing 23%



Control experiment with ZnTPP and benzonitrile: An overnight-dried Schlenk tube was filled, under an argon atmosphere, with 3-bromopyridine **1** (7.9 mg, 4.8 μL, 0.05 mmol, 1 equiv.), butyl acrylate **2a** (19.2 mg, 21.6 μL, 0.15 mmol, 3 equiv.), potassium carbonate (20.7 mg, 0.15 mmol, 3 equiv.), zinc(II)tetraphenylporphyrin (6.78 mg, 0.010 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), benzonitrile (4.12 mg, 4.1



 μ L, 0.040 mmol, 0.8 equiv.), Pd(OAc)₂ (1.12 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.1 equiv.) and toluene (1 mL). After 5 min stirring at room temperature the mixture was placed in a preheated oil bath at 130 °C and stirred for one hour. The reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature and further analyzed by GC-MS showing 28% yield formation of product **3a**.

Control experiment with H₂L: An overnight-dried Schlenk tube was filled, under an argon atmosphere, with 3-bromopyridine **1** (7.9 mg, 4.8 μ L, 0.05 mmol, 1 equiv.), butyl acrylate **2a** (19.2 mg, 21.6 μ L, 0.15 mmol, 3 equiv.), potassium carbonate (20.7 mg, 0.15 mmol, 3 equiv.), H₂L (7.14 mg, 0.01 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), Pd(OAc)₂ (1.12 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.1 equiv.) and toluene (1 mL). After 5 min stirring at room temperature the mixture was placed in a preheated oil bath at 130 °C and



stirred for one hour. The reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature and further analyzed by GC-MS showing 24% yield formation of **3a**.

Control experiment with ZnTPP: An overnight-dried Schlenk tube was filled, under an argon



atmosphere, with 3-bromopyridine **1** (7.9 mg, 4.8 μ L, 0.05 mmol, 1 equiv.), butyl acrylate **2a** (19.2 mg, 21.6 μ L, 0.15 mmol, 3 equiv.), potassium carbonate (20.7 mg, 0.15 mmol, 3 equiv.), zinc(II)tetraphenylporphyrin (6.78 mg, 0.010 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), Pd(OAc)₂ (1.12 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.1 equiv.) and toluene (1 mL). After 5 min stirring at room temperature the mixture was placed in a preheated oil bath at 130 °C and stirred for one hour. The reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature and further analyzed by GC-MS showing 23% yield formation of product **3a**.

Competition between ligand L and zinc(II)-salphen: An overnight-dried Schlenk tube was filled, under an argon atmosphere, with 3-bromopyridine **1** (7.9 mg, 4.8 μ L, 0.05 mmol, 1 equiv.), butyl acrylate **2a** (19.2 mg, 21.6 μ L, 0.15 mmol, 3 equiv.), potassium carbonate (20.7 mg, 0.15 mmol, 3 equiv.), the supramolecular ligand **L** (7.8 mg, 0.01 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), zinc(II)-salphen **ZS** (6.04 mg, 0.01 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), Pd(OAc)₂ (1.12 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.1 equiv.) and toluene (1 mL). After 5 min stirring at room temperature the mixture was placed in a preheated oil bath at 130 °C and stirred for one hour. The reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature and further



analyzed by GC-MS showing 5% yield formation of product 3a.

Competition between 1a and 4-dimethylaminopyridine (DMAP): An overnight-dried Schlenk tube was filled, under an argon atmosphere, with 3-bromopyridine **1** (7.9 mg, 4.8 μ L, 0.05 mmol, 1 equiv.), DMAP (6.10 mg, 0.05 mmol, 1 equiv.), butyl acrylate **2a** (19.2 mg, 21.6 μ L, 0.15 mmol, 3 equiv.), potassium carbonate (20.7 mg, 0.15 mmol, 3 equiv.), the supramolecular ligand **L** (7.8 mg, 0.01 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), zinc(II)-salphen **ZS** (6.04 mg, 0.01 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), Pd(OAc)₂ (1.12 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.1 equiv.) and toluene (1 mL). After 5 min stirring at room temperature the mixture was placed in a preheated oil bath at 130 °C and stirred for one hour. The reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature and further analyzed by GC-MS showing 42% yield formation of product **3a**.







Figure S13. [3a] production versus time without L.

7. Characterization of products.

Butyl (E)-3-(pyridin-3-yl)acrylate (3a)



Following the optimized conditions, 78% yield was estimated by GC-MS analysis. Purification was done by flash chromatography with a mixture of heptane and ethyl acetate as the eluent affording analytically pure product **3a**. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.74 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 8.59 (dd, *J* = 4.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (dt, *J* = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 7.41–7.14 (m, 1H), 6.50 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 4.22 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 1.69 (dq, *J* = 8.5, 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.43 (h, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 0.96 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H) ppm.¹³C{¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 166.37, 150.92, 149.67, 140.79, 134.18, 130.25, 123.71, 120.53, 64.70, 30.73, 19.17, 13.71 ppm. The data match those reported previously.²

Methyl (E)-3-(pyridin-3-yl)acrylate (3b)



Following the optimized conditions, 48% yield was estimated by GC-MS analysis. Purification was done by flash chromatography with a mixture of heptane and ethyl acetate as the eluent affording analytically pure product **3b**. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.74 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 8.60 (dd, *J* = 4.9, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (dt, *J* = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 6.51 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 166.74, 151.02,

149.71, 141.15, 134.22, 130.18, 123.74, 120.05, 51.83 ppm. The data match those reported previously.³

tert-Butyl (E)-3-(pyridin-3-yl)acrylate (3c)



Following the optimized conditions, 59% yield was estimated by GC-MS analysis. Purification was done by flash chromatography with a mixture of heptane and ethyl acetate as the eluent affording analytically pure product **3c**. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.73 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 8.59 (dd, *J* = 4.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (dt, *J* = 8.0, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 6.44 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 1.54 (s, 9H) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 165.59, 150.72, 149.60, 139.77, 134.12, 123.69, 122.45, 81.01 ppm. The data match those reported previously.⁴

(Benzyl (E)-3-(pyridin-3-yl)acrylate (3d)



Following the optimized conditions, 87% yield was estimated by GC-MS analysis. Purification was done by flash chromatography with a mixture of heptane and ethyl acetate as the eluent affording analytically pure product **3d**. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.77 (s, 1H), 8.63 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (dt, *J* = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 7.50–7.32 (m, 6H), 7.28 (s, 1H), 6.58 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 5.29 (s, 2H) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 166.13, 151.10, 149.77, 141.46, 135.79, 134.24, 130.14, 128.67, 128.42, 128.39, 123.77, 120.11 ppm. The data match those reported previously.⁵

(E)-3-Styrylpyridine (**3e**)



Following the optimized conditions, 95% yield was estimated by GC-MS analysis. Purification was done by flash chromatography with a mixture of heptane and ethyl acetate as the eluent affording analytically pure product **3e**. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.69 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 8.45 (dd, *J* = 4.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (dt, J = 7.9, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.54–7.45 (m, 2H), 7.39–7.30 (m, 2H), 7.28–7.23 (m, 2H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 148.70, 136.80, 133.14, 132.79, 130.99, 128.93, 128.36, 126.80, 125.05, 123.66 ppm. The data match those reported previously.⁶





Following the optimized conditions, 89% yield was estimated by GC-MS analysis. Purification was done by flash chromatography with a mixture of heptane and ethyl acetate as the eluent affording analytically pure product **3f**. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.82–8.61 (m, 1H), 8.54–8.37 (m, 1H), 7.80 (dt, *J* = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.54–7.40 (m, 2H), 7.26 (q, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 6.99–6.84 (m, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 159.78, 148.33, 148.14, 133.37, 132.40, 130.38, 129.49, 127.96, 123.52, 122.73, 114.26, 55.35 ppm. The data match those reported previously.⁷





Following the optimized conditions, 43% yield was estimated by GC-MS analysis. Purification was done by flash chromatography with a mixture of heptane and ethyl acetate as the eluent affording

S-24

analytically pure product **3g**. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.76–8.68 (m, 1H), 8.55–8.45 (m, 1H), 7.80 (dt, *J* = 7.9, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (ddq, *J* = 10.5, 5.2, 3.0 Hz, 2H), 7.34–7.22 (m, 1H), 7.16–7.02 (m, 3H), 6.98 (dd, *J* = 16.4, 2.1 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 163.72, 161.25, 148.46, 148.32, 132.72, 132.69, 132.67, 132.40, 129.42, 128.08, 128.00, 124.56, 124.54, 123.36, 115.71, 115.49 ppm. The data match those reported previously.⁸

N,N-dimethyl 3-(pyridin-3-yl)acrylamide (3h)



Following the optimized conditions, 26% yield was estimated by GC-MS analysis. Purification was done by flash chromatography with a mixture of heptane and ethyl acetate as the eluent affording analytically pure product **3f**. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.75 (s, 1H), 8.55 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (dt, *J* = 8.0, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 7.35–7.23 (m, 1H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 3.17 (s, 3H), 3.07 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 165.97, 150.26, 149.21, 138.68, 134.26, 131.12, 123.60, 119.61, 37.43, 35.96 ppm. The data match those reported previously.⁹

Methyl (E)-2-methyl-3-(pyridin-3-yl)acrylate (3i)



Following the optimized conditions, 50% yield was estimated by GC-MS analysis. Purification was done by flash chromatography with a mixture of heptane and ethyl acetate as the eluent affording analytically pure product **3g**. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.65 (s, 1H), 8.56 (s, 1H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (s, 1H), 7.34 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.13 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 3H) ppm. The data match those reported previously.¹⁰

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9. NMR data.







14.5 14.0 13.5 13.0 12.5 12.0 11.5 11.0 10.5 10.0 9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 27











30 220 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 -2





