

Radical C3-alkylation of coumarin via Pd-photocatalyzed Heck reactions

Camila Pelizzer de Oliveira,¹ Clarice Alves Dale Caiuby,¹ Marco Antonio Barbosa Ferreira^{1*}

1) Department of Chemistry, Federal University of São Carlos, UFSCAR, 13565-905

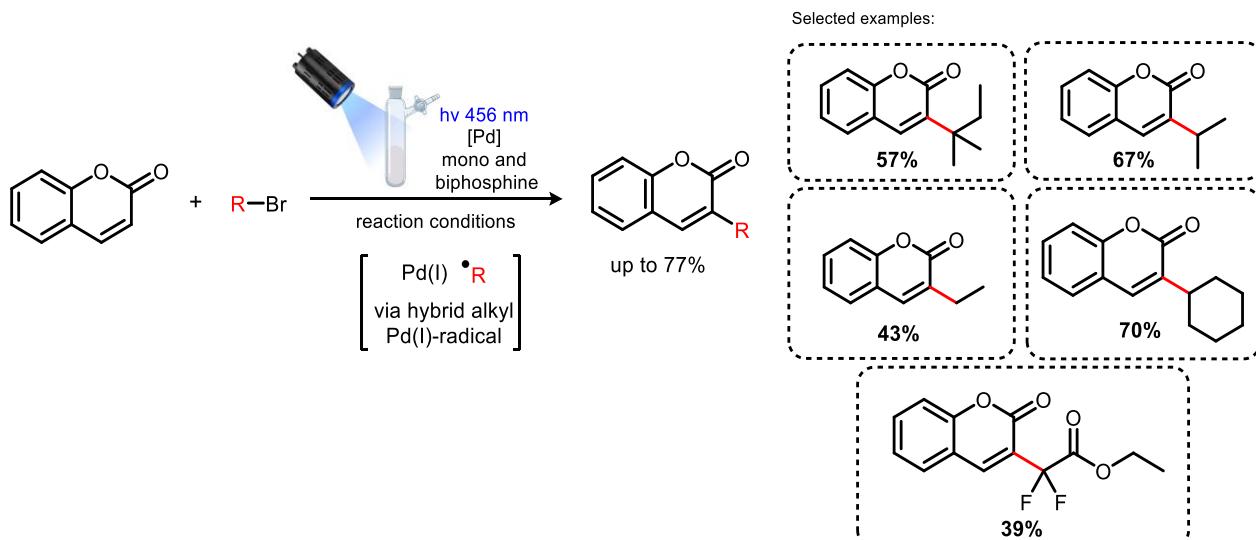
*e-mail: marco.ferreira@ufscar.br

Keywords: Transition Metal Catalysis, Photochemistry, Coumarin, Organic Synthesis.

ABSTRACT

Coumarin derivatives, known for their important bioactivities, are frequently used in medicinal chemistry.¹ Functionalization at the C3 position of coumarins represents a valuable synthetic approach to modulate their biological properties. However, metal-catalyzed general methodologies for direct installation of alkyl groups in coumarins with high regioselectivity are still limited. Traditional methods based on cross-coupling reactions use excess oxidant and high temperatures,² which can often limit the scope of the reaction.

In this work, we achieved the C3-alkylation of coumarins through a palladium-photoredox Heck reaction using alkyl halides as radical precursors; an effective strategy to the formation of C–C bonds under mild conditions using visible light as energy source.³ This transformation is catalyzed by a photoactive complex formed from a palladium source and the combination of mono- and biphenophosphines as ligands. Furthermore, primary, secondary, and tertiary alkyl bromides were successfully used as substrates, resulting in the formation of the desired products as a single regioisomer in up to 77% yield.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



(2023/05757-4); (2020/10246-0);
(2022/11314-5); (2021/12394-0);
(2022/14197-0).



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