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Enantioselective palladium-catalyzed Heck-Matsuda reaction for desymmetrization of *N*-protected 2,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrroles with aryldiazonium salts

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ABSTRACT

Desymmetrization reactions are a powerful and refined strategy for asymmetric synthesis, enabling many valuable chemical modifications to increase the complexity of molecules.¹ The Heck-Matsuda reaction has an important role in this strategy, involving the desymmetrization of cyclic systems.² Despite previous results in this area, the desymmetrization of 2,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrroles led to some challenges due to substrate instability and undesirable side reactions. Herein, we report the palladium-catalyzed Heck-Matsuda desymmetrization of *N*-protected 2,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrroles with aryldiazonium salts using the *N,N*-ligand (*S*)-PyraBOx to provide several 4-substituted lactams in an enantioselective fashion, with yields up to 85% and *er* up to 93:7 (**Figure 1**). The methodology was shown to be robust, allowing the use of different protecting groups of the nitrogen of the 4-pyrroline substrate. Two of the chiral aryl-lactams were further derivatized to provide phosphodiesterase-4-inhibitor (*R*)-rolipram³ (61% overall yield, 3 steps, 82:18 *er*), and the commercial drug (*R*)-baclofen⁴ (49% overall yield, 4 steps, 90:10 *er*).

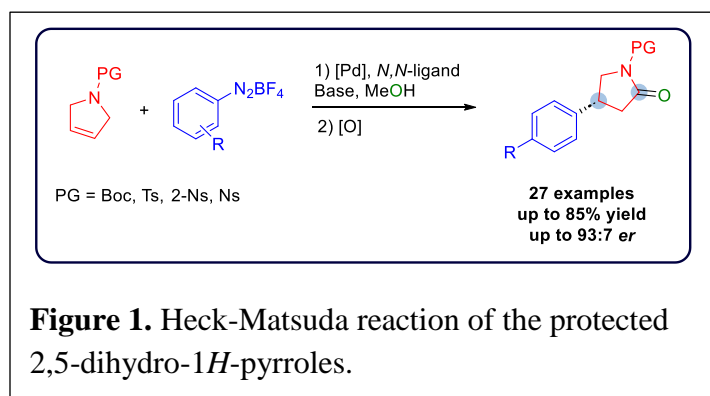


Figure 1. Heck-Matsuda reaction of the protected 2,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrroles.

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