Cy*Phine

Evolution of Rational Ligand Design

The impact of cross-coupling chemistry was acknowledged by the award of the Nobel Prize in chemistry in 2010 to Professors Akira Suzuki, Ei-ichi Negishi, and Richard F. Heck. This important transformation is practiced on industrial scale to make valuable pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, and materials. Rational ligand design has played a significant role in the development of efficient cross-coupling systems. Specifically, monodentate phosphines are the most widely used ligands; this class originated with aryl- and alkylphosphines. Recently, notable improvements in cross-coupling performance have been achieved with ferrocenyl and biaryl phosphine ligands. The evolution of phosphine ligand design has led to the development of the meta-terarylphosphine architecture by the Johannes group at A*STAR.



The Cy*Phine ligand was demonstrated to be effective in various cross-coupling reactions including copper-free Sonogashira,¹ Suzuki-Miyaura, Mizoroki-Heck,² and Buchwald-Hartwig reactions. The range of cross-coupling reactions accessible by Cy*Phine are shown below (**Figure 1**). To highlight the performance improvement with Cy*Phine, a benchmark study was carried out in the Sonogoshira reaction in comparison with other state-of-the-art ligand systems. The results of this study are also shown below (**Figure 2**). The Cy*Phine ligand was found to be superior in terms of yield and selectivity.



Figure 1. Cross-coupling reactions accessible by Cy*Phine.



Figure 2. Results of Sonogoshira benchmark study.

References

- (1) Yang, Y. et al. Eur. J. Org. Chem. 2014, 7184.
- (2) Tay, D. W. et al. J. Org. Chem. 2015, DOI: 10.1021/acs.joc.5b00386.

