

Synthetic Development and Mechanistic Study on Pd(II)-Catalyzed Cyclization of Enediynes to Benzo[*a*]carbazoles

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Treatment of *N,N*-dimethyl 2-[2-(2-ethynylphenyl)ethynyl]anilines (**1**) with 10 mol % of palladium chloride and 2 equiv of cupric chloride in refluxing THF gave benzo[*a*]carbazoles (**2**) in good yields. A mechanistic study showed that this reaction must proceed through formation of haloindole (**3**) followed by a palladium(II)-catalyzed atom transfer cyclization reaction to give the benzo[*a*]carbazoles.

