Photoinduced Hydroarylation and Cyclization of Alkenes with Luminescent Platinum(II) Complexes

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Abstract: Photoinduced hydroarylation of alkenes is an appealing synthetic strategy for arene functionalization. Herein, we demonstrated that aryl radicals generated from electron-deficient aryl chlorides/bromides could be trapped by an array of terminal/internal aryl alkenes in the presence of [Pt(O^N^C^N)] under visible-light (410 nm) irradiation, affording anti-Markonikov hydroarylated compounds in up to 95% yield. Besides, a protocol for [Pt(O^N^C^N)]-catalyzed intramolecular photocyclization of acrylanilides to give structurally diverse 3,4-dihydroquinolinones has been developed.

Introduction

Photoinduced hydroarylation of alkenes constitutes an appealing method of C(sp²)-C(sp³) bond formation reactions for arene/alkene functionalization,^[1] which complements the conventional reductive Heck coupling reactions.^[2] Because of the distinct mechanistic pathway, for intermolecular reactions, the former approach, typically operating through radical addition coupling, is highly anti-Markonikov selective while the latter usually shows less satisfactory regioselectivity for non-directing group bearing or sterically/electronically unbiased alkenes and could be complicated by the competing Heck reactions. The key step of photoredox hydroarylation reactions involves the generation of reactive aryl radical via single electron reduction in the presence of a photocatalyst, which is subsequently intercepted by an alkene coupling partner.^[3] While aryl radicals are often derived from pre-functionalized aryl substrates with redox active groups such as aryl diazonium salts and diaryliodonium salts,^[4,5] examples of direct use of aryl chlorides/bromides as radical precursor, despite their broad commercial availability, are scarce, presumably due to their highly negative reduction potentials and high C(sp²)-Cl/C(sp²)-Br bond dissociation energies.^[6] In this regard, König and co-workers demonstrated the reductive activation of Ar-Br and Ar-Cl bonds photoexcited radical anion N,N-bis(2,6by of

diisopropylphenyl)perylene-3,4,9,10-bis(dicarboximide) (PDI)^[7] or by harnessing a photosensitization-initiated reductive activation strategy using [Ru(bpy)₃]²⁺ photosensitizer with pyrene as photoreductant^[8] for C–H arylation reactions (Scheme 1a). Jui^[3d,e]



Scheme 1. Thermal and photoinduced inter- and intramolecular hyrdoarylation reactions and chemical structures of Pt-1 and Pt-2.

recently reported that highly anti-Markonikov selective intermolecular hydropyridylation of alkenes could be achieved with bromopyridines using an iridium(III) photocatalyst and Hantzsch ester as sacrificial reductant (Scheme 1b).

Apart from single electron transfer radical pathway, energy transfer is also a viable mechanism for intramolecular photoinduced hydroarylation of alkenes. As examples, 3,4-dihydroquinolinones, a group of medicinally bioactive compounds,^[9] could be synthesized *via* 6π -photocyclization of acrylanilides,^[10] though a high-energy UV irradiation of 300–350 nm is necessary.^[11] A recent work by Song and co-workers^[12] showed that this intramolecular cyclization could be accomplished by a thermal Cu/Pd cooperative catalysis (Scheme 1c).

Luminescent platinum(II) complexes represent an emerging new class of photosensitizers and photocatalysts for light-induced organic transformations.^[13] Because of substantial intraligand and relatively small metal-to-ligand charge transfer character, the emissive triplet excited states of tetradentate Pt(II) complexes, commonly assigned as ³MLCT/³IL in nature, generally display a longer lifetime than that of conventional luminescent Ru(II) and Ir(III) complexes,^[14] which could facilitate bimolecular photochemical processes. Besides, the planar coordination geometry of Pt(II) complexes with vacant axial coordination sites allows for inner sphere substrate binding and trapping of radical intermediate(s) via Pt-C/Pt-X (X = halogen)/Pt-H bond formation, ^[13d,15] thereby giving rise to opportunities for new photo-catalysis. We previously reported that long-lived powerful photo-reductants could be generated from phosphorescent tetradentate platinum(II)-NHC complexes which could be used for photoinduced reductive debromination of aryl bromides.^[16] Herein, we describe the use of two tetradentate [Pt(O^N^C^N)] complexes, Pt-1 and Pt-2, as photocatalyst to achieve (i) aryl halides C-X (X = CI, Br) bond reductive activation to produce aryl radicals, which could be trapped by terminal/internal aryl alkenes to afford various anti-Markonikov hydroarylated compounds. and (ii) photocyclization of triplet-sensitized acrylanilides to give 3,4dihydroquinolinones at room temperature under visible-light irradiation of 410 nm (Scheme 1). Control experiments revealed the superior efficiency of these Pt-catalyzed reactions over those of [Ru(bpy)₃]²⁺ and [Ir(ppy)₃] photocatalysts (Table S1 and S2).

Results and Discussion



Complexes Pt-1 and Pt-2 were previously reported as efficient

Figure 1. Electronic absorption and emission spectra of Pt-1 (black) and Pt-2 (red) in $\mbox{CH}_3\mbox{CN}.$

emitters.[17] phosphorescent OLED Their synthesis and characterizations are detailed in Supporting Information. These complexes show strong absorption band at 400-450 nm in CH₃CN with absorptivities of ca. 1×10^4 M⁻¹ cm⁻¹, attributed to an admixture of ¹MLCT (¹[5d π (Pt) $\rightarrow \pi^*$ (O^N^C^N)]) and ¹ILCT (¹[π (phenolate) $\rightarrow \pi^*$ (N^C^N)]) transitions (Fig. 1). They exhibit strong phosphorescence in deaerated CH₃CN solution at room temperature with emission quantum yield of 48% and 50%, respectively. Pt-1 displays a broad emission band at 532 nm with an emission lifetime of 3.2 µs coming from a mixed ³MLCT/³ILCT excited state while the vibronic-structured emission of Pt-2 with maxima at 494, 526 and 564 nm with an emission lifetime of 15.0 μs is attributed to ³LC excited state (Fig. 1).^[17] The triplet energies of Pt-1 and Pt-2 estimated from the emission onset are 2.57 and 2.63 eV, respectively. In cyclic voltammogram (CV), Pt-1 exhibits a pair of quasi-reversible oxidation and reduction couples with $E_{1/2}$ = +0.43 and -1.78 V vs SCE, respectively, in MeCN (Fig. S2). These redox processes become irreversible in MeCN/H₂O (6:1) (Fig. S2). For Pt-2, both the first oxidation and reduction in MeCN/CH₂Cl₂ (9:1, v/v) solution are irreversible, occurring at E_{pa} = +0.83 and E_{pc} = -1.92 V vs SCE (Fig. S3). On the basis of spectroscopic and electrochemical data, the excited state redox potentials, E(Pt*/Pt⁻)/E(Pt⁺/Pt*), for Pt-1 and Pt-2 are estimated to be +0.79/-2.14 and +0.71/-1.80 V vs SCE, respectively. Thus, both Pt* and Pt- states of Pt-1 and Pt-2 are strong one-electron reductant.

We started our investigation of hydroarylation reaction by LED irradiation (410 nm) of a mixture of ethyl 4-chlorobenzoate (a1)



Scheme 2. Condition A: Pt-1 (1 mol%), (hetero)aryl halide (0.2 mmol), alkene (0.6 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (0.4 mmol), ⁱPr₂NEt (0.24 mmol) in 6 mL of CH₃CN/H₂O (6:1, ν/ν), under argon, irradiated by 410 nm LEDs (3 W x 4) for 10 h, isolated yields. ^[a] Using Pt-1 (1 mol%), a1 (1 mmol) and b1 (1.2 mmol) in 10 mL of CH₃CN/H₂O. ^[b] Using Pt-1 (0.5 mol%) a1 (2 mmol) and b1 (2.4 mmol) in 10 mL of CH₃CN/H₂O.

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and 1,1-diphenylethylene (b1), complex Pt-1, a base additive, and a sacrificial electron donor (Table S1). In the presence of Pt-1 (1 mol%), cesium carbonate (2 equiv) and a slight excess of diisopropylethylamine (ⁱPr₂NEt) in acetonitrile at room temperature, the reaction afforded product c1 in 35% yield based on 37% conversion of a1 (Table S1, entry 1). Several inorganic bases, including K₂CO₃, Na₂CO₃ and K₃PO₄, were further tested and none of them showed better effects than that of Cs₂CO₃. (Table S1, entries 2-4). Product c1 was not obtained in the absence of a base. As for solvent, acetonitrile (CH₃CN) was found to be superior to dimethyl formamide (DMF), methanol (MeOH), tetrahydrofuran (THF) and 1, 2-dichloroethane (DCE) (Table S1, entries 6-9). Simliar to Zeitler's work,[18] the presence of water showed a dramatically positive impact and the best ratio of CH₃CN/H₂O was 6:1, in which c1 was obtained in 87% yield (Table S1, entry 11). Control experiments confirmed the necessity of Pt complex and light irradiation. Finally, the optimal result was obtained with Pt-1 (1 mol%), 0.2 mmol of aryl chloride, 2.0 equiv of Cs₂CO₃, and 1.2 equiv of ⁱPr₂NEt in 6 mL mixed solvent of CH_3CN/H_2O (6:1, v/v) (Condition A). With the optimized conditions in hand, a variety of aryl chlorides (a1-10) was investigated with 1,1-diphenylethylene (b1) as the coupling partner (Scheme 2).Generally, the reaction is compatible with various aryl chlorides, including cyano, ketone, ester, alkyl, halo, and trifluoromethyl substitution, affording the corresponding products in moderate to good yields (c1-9). Methyl/ethyl 4-chlorobenzoates with electronwithdrawing -F or -Cl groups gave better yields than that with electron-donating -Me group (c6, c7 vs c5). Interestingly, methyl 3.4-dichloro benzoate and methyl 2,4-dichlorobenzoate underwent regioselective alkylation at the para position to methoxycarbonyl group and gave products c7 and c8, respectively. This protocol also worked well for heterocyclic



substrate, 2-chloropyrimidine, and afforded product **c10** in 95% yield. Besides aryl chlorides, some common aryl bromides were tested under the standard conditions. The reaction afforded **c11** in 68% yield as major alkylation product when methyl 3-bromo-4-chlorobenzoate was used, suggesting that the cleavage of C–Br bond preferentially occurred. Sulfonyl substituted alkane **c12** was readily accessible with 65% yield. The reactions of pyridyl-containing substrates with **b1** proceeded smoothly, affording the coupling products **c13** and **c14** in 79% and 55% yields, respectively. Furthermore, 2-bromobenzothiazole and 5-bromopyrimidine gave **c15** and **c16** in moderate yields.

Then we turned our attention to the investigation of alkene substrates. 1,1-Diarylethylenes bearing various substituents such as Me, OMe, F, Cl, CF₃ and Bpin were subjected to the standard conditions in the presence of **a1** to give 1,1-diarylalkanes **c17–28** in 25-87% yields (Scheme 3). The diarylalkenes with both electron-donating and -withdrawing groups could undergo the reaction smoothly with similar product yield. Except for **c24**, where the reaction afforded the corresponding product in 54% yield, all other products were obtained in yields up to 87%. In addition, diversely unsymmetric *ortho*-substituted alkenes were efficiently converted to the desired products. Notably, alkenes containing heterocyclic moieties including 3-thiophene and 3-pyridine were tolerated in this



Scheme 3. Condition A: Pt-1 (1 mol%), aryl halide (0.2 mmol), alkene (0.6 mmol), $C_{S_2}CO_3$ (0.4 mmol), Pr_2NEt (0.24 mmol) in 6 mL of CH_3CN/H_2O (6:1, v/v), under argon, irradiated by 410 nm LEDs (3 W x 4) for 10 h, isolated yields.

Scheme 4. Condition B: Pt-2 (1.0 mol%), alkene (0.1 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (0.2 mmol), in 2.0 mL of CH₃CN, under argon, irradiated by 410 nm LEDs (3 W x 4) for 10 h, isolated yields. ^[a] Using d1 (5 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (1 mmol) and Pt-2 (0.2 mol%) in 10 mL of CH₃CN.

reaction, affording the desired alkylated products **c29** and **c30** in moderate yields. This protocol was also applicable to 1,2-di- and tri-substituted alkenes (**c31** & **c32**), alkylaryl alkenes (**c33–37**), styrene (**c38**) and isopropenyl acetate (**c39**), albeit with lower product yields (20–60%). In general, the hydroarylation reaction exhibited good anti-Markonikov regioselectivity in all cases that C–C bond formation occurred at the terminal carbon atom of the terminal alkenes.

With respect to photoinduced intramolecular cyclization of alkenes, the initial optimal conditions for the cyclization utilized Pt-**2** as photocatalyst and *N*-methyl-*N*-phenylmethacrylamide (**d1**) as model substrate at room temperature in MeCN (Table S2). The reaction gave the cyclization product e1 in 10% yield under light irradiation for 10 h. It is found that the addition of Cs₂CO₃ as additive could dramatically improve the product yield and afford e1 almost quantitatively (Table S2). Control experiments revealed that both catalyst Pt-2 and LEDs irradiation were necessary for the cyclization. Consequently, the optimal conditions were found to be 1 mol% catalyst Pt-2, 0.1 mmol of alkene, 2.0 equiv of Cs₂CO₃ in CH₃CN (2 mL) under LEDs irradiation (410 nm) for 10 h (Condition B). Next we focused on the cyclization allowing the conversion of alkenes d into 3,4-dihydroquinolinones e (Scheme 4). A wide range of acrylamides proceeded very well, regardless of the substitution pattern. Acrylamides with functional groups on the aromatic ring, for instance, alkyl, methoxy, cyano, halo, trifluoromethyl, naphthyl, alkynyl, ester, sulfonyl and ketone, were compatible to the standard conditions, leading to the corresponding products in 30-96% yields. The alkenes bearing meta substituents exhibited good reactivity as well and delivered the mixture of e17-19 and e17'-19', albeit with low regioselectivity. Replacement of methyl group on nitrogen atom of acrylamide by other alkyl and aromatic substituents resulted in an insignificant impact on the reaction efficiency (e20-22). Substrate with a phenyl group at the α and β position of alkene d23–24 also afforded products e23-24 in 86% and 80% yields, respectively. Heteroaromatic substrates, such as guinoline, benzothiazole, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline, and indoline, could be readily to the desired products e25-28 in 75-95% yields.

To demonstrate the synthetic utility of the as-developed Ptcatalyzed protocols, scaled-up reactions for the photo-induced hydroarylation of alkene and cyclization of acrylanilide have been performed. Light (410 nm) irradiation of the reaction mixtures containing 1-2 mmol of a1 as limiting substrate and 1.2-2.4 mmol of b1 in the presence of 0.5-1 mol% of Pt-1 for 24 h afforded c1 in 50-77% yields (Scheme 2). Similarly, photo-cyclization of d1 catalyzed by Pt-2 (0.2 mol%) could proceed smoothly on a 5 mmol scale in 24 h and e1 was obtained in 75% yield (Scheme 4). These protocols were also applied in the modification of three complex organic compounds (Scheme 5). Aryl chlorides bearing (+)-menthol (f1) and pregnenolone motifs (g1) reacted with diaryl alkene b1 to afford the corresponding products f2 and g2 in 60 and 66% yields, respectively. In addition, with optimized cyclization condition (Condition B), alkene d18 was directly transferred to e18 in one step, which could be further transformed into atypical schizophrenia drug (±)-SIPI 6360 according to a reported protocol.[19]

To probe the mechanism of these two types of photocatalytic reactions, emission quenching, nano-second time-resolved absorption spectroscopy (ns-TA), electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) and CV measurements were conducted. The emission of **Pt-1** could be quenched by both DIPEA and 1,1-



Scheme 5. Synthesis of (a) f2, (b) g2 and (c) (±)-SIPI 6360 (f3).

diphenylethene with quenching rate constant of 7.1×10^7 and 8.1 \times 10⁸ M⁻¹ s⁻¹, respectively, but not by ethyl 4-chlorobenzoate. In the presence of DIPEA (12 mM), the ns-TA signals of Pt-1 at 335, 390 and 440-800 nm decayed with a shortened time constant from 2.4 to 0.8 µs and a long-lived species showing absorption features at 330, 430 and 690 nm was developed, which persisted over 50 µs (Fig. 2). As Pt-1* is capable of oxidizing DIPEA (E(Pt*/Pt-) = +0.79 V; E(DIPEA+/0) = +0.64 V vs SCE in CH₃CN) (Fig. S6), the observed new species in ns-TA is assigned as the reduced Pt-1 (Pt-1"). Conversely, the emission quenching of Pt-1* by 1,1-diphenylethene is due to energy-transfer because (i) 1,1-diphenylethene is redox inactive within the solvent window (Fig. S5) and (ii) no new species was generated in the ns-TA experiment of Pt-1 and1,1-diphenylethene (Fig. S8). Low temperature X-band EPR experiment (100K) of a frozen CH₃CN/H₂O (6:1, v/v) solution of Pt-1 and DIPEA obtained by light (410 nm) irradiation of the solution for 1.5 h at room temperature revealed a sharp signal at g ~2.0 comprising of three lines spanning a field range of ~100 G (Fig. S16), which is reminiscent of the nearly isotropic signals of the reported [Pt(II)(N^N)] - and [Pt(II)(O^O)] - species,^[20] and could be approximately fitted using the parameters: $g_1 = 2.0042$, $g_2 = 2.0035$ and $g_3 = 2.0021$ ($g_{iso} =$ 2.0033), A_{1.Pt} = 30 G, A_{2.Pt} = 40 G, A_{3.Pt} = 80 G (A_{iso.Pt} = 54 G) and $A_{1,N} = 4$ G, $A_{2,N} = 6$ G, $A_{3,N} = 8$ G ($A_{iso,N} = 6$ G). The g and A values



Figure 2. (a) Nanosecond time-resolved absorption difference spectra of Pt-1 (40 μ M) in the presence of DIPEA (12 mM) in degassed CH₃CN/H₂O (v/v = 6:1).

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Scheme 6. Mechanistic studies of Pt-1-catalyzed photoinduced hydroarylation reactions.

are well comparable to those of the [Pt(II)(N^N)] - species.[20,21] This EPR signal could be quenched upon addition of ethyl 4chlorobenzoate (a1) following an extended period of light irradiation (Fig. S19). The Pt-1⁻⁻ species generated electrochemically in CV at -1.78 V vs SCE could react with a1 (E_{red} = -2.01 V vs SCE) in CH₃CN/H₂O as revealed by the catalytic current with an E_{onset} of -1.69 V in the presence of the latter in excess (Fig. S7). The presence of water facilitates this reduction by stabilizing the LUMO of ethyl 4-chlorobenzoate by 0.11 V (Fig. S4). The involvement of aryl radical in the reaction under Condition A is substantiated by (i) the radical trap experiment that the aryI-TEMPO adduct was observed in HRMS $(m/z = 276.1953 [M+H]^+)$ from the reaction mixture of TEMPO (5 equiv) and 4'-bromoacetophenone (a17) (Scheme 6a) and (ii) the radical clock experiment in which a ring-open E-alkene product (c38) was obtained as a major product in 56% yield (Scheme 6b). The isotope labelling experiment of a1 and b1 using MeCN/D₂O (6:1) as solvent resulted in a high ratio of deuterated hydroarlyation product (c1:c1-d = 11:89) (Scheme 6c), suggesting the formation of a benzylic anion intermediate in the catalytic cycle. Thus, the photoinduced hydroarylation reaction begins with single electron transfer (SET) from DIPEA to Pt-1* to give Pt-1⁻⁻ (Scheme 7). The Pt-1⁻⁻ species then reacts with aryl halide to restore to Pt-1 and afford a reactive aryl radical after a reductive Ar-Cl/Br bond scission, which is subsequently trapped by the alkene (b) furnishing a tertiary benzylic radical intermediate with greatest electronic stabilization. This radical addition step is conceived to be the key mechanistic step that confers high regioselectivity for anti-Markonikov addition products. Since



Scheme 7. Proposed reaction pathway for hydroarylation catalyzed by Pt-1.

relevant tertiary benzylic radicals were reported to have E_{red} of *ca.* -1.35 V vs SCE in MeCN from previous studies,^[22] it is expected that the third SET that generates the respective benzylic carbanion should derive from **Pt-1**⁻ (E(Pt/Pt) = -1.78 V vs SCE). Although SET from **Pt-1*** ($E(Pt^+/Pt^*) = -2.14 V vs SCE$) is more thermodynamically feasible, the insufficient reducing power of DIPEA to reduce the oxidized **Pt-1** (**Pt-1***; $E(Pt^+/Pt) = +0.43 V vs SCE$) back to **Pt-1** does not favour this pathway. Finally, alkylation product **c** is formed after protonation of the benzylic carbanion.

As for the intramolecular cyclization reaction, the emission quenching rate constant of Pt-2 by acrylanilide substrate d1 was found to be 1.4×10^6 M⁻¹ s⁻¹. Because **d1** is electrochemically inactive from -2.2 to +1.5 V vs SCE in MeCN, neither reductive nor oxidative electron transfer quenching of Pt-2* by d1 is deemed feasible. Previous mechanistic studies established that photocyclization of related acrylanilides in the presence of a triplet sensitizer could be triggered by triplet-triplet energy-transfer (TTEnT) followed by a cascade of radical ring closure of the diradicaloids and hydrogen migration.^[11] The triplet energy of d1, determined from 77 K phosphorescence, is about 2.82 eV (Figure S12)^[12b] and the presumed TTEnT process from Pt-2* to d1 is, therefore, endergonic by ca. 0.2 eV (4.61 kcal mol-1). Such an uphill EnT event could be made possible by thermal population of the higher vibrational/rotational levels of the triplet state of the photosensitizer. A recent work by Guldi and Glorius demonstrated an efficient [2+2]-photocycloaddition of benzothiophene involving an endergonic TTEnT step of 5.77 kcal mol⁻¹ from an Ir(III)photosensitizer to benzothiophene.^[23] It is conceived that similar photo-coupled-thermal activated TTEnT mechanism between Pt-2* and d1 could also be operative. Addition of TEMPO as triplet quencher inhibited the reaction and the starting materials were recovered, lending support to an EnT mechanism. Despite the small k_a , the extended triplet excited state lifetime of Pt-2 (15.0 μ s) results in a practical quenching fraction (η_{q}) of **Pt-2**^{*} by **d1** of 51.2% ($\eta_a = k_a \tau_0$ [quencher]/(1+ $k_a \tau_0$ [quencher])) under the experimental conditions that effectively generates ³d1* per photoexcitation. From energy consideration, an exergonic reverse TTEnT event from ³d1* to Pt-2 with a considerably higher rate constant than the forward TTEnT would be more favorable. Thus, the possibility of occurrence of a reversible EnT dynamics leading to a diminished ³d1* population cannot be excluded.^[23b] In this scenario, the ensuing radical ring closure step has to be much faster than the reverse TTEnT process and/or irreversible to drive the productive reaction forward. The results from deuteriumlabeling and kinetic isotopic effect studies confirmed an intramolecular [1.5]-H shift, which is non-rate limiting, to take place and afford photoproduct e1. Based on the above findings/considerations and established mechanistic studies.^[11] a plausible mechanism for photocyclization of acrylanilides mediated by Pt-2 is proposed and depicted in Scheme 8.



Scheme 8. Proposed reaction pathway for photocyclization of acrylanilides catalyzed by Pt-2.

Conclusion

In summary, we described efficient visible-light (410 nm) [Pt(O^N^C^N)] photocatalysis that realized (i) reductive coupling of aryl chlorides/bromides with terminal/internal aryl alkenes to give anti-Markonikov hydroarylated compounds *via* aryl radical intermediacy and (ii) cyclization of acrylanilidines to access a variety of 3,4-dihydroquinolinones.

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Keywords: aryl halides • hydroarylation • intramolecular cyclization • photocatalysis • platinum

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Entry for the Table of Contents



In the presence of luminescent [Pt(O^N^C^N)] complexes under visible light (410 nm) irradiation, aryl radicals derived from reductive aryl–chloride/bromide bond cleavage were trapped by aryl alkenes and afforded a series of anti-Markonikov hydroarylated compounds. Besides, a protocol for [Pt(O^N^C^N)]-catalyzed intramolecular photocyclization of acrylanilides to give structurally diverse 3,4-dihydroquinolinones has been developed.