

Pd^{II} square planar complexes of the type [IL]₂[PdX₄] as catalyst precursors for the Suzuki-Miyaura cross-coupling reaction. The first *in situ* ESI-MS evidence of [(IL)_xPd₃] clusters formation.

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Streszczenie

Pd^{II} anionic, square planar complexes of the type [IL]₂[PdX₄], where IL = imidazolium cations, X = Cl, Br, have been applied for the first time as catalyst precursors for the Suzuki-Miyaura (S-M) reaction carried out in alcohols at 40 °C. Depending on the structure of the catalyst precursor used, different yields of 2-methylbiphenyl (2-MePh-Ph) were obtained in a test reaction of 2-bromotoluene (2-MePhBr) with phenyl boronic acid (PhB(OH)₂). The highest yield, ca. 95%, was obtained for [dmiop]₂[PdCl₄] (dmiop-1,2-dimethyl-3-propoxymethylene imidazolium cation) in methanol in the presence of KOH as a base. It was found that during the reaction Pd⁰ nanoparticles of 4–7 nm have been formed *in situ* from the palladium(II) precursor. In the first stage of this process, [(IL)₃Pd(OH)₂]⁺-type species have been formed from [IL]₂[PdX₄] precursors. Small Pd⁰ clusters, [(IL)₅Pd₃(H₂O)]⁺ and [(IL)₃Pd₃(H₂O)₇]⁺, were also identified by ESI-MS. These species reacted with ArB(OH)₂ forming palladium aryl complexes of the type [(IL)₂PdAr]⁺, key intermediates in the catalytic process. The first experimental evidence of the IL stabilized Pd⁰ species in S-M reaction is presented.

Słowa kluczowe

Palladium complexes, N-Heterocyclic carbenes, palladium nanoparticles, ESI-MS, Suzuki-Miyaura

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