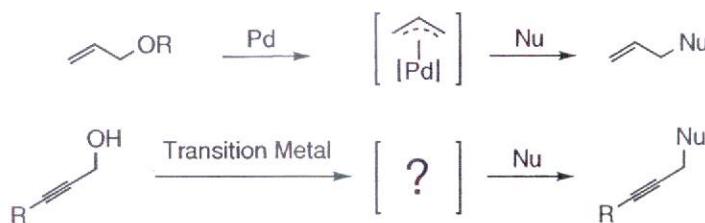
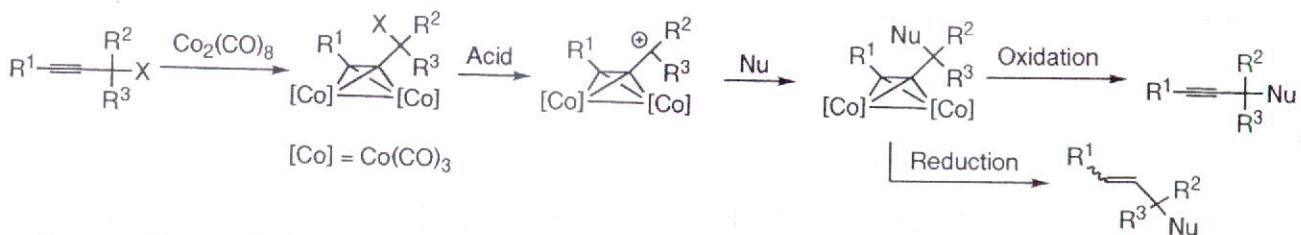


Catalytic Propargylic Alkylation

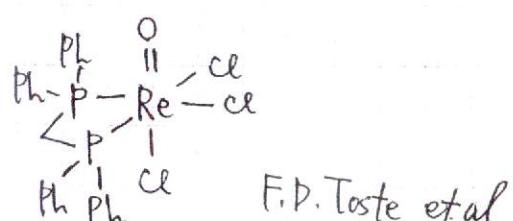
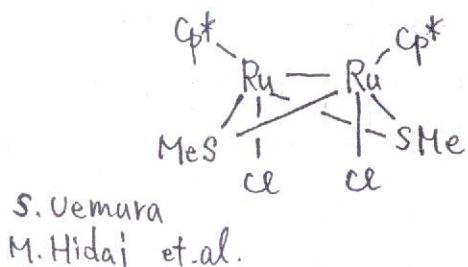


Both allylic substitution and propargylic substitution reactions are thought to be one of the most powerful carbon-carbon formation reactions.

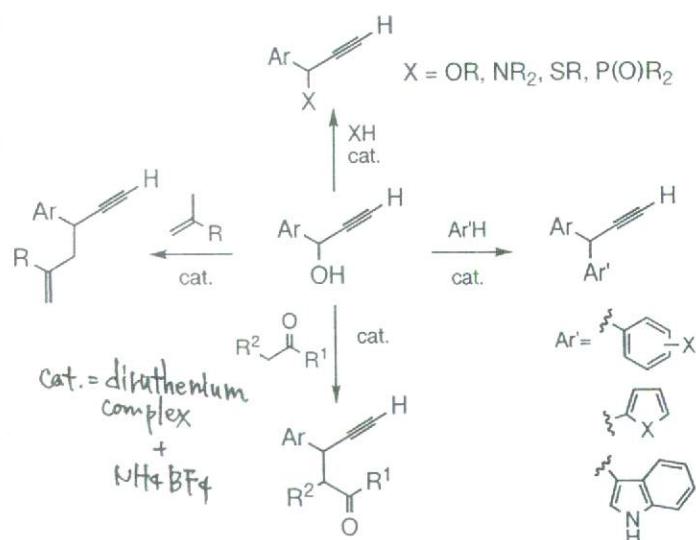
The allylic substitution reactions have been explored extremely. In sharp contrast, much less attention has been paid to the catalytic propargylic substitution reactions. The Nicholas reaction has been known to be effective for propargylation by using stoichiometric amount of $\text{Co}_2(\text{CO})_8$.



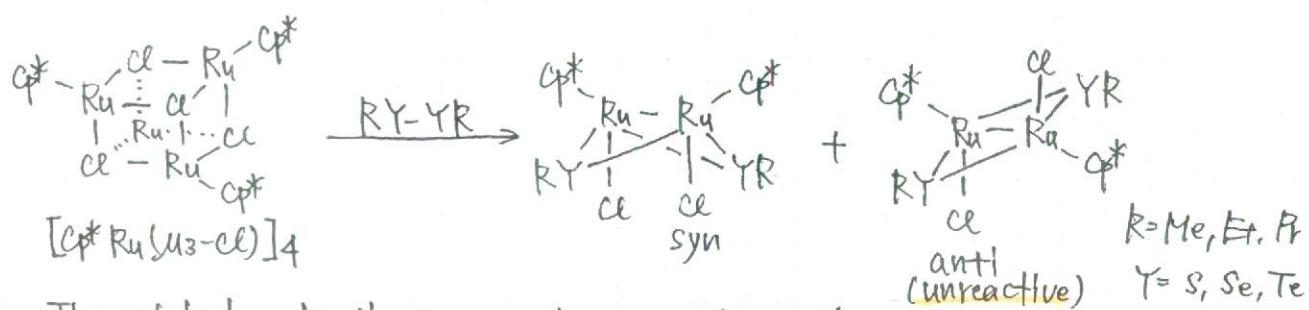
Although Nicholas reaction is reliable and well explored, there are several drawbacks. Stoichiometric amount of $\text{Co}_2(\text{CO})_8$ and several steps are required to obtain substituted product from simple propargyl alcohols or halides. Recently two kinds of catalytic propargyl substitution reactions have been reported, one is catalyzed by thiolate bridged din Ruthenium complex and the other by Rhodium(V)-oxo complex.



Thiolate-Bridged Diruthenium complex

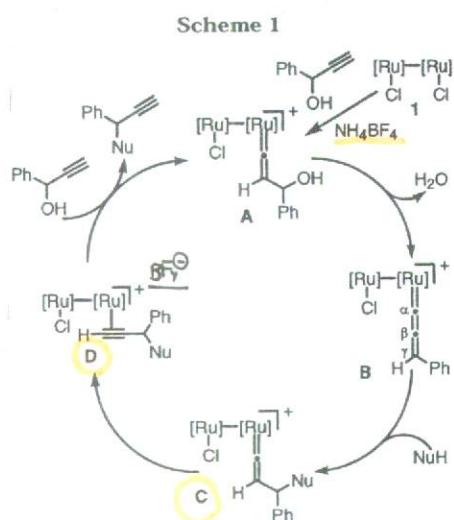


From 2000, ruthenium catalyzed propargylic substitution reactions has been reported by S. Uemura and M. Hidai et.al. These reactions proceed under mild conditions. (rt. $\sim 60^\circ\text{C}$, slightly acidic) Many kinds of nucleophiles can be used.



The catalysts, diruthenium complexes can be easily prepared from $[\text{Cp}^*\text{Ru}(\text{Cl}_3\text{-Cl})]_4$ in good to moderate yield.

Proposed mechanism



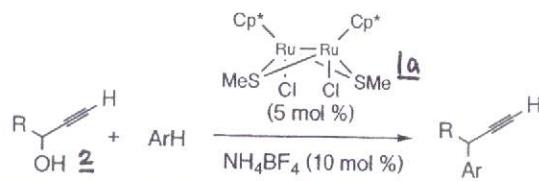
The catalytic cycle can be separated to 3 parts.

- 1) The formation of allenylidene complex (key intermediate) with dehydration.
- 2) Nucleophilic addition. The α and β of C_3 unit are electrophilic sites.
- 3) Isomerization from vinylidene complex to alkyne complex and ligand exchange. Usually vinylidene complexes are more stable than alkyne complexes. So this isomerization/ligand exchange step is probably most problematic.

J. AM. CHEM. SOC. 2002, 124, 11846–11847

Ruthenium-Catalyzed Propargylation of Aromatic Compounds with Propargylic Alcohols

Yoshiaki Nishibayashi,[†] Masato Yoshikawa,[†] Youichi Inada,[†] Masanobu Hidai,^{*‡} and Sakae Uemura^{*†}



Entry	R	Ar	Yield (%)	Entry	R	Ar	Yield (%)
1	Ph		85	9	Ph		86
2	p-Me-C6H4		83	10	Ph		52
3	p-F-C6H4		70	11	Ph		50
4	PhCH=CH2		59	12	Ph		38
5	Cyclohexyl		61				
6	Ph		68				
7	Ph		67				
8	Ph		94				

^a All of the reactions of 2 (0.60 mmol) with heterocyclic compound (6.00 mmol) were carried out in the presence of 1a (0.03 mmol) and NH₄BF₄ (0.06 mmol) in CHCl₂-CH₂Cl (15–30 mL) at 60 °C for 1 h. ^b Isolated yield.

^c GLC yield.

J. AM. CHEM. SOC. 2003, 125, 6060–6061

Ruthenium-Catalyzed Carbon–Carbon Bond Formation between Propargylic Alcohols (2) with Alkenes via the Allenylidene-Ene Reaction

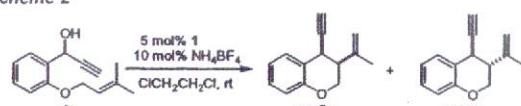
Yoshiaki Nishibayashi,[†] Youichi Inada,[†] Masanobu Hidai,^{*‡} and Sakae Uemura^{*†}

Table 1. Reaction of Propargylic Alcohols (2) with Alkenes in the Presence of 1a^a

run	propargylic alcohol	alkene	yield of 3, % ^c
1	2a, R ¹ = Ph	R ² = Ph	3a, 46 (34) ^c
2	2b, R ¹ = p-MeC ₆ H ₄	R ² = Ph	3b, 56
3	2c, R ¹ = p-MeOC ₆ H ₄	R ² = Ph	3c, 13
4	2d, R ¹ = p-ClC ₆ H ₄	R ² = Ph	3d, 27
5	2e, R ¹ = p-FC ₆ H ₄	R ² = Ph	3e, 42
6	2a, R ¹ = Ph	R ² = p-MeC ₆ H ₄	3f, 50
7	2b, R ¹ = p-MeC ₆ H ₄	R ² = p-MeC ₆ H ₄	3g, 67
8	2c, R ¹ = p-MeOC ₆ H ₄	R ² = p-MeC ₆ H ₄	3h, 40
9	2d, R ¹ = p-ClC ₆ H ₄	R ² = p-MeC ₆ H ₄	3i, 35
10	2e, R ¹ = p-FC ₆ H ₄	R ² = p-MeC ₆ H ₄	3j, 60
11	2a, R ¹ = Ph	R ² = p-ClC ₆ H ₄	3k, 30

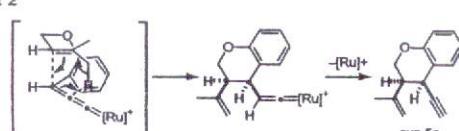
^a All the reactions of 2 (0.50 mmol) with α -methylstyrene (10 nmol) were carried out in the presence of 1a (5 mol %) and NH₄BF₄ (10 mol %) in CHCl₂-CH₂Cl (12 mL) at 60 °C for 1 h. ^b Isolated yield. ^c At room temperature for 1 h.

Scheme 2



1a (R = Me) 4 h 74% isolated yield sym : anti = 3.7 : 1
1b (R = ^tPr) 5 h 84% isolated yield sym : anti = 7.1 : 1
1c (R = ^tPr) 20 h 74% isolated yield sym : anti = 19 : 1

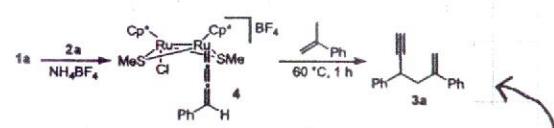
Chart 2



The first example of the direct reaction of allenylidene ligand with aromatic compounds.

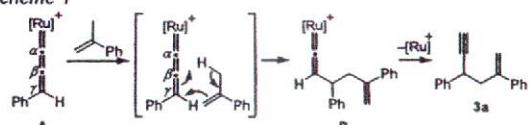
The reaction occurred selectively at γ -position of allenylidene complex.

In entry 1 to 9 propargylation occurred selectively at the α -position of heterocyclic rings, and the reaction of indole with 2 afforded β -propargylated indole with complete selectivity.



The reaction of 2a with α -methylstyrene in the presence of 5 mol % 4 afforded 3a in 90% GLC yield. This result indicate the reaction should proceed via allenylidene intermediate.

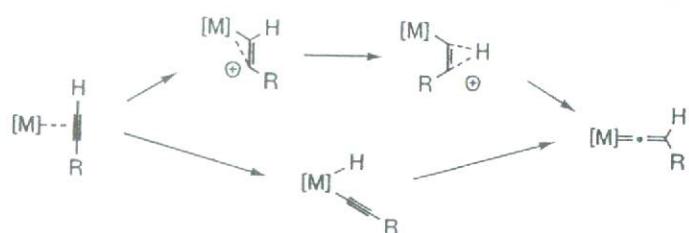
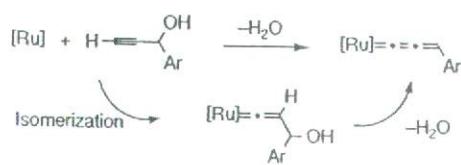
Scheme 1



The use of complexes bearing sterically more demanding groups dramatically increased the diastereoselectivity.

Mechanism More detail

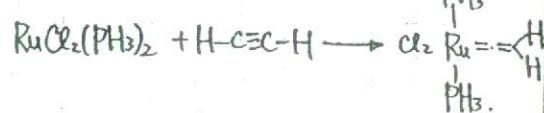
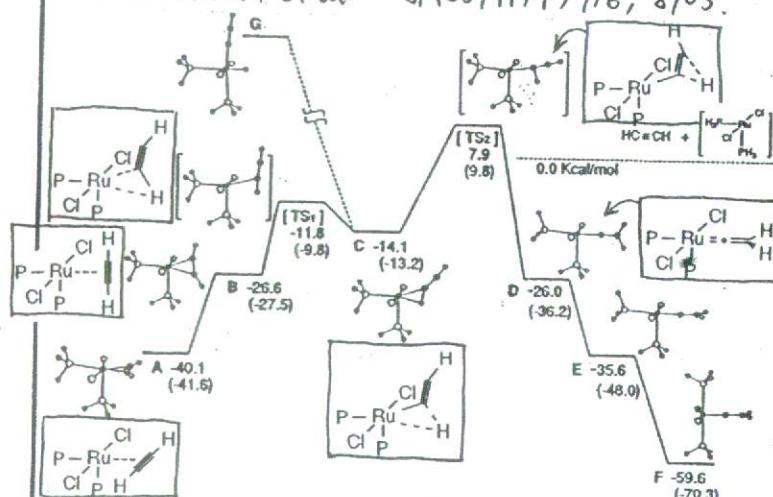
Formation of allenylidene complex.



The isomerization of terminal alkynes to vinylidene complexes has been shown to occur by two alternative pathways. Several groups have studied and reported about these two pathways.

Ab initio molecular orbital simulation about Ru(II) complex.

T. Wakatsuki et.al. JACS, 1994, 116, 8105.

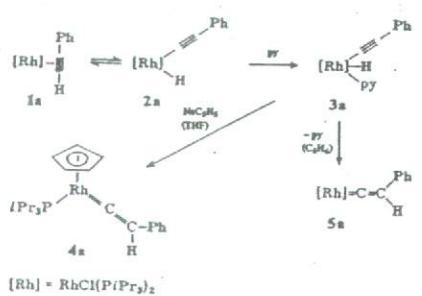


In the case of Ru(II) complex, 1,2-migration seems more plausible.

To the formation of Ru(IV)(H)(C≡CH) high activation energy is required ($\text{C} \rightarrow \text{E}$) and it is very unstable.

For Rh(I) and Ir(I) complexes, 1,3-hydrogen migration is more plausible.

H. Werner et.al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 1985, 24, 406.



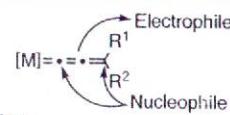
An equilibrium between the alkyne complex 1a and the alkynyl (hydrido) complex 2a exist in solution. On addition of pyridine this equilibrium is completely shifts to the right.

3a is rather labile in solution and react in benzene at rt by elimination of pyridine to produce 5a.

Generally low oxidation state metal complexes such as Rh(I) and Ir(I) seem to isomerize via 1,3-migration. In the case of thiolate-bridged ditutherium complex, the oxidation state of Ru is 3, and usually Ru(II) or Ru(III) complexes are isolated. \rightarrow 1,2-Migration is more plausible.

Reactivity and regioselectivity of allenylidene complexes

A series of theoretical calculations on allenylidene complexes involving several metallic fragments have now been reported.



While the allenylidene fragments are δ -donor- π -acceptor ligands, they are stronger π -acceptor than δ -donor, so that there is an σ transfer of $0.4 \sim 0.5$ e to them.

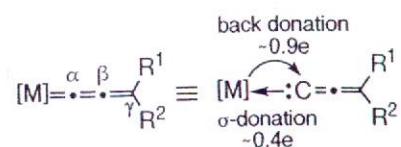


Table 1. LUMO and HOMO distribution and net charges of the allenylidene chain on half-sandwich Ru^{II} and Os^{II} complexes

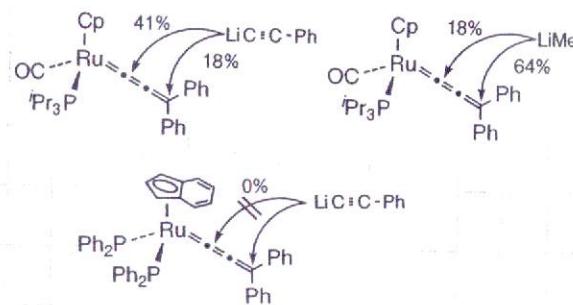
Model	HOMO (%)			LUMO (%)			Net charges		
	C _α	C _β	C _γ	C _α	C _β	C _γ	C _α	C _β	C _γ
[Ru(η^5 -C ₅ H ₅)(PH ₃) ₂] ⁺	3	21	0	20	6	34	-0.352	-0.151	-0.048
[Ru(η^5 -C ₅ H ₅)(CO)(PH ₃)] ⁺	4	21	0	24	4	37	-0.267	-0.118	0.033
[Ru(η^5 -1,2,3-Me ₃ C ₅ H ₄)(CO)(PH ₃)] ⁺	4 ^a	21 ^a	0 ^a	23	4	36	-0.281	-0.118	0.023
[Ru(η^5 -C ₅ H ₅)(CO)(PH ₃) ₂] ⁺	0 ^b	20 ^b	0 ^b	23	6	31	-0.36	-0.13	-0.05
[Os(η^5 -C ₅ H ₅)(PH ₃) ₂] ⁺	4	22	0	24	5	30	-0.46	-0.07	-0.17
[Os(η^5 -C ₅ H ₅)(CO)(PH ₃) ₂] ⁺	4	25	0	24	5	31	-0.41	-0.10	-0.15
[Os(η^5 -C ₅ H ₅)(CO)(PH ₃)] ⁺	5	23	0	28	3	33	-0.33	-0.08	-0.09

^a Next HOMO. ^b C_α + C_γ = 6%.

The C_β atom is Nucleophilic site

The LUMO distribution along the C₃ unit is similar, regardless of the nature of metal (Ru, Os) and the auxiliary ligands. (C_α, 20~30%, C_γ, 30~40%)

Electrophilic centers located at the C_α and C_γ.



Also the regioselectivity of the nucleophilic additions being highly dependent on the steric property of the ancillary ligands.

The regioselectivity of nucleophilic additions seems to be controlled by nucleophiles.

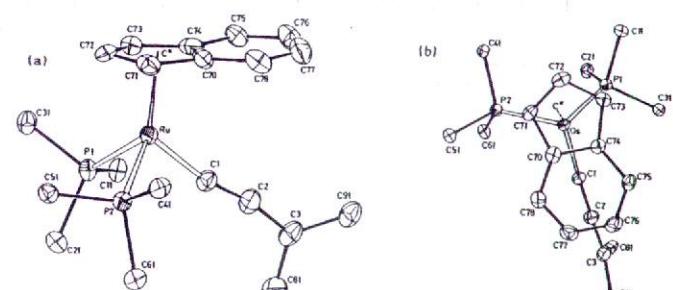
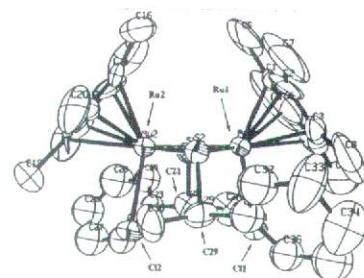
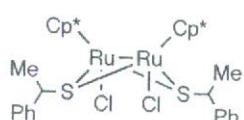
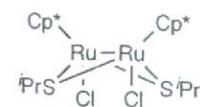
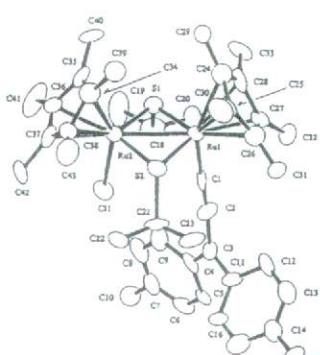


Figure 1. (a) Perspective view of the structure of the cationic complex [Ru(=C-C=CPh₂)(η⁵-C₅H₅)(PPh₃)₂]⁺ (1a). (b) Top view of the structure of the cationic complex [Os(=C-C=CPh₂)(η⁵-C₅H₅)(PPh₃)₂]⁺ (3). For clarity, aryl groups of the triphenylphosphine ligands are omitted (C* = centroid of the indenyl ring).



In the case of thiolate bridged diruthenium complexes nucleophilic additions were observed at only Cr position, probably due to steric hindrance around Cr.

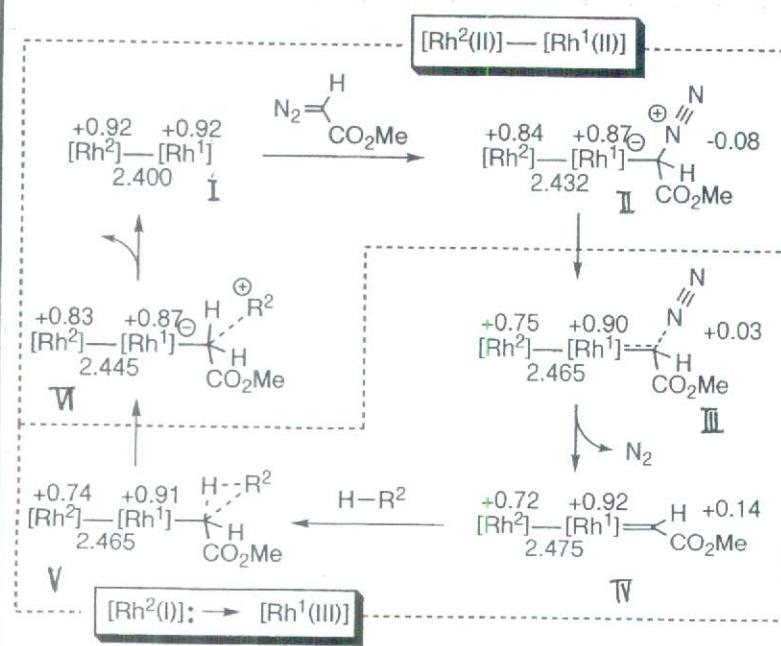
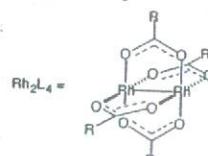
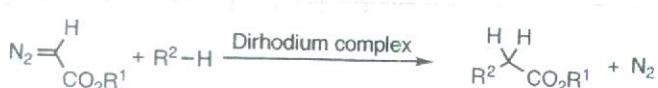
About Ru-Ru bond. Charge transfer from one Ru to the other.

The ease of the charge transfer from one Ru atom to the other in the complexes may be one of the important factor in promoting a key ligand exchange step for these catalytic reactions.

The example of the charge transfer in bi/metal complex

E. Nakamura et.al. JACS, 2002, 124, 7181

Using computational method, they explained the mechanism of C-C bond formation reaction between diazo compound and alkane catalyzed by dirhodium tetracarboxylate

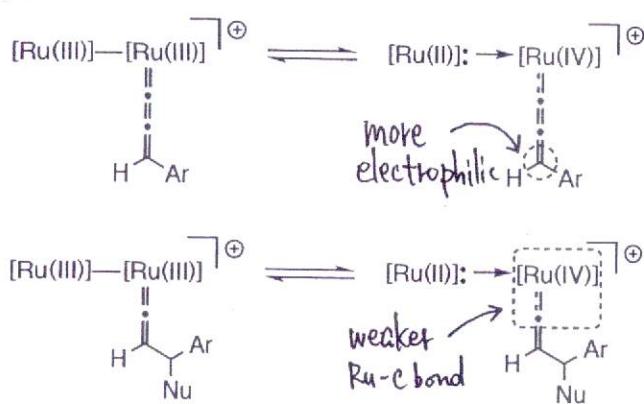


$\text{II} \rightarrow \text{III}$ Charge transfer from Rh^1 to Rh^2 occur. (due to interaction of electron pair of diazo ester with 5^* -orbital of $\text{Rh}-\text{Rh}$ bond?)

$\text{III} \rightarrow \text{IV}$ Rh^1 and carbene carbon have relatively high positive charge.

$\text{V} \rightarrow \text{VI}$ The formation of C-C bond is enhanced by charge transfer from Rh^2 to Rh^1

In the case of diruthenium complexes. Organometallics, 2004, 23, 26.

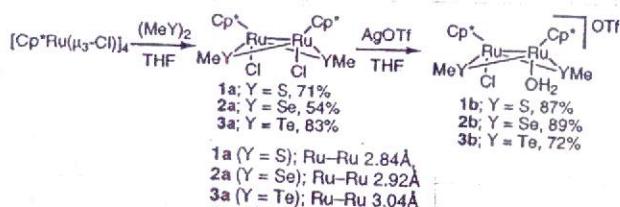


When the charge transfer from one Ru to the other occurs the back donation from Ru to the C₃ unit decreases

⇒ The C₃ unit in allenylidene complexes become more electrophilic.

⇒ The Ru-C bond in vinylidene complexes become weaker (double → singl), so the isomerization is facilitated.

Experimental data.



(Typical Ru-Ru singl bond: 2.71~3.02 Å)

The cyclic voltammogram of 1b and 2b revealed reversible waves at +0.58V and +0.53V respectively ($\text{Ru(III)} \rightarrow \text{Ru(IV)}$).

In contrast, the cyclic voltammogram of 3b exhibited one irreversible wave at 1.9/V.

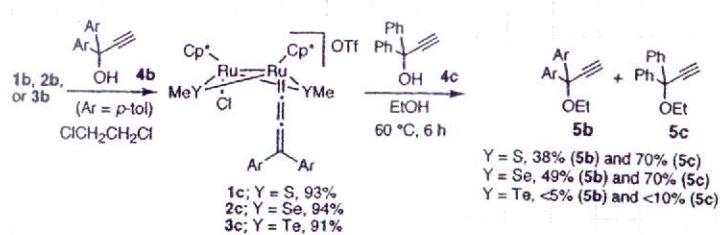
Table 1. Propargylic Substitution Reactions of Propargylic Alcohol (4a) with Nucleophiles Using a Neutral Ru Complex as Catalyst^a

run	nucleophile	catalyst	reaction temp. (°C)	reaction time (h)	yield (%) ^b
1		1a	reflux ^c	3	88
2		2a	reflux ^c	3	95
3		3a	reflux ^c	3	0
4		1a	60 ^d	1	81
5	EtOH	1a	60 ^d	1	80
6		3a	60 ^d	1	2
7		1a	60 ^f	1	80
8	PhNH ₂ ^e	2a	60 ^f	1	95
9		3a	60 ^f	1	0
10		1a	60 ^f	3	74
11		2a	60 ^f	3	80
12		3a	60 ^f	3	0
13		1a	60 ^f	1	94
14		2a	60 ^f	1	81
15		3a	60 ^f	1	2

^a All the reactions of 4a (0.60 mmol) with nucleophile were carried out in the presence of catalyst (5 mol %) and NH₄BF₄ (10 mol %). ^b Isolated yield. ^c Acetone was used as solvent. ^d Ethanol was used as solvent. ^e Aniline (5 equiv) was used as nucleophile. ^f ClCH₂CH₂Cl was used as solvent. ^g 2-Pyrrolidinone (5 equiv) was used as nucleophile. ^h 2-Methylfuran (10 equiv) was used as nucleophile.

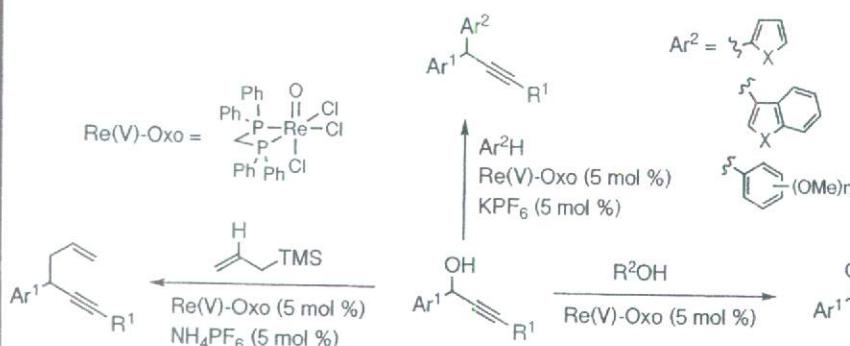
The propargyl substitution reactions were investigated using 1, 2 and 3

Although diruthenium complexes 1 and 2 showed catalytic activity, the reaction didn't proceed almost at all in the presence of 3a and 3b



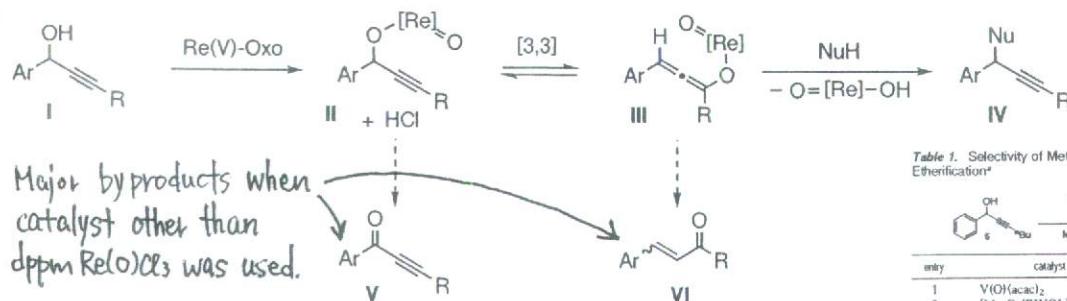
Allenylidene complexes could be obtained from any thiolate-brided diruthenium complexes.

Rhenium(V)-oxo complex catalyzed propargyl substitution reactions.

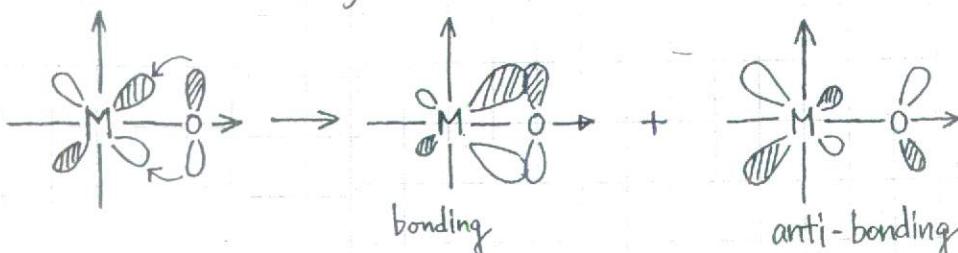


The reaction is tolerant of air and moisture, and in many cases requires only a slight excess of nucleophiles and gives water as the only byproduct

Proposed mechanism



$\text{I} \rightarrow \text{II}$ The oxo ligand shows strong trans effect.
The ligand exchange on the trans position of oxo ligand should occur smoothly.



The oxo ligand is σ -donor and π -donor ligand. The formation of $\text{M}-\text{O}$ π bond decreases the electron density of the opposite site of $\text{M}-\text{O}$ bond. Because of the formation of $\text{M}-\text{O}$ π^* bond the opposite site of $\text{M}-\text{O}$ bond becomes electrophilic site.

$\text{II} \rightarrow \text{III}$ 1,3-transposition of propargylic (and allylic) alcohols are catalyzed by a variety of oxo metal complexes (V, Mo, W, Re)

$\text{III} \rightarrow \text{IV}$ $\text{O}=[\text{Re}]-\text{O}^\ominus$ works as good leaving group.

Table 1. Selectivity of Metal-Oxo Catalysts for Propargyl Etherification^a

	catalyst	% VII	% V	% IV
1	$\text{V}(\text{OAc})_2$	0	29	19
2	$[\text{Mo}_2\text{O}_5(\text{BINOL})_2](\text{NBu}_4)_2$	0	10	15
3	$\text{MoO}_3(\text{acac})_2$	20	trace	77
4	(catechol) ReOCl_3	75	0	25
5	(dppm) ReOCl_3	trace	trace	96

^a Reaction conditions: 5 mol % catalyst, 3.0 equiv of alcohol, 1 M substrate in MeCN. Conversions were determined by ^1H NMR of the crude reaction mixture.

J. AM. CHEM. SOC. 2003, 125, 6076–6077

A Mild C–O Bond Formation Catalyzed by a Rhenium-Oxo Complex

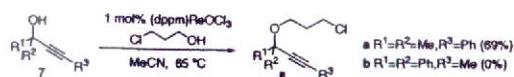
Benjamin D. Sherry, Alexander T. Radosevich, and F. Dean Toste*

Table 2. Re-Oxo-Catalyzed Etherification of Propargyl Alcohols

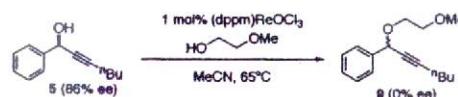
entry	R ¹	R ²	R ³	time (h)	yield
1	OH	n-Bu	CH ₂ =CH-	8	78
2 ^a	C ₆ H ₅	CH ₂ =CH-	14	78	
3 ^b	SiMe ₃	CH ₂ =CH-	8	74	
4 ^b	SiMe ₃	CH ₂ -CH=	8	86	
5 ^c	n-Bu	Ph-CH ₂ -CH ₂ -	10	60 ^d	
6 ^c	-(CH ₂) ₃ OH	Me-	20	53	
7	Ph-CH ₂ -CH ₂ -	n-Bu	Ph-CH ₂ -CH=	5	79 ^e
8	Me	Me	MeO-C(=O)-	7	85 ^e
9	MeO	Me	MeO-CH=	2	86
10	MeO	Me	MeO-CH=	2	86
11 ^e	CO ₂ Et	CH ₂ =CH-	10	80	
12	MeO	Me	Me-	4	82
13 ^f	MeO	Me	Me-	8	77
14	Ph-CH ₂ -CH ₂ -	Me	CH ₂ =CH-	5	78
15	O-C(=O)Ph	Me	CH ₂ =CH-	2	85
16	MnO ₂	Me	MeO-CH=	7	78
17 ^g	Br-Ph-Cl	Me	CH ₂ =CH-	10	80

* Reaction conditions: 1 M propargyl alcohol in MeCN, 3.0 equiv of R'OH. Isolated yield after chromatography. ^a Carried out at 80 °C. ^b Obtained as a 1:1.6 mixture of diastereomers. ^c Obtained as a 1:1 mixture of diastereomers. ^d Run with 5 mol % catalyst. ^e Run with 0.1 mol % catalyst.

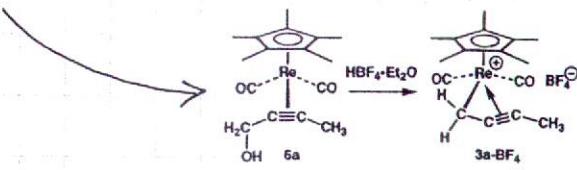
Substitution occurred with a wide variety of propargyl alcohol substrates. Acid-labile groups such as acetals, ketals and t-butyl carbamates were not cleaved under the reaction conditions.



Tertiary alcohol 7a readily undergoes propargylic etherification to afford tertiary ether 8a in 69% yield.



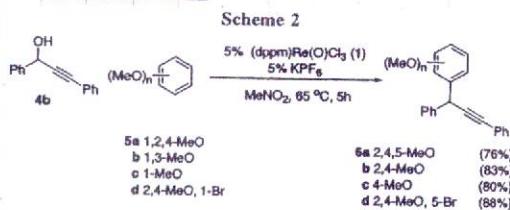
Starting from enantioenriched alcohol 5, the Re(V)-oxo catalyzed reaction afforded racemic ester 9. From this result, an alternative mechanism of ionization to produce an achiral propargyl cation can also be envisioned.



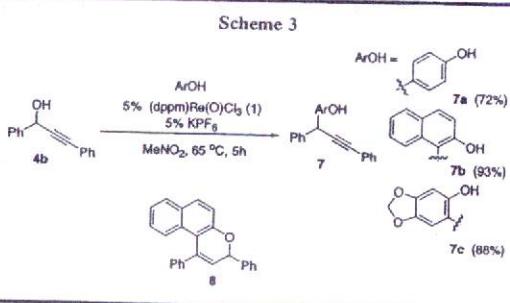
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Rhenium-Catalyzed Aromatic Propargylation

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Aromatic compounds that didn't participate in the ruthenium-catalyzed propargylation such as anisole and 1,3-dimethoxybenzene are excellent nucleophiles in this reaction.



The propargylation of phenols, catalyzed by a ruthenium complex or protic acid, generally results in the formation of benzopyran (e.g. 8).

