Ruthenium(II)-Catalyzed Arylation of 2-Aroyl-Imidazoles with Aryl Halides

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Transition-metal-catalyzed C-H functionalization reactions is one of the successful strategies for the construction of carbon-carbon bonds. In 2012, Ackermann reported the ruthenium-catalyzed C-H arylation reaction of phenols with aryl halides via six-membered ruthenacycles. Dixneuf subsequently reported the ruthenium-catalyzed C-H arylation reaction of 2-pyridyl ketones with aryl bromides via six-membered ruthenacycles. Herein, we report the ruthenium-catalyzed arylation of *ortho*-C-H bonds of 2-aroyl-imidazoles with aryl halieds via six-membered ruthenacycles, in which an imidazole ring function as a directing group. The imidazole moiety is known to easily be converted into the corresponding esters, amides, thioester, and carboxylic acid. Various functional groups, such as methoxy, fluoro, trifuoromethyl, ester and ketone groups can be tolerated in the preset reaction.

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