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Recent advancements in Ni/photoredox dual catalysis for Csp³-Csp³ cross-coupling reactions

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For the construction of Csp³ – Csp³ bonds, cross-coupling reactions in Ni/photoredox dual catalysis have recently achieved significant progress compared to traditional ones. In the past five years, a variety of free radical precursors have been developed to participate in redox neutral and reductive cross-coupling reactions via a dual photoredox/Ni-catalytic process. In this minireview, we mainly focus on the recent advancements (from 2019 to 2023) in Ni/photoredox dual catalysis for Csp3-Csp3 cross-coupling reactions

Introduction 1.

The construction of carbon-carbon bonds is one of the core research topics in the field of organic chemistry. A transitionmetal-catalyzed cross-coupling reaction is one of the most effective methods to forge carbon-carbon bonds, ^{1d} and typical transition metal catalyzed cross-coupling reactions include the Kumada, Negishi, and Suzuki cross-coupling reactions. These reactions could produce Csp2-Csp2 cross-coupling products very efficiently in the presence of a catalytic amount of transition metal under mild conditions. However, the formation of Csp³-Csp³ bonds is usually difficult to achieve under these transition metal catalytic conditions due to the following factors:2 (1) severe reaction conditions are required for the oxidative addition of more electron-rich Csp³-X bonds with the transition metal and reductive elimination of the alkyl group from the metal center, (2) the Csp3-M intermediate easily undergoes β-H elimination, affording alkene byproducts, and (3) alkyl halides are susceptible to base-assisted H-X elimination and halide exchange side reactions under cross-coupling conditions. In 2017, Fu and his co-workers summarized transition-metal-catalyzed alkyl-alkyl cross-coupling reactions,3 demonstrating the initial progress of unactivated alkyl electrophilic reagents for Csp³-Csp³ coupling, which also provided a key driving force for the development of Ni/photoredox dual catalysis.

Fortunately, odd-electron processes are not uncommon for nickel complexes. Thus, nickel species have abundant

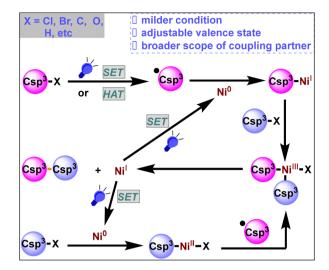
adjustable valence states (Ni⁰/Ni^I/Ni^{II}/Ni^{III}/Ni^{IV}).^{4a} The reactivity of the Ni species is enriched by the availability of the Ni^I and Ni^{III} states as well as the possible involvement of radical processes. 4b,c Moreover, under visible light irradiation, nickel is capable of undergoing single electron transfer (SET) smoothly, and the corresponding valence state will be raised or lowered by a single valence, making it more likely for free radicals to be generated mildly when exposed to light. 4d,e,f

Traditional nickel-catalyzed coupling reactions involve three key steps:^{5a} oxidative addition, transmetallation, and reductive elimination. Transmetallation is usually the decisive step in this type of reaction, with the exchange rate of different forms of carbon hybridization being Csp > Csp² > Csp³, making the direct construction of Csp³-Csp³ bonds particularly difficult.^{5b} Owing to their radical-generating properties and abilities to modulate the oxidation state of metal catalysts,5c photocatalysts greatly broaden the range of electrophilic and nucleophilic reagents for cross-coupling reactions and are compatible with more reactive groups. Photocatalytic single-electron transmetallation is more suitable for Csp³-Csp³ cross-coupling reactions than the conventional nickel-catalyzed transmetallation process using metal catalysis alone.

In recent years, the introduction of photocatalysts has expanded the range of coupling partners (such as Csp3-Cl bonds, Csp³-Br bonds, Csp³-C bonds, Csp³-O bonds, Csp³-H bonds, etc.) and has greatly changed organic synthetic chemistry (Scheme 1). In this review, we summarize recent advancements in Ni/photoredox dual catalysis for Csp³-Csp³ crosscoupling reactions over the last five years (2019-2023). We attempted to classify this context into three broad categories: neutral, reductive and oxidative cross-coupling according to the electrical properties of the coupling partners. Please note that some relevant information referred to can be found in the ESI section of the cited articles.

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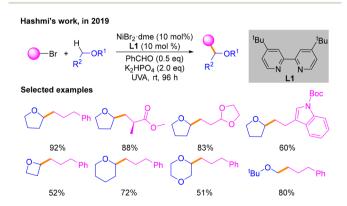


Scheme 1 Ni/photoredox dual catalyzed cross-coupling reactions.

Redox neutral cross-coupling

Redox neutral cross-coupling is a reaction strategy of great importance in organic synthetic chemistry.⁶ It is characterized by the design and selection of suitable reaction conditions so that the functional groups involved in the reaction do not undergo significant oxidation state changes during the course of the reaction, thereby improving the atom economy and selectivity of the reaction. In recent years, a number of redox neutral cross-coupling reactions under photoredox/nickel dual catalysis have been developed.

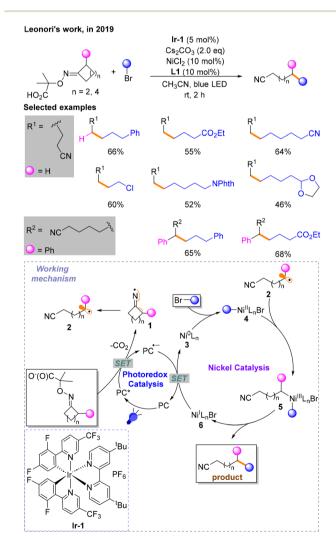
In 2019, according to the fact that triplet benzaldehyde excited using ultraviolet light can interact with hydrogendonating solvents to produce α-hydroxybenzyl and solvents such as tetrahydrofuran (THF) radicals as hydrogen atom transfer (HAT) catalysts possessing a strong ability to capture hydrogen, Hashmi and co-workers explored a platform for direct alkylation of Csp³-H bonds with alkyl halides via a HAT process (Scheme 2).7 The optimal reaction conditions are irradiation with UVA light, NiBr2·dme and L1 as the nickel



Scheme 2 Csp³-Csp³ cross-coupling reaction of alkyl bromides with ethers (Hashmi's work).

catalyst, benzaldehyde as both the photosensitizer and the HAT catalyst, and K₂HPO₄ as the base. The substrate scope of bromide and ether coupling partners was investigated. However, the detailed mechanism requires more concrete study.

A few months later, Leonori and co-workers reported a divergent Csp³-Csp³ coupling reaction via iminium radical ring opening in conjunction with nickel catalysis and photocatalysis, enabling remote alkylation of nitriles (Scheme 3).8 The conditions for the highest yield are identified: Ir-1 as the photocatalyst (PC), Cs₂CO₃ as the base, NiCl₂ with L1 as the nickel catalytic system and CH₃CN as the solvent under blue LED irradiation. Single-electron oxidation and decarboxylation occur to provide radical 1 in the process of photocatalyst quenching in the excited state (PC*) to PC*-, followed by single-electron β-scission to give alkyl radical 2. The nickel catalytic cycle begins with the oxidative addition of Ni⁰ species 3 with brominated hydrocarbon to produce Ni^{II} species 4, followed by the addition of 2 generated in the photocatalytic

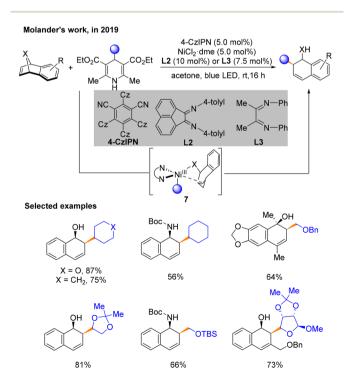


Scheme 3 Coupling reaction of iminium radical ring-opening in conjunction with Ni-catalysis.

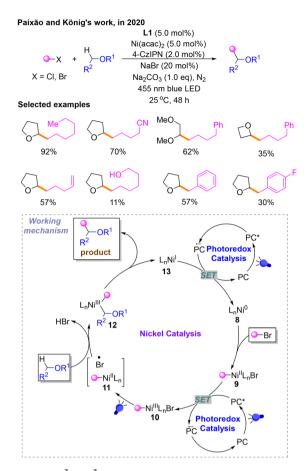
stage to give Ni^{III} species 5, and finally reductive elimination to obtain a Csp³-Csp³ coupling product. The Ni^IBr 6 generated from the above process is reduced to 3, and PC - is oxidized to PC simultaneously via a SET process.

Two months later, a method using 4-alkyl-1,4-dihydropyridines (DHPs) with oxa- and azabenzonorbornadienes to construct Csp³-Csp³ architectures was developed by Molander's group (Scheme 4).9 Notably, the regioselective and diastereoselective cis-1,2-dihydro-1-naphthyl alcohol backbone's structure can be achieved through this cross-coupling process under a nickel/photoredox dual catalytic system. The best conditions for the reaction are 4-CzIPN as the PC, NiCl₂·dme with L2 or L3 as the nickel catalytic system, and acetone as the solvent under blue LED irradiation. A series of mechanistic experiments have proven the impossible activation of the substrate by by-products and the product-determining-step involving no benzyl residues. According to density functional theory (DFT) calculations, in this program, a π - σ isomerization process was believed to occur in Ni^{III} species 7. The Curtin-Hammett principle supported the product produced with 1,2regioselectivity.

In 2020, taking into account the previously mentioned study of other researchers, a protocol was introduced for a Csp³-Csp³ cross-coupling reaction of alkyl bromides with ethers using a Ni/photoredox dual catalyst via a halidemediated HAT process by Paixão and König (Scheme 5). 10 In this platform, they used 4-CzIPN as the photocatalyst to optimize the reaction conditions, and it is determined that the reaction should be carried out upon irradiation with a bule



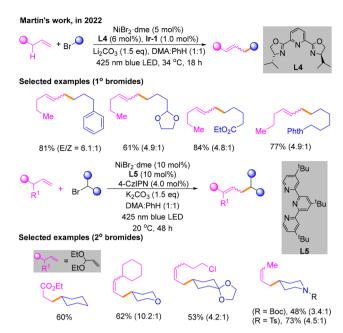
Scheme 4 Cross-coupling of oxa- and azabenzonorbornadienes with DHP (Molander's work).



Scheme 5 Csp³-Csp³ cross-coupling reaction of alkyl bromides with ethers (Paixão and König's work).

LED in the presence of Na₂CO₃ using Ni(acac)₂ and L1 as the catalyst and 4-CzIPN as the photosensitizer in THF. The catalytic cycle begins with the oxidative addition of the Ni⁰ species 8 with a bromoalkane substrate to obtain the Ni^{II} species 9. Then, 9 is oxidized to afford Ni^{III} 10 by PC* to deliver PC*-. Subsequently, 10 absorbs visible light, generating the NII species 11 and a halogen radical as a HAT agent. The generation of alkyl radicals is caused by the HAT of substrate ether and captured by 11 to provide 12. This HAT process is induced by the bromine radicals produced by the homolysis of the Ni-Br bond from 10 under the irradiation of a bule LED. The product comes from the reductive elimination of 12. Finally, Ni^I species 13 derived from 12 is reduced to Ni⁰ 8 by PC^{*-} to deliver the PC, which makes the catalytic cycle complete.

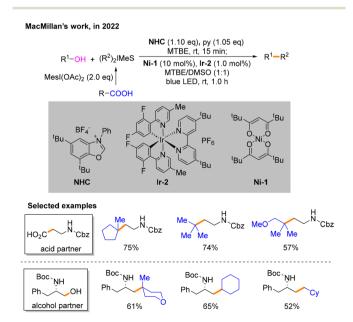
After that, combining a light-induced system with nickel catalysis, redox-neutral and site-selectivity Csp3-H alkylation of an unactivated α-olefin with an alkyl bromide was reported by Martin's group in 2022 (Scheme 6). 11 The reaction is able to obtain the maximum yield of primary alkyl bromides under blue LED irradiation, with NiBr2·dme and L4 as the nickel catalytic system, Ir-1 as the photocatalyst of light, K₂CO₃ as the base, and dimethylacetamide (DMA): PhH (1:1) as the solvent. Surprisingly, the optimal conditions of secondary



Scheme 6 Csp^3-H alkylation of an unactivated α -olefin.

bromide hydrocarbons are not exactly the same in ligands and photocatalysts. For secondary bromides, L5 is the best ligand with 4-CzIPN as the photocatalyst.

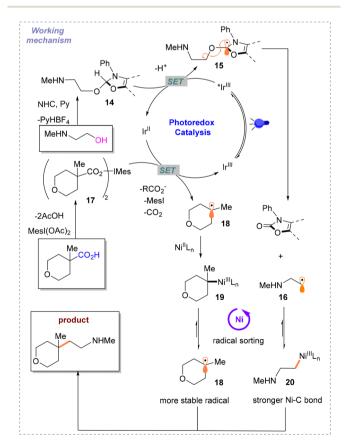
Soon after, MacMillan and co-workers developed a strategy for photo- and nickel-catalyzed Csp3-Csp3 cross-coupling reactions involving N-heterocyclic carbene (NHC)-mediated deoxygenation of alcohols and hypervalent iodine-mediated decarbonylation of carboxylic acids (Scheme 7).12 Methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE): dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) (1:1) is used as the solvent. Different from previously reported schemes, the two Csp³ radicals involved in the reaction are both generated



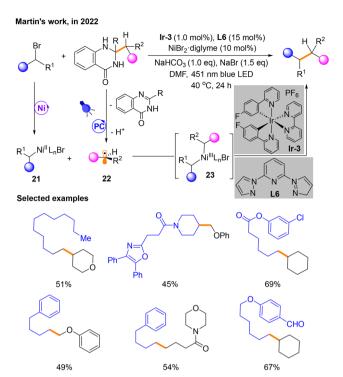
Scheme 7 Cross-coupling reaction of alcohols and carboxylic acids

during the photocatalytic SET process. In this event, the alcohol substrate reacts with NHC to afford the product 14, which can undergo SET with *IrIII. The resulting intermediate 15 undergoes the process of β-breakage to generate radical 16. Carboxylic acids are activated by iodine hypervalent to give 17. Ir then undergoes SET with 17 to generate another free radical 18 and IrIII. To maintain the catalytic cycle, blue light irradiation excites Ir^{III} to *Ir^{III}. The difficulty of this strategy is distinguishing between the two different free radicals 16 and 18 generated instantaneously. To solve this problem, based on the difference in the relative instability of the highly substituted metal-alkyl species and different strengths of nickel-carbon bonds, a radical sorting method was conceived. That is, 20 is more stable than 19, but their radical stabilities are the opposite with radical 18 being more stable than radical 16 (Scheme 8). After verifying the practicality of this idea, the author explored its generality with primary, secondary, and tertiary alkyl acids and alcohols under the optimal conditions.

Two months later, a platform for cross-coupling mediated by Ni and a photocatalyst is developed by Martin's group to build Csp³-Csp³ bonds utilizing dihydroquinazolinones derived from ketones (Scheme 9).13 In this metal and photocatalyst dual catalytic system, the Ni and photo-induced catalytic cycle is similar to that discussed previously. Haloalkane substrates produce Ni^{II} species 21 in the Ni catalytic cycle.



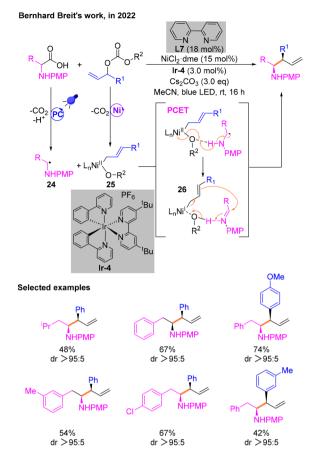
Scheme 8 Proposed reaction design of cross-coupling reactions of carboxylic acids with alcohols.



Scheme 9 Csp³-Csp³ cross-coupling reaction of dihydroquinazolinones with bromoalkanes.

Alkyl radicals 22 are produced by the substrate dihydroquinazolinone in the photocatalytic phase. Then, 21 and 22 could undergo radical recombination to generate Ni^{III} species 23. The product is also obtained by the reductive elimination of 23. However, a distinguishing feature of this reaction is that the dihydroquinazolinone serves as a radical source causing α C-C cleavage through aromatization, which is induced by single-electron oxidation of photocatalysis. The selected examples have also been shown in Scheme 9.

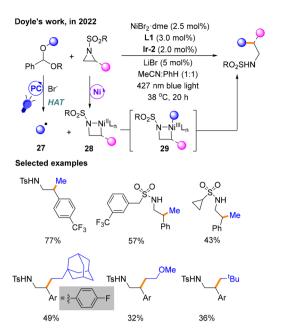
Soon after, Breit and co-workers exploited a way for the construction of homoallylamines utilizing α-amino acids via photoredox Ni-catalytic cross-coupling (Scheme 10).14 This reaction enables the functionalization of allyl groups and diastereoselectively obtains branched allylation products involving α-amino radical intermediates. The first investigation was conducted using model substrates and determined the most optimal conditions: NiCl2·dme and L7 as the metal catalytic system, Cs₂CO₃ as the base, and [Ir(ppy)₂(dtbbpy)]PF₆ (Ir-4) as the PC. Subsequently, the arylallyl electrophile substrate was expanded using N-phenyl or N-p-methoxyphenyl (PMP) phenylalanine as the α -amino radical precursor. Mechanistic experiments illustrated that the free radicals involved in the catalytic cycle are generated by SET in the photocatalytic cycle and then decarboxylation. The diastereoselectivity of products was explained by DFT calculations. A critical step is the proton coupled electron transfer (PCET) process of the radical 24 and Ni^{II} species 25 to afford 26. Then, 26 in combination with the allyl group undergoes a nucleophilic attack on the imine to give the desired product.



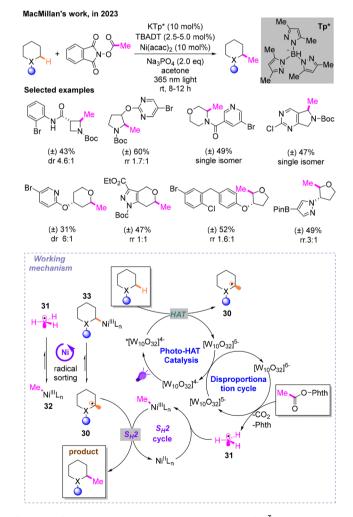
Scheme 10 Synthesis of homoallylamines by reaction.

A few months later, Doyle's group utilizing benzaldehyde dialkyl acetals derived from alcohols developed a method for Csp³-Csp³ cross-coupling reactions with aziridines (Scheme 11). 15 The product is obtained with NiBr₂·dme and L1 as the nickel catalytic system using Ir-2 as the PC under blue light exposure in MeCN: PhH (1:1) mixed solvent. The function of the additive LiBr is to stabilize the anionic sulfonamide and facilitate the release of the product. Benzaldehyde dialkyl ketals are employed by HAT to produce radical species 27 under the stimulation of a photocatalyst and bromide ions. Mechanistic studies show that the activation of dialkyl acetals via HAT by Br happens during the photocatalytic phase to give 27, and the oxidative addition of aziridines occurs in the Ni catalytic cycle to afford 28, explaining the differential activation of the two coupling partners. The product is released by the reductive elimination reaction from Ni^{III} species 29.

Then, inspired by the Csp³-methyl group catalyzed by radical S-adenosylmethionine (SAM) methyltransferase in biological systems and some previous work, MacMillan and coworkers reported a Csp³-Csp³ coupling reaction through radical sorting and bimolecular homolytic substitution (S_H2), in which direct methylation occurs on saturated heterocyclic Csp3-H bonds (Scheme 12).16 The most ideal conditions are irradiation under 365 nm light, Ni(acac)2·KTp* as the metal



Scheme 11 Csp³-Csp³ cross-coupling reaction of benzaldehyde dialkyl acetals with aziridines.

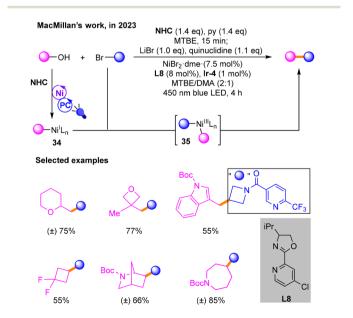


Scheme 12 Methylation of saturated heterocyclic Csp³-H bonds

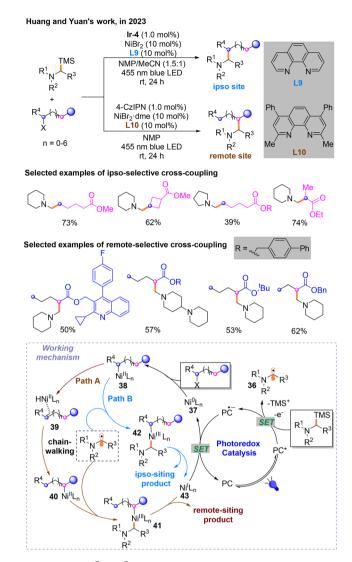
catalyst, Na₃PO₄ as the base and tetrabutylammonium decatungstate (TBADT) as the HAT reagent and photocatalyst in acetone. The universality of this strategy is also assessed. These two alkyl radicals are respectively produced by HAT and decarboxylation in the photocatalytic cycle. The excited triplet state of decatungstate $*[W_{10}O_{32}]^{4-}$ under light undergoes a HAT process at the hydridic α-amino C-H bond of the first substrate, resulting in reduced [W₁₀O₃₂]⁵⁻ as well as alkyl radical 30. Another radical 31 is produced during the disproportionation cycle from the second substrate. Key to the success of this mechanism is the previously mentioned radical sorting effect mediated by nickel. Radicals 30 and 32 are more stable than 31 and 33, respectively. In addition, products are obtained from the S_H2 process.

In 2023, Macmillan¹⁷ used NHC to activate alcohols and performed coupling reactions with brominated hydrocarbons to build Csp³-Csp³ bonds (Scheme 13). In the photocatalytic cycle, the alcohols are activated by NHC-mediated C-O homolysis to produce alkyl radicals, which is similar to their previous reports. Then, the resulting Ni^I species 34 during nickel and photo-induced catalysis undergoes oxidative addition with halogenated hydrocarbons to produce Ni^{III} species 35, and finally the target product is obtained through reductive elimination of 35.

Later, a light/nickel-catalyzed Csp³-Csp³ cross-coupling reaction of α-silylamines with unactivated alkyl halides, which could occur on the ipso and remote sites of alkyl halides selectively through ligand regulation, was for the first time described by Huang and Yuan in 2023 (Scheme 14).18 They found that photosensitizer Ir-4 is the most suitable for the ipso-site reaction, and 4-CzIPN is best for the remote-site reaction. After careful screening of the reaction conditions. α-N-



Scheme 13 The cross-coupling reaction of activated alcohols with NHC and brominated hydrocarbons.

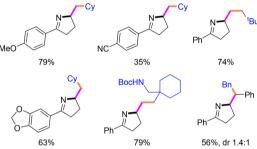


Scheme 14 Csp^3-Csp^3 cross-coupling reaction of α -silylamines with alkyl bromides.

Alkyl radicals participating in the nickel catalytic cycle are generated during the photocatalytic cycle. When L9 is used as the ligand, the olefin substrate will isomerize to form the ipso-site product (Path A). Moreover, the remote-site product can be output when the ligand is L10 (Path B). Remote- and ipso-site products are obtained from different Ni^{III} species: 41 and 42. Mechanistic experiments have shown that β-hydrogen is necessary for the generation of remote-site products during the chain-walking process. DFT calculations proved that the steric hindrance of ligands is a factor affecting site selectivity.

After that, Liu and Fang reported a new Csp³-Csp³ crosscoupling system through decarboxylation19 mediated by a PC and the subsequent coupling of two radicals by a nickel catalyst (Scheme 15). This reaction was performed under the irradiation of a purple LED with dichloroethane (DCE) as the solvent, unlike most reactions that use a blue LED as the light source. Both radicals 44 and 45 are generated via an energy

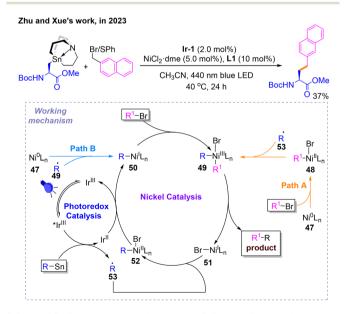
Liu and Fang's work, in 2023 Ir-5 (1.2 mol%) NiCl₂·L1 (20 mol%) Ar, DCE 395 nm purple LED Selected examples MeC



Scheme 15 Csp³-Csp³ decarboxylated cross-coupling reaction via E_nT .

transfer (E_nT) process during the photocatalytic stage, followed by a nickel-mediated cross-coupling reaction to afford Ni^{III} species 46. The reductive elimination of 46 occurs to produce the target product.

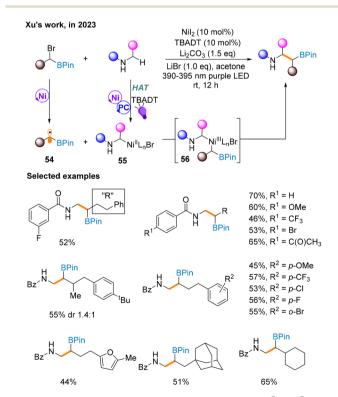
Subsequently, a photonickel-cocatalyzed Stille coupling reaction was developed by Zhu and Xue (Scheme 16).20 After determining the reaction conditions for Csp²-Csp³ coupling,



Scheme 16 Photo- and nickel-catalyzed Stille coupling reaction.

the author evaluated the scope of this protocol, in which only a Csp³-Csp³ coupling product was reported. Several mechanistic studies and DFT calculations were carried out to show how this reaction proceeds. There are two pathways A and B for this reaction. The difference between them is whether conventional oxidative addition occurs first to give 48 followed by single-electron oxidative addition to give 49 (Path A), or whether the opposite occurs to give 50, followed by 49 (Path B). The products and Ni^I species 51 of both pathways are obtained by reductive elimination of Ni^{III} species 52. Radical 53 could be captured by 51 to get 52, which would be reduced to 50.

A month later, a Csp3-Csp3 cross-coupling reaction of α-bromoboronates and β-amino boronates through C-H bond activation is reported by Xu and co-workers to forge β-amino boronates (Scheme 17), 21 whose synthesis is currently rare. It is worth noting that the additional use of ligands will decrease the yield, and thus this strategy does not involve supernumerary ligands. In addition, unlike most of the above methods, this strategy uses the irradiation of purple light to maintain the catalytic cycle. Mechanistically, α-bromoboronate undergoes a one-electron redox reaction in nickel catalysis to produce α -borate radical 54. The α -N-alkyl radical produced by the photocatalytic cycle via the HAT process is captured by the Ni catalytic cycle to afford Ni^{II} species 55 and then combined with 54. Finally, the product is obtained through reductive elimination of Ni^{III} species 56.

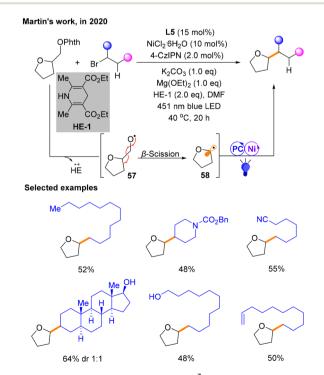


Scheme 17 Synthesis of β -amino boronates via a Csp³-Csp³ cross-

3. Reductive cross-coupling

Reductive cross-coupling reactions are also an important class of reactions in organic chemistry.²² Reactants usually undergo electron transfer and recombination of chemical bonds in the presence of a reducing agent. In this reaction, a reducing agent is used to facilitate the formation of new carbon-carbon bonds between different organic fragments. In recent years, there have been a number of reductive coupling reactions under photoredox/nickel dual catalysis.

In 2020, Martin and co-workers demonstrated the successful development of a dual photoredox/Ni-catalytic process that gives access to alkylation of Csp³ via β-scission of a special class of aliphatic alcohol derivatives, N-phthalimide ethers (Scheme 18). 23 Specifically, utilizing 4-CzIPN as the PC, K₂CO₃ as the base, Hantzsch ester (HE-1) as the electron donor (ED) and NiCl₂·L5 as the metal catalyst under the irradiation of blue light, a series of Csp³-Csp³ coupling structures were produced. The range of Csp³ alkylation was studied, explaining the influence of ligand denticity. Some examples are selected and shown in Scheme 18. In this protocol, HE-1 is not only able to reduce N-phthalimide ethers (Ophth) to provide radicals 57, but it can also maintain the photocatalytic cycle. The photocatalytic cycle does not generate 57 involved in coupling, but 57 is generated by HE. Subsequently, the β-breakage of 57 occurs through the single electron activity of the ether with HE^{*+}, generating alkyl radical species 58 that participate in the nickel and photocatalytic cycle to afford the product. In addition, the authors suggest that there may be an electron-



Scheme 18 Cross-coupling reaction of sp³ alkylation via β -scission of

donor-acceptor (EDA) complex between HE and the substrate prior to β -scission.

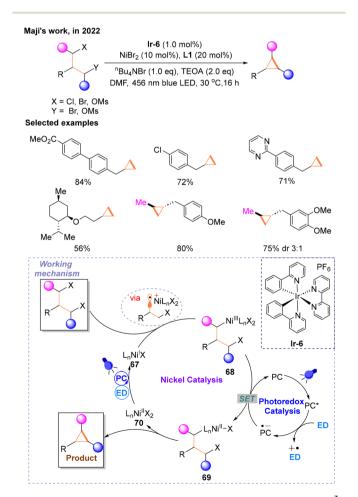
A year later, affected by the redox active characteristics of N-alkylpyridinium salts, a technology for constructing a Csp³-Csp³ skeleton via a photo-induced and nickel-catalyzed crosselectrophile coupling reaction with N-alkylpyridinium salts as radical precursors was disclosed by Koh in 2021 (Scheme 19).²⁴ After optimization studies, the author explored the substrate range of deamination alkylation reactions with bromides and iodides, respectively, and found that the iodides could perform Csp³-Csp³ cross-coupling reactions effectively. Then, several mechanistic experiments were conducted, and it is believed that the proposed mechanism may involve EDA complexes formed between N-alkylpyridinium salts and HE-1. Then, photoexcitation and SET occur to generate dihydropyridine radicals 59 and HE*+ 60, followed by deamination cleavage triggered by aromatization to produce triphenylpyridine

Koh's work, in 2021 NiBr₂·diglyme (20 mol%) L6 (25 mol%) HE-1 (3.0 eq) DMA, blue LED rt, 24 h Selected examples 46% 53% 71% (\)-CHO 62% 51% 45% Working CO₂Et Me mechanism HN 59 EDA CO₂Et 61 62 Nickel Catalysis $Ni^{\acute{0}}L_n$ 63 66 CO₂Et Me CO₂Et

Scheme 19 The coupling reaction involving N-alkylpyridinium salts as radical precursors.

61 and alkane radical 62 involved in the catalytic cycle. The species 60 and 61 will reduce Ni^I 66 to Ni^O 63. 63 would then undergo an oxidative addition reaction with halogenated hydrocarbons to produce Ni^{II} 64, which could capture the previously generated alkyl radicals 62 affording Ni^{III} species 65. To complete the catalytic cycle, reductive elimination of 65 occurs to produce the desired products and 66.

In 2022, Maji and co-workers proved that metallaphotoredox catalysis can be a prominent strategy to make the cyclopropane ring via an intramolecular Csp³-Csp³ cross-electrophile coupling reaction (Scheme 20) of 1,3-alkyl electrophiles. 25 The reaction conditions were optimized using primary alkyl 1,3dimesylate with an ester functionality as a model substrate, and the optimal reaction conditions were finally determined: Ir-6 as the PC, NiBr₂ with L1 as the transition metal catalyst, ⁿBu₄NBr as the additive, triethanolamine (TEOA) as the ED, N,N-dimethylformamide (DMF) as the solvent and the reaction was performed at room temperature under the irradiation of a blue LED. In addition, secondary alkyl electrophiles could also react smoothly when one of the halogen atoms in the substrate is replaced with OMs. As the author speculated, PC* was quenched to PC'- by the ED. The nickel catalytic cycle starts



Scheme 20 Synthesis of cyclopropanes via an intramolecular Csp³-Csp³ cross-coupling reaction.

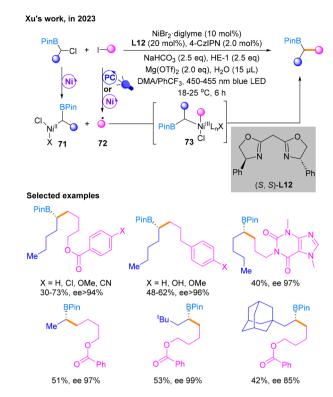
with Ni^I 67 generated from a photocatalytic SET involving the ED, undergoing oxidative addition with halogenated hydrocarbons via a radical process to form Ni^{III} 68, which is subsequently reduced to Ni^{II} **69** by PC^{•–} delivering the PC. PC^{•–} is regenerated under the blue light irradiation and ED to complete the photocatalytic cycle. Subsequently, 69 undergoes oxidative addition and reductive elimination to produce the target product. The new Ni^{II} species 70 produced in this step undergoes the same photocatalytic process and is reduced to Ni^I 67 to enter the next catalytic cycle.

Later, Oestreich's research group achieved a reductive crosscoupling reaction between α-silvlated alkyl bromides and an allylic sulfone using a HE as the reducing agent in 2022 (Scheme 21).26 It has been experimentally verified that the key to the successful conduction of the reaction is the ability of the methylsilane at the α -position of the alkyl bromide to stabilize the carbon radicals. After conditional screening, it is determined that the most qualified conditions are NiBr₂·diglyme as the nickel precatalyst and terpyridine L11 as the ligand as well as HE-2 and Et₃N under irradiation with a blue LED in DMA as the solvent. The reaction scope of this coupling reaction was subsequently evaluated under these conditions. Notably, this process does not require a photocatalyst but only blue light irradiation to maintain the catalytic cycle. Thus, further study is needed to gain mechanistic insights.

In 2023, Xu and co-workers described Csp³-Csp³ crosscoupling with dual Ni/photocatalysis utilizing unactivated alkyl halides and racemic α-chloroboronates as substrates (Scheme 22).²⁷ This strategy enables the highly selective synthesis of chiral secondary alkylborates, important intermediates in organic synthesis, making it possible to rapidly conenantiomerically enriched complex

Oestreich's work, in 2022 NiBr₂·diglyme (10 mol%) HE-2 (2.0 eq), Et₃N (3.0 eq) DMA, 450 nm blue LED CO2^tBL HE-2 Selected examples CO₂Et CO₂Et X = H, Me, OMe, F, Cl, Br, CF₃ CO₂Et CO₂Et

Scheme 21 Cross-coupling reaction of α -silylated alkyl bromides and

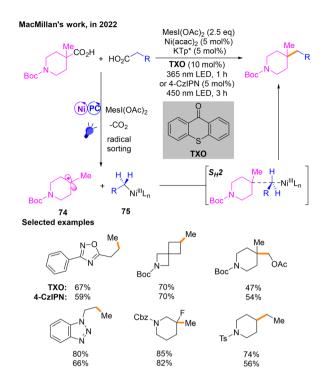


Scheme 22 Cross-coupling of α -chloroboronates with alkyl iodides.

This reaction could achieve the highest yield in the NiBr₂-diglyme catalytic system using 4-CzIPN as the PC and DMA: PhCF3 (1:1) as the solvent in the presence of some additives. Then, the substrate scope of α-chloroborates and alkyl iodides for reductive cross-coupling was expanded. Based on radical-clock reactions and other mechanistic verification experiments, the author proposed that a Csp³ radical was formed in the photocatalytic stage from alkyl iodides under the irradiation of blue light. In addition, α -chloroboronates are activated in the nickel catalytic cycle to afford Ni^{II} species 71. Subsequently, free radical addition and reductive elimination with 72 occur successively to generate the final product through the Ni^{III} species 73. HE-1 also acts as the ED to maintain the photocatalytic cycle.

Oxidative cross-coupling

Oxidative cross-coupling offers a new approach for constructing C-C bonds. 28a In this type of reaction, transition-metal catalysts and oxidants are usually utilized to induce cross-coupling of two different nucleophilic organic molecules, 28b,c resulting in the formation of new carbon-carbon or carbonhetero bonds. In recent years, the construction of Csp³-Csp³ bonds by oxidative cross-coupling has been greatly developed, especially in the field of electrocatalysis.^{28d} However, with regard to Ni/photoredox dual catalysis, there are limited cases of Csp³-Csp³ bond construction in oxidative cross-coupling.



Scheme 23 Decarboxylative cross-coupling of aliphatic acids.

In 2022, a decarboxylative Csp³-Csp³ cross-coupling reaction²⁹ of aliphatic acids was developed by MacMillan's group (Scheme 23). The two free radicals of this reaction are produced after the corresponding aliphatic carboxylic acid substrates are activated by MesI(OAc)2. Then radical 74 and Ni^{III} species 75 are produced during the radical sorting process, and they finally produce the target product through S_H2. When thioxanthone (TXO) is used as the photosensitizer, the reaction can occur under 365 nm violet light irradiation, and it is worth noting that when the photosensitizer is changed to 4-CzIPN, the product can also be obtained under the irradiation of a 450 nm blue LED. In addition, MesI(OAc)2 acts as the oxidant in this reaction.

5. Conclusion and outlook

This minireview mainly covers the research on Ni/photoredox dual catalyzed Csp³-Csp³ cross-coupling reactions from 2019 to 2023. Under clean and mild light irradiation conditions and cheap nickel metal catalysis, various compounds containing C-C structures can be easily obtained, avoiding the difficulty of using traditional metal-catalyzed coupling reactions. To generate Csp³ radicals, a number of chemical bonds (Csp³-Cl bonds, Csp³-Br bonds, Csp³-C bonds, Csp³-O bonds, etc.) have flexibly participated in redox-neutral coupling reactions and reductive cross-coupling reactions in the past five years. In some specific transformations, coupling reactions have been developed that do not require additional photocatalysts or ligands. However, most coupling reactions are driven by blue

LED light, and very few reactions are driven by purple light. In addition, the stereo- and regio-selectivities of these reactions still need further study.

In the next stage, we anticipate that the development trend of the Csp³-Csp³ coupling reaction in Ni/photoredox dual catalysis may have the following six aspects: (a) recently, the asymmetric version of this field has experienced significant development.³⁰ It is believed that more efforts will be devoted to exploring asymmetric Csp3-Csp3 coupling reactions by introducing chiral ligands into the catalytic system; (b) the mechanisms of some specific related reactions will be further clarified. Some new mechanisms will also emerge and become increasingly clear; (c) the formation method of C-centered sp³ hybridized radicals that can participate in Csp³-Csp³ crosscoupling reactions will be further expanded; (d) more classic conventional coupling reactions may be extended and also participate in the photo-nickel synergistic catalytic system to enable the formation of Csp³-Csp³ structures; (e) site-selective Csp³ alkylation via Csp³-Csp³ cross-coupling reactions of dual photoredox/Ni-catalysis is another important direction and requires future development. We believe that the challenges in this area will eventually be overcome and more efficient, green, and gentle methods will be developed. (f) More types of light sources (such as red and green light) may be used in Csp³-Csp³ cross-coupling reactions in the near future.

Author contributions

Shi, M. directed the perspective and revised the manuscript. Huang, Q. Y. carried out the literature collection, organization, wrote the manuscript, drew the schemes and reviewed them.

Data availability

No primary research results, software or code have been included and no new data were generated or analysed as part of this review.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts to declare.

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