

This reactivity of heterocyclic α -C-H positions with organolanthanides raises the intriguing question of whether similar processes might be employed to activate other heterocyclic 2-position functionalities such as organometalloids. For example, trialkyltin groups might be catalytically transferred from the heterocyclic 2-position to generate valuable new organotin compounds. If α -C-SnR₃ activation using 2(trimethylstannyl)pyridine (1) as the substrate proceeded similarly, subsequent insertive chemistry at Cp*₂La(2-pyridyl) (3) would then produce Cp*₂La(2-(2-pyridyl)ethyl) complexes. Subsequent α -C-SnR₃/C-La σ -bond metathesis by a new molecule of 1 would then regenerate 3 and produce 2-[2(trimethylstannyl)ethyl]pyridine (4). In this study we explore the novel activation of 2-(Me₃Sn)arenes as an approach to accessing a variety of novel organotin species. It will be seen that ethylene undergoes insertion into the La-C bond of the Cp*₂La(2-pyridyl) (3) intermediate at 25 °C, followed by carbostannolysis, to catalytically generate 2-(2(trimethylstannyl)ethyl)pyridine (4). Furthermore, the organolanthanide alkyl Cp*₂LaCH(TMS)₂ (2a) and organolanthanide hydride (Cp*₂LaH)₂ (2b) both initiate the conversion of 2(trimethylstannyl)pyridine (1) with 1-hexyne to yield (E)-2butyl-1-(trimethylstannyl)-oct-1-en-3-yne ((E)-9). This transformation appears to be general for α -monosubstituted and α -disubstituted terminal alkynes.