Anion Phase-Transfer Catalysis Applied to the Direct Enantioselective Fluorinative Dearomatization of Phenols

Reporter: Zhang-Pei Chen

Checker : Ran-Ning Guo

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Toste, F. D. *et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2013**, *135*, 1268–1271.

Representative Asymmetric Activation Modes



Toste, F. D. et al. Nature Chem. 2012, 4, 603-614.

Anion Phase-Transfer Catalysis

Chiral Phosphoric Acid Catalysis



H-Bond

Electrophile latent until protonated

Limited to reactive nucleophiles

Chiral Anion Phase Transfer Catalysis



Ion Pair

Electrophile latent until solubilized

Nucleophile scope expanded?



Interaction of non-symmetrical phenol with catalyst may allow face-selective fluorinative dearomatization

Initial Findings – para-Fluorination



ortho-Fluorination

2,3-Disubstituted phenol



Absence of substitution at the 3-position



Scope of Fluorinative Phenols Dearomatization



Dimerization of Phenols Lacking 3-Substitution



Further Application

Retro-[4+2]/[4+2] derivatization of products



Asymmetric synthesis of Grandifloracin analogue 7



Catalytic dearomatization strategy



Gaunt, M. J. et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2008, 130, 404-405.



Entry	Cond.	R ¹	R ²	XH	Yield (%)	ee (%)
1	А	Н	Ме	ОН	56	74
2	А	Н	Н	OH	33	40
3	А	OMe	Me	OH	90	86
4	А	OBn	Me	OH	69	84
5	А	Н	Me	NHTs	54	76
6	В	Н	Me	NHTs	59	64
7	А	OMe	Me	NHTs	55	78
8	В	Mes	Me	NHCOMe	65	92
9	А	Н	Me	NHCO ₂ Bn	40	78
10	А	Н	Me	NHBoc	67	86
11	В	Н	Me	NHBoc	70	78

Gouverneur, V. et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2011, 50, 8105–8109.





Jiao, N. et al. Org. Lett. 2011. 13, 4498–4501.









81%

76%

66%





54%

62%



F



2

3

Fluorinative Dearomatization of Pyrazol Derivatives



21 examples, ee 87% to 98%, dr 9:1 to 99:1



Ma, J.-A. et al. Chem. Eur. J. 2012, 18, 14255 –14260.

Fluorinative Dearomatization of Pyrazol Derivatives



Fluorinative Dearomatization of Pyrazol Derivatives



Fluorinative Dearomatization of Isoxazol derivatives



Ma, J.-A. et al. J. Org. Chem. 2013, 78, 559-567.

1. Scope of aromatic compounds:

Phenol; Indole; Pyrazol; Isoxazol

2. Catalysts:

3. Fluorination reagents:



The rapid and controlled generation of complex, readily functionalizable threedimensional structures from simple planar starting materials is a highly attractive goal, as it allows fast access to diverse molecular architectures. Dearomatization of arenes is a powerful approach that has been proposed as a key component in putative biosynthetic pathways for a range of bioactive natural products, inspiring a range of elegant syntheses. A highly desirable factor in such constructions is the induction of asymmetry into the product, which has generally been achieved by three distinct chemical approaches: diastereoselective dearomatization of a substrate bearing an existing stereocenter; dearomatization followed by enantioselective desymmetrization of the prochiral intermediate; and finally, direct asymmetric dearomatization, which requires discrimination between the enantiotopic faces of the arene during the dearomatizing event. The last category represents a significant challenge, and to date, several elegant albeit noncatalytic metal- and hypervalent iodine-mediated approaches have been reported. To the best of our knowledge, only a handful of direct catalytic asymmetric arene dearomatization protocols exist (all but one being intramolecular), although the benefits are evident. Herein we report an intermolecular dearomatization that incorporates a quaternary fluorine stereocenter into the product, which is desirable because of the current interest in the effect of fluorine incorporation into pharmaceuticals but has been restricted by the limited number of general approaches to the asymmetric construction of such stereocenters.

In summary, we have demonstrated the broad generality of our chiral anion phase-transfer catalysis strategy by applying it to the asymmetric fluorinative dearomatization of phenols. Notably, it represents a rare application of chiral phosphoric acid catalysts to simple phenol nucleophiles by virtue of our chiral-anion PTC approach to activation of Selectfluor. The small but densely functionalized products incorporating an enantioenriched quaternary F-containing stereocenter represent valuable building blocks of potential interest in synthetic and medicinal chemistry. Their close relationship to well-studied *o*-quinols provides numerous avenues for elaboration as well as exciting opportunities for bioisosteric replacement of –OH with –F in the numerous natural products thought to be derived from *o*-quinols.