# **Literature Report**

Oxidative enantioselective  $\alpha$ -fluorination of aliphatic aldehydes enabled by *N*-hetero-cyclic carbene catalysis

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Wang, J. et al. Tsinghua University Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2015, 54, 656-659.

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# Introduction

2 Asymmetric NHC-catalyzed synthesis of  $\alpha$ -fluorocarboxylic acid

3 NHC-catalyzed asymmetric fluorination reaction



#### Introduction



Purser, S. et al. Chem. Soc. Rev. 2008, 37, 320-330.

#### Introduction



#### Introduction



*N*-heterocyclic carbene catalyzed asymmetric hydration: direct synthesis of  $\alpha$ -protio and  $\alpha$ -deuterio  $\alpha$ -chloro and  $\alpha$ -fluoro carboxylic acids



Rovis, T. et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2010, 132, 2860–2861.

#### **Hemiaminal Formation**



#### Scope of $\alpha$ -fluoro carboxylic acids



#### $\alpha$ -Deuteron in an asymmetric fashion using D<sub>2</sub>O



# Asymmetric NHC-catalyzed synthesis of $\alpha$ -fluoroamides from readily accessible $\alpha$ -fluoroenals



Rovis, T. et al. Chem. Sci. 2013, 4, 1674-1679.

#### Scope of $\alpha$ -fluoroamides



#### Transformations of $\alpha$ -fluoroamides



96% ee





#### Enantioselective synthesis of $\beta$ , $\gamma$ -unsaturated $\alpha$ -fluoroesters catalyzed by *N*-heterocyclic carbenes



#### Challenges:

- Regioselectivity ( $\alpha$  versus  $\gamma$ )
- Mono-versus difluorination (enolizable product)
- Fluorination versus protonation

- Stereocontrol (small F atom)
- Product racemization (basic conditions)

Sun, J. et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2012, 51, 10359-10363.



Ph OCO <sub>2</sub> Me	H Fluorir solv	catalyst (20 mol Base (2.0 equiv ) ne source (1.05 e ent (0.1 M), rt, 24	%) equiv) 4 h	OMe +	Ph	OMe + Ph	OMe 4
Entry	Precat.	Base	Fluorine source	Solvent	Yield of <b>2</b> (%)	Ee of <b>2</b> (%)	2:3:4
1	Α	NaOAc	F-TEDA	DCM	22	5	53:36:11
2	В	NaOAc	F-TEDA	DCM	32	75	66:27:7
3	С	NaOAc	F-TEDA	DCM	48	12	87:10:3
4	D	NaOAc	F-TEDA	DCM	n.r.	-	-
5	Е	NaOAc	F-TEDA	DCM	n.r.	-	-
6	В	NaOAc	F-Py	DCM	0	-	-
7	В	NaOAc	NFSI	DCM	20	94	67:33:0

8	В	NaOAc	NFSI	THF	<10	-	21:76:3
9	В	NaOAc	NFSI	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	0	-	0:100:0
10	В	NaOAc	NFSI	CHCI <sub>3</sub>	55	92	82:18:0
11	В	NaOAc	NFSI	Benzene	26	91	61:39:0
12	В	DBU	NFSI	CHCI <sub>3</sub>	0	-	0:100:0
13	В	HCO <sub>2</sub> Na	NFSI	CHCI <sub>3</sub>	n.r.	-	-
14	В	K <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub>	NFSI	CHCI <sub>3</sub>	0	■ 38-38-38-18-18-38-38-38-18-38-38-18-38-38-38-38-38-38-38-38-38-38-38-38-38	0:100:0
15	В	-	NFSI	CHCI <sub>3</sub>	n.r.	-	-
16 <sup>a</sup>	В	NaOAc	NFSI	CHCI <sub>3</sub>	82	92	>98:1:1
17 <sup>a,b</sup>	В	NaOAc	NFSI	CHCI <sub>3</sub>	91	92	>98:1:1



#### Scope of $\alpha$ -fluoroesters



#### Scope of $\alpha$ -fluoroesters



#### Scope of $\alpha$ -fluoroesters



#### Transformations of $\alpha$ -fluorinated esters



#### **Postulated mechanism**



# Oxidative enantioselective α-fluorination of aliphatic aldehydes enabled by *N*-heterocyclic carbene catalysis



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#### **Optimization of the conditions**



## **Optimization of the conditions**

Entry	NHC	Base	Solvent	"F" reagent	<b>3aa</b> Yield (%)	<b>3aa</b> Ee (%)	<b>4</b> Yield (%)	5
1	Α	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	toluene	G6	n.r.	-	-	trace
2	В	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	toluene	G6	66	74	10	trace
3	С	$K_2CO_3$	toluene	G6	84	92	<5	trace
4	D	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	toluene	G6	86	92	<5	trace
5	Е	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	toluene	G6	<5	-	12	trace
6	F	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	toluene	G6	-	-	20	trace
7	D	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	DCM	G6	56	93	<10	trace
8	D	$K_2CO_3$	THF	G6	46	86	<10	trace
9	D	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	dioxane	G6	72	94	<5	trace

## **Optimization of the conditions**

Entry	Base	"F" reagent	<b>3aa</b> Yield (%)	<b>3aa</b> Ee (%)	<b>4</b> Yield (%)	5		
10	PhCO <sub>2</sub> Na	G6	50	92	<5	trace		
11	K <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub>	G6	77	94	<5	trace		
12	NaOAc	G6	78	96	<5	trace		
13 <sup>a</sup>	NaOAc	G6	84	96	<5	trace		
14	NaOAc	G1	n.r.	-	-	-		
15	NaOAc	G2	n.r.	-	-	-		
16	NaOAc	G3	n.r.	-	-	-		
17	NaOAc	G4	<5	-	-	-		
18	NaOAc	G5	31	83	-	-		
[a] NaOAc (4.0 equiv)								

#### Scope with respect to the alcohol



#### Scope with respect to the aldehyde



#### Scope with respect to the aldehyde



#### Transformations of $\alpha$ -fluorinated esters



#### **Postulated mechanism**



# **Summary**

Rovis's work



Sun and Wang's work



Organofluorine compounds display a wide range of distinct physical properties which often render them valuable to the pharmaceutical companies and agrochemical industries. In particular, fluorine atom incorporation has become an effective tool for medicinal chemists to alter the bioactivity of drug candidates. Despite the broad-spectrum utility of such C-F bond containing compounds, it is remarkable to consider that only a few catalytic methods exist for the asymmetric installation of fluorine onto carbogenic frameworks and that most of these methods have focused on the generation of non-enolizable products such as  $\alpha$ -alkyl- $\beta$ -ketoesters. Given that chiral  $\alpha$ -fluoro carbonyl compounds have been identified as highvalue synthons for chemical synthesis, great progress has been made by employing chiral metal complexes for electrophilic fluorination of activated Ketones, nucleophilic fluorination of ketenes, and using nucleophilic fluorine sources for enantioselective allylic fluorination. Enamine catalysis has furnished a number of protocols for highly enantioselective  $\alpha$ -fluorination of aldehydes and ketones. Cinchona alkaloids have been effective for fluorination of carbon nucleophiles and in a dual catalysis mechanism to enable the fluorination of acyl chlorides. Recently, a combination of chiralanion phase-transfer catalysis and enamine catalysis has been reported to

generate  $\alpha$ -branched  $\alpha$ -fluoroketones. Surprisingly, despite the availability of a variety of N-heterocyclic carbene (NHC) catalysts. In contrast to the NHC-catalyzed  $\alpha$ -C-C bond formation reaction the disclosures of enantioselective  $\alpha$ -fluorination of simple aliphatic aldehydes catalyzed by chiral NHC catalysts has not yet been reported. Herein, we report the first example of oxidative enantioselective  $\alpha$ -fluorination of simple aliphatic aldehydes catalyzed by an NHC catalyst. It is noteworthy that NFSI is disclosed not only as an electrophilic fluorinating resource but also as an oxidant in asymmetric organocatalysis.

In summary, the first study of an NHC-catalyzed oxidative enantioselective  $\alpha$ -fluorination of simple aliphatic aldehydes using NFSI, which plays two roles, is presented. In the presence of an appropriate combination of a NHC precatalyst, a base, an oxidant (NFSI), and a "F" resource (NFSI), the C-F bond formation occurs directly at the a position of simple aliphatic aldehydes and proceeds with high to excellent enantioselectivities.



96% ee, 90% yield