## Palladium/Chiral Amine Co-catalyzed Enantioselective $\beta$ Arylation of $\alpha, \beta$-Unsaturated Aldehydes

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## The proposal of this issue



Enantioenriched chiral 3,3-diaryl-substituted aldehydes are valuable chiral building blocks for the preparation of numerous natural products and pharmaceuticals.

sertraline

tolterodine


In 2007, it was the most prescribed antidepressant on the U.S. retail market, with 29,652,000 prescriptions.

Tolterodine is an antimuscarinic drug that is used to treat urinary incontinence.

## Some advances in this field

Amine-catalyzed addition of aromatic nucleophiles to enals


25 examples; 66~97\% yield; 84~99\% ee
N. Paras, D. W. C. MacMillan, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2002, 124, 7894.

S. Lee, D. W. C. MacMillan, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2007, 129, 15438.

- This approach is restricted to electron-rich aromatic nucleophiles
$\checkmark$ The low reactivity of electron-poor aromatic nucleophiles leads to no conjugate addition products


## Metal catalyzed enantioselective conjugate addition (ECA)



11 examples; 63~90\% yield; 89~93\% ee
J.-F. Paquin, C. Defieber, C. R. J. Stephenson, E. M. Carreira, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2005, 127, 10850.


18 examples; 29~89\% yield; 88~94\% ee
T. Nishikata, Y. Yamamoto, N. Miyaura, Tetrahedron Lett. 2007, 48, 4007.


1,4-Addition versus 1,2-Addition
M. Ueda, N. Miyaura, J. Org. Chem. 2000, 65, 4450.

There are very few examples of catalytic asymmetric conjugate additions of aryl boronic acids to 3 -alkyl-substituted enals.
This is due to the high reactivity of aldehydes, which can undergo competitive 1,2 addition either to the starting enal (regioselectivity) or to the product (enal vs. product, chemoselectivity).

## The idea of the author




Merging of iminium activation with transition-metal-catalyzed nucleophilic activation.

## Conditions screening



| Entry | Cat. | Metal salt | Base | Solvent | $t$ | Conv. [\%] | Ratio $3 a / 3 a^{\prime}$ | e.r. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 4a | $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{OAc})_{2}$ | - | Tol. | 8 | 10 | n.d. | n.d. |
| 2 | 4a | $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{OAc})_{2}$ | $\mathrm{Cs}_{2} \mathrm{CO}_{3}$ | Tol. | 2 | 98 | >99:1 | 87:13 |
| 3 | 4a | $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{OAc})_{2}$ | $\mathrm{Cs}_{2} \mathrm{CO}_{3}$ | DMF | 6 | <2 | n.d. | n.d. |
| 4 | 4a | $\mathrm{Ni}\left(\mathrm{PPh}_{3}\right)_{4}$ | $\mathrm{Cs}_{2} \mathrm{CO}_{3}$ | Tol. | 8 | <2 | n.d. | n.d. |
| 5 | 4a | $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{OTf})_{2}$ | $\mathrm{Cs}_{2} \mathrm{CO}_{3}$ | Tol. | 8 | $<2$ | n.d. | n.d. |
| 6 | 4b | $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{OAc})_{2}$ | $\mathrm{Cs}_{2} \mathrm{CO}_{3}$ | Tol. | 3 | 98 | >99:1 | 87:13 |
| 7 | 4c | $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{OAc})_{2}$ | $\mathrm{Cs}_{2} \mathrm{CO}_{3}$ | Tol. | 8 | <2 | n.d. | n.d. |
| 8 | 4a | $\mathrm{Pd}\left(\mathrm{PPh}_{3}\right)_{4}$ | $\mathrm{Cs}_{2} \mathrm{CO}_{3}$ | Tol. | 8 | 30 | 0:100 | n.d. |

## Substances scope

|  | $\mathrm{Ar}-\mathrm{B}(\mathrm{OH})_{2}$ |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Entry | 1, Ar | 2, R | Product | yield[\%] | e.r. |
| 1 | 1a, Ph | 2a, $n-\mathrm{Pr}$ | 3a | 79 | 87:13 |
| 2 | 1b, $4-\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}$ | 2a, $n-\mathrm{Pr}$ | 3b | 80 | 86:14 |
| 3 | 1c, $4-\mathrm{CF}_{3} \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}$ | 2a, $n-\mathrm{Pr}$ | 3c | 81 | 87:13 |
| 4 | 1d, $4-\mathrm{ClC}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}$ | 2c, Et | 3 g | 78 | 87:13 |
| $5^{[a]}$ | 1d, 4- $\mathrm{ClC}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}$ | 2d, Me | 3h | 80 | 83:17 |
| $6\left[^{[b]}\right.$ | 1c, $4-\mathrm{CF}_{3} \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}$ | 2e, Ph | 3j | 79 | 93:7 |
| $7{ }^{[b]}$ | 1d, $4-\mathrm{ClC}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}$ | 2e, Ph | 3k | 81 | 93:7 |
| $8{ }^{[c]}$ | 1a, Ph | 2f, 4-MeOC ${ }_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}$ | 3m | 75 | 92:8 |
| $9{ }^{[d]}$ | 1a, Ph | 2g, 4- $\mathrm{ClC}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}$ | 3 n | 76 | 95:5 |
| $10^{[e]}$ | 1a, Ph | 2i, 2- $\mathrm{BnOC}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}$ | 3p | 70 | 90:10 |
| $11^{[\mathrm{e}]}$ | 1d, 4- $\mathrm{ClC}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}$ | 2i, 2- $\mathrm{BnOC}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}$ | 3 q | 71 | 91:9 |

Under $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ atmosphere, 1 ( 1.5 equiv), $\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{OAc})_{2}(5 \mathrm{~mol} \%)$, $\mathbf{4 a}$ ( $20 \mathrm{~mol} \%$ ), $\mathrm{Cs}_{2} \mathrm{CO}_{3}(25 \mathrm{~mol} \%$ ), MeOH ( 5.0 equiv), and 2 ( 1 equiv) in toluene at $22{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Final concentration 0.20 M . [a] 1 ( 1.0 equiv), enal 2d (2 equiv). [b] Reaction time was 3 h . [d] Reaction time was 6 h. Reaction time was 6 h . [e] Reaction time was 3 h and temperature $50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. No 1,2 addition products ( $3^{\prime}$ or $3^{\prime \prime}$ ) were observed.

## Representative Valuable Conversions of the Products





## Proposed catalytic cycle




T. Nishikata, Y. Yamamoto, N. Miyaura, Organometallics 2004, 23, 4317.


## Organic and Metal synergistic catalysis


I. Ibrahem, P. Breistein, A. Córdova, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2011, 50, 12036.


## Summary

Amine-catalyzed addition of aromatic nucleophiles to enals



Metal catalyzed enantioselective conjugate addition (ECA)



Iminium activation with transition-metal-catalyzed nucleophilic activation
$\mathrm{Pd}(\mathrm{OAc})_{2}+$


Enantioenriched chiral 3,3-diaryl-substituted aldehydes are valuable chiral building blocks for the preparation of numerous natural products and pharmaceuticals (e.g. 4-arylchroman-2-ones, sertraline, and tolterodine). However, asymmetric synthesis of these aldehydes is cumbersome and challenging, because little distinguishes the two arenes sterically or electronically, in particular, when the aryl moiety is substituted at the para position. One catalytic way to synthesize nonracemic 3,3-diarylpropanals and 3-alkyl-3-arylpropanals is the amine-catalyzed addition of aromatic nucleophiles to enals. However, this approach is restricted to electron-rich aromatic nucleophiles. In fact, the low reactivity of electron-poor aromatic nucleophiles leads to no conjugate addition products.

In summary, we have disclosed a co-catalyzed $\beta$-arylation of $\alpha, \beta$ unsaturated aldehydes with aryl boronic acids by combining simple Pd and chiral amine catalysts. The reactions are highly 1,4 -selective and the corresponding aldehyde products were obtained in high yields with good enantiomeric ratios (up to 95:5 e.r.). The co-catalyzed asymmetric $\beta$-arylation reaction allowed the use of both $\beta$-alkyl- and $\beta$-arylsubstituted aldehydes as acceptors. The reaction was employed for the short total syntheses of $(R)$-(-)-curcumene and ( $R$ )-4-phenylchroman-2one. It should also serve as an efficient entry for diversity-oriented synthesis. Results in this area and other total synthesis will be disclosed in due course.

