# Highly Enantioselective, Intermolecular Hydroamination of Allenyl Esters Catalyzed by Bifunctional Phosphinothioureas

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Jacobsen, E. N. *et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2014**, *136*, 17968.



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(Aza)-MBH Reaction Catalyzed by Phosphinothioureas

[3+2] Annulation Catalyzed by Phosphinothioureas

Intermolecular Hydroamination Catalyzed by Phosphinothioureas

Mannich-Type Reactions Catalyzed by Phosphinothioureas



Lewis Base Organocatalysts



Unique Properities of Phosphine:

- weaker basicity and stronger nuclephilicity
- generation of ylide-type intermediate

#### **Divergent Pathway of Phosphine- and Amine-Catalyzed Process**



Miller, S. J. et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2003, 125, 12394.

#### **Selected Examples of Phosphine-Promoted Reactions**



Lu, Y. et al. Synlett 2011, 2766.



#### **Design of Amino Acid Chiral Phosphine**



#### (Aza)-Morita-Baylis-Hillman Reaction





#### (Aza)-Morita-Baylis-Hillman Reaction



Shi, M. et al. Adv. Synth. Catal. 2007, 349, 2129.





Lu, Y. et al. Org. Biomol. Chem. 2011, 9, 6734.

## (Aza)-Morita-Baylis-Hillman Reaction



Lu, Y. et al. Org. Biomol. Chem. 2011, 9, 6734.

#### **Imine-Allene [3+2] Cycloaddition**



Jacobsen, E. N. et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2008, 130, 5660.

## **Imine-Allene [3+2] Cycloaddition**



<sup>*a*</sup> Reaction run with the addition of MS. <sup>*b*</sup> Complex mixture, < 20% yield. <sup>*c*</sup> 70% yield. <sup>*d*</sup> 76% yield.

#### **Imine-Allene** [3+2] Cycloaddition



Jacobsen, E. N. et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2008, 130, 5660.

## [3+2] Annulation of MBH Adduct



Lu, Y. et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2011, 50, 7837.



Jacobsen, E. N. et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2014, 136, 17968.



<sup>*a*</sup> In all cases the γ-adduct was the only detectable product (γ/α >100:1), 10 mol% Cat. <sup>*b*</sup> Conversion. <sup>*c*</sup> γ/α = 50:1. <sup>*d*</sup> γ/α = 20:1. <sup>*e*</sup> 1 mol% Cat. <sup>*f*</sup> 2 mol% Cat.



Jacobsen, E. N. et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2014, 136, 17968.



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Zhao, G. et al. Chem. Commun. 2013, 49, 5972.



<sup>a</sup> 5 mol% catalyst. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yield

Zhao, G. et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2014, ASAP.



Zhao, G. et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2014, ASAP.



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# Summary



# Summary



Small, polyfunctional molecules capable of cooperative activation and precise positioning of reacting partners hold tremendous potential in selective catalysis. Recently, we reported the development of a family of catalysts that promote imine-allene phosphinothiourea [3+2] cycloadditions via nucleophilic activation of the allene by the phosphine with simultaneous imine activation by hydrogen bonding to the thiourea (Scheme 1A). We were intrigued by the potential of a complementary reactivity mode with the same family of catalysts, wherein the H-bond donor would promote formation of a reactive nucleophile by anion binding, while the phosphine component could induce generation of an activated vinyl phosphonium electrophile (Scheme 1B).

We report here the successful development of this strategy, with the application of this new type of cooperative activation to the highly regio- and enantioselective  $\gamma$ -hydroamination of allenyl and propargyl esters. This methodology provides practical access to synthetically valuable  $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated  $\gamma$ -amino esters in highly enantioenriched form. The utility of chiral phosphinothioureas has thus been extended into a new, anion-binding manifold with the highly enantioselective  $\gamma$ -hydroamination of allenyl esters. Further studies into the reactivity and selectivity of these versatile polyfunctional catalysts are ongoing.