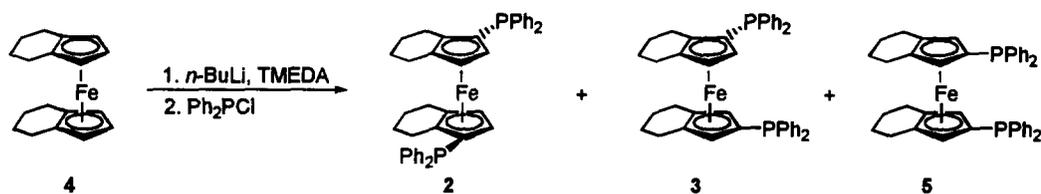


diphosphine **5** among other non-identified compounds. This means that double lithiation occurs mainly at the 1,1'-, 1,2'- and 2,2'-positions.



Upon cooling a hexane solution of the crude product to -30°C , a precipitate composed solely of **2** and **3** was obtained in 35% yield. Recrystallization from THF/pentane afforded analytically pure **3** (17% overall yield). Removal of the solvent from the mother liquor and recrystallization from diethyl ether/pentane afforded analytically pure **2** (3% yield). Optimization was not strived for at this stage. Antipode separation of rac-**2** was achieved by chiral HPLC (Chiralcel[®] OD-H column) and of rac-**3** using the corresponding BH_3 adduct. Typical data for enantiomerically pure (-)-**2** (orange crystals; mp 171°C ; ^{31}P NMR (CD_2Cl_2): $\delta = -23.9$ ppm; $[\alpha]^{20}(589 \text{ nm}) = -603 \pm 10^\circ$ (c 1.02, CD_2Cl_2) and for (-)-**3** (orange crystals, mp 190°C ; ^{31}P NMR (CD_2Cl_2): $\delta = -20.3$ ppm (d, $^1J_{\text{PP}} = 3.8$ Hz, P') and -25.0 ppm (d, $^1J_{\text{PP}} = 3.8$ Hz, P); $[\alpha]^{20}(589 \text{ nm}) = -268 \pm 10^\circ$ (c 0.92, CD_2Cl_2)).

Whereas the preparation of Rh-complexes by the reaction of **2** and **3** with $\text{Rh}(\text{COD})_2\text{BF}_4$ posed no problems, these did not crystallize in suitable form for X-ray analyses. However, the octahedral molybdenum complexes rac-**2**/ $\text{Mo}(\text{CO})_4$ and rac-**3**/ $\text{Mo}(\text{CO})_4$, prepared in 80% and 61% yield by reacting the corresponding ligands with $\text{Mo}(\text{CO})_4(\text{norbornadiene})$, were so characterized (Fig. 1, left and center).² The results clearly prove the C_2 - and C_1 -symmetry of the ligands **2** and **3** and also define the chiral environments around the respective metal centers. Upon reacting **3** with $[\text{Ir}(\text{COD})(\text{pyr})_2]\text{PF}_6$ [**23**], the complex **3**/ $\text{Ir}(\text{COD})\text{PF}_6$ was obtained in 75% yield, crystals of which were subjected to an X-ray structure analysis (Fig. 1, right).³

² X-ray analysis of rac-**2**/ $\text{Mo}(\text{CO})_4$: $\text{C}_{46}\text{H}_{40}\text{FeMoO}_4\text{P}_2$, $M_r = 870.51 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$, orange-brown prism, crystal size $0.35 \times 0.46 \times 0.60 \text{ mm}$, monoclinic, $C2/c$ [No. 15], $a = 18.288(2)$, $b = 11.198(1)$, $c = 19.924(1) \text{ \AA}$, $\beta = 100.00(1)^\circ$, $V = 4018.4(7) \text{ \AA}^3$, $T = 293 \text{ K}$, $Z = 4$, $d_{\text{calc}} = 1.44 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$, $\mu = 0.80 \text{ mm}^{-1}$, Enraf-Nonius CAD4 diffractometer, $\lambda = 0.71069 \text{ \AA}$, ω - 2θ -scan, 4585 independent reflections, 3758 with $I > 2\sigma(I)$, $\theta_{\text{max}} = 27.5^\circ$, spherical absorption correction ($T_{\text{min}} 0.7563$, $T_{\text{max}} 0.7581$), direct methods, least-squares refinement (on F_o^2 , SHELX-97, Sheldrick, G. M., University of Göttingen, 1997), H riding, disorder (70:30) in tetrahydroindenyl group, 244 refined parameters, $R_1 = 0.036$ (obs. data), $wR_2 = 0.098$ (Chebyshev weights), final shift/error 0.001, residual electron density $+0.664 \text{ e\AA}^{-3}$. CCDC 116047.

X-ray analysis of rac-**3**/ $\text{Mo}(\text{CO})_4$: $\text{C}_{46}\text{H}_{40}\text{FeMoO}_4\text{P}_2 \cdot \text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$, $M_r = 957.44 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$, yellow plate, crystal size $0.18 \times 0.28 \times 0.56 \text{ mm}$, monoclinic, $P2_1/n$ [No. 14], $a = 10.277(1)$, $b = 23.835(1)$, $c = 18.097(1) \text{ \AA}$, $\beta = 101.75(1)^\circ$, $V = 4340.0(4) \text{ \AA}^3$, $T = 293 \text{ K}$, $Z = 4$, $d_{\text{calc}} = 1.47 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$, $\mu = 0.86 \text{ mm}^{-1}$, data collection as above, 8805 independent reflections, 5003 with $I > 2\sigma(I)$, $\theta_{\text{max}} = 26.3^\circ$, analytical absorption correction ($T_{\text{min}} 0.6644$, $T_{\text{max}} 0.8631$), solution and refinement as above, H riding, disorder (50:50) in tetrahydroindenyl groups, 510 refined parameters, $R_1 = 0.062$ (obs. data), $wR_2 = 0.238$ (Chebyshev weights), final shift/error 0.001, residual electron density $+1.081 \text{ e\AA}^{-3}$. Atomic coordinates and s.u.'s have been deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, CCDC 116048.

³ X-ray analysis of [rac-**3**/ $\text{Ir}(\text{COD})$] $^+[\text{PF}_6]^-$: $[\text{C}_{50}\text{H}_{52}\text{FeIrP}_2]^{+}[\text{PF}_6]^{-}$, $M_r = 1107.88 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$, red cube, crystal size $0.38 \times 0.40 \times 0.40 \text{ mm}$, triclinic, $P\bar{1}$ [No. 2], $a = 10.5989(2)$, $b = 14.4616(3)$, $c = 15.3179(3) \text{ \AA}$, $\alpha = 86.287(1)$, $\beta = 72.675(1)$, $\gamma = 78.715(1)^\circ$, $V = 2198.0(1) \text{ \AA}^3$, $T = 100 \text{ K}$, $Z = 2$, $d_{\text{calc}} = 1.67 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$, $\mu = 3.53 \text{ mm}^{-1}$, Siemens SMART CCD diffractometer, $\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$, ω -scan, 14880 independent reflections, 13986 with $I > 2\sigma(I)$, $\theta_{\text{max}} = 34.13^\circ$, spherical absorption correction ($T_{\text{min}} 0.1520$, $T_{\text{max}} 0.1843$), solution and refinement as above, H riding, 550 refined parameters, $R_1 = 0.045$ (obs. data), $wR_2 = 0.118$ (Chebyshev weights), final shift/error 0.001, residual electron density $+4.924 \text{ e\AA}^{-3}$ (0.79 \AA from Ir). CCDC 116049.

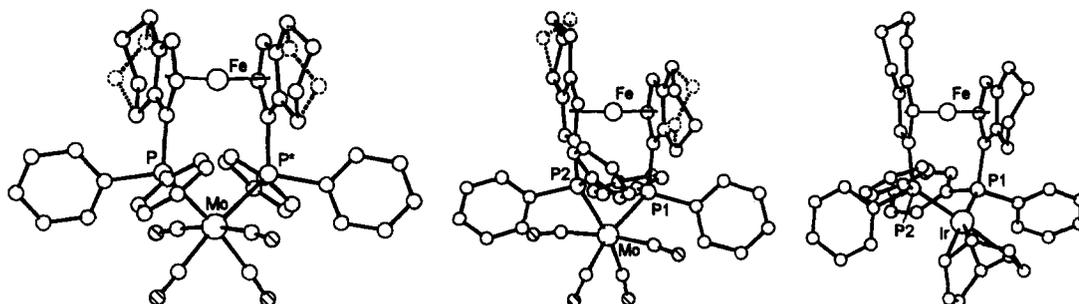
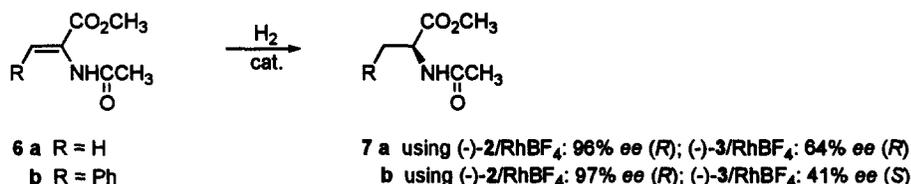
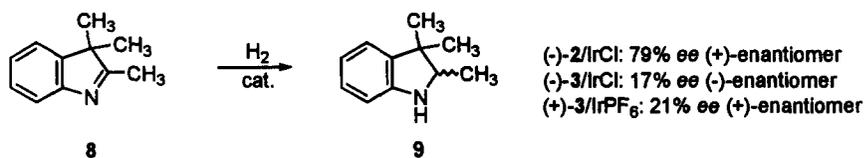


Figure 1 Crystal structures of *rac*-2/ $\text{Mo}(\text{CO})_4$ (left, P-Mo-P* 99.31(3) $^\circ$, torsion angle P-Cp-Cp'-P* 22(1) $^\circ$, where Cp is the centroid of Cp ring), *rac*-3/ $\text{Mo}(\text{CO})_4$ (center, P1-Mo-P2 98.19(6) $^\circ$, tors. P1-Cp-Cp'-P2 42(1) $^\circ$) and [*rac*-3/ $\text{Ir}(\text{COD})$] $^+$ cation (right, P1-Ir-P2 95.33(3) $^\circ$, tors. P1-Cp-Cp'-P2 32(1) $^\circ$).

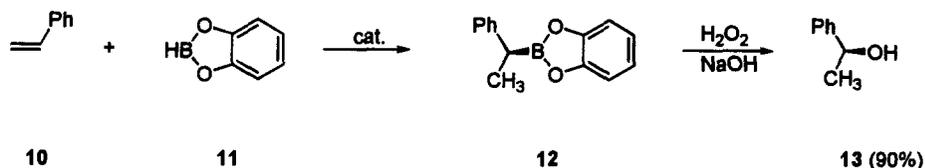
In order to test the new ligands in catalysis, they were treated with $\text{Rh}(\text{COD})_2\text{BF}_4$ and the respective Rh-complexes used *in situ* as catalysts (0.1 mol-%) in the hydrogenation of olefins **6a-b** (22 $^\circ\text{C}$ /1 bar H_2 /24 h in CH_2Cl_2). In most cases > 95% conversion was achieved under these conditions, with the exception of the hydrogenation of **6b** using catalyst (-)-**3**/ RhBF_4 (only 40% conversion which results in a switch in absolute configuration of product **7b**). The results show that the C_2 -symmetric ligand **2** is much more stereoselective than the C_1 -symmetric analog **3**:



The superiority of **2** relative to **3** was also observed in the hydrogenation of imine **8**, mediated by the catalysts (1 mol-%) prepared by treating the ligands with $[\text{Ir}(\text{COD})\text{Cl}]_2$, conversion to **9** being 86-95% (22 $^\circ\text{C}$ /65 bar H_2 /18 h in CH_2Cl_2). The absolute configuration of **9** has not been determined to date [23].



Finally, the Rh-catalysts (0.75 mol-%) used in the hydrogenation of olefins **6** were also tested in the Rh-catalyzed hydroboration of styrene (**10**), with formation of *S*-2-phenylethanol (**13**) following oxidative workup. Surprisingly, in this case the C_1 -symmetric ligand (-)-**3** turned out to be superior. Thus, in toluene at -50 $^\circ\text{C}$ (12 h), *ee*-values of 52% and 77% were observed upon using ligands (-)-**2** and (-)-**3**, respectively, regioselectivity in favor of the branched products being > 99%. In 1,2-dimethoxyethane as solvent (-60 $^\circ\text{C}$ /12 h), ligand (-)-**3** led to an *ee*-value of 84% in favor of *S*-**13**. Other ligands have been used with varying degrees success [24-27].



In summary, the first members of a new class of chiral ferrocene-based diphosphines have been prepared, characterized and tested as ligands in various asymmetric catalytic reactions. Studies are currently under way to establish the factors which determine the direction and extent of asymmetric induction.

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