Enantioselective 1,4-Addition of Unmodified Ketone Catalyzed by a Bimetallic Zn–Zn-Linked–BINOL Complex

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ABSTRACT



1,4-Addition (Michael addition) of 2-hydroxy-2'-methoxyacetophenone (2) to various $\alpha_{,\beta}$ -unsaturated ketones was efficiently promoted by a bimetallic Zn–Zn-linked–BINOL complex 3 with good yield (up to 90%) and excellent enantiomeric excess (up to 99% ee). The resulting 2-hydroxy-1,5-diketones were successfully converted to synthetically more versatile esters and amides.

The catalytic asymmetric carbon–carbon bond formation is a major focus of modern synthetic organic chemistry.¹ Moreover, the increasing demand for efficient and environmentally benign processes requires the development of atom economic² asymmetric catalysis in which enantiomerically enriched compounds are produced using unmodified substrates. Toward this end, we³ and others^{4,5} successfully demonstrated *direct* catalytic asymmetric aldol reactions that utilize unmodified ketones as donors. In contrast to these promising results⁶ with aldol reactions, however, *direct* catalytic asymmetric 1,4-addition reactions of unmodified ketones are very rare⁷ despite their importance in synthetic organic chemistry in providing 1,5-dicarbonyl chiral building blocks.^{8,9} Thus, development of the direct catalytic asym-

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metric 1,4-addition reaction of unmodified ketones, which has high reactivity and selectivity, is in high demand. Herein, we report the enantioselective 1,4-addition of unmodified hydroxyketone **2** catalyzed by a bimetallic Zn–Zn-linked– BINOL complex **3** (Scheme 1).^{3f,3g,10,11} The reaction provides

Scheme 1. 1,4-Addition of Unmodified Hydroxyketone **2** to Enones Catalyzed by (S,S)-Zn–Zn-linked-BINOL Complex **1**



direct access to optically active 2-hydroxy-1,5-diketones in a highly enantioselective manner (91–99% ee). The usefulness of the products was further exemplified by facile transformations into synthetically versatile esters and amides by regioselective rearrangements.

In our continuing investigations of the direct catalytic asymmetric aldol reaction, the dinuclear Zn–Zn-linked– BINOL complex **3** was determined to be very effective for shielding one enantioface of enolate generated from 2-hy-

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(11) For other chiral bimetallic Zn catalysts, see refs 4b, 4e, 4i and references therein.

droxy-2'-methoxyacetophenone (2),¹² affording a practical method to provide *syn*-1,2-dihydroxyketones through the aldol reaction of **2** with various aldehydes. Thus, we investigated the catalytic asymmetric 1,4-addition reaction using **3** as a catalyst and **2** as a donor. As shown in Table 1,





entry	ketone 2 (equiv)	catalyst (mol %)	temp. (°C)	time (h)	yield ^a (%)	ee ^b (%)
1	2	5	-20	8	90	94
2	1.1	5	-20	14	72	97
3	2	5	-30	14	87	98
4	2	5	4	3	87	91
5	2	5	rt	1	86	91
6	2	3	-20	14	90	96
7	2	1	-20	30	84	97
8	2	1	4	8	83	95

^a Isolated yield. ^bDetermined by chiral HPLC analysis.

5 mol % of **3** efficiently promoted the 1,4-addition of **2** to *p*-methoxyphenyl vinyl ketone **1a** at -20 °C to afford **4a** in 90% yield and 94% ee after 8 h (Table 1, entry 1). These promising results led us to further examine the effects of catalyst loading, changes in the reaction temperature, and various ketone equivalents (Table 1). By reducing the amount of ketone 2 from 2.0 equiv to 1.1 equiv (entry 2), the reaction rate and chemical yield decreased somewhat (14 h, 72% yield), while high enantiomeric excess was maintained (97% ee). Reaction temperature greatly affected the reaction rate. By decreasing the reaction temperature to -30 °C (entry 3), higher enantiomeric excess was obtained (98% ee), but a prolonged reaction time was necessary. At a higher temperature (entry 4: 4 °C and entry 5: rt), a drastic improvement in the reaction rate was observed. The reaction reached completion after 3 h (entry 4) and 1 h (entry 5), respectively, while maintaining a high enantiomeric excess (91% ee). Good yield and excellent enantiomeric excess were obtained even when the catalyst loading was decreased from 5 mol % to either 3 or 1 mol % (entries 6 and 7, respectively) The reaction rate dropped significantly, however, at -20 °C. Finally, as shown in entry 8, the reaction was completed within 8 h to afford 4a in 83% yield and 95% ee with as little as 1 mol % catalyst at 4 °C.

^{(7) (}a) Zhang, F.-Y.; Corey, E. J. Org. Lett. **2000**, *2*, 1097. (b) Betancort, J. M.; Sakthivel, K.; Thayumanavan, R.; Barbas, C. F., III. Tetrahedron Lett. **2001**, *42*, 4441. (c) List, B.; Pojarliev, P.; Martin, H. J. Org. Lett. **2001**, *3*, 2423. Unmodified aldehyde as a donor: (d) Betancort, J. M.; Barbas, C. F., III. Org. Lett. **2001**, *3*, 3737.

⁽¹²⁾ **2** was prepared from commercially available 2'-methoxyacetophenone via α -hydroxylation with C₆H₅I(OAc)₂ and NaOH in CH₃OH. (a) Moriarty, R. M.; Hu, H.; Gupta, S. C. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1981**, 22, 1283. (b) Togo, H.; Abe, S.; Nogami, G.; Yokoyama, M. *Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn.* **1999**, 72, 2351.

The optimized reaction conditions were applicable to various vinyl ketones 1,¹³ which usually tend to polymerize under harsh reaction conditions (Table 2). Because of the

Table 2. 1,4-Addition of 2-Hydroxy-2'-methoxyacetophenone (2) to Various Vinyl Ketones 1^a



entry	R ¹	vinyl ketone	product	time (h)	yield ^b (%)	ee ^c (%)
1	<i>p</i> -MeOC ₆ H ₄	1a	4a	8	83	95
2	C_6H_5	1b	4b	4	86 ^d	93
3	o-MeOC ₆ H ₄	1c	4 c	12	90	94
4	p-ClC ₆ H ₄	1d	4d	12	84^d	92
5	CH ₃	1e	4e	4	86	93
6	CH ₃ CH ₂	1f	4f	4	82	91

^a Reactions were run on 1.0 mmol scale at 0.4 M in 1. ^bIsolated yield unless otherwise noted. ^cDetermined by chiral HPLC analysis. ^dDetermined by ¹H NMR analysis with hexamethyldisiloxane as an internal standard.

mild basicity of Zn-Zn-linked-BINOL complex 3, 1,4addition of 2 proceeded smoothly with only a small amount of polymerization. Aryl vinyl ketones with and without substituents on the aromatic ring were successfully converted to corresponding 1.4-adducts in good chemical yield (83-90%) and enantiomeric excess¹⁴ (92–95% ee) (entries 2–4). Alkyl vinyl ketones 1e and 1f also afforded the desired 1,4adducts in good yield and enantiomeric excess (entries 5, 6).

With indenone **5a**,¹⁵ good diastereomeric ratio (dr) and excellent enantiomeric excess were observed at 4 °C (Table 3, entry 1: 98% ee, dr = 95/5), although the chemical yield was modest due to polymerization. An excellent diastereomeric ratio was achieved, when the reaction was run at -20°C (entry 2: dr 98/2, 99% ee). With 3 mol % catalyst loading, the chemical yield was slightly improved (entry 3: 80% yield). The relative configuration of 6a was determined by X-ray crystallography.¹⁶ Indenones **5b** and **5c** also gave 1,4-adducts in excellent stereoselectivity at -20 °C (entry 5: dr = 98/2, 99% ee; entry 6: dr = 97/3, 97% ee).

(13) Beracierta, A. P.; Whiting, D. A. J. C. S. Perkin Trans. 1 1978, 1257

 Table 3.
 1,4-Addition of 2-Hydroxy-2'-methoxyacetophenone
 (2) to Indenones 5^{a}



entry X ¹ X	² enone	uct	(mol %)	(°C)	(h)	(%)	$\mathbf{d}\mathbf{r}^{c}$	(%)
1 H H	5a	6a	1	4	1.5	68	95/5	97
2 H H	5a	6a	1	-20	4	74	98/2	99
3 H H	5a	6a	3	-20	3	80	98/2	99
4 Br H	5b	6b	1	4	2	76	86/14	99
5 Br H	5b	6b	1	-20	4	74	98/2	99
6 H M	eO 5c	6c	1	-20	4	65	97/3	97

^a Reactions were run on 1 mmol scale (entry 1-3, 6) or on 0.5 mmol scale (entry 4, 5) at 0.25 M (entry 2, 3, 4, 6) or at 0.4 M (entry 1, 4) in 5. b Isolated yield. ^cDetermined by ¹H NMR analysis of crude mixture. ^dDetermined by chiral HPLC analysis.

The relative and absolute configurations of the 1,4adducts¹⁷ can be explained in a similar manner as those of the previous direct aldol reaction with $3^{3f,3g}$ The bimetallic Zn complex 3 functions as Brønsted base to generate a Znenolate from 2-hydroxy-2'-methoxyacetophenone (2). The formation of a chelate complex between the (S,S)-catalyst **3** and the enolate, including the participation of the 2'-methoxy group in a chelate formation (Figure 1),¹⁸ would result in an



Figure 1. Working model for transition state.

efficient shielding of the Si-face of the enolate. Considering the steric repulsion between the enolate and enones, the enones 1 and 5 seem to coordinate to the other Zn metal as

⁽¹⁴⁾ General procedure: To a stirred solution of (S,S)-linked-BINOL (0.01 mmol) in THF (0.3 mL) at -78 °C was added Et₂Zn (20 μ L, 0.02 mmol, 1.0 M in hexanes). The resulting mixture was stirred for 30 min at -20 °C, and a solution of 2 (2.0 mmol) in THF (2.0 mL) was added. After the mixture was warmed to 4 °C, 1a (1.0 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 8 h at 4 °C, followed by addition of saturated aqueous NH_4Cl . The mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (\times 3), and the combined organic layers were washed with brine and dried over Na₂SO₄. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was purified by flash silica gel column chromatography (hexane/acetone 6/1) (15) Hauser, F. M.; Zhou, M.; Sun, Y. Synth. Commun. 2001, 31, 77.

⁽¹⁶⁾ See Supporting Information.

in manner A and B, affording (*R*)-4 and (*R*,*S*)-6 respectively (Figure 1).

To demonstrate the utility of the 1,4-adducts as chiral building blocks, several transformations were performed via regioselective rearrangements. As shown in Scheme 2, the



^{*a*} (i) *O*-mesitylenesulfonylhydroxylamine, CH₂Cl₂, rt, 24 h.; (ii) DIBAL, CH₂Cl₂, -78 °C to room temperature, 2 h; (iii) *m*CPBA, NaH₂PO₄, ClCH₂CH₂Cl, 50 °C, 24 h.

Beckmann rearrangement of benzoate $7c^{19}$ with *O*-mesitylenesulfonylhydroxylamine (MSH)²⁰ gave 1,5-diamide **8c** in 80% yield. The subsequent DIBAL reduction of **8c** afforded **9c** in 81% yield. The *o*-methoxyphenyl group in **9c** acts as a protecting group for amine, which is removable by oxidative cleavage.²¹ On the other hand, Baeyer–Villiger oxidation of benzoate **7c** with *m*CPBA regioselectively gave 1,5-diester **10c** in 68% yield with the aid of electron-donating groups on the aromatic rings. As shown in Scheme 3, treatment of **6a** with MSH gave oxime mesitylenesulfonate **11a** in 92% yield as a 15/1 diastereomixture.²² **11a** was

(17) The absolute configurations of 4c and 6a were determined by Mosher's method. Those of others were temporarily determined by analogy.
(a) Dale, J. A.; Mosher, H. S. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1973, 95, 512.

(18) The chelate complex formation through the coordination of 2'-methoxy group was essential to achieve high ee in the direct aldol reaction of **2** and aldehydes. See ref 3h.

(19) The benzoate 7c was prepared by treating 4c with benzoyl chloride. See Supporting Information.

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(21) (a) Porter, J. R.; Traverse, J. F.; Hoveyda, A. H.; Snapper, M. C. J. Am. Chem. Soc. **2001**, *123*, 10409. (b) Porter, J. R.; Traverse, J. F.; Hoveyda, A. H.; Snapper, M. C. J. Am. Chem. Soc. **2001**, *123*, 984. (c) Ishitani, H.; Ueno, M.; Kobayashi, S. J. Am. Chem. Soc. **2000**, *122*, 8180 and references therein.

(22) Determined by ¹H NMR analysis of isolated product.



^{*a*} (i) *O*-Mesitylenesulfonylhydroxylamine, CH₃CN, rt, 1 h. (ii) AlCl₃, CH₂Cl₂, rt, 30 min.

unusually stable and treatment of **11a** either with basic alumina or with silica gel resulted only in recovery of **11a** even at an elevated temperature. Rearrangement of **11a** proceeded smoothly in the presence of $AlCl_3^{23}$ to give lactam **12a** in 79% yield. The optically active lactam **12a** should be useful for synthesizing various biologically interesting compounds.

In conclusion, we achieved a highly enantioselective 1,4addition reaction of unmodified hydroxyketone **2** to enones, which leads to optically active 2-hydroxy-1,5-diketones. It is noteworthy that the reaction was efficiently catalyzed by as little as 1 mol % of Zn–Zn-linked–BINOL complex **3**, affording the 1,4-adducts in good yield (up to 90%), excellent enantiomeric excess, and diastereomeric ratio (up to 99% ee, dr = 98/2). The 1,4-adducts were successfully converted to the synthetically more versatile ester and amide. Further investigation on the substrate scope, reaction mechanism, and catalyst structure is currently in progress.

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Supporting Information Available: Experimental procedures, characterization data for products 4, 6-10, 12 and the CIF file for **6a**. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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