## Enantioselective Organocatalytic Hydrophosphination of α,β-Unsaturated Aldehydes\*\*

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Chiral phosphines are highly valuable ligands for metalcatalyzed enantioselective transformations<sup>[1]</sup> and can be used as catalysts in organocatalytic reactions.<sup>[2]</sup> They are generally prepared by resolution—by employing stoichiometric amounts of chiral auxiliaries or enantiopure substrates.<sup>[3]</sup> Thus, there is an important need for the development of more efficient catalytic methods.<sup>[4]</sup> The asymmetric hydrophosphination (AHP)<sup>[5]</sup> of trivalent phosphine compounds with a P–H bond to electron-deficient olefins provides a direct route to useful chiral phosphine ligands containing different chemical functionalities. However, there are only a few catalytic asymmetric methods for this transformation;<sup>[6–8]</sup> for example, Togni and co-workers reported a highly enantioselective reaction catalyzed by a Lewis acid,<sup>[6]</sup> and, during

our initial studies, Melchiorre and coworkers reported an elegant AHP of nitrostyrenes catalyzed by a chiral organic base that proceeds with good enentioselectivity.<sup>[8]</sup>

Aminocatalysis has proven to be a powerful procedure<sup>[9]</sup>

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within the field of organocatalysis<sup>[10]</sup> for the enantioselective transformation of carbonyl compounds. In this context, iminium activation<sup>[11a]</sup> has been successfully demonstrated in Michael-type  $\beta$ -functionalizations for carbon-,<sup>[11]</sup> hydrido-,<sup>[12]</sup> sulfur-,<sup>[13]</sup> nitrogen-,<sup>[14]</sup> and oxygen nucleophiles.<sup>[15]</sup> On the basis of this research and the importance of developing AHP reactions, we envisioned a direct route to functionalized optically active  $\beta$ -formyl- and  $\gamma$ -hydroxyphosphines and derivatives thereof by amine-catalyzed stereoselective reactions between trivalent phosphine compounds and enals [Eq. (1), gray sphere = chiral group]. However, there are inherent difficulties in this type of transformation because of the reversibility of the nucleophilic attack and competition between 1,2- and 1,4-addition to the enal (Scheme 1).



Herein we present the highly chemo- and enantioselective organocatalytic  $\beta$ -hydrophosphination of  $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated aldehydes.



Scheme 1. Difficulties encountered when attempting AHP of enals.

After extensive screening of catalysts and different suitable phosphine sources for the AHP of cinnamic aldehyde (1a), we found that diphenylphosphine (2a) had the right properties to achieve product formation. Some of the results from the screening of the reaction conditions and catalysts for the enantioselective reaction of enal 1a and 2a in CHCl<sub>3</sub> are shown in Table 1.<sup>[16]</sup> The corresponding  $\beta$ -formylphosphine 3a was reduced in situ with NaBH<sub>4</sub> to the air-stable alcohol derative 4a to facilitate the purification process as well as to generate a more stable product.<sup>[17]</sup>

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Table 1: Catalyst screen for the reaction between 1 a and 2 a. [a]

| Ph    | $ \begin{array}{ccc} 0 & Ph_{p'}Ph \\ & H & + H \\ 1a & 2a \end{array} $ | Catalyst<br>(20 mol%)<br>CHCl <sub>3</sub> | Ph Ph O<br>Ph H<br>3a | Ph<br>NaBH <sub>4</sub> Ph<br>MeOH, 0 °C, 5 min | P-Ph<br>-P-Ph<br>4a   |
|-------|--|--|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Entry | Catalyst   | <i>T</i> [⁰C]                              | t [min]               | Conv [%] <sup>[b]</sup>                         | ee [%] <sup>[c]</sup> |
| 1     | 6  | RT   | 60                    | 53  | 0                     |
| 2     | 7  | RT   | 60                    | 55  | 14                    |
| 3     | 8  | RT   | 60                    | 59  | 12                    |
| 4     | 9  | RT   | 60                    | >99   | 38                    |
| 5     | 10   | RT   | 60                    | 81  | 18                    |
| 6     | 11   | RT   | 60                    | >99   | 50                    |
| 7     | 12   | RT   | 60                    | >99   | 56                    |
| 8     | 11   | RT   | 10 <sup>[d]</sup>     | >99 <sup>[d]</sup>                              | 40 <sup>[d]</sup>     |
| 9     | 11   | 4  | 20 <sup>[d]</sup>     | >99 <sup>[d]</sup>                              | 83 <sup>[d]</sup>     |
| 10    | 12   | 4  | 20 <sup>[d]</sup>     | >99 <sup>[d]</sup>                              | 73 <sup>[d]</sup>     |
| 11    | 11   | -10  | 60 <sup>[d]</sup>     | 45 <sup>[d]</sup>                               | 79 <sup>[d]</sup>     |

[a] Experimental conditions: A mixture of 1 a (0.25 mmol) and catalyst (20 mol%) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (1.0 mL) was flushed with argon. Next, 2 (0.30 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture stirred at the temperature for the time indicated. In situ reduction of 3 a with NaBH<sub>4</sub> gave the corresponding  $\gamma$ -alcohol 4a. [b] Conversion into product 3a as determined by NMR analysis. [c] Determined by chiral-phase HPLC analysis. [d] 2-Fluorobenzoic acid (10 mol%) was added. TMS = trimethylsilyl.



We found that chiral amines **6–12** catalyzed the AHP of enal **1a** with high efficiency and with *ee* values ranging from 0-56% *ee*. Chiral protected diarylprolinols **7**, **11**,<sup>[18]</sup> and **12**<sup>[11]</sup>,g,13a,c,15a]</sup> were the most efficient catalysts under our reaction conditions and mediated

the formation of **3a** with high chemoselectivity (entries 4, 6, and 7). Notably, we found that the reaction was significantly accelerated by the addition of a benzoic acid additive, which probably promoted the formation of the iminium ion. Of the benzoic acids 2-fluorobenzoic tested. acid (10 mol%) gave the best results without significantly affecting the enantioselectivity (entry 8). Under these conditions, chiral amine 11 catalyzed the asymmetric formation of 3a with 83% ee and complete conversion at 4°C within 20 minutes (entry 9). Decreasing the temperature to -10 °C did not improve the enantioselectivity and reduced the efficiency of the reaction (entry 11). On the basis of

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these results we decided to investigate the enantioselective AHP of enals **1** with diphenylphosphine (**2a**) catalyzed by amine **11** and **12** under these conditions (Table 2).

The organocatalytic AHP reactions were highly chemo- and enantioselective and the corresponding formylphosphines 3 were converted in situ into the corresponding alcohols 4 or phosphine oxides 5 by in situ reduction or oxidation, respectively. For example, β-phosphine alcohols 4b-4g were isolated with 90-99% ee. The reaction was efficient and highly enantioselective for  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated aldehydes 1 with either aliphatic or aromatic functional groups. Moreover, the  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated aldehydes 1 could also be converted in a one-pot reaction into the corresponding βphosphine oxide 13 acids (Scheme 2). For example,  $\beta$ -phosphine oxide carboxylic acid 13c was obtained in 65% yield and 92% ee. If desired, the phosphine oxide derivatives can be readily converted into the hydrophosphines by reduction with silanes.<sup>[19]</sup> The absolute configuration of the phosphoruscontaining compounds was 2S (R = Ar), as established by X-ray

analysis of a single crystal of the diphosphine oxide derivative **14d** (Figure 1),<sup>[20]</sup> which was formed by decomposition of the isolated pure phosphine oxide aldehyde **3d** after more than 16 h at room temperature.

**Table 2:** Scope of the organocatalytic AHP.<sup>[a]</sup>

|       |                                  | _  |  | I I an callbl                            | امامه م |
|-------|----------------------------------|--|--|--|---------|
| R ~~1 | O Ph、PPh<br>⊢ P,Ph<br>⊢ + H<br>2 | 11 or 12<br>(20 mol%)<br>2-fluorobenzoic acid<br>(10 mol%)<br>CHCl <sub>3</sub> , 4 °C<br>20 min | $\begin{bmatrix} Ph, Ph \\ P' & O \\ R & H \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$ | NaBH <sub>4</sub><br>MeOH<br>0 °C, 5 min | `он     |
|       | 1 0                              | ,  |  |  |         |

| Entry | Catalyst | R   | Prod. | Yield [%] <sup>[b]</sup> | ee [%] <sup>[c]</sup> |
|-------|----------|---|-------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1     | 11       | Ph  | 4a    | 85                       | 83                    |
| 2     | 11       | 4-NO <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> | 4 b   | 87                       | 99                    |
| 3     | 12       | 4-CIC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>               | 4c    | 79                       | 92                    |
| 4     | 12       | $4-BrC_6H_4$                                    | 4 d   | 78                       | 90                    |
| 5     | 12       | 2-Naph  | 4e    | 85                       | 98                    |
| 6     | 12       | BnO S   | 4 f   | 70                       | 91                    |
| 7     | 12       | Ph O S  | 4 g   | 72                       | 95                    |

[a] Experimental conditions: A mixture of 1 (0.25 mmol), 2-fluorobenzoic acid (10 mol%), and catalyst 11 or 12 (20 mol%) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (1.0 mL) was flushed with argon. Next, 2 (0.30 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture stirred for 20 min at 4 °C. Next, in situ reduction of 3 with NaBH<sub>4</sub> gave the corresponding alcohol 4. [b] Yield of isolated pure product aldehyde 5 after in situ oxidation of 3 with I<sub>2</sub>. [c] Determined by chiral-phase HPLC analysis.

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Scheme 2. One-pot asymmetric synthesis of  $\beta\text{-phosphine}$  oxide acid 13 c.

To shed more light on the origin of the enantioselectivity we performed density functional theory (DFT) calculations on the P–C bond-forming step. The calculations were performed using the Gaussian 03 software package<sup>[21]</sup> and

the B3LYP functional.<sup>[22]</sup> Geometries were optimized with the 6-31G(d,p) basis set, and characterized with frequency calculations. Final energies were obtained with the larger basis set 6-311 + G-(2d,2p) and corrected for zero point effects obtained from the frequency calculations. The effect of solvation in CHCl<sub>3</sub> was calculated using polarizable conductor а model (CPCM).<sup>[23]</sup> As a representative case for the calculations, we considered the reaction of diphenylphosphine (2a) with the iminium species formed from cinnamic aldehyde (1a) and catalyst 11



and 12.[13-15]

*Figure 2.* Optimized transition-state structures for phosphine attack on an *E*-iminium ion. **TS-S** arises from attack on the unshielded face of the iminium ion and has lower energy than when the attack is on the shielded face (**TS-R**). Relative energies [kcalmol<sup>-1</sup>] in the gas phase (in parentheses) and solvated [in brackets] are given. Distances are in Ångstroms.

(Figure 2).<sup>[24]</sup> The transition state leading to the *S* product (**TS**-*S*) was calculated to have the lowest energy. The attack takes place at the face of the *E*-iminium ion that is not shielded by the bulky group of the catalyst. The attack on the shielded face of the *E*-iminium ion (**TS**-*R*), which yields the 2*R* product, is 1.5 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup> higher in energy (2.9 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup> including solvation effects). Although the energy difference suggests a somewhat higher enantioselectivity than the one observed experimentally for this specific reaction, it is qualitatively in agreement with the experimental findings and supports the prediction that the bulky group of **11** shields the *Re* face ( $\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{Ar}$ )<sup>[25]</sup> of the *E*-iminium ion, which leads to

Ph. Ph PPOH 14d Ph 14d Ph

*Figure 1.* ORTEP picture of the crystalline di (phosphine oxide) compound **14d**.

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in high yields and in up to 99% *ee.* The synthetic utility of the novel catalytic AHP was exemplified by the one-pot asymmetric synthesis of  $\beta$ -phosphine oxide acids. DFT calculations showed that the lowest energy transition state led to the *S* product. Mechanistic studies, synthetic applications of this transformation, as well as development of other enantioselective AHP reactions based on this concept are ongoing.

*Si* facial attack. The *Z*-iminium ion was previously found to be less stable than the *E*-iminium ion.<sup>[14e]</sup> We have calculated that

the different transition states for the phosphine attack on the Z-iminium ion have 3–5 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup> higher energies than those

formed by attack on the E-iminium ion, and are not

considered further here. This finding is also in accordance

with previous conjugate additions catalyzed by catalysts 11

hydrophosphination of  $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated aldehydes. The reac-

tion is catalyzed efficiently by simple chiral pyrrolidine

derivatives and gives the corresponding phosphine derivatives

In summary, we have reported the unprecedented example of a highly chemo- and enantioselective organocatalytic

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