Enantioselective Mannich-Type Reaction Catalyzed by a Chiral Phosphoric Acid Bearing an (S)-Biphenol Backbone

Takahiko Akiyama,*a Takuya Katoh, Keiji Mori, Kazuaki Kanno^b

- ^a Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Gakushuin University, 1-5-1 Mejiro, Toshima-ku, Tokyo 171-8588, Japan Fax +81(3)59921029; E-mail: takahiko.akiyama@gakushuin.ac.jp
- ^b Mitsubishi Chemical Group Science and Technology Research Center, Inc., 1000 Kamoshida-cho, Aoba-ku, Yokohama 227-8502, Japan *Received 23 January 2009*

Abstract: A novel chiral phosphoric acid bearing a biphenol backbone was synthesized and its catalytic activity was investigated in the enantioselective Mannich-type reaction of ketene silyl acetals with aldimines.

Key words: asymmetric synthesis, chiral Brønsted acid, Mannichtype reaction, biphenol, phosphoric acid

The development of efficient chiral catalysts continues to be one of the most challenging topics in synthetic organic chemistry.¹ A number of organocatalysts² as well as metal-based catalysts have been reported. We focused on stronger Brønsted acid catalysts and synthesized a cyclic phosphoric acid 1, using (R)-BINOL as the starting material. Phosphoric acid 1a (Ar = $4-O_2NC_6H_4$) exhibited excellent catalytic activity as a chiral Brønsted acid catalyst for the Mannich-type reaction of silvl enolate with aldimines,³ which is a useful method for the preparation of β amino carbonyl compounds.⁴ We also demonstrated that phosphoric acid 1 worked as a bifunctional chiral catalyst bearing a Lewis basic site and a Brønsted acidic site (Figure 1).⁵ Recently, chiral phosphoric acid has drawn much attention as an efficient chiral catalyst.⁶⁻⁸ A number of phosphoric acids have been synthesized from BINOL and their catalytic activities investigated. In contrast, other backbones for chiral phosphoric acid have been little studied. For example, we synthesized a phosphoric acid bearing a TADDOL scaffold and investigated its catalytic activity in the Mannich-type reaction.9 Antilla and coworkers developed a phosphoric acid starting from VA-POL, bearing the biphenyl framework.¹⁰ We report herein the preparation of a novel phosphoric acid bearing the biphenol backbone and its application as a chiral Brønsted acid in the Mannich-type reaction of silyl enolate with aldimines.

We selected chiral (*S*)-biphenol derivative **3** as the chiral scaffold¹¹ and synthesized novel phosphoric acid **2a**, bearing the (*S*)-biphenol backbone in six steps. (Scheme 1) These steps involved Lewis acid promoted dealkylation, followed by protection of the OH group with MOM ether, *o*-lithiation and introduction of boronic ester, and subsequent Suzuki–Miyaura coupling to install *p*-nitrophenyl

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Figure 1 Functional chiral catalyst



Figure 2 Design of a novel chiral Brønsted acid catalyst

group at 3,3'-position. Acid-promoted cleavage of the MOM group followed by phosphorylation gave 2a (Figure 2).¹²

At the outset, the Mannich-type reaction of aldimines with a ketene silyl acetal, derived from ethyl isobutyrate, was studied by means of 10 mol% of **2a**, and the results are shown in Table 1. Corresponding β -amino esters were obtained in excellent chemical yields with high enantio-selectivities.¹³ It was found that **2a** exhibited comparable catalytic activity to **1a** bearing the binaphthyl backbone.¹⁴

Next, the Mannich-type reaction of aldimines with a silyl enolate that was derived from ethyl propionate was investigated and the results are shown in Table 2. Aldimines derived from substituted benzaldehyde and cinnamaldehyde gave corresponding β -amino-2-methylpropionates with high *syn* selectivity and high to excellent enantio-selectivities: the enantioselectivity of the *syn* isomer was as high as 93% (entry 5). It was found that **2a** exhibited higher enantioselectivities than **1a** in entries 2, 4, and 5.¹⁵

The present Mannich-type reaction is considered to proceed via a nine-membered transition state, as shown in Figure 3. Phosphoric acid 1 played two roles: (1) phosphoric acid hydrogen activated aldimine by acting as a Brønsted acid, and (2) phosphoryl oxygen formed a hydrogen bond with o-hydroxy group by acting as a Lewis base, thereby fixing the transition state. Hence, the phos-



Scheme 1 Preparation of a phosphoric acid 2a





 Table 2
 Results of the Mannich-Type Reactions

OH N Ar	+ OTMS	2a (10 mol%) toluene –78 °C	Ar OH	CO ₂ Et
Entry	Ar	Yield (%)	syn/anti	ee (%) ^b
1	Ph	100	86:14	90
2	4-MeC ₆ H ₄	87	81:19	87
3	4-MeOC ₆ H ₄	100	87:13	82
4	$4-FC_6H_4$	93	86:14	90
5	PhCH=CH	94	94:6	93

^a Ketene silyl acetal E/Z = 91:9.

^b Of the *syn*-isomer.

phoric acid **1** worked as a bifunctional catalyst¹⁶ bearing both Brønsted acidic and Lewis basic sites.

In summary, we have synthesized a novel phosphoric acid bearing the (S)-biphenol backbone and demonstrated its catalytic activity in the Mannich-type reaction of ketene silyl acetal with aldimines. The corresponding β -amino



Figure 3 Proposed transition state

esters were obtained with high to excellent enantioselectivities.

Typical Experimental Procedure for the Mannich-Type Reaction

Ketene silyl acetal was added dropwise over 1 min to a soln of aldimine (0.15 mmol) and phosphoric acid (0.015 mmol) in toluene (1 mL) at -78 °C. The reaction was stirred at this temperature. The mixture was quenched by the addition of sat. NaHCO₃ and KF at -78 °C. After filtration over Celite, the filtrate was extracted with EtOAc. The conbined organic layers were washed successively washed with 10% aq HCl and brine, dried over anhyd Na₂SO₄, and concentrated to dryness. The remaining solid was purified by TLC (SiO₂, hexane–EtOAc = 3:1) to give β -amino ester in high yield. The ee was determined on a Daicel Chiralpak AS-H, AD-H or IA column.

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- (12) (S)-6,6'-Dimethyl-3,3'-bis(4-nitrophenyl)-1,1'-biphenyl-2,2'-yl Phosphate (2a) $[\alpha]_D^{21}$ +365 (*c* 1.0, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.06–8.04 (m, 4 H), 7.55–7.53 (m, 4 H), 7.39–7.37 (m, 4 H), 2.58 (s, 1 H), 2.35 (s, 6 H). ³¹P NMR(400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 0.74. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 146.9, 144.7, 143.1, 140.3, 130.2, 130.0, 129.7, 128.4, 127.7, 123.3, 20.0. ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 0.74. Anal. Calcd (%) for C₂₆H₁₉O₈P: C, 60.24; H, 3.69; N, 5.40. Found: C, 60.13; H, 3.66; N, 5.45%.
- (13) (*R*)-Methyl 3-(*N*-2-Hydroxyphenylamino)-2,2-dimethyl-3-phenylpropionate $[\alpha]_D^{21}$ +1.4 (*c* 0.45, CHCl₃; 87% ee); R_f = 0.4 (hexane– EtOAc = 3:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.29–7.19 (m, 5 H), 6.69 (1 H, dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.5 Hz), 6.61 (1 H, ddd, *J* = 7.7, 7.7, 1.5 Hz), 6.53 (1 H, ddd, *J* = 7.7, 7.7, 1.5 Hz), 6.38 (1 H, dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.5 Hz), 5.80 (br s, 1 H), 4.55 (br s, 1 H), 4.55 (s, 1 H), 3.69 (s, 3 H), 1.24 (s, 3 H), 1.22 (s, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 177.7, 144.3, 139.0, 135.5, 128.3, 127.9, 127.41, 121.0, 117.9, 114.4, 113.9, 64.6, 52.2, 47.4, 24.4, 20.0.
- (14) When **1a** was employed in the reaction with the aldimine derived from benzaldehyde, the corresponding adduct was obtained in 87% ee.³
- (15) The enantioselectivities obtained with **1a**: 96% (Ar = Ph), 81% (Ar = 4-MeC₆H₄), 88% (Ar = 4-MeOC₆H₄), 84% (Ar = 4-FC₆H₄), 90% (Ar = PhCH=CHC₆H₄).³
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