



Asymmetric Synthesis of 1,2-Dihydronaphthalene-1-ols via Copper-Catalyzed Intramolecular Reductive Cyclization

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cyclization of easily accessible benz-tethered 1,3-dienes containing a ketone moiety. This process provided biologically active 1,2-dihydronaphthalene-1ol derivatives in good yields with excellent enantio- and diastereoselectivity. Mechanistic investigations using density functional theory revealed that (Z)and (E)-allylcopper intermediates formed in situ from the diene and copper catalyst undergo isomerization and selective intramolecular allylation of the



(E)-allylcopper form of the major product through a six-membered boatlike transition state. The resulting products were further transformed to fully saturated naphthalene-1-ols by reactions of the olefin moiety.

O ptically active homoallylic tertiary alcohols and their derivatives are widely found in many natural products and pharmaceuticals.¹ In particular, 1,2-dihydronaphthalene alcohol derivatives are a very important class of framework present in a wide range of biologically active molecules² including oxytetracycline (antibiotic agent),³ lacinilene C (antibacterial),⁴ and active metabolite compound C⁵ (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Representative examples of 1,2-dihydronaphthalenecontaining natural products.

The enantioselective synthesis of cyclic homoallylic alcohols continues to attract attention, as these are highly useful intermediates in complex molecule synthesis and medicinal chemistry.⁶ Established methods have been reported in the literature for the synthesis of 1,2-dihydronaphthalene-1-ols. All of these methods are based on the transition-metal-catalyzed asymmetric ring opening (ARO) reaction of oxa- and azabicyclic alkenes with carbon or heteroatom-containing nucleophiles (Scheme 1a).^{7,8} ARO reactions have been widely modified using various transition metals including Ir,⁹ Ni,¹⁰ Pd,¹¹ Cu,¹² Rh,¹³ and others.¹⁴

While the synthesis of dihydronaphthalenes having secondary homoallylic alcohols has been extensively explored

Scheme 1. Previous Approaches and the Present Work

a) Asymmetric ring opening (ARO)

M = Ni, Pd, Rh etc, L* = Chiral ligand, Nu = H, alkyl, aryl etc, R = H and Me

b) Intermolecular reductive coupling of 1,3-diene and ketones:

$$A = ArvI_{R'} = H alkvI_{arvI_{etc}} CuL^* - H$$





through the ARO reaction, the synthesis of such compounds containing a tertiary alcohol is not well-defined yet. Indeed, a few research groups have reported the syntheses of such cyclic

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tertiary alcohols using ARO,¹⁵ but the yields and enantioselectivities of those reactions were not satisfactory.¹⁶ Therefore, the development of a versatile methodology to synthesize cyclic homoallylic tertiary alcohols from easily accessible starting materials with higher efficiency is much sought.

In recent years, a number of research groups, including this one, have reported approaches for copper-catalyzed reductive functionalization of unsaturated substrates through in situgenerated alkylcopper nucleophiles.¹⁷ Various activated pronucleophiles such as alkenes,¹⁸ enynes,¹⁹ allenes,²⁰ and enones²¹ were successfully used in nucleophilic addition reactions to ketones. Recently, the Buchwald, 22a Xiong, 22b and Oestreich^{22d} groups independently reported coppercatalyzed intermolecular reductive couplings of 1,3-dienes with ketones as well as aldehydes^{22c} (Scheme 1b). In their proposed mechanism, the intermolecular allylation reaction proceeded via a stable well-organized six-membered chairlike transition state to yield the major product.

Herein we report an asymmetric intramolecular coppercatalyzed reductive coupling of 1,3-dienes with benz-tethered ketones for the easy acquisition of substituted dihydronaphthalene-1-ol derivatives (Scheme 1c). Attaining a favorable transition state and controlling the diastereo- and enantioselectivity in an intramolecular allylation reaction, especially in a benz-tethered system, are envisioned to be difficult because of a low level of flexibility and high ring strain for the cyclization and thus are considered the primary challenges.

We started our investigation by taking the simple 1,3-dienecontaining acetophenone substrate 1a as our model substrate (Table 1 and Figure 2). At first, we performed the reaction in the presence of BenzP* (L1) as the ligand, $Cu(OAc)_2$ as the catalyst, and 2.0 equiv of diethoxy(methyl)silane (DEMS) as the hydride source in THF solvent at 40 °C, which yielded the

Table 1. Optimization of the Copper-Catalyzed Reductive Cyclization Reaction^a

1a (Me	Cu(OAc) ₂ (Ligand (5 n Silane (2 e <u>t-BuOH (1.</u> THF, 40 °C	5 mol%) nol%) quiv) 5 equiv) C, 12 h	HO Me syn-2a	HO Me anti-2a
entry	ligand	silane	yield (%) ^b	dr (syn:anti) ^c	syn-2a ee (%) ^d
1	L1	DEMS	69	15:1	45
2	L2	DEMS	30	16:1	47
3	L3	DEMS	70	19:1	89
4	L4	DEMS	72	14:1	37
5	L5	DEMS	45	16:2	57
6	L6	DEMS	70	10:1	22
7	L3	TMDSO	75	20:1	90
8 ^e	L3	TMDSO	72	18:1	89
9 ^f	L3	TMDSO	70	17:1	85
10 ^g	L3	TMDSO	65	17:1	88
11 ^h	L3	TMDSO	73	19:1	89
12^{i}	L3	TMDSO	78	20:1	93

^aReactions were conducted on a 0.2 mmol scale of 1a. ^bIsolated yields of syn-2a. ^cDiastereomeric ratios were determined by ¹H NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixtures using dimethylformamide as an internal standard. ^dThe ee values for syn-2a were determined by chiral HPLC analysis. ^eMTBE was used as the solvent. ^fDiethyl ether was used as the solvent. g1,2-Dichloroethane was used as the solvent. ^hToluene was used as the solvent. ⁱThe reaction was performed on a 2 mmol scale at 60 °C.



desired product 2a in 69% yield but with a low level of enantioselectivity (45%) (entry 1). Next, SEGphos (L2) as the ligand furnished the product in a poor yield with similar enantioselectivity (entry 2). Switching to (S,S)-Ph-BPE (L3) showed better results and provided product 2a in an increased yield of 70% with a dramatic increase in enantioselectivity (89%) (entry 3). Other bisphosphine ligands such as QuinoxP (L4), Josiphos (L5), and BDPP (L6) furnished the product in low yields and low to moderate dr and ee (entries 4-6). After evaluation of the ligand efficiency, we focused on optimizing the silane reactivity in the reaction. The use of more stable and less flammable dimeric 1,1,3,3-tetramethyldisiloxane (TMDSO) resulted in a slightly increased yield of 75% with 90% ee (entry 7). Ethereal solvents such as MTBE and diethyl ether provided results similar to those with THF (entries 8 and 9). The halogenated solvent 1,2-DCE gave the product in lower yield (65%) but with similar ee (88%) (entry 10), whereas toluene furnished the product in good yield (73%)and ee (89%) (entry 11). The reaction showed better performance at 60 °C in THF as the solvent, providing the product in 78% yield with 93% ee and 20:1 dr (entry 12). These were chosen as the optimal reaction conditions for the intramolecular cyclization.

With the optimized conditions established, we proceeded to examine the substrate scope of the reductive intramolecular ketone allylation. As summarized in Table 2, a wide range of substituted dienes containing aryl ketones 1 were found to be suitable substrates under mild conditions and furnished the corresponding homoallylic cyclic tertiary alcohols 2 in good to excellent yields and enantioselectivities as well as high diastereoselectivities.

Variation of the substituent of the aromatic ring (R^1) was first investigated. Substrates containing an electron-donating substituent (Me, OMe) reacted smoothly to afford the corresponding products 2b and 2c in good yields with excellent ee and dr. Substrates bearing electron-withdrawing substituents such as $-F_{1}$, $-Cl_{1}$, and $-CF_{3}$ were also valid substrates for the reductive cyclization reaction, providing products 2d, 2e, and 2f with good efficiency. Naphthalenetethered substrate 1g provided the corresponding cyclized 1,2dihydrophenanthrene product 2g in alower yield (40%), but excellent enantioselectivity (96%) and dr (20:1) were observed.

Substrates having a different R² substitution of the keto functionality were examined. Cyclization of primary-alkylsubstituted keto substrates $(R^2 = alkyl)$ provided the corresponding cyclized products (2h and 2i) in excellent yields and ee. Aryl-substituted substrates $(R^2 = aryl)$ were also



Table 2. Substrate Scope for the Synthesis of 1,2-Dihydronaphthalene-1-ols^a

^{*a*}The reactions were carried out on a 0.2 mmol scale. The dr is the ratio of *syn-2* to *anti-2*. Isolated yields and ee values for *syn-2* as a single isomer are shown; the ee values for *syn-2* were determined by chiral HPLC analysis. ^{*b*}The reaction was performed at 0 °C and was complete within 30 min. ^{*c*}0.1 mmol scale.

suitable for the cyclization reaction. Substrates containing electron-donating substituents (-Me, -OMe, dioxolane) furnished the corresponding cyclized products (2k, 2l, and 2m) with excellent performance, but substrates 1n and 1o containing electron-deficient substituents (-F, $-CF_3$) provided the desired products with moderate ee. Naphthalene-substituted substrate 1p also provided the desired cyclized product in good yield with moderate ee. Heteroaromatic-substituted substrates furnished the desired cyclized products 2q, 2r, and 2s with excellent performance. Furthermore, variation of substituents on the diene part (R^3) was also examined. Notably, challenging the internal 1,3-diene substrates with a methyl or *n*-pentyl substituent provided the

desired products **2t**, **2u**, **2v**, and **2w** in good yields (68–70%) and ee (75–91%). The reaction was also applied to aldehydes to get secondary cyclic homoallylic alcohols, but unfortunately, the reduced primary alcohol was obtained as the major product rather than the cyclized product. Finally, the absolute configuration of compound (1R,2R)-**2u** was unambiguously confirmed by X-ray crystal analysis, and the stereochemistries of the other products were assigned by analogy.

To obtain a detailed understanding of the reaction mechanism, we performed density functional theory (DFT) calculations. Taking 1a as our model substrate, we hypothesized that hydrocupration of 1,3-butadiene with an active Cu-H catalyst might proceed either via direct 1,4-hydrocupration or via 1,2-hydrocupration followed by 1,3-allylic migration. Detailed analysis of the hydrocupration step revealed that the process strongly prefers to occur through 1,2-addition to form secondary allylcopper intermediates 3 and 3' over 1,4hydrocupration.^{22a} The initial 1,2-hydrocupration proceeds with good π -facial selectivity leading to (S)-allylcopper intermediate 3 as the major product and (R)-allylcopper intermediate 3' via TS1a and TS1b, respectively. Intermediate 3 rapidly undergoes facile isomerization via either TS2-cis or TS2-trans to form stable benzylic allylcopper intermediates 4cis and 4-trans (Figure 3).

Extensive DFT calculations of the intramolecular cyclization of the allylcopper species identified TS3a and TS3b as the most favorable pathways for each allylation. The activation energy from (E)-allylcopper intermediate 4-trans to TS3a is 8.9 kcal/mol, whereas the activation energy for 4-cis to TS3b is 20.6 kcal/mol. In TS3a, the methyl groups on the ketone and the allylcopper are placed in an equatorial orientation of a sixmembered boat-type transition state, whereas TS3b suffers from steric congestion, meaning that TS3b requires a higherenergy transition state. Because of the low activation energy of the 4-trans intermediate, it immediately cyclizes to provide copper-alkoxide intermediate 6, whereas (Z)-allylcopper (4cis) isomerizes back to 3. In previous reports, (Z)-allylcopper intermediates were responsible for the major product formation in intermolecular^{22a} and intramolecular²⁴ allylation of ketones and imines. In contrast, the (E)-allylcopper intermediate plays a vital role in furnishing the major sixmembered cyclized product in this intramolecular ketone allylation.

On the basis of the DFT calculations, the preferred catalytic cycle for the intramolecular ketone allylation is shown in Figure 4. The cycle consists of 1,2-hydrocupration, 1,3-allylic migration of copper, and cyclization through the six-membered boat-type transition state **TS3a** leading to *syn*-alkoxycopper intermediate **6**. Subsequent protonation furnishes the product *syn*-**2a** and regenerates the active Cu–H catalyst.

Biologically important tetrahydronaphthalene-1-ol derivatives²⁵ can be easily accessed by organic transformations of our resulting 1,2-dihydronaphthalene-1-ol products (Scheme 2). Catalytic hydrogenation of compound 2a yielded tetrahydronaphthalene compound 7 in 80% yield with retention of the ee. The absolute configuration of compound 2a was confirmed by comparing its optical rotation data with the literature value.²⁶ Hydroxyl-group-directed epoxidation of 2a furnished epoxide 8 in 90% yield without a change in enantiomeric excess and with a 5:1 diasteromeric ratio. Epoxide ring opening of 8 in the presence of NaN₃ provided fully saturated naphthalene product 9 containing four consecutive stereogenic centers in 80% yield.

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Figure 3. Computed energy profiles of the CuH-catalyzed reductive cyclization of 1a. All energies are reported with respect to diene 1a (the Gaussian 09 program was used for calculations in the gas phase at the $M06-2X/6-13G^*$ level).



Figure 4. Proposed catalytic cycle and transition state.

In summary, we have developed an efficient and straightforward approach for the synthesis of enantioenriched substituted 1,2-dihydronaphthalene-1-ols through coppercatalyzed asymmetric intramolecular reductive coupling of (E)-dienylarenes with a benz-tethered ketone moiety. The (S,S)-Ph-BPE* (L3)—copper catalyst was suitable for this intramolecular process, furnishing cyclic tertiary alcohols containing two adjacent stereocenters in good to high yields with excellent enantioselectivity of up to 98%. DFT calculations explained the selectivity-determining factor for this strained intramolecular cyclization. From an isomerizable mixture of (E)- and (Z)-allylcopper complex generates the

Scheme 2. Application of Enantioenriched 1,2-Dihydronaphthalene Derivatives



observed products. Additionally, our products can also be transformed to fully functionalized tetrahydronaphthalene moieties.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.orglett.0c02829.

Experimental procedures, characterization data, copies of ¹H and ¹³C spectra for all new compounds, and X-ray data for compound **2u** (PDF)

Accession Codes

CCDC 2017520 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif, or by emailing data_request@ccdc.cam.ac.uk, or by contacting The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, U.K.; fax: +44 1223 336033.

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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