Novel Quinidine-Derived Organocatalysts for the Asymmetric Substitutions of **O-Boc-Protected Morita-Baylis-Hillman Adducts**

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Keywords: Organocatalysis / Asymmetric catalysis / Nucleophilic substitution / Carbamates

A series of novel quinidine-derived organocatalysts was synthesized and utilized for the asymmetric substitution of O-Boc-protected Morita-Baylis-Hillman adducts with various carbamates and tosylcarbamates, affording the correspond-

Introduction

Recently, asymmetric substitutions of Morita-Baylis-Hillman (MBH) acetates or carbonates using cinchona alkaloid derived organocatalysts have attracted much attention because this asymmetric synthetic protocol can overcome the shortcomings in direct catalytic asymmetric MBH reactions in terms of substrate scope and catalytic efficiency as well as chiral induction.^[1-4] In this aspect, Lu^[5a] and Hiemstra^[5b] first independently reported 4-(3-ethyl-4-oxa-1-azatricyclo[4,4,0,0^{3,8}]dec-5-yl)quinolin-6-ol (also called as β -isocupreidine, β -ICD) catalyzed asymmetric substitution of MBH carbonates with various nucleophiles, affording the corresponding amination products in excellent yields along with modest ee values. Moreover, Chen and coworkers recently used hydroquindine(anthraquinone-1,4diyl) diether [(DHQD)2AQN], hydroquindine-1,4-phthalazinediyl diether [(DHQD)2PHAL], hydroquinidine-2,5-diphenyl-4,6-pyrimidinediyl diether [(DHQD)₂PYR], and β isocupreidine (β -ICD) in asymmetric substitutions of MBH carbonates to achieve C-C bond,[6a-6d] C-N bond,[6e,6f] and C-O bond^[6g,6h] formation in good yields along with high enantioselectivities under mild conditions. More recently, Wang's group also reported the use of cinchona alkaloids as catalysts to construct chiral allylic phosphane oxides through substitution of MBH carbonates in excellent yields along with high enantioselectivities.^[7] In this paper, we wish to report the synthesis of a series of novel quinidine-derived organocatalysts and their applications in the asymmetric substitution of O-Boc-protected MBH adducts with various ing products in good to high yields (up to 91 % yield) with moderate to high ee values (up to 96 % ee) under mild conditions

carbamates and tosylcarbamates, affording the corresponding products in good yields (up to 91% yield) with high ee values (up to 96% ee) under mild conditions.

Results and Discussion

Initially, we utilized methyl benzoylcarbamate (1a, 1.2 equiv.) and tert-butyl 2-methylene-1-(4-nitrophenyl)-3oxobutyl carbonate (2a, 1.0 equiv.) as the substrates and the multifunctional cinchona alkaloid β -isocupreidine (β -ICD^[1k,8] (Figure 1) (10 mol-%) as the catalyst in tetrahydrofuran (THF) to examine the reaction outcome, and the results are shown in Table 1. It was found that the corresponding substitution product 3aa was obtained in 80% yield along with 22%ee at room temperature (25 °C; Table 1, Entry 1). We next screened other multifunctional cinchona alkaloid derived organocatalysts cat-I-cat-III



Figure 1. Multifunctional cinchona alkaloid derivatives.

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Supporting information for this article is available on the WWW under http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/ejoc.201100501.

Table 1. Optimization of the reaction conditions.[a]

| | 0 0 | | OBocO | | | O ↓ OMe |
|-------------------------|----------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Ŭ Ŭ | | $\downarrow \downarrow$ | catalyst (10 mol-%) | | L O |
| \square | | e + | Ϋ́. | additive (20 mol-%) | | * |
| \checkmark | 1a | $O_2N \sim$ | 2a | solvent, to n | ² ^N 3 | aa |
| | | | | | | au |
| Entry | Catalyst | Additive | <i>T</i> [°C] | Solvent | Yield [%] ^[b] | ee [%] ^[c] |
| 1 | β-ICD | - | 25 | THF | 80 | -22 |
| 2 | cat-I | - | 25 | THF | 86 | 31 |
| 3 | cat-II | - | 25 | THF | 84 | 17 |
| 4 | cat-III | | 25 | THF | 89 | 31 |
| 5 | cat-IV | - | 25 | THF | 74 | 15 |
| 6 | cat-V | - | 25 | THF | 74 | 40 |
| 7 | cat-VIII | - | 25 | THF | 86 | 43 |
| 8 | cat-X | - | 25 | THF | 65 | 37 |
| 9 | cat-XII | - | 25 | THF | 58 | -25 |
| 10 | cat-VIII | | 25 | Et ₂ O | 83 | 41 |
| 11 | cat-VIII | - | 25 | DCM | 80 | 41 |
| 12 | cat-VIII | - | 25 | chlorobenzene | 80 | 35 |
| 13 | cat-VIII | - | 0 | THF | 83 | 60 |
| 14 | cat-VIII | - | -25 | THF | 90 | 75 |
| 15 | cat-VIII | - | -30 | THF | 80 | 69 |
| 16 | cat-VIII | - | -45 | THF | 82 | 65 |
| 17 | cat-VIII | - | -60 | THF | 64 | 59 |
| 18 ^[0] | cat-VIII | - | -78 | | 89 | 55 |
| 19 | cat-VIII | DIEA | -25 | THE | 82 | 70 |
| 20 | cat-VIII | 4-nitrophenol | -25 | THE | 80 | 64 |
| 21 | cat-VIII | EtOH | -25 | | 85 | 50 |
| 22 | cat-VIII | | -25 | ТЦС | 80 | 62 |
| 23 24 ^[e] | cat-VIII | - | -25 | THE | 90 | 75 |
| 27 | | 0.02 | 20 | | 50 | 10 |

[a] All reactions were carried out using 1a (0.12 mmol) and 2a (0.10 mmol) in solvent (1.00 mL) for 10 h. [b] Isolated yield. [c] Determined by chiral HPLC analysis. [d] The reaction was carried out at -78 °C for 36 h. [e] The reaction was carried out with cat-VIII (20 mol-%).

(Figure 1) in this reaction and found that desired product **3aa** was formed in 84-89% yields along with 17-31% ee values (Table 1, Entries 2–4).

Because these cinchona alkaloids derived catalysts are not effective in this particular asymmetric substitution reaction, we attempted to develop other multifunctional cinchona alkaloid derived organocatalysts in this reaction. As shown in Scheme 1, using β -ICD as the starting material, we prepared several novel cinchon alkaloid organocatalysts cat-IV-cat-XIV through straightforward synthetic methods in moderate to good yields (Scheme 1, see Supporting Information for detailed experimental procedures; Figure 1). Moreover, the structure of β -ICD-derived organocatalyst cat-VIII was unambiguously determined by X-ray diffraction.^[9] Its ORTEP drawing is shown in Figure 2. Employing these new cinchona alkaloid derived organocatalysts, we then investigated the reaction of 1a and 2a in the presence of cat-IV, cat-V, cat-VIII, cat-X, and cat-XII in THF at 25 °C and found that cat-VIII was the best organocatalyst for this reaction (Table 1, Entries 5-9). In the presence of cat-VIII ($R' = C_6H_5$ and R' = H), 3aa was formed in 86% yield and 43% ee (Table 1, Entry 7). The examination of solvent effects revealed that THF was the



Scheme 1. The synthetic route for the preparation of novel quinidine-derived organocatalysts.

best solvent for this reaction (Table 1, Entries 10–12). Lowering the reaction temperature to 0 °C or -25 °C afforded 3aa in 60 and 75% ee, respectively, along with good yields in the presence of organocatalyst cat-VIII (Table 1, Entries 13 and 14). Further reducing the reaction temperature did not improve the ee value of 3aa (Table 1, Entries 15-18). Moreover, we also attempted to add some additives such as diisopropylethylamine (DIEA), 4-nitrophenol, ethanol, tert-amyl alcohol, and benzoic acid to improve the enantiomeric excess of 3aa in THF at -25 °C. However, no improvement was observed under the standard conditions (Table 1, Entries 19-23). Increasing the employed amount of cat-VIII to 20 mol-% did not improve the reaction outcome either (Table 1, Entry 24). Overall, this asymmetric substitution reaction should be carried out at -25 °C in THF using organocatalyst cat-VIII as the promoter.



Figure 2. ORTEP drawing of organocatalyst cat-VIII.

Under these optimal conditions, we next examined the generality of this reaction with methyl carbamates 1 and O-Boc-protected MBH adducts 2, and the results are summarized in Table 2. As for aromatic carbamates 1b-d, the substitution reaction with 2a proceeded smoothly to give the corresponding products 3ba, 3ca, and 3da in 80-87% yields and 62-64% ee whether they have electron-withdrawing or electron-donating groups on their benzene rings (Table 2, Entries2–4). Changing the ester moiety from OMe to OiBu or C_6H_5 was not detrimental to the outcome of the reaction, as desired product 3ea or 3fa was obtained in 82 or 75% yield, respectively, with 65 or 52% ee, respectively (Table 2, Entries 5 and 6). Furthermore, in the substitution reaction of 1a with other O-Boc-protected MBH adducts 2b, 2c, and 2d, corresponding products 3ab, 3ac, and 3ad were also obtained in good yields with 55-77% ee, suggesting that the electronic properties on the aromatic ring of the MBH adduct did not have an influence on the outcome of the reactions (Table 2, Entries 7-9). Using carbamate 1g $(R^1 = C_6H_5 \text{ and } R^2 = Me)$ as the substrate afforded desired product 3gd in 48% yield and 43% ee, presumably due to its lability under the standard reaction conditions (Table 2, entry 10).



Table 2. Screening of the asymmetric substitution of MBH adducts 2 with 1 catalyzed by cat-VIII.^[a]



[a] All reactions were carried out using 1 (0.12 mmol) and 2 (0.10 mmol) in THF (1.00 mL) for 10 h. [b] Isolated yield. [c] Determined by chiral HPLC analysis.

We next attempted to use methyl tosylcarbamate (4a) to replace carbamate 1 in this interesting asymmetric substitution reaction. Although organocatalysts β-ICD and hydroquinidine-2,5-diphenyl-4,6-pyrimidinediyl diether [(DHQD)₂PYR] and hydroquinine-1,4-phthalazinediyl diether [(DHQ)₂PHAL] did not catalyze this reaction under the standard conditions, we were pleased to find that our new organocatalysts cat-IV-cat-VIII (10 mol-%) could produce corresponding product 5da in moderate to good yields along with 86-92% ee (Table 3, Entries 1-8). The substituent on the aromatic R' group can significantly affect the reaction outcome. Introducing strongly electron-donating methoxy groups at the 2-position or at the 3- and 5-positions of the benzene ring (organocatalysts cat-IX and cat-X) afforded the corresponding product 5da in lower yield and with lower ee values (Table 3, Entries 9 and 10). Using organocatalyst cat-XI in which the aromatic R' group has a bromine atom at the 4-position furnished 5da in 24% yield with 84% ee (Table 3, Entry 11). Furthermore, the reaction produced 5da in 27% yield and 67% ee in the presence of organocatalyst cat-XII in which R' is a phenyl group and R' is a methyl group, suggesting that the NH functional group is required in this reaction to give 5da in higher yield and with a higher *ee* value (Table 3, Entry 12). Organocatalysts cat-XIII and cat-XIV, in which R' is a benzyl group or a substituted benzyl group and R' is a hydrogen atom, are also effective catalysts in this asymmetric substitution reaction, affording 5da in 65% yield with 86% ee and 68% yield with 89% ee, respectively (Table 3, Entries 13 and 14). Using organocatalyst cat-VIII (15 mol-%) as the catalyst produced 5da in 85% yield with 92% ee (Table 3, Entry 15). Therefore, the optimal organocatalyst has been identified as cat-VIII and a catalyst loading of FULL PAPER_

15 mol-% is required in this particular asymmetric substitution reaction to give the corresponding product in good yield along with high *ee* values.

Table 3. Cinchona alkaloid catalyzed asymmetric substitution of MBH adduct 2d with $4a.^{\rm [a]}$

| ci Ci | OBocO + + TsNHCO ₂ Me 2d 4a | catalyst (10 mol-%) THF, 20 °C, 72 h C | MeO N ^{-Ts} O |
|-----------------|--|--|------------------------|
| Entry | Catalyst | Yield [%] ^[b] | ee [%] ^[c] |
| 1 | β-ICD | trace | - |
| 2 | (DHQD) ₂ PYR | trace | - |
| 3 | (DHQ) ₂ PHAL | trace | - |
| 4 | cat-IV | 62 | 89 (S) |
| 5 | cat-V | 70 | 87 (S) |
| 6 | cat-VI | 70 | 86 (S) |
| 7 | cat-VII | 35 | 87 (S) |
| 8 | cat-VIII | 75 | 92 (S) |
| 9 | cat-IV | 60 | 71 (S) |
| 10 | cat-X | 23 | 70 (S) |
| 11 ^d | cat-XI | 24 | 84 (S) |
| 12 | cat-XII | 27 | 67 (S) |
| 13 | cat-XIII | 65 | 86 (S) |
| 14 | cat-XIV | 68 | 89 (S) |
| 15 ^e | cat-VIII | 85 | 92 (S) |

[a] All reactions were carried out using **2d** (0.10 mmol) and **4a** (0.12 mmol) in THF (1.00 mL) for 72 h. [b] Isolated yield. [c] Determined by chiral HPLC analysis. [d] The reaction was carried out for 80 h. [e] The reaction was carried out with cat-VIII (15 mol-%).

Further examination of solvent effects disclosed that THF was the solvent of choice in comparison with those reactions carried out in halogenated organic solvents such as dichloromethane (DCM), 1,2-dichloroethane (DCE), or chloroform and in toluene (Table 4, Entries 1–6). In N,Ndimethylformamide (DMF) and dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), reactant 2d decomposed during the reaction without the formation of 5da (Table 4, Entries 7 and 8). In ether or acetonitrile, no reaction occurred because organocatalyst cat-VIII was insoluble in these solvents (Table 4, Entries 10 and 12). In 1,4-dioxane and acetone, 5da was formed in 45% yield along with 79% ee and in 33% yield along with 90% ee, respectively (Table 4, Entries 9 and 11). Raising the reaction temperature to 25 °C-50 °C did not improve the outcome of the reaction (Table 4, Entries 13-15). When the reaction was carried out at 10 °C or at -20 °C, either a trace amount of 5da was formed or no reaction occurred (Table 4, entries 16 and 17).

The generality of this asymmetric substitution reaction was examined using a variety of *O*-Boc-protected MBH adducts (MBH carbonate) **2** and tosylcarbamates **4** at 20 °C under the optimal conditions, and the results of these experiments are summarized in Table 5. When *O*-Boc-protected MBH adducts **2** bearing electron-withdrawing groups at the *ortho-*, *meta-*, or *para*-position of the benzene ring were employed as the substrates, the reactions proceeded smoothly to give desired products **5** in 60–91% yield with 76–96% *ee* (Table 5, Entries 1–8). As for *O*-Boc-pro-



Table 4. Optimization of the reaction conditions.[a]

[a] All reactions were carried out using 2d (0.10 mmol) and 4a (0.12 mmol) in solvent (1.00 mL) for 72 h. [b] Isolated yield. [c] Determined by chiral HPLC analysis. [d] The reaction was carried out for 24 h.

tected MBH adduct 2i bearing a nitro group at the orthoposition of the benzene ring, electron-neutral O-Boc-protected MBH adduct 2b, and O-Boc-protected MBH adduct 2c having a methyl group at the *para*-position of the benzene ring, the corresponding products 5ia, 5ba, and 5ca were formed in moderate yields of 55-80% with 86-91% ee, perhaps due to electronic properties or steric effects (Table 5, Entries 7, 9, and 10). However, their yields could be improved when these reactions were carried out at 30 °C, affording the corresponding products in 80, 85, and 83% yield, respectively, along with similar ee values (Table 5, Entries 13-15). As for heterocyclic group containing O-Bocprotected MBH adduct 2k, the reaction also proceeded smoothly to afford corresponding product 5ka in 69% yield with 83% ee under the standard conditions (Table 5, Entry 11), but no reaction occurred with O-Boc-protected 2furan-containing MBH adduct 21 (Table 5, Entry 12). Other tosylcarbamates such as 4b and 4c were also suitable substrates in this reaction, and corresponding products 5db, 5cb, 5jb, and 5dc were obtained in 76-89% yield with 84-92% ee (Table 5, Entries 16-19); other related results as well as more examples are summarized in the Supporting Information (Table S1), suggesting the wide substrate scope in this asymmetric substitution reaction.

The absolute configuration of products **5** was unequivocally assigned the (*S*) configuration by X-ray diffraction of **5fa** bearing a bromine atom on the benzene ring.^[10] Its ORTEP drawing is shown in Figure 3.



Table 5. Substrate scope of the cat-VIII-catalyzed asymmetric substitution of MBH adducts 2 with $4.^{\rm [a]}$



[a] All reactions were carried out using 2 (0.10 mmol) and 4 (0.12 mmol) in THF (1.00 mL) for 72 h. [b] Isolated yield. [c] Determined by chiral HPLC analysis. [d] The reaction was carried out at 30 °C.



Figure 3. ORTEP drawing of 5fa.

Conclusions

In summary, we have synthesized a series of novel quinidine-derived organocatalysts for the asymmetric substitutions of *O*-Boc-protected Morita–Baylis–Hillman adducts with various carbamates and tosylcarbamates, affording the corresponding products in good to high yields (up to 91% yield) with moderate to high *ee* value (up to 96%*ee*) under mild conditions, which is applicable to a wide range of substrates from MBH adducts. The obtained multiply functionalized aza-MBH adducts are useful building blocks in a variety of organic syntheses.^[3j] Current efforts are in progress to use these novel multifunctional quinidine-derived organocatalysts for other asymmetric catalytic reactions.

Experimental Section

Representative Procedure: A solution of compound **2d** (0.10 mmol, 31.0 mg) and compound **4a** (0.12 mmol, 27.5 mg) in THF (1.00 mL) was stirred at 25 °C for 72 h in the presence of organocatalyst cat-**VIII** (15 mol-%, 6.0 mg) under an argon atmosphere. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc, 4:1 to 2:1) to provide product **5da** as a colorless solid (37.5 mg, 85% yield).

(*S*)-Methyl 1-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-methylene-3-oxobutyl(tosyl)carbamate (5da): Colorless solid (37.5 mg, 85% yield); m.p. 126–129 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, TMS): δ = 2.41 (s, 3 H), 2.45 (s, 3 H), 3.57 (s, 3 H), 5.96 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 1 H), 6.42 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 1 H), 6.67 (s, 1 H), 7.13 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.26–7.33 (m, 4 H), 7.80 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 21.6, 26.2, 53.5, 60.0, 128.4, 128.8, 129.0, 129.2, 129.7, 133.5, 136.2, 136.2, 144.8, 146.2, 152.6, 197.8 ppm. IR (neat): \tilde{v} = 2957, 2925, 1738, 1681, 1493, 1439, 1361, 1265, 1170, 1090, 1015, 814 cm⁻¹. MS (ESI): m/z = 444 [M + Na]. HRMS (ESI): calcd. for C₂₀H₂₀NCINaO₅S [M + Na] 444.0643; found 444.0645. [a]_D²⁰ = +39.0 (c = 0.3, CHCl₃) (92% ee). HPLC (Chiralcel AD-H, hexane/*i*PrOH = 80:20, 0.7 mL/min, 254 nm): $t_{\rm R}$ = 19.02 (major), 24.94 (minor) min.

Supporting Information (see footnote on the first page of this article): Spectroscopic data and chiral HPLC traces of the compounds shown in Tables 1–5, X-ray crystal data of cat-VIII and product **5fa**, and detailed experimental procedures.

Acknowledgments

Financial support from the Shanghai Municipal Committee of Science and Technology (08dj1400100-2), the National Basic Research Program of China [(973)-2010CB833302], the Fundamental Research Funds for the Central Universities, and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (21072206, 20472096, 20902019, 20872162, 20672127, 20821002, 20732008, and 20702059) is gratefully acknowledged; Professor Jie Sun is thanked for performing the X-ray diffraction studies.

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- Crystal data for organocatalyst cat-VIII: Empirical formula: [9] C₂₆H₂₉N₃O₃; formula weight: 413.52; crystal color, habit: prismatic; crystal colorless. dimensions: $0.356 \times 0.311 \times 0.270$ mm; crystal system: orthorhombic; lattice type: primitive; lattice parameters: a = 9.5509(13) Å, b =12.7565(17) Å, c = 18.691(3) Å, $a = 90^{\circ}$, $\beta = 90^{\circ}$, $\gamma = 90^{\circ}$, V =2277.2(5) Å³; space group: $P2_12_12_1$; Z = 4; $D_{calcd.} = 1.259$ g/ cm^3 ; F(000) = 920; diffractometer: Rigaku AFC7R; residuals: R, R_w: 0.0545, 0.1392. CCDC-770089 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif.
- [10] Crystal data for **5fa**: Empirical formula: $C_{20}\dot{H}_{20}BrNO_5S$; formula weight: 466.34; crystal color, habit: colorless; crystal dimensions: $0.359 \times 0.321 \times 0.258$ mm; crystal system: orthorhombic; lattice type: primitive; lattice parameters: a = 9.5008(10) Å, b = 14.2871(15) Å, c = 15.2971(16) Å, $a = 90^\circ$, $\beta = 90^\circ$, $\gamma = 90^\circ$, V = 2075.7(4) Å³; space group: $P2_12_12_1$; z = 4; $D_{calcd.} = 1.492$ g/cm³; F(000) = 952; diffractometer: Rigaku AFC7R; residuals: R, R_w : 0.0383, 0.0741. CCDC-796340 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/ data_request/cif.

Received: April 8, 2011 Published Online: June 10, 2011