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## Enantioselective Silvlation of Aliphatic C–H Bonds for the Synthesis of Silicon-Stereogenic Dihydrobenzosiloles

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Abstract: A rhodium(I)-catalyzed enantioselective silvlation of aliphatic C-H bonds for the synthesis of silicon-stereogenic dihydrobenzosiloles is demonstrated. This reaction involves a highly enantioselective intramolecular C(sp<sup>3</sup>)-H silylation of dihydrosilanes, followed by a stereospecific intermolecular alkene hydrosilylation leading to the asymmetrically tetrasubstituted silanes. A wide range of dihydrosilanes and alkenes displaying various functional groups are compatible with this process, giving access to a variety of highly functionalized silicon-stereogenic dihydrobenzosiloles in good to excellent yields and enantioselectivities.

#### Introduction

The development of new catalytic transformations based on enantioselective functionalization of unactivated C-H bonds is of great significance, given the ubiquitous nature of C-H bonds and paramount importance of chirality in organic molecules.[1] Over the past decade, despite remarkable progress has been achieved by chiral transition metal catalysis in this emerging area, the enantioselective functionalization of unactivated C(sp<sup>3</sup>)-H bonds is still in its infancy.<sup>[1f]</sup> Among various C-H functionalization approaches, the silvlation of aliphatic C-H bonds has emerged as a powerful tool for converting C(sp<sup>3</sup>)-H bonds into C(sp<sup>3</sup>)-Si bonds,<sup>[2]</sup> which is particularly valuable, because organosilicon compounds have wide applications in materials science, agroscience, and medicinal chemistry.<sup>[3]</sup> The process is usually initiated by oxidative addition of the Si-H bond to the metal center, which delivers the metal atom to the proximal C-H bond site, allowing the selective C-H bond activation.<sup>[2a,4]</sup> The Hartwig group have made leading efforts in this field.<sup>[2a,2d,5]</sup> and successfully developed two enantioselective processes for the silvlation of unactivated C(sp<sup>3</sup>)-H bonds, enabling the construction of chiral carbon-stereogenic centers (Scheme 1a).<sup>[6]</sup> However, to the best of our knowledge, there is only one example reported by Takai and co-workers, that achieved an asymmetric C(sp3)-H silylation toward siliconstereogenic center, producing a specific spirosilabiindane compound in moderate yield with 40% enantiomeric excess (ee) (Scheme 1a).<sup>[7]</sup> As a result, the design and development of more general and effective strategies for the enantioselective silvlation of aliphatic C-H bonds toward novel silicon-stereogenic silanes remain underdeveloped.

Despite many organosilicon compounds have been synthesized, which display valuable properties that have led to their broad

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applications in synthetic chemistry, materials science and pharmaceuticals.<sup>[3]</sup> the creation of silicon-stereogenic centers in enantioenriched forms has been less explored. Historically, the exploitation of chirality at silicon in asymmetric catalysis is one of the most intriguing and challenging tasks.<sup>[8]</sup> Traditionally, reagent- or substrate-controlled transformations were reported the preparation of silicon-stereogenic silanes for in enantioenriched form but, without exception. the enantioselectivities were usually not easy to control.[8b,8d] In the past decade, research endeavors have been dedicated to the design and development of chiral transition-metal catalysts, that have delivered a number of desymmetrization approaches converting prochiral dihydrosilanes or tetraorganosilanes into enantioenriched silicon-stereogenic silanes.<sup>[8g,9]</sup> The increasing demand for novel silicon-stereogenic silanes has continued to drive the development of practical asymmetric catalytic methods with high enantioselectivity for the synthesis of these compounds.



(b) rationalization for construction of Si-stereogenic centers via C(sp<sup>3</sup>)-H activation

SiH<sub>2</sub>R

(a) previous work: enantioselective silylation of C(sp<sup>3</sup>)-H bonds

(c) this work: asymmetric C(sp $^3$ )–H silylation toward Si-stereogenic dihydrobenzosiloles

[M]

R'



Scheme 1. Enantioselective silvlation of aliphatic C-H bonds.

As part of an overarching goal to develop new modes for catalytic enantioselective C-H bond functionalization, as well as construction of silicon-stereogenic center, we questioned whether we could developed a strategy for the direct enantioselective silvlation of less reactive aliphatic C-H bonds, giving access to a new type of silicon-stereogenic silanes. We

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rationalized that, reaction of an appropriate chiral transition metal catalyst with a suitable dihydrosilane substrate would initiate an enantioselective intramolecular C(sp<sup>3</sup>)-H silvlation to furnish the corresponding desymmetric monohydrosilane. To avoid the feasible decomposition or racemization of the newly formed monohydrosilane in the presence of highly active transition metals,<sup>[9a]</sup> appropriate reaction partners could be employed in the system to trap the monohydrosilane instantly, and delivered the asymmetrically tetrasubstituted siliconstereogenic silanes (Scheme 1b). Key to the success of this strategy is the precise control of the reaction sequence in the one-pot process, which could be rather challenging, given that dihydrosilane is usually more reactive than monohydrosilane under the transition-metal-catalyzed conditions. Previously, the majority of the intramolecular silvlation with tethered silanes is using monohydrosilane (-SiH) rather than dihydrosilane (-SiH<sub>2</sub>).<sup>[2]</sup> Herein, we report the development of a cascade enantioselective silvlation of aliphatic C-H bond/stereospecific alkene hydrosilvlation, which successfully enables the efficient construction of a wide range of enantioenriched siliconstereogenic dihvdrobenzosiloles in decent vields and enantioselectivites (Scheme 1c).

#### **Results and Discussion**

Table 1. Condition optimization.[a]

| Me M<br>Sil                       | 1e<br>CH <sub>3</sub> + ∕∕∕Ph<br>H₂Ph<br>2a  | [Rh] (2 mol%)<br>ligand (4 mol%)<br>→<br>solvent, 100 °C<br>Argon, 1 h | M<br>Ph 3  | e Me<br>Si Ph<br>a  | Me Me<br>CH <sub>3</sub><br>SiHPh<br>Ph 4a       |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|---|--|
|                                   | PPh <sub>2</sub><br>PPh <sub>2</sub>   |  | <sup>1</sup> 2<br><sup>1</sup> 2   |   | PAr <sub>2</sub>                                 |
| MeO<br>MeO<br>L5, Ar = 3,         | PAr <sub>2</sub> R'2<br>PAr <sub>2</sub> R'2<br>5-di-Me-Ph   | P<br>F<br>F<br>Josiphos  | L6, R = C<br>L7, R = tB<br>L8, R = tB<br>L9, R = tB<br>L10, R = c<br>L11, R = 3      | A, Ar = 3,5-di-A<br>A, Ar = 3,5-di-A<br>u, R' = Ph<br>$u, R' = p-CF_3P$<br>u, R' = 3,5-di-A<br>→MePh, R' = $tE$<br>a,5-di-MePh, R | /le-4-OMePh<br>'h<br>/le-4-OMePh<br>3u<br>' = Ph |
| Entry                             | [Rh]   | Ligand   | Solvent  | Yield [%]   | ee [%]   |
| 1                                 | [Rh(cod)Cl] <sub>2</sub>   | L1   | toluene  | 67  | 25   |
| 2                                 | [Rh(cod)Cl] <sub>2</sub>   | L2   | toluene  | 61  | 25   |
| 3                                 | [Rh(cod)Cl]2   | 13   | toluene  | 00  |  |
|                                   |  |  | tolucile   | 00  | 33   |
| 4                                 | [Rh(cod)Cl] <sub>2</sub>   | L4   | toluene  | 69  | 33<br>3  |
| 4<br>5                            | [Rh(cod)Cl] <sub>2</sub><br>[Rh(cod)Cl] <sub>2</sub>   | L4<br>L5   | toluene<br>toluene   | 69<br>72  | 33<br>3<br>30                                    |
| 4<br>5<br>6                       | [Rh(cod)Cl] <sub>2</sub><br>[Rh(cod)Cl] <sub>2</sub><br>[Rh(cod)Cl] <sub>2</sub>   | L4<br>L5<br>L6   | toluene<br>toluene<br>toluene  | 69<br>72<br>54  | 33<br>3<br>30<br>35                              |
| 4<br>5<br>6<br>7                  | [Rh(cod)Cl] <sub>2</sub><br>[Rh(cod)Cl] <sub>2</sub><br>[Rh(cod)Cl] <sub>2</sub><br>[Rh(cod)Cl] <sub>2</sub>   | L4<br>L5<br>L6<br>L7   | toluene<br>toluene<br>toluene<br>toluene   | 69<br>72<br>54<br>77  | 33<br>3<br>30<br>35<br>85                        |
| 4<br>5<br>6<br>7<br>8             | [Rh(cod)Cl] <sub>2</sub><br>[Rh(cod)Cl] <sub>2</sub><br>[Rh(cod)Cl] <sub>2</sub><br>[Rh(cod)Cl] <sub>2</sub><br>[Rh(cod)Cl] <sub>2</sub>   | L4<br>L5<br>L6<br>L7<br>L8   | toluene<br>toluene<br>toluene<br>toluene<br>toluene                                  | 69<br>72<br>54<br>77<br>78  | 33<br>3<br>30<br>35<br>85<br>84                  |
| 4<br>5<br>6<br>7<br>8<br>9        | [Rh(cod)Ci] <sub>2</sub><br>[Rh(cod)Ci] <sub>2</sub><br>[Rh(cod)Ci] <sub>2</sub><br>[Rh(cod)Ci] <sub>2</sub><br>[Rh(cod)Ci] <sub>2</sub><br>[Rh(cod)Ci] <sub>2</sub>   | L4<br>L5<br>L6<br>L7<br>L8<br>L9                                       | toluene<br>toluene<br>toluene<br>toluene<br>toluene<br>toluene                       | 69<br>72<br>54<br>77<br>78<br>76  | 33<br>3<br>30<br>35<br>85<br>84<br>83            |
| 4<br>5<br>7<br>8<br>9<br>10       | [Rh(cod)Cl] <sub>2</sub><br>[Rh(cod)Cl] <sub>2</sub><br>[Rh(cod)Cl] <sub>2</sub><br>[Rh(cod)Cl] <sub>2</sub><br>[Rh(cod)Cl] <sub>2</sub><br>[Rh(cod)Cl] <sub>2</sub><br>[Rh(cod)Cl] <sub>2</sub>                             | L4<br>L5<br>L6<br>L7<br>L8<br>L9<br>L10                                | toluene<br>toluene<br>toluene<br>toluene<br>toluene<br>toluene<br>toluene            | 69<br>72<br>54<br>77<br>78<br>76<br>17  | 33<br>30<br>35<br>85<br>84<br>83<br>18           |
| 4<br>5<br>7<br>8<br>9<br>10<br>11 | [Rh(cod)Ci] <sub>2</sub><br>[Rh(cod)Ci] <sub>2</sub><br>[Rh(cod)Ci] <sub>2</sub><br>[Rh(cod)Ci] <sub>2</sub><br>[Rh(cod)Ci] <sub>2</sub><br>[Rh(cod)Ci] <sub>2</sub><br>[Rh(cod)Ci] <sub>2</sub><br>[Rh(cod)Ci] <sub>2</sub> | L4<br>L5<br>L6<br>L7<br>L8<br>L9<br>L10<br>L11                         | toluene<br>toluene<br>toluene<br>toluene<br>toluene<br>toluene<br>toluene<br>toluene | 69<br>72<br>54<br>77<br>78<br>76<br>17<br>71  | 33<br>3<br>30<br>35<br>85<br>84<br>83<br>18<br>1 |

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|    |                          |    |          |         |    | _ |
|----|--------------------------|----|----------|---------|----|---|
| 13 | [Rh(cod)Cl] <sub>2</sub> | L7 | DCE      | 78 (75) | 92 |   |
| 14 | [Rh(cod)Cl]2             | L7 | n-hexane | 75      | 79 |   |
| 15 | [Rh(cod)OH] <sub>2</sub> | L7 | DCE      | 67      | 86 |   |
| 16 | [Rh(nbd)Cl] <sub>2</sub> | L7 | DCE      | 72      | 89 |   |

[a] Conditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol), **2a** (0.22 mmol),  $[Rh(cod)Cl]_2$  (2 mol%), ligand (4 mol%), in 1.0 mL solvent under Argon atmosphere at 100 °C for 1 h. The yield is determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR using CHCl<sub>2</sub>CHCl<sub>2</sub> as internal standard; yield in brackets is isolated yield. The *ee* values were determined by chiral HPLC.

We commenced our studies of the enantioselective silvlation of unactivated C(sp<sup>3</sup>)-H bond using dihydrosilane 1a, which could presumably undergo C(sp<sup>3</sup>)-H bond activation via a sixmembered metallocycle intermediate, in the presence of styrene 2a as the reaction partner with [Rh(cod)Cl]<sub>2</sub> as the catalyst and diphosphines as the chiral ligands in toluene at 100 °C. The reactions occurred in 1 hour under these conditions when BINAP (L1 and L2), Segphos (L3 and L4) and MeOBIPHEP (L5) derivatives were employed as the chiral ligands, producing the cyclized dihydrobenzosilole 3a as major product in 61%-72% yield and 3%-33% ee (Table 1, entries 1-5), along with the minor direct hydrosilylation side-product 4a. These results suggest that this enantioselective aliphatic C-H silylation/alkene insertion process is feasible for the construction of tetrasubstituted silicon-stereogenic silanes, albeit in low ee. In the absence of alkene, only trace corresponding C-H silvlation product could be observed under the Rh-catalyzed conditions; most of the starting material dihydrosilane 1a was decomposed in the reaction. Further examination of the chiral diphosphine ligands showed that Josiphos type ligands improved both the yield and ee significantly, especially L7-L9, affording 3a in 76%-78% yield and 83%-85% ee (Table 1, entries 6-11). Investigation of other common solvents disclosed that the use of DCE (1,2dichloroethane) increased the ee of 3a to 92% in the presence of L7, while dioxane and *n*-hexane gave similar ee as toluene (Table 1, entries 12-14). Other Rh(I) catalysts such as [Rh(cod)OH]<sub>2</sub> and [Rh(nbd)Cl]<sub>2</sub> had a small effect on the reaction (entries 15-16).

Having identified the optimized conditions for the enantioselective aliphatic C-H silylation/alkene insertion process, we next assessed the scope of this transformation to establish the synthetic methodology for the construction of tetrasubstituted silicon-stereogenic dihydrobenzosiloles (Table 2). First, the aromatic rings (purple) of dihydrosilane substrates bearing different functional groups, including electron-withdrawing fluro (3b), chloro (3c) groups and electron-donating methoxy group (3d), as well as naphthyl (3e) groups, all reacted smoothly with styrene to afford the desired asymmetrically tetrasubstituted dihydrobenzosilole products in moderate to good yields (42-74%) with good to excellent enantioselectivities (90-97% ee). Second, the quaternary carbon center part (orange) of dihydrosilane was investigated under the standard conditions. Replacement two of the methyl groups into various alkyl chains containing ethyl (3f), cyclopropyl (3g), cyclohexyl (3h), and protected hydroxyl (3i) groups, as well as aromatic 9-fluorene (3j) group also produced the corresponding dihydrobenzosiloles in good yields without the loss of enantioselectivities. In addition, changing only one of the methyl group into phenyl group, diastereoisomers were obtained in a ratio of 1.3:1 under good enantiocontrol (3k). Next, the third substituents (green) on the dihydrosilane substrates were tested. We found that a variety of functionalized aromatic rings containing amino (3I), trimethylsilyl

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(3m), naphthyl (3n) groups, heterocycles including benzofuran (3o), indole (3p), thiophene (3q), as well as benzyl group (3r) were well tolerated in the reactions. Finally, for the scope of alkenes (blue), we found that a wide range of styrene derivatives displaying various functional substituents, such as 2-fluro (3s), 3-trifluoromethyl (3t), 4-methoxy (3u), 4-fluro (3v), 4-chloro (3w), protected hydroxyl (3x), 4-Bpin (3y), and pyridine groups (3z)

were all competent substrates, providing the desired highly functionalized dihydrobenzosiloles in good yields with excellent enantioselectivities. Other type of alkenes, including vinyl ether (**3aa**), vinylsilane (**3ab** and **3ac**), vinylgermane (**3ad**), and vinylborane ester (**3ae**) also worked well in the transformation, providing readily manipulable functional groups suitable for downstream modification of varying substitution patterns.

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Table 2. Substrate scope.[a]
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[a] Conditions: **1** (0.1 mmol), **2** (0.22 mmol), [Rh(cod)Cl]<sub>2</sub> (2 mol%), ligand (4 mol%), in 1.0 mL DCE under Argon atmosphere at 100 °C for 1 h. Isolated yields. The *ee* values were determined by chiral HPLC.

To further demonstrate the diversity and utility of this enantioselective aliphatic C–H silylation/alkene insertion process, we further examined the reaction employing the core structures of several bioactive molecules, pharmaceuticals and material building blocks (Table 3). We were delighted to find that the corresponding silicon-stereogenic dihydrobenzosilole products

containing D-ribofuranoside (**3af**), diacetonefructose (**3ag**), (-)menthol (**3ah**), dehydrocholesterol (**3ai**),  $\beta$ -estradiol (**3aj**), pitavastatin fragment (**3ak**) or liquid crystal building block (**3al**) derivatives, could be obtained in good yields with excellent stereoselectivities, irrespective of existing diverse functional groups and complex molecular structures.

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Table 3. Scope with core structures of bioactive molecules, pharmaceuticals and material building blocks.<sup>[a]</sup>



[a] See Supporting Information for details. Isolated yields. The *ee* values were determined by chiral HPLC. *de* = diastereomic excess. X-ray crystallographic analysis of **3ai** allowed to determine the absolute configuration; and configurations of the products **3** were assigned by analogy.



Finally, given that this transformation displayed a remarkable selectivity, we're interested to elucidate the reaction pathway

and identify the reaction intermediate. Usually, direct hydrosilylation of alkene with dihydrosilane is feasible under metal-catalyzed conditions;<sup>[9e,9m,9n]</sup> and we did observe minor hydrosilylation product 4a in the reaction. One may argue that the direct hydrosilylation of alkene with dihydrosilane could be the first step, and the generated monohydrosilane 4a could reasonably undergo C-H activation/silvlation affording the final product 3a. In light of this, several control experiments were investigated (Scheme 2). First, monohydrosilane 4a was prepared and subjected to the standard reaction conditions either with or without styrene (Scheme 2a). In both cases, no C-H silylation product 3a could be obtained. The quantitively recovery of starting material 4a suggesting that 4a is not the intermediate in the reaction. Next, under the optimized conditions only without the alkene partner, the intramolecular C-H silylation/cyclization product (-)-5r was obtained in 15% vield from dihydrosilane 1r (Scheme 2b).<sup>[9m]</sup> Despite low vield, the comparable 79% ee of (-)-5r with (-)-3r (Table 2, 80% ee) indicates that the stereo-determining step is the C-H activation/silylation process. To further confirm 5r is the key intermediate in this cascade process, treatment of enantioenriched (+)-5r (97% ee, chiral resolution via prepared HPLC, see Supporting Information section 5.2) with styrene under the Rh-catalyzed conditions furnished the identical tetrasubstituted dihydrobenzosilole product (+)-3r with the same absolute configuration, regardless the use of (R, Sp)-Josiphos L7 or (S, Rp)-Josiphos L7 or (racemic)-Josiphos L7 (Scheme 2c). Moreover, when a racemic 5r was subjected to the reaction conditions using (R, Sp)-Josiphos L7, a racemic product 3r was obtained (Scheme 2d). These results further suggest that the intramolecular C-H silylation/cyclization product is the key intermediate in the reaction, and the chirality of the siliconstereogenic center is induced in the first C-H activation/silylation step which leads to the formation of the final product. It is worth mentioning that, for most cases. the key C-H silylation/cyclization monohydrosilane intermediates are not

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stable in the reaction systems, the one-pot trap of them with alkenes in a stereospecific fashion stabilized the siliconstereogenic center, providing an elegant strategy for the construction of various asymmetrically tetrasubstituted dihydrobenzosiloles.<sup>[10]</sup> This process also suggests that the intramolecular C(sp<sup>3</sup>)-H silylation is more favoured than the intermolecular alkene hydrosilylation. In addition, we believe that the alkene could also play a role as the hydrogen acceptor in the first dehydrogenative cyclization. For example, we could isolate the hydrogenated product 1-ethyl-4-methoxybenzene in 81% yield when 1-methoxy-4-vinylbenzene was used in the reaction (Table 2, **3u**). Further detailed mechanistic studies are in progress, which will be disclosed in due course.

#### Conclusion

In summary, we develop an enantioselective aliphatic C–H silylation/alkene hydrosilylation methodology for the efficient synthesis of silicon-stereogenic dihydrobenzosiloles. This process involves a highly selective asymmetric C(sp<sup>3</sup>)–H silylation of dihydrosilanes, followed by a stereospecific alkene hydrosilylation. A wide range of dihydrosilanes and alkenes displaying various functional groups are compatible with this process, giving access to a variety of highly functionalized silicon-stereogenic dihydrobenzosiloles in good to excellent yields and enantioselectivities. We believe that the operational simplicity and efficacy of this enantioselective C(sp<sup>3</sup>)–H silylation and broad scope of the asymmetrically tetrasubstituted silanes displaying functional diversity will find widespread use among synthetic chemistry, medicinal chemistry, and materials science.

#### **Experimental Section**

Inside an argon-filled glovebox, an oven-dried 5 mL microwave reaction tube was charged with [Rh(cod)Cl]<sub>2</sub> (1 mg, 0.002 mmol), (*R*, *Sp*)-Josiphos (2.2 mg, 0.004 mmol) and anhydrous DCE (1 mL). After being stirred at room temperature for 5-10 min, dihydrosilane (0.10 mmol) and alkene (0.22 mmol) were added. The tube was capped and taken outside of the glovebox. The resulting mixture was placed into a pre-heated (100 °C) aluminium block and stirred for 1 hour. Then the reaction mixture was diluted with dichloromethane (2 mL) and filtered through a plug of silica gel, which was rinsed with petroleum/ ether acetate. The filtrate was concentrated and then purified by preparative TCL to afford target product. The enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC analysis. Corresponding racemic samples were obtained as references by carrying out the reactions at the identical conditions with (±)-BINAP or (±)-Josiphos.

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## **RESEARCH ARTICLE**

#### Entry for the Table of Contents (Please choose one layout)

Layout 2:

## **RESEARCH ARTICLE**



A rhodium(I)-catalyzed enantioselective silylation of aliphatic C–H bonds for the synthesis of silicon-stereogenic dihydrobenzosiloles is demonstrated. This reaction involves a highly enantioselective C–H silylation of dihydrosilanes, followed by a stereospecific alkene hydrosilylation. A wide range of dihydrosilanes and alkenes displaying various functional groups are compatible with this process, giving access to a variety of highly functionalized silicon-stereogenic dihydrobenzosiloles in good to excellent yields and enantioselectivities. B. Yang, W. Yang, Y. Guo, L. You, C. He\*

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Enantioselective Silylation of Aliphatic C–H Bonds for the Synthesis of Silicon-Stereogenic Dihydrobenzosiloles