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# Cobalt-Catalyzed Asymmetric Hydroboration/Cyclization of 1,6-Enynes with Pinacolborane

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Supporting Information Placeholder

**ABSTRACT:** We report the a cobalt-catalyzed asymmetric hydroboration/cyclization of 1,6-enynes with catalysts generated from Co(acac)<sub>2</sub> and chiral bisphosphine ligands and activated in situ by the reaction with pinacolborane (HBpin). A variety of oxygen-, nitrogen-, and carbontethered 1,6-enynes underwent this asymmetric transformation, yielding both alkyl- and vinyl-substituted boronate esters containing chiral tetrahydrofuran, cyclopentane, and pyrrolidine moieties with high to excellent enantioselectivities (86%-99% ee).

Chiral five-membered carbocyclic and heterocyclic structural motifs are present in a variety of bioactive natural products (Figure 1).<sup>1</sup> The transition metal-catalyzed enantioselective cycloisomerization of 1,6-enynes<sup>2</sup> and related reductive cyclization<sup>3</sup> represent powerful approaches to such chiral cyclic structural units.<sup>4</sup> However, borylative cyclization<sup>5</sup> is arguably more important for synthetic applications because of the versatile chemistry of the boryl functionality.<sup>6</sup> Several catalysts have been reported for asymmetric borylative cyclization of specific classes of alkenemultiply containing unsaturated substrates with bis(pinacolato)diboron (B<sub>2</sub>pin<sub>2</sub>).

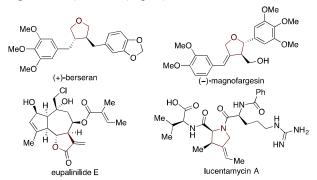
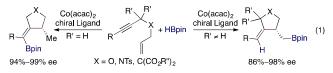


Figure 1. Examples of related nature products

In 2013, Lin, Tian, and coworkers reported a Cucatalyzed asymmetric borylative cyclization of cyclohexadienone-containing oxygen-tethered enynes with B<sub>2</sub>pin<sub>2</sub> in the presence of methanol as a proton source.<sup>7c</sup> Mechanistic studies reveal that the coordination of the oxygen atom in the propargylic ether unit with the copper catalyst is crucial to achieve the borylative cyclization. Carbon- and nitrogentethered 1,6-enynes do not undergo this copper-catalyzed asymmetric transformation.

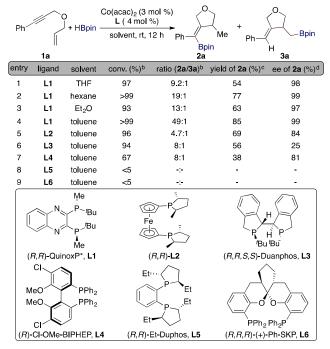
The hydroboration/cyclization of 1,6-envnes with HBpin, a more atom-economical approach than borylative cyclization with B<sub>2</sub>Pin<sub>2</sub>, could potentially produce both vinyl and alkyl boronate products (eq 1). This reaction has been studied with a chiral rhodium catalyst and affords only vinyl boronate products.<sup>8</sup> This rhodium system requires the use of catecholborane (HBcat) to achieve good yields of vinyl boronate products and generally shows low to modest enantioselectivities. In addition, the use of HBcat limits its applications because of the poor stability of catechol boronate products. In view of broad synthetic applications of pinacol boronate esters<sup>9</sup> and importance of chiral carbocyclic and heterocyclic structural motifs, we are interested in developing a base metal-catalyzed asymmetric hydroboration/cyclization of 1,6-envnes with HBpin to prepare chiral cyclic boronate esters. Here we report the first asymmetric cobalt-catalyzed hydroboration/cyclization of 1,6-enynes that produces both alkyl and vinyl boronate esters (eq 1).<sup>10</sup>



Recently, cobalt complexes have been emerging as active catalysts for hydrogenation,<sup>11</sup> hydroboration,<sup>12</sup> and hydrosilylation<sup>13</sup> of alkenes and alkynes.<sup>14</sup> During our effort in developing cobalt catalysis, we have found that cobalt complexes with bisphosphine ligands are effective for alkene hydrosilylation.<sup>15</sup> In this study, we targeted cobalt complexes with chiral bisphosphine ligands for asymmetric hydroboration/cyclization of 1,6-enynes because the accessibility of a wide range of chiral bisphosphine ligands provides a possibility to control both regio- and enantioselectivity of this transformation.

We initiated our studies of Co-catalyzed hydroboration/cyclization by evaluating the reaction between (3-(allyloxy)prop-1-yn-1-yl)benzene (1a) and HBpin. We tested various cobalt precursors, bisphosphine ligands and solvents for this reaction (see SI for the detailed evaluation) and the selected examples are summarized in Table 1. The reaction conducted with  $Co(acac)_2$  and (R,R)-QuinoxP\* (L1) in THF afforded the vinyl boronate product 2a as major product with high enantioselectivity (98% ee) (entry 1). Next, we tested this reaction in various solvents (entries 2–4) and we found that the reaction conducted in toluene gave 2a in 85% isolated yield with excellent enantioselectivity (99% ee) (entry 4). Other chiral bisphosphine ligands L2–L6 were tested and these reactions showed lower selectivity for 2a over 3a (entries 5–9). In addition, these reactions afforded 2a with lower enantioselectivities.

 
 Table 1. Evaluation of Conditions for Co-Catalyzed Hydroboration/Cyclization of Enyne 1a<sup>a</sup>

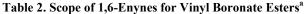


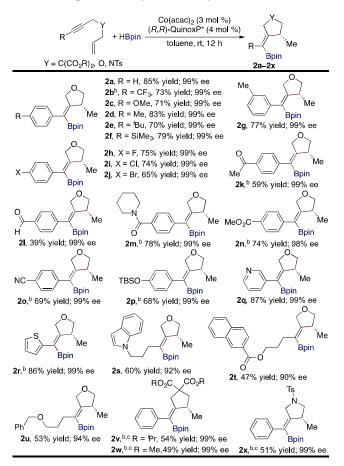
<sup>a</sup>Conditions: **1a** (0.200 mmol), HBpin (0.300 mmol), Co(acac)<sub>2</sub> (6.0  $\mu$ mol), ligand (8.0  $\mu$ mol), solvent (1 mL), rt, 12 h, <sup>b</sup>conversions of **1a** and ratios of **2a**:**3a** were determined by GC analysis on the crude reaction mixture; <sup>c</sup>isolated yields; <sup>d</sup>ee was determined by chiral HPLC analysis using the isolated compound **2a**.

The scope of 1,6-enynes for this cobalt-catalyzed asymmetric hydroboration/cyclization to produce vinyl boronate esters is summarized in Table 2. In general, a wide range of oxygen-, nitrogen-, or carbon-tethered 1,6-enynes reacted in the presence of 3 mol % of Co(acac)<sub>2</sub> and 4 mol % of (R,R)-quinoxP\* to provide vinyl boronate esters (**2a–2x**) with modest to high isolated yields (59%–87%) and high enantioselectivities (94%–99%).

The 1,6-enynes containing a series of electronically varied aryl groups (2a-2c) reacted smoothly with high yields and excellent enantioselectivities. Aliphatic 1,6-enynes also reacted to give the corresponding vinyl boronate esters (2s-2u) with high enantioselectivities. Nitrogen- and carbontethered 1,6-enynes underwent hydroboration/cyclization at 60 °C to afford the corresponding vinyl boronate esters (2v-2x) with modest yields and excellent enantioselectivities (99%).<sup>16</sup> This asymmetric transformation shows high functional group tolerance and a wide range of reactive groups, such as trifluoromethyl (2b), silyl (2f), ether (2c and 2u), fluoro (2h), chloro (2i), bromo (2j), ketone (2k), aldehyde (2l), amide (2m), ester (2n and 2t), cyano (2o), and silylether (2p) moieties, are compatible with the reaction conditions. In addition, enynes containing pyridine, thiophene, or indole moieties also reacted, affording the corresponding vinyl boronate esters (2q–2s) with high yields and excellent enantioselectivities. However, the reactions of enynes con-

taining internal alkenes, terminal alkynes, nitro, and unprotected hydroxyl and amino groups did not occur. The absolute configuration of 2b and 2n was determined to be (*R*) by single-crystal X-ray diffraction.





<sup>a</sup>Conditions: enyne (0.200 mmol), HBpin (0.300 mmol), Co(acac)<sub>2</sub> (6.0  $\mu$ mol), (*R*,*R*)-quinoxP\* (8.0  $\mu$ mol), toluene (1 mL), rt, 12 h, isolated yields, and ee was determined by chiral HPLC analysis; <sup>b</sup>60 °C; <sup>c</sup>THF (1 ml).

The data in Table 2 show that the enynes containing *para*- (**2b**-**2f**) or the *meta*-substituted (**2g**) arenes reacted to afford vinyl boronate esters as major products. However, the enynes containing *ortho*-substituted aryl groups reacted to provide alkyl boronate esters (**3b** and **3c** in Table 3) with good isolated yields and high enantioselectivities. Subsequently, we tested the reactions of oxygen-tethered 1,6enynes with two substituents at the propargalic position in the presence of Co(acac)<sub>2</sub> and (*R*,*R*)-QuinoxP\*. These reactions occurred smoothly at room temperature and afforded alkyl boronate esters (**3d–3l** in Table 3) with high isolated yields (69%–91%) and high ee (86%–92%).

When catalyzed by  $Co(acac)_2$  and (R,R)-quinoxP\* at room temperature, nitrogen- and carbon-tethered 1,6enynes reacted to give the products from *anti*-Markovnikov hydroboration of the alkene without cyclization (see SI for the details). However, under modified conditions with (R,R)-L2 (see Table 1 for its structure), nitrogen- and carbon-tethered enynes underwent hydroboration/cyclization smoothly at room temperature, affording the corresponding alkyl boronate esters (**3m**-**3s** in Table 3) with high enantioselectivities, albeit with modest isolated yields.

#### Table 3. Scope of 1,6-Enynes for Alkyl Boronate Esters<sup>a</sup>

+ HBpin

X = 0, NTs, C(CO<sub>2</sub>R")

Bpin

Bpin

Bpin

CO<sub>2</sub>Me

Boir

Me

Ph、

Ph

3b, 88% yield; 88% ee

3e, 71% yield; 86% ee

Ъ

3k, 77% yield; 91% ee

MeO<sub>2</sub>C

Ъ

3n,<sup>d</sup> R = H, 63% yield; 96% ee

30,<sup>d</sup> R = Me, 60% yield; 98% ee

3p,<sup>d</sup> R = <sup>t</sup>Bu, 54% yield; 97% ee

3q,<sup>d</sup> R = CF<sub>3</sub>, 55% yield; 96% ee

R

0

Co(acac)<sub>2</sub> (3 mol %) (*R*,*R*)-QuinoxP\* (4 mol %)

Bpin

Bpin

CO<sub>2</sub>Me

Bpin

THF, rt, 12 h

H 3c, 86% yield; 90% ee

3l, b,c 69% yield; 92% ee

Ъ

3r.d 58% vield; 96% ee

MeO<sub>2</sub>C

Me

R'

Bpin

Boir

Bpin

Boin

3b-3s

3d, 82% yield; 91% ee

3f, n=0, 80% yield; 91% ee

3g, n=1, 91% yield; 92% ee

3h, n=2, 84% yield; 91% ee

3i, n=3, 79% vield; 91% ee

3j, n=4, 87% yield; 90% ee

Ts

3m,<sup>d</sup> 66% yield; 92% ee

3s,d 50% yield; 97% ee

CO2Pr

PrO<sub>2</sub>C.

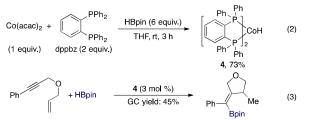
Me

Me

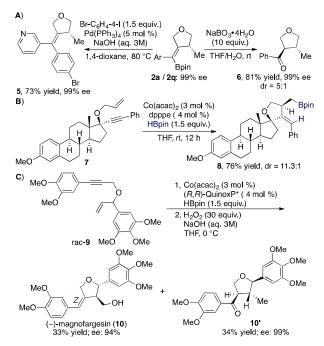
<sup>a</sup>Conditions: enyne (0.200 mmol), HBpin (0.300 mmol), Co(acac)<sub>2</sub> (6.0 µmol), (R,R)-quinoxP\* (8.0 µmol), THF (1 mL), rt, 12 h, isolated yields, and ee was determined by chiral HPLC analysis; <sup>b</sup>toluene (1 mL); <sup>c</sup>The absolute configuration of **31** was determined by single-crystal X-ray analysis on the corresponding alcohol obtained by the oxidation of **31**. <sup>d</sup>(R,R)-L2 (8.0 µmol).

To provide insight into the nature of the cobalt intermediate for this cobalt-catalyzed transformation, stoichiometric reactions with  $Co(acac)_2$ , bisphosphine ligand, and HBpin were conducted. As the hydroboration/cyclization of envne 1a catalyzed by the combination of  $Co(acac)_2$  and dppbz occurred in a yield and a regioselectivity similar to the corresponding reaction conducted with Co(acac)<sub>2</sub> and (R,R)-QuinoxP, we chose to study the activation of  $Co(acac)_2$  with HBpin in the presence of non-chiral dppbz ligand due to its accessibility. An NMR-scale reaction of  $Co(acac)_2$  with 6 equivalents of HBpin in the presence of 1 equivalent of dppbz in THF- $d_8$  revealed the formation of a cobalt complex with a characteristic Co-H resonance (<sup>1</sup>H NMR) at -14.4 ppm. The same cobalt species was formed for the reaction conducted with 2 equivalent of dppbz (eq 2), and the X-ray analysis on the isolated material (Figure S1) confirmed the identity of a Co<sup>I</sup> hydride complex

 $(dppbz)_2CoH$  (4).<sup>17</sup> Importantly, this Co-H complex was active for the hydroboration/cylcization of enyne **1a** (eq 3). The results of these experiments suggest that Co(acac)<sub>2</sub> can be reduced by HBpin to generate a catalytically active Co<sup>I</sup>-H species (see SI for the proposed mechanism involving migratory insertion of 1,6-enyne into a Co<sup>I</sup>-H bond for this hydroboration/cyclization of 1,6-enynes).



Scheme 1. Transformations of Hydroboration/Cyclization Products and Total Synthesis of (-)-Magnofargesin



The synthetic utility of this cobalt-catalyzed transformation is shown in Scheme 1. The vinyl boronate ester 2q reacted with 1-bromo-4-iodobenzene in the presence of  $Pd(PPh_3)_4$  to produce a tetra-substituted alkene 5 in high yield (Scheme 1A). Vinyl boronate ester 2a underwent a diastereoselective oxidative hydrolysis with NaBO3, affording the ketone 6 in 81% isolated yield with dr of 5:1 (Scheme 1A). Furthermore, we showed that an enantiometrically pure 1,6-envne 7 underwent a diastereoselective hydroboration/cyclization, yielding an alkyl boronate ester 8, isolated as a single diastereomer in 76% yield (Scheme 1B). Finally, the synthesis of (-)-magnofargesin (10) (Scheme 1C) was achieved in 33% yield with 94% ee via the reaction sequence of the diastereo-divergent hydroboration/cyclization of envne rac-9 and oxidation of the resulting alkyl boronate ester with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> in the presence of aqueous NaOH solution.18

In summary, we have developed the first cobaltcatalyzed asymmetric hydroboration/cyclization of 1,6enynes. The cobalt catalysts were generated in situ from  $Co(acac)_2$  and chiral bisphosphine ligands and activated by the reaction with HBpin in the absence of additional activators. A range of oxygen-, nitrogen-, and carbon-tethered 1,6-envnes reacted to give both alkyl and vinyl boronate esters containing chiral tetrahydrofuran, pyrrolidine, and cyclopentane rings in modest to high yields and excellent enantioselectivities. Further studies to reveal the detailed mechanism of this transformation and to develop cobaltcatalyzed asymmetric hydrofuncationalization/cyclization of other multiply unsaturated substrates will be the subjects of further work.

# ASSOCIATED CONTENT

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI:

Experimental procedures, characterization of products, and spectroscopic data (PDF)

Crystallographic data (CIF)

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#### Notes

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The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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Table of Contents	
	$R = \begin{pmatrix} X \\ QuinoxP \\ H \\ Me \\ R' = H \\ Bpin \\ R = o-substituted \\ aryl group \\ R = 0 \\ R = o-substituted \\ H \\ R = o-substituted \\ R = o-substitu$
	<ul> <li>4√a-39% de x - 0, rits, 0(002/1/2 00%-96% de</li> <li>♦ Cheap and Readily Available Cobalt Precursor</li> <li>♦ Free of External Activators</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Dual Selectivity to both Vinyl and Alkyl Boronate Esters</li> <li>42 examples in total and 39 examples over 90% ee</li> </ul>
	ACS Daragon Divis Environment
	ACS Paragon Plus Environment