

# Enantioselective Synthesis of Pyrrolidine-, Piperidine-, and Azepane-Type *N*-Heterocycles with $\alpha$ -Alkenyl Substitution: The CpRu-Catalyzed Dehydrative Intramolecular *N*-Allylation Approach

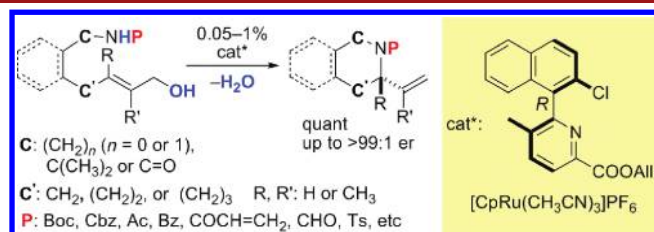
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## ABSTRACT



A cationic CpRu complex of chiral picolinic acid derivatives [(*R*)- or (*S*)-Cl-Naph-PyCOOCH<sub>2</sub>CH=CH<sub>2</sub>] catalyzes asymmetric intramolecular dehydrative *N*-allylation of *N*-substituted  $\omega$ -amino- and -aminocarbonyl allylic alcohols with a substrate/catalyst ratio of up to 2000 to give  $\alpha$ -alkenyl pyrrolidine-, piperidine-, and azepane-type *N*-heterocycles with an enantiomer ratio of up to >99:1. The wide range of applicable *N*-substitutions, including Boc, Cbz, Ac, Bz, acryloyl, crotonoyl, formyl, and Ts, significantly facilitates further manipulation toward natural product synthesis.

Saturated *N*-heterocycles, such as pyrrolidines, piperidines, azepanes, and their benzo-fused compounds, constitute a core part of pharmaceutically important natural

alkaloids<sup>1</sup> and have therefore attracted much attention from synthetic chemists for the efficient stereoselective construction of these molecules,<sup>2</sup> particularly in a catalytic enantioselective manner. Among many approaches,<sup>3</sup> installation of an alkenyl group at the  $\alpha$ -position via intramolecular enantioselective *N*-C $\alpha$  bond formation<sup>3f,4</sup> is

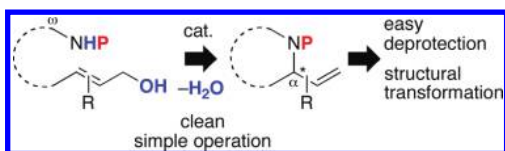
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one of the most attractive strategies because of the high utility of the olefinic moiety in subsequent functional transformations.

Scheme 1



Scheme 1 shows one such protocol,<sup>5</sup> in which prochiral  $\omega$ -amino allylic alcohols masked by an easily removable *N*-protecting group (PG) or modified by a post-transformable moiety dehydratively cyclize. Both Nishizawa/Yamamoto<sup>6</sup> and our<sup>7</sup> groups have recently reported such an atom-economic and operationally simple process in the enantioselective cyclization of  $\omega$ -sulfonylamino allylic alcohols, although it was limited to specific cases. In this communication, we report a synthetically even more flexible method<sup>8</sup> with high reactivity, selectivity, and generality, which utilizes our previously described Cl-Naph-Py-COOAll (**1**, All: allyl)/[CpRu(CH<sub>3</sub>CN)<sub>3</sub>]PF<sub>6</sub> (**2**) combined catalyst.<sup>9</sup>

*N*-Boc-protected (*E*)-6-aminohept-2-en-1-ol ((*E*)-**3a**) was selected as a standard substrate because the previously reported methods<sup>6,7</sup> can be applied only to *N*-protected aromatic amine nucleophiles or C(3)-aryl-substituted allylic alcohols. Screening of the reaction conditions was started from [**3a**] = 500 mM; [(*R*)-**1**] = [**2**] = 0.5 mM; DMA; 100 °C; 3 h. The results are shown in Table 1.<sup>10</sup>

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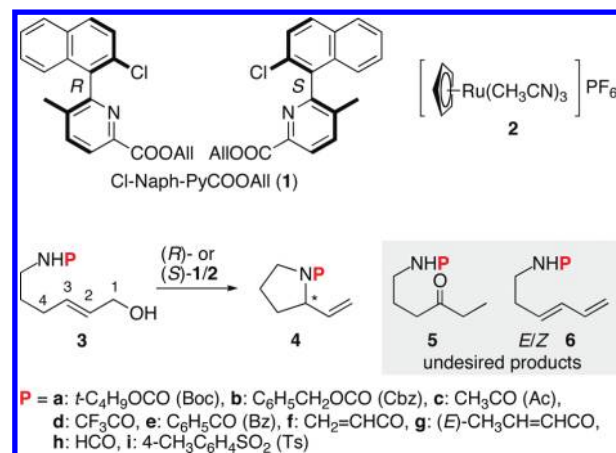
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**Table 1.** Dehydrative Intramolecular Asymmetric *N*-Allylation of (*E*)-**3** Using (*R*)-Cl-Naph-PyCOOAll ((*R*)-**1**)/[CpRu-(CH<sub>3</sub>CN)<sub>3</sub>]PF<sub>6</sub> (**2**) Combined Catalyst<sup>a</sup>



entry	P (substrate)	S/C	time, h	% conv <sup>b</sup>	<i>S</i> : <i>R</i> <sup>c</sup>
1	<i>t</i> -C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub> OCO ( <b>3a</b> )	1000	3	>99 (94)	98:2
2 <sup>d</sup>	<i>t</i> -C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub> OCO ( <b>3a</b> )	1000	3	>99 (—)	2:98
3 <sup>e</sup>	<i>t</i> -C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub> OCO ( <b>3a</b> )	2000	6	>99 (—)	98:2
4 <sup>f</sup>	<i>t</i> -C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub> OCO ( <b>3a</b> )	100	<0.5	>99 (—)	98:2
5	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> OCO ( <b>3b</b> )	1000	3	>99 (99)	98:2
6 <sup>f,g,h</sup>	CH <sub>3</sub> CO ( <b>3c</b> )	100	3	>99 <sup>i</sup> (90)	(93:7)
7 <sup>f</sup>	CF <sub>3</sub> CO ( <b>3d</b> )	100	3	<sup>j</sup>	
8 <sup>f</sup>	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> CO ( <b>3e</b> )	100	3	>99 (95)	(97:3)
9 <sup>f,g</sup>	CH <sub>2</sub> =CHCO ( <b>3f</b> )	100	24	>99 (98)	95:5
10 <sup>f,g,h</sup>	( <i>E</i> )-CH <sub>3</sub> CH=CHCO ( <b>3g</b> )	100	24	>99 (91)	(93:7)
11 <sup>f,g</sup>	HCO ( <b>3h</b> )	100	24	>99 (97)	(96:4)
12	4-CH <sub>3</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> SO <sub>2</sub> ( <b>3i</b> )	1000	3	>99 (95)	(97:3)

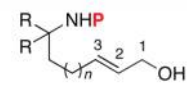
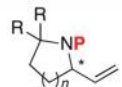
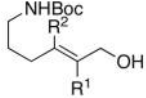
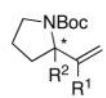
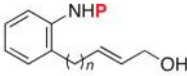
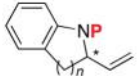
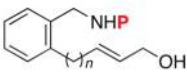
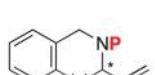
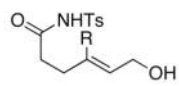
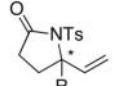
<sup>a</sup> Unless otherwise specified, all of reactions were carried out under the following conditions: [**3**] = 500 mM; [(*R*)-**1**]/**2** = 0.5 mM; solvent, DMA; bath temp, 100 °C. <sup>b</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis. The value in parentheses: isolated yield of **4**. <sup>c</sup> GC or HPLC analysis. Absolute configuration: comparison of optical rotation with the reported values. Not determined for the parenthesized data. <sup>d</sup> Catalyst: (*S*)-**1**-**2**. <sup>e</sup> [**3a**] = 1 M. <sup>f</sup> [**3**] = 100 mM, [(*R*)-**1**] = [**2**] = 1 mM. <sup>g</sup> 10:1 *t*-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>OH–DMA mixed solvent. <sup>h</sup> 70 °C. <sup>i</sup> **4c**:**5c** = 95:5. Use of DMA as solvent quantitatively gave **5c**. <sup>j</sup> Only diene **6d** (*E*/*Z* = 2:1) was obtained in either DMA or *t*-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>OH.

The standard quantitatively afforded (*S*)-**4a** with an enantiomer ratio (er) of 98:2 (Table 1, entry 1), and the enantiomeric product (*R*)-**4a** was obtained by using an *S*-catalyst system (Table 1, entry 2). The substrate concentration could be increased to 1 M [substrate/catalyst (*S*/C) = 2000 (0.05 mol %)] (Table 1, entry 3). Even with *S*/C = 10000 (0.01 mol %), the reaction proceeded without loss of er, although it was sluggish (25%, 24 h). In terms of easy lab operation and quickness, *S*/C = 100 (1 mol %) is recommended (Table 1, entry 4). DMA, THF, and *t*-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>OH are the solvents of choice. The reaction was slower in CH<sub>3</sub>OH (54% conv), C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH (71%), *i*-C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>OH (91%), ether (90%), TBME (84%), dioxane (90%), and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (89%), but an er of 96:4 to 97:3 was maintained, whereas toluene deteriorated both the reactivity and selectivity (31% conv, 84:16 er). No reaction occurred in CH<sub>3</sub>CN or acetone. The temperature could be lowered to 70 °C (24 h, 88% yield, 98:2 er), but the reaction proceeded little at 50 °C.<sup>10</sup>

Not only the BocNH substrate (*E*)-**3a** but also the CbzNH and TsNH substrates **3b** and **3i** could be used with S/C = 1000 (0.1 mol %) to give **4b** and **4i** with a higher er (Table 1, entries 5 and 12). Replacement of the alkoxycarbonyl or sulfonyl substitution on N with an acyl group required S/C = 100 (1 mol %) to gain reasonable reactivity and caused undesired reactions, giving ketone **5** or diene **6** in some cases. Thus, **3c** (P = Ac) was quantitatively converted to **5c** in DMA, but change of the DMA solvent to 10:1 *t*-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>OH–DMA afforded the desired product **4c** in 95% yield (Table 1, entry 6). The benzamide **3e** (P = Bz) smoothly cyclized in DMA to **4e** with a higher yield and without formation of **5e** (Table 1, entry 8). For some reason, **4c** was susceptible to a 1,3-hydrogen shift in DMA to the enamide compound, which was then hydrolyzed to **5c** by water liberated during the course of dehydrative allylation.<sup>11</sup> The reactions with **3f** (P = CH<sub>2</sub>=CHCO) and **3h** (P = HCO) were completed under standard conditions to give a 95:5 mixture of **4f** and **6f** (*E/Z* = 3:1) and an 80:20 mixture of **4h** and **6h** (*E/Z* = 4:1), respectively. Formation of the diene was avoided by using a 10:1 *t*-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>OH–DMA mixed solvent (Table 1, entries 9 and 11). No cyclization occurred with the CF<sub>3</sub>CONH substrate **3d**, while only  $\beta$ -elimination quantitatively proceeded to give **6d** (*E/Z* = 2:1) in either DMA or *t*-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>OH (Table 1, entry 7). Free amine (P = H) and its HX salts (X = TsO, AcO, PF<sub>6</sub>) showed no reactivity.

Table 2 shows the scope and limitation of the present asymmetric catalysis for the synthesis of chiral pyrrolidines and piperidines.<sup>10</sup> Not only *E* allylic alcohols but also the *Z*-isomer is the substrate of choice. With the geometrical *Z*-isomer of (*E*)-**3a**, the (*R*)-**1/2** catalyst gave **4a** with preference for the *R* enantiomer (Table 2, entry 1). The compound **7a** (*n* = 2), in which one CH<sub>2</sub> is extended from (*E*)-**3a** (*n* = 1), was completely converted to the corresponding 6-*exo*-trig cyclized product **8a** with an er of 97:3 (Table 2, entry 2). The tertiary alkyl-substituted BocNH substrate **7b** could also be used (Table 2, entry 3). Introduction of a methyl group at C(2) of **3a** was tolerable (Table 2, entry 5), but the reaction of the C(3)-methyl substituted substrate **9b** led to generation of the diene (Table 2, entries 5 and 6). With *N*-protected aromatic amines **11**, both 5- and 6-*exo*-trig cyclization proceeded to give the indoline and tetrahydroquinoline derivatives **12** with an er of > 99:1 and 95:5, respectively (Table 2, entries 7 and 8). Both the reactivity and enantioselectivity were dramatically decreased with the C(4)–C(5) arene-fused substrate **13a** (Table 2, entry 9),<sup>7</sup> whereas one CH<sub>2</sub> insertion at C(4) led to successful cyclization of **13b** to **14b** (Table 2, entry 10). The *N*-Ts-protected  $\omega$ -aminocarbonyl allylic alcohol **15a** formed a N–C $\alpha$  bond with nearly perfect enantioselectivity to give  $\gamma$ -lactam **16a** (Table 2, entry 11). With this *N*-nucleophile, the 3,3-disubstituted allylic alcohol **15b** could also be utilized to give **16b** with high stereocontrol of the tetrasubstituted carbon

**Table 2.** Asymmetric Synthesis of Pyrrolidines and Piperidines Using (*R*)-**1/2**-Combined Catalyst<sup>a</sup>

entry	substrate	product	% yield <sup>b</sup>	er <sup>c</sup>
1 <sup>d</sup>			92	6:94
2	<b>7</b> a: P = Boc; R = H; <i>n</i> = 2	( <i>S</i> )- <b>8a</b>	90	97:3
3 <sup>e,f</sup>	b: P = Boc; R = CH <sub>3</sub> ; <i>n</i> = 1	<b>8b</b>	92	97:3
4 <sup>g</sup>	c: P = ( <i>E</i> )-CH <sub>3</sub> CH=CHCO; R = H; <i>n</i> = 2	<b>8c</b>	96	94:6
5 <sup>e</sup>			96	98:2
6 <sup>g</sup>	b: R <sup>1</sup> = H; R <sup>2</sup> = CH <sub>3</sub>	<b>10b</b>	— <sup>h</sup>	—
7 <sup>f,i,j</sup>			98	>99:1
8 <sup>j,k</sup>	a: P = Boc; <i>n</i> = 1 b: P = Boc; <i>n</i> = 2	<b>12b</b>	99	95:5
9			30	53:47
10 <sup>i</sup>	a: P = Ts; <i>n</i> = 0 b: P = Boc; <i>n</i> = 1	<b>14b</b>	90	96:4
11			92	99:1
12 <sup>i</sup>	a: R = H b: R = CH <sub>3</sub>	( <i>S</i> )- <b>16b</b>	92	93:7

<sup>a</sup> Conditions: 25–120 mg scale; [substrate] = 100 mM; [(*R*)-**1**] = [2] = 1 mM; DMA; 100 °C; 3 h unless otherwise specified. *E* allylic alcohols were used except for (*Z*)-**3a** (entry 1). <sup>b</sup> Isolated yield. <sup>c</sup> GC or HPLC analysis. <sup>d</sup> 1 h. <sup>e</sup> [substrate] = 500 mM; [(*R*)-**1**] = [2] = 0.5 mM. <sup>f</sup> 6 h. <sup>g</sup> 24 h. <sup>h</sup> 50% conv, 85:15 mixture of *N*-Boc-protected 6-amino-3-methylhexa-1,3-diene (*E/Z* = 3:2) and 6-amino-3-methylenhex-1-ene. <sup>i</sup> 5 g scale. <sup>j</sup> 10:1 *t*-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>OH–DMA mixed solvent. <sup>k</sup> 1 g scale.

stereogenic center (Table 2, entry 12), which would be a good precursor for  $\alpha$ -methyl glutamic acid.<sup>12</sup> Success in the highly enantioselective cyclization of the *N*-alkenoyl allylic alcohols **3f**, **3g**, and **7c** (P = CH<sub>2</sub>=CHCO or (*E*)-CH<sub>3</sub>CH=CHCO) to **4f**, **4g**, and **8c**, respectively (Table 1, entries 9 and 10; Table 2, entry 4), should shorten the steps to pyrrolizidine and indolizidine alkaloids when combined with subsequent Grubbs intramolecular metathesis.<sup>13</sup>

The Cl-Naph-PyCOOAl/CpRu method could also be applied to the construction of an azepane skeleton, although

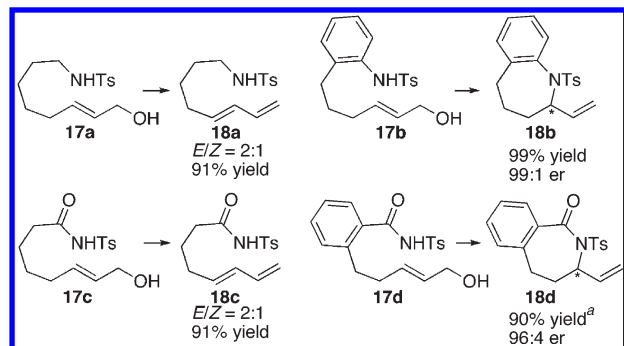
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not as generally as in the case of five- and six-membered ring formation (Figure 1). The simplest substrate **17a** ( $E/Z = 97:3$ ) and its imide derivative **17c** underwent only  $\beta$ -elimination to give the diene products **18a** and **18c** ( $E/Z = 2:1$ ). With the arene-fused substrates **17b** and **17d**, however, the desired cyclization efficiently proceeded to generate the azepane-type *N*-heterocycles **18b** and **18d** with an er of 99:1 and 96:4, respectively. The compounds **18b** and **18d** were high-potential intermediates for the synthesis of tetrahydrobenzazepine alkaloids.<sup>2i,k-m,4d,4e</sup> Introduction of two  $sp^2$  carbons in the carbon tether may enable better HOMO/LUMO orbital interaction between the N atom and the  $\pi$ -allyl C(3) atom. Replacement of Ts group of **17b** with Boc, however, decreased the reactivity and caused  $\beta$ -elimination (29% conv;  $E/Z = 2:1$ ).<sup>10</sup> The acidity of NH also exerts a significant effect on the reactivity.



**Figure 1.** Synthesis of azepane-type *N*-heterocycles ([**17**] = 100 mM; [(*R*)-**1/2**] = 1 mM; 10:1 *t*-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>OH–DMA; 100 °C; 3 h). (a) **18c**-type diene ( $E/Z = 2:1$ ) was formed in 10% yield.

The present catalysis involves many reaction pathways, such as (i)  $\pi$ -allyl Ru(IV) formation ( $k_1$ ); (ii) reductive nucleophilic attack of a PNH to the  $\pi$ -allyl ligand to regenerate Cl-Naph-PyCOOH/CpRu(II) ( $k_2$ );<sup>9</sup> (iii)  $\beta$ -elimination from the  $\pi$ -allyl complex ( $k_3$ ); and (iv) 1,3-hydrogen shift of the  $\alpha$ -alkenyl *N*-heterocyclic product to the

$\alpha$ -exocyclic enamide derivative ( $k_4$ ), followed by hydrolysis. The rate  $k_1$  would be enhanced by a “redox-mediated donor–acceptor bifunctional catalyst” mechanism,<sup>7,9,14</sup> in which the hard H<sup>+</sup>/soft Ru combined catalyst cooperatively activates the allylic alcohol via protonation on the hard hydroxy oxygen and via coordination of the soft double bond to Ru(II). Such a synergetic effect would facilitate the dehydrative  $\pi$ -allyl formation ( $k_1$ ). The fate of the  $\pi$ -allyl species is determined by the relative rate of  $k_2$  to  $k_3$  and  $k_4$ , which is strongly affected by the electronic, steric, stereoelectronic, and molecular orbital properties of PNH. More systematic investigation of the substrate structure/reactivity/selectivity relationship is required for full elucidation of the mechanism. This is an ongoing project in our group.

In summary, by using 0.05–1.00 mol % **1/2**, highly enantioselective intramolecular *N*-allylation of *N*-protected  $\omega$ -amino and -aminocarbonyl allylic alcohols has been realized without activation of allylic alcohols as the esters or halides. Boc-, Cbz-, Ac-, Bz-, CH<sub>2</sub>=CHCO-, (*E*)-CH<sub>3</sub>CH=CHCO-, HCO-, and Ts-NH can act as nucleophiles, depending on the reaction conditions. Not only 5- and 6-*exo*-trig cyclization but also seven-membered ring formation can be attained. The easily removable PGs, as well as the structurally transformable *N*-substituents, should facilitate the syntheses of pharmaceutically important natural *N*-heterocycles. To the best of our knowledge, the present Cl-Naph-PyCOOH/CpRu(II) method is the first example showing very high applicability to C(3)-alkyl-substituted allylic alcohols. Furthermore, complementary use of the present method with our other asymmetric catalyst, Naph-diPIM-dioxo-R/CpRu(II)/*p*-TsOH,<sup>7</sup> which has high performance for C(3)-aryl substrates, should significantly widen the scope of substrate patterns in the asymmetric intramolecular dehydrative *N*-allylation approach.

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**Supporting Information Available.** Experimental details for dehydrative asymmetric cyclization, crystal data for **16b**, and copies of <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra for substrates and all products. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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