

Enantioselective alkynylation to aldimines catalyzed by chiral 2,2'-di(2-aminoaryloxy)-1,1'-binaphthyl-copper(I) complexes

Manabu Hatano, Takafumi Asai and Kazuaki Ishihara*

Graduate School of Engineering, Nagoya University, Furo-cho, Chikusa, Nagoya 464-6603, Japan

Received 19 September 2007; revised 25 October 2007; accepted 6 November 2007

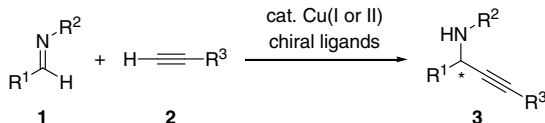
Available online 26 November 2007

Abstract—The enantioselective alkynylation of aldimines with terminal acetylenes catalyzed by chiral Cu(I) complexes with (*R*)-2,2'-di(2-aminoaryloxy)-1,1'-binaphthyl ligands (**7**) was examined. Chiral C_2 -symmetric N,N-ligands **7**, which have primary aniline moieties, were readily prepared from inexpensive (*R*)-1,1'-binaphthol (BINOL) as a chiral source. In particular, the reaction of *N*-benzylidenebenzeneamine **1a** with phenylacetylene **2a** proceeded smoothly in the presence of 5 mol % of (CuOTf)₂·C₆H₅CH₃ and 10 mol % of (*R*)-**7d** at room temperature for 24 h, and the corresponding propargylamine **3a** was obtained with up to 82% ee. © 2007 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

Catalytic enantioselective addition to C=N bonds provides a versatile method for synthesizing chiral nitrogen-containing scaffolds in biologically active compounds and natural products.¹ In particular, propargylamines (**3**) are some of the most important nitrogen-containing compounds,² and can be obtained by the alkynylation of aldimines (**1**) with terminal acetylenes (**2**) via C–H bond activation and C–C bond formation (Scheme 1).^{3,4} To date, a variety of chiral Cu(I or II) complexes have been developed in these catalyses, and chiral P,N-ligands such as QUINAP⁵ and PINAP⁶ and chiral N,O-ligands such as amino acids⁷ and amino alcohols⁸ have been found to be effective. Chiral N,N-ligands or N,N,N-ligands such as binaphthyldiimines⁹ and PYBOXes¹⁰ have also been established. Although chiral aniline derivatives as C_2 -symmetric N,N-ligands are promising ligands for activating Cu(I or II) in general,¹¹ examples have been limited to the pioneering work by Benaglia et al.¹² who used chiral binaphthyl-

diamine. We report here the Cu(I)-catalyzed enantioselective alkynylation of aldimines with terminal acetylenes by using chiral 2,2'-di(2-aminoaryloxy)-1,1'-binaphthyl ligands (**7**), particularly with primary aniline moieties, which are readily prepared from inexpensive 1,1'-binaphthol (BINOL) as a chiral source.

In our preliminary study, we first examined the catalytic enantioselective alkynylation of *N*-benzylidenebenzeneamine (**1a**) with phenylacetylene (**2a**) (1.5 equiv) in the presence of 10 mol % each of Cu(OTf)₂ and the commercially available chiral primary N,N-ligands (**4**, **5**, and **6a**) in CH₂Cl₂ at room temperature (Table 1). (*R,R*)-1,2-Diphenylethanediamine (**4**) and (*R,R*)-1,2-cyclohexanediamine (**5**) gave the corresponding product (**3a**) in low yield in an almost racemic manner (entries 1 and 2). In sharp contrast to **4** and **5**, binaphthyldiamine (**6a**) showed a significant improvement in both yield and enantioselectivity as reported by Benaglia et al.^{9,12} using CuOTf (entry 3). Binaphthyldiamine-derivatives with no *N*-substitutions (**6b** and **6c**) also promoted the reactions, although the enantioselectivities were moderate (36–48% ee) (entries 4 and 5). However, *N,N'*-disubstituted binaphthyldiamine derivatives such as **6d** and **6e** did not work well even though they had the same axially chiral binaphthyl backbone as **6a**. Therefore, in this catalysis, primary aniline derivatives (ArNH₂) should work effectively as chiral N,N-ligands, compared to other more basic primary alkylamines (RNH₂) or less basic secondary anilines (ArNHR') and acidic sulfonamides (ArNH₂SO₂R').¹³

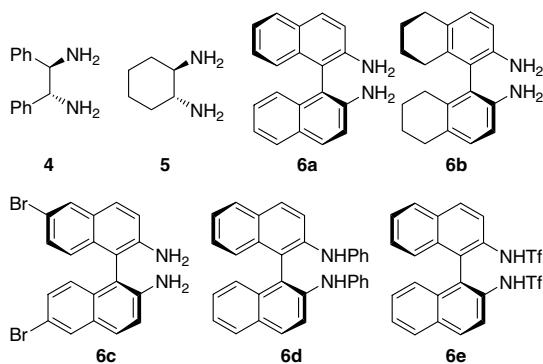


Scheme 1. Cu(I or II)-catalyzed enantioselective alkynylations of aldimines with terminal alkynes.

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +81 52 789 3331; fax: +81 52 789 3222; e-mail: ishihara@cc.nagoya-u.ac.jp

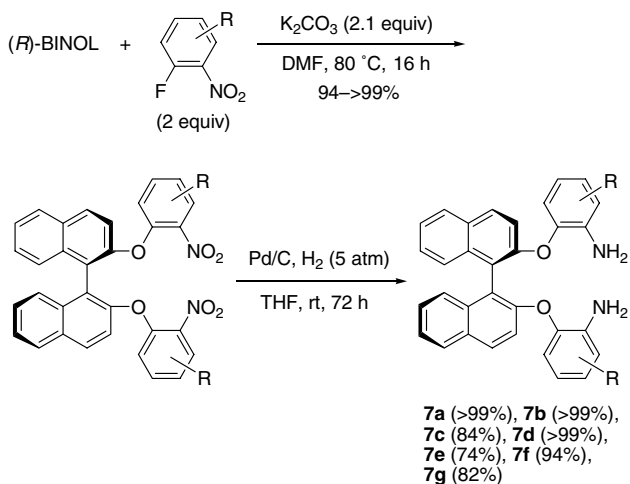
Table 1. Enantioselective phenylacetynylation to **1a** catalyzed by chiral primary diamine-Cu(II) complexes

Entry	Ligand	Time (h)	Yield (%)	ee (%)
1	4	24	26	5
2	5	24	12	0
3	6a	24	99	61
4	6b	24	31	36
5	6c	7	100	48
6	6d	48	24	0
7	6e	48	5	3

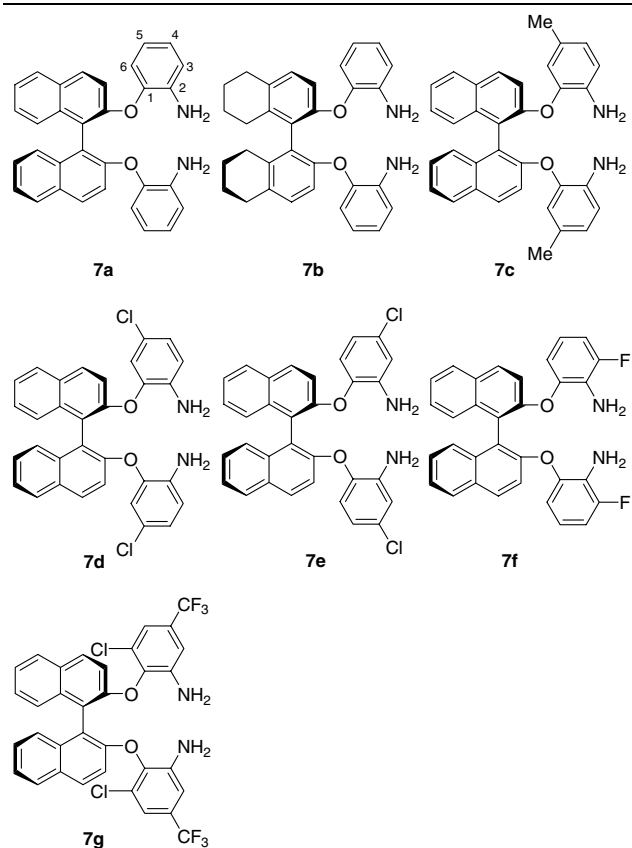


Based on our preliminary hypothesis, we prepared chiral primary aniline **7** with a binaphthyl backbone as C_2 -symmetric chiral N,N-ligands according to the reported procedure (Scheme 2 and Table 2).¹⁴ From commercially available (*R*)-BINOL or (*R*)-H₈-BINOL, **7a–g** were readily obtained in 74–>99% yields in two steps.

To our delight, the catalytic enantioselective alkynylation of **1a** with **2a** (1.5 equiv) in the presence of 5 mol % of (CuOTf)₂·C₆H₅CH₃ and 10 mol % of **7a** in toluene at room temperature for 24 h gave **3a** in 72% yield with 73% ee (Table 2, entry 1). Compound **7b** with an (*R*)-H₈-binaphthyl backbone was also effective, and **3a** was obtained with 75% ee (entry 2). The effects of

**Scheme 2.** Preparation of chiral 2,2'-di(2-aminoaryloxy)-1,1'-binaphthyl ligand (**7**) with primary aniline moieties.**Table 2.** Enantioselective phenylacetynylation to **1a** catalyzed by (*R*)-**7**-Cu(I) complexes

Entry	Ligand	Yield (%)	ee (%)
1	7a	72	73
2	7b	89	75
3	7c	75	71
4	7d	73	82
5	7e	12	37
6	7f	34	9
7	7g	12	12



substitution in the aniline moiety were examined. We found that substitution at the 5-position with an electron-withdrawing group such as Cl in **7d** was better than an electron-donating group such as Me in **7c**, and we finally obtained **3a** in 73% yield with up to 82% ee (entry 4).¹⁵ Other substitutions with electron-withdrawing groups at the 3-, 4-, or 6-position as in **7e–g** did not work well (entries 5–7).

With the optimized conditions with (CuOTf)₂·C₆H₅CH₃ and **7d**, we next examined the generality of the alkynylation to aldimines (**1**) (Table 3). Other terminal acetylenes such as 1-bromo-4-ethynylbenzene (**2b**) and trimethylsilylacetylene (**2c**) had low reactivities (0–16% yield), although **3b** was obtained with 71% ee (entries 2 and 3). Next, other aldimines (**1b–e**) with substitutions at the *p*-position of R¹ and/or R² moieties in **1a** were

Table 3. Enantioselective acetynylation to aldimines **1** catalyzed by (*R*)-**7d**·Cu(I)

Entry	1 (<i>R</i> ¹ , <i>R</i> ²)	2 (<i>R</i> ³)	3	Yield (%)	ee (%)
1	1a (Ph, Ph)	2a (Ph)	3a	73	82 (<i>R</i>)
2	1a (Ph, Ph)	2b (<i>p</i> -BrC ₆ H ₄)	3b	16	71
3	1a (Ph, Ph)	2c (TMS)	3c	0	—
4	1b (Ph, <i>p</i> -FC ₆ H ₄)	2a (Ph)	3d	28	48
5	1c (Ph, <i>p</i> -MeC ₆ H ₄)	2a (Ph)	3e	27 [58] ^a	75 [78] ^a
6	1d (<i>p</i> -MeOC ₆ H ₄ , <i>p</i> -ClOC ₆ H ₄)	2a (Ph)	3f	11	50
7	1e (<i>p</i> -ClC ₆ H ₄ , <i>p</i> -MeOC ₆ H ₄)	2a (Ph)	3g	19 [57] ^a	74 (<i>R</i>) [71] ^a
8	1f (2-Naph, Ph)	2a (Ph)	3h	48	74
9	1g (2-Furyl, Ph)	2a (Ph)	3i	56	33
10	1h (Ph, Boc)	2a (Ph)	3j	16	29

^a Reactions were examined in the presence of (CuOTf)₂·C₆H₅CH₃ (10 mol %) and (*R*)-**7d** (20 mol %) for 48 h.

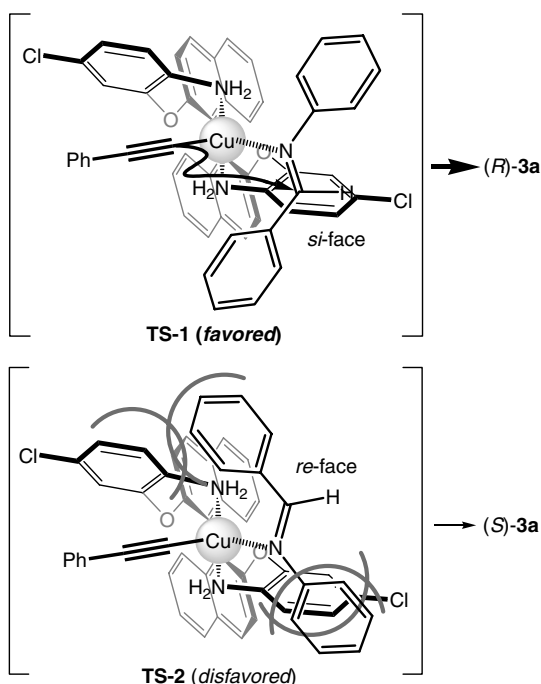
examined. The enantioselectivities were decreased to 48–50% ee when aldimines **1b** and **1d** with *N*-R² bearing an electron-withdrawing group were used (entries 4 and 6). However, good enantioselectivities (74–75% ee) were observed for **1c** and **1e** when an electron-donating group was introduced to *N*-R² (entries 5 and 7). Compound **1f**, which was derived from 2-naphthaldehyde, also gave the corresponding adduct **3h** in moderate yield with good enantioselectivity (74% ee) (entry 8), while **1g**, which was derived from 2-furaldehyde, gave the corresponding adduct **3i** with 33% ee (entry 9). *N*-Boc aldimine **1h** gave adduct **3j** in 16% yield with 29% ee. Running the reaction for longer times (48 h) with a higher catalyst loading (20 mol %) improved the yield and the enantioselectivities (see the brackets in Table 3). Products **3e** and **3g** were obtained in 58% yield with 78% ee and 57% yield with 71% ee, respectively (entries 5 and 7).

Finally, we considered mechanistic aspects including transition states in the reaction between **1a** and **2a** with a (*R*)-**7d**·Cu(I) complex as a working model. In the transition states, four-coordinated Cu(I) intermediates are postulated, and *si*-face attack (**TS-1**) should be favored to avoid steric repulsion between aldimine **1a** and the aniline moieties of **7d** (**TS-2**) (Fig. 1). Probably, 5-Cl in **7d** would partially have a steric and/or electronic effect to control the aniline and naphthyl rings in a face-to-edge relationship.¹⁶ Moreover, we cannot completely deny the possibility that 5-Cl *para* to the NH₂ group effectively enhanced the Lewis acidity of the Cu(I) center, and thus other possible transition states that could provide the corresponding propargylamine **3a** with low enantioselectivities are effectively prevented. Eventually, (*R*)-**3a**^{10e} could be obtained with release from the catalyst, and coordinatively unsaturated active Cu(I) intermediates towards the C–H activation of **2a** would be regenerated.

In summary, the Cu(I)-catalyzed enantioselective alkynylations of aldimines with terminal acetylenes were achieved by using chiral 2,2'-di(2-aminoaryloxy)-1,1'-binaphthyl ligands **7**. The chiral N,N-ligands **7**, which have primary aniline moieties, were readily prepared from inexpensive BINOL as a chiral source. In particular, the reaction of aldimine **1a** with phenylacetylene **2a** proceeded smoothly in the presence of 10 mol % each of Cu(I) precursor and (*R*)-**7d** at room temperature for 24 h, and the corresponding propargylamine **3a** was obtained with up to 82% ee in 73% yield. Further studies towards other catalytic enantioselective reactions including the process of C–H bond activation/C–C bond formation are in progress.

Acknowledgments

Financial support for this project was provided by Grant-in-Aid for Young Scientists B (19750072) of MEXT, Toray Science Foundation, and Toyoaki Scholarship Foundation.

**Figure 1.** Proposed transition states.

Supplementary data

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at [doi:10.1016/j.tetlet.2007.11.032](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tetlet.2007.11.032).

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