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Synthesis of Chiral Sulfamide–Amine Alcohol Ligands for Enantioselective Alkylation of Aldehydes

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Abstract: A series of chiral sulfamide–amine alcohols (SAA) (1–6) has been easily synthesized from commercially available chiral amino alcohols. In the absence of $Ti(O'Pr)_4$, ligand 4 catalyzed the asymmetric addition of diethylzinc to aromatic aldehydes with moderate to good yields and enantioselectivities.

Keywords: Amine alcohols, asymmetric addition, diethylzinc, enantioselectivities

INTRODUCTION

Optically active secondary alcohols are important building blocks for the synthesis of many optically and biologically active compounds.^[1] The enantioselective addition of organozinc reagents to carbonyl compounds represents one of the most useful ways, because of its simultaneous formation of a new C-C bond and a stereogenic center in one step. Thus, the development of various chiral ligands as catalysts for the enantioselective alkylation has gained considerable significance over the past two decades.^[2–5] For these reactions to be successfully exploited in large-scale applications, the chiral ligands shoud be readily available or

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Figure 1. Evaluated ligands in the study.

easily recycled. However, from the relevant reviews,^[3] it can be seen that only a small number of effective ligands were obtained by simple synthetic methods. As to the catalytic reaction, an additional Lewis acid such as $Ti(O'Pr)_4$ is always required for high efficiency. There is no doubt that the addition of the moisture-sensitive Ti(O'Pr)₄ will increase the cost and operational difficulty of the catalytic reaction. Therefore, stable, easily accessible, and operationally simple ligands are still desirable for the enantioselective alkylation without using $Ti(O^{i}Pr)_{4}$. From the published papers, it can be seen that $Ti(O^{i}Pr)_{4}$ is necessary for the asymmetric catalytic reaction promoted by chiral sulfonamide ligands.^[6-9] In contrast, we have conveniently prepared a novel type of chiral sulfamideamine alcohols (SAA) for highly enantioselective addition of diethylzinc to both aromatic and aliphatic or α,β -unsaturated aldehydes without using Ti(OⁱPr)₄.^[10,11] As part of further extending the application of our methodology, in this article, we report our finding of another series of chiral SAA (1-6) (Fig. 1) for the asymmetric addition of diethylzinc to aldehydes in the absence of $Ti(O^{i}Pr)_{4}$.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

SAA ligands were easily prepared from the corresponding chiral aziridine (7) and chiral amino alcohols (8 and 9) in one step in an atom-economical synthesis (Scheme 1). Notably, 7 was also conveniently synthesized from commercially available chiral phenylglycinol.^[12] As shown, the desired chiral compounds were obtained by simple flash-column chromatography in moderate yields (38–47%). Meanwhile, these ligands are stable



Scheme 1. Synthesis of the novel SAA ligands.

for several months in air. Given our interest in stereoselective reactions,^[13] we decided to investigate the catalytic property of these chiral compounds as ligands in asymmetric catalysis. The asymmetric addition of diethylzinc to benzaldehyde, which has been considered a typical catalytic asymmetric benchmark reaction, was chosen as the model reaction. The relevant results are listed in Table 1. It can be seen that ligand **4** induced the catalytic reaction with best enantioselectivity

Table 1. Asymmetric addition of diethylzinc to benzaldehyde using SAA ligands $1-6^a$

Ö				ŎН
				$\wedge \downarrow$
⊢ ĭ ĭH	+	Et _o Zn	SAA ligands	* ✓
			r.t. solvent	

Entry	Ligand	Solvent	Time (h)	Ee $(\%)^{b}$	Config. ^c
1	1	Toluene	24	15	R
2	2	Toluene	24	34	S
3	3	Toluene	24	52	R
4	4	Toluene	24	62	S
5	5	Toluene	24	28	R
6	6	Toluene	24	46	S
7	6	Hexane	24	30	S

 ${}^{a}\text{Et}_{2}\text{Zn/aldehyde/ligand} = 2.2:1:0.1; 24 \text{ h. In all cases, the isolated yield of the corresponding chiral secondary alcohol was 90–99%.}$

^bThe ee values were determined by GC.

^cThe absolute configuration assigned by comparison to literature values.

(62% ee) (Table 1, entry 4). Notably, chiral ligands (1-6) with different matching of stereogenic configurations gave the corresponding chiral products with different configurations. It can be concluded that this difference is possibly attributed to the configuration of the chiral aziridine used. By scanning the published papers, we can see that either toluene or hexane is considered the best solvent for asymmetric addition of diethylzinc to aldehydes. However, hexane was not a suitable solvent for our catalytic system (entry 7).

It is well known that the additives have an important role in the catalytic reactions.^[14] Thus, various additives were employed, such as DMAP (4-dimethylaminopyridine), imidazole, TMSCl (trimethyl chlorosilane), Et₃N, and DiMPEG (dimethoxy polyethylene glycol, $M_n = 2000$).^[15] Generally, dissapointing results were obtained (Table 2, entries 2–6).

With the optimal condition in hand, various aromatic aldehydes were used as the substrates in the catalytic reaction. The relevant results are listed in Table 3. It can be seen that donor group in the *para*-position of the aromatic ring was unfavorable for the enantioselectivity (Table 3, entry 6). Generally, the chiral ligand 4 showed good chemical selectivities and moderate enantioselectivities in the asymmetric ethylation of aromatic aldehydes. The good enantioselectivity was obtained when 2-fluorobenzaldehyde was investigated as the substrate (entry 2). When the asymmetric addition of diethylzinc to 2-naphthaldehyde was performed at 0°C, the corresponding chiral product was obtained with 70% ee (entry 11).

Entry	Ligand	Additive	Ee (%) ^b	Config. ^c
1	4		62	S
2	4	DMAP	6	S
3	4	Imidazole	40	S
4	4	TMSCl	1	
5	4	Et ₃ N	2	
6	4	DIMPEG	52	S

Table 2. Additive-mediated asymmetric addition of diethylzinc to benzaldehyde induced by 4^{a}

 a Et₂Zn/aldehyde/ligand = 2.2:1:0.1; 24 h. In all cases, the isolated yield of the corresponding chiral secondary alcohol was 90–99%.

^bThe ee values were determined by GC.

^cThe absolute configuration assigned by comparison to literature values.

	H + Et_2Zn $\frac{4(10 \text{ m})}{\text{r.t., tolue}}$	ol%) ene	OH	
Entry	Substrates	Yield $(\%)^b$	Ee (%) ^c	Config. ^d
1	Benzaldehyde	99	62	S
2	2-Fluorobenzaldehyde	98	66	S
3	2-Chlorobenzaldehyde	85	63	S
4	3-Chlorobenzaldehyde	71	46	S
5	4-Chlorobenzaldehyde	91	50	S
6	4-Bromobenzadehyde	82	52	S
7	4-Tolualdehyde	67	48	S
8	4-(Trifluoromethyl)benzaldehyde	95	62	S
9	1-Naphthaldehyde	74	33	S
10	2-Naphthaldehyde	97	50	S
11^e	2-Naphthaldehyde	83	70	S

Table 3. Asymmetric addition of diethylzinc to various aromatic aldehydes induced by $\mathbf{4}^{a}$

^{*a*}Et₂Zn/aldehyde/ligand = 2.2:1:0.1; hexane, rt, 24 h.

^bIsolated yield.

^cThe ee values were determined by GC.

^dThe absolute configuration assigned by comparison with literature values.

^eThe catalytic reaction was performed at 0 °C.

To prove the efficiency of our catalytic system, it was applied to a copper-catalyzed asymmetric Henry reaction. To our astonishment, we got only the racemic product when the SAA ligand 4 was used (Scheme 2). However, under the nonoptimized conditions, the corresponding chiral secondary alcohol was obtained in 91% yield with promising enantioselectivity (33% ee) when 6 was employed as the chiral ligand. This showed that the catalytic reactivity of the chiral ligand in the



Scheme 2. Asymmetric Henry reaction catalyzed by $Cu(OAc)_2 \cdot H_2O$ -SAA ligands (4 and 6).



Scheme 3. Difference of the ligands' structure (3 and 10) led to the changing of the enantioselectivities in the catalytic reaction.

asymmetric Henry reaction was completely dependent on the structure of the chiral ligand itself. Thus, it was encouraging that our catalytic system could be efficient in other asymmetric transition processes. Further work is under way in our laboratory.

In consideration of the possible mechanism, a similar ligand, 10, was synthesized for the comparison with ligand 3 and then applied to the asymmetric ethylation reaction. The (S)-product was obtained with only 3% ee when 10 was used (Scheme 3). This result suggested that the hydroxyl group was essential for the catalytic efficiency.

On the basis of the well-known mechanism for asymmetric alkylation of aldehydes with diethylzinc,^[16,17] plausible canonical *anti* transition states are proposed when the SAA ligands derived from different chiral amino alcohols were used^[18–21] (Fig. 2). Both the N-atom and the



Figure 2. Proposed transition states.

O-atom of the amino alcohol, along with the N-atom from the sulfonamide group, participate in the coordination with Zn to form an O, N, N-chelating tridentate complex. From the catalytic efficiency of SAA ligands, we can reason that the N-atom from the sulfonamide servers as another weakly coordinative site in the cycle because it is a poor electron donor.^[22] Thus, based on the transition states **TS-1** and **TS-2** as the catalytically active species, the SAA ligand **4** affords the (*S*)-enantiomer of the product, and the SAA ligand **5** yields the (*R*)-enantiomer.

CONCLUSIONS

In summary, the novel sulfamide–amine alcohol ligands were readily prepared in moderate yields in short synthetic sequences. These ligands were evaluated in the asymmetric addition of diethylzinc to aldehydes, which provided the chiral secondary alcohols with excellent yields and good enantioselectivities in the absence of $Ti(O^{i}Pr)_{4}$. Further work is in progress in our laboratory with the aim of expanding the use of these inexpensive chiral compounds to other enantioselective processes. Experiments are under way to prove our plausible mechanism for the asymmetric alkynylzinc addition of aldehydes.

EXPERIMENTAL

General

All reactions were carried out under an argon atmosphere. Solvents were dried and degassed by the standard methods and organozinc reagent and all aldehydes were purchased from Aldrich and Alfa. Flash-column chromatography was performed by using silica gel (300–400 mesh). Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed by using glass plates precoated with 200- to 400-mesh silica gel impregnated with a fluorescent indicator (254 nm). NMR spectra were measured in CDCl₃ on a Varian Inova-400 NMR spectrometer (400 MHz or 300 MHz) with tetramethylsilane (TMS) as an internal reference. Enantiomeric excess (*ee*) determination was carried out using gas chromatography (GC) with a chiral cyclodex β -2, 3, 6-M, 30-m × 0.32-mm capillary column on an Agilent HP-4890 GC instrument with flame ionization detector (FID), and high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) was done with a chiral OD-H column. High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were measured with electron impact (EI).

General Procedure for Preparation of Sulfamide–Amine Alcohol 1

(S)-2-Phenyl-1-tosylaziridine 7 (1.0 g, 3.66 mmol) and chiral amino alcohol 8 (0.8 g, 3.80 mmol) were dissolved in dry acetonitrile (30 mL), and the mixture was stirred under reflux for 18 h. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent:petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 1/1) to give the corresponding ligand 1 as white solid (0.8 g), 45% yield. Ligands 2–4 were prepared analogously.

When (1R,2S)-cis-1-amino-2-indanol (9) was used as the chiral amino alcohol, ligands 5 and 6 were obtained with this procedure.

When (R)-1-phenylethanamine was employed instead of the chiral amino alcohol, ligand (10) was obtained.

Data

Ligand 1

White solid, 45% yield, $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -26.3$ (c = 2.0 in MeOH); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.52 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.62 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.18 (s, 1H), 4.68 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 5.55 (s, 1H), 6.96–6.99 (m, 2H), 7.07–7.14 (m, 8H), 7.22–7.30 (m, 7H), 7.46 (d, J = 10.8 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 21.9, 52.9, 57.5, 69.4, 77.8, 126.9, 127.1, 127.5, 127.9, 128.3, 128.3, 128.6, 128.8, 129.8, 137.7, 139.4, 139.5, 140.8, 143.4; MS m/z: 379.1484 (69, M–C₇H₇O), 155.0206 (80, C₇H₇O₂S), 106.0420 (55, C₇H₆O), 105.0337 (66, C₇H₆O), 91.0564 (100, C₇H₇).

Ligand 2

White solid, 38% yield, $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +27.2$ (c = 2.0 in MeOH); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.52 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 3.63 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.18 (s, 1H), 4.69 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.51 (s, 1H), 6.96–6.99 (m, 2H), 7.07–7.14 (m, 11H), 7.23–7.37 (m, 4H), 7.46 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 21.9, 52.9, 57.5, 69.3, 77.8, 126.9, 127.1, 127.5, 127.9, 128.3, 128.6, 128.8, 129.8, 137.7, 139.5, 140.8, 143.4; MS m/z: 379.1485 (69, M–C₇H₇O), 155.0208 (75, C₇H₇O₂S), 106.0411 (51, C₇H₆O), 105.0347 (63, C₇H₆O), 91.0554 (100, C₇H₇).

Ligand 3

White solid, 42% yield, $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +18.6 (c = 3.0 \text{ in MeOH}); {}^{1}\text{H NMR} (CDCl_3) \delta$: 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.58 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.71 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 1H), 4.31 (s, 1H), 4.88 (s, 1H), 5.92 (brs, 2H), 6.95–7.03 (m, 4H), 7.09–7.24 (m, 12H), 7.55 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 21.9, 52.4, 57.2, 68.1, 77.0, 127.0, 127.2, 127.6, 127.9, 128.0, 128.2, 128.4, 128.7, 128.7, 129.8, 137.8, 139.1, 140.7, 143.5; MS m/z: 379.1491 (56, M–C₇H₇O), 155.0195 (74, C₇H₇O₂S), 106.0421 (36, C₇H₆O), 105.0350 (47, C₇H₆O), 91.0559 (100, C₇H₇).

Ligand 4

White solid, 47% yield, $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -25.0$ (c = 2.0 in MeOH); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 1.80 (brs, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 2.55 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.66 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 1H), 4.27 (s, 1H), 4.80 (s, 1H), 5.68 (brs, 1H), 6.95–7.26 (m, 13H), 7.54 (d, J = 5.1 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 21.9, 52.6, 57.4, 68.3, 77.4, 127.0, 127.2, 127.6, 127.9, 128.2, 128.5, 128.6, 128.8, 128.8, 137.8, 138.5, 139.3, 140.8, 143.5; MS m/z: 379.1494 (60, M–C₇H₇O), 155.0198 (78, C₇H₇O₂S), 106.0414 (47, C₇H₆O), 105.0347 (57, C₇H₆O), 91.0558 (100, C₇H₇).

Ligand 5

White solid, 42% yield, $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -1.5$ (c = 2.3 in MeOH); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 1.92 (brs, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.86–3.12 (m, 4H), 3.97 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 4.35–4.43 (m, 2H), 5.30 (s, 1H), 7.14–7.22 (m, 11H), 7.61 (d, J = 10.8 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 20.9, 30.7, 52.9, 57.7, 65.3, 70.9, 124.3, 124.8, 125.9, 126.4, 126.8, 127.0, 127.9, 129.2, 138.7, 140.8, 140.9, 142.1, 143.5; MS m/z: 379.1490 (7, M–C₂H₃O), 155.0209 (75, C₇H₇O₂S), 106.0414 (47, C₇H₆O), 129.0614 (71, C₉H₇N), 91.0556 (100, C₇H₇).

Ligand 6

White solid, 40% yield, $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +40.5$ (c = 2.0 in MeOH); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ: 1.71 (brs, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.85–3.11 (m, 4H), 3.95 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 4.38–4.43 (m, 2H), 5.48 (s, 1H), 7.11–7.27 (m, 11H), 7.59 (d, J = 10.2 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ: 21.9, 40.1, 53.8, 58.0, 65.9, 71.8, 124.7, 126.0, 127.2, 127.3, 127.6, 128.2, 128.6, 129.0, 129.9, 137.6, 138.5, 141.0, 142.3, 143.7.

Ligand 10

White solid, 55% yield; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 1.27 (d, J = 5.1 Hz, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 2.52–2.81 (m, 2H), 3.53–3.57 (m, 1H), 4.27–4.30 (m, 1H), 7.06–7.32 (m, 12H), 7.60 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 21.9,

24.5, 52.7, 57.1, 57.5, 126.8, 127.1, 127.6, 127.7, 127.9, 128.7, 129.1, 129.8, 137.7, 139.6, 143.6, 144.7.

General Procedures for the Asymmetric Addition of Et₂Zn to Aldehydes

Under a dry argon atmosphere, chiral ligand (10 mol%, 0.05 mmol) in dry toluene (4 mL) was cooled to 0°C and a solution of Et_2Zn (1.0 M in hexane, 1.1 mmol) was added slowly. After stirring for 30 min at 0°C, freshly distilled aldehyde (0.5 mmol) was added, and the reaction was stirred for 24 h at 10°C. The reaction mixture was quenched with 1 N aqueous HCl at 0°C. The aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 × 5 mL). The combined organic phase was washed with little brine, dried with anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash-column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether–ethyl acetate = 12:1) to give the carbinol. The enantiomeric purity of the product was determined by HPLC. The absolute configurations of the products were assigned by comparison to literature values.

General Procedures for the Asymmetric Henry Reaction Between 4-Nitrobenzaldehyde and Nitromethane

Chiral ligand (10 mol%, 0.02 mmol) and $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (4.0 mg, 0.02 mmol) were added to isopropanol (2.0 mL) at room temperature in air. The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min, and then 4-nitrobenzalde-hyde (30.2 mg, 0.2 mmol) and nitromethane (0.3 mL) were added to the resulting blue solution. The mixture was stirred for 48 h at room temperature and then concentrated in vacuo to give a glutinous phase residue. Next, CH₂Cl₂ (2.0 mL) and aqueous HCl solution (1.0 M, 5 mL) were added into the residue, and the mixture was stirred until the green color disappeared. After extraction with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 10 mL), the combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and evaporated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether–ethyl acetate = 8:1) to afford the corresponding chiral product.

Data

2-Nitro-1-(4-nitrophenyl)ethanol

Yield 91%. Ee (33%) determined by HPLC analysis (Chiralcel OD-H column, IPA-hexane = 8:92). Retention time: $t_{maior} = 16.71 \text{ min}, t_{minor} = 18.64 \text{ min}.$

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 3.23 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 4.57 (dd, J = 4.0, 13.8 Hz, 1H), 4.61 (dd, J = 8.4, 13.6 Hz, 1H), 5.62 (dd, J = 3.6, 12.0 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 8.28 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H).

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