CHEMISTRY LETTERS, pp. 481-484, 1989.

Catalytic Asymmetric Synthesis of Optically Active Alkynyl Alcohols

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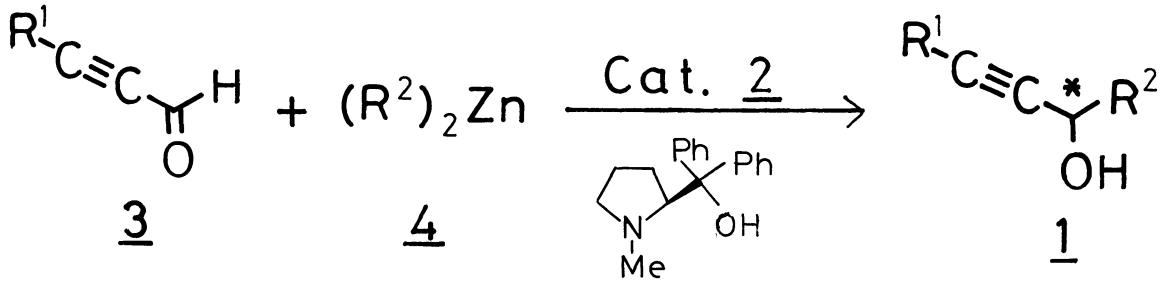
Enantioselective additions of dialkylzinc reagents to alkynyl aldehydes using (S)-(+)-diphenyl(1-methylpyrrolidin-2-yl)methanol as a chiral catalyst afford optically active sec-alkynyl alcohols in high enantiomeric excess.

Optically active sec-alkynyl alcohols (1) form an important class of compounds. They serve as intermediates of hydroxy carboxylic acids,[1] and versatile natural products such as steroids,[2] avenaciolide,[3] vitamin E,[4] prostaglandins,[5] pheromones,[6] tetrahydrocerulenin,[7] and biologically active prostacyclin minetics.[8] Conventional methods of the asymmetric synthesis of 1 require stoichiometric amounts of chiral auxiliaries in the reduction of acetylenic ketones,[9] the alkynylation of aldehydes,[10] and the reductive cleavage of acetylenic acetal.[11]

On the other hand, increasing interest has been directed to catalytic asymmetric carbon-carbon bond forming reactions.[12]

Nucleophilic addition of dialkylzincs to aldehydes is usually very sluggish.[13] In 1978, Mukaiyama and his co-workers including one of the present authors (K. S.) found[14a] that (2S,2'S)-2-hydroxymethyl-1-[(1-methylpyrrolidin-2-yl)methyl]pyrrolidine (chiral β-aminoalcohol derived from amino acid)[15] catalyzes[16] the enantioselective addition of diethylzinc to benzaldehyde. During our continuing study on the enantioselective addition of dialkylzincs to aliphatic



3 4 (+)-2 1

a; R^1 = Me_3Si
b; R^1 = Ph
c; R^1 = n-Bu

a; R^1 = Me_3Si, R^2 = Et
b; R^1 = Me_3Si, R^2 = n-Bu
c; R^1 = Ph, R^2 = Et
d; R^1 = Ph, R^2 = n-Bu
e; R^1 = n-Bu, R_2 = Et

Table 1. Catalytic Asymmetric Synthesis of Optically Active Alkynyl Alcohols(1)

Entry[a]	3 R^1	4 R^2	1	$[\alpha]^{25}$ (c, solvent)	Yield/%	ee/%	Config.
1	Me_3Si	Et	a	$[\alpha]_{365}$ -5.16° (2.13, $CHCl_3$)	67	78[b]	
2	Me_3Si	n-Bu	b	$[\alpha]_{365}$ -4.71° (2.00, $CHCl_3$)	54	72[b]	
3	Ph	Et	c	$[\alpha]_D$ -13.7° (2.00, Et_2O)	70	70[c] (73[d])	S
4	Ph	n-Bu	d	$[\alpha]_D$ +6.24° (1.33, $CHCl_3$)	61	67[c]	
5	n-Bu	Et	e	$[\alpha]_{365}$ -5.90° (3.05, Et_2O)	71	64[e]	

a) Reaction conditions; molar ratio of 2 : 3 : 4 = 0.05 : 1.0 : 2.0; 12-14 h at -20 °C. b) Based on HPLC analyses of the corresponding (-)-α-methoxy-α-(trifluoromethyl)phenylacetic acid (MTPA) esters[19] using chiral column (Daicel chiralcel OD, 250 mm; 254-nm UV detector). Eluent 0.01% 2-propanol in hexane; flow rate 0.5 ml/min; (-)-MTPA ester of 1a, retention time (min), 13.6 for major peak, 17.7 for minor peak. For (-)-MTPA ester of 1b, retention time (min), 12.8 for major peak, 16.0 for minor peak. c) Based on HPLC analyses using chiral column. For 1c, eluent 7% 2-propanol in hexane; flow rate 1.0 ml/min; retention time (min), 7.6 for minor peak, 17.0 for major peak. For 1d, eluent 5% 2-propanol in hexane; flow rate 1.0 ml/min; retention time (min), 9.3 for minor peak, 30.2 for major peak. d) Based on (S)-(+)-1-phenylpentan-3-ol which was obtained from 1c by the hydrogenation (10% Pd / C), [$[\alpha]_D^{25}$ +19.6° (c 2.43, EtOH), lit. (Ref. 22) value $[\alpha]_D$ +26.8° (c 5, EtOH)]. e) NMR (500 MHz) analysis of the MTPA ester.

aldehydes (A), aromatic aldehydes (B), α,β-unsaturated aldehydes (C), and formylesters (D), we have reported highly enantioselective reactions using chiral β-aminoalcohol derivatives as catalysts, i. e., chiral pyrrolidinylmethanols (for A, B, and C),[14b] N,N-dibutylnorephedrine (DBNE) (for A, B, and D),[14c] polymer-bound N-alkylnorephedrines (for A and B),[14d] and an ephedrine derivative (for B).[14e] We also reported dilithium salt of chiral piperazine as a highly enantioselective catalyst for B.[14f] Recently Noyori and his co-workers have reported[17] highly enantioselective addition of dialkylzincs to B and C using a catalytic amount of 3-exo-(dimethylamino)isoborneol (β-aminoalcohol).[18]

We report here the catalytic asymmetric synthesis of alkynyl alcohols (1) using (S)-(+)-diphenyl(1-methylpyrrolidin-2-yl)methanol (2)[14b] as chiral amino-alcohol auxiliary. Optically active secondary alkynyl alcohols were obtained in high enantiomeric excess by enantioselective addition of dialkylzincs to alkynyl aldehydes (3) using (+)-(2) as a chiral catalyst.

When 3-trimethylsilyl-2-propynal (3a) was treated with diethylzinc in toluene using (+)-2 (5 mol%), (-)-1-trimethylsilyl-1-pentyn-3-ol (1a) was obtained in 67% yield with 78% ee (the optical purity was determined on the basis of analysis of the corresponding (-)-α-methoxy-α-(trifluoromethyl)phenylacetic acid ester[19] using chiral HPLC column). Since various alkynyl aldehydes (3) can be easily

prepared from ethyl formate and the corresponding alkynes,[20] the present method can apply to the synthesis of various 1. In fact, reactions using 3 with aryl (3b) or aliphatic (3c) substituent afforded 1c-e in 64 - 73% ee (entries 3 - 5). In addition, trimethylsilyl group of 1a can be removed by treatment with methanolic NaOH,[3] and further functional modification of acetylenic group is possible. Results of the catalytic asymmetric addition of dialkylzincs (4) to 3 are summarized in Table 1. The reactions using dibutylzinc gave comparable enantioselectivities with diethylzinc (67 - 72% ee, entries 2 and 4). The enantioselectivity changed by the selection of the catalyst. Lithium salt of (+)-2 showed almost the same enantioselectivity. On the other hand, (+)-2 showed higher enantioselectivity (1c, 70-73% ee, entry 3) than (1S,2R)-(-)-DBNE[14c,21] (ee of 1c was 21%). The enantioselectivity obtained in hexane or cyclohexane as solvent was comparable with that obtained in toluene.

Typical experimental procedure is as follows. A mixture of 3a (0.126 g, 1.00 mmol) and (+)-2 (0.013 g, 0.05 mmol) in toluene (2 ml) was stirred at room temperature for 30 min, and then cooled to -20 °C. Diethylzinc (2 ml of 1 M solution in toluene; 2.0 mmol) was added during 10 min, and the reaction mixture was stirred at -20 °C for 12 h. The reaction was quenched with 1 M hydrochloric acid (5 ml), the organic layer was separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (10 ml x 3). The combined organic layer was dried (Na_2SO_4) and then evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by preparative TLC over silica gel (developing solvent $CHCl_3$/hexane = 4/1, v/v) to afford 1a (0.104 g, 0.67 mmol, 67%).

This work was partially supported by a Grant-in-Aid from the Ministry of Education, Science, and Culture.

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(Received November 30, 1988)