(1*R*,5*R*)-1-(1'-Dimethylaminoethyl)-2-isopropylidene-5-methylcyclohexanol as a Chiral Ligand in the Enantioselective Addition of Diethylzinc to Aldehydes

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Abstract: An efficient chiral ligand, (1R,5R)-1-(1'-dimethylaminoethyl)-2-isopropylidene-5-methylcyclohexanol, has been developed for the enantioselective addition of diethylzinc to some prochiral aldehydes to afford *S*-alcohols. The overall conversion rate was 80–98% with excellent enantiomeric excess (79–98%).

Key words: ionic liquid, intermolecular reductive coupling, prochiral aldehydes, chiral ligand, enantioselectivity

Asymmetric addition of diethyl-, diphenyl-, and dialkynylzinc using a catalytic amount of chiral inductor is one of the most active and fascinating research areas for enantioselective additions to prochiral aldehydes.¹ To achieve this goal, diverse chiral ligand structures such as β -amino alcohols,² aminothiols,³ amines,⁴ aminonaphthols,⁵ pyridyl alcohols,⁶ *o*-hydroxybenzyl amines,⁷ BINOL,⁸ and ligands derived from natural products have been widely been exploited,⁹ but the enantiomeric excess is some times disappointing. Metal complexes¹⁰ have also been exploited to achieve this goal.

In our strategy for development of new effective chiral ligands, we have performed an intermolecular electroductive coupling¹¹ of (*R*)-(+)-2-isopropylidene-5-methylcy-clohexanone [(*R*)-(+)-pulegone] with acetonitrile in the ionic liquid 1-butyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate propan-2-ol¹² at a smooth copper cathode. A constant current (0.1 A) was passed corresponding to 1.1 F mol⁻¹ charge transfer; wherein, three products, (1*R*,5*R*)-1-(1-hydroxy-2-isopropylidene-5-methylcyclohexyl)ethanone (**1a**), (1*S*,5*R*)-1-(1-hydroxy-2-isopropylidene-5-methylcyclohexyl)ethanone (**1b**), and 2-isopropylidene-5-methylcyclohexanol (**1c**) were formed (Scheme 1).

The products were separated employing a swollen triacetyl cellulose column prepared by the reported method.¹³ The elution was accomplished by ethanol, when compound 1a was obtained first followed by 1b and 1c in 70%, 20% and 8% yield, respectively. The major stereoisomer 1a upon treatment with O-methyloxime hydrochloride in ethanol and subsequent reduction of oximated product by lithium aluminium hydride afforded (1R,5R)-1-(1'-aminoethyl)-2-isopropylidene-5-methylcyclohexanol (1d) as the sole product in 90% yield. This compound upon N-methylation with methyl iodide (2 mol) furnished the desired chiral ligand, (1R,5R)-1-(1'-dimethylaminoethyl)-2-isopropylidene-5-methylcyclohexanol $(1e)^{14}$ in 95% yield (Scheme 2). The chiral ligand obtained, as above, was purified over a silica gel G column by eluting with hexane-ethyl acetate (8:2) and characterized, unambiguously, by elemental analysis, IR, ¹H NMR, and ¹³C NMR. It was employed as chiral inductor for the addition of diethylzinc to a range of prochiral aldehydes.¹⁵





In order to evaluate the optimum concentration of this new chiral ligand, we have studied the addition of diethylzinc to benzaldehyde at 3, 5, 8, and 10 mol% concentration. The product upon hydrolysis gave (*S*)-phenylpropan-1-ol (**4a**) in 85–90% yield with 87%, 93%, 90%, and 89% enantiomeric excess. These data clearly suggest that 5 mol% concentration of the chiral ligand **1e** is best suited for this reaction (Scheme 3).



Scheme 1

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Table 1Addition of Diethylzinc to Aldehydes Using Ligand 1e (5 mol%)

Entry	Aldehyde 2	Product 4	Conversion (%)	Optical rotation	ee (%)	Config.
1	PhCHO	4a	90	$[\alpha]_{D}^{25}$ –42.10 (<i>c</i> 5.3, CHCl ₃)	93 ^a	S
2	PhCH=CHCHO	4b	82	$[\alpha]_{D}^{25}$ –5.80 (<i>c</i> 3.2, CHCl ₃)	88 ^b	S
3	2-MeOC ₆ H ₄ CHO	4c	95	$[\alpha]_{D}^{25}$ –43.24 (<i>c</i> 3.0, PhCH ₃)	92°	S
4	4-MeOC ₆ H ₄ CHO	4d	98	$\left[\alpha\right]_{\rm D}{}^{25}-16.16(c5.1,{\rm C_6H_6})$	94 ^d	S
5	<i>n</i> -C ₆ H ₁₃ CHO	4e	92	$[\alpha]_{D}^{25}$ –9.12 (<i>c</i> 3.7, CHCl ₃)	95 ^e	S
6	<i>n</i> -C ₆ H ₁₇ CHO	4f	95	$[\alpha]_{D}^{26}$ +7.79 (<i>c</i> 8.7, EtOH)	96 ^f	S
7	PhCH ₂ CH ₂ CHO	4g	94	$[\alpha]_{D}^{25}$ +26.26 (<i>c</i> 5.0, EtOH)	98 ^g	S
8	C ₆ H ₁₁ CHO	4h	80	$[\alpha]_{D}^{24}$ –6.32 (neat)	79 ^f	S

^a [α]_D –45.45 (*c* 5.15, CHCl₃).¹⁶

^b $[\alpha]_{\rm D}$ –6.6 (*c* 3.2, CHCl₃).¹⁷

^c $[\alpha]_{\rm D}$ -47.0 (*c* 1.2, PhCH₃).¹⁸

^d $[\alpha]_{\rm D}$ –17.2 (*c* 5.0, benzene).¹⁹

 $e[\alpha]_{D} - 9.6 (c 8.3, CHCl_{3}).^{20}$

^f The e was determined by ¹H NMR analysis of the derived acetates using Eu(hfc)₃.

 g [α]_D –26.8 (C, 5.0, EtOH).¹⁷



Scheme 3

Eight prochiral aldehydes **4a–h** were studied, and the corresponding products have been assigned *S*-configuration by comparison to the known values in the literature and by derivatization with Eu(hfc)₃ and recording ¹H NMR spectra (Table 1). All the products **4a–h** have been characterized by IR, ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, and elemental analyses. These data for the representative compounds **4a** and **4e** have been presented.²¹

The observation of the data presented in Table 1 reveals that, with the new chiral ligand **1e**, the overall conversion rate is 80–98% with excellent ee ranging from 79–98%. *o*-Methoxybenzaldehyde afforded lower enantioselectivity than its *para* isomer, probably due to the steric effect exerted by the *ortho* substitutent. Amongst the prochiral aldehydes examined, aliphatic aldehydes gave best enantiomeric excesses with the exception of cyclohexyl carboxaldehye which exhibited the lowest enantioselectivity.

In conclusion, we have demonstrated that the chiral ligand **1e** gave excellent enantiomeric excesses for the addition for diethylzinc to a range of prochiral aldehydes 4a-h. The work on the synthesis of new chiral ligands derived from (+)-dihydrocarvone, (–)-menthone, and (+)-camphor is under investigation and results will be addressed in future in the form of full paper.

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- (11) Typical Experimental Procedure for Preparative-Scale Electrosynthesis

The electrolysis was carried out in a double-walled cell (Metrohm, 100 ml) equipped with cover glass inlet and outlet, thermometer, and magnetic stirrer. This cell was divided by a medium-porosity glass frit into two separate compartments. The catholyte was a 10 mL mixture of [BMIM]BF₄–*i*-PrOH (9:1) containing 0.03 M (*R*)-(+)-pulegone and 0.04 M of MeCN. The anolyte was 5 mL of [BMIM]BF₄–*i*-PrOH (9:1). A smooth copper foil (1 × 1 cm) was used as a cathode and a platinum foil (1 × 1 cm) was used as an anode. Nitrogen gas was bubbled for 10 min and the electroreductive coupling was carried out by passing current 0.1 A for the time corresponding to charge-transfer equivalent to 1.1 F/mol.

The catholyte was extracted with EtOAc (3×10 mL), the extract dried over anhyd MgSO₄, filtered, and the solvent was removed by distillation under reduced pressure. The product so obtained was purified by chromatography on a swollen triacetyl cellulose(microcrystalline) column, and elution was performed by EtOH to afford **1a** in pure form in 70% yield. $R_f = 0.55$ (hexane–EtOAc, 10:1). IR (neat): v = 3460, 1700, 1640, 880 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 1.05$ (d, 3 H, J = 6.5 Hz, CH₃) 1.28 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 1.60 (m, 1 H, CH), 1.65 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 1.70 (s, 6 H, 2 × CH₃), 1.95 (m, 2 H, CH₂), 2.10 (s, 3 H, COCH₃), 3.80 (s, 1 H, OH). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 14.60, 19.20, 20.50, 21.60, 25.60, 38.40, 42.40, 92.50, 125.30, 142.70, 207.10. Anal.$

Calcd for $C_{12}H_{20}O_2$: C, 73.41; H, 10.27. Found: C, 73.62; H, 10.12.

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- (21) Representative Spectroscopic Data (S)-1-phenylpropan-1-ol (4a) Bp 94–95 (13.3 mbar); $R_f = 0.35$ (hexane–EtOAc, 8:2). IR (neat): $v = 3400, 3020, 2990, 1600, 1100 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. ¹H NMR $(300 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3)$: $\delta = 0.90 (t, J = 6.0 \text{ Hz}, 3 \text{ H}, \text{CH}_3), 1.40 \text{--}$ $1.55 (m, 2 H, CH_2CH_3), 3.60 (br s, 1 H, OH), 4.50 (t, J = 7.0$ Hz, 1 H, CHOH), 7.10-7.40 (m, 5 H, ArH). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 11.10, 33.10, 78.20, 124.60, 128.40, 128.80, 139.20. Anal. Calcd for C₉H₁₂O: C, 79.36; H, 8.88. Found: C, 79.55; H, 8.70. (S)-3-Nonanol (4e) Bp 192–194 °C; $R_f = 0.40$ (hexane–EtOAc, 8:2). IR (neat): $v = 3600, 2970, 1350, 1100 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 0.90$ (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 3 H, CH₃), 0.95 (t, J = 6.0Hz, 3 H, CH₃), 1.20–1.62 (m, 12 H, 6 × CH₂), 2.20 (br s, 1 H, OH), 3.25 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1 H, CHOH). ¹³C NMR (75
 - MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 11.00, 15.30, 22.40, 25.20, 29.80, 30.60, 33.10, 38.40, 75.50. Anal. Calcd for C₉H₂₀O: C, 74.92; H, 13.98. Found: C, 74.75; H, 13.80.

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