

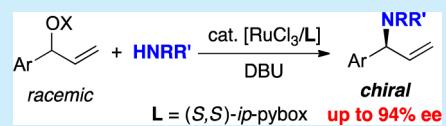
Ruthenium-Catalyzed Regio- and Enantioselective Allylic Amination of Racemic 1-Arylallyl Esters

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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: The regio- and enantioselective allylic amination of racemic monosubstituted allylic esters, such as 1-arylallyl acetates, with cyclic secondary amines has been accomplished. The RuCl₃/(S,S)-*ip*-pybox catalyst system has effectively catalyzed the reaction to afford the enantiomerically enriched branch-type allylic amines with perfect regioselectivity and high enantioselectivity.



The transition-metal-catalyzed allylic amination of allylic substrates¹ is one of the most useful reactions to construct allylic amines, and its asymmetric reaction² is also a powerful method to prepare enantiomerically enriched allylic amines. For such a transition-metal-catalyzed asymmetric allylic amination, several types of allylic substrates can be used, including symmetrical 1,3-disubstituted allylic substrates, but the reaction of the unsymmetrical monosubstituted substrates is a more challenging system because the reaction requires controlling both the regioselectivity and enantioselectivity. To the best of our knowledge, only palladium³ and iridium^{4–10} are known as effective catalysts for such an intermolecular asymmetric allylic amination of monosubstituted allylic substrates. The first example of the palladium-catalyzed reaction was reported by Hayashi and Ito in 1990.^{3a} More recently, Hartwig's group investigated the highly enantioselective allylic amination of monosubstituted allylic esters and alcohols by an iridium catalyst.⁴

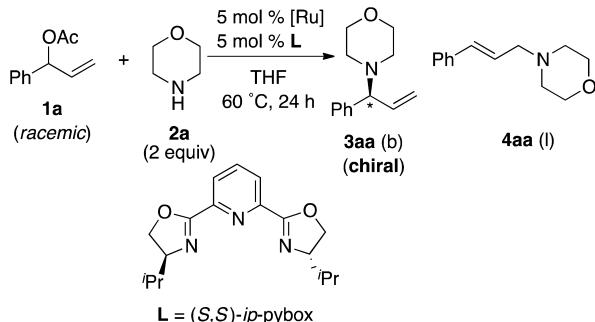
However, still it is a challenging topic to discover an alternative transition metal catalyst, which allows the asymmetric allylic amination of racemic monosubstituted allylic compounds. Although there are several studies on the ruthenium-catalyzed asymmetric allylic substitution^{11–17} after Onitsuka and Takahashi's report in 2001,^{12a} there are still no reports about the intermolecular asymmetric allylic amination of racemic monosubstituted allylic substrates. During the course of our study on the ruthenium-catalyzed regioselective allylic substitution,¹⁸ we succeeded in the intermolecular enantioselective allylic amination of racemic monosubstituted allylic esters with cyclic secondary amines.

We first examined the allylic amination of the racemic 1-phenyl-2-propenyl acetate (**1a**) with morpholine (**2a**) by several chiral ruthenium catalysts, which were generated in situ from the ruthenium precatalyst and (S,S)-*ip*-pybox (**L**). As shown in Table 1, when the reactions were conducted without an additive, the desired branch-type product **3aa** was obtained in low yield or as a mixture of linear-type products **4aa** (entries 1–4). However, the addition of DBU (2 equiv to **1a**) to the

reaction using RuCl₂(cod) or RuCl₃ effectively increased the branch selectivity (entries 6 and 8), and we observed a moderate enantioselectivity (54% ee) for the reaction using the RuCl₃ precatalyst with **L**. The higher enantioselectivity was attained by reducing the amount of DBU from 2 to 1 equiv at 40 °C (entries 9 and 10), and the highest enantioselectivity (85% ee) was obtained when the amount of **L** was increased from 5 to 10 mol % (2 equiv to Ru) (entry 11). We also examined other additives, such as DABCO, Et₃N, DMAP, or Cs₂CO₃, and confirmed that the DBU is a crucial additive for the perfect branch selectivity and high enantioselectivity (entries 12–15).

With these optimized reaction conditions in hand, we investigated the ruthenium catalyzed intermolecular asymmetric allylic amination of several racemic 1-arylallyl acetates **1a–j** with six-membered aliphatic amines, such as **2a–f** (Table 2). Most of the reactions proceeded smoothly, and we succeeded in obtaining the desired product in high yield with a high enantiomeric excess. Especially, the reaction of **1a** with phenylpiperazine (**2d**) gave the highest enantioselectivity (94% ee) (Table 2, entry 3). The reactions of **1b–d**, which have an electron-withdrawing group at the *para*-position on the phenyl group, also afforded good results (entries 6–11). On the other hand, we confirmed that the reaction of **1e**, which has a methoxy group at the *para*-position on the phenyl group, gave **3ea** in 60% yield with 12% ee (entry 12), but increasing the amount of ligand from 10 to 20 mol % significantly increased the enantiomeric excess up to 85% ee (entry 13). Furthermore, we examined the reaction of allyl acetates **1f–i** and succeeded in obtaining the intended enantiomerically enriched products with both acceptable yields and enantiomeric excess (entries 14–21). Unfortunately, the reactions of the 1-naphthyl group substituted allyl acetate **1j** gave the desired products in low yield with low ee (entries 22 and 23).

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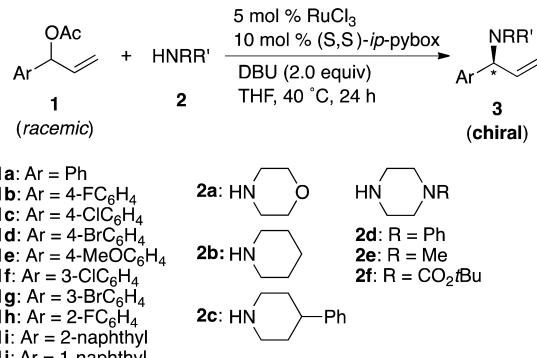
Table 1. Ru Catalysts for the Alkylation of **1a** with **2a**

entry	[Ru]	(2 equiv)	yield ^a (%)		ee (%) of 3aa
			3aa	4aa	
1	[Ru-1] ^b	—	<2	<2	nd
2	RuCl ₂ (cod)	—	47	39	0
3	Ru ₃ (CO) ₁₂	—	7	73	nd
4	RuCl ₃	—	6	40	0
5	[Ru-1] ^b	DBU	37	<2	31
6	RuCl ₂ (cod)	DBU	78	4	16
7	Ru ₃ (CO) ₁₂	DBU	<2	<2	—
8	RuCl ₃	DBU	71	<2	54
9	RuCl ₃	DBU ^c	75	<2	65
10 ^d	RuCl ₃	DBU ^c	80	<2	81
11 ^{d,e}	RuCl ₃	DBU ^c	90 (85) ^f	<2	85
12 ^{d,e}	RuCl ₃	DABCO	17	<2	0
13 ^{d,e}	RuCl ₃	Et ₃ N	18	<2	0
14 ^{d,e}	RuCl ₃	DMAP	<2	<2	nd
15 ^{d,e}	RuCl ₃	Cs ₂ CO ₃	23	<2	12

^aThe yields were determined by ¹H NMR of crude materials using an internal standard (trioxane). ^b[Ru-1] = [RuCl₂(*p*-cymene)]₂. ^c1 equiv of DBU was used. ^dReactions were conducted at 40 °C. ^e10 mol % of L was used. ^fIsolated yield in parentheses.

Although we succeeded in realizing that reactions of **1a–i** with six-membered aliphatic amines provided enantioenriched allylic amines in both good yields and high ee values, we also realized that the reaction with pyrrolidine (**2g**) gave a poor result (Table 3, entry 1). To improve these poor results, we reinvestigated the catalyst conditions for the reaction with **2f**. During the reaction of **1a** with **2g**, we observed the formation of the deacetylated allylic alcohol from **1a**; therefore we changed the leaving group of the allyl substrate from acetate to methyl carbonate **1a'** or *tert*-butyl carbonate **1a''**. Changing of the leaving group improved the reaction results, and **1a''** produced the desired aminated product **3af** in good yields (entries 3–5); the best result (82% yield with 80% ee) was attained when the reaction was conducted using 20 mol % of the pybox ligand (4 equiv to Ru) at 60 °C (entry 5). All the other reactions of **1e'', 1f'', or 1g''** with **2f** also gave enantiomerically enriched allylic amines with good enantioselectivities (81–84% ee) (entries 6–8).

We further examined the reaction of **1a** with other amines, such as azepane (**2h**) or acyclic amine **2i** (Table 4), but again our optimized conditions gave allylic amines in low yields and low enantiomeric excesses (entries 1 and 4). However, we succeeded in determining the suitable reaction conditions for the reaction with **2h** or **2i**, and acceptable results (93% yield with 82% ee for **2h**, and 92% yield with 82% ee for **2i**) were obtained by increasing the amount of amines and DBU to 3 equiv and changing the solvents from THF to acetone (entries 3 and 5). We also demonstrated the reaction of other allylic

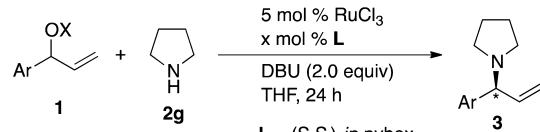
Table 2. Ruthenium-Catalyzed Enantioselective Allylic Amination of Racemic 1-Arylallyl Acetates with Amines^a

entry	1	2	yield ^b (%) of 3	% ee of 3
1	1a	2b	91 (3ab)	80
2	1a	2c	84 (3ac)	86
3	1a	2d	90 (3ad)	94
4	1a	2e	90 (3ae)	88
5	1a	2f	93 (3af)	86
6	1b	2a	88 (3ba)	86
7	1b	2c	87 (3bc)	90
8	1b	2d	87 (3bd)	93
9	1c	2c	83 (3cc)	90
10	1c	2d	88 (3cd)	94
11	1d	2d	81 (3dd)	94
12	1e	2d	60 (3ed)	12
13 ^c	1e	2d	87 (3ed)	85
14	1f	2b	77 (3fb)	90
15	1f	2d	74 (3fd)	87
16	1g	2b	67 (3gb)	90
17	1g	2d	64 (3gd)	90
18	1h	2d	71 (3hd)	86
19	1h	2e	88 (3he)	86
20	1i	2a	78 (3ia)	81
21	1i	2d	90 (3id)	86
22	1j	2a	35 (3ja)	24
23	1j	2d	22 (3jd)	4

^aReaction conditions: **1a–j** (1.0 mmol), **2a–f** (2.0 mmol), DBU (2.0 mmol), 5 mol % RuCl₃, and 10 mol % of (*S,S*)-*i*-pybox in THF at 40 °C for 24 h. ^bIsolated yield. ^c20 mol % of L was used.

acetates (**1b–d** and **1i**) with **2i** and could obtain enantiomerically enriched allylic amines with good enantiomeric excesses (entries 6–9). The details of the reaction mechanism of the RuCl₃/*(S,S*)-*i*-pybox catalyzed enantioselective reaction, including the key intermediate, active ruthenium species, or the role of DBU, have not yet been clarified, but we believe that the reaction proceeds through (*S,S*)-*i*-pybox ligated π -allyl and/or σ -allylruthenium complexes, and epimerization had occurred in those ruthenium intermediates to afford the enantiomerically enriched allylic amines.

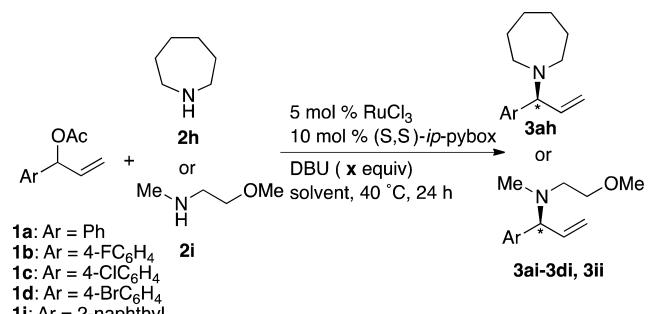
In conclusion, we demonstrated the RuCl₃/*(S,S*)-*i*-pybox catalyzed allylic amination of racemic 1-arylallyl esters with amines (mainly aliphatic secondary amines)¹⁹ and succeeded in obtaining enantiomerically enriched allylic amines with a high enantioselectivity with perfect regioselectivity. Further studies, such as the reaction of other allylic esters,²⁰ reaction with aromatic amines, or study of the mechanistic details, are currently in progress in our group.

Table 3. Reaction with Pyrrolidine (2g)^a

- 1a: Ar = Ph, X = Ac
 1a': Ar = Ph, X = CO₂Me
 1a'': Ar = Ph, X = CO₂iBu
 1e'': Ar = 3-FC₆H₄, X = CO₂iBu
 1f'': Ar = 3-ClC₆H₄, X = CO₂iBu
 1g'': Ar = 2-naphthyl, X = CO₂iBu

entry	1	L (mol %)	temp (°C)	yield ^b (%) of 3	ee (%) of 3
1	1a	10	40	50 (3ag)	80
2	1a'	10	40	29 (3ag)	44
3	1a''	10	40	72 (3ag)	65
4	1a''	10	60	80 (3ag)	76
5	1a''	20	60	82 (3ag)	80
6	1e''	20	60	62 (3eg)	83
7	1f''	20	60	61 (3fg)	81
8	1g''	20	60	90 (3gg)	84

^aReaction conditions: 1 (1.0 mmol), 2g (2.0 mmol), DBU (2.0 mmol), 5 mol % of RuCl₃, and 10 or 20 mol % of (S,S)-ip-pybox in THF for 24 h. ^bIsolated yield.

Table 4. Enantioselective Allylic Amination with 2h and 2i^a

- 1a: Ar = Ph
 1b: Ar = 4-FC₆H₄
 1c: Ar = 4-ClC₆H₄
 1d: Ar = 4-BrC₆H₄
 1i: Ar = 2-naphthyl

entry	1	2 (equiv)	DBU (x equiv)	solvent	yield ^b (%) of 3	ee (%) of 3
1	1a	2h (2)	2	THF	29 (3ah)	44
2	1a	2h (3)	3	THF	88 (3ah)	70
3	1a	2h (3)	3	acetone	93 (3ah)	82
4	1a	2i (2)	2	THF	20 (3ai)	50
5	1a	2i (3)	3	acetone	92 (3ai)	82
6	1b	2i (3)	3	acetone	77 (3bi)	77
7	1c	2i (3)	3	acetone	82 (3ci)	81
8	1d	2i (3)	3	acetone	51 (3di)	81
9	1i	2i (3)	3	acetone	73 (3ii)	80

^aReaction conditions: 1 (1.0 mmol), 2h–i (2.0 or 3.0 mmol), DBU (2.0 or 3.0 mmol), 5 mol % of RuCl₃, and 10 mol % of (S,S)-ip-pybox in THF or acetone at 40 °C for 24 h. ^bIsolated yield.

Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

Experimental procedures and spectral data for the products. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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- (19) Reactions of cinnamyl acetate or cinnamyl chloride with morpholine resulted in no reaction under our optimized conditions.
- (20) Reactions with aniline, MeNHTs, or (Boc)₂NH resulted in no reaction under our optimized conditions.