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# Kinetic resolution of allylic esters in palladium-catalyzed asymmetric allylic alkylations using C–N bond axially chiral aminophosphine ligands

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# ABSTRACT

Chiral allylic esters, such as (R)-1,3-diphenyl-2-propenyl acetate (R)-**2a**, were synthesized by kinetic resolution in a palladium-catalyzed asymmetric allylic alkylation using *N*-aryl indoline type C–N bond axially chiral aminophosphines (S)-**1** as ligands.

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# 1. Introduction

# In recent years, palladium-catalyzed allylic alkylation has been extended to catalytic asymmetric synthesis as a versatile C–C bond forming tool.<sup>1</sup> Among the many chiral ligands designed for this reaction, chiral P,N-ligands have played an important role owing to their steric and electronic asymmetry,<sup>2,3</sup> such as PHOX ligands,<sup>4</sup> binaphthyl-based ligands,<sup>5</sup> and the QUINAP-type ligand.<sup>6</sup> We recently reported a palladium-catalyzed asymmetric allylic alkylation using chiral phosphinohydrazones,<sup>7</sup> pyrrolidinyl-containing chiral aminophosphines,<sup>8</sup> and *N*-aryl indoline type C–N bond axially chiral aminophosphines.<sup>9</sup>

Although the usual synthetic target is the product from a nucleophilic addition, several reports have recently appeared documenting the kinetic resolution of allylic acetates and carbonates over the course of these reactions.<sup>10</sup> Herein, we report the synthesis of chiral allylic esters by the kinetic resolution of racemic allylic esters in palladium-catalyzed asymmetric allylic alkylation using *N*-aryl indoline type C–N bond axially chiral aminophosphines **1**.



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# 2. Results and discussion

Although we had already reported the synthesis of chiral **3a** by palladium-catalyzed asymmetric allylic alkylation of racemic 1,3diphenyl-2-propenyl acetate (±)-2a using chiral aminophosphines **1a-d** for 24 h,<sup>9a</sup> we investigated the kinetic resolution of the starting material in this reaction. At first, we examined the palladium-catalyzed asymmetric allylic alkylation of racemic 1,3-diphenyl-2-propenyl acetate  $(\pm)$ -2a with 3.0 equiv of dimethyl malonate (DMM) using chiral aminophosphines (S)-1a in THF for 4 h at 25 °C (Table 1, entry 1). In this case, the reaction conversion was 19% and the chiral unreacted allylic acetate (R)-2a was recovered in 17% ee with the corresponding product (R)-**3a** (89% ee). A difference in the rate of reaction for the two enantiomers of the starting material was observed. The (S)-enantiomer of **2a** reacted significantly faster than the (R)-enantiomer. Next, we investigated the ability of ligands (S)-1b-d (entries 3, 5, and 6). Using aminophosphine ligand (S)-1c, the reaction proceeded in 52% conversion while the unreacted chiral allylic acetate (R)-2a was recovered in 69% ee. In this case, the selectivity factor (S value) was 8.9 (entry 5). Conversely, (S)-1b and 1d were not effective ligands for this kinetic resolution (entries 3 and 6). We investigated the effect of reaction time in this kinetic resolution using aminophosphine ligand (S)-1b (entries 2-4). The reaction conversion and ee of 2a were increased with longer reaction times. On the other hand, the S value decreased while the ee of product 3a increased. When the reaction conversion reached 94%, product (*R*)-**3a** was obtained in 86% ee and the unreacted acetate (R)-2a was recovered in 98% ee, although the S value was low (entry 4). Next, the effect of the amount of nucleophile was investigated (entry 5 vs 7). The reaction with 0.6 equiv of DMM gave (R)-**3a** in good enantioselectivity (97% ee) with 52% conversion after 8 h. In this case, the S value was 11.7 and the enantioselectivity of unreacted acetate (R)-2a was 75% ee. The concentration of reaction solvent was also investigated (entries 7, 8, and 10). The diluted reaction conditions caused the reaction rate to slow and S value to increase. Changing the amount of catalyst to 4 mol %, the reactivity and S value were decreased (entry 8 vs

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## Table 1

Kinetic resolution in palladium-catalyzed asymmetric allylic alkylation using (S)-1<sup>a</sup>



Entry	Ligand	Time (h)	DMM (equiv)	Solv.	Concn (M)	Conv <sup>b</sup> (%)	ee of ( <i>R</i> )- <b>2a</b> <sup>c</sup> (%)	ee of ( <i>R</i> )- <b>3a</b> <sup>c</sup> (%)	S <sup>d</sup>
1	(S)- <b>1a</b>	4	3.0	THF	0.5	19	17	89	7.2
2	(S)- <b>1b</b>	2	3.0	THF	0.5	26	20	73	4.3
3	(S)- <b>1b</b>	4	3.0	THF	0.5	76	79	83	3.5
4	(S)- <b>1b</b>	6	3.0	THF	0.5	94	98	86	3.2
5	(S)-1c	4	3.0	THF	0.5	52	69	94	8.9
6	(S)-1d	4	3.0	THF	0.5	23	9	55	2.0
7	(S)-1c	8	0.6	THF	0.5	52	75	97	11.7
8	(S)-1c	18	0.6	THF	0.25	54	82	96	13.5
9 <sup>e</sup>	(S)-1c	24	0.6	THF	0.25	17	16	86	11.3
10	(S)-1c	24	0.6	THF	0.125	37	48	94	15.8
11	(S)-1c	18	0.6	Et <sub>2</sub> O	0.25	60	96	86	17.2
12	(S)-1c	18	0.6	DCM	0.25	60	98	93	21.4
13	(S)-1c	18	0.6	PhCF <sub>3</sub>	0.25	56	89	91	16.1
14	(S)-1c	18	0.6	PhMe	0.25	54	92	95	23.9
15 <sup>f</sup>	(S)-1c	18	0.6	PhMe	0.25	Trace	_	-	_
16 <sup>g</sup>	(S)-1c	18	0.6	PhMe	0.25	Trace	_	-	_
17 <sup>h</sup>	(S)-1c	18	0.6	PhMe	0.25	55	81	89	12.7
18 <sup>i</sup>	(S)-1c	48	0.6	PhMe	0.25	22	27	96	107
19	(S)-1c	40	0.65	PhMe	0.25	60	95(37) <sup>j</sup>	95(59) <sup>k</sup>	14.8
20	(S)- <b>1c</b>	40	0.7	THF	0.25	71	99(24) <sup>j</sup>	$94(66)^{k}$	11.2

<sup>a</sup> The reactions were carried out in various solvents at 25 °C with DMM and BSA (3.0 equiv), in the presence of LiOAc (2 mol %) and ligand (S)-1 (10 mol %) and [Pd( $\eta^3$ -C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)Cl]<sub>2</sub> (5 mol %).

<sup>b</sup> Determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR.

<sup>c</sup> Determined by HPLC analysis using a chiral column (Daicel CHIRALCEL<sup>®</sup> OD-H).

<sup>d</sup>  $S = \ln[(1 - C/100)(1 - ee/100)]/\ln[(1 - C/100)(1 + ee/100)]$  (*C* = conversion; ee = ee of **2a**).

<sup>e</sup> This reaction was carried out using 4 mol % of ligand (S)-1c and 2 mol % of [Pd(η<sup>3</sup>-C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)Cl]<sub>2</sub>.

<sup>f</sup> This reaction was carried out using 5 mol % of  $[IrCl(C_8H_{12})]_2$  instead of  $[Pd(\eta^3-C_3H_5)Cl]_2$ .

 $^{g}$  This reaction was carried out using 10 mol % of (C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>8</sub>)Mo(CO)<sub>3</sub> instead of [Pd( $\eta^{3}$ -C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)Cl]<sub>2</sub>.

<sup>h</sup> This reaction was carried out at 35 °C.

<sup>i</sup> This reaction was carried out at 5 °C.

<sup>j</sup> Values in parentheses are isolated yields of **2a**.

<sup>k</sup> Values in parentheses are isolated yields of **3a**.

9). We examined the effect of reaction solvents using chiral aminophosphines (S)-1c for 18 h at 25 °C (entries 8, 11–14). When the reaction was carried out in diethyl ether instead of THF, the S value was increased to 17.2, but the enantioselectivity of (R)-3a decreased to 86% ee (entry 11). When PhMe was used as a solvent, the reaction conversion was 56% and the chiral unreacted allylic acetate (R)-**2a** was recovered in 92% ee (S value = 23.9) with the corresponding product (R)-3a in 95% ee. We investigated the kinetic resolution in iridium and molybdenum-catalyzed asymmetric allylic alkylation. Unfortunately neither reaction proceeded (entries 15 and 16). We also investigated the effect of reaction temperature. The reaction conversion was increased slightly to 35 °C, but the S value and the enantioselectivity of (R)-**3a** decreased (entry 14 vs 17). On the other hand, the reaction was carried out at 5 °C, and the reaction rate was very slow (entry 18). Using 0.65 equiv of dimethyl malonate in PhMe, the reaction gave 59% of (R)-3a in 95% ee and 37% of unreacted (*R*)-**2a** in good enantioselectivity (95% ee) for 40 h (entry 19). Furthermore, when using 0.7 equiv of dimethyl malonate in THF. unreacted acetate (R)-2a was obtained in 24% with high enantioselectivity (99% ee) (entry 20).

Under the reaction conditions of 4 mol % of catalyst in THF (Table 1, entry 9), we examined the kinetic resolution of  $(\pm)$ -**2a** in the palladium-catalyzed asymmetric allylic alkylation using pyrrolidinyl-containing chiral aminophosphine (*S*)-**4**<sup>8</sup> and chiral phosphinohydrazone (*S*)-**5**<sup>7</sup> instead of (*S*)-**1c**. As shown in Table 2, chiral hydrazone (*S*)-**5** was a slightly effective ligand for kinetic resolution (*S* value = 3.8) (entry 3), but the selectivity was low when using (*S*)-**4** as a ligand (entry 2).

We next attempted the reaction of various allylic esters such as racemic 1,3-diphenyl-2-propenyl pivalate  $(\pm)$ -**2b**<sup>11</sup> and benzoate  $(\pm)$ -**2c**<sup>12</sup> with DMM and acetate  $(\pm)$ -**2a** with diethyl malonate in PhMe for 18 h at 25 °C (Table 3). As shown in entries 2 and 3, the unreacted chiral pivalate (*R*)-**2b** and benzoate (*R*)-**2c**<sup>10a</sup> were recovered with moderate enantioselectivities, and the corresponding products (*R*)-**3** were obtained with good enantioselectivity. The reaction with diethyl malonate gave (*R*)-**3b** in good enantioselectivity (94% ee) at 53% conversion. In this case, the *S* value was 13.8 while the enantioselectivity of unreacted acetate (*R*)-**2a** was 78% ee.

Finally, we suggested the plausible asymmetric induction process of the kinetic resolution in palladium-catalyzed asymmetric allylic alkylation of (±)-**2a** with DMM using chiral aminophosphines (*S*)-**1c** as shown in Scheme 1. There are two candidates, **A** and **B**, which are considerable reaction intermediates formed from palladium complex with chiral ligands (*S*)-**1c**. According to the result, (*S*)-**2a** reacted with the chiral palladium complex significantly faster than (*R*)-**2a**. Thus, **C** was easily formed from **A** due to the steric hindrance of the phenyl rings between the allylic substrate and the ligand. In addition, the nucleophilic attack to **C** occurs predominantly at the allyl terminus, *trans* to the better  $\pi$ -acceptor (P > N).<sup>13</sup> As a result, the (*R*)-product **3a** was obtained mainly from (*S*)-**2a**, while (*R*)-**2a** was recovered in this reaction using the chiral aminophosphine (*S*)-**1c** as a ligand.

# Table 2

The kinetic resolution in palladium-catalyzed asymmetric allylic alkylation using various chiral ligands<sup>a</sup>





<sup>a</sup> The reactions were carried with DMM (0.6 equiv) and BSA (3.0 equiv), in the presence of LiOAc (2 mol %) and ligand (S)-1 (4 mol %) and  $[Pd(\eta^3-C_3H_5)Cl]_2$  (2 mol %) in THF (0.25 M) at 25 °C for 24 h.

<sup>b</sup> Determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR.

<sup>c</sup> Determined by HPLC analysis using a chiral column (Daicel CHIRALCEL<sup>®</sup> OD-H).

<sup>d</sup>  $S = \ln[(1 - C/100)(1 - ee/100)]/\ln[(1 - C/100)(1 + ee/100)]$  (C = conversion; ee = ee of **2a**).

# 3. Conclusions

In conclusion, we found that C–N bond axially chiral aminophosphine (*S*)-**1c** was an effective ligand for the kinetic resolution in the palladium-catalyzed asymmetric allylic alkylation. Chiral allylic esters, such as (R)-1,3-diphenyl-2-propenyl acetate (R)-**2a**, were obtained by kinetic resolution with good enantioselectivities.

# 4. Experimental

# 4.1. General procedure for the kinetic resolution in palladiumcatalyzed allylic alkylation: optimization of reaction conditions (Table 1, entry 14)

To a mixture of  $[Pd(\eta^3-C_3H_5)Cl]_2$  (0.01 mmol, 3.9 mg), chiral aminophosphine ligand (*S*)-**1c** (0.02 mmol, 9.0 mg), and LiOAc (0.004 mmol, 0.3 mg) in PhMe (0.7 mL) was added racemic allylic ester **2a** (0.2 mmol, 50.5 mg) at room temperature under an Ar

atmosphere. After 30 min, BSA (0.6 mmol, 0.15 mL) and dimethyl malonate (0.12 mmol) in PhMe (1.2 M, 0.1 mL) was added at 25 °C. After 18 h, the reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether and water. The organic layer was washed with brine and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The filtrate was concentrated with a rotary evaporator and the residue was passed through a pipette plug of silica gel (diethyl ether) to give a mixture of **2a** and **3a**. The reaction conversion was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR. The ee of **2a** and **3a** was determined by HPLC analysis using a chiral column (Daicel CHI-RALCEL<sup>®</sup> OD-H, flow rate = 0.2 mL/min, hexane/<sup>i</sup>PrOH = 99:1, detection at 254 nm:  $t_R$  32.3 min ((*S*)-**2a**),  $t_R$  36.6 min ((*R*)-**2a**),  $t_R$  41.4 min [(*R*)-**3a**],  $t_R$  44.5 min [(*S*)-**3a**].

# 4.2. General procedure for kinetic resolution in palladiumcatalyzed allylic alkylation in PhMe (Table 1, entry 19)

To a mixture of  $[Pd(\eta^3-C_3H_5)Cl]_2$  (0.01 mmol, 3.9 mg), chiral aminophosphine ligand (*S*)-**1c** (0.02 mmol, 9.0 mg), and LiOAc

## Table 3

Kinetic resolution in palladium-catalyzed asymmetric allylic alkylation of various allylic esters using (S)-1c<sup>a</sup>



Entry	R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>	Conv. <sup>b</sup> (%)	ee of recovered allylic ester <sup>c</sup> (%)	ee of product <sup>c</sup> (%)	S <sup>d</sup>
1	Me	Me	54	92 (R)- <b>2a</b>	95 (R)- <b>3a</b>	23.9
2	t-Bu	Me	44	$55^{e}(49)^{f}(R)$ - <b>2b</b>	94(43) <sup>f</sup> (R)- <b>3a</b>	9.7
3	Ph	Me	56	$59(42)^{\rm f}(R)$ - <b>2c</b>	94(55) <sup>f</sup> ( <i>R</i> )- <b>3a</b>	5.0
4	Me	Et	53	$78(43)^{f}(R)$ - <b>2a</b>	94 <sup>g</sup> (49) <sup>f</sup> ( <i>R</i> )- <b>3b</b>	13.8

<sup>a</sup> The reactions were carried with malonate (0.6 equiv) and BSA (3.0 equiv), in the presence of LiOAc (2 mol %) and ligand (S)-1c (10 mol %) and  $[Pd(\eta^3-C_3H_5)Cl]_2$  (5 mol %) in PhMe (0.25 M) at 25 °C for 18 h.

<sup>b</sup> Determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR.

<sup>c</sup> Determined by HPLC analysis using a chiral column (Daicel CHIRALCEL<sup>®</sup> OD-H).

<sup>d</sup>  $S = \ln[(1 - C/100)(1 - ee/100)]/\ln[(1 - C/100)(1 + ee/100)]$  (C = conversion; ee = ee of **2**).

- <sup>e</sup> Determined by HPLC analysis using a chiral column (Daicel CHIRALPAK<sup>®</sup> AS-H).
- <sup>f</sup> Values in parentheses are isolated yields.

<sup>g</sup> Determined by HPLC analysis using a chiral column (Daicel CHIRALCEL<sup>®</sup> OJ).



Scheme 1. Plausible asymmetric induction process during kinetic resolution in palladium-catalyzed asymmetric allylic alkylation using chiral ligands (S)-1c.

(0.004 mmol, 0.3 mg) in PhMe (0.7 mL) was added racemic allylic ester **2a** (0.2 mmol, 50.5 mg) at room temperature under an Ar atmosphere. After 30 min, BSA (0.6 mmol, 0.15 mL) and dimethyl malonate (0.13 mmol) in PhMe (1.3 M, 0.1 mL) were added at 25 °C. After 40 h, the reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether and water. The organic layer was washed with brine and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The filtrate was concentrated with a rotary evaporator and the reaction conversion was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR. The residue was purified by column chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate/triethylamine = 34:1:6) to give (*R*)-**2a** (19 mg, 0.07 mmol) and (*R*)-**3a** (38 mg, 0.12 mmol).

# 4.2.1. Compound (R)-2a<sup>10e</sup>

37% yield; 95% ee;  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -4.9$  (*c* 0.30, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  2.14 (s, 3H), 6.35 (dd, *J*= 6.9 and 15.7 Hz, 1H), 6.44 (d, *J*= 6.9 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (d, *J*= 15.7 Hz, 1H), 7.21-7.43 (m, 10H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  21.3, 76.1, 126.7, 127.0, 127.5, 128.0, 128.1, 128.6, 128.6, 132.6, 136.2, 139.2, 170.0; EI-MS *m/z* (rel intensity) 252 (M<sup>+</sup>, 9).

# 4.2.2. Compound (R)-3a<sup>9a</sup>

59% yield; 95% ee;  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +11.8$  (*c* 0.20, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  3.51 (s, 3H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.95 (d, *J* = 10.9 Hz,

1H), 4.27 (dd, *J* = 8.5 and 10.9 Hz, 1H), 6.33 (dd, *J* = 8.5 and 15.8 Hz, 1H), 6.48 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 7.17–7.34 (m, 10H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  49.2, 52.4, 52.6, 57.6, 126.4, 127.1, 127.5, 127.8, 128.5, 128.7, 129.1, 131.8, 136.8, 140.1, 167.8, 168.2; EI-MS *m/z* (rel intensity) 324 (M<sup>+</sup>, 13).

# 4.3. General procedure for the kinetic resolution of various allylic esters 2 in palladium-catalyzed allylic alkylation (Table 3)

To a mixture of  $[Pd(\eta^3-C_3H_5)Cl]_2$  (0.01 mmol, 3.9 mg), chiral aminophosphine ligand (*S*)-**1c** (0.02 mmol, 9.0 mg), and LiOAc (0.004 mmol, 0.3 mg) in PhMe (0.7 mL) was added racemic allylic ester **2** (0.2 mmol) at room temperature under an Ar atmosphere. After 30 min, BSA (0.6 mmol, 0.15 mL) and malonate (0.12 mmol) in PhMe (1.2 M, 0.1 mL) were added at 25 °C. After 18 h, the reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether and water. The organic layer was washed with brine and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The filtrate was concentrated with a rotary evaporator and the reaction conversion was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR. The residue was purified by column chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate/triethyl-amine = 34:1:6) to give (*R*)-**2** and (*R*)-**3**.

# 4.3.1. Compound (*R*)-2b<sup>11</sup>

(Table 3, entry 2) 29 mg, 0.10 mmol, 49% yield; 55% ee (Daicel CHIRALPAK<sup>®</sup> AS-H, flow rate = 0.25 mL/min, hexane/<sup>i</sup>PrOH = 99:1, detection at 254 nm:  $t_R$  17.0 min ((*R*)-**2b**),  $t_R$  18.8 min ((*S*)-**2b**));  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +3.4$  (*c* 0.35, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.25 (s, 9H), 6.32 (dd, *J* = 6.8 and 15.6 Hz, 1H), 6.41 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 6.63 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 7.23–7.41 (m, 10H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  27.1, 38.9, 75.7, 126.67, 126.72, 127.8, 127.9, 128.0, 128.5, 128.5, 132.2, 136.3, 139.6, 177.3; EI-MS *m/z* (rel intensity) 294 (M<sup>+</sup>, 4).

# 4.3.2. Compound (*R*)-3a

(Table 3, entry 2) 28 mg, 0.09 mmol, 43% yield; 94% ee.

# 4.3.3. Compound (*R*)-2c<sup>10a,12</sup>

(Table 3, entry 3) 26 mg, 0.08 mmol, 42% yield; 59% ee (Daicel CHIRALCEL<sup>®</sup> OD-H + OD-H, flow rate = 0.30 mL/min, hexane/<sup>I</sup>PrOH = 99:1, detection at 254 nm:  $t_R$  49.1 min (CD:  $\lambda_{ext}$  ( $\Delta \varepsilon$ ) 254 (-)) ((S)-**2c**),  $t_R$  55.0 min (CD:  $\lambda_{ext}$  ( $\Delta \varepsilon$ ) 254 (+)) ((R)-**2c**)); [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> = +8.0 (*c* 0.30, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.47 (dd, *J* = 6.8 and 15.9 Hz, 1H), 6.69–6.76 (m, 2H), 7.21–7.59 (m, 13H), 8.13 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  76.6, 126.7, 127.0, 127.5, 128.0, 128.2, 128.4, 128.6, 128.6, 129.7, 130.3, 132.8, 133.1, 136.1, 139.3, 165.6; EI-MS *m/z* (rel intensity) 314 (M<sup>+</sup>, 3).

# 4.3.4. Compound (R)-3a

(Table 3, entry 3) 35 mg, 0.11 mmol, 55% yield; 94% ee.

# 4.3.5. Compound (R)-2a

(Table 3, entry 4) 22 mg, 0.09 mmol, 43% yield; 78% ee.

# 4.3.6. Compound (*R*)-3b<sup>8c</sup>

(Table 3, entry 4) 35 mg, 0.10 mmol, 49% yield; 94% ee (Daicel CHIRALCEL<sup>®</sup> OJ, flow rate = 0.7 mL/min, hexane/<sup>i</sup>PrOH = 95:5, detection at 254 nm:  $t_R$  13.6 min ((*R*)-**3b**),  $t_R$  16.0 min ((*S*)-**3b**));  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +16.8$  (*c* 0.31, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.00 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.20 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 3.90–4.00 (m, 3H), 4.17 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.26 (dd, *J* = 8.4 and 10.9 Hz, 1H), 6.33 (dd, *J* = 8.4 and 15.7 Hz, 1H), 6.48 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 7.16–7.33 (m, 10H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  13.7, 14.1, 49.2, 57.7, 61.3, 61.5, 126.3, 127.1, 127.5, 128.0, 128.4, 128.6, 129.3, 131.6, 136.8, 152.2, 167.4, 167.8; EI-MS *m/z* (rel intensity) 352 (M<sup>+</sup>, 15).

# 4.4. Determination of absolute configuration of 2b

# 4.4.1. Resolution of 1,3-diphenyl-2-propene-1-ol

The resolution was carried out by the use of a chiral stationary phase column [Chiralcel OD-H (1.0  $\phi \times 25$  cm), flow rate = 0.5 mL/ min, hexane/<sup>i</sup>PrOH = 95:5] to give both enantiomers. A 0.25 mL of solution was injected for each batch using 110 mg of (±)-1,3-diphenyl-2-propene-1-ol in EtOH (4.25 mL). Enantiomers were eluted at 38 min for (*S*)-isomer and 48 min for (*R*)-isomer.<sup>14</sup>

# 4.4.2. (S)-1,3-Diphenyl-2-propene-1-ol

38 mg, 68%; >99% ee;  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -31.9 (c 0.29, CHCl_3)$ ; HPLC (Daicel CHIRALCEL<sup>®</sup> OD-H, 0.46  $\phi \times 25$  cm, flow rate = 0.5 mL/min, hexane/<sup>i</sup>PrOH = 90:10, detection at 254 nm)  $t_R$  = 33.1 min; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl\_3)  $\delta$  2.03 (s, br, 1H), 5.40 (d, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 6.39 (dd, *J* = 6.5 and 15.8 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 7.21–7.46 (m, 10H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl\_3)  $\delta$  75.1, 126.3, 126.6, 127.8, 127.8, 128.6, 128.6, 130.6, 131.5, 136.5, 142.7; EI-MS *m/z* (rel intensity) 210 (M<sup>+</sup>, 34).

# 4.4.3. (R)-1,3-Diphenyl-2-propene-1-ol

38 mg, 68%; >99% ee;  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +34.8 (c 0.30, CHCl_3)$ ; HPLC (Daicel CHIRALCEL<sup>®</sup> OD-H, 0.46  $\phi \times 25$  cm, flow rate = 0.5 mL/min, hexane/<sup>i</sup>PrOH = 90:10, detection at 254 nm)  $t_R$  = 43.0 min; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl\_3)  $\delta$  2.03 (s, br, 1H), 5.40 (d, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 6.39 (dd, *J* = 6.5 and 15.8 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 7.24–7.46 (m, 10H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl\_3)  $\delta$  75.1, 126.3, 126.6, 127.8, 127.8, 128.6, 128.6, 130.6, 131.5, 136.5, 142.7; EI-MS *m/z* (rel intensity) 210 (M<sup>+</sup>, 30).

# 4.4.4. Preparation of (*R*)-2b

To a mixture of (*R*)-1,3-diphenyl-2-propene-1-ol (0.179 mmol, 38 mg), triethylamine (0.9 mL), and DMAP (0.04 mmol, 4 mg) was added pivaloyl chloride (0.179 mmol, 23  $\mu$ L) at room temperature. After 21 h, the reaction mixture was diluted with 2 M HCl aq and diethyl ether. The organic layer was washed with water, brine, and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The filtrate was concentrated with a rotary evaporator and the residue was purified by column chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate = 100:1) to give (*R*)-**2b** (16 mg, 0.054 mmol).

# 4.4.5. Compound (R)-2b

30% yield; 97% ee (Daicel CHIRALPAK<sup>®</sup> AS-H, flow rate = 0.25 mL/ min, hexane/<sup>i</sup>PrOH = 99:1, detection at 254 nm):  $t_{\rm R}$  20.2 min (major, (*R*)-**2b**),  $t_{\rm R}$  23.0 min (minor, (*S*)-**2b**));  $[\alpha]_D^{\rm 2D} = +4.1 (c 0.30, CHCl_3); <sup>1</sup>H$  $NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) <math>\delta$  1.25 (s, 9H), 6.32 (dd, *J* = 6.7 and 15.6 Hz, 1H), 6.41 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.63 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 7.24–7.41 (m, 10H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl\_3)  $\delta$  27.1, 38.9, 75.7, 126.67, 126.72, 127.8, 127.9, 128.0, 128.5, 128.5, 132.2, 136.3, 139.6, 177.3; EI-MS *m/z* (rel intensity) 294 (M<sup>+</sup>, 4).

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