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Asymmetric Synthesis of an Organic Compound with High Enantiomeric Excess Induced by Inorganic Ionic Sodium Chlorate**

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Recent progress in asymmetric synthesis has been made by the developments of both organic asymmetric catalysts and stoichiometric organic chiral auxiliaries.^[1] The origin of significant enantiomeric enrichments in organic compounds such as L-amino acids on the earth has been an intriguing puzzle.^[2] One of the proposed mechanisms for the enantiomeric enrichments of organic compounds is through asymmetric synthesis and/or subsequent asymmetric adsorption^[3] on the surface of inorganic enantiomorphic crystals. We recently reported an enantioselective synthesis of an organic compound promoted by chiral quartz,^[4] which is an enantiomorphic inorganic molecule with covalent bonds between the silicon and oxygen atoms.

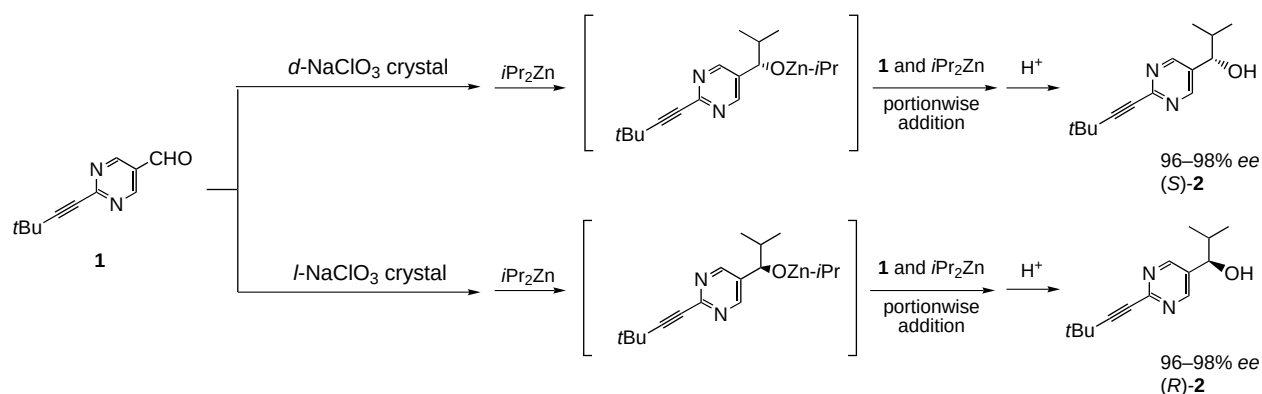
On the other hand, sodium chlorate (NaClO₃) is an enantiomorphic inorganic ionic crystal.^[5] Kondepudi et al. reported that almost all of the NaClO₃ crystals precipitated from a stirred particular solution have the same chirality.^[6, 7] However, the relevance of the chirality of NaClO₃ to that of an organic compound was not established. An earlier report^[8] on the enantioselective adsorption of racemic compounds by NaClO₃ was disproved by the later examination of Gillard and da Luz de Jesus.^[9] Thus, the question has remained as to whether significantly enantiomerically enriched organic compound can be formed using chiral NaClO₃, an inorganic ionic crystal.

Herein we report an unprecedented highly enantioselective synthesis of an organic compound which is induced by *d*- or *l*-NaClO₃ crystals. The enantioselective addition of diisopropylzinc (*i*Pr₂Zn) to 2-(*tert*-butylethynyl)pyrimidine-5-carbaldehyde (**1**) in the presence of *d*- or *l*-NaClO₃ powder gave pyrimidylalkanol **2** with high *ee* values (96–98 % *ee*) in high yields (90–99 %; Scheme 1, Table 1).

The (*S*)-pyrimidylalkanol (*S*)-**2** was obtained with 98 % *ee* in 93 % yield when *i*Pr₂Zn was added to the mixture of *d*-NaClO₃ and aldehyde **1** (Entry 1). The reaction is reproducible (Entries 2 and 3). On the other hand, reactions between aldehyde **1** and *i*Pr₂Zn in the presence of *l*-NaClO₃, instead of *d*-NaClO₃, always gave (*R*)-**2** with 98 % *ee* in yields of 91–98 % (Entries 4–6). When the reactions were run sequentially in the presence of *d*-, *l*-, *d*-, and *l*-NaClO₃, using exactly the same reaction equipments, (*S*)-, (*R*)-, (*S*)-, and (*R*)-**2** with

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[**] This work was supported by a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research from the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports, and Culture. We thank Mr. Koji Ohtake for experimental work in the early stage, Prof. Naoyuki Koide and Dr. Takashi Mihara from the Department of Chemistry of our university for a microscope measurement of the size of the powdered NaClO₃.



Scheme 1. Enantioselective synthesis of **2** in the presence of NaClO_3 .

Table 1. Enantioselective synthesis of pyrimidylalkanol **2** in the presence of *d*- and *l*- NaClO_3 .

Entry ^[a]	NaClO_3	Pyrimidylalkanol 2	
		yield [%]	ee [%] (config.) ^[b]
1	<i>d</i>	93	98 (<i>S</i>)
2	<i>d</i>	99	98 (<i>S</i>)
3	<i>d</i>	90	97 (<i>S</i>)
4	<i>l</i>	91	98 (<i>R</i>)
5	<i>l</i>	95	98 (<i>R</i>)
6	<i>l</i>	98	98 (<i>R</i>)
7 ^[c]	<i>d</i>	93	96 (<i>S</i>)
8 ^[c]	<i>l</i>	94	96 (<i>R</i>)
9 ^[c]	<i>d</i>	93	96 (<i>S</i>)
10 ^[c]	<i>l</i>	94	96 (<i>R</i>)
11	<i>d/l</i> (3/1)	92	97 (<i>S</i>)
12	<i>l/d</i> (3/1)	90	97 (<i>R</i>)

[a] $\text{NaClO}_3/\mathbf{1}/i\text{Pr}_2\text{Zn} = 1.9/1.0/2.0$. See also Experimental Section. [b] The *ee* value was determined by HPLC analysis on a column fitted with a chiral stationary phase (Chiralcel OD). [c] Reactions were carried out sequentially in the order of the entry numbers using the same equipment.

96% *ee* were obtained, respectively, in 93–94% yields (Entries 7–10). These results clearly show that the chirality of NaClO_3 controls the absolute configuration of the newly formed alkanol **2**.

The corresponding reactions in the presence of the mixture of *d*- and *l*- NaClO_3 were also examined. When the 3/1 mixture of *d*- and *l*- NaClO_3 was used, (*S*)-**2** was obtained in 92% yield with 97% *ee* (Entry 11). The reaction using a 1/3 mixture of *d*- and *l*- NaClO_3 , afforded (*R*)-**2** with 97% *ee* (Entry 12). Thus, the final configuration of **2** formed is dependent on the major enantiomorphs of NaClO_3 in the mixture.

The very high enantioselectivity observed in the present asymmetric reaction may be explained as follows: Chiral NaClO_3 ^[5b] induces a very small enantiomeric enrichment in the alkanol **2** that is initially formed from aldehyde **1** and $i\text{Pr}_2\text{Zn}$.^[10] The subsequent asymmetric autocatalysis^[11] of **2** with amplification of *ee* then automultiplies **2** to afford the alkanol **2** possessing the corresponding absolute configurations with high *ee* values in high yields. Further mechanistic details are now under investigation.

In summary, we have demonstrated for the first time that a chiral inorganic ionic crystal, namely *d*- or *l*- NaClO_3 , induces asymmetry in the highly enantioselective synthesis of an

organic compound. Thus, the present reaction correlates the chirality of NaClO_3 with the absolute configuration of an organic compound.

Experimental Section

Preparation of crystals and powders of *d*- or *l*- NaClO_3 : Recrystallization of NaClO_3 from water gave small crystals. A small crystal was put in an aqueous solution of NaClO_3 at room temperature, and the mixture was left until the size of the crystal reached over 5 mm. The chirality of the crystal was determined by polarimetry.^[12] Crystals of *d*- NaClO_3 were ground into a powder using a pestle and mortar (particle size: 5–12 μm), washed with diethyl ether, and dried in vacuo before use.

Typical experimental procedure (Table 1, Entry 2): A 1 M solution of $i\text{Pr}_2\text{Zn}$ in toluene (0.15 mL) was added dropwise with stirring (60–70 rpm) over 30 min to a suspension of aldehyde **1**^[13] (9.4 mg, 0.05 mmol) and *d*- NaClO_3 (222 mg, 2.09 mmol) in toluene (0.2 mL) at 0°C. After the mixture had stirred for 12 h, toluene (4.8 mL), a 1 M solution of $i\text{Pr}_2\text{Zn}$ in toluene (0.4 mL), and a solution of **1** (37.6 mg, 0.2 mmol) in toluene (1.5 mL) were added successively. After 3 h, toluene (14 mL), a 1 M solution of $i\text{Pr}_2\text{Zn}$ in toluene (1.6 mL), and a solution of **1** (151 mg, 0.8 mmol) in toluene (4 mL) were added and the mixture was stirred for a further 3 h. The reaction was quenched by adding 1 M hydrochloric acid (4 mL) and then made alkaline with saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate (12 mL). The mixture was filtered through celite, and the separated aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layer was dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated. Purification of the residue by thin layer chromatography on silica gel (hexane/ethyl acetate 2/1) gave **2** (242 mg, 1.04 mmol, 99%). $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -33.1$ ($c = 2.21$, CHCl_3). The *ee* value was determined as 98% by HPLC analysis on a column with a chiral stationary phase (Daicel Chiralcel OD, eluent 3% 2-propanol in hexane, flow rate 1.0 mL min⁻¹, UV detector at 254 nm, retention time: 18 min for (*S*)-**2**, 27 min for (*R*)-**2**).

Received: December 14, 1999 [Z14388]

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