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Acyclic allyl ketones ...

... are rarely employed as nucleophiles in vinylogous reactions owing to the low electron density at the γ position of the dienolates. In their Communication on page 6666 ff., K.-W. Huang, Z. Jiang, and co-workers demonstrate that with a proper catalyst design, a direct enantioselective vinylogous aldol reaction of allyl ketones to isatins can be achieved with a broad scope for the collective synthesis of 3-hydroxy-2-oxindoles which have important biological activities.

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