

Direct, Intermolecular, Enantioselective, Iridium-Catalyzed Allylation of Carbamates to Form Carbamate-Protected, Branched Allylic Amines

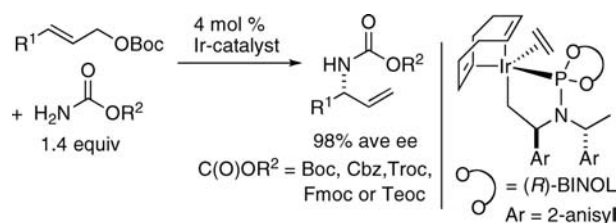
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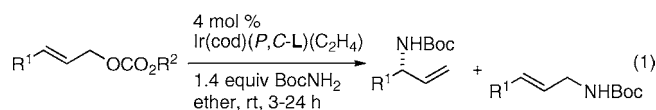
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ABSTRACT



The direct reaction between carbamates and achiral allylic carbonates to form branched, conveniently protected primary allylic amines with high regioselectivity and enantioselectivity is reported. This process occurs without base or with 0.5 equiv K₃PO₄ in the presence of a metalacyclic iridium catalyst containing a labile ethylene ligand. The reactions of aryl-, heteroaryl-, and alkyl-substituted allylic carbonates with BocNH₂, FmocNH₂, CbzNH₂, TrocNH₂, TeocNH₂, and 2-oxazolidinone occur in good yields, with high selectivity for the branched isomer and high enantioselectivities (98% average ee).

Chiral, nonracemic *N*-allyl carbamates are versatile intermediates for the synthesis of a variety of products,¹ including α -, β -, and γ - amino acids and amino alcohols. One of the most direct methods for the synthesis of these materials would be a simple intermolecular, catalytic, enantioselective allylic substitution with carbamate nucleophiles (eq 1).² However, this process has been reported to lead to little or no conversion in the presence of Pd³ or Ir⁴ catalysts. Related intermolecular Pd-catalyzed allylations of primary amides have been accomplished with *O*-allyl isoureas, but mixtures of mono- and diallylation products were obtained.⁵



To overcome this limitation, alternate protocols involving the use of alkali iminodicarboxylate^{3,4,6,7} nucleophiles, in situ generated benzyl *N*-carboxycarbamate nucleophiles,⁸ or the rearrangement of *O*-allylic trichloroimidates⁹ have been developed. However, these Ir- and Pd-catalyzed routes to

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N-allyl carbamates require manipulation of the products to generate primary amines with conventional protective groups or more extensive substrate synthesis than would be required for a direct addition.¹⁰ Here, we report the discovery and development of a direct, enantioselective, iridium-catalyzed substitution of a series of allylic carbonates with carbamate nucleophiles to form branched *N*-allyl carbamates in high yields, branched-to-linear ratios, and enantioselectivities. The reactions occur with Boc, Cbz, Troc, Fmoc, and Teoc carbamates to form conveniently protected primary allylic amines.

To assess the feasibility of preparing nonracemic, α -chiral, *N*-allyl carbamates by direct asymmetric allylic substitution, we investigated the reactions of BocNHM (M = Li, Na, K) with *tert*-butyl cinnamyl and *tert*-butyl dodecenyl carbonates. We conducted these reactions in the presence of the catalyst formed from a mixture of **L1** (Figure 1) and [Ir(cod)Cl]₂

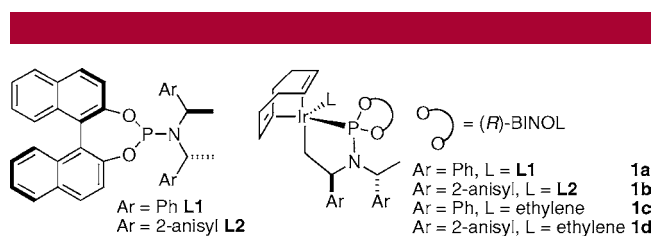


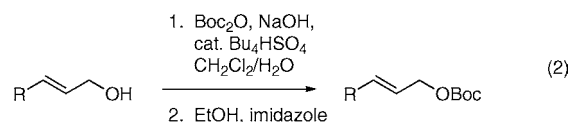
Figure 1. Phosphoramidite ligands and cyclometalated Ir catalysts.

activated in situ, as we have previously reported,¹¹ by addition of propylamine. However, reactions of these carbamate salts led to modest yields of the desired product ($\leq 25\%$).^{3–5} Reactions of the neutral carbamate in the presence of weak bases¹² provided the desired products in higher yields, but even the highest yielding reactions, which occurred with K₃PO₄ (100 mol %) as base, occurred in only 38% yield with *tert*-butyl dodecenyl carbonate and 64% yield with *tert*-butyl cinnamyl carbonate.

To improve this process further, we investigated a series of catalyst precursors (Figure 1). These studies showed that the most effective catalysts for the asymmetric allylation of *tert*-butyl carbamate are **1a–d**. Complex **1c** has been used for mechanistic analysis, and complexes **1c** and **1d** (derived from ligand **L2**^{13–15}) have recently been used for asymmetric allylation of azoles.¹⁶ The reactions conducted with **1d** provided the desired branched products with the highest yields and branched-to-linear (b:l) selectivities. In general,

reactions conducted with the ethylene catalyst **1d** derived from ligand **L2** occurred with somewhat higher b:l selectivities and faster rates than those conducted with the analogous catalyst **1c** derived from ligand **L1**. For example, the branched-to-linear regioselectivity of reactions of linear aliphatic carbonates improved from 75:25 to 85:15. Moreover, the allylation reactions conducted with catalyst **1d** occurred without the need for additional base or with only 0.5 equiv of K₃PO₄ as base.

Studies on the reactions of allylic acetates and a series of allylic carbonates with *tert*-butylcarbamate showed that reactions conducted with allylic *tert*-butyl carbonates gave the highest yields of branched products among the carbonates tested (eq 1, C(O)R² = Ac, CO₂Me, CO₂Et, CO₂*t*-Bu, C(O)CH₂OMe). Lower yields were observed when the reaction was conducted with allylic ethyl or methyl carbonates. These lower yields were due to the formation of ether side products from decarboxylation.¹⁷ Reactions with allylic acetates were much slower (OAc) or low yielding (MeOCH₂C(O)). Using a modified combination of two literature procedures,^{18,19} we realized a more convenient synthesis of pure allylic *tert*-butoxy carbonates (eq 2, see Supporting Information).



Studies on the effect of solvent (THF, 2-methyl-THF, CH₂Cl₂, toluene, ether, dioxane, and DME were tested) showed that reactions performed in THF or ether formed the highest yields of branched product. Although reactions in CH₂Cl₂ occurred with the highest regioselectivity, the yield of branched allylic carbamate remained low (40–60%). The yield, regioselectivity, and enantioselectivity were generally similar for reactions conducted in THF and ether, but the reactions in ether were typically faster.

The optimized conditions were then applied to the reactions of a variety of allylic *tert*-butyl carbonates, and the results of these experiments are summarized in Table 1. High yields of the desired product, and, with one exception, acceptable branched-to-linear ratios were obtained. In all cases, the branched and linear products were separable using standard flash chromatography on silica gel. All reactions occurred with exceptional enantioselectivity.

A pronounced electronic effect was seen in the reactions of substituted cinnamyl carbonates (entries 1–5). The reactions of more electron-rich carbonates occurred with higher b:l selectivity and faster rates than reactions of more electron-poor carbonates. Reactions of allylic carbonates containing heteroaromatic (furan, entry 6), dienyl (entry 7), and straight-chain aliphatic (entry 8) moieties also yielded the desired products in good yield and excellent enantioselectivity.

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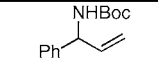
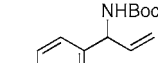
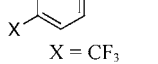
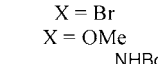
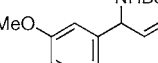
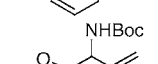
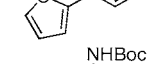
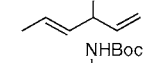
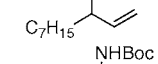
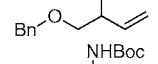
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Table 1. Reaction of a Variety of Allylic Carbonates with BocNH₂

entry ^a	product	b:l ^b	yield (%) ^c	ee (%) ^d
1 ^e		94:6	85	99
2 ^f		81:19	65	99
3 ^f		91:9	79	99
4		99:1	85	99
5		95:5	81	99
6		83:17	50	98
7		89:11	79	95
8		85:15	65	97
9		83:17	61	97
10 ^g		55:45	25	99

^a General conditions: 0.7 mmol BocNH₂, 0.5 mmol carbonate, 0.02 mmol **1d**, and 10 μ L dodecane in 0.5 mL ether. Results are an average of two runs. ^b Determined by NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture or by isolation. ^c Isolated yield of branched product. ^d Determined by chiral HPLC analysis, see Supporting Information for details. ^e THF was used as solvent. ^f K₃PO₄ (0.25 mmol) was added. ^g Reaction was run at 30 °C.

lectivity. The reaction of a benzyloxy-substituted allylic carbonate (entry 9) yielded results similar to the unfunctionalized straight-chain aliphatic carbonate. In contrast to a previously reported Ir-catalyzed reaction utilizing a benzyl carboxycarbonate nucleophile,²⁰ the aminoalcohol derivative was formed with high enantioselectivity under our new conditions. Reaction of an aliphatic substrate with branching α -to the allyl unit (R¹ = Cy, entry 10) occurred in a low isolated yield due to low reactivity (reactions required 48 h to consume starting material) and poor b:l selectivity. The enantioselectivity of the reaction, however, remained high.

Although Boc is among the most common protecting groups for primary amines, sometimes the acidic deprotection conditions are incompatible with other functionality in the molecule. In these cases, other carbamate protecting groups are required. The reactivity of a representative sample of these carbamates toward the iridium-catalyzed asymmetric allylation is summarized in Table 2. The reactions with 2,2,2-trichloroethoxycarbamate (TrocNH₂), benzyloxycarbamate (CbzNH₂), fluorenyloxycarbamate (FmocNH₂), and 2-trimethylsilylethoxycarbamate (TeocNH₂) that are deprotected

Table 2. Synthesis of a Variety of Different *N*-Allyl Carbamates

entry ^a	Nu-H	time (h)	b:l ^b	yield (%) ^c	ee (%) ^d
1	FmocNH ₂	21	83:17	57	94
2	CbzNH ₂	9	80:20	74	97
3 ^e	TrocNH ₂	10	96:4	80	95
4	TeocNH ₂	10	80:20	73	98
5 ^e	2-oxazolidinone	12	99:1	72	99

^a General conditions: 0.7 mmol BocNH₂, 0.5 mmol *tert*-butyl cinnamyl carbonate, 0.02 mmol **1d**, 0.25 mmol K₃PO₄, and 10 μ L dodecane in 0.5 mL ether. Reactions were heated to 30 °C. Results are an average of two runs. ^b Determined by NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture or by isolation. ^c Isolated yield of branched product. ^d Determined by chiral HPLC analysis, see Supporting Information for details. ^e DBU (0.1 mmol) was used in place of K₃PO₄.

with Zn⁰, H₂, base, or F⁻, respectively, all afforded acceptable yields of the branched product.

In some cases, the reactions of the carbamates were accelerated by the addition of DBU. For example, the allylation of TrocNH₂ and a secondary carbamate, 2-oxazolidinone (Table 2, entry 5) occurred in high yield, branched-to-linear selectivity and enantioselectivity when 20 mol % DBU was used in place of K₃PO₄ as the base. However, the use of DBU as base did not affect reactions of BocNH₂ or CbzNH₂.

To determine if these conditions could be transferred to palladium-catalyzed, intermolecular allylation of carbamates, we tested the *N*-allylation of *tert*-butyl carbamate with *tert*-butyl cinnamyl carbonate in the presence of both achiral and chiral catalysts (Table 3). Of catalysts containing PPh₃,

Table 3. Conditions Tested for Palladium-Catalyzed *N*-Allylation of *tert*-Butyl Carbamate

entry	R ¹ , R ² , R ³	ligand (X mol %)	yield (%)	b:l
1 ^a	Ph, H, H	Xantphos (8)	93	1:>99 ^b
2 ^a	Ph, H, H	Trost's ligand (8)	N.R. ^c	—
3 ^a	Ph, H, H	PPh ₃ (16)	N.R. ^c	—
4 ^a	Ph, H, H	(<i>R,R,R</i>)- L2 (16)	N.R. ^c	—
5	Ph, H, Ph	PPh ₃ (8)	N.R. ^c	—
6	H, -C ₃ H ₆ -	Xantphos (4) ^d	N.R. ^c	—
7	H, -C ₃ H ₆ -	Trost's ligand (4) ^d	N.R. ^c	—
8	H, -C ₃ H ₆ -	Trost's ligand (2) ^e	N.R. ^c	—

^a 1.2 equiv K₃PO₄ was used. ^b Determined by ¹H NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture. ^c N.R.: No Reaction. ^d 2 mol % [Pd(allyl)Cl]₂ was used as catalyst precursor. ^e 2 mol % Pd(dba)₂ was used as precursor.

Trost's ligand,²¹ **L2**, and Xantphos (9,9-dimethyl-4,5-bis-(diphenylphosphino)-xanthene), only 4 mol % [(η^3 -

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$\text{C}_3\text{H}_5\text{PdCl}_2$] and 8 mol % Xantphos formed the substitution product in good yield (93% isolated yield). In this case, however, the allylic substitution formed exclusively the linear isomer (entry 1).²²

In summary, we have identified conditions for Ir- and Pd-catalyzed intermolecular direct monoallylation of carbamates, a process that has fallen outside the scope of allylic substitution chemistry. The simplicity and availability of the reagents, the mild conditions, and the broad scope—including the scope of carbamate nucleophile—are particular attributes of this protocol. Moreover, the Ir-catalyzed procedure is highly enantioselective. Although the regioselectivity is not as high as was observed for decarboxylative processes,⁸ the substrates are more available and the pure branched products

are easily obtained by chromatography on silica gel. Work to extend this method to the allylation of amides is ongoing.

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Supporting Information Available: Experimental procedures and spectral data for the synthesis of the allylic carbonates, catalyst **1d**, and allylated carbamate products as well as two additional tables of reaction optimization experiments. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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