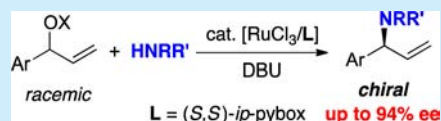


Ruthenium-Catalyzed Regio- and Enantioselective Allylic Amination of Racemic 1-Arylallyl Esters

Motoi Kawatsura,^{*,†} Kenta Uchida,[‡] Shou Terasaki,[†] Hiroaki Tsuji,[‡] Maki Minakawa,[†] and Toshiyuki Itoh^{*,‡}[†]Department of Chemistry, College of Humanities & Sciences, Nihon University, Sakurajosui, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo 156-8550, Japan[‡]Department of Chemistry and Biotechnology, Graduate School of Engineering, Tottori University, Koyama, Tottori 680-8552, Japan

S 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 palladium,³ iridium,^{4–10} and rhodium²¹ 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 Furthermore, Nguyen et al. reported rhodium-catalyzed asymmetric allylic amination of allylic trichloroacetimidates.²¹

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

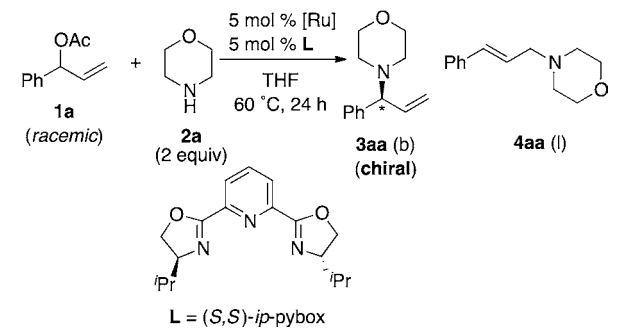
in low yield or as a mixture of linear-type products **4aa** (entries 1–4). However, the addition of DBU (2 equiv to **1a**) to the reaction using RuCl₂(cod) or RuCl₃ effectively increased the branch selectivity (entries 6 and 8), and we observed a moderate enantioselectivity (54% ee) for the reaction 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

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



L = (S,S)-ip-pybox

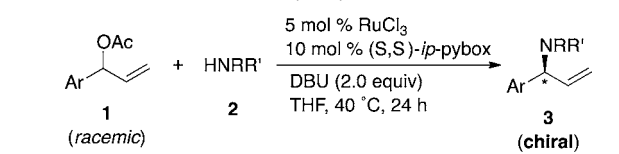
entry	[Ru]	additive	yield ^a (%)		ee (%) of 3aa
		(2 equiv)	3aa	4aa	
1	[Ru-1] ^b	—	<2	<2	nd
2	RuCl ₂ (cod)	—	47	39	0
3	Ru ₃ (CO) ₁₂	—	7	73	nd
4	RuCl ₃	—	6	40	0
5	[Ru-1] ^b	DBU	37	<2	31
6	RuCl ₂ (cod)	DBU	78	4	16
7	Ru ₃ (CO) ₁₂	DBU	<2	<2	—
8	RuCl ₃	DBU	71	<2	54
9	RuCl ₃	DBU ^c	75	<2	65
10 ^d	RuCl ₃	DBU ^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.

substituted allyl acetate 1j gave the desired products in low yield with low ee (entries 22 and 23).

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 enantioselectively 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

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


1a: Ar = Ph
1b: Ar = 4-FC₆H₄
1c: Ar = 4-ClC₆H₄
1d: Ar = 4-BrC₆H₄
1e: Ar = 4-MeOC₆H₄
1f: Ar = 3-ClC₆H₄
1g: Ar = 3-BrC₆H₄
1h: Ar = 2-FC₆H₄
1i: Ar = 2-naphthyl
1j: Ar = 1-naphthyl

2a: HN (6-membered ring)
2b: HN (6-membered ring)
2c: HN (6-membered ring)
2d: HN (6-membered ring)
2e: HN (6-membered ring)
2f: HN (6-membered ring)
2g: HN (6-membered ring)
2h: HN (6-membered ring)
2i: HN (6-membered ring)
2j: HN (6-membered ring)

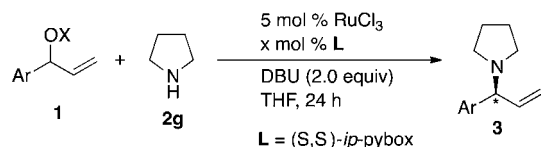
2d: R = Ph
2e: R = Me
2f: R = CO₂tBu

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 % of RuCl₃, and 10 mol % of (S,S)-ip-pybox in THF at 40 °C for 24 h. ^bIsolated yield. ^c20 mol % of L was used.

equiv and changing the solvents from THF to acetone (entries 3 and 5). We also demonstrated the reaction of other allylic 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)-ip-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)-ip-pybox ligated π -allyl and/or σ -allylruthenium complexes, and epimerization had occurred in those ruthenium intermediates to afford the enantiomerically enriched allylic amines.

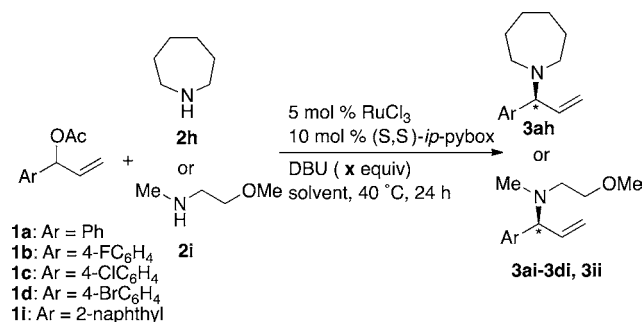
In conclusion, we demonstrated the RuCl₃/(S,S)-ip-pybox catalyzed allylic amination of racemic 1-arylallyl esters with amines (mainly aliphatic secondary amines)¹⁹ and succeeded in obtaining enantiomerically enriched allylic amines with a high enantioselectivity with perfect regioselectivity. Further studies, such as the reaction of other allylic esters,²⁰ reaction with

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

1a: Ar = Ph, X = Ac
 1a': Ar = Ph, X = CO₂Me
 1a'': Ar = Ph, X = CO₂tBu
 1e'': Ar = 3-FC₆H₄, X = CO₂tBu
 1f'': Ar = 3-ClC₆H₄, X = CO₂tBu
 1g'': Ar = 2-naphthyl, X = CO₂tBu

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

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.

aromatic amines, or study of the mechanistic details, are currently in progress in our group.

■ 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>.

■ AUTHOR INFORMATION

Corresponding Authors

*E-mail: kawatsur@chs.nihon-u.ac.jp.

*E-mail: titoh@chem.tottori-u.ac.jp.

Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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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.

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■ NOTE ADDED AFTER ASAP PUBLICATION

The version of this Letter published on February 13, 2014, did not cite related work by Nguyen et al. on rhodium-catalyzed asymmetric allylic amination of allylic trichloroacetimidates. Subsequently, the introductory paragraph has been revised and references 21a–c added in the corrected version that reposted on February 20, 2014.