

# Enantioselective [4 + 2]-Annulation of Oxadienes and Allenones Catalyzed by an Amino Acid Derived Phosphine: Synthesis of Functionalized Dihydropyrans

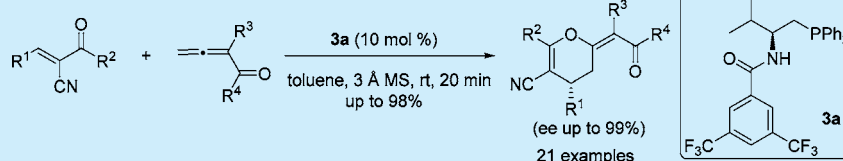
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## S Supporting Information

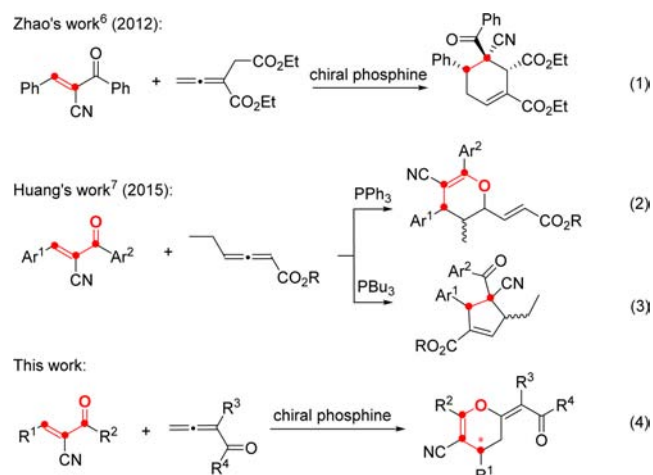


**ABSTRACT:** An enantioselective [4 + 2]-annulation process between cyano-activated oxadienes and allenones is developed. An L-valine-derived phosphine was efficient in catalyzing the reaction, and a wide range of highly functionalized dihydropyrans were prepared in high yields and with excellent enantioselectivities.

Asymmetric nucleophilic phosphine catalysis has received much attention in the past decade due to its versatility in constructing synthetically useful molecular architectures.<sup>1</sup> In his pioneering study in 1995, Lu first disclosed that electron-deficient allenones could act as a C3 synthon and react with activated olefins via phosphine catalysis to form cycloaddition products.<sup>2a</sup> Thereafter, phosphine activations of electron-deficient allenes had been intensively investigated, and a wide range of annulation processes, i.e. [3 + 2]-, [4 + 2]-, and [4 + 1]- reactions, were developed. Oxadienes, possessing highly activated C–C double bonds, have been used widely in organic synthesis.<sup>5</sup> However, their application in phosphine catalysis has been very limited. In 2012, Zhao et al. utilized oxadienes as C2 synthons in a [4 + 2]-annulation with  $\alpha$ -substituted allenones.<sup>6</sup> Recently, Huang and co-workers reported divergent phosphine-catalyzed [4 + 2]- and [3 + 2]-annulations, in which the oxadienes acted as either a C4 or C2 synthon.<sup>7</sup> Our group recently<sup>8c</sup> disclosed an enantioselective [4 + 2]-annulation reaction making use of novel reactivity of allenones.<sup>9</sup> As our continuous interest in phosphine catalysis,<sup>8</sup> we wondered whether oxadienes could potentially be used as a C4 synthon,<sup>10</sup> in combination with allene ketones to produce structurally unique ring motifs (Scheme 1). Herein, we document an enantioselective [4 + 2]-annulation process between oxadienes and allenones for the construction of highly functionalized dihydropyrans.<sup>11</sup>

We initiated our studies by investigating the annulation reaction between oxadiene<sup>12</sup> **1a** and allenone<sup>13</sup> **2a** in the presence of a number of amino acid derived phosphine catalysts (Table 1). Simple L-valine-derived amide–phosphine catalysts were very effective, and the products were obtained in excellent

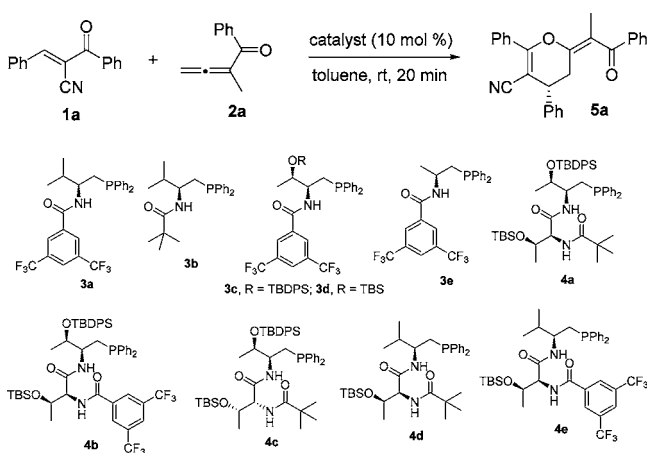
## Scheme 1. Phosphine Catalyzed Annulation Reactions Employing Oxadienes



yields and with good enantioselectivities (Table 1, entries 2–3). Changing the catalyst backbone to threonine or alanine did not improve the enantioselectivity of the reaction, and catalysts **3c**, **3d**, and **3e** were found to be less effective (Table 1, entries 4–6). In an effort to further enhance enantioselectivity, we tested a number of dipeptide catalysts. The L-thr-L-thr-derived catalysts **4a** and **4b** provided sufficient activation for the reaction and yielded the products with moderate to good ee values (Table 1,

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Table 1. Phosphine-Catalyzed [4 + 2]-Annulation between Oxadiene 1a and Allenone 2a: Initial Screening<sup>a</sup>

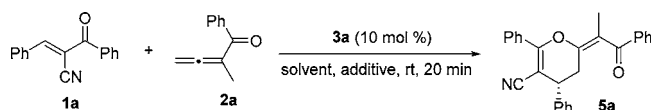
entry	catalyst	yield (%) <sup>b</sup>	ee (%) <sup>c</sup>
1	MePPh <sub>2</sub>	80	—
2	3a	94	87
3	3b	85	84
4	3c	87	81
5	3d	84	54
6	3e	90	75
7	4a	86	—80
8	4b	89	—73
9	4c	70	36
10	4d	85	—47
11	4e	88	—82

<sup>a</sup>Reactions were performed with 1a (0.1 mmol), 2a (0.12 mmol), and the catalyst (0.01 mmol) in toluene (0.5 mL) at room temperature. <sup>b</sup>Isolated yield. <sup>c</sup>Determined by HPLC analysis on a chiral stationary phase.

entries 7–8). However, the L-thr-D-thr-derived 4c was found to be a poor catalyst (Table 1, entry 9). It is worth mentioning that employment of (L,L)-di-peptide catalysts led to the formation of products with configurations opposite to those obtained by employing natural amino acid based phosphines. Moreover, L-val-L-thr-derived catalyst 4d and 4e were also proven to be inferior (Table 1, entries 10–11). Therefore, catalyst 3a was chosen as the optimal catalyst for subsequent screenings.

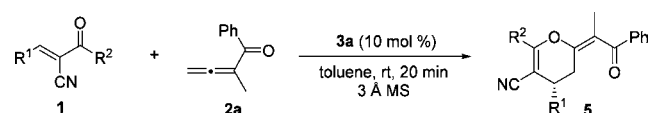
To further enhance the stereoselectivity of the reaction, we continued optimizing a number of reaction parameters (Table 2). Solvent screening revealed that toluene was the best solvent (Table 2, entries 1–5). Lowering the reaction temperature did not offer further improvement (Table 2, entry 6). To our delight, addition of molecular sieves was found to be beneficial (Table 2, entries 7–9). When the reaction was run at room temperature in the presence of 3 Å molecular sieves for 20 min, the desired [4 + 2]-annulation product was isolated in 95% yield and with 90% ee. It is noteworthy that the catalyst loading could be reduced to as low as 1 mol %, with virtually the same ee value and a slightly lower yield attainable (Table 2, entries 10–11).

With the established optimized reaction conditions in hand, we investigated the scope of this [4 + 2]-annulation between oxadienes 1 and allenone 2a, and the results are summarized in Table 3. Different R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> substituents in oxadienes 1 were well tolerated, and products with good to excellent yields and enantioselectivities were attainable. For oxadienes with aromatic R<sup>1</sup> groups, the presence of halogen atom on the aromatic ring did not affect the enantioselectivity (Table 3, entries 2–3). The

Table 2. Optimization of the Reaction Conditions<sup>a</sup>

entry	solvent	additive	yield (%) <sup>b</sup>	ee (%) <sup>c</sup>
1	toluene	—	94	87
2	ether	—	90	87
3	ethyl acetate	—	78	75
4	chloroform	—	85	83
5	dichloromethane	—	80	86
6 <sup>d</sup>	toluene	—	80	87
7	toluene	3 Å MS	95	90
8	toluene	4 Å MS	94	89
9	toluene	5 Å MS	94	90
10 <sup>e</sup>	toluene	3 Å MS	90	90
11 <sup>f</sup>	toluene	3 Å MS	85	89

<sup>a</sup>Reactions were performed with 1a (0.1 mmol), 2a (0.12 mmol), and 3a (0.01 mmol) under the specified conditions. <sup>b</sup>Isolated yield. <sup>c</sup>Determined by HPLC analysis on a chiral stationary phase. <sup>d</sup>The reaction was performed at −55 °C. <sup>e</sup>The catalyst loading was 5 mol %, and the reaction time was 1 h. <sup>f</sup>The catalyst loading was 1 mol % and the reaction time was 12 h.

Table 3. Scope of the [4 + 2]-Annulation between Oxadienes 1 with Allenone 2a<sup>a</sup>

entry	1, R <sup>1</sup> /R <sup>2</sup>	5	yield (%) <sup>b</sup>	ee (%) <sup>c</sup>
1	1a, Ph/Ph	5a	95	90
2	1b, 4-FC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> /Ph	5b	91	92
3	1c, 4-ClC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> /Ph	5c	94	92
4	1d, 4-MeC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> /Ph	5d	91	86
5	1e, 3-MeC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> /Ph	5e	90	85
6	1f, 2-MeC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> /Ph	5f	94	92
7	1g, 4-MeOC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> /Ph	5g	92	91
8	1h, 4-CNC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> /Ph	5h	96	91
9	1i, 3-NO <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> /Ph	5i	96	94
10	1j, 2-naphthyl/Ph	5j	94	91
11	1k, 2-thienyl/Ph	5k	90	90
12	1l, (E)-PhCH=CH/Ph	5l	93	84
13	1m, 3-NO <sub>2</sub> , 4-ClC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub> /Ph	5m	94	95
14 <sup>d</sup>	1n, C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>11</sub> /Ph	5n	85	87
15 <sup>d</sup>	1o, i-Pr/Ph	5o	79	90
16	1p, Ph/t-Bu	5p	96	90
17	1q, Ph/2-thienyl	5q	98	93
18	1r, Ph/4-ClC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	5r	94	90
19	1s, Ph/4-MeOC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	5s	95	90

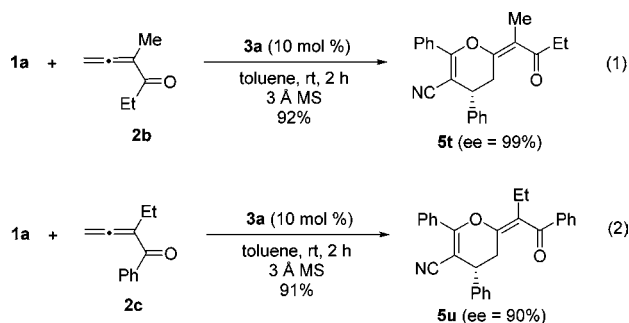
<sup>a</sup>Reactions were performed with 1 (0.1 mmol), 2a (0.12 mmol), and 3a (0.01 mmol) in toluene (0.5 mL) at room temperature. <sup>b</sup>Isolated yield. <sup>c</sup>Determined by HPLC analysis on a chiral stationary phase. <sup>d</sup>The reaction time was 4 h.

*ortho*-substituted aromatic moiety in the R<sup>1</sup> structure of oxadienes led to slightly better enantioselectivity compared to *meta/para*-substitutions (Table 3, entries 4–6). Both electron-rich and electron-deficient aromatic R<sup>1</sup> groups in oxadiene 1 led to equally good yields and enantioselectivities (Table 3, entries 7–9). Fused aryl, heterocyclic, and doubly substituted aromatic R<sup>1</sup> groups in oxadienes worked well, and the desired products

were obtained in excellent yields and enantioselectivities in all cases (Table 3, entries 10–11, 13). Vinyl substituted oxadiene also underwent the annulation efficiently to generate products in good yields and slightly lower enantioselectivity (Table 3, entry 12). It is noteworthy that oxadienes with an alkyl R<sup>1</sup> group were also well tolerated, and slightly lower chemical yields and the same level of enantioselectivity were attainable (Table 3, entries 14–15). The ketone moieties of oxadienes could also be varied, with annulation products formed in excellent yields and enantioselectivities (Table 3, entries 16–19).

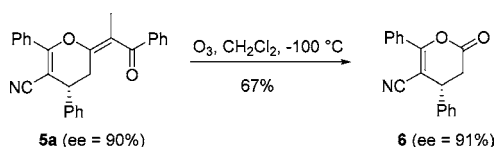
We next tested the suitability of different allenones for the reaction (Scheme 2, eqs 1 and 2). Both allenone **2b** with only

**Scheme 2. [4 + 2]-Annulation between Oxadiene 1 and Different Allenones**



alkyl substituents and allenone **2c** containing mixed alkyl and aryl groups were found to be excellent substrates, affording products in excellent yields and high enantioselectivities. The absolute configurations of the products were assigned based on the X-ray crystallographic analysis of product **5a**. The exocyclic double bond in products **5** has a thermodynamically more favored (*E*)-configuration.<sup>14</sup> The annulation product could be conveniently converted to chiral dihydropyranone **6**, a structural motif often found in bioactive molecules<sup>15</sup> (Scheme 3).

**Scheme 3. Synthesis of a Dihydropyranone 6**



In conclusion, we have developed the first phosphine-catalyzed enantioselective [4 + 2]-cycloaddition between oxadienes and allenones. In this unique annulation process, oxadienes were employed as C4 synthons and allenones acted as C2 synthons. Highly functionalized dihydropyrans were obtained in high yields and with excellent enantioselectivities. Extension of the reaction partners disclosed in this report to other asymmetric annulation processes is ongoing in our laboratory.

## ■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

### Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/acs.orglett.6b00760.

Crystallographic data for **5a** (CIF)

Experimental details, analytical data and HPLC chromatogram of products, copies of NMR spectra (PDF)

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### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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(12) When nitro-substituted oxadiene was used, no reaction took place.

(13) When  $\gamma$ -ethyl substituted allenone was examined, no reaction was observed.

(14) Interestingly, the [4 + 2]-annulation product was obtained with a Z-configuration in our previous study (ref 8e).

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