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Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon and the Related Elements

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information: http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713618290

Kinetic Resolution of Racemic Ferrocenyl Phosphine Compounds Using Optically Active Cyclic Selenoxides as Oxidant

Yoshihiro Miyake^a; Akiyoshi Yamauchi^a; Yoshiaki Nishibayashi^a; Sakae Uemura^a Kyoto University, Japan

Online publication date: 27 October 2010

To cite this Article Miyake, Yoshihiro , Yamauchi, Akiyoshi , Nishibayashi, Yoshiaki and Uemura, Sakae(2002) 'Kinetic Resolution of Racemic Ferrocenyl Phosphine Compounds Using Optically Active Cyclic Selenoxides as Oxidant', Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon and the Related Elements, 177: 8, 2107

To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1080/10426500213347 URL: http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10426500213347

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Phosphorus, Sulfur and Silicon, 2002, Vol. 177:2107 Copyright © 2002 Taylor & Francis 1042-6507/02 \$12.00 + .00

DOI: 10.1080/10426500290094116

KINETIC RESOLUTION OF RACEMIC FERROCENYL PHOSPHINE COMPOUNDS USING OPTICALLY ACTIVE CYCLIC SELENOXIDES AS OXIDANT

Yoshihiro Miyake, Akiyoshi Yamauchi, Yoshiaki Nishibayashi, and Sakae Uemura Kyoto University, Japan

(Received July 29, 2001; accepted December 25, 2001)

Chiral phosphines and phosphine oxides are useful ligands or reagents in asymmetric synthesis. Organoselenium (IV) compounds such as selenoxides are known to be reagents for oxidation of phosphines to phosphine oxides. This fact prompted us to examine kinetic resolution of racemic phosphine compounds using optically active cyclic selenoxides as oxidant. Treatment of a racemic oxazolinylferrocenylphosphine 2 with optically active selenoxide 1 (0.5 equiv) and phenol (0.5 equiv) in CCl₄ at rt afforded the corresponding phosphine oxide 3 in 52% yield with 13% ee. The unreacted phosphine 2 was also recovered in 48% yield with 29% ee. Although the kinetic resolution proceeded so far with moderate enantioselectivity, this reaction may provide a novel synthetic method for chiral phosphine compounds after further development.

SCHEME 1

Address correspondence to Yoshihiro Miyake, Department of Energy and Hydrocarbon Chemistry, Graduate School of Engineering, Kyoto University, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto 606-8501, Japan.