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TETRAHEDRON: *ASYMMETRY*

Letter to the Editor

Letter to the editor regarding: "New development in the enantioselective ring opening of *meso*-epoxides by various chloride ion silicon sources catalyzed by an *o*-methoxyaryldiazaphosphonamide Lewis base"

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[Tetrahedron: *Asymmetry* 11 (2000) 4441–4445][†]

We published in this journal a communication on the enantioselective ring opening of *meso*-epoxides with various chloride ion silicon sources in the presence of a catalytic amount of chiral phosphonamide **1** (Scheme 1).[1]

This paper followed a communication we published in *Angewandte Chemie* in which we reported the asymmetric ring opening of cyclooctene oxide with $SiCl_4$ in the presence of 10% mol of a chiral phosphonamide Lewis base as a catalyst with up to 83% chemical yield and enantiomeric excesses higher than 99%.[2] However, Professor Scott E. Denmark, who pioneered this research field,[3] did not succeed in reproducing the results we disclosed and published a rebuttal to our paper.[4] After a long procedure, I decided to check personally and independently the whole work, but I was unable to reproduce the results and analytical data provided by my co-workers with the catalyst **1** and a catalyst prepared from the (*R*,*R*)-cyclohexane diamine.[5] To date, my co-workers[6] have been unable to provide an appropriate scientific rationale for the non-reproducibility of the former results and analyses. Thus, the results presented in the original communication must be considered as null. Therefore, as a co-author, I wish to retract and withdraw this communication.

References

1. Reymond, S.; Brunel, J. M.; Buono, G. *Tetrahedron: Asymmetry* **2000**, *11*, 4441.
2. Brunel, J. M.; Legrand, O.; Reymond, S.; Buono, G. *Angew. Chem.* **2000**, *112*, 2654; *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2000**, *39*, 2554.
3. Denmark, S. E.; Barsanti, P. A.; Wong, K.-T.; Stavenger, R. A. *J. Org. Chem.* **1998**, *63*, 2428.
4. Denmark, S. E.; Wynn, T.; Jellerichs, B. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2001**, *40*, 2255.
5. Buono, G. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2001**, *40*, 6001.
6. S. Reymond was a Ph.D. student working under the supervision of Dr. J. M. Brunel.

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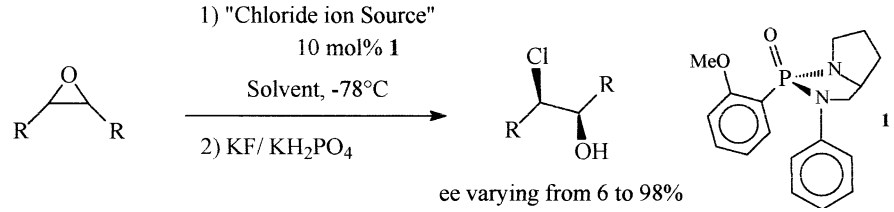

Scheme 1.

[†] PII of original article: S0957-4166(00)00432-8

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