



Catalytic asymmetric [2,3] sigmatropic rearrangement of sulfur ylides generated from carbenoids and propargyl sulfides

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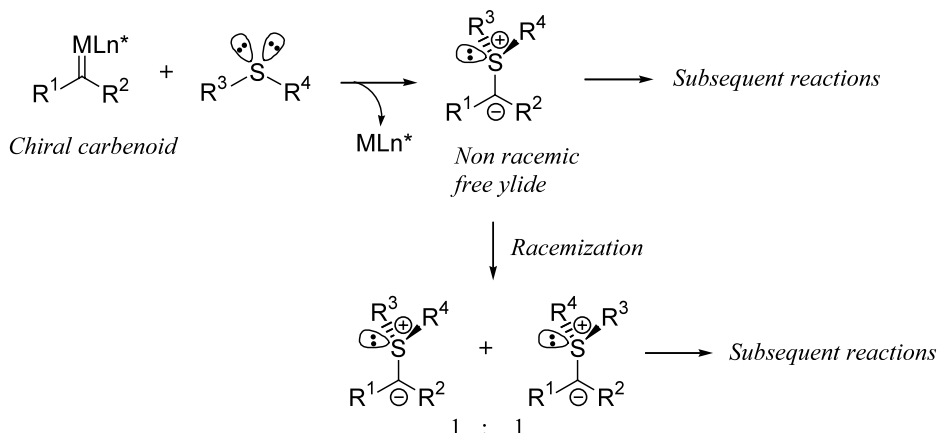
Abstract—Catalytic asymmetric [2,3] sigmatropic rearrangement of sulfur ylides generated from aryldiazoacetates and propargyl sulfides with a number of chiral Rh(II) and Cu(I) catalysts have been investigated and moderately high enantioselectivities (up to 81% ee) have been achieved. © 2003 Elsevier Science Ltd. All rights reserved.

1. Introduction

It is generally believed that the rearrangement reactions of the ylides generated by transition metal complex-catalyzed reaction of diazo compounds in the presence of sulfide occur from the free ylide rather than the metal-associated ylide.¹ However, asymmetric induction is still possible since the sulfonium ylide has considerable stability, therefore the subsequent rearrangement of the sulfonium ylide may be faster than its racemization (Scheme 1).² In 1995 Uemura reported the first catalytic asymmetric [2,3] sigmatropic rearrangement with chiral Cu(OTf)/bisoxazoline-catalyzed reaction of *trans*-cin-

namyl phenyl sulfide with diazoacetate, although the enantioselectivity was low (up to 22% ee).³ Since Uemura's pioneering work, catalytic asymmetric induction in the [2,3] sigmatropic rearrangement of sulfur ylides has attracted considerable attention, and the enantioselectivity of the rearrangement reaction has been improved.⁴

All of the previous investigations in this area have used allyl sulfides to generate the sulfur ylide by reaction with a metal carbene. Because the corresponding sulfur ylides generated from propargyl sulfides can also undergo similar [2,3] sigmatropic rearrangement to give



Scheme 1.

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Table 1. Enantioselectivity of the reaction of *p*-methoxyphenyldiazoacetate and propargyl aryl sulfide with chiral Cu(I) or Rh(II) catalyst

Entry	Catalyst ^a	Sulfide (Ar' =)	Solvent	Temp. (°C)	Time (h)	Ee (%) ^b	[α] _D (c, CHCl ₃)	Yield ^c (%)
1	4	C ₆ H ₅	Toluene	25	20	5	+3.2 (0.64)	47
2	5	C ₆ H ₅	Toluene	25	2	37	−23.9 (0.83)	52
3	8	C ₆ H ₅	Benzene	25	3	50	+31.8 (0.72)	45
4	8	2-CH ₃ C ₆ H ₄	Benzene	25	3	52	+43.6 (0.88)	91
5	8	2-ClC ₆ H ₄	Benzene	25	3	54	+33.5 (0.91)	81
6	9	C ₆ H ₅	Benzene	25	3	50	+31.9 (0.81)	93
7	10a	C ₆ H ₅	Benzene	25	2	51	−32.5 (0.64)	74
8	10a	C ₆ H ₅	Toluene	0	20	66	−42.1 (0.80)	78
9	10b	C ₆ H ₅	Benzene	25	3	57	−36.3 (0.71)	70
10	10b	2,6-(CH ₃) ₂ C ₆ H ₃	Benzene	0	17	61	−49.92 (0.59)	59
11	10b	2-ClC ₆ H ₄	Toluene	25	3	70	−44.1 (0.74)	83
12	10b	2-ClC ₆ H ₄	Toluene	0–25	18	80	−49.6 (0.89)	79
13	10b	2-ClC ₆ H ₄	Toluene	−40	16	73	−45.6 (0.63)	52
14	10b	2-ClC ₆ H ₄	CH ₂ Cl ₂	25	3	59	−36.6 (0.84)	83
15	10b	2-ClC ₆ H ₄	CCl ₄	25	30	2	—	51
16	10b	2-ClC ₆ H ₄	Benzene	25	4	69	−43.9 (0.73)	81
17	6	2-ClC ₆ H ₄	Toluene	0	1	70	−44.6 (0.85)	84
18	6	2-ClC ₆ H ₄	Toluene	−23	3	73	−46.8 (0.89)	96
19	6	2-ClC ₆ H ₄	Toluene	−53	12	71	−43.9 (0.72)	69
20	7	2-ClC ₆ H ₄	Toluene	0	1	67	−42.7 (0.84)	87
21	7	2-ClC ₆ H ₄	Toluene	−23	3	70	−43.9 (0.85)	91
22	7	2-ClC ₆ H ₄	Toluene	−53	12	73	−47.0 (0.86)	92

^a For Cu(I) catalyst: chiral ligand (11 mol%) was mixed with Cu(MeCN)₄PF₆ (10 mol%); for Rh(II) catalyst: 1% mol catalyst is used.^b Ee's determined by chiral HPLC; Chiracel OJ; hexane/*iso*-propanol.^c Isolated yields.

propargyl 2-chlorophenyl sulfide. Thus, this reaction condition was applied to a series of aryldiazoacetates. Moreover, the effectiveness of Rh(II) catalysts **6** and **7** were also tested with other aryldiazoacetates. The results are summarized in Table 2.

The results summarized in Table 2 demonstrates that with Cu(I) catalyst **10b**, moderately high enantioselectivity can be achieved with a series of aryl diazoacetates. As

in the analogous [2,3] sigmatropic reaction with allyl sulfides, there is no obvious dependence of the enantioselectivity on the substituents in the phenyl ring of the aryl diazoacetate substrates. When chiral Rh(II) catalysts **6** and **7** were used, the reaction became faster and approximately the same level of enantioselectivity could be achieved in some cases (entries 2, 3, 12, 13, 15). However, for the diazosubstrates bearing a *meta* substituent, the Rh(II) catalysts gave lower ee values (entries 5, 6, 9, 10).

Table 2. Enantioselectivity of the reaction of aryldiazoacetate **1** and propargyl 2-chlorophenyl sulfide **2** (Ar' = 2-ClC₆H₄) with chiral Cu(I) and Rh(II) catalyst

Entry	Diazo compound 1 (Ar =)	Catalyst ^a	Reaction time (h) ^b	Ee (%) ^c	[α] _D (c, CHCl ₃)	Yield (%) ^d
1	<i>p</i> -MeOC ₆ H ₄	10b	18	80	−49.6 (0.89)	79
2	<i>p</i> -MeOC ₆ H ₄	6	1	70	−44.6 (0.85)	84
3	<i>p</i> -MeOC ₆ H ₄	7	1	67	−42.7 (0.84)	87
4	<i>m</i> -MeOC ₆ H ₄	10b	20	75	−43.8 (1.0)	89
5	<i>m</i> -MeOC ₆ H ₄	6	5	36	−21.0 (0.49)	44
6	<i>m</i> -MeOC ₆ H ₄	7	5	27	−15.8 (0.41)	48
7	<i>m</i> -MeC ₆ H ₄	10b	20	81	−38.5 (0.88)	82
8	<i>m</i> -ClC ₆ H ₄	10b	36	75	−40.9 (0.66)	33
9	<i>m</i> -ClC ₆ H ₄	6	12	35	−19.1 (0.41)	46
10	<i>m</i> -ClC ₆ H ₄	7	12	30	−16.4 (0.52)	47
11	<i>p</i> -PhC ₆ H ₄	10b	20	74	−48.7 (1.1)	87
12	<i>p</i> -PhC ₆ H ₄	6	12	68	−44.7 (0.69)	65
13	<i>p</i> -PhC ₆ H ₄	7	12	63	−40.3 (0.70)	64
14	1-Naphthyl	10b	3	55	−56 (1.0)	76
15	1-Naphthyl	7	12	68	−69 (0.63)	42

^a For Cu(I) catalyst: chiral ligand (11 mol%) was mixed with Cu(MeCN)₄PF₆ (10 mol%); for Rh(II) catalyst: 1% mol catalyst is used.^b For **10b** catalyzed reaction, the temperature is 0–25°C; for Rh(II) catalyzed reaction, the temperature is 0°C.^c Ee's determined by chiral HPLC using the condition given in Table 1.^d Isolated yields.

3. Conclusion

In summary, we have conducted the first investigation of the catalytic asymmetric [2,3] sigmatropic rearrangement of sulfur ylides generated from aryldiazoacetates and propargyl sulfides. Moderate to good enantioselectivities have been obtained.

4. Experimental

4.1. General

All reactions were performed under a nitrogen atmosphere in a flame-dried reaction flask, and the components were added via syringe. All solvents were distilled prior to use. For chromatography, 100–200 mesh silica gel (Qindao, China) was employed. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded at 200 and 50 MHz with a Varian Mercury 200 spectrometer. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm using tetramethylsilane as the internal standard. IR spectra were recorded with a Nicolet 5MX-S infrared spectrometer. Mass spectra were obtained on a VG ZAB-HS mass spectrometer. Aryl diazoacetates⁹ and $\text{Cu}(\text{MeCN})_4\text{PF}_6$ ¹⁰ were prepared according to literature procedures. Chiral bisoxazoline ligands, and chiral Rh(II) catalysts $\text{Rh}_2(\text{S-TBSP})_4$ **6** and $\text{Rh}_2(\text{S-DOSP})_4$ **7** were purchased from Aldrich. HPLC analysis was performed using an HP 1100 apparatus equipped with a Chiracel OJ column.

4.2. Typical procedure for the reaction of aryl diazoacetate with sulfide catalyzed by Cu(I) complex

Under a nitrogen atmosphere, $\text{Cu}(\text{MeCN})_4\text{PF}_6$ (2.33 mg, 6.25×10^{-3} mmol) and ligand **10b** (2.21 mg, 7.5×10^{-3} mmol) were added to a 25 mL round-bottomed flask. Dry toluene (2 mL) was introduced and the solution was stirred for 1 h at 0°C . To the slightly blue solution was then added aryl sulfide **2** ($\text{Ar}' = 2\text{-ClC}_6\text{H}_4$, 17.1 mg, 9.38×10^{-2} mmol) in toluene (1 mL). Then methyl *p*-methoxyphenyldiazoacetate (**1**, $\text{Ar} = p\text{-MeOC}_6\text{H}_4$) (12.88 mg, 6.25×10^{-2} mmol) in dry toluene (2 mL) was added via a syringe over 30 min. The solution was stirred for an additional 17 h, during which the reaction temperature rise to room temperature. Solvent was removed by evaporation and the green oily residue was purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate=20:1) to give **3** ($\text{Ar} = p\text{-MeOC}_6\text{H}_4$, $\text{Ar}' = 2\text{-ClC}_6\text{H}_4$) as an oil (17.8 mg, 79%).

4.3. Typical procedure for the reaction of aryl diazoacetate with sulfide catalyzed by Rh(II) complex

Under a nitrogen atmosphere, Rh(II) catalyst **6** (1.81 mg, 1.25×10^{-3} mmol) were added to a round-bottomed flask (25 mL) and then toluene (4 mL) was introduced. After cooling the flask in an ice bath, aryl sulfide **2** ($\text{Ar}' = 2\text{-ClC}_6\text{H}_4$, 34.2 mg, 1.88×10^{-1} mmol) in toluene (2 mL). Methyl *p*-methoxyphenyl diazoacetate (**1**, $\text{Ar} = p\text{-MeOC}_6\text{H}_4$) (1.25×10^{-1} mmol, 25.8 mg) in toluene (4 mL) was added via syringe over 30 min. The solution was stirred for an additional 1 h at 0°C . Solvent was

removed by evaporation and the green oily residue was purified by column chromatography (petroleum/ethyl acetate=20: 1) to give **3** ($\text{Ar} = p\text{-MeOC}_6\text{H}_4$, $\text{Ar}' = 2\text{-ClC}_6\text{H}_4$) as an oil (37.8 mg, 84%).

4.4. Methyl 2-(*p*-methoxy)phenyl-2-thiophenyl-3,4-pentadienoate (**3**, $\text{Ar} = p\text{-MeOC}_6\text{H}_4$, $\text{Ar}' = \text{C}_6\text{H}_5$)

IR (CDCl_3): 1955 (m), 1733 (s); ^1H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 4.72 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 5.73 (dd, $J = 6.6$ Hz, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.81–6.87 (m, 2H), 7.21–7.42 (m, 7H); ^{13}C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 52.70, 55.12, 63.87, 78.62, 94.03, 113.31, 128.27, 128.89, 129.21, 130.75, 131.75, 136.38, 158.98, 171.24, 208.26; MS (m/z , relative intensity): 326 (M^+ , 17), 265 (13), 217 (100), 202 (36), 185 (54), 158 (73), 115 (34), 110 (52), 43 (68); HPLC (254 nm): $t_R = 41.09$ min, $t_R = 80.05$ min; HRMS calcd M^+ for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_3\text{S}$: 326.0986; found: 326.0976.

4.4.1. Methyl 2-(*m*-chloro)phenyl-2-thio(2-chlorophenyl)-3,4-pentadienoate (**3**, $\text{Ar} = m\text{-ClC}_6\text{H}_4$, $\text{Ar}' = 2\text{-ClC}_6\text{H}_4$)

IR (CDCl_3): 1955 (m), 1735 (s); ^1H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.70 (s, 3H), 4.70 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 5.80 (dd, $J = 6.6$ Hz, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.10–7.57 (m, 8H); ^{13}C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 53.01, 63.59, 78.94, 93.013, 126.36, 126.48, 127.99, 128.33, 129.14, 129.73, 129.95, 130.94, 133.81, 137.02, 139.14, 140.08, 170.14, 208.45; MS (m/z , relative intensity): 364 (M^+ , 11), 326 (12), 267 (21), 220 (100), 189 (95), 162 (50), 144 (59); HPLC (254 nm): $t_R = 16.427$ min, $t_R = 18.638$ min; HRMS calcd M^+ for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{14}\text{Cl}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$: 364.0095; found: 364.0091.

4.4.2. Methyl 2-(*p*-phenyl)phenyl-2-thio(2-chlorophenyl)-3,4-pentadienoate (**3**, $\text{Ar} = p\text{-PhC}_6\text{H}_4$, $\text{Ar}' = 2\text{-ClC}_6\text{H}_4$)

IR (CDCl_3): 1955 (m), 1733 (s); ^1H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.58 (s, 3H), 4.57 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H), 5.76 (dd, $J = 6.4$ Hz, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.94–7.00 (m, 2H), 7.01–7.54 (m, 11H); ^{13}C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 52.93, 63.97, 78.73, 93.30, 126.42, 126.65, 126.87, 127.36, 128.45, 128.64, 129.49, 129.67, 131.76, 136.50, 137.11, 138.66, 140.11, 140.64, 170.71, 208.54; MS (m/z , relative intensity): 406 (M^+ , 25), 263 (96), 231 (100), 204 (77), 181 (38), 144 (36); HPLC (254 nm): $t_R = 29.83$ min, $t_R = 35.22$ min; HRMS calcd M^+ for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{19}\text{ClO}_2\text{S}$: 406.0777; found: 406.0794.

4.4.3. Methyl 2-(*m*-methoxy)phenyl-2-thio(2-chlorophenyl)-3,4-pentadienoate (**3**, $\text{Ar} = m\text{-MeOC}_6\text{H}_4$, $\text{Ar}' = 2\text{-ClC}_6\text{H}_4$)

IR (CDCl_3): 1955 (m), 1734 (s); ^1H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 4.69 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H), 5.83 (dd, $J = 6.6$ Hz, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.81–6.88 (m, 1H), 7.09–7.41 (m, 7H); ^{13}C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 53.01, 55.17, 64.18, 78.66, 93.19, 113.35, 114.10, 120.34, 126.44, 129.06, 1259.50, 129.69, 131.77, 136.52, 138.67, 139.64, 159.27, 170.74, 208.55; MS (m/z , relative intensity): 360 (M^+ , 7), 322 (20), 263 (19), 217 (70), 202 (26), 185 (100), 151 (49), 135 (84); HPLC (254 nm): $t_R = 28.88$ min, $t_R = 32.68$ min; HRMS calcd M^+ for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{17}\text{ClO}_3\text{S}$: 360.0572; found: 360.0586.

4.4.4. Methyl 2-(*p*-methoxy)phenyl-2-thio(2,6-dimethylphenyl)-3,4-pentadienoate (3, Ar=*p*-MeOC₆H₄, Ar'=2,6-(CH₃)₂C₆H₃). IR (CDCl₃): 1954 (w), 1729 (s); ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.47 (s, 6H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 4.55 (d, *J*=6.6 Hz, 2H), 5.89 (dd, *J*=6.8 Hz, *J*=6.2 Hz, 1H), 6.87–6.93 (m, 2H), 7.09–7.20 (m, 3H), 7.56–7.61 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 22.66, 52.50, 55.00, 62.17, 77.94, 94.28, 112.89, 127.89, 129.44, 129.56, 130.47, 131.05, 146.03, 158.78, 172.00, 207.94; MS (*m/z*, relative intensity): 354 (M⁺, 50), 339 (10), 217 (100), 202 (37), 189 (19), 185 (38), 158 (52), 137 (29); HPLC (254 nm): *t*_R=21.87 min, *t*_R=38.12 min; HRMS calcd M⁺ for C₂₁H₂₂O₃S: 354.1282; found: 354.1289.

4.4.5. Methyl 2-(*m*-methyl)phenyl-2-thio(2-chlorophenyl)-3,4-pentadienoate (3, Ar=*m*-MeC₆H₄, Ar'=2-ClC₆H₄). IR (CDCl₃): 1955 (w), 1734 (s); ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.32 (s, 3H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 4.67 (d, *J*=6.4 Hz, 2H), 5.83 (dd, *J*=6.4 Hz, *J*=6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.04–7.41 (m, 8H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 21.39, 52.91, 64.220, 78.54, 93.30, 124.96, 126.36, 127.97, 128.46, 128.73, 129.37, 129.63, 131.92, 136.43, 137.72, 138.03, 138.56, 170.87, 208.54; MS (*m/z*, relative intensity): 344 (M⁺, 10), 201 (84), 169 (100), 144 (27), 142 (68), 115 (50), 108 (27); HPLC (254 nm): *t*_R=20.50 min, *t*_R=24.73 min; HRMS calcd M⁺ for C₁₉H₁₇ClO₂S: 344.0622; found: 344.0637.

4.4.6. Methyl 2-(*p*-methoxy)phenyl-2-thio(2-chlorophenyl)-3,4-pentadienoate (3, Ar=*p*-MeOC₆H₄, Ar'=2-ClC₆H₄). IR (CDCl₃): 1956 (w), 1731 (s); ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 4.67 (d, *J*=6.4 Hz, 2H), 5.85 (dd, *J*=6.4 Hz, *J*=6.8 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, *J*=9 Hz, 2H), 7.07–7.39 (m, 4H), 7.50 (d, *J*=9.2 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 52.80, 54.99, 63.59, 78.52, 93.38, 113.32, 126.32, 129.19, 129.53, 129.88, 131.98, 136.03, 138.19, 159.06, 170.79, 208.41; MS (*m/z*, relative intensity): 360 (M⁺, 16), 301 (10), 217.1 (100), 202 (52), 185 (57), 158 (87), 144 (37); HPLC (254 nm): *t*_R=42.433 min, *t*_R=52.569 min; HRMS calcd M⁺ for C₁₉H₁₇ClO₃S: 360.0576; found: 360.0586.

4.4.7. Methyl 2-naphthyl-2-thio(2-chlorophenyl)-3,4-pentadienoate (3, Ar=naphthyl, Ar'=2-ClC₆H₄). IR (CDCl₃): 1732 (m); ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 3.56 (s, 3H), 4.34 (dd, *J*=6.6 Hz, *J*=6.6 Hz, 1H), 4.60 (dd, *J*=6.4 Hz, *J*=6.4 Hz, 1H), 6.01 (dd, *J*=6.6 Hz, *J*=6.4 Hz, 1H), 7.12–7.16 (m, 1H), 7.23–7.31 (m, 1H), 7.42–7.50 (m, 5H), 7.80–7.91 (m, 3H), 8.09–8.12 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 52.68, 60.084, 63.87, 78.22, 93.95, 124.47, 1124.59, 125.13, 125.79,

126.29, 126.39, 128.82, 129.11, 129.75, 130.36, 130.48, 131.01, 133.94, 134.02, 139.07, 140.46, 171.40, 208.28; MS (*m/z*, relative intensity): 380 (M⁺, 6), 237 (23), 200 (45), 199 (64), 171 (31), 155 (97), 141 (100), 127 (72); HPLC (254 nm): *t*_R=28.68 min, *t*_R=39.68 min; HRMS calcd M⁺ for C₂₂H₁₇ClO₂S: 380.0620; found: 380.06378.

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