

Highly Diastereoselective 1,2-Asymmetric Addition of Dialkylzincs to Chiral 2-Phenylpropanal Catalyzed by Amino Alcohol

Kenso SOAI,* Seiji NIWA, and Toshihiro HATANAKA

Department of Applied Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Science University of Tokyo, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162

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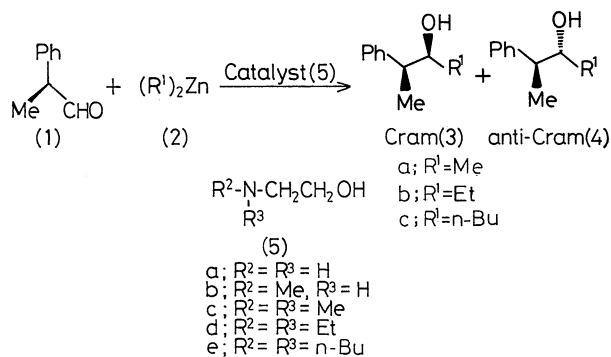
Synopsis. Diastereoselective addition of dialkylzinc reagents to 2-phenylpropanal using amino alcohol as catalyst afforded *erythro* alcohols (Cram-selectivity) in high diastereomeric excess (up to 88% d.e.).

Many efforts have been devoted to understanding 1,2-asymmetric alkylation of chiral carbonyl compounds, and useful models for predicting the relative stereochemistry have been provided.¹⁾ Among chiral carbonyl compounds, 2-phenylpropanal (**1**) has been one of the most widely used fundamental indicators of the diastereoselectivity of 1,2-asymmetric induction (Cram's open-chain²⁾ and Felkin's³⁾ models) in addition reactions of organometallic reagents. However, from the standpoint of organic synthesis, diastereomeric excesses (d.e.'s) of Cram addition to **1** have been low to

moderate, i.e., MeMgI,²⁾ EtMgBr,²⁾ MeZnX,⁴⁾ Et₂Zn–TiCl₄,⁵⁾ MeLi.⁶⁾ It is only recently that more diastereoselective methods using organometallic reagents with certain auxiliaries, i.e., Bu₂CuLi–Me₃SiCl–crown ether,⁷⁾ MeLi–TiCl₄,⁶⁾ Et₄Pb–TiCl₄,⁸⁾ have been reported.⁹⁾ These methods require *stoichiometric* amounts of auxiliaries such as TiCl₄¹⁰⁾ and crown ether.

We report a highly *diastereoselective* addition to **1** with an organozinc reagent using a catalytic amount of auxiliary (catalyst). During our continuing study on the *enantioselective* addition of dialkylzincs to aldehydes,¹¹⁾ we found that **1** is alkylated diastereoselectively in high d.e.'s with dialkylzincs (**2**) using amino alcohols (**5**)¹²⁾ as catalysts. When **1** was treated with Et₂Zn using 10 mol% of 2-dimethylaminoethanol (**5c**) in hexane at room temperature, 2-phenylpentan-3-ols (**3b**+**4b**) were obtained in a combined 64% isolated yield.¹³⁾ *Erythro*-**3b** (Cram selectivity) was formed predominantly in 86% d.e. (determined by GLC analysis) (Table 1, Entry 4). When the reaction was run at 0 °C, d.e. of **3b** increased to 88% d.e. (Entry 5). Treatment of **1** with dibutylzinc afforded Cram-**3c** in 84% d.e. (Entry 8). The Cram-selectivity obtained here is much higher than those of the existing organozinc methods [MeZnX (ca. 20% d.e.),⁴⁾ Et₂Zn–TiCl₄ (54% d.e.)⁵⁾].

D.e. was also high when a lesser amount (5 mol%) of the catalyst (**5c**) was used (Entry 3). Both *primary*-amino (**5a**), *secondary*-amino (**5b**), and *tertiary*-amino (**5c**, **5d**, **5e**) alcohols act as catalysts to afford Cram-**3b** in high d.e.'s (Entries 1, 2, 4, 9, and 10).¹⁵⁾ The high



Scheme 1.

Table 1. Diastereoselective Alkylation of **1** with Dialkylzincs (**2**) Using Amino Alcohols (**5**) as Catalysts^{a)}

Entry	R ¹ in 2	Catalyst (5)		Yield (3 + 4), ^{b)} /%	Alcohols (3 + 4) D.e.[Cram- 3], ^{c)} /%
		a	b		
1	Et	a	b	55	83
2	Et	b	b	45	83
3 ^{d)}	Et	c	b	53	85
4	Et	c	b	64	86
5 ^{e)}	Et	c	b	60	88
6 ^{f)}	Et	c	b	65	87
7	Me	c	a	55	74
8	n-Bu	c	c	37	84
9	Et	d	b	53	85
10	Et	e	b	45	84

a) Unless otherwise noted reactions were run in hexane at room temperature for 45–51 h. Molar ratio. **1**:**2**:**5**=1.0:2.0:0.1. b) Isolated yields. c) Determined by GLC analyses. Conditions: FID detector, OV-1, 50 m capillary column, column temp. 120 °C. Retention time 15.7 min for **4a** (minor), 16.3 min for **3a** (major). Column temp. 105 °C. Retention time 46.0 min for **4b** (minor), 48.2 min for **3b** (major). PEG-20M 25 m capillary column, column temp. 125 °C. Retention time 16.5 min for **4c** (minor), 19.9 min for **3c** (major). d) Molar ratio. **1**:**2**:**5**=1.0:2.0:0.05. e) Reaction was run at 0 °C for 69 h. f) Reaction was run at 0 °C in a mixed solvent of hexane and toluene (2:1, v/v) for 44 h.

diastereoselectivity of the present R_2Zn with amino alcohol catalyst may result from the steric bulk of the activated organozinc reagent formed in situ by the complex formation of amino alcohol with R_2Zn . These bulky alkylating reagents are more diastereoselective probably because of their more effective steric interaction with the large Ph group substituent of **1**.

Experimental

GLC analyses were performed on a Shimadzu GC-4C gas chromatograph with Chromatopac C-R6A data processor. 2-Phenylpropanal (**1**) and amino alcohols (**5a–e**) were purchased from Tokyo Kasei, Inc. Diethylzinc (hexane solution) was purchased from Kanto Chemical Co. Dibutylzinc was prepared according to the literature procedure.¹⁴

Typical procedure (Table 1, Entry 5): To a solution of (**5c**) (13.5 mg, 0.15 mmol) in hexane (1.5 ml) was added (**1**) (0.2 ml, 202 mg, 1.5 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 20 min. Then, Et_2Zn (3 mmol, 3.0 ml of 1 M hexane solution, $M = \text{mol dm}^{-3}$) was added at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 69 h and was quenched with 1 M HCl. The mixture was extracted with dichloromethane, and the extract was dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , and evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by silica-gel TLC [hexane–AcOEt=4:1 (v/v) as developing solvent]. Alcohols (**3b** and **4b**) were obtained in 60% total yield (148 mg). NMR and IR spectra were identical with those of authentic samples. Conditions of GLC analyses are described in a footnote to Table 1.

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