# **New Chiral Phosphorus Ligands for Enantioselective Hydrogenation**

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*Received January 29, 2003*

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## *1. Introduction*

The increasing demand to produce enantiomerically pure pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, flavors, and other fine chemicals has advanced the field of asymmetric catalytic technologies.<sup>1,2</sup> Among all asymmetric catalytic methods, asymmetric hydrogenation utilizing molecular hydrogen to reduce prochiral olefins, ketones, and imines, have become one of the most efficient methods for constructing chiral compounds.3

The development of homogeneous asymmetric hydrogenation was initiated by Knowles<sup>4a</sup> and Horner<sup>4b</sup> in the late 1960s, after the discovery of Wilkinson's homogeneous hydrogenation catalyst [RhCl(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>].<sup>5</sup> By replacing triphenylphosphine of the Wilkinson's catalyst with resolved chiral monophosphines,<sup>6</sup>Knowles and Horner reported the earliest examples of enantioselective hydrogenation, albeit with poor enantioselectivity. Further exploration by Knowles with an improved monophosphine CAMP provided 88% ee in hydrogenation of dehydroamino acids.7 Later, two breakthroughs were made in asymmetric hydrogenation by Kagan and Knowles, respectively. Kagan reported the first bisphosphine ligand, DIOP, for Rhcatalyzed asymmetric hydrogenation.8 The successful application of DIOP resulted in several significant directions for ligand design in asymmetric hydrogenation. Chelating bisphosphorus ligands could lead to superior enantioselectivity compared to monodentate phosphines. Additionally, P-chiral phosphorus ligands were not necessary for achieving high enantioselectivity, and ligands with backbone chirality could also provide excellent ee's in asymmetric hydrogenation. Furthermore, *C*<sup>2</sup> symmetry was an important structural feature for developing new efficient chiral ligands. Kagan's seminal work immediately led to the rapid development of chiral bisphosphorus ligands. Knowles made his significant discovery of a *C*<sub>2</sub>-symmetric chelating bisphosphine ligand, DIPAMP.9 Due to its high catalytic efficiency in Rh-catalyzed asymmetric hydrogenation of dehydroamino acids, DIPAMP was quickly employed in the industrial production of L-DOPA.10 The success of practical synthesis of L-DOPA via asymmetric hydrogenation constituted a milestone work and for this work Knowles was awarded the Nobel Prize in \* Corresponding author.  $2001.^{3k}$  This work has enlightened chemists to realize



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Xumu Zhang was born in 1961 in Hubei Province, China. He received his B.S. degree in chemistry (1982) from Wuhan University, China, and M.S. in chemistry (1985) from the Chinese Science Academy, Fuzhou, China, under the supervision of Professor Jiaxi Lu. After a short stay in UC San Diego, he received his Ph.D. in chemistry in 1992 from Stanford University under the guidance of Professor James P. Collman. He then carried out postdoctoral work at Stanford for two years. In 1994, he joined the department of chemistry at The Penn State University as an Assistant Professor of chemistry. In 1999, he was promoted to an Associate Professor of chemistry. His research interests include the development of chiral phosphine ligands for asymmetric catalysis, the investigation of asymmetric hydrogenation and carbon−carbon bond-forming reactions, the synthesis of biologically active compounds, and the discovery of new synthetic methods.

the power of asymmetric hydrogenation for the synthesis of chiral compounds.

Following significant contributions by Knowles and Kagan came the development of thousands of chiral phosphorus ligands for asymmetric hydrogenation. The mechanistic study of Rh-catalyzed asymmetric hydrogenation mainly by Halpern<sup>11</sup> and Brown<sup>12</sup> provides a deep insight into the reaction. However, the development in the early 1980s was mainly focused on chiral Rh catalysts, and the substrate scope was limited to  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acids. Noyori's research on BINAP-Ru catalysts for asymmetric hydrogenation opened up opportunities for efficient hydrogenations of a variety of substrates.<sup>13</sup> The initial application of Noyori's BINAP-Ru system was associated with olefin reduction, but soon afterward the system was found to be useful for hydrogenation of ketones as well. Thus a wide variety of prochiral olefin and ketone substrates were hydrogenated with excellent enantioselectivity. For this beautiful work, Noyori was awarded the Nobel Prize in 2001. In the 1990s, significant progress was also achieved in Rhcatalyzed asymmetric hydrogenation with the introduction of some efficient chiral bisphosphorus ligands such as DuPhos and BPE developed by Burk et al.<sup>14</sup> Excellent ee's were achieved in the hydrogenation of various functionalized olefins, so the scope of asymmetric hydrogenation expanded significantly.

Today, thousands of efficient chiral phosphorus ligands with diverse structures have been developed, and their applications in asymmetric hydrogenation have been extensively utilized in both academic research and industry. The development of many efficient chiral phosphorus ligands also allows the discovery of new mechanistic information of Rh- or Ru-catalyzed asymmetric hydrogenation.15 The catalysts are not restricted on those with Rh or Ru metals; complexes of other transition metals such as Ir, Pt, Ti, Zr, and Pd are also effective. Numerous unsaturated compounds can be hydrogenated in excellent ee's using a metal catalyst associated with an appropriate chiral ligand.

Although some homogeneous hydrogenation catalysts do not contain chiral phosphorus ligands<sup>16</sup> (e.g., catalysts with chiral cyclopentadienyl ligands<sup>17,18,19</sup> or N-heterocyclic carbene ligands<sup>20</sup>), transition metal complexes associated with chiral phosphorus ligands are the dominant choice of catalysts for asymmetric hydrogenation. An overview of efficient chiral phosphorus ligands not only helps readers to track the development of asymmetric hydrogenation but also encourages chemists to develop new efficient chiral phosphorus ligands. This review summarizes efficient chiral phosphorus ligands, particularly those newly developed in the past 10 years, as well as their representative applications in asymmetric hydrogenation. It is inevitable that some excellent phosphorus ligands and their applications are still missed in this discussion since there has been a vast amount of literature on asymmetric hydrogenation covering them. Fortunately, many previous reviews and books on this field may alleviate this problem.3 Asymmetric transfer hydrogenation and heterogeneous asymmetric hydrogenation will not be discussed.

## *2. Chiral Phosphorus Ligands: A Historical Overview*

The development of efficient chiral phosphorus ligands has played an important role in the development of asymmetric hydrogenation. A historical overview of efficient chiral phosphorus ligands may also to some extent represent the development of asymmetric hydrogenation. In fact, the exploration of chiral phosphorus ligands for asymmetric hydrogenation is a continuous effort which started in the



## **Figure 1.**

late 1960s. The authors have arbitrarily divided the whole development period into three stages mainly for the purpose of discussion.

## **2.1. Chiral Phosphorus Ligands from 1970 to 1980**

During the period of 1970-1980, asymmetric hydrogenation was in its early stage of development. Applications were mostly limited in Rh-catalyzed asymmetric hydrogenation of dehydroamino acids. In addition to Knowles's P-chiral phosphines CAMP7 and DIPAMP<sup>9</sup> and Kagan's DIOP ligand,<sup>8</sup> several successful chiral phosphorus ligands were subsequently discovered during this period (Figure 1). Those include Bosnich's CHIRAPHOS<sup>21</sup> and PRO-PHOS,<sup>22</sup> Kumada's ferrecene ligand BPPFA<sup>23</sup> and BPPFOH,<sup>24</sup> Achiwa's BPPM,<sup>25</sup> Rhone Poulenc's CBD,<sup>26</sup> and Giongo's bis(aminophosphine) ligand PNNP.27

## **2.2. Chiral Phosphorus Ligands from 1980 to 1992**

In 1980, Noyori and Takaya reported an atropisomeric *C*<sub>2</sub>-symmetric bisphosphine ligand BINAP.<sup>28</sup> This ligand was first used in Rh-catalyzed asymmetric hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -(acylamino)acrylic acids, and high selectivities were reported for some substrates.<sup>29</sup> However, the significant impact of BINAP in asymmetric hydrogenation did not gain two much attention until it was applied in Ru chemistry. In 1986, a major breakthrough was made in BINAP-Ru chemistry when Noyori and Takaya et al. prepared a BINAP-Ru dicarboxylate complex for asymmetrichydrogenationofvariousfunctionalizedolefins.30 Subsequently, they discovered that the halogencontaining BINAP-Ru complexes were also efficient catalysts for asymmetric hydrogenation of a range of functionalized ketones.<sup>31</sup> In the middle 1990s, another breakthrough was made on BINAP-Ru chemistry when Noyori discovered that the Ru-BINAP/ diamine complexes are efficient catalysts for asymmetric hydrogenation of some unfunctionalized ketones.<sup>32</sup> This advance addressed a long-standing and challenging problem in asymmetric hydrogenation. Importantly, this catalytic system can selectively reduce ketones in the presence of carbon-carbon double

bonds.33 Inspired by Noyori's work on the BINAP chemistry, other research groups developed many excellent atropisomeric biaryl bisphosphine ligands. For example, Miyashima reported on a BICHEP ligand, which was successfully applied in both Rhand Ru-catalyzed asymmetric hydrogenation.34 Schmid et al. reported on the BIPHEMP<sup>35</sup> and MeO-BI-PHEP<sup>36</sup> ligands, both of which were successfully applied in many Ru-catalyzed hydrogenations. Achiwa also developed several atropisomeric ligands such as BIMOP,<sup>37</sup> FUPMOP,<sup>38</sup> and MOC-BIMOP.<sup>39</sup> In addition, Achiwa successfully developed several modified DIOP ligands by varying the electronic and steric properties of DIOP. MOD-DIOP was applied in asymmetric hydrogenation of itaconic acid derivatives and up to 96% ee's were obtained.40 A series of modified BPPM ligands such as BCPM and MOD-BCPM were also developed by Achiwa.<sup>41</sup> Some excellent chiral 1,2-bisphosphane ligands such as NOR-PHOS,<sup>42</sup> PYRPHOS (DEGPHOS),<sup>43</sup> and DPCP<sup>44</sup> for Rh-catalyzed asymmetric hydrogenation were also developed during this period. A few 1, 3-bisphosphorus ligands such as BDPP (SKEWPHOS)<sup>45</sup> and PPCP46 were prepared. An (aminoalkyl)-ferrocenylphosphine ligand **2** developed by Hayashi and Ito was successfully applied in the Rh-catalyzed hydrogenation of trisubstituted acrylic acids.47 In the early 1990s, Burk introduced the new series of efficient chiral bisphospholane ligands BPE and DuPhos (Figure  $2$ ).<sup>48</sup> The invention of these ligands has expanded the substrate scope of Rh-catalyzed enantioselective hydrogenation. For example, with Rh-DuPhos or Rh-BPE as catalysts, extremely high efficiencies have been observed in asymmetric hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -(acylamino) acrylic acids, enamides, enol acetates, *â*-keto esters, unsaturated carboxylic acids, and itaconic acids.14b

## **2.3. Chiral Phosphorus Ligands from 1992 to Present**

Encouraged by the excellent results of many chiral ligands such as BINAP and DuPhos developed in 1980s and in the early 1990s, many research groups have devoted their efforts toward the design and discovery of new efficient chiral phosphorus ligands. Structural variations of known excellent ligand mo-



**Figure 2.**

tifs have often resulted in new efficient chiral ligands with improved efficiency. It has also helped to understand the impact of structural, electronic, and steric properties of ligands in asymmetric hydrogenation. Although a number of new chiral ligands have been developed with significant structural diversities, most of these ligands can be divided into several different categories.

## *2.3.1. Atropisomeric Biaryl Bisphosphine Ligands*

Modification of the electronic and steric properties of BINAP, BIPHEMP, and MeO-BIPHEP can lead to the development of new, efficient atropisomeric ligands (Figure 3). In fact, Takaya has found that a modified BINAP ligand,  $H_8$ -BINAP, provides better enantioselectivity than BINAP in Ru-catalyzed hydrogenation of unsaturated carboxylic acids.<sup>49</sup> Mohr has developed a bis-steroidal bisphosphine **3**, which has shown similar catalytic results to BINAP in the Ru-catalyzed asymmetric hydrogenation.<sup>50</sup> Hiemstra has developed a dibenzofuran-based bisphosphine BIFAP, which has shown excellent enantioselectivity in Ru-catalyzed hydrogenation of methyl acetoacetate.<sup>51</sup> The dihedral angle of the biaryl backbone is expected to have strong influence on enantioselectivity. A chiral biaryl bisphosphine ligand SEGPHOS, developed by Takasago international corporation,

possesses a narrower dihedral angle than BINAP. The ligand has provided greater enantioselectivities than BINAP in Ru-catalyzed hydrogenation of a wide variety of carbonyl compounds.<sup>52</sup> Chan has reported a closely related ligand BisbenzodioxanPhos.<sup>53</sup> To systematically investigate the influence of dihedral angle of biaryl ligands on enantioselectivity of reactions, Zhang has developed a series of TunaPhos ligands with tunable dihedral angles. When the TunaPhos ligands are applied in Ru-catalyzed asymmetric hydrogenation of *â*-keto esters, the obtained ee's fluctuate according to the different dihedral angles of the TunaPhos ligands.<sup>54</sup> C4-TunaPhos shows comparable or superior enantioselectivity to BINAP in Ru-catalyzed hydrogenation of *â*-keto esters. Further applications of the TunaPhos ligands have shown that different asymmetric catalytic reactions may require a different TunaPhos ligand with a different dihedral angle. When TunaPhos ligands are applied in the Ru-catalyzed hydrogenation of enol acetates, C2-TunaPhos is the best ligand in terms of enantioselectivity.<sup>55</sup> Genêt and Marinetti have developed a non-*C*<sup>2</sup> symmetric biaryl bisphosphine, MeO-NAPhePHOS, which has shown comparable results to *C*<sub>2</sub>-symmetric biaryl bisphosphine in Rucatalyzed hydrogenation.<sup>56</sup>



#### **Figure 3.**

Structural variations of BINAP or MeO-BIPHEP can also be made on the aromatic rings of the biaryl backbone. For example, the aromatic rings can be replaced by five- or six- membered heteroaromatic rings. Sannicolò et al. have discovered a series of biheteroaryl bisphosphines such as BITIANP, TetraMe-BITIANP,<sup>57</sup> and TetraMe-BITIOP.<sup>58</sup> These ligands have shown comparably good results to BINAP in Ru-catalyzed asymmetric hydrogenation. Chan has reported a dipyridylphosphine ligand P-Phos for Ru-catalyzed asymmetric hydrogenation and high enantioselectivities and reactivities have been obtained for hydrogenation of *â*-keto esters and  $\alpha$ -arylacrylic acids.<sup>59</sup>

An ortho-substituted BIPHEP ligand, *o*-Ph-Hexa-MeO-BIPHEP, has been developed by Zhang recently.60 With two phenyl groups at ortho positions of two diphenylphosphino groups, *o*-Ph-HexaMeO-BIPHEP is specially designed to restrict the rotation of the P-phenyl groups, which is considered a detriment for some enantioselective reactions. The design is effective when *o*-Ph-HexaMeO-BIPHEP is employed in the Rh-catalyzed asymmetric hydrogenation of cyclic enamides. While chiral ligands without ortho substituents such as BINAP, BIPHEP, and HexaMeO-BIPHEP provide very poor selectivities, *o*-Ph-HexaMeO-BIPHEP shows excellent enantioselectivity for hydrogenation of a series of cyclic enamides.

Some derivatives have also been made from BINAP or BIPHEP ligands in order to make catalysts watersoluble or recyclable (Figure 4). The literature on homogeneous-supported catalysts in the field of asymmetric hydrogenation using BINAP derivatives have been recently reviewed.<sup>61</sup> Davis et al. have reported a sulfonated BINAP ligand, BINAP-4- $SO<sub>3</sub>$ -Na, and found that its water-soluble Ru complex has comparable catalytic properties to the unmodified BINAP-Ru catalyst for hydrogenation of 2-acetamidoacrylic acid.62 Schmid et al. have developed a water soluble MeO-BIPHEP type ligand, MeOBIPHEP-S. The ligand has the attachments of the sulfonato group at the para position of each P-phenyl groups

to minimize the possible steric interactions of the sulfonato groups with the inner ligand sphere of a coordinated metal, and thus retains the high enantioselectivity of the nonsulfonated catalyst. Indeed, MeOBIPHEP-S has shown similarly high enantioselectivity and reacitivity to MeO-BIPHEP for Rucatalyzed hydrogenation of unsaturated carboxylic acids.<sup>63</sup> By tethering BINAP with guanidine and PEG groups, Genêt has recently reported some recyclable BINAP ligands such as *Digm*-BINAP and PEG-*Am*-BINAP. The Ru catalysts of these ligands maintained high enantioselectivity after three or four times of recycling.64 Many polymer-supported BINAP ligands have been developed. For instance, Bayston incorporated the BINAP framework onto an insoluble polymer (polystyrene). The resulting polymer-bound BI-NAP, after treatment with  $\left[\text{Ru}(\text{cod})(2\text{-methylallyl})_2\right]_2$ and HBr, provides high ee's in hydrogenation of  $\beta$ -keto esters and acrylic acids.<sup>65</sup> The polymer can be recycled as the catalyst for several times while high ee's are maintained. Noyori used the same polymerbound BINAP to make a polymer-bound BINAP/ diamine Ru catalyst, which has shown high ee's and turnover numbers for hydrogenation of simple ketones.<sup>66</sup> Chan has developed a highly effective polyester-supported BINAP ligand through copolymerization of chiral 5,5′-diaminoBINAP, chiral pentanediol, and terephthaloyl chloride.<sup>67</sup> The ligand has been successfully applied in Ru-catalyzed asymmetric hydrogenation of 2-(6′-methoxy-2-naphthyl)acrylic acid. A dendrimer-supported BINAP ligand has also been reported.68 Pu has developed several polymerbased chiral ligands such as poly(BINAP) and BINOL-BINAP. These ligands have successfully been applied in Rh-catalyzed hydrogenation of  $(Z)$ -methyl  $\alpha$ -(benzamido)cinnamate and Ru-catalyzed hydrogenation of simple ketones.<sup>69</sup> Lemaire et al. have reported a poly-NAP Ru complex, which provides 99% ee in hydrogenation of methyl acetoacetate even after four recycles of the catalyst.70



#### **Figure 4.**

## *2.3.2. Chiral Bisphosphane Ligands on the Modification of DuPhos and BPE*

Since Burk reported excellent results of DuPhos and BPE ligands in asymmetric hydrogenation of functionalized olefins and ketones, many bisphosphanes have been developed based on the structural variations of DuPhos and BPE ligands (Figure 5). Börner,<sup>71</sup> Zhang,<sup>72</sup> and RajanBabu<sup>73</sup> have independently reported a series of modified DuPhos and BPE ligands with ether, ketal, or hydroxyl groups at the 3 and 4 positions of the phospholanes. These types of ligands maintain the high efficiency of DuPhos or BPE in Rh-catalyzed hydrogenation. One major advantage of these ligands is their ease of preparation from D-mannitol. The ligand with four hydroxy groups **7** also enabled the hydrogenation to be conducted in aqueous solution and high enantioselectivities are maintained. Another four hydroxyl water-soluble ligand BASPHOS (**11**) developed by Holz and Börner also exhibits high efficiency for asymmetric hydrogenation in water.<sup>74</sup> Structrual

variations can also be made on the backbone of DuPhos and BPE. Holz and Börner have recently reported a bisphospholane ligand bearing a maleic anhydride backbone, MalPHOS, which has provided good enantioselectivities in hydrogenation of (*â*acylamino)acrylates.75

Marinetti reported a series of bisphosphetane ligands such as CnrPHOS and BPE-4 ligands.<sup>76</sup> Compared with their bisphospholane analogues Du-Phos and BPE, CnrPHOS and BPE-4 provide only moderate enantioselectivity in Rh-catalyzed hydrogenation of dehydroamino acid derivatives. However, these bisphosphetane ligands have shown excellent enantioselectivities in Ru-catalyzed hydrogenation. Helmchen has developed a bisoxaphosphinane ligand **17** for Rh-catalyzed hydrogenation of dehydroamino and itaconic acid derivatives, and up to 97% ee's have been obtained.77 Zhang has reported two bisdinaphthophosphepine analogues, BINAPHANE and **18**, which have been applied in Rh-catalyzed hydrogenation of enamides.78 These two ligands, with axial



#### **Figure 5.**

chirality, provide excellent enantioselectivities (up to 99% ee) for hydrogenation of *E*/*Z* isomeric mixtures of *â*-substituted arylenamides. A sterically bulky and conformationally rigid bisphosphane PennPhos developed by Zhang has different hydrogenation properties compared to other DuPhos-type ligands.<sup>79</sup> With 2,6-lutidine and KBr as the additives, PennPhos has shown excellent enantioselectivities for Rh-catalyzed hydrogenation of both aryl and alkyl methyl ketones. The PennPhos ligand has also shown high efficiency in Rh-catalyzed hydrogenation of cyclic enamides and cyclic enol acetates, which are difficult substrates for most DuPhos-type ligands.<sup>80</sup> An improved BPE analogue has been developed by incorporating two additional chiral carbon centers on the backbone. The matched (*R*,*R*,*R*)-1,2-bis(phospholano)cyclopentane (**19**) provides better enantioselectivity than BPE in hydrogenation of dehydroamino acids.<sup>81</sup> By replacing one phospholane ring of Me-DuPhos with a disubstituted phosphino group, Saito et al. have developed a series of non-*C*<sub>2</sub>-symmetric phosphine-phospholane ligands, UCAPs, for Rh-catalyzed hydrogenation of enamides and good enantioselectivities are obtained.<sup>82</sup>

## *2.3.3. Chiral Bisphosphane Ligands on the Modification of DIOP*

Kagan's pioneering work on the development of DIOP had a significant impact in the design of new, efficient chiral ligands for asymmetric hydrogenation.8 However, DIOP itself only provides moderate to good enantioselectivities in asymmetric hydrogenation of dehydroamino acid derivatives, and its applications in highly enantioselective asymmetric



#### **Figure 7.**

hydrogenation have rarely been disclosed. A possible reason is that the seven-membered chelate ring of DIOP metal complex is conformationally flexible. The conformational ambiguities in DIOP metal complexes depicted in Figure 6 may be responsible for its low efficiency.

To rigidify the conformational flexibility of DIOP ligand, Zhang<sup>83</sup> has introduced a rigid 1,4-diphosphane ligand BICP with two five-membered carbon rings on its backbone (Figure 7). BICP has found to be efficient for hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acids, *â*-dehydroamino acids, arylenamides, and MOMprotected *â*-hydroxy enamides. Several rigidified DIOP-type ligands have been developed. Zhang<sup>84</sup> and RajanBabu<sup>85</sup> have independently reported the development of DIOP\* by introducing two alkyl substituents at  $\alpha$  positions of the diphenylphosphine groups. It is found that the (*S*,*R*,*R*,*S*)-DIOP\* provides excellent enantioselectivity in Rh-catalyzed hydrogenation ofarylenamides.However,itsisomericligand(*S*,*S*,*S*,*S*)- DIOP\*, which was first synthesized by Kagan, 86 provides much lower enantioselectivity. It is believed that the two methyl groups of (*S*,*R*,*R*,*S*)-DIOP\* are oriented at pseudoequatorial positions in the "effective" conformer of the DIOP\* metal complex, therefore stabilizing the "effective" conformer to promote high enantioselectivity. On the other hand, its isomeric ligand (*S*,*S*,*S*,*S*)-DIOP\* has two methyl groups at pseudoaxial positions which destabilize the "effective" conformer and lead to diminished ee's. Lee has developed a type of 1,4-diphosphane ligands BDPMI with an imidazolidin-2-one backbone.<sup>87</sup> The gauche steric interaction between the *N*-substituents and phosphanylmethyl group of the ligands may restrict the conformational flexibility of the seven-membered metal chelate ring. The BDPMI ligands have successfully applied in Rh-catalyzed hydrogenation of arylenamides, and up to 99% ee's have been obtained.

A series of 1,4-diphosphane ligands with a conformationally rigid 1,4-dioxane backbone such as ligand **20**, **21**, and SK-Phos have been developed by Zhang and found to be efficient (up to 99% ee) in asymmetric hydrogenation of arylenamides and MOM-protected  $\beta$ -hydroxyl enamides.<sup>88</sup>

#### *2.3.4. Chiral Ferrocene-Based Bisphosphane Ligands*

Many excellent chiral ferrocene-based bisphosphane ligands with great structural variations have been developed recently (Figure 8). Ito has successfully developed a series of *trans*-chelating bisphosphane ligands TRAPs, which have shown great capabilities for asymmetric hydrogenation.89 EtTRAP and BuTRAP have shown excellent reactivity for Rhcatalyzed hydrogenation of  $\beta$ , $\beta$ -disubstituted  $\alpha$ -acetamidoacrylates and up to 88% ee's have been obtained.<sup>89b</sup> The TRAP ligands have also been applied for hydrogenation of  $\beta$ -oxy- $\alpha$ -acetamidoacrylates, and PrTRAP has been proved to be the best ligand in terms of enantioselectivity.89e In the presence of 10 mol % of  $Et_3N$  or  $CsCO_3$ , a PhTRAP-Rh complex is able to hydrogenate *N*-acetyl-2-substituted indoline in high ee's.89g

Togni and Spindler have reported a class of non-*C*2-symmetrical ferrocene-based bisphosphanes: the Josiphos-type ligands.<sup>90</sup> Josiphos has been found to be effective for Rh-catalyzed hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ acetamidocinnamate, dimethyl itaconate, and *â*-keto esters. Some excellent industrial applications have been realized with the Josiphos type ligands. For example,  $PPF-tBu<sub>2</sub>$ , a Josiphos type ligand with di-(*tert*-butyl)phosphino group, has been applied as the ligand in asymmetric hydrogenation for commercial synthesis of  $(+)$ -biotin.<sup>91</sup> Another notable example is the application of XyliPhos in Ir-catalyzed hydrogenation of an imine for the synthesis of the herbicide (*S*)-metolachlor.92 Weissensteiner and Spindler have also reported a class of rigidified Josiphos type ligands by incorporating a mono- or heteroannular bridge in the structure.<sup>93</sup> However, their applications in asymmetric hydrogenation are less efficient than the original Josiphos-type ligands.

A *C*2-symmetric bisphosphane FerroPhos has been developed by Kang and is found to be efficient for Rh-catalyzed hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acid derivatives.<sup>94</sup> Knochel has independently reported a class of FERRIPHOS (MandyPhos) with similar structural features.<sup>95</sup> All these ligands have provided excellent enantioselectivities in asymmetric hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acids.

A class of non-*C*<sub>2</sub>-symmetrical ferrocene-based 1,5diphosphane ligands (TaniaPhos) has also been developed by Knochel.<sup>96</sup> These ligands have been effectively used in Rh- or Ru-catalyzed asymmetric hydrogenations. The ligand **33**, which has a MeO group at the chiral carbon center, has shown excellent applications in hydrogenation of several olefin and ketone substrates.<sup>97</sup> Weissensteiner and Spindler have reported a series of structurally different ferrocene-based 1,5-diphosphane ligands Walphos, which have shown good results in some Ru-catalyzed hydrogenations.<sup>98</sup>

Mezzetti<sup>99a</sup> and van Leeuwen/Widhalm<sup>99b</sup> have independently reported P-chiral ferrocenyl bisphos-



#### **Figure 8.**

phines **36** and **37**. These two ligands have shown excellent enantioselectivities (up to 99% ee) for asymmetric hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acid derivatives.

The synthesis of chiral 1,1′-bis(phosphetano)ferrocenes (FerroTANE) has been independently reported by Marinetti<sup>100</sup> and Burk.<sup>101</sup> Et-FerroTANE has been successfully applied by Burk in Rhcatalyzed hydrogenation of itaconates. It has also been successfully employed in hydrogenation of (*E*)- (*â*-acylamino)acrylates.102 Zhang has reported a 1,1′ bis(phospholanyl)ferrocene ligand **38** with ketal substituents at the 3 and 4 positions.<sup>103</sup> The ligand has shown excellent enantioselectivities in hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acid derivatives. The ketal groups of the ligand are important for achieving the high enantioselectivity, since the corresponding ligand without ketal groups only provides moderate ee's.<sup>104</sup> Zhang has also developed a 1,1′-bis(dinaphthophosphepinyl)ferrocene ligand, f-binaphane, which has been successfully applied in Ir-catalyzed hydrogenation of acyclic arylimines.<sup>105</sup>

Fu has reported a plane-chiral bisphosphorus ligand **39** with a phosphaferrocene backbone. The ligand has provided up to 96% ee's in hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acid derivatives.<sup>106</sup> Another planechiral ferrocene-based bisphosphorus ligand **40** has been reported by Kagan recently, and up to 95% ee's have been obtained in reduction of dimethyl itaconate.107

## *2.3.5. P-Chiral Bisphosphane Ligands*

Although the first P-chiral bisphosphane-DIPAMP was developed by Knowles over 20 years ago and has already been proven to be a very efficient hydrogenation ligand, the discovery of new, efficient P-chiral bisphosphanes has been slow partly because of the difficulties in ligand, synthesis. It was not until Imamoto<sup>108</sup> discovered a series of efficient P-chiral ligands such as BisP\* that the development of P-chiral phosphorus ligands regained much attention (Figure 9). The BisP\* ligands have shown significant activities and enantioselectivities in hydrogenation





#### **Figure 10.**

of R-dehydroamino acids, enamides,109 (*E*)-*â*-(acylamino)-acrylates<sup>110</sup> and  $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated- $\alpha$ -acyloxyphosphonates.111 Mechanistic studies on asymmetric hydrogenation with *<sup>t</sup>* Bu-BisP\* as the ligand by Gridnev and Imamoto illustrate that the Rh-catalyzed hydrogenation can proceed in a different mechanism with an electron-rich phosphorus ligand. A dihydride pathway<sup>112</sup> is suggested, which is different from the classic unsaturated pathway11,12 proposed by Halpern and Brown. In addition to Bisp\*, several other P-chiral bisphosphanes such as MiniPhos,<sup>113</sup> 1,2-bis-(isopropylmethylphosphino)benzene (41),<sup>114</sup> and unsymmetrical P-chiral BisP\* (such as **42** and **43**)115 have also been developed by Imamoto. Zhang has recently reported a rigid P-chiral bisphospholane ligand, TangPhos, for asymmetric hydrogenation.<sup>116</sup> This ligand has two chiral carbon centers and two chiral phosphorus centers in its structure and has been found to be very efficient in Rh-catalyzed hydrogenation of a variety of functionalized olefins such as  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acids,  $\alpha$ -arylenamides,  $\beta$ -(acylamino)acrylates,117 itaconic acids, and enol acetates.118 Mathey has reported a bisphosphane ligand BIPNOR which contains two chiral bridgehead phosphorus centers.119 BIPNOR has shown high enantioselectivities in hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -(acetomido)cinnamic acids and itaconic acids. Saito has reported a P-chiral bisphospholane ligand *<sup>i</sup>* Pr-BeePHOS, which has provided high enantioselectivity in hydrogenation of an enamide.120 A hybrid P-chiral bisphosphane **44** reported by Brown<sup>121</sup> has shown high selectivity for asymmetric hydrogenation of itaconic acids (up to 95% ee).

## *2.3.6. Other Bisphosphane Ligands*

Some other efficient chiral bisphosphane ligands have been listed in Figure 10. Pye and Rossen have developed a planar chiral bisphosphine ligand, [2.2]- PHANEPHOS, based on a paracyclophane backbone.122 The ligand has shown excellent enantioselectivity in Rh- or Ru-catalyzed hydrogenations. An *ortho*-phenyl substituted NAPHOS ligand, Ph-*o*-NAPHOS, has been applied successfully in Rhcatalyzed hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acid derivatives.123 Compared to NAPHOS, Ph-*o*-NA-PHOS has a more rigid structure and provides higher enantioselectivities. A chiral bisphosphine **45** bearing a rhenium stereocenter in the backbone has recently reported by Gladysz, and the ligand has provided good selectivity in Rh-catalyzed hydrogenation of dehydroamino acid derivatives.<sup>124</sup>

## *2.3.7. Bisphosphinite, Bisphosphonite, and Bisphosphite Ligands*

Compared to the rapid development of chiral bisphosphane ligands, the discovery of highly efficient bisphosphinites, bisphosphonites, or bisphosphites for asymmetric hydrogenation has been relatively slow due to their greater conformational flexibility and instability. Nevertheless, some efficient ligands have been discovered with rigid backbones (Figure 11). Selke<sup>125</sup> and RajanBabu<sup>126</sup> have developed a series of bisphosphinites based on sugar backbones. The phosphinite ligands derived from D-glucose have shown excellent enantioselectivities in hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acid derivatives. A major electronic effect has been identified in this system.<sup>126</sup> High enantioselectivities are obtained with electronrich bisphosphinites, while electron-deficient bisphosphinites provide much lower selectivities. Chan and Jiang have reported a rigid spirocyclic bisphosphinite ligand spirOP, which has been applied in hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acid derivatives.<sup>127</sup> A bisphosphinite ligand DIMOP derived from D-mannitol has also been developed by Chan and up to 97% ee's has been obtained in hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acids.128 A water-soluble Rh complex associated with a bisphosphinite ligand **49** derived from a *â*,*â*-trehalose backbone is effective for hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acid derivatives in water or an aqueous/organic biphasic medium (up to 99.9% ee).<sup>129</sup> To rigidify the flexible structure of BINAPO, Zhang has recently reported a series of *o*-BINAPO ligands with substituents at the 3 and 3′ positions of the binaphthyl group. The ligand Ph-*o*-BINAPO, with phenyl groups at the 3 and 3′ positions, is an efficient



## **Figure 11.**

ligand for hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acid derivatives.123 The *o*-BINAPO ligands have also been applied in Ru-catalyzed hydrogenation of *â*-aryl-*â*- (acylamino)acrylates and up to 99% ee's have been obtained.130

Some excellent bisphosphonite ligands have also been developed. For example, Reetz has developed a binaphthol-derived ferrocene-based bisphosphonite ligand **50**, which has shown excellent reactivities and enantioselectivities in Rh-catalyzed hydrogenation of itaconates and  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acid derivatives.<sup>131</sup> Zanotti-Gerosa developed a bisphosphonite ligand **51** on the basis of a paracyclophane backbone. The ligand has been successfully applied in asymmetric hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acid derivatives, and up to 99% ee's have been obtained.<sup>132</sup>

A few efficient bisphosphite ligands have been used for asymmetric hydrogenation of itaconates or  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acid derivatives. Reetz has developed a series of *C*<sub>2</sub>-symmetric bisphosphite ligands such as **52** on the basis of the structure of 1,4:3,6-dianhydro-D-mannitol.133 The ligands have shown excellent enantioselectivities and reactivities in asymmetric hydrogenation of itaconates. A series of non- $C_2$ symmetric bisphosphite ligands derived from Dglucose have been reported by Die´guez.134 Ligand **53** has provided high enantioselectivities for asymmetric hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acid derivatives.

## *2.3.8. Chelating Aminophosphine, Amidophosphine, and Phosphoramidites*

Several efficient amidophosphine- and aminophosphine-phosphinite ligands have been reported by Agbossou and Carpentier (Figure 12).<sup>135</sup> Amidophosphine-phosphinite ligands (*S*)-Cy,Cy-oxoProNOP and (*S*)-Cp,Cp-oxoProNOP have been demonstrated to be efficient ligands for Rh-catalyzed hydrogenation of

dihydro-4,4-dimethyl-2,3-furandione, and up to 98% ee's have been obtained. Aminophosphine-phosphinite ligands (*S*)-Cp,Cp-IndoNOP and (*S*,2*S*)-Cr(CO)<sub>3</sub>-Cp,Cp-IndoNOP are also effective for this substrate. The two ligands have also provided high enantioselectivity for hydrogenation of *N*-benzoylformamide and 2-(*N*,*N*-dimethyl)aminoacetophenone. An aminophosphine-phosphinite ligand PINDOPHOS derived from Pindolol has been applied for asymmetric hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acid derivatives and up to 95% ee is obtained.<sup>136</sup> Another aminophosphinephosphinite DPAMPP has been reported by Jiang and Mi recently,  $137$  and the ligand has shown excellent enantioselectivities for hydrogenation of a series of  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acid derivatives. Some bisaminophosphine ligands such as H8-BDPAB and BDPAB have been reported by Chan and have been successfully applied for hydrogenation of arylenamides.<sup>138</sup> Xyl-BDPAB is also found to be an efficient ligand for asymmetric hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acid derivatives.<sup>139</sup> A series of mixed phosphine-phosphoramidite ligands QUINAPHOS developed by Leitner work well for Rh-catalyzed hydrogenation of itaconic acid and  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acid derivatives.<sup>140</sup> A phosphite-phosphoroamidite ligand **54** developed by Diéguez is also useful for asymmetric hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acid derivatives.<sup>141</sup> Boaz has developed a family of ferrocene-based phosphineaminophosphine ligands, BoPhoz.142 These air-stable ligands have shown excellent reactivities and selectivities for hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acid derivatives and itaconic acids.

## *2.3.9. Chiral Monophosphorus Ligands*

While more and more efficient chelating bisphosphorus ligands have been discovered, the development of monophosphorus ligands for asymmetric



## **Figure 13.**

hydrogenation is slow.<sup>143</sup> However, this does not mean that monophosphorus ligands cannot be as effective as chelating bisphosphorus ligands for asymmetric hydrogenation. Recently, some monophosphorus ligands have been found to be very efficient for Rh-catalyzed asymmetric hydrogenation (Figure 13).<sup>144</sup> Orpen and Pringle have reported a series of biarylphosphonite ligands such as **60** achieving up to 92% ee's for asymmetric hydrogenation of methyl (2 acetamide)acrylate.145 Reetz has developed a series of monophosphite ligands such as **61**, **62**, and **63**, which have shown excellent reactivities and enantioselectivities for dimethyl itaconate.<sup>146</sup> De Vries and Feringa developed a phosphoramidite ligand named as MonoPhos, which has provided up to 99% ee's for asymmetric hydrogenation of dehydroamino acid derivatives;<sup>147</sup> the ligand is also effective for asymmetric hydrogenation of arylenamides.<sup>148</sup> Two similar phosphoramidite ligands **64** and **65** have shown excellent enantiselecitivities in Rh-catalyzed hydrogenation of (*â*-acylamino)acrylates.149 Zhou reported a monophosphoramidite ligand SIPHOS on the basis of a chiral 1,1′-spirobiindane-7,7′-diol. Up to 99% ee's have been obtained in asymmetric hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acids, arylenamides, and itacon-

ates.150 Helmchen has reported a secondary monodentate phosphane **66**, which is also very effective for hydrogenation of itaconates.77

#### *2.3.10. Chiral N, P Ligands*

Although the Ir complex  $[\rm Ir(COD)(Py)PCy_3]^+PF_6^$ was reported by Crabtree<sup>151</sup> as a highly active nonchiral catalyst for hydrogenation of tri- and tetrasubstituted olefins over 20 years ago, the development of efficient chiral N, P ligands for Ir-catalyzed asymmetric hydrogenation was relatively slow until a set of Phox<sup>152</sup> ligands was applied by Pfaltz for Ircatalyzed hydrogenation of simple olefins (Figure 14).153 The successful applications of Phox-Ir complexes in asymmetric hydrogenation of unfunctionalized olefins has driven Pfaltz and co-workers $3m$  to develop several efficient N, P ligands such as phosphite-oxazoline,<sup>154</sup> PyrPHOX,<sup>155</sup> phosphino-imidazolines (PHIM ligands),<sup>156</sup> phosphinite-oxazolines,<sup>157</sup> and threonine-derived phosphinite-oxazolines.<sup>158</sup> Burgess has also reported a series of JM-Phos<sup>159</sup> and imidazolylidine-oxazolines<sup>20a</sup> for asymmetric hydrogenation of unfunctionalized olefins. A set of phospholane-oxazoline ligands have been recently developed by Zhang, and the ligands have provided



#### **Figure 14.**

excellent ee's in hydrogenation of unfuctionalized olefins and unsaturated esters.160

## *3. Applications of Chiral Phosphorus Ligands in Asymmetric Hydrogenation*

#### **3.1. Hydrogenation of Olefins**

## *3.1.1. Hydrogenation of* R*-Dehydroamino Acid Derivatives*

Hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acid derivatives has been a typical reaction to test the efficiency of new chiral phosphorus ligands. Indeed, a number of chiral phosphorus ligands with great structural diversity are found to be effective for Rh-catalyzed hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acid derivatives. Since (*Z*)-2-(acetamido)cinnamic acid, 2-(acetamido) acrylic acid, and their methyl esters are the most frequently applied substrates, Table 1 lists some efficient examples (>95% ee) of hydrogenation of these substrates with different chiral ligands. Generally, cationic Rh complexes and low hydrogenation pressure are applied for the hydrogenation reactions.

Several chiral ligands such as PYRPHOS, 43b Et-DuPhos,161 **38**, <sup>103</sup> TangPhos,116 DPAMPP,137 and Bo-Phoz (56)<sup>142</sup> have been demonstrated to be very efficient ligands for hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acid derivatives in terms of both high enantioselectivity and reactivity; the substrate-to-catalyst ratio as high as 50000:1 have been used. DuPhos-type ligands, such as Me-DuPhos, Et-DuPhos, **6**, and **7**, are very efficient ligands for hydrogenation of a wide variety of  $\beta$ -substituted  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acid derivatives. Various chiral  $\alpha$ -amino acids containing alkyl and substituted aryl groups can be produced in over  $95\%$  ee's, even in supercritical  $\mathrm{CO}_2$ .<sup>162</sup> With a Tang-Phos-Rh complex as the catalyst, over 99% ee's have been observed in hydrogenation of a series of *â*-aryl substituted  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acid derivatives.<sup>116</sup> An  $\alpha$ -amino acid containing a thiophenyl group is also obtained in over 99% ee (Scheme 1). Hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acid derivatives with strongly coordinating heteroaryl groups such as pyridyl are difficult since the heteroaryl groups may potentially inhibit catalyst activity by coordinating with metal. This problem can be partially solved by converting the substrate into a protonated derivative with the addition of tetrafluoroboric acid.163 For example, in

**Scheme 1**

through a similar protocol.



the presence of tetrafluoroboric acid, 2-quinolylalanine is obtained in 94% ee via asymmetric hydrogenation with a Et-DuPhos-Rh catalyst.<sup>164</sup> However, 2-pyridyl or 3-isoquinolylalanine cannot be obtained

The Et-DuPhos-Rh system has shown good regioselectivity in hydrogenation of substrates possessing two or more different alkene groups.<sup>161</sup> Since enamides are known to chelate to a cationic Rh-bisphosphine catalyst through the alkene and the carbonyl oxygen of the N-acyl group, this chelation directs the hydrogenation to occur preferentially at the enamide alkenes (Scheme 2). Indeed, over 98% regioselectivities have been observed in hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ ,  $\gamma$ dienamides with an Et-DuPhos-Rh catalyst and a variety of chiral *γ*,*δ*-unsaturated amino acids can be generated.165

#### **Scheme 2**



In contrast to the high enantioselectivity achieved for the *Z* isomeric substrates, hydrogenation of the *E* isomeric substrates usually proceeds in a much lower rate and gives poor enantioselectivities.<sup>166</sup> With the Rh-BINAP system as the catalyst and THF as

### **Table 1.**



D:  $R_1$  = Ph,  $R_2$  = CH<sub>3</sub>



*<sup>a</sup>* Benzoyl derivative. *<sup>b</sup>* Ethyl ester. *<sup>c</sup>* Sodium dodecyl sulfate (10 mol %) is added.

the solvent, hydrogenation of the *Z* and *E* isomeric substrates generates products with different configurations.29 Remarkably, the DuPhos-Rh system provides excellent enantioselectivities for both *Z* and *E* isomeric substrates, and the hydrogenation products are formed with the same configuration (Scheme 3). This result is particularly important for hydrogenation of alkyl dehydroamino acid derivatives, which are difficult to prepare in geometrically pure form.

Many synthetic utilities of Rh-catalyzed hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acid derivatives have been recently explored (Scheme 4). For example, chiral  $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -diaminopropanoates can be efficiently syn-

### **Scheme 3**



thesized via asymmetric hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -diamidopropenoates with a Et-DuPhos-Rh catalyst.167 A tandem catalytic process involving asymmetric hydrogenation of dehydroamino acid derivatives fol-

## **Scheme 4**



lowed by a Suzuki coupling can provide a wide range of diverse  $\alpha$ -amino acids, which have been used for the rapid synthesis of analogous peptides.<sup>168</sup> A bisdehydroamino acid derivative has been hydrogenated with a (*S*, *S*)-Me-DuPhos-Rh catalyst to yield an α,ωdiamino dicarboxylate with a 98:2 diastereomeric ratio. The product has been used for the synthesis of a peptidomimetic of the turn in the helix-turn-helix DNA-binding protein motif.169 Takahashi has reported a one-pot sequential asymmetric hydrogenation utilizing a BINAP-Rh and a BINAP-Ru catalyst to synthesize 4-amino-3-hydroxy-5-phenylpentanoic acids in over 95% ee. The process involves a step of hydrogenation of a dehydroamino acid with the BINAP-Rh catalyst, followed by a step of hydrogenation of a  $\beta$ -keto ester with the BINAP-Ru catalyst.<sup>170</sup>

(*R*)-Metalaxyl, a highly active fungicide, has also been produced via asymmetric hydrogenation with a Du-Phos-Rh catalyst.171 A hindered pyridine-substituted  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acid derivative has been hydrogenated by a DIPAMP-Rh complex to give the corresponding chiral  $\alpha$ -amino acid derivative in over 98% ee. The chiral product has been used for the synthesis of (*S*)-(-)-acromelobic acid.172 Hydrogenation of a tetrahydropyrazine derivative catalyzed by a PHANEPHOS-Rh complex at  $-40$  °C gives an intermediate for the synthesis of Crixiran in 86% ee.<sup>122a</sup> An (*R*,*R*)-(*S*,*S*)-*<sup>i</sup>* Bu-TRAP-Rh catalyst provides 97% ee for hydrogenation of a tetrahydropyrazine carboxamide derivative;173 interestingly, a related (*R*,*R*)- (*S*,*S*)-Me-TRAP-Rh catalyst provides the hydrogenation product with a different configuration. Hydrogenation





of another tetrahydropyrazine carboxamide derivative catalyzed by an (*R*)-BINAP-Rh catalyst leads to the chiral product in 99% ee.<sup>174</sup>

Hydrogenation of  $\beta$ , $\beta$ -disubstituted  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acids remains a relatively challenging problem. Remarkably, the less bulky DuPhos- or BPEtype ligands, such as Me-DuPhos and Me-BPE, provide excellent enantioselectivity for a variety of this type of substrates.<sup>175</sup> The Rh complexes of chiral ligands, such as BuTRAP,89b **38**, <sup>103</sup> Cy-BisP\*,108a MiniPhos,113 and unsymmetrical BisP\* **43**, 115b have also shown high efficiencies for some *â*,*â*-disubstituted  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acid substrates. Table 2 lists some efficient examples of hydrogenation of *â*,*â*dimethyl  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acid esters with different chiral phosphorus ligands.

When dissimilar groups occupy the two *â*-positions, two stereogenic centers are simultaneously established in the hydrogenation. The Me-DuPhos-Rh or Me-BPE-Rh systems allow a series of both *Z* and *E* isomeric  $\beta$ , $\beta$ -disubstituted  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acid derivatives to be hydrogenated with excellent enantioselectivities (Scheme 5).175 Good chemoselectivity is

#### **Scheme 5**



observed in hydrogenation of substrates containing other olefin functionalities.<sup>176</sup> Thus, hydrogenation of *<sup>â</sup>*-substituted R,*â*,*γ*,*δ*-unsaturated amino acids with a Me-DuPhos-Rh or Me-BPE-Rh catalyst provides a series of *â*-substituted *γ*,*δ*-unsaturated amino acids in high ee's.

Hydrogenation of a (*Z*)-dehydro-*â*-methyl tryptophan derivative with a (*R*,*R*)-Me-DuPhos-Rh catalyst provides *â*-(2*R*,3*S*)-methyl tryptophan in 97% ee.<sup>177</sup> A tetrasubstituted enamide containing a piperidine component is hydrogenated with a (*R*,*R*)-MeBPE-Rh catalyst to give (*R*)-4-piperidinylglycine in 94% ee (Scheme 6).178 The Pr-TRAP-Rh system

#### **Scheme 6**



provides excellent ee's in hydrogenation of (*Z*)-*â*siloxy- $\alpha$ -(acetamido) acrylates and  $(E)$ - $\beta$ -pivaloyloxy- $\alpha$ -(acetamido)acrylates (Scheme 7).<sup>89e</sup> By hydrogena-

#### **Scheme 7**



tion of both *Z* and *E* isomeric substrates of  $\beta$ -(acetylamino)- $\beta$ -methyl- $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acid derivatives with Me-DuPhos-Rh catalysts, four isomers of the *N*, *N*-protected 2,3-diaminobutanoic acid can be efficiently obtained with excellent ee's (Scheme 8).179

#### **Scheme 8**



A Pr-TRAP-Rh catalyst is also applied for hydrogenation of a series of  $(E)$ - $\beta$ -(acylamino)- $\beta$ -alkyl- $\alpha$ dehydroamino acid derivatives, and up to 82% ee's have resulted.<sup>89d</sup>

Compared to the further advance achieved in Rhcatalyzed asymmetric hydrogenation, Ru-catalyzed asymmetric hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -dehydroamino acid

## **Table 3.**





derivatives undergoes a different mechanistic pathway,<sup>180</sup> and little progress has been made.

## *3.1.2. Hydrogenation of Enamides*

Rh-catalyzed hydrogenation of simple enamides has attracted much attention recently. With the development of more and more efficient chiral phosphorus ligands, extremely high ee's can be obtained in the Rh-catalyzed hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -aryl enamides.  $EZ$  isomeric mixtures of  $\beta$ -substituted enamides can also be hydrogenated in excellent ee's. Table 3 lists some efficient examples (>95% ee) of hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -phenylenamide and  $EZ$  isomeric mixture of  $\beta$ -methyl- $\alpha$ -phenylenamide. The P-chiral ligand TangPhos has been demonstrated to be an efficient ligand for Rh-catalyzed hydrogenation of enamides in terms of both enantioselectivity and reactivity; up to 10 000 turnover numbers have been achieved.<sup>116</sup>

Some alkyl enamides such as *tert*-butylenamide or 1-admantylenamide can also be hydrogenated with a 'Bu-BisP\*-Rh catalyst<sup>109</sup> or a Me-DuPhos-Rh catalyst<sup>182</sup> in 99% ee. Notably, the configurations of the hydrogenation products of these bulky alkyl enamides are opposite to those of aryl enamides. Mechanistic study<sup>183</sup> by Gridney and Imamoto<sup>109</sup> using NMR technique indicates that the hydrogenations of bulky alkyl enamides and aryl enamides involve different coordination pathways. Hydrogenation of *N*-acetyl-6,7-dimethoxy-1-methylene-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline can be catalyzed by a (*S*,*S*,*R*,*R*)-Tang-Phos-Rh complex to yield  $(R)$ -(-)-*N*-acetylsalsolidine in 97% ee.116 PennPhos,80a *o*-Ph-HexaMeO-BIPHEP,60 and Me-BPE182 have shown high efficiencies in Rhcatalyzed hydrogenation of cyclic enamides. Additionally, racemic cyclic enecarbamate has been hydrogenated with an *o*-Ph-HexaMeO-BIPHEP-Rh

## **Scheme 9**



catalyst to yield the cis chiral carbamate in 96% ee.<sup>60</sup> The chiral product can be directly used for the synthesis of sertraline, an anti-depressant agent. A set of 2-substituted *N*-acetylindoles can be efficiently **Scheme 10**



hydrogenated by the Ph-TRAP-Rh system with excellent enantioselecitivities.<sup>89g</sup> Hydrogenation of some tetra-substituted enamides has also been reported. *t* Bu-BisP\* and *<sup>t</sup>* Bu-MiniPhos have provided excellent ee's for hydrogenation of a  $\beta$ , $\beta$ - dimethyl- $\alpha$ -phenyl enamide derivatives (Scheme 9).109 Using a Penn-Phos-Rh catalyst<sup>80a</sup> or an  $o$ -Ph-BIPHEP-Rh catalyst,<sup>60</sup> the tetra-substituted enamides derived from 1-indanone and 1-tetralone have been hydrogenated in excellent enantioselectivities.

Hydrogenation of a series of *E*/*Z* isomeric mixtures of  $\alpha$ -arylenamides with a MOM-protected  $\beta$ -hydroxyl group catalyzed by a BICP-Rh complex or a Me-DuPhos complex leads to chiral *â*-amino alcohol derivatives in excellent ee's.83c A 1,4-diphosphane **20** with a rigid 1,4-dioxane backbone is also very effective for this transformation (Scheme 10).<sup>88</sup>

Other than Rh chemistry, the Ru-BINAP system has shown excellent enantioselectivity in hydrogenation of (*Z*)-*N*-acyl-1-alkylidenetetrahydroisoquindines. Thus, a series of chiral isoquinoline products can be efficiently synthesized.<sup>30a,b,184</sup> A cyclic enamide derived from 6-bromo-tetralone is hydrogenated with a Ru-BINAP catalyst to give the corresponding chiral amide product in  $97\%$  ee.<sup>185</sup> Hydrogenation of a series of tetrasubstituted enamides derived from 1-substituted-2-tetralones catalyzed by a Ru complex generated in situ from  $(COD)Ru(methallyl)<sub>2</sub>$ , Me-DuPhos, and  $HBF_4$  provides chiral amide products in up to 72% ee's (Scheme 11). <sup>186</sup>

### *3.1.3. Hydrogenation of (â-Acylamino) Acrylates*

Asymmetric hydrogenation of (*â*-acylamino) acrylates has gained much attention recently because the resulting *â*-amino acid derivatives are important

#### **Scheme 11**

building blocks for making chiral drugs.<sup>187</sup> Since both (*Z*)- and (*E*)-(*â*-acylamino) acrylates are generally formed simultaneously through most synthetic methods, to obtain high enantioselectivities for hydrogenation of both *Z* and *E* isomeric substrates is important for practical synthesis of *â*-amino acid derivatives. Many Rh and Ru complexes with chiral phosphorus ligands such as BINAP,<sup>188</sup> DuPhos,<sup>189</sup> BICP,<sup>83e</sup> BDPMI,<sup>87b</sup> *o*-Ph-HexaMeO-BIPHEP,<sup>60</sup> *t* Bu-BisP\*,110 TangPhos,117 phosphoramidite **64**, 149 Et-FerroTANE,<sup>102</sup> Xyl-P-Phos,<sup>59c</sup> and MalPHOS<sup>75</sup> are found to be effective for hydrogenation of (*E*)-*â*-alkyl (*â*-acylamino)acrylates. However, only a few chiral ligands, such as BDPMI,<sup>87b</sup> TangPhos,<sup>117</sup> and monophoramidite **65**, <sup>149</sup> can provide over 95% ee's for hydrogenation of (*Z*)-*â*-alkyl (*â*-acylamino)acrylates (Table 4). With a TangPhos-Rh catalyst, an *E*/*Z* (1:1) isomeric mixture of methyl 3-acetamido-2 butenoate was hydrogenated in THF to give (*R*) methyl 3-acetamidobutanoate in 99.5% ee. Mechanistic study of hydrogenation of *â*-alkyl (*â*acylamino)acrylates with a Rh-BisP\* complex as the catalyst has shown that the reaction proceeds via a  $\beta$ -carbon-bound Rh monohydride species.<sup>110</sup> Few efficient ligands have been reported for hydrogenation of *â*-aryl (*â*-acylamino)acrylates. An Et-FerroTANE-Rh catalyst has provided up to 99% ee's for hydrogenation of a series of (*E*)-*â*-aryl (*â*-acylamino) acrylates,<sup>102</sup> while a Xylyl-BINAPO-Ru catalyst<sup>130</sup> and a TangPhos-Rh catalyst<sup>117</sup> are found to be effective for a variety of (*Z*)-*â*-aryl (*â*-acylamino) acrylates.

#### *3.1.4. Hydrogenation of Enol Esters*

Enol esters have similar structures to enamides. However, in contrast to many highly enantioselective examples on asymmetric hydrogenation of enamides, only a few successful examples have been reported for hydrogenation of enol esters. One possible reason is that the acyl group of an enol ester has a weaker coordinating ability to the metal catalyst than that of the corresponding enamide substrate. Some Rh



## **Table 4.**



#### **Table 5.**



Rh or Ru catalyst

and Ru complexes associated with chiral phosphorus ligands such as DIPAMP,<sup>190,191</sup> DuPhos,<sup>192,194</sup> BI-NAP,191 FERRIPHOS **27**, 95c and TaniaPhos **33**<sup>97</sup> are effective for asymmetric hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -(acyloxy) acrylates (Table 5). A wide range of  $\alpha$ -(acyloxy) acrylates have been hydrogenated with an Et-Du-Phos-Rh catalyst in excellent ee's.<sup>192</sup> High selectivities are also obtained on hydrogenation of the *E*/*Z* isomeric mixtures of *â*-substituted substrates. The products can be easily converted to  $\alpha$ -hydroxy esters

and 1,2-diols. Asymmetric hydrogenation of a series of enol phosphates with a DuPhos-Rh or a BPE-Rh catalyst provides moderate to excellent ee's (Scheme 12).<sup>193</sup> Some Rh or Ru catalysts with chiral phosphorus ligands, such as DuPhos,<sup>194</sup> 7,<sup>72b</sup> TangPhos,<sup>118</sup>  $BINAP$ ,<sup>195</sup> and TunaPhos,<sup>55</sup> have been used for asymmetric hydrogenation of aryl enol acetates without other functionalities (Table 5). A TangPhos-Rh catalyst provides enantioselectivities ranging from 92% to 99% ee's for a diverse set of aryl enol acetates; $118$ 



#### **Scheme 12**



a  $C_2$ -TunaPhos-Ru catalyst is found to be equally effective for this transformation.<sup>55</sup> Hydrogenation of cyclic enol acetates, in contrast, is a challenging problem. Me-PennPhos is found to be efficient for Rhcatalyzed hydrogenation of five- or six-memberedring cyclic enol acetates (Scheme 13).<sup>80b</sup> Hydrogena-

#### **Scheme 13**



tion of acyclic enol acetates is also possible. Vinylic, acetylenic,<sup>196</sup> and trifluoromethyl<sup>197</sup> enol acetates have been hydrogenated with a DuPhos-Rh or BPE-Rh catalyst in excellent ee's (Table 5).

Although high hydrogen pressure is required, BI-NAP and its analogous ligands have provided superior results in Ru-catalyzed hydrogenation of fourand five-membered cyclic lactones or carbonates bearing an exocyclic methylene group (Scheme 14).195

#### **Scheme 14**



A (*S*)-SEGPHOS-Ru catalyst provides 93.8% ee in hydrogenation of a diketene with high turnover numbers.198 With a (*S*)-BINAP-Ru catalyst, 94% ee is obtained in hydrogenation of 4-methylene-*γ*-butyrolactone.195 In the presence of a small amount of HBF4, a di-t-Bu-MeOBIPHEP-Ru catalyst allows the hydrogenation of a 2-pyrone substrate, yielding 97% ee.199

## *3.1.5. Hydrogenation of Unsaturated Acids and Esters*

**3.1.5.1.** r**,***â***-Unsaturated Carboxylic Acids.** Significant progress has been achieved in asymmetric hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acids with chiral Ru catalysts. The Ru-BINAP-dicarboxylate complex produces excellent enantioselectivities in hydrogenation of some  $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acids, despite the fact that the catalytic efficiencies are still highly sensitive to the substrates, reaction temperature, and hydrogen pressure.<sup>30d</sup> Other atropisomeric ligands, such as  $H_8$ -BINAP,<sup>200</sup> MeO-BI-<br>PHEP,<sup>201</sup> BIPHEMP,<sup>201</sup> P-Phos,<sup>59</sup> TetraMe-BIPHEMP,<sup>201</sup> BITIANP,<sup>57b</sup> and TetraMe-BITIOP,<sup>58</sup> are also effective for this transformation. Ru complexes prepared in different forms may exhibit slightly different efficiencies. Table 6 lists examples of hydrogenation of tiglic acid with different metal-ligand complexes. The  $H_8$ -BINAP ligand with a larger dihedral angle gives superior results compared to the BINAP ligand.

With a BINAP-Ru,  $30d,202$  H<sub>8</sub>-BINAP-Ru,  $200$  or P-Phos-Ru59a catalyst, the antiinflammatory drug (*S*)-ibuprofen and (*S*)-naproxen can be efficiently synthesized via asymmetric hydrogenation (Scheme 15). In the case of hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -arylpropionic acids, high hydrogenation pressure and low temperature are required to achieve good enantioselectivity. With an (*R*)-BIPHEMP-Ru catalyst, (*S*)-2-(4-fluorophenyl)- 3-methylbutanoic acid, a key intermediate for the synthesis of calcium antagonist Mibefradil, can be produced in 94% ee.<sup>203</sup>

In contrast to successful results obtained with Ru catalysts, few systems have been reported on Rhcatalyzed hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acids. The (aminoalkyl)ferrocenylphosphine ligand **2** provides excellent reactivities and enantioselectivities in Rh-catalyzed hydrogenation of trisubstituted acrylic acids (Scheme  $16$ ).<sup>47</sup> The aminoalkyl side chain of the ligand is important to maintain the high reactivity and enantioselectivity. It is believed that the amino group of the ligand interacts with the carboxylic acid functionality of the substrate, therefore facilitating olefin coordination to the Rh center. When substrates with two different substituents at  $\beta$  positions are employed, the hydrogenation products with two chiral centers can be efficiently obtained. A (*R*)-(*S*)-**2**-Rh complex has also been employed for the synthesis of (*S*)-2-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-methylbutanoic acid, and 98% ee is obtained.204 An *<sup>i</sup>* Pr-DuPhos-Rh complex is also efficient for hydrogenation of some  $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acids such as tiglic acid.<sup>14a,b</sup>

### **Scheme 15**



**Scheme 16**



**3.1.5.2.** α,*β*-Unsaturated Esters, Amides, Lac**tones, and Ketones.** Limited advances, however, have been achieved in asymmetric hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acid esters, amides, lactones, and ketones (Scheme 17). The Ru-BINAP

**Scheme 17**



system is efficient for hydrogenation of 2-methylene*γ*-butyrolactone, and 2-methylene-cyclopentanone.195,204 By using a cationic (*R*,*R*)-Me-DuPhos-Ru hydride complex as the catalyst, hydrogenation of a vinylogous  $\beta$ -oxoester with a tetrasubstituted C=C bond provides (+)-cis-methyl dihydrojasmonate in 64% ee.205 With a dicationic (*S*)-di-t-Bu-MeOBIPHEP-Ru complex under high hydrogen pressure, 3-ethoxy pyrrolidinone is hydrogenated in 2-propanol to give (*R*)-4-ethoxy-*γ*-lactam in 98% ee.63 Recent development of Ir-N,P ligand systems has enabled the hydrogenation of *â*-methyl cinnamates with high enantioselectivities. Hydrogenation of ethyl *â*-methyl cinnamate with a cationic (*S*)-**75**-Ir complex as the catalyst provides the corresponding chiral ester in 94% ee.158 A chiral phospholane-oxazoline ligand **77** is even more effective.<sup>160</sup> Its cationic Ir complex has allowed the synthesis of a set of chiral aryl 2-methyl butyric acid esters with ee's ranging from 95% to 99%.

**3.1.5.3. Itaconic Acids and Their Derivatives.** Many chiral phosphorus ligands have shown excellent reactivities and enantioselectivities in Rhcatalyzed hydrogenation of itaconic acids or esters. Table 7 lists successful examples (over 95% ee) of hydrogenation of itaconic acid or dimethyl ester with different chiral phosphorus ligands. High reactivity is observed with electron-rich phosphane ligands such as BICHEP, 34c Et-DuPhos, 206 and TangPhos, 118 as well as electron-deficient phosphonite or phosphite ligands such as **50**<sup>131</sup> and **52**. <sup>133</sup> Some mono-phosphorus ligands such as MonoPhos148 and **63**146a are as equally efficient as bisphosphorus chelating ligands. A secondary phosphane **66**<sup>77</sup> is also effective. A bisphospholane ligand **7** with four hydroxyl groups allows the hydrogenation to proceed in aqueous solution.<sup>72b</sup>

In contrast to the many successful examples for hydrogenation of the parent itaconic acid or its dimethyl ester, only a few ligands have been reported to be efficient for hydrogenation of  $\beta$ -substituted itaconic acid derivatives. Rh complexes with chiral ligands such as MOD-DIOP,<sup>40</sup> BPPM, Et-DuPhos, and TangPhos are efficient for hydrogenation of several *â*-substituted itaconic acid derivatives; some examples are shown in Table 8. In the presence of a base such as sodium methoxide or a tertiary amine, an Et-DuPhos-Rh complex has shown excellent enantioselectivities and reactivities in hydrogenation of a series of *â*-aryl or alkyl itaconic acid monomethyl esters.206 The *E*/*Z* isomeric mixtures of substrates can be directly used. High enantioselectivities have also been obtained with a TangPhos-Rh catalyst in hydrogenation of a variety of *â*-aryl or alkyl substituted itaconic acid substrates.<sup>118</sup>

A chiral 1,1′-diphosphetanylferrocene ligand, Et-FerroTANE, is very efficient for hydrogenation of a series of *â*-aryl or alkyl substituted monoamido itaconates (Scheme 18). $^{101}$  For example, in the presence of 0.005 mol % Et-FerroTANE-Rh catalyst, a *â*-phenyl monoamido itaconate is hydrogenated completely to give the chiral monoamido succinate in 98% ee. A PYRPHOS ligand is also found to be effective

### **Table 7.**



## **Table 8.**



*<sup>a</sup>* 10 mol % of NaOMe is added.

#### **Scheme 18**



for hydrogenation of a  $\beta$ -aryl monoamido itaconate.<sup>207</sup> With an Et-DuPhos-Rh catalyst, a unique olefin substrate is hydrogenated to afford an important intermediate for the drug candoxatril in over 99% ee.208 A MeO-BIPHEP-Ru catalyst is also found to be very effective for this process when a mixed solvent (THF/H<sub>2</sub>O) is used.<sup>209</sup>

## *3.1.6. Hydrogenation of Unsaturated Alcohols*

Asymmetric hydrogenation of unsaturated alcohols such as allylic and homoallylic alcohols was not very

efficient until the discovery of the BINAP-Ru catalyst. With  $Ru(BINAP)(OAc)<sub>2</sub>$  as the catalyst, geraniol and nerol are successfully hydrogenated to give (*S*) or (*R*)-citronellol in nearly quantitative yield with <sup>96</sup>-99% ee's.30c The substrate-to-catalyst ratio up to 48 500 can be applied, and the other double bond at the C6 and C7 positions of the substrate is not reduced. High hydrogen pressure is required for the high enantioselectivity in the hydrogenation of geraniol. Low hydrogen pressure facilitates the isomerization of geraniol to *γ*-geraniol, which leads to the



hydrogenation product with opposite configuration and therefore yielding a decreased ee.<sup>210</sup> In addition to BINAP, other chiral atropisomeric ligands, such as MeO-BIPHEP,36 TetraMe-BITIANP,57b and TetraMe-BITIOP,<sup>58</sup> are also effective for this transformation. The catalytic efficiency of the BINAP-Ru catalyst is highly sensitive to the substitution patterns of the allylic alcohols. Homoallylic alcohols can also be hydrogenated in high ee's with the BINAP-Ru catalyst. Its application in the synthesis of (3*R*,7*R*)-3,7,11-trimethyldodecarol, an intermediate for the synthesis of  $\alpha$ -tocopherol, has been shown in Scheme 19. When racemic allylic alcohols are subjected for asymmetric hydrogenation, highly efficient kinetic resolutions are achieved with a BINAP-Ru complex as the catalyst.<sup>31c</sup> A racemic 4-hydroxy-2cyclopentenone is hydrogenated with a (*S*)-BINAP-Ru catalyst to leave unreacted starting material in 98% ee at 68% conversion. The chiral starting material serves as an important building block for threecomponent-coupling prostaglandin synthesis.

A chiral BDPP-Rh complex is an efficient catalyst for hydrogenation of 3-(2′,4′-dimethoxyphenyl)-3 phenyl-2-propenol. The chiral alcohol product, with enantiomeric excess up to 95%, has been used for the synthesis of chiral 4-methoxydalbergione (Scheme  $(20)$ <sup>211</sup>

#### **Scheme 20**



The development of Ir-chiral N,P ligand systems opens another promising way for hydrogenation of allylic alcohol and its derivatives. For example, a cationic Phox-Ir complex catalyzes the hydrogenation of (*E*)-2-methyl-3-phenyl-9-propen-1-ol in highly enantioselective fashion.153a With 1 mol % (*S*)-**67**-Ir

catalyst, the hydrogenation proceeds completely to provide the chiral alcohol product in 96% ee. Under the same conditions, a *para*-*<sup>t</sup>* Bu-substituted chiral alcohol derivative is obtained in 94% ee for the synthesis of lilial (Scheme 21).

#### **Scheme 21**



#### *3.1.7. Hydrogenation of Unfunctionalized Olefins*

Asymmetric hydrogenation of unfunctionalized olefins remains a challenging area and only limited success has been achieved. Some chiral metallocene catalysts such as chiral titanocene<sup>212</sup> or zirconocene<sup>213</sup> have been found to be efficient for hydrogenation of tri- or tetra-substituted unfunctionalized olefins. With (EBTHI)TiH or (EBTHI)ZrH as the catalyst, a series of tri- or tetra-substituted aryl alkenes have been hydrogenated with excellent enantioselectivity. Chiral cyclolanthanide complexes are also effective in hydrogenation of 2-phenyl-1-butene at low reaction temperature.19 Some Ru and Rh complexes with chiral bisphosphorus ligands have been tried with few successful results.214 A Me-DuPhos-Ru complex in the presence of <sup>t</sup> BuOK has been applied for hydrogenation of 3-phenylbutenes and up to 89% ee is obtained.215 Cationic Ir-chiral N and P ligand complexes have recently shown promising results in enantioselective hydrogenation of unfunctionalized olefins. $3m$  Several chiral N and P ligands have been developed and have provided excellent ee's in asymmetric hydrogenation of 2-methyl stilbene, as shown in Table 9.

A series of para-substituted (*E*)-methylstilbenes have been hydrogenated with a Phox-Ir catalyst in excellent enantioselectivities.<sup>153</sup> In addition, threonine-derived phosphinite-oxazoline ligand (*S*)-**75** has provided high enantioselectivities for hydrogenation of both (*E*)- and (*Z*)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-butene, although the configurations of the products are opposite (Scheme 22).158 A terminal olefin 2-arylbutene is hydrogenated at 0 °C under 1 atm hydrogen pressure to give the chiral product in 89% ee.

#### **Table 9.**



## **Table 10.**





#### **Scheme 22**



Hydrogenation of a tetra-substituted olefin is catalyzed by a PHOX-Ir complex to give product in 81% ee with complete conversion.153

## **3.2. Hydrogenation of Ketones**

## *3.2.1. Hydrogenation of Functionalized Ketones*

**3.2.1.1. α-Keto Esters.** Asymmetric hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -keto esters has been studied with some Rh and Ru catalysts. Several neutral Rh catalysts with chiral ligands such as MCCPM, 41b, 216 Cy, Cy-oxoProNOP, 135c, d,f  $\overline{Cp}$ ,Cp-IndoNOP,<sup>135g</sup> and Cr(CO)<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>p</sub>,Cp-IndoNOP<sup>135g</sup> have shown excellent reactivities and enantioselectivities in hydrogenation of some  $\alpha$ -keto esters or amides. A cationic BoPhoz (**59**)-Rh complex is also effective for this transformation.<sup>142</sup> Some Ru catalysts associated with chiral atropisomeric ligands such as BINAP,217 BICHEP,34d MeOBIPHEP, TetraMe-BI-TIOP,58 TetraMe-BITIANP57b are also applicable (Table 10). A cyclic  $\alpha$ -keto ester, dihydro-4,4-dimethyl-2,3-furandione, has been efficiently hydrogenated by several Rh catalysts with high turnover numbers (Table 11). The (*R*)-pantolactone product is a key intermediate in the syntheses of vitamin B and of co-enzyme A.

**3.2.1.2.** *â***-Keto Esters.** Asymmetric hydrogenation of *â*-keto esters have been very successful using chiral Ru catalysts and a detailed review has been written on this subject.<sup>220</sup> With a BINAP-Ru catalyst, a variety of *â*-keto esters have been hydrogenated to give chiral *â*-hydroxyl esters in high enantioselectivities.31a Several different Ru-BINAP complexes have been employed and similarly high enantionselectivities observed.221 In addition to BINAP, many other chiral atropisomeric biaryl ligands are also very efficient for this transformation. Some other  $C_2$ symmetric ligands, such as  $BPE^{222}$  BisP<sup>\*</sup>,<sup>223</sup> and PHANEPHOS,<sup>122b</sup> are also effective. A Josiphos-Rh

## **Table 11.**



## **Table 12.**



#### **Table 13.**





complex is found to be effective for hydrogenation of ethyl 3-oxobutanoate.<sup>90</sup> Some efficient examples of hydrogenation of 3-oxobutanoic acid esters with different chiral phosphorus ligand systems are listed in Table 12.

Although the BINAP-Ru (II) system has been recognized as an efficient and general catalyst for the hydrogenation of *â*-alkyl *â*-keto esters, the enantioselectivity obtained in hydrogenation of 3-oxo-3 phenylpropionic ester is low, providing the corresponding chiral 3-hydroxyl-3-phenylpropionic ester in 85% ee.31a Many other atropisomeric ligands have provided better enantioselectivity for this substrate, as shown in Table 13. One bisphosphinite ligand *o*-Xylyl-BINAPO has provided up to 99% ee in Rucatalyzed hydrogenation of a series of *â*-aryl *â*-keto esters.130 The BINAP-Ru system is also efficient for hydrogenationof*â*-ketoamideand*â*-ketothioesters.31b,224

When a coordinative functional group such as a chloride or methoxy group exists in the proximity of **Table 14.**



the carbonyl group of a *â*-keto ester, lower enantioselectivity might be observed due to the competition of two different coordination patterns. 4-Benzyloxyand 4-chloro-3-oxobutanoate are hydrogenated at room temperature with a BINAP-Ru catalyst to give alcohols in 78% and 56% ee, respectively.<sup>225</sup> However, the enantioselectivity can be dramatically improved under higher reaction temperatures. 97% ee is observed when the hydrogenation of 4-chloro-3-oxobutanoate is carried out at 100 °C (Scheme 23). The

**Scheme 23**



chiral product has allowed the efficient synthesis of GABOB and (*R*)-carnitine, a carrier of long-chain fatty acids through the mitochondrial membrane.

When a racemic  $\alpha$ -mono substituted  $\beta$ -keto ester is subjected to asymmetric hydrogenation, efficient dynamic resolution can be realized if the racemization of the substrate is fast and the chiral recognition of hydrogenation catalyst is good.<sup>31d,226</sup> In fact, excellent dynamic kinetic resolution has been discovered in hydrogenation of several  $\alpha$ -mono substituted  $\beta$ -keto esters with a few Ru catalysts under appropriate conditions. Hydrogenation of 2-alkoxycarbonylcycloalkanones has been a standard reaction to test the efficiency of different Ru catalysts (Table 14). The anti hydrogenation product is preferentially formed. 99% ee has been obtained for the anti product when a TetraMe-BITIANP-Ru<sup>57b</sup> or TetraMe-BITIOP-Ru<sup>58</sup> complex is used as the catalyst. Different reaction solvent and catalyst precursor dramatically affect both diastereoselectivity and enantioselectivity of the reaction.

Hydrogenation of a racemic 3-acetyltetrahydrofuran-2-one is successfully catalyzed by the BINAP-Ru system to give the cis hydrogenation product in 97% ee with 99:1 diastereoselectivity (Scheme 24).<sup>217</sup> A TetraMe-BITIANP-Ru complex is also effective for this transformation.57b The BINAP-Ru system also

provides efficient dynamic kinetic resolution on hydrogenation of α-acylamino and α-amidomethyl β-ke-<br>to esters.<sup>31d,217,228</sup> High enantio- and diastereoselectivities are obtained for the cis hydrogenation product. Excellent enantio- and diastereoselectivities are also obtained in hydrogenation of 2-benzamidomethyl-3 oxobutanoate with a  $(-)$ -DTBM-SEGPHOS-Ru catalyst.52b The *cis*-(2*S*, 3*R*)-methyl 2-benzamidomethyl-3-hydroxybutanoate is obtained in 99.4% ee and in 98.6% de. The product can be transformed into a key intermediate of carbapenem antibiotics. 99% ee and 94% de are obtained when a  $(-)$ -TetraMe-BITIOP-Ru complex is used as the catalyst.<sup>58</sup> When a BI-PHEP-Ru complex is applied as a catalyst in hydrogenation of racemic methyl-2-acetamido-3-keto-6 phthalimidohexanoate for the synthesis of (2*S*,3*R*)- 3-hydroxylysine, again excellent enantio- and diastereoselectivities are obtained.<sup>229</sup> Efficient dynamic kinetic resolution is also observed in hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -chloro-*â*-keto esters with *anti*-chlorohydrin as the major product.<sup>230</sup> With (COD)Ru(methallyl)<sub>2</sub>-(*S*)-BINAP as the catalytic system and  $CH_2Cl_2$  as the solvent, hydrogenation of racemic ethyl 2-chloro-3-phenyl-3 oxopropionate provides the *anti*-chlorohydrin product in 99% ee with 98% de, this product can be directly converted into chiral (2*S*,3*R*)-methylglycidate.

**3.2.1.3.** *γ***-Keto Esters.** *γ*-Keto esters can also be efficiently hydrogenated by chiral Ru catalysts associated with atropisomeric ligands using prolonged reaction times.<sup>231</sup> For example, with an in situ formed Ru-BINAP catalyst from Ru(BINAP)(OAc)<sub>2</sub> and HCl, a series of chiral lactones can be efficiently synthesized through asymmetric hydrogenation of 4-oxo carboxylates (Scheme 25). Hydrogenation of ethyl levulinate is performed with a (*R*)-SEGPHOS-Ru catalyst to give (*R*)-ethyl 4-hydroxypentanoate in up to 99% ee.52b

**3.2.1.4. Amino Ketones.** Amino ketones or their hydrochloride salts can be effectively hydrogenated with chiral Rh or Ru catalysts (Table 15). The Rh catalysts combined with chiral phosphorus ligands, such as BPPFOH,<sup>24b</sup> MCCPM, $41f-k$  Cy,Cy-oxoPro-NOP,<sup>135c,e</sup> Cp,Cp-oxoProNOP,<sup>135c,e</sup> and IndoNOP,<sup>135g</sup> have provided excellent enantioselectivities and reactivities in hydrogenation of some  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ , or *γ*-alkyl

## **Scheme 24**



$$
R \xrightarrow{\text{Chiral Rh or Ru catalyst}} R^{\text{OH}} \xrightarrow{\text{CH}} R^{\text{H}} \xrightarrow{\text{CH}} R^{\text{H}}
$$



### **Scheme 25**



$$
R = CH_3, C_2H_5, R - C_8H_{17}, C_6H_5
$$

amino ketone hydrochloride salts. For example, hydrogenation of 2-diethylaminoacetophenone catalyzed by a MCCPM-Rh complex at 50 °C under 20 atm hydrogen pressure afforded the chiral amino alcohol product in 96% ee with a S/C ratio of 100 000.232 A BINAP-Ru catalyst has also shown excellent enantioselectivity in hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -dimethylamino ketones under high hydrogen pressure. 31b,217 The *trans*-RuCl<sub>2</sub>[(*R*)-XylBINAP][(*R*)-daipen] complex has been proven to be very efficient for hydrogenation of a wide range of  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ , or *γ*-amino ketones,<sup>233</sup> with

#### **Scheme 26**



which high enantioselectivities and turnover numbers are achieved under mild conditions.

Many excellent examples of hydrogenation of amino ketones have been applied in the synthesis of chiral drugs (Scheme 26). For example, enantioselective hydrogenation of 3-aryloxy-2-oxo-1-propylamine derivatives can directly lead to 1-amino-3-aryloxy-2 propanol derivatives as chiral *â*-adrenergic blocking agents. This has been successfully accomplished with a neutral MCCPM-Rh complex as the catalyst. With 0.01 mol % of a (*S*,*S*)-MCCPM-Rh complex, (*S*) propranolol is obtained in 90.8% ee from the corresponding  $\alpha$ -amino ketone substrate.<sup>41f</sup> The *trans*- $\text{RuCl}_2[(\bar{R})$ -XylBINAP][( $R$ )-daipen] complex has been applied as a catalyst in enantioselective synthesis of ( $R$ )-denopamine, a  $\beta_1$ -receptor agonist used for treatment of congestive heart failure.<sup>233</sup> A *γ*-functionalized amino ketone is also hydrogenated efficiently in 99% ee to provide BMS181100, a potent antipsychotic agent. $233$ 

**3.2.1.5. Hydroxyl Ketones, Alkoxy Ketones, Phenylthio Ketones, and** *ortho***-Haloaryl Ketones.** Enantioselective hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ - or  $\beta$ -hydroxyl ketones (Table 16) has been realized by a BINAP-Ru catalyst.31b A SEGPHOS-Ru complex has also been demonstrated as a superior catalyst for asymmetric hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ -hydroxyl ketones.<sup>52b</sup> The chiral diol can be obtained in 98% ee with a substrate-to-catalyst ratio of 10 000.  $\alpha$ -Alkoxy ketones can also be reduced in high enantioselectivity with a Ru-XylBINAP/daipen complex as the catalyst.<sup>3j</sup> Although the alkoxy group of the substrates do not participate in coordination with the Ru catalyst, they possess a significant stereo-directing ability in achieving high enantioselectivity. For example, the methoxy acetophenone is hydrogenated with a Ru-(*R*)-XylBI-NAP/(*R*)-daipen complex to provide the corresponding ( $R$ )-diol in 95% ee. Hydrogenation of an  $\alpha, \alpha'$ -dialkoxy ketones is catalyzed by the Ru-BINAP system to give chiral 1-*o*-octadecyl-3-*o*-trityl glycerol in over 96%

#### **Table 17.**



#### **Table 18.**





ee.234 A halogen atom at an appropriate position in the substrate can also exert great directing influence through interaction with Ru.<sup>31b,221a</sup> Hydrogenation of *ortho*-halo aryl ketones can be catalyzed by the Ru-BINAP system with excellent ee's. For example, *ortho*-bromo acetophenone can be converted into the corresponding chiral alcohol in 96% ee (Scheme 27).

#### **Scheme 27**



However, this type of substrates can be hydrogenated more effectively with the Ru/chiral phosphine/diamine system.<sup>236</sup> Asymmetric hydrogenation of phenylthioketones has been realized with several Ru catalysts. BINAP, 31b MeO-BIPHEP, 237 BDPP, 238 and Me-CnrPHOS<sup>76d</sup> are efficient ligands for this transformation (Table 17).

**3.2.1.6. Diketones.** Several chiral Ru complexes have been applied successfully for asymmetric hydrogenation of R, *<sup>â</sup>*, and *<sup>γ</sup>*-diketones. Hydrogenation of an  $\alpha$ -diketone, 2, 3-butandione, catalyzed by a  $(R)$ -BINAP-Ru complex affords the optically pure (*R*,*R*)- 2,3-butanediol and the meso diol in a ratio of 26:74 (Scheme 28).31b

#### **Scheme 28**



Asymmetric hydrogenation of *â*-diketones prefers to provide anti 1,3-diols (Table 18). When symmetric *â*-diketones are subjected for hydrogenation, the chiral 1,3-diols will be formed dominantly over the meso diols. Hydrogenation of 2,4-pentadione catalyzed by an (*R*)-BINAP-Ru catalyst gives enantiomerically pure (*R*,*R*)-2,4-pentadiol in 99% yield along with 1% of meso compound.<sup>31b</sup> BIPHEMP,<sup>241</sup> BD-PP,239 *<sup>i</sup>* Pr-CnrPhos,76d Cy-BPE-4,76f and WalPhos **34**<sup>98</sup> are also very effective ligands for this transformation. Various symmetric or asymmetric *â*-diketones have been hydrogenated with chiral Ru complexes associated with BINAP,  $31b,240$  MeO-BIPHEP,  $242$  TaniaPhos **29**96a and **33**, <sup>97</sup> and *<sup>i</sup>* Pr-CnrPhos76d to give chiral anti diol products in excellent enantioselectivities and diastereoselectivities. The methodology has been used for synthesis of important chiral intermediates and natural products. For example, ethyl 2,4-dioxovalerate is hydrogenated with an (*S*)-MeO-BIPHEP-Ru catalyst to give the syn product  $(2R,4S)$ - $\alpha$ -hydroxyl*γ*-butyrolactone in 98% ee and in 84% yield, along

with the anti (2*R*,4*R*)-isomer in 87% ee and in 16% yield (Scheme 29).<sup>242</sup>

**Scheme 29**



**3.2.1.7. Keto Phosphonates.** A series of *â*-keto phosphonates have been hydrogenated with the Ru-BINAP system to give various chiral *â*-hydroxyl phosphonates (Scheme 30).243 A Ru-MeO-BIPHEP

**Scheme 30**



catalyst is also effective for this transformation.<sup>244</sup>  $\beta$ -Keto thiophosphonates can also be smoothly transformed into *â*-hydroxyl thiophosphonates in high ee's.244

An efficient dynamic kinetic resolution is observed when an  $\alpha$ -Br or  $\alpha$ -acetylamino  $\beta$ -keto phosphate is subjected for hydrogenation with a Ru-BINAP catalyst under suitable conditions. With RuCl<sub>2</sub>[(S)-BI- $NAP | (DMF)_{n}$  (0.18 mM) as the catalyst, a racemic  $\alpha$ -bromo- $\beta$ -keto phosphonate is hydrogenated at 25 °C under 4 atm H2 pressure to give the syn product  $(1R,2S)$ -α-Br- $β$ -hydroxy phosphonate in 98% ee (Scheme 31). The syn product after acid-catalyzed hydrolysis followed by base treatment provides fosfomycin, an antibiotic reagent.<sup>243</sup> Hydrogenation of an  $\alpha$ -acetylamino-*â*-keto phosphonate under similar conditions provides a syn (1*R*,2*R*) product in 98% ee and an anti  $(1S, 2R)$  product in  $> 90\%$  ee with a ratio of 97:3.<sup>245</sup>

## *3.2.2. Hydrogenation of Unfunctionalized Ketones*

Asymmetric hydrogenation of unfunctionalized ketones is a more challenging task than hydrogenation of functionalized ketones.<sup>246,3j</sup> Due to lack of secondary coordination to the metal, most chiral Rh or Ru catalysts which are quite effective for functionalized ketones usually cannot provide high enantioselectivity and reactivity for hydrogenation of unfunctionalized ketones. Nevertheless, asymmetric hydrogenation of unfunctionalized ketones has developed rapidly in the past few years due to the discovery of several efficient catalytic systems. Two notable catalytic systems are the *trans*-[RuCl<sub>2</sub>(diphosphane)(1,2diamine)] catalyst developed by Noyori<sup>32</sup> and the Rh-

**Scheme 31**



PennPhos system reported by Zhang.79 PennPhos is an electron-donating diphosphane with a bulky, rigid, and well-defined chiral backbone. Its Rh complex (combined with additives: 2,6-lutidine and KBr) has allowed efficient hydrogenation of simple aromatic and aliphatic ketones. The *trans*-[RuCl<sub>2</sub>(bisphosphine)-(1,2-diamine)] catalyst is an efficient catalyst for hydrogenation of a variety of simple aryl ketones. With this catalyst, heteroaryl ketones can also be hydrogenated efficiently with high substrate-tocatalyst ratio. The high specificity of the catalyst for hydrogenation of ketones has allowed unsaturated ketones to be reduced into chiral alcohols, leaving olefin functionalities intact. Functionalized olefins such as alkoxy and amino ketones can also be hydrogenated in great enantioselectivity, which has been discussed before.<sup>233,3j</sup>

**3.2.2.1 Aromatic Ketones.** Enantioselective hydrogenation of simple aromatic ketones has been studied with some chiral Rh, Ir, and Ru catalysts (Table 19). The DIOP-Rh<sup>247</sup> and the DBPP-Rh<sup>248</sup> complexes with a tertiary amine have been used in catalyzing hydrogenation of acetophenone. and moderate ee's (80% and 87% respectively) have been achieved. A Me-PennPhos-Rh complex has been applied for hydrogenation of a set of aromatic ketones, and enantioselctivities as high as 96% have been achieved.79 The additives 2,6-lutidine and KBr are very important for achieving the high selectivity although the mechanism has not been fully understood. A BINAP-Ir(I)-aminophosphine system has been found to be effective for hydrogenation of some cyclic aromatic ketones.<sup>249</sup> A series of substituted 1-tetralones, 1-indanones, or heteroatom contained cyclic ketones have been reduced and up to 96% ee has been achieved. The *trans*-[RuCl<sub>2</sub>(bisphosphine)-(1,2-diamine)] catalyst, combined with *<sup>t</sup>* BuOK as the base and 2-propanol as the solvent, is a very effective catalytic system for hydrogenation of a diverse range of simple aromatic ketones.<sup>250,251</sup> Chiral BINAP, TolBINAP, or XylBINAP with a chiral diamine such as dpen or daipen is a good combination for the system. With *trans*-[RuCl2(*S*)-Xyl-BINAP][(*S*)-daipen] as the metal complex, *<sup>t</sup>* BuOK as the base, and *<sup>i</sup>* PrOH as the solvent, various substituted acetophenones and acetylnaphthalenes are reduced quantitatively with high enantioselectivity and turnover numbers. Chiral BICP,<sup>83f</sup> Xylyl-PHANEPHOS,<sup>122c</sup> and Xyl-P-Phos<sup>252</sup> combined with chiral diamine ligands are also effective for this system. A variety of ortho-substituted benzophenone derivatives can also be hydrogenated in excellent enantioselectivity by using the *trans*-[RuCl<sub>2</sub>(*S*)-Xyl-BINAP][(*S*)-daipen] complex as the catalyst.<sup>236</sup> Noyori has also reported the synthesis of *trans*- $\text{RuH}(\eta^1-B\text{H}_4)(\text{BINAP})(1,\hat{2}\text{-diamine})$  by reducing *trans*- $[RuCl_2(R)$ -TolBINAP][ $(R,R)$ -dpen] with NaBH<sub>4</sub>.<sup>253</sup> This complex can directly catalyze the



## **Table 19.**



hydrogenation of ketones under base-free conditions. Hydrogenation of a series of heteroaromatic ketones catalyzed by *trans*-[RuCl<sub>2</sub>(*R*)-Xyl-BINAP][(*R*)-daipen] provides excellent yields and enantioselectivities.<sup>254</sup> A ternary system consisting of  $RuCl<sub>2</sub>[(R,R)-BICP]$ -(tmeda), (*R*,*R*)-dpen, and KOH hydrogenated an array of 2-acetylthiophene derivatives in up to 93%  $ee's$ .<sup>81f</sup>

**3.2.2.2. Aliphatic Ketones.** Asymmetric hydrogenation of simple aliphatic ketones remains a difficult area since it requires a chiral catalyst to effectively differentiate between two alkyl groups or between methyl and other alkyl groups. The Penn-Phos-Rh system, combined with 2,6-lutidine and KBr, has given some promising results in asymmetric hydrogenation of aliphatic ketones (Table 20).<sup>79</sup> With this catalytic system, hydrogenation of *tert*-butyl methyl ketone provides the chiral alcohol in 94% ee. Isopropyl methyl ketone and *n*-butyl methyl ketone are also reduced into chiral alcohols in 85% ee and 75% ee, respectively. The cyclohexyl methyl ketone is hydrogenated by the PennPhos-Rh system with a 92% ee. A cyclopropyl methyl ketone can be effectively hydrogenated by the *trans*-RuCl<sub>2</sub>[(S)-Xyl-BINAP][(*S*)-daipen] complex with *<sup>t</sup>* BuOK as the base to give the  $R$  alcohol in  $95\%$  ee.<sup>251</sup> The Ru catalyst

also provides a good ee (85%) for hydrogenation of cyclohexyl methyl ketone.

A racemic 2-isopropylcyclohexanone has been hydrogenated with a ternary chiral Ru catalyst consisting of  $RuCl<sub>2</sub>[(S)-BINAP](DMF)<sub>n</sub>, (R,R)-dpen, and$ KOH. An efficient dynamic kinetic resolution is observed with excellent enantioselectivity and cistrans ratio (Scheme 32).256 The cis (1*R*, 2*R*) alcohol is obtained in 93% ee. With the same catalytic system, another good dynamic kinetic resolution is observed in hydrogenation of  $(-)$ -menthone.<sup>256</sup> When a base-free catalyst, *trans*-RuH(*η*1-BH4) [(*S*)-XylBI-NAP][(*R*,*R*)-dpen], is used for hydrogenation of racemic 1-isopropylcyclohexanone, a good kinetic resolution is observed.<sup>253</sup> After 53% conversion, the unreacted (*S*)-ketone is recovered in 91% ee along with the (1*R*,2*R*) alcohol product in 85% ee.

**5.2.2.3. Unsaturated Ketones.** For a long time, hydrogenation of unsaturated ketones has been considered as a difficult area since most present hydrogenation catalysts prefer to hydrogenate the  $C=C$  double bond rather than the  $C=O$  bond. The Ir-DIOP<sup>257</sup> and  $[Ir(BINAP)(COD)]BF<sub>4</sub>-aminophos$ phine systems<sup>258</sup> have shown excellent chemoselectivity for hydrogenation of  $C=O$  bonds over  $C=C$ bonds, but only moderate ee's have been obtained in

### **Table 20.**



**Scheme 32**

**Scheme 33**



hydrogenation of 4-phenyl-3-buten-2-one or cyclic enones. The situation has changed dramatically after Noyori developed the *trans*-RuCl<sub>2</sub>(BINAP)(1,2-diamine) catalyst for hydrogenation of ketones. The *trans*-RuCl2[(*S*)-XylBINAP][(*S*)-daipen] complex with  $K_2CO_3$  as a base can efficiently hydrogenate a diverse array of  $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated ketones with excellent chemoselectivity and enantioselectivity (Scheme 33).251 The highly base-sensitive substrate 3-nonen-2-one can also be hydrogenated to give the (*R*)-allylic alcohol product in 99% ee and in 95% yield by using a base-free catalyst *trans*-RuH(*η*1-BH4)[(*S*)-XylBI- $NAP$ <sup>[</sup>[(*S*,*S*)-dpen] (Scheme 34).<sup>253</sup> *Trans*-RuCl<sub>2</sub> [(*S*)-

XylylPHANEPHOS][(*R*,*R*)-dpen] with *<sup>t</sup>* BuOK is also effective for the transformation.<sup>122c</sup> Certain cyclic enones can also be hydrogenated with high enantioselectivity.259 For example, hydrogenation of 2,4,4 trimethyl-2-cyclohexenone using *trans*-RuCl<sub>2</sub>[(S)-TolBINAP][(*R*,*R*)-dpen] and *<sup>t</sup>* BuOK as the catalytic system gives (*R*)-2,4,4-trimethyl-2-cyclohexenol in 94% ee and 100% yield. Interestingly, unlike the case of hydrogenation of aryl ketones and acyclic  $\alpha$ , $\beta$ unsaturated ketones where Ru-(*R*)-BINAP-(*R*)-diamine or Ru-(*S*)-BINAP-(*S*)-diamine provides best enantioselectivity, hydrogenation of this cyclic hexenone requires ligand combination of (*R*)-BINAP-(*S*)-

### **Scheme 34**



diamine or (*S*)-BINAP-(*R*)-diamine. The presence of the methyl group at the C-2 position is crucial for achieving high enantioselectivity since only moderate ee's are obtained for hydrogenation of 2-cyclohexen-1-one and 4,4-dimethyl-2-cyclohexen-1-one. By using the combination of  $RuCl<sub>2</sub>[(S)$ -BINAP $|(DMF)<sub>n</sub>$ ,  $(R,R)$ -DPEN, and KOH as the catalytic system, (*R*)-carvone is hydrogenated into a cis product, (*R*,*R*)-carveol, in 100% yield with perfect diastereoselectivity, while the two  $C=C$  double bonds in the structure are intact. Under the same reaction conditions, the racemic carvone is also resolved kinetically with a  $K_R/K_S$  ratio of 33:1. Asymmetric hydrogenation of  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -acetylenic ketones to chiral propargylic alcohols is still unavailable.

## **3.3. Asymmetric Hydrogenation of Imines**

Although excellent results have been achieved in the enantioselective hydrogenation of prochiral alkenes and ketones, relatively limited progress has been made in the asymmetric hydrogenation of prochiral imines.260 A number of efficient asymmetric catalysts for reduction of alkenes and ketones are unfortunately ineffective for the hydrogenation of related imine compounds. Currently, only a few efficient chiral catalytic systems are available for hydrogenation of imines. The recent development of chiral Ir complexes with chiral phosphanes,<sup>3m</sup> trans- $[RuCl<sub>2</sub>(bisphosphine)(1,2-diamine)]$  complexes,  $^{261,262}$ chiral titanocene,<sup>18</sup> and zirconocene catalysts<sup>263</sup> provides great promise in this area. Some success has also been achieved in asymmetric hydrogenation of functionalized C=N double bonds, such as *N*-acyl hydrozones, sulfonimides, and *N*-diphenylphosphinyl ketimines.

### *3.3.1. Acyclic N-Alkylimines*

Although several chiral Rh, Ir, Ti, and Zr catalysts have been applied for asymmetric hydrogenation of acyclic *N*-alkylimines, only limited success has been achieved for this transformation. Except a chiral titanocene catalyst which has shown moderate to

good enantioselectivities for a variety of acyclic *N*-alkylimines,18 most chiral Rh and Ir catalysts provide limited substrate scope such as acetophenone *N*-benzylimine and its derivatives; the employed substrates are generally mixtures of *E* and *Z* isomers. Some successful examples have been listed in Table 21. With a halide additive KI, a neutral CycPhos-Rh complex has shown moderate to good enantioselectivities (up to 91% ee) in hydrogenation of acetophenone *N*-benzylimine and its derivatives.<sup>264</sup> BDPP is also an effective ligand for this transformation: up to 83% ee is observed when acetophenone *N*-benzylimine is reduced by a neutral (*S*,*S*)-BDDP-Rh complex at 0°C, although a low conversion is observed.<sup>248b</sup> A catalytic system consisting of a cationic (*S*,*S*)-BDPP complex, reversed micelles aggregated of sodium bis(2-ethylhexyl)sulfosuccinate (AOT), and 15-crown-5 provides a better ee (89% ee).<sup>265</sup> The best enantioselectivity (94% ee) for hydrogenation of acetophenone *N*-benzylimine is obtained with a neutral mono-sulfonated (*S*,*S*)-BDPP-Rh complex in a mixed solvent (EtOAc/H2O).266 The *para*-chloro and *para*methoxy substituted derivatives also provide over 90% ee's. Interestingly, di-, tri-, and tetra-sulfonated (*S*,*S*)-BDPP ligands are much less enantioselective for this transformation.267 Some chiral Ir systems such as  $[\text{Ir(COD)Cl}]/(S)$ -TolBINAP/BnNH<sub>2</sub><sup>268</sup> and Ir-Phox269 complexes also provide moderate ee's for the asymmetric hydrogenation of acetophenone *N*benzylimine.

## *3.3.2. Acyclic Aromatic Imines*

Much advance has been achieved in hydrogenation of acyclic aromatic imines. A notable example is the successful manufacture of (*S*)-metolachlor via asymmetric hydrogenation of an *N*-aryl ketimine (Scheme 35).92 The hydrogenation is efficiently conducted with  $[Ir(COD)Cl]_2$  and  $(R)-(S)-X$ yliphos as the catalytic system in the presence of some acid and iodide. Under a hydrogen pressure of 80 atm at 50 °C with a substrate-to-catalyst ratio of  $\geq 1$  million, the hydrogenation is complete within 4 h with 79% ee **Table 21.**





**Scheme 35**



and an initial tof of 1.8 million  $h^{-1}$ . The enantiomeric purity of amine product, although only moderate, is enough for application as an herbicide. Some other chiral Ir complexes combined with (*S*,*S*)-BDPP or (*S*,*S*)-DIOP have shown up to 90% ee on hydrogenation of 1-methoxypropanone-(2,6-dimethyl) anilineimine.270,272b

High enantioselectivities have been recently obtained in hydrogenation of acetophenone *N*-aryl imine derivatives. Up to 89% ee was achieved in hydrogenation of acetophenone aniline imine with a cationic PHOX-Ir complex as the catalyst.<sup>269a</sup> The low concentrations of substrate and catalyst are important for achieving the high enantioselectivity; a substrate-to-catalyst ratio as high as 1000 can be employed. Supercritical carbon dioxide can also be used as the solvent instead of  $CH_2Cl_2$ , although a slightly lower selectivity is observed.269b A *trans*-  $[RuCl<sub>2</sub>(bisphosphine)(1,2-diamine)]$  complex with EtDuPhos and dach as the ligand combination is also very effective.261 Up to 94% ee has been obtained in hydrogenation of acetophenone aniline imine under basic conditions.261a A neutral Ir-f-binaphane complex105 provided excellent enantioselectivity in hydrogenation of a series of acetophenone N-aryl imine derivatives at  $-5$  °C under 1000 psi  $H_2$  pressure with  $I_2$  as the additive (Table 22). The acetophenone aniline imine is hydrogenated to the corresponding amine in 95% ee; over 99% ee is achieved on hydrogenation of acetonephenone 2,6-dimethyl aniline imine, although a lower conversion is observed. When acetophenone (2′-Me-6′-MeO-)aniline imine is subject to hydrogenation, the corresponding chiral amine product after treatment with cerium ammonium nitrate provides chiral phenyl ethylamine in 98% ee (Scheme 36). The additive  $I_2$  is beneficial to the enantioselectivity for hydrogenation of *N*-phenyl or *N*-4′-methoxy phenyl imines but detrimental for

**Scheme 36**



**Table 22.**



*N*-2′,6′-dimethylphenyl imines. A BINAP-Pd complex has been successfully applied in hydrogenation of a series of fluorinated  $\alpha$ -iminoesters and enantioselectivities up to 91% ee have been obtained.271 The hydrogenation solvent 2,2,2-trifluoroethanol is important for achieving high reactivities and enantioselectivities (Scheme 37).

#### **Scheme 37**



#### *3.3.3. Cyclic Imines*

The most efficient catalytic system to date for hydrogenation of cyclic imines is a chiral titanocene catalyst developed by Buchwald.<sup>18</sup> This non-phosphorus-containing catalyst has shown excellent enantioselectivity for a diverse array of cyclic imines, albeit with relatively high catalyst loading. Several Ir complexes associated with chiral phosphorus ligands such as DIOP, MOD-DIOP, BCPM, BINAP, BICP, and BDPP have shown good to excellent ee's for hydrogenation of several cyclic imines, but they generally have very limited substrate scope. In many

#### **Table 23.**

cases, the presence of some additives plays an important role in achieving high enantioselectivity.

Hydrogenation of 2,3,3-trimethylindolenine has been studied as a typical reaction (Table 23). An (*S*,*S*)-BDPP Ir(III) hydride complex showed high reactivity for this reaction and the amine product was obtained in 80% ee. $272$  In the presence of an additive BiI3, a neutral (2*S*,4*S*)-BCPM-Ir complex provided the hydrogenation product in 91% ee at  $-30$  °C;<sup>274</sup> without the additive, a much lower ee was obtained. At 0 °C, a neutral BICP-Ir complex with phthalimide as the additive provided 95% ee for this reaction.273 A *trans*- $[RuCl_2((S)$ -MeO-BIPHEP $)((S, S)$ -ANDEN $)]$ complex is also effective. Up to 88% ee has been obtained albeit with a low conversion.<sup>261</sup>

Asymmetric hydrogenation of 3,4-hydroisoquinolines with Ir-chiral phosphorus ligand complexes has also been studied. Although the highest enantioselectivity to date was obtained with a chiral titanocene catalyst,18 chiral BCPM-Ir or BINAP-Ir complexes with additive phthalimide or  $F_4$ -phthalimide have shown some good selectivities. Some examples are listed in Table 24.

A (*S*)-TolBINAP-Ir complex with a protic amine such as benzylamine as the additive has been applied for hydrogenation of 2-phenyl-3,4,5,6-tetrahydropyridine and up to 90% ee is obtained.268 An orthometalated Ir dihydride complex has been used in hydrogenation of 2-methylquinoxaline, and up to 90% ee has been obtained for the 2-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoxaline product (Scheme 38).279

#### *3.3.4. C*=N-X Substrates

When a heteroatom is directly connected with the nitrogen atom of a C=N double bond, the C=N double bond is generally activated and the hydrogenation may occur at mild conditions. Additionally, the functionality on the heteroatom may create a second coordination with the catalyst. Indeed, some successful results have been achieved on hydrogenation of *N*-acylhydrazone, sulfonimide, and *N*-diphenylphosphinylketimines. An Et-DuPhos-Rh complex is efficient for hydrogenation of a variety of *N*-acylhydrazone compounds.280 As shown in Table 25, a series of *N*-aroylhydrazones are hydrogenated to form chiral *N*-benzoylhydrazine products in up to 97% ee; the hydrogen pressure as low as 4 atm can be applied. The  $N$ -benzoylhydrazines derived from  $\alpha$ -keto esters are also hydrogenated with excellent enantioselectivity. The  $\alpha$ -hydrazino acid products can be easily





**Table 24.**





**Scheme 38**



converted into chiral  $\alpha$ -amino acids. Other *N*-benzoylhydrazine products can be converted into chiral amines by treatment with samarium diiodide.

Some success has been achieved in asymmetric hydrogenation of *N*-tosylimines with a Ru-BINAP complex as the catalyst. Moderate to good enantioselectivities have been obtained for several *N*-tosylimines derived from aryl ketones, albeit with low conversions.<sup>281</sup> A BINAP-Ru dimer  $[NH<sub>2</sub>Et<sub>2</sub>]\{RuCl-$ 





 $(R)$ -BINAP]<sub>2</sub>( $\mu$ -Cl)<sub>3</sub>} is very efficient for hydrogenation of a cyclic sulfonamide (Scheme 39).<sup>282</sup> Under 4 atm of hydrogen pressure, the hydrogenation proceeds completely to give the chiral sultam product in over 98% ee.

Asymmetric hydrogenation of *N*-diphenylphosphinylketimines has been achieved with an  $(R)$ - $(S)$ - $Cy$ <sub>2</sub>-PF-PCy<sub>2</sub>-Rh complex as the catalyst (Table 26).<sup>283</sup> *N*-Diphenylphosphinyl acetophenone imine is hydrogenated at 60 °C under 70 atm of  $H_2$ , yielding chiral product in 99% ee. The reaction temperature is crucial for achieving the high enantioselectivity. The high basicity of the ligand is also responsible for both the reactivity and the enantioselectivity of the transformation. While *para*-Me- and *para*-CF<sub>3</sub>-substituted acetophenone derivatives provide 97% ee and 93% ee respectively, the enantioselectivities for *para*-MeOand *para*-Cl-substituted derivatives are much lower. This dramatic difference has not been explained. The hydrogenation products can be readily transformed into chiral amines via acidic hydrolysis.

## *4. Concluding Remarks*

It is undoubted that the development of chiral phosphorus ligands has made significant impact in asymmetric hydrogenation. Transition metal catalysts with efficient chiral phosphorus ligands have enabled the synthesis of a variety of chiral products from prochiral olefins, ketones, and imines very efficiently, and many practical hydrogenation processes have been exploited in industry for the synthesis of chiral drugs and fine chemicals.

However, many challenges remain in the field of asymmetric hydrogenation. The current hydrogenation methods still cannot reduce numerous prochiral olefins, ketones, and imines in high ee's and with high turnover numbers. To expand the substrate scope of asymmetric hydrogenation as well as enhance the efficiency of known hydrogenation processes remains an urgent and important objective. More effort in searching for new, efficient chiral phosphorus ligands as well as new applications in asymmetric hydrogenation is necessary and the advance in the field should be of great significance in catalytic asymmetric synthesis.

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CR020049I