

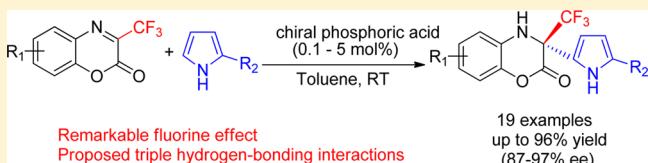
Organocatalytic Asymmetric Synthesis of Dihydrobenzoxazinones Bearing Trifluoromethylated Quaternary Stereocenters

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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: Chiral phosphoric acid-catalyzed enantioselective aza-Friedel–Crafts reaction of trifluoromethyl benzoxazinones with pyrroles is reported. Under mild conditions, a range of enantioenriched dihydrobenzoxazinones bearing trifluoromethylated quaternary stereocenters could be obtained in good to excellent yield and ee. A remarkable fluorine effect is observed, and preliminary mechanistic studies combined with theory calculations suggest that triple-hydrogen-bonding interactions hold the transition structure rigidly and allow the bulky substituents of the catalyst to influence the enantioselectivity.

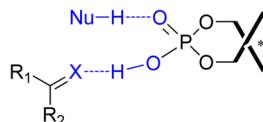


INTRODUCTION

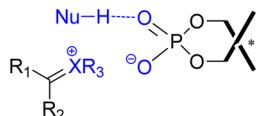
Trifluoromethylated heterocycles have shown a large diversity of superior biological properties, mainly due to the incorporation of the trifluoromethyl group, which can improve chemical and metabolic stability, lipophilicity, and membrane permeability of the molecules.¹ In particular, some biologically active molecules that feature a heterocyclic segment with a C–CF₃ quaternary stereocenter have emerged in agricultural and medicinal chemistry,² such as HIV reverse transcriptase inhibitor (Efavirenz,^{2a} DPC 961, DPC 963, DPC 083^{2b}), NK-1 receptor antagonist (CJ-17493),^{2c} and antimalarial agents (Fluoroartemisinin).^{2d} Thus, asymmetric synthesis of enantioenriched trifluoromethylated heterocycles has been receiving great interest.³ Early synthetic studies either focused on a diastereoselective strategy or used a stoichiometric amount of chiral reagents.⁴ Recently, significant efforts have been devoted to the catalytic enantioselective approaches, including asymmetric transition-metal catalysis⁵ or cooperative catalysis,⁶ as well as organocatalysis.⁷ Despite these impressive advances, further exploration of novel methods and strategies for the catalytic asymmetric construction of CF₃-containing quaternary stereocenters in heterocyclic systems remains highly desirable.

In the meantime, asymmetric phosphoric acid catalysis has proven to be very successful for a large number of important enantioselective transformations,⁸ and some mechanism studies⁹ have revealed that double-hydrogen-bonding interactions (A, Figure 1) and synergistic hydrogen-bonding and ion-pairing interactions (B, Figure 1) play a crucial functional role in activating the substrate and determining the stereo-selectivity in these asymmetric reactions. Further exploration of a novel mode of activation remains highly desirable, though it presents a formidable challenge. We developed a novel class of chiral spirocyclic phosphoric acids (SPAs) that proved to be highly efficient in asymmetric catalysis.¹⁰ Employing such chiral SPAs, we recently reported a triple-hydrogen-bond-directed enantioselective Pictet–Spengler reaction for construction of

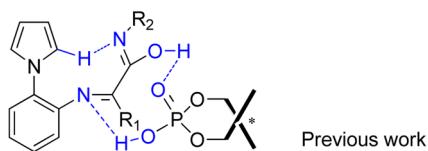
A. Double hydrogen-bonding interactions



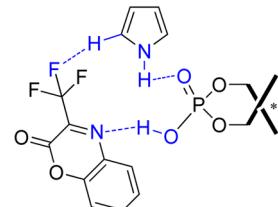
B. Synergistic hydrogen-bonding and ion-pairing interactions



C. Triple hydrogen-bonding interactions



I (amide moiety serving as hydrogen-bond component)



This work

II (CF₃ moiety serving as hydrogen-bond acceptor)

Figure 1. Asymmetric activation mode of phosphoric catalysis.

pyrrolobenzo-1,4-diazine skeletons with an amide-containing quaternary stereocenter, and the amide moiety as an enol tautomer served as an unexpected hydrogen-bond component

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to form a C–H···N hydrogen bond (C–I, Figure 1).¹¹ Here, we report a highly enantioselective aza-Friedel–Crafts reaction¹² catalyzed by chiral SPAs for the synthesis of dihydrobenzoxazinones bearing trifluoromethylated quaternary stereocenters. Interestingly, a remarkable fluorine effect was observed. Preliminary mechanistic studies combined with theory calculations disclose that triple-hydrogen-bonding interactions are crucial in activating substrates and inducing chirality, and the CF₃ moiety serves as an attractive hydrogen-bond acceptor to form an attractive C–H···F hydrogen bond (C–II, Figure 1).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In our initial study, we examined the reaction of trifluoromethyl benzoxazinone **3a** with pyrrole **4a** by chiral phosphoric acid catalysis. In the presence of 5 mol % (*R*)-**1a**, the reaction provided the desired product **5a** in 92% yield with 20% ee (Table 1, entry 1). Further evaluation of various chiral

summarized in Table 2. First, the effect of the substituents on the trifluoromethyl benzoxazinones **3** was investigated by examining their reaction with pyrrole **4a**. A range of trifluoromethyl benzoxazinones (**3a**–**g**) all smoothly participated in the asymmetric reaction to provide the corresponding products in excellent yields and enantioselectivities (**5a**–**g**, 86–96% yield, 87–93% ee; Table 2). Next, the reactions of trifluoromethyl benzoxazinones **3** with 2-phenylpyrrole **4b** were also tested. In all cases, high yields and excellent enantioselectivities were achieved (**5h**–**l**, 87–91% yield, 90–94% ee; Table 2). In addition, 2-arylpyrroles bearing either an electron-donating or an electron-withdrawing substituent on the aryl group were also well tolerated, and the desired products were generated smoothly with satisfactory efficiency and enantioselectivity (**5m**–**s**, 85–96% yield, 91–97% ee; Table 2). It is noteworthy that the absolute configuration (*R*) of the quaternary stereogenic center in **5a** was determined by X-ray crystallographic analysis (Figure 2).

To further demonstrate that this protocol is readily practical, we next carried out scale-up experiments with low catalyst loading. These results are summarized in Scheme 1. When the catalyst loading was decreased to 1 and 0.5 mol %, the reaction of **3a** with pyrrole proceeded smoothly with comparable yield and slightly improved enantioselectivity (91% yield, 94% ee and 85% yield, 93% ee, respectively). However, a further decrease of the catalyst loading to 0.1 mol % led to a drop in yield after extending the reaction time to 72 h but did not compromise the enantioselectivity (70% yield, 91% ee).

To understand the mechanism and the origin of the enantioselectivity, we performed computational studies for the transition-state structure leading to the major product (*R*)-**5a** (see the Supporting Information). The results of the theory calculations and the transition states are represented in Figure 3. In support of the experimental observations, the *re* face attack **R-TS-CF₃** is predicted to be favored over the *si* face attack **S-TS-CF₃** by 5.4 kcal mol⁻¹ after adding the solvent free energy.¹³ In addition, the chiral phosphoric acid catalyst concurrently activates both the nucleophilic group and the electrophilic group through the usual double-hydrogen-bonding interactions, and an unexpected attractive C–H···F hydrogen bond (2.21 Å) is observed in the calculated transition state. In the most favorable transition state **R-TS-CF₃**, a benzoxazinone fragment of substrate **3a** is almost parallel to the aryl plane of the catalyst substituent to avoid steric congestion. This is not the case for the transition state **S-TS-CF₃**, which has a perpendicular orientation that leads to steric repulsion between the pyrrole and one of the triisopropylphenyl groups of the catalyst. This likely causes the large relative energy (5.4 kcal mol⁻¹) between the two transition states. Thus, the triple-hydrogen-bonding interactions hold the transition structure rigidly and allow the bulky substituents of the catalyst to influence the enantioselectivity.

To gain further mechanistic insight into this asymmetric aza-Friedel–Crafts reaction, we attempted to use *N*-benzylpyrrole as a nucleophile to react with trifluoromethyl benzoxazinone **3a** with the standard protocol; however, the desired adduct was not detected, even under reflux with an extended reaction time (24 h). Hence, this result suggests that the pyrrole NH moiety provides a hydrogen-bonding interaction with the phosphoryl oxygen atom of the catalyst. Furthermore, we treated benzoxazinones **3h**–**k** with pyrrole to form the corresponding products **5t**–**w** with only moderate yields and poor to moderate enantioselectivities under standard reaction con-

Table 1. Reaction Optimization^a

entry	catalyst	solvent	yield (%) ^b	ee (%) ^c
1	(<i>R</i>)- 1a	toluene	92	20
2	(<i>R</i>)- 1b	toluene	90	40
3	(<i>R</i>)- 1c	toluene	94	40
4	(<i>R</i>)- 1d	toluene	90	7
5	(<i>R</i>)- 1e	toluene	96	40
6	(<i>R</i>)- 1f	toluene	90	91
7	(<i>R</i>)- 1g	toluene	96	91
8	(<i>S</i>)- 2	toluene	97	87
9	(<i>R</i>)- 1g	<i>m</i> -xylene	93	91
10	(<i>R</i>)- 1g	CH ₂ Cl ₂	96	90
11	(<i>R</i>)- 1g	MeCN	85	87
12	(<i>R</i>)- 1g	^t BuOMe	86	83

(R)-1:
1a: Ar = Ph
1b: Ar = 4-FC₆H₄
1c: Ar = 4-NO₂C₆H₄
1d: Ar = 3,5-(CH₃)₂C₆H₃
1e: Ar = 3,5-(CF₃)₂C₆H₃
1f: Ar = 3,5-(Bu)₂C₆H₃
1g: Ar = 2,4,6-(i-Pr)₃C₆H₂

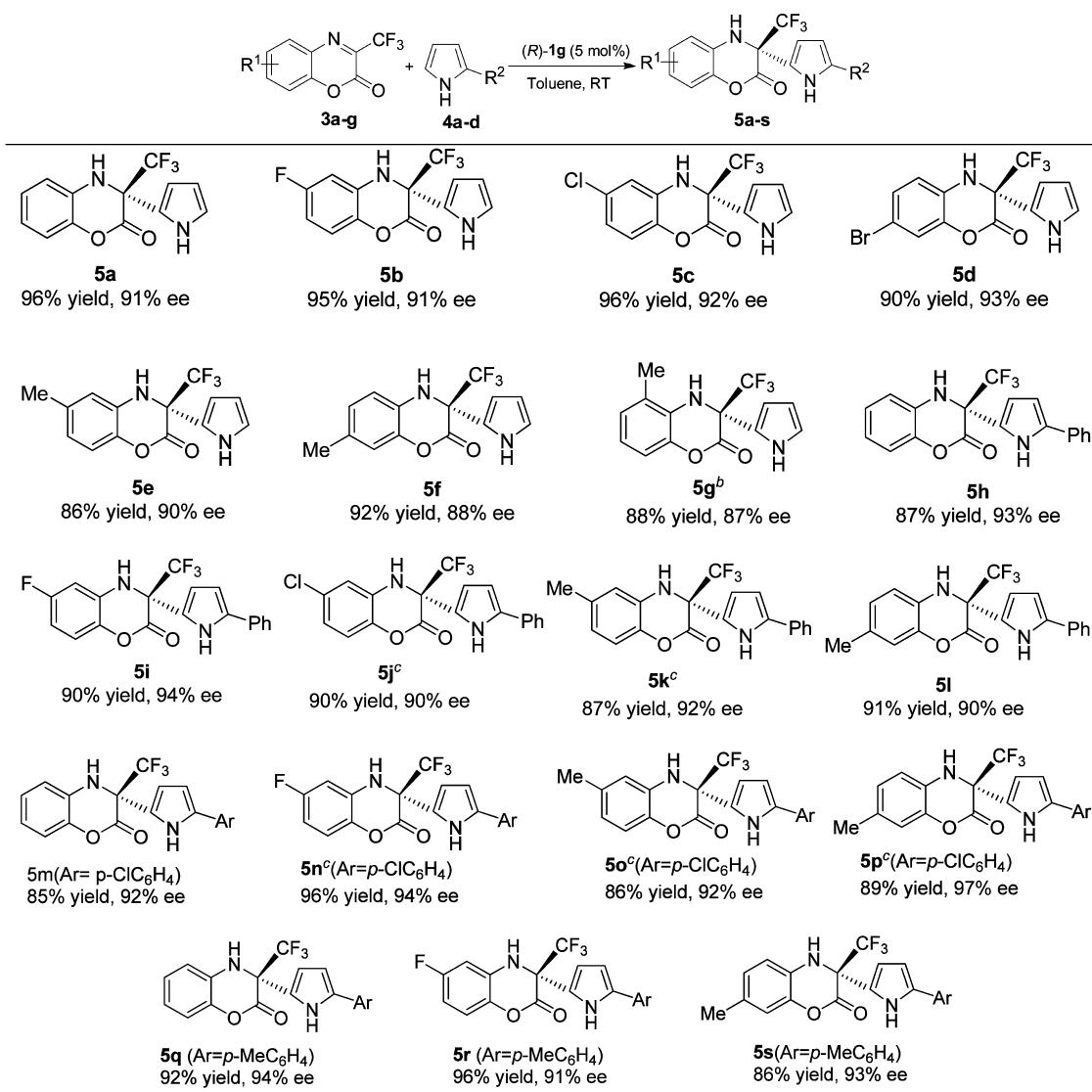
(S)-2:
Ar = 2,4,6-(i-Pr)₃C₆H₂

^aReactions were performed with **3a** (0.1 mmol), **4a** (0.12 mmol), and catalyst (5 mol %) in 1 mL of solvent at rt for 18 h. ^bIsolated yields.

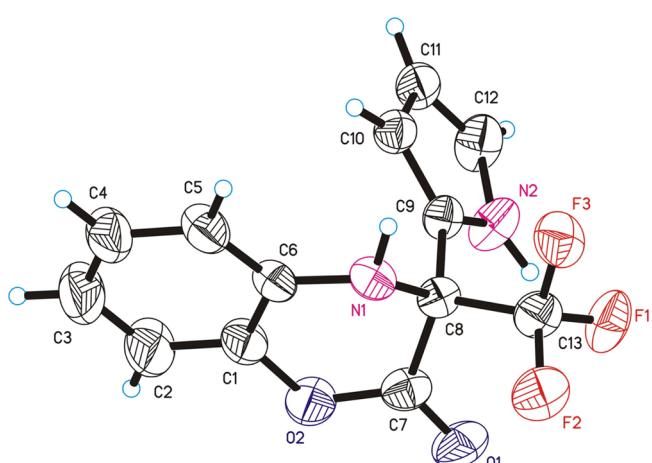
^cDetermined by chiral HPLC analysis.

phosphoric acid catalysts with different substituents and backbones indicated that all of the reactions proceeded smoothly to afford the desired trifluoromethylated dihydrobenzoxazinone **5a** in generally excellent yield with variable enantiocontrol (Table 1, entries 1–8). Among the catalysts screened, (*R*)-SPINOL-derived **1g** provided the best results in terms of yield and enantioselectivity (96% yield, 91% ee, Table 1, entry 7). Other reaction solvents such as *m*-xylene, CH₂Cl₂, MeCN, and ^tBuOMe were also effective but with either reduced yield or diminished enantioselectivity (Table 1, entries 9–12).

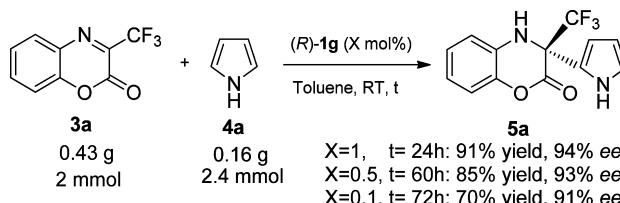
With the optimized reaction conditions in hand (Table 1, entry 7), we next explored the reaction scope. The results are

Table 2. Substrate Scope^a

^aReactions were performed with 3 (0.1 mmol), 4 (0.12 mmol), and (R)-1g (5 mol %) in 1 mL of toluene at rt for 18 h. Yields are of isolated product. Enantioselectivity was determined by chiral HPLC. ^bUnder reflux. ^cWith (S)-2 (5 mol %) as the catalyst.



Scheme 1. Scalable Preparation with Low Catalyst Loading



ditions (Scheme 2). These results clearly indicate a remarkable fluorine effect¹⁴ of the CF₃-bearing substrate on the activation and stereoinduction, and this is consistent with the theory calculations.

We also computationally investigated the low yield and enantioselectivity of the reaction of methyl benzoxazinone 3i with pyrrole under standard reaction conditions (see the Supporting Information). The optimized transition states (S-TS-CH₃ and R-TS-CH₃) and their relative stabilities are represented in Figure 4. Interestingly, the *si* face attack S-TS-

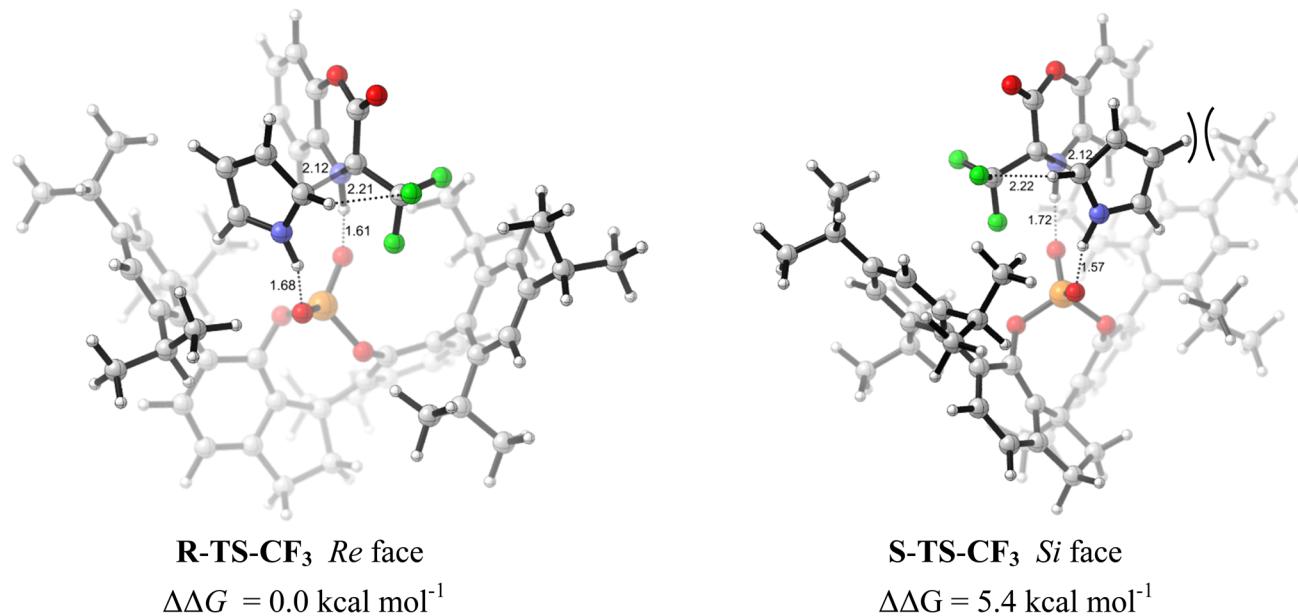
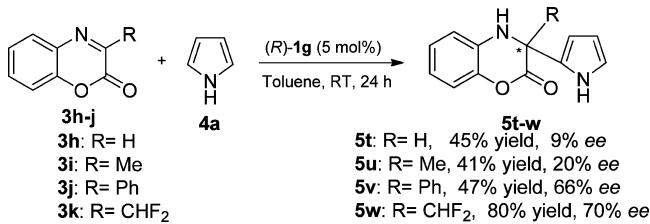


Figure 3. Optimized transition states of (*R*)-1g-catalyzed reaction between 3a and pyrrole. Relative energies are in kcal mol^{-1} , and distances are in \AA .

Scheme 2. Experiments for Mechanistic Studies



CH_3 is predicted to be more favored than the *re* face attack R-TS- CH_3 by 0.4 kcal mol^{-1} after adding the solvent free energy. Only usual double-hydrogen-bonding interactions are identified to activate the substrate, which may lead to a low reaction rate

and yield and the generation of the opposite enantiomer via *si* face attack. The calculated enantioselectivity of 3i ($\Delta\Delta G = 0.4 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$) is much lower when compared to that of trifluoromethyl benzoxazinone 3a ($\Delta\Delta G = 5.4 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$), and the calculations are in agreement with the experiments (20% ee vs 91% ee). This is likely caused by the different relative steric clash between the bulky substituent groups of the catalyst and substrate during different hydrogen-bonding interactions.

CONCLUSION

In summary, a highly enantioselective chiral phosphoric acid-catalyzed aza-Friedel–Crafts reaction of trifluoromethyl benzoxazinones with pyrroles has been developed.¹⁵ This

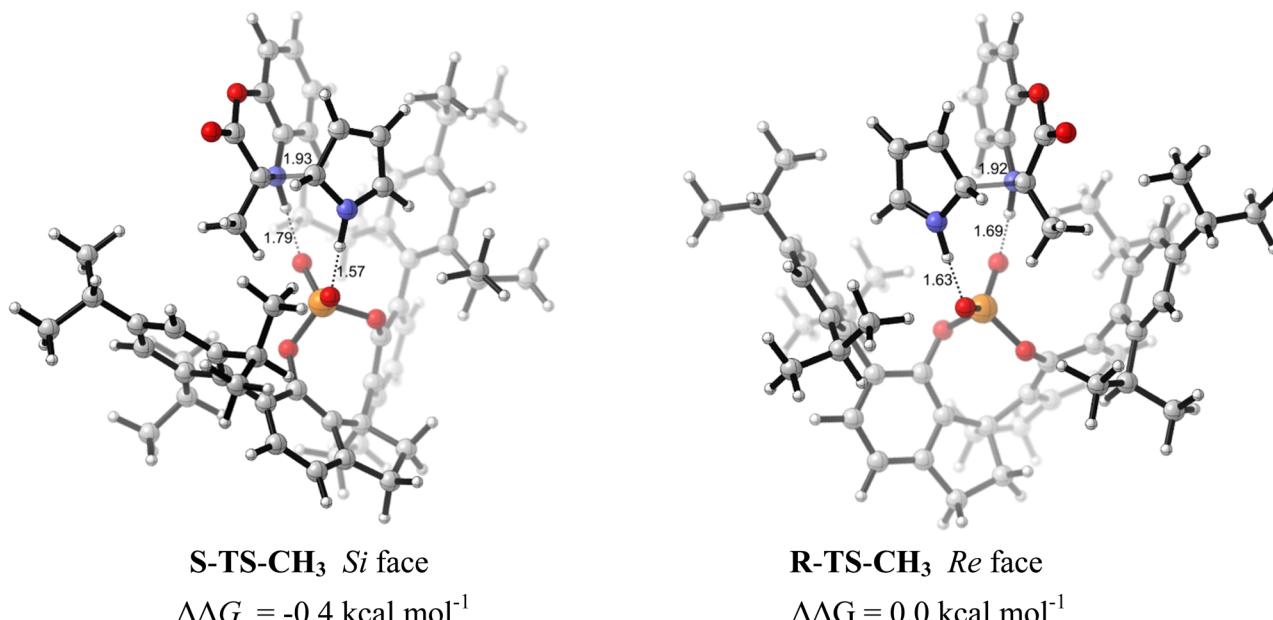


Figure 4. Optimized transition states of the (*R*)-1g-catalyzed reaction between 3i and pyrrole. Relative energies are in kcal mol^{-1} , and distances are in \AA .

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