

is rare,¹⁴ although there are many examples of formation of dinitrogen and ammonia complexes from hydrazine, including $[Ru(NH_3)_5(N_2)]^{2+}$, the first dinitrogen complex.¹⁵ The first four steps that are most plausible on the basis of the observed chemistry are shown in eq 4 (M = MCp*Me₃). (In brackets are compounds that have not been observed and are believed to be unstable.) Steps that complete the cycle shown in eq 5 are based on the demon-

$$M(N_{2}H_{4})^{+} \stackrel{c}{\longrightarrow} [M(N_{2}H_{4})] \stackrel{-NH_{3}}{\longrightarrow} M = NH \stackrel{H^{+}}{\longrightarrow} [M(NH_{2})^{+}] \stackrel{c}{\longrightarrow} M(NH_{2})$$
(4)

$$M(NH_2) \xrightarrow[-NH_3]{N_2H_4} [M(NHNH_2)] \xrightarrow{H^*} M(N_2H_4)^*$$
 (5)

strated reaction between WCp*Me₃(NH₂) and hydrazine to give WCp*Me₃(NNH₂) and WCp*Me₃(NH) as well as ammonia via disproportionation of WCp*Me₃(NHNH₂) in the absence of protons.¹⁶ (The nature of the disproportionation in the absence of protons is still under investigation.) Support for the last step in eq 5 is protonation of WCp*Me₄(NHNH₂) to give [WCp*Me₄(NH₂NH₂)]^{+,7} Note that the N-N bond in WCp*Me₃(NHNH₂) (d¹) in the absence of protons most likely is cleaved in a *disproportionation* reaction, while in WCp*Me₃(NH₂NH₂) (d²) it most likely is cleaved *intramolecularly*. Note also that WCp*Me₄(NHNH₂), [WCp*Me₃(NHNH₂)]⁺, and [WCp*Me₄(NH₂NH₂)]⁺, all formally d⁰ complexes, are relatively stable toward N-N cleavage.

We believe that these findings are relevant to the reduction of dinitrogen. So far we known that $WCp^*Me_3(NNH_2)$, a likely intermediate in a dinitrogen reduction system based on complexes having the MCp^*Me_3 core,¹⁷ can be reduced to give ammonia (Table I) and is a catalyst for reducing hydrazine (Table II). However, reduction of $MCp^*Me_3(OTf)$ complexes under dinitrogen gives little ammonia (Table I). Side reactions (most likely protonations) probably destroy the metal site before dinitrogen can bind and $WCp^*Me_3(NNH_2)$ can form.

We believe that the chemistry of dinitrogen and N_2H_x and NH_y ligands bound to a single Mo or W in a high oxidation state is extensive and will offer further insight into the mechanism of dinitrogen reduction, especially if the metal site can be stabilized toward protons. Efforts in this direction are under way.

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Supplementary Material Available: Synthetic procedures, NMR and EPR data, and elemental analyses for 1a, 1b, and WCp*Me₃(NH), reduction procedures (stoichiometric and catalytic), and conductivity measurements (4 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

(18) Note added in proof: The proposed structure of 16 (eq 1) has now been proven in an X-ray study.

Bis(oxazolines) as Chiral Ligands in Metal-Catalyzed Asymmetric Reactions. Catalytic, Asymmetric Cyclopropanation of Olefins

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The design of catalytic, asymmetric reactions that proceed with high enantioselectivity is an important goal in chemical synthesis.¹ As a consequence of our continuing interest in asymmetric synthesis, we have been evaluating the potential utility of chiral 4,4'-disubstituted bis(oxazolines) such as 1-3 as bidentate ligands for several transition-metal-catalyzed reactions. In order to examine the stereodifferentiating ability of these ligands, and because of the importance of cyclopropanes of defined absolute stereochemistry,² we have studied the catalyzed asymmetric cyclopropanation of olefins.³



Recently, chiral oxazoline ligands have been employed in metal-catalyzed asymmetric reactions.⁴ Such ligands are attractive as a consequence of their topography and ease of synthesis from readily available chiral amino alcohols. We have constructed a number of such ligands, including the illustrated examples, 1-3. One of these, the neutral ligand 3, resembles the charged semicorrin ligand recently reported by Pfaltz, who has demonstrated that derived copper(I) complexes deliver high levels of enantioselection in the cyclopropanation of monosubstituted olefins by menthyl diazoacetate esters.⁵ The purpose of this communication is to report a Cu(I) complex derived from ligand **3b** and copper(I) triflate which is an attractive catalyst for the cyclopropanation of mono- and 1,1-disubstituted olefins with achiral diazo esters at ambient temperatures. Asymmetric induction in excess of 99% and 1000-fold catalyst turnover are appealing attributes of these processes.

Initially, a search was made for a copper complex to catalyze the cyclopropanation of styrene with ethyl diazoacetate (eq 1). Complexes of chiral bis(oxazolines)^{6,7} 1–3 with copper(I) triflate⁸ were found to be highly effective catalysts for the reaction, which proceeds rapidly at 25 °C. The products were isolated as trans/cis mixtures of the cyclopropyl esters 5 and 6 whose absolute stereochemistry is as shown.⁹ Copper(II) triflate complexes do not

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(6) For a review of C_2 -symmetric ligands, see: Whitesell, J. K. Chem. Rev. 1989, 89, 1581-1590.

(7) The syntheses of ligands 1-3 are contained in the supplementary material.

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^{(14) (}a) Hozumi, Y.; Imasaka, Y.; Tanaka, K.; Tanaka, T. Chem. Lett.
1983, 897. (b) Schrauzer, G. N.; Robinson, P. R.; Moorehead, E. L.; Vickrey, T. M. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1976, 98, 2815.
(15) Allen, A. D.; Senoff, C. V. J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun. 1965, 621.

⁽¹⁵⁾ Allen, A. D.; Senoff, C. V. J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun. 1965, 621. (16) (a) Similar results are observed in the reaction between WCp*Me₃-(OTf) and LiN₂H₃, the reduction of WCp*Me₃(NHNH₂)⁺ with Na/Hg, and the deprotonation of WCp*Me₃(NH₂NH₂)⁺. The role of disproportionation reactions in Chatt-type compounds and derivatives has been addressed recently.^{16b} (b) Kaul, B. B.; Hayes, R. K.; George, T. A. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1990, 112, 2002.

⁽¹⁷⁾ WCp*Me₃(OTf) is reduced under dinitrogen (no added H⁺) to give Cp*Me₃W=NN=WCp*Me₃ in >90% yield.⁵ The key proposed reaction is electrophilic attack on intermediate WCp*Me₃(η -N₂) by WCp*Me₃(OTf).

⁽³⁾ Pfaltz, A. In Modern Synthetic Methods; Scheffold, R., Ed.; Springer: Berlin, 1989; Vol. 5, pp 199-248.

⁽⁴⁾ For previous uses of oxazoline-derived ligands, see: (a) Brunner, H.;
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U.; Wimmer, P. Organometallics 1989, 8, 821-826. (c) Nishiyama, H.;
Sakaguchi, H.; Nakamura, T.; Horihata, M.; Kondo, M.; Itoh, K. Organometallics 1989, 8, 846-848. (d) Balavoine, G.; Clinet, J.; Lellouche, I. Tetrahedron Lett. 1989, 30, 5141-5144.

Table I. Asymmetric Cyclopropanation of Styrene



^aOne mole percent ligand employed; unless otherwise noted, all reactions were carried out at 25 °C in chloroform. ^bRatios determined by capillary GLC. ^c Determined by conversion to the 1-phenylethylamide. ^dIsolated yields of purified products; these experiments were performed by using 5 equiv of styrene. ^eReaction performed in dichloromethane. ^fThe enantiomeric ligand was used; the enantiomeric products 5S and 6S predominated. ^eReaction was performed at 0 °C.

catalyze the reaction unless they are either heated to 65 °C in the presence of ethyl diazoacetate or pretreated with phenylhydrazine. Other Cu(I) and Cu(II) salts (for example, halide, cyanide, acetate, and perchlorate) show little or no catalytic activity, and the observed enantioselectivity is markedly inferior to that obtained for the triflate-ligand complexes.

The effect of ligand structure on reaction enantioselectivity was evaluated with the ligand-CuOTf complexes formed in situ.¹⁰ As can be seen from the data in Table I, the valine-derived ligands 2a and 3a are superior to ligand 1a, suggesting that six- rather than five-membered chelates are preferred for effective catalyst performance. Replacement of the isopropyl group in ligand 2 with a tert-butyl group further improves the enantioselectivity to 98% for the trans cyclopropanation process and 93% ee for the cis diastereomer. These data compare favorably to the optimal results reported to date for this reaction (85% ee in trans manifold; 68% ee in cis manifold).⁵ The neutral ligand **3b** [mp 87.8-88.6 °C; $[\alpha]_{365}$ -394° (c 0.97, CH₂Cl₂); for *ent*-**3b**, $[\alpha]_{365}$ +384° (c 1.22, CH₂Cl₂)], equipped with tert-butyl substituents and geminal methyl groups to prevent enolization, has proved to be the optimal ligand for this reaction. In fact, ethyl diazoacetate cyclopropanation of styrene at lower temperatures (0 °C) with 1 mol % of **3b** affords the trans and cis cyclopropyl esters (5:6 = 74:26) in >99% ee for both isomers.

The last four entries in Table I document the influence of diazo ester structure on cis-trans diastereoselectivity. Not unexpectedly, sterically demanding diazoacetates, such as *tert*-butyl and 2,6-dimethylphenyl, display increased diastereoselectivity without greatly affecting the enantioselection, which held at 96–97% ee. Finally, in the case of the diazoacetic acid ester derived from BHT (2,6-di-*tert*-butyl-4-methylphenol),¹¹ a 94:6 trans/cis mixture was obtained. Although hydrolysis of this ester was precluded,¹¹

reductive removal of the hindered phenol with LiAlH₄ provided the carbinol **7a**, $[\alpha]_D -92^\circ$ (c 1.23, C₂H₅OH),¹² in 76% yield (>99% ee) with a significantly enhanced diastereomer ratio (trans:cis = 150:1), presumably due to slower reduction of the cis ester contaminant.¹¹ This highly selective transformation was also observed for allylbenzene (trans:cis = 84.1, >99% ee) a substrate that also shows no tendency for competing allylic insertion (eq 2).

$$R \xrightarrow{CuOT'}{3b} R^{V} \xrightarrow{CO_2BHT} \frac{LiAlH_4}{R^{V}} R^{V} \xrightarrow{CH_2OH} (2)$$

BHTO₂C N_2
a, R = Ph; 94:6 150:1, >99% ee
4d b, R = CH₂Ph; 93:7 84:1, >99% ee

These high levels of asymmetric induction are not limited to monosubstituted olefins. The cyclopropanation of 1,1-diphenylethylene with *ent-3b*/CuOTf (eq 3) affords the S enantiomer **8a** in >99% ee [70% yield, $[\alpha]_D + 212^\circ$ (c 0.285, CHCl₃) for the derived acid].¹³ The catalyst can also be used in lower concentrations and on a large scale, as demonstrated by the cyclopropanation of isobutylene (CHCl₃, 0 °C) using 0.1 mol % catalyst, which affords the S enantiomer **8b** (>99% ee), in 91% isolated yield on a 35-g scale [the derived acid has a rotation of $[\alpha]_D + 148^\circ$ (c 1.05, CHCl₃), confirming the assignment of absolute stereochemistry].^{14,15}

Although the details of these reactions have still not been revealed, 16 we are working under the assumption that metallacyclobutane intermediates are involved. Given this postulate, a square-pyramidal copper center retaining the triflate ligand correlates with the observed sense of asymmetric induction while a tetrahedral copper center (without the triflate ligand) leads to the opposite sense of induction.

We are currently pursuing the use of these ligands in other catalytic processes. In a related experiment, we have performed the first catalytic, asymmetric aziridination of styrene in good yield and enantioselectivity using this catalyst (eq 4). Extension of the cyclopropanation to other olefins will be reported in due course.

 $EtO_{2}C \swarrow N_{2} \xrightarrow{R} \xrightarrow{CuOTf} \xrightarrow{R} \xrightarrow{CuOTf} (3)$ $4a \xrightarrow{A} \xrightarrow{R} \xrightarrow{Ph} (3)$ a, R = Ph, >99% ee; b, R = Me, >99% ee $Ph \xrightarrow{CuOTf} \xrightarrow{Ph} (3)$ $NTs \xrightarrow{Ph} (4)$ $Phi = NTs \xrightarrow{97\%} 61\% ee$

Note Added in Proof. Since submission of this manuscript a related study has appeared.¹⁷ In the Masamune study, the

⁽⁹⁾ The ethyl esters produced with the Cu(1) catalyst derived from *ent*-**3b** were found to have the following optical rotations: **5aS**, $[\alpha]_D + 296^\circ$ (c 0.88, CHCl₃); **6aS**, $[\alpha]_D + 18.6^\circ$ (c 1.01, CHCl₃). The derived carboxylic acids obtained by hydrolysis were found to have the following optical rotations: trans (15,25), $[\alpha]_D + 336^\circ$ (c 0.78, CHCl₃); cis (15,227), $[\alpha]_D + 27.9^\circ$ (c 1.17, CHCl₃). The assignment of absolute stereochemistry was made by comparison with literature values: (a) Inoue, Y.; Sugita, T.; Walborsky, H. M. *Tetrahedron* **1964**, 20, 1695–1699. (b) Aratani, T.; Nakanishi, Y.; Nozaki, H. *Tetrahedron* **1970**, 26, 1675–1684. The details of the assignment of absolute configuration are contained in the supplementary material.

 ⁽¹⁰⁾ The optical purity of the cyclopropanecarboxylate derivatives was determined by conversion to the derived amides of (R)-1-phenylethylamine and analysis by capillary GLC.
 (11) Doyle, M. P.; Bagheri, V.; Wandless, T. J.; Harn, N. K.; Brinker, D.

⁽¹¹⁾ Doyle, M. P.; Bagheri, V.; Wandless, T. J.; Harn, N. K.; Brinker, D. A.; Eagle, C. T.; Loh, K.-L. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1990, 112, 1906-1912.

⁽¹²⁾ Sugita, T.; Inouye, Y. Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn. 1966, 39, 1075–1076. The rotation for a sample of 7a of 51% ee was reported to be $[\alpha]_D$ -46.6° (c 2.64, C₂H₃OH).

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⁽¹⁴⁾ Aratani, T. Pure Appl. Chem. 1985, 57, 1839-1844. When the Aratani catalyst was used, the product was isolated in 92% ee.

⁽¹⁵⁾ Asymmetric cyclopropanation of isobutylene: To a suspension of CuOTf (56.1 mg, 0.223 mmol, 0.117 mol %) in 25 mL of anhydrous CHCl₃ was added a solution of *ent*-**3b** (67.0 mg, 0.228 mmol, 0.120 mol %) in 9 mL of CHCl₃. After 1 h, the resulting blue-green solution was filtered through glass wool under nitrogen into a cooled (0 °C) 500-mL three-necked round-bottom flask previously charged with isobutylene (approximately 110 g, 2.0 mol) and 20 mL of CHCl₃. A solution of ethyl diazoacetate (28.8 mL, 273 mmol) in 100 mL of CHCl₃ was added to the cooled (0 °C) solution of copper complex and isobutylene by dropping funnel over 5 h. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature over 14 h, and isobutylene and CHCl₃ were removed by distillation (30 Torr). The product was distilled (30 Torr, bp 45-70 °C) as a clear oil, 35.3 g (91%).

⁽¹⁶⁾ For reviews discussing proposed mechanisms of metal-catalyzed cyclopropanations, see: (a) Doyle, M. P. Chem. Rev. 1986, 86, 919-939. (b) Brookhart, M.; Studebaker, W. B. Chem. Rev. 1987, 87, 411-432.

conjugate base of 2b ligated to Cu(I) was investigated as a catalyst in the cyclopropanation of diazoacetate esters with styrene in direct analogy with our parallel studies on the undeprotonated ligand 2b summarized in Table I. In their study using ethyl diazoacetate, the authors have misassigned the absolute stereochemistry of their major trans-cyclopropane product. We have repeated the Masamune experiments using 2b in both neutral and charged variants and have concluded that their major trans diastereomer 5 should be (1R,2R) rather than (1S,2S) as reported. Furthermore, we have shown that base-catalyzed epimerization of the minor cis diastereomer 6R affords 6S, the enantiomer of the major product diastereomer. This observation is also inconsistent with the Masamune stereochemical assignment.

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Supplementary Material Available: Full details for the synthesis of catalyst 3b and ent-3b, spectral and analytical data for ligands 1a, 2a,b, and 3a, representative experimental procedures, and characterization of reaction products (8 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

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Designed Catalyst for Enantioselective Diels-Alder Addition from a C_2 -Symmetric Chiral **Bis(oxazoline)**-Fe(III) Complex

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The Diels-Alder reaction is arguably the most powerful construction process in organic synthesis, and for this reason there has been much research on the development of enantioselective versions,¹ including most recently the use of chiral catalysts.² Recent experience with the use of a chiral 1,2-diamino-1,2-diphenylethane as a controller ligand for enantioselective catalytic reactions such as the Diels-Alder and olefin dioxyosmylation cycloadditions^{2c,3} suggested the investigation of the rigid ligand 2,2-bis[2-[4(S)-phenyl-1,3-oxazolinyl]] propane (1) as a component of new catalytic systems.⁴ The results of such a study for the Diels-Alder reaction are outlined herein.^{5,6}

The chiral ligand 1 was readily prepared as follows. (S)-(+)-Phenylglycinol⁷ (2 equiv) and Et_3N (2 equiv) in CH_2Cl_2 at 0 °C were treated with 1 equiv of dimethylmalonyl chloride⁸ and allowed to react at 23 °C for 16 h to give 2 as a colorless solid (97%), further converted by reaction with excess $SOCl_2$ at reflux for 4 h to 3 [mp 164–166 °C, $[\alpha]^{23}_{D}$ +86.7° (c = 1.1, CHCl₃)]. Reaction of 3 with 5.5 equiv of 0.5 M NaOH in 1:1 methanolwater at reflux for 1 h followed by extractive isolation, filtration through silica gel, and distillation (193 °C at 0.03 Torr) afforded 1 as a viscous oil (78% overall from 2): $[\alpha]^{23}_{D}$ -171.3° (c = 1.0, EtOH); MS, m/e 335.1761 (calcd 335.1759); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 1.64 (s, 6 H), 4.12 (t, 2 H, J = 8.4, 7.7 Hz), 4.63 (dd, 2 H, J = 10.1, 8.4 Hz), 5.19 (dd, 2 H, J = 10.1, 7.7 Hz),7.18-7.24 (m, 6 H), 7.27-7.30 (m, 4 H).

For catalytic studies of the Diels-Alder reaction using 1 as a chiral controller ligand, Fe(III) halides were selected as the Lewis



acidic metal component, 3-acryloyl-1,3-oxazolidin-2-one (4)⁹ as a bidentate dienophile, and cyclopentadiene as the prototypical diene component. It was envisaged that a structure in which both 1 and 4 are chelated to FeX_2^+ (X = halogen) with octahedral geometry about iron could be highly activated toward reaction with a 1,3-diene at low temperature. This expectation was confirmed experimentally. An equimolar mixture of anhydrous FeCl₂ and ligand 1 was stirred at 40 °C in dry CH₃CN for 1 h, cooled to 23 $^{\circ}$ C, and treated with 0.5 equiv of I₂. Removal of solvent in vacuo and addition of dry CH₂Cl₂ gave a dark brown solution of the catalytic complex, presumed to be 1.FeCl₂I. The reaction of dienophile 4 and cyclopentadiene (3 equiv) in CH_2Cl_2 at -50 °C for 15 h using 10 mol % of catalyst proceeded with 90:10 enantioselectivity to give the endo adduct 5 (endo:exo ratio 97:3) in 85% isolated yield. The major product was shown to be the 2R enantiomer by measurement of rotation, $[\alpha]^{23}_{D} + 126.7^{\circ}$ (c = 1, CHCl₃), and comparison with an authentic sample.^{2c,9} The 2R:2S ratio for the endo product was determined either directly or after conversion via the acid to iodo lactone by HPLC analysis of the enantiomeric mixture with a Daicel OD column using 5% *i*-PrOH in hexane, which cleanly separates the enantiomers.¹⁰ The reaction of 4 with cyclopentadiene with the same catalyst, 1-FeCl₂I, in 3:1 CH₂Cl₂-2-nitropropane at -50 °C also afforded 5 as major product with 93:7 enantioselectivity and 99:1 endo/exo selectivity. Similar results were obtained by using as catalyst 1.FeBr, or $1 \cdot Fe1_{3}$.¹¹ It was also found that the formation of adduct 5 from cyclopentadiene, 4, and catalyst 1.FeI₃ was accelerated by the inclusion of 1 equiv of I2 in the reaction mixture; only 2 h sufficed for complete reaction at -50 °C to form 5 with 91:9 enantioselectivity and 96:4 endo/exo selectivity. Catalysis of the Diels-

(6) Unfortunately, 1 was found neither to complex with OsO4 nor to

(d) Childrately, I was found herefer to complex with OSO4 hor to accelerate its reaction with olefins in solution.
(7) Prepared in 87% yield by reduction of (S)-phenylglycine (Aldrich Co.) with LiAlH4 by the method of Dickman et al.: Dickman, D. A.; Meyers, A. I.; Smith, G. A.; Gawley, R. E. Organic Syntheses; Wiley: New York, 1990; Collect. Vol. VII, pp 530-533.
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(11) Catalyst 1-Fel₃ was prepared from 1, the appropriate amount of l_2 , and either Fe or Fel₂ in CH₃CN or CH₂Cl₂.

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<sup>S.; Miwa, Y.; Yamamoto, H. J. Org. Chem. 1989, 54, 1481-1483.
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⁽⁴⁾ A series of 2,6-bis[2-[4(S)-alkyl-1,3-oxazolinyl]]pyridines has been described recently along with application to the catalytic enantioselective reduction of ketones. See: Nishiyama, H.; Sakaguchi, S.; Nakamura, T.; Horihata, M.; Kondo, M.; Itoh, K. *Organometallics* **1989**, *8*, 846-848. (5) Our colleague Prof. David Evans has kindly informed us of independent

studies in his group on the application of Cu(I) complexes of gem-bis(oxazolines) to the catalytic enantioselective cyclopropanation of olefins; see: Evans, D. A.; Woerpel, K. A.; Hinman, M. M.; Faul, M. M. J. Am. Chem. Soc., preceding paper in this issue.