

# Rhodium-Catalyzed Asymmetric 1,4-Addition of $\alpha,\beta$ -Unsaturated Imino Esters Using Chiral Bicyclic Bridgehead Phosphoramidite Ligands

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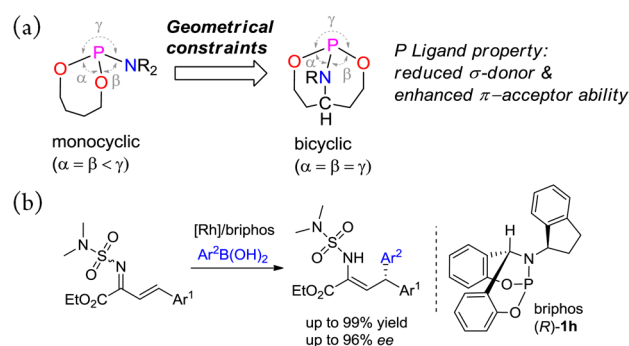
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**S** Supporting Information

**ABSTRACT:** A chiral bicyclic bridgehead phosphoramidite (briphos) prepared from 1-aminoindane is a highly efficient and selective ligand for rhodium(I)-catalyzed asymmetric 1,4-addition of arylboronic acids to  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated *N,N*-dimethyl-sulfamoyl imino esters at ambient temperature. This transformation provides a new class of chiral (*Z*)- $\gamma,\gamma$ -diaryl- $\alpha,\beta$ -dehydroamino esters with excellent yield and enantioselectivity.

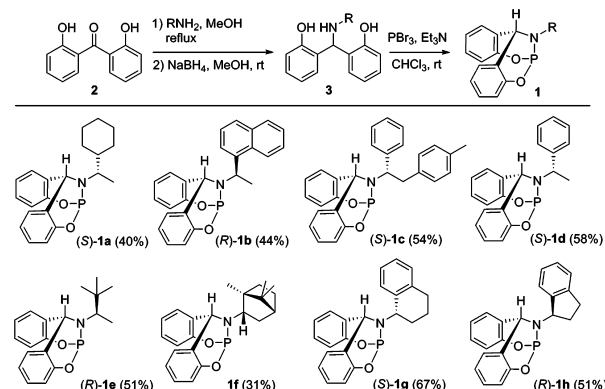
Rhodium-catalyzed asymmetric arylation<sup>1</sup> of aryl boronic acid derivatives to carbonyl,<sup>2</sup> imine,<sup>3</sup> and olefin<sup>4</sup> compounds is one of the most reliable and efficient C–Ar bond-forming reactions to construct tri- or tetra-substituted carbon centers in an enantioselective manner. Although arylation procedures have been widely explored for carbonyl compounds, the arylation of imines is still limited to 1,2-addition,<sup>1</sup> particularly the asymmetric 1,2-addition of imino esters provides phenyl glycine derivatives.<sup>5</sup> To the best of our knowledge, stereoselective 1,4-addition of aryl groups to  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated imino esters, providing  $\gamma,\gamma$ -diaryl- $\alpha,\beta$ -dehydroamino esters, has not been reported.<sup>6–8</sup> Because the  $\alpha,\beta$ -dehydroamino ester derivatives are valuable structures found in many natural products and biologically active compounds<sup>9</sup> as well as ones used for stereoselective hydrogenation to provide unnatural amino esters,<sup>10</sup> the development of stereoselective 1,4-addition reaction of  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated imino esters is highly desired to obtain a new class of chiral unnatural dehydroamino or amino esters.

We recently reported bicyclic bridgehead phosphoramidites (briphos) as a new type of  $\pi$ -acceptor ligand where the geometrical constraints can reduce the  $\sigma$ -donor ability and enhance the  $\pi$ -acceptor ability (Figure 1a).<sup>11</sup> Briphos ligands have been shown to promote Rh(I)-catalyzed 1,4-addition of boronic acids to  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated *N*-tosyl ketimines under neutral conditions.<sup>11</sup> Given the beneficial properties of briphos in Rh(I)-catalyzed arylation, here we report asymmetric 1,4-addition of  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated imino esters using our newly designed chiral briphos ligands (Figure 1b). A series of chiral briphos ligands (1a–h) were prepared (Scheme 1). 2,2'-Dihydroxybenzophenone (2) was reacted with chiral primary amines to produce the corresponding imines, which were reduced by NaBH<sub>4</sub>. The resulting secondary amines (3) were converted to briphos ligands (1) by the reaction with



**Figure 1.** (a) Concept of controlling P ligand properties by geometrical constraints. (b) Scheme for Rh-catalyzed asymmetric 1,4-addition of arylboronic acids to  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated *N,N*-dimethyl-sulfamoyl imino esters.

## Scheme 1. Synthesis of Chiral Briphos 1



phosphorus tribromide (PBr<sub>3</sub>) in 31–67% overall yields (Scheme 1). Figure 2 shows the crystal structures of (*S*)-1g and (*R*)-1h. (See also the Supporting Information.) In both cases, the proton at the chiral carbon center is pointing toward the phosphorus atom, indicating that a rigid chiral environment is required for stereoselective reactions.

With chiral briphos ligands 1a–h (Scheme 1), we explored the ligand effect on the Rh-catalyzed reaction between aryl boronic acid 6a and  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated *N,N*-dimethyl-sulfamoyl

Received: July 12, 2015

Published: August 24, 2015

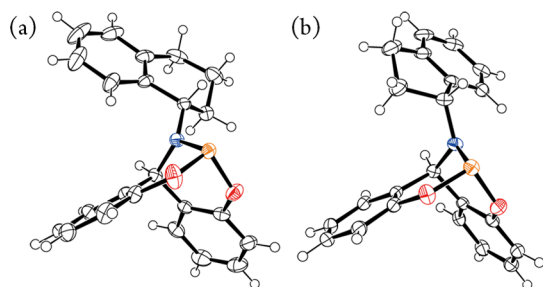
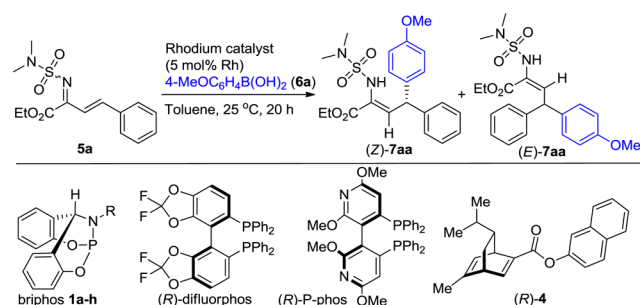


Figure 2. Crystal structures of (a) (*S*)-**1g** and (b) (*R*)-**1h**.

imino ester **5a** at ambient temperature. As shown in Table 1, briphos **1a–e** prepared from chiral amines with the acyclic

Table 1. Ligand Screening for Rh-Catalyzed 1,4-Addition of  $\alpha,\beta$ -Unsaturated *N,N*-Dimethyl Sulfamoyl Iminoester **5a**<sup>a</sup>



entry	L	ratio of (Z)/(E)-7aa <sup>b</sup>	yield of 7aa (%) <sup>c</sup>	ee of 7aa (%) <sup>d</sup>
1	( <i>S</i> )- <b>1a</b>	98/2	26	52( <i>S</i> )
2	( <i>R</i> )- <b>1b</b>	n.d.	trace	n.d.
3	( <i>S</i> )- <b>1c</b>	88/12	<10	n.d.
4	( <i>S</i> )- <b>1d</b>	>99/1	23	66( <i>R</i> )
5	( <i>R</i> )- <b>1e</b>	95/5	<5	n.d.
6	<b>1f</b>	n.d.	trace	n.d.
7	( <i>S</i> )- <b>1g</b>	97/3	27	96( <i>R</i> )
8	( <i>R</i> )- <b>1h</b>	>99/1	98	90( <i>S</i> ) <sup>e</sup>
9 <sup>f,g</sup>	( <i>R</i> )- <b>1h</b>	92/8	62	90( <i>S</i> )
10	( <i>R</i> )-difluorophos	n.d.	trace	n.d.
11	( <i>R</i> )-P-phos	n.d.	trace	n.d.
12	( <i>R</i> )-binap <sup>h</sup>	n.d.	trace	n.d.
13	( <i>S</i> )-monophos <sup>i</sup>	84/16	<5	n.d.
14	( <i>R</i> )- <b>4</b>	83/17	19	41( <i>R</i> )
15 <sup>f,g</sup>	( <i>R</i> )- <b>4</b>	n.d.	8	51( <i>R</i> )
16 <sup>j</sup>		71/29	65	

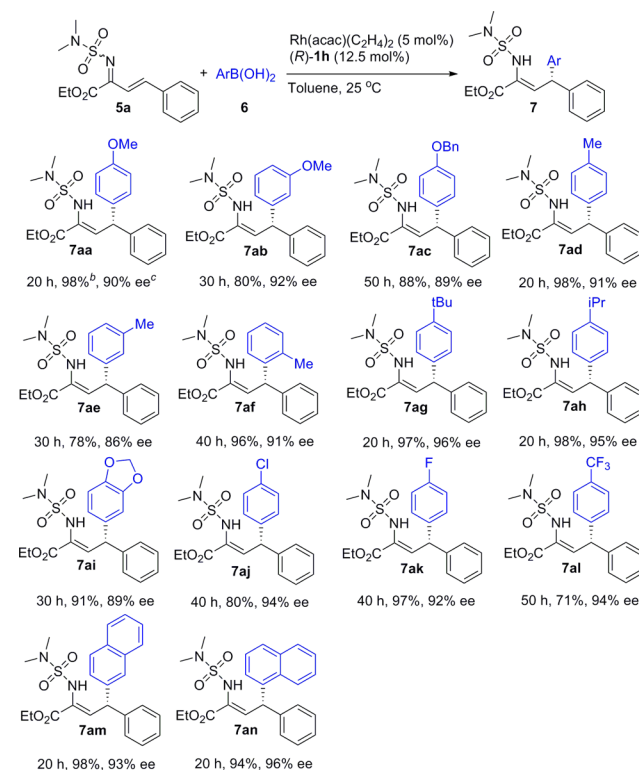
<sup>a</sup>Conditions: **5a** (0.2 mmol), **6a** (0.6 mmol), and [Rh(acac)(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] (5 mol % Rh) were stirred in toluene (2.0 mL) at 25 °C for 20 h. <sup>b</sup>Determined by crude <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra. <sup>c</sup>Yield of isolated product. <sup>d</sup>Determined by chiral-phase HPLC analysis. <sup>e</sup>The absolute configuration of (*Z*)-**7aa** was determined by single-crystal X-ray crystallography (Supporting Information). <sup>f</sup>Reactions were carried out with KOH (100 mol %; 1.0 M in H<sub>2</sub>O). <sup>g</sup>[Rh(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Cl]<sub>2</sub> (5 mol % Rh). <sup>h</sup>binap = 2,2'-bis(diphenylphosphino)-1,1'-binaphthyl. <sup>i</sup>monophos = (3,5-dioxa-4-phosphacyclohepta[2,1-a:3,4-a']dinaphthalen-4-yl)dimethylamine. <sup>j</sup>[Rh(cod)OH]<sub>2</sub> (5 mol % Rh).

secondary alkyl groups provided product **7aa** with lower than 26% yield with moderate enantioselectivity (entries 1–5). Briphos **1f** prepared from (+)-bornylamine was also inefficient (entry 6). Notably, briphos **1g** prepared from 1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-1-naphthylamine showed excellent stereoselectivity

of 94% de and 96% ee, albeit with a poor isolated yield of 27% (entry 7). The reactivity problem of briphos **1g** was then addressed by the use of briphos **1h** prepared from 1-aminoindane. It appears that the bicyclic secondary alkyl group in the chiral briphos structure is essential to achieve high-level stereoselectivity. Briphos **1h** provided product (*Z*)-**7aa** with excellent yield (98%) and stereoselectivity (>98% de and 90% ee; entry 8). The addition of KOH resulted in decreased yield and diastereoselectivity without affecting the enantioselectivity (entry 9).<sup>12</sup> We also compared the ligand effect with ligands known to be efficient in the Rh-catalyzed arylation reactions. The difluorophos,<sup>13</sup> P-phos,<sup>14</sup> binap, and monophos were inactive for the reaction of  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated imino ester **5a** (entries 10–13). Chiral diene ligand **4** was also inefficient with or without KOH additives (entries 14 and 15). Because the use of [Rh(cod)OH]<sub>2</sub> resulted in a product with moderate yield and poor diastereoselectivity, other chiral diene ligands would not be very efficient for this type of reaction. Thus, our experiment shows that briphos **1h** is the most efficient ligand structure among the chiral ligands tested.

We then explored the reaction scope of Rh/**1h**-catalyzed 1,4-addition of  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated *N,N*-dimethyl-sulfamoyl imino esters. The survey of aryl boronic acids is summarized in Table 2. When aryl boronic acids **6** with electronic and steric functional groups were reacted with  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated imino ester **5a** in the presence of [Rh(acac)(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] (5 mol % Rh) and (*R*)-**1h** (12.5 mol %), desirable (*Z*)- $\gamma,\gamma$ -diaryl- $\alpha,\beta$ -

Table 2. Substrate Scope for Rh-Catalyzed 1,4-Addition of Various Arylboronic Acids **6** to  $\alpha,\beta$ -Unsaturated Iminoester **5a**<sup>a</sup>

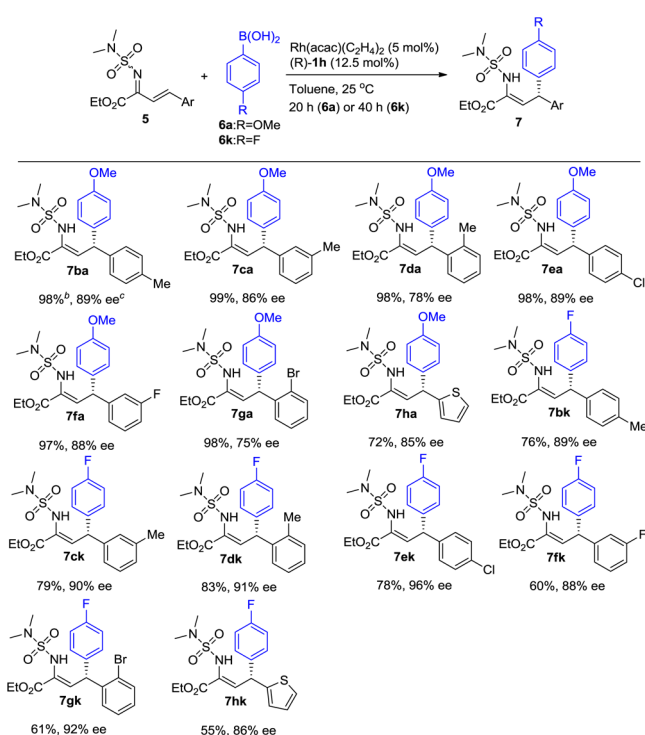


<sup>a</sup>Conditions: **5a** (0.2 mmol), **6** (0.6 mmol), [Rh(acac)(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] (5 mol % Rh), and (*R*)-**1h** (12.5 mol %) were stirred in toluene (2.0 mL) at 25 °C. <sup>b</sup>Yield of isolated product. <sup>c</sup>Determined by chiral-phase HPLC analysis.

dehydroamino ester products **7aa–an** were produced with good yield (71–98%) and excellent stereoselectivity (86–96% ee). Our experiments showed that a highly stereoselective 1,4-addition of imino esters can be achieved with various aryl boronic acids at ambient temperature within 20–50 h.

The scope of  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated *N,N*-dimethyl-sulfamoyl imino esters was then studied. As shown in Table 3, two aryl boronic

**Table 3. Substrate Scope for Rh-Catalyzed 1,4-Addition of Various Arylboronic Acids **6a,k** to  $\alpha,\beta$ -Unsaturated Iminoesters **5**<sup>a</sup>**

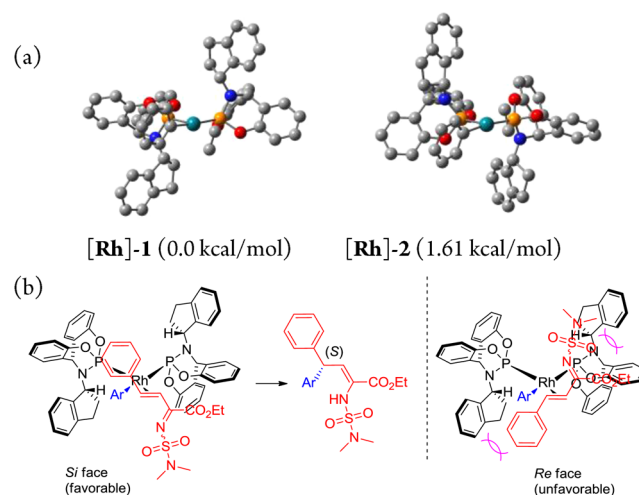


<sup>a</sup>Conditions: **5** (0.2 mmol), **6** (0.6 mmol), [Rh(acac)(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] (5 mol % Rh), and (R)-**1h** (12.5 mol %) were stirred in toluene (2.0 mL) at 25 °C. <sup>b</sup>Yield of isolated product. <sup>c</sup>Determined by chiral-phase HPLC analysis.

acids **6a** and **6k** were used to compare the reactivity and selectivity for the reaction with  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated imino esters **5b–h**. Although the more electron-rich 4-methoxyphenyl boronic acid, **6a**, showed better reactivity to complete the reaction within 20 h, the enantioselectivity of the products was somewhat reduced, particularly among imino esters with ortho-substituted phenyl groups (78% ee for **7da** and 75% ee for **7ga**). However, when the more electron-deficient 4-fluorophenylboronic acid, **6k**, was used, stereoselectivity greater than 86% ee was observed in all cases. Thus, chiral briphos **1h** can be an efficient ligand for Rh-catalyzed 1,4-addition of boronic acids to  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated *N,N*-dimethyl-sulfamoyl imino esters, providing a new class of (*Z*)- $\gamma,\gamma$ -diaryl- $\alpha,\beta$ -dehydroamino esters.

For the asymmetric Rh(I)-catalyzed arylation reaction, various chiral ligands based on phosphorus,<sup>15</sup> diene,<sup>16</sup> sulfoxide,<sup>17</sup> NHC,<sup>18</sup> and its hybrid structures<sup>19</sup> with olefin, hetero atomic group (P, N, O, or S), and oxazoline have been creatively developed.<sup>1</sup> To achieve high-level stereoselectivity, ligand design largely relied on several privileged chiral ligand platforms such as 1,1'-binaphthyls or 1,1'-biphenyls as well as chelating effects to establish a rigid chiral environment. Thus, it is unusual to achieve high stereoselectivity from monodentate

chiral ligands with only one carbon chiral center as found in chiral briphos **1h**. To gain insights into the origin of stereoselectivity, we performed DFT computation to find equilibrium geometries of the two possible conformer structures of [Rh{(R)-**1h**}(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)Ph] prepared on the basis of the crystal structure of [Rh**1i**.Cl]<sub>2</sub> (R = Ph in **1i**)<sup>11</sup> (Supporting Information). Among all possible local minima, the computation shows that [Rh]-**1** is the most stable conformer at least by about 1.61 kcal/mol relative to the other conformer [Rh]-**2** (Figure 3a). Thus, [Rh{(R)-

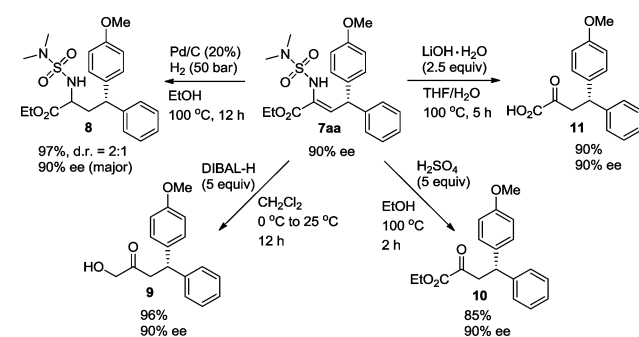


**Figure 3.** (a) Two calculated minimum structures of [Rh{(R)-**1h**}(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)Ph]. (b) Proposed stereochemical pathway by [Rh]-**1**.

**1h**}(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)Ph] is expected to form major conformer [Rh]-**1** analogous to the reported enantioselective model of Rh/(S)-BINAP proposed by Hayashi,<sup>15d</sup> thus allowing selective synthesis of the product with (*S*)-configuration (Figure 3b).

Finally, the utility of the dehydroamino ester products was demonstrated in Scheme 2. We could prepare **7aa** in gram scale

**Scheme 2. Transformation of Dehydroamino Ester **7aa****



(1.5 g) with 90% yield and 90% ee (Supporting Information). The hydrogenation of **7aa** by Pd/C gave  $\gamma,\gamma$ -diaryl amino ester **8** in a 2:1 diastereomeric ratio with complete retention of enantiopurity. The reduction of **7aa** by DIBAL-H provided hydroxy ketone **9**. Moreover, acidic or basic hydrolysis produced keto ester **10** or keto acid **11** in high yields, respectively.

We have developed a Rh(I)-catalyzed asymmetric 1,4-addition of arylboronic acids to  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated *N,N*-dimethyl-sulfamoyl imino esters using a newly designed chiral bicyclic bridgehead phosphoramidite (briphos) ligand (**1h**)

prepared from 1-aminoindane. This method represents a highly versatile and selective transformation to provide a new class of chiral (*Z*)- $\gamma,\gamma$ -diaryl- $\alpha,\beta$ -dehydroamino esters that can be further modified to unnatural amino acids, hydroxy ketones, and keto acids, among others.

## ■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

### 📄 Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/jacs.5b07034.

Experimental procedures, spectroscopic and calculation data, and crystallographic details. (PDF)

Crystallographic details for (*R*)-1h. (CIF)

Crystallographic details for (*S*)-1g. (CIF)

Crystallographic details for (*Z*)-7aa. (CIF)

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### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

## ■ ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are grateful for the financial support provided by the Institute for Basic Science (IBS-R004-D1). This work was also supported by the National Institute of Supercomputing and Network/Korea Institute of Science and Technology Information (KCS-2014-C1-033). We also thank J. Kim and Prof. Y. Lee (KAIST) as well as Dr. A. J. Lough (University of Toronto) for X-ray analysis.

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