

# Enantioselective Synthesis of Anti Homoallylic Alcohols from Terminal Alkynes and Aldehydes Based on Concomitant Use of a Cationic Iridium Complex and a Chiral Phosphoric Acid

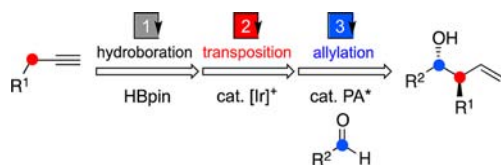
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**S** Supporting Information

**ABSTRACT:** We report a highly diastereo- and enantioselective synthesis of anti homoallylic alcohols from terminal alkynes via (*E*)-1-alkenylboronates based upon two catalytic reactions: a cationic iridium complex-catalyzed olefin transposition of (*E*)-1-alkenylboronates and a chiral phosphoric acid-catalyzed allylation reaction of aldehydes.

Stereocontrolled C–C bond formation in acyclic systems bearing multiple stereocenters is one of the most critical issues in organic synthesis. Allylation of carbonyl compounds with allylmetal reagents provides a reliable method for the enantioselective synthesis of homoallylic alcohols,<sup>1,2</sup> so it is often used for the asymmetric synthesis of polyketide natural products.<sup>3</sup> Thus, the development of facile methods for the synthesis of stereochemically defined  $\gamma$ -substituted allylmetal species from readily accessible starting materials has received much attention.<sup>4</sup> Here we report a new method for synthesizing anti homoallylic alcohols in an enantioselective way starting from terminal alkynes and aldehydes (Figure 1). Mechanistically, a transition-metal catalyst and an asymmetric organocatalyst work in relay.<sup>5–7</sup>



**Figure 1.** Synthesis of optically active anti homoallylic alcohols starting from terminal alkynes.

We recently reported a convenient method for the diastereoselective synthesis of anti homoallylic alcohols employing 1-alkenylboronates as the precursors of allylboron reagents.<sup>8</sup> A cationic rhodium(I) complex catalyzes the olefin transposition<sup>9</sup> of the 1-alkenylboronate to generate a transient (*E*)-2-alkenylboronate intermediate, which reacts with a coexisting aldehyde in a stereospecific way. However, the rhodium(I)-catalyzed reaction required heating at 90 °C, and the observed anti/syn ratio depended on the double-bond geometry of the 1-alkenylboronate precursor. The *E* isomers, which were more easily prepared and hence were the preferred precursors, showed lower diastereoselectivities (85:15 to 96:4) compared with their

*Z* counterparts. We subsequently searched for catalysts of higher activity as well as stereoselectivity and found that cationic iridium(I) catalysts activated by slowly bubbling H<sub>2</sub> directly through the solution for 5 min<sup>10,11</sup> could catalyze the olefin transposition of the *E* isomers even at 28 °C with excellent stereoselectivity. Thus, cationic iridium(I) complexes ([Ir(cod)<sub>2</sub>]X)<sup>12</sup> were treated with various monodentate phosphine ligands (PR<sub>3</sub>) (P/Ir = 2.5) under a hydrogen atmosphere. (*E*)-1-Butenylboronate (*E*)-2a was readily prepared by dicyclohexylborane-catalyzed *cis* hydroboration of but-1-yne with pinacolborane<sup>13</sup> and then reacted with benzaldehyde (**1a**) in the presence of the activated iridium catalyst at 28 °C for 16 h (Table 1). When tetrafluoroborate and PCy<sub>3</sub><sup>14,15</sup> were used as the

**Table 1.** Optimization of the Reaction Conditions for the Diastereoselective Allylation of **1a** with (*E*)-2a<sup>a</sup>

entry	X	ligand	yield (%) <sup>b</sup>	anti/syn <sup>c</sup>
1	PF <sub>6</sub>	PPh <sub>3</sub>	3	–
2	PF <sub>6</sub>	P( <i>n</i> -Bu) <sub>3</sub>	0	–
3	PF <sub>6</sub>	PCy <sub>3</sub>	78	>98:2
4	PF <sub>6</sub>	P( <i>t</i> -Bu) <sub>3</sub>	7	–
5	OTf	PCy <sub>3</sub>	74	>98:2
6	SbF <sub>6</sub>	PCy <sub>3</sub>	82	>98:2
7	BF <sub>4</sub>	PCy <sub>3</sub>	91	>98:2

<sup>a</sup>Conditions: **1a** (0.40 mmol), (*E*)-2a (0.80 mmol), [Ir(cod)<sub>2</sub>]X (5.0 mol %), and ligand (12.5 mol %) in 1,2-dichloroethane (1,2-DCE) (1 mL) at 28 °C for 16 h. <sup>b</sup>Isolated yields. <sup>c</sup>Determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis.

counterion and the ligand, respectively, anti homoallylic alcohol **3aa** was isolated in 91% yield with almost complete diastereoselectivity (anti/syn = >98:2) (entry 7).

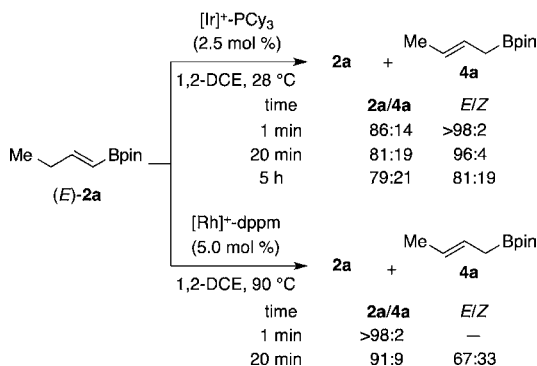
Our previously reported rhodium system<sup>8</sup> required heating at 90 °C for olefin transposition, and the reaction of **1a** with (*E*)-2a using [Rh(nbd)(MeCN)<sub>2</sub>]SbF<sub>6</sub>-dppm (90 °C, 12 h) afforded **3aa** in 86% yield with 89:11 dr. When [Rh(nbd)(MeCN)<sub>2</sub>]-SbF<sub>6</sub>-dppm was activated with H<sub>2</sub> in place of [Ir(cod)<sub>2</sub>]BF<sub>4</sub>-PCy<sub>3</sub>, the reaction failed to occur at 28 °C. Control experiments were then performed to compare the iridium(I)- and rhodium-

Received: June 10, 2013

Published: July 25, 2013

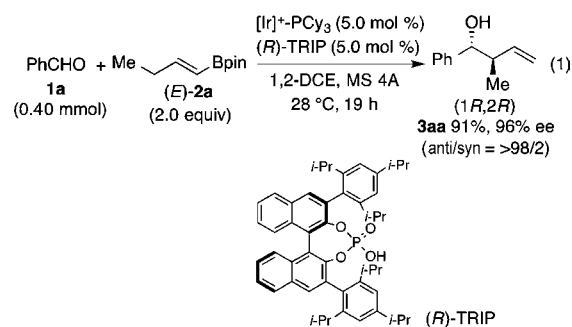
(I)-catalyzed transposition processes in the absence of aldehyde by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR monitoring (Scheme 1). In the case of iridium, 14%

Scheme 1. Control Experiments in the Absence of Aldehyde



of (E)-2a isomerized after only 1 min at 28 °C, and the E isomer of 2-butenylboronate 4a was almost completely formed. After 5 h, the E/Z ratio of 4a became constant (ca. 4:1). In the case of the rhodium catalyst [Rh(nbd)(MeCN)<sub>2</sub>][SbF<sub>6</sub>-dppm], the formation of 4a was barely observed after 1 min even at 90 °C. After 20 min, 9% of (E)-2a isomerized to 4a with an E/Z ratio of ca. 2:1. Thus, the active iridium catalyst strongly promotes the olefin transposition at 28 °C, and the generation of (E)-4a is kinetically favored. We assume that as soon as the (E)-4a is generated, it immediately reacts with a coexisting aldehyde via a six-membered chairlike transition state to produce the anti homoallylic alcohol.

The use of cationic iridium(I) complexes rendered it possible to carry out the allylation reaction at temperatures as low as 28 °C, opening a route to asymmetric synthesis. The Antilla group reported that the chiral phosphoric acid (R)-TRIP<sup>16</sup> catalyzes a highly enantioselective allylation reaction of 1a with 4a.<sup>17</sup> Their work prompted us to examine the iridium(I)-catalyzed reaction of 1a with 2a in the presence of (R)-TRIP (eq 1). Anti homoallylic alcohol 3aa was exclusively obtained in 91% isolated yield with a high level of enantioselectivity (96% ee).<sup>18</sup> This result suggested that the activated iridium(I) catalyst and (R)-TRIP did not interfere with each other<sup>19</sup> but independently played their roles as catalysts. A large-scale experiment using 670 mg (6.3 mmol) of 1a also gave a comparable result [1.01 g (91% yield) of 3aa with 96% ee].



The asymmetric allylation reaction was applied to other terminal alkynes having various simple or functionalized substituents. (E)-1-Alkenylboronates 2b–h were prepared by cis hydroboration of the corresponding terminal alkynes with pinacolborane,<sup>13</sup> and their reactions with 1a using the activated [Ir]<sup>+</sup>-PCy<sub>3</sub>/(R)-TRIP catalyst system were examined (Table 2). (E)-1-Alkenylboronates 2b–d having ethyl, isobutyl, and phenyl groups all exhibited high enantioselectivities as well as high yields and excellent diastereoselectivities (entries 1–3). Functional groups such as silyloxy, methoxycarbonyl, and chloro groups were allowed at the terminus of the alkyl chain (entries 4–6). On the other hand, only modest diastereo- and enantioselectivities were observed with substrate 2h having a silyloxy group at the C3 position (entry 7).

The scope of aldehydes in the reaction with (E)-1-pentenylboronate (E)-2b was also examined (Table 3). An electronically and sterically diverse array of aromatic aldehydes 1b–f reacted to give the corresponding anti homoallylic alcohols 3bb–fb in 85–99% yield with excellent diastereoselectivities and high enantioselectivities (entries 1–5). In addition,  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated aldehyde 1g gave a comparable result (entry 6). Worthy of note was the observation that aliphatic aldehydes such as 3-phenylpropanal (1h) and cyclohexanecarbaldehyde (1i) also successfully participated in the stereoselective reaction (entries 7 and 8).

Finally, we examined a one-pot, two-step reaction to synthesize anti homoallylic alcohols starting from terminal alkynes (Scheme 2). Terminal alkynes 5a–c were treated with pinacolborane in the presence of dicyclohexylborane (5.0 mol %) at room temperature or 0 °C for 6–20 h. After the volatile materials were removed under reduced pressure, 1,2-DCE solutions of 1a and the activated [Ir]<sup>+</sup>-PCy<sub>3</sub>/(R)-TRIP catalysts were successively added to the residue. The reaction mixture was stirred at 28 or 0 °C, and subsequent chromatographic

Table 2. Asymmetric Allylation Reactions of 1a with Various (E)-1-Alkenylboronates 2b–h<sup>a</sup>

entry	2	R <sup>2</sup>	[Ir] <sup>+</sup> -PCy <sub>3</sub> (X mol %)		[R]-TRIP (Y mol %)		3	yield (%) <sup>b</sup> (anti/syn) <sup>c</sup>	ee (%) <sup>d</sup>
			X	Y	T (°C)	t (h)			
1	2b	Et	5.0	10	28	17	3ab	90 (>98:2)	93
2	2c	<i>i</i> -Bu	5.0	15	0	40	3ac	86 (>98:2)	95
3	2d	Ph	10	20	−15	64	3ad	83 (>98:2)	88
4	2e	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> OTBS	7.5	20	28	20	3ae	85 (>98:2)	90
5	2f	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> Me	7.5	10	28	18	3af	86 (>98:2)	93
6	2g	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> Cl	5.0	15	28	18	3ag	92 (>98:2)	93
7	2h	OTBS	7.5	10	28	44	3ah	97 (92:8)	17

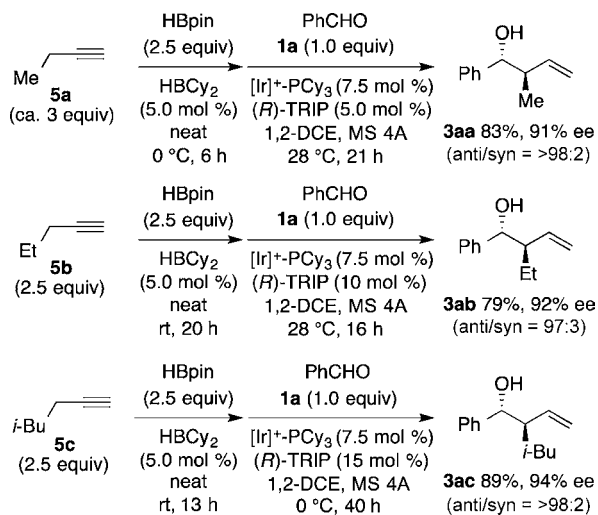
<sup>a</sup>Conditions: 1a (0.40 mmol), (E)-2 (0.80 mmol), [Ir(cod)<sub>2</sub>][BF<sub>4</sub>-PCy<sub>3</sub>] (X mol %, Ir:P = 2:5), (R)-TRIP (Y mol %), and MS 4A (50 mg) in 1,2-DCE (1 mL). <sup>b</sup>Isolated yields (averages of 2 runs). <sup>c</sup>Determined by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR analysis. <sup>d</sup>Determined by chiral HPLC.

Table 3. Asymmetric Allylation Reactions of Various Aldehydes **1b–i** with (*E*)-**2b**<sup>a</sup>

entry	<b>1</b>	R <sup>1</sup>	X	Y	T (°C)	t (h)	<b>3</b>	yield (%) <sup>b</sup> (anti/syn) <sup>c</sup>	ee (%) <sup>d</sup>
1	<b>1b</b>	4-NO <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	5.0	10	28	20	<b>3bb</b>	85 (>98:2)	95
2	<b>1c</b>	4-MeOC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	7.5	15	28	17	<b>3cb</b>	99 (>98:2)	92
3	<b>1d</b>	4-MeC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	7.5	10	28	20	<b>3db</b>	87 (>98:2)	90
4	<b>1e</b>	2-MeC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	10	20	0	72	<b>3eb</b>	98 (>98:2)	92
5	<b>1f</b>	2-furyl	5.0	10	28	38	<b>3fb</b>	91 (>98:2)	92
6	<b>1g</b>	PhCH=CH	5.0	10	28	19	<b>3gb</b>	96 (>98:2)	93
7	<b>1h</b>	PhCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub>	10	20	5	64	<b>3hb</b>	88 (>98:2)	91
8	<b>1i</b>	Cy	10	20	5	64	<b>3ib</b>	82 (97:3)	88

<sup>a</sup>Conditions: **1** (0.40 mmol), (*E*)-**2b** (0.80 mmol), [Ir(cod)<sub>2</sub>]BF<sub>4</sub>-PCy<sub>3</sub> (X mol %, Ir:P = 2:5), (*R*)-TRIP (Y mol %), and MS 4A (50 mg) in 1,2-DCE (1 mL). <sup>b</sup>Isolated yields (averages of 2 runs). <sup>c</sup>Determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis. <sup>d</sup>Determined by chiral HPLC.

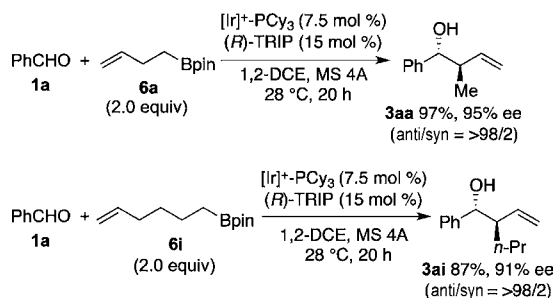
### Scheme 2. One-Pot Cis Hydroboration/Olefin Transposition/Allylation Reaction



purification afforded the corresponding anti homoallylic alcohols **3aa–3ac** in good overall yields with high enantioselectivities. Accessibility of starting materials is one of the most important criteria for synthetically useful organic reactions. All of the starting materials required for the present reaction are readily available, even from commercial sources.

To further expand the synthetic utility of this relay system, we employed 3- and 5-alkenylboronates **6a** and **6i** as the allylboron precursors (Scheme 3). The reaction proceeded smoothly to give anti homoallylic alcohols **3aa** and **3ai** in high yields, and the

### Scheme 3. Asymmetric Allylation Reactions of **1a** with 3- and 5-Alkenylboronates **6a** and **6i**



stereoselectivities observed were similar to those of (*E*)-1-alkenylboronates **2**. It is noteworthy that olefin transposition takes place multiple times from a position remote to the boryl group.<sup>20</sup>

In summary, we have demonstrated that a cationic iridium(I) complex/chiral phosphoric acid relay system provides a highly diastereo- and enantioselective route to anti homoallylic alcohols starting from terminal alkynes and aldehydes. A cationic iridium(I) complex promotes the olefin transposition of 3- and 5-alkenylboronates as well as (*E*)-1-alkenylboronates at 28 °C, thus generating in situ (*E*)-2-alkenylboronates that are often laborious to prepare stereoselectively. The asymmetric allylation reaction catalyzed by a chiral phosphoric acid is compatible with the cationic iridium(I) complex.

## ■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

### Supporting Information

Experimental procedures and spectral data for new compounds. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

## ■ ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was supported by MEXT [Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research on Innovative Areas 22105005 and 24106718, Scientific Research (B) 23350041, and Young Scientists (A) 23685019], JST (ACT-C), and Takeda Science Foundation. M. Morimoto is grateful for the JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists.

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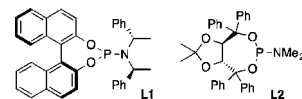
(11) The  $\text{H}_2$  activation was important to enhance the activity of  $[\text{Ir}(\text{cod})_2]\text{BF}_4\text{-PCy}_3$ . Without  $\text{H}_2$  activation, the reaction was much slower even at  $90^\circ\text{C}$ .

(12) Other transition-metal complexes such as  $\text{RhH}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$ ,  $\text{CpPd}(\pi\text{-allyl})\text{-P}(t\text{-Bu})_3$ ,  $\text{RuCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_3$ , and  $\text{RuH}_2(\text{CO})(\text{PPh}_3)_3$  were not effective.

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(14) For olefin transposition of allylic ethers catalyzed by  $[\text{IrCl}(\text{coe})_2]_2/\text{NaBPh}_4\text{-PCy}_3$ , see: Nelson, S. G.; Bungard, C. J.; Wang, K. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2003**, *125*, 13000. When the reaction of **1a** with **2a** was carried out in the presence of  $[\text{IrCl}(\text{coe})_2]_2/\text{NaBPh}_4\text{-PCy}_3$  and (*R*)-TRIP, a comparable result was obtained (85% yield of **3aa** with 92% ee). See the Supporting Information for details.

(15) Other monodentate phosphines, including chiral ones [ $\text{PPh}_2\text{Me}$ ,  $\text{PPhMe}_2$ ,  $\text{PMe}_3$ ,  $\text{P}(n\text{-Pr})_3$ ,  $\text{P}(n\text{-Bu})(1\text{-Ad})_2$ , (*S*)-MOP, **L1**, **L2**], failed to afford **3aa**, and the starting materials were recovered. Bidentate phosphine ligands [ $\text{dppm}$ ,  $\text{dppe}$ ,  $\text{dppf}$ ,  $\text{dcyp}$ ] were not effective either.



(16) (a) Akiyama, T. WO 2004096753, 2004; *Chem. Abstr.* **2004**, *141*, 411087. (b) Hoffmann, S.; Seayad, A. M.; List, B. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2005**, *44*, 7424. For seminal work on chiral phosphoric acids, see: (c) Akiyama, T.; Itoh, J.; Yokota, K.; Fuchibe, K. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2004**, *43*, 1566. (d) Uruguchi, D.; Terada, M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2004**, *126*, 5356.

(17) (a) Jain, P.; Antilla, J. C. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2010**, *132*, 11884. For a mechanistic study, see: (b) Grayson, M. N.; Pellegrinet, S. C.; Goodman, J. M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2012**, *134*, 2716.

(18) The enantioselectivity was slightly better in the presence of 4 Å molecular sieves (MS 4A). For a similar effect of MS 4A, see: Jain, P.; Wang, H.; Houk, K. N.; Antilla, J. C. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2012**, *51*, 1391.

(19) The reaction of  $[\text{Ir}(\text{cod})_2]\text{BF}_4$  with (*R*)-TRIP was monitored by  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectroscopy. Upon activation with  $\text{H}_2$ , the 1,5-cyclooctadiene (cod) ligand of  $[\text{Ir}(\text{cod})_2]\text{BF}_4$  was completely hydrogenated to form cyclooctane together with unidentified iridium complexes. Then, (*R*)-TRIP was added to the resulting reaction mixture, and no significant change was observed. On the basis of these results and the much stronger acidity of  $\text{HBF}_4$  than (*R*)-TRIP, we assume that  $[\text{Ir}(\text{PCy}_3)_2(\text{L})_n]\text{BF}_4$  is more likely to be the active species than  $[\text{Ir}(\text{PCy}_3)_2(\text{L})_n][(\text{R})\text{-TRIP}]$ . For the  $\text{p}K_a$  values of (*R*)-TRIP, see: Christ, P.; Lindsay, A. G.; Vormittag, S. S.; Neudörfl, J.-M.; Berkessel, A.; O'Donoghue, A. C. *Chem.—Eur. J.* **2011**, *17*, 8524.

(20) For recent examples of chain-walking processes, see: (a) Kochi, T.; Hamasaki, T.; Aoyama, Y.; Kawasaki, J.; Kakiuchi, F. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2012**, *134*, 16544. (b) Mei, T.-S.; Werner, E. W.; Burckle, A. J.; Sigman, M. S. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2013**, *135*, 6830 and references therein. Also see: (c) Shen, X.; Wasmuth, A. S.; Zhao, J.; Zhu, C.; Nelson, S. G. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2006**, *128*, 7438.

## NOTE ADDED AFTER ASAP PUBLICATION

Due to a production error, this paper was published on the Web with errors in Scheme 2. The corrected version was reposted on July 30, 2013.