

*Journal of Organometallic Chemistry*, 390 (1990) C81–C83  
 Elsevier Sequoia S.A., Lausanne – Printed in The Netherlands  
 JOM 21010PC

**Preliminary communication**

**Asymmetric catalysis**

**LVI \*. Enantioselective hydrosilylation of acetophenone  
 with a rhodium / picolineoxazoline catalyst 1 : 1**

**Henri Brunner \* and Paul Brandl**

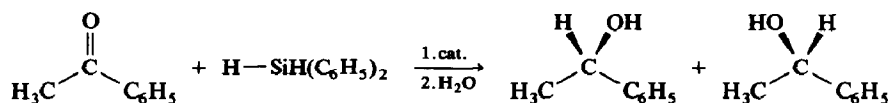
*Institut für Anorganische Chemie, Universität Regensburg, Universitätsstr. 31, D-8400 Regensburg (F.R.G.)*  
 (Received April 9th, 1990)

**Abstract**

The direction of optical induction is inverted in going from pyridineoxazoline 1 to picolineoxazoline 2 as cocatalyst in the Rh-catalyzed asymmetric hydrosilylation of acetophenone with diphenylsilane. In the case of ligand 2, a 1.2-fold excess of the ligand is sufficient to achieve the highest enantiomeric excess.

Optically active nitrogen ligands, such as pyridineimines [2,3], pyridinethiazolidines [4,5], and pyridineoxazolines [6,7] are good cocatalysts for the Rh-catalyzed enantioselective hydrosilylation of acetophenone with diphenylsilane, to give, after subsequent hydrolysis, 1-phenylethanol (Scheme 1). Common to all these catalyses is the fact that an excess of the nitrogen ligand is required for a high optical induction.

In the present study we have demonstrated that on going from the pyridineoxazoline cocatalyst 1 to its 6-Me analogue 2 that (i) the direction of the optical



Scheme 1

\* For Part LV, see ref. 1.

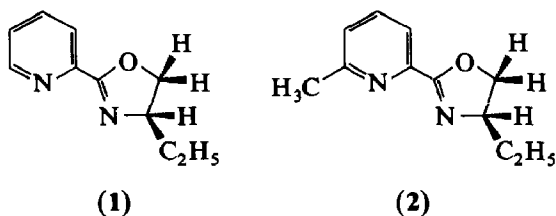
Table 1

Hydrosilylation of acetophenone (1 ml) with  $\text{H}_2\text{SiPh}_2$  (1.6 ml); catalyst  $[\text{Rh}(\text{cod})\text{Cl}]_2/\text{ligand}$ ;  $0 \rightarrow 20^\circ \text{C}$ ; 18 h; Rh/substrate 1/200

Entry	Ligand	Rh/ligand	% Hydro-silylation <sup>a</sup>	% Chemical yield <sup>b</sup>	% e.e.	Configu-ration	Number of runs
1	1	1/0.8	87	66	17.7, 19.7	<i>S</i>	2
2	1	1/0.9	90	65	17.3, 19.5	<i>S</i>	2
3	1	1/1.0	87	68	19.0, 21.2	<i>S</i>	2
4	1	1/1.1	85	67	21.0, 22.0	<i>S</i>	2
5	1	1/1.2	89	69	20.0, 21.8	<i>S</i>	2
6	1	1/2.0	91	70	32.6	<i>S</i>	1
7	1	1/5.0	89	70	37.8, 39.8	<i>S</i>	2
8	2	1/0.8	93	62	30.3, 32.7	<i>R</i>	2
9	2	1/0.9	94	68	34.1, 36.1	<i>R</i>	2
10	2	1/1.0	83	69	40.9, 42.1	<i>R</i>	2
11	2	1/1.1	91	75	44.4, 45.2	<i>R</i>	2
12	2	1/1.2	90	81	45.1, 47.3	<i>R</i>	2
13	2	1/2.0	93	82	47.4	<i>R</i>	1
14	2	1/5.0	92	83	46.9, 48.1	<i>R</i>	2

<sup>a</sup> Silyl ether  $\text{PhCH}(\text{Me})\text{OSiHPh}_2$  + silyl enol ether  $\text{PhC}(\text{OSiHPh}_2)=\text{CH}_2$  [6]. <sup>b</sup> Silyl ether  $\text{PhCH}(\text{Me})\text{OSiHPh}_2$  which on hydrolysis gives 1-phenylethanol [6].

induction is inverted, and (ii) an excess of the ligand no longer is necessary to obtain high optical inductions.



In a procedure analogous to that used for **1** [6], oxazoline **2** was synthesized by condensation of (*R*)-(-)-2-amino-1-butanol with the corresponding carboximidate, obtained by methanolysis of 2-cyano-6-methyl-pyridine [8].

In the hydrosilylation reactions depicted in Scheme 1 the ratio of Rh/ligand was varied from 1/0.8 to 1/5 at a constant Rh/substrate ratio of 1/200 (Table 1). The features were as follows:

(i) *Inversion of the product configuration.* With pyridineoxazoline **1** as a cocatalyst we obtain an excess of (*S*)-(-)-1-phenylethanol (entries 1–7). However, when the corresponding picolineoxazoline **2** was used, the direction of the optical induction was changed to (*R*)-(+)-1-phenylethanol (entries 8–14). It is surprising that a small difference, involving only an additional methyl group in 6-position of the pyridine ring, should invert the enantioselectivity when all the other reaction conditions are kept constant.

(ii) *Effects of excess of the ligand.* For pyridineoxazoline cocatalysts it was previously found that the optical induction in the Rh-catalyzed hydrosilylation could be increased by use of a large excess of ligand [6]. This was confirmed in the present study. Variation of the Rh/**1** ratio in small steps from 1/0.8 to 1/1.2 caused a change in optical induction from 17.3% to 22.0% e.e. (entries 1–5). Use of a

two-fold ligand excess increased the e.e. to 32.6% (entry 6) and a five-fold excess to 37.8 or 39.8% e.e. (entry 7). With a Rh/2 ratio of 1/0.8 an enantioselectivity of 30.3% and 32.7% e.e. was obtained (entry 8), although in this case and also in cases 1, 2, and 9, the hydrosilylation reaction is probably partially catalyzed by an achiral  $[\text{Rh}(\text{cod})\text{Cl}]_2$  species. When the concentration of the ligand is increased in small steps to a Rh/2 ratio of 1/1.2, the optical induction increases up to 47.3% (entries 9–12). Interestingly, Rh/ligand ratios of 1/2 or 1/5 do not give higher e.e.s (entries 13, 14). Thus, as with to the Rh/phosphine ratios used in enantioselective hydrogenation reactions, a 1.2-fold ligand excess is sufficient for the  $[\text{Rh}(\text{cod})\text{Cl}]_2/2$  system to achieve the highest enantiomeric excess in the hydrosilylation of acetophenone with diphenylsilane.

### Experimental section

(*R*)-(+)-4-Ethyl-2-(2-pyridinyl)oxazoline (**1**) was made as described previously [6]. (*R*)-(+)-4-Ethyl-2-(2-picolinyl)oxazoline (**2**) was prepared in the same way as **1**, starting from 2-cyano-6-methylpyridine [8], which was converted into methyl 2-picoline carboximidate by use of a 10% excess of  $\text{CH}_3\text{ONa}$ . For purification, **2** was passed with ether through a 30 cm  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ -layer (medium activity). Yield 58–64%; colourless oil.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 250 MHz, *i*-TMS):  $\delta$  1.03 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 3H), 1.55–1.88 (m, 2H), 2.64 (s, 3H), 4.13 (dd,  $J = 8.0$  Hz,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.29 (m, 1H), 4.56 (dd,  $J = 8.0$  Hz,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.25 (m, 1H), 7.66 (m, 1H), 7.88 (m, 1H). MS (EI):  $m/z$  (%) 190 ( $M^+$ , 8), 161 (100), 133 (37), 106 (73), 92 (38), 65 (37). Optical rotation ( $c$  0.27,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ )  $[\alpha]_{589}^{20} + 81.6$ ,  $[\alpha]_{578}^{20} + 85.7$ ,  $[\alpha]_{546}^{20} + 99.6$ ,  $[\alpha]_{436}^{20} + 200.6$ ,  $[\alpha]_{365}^{20} + 406.6$ .

Anal. Found: C, 69.09; H, 7.89; N, 14.26.  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{O}$  calcd.: C, 69.46; H, 7.41; N, 14.72%.

The enantioselective hydrosilylations were carried out as described in ref. 6, under the reaction conditions specified in Table 1.

**Acknowledgement.** We thank the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, the Fonds der Chemischen Industrie, and BASF AG, Ludwigshafen, for support of this work.

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