

the other hand, the angular systems are best described by invoking varying (and diminishing) degrees of bond alternation. Thus, **5** contains an internal "cyclohexatriene",^{7b} maximizing the "aromaticity" of the flanking two benzene rings. Bond localization is increasingly attenuated along the series **5**, **6**, **7**, as more and more ($4n + 2$) circuits contribute to the π -structure. Support for this notion is found in the steadily increasing coupling constants between the hydrogens of the internal rings, e.g., **5**, $J(\text{H5-H6}) = 6.53$ Hz; **6**, $J(\text{H5-H6}) = 6.68$ Hz; **7**, $J(\text{H5-H6}) = 6.80$ Hz, $J(\text{H7-H8}) = 7.00$ Hz.

We are actively seeking corroborative evidence for these hypotheses by the continuing investigation of the structural and chemical properties of these unusual molecules.

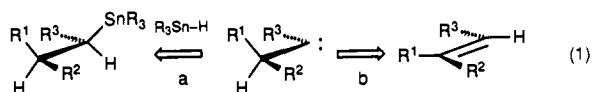
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1,2-Asymmetric Induction in the Sn-H Bond Insertion Reaction of Aliphatic Fischer Carbene Complex

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We report herein a case of a novel intermolecular carbene insertion reaction, wherein stereochemical information is effectively transmitted from an adjacent stereogenic center to the reacting carbene carbon (eq 1a). Examples of such 1,2-asymmetric inductions have not been reported previously, perhaps due to the propensity of aliphatic carbenes to undergo 1,2-hydrogen migration (eq 1b) faster than intermolecular insertion.¹



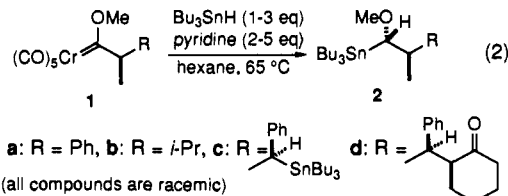
Aliphatic Fischer carbene complexes readily undergo 1,2-hydrogen migration upon heating with a base.² We have found, however, that intermolecular insertion into an Sn-H σ -bond³ can effectively compete with the intramolecular reaction and that it proceeds with considerable diastereoselectivity for a carbene complex bearing an α -stereogenic center (eq 2). The following example illustrates the experimental procedure, which is very simple. A mixture of carbene complex **1d** (single isomer; 0.147 g, 0.33 mmol), Bu_3SnH (0.26 mL, 0.98 mmol), and pyridine (0.16 mL, 2.0 mmol) was heated in 5 mL of hexane for 8 h at 60 °C. Removal of the yellow precipitate of chromium(0)/pyridine complexes³ by filtration followed by silica gel chromatography (hexane) gave 145 mg of the α -alkoxytin compound **2d** (81%) as a 93:7 diastereomeric mixture. The reaction gave only a trace amount of an olefin due to 1,2-hydrogen migration.⁴

(1) For the discussion of this issue, see: Taber, D. F.; Hennessy, M. J.; Louey, J. D. *J. Org. Chem.* 1992, 57, 436. Guzman, A.; Pinedo, A.; Saldana, A.; Torre, D.; Muchowski, J. M. *Can. J. Chem.* 1983, 61, 454. Cama, L. D.; Christensen, B. G. *Tetrahedron Lett.* 1978, 4233. Padwa, A.; Kulkarni, Y. S.; Zhang, Z. *J. Org. Chem.* 1990, 55, 4144.

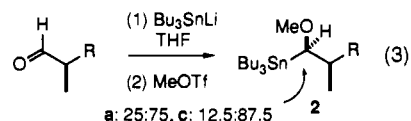
(2) (a) Casey, C. P.; Anderson, R. L. *J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.* 1975, 895. Fischer, E. O.; Plabst, D. *Chem. Ber.* 1974, 107, 3326. Soderberg, B. C.; Turbeville, M. J. *Organometallics* 1991, 10, 3951. (b) General reviews of Fischer carbene chemistry: Wulff, W. D. *Comprehensive Organic Synthesis*; Trost, B. M., Fleming, I., Eds.; Pergamon: Oxford, 1991; Vol. 5, Chapter 9.2.

(3) (a) The insertion reaction of arylcarbene complexes to group 14 hydrides: Connor, J. A.; Rose, P. D.; Turner, R. M. *J. Organomet. Chem.* 1973, 55, 111. (b) Mechanistic studies: Connor, J. A.; Day, J. P.; Turner, R. M. *J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans.* 1976, 108. Connor, J. A.; Day, J. P.; Turner, R. M. *J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans.* 1976, 283.

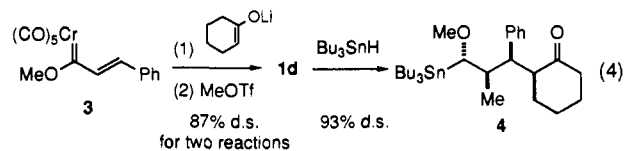
(4) Side reactions involve intramolecular C-H insertion and carbene dimerization, which became dominant for unreactive substrates and metal hydrides (e.g., R_3GeH and R_3SiH).



Inspection of the data in Table I reveals several notable features of the reaction. First, the reaction proceeds with a synthetically useful level (4:1-13:1) of asymmetric induction. Comparison of **1a** and **1c** (entries 1 and 5) with authentic samples (eq 3) indicated that the stereochemistry of these compounds is different from that obtained by Cram addition of Bu_3SnLi to the structurally comparable aldehyde and that the Sn-H insertion and the SnLi addition showed virtually the same level of diastereoselectivity.⁵



Upon combination with the stereoselective Michael addition/trapping sequence,⁶ the insertion reaction stereoselectively creates the four chiral centers in **4** in two steps from **3** (eq 4). The reaction conditions are mild enough not to affect ketone and stannyl groups or to cause epimerization at the carbon adjacent to a ketone group (entries 5 and 6). It is well-known that the conversion of the Sn-C bond in an (α -alkoxyalkyl)stannane to a C-C bond can be carried out with retention of stereochemistry via an (α -alkoxyalkyl)lithium.⁷



Notably, the diastereoselectivity was little influenced either by the added basic ligand or by the nature of the group 14 metal. Thus, the selectivities of the reaction of **1b** with Bu_3SnH in the presence of pyridine, DABCO, DMAP, Ph_3P , $(\text{PhO})_3\text{P}$, and $(\text{MeO})_3\text{P}$ fell in a small range, 79, 76, 75, 71, 74, and 74% ds, respectively (40-80%), and the reaction rate remained qualitatively unchanged. In addition, neither the selectivity nor the rate of the reaction changed much for Bu_3SnH and Ph_3SnH (entries 1 and 3), in spite of the apparent difference in their steric demand.⁸ The reaction of Bu_3SnD (99% deuterium) with the complex **1a** resulted in complete deuterium incorporation to the carbene center (entry 2),⁹ proceeding with selectivity identical with that of the Bu_3SnH reaction. Among other group 14 metals, Ph_3GeH , which was much less reactive (6% yield), also showed a 7:3 selectivity, and PhMe_2SiH gave a complex mixture of products.

While at this time there is insufficient data to discuss the details of the reaction mechanism, Scheme I illustrates some factors relevant to the origin of the diastereoselectivity. In an insertion reaction of a carbene-type reactive intermediate, the stereocontrol is a complex issue, since two new σ -bonds are formed on the forming chiral center in a single reaction. The likely conformation of the 1-phenylethyl complex **1a** is based on the steric bulk of the $\text{Cr}(\text{CO})_5$ moiety as supported by MMX calculations.¹⁰ The

(5) Further correlation⁷ of **2a** to the known diastereomers of 2-phenyl-3-pentanol ($\text{EtMgBr} + 2$ -phenylpropanal) confirmed the stereochemistry of **2a** as indicated in eq 3 (see supplementary material).

(6) Cf. Aoki, S.; Fujimura, T.; Nakamura, E. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1992, 114, 2985. For diastereoselective aldol chemistry of carbene complexes: Wulff, W. D.; Anderson, B. A.; Toole, A. J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1989, 111, 5485. Dötz, K. H. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl.* 1984, 23, 587.

(7) Still, W. C.; Sreekumar, C. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1980, 102, 1201.

(8) These are consistent with the assumptions made for Scheme I.

(9) There was very small deuterium isotope effect ($k_H/k_D = \text{ca. } 1.1$, competition with 10 equiv each of the hydride and deuteride).

