Communication

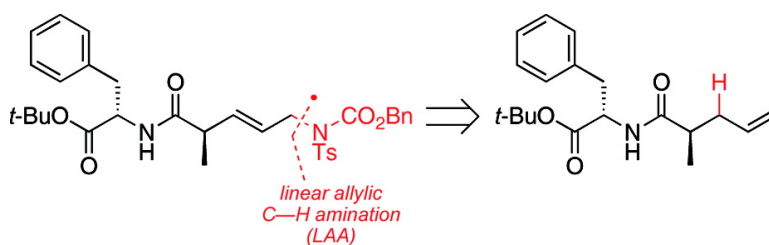# Catalytic Intermolecular Linear Allylic C–H Amination via Heterobimetallic Catalysis

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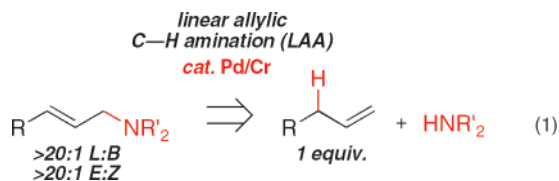
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Catalytic Intermolecular Linear Allylic C−H Amination via Heterobimetallic Catalysis

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Nitrogen functionality is prevalent in synthetic and natural small molecules with significant biological activities.[1] Current state-of-the-art methods for installing nitrogen into complex organic frameworks generally proceed through oxygen.[2] While these methods feature high selectivities and predictable reactivities, they lengthen synthetic sequences by requiring unproductive chemical manipulations to install and maintain oxygen functionality. Reactions that selectively convert C−H directly to C−N stand to significantly streamline synthetic sequences by providing obvious disconnections that avoid handling oxidized materials.[3] While significant advances have been made in developing preparatively useful intramolecular C−H aminations,[4a,5] catalytic intermolecular C−H aminations are scarce and often require excess substrate.[6,7] We report herein the first general, catalytic, intermolecular allylic C−H amination reaction. This reaction directly converts a wide range of α-olefins to linear (E)-allylic amines with good yields and outstanding regio- and stereoselectivities ($>20{:}1$) using limiting amounts of the starting olefin. Critical for achieving this catalytic reactivity is a heterobimetallic system composed of Pd/bis-sulfoxide and Cr(salen) catalysts.

linear allylic
C−H amination (LAA)
cat. Pd/Cr

$$R \diagup\!\!\!\!\diagdown \, NR'_2 \quad \Longrightarrow \quad R \diagup\!\!\!\!\diagdown \, \overset{H}{} \; + \; HNR'_2 \qquad (1)$$

$>20{:}1$ L:B
$>20{:}1$ E:Z

1 equiv.

In addition to reactivity and regioselectivity challenges, intermolecular *allylic* C−H aminations face an additional chemoselectivity issue of competing reactivity with the olefin.[6d] In palladium-mediated processes, addition of nitrogen nucleophiles to the olefin (aminopalladation) is the dominant reaction pathway.[8] We recently reported that bis-sulfoxide/Pd(OAc)$_2$ catalyst **1** promotes intramolecular allylic C−H amination of α-olefins with a weak, tethered *N*-tosyl carbamate nucleophile.[4a] We hypothesized that a catalytic, intermolecular allylic C−H amination would be feasible if we could identify conditions that promote functionalization without interfering with the electrophilic C−H cleavage step. Known activation approaches for Pd(0)-mediated allylic substitutions, such as adding stoichiometric base to activate the nucleophile or strongly σ-donating ligands to activate the π-allylPd electrophile, may attenuate the electrophilicity of the Pd(II) species required for C−H cleavage.[2b,9,4b] Herein we disclose that a heterobimetallic Pd(II)−Cr(III) catalytic system promotes intermolecular linear allylic C−H amination (LAA). We provide evidence that the Pd(II)/bis-sulfoxide catalyst promotes allylic C−H cleavage and that the Cr(III)(salen) catalyst together with benzoquinone (BQ) promotes amination of the π-allylPd intermediate. This represents a rare example of hetero-bimetallic catalysis in which two different transition metals present in catalytic amounts are required to effect product formation.[10]

Table 1. Development of the Intermolecular LAA Reaction

entry	Pd(II)L$_n$	R	Cr(III)L$_n$	isolated yield[a]	L:B[b]	E:Z[b]
1[c]	1	Me	----	----	----	----
2[c]	----	Me	(salen)Cr(III)Cl **2**	----	----	----
3[c]	1	Me	2	43%	>100:1	65:1
4[c]	Pd(OAc)$_2$	Me	2	17%	----	----
5[c]	1	Me	CrCl$_3$·3THF	----	----	----
6[c]	1	Me	(TPP)Cr(III)Cl	25%	>100:1	71:1
7[d]	1	Me	(salen)Cr(III)Cl **2**[e]	53%	>100:1	57:1
8[d]	1	Me	(salen)Al(III)Cl	21%	>100:1	76:1
9[d]	1	Me	(salen)Co(III)OAc	17%	>100:1	91:1
10[d]	1	Me	(salen)Mn(III)Cl	44%	>100:1	78:1
11[d]	1	Bn	2	65%	>20:1[f]	>20:1[f]
12[d]	1	t-Bu	2	40%	>20:1[f]	>20:1[f]
13[d]	1	Fm	2	40%	>20:1[f]	>20:1[f]

[a] Average of 2 runs at 0.3 mmol. [b] Determined by GC analysis of the crude reaction mixture (unless otherwise stated). [c] THF (0.66M). [d] TBME (0.66M). [e] Other metal complexes gave 2% or less GC yield: Ni(II)(TPP), Fe(III)(TPP)Cl, Ru(II)(TPP), Cu(II)(TPP), Co(II)(p-MeO-TPP) Fe(III)PthCl, Mn(III)PthCl, Si(IV)PthCl$_2$ (TPP = tetraphenylporphyrin, Pth = phthalocyanine). [f] Determined by ¹H NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture.

Our study began by examining the reaction of allyl cyclohexane with *N*-(methoxycarbonyl)-*p*-toluenesulfonamide under our previously reported intramolecular amination conditions (Table 1, entry 1). Although we observed no reactivity, we were encouraged by stoichiometric studies that showed **1** maintained its ability to promote C−H cleavage to form a π-allylPd intermediate in the presence of an excess (2 equiv) of free nitrogen nucleophile (*vide infra*). Independent studies performed in our labs indicated that Cr-(III)(salen) complexes increase the rate of π-allylPd functionalization with acetate, suggesting that this catalyst may promote π-allyl functionalization.[11] We found that the addition of 6 mol % commercial (salen)Cr(III)Cl complex **2**[12,13] with 10 mol % commercial bis-sulfoxide/Pd(OAc)$_2$ **1** gave linear (E)-allylic amine **4** in encouraging yield (43% based on olefin **3**) and with remarkable regio- and stereoselectivities ($>$100:1 L/B, 65:1 E/Z, entry 3). It is significant to note that this is the first time that linear regioselectivity has been observed in an allylic C−H oxidation process with bis-sulfoxide/Pd(OAc)$_2$ catalyst **1**.[14] Chromium catalyst **2** gave no reactivity in the absence of Pd catalyst **1**, clearly showing that a dual metal-catalyst system is required for reactivity (entry 2). We next examined the role of ligands in this reaction. In the absence of bis-sulfoxide ligand, Pd(OAc)$_2$ furnished only 17% of the aminated product (entry 4). Free chromium (III) salts shut down reactivity (entry 5), whereas chromium (III) in a porphyrin

Table 2. Scope of the Intermolecular LAA Reaction

^{a} Average of two runs at 0.3 mmol. Products were isolated as one regio- and olefin isomer (^{1}H NMR). ^{b} Mixture of 7:1 L/B and 17:1 E/Z (^{1}H NMR).

framework also gave allylic aminated product, albeit in diminished yields (entry 6). Under optimized reaction parameters (TBME, entry 7), a variety of salen porphyrin, and phthalocyanine metal complexes were evaluated (entries 7−10). Notably, (salen)Mn(III)Cl was the only other complex found to catalyze the reaction with significant product yields (entry 10). Examination of other O-protected *N*-tosylcarbamate nucleophiles indicated that benzyl- was comparable under these conditions (entry 11) whereas *tert*-butyl- and 9-fluorenylmethyl-*N*-tosylcarbamates presently give diminished yields (entries 12 and 13, respectively).

The utility of the linear allylic C−H amination reaction as a means of selectively incorporating nitrogen during complex molecule synthesis was probed by investigating its scope with respect to the α-olefin substrate (Table 2 and Figure 1). A wide range of polar groups that can serve as functional handles for further elaboration (e.g., silyl and benzyl ethers, Weinreb amides, benzyloxycarbonyl (Cbz)- and phthalimide(Pht)-protected amines) may be present on the substrate. Aromatic substrates undergo allylic C−H amination with good yields and outstanding selectivities. For example, safrole derived allylic amine **6**, a direct precursor for a
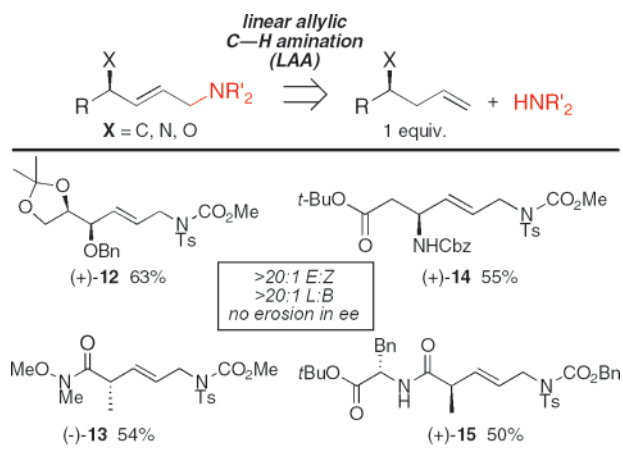
Figure 1. Streamlined synthesis of chiral 1,4-difunctionalized allylic amines.
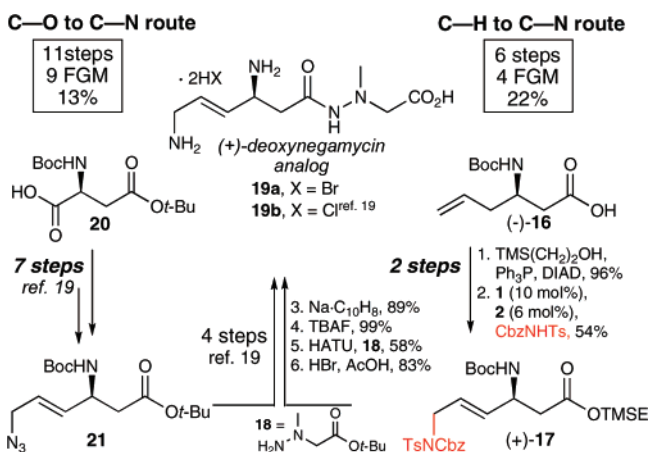
known SSAO inhibitor, was generated in 72% yield as a single isomer (Table 2, entry 2).[15] Although unsubstituted hydrocarbon substrates, such as 1-decene, show a decrease in regioselectivity (L/B, 7:1; entry 3), incorporation of a branching carbon, oxygen, or nitrogen moiety in the remote bis-homoallylic position restores high levels of selectivity (L/B > 20:1, entries 4−6).

Asymmetric allylations of aldehydes,[16a,b] imines,[16c] and enolates[16d,e] provide rapid access to stereodefined homoallylic oxygen, nitrogen, and carbon substituted α-olefins. These substrates undergo linear allylic C−H amination in good yields, excellent selectivities, and no erosion in enantiomeric purity (Figure 1). Thus, this reaction provides a highly simplifying transform for chiral 1,4-difunctionalized allylic amines that can be further elaborated to motifs common in natural products and medicinally valuable compounds. For example, tripeptide isostere (+)-**15** was readily synthesized in optically pure form via an asymmetric allylation/allylic C−H amination sequence.[17] Densely functionalized amino alcohol (+)-**12** is an intermediate toward glycamines.[18]

On the basis of our previous work,[4] we anticipated incorporation of nitrogen using selective C−H to C−N bond-forming reactions would significantly streamline the synthesis of nitrogen-containing compounds. In this vein, we compared the route to a rigidified analogue of the antibiotic deoxynegamycin (+)-**19** enabled by the linear allylic C−H amination to a previous state-of-the-art route based on allylic C−O substitution (Scheme 1).[19] Starting with commercial β-homoallylglycine (−)-**16**, nitrogen was incorporated in only two steps at the correct oxidation state using the linear allylic amination. In contrast, beginning with aspartic acid derivative **20**, incorporation of nitrogen via an allylic oxygenate intermediate proceeded in seven steps and required further oxidation-state manipulation of nitrogen. Overall, the C−H to C−N bond-forming route to optically pure deoxynegamycin analogue (+)-**19a** proceeded with five fewer steps, five fewer functional group manipulations (FGMs), and higher overall yield than the alternative C−O to C−N bond-forming route.

Scheme 1

Scheme 2
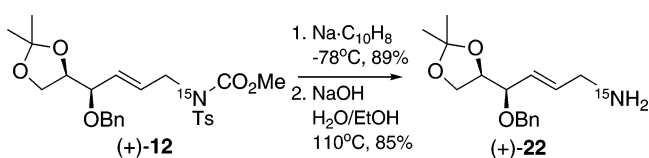
Linear allylic C−H amination also provides a direct route to valuable ^{15}N-labeled compounds by using ^{15}N-(methoxycarbonyl)-*p*-toluenesulfonamide (readily available in two steps from ^{15}NH$_4$-

Cl, 99.7% enriched). Installation of labeled nitrogen functionality late in a route minimizes loss of this valuable material that would otherwise be incurred by early-stage incorporation. As with all of the tosyl-protected amine compounds, detosylation can be effected under mild, reductive conditions without affecting the carbamate moiety. Detosylation of ^{15}N-labeled (+)-**12** followed by cleavage of the methoxy carbamate with NaOH afforded isotopically enriched free amine product (+)-**22** (99.7% enriched, Scheme 2).

Scheme 3. Stoichiometric Studies To Evaluate the Role of (salen)CrCl **2**
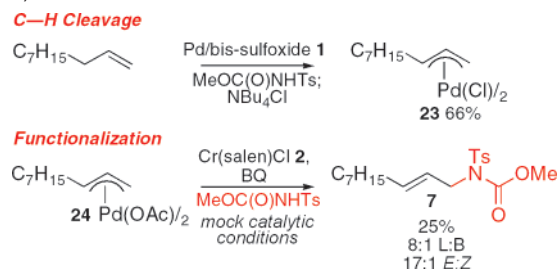
Stoichiometric studies were performed to evaluate the roles of Pd(II)/bis-sulfoxide catalyst **1** and Cr(III)(salen) catalyst **2** in the intermolecular allylic C−H amination reaction. When a stoichiometric mixture of 1-decene, catalyst **1**, and 2 equiv of *N*-(methoxycarbonyl)-*p*-toluenesulfonamide nucleophile were heated for 4 h, a π-allylPd complex was trapped as the corresponding chloride dimer **23**, which was isolated in 66% yield (Scheme 3). We next evaluated the effect of chromium catalyst **2** on synthetic π-allylPd complex **24** under mock catalytic conditions. We found that the combination of Cr catalyst **2** with BQ was uniquely effective at promoting formation of aminated product **7** in 25% yield with regio- and stereoselectivities similar to those observed under standard catalytic conditions (Scheme 3; Table 2, entry 3).[20] Consistent with **2**/BQ working together to promote functionalization, sterically hindered quinones such as 2,6-dimethyl quinone result in significantly diminished yields (10%, see Supporting Information, [SI]) under otherwise standard catalytic conditions. These results suggest that Pd catalyst **1** mediates allylic C−H cleavage, while Cr catalyst **2** and BQ promote functionalization. The exact mechanism by which **2**/BQ promote functionalization is currently under investigation.[21]

In summary, we report the first general and highly selective, catalytic intermolecular allylic C−H amination reaction. The excellent levels of regio- and stereoselectivity as well as the outstanding functional group compatibility make this reaction immediately applicable to complex molecule synthesis. Mechanistic studies support a heterobimetallic Pd(II)−Cr(III) catalytic system in which each metal effects different product-forming steps in the catalytic cycle. Given the excellent selectivities and broad scope of the linear allylic C−H amination, we anticipate that it, and other reactions like it, will significantly enable the streamlining of small molecule synthesis.

Supporting Information Available: Detailed experimental procedures, full characterization, ^{1}H and ^{13}C NMR spectra. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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