

# Enantioselective $\alpha$ -Arylation of Aldehydes via the Productive Merger of Iodonium Salts and Organocatalysis

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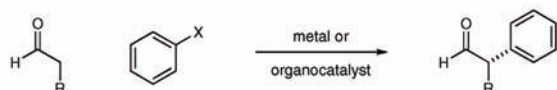
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Supporting Information

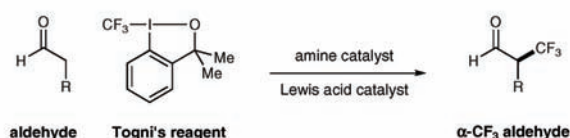
**ABSTRACT:** The enantioselective  $\alpha$ -arylation of aldehydes has been accomplished using diaryliodonium salts and a combination of copper and organic catalysts. These mild catalytic conditions provide a new strategy for the enantioselective construction and retention of enolizable  $\alpha$ -formyl benzylic stereocenters, a valuable synthon for the production of medicinal agents. As one example, this new asymmetric protocol has been applied to the rapid synthesis of (*S*)-ketoprofen, a commercially successful oral and topical analgesic.

Over the past decade, the catalytic union of nascent enolates with aryl coupling partners has become a mainstay transformation in organic synthesis, primarily driven by advances in transition metal catalysis.<sup>1,2</sup> In particular, the pioneering work of Buchwald and Hartwig has provided a number of enantioselective enolate  $\alpha$ -arylations that enable quaternary carbon formation directly adjacent to both ketone and lactone moieties.<sup>2</sup> Slower to develop, however, have been protocols that allow the enantioselective production of enolizable  $\alpha$ -carbonyl benzylic stereocenters (methine stereocenters), presumably due to the propensity for postreaction racemization when elevated temperatures or basic conditions are employed.<sup>2,3</sup>

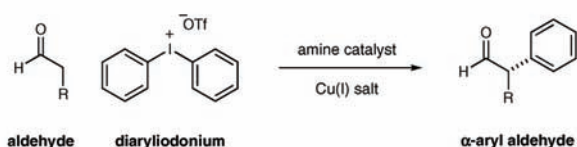
## Challenging Transformation: Enantioselective Aldehyde $\alpha$ -Arylation



## Enantioselective Trifluoromethylation: Enamine-Iodonium Salts (Eq 1)



## Metal-Organocatalysis Merger: Enolizable $\alpha$ -Arylation Adducts (Eq 2)



A notable exception is the seminal work of Fu and co-workers who have realized the enantioselective Negishi and Kumada coupling of  $\alpha$ -methine bromo ketones and amides with organometallic arenes at low temperature.<sup>4</sup> Recently, we questioned whether enolizable  $\alpha$ -aryl aldehydes might also be enantioselectively created and retained via a novel, tandem catalysis mechanism that employs diaryliodonium salts as an arylation partner in the presence of both amine and metal catalysts.<sup>5</sup> Herein, we describe the successful execution of these ideals and present an operationally trivial, room temperature protocol that is sufficiently mild to generate  $\alpha$ -carbonyl benzylic stereogenicity without postreaction racemization (eq 2).

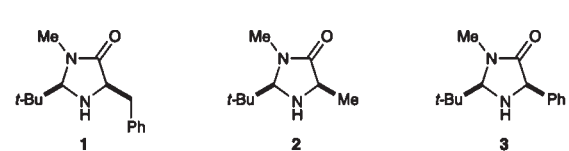
**Design Plan.** Recently, we described the enantioselective  $\alpha$ -trifluoromethylation of aldehydes using the hypervalent Togni reagent,<sup>6</sup> in combination with an imidazolidinone catalyst and Lewis acid additives (eq 1).<sup>7</sup> Inspired by these studies, we hypothesized that iodonium salts that incorporate aromatic groups, such as diphenyliodonium triflate, might analogously function as arylating agents with transiently generated enamines, thereby providing a new pathway for asymmetric aldehyde arylation with amine catalysts (Scheme 1). Often viewed as an electrophilic species that undergoes C–Ar bond formation via an iodonium addition/reductive elimination mechanism, diaryliodonium salts have previously been utilized for the racemic  $\alpha$ -arylation of silyl enol ethers and silyl ketene acetals.<sup>8</sup> As a further consideration, we recognized that these electrophilic salts are nontoxic, readily accessible, and air and moisture stable, valuable characteristics with respect to the development of an efficient organocatalytic reaction.<sup>5c</sup>

We began our investigation using diphenyliodonium triflate, octanal, and amine catalyst **1** (Table 1). While noncatalytic reactions with enolates<sup>9</sup> or silyl enol ethers<sup>10</sup> often proceed without activation of the diaryliodonium salt, enamine-activated octanal failed to couple with diphenyliodonium triflate (entry 1).<sup>11</sup> In accord with our previous trifluoromethylation studies, we next examined the use of catalytic Lewis acids that we hoped would activate the hypervalent iodine reagent toward nucleophilic attack via counterion binding.<sup>6,7</sup> Remarkably, all metal salt additives resulted in no observable reaction (entries 2–4) with the exception of CuCl, which produced the desired  $\alpha$ -arylation adduct in a notable 58% yield and 76% ee (entry 5). It has long been established that the arylation of carbon and oxygen based nucleophiles with diaryliodonium salts can be facilitated by the presence of catalytic copper salts; however, the mechanism of activation typically involves a Cu(I) mediated oxidative addition

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Table 1. Evaluation of Metal Additives and Amine Catalysts

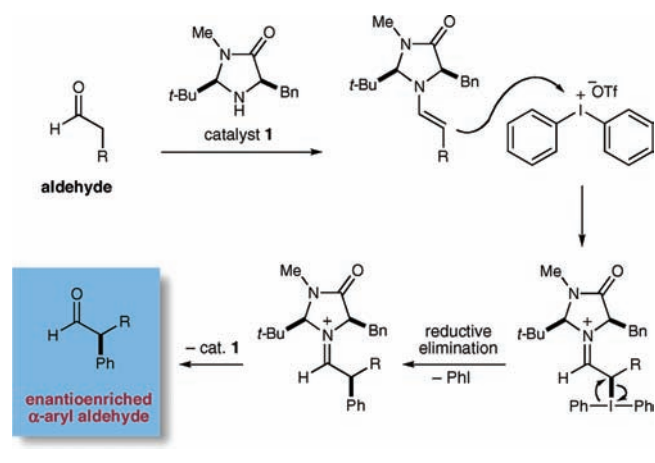


Reaction scheme: Octanal + diphenyliodonium triflate (Ph-I-Ph)<sup>+</sup>OTf<sup>-</sup> reacts with an amine catalyst and a metal catalyst in toluene with NaHCO<sub>3</sub> at 23 °C to produce an α-formyl aryl product.

entry	amine·HX (mol %)	metal salt (mol %)	yield (%) <sup>a</sup>	ee (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	1• TFA (20 mol%)	None	0	--
2	1• TFA (20 mol%)	Sc(OTf) <sub>3</sub> (10 mol%)	0	--
3	1• TFA (20 mol%)	Sm(OTf) <sub>3</sub> (10 mol%)	0	--
4	1• TFA (20 mol%)	Zn(OTf) <sub>2</sub> (20 mol%)	0	--
5	1• TFA (20 mol%)	CuCl (10 mol%)	58	76
6	1• TFA (20 mol%)	CuBr (10 mol%)	63	76
7	2• TFA (20 mol%)	CuBr (10 mol%)	47	43
8	3• TFA (20 mol%)	CuBr (10 mol%)	74	87
9	3• TCA (20 mol%)	CuBr (10 mol%)	90	84
10 <sup>c</sup>	3• TCA (10 mol%)	CuBr (10 mol%)	90	92

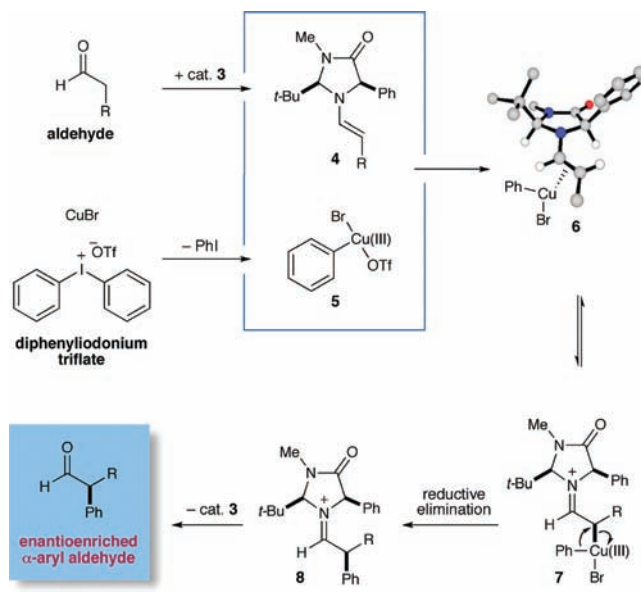
<sup>a</sup> GC yield. <sup>b</sup> Determined by chiral HPLC analysis of the corresponding alcohol; absolute configuration determined by chemical correlation or by analogy. <sup>c</sup> Performed with 2:1 toluene/Et<sub>2</sub>O.

Scheme 1. Initial Hypothesis for the α-Arylation of Aldehydes



into the aryl–iodonium bond to generate a highly electrophilic Ar–Cu(III)–XY system.<sup>12,13</sup> With this alternative pathway in mind (see Scheme 2), further improvements were realized when CuBr was employed (entry 6), and both yield and enantioselectivity were increased when amine catalyst 1 was replaced with catalyst 3 (entry 8). Moreover, use of trichloroacetic acid as the cocatalyst along with a mixed solvent system of toluene and diethyl ether provided an excellent chemical yield and enantioselectivity (entries 9 and 10). Finally, the observed levels of efficiency and enantiocontrol were maintained with 10 mol % of catalyst 3, thereby establishing optimal conditions for further exploration.<sup>14,15</sup>

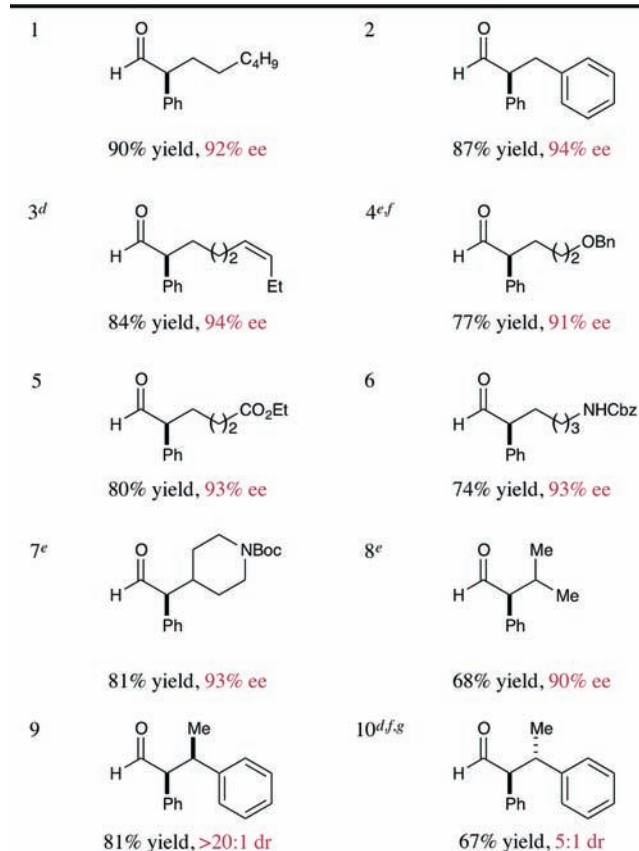
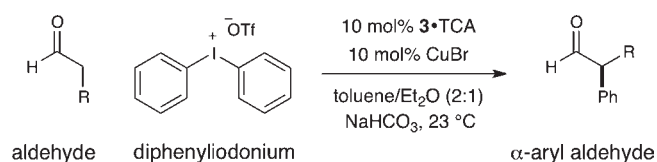
Scheme 2. Revised Mechanism for the Aldehyde α-Arylation



As outlined in Table 2, this α-arylation strategy is tolerant to aldehydic coupling partners that incorporate a wide range of functional groups, including arenes and olefins (entries 2 and 3, 84–87%, 94% ee) as well as ethers, esters, and carbamates (entries 4–7, 74–81%, 91–93% ee). Notably, sterically demanding substrates (R = piperidinyl or isopropyl) are also accommodated with minimal impact on yield or enantiocontrol (entries 7 and 8, 68–81%, 90–93% ee). In addition, enantiopure β-chiral aldehydes can also be used for the diastereoselective construction of both *syn*- and *anti*-α,β-disubstituted products (entries 9 and 10, 67–81%, 20:1 to 5:1 dr). While a matched and mismatched outcome is observed in each case, respectively, it is interesting to note that the induced stereochemistry in both examples is dominated by the catalyst architecture.

We have also found that a broad range of aryl and heteroaryl rings can be enantioselectively coupled with aldehyde-derived enamines in this tandem-catalysis reaction (Table 3). While symmetrical diaryliodonium triflates can be successfully employed in this context, we have found that the elegant approach of Gaunt to generate Ar–Cu(III)–XY systems from nonsymmetrical aryl-mesityl reagents is preferred for reasons of practicality.<sup>12a–c,16</sup> Notably, electron-poor (entries 1–4, 6–7) as well as electron-rich arenes (entries 5, 8–10) transfer readily with excellent levels of enantiocontrol (≥91% ee). Moreover, a broad range of para- and meta-substituted aryl rings with diverse steric and electronic properties (ethers, esters, nitro groups, and halides) can be readily exploited in this protocol (entries 2–4, 6–10, 67–91%, 91–93% ee). It is important to note, however, that ortho-substitution has thus far been restricted to small groups such as fluorine (entry 7, 67%, 91% ee). In addition to phenyl rings, we were delighted to find that heteroaromatics of an electron-rich (entry 11, 81%, 92% ee) or electron-poor nature (entry 12, 70%, 93% ee) are suitable coupling partners, a valuable finding with respect to potential medicinal chemistry applications.

**Mechanistic Considerations.** As illustrated in Scheme 2, we propose that this tandem-catalysis<sup>17</sup> pathway begins with concurrent formation of both the activated chiral enamine 4 (from

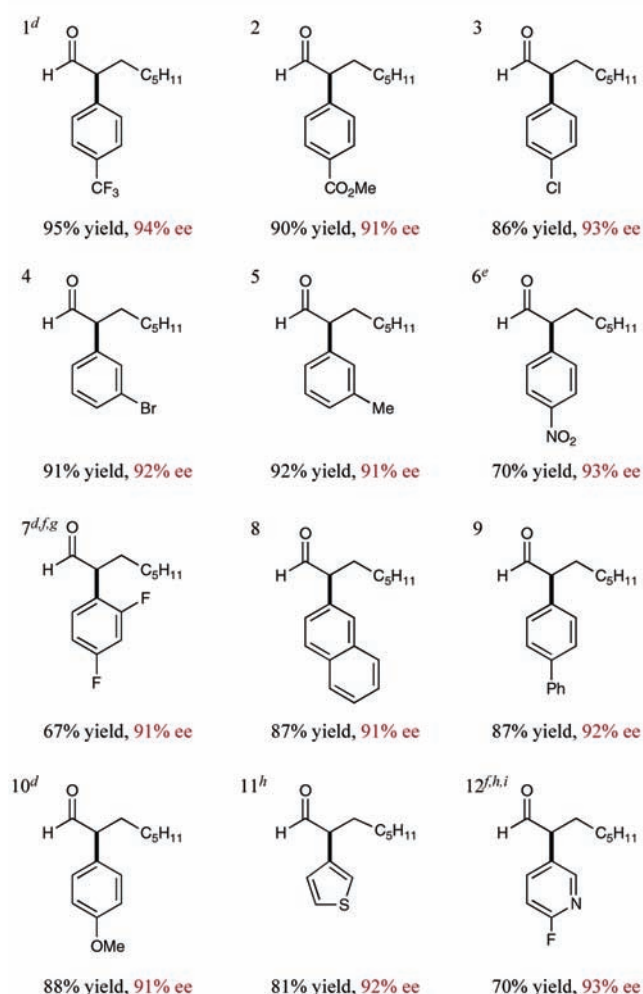
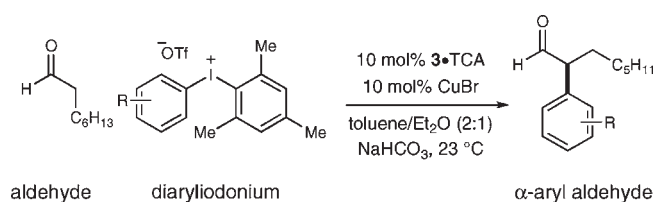
Table 2. Aldehyde Scope for the Enantioselective  $\alpha$ -Arylation<sup>a,b,c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Absolute configuration assigned by chemical correlation or by analogy.

<sup>b</sup> Isolated yield of the corresponding alcohol.<sup>15</sup> <sup>c</sup> Enantiomeric excess determined by chiral HPLC analysis of the corresponding alcohol. <sup>d</sup> 1:1 toluene/Et<sub>2</sub>O. <sup>e</sup> 20 mol % 3·TCA. <sup>f</sup> 20 mol % CuBr. <sup>g</sup> 40 mol % 3·TCA.

condensation of amine catalyst **3** with the aldehyde substrate) and the electron-deficient aryl-Cu(III) species **5** (arising from oxidative addition of Cu(I) into the C–I bond of the diaryliodonium triflate system). We expect that the highly electrophilic Cu(III)–aryl system **5** will rapidly coordinate to the *Re* face of the enamine (*Si* face shielded by the phenyl substituent of **3**; see **6**<sup>18</sup>) to form the  $\pi$ -Cu complex **6**. Rapid bond isomerization will subsequently lead to the  $\eta^1$ -iminium **7** organocopper, which upon reductive elimination should release the optically enriched  $\alpha$ -aryl iminium **8** and reconstitute the Cu(I)Br catalyst. Hydrolysis of iminium **8** will subsequently regenerate the organocatalyst partner **3** along with the desired  $\alpha$ -aryl aldehyde product.

To further demonstrate the value of this new  $\alpha$ -arylation strategy, we focused upon the development of a unique and expeditious route to ketoprofen, an oral and topical nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug.<sup>19</sup> As shown in detail in Scheme 3,

Table 3. Scope of the Diaryliodonium Triflate Component<sup>a,b,c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Absolute configuration assigned by chemical correlation or analogy.

<sup>b</sup> Isolated yield of the corresponding alcohol. <sup>c</sup> Enantiomeric excess determined by chiral HPLC analysis of the corresponding alcohol.

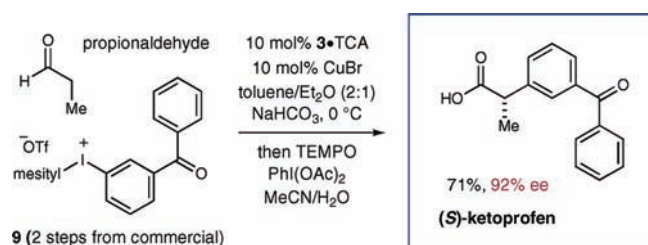
<sup>d</sup> Symmetrical diaryliodonium triflate was used. <sup>e</sup> Using 20 mol % 3·TCA. <sup>f</sup> Using 40 mol % 3·TCA. <sup>g</sup> Using 20 mol % CuBr. <sup>h</sup> Using 1:1 toluene/Et<sub>2</sub>O. <sup>i</sup> Using 5 mol % CuBr.

implementation of our standard arylation conditions at 0 °C with propionaldehyde and iodonium **9** (prepared in two steps from 3-aminobenzophenone; see Supporting Information), followed by in situ aldehyde oxidation, successfully furnished (*S*)-ketoprofen in 71% yield and 92% ee (a total of three chemical operations from commercial materials).

In conclusion, we have developed a new technology that allows the direct and enantioselective  $\alpha$ -arylation of aldehydes using a combination of metal and organic catalysis. The value of



## Scheme 3. Rapid Enantioselective Synthesis of (S)-Ketoprofen



this transformation has been highlighted via an expedient synthesis of (S)-ketoprofen, a well-established and commercially successful medicinal agent. Further investigations into the mechanism of this transformation are ongoing in our laboratory.

### ■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

**S** Supporting Information. Experimental procedures and spectral data are provided. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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### ■ ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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(14) The addition of  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  is necessary to remove the trifluoromethanesulfonic acid that is formed during the reaction.

(15) The isolated  $\alpha$ -formyl adducts are generally stable at room temperature without significant racemization. 2-Phenyloctanal was isolated with 90% ee through direct purification by flash chromatography (see Supporting Information). Rechecking the enantiopurity of the 2-phenyloctanal after 3 weeks confirmed the initial 90% ee (i.e., no erosion in optical purity).

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