# Multinuclear Pd/Zn Complex-Catalyzed Asymmetric Alkylative Ring-Opening Reaction of Oxabicyclic Alkenes

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### **ABSTRACT**



A multinuclear palladium catalyst can be used to realize the efficient catalytic asymmetric alkylative ring-opening reaction of oxabicyclic alkenes using dimethylzinc. The use of (R)-BINOL-PHOS bearing bisphosphine and diol moieties is essential for achieving excellent catalytic performance; the corresponding monophosphine and hydroxy-protected derivatives showed lower catalytic activities and/or enantioselectivities. The generation of Pd/Zn-multinuclear complexes is a key feature of the present catalysis.

The development of a multimetallic synergism contributes to new catalyst design as a novel and remarkably enhanced catalytic approach in organic chemistry.<sup>1</sup> We previously reported the BINOL scaffold for the generation of multinuclear complexes and achieved excellent catalytic performance in the Cu-catalyzed asymmetric conjugate addition of organozinc reagents to acyclic and cyclic

enones.2 The incorporation of Cu and Zn atoms in the catalyst was confirmed by ESI-MS analyses and was fundamental for the excellent catalytic performance. The present paper describes the asymmetric alkylative ringopening reaction of oxabicyclic alkenes. As part of our ongoing studies on a new combination of transition metals and main group metals, we discovered that Pd and Zn atoms have cooperative effects in the catalyst (Figure 1). Our strategy using BINOL-PHOS ligands could be used to generate Zn-linked ligands with dialkylzinc reagents, the phosphorus moieties of which coordinate to Pd centers to form multinuclear complexes. There have been several reports on asymmetric alkylative ring-opening reactions using Pd catalyst, which can be used to achieve the highly enantioselective synthesis of optically active alcohols bearing contiguous chiral centers.<sup>3,4</sup> We describe here a multinuclear catalysis including Pd and Zn atoms for highly efficient asymmetric alkylative ring-opening reactions using organozinc reagents (Figure 2). The previously

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Figure 1. Design of multi-Pd/Zn-complexes.

reported ligands are expensive and somewhat difficult to synthesize; thus, a simple procedure for the synthesis of  $(R)$ -BINOL-PHOS (BP1) (3 steps without column chromatography,  $65\%$  yield from inexpensive  $(R)$ -BINOL) could broaden the utility of the present catalysis.<sup>2,5</sup>



Figure 2. Representative ligands for Pd-catalyzed asymmetric alkylative ring opening of oxabicyclic alkenes.

The initial screening of reaction conditions is described in Table 1. The reaction of oxanorbornadiene 1a and  $Me<sub>2</sub>Zn$  (1.5 equiv) was carried out in the presence of Pd salt (5 mol  $\%$ ) and (R)-BINOL-PHOS (BP1) (5 mol  $\%$ ) at room temperature. The use of THF as a solvent gave the product 2a in 48% yield with 56% ee (entry 1). The Table 1. Screening of Reaction Conditions



entry	Pd salt	solvent <sup><math>a,b</math></sup>	time(h)	yield, ee $(\%)^c$
1	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	THF(0.1)	24	48,56
$\boldsymbol{2}$	$PdCl_2(CH_3CN)_2$	THF(0.1)	24	51,57
3	Pd(TFA)	THF(0.1)	24	42,54
$\overline{4}$	$[Pd(ally)Cl]_2$	THF(0.1)	24	23,47
5	$Pd_2dba_3 \cdot CHCl_3$	THF $(0.1)$	24	
6	$Pd(OAc)_2$	Et <sub>2</sub> O(0.1)	24	
7	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	DCM(0.1)	24	63,85
8	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	DCE(0.1)	24	49,10
9	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	toluene $(0.1)$	24	63,97
10	$Pd(OAc)_{2}$	toluene $(0.2)$	24	70,97
11	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	toluene $(0.5)$	16	93,97
$12^d$	$Pd(OAc)_{2}$	toluene $(0.5)$	24	
$13^d$	$Pd(OAc)_{2}$	THF $(0.5)$	20	47,64
$14^d$	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	dioxane(0.5)	8	66,69
$15^d$	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	DCM(0.5)	8	88,69
$16^d$	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	DCE(0.5)	8	86,60
17 <sup>d</sup>	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	DMF(0.5)	20	
$18^d$	$PdCl_2(CH_3CN)_2$	DCM(0.5)	24	85,59

<sup>*a*</sup>The concentration of **1a** is in parentheses.  $\ ^{b}$  DCM, dichloromethane; DCE, 1,2-dichloroethane; DMF, N,N-dimethylformamide.  $\degree$  NMR yields. The enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC analyses (see Supporting Information).  ${}^{d}$  Zn(OTf)<sub>2</sub> (5 mol<sup>9</sup>/<sub>0</sub>) was added.

screening of Pd(II) salts showed the comparable enantioselectivities (entries  $2-4$ ); however, Pd(0) precursor did not work at all (entry 5). Thus,  $Pd(OAc)$  was used as the catalyst precursor for the subsequent screening of solvents. Further examination showed that toluene could be used to achieve excellent ee (entry 9). A higher concentration of 1a in toluene improved the yield of product; 0.5 M gave the best results, and the product 2a was obtained in 93% yield with 97% ee (entry 11). To improve the reaction rate, the use of  $PdCl_2(CH_3CN)_2$  or  $Pd(OAc)_2$  in the presence of a  $Zn(OTf)$ <sub>2</sub> system was examined.<sup>4e,6</sup> Unexpectedly, the reaction with  $Zn(OTf)_{2}$  in toluene did not proceed at all (entry 12). Although the reaction in THF, dioxane, DCM, or DCE proceeded, the yield and enantioselectivity were lower than those in entry 11 (entries  $13-16$ ).<sup>4c,d</sup> The reaction

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 $(5)$  (R)-BINOL (>99.0% ee) was purchased from Fuji Molecular Planning Co., Ltd. at JPY50,000/500 g.

#### Scheme 1. Effect of Ligand





Figure 3. ESI-MS analysis of Pd/Zn-complex derived from BP1.

in DMF did not proceed (entry 17). The enantioselectivity with the use of  $PdCl_2(CH_3CN)_2$  was less than that with  $Pd(OAc)$ <sub>2</sub> (entry 18).

The choice of ligand was important. Scheme 1 presents the excellent performance of  $(R)$ -BINOL-PHOS  $(BP1)$ with regard to catalytic activity and stereoselectivity. The reaction in the presence of monophosphine BP2 was not complete even after 24 h and gave the product 2a in 39% yield with a reduced enantioselectivity of 89% ee. The methoxy methyl-protected ligand BP3 required a longer reaction time to give the corresponding product 2a in 27% yield with 24% ee. These results clarified that the bisphosphine and diols in  $(R)$ -BINOL-PHOS (BP1) are important for realizing excellent catalytic activity and enantioselectivity.

In our previous report, ESI-MS analyses of Zn- and Cu/ Zn-complexes derived from BP1 showed the existence of a  $Zn_2$ -complex and  $Cu_2/Zn_2$ -complex.<sup>2</sup> Thus, ESI-MS analyses were performed for the corresponding Pd/Zn-complexes derived from BP1. Part of the spectrum is shown in Figure 3 (see the Supporting Information for the large spectrum). The peak found in the spectrum indicated the generation of Pd/Zn-multinuclear complex, the isotope distribution pattern of which was very complicated and unclear. Uncharacterized peaks around  $m/z$  1500 were observed, and a major peak in the range of  $m/z$  2000-4000 for  $m/z$  3170.5 seems to be  $[{\rm Pd_3Zn_3}({\rm BP1\text{-}2H})_3({\rm dba})_3]^+$  (exact mass 3168.3) derived from Pd precursor. In this context, the multicationic complexes, such as  $[{\rm Pd}_6Zn_6({\rm BP1-2H})_6({\rm db}a)_6]^{2+}$  and others, could be possible. Although we could not determine the

Table 2. Scope of Oxanorbornadienes



 $a^a$ Me<sub>2</sub>Zn (1.5 equiv in entry 1; 3 equiv in entries 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7; 5 equiv in entries 4, 8, and 9) was used.  $\frac{b}{b}$  Isolated yields. The enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC analyses (see Supporting Information).  $c$  Absolute configuration was not determined.  $d$  A toluene solution of 1 M Me<sub>2</sub>Zn (3 equiv) was used. <sup>e</sup> A hexane solution of 1 M  $Me<sub>2</sub>Zn$  (3 equiv) was used.

<sup>(6)</sup> The use of Et<sub>2</sub>Zn or  $n-Bu_2Zn$  instead of Me<sub>2</sub>Zn diminished the catalytic activity and stereoselectivity. The reaction of 1a with  $Et<sub>2</sub>Zn$ under the optimized conditions for  $Me<sub>2</sub>Zn$  gave a trace amount of desired product; the reductive ring-opening product formed. In contrast, the reaction in the presence of  $PdCl_2(CH_3\ddot{C}N)_2$  (5 mol %), **BP1** (5 mol %), and  $Zn(OTf)<sub>2</sub>$  (5 mol %) gave the desired product in 48% yield with 17% ee. The use of mixed reagents,  $Et<sub>2</sub>Zn$  (1.5 equiv) and  $Me<sub>2</sub>Zn$  (1.5 equiv), under the same reaction conditions gave the ethylated product exclusively in 31% yield with 44% ee. Furthermore, the reaction using Et<sub>2</sub>Zn (3 equiv) gave the product in 21% yield with 13% ee. The details are under examination.

exact structures of the active complexes, we confirmed that the complex included multi-Pd and -Zn atoms.

Various types of substituted oxanorbornadienes can be used for the present asymmetric alkylative ring-opening reaction (Table 2). Since an excess amount of  $Me<sub>2</sub>Zn$ improved the yields and enantioselectivities in the reaction of substituted oxanorbornadienes,  $3-5$  equiv of Me<sub>2</sub>Zn was used. The reactions of 5,8-disubstituted compounds 1b and 1c gave the corresponding alcohols 2b and 2c, respectively, in high to excellent yields with excellent enantioselectivities (entries 2 and 3). The use of a 1 M solution of  $Me<sub>2</sub>Zn$  in toluene diminished the yield of product 2c to 21% with 89% ee; thus, the co-presence of hexane seems to be favorable.<sup>7</sup> In contrast, the reaction using 5,8-difluoro compound 1d gave 2d in low yield, albeit with high enantioselectivity (entry 4). The electronic effects are generally inconsequential in other cases. The reactions of 6,7 disubstituted compounds 1e-h gave the corresponding products 2e-h in excellent yields with excellent enantioselectivities (entries  $5-8$ ). Furthermore, the reaction of  $5,6,7,8$ tetrasubstituted oxabicyclic alkene 1i gave the corresponding product 2i in 83% yield with 97% ee (entry 9).

In conclusion, we have demonstrated an efficient Pdcatalyzed asymmetric alkylative ring-opening reaction using the readily accessible BINOL-PHOS ligand. The incorporation of bisphosphine and diols definitely enhanced both the catalytic activity and the stereoselectivity. Therefore, Pd/ Zn-multimetallic synergism based on our originally developed BINOL-PHOS plays an important role in the present reactions. The further modification of ligand architectures to achieve a pliable catalyst system for metal-catalyzed asymmetric reactions is underway in our laboratory.

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Supporting Information Available. Experimental procedure and HPLC analyses of the racemic and chiral compounds. This material is available free of charge via

<sup>(7)</sup> Almost no reaction occurred in a single solvent of hexane. the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.