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Enantioselective Pd-catalyzed allylic amination with self-assembling and non-assembling monodentate phosphine ligands

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Abstract—New chiral phospholanes were prepared by coupling of bromo-substituted heterocycles with the enantiopure, building block $(2R,5R)$ -2,5-dimethyl-1-chlorophospholane. Some of the new phosphine ligands have the potential for self-assembling via hydrogen bondings in a metal complex. By application of these and related ligands in the palladium catalyzed allylic amination reaction, high enantioselectivities (up to 99%) were achieved. The influence of the construction of the cyclic phosphine ligands on the enantioselectivity is analyzed.

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1. Introduction

Chiral heterocyclic phosphines, such as phosphetanes, phospholanes, phosphinanes or phosphepines play a central role as ligands in homogeneous metal catalyzed reactions.¹ In most cases, bidentate ligands bearing these heterocycles have been used, but also monodentate ligands may induce high enantioselectivities. In particular, bulky monodentate phosphepines, developed by Gladiali et al. and Beller et al., showed excellent stereodiscriminating properties in a range of different catalytic reactions, for example, Rh-catalyzed hydrogenations.^{[2](#page-4-0)}

For sometime we have been interested in finding correlations between steric and electronic features in the ligand and the degree of enantioselectivity induced in the chiral product.[3](#page-4-0) In a recent approach, we showed evidence that self-assembling catalysts (Scheme 1) based on P-pyridone phosphines 4b, 5b and 6b [\(Scheme 2\)](#page-1-0) can be used for efficient stereocontrol in the Rh-catalyzed asymmetric

Scheme 1. Coordination behaviour of self-assembling ligands versus monodentate ligands.

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Scheme 2. Ligands tested in the asymmetric allylic amination.

hydrogenation.[4](#page-4-0) The general concept of self-assembling catalysts was developed by one of us (B.B.) and successfully applied to numerous catalytic reactions.[5](#page-4-0)

Our hydrogenation studies revealed that hydrogen bonding between parts of the ligand in the relevant Rh(I)-catalysts (A, [Scheme 1\)](#page-0-0) can significantly enhance the enantioselectivity of the hydrogenation of α -(Z)-N-acetamido acrylates and dimethyl itaconate. Whereas catalysts based on common monodentate ligands (B, [Scheme 1\)](#page-0-0) gave inferior results.[4](#page-4-0)

In particular, in non-polar solvents, ligands 4b, 5b and 6b were superior in comparison to their O-tert-Bu-protected pyridinol analogues 4a, 5a and 6a, which are not capable of self-assembling. Moreover, these studies showed that the size of the phosphine heterocycle is crucial for the achievement of high ee-values. Thus, ligands with the bulky phosphepine ligands induced the highest enantioselectivities in the product (99% ee).

In order to enlarge the family of self-associating phosphine ligands, and to study this particular effect in other asymmetric transformations, we herein report on the synthesis of phospholanes 1, 2 and 3a and 3b. The new ligands were tested together with phosphines of types 4–6 in the asymmetric allylic amination (Tsuji–Trost reaction). $6,7$

2. Results and discussion

2.1. Synthesis

The new phospholanes 1, 2 and 3a and 3b were synthesized in one step by coupling of the enantiopure P-chlorodimethylphospholane $8^{\frac{8}{3}}$ $8^{\frac{8}{3}}$ easily available from 2,5dimethyl-1-trimethylsilyl-phospholane[9](#page-5-0) 7 by treatment with hexachloroethane in CH_2Cl_2 at reflux, with the corresponding bromides 9, 10 and 11 in yields of 30–72% [\(Scheme 3\)](#page-2-0).

Cleavage of the tert-butyl ether in 3a with concentrated formic acid furnished $(2R,5R)$ -2,5-dimethyl-1- $(1H$ -isochinoyl-2-on)-phospholane 3b. Syntheses of ligands 4a and 4b, 5a and 5b and 6a and 6b were reported recently.[4](#page-4-0)

2.2. Enantioselective allylic amination

With these ligands in hand, we evaluated their enantioselective discrimination ability in the allylic amination. As a benchmark test, we studied the reaction of $rac{-(E)-1}{3}$ -diphenyl-3-acetoxyprop-1-ene with benzylamine.[10](#page-5-0)

In most cases, the required precatalysts were prepared in situ from 2 equiv of the ligands and 1 equiv of the metal precursor $(Pd_2(dba)_3$ ^{CHCl₃ and $[PdCl(allyl)]_2$), respec-} tively. In the catalytic reaction, in addition to the effect of different ligands, the influence of the solvent was studied.

In general, in all trials, full conversion was observed under the conditions displayed in [Table 1](#page-2-0). Due to the low solubility of catalysts derived from phosphepine ligands 6, higher substrate:catalyst ratios were necessary. The enantioselectivites achieved with this set of 10 related ligands varied over a range of 3–99% ee.

To our surprise, the highest enantioselectivity (99% ee, run 3) was obtained with the 'small' 2,5-dimethyl substituted phospholane ligand 3a in toluene as a solvent. It should be noted that due to the *O-tert*-Bu protection, this monodentate ligand cannot aggregate with a second ligand at the palladium centre by hydrogen bonding. Incorporation of isochinolone backbone 3b decreased the enantioselectivity (run 4). Lower ee-values, but similar tendencies have been noted for the 2-(O-tert-Bu)-pyridinol/pyridone-based pair of phospholanes 4a and 4b (runs 5 and 6). Replacement of the methyl groups at the 2,5-position of the phospholane by phenyls, 5a and 5b, further diminished the ee. In contrast to the ligands of types 3 and 4, the relevant P-pyridone ligand 5b was superior in comparison to the P-(O-tert-Bu-pyridinol) ligand 5a (runs 7 and 8). Unexpectedly, inferior enantioselectivities were also observed with the bulky phosphepines 6a and 6b. Poor ee-values are characteristic for P-(O-tert-Bu-pyridinol) ligand 6a (runs 9 and 10). Enhancement of the ee was obtained by employing the

Scheme 3. Convergent synthesis of phospholanes 1, 2 and 3a and 3b.

Table 1. Pd-catalyzed enantioselective allylic amination of rac- (E) -1,3-diphenyl-3-acetoxyprop-1-ene using phosphines $1-6$ as ligands

		1-2 mol % [Pd], 2-4mol % L OAc 3 equiv. benzylamine	Ph `NH		
		Ph [®] Ph	Ph [®] Ph		
Run	Ligand	Pd precursor	Solvent	L/[Pd]	$%$ ee ^a
	(R,R) -1 ^b	$Pd_2(dba)$ ₃ ·CHCl ₃	Toluene	2	76 (R)
	(R,R) -2 ^b	$Pd_2(dba)$ ₃ CHCl ₃	Toluene		20(S)
	(R,R) -3a ^b	$Pd2(dba)3·CHCl3$	Toluene		99 (R)
	(R,R) -3b ^b	$Pd_2(dba)$ ₃ CHCl ₃	Toluene		91 (R)
	(R,R) -4a ^b	$Pd2(dba)3·CHCl3$	Toluene		92 (R)
6	(R,R) -4 b^b	$Pd_2(dba)$ ₃ ·CHCl ₃	Toluene		83 (R)
	$(S,S)-(-)$ -5a ^b	$Pd_2(dba)$ ³ ·CHCl ₃	Toluene		8(S)
8	$(S,S)(-)$ -5b ^b	$Pd_2(dba)$ ₃ ·CHCl ₃	Toluene		45 (R)
9	(S) -6a ^c	$[PdCl(allyl)]_2$	THF		3(R)
10	(S) -6a ^c	$Pd_2(dba)$ ₃ ·CHCl ₃	1,2-Dichloroethane		14 (S)
11	(S) -6b ^c	$[PdCl(allyl)]_2$	CH_2Cl_2		82(S)
12	(S) -6b ^c	$Pd_2(dba)$ ³ ·CHCl ³	CH_2Cl_2		82(S)
13	(S) -6b ^c	[PdCl(ally])	Toluene		40 (S)
14	(S) -6b ^c	$Pd_2(dba)$ ³ ·CHCl ₃	Toluene		42 (S)
15	(S) -6 b^c	$Pd_2(dba)$ ₃ ·CHCl ₃	Toluene		40 (S)
16	(S) -6b ^c	$Pd_2(dba)_3$ ·CHCl ₃	THF		41 (S)
17	(S) -6b ^c	$[PdCl(ally])_2$	THF		57 (S)
18	(S) -6b ^c	[PdCl(ally])	1,2-Dichloroethane	2	87(S)
19	(S) -6b ^c	$Pd_2(dba)$ ₃ ·CHCl ₃	1,2-Dichloroethane	2	84 (S)

^a Determined by HPLC analysis, Chiracel OJ-H.

^b Reaction conditions: 0.5 mmol substrate, 0.005 mmol Pd₂(dba)₃: CHCl₃, 0.01 mmol ligand, 1.5 mL solvent; 25 °C. ^c Reaction conditions: 0.32 mmol substrate, 0.0064 mmol Pd precursor, 0.0128 mmol ligand, 3.5 mL s

P-pyridone-based ligand $6b$ (runs 11–19). As shown the reaction is rather sensitive to the solvent used; best ee-values were observed in 1,2-dichloroethane (up to 87% ee, runs 18 and 19), but did not reach the value obtained with ligand 3a. Apparently, the amination reaction gets benefit from a small cyclic phospholane unit, but a large N-heterocycle. Thus, the isochinoline ligand 3b gave higher enantioselectivities than the pyridine-based phosphine 4b (runs 3 and 5). The same trend was observed for the related pair 3a and 4a (runs 4 and 6). An exchange of the pyridinol/ pyridinone substituent at the phosphorus atom with other heterocycles (ligands 1 or 2) did not improve the results (runs 1 and 2).

3. Conclusion

Some new chiral phospholanes have been prepared by a convergent approach using enantiopure P-chloro-dimethylphospholane as a building block. The new ligands were tested together with related and known heterocyclic phosphines in the Pd-catalyzed asymmetric amination. Excellent enantioselectivities (up to 99%) were obtained in this reaction. Surprisingly, ligands 3a and 4a based on small heterocyclic phosphines provided the highest ee-values. Interestingly, these ligands were not capable of self-assembling. Conversely large phosphine ligands 5b and 6b take profit from the property of self-assembling. This is in strong contrast to the results recently observed in the Rhcatalyzed asymmetric hydrogenation.[4](#page-4-0)

4. Experimental

General: All reagents unless otherwise mentioned were purchased from commercial sources and used without additional purification. The solvents were dried and freshly distilled under argon before use. All reactions involving phosphines were performed under an argon atmosphere by using standard Schlenk techniques. Elementary analyses were performed on an elementar vario (Fa. Elementar Analysensysteme GmbH). Optical rotations were measured on a Perkin–Elmer 241 polarimeter. NMR spectra were recorded on the following spectrometers: Varian Mercury spectrometer (300 MHz, 12 1 MHz and 75 MHz for ¹H, $31P$ and $31C$, respectively), Bruker AMX 400 (400 MHz, 162 MHz and 100 MHz for ${}^{1}H$, ${}^{31}P$ and ${}^{13}C$, respectively) and Bruker DRX 500 (500 MHz, 202 MHz and 125 MHz for ${}^{1}H$, ${}^{31}P$ and ${}^{13}C$, respectively) and are referenced according to residual proton solvent signals. Chemical shifts of ¹H, ¹³C and ³¹P NMR spectra are reported in ppm. Chemical shifts of ³¹P NMR spectra are referred to H3PO4 as an external standard. Elemental analyses were performed with a LECO CHNS-932. High-resolution mass spectra were obtained on a Finnigan MAT 8200 instrument and ESI mass spectrometry was performed on a Finnigan LCQ Advantage.

4.1. General procedure for the preparation of phospholanes 1, 2 and 3a

To a solution of bromide 9 or 10 or 11 (7.78 mmol) in dry THF (40 ml), a solution of nBuLi [1.6 M in hexane; for 9 and 10 9.72 ml (15.56 mmol); for 11 4.86 ml (7.78 mmol), respectively] was added dropwise under stirring at -110 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at this temperature. It was then warmed up to ambient temperature and stirred for a further 1.5 h. A solution of $(2R,5R)$ -2,5-dimethyl-1-chlorophospholane^{[8](#page-5-0)} 8 (1.17 g, 7.78 mmol) in dry THF (10 ml) was then slowly added. The solution was warmed up to -40 °C and quenched with water (0.14 ml, 7.78 mmol). The mixture was concentrated in vacuum. After the addition of pentane the suspension was filtered. The solution was concentrated in vacuum to give the crude products.

4.2. $(2R, 5R)$ -2,5-Dimethyl-1- $(2'-pivaloylamino-pyrid-6'-yl)$ phospholane 1

The crude product was purified by bulb to bulb distillation (180 °C, 10^{-3} mbar) to give a white solid. Yield: 1.22 g (54%) ; Mp 55–58 °C, $[\alpha]_D^{19} = -74$ (c 1.0, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, C_6D_6) δ 8.52–8.49 (m, CH, 1H), 7.92 (br s, NH, 1H), 7.12–7.07 (m, CH, 2H), 3.39–3.27 (m,

1H), 2.25–2.08 (m, 2H), 1.82–1.74 (m, 1H), 1.58–1.47 (m, 1H), 1.36 (dd, CH₃-CP, $J = 18.3$ Hz, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H), 1.25–1.15 (m, 1H), 0.96 (s, CH₃, 9H), 0.89 (dd, CH₃–CP, $J = 10.1 \text{ Hz}, \quad J = 7.0 \text{ Hz}, \quad 3\text{H}.$ 13C NMR (101 MHz, C_6D_6) δ 176.9 (s, C=O), 161.9 (d, J = 24.5 Hz, arom. C–NH), 152.7 (d, $J = 4.1$ Hz, arom. C–P), 137.1 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, arom. CH), 127.4 (d, $J = 34.0$ Hz, arom. CH), 113.3 (s, arom. CH), 40.1 (s, CH₂), 38.0 (d, $J = 2.6$ Hz, CH₂), 37.1 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, CH–P), 33.6 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, CH–P), 30.7 (s, quat. C), 27.8 (s, C(CH₃)₃), 20.8 (d, $J = 33.8$ Hz, CH₃), 15.7 (s, CH₃). ³¹P NMR $(122 \text{ MHz}, \text{ C}_6\text{D}_6)$ δ 10.6. MS (CI, NH₃) m/z (%) 309 $[M+O]^+$ (100), 293 $[M]^+$ (14), 225 (15), 179 (72), 150 (29), 133 (52). HRMS (CI) calcd for $C_{16}H_{25}N_2OP$: 292.1704. Found: 292.1708. Elemental Anal. Calcd for $C_{16}H_{25}N_2OP$ (M = 292.36): C, 65.73; H, 8.62; P, 9.58. Found: C, 65.22; H, 8.72; P, 9.43.

4.3. (2R,5R)-2,5-Dimethyl-1-(3'-pivaloylamino-thiazol-4'yl)-phospholane 2

The crude product was purified by bulb to bulb distillation (160 °C, 10^{-3} mbar) and subsequent flash chromatography $(CH_2Cl_2/$ petrol ether 9/1) to give a white solid. Yield: 0.70 g (30%); Mp 117–120 °C, $[\alpha]_D^{19} = -61$ (c 1, CHCl₃).
¹H NMR (500 MHz, C₆D₆) δ 8.22 (br s, NH, 1H), 8.09 (s, arom. H, 1H), 3.10–3.01 (m, CH, 1H), 2.15–2.08 (m, CH₂, 1H), 2.00–1.88 (m, CH, 1H), 1.76–1.70 (m, CH₂, 1H), 1.66–1.57 (m, CH₂, 1H), 1.24 (dd, $J = 19.2$ Hz, $J = 7.3$ Hz, CH₃, 3H), 1.08–1.00 (m, CH₂, 1H), 0.95 (dd, $J = 11.3$ Hz, $J = 6.9$ Hz, CH₃, 3H), 0.92 (s, C(CH₃)₃, 9H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, C_6D_6) δ 175.2 (s, C=O), 168.5 (d, $J = 46.2$ Hz, arom. C–P), 151.2 (d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, arom. C), 105.9 (s, arom. CH), 39.6 (s, quat. C), 38.0 (s, CH₂), 37.9 (d, $J = 3.2$ Hz, CH₂), 37.8 (d, $J = 4.3$ Hz, CH–P), 37.7 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, CH), 27.8 (s, C(CH₃)₃), 21.3 (d, $J = 33.3$ Hz, CH₃), 15.5 (s, CH₃). ³¹P NMR (122 MHz, C_6D_6) δ 6.2. MS (CI, NH₃) m/z (%) 314 $[M+O]^+$ (13), 298 $[M^+$ (71), 198 (23), 57 (100) HRMS (CI) calcd for $C_{14}H_{23}N_2$ OPS: 298.1261. Found: 298.1269. Elemental Anal. Calcd for $C_{14}H_{23}N_2$ OPS (M = 298.39): C, 56.35; H, 7.77; N, 9.39; S, 10.75. Found: C, 56.61; H, 7.87; N, 9.23; S, 10.87.

4.4. (2R,5R)-2,5-Dimethyl-1-(1'-tert-butoxy-isoquinolin-3'yl)-phospholane 3a

The crude product was purified by bulb to bulb distillation (160 °C, 10^{-3} mbar) and subsequent flash chromatography $(CH_2Cl_2/\text{petrol}$ ether $9/1, R_f$ 0.19) to give a white solid. Yield: 1.77 g (72%); $[\alpha]_D^{19} = -97$ (c 0.65, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, C_6D_6) δ 8.31–8.27 (m, arom. H, 1H), 7.68 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, arom. H, 1H), 7.34–7.31 (m, arom. H, 1H), 7.24–7.18 (m, arom. H, 2H), 3.44–3.35 (m, CH– P, 1H), 2.40–2.20 (m, CH–P and CH₂, 2H), 1.96–1.92 (m, CH_2 , 2H), 1.67 (br s, C(CH₃)₃, 9H), 1.46 (dd, $J = 18.5$ Hz, $J = 6.9$ Hz, CH₃-CP, 3H) 1.38-1.30 (m, 1H), 0.98 (dd, $J = 11.3$ Hz, $J = 6.9$ Hz, CH₃–CP, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, C₆D₆) δ 159.6 (d, $J = 3.2$ Hz, arom. C–O), 152.3 (d, $J = 24.8$ Hz, arom. C–P), 138.4 (d, $J = 12.9$ Hz, quart. C), 131.0 (s, arom. CH), 127.6 (s, arom. CH), 126.9 (s, arom. CH), 125.7 (s, arom. CH), 125.0 (d,

 $J = 46.2$ Hz, arom. CH), 121.7 (s, quat. C), 80.5 (s, quat. C), 38.7 (s, CH₂), 38.5 (d, $J = 4.7$ Hz, CH₂), 37.3 (d, $J = 11.83$ Hz, CH–P), 35.2 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, CH–P), 29.3 (s, C(CH₃)₃), 21.2 (d, $J = 33.3$ Hz, CH₃), 16.1 (s, CH₃). (s, C(CH3)3), 21.2 (d, ζ , C₆D₆) δ 13.9. MS (EI) m/z (%) 315. $[M^+ (25), 259 (100), 217 (54), 186 (53).$ HRMS (EI) calcd for $C_{19}H_{26}NOP$: 315.1747. Found: 315.1745. Elemental Anal. Calcd for $C_{19}H_{26}NOP$ (M = 315.39): C, 72.36; H, 8.31; N, 4.44. Found: C, 72.06; H, 8.51; N, 4.36.

4.5. (2R,5R)-2,5-Dimethyl-1-(1′-oxo-1′,2′-dihydro-isoquinolin-3'-yl)-phospholane 3b

A mixture of $(2R, 5R)$ -3,5-dimethyl-1- $(1'-tert$ -butoxy-isoquinolin-3-yl)-phospholane 3a (0.35 g, 1.11 mmol) in concd formic acid (5 ml) was stirred at ambient temperature for 10 min. The solvent was then evaporated. The residue was dried in vacuum at 40° C for 1 h. Subsequently, the substance was crystallized from 10 ml of dry diethyl ether and filtered. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (CH₂Cl₂/ethyl acetate 1/1, R_f 0.38) to give a white solid. Yield: 0.273 g (95%); Mp 161-162 °C, $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{19} = -129$ (c 1.0, CHCl₃) ^IH NMR (400 MHz, C₆D₆) δ 11.80 (br s, NH, 1H), 8.70 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, arom. H, 1H), 7.28–7.18 (m, arom. H, 3H), 6.76 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, arom. H, 1H), 3.08–2.98 (m, CH–P, 1H), 2.42–2.33 (m, CH2, 1H), 2.26–2.09 (m, CH–P, 1H), 1.88–1.79 (m, CH2, 2H), 1.32 (dd, $J = 19.2$ Hz, $J = 7.2$ Hz, CH₃, 3H), 1.26–1.13 (m, CH₂, 1H), 0.97 (dd, $J = 10.4$ Hz, $J = 7.1$ Hz, CH₃, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, C₆D₆) δ 165.7 (s, arom. C=O), 140.7 (d, $J = 44.0$ Hz, arom. C–P), 138.4 (d, $J = 11.5$ Hz, quat. C), 133.2 (s, arom. CH), 128.3. (s, arom. CH), 127.7 (s, arom. CH), 127.3 (s, quat. C), 126.9 (s, arom. CH), 116.5 (d, $J = 30.6$ Hz, arom. CH), 38.4 (d, $J = 3.9$ Hz, CH₂), 38.2 (s, CH₂), 36.6 (d, $J = 11.5$ Hz, CH–P), 33.7 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, CH–P), 21.3 (d, $J = 34.5$ Hz, CH₃), 16.0 (s, CH₃). ³¹P NMR (122 MHz, C₆D₆) δ 10.8. MS (CI, NH₃) m/z (%) 259 [M]⁺ (100), 202 (96), 186 (60), 176 (51). HRMS (CI) calcd for $C_{15}H_{18}NOP$: 259.1121. Found: 259.1112. Elemental Anal. Calcd for $C_{15}H_{18}NOP$ (M = 259.28): C, 69.48; H, 7.00; N, 5.40. Found: C, 69.27; H, 7.17; N, 5.31.

4.6. Pd-catalyzed asymmetric allylic amination (with ligands $1-5$

A mixture of Pd precursor (0.005 mmol), chiral ligand (0.01 mmol) and rac- (E) -1,3-diphenyl-3-acetoxyprop-1-ene (0.5 mmol) in a solvent (1.5 ml) was stirred at room temperature for 20 min. Benzylamine (0.160 g, 1.50 mmol) was then added and the resulting mixture was stirred for 12 h. The reaction mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl solution (15 ml) and diethyl ether (10 ml) was added. The organic layer was extracted with $Et₂O$ $(3 \times 10 \text{ ml})$. The combined organic layers were dried over $Na₂SO₄$ and concentrated in vacuum to give the crude product. Ee values were determined by chiral HPLC on a Chiralcel OJ column (hexane/i-propanol 80/20, 0.5 ml/ min).

4.7. Procedure for the Pd-catalyzed asymmetric allylic amination (with ligands 6a and 6b)

Due to the low solubilities of 6a and 6b in nonpolar solvents, the procedure for Pd-catalyzed asymmetric allylic amination was modified.

A mixture of the Pd precursor (0.0064 mmol) and chiral ligand (0.0128 mmol) in a solvent (3.5 ml) was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. $rac{-(E)-1}{3}$ -Diphenyl-3-acetoxyprop-1-ene (0.32 mmol) and benzylamine (0.103 g, 0.96 mmol) were then added and the resulting mixture was stirred for 12 h. The reaction mixture was then quenched with saturated aqueous NH4Cl solution and diethyl ether (10 ml) was added. The organic layer was extracted twice with $Et₂O$. The combined organic layers were dried over $Na₂SO₄$ and concentrated in vacuum to give the crude product.

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