

FIRST DIASTEREOSELECTIVE ASYMMETRIC CARBOMETALLATION OF CHIRAL VINYL METALS.

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Abstract: Addition of substituted allylzinc reagents to chiral (Z) metallated allyl amines (or aminal) bearing a chiral aromatic moiety is face selective, and delivers β -methylated amines with good diastereomeric excess. © 1998 Published by Elsevier Science Ltd. All rights reserved.

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We have recently shown that the carbometallation of vinylmetals, by various allyl and propargyl zinc reagents, was stereoselective when the former reagents display a heteroatom (O,N,S) [1] in allylic or homoallylic position [2], whose chelation to the vinylmetal induces a diastereodifferenciation of the two faces of the C=C double bond.

Scheme 1

This route for the synthesis of geminated organobismetallic compounds is an easy and straightforward method for the preparation of several stereocenters in a one-pot operation [3] (see Scheme 1). If an efficient method was available to render such a process asymmetric, it would acquire a tremendous utility as a method for the creation of asymmetric vicinal carbon atoms [4]. As we have recently reported that a π -chelation between an olefinic site and a zinc atom governs the allylzincation reactions [5] and the 1,3-elimination reactions from organogembismetallic reagents [6], we have been able to prepare chiral pyrrolidines by using this π -chelation concept [7]. We now report on such allylmetallation reactions, where the vinylic substrate is a metallated allylamine bearing a chiral substituent on nitrogen, which is able to generate a π -chelation between the unsaturation and the vinylmetal. The starting material 2, easily prepared from (S)-N-methyl methylbenzylamine 1 and (Z)-1-iodo-3-bromo-prop-1-ene [8], was submitted to our experimental conditions [1] as described in Scheme 2 to give the corresponding amine 3 in a 80/20 diastereomeric ratio.

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Scheme 2

The absolute configuration of the major diastereomer was established (following Scheme 3) from commercially available (S)-3-bromo-2-methyl- propan-1-ol, via vinylation and treatment of the corresponding iodide with (R)-1. The resulting (R,R)-3 shows an NMR spectrum identical to that of the major diastereomer obtained in scheme 2, which is, hence, of (S,S) configuration.

Scheme 3

The starting hypothesis of a π -stacking between the phenyl and the vinylzinc moieties seems to operate. Indeed, the replacement of the chiral aromatic moiety in 2, by its saturated analog (S)-1-methylamino-1-cyclohexyl ethane, followed by the carbometallation reaction delivers the corresponding amine with no diastereoselection (Scheme 4).

Scheme 4

Moreover if the starting amine is secondary, the corresponding amide is prone to allylmetallation, but the absence of the N-methyl group accounts for a very low diastereoselection.

In order to improve the π -stacking, we turned to the corresponding chiral naphtylamines. Amine 5 was prepared as was 2, starting from (S)-1-(1-naphtyl)1-N-methyl ethylamine, and was submitted to the reaction sequence depicted in scheme 6. The corresponding amine 6 is now obtained in 76% yield as a 96/4 mixture of diastereomers, the major one being (S,S) as proved by a correlation similar to the preceding one in scheme 3.

Scheme 6

When the chelation of the vinylmetal by both an aromatic substituent and the nitrogen lone pair cannot be attained, as is the case of 7 (E derivative), the diastereoselection drops (80/20) but still remains in favour of the same diastereomer (scheme?).

Scheme 7

This result points out the large efficiency of the π - stacking (in this case, due to the stereochemistry of the double bond, the π - stacking between the napthyl group and the vinylmetal is less operative). Now, if the N-methyl group, in **5** is replaced by a N-benzyl group (for a further elaboration into a primary amine), as in **9**, the carbometallation reaction delivers the corresponding amine **10** in 72% yield with a similar d.r. of 95/5. Thus, the π -stacking between the naphtyl moiety and the metal seems stronger than between the phenyl moiety and the metal, and also stronger than the stacking of the two aromatic systems [9] (scheme 8)

Scheme 8

Finally, the use of chiral aminals of C_2 symmetry has been considered. Thus aminal 11 was prepared by mixing the Z- β -iodo acrolein [8] with (S,S)-N,N'dimethyldiphenylethanediamine [10] and submitted to our carbometallation conditions as described in Scheme 9.

Scheme 9

The corresponding aminal 12 is obtained with excellent diastereoselection (d.r. > 95/5) and is easily hydrolyzed to the parent aldehyde, which has been reduced (Dibal-H) to the known alcohol (S)-4 ($[\alpha]^D = -2$, c = 0.2 CHCl₃) [11]. This high ratio is explained by considering the preference for an equatorial position of the allyl group which allows coordination of the metal with the axial lone pair of N¹ (and not N²) [12], thus promoting the shielding of the Re face by the methyl group on N² (Scheme 10).

Scheme 10

In this case, if the chelation of the metal with nitrogen is made impossible (starting with E 11), the diastereoselection drops to 70/30, but is still present.

In summary, metallated allylic amines bearing a chiral aromatic moiety on nitrogen are good candidates for a stereoselective allyl zincation.

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