Rh(III)-Catalyzed Asymmetric Synthesis of P-Stereogenic Phosphinamides

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Chiral phosphorus compounds are widely employed as organocatalysts or ligands for enantioselective transition-metal catalyzed transformations.^[1] Most commonly, the chirality comes from a stereogenic carbon, an axis of chirality, or a chiral plane. One might expect a better relay of chirality during catalysis with *P*-stereogenic phosphorus ligands due to a closer proximity to the transition metal. However, this area of research remains under explored due to challenges associated with *P*-stereogenic ligand synthesis.

Herein we report the first example of a chiral cyclopentadienyl $^{[2]}$ Rh(III)-catalyzed asymmetric synthesis of P-stereogenic phosphinamides. For prochiral phosphinamide substrates, enantioriched heterocycles were accessed via annulation with internal alkynes. $^{[3]}$ In contrast, with chiral phosphinamide substrates, kinetic resolution yielded both the cyclic phosphamides and unreacted starting materials, with selectivity-factors up to 50. Kinetic studies reveal that a concerted-metalation-deprotonation is the stereo-determining step when an inorganic base is employed, in contrast to previous reports from our group. $^{[4]}$

Desymmetrization

$$R^1$$
 R^2
 R^3
 R^4
 R^4

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