2007

Design and synthesis of chiral ligands for use in stereoselective atropisomeric biaryl coupling reactions

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University of Wollongong

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DESIGN AND SYNTHESIS OF CHIRAL LIGANDS

FOR USE IN

STEREOSELECTIVE ATROPISOMERIC

BIARYL COUPLING REACTIONS

A thesis submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the degree

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

from

THE UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

by

Mary J. Gresser, B. Sc. (Adv.) (Hons)

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

MARCH 2007
Certification

I, Mary Jacinta Gresser, declare that this thesis, submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Doctor of Philosophy, in the Department of Chemistry, University of Wollongong, is wholly my own work unless otherwise referenced or acknowledged. This document has not been submitted for qualifications at any other academic institution.

Mary Jacinta Gresser

March 2007
Publications

Acknowledgments

Thank you to everyone who has helped me in any way throughout my PhD.

To PK, without your guidance, encouragement and understanding, I would not have finished.

To Steve P, for the supervision while PK was away.

To G. Bringmann and M. Breuning in Würzburg, for help with the graphics used in this thesis.

To Andrew and Mark, for making me laugh and cry (!) and every emotion in between! Our times here together will stay with me forever.

To Chris, thank you so much for being there for me, especially this last year.

To Jody, Sue, Dan, Bill, Neal and all other members of the KRG, past and present.

To my “Team Ligand” counterpart Walesy, where would our project be without us???

To Roger, Larry, Wilford, Karin and John, for having the solutions to all my MS and NMR problems!

To Glennys and Di, for providing me with the opportunity to do what I love - teaching.

To Georgia, for being such a good friend to me the last six years.

Finally, to my family - Dad, Mum, Laurence, Anne, Matt, Peter, John, Jane, Bernard, Lucy, Elizabeth, and the boys, Joseph, Michael and Xavier - who are always there for me.
Abstract

A new chiral ligand design program was initiated for the stereoselective synthesis of sterically hindered systems, such as atropisomeric biaryls. The concept of helical-sense discrimination was investigated, for use in the Pd-based Suzuki coupling reaction. A new set of design principles was established for chiral ligands for use in these reactions; 1) the ligand must contain a defined helical twist enclosed at each end by donor atoms, 2) the ligand must be bidentate, to best transfer the helical aspect of the ligand to the Pd reaction site, 3) the substituents of the donor atoms should be tied back in ring systems to prevent steric hindrance of the already sterically demanding reaction site and 4) the helical twist should be in close proximity to the Pd reaction site. The first two target scaffolds which would incorporate the above principles were chiral 2,2’-bispyrrolidine and 2,2’-bisindoline.

A new synthetic strategy was devised, which provided both enantiomers of 2,2’-bispyrrolidine and was modified to access 2,2’-bisindoline. The key steps of the synthesis were the metathesis dimerisation and subsequent Sharpless asymmetric dihydroxylation (AD) from achiral starting materials.

(R,R)-N,N’-Di-tert-butoxycarbonyl-2,2’-bispyrrolidine 92a was synthesised in 13% yield, over 10 steps, from commercially available 4-penten-1-ol. The metathesis reaction gave the desired benzyl protected alkene as a mixture of geometric isomers (4:1), which were dihydroxylated using AD mix α and standard Sharpless conditions to give the corresponding diol with an ee of 80%.

The procedure was repeated using the PMB protected derivatives to give (R,R)-92a in overall 9% yield, with the AD reaction using AD mix α giving the diol in 92% ee. The procedure was repeated using AD mix β, which gave the enantiomeric 2,2’-bispyrrolidine (S,S)-92b in 24% overall yield and 88% ee.
The synthetic strategy was applied towards the synthesis of chiral 2,2’-bisindoline, for which there is no literature precedent. Benzyl protected 2-allylphenol was dimerised via the metathesis reaction using Grubbs 1\textsuperscript{st} generation catalyst, to give the dimeric aromatic allylic alkene in 81\% yield ($E:Z$ 5.2:1). The geometric ratio could be improved to 9:1 via recrystallisation from DCM/hexanes. Grubbs 2\textsuperscript{nd} generation catalyst was found to increase the geometric ratio, however the alkene could not be separated from the secondary metathesis products. The alkene was dihydroxylated using AD mix $\alpha$ in 15\% yield and 64\% $ee$. The yield was increased to 60\% by using modified Sharpless conditions, however the enantiopurity decreased to 36\% $ee$.

The poor outcome of the AD reaction lead to extensive investigations into the Sharpless AD reaction via the modification of the ortho substituent of dimeric aromatic allylic alkenes. A variety of dimeric, heterodimeric and monomeric alkenes were synthesised, including seven phenolic based and two nitrogen based dimeric alkenes, via the metathesis reaction using both Grubbs 1\textsuperscript{st} and 2\textsuperscript{nd} generation catalysts. The alkenes were subsequently dihydroxylated using AD mix $\alpha$ and AD mix $\beta$. The diols were formed in poor yield (0\% to 58\%) and poor enantioselectivity (1\% to 58\%). The AD reaction of the ortho-tolyl derivative increased the yield (45-65\%) and the $ee$ (62-70\%) while the unsubstituted derivative gave the corresponding diol in 84-88\% yield with excellent stereocontrol (93-95\% $ee$).

It was therefore concluded that the presence of ortho-substituents in the aromatic rings of dimeric allylic aromatic alkenes prevented access of the substrate to the ligand bound OsO$_4$, thereby minimising chemical yield and enantioselection.
# Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ac</td>
<td>acetyl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD</td>
<td>asymmetric dihydroxylation</td>
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<tr>
<td>BINAP</td>
<td>2,2’-bis(diphenylphosphino)-1,1’-binaphthyl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boc</td>
<td>tert-butoxycarbonyl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bn</td>
<td>benzyl</td>
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<td>CI</td>
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<td>cross-metathesis</td>
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<td>COSY</td>
<td>correlation spectroscopy</td>
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<td>d</td>
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<td>DCM</td>
<td>dichloromethane</td>
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<td>DHQ</td>
<td>dihydroquinine</td>
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<td>dihydroquinidine</td>
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<td>DMF</td>
<td>N,N'-dimethylformamide</td>
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<td>DMSO</td>
<td>dimethylsulfoxide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ee</td>
<td>enantiomeric excess</td>
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<td>EI</td>
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<td>HR</td>
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<td>heteronuclear single quantum correlation</td>
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<td>min</td>
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<td>MHz</td>
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<tr>
<td>MS</td>
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</tr>
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<td>NMR</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMB</td>
<td>p-methoxybenzyl</td>
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<td>RCM</td>
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<td>ROMP</td>
<td>ring-opening polymerization</td>
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<td>SMPs</td>
<td>side metathesis products</td>
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<tr>
<td>TMS</td>
<td>trimethylsilane</td>
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<td>UV</td>
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