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## Enantioselective Barbier-type allylation of ketones using allyl halide and indium in water†

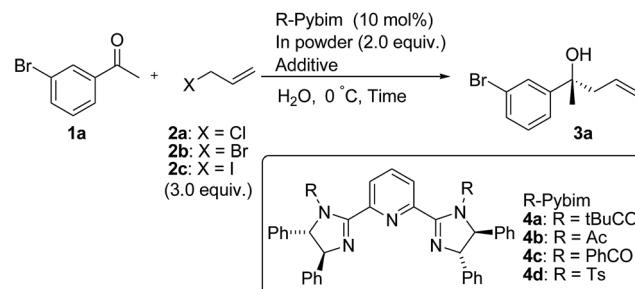
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We disclose herein an efficient enantioselective Barbier-type allylation of ketones using allyl halide and indium metal in water. The reaction was catalysed by chiral bis(imidazoline) to afford homoallylic alcohols having quaternary stereocenters in good yield with moderate to good enantioselectivity. Based on experimental investigation, a possible transition state has been proposed to explain the origin of the asymmetric induction.

Optically active tertiary homoallylic alcohols are an important class of synthetic intermediates because they often act as useful chiral building blocks for the synthesis of biologically active compounds. One of the most efficient methods for the synthesis of optically active tertiary homoallylic alcohols would be the catalytic enantioselective allylation of ketones. Although there are many papers on the catalytic enantioselective allylation of aldehydes, catalytic enantioselective allylation of ketones have been far less explored probably due to their low reactivity and the difficulty in enantiofacial discrimination of ketones.<sup>1</sup> Recently, catalytic enantioselective allylations of ketones using stannanes,<sup>2</sup> silanes,<sup>3</sup> boron reagents,<sup>4</sup> allylalcohols,<sup>5</sup> and manganese compounds<sup>6</sup> using various chiral catalysts have been reported. However, these reactions rely on strictly anhydrous conditions or on the use of corrosive or toxic reagents. On the other hand, Barbier-type allylation using allyl halide and indium metal has shown to be an effective method for the synthesis of homoallylic alcohols, because organoindium compounds have low toxicity, and they have the ability to tolerate the reaction in water.<sup>7</sup> Therefore, there are several papers on the enantioselective Barbier-type allylation of ketones with allyl halides using a stoichiometric amount of chiral additives and indium metal in an organic solvent.<sup>8</sup> However, there is no report on the catalytic enantioselective Barbier-type allylation of ketones in water using indium metal and allyl halides.<sup>9</sup> Recently, Kobayashi and co-workers first reported the catalytic enantioselective allylation of ketones in water using allylboronate and a catalytic amount of indium(0) and bis(oxazoline) catalyst to give a product with 52% ee.<sup>10</sup> Despite the pioneering progress achieved in enantioselective reaction of

allylation with ketones in water, the development of novel catalyst systems with acceptable catalytic activity and stereoselectivity still remains a major challenge. On the other hand, we recently reported the enantioselective three-component synthesis of optically active propargylamines in water<sup>11</sup> and the enantioselective allylation of ketimines using chiral bis(imidazoline) catalysts.<sup>12</sup> Therefore, our research interest was expanded to the catalytic enantioselective Barbier-type

**Table 1** Enantioselective Barbier-type allylation of 3-bromoacetophenone **1a** using various allyl halides **2a–c**, indium, and bis(imidazoline) catalyst **4a–d**<sup>a</sup>



| Run            | X  | 4         | Additive (equiv.)      | Time (h) | Yield (%) | ee (%) |
|----------------|----|-----------|------------------------|----------|-----------|--------|
| 1              | Cl | <b>4a</b> | —                      | 18       | 0         | —      |
| 2              | Br | <b>4a</b> | —                      | 18       | 10        | 54     |
| 3              | I  | <b>4a</b> | —                      | 18       | 80        | 76     |
| 4              | I  | <b>4b</b> | —                      | 18       | 5         | 16     |
| 5              | I  | <b>4c</b> | —                      | 18       | 80        | 60     |
| 6              | I  | <b>4d</b> | —                      | 18       | 85        | 27     |
| 7 <sup>b</sup> | I  | <b>4a</b> | —                      | 24       | 75        | 16     |
| 8              | I  | <b>4a</b> | SDS <sup>c</sup> (0.2) | 18       | 99        | 30     |
| 9              | Br | <b>4a</b> | NaI (3.9)              | 18       | 99        | 86     |

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.10 mmol), allyl halide (3.0 equiv.), In (2.0 equiv.), and **4** (10 mol%) in water (0.10 M) were used. <sup>b</sup> In THF.

<sup>c</sup> Sodium dodecyl sulfate.

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allylation using allyl halide and indium metal using chiral bis(imidazoline) catalysts in water.

First, we examined the enantioselective Barbier-type allylation of 3-bromoacetophenone with various allyl halides (3.0 equiv.) and indium powder (2.0 equiv.) using 10 mol% of chiral bis(imidazoline) ligand in water. The results are shown in Table 1.

To our delight, the reaction using allyl iodide as allyl halide afforded product **3a** in high yield with moderate enantioselectivity, although the reaction using allyl chloride or -bromides gave product **3a** in low yield (Table 1, entries 1–3). Although we investigated the effect of the substituent on imidazoline catalysts, changing the substituent on nitrogen in imidazoline catalysts from a *tert*-butylcarbonyl group to an acetyl, benzoyl or tosyl group could not improve the enantioselectivity of product **3a** (Table 1, entries 4–6). When the reaction was carried out in THF instead of water, the enantioselectivity was significantly reduced (Table 1, entry 7). In order to improve yield and enantioselectivity, we added some additives. Sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS) was added to the reaction mixture as a surfactant, but stereoselectivity could not be improved (Table 1, entry 8).<sup>13</sup> On the other hand, the addition of 3.9 equiv. of NaI to the reaction of allyl bromide **2b** and **1a** improved the yield and enantioselectivity of **3a** (Table 1, entry 9 vs. 2).

Having established the reaction conditions, Barbier-type allylation of various ketones with allyl bromide, indium powder and NaI using 10 mol% of chiral bis(imidazoline) ligand **4a** in water was examined (Table 2). The reaction of acetophenone **1b** afforded product **3b** in good yield with moderate enantioselectivity (Table 2, entry 2). The reaction of electron-deficient ketone **1c–g** having fluoro, chloro, or bromo groups

Table 2 Enantioselective Barbier-type allylation of various ketones **1a–l** using various allyl bromide **2b**, indium, and bis(imidazoline) catalyst **4a**<sup>a</sup>

| Entry | 1         | R <sup>1</sup>                     | R <sup>2</sup>  | Time (h) | Yield (%) | ee (%) |
|-------|-----------|------------------------------------|-----------------|----------|-----------|--------|
| 1     | <b>1a</b> | 3-BrC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>  | CH <sub>3</sub> | 18       | 99        | 86     |
| 2     | <b>1b</b> | Ph                                 | CH <sub>3</sub> | 18       | 86        | 65     |
| 3     | <b>1c</b> | 3-FC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>   | CH <sub>3</sub> | 18       | 89        | 80     |
| 4     | <b>1d</b> | 3-ClC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>  | CH <sub>3</sub> | 48       | 76        | 76     |
| 5     | <b>1e</b> | 3-IC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>   | CH <sub>3</sub> | 18       | 99        | 89     |
| 6     | <b>1f</b> | 2-BrC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>  | CH <sub>3</sub> | 48       | 40        | 59     |
| 7     | <b>1g</b> | 4-BrC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>  | CH <sub>3</sub> | 48       | 78        | 65     |
| 8     | <b>1h</b> | 3-MeOC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> | CH <sub>3</sub> | 48       | 92        | 74     |
| 9     | <b>1i</b> | 3-MeC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>  | CH <sub>3</sub> | 18       | 80        | 84     |
| 10    | <b>1j</b> | 3-Thienyl                          | CH <sub>3</sub> | 24       | 90        | 55     |
| 11    | <b>1k</b> | 2-Naphthyl                         | CH <sub>3</sub> | 24       | 94        | 71     |
| 12    | <b>1l</b> | Ph                                 | CF <sub>3</sub> | 18       | 77        | 86     |

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: **1** (0.10 mmol), **2b** (3.0 equiv.), NaI (3.9 equiv.), In (2.0 equiv.), and **4a** (10 mol%) in water (0.10 M) were used.

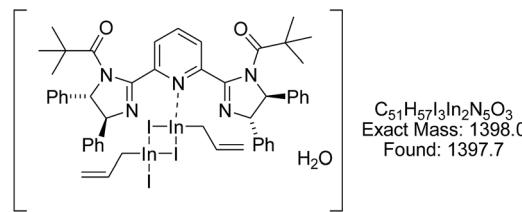


Fig. 1 ESI mass spectrum for the mixture of **4a**, **2b**, NaI and indium in water.

in the *para* or *meta* position were tolerated in this reaction condition and gave products **3c–g** with good stereoselectivity (59–89% ee, Table 2, entries 3–7), although the reaction of *ortho*-substituted ketone **1f** gave product **3f** in low yield and enantioselectivity (Table 2, entry 6). Ketones **1h**, **i** bearing an electron-donating methyl and methoxy group gave corresponding products **3h**, **i** in high yield with good enantioselectivity (Table 2, entries 8 and 9). Ketones **1j**, **k** having a naphthyl or heteroaryl group such as the thienyl group also afforded products **3j**, **k** in moderate yield with good enantioselectivity (Table 2, entries 10 and 11). These reaction conditions were also applicable to the reaction of trifluoromethyl ketones **1l** (Table 2, entry 12). The absolute configurations of products **3a–d**, **f–l** were determined in comparison with the value of the specific rotation reported in the literature (see ESI†). To our knowledge, these results are the first examples for the indium-mediated catalytic enantioselective Barbier-type allylation of ketones in water.

In order to clarify the reaction mechanism, we conducted spectroscopic analysis. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum for the mixture of **2b**, **4a**, NaI, and indium powder showed a new methylene signal at 2.85 ppm (see ESI†). Chan and co-workers reported that <sup>1</sup>H NMR peaks for allylindium(III) and allylindium(I) in water were observed at 2.8 ppm and 1.7 ppm, respectively, and that allylindium(III) make a allylindium sesquihalide species.<sup>14</sup> Furthermore, the ESI-mass spectroscopic analysis for the reaction mixture of **2b**, **4a**, NaI, and indium powder showed complex **A** (Fig. 1: cation mode, calcd for  $\text{C}_{51}\text{H}_{57}\text{I}_3\text{InN}_5\text{O}_3$  as complex **A**: 1398.0 found: 1397.7). This signal implied a complex between allylindium(III) sesquihalide and **2b**.<sup>15</sup>

From the above consideration and absolute stereochemistry of the products, the assumed transition state for the enantioselective

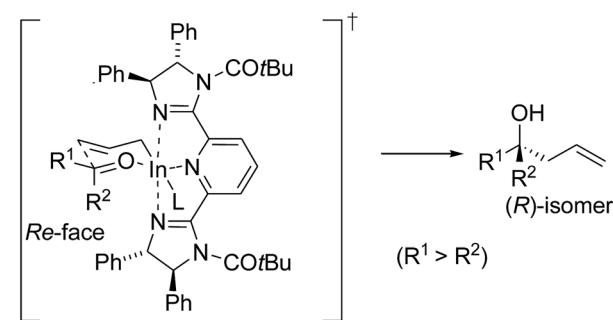


Fig. 2 Assumed transition state for the Barbier-type allylation of **1** using **4a**.



Barbier-type allylation of ketones using **4a** in water is shown in Fig. 2. The allylation of ketones would proceed through a six-membered transition state including In(III) species.<sup>16</sup> Allylindium sesquihalide dissociates to monomeric allylindium species by coordination to bis(imidazoline), then indium(III) cation coordinates to ketones. In this transition state, indium(III) makes an octahedral structure,<sup>17</sup> and the allyl group approaches the *Re*-face of ketones avoiding steric repulsion between the phenyl group in **4a** and substituent for ketones to give (*R*)-homoallylic alcohols. Further studies are required to fully elucidate the mechanistic detail of the Barbier-type allylation reaction of ketones with **4a**.

In conclusion, we developed an enantioselective allylation of ketones using chiral bis(imidazoline) catalysts. To our knowledge, this is the first example of the highly enantioselective allylation of ketones using Barbier-type allylation of allyl halide and indium in water. Further experiments are in progress to study the scope of the asymmetric synthesis in water using bis(imidazoline) catalyst to other reactions.

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