


 Cite this: *RSC Adv.*, 2026, **16**, 19920

Frontiers in manganese catalysis: a sustainable platform for bond construction and heterocycle synthesis

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The progress of earth-abundant transition metal-based catalytic methodologies has driven growing interest within the scientific community for the construction of bioactive organic molecules. Among the earth-abundant transition metals, manganese is an attractive alternative to precious metals in synthetic methodologies due to its availability, low toxicity, and variable oxidation states. Recently, there has been considerable progress in manganese catalysis for the selective formation of diverse chemical bonds. This review introduces recently developed techniques in manganese catalysis for various bond-forming strategies, especially C–N, C–C, C–O, and C–S bonds, indicating the importance of manganese-based methods in organic syntheses. Manganese-catalysed methodologies have also demonstrated considerable efficacy in the construction of heterocyclic moieties. The synthesis of heterocyclic compounds through manganese-based annulation, cyclization, and multicomponent techniques is briefly summarized in this review. We also discuss the main catalytic structures, reaction variables, ligand considerations, substrate scope, and functional group tolerance, and the importance of manganese catalysis in terms of both economic viability and sustainability. The need for eco-friendly manganese catalysts that can promote both diverse bond-forming approaches and the construction of heterocyclic moieties further accentuates their emerging importance in modern synthetic methodology.

Received 11th March 2026

Accepted 1st April 2026

DOI: 10.1039/d6ra02092e

rsc.li/rsc-advances

Introduction

The bond-forming strategies using transition-metal catalysts are of fundamental importance in the construction of structurally important organic frameworks and are extensively used in the fields of medicine, agriculture, and other chemical industries.¹ Precious metals, such as palladium,² iridium,³ rhodium,⁴ and ruthenium,⁵ have been utilized for diverse bond-forming reactions, but significant concerns have been raised owing to their toxicity, high cost, limited availability, and environmental impact. Chemists are constantly searching for simple construction strategies with a wider range of substrates, higher efficiency, and high selectivity for product generation.⁶ The introduction of sustainability in chemical manufacturing is

highly essential to overcome the detrimental environmental effects of manufacturing from the viewpoint of green chemistry.⁷ Therefore, earth-abundant transition metals, including the first row, have been recognized as attractive substitutes for the existing precious metals.⁸ Manganese-mediated organic synthesis has attracted immense attention because of its natural abundance, eco-friendliness, economic viability, low toxicity, and unique redox chemistry.⁹ Manganese complexes have recently been found to be highly capable of constructing diverse bond-forming reactions, particularly carbon–nitrogen, carbon–carbon, carbon–oxygen, and carbon–sulfur bonds in organic synthesis, which establishes an essential strategy for assembling value-added organic molecules.¹⁰ In this regard, the manganese-catalyzed acceptorless dehydrogenative coupling (ADC) and borrowing hydrogen (BH) reactions have been extensively explored in the formation of C–X bonds (where X = C, N, O, and S) using alcohols or phenols as the substrates.¹¹ Similarly, alkenes, alkynes, and carbonyl compounds have been employed as versatile starting materials in manganese-mediated bond-forming reactions, particularly annulation and coupling reactions.¹² The manganese-catalyzed atom-economical bond-forming strategy through the C–H functionalization of allylic and benzylic substrates has also attracted great attention, which minimizes the necessity for pre-

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functionalized substrates.¹³ In parallel, the manganese-enabled C–H functionalization of heterocyclic molecules has opened new avenues for late-stage diversification of structurally significant organic molecules.¹⁴ Such functionalized heterocyclic moieties are essentially valuable in pharmaceutical, agrochemical, and industrial research. Moreover, the manganese-driven cleavage of strained rings for the construction of new bonds has been developed as a powerful tool for skeletal rearrangement and molecular complexity generation, which emphasizes the ability of non-toxic manganese catalysts in unusual activation modes.¹⁵

Functionalized and fused heterocyclic frameworks have been attracting considerable attention in recent times due to their widespread biological applications, including anti-tumour,¹⁶ anti-inflammatory,¹⁷ neuroprotective,¹⁸ anti-

convulsant,¹⁹ antiepileptic,²⁰ anti-microbial²¹ and anti-diabetic²² activities. The construction of such heterocyclic frameworks *via* manganese-driven annulation, cyclization, and multicomponent reactions has emerged as a powerful tool to access a wide variety of nitrogen-, oxygen-, and sulfur-containing heterocyclic units. For example, PGL-135,²³ frenitazole,²⁴ riluzole,²⁵ and R116010 (ref. 26) are extensively used against various chronic diseases. Despite impressive progress in biological fields, heterocyclic scaffolds remain indispensable in agrochemicals, including herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides (Fig. 1).²⁷ Various heterocyclic skeletons play a crucial role in the efficient development of agrochemicals due to their biological compatibility, chemical flexibility, and optimized performance, enabling the advancement of benign and sustainable crop protection



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Dr Asit Kumar Das was born in Kakdwip, West Bengal, India. He obtained his BSc degree from the University of Calcutta and completed his MSc in Chemical Sciences at the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati. He was awarded his PhD from Jadavpur University under the supervision of Professor Sanjay Bhar. Dr Das began his academic career as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry at Krishnath College in 2017. He is

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Kumares Sarkar

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metal-grafted nanoparticles. Her research specializes in developing methodologies for organic reactions, green synthesis, and heterogeneous catalysis.



mediators. Therefore, the significant utility of earth-abundant manganese catalysts to assist both diverse bond-forming reactions and the construction of heterocyclic frameworks further underscores their emerging significance in modern synthetic methodology.

This review article provides a comprehensive overview of the recent progress in manganese-catalyzed organic synthesis, highlighting sustainable bond-forming strategies and the construction of heterocyclic frameworks. It covers the substrate classes and activation modes, along with C–X bond formation using various functional groups, such as alcohols and phenols, carbonyl compounds, and alkenes; allylic, benzylic, and heterocyclic C–H functionalization; strained-ring cleavage-driven bond construction; and manganese-catalyzed heterocycle synthesis (Fig. 2). Selective mechanistic pathways and corresponding examples are discussed to reveal the key developments, present challenges, and future scope in this rapidly growing field.

Mn-catalyzed C–X bond formation using alcohols and phenols

Morrill *et al.* developed the Mn-catalyzed *N*-alkylation of sulfonamides. The yield of *N*-alkylated sulfonamides depends on the concentration of catalyst (Mn: 5 mol%) and the base (K₂CO₃: 10 mol%).²⁸ Using the borrowing hydrogen strategy, a series of alkylated alkyl and aryl sulfonamides were synthesized (Scheme 1). Interestingly, electron-withdrawing groups containing sulfonamides (*e.g.*, 4-NO₂, 4-CN) afforded poor

yields. The authors used benzyl alcohol as the alkylating agent in this reaction. A series of substituted benzylic alcohols was successfully tolerated and produced the corresponding mono-*N*-alkylated sulfonamides in good to excellent yields. The authors observed that thiophene-3-ylmethanol was smoothly transformed into its corresponding sulfonamide in 87% yield, whereas thiophene-2-ylmethanol remained unreacted, inhibiting the Mn catalysis *via* the weak coordination between substrate and catalyst. The survival of benzyl alcohol, bearing a reducible olefin moiety, demonstrated the chemoselectivity of the reaction.

The plausible catalytic cycle showed that the base-mediated initial activation of the Mn precatalyst resulted in the active manganese complex *via* the dehydrobromination reaction (Scheme 2).²⁸ An alkoxo-type complex was generated after the coordination of the alcohol, and then dehydrogenation of the alcohol resulted in an aldehyde and manganese hydride species. The condensation between aldehyde and sulfonamide produced an *N*-sulfonylimine, which was then reduced by the resulting manganese hydride species and provided the *N*-alkylated product with the regeneration of the catalytically active manganese species.

Azofra *et al.* reported a unique hydrogen auto-transfer energy pathway-based stereoselective amination of racemic alcohols.²⁹ In order to produce optically pure products, the authors employed readily available substrates and a commercially available manganese complex as the catalyst. DFT studies



Subhendu Dhibar

Dr Subhendu Dhibar was born in 1991 in Purandarpur, Birbhum, West Bengal, India. He obtained his PhD in Chemistry from Visva-Bharati University, India, in 2020, specializing in supramolecular materials under the supervision of Prof. Biswajit Dey. In 2021, he was awarded the prestigious Dr D. S. Kothari Postdoctoral Fellowship and joined the research group of Prof. Bidyut Saha in the Department of Chemistry at the University of

Burdwan, India. In 2025, he received the DST-CSRI Postdoctoral Fellowship and worked with Prof. Soumya Jyoti Ray at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Patna, Bihar, India. Later in 2025, he was awarded the JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship and is currently conducting research in the group of Prof. Koichi Mayumi at the Neutron Science Laboratory, Institute for Solid State Physics (ISSP), the University of Tokyo, Japan. Dr Dhibar's research is interdisciplinary, encompassing supramolecular chemistry, functional gel materials, and metal-organic frameworks, with applications in biomedicine, flexible electronics, and environmental science. His work particularly focuses on the design of tough hydrogels, self-healing metallogels, semi-conducting soft materials, flexible microelectronic devices, and non-volatile resistive memory switching systems.



Sumit Kumar Panja

Dr Sumit Kumar Panja is currently serving as an Assistant Professor at the Tarsadia Institute of Chemical Science, Uka Tarsadia University, Surat-394350, Gujarat, India. He completed his PhD at Banaras Hindu University (2011–2016). Subsequently, he carried out postdoctoral research in the Department of Inorganic and Physical Chemistry at the Indian Institute of Science (2016–2018). His research interests include photophysical studies of

organic materials, solvation dynamics, organic materials for solar cells, TADF materials, covalent organic frameworks (COFs), metal-organic frameworks (MOFs), and catalytic systems for H₂O₂ production, as well as hydrogen (H₂) evolution.



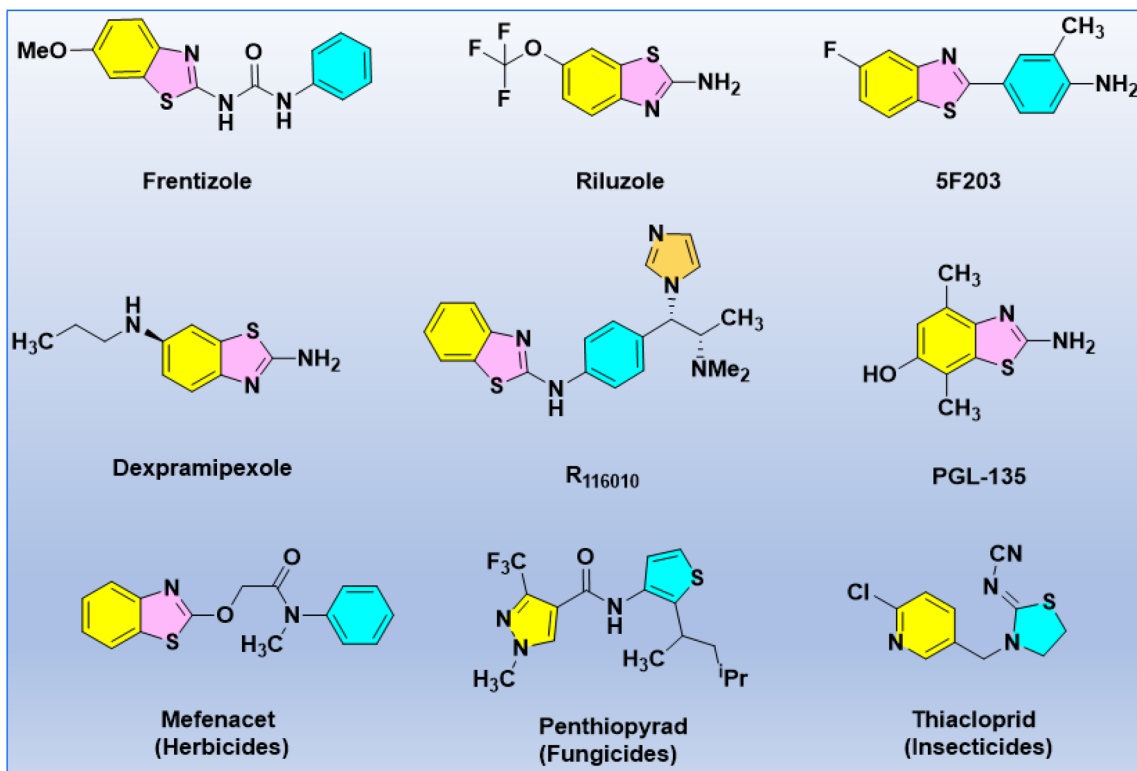


Fig. 1 Biological and agrochemical applications of functionalized and fused heterocyclic molecules.

indicate that using Mn as a precatalyst can result in optically pure products by following the existing protocol. The chiral imine intermediate can distinguish between the catalyst

racemic mixture and its corresponding enantiomer. For example, if the catalyst's (*S*) enantiomer is present in the hydride transfer step, the imine intermediate can recognize it



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Dr Shubham Avinash Deshmukh is currently a faculty member at JSPM University, School of Basic and Applied Sciences, Faculty of Science and Technology, Department Chemistry, Wagholi, Pune. He obtained his PhD in bio-inspired porphyrin-based photocatalysis for organic transformation and biomass conversion. During his PhD tenure at Vellore Institute of Technology, from 2019 to 2023, he published 14 research articles in reputed

international journals, with 267 citations. His focus is mainly on the synthesis of covalent organic frameworks for sunlight-driven photocatalytic organic transformation and biomass conversion to value-added products. Recently, he published 2 patents, review articles, 2 book chapters, and is currently serving his commitment to academic output.



Sujit Sarkar

Dr Sujit Sarkar is currently a faculty member at JSPM University, in the School of Basic and Applied Sciences, Faculty of Science and Technology Department Chemistry, Wagholi, Pune. He obtained his PhD in Synthetic Organic Chemistry and MSc in Chemistry from IIT Guwahati, Assam, India, in 2018 and 2013 under the supervision of Prof. A. K. Saikia and Prof. A. T. Khan, respectively. He has qualified for many national-level competitive

examinations, such as IIT JAM (2011), CSIR-UGC NET JRF (AIR-63) in Dec 2012 and 2017 (AIR-74), and GATE in February 2012, 2013 and 2020. His research interests include synthetic methodology, C–H functionalization, multicomponent reactions, development of new reactions, synthesis and functionalization of heterocycles, asymmetric synthesis, total synthesis of natural products and bioactive molecules, synthesis and applications of metal–organic frameworks (MOFs) in gas/vapor/liquid adsorption, heterogeneous catalysis, and fluorescence sensing. He has also authored many textbooks as well as research papers in reputed journals.



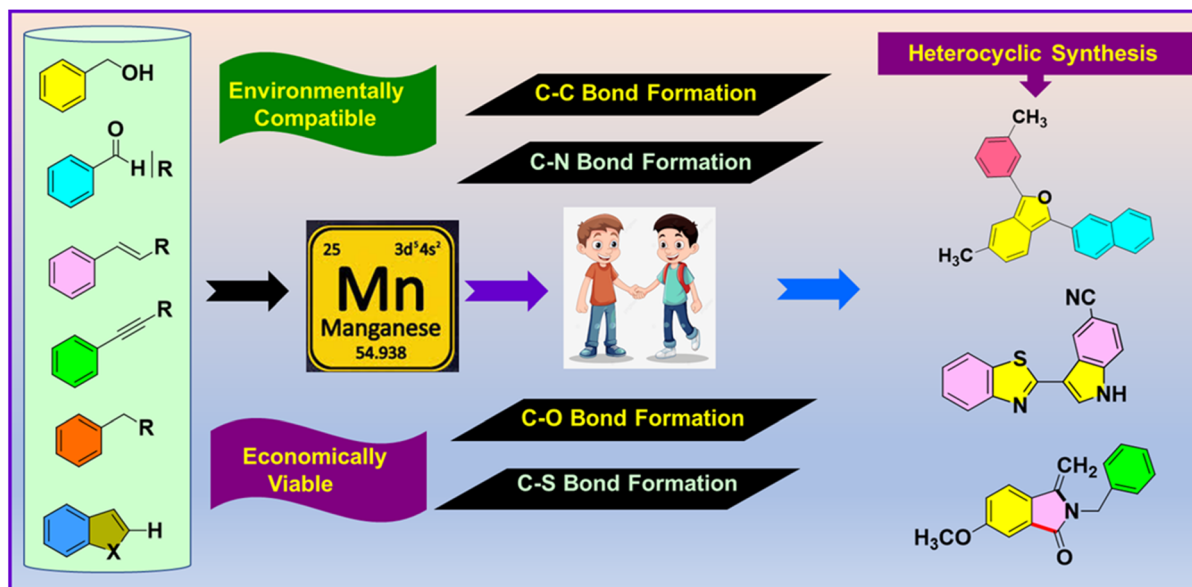
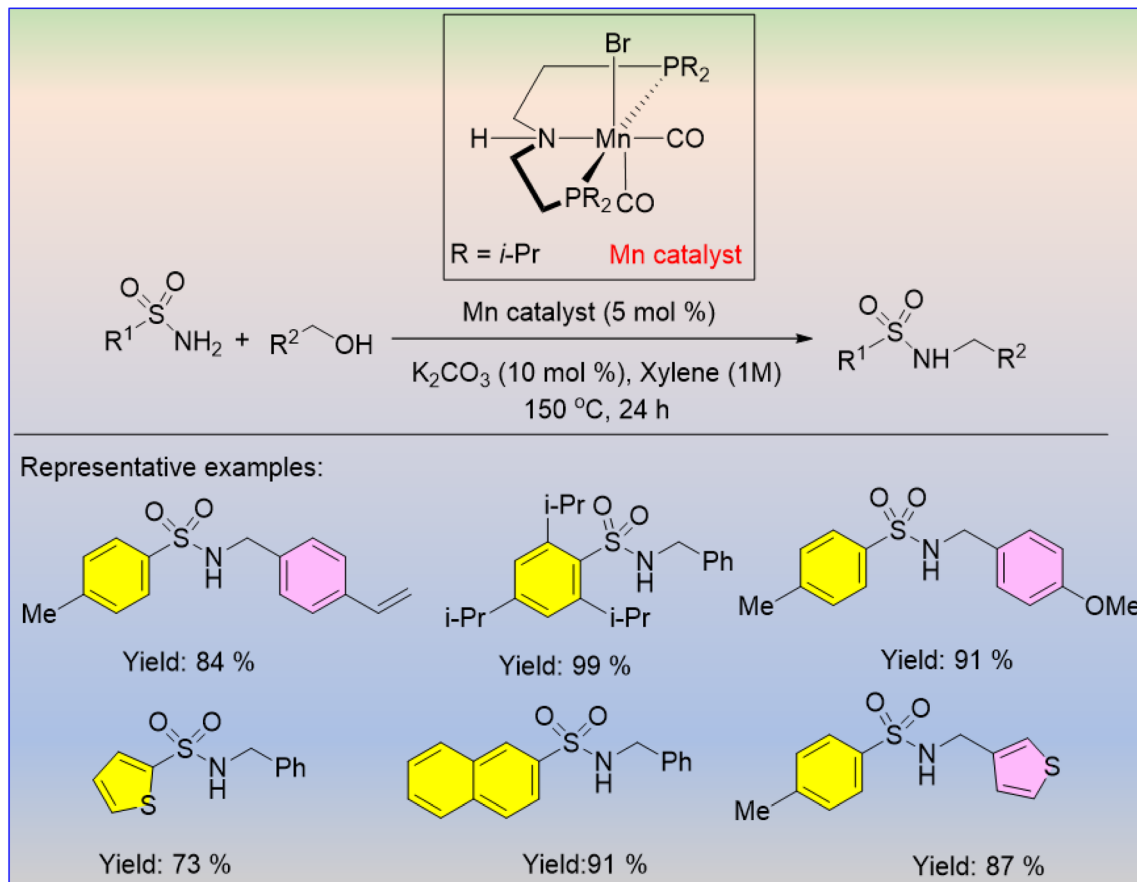
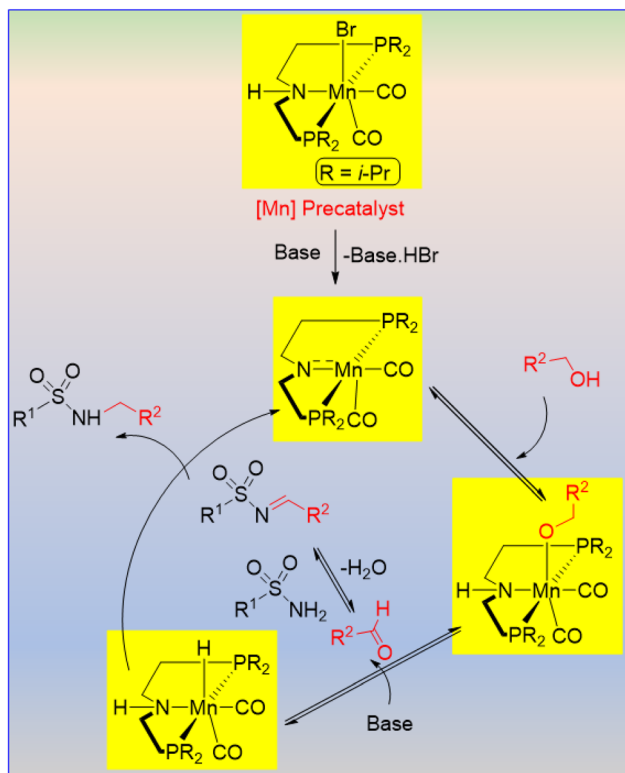


Fig. 2 Mn-catalysed synthetic approaches for the formation of diverse bonds and heterocyclic frameworks.



Scheme 1 Mn-catalyzed alcohol-mediated *N*-alkylation of sulfonamides.





Scheme 2 Plausible mechanism for the Mn-catalyzed *N*-alkylation of sulfonamides via the borrowing-hydrogen strategy.

and furnish the expected product with that specific configuration of the catalyst's enantiomer. The catalyst serves as the chiral reagent and efficiently yields enantioselective products (Scheme 3). DFT analysis showed that the successive dehydrogenation of alcohols resulted in chiral manganese alkoxide intermediates. Only one among the four diastereomeric intermediates generated reacts at a time. The electronic nature of the groups attached to the alcohols has no influence on the reaction's stereochemistry.

The methanol-driven *N*-methylation of aromatic amines using the second generation of manganese PNP pincer complexes was developed by Beller and his group.³⁰ Good yields were obtained for various types of primary anilines by selective methylation at 100 °C for 16 hours with Mn (2 mol%) and potassium *tert*-butoxide (0.5 equiv.) as the base (Scheme 4). The utility of this methodology is that it allows for the use of various types of amines while requiring less catalyst and base loading.

The PN₃-pincer ligand-supported Mn(I) complexes were designed by Hultsch *et al.* for the alkylation of amines with primary and secondary alcohols.³¹ Most intriguingly, this transformation was carried out under mild reaction conditions (60–100 °C) and a low catalyst loading (0.5 mol%). Aromatic amines afforded better yields with benzyl alcohol at 60 °C as compared to aliphatic amines, which required 100 °C for good

yields (Scheme 5). In contrast, the *N*-alkylation of aniline with secondary alcohols requires a high temperature (100 °C), which opposes substituted benzylic alcohols. This protocol has an advantage in synthesizing the drug cinacalcet, which involves the challenging alkylation of benzylamine under non-optimal conditions.

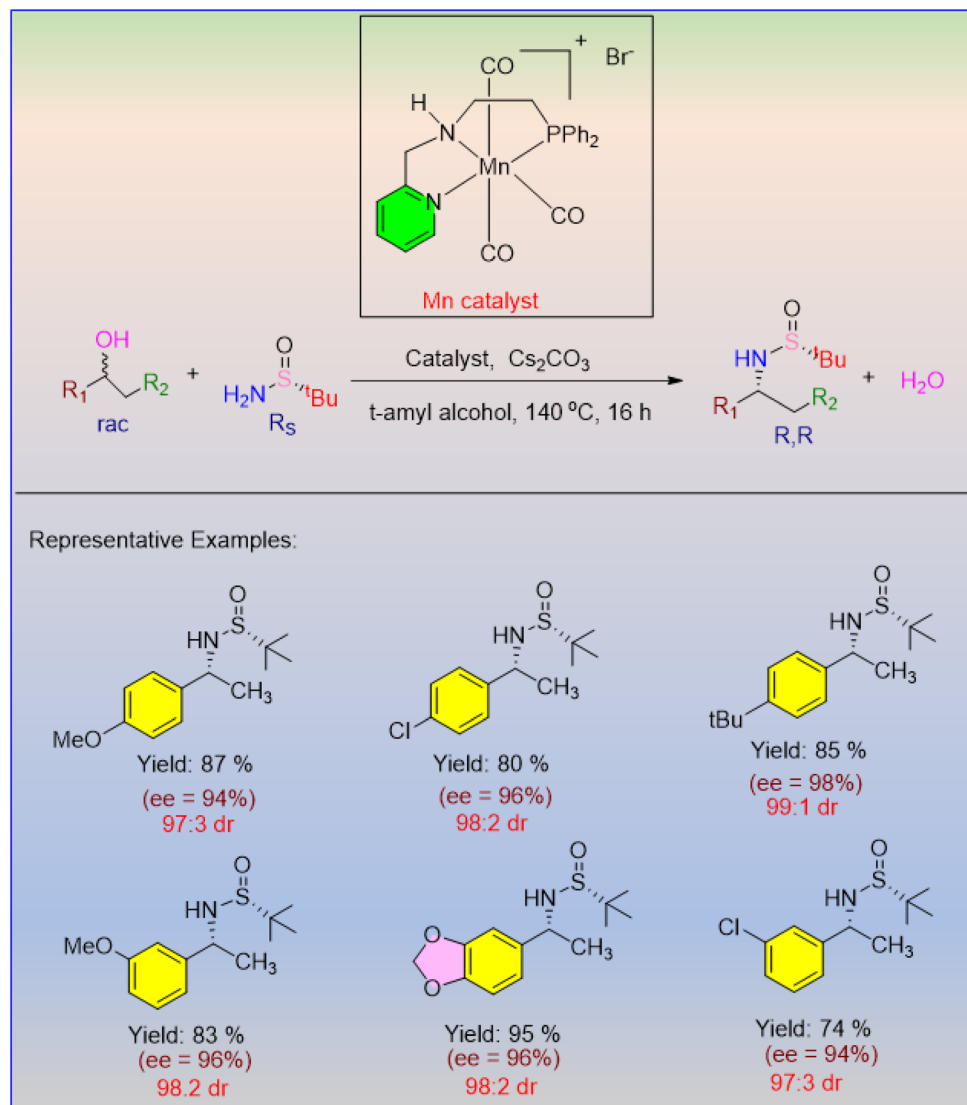
Peng *et al.* developed the alcohol-driven *N*-alkylation of aromatic amines using cheap and industrially available manganese salts like MnCl₂ or Mn(CO)₅Br, and triphenylphosphine (PPh₃) as the ligand.³² Using this catalytic concentration (10 mol% Mn antecedent, 20 mol% PPh₃, 1.2 equiv. KO^tBu, 130 °C, 20 h), a series of (hetero) aromatic and aliphatic amines were specifically alkylated in moderate-to-high yields with aliphatic and aromatic alcohols (Scheme 6). By extension, this methodology allows the synthesis of indole through an intramolecular reaction and a resveratrol-derived amine. This catalytic method cannot be applied to some functional groups, such as nitro, ester, and hydroxy, and it does not require manganese complexes.

Daw *et al.* published the first study on the construction of secondary amides using the dehydrogenative coupling of benzyl alcohol and ammonia.³³ The amount of base (KH) used in this manganese-catalyzed technique was discovered to be crucial to the selectivity of amide formation, in which the electron-efficient benzyl alcohol showed high reactivity (Scheme 7). The research offered a potential mechanistic path whereby potassium hydride combines with alcohol to produce an alkoxide ion that may be in equilibrium with an excess quantity of NH₃ in order to produce potassium amide (Scheme 8). The final product aldehydes were found through the dehydrogenation of the revived alcohol using an Mn catalyst. A hemiaminal intermediate is formed when ammonia or potassium amide attacks an aldehyde; this intermediate then undergoes deprotonation by potassium hydride to furnish an amino alkoxide intermediate (**II**). The final amide salt product (**VI**) is produced by *N*-alkylation of the resulting amide with the alcohol after a second manganese-catalyzed dehydrogenation of (**II**) results in the selective synthesis of primary amide salts (**IV** or **V**).

Sortais *et al.* described numerous Mn-catalyzed methanol-mediated *N*-methylations of primary amines using catalytic amounts of base. The researchers developed a new Mn(I) complex with a bis(diaminopyridine)phosphine ligand (PN₃P) and studied *N*-methylation reactions with potassium *tert*-butoxide (20 mol%) in toluene at 120 °C for 24 h.³⁴ This methodology might be applicable for a variety of functional groups like esters, nitro, ketones, and amides, and afforded moderate to high yields (42–98%) of mono-*N*-substituted products (Scheme 9). Intriguingly, during the mechanistic investigation, the dearomatized intermediate was isolated from the base-Mn reaction and characterized using X-ray analysis.

A unique method for creating C–N bonds using aromatic amines was presented by Elangovan *et al.* in 2016.³⁵ It was discovered that the catalytic system was very effective for both





Scheme 3 Manganese-catalysed asymmetric amination of *sec*-alcohols.

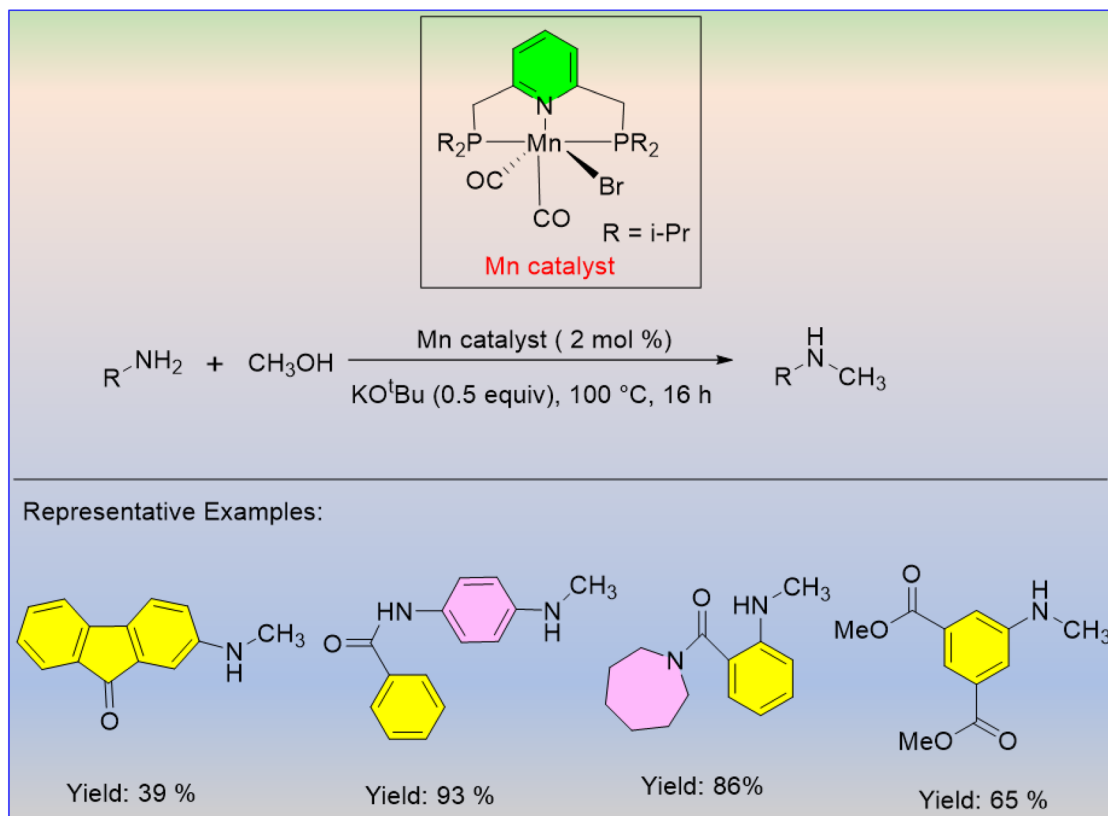
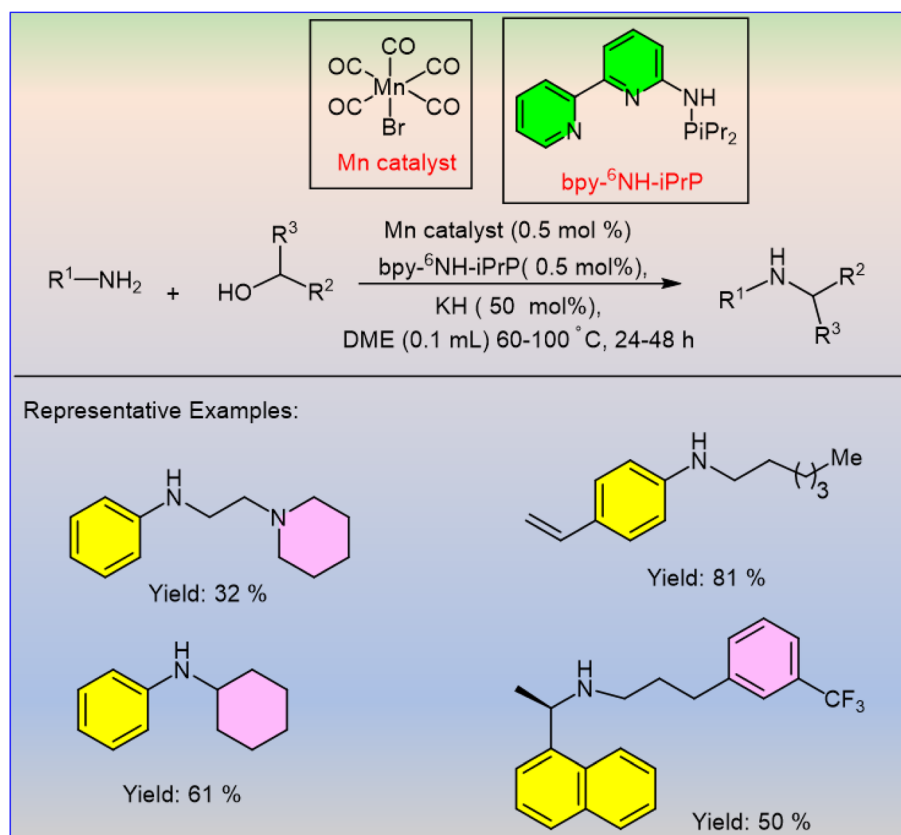
inter- and intramolecular *N*-alkylation reactions under favourable conditions and exhibited excellent chemoselectivity. The catalysts become active in the presence of a base, which leads to the deprotonation of the coordinated amines and decoordination of the halide ion. As a result, the formed amido manganese complexes engage in a β -hydrogen elimination reaction with the alcohol to produce the corresponding carbonyl molecule. Manganese hydride complexes eventually lead to imine reduction. Various amines bearing both electron-donating and electron-drawing groups are selectively alkylated with benzyl alcohol to produce *N*-monoalkylated anilines in high yields (Scheme 10).

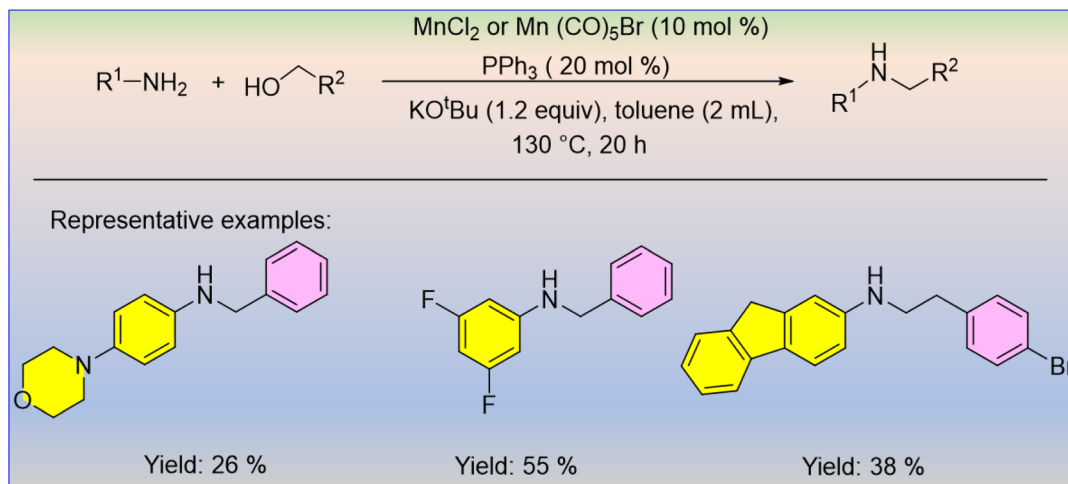
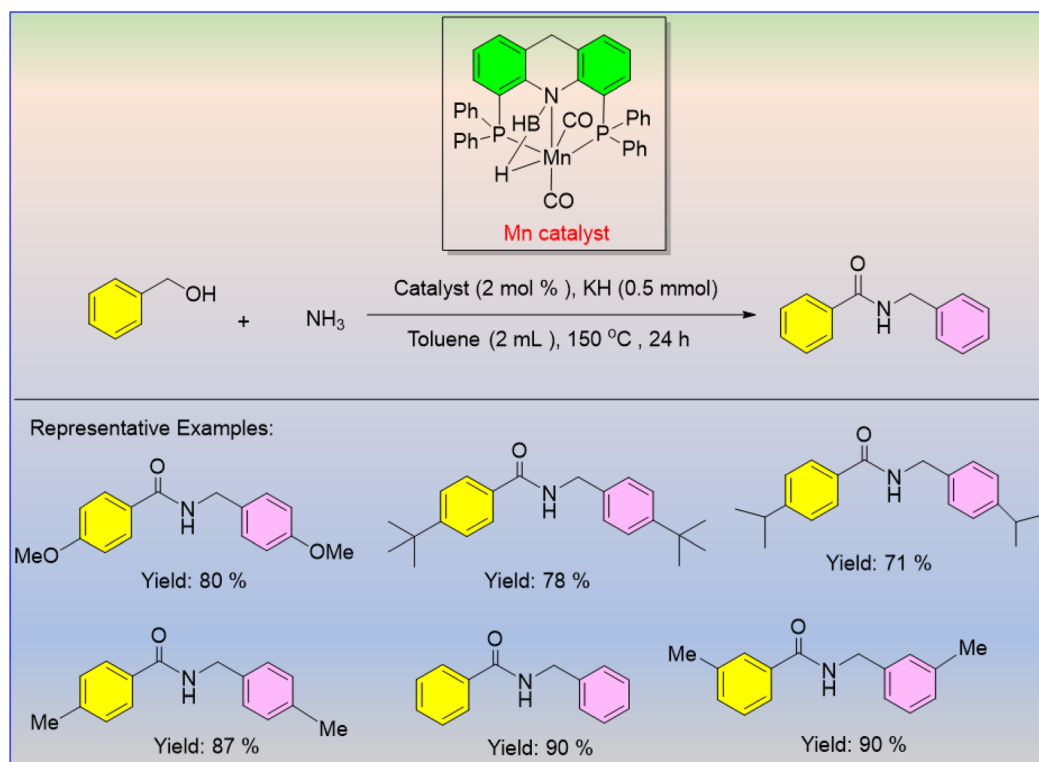
Madsen's group proposed a manganese(III) porphyrin system as an Mn catalyst for the BH methodology to achieve C–N coupling reactions.³⁶ Several tertiary amines were synthesized

by combining secondary amines and benzylic alcohols with Mn catalyst (3 mol%) in the presence of K_2CO_3 (20 mol%) in mesitylene under reflux conditions (Scheme 11).

Kempe *et al.* demonstrated that Mn-pincer catalysts are effective in the BH method for the generation of amines and imines (Scheme 12).³⁷ They obtained different products depending on the base used. Alcohol played the role of an alkylating agent when KO^tBu (1 equiv.) was used as a base, but alkylated imine products were obtained when NaO^tBu (1.5 equiv.) was used as a base (Scheme 13). This indicates the important contribution of the cation-coordinative interactions. Furthermore, the mechanistic investigation indicates that potassium manganate hydride is more reactive than its sodium counterpart in the transformation of imines into amines *via* hydrogenation.



Scheme 4 Manganese-catalyzed methanol-mediated *N*-methylation of amines.Scheme 5 Manganese-catalyzed primary and secondary alcohol-mediated *N*-alkylation of amines.

Scheme 6 Manganese-catalysed, alcohol and triphenylphosphine-mediated *N*-alkylation of amines.

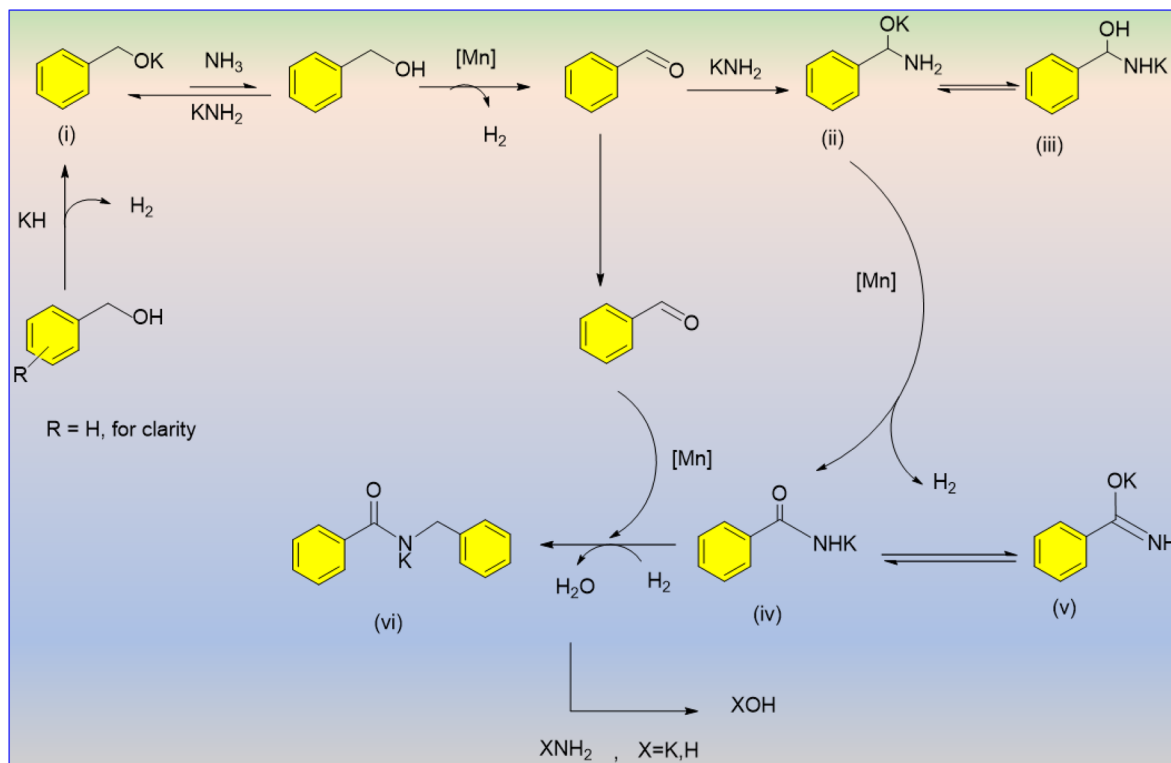
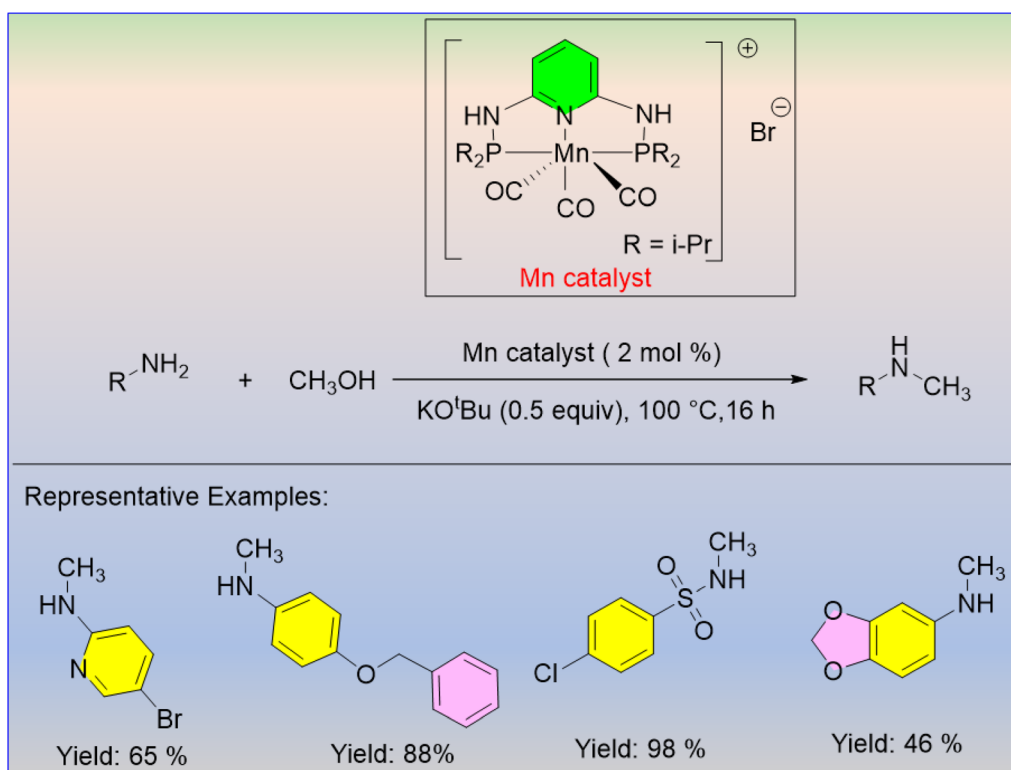
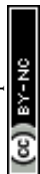
Scheme 7 Manganese-catalyzed amidation of benzyl alcohol with ammonia.

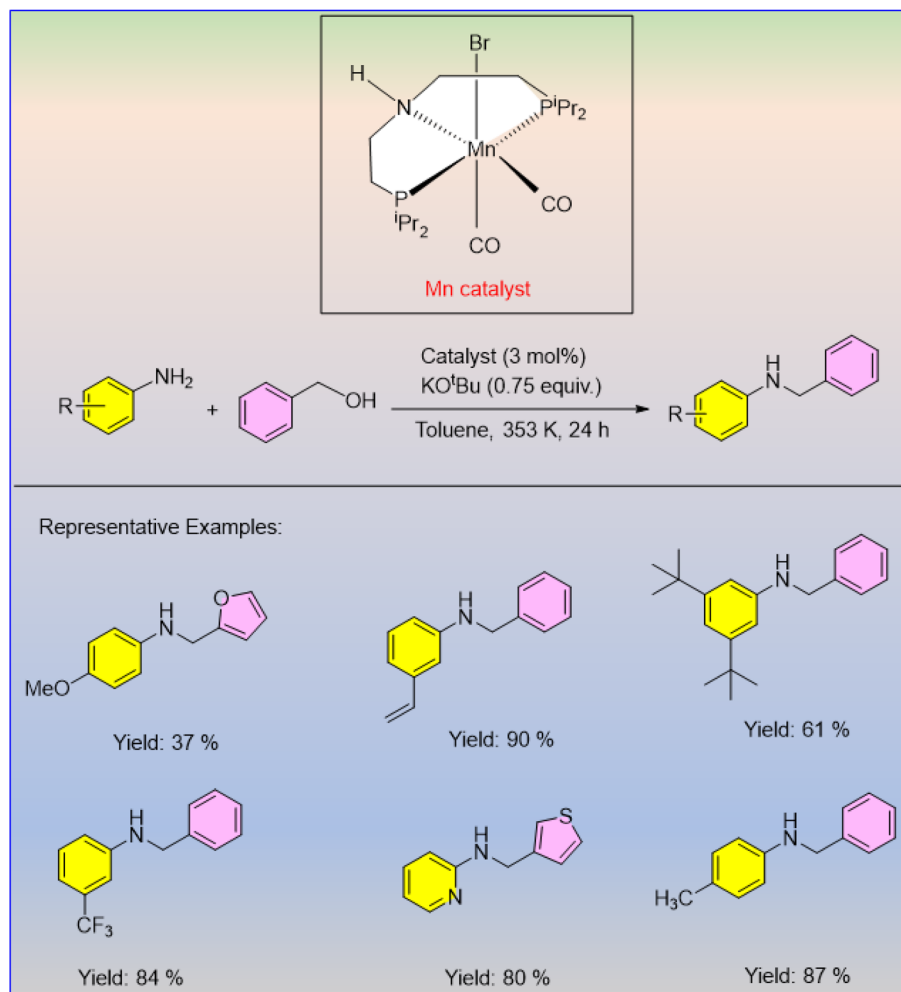
In 2023, Royo *et al.* developed the alcohol-mediated *N*-alkylation of amines using bis-triazolydene manganese complexes.³⁸ Complex Mn shows surprising activity with the cheap catalyst packing (1.5 mol%) and base (50 mol% of KO^tBu) at 100 °C for 2 h to produce the *N*-alkylated products (Scheme 14). Under similar conditions, substrate scopes were performed

for the synthesis of *N*-alkylated amines with several benzyl and aliphatic alcohols and afforded moderate to good yields. Aliphatic amines like isopropylamine and cyclohexylamine were less reactive towards this *N*-alkylation reaction.

The selective *N*-alkylation of various aromatic amines by benzyl alcohol (Scheme 15) demonstrated the effectiveness of



Scheme 8 Probable mechanistic pathway for the synthesis of secondary amides.³³Scheme 9 Amines and methanol-mediated PN₃P-Mn complex-catalysed C-N-bond formation.



Scheme 10 Manganese-catalyzed selective *N*-alkylation reaction of aromatic amines by benzyl alcohol.

the catalytic system.³⁵ Benzyl alcohol, bearing both electron-donating and electron-withdrawing substituents, participated nicely in this reaction, and the desired *N*-alkylated products were obtained with good to high yields. Hetero-aromatic amines were also equally efficient in this reaction.

In synthetic organic chemistry, C–C bond formation is always challenging. Several cross-coupling named reactions have been reported in the literature for the C–C bond formation. The catalytic cross-coupling reaction between secondary alcohols and different substituted primary alcohols under similar conditions afforded the desired derivatives in excellent yields (Scheme 16).³⁹ The electron-withdrawing substituent-containing substrate showed comparatively poor yields; however, the overall yields of the products for all substituents were comparable.

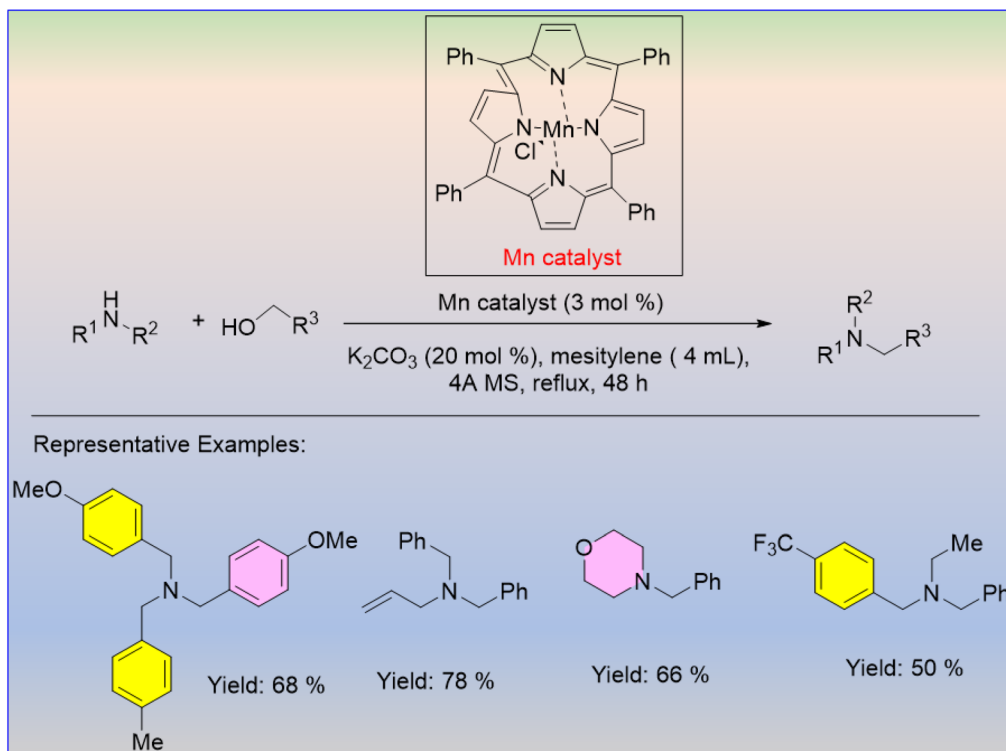
The manganese-catalyzed mono-methylation reaction was developed in the presence of KO^tBu as the base. The catalyst was highly active for the methylation of both aromatic and hetero-

aromatic amines. The reaction was favorable for substrates bearing both electron-donating and electron-withdrawing substituents (Scheme 17).³⁵

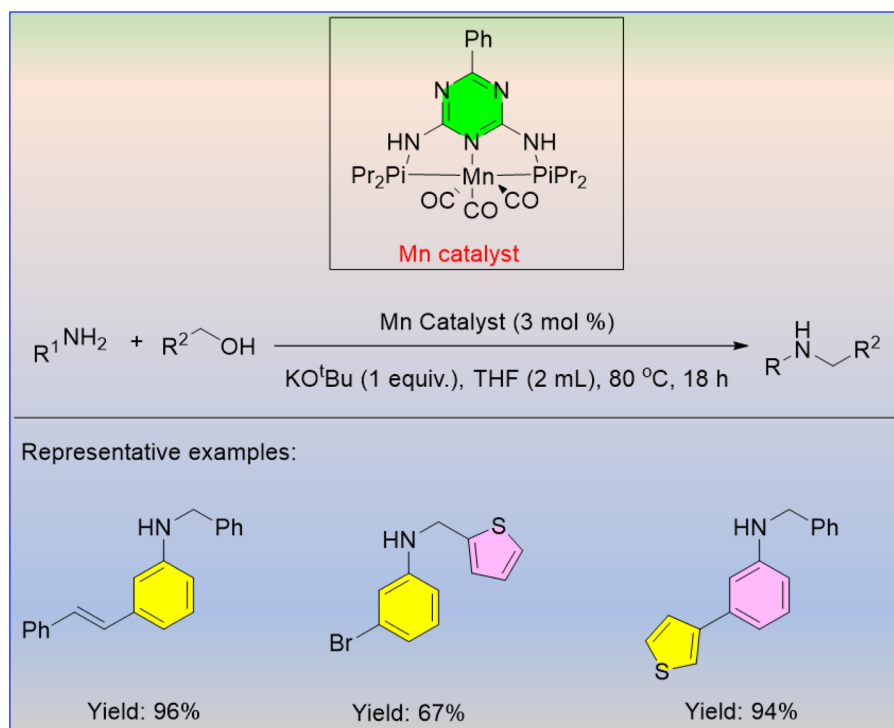
In 2018, Milstein and coworkers described a partial hydrogen borrowing strategy with a Mn-pincer complex by mixing alcohols and hydrazine to furnish *N*-substituted hydrazones. Both aliphatic and benzylic alcohols were successfully reacted with hydrazine using Mn(*t*-Bu-PNN)(CO)₂Br (Mn 10, 3 mol%) and a catalytic amount of KO^tBu (5 mol%) at 110 °C.⁴⁰ Benzylic alcohols bearing electron-donating or electron-withdrawing substituents afforded 65–92% yields of the product within 24 h (Scheme 18). Nonetheless, aliphatic alcohols such as 1-octanol and 1-hexanol needed 36 h to give the analogous products with 65% and 77% yields, respectively.

In 2020, Morrill *et al.* developed a methanol-mediated one-pot synthesis of *N*-methylarylamines using nitroarenes as the starting material.⁴¹ When substituted nitroarenes were methylated with methanol under optimized conditions (5 mol% Mn,



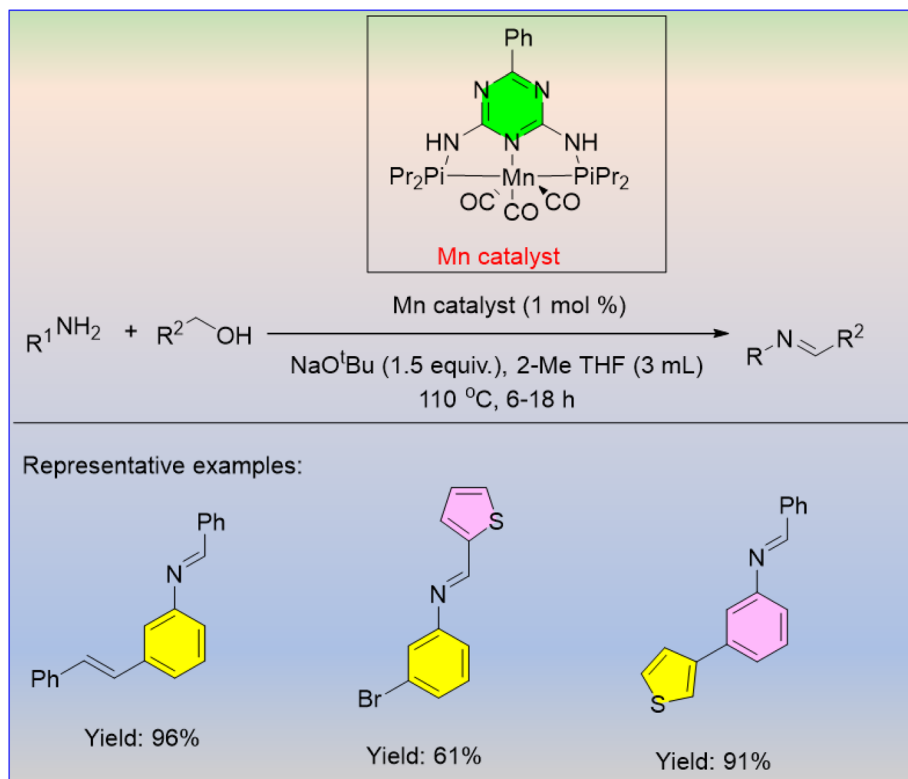


Scheme 11 Synthesis of tertiary amines using a manganese(III)-porphyrin catalyst.

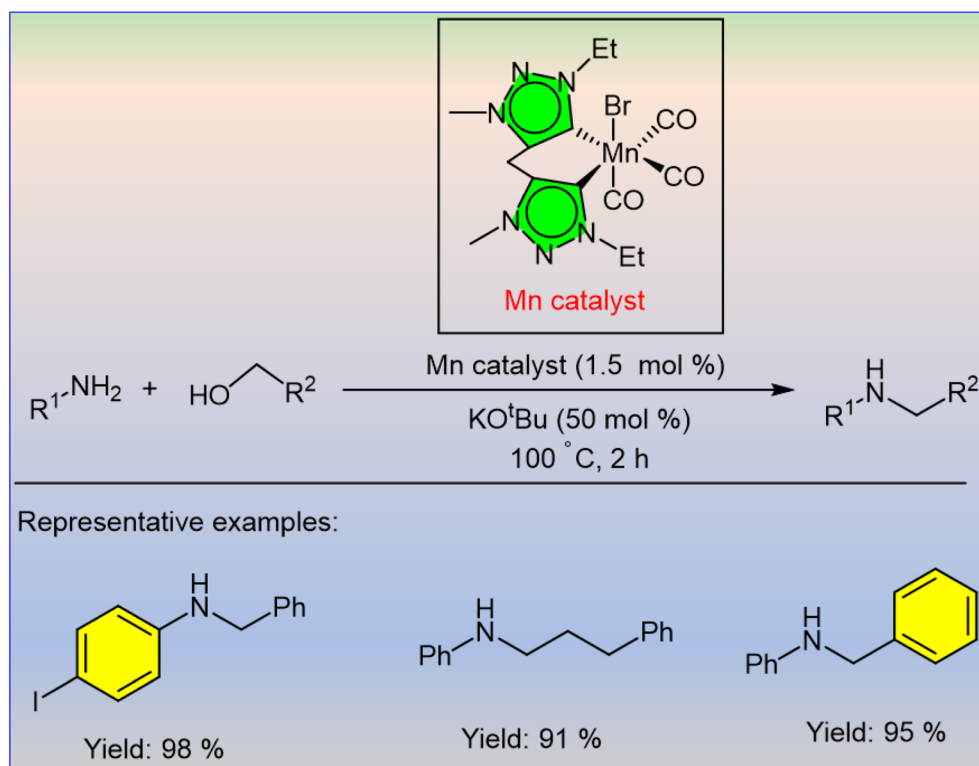


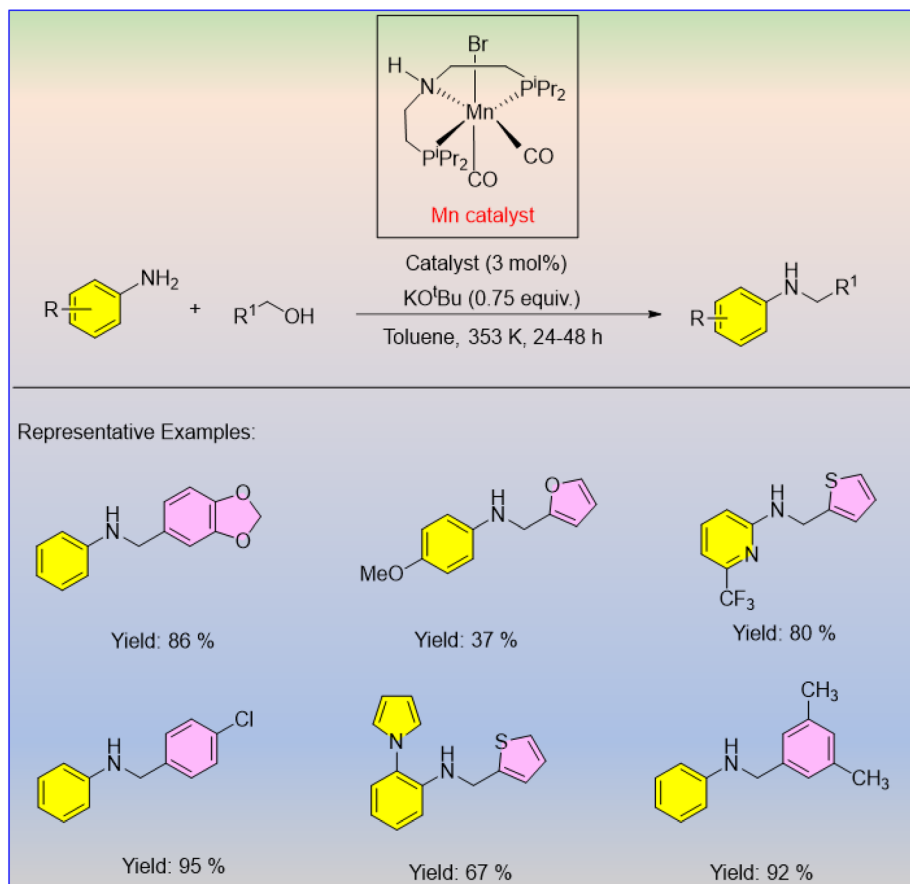
Scheme 12 Formation of amines using a manganese catalyst.





Scheme 13 Manganese-catalyzed synthesis of imines.

Scheme 14 Alcohol-mediated *N*-alkylation of amines using a bis-triazolylidene-manganese-catalyst.



Scheme 15 Manganese-catalyzed *N*-alkylation of hetero-aromatic amines with hetero-aromatic as well as aliphatic alcohols.

2 equiv. of KOH at 110 °C for 16 h), moderate to good yields of *N*-methylamines were furnished (Scheme 19).

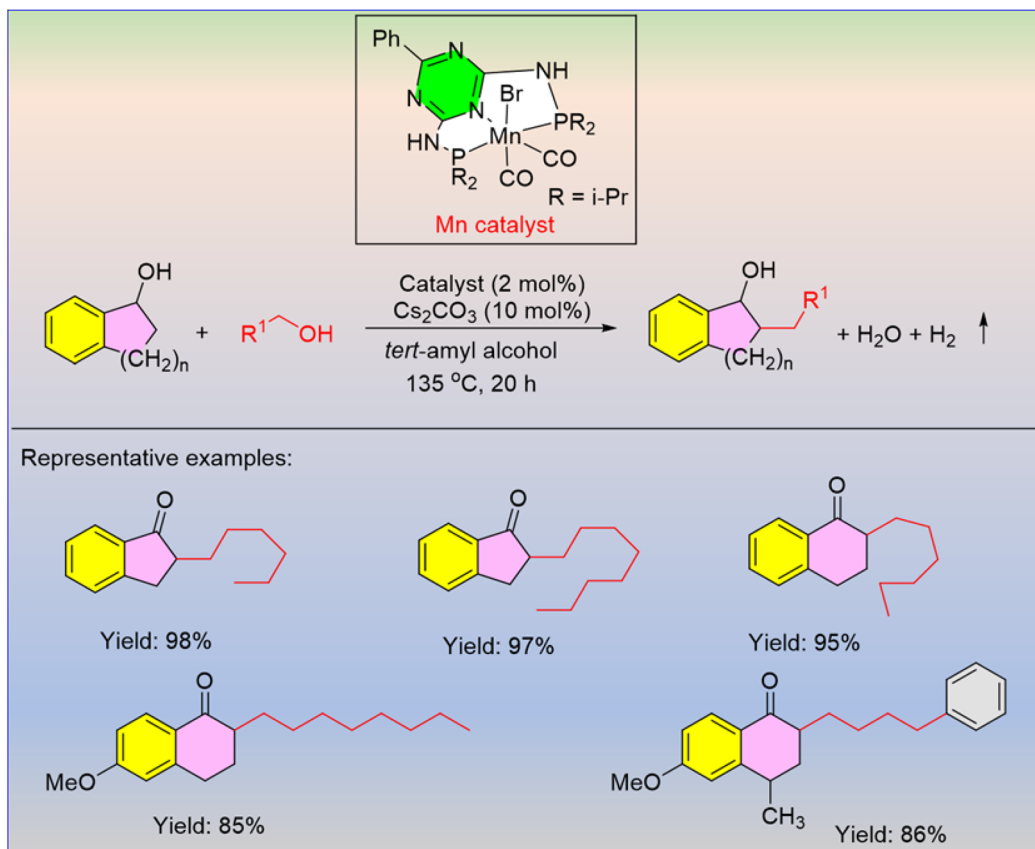
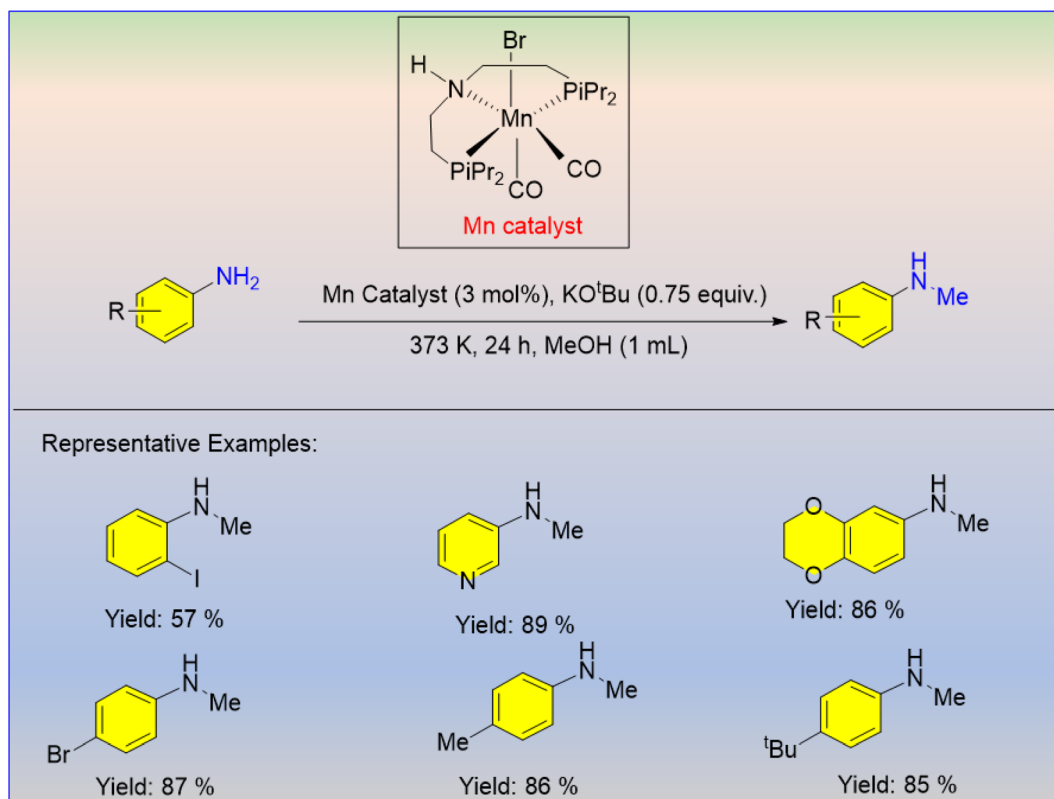
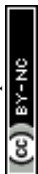
Recently, the organosols of transition-metal oxides have attracted considerable interest in synthetic organic chemistry. The authors successfully prepared superparamagnetic β -MnO₂ nanoparticles in toluene solvent with a specific size and band gap. The Mn-catalyst-based nanoparticles were used as the photocatalyst for the oxidative phenol coupling reaction between β -naphthol, which afforded BINOL in a reasonable yield at room temperature (Scheme 20).⁴²

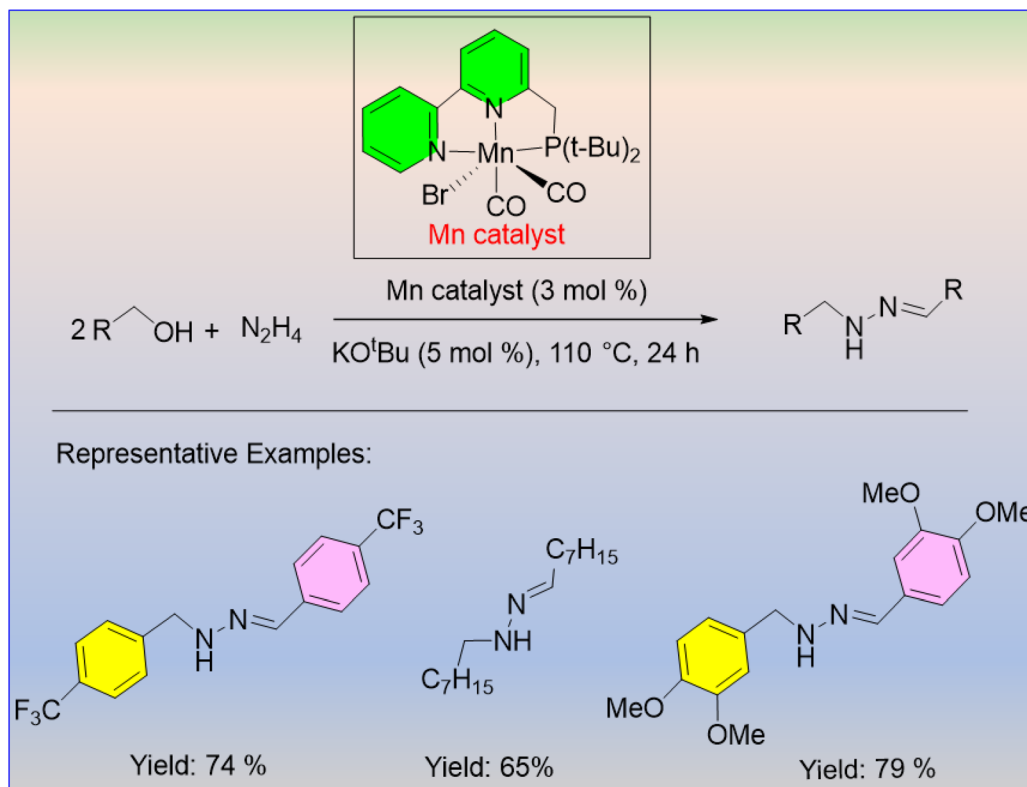
Ke *et al.* demonstrated an interesting example of alcohol-mediated *N*-alkylation of amines using a phosphine-free Mn(I)-NHC catalyst at room temperature.⁴³ The coupling of different aromatic amines with aliphatic and benzylic alcohols was investigated using a bis-NHC-manganese complex. The combination of 1.5 mol% of catalyst and potassium *tert*-butoxide (1 equiv.) as base was used as the standardized reaction condition to afford *N*-alkylated amines in 40–93% yield (Scheme 21). For the selective *N*-methylated products, a temperature of 100 °C was used.

The same group identified an attractive opportunity for the *N*-alkylation of amines using alcohols in the presence of phosphine-free Mn(I)-NHC catalyst at room temperature.⁴³ The bis-NHC-manganese complex was efficiently employed for the coupling of different aromatic amines with aliphatic and benzylic alcohols. It was observed that 1.5 mol% of Mn catalyst loading in the presence of potassium *tert*-butoxide (1 equiv.) at room temperature furnished the desired *N*-alkylated amines in good yield (Scheme 22). However, the *N*-methanol-mediated methylation of anilines required a temperature of 100 °C to yield the selective *N*-methylated products.

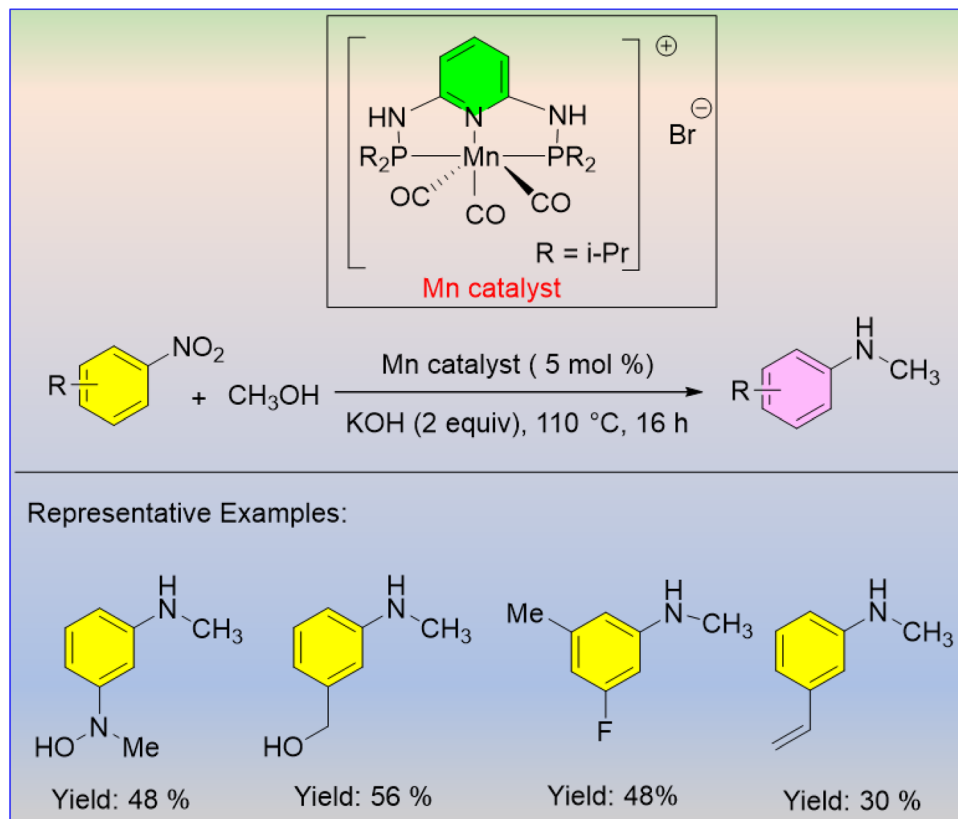
Selective construction of carbon-carbon single and double bonds is of paramount interest in organic synthesis. Werner and their co-workers reported the manganese-catalysed selective formation of C=C and C-C bonds through the reaction between alcohols with phosphorus ylides *via* borrowing hydrogen as well as acceptorless dehydrogenative coupling (Scheme 23).⁴⁴ The excess amount of KO^tBu was required for completion of the reaction. Different kinds of alcohols reacted with various phosphorous ylides under the optimized reaction conditions, and the desired products were obtained in good to

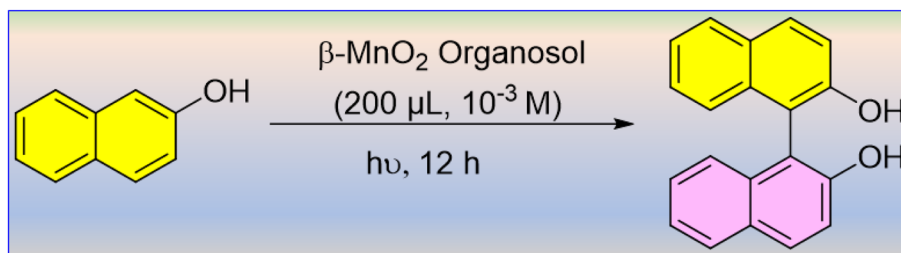
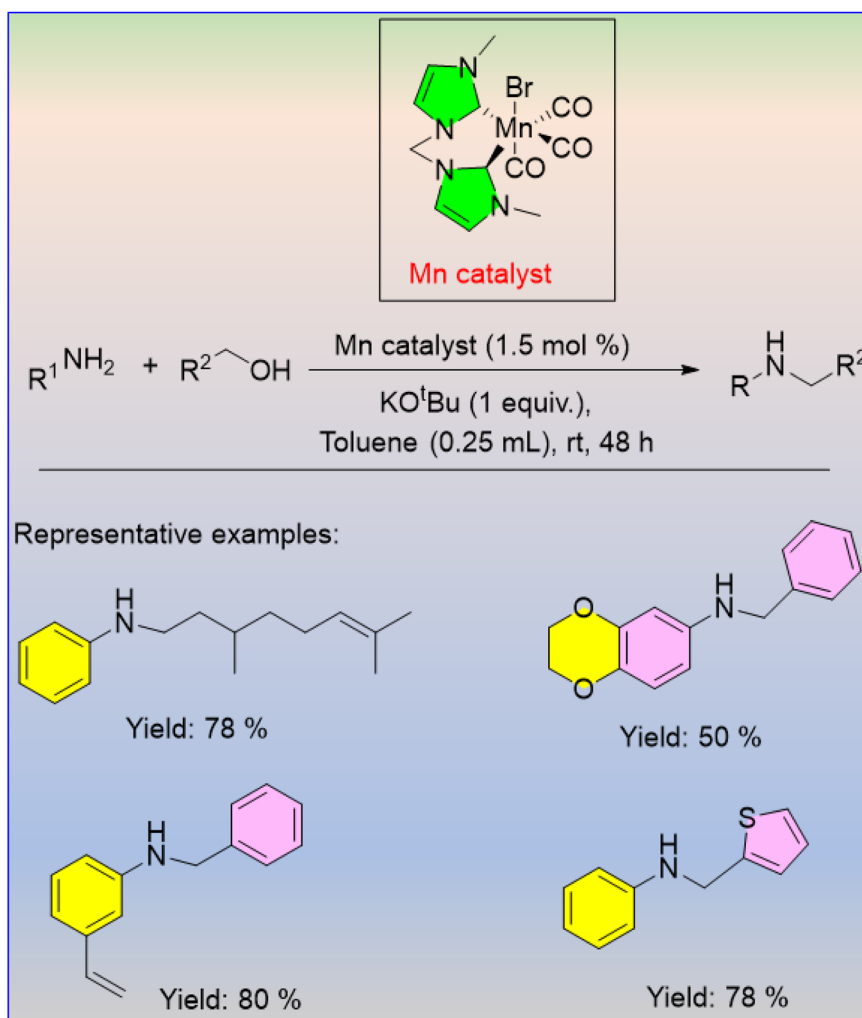


Scheme 16 Alcohol-mediated manganese-catalyzed *N*-methylation of primary anilines.Scheme 17 Methanol-mediated manganese-catalyzed *N*-methylation of primary anilines.



Scheme 18 Manganese-catalyzed coupling of primary alcohols and hydrazine.

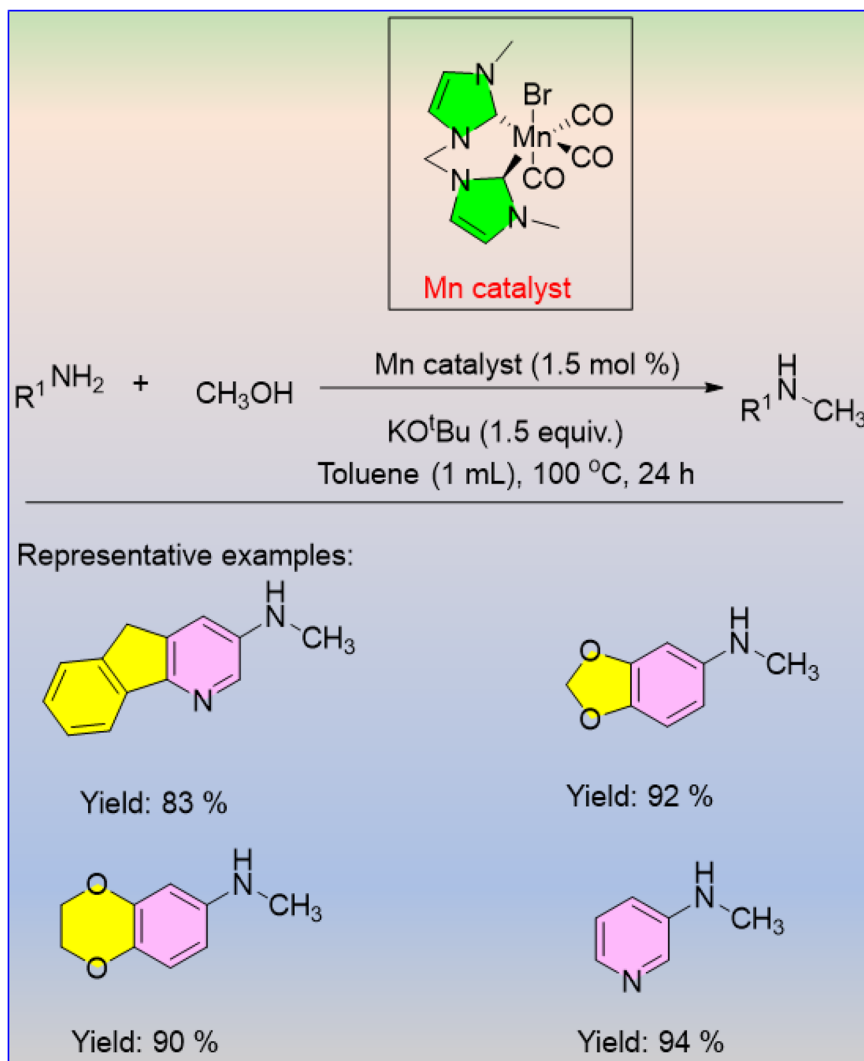
Scheme 19 Methanol-mediated manganese-catalyzed *N*-methylation of nitroarenes.

Scheme 20 MnO_2 -catalyzed oxidative phenol coupling reaction.Scheme 21 Alcohol-mediated *N*-alkylation of amines using a manganese catalyst.

high yields. The conversion of secondary ylides with alcohols led to good yields of the unsaturated products. These observations show that the borrowing hydrogen technique is disadvantaged owing to the failure of the aforesaid manganese catalyst to hydrogenate the highly substituted α,β -unsaturated carbonyl compound.

In 2020, Maji and his research group developed bidentate amine-based ligands containing manganese(i) catalyst and performed the *N*-alkylation reaction of aromatic amines with benzylic alcohols (Scheme 24).⁴⁵ Under the optimized reaction conditions (140 °C, 24 h), the Mn catalyst (2 mol%) was successfully utilized for the coupling of several electron-





Scheme 22 N-alkylation reaction of amines with alcohols using the Mn–NHC catalyst.

donating and withdrawing groups containing primary amines and aromatic alcohols, using KO^tBu (40 mol%) in toluene to furnish the corresponding secondary amines in up to 98% yield.

Mn-catalyzed C–X bond formation from carbonyl compounds

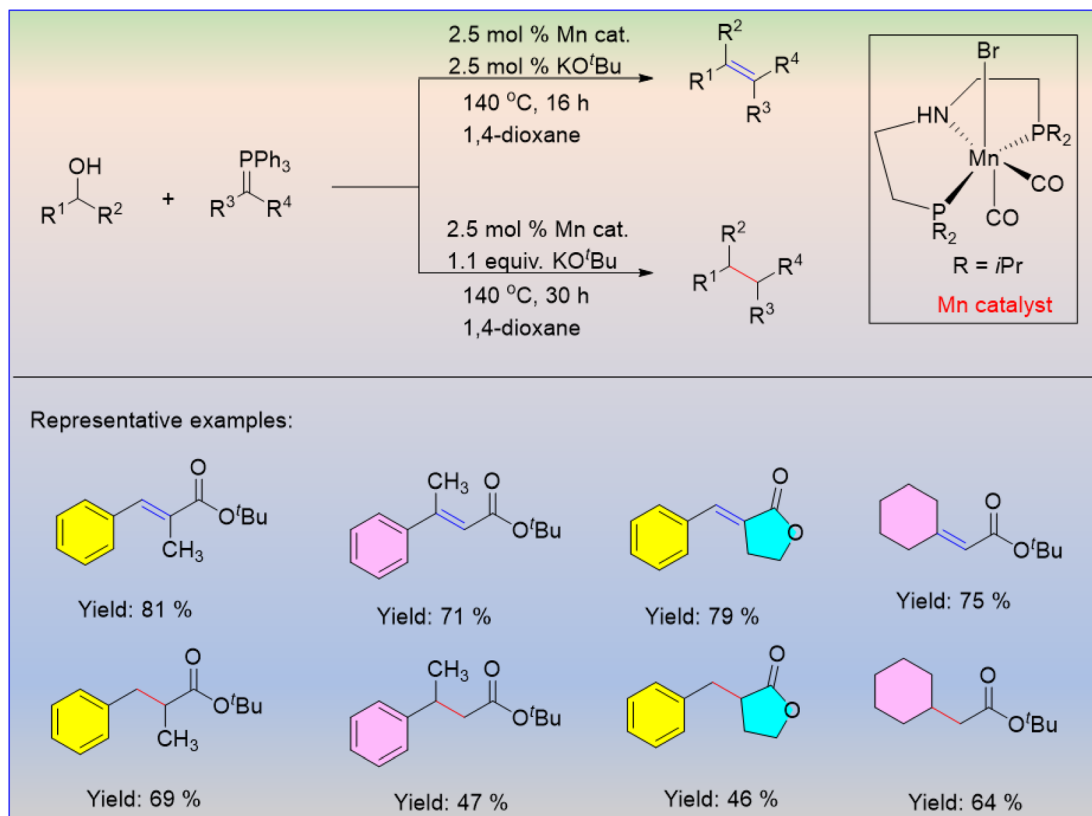
Escande *et al.* reported an eco-catalyst obtained using a low-cost photo extraction method in alignment with green chemistry principles.⁴⁶ Compared to other catalysts such as $Cu(OAc)_2$, $ZnCl_2$, and $InCl_3$, which rely on solvents to facilitate the reaction, this study demonstrated Eco-Mn's high catalytic efficiency in facilitating reductive amination processes. Ketones were reductively aminated in a solvent-free procedure using Eco-Mn derived from a plant growing on mining sites in New Caledonia. The reducing agent in this transformation is the Hantzsch ester (HEH). When cyclic and aliphatic ketones were combined with

cyclic and aliphatic amines, the catalyst demonstrated excellent functional group tolerance and was extremely productive. Cyclic ketones produced the highest yields for anilines with electron-withdrawing and electron-donating substituents, whereas aliphatic ketones provided only limited yields (Scheme 25).

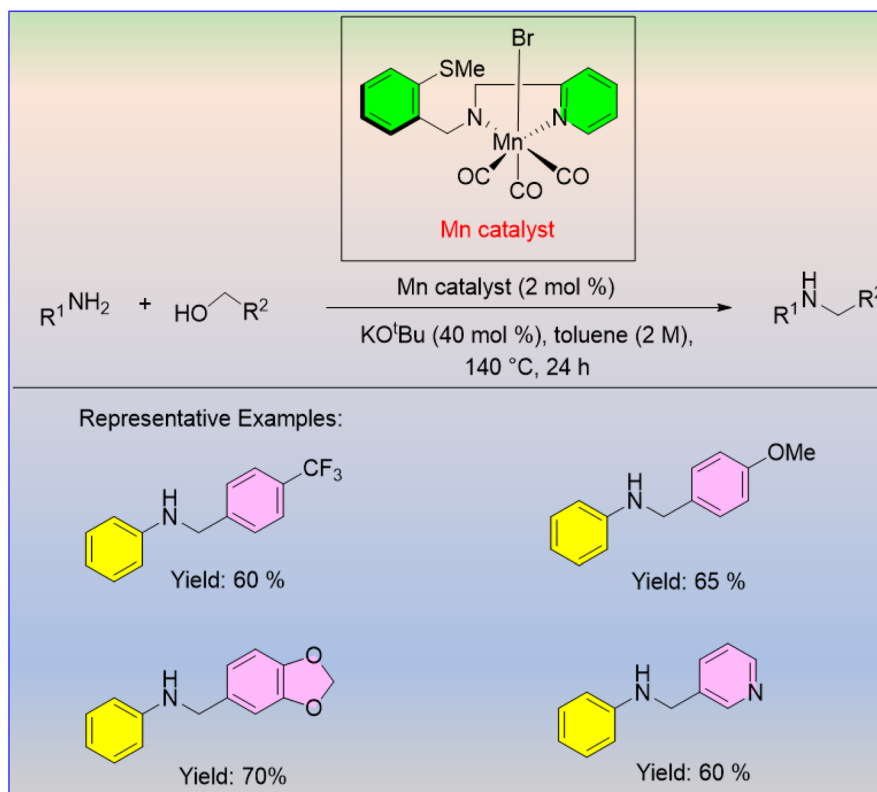
Among the C–C bond formation methods, the alkylation of ketones at the α position is a significant route for the synthesis of several biologically active, heterocyclic compounds and natural product building blocks. Gunanathan and coworkers reported Mn(I)-catalyzed C–C bond formation to obtain selective α -alkylated products (Scheme 26).³⁹ Catalytic cross-coupling of aromatic ketones with the substituted primary alcohols afforded the desired products with good to excellent yield.

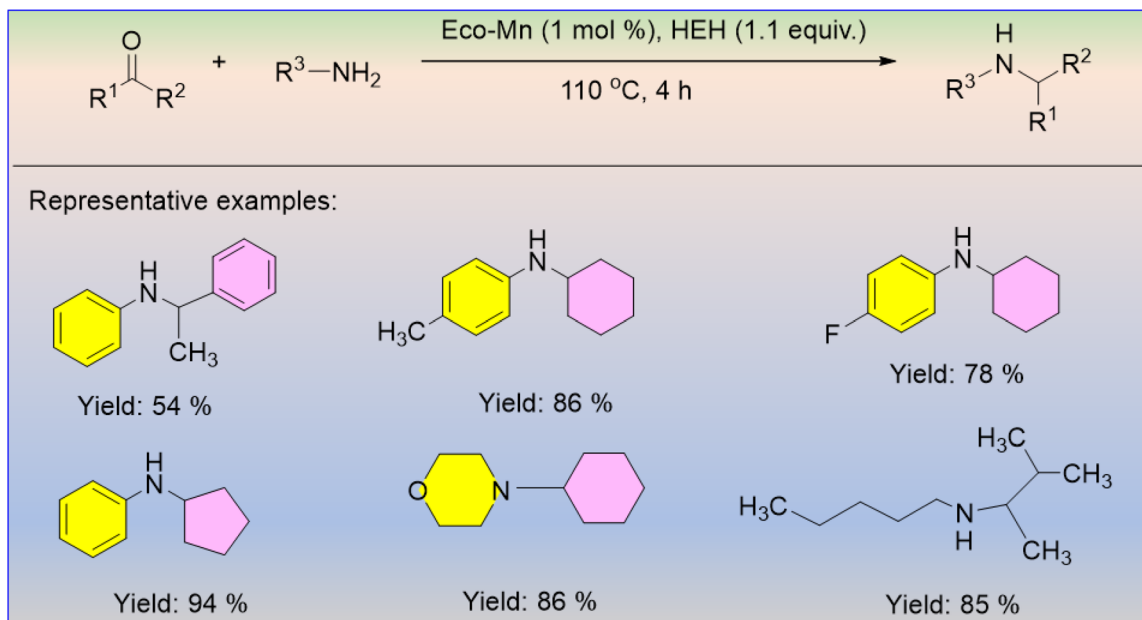
The plausible reaction mechanism for this manganese-catalysed borrowing hydrogen approach is depicted in Scheme



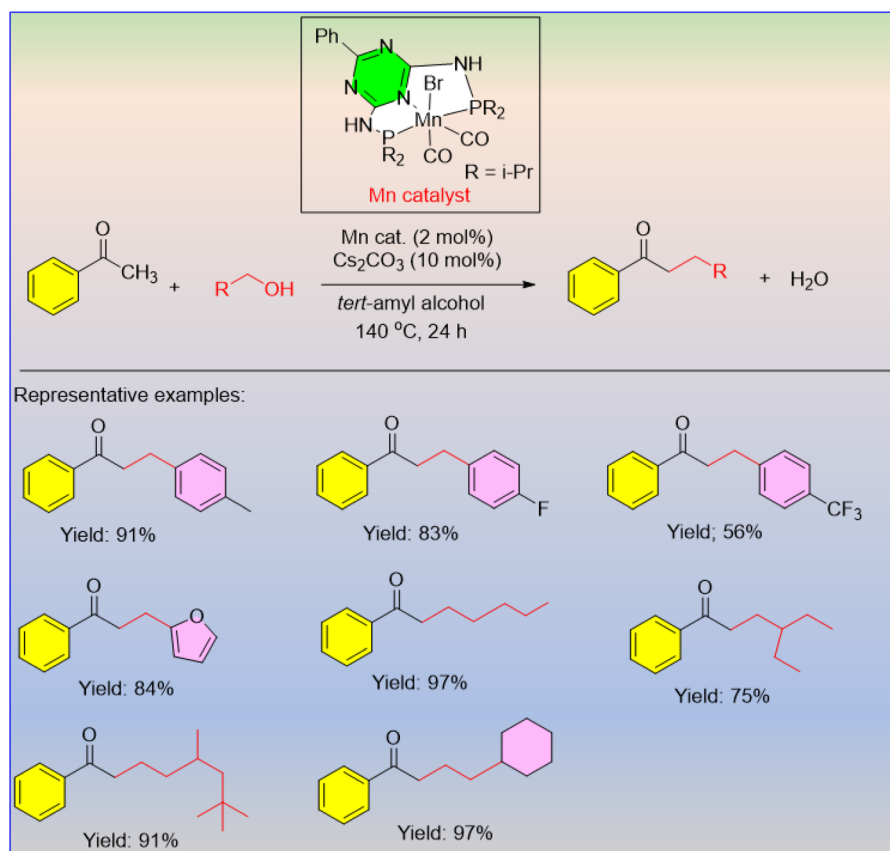


Scheme 23 Manganese-catalyzed construction of carbon–carbon single and double bonds.

Scheme 24 The alcohol-mediated *N*-alkylation reaction of primary anilines using a bidentate Mn-catalyst.

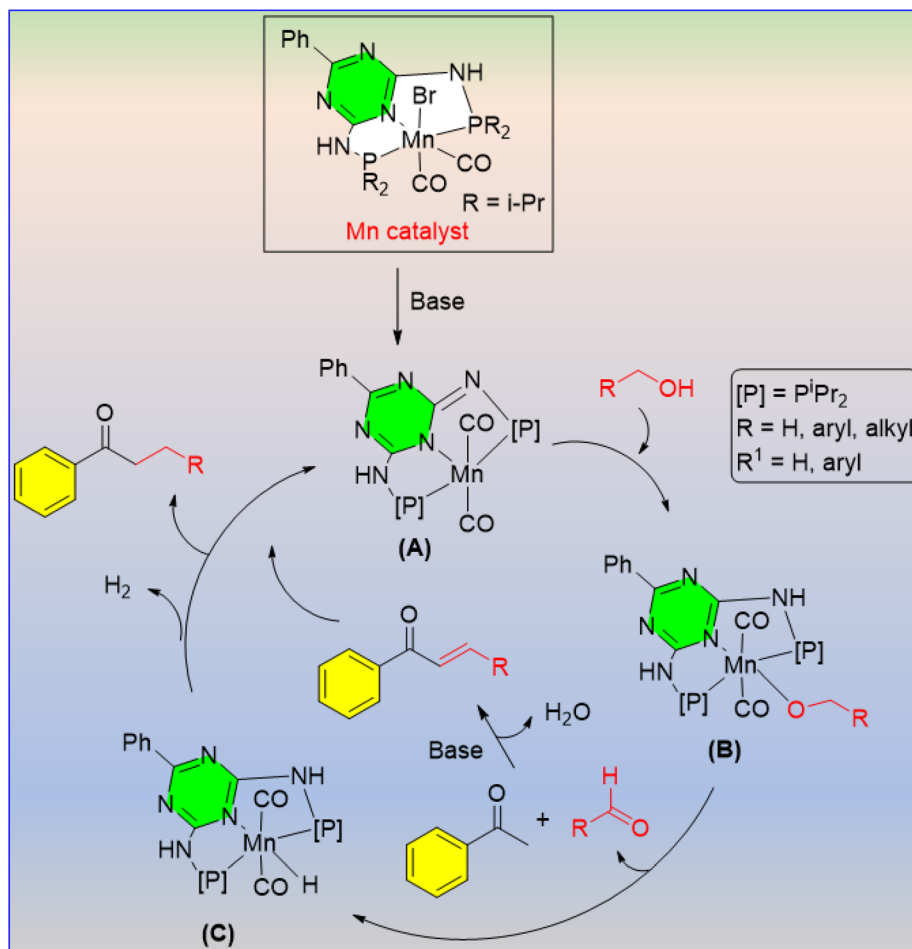


Scheme 25 Eco-Mn/HEH-mediated reductive amination of ketones with amines.



Scheme 26 Manganese-catalyzed C-C bond formation between carbonyls with alcohols.





Scheme 27 Plausible mechanism for the Mn-catalysed cross-coupling of primary alcohols with ketones *via* the borrowing-hydrogen approach.

27.³⁹ The base-mediated deprotonation and debromination of the Mn catalyst resulted in the dearomatized coordinatively unsaturated complex [A]. The activation of alcohol by complex [A] forms the alkoxo complex [B] *via* proton transfer to complex [A]. The resulting alkoxo complex [B] produces aldehyde and a saturated monohydrido manganese complex [C]. Then, a base-catalysed aldol condensation between aldehyde and acetophenone produces an α,β -unsaturated carbonyl compound, which is then hydrogenated by the manganese hydride complex [C] and affords the alkylated product with the regeneration of the catalytically active complex [A].

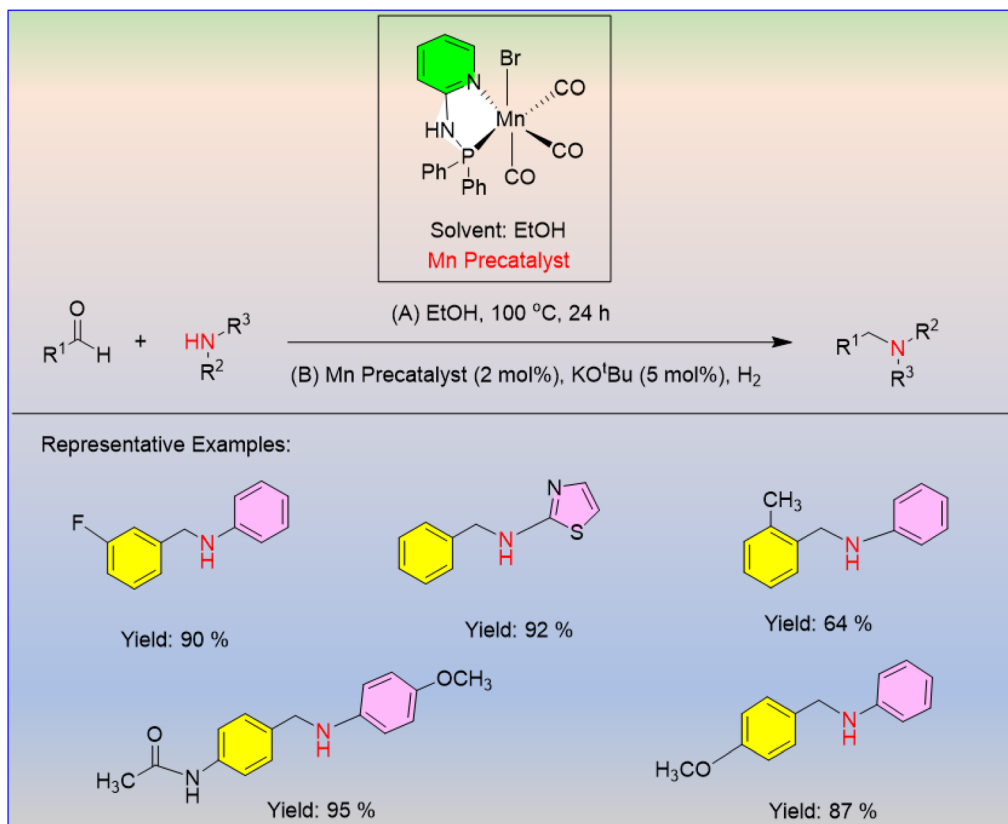
Wei *et al.* described a simple alkylation pathway for amines in the presence of a precatalyst that utilized molecular dihydrogen as a reductant.⁴⁷ To enable alkylation, aldehydes were reductively aminated, with the manganese pyridinyl phosphine complex acting as a pre-catalyst (Scheme 28). Here, the reaction temperature decreased to 80 °C and even 50 °C without having any negative effects on the catalyst's activity, and an adequate

yield was still attained. To achieve the best results, the two-step alkylation procedure began with the condensation of an aldehyde and amine, and the resulting imine was treated with a precatalyst, a base, and H₂. Fortunately, this reaction delivers high yields for the alkylation of a variety of amines containing both electron-donating and electron-withdrawing groups.

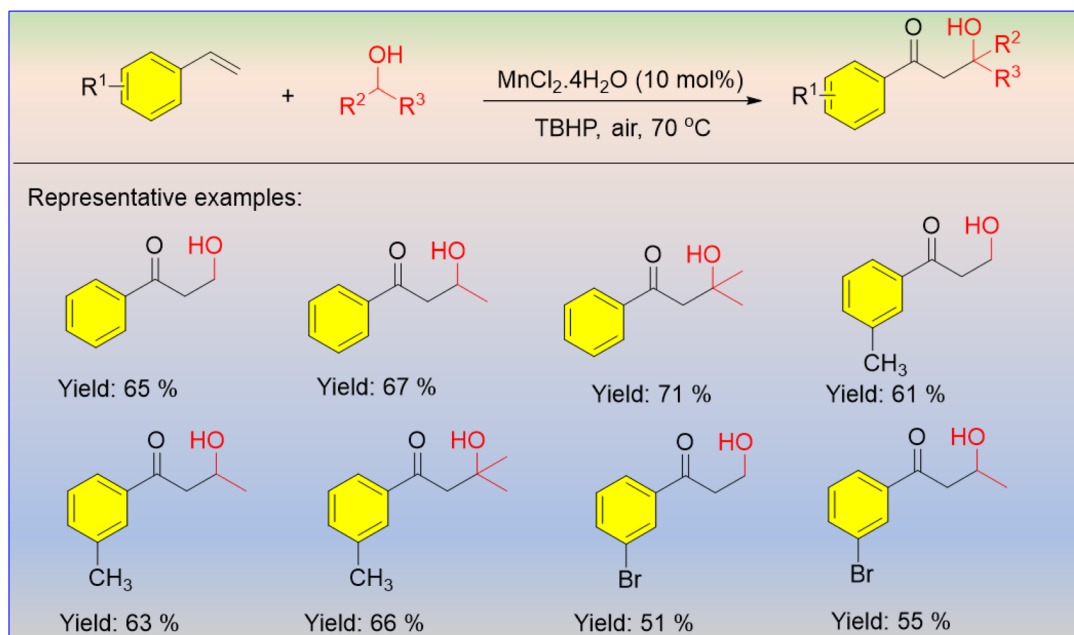
Mn-catalyzed C-X bond formation from alkenes and alkynes

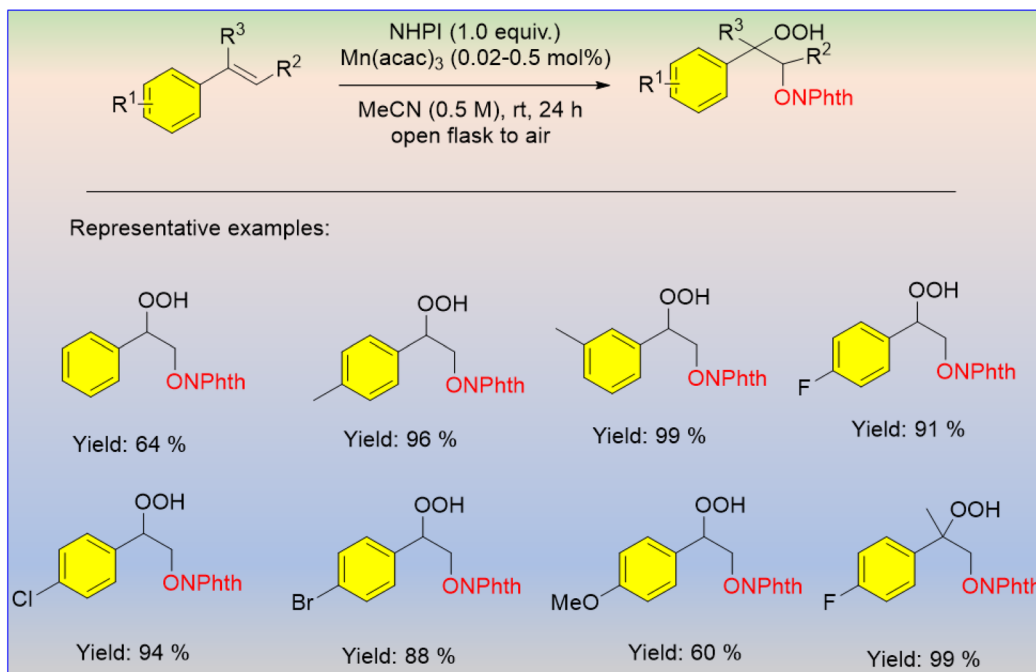
Alcohols and alkenes are the most frequently used functional groups in synthetic organic transformations. The Zhang group reported Mn-catalyzed coupling between vinylarenes and aliphatic alcohols for the first time to afford oxyalkylated products of the vinylarene in a moderate yield (Scheme 29).⁴⁸ TBHP played the role of oxidizing agent and radical initiator, as suggested by the proposed mechanism. From the above reaction, it was found that the presence of one extra alkyl group in the alcohol provided a higher yield.



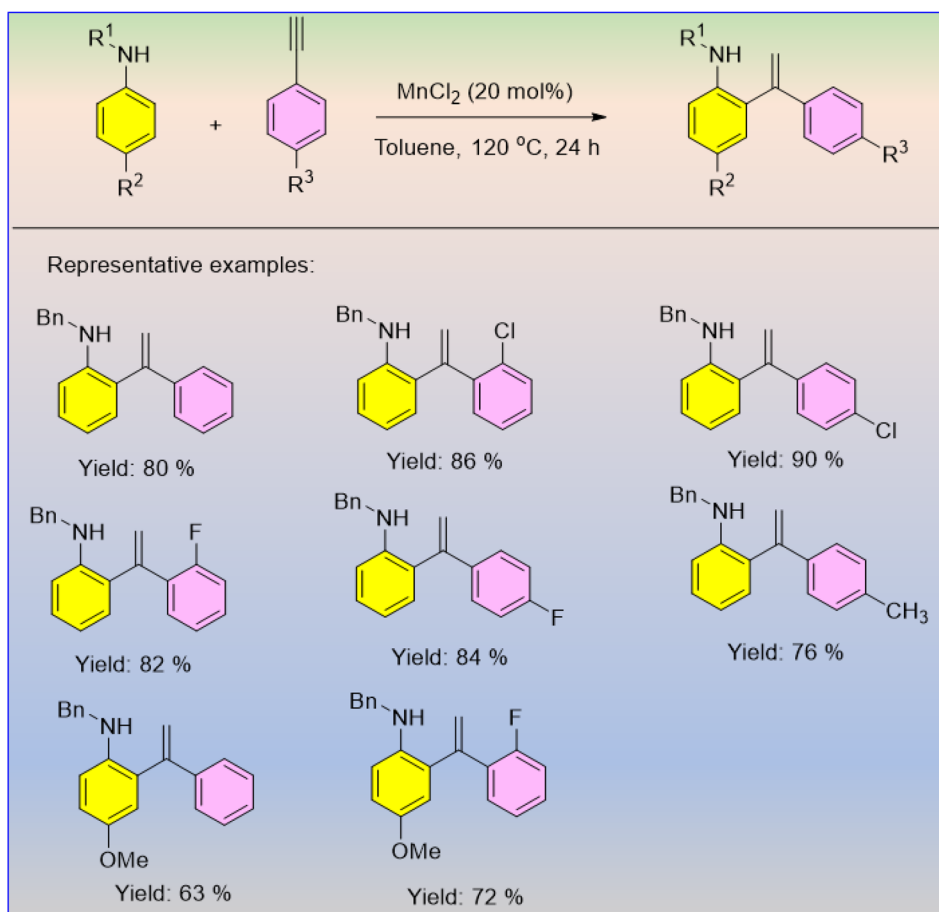


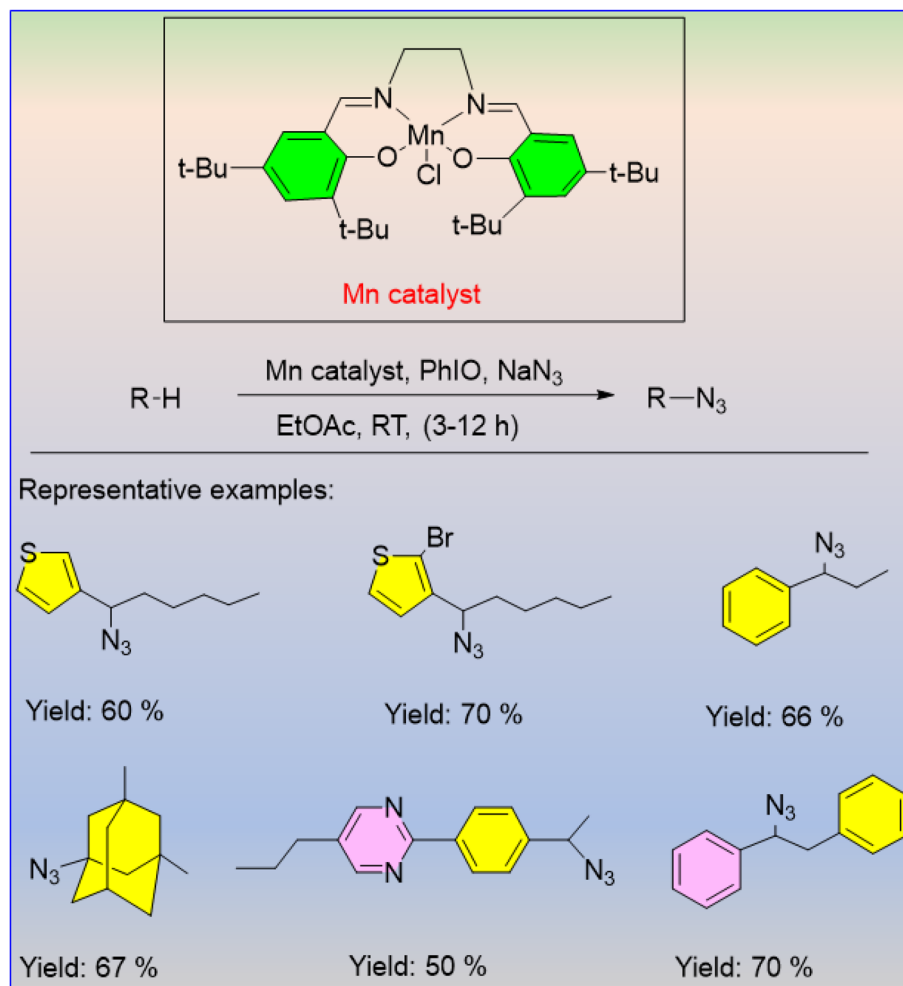
Scheme 28 Manganese-mediated reductive amination of aldehydes with amines.

Scheme 29 MnCl_2 -catalyzed C–C bond formation through the coupling reaction between vinylarenes and aliphatic alcohols.



Scheme 30 Manganese-catalyzed hydroperoxidation of olefins.

Scheme 31 Mn(II)-catalysed *ortho*-alkenylation of aromatic amines.

Scheme 32 Mn(salen)Cl-complex-catalysed C-H azidation using NaN₃.

In recent times, transition metal-based hydroperoxidation under aerobic conditions has been frequently used. Makino *et al.* developed the Mn-catalyzed hydroperoxidation of carbon-carbon double bonds of olefins using *N*-hydroxyphthalimide and molecular oxygen to afford the oxidized product (Scheme 30).⁴⁹ The reaction was performed at room temperature with the direct involvement of molecular oxygen present in the air. The required catalyst amount for this reaction was very low. In general, the substituted benzene afforded the product with excellent yield as compared to the unsubstituted one.

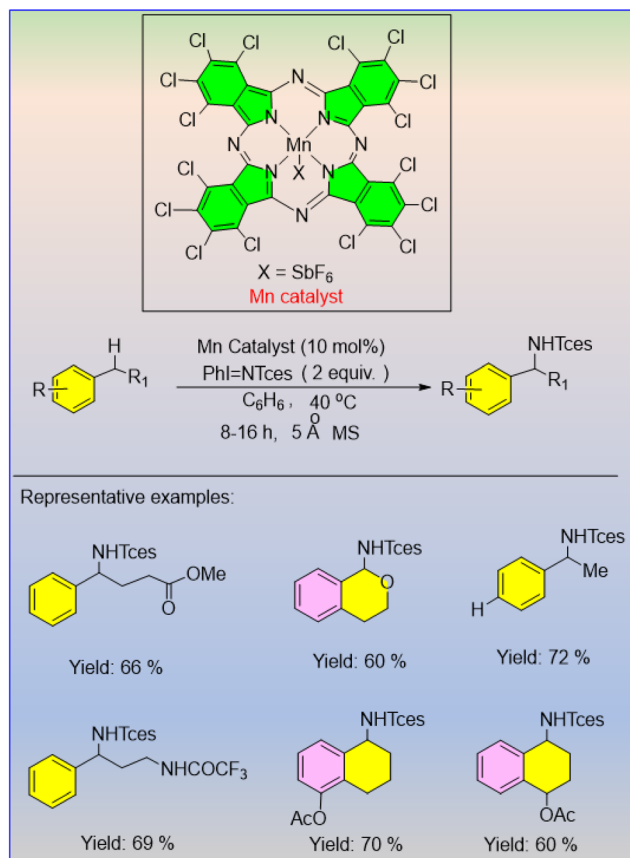
Alkenyl arylamines are very important precursors for the synthesis of pharmaceutically active ingredients like carbamazepine, opipramol and indopan. Also, the presence of this moiety in various heterocycles, which are a part of various biologically active compounds, has drawn much attention. Here, Sun and coworkers reported the Mn(II)-catalysed *ortho*-alkenylation of aromatic amines (Scheme 31), which has

significant application potential in reproductive diseases.⁵⁰ Various aromatic amines and aromatic alkynes were reacted using MnCl₂ as a catalyst to afford vinyl *N*-substituted aniline derivatives. These derivatives are useful for the growth of sperm; this was investigated through experiments on male rats as a mammalian model. The presence of the substituents on the aromatic amines or aryl acetylenes mutually affected the yield of the products.

Mn-catalyzed C-X bond formation through benzylic and allylic C-H functionalization

Huang *et al.* published a sophisticated procedure for the aliphatic C-H oxidation reaction using an Mn catalyst and sodium azide as the azide source.⁵¹ This technique is precise and has a straightforward operational process for converting C-H bonds from a wide range of primary, secondary, and benzylic compounds to their corresponding azides (Scheme 32).



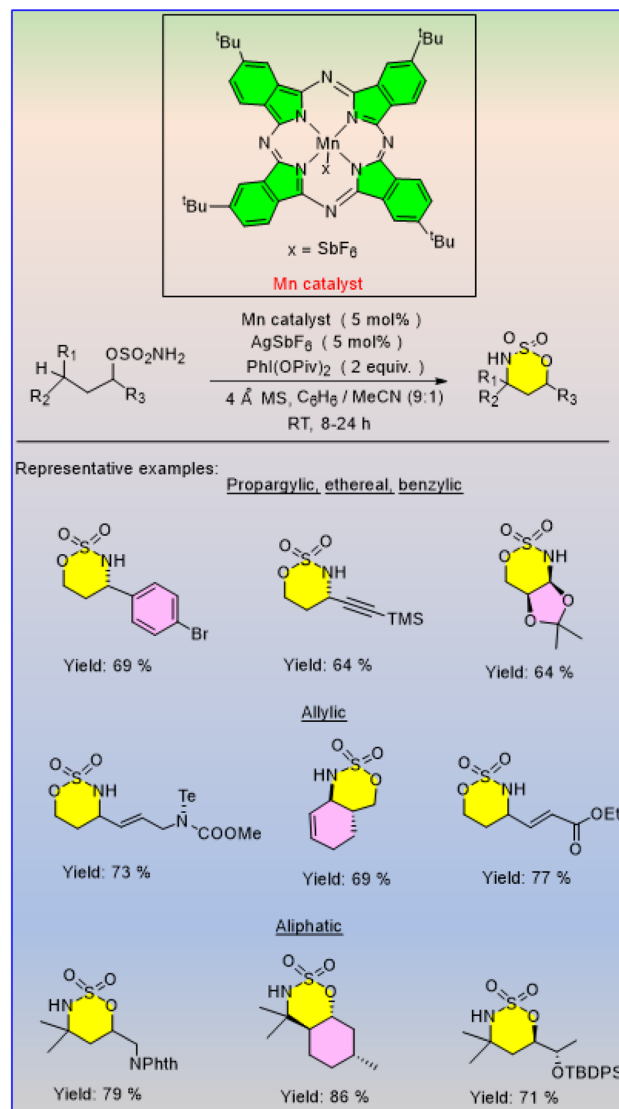


Scheme 33 Manganese-catalyzed intermolecular benzylic C–H amination reaction.

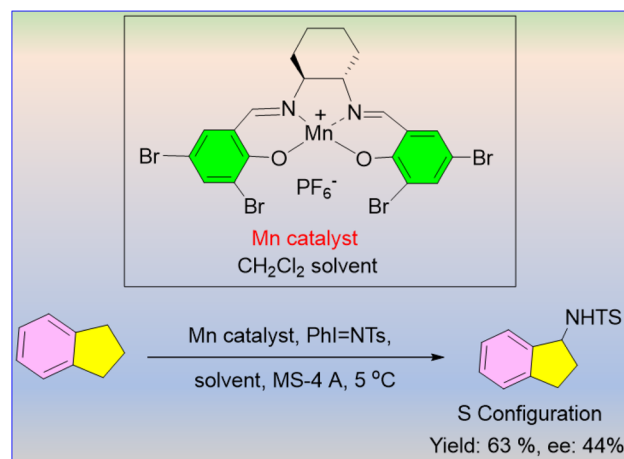
This methodology has vast applications in organic synthesis, chemical biology, and drug development. In the azidation of celestolide, the chiral Mn-salen catalyst exhibited an enantioselectivity of about 70%, which motivated them to try to broaden the substrate range of the catalyst to produce more enantioselective products in the future.

Clark *et al.* designed a [Mn^{III}(ClPc)] catalyst that was used for an intermolecular benzylic C–H amination, having excellent selectivity as well as tolerance for a wide range of functional groups.⁵² When the substrate contains a variety of benzylic sites, the reaction demonstrates site preference by specifically aminating at the least hindered and most electron-rich site (Scheme 33).

Paradine *et al.* reported an unusual manganese-based C–H amination catalyst [Mn(^tBuPc)] in 2015 that can functionalize several types of C(sp³)–H bonds inside the molecule, including primary aliphatic and propargylic C–H bonds, which are often challenging to achieve with metallonitrene-based catalysis (Scheme 34).⁵³ [Mn(^tBuPc)] promotes intramolecular C–H amination while maintaining strong chemoselectivity for allylic C–H bonds, which is a selectivity pattern typically associated with iron catalysts; it has a broad range of functional group resistance and displays stereospecificity in a complex molecular environment.

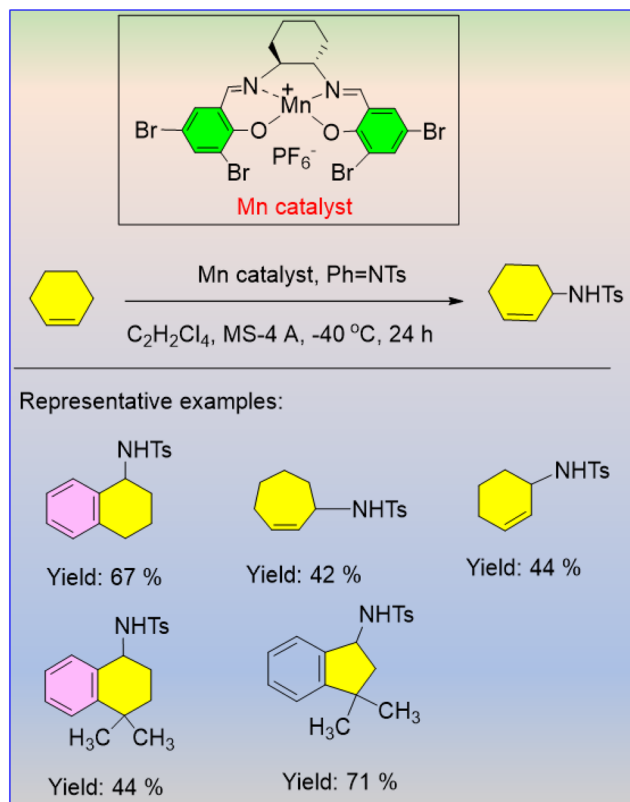


Scheme 34 [Mn(^tBuPc)]Cl-catalyzed C–H amination.



Scheme 35 Manganese-catalyzed asymmetric amination of indan.





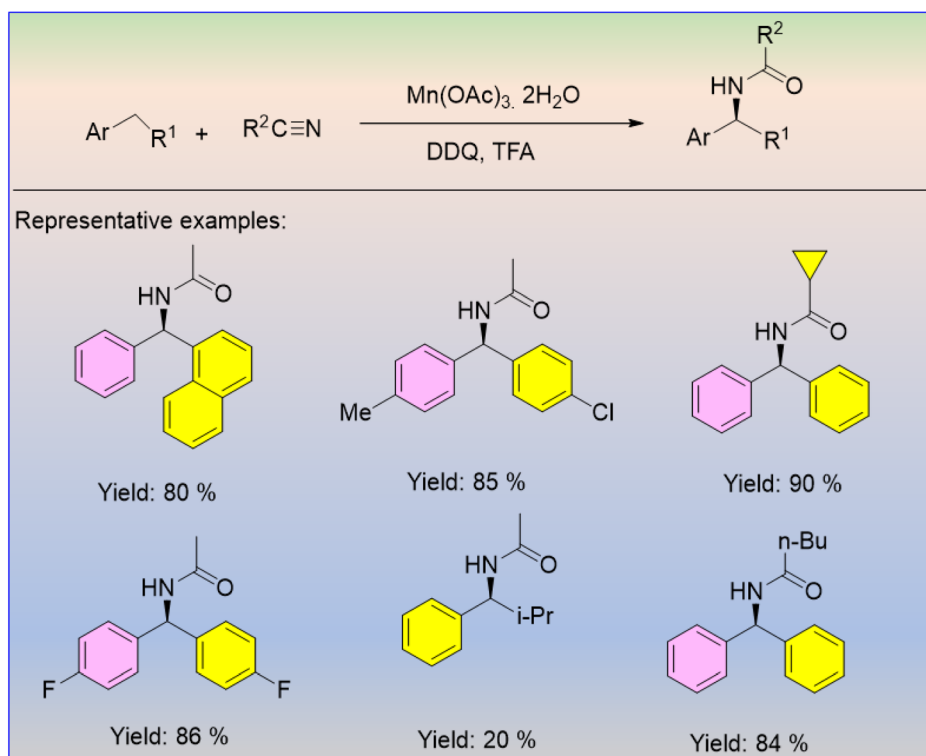
Scheme 36 Manganese-complex-catalysed asymmetric C–H amination reaction in the presence of 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane.

A chiral Mn(salen) complex was synthesized by Kohmura and Katsuki and used to catalyze the asymmetric sp³ C–H bond amination reaction.⁵⁴ The most effective catalyst for the benzylic amination of indan with Mn(salen) was the chiral 3,3',5,5'-tetrabromosubstituted (salen)manganese(III) complex (Scheme 35).

The catalyst efficiently achieves high enantioselectivity for structurally different substrates through benzylic or allylic amination instead of aziridination. The yield was determined using the amount of PhINTs in the reaction mixture (Scheme 36).⁵⁴ This strategy may proceed *via* nitrene transfer, in which nitrene is produced by coordinating PhINTs with an Mn catalyst.

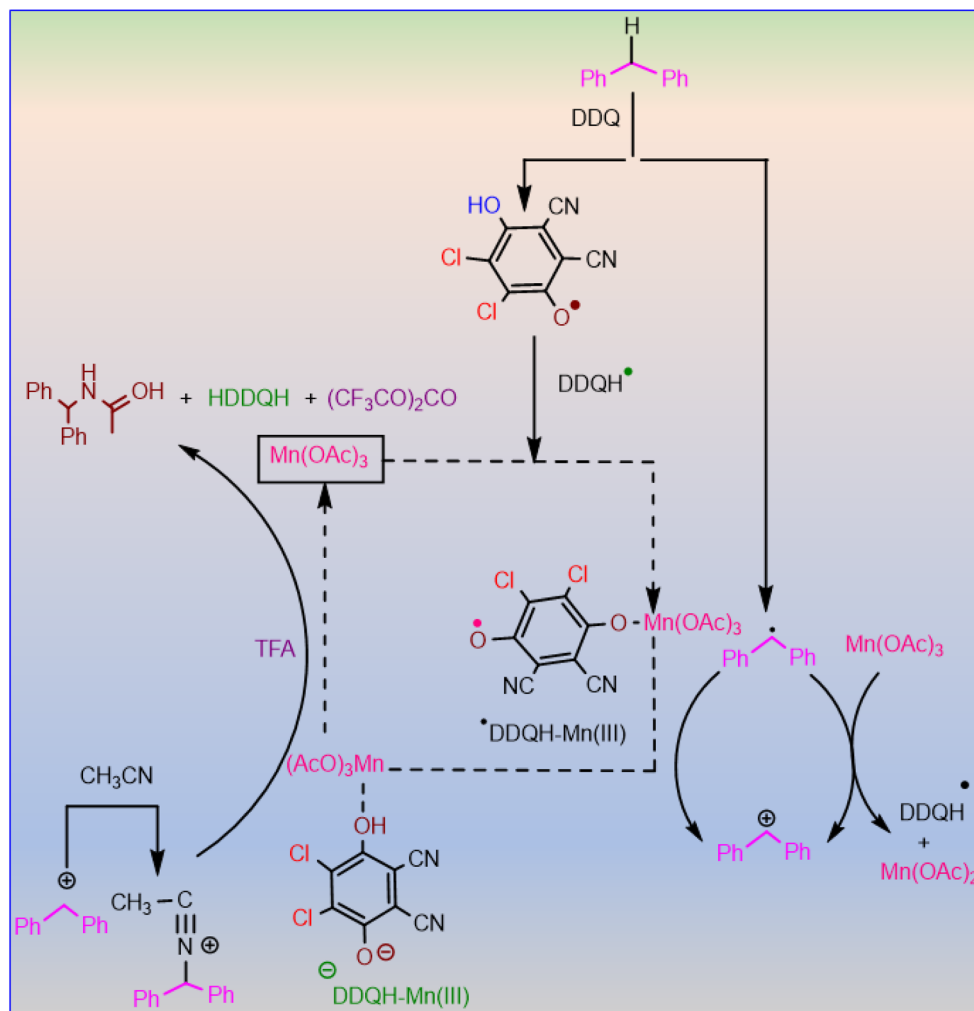
The Mn(OAc)₃-catalyzed selective amination of benzylic C(sp³)–H bonds was discovered by Zhang *et al.*⁵⁵ The authors observed that the selectivity of the reaction increased with the addition of DDQ. The secondary amides with good to excellent yields were produced under ambient conditions (Scheme 37). The reaction performs well in producing a wide range of functional amides in appropriate yields, using a diverse set of primary, secondary, and tertiary alkyl, alkenyl, benzyl, and aryl nitriles. Interestingly, this amidation reaction results in a broad range of secondary amides.

The process occurs through a radical mechanism, with DDQ mainly oxidising the substrate (Scheme 38). This route utilizes TFA to activate the hydrolysis of the nitrilium cation for the synthesis of the amide. The amination of inert C(sp³)–H bonds



Scheme 37 Mn(OAc)₃-mediated selective amination of benzylic C(sp³)–H bonds.





Scheme 38 Proposed mechanistic pathway for the selective amination of benzylic C(sp³)-H bonds.⁵⁴

using this synthetic methodology is superior to the existing methods.⁵⁵

The catalyst, in addition to Brønsted and Lewis acids, effectively prevents C-H amination of unavailable tertiary amines and heterocycles (Scheme 39).⁵² The procedure suggests that the main intermediate is an electrophilic metallonitrene. The reaction proceeds in a sequential C-H amination, with the breaking of the C-H bond being the slowest step, which determines the rate of the reaction.

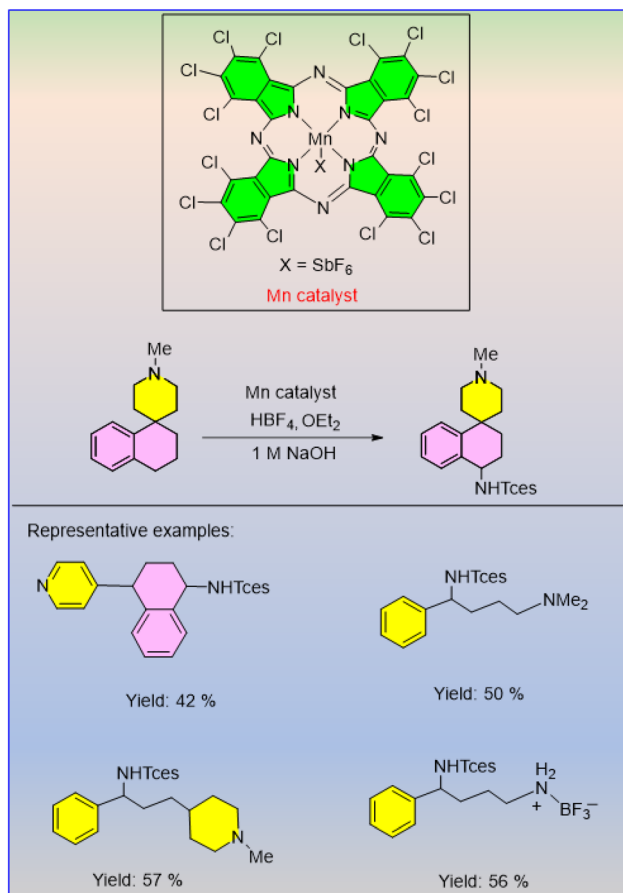
The catalytic application of MnBr(CO)₅ as a catalyst for the C-H sulfoxidation of different aromatic ketones was developed by Kong and Xu in 2018.⁵⁶ Regardless of the type of substituents, aromatic ketones with electron-donating and electron-withdrawing groups at the *meta* and *para* positions produced the required sulfonamides in good yields when they were combined with phenyl sulfonyl azide (Scheme 40). Both aliphatic and aromatic sulfonyl azides were employed as amination reagents, and major amounts of sulfonamidated

compounds were produced (Scheme 41).⁵⁶ The produced nitrene intermediate is inserted into the ketone's C-H bond to carry out this reaction. The critical phase in the MnMe(CO)₅ reactive intermediate that was created in the reaction mixture is used in the aromatic metalation process, which is driven by the ketone. It is interesting to note that this technique has a high functional group tolerance, and the *ortho* C-H bond sulfoxidation shows good regioselectivity.

Mn-catalyzed C-X bond formation through heterocyclic C-H functionalization

Though it is difficult to directly functionalize indoles to indolyl benzothiazoles *via* Mn-catalysed C-H amination, the authors designed appropriate surfactants to make it possible. However, the presence of a Mn(II) catalyst was discovered to be necessary for the additional functionalisation of indolyl benzothiazoles in order to construct biologically relevant tris-heterocyclic frameworks. This synthetic methodology started from 2-(indol-3-yl)





Scheme 39 C–H amination reaction catalysed by a manganese complex.

benzothiazole and enabled the chemoselective and regioselective construction of the C–N bond (Scheme 42).⁵⁷ The reaction involves a sp^2 C–H amination catalysed by $MnBr_2$ (10 mol%) in the presence of BathoPh (bathophenanthroline) ligand. The reaction involves an sp^2 C–H amination catalysed by $Mn(II)$. When Mn catalysts coordinate with nitrogen atoms in substrates, they form a five-membered intermediate. This intermediate then coordinates with pyridone through nitrogen and oxygen atoms to form a $Mn(III)$ complex. This intricate final product is produced by an irreversible proto-demetalation and C–H amination of this complex.

In 2010, Kim *et al.* discovered a Co and Mn-based catalytic system for the direct formation of the C–N bond in azoles using amines as the nitrogen source.⁵⁸ For this reaction to proceed smoothly, the authors used peroxide and an acid additive under mild conditions. *Tert*-butyl hydroperoxide solution (T-HYDRO) was the most productive oxidant in this reaction and the products were obtained in high yields. The Mn catalyst reacts with T-HYDRO to generate radicals, and therefore, T-HYDRO

behaves as a powerful oxidant. The reaction occurred *via* a simple radical mechanism. The resultant radical is highly responsible for the construction of the C–N bond of the desired product. Interestingly, the $Mn(OAc)_2$ catalyst was found to be the most effective catalyst, rather than $Co(OAc)_2$, for productive amination products using primary amines as the nitrogen source (Scheme 43). The products were successfully obtained when 2-amino benzoxazole derivatives were substituted with *n*-pentyl, *n*-isobutyl, and cyclohexyl groups. The authors also reported that when optically active primary amines were used as the amine source in the reaction with benzoxazoles, no racemization products were obtained.

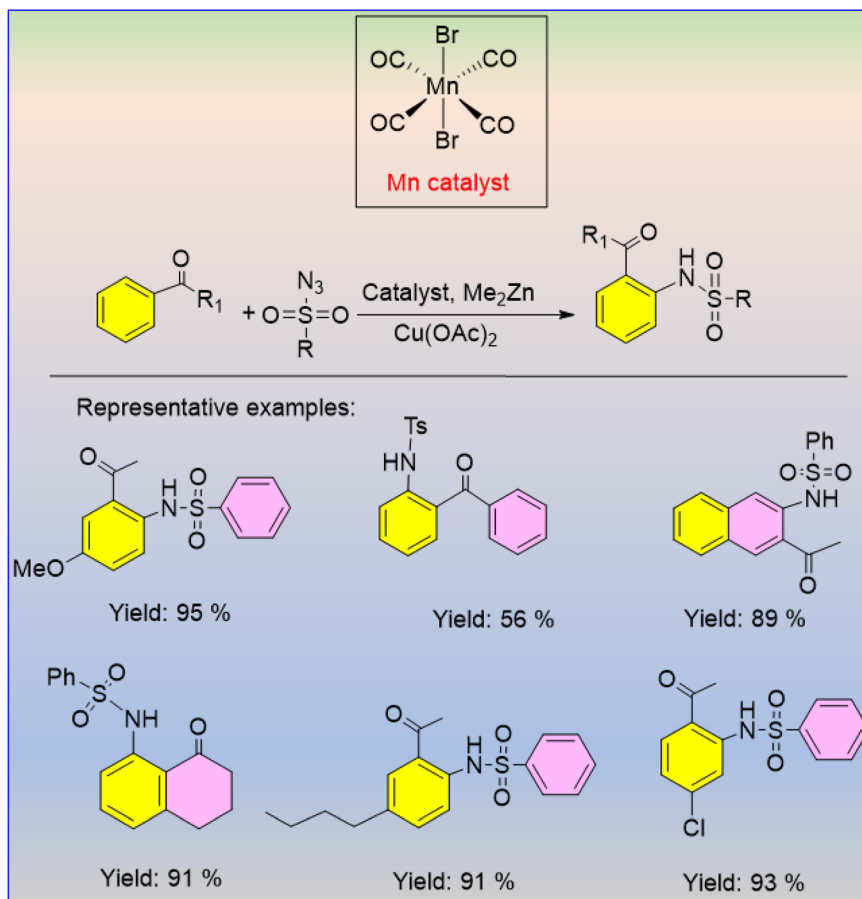
Singh *et al.* utilised molecular oxygen as the only oxidant for producing biologically active 2-aminoazole derivatives, establishing the process as environmentally friendly.⁵⁹ The heterogeneous Cu–MnO catalyst was easily separated from the reaction mixture after the completion of the reaction and produced comparatively higher yields than the γ - MnO_2 catalyst (Scheme 44). The incorporation of catalytic copper in γ -manganese oxide improves azole oxidative amination activity, highlighting the importance of copper percentage. Amination of benzothiazole and benzoxazole with –Cl and – CH_3 substituents produced good yields using both cyclic and acyclic secondary amines.

The catalyst was most effective with benzoxazole; however, it can also react with primary amines for higher yields. The investigation demonstrated that both O_2 and catalyst are required for benzothiazole amination, and a tentative mechanism is proposed (Scheme 45).⁵⁹ The Cu–MnO catalyst allows for the coordination of azoles with copper, resulting in this reaction. The hydrogen released in the initial stage might be utilised in the third step to produce intermediate (III) by regenerating the catalyst Cu–MnO.

Synthetically significant organic transformations for the formation of novel C–C bonds *via* Mn-catalysed C–H activation reaction have drawn immense attention from synthetic chemists. McGlacken and co-workers reported an efficient synthetic methodology for the manganese-catalysed C_2 allylation of indoles in an eco-friendly aqueous medium (Scheme 46).⁶⁰ Indoles bearing various electron-donating and electron-withdrawing substituents participated efficiently and gave the desired products in moderate to good yields. Indoles bearing the – NO_2 group also participated in the reaction, but the desired product was obtained in only 20% yield. Various sensitive functional groups such as –CHO, – $CONH_2$, and – CO_2Et were well tolerated, exhibiting their potential for synthetic utility in pharmaceutical chemistry.

A straightforward and practically simple method for the amination of 2-amino benzoxazole derivatives, which are the main building blocks of a significant number of physiologically active compounds, was described by Pal *et al.* in 2014.⁶¹ Using molecular oxygen as an eco-friendly oxidant, the authors developed a heterogeneous porous MnO_2 catalyst for the





Scheme 40 Sulfonamidation of aromatic ketones catalysed by a manganese catalyst.

formation of C–N bonds *via* the direct amination of benzoxazole through C–H activation (Scheme 47). The heterogeneous catalyst was easily separated from the reaction mixture and can be used repeatedly to produce C–N bonds. The authors observed that when substituted and unsubstituted benzoxazole were reacted with various primary and secondary amines, the corresponding products were obtained in good to excellent yields, but the reactions with sterically inhibited secondary amines generated poor yields.

The reaction is also compatible with alcohol functional groups, demonstrating the broad utility of this amination reaction strategy. The authors also proposed a contingent mechanism in this reaction, where the 2-amino benzoxazolidine intermediate was obtained *via* amine attack on benzoxazole (Scheme 47).⁶¹ The resultant 2-amino benzoxazolidine is then re-aromatized in the presence of aerial oxygen as an eco-friendly oxidant and MnO₂ as a heterogeneous catalyst.

The Mn-catalyzed formation of the C–X bond through the cleavage of a strained ring

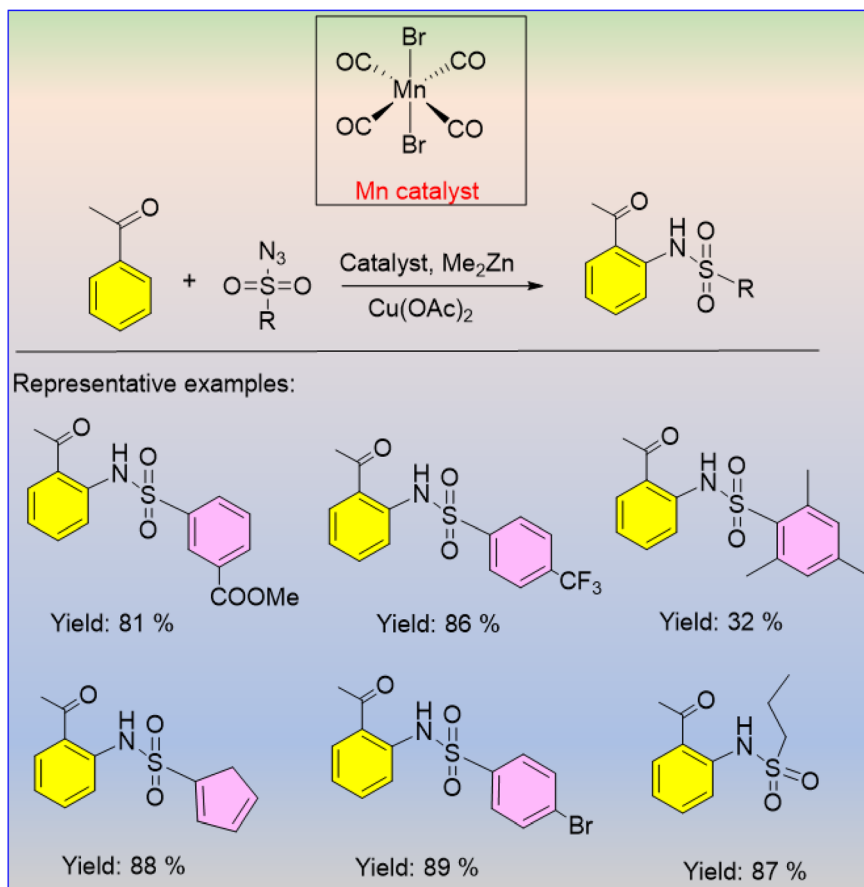
Various natural products contain cyclopentene precursors that have been frequently used in pharmaceutical and medicinal

chemistry. Hence, cyclopentene is of significant interest. The Mn-catalyzed acceptorless-dehydrogenative coupling through a radical-initiated ring expansion rearrangement of cyclopropylmethanol with methyl ketone under basic conditions afforded a plethora of acyl cyclopentene derivatives in reasonable yields, with water and hydrogen gas as side products (Scheme 48).⁶² It was observed that the products were obtained in higher yields with electron-donating substituents than those with electron-withdrawing substituents.

Alkylamines are the fundamental structural unit in natural products, biologically active compounds and pharmaceutically active ingredients. An effective Mn(III)-catalyzed hydrazination of cyclobutanols was reported, which involved C–C bond cleavage, where cyclobutanols afforded a series of alkyl hydrazines (Scheme 49).⁶³ The depicted mechanism involves the addition of an alkyl carbon radical to the azodicarboxylate (Scheme 50). The naphthalene moiety containing cyclobutanol afforded the desired product in a smaller yield than the substituted or unsubstituted aryl groups.

The C–S bond is very common in natural products, pharmaceutically active compounds, and organic materials. Mn(III)-catalyzed regioselective C–S bond formation was developed *via* C–C bond cleavage of cyclobutanols (Scheme 51).⁶⁴ Differently





Scheme 41 Manganese-catalysed scope for the sulfonamidation of different sulfonyl azides.

substituted cyclobutanols were reacted with bisaryl disulfanes using Mn(III) catalyst to afford a group of thioether derivatives. The plausible mechanism involves radical-mediated tandem C–C bond cleavage and C–S bond formation (Scheme 52). The substrates containing substituents in the *ortho* or *para* (except *p*-tolyl) positions have lower yields.

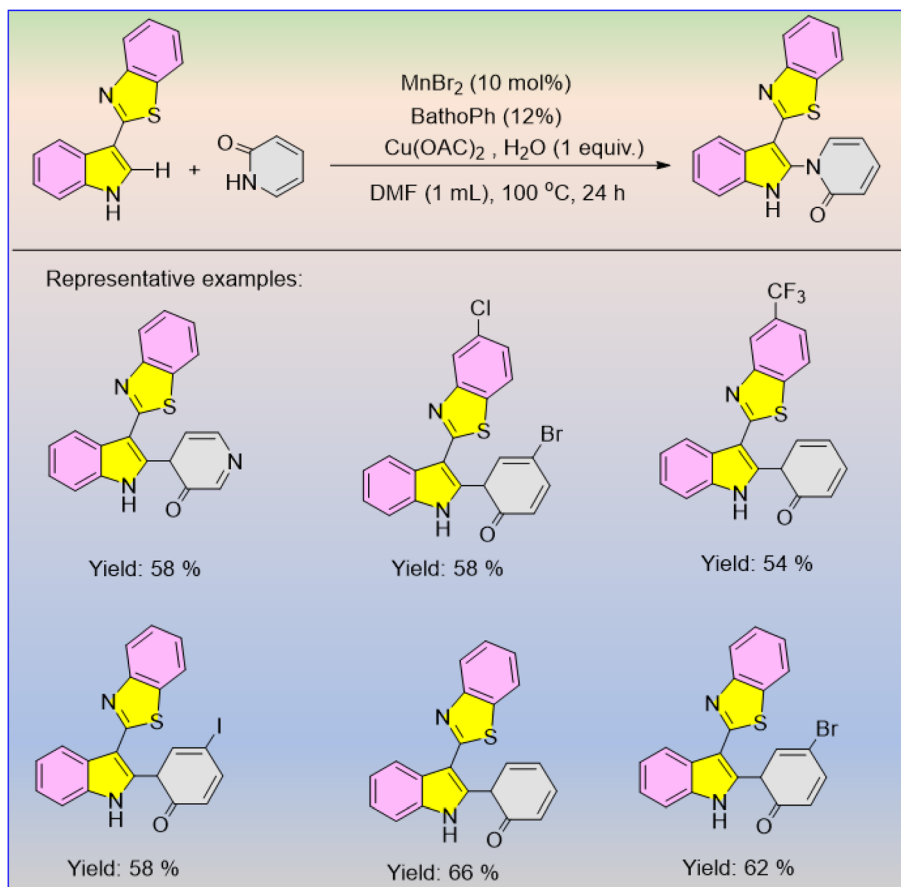
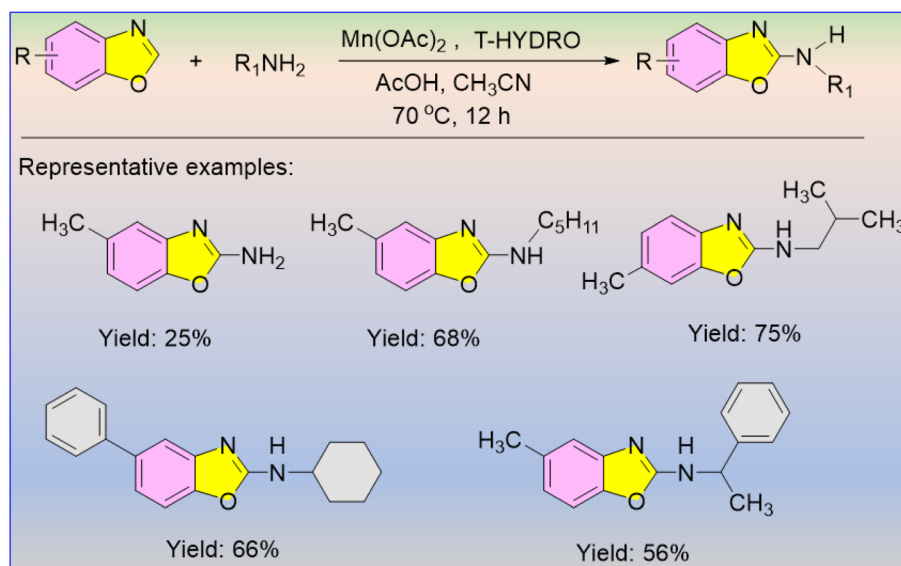
Mn-catalyzed synthesis of heterocyclic frameworks

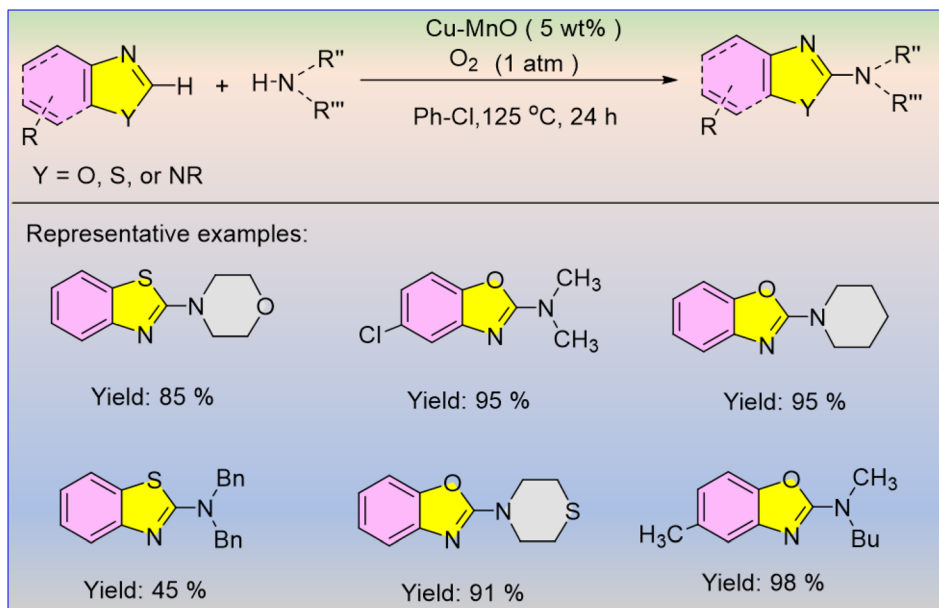
Heterocyclic frameworks are essential to functional materials, pharmaceuticals, and natural products. Manganese-driven organic synthesis has appeared as an economically efficient and environmentally benign approach for synthesizing a wide range of nitrogen-, oxygen-, and sulfur-containing heterocyclic frameworks. Annulation, cyclization, or multicomponent strategies are involved in constructing the complex ring systems under mild reaction conditions. Organic synthesis using manganese catalysis provides cost-effective and eco-friendly substitutes for precious noble metals and also offers exceptional reactivity patterns, including the functionalization of C–H bonds and dehydrogenative coupling strategies.

There were no literature reports on the manganese catalytic cycle for the reactions between ketones and isocyanates using transition metal catalysts, but recently, Wang *et al.* developed a trio of Me₂Zn/AlCl₃/AgOTf that activates manganese catalysis for the further reaction between ketones and isocyanates under heating conditions to afford functionalized phthalimidines (Scheme 53).⁶⁵ The reaction involved [3 + 2] cyclization *via* inert C–H activation. Interestingly, the products with electron-donating or electron-withdrawing substituents have lower yields than the unsubstituted ones.

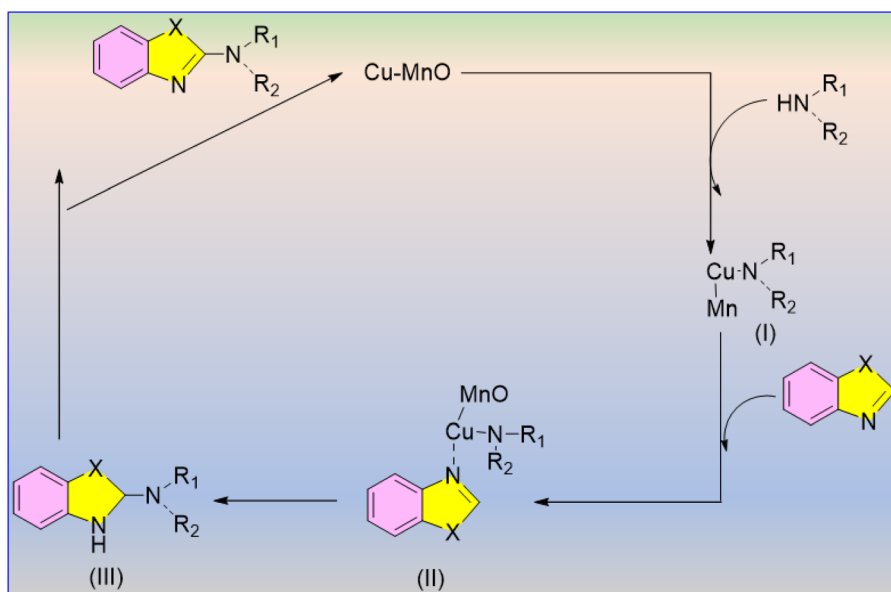
A simple chemical pathway for the synthesis of 1-unsubstituted-2-aryl-1*H*-indazoles was revealed by Cao and Duan.⁶⁶ This efficient approach involves microwave irradiation of *N*-acetyl hydrazones with MnO₂ supported on silica as the catalyst, followed by C–H amination (Scheme 54). The generation of cyclized products in this reaction was found to require a high loading percentage of easily accessible MnO₂ at higher temperatures. Moreover, unfavorable products are produced when MnO₂ is present and acting as an oxidant. However, the use of silica-supported MnO₂, which acts as a heterogeneous Mn catalytic system in the reaction, allows for the efficient oxidation of the substrate at lower temperatures under



Scheme 42 MnBr_2 -catalyzed construction of tris-heterocyclic frameworks via the indole C_2 -H amination process.Scheme 43 $\text{Mn}(\text{OAc})_2$ -catalyzed C-H amination of benzoxazoles using primary amines.



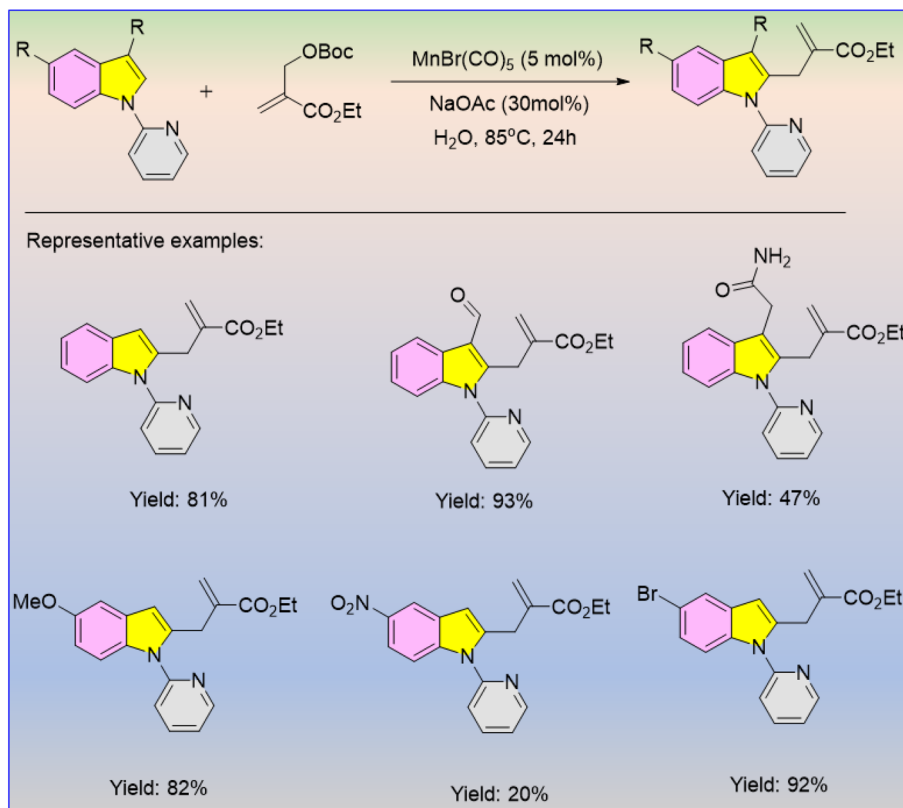
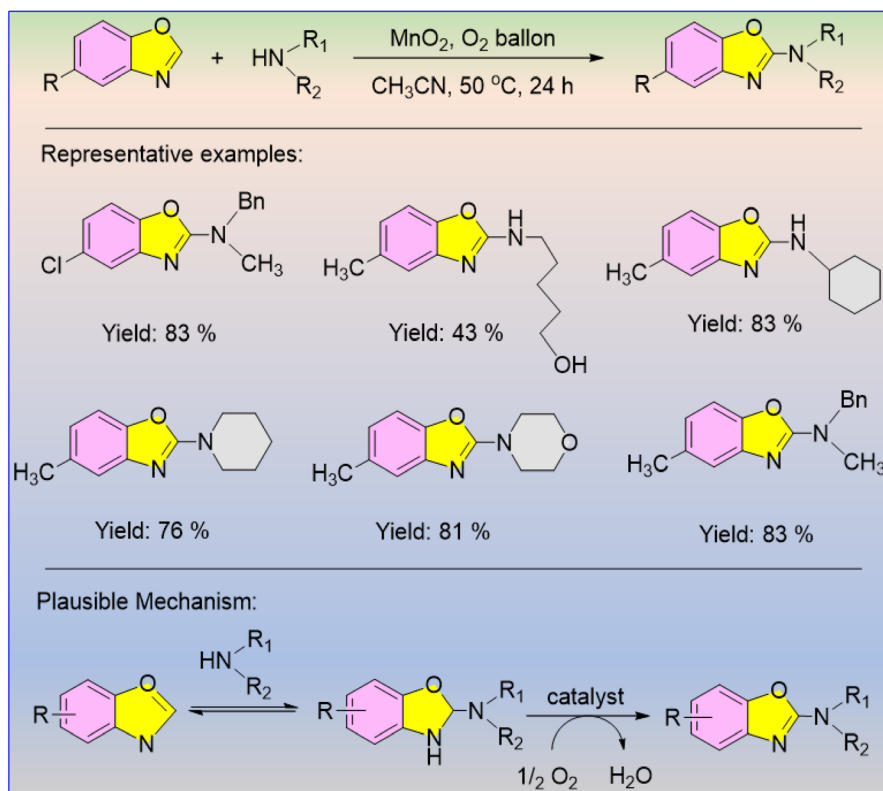
Scheme 44 Heterogeneous Cu–MnO-catalyzed direct oxidative C–H amination of azoles.

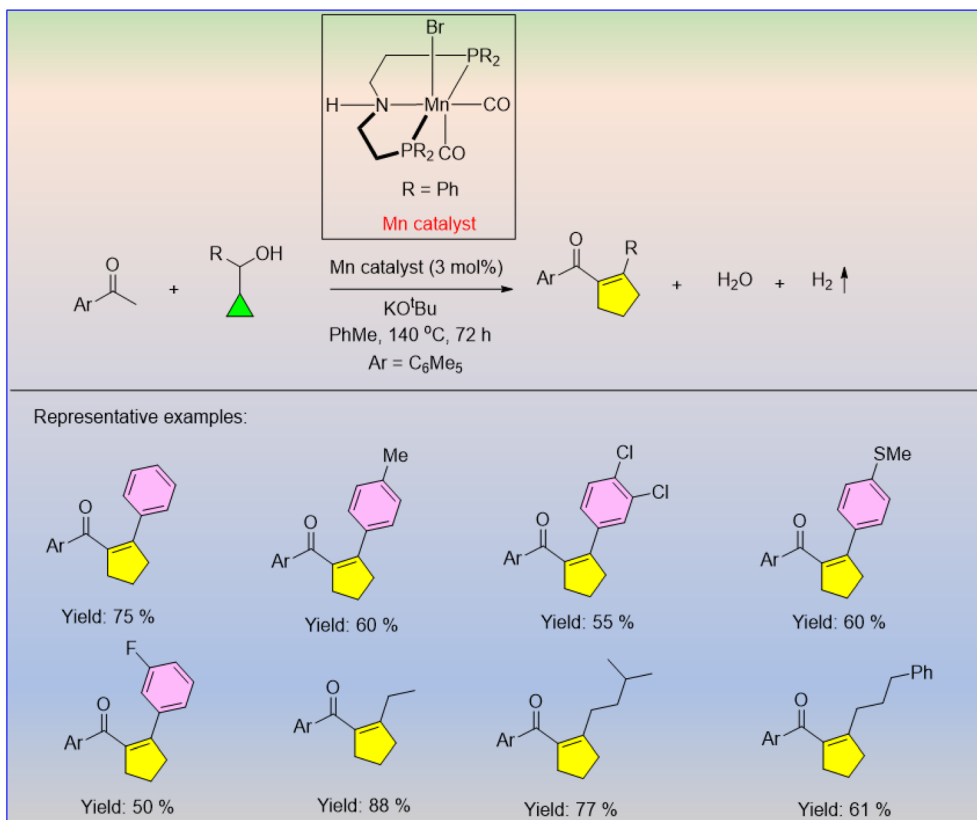
Scheme 45 Proposed reaction pathway for the oxidative C–H amination of azoles.⁵⁹

microwave irradiation. The silica-supported MnO₂ allowed the reaction to continue with full reactant consumption. The electronic effects of the substituents play an important role in determining the regioselectivity of the reaction. The orientation of cyclization is governed primarily by the electronegativity of the substituents rather than the configuration of the starting materials. Substituents on the phenyl rings influence both the direction of cyclization and the *E-Z* isomerization.

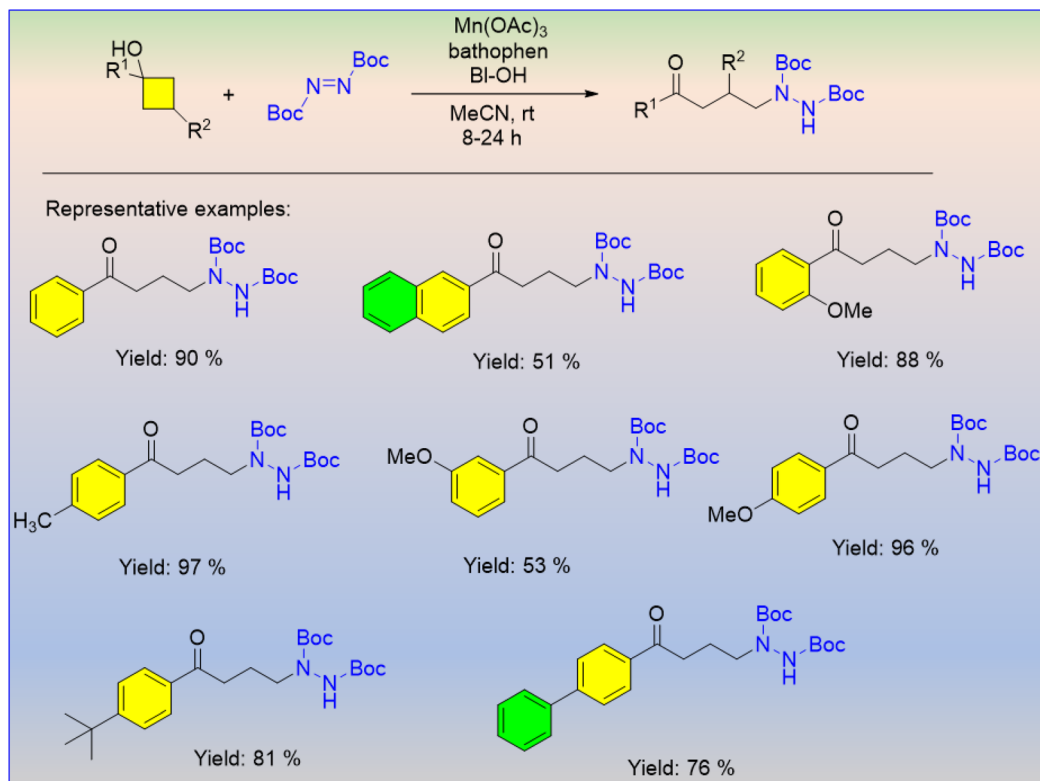
An effective method was developed for generating pyrroles from amino alcohols and secondary alcohols using an Mn catalyst under environmentally friendly conditions.⁶⁷ A range of amino alcohols were investigated with Mn catalyst (0.5 mol%) and KO^tBu (1.5 equiv.) in 2-MeTHF under reflux conditions, and the analogous pyrroles were isolated in up to 93% yield (Scheme 55). It should be noted that the same pincer ligand-containing



Scheme 46 $\text{MnBr}(\text{CO})_5$ -catalyzed C2 allylation of indoles with ester.Scheme 47 MnO_2 -catalyzed C–H amination of benzoxazole.

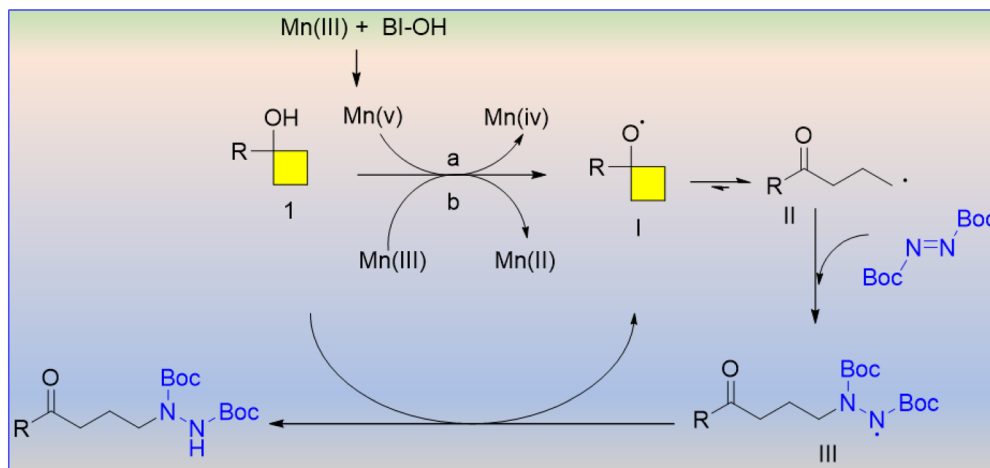


Scheme 48 Manganese-catalyzed ring expansion of cyclopropylmethanol through the acceptorless-dehydrogenative coupling strategy.

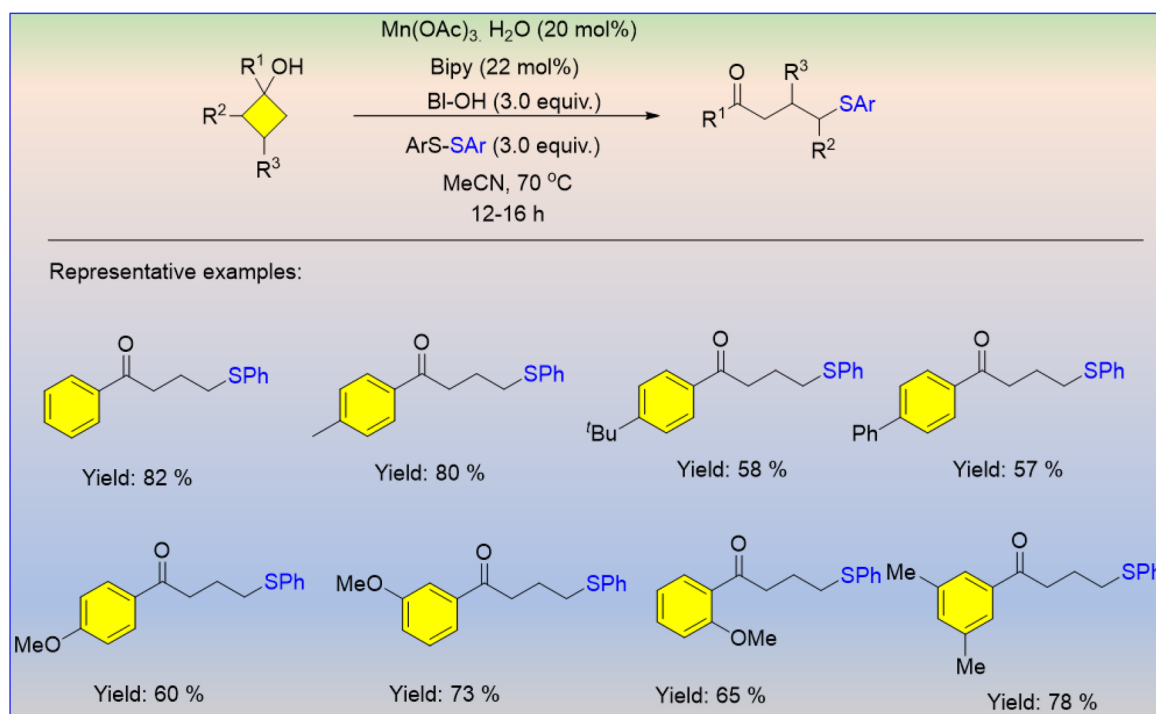


Scheme 49 Manganese-catalyzed synthesis of alkyl hydrazines through the C–C bond cleavage of cyclobutanols.





Scheme 50 Proposed reaction pathway for the C–C bond cleavage of cyclobutanols.⁶³



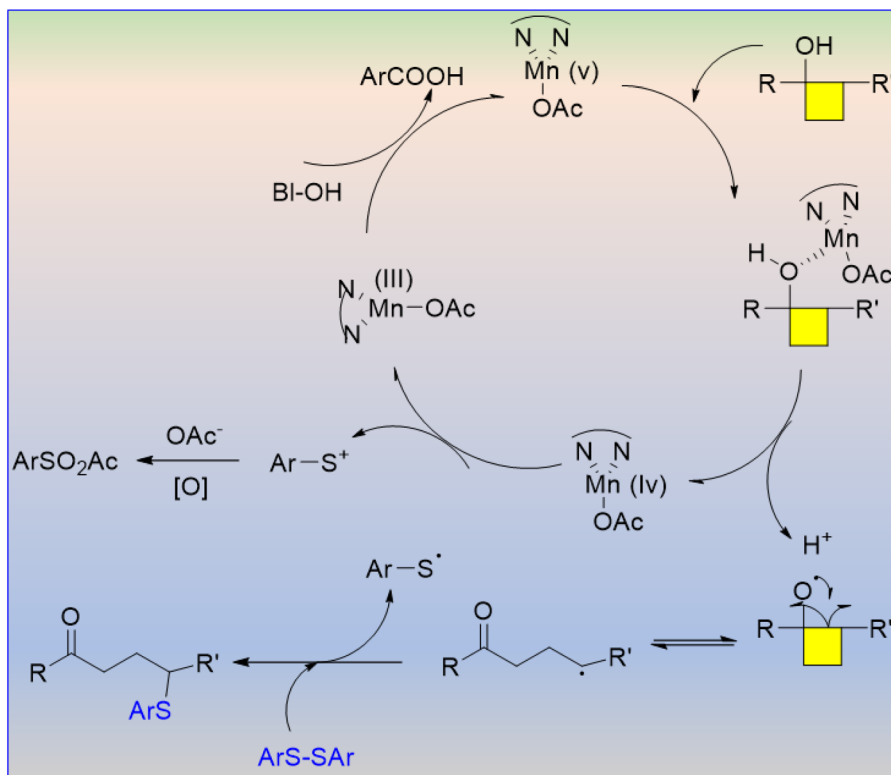
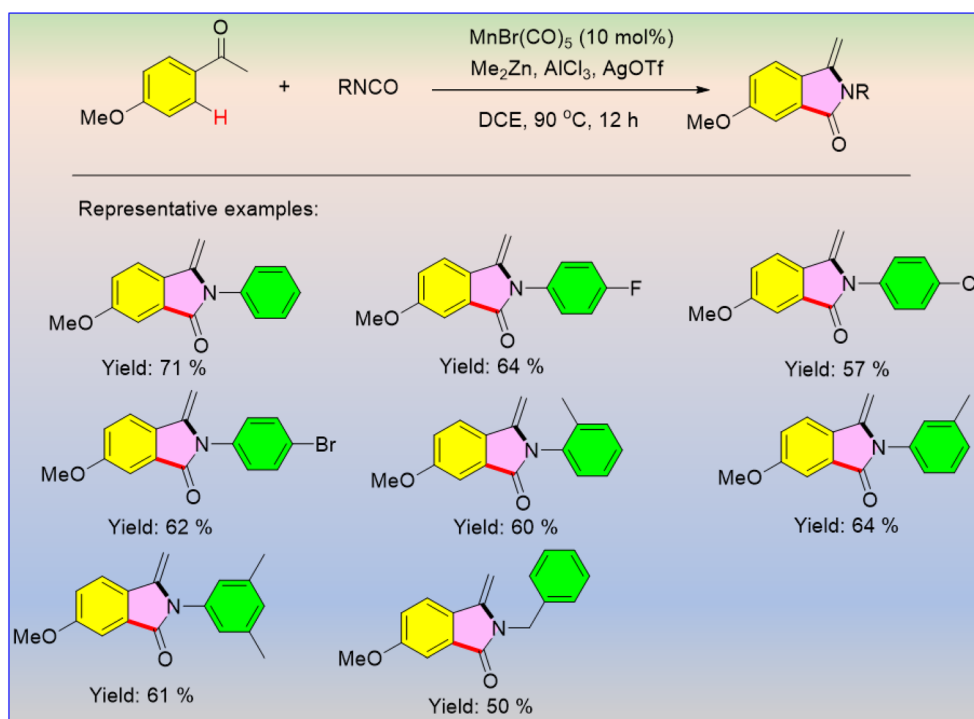
Scheme 51 Mn(III)-catalyzed regioselective formation of C–S bonds via C–C bond cleavage of cyclobutanols.

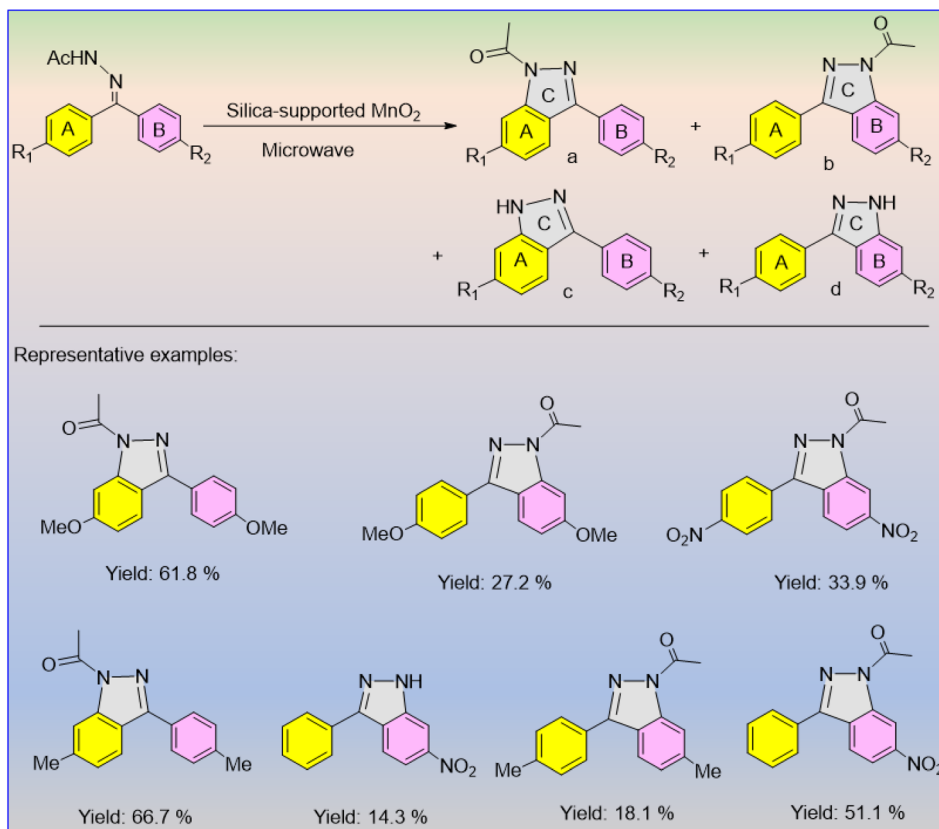
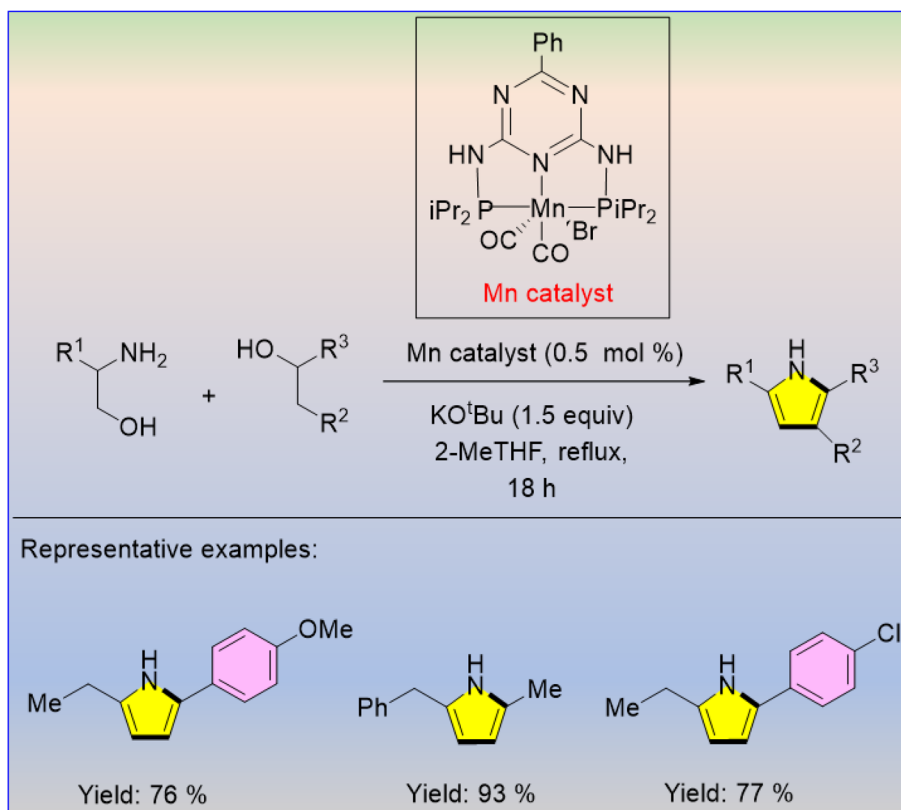
Co and Fe complexes were inactive in pyrrole synthesis under similar reaction conditions.

The first chiral manganese(III) porphyrin catalyst to use aziridination of styrene-like substrates was described by Lai *et al.* in 1997.⁶⁸ The investigation showed that alkenes without an allylic hydrogen atom produce aziridine, while alkenes with an allylic hydrogen yield allylic amination. The reaction

provided only mild enantioselectivity (up to 40% to 68%). The position and electronic nature of substituents affected enantioselectivity, and *o*-bromostyrene (Scheme 56) produced a satisfactory outcome. This method was found to be the most effective for the catalytic allylic amination of alkenes at the time, based on yield and turnover numbers.

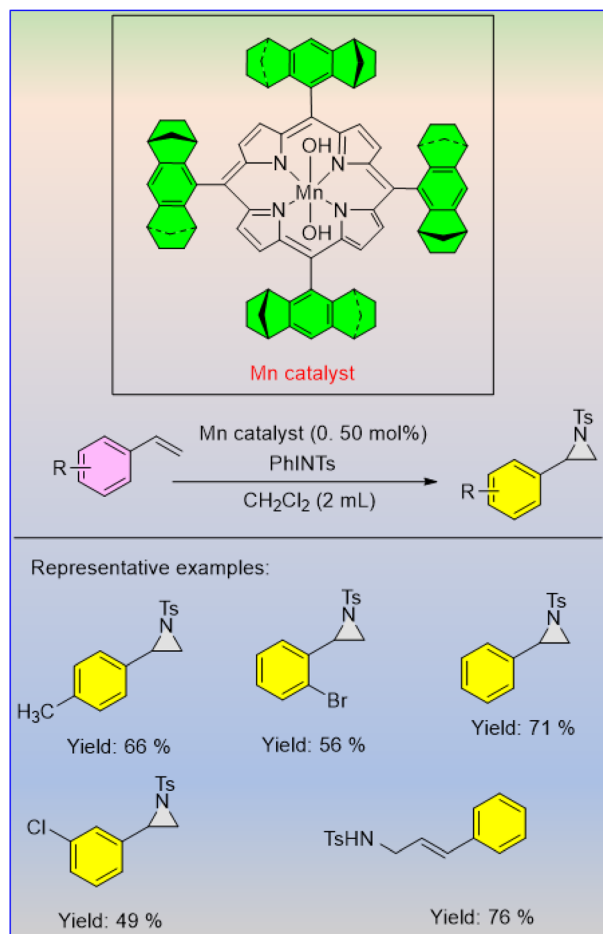


Scheme 52 Proposed reaction pathway for C-S bond formation via C-C bond cleavage of cyclobutanols.⁶⁴Scheme 53 $\text{MnBr}(\text{CO})_5$ -catalyzed [3 + 2] cyclization of ketones with isocyanates.

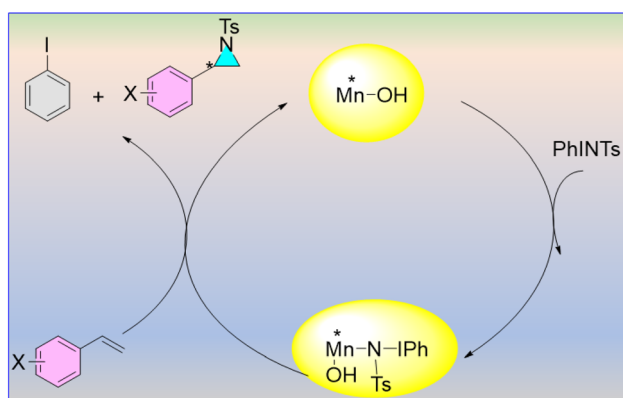
Scheme 54 Heterogeneous SiO₂-supported MnO₂-catalysed construction of 3,6 di-substituted indazoles.

Scheme 55 Alcohols and aminoalcohol-mediated pyrrole synthesis using a manganese catalyst.





Scheme 56 Chiral manganese(III) porphyrin-catalyzed asymmetric aziridination reaction using PhINTs.



Scheme 57 Proposed reaction pathway for the Mn-catalyzed enantioselective aziridination reaction.⁶⁸

Mixing the catalyst and PhINTs in CH₂Cl₂ at room temperature generates a novel Mn species, Mn^{IV}-PhINTs, that can transfer nitrene to an alkene. The spectroscopic and organic

product analyses indicate the presence of a Mn^{IV} intermediate in the reaction process that can successfully catalyse nitrene transfer to alkenes (Scheme 57).⁶⁸

Isonitriles are used as versatile building blocks for the design of nitrogen-containing compounds, especially amides and various heterocycles, which are of great significance in biological and pharmaceutical chemistry. Liu *et al.* introduced a Mn(III)-catalyzed radical-promoted cyclization reaction to afford a series of 2-functionalized quinolones (Scheme 58).⁶⁹ The regioselective 6-*endo-trig* radical cyclization reaction under heating conditions between *o*-vinyl arylisonitriles and arylboronic acids afforded 2-substituted quinoline. It was found that phenylboronic acids containing electron-donating and electron-withdrawing groups at the *para*-position were obtained in moderate to excellent yields.

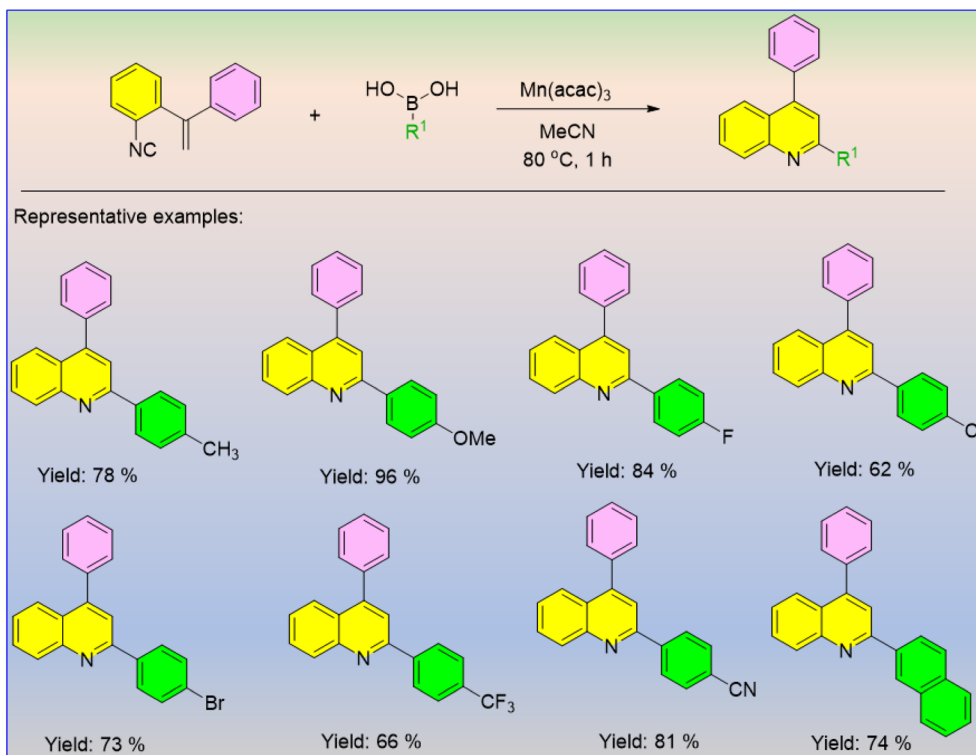
Alternate pyrimidines were synthesized by the coupling of different amidines with various alcohols using 2 mol% of Mn catalyst and 1.1–1.5 equiv. of KO^tBu in 1,4-dioxane at 120 °C for 20 h, furnishing good to excellent yields (Scheme 59).⁷⁰

Carbonyl compounds like aldehydes and ketones are easily affordable and are potential moieties for different organic transformations. Liu and co-workers reported the Mn-catalyzed [3 + 2] annulation reaction between aldehyde and ketone to produce isobenzofurans, followed by oxidation to obtain the diketo derivatives (Scheme 60).⁷¹ Triphenylborane plays a dual role in this reaction: it acts as an additive that promotes the C–H activation and, as a Lewis acid, it activates the aldehydes. It was found that the aromatic ketones with substituents in the *para* or *meta* positions were produced in higher yields as compared to the ketones with alkyl substituents.

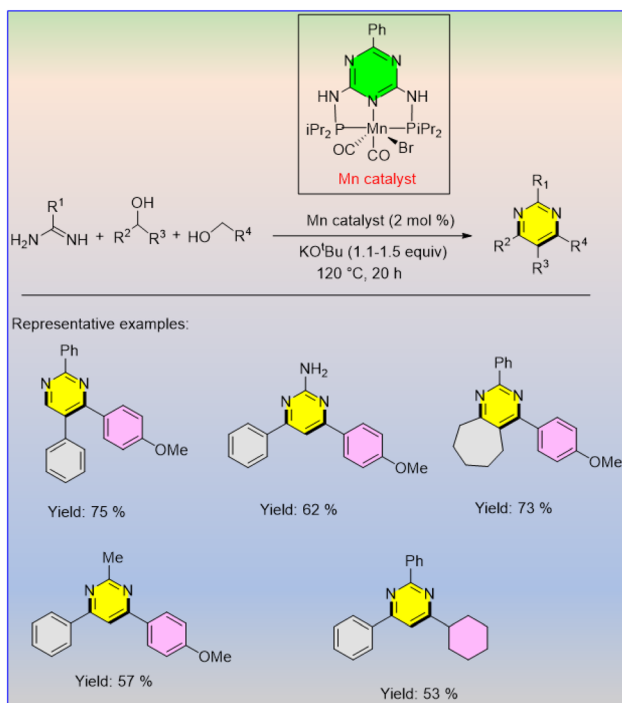
Kempe and co-workers reported the synthesis of pyrimidine derivatives *via* the manganese-catalysed multicomponent strategy of amidines and alcohols.⁷⁰ This approach followed both C–C and C–N bond formation simultaneously. A series of amidines bearing various functional groups was selectively coupled with various alcohols in the presence of 2 mol% of manganese catalyst and 1.1 to 1.5 equiv. of KO^tBu as the effective base in 1,4-dioxane solvent at 120 °C for 20 h. The desired substituted pyrimidine derivatives were afforded in good to excellent yields (Scheme 61).

Timmons *et al.* used an inexpensive manganese dioxide catalyst to produce 4-toluene sulfonyl-3-trichloromethyl-4,5 imidazolines.⁷² In general, α,β -unsaturated ketones are more reactive than esters with similar structures. Compounds with di-substitution at the terminal position yielded the best results (Scheme 62). The combination of three reactants with a catalyst and 4 Å molecular sieves yields valuable products for peptidomimetic studies. The diamination of TsNCl₂ with α,β -unsaturated esters and ketones in acetonitrile produced stereoselective and regioselective products. In the presence of a catalyst, TsNCl₂ and acetonitrile served as electrophilic and nucleophilic nitrogen sources, respectively. The [2 + 3] cycloaddition mechanism occurs in the reaction shown in Scheme 63. The S_N2 reaction between the chlorine anion and 1*N*-(*p*-tosyl)imidazolium (**B**) produces intermediate **C**.





Scheme 58 $\text{Mn}(\text{acac})_2$ -catalyzed construction of 2-functionized quinolones between *o*-vinyl arylisocyanides and arylboronic acids.



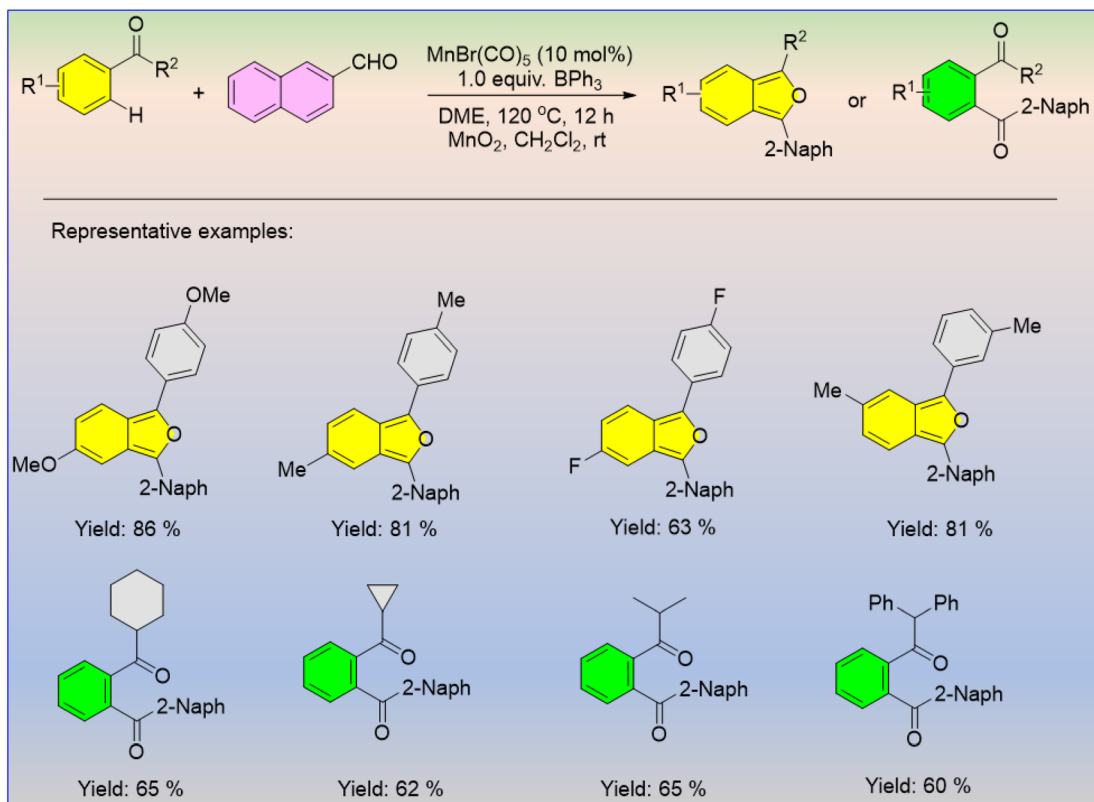
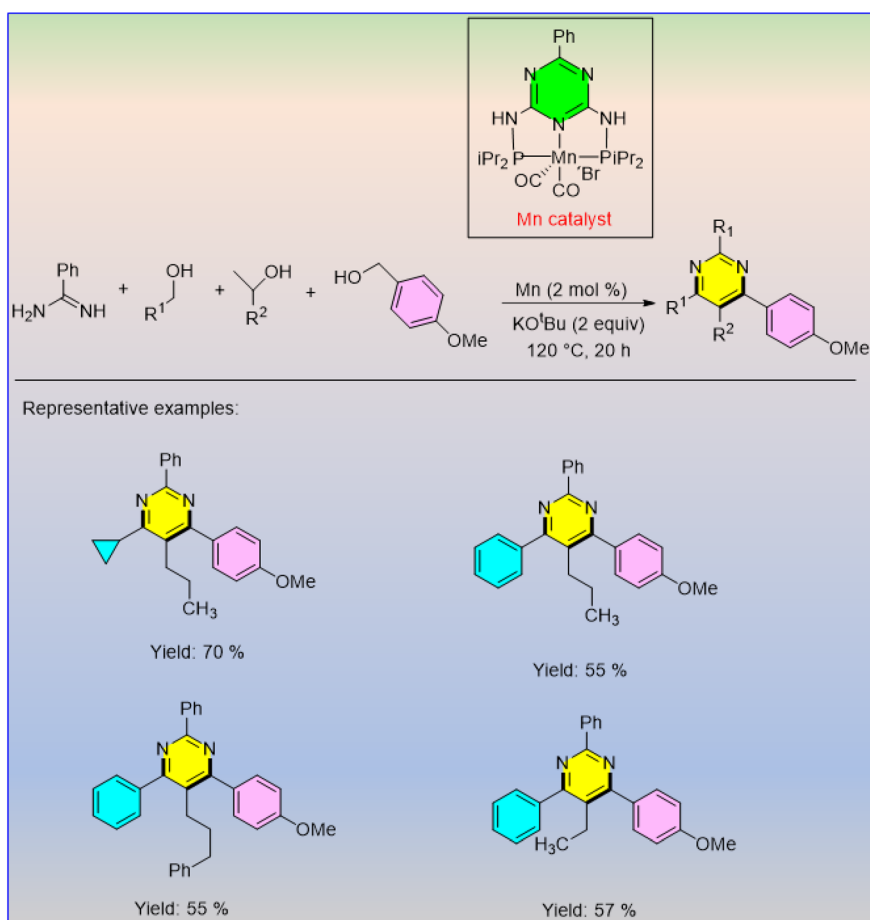
Scheme 59 Manganese-complex-catalyzed construction of pyrimidines in the presence of KO^tBu .

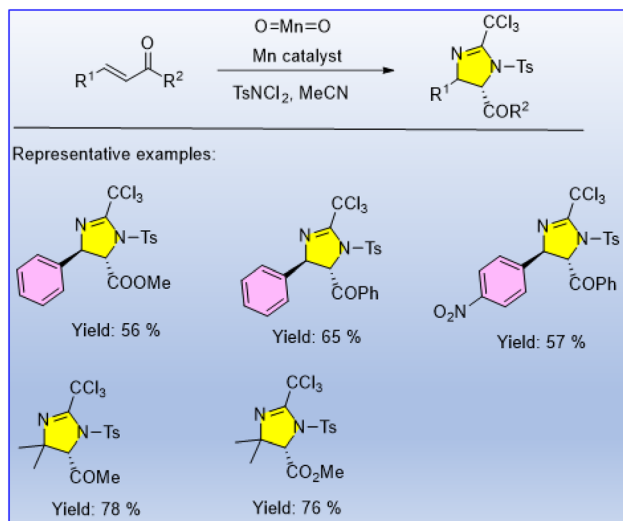
MnO_2 acts as a catalyst, accelerating the formation of intermediate **A**, as well as the deprotonation of intermediates **E** and **F**. The deprotonation of intermediate **F** allows for the third chlorination on the imidazoline ring of the methyl group.

In the last few decades, the applications of the 3d transition metals have been less highlighted than those of the 4d or 5d transition metals. As a 3d transition metal, Mn has an important role in C–H activation. Here, Sun and co-workers developed the Mn(II)-catalyzed dehydrogenative annulation of *N*-aryl anilines with alkenes or alkynes for the regioselective synthesis of quinoline derivatives, which have significant medicinal importance. The Mn(II)-catalyzed dehydrogenative annulation of *N*-aryl anilines and aryl acetylenes furnished a group of functionalized quinoline derivatives in excellent yields (Scheme 64).⁷³ Here, aryl acetylenes showed better reactivity than aryl olefins. With the standardized conditions, each substituent on the benzene ring provided similar yields.

Kumar *et al.* recently produced 2-(indoyl-3yl)benzothiazoles in water by using the TPGS-750 M surfactant.⁵⁷ The reaction proceeded successfully without using any additives at room temperature. Even after four successive reactions, the yield of the reaction using TGPS-750 M nanomicelles in water did not decrease significantly. Electronically different (–Cl, –Br, –CF₃, alkyl) 2-aminothiophenols and 3-carboxaldehyde produced the



Scheme 60 MnBr(CO)_5 -catalyzed [3 + 2] annulation reaction between aldehydes and ketones.Scheme 61 Manganese-catalyzed direct synthesis of pyrimidines in the presence of KO^tBu .



Scheme 62 MnO_2 -mediated di-amination reaction of α , β -unsaturated esters and ketones.

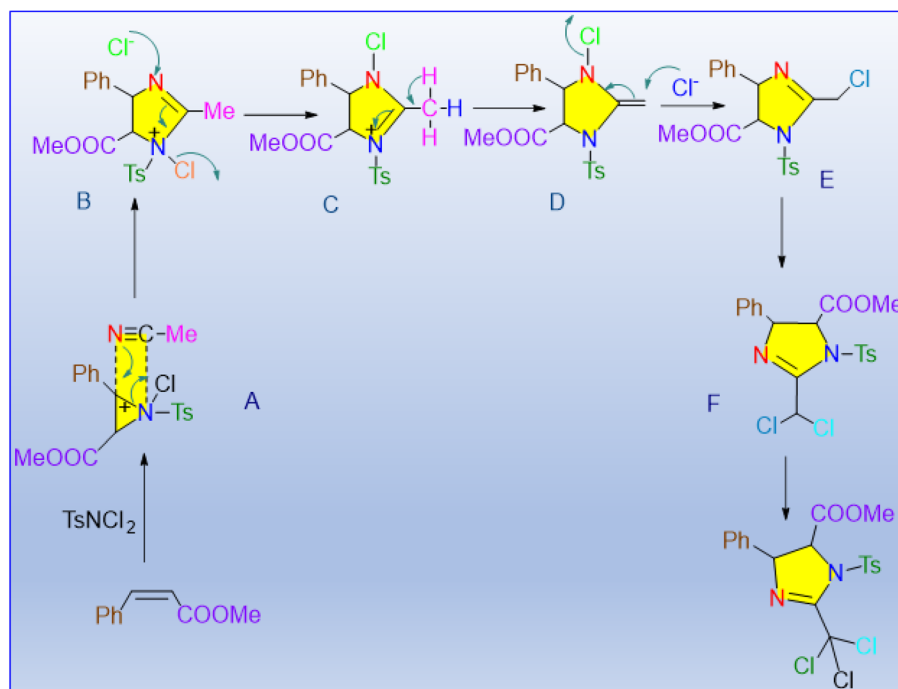
various indol-3-yl-benzothiazoles as the desired products (Scheme 65).

Fused heterocycles have always attracted significant attention in the agro, pharma and dye industries. Among them, 2-aminobenzothiazoles have important agrochemical and pharmaceutical applications. Anilkumar *et al.* developed a Mn(II) -catalyzed method for the first time in the literature for the synthesis of 2-aminobenzothiazoles. 2-Bromophenyl

isothiocyanate and various functionalized amines were reacted using cost-effective and easily available $\text{MnCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ as a catalyst to furnish a series of 2-aminobenzothiazole derivatives (Scheme 66).⁷⁴ The amines with straight-chain alkyl groups gave the product in poor yield as compared to the amines with heteroatom-containing cyclic alkyl groups. The possible mechanistic pathway starts with the generation of the intermediate 2-bromophenylthiourea **I**, which involves the nucleophilic addition of amine to 2-bromophenyl isothiocyanate (Scheme 67). In the next step, **I** is converted into an anionic sulfide species **II** in the presence of a base. After that, the manganese(II) complex adds to intermediate **II** to form a four-membered transition state **III**. It has been assumed that **III** exists in equilibrium between **IIIa** and **IIIb**. When sulphur is more nucleophilic, as in **IIIb**, it will attack the electrophilic carbon-leaving bromine by an $\text{S}_{\text{N}}\text{Ar}$ mechanism. Finally, the desired product is obtained from **IIIb** with the release of the catalytically active Mn(II) complex.

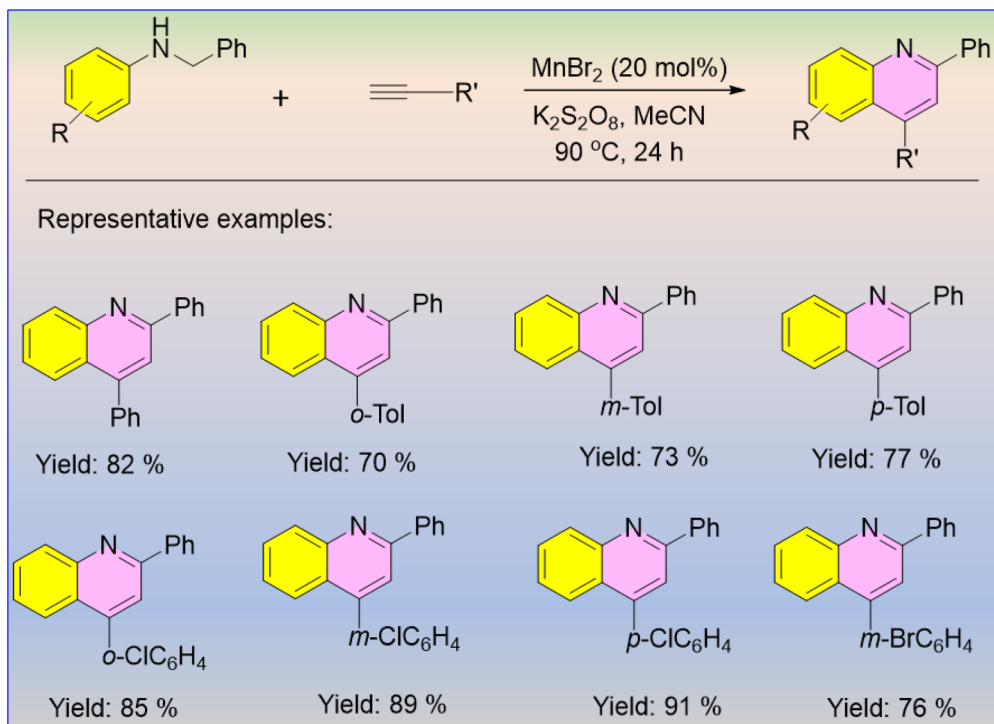
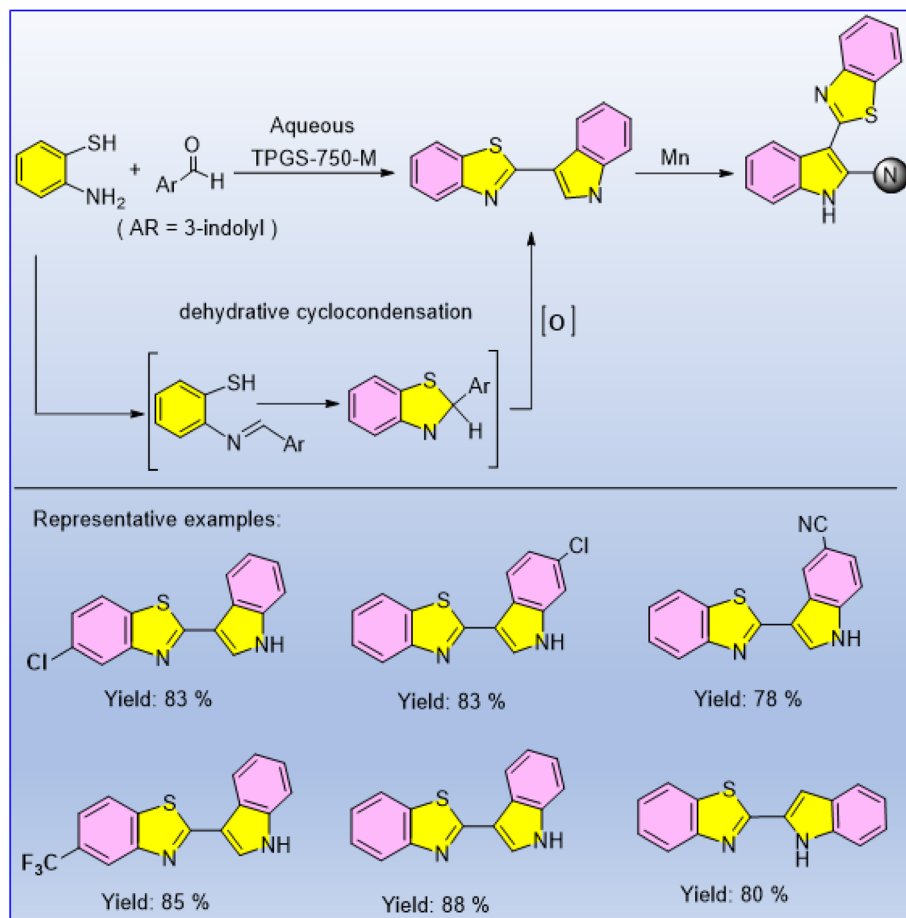
Miscellaneous

The amination of aryl halides has been frequently applied in the synthesis of organic compounds that contain the *N*-aryl moiety, which are present in many bioactive pharmaceuticals and conducting materials. The Mn(II)/L-Proline catalyst has been developed by the Teo research group to generate several *N*-arylated products by the reaction between aliphatic amine and aryl halides using NaO^tBu as a base (Scheme 68).⁷⁵ Substituted aryl halides furnished the products in poor yields with respect to the unsubstituted aryl halide. Only *meta*-amination products were observed from *ortho*-substituted aryl halides due to steric



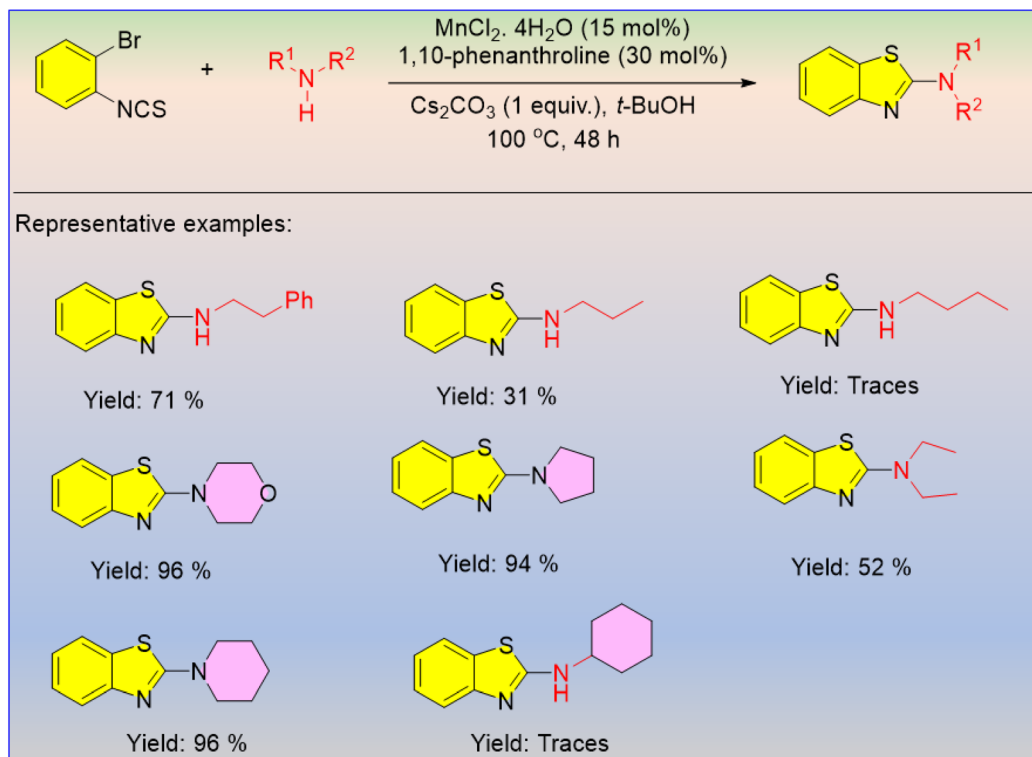
Scheme 63 Proposed reaction pathway for the di-amination process.⁷²



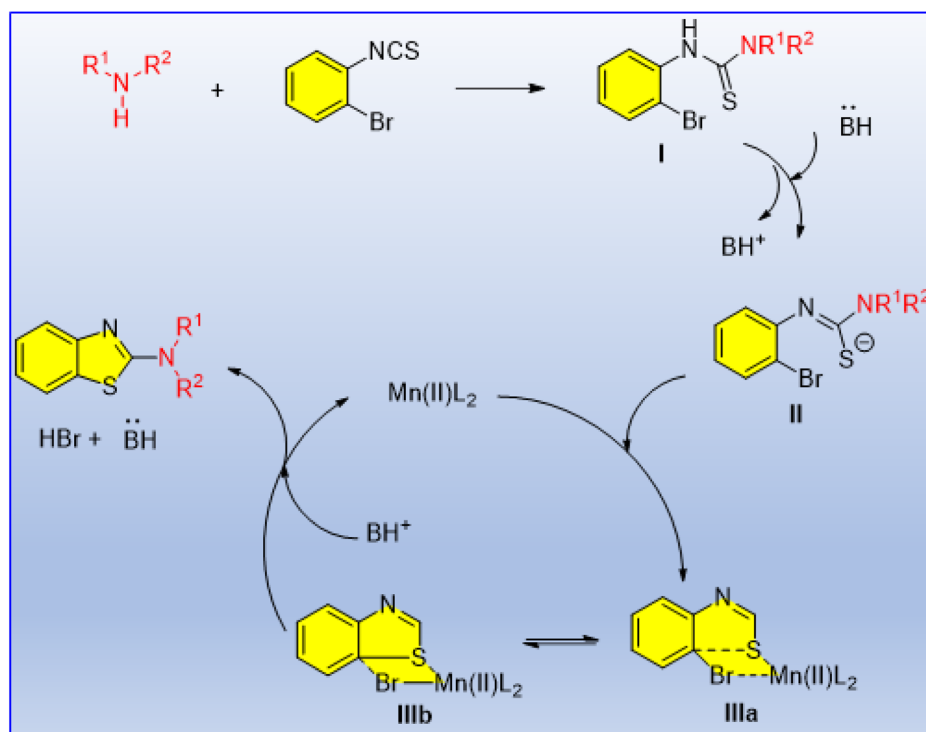
Scheme 64 $MnBr_2$ -catalyzed dehydrogenative annulation of *N*-aryl anilines with alkynes.

Scheme 65 Micellar-mediated synthesis of 3-indolylbenzothiazoles using a manganese catalyst.

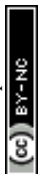


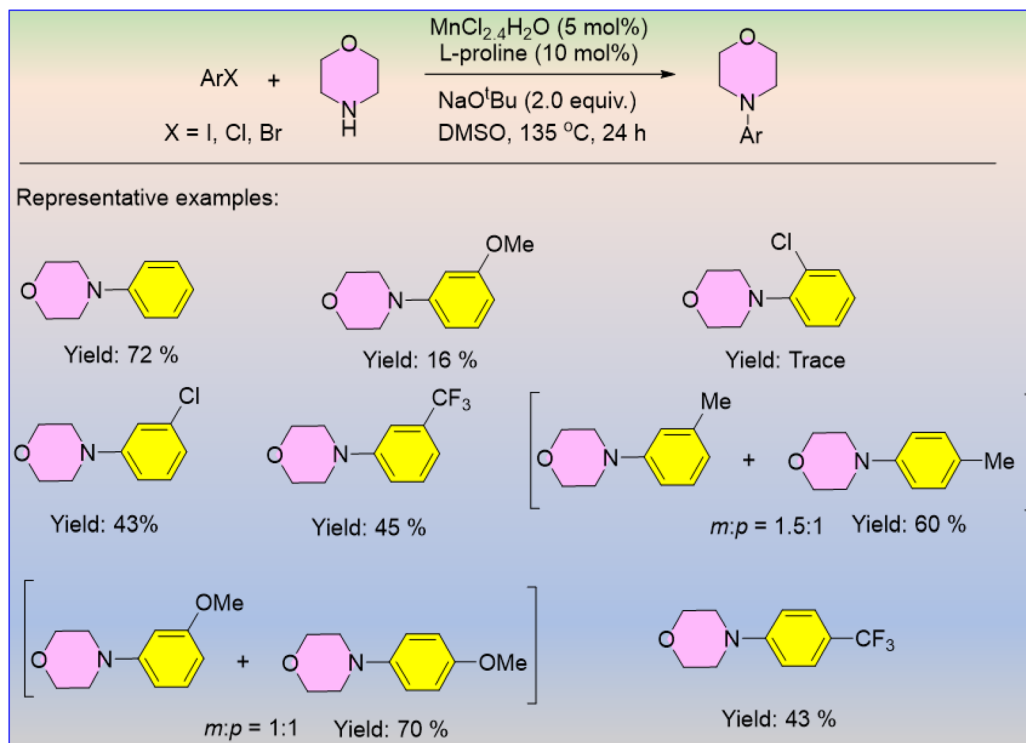
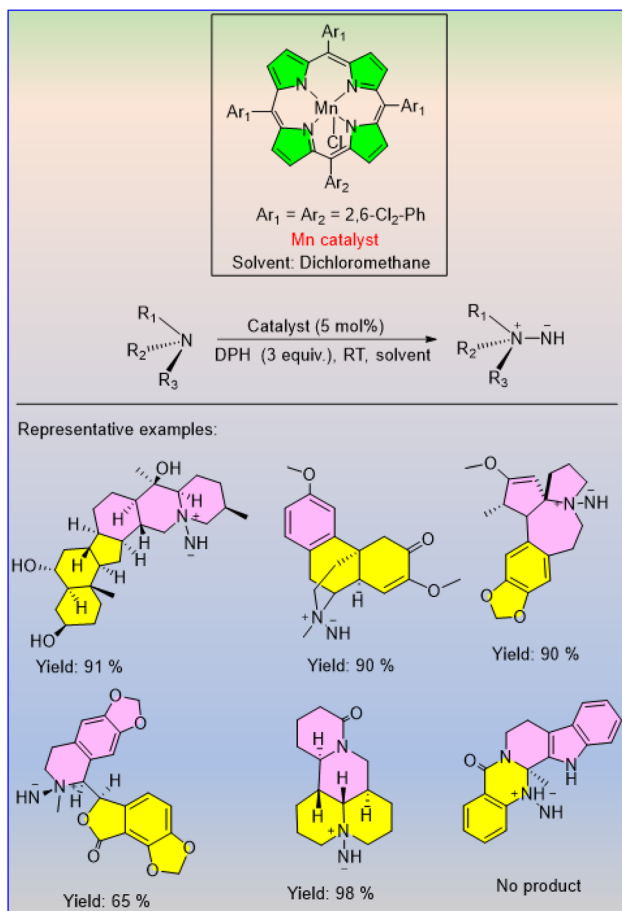


Scheme 66 Synthesis of 2-aminobenzothiazole derivatives using a manganese catalyst.



Scheme 67 Plausible reaction mechanism for the synthesis of 2-aminobenzothiazole derivatives.⁷⁴



Scheme 68 MnCl_2 -catalyzed *N*-arylation of morpholine using NaO^tBu .

Scheme 69 Manganese-catalyzed formation of unprotected aminimides from alkaloids.

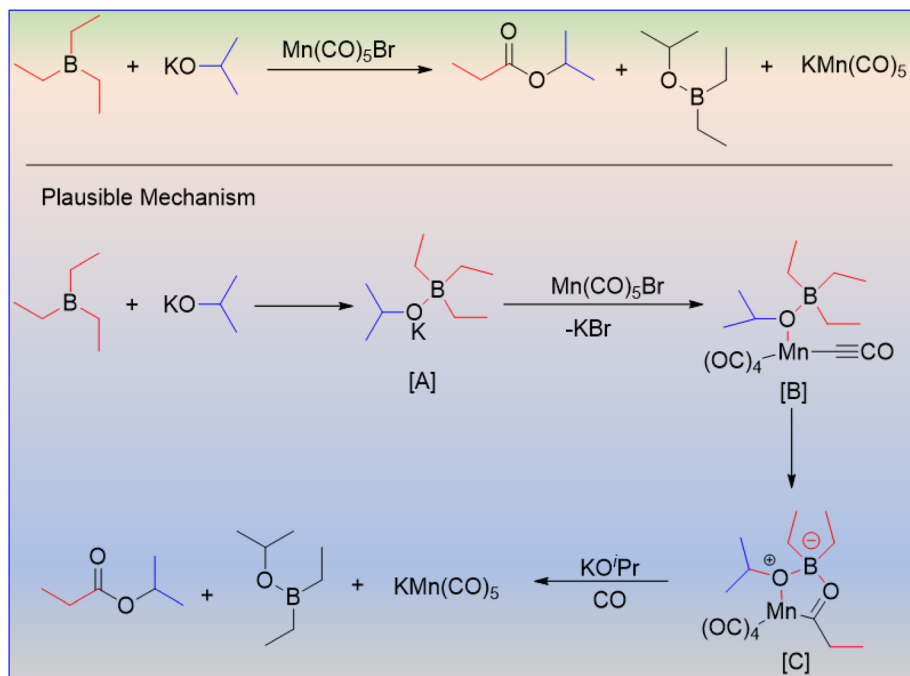
hindrance. However, a mixture of *meta*- and *para*-aminated products was obtained from *para*-substituted aryl halides, likely due to the predominance of a reaction pathway involving a benzyne intermediate.

According to Zhang *et al.*, natural aliphatic tertiary alkaloids (R_3N) were converted directly into $\text{R}_3\text{N-NH}$.⁷⁶ Under mild reaction conditions, this $[\text{Mn}(\text{TDCPP})\text{Cl}]$ -catalyzed *N*-amination process offers a simple and practical way to produce unprotected alkaloid aminimides in high yields (Scheme 69).

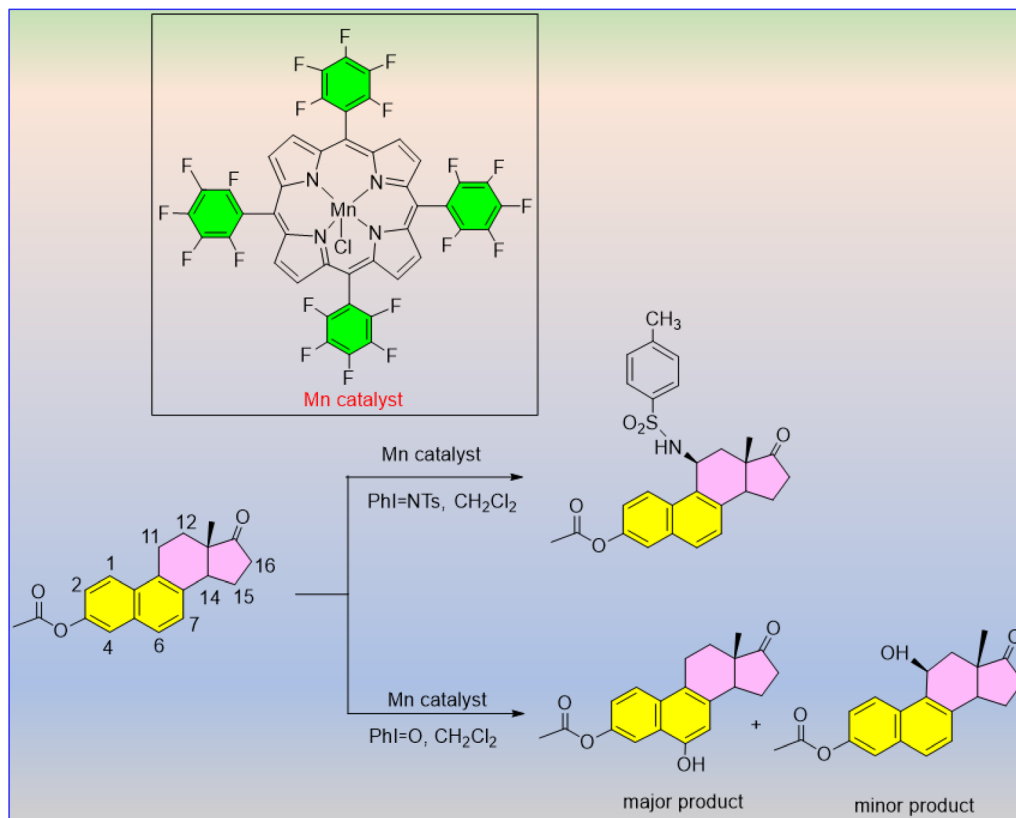
There are many literature reports on the formation of C–C bonds, with alkoxyboronations being one of the important methods. Here, an organo(alkoxy)borate salt [A] is efficiently formed using a stoichiometric ratio of an organoborane and an alkoxide salt (Scheme 70).⁷⁷ At first, $\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_5\text{Br}$ reacts with the organo(alkoxy)borate salt [A] to produce a Mn–alkoxy complex [B]. Then, the intramolecular transfer of the alkyl group from BEt_3 to the carbonyl center results in complex [C]. Finally, the desired isopropyl propionate ester is obtained from complex [C] via the nucleophilic attack of the alkoxide on the electrophilic acyl carbon.

Yang *et al.* reported a hydroxylation and amidation reaction methodology for an aromatic steroid, equilenin, using *N*-tosyliminophenylidene (PhINTs) and iodosobenzene (PhIO), which provide the nitrogen and oxygen in the transformation.⁷⁸ A readily available manganese porphyrin catalyst is used to catalyze this extremely regio- and stereoselective reaction. The 6-hydroxylated and 11- β -amidation products are the two main products for the hydroxylation and amidation reaction, respectively (Scheme 71).

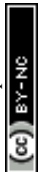




Scheme 70 Mn-catalyzed carbonylation reaction.



Scheme 71 Manganese porphyrin complex-catalyzed hydroxylation and amidation reaction.



Conclusion and future outlooks

Efficient manganese-driven catalytic methodologies have rapidly advanced the platform for enabling the efficient formation of C–X (X = C, N, O, S) bonds and the construction of heterocyclic frameworks. The unique features of manganese catalysts, such as their earth abundance, low toxicity, and diverse oxidation states, allow their wide applicability in various organic transformations under mild and efficient conditions. Significant recent progress has demonstrated their usefulness across phenols, alcohols, alkenes, carbonyl compounds, allylic, benzylic, and heterocyclic C–H bonds, and strained-ring substrates, highlighting both the scope and effectiveness of manganese-catalyzed methodologies.

In spite of these accomplishments, challenges remain. The main areas for future exploration include increasing the substrate scope, improving stereoselectivity and regioselectivity, and developing additional ligand and catalytic systems. The thoughtful mechanistic exploration of various manganese-catalyzed methods remains restricted; therefore, further investigations are required to exploit the exceptional reactivity of manganese. Furthermore, manganese-driven catalysis, such as photo-redox strategies, flow chemistry, and electrochemical approaches, could also improve the general efficiency and versatile sustainability of these methods.

Looking forward, the development of manganese-catalyzed strategies for the synthesis of libraries of complex molecules, late-stage functionalization, and sustainable heterocycle synthesis is desired for continued progress. The unique combination of cost-effectiveness, environmental compatibility, and mechanistic versatility provides a great platform for manganese catalysis as a promising alternative with respect to traditional noble-metal systems, with substantial activity to make a significant impact on pharmaceutical chemistry, agrochemistry, and materials chemistry. Continuous discovery in this field is likely to expand the toolbox of synthetic chemists and contribute significantly to the advancement of green and sustainable chemistry.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts to declare.

Data availability

No primary research results, software or codes have been included, and no new data were generated or analysed as part of this review.

Acknowledgements

Dr A. K. Das gratefully acknowledges the Department of Science & Technology and Biotechnology, Govt. of West Bengal for financial grant (Grant No. 2147(Sanc.)/STBT-11012(25)/1/2024-ST SEC).

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