

THE DEVELOPMENT OF NI-CATALYZED METHODS FOR APPLICATION IN
TOTAL SYNTHESIS

Thesis by
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The logo for the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), featuring the word "Caltech" in a bold, orange, sans-serif font.

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ABSTRACT

The total synthesis of complex natural products often requires the development of mild, selective transformations. Once developed, these methods can serve as starting points for related methodologies, fundamental mechanistic studies, or applied in other total syntheses. Herein, a series of projects that embody this relationship are described. Inspired by unexpected challenges in the synthesis of complex diterpenoid alkaloid talatisamine, a Ni-catalyzed enol-triflate-halogen exchange reaction was developed. In addition to finding application toward the synthesis of talatisamine, this reaction found further use in an attempted route toward enmein-type *ent*-kauranoid natural products.

En route to the synthesis of these natural products, a need for *meso*-anhydride functionalization was identified which inspired a research program dedicated to Ni-catalyzed reductive desymmetrization of *meso*-anhydrides. During these studies, an underexplored class of bisoxazoline (BOX) ligands was identified, which enables a catalyst controlled doubly-stereoselective cross-electrophile coupling of *meso*-anhydrides and *sec*-alkyl halides in good yield and exceptional enantio- and diastereo- selectivity. It is anticipated that this method will enable the rapid synthesis of tricyclic compounds which serve as intermediates toward members of *ent*-kauranoid, diterpenoid alkaloid, and steroid natural products.

PUBLISHED CONTENT AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Portions of the work described herein were disclosed in the following communications:

1. Hofstra, J. L.*; Poremba, K. E*.; Shimozone, A. M*.; Reisman, S. E. Nickel-Catalyzed Conversion of Enol Triflates into Alkenyl Halides. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2019**, 58 (42), 14901–14905. DOI: 10.1002/anie.201906815.

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AMS contributed to the reaction development, conducted experiments, and participated in preparation of the supporting data and writing of the manuscript.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

—	minus
%	percent
°	degrees
+	plus
<	less than
=	equals
>	greater than
~	approximately
λ	lambda (wavelength)
α	alpha
A	ampere or acid functional group
Å	angstrom(s)
$[\alpha]_D$	angle of optical rotation of plane-polarized light
Ac	acetyl
acac	acetylacetonate
AcOH	acetic acid
alk	alkyl
anal.	combustion elemental analysis
<i>anti</i>	opposite or same side
approx	approximately

aq	aqueous
Ar	aryl group
Ar ^F	perfluorinated aryl group
atm	atmosphere(s)
AU	arbitrary units
AVG	average
β	beta
BDMAP	1,6-bis(dimethylamino)pyrene
BHT	2,6-di- <i>tert</i> -butyl-4-methylphenol (“ <u>b</u> utylated <u>h</u> ydroxy <u>t</u> oluene”)
BiOX	bi(oxazoline)
Bn	benzyl
BnPHOX	benzyl phosphinooxazoline
Boc	<i>tert</i> -butoxycarbonyl
BOX	bis(oxazoline)
bp	boiling point
bpy	2,2'-bipyridine
br	broad
Bu	butyl
Bz	benzoyl
/C	supported on activated carbon charcoal
°C	degrees Celcius
¹³ C	carbon-13 isotope
c	concentration of sample for measurement of optical rotation

calc'd	calculated
CAM	cerium ammonium molybdate
Cbz	benzyloxycarbonyl
<i>cis</i>	on the same side
cm	centimeters
cm ⁻¹	wavenumber(s)
CNB	1-chloro-2,4-dinitrobenzene
conv.	conversion
CoPc	cobalt(II) phthalocyanine
CoPc _{CF}	perfluorinated cobalt(II) phthalocyanine
COSY	homonuclear correlation spectroscopy
Cp	cyclopentadienyl
CV	cyclic voltammetry
δ	chemical shift in ppm
D	deuterium
<i>d</i>	deutero or dextrorotatory
d	doublet
Δ	heat or difference
ΔG	change in Gibb's free energy
DBE	dibromoethane
DCM	dichloromethane
DEAD	diethyl azodicarboxylate

DEC	diethyl carbonate
DHA	dihydroanthracene
DIBAL	diisobutylaluminum hydride
diglyme	diethylene glycol dimethyl ether
DIPA	N-diisopropylamine
DIPEA	<i>N,N</i> -diisopropylethylamine
DMA	<i>N,N</i> -dimethylacetamide
DMAP	4-(dimethylamino)pyridine
DMBA	2,6-dimethylbenzoic acid
dme	1,2-dimethoxyethane
DMEDA	<i>N,N'</i> -dimethylethylenediamine
DMF	<i>N,N</i> -dimethylformamide
DMP	Dess-Martin periodinane
DMPU	1,3-dimethyl-3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2(1H)-pyrimidinone
DMS	dimethylsulfide
DMSO	dimethylsulfoxide
dppf	1,1'-bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene
dpph	1,6-bis-(diphenylphosphino)hexane
dr	diastereomeric ratio
dtbbpy	4,4'-di- <i>tert</i> -butyl-2,2'-bipyridine
<i>E</i>	<i>trans</i> (entgegen) olefin geometry
e.g.	for example (Latin: <i>exempli gratia</i>)
E ⁺	electrophile

EA	elemental analysis
EDC	1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide
ee	enantiomeric excess
EI	electron impact
E _{pc}	cathodic peak potential
EPR	electron paramagnetic resonance
equiv	equivalent(s)
er	enantiomeric ratio
es	enantiospecificity
ESI	electrospray ionization
Et	ethyl
et al.	and others (Latin: <i>et alii</i>)
Et ₂ O	diethyl ether
Et ₃ N	triethylamine
etc	and the rest (Latin: <i>et cetera</i>)
EtOAc	ethyl acetate
EtOH	ethanol
¹⁹ F	fluorine-19 isotope
FAB	fast atom bombardment
Fc	ferrocene
Fc ⁺	ferrocenium cation
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FID	flame ionization detector

FTIR	fourier transform infrared spectroscopy
G	gauss
g	gram(s)
g-value	dimensionless magnetic moment value
g/mL	grams per milliliter
GC	gas chromatography
GHz	gigahertz
^1H	proton
h	hour(s)
HAT	hydrogen atom transfer
Het	hetero
HMBC	heteronuclear multiple-bond correlation spectroscopy
HMDS	hexamethyldisilazide
HOAt	1-hydroxy-7-azabenzotriazole
HOMO	highest occupied molecular orbital
HPLC	high performance liquid chromatography
HRMS	high resolution mass spectrometry
HSQC	heteronuclear single quantum coherence spectroscopy
h ν	irradiation with light
Hz	hertz
<i>i</i> -Bu	<i>iso</i> -butyl
<i>i</i> -Bu ₃ Al	triisobutyl aluminum
<i>i</i> -Pr	isopropyl

$i\text{-Pr}_2\text{NH}$	diisopropyl amine
$i\text{-PrAc}$	isopropyl acetate
$i\text{-PrOH}$	isopropanol
i.e.	that is (Latin: <i>id est</i>)
<i>in situ</i>	in the reaction mixture
IPA	isopropanol
IR	infrared
J	coupling constant in Hz
K	Kelvin
k	rate constant
k_0	initial rate constant
k_c	equilibrium constant
kcal	kilocalorie(s)
kg	kilogram(s)
KOt-Bu	potassium tert-butoxide
L	liter
l	levorotatory
LC-MS	liquid chromatography–mass spectrometry
LDA	lithium diisopropylamide
LED	light emitting diode
ln	natural logarithm
log	logarithm
LRMS	low resolution mass spectrometry

LUMO	lowest unoccupied molecular orbital
m	multiplet or meter(s)
M	molar or molecular ion or metal
[M]	parent mass
<i>m</i>	<i>meta</i>
M ⁻¹	inverse molarity
m.p.	melting point
<i>m/z</i>	mass-to-charge ratio
mA	milliamp(s)
<i>m</i> CPBA	<i>meta</i> -chloroperbenzoic acid
Me	methyl
MeCN	acetonitrile
MeCO ₂ H	acetic acid
MeI	methyl iodide
MeOH	methanol
mg	milligram(s)
mg/mL	milligrams per milliliter
MHz	megahertz
MIDA	methyliminodiacetic acid
min	minute(s)
μL	microliter(s)
mL	milliliter(s)
mL/min	milliliters per minute

mM	millimolar
mm	millimeter(s)
μm	micrometer(s)
mm Hg	millimeters mercury
mmol	millimole(s)
mol	mole(s)
mol %	mole percent
Ms	methanesulfonyl (mesyl)
MS	molecular sieves
MsCl	methanesulfonyl chloride
MSD	mass selective detector
¹⁴ N	nitrogen-14 isotope
n	number
<i>n</i> -Bu	<i>norm-butyl</i>
<i>n</i> -BuLi	<i>norm-butyl</i> lithium
<i>n</i> -Hex	<i>norm-hexyl</i>
<i>n</i> -Pr	<i>norm-propyl</i>
NaOTf	sodium triflate
NBS	<i>N</i> -bromosuccinimide
Nf	perfluorobutanesulfonyl
Nf-F	perfluorobutanesulfonyl fluoride
Nf ₂ O	perfluorobutanesulfonyl anhydride
NHP	<i>N</i> -hydroxyphthalimide

nm	nanometer(s)
NMP	<i>N</i> -methyl pyrrolidinone
NMR	nuclear magnetic resonance
Nu ⁻	nucleophile
<i>o</i>	<i>ortho</i>
³¹ P	phosphorus-31 isotope
<i>p</i>	<i>para</i>
<i>p</i> -TsOH	<i>para</i> -toluenesulfonic acid
Pc	phthalocyanine
PC	propylene carbonate
PcF	perfluorinated phthalocyanine
PDT	product
pH	hydrogen ion concentration in aqueous solution
Ph	phenyl
phen	1,10-phenanthroline
PhH	benzene
PhMe	toluene
PHOX	phosphinooxazoline
Phth	phthalimide
Pin	pinacol
pm	picometer(s)
PMP	<i>para</i> -methoxyphenyl
ppm	parts per million

Pr	propyl
psi	pounds per square inch
py	pyridine
PyBOX	pyridine bis(oxazoline)
q	quartet
quant	quantitative
R	generic (alkyl) group
<i>R</i>	rectus
R^2	coefficient of determination
ref	reference
R_F	perfluorinated alkyl group
R_f	retention factor
RF	response factor
rpm	revolutions per minute
rr	regioisomeric ratio
rt	room temperature
σ	Hammett coefficient
s	singlet or seconds
<i>S</i>	sinister
sat.	saturated
SCE	saturated calomel electrode
SFC	supercritical fluid chromatography
STD	standard

<i>syn</i>	same side
T	temperature
t	triplet or time
<i>t</i> -Bu	<i>tert</i> -butyl
<i>t</i> -BuLi	tert-butyl lithium
taut.	tautomerize
TBA	tetra- <i>n</i> -butylammonium
TBABr	tetra- <i>n</i> -butylammonium bromide
TBACl	tetra- <i>n</i> -butylammonium chloride
TBACN	tetra- <i>n</i> -butylammonium cyanide
TBAF	tetra- <i>n</i> -butylammonium fluoride
TBAI	tetra- <i>n</i> -butylammonium iodide
TBAX	tetra- <i>n</i> -butylammonium salt
TBDPS	<i>tert</i> -butyldiphenylsilyl
TBDPSCl	tert-butyldiphenylsilyl chloride
TBS	<i>tert</i> -butyldimethylsilyl
TBSCl	<i>tert</i> -butyldimethylsilyl chloride
TDAE	tetrakis(dimethylamino)ethylene
TEA	triethylamine
temp	temperature
TEMPO	2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine 1-oxyl
TEOA	triethanolamine
TES	triethylsilyl

Tf	trifluoromethanesulfonyl
Tf ₂ O	trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride
TFA	trifluoroacetic acid
THF	tetrahydrofuran
TLC	thin layer chromatography
TMEDA	<i>N,N,N',N'</i> -tetramethylethylenediamine
TMHD	2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-3,5-heptanedione
TMS	trimethylsilyl
TMSBr	trimethylsilyl bromide
TMSCl	trimethylsilyl chloride
TMSOTf	trimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate
TOF	time-of-flight
Tol	tolyl
TPP	tetraphenylporphyrin
tpy	2,2';6',2"-terpyridine
<i>t_R</i>	retention time
<i>trans</i>	on the opposite side
TS	transition state
Ts	<i>para</i> -toluenesulfonyl (tosyl)
TTF	tetrathiafulvalene
μ	micro
μL	microliter(s)
UV	ultraviolet

V	volt(s)
<i>vide infra</i>	see below
V_{\max}	maximum rate
vs.	versus
W	watt(s)
w/	with
wt%	weight percent
X	anionic ligand or halide or chiral auxillary
X_{major}	fraction of mixture as major enantiomer
X_{minor}	fraction of mixture as minor enantiomer
Z	<i>cis</i> (zusammen) olefin geometry