

DEVELOPMENT OF NI-CATALYZED ASYMMETRIC REDUCTIVE CROSS-
COUPLING REACTIONS

Thesis by

Nathaniel Thomas Kadunce

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

for the Degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Pasadena, California

2016

(Defended May 24, 2016)

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To my family

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My time at Caltech has been one of the most fortunate and formative times of my life, and it is a place I will fondly remember. The close-knit community of brilliant and supportive students, staff, and faculty makes the challenging work of chemistry possible. I have made many excellent friends here and grown close to tremendous colleagues I look forward to knowing and working with in the future. Caltech is a special place that fosters these relationships and I am lucky to have developed as a scientist here.

First, I must enthusiastically thank my advisor, Prof. Sarah Reisman, for her guidance, mentorship, and the opportunity to work and learn in her group. It has been a privilege to learn from someone who so earnestly cares for her students. Whether it is our scientific development, health and well-being, or futures and careers, Sarah has been constantly helpful, patient, and encouraging to all in the lab. Over the last five years the group has nearly doubled in size, contributed an immense amount of research, and become a leader in our field. It is not lost on me, or any of us, what a feat that is, and how fortunate we are to enjoy our place in it.

I am also grateful to the members of my thesis committee, Profs. Jonas Peters and Brian Stoltz, and chairman, Prof. Gregory Fu. In yearly meetings, not least of all candidacy and proposals, all of my committee members have taken valuable time to mentor and educate me. The organometallic perspective and knowledge contributed by Jonas and Greg has added greatly to the understanding we have of the research described in this thesis and my own learning. I would like to thank Prof. Stoltz in particular for his constant dedication to our groups' success and to our division. Brian's cheerful demeanor and insightful contributions add greatly to our joint group meetings and the experience of

working on our floor. The collaborative dialogue between the Stoltz and Reisman groups is a special part of the research we do, whether it concerns friendship, chemicals, or, most often, both.

The staff and facilities at Caltech are a critical part of all the successful research we do there. In particular, Dr. David Vander Velde and Dr. Scott Virgil have been instrumental to my work at every turn. Dave has constantly maintained and updated our NMR facility, ensuring that whole screens of data could be easily gathered at any time. Scott has worked tirelessly at the Caltech Center for Catalysis and Chemical Synthesis, keeping up an always-rotating cast of instruments and tools. His care for the SFC, glovebox, cooling wells, and rotary stir plates has been key to the success of each and every project I have pursued here. Even more importantly, his patience and mentorship is an essential part of every third-floor graduate student's learning, teaching us how the instruments we rely on work and how to perform routine maintenance ourselves with confidence.

Most importantly to the experience of working over the last five years have been the people of the Reisman lab. It has been an honor to work alongside some of the most driven, curious, and brilliant people I have known. I joined the group in Sarah's fourth class, being fortunate to overlap with all of her first students and to gain from their experience of the lab's roots. Over the years, it has been both challenging and lovely to see people move on to their future endeavors and to welcome new students in their place. The lab has developed to a bigger, more dynamic place, but at each stage along the way it has kept the same friendly, supportive, encouraging atmosphere that defines it.

In my second year, Sarah asked me to join (now Dr.) Alan Cherney on a new project doing Ni catalysis. At that time, I knew next to nothing about Ni, and was still learning the ropes about everything else. Alan has been one of the most supportive and patient colleagues I have had, and become a great friend as well. The experience of working with him has been foundational to my experience at Caltech, putting my research on its track and brightening every day with his dry wit and straight-ahead determination. As the Ni project has matured and developed I have had the opportunity to work with many new and excellent graduate students and post-docs. Dr. Leah Cleary was a great friend and coworker, whether it meant talking about science or going to see punk shows. I've been very fortunate to transition roles in the last two years to mentor new members of Team Ni. Julie Hofstra has made remarkable headway toward a mechanistic understanding of the reactions we develop. Kelsey Poremba has been a phenomenal project partner, bay-mate, and friend. I feel very lucky and confident leaving the future of the Ni project in their capable hands.

Graduate school is not an easy endeavor, and I owe a debt of gratitude to all the friends and institutions that have made the journey possible. While there are too many to name, I would like to especially thank Lauren Chapman, Jane Ni, Guy Edouard, Matt Hesse, Nick Cowper, Jordan Beck, Denise Grünenfelder, Ingmar Saberi, Ian Finneran, and Laura Rios for their camaraderie and support over the years and for all the fun that we've had (and will have). I must also thank Blake Daniels in particular for not only being a tremendous friend and colleague, but also for being the surprise witness at our wedding. I am looking forward to lots of adventures in the Bay very soon (you too, Matt).

As I could not have gotten through Caltech without the people above, I could never have gotten there in the first place without the following: my teachers and family. My first real contact with chemistry was Steve Witowich's AP Chemistry class. His outsized and ridiculous love of teaching, science, and his students was a huge inspiration and he is dearly missed. Moving on to Oberlin College, I was fortunate to work with several instrumental advisors and teachers in a great department. I would like to especially thank Prof. Albert Matlin and Prof. Jason Belitsky. Working alongside them was my first experience with hands-on research and it lit the fire that led me to graduate school. I must thank Jason in particular for sparking my interests in both metal catalysis and Caltech, two things that have shaped my life since.

Finally, and most importantly, I would like to thank all of my family who have loved and supported me my whole life. My parents, who always showed me the importance of learning and gave me the freedom to explore what I loved, have been my greatest cheerleaders. I am endlessly grateful for their love, patience, and encouragement. More recently, I have been given the gift of great parents-in-law as well. Mindy and Brett have not only been welcoming and generous, but have shown me great love and have made our stay in Los Angeles all the better. Most of all, I thank my wife Julia, who made the leap of faith to the best coast with me to begin this adventure. Exploring LA, music, food, and life with you has been the anchor that makes this all worthwhile. Your boundless love and support at every turn has made this journey the best time in my life, and our wedding is the best memory of them all. I could not have done it without you and I can't wait to adventure in our new home. Last but not least, Winchester and Sugarbeet.

ABSTRACT

Over the last half century, the development of metal-catalyzed cross-coupling reactions has transformed the toolkit of transformations available to synthetic chemists. From the very beginning of this effort, researchers have studied the application of these reactions to afford enantioenriched products via asymmetric catalysis. A great deal of success has been achieved in this arena, giving rise to an ever-growing number of chiral catalysts for a wide range of transformations. Despite these efforts, inherent difficulties in the reactivity of C(sp³) electrophiles with the most common noble metal catalysts have limited the development of these substrates until more recently. A resurgence of interest in Ni-catalysis has enabled the stereoconvergent cross-coupling of C(sp³) electrophiles with many partners, opening doors to access these challenging chiral products.

Reductive cross-coupling, involving the union of two different electrophiles, has emerged still more recently, and had previously not been employed asymmetrically. Herein we describe our efforts to develop the first Ni-catalyzed asymmetric reductive cross-couplings of C(sp³) halides to afford highly enantioenriched products. In the first such reaction, the coupling of acyl chlorides with benzylic chlorides affords acyclic α -tertiary ketone products. Following this, we describe the coupling of new C(sp³) partners, α -chloronitriles, with challenging Lewis-basic heteroaryl iodides, enabled by the development of a novel PHOX ligand scaffold. Finally, we report the extension of a more general dioxane/TMSCl solvent condition to new asymmetric reductive couplings, including that of heteroaryl iodides with benzylic chlorides, as well as additional preliminary results with new substrate classes.

PUBLISHED CONTENT AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Cherney, A. H.; Kadunce, N. T.; and Reisman, S. E. “Enantioselective and Enantiospecific Transition-Metal-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling Reactions of Organometallic Reagents to Construct C–C Bonds.” *Chem. Rev.* **2015**, *115*, 9587. DOI: 10.1021/acs.chemrev.5b00162.

N.T.K. participated in conception of the review scope and coverage, compilation of the review bibliography, and the writing of the manuscript.

Cherney, A. H.; Kadunce, N. T.; and Reisman, S. E. “Catalytic Asymmetric Reductive Acyl Cross-Coupling: Synthesis of Enantioenriched Acyclic α,α -Disubstituted Ketones.” *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2013**, *135*, 7442. DOI: 10.1021/ja402922w.

N.T.K. participated in reaction development and screening, compilation of data, preparation and evaluation of substrates, and characterization of products.

Kadunce, N. T. and Reisman, S. E. “Nickel-Catalyzed Asymmetric Reductive Cross-Coupling Between Heteroaryl Iodides and α -Chloronitriles.” *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2015**, *137*, 10480. DOI: 10.1021/jacs.5b06466.

N.T.K. conducted all reaction development and screening, compilation of data, preparation and evaluation of substrates, and characterization of products. N.T.K. participated in the conception of the project and the writing of the manuscript.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

$[\alpha]_D$	angle of optical rotation of plane-polarized light
Å	angstrom(s)
Ac	acetyl
acac	acetylacetonate
^t Am	<i>tert</i> -amyl
APCI	atmospheric pressure chemical ionization
app	apparent
aq	aqueous
Ar	aryl group
bathophen	bathophenanthroline
BBN	borabicyclo[3.3.1]nonane
BHT	2,6-di- <i>tert</i> -butyl-4-methylphenol (“ <u>butylated hydroxytoluene</u> ”)
Biox	bi(oxazoline)
BINAP	2,2'-bis(diphenylphosphino)-1,1'-binaphthyl
BINOL	1,1'-bi(2-naphthol)
Bn	benzyl
Boc	<i>tert</i> -butoxycarbonyl
Box	bis(oxazoline)
bp	boiling point
BPPFA	<i>N,N</i> -dimethyl-1-[1',2-bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocenyl]ethylamine
br	broad

Bu	butyl
ⁱ Bu	<i>iso</i> -butyl
ⁿ Bu	butyl or <i>norm</i> -butyl
^s Bu	<i>sec</i> -butyl
^t Bu	<i>tert</i> -butyl
Bz	benzoyl
<i>c</i>	concentration of sample for measurement of optical rotation
°C	degrees Celsius
calc'd	calculated
CAM	cerium ammonium molybdate
cm ⁻¹	wavenumber(s)
cod	1,5-cyclooctadiene
conc.	concentrated
Cp	cyclopentadienyl
Cy	cyclohexyl
Cyp	cyclopentyl
d	doublet
<i>d</i>	dextrorotatory
D	deuterium
dba	dibenzylideneacetone
DFT	density functional theory
DIOP	2,3- <i>O</i> -isopropylidene-2,3-dihydroxy-1,4-bis(diphenylphosphino)butane

DKR	dynamic kinetic resolution
DMA	<i>N,N</i> -dimethylacetamide
DMBA	2,6-dimethylbenzoic acid
DME	1,2-dimethoxyethane
DMF	<i>N,N</i> -dimethylformamide
DMI	1,3-dimethyl-2-imidazolidinone
DMPU	<i>N,N'</i> -dimethylpropylene urea
DMSO	dimethylsulfoxide
dppb	1,4-bis(diphenylphosphino)butane
dppbz	1,2-bis(diphenylphosphino)benzene
dppf	1,1'-bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene
dppe	1,2-bis(diphenylphosphino)ethane
dr	diastereomeric ratio
dtbpy	4,4'-di- <i>tert</i> -butyl-2,2'-bipyridine
DYKAT	dynamic kinetic asymmetric transformation
<i>E</i>	trans (entgegen) olefin geometry
ee	enantiomeric excess
EI	electron impact
EPPF	1-diphenylphosphino-2-ethylferrocene
ESI	electrospray ionization
Et	ethyl
FAB	fast atom bombardment
FcPN	1-dimethylaminomethyl-2-diphenyl-phosphinoferrocene

g	gram(s)
GC	gas chromatography
h	hour(s)
^1H	proton
hex	hexyl
HMDS	hexamethyldisilazane
$h\nu$	light
HPLC	high performance liquid chromatography
HRMS	high resolution mass spectrometry
Hz	hertz
IPA	isopropanol
IR	infrared spectroscopy
J	coupling constant
k	rate constant
L	liter or neutral ligand
l	levorotatory
LED	light-emitting diode
m	multiplet or meter(s)
M	molar or molecular ion
m	meta
Me	methyl
mg	milligram(s)
MHz	megahertz

min	minute(s)
mL	milliliter(s)
MM	mixed method
mol	mole(s)
MOP	2-(diphenylphosphino)-2'-methoxy-1,1'-binaphthyl
mp	melting point
Ms	methanesulfonyl (mesyl)
MS	molecular sieves or mass spectrometry
<i>m/z</i>	mass-to-charge ratio
naph	naphthyl
Naphos	2,2'-bis(diphenylphosphinomethyl)-1,1'-binaphthyl
nbd	norbornadiene
NBS	<i>N</i> -bromosuccinimide
NMDPP	neomenthyl diphenylphosphine
NMP	<i>N</i> -methyl-2-pyrrolidone
NMR	nuclear magnetic resonance
Norphos	2,3-bis(diphenylphosphino)-bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene
<i>o</i>	ortho
<i>p</i>	para
Pc	phthalocyanine
Ph	phenyl
pH	hydrogen ion concentration in aqueous solution
phen	1,10-phenanthroline

PHOX	phosphinooxazoline
pin	pinacol
Piv	pivaloyl
pK_a	acid dissociation constant
PPFA	<i>N,N</i> -dimethyl-1-[2-(diphenylphosphino)ferrocenyl]ethylamine
Pr	propyl
ⁱ Pr	isopropyl
ⁿ Pr	propyl or <i>norm</i> -propyl
Prophos	1,2-bis(diphenylphosphino)propane
py	pyridine
PyBox	pyridine-bis(oxazoline)
PyOx	pyridine-oxazoline
pyphos	(2-diphenylphosphino)ethylpyridine
q	quartet
Quinox	quinoline-oxazoline
R	alkyl group
<i>R</i>	rectus
ref	reference
R_f	retention factor
rt	room temperature
s	singlet or seconds
<i>S</i>	sinister
sat.	saturated

SET	single-electron transfer
SFC	supercritical fluid chromatography
t	triplet
TADDOL	$\alpha,\alpha,\alpha,\alpha$ -tetraaryl-1,3-dioxolane-4,5-dimethanol
TBAB	tetra- <i>n</i> -butylammonium bromide
TBAI	tetra- <i>n</i> -butylammonium iodide
TBAT	tetra- <i>n</i> -butylammonium difluorotriphenylsilicate
TBS	<i>tert</i> -butyldimethylsilyl
TDAE	tetrakis(dimethylamino)ethylene
TFA	trifluoroacetic acid
temp	temperature
terpy	2,2':6',2''-terpyridine
THF	tetrahydrofuran
TIPS	triisopropylsilyl
TLC	thin layer chromatography
TMEDA	<i>N,N,N',N'</i> -tetramethylethylenediamine
TMS	trimethylsilyl
TOF	time-of-flight
tol	toluene
UV	ultraviolet
v/v	volume per volume
X	anionic ligand or halide
Z	cis (zusammen) olefin geometry