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Diphenylprolinol silyl ether as an efficient organocatalyst for the asymmetric Michael reaction of aldehydes and nitroalkenes

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Experimental Section

General Remarks. All reactions were carried out under argon atmosphere and monitored by thin-layer chromatography using Merck 60 F₂₅₄ precoated silica gel plates (0.25 mm thickness). Specific optical rotations were measured using a JASCO P-1020 polarimeter. FT-IR spectra were recorded on a Horiba FT-720 spectrometer. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Brucker AM400 (400 MHz) instrument. High-resolution mass spectral analyses (HRMS) were carried out using JEOL JMS-SX 102A. Preparative thin layer chromatography was performed using Wakogel B-5F purchased from Wako Pure Chemical Industries, Tokyo, Japan. Flash chromatography was performed using silica gel 60N of Kanto Chemical Co. Int., Tokyo, Japan.

Procesures for preparation of diphenylprolinol silyl ether organocatalysts.

(S)-(Diphenyltrimethylsiloxymethyl)-pyrrolidine (2a)

To a DMF (13.9 ml) solution of diphenylprolinol **1** (3.5 g, 13.9 mmol) and imidazole (3.8 g, 55.5 mmol) was added TMSCl (5.1 ml, 41.7 mmol) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for 17 h at room temperature and quenched with pH 7.0 phosphate buffer at 0 °C. The organic materials were extracted with ethyl acetate three times and the combined organic phases were washed with brine three times. The organic extracts were dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , and concentrated in vacuo after filtration. Purification by flash column chromatography (ethyl acetate:hexane = 1:7 ~ 1:3) gave **2a** in 93% yield.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ -0.13 (9H, s), 1.28-1.41 (1H, m), 1.47-1.61 (3H, m), 2.71-2.88 (2H, m), 4.01 (1H, d, J=7.0 Hz), 7.14-7.28 (6H, m), 7.29-7.35 (2H, d), 7.39-7.45 (2H, m); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.1, 25.0, 27.4, 47.1, 65.3, 83.1, 126.7, 126.9, 127.5, 128.4, 145.7, 146.7;

IR (neat) v 2954, 1491, 1446, 1250, 1072, 879, 839 cm⁻¹; HRMS (FAB) $[M+H]^+$ calculated for $C_{20}H_{28}ONSi$: 326.1940, found: 326.1967; $[\alpha]_D^{33}$ -52.4 (c=1.04, CHCl₃).

(S)-(Diphenyltriethylsiloxymethyl)-pyrrolidine (2b)

To a CH_2Cl_2 (1.2 ml) solution of diphenylprolinol **1** (300 mg, 1.2 mmol) was added 2,6-lutidine (1.2 ml, 8.3 mmol) and TESOTf (1.3 ml, 5.9 mmol) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for 8 h at room temperature and quenched with aq. NH_4Cl and the

organic materials were extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic extracts were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and concentrated in vacuo after filtration. To the organic materials was added MeOH and aq. NaHCO₃ at room temperature, and the mixture was stirred at that temperature. The organic materials were extracted with ethyl acetate and the organic phase was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated in vacuo after filtration. Purification by silica gel column chromatography (ethyl acetate:hexane=1:100 ~ 1:3) gave **2b** in 72% yield.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.33 (6H, q, J=7.9 Hz), 0.83 (9H, t, J=7.9 Hz), 1.16-1.28 (1H, m), 1.43-1.60 (3H, m), 2.62-2.71 (1H, m), 2.79 (1H, dt, Jd=9.9 Hz, Jt=6.1 Hz), 4.00 (1H, t, J=7.2 Hz), 7.16-7.28 (6H, m), 7.30-7.37 (2H, m), 7.42-7.49 (2H, m); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 6.5, 7.2, 25.1, 27.7, 47.2, 65.6, 82.9, 126.88, 126.92, 127.3,127.5, 128.0, 128.8, 145.5, 146.6; IR (neat) ν 2954, 2875, 1491, 1446, 1238, 1070, 740, 725, 701 cm⁻¹; HRMS (FAB) [M+H]⁺ calculated for C₂₃H₃₄ONSi : 368.2410, found: 368.2415; $[\alpha]_D^{30}$ -48.4 (c=0.097, CHCl₃).

(S)-[(tert-Butyldimethylsiloxy)-diphenylmethyl]-pyrrolidine (2c)

Ph Ph OH
$$\frac{\text{TBSOTf, 2,6-lutidine}}{\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2, 0 ^{\circ}\text{C} \sim \text{rt}}$$
 Ph Ph OTBS

To a CH₂Cl₂ (1.2 ml) solution of diphenylprolinol **1** (300 mg, 1.2 mmol) was added 2,6-lutidine (1.2 ml, 8.3 mmol) and TBSOTf (1.4 ml, 5.9 mmol) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for 8 h at room temperature and quenched with aq. NH₄Cl. The organic materials were extracted with ethyl acetate and the organic extracts were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and concentrated in vacuo after filtration. Then to the organic materials was added MeOH and aq. NaHCO₃ at room temperature, and the mixture was stirred at that temperature. The organic materials were extracted with ethyl acetate and the organic phase was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated in vacuo after filtration. Purification by silica gel column chromatography (ethyl acetate:hexane=1:100 ~ 1:3) gave **2c** in 76% yield.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ -0.47 (3H, s), -0.24 (3H, s), 0.93 (9H, s), 1.12-1.28 (1H, m), 1.43-1.61 (3H, m), 2.62-2.72 (1H, m), 2.79 (1H, dt, Jd=10.1, Jt=6.6), 3.99 (1H, t, J=7.3 Hz), 7.17-7.38 (6H, m), 7.31-7.36 (2H, m), 7.47-7.53 (2H, m); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ -3.3, -2.7, 19.0, 25.0, 26.3, 27.8, 47.1, 65.6, 83.0, 127.0, 127.2, 127.6, 128.3, 129.2, 145.2, 146.4; IR (neat) v 2954, 2927, 2856, 1493, 1471, 1446, 1252, 1066, 835, 775, 702 cm⁻¹; HRMS (FAB) [M+H]⁺ calculated for C₂₃H₃₄ONSi : 368.2410, found: 368.2415; [α]_D³² -34.4 (c=0.198, CHCl₃).

General procedure (Typical procedure for a Michael reaction): To a hexane solution of the nitroolefin (1.0 mmol) and 2a (34 mg, 0.1 mmol) was added an aldehyde (10 mmol) at the temperature indicated in Table 2. After stirring the reaction mixture at that temperature, the reaction was quenched by the addition of aq. 1N HCl. Organic materials were extracted with ethyl acetate three times. The combined organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, concentrated and purified by preparative TLC (chloroform) to afford the Michael adduct.

(2R, 3S)-2-Methyl-4-nitro-3-phenylbutanal

Title compound was prepared from (E)- β -nitrostyrene and propanal according to General Procedure. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a OD-H column at 237 nm (2-propanol:hexane = 1:10), 1.0 mL/min; major enantiomer tr = 18.5 min, minor enantiomer tr = 14.3 min. Spectroscopic data are in agreement with the published data. $^{1,2,4)}$

(2R, 3S)-(4-Bromophenyl)-2-methyl-4-nitrobutyraldehyde

Title compound was prepared from 1-bromo-4-(2-nitrovinyl)-benzene and propanal according to General Procedure. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a AD-H column at 240 nm (2-propanol:hexane = 1:20), 1.0 mL/min; major enantiomer tr = 9.6 min, minor enantiomer tr = 12.6 min.

Since the diastereomixture was difficult to separate, *syn:anti* ratio (95:5) was determined by 400 MHz ¹H-NMR.

Major diastereomer: 1 H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.98 (3H, d, J=7.3 Hz), 2.67-2.81 (1H, m), 3.71-3.81 (1H, m), 4.57-4.80 (2H, m), 7.03 (1H, d, J=8.4 Hz), 7.45 (1H, d, J=8.4 Hz), 9.67 (1H, d, J=1.1 Hz); 13 C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 12.2, 43.5, 48.2, 122.2, 129.7, 129.8, 132.3, 135.6, 201.8.

Minor diastereomer: 1 H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.19 (3H, d, J=7.3 Hz), 2.67-2.81 (1H, m), 3.71-3.82 (1H, m), 4.57-4.80 (2H, m), 7.07 (1H, d, J=8.4 Hz), 7.44 (1H, d, J=8.4 Hz), 9.51 (1H, d, J=1.2 Hz);

HRMS (FAB) $[M+H]^+$ calculated for $C_{11}H_{13}O_3N_1Br_1$: 286.0079, found: 286.0093

(2R, 3S)-2-methyl-4-nitro-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-butanal

Title compound was prepared from 1-methoxy-4-(2-nitrovinyl)-benzene and propanal according to General Procedure. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a AS-H column at 241 nm (2-propanol:hexane = 1:20), 1.0 mL/min, major enantiomer tr = 21.7 min, minor enantiomer tr = 15.8 min. Spectroscopic data are in agreement with the published data.⁴⁾

(2R, 3S)-3-Furyl-2-methyl-4-nitrobutanal

$$\mathsf{H} \overset{\mathsf{O}}{\longleftarrow} \mathsf{NO}_2$$

Title compound was prepared from 2-(2-nitrovinyl)-furan and propanal according to General Procedure. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a IA column at 265 nm (2-propanol:hexane = 1:20), 1.0 mL/min; major enantiomer tr = 14.4 min, minor enantiomer tr = 15.8 min.

Since the diastereomeric mixture was difficult to separate, *syn:anti* ratio (94:6) was determined by 400 MHz ¹H-NMR.

Major diastereomer: 1 H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.30 (3H, d, J=7.2 Hz), 2.97-3.11 (1H, m), 4.31 (1H, m), 4.88-5.02 (2H, m), 6.37-6.45 (1H, m), 6.51-6.56 (1H, m), 7.58 (1H, d, J=1.7 Hz), 9.93 (1H, d, J=1.7 Hz); 13 C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 11.0, 37.6, 47.0, 75.8, 108.8, 110.4, 142.7, 149.8, 201.6;

Minor diastereomer: 1.45 (1H, d, J=7.4 Hz), 4.19-4.26 (1H, m), 4.88-5.02 (2H, m), 6.37-6.45 (1H, m), 6.51-6.56 (1H, m), 7.48 (1H, d, J=2.0 Hz), 9.86 (1H, d, J=1.4 Hz); HRMS (FAB) [M+H]⁺ calculated for C₉H₁₂O₄N: 198.0766, found: 198.0765

(2R, 3R)-2-Methyl-3-nitromethylheptanal

$$\mathsf{H} \overset{\mathsf{O}}{\longleftarrow} \mathsf{NO_2}$$

Title compound was prepared from 1-nitrohex-1-ene and propanal according to General Procedure. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a IA column at 210 nm (2-propanol:hexane = 1:20), 1.0 mL/min; major enantiomer tr = 7.2 min, minor enantiomer tr = 7.5 min. Spectroscopic data are in agreement with the published data.⁴⁾

(2R, 3R)-3-Cyclohexyl-2-methyl-4-nitro-butanal

$$\bigcap_{\mathsf{H}} \mathsf{NO}_2$$

Title compound was prepared from (2-nitrovinyl)-cyclohexane and propanal according to General Procedure. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a AS-H column at 210 nm (2-propanol:hexane = 1:40), 1.0 mL/min; major enantiomer tr = 6.7 min, minor enantiomer tr = 6.4 min. Spectroscopic data are in agreement with the published data.⁴⁾

(2R, 3S)-2-(methylethyl)-4-nitro-3-phenylbutanal

Title compound was prepared from (E)- β -nitrostyrene and isovaleraldehyde according to General Procedure. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a AD-H column at 281 nm (2-propanol:hexane = 1:20), 1.0 mL/min; major enantiomer tr = 5.9 min, minor enantiomer tr = 6.4 min. Spectroscopic data are in agreement with the published data. $^{1,2,4)}$

(2R,3S)-2-(methylethyl)-3-naphthalen-2-yl-4-nitrobutanal

$$\underset{\mathsf{H}}{\overset{\mathsf{O}}{\longrightarrow}} \mathsf{NO}_2$$

Title compound was prepared from 2-(2-nitrovinyl)-naphthalene and propanal according to General Procedure. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a OD-H column at 292 nm (2-propanol:hexane = 1:20), 1.0 mL/min; major enantiomer tr = 22.9 min, minor enantiomer tr = 13.7 min. Spectroscopic data are in agreement with the published data.¹⁾

(2R, 3S)-2-Ethyl-4-nitro-3-phenylbutanal

$$\bigcap_{\mathsf{H}}\mathsf{NO}_2$$

Title compound was prepared from (E)- β -nitrostyrene and butanal according to General Procedure. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a OD-H column at 221 nm (2-propanol:hexane = 1:20), 1.0 mL/min; major enantiomer tr = 14.9 min, minor enantiomer tr = 12.0 min. Spectroscopic data are in agreement with the published data. 1,2,4

(2R)-((S)-2-nitro-1-phenylethyl)-pentanal

$$\mathsf{H} \overset{\mathsf{O}}{\longleftarrow} \mathsf{NO}_2$$

Title compound was prepared from (E)- β -nitrostyrene and hexanal according to General Procedure. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a OD-H column at 220 nm (2-propanol:hexane = 1:20), 1.0 mL/min; major enantiomer tr = 14.0 min, minor enantiomer tr = 10.7 min. Spectroscopic data are in agreement with the published data. $^{2,4,5)}$

(R)-2,2-Dimethyl-4-nitrophenylbutanal

Title compound was prepared from (E)- β -nitrostyrene and isobutyraldehyde according to General Procedure. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a AS-H column at 220 nm (2-propanol:hexane = 1:10), 1.0 mL/min; major enantiomer tr = 6.6 min, minor enantiomer tr = 6.2 min. Spectroscopic data are in agreement with the published data. $^{3,4,5)}$

Procedure for a Michael reaction with methylvinylketone: To 2a (24.9 mg, 0.077 mmol) was added methylvinylketone (207 μ l, 2.55 mmol) and 3-phenylpropanal (33.5 μ l, 0.26 mmol) at 0 °C. After stirring the reaction mixture for 72 h at room temperature, excess methylvinylketone was azeotropically removed with toluene from the reaction mixture. To the residue was added NaBH₄ (48.2 mg, 1.275 mmol) and MeOH (1.0 ml) at 0 °C and the mixture was stirred for 1 h at room temperature. The reaction was quenched with aq. 1N HCl. The organic materials were salted out with ethyl acetate five times. The combined organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, concentrated and purified by preparative TLC (ethyl acetate:hexane=3:1) to afford the reduced Michael adducts as a colorless oil (52%, 97% *ee*). The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a IA column at 220 nm (2-propanol:hexane = 1:40), 0.5 mL/min; major enantiomer tr = 85.9, 89.7 min, minor enantiomer tr = 94.9, 100.4 min.

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HPLC-chromatograms

































































