Published in final edited form as:

Org Lett. 2013 January 4; 15(1): 46–49. doi:10.1021/ol303003g.

Asymmetric Chiral Ligand-Directed Alkene Dioxygenation

Sharon R. Neufeldt and Melanie S. Sanford*

Department of Chemistry, University of Michigan, 930 North University Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109, United States

Abstract

A Pd-catalyzed asymmetric alkene 1,2-dioxygenation reaction is described. The diastereoselectivity of the reaction is controlled by tethering a chiral oxime ether directing group to the alkene substrate. The best selectivities are obtained with 8-substituted menthone-derived oxime ether auxiliaries.

Alkene difunctionalization reactions are synthetically valuable methods that generate two new bonds and up to two stereocenters in a single operation. These transformations are frequently catalyzed by transition metals, with osmium-based catalysts being particularly effective at controlling the relative and absolute stereochemistry of the products.¹ Recently, a number of exciting reports have demonstrated the feasibility of high-oxidation state Pd-catalyzed alkene difunctionalization.^{2,3} These Pd-catalyzed reactions are of particular interest because they are mechanistically distinct from the corresponding Os systems. Whereas Os promotes concerted *syn* addition of two heteroatoms across the alkene, high valent Pd catalysis involves the formation of each new carbon–X bond in a discrete step.^{2a} As a result, this mechanistic manifold offers the potential for greater reaction diversity, with the possibility of adding two different functional groups across a carbon carbon double bond in a highly selective fashion.^{2,3}

Over the past 10 years, numerous high-valent Pd-catalyzed alkene difunctionalization reactions have been developed.^{4–12} These include methods for alkene dioxygenation,⁴ aminooxygenation,⁵ diamination,⁷ amino-halogenation,^{8,9} and aryl halogenation.¹⁰ These transformations often proceed with selectivity for either *syn* or *anti* addition of the vicinal groups. However, the stereoselective formation of non-racemic products in these reactions has remained largely elusive.¹³

One appealing approach for achieving asymmetric Pd-catalyzed alkene difunctionalization would involve the use of a chiral directing group. A related strategy has been successfully employed by Yu to achieve asymmetric high valent Pd-catalyzed ligand-directed C–H bond oxidation.¹⁴ In a similar fashion, we envisioned that the chiral directing group in substrate **1** (Scheme 1) could relay stereochemical information to the stereocenter formed in the product

mssanfor@umich.edu.

Supporting Information Available: Experimental details and spectroscopic and analytical data for new compounds. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

(3) via palladacycle intermediate **2**. This approach should also enable more facile difunctionalization, because the directing group would bring the Pd proximal to the target olefin.

Our initial investigations have focused on chiral oxime ethers as directing groups for asymmetric alkene dioxygenation. These directing groups were selected based on three key criteria: (1) oxime ethers are known to be effective directing ligands for other Pd-catalyzed reactions (particularly C–H functionalization),¹⁵ (2) the substrates can easily be prepared from an allyl alcohol and a chiral ketone, and (3) diverse chiral non-racemic ketones are readily available.

We first examined the Pd-catalyzed dioxygenation of achiral oxime ether substrate **4** with $\text{PhI}(\text{O}_2\text{CPh})_2$.⁴ Using $\text{PdCl}_2(\text{PhCN})_2$ as the catalyst, this transformation proceeded in good yield under mild conditions (8 h at 50 °C in toluene) (Table 1, entry 1).¹⁶ Importantly, no dioxygenation was observed in the absence of Pd under these conditions, even upon the addition of 5–10 mol % of TfOH or $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$.¹⁷ Although allyl propyl ether (**5**) and oxime ether **4** both contain an olefin allylic to an oxygen atom, **5** was completely unreactive under the optimized conditions. This result demonstrates that the oxime ether moiety in **4** is necessary to facilitate the dioxygenation reaction under these mild conditions.¹⁸

Literature precedent suggests that this transformation proceeds via a mechanism involving oxime ether coordination, oxypalladation, oxidation from Pd^{II} to Pd^{IV} and then C–O bond forming reductive elimination (Scheme 2). Within the context of this general manifold, there are several unresolved details that are critical for the stereochemical outcome of the reaction. In particular, the initial step could proceed via either *trans* (paths a and b) or *cis* oxypalladation (paths c and d);^{2,4} furthermore, the final reductive elimination could proceed by direct (paths a and c) or $\text{S}_{\text{N}}2$ -type (paths b and d) mechanisms.^{2,4,5} In an achiral system, these four pathways would lead to two different products (overall *syn* or *anti* addition).

To probe these possibilities, we examined the stereochemical outcome of Pd-catalyzed dibenzoylation with *cis*- and *trans*-**7** as substrates. Under our optimal conditions, dioxygenation of both alkenes proceeded with high (10:1) selectivity for the *syn* addition product (Scheme 3).¹⁹ The *syn* selectivity suggests that the primary operative mechanism is either (b) or (c) in Scheme 2. The observation of high diastereoselectivity in this transformation is critical for our goal of achieving asymmetric dioxygenation, as it indicates that the stereocenter-forming steps proceed with high stereochemical fidelity.

We next examined a series of chiral allyl oxime ethers derived from commercially available chiral ketones (**8**–**12**, Table 2). Notably, the *E* and *Z* oxime isomers of the same parent ketone present significantly different steric environments to a coordinated Pd center. Therefore, the *E* and *Z* diastereomers were separated and studied individually when possible (substrates **8** and **10**).

Oxime stereoisomers *E*-**8** and *Z*-**8** underwent Pd-catalyzed dibenzoylation to afford two spectroscopically different sets of products. This result demonstrates that the oxime ether is configurationally stable under the mild reaction conditions. The stereocenter α to the oxime will be in closer proximity to the coordinated Pd center in *E*-**8** relative to *Z*-**8**. Thus, as expected, the former afforded the dibenzoylated product in higher dr than the latter (63:37 versus 52:48, respectively).

In keeping with the trend observed with *E*-**8** and *Z*-**8**, the dr's obtained with substrates derived from other commercial chiral ketones tracked with the steric environment at the α -position of the oxime. For example, the diastereoselectivity of the reaction of **9** was lower

than that seen with **E-8**. This can be rationalized based on the fact that the 3°-α stereocenter of **9** is tied back into a bicyclic scaffold. Improved diastereoselectivity (75:25) was observed in **E-10**, which contains a 4°-α stereocenter. However, the overall yield was low, likely due to the highly congested steric environment proximal to the oxime. In keeping with this hypothesis, the opposite oxime isomer (**Z-10**) afforded lower dr (66:33) but better reactivity. Furthermore, the use of substrate **11**, which contains an even more hindered 4°-α stereocenter, resulted in dramatically decreased reactivity (no dioxxygenated product was observed in this case). Among the substrates in Table 2, the best balance between reactivity and selectivity was obtained with menthone-derived substrate **12**, which features β-branching adjacent to a 3°-α stereocenter.

To improve further on the selectivity seen with **12**, we prepared a number of 8-substituted menthone auxiliaries. Interestingly, the addition of a third methyl group to the β-position of the ketone (**13**) provided a substantial improvement in stereoselectivity (dr = 86:14 for **13a**, compared to 74:26 for **12a**). The selectivity remained unchanged upon additional mono-substitution at the γ position. However, a further improvement in dr (to 90:10) was observed with **17**, which contains a 3°-carbon center at the γ position. Notably, as shown in Table 3, a decline in reaction yield was seen as the steric bulk of the auxiliary increased (compare **17a** and **15a** to **13a**). Overall, auxiliaries **13** and **17** provide particularly promising results and have potential for further applications in this field.

In summary, the results presented herein demonstrate that a chiral oxime ether directing group can be used to control the stereochemical outcome of high valent Pd-catalyzed alkene dioxxygenation. Readily accessible menthone derivatives are particularly effective auxiliaries for these transformations. Ongoing investigations are focused on broadening the scope of this work to a more diverse set of nucleophiles and alkene substrates. In addition, current studies seek to expand this strategy to the use of related chiral auxiliaries as catalysts via reversible *in situ* formation of oxime ether and/or imine derivatives.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

Acknowledgments

This work was supported by the NIH NIGMS (GM073836).

References

1. Reviews: Kolb HC, VanNieuwenhze MS, Sharpless KB. Chem Rev. 1994; 94:2483. Johnson RA, Sharpless KB. Ojima I. Catalytic Asymmetric Synthesis (2). Wiley-VCH New York 2000:357. Bolm C, Hildebrand JP, Muñiz K. Ojima I. Catalytic Asymmetric Synthesis (2). Wiley-VCH New York 2000:399.
2. Reviews on Pd-catalyzed alkene difunctionalization: Jensen KH, Sigman MS. Org Biomol Chem. 2008; 6:4083. [PubMed: 18972034] Wolfe JP. Synlett. 2008:2913. Jacques B, Muñiz K. Yudin AK. Catalyzed Carbon-Heteroatom Bond Formation. Wiley-VCH Weinheim, Germany 2010:119. McDonald RI, Liu G, Stahl SS. Chem Rev. 2011; 111:2981. [PubMed: 21428440]
3. Reviews on high valent Pd: Muñiz K. Angew Chem Int Ed. 2009; 48:9412. Canty AJ. Dalton Trans. 2009; 47:10409. [PubMed: 20023859] Xu LM, Li BJ, Yang Z, Shi ZJ. Chem Soc Rev. 2010; 39:712. [PubMed: 20111789] Hickman AJ, Sanford MS. Nature. 2012; 484:177. [PubMed: 22498623]
4. Dioxxygenation: Li Y, Song D, Dong VM. J Am Chem Soc. 2008; 130:2962. [PubMed: 18281992] Wang A, Jiang H, Chen H. J Am Chem Soc. 2009; 131:3846. [PubMed: 19292485] Wang W, Wang

- F, Shi M. *Organometallics*. 2010; 29:928. Park CP, Lee JH, Yoo KS, Jung KW. *Org Lett*. 2010; 12:2450. [PubMed: 20455553]
5. Aminoxygenation: Alexanian EJ, Lee C, Sorensen EJ. *J Am Chem Soc*. 2005; 127:7690. [PubMed: 15913354] Liu G, Stahl SS. *J Am Chem Soc*. 2006; 128:7179. [PubMed: 16734468] Desai LV, Sanford MS. *Angew Chem Int Ed*. 2007; 46:5737.
6. Aminoarylation: Rosewall CF, Sibbald PA, Liskin DV, Michael FE. *J Am Chem Soc*. 2009; 131:9488. [PubMed: 19545153] Sibbald PA, Rosewall CF, Swartz RD, Michael FE. *J Am Chem Soc*. 2009; 131:15945. [PubMed: 19824646]
7. Diamination: Streuff J, Hövelmann CH, Nieger M, Muñiz K. *J Am Chem Soc*. 2005; 127:14586. [PubMed: 16231907] Muñiz K. *J Am Chem Soc*. 2007; 129:14542. [PubMed: 17985900] Muñiz K, Hövelmann CH, Streuff J. *J Am Chem Soc*. 2008; 130:763. [PubMed: 18081279] Sibbald PA, Michael FE. *Org Lett*. 2009; 11:1147. [PubMed: 19203248] Iglesias Á, Pérez EG, Muñiz K. *Angew Chem Int Ed*. 2010; 49:8109. Muñiz K, Kirsch J, Chávez P. *Adv Synth Catal*. 2011; 353:689. Martínez C, Muñiz K. *Angew Chem Int Ed*. 2012; 51:7031.
8. Amino fluorination: Wu T, Yin G, Liu G. *J Am Chem Soc*. 2009; 131:16354. [PubMed: 19856929] Qiu S, Xu T, Zhou J, Guo Y, Liu G. *J Am Chem Soc*. 2010; 132:2856. [PubMed: 20148557]
9. Chloroamination: Michael FE, Sibbald PA, Cochran BM. *Org Lett*. 2008; 10:793. [PubMed: 18247496] Yin G, Wu T, Liu G. *Chem Eur J*. 2012; 18:451. [PubMed: 22162296]
10. Arylhalogenation: Kalyani D, Sanford MS. *J Am Chem Soc*. 2008; 130:2150. [PubMed: 18229926] Kalyani D, Satterfield AD, Sanford MS. *J Am Chem Soc*. 2010; 132:8419. [PubMed: 20515033]
11. Cyclopropanation: Tong X, Beller M, Tse MK. *J Am Chem Soc*. 2007; 129:4906. [PubMed: 17394326] Welbes LL, Lyons TW, Cychosz KA, Sanford MS. *J Am Chem Soc*. 2007; 129:5836. [PubMed: 17432861] Lyons TW, Sanford MS. *Tetrahedron*. 2009; 65:3211. [PubMed: 20161134] Tsujihara T, Takenaka K, Onitsuka K, Hatanaka M, Sasai H. *J Am Chem Soc*. 2009; 131:3452. [PubMed: 19275254]
12. Aryltrifluoromethylation: Mu X, Wu T, Wang H-y, Guo Y-l, Liu G. *J Am Chem Soc*. 2012; 134:878. [PubMed: 22191420]
13. For an example of asymmetric alkene difunctionalization via high valent Pd catalysis that utilizes chiral SPRIX ligands, see ref 11d.
14. (a) Giri R, Chen X, Yu JQ. *Angew Chem Int Ed*. 2005; 44:2112. (b) Giri R, Liang J, Lei JG, Li JJ, Wang DH, Chen X, Naggar IC, Guo C, Foxman BM, Yu JQ. *Angew Chem Int Ed*. 2005; 44:7420. (c) Giri R, Chen X, Hao XS, Li JJ, Liang J, Fan ZP, Yu JQ. *Tetrahedron: Asymmetry*. 2005; 16:3502. (d) Giri R, Lan Y, Liu P, Houk KN, Yu JQ. *J Am Chem Soc*. 2012; 134:14118. [PubMed: 22830301]
15. Lyons TW, Sanford MS. *Chem Rev*. 2010; 110:1147. [PubMed: 20078038] and references therein. Chan CW, Zhou Z, Chan ASC, Yu WY. *Org Lett*. 2010; 12:3926. [PubMed: 20704334] Neufeldt SR, Sanford MS. *Org Lett*. 2010; 12:532. [PubMed: 20041702] Kalyani D, McMurtrey KB, Neufeldt SR, Sanford MS. *J Am Chem Soc*. 2011; 133:18566. [PubMed: 22047138]
16. See Supporting Information for full details of the optimization of this transformation.
17. For TFOH- or $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$ -catalyzed alkene dioxygenation with $\text{PhI}(\text{OAc})_2$ see Kang YB, Gade LH. *J Am Chem Soc*. 2011; 133:3658. [PubMed: 21323382] Zhong W, Yang J, Meng X, Li Z. *J Org Chem*. 2011; 76:9997. [PubMed: 22092171]
18. A remote alkene was also tolerated:

19. Relative stereochemistry was determined by deprotection of each product to the diol and spectroscopic comparison to an authentic sample of the erythro diol prepared by dihydroxylation of **cis-7** with AD-mix- α ; see Supporting Information for details.

Scheme 1.
Chiral Ligand-Directed Approach to Asymmetric Alkene Difunctionalization

Scheme 2.
Possible Mechanistic Pathways for Oxime-Directed Dibenzoylation

Scheme 3.*Syn* Diastereoselectivity in the Dibenzoylation of *trans* and *cis* Internal Alkenes **7**

Table 1

Dibenzoylation of **4** and Control Reactions^a

entry	substrate	Pd (mol %)	additive	product	% yield
1	4	5	none	4a	59 ^b
2		0	none		<1 ^c
3		0	5 mol % TIOH		<1 ^c
4		0	10 mol % $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$		<1 ^c
5	$n\text{PrO}$ - (5)	5	none	$n\text{PrO}$ - 4a	<1 ^c

^a Conditions: substrate (1 equiv), $\text{PdCl}_2(\text{PhCN})_2$ (0.05 equiv), $\text{PhI}(\text{OBz})_2$ (2 equiv), dry toluene (0.12 M in substrate), 50 °C, 8 h.

^b Isolated yield.

^c Product was not detected by NMR spectroscopic analysis of the crude reaction mixture.

Table 2

Alkene Dioxygenation with Chiral Auxiliaries Derived from Commercial Ketones^a

substrate	product	yield ^b	dr ^c
		64%	63:37
		63%	52:48
		68%	59:41
		25%	75:25
		67%	66:34
		<1% ^d	--

substrate	product	yield ^b	dr ^c
 (12)	 (12a)	75%	74:26

^a Conditions: substrate (1 equiv), $\text{PdCl}_2(\text{PhCN})_2$ (0.05 equiv), $\text{PhI}(\text{OBz})_2$ (2 equiv), dry toluene (0.12 *M* in substrate), 50 °C, 8 h.

^b Isolated yield.

^c Determined by relative integrations of at least 2 pairs of peaks in the ^{13}C and/or ^1H NMR spectra; see Supporting Information for details.

^d Product was not detected by NMR spectroscopic analysis of the crude reaction mixture.

Table 3Alkene Dioxygenation with Chiral Auxiliaries Derived from 8-Substituted Menthone^a

substrate	product	yield ^b	dr ^c
		69%	86:14
		70%	86:14
		54%	86:14
		44%	85:15
		37%	90:10

^aConditions: substrate (1 equiv), PdCl₂(PhCN)₂ (0.05 equiv), PhI(OBz)₂ (2–3 equiv), dry toluene (0.12 M in substrate), 50 °C, 8 h.^bIsolated yield.^cDetermined by relative integrations of at least 2 pairs of peaks in the ¹³C and/or ¹H NMR spectra; see Supporting Information for details.