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Chiral α -P,N ligands from a diastereoselective Ph₂PH addition to (η^6 benzaldimine)tricarbonylchromium complexes

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aminophosphine / chirality / chromium complexes/ diastereoselective reactions / P-ligands

Chiral α -aminophosphine (α -P-C-N) ligands have been prepared by reversible addition of Ph₂PH

to tricarbonylchromium benzaldimine complexes (CO)₃Cr[η^6 -o-C₆H₄(Y)(CH=NR)] (with Y, R =

CH3, CH3 or CH2COOCH3; CH3O, CH3 or p-CH3OC6H4; Cl, C6H5), with complete

diastereoselectivity. These complexes are stabilized in solution by electron-withdrawing group(s)

on the imine.

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Introduction

Since the discovery that bifunctional P,N ligands increase considerably the activity and/or the selectivity of palladium, ruthenium or rhodium catalysts,^[1-4] the preparation of this type of ligand has been the subject of extensive investigations. As an example, pyridyl diphenylphosphine (2-PyPPh₂) crucially controls the activity and selectivity of alkyne methoxycarbonylation catalysts.^[11] Other α -aminophosphine ligands are rare: compound Ph₂PCH₂N(CH₃)₂, having a tertiary amine function, is stable in the solid state and in solution,^[5] while Et₂PCH₂NH^tBu and Ph₂PCH(Ph)NHPh have only been described in the solid state.^[5,6] Recent studies by some of us have demonstrated *in solution* a reversible P-C bond cleavage of α -aminophosphine ligands with a secondary amine function (Scheme 1).^[7] It was found, for instance, a K = 50 for R¹ = R² = Ph and that electron-withdrawing substituents R¹ and R² or phosphorus coordination to Cu(I) favor the formation of the P-C bond. This behavior rationalises previously reported unexpected P-C bond cleavage reactions.^[6,8,9] We now report a stereoselective extension of this synthetic method leading to the preparation of chiral α -P,N ligands.

$$R^{1}N=CHR^{2} + Ph_{2}PH$$

 K R^{1} N PPh_{2}
 H 1

Scheme 1

Results and Discussion

The synthetic strategy consists in using chiral ortho-substituted benzaldimine $Cr(CO)_3$ complexes (Scheme 2). As it is well known, in these complexes the coordination of the aromatic

ring to the bulky Cr(CO)₃ fragment makes one imine diastereoface inaccessible to the phosphine attack. In addition the presence of the ortho-substituent favours the conformation in which the ortho-group is anti with respect to the imino moiety. These stereochemical features of planar-chiral chromium tricarbonyl complexes^[10,11] and of Cr(CO)₃ complexed imines^[12-15] in particular, have been previously exploited in stereoselective synthesis.



Scheme 2

The reaction between racemate complexes (CO)₃Cr[η^6 -o-C₆H₄(Y)(CH=NR)] (with Y, R = CH₃, CH₃ or CH₂COOCH₃; CH₃O, CH₃ or *p*-CH₃OC₆H₄; Cl, C₆H₅) and Ph₂PH in CDCl₃ leads to the formation of equilibrium quantities of the desired aminophosphine ligand (**2-6**) as a single diastereoisomer, within the detection limits of ³¹P NMR spectroscopy (Table 1). For the sake of semplicity, Scheme 2 shows this transformation for only one of the two enantiomers. The relative concentrations at equilibrium are determined by integration of the ¹H NMR resonances of the imine and product methyne protons and/or the Ph₂PH and product ³¹P NMR resonances. With the exception of complex **6**, these constants are smaller relative to that previously reported for the formation of **1** (R¹ = R² = Ph, Scheme 1).^[7] Given the previously established electronic control

on the equilibrium of Scheme 1, the presence of the Cr(CO)₃ moiety would be expected to enhance the formation of the P-C bond, while the presence of the Y substituent would provide an effect which depends on the relative σ and π donor/acceptor properties. It can therefore be concluded that, when R = Ph, the combination of the arene-coordinated Cr(CO)₃ group and the Cl substituent is sufficient for a quantitative P-C bond formation. For compound **5**, the electron withdrawing effect of the Cr(CO)₃ moiety is not sufficient to compensate the overall donor properties of the two methoxy substituents. The individual effect of the Cr(CO)₃ moiety has been evaluated by comparing the formation of **6** with corresponding reaction of the Cr(CO)₃-free imine, forming product **7**. It can be observed that the constant K increases by at least a factor of 3 upon Cr(CO)₃ coordination.

	Y	R	d.e. (%)	% P-C ^b	K	δp (ppm)
2	CH3	CH3	> 98	44	3.1	10.4
3	CH ₃ O	CH3	> 98	54	5.8	10.9
4	CH3	CH ₂ COOCH ₃	> 98	62	10.7	11.5
5	CH ₃ O	p-CH ₃ OC ₆ H ₄	> 98	73	17	12.4
6	Cl	C ₆ H ₅	>98	>99	>1000	13.7
7	Cl	C ₆ H ₅ ^c	-	92	330	4.7

Table 1. Results of the reaction between $(CO)_3Cr[\eta^6-o-C_6H_4(Y)(CH=NR)]$ and Ph₂PH.^a

^aSolvent = CDCl₃; [imine]₀ = [Ph₂PH]₀ = 0.57 M. ^bCalculated by integration of the ¹H and ³¹P resonances. ^cWithout the Cr(CO)₃ fragment.

The comparison between compounds **3** and **5** on one side and compounds **2** and **4** on the other side shows that K increases by changing R from CH₃ to *p*-CH₃OC₆H₄ and CH₂COOCH₃,

respectively. These variations are consistent with the previously established electronic control on the stability of the P-C bond.^[7] The comparison between compounds **2** and **3**, on the other hand, shows that K increases by changing Y from CH₃ to CH₃O, indicating that the methyl group is an even stronger donor than the methoxy group. While the nature of R and Y has an important effect on the equilibrium, the rate at which the equilibrium is achieved is not significantly changed (for instance, $t_{1/2} = 12$ min for the formation of **6**, close to that observed for the formation of **1**).^[7]

It is interesting to remark that the ³¹P NMR chemical shifts of the aminophosphine products **2-6** qualitatively correlate with their stability. The equilibrium constant increase as the ³¹P NMR resonance of the product shifts downfield. Both changes are related to the electronic properties of the substituents R and Y, while steric differences may be considered negligible. The strong variation of ³¹P NMR chemical shift between compounds **6** and **7**, on the other hand, may be attributed to the combination of a weak electronic effect (K changes only by a factor of ca. 3) and a larger steric effect.

The aminophosphine **6** was isolated by cristallization from CHCl₃ in 70% yield as yellow crystals and its absolute configuration has been confirmed by X-ray crystallography. The asymmetric unit contains both enantiomers and one CHCl₃ solvent molecule. It is interesting to note a dimeric structure (see Figure 1), the two monomer units being held together by two rare intermolecular P^{...}H-N bridges. The P^{...}N* and P*^{...}N separations are 3.638 and 3.702 Å, respectively, which are similar to those found for compound Ph₂P-C(S)-NHMe (3.607 Å).^[16] It is to be noted that an *R* configuration for the (arene)tricarbonylchromium(0) unit induces an *R*

configuration for the new stereocenter in the product (and vice-versa), as predicted on the basis of the stereochemical considerations presented above.



Figure 1. ORTEP view of compound **6** with ellipsoids shown at the 30% probability level. All hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity, except those on the N, N*, C(7) and C(7)*, highlighting the hydrogen-bonding interactions and the absolute configuration at C(7) and C(7)*.

In conclusion, we have described the use of an arene-coordinated tricarbonylchromium template for the diastereoselective addition of Ph₂PH to an imine, leading to chiral α -P-C-N ligands. Further information on the electronic control of the reversible P-C bond formation havs been obtained by the use of various Cr(CO)₃-complexes aromatic imine substrates. In addition to promoting the asymmetric induction, the Cr(CO)₃ moiety exerts an electronic contribution favouring the formation of the P-C bond. The coordination chemistry of the α -aminophosphine ligands obtained is currently under investigation in order to evaluate their potential in catalytic asymmetric reactions.

General Remarks: All manipulations were carried out under an atmosphere of purified argon and in the dark using standard Schlenk techniques. All solvents were dried and deoxygenated prior to use. ¹H and ³¹P{¹H}-NMR measurements were carried out on a Bruker AC200 spectrometer. The peak positions are reported with positive shifts in ppm downfield of TMS as calculated from the residual solvent peaks (¹H) or downfield of external 85% H₃PO₄ (³¹P). The IR spectra were reconderd on a Bruker IFS 66V spectrophotometer with KBr optics. The elemental analysis was carried out by the analytical service of the Laboratoire de Synthèse et d'Electrosynthèse Organométalliques with a Fisons Instruments EA1108 analyzer. The starting complexes (CO)₃Cr[η^6 -o-C₆H₄(Y)(CH=NR)] used in this study were obtained as previously described in the literature.^[12-14,17]

Aminophosphines 2-5: All experiments were conducted with identical operating procedures and concentrations. The equilibrium formation of product **5** is described in detail. Ph₂PH (50 µl, 0.287 mmol) was added to a solution of the benzaldimine chromium tricarbonyl complex (CO)₃Cr[η^6 -*o*-C₆H₄(OCH₃)(CH=N-*p*-C₆H₄OCH₃)] (0.108 g, 0.287 mmol) in CDCl₃ (0.5 ml). The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 3 hrs. ³¹P NMR (81.03 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 12.5$ (s) and -36.6 (s) ppm respectively for **5** and the free Ph₂PH. IR (v_{CO}, CHCl₃): 1970 (b), 1904 (vb) cm⁻¹. The equilibrium constant was determined by integration of the H¹ NMR signals, whose intensity did not change over the subsequent 48 hours.

Aminophosphine 6: Ph₂PH (50 µl, 0.287 mmol) was added to a solution of the complex (CO)₃Cr[η^6 -*o*-C₆H₄(Cl)(CH=NPh)] (0.181 g, 0.474 mmol) in CHCl₃ (10 ml). The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 3 hrs, filtered and concentrated to half volume. Addition of pentane afforded the complex **6** as yellow crystals (0,188 g, 70%). ¹H NMR (δ , 200 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.41-4.53 (m, 20H, aromatics + NH), 4.12 (dd, 1H, PCH, ²*J*_{PH} = 3.4 Hz, ³*J*_{HH} = 7.3 Hz). ³¹P NMR (δ , 81.03 MHz, CDCl₃): 13.7 ppm (s). ¹³C NMR (δ , 50.32 MHz, CDCl₃): 231.61 (s, CO), 145.37-84.68 (m, aromatics), 51.39 (d, PCH, ¹*J*_{PC} = 18.5 Hz). IR (v_{CO}, CHCl₃): 1980 (b), 1917 (vb) cm⁻¹. Elemental analysis: Calcd for C₅₆H₄₂Cl₂Cr₂N₂O₆P₂•1/2CHCl₃: C 59.75, H 3.75, N 2.48; Found: C 59.90, H 3.75, N 2.59.

Crystal Structure Analysis of 6: $(C_{28}H_{21}CINPO_3Cr)_2 \cdot CHCl_3$, Mw = 1195.12. Enraf-Nonius CADA diffractometer, Mo-K α radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å), T = 293 K ; monoclinic, P21/c, a = 11.267(2), b = 28.202(4), c = 18.014 (3) Å, $\beta = 104.808(14)^\circ$, V = 5533.9(16) Å³, Z = 4, D_x = 1.434 g cm⁻³, $\mu = 0.744$ mm⁻¹. The structure was solved by Patterson methods and subsequent difference Fourier analysis.^[18] Due to the weak diffracting power of the crystal, the refinement was performed on the 2338 observed reflections (I > 2 σ (I)) among the 5365 unique reflections collected. The model was refined isotropically except for the Cr, Cl and P atoms. Except one hydrogen atom bonded to a nitrogen atom located in the final Fourier difference map, hydrogen atoms were

included in their calculated positions and refined with a riding model. A final refinement on F^2 with 2338 intensities > $2\sigma(I)$ and 292 parameters converged at wR(F^2) = 0.208 and R(F) = 0.081. Crystallographic data (excluding structure factors) for the structure reported in this paper have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre as supplementary publication no. CCDC-127927. Copies of the data can be obtained free of charge on application to CCDC. 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK [Fax : int. code + 44(1223)336-033; E-mail : deposit@ccdc.cam.at.uk].

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