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## Chiral $\alpha-\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{N}$ ligands from a diastereoselective $\mathbf{P h}_{2} \mathbf{P H}$ addition to ( $\eta^{6}$ benzaldimine)tricarbonylchromium complexes

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aminophosphine / chirality / chromium complexes/ diastereoselective reactions / P-ligands
Chiral $\alpha$-aminophosphine ( $\alpha$-P-C-N) ligands have been prepared by reversible addition of $\mathrm{Ph}_{2} \mathrm{PH}$ to tricarbonylchromium benzaldimine complexes $(\mathrm{CO})_{3} \mathrm{Cr}\left[\eta^{6}-o-\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}(\mathrm{Y})(\mathrm{CH}=\mathrm{NR})\right]$ (with $\mathrm{Y}, \mathrm{R}=$ $\mathrm{CH}_{3}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}$ or $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{COOCH}_{3} ; \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{O}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}$ or $p-\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{OC}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4} ; \mathrm{Cl}^{2} \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{5}$ ), with complete diastereoselectivity. These complexes are stabilized in solution by electron-withdrawing group(s) on the imine.

[^0]
## 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$\mathrm{PyPPh}_{2}$ ) crucially controls the activity and selectivity of alkyne methoxycarbonylation catalysts. ${ }^{[1]}$ Other $\alpha$-aminophosphine ligands are rare: compound $\mathrm{Ph}_{2} \mathrm{PCH}_{2} \mathrm{~N}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{2}$, having a tertiary amine function, is stable in the solid state and in solution, ${ }^{[5]}$ while $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{PCH}_{2} \mathrm{NH}^{\mathrm{t}} \mathrm{Bu}$ and $\mathrm{Ph}_{2} \mathrm{PCH}(\mathrm{Ph}) \mathrm{NHPh}$ 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 $\alpha$-aminophosphine ligands with a secondary amine function (Scheme 1). ${ }^{[7]}$ It was found, for instance, a $\mathrm{K}=50$ for $\mathrm{R}^{1}=\mathrm{R}^{2}=\mathrm{Ph}$ and that electronwithdrawing substituents $R^{1}$ and $R^{2}$ or phosphorus coordination to $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{I})$ 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 $\alpha-P, N$ ligands.


## Scheme 1

## Results and Discussion

The synthetic strategy consists in using chiral ortho-substituted benzaldimine $\mathrm{Cr}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}$ complexes (Scheme 2). As it is well known, in these complexes the coordination of the aromatic
ring to the bulky $\mathrm{Cr}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}$ 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 planarchiral chromium tricarbonyl complexes ${ }^{[10,11]}$ and of $\mathrm{Cr}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}$ complexed imines ${ }^{[12-15]}$ in particular, have been previously exploited in stereoselective synthesis.


## Scheme 2

The reaction between racemate complexes $(\mathrm{CO})_{3} \mathrm{Cr}\left[\eta^{6}-o-\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}(\mathrm{Y})(\mathrm{CH}=\mathrm{NR})\right]$ (with $\mathrm{Y}, \mathrm{R}=$ $\mathrm{CH}_{3}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}$ or $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{COOCH}_{3} ; \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{O}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}$ or $p-\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{OC}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4} ; \mathrm{Cl}, \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{5}$ ) and $\mathrm{Ph}_{2} \mathrm{PH}$ in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ leads to the formation of equilibrium quantities of the desired aminophosphine ligand (2-6) as a single diastereoisomer, within the detection limits of ${ }^{31} \mathrm{P}$ 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 ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR resonances of the imine and product methyne protons and/or the $\mathrm{Ph}_{2} \mathrm{PH}$ and product ${ }^{31} \mathrm{P}$ NMR resonances. With the exception of complex 6, these constants are smaller relative to that previously reported for the formation of $1\left(R^{1}=R^{2}=\mathrm{Ph}\right.$, Scheme 1$) .{ }^{[7]}$ Given the previously established electronic control
on the equilibrium of Scheme 1, the presence of the $\mathrm{Cr}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}$ 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 $\sigma$ and $\pi$ donor/acceptor properties. It can therefore be concluded that, when $\mathrm{R}=\mathrm{Ph}$, the combination of the arene-coordinated $\mathrm{Cr}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}$ group and the Cl substituent is sufficient for a quantitative P-C bond formation. For compound 5, the electron withdrawing effect of the $\mathrm{Cr}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}$ moiety is not sufficient to compensate the overall donor properties of the two methoxy substituents. The individual effect of the $\mathrm{Cr}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}$ moiety has been evaluated by comparing the formation of $\mathbf{6}$ with corresponding reaction of the $\mathrm{Cr}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}$-free imine, forming product 7. It can be observed that the constant K increases by at least a factor of 3 upon $\mathrm{Cr}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}$ coordination.

Table 1. Results of the reaction between $(\mathrm{CO})_{3} \mathrm{Cr}\left[\eta^{6}-o-\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}(\mathrm{Y})(\mathrm{CH}=\mathrm{NR})\right]$ and $\mathrm{Ph}_{2} \mathrm{PH} .{ }^{\text {a }}$

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

${ }^{\mathrm{a}}$ Solvent $=\mathrm{CDCl}_{3} ;[\text { imine }]_{0}=[\mathrm{Ph} 2 \mathrm{PH}]_{0}=0.57 \mathrm{M} .{ }^{\mathrm{b}}$ Calculated by integration of the ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ and ${ }^{31} \mathrm{P}$ resonances. ${ }^{\mathrm{c}}$ Without the $\mathrm{Cr}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}$ fragment.

The comparison between compounds $\mathbf{3}$ and 5 on one side and compounds 2 and $\mathbf{4}$ on the other side shows that K increases by changing R from $\mathrm{CH}_{3}$ to $p-\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{OC}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}$ and $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{COOCH}_{3}$,
respectively. These variations are consistent with the previously established electronic control on the stability of the P-C bond. ${ }^{[7]}$ The comparison between compounds $\mathbf{2}$ and $\mathbf{3}$, on the other hand, shows that K increases by changing Y from $\mathrm{CH}_{3}$ to $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{O}$, 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, $\mathrm{t}_{1 / 2}=12 \mathrm{~min}$ for the formation of $\mathbf{6}$, close to that observed for the formation of $\mathbf{1}$ ). ${ }^{[7]}$

It is interesting to remark that the ${ }^{31} \mathrm{P}$ NMR chemical shifts of the aminophosphine products 2-6 qualitatively correlate with their stability. The equilibrium constant increase as the ${ }^{31} \mathrm{P}$ 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 ${ }^{31} \mathrm{P}$ 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 $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ 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 $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ solvent molecule. It is interesting to note a dimeric structure (see Figure 1), the two monomer units being held together by two rare intermolecular $\mathrm{P}^{\cdots} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{N}$ bridges. The $\mathrm{P}^{\cdots} \mathrm{N}^{*}$ and $\mathrm{P}^{* \cdots} \mathrm{~N}$ separations are 3.638 and $3.702 \AA$, respectively, which are similar to those found for compound $\mathrm{Ph}_{2} \mathrm{P}-\mathrm{C}(\mathrm{S})-\mathrm{NHMe}(3.607 \AA) .{ }^{[16]}$ 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 $\mathrm{N}, \mathrm{N}^{*}, \mathrm{C}(7)$ and $\mathrm{C}(7)^{*}$, highlighting the hydrogen-bonding interactions and the absolute configuration at $\mathrm{C}(7)$ and $\mathrm{C}(7)^{*}$.

In conclusion, we have described the use of an arene-coordinated tricarbonylchromium template for the diastereoselective addition of $\mathrm{Ph}_{2} \mathrm{PH}$ to an imine, leading to chiral $\alpha-\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{N}$ ligands. Further information on the electronic control of the reversible P-C bond formation havs been obtained by the use of various $\mathrm{Cr}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}$-complexes aromatic imine substrates. In addition to promoting the asymmetric induction, the $\mathrm{Cr}(\mathrm{CO})_{3}$ moiety exerts an electronic contribution favouring the formation of the P-C bond. The coordination chemistry of the $\alpha$-aminophosphine ligands obtained is currently under investigation in order to evaluate their potential in catalytic asymmetric reactions.

## Experimental Section

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. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ and ${ }^{31} \mathrm{P}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$-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 ( ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ ) or downfield of external $85 \% \quad \mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{PO}_{4}\left({ }^{31} \mathrm{P}\right)$. The IR spectra were reconderd on a Bruker IFS 66 V 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 $(\mathrm{CO})_{3} \mathrm{Cr}\left[\eta^{6}-o-\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}(\mathrm{Y})(\mathrm{CH}=\mathrm{NR})\right]$ 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. $\mathrm{Ph}{ }_{2} \mathrm{PH}(50 \mu \mathrm{l}, 0.287$ mmol ) was added to a solution of the benzaldimine chromium tricarbonyl complex $(\mathrm{CO})_{3} \mathrm{Cr}\left[\eta^{6}-o-\right.$ $\left.\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}\left(\mathrm{OCH}_{3}\right)\left(\mathrm{CH}=\mathrm{N}-p-\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{OCH}_{3}\right)\right](0.108 \mathrm{~g}, 0.287 \mathrm{mmol})$ in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}(0.5 \mathrm{ml})$. The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for $3 \mathrm{hrs} .{ }^{31} \mathrm{P}$ NMR $\left(81.03 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$ : $\delta=12.5$ (s) and -36.6 (s) ppm respectively for 5 and the free $\mathrm{Ph}_{2} \mathrm{PH}$. IR ( $v_{\mathrm{CO}}, \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ ): $1970(\mathrm{~b}), 1904(\mathrm{vb}) \mathrm{cm}^{-1}$. The equilibrium constant was determined by integration of the $\mathrm{H}^{1}$ NMR signals, whose intensity did not change over the subsequent 48 hours.

Ammophosphine 6: $\mathrm{Ph}_{2} \mathrm{PH}(50 \mu \mathrm{l}, 0.287 \mathrm{mmol})$ was added to a solution of the complex $(\mathrm{CO})_{3} \mathrm{Cr}\left[\eta^{6}-o-\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}(\mathrm{Cl})(\mathrm{CH}=\mathrm{NPh})\right](0.181 \mathrm{~g}, 0.474 \mathrm{mmol})$ in $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}(10 \mathrm{ml})$. 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 $(0,188 \mathrm{~g}, 70 \%) .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $(\delta, 200$ $\left.\mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): 7.41-4.53(\mathrm{~m}, 20 \mathrm{H}$, aromatics +NH$), 4.12\left(\mathrm{dd}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{PCH},{ }^{2} J_{\mathrm{PH}}=3.4 \mathrm{~Hz},{ }^{3} J_{\mathrm{HH}}=7.3\right.$ $\mathrm{Hz}) .{ }^{31} \mathrm{P} \operatorname{NMR}\left(\delta, 81.03 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): 13.7 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{s}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $\delta, 50.32 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $231.61(\mathrm{~s}$, CO), 145.37-84.68 (m, aromatics), 51.39 (d, PCH, ${ }^{1} J_{\mathrm{PC}}=18.5 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ). IR ( $\mathrm{v}_{\mathrm{CO}}, \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ ): 1980 (b), 1917 (vb) cm ${ }^{-1}$. Elemental analysis: Calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{56} \mathrm{H}_{42} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} \mathrm{Cr}_{2} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{6} \mathrm{P}_{2} \cdot 1 / 2 \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ : C 59.75, H 3.75, N 2.48; Found: C 59.90, H 3.75, N 2.59.

Crystal Structure Analysis of 6: $\left(\mathrm{C}_{28} \mathrm{H}_{21} \mathrm{ClNPO}_{3} \mathrm{Cr}_{2}\right)_{2} \cdot \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}, \mathrm{Mw}=1195.12$. Enraf-Nonius CADA diffractometer, Mo-K $\alpha$ radiation $(\lambda=0.71073 \AA)$, $\mathrm{T}=293 \mathrm{~K}$; monoclinic, $\mathrm{P} 21 / \mathrm{c}, a=$ 11.267(2), $b=28.202(4), c=18.014$ (3) $\AA, \beta=104.808(14)^{\circ}, \mathrm{V}=5533.9(16) \AA^{3}, \mathrm{Z}=4, \mathrm{D}_{\mathrm{x}}=1.434$ $\mathrm{g} \mathrm{cm}^{-3}, \mu=0.744 \mathrm{~mm}^{-1}$. 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 ( $\mathrm{I}>2 \sigma(\mathrm{I})$ ) among the 5365 unique reflections collected. The model was refined isotropically except for the $\mathrm{Cr}, \mathrm{Cl}$ 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 $\mathrm{F}^{2}$ with 2338 intensities $>2 \sigma(\mathrm{I})$ and 292 parameters converged at $\mathrm{wR}\left(\mathrm{F}^{2}\right)=0.208$ and $\mathrm{R}(\mathrm{F})=0.081$. 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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