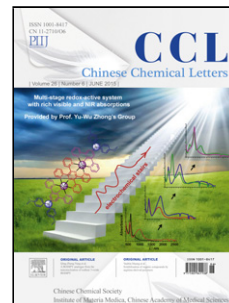


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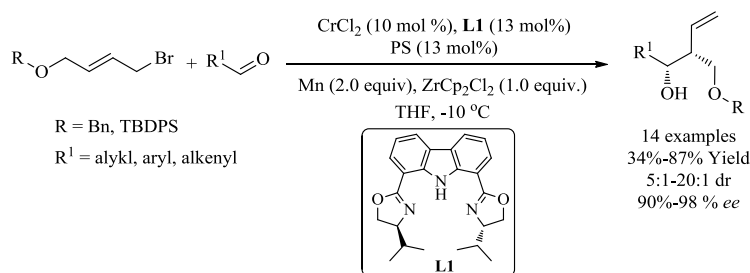
Chromium-catalyzed asymmetric synthesis of 1, 3-diols

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Graphical abstract



An efficient, chromium-catalyzed highly enantioselective preparation of protected 1, 3-diols has been achieved. In the presence of a chiral chromium catalyst using the carbazole-based bisoxazoline as the chiral ligand, a variety of optically pure 1,3-diols were synthesized in 34%-87% yields with up to 98% *ee*. The benzyl as well as silyl ethers were suitable substitutions for the hydroxyl group. Meanwhile, aromatic, aliphatic and α , β -unsaturated aldehydes are well tolerated under the mild reaction conditions.

ABSTRACT

An efficient, chromium-catalyzed highly enantioselective preparation of protected 1, 3-diols has been achieved. In the presence of a chiral chromium catalyst using the carbazole-based bisoxazoline as the chiral ligand, a variety of optically pure 1,3-diols were synthesized in 34%-87% yields with up to 98% *ee*. The benzyl as well as silyl ethers were suitable substitutions for the hydroxyl group. Meanwhile, aromatic, aliphatic and α , β -unsaturated aldehydes are well tolerated under the mild reaction conditions.

Keywords:

1,3-Diol
 Asymmetric
 Chromium-catalyzed
 Allylation
 Bisoxazoline

1. Introduction

The 1, 3-diol is a basic framework found in numerous natural products and organic materials (Fig. 1) [1-5]. It is also an important kind of synthetic intermediates that exist in a wide range of organic transformations. Therefore, 1, 3-diol subunits have been employed as the valuable building block for the synthesis of various natural products and biologically active compounds [6-11]. Quite a few synthetic methods have been developed to construct the 1, 3-diol core skeleton [12]. Recently, transition-metal-catalyzed reactions (Pd, In and SnCl₂) were applied to the preparation of 1, 3-diol derivatives from various starting substrates (such as 2-butene-1, 4-diol carboxylates or vinyl epoxides) [12a, 12b, 12c]. Among these transition-metals, the chromium-catalyzed protocols are attractive

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