K. FENG, R. E. QUEVEDO, J. T. KOHRT, M. S. ODERINDE, U. REILLY, M. C. WHITE*
(UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, URBANA, USA)
Late-Stage Oxidative C(sp³)-H Methylation
Nature **2020**, *580*, 621–627.

Manganese-Catalyzed Methylation of C(sp³)-H Bonds α to Heteroatoms

Proposed mechanism:

Selected examples:

Significance: White and co-workers report a chemoselective C(sp³)-H methylation of heterocycles by using a three-step protocol. The method was applied to a broad substrate scope, including drug molecules, peptides, and natural products. The ability to introduce a ‘magic methyl’ group in certain pharmacologically relevant compounds has been shown to significantly improve their bioactivity.

Comment: The authors combined a manganese-catalyzed methylene hydroxylation with subsequent iminium/oxonium formation and methylation to achieve the functionalization of various heterocyclic cores α to the heteroatom. The transformation proceeds at low catalyst loading with remarkable chemoselectivity and moderate to good overall yields.

SYNFACTS Contributors: Mark Lautens, Joachim Loup
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Key words

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