R. JIANG, L. DING, C. ZHANG, S.-L. YOU* (SHANGHAI INSTITUTE OF ORGANIC CHEMISTRY, P. R. OF CHINA)

Iridium-Catalyzed Z-Retentive Asymmetric Allylic Substitution Reactions

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Iridium-Catalyzed Z-Retentive Asymmetric Allylic Substitution Reactions

Significance: The You group reports two unique methods for enantioselective iridium-catalyzed allylic substitution reactions, which are highly selective for the thermodynamically less stable Z-alkene products. Conventionally, metal-catalyzed asymmetric allylic substitution reactions favor the E-isomer of the products.

Comment: The authors rationalized their reaction design by focusing on developing a catalytic system that allowed for a slow isomerization from the initial *anti*- π -allyl complex to the more favored *syn*- π -allyl species. Subsequent capture of the chiral *anti*- π -iridium species by a nucleophile selectively generated the enantioenriched Z-alkene products.

SYNFACTS Contributors: Mark Lautens, Austin D. Marchese
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