L. SONG, L. GONG,* E. MEGGERS* (XIAMEN UNIVERSITY, P. R. OF CHINA AND PHILIPPS-UNIVERSITÄT MARBURG, GERMANY)

Asymmetric Dual Catalysis via Fragmentation of a Single Rhodium Precursor Complex *Chem. Commun.* **2016**, *52*, 7699–7702.

Asymmetric Michael Addition Reaction via Rhodium Catalyst Fragmentation

Significance: Dual catalysis has emerged as a powerful approach for the synthesis of enanticenriched compounds. The use of a single catalyst containing two or more functionalities, or the cooperation of two different catalysts, represents the common approach. The authors present an unusual dual catalytic system based on the disintegration of a single chiral rhodium complex in situ. This process was applied in the asymmetric Michael addition of aldehydes to give α, β -unsaturated 2-acyl imidazoles.

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Comment: Reaction between α, α -disubstituted aldehydes and α, β -unsaturated 2-acyl imidazoles was catalyzed by a single chiral rhodium catalyst. The corresponding products were obtained in excellent yields, moderate diastereo- and excellent enantioselectivities. The authors propose a mechanism in which the rhodium catalyst decomposes into a chiral Lewis acid, which activates the 2-acyl imidazole substrate 1, and L- β -phenylalanine, which activates the aldehyde 2.

Category

Metal-Catalyzed Asymmetric Synthesis and Stereoselective Reactions

Key words

dual catalysis
asymmetric Michael
addition
chiral Lewis acids
rhodium catalysis

