## Copper-Catalyzed Enantioselective Reduction of $\alpha, \beta$-Unsaturated Esters

## Key words

copper catalysis
conjugate reduction
silanes
Selected examples:

$84 \%$ yield, $90 \%$ ee

$89 \%$ yield, $92 \%$ ee

$98 \%$ yield, $91 \%$ ee

$95 \%$ yield, $84 \%$ ee


93\% yield, 80\% ee from $Z$ alkene


90\% yield, 95\% ee from $E$ alkene
Proposed mechanism:


Significance: Buchwald and co-workers reported the use of copper and chiral bisphosphine ligands for the enantioselective 1,4 -reduction of $\alpha, \beta$-unsaturated esters. Polymethylhydroxiloxane (PMHS) was employed as a stoichiometric hydride source.

Comment: Novel methodologies have been developed since this seminal report on the enantioselective hydrofunctionalization of alkenes. Use of DTBM-SEGPHOS as the ligand and other hydride sources are now available for the asymmetric reduction of less activated alkenes.

