Organcatalytic Transamination for the Synthesis of α-Amino Acids

**Significance:** Asymmetric metal-free transformation is one of the most useful and environmentally friendly techniques for the synthesis of chiral organic compounds. The authors describe a powerful method for the synthesis of α-amino acid derivatives catalyzed by novel chiral phase-transfer catalysts.

**Comment:** This organocatalytic enantioselective transformation of α-keto esters with benzyl amines smoothly provides the corresponding α-amino acid derivatives in moderate yields with good enantioselectivities.