Significance: \(\alpha\)-Amino acids are widely used in organic chemistry. However, the low solubility of free amino acids causes some problems in organic synthesis. In 2002, a method to enhance the solubility of amino acids in organic media by using phosphazene bases was reported.

Comment: Some dipeptides can be synthesized from free amino acids in acetonitrile when phosphazene bases are used to increase solubility. The yields of the target peptides are excellent. This strategy might be useful in other reactions involving \(\alpha\)-amino acids.