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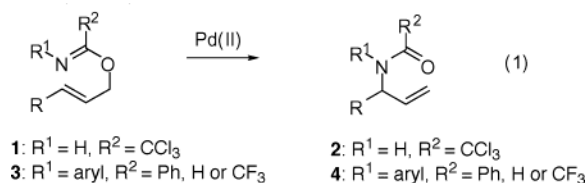
Catalytic Asymmetric Rearrangement of Allylic Trichloroacetimidates. A Practical Method for Preparing Allylic Amines and Congeners of High Enantiomeric Purity

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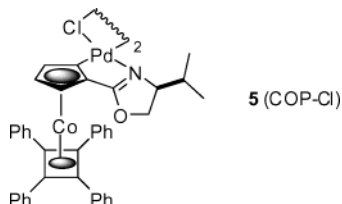
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The rearrangement of allylic trichloroacetimidates to allylic trichloroacetamides (**1** → **2**), first reported in 1974,¹ is the preferred method for converting allylic alcohols to transposed allylic amines and their derivatives.² This transformation can be accomplished at elevated temperatures or at room temperature in the presence of catalysts such as Hg(OCOCF₃)₂¹ or PdCl₂ complexes.³ Attempts to date to develop asymmetric Pd(II) catalysts for the rearrangement of prochiral allylic trichloroacetimidates have been unsuccessful, being plagued by competing elimination reactions, slow reaction rates, and low enantioselectivities.⁴ The first two of these difficulties likely arise from competitive complexation of the small, basic trichloroacetimidate nitrogen to palladium.⁵ Consequently, success in developing asymmetric Pd(II) catalysts for allylic imidate rearrangements has been realized only with *N*-arylimidates (**3** → **4**).^{4,6} As coordination of an imidate nitrogen to a neutral palladium



center should be less favorable than to a cationic Pd(II) complex, typically employed in asymmetric allylic imidate rearrangements,^{4,6} the recent discovery that chloride-bridged dimer **5**⁷ is an excellent catalyst for asymmetric rearrangement of *N*-(*p*-methoxyphenyl)-trichloroacetimidates^{6f} suggested that COP-Cl (**5**) might also catalyze allylic rearrangement of synthetically more important allylic trichloroacetimidates. In this Communication, we report that **5** is indeed an outstanding catalyst for transforming prochiral (*E*)-allylic trichloroacetimidates into allylic trichloroacetamides of high enantiopurity.



The trichloroacetimidates employed in this study were prepared in 68–99% yield by DBU-catalyzed addition of allylic alcohols to trichloroacetone.⁸ Table 1 summarizes results obtained from catalytic rearrangements of nine representative primary allylic trichloroacetimidates with 5 mol % COP-Cl (**5**) in CH₂Cl₂ (0.6 M) for 18 h. (*E*)-Allylic trichloroacetimidates containing unbranched R substituents at C3 rearranged within 18 h at room temperature to provide the corresponding (*S*)-allylic trichloroacetamides **2** in

Table 1. Enantioselective Formation of Allylic Trichloroacetamides **2** from (*E*)- and (*Z*)-Allylic Trichloroacetimidates **1**^a

entry	cpds	imidate		temp (°C)	amide	
		R	<i>E/Z</i>		yield (%) ^b	% ee/conf
1	a	<i>n</i> -Pr	<i>E</i>	rt	80	94/ <i>S</i>
2	a	<i>n</i> -Pr	<i>E</i>	38 °C	99	95/ <i>S</i>
3	b	<i>n</i> -Pr	<i>Z</i>	38 °C	17	71/ <i>R</i>
4	c	<i>i</i> -Bu	<i>E</i>	38 °C	95	96/ <i>S</i>
5	c	<i>i</i> -Bu	<i>E</i>	38 °C ^d	92	98/ <i>S</i>
6	d	<i>i</i> -Bu	<i>Z</i>	38 °C	8	73/ <i>R</i>
7	e	Me	<i>E</i>	rt	85	92/ <i>S</i>
8	f	Cy	<i>E</i>	38 °C ^e	82	96/ <i>S</i>
9	g	CH ₂ CH ₂ Ph	<i>E</i>	rt	83	96/ <i>S</i>
10	g	CH ₂ CH ₂ Ph	<i>E</i>	38 °C	93	93/ <i>S</i>
11	h	Ph	<i>E</i>	rt	13	nd ^f
12	i	<i>t</i> -Bu	<i>E</i>	38 °C	7	nd ^f

^a Conditions: 5 mol % catalyst **5**, CH₂Cl₂ (0.6 M), 18 h. ^b Duplicate experiments (±3%). ^c Determined by HPLC analysis of duplicate experiments (±2%). ^d 1 mol % **5**, CH₂Cl₂ (1.2 M). ^e CH₂Cl₂ (1.0 M). ^f nd = not determined.

92–96% ee and 80–85% yield (entries 1, 7, and 9); at 38 °C, yields of these rearrangements were improved (93–99%) with little or no erosion of enantioselection (entries 2 and 10). (*E*)-Allylic trichloroacetimidates containing *i*-Bu or cyclohexyl C3 substituents (**1c** and **1f**) rearranged slowly at room temperature; however, at 38 °C these precursors provided the corresponding (*S*)-allylic trichloroacetamides **2c** and **2f** in 96% ee and high yield (entries 4 and 8). When the substrate concentration was increased to 1.2 M, a catalyst loading of only 1 mol % could be employed, as demonstrated by the formation of **2c** in 92% yield and 98% ee (entry 5). The rearrangement was slowed drastically when R was *t*-Bu (entry 12). Also unreactive were (*Z*)-allylic trichloroacetimidates which gave the corresponding (*R*)-allylic trichloroacetamides **2** in poor yield and moderate enantioselectivity (entries 3 and 6). One additional limitation was identified: (*E*)-cinnamyl trichloroacetimidate **1h** provided amide **2h** in low yield with the major product resulting from formal [1,3]-rearrangement (entry 11).⁹

The rearrangement of a series of (*E*)-allylic trichloroacetimidates containing various Lewis basic substituents was examined to explore the functional group compatibility of the COP-Cl-catalyzed reaction (Table 2). Oxygen functionality (including ester, acetal, ketone, and silyl ether) was well tolerated, with allylic trichloroacetamide products being formed in 92–96% ee and excellent yield (entries 1–7). Trichloroacetimidate **1o** containing a free hydroxyl group rearranged in high yield in the presence of COP-Cl (entry 8); however, enantioselection in this case was lower (80% ee). Nitrogen functionality proved more problematic. Substrate **1p** containing carbamate functionality rearranged cleanly to give **2p** in 95% ee (96% yield at 38 °C), as did trichloroacetimidate **1q** containing a distal tertiary amine to provide **2q** in 97% ee (82% yield at 23 °C). However, the allylic rearrangement was prevented,

Table 2. Enantioselective Synthesis of Allylic Trichloroacetamides **2** from (*E*)-Allylic Trichloroacetimidates **1** Containing Lewis Basic Functionality^a

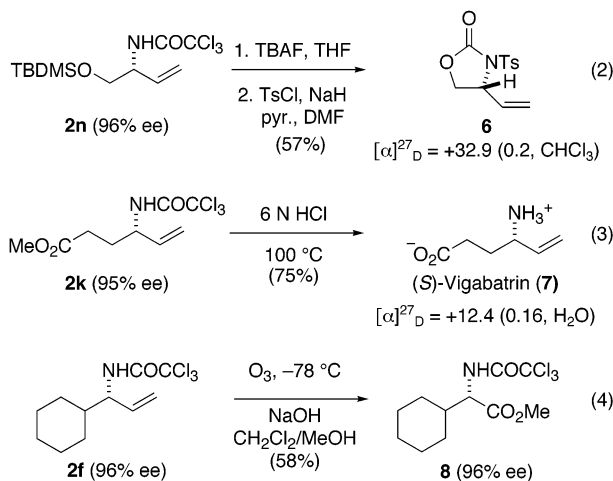
entry	cpds	R	temp (°C)	yield (%) ^b	% ee/conf
1	j	(CH ₂) ₃ OAc	rt	74	92/ <i>S</i>
2	j	(CH ₂) ₃ OAc	38 °C	97	92/ <i>S</i>
3	k	(CH ₂) ₂ CO ₂ Me	rt	73	95/ <i>S</i>
4	l	(CH ₂) ₃ (OCH ₂ CH ₂ O)	rt	85	95/ <i>S</i>
5	m	(CH ₂) ₂ COMe	rt	80	94 ^d / <i>S</i>
6	m	(CH ₂) ₂ COMe	38 °C	98	95 ^d / <i>S</i>
7	n	CH ₂ OTBDMS	38 °C	98	96/ <i>R</i>
8	o	CH ₂ OH	rt	84	80/ <i>R</i>
9	p	(CH ₂) ₃ NBn(Boc)	rt	87	95/ <i>S</i>
10	p	(CH ₂) ₃ NBn(Boc)	38 °C	96	95/ <i>S</i>
11	q	(CH ₂) ₉ NBn ₂	rt	82	97/ <i>S</i>

^a Conditions: 5 mol % **5**, CH₂Cl₂ (0.6 M), 18 h. ^b Duplicate experiments (±3%). ^c Determined by HPLC analysis of duplicate experiments (±2%). ^d Determined by chiral GC analysis of duplicate experiments (±2%).

at least at 38 °C, by tertiary amine functionality at C6, secondary amine functionality at either C6 or C12, or a thioether substituent at C6 of the (*E*)-2-alkenyl trichloroacetimidate starting material.

As only (*E*)-allylic trichloroacetimidates are viable substrates in the COP–Cl-catalyzed allylic rearrangement, *ent*-COP–Cl (*ent*-**5**) was prepared to access the opposite enantiomer of allylic trichloroacetamide products.¹⁰ Thus, rearrangement of crotyl trichloroacetimidate **1e** and 4-(*tert*-butyldimethylsiloxy)-2-butenyl-trichloroacetimidate (**1n**) with *ent*-**5** using conditions reported for these substrates in Tables 1 and 2, respectively, provided (*R*)-**2e** and (*R*)-**2n** in 92% ee (83% yield) and 96% ee (98% yield).

To illustrate the potential utility of enantioenriched allylic trichloroacetamide products, and establish the absolute configurations of **2n** and **2k**, the following transformations were carried out. Cleavage of the silyl protecting group of **2n** followed by tosylation provided (*R*)-*N*-tosyl-4-vinylloxazolidinone **6** of high enantiopurity (eq 2).¹¹ The GABA aminotransaminase inhibitor (*S*)-vigabatrin (**7**)¹² was readily prepared from **2k** by acidic cleavage of the trichloroacetyl and ester groups.¹³ To illustrate the use of allylic trichloroacetamide products for enantioselective synthesis of unnatural α-amino acids, the double bond of **2f** was cleaved with ozone in basic methanol¹⁴ to deliver the differentially protected (*S*)-α-amino ester **8** with no detectable loss of enantiomeric purity.^{15,16}



In conclusion, COP–Cl (**5**) catalyzes the rearrangement of (*E*)-allylic trichloroacetimidates to provide transposed allylic trichloroacetamides in high yield and 92–98% ee, thus providing the first truly practical method for transforming prochiral allylic alcohols to enantioenriched allylic amines and their analogues. As (*E*)-allylic

alcohols are readily available, their trichloroacetimidate derivatives are prepared in high yield from commercially available trichloroacetonitrile, oxidative removal of an *N*-aryl protecting group from the allylic amide product is not required, and the trichloroacetamide group can be easily cleaved or transformed to other functional arrays,¹⁷ this catalytic asymmetric method for preparing chiral allylic amines and congeners should find considerable use in enantioselective synthesis.

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Note Added after ASAP. In the version published on the Web 9/19/2003, the structure for **2n**, **2k**, **2f**, and **8** in eqs 2–4 were incorrect. The version published 9/22/2003 and the print version are correct.

Supporting Information Available: Representative experimental procedures for trichloroacetimidate preparation and catalytic rearrangement, copies of HPLC and GC traces used to determine enantiopurity, and copies of ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra for all new compounds (PDF). This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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