**Synthesis of (S)-Rivastigmine**

**Significance:** Rivastigmine (Exelon®) is an acetylcholinesterase inhibitor that is prescribed for the treatment of mild to moderate dementia in patients with Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease. The key step in the synthesis depicted is a dynamic kinetic resolution of the benzylic secondary alcohol B involving a lipase (Novozyme 435) coupled with a polymer-bound racemization catalyst (C).

**Comment:** The polymer-bound racemization catalyst C was prepared by heating a polymer-bound benzoyl chloride with [Ph₄N][C₅CO]Ru(CO)₃ in toluene for one day. The catalyst can be recycled several times. The enzymatic resolution was performed on a 1 mmol scale. For an alternative chemoenzymatic synthesis of rivastigmine, see: J. Mangas-Sánchez et al. J. Org. Chem. 2009, 74, 5304.

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**Equation:**

1. Et(Me)NOC(O)Cl (2.0 equiv) NaH (2.0 equiv) CH₂Cl₂, r.t., 4 h
2. NaBH₄ (1.0 equiv) MeOH, 0 °C 85%

![Chemical Structure](Image)

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Synfacts 2010, 8, 0853-0853  Published online: 22.07.2010

DOI: 10.1055/s-0030-1257746; Reg-No.: K04210SF