Asymmetric Synthesis of 1,1-Diarylethane Drugs

**Significance:** Syntheses of the sleep-inducing H1-antihistamine K and the tubulin polymerization inhibitor N exemplify a general enantioselective synthesis of 1,1-diarylethanes using the stereospecific nickel-catalyzed cross-coupling reactions of alkyl ethers with methylmagnesium iodide. Further seven examples are reported giving yields of 70–96% and ee values of 85–99%.

**Comment:** The chiral diarylcarbinols (for example, E) were constructed via enantioselective addition of Et2Zn to aryl aldehydes catalyzed by Ti(Oi-Pr)4 and ent-BINOL (A. S. C. Chan and co-workers Tetrahedron: Asymmetry 1997, 8, 585) or by addition of arylzinc reagents catalyzed by ent-(1-methylpyrrolidin-2-yl)diphenylmethanol (A. L. Braga et al. J. Org. Chem. 2008, 73, 2879).

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