Copper-Catalyzed Stereospecific Allylic Alkylation of Ketene Silyl Acetals

Significance: Allylic alkylation of enolates is an important transformation in organic synthesis. The copper-catalyzed method described employs unsymmetrical internal allylic phosphates as electrophiles, which react with excellent γ-regioselectivity and excellent Z-diestereoselectivity.

Comment: The γ-selective allylic alkylation of chiral allylic phosphates proceeds with efficient 1,3-anti α-to-γ chirality transfer. The stereochemical outcome of the product is dependent on the E/Z geometry of the allylic phosphate. The authors propose the reaction pathway shown above, invoking an allyl copper(III) intermediate.

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Synfacts 2011, 7, 0737-0737 Published online: 17.06.2011
DOI: 10.1055/s-0030-1260653; Reg-No.: H06311SF