Helically Chiral 1,1′-Bitriphenylenes

Significance: The unique helical chirality of helicenes makes them attractive candidates for optical and electronic applications. This paper reports the synthesis of [7]helicenes, helically chiral 1,1′-bitriphenylenes, via rhodium-catalyzed double [2+2+2] cycloaddition. The scope of this method was examined by varying the R1 and R2 groups, ranging from electron-deficient to electron-rich groups, to give the corresponding helicenes in good yields (60–73%) and 60–93% ee.

Comment: The authors report a highly enantioselective method of making [7]helicenes containing fluorene, spirofluorene and phosphafluorene. Circularly polarized luminescence properties of these helicenes containing fluorene and spirofluorene are significantly larger than those of known helicene derivatives.

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Synfacts 2012, 8(6), 0612 Published online: 16.05.2012
DOI: 10.1055/s-0031-1291058; Reg-No.: S04212SF