Palladium-Catalyzed Enantioselective Aza-Morita–Baylis–Hillman Reaction

**Significance:** This paper describes the palladium-catalyzed enantioselective aza-Morita–Baylis–Hillman reaction of acrylonitriles with imines. The bulky pincer ligand enabled the synthesis of enantiomerically enriched α-methylene-β-aminonitriles in high yield.

**Comment:** The palladium–pincer complex preferentially activates acrylonitrile, even in the presence of ethyl acrylate. The palladium ketenimide is a key intermediate for the asymmetric induction. The palladium complex may promote other Lewis acid catalyzed reactions.