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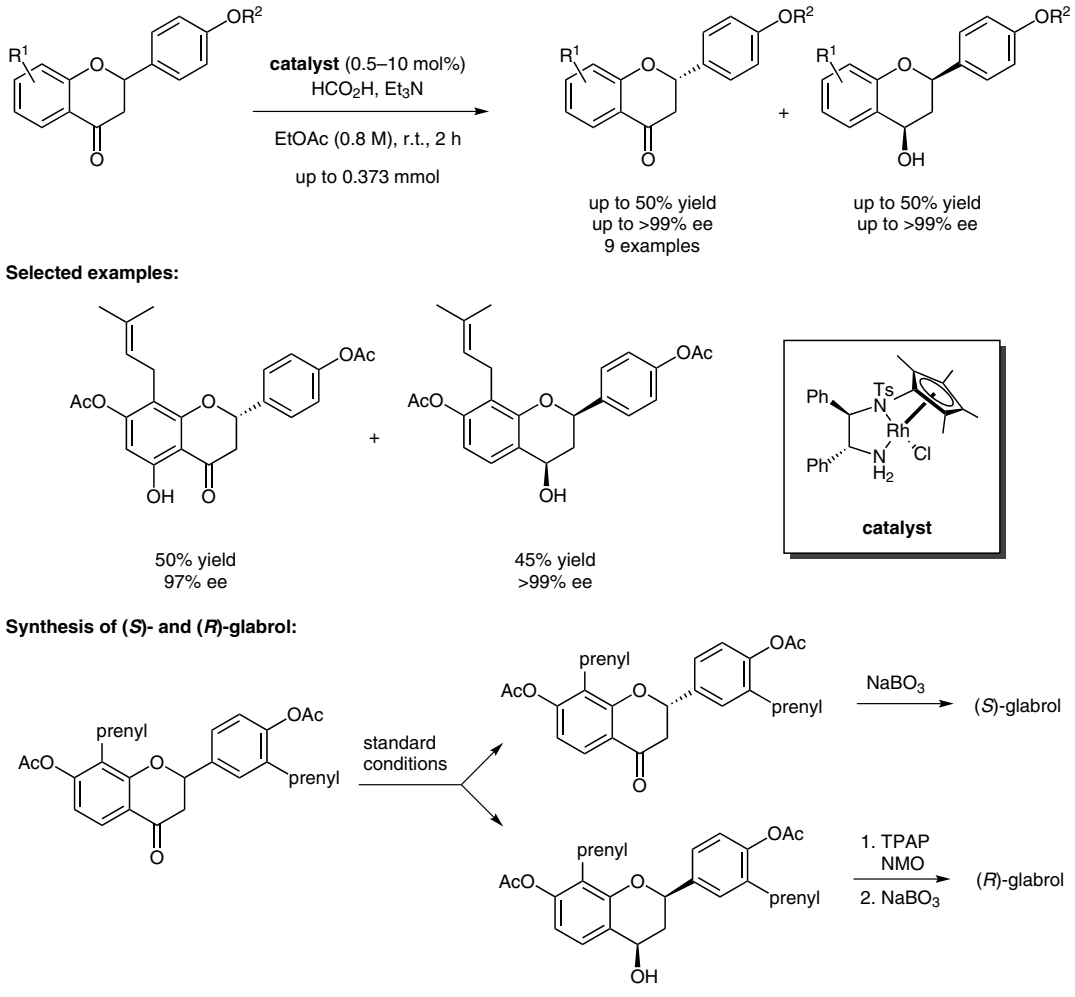
A Practical Access to Highly Enantiomerically Pure Flavanones by Catalytic Asymmetric Transfer Hydrogenation
Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. **2013**, *52*, 11651–11655.

Rhodium-Catalyzed Asymmetric Transfer Hydrogenation



Significance: Chiral flavanone moieties are among the largest secondary metabolites in plants. As such, they have been known for their antifungal, antibacterial, and antiviral effects. The authors present a practical and convenient method for the synthesis of both enantiomers of this class of molecules.

Comment: The catalytically active rhodium hydride species was generated in situ prior to the addition of the substrate. This method allowed the authors to reduce catalyst loading to 0.5 mol% while retaining high enantioselectivities. They were able to synthesize both enantiomers of the natural product glabrol.

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