Fe(III)-Catalyzed Enantioselective Conia-ene Reaction


White and co-workers now report that a single Fe(III)–salen catalyst can efficiently promote the enantioselective Conia-ene reaction with high enantioselectivities.


Selected examples:

**5-membered rings**

- 93% yield 93% ee
- 96% yield 94% ee
- 98% yield 96% ee

**4-, 6-, and 7-membered rings**

- 57% yield 82% ee (80 °C in DCE)
- 89% yield 94% ee
- 69% yield 92% ee

Comment: The method developed by White and co-workers provides access to the desired carbocycles in generally very high yields (>90%) and enantioselectivities (>90%). In addition to the formation of 5-membered rings, larger (6,7) and smaller (4) rings can also be formed – albeit in lower yields and enantioselectivities in the latter case. The authors propose that the Fe(III) catalyst serves to simultaneously activate the alkyne towards nucleophilic attack, as well as form the key metal enolate species.

SYNFACTS Contributors: Mark Lautens, Christine M. Le Synfacts 2014, 10(12), 1273 Published online: 18.11.2014 DOI: 10.1055/s-0034-1379531; Reg-No.: L14214SF