C. MOLINARO,* J. P. SCOTT,* M. SHEVLIN,* C. WISE, A. MÉNARD, A. GIBB, E. M. JUNKER, D. LIEBERMAN (MERCK & CO. INC., RAHWAY, USA AND MERCK SHARP AND DOHME LTD, HODDESDON, UK)

Catalytic, Asymmetric and Stereodivergent Synthesis of Non-Symmetric β,β-Diaryl-α-Amino Acids

Enantioselective and Stereodivergent Synthesis of β,β-Diaryl-α-Amino Acids

Significance: The β,β-diarylalanine core is a synthetically useful motif due to its prevalence in bioactive molecules. Merck process chemists demonstrate the elegant utility of asymmetric Rh-catalyzed hydrogenation to access such challenging structures.

Comment: The authors report a three-step sequence with potential access to all four stereoisomers of the β,β-diarylalanines. A difficult to achieve hydrogenation on a tetrasubstituted olefin was effected using Rh catalysis with a chiral Josiphos ligand.

Selected examples for asymmetric Rh-catalyzed hydrogenation:

Selected examples of stereodivergence:

Hydrolysis of N-Boc amino acid ester:

SYNFACTS Contributors: Mark Lautens, Charles C. J. Loh
Synfacts 2015, 11(4), 0385 Published online: 18.03.2015
DOI: 10.1055/s-0034-1380398; Reg-No.: L02815SF

Category
Metal-Catalyzed Asymmetric Synthesis and Stereoselective Reactions

Key words
palladium rhodium asymmetric hydrogenation