Enantioselective 1,4-Addition of Amides with \(\alpha,\beta\)-Unsaturated Carbonyls

**Significance:** Kobayashi and co-workers present asymmetric direct 1,4-addition reactions of simple amides with \(\alpha,\beta\)-unsaturated carbonyl compounds catalyzed by a combination of a potassium base and a chiral crown ether. A series of 1,5-dicarbonyl compounds were prepared with excellent stereoselectivities (anti/syn > 99:1, up to 98% ee).

**Comment:** A macrocyclic chiral crown ether was found to be effective for the chiral modification of the potassium cation, and the desired reaction proceeded in excellent yields with outstanding diastereo- and enantioselectivities. The products can be converted into useful derivatives, including the formal syntheses of natural products.