Cooperative Catalysis for Asymmetric Decarboxylative Cyanation

Significance: Chiral alkyl nitriles are synthetically valuable compounds in organic synthesis. The authors have developed an asymmetric decarboxylative cyanation of N-hydroxyphthalimide esters by cooperative photoredox and copper catalysis.

Comment: This catalytic decarboxylative cyanation provides enantioenriched alkyl nitriles in good yields with high enantioselectivities. The reaction can be applied in the synthesis of a key intermediate for the chiral antidepressant molecule (R)-phenibut.

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SyNFACTS 2018, 14(02), 0151 Published online: 18.01.2018
DOI: 10.1055/s-0037-1609085; Reg-No.: H17317SF