Copper-Catalyzed Enantioselective Reduction of α,β-Unsaturated Esters

**Significance:** Buchwald and co-workers reported the use of copper and chiral bisphosphine ligands for the enantioselective 1,4-reduction of α,β-unsaturated esters. Polymethylhydroxiloxane (PMHS) was employed as a stoichiometric hydride source.

**Comment:** Novel methodologies have been developed since this seminal report on the enantioselective hydrofunctionalization of alkenes. Use of DTBM-SEGPHOS as the ligand and other hydride sources are now available for the asymmetric reduction of less activated alkenes.

**Proposed mechanism:**

- **Selected examples:**
  - 84% yield, 90% ee
  - 89% yield, 92% ee
  - 98% yield, 91% ee
  - 95% yield, 84% ee
  - 93% yield, 80% ee from Z alkene
  - 90% yield, 95% ee from E alkene
  - 94% yield, 81% ee

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*Synfacts* 2019, 15(04), 0395 Published online: 19.03.2019

DOI: 10.1055/s-0037-1612349; Reg-No.: L01919SF