Enantioselective Synthesis of 4-Silyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolines via Copper(I) Hydride Catalyzed Asymmetric Hydrosilylation of 1,2-Dihydroquinolines

Qing-Feng Xu-Xu
Pusu Yang
Xiao Zhang
Shu-Li You* 0000-0003-4586-8359

State Key Laboratory of Organometallic Chemistry, Center for Excellence in Molecular Synthesis, Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 345 Lingling Lu, Shanghai 200032, P. R. of China
slyou@sioc.ac.cn

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Abstract C–Si bonds were constructed by utilizing copper hydride-catalyzed asymmetric hydrosilylation of 1,2-dihydroquinolines, affording various chiral 4-silyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolines in good yields and enantioselectivity. In addition, the C–Si bonds were transformed into C–O bonds with retention of stereochemistry through the Tamao oxidation, giving a series of useful 4-hydroxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolines. This method with the enantioselective introduction of silyl groups provides an option to adjust bioactive properties of tetrahydroquinolines.

Key words 1,2-dihydroquinoline, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline, copper hydride, asymmetric catalysis, hydrosilylation, dearomatization

Silicon is regarded as a bio-isostere of carbon in clinical studies due to their similarity. In fact, the introduction of silicon-containing groups to known bioactive compounds provides opportunities to alter their properties (Scheme 1). For example, the larger covalent radius of silicon and the longer Si–C covalent bond lengths (compared to C–C bonds) may lead to different conformations of the biomolecules, thus providing beneficial influence on their biological activities. Furthermore, introducing the silyl group to biomolecules may adjust their pharmacokinetic pathway. In this regard, numerous methods were developed for the synthesis of potential bioactive silicon-containing compounds, which could be roughly classified into two types. One is the installation of a silicon-containing moiety on known lead compounds or drugs (e.g., Camptothecin versus Karenitecin) albeit with slightly low efficiency. The second is the introduction of silyl groups or carbon-to-silicon switch on a bioactive skeleton. However, the latter remains unexplored and most of the reported studies are restricted to the modification of amino acids. Despite the considerable progress, incorporation of silicon moieties on diverse bioactive scaffolds is still in great demand.

1,2,3,4-Tetrahydroquinolines (THQs) represent an important bioactive skeleton because of their ubiquitous presence in pharmaceuticals and natural products. Diverse methods have been developed for the synthesis of chiral THQs such as assorted cyclizations (e.g., Povarov reaction, Michael addition, C–H bond functionalization, kinetic resolution and dearomatization. In particular, asymmetric dearomatization of quinolines constitutes a straightforward approach. By utilizing (transfer) hydrogenation or the Reissert type reaction, various enantioenriched THQs were obtained from readily available quinolines. Recently, a step-wise reduction of quinolines and asymmetric catalytic transformation of the generated dihydroquinolines emerged as an attractive method to access chiral THQs with no need for preactivation of quinoline substrates. Thus the combination of this strategy with the introduction of silyl groups would be an appealing approach for the synthesis of silyl substituted THQs. Compared with other methods of forging C(sp3)–Si bonds, transition-metal-catalyzed asymmetric hydrosilylation of unsaturated compounds represents a direct and atom-economic approach. In this regard, we envisioned that copper-catalyzed asymmetric hydrosilylation of 1,2-dihydroquinolines would efficiently introduce a C–Si bond at the 4-position of THQs. Herein, we report the results of this study.

At the outset, N-CO₂Me 1,2-dihydroquinoline (1a) was chosen as the substrate in the hydrosilylation reaction (Table 1). Considering the relatively high reactivity of arylsilanes over alkylsilanes, we chose diphenylsilane for the initial
Compound 1a was treated with 3 equivalents of diphenylsilane in the presence of the catalyst derived from copper(II) acetate and 1L at 40 °C under neat conditions for 36 h. To our delight, the desired product 2a was afforded in 56% yield and 87% ee (entry 1). Notably, the addition of a mono-phosphine as the secondary ligand resulted in an improved yield (entries 2–5; see the Supporting Information for more details), and (p-tolyl)3P gave the optimal results (86% yield and 87% ee; entry 4). Subsequent screening of chiral ligands revealed that 1L is the most effective ligand (entries 6–11).

With the optimal conditions in hand, the substrate scope was then explored (Scheme 2; see also the Supporting Information and Procedure A). The substrates with various N-protecting groups (Ac, CO2Bn, CO2iBu) gave the desired products with good yields and enantioselectivities (2b–d, 74–83% yields, 83–90% ee). A series of substituents at the 6-position of 1,2-dihydroquinolines were explored. A moderate yield and poor enantioselectivity were observed for the bromo-bearing substrate (2e, 50% yield, 46% ee). The substrate with an electron-withdrawing group (CO2Me) worked well, affording the desired THQ in 87% yield and 89% ee (2f). 6-Thienyl-1,2-dihydroquinoline was transformed into its corresponding product 2g in moderate yield with slightly decreased ee value (47% yield, 76% ee). The THQs with electron-donating groups (OMe and SMe) were obtained with good results (2h, 87% yield, 94% ee; 2i, 82% yield, 86% ee). Substituent effects were also investigated for the 7-methyl (2j) and 7-methoxy (2k) substrates, giving 77% yield with 82% ee and 62% yield with 82% ee, respectively. Subsequently, by utilizing phenylsilane as the silyl reagent, the desired 4-silyl THQs were generated and an extra Tamao oxidation was performed in a one-pot fashion, yielding 4-hydroxy THQs (Scheme 3; see also the Supporting Information and Procedure B). The N-CO2Me and N-CO2Bn 1,2-dihydroquinolines were well tolerated, leading to the desired products 3a and 3b in 63% yield with 89% ee and 73% yield with 88% ee, respectively. 1,2-Dihydroquinolines bearing varied substituents (6-OMe, 6-Ph and 7-Me) reacted smoothly with phenylsilane, and moderate yields with good enantioselectivities were obtained (3c–e, 50–68% yields, 85–89% ee). Notably, other silanes such as Et2SiH2 and Et2MeSiH were also tested, but failed to give any desired product.

To demonstrate the practicality of this protocol, we next performed scale-up reactions (Scheme 4). The hydrosilylation of 1a with diphenylsilane at 5 mmol scale under the standard conditions gave an improved yield and slightly decreased enantioselectivity (eq. 1, 1.76 g, 94% yield, 85% ee). The one-pot hydrosilylation/Tamao oxidation reaction occurred smoothly with 2.5 mol% catalyst loading (eq. 2, 168 mg, 81% yield, 89% ee). The 4-silyl THQ product 2a could be oxidized to the desired silanol in 83% yield with 85% ee (Scheme 5). The absolute configuration of 4 was determined to be R by the X-ray crystallographic analysis of its optically pure single crystal and the absolute configurations.
Table 1 Optimization of the Reaction Conditions

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>Secondary ligand</th>
<th>Ligand</th>
<th>Yield (%)</th>
<th>ee (%)</th>
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<td>87</td>
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<td>PPh3</td>
<td>L1</td>
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<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>64</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>(p-tolyl)P</td>
<td>L1</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>PCy3</td>
<td>L1</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>86</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
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<td>L2</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>L3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>(p-tolyl)P</td>
<td>L7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Reaction conditions: Cu(OAc)2 (0.010 mmol), ligand (0.011 mmol), secondary ligand (0.022 mmol), and diphenylsilane (0.6 mmol) were stirred at 40 °C under neat conditions for 36 h.

A deuterium experiment utilizing Ph2SiD2 as the hydride source revealed that hydrogen atoms at both the 3-position and the silyl group were deuterated, which demonstrated the excellent atom-economy of this protocol (Scheme 6). A plausible mechanism was thus proposed as exemplified by the reaction between 1a and diphenylsilane (Scheme 7). Ligated copper hydride (L0CuH) is generated in situ from the copper(II) acetate, the ligand (L0) and diphenylsilane. The activated species then inserts into 1a with formation of intermediate A containing the stereogenic center with a C–Cu bond. Subsequent stereoretentive σ-metathesis between A and another silane molecule results in the desired product 2a and the regeneration of L0CuH.29

Scheme 2 Substrate scope for the asymmetric hydrosilylation. Reagents and conditions: Cu(OAc)2 (0.010 mmol), (R,R)-Ph-BPE (0.011 mmol), (p-tolyl)P (0.022 mmol), 1a (0.2 mmol) and diphenylsilane (0.6 mmol) were stirred at 40 °C under neat condition for 36 h. Isolated yields are reported and the ee value was determined based on HPLC or SFC analysis. *5 equiv of silane were used. **The reaction time was 48 h.

Scheme 3 Substrate scope for the asymmetric hydrosilylation and Tamao oxidation. Reagents and conditions: Cu(OAc)2 (0.010 mmol), (R,R)-Ph-BPE (0.011 mmol), (p-tolyl)P (0.022 mmol), 1 (0.2 mmol) and diphenylsilane (0.6 mmol) were stirred at 40 °C under neat conditions for 36 h. Then KF (0.8 mmol), KHCO3 (0.8 mmol), K2EDTA·(H2O)2 (0.2 mmol), MeOH (1.2 mL) and H2O2 (1.8 mmol) were added and stirred at r.t. in THF (1.2 mL) for 20 h. Isolated yields are given and the ee values were determined based on HPLC or SFC analysis.
In conclusion, a copper(II) acetate/[R,R]-Ph-BPE/[p-tolyl]$_2$P catalyzed asymmetric hydrosilylation of 1,2-dihydroquinolines with hydroxilanes was developed. Various 4-silyl and 4-hydroxy 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolines were obtained with good enantioselectivities. The enantioselective incorporation of a silyl group on the tetrahydroquinoline skeleton might find application in medicinal chemistry.

**Funding Information**

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**Supporting Information**

Supporting information for this article is available online at https://doi.org/10.1055/s-0040-1707134.

**References and Notes**


(25) **Methyl (R)-4-(Diphenylsilyl)-3,4-dihydroquinoline-1(2H)-carboxylate (2a):** Yield: 64.1 mg (86%); colorless oil; 87% ee [Daicel Chiralpak OD-H (0.46 cm × 25 cm), n-hexane/2-propanol = 90/10, v = 0.7 ml·min⁻¹, λ = 230 nm, tₚ (major) = 12.59 min, tₙ (minor) = 10.58 min]; [α]D²⁰ = +18.9 (c = 1.0, CHCl₃). **1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 7.65–7.50 (m, 1 H), 7.50–7.44 (m, 2 H), 7.44–7.35 (m, 4 H), 7.35–7.26 (m, 4 H), 7.12–7.05 (m, 1 H), 6.92–6.85 (m, 2 H), 4.92 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1 H), 3.93 (dt, J = 12.4, 6.4 Hz, 1 H), 3.65 (s, 3 H), 3.31 (dt, J = 12.0, 6.0 Hz, 1 H), 2.99 (td, J = 6.8, 3.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.24–2.06 (m, 2 H). **13C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 155.1, 138.1, 135.7, 135.6, 132.6, 132.5, 131.7, 130.0, 129.9, 128.5, 128.2, 128.1, 125.2, 124.7, 123.8, 52.8, 44.2, 26.2, 25.7. IR (thin film): 3057, 3010, 2945, 2123, 1699, 1587, 1487, 1435, 1377, 1329, 129.9, 128.5, 128.2, 128.1, 125.2, 124.7, 123.8, 52.8, 44.2, 26.2, 25.7. **HRMS (ESI):** m/z [M + Na]⁺ calcd for C23H23NNaO3: 367.1506, found: 367.1505.

(26) **General Procedure A:** An oven-dried 10 mL screw-cap reaction tube with magnetic stir bar was charged with copper acetate (1.8 mg, 0.010 mmol, 5.0 mol%), (R,R)-Ph-BPE (5.6 mg, 0.011 mmol, 5.5 mol%) and tri(p-toly)phosphine (6.7 mg, 0.022 mmol, 11 mol%). It was evacuated and backfilled with argon three times. Phenylsilane (74 mmol, 11 mol%) and tri(p-toly)phosphine (6.7 mg, 0.022 mmol, 11 mol%) were added using a syringe and the resulting mixture was premixed for 30 min, then the organic phase was allowed to pass through a short pad of silica gel with extra ethyl acetate (20 mL) as eluent. The volatiles were removed in vacuo with an oil pump at room temperature and the crude product was used for the next step without further purification. To a 25 mL Schlenk tube were added potassium fluoride (46.5 mg, 0.8 mmol), K₂EDTA·H₂O (80.9 mg, 0.2 mmol) and potassium bicarbonate (80.1 mg, 0.8 mmol) and the tube was evacuated and backfilled with argon for three times. The crude product was dissolved in THF (1 mL) and transferred to the Schlenk tube by using a syringe. The residue was further rinsed with THF (0.1 mL × 2) and added to the tube. To the resulting mixture was added methanol (1.2 mL) dropwise and gas was released. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 40 min, then hydrogen peroxide (0.23 g, 27% w/w in water, 1.8 mmol) was added and the suspension was stirred at room temperature for 20 h. The reaction was quenched with sodium thiosulfate (0.85 g, 5.4 mmol) with extra methanol (2 mL). After peroxide residue was quenched completely as indicated by starch–iodine indicator paper, the mixture was diluted by ethyl acetate (5 mL), dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered by glass-sintered filter, rinsed with glass-sintered filter, rinsed with extra ethyl acetate (20 mL), and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (PE/ETOAc = 10:1 to 2:1, v/v) or preparative TLC (PE/ETOAc = 2:1, v/v) affording product 3.

(27) **Methyl (R)-4-Hydroxy-3,4-dihydroquinoline-1(2H)-carboxylate (3a):** Yield: 26.0 mg (63%); colorless oil; 89% ee [Daicel Chiralpak IG (0.46 cm × 25 cm), n-hexane/2-propanol = 95:5, v = 1.0 ml·min⁻¹, λ = 230 nm, tₚ (major) = 36.31 min, tₙ (minor) = 33.64 min]; [α]D²⁰ = +25.1 (c = 1.0, CHCl₃). **1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 8.05 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.38 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.26 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.09 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 4.80–4.70 (m, 1 H), 4.07 (dt, J = 13.2, 5.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.79 (s, 3 H), 3.64 (ddd, J = 13.6, 10.0, 4.4 Hz, 1 H), 2.18 (s, 1 H), 2.14–1.93 (m, 2 H). **13C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 155.1, 137.4, 130.8, 128.4, 128.3, 124.0, 123.4, 65.8, 53.1, 43.8, 31.9. **IR (thin film):** 3399, 2953, 1681, 1605, 1587, 1491, 1377, 1321, 1245, 1217, 1192, 1134, 1083, 1054, 1037, 1021, 976, 943, 911, 865, 821, 756, 702, 591, 560, 530, 491 cm⁻¹. **HRMS (ESI):** m/z [M + Na]⁺ calcd for C₁₁H₁₀NaO₂: 230.0788, found: 230.0791.

(28) **Cluster**