Asymmetric Synthesis of Amino Alcohols Using a Catalytically Formed Chiral Auxiliary

Significance: Waser and co-workers report the use of a catalytically formed chiral auxiliary for the asymmetric synthesis of amino alcohols. A palladium-catalyzed enantioselective carboetherification of propargylic amines using a trifluoroacetaldehyde-derived tether provided chiral oxazolidines. A diastereoselective hydrogenation of the tetra-substituted olefin, followed by removal of the tether molecule, delivered valuable enantioenriched amino alcohols.

Comment: Key to success was the use of a truncated monophosphine Trost-type ligand. Interestingly, all four stereoisomers of the product could be obtained by the choice of the chiral ligand and the substituents on the readily available propargylic amines. It is noteworthy that the resulting diaryl-substituted amino alcohols are found in many bioactive molecules.