



•Catalytic asymmetric synthesis has received considerable attention over the past few decades.

•Becoming a highly dynamic area of chemical research with significant contributions to the field of organic synthesis.

•Artificial catalysts now provide highly economic access to many desirable compounds, but the general adaptability and reactivity of these platforms remain problematic, particularly in comparison to nature's catalysts, enzymes.

•The multifunctional organocatalysts described in this Account represent another positive step in the synthetic chemist's efforts to profitably mimic nature's catalytic platform, helping develop small-molecule catalysts with enzyme-like reactivities and selectivities

These multifunctional chiral phosphines, which contain Lewis basic and Brønsted acidic sites within one molecule, provide good-to-excellent reactivities and stereoselectivities in the asymmetric aza-MBH reaction, the MBH reaction, and other related reactions



Multifunctional catalysts employing the synergistic function of a Lewis acid and a Brønsted base: LA, Lewis acid; B, Brønsted base; E, electrophile; Nu-H, nucleophile.



Ideal multifunctional chiral catalysts containing Lewis acid, Brønsted base, Brønsted acid, and Lewis base as active catalytic sites: LA, Lewis acid; B, Brønsted base; BA, Brønsted acid; LB, Lewis base.

Introduction





Multifunctional chiral phosphine Lewis base catalyst, LBBA bifunctional catalytic system: LB, Lewis base; BA, Brønsted acid.



In 1993, Hayashi first synthesized the chiral phosphorus compound **CP1** as a chiral monodentate phosphine ligand:





Uozumi, Y.; Tanahashi, A.; Lee, S.-Y.; Hayashi, T. J. Org. Chem. 1993, 58, 1945–1948.

In2002, Min Shi first demonstrated that this 1,1'-bi-2,2'-naphthol(BINOL)-derived chiral LBBA bifunctional phosphine **CP1**(LB) PPh3, BA) Ph-OH)



Min Shi* and Lian-Hui Chen CHEM. COMMUN., 2003, 1310-1311

Mechanistic speculation on the chiral Lewis base CP1



Min Shi* and Lian-Hui Chen CHEM. COMMUN., 2003, 1310–1311

The asymmetric induction of CP1 catalyst is comparable to that of the quinidine derivatives

	Ar-CH=NTs + $\sqrt{\frac{OH}{N \sqrt{10 \text{ mol}\%}}}$ $\sqrt{\frac{TsHN}{Ar}}$ $\sqrt{\frac{10 \text{ mol}\%}{Ar}}$							
Entry	Ar	1	Solvent	<i>t</i> [h]	Т [°С]	Yield of 1 [%] ^[a]	ee value [%]	
1	p-EtC ₆ H ₄	с	THF	36	20	30	62	
2	p-EtC ₆ H ₄	с	THF	24	-25	33	76	
3	p-EtC ₆ H ₄	с	MeCN	24	0	50	78	
4	p-EtC ₆ H ₄	с	MeCN	24	-20	64	86	
5	p-EtC ₆ H ₄	с	DMF	24	-20	55	93	
6	p-EtC ₆ H ₄	с	DMF	24	-40	50	96	
7	p-ClC ₆ H ₄	e	THF	24	0	71	42	
8	p-ClC ₆ H ₄	e	THF	24	-20	65	63	
9	p-ClC ₆ H ₄	е	MeCN	24	-30	80	81	
10	p-ClC ₆ H ₄	e	DMF	24	-30	51	95	

[a] Yields of isolated products.

The presence of a phenolic hydroxyl group in catalyst **CP1** seems crucial for good yield and high ee.





Pascal Buskens, Jurgen Klankermayer, and Walter Leitner*J. AM. CHEM. SOC. 9 VOL. 127, NO. 48, 2005



Pascal Buskens, Ju^rrgen Klankermayer, and Walter Leitner***J. AM. CHEM. SOC.** 9 VOL. 127, NO. 48, 2005

The chiral catalyst **CP1** did not induce any racemization on a similar time scale.



However, catalyst **CP1** could not give good enantiomeric excess in the reaction of *N*-arylmethylidenediphenylphosphinamides with activated alkenes such as MVK, acrylonitrile, or phenyl acrylate





Table 18. Catalytic, asymmetric aza-Baylis–Hillman reactions of *N*-benzylidenediphenylphosphinamide (**1a**; 1.0 equiv.) with MVK (1.2 equiv.) in the presence of chiral phosphine and nitrogen catalysts (10 mol %).

Entry	Catalyst	Solvent	Temo. [°C]	Time [h]	Yield [%] ^{ləl} 2a	ee [%] ^[b]	[α], ^[t]
1	TQO	DMF	r.t.	48	43	23	+7.7
2		CH2CI2	r.t.	48	73	28	+8.0
3		MeCN	r.t.	48	13	12 ^[d]	+3.0
4		DMF	-20	72	32	23	+8.4
5		CH_2CI_2	-20	120	<10	ND ^[e]	ND
e	Ю	DMF	r.t.	48	27	38	+9.7
7	PPh ₂	CH_2CI_2	r.t.	48	82	47	+146
8	~ ~~	CH ₂ CI ₂	-20	120	<10	ND	ND
9		DMF	-20	72	15	43 ^[J]	+13 2
10		THF	r.t.	72	26	31 ^[d]	+8.9

^a Yields of isolated products.

^b Determined by chiral HPLC

^[6] Measured in chloroform at 20 °C.

^(d) Calculated by comparing the optical rotation.

Not determined.

(thio-)urea group might also give high catalytic activity and good asymmetric induction, because the acidic NH protons provide good opportunity to form a hydrogen bond, which may stabilize certain intermediates





In Baylis Hilman reaction previously used organocatalyst which has this urea functional group and give quantitative yield and high ee.



Albrecht Berkessel,* Katrin Roland, Org. Lett., Vol. 8, No. 19, 2006

The chiral thiourea-phosphine **CP2** in combination with benzoic acid was a very successful catalytic system for the aza-MBH reaction of *N*-tosyl imines with MVK, PVK, EVK.



Yong-Ling Shi and Min Shi Adv. Synth. Catal. 2007, 349, 2129–2135

A new kind of bifunctional (thio)ureaphosphine catalyst.

A plausible reaction mechanism.



Yong-Ling Shi and Min Shi Adv. Synth. Catal. 2007, 349, 2129–2135

In order to further improve the catalytic activity and enantioselectivity, designed and synthesized a series of bifunctional chiral phosphine amides



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CP3: R = SO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>; CP4: R = SO<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>3</sub>,

CP5: R = SO<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>-p; CP6: R = COC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>;

CP7: R = COCH<sub>3</sub>; CP8: R = CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>; CP9: R = PO(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)<sub>2</sub>
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		C	NHR			
Ph' 1	∕≈ _{NTs} + ≈ a	<u>€</u> 2a°	L (10 solvent, rt	mol%) ► Ph	ol%) Ph 3a	
Entry	Catalyst	Solvent	Time (h)	Yield ^a (%)	ee ^b (%	
1	L1	DCM	72	99	75	
2	L1	PhMe	72	99	51	
3	L1	THF	120	49	45	
4	L1	CH ₃ CN	74	99	75	
5	L1	CHCl ₃	72	99	82	
6 ^d	L1	DCM	48	99	61	
T	L1	DCM	90	96	90	
8	1.5	DCM	24	99	88	
9°	1.5	DCM	24	99	95	
10	1.5	PhMe	160	90	27	
11	1.5	THF	160	91	39	
12	1.5	DMSO	36	89	52	
13	1.5	CH ₃ CN	48	94	79	
14 ^d	1.5	DCM	36	99	86	
15°	LS	DCM	20	95	91	
16 ^f	1.5	DCM	23	89	96	



Entry	Catalyst	Time (h)	Yield ^a (%)	ee ^b (%)
1	LI	48	95	89
2	L2	48	0	100
3	L3	96	94	86
4	L4	48	89	78
5	1.5	48	99	93
6	L6	60	91	59
7	L7	96	85	72
8	LS	96	0	_







Three sterically congested bifunctional chiral phosphane-amides, **synthesized** in order to evaluate the steric effect for asymmetric induction.



X.-Y. Guan, Y.-Q. Jiang, M. Shi Eur. J. Org. Chem. 2008, 2150–2155

The chiral sterically congested phosphane-amide bifunctional phosphanes



X.-Y. Guan, Y.-Q. Jiang, M. Shi *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* 2008, 2150–2155

The nucleophilicity of the phosphorus center in the catalyst may affect catalytic activity.



Shi, M.; Li, C.-Q. Tetrahedron: Asymmetry 2005, 16, 1385–1391.

The nucleophilicity of the phosphorus center in the catalyst may affect catalytic activity.



Structures of more nucleophilic phosphane-phenol type bifunctional chiral phosphines.

Lei, Z.-Y.; Ma, G.-N.; Shi, M. *Eur. J. Org. Chem. 2008, 3817–3820.*

A few reports have demonstrated that introducing a longchainalkyl group in a variety of chiral ligands could improve the catalytic activity and enantioselectivity in homogeneous asymmetric.



Phosphane-phenol-type bifunctional chiral phosphines bearing perfluoroalkane chains.

Min Shi et al. Adv. Synth. Catal. 2005, 347, 1781 – 1789

catalyst **CP19** was more effective in the aza-MBH reaction of *N-tosyl imines* with MVK than the previously reported original chiral phosphine **CP1**.





Another approach to improve the catalytic activity and enantioselectivity is to increase the number of hydrogen bond donors in the bifunctional chiral phosphines.



Min Shi* et al. Adv. Synth. Catal. 2006, 348, 973–979



Min Shi* et al. Adv. Synth. Catal. 2006, 348, 973–979



Min Shi* et al. Adv. Synth. Catal. 2006, 348, 973–979

Catalyst CP21 could effectively catalyze asymmetric aza-MBH reaction of *N-tosyl imines with* vinyl ketones



The aza-MBH reaction promoted by asymmetric bifunctional catalysts



biphenol-based bifunctional catalyst **CP22 for aza-** MBH reaction of *N-tosyl imines* with *MVK High e*nantioselectivity up to 96% ee was achieved by **CP22 with** catalyst loading of 1 mol %.



Ito, K.; Nishida, K.; Gotauda, T.. Tetrahedron Lett. 2007, 48, 6147–6149.

In order to recycle the catalyst, immobilized **CP1 on** a series of dendrimers. It was found that the dendrimerimmobilized catalyst **CP23 was more effective** than catalyst **CP1 for the aza-MBH reaction of** *N*-*sulfonyl* imines with MVK, EVK, or acrolein.



Dendrimer immobilized phosphine-phenol type of multifunctional chiral phosphines

Trifunctional Phosphine Organocatalyst-Promoted Aza- MBH Reaction



It was used for the first time to catalyze aza-Morita- Baylis–Hillman reactions between N-tosylimines and methyl vinyl ketone with fast reaction rates and good enantioselectivity at room temperature

Jean-Marc Garnier,a Christopher Anstiss,a and Fei Liua,*Adv. Synth. Catal. 2009, 351, 331 – 338

CP25 catalyzed MBH reaction between 4-pyridinecarboaldehyde and methyl acrylate



Phosphane-Hydroxy-Type Multifunctional Chiral Phosphine-Catalyzed Asymmetric MBH Reaction

Wenge Li, Zhaoguo Zhang, Dengming Xiao, and Xumu Zhang* J. Org. Chem. 2000, 65, 3489-3496

Phosphane-Multiphenol Groups of Chiral Phosphines in Asymmetric MBH Reaction of Aldehydes with MVK



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Unfortunately, the effective catalyst **CP1 for aza-MBH reaction did** not show catalytic activity for the reaction of 3phenylpropanal and MVK. **CP16 was still the most effective catalyst with** respect to a wide range of substrates, affording the corresponding products in good yields with moderate ee's.



Structures of more nucleophilic phosphine-phenol-type bifunctional chiral phosphines.

Lei, Z.-Y.; Liu, X.-G.; Shi, M.; Zhao, M. *Tetrahedron: Asymmetry 2008, 19, 2058–2062.*

Phosphane-Phenol-Type Multifunctional Chiral Phosphine-Catalyzed Asymmetric MBH Reaction of Aldehydes with R,-Unsaturated Ketones



Lei, Z.-Y.; Liu, X.-G.; Shi, M.; Zhao, M. *Tetrahedron: Asymmetry 2008, 19, 2058–2062.*

Recently, Wu's group reported a series of chiral phosphino(thio)ureas **CP31-CP36 derived from** *trans-2*amino-1-(diphenylphosphino)cyclohexane. **CP31 was the best** catalyst for the MBH reaction of various aromatic aldehydes with MVK giving the products with excellent enantiomeric excesses under mild conditions in relative short reaction time.



 $\begin{array}{l} \mathsf{Ar} = \mathsf{C}_6\mathsf{H}_5, \, 4\text{-}\mathsf{ClC}_6\mathsf{H}_4, \, 2\text{-}\mathsf{ClC}_6\mathsf{H}_4, \, 4\text{-}\mathsf{Br}\mathsf{C}_6\mathsf{H}_4, \, 2\text{-}\mathsf{Naphtyl}, \\ & 2,4\text{-}\mathsf{Cl}_2\mathsf{C}_6\mathsf{H}_3, \, 4\text{-}\mathsf{CNC}_6\mathsf{H}_4, \, 2\text{-}\mathsf{NO}_2\mathsf{C}_6\mathsf{H}_4, \, 3\text{-}\mathsf{NO}_2\mathsf{C}_6\mathsf{H}_4, \\ & 4\text{-}\mathsf{NO}_2\mathsf{C}_6\mathsf{H}_4, \, 4\text{-}\mathsf{CF}_3\mathsf{C}_6\mathsf{H}_4 \end{array}$

CP31 is the best catalyst for the MBH reaction. *Products with excellent enantiomeric excesses*

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15-91% yields

87-94% ee

Yuan, K.; Zhang, L.; Song, H.-L.; Hu, Y.; Wu, X.-Y.. Tetrahedron Lett. 2008, 49, 6262–6264.

Since 2007, bifunctional chiral phosphines can be applied in reactions beyond MBH/aza-MBH reaction, such as enantioselective [3 + 2] cycloaddition reactions.



Phosphine-amide-Type Multifunctional Chiral Phosphine Catalyzed Asymmetric [3 + 2]Cycloaddition Reaction

Cowen, B. J.; Miller, S. J. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2007, 129, 10988–10989.

More recently, *Jacobsen* developed a series of bifunctional phosphorus thiourea derivatives for highly enantioselective synthesis of chiral dihydropyrroles via imine-allene [3 + 2] cycloaddition.



CP38 as the best catalyst

Fang, Y.-Q.; Jacobsen, E. N. Cooperative, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2008, 5660–5661.

Interestingly, previously developed catalyst CP7 for aza-MBH reaction has a new application. Catalyst CP7 achieved high yield and excellent ee for the reaction of MBH acetates with 2-trimethylsilyloxy furan, which is an effective approach for the asymmetric synthesis of *y*-butenolides.



Jiang, Y.-Q.; Shi, Y.-L.; Shi, M. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2008, 7202

The proposed Mechanism



Jiang, Y.-Q.; Shi, Y.-L.; Shi, M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2008,* 7202

Chiral Phosphine-Catalyzed Regio- and Enantioselective Allylic Amination of Morita-Baylis-Hillman Acetates



Ma, G.-N.; Cao, S.-H.; Shi, M.. *Tetrahedron Asymmetry* 2009, *20*, 1086–1092.

Conclusion

Multifunctional/bifunctional chiral phosphine organocatalysts have established themselves as efficient enantioselective catalysts in catalytic asymmetric MBH and related reactions due to the combination of a hydrogen-bonding motif with a highly nucleophilic phosphorus center within one molecule.

The reactivities and enantioselectivies of these multifunctional/bifunctional chiral phosphine organocatalysts can be finely tuned through enhancing the reactive center's nucleophilicity and varying and increasing hydrogen bond donors.

Multifunctional catalysis will remain as a powerful strategy to inspire the design of new efficient and selective catalysts.



