

Palladium-Catalyzed Asymmetric Hydrophosphination of Internal Alkynes: Highly Regio- and Stereoselective Construction of Axially Chiral Phosphines

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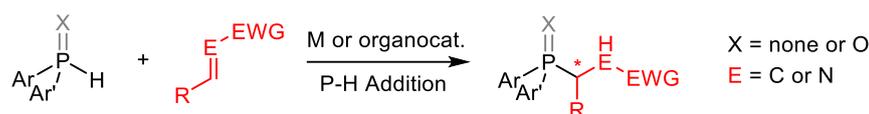
Abstract: Palladium-catalyzed unprecedented atroposelective hydrophosphination of internal alkynes has been realized using diarylphosphines, affording C-N axially chiral trisubstituted olefins (vinylphosphines) in excellent regioselectivity, (*E*)-selectivity, and enantioselectivity. The axial chirality was established via integration of hydrophosphination and dynamic kinetic transformation of the alkynes, with both symmetrical and nonsymmetrical secondary phosphines being applicable. In the latter case, additional P-central chirality has been constructed in good diastereoselectivity.

INTRODUCTION

Chiral phosphorus compounds play an increasingly important role as chiral ligands and catalysts in asymmetric catalysis.¹⁻⁹ Depending on the chiral elements, chiral phosphines can be defined by C- and P-central chirality, axial chirality, and planar chirality. Numerous catalytic synthetic methods have been developed to access chiral phosphines, and classical methods require stoichiometric chiral agents or generate a stoichiometric amount of compound with the opposite configuration.¹⁰⁻¹⁴ Simple phosphines can be elaborated into chiral ones at the P- or the peripheral reaction sites. Functionalization of the peripheral site may circumvent the strong coordination of the P center.¹⁵⁻²¹ Nevertheless, the preexistence of peripheral functional groups adds to substrate complexity. In this context, catalytic functionalization of the P-H bond in tri- or pentavalent phosphorus compounds is advantageous,²²⁻⁴⁰ but it carries formidable challenges for secondary phosphines due to their strong coordination effect, which may lead to deactivation of the metal catalyst together with reduced enantioselectivity.

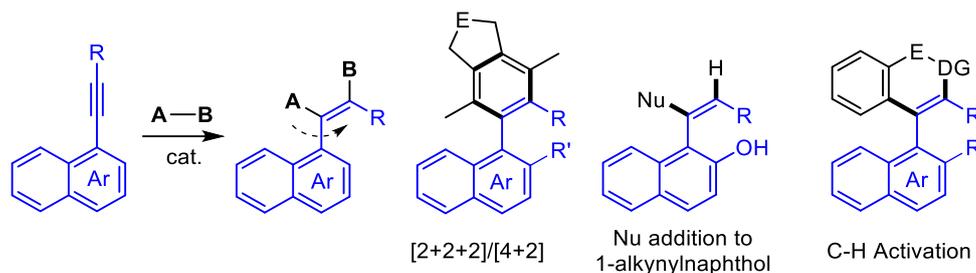
The asymmetric addition of P-H bonds to unsaturated substrates offers an attractive but rather challenging strategy to deliver chiral phosphines in high step- and atom-economy (Scheme 1a). Since 2010, Duan and Leung have independently studied Pd-catalyzed enantioselective hydrophosphination of enones.^{41,42} Very recently, Duan further elegantly extended the substrate to primary phosphines under nickel catalysis.⁴³ In 2019, Wang applied oxa/azabenzonbornadienes as activated olefins for hydrophosphination.⁴⁴ Yin recently adopted a novel copper-catalyzed approach to address hydrophosphination of acrylamides.⁴⁵ Harutyunyan and Ge realized important hydrophosphination of acrylonitrile catalyzed by Mn complexes via metal-ligand cooperation.⁴⁶ Chi developed NHC-catalyzed hydrophosphination of α -Bromoaldehydes.⁴⁷ Besides, enantioselective addition of P(V)-H to different π -bonds has been accomplished by Dong⁴⁸ and others.⁴⁹⁻⁵⁴ In addition, catalytic P(III)-H and P(V)-H functionalization with an aryl, benzyl, and quinone electrophile also allowed efficient synthesis of diverse P-chiral products.⁵⁵⁻⁶⁴ In these two categories, the reactions are limited to generation of C- or P-chiral centers. Of note, synthesis of the large family of axially chiral^{65,66} phosphines remains largely untouched via P-H functionalization, although axially chiral P-functionalized biaryls have been constructed by C-H bond activation.^{67,68}

(a) Asymmetric Addition of P-H to C=C and C=N: C- or P-Central Chirality



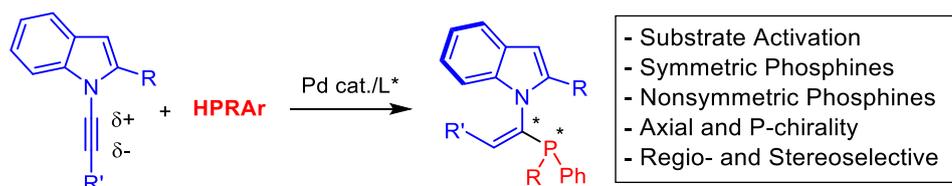
P(III)-H	Enone, Acrylamide, Cinnamaldehyde, and Acrylonitrile (2010-2021) (Duan, Leung, Wang, Yin, Chi, Harutyunyan/Ge)
P(V)-H	Imine (Tan, 2009), 1,3-Diene (Dong, 2018), Allene (Wang, 2021)

(b) Asymmetric (Di)Functionalization of Internal Alkynes: Axial Chirality



(c) Asymmetric Hydrophosphination of Internal Alkyne: Axially Chiral Olefin (*this work*)

Challenges: Reactivity P Inhibition Z/E Selectivity Enantioselectivity



Scheme 1. Axially Chiral Olefins and Synthesis of Chiral Phosphines via Asymmetric P-H Functionalization

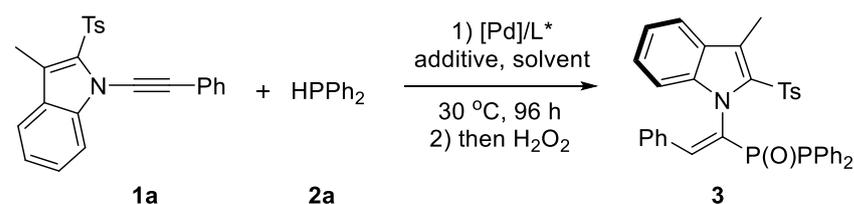
Hydrophosphination of C≡C bonds generates a vinylphosphine, and terminal alkynes were predominantly used under Pd catalysis.^{69,70} Zhang,⁷¹ Wang,⁷² and Zhang⁷³ independently explored the asymmetric addition of RArP(O)-H or RArPH to terminal alkynes for synthesis of P-chiral products. On the other hand, construction of axially chiral arenes has been enabled by annulative coupling of sterically hindered alkynes (Scheme 1b). Thus, the majority of the studies focus on metal-catalyzed [2+2+2] cyclotrimerization of alkynes toward construction of axially chiral biaryls,^{74,75} and Ni-catalyzed extension to related[4+2] annulation has also been developed by Tan and Liu.⁷⁶ Our group recently developed Rh-catalyzed C-H activation of arenes and coupling with sterically hindered alkynes en route to axial chirality by resorting to directing group-metal interactions, and axially chiral open-chain olefins have also been constructed.⁷⁷⁻⁷⁹ In contrast, asymmetric hydrofunctionalization of alkynes that affords trisubstituted axially chiral olefins remains underexplored. This is likely ascribed to the intrinsically low reactivity of sterically hindered alkynes and low atropostability of trisubstituted olefins. Nevertheless, Tan elegantly applied alkynals as activated alkynes toward construction of trisubstituted acroleins via formation of an allene intermediate.^{80,81} Yan developed organocatalyzed coupling of 1-alkynyl-2-naphthols with bulky nucleophiles in two- or three-component reactions, with vinylidene ortho-quinone methide as a key intermediate.^{82,83} Despite these nucleophilic additions, the applicability of P-H nucleophiles has not been demonstrated toward construction of axially chiral olefin.

In addition to the intrinsically low reactivity of sterically hindered alkynes that are required toward construction of axial chirality, hydrophosphination reactions are generally plagued by inhibition of the P(III)-H substrate and the tertiary phosphine product, which render the enantioselective control a formidable challenge and also accounts for the limited asymmetric systems of hydrophosphination when compared to hydrophosphorylation/hydrophosphinylation. The regio- and *Z/E* selectivity also add to the challenge.⁶⁹⁻⁷³ Our design plan is to employ sterically hindered internal alkynes via substrate activation.⁸⁴ To address the phosphine inhibition, the chiral ligand must be judiciously selected to both impart chiral induction and to overcome phosphine substrate/product inhibition. We now report palladium-catalyzed enantioselective hydrophosphination of 1-indolylacetylenes using both symmetric and nonsymmetric secondary phosphines (Scheme 1c), affording axially and P-chiral vinylphosphines.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

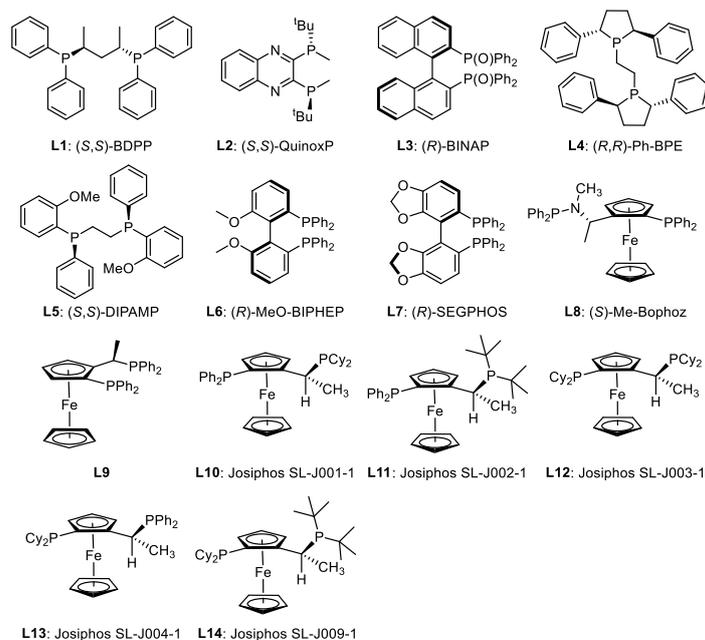
We initiated our studies with the optimization of the hydrophosphination of alkyne **1a** using Ph₂PH under palladium catalysis (Table 1 and Supplemental Information). A large set of chiral bidentate ligands were screened at 30 °C, and decay of the enantioselectivity with time was observed in most cases as the reaction proceeded. Among them, (*S,S*)-BDPP, QuinoxP, and Josiphos ligands seemed to outperform others and offered good enantioselectivity. Generally higher enantioselectivity was obtained when a more electron-rich (*S_P*, *R*)-Josiphos SL-J003-1 (**L12**) was used (entries 1-14). Screening of the palladium source indicated that Pd(acac)₂ was superior to Pd(OAc)₂ and others in terms of enantioselectivity (entries 15-17). Evaluation of solvents returned PhMe or PhCl as the more suitable one (entries 18-21). Introduction of CsOAc further improved the enantioselectivity to 94%, and the product was isolated in excellent yield (entry 23). Other acid or base additives tended to give inferior results (entries 22, 24 and 25). The initial hydrophosphination product **3'** turned out to be moderately stable under air at ambient temperature, and it was converted to the oxide for convenience of characterization.

Table 1. Optimization of Reaction Conditions^a



Entry	[Pd]	L*	Additive	Solvent	Yield (%)	Ee (%)
1	Pd(acac) ₂	L1	-	PhMe	61	81
2	Pd(acac) ₂	L2	-	PhMe	85	91
3	Pd(acac) ₂	L3	-	PhMe	59	<5
4	Pd(acac) ₂	L4	-	PhMe	82	79
5	Pd(acac) ₂	L5	-	PhMe	58	46
6	Pd(acac) ₂	L6	-	PhMe	56	33
7	Pd(acac) ₂	L7	-	PhMe	63	57
8	Pd(acac) ₂	L8	-	PhMe	46	38
9	Pd(acac) ₂	L9	-	PhMe	46	62

10	Pd(acac) ₂	L10	-	PhMe	54	18
11	Pd(acac) ₂	L11	-	PhMe	61	39
12	Pd(acac) ₂	L12	-	PhMe	88	92
13	Pd(acac) ₂	L13	-	PhMe	89	85
14	Pd(acac) ₂	L14	-	PhMe	56	20
15	Pd(NO ₃) ₂ ·H ₂ O	L12	-	PhMe	80	87
16	Pd(OH) ₂	L12	-	PhMe	71	88
17	Pd(OAc) ₂	L12	-	PhMe	81	92
18	Pd(acac) ₂	L12	-	THF	64	75
19	Pd(acac) ₂	L12	-	EtOAc	75	92
20	Pd(acac) ₂	L12	-	PhCl	63	92
21	Pd(acac) ₂	L12	-	acetone	56	88
22	Pd(acac) ₂	L12	AgOAc	PhMe	89	88
23	Pd(acac) ₂	L12	CsOAc	PhMe	93	94
24	Pd(acac) ₂	L12	BzOH	PhMe	59	74
25	Pd(acac) ₂	L12	Zn(OAc) ₂	PhMe	77	93

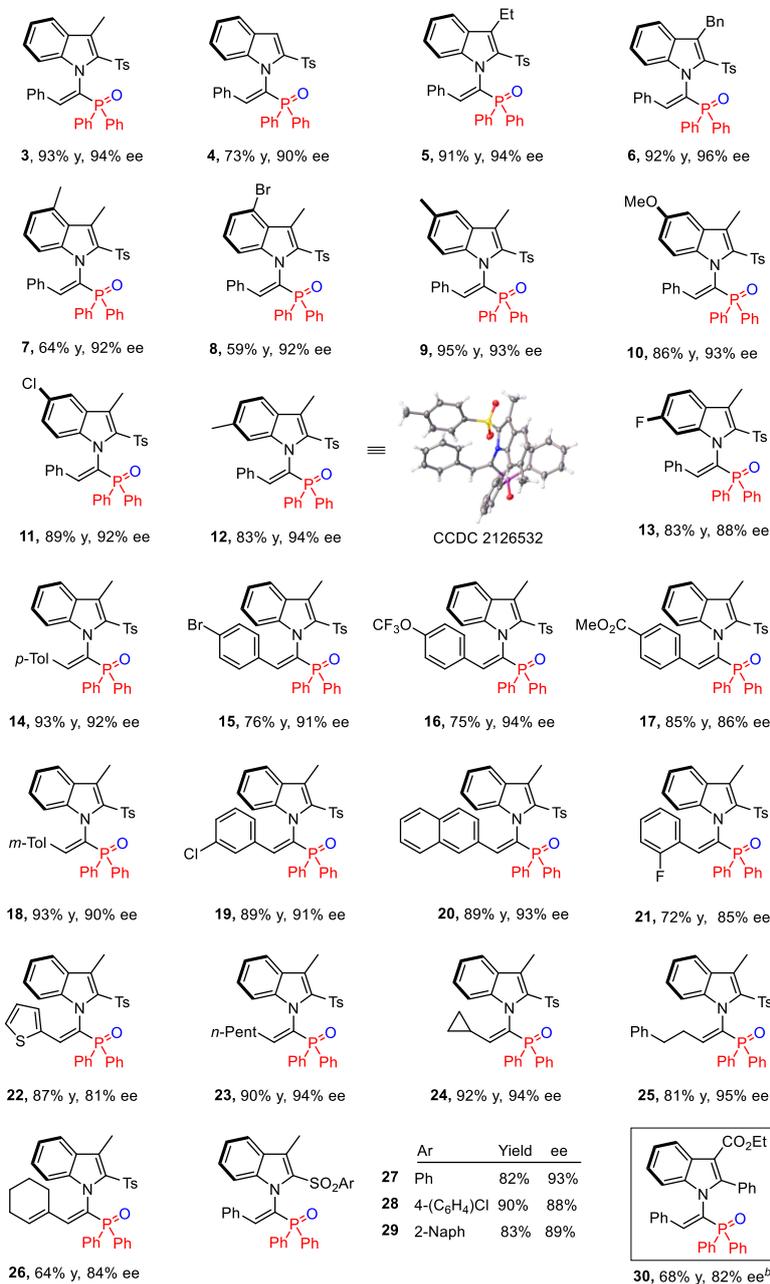
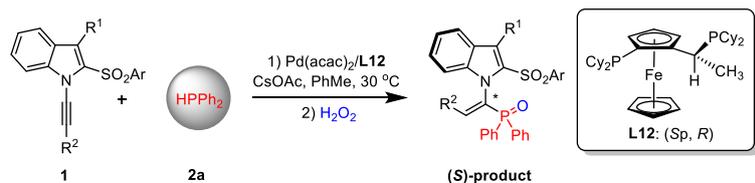


^aReaction conditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol), **2a** (0.2 mmol), Pd catalyst (6 mol%), L* (9 mol%), and additive (0.3 equiv) in toluene (2 mL), 30 °C, 96 h; then H₂O₂ at 0 °C for 20 min. Isolated yield. The ee was determined by HPLC analysis using a chiral stationary phase.

Having established the optimal reaction conditions, we next explored the scope and generality of this coupling system. Under the standard conditions, a broad scope of 1-indolylalkynes has been defined. The 3-unsubstituted indolyl substrate also reacted efficiently with slightly reduced enantioselectivity (**4**, 90% ee). Variation of the 3-substituent to benzyl or ethyl group was also successful (**5**, **6**). Various substituents such as alkyl, halogen, and methoxy at the 3-, 4-, and 5- positions of the indole ring were compatible (**7-13**, 88-94% ee). The absolute configuration of the product **12** was determined to be (S) by X-ray crystallographic analysis (CCDC 2126532). Extension of the aryl terminus to phenyl groups bearing various electron-donating, -

withdrawing and halogen substituents at the meta and para positions and to a 2-naphthyl group proved successful (**14-20**, 86-93% ee). A 2-fluorophenyl group was also compatible, affording the expected product **21** in 85% ee. The presence of a 2-thienyl group gave the product **22** in high yield albeit with lower enantioselectivity (81% ee). Significantly, extension of the substituent to alkyl (**23** and **25**) and cyclopropyl group (**24**) met with no difficulty, and the products were all isolated in excellent enantioselectivities, suggesting the tolerance of the electronic effect of the alkyne. As expected, the coupling of a cyclohexenyl-substituted alkyne with PPh₂ afforded product **26** in high enantioselectivity. The 2-sulfonyl group in the indole functioned as an activating group as well as a bulky group to ensure axial chirality of the product. Extension of the Ts group to other arenesulfonyls was successful (**27-29**, 88-93% ee). Furthermore, the sulfonyl group could be replaced by a phenyl group, and under modified conditions using (*R,R*)-Ph-BPE as the chiral ligand, the corresponding product **30** was isolated in good yield and in 82% ee. The atropostability of product **3** has been examined, from which $\Delta G^{\ddagger}_{rac} = 33.4$ kcal/mol was estimated (100 °C).

Scheme 2. Scope of 1-Indolylacetylenes in Enantioselective Hydrophosphination^a



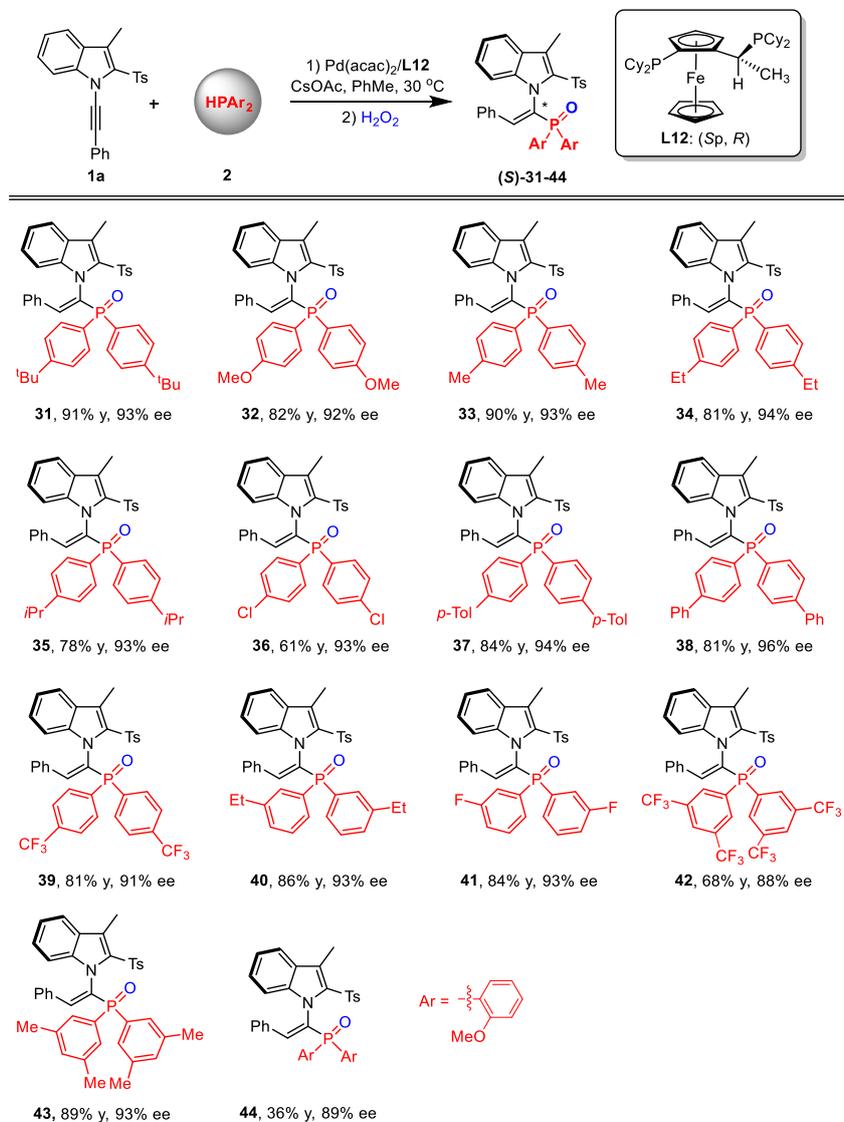
^aReaction conditions: **1** (0.1 mmol), **2a** (0.2 mmol), Pd(acac)₂ (6 mol%), CsOAc (30 mol%), and **L12** (9 mol%) in toluene (2 mL), 30 °C, 96 h. Isolated yield. The ee was determined by HPLC analysis.

^bReaction conditions: indolylphenylacetylene (0.1 mmol), **2a** (0.2 mmol), Pd(acac)₂ (6 mol%) and (*R,R*)-Ph-BPE (9 mol%) in toluene (2 mL), 0 °C, 96 h.

The scope of the symmetric diarylphosphines was next explored in the coupling with alkyne **1a**. Diarylacetylenes bearing diverse electron-donating and -withdrawing groups at the para position all reacted smoothly under the standard conditions (**31-39**, 91-96% ee). Phosphines bearing different meta substituted and

1,3-disubstituted phenyls also reacted in excellent enantioselectivity (**40-43**, 88-93% ee). Sluggish reaction was found for ortho substituted diarylphosphines due to the steric effect. Nevertheless, ortho methoxy substituted diphenylphosphine coupled in acceptable yield with high enantioselectivity (**44**, 89% ee).

Scheme 3. Scope of Symmetric Diarylphosphines^a

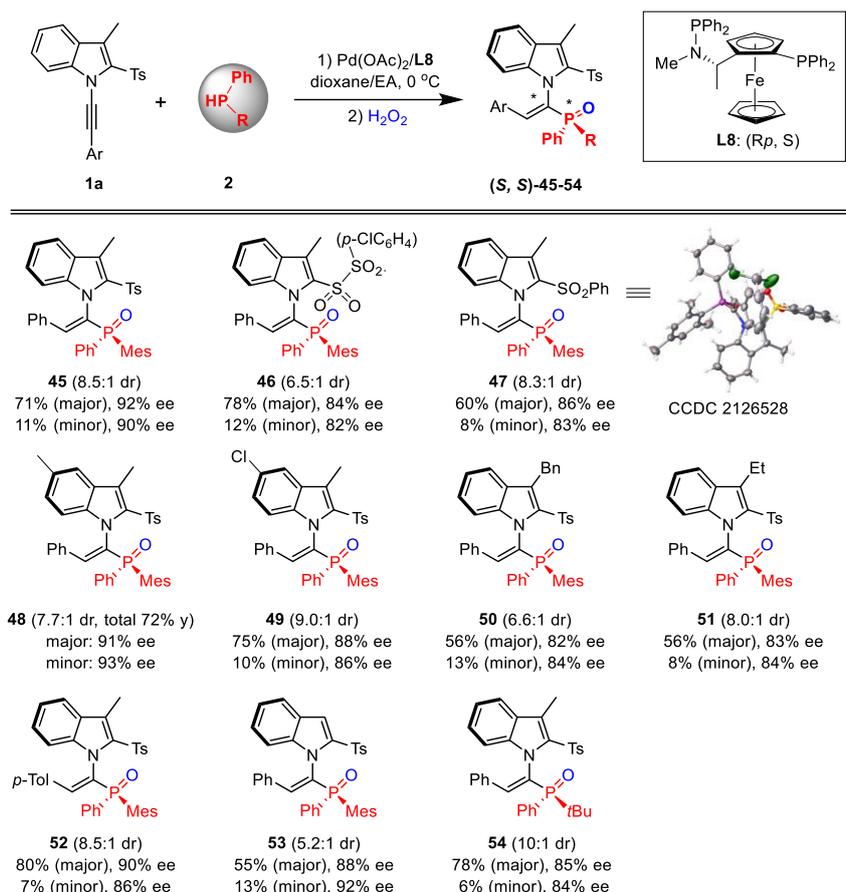


^aReaction conditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol), **2** (0.2 mmol), Pd(acac)₂ (6 mol%), CsOAc (30 mol%), and **L12** (9 mol%) in toluene (2 mL), 30 °C, 96 h. Isolated yield.

Having established the scope of symmetrical phosphines, we next moved to coupling using nonsymmetrical secondary phosphines, which will generate both axial and P chirality (Scheme 4). The HPPHMe₂ bearing two sterically biased groups was evaluated and its coupling with alkyne **1a** was extensively screened. Our previous catalyst system turned out to be inapplicable. After various studies, a bidentate (*Rp*, *S*)-Bophoz (**L8**) was identified as a superior ligand at 0 °C. Thus, the coupling with **1a** afforded the hydrophosphination product **45** in good dr (8.5:1) and in excellent enantioselectivity (92% ee). The scope of the alkyne was also briefly explored. It turned out that indolylalkyne bearing different substituents at the 2- and 4-positions or bearing a different sulfonyl substituent generally underwent smooth coupling in 6.5 to 9.0:1 dr and in 82-92% ee for the

major product (**46-52**), and similar enantioselectivity was consistently observed for the major and minor diastereomeric products. The major product of **47** was characterized to be (*S, S*) configuration by X-ray crystallography (CCDC 2126528) and the rest products were assigned by analogy. A comparable diastereoselectivity was observed when the indole ring is 3-unsubstituted (**53**, 88% ee). All the above initially hydrophosphinated products are reasonably air-stable, but the diastereomeric products cannot be chromatographically separated unless they were oxidized. Extension of the sterically biased phosphine to phenyl-tert-butylphosphine was also successful, affording the product **54** in 10:1 dr and 85% ee.

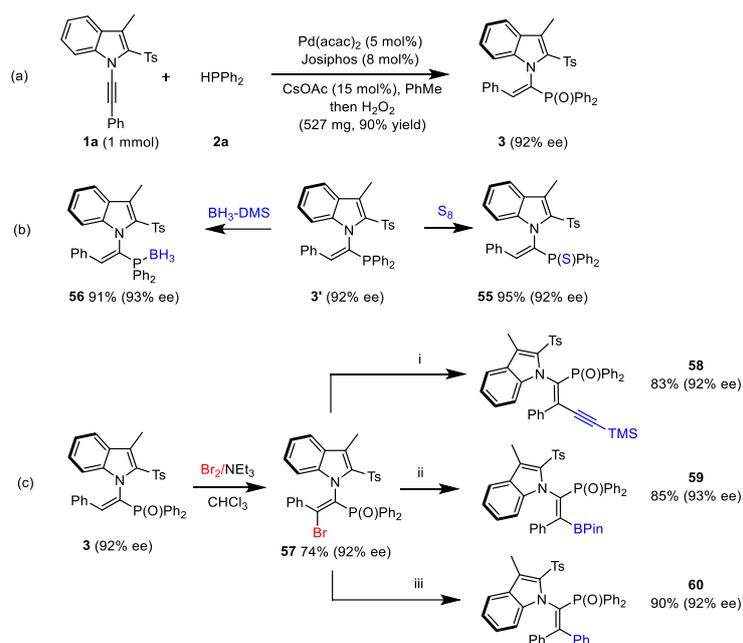
Scheme 4. Scope of Nonsymmetric Phosphines for Construction of Axial and Central Chirality^a



^aReaction conditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol), secondary phosphine (0.2 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (6 mol%) and **L8** (9 mol%) in dioxane (1 mL)/EtOAc (1 mL) at 0 °C, 96 h. Isolated yield.

Synthetic applications of representative products have been performed. The coupling of **1a** and **2a** was easily scaled up at a reduced catalyst loading, affording product **3** in excellent yield with only slightly lower enantioselectivity (Scheme 5a). In addition to the protection in the oxide form, the initial hydrophosphination product **3'** could also be protected upon treatment with S₈ (**55**) or BH₃-DMS (**56**, Scheme 5b). Product **3** is somewhat electronically activated, and treatment of **3** with Br₂ led to electrophilic bromination at the olefinic site, and tetrasubstituted olefin **57** was obtained in 92% ee. Palladium-catalyzed transformations of **57** have been performed, affording the alkynylation, arylation, and borylation products in high yields (**58-60**). In all cases, no erosion of enantiopurity was detected.

Scheme 5. Synthetic Applications



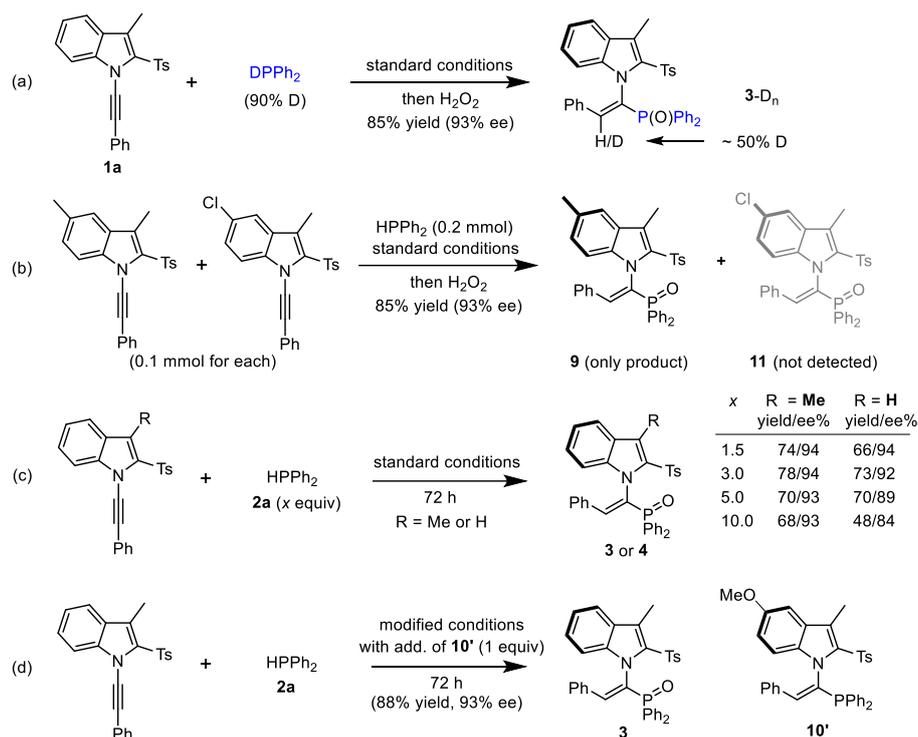
^aTMSC≡CH, Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ (2 mol%), CuI, PPh₃, NEt₃, 100 °C.

^bB₂Pin₂, Pd(dppf)Cl₂, AcOK, 1,4-dioxane.

^cPhB(OH)₂, Pd(OAc)₂, PPh₃, K₂CO₃, THF, 100 °C.

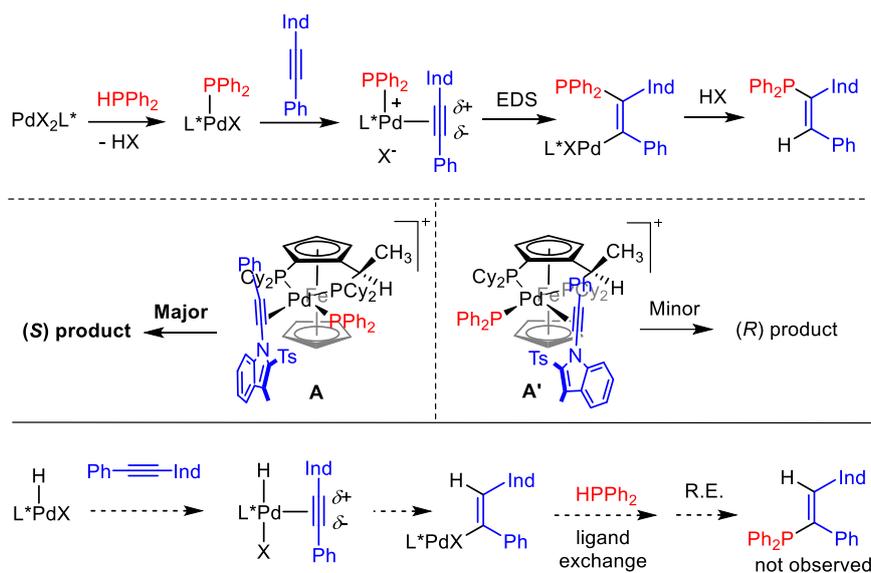
Preliminary experimental studies have been conducted to explore the reaction mechanism (Scheme 6). As expected, coupling of **1a** with DPPH₂ afforded the product **3-D_n** with H/D exchange (~ 50% D) at the olefinic position (Scheme 6a), which seems consistent with a pathway that involves protonolysis of a palladium alkenyl. In a competitive experiment, two electronically distinguishable indolylalkynes bearing different groups at the 5-position were allowed to competitively couple with HPPH₂. NMR analysis indicated that the 5-methyl substrate completely overrode its 5-Cl analogue, affording product **9** in excellent yield (Scheme 6b). This may suggest that a more electron-rich indole ring facilitated the coupling with more pronounced substrate activation. To explore possible phosphine inhibition, several control experiments have been conducted. The coupling of **1a** with different amounts of HPPH₂ all proceeded smoothly with only negligible variations of the enantioselectivity or efficiency (Scheme 6c). In contrast, the employment of an alkyne with a 3-unsubstituted indole (**1a'**) gave decreasingly ee as the amount of HPPH₂ increases. In another experiment, the coupling of **1a** was conducted in the presence of a chiral phosphine product **10'** at the beginning (Scheme 6d), with the efficiency and selectivity essentially unaffected. The different outcomes using these two alkynes may suggest minimal inhibition of HPPH₂ and the vinylphosphine product in the cases of substrate **1a**, while HPPH₂ exerts slight inhibition in the reaction of **1a'** as it becomes less electron-rich and somewhat less sterically hindered.

Scheme 6. Mechanistic Studies



The mechanism of this coupling reaction likely involves the initial deprotonation-ligand substitution between HPPPh_2 and L^*PdX_2 to give a Pd(II)PPh_2 species (Scheme 7). The alkyne coordination is then followed by an enantio-determining migratory insertion of the PPh_2 group into the alkyne. This insertion is also regioselective as dictated by both the electronic and steric effects of the 1-indolyl group which functioned toward the same direction. Indeed, the metal tends to end up at the vinyl site that is distal to the bulky aryl group on the basis of our previous studies.⁷⁷⁻⁷⁹ Protonolysis of the C-Pd bond eventually furnished the coupled product. In the enantio-determining migratory insertion, the more hindered indole moiety of the alkyne tends to be placed downward and two orientations of the alkyne versus the PPh_2 group can be envisioned. In the intermediate **A**, minimal repulsion between the alkyne-attached phenyl group and the alkylphosphino group is experienced. In addition, the π -acidic alkyne is favorably trans to the more donating alkylphosphino group, which eventually leads to the observed (S) selectivity. The electronic effects of the biased chelating P ligands may play an important role. In fact, the electronic effects of the two P atoms of **L12** and **L8** are arranged in the same fashion on the ferrocene backbone, which is in line with the observed (S) axial chirality in both cases. Of note, the hypopalladation pathway,^{48,69,70} that has been suggested in alkyne hydrophosphorylation using P(O)H(OMe)_2 or HP(O)Ph_2 seems unlikely because the opposite regioselectivity is expected (Scheme 7, bottom).

Scheme 7. Proposed Reaction Mechanism (Ind = 1-indolyl)



CONCLUSION

We have realized palladium-catalyzed atroposelective hydrophosphination of sterically hindered internal alkynes using diverse secondary diarylphosphines. The coupling system overcomes the low reactivity of internal alkynes via substrate activation using a sterically bulky but electron-donating 1-indolyl group, affording C-N axially chiral trisubstituted olefins (vinylphosphines) in excellent regioselectivity, *E*-selectivity, and enantioselectivity under mild reaction conditions. The axial chirality was established via integration of hydrophosphination and dynamic kinetic transformation of the alkynes, with both symmetrical and nonsymmetrical secondary phosphines being applicable. In the latter case, additional P-central chirality has been constructed in good diastereoselectivity as well as high enantioselectivity. This hydrophosphination reaction offers a new approach to access underexplored chiral open-chain olefins and may provide new insight into atroposelective functionalization of alkynes.

Further information and requests for resources should be directed to and will be fulfilled by the lead contact Xingwei Li (lixw@snu.edu.cn).

Materials availability

All materials generated in this study are available from the lead contact without restriction

Data and code availability

The date of the X-ray crystallographic structures of **12** and **47** have been deposited in the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Center under accession numbers CCDC: 2126532 and 2126528.

Methods

Full experimental procedures are provided in the supplemental information.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Supplemental information can be found online at <https://chemrxiv.org>

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

X.L. conceived the concept and directed the project. D.J., J.J., Y.W., Z.Q., and F.W. conducted the experiments and data analysis. X.L. and Z.Q. wrote the paper with feedback from all other authors.

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