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Supporting Information

Asymmetric Synthesis of Stable α-Aminoboronic Esters Catalyzed by N-Heterocylic Carbene and Copper (I) Chloride

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General Information

Chemicals and solvents were either purchased from commercial suppliers or purified by standard techniques. Benzene was treated with sodium. CuCl was purified by standard techniques. ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR and ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded on Brucker 400 instruments. Chemical shifts are given in δ relative to tetramethylsilane (TMS), the coupling constants are given in Hz. High-resolution mass spectra were recorded on an Ion Spec Fourier Transform. High-resolution mass spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu Liquid Chromatograph Mass Spectrometer (LCMS-IT-TOF).

Synthetic procedures for 5a-j

A representative procedure with ligand precursor **3** for product **5a** is described below:



Under argon, ligand precursor **3** (0.2 mmol) was mixed with CuCl (0.2 mmol), NaOBu-*t* (0.2 mmol) in 10 mL benzene. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 4 h, during which time, the reaction solution turned from colorless to green then to light black color. To this, was then added N-*t*-butylsulfinyl butaldimine (2.0 mmol) in 5 mL benzene and bis(pinanediolato)diboron (2.0 mmol) in 5 mL benzene. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 48 h. Then the solution was diluted with 30 mL ethyl acetate and quenched with saturated K₂CO₃ solution. After separation and washing the aqueous layer with ethyl acetate (2×30 mL), the combined organic solution was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and then concentrated. Purification using flash column chromatography (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH as eluent) gave **5a**. Yield: 92%. IR (neat): 2939, 2871, 1491, 1380, 1363, 1077, 1021 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 4.76 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 4.34 (dd, *J*₁ = 2.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 2.82(m, 1H), 2.30(m, 1H), 2.16(m, 1H), 1.97(m, 1H), 1.87(m, 1H), 1.71(m, 1H), 1.56(m, 2H), 1.34(m, 2H), 1.32(s, 3H), 1.25(s, 3H), 1.13(m, 1H), 1.08(s, 9H), 0.87(t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 0.82(s, 3H).¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 85.9,

77.4, 55.7, 51.2, 38.3, 35.5, 35.5, 28.8, 27.3, 26.4, 24.1, 23.1, 20.1, 14.5.HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M+H]^+$ calcd for C₁₈H₃₅BNO₃S 356.2352, found 356.2359.

Following the procedure described above, the following compounds were obtained:



IR (neat): 2924, 2871, 1463, 1390, 1376, 1066, 1046 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSOd₆) δ 4.73(d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 4.34(m, 1H), 2.66(t, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.32(m, 1H), 2.16(m, 1H), 1.98(m, 1H), 1.87(m, 2H), 1.70(m, 1H), 1.32(s, 3H), 1.25(s, 3H), 1.18(m, 1H), 1.09(s, 9H), 0.92(d, J = 7.2 Hz, 6H), 0.82(s, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 86.0, 77.4, 55.9, 51.2, 38.3, 35.5, 31.2, 28.9, 27.3, 26.5, 24.2, 23.0, 20.8, 20.0. HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₁₈H₃₅BNO₃S 356.2352, found 356.2361.



IR (neat): 2925, 2870, 1464, 1376, 1078, 1041, 1029 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSOd₆) δ 4.90 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 4.36 (dd, J_1 = 2.0 Hz, J_2 = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.63 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.85 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.32 (m, 1H), 2.17 (m, 1H), 1.98 (t, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 1.88 (m, 1H), 1.81(m, 2H), 1.72 (m, 2H), 1.70 (m, 1H), 1.33 (s, 3H), 1.26 (s, 3H), 1.13 (m, 1H), 1.09 (s, 9H), 0.82 (s, 3H).¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 86.0, 77.5, 55.8, 51.2, 45.9, 38.3, 35.4, 30.6, 30.5, 30.1, 28.8, 27.3, 26.4, 24.1, 23.1. HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₁₈H₃₄BCINO₃S 390.1963, found 390.1957.



IR (neat): 2911, 2865, 1460, 1376, 1079, 1040 1020 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 4.38 (m, 1H), 4.36 (m, 1H), 2.46 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.33 (m, 1H), 2.18 (m, 1H), 1.99 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 1.94 (m, 3H), 1.88 (m, 1H), 1.69 (m, 7H), 1.57 (m, 3H), 1.49 (m, 3H), 1.33 (s, 3H), 1.26 (s, 3H), 1.18 (m, 1H), 1.09 (s, 9H), 0.82 (s, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 86.0, 77.3, 56.2, 51.2, 38.3, 37.1, 35.7, 35.6, 28.9, 28.4, 27.3, 26.6, 24.2, 23.0. HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₂₅H₄₃BNO₃S 448.2978, found 448.2967.



Yield: 78%. IR (neat): 3076, 2922, 2869, 1377, 1364, 1055, 1029 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO d_6) δ 0.19 (m, 1H), 0.26 (m, 1H), 0.44 (m, 1H), 0.82 (s, 3H), 0.96 (m, 1H), 1.09 (s, 9H), 1.18 (d, J = 10.8 Hz, 1H), 1.26 (s, 3H), 1.33 (s, 3H), 1.72 (m, 1H), 1.87 (m. 1H), 1.98 (t, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 2.16 (m, 1H), 2.24 (dd, $J_1 = 6.4$ Hz, $J_2 = 9.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.32 (m, 1H), 4.36 (dd, $J_1 = 2$ Hz, $J_2 = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.74 (d, J = 6 Hz, 1H). ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 3.4, 5.5, 14.4, 23.0, 24.1, 26.3, 27.3, 28.8, 35.5, 38.3, 51.2, 55.7, 77.4, 85.9. HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₁₈H₃₃BNO₃S 354.2196, found 354.2189.



IR (neat): 2920, 2867, 1473, 1394, 1375, 1040, 767, 698 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 7.28 (m, 4H), 7.18 (m, 1H), 5.47 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 4.34 (m, 1H), 4.13 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 2.29 (m, 1H), 2.02 (m, 1H), 1.93 (m, 1H), 1.78 (m, 1H), 1.59(m, 1H),

1.26(s, 3H), 1.21(s, 3H), 1.13(s, 9H), 0.86(m, 1H), 0.78(s, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 141.7, 128.6, 127.7, 126.8, 86.2, 77.7, 56.2, 51.2, 38.3, 35.3, 28.6, 27.2, 26.0, 24.1, 23.1. HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₂₁H₃₃BNO₃S 390.2186, found 390.2177.



IR (neat): 2922, 2870, 1462, 1375, 1079, 1041, 752, 699 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 7.24 (m, 5H), 4.88 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.23 (m, 1H), 3.12 (m, 1H), 2.96 (m, 1H), 2.85 (m, 1H), 2.25 (m, 1H), 1.93 (m, 1H), 1.88 (m, 1H), 1.78 (m, 1H), 1.64 (m, 1H), 1.24 (s, 3H), 1.21 (s, 3H), 1.08 (s, 9H), 0.80 (m, 1H), 0.77 (s, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 139.2, 129.6, 128.6, 126.7, 86.0, 77.5, 55.7, 51.1, 38.2, 35.2, 28.6, 27.3, 26.1, 24.1, 23.0. HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₂₂H₃₅BNO₃S 404.2352, found 404.2369.



IR (neat): 2924, 2867, 1465, 1393, 1061, 820, 725 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 7.23 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 5.34 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 4.33 (dd, *J*₁ = 1.6 Hz, *J*₂ = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.07 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.27 (m, 1H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 2.03 (m, 1H), 1.93 (m, 1H), 1.79 (m, 1H), 1.64 (m, 1H), 1.25 (s, 3H), 1.21 (s, 3H), 1.12 (s, 9H), 0.89 (m, 1H), 0.79 (s, 3H) ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 138.6, 135.8, 129.2, 127.8, 86.2, 77.7, 56.1, 51.3, 38.3, 35.4, 28.7, 27.2, 26.1, 24.1, 23.1, 21.1. HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₂₂H₃₅BNO₃S 404.2352, found 404.2371.



IR (neat): 2924, 2867, 1465, 1393, 1061, 820, 725 cm⁻¹¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 7.38 (m, 4H), 4.23 (m, 1H), 4.17 (m, 1H), 4.14 (m, 1H), 2.28 (m, 1H), 2.18 (m, 1H), 1.93 (m, 1H), 1.86 (m, 1H), 1.70 (m, 1H), 1.30 (s, 3H), 1.25 (s, 3H), 1.14 (s, 9H), 1.13 (m, 1H), 0.81(s, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 139.5, 131.9, 130.0, 128.6, 83.4, 76.1, 55.7, 51.8, 47.7, 38.4, 36.0, 29.0, 27.4, 26.4, 24.1, 23.1. HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₂₁H₃₂BCINO₃S 424.1806, found 424.1813.



IR (neat): 2927, 2875, 1395, 1075, 820, 758 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 7.88 (m, 4H), 7.51 (m, 3H), 4.32 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.32 (m, 1H), 4.22 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.28 (m, 1H), 2.18 (m, 1H), 1.93 (m, 1H), 1.87 (m, 1H), 1.67 (m, 1H), 1.30 (s, 3H), 1.25 (s, 3H), 1.17 (s, 9H), 1.13 (m, 1H), 0.81 (s, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 138.0, 133.3, 132.7, 128.2, 128.0, 128.0, 126.8, 126.6, 126.5, 126.2, 83.3, 76.1, 55.7, 51.8, 48.7, 48.5, 38.4, 36.0, 29.0, 27.4, 26.4, 24.1, 23.2. HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₂₅H₃₅BNO₃S 440.2352, found 440.2365.

Yield: 85%.

The procedure for synthesis of **5b**' is the same as the above of products (**5a-j**). (S)-N-tbutylsulfinyl butaldimine was used.

Determination of diastereomer ratio

The crude sulfinyl protected α -amino boronic esters were dissolved in dioxane (0.2 M) in an oven-dried vial equipped with a Teflon coated stir bar under nitrogen. Freshly distilled MeOH (10 equiv) was added to the solution, followed by the drop-wise addition of 2.2 M HCl in dioxane (1 equiv). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1.5 h to 2

h before it was directly concentrated under reduced pressure. Diastereomer ratio (dr) was determined from the ¹HNMR of the crude amine hydrochloride salt.

Selected examples



¹**H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-***d*₆**)** δ 0.81(s, 3H), 0.91(d, *J* = 10.8, 1H), 1.23(s, 3H), 1.36(s, 3H), 1.75(m, 1H), 1.85(m, 1H), 1.95(t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 2.06(m, 1H), 2.30(s, 3H), 2.33(m, 1H), 4.01(d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 4.48(d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.21(d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.30(d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H), 8.27(s, 3H).

Sample with racemic N-tert-butanesulfinyl amine



Sample using (R)-N-tert-butanesulfinyl amine dr > 99:1



¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 0.81 (s, 3H), 0.88 (d, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 1H), 1.22 (s, 3H), 1.36 (s, 3H), 1.77 (m, 1H), 1.85(m, 1H), 1.95 (t, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 2.01-2.06 (m, 1H), 2.31-2.35 (m, 1H), 4.08 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (dd, *J*₁ = 2.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.34-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.38-7.42 (m, 4H), 8.32 (s, 3H). Sample with racemic N-tert-butanesulfinyl amine



Sample using (R)-N-tert-butanesulfinyl amine dr > 99:1



¹**H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-***d*₆) δ 0.81(s, 3H), 0.89(d, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 1H), 1.21(s, 3H), 1.38(s, 3H), 1.77(m, 1H), 1.84(m, 1H), 1.94(t, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 1.99-2.03(m, 1H), 2.32-2.38(m, 1H), 4.28(s, 1H), 4.48(m, 1H), 7.55-7.58(m, 3H), 7.88-7.98(m, 4H), 8.42(s, 3H).



Sample with racemic N-tert-butanesulfinyl amine

Sample using (R)-N-tert-butanesulfinyl amine dr > 99:1



2.51(m, 1H), 2.89-3.02(m, 2H), 3.11(d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 4.40(d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.35(m, 5H), 7.91(s, 3H).



Sample using (R)-N-tert-butanesulfinyl amine dr > 99:1



2.35(m, 1H), 4.14(d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 4.47(dd, *J*₁ = 2.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.44(d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.49(d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 8.36(s, 3H). Sample with racemic N-tert-butanesulfinvl amine



Sample using (R)-N-tert-butanesulfinyl amine dr > 99:1



Synthesis of 7 and 8



Under argon, to a solution of compound **5c** (2.0 mmol) in 10 mL DMF was added NaOBu-*t* (2.1 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 6 h. Then it was quenched with 30 ml ethyl acetate and 30 mL water. The aqueous layer was further extracted with ethyl acetate (2×30 mL). The combined organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄, and then concentrated. Purification using water inactivated silica gel (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH as eluent) gave **7**. Yield: 83%.

IR (neat):2922, 2868, 1462, 1375, 1075, 1050, 1026 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 4.36 (dd, *J*₁ = 2.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.62 (m, 2H), 2.84 (m, 1H), 2.32 (m, 1H), 2.17 (m, 1H), 1.98 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 1.88 (m, 1H), 1.81 (m, 2H), 1.72 (m, 2H), 1.70 (m, 1H), 1.33 (s, 3H), 1.26 (s, 3H), 1.13 (m, 1H), 1.09 (s, 9H), 0.82 (s, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 86.0, 77.5, 55.8, 51.2, 45.9, 38.3, 35.4, 30.6, 30.5, 30.1, 28.8, 27.3, 26.4, 24.1, 23.1.HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m*/*z*: [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₁₈H₃₃BNO₃S 354.2196, found 354.2190.



Compound 7 (1 mmol) was diluted with 1,4-dioxane (4.7 mL) under a stream of nitrogen. Methanol (9.97 mmol) was added at room temperature followed by the addition of 4.0M HCl (solution in 1,4-dioxane) (0.994 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 0.5h before it was concentrated to dryness. The resulting solid was triturated with a 2:1 mixture of hexanes: Et₂O to obtain the desired product as a white solid **8**. Yield: 90%. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.43 (d, *J* = 9 Hz, 1H) 3.42 (m, 2H), 3.22 (m, 1H), 2.38-1.83 (m, 10H), 1.45 (s, 3H), 1.30 (s, 3H), 1.13 (m, 1H), 0.83 (s, 3H).

X-ray crystal structure of 5b'

The **5b**' crystal structure has been deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre and was assigned the deposition number : CCDC 901852





¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR and ¹⁹F NMR

spectra























