Category

Metal-Catalyzed Asymmetric Synthesis and Stereoselective Reactions

Key words

iron

transfer hydrogenation

ketimines

A. A. MIKHAILINE, M. I. MAISHAN, R. H. MORRIS* (UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, CANADA) Asymmetric Transfer Hydrogenation of Ketimines Using Well-Defined Iron(II)-Based Precatalysts Containing a PNNP Ligand

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Iron-Catalyzed Asymmetric Transfer Hydrogenation of Ketimines

Significance: The authors report an iron-catalyzed asymmetric transfer hydrogenation under mild conditions that gives chiral amines with high enantioselectivity (94–99% ee). The system provides a solution to the challenging C=N bond reduction and proceeds with 2-propanol as the reducing agent.

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Comment: Iron(II)–PNNP complexes that catalyze the asymmetric reduction of N-(diphenylphosphinoyl)- and N-(4-tolylsulfonyl)ketimines were developed. The (R,R)-diamine catalyst produces the (S)-amine. (S,S)-3 are found to be the most active and stereoselective catalyst. The reaction outcome is influenced mainly by the sterics around the imine carbon but is insensitive to its electronic character.