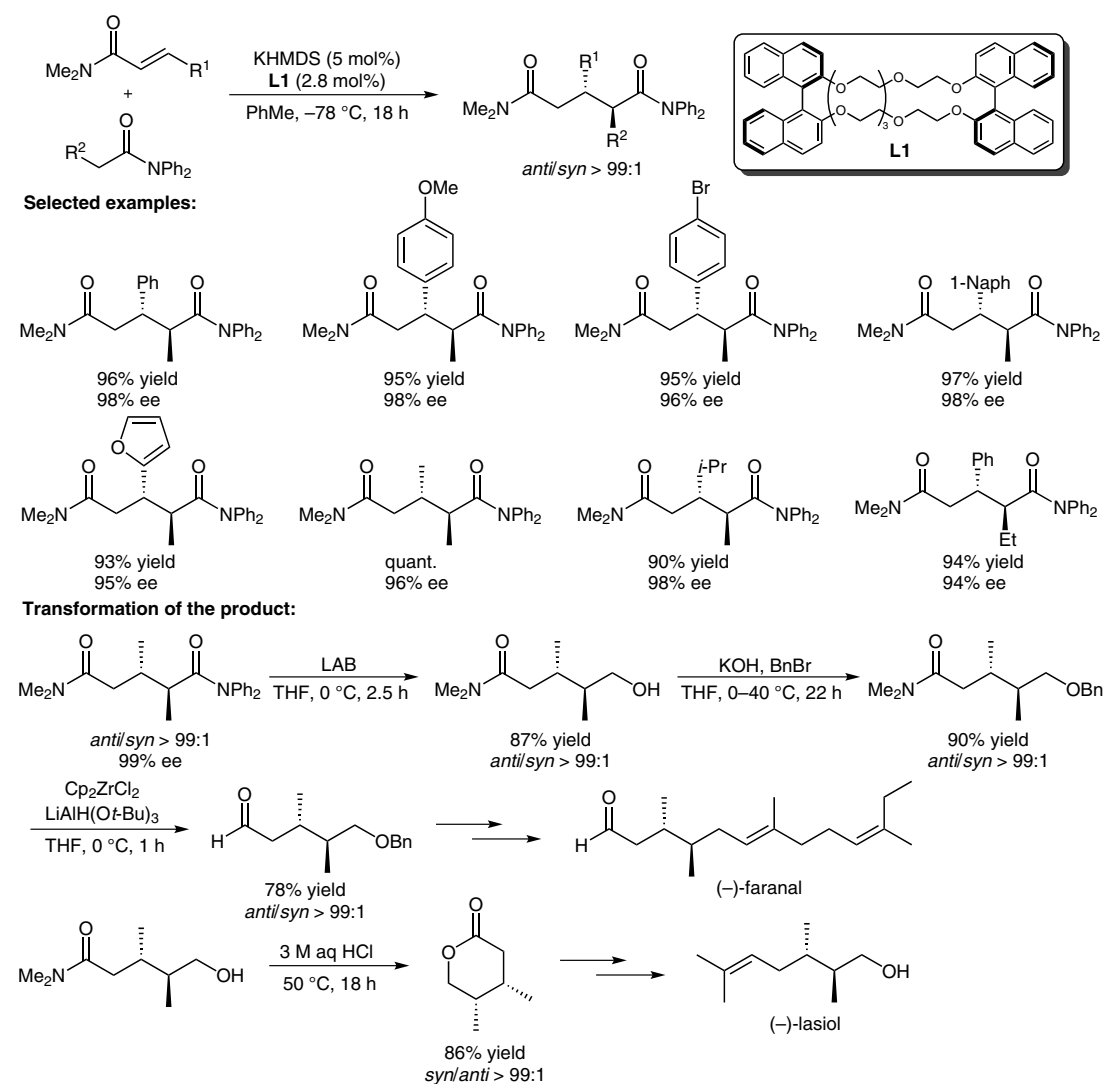


## Enantioselective 1,4-Addition of Amides with $\alpha,\beta$ -Unsaturated Carbonyls



**Significance:** Kobayashi and co-workers present asymmetric direct 1,4-addition reactions of simple amides with  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carbonyl compounds catalyzed by a combination of a potassium base and a chiral crown ether. A series of 1,5-dicarbonyl compounds were prepared with excellent stereoselectivities (*anti/syn* > 99:1, up to 98% ee).

**SYNFACTS Contributors:** Hisashi Yamamoto, Masahiro Sai  
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**Comment:** A macrocyclic chiral crown ether was found to be effective for the chiral modification of the potassium cation, and the desired reaction proceeded in excellent yields with outstanding diastereo- and enantioselectivities. The products can be converted into useful derivatives, including the formal syntheses of natural products.