

M. YAMADA\*, K. AZUMA, M. YAMANO (TAKEDA PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY LIMITED, OSAKA, JAPAN)

Highly Enantioselective Direct Asymmetric Reductive Amination of 2-Acetyl-6-Substituted Pyridines

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## Ruthenium-Catalyzed Enantioselective Reductive Amination

Category

Metals in Synthesis

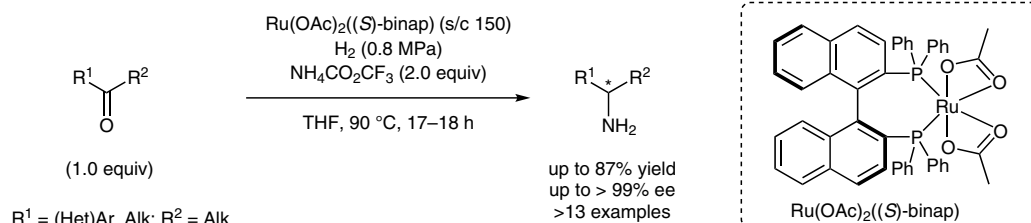
Key words

ruthenium catalysis

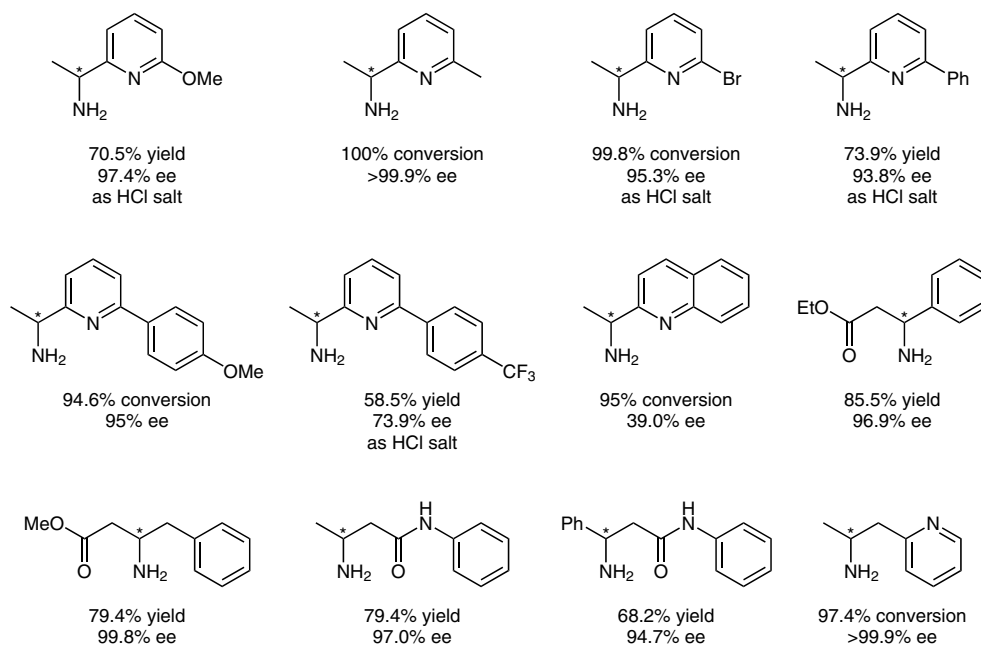
reductive amination

asymmetric synthesis

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### Selected examples:



**Significance:** The authors report a ruthenium-catalyzed reductive amination of ketones.  $\text{Ru}(\text{OAc})_2((S)\text{-binap})$  is used as catalyst and ammonium trifluoroacetate as the nitrogen source; hydrogen pressures of 0.8 MPa are needed. The procedure allows the formation of chiral amines in high enantiomeric excess and quantitative conversions. Sensitive functional groups such as esters and amides are tolerated.

**Comment:** Reductive aminations are widespread reactions in the pharmaceutical industry. This direct asymmetric reductive amination allows for the generation of chiral secondary amines from ketones, which has been challenging before. Diaryl-ketones, fused ring ketones, and 2-acetyl-6-pyridone showed no reaction under these conditions.

**SYNFACTS Contributors:** Paul Knochel, Johannes H. Harenberg  
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