

*Synthesis Alerts* is a monthly feature to help readers of Synthesis keep abreast of new reagents, catalysts, ligands, chiral auxiliaries, and protecting groups which have appeared in the recent literature. Emphasis is placed on new developments but established reagents, catalysts etc are also covered if they are used in novel and useful reactions. In each abstract, a specific example of a transformation is given in a concise format designed to aid visual retrieval of information.

*Synthesis Alerts* is a personal selection by:

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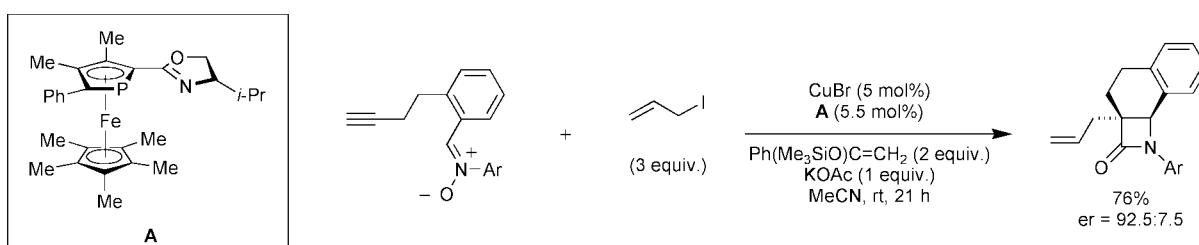
The journals regularly covered by the abstractors are:

Angewandte Chemie International Edition  
Bulletin of the Chemical Society of Japan  
Chemical Communications  
Chemistry A European Journal  
Chemistry Letters  
Collection Czechoslovak Chemical Communications  
European Journal of Organic Chemistry  
Helvetica Chimica Acta  
Heterocycles  
Journal of the American Chemical Society  
Journal of Organic Chemistry  
Organic and Biomolecular Chemistry  
Organic Letters  
Organometallics  
Synlett  
Synthesis  
Tetrahedron  
Tetrahedron Asymmetry and Tetrahedron Letters

Enantioselective synthesis of  $\beta$ -lactams via an intramolecular Kinugasa reaction.

Shintani, R.; Fu, G. C. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2003**, *42*, 4082.

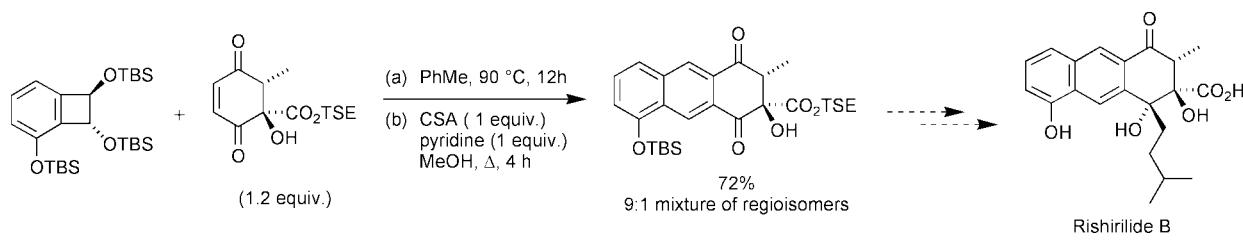
Annulation



Total synthesis of Rishirilide B.

Yamamoto, K.; Hentemann, M. F.; Allen, J. G.; Danishefsky, S. J. *Chem.–Eur. J.* **2003**, *9*, 3242.

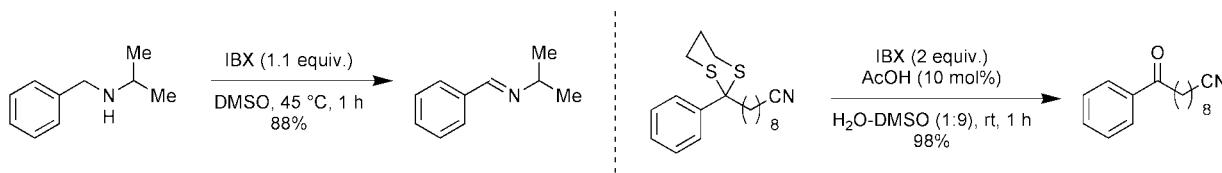
Diels–Alder



IBX oxidation of nitrogen and sulfur-containing substrates.

Nicolaou, K. C.; Mathison, C. J. N.; Montagnon, T. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2003**, *42*, 4077.

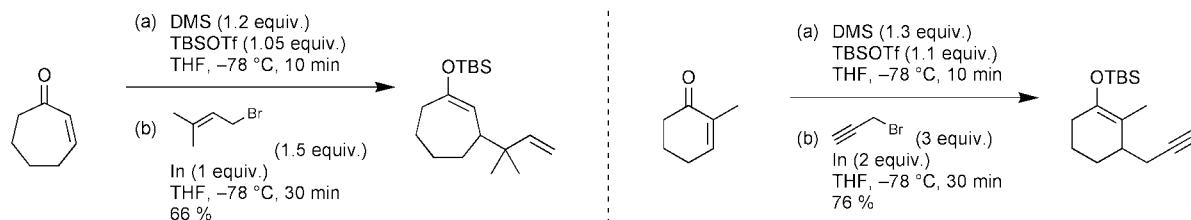
Oxidation



Amines: 19 examples (yields 49–98%). Dithianes: 6 examples (yields 95–99%).

Indium-mediated  $\beta$ -allylation, propargylation and allenylation of  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated ketones.  
 Lee, K.; Kim, H.; Miura, T.; Kiyota, K.; Kusama, H.; Kim, S.; Iwasawa, N.; Lee, P. H.  
*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2003**, *125*, 9682.

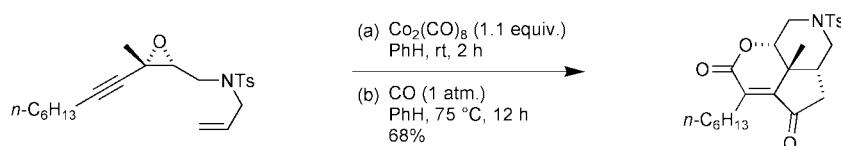
## 1,4-Addition/Substitution



38 examples (yields 0-86%).

Synthesis of tricyclic  $\delta$ -lactones via a  $\text{Co}_2(\text{CO})_8$ -mediated tandem [5+1]/[2+2+1] cycloaddition reaction.  
 Odedra, A.; Wu, C.-J.; Madhushaw, R. J.; Wang, S.-L.; Liu, R.-S. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2003**, *125*, 9610.

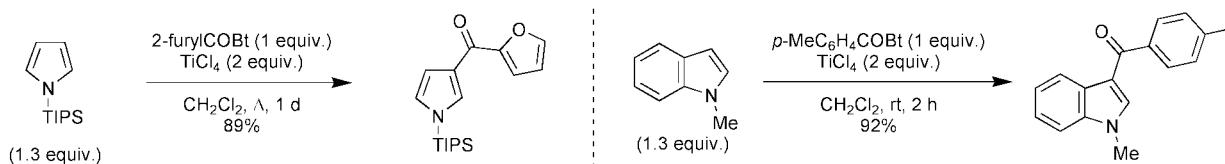
## Annulation



22 examples (yields 38-89%).

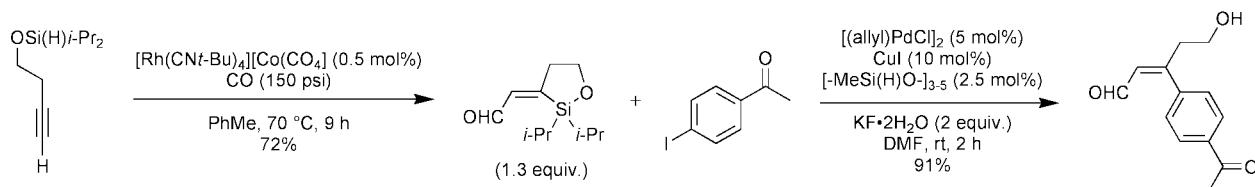
Regiospecific C-acylation of pyrroles and indoles using *N*-acylbenzotriazoles.  
 Katritzky, A. R.; Suzuki, K.; Singh, S. K.; He, H.-Y. *J. Org. Chem.* **2003**, *68*, 5720.

## Acylation



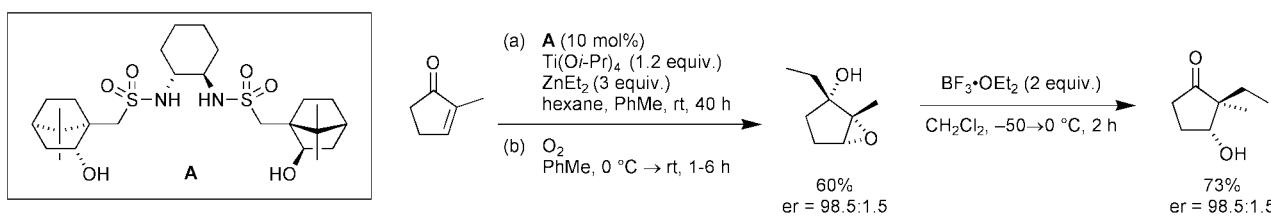
Pyrroles: 21 examples (yields 0-94%). Indoles: 14 examples (yields 15-92%).

Tandem intramolecular silylformylation and silicon-assisted cross-coupling reactions.  
 Denmark, S. E.; Kobayashi, T. *J. Org. Chem.* **2003**, *68*, 5153.

*sp*<sup>2</sup>-*sp*<sup>2</sup> Coupling

Silylformylation: 5 examples (yields 8-72%). Cross-coupling: 11 examples (yields 36-93%) including optimization studies.

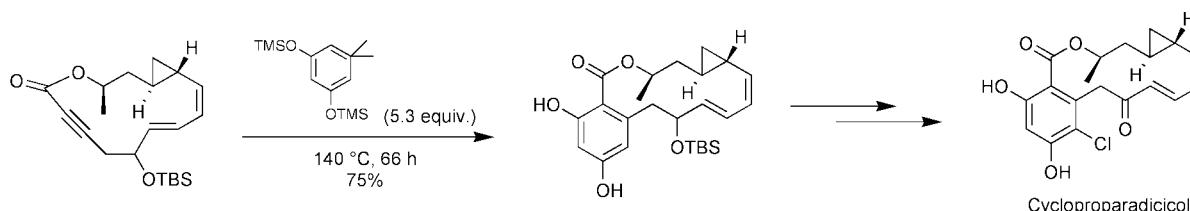
A tandem enantioselective alkylzinc addition to cyclic  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated ketones/diastereoselective epoxidation. 1,2-Addition/Epoxidation  
 Jeon, S.-J.; Walsh, P. J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2003**, *125*, 9544.



23 examples (yields 20-89%, %ee 52-99%).

Synthesis of benzo-fused macrolactones via ynlides.  
Yang, Z.-Q.; Danishefsky, S. J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2003**, 125, 9602.

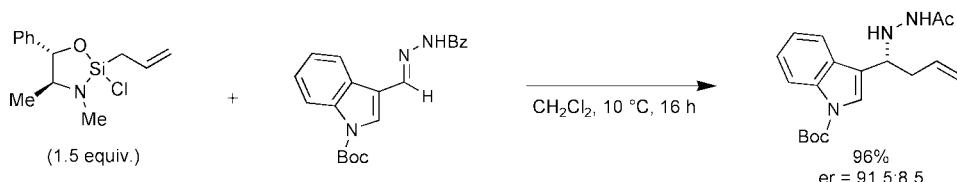
Diels–Alder



A total synthesis of cycloparapradicicol is also reported.

Enantioselective allylation of acylhydrazones using strained silacycles.  
Berger, R.; Rabbatt, P. M. A.; Leighton, J. L. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2003**, 125, 9596.

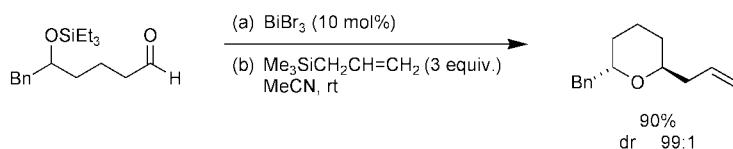
Allylation/Crotylation



17 examples of allylations and 2 examples of crotylations (yields 49–96%, %ee 23–99%, %de 90–92%).

Stereoselective formation of *cis*- and *trans*-2,6-substituted tetrahydropyran rings catalyzed by bismuth tribromide.  
Evans, P. A.; Cui, J.; Gharpure, S. J.; Hinkle, R. J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2003**, 125, 11456.

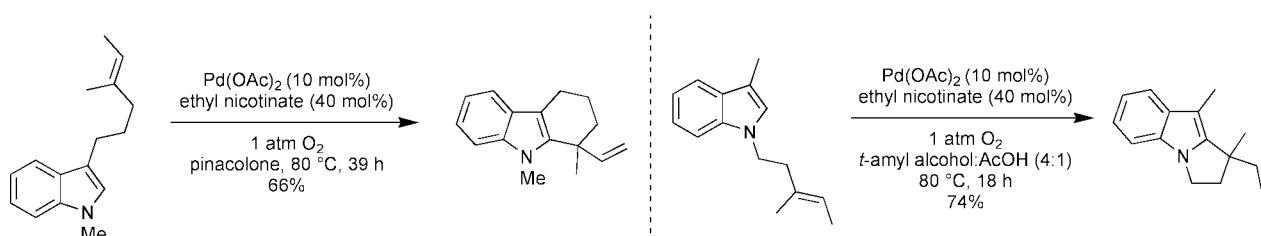
Annulation



The coupling reactions with carbon nucleophiles give *trans*-diastereomers, whilst the reductive coupling gives *cis*-diastereomers.  
10 examples (yields 72–95%, %de 90–98%).

Palladium(II)-catalyzed oxidative annulation of indoles.  
Ferreira, E. M.; Stoltz, B. M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2003**, 125, 9578.

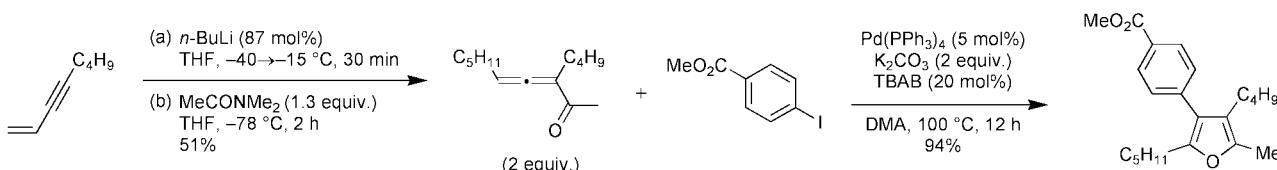
Annulation



13 examples (yields 60–82%).

Synthesis of 2,3,4-, 2,3,5- and 2,3,4,5-substituted furans via a Pd(0)-catalyzed coupling cyclization.  
Ma, S.; Zhang, J.; Lu, L. *Chem.–Eur. J.* **2003**, 9, 2447.

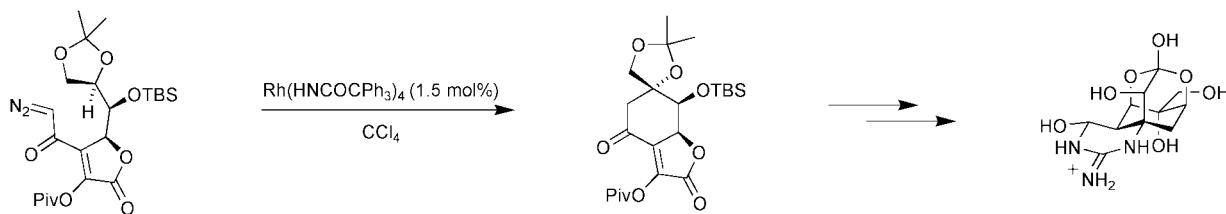
Annulation



Mechanistic studies investigated. 29 examples (yields 51–97%).

Stereoselective synthesis of (-)-Tetrodotoxin.  
Hinman, A.; Du Bois, J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2003**, *125*, 11510.

Stereospecific Carbene C-H Insertion

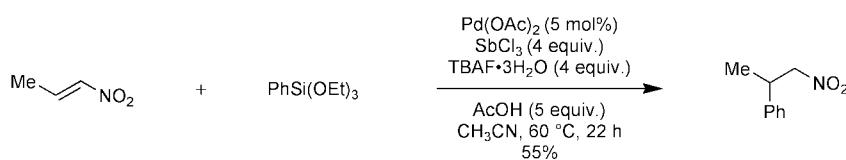


A stereospecific Rh-nitrene C-H insertion is also applied in the total synthesis.

Pd-catalyzed conjugate addition of organosiloxanes to  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carbonyl compounds and nitroalkenes.

1,4-Addition

Denmark, S. E.; Amishiro, N. *J. Org. Chem.* **2003**, *68*, 6997.

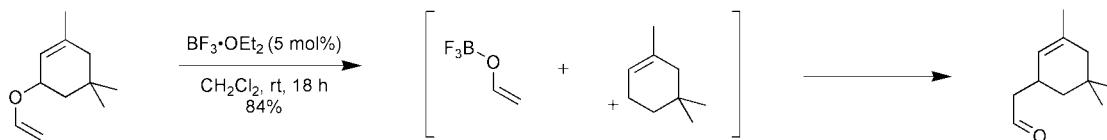


29 examples (0-93%).

Lewis acid-catalyzed cleavage and subsequent alkylation of enol ethers.

[1,3]-Rearrangement

Gansauer, A.; Fielenbach, D.; Stock, C.; Geich-Gimbel, D. *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **2003**, *345*, 1017.

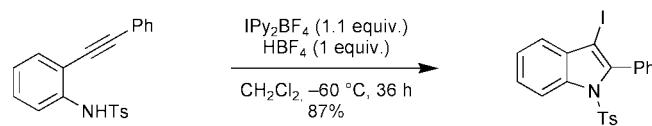


Mechanistic studies were included. 32 examples (yields 32-87%).

Intramolecular addition of anilines to alkynes promoted by  $\text{IPy}_2\text{BF}_4$ .

Annulation

Barluenga, J.; Trincado, M.; Rubio, E.; Gonzalez, J. M. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2003**, *42*, 2406.

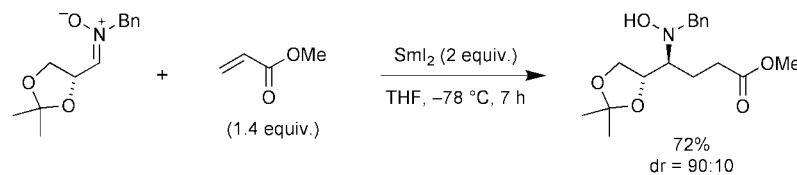


12 examples (yields 10-87%). A solid-supported version is also reported.

Reductive conjugate addition of nitrones to  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated esters using  $\text{SmI}_2$ .

1,4-Addition

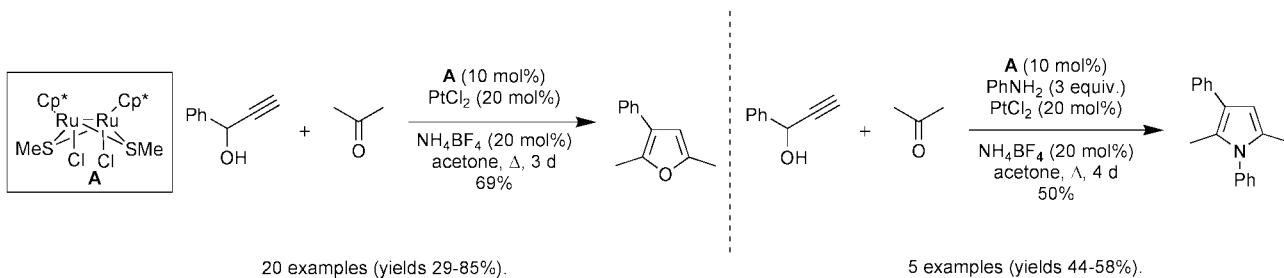
Masson, G.; Cividino, P.; Py, S.; Vallee, Y. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2003**, *42*, 2265.



25 examples (yields 10-96%, %de 20-90%) including enantioselective 1,4-additions by use of chiral auxiliaries at the nitrogen centre.

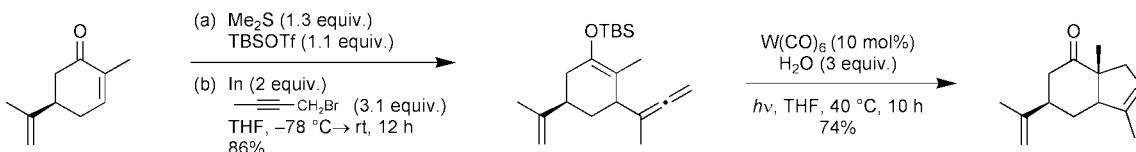
Ruthenium- and platinum catalyzed-synthesis of tri- and tetra-substituted furans and pyrroles.  
Nishibayashi, Y.; Yoshikawa, M.; Inada, Y.; Milton, M. D.; Hidai, M.; Uemura, S. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2003**, *42*, 2681.

Annulation

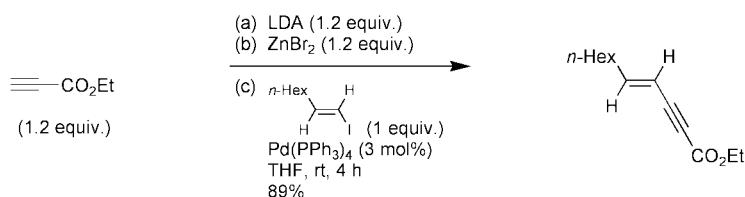


W(CO)<sub>5</sub>(L)-catalyzed cyclization of allenyl silyl enol ethers.  
Miura, T.; Kiyota, K.; Kusama, H.; Lee, K.; Kim, H.; Kim, S.; Lee, P. H.; Iwasawa, N. *Org. Lett.* **2003**, *5*, 1725.

Annulation



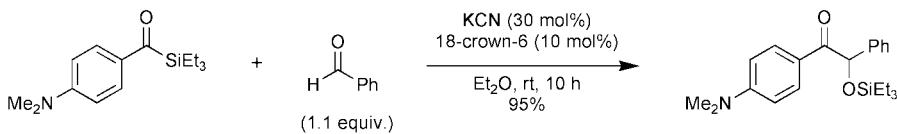
Pd-catalyzed cross-coupling of alkynylzincs with alkenyl halides.  
Negishi, E.; Qian, M.; Zeng, F.; Anastasia, L.; Babinski, D. *Org. Lett.* **2003**, *5*, 1597.

sp-sp<sup>2</sup> Coupling

14 examples (yields 64-89%). Each example was compared with Sonogashira reaction conditions (yields 0-53%).

Regiospecific cyanide-catalyzed cross silyl benzoin reaction.  
Linghu, X.; Johnson, J. S. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2003**, *42*, 2534.

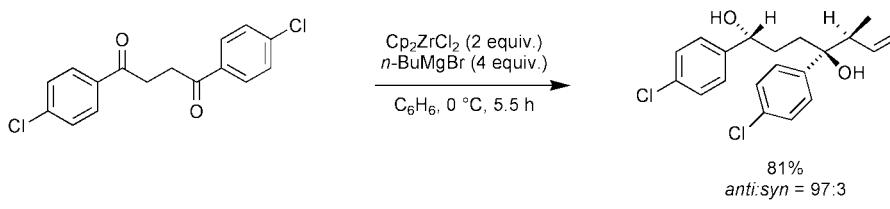
Nucleophilic Addition



16 examples (yields 51-95%). A sequential silyl benzoin addition/cyanation-O-acylation reaction is also reported.

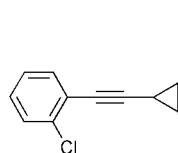
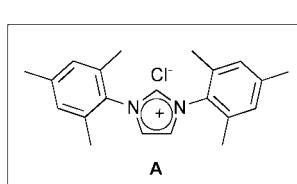
Highly diastereoselective tandem reduction-allylation reactions of 1,4-diketones.  
Fujita, K.; Shinokubo, H.; Oshima, K. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2003**, *42*, 2550.

Reduction/Allylation



Catalytic one-pot synthesis of indoles.  
Siebeneicher, H.; Bytschkov, I.; Doye, S. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2003**, *42*, 3042.

### Hydroamination/ $sp^2$ - $sp^3$ Coupling



(a)  $H_2N-C_6H_4-Cl$  (1 equiv.)

$Cp^*_2TiMe_2$  (5 mol%)

PhMe,  $\Delta$ , 1 d

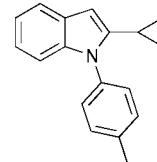
(b) **A** (10 mol%)

$Pd_2(dba)_3$  (5 mol%)

KO*t*-Bu (1.5 equiv.)

1,4-dioxane,  $110^\circ C$ , 12 h

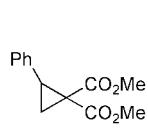
77%



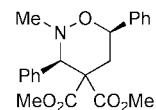
18 examples (yields 0-81%).

Homo [3+2] dipolar cycloaddition of nitrones with cyclopropanes.  
Young, I. S.; Kerr, M. A. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2003**, *42*, 3023.

### [3+2] Cycloaddition



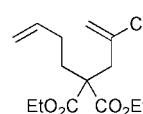
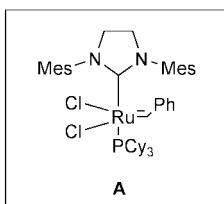
$O^-N^+Me$   
 $Ph-C(=O)H$  (1.2 equiv.)  
 $Yb(OTf)_3$  (5 mol%)  
 $CH_2Cl_2$ , rt, 42 h  
84%



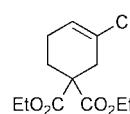
11 examples (yields 50-96%). Application towards the formal synthesis of antitumour antibiotic FR-900482.

Ring-closing olefin metathesis of vinyl chlorides.  
Chao, W.; Weinreb, S. M. *Org. Lett.* **2003**, *5*, 2505.

### Metathesis



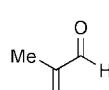
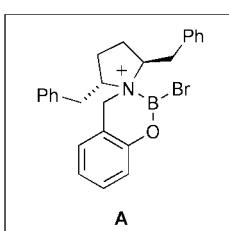
**A** (10 mol%)  
Ph,  $65^\circ C$ , 6 h  
99%



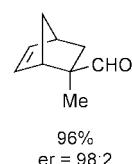
Synthesis of 5, 6 and 7 membered rings are described. 10 examples (yields 84-99%).

Cationic Lewis acid catalysis of enantioselective Diels–Alder reactions.  
Sprott, K. T.; Corey, E. J. *Org. Lett.* **2003**, *5*, 2465.

### Diels–Alder



$C_6H_6$  (5 equiv.)  
**A** (10 mol%)  
 $CH_2Cl_2$ ,  $-78^\circ C$ , 10 h

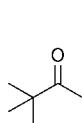


96%  
er = 98:2

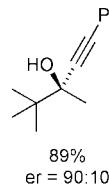
5 examples (yields 76-96%, %ee 86-96%). Synthesis of catalyst **A** is also described.

Enantioselective alkynylation of ketones catalyzed by Zn(salen) complexes.  
Cozzi, P. G. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2003**, *42*, 2895.

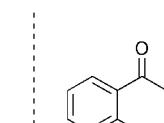
### Alkynylation



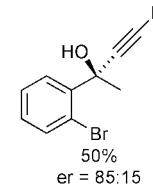
$C_6H_5-C\equiv C-Ph$  (3 equiv.)  
 $ZnMe_2$  (3 equiv.)  
salen (20 mol%)  
PhMe, rt, 36 h



89%  
er = 90:10



$C_6H_5-C\equiv C-Ph$  (3 equiv.)  
 $ZnMe_2$  (3 equiv.)  
salen (10 mol%)  
PhMe, rt, 96 h

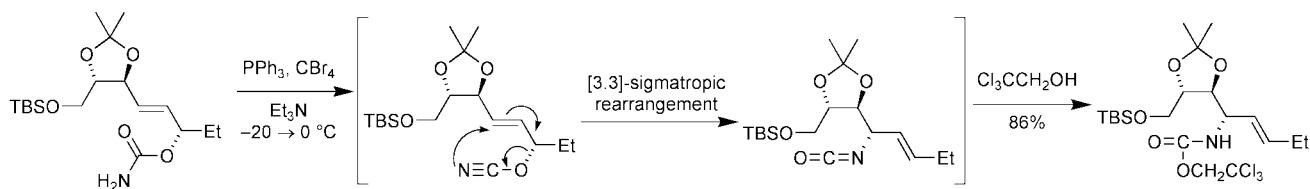


50%  
er = 85:15

17 examples (yields 40-89%, %ee 32-81%).

Stereoselective allyl amine synthesis.  
Ichikawa, Y.; Ito, T.; Nishiyama, T.; Isobe, M. *Synlett.* **2003**, 1034.

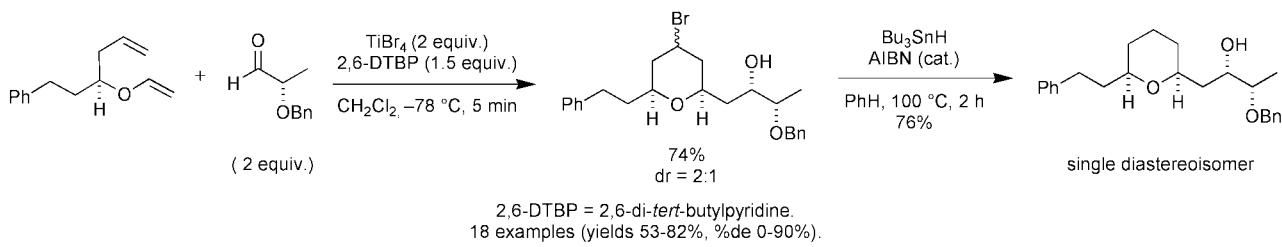
## [3,3] Sigmatropic Rearrangement



Application to the synthesis of Lentiginosine is also reported.

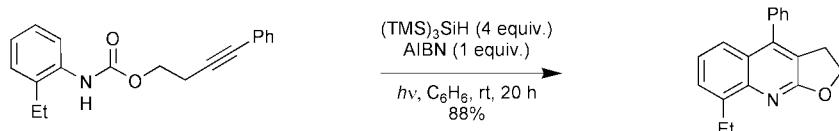
Titanium(IV)-promoted Mukaiyama aldol-Prins cyclizations.  
Patterson, B.; Marumoto, S.; Rychnovsky, S. D. *Org. Lett.* **2003**, 5, 3163.

## Annulation



Synthesis of carbocyclic and heterocyclic fused quinolines by cascade radical annulations.  
Du, W.; Curran, D. P. *Org. Lett.* **2003**, 5, 1765.

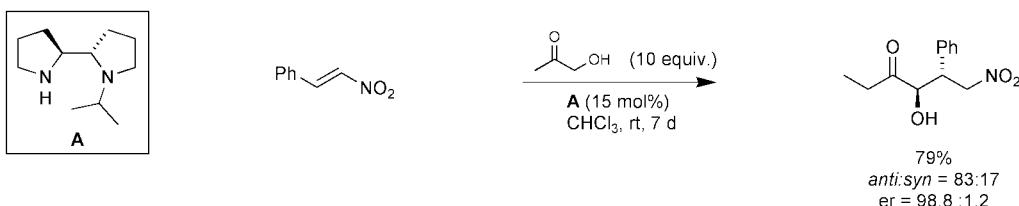
## Annulation



Cyclizations of *N*-aryl thiocarbamates, thioamides and thioureas are described. 15 examples (yields 0-88%).

Asymmetric Michael addition of  $\alpha$ -hydroxyketones to nitroolefins.  
Andrey, O.; Alexakis, A.; Bernardinelli, G. *Org. Lett.* **2003**, 5, 2559.

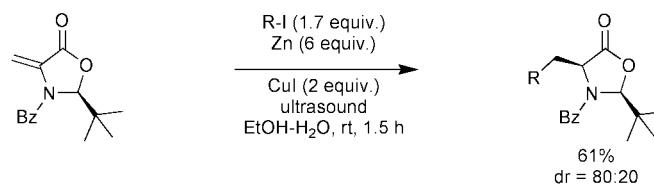
## 1,4-Addition



19 examples (yields 21-85%, 17:83  $\leq$  anti:syn  $\leq$  95.5, %ee 11-99%).

Ultrasonically-induced zinc-copper conjugate addition to  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carbonyl systems.  
Suarez, R. M.; Sestelo, J. P.; Sarandeses, L. A. *Chem.-Eur. J.* **2003**, 9, 4179.

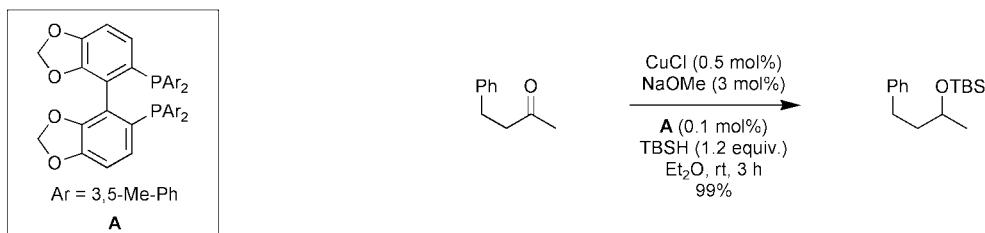
## 1,4-Addition



R-I = (S)-MeO<sub>2</sub>CCH(NHBoc)CH<sub>2</sub>I. 21 examples (yields 38-95%, %de 4-92%).

Copper-catalyzed one-pot hydrosilylation of dialkylketones to trialkylsilyl ethers.  
Lipshutz, B. H.; Caires, C. C.; Kuipers, P.; Chrisman, W. *Org. Lett.* **2003**, 5, 3085.

## Hydrosilylation

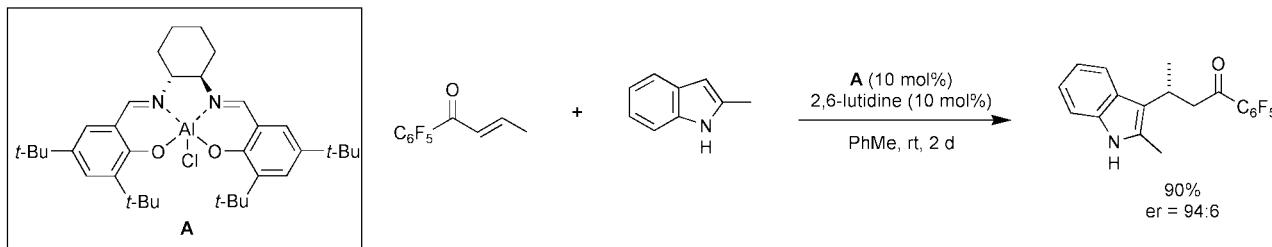


5 examples (yields 10-100%) using a variety of mono- and bi-dentate ligands including investigations on asymmetric hydrosilylation and the impact of microwave irradiation on reaction rate.

Catalytic enantioselective conjugate addition of indoles to  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated ketones.

## 1,4-Addition

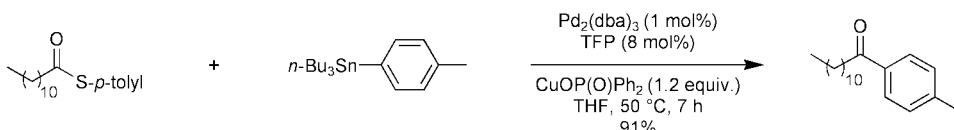
Bandini, M.; Fagioli, M.; Melchiorre P.; Melloni A.; Umani-Ronchi A. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2003**, 44, 5843.



16 examples (yields 35-98%, %ee 11-89%).

Palladium-catalyzed coupling of thiol esters and organostannanes.

Wittenberg, R.; Srogl, J.; Egi, M.; Liebeskind, L. S. *Org. Lett.* **2003**, 5, 3033.

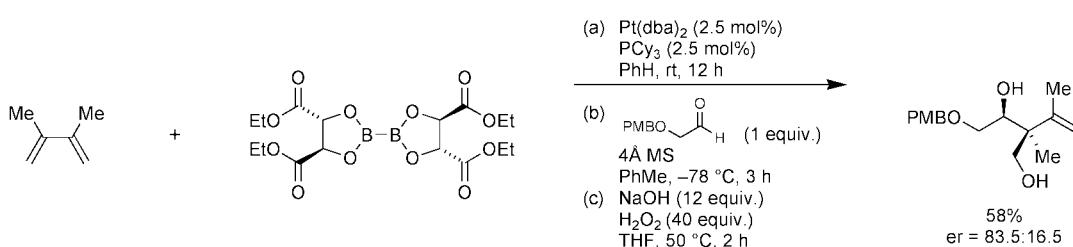
sp<sup>2</sup>-sp<sup>2</sup> Coupling

TFP = tri-2-furylphosphine. 17 examples (yields 61-97%).

Platinum-catalyzed tandem diboration/asymmetric allylboration.

Morgan, J. B.; Morken, J. P. *Org. Lett.* **2003**, 5, 2573.

## Stereoselective Dimetallation/Allylation

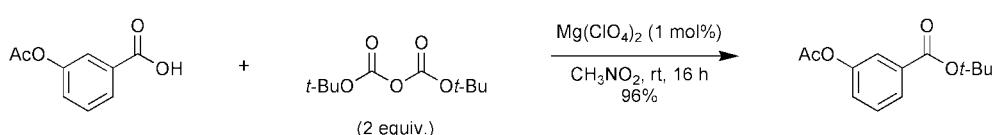


6 examples (yields 58-72%, syn:anti ratio >19:1, %ee 33-74%).

Lewis acid catalyzed decarboxylative esterification.

Gooßen, L.; Döhring, A. *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **2003**, 345, 943.

## Decarboxylative Esterification



The formation of methyl and benzyl esters is also described. 36 examples (yields <5-99%).