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Authors
Avila, Carolina M
Patel, Jigar S
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et al.

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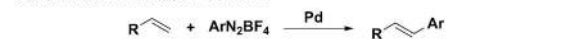
Carolina M. Avila, Jigar S. Patel, Yernaidu Reddi, Masato Saito, Hosea M. Nelson, Hunter P. Shunatona, Matthew S. Sigman, Raghavan B. Sunoj,* and F. Dean Toste*

Abstract: *A mild, asymmetric Heck–Matsuda reaction of five-, six- and seven-membered ring alkenes and aryl diazonium salts is presented. High yields and enantioselectivities were achieved using Pd⁰ and chiral anion co-catalysts, the latter functioning as a chiral anion phase-transfer (CAPT) reagent. For certain substrate classes, the chiral anion catalysts were modulated to minimize the formation of undesired by-products. More specifically, BINAM-derived phosphoric acid catalysts were shown to prevent alkene isomerization in cyclopentene and cycloheptene starting materials. DFT(B3LYP-D3) computations revealed that increased product selectivity resulted from a chiral anion dependent lowering of the activation barrier for the desired pathway.*

Scheme 1. Heck–Matsuda reaction and enantioselective variants.

The Heck–Matsuda arylation reaction[1] (Scheme 1) offers notable advantages over traditional cross-coupling chemistry.[2] Aryl diazonium salts, easily prepared from the corresponding anilines,[3] are much more reactive than their aryl halide and sulfonate counterparts.[4] Thus, reactions can typically be performed under milder conditions.[2b,5] Additionally, oxidation-sensitive ligands are not required, avoiding the need for rigorous exclusion of oxygen.[5] However, enantioselective variants of the Heck–Matsuda reaction are rare, largely because commonly employed chiral phosphine ligands are incompatible with diazonium salts.[6]
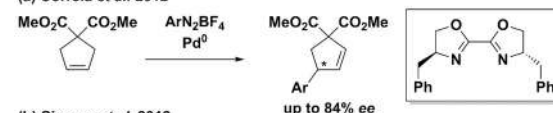
The groups of Correia[7] and Sigman[8] have addressed this challenge through the use of chiral bisoxazoline and pyridine oxazoline ligands, respectively. Correia and co-workers have developed arylative desymmetrizations of both cyclic and acyclic olefins (Scheme 1a), while the Sigman group has reported highly enantio and regioselective arylations of

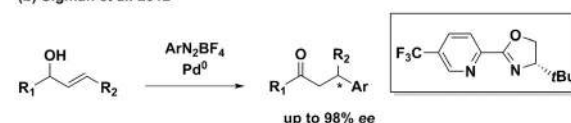acyclic alkenyl alcohols of various chain lengths using a redox-relay strategy (Scheme 1b).[9] As an alternative approach, we envisioned the use of chiral anion phase-transfer catalysis (CAPT) (Scheme 2).[10–12] In this strategy, an
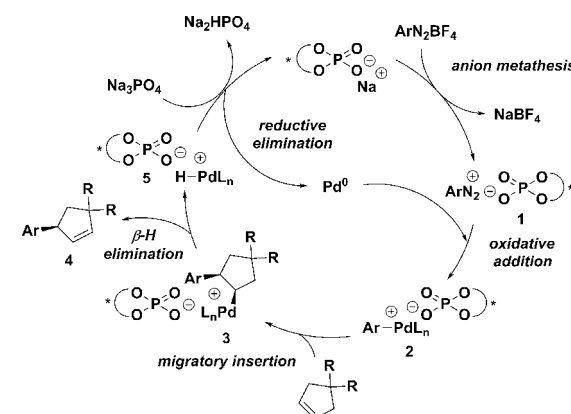
Scheme 2. Enantioselective Heck–Matsuda reaction via chiral anion phase-transfer catalysis.

insoluble diazonium salt is transported into organic solution via anion exchange with a lipophilic phosphate salt to produce ion-pair **1**.[11a,12] After oxidative addition by a Pd⁰ species and loss of N₂, the chiral phosphate remains as a counterion to the resulting cationic Pd^II intermediate.[2,11b] Migratory insertion of the olefin then provides intermediate **3**. This step is rendered enantioselective by virtue of the associated chiral anion.[11a] β-hydride elimination and olefin disassociation affords desired product **4** and Pd-hydride **5**. We envisioned **5** undergoing formal reductive elimination via two plausible pathways, either by deprotonation by the phosphate counter-

[*] Dr. C. M. Avila, Dr. J. S. Patel, M. Saito, Dr. H. M. Nelson,
Dr. H. P. Shunatona, Prof. Dr. F. D. Toste
Department of Chemistry, University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720 (USA)
E-mail: fdtoste@berkeley.edu

Y. Reddi, Prof. Dr. R. B. Sunoj
Department of Chemistry, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
Powai, Mumbai 400076 (India)
E-mail: sunoj@chem.iitb.ac.in

Prof. Dr. M. S. Sigman
Department of Chemistry, University of Utah
315 South 1400 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84112 (USA)

Dr. H. M. Nelson
Current address: Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry,
University of California, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1569 (USA)

Supporting information and the ORCID identification number(s) for the author(s) of this article can be found under:
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ion (shown in Scheme 2) or by the inorganic base present in the mixture. Both pathways regenerate Pd[0] and chiral phosphate co-catalysts.

Notably, the outlined mechanism posits that the chiral anion is associated with the cationic palladium catalyst throughout the catalytic cycle. This hypothesis implies that the anion might be leveraged to mediate reactivity and selectivity arising from any or all of the elementary steps in the catalytic cycle. More specifically, alkene isomerization by a palladium hydride intermediate (**5**), which has been previously noted as an issue of the Heck–Matsuda reaction of unactivated cyclic alkenes,[4b,13] might be subject to anion control. However, while the number of examples of chiral phosphate anion-controlled enantioselectivity is rapidly increasing, the use of these anions to influence reaction outcomes beyond enantioselectivity remains rare.[14] Herein, we demonstrate that CAPT catalysis can be employed to control the enantio- and chemoselectivity of the Heck–Matsuda reaction.

To test the viability of the hypothesis outlined above, cyclopentene **6** was treated with 5 mol% Pd$_2$dba$_3$, 1.4 equivalents of phenyldiazoniumtetrafluoroborate, 6 equivalents of Na$_2$CO$_3$, and 10 mol% **7a** as a phase-transfer catalyst in toluene. Under these conditions the desired product was formed in good yield and with a significant level of enantioselectivity (Table 1, entry 1). After examining various non-polar solvents, catalysts, inorganic bases, and reaction temperatures, the optimal results were obtained using a 3:2 mixture of benzene and MTBE as solvent, K$_2$CO$_3$ as the inorganic base, and H8-TCYP (**7a**) as the chiral anion at 10°C

Table 1: Reaction optimization.[a]

Entry	CAPT	Solvent	Base	T	Yield [%][b]	ee [%][c]
1	7a	toluene	Na$_2$CO$_3$	r.t.	76	49
2	7a	benzene	Na$_2$CO$_3$	r.t.	80	57
3	7a	MTBE	Na$_2$CO$_3$	r.t.	68	59
4	7a	benzene/MTBE 3:2	Na$_2$CO$_3$	r.t.	86	68
5	–	benzene/MTBE 3:2	Na$_2$CO$_3$	r.t.	9	–
6	7a	benzene/MTBE 3:2	–	r.t.	40	7
7	7a	benzene/MTBE 3:2	K$_2$CO$_3$	r.t.	97	70
8	7a	benzene/MTBE 3:2	K$_2$CO$_3$	10°C	80	85
9	7b	benzene/MTBE 3:2	Na$_2$CO$_3$	r.t.	85	45
10	7c	benzene/MTBE 3:2	Na$_2$CO$_3$	r.t.	61	63
11	7d	benzene/MTBE 3:2	Na$_2$CO$_3$	r.t.	94	40
12	7e	benzene/MTBE 3:2	Na$_2$CO$_3$	r.t.	88	43
13	7f	benzene/MTBE 3:2	Na$_2$CO$_3$	r.t.	82	36

[a] Conditions: **6** (1 equiv, 0.027 mmol), phenyldiazonium tetrafluoroborate (1.4 equiv), Pd$_2$(dba)$_3$ (0.05 equiv), **7** (0.1 equiv), base (6 equiv), solvent (0.75 mL), 24 h. [b] Yield determined by ¹H-NMR utilizing 1,4-dinitrobenzene as an internal standard. [c] Enantiomeric excess determined by chiral HPLC. MTBE: Methyl *tert*-butyl ether.

(Table 1, entry 8). Notably, the reaction did not proceed in the absence of a phase-transfer catalyst (Table 1, entry 5) and was slowed in the absence of base, while, affording product in diminished enantioselectivity (Table 1, entry 6). These results are consistent with the proposed phase-transfer mechanism.

With an optimized set of conditions in hand, the scope of the aryl diazonium salt was examined (Table 2). Generally,
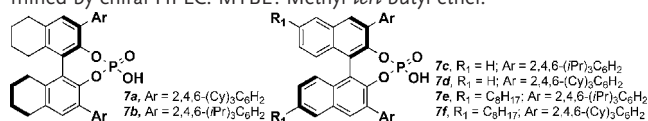
Table 2: Aryl diazonium scope.[a]

Entry	R =	Yield [%][b]	ee [%][c]
1	H (**8a**)	82	85
2	3-CF$_3$ (**8b**)	70	84
3	4-F (**8c**)	81	85
4	3-OMe (**8d**)	81	79
5	4-OMe (**8e**)	73	82
6	3,5-Me (**8f**)	79	82
7	4-tBu (**8g**)	82	87
8	4-Ph (**8h**)	66	85
9	4-OMe,3-Cl (**8i**)	80	80
10	2-F (**8j**)	15	94

[a] Conditions: **6** (1 equiv, 0.054 mmol), aryl diazonium tetrafluoroborate (1.4 equiv), Pd$_2$(dba)$_3$ (0.05 equiv), **7a** (0.10 equiv), K$_2$CO$_3$ (2 equiv), solvent (1.6 mL), 24 h. [b] Isolated yields. [c] Enantiomeric excess determined by chiral phase HPLC.

substitution at the *meta*- and *para*-positions of this reagent was well-tolerated, affording products in good yields and enantioselectivities. Specifically, strongly electron-donating groups (Table 2, **8d–e**), and electron-withdrawing groups (Table 2, **8b–c**) were viable under the optimized reaction conditions. Disubstitution of the aryl diazonium salt was also well-tolerated (Table 2, **8f** and **8i**). In contrast, while high enantioselectivity was obtained with an *ortho*-substituted diazonium, the yield was diminished (Table 2, **8j**). Notably, enantioselectivities using various aryl diazonium salts under CAPT catalysis compare favorably with those previously reported for this class of substrate.[7a]

Given the results for disubstituted cyclopentene derivatives, we sought to expand the scope to mono-substituted analogues, with the aim of achieving high diastereo- and enantioselectivity. When cyclopentene **9** was subjected to the phase-transfer Heck–Matsuda conditions, the desired product was obtained as a single diastereomer in moderate enantioselectivity. Slight modification of reaction conditions, namely altering the inorganic base to Cs$_2$CO$_3$, improved the enantioselectivities up to 90% *ee* (Table 3). Substitution of the aryl diazonium salt with an electronically diverse set of substituents was well tolerated.

Examination of additional cyclopentene derivatives revealed divergent reactivity using spirocyclic substrates. For instance, reaction of olefin **11**, using BINOL-derived phosphoric acid as a catalyst **7a**, produced a 3:2 mixture of the desired product **12** and isomerized starting material **13** (Table 4, entry 1).

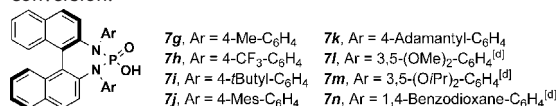**Table 3:** Arylation of monosubstituted cyclopentene.[a]
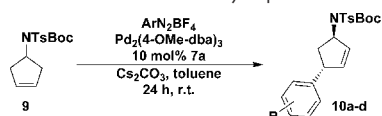
Entry	R =	Yield [%][b]	ee [%][c]
1	4-F (**10a**)	86	90
2	3,5-Me (**10b**)	86	86
3	4-Ph (**10c**)	53	84
4	3-OMe (**10d**)	70	83

[a] Conditions: **9** (1 equiv, 0.05 mmol), aryl diazonium tetrafluoroborate (1.5 equiv), Pd$_2$(4-MeO-dba)$_3$ (0.05 equiv), **7a** (0.10 equiv), Cs$_2$CO$_3$ (2 equiv), toluene (1.0 mL), 24 h. [b] Isolated yields. [c] Enantiomeric excess determined by chiral HPLC.

Table 4: Catalyst Control of Olefin Isomerization.[a]
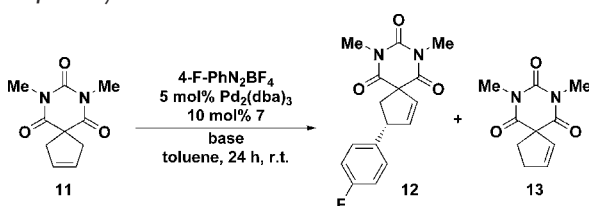
| Entry	CAPT	Solvent	Base	**12:13**	Conv. [%][b]	ee [%][c]
1	**7a**	toluene	Na$_2$CO$_3$	3:2	50	40
2	**7g**	toluene	Na$_2$CO$_3$	>20:1	78	55
3	**7g**	toluene	Na$_2$HPO$_4$	>20:1	95	57
4	**7h**	toluene	Na$_2$HPO$_4$	>20:1	75	36
5	**7i**	toluene	Na$_2$HPO$_4$	>20:1	96	74
6	**7j**	tol/MTBE 1:1	Na$_2$HPO$_4$	>20:1	50	82
7	**7k**	tol/MTBE 1:1	Na$_2$HPO$_4$	>20:1	95	82
8	**7k**	MTBE	Na$_2$HPO$_4$	>20:1	95	87

[a] Conditions: **11** (1 equiv, 0.025 mmol), 4-fluorophenyldiazonium tetrafluoroborate (1.2 equiv), Pd$_2$(dba)$_3$ (0.05 equiv), **7** (0.1 equiv), base (2 equiv), solvent (0.50 mL), 24 h. [b] Conversion determined by crude ^{1}H NMR. [c] Enantiomeric excess determined by chiral HPLC. [d] Low conversion.

7g, Ar = 4-Me-C$_6$H$_4$	**7k**, Ar = 4-Adamantyl-C$_6$H$_4$
7h, Ar = 4-CF$_3$-C$_6$H$_4$	**7l**, Ar = 3,5-(OMe)$_2$-C$_6$H$_4$[d]
7i, Ar = 4-tButyl-C$_6$H$_4$	**7m**, Ar = 3,5-(OiPr)$_2$-C$_6$H$_4$[d]
7j, Ar = 4-Mes-C$_6$H$_4$	**7n**, Ar = 1,4-Benzodioxane-C$_6$H$_4$[d]

Alkene isomer **13** likely arises from coordination of Pd-hydride **5** (Scheme 1) to **11** followed by migratory insertion and β-hydride elimination. To inhibit this undesired isomerization pathway, we hypothesized that a more basic counterion would increase the rate of reductive elimination, thus decreasing the lifetime of the cationic Pd-hydride. A variety of chiral phosphoric acids with a more electron rich binapthyl diamine (BINAM) backbone were prepared.[12b,15] When **11** was subjected to the same reaction conditions, but with BINAM-derived phosphoric acids (BDPA, **7g–k**) as the catalyst, the desired product was generated without isomerization of starting material (Table 4, entries 2–8).

Furthermore, examination of BDPA catalysts with different N-aryl substituents and re-optimization of reaction

conditions, allowed for the selective formation of the desired Heck–Matsuda adduct in good yield and high enantioselectivity (Table 4, entry 8). Various aryl diazonium salts were viable coupling partners using these conditions with enantioselectivities up to 92% (Table 5).[16]
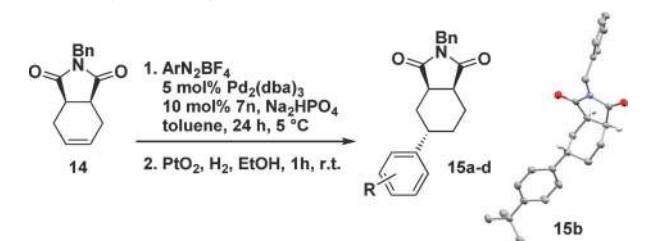
Table 5: Aryl diazonium scope.[a]
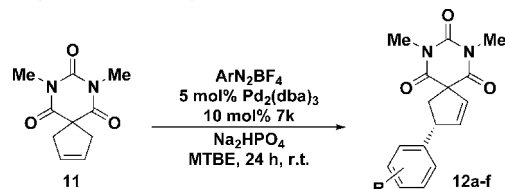
Entry	R =	Yield [%][b]	ee [%][c]
1	H (**12a**)	70	86
2	4-tBu (**12b**)	92	92
3	4-Me (**12c**)	67	90
4	4-F (**12d**)	79	85
5	3-F (**12e**)	92	84
6	3-CF$_3$ (**12f**)	94	90

[a] Conditions: **11** (1 equiv, 0.025 mmol), aryl diazonium tetrafluoroborate (1.5 equiv), Pd$_2$(dba)$_3$ (0.05 equiv), **7k** (0.10 equiv), Na$_2$HPO$_4$ (2 equiv), solvent (0.50 mL), 24 h. [b] Isolated yields. [c] Enantiomeric excess determined by chiral phase HPLC.

Having established BDPAs as catalysts for the CAPT Heck–Matsuda reaction, we turned our attention to larger ring systems that had previous given low selectivity with either traditional ligands[7a] or BINOL-derived catalysts. To this end, tetrahydrophthalimide derivative **14** was subjected to CAPT conditions. The reaction of **14**, using **7a** as the catalyst, provided the Heck adduct in low enantioselectivity. Examination of BINAM-phosphate **7n**, using 4-fluorobenzenediazonium tetrafluoroborate as a coupling partner, afforded the Heck adduct in 84% ee and 40% yield. Due to presence of minor olefin isomers in the product,[17] the double bond was hydrogenated for analytical purposes without erosion of enantioselectivity (for further details see the Supporting Information). Various aryl diazonium salts were viable coupling partners using these conditions with enantioselectivities up to 90% (Table 6).

Given the results for six-membered ring derivatives we looked to expand the scope to seven-membered analogue **16**. As had been previously observed with cyclopentenes, the reaction of olefin **16**, using **7a** as a catalyst, afforded the Heck adduct in 2.2:1 mixture of regioisomers and low enantioselectivity. In contrast, the reaction catalyzed by BDPA **7m** afforded the desired product with high regioselectivity and 78% ee (Scheme 3).

As an application of the developed method, hydantoin derivative **18**, an amino acid precursor, was arylated under chiral anion phase-transfer conditions. The Heck–Matsuda reaction of **18** catalyzed by BINOL-derived phosphoric acid **7a**, generated **19** with 14% ee and 14:1 d.r.. In contrast, BDPA **7i** catalyzed the desired transformation to afford **19** as a single diastereomer in good yield and 81% ee, which was upgraded to 96% ee by a single recrystallization (Scheme 4).

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Table 6: Arylation of cyclohexene derivatives.[a]

Entry	R =	Yield [%][b]	ee [%][c]
1	4-F (**15a**)[d]	72	84
2	4-*t*Bu (**15b**)	72	88
3	4-OMe (**15c**)	66	86
4	3-CF$_3$ (**15d**)	78	90

[a] Conditions: **14** (1 equiv, 0.041 mmol), aryl diazonium tetrafluoroborate (1.4 equiv), Pd$_2$(dba)$_3$ (0.05 equiv), **7n** (0.10 equiv), Na$_2$HPO$_4$ (2 equiv), solvent (1.0 mL), 24 h. [b] Isolated yields for two steps. [c] Enantiomeric excess determined by chiral phase HPLC. [d] **15a′** was isolated in the first step in 84% ee and 40% yield (see SI).
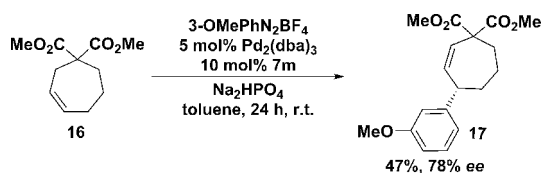

Scheme 3. Arylation of cycloheptene **16**.

The corresponding amino acid derivative **20** was readily generated by reaction of **19** under basic conditions. Conformationally constrained amino acids similar to **20** are known to be S1P1 receptor agonists,[18a,7h] and have been previously prepared from optically active starting materials.[18b]

The reductive elimination and isomerization steps[19] with both BINOL- and BINAM-derived phosphate counterions (Scheme 2 and Scheme S1 in the Supporting Information) were investigated using density functional theory computations (B3LYP-D3).[20,21] The Gibbs free energies of activation computed at the SMD$_{(Toluene)}$/B3LYP-D3/6-31G**, SDD(Pd)// SMD$_{(Toluene)}$/B3LYP-D3/6-31G**, LANL2DZ(Pd) level of theory for reductive elimination step and isomerization of **11**. The Gibbs free energy of activation for the reductive
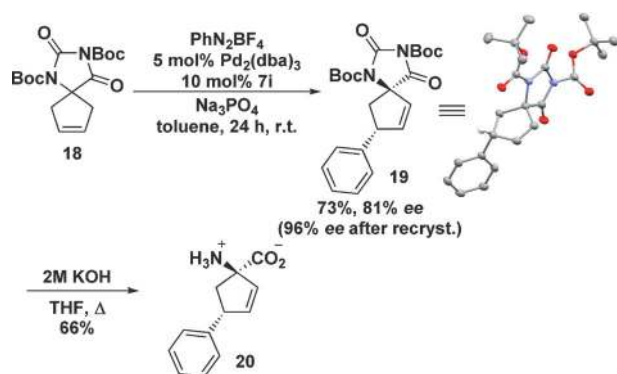
Scheme 4. Enantioselective synthesis of amino acid **20**.

elimination (Figure 1a) was found to be 2.2 kcal mol^{-1} lower with a BINAM-phosphate than with a BINOL-phosphate (see Table S3, SI). Presumably, the presence of less inductively withdrawing and more π-donating *N*-aryl substituents results in a more basic phosphate and consequently, a more favorable reductive elimination.
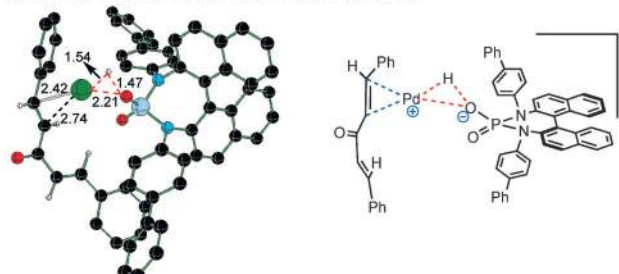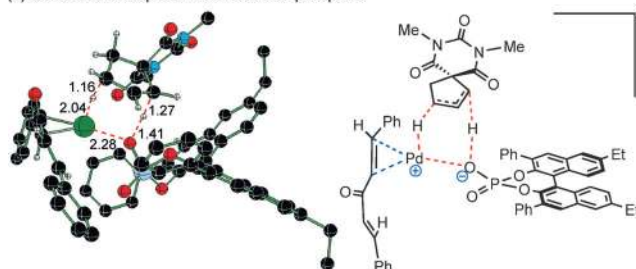

Figure 1. Optimized transition state geometries for a) reductive elimination and b) isomerization of **11** in the presence of chiral phosphates at the SMD$_{(Toluene)}$/B3LYP-D3/6-31G**, LANL2DZ(Pd) level of theory. The distances are in Å. Only selected hydrogen atoms are shown for improved clarity. C = black, O = red, H = gray, N = cyan, P = blue and Pd = green.

Calculations indicate that the chiral phosphate works in concert with a cationic (dba)Pd–hydride[22] in the isomerization step. The optimized geometries (Figure 1b) indicate that the alkene accepts the hydride from the palladium while the phosphate oxygen simultaneously abstracts a methylene proton. When comparing BINOL- and BINAM-phosphates, isomerization barriers were found to be higher than the reductive elimination by 2.5 and 5.5 kcal mol^{-1}, respectively (see Table S3, SI). These values are in agreement with the experimental observations, as the alkene isomerization occurs when BINOL-phosphates are employed as co-catalysts, but is circumvented with the use of BINAM-phosphates.

In conclusion, we have developed an asymmetric Heck–Matsuda reaction of cyclopentene, cyclohexene, and cycloheptene derivatives using a chiral ion-pairing strategy. These first examples of chiral counterion controlled enantioselective Heck reactions offer an alternative to and complement the recent advances in asymmetric variants employing chiral ligands. In addition, these comprise the first successful examples of enantioselective Heck–Matsuda arylation of a 6-membered ring system. In the cases of cyclopentene and cycloheptene starting materials, undesired alkene isomerization was circumvented by the application of BINAM-derived phosphoric acids as catalysts for CAPT. Furthermore, mech-

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anistic insights gained through DFT calculations suggest that the nature of the counterion is integral to achieving the desired selectivity. More importantly, these results suggest that BINOL/BINAM-derived phosphate counterions, that have almost exclusively been employed to control enantioselectivity, may offer a more general means to control reactivity and selectivity in transition metal mediated processes.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Keywords: chiral anions · Heck–Matsuda reaction · Heck reaction · palladium · phase-transfer catalysis

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