## Enantioselective Access to S-Chiral 1,2-Benzothiazines by Cp<sup>x</sup>Rh(III)-Catalyzed C–H Functionalization of Sulfoximines

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**Abstract:** Sulfoximines with stereogenic sulfur atoms are attractive structural motifs in drug discovery. A direct catalytic enantioselective method accessing S-chiral 1,2-benzothiazines from readily accessible diarylsulfoximines is presented. Rhodium(III) complexes equipped with chiral cyclopentadienyl ligands and paired with suitable carboxylic acid additives engage in an enantiodetermining C-H activation directed by the sulfoximine group. Subsequent trapping of the rhodacycle by a broad range of diazoketones gives access to S-chiral 1,2-benzothiazines with synthetically highly attractive substitution patterns in good yields and enantioselectivities.

Over the past decade, the sulfoximine class of compounds received a steadily growing interest from the pharmaceutical and agrochemical industry.<sup>[1]</sup> Sulfoxmines have a high chemical stability and can provide several strategic advantages over the corresponding and ubiquitous sulfone and sulfonamide derivatives.<sup>[2]</sup> Besides the acyclic sulfoximine motif, examplified by roniciclib,<sup>[3]</sup> ceralasertib,<sup>[4]</sup> and sulfoxaflor,<sup>[5]</sup> rigid cyclic benzannulated sulfoximine scaffolds such as Lilly's prazosin analogue,<sup>[6]</sup> Gö 4962<sup>[7]</sup> and NSC 287474<sup>[8]</sup> have recently gained attention. Despite these examples, 1,2,4-benzothiadiazine and 1,2-benzothiazines are still underrepresented heterocyclic scaffolds with significant upside potential for the discovery of compounds with potential medical applications. A characteristic trait of sulfoximines is their stereogenic sulfur atom.<sup>[9]</sup> Embedded in a rigid cyclic structure, this provides the additional benefit of a directed and functionalizable exit vector.<sup>[10]</sup>

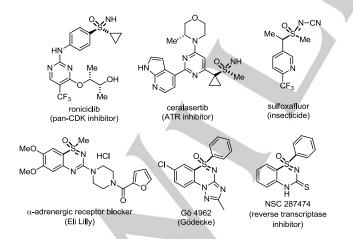


Figure 1. Biologically active molecules with a sulfoximine functionality.

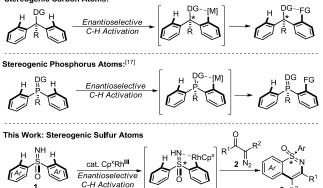
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Recent synthetic advances have improved the access to sulfoximines and have largely broadened its available structural diversity.<sup>[11]</sup> In particular, Bolm and others demonstrated the suitability of the sulfoximine moiety to as *ortho*-directing group for Rh(III)-catalyzed C-H functionalizations.<sup>[12]</sup> However, the thin arsenal of catalytic enantioselective methods to selectively access optically pure sulfoximines remains a limiting factor. Besides few approaches by kinetic resolution,<sup>[13]</sup> only multi-step strategies focusing on stereoselective imidation or oxidation are available.<sup>[14]</sup> Frequently, enantiopure chiral sulfoximines are obtained by resolution techniques. Therefore, the development of catalytic enantioselective sulfoximine syntheses remains a relevant target for asymmetric catalysis.

Desymmetrization strategies by the selective C-H functionalization of one C(sp<sup>2</sup>)-H bond of enantiotopic aryl groups have been successfully implemented for the generation of stereogenic carbon atoms (Scheme 1).<sup>[15, 16]</sup> Examples using this concept to create stereogenic phosphorus<sup>[17]</sup> or silicon atoms<sup>[18]</sup> are more scarce. Related methods to access chiral sulfur atomsare to best of our knowledge elusive except a single example for chiral sulfoxides reported by Wang.<sup>[19]</sup> On the basis of our findings of creating *P*-chirality with chiral cyclopentadienyl (Cp<sup>x</sup>) rhodium and iridium catalysts, compounds,<sup>[17f,h,j]</sup> we explored the suitability of these for the generation of chiral sulfur atoms of sulfoximines. Herein, we report an asymmetric annulative C–H functionalization approach of sulfoximines **1** providing an efficient access to S-chiral 1,2-benzothiazines **3**.

Stereogenic Carbon Atoms:[16]



Scheme 1. Enantioselective C–H functionalization strategies for the creation of stereogenic carbon, phosphorus and sulfur atoms by desymmetrization. DG=directing group.

The envisaged functionalization / cyclization sequence was investigated and optimized with diphenyl sulfoximine (**1a**) and ethyl diazo acetylacetate (**2a**) as the prototype substrate combination (Table 1). First, our most general chiral  $Cp^{x}$  ligands<sup>[20]</sup> were surveyed (Entries 1-7). Under the initial

conditions (toluene at 100 °C), disubstituted version Rh1-Rh3 gave modest selectivities and yields (Entries 1-3). Fully pentasubstituted versions Rh4 resulted in an increased yield (Entry 4). Complexes having trisubstituted Cp<sup>x</sup> ligands were directly used at the +III-oxidation state (Entries 5 and 6). Rh5 provided with sodium benzoate as additive 3aa in 80:20 e.r. and 78 % yield at 50 °C (Entry 5). Notably, the trisubstituted ligands led to the opposite major enantiomer compared to the di- and pentasubstituted congeners. Moreover, the transformation was found to be sensitive to the carboxylic acid / carboxylate additive (Entries 7-14). A brief evaluation showed that tert-leucine derived acid A4<sup>[17h]</sup> performed best and gave 3aa in 95 % yield with 87.5:12.5 e.r. in the matching combination (Entry 13). The mismatched enantiomer A5 was less efficient, but still gave the same major enantiomer of 3aa (Entry 14). Switching the solvent from toluene to tBuOH allowed for a reaction temperature of 35 °C and additionally increased the enantioselectivity of 3aa to 95.5:4.5 (Entries 15-16). The added K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> can be omitted by increasing the acid additive from 5 to 30 mol%. The use of TFE caused a significant reduction in the enantioselectivity which dropped to 70:30 e.r. (Entry 17). Notably, HFIP was found to have an even more profound effect on the selectivity, giving the opposite enantiomer of 3aa majorly with 28.5:71.5 e.r. (Entries 18, 19). The very high sensitivity of the enantioselectivity in this transformation towards external effects like solvents and additives besides the direct influence of the chiral Cp<sup>x</sup> ligands opens opportunities but poses as well some caution flags in terms of robustness.

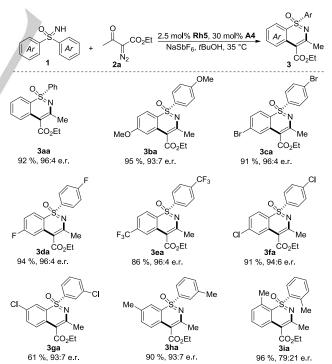
 Table 1. Optimization of the enantiotopic functionalization of sulfoximine 1a.<sup>[a]</sup>

$ \begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $		O_NH S 1a	+2a^N	200 <sub>2</sub> Eta	ool% <b>Rh</b> , NaSbF dditives, solvent Temp., 12 h	6	O, Ph S N Me 3aa <sup>CO<sub>2</sub>Et</sup>
$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $		R	R' Rh2 (R R' Rh3 (R R' Rh4 (R	R=O/Pr, R'=H) =OTIPS, R'=H)			
$1^{[d]}$ Rh1 $(BzO)_2$ toluene1007554:46 $2^{[d]}$ Rh2 $(BzO)_2$ toluene1003523:77 $3^{[d]}$ Rh3 $(BzO)_2$ toluene1004824:76 $4^{[d]}$ Rh4 $(BzO)_2$ toluene1009935:655Rh5NaOBztoluene507880:206Rh6NaOBztoluene501481:197Rh5HOBztoluene509378:228Rh5NaOActoluene509974:26	$\bigcirc$	[ )N- <b>(</b>	A2 (R= <i>i</i> Pr)	A4		s A5	
2 <sup>[d]</sup> Rh2       (BzO) <sub>2</sub> toluene       100       35       23:77         3 <sup>[d]</sup> Rh3       (BzO) <sub>2</sub> toluene       100       48       24:76         4 <sup>[d]</sup> Rh4       (BzO) <sub>2</sub> toluene       100       99       35:65         5       Rh5       NaOBz       toluene       50       78       80:20         6       Rh6       NaOBz       toluene       50       14       81:19         7       Rh5       HOBz       toluene       50       93       78:22         8       Rh5       NaOAc       toluene       50       99       74:26	Entry	Rh	Additive	Solvent	T [° C] yie	eld [%] <sup>[b]</sup>	e.r. <sup>[c]</sup>
1       Image       (BEO) <sub>2</sub> Internet       100       48       24:76         3 <sup>[d]</sup> Rh3       (BZO) <sub>2</sub> toluene       100       48       24:76         4 <sup>[d]</sup> Rh4       (BZO) <sub>2</sub> toluene       100       99       35:65         5       Rh5       NaOBz       toluene       50       78       80:20         6       Rh6       NaOBz       toluene       50       14       81:19         7       Rh5       HOBz       toluene       50       93       78:22         8       Rh5       NaOAc       toluene       50       99       74:26	1 <sup>[d]</sup>	Rh1	(BzO) <sub>2</sub>	toluene	100	75	54:46
4 <sup>[d]</sup> Rh4       (BzO) <sub>2</sub> toluene       100       99       35:65         5       Rh5       NaOBz       toluene       50       78       80:20         6       Rh6       NaOBz       toluene       50       14       81:19         7       Rh5       HOBz       toluene       50       93       78:22         8       Rh5       NaOAc       toluene       50       99       74:26	2 <sup>[d]</sup>	Rh2	(BzO) <sub>2</sub>	toluene	100	35	23:77
5         Rh5         NaOBz         toluene         50         78         80:20           6         Rh6         NaOBz         toluene         50         14         81:19           7         Rh5         HOBz         toluene         50         93         78:22           8         Rh5         NaOAc         toluene         50         99         74:26	3 <sup>[d]</sup>	Rh3	(BzO) <sub>2</sub>	toluene	100	48	24:76
6         Rh6         NaOBz         toluene         50         14         81:19           7         Rh5         HOBz         toluene         50         93         78:22           8         Rh5         NaOAc         toluene         50         99         74:26	4 <sup>[d]</sup>	Rh4	(BzO) <sub>2</sub>	toluene	100	99	35:65
7         Rh5         HOBz         toluene         50         93         78:22           8         Rh5         NaOAc         toluene         50         99         74:26	5	Rh5	NaOBz	toluene	50	78	80:20
8 <b>Rh5</b> NaOAc toluene 50 99 74:26	6	Rh6	NaOBz	toluene	50	14	81:19
	7	Rh5	HOBz	toluene	50	93	78:22
9 <b>Rh5</b> NaOPiv toluene 50 87 61:39	8	Rh5	NaOAc	toluene	50	99	74:26
	9	Rh5	NaOPiv	toluene	50	87	61:39

10	Rh5	A1	toluene	50	89	80.5:19.5
11	Rh5	A2	toluene	50	88	81:19
12	Rh5	A3	toluene	50	75	87:13
13	Rh5	A4	toluene	50	95	87.5:12.5
14	Rh5	A5	toluene	50	82	71.5:28.5
15 <sup>[e,f]</sup>	Rh5	A4	<i>t</i> BuOH	35 99	9 (92) <sup>[g]</sup>	95.5:4.5
16 <sup>[h,i]</sup>	Rh5	<b>A4</b> <sup>[]]</sup>	<i>t</i> BuOH	35	92 <sup>[g]</sup>	96:4
17 <sup>[e,i]</sup>	Rh5	A4	TFE	35	95	70:30
18 <sup>[e,i]</sup>	Rh5	A4	HFIP	35	94	28.5:71.5
19 <sup>[i]</sup>	Rh5	A4	HFIP	35	85	32.5:67.5

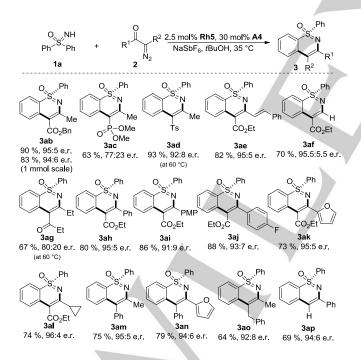
[a] Conditions: 0.05 mmol **1a**, 0.05 mmol **2a**, 5 mol% **Rh** (2.5 mol% dimer), 5 mol% additive, 50 mol% NaSbF<sub>6</sub>, 0.2 M in solvent. [b] Determined by <sup>1</sup>H-NMR with an internal standard. [c] Determined by HPLC with a chiral stationary phase. [d] for 6 h. [e] with 50 mol% K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>. [f] for 48 h. [g] isolated yield. [h] 0.1 mmol scale. [i] for 30 h. [j] with 30 mol% **A4**. TFE=2,2,2-trifluoroethanol; HFIP=hexafluoroisopropanol.

We next investigated the scope of the developed transformation (Scheme 2). A variety of *para*-substituted diary sulfoximines 1 underwent efficient C-H functionalization and allowed for the synthesis of annulated sulfoximines 3 in a highly enantioselective fashion. Substrates with either electron-donating groups (1b) or those with electron-withdrawing groups (1c-1f) reacted well and gave the corresponding cyclized products 3 in excellent yields and good enantioselectivities.



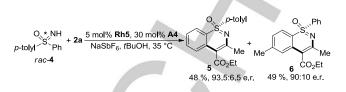
Scheme 2. Scope of the sulfoximine substrates. Conditions: 0.1 mmol 1, 0.1 mmol 2a, 2.5  $\mu mol$  Rh5, 30  $\mu mol$  A4, 50  $\mu mol$  NaSbF<sub>6</sub>, 0.2 M in *t*BuOH at 35 °C for 30-72 h.

Sulfoximine substrates with meta-substituted aryl groups underwent selective functionalization at the more accessible ortho C-H group and gave product 3ga and 3ha. Orthosubstitution does not compromise the yield but influences the selectivity and caused a reduction in e.r. of 3ia. Besides R<sup>2</sup> being the standard ethyl ester, benzyl ester bearing diazo compound 1b reacts equally well, allowing to determine the absolute configuration by X-ray crystallography<sup>[21]</sup> (Scheme 3). A ten-fold increase in scale resulted in 83 % yield 94:6 e.r. Replacing the ester by a phosphonate gave cyclized product 3ac. A p-tosyl group reacted in high yields and selectivities at 60 °C (3ad). While the enantioselectivity is somewhat lower, the obtained particular substitution pattern is synthetically attractive. The substituent R<sup>1</sup> offers a broad variability. For instance, alkyl groups, a cyclopropyl unit (3al), aromatic and heteroaromatic moieties (3ah-3ak) as well as a styryl unit (3ae) can be used for the cyclization with very little influence on the reaction outcome. Uniformly, high vields and selectivities are obtained. The reaction with diazo ethyl formyl acetate (R<sup>1</sup>=H) gives rise to 3af with a free 3-position at the ring. Notably, besides the described acceptor/acceptor substituted diazo species, diazo ketones without an additional electron-withdrawing group participated very well in the enantioselective annulation. For instance, diazo ketones having aryl or benzyl groups as the R<sup>2</sup> substituent can be used. These provide cyclized product 3am, 3an and 3ao in good yields and selectivities. Moreover, diazoacetophenone  $(R^2=H)$  gives rise to **3ap** with a free 4-position at the ring.



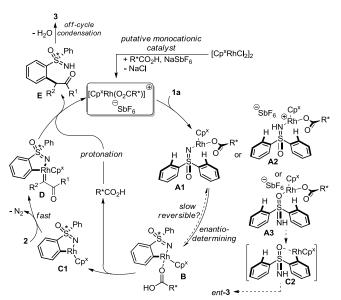
Scheme 3. Scope of the diazo compounds in the sulfoximine functionalization. Conditions: 0.1 mmol 1a, 0.1 mmol 2, 2.5  $\mu$ mol Rh5, 30  $\mu$ mol A4, 50  $\mu$ mol NaSbF<sub>6</sub>, 0.2 M in *t*BuOH at 35 °C for 24-72 h.

A parallel kinetic resolution of racemic sulfoximines bearing two different aromatic groups was attempted next (Scheme 4). Substrate 4 having a minimal steric and electronic bias, we observed the formation of products **5** and **6** in virtually the same yield. The observed enantiomeric ratios were for 93.5:6.5 for the phenyl functionalization and 90:10 for the *p*-tolyl activation, indicating a smooth parallel kinetic resolution.



Scheme 4. Parallel kinetic resolution of racemic diaryl sulfoximine rac-4.

Mechanistically, the transformation very likely proceeds by the pathway proposed by Bolm for the corresponding achiral reaction (Scheme 5).<sup>[12b]</sup> Coordination of the sulfoximine to the Rh<sup>III</sup> center initiates ortho-C-H activation by a concerted metalation deprotonation.<sup>[22]</sup> Coordination of the diazo species leads to formation of carbenoid intermediate D, which in turn undergoes subsequent insertion and protonation to produce ketone E. An off-cycle cyclocondensation delivers 1,2benzothiazine **3**. However, the mechanism of the enantioselection remains a complex question with several interplaying variables. Theoretically, for transformations with a trapping step after the enantiodetermining step  $(A \rightarrow B)$ , the observed enantioselectivities of the products 3 should be completely independent of the intercepting reagent, unless the enantiodetermining step has some reversible character. Indeed, most used diazo compounds are very reactive interceptors and react fast enough so that the potential reversibility of the C-H activation by the CMD-pathway becomes rather negligible. However, the lower selectivity of difficult diazo compounds such as phosphonate 2c and ketone 2g implicates reversibility which can become an issue for the development of related transformations with less reactive trapping agents. The pronounced responsiveness of the enantioselectivity towards solvents and especially the solvent may be linked to a potential ambiguity in the catalyst-substrate binding and orientation. The initial coordination of the rhodium to the free sulfoximine directing group classically suggested<sup>[12a]</sup> to occur via its deprotonated nitrogen atom (A1). However, depending on the reaction conditions, the metal center may alternatively initiate cyclometalation from a coordination of the oxygen atom as for A3 (or the non-deprotonated NH-group, A2). Mono-cationic Cp\* metal complexes of group 9 metals with a single carboxylate were found to be typically most suited for non-deprotonatable directing groups (A3-mode) whereas neutral bis-carboxylate bound congeners are superior for deprotonable directing groups (A1-mode). With all other factors constant, a switch from N- to O-coordination would result in an inversion of the attacked enantiotopic aryl group (C2) and consequently lead to ent-3. The exact catalyst binding and enantioselection warrants further detailed computational studies which could provide valuable insights for the development of related transformations.



Scheme 5. Suggested mechanism and their potentially critical steps for the enantioselectivity.

In conclusion, we have developed an enantiotopic C-H functionalization of sulfoximines resulting in a stereogenic sulfur atom. The enantio-determining activation step is enabled by a combination of a Rh(III) complex bearing a chiral Cp<sup>x</sup> ligand. Carboxylic acid additives were found to have a profound effect on the selectivity. A matching chiral carboxylic acid additive interacts synergistically and enhances the selectivity. The transformation proceeds with high enantioselectivity for a diverse range of sulfoximines. A broad range of diazo compounds are suitable acceptors and allow for a wide variability in the substitution pattern of the newly formed heterocycle.

## Acknowledgements

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**Keywords:** Asymmetric Catalysis • C–H Activation • Chiral Cyclopentadienyl • Sulfoximine • Rhodium

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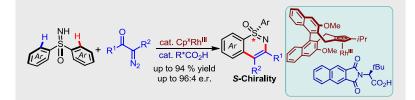
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## COMMUNICATION

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Sulfoximines with stereogenic sulfur atoms are attractive structural motifs in drug discovery. A catalytic enantioselective method accessing S-chiral 1,2-benzothiazines is reported. Cp<sup>x</sup>Rh<sup>III</sup> catalysts paired with suitable carboxylic acid additives engage in enantiodetermining C-H activation. Trapping of the rhodacycle by a broad range of diazoketones yields S-chiral 1,2-benzothiazines with synthetically highly attractive substitution patterns in good yields and enantioselectivities.

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