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Enantioselective synthesis of quaternary 3,4dihydroisoquinolinones *via* Heck carbonylation reactions: development and application to the synthesis of Minalrestat analogues⁺

Cang Cheng, Bin Wan, Bo Zhou, 🔟 Yichao Gu and Yanghui Zhang 🔟*

Minalrestat and its analogues represent structurally novel aldose reductase inhibitors, and the asymmetric synthesis of such pharmaceutically privileged molecules has not been reported yet. We have developed a palladium-catalyzed enantioselective intramolecular carbonylative Heck reaction by using formate esters as the source of CO, which represents the first enantioselective synthesis of quaternary 3,4-dihydroisoquinolines. The reaction provides a facile and efficient method for the synthesis of enantiopure nitrogen-containing heterocyclic compounds bearing an all-carbon quaternary stereocenter. The reaction has been successfully applied to the first asymmetric synthesis of Minalrestat analogues.

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Introduction

Diabetes mellitus is a major health concern and affects millions of people worldwide.¹ Aldose reductase inhibitors (ARIs) are attractive therapeutic targets for designing drugs to prevent or slow the progression of diabetic complications.² Although various ARIs have been discovered, almost all of them have been withdrawn due to adverse side effects or low efficacy.3 Minalrestat is an important ARI that shows appreciable activity and safety profiles and is a promising drug candidate.⁴ Minalrestat is a 3,4-dihydroisoquinolinone derivative bearing a spirosuccinimide moiety at the 4-position (Fig. 1). Actually, the isoquinolinone backbone in Minalrestat represents a structurally novel framework for designing potent ARIs, and a range of derivatives derived from the backbone exhibit intrinsic activity and good oral potency.⁴ Notably, these bioactive isoquinolinone derivatives usually contain a quaternary carbon stereocenter, and the stereocenter plays crucial roles in the bioactivities and oral potency. Unfortunately, the stereocenters tend to racemize via enolization.4a The asymmetric synthesis of this isoquinolinone skeleton is not available,5 and the enantiopure compounds were obtained by the resolution of racemates.4a Therefore, it is a formidable task to develop enantioselective reactions for the construction of such six-membered isoquinolinones containing an all-carbon quaternary stereocenter,

which would allow us to not only obtain enantiopure compounds for drug discovery but also modify the structures to prevent racemization.

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3,4-Dihydroisoquinolinone skeletons are widely found in natural products and are pivotal structural motifs in drug molecules,⁶ and many of the bioactive 3,4-dihydroisoquinolinone derivatives contain an all-carbon quaternary stereocenter at the 4-position⁷ (Fig. 1). As such, asymmetric reactions for the construction of such isoquinolinone skeletons would find wide applications in organic synthesis. Although



Fig. 1 Bioactive 3,4-dihydroisoquinolinone derivatives containing allcarbon quaternary stereocenters at the 4-position.

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详细如下:

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Letter

Synthesis of 3,4-Fused Tricyclic Indoles through Cascade Carbopalladation and C–H Amination: Development and Total Synthesis of Rucaparib

Cang Cheng, Xiang Zuo, Dongdong Tu, Bin Wan, and Yanghui Zhang*

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bioactive natural pr	Fused tricyclic indole scaffolo roducts and pharmaceuticals. 3,4-fused tricyclic indoles h	A new protocol for C_{p_1} $C_{s_2}CO_3$, KOPiv R^1 $C_{s_2}CO_3$, KOPiv R^1 $C_{s_2}CO_3$, KOPiv R^1 $C_{s_2}CO_3$, KOPiv R^1 $C_{s_2}CO_3$	

the synthesis of 3,4-fused tricyclic indoles has been developed through cascade carbopalladation and C–H amination with N,N-di-*tert*-butyldiaziridinone. The protocol allows access to a range of 3,4-fused tricyclic indoles, including those containing various linkers and fused with medium-sized rings. Rucaparib can be synthesized via this reaction, providing an advantageous synthetic method for the FDA-approved cancer medicine.



3,4-Fused tricyclic indoles are essential core structures of many bioactive natural products and pharmaceuticals and are attractive synthetic targets in the fields of medicinal chemistry and organic synthesis (Figure 1)¹ The synthesis of these



Figure 1. Selected examples of 3,4-fused tricyclic indoles.

complex indole molecules is challenging and has been the subject of numerous synthetic studies.² Traditionally, 3,4-fused tricyclic indoles can be synthesized by the intramolecular cyclization of 4-substituted or 3,4-disubstituted indoles. However, the functionalization of the four-positions of indoles is challenging and usually requires multistep synthesis. Recently, the construction of 3,4-fused tricyclic indoles via indole ring formation has gained considerable interest. Compared with the traditional methods, this innovative approach avoids the laborious synthesis of four-substituted indole precursors and has great advantages. An elegant example is the method based on an intramolecular Fischer indole synthesis, which was developed by Cho and coworkers.³ In 2013, the groups of Boger and Jia reported the synthesis of

3,4-fused tricyclic indoles using alkyne-tethered ortho-iodoanilines via palladium-catalyzed intramolecular Larock indole synthesis.⁴ Replacing the alkyne moiety with an allene group can also give 3,4-fused tricyclic indoles.⁵ The intramolecular Larock indole syntheses require the presynthesis of multisubstituted haloanilines as starting materials. Notably, an innovative method through C-H alkenylation using anilines tethered to an alkyne at the meta position has been independently developed by the groups of Jia, Xu and Liu, Zhou and Li, and Nemoto.⁶ However, to activate more hindered C-H bonds, the reactions are restricted to indoles bearing an alkoxy group.^{2a} The group of Miura and Murakami disclosed an elegant dearomatizing annulation reaction from 1,2,3-triazole-tethered arenes.⁷ However, this method requires an additional oxidation reaction to form indole products and the presynthesis of 1,2,3-triazole-containing substrates. In all of these reactions, 3,4-fused tricyclic indoles are directly formed from the intramolecular cyclization of the substrates, and all of the substrates preinstalled with a nitrogen-containing group are used.8 Considerable efforts should still be devoted to developing efficient and general methods for the synthesis of 3,4-fused tricyclic indoles.

Over the past several decades, transition-metal-catalyzed C– H functionalization underwent explosive growth.⁹ C–H

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