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SYNFACTS Highlights in Chemical Synthesis

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Category

Metals in Synthesis

Key words

ruthenium catalysis acylnitrenoids C–H oxygenation cyclic carbonates Y. TAN, S. CHEN, Z. ZHOU, Y. HONG, S. IVLEV, K. N. HOUK*, E. MEGGERS* (UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES, USA AND PHILIPPS-UNIVERSITÄT MARBURG, GERMANY) Intramolecular C(sp³)-H Bond Oxygenation by Transition-Metal Acylnitrenoids

Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2020, DOI: 10.1002/anie.202009335.

Ruthenium-Catalyzed C(sp³)–H Bond Oxygenation of N-Benzoyloxycarbamates

Proposed mechanism:

Selected examples:

Significance: Houk, Meggers, and co-workers report the use of transition-metal acylnitrenoids to direct C(sp³)–H oxygenations. This ruthenium-catalyzed intramolecular C–H oxygenation affords access to carbonates, hydroxylated carbamates or 1,2-diols in good to excellent yields. In addition to being chemoselective, the reaction can be made enantioselective by using enantiomerically pure catalyst.

Comment: The ruthenium catalyst features a stereogenic metal center with a right/left-handed helical twist of the bidentate ligand. Chemoselectivity can be switched to favor C–H oxygenation or C–H amination starting from the same nitrene precursor, by changing a single functional group on the catalyst.

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