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Nickel-Catalyzed Asymmetric Negishi Cross-Couplings of Racemic Secondary Allylic Chlorides with Alkylzincs

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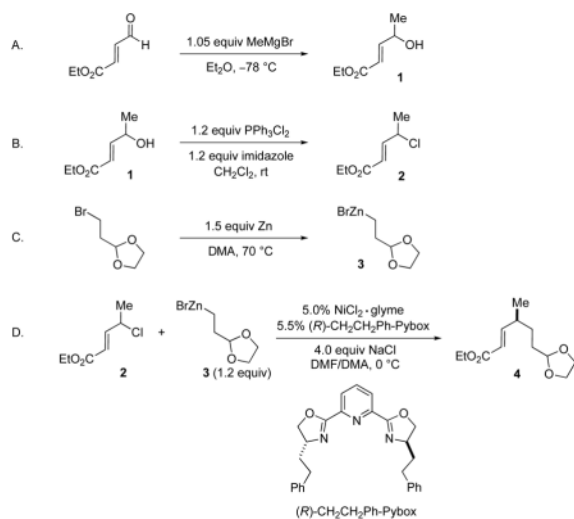
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NICKEL-CATALYZED ASYMMETRIC NEGISHI CROSS-COUPPLINGS OF RACEMIC SECONDARY ALLYLIC CHLORIDES WITH ALKYLZINCS: (*S,E*)-ETHYL 6-(1,3-DIOXOLAN-2-YL)-4-METHYLHEX-2-ENOATE

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1. Procedure

A. Ethyl (*E*)-4-hydroxy-2-pentenoate (1)

An oven-dried, 1000-mL, two-necked, round-bottomed flask equipped with a rubber septum, an argon inlet, and a magnetic stirbar was purged with argon and charged with Et₂O (500 mL) (Note 1) and ethyl (*E*)-4-oxo-2-butenate (24.1 mL, 25.6 g, 200 mmol, 1.0 equiv) (Note 2). The solution was cooled to -78 °C in a dry ice/acetone bath, and then MeMgBr (3.0 M in Et₂O; 70.0 mL, 210 mmol, 1.05 equiv) (Note 3) was added dropwise via syringe pump (2.0 mL/min) over 35 min (The slow addition can also be conducted via a 100-mL pressure-equalizing addition funnel fitted with a septum). After the addition was complete, the reaction mixture was stirred for an additional 2 h at -78 °C. During the course of the reaction, the precipitation of white solids led to a heterogeneous reaction mixture. The progress of the reaction can be followed by TLC analysis on silica gel (20% Et₂O/hexanes as the eluent; visualization with a UV lamp or with a KMnO₄ stain; the aldehyde starting

¹Et₂O (99+%) was purchased from J.T. Baker (water content: <10 ppm) and purified by passage through activated alumina under argon.

²Ethyl (*E*)-4-oxo-2-butenate (96%) was purchased from Alfa Aesar and used as received.

³MeMgBr (3.0 M in Et₂O) was purchased from Aldrich and used as received.

material has $R_f = 0.8$, and the alcohol product has $R_f = 0.3$) (Note 4). Then, the dry ice/acetone bath was removed, and the reaction mixture was carefully poured over 5 min into a rapidly stirred, 0 °C saturated aqueous solution of NH_4Cl (300 mL) in a 2-L Erlenmeyer flask equipped with a magnetic stirbar. The two-necked flask was washed with a saturated aqueous solution of NH_4Cl (100 mL) and then Et_2O (100 mL). The aqueous solution and the organic solution were combined and transferred to a 2-L separatory funnel. The aqueous phase was separated and extracted with Et_2O (200 mL \times 3). The organic layers were combined, dried over MgSO_4 (30 g), and filtered through a Büchner funnel that contained a bed of celite (1.0 cm height). The filtrate was concentrated by rotary evaporation (20 torr). The residue was loaded onto a wet-packed (hexanes) column of silica gel (8 cm diameter \times 22 cm height; 250 g) and eluted with a gradient of Et_2O in hexanes (500 mL of hexanes; 1.0 L of 15% Et_2O /hexanes, 1.0 L of 20% Et_2O in hexanes, 1.0 L of 30% Et_2O /hexanes, 1.0 L of 50% Et_2O /hexanes; fraction size: 100 mL) (Note 5) (TLC analysis on silica gel: 30% Et_2O /hexanes as eluent, visualization with a UV lamp and a KMnO_4 stain, $R_f = 0.5$) (Note 4). The desired allylic alcohol **1** (21.7–23.4 g, 75–81% yield) was obtained as a yellow oil (Note 6).

B. Ethyl (E)-4-chloropent-2-enoate (2)

An oven-dried, 500-mL, two-necked, round-bottomed flask equipped with a rubber septum, an argon inlet, and a magnetic stirbar was purged with argon and charged with CH_2Cl_2 via syringe (200 mL) (Note 7) and ethyl (E)-4-hydroxy-2-pentenoate (**1**) (14.4 g, 100 mmol, 1.00 equiv). The solution was cooled to 0 °C in an ice bath, and dichlorotriphenylphosphorane (40.0 g, 120 mmol, 1.20 equiv) (Note 8) was added, followed by imidazole (8.17 g, 120 mmol, 1.20 equiv) (Note 9). The solution was allowed to warm to rt, and then it was stirred for 6 h, during which time a white precipitate formed. The progress of the reaction can be followed by TLC analysis on silica gel (20% Et_2O /hexanes as the eluent; visualization with a UV lamp or with a KMnO_4 stain; the alcohol starting material has $R_f = 0.3$, and the chloride product has $R_f = 0.8$) (Note 4). Pentane (150 mL) and ether (150 mL) were added, and the white precipitate was removed by filtration through silica gel (8 cm diameter \times 10 cm height). The silica was washed with pentane/ether (1/1; 200 mL). The combined organic layers were concentrated by rotary evaporation (20 torr), and the residue was transferred to a 50-mL round-bottomed flask equipped with a magnetic stirbar. The product was distilled under reduced pressure (30 torr, 85–90 °C) through a short-path distillation head to afford the desired allylic chloride (**2**) (12.6–13.4 g, 78–83% yield) as a colorless oil (Note 10).

⁴Analytical thin-layer chromatography was performed using EMD 0.25 mm silica gel 60-F plates.

⁵Column chromatography was performed on Sorbent Technologies 60 Å silica gel.

⁶Compound **1** has the following properties: ¹H NMR (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz) δ : 6.93 (dd, $J = 16.0, 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 5.99 (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.46–4.49 (m, 1H), 4.18 (q, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H), 1.63 (br s, 1H), 1.32 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H), 1.27 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ : 167.0, 151.5, 119.4, 67.0, 60.6, 22.6, 14.3. The spectral data are in agreement with reported values.² The purity (>98%) was determined by GC analysis ($t_r = 2.71$ min; HP 6890 Series GC system equipped with a DB-1 column (length 30 m, I.D. 0.25 mm, film 0.25 μm); carrier gas: H_2 (45 mL/min); gradient temperature: hold at 100 °C for 1 min, 100 \rightarrow 280 °C at 40 °C/min, hold at 280 °C for 2 min).

⁷Dichloromethane (>99.8%) was purchased from J.T. Baker (water content: <0.02%) and purified by passage through activated alumina under argon.

⁸Dichlorotriphenylphosphorane (95%) was purchased from Aldrich and used as received.

⁹Imidazole (99%) was purchased from Alfa Aesar and used as received.

¹⁰Compound **2** has the following properties: ¹H NMR (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz) δ : 6.95 (dd, $J = 15.5, 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.03 (dd, $J = 15.5, 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.63 (doublet of pentets, $J = 7.0, 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.23 (q, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 1.66 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H), 1.32 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ : 166.1, 147.2, 121.9, 60.9, 55.0, 24.4, 14.4; IR (film) 2983, 1722, 1660, 1446, 1368, 1271, 1181, 1034, 975 cm^{-1} ; GCMS calcd for $\text{C}_7\text{H}_{11}\text{ClO}_2$ (M) 162, found 162. The purity (>98%) was determined by GC analysis ($t_r = 2.65$ min), using the same conditions as for compound **1**.

C. 2-[2-(1,3-Dioxolan-2-yl)ethyl]zinc bromide (3)

An oven-dried, 200-mL, pear-shaped Schlenk flask equipped with a rubber septum and a magnetic stirbar was purged with argon for 5 min and charged with zinc powder (9.80 g, 150 mmol, 1.50 equiv) (Note 11). The zinc was heated under vacuum (0.5 torr) at 70 °C in an oil bath for 30 min. Anhydrous *N,N*-dimethylacetamide (DMA; 100 mL) (Note 12) and I₂ (634 mg, 2.50 mmol, 0.0250 equiv) (Note 13) were added. The red-gray solution was stirred at 70 °C until the red color faded (~5 min). 2-(1,3-Dioxolan-2-yl)ethyl bromide (12.0 mL, 100 mmol, 1.00 equiv) (Note 14) was added via syringe over 3 min, and then the reaction mixture was stirred at 70 °C for 12 h. Next, the mixture was allowed to cool to rt, and the unreacted zinc powder was removed by filtration under argon (see Figure 1). The clear yellow solution was employed in the next step without further purification. No-D ¹H NMR spectroscopy was used to determine that the concentration of the alkylzinc solution was 0.80 M (Note 15).

D. (S,E)-Ethyl 6-(1,3-dioxolan-2-yl)-4-methylhex-2-enoate (4)

An oven-dried, 1000-mL, three-necked, round-bottomed flask equipped with a thermometer inlet and thermometer, an argon inlet, a rubber septum, and a magnetic stirbar was purged with argon for 20 min. Under a positive pressure of argon, anhydrous NaCl (10.4 g, 177 mmol, 4.00 equiv) (finely ground and dried at 120 °C under vacuum overnight) (Note 16 and Note 17) was added, followed by NiCl₂·glyme (485 mg, 2.22 mmol, 0.0500 equiv) (Note 18) and (*R*)-CH₂CH₂Ph-Pybox (1.04 g, 2.44 mmol, 0.0550 equiv) (Note 19 and Note 20). Anhydrous DMF (222 mL) (Note 21) and anhydrous DMA (155 mL) (Note 22) were then added via syringe, and the flask was capped with a rubber septum. This solution of the catalyst was stirred at 0 °C for 20 min in an isopropanol bath cooled by a chiller system (Note 23). Ethyl (*E*)-4-chloropent-2-enoate (2) (7.20 g, 44.3 mmol, 1.00 equiv) was added, and then 2-[2-(1,3-dioxolan-2-yl)ethyl]zinc bromide (3) (66 mL, 0.80 M in DMA, 53 mmol, 1.2 equiv) was added via syringe over 10 min. Throughout the addition of the alkylzinc reagent, the temperature of the solution was maintained at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was

¹¹Zinc powder (99.9%, ~100 mesh) was purchased from Alfa Aesar and used as received.

¹²Anhydrous DMA (≥99.5%, over molecular sieves) purchased from Fluka (water content: 6.9 ppm, determined with a 831 Karl Fisher Coulometer) or anhydrous DMA (99.8%) purchased from Aldrich (water content: 14 ppm) were used as received.

¹³I₂ (≥99%, chips) was purchased from Aldrich and used as received.

¹⁴2-(1,3-Dioxolan-2-yl)ethyl bromide (95%) was purchased from Alfa Aesar and used as received.

¹⁵For the No-D NMR (pw = 1.5) experiment, a ¹H NMR spectrum of a blank CDCl₃ sample was taken to lock the sample and determine the reference. Then, an unlocked No-D NMR spectrum of the alkylzinc sample in DMA was taken (pw = 1.5). The resonances for DMA appear at δ 3.44, 3.25, and 2.32. The resonance for the CH₂Zn protons of RZnBr appears at δ 0.32. The resonance for the terminal Me group of the reduction product appears at δ 1.15. The molar ratio of DMA: RZnBr: RH (X: 1: Y) was determined by No-D NMR to be 10.5: 1: 0.13. The density (d) of the solution was measured to be 0.940 g/mL. The final concentration of alkylzinc was calculated to be 0.80 M according to the equation:

$$[\text{RZnBr}] = d \times 1000 / (X \times \text{MW}_{\text{DMA}} + \text{MW}_{\text{RZnBr}} + Y \times \text{MW}_{\text{RH}}).$$

¹⁶NaCl (99.5%) was purchased from Mallinckrodt Chemicals and ground to a fine powder and dried under vacuum at 120 °C overnight before use. The use of anhydrous NaCl beads (99.99% from Aldrich) or NaCl (99.5% from Mallinckrodt Chemicals) powder that was oven-dried in the air furnished lower yields (30% and 74%, respectively).

¹⁷The presence of NaCl has a substantial impact on the rate of the cross-coupling, but little impact on the ee. The role of the NaCl may be to increase the ionic strength of the reaction mixture (the use of more polar solvents is generally advantageous) or to activate the organozinc reagent.³

¹⁸NiCl₂·glyme was purchased from Strem and used as received.

¹⁹(*R*)- or (*S*)-CH₂CH₂Ph-Pybox can be prepared via the reaction of 2-amino-4-phenylbutan-1-ol with 2,6-pyridinedicarbonitrile catalyzed by 5% zinc triflate in toluene at reflux.⁴

²⁰(*S*)-CH₂CH₂Ph-Pybox (97%) may be purchased from Aldrich and used as received.

²¹Anhydrous DMF (≥99.5%, over molecular sieves) was purchased from Aldrich (water content: <0.005%) and used as received.

²²When anhydrous DMA (≥99.5%, over molecular sieves) purchased from Fluka (water content: 6.9 ppm, determined with a 831 Karl Fisher Coulometer) or anhydrous DMA (99.8%) purchased from Aldrich (water content: 14 ppm) was used as received, the cross-coupling product was obtained in good yield (>90%). However, the use of DMA with a higher water content (e.g. 77 ppm) led to a lower yield of product (~75%).

²³When the reaction was conducted at -10 °C on a 10-g scale, the cross-coupling proceeded more slowly, resulting in a 52% yield after 24 h.

stirred for 24 h at 0 °C. The progress of the reaction can be followed by GC analysis (Note 24). After the reaction was complete, water (400 mL) was added over 20 min to quench the excess organozinc reagent, during which time the temperature of the reaction mixture was kept below 25 °C. After the addition of water was complete, the solution was stirred at rt for an additional 10 min, and then it was extracted with Et₂O (200 mL × 3). The combined organic layers were washed with water (200 mL × 2), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ (30 g), filtered through a Büchner funnel that contained a bed of celite (1.0 cm height), and concentrated by rotary evaporation (20 torr). The residue was loaded onto a wet-packed (hexanes) column of silica gel (7 cm diameter × 30 cm height; 350 g) and eluted with a gradient of Et₂O in hexanes (500 mL of hexanes, 2.0 L of 5% Et₂O/hexanes, 2.0 L of 10% Et₂O/hexanes, 2.0 L of 15% Et₂O/hexanes) (Note 5) (TLC analysis on silica gel: 10% Et₂O/hexanes as eluent, visualization with a KMnO₄ stain, R_f = 0.5) (Note 4). The desired cross-coupling product **4** (9.50–9.71 g, 94–96% yield, 94–95% ee) was obtained as a colorless oil (Note 24).

Waste Disposal Information

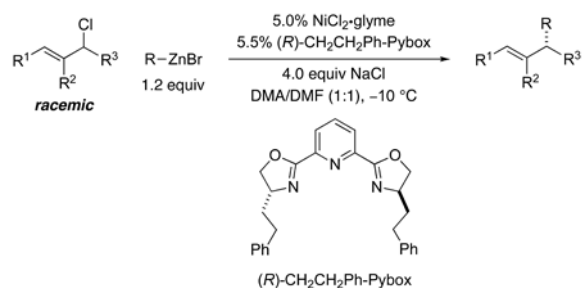
All toxic materials were disposed of in accordance with “Prudent Practices in the Laboratory”; National Academy Press; Washington, DC, 1995.

3. Discussion

The transition metal-catalyzed enantioselective coupling of allylic electrophiles with carbon nucleophiles has been the focus of intense investigation.⁵ Salient examples include palladium-catalyzed couplings with enolates, nickel-catalyzed couplings with Grignard reagents, and copper-catalyzed couplings with Grignard and diorganozinc reagents.⁶ Despite impressive progress, the development of methods that have broader scope with respect to the nucleophile, as well as improved functional-group compatibility, persist as important challenges.

This work describes a nickel-based catalyst for the asymmetric cross-coupling of racemic secondary allylic chlorides with readily available alkylzinc halides (Eq 1).^{7–9} The process is stereoconvergent: both enantiomers of the substrate are transformed into the same enantiomer of the product with high stereoselectivity.

²⁴The product was generated with >20:1 E:Z selectivity and >20:1 regioselectivity. Compound **4** has the following properties: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ: 6.85 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.79 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 4.84 (t, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 4.18 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.92–4.00 (m, 2H), 3.81–3.89 (m, 2H), 2.34 (septet, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 1.61–1.68 (m, 2H), 1.48–1.54 (m, 2H), 1.29 (dt, *J* = 7.1, 0.5 Hz, 3H), 1.07 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ: 167.0, 154.0, 120.3, 104.5, 65.09, 65.08, 60.4, 36.6, 31.7, 30.2, 19.6, 14.5; IR (film) 2958, 2926, 1718, 1653, 1458, 1368, 1267, 1178, 1144, 1037, 987 cm⁻¹; GCMS calcd for C₁₂H₂₀O₄ (M) 228, found 228. [α]_D²² = +23 (c = 1.7, CHCl₃). The ee was determined by HPLC analysis with an Agilent 1100 Series HPLC system equipped with a CHIRALPAK IA column (length 250 mm, I.D. 4.6 mm; hexanes/isopropanol 99:1, 1.0 mL/min) with t_r (minor) = 9.6 min, t_r (major) = 10.3 min. The purity (>95%) was determined by GC analysis (t_r = 4.48 min), using the same conditions as for compound **1**.



(1)

In the case of “symmetrical” allylic halides (e.g., entries 1–4 of Table 1), regioselectivity in the carbon–carbon bond formation is not an issue. As the steric demand of the substituents on the termini of the allyl fragment increases, the ee decreases (entries 1–3). A bulky 1,2,3-trisubstituted allylic chloride undergoes cross-coupling with excellent enantioselectivity, although modest yield (entry 4). An unactivated alkyl chloride is compatible with the reaction conditions (entry 2).

In the case of unsymmetrical allylic chlorides, if the two substituents on the termini of the allyl group have similar steric and electronic properties, then the regioselectivity is modest (e.g., 1.9:1 for *n*-Bu vs. Me; entry 5 of Table 1). On the other hand, good regioselectivity and enantioselectivity are observed when there is substantial steric (entries 6 and 7; >20:1 regioselectivity) or electronic (entries 8–10; >20:1 regioselectivity) differentiation. Carbon–carbon bond formation occurs preferentially at the less-hindered site (entries 5–7) or at the site that preserves conjugation (entries 8 and 9).

Ethyl (*E*)-4-chloropent-2-enoate (**2**) and 2-[2-(1,3-dioxolan-2-yl)ethyl]zinc bromide (**3**) were selected as the cross-coupling partners because the product serves as an intermediate in our formal total synthesis of fluvirucine A₁ (Scheme 1).^{7–10} The Negishi reaction proceeded with a strong preference for carbon–carbon bond formation at the γ position of the electrophile, providing compound **4** in excellent yield (94–96%), regioselectivity (>20:1), and ee (94–95%). Reduction of **4**, followed by bromination, furnished **5**, which was converted into the organozinc reagent and subjected to a second asymmetric Negishi cross-coupling with a racemic allylic chloride to afford intermediate **6** in good yield (82%), regioselectivity (>20:1), and stereoselectivity (>98% ee; 15:1 dr). This coupling product can be transformed into aldehyde **7**, which was an intermediate in Suh’s total synthesis of fluvirucine A₁.¹⁰

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Appendix. Chemical Abstracts Nomenclature; (Registry Number)

Ethyl (*E*)-4-oxo-2-butenolate: 2-Butenoic acid, 4-oxo-, ethyl ester, (*2E*)-; (2960-66-9)

Methylmagnesium bromide: Magnesium, bromomethyl-; (75-16-1)

Ethyl (*E*)-4-hydroxy-2-pentenoate: 2-Pentenoic acid, 4-hydroxy-, ethyl ester, (*2E*)-; (10150-92-2)

Dichlorotriphenylphosphorane: Phosphorane, dichlorotriphenyl-; (2526-64-9)

Imidazole: 1H-Imidazole; (288-32-4)

Ethyl (*E*)-4-chloropent-2-enoate: 2-Pentenoic acid, 4-chloro-, ethyl ester, (*2E*)-; (872455-00-0)

2-(1,3-Dioxolan-2-yl)ethyl bromide: 1,3-Dioxolane, 2-(2-bromoethyl)-; (18742-02-4)

Zinc; (7440-66-6)

2-[2-(1,3-Dioxolan-2-yl)ethyl]zinc bromide: Zinc, bromo[2-(1,3-dioxolan-2-yl)ethyl]-; (864501-59-7)

Nickel(II) chloride, dimethoxyethane adduct (NiCl₂·glyme): Nickel, dichloro[1,2-di(methoxy-κO)ethane]-; (29046-78-4)

2,6-Bis[(*S*)-4,5-dihydro-4-(2-phenylethyl)-2-oxazolyl]pyridine: Pyridine, 2,6-bis[(4*S*)-4,5-dihydro-4-(2-phenylethyl)-2-oxazolyl]-; (1012042-02-2)

Sodium chloride; (7647-14-5)

(*S,E*)-Ethyl 6-(1,3-dioxolan-2-yl)-4-methylhex-2-enoate: 2-Hexenoic acid, 6-(1,3-dioxolan-2-yl)-4-methyl-, ethyl ester, (*2E,4S*)-; (1012041-93-8)

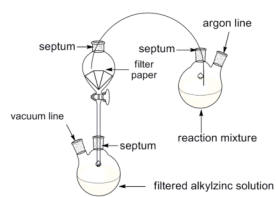
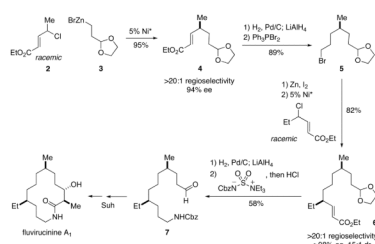


Figure 1.



Scheme 1.
 Formal Total Synthesis of Fluvirucine A₁ via Two Catalytic Enantioselective Negishi Cross-Couplings of Allylic Chlorides ((*R*)-CH₂CH₂Ph-Pybox was used; for the reaction conditions, see Eq 1).

Table 1

Enantioselective, Stereoconvergent Negishi Cross-Couplings of Allylic Chlorides (for the reaction conditions, see Eq 1).

| entry | allylic chloride | R-ZnBr | ee (%) |
|----------------|------------------|--------|--------|
| 1 | | | 90 |
| 2 | | | 79 |
| 3 | | | 69 |
| 4 | | | 98 |
| 5 ^a | | | 83 |
| 6 | | | 84 |

| entry | allylic chloride | R-ZnBr | ee (%) |
|-------|------------------|--------------------|--------|
| 7 | | | 81 |
| 8 | | | 96 |
| 9 | | | 93 |
| 10 | | <i>n</i> -Hex-ZnBr | 90 |

^aRegioselectivity: 1.9:1; ee of the minor regioisomer: 88%.