# Direct Organocatalytic Enantioselective Mannich Reactions of Ketimines: An Approach to Optically Active Quaternary α-Amino Acid Derivatives

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#### The Mannich Reaction



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#### Iminoesters as Useful Electrophiles in Mannich Reactions



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### Lewis Acid Catalyzed Mannich Reactions of $\alpha$ -Imino Esters



Taggi, A. E.; Hafez, A. M.; Leckta, T. Acc. Chem. Res. 2003, 36, 10-19.



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#### Mannich Reactions by Organocatalysis

**Proposed Transition States** 



(a) List, B. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2000**, *122*, 9336-9337. (b) Cordova, A.; Notz, W.; Zhong, G.; Betancort, J. M.; Barbas, C. F., III. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2002**, *124*, 1842-1842.



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44-78%, 74-92%ee, 5:1-19:1 dr

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## The Scoop: Mannich Reactions Largely Restricted to Imines Derived From Aldehydes



Saaby, S.; Nakama, K.; Lie, M. A.; Hazell, R. G.; Jorgensen, K. A. *Chem. Eur. J.* **2003**, 9, 6145-6154.

- Imines bearing α-protons are susceptible to form enamines in the presence of Bronstead or Lewis acids.
- The equilibrium of the flexible imine double bond is often shifted towards the *Z* isomer and thereby render difficult a constrained and rigid bidentate coordination to a Lewis acid complex
- A characteristic and fundamental problem related to the use of ketimine substrates is steric hindrance.
- The disubstituted carbon atom of a prochiral ketimine double bond is much less reactive than the analagous monosubstituted prochiral aldimine, owing to unfavorable steric interactions during the C—C bond forming step.

## Intrinsic Protecting Groups: Their Role in Modulating Ketimine Reactivity



"...By anchoring the nitrogen protecting group by means of an aryl substituent, the degree of rotational freedom, as well as possible imine double bond isomerization, is minimized, rendering a beneficial preorganized structure for bidentate Lewis acid activation. Moreover, the problem of enamine formation is also circumvented..."



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### Lewis Acid Catalyzed Ketimine Alkylation



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Table 1: Direct organocatalytic asymetric Mannich reaction of ketimine 1a with 2a.

Entry	Catalyst	Т	2a	Solvent	Yield <sup>[a]</sup>	<b>3a/4a</b> <sup>[b]</sup>	$ee^{[c]}$
	(mol%)	[°C]	[equiv]		[%]		[%]
1	<b>5a</b> (30)	0	5	$CH_2Cl_2$	84	1:8	82
2	<b>5b</b> (30)	0	5	$CH_2Cl_2$	11	>20:1	7
3	<b>5c</b> (30)	0	5	$CH_2Cl_2$	trace	>20:1	_
4	<b>5d</b> (30)	0	5	$CH_2Cl_2$	39	>20:1	80
5	<b>5e</b> (5)	0	5	$CH_2Cl_2$	56	15:1	86
6	<b>5e</b> (5)	0	5	$CH_2Cl_2$	73	2:1	88
7	<b>5e</b> (5)	0	5	$Et_2O$	74	19:1	90
8	<b>5e</b> (5)	0	2	$Et_2O$	99	>20:1	91
9	<b>5e</b> (5)	-24	2	$Et_2O$	51	17:1	92
10	<b>5e</b> (2)	0	2	$Et_2O$	93	18:1	91

[a] Combined yield of the two isolated diastereomeric products. [b] The diastereomeric ratio was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic analysis of the crude product mixture. [c] The *ee* of the major product was determined by HPLC on a Daicel Chiralpak AS column.



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*Table 2*. Reaction of ketimines **1a-f** with aldehydes **2a-c** under the optimized reaction conditions

Entry	Imine	Solvent	$\mathbb{R}^1$	$\mathbb{R}^2$	$\mathbb{R}^3$	$\mathbb{R}^4$	Product	Yield	<b>3/4</b> <sup>[b]</sup>	$ee[\%]^{[c]}$
								$[\%]^{[a]}$		
1	1a	$Et_2O$	Н	Η	Η	iPr	3a	99	>20:1	91
2	1b	$Et_2O$	Η	Н	Me	iPr	<b>3</b> b	98	6:1	89
3	1c	$Et_2O$	Η	Η	OMe	iPr	3c	95	9:1	86
4	1d	$Et_2O$	Η	Н	F	iPr	3d	97	19:1	83
5	<b>1e</b>	$Et_2O$	Η	OMe	Н	iPr	<b>3e</b>	90	>20:1	87
6	1f	$Et_2O$	-C	$L_4H_4-$	Η	iPr	<b>3f</b>	93	>20:1	84
7	<b>1</b> a	$CH_2Cl_2$	Η	Η	Η	Me	3g	72	5:1	95
8	1a	$CH_2Cl_2$	Η	Η	Η	allyl	3h	82	4:1	98

[a] Combined yield of the two isolated diastereomeric products. [b] The diastereomeric ratio was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic analysis of the crude product. [c] The *ee* value of the major product (with *R* configuration at the quaternary center) was determined by HPLC on a Chiral stationary phase (see Supporting Information for details).

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### Conclusions

- The first organocatalytic, enantioselective Mannich reaction of ketimines and unmodified aldehydes based on the concept of intrinsic protecting group anchoring has been reported.
- Catalysis is achieved by the addition of simple chiral amines (2-5 mol%) providing optically active quaternary α-amino acid derivatives in high yields (72-99%) and good optical purities (83-98% *ee*).
- Through careful selection of the amine catalyst, the diastereoselectivity of the reaction can be controlled.