

Convenient Methods for the Synthesis of Chiral Amino Alcohols and Amines

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Abstract: Simple, convenient methods have been developed using readily available, easy-to-handle reagents to access a variety of chiral amino alcohols and amines, which have considerable potential for applications in asymmetric organic transformations. Scholars from this laboratory in India have made significant contributions to this field, which is the subject of the current review.

Keywords: Amines · Asymmetric borane reduction · Aziridinium ions · Chiral amino alcohols · Cyclohexene epoxide · Naphthols · Reductive coupling · Resolution · Ring opening · Tröger base



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1. Introduction

A major hindrance to organic synthesis research work in India is the difficulty in accessing useful but highly air-sensitive reagents such as borane reagents, metal carbonyls and the expensive chiral reagents. Accordingly, about 30 years back, we initiated research efforts to develop convenient methods to access such reagents using readily available inexpensive starting materials. Gratifyingly, some of the methods developed in this laboratory have been also followed up by leading researchers abroad. Convenient methods developed to access chiral amino alcohols and amine derivatives (Fig. 1) are reviewed in this article.

2. Synthesis of Chiral Amino Alcohols from Chiral Amino Acids

Chiral amino alcohols are an important class of organic compounds. Several chiral amino alcohol moiety-containing derivatives are useful in medicinal chemistry as therapeutic agents for a wide variety of human diseases and disorders.^[1] β-Amino alcohols are generally prepared from naturally occurring α-amino acids by simple reduction or through the transformation of the corresponding ester derivatives.^[2] Chiral (*S*)-α,α-diphenyl-2-pyrrolidinemethanol (**1**) was utilized extensively in numerous asymmetric transformations.^[3] It has attracted profound

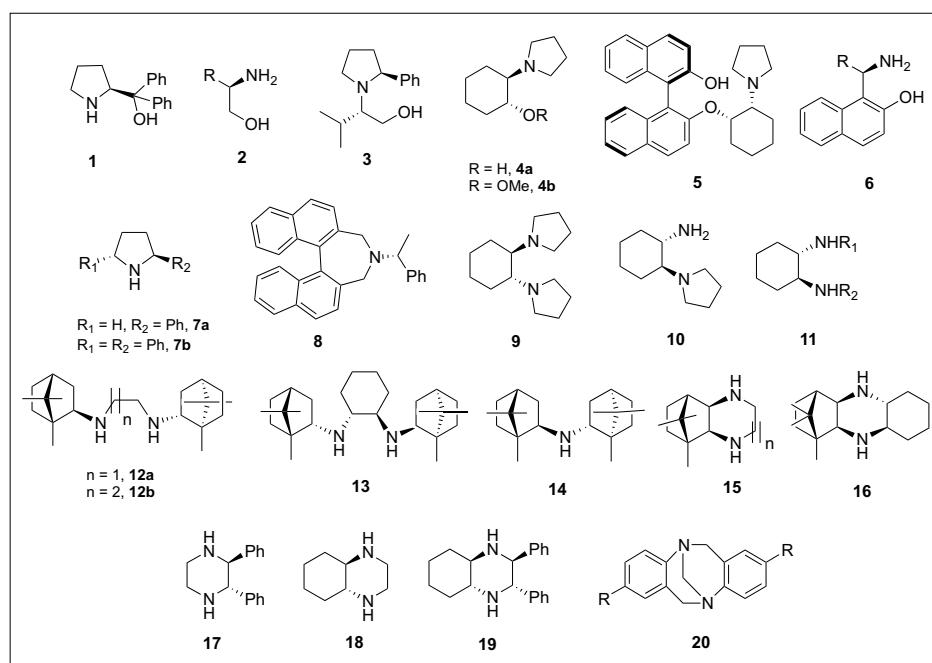
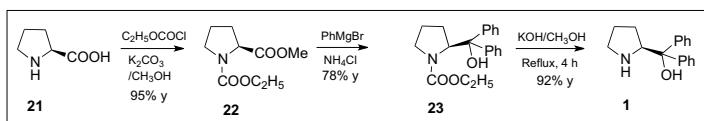
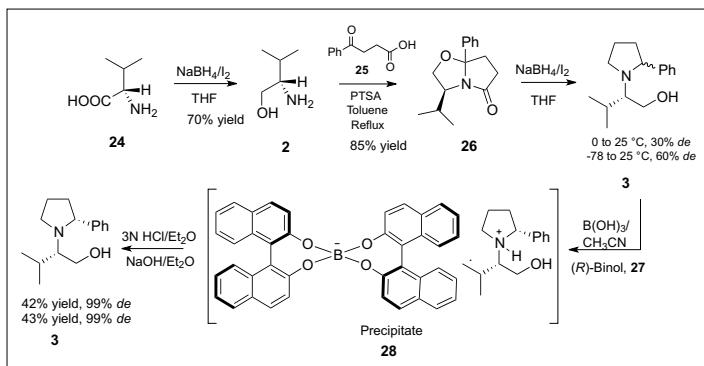


Fig. 1. Chiral amino alcohols and amines.

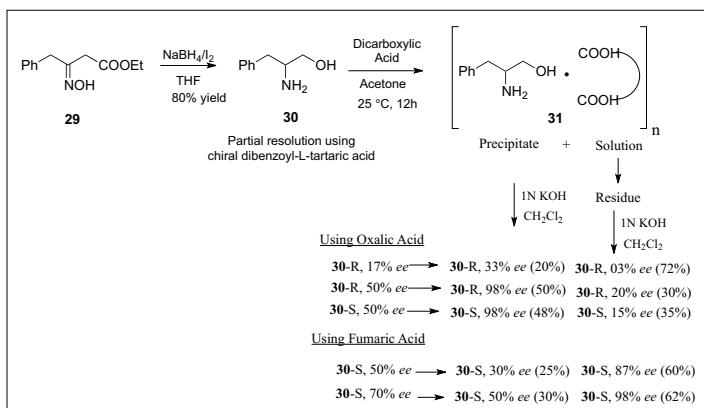
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Scheme 1.



Scheme 2.



Scheme 3.

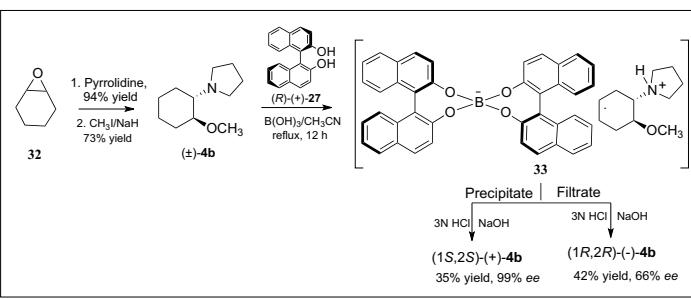
interest as it is the precursor for the preparation of the CBS (Corey-Bakshi-Shibata) oxazaborolidine catalyst useful for the highly enantioselective borane reduction of ketones.^[4] Originally, it was synthesized by *N*-protection, esterification, phenyl Grignard addition and *N*-deprotection using expensive reagents.^[5] Also, it was accessed *via* enantioselective lithiation of *N*-protected pyrrolidine using expensive chiral sparteine.^[6] We have developed a simplified and convenient method for accessing chiral (S)- α,α -diphenyl-2-pyrrolidine methanol (**1**) involving one step *N,O*-protection of (S)-proline (**21**) and deprotection of the carbamate intermediate using $\text{KOH}/\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ under refluxing conditions (Scheme 1).^[7]

Synthesis of chiral 2-substituted *N*-glycinol pyrrolidine derivative **3** was previously achieved *via* AlH_3 reduction of Meyers' lactam **26** prepared from the corresponding amino acid.^[8] We have observed that the reduction of the intermediate bicyclic lactam **26** is readily achieved using the inexpensive NaBH_4/I_2 reagent system at 0°C and -78°C (Scheme 2). Unfortunately,

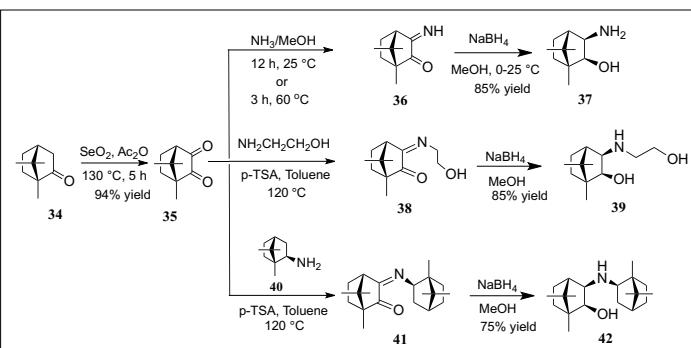
the amino alcohol **3** obtained was found to be only 30% *de* or 60% *de*.^[9] However, the diastereomeric mixture can be further purified using chiral 1,1'-bi-2-naphthol **27** and boric acid to obtain samples with up to 99% *de* (Scheme 2).

3. Synthesis of Chiral Amino Alcohol Derivatives through Resolution of Racemic Mixtures

A method to access various racemic amino alcohol derivatives **30** has been developed in this laboratory by reduction of oxime esters using NaBH_4/I_2 .^[10] These aminoalcohols **30** are easily resolved using chiral dibenzoyl-L-tartaric acid to obtain partially resolved nonracemic samples. We have developed a conceptually new method for purification of the nonracemic amino alcohols to obtain samples of higher *ee*, through preparation of homochiral and heterochiral aggregates **31** using inexpensive achiral oxalic and fumaric acids (Scheme 3).^[11]



Scheme 4.



Scheme 5.

4. Synthesis of Chiral Amino Alcohol Derivatives *via* Opening of Cyclohexene Epoxide

Amino alcohols can also be obtained by the stereo-, regio- and enantioselective ring opening of epoxides using nitrogen nucleophiles such as primary, secondary amines or azide in the presence of certain metal complexes.^[12] The racemic amino alcohols can be resolved by complexing with chiral Bronsted acid derivatives, enzymatic or kinetic resolution.^[13] We have utilized the readily accessible chiral 1,1'-bi-2-naphthol (**27**) for the resolution of racemic amino alcohols.^[14] For example, the racemic *trans*-(\pm)-2-(pyrrolidinyl) cyclohexanol and its methyl ether **4** prepared using cyclohexene epoxide (**32**), were effectively resolved from chiral 1,1'-bi-2-naphthol (**27**) and boric acid in THF or CH_3CN to obtain samples with up to 99% *ee* (Scheme 4).^[15]

5. Synthesis of Chiral Amino Alcohol Derivatives Starting from Camphor

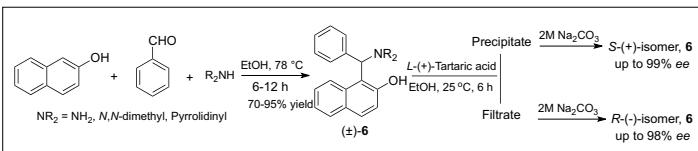
Chiral camphanyl derivatives are very useful in asymmetric transformations as chiral building blocks.^[16] Methods of synthesis of these derivatives involve multi-step processes in most cases.^[17] Recently, we have developed efficient routes for preparing optically active amino alcohols *via* NaBH_4 reduction of intermediates prepared using the readily accessible d-(−)-camphorquinone.^[18] For example, the

reaction of D-(-)-camphorquinone (**35**) with methanolic ammonia followed by reduction with NaBH_4 afforded the amino alcohol **37** as the only product in 85% yield. The D-(-)-camphorquinone imine derivatives **38** and **41** were also readily prepared using ethanol amine and isoboranyl amine (**40**) and converted to the amino alcohol derivatives **39** and **42** in 75–85% yields by reduction with NaBH_4 in methanol under ambient temperature (Scheme 5).

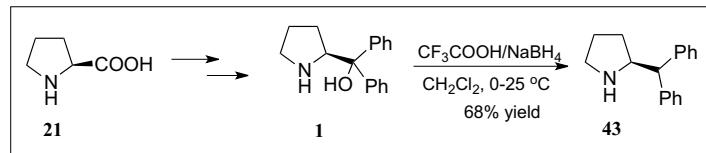
6. Synthesis of Chiral Amino Naphthols

The search for new chiral ligands with potential for use in asymmetric transformations is of great interest in modern organic chemistry research.^[19] In this context, chiral 1,2- and 1,3-amino phenols and naphthols were proved to be useful ligands in a variety of asymmetric transformations catalyzed by metal complexes.^[20] In 1900, the preparation of amino naphthol (Betti base) **6** was reported by the condensation of 2-naphthol with ammonia and benzaldehyde.^[21] Since then numerous reports have been documented for accessing chiral Betti base derivatives and their applications in asymmetric transformations.^[22] In continuation of development of new methods of resolution to obtain important chiral reagents,^[9,14] we have developed a general method of synthesis of racemic amino naphthols **6** which are resolved using L-(+)-tartaric acid (Scheme 6).^[23]

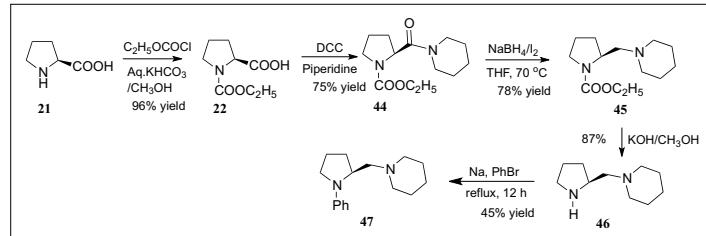
The chiral aminonaphthols **6** have been shown to be useful for the resolution of racemic bi-2-naphthol.^[23]



Scheme 6.



Scheme 7.



Scheme 8.

7. Synthesis of Chiral Pyrrolidine Derivatives Using (S)-Proline

In 1969, (*S*)-2-(diphenylmethyl)pyrrolidine (**43**) was first reported as its hydrochloride salt in patent literature. It was prepared from (*S*)-proline.^[24] This amine **43** was used as a chiral solvating agent and in asymmetric organo catalysis.^[25] We have developed a convenient procedure involving borohydride reduction of the commercially available chiral (*S*)- α,α -diphenyl-2-pyrrolidinemethanol (**1**) (Scheme 7).^[26]

Chiral diamines like compound **46** are widely used in organocatalytic, enantioselective epoxide opening and other asymmetric transformations.^[27] We have developed a convenient method to access chiral (*S*)-1-(pyrrolidin-2-ylmethyl) piperidine (**46**) from (*S*)-proline (**21**). The corresponding *N*-phenyl derivative was accessed by *N*-phenylation using bromobenzene and sodium or lithium (Scheme 8).^[28]

8. Synthesis of Chiral Pyrrolidines Using α -Methyl Benzylamine

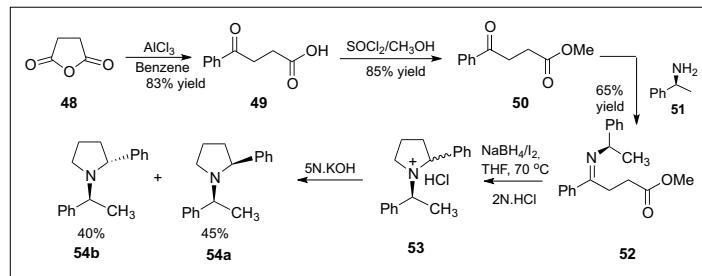
Meyers and Burgess reported the synthesis of enantiomerically pure 2-substituted pyrrolidines from γ -keto acid **49**.^[8] Later, methods involving asymmetric deprotonation of *N*-boc-pyrrolidines and reductive cyclization of chiral γ -chloro *N*-(tert-butanesulfinyl)ketimines were reported.^[6,29] We have performed the synthesis of chiral 2-substituted pyrrolidine skeletons **54** from β -benzoylpropanoic acid (**49**) by condensation with (*S*)- α -

methylbenzylamine (**51**) and subsequent reduction using NaBH_4/I_2 (Scheme 9).^[30]

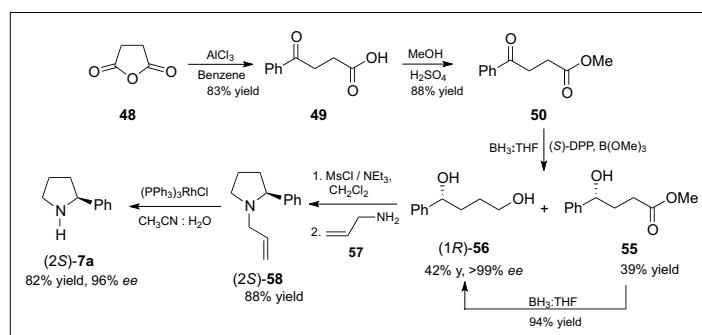
9. Synthesis of Chiral Pyrrolidine Systems through Asymmetric Borane Reductions

The chiral (2*S*)-phenylpyrrolidine (**7a**) can be accessed through the CBS oxazaborolidine borane reduction in a crucial step.^[31] Thus, chiral (1*R*)-phenylbutan-1,4-diol (**56**) obtained in 99% *ee* in CBS oxazaborolidine reduction of γ -keto ester **50**, is readily converted to the chiral pyrrolidine **7a** derivative through cyclization and *N*-deallylation using Wilkinson's catalyst in 82% yield with 96% *ee* (Scheme 10).^[32]

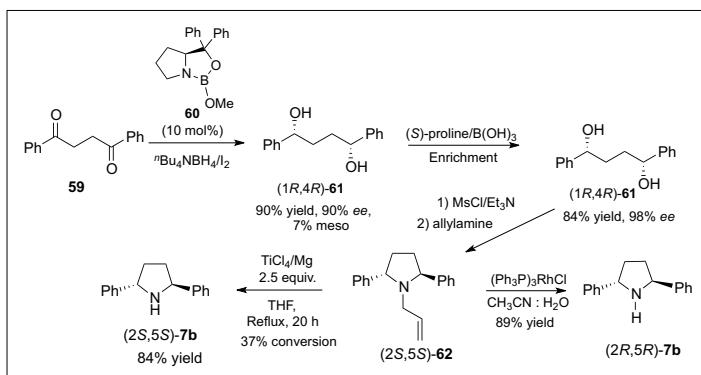
Chiral C_2 -symmetric molecules are widely used as auxiliaries and ligands in asymmetric transformations.^[33] Chiral C_2 -symmetric 2,5-disubstituted pyrrolidine derivatives are widely used in a variety of asymmetric transformations including alkylation, radical cyclizations, Michaeli addition, enantioselective deprotonation, Claisen rearrangements, Diels-Alder reactions, allylic substitutions, reduction of prochiral ketones and in other asymmetric hydrogenation reactions.^[34] We have developed a synthetic method to access the chiral C_2 -symmetric ($2S,5S$)-2,5-diphenylpyrrolidine (**7b**) by utilizing the modified borohydride $^7\text{Bu}_4\text{NBH}_4$ in combination with I_2 or iodomethane for the reduction of 1,2-dibenzoylethane (**59**) in the presence of oxazaborolidine (**60**).^[35] Earlier, the amine **7b** was accessed through *N*-deallylation using Wilkinson's



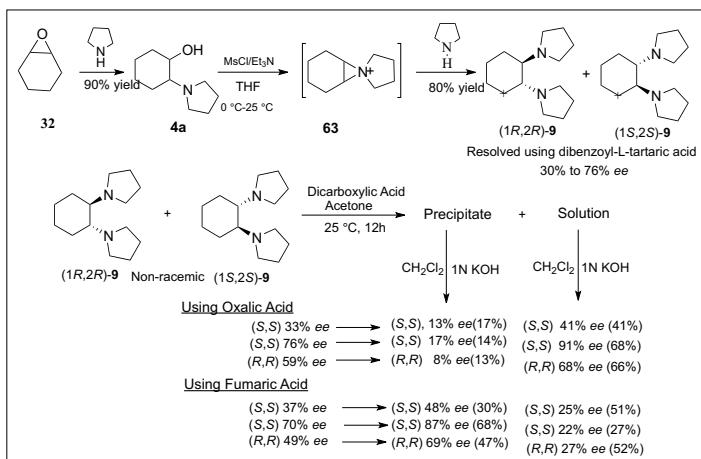
Scheme 9.



Scheme 10.



Scheme 11.



Scheme 12.

catalyst.^[31,36] We made an attempt to deallylate the chiral (2S,5S)-N-allyl-2,5-diphenylpyrrolidine (**62**) using inexpensive low valent titanium reagent system ($TiCl_4/Mg$). However, the chiral pyrrolidine derivative **7b** was obtained in 84% yield but the conversion was only up to 37% (Scheme 11).^[37]

10. Synthesis of Chiral Pyrrolidine Derivatives via Opening of Aziridinium Ions

In recent years, several 1,2-diamine derivatives were found to be useful in medicinal chemistry and many natural products that have valuable biological properties contain a 1,2-diamino moiety.^[38] The chiral, enantiomerically pure 1,2-diamines and their derivatives are also used in stereoselective transformations as chiral auxiliaries, or as ligands in catalytic asymmetric synthesis.^[33a] Methods have been reported for synthesis of vicinal diamines through opening of aziridinium ions.^[39] In this laboratory, we have investigated the synthesis of various 1,2-diamine derivatives from aminoalcohols and their resolution using chiral acids. Thus, the racemic 1,2-di(pyrrolidin-1-yl)cyclohexane (**9**) was synthesized via sequential

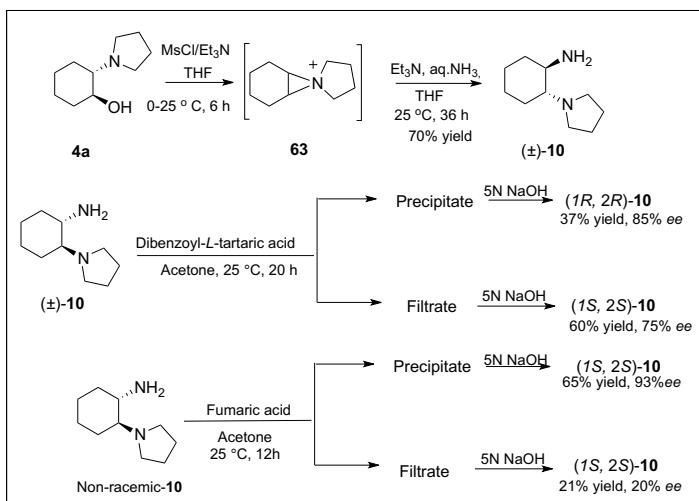
ring opening of cyclohexene oxide (**32**) and the meso aziridinium ion intermediate **63** prepared *in situ* using *trans*-(\pm)-2-(*N,N*-dialkyl-amino)cyclohexanol (**4a**) and pyrrolidine. The racemic diamine was resolved using chiral dibenzoyl-L-tartaric acid to obtain samples with up to 76% *ee*. The nonracemic mixture was enriched to obtain samples with up to 91% *ee* using achiral diacids through formation of novel diastereomeric aggregates (Scheme 12).^[11]

In a similar way, the racemic *trans*-(\pm)-1,2-diamine **10** was synthesized by opening the meso aziridinium intermediate **63** with ammonia. Racemic **10** was resolved using chiral dibenzoyl-L-tartaric acid with up to 82% *ee* and the non-racemic mixture was enriched using fumaric acid to obtain samples with up to 92% *ee* (Scheme 13).^[40]

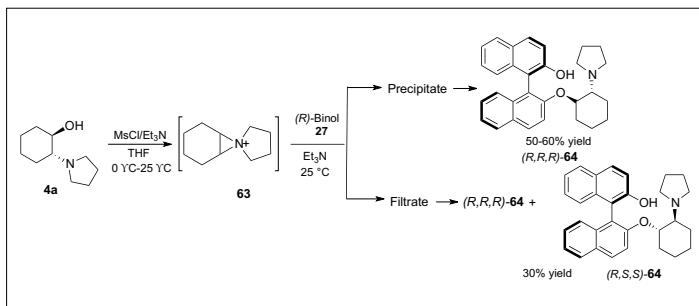
Following a similar protocol, the chiral 1,1'-bi-2-naphthol-derived amino ether **64** was synthesized through opening **63** (Scheme 14).^[41]

11. Synthesis of Camphanyl Diamines Using Methods Involving Reduction of Camphor Imines

D-(+)-Camphor (**34**), D-(\mathcal{M})-camphorquinone (**35**) and their derivatives were widely used as chiral auxiliaries and



Scheme 13.

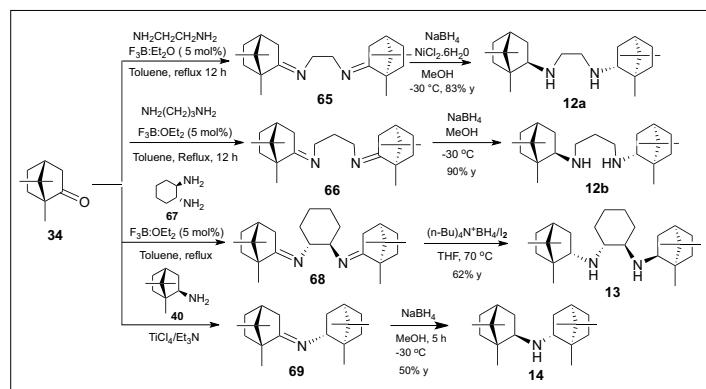


Scheme 14.

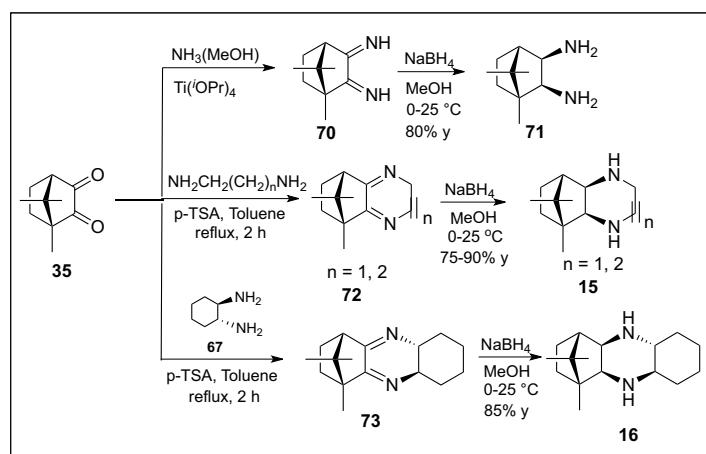
ligands in various asymmetric transformations.^[42] We have developed a protocol for the synthesis of various chiral camphanyl amines.^[18,43] The bis-imine derivatives prepared using Lewis acid catalysts upon reduction using $NaBH_4-NiCl_2 \cdot 6H_2O$ (nickel boride prepared *in situ*), $NaBH_4/MeOH$ and nBu_4NBH_4/I_2 gave the pure camphanyl diamines **12-14** in high diastereomeric excess (Scheme 15).^[18]

12. Synthesis Using Methods Involving Reduction of Camphanyl Diimines

The camphanyl diamine (**71**) was previously prepared in low yields through a multistep synthetic protocol, which involves condensation of D-(\mathcal{M})-camphorquinone (**35**) with the expensive *rac*-1,2-diphenyl-ethylenediamine, followed by reduction and deprotection.^[44] We have synthesized this auxiliary in two steps from D-(\mathcal{M})-camphorquinone (**35**) via formation of the corresponding diimine using methanolic ammonia and $Ti(OPr)_4$, followed by reduction with $NaBH_4/MeOH$. The camphanyl diamines **15** and **16** were synthesized by similar protocols as outlined in Scheme 16.^[18]



Scheme 15.



Scheme 16.

13. Synthesis of Chiral Amines Starting from 1,2-Diaminocyclohexane Derivatives

The chiral macrocycles containing 1,2-diaminocyclohexane (**67**) moiety are useful as molecular receptors for peptides and in the enantioselective recognition of amino acids.^[45] Also, the chiral 1,2-diaminocyclohexane derivatives were widely used as chiral ligands and catalysts in various asymmetric transformations.^[46] We have developed methods for the synthesis of chiral macrocycles containing the chiral 1,2-diaminocyclohexanes **67** or its diisopropyl derivative **74**, in some cases through formation of their amides, followed by reduction using NaBH_4/I_2 (Scheme 17 and 18).^[47]

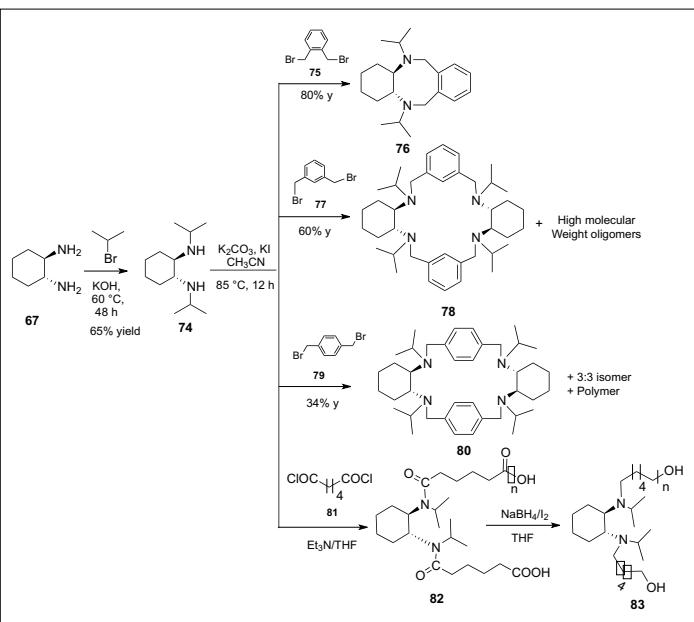
14. Synthesis of Chiral Piperazines via Reductive Coupling Reactions

Several methods have been reported from this laboratory for reductive coupling of imines using low valent titanium (LVT) reagents prepared using the TiCl_4/Mg or $\text{TiCl}_4/\text{Et}_3\text{N}$ reagent systems.^[48] It was of interest to utilize the LVT reagents for intramolecular reductive coupling of chiral diimines. Accordingly, we have developed

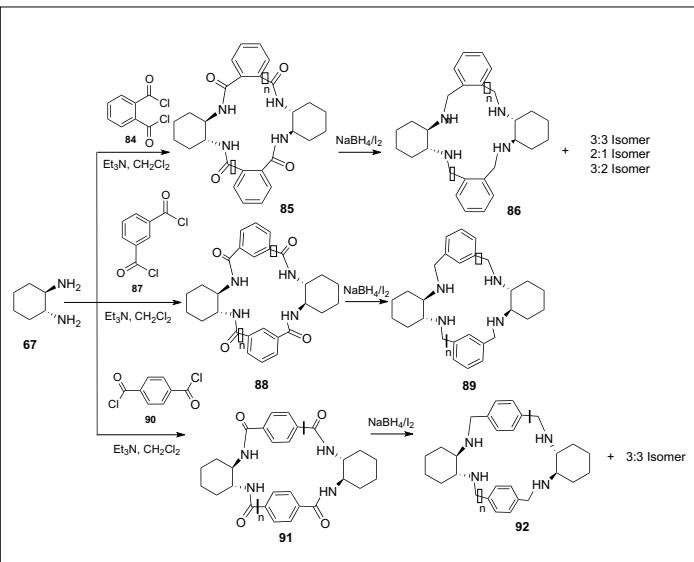
a method for diastereoselective reductive coupling of diimines **93**, prepared from **67** using TiCl_4/Zn . We have also reported a method for diastereoselective synthesis of *trans*-2,3-disubstituted piperazine **17** using $\text{Ti}(\text{OPr})_4\text{Cl}_2/\text{Zn}$ reagent system and resolution of 2,3-disubstituted piperazine using L-(+)-tartaric acid as resolving agent. Furthermore, we have developed a method for enantioselective coupling of diimine **94** using chiral titanium complexes **95** to 2,3-disubstituted piperazines (Scheme 19).^[49]

15. Synthesis of Chiral Bi-2-naphthyl Amine Derivatives

Hogeweijn *et al.*^[50] reported enantioselective reduction of prochiral ketones using a C_2 -symmetrical amine- BH_3 complex containing an α -methylbenzyl moiety. We



Scheme 17.

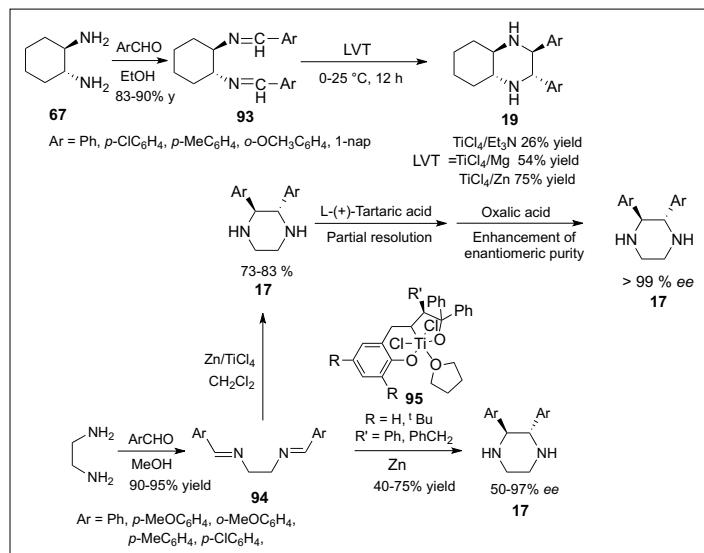


Scheme 18.

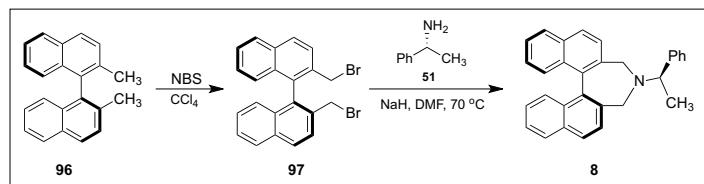
developed syntheses of such derivatives containing the chiral binaphthyl skeleton **8** (Scheme 20).^[51] We have observed that the amine **8** is useful in $\text{BF}_3\cdot\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ -catalyzed asymmetric borane reduction of prochiral ketones to obtain the corresponding secondary alcohols with up to 57% ee.^[51]

16. Synthesis of Chiral Tröger Base Derivatives

The Tröger base **20** ($R=\text{Me}$), a molecule with two bridge head stereogenic nitrogen atoms exists in two enantiomeric forms.^[52] Due to its rigid and concave shape, it has attracted intense research in recent years.^[53] During our research efforts on development of new methods to access chiral amines, it has been discovered that reaction of *para*-substituted aniline de-



Scheme 19.



Scheme 20.

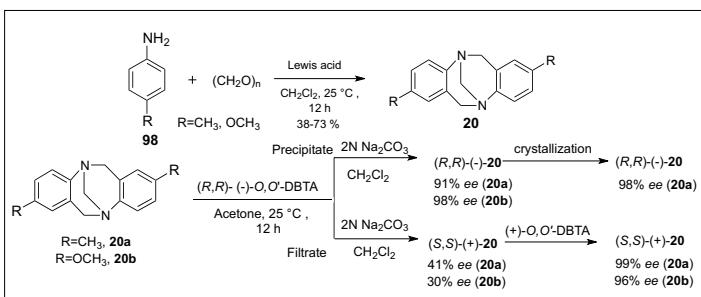
riatives **98** with paraformaldehyde under Lewis acid catalysis gives the corresponding Tröger base derivatives **20**. These racemic mixtures were readily resolved using dibenzoyl-L-tartaric acid as resolving agent (Scheme 21).^[54]

A simple one-pot method has been developed for the preparation of new Tröger base derivatives **100** by an exchange reaction with the methano bridge of *rac*-Tröger base derivatives **99** with carbonyl compounds in the presence of TiCl_4 or POCl_3 . The use of chiral *(S,S)*-*N,N*-bis(α -methylbenzyl)formamide (**101**) as a carbonyl compound gave the corresponding methano Tröger base derivatives with the diastereomeric ratios of up to 77:23 (Scheme 22).^[55]

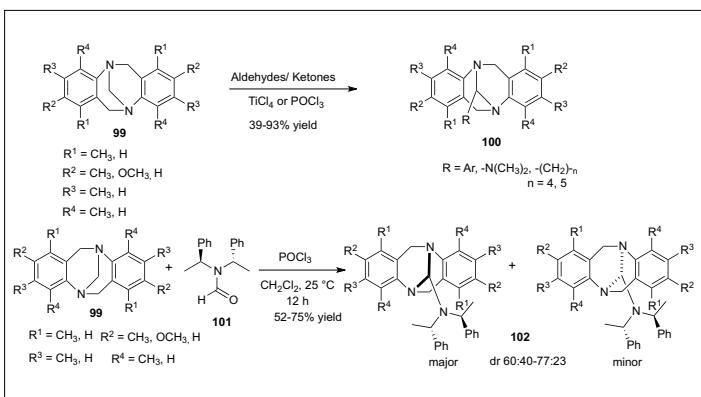
17. Conclusion and Outlook

We have developed simple, convenient methods to access a variety of chiral amino alcohols and amines by means of the preparation of corresponding diastereomeric salts, borate complexes, diastereo- and enantioselective reduction and cyclization reactions. We anticipate that the methods described here would make these chiral derivatives readily accessible for further synthetic exploitation, especially for development of new enantioselective transformations.^[32]

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Scheme 21.



Scheme 22.

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