# Photoredox Synthesis of Amines

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## Importance of amines



## Methods for the synthesis of amines

Hoffman alkylation (1850 ~ )



 $\times$  overalkylation

 $\times$  separation, atom economy

# Methods for the synthesis of amines

Reductive amination



#### Most widely used, but ...

 $\times$  poor reactivity in the case of sterically encumbered amines

 $\times$  over-reaction in the case of small, nucleophilic amines, and simple aldehydes

 $\times$  toxic byproducts

amide/nitrile reduction



 $\times$  challenging workup procedures

 $\times\,$  reactive aluminum hydrides with Lewis or Brønsted acids

# Photoredox synthesis of $\beta$ -amino ether



the first example of photocatalytic  $\alpha$ -amino radical generation

photoredox & thiol catalyst

#### $\rightarrow$ development of photocatalytic synthesis of amines

Dominik Hager, and David W. C. MacMillan J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2014, 136, 49, 16986–16989

### Contents

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Enantioselective photocatalytic reaction
- 3. Carbonyl alkylative amination
- 4. Reductive amination

### Enantioselective photocatalytic reaction

Ooi (2015)



absolute stereocontrol synergistic catalysis visible light

# *P-s*piro chiral aminophosphonium salts

a new class of organocatalysts



excellent yields & outstanding stereoselectivity structurally modifiable readily accessible

D. Enders and T. V. Nguyen. Org. Biomol. Chem. 2012, 10, 5327

# Chiral catalyst design





barfate

- charged Brønsted acid catalyst
- $\rightarrow$  efficient acidity to protons
- double H-bond donor
- positive charge
- $\rightarrow$  for catalytic ion-pairing with anion radical

# Comparison of H-bond donor & photosensitizer





D. Uraguchi et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2015, 137, 43, 13768–13771

### Substrate scope



D. Uraguchi et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2015, 137, 43, 13768–13771

# Enantioselectivity

entry	solvent	$\mathcal{E}_{\mathrm{r}}$	yield (%)	ee (%)
1	toluene	2.38	89	94
2	$Et_2O$	4.33	54	93
3	THF	7.58	15	76
4	$CH_2Cl_2$	8.93	56	92
5	MeCN	37.5	no reaction	_

Catalytic efficiency was higher in a less coordinating solvent



2-phenyl groups

 $\rightarrow$  cavity over the ionic H-bonding site

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# Carbonyl alkylative amination



streamlined synthesis of complex tertiary amines metal-free and modular transformation abundant feedstocks

### **Optimization and controls**



TTMSS : HAT TBSOTf : Lewis acid light : visible light



#### Proposed mechanism



# Mechanistic study

С

Radical trap experiment

**b** Radical inhibition experiment



#### + the reaction efficiency dropped under air

# Evidence in support of the proposed mechanism



adding an alkyl radical to an iminium ion :

 $\Delta G = -6.2 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$ 

 $\Delta G^{TS}$  = + 2.7 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>

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the length of the forming C–C bond (2.3609 Å)
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a strong dependence on the choice of silane BDE: TTMSS 84 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup> ammonium ion 95 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>

# Evidence in support of the proposed mechanism





No ring-opened product was observed

formation of an  $\alpha$ -amino radical does not occur.

# Studies into the role of visible light

- Control experiment in the dark afforded no product. Light is required for the reaction
- The reaction proceeds efficiently in the presence of 455 nm long-pass filter.

The reaction does not require high-energy UV-light

• The reaction is also operative under thermal conditions. The main role of light is thought to be to provide a room temperature initiation pathway for the silane-mediated radical chain mechanism.

# The role of visible-light

Hypothesis 1 : ruled out

light-mediated homolysis of the C–I bond of the alkyl iodide Hypothesis 2 : ruled out

excited state enamine reduces alkyl iodide



Figure S3. Absorption spectra of 2-iodopropane & enamine versus the emission of the Kessil lamp. R. Kumar et al. *Nature* 2020, *581*, 415–420

# The role of visible-light



R. Kumar et al. Nature 2020, 581, 415-420

# The role of visible-light



Figure S5. Absorption spectra iminium ion, TTMSS and their mixture.

Figure S6. Absorption spectra of 2-iodopropane, enamine and their mixture.

# New band observed

#### Hypothesis 6

#### excitation of reaction mixture (enamine, TTMSS, alkyl halide)



R. Kumar et al. Nature 2020, 581, 415-420

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#### **Reductive amination**



#### visible light temporal & spatial control scalable





### Proposed mechanism



#### without AscH2 : no product formation at all

- the inefficient reductive quenching of <sup>3</sup>MLCT-excited [Ru(bpy)3]<sup>2+</sup> by MPA
- the reversible nature of the HAT between MPA and  $\alpha$ -amino alkyl radicals

## Mechanistic study

2a (1 eq.) [Ru(bpy) <sub>3</sub> ]Cl <sub>2</sub> (1 mol %) reducing agent CH <sub>3</sub> OH, 1mL 470 nm blue LE	HN +		HN +			$ \begin{array}{c} & & & \\ & $
211,111	ring-retention product ( <i>P</i> <sub>rr</sub> )	ring-o produ	opening uct ( <i>P</i> <sub>ro</sub> )	P <sub>rr</sub> : P <sub>ro</sub> =		$\bigwedge H \qquad \begin{array}{c} k_2 \sim 10^7  \text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1} \\ \text{HAT} \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} H \\ N \\ N \\ \text{N} \end{array}$
reducing agent	3r	1d	3f	k <sub>rr</sub> [H-Donor]/k <sub>ro</sub>	<i>k</i> <sub>rr</sub>	Ph Fil
AscH <sub>2</sub> (20 mol %), MPA (3 eq., 1.5M)	41(25)%	~1%	3%	41 / (1 + 3) = 10	10 $k_{\rm ro}$ / [H-Donor] = ~ 10 <sup>7</sup> M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>	<b>3r</b> With ASCH <sub>2</sub> <b>5</b> $k_2 \sim 10^4 - 10^5 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$
AscH <sub>2</sub> (1.5 eq., 0.75M)	< 1%	16%	~1%	< 1 / (16 + 1) = 0.06	< 0.06 <i>k</i> <sub>ro</sub> / [H-Donor = 8 x 10 <sup>4</sup> M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> 10 <sup>4</sup> ~10 <sup>5</sup> M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>	$\begin{array}{c} H \\ H \\ 3f \\ 2a \\ hv \\ 1d \end{array} \begin{array}{c} H \\ N \\ Ph \\ H \\ T \\ H \\ H$

X. Guo et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2018, 57, 2469-2473

### kinetic isotope effect studies



#### low H/D KIE (2.3)

→ relatively low vibrational frequency of S-H bond large KIE (11.5)

 $\rightarrow$  significant contribution of proton tunneling

## **DFT** calculation



# Summary

photoredox synthesis of amines :

- visible light
- HAT (thiol, silane)
- photocatalyst (Ir, Ru)
- stereocontrol