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## Perfluorinated Taddol Phosphoramidite as an L,Z-Ligand on Rh(I) and Co(-I): Evidence for Bidentate Coordination via Metal-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> Interaction

Derek M. Dalton, Anthony K. Rappé, and Tomislav Rovis

Department of Chemistry, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80526, USA

Tomislav Rovis: rovis@lamar.colostate.edu

### Abstract

Perfluorinated Taddol-based phosphoramidite, CKphos, is a highly selective ligand for formation of the vinylogous amide cycloadduct in the Rh(I) catalyzed [2+2+2] cycloaddition of alkenyl isocyanates and alkynes. CKphos overrides substrate bias of product selectivity in the cycloaddition, providing indolizones in excellent product and enantioselectivities. Excellent selectivities are attributed to a shortened Rh-P bond and coordination of one C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> to rhodium via a Z-type interaction, making the phosphoramidite a bidentate L,Z-ligand on rhodium. Evidence for the shortened Rh-P and C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> coordination is provided by X-ray, NMR and DFT computation analyses. Additionally, an anionic cobalt complex with CKphos was synthesized and two Co-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> interactions are seen. Rh(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)Cl•CKphos catalyst in the [2+2+2] cycloaddition of alkenyl isocyanates and alkynes represents a rare example of metal-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> Z-type interaction affecting selectivity in transition metal catalysis.

### Perfluoroaryl-Metal Interactions

Perfluoroaryls, such as C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>6</sub>, have a permanent quadrupole equal in magnitude and opposite in sign to C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub> and have been demonstrated to interact with electron-rich Lewis bases via weak anion- $\pi^1$  and lone pair- $\pi^2$  interactions (Figure 1). The strength of anion- $\pi$  interactions is comparable to a moderate to strong hydrogen bond (~20–50 kJ/mol). Theoretical studies revealed that anion- $\pi$  interactions with  $\pi$ -acidic aromatics are dominated by electrostatic interactions.<sup>3</sup> The importance of these counterintuitive,<sup>4</sup> non-covalent attractive interactions is now being realized in chemical and biological processes.<sup>1b,c</sup>

Analogous metal-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> interactions are rare. Only a handful of metal-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>n</sub> complexes have been reported: Rh,<sup>5</sup> Ir,<sup>6</sup> Ni,<sup>7</sup> Re,<sup>8</sup> Cr,<sup>9</sup> W<sup>10</sup> and Ru.<sup>11,12</sup> DFT calculations reveal that electron density in perfluoroaryls localizes on the fluorines leaving a large, positive electrostatic potential on the  $\pi$ -system (Figure 1). Perfluoroaryls can be seen as acting as accepting electron density from electron-rich metal centers. C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>n</sub>-metal interactions are markedly different from C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>n</sub>-metal interactions, where an aryl donates electrons to a metal (L-type, Aryl→M).<sup>13</sup> Lewis acidic metal-aryl interactions (Z-type, M→Aryl) where the metal donates electrons to an aryl acceptor are rare and remain unexplored.<sup>14</sup>

Recently, Lewis acidic, Z-type boron-metal interactions have been investigated using newly developed phosphinoborane ligands.<sup>15</sup> Apart from phosphinoboranes, few ligand scaffolds

Correspondence to: Tomislav Rovis, rovis@lamar.colostate.edu.

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exist to study Z-type metal interactions. Furthermore, the effect Z-type ligands have on transition metal catalysis has not been investigated. Herein, we report the development and analysis of a perfluorinated Taddol-based phosphoramidite,<sup>16</sup> CKphos, that functions as a bidentate L,Z-ligand on Rh(I) through an L-type phosphoramidite and Lewis acidic, Z-type, C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>-metal interaction. Evidence of the Z-type interaction was provided by X-ray, NMR and DFT calculations. The bidentate CKphos ligand has a dramatic effect on product and enantioselectivity, due to the C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> aryls, in the Rh(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)Cl•CKphos catalyzed [2+2+2] cycloaddition of alkenyl isocyanates and alkynes. To our knowledge, this is a rare example of an Lewis-acidic (Z-type) C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>-metal interaction affecting selectivity in metal catalysis.

Perfluoroaryl Taddol phosphoramidite CKphos was designed to test our mechanistic hypothesis that phosphoramidite steric interactions in the Rh(I) catalyzed [2+2+2] cycloaddition<sup>17</sup> of alkenyl isocyanates<sup>18</sup> and alkynes controls product-, regio- and enantioselectivity (Table 1, eq 1).<sup>19</sup> A long-standing goal of this project aimed to override substrate-based control of product selectivity through ligand development.<sup>20</sup> Formation of vinylogous amide **4** with small, alkyl, or electron-deficient alkynes remained difficult because these substrates favor lactam **3**.<sup>21</sup> Due to the abundance (>200) of biologically active 5-alkyl substituted indolizidines, we sought to establish efficient, enantioselective methods of rapidly and efficiently synthesizing 5-alkyl indolizidine scaffolds.<sup>22</sup>

Based on our proposed model,<sup>21</sup> we hypothesized that we could favor vinylogous amide **4** by altering the Rh-P bond length and consequently the steric environment around Rh. We would control Rh-P bond length by manipulating the electronics of the phosphoramidite.<sup>23</sup> Specifically, as the phosphoramidite was made increasingly electron-deficient the P-O σ\* would lower in energy and backdonation from filled Rh *d*-orbitals to P-O σ\* would increase, resulting in a shortened Rh-P bond length and increased selectivity for vinylogous amide.<sup>24</sup>

According to our hypothesis, relatively electron-rich phosphoramidites should have longer Rh-P bond lengths due to a higher lying P-O σ\* and favor lactam **3**, while electron-deficient phosphoramidites should have shorter Rh-P bond distances and favor vinylogous amide **4**. Indeed, electron-rich, *p*-MeO **T1** was synthesized and found to give excellent product selectivity for lactam **3** (Scheme 1). However, yield and enantioselectivity is low due to by-product formation and weak steric control from the ligand. On the other hand, electron-deficient *p*-CF<sub>3</sub> **T5** provides vinylogous amide **4** as the major product (1:2.3), which is a notable change in selectivity from that obtained with isosteric *p*-CH<sub>3</sub> **T3** (8.3:1). A further increase in electron-deficiency of the backbone aryls enhances selectivity for vinylogous amide **4**. The most electron-deficient ligand, C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> **CKphos**, provides vinylogous amide **4** with excellent control of product-, regio- and enantioselectivity.

### X-ray Analysis of Rh(I)•CKphos Complexes

Perfluoroaryl Taddol-derived phosphoramidite, CKphos, was synthesized from the perfluorinated diol and dichloropyridylphosphine. Treatment of [Rh(cod)Cl]<sub>2</sub> with racemic CKphos ligand in the presence of DCM results in the Rh(cod)Cl•CKphos complex, which readily forms X-ray quality crystals after slow evaporation in DCM/Heptanes. X-ray analysis revealed a short, incomparable to other Rh(cod)Cl•Phosphoramidite, Rh-P bond distance. This shortened bond distance is attributed to increased *d*→P-O σ\* backdonation seen with the more electron-deficient C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> Taddol, CKphos, in comparison to the C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub> Taddol **T4** (Figure 2).

Additionally, Rh(cod)Cl•CKphos shows a significant trans effect in comparison to the phenyl Taddol-derived phosphoramidite, **T4**, with C=C bond distances of 1.365 Å (CKPhos) and 1.378 Å (**T4**) seen. This is significantly shorter than C-C bond distance of 1.409 Å for

**T2** or 1.424 Å reported for [Rh(cod)Cl<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub> and closer to the bond distance of the free alkene, 1.337 Å.<sup>25</sup> This suggests that the coordinated cyclooctadiene (cod) alkene trans to the phosphoramidite phosphorus has more C<sub>sp</sub><sup>2</sup> character, implying that there is less π-backbonding from rhodium to the alkene. Decreased π-backbonding to the alkene is likely the consequence of increased backdonation from filled rhodium *d* orbitals to lower lying P–O σ\* of the electron-deficient phosphoramidite.<sup>23</sup> Incorporation of the C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> aryls into the Taddol phosphoramidite serves to lower the P–O σ\*, increase backdonation from rhodium and shorten the C=C bond trans to the phosphoramidite. Overall, the shortened Rh–P and C=C bond distances suggest that perfluoroaryl CKphos acts as a better π-acceptor ligand than phenyl-Taddol **T4** on rhodium, decreasing the π-basicity of Rh(I).

Previously reported X-ray analyses of Rh(cod)Cl•Phosphoramidite complexes revealed that one Taddol-phosphoramidite aryl is situated above rhodium hindering one face of the rhodium square plane (Figure 2).<sup>21</sup> In the Rh(cod)Cl•CKphos complex one aryl also sits directly above the rhodium square plane but it is significantly closer to rhodium than in Rh(cod)Cl•C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>-**T4**. The Rh–C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> centroid bond distance in the Rh(cod)Cl•CKphos complex is 3.728 Å, which is 0.3 Å closer to rhodium than the 4.039 Å or 4.025 Å Rh–C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub> centroid distance seen with **T4** and **T2**. A search of the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Center (CCDC) found X-ray structures of C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>–C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>6</sub><sup>26</sup> and Me<sub>n</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>n</sub>–C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>6</sub><sup>27</sup> complexes with intercentroidal distances between 3.5 and 3.7 Å. These distances suggest that the Taddol C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> is in close enough proximity to be interacting with rhodium in the ground state.

To determine if the close Rh–C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> centroid distance was an isolated occurrence, we examined Rh(cod)X•CKphos complexes with different counterions (Figure 3). X-ray analysis of Rh(cod)OTs•CKphos found that the Rh–C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> centroid distance with the tosylate counterion decreases from 3.728 Å (chloride) to 3.687 Å. Rh(cod)OTf•CKphos has a longer Rh–C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> distance and the C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> has shifted from being directly over rhodium, as seen with chloride and tosylate, to being situated over the oxygen of the triflate. Presumably this change is due to the highly ionic nature of the Rh–OTf bond, which is less tightly bound to rhodium than chloride or tosylate, and the anionic OTf–C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> interaction is more favorable than the Rh–C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> when the rhodium is less electron rich. This suggests that the perfluoroaryl is acting as a Lewis acid and for the interaction to occur the metal involved needs to be relatively Lewis basic.

## DFT Studies

DFT computational analyses of Rh(cod)Cl•CKphos and Rh(cod)Cl•**T4** were used to verify and better understand the Rh–C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> interaction implied by the ground state X-ray structure (Figure 4). Beginning with the X-ray structures, energy minimizations were performed, and significantly, the Rh–C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> interaction was found to be a persistent, favorable interaction in gas phase and not the result of crystal packing forces. Calculated bond distances were found to agree with those in the X-ray crystal data for both Rh(cod)Cl•CKphos and Rh(cod)Cl•**T4**. With three different basis sets the calculated Rh–C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> centroid bond distance is found to be shorter than that observed in the X-ray data by 0.311 to 0.516 Å. Agreement between computational and X-ray data provides further support for the Rh–C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> interaction.

Electrostatic potential maps were generated from the DFT calculations of Rh(cod)Cl•CKphos and Rh(cod)Cl•**T4**. The maps show significant inversion of electrostatic potential between the perfluoroaryl and phenyl rhodium phosphoramidite complexes (Figure 4). In the Rh(cod)Cl•**T4** potential map significant negative potential (red) is found above and below each of the aryl rings while positive potential (blue) gathers around the hydrogens of the phenyl. Rh(cod)Cl•CKphos map shows a clear inversion of electrostatic potential. Positive potential (blue) is now found above and below each perfluoroaryl and significant negative potential (red) is on the fluorines. An interesting observation is that the electrostatic

potential of the C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> above rhodium, proposed to be interacting with it, is less electropositive (blue) and has more negative electrostatic potential (red) on its fluorines.

Furthermore, DFT calculations found that the HOMO for Rh(cod)Cl•CKphos is predominately on the rhodium  $d_z^2$  orbital. As depicted in Figure 5, clearly the HOMO extends into the electropositive region below the highly electron deficient perfluoroaryl. This supports the notion that rhodium has significant electron density that is properly located to interact with the C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>. Together these results support the proposal that perfluoroaryl C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> functions as a Lewis acid to accept electron density from electron rich rhodium as a Z-type ligand.

## NMR Studies

To investigate the Rh–C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> interaction in solution, we analyzed Rh(cod)Cl•phosphoramidite complexes by NMR spectroscopy. <sup>31</sup>P-NMR shows coupling between phosphorus and rhodium (Figure 6). Rh(cod)Cl•T4 has a  $J_{\text{Rh-P}}$  coupling constant of 234 Hz and Rh(cod)Cl•CKphos has a  $J_{\text{Rh-P}}$  of 243 Hz. Roodt, Varshavsky and coworkers found a correlation between solid-state bond lengths from X-ray crystal data and coupling constants observed in solution by <sup>31</sup>P-NMR.<sup>28</sup> The difference in coupling constants between C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> and C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub> may be correlated to the bond distance seen in the solid state and corresponds to the electronegativity of the aryl substituents on the Taddol phosphoramidite. Interestingly, <sup>31</sup>P-NMR of Rh(cod)Cl•CKphos revealed phosphorus splitting into a doublet of doublet with  $J$  values of 243 Hz ( $J_{\text{Rh-P}}$ ) and 5 Hz. A <sup>19</sup>F-decoupled <sup>31</sup>P-NMR study provided a broad doublet, suggesting that at least one fluorine on CKphos is coupling to phosphorus. Attempts to determine which fluorine is coupled to phosphorus by <sup>31</sup>P-decoupled <sup>19</sup>F-NMR have been unfruitful. As a result, we calculated  $J_{\text{P-F}}$  coupling constants based on the Rh(cod)Cl•CKphos X-ray structure.

DFT spin-spin calculations [B3LYP, 6–311(d,p) basis on P and F] on the optimized Rh(cod)Cl•CKphos structure identified three fluorines with  $J_{\text{P-F}}$  coupling constants greater than 1 Hz (Figure 6). Each is an ortho fluorine, two (F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>3</sub>) are within 5 Å of phosphorus and one (F<sub>2</sub>) is more than 5 Å. In the static DFT calculations, ortho fluorines F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub> and F<sub>3</sub> appear to be coupling to phosphorus through long-range (5-bond) coupling,<sup>29</sup> but in solution, aryl rotation likely disrupts long-range coupling for F<sub>1</sub> and F<sub>2</sub> because such coupling is sensitive to the molecule's conformation.<sup>30</sup> However, coordination of the C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> bearing F<sub>3</sub> to rhodium will limit rotation of this C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> and rigidify the phosphoramidite overall. Rigidification of the phosphoramidite through Rh–C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> interaction could allow <sup>31</sup>P–<sup>19</sup>F coupling to occur either through-bond or through-space. The magnitude of through-space coupling between NMR active nuclei diminishes as the sum of the Van-der Waals radii is exceeded.<sup>31</sup> This would make through-space coupling unlikely; however, through-space <sup>31</sup>P–<sup>19</sup>F coupling is reported on 3,3'-bistriflone-BINOL phosphoramidites and  $J_{\text{P-F}}$  values of 5 Hz are seen between atoms 6 bonds apart.<sup>32</sup>

## C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> Interactions with Co(-I)

To provide further evidence of the Metal–C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> interaction, we investigated CKphos as a ligand on highly Lewis basic, anionic cobalt. Co(CO)<sub>3</sub>*n*Bu<sub>4</sub>N•CKphos was synthesized and analyzed by X-ray diffraction (Figure 7). Surprisingly, X-ray analysis revealed two Co–C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> interactions with Co–C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> centroid distances of 3.925 and 4.032 Å. These distances are longer than the Rh–centroid distance seen in Rh(cod)Cl•CKphos, a consequence of the smaller size of cobalt and its tetrahedral bonding environment. To accommodate a second Co–C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> interaction the phosphoramidite seven-membered ring changes its ring conformation in comparison to the ring conformation seen in Rh(cod)Cl•CKphos.

The geometry of cobalt in anionic tetracarbonyl cobaltate complexes with a wide range of non-coordinating cations is tetrahedral.<sup>33</sup> Deviations from tetrahedral geometry are found when cobalt is strongly ligated by L-type ligands or through strong hydrogen bonding with large ammonium cations.<sup>34</sup> Weak hydrogen bonds with large ammonium cations do not distort cobalt's tetrahedral geometry.<sup>34c</sup>  $\text{Co}(\text{CO})_3n\text{Bu}_4\text{N}\cdot\text{CKphos}$  adopts a distorted tetrahedral geometry at cobalt rather than a tetrahedral geometry, suggesting that the  $\text{Co}-\text{C}_6\text{F}_5$  interaction may be similar to a strong hydrogen bond. Furthermore, Brammer and coworkers found that  $\text{Co}(\text{CO})_3\text{PPh}_2(\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{CH}_2\text{NHMe}_2)$ , a cobaltate complex with an intramolecular  $\text{N}^+-\text{H}\cdots\text{Co}^-$  bond, adopts a similar distorted tetrahedral geometry.<sup>34c</sup> In comparison, one coordinating  $\text{C}_6\text{F}_5$  of  $\text{Co}(\text{CO})_3n\text{Bu}_4\cdot\text{CKphos}$  is in the same apical position above cobalt as the  $\text{N}-\text{H}$  hydrogen bond seen in  $\text{Co}(\text{CO})_3\text{PPh}_2(\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{CH}_2\text{NHMe}_2)$ . Also, in the  $\text{Co}(\text{CO})_3\text{PPh}_2(\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{CH}_2\text{NHMe}_2)$  the distance between cobalt and the amine methyls is 4.075 and 4.124 Å, similar to the  $\text{Co}-\text{C}_6\text{F}_5$  centroid distance (3.925, 4.032 Å) in  $\text{Co}(\text{CO})_3n\text{Bu}_4\cdot\text{CKphos}$ . Overall, the  $\text{Co}-\text{C}_6\text{F}_5$  bond distances, change in phosphoramidite ring conformations and distorted tetrahedral geometry at cobalt provide reasonable evidence that anionic cobalt is interacting with two perfluoroaryls of CKphos as Lewis acidic, Z-type ligands.

### Substrate Scope

Perhaps the most striking discovery was that a simple change in aryl electronics of the Taddol phosphoramidite ligands had a profound effect on product and enantioselectivity in rhodium catalyzed [2+2+2] cycloadditions. Perfluoro Taddol phosphoramidite, CKphos, overrides substrate-based control of product selectivity for a wide range of alkynes, providing vinylogous amide indolizinones with excellent enantioselectivities (Table 2). Silyl-protected alcohols, alkyl chlorides, pendent alkynes and protected amines are well tolerated. Sterically encumbered alkynes participate well with increases in both product and enantioselectivity seen. Small, electron-deficient propargyl silyl ethers and protected amines, which were previously unselective, show good product and enantioselectivity (**4e**, **4f**, **4g**). Other problematic substrates, such as phenyl and electron-deficient aryl alkynes, suffer from either poor product selectivity (**T8**) or poor enantioselectivity (**B1**). CKphos provides excellent product and enantioselectivity for aryl substrates, even electron-deficient ones. The selective formation of 5-alkyl substituted vinylogous amide indolizinones is significant because there are approximately 200 known indolizidine alkaloids that contain 5-alkyl substituents.<sup>35</sup>

### Proposed Mechanism for Product Selectivity

The proposed mechanism for formation of lactam **3** and vinylogous amide **4** via the Rh(I) catalyzed [2+2+2] cycloaddition is illustrated in Scheme 1. From a single coordination complex **I** both lactam and vinylogous amide products are formed; this depends on the direction of oxidative cyclization. The lactam product is formed from oxidative cyclization resulting in C-C bond formation to generate 5-membered rhodacycle **IIa**. Migratory insertion of the pendant alkene into **IIa** produces 7-membered rhodacycle **IIIa**; subsequent reductive elimination provides lactam **3**. The vinylogous amide product occurs from oxidative cyclization leading to C-N bond formation, which results in 5-membered rhodacycle **IIb**. A strained geometry in the alkene coordination event caused by the alkene tether prohibits migratory insertion into **IIb**. For this reason, we propose a reversible CO extrusion-insertion occurs to access 5-membered rhodacycle **IVb** that the alkene inserts into forming 7-membered rhodacycle **Vb**. Reductive elimination of **Vb** provides vinylogous amide **4** and regenerates active catalyst.

Product distribution between lactam **3** and vinylogous amide **4** is determined from the direction of the irreversible oxidative cyclization of alkyne and isocyanate from coordination



complex **I**, as previously reported.<sup>21</sup> The phosphoramidite ligand environment organizes the coordination of alkyne and isocyanate such that smaller substituents (C–H, C=O) are on the hindered side of the rhodium square plane (Scheme 1). Oxidative cyclization with the small substituents cyclizing away from rhodium via **TSa** results in C–C bond formation and metallacycle **IIa** and leads to lactam **3**. Cyclization with the large substituents moving away from rhodium via **TSb** results in C–N bond formation, metallacycle **IIb** and eventually vinylogous amide **4**.

In the absence of ligand-substrate steric interactions, the LUMO coefficient of the isocyanate controls the direction of oxidative cyclization in accord with the calculations of Stockis and Hoffman, who found that oxidative cyclization places the largest LUMO coefficients  $\beta$  to the metal.<sup>36</sup> Electronic control of oxidative cyclization can be overridden by steric interactions during the oxidative cyclization event.<sup>37</sup>

We have found that manipulation of the aryl portion of Taddol phosphoramidites conclusively affects product selectivity with electron-rich aryls providing lactam **3** and electron-deficient giving vinylogous amide **4**. X-ray analysis of Taddol phosphoramidites and CKphos reveal notable differences in Rh–P, C=C trans to phosphorus and Rh–aryl centroid distances. For example, the Rh–P difference between **T2** and **T4** is 0.015 Å and corresponds to a 12.5:1 to 2.4:1 (L:VA) shift in product selectivity (Figure 2) while the Rh–P difference between **T4** and CKphos is 0.012 Å and relates to a 2.4:1 to 1:>19 (L:VA) change in product selectivity. For the difference in Rh–P to account completely the difference would be expected to be greater than 0.015 Å. A plot of Rh–P versus L:VA ratio shows a strong linear relationship with an  $R^2$  value of 0.90 (Figure 8). When CKphos is removed from this plot  $R^2$  increases to 0.95, suggesting another factor affects product selectivity other than Rh–P bond distance.<sup>38</sup> Because there is a weak correlation between C=C trans to phosphorus and L:VA, and each of the other Rh(cod)Cl•Taddol phosphoramidites has approximately the same Rh–Aryl distance except CKphos, we suggest that the Rh–C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> interaction corroborated with the Rh–P interaction accounts for the increase in observed product selectivity.

Rh(cod)Cl•CKphos has the shortest Rh–P and Rh–aryl centroid distances of the phosphoramidite complexes studied; one result of this is an augmented steric environment on Rh(I) and an amplification of ligand-substrate steric interactions during coordination and oxidative cyclization, favoring vinylogous amide **4** via **TSb** (Scheme 1). Additionally, a shortened C=C trans to phosphorus indicates that the  $\pi$ -basicity of Rh(I) is decreased, a result of increased rhodium backdonation to lower lying P–O  $\sigma^*$  and a Lewis acidic, Z-type interaction between the  $\pi^*$  of C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> and  $d_z^2$  on Rh(I). Both serve to lower rhodium's HOMO, which disfavors electronic control of cyclization by increasing the energy gap between the rhodium HOMO and isocyanate LUMO. In summary, CKphos favors vinylogous amide through enhanced ligand-substrate steric interactions seen in the ground state and felt in the transition state for oxidative cyclization caused by a shortened Rh–P and a Rh–C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> interaction. Steric effects are amplified by a lower rhodium HOMO that lessens electronic control of oxidative cyclization.

## Conclusions

Perfluorinated Taddol phosphoramidite, CKphos, is a highly selective ligand for formation of vinylogous amide cycloadducts in Rh(I) catalyzed [2+2+2] cycloadditions of alkenyl isocyanates and alkynes. CKphos overrides substrate bias of product selectivity in the cycloaddition, providing indolizinones in excellent product and enantioselectivities. Excellent selectivities are attributed to a shortened Rh–P bond and coordination of one C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> to rhodium via a weak Lewis acidic, Z-type interaction, making the phosphoramidite a

bidentate L,Z-ligand on rhodium. Evidence for the shortened Rh–P and C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub> coordination is provided by X-ray, NMR and DFT computation analyses. Rh(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)Cl•CKphos catalyst in the [2+2+2] cycloaddition of alkenyl isocyanates and alkynes represents a rare example of a L,Z-ligand affecting selectivity in transition metal catalysis.

## Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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## Notes and references

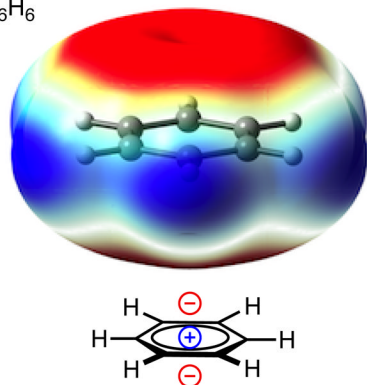
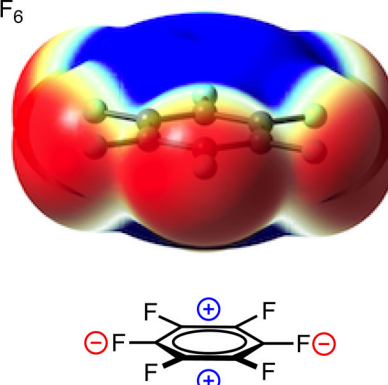
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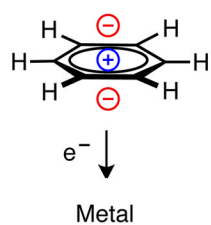
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38. Plots of the relationship between product selectivity and Rh–P, C=C trans to phosphorus and Rh–centroid are included in the supplementary information.

## Electrostatic Potential Maps

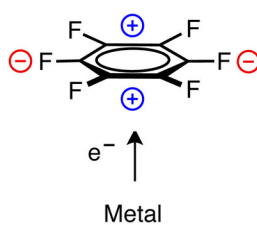
•  $C_6H_6$ •  $C_6F_6$ 

## Metal-Aryl Interactions

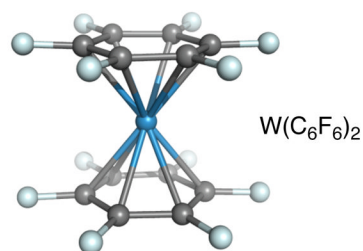
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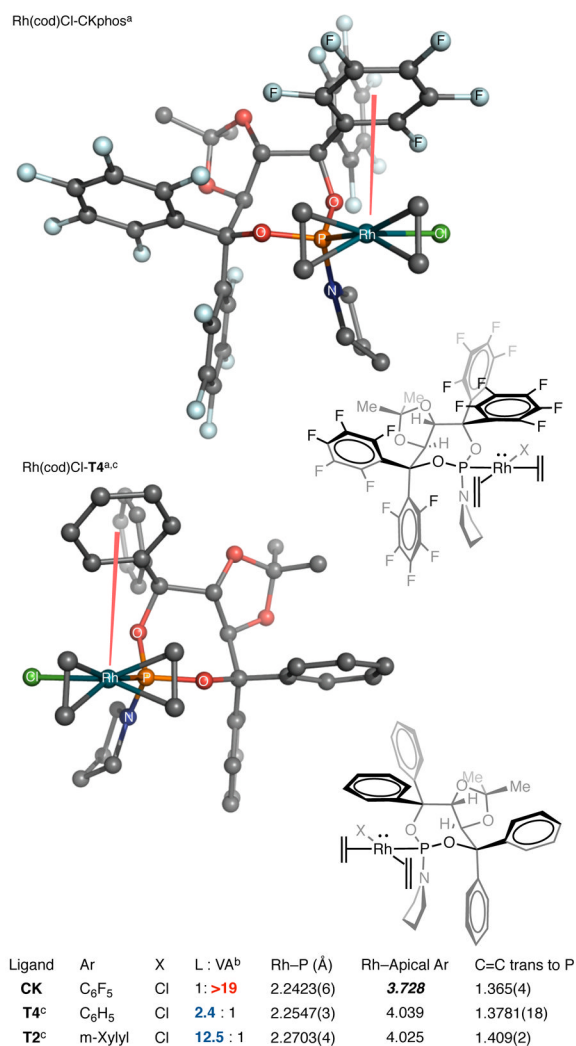
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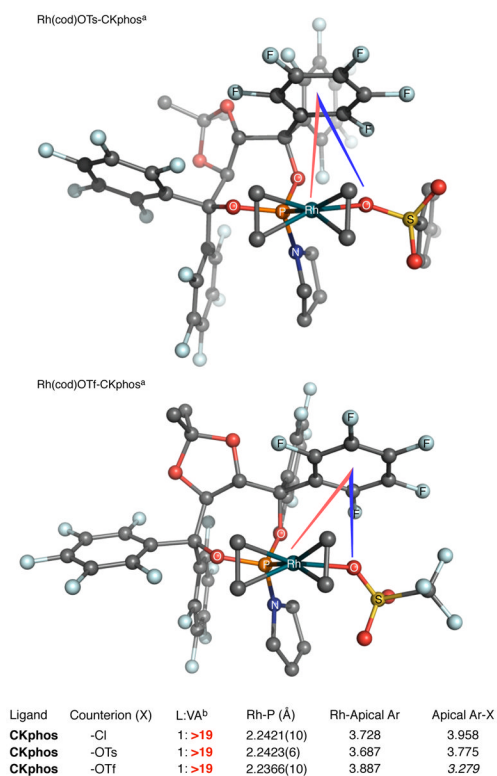
• Timms (ref. 10)



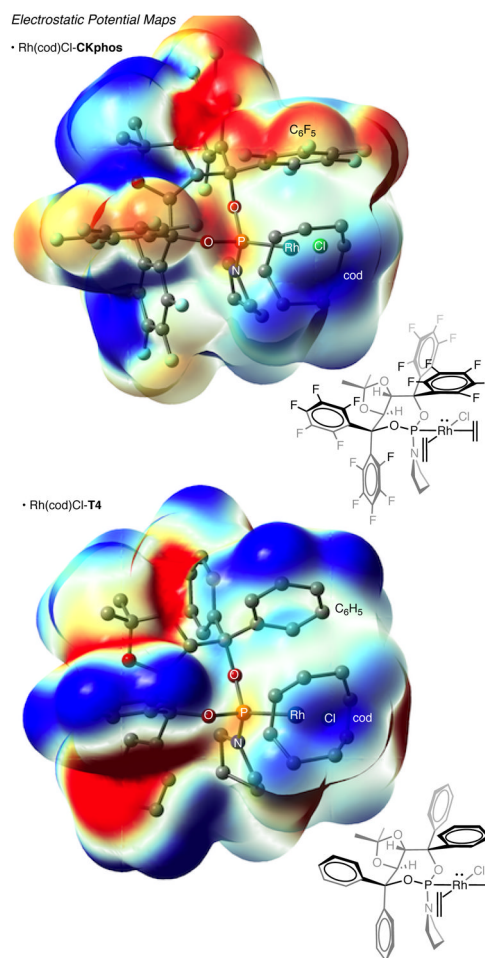
**Figure 1.**  $C_6H_6$  and  $C_6F_6$  electrostatic potential maps and depiction of metal-aryl interactions. Blue indicates net positive potential and net negative potential is red. The 0.004 au magnitude isovalue is plotted for the electron density. Mapping of the electrostatic potential ranges from  $-0.008$  to  $0.01$  au.



**Figure 2.** X-ray structure of Rh(cod)Cl•CKphos. [a] ethylene bridge of cod omitted for clarity. [b] reaction of pentenyl isocyanate and 1-octyne. [c] Previously reported in ref. 21. Structures showing ellipsoids at 50% probability are included in the supplementary info.

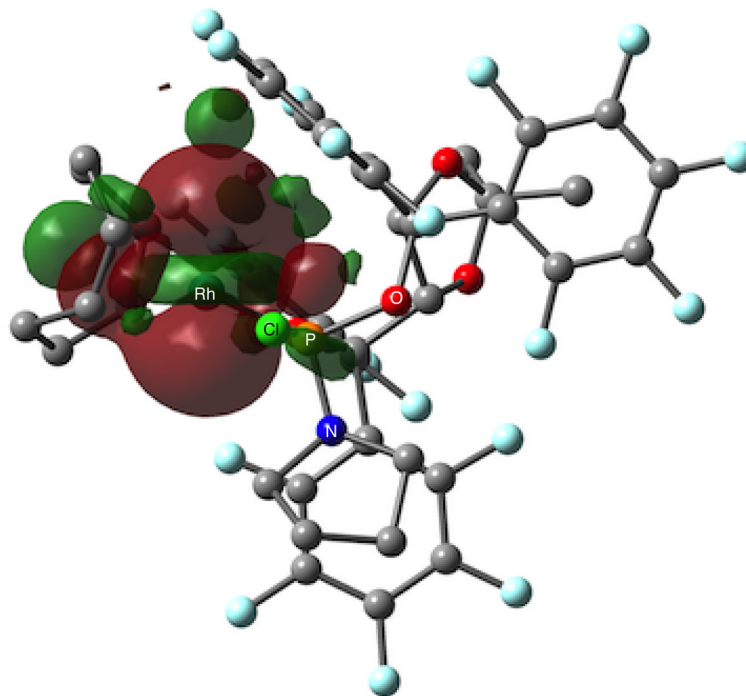


**Figure 3.** X-ray structures of Rh(cod)X•CKphos. [a] ethylene bridge of cod omitted for clarity. [b] reaction of pentenyl isocyanate and 1-octyne



**Figure 4.** DFT calculations of the electrostatic potential maps for Rh(cod)Cl•CKphos and Rh(cod)Cl•T4. Blue indicates net positive potential; net negative potential is red. The 0.004 au magnitude isovalue is plotted for the electron density. Mapping of the electrostatic potential ranges from -0.008 to 0.01 au.

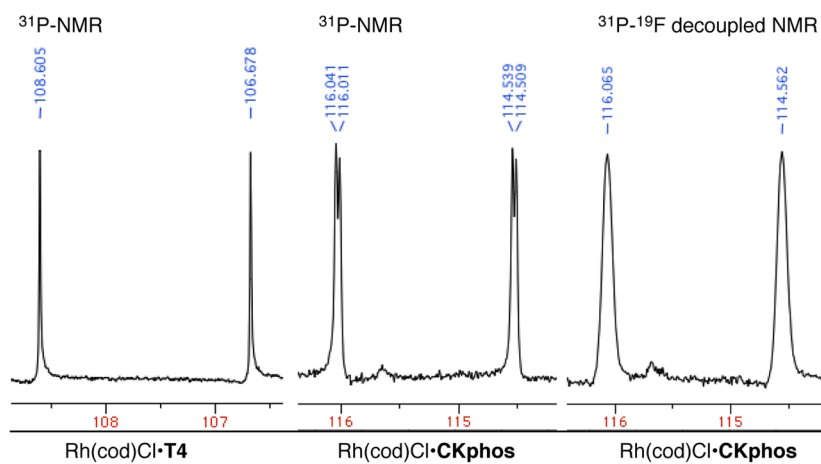
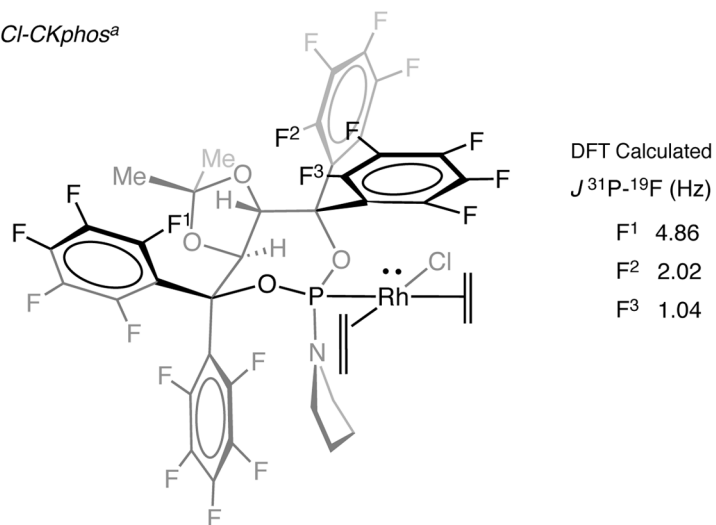




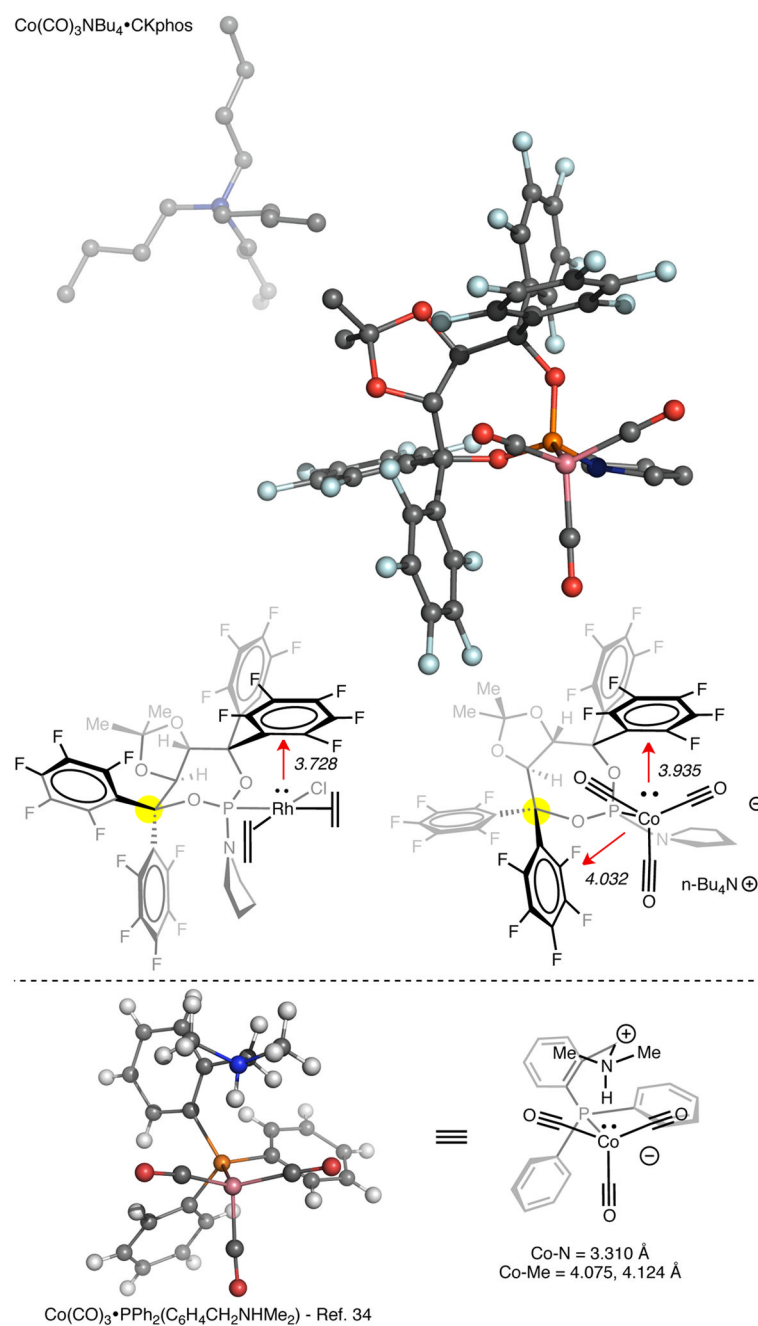
**Figure 5.** HOMO of Rh(cod)Cl•CKPhos, depicted looking down the Rh-Cl bond with chlorine in the foreground.

*<sup>31</sup>P-NMR of Rh(cod)Cl•Taddol Phosphoramidites*

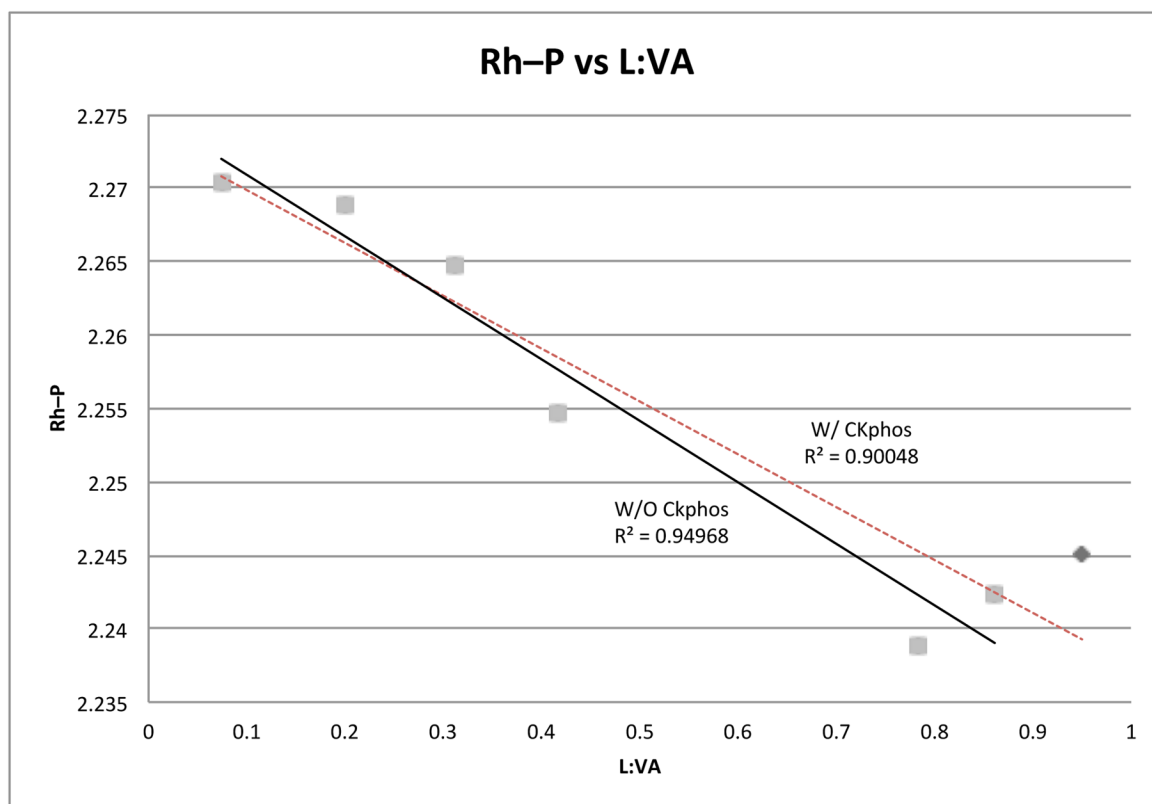
Entry	Aryl	Ligand	Rh–P (Å)	Splitting	<i>J</i> Rh–P (Hz)	δ (ppm) <sup>b</sup>
1	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	<b>T4</b>	2.2547(3)	d	234	108
2	C <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub>	<b>CK</b>	2.2423(6)	dd	243, 5	116

*Rh(cod)Cl-CKphos<sup>a</sup>*

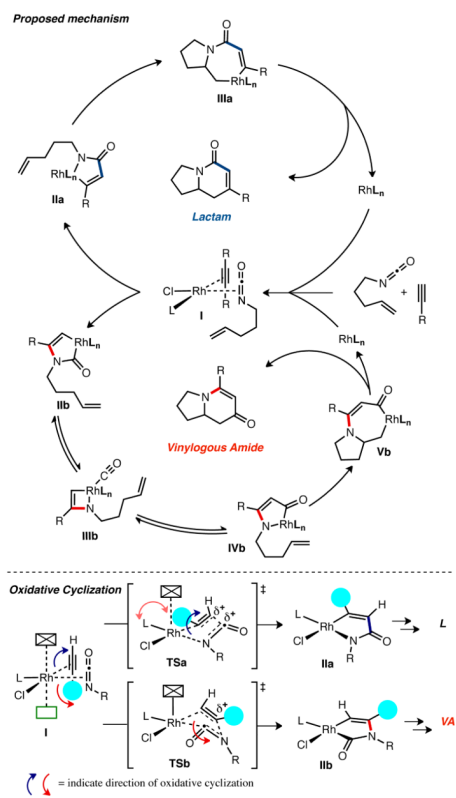
**Figure 6.** <sup>31</sup>P-NMR of Rh(cod)Cl•Phosphoramidites. [a] ethylene bridge of cod omitted for clarity. [b] <sup>31</sup>P-NMR shift of ligand.



**Figure 7.** X-ray structure of *n*-Bu<sub>4</sub>NCo(CO)<sub>3</sub>•CKphos, comparison of phosphoramidite ring conformations with rhodium and cobalt, and X-ray structure of Co(CO)<sub>3</sub>•PPh<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NHMe<sub>2</sub>) [Ref. 34].



**Figure 8.** Graph of L:VA (3:4) ratio as a function of Rh-P bond distance. A better correlation is found when CKphos is excluded suggesting Rh-P bond distance is not the only factor responsible for product selectivity.



**Scheme 1.**  
Mechanistic model for lactam and vinylogous amide formation.



Table 1

Effect of aryl electronic modification on selectivity. [a] NR<sub>2</sub> = piperidyl. [b] NR<sub>2</sub> = pyrrolidyl. [c] Results from Ref. 21

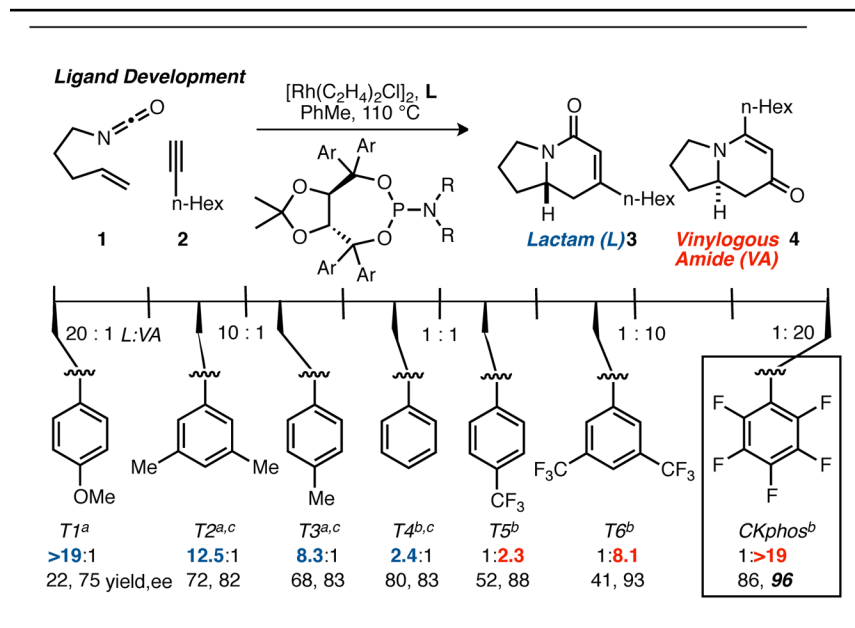


Table 2

Substrate scope with Rh•CKphos catalyst. [a] **1**, **2** (1.3 equiv), [Rh(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Cl]<sub>2</sub> 2.5 mol %, **L** 5 mol % for 16 h. [b] Results previously reported, ref. 21.

