

## Review on asymmetric cycloaddition reactions at phosphorus (III) atom

Almaz Zagidullin,\* Ilya Bezkishko, and Vasili Miluykov

Arbuzov Institute of Organic and Physical Chemistry, FRC Kazan Scientific Center, Russian Academy of Sciences,  
Arbuzov Str. 8, 420088 Kazan, Russian Federation.

Email: [almaz\\_zagidullin@mail.ru](mailto:almaz_zagidullin@mail.ru)

Dedicated to Professor Yulia H. Budnikova in recognition of her scientific contributions to the fields of  
organic chemistry, electrochemistry and catalysis

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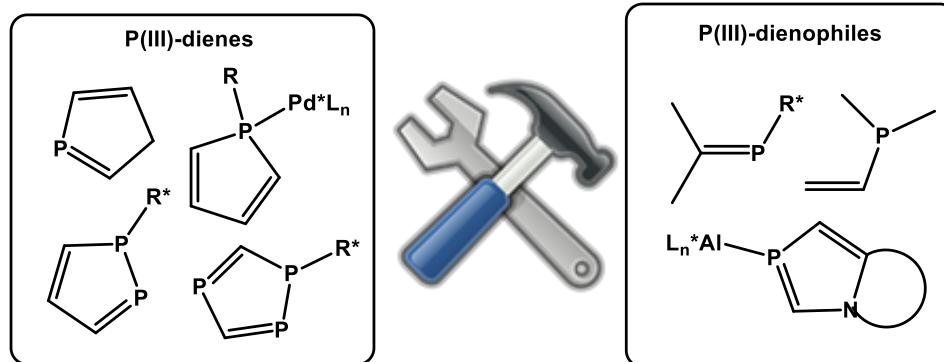
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### Abstract

The asymmetric hetero-Diels-Alder reactions are one of the most powerful methods for the construction of optically active mono- and polycyclic heterocycles with extensive synthetic applications. At the present time the phospho-Diels-Alder reactions still received much less attention, despite its potential utility to obtain *P*-chiral cyclic phosphines for use in asymmetric homogeneous catalysis. This review is a comprehensive account of asymmetric cycloaddition reactions including trivalent phosphorus atom in phosphalkenes, phospholes, heterophospholes and other *P*(III) species as prochiral motif. This original synthetic strategy is of interest for the synthesis of polycyclic and caged *P*-chiral phosphines and subsequent ligand design for asymmetric catalysis.

### Asymmetric cycloaddition reactions at *P*(III)



**Keywords:** asymmetric cycloaddition reaction, chiral phosphine, *P*-stereogenic phosphine, *P*-chiral, phosphorus heterocycle, asymmetric catalysis, caged phosphines.

## Table of Contents

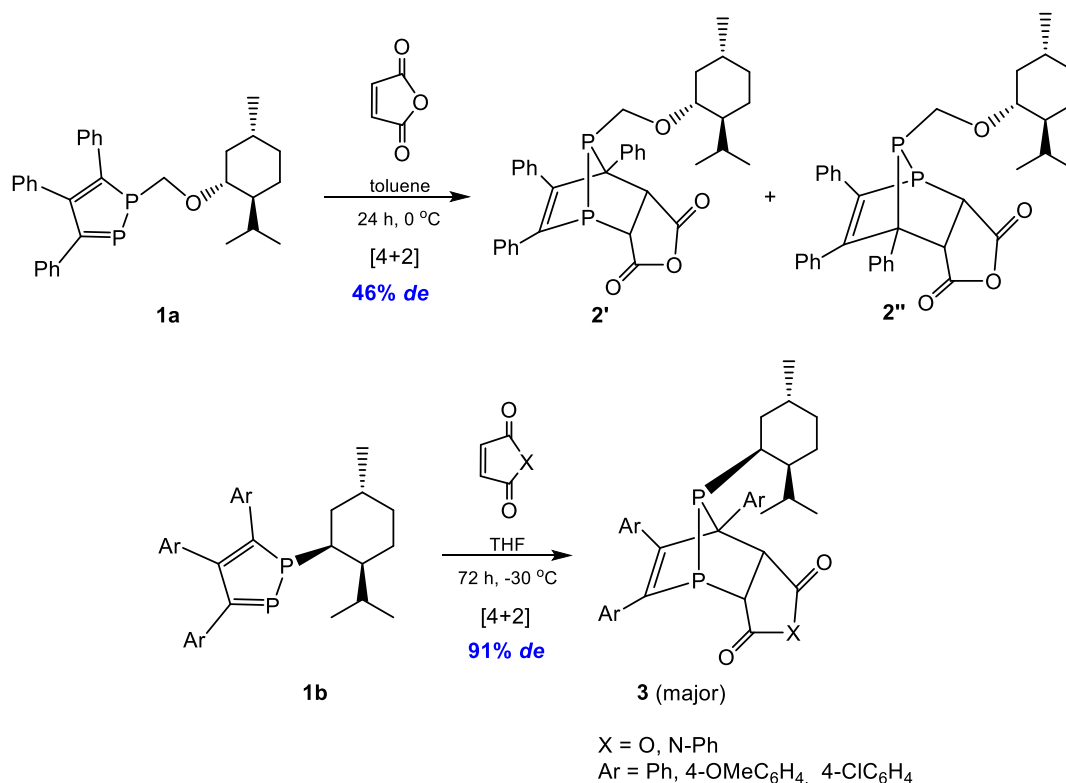
1. Introduction
2. Asymmetric Cycloaddition Reactions with Chiral Dienes
3. Asymmetric Cycloaddition Reactions with Chiral Dienophiles
4. Metal-mediated Asymmetric Cycloaddition Reactions
5. Conclusions

### 1. Introduction

The asymmetric hetero-Diels-Alder reactions are one of the most powerful methods for the construction of optically active six-membered mono- and polycyclic heterocycles, with extensive synthetic applications in natural or unnatural compounds with a wide range of biological activity.<sup>1-3</sup> The simultaneous formation of two carbon-carbon or carbon-heteroatom bonds leads to the creation of up to four stereogenic centers in a single step from achiral dienophiles and dienes, making this one of the most fascinating and elegant methods in asymmetric organic synthesis. At the same time, compared to the asymmetric carbo-, oxa-, and aza-Diels-Alder reactions, the phospho-Diels-Alder version still received much less attention, despite its potential utility to obtain *P*-chiral cyclic phosphines for use in asymmetric homogeneous catalysis<sup>4-6</sup> and as novel drugs.<sup>7-8</sup> In the last decade the scope of this reaction has been extended to phosphorus (III) compounds, in spite of the low availability of a P=C bond compared to a C=C bond.

### 2. Asymmetric Cycloaddition Reactions with Chiral Dienes

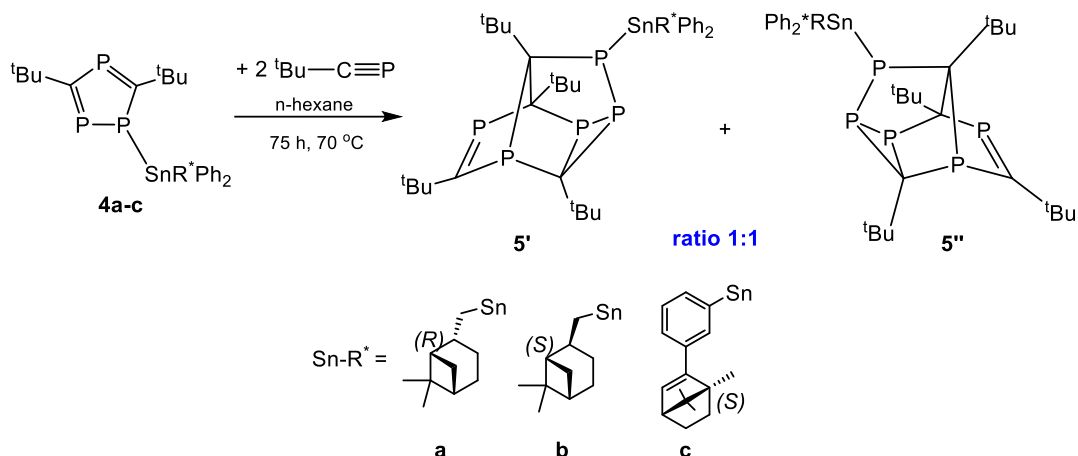
The planarity and high reactivity of 1,2-diphospholes<sup>9-10</sup> allow to control the stereoselectivity in cycloaddition reactions using the principle of diastereotopic face differentiation by employing a P=C double bond as prochiral motif. The formation of two diastereomers was clearly observed in the [4+2] cycloaddition reaction of 1-((1*R*,2*S*,5*R*)-menthyl)oxymethyl-1,2-diphosphole (**1a**) as chiral diene with non-chiral maleic anhydride (Scheme 1). During the reaction in the temperature range from –30 °C to +60 °C a small diastereomeric excess of **2'** and **2''** (30-46% *de*) was observed.<sup>11</sup> At the same time, asymmetric Diels-Alder reactions of 1-(+)-neomenthyl-3,4,5-triaryl-1,2-diphosphole (**1b**) with maleic acid derivatives proceeded with higher diastereoselectivity (up to 91% *de*) and results in the corresponding enantiopure 1,7-diphosphanorbornenes **3** after recrystallization.<sup>12-14</sup> An analysis of the structure of 1-(+)-neomenthyl-3,4,5-triphenyl-1,2-diphosphacyclopenta-2,4-diene (**1b**) indicated that steric shielding of one side by the bulky isopropyl group causes a preferential approach of the dienophile from the opposite side resulting in one attractive and one repulsive pathway of the [4+2] cycloaddition reaction. This study approves that getting closer of the chiral inductor with the dienic system of 1,2-diphospholes leads to an increase of stereochemical outcome (*de*) of hetero-Diels-Alder reaction.



**Scheme 1.** [4+2] Cycloaddition reactions of chiral 1-alkyl-1,2-diphospholes **1** with maleic acid derivatives.

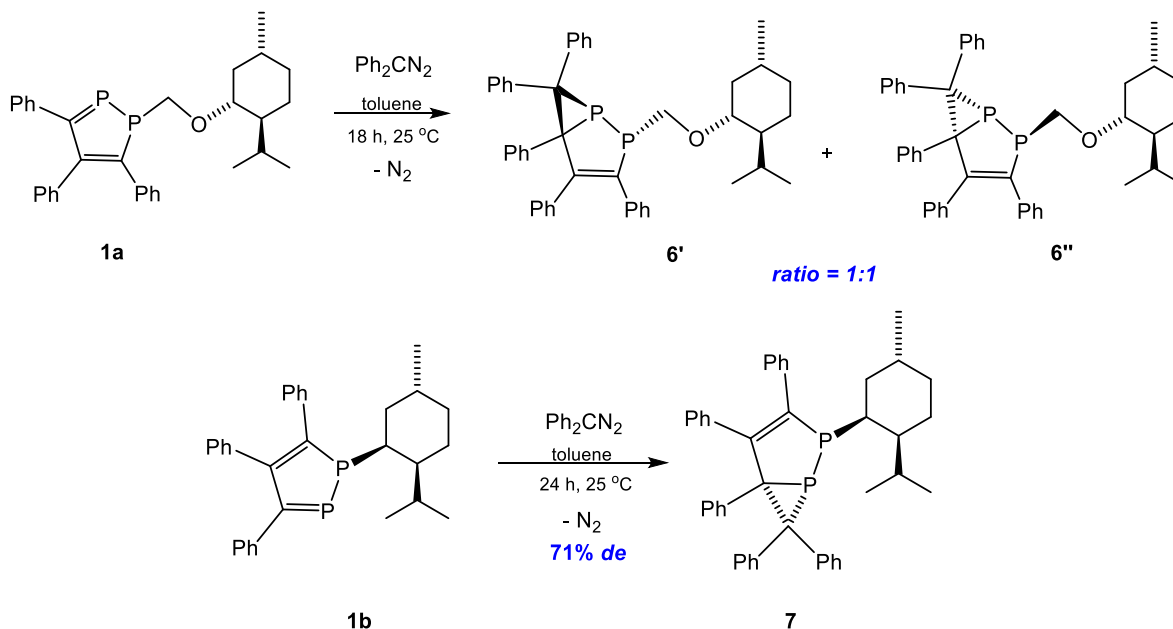
The catalytic activity and induction of enantioselectivity for the prepared enantiopure phosphines **3** with a rigid [2.2.1] phosphabicyclic structure, namely 1,7-diphosphanorbornenes, were evaluated in Pd-catalyzed asymmetric allylic substitution (25% *ee*) and phosphine-catalyzed [3+2] organocatalytic cyclization of allenes with activated alkenes (68% *ee*).<sup>15</sup> Later it was shown that selective oxidation of the bridgehead phosphorus atom in 1,7-diphosphanorbornenes **3** allowed increasing the enantioselectivity of allylic alkylation from 14% to 63% *ee*.<sup>16</sup>

An effective cycloaddition reaction of diastereomeric (*R*<sup>\*</sup>)diphenyltin-3,5-di(*tert*-butyl)-1,2,4-triphosphole derivatives **4a-c** (*R*<sup>\*</sup> = (-)-*cis*-myrtanyl (**4a**), (-)-*trans*-myrtanyl (**4b**), *m*-(2-bornyl-2-ene)phenyl (**4c**)) with two equivalents of *tert*-butylphosphaalkyne led to 1:1 mixtures of diastereomeric stannylated pentaphosphadeltacyclene derivatives **5'** and **5''** with seven stereogenic centers in the cage unit (Scheme 2). The (-)-*cis*-myrtanyl derivatives **5a** were separated into diastereomers, and destannylation of each diastereomer led to the P-H caged compound as a pure enantiomer.<sup>17</sup>



**Scheme 2.** Cycloaddition reactions of chiral 1,2,4-triphospholes **4a-c** with *tert*-butylphosphaalkyne.

The asymmetric version of 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition reactions is one of the most powerful tools for the construction of enantiomerically pure heterocycles for agrochemistry and drug discovery.<sup>18-19</sup> Up to 4 stereocenters can be created in a stereoselective manner in one single step. Diastereoselective 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition reaction of 1-alkyl-1,2-diphospholes **1** with a chiral substituent at *P*-atom with diphenyldiazomethane was used as a new way for selective synthesis of *P*-chiral bicyclic phosphiranes. The formation of two diastereomers in 1:1 ratio was observed in the 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition of 1-((1*R*,2*S*,5*R*)-menthyl)oxymethyl-1,2-diphosphole (**1a**) with diphenyldiazomethane, while the reaction between 1-(+)-neomenthyl-1,2-diphosphole (**1b**) and diphenyldiazomethane proceeded with better 71% *de* (Scheme 3). Enantiopure 2-(+)-neomenthyl-3,4,5,6,6-pentaphenyl-1,2-diphospha-bicyclo[3.1.0]hex-3-ene (**7**) was obtained by crystallization.<sup>20</sup>

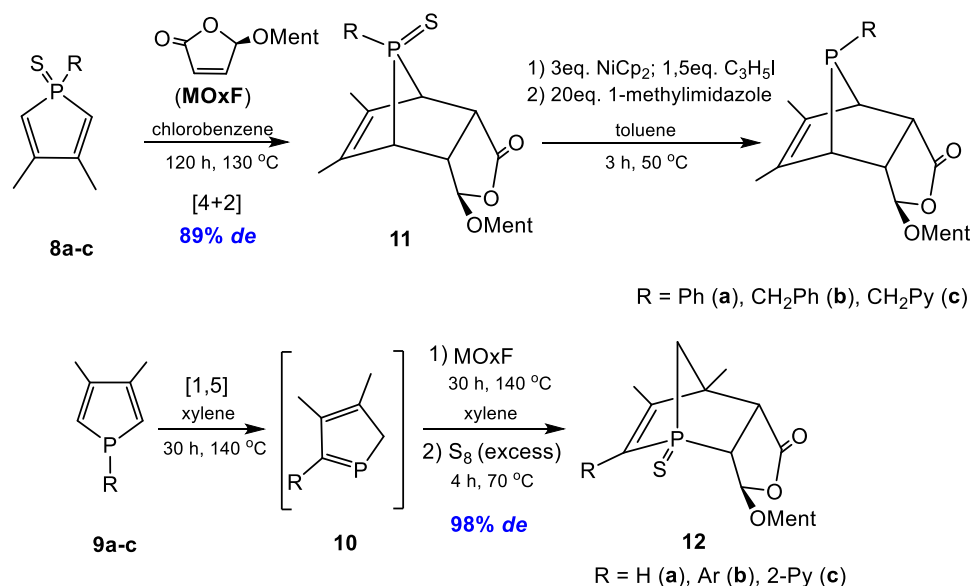


**Scheme 3.** Reactions of chiral 3,4,5-triphenyl-1-alkyl-1,2-diphospholes **1** with diphenyldiazomethane.

This study proved that the closest combination of a chiral auxiliary with the >C=P– group of 1,2-diphospholes facilitates stereoselective 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition reactions, which is important for further developments of asymmetric cycloaddition reactions for synthesis of chiral *P*-stereogenic phosphines.

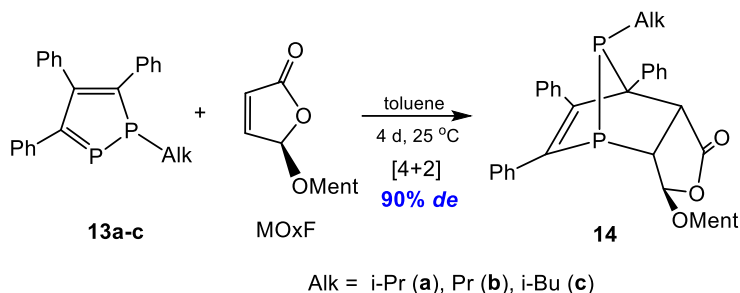
### 3. Asymmetric Cycloaddition Reactions with Chiral Dienophiles

The principle of stereotopic face differentiation was successfully applied to P=C bond of 1-mono- and 1,2-diphospholes and became an effective synthetic approach for highly selective synthesis of *P*-chiral phosphines from readily available starting materials. An efficient and highly stereoselective asymmetric Diels–Alder reactions of 1*H*- **8**, **9** and 2*H*-monophospholes **10** with the chiral dienophile (5*R*)-(*l*-menthyloxy)-(5*H*)-furanone (MOx*F*) allowed to generate multiple stereogenic centers resulting in *P*-chiral 7-phosphanorbornenes<sup>21</sup> **11** and 1-phosphanorbornenes **12** (Scheme 4).<sup>22</sup> The observed reaction pathway has been supported by theoretical calculations showing that the cycloaddition reaction between 2*H*-phosphole **10** and MOx*F* is of normal electron demand.<sup>23</sup> The [4+2] cycloaddition products were converted to their air stable sulfur derivatives, which were isolated and the *endo*- and *exo*-isomers were separated by column chromatography. The phosphorus atom in the obtained cycloadducts **11** and **12** was easily desulfurized to give the corresponding *P*(III)-species, which were further functionalized and yielded different bidentate phosphines.



**Scheme 4.** Asymmetric Diels–Alder reactions of 1*H*- and 2*H*-phospholes **8–10** with the (5*R*)-(*l*-menthyloxy)-(5*H*)-furanone (MOx*F*).

An asymmetric [4+2] cycloaddition reaction with chiral dienophile was also successfully applied to 3,4,5-triphenyl-1-alkyl-1,2-diphospholes **13** which were involved into the highly stereoselective Diels–Alder reaction with MOx*F* giving *P*-chiral *anti-endo*-1,7-diphosphanorbornenes **14** with 80-90% *de* (Scheme 5).



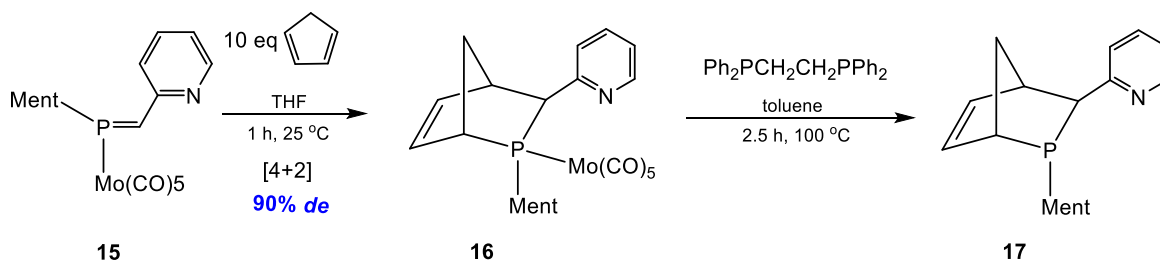
**Scheme 5.** Asymmetric [4+2] cycloaddition reactions of 1-alkyl-1,2-diphospholes **13** with MOx F.

In both cases the observed selectivity was explained by the transition state showing one attractive and three repulsive interactions. Firstly, the attractive *endo* orientation of the transition state in [4+2] cycloaddition reactions is well known due to secondary orbital interactions of the HOMO (diene) and LUMO (dienophile).<sup>24-25</sup> Secondly, the sterically shielding *l*-menthyloxy group (OMent) of MOx F protects one side of the molecule from being attacked by 1-mono- or 1,2-diphospholes, and a *Re*-face addition of the dienophile is expected for the cycloaddition reaction.<sup>26</sup> The above-mentioned interactions cause very good diastereoselectivity in a single concerted step and yield mainly one polycyclic rigid structure out of eight possible stereoisomers.

The use of **14** as ligands in the Pd-catalyzed asymmetric allylic alkylation of cinnamyl acetate with cyclic ethyl 2-oxocyclohexane-1-carboxylate and ethyl 2-oxocyclopentane-1-carboxylate provided up to 52% and 47% *ee*, respectively.<sup>27</sup>

#### 4. Metal-mediated Asymmetric Cycloaddition Reactions

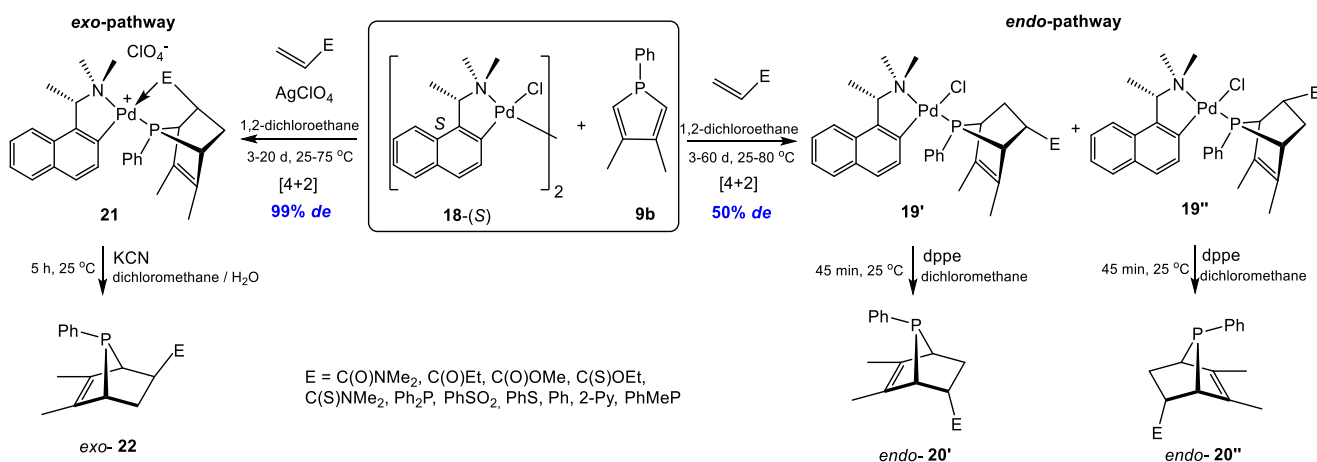
Cycloaddition reaction of prochiral phosphalkene complex **15** was used in the synthesis of optically active phosphines. A two-step procedure was devised for the conversion of [MentPH<sub>2</sub>]Mo(CO)<sub>5</sub> (where Ment = (1*R*,2*S*,5*R*)-menthyl) into optically pure 2-menthyl-2-phospha-5-norbornene **16**. The phosphalkene complex 2-PyCH=P(Ment\*)Mo(CO)<sub>5</sub> **15** reacted with cyclopentadiene to give **16** with 90% *de*. The decomplexation of the resulting molybdenum complex **16** was carried out by heating with diphosphorus chelating ligand and led to **17** (Scheme 6).<sup>28</sup>



**Scheme 6.** Use of prochiral phosphalkene complex **15** in the synthesis of optically active phosphine **17**.

The Diels–Alder reaction of phospholes with various dienophiles in the coordination sphere of chiral Pd-complexes was proposed as a method for the synthesis of chiral phosphines.<sup>29</sup> The chiral (*S*)-*ortho*-(1-dimethylaminoethyl)-naphthalene palladium (**18**) was complexed with 3,4-dimethyl-1-phenylphosphole (**9b**), and then involved into the Diels–Alder reaction with various dienophiles (*N,N*-dimethylacrylamide,

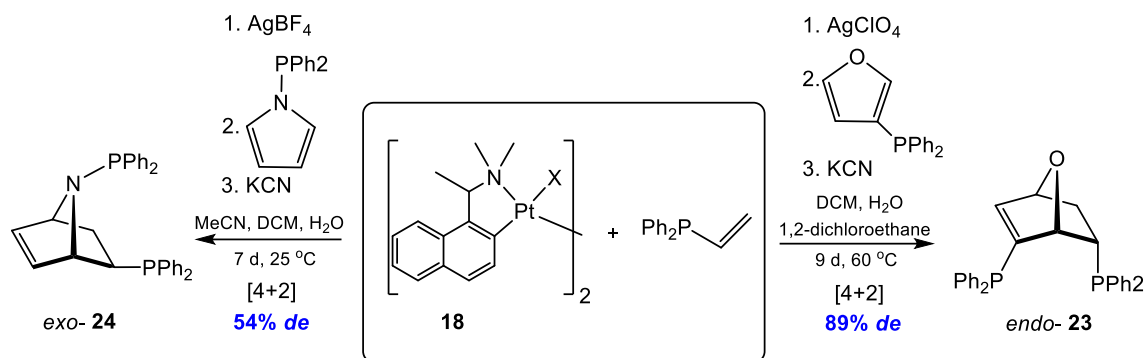
diphenylvinylphosphine, styrene, and others) to result in diastereoisomers of *endo*-amidophosphanorbornene complexes **19**. It should be noted that [4+2] cycloaddition reactions of 1*H*-monophospholes **9** in the coordination sphere of Pd-complexes **18** proceeded under milder conditions (25-80 °C) compared to uncoordinated 1*H*-monophospholes (140-150 °C). The stereoselectivity of the reaction was moderate (up to 50% *de*), but diastereoisomers were easily separated by chromatography or recrystallization to yield a library of enantiopure bicyclic caged phosphines **20** with 40-85% yields after decomplexation with KCN or 1,2-bis(diphenylphosphino)ethane (Scheme 7, right).



**Scheme 7.** Asymmetric [4+2] cycloaddition reactions on (*S*)-*ortho*-(1-dimethylaminoethyl)-naphthalene palladium template **18**.

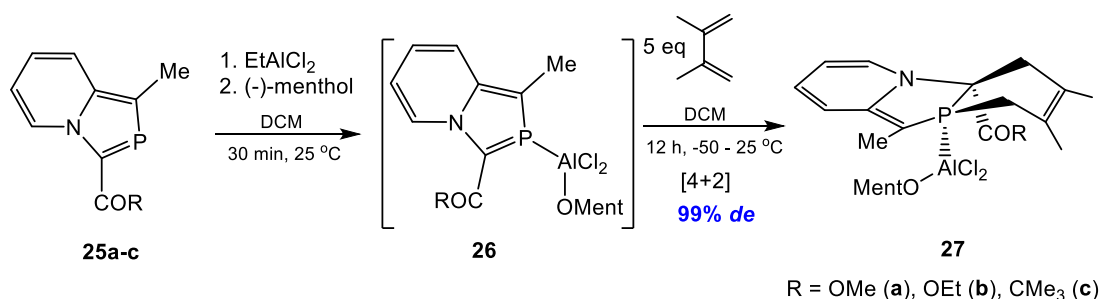
It was shown that the stereochemical course of the [4+2] cycloaddition depends on the presence of silver perchlorate or tetrafluoroborate in the reaction medium.<sup>30</sup> Therefore, it is possible to select either the *exo*- or the *endo*-cycloaddition reaction pathways by controlling the number of coordination sites on the *ortho*-Pd naphthylamine template **18**. In the *endo*-cycloaddition pathway, the kinetically stable chloro-ligand is coordinated to the neutral template, but in the *exo*-cycloaddition pathway, the kinetically labile perchlorato ligand forms a cationic intermediate, which coordinates simultaneously onto the chiral template during the course of cycloaddition reaction. Therefore, the reaction of **18** with 3,4-dimethyl-1-phenylphosphole (**9b**) in the presence of AgClO<sub>4</sub> led to the formation of only one enantiopure cycloaddition products **21** and phosphines *exo*-**22** with 99% *de* (Scheme 7, left).<sup>31</sup>

Using the same methodology the asymmetric Diels–Alder reaction between diphenylvinylphosphine and *N*-diphenylphosphinopyrrole on the Pt-(1-dimethylaminoethyl)-naphthalene **18** or 3-diphenylphosphinofuran on Pt-(*R*)-(1-dimethylaminoethyl)-naphthalene template **18** resulted in the formation of dicyclic diphosphines **23**, **24** with 54-89% *de*, which were obtained as enantiomerically pure crystalline compounds in good yields (Scheme 8).<sup>32-33</sup>



**Scheme 8.** The asymmetric Diels–Alder reactions between diphenylvinylphosphine and *N*-diphenylphosphinopyrrole or 3-diphenylphosphinofuran.

The  $>\text{C}=\text{P}$ – functionality in 2-phosphaindolizines **25** was activated by coordinating the phosphorus atom to the  $\text{Al}(\text{OMent})\text{Cl}_2$  moiety when **26** reacts with 2,3-dimethylbutadiene with complete diastereoselectivity (Scheme 9). Computational calculation of the model [4+2] cycloaddition reactions of (3-methoxycarbonyl-1-methyl-2-phosphaindolizine- $\eta^1$ -*P*)- $\text{Al}(\text{OMent})\text{Cl}_2$  (**26a**) with 1,3-butadiene revealed that the *Re*-face is sterically hindered, and consequently, attack of the diene occurs preferentially from the *Si*-face.<sup>34</sup>



**Scheme 9.** Diels–Alder reactions of 2-phosphaindolizine- $\eta^1$ -*P*-aluminium(O-menthoxy) dichlorides **26** with 2,3-dimethylbutadiene.

## Conclusions

The principle of diastereotopic face differentiation by employing a  $\text{P}=\text{C}$  double bond of phosphalkenes, phospholes, heterophospholes and other  $\text{P}(\text{III})$  species as prochiral motif in [4+2] cycloaddition reactions was successfully used in the synthesis of *P*-chiral polycyclic phosphines. Although first results reveal moderate yield and enantioselectivity in asymmetric catalysis, the original synthetic strategy for these new enantiopure *P*-chiral ligands are of interest for the synthesis of polycyclic and caged chiral phosphines and subsequent ligand design for asymmetric catalysis. Related 1-phosphanorbornenes have shown excellent results in asymmetric transition metal catalysis and organocatalysis (*ee* values are of 90–99%).<sup>35–40</sup> The use of such rigid polycyclic phosphines provides fixed *P*-chirality by a non-racemizable chiral phosphorus center, whose geometry precludes any loss of enantiomeric purity during catalysis or the associated recycling processes.<sup>41–43</sup>

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## Authors' Biographies



**Almaz A. Zagidullin** graduated in Chemistry from Kazan Federal University in 2009 and got his Ph.D. degree from A.E. Arbuzov Institute of Organic and Physical Chemistry of FRC “Kazan Scientific Center of RAS” in 2012. His current research interests are focused on the chemistry of low-coordinated phosphorus compounds, chiral phosphines and homogeneous catalysis.



**Ilya A. Bezkishko** graduated in Chemistry from Kazan Federal University in 2007. He got his Ph.D. degree from A.E. Arbuzov Institute of Organic and Physical Chemistry of FRC “Kazan Scientific Center of RAS” in 2012. His current research interests are focused on the coordination chemistry of low-coordinated phosphorus compounds.



**Vasili A. Miluykov** graduated in Chemistry from Kazan State University in 1991. He got his Ph.D. in 1995 and became a Dr. habil. in 2010. He is currently the head of the Technological Laboratory of A.E. Arbuzov Institute of Organic and Physical Chemistry of FRC “Kazan Scientific Center of RAS”. His current research interests cover chemistry of organophosphorus, organometallic compounds and metal–organic frameworks (MOFs).

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