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Citation	Journal of the American Chemical Society, 144(23), 10483-10494 https://doi.org/10.1021/jacs.2c02745
Issue Date	2022-06-07
Doc URL	http://hdl.handle.net/2115/89563
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Type	article (author version)
File Information	manuscript_220507.pdf



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A Conformationally Fixed Chiral Bisphosphine Ligand by Steric Modulators on the Ligand Backbone: Selective Synthesis of Strained 1,2-Disubstituted Chiral *cis*-Cyclopropanes

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KEYWORDS: *cis*-Selective asymmetric cyclopropanation, Asymmetric carboboration, Chiral bisphosphine ligand, DFT calculation, Copper(I)-catalysis.

ABSTRACT: A new series of C_1 -symmetric P-chirogenic bisphosphine ligands of the type (*R*)-5,8-*Si*-Quinox-*t*Bu₃ (*Silyl* = SiMe₃, SiEt₃, SiMe₂Ph) has been developed. The bulky silyl modulators attached to the ligand backbone fix the phosphine substituents to form rigid chiral environments that can be used for substrate recognition. The ligand showed high performances for a copper(I)-catalyzed asymmetric borylative cyclopropanation of bulky silyl-substituted allylic electrophiles to afford higher disfavored 1,2-*cis*-silyl-boryl-cyclopropanes than the other possible isomers, *trans*-cyclopropane and allylboronate (up to 97% yield; 98% ee; *cis/trans* = >99:1; cyclopropane/allylboronate = >99:1). Detailed computational studies suggested that the highly rigid phosphine conformation, which is virtually undisturbed by the steric interactions with the bulky silyl-substituted allyl electrophiles, is key to the high stereo- and product-selectivity. Furthermore, the detailed computational analysis provided insight into the mechanism of the stereo-retention or -inversion of the chiral alkylcopper(I) intermediate in the intramolecular cyclization.

INTRODUCTION

Chiral bisphosphines have been recognized as fundamental ancillary ligands in transition-metal-catalyzed reactions as they can bind to the metal and thus help to maintain catalyst activity and establish control over the stereoselectivity.¹⁻³ Various chiral bisphosphine ligands such as BINAP, Segphos, Josiphos, and DuPhos have been developed and used for the various transformations.⁴⁻¹⁰ Modifications of the substituents on the phosphorus atoms represent one major strategy to improve catalyst performance. However, the conformation and steric environment of the catalysts depends not only on the catalyst components, i.e., the ligands and the metal center, but also on the steric and electronic interactions with the substrate. In the case of substrates that bear bulky substituents, steric interactions strongly deform the ideal environment of the ligands to decrease the stereoselectivity.^{11,12}

Controlling the ligand conformation in the transition state, where it determines the stereoselectivity, by chiral molecular skeletons and non-covalent interactions can thus be considered a key design concept for chiral ligands.¹³⁻¹⁷ We have already introduced steric modulators on the ligand backbone of the P-chirogenic C_2 -symmetrical chiral bisphosphine (*R,R*)-5,8-*Si*-QuinoxP* to improve the performance of a chiral catalyst (Figure 1a middle).¹⁸ The steric

modulators on the ligand backbone can regulate the phosphine conformation to enhance the stereoselectivity and destabilize the dormant species of the catalytic cycle via the steric interactions. Then, we focused on three-hindered-quadrant C_1 -symmetrical bisphosphines as their phosphine moieties are sterically more congested than those of the corresponding C_2 -symmetrical ligands.¹⁹⁻²³ Such sterically crowded phosphine moieties can be expected to be effectively fixed by the steric modulators on the ligand backbone to create a robust reaction space for stereoselective reactions. Here, we report a new series of C_1 -symmetrical chiral bisphosphine ligands of the type (*R*)-5,8-*Si*-Quinox-*t*Bu₃, which contain silyl-groups on the ligand backbone (Figure 1a right).

Cyclopropane is one of the most fundamental strained molecular skeletons in organic chemistry.²⁴⁻²⁶ Asymmetric synthesis routes to *trans*-cyclopropanes or multi-substituted cyclopropanes based on either chiral transition-metal catalysts including metal-carbenoid intermediates or chiral organocatalysts via intramolecular nucleophilic ring closure have been well established.²⁷⁻³⁰ However, the corresponding *cis*-selective asymmetric reactions for vicinal *cis*-1,2-disubstituted cyclopropanes remain challenging due to the high levels of intrinsic strain (Figure 1b).³¹⁻³⁶ Our group

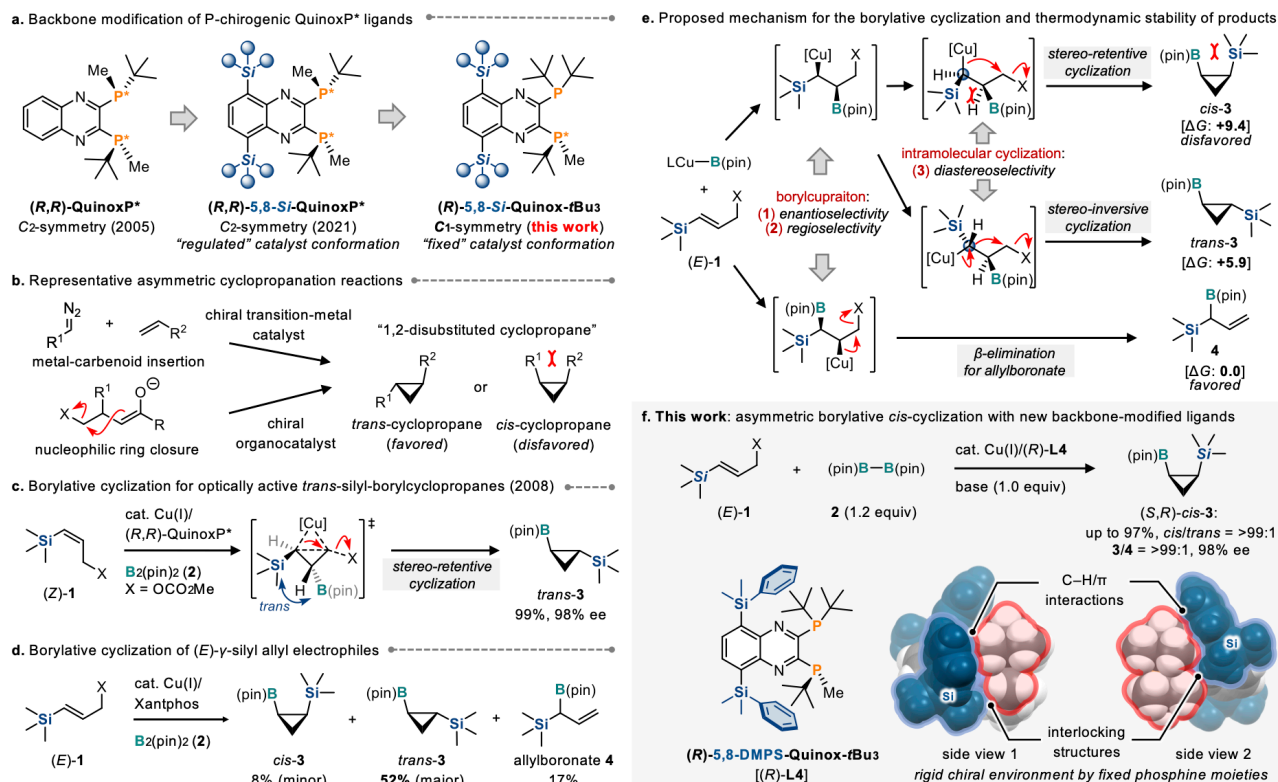


Figure 1. New chiral bisphosphine ligand design and copper(I)-catalyzed stereo- and enantioselective borylative cyclization of highly strained chiral *cis*-1,2-silyl-borylcyclopropanes.

previously reported a copper(I)-catalyzed asymmetric borylative cyclopropanation of (*Z*)-allyl electrophiles to afford *trans*-1,2-functionalized borylcyclopropanes via a stereoretentive intramolecular 3-*exo-tet* cyclization (Figure 1c).³⁷ We thus expected that a similar reaction with (*E*)-allyl electrophiles (*E*-1) would furnish the *cis*-cyclopropane *cis*-3, which are very useful synthetic blocks for *cis*-cyclopropanes by stereoselective derivatization of the boryl group and silyl group.^{38–47} However, contrary to our expectation, the reaction of (*E*-1) with the copper(I) catalyst gave a mixture of diastereomers of the cyclopropanes *trans*-3 and *cis*-3 as well as allylboronate 4 (Figure 1d). In this cyclopropanation, three different selectivities should be discussed: 1) The enantioselectivity of the borylcupration step; 2) the regioselectivity of the borylcupration step, which determines the product-selectivity between the 3 and 4; 3) the diastereoselectivity of the intramolecular cyclization step of the alkylcopper(I) intermediate, which can proceed in a stereo-retentive or -inversive manner (Figure 1e). The borylative cyclopropanation of (*E*-1) showed low selectivity, probably due to the steric congestion in the transition state of the stereo-retentive cyclization. Moreover, according to the thermodynamic stability of the products, the *cis*-cyclopropane, *cis*-3, is thermodynamically less stable than its stereoisomer *trans*-3 and regioisomer 4 due to the highly strained molecular structure, which suggests that the selective formation of *cis*-3 requires sophisticated kinetic control by the catalyst to overcome the thermodynamic disadvantages (Figure 1e; *cis*-3: $\Delta G = +9.4$ kcal/mol; *trans*-3: $\Delta G = +5.9$ kcal/mol; 4: $\Delta G = 0.0$ kcal/mol).^{48,49}

Herein, we report backbone-modified C_1 -symmetrical ligands of the type (*R*)-5,8-Si-Quinox-*t*Bu₃, which showed

unprecedented *cis*-selectivity and high enantioselectivity in the copper(I)-catalyzed borylative cyclopropanation of (*E*)-alkenyl silanes 1 that bear bulky silyl substituents (Figure 1f; up to 97% yield, 98% ee, *cis/trans* = >99:1, 3/4 = >99:1). A computational study indicated that the conformational fixation of the phosphine moieties by intramolecular non-covalent interactions with the silyl groups on the backbone generates a rigid chiral environment that enhances the regio- and enantioselectivity. Furthermore, a localized orbital analysis suggested that the intramolecular cyclization proceeds via a nucleophilic attack of the stereogenic carbon atom attached to the copper center in a stereo-retentive manner. During the formation of the minor stereoisomer, the stereo-inversion of the stereogenic carbon atom attached to copper can be expected to involve an interaction of the copper(I)-carbon bonding orbital with the *anti*-bonding orbital of the leaving group via an electrophilic substitution (S_E2) mechanism.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

First, we investigated the optimal reaction conditions by screening the leaving group of alkenyl silane (*E*-1a) as well as various reported chiral bisphosphine ligands (Table 1). The reaction of the (*E*)-allyl carbonate (*E*-1aa) with (*R,R*)-QuinoxP*, which showed high selectivity for the reaction of (*Z*)-1aa in the previous report, furnished a mixture of *cis*- and *trans*-cyclopropanes 3a and allylboronate 4a with moderate enantioselectivity for (*S,R*)-*cis*-3a (Table 1, entry 1).³⁷ Allyl phosphate (*E*-1ab) exhibited higher stereoselectivity than carbonate (*E*-1aa) (Table 1, entry 2). The chiral bisphosphine ligand (*R*)-SEGPHOS showed good diastereo- and product-selectivity (3/4) in the reaction with (*E*-1ab,

albeit that the enantioselectivity was very low (Table 1, entry 3). The use of (*R*)-DTBM-SEGPHOS resulted in low reactivity and enantioselectivity (Table 1, entry 4). Furthermore, a chiral ligand with a planar chirality, (*R,S_p*)-Josiphos, showed comparable diastereo- and product-selectivity to (*R,R*)-QuinoxP*, but poorer enantioselectivity (Table 1, entry 5). We also tested a chiral *N*-heterocyclic carbene (NHC) ligand in this reaction. However, in this case, allylboronate **4a** was obtained in quantitative yield (Table 1, entry 6). Although the various chiral ligands mentioned above exhibited low or moderate stereo- and product-selectivity, we found that the P-chirogenic three-hindered-quadrant bisphosphine ligand (*R*)-Quinox-*t*Bu₃ [(*R*)-**L1**] showed higher enantioselectivity and *cis*-selectivity (Table 1, entry 7). However, there was still room for improvement of the enantio- and product-selectivity (**3/4**).

Table 1. Initial Investigation of Asymmetric Borylative Cyclopropanation for (*S,R*)-*cis*-3a**.^a**

entry	Ligand	1a	yield (%) ^b : <i>cis</i> - 3a	ee (%) ^c : <i>cis</i> - 3a	<i>cis/trans</i> ^b	3/4 ^b
1	(<i>R,R</i>)-QuinoxP*	(<i>E</i>)- 1aa	35	63	84:16	58:42
2	(<i>R,R</i>)-QuinoxP*	(<i>E</i>)- 1ab	70	82	91:9	75:25
3	(<i>R</i>)-SEGPHOS	(<i>E</i>)- 1ab	72	-11	87:13	89:11
4 ^d	(<i>R</i>)-DTBM-SEGPHOS	(<i>E</i>)- 1ab	21	43	84:16	35:65
5	(<i>R,S_p</i>)-Josiphos	(<i>E</i>)- 1ab	74	30	91:9	86:14
6	chiral NHC1	(<i>E</i>)- 1ab	(98) ^e	(37) ^e	-	<1:99
7	(<i>R</i>)-Quinox- <i>t</i> Bu ₃ [(<i>R</i>)- L1]	(<i>E</i>)- 1ab	86	90	96:4	89:11

^aConditions: CuCl (0.025 mmol), ligand (0.025 mmol), (*E*)-**1aa** or (*E*)-**1ab** (0.5 mmol), **2** (0.6 mmol), and K(O-*t*-Bu) (0.5 mmol) in THF (1.0 mL). ^bThe yield, diastereoselectivity, and **3/4** ratio were determined by ¹H NMR analysis using the crude material with an internal standard. ^cThe enantioselectivity was determined by HPLC analysis after oxidation of the boryl group of (*S,R*)-*cis*-**3a**. ^dReaction time was 48 h. ^eYield and enantioselectivity of **4a**.

As proof-of-concept that the steric modulators on the ligand backbone are able to fix the phosphine conformation to improve the selectivities (Figure 1a right), we attempted to modify (*R*)-Quinox-*t*Bu₃ [(*R*)-**L1**] via the introduction of bulky silyl groups onto the ligand backbone (Figure 2a).¹⁸ First, the silyl-substituted 2,3-dichloroquinoxaline was prepared using the conditions reported by Knochel and co-workers.⁵⁰ The resulting 5,8-disilyl-2,3-dichloroquinoxaline was subjected to a stepwise phosphination/deprotection process with the corresponding achiral and chiral phosphine–borane lithium species. Finally, the corresponding P-chirogenic three-hindered-quadrant bisphosphine

ligands that bear steric-modulators on the backbone, i.e., (*R*)-5,8-TMS-Quinox-*t*Bu₃ [(*R*)-**L2**; TMS: trimethyl silyl], (*R*)-5,8-TES-Quinox-*t*Bu₃ [(*R*)-**L3**; TES: triethyl silyl], and (*R*)-5,8-DMPS-Quinox-*t*Bu₃ [(*R*)-**L4**; DMPS: dimethylphenyl silyl] were obtained in moderate to good yield (for details, see the SI).

To understand the steric effects of the silyl groups on the backbone-modified QuinoxP*-type ligands (*R*)-5,8-*Si*-Quinox-*t*Bu₃, the X-ray diffraction structures of the ligand molecules and their metal complexes were analyzed (Figures 2b–2d). Single-crystal X-ray diffraction analyses of the ligands (*R*)-5,8-TMS-Quinox-*t*Bu₃ [(*R*)-**L2**] and (*R*)-5,8-TES-Quinox-*t*Bu₃ [(*R*)-**L3**] were successful (Figures 2b, S4, and S5). The X-ray structure of the TMS-based ligand (*R*)-**L2** indicates that the silyl groups interlock with the phosphine moieties. The steric interactions between the silyl and phosphine groups twist the conformation of the phosphine moieties (orange arrows). Furthermore, the molecular conformation of the TES-group-bearing ligand (*R*)-**L3** is identical to that of (*R*)-**L2** with TMS groups.

Next, to investigate the impact of the silyl groups on the ligand conformation in the metal complex, we carried out a structural analysis of palladium(II) complexes of the ligands (Figure 2c).⁵¹ In contrast to the flat quinoxaline plane of the free ligand (*R*)-**L2** (Figure 2b), the quinoxaline plane in the corresponding palladium complex [(*R*)-**L2**]PdCl₂ is twisted. The calculated structure of [(*R*)-**L2**]PdCl₂ optimized using density functional theory (DFT) calculations is also in good agreement with the X-ray structure (for details, see Figure S13). Furthermore, the X-ray structure of the palladium complex with the DMPS-based ligand [(*R*)-**L4**]PdCl₂ also exhibited a twisted quinoxaline structure and interlocking between the silyl groups and phosphine moieties (Figure 2d). In addition, both phenyl rings of the DMPS groups were located at the same side of the quinoxaline backbone plane to interact with the *tert*-butyl groups on the phosphine moieties through C–H/π-interactions. To obtain information regarding the relative stability of the conformers, we also calculated different conformations for the various palladium(II) complexes in terms of the silyl and phosphine moieties. The twisted conformer with C–H/π-interactions similar to the X-ray structure was also categorized as a favorable conformer among the conformers investigated using DFT calculations (Figure S14). In contrast, for the ligand without the silyl groups, the calculated structure of the palladium complex [(*R*)-**L1**]PdCl₂ is a flat structure similar to that of the free ligand (*R*)-**L1** (Figure S13). These comparisons suggest that the silyl group has a strong structure-regulation ability in the metal complexes of the (*R*)-5,8-*Si*-Quinox-*t*Bu₃ ligands.

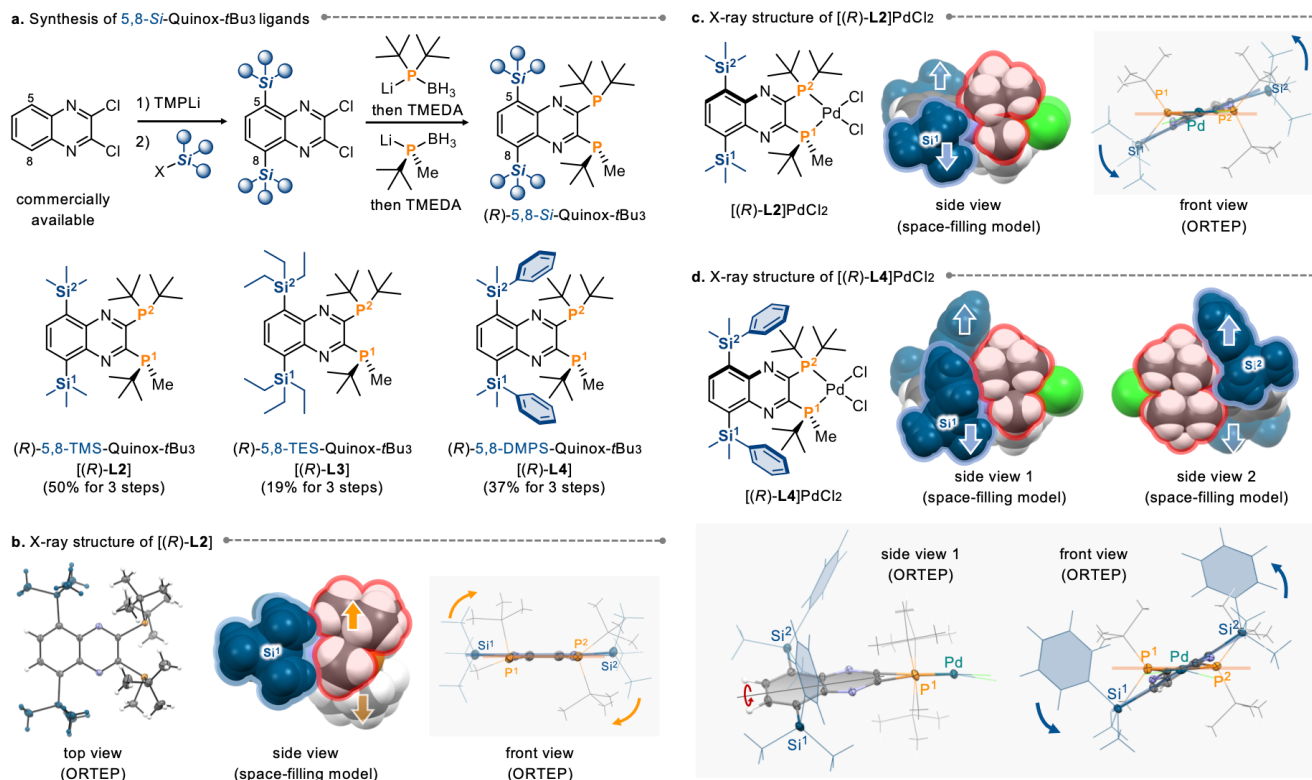
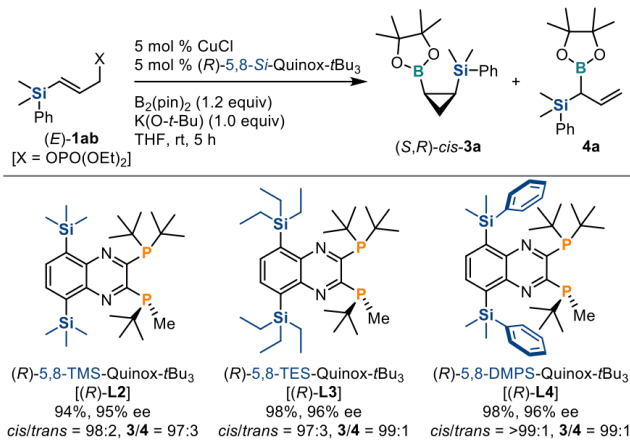


Figure 2. Synthesis and structures of the three-hindered-quadrant chiral bisphosphine ligands modified with sterically demanding silyl modulators, (R)-5,8-Si-Quinox-tBu₃.

Table 2. Asymmetric Borylative Cyclopropanations of Allyl Phosphate (E)-1ab with a Series of (R)-5,8-Si-Quinox-tBu₃.^a



^aConditions: CuCl (0.025 mmol), ligand (0.025 mmol), (E)-1ab (0.5 mmol), **2** (0.6 mmol), and K(O-*t*-Bu) (0.5 mmol) in THF (1.0 mL). The yield, diastereoselectivity, and **3/4** ratio were determined by ¹H NMR analysis using the crude material with an internal standard. The enantioselectivity was determined by HPLC analysis after oxidation of the boryl group of (*S,R*)-cis-3a.

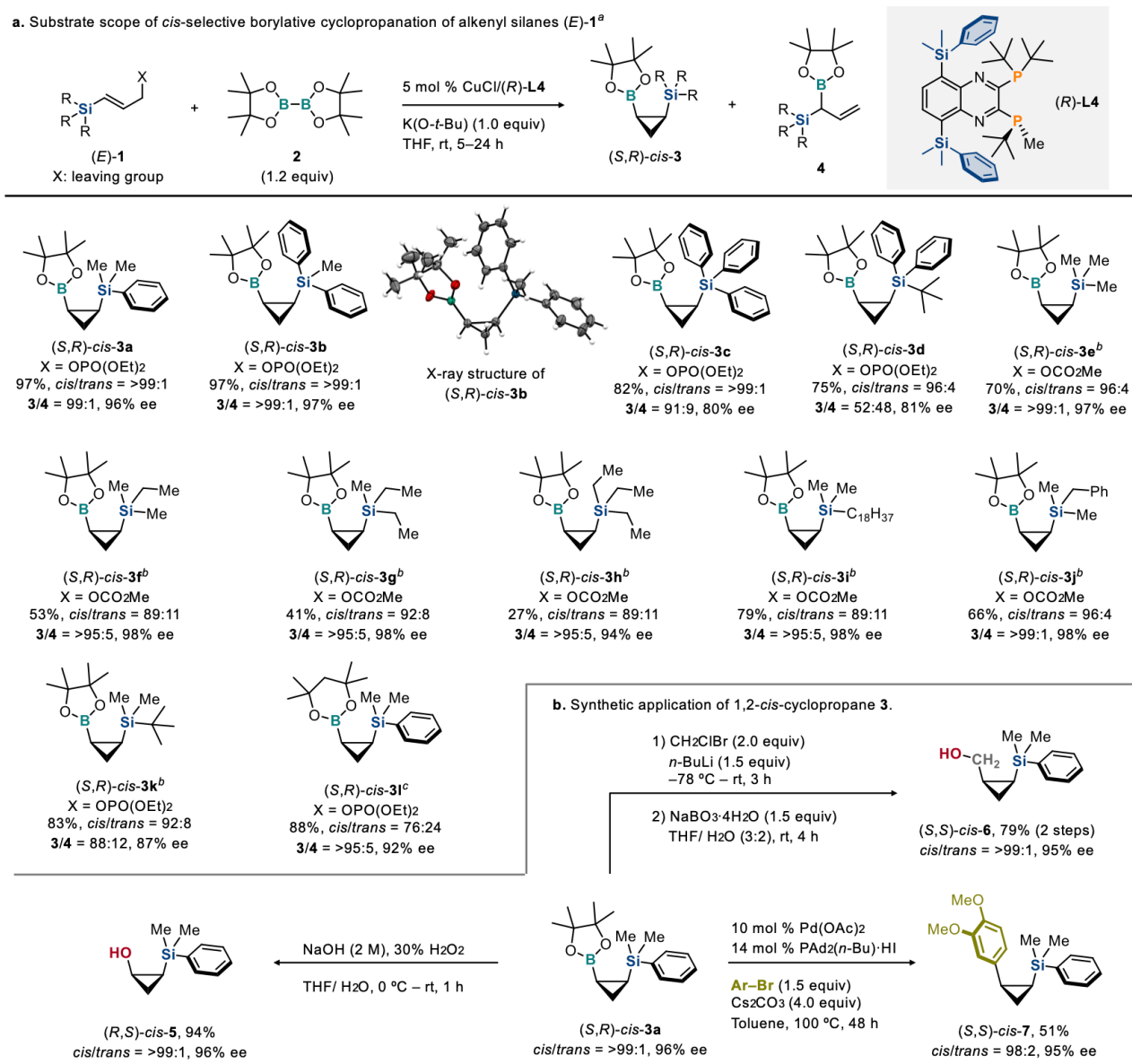
The new series of (R)-5,8-Si-Quinox-tBu₃ ligands was then tested in the copper(I)-catalyzed asymmetric borylative cyclopropanation of (E)-1ab (Table 2). The use of (R)-L2 with TMS groups on its backbone enhanced the enantio- and stereoselectivity compared to the ligand without silyl moieties, (R)-L1 [(R)-L2: 94%, 95% ee, *cis/trans* = 98:2, **3/4** = 97:3; (R)-L1: 86%, 90% ee, *cis/trans* = 96:4, **3/4** = 89:11]. The use of the ligand (R)-L3, whose TES groups are bulkier steric modulators than the TMS group, slightly improved

the selectivities (98%, 96% ee, *cis/trans* = 97:3, **3/4** = 99:1). Finally, the reaction reached almost perfect stereoselectivity and excellent enantioselectivity to furnish the corresponding *cis*-1,2-silyl-borylcyclopropane (*S,R*)-cis-3a quantitatively when the ligand modified with DMPS groups, [(R)-L4], was employed (98%, 96% ee, *cis/trans* = >99:1, **3/4** = 99:1).

Next, we carried out experiments to investigate the substrate scope for the *cis*-selective asymmetric borylative cyclopropanation of allyl electrophiles (E)-1 (Table 3a). The chiral *cis*-1,2-silyl-borylcyclopropane (*S,R*)-cis-3a was isolated in almost quantitative yield with excellent stereoselectivity. The reaction of the allyl phosphate (E)-1bb bearing a diphenylmethylsilyl group gave the corresponding *cis*-cyclopropane (*S,R*)-cis-3b in excellent yield with almost perfect selectivity. Although the substrate (E)-1cb, which bears a triphenylsilyl moiety, was smoothly converted into the corresponding cyclopropane (*S,R*)-cis-3c with high reactivity and excellent *cis*-selectivity, the enantioselectivity and product-selectivity were decreased [(*S,R*)-cis-3c: **3/4** = 91:9]. Furthermore, the reaction of the allyl phosphate bearing a diphenyl-*tert*-butylsilyl moiety, (E)-1db, provided a mixture of the cyclopropane 3d and allylboronate 4d, but the *cis/trans*-selectivity was still high [(*S,R*)-cis-3d: *cis/trans* = 96:4]. This reaction system was also applicable to substrates bearing a trialkylsilyl group. The *cis*-cyclopropane (*S,R*)-cis-3e bearing a trimethylsilyl group was obtained in good yield with excellent enantioselectivity when the corresponding allyl carbonate (E)-1ea was used. In the case of the reactions of substrates that bear trialkyl silyl groups, the use of the phosphates and chlorides slightly decreased the selectivities (Table S3). Although allyl

Table 3. Scope and Applications of the *cis*-Selective Asymmetric Borylative Cyclopropanation of (*E*)-1 with (*R*)-5,8-DMPS-Quinox-*t*Bu₃ [(*R*)-L4].

a. Substrate scope of *cis*-selective borylative cyclopropanation of alkenyl silanes (*E*)-1^a



^aConditions: CuCl (0.025 mmol), (*R*)-L4 (0.025 mmol), (*E*)-1 (0.5 mmol), **2** (0.6 mmol), and K(O-*t*-Bu) (0.5 mmol) in THF (1.0 mL). Isolated yield. The enantioselectivity was determined via HPLC analysis after derivatization of the boryl group of (*S,R*)-*cis*-3. The diastereoselectivity (*cis/trans*) and product-selectivity (**3/4**) were determined via ¹H NMR analysis or GC analysis using the crude material. ^bReaction time: 24 h. ^cBis(2,4-dimethylpentane-2,4-glycolato)diboron was used instead of **2**.

carbonates with monoethyl- and diethyl-substituted silyl groups, (*E*)-1fa and (*E*)-1ga, were applicable to the *cis*-selective borylative cyclopropanation [(*S,R*)-*cis*-3f, (*S,R*)-*cis*-3g], the reaction of the substrate (*E*)-1ha, which contains a triethylsilyl moiety, resulted in low reactivity [(*S,R*)-*cis*-3h: 27%]. Furthermore, the reaction of an allyl carbonate with a long alkyl chain, (*E*)-1ia, also showed high selectivities to provide the corresponding *cis*-cyclopropane (*S,R*)-*cis*-3i. The asymmetric cyclopropanation of allyl carbonate (*E*)-1ja, which bears a benzyldimethyl silyl moiety, also showed excellent enantioselectivity to provide the corresponding product (*S,R*)-*cis*-3j in good yield. Allyl electrophile (*E*)-1kb, which contains a bulky trialkylsilyl moiety, was also applicable to the *cis*-selective asymmetric cyclopropanation; the

corresponding *cis*-cyclopropane, which bears a *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl moiety, (*S,R*)-*cis*-3k, was obtained in high yield with good stereoselectivity. The cyclopropanation of (*E*)-1ab using a diboron reagent with a six-membered ring instead of **2** resulted in low diastereoselectivity [(*S,R*)-*cis*-3l].

Subsequently, derivatization of the obtained *cis*-silylborylcyclopropane (*S,R*)-*cis*-3a was carried out (Table 3b). Oxidation of the boryl group of (*S,R*)-*cis*-3a furnished 1,2-*cis*-silylcyclopropanol (*R,S*)-*cis*-5 in a stereospecific manner (94%, *cis/trans* = >99:1, 96% ee). Furthermore, the stepwise derivatization of (*S,R*)-*cis*-3a through one-carbon homologation followed by oxidation of the boryl group provided alcohol (*S,S*)-*cis*-6, which carries a silylcyclopropane

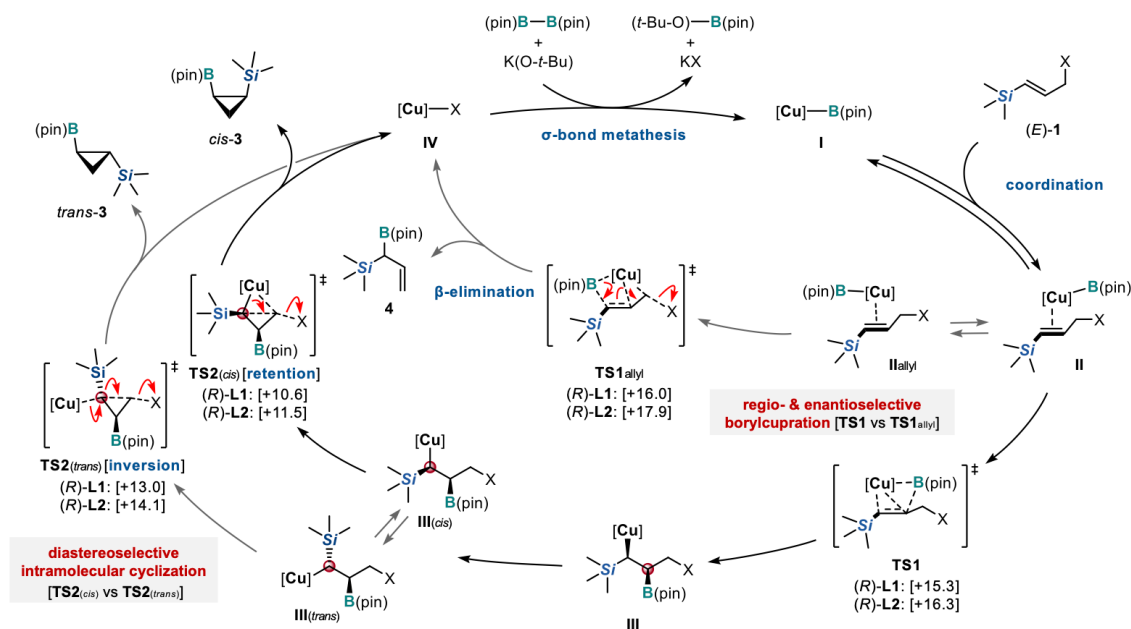


Figure 3. Proposed catalytic cycles for the copper(I)-catalyzed borylative cyclopropanation and allylic borylation.

moiety, with excellent stereospecificity [79% (over 2 steps), *cis/trans* = >99:1, 95% ee]. The palladium-catalyzed Suzuki–Miyaura cross-coupling of (*S,R*)-*cis-3a* with an aryl bromide proceeded to give cyclopropylarene (*S,S*)-*cis-7* in moderate yield with almost perfect stereospecificity (51%, *cis/trans* = 98:2, 95% ee).⁴⁵

A proposed mechanism for the formation of the stereo- and structural isomers (*cis-3*, *trans-3*, and allylboronate 4) in this *cis*-selective asymmetric cyclopropanation is shown in Figure 3.³⁷ First, the reaction between the copper(I) salt and diboron 2 gives the borylcopper(I) active species I. Borylcopper(I) I and the allyl electrophile (*E*)-1 then form the π -complex II, which is the intermediate for cyclopropane 3, or regioisomer II_{allyl}, which is the intermediate for allylboronate 4. The enantioselective borylcupration of II via transition state $TS1$ provides alkylcopper(I) intermediate III, whereas the reaction of II_{allyl} via the concerted borylation transition state $TS1_{allyl}$ provides allylboronate 4.⁵² The product-selectivity (3/4) can be expected to depend on the regioselectivity of the borylcupration at the C–C double bond of (*E*)-1, as this step is irreversible. The intramolecular cyclization in a stereo-retentive or -inversive manner, which is the diastereoselectivity-determining step, then proceeds from the corresponding conformers III_(cis) and III_(trans) via transition states $TS2_{(cis)}$ and $TS2_{(trans)}$, which lead to *cis-3* and *trans-3*, respectively. Finally, the corresponding copper(I) salt IV would be regenerated.

We then carried out a computational study of the borylcupration step ($TS1$) to understand the mechanism of the enantio- and product-selectivity (3/4). To simplify the computational study, allyl chloride (*E*)-1ec, which bears a trimethyl silyl group, and (*R*)-L1 or (*R*)-L2 were employed as the model substrate and ligand for the reaction system in the DFT calculations; these were chosen considering that the experimental results for these reaction systems indicated that (*R*)-L2 with a TMS-modified backbone showed higher stereoselectivities than the unmodified (*R*)-L1 [Table S3; (*R*)-L1: 94%, 90% ee, *cis/trans* = 96:4, **3e/4e**

= 76:24; (*R*)-L2: 95%, 95% ee, *cis/trans* = 97:3, **3e/4e** = 86:14]. In the case of the addition between an unsymmetrical internal alkene such as (*E*)-1 and a planar tri-coordinated C_1 -symmetrical copper(I) complex with the (*R*)-L1 or (*R*)-L2 ligand, at least eight approach patterns of (*E*)-1 to the metal center should be considered to investigate the regio- and enantioselectivity of the borylcupration.²¹ In this work, an exhaustive conformational search of the TSs of the borylcupration, $TS1$ and $TS1_{allyl}$, returned eight transition-state structures for (*R*)-L1, and 21 structures for (*R*)-L2 based on the aforementioned approach patterns (for details, see Figures S19–S21). We selected the TS structures for the borylcupration step with the lowest-energy paths to each of the three isomers, i.e., (*S,R*)-*cis-3e*, (*R,S*)-*cis-3e*, and allylboronate 4e: $TS1_{major}$ leads to the major enantiomer of the cyclopropane, (*S,R*)-*cis-3e*; $TS1_{minor}$ leads to the minor enantiomer of the cyclopropane, (*R,S*)-*cis-3e*; while $TS1_{allyl}$ leads to allylboronate 4e. For both (*R*)-L1 and (*R*)-L2, the DFT calculations indicated that the TSs for the major product (*S,R*)-*cis-3e* ($TS1_{major}$) are more favorable than $TS1_{minor}$ and $TS1_{allyl}$ [(*R*)-L1: $\Delta G^\ddagger(TS1_{major}) = +15.3$ kcal/mol, $\Delta G^\ddagger(TS1_{minor}) = +16.3$ kcal/mol, $\Delta G^\ddagger(TS1_{allyl}) = +16.0$ kcal/mol; (*R*)-L2: $\Delta G^\ddagger(TS1'_{major}) = +16.3$ kcal/mol, $\Delta G^\ddagger(TS1'_{minor}) = +17.7$ kcal/mol, $\Delta G^\ddagger(TS1'_{allyl}) = +17.9$ kcal/mol]. Furthermore, the difference between the activation energies ($\Delta\Delta G^\ddagger$) of $TS1_{major}$ and $TS1_{minor}$ for silyl-group-modified (*R*)-L2 was slightly larger than that for (*R*)-L1 without the silyl groups [(*R*)-L1: $\Delta\Delta G^\ddagger = \Delta G^\ddagger(16.31) - \Delta G^\ddagger(15.32) = +1.0$ kcal/mol; (*R*)-L2: $\Delta\Delta G^\ddagger = \Delta G^\ddagger(17.68) - \Delta G^\ddagger(16.34) = +1.3$ kcal/mol]. This is consistent with the experimental results, in which the silyl group-modified ligand (*R*)-L2 showed slightly higher enantioselectivity than (*R*)-L1 [(*R*)-L1: 90% ee; (*R*)-L2: 95% ee]. Additionally, the difference between the activation energies of $TS1_{major}$ and $TS1_{allyl}$ using (*R*)-L2 was also larger than that with (*R*)-L1 [(*R*)-L1: $\Delta\Delta G^\ddagger = \Delta G^\ddagger(16.02) - \Delta G^\ddagger(15.32) = +0.7$ kcal/mol; (*R*)-L2: $\Delta\Delta G^\ddagger = \Delta G^\ddagger(17.89) - \Delta G^\ddagger(16.34) = +1.6$ kcal/mol]. This result is also consistent with the experimental results

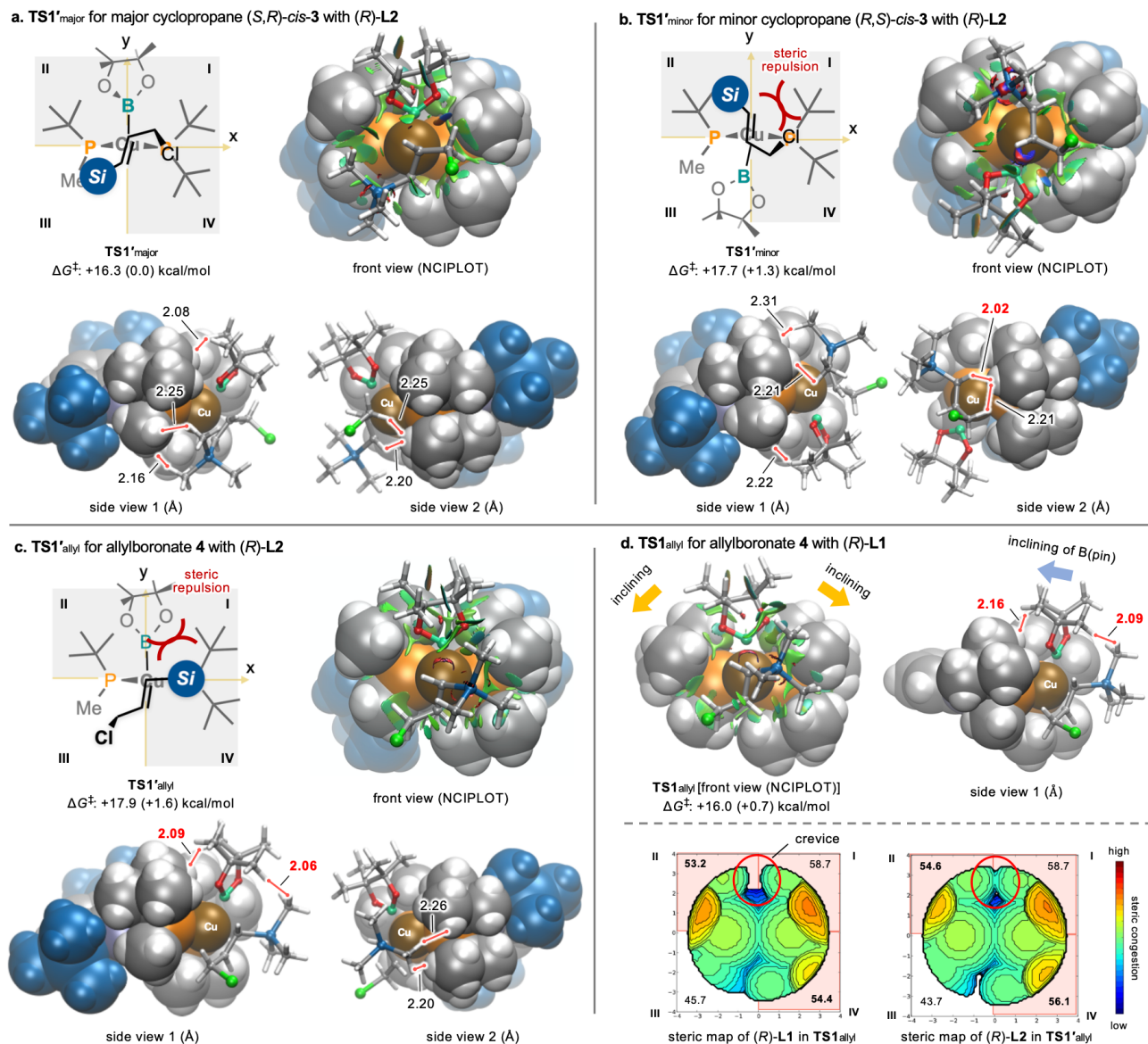


Figure 4. DFT calculations for the asymmetric borylation of allyl chloride (*E*)-**1e** with (*R*)-L1 and (*R*)-L2. Relative Gibbs energy values [ΔG (kcal/mol)] were calculated at the ω B97X-D/Def2-TZVP/SMD(THF)// ω B97X-D/Def2-SVP/SMD(THF) level of theory. Steric maps represent the three-dimensional topography of the phosphine ligands from the perspective of the copper(I)-center in the corresponding transition states.

of (*E*)-**1e**, in which (*R*)-L2 showed higher product-selectivity between cyclopropane **3** and allylboronate **4** [(*R*)-L1: **3/4** = 76:24; (*R*)-L2: **3/4** = 86:14].⁵³

Then, a structural analysis of the important TSs using NCIPLLOT⁵⁴ was carried out to understand the enantioselectivity and regioselectivity of the borylcupration step (Figure 4). In the most stable TS1^{major}, the silyl group of the substrate (*E*)-**1e** is located in the less hindered quadrant III. The NCIPLLOT of the structure of TS1^{major} indicates a small isosurface of steric contacts between the silyl moiety of (*E*)-**1e** and the phosphine substituent in quadrant III. This result suggests that the conformation minimizes the steric repulsions between the catalyst and substrate (Figure 4a). Conversely, the TS structure of TS1^{minor} contains a short contact between the hydrogen atom of the phosphine substituent in quadrant I and the hydrogen atom at the vinyl position of the substrate (Figure 4b, distance between these

hydrogen atoms: 2.02 Å). This sterically congested structure would be caused by a horizontal shift of (*E*)-**1e** in X-axial direction in order to avoid the steric contact between the silyl group of (*E*)-**1e** and the phosphine substituent in quadrant II. The NCIPLLOT-derived steric contact isosurface also displays these steric interactions in quadrants I and II. Therefore, the mismatched structure destabilizes TS1^{minor} more than TS1^{major}.

We also conducted the NCIPLLOT analysis for the TSs for the formation of the allylboronate **4**. The structure of TS1^{allyl} would be destabilized by the steric repulsion between the B(pin) moiety and the silyl group of (*E*)-**1e** considering the steric contact that should result from the very contact of these hydrogen atoms in these moieties (Figure 4c, distance between these hydrogen atoms: 2.06 Å). Moreover, an increased isosurface between the B(pin) moiety and the silyl-moiety of (*E*)-**1e** was observed in the

NCIPLLOT of **TS1'**_{allyl}. In previous studies, the regioselectivity toward the formation of borylcyclopropanes, in which the copper(I) atom must attach to the carbon atom adjacent to the silicon atom in the alkenyl silane substrate, was rationalized in terms of the stabilizing electronic effect of the silyl group on the newly formed Cu–C bond.^{37,55–57} However, we found that the steric contacts between the substrate and the phosphine substituents of the ligands also crucially affect the regioselectivity.

To investigate the difference of regioselectivity between the silyl-modified ligand (*R*)-**L2** and the original ligand (*R*)-**L1**, we compared the TS structures of **TS1**_{allyl}. The result of the structural analysis of **TS1**_{allyl} with (*R*)-**L1** is shown in Figure 4d. The NCIPLLOT-derived isosurface area of **TS1**_{allyl} is smaller than that of **TS1'**_{allyl}. Furthermore, the distances between the hydrogen atoms in the B(pin) moiety and those of the phosphine substituents or the silyl moiety of (*E*)-**1e** in **TS1**_{allyl} with (*R*)-**L1** are longer than those of **TS1'**_{allyl} with (*R*)-**L2** [H(B(pin))–H(substrate), (*R*)-**L1**: 2.09 Å, (*R*)-**L2**: 2.06 Å; H(ligand)–H(B(pin)), (*R*)-**L1**: 2.16 Å, (*R*)-**L2**: 2.09 Å]. This result indicates that these steric interactions are smaller in **TS1**_{allyl} with (*R*)-**L1** than those in **TS1'**_{allyl} with (*R*)-**L2**. This promotes the formation of the undesired allylboronate isomer **4**. To visualize the phosphine conformation of the ligands in the TSs, steric maps of **TS1**_{allyl} [(*R*)-**L1**] and **TS1'**_{allyl} [(*R*)-**L2**] were obtained using the *SambVca* 2.1 web application (Figure 4d, bottom).^{58,59} The steric map of **TS1**_{allyl} displays a steric crevice between quadrants **I** and **II**, where the B(pin) moiety is located. This structure shows that the phosphine substituents in quadrants **I** and **II** incline to the equatorial plane to avoid the steric interactions with the B(pin) moiety. This inclined phosphine conformation would reduce the steric repulsion between the B(pin) moiety and the silyl moiety of the substrate to decrease the activation energy barrier of **TS1**_{allyl}. Conversely, no crevice is present in the steric map of **TS1'**_{allyl} because the phosphine substituents and the adjacent silyl groups on the ligand backbone push each other up/down, thus fixing the ligand structure (Figure 4c bottom). Therefore, the silyl group-supported robust structure of (*R*)-**L2** effectively prevents the conformational relaxation to decrease the steric repulsion between the B(pin) and the silyl-moiety of the substrate, which enhances the regioselectivity of the borylcyclopropanation.⁶⁰

We also confirmed the advantages of the *C*₁-symmetric QuinoxP*-type ligands compared to the *C*₂-symmetric ligand (*R,R*)-QuinoxP* for the stereoselectivity of this reaction system (Figure S22). In the *C*₂-symmetric ligand, quadrant **I** is less hindered than in the *C*₁-symmetric ligand because the *tert*-butyl group in quadrant **I** is replaced by a methyl group. Therefore, the steric repulsion in quadrant **I** of the transition states for the minor enantiomer (**TS1'**_{minor} and **TS1'**_{allyl}) can be expected to be reduced, which would decrease the activation-energy barriers of these minor reaction pathways. In fact, the enantio- and product-selectivity of the reaction using (*R,R*)-QuinoxP* were lower than those of the reaction using the *C*₁-symmetric QuinoxP*-type ligand (*R*)-**L1** (Table 1, S2, and S3).

Next, we focused on the mechanism of the intramolecular cyclization step [**TS2** with (*R*)-**L1**] from the alkylcopper(I) intermediates **III**_{major} or **III**_{minor} to the

cyclopropane products **3** (Figure 5).⁶¹ There are four possible reaction routes based on the diastereoselectivity for each diastereomer of **III**_{major} and **III**_{minor}: 1) **TS2**_{major(cis)} leads to the major product (*S,R*)-**cis-3** in a stereo-retentive manner; 2) **TS2**_{major(trans)} leads to the *trans*-cyclopropane (*R,R*)-**trans-3** in a stereo-inversive manner; 3) **TS2**_{minor(cis)} leads to the minor enantiomer (*R,S*)-**cis-3** in a stereo-retentive manner; and 4) **TS2**_{minor(trans)} leads to the *trans*-cyclopropane (*S,S*)-**trans-3** in a stereo-inversive manner (Figure 5a). An energetic analysis of these intramolecular cyclization pathways was conducted using DFT calculations (Figure 5b).⁶² In the intramolecular cyclization of **III**_{major}, the activation energy for the stereo-retentive pathway via **TS2**_{major(cis)}, which provides the desired (*S,R*)-**cis-3**, is lower than that via the stereo-inversive **TS2**_{major(trans)}, which provides the undesired (*R,R*)-**trans-3** [**TS2**_{major(cis)}: $\Delta G^\ddagger = +10.6$ kcal/mol; **TS2**_{major(trans)}: $\Delta G^\ddagger = +13.0$ kcal/mol]. Likewise, in the case of the intramolecular cyclization of the alkylcopper(I) intermediate **III**_{minor}, **TS2**_{minor(cis)} leads to the undesired enantiomer of the *cis* product, (*R,S*)-**cis-3**, and the pathway via **TS2**_{minor(cis)} is more favorable than that via **TS2**_{minor(trans)}, which leads to the *trans* product (*S,S*)-**trans-3** [**TS2**_{minor(cis)}: $\Delta G^\ddagger = +11.7$ kcal/mol; **TS2**_{minor(trans)}: $\Delta G^\ddagger = +12.6$ kcal/mol]. The energy difference between **TS2**_{major(cis)} and **TS2**_{major(trans)} is larger than that between **TS2**_{minor(cis)} and **TS2**_{minor(trans)}, thus favoring the formation of the *cis* product (*S,R*)-**cis-3** in the cyclization step from **III**_{major} compared to the cyclization from **III**_{minor} [**TS2**_{major(cis)} vs **TS2**_{major(trans)}: $\Delta\Delta G^\ddagger = +2.4$ kcal/mol; **TS2**_{minor(cis)} vs **TS2**_{minor(trans)}: $\Delta\Delta G^\ddagger = +0.9$ kcal/mol]. This analysis indicates that the *cis/trans* selectivities of the cyclization step from the alkylcopper(I) intermediates **III**_{major} and **III**_{minor} are different. Furthermore, this diastereomer-dependent stereoselectivity can be considered a partial kinetic resolution that affects the enantioselectivity of the *cis-3* and *trans-3* products. In fact, the experimental results of the reaction of (*E*)-**1e** showed that the *cis-3e* product exhibited high enantioselectivity, while the enantioselectivity of *trans-3e* was significantly lower (Table S3; *cis-3e*: 90% ee, *trans-3e*: 46% ee). The calculation results were in moderate agreement with the experimental results, as the estimated enantioselectivity of the *cis* product *cis-3e* was significantly higher than that of the *trans* product *trans-3e*, although the predicted ee values (*ee*_{pre}) were slightly underestimated (*ee*_{pre} for *cis-3e*: 74% ee; *ee*_{pre} for *trans-3e*: –36% ee). Furthermore, the diastereoselectivity predicted by the DFT calculations was in good agreement with the experimentally observed diastereoselectivity (calculation: *cis/trans* = 95:5; experiment: *cis/trans* = 96:4).

Additional DFT calculations using a sterically less congested ligand, (*R,R*)-QuinoxP*, for comparison suggested that the high *cis*-selectivity was enhanced by the steric congestion between the silyl or boryl groups and the bulky alkyl groups of three-hindered-quadrant bisphosphine ligands (for details, see Figure S27). This is consistent with the experimental result, in which the use of (*R,R*)-QuinoxP* resulted in lower diastereoselectivity [(*R,R*)-QuinoxP*: *cis/trans* = 88:12; for details, see Table S3].

In addition, we also considered the possibility of another conceivable reaction pathway to access the *trans*-product, *trans-3*, in a stereo-inversive manner. Recently, β -hydride

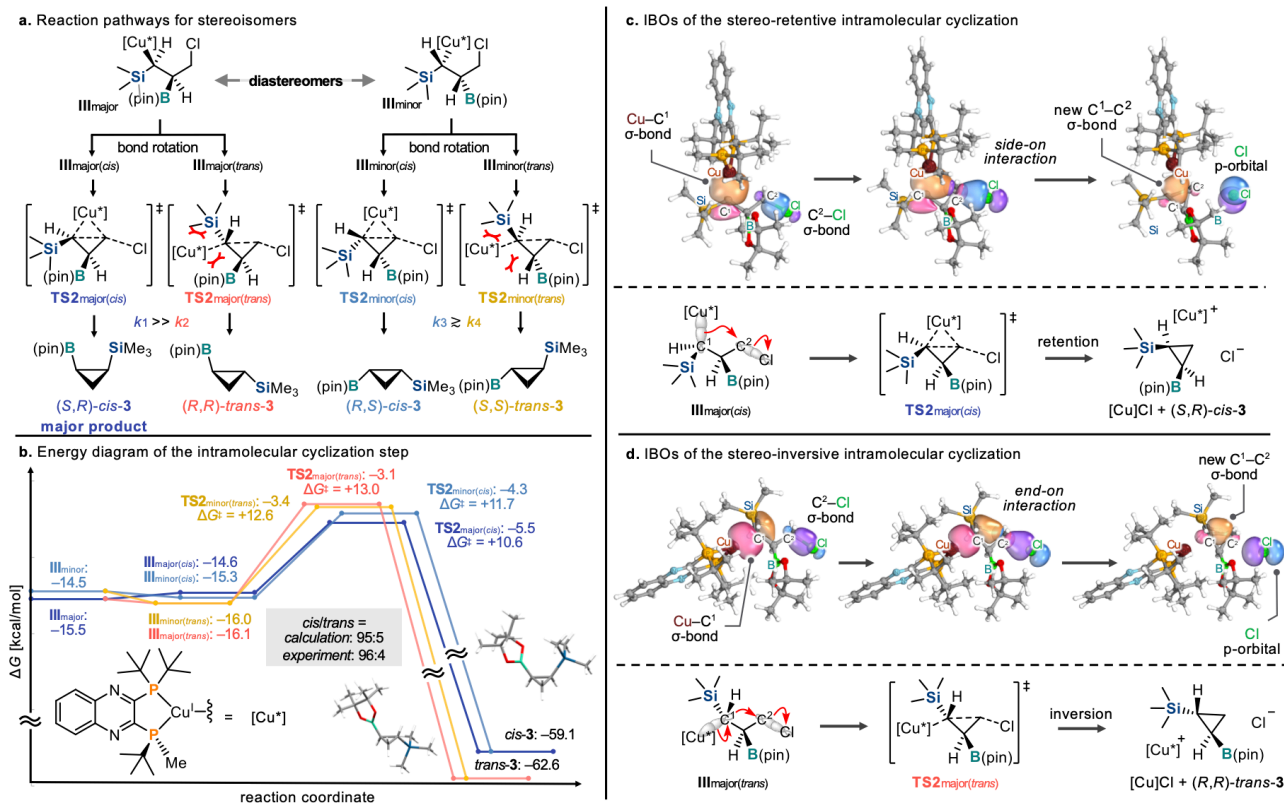


Figure 5. Analysis of the intramolecular cyclization to give cyclopropane **3** using DFT calculations and an intrinsic bonding orbital (IBO) analysis. Relative Gibbs energy values [ΔG (kcal/mol)] were calculated at the ωB97X-D/Def2-TZVP/SMD(THF)//ωB97X-D/Def2-SVP/SMD(THF) level of theory.

elimination from alkylcopper(I) species followed by reinsertion of the copper(I) hydride Cu(I)-H to the alkene has been proposed as an epimerization mechanism of alkylcopper(I) intermediates.^{63,64} In our reaction, the relative energy of the TS of the β-hydride elimination of the alkylcopper(I) intermediate III_{major} was significantly higher than those of the intramolecular cyclization pathways for the *cis*- and *trans*-products [β-H elimination: ΔG[‡] = +25.4 kcal/mol; TS2_{major}(*cis*): ΔG[‡] = +10.6 kcal/mol; TS2_{major}(*trans*): ΔG[‡] = +13.0 kcal/mol; for details, see Figure S15]. Therefore, the epimerization pathway via β-H elimination was ruled out.

Subsequently, we conducted further investigations in order to understand the mechanism of the intramolecular cyclization step in detail (Figure 5c and 5d). It is known that the nucleophilic C-C-bond formation of alkylcopper(I) species proceeds through an oxidative addition that involves a copper(III) intermediate.⁶⁵ However, our computational study did not output a mechanism through the corresponding copper(III) metallacycle. The detailed mechanism of C-C-bond formation from the stereogenic alkylcopper(I) intermediate in both a stereo-retentive and -inversive manner remains elusive.⁶⁶ To reveal the details of the TSs of the intramolecular cyclization (TS2), we employed an intrinsic bonding orbital (IBO) analysis, which can connect the actual electron flow along the intrinsic reaction coordinate (IRC) with the classical curved arrow formalism.^{67,68} An analysis of the intramolecular cyclization from the alkylcopper(I) intermediates III_{major}(*cis*) or III_{major}(*trans*) to the cyclopropanes (*S,R*)-*cis*-**3e** or (*R,R*)-*trans*-**3e** indicated that the nature of the IBOs of the Cu-C¹ and C²-Cl σ-bonds changes during the

formation of the C¹-C² bond and a lone pair of the chloride anion. In the case of the *cis*-selective stereo-retentive cyclization, the IBOs suggested that the electrons of the Cu-C¹ σ-orbital would attack the C²-Cl σ*^{*}-orbital with a side-on interaction mode and the electrons of the C²-Cl σ-orbital would become a lone pair of a chloride anion (Figure 5c). This process can be recognized as a combination of a nucleophilic substitution (S_N2) at the carbon center (C²) attached to the chlorine atom and a stereo-retentive electrophilic substitution (S_E2) at the carbon center (C¹) attached to the copper(I) center. In the *trans*-cyclization, the analysis suggested that the electrons of the Cu-C¹ bond would attack the chloride moiety with an end-on interaction mode using the lobe of the Cu-C¹ σ-orbital opposite to the bonding direction (Figure 5d). This bond formation should be possible because the electron occupancy of the opposite lobe of the Cu-C¹ bond would be sufficiently large to interact with the electrophilic moiety. This process could be recognized as a stereo-inversive electrophilic substitution (S_E2) at the carbon center (C¹) attached to the copper(I) center.⁶⁹ Therefore, the stereogenic alkylcopper(I) might react with various electrophiles in both stereo-retentive and -inversive manners. This can also explain our previous results involving varied cyclization selectivities.³⁷

CONCLUSION

In summary, we have developed the silyl-modified three-hindered-quadrant QuinoxP*-type ligands (*R*)-5,8-*Si*-Quinox-*t*Bu₃. By taking advantage of the silyl-modulators on the ligand backbone, we accomplished unprecedentedly

high selectivities for the copper(I)-catalyzed asymmetric *cis*-selective borylative cyclopropanation of allyl electrophiles that bear a bulky silyl group to give highly strained cyclopropane derivatives. Among the corresponding cyclopropane isomers **3** and allylboronate **4**, this reaction can furnish the most strained product, 1,2-*cis*-silyl-boryl-cyclopropanes **3** (up to 97%, 98% ee, *cis/trans* = >99:1, **3/4** = >99:1). Computational studies indicated that the highly rigid chiral environment of the backbone-modified ligand, which is not affected by the steric interactions with the allyl electrophiles that bear a bulky silyl substituent, is important for the high enantioselectivity and regioselectivity. Furthermore, the DFT and IBO studies shed light on the mechanism of the intramolecular cyclization steps of the stereo-defined alkylcopper(I) intermediates. These steps can be expected to proceed via concerted substitution mechanisms with stereo-retentive and -inversive manners from the same intermediate rather than through the epimerization of the stereo-defined copper(I)-carbon bond via β -H elimination. Efforts to apply this new series of chiral, three-hindered-quadrant bisphosphine ligands to other enantioselective reactions are currently in progress in our laboratory.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website.

Experimental procedure, compound characterization, NMR spectra, and computational data (PDF)

X-ray crystallography data (CIF)

Calculated structures (ZIP)

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Author Contributions

The manuscript was written through contributions of all authors. All authors have given approval to the final version of the manuscript. #These authors contributed equally.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This work was financially supported by the Institute for Chemical Reaction Design and Discovery (WPI-ICReDD), which was established by the World Premier International Research Initiative (WPI), MEXT, Japan, as well as by JSPS KAKENHI grants 17H06370 and 18H03907. H. Iwamoto would like to thank the JSPS for a scholarship (16J01410). Y. O. would like to thank the JSPS for a scholarship (19J20823) and the "Program for Leading Graduate Schools" (Hokkaido University "Ambitious Leaders Program"). We thank Dr. Tomohiro Seki, Dr. Mingoo Jin, Mr. Koh Kobayashi and Mr. Kentaro Ida for the X-ray analysis. Parts of the computational calculations were carried out on the supercomputer of Research Center for Computational Science, Okazaki, Japan.

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62) The activation energy barriers (ΔG^\ddagger) of **TS2s** were calculated based on the most stable state of the alkylcopper(I) conformers **III**s under equilibrium; i.e., ΔG^\ddagger of **TS2**_{major(cis)} and **TS2**_{major(trans)} was calculated based on ΔG of **III**_{major(trans)}, ΔG^\ddagger of **TS2**_{minor(cis)} and **TS2**_{minor(trans)} was calculated based on ΔG of **III**_{minor(trans)}.

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