



Catalytic studies on Complexes of Organic Compounds: Part-5. Review on use of Chiral Schiff base Complexes as Catalyst

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ABSTRACT

Schiff base and its complexes with catalytic activity have rich diversity and the reactions catalysed by these catalyst were reviewed. These complexes are of salen type and some are of other (Salophen and Salcyclo etc.). Here we have the salen and salcyclo types of the complexes. The varied synthetic ligands are available for asymmetric catalysis. They have been highly enantioselective and of synthetic utility for transformation by catalytic behavior. Their catalysis involves many types of organic reactions such as Diels Alder, Aldol, Epoxidation, Polymerization and many more. In addition, they have exciting therapeutic activity. Literature shows very few oxidation reactions of benzyl alcohol and alkanol types of the compound.

Keywords: Chiral Schiff bases, Complexes, Salophen and Salcyclo, Catalysis, Oxidation, organic reactions.

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INTRODUCTION

We know that the catalyst (or biochemical enzymes) plays an important role in the catalysis of many kind of reactions. Schiff base - complex have catalyzed many Name reactions and other reactions too. Schiff base complex plays a key role in various homogeneous catalytic reactions and the activity of these complexes changes with the type of ligands, coordination sites and metal ions.

Survey of the Literature have shown that the coordination compounds have been used in human life as analgesic¹, antibiotic², antioxidative³, antifungal⁴⁻⁵, antibacterial⁶⁻⁸, antiviral⁹, antifertility¹⁰, antitoxic against insects¹¹, antiulcer¹², anti-HIV¹³ and antitumor¹⁴⁻¹⁵, coating materials¹⁶, as catalysts in polymerization, oxidation, decomposition, hydrolysis and electro-reduction¹⁷⁻¹⁸, heat resistant adhesives¹⁹, electric insulating materials²⁰, corrosion inhibitors²¹, dye and pigment industries²², pigments²³, photographic developers²⁴, plant growth regulators²⁵⁻²⁶, as models for molecules to absorb and release molecular oxygen reversibly similar to natural oxygen carriers like hemoglobin, hemocyanin and non-heme proteins²⁷.

Chiral Schiff bases transition metal complexes, so-called salen-type ligands, are one of the most studied chiral catalysts in asymmetric synthesis because of their ability to act as chiral catalysts or as co-catalysts²⁸⁻³². Schiff-base

ligands derived from salicylaldehyde and chiral amines have been widely applied in enantioselective cyclopropanation of styrenes³³, asymmetric aziridination of olefins³⁴, enantioselective epoxidation³⁵⁻³⁶, enantioselective ring opening of epoxides³⁷, borohydride reduction of aromatic ketones, asymmetric oxidation of methyl phenyl sulfide³⁸, enantioselective oxidation of silyl enol and trimethylsilylcyanation of benzaldehydes³⁹. The E. Merck, in particular, has successfully developed a process for the industrial manufacture of antibacterial drug Cilastatin using chiral copper (II) Schiff-base complexes derived from salicylaldehyde and chiral amine⁴⁰.

Literature reports revealed that the large number of Schiff base metal complexes exhibit catalytic activities. Now-a-days it is well known that chiral Schiff base complexes are more selective in various reactions such as epoxidation, oxidation, aldol condensation and hydroxylation etc.⁴¹ Progress on the catalytic activity of Schiff base - complexes in various reactions are outlined in this review. Some types of reaction catalysed by Salen⁴², salophen, salcyclo and different types of Schiff base catalysts are as follows:

- 1) Diels–Alder reaction
- 2) Epoxidation reaction
- 3) Oxidation reaction
- 4) Heck reaction
- 5) Michael addition
- 6) Aldol condensation reaction
- 7) Polymerization reaction
- 8) Hydrogenation reaction
- 9) Hydrogenation of imine
- 10) Hydrogenation of ketone
- 11) Hydrogenation of alkene and alkyne
- 12) Ring opening reaction of epoxide
- 13) Cyclopropanation reaction
- 14) Decomposition of hydrogen peroxide
- 15) C-C, C-H and C-Metal bond formation



- 16) Epoxide decomposition
17) Hydroxylation of styrene

Some of these reactions are explained below as an illustration. The present review mainly considered Cr and Cd complexes, and if suitable examples of these complexes were not available, other complexes were also included to illustrate the use of Schiff base metal complexes for different reactions.

Diels–Alder reaction



Scheme 1: Diels-Alder reaction using chiral salen-AlCl₃⁴³.

Schiff base complex catalyzed acylation of 4-furyl-4-*N*-benzylaminobut-1-enes with maleic anhydride produced 4-oxo-3-aza-10-oxatricyclo[5.2.1.0]dec-8-ene-6-carboxylic acid via amide formation through intramolecular Diels–Alder reaction of furan (IMDAF)⁴⁴⁻⁴⁵. The new family of enantiomerically enriched 1,1'-binaphthyl 2,2'-diamine (BINAM)-derived Schiff base chromium(III) complexes (Figure 1 compound 4) were used as catalysts in Diels–Alder reactions⁴⁶. Chiral Schiff base lanthanum(III) complexes displayed catalytic activity in the asymmetric Diels–Alder reaction of 3-(2-propenoyl)-2-oxazolidinone with cyclopentadiene⁴⁷.

Chromium(III) complexes of binaphthyl chiral Schiff base were efficient catalysts in Diels–Alder reaction of protected 1,2-dihydropyridines. The reaction of 1-phenoxycarbonyl-1,2-dihydropyridine with *N*-acryloyloxazolidinone 5 in the presence of binaphthyl

The first target-oriented synthesis of pyranoquinolines as potential antibacterial agents by electron demand Diels–Alder reaction (ED-DA) was accomplished using high diastereoselective chiral salen–AlCl₃ complex as catalyst⁴³. Addition of molecular sieves in the reaction increases the yield and enantiomeric excess (ee). Use of the salen–AlCl₃ complex catalyzed EDDA reaction in the presence of different mol% of molecular sieves in reaction mixture of 2,3-dihydrofuran and 2-azadiene reported, which showed marginalized increase in the diastereomeric excess (**Scheme 1**).

catalysts afforded endo-cycloadduct in 23-85 % ee and 61-99 % ee (**Scheme 2** reactions 1 and 2).

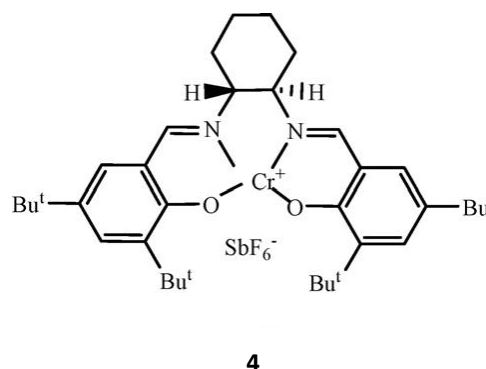
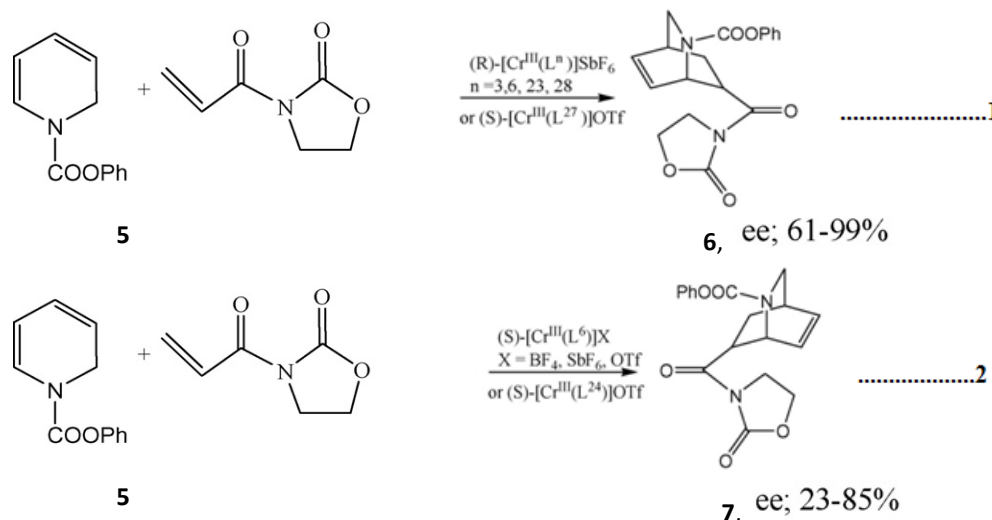


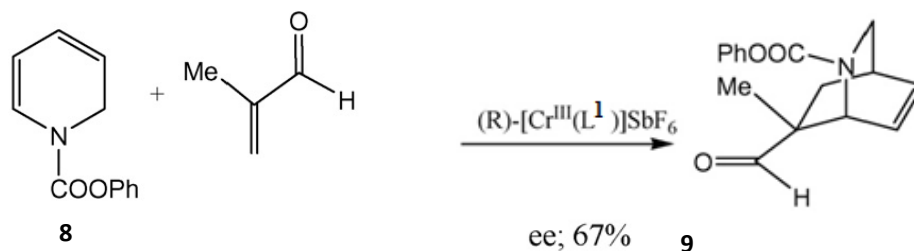
Figure 1: BINAM-derived Schiff bases chromium(III) complexes. BINAM = 1,1'-binaphthyl 2,2'-diamine.



Scheme 2: (reaction 1 and 2)

When acetone was used as a solvent, the endo-cycloadduct showed 86 – 99 % yield and 70–85% ee except for (S)-[Cr(III)(L¹)]OTf catalyst. The reaction of 1-phenoxycarbonyl-1,2-dihydropyridine **8** with metha-

acrolein **9** in the presence of (S)-[Cr(III)(L⁶)]SbF₆ catalyst produced endo-cycloadduct with 89% yield and 67 % ee (**Scheme 3**).



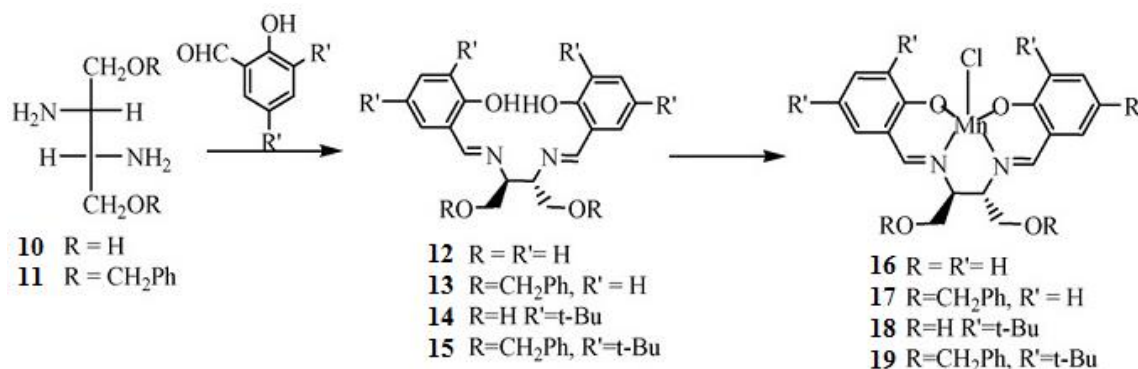
Scheme 3: The reaction of 1-phenoxycarbonyl-1,2-dihydropyridine **8** with metha-acrolein.

Enantioselectivity marked was 10% higher than observed with 1,2-cyclohexyl analogue of (S)-[Cr(III)(L¹)]SbF₆ ^{42,46}. Asymmetric hetero-Diels–Alder reaction between [(2-chlorobenzoyl)oxy]-acetaldehyde and [(trimethylsilyl)oxy]buta-1,3-diene was carried out using chromium(III) salen complexes using 4°A molecular sieves (at –30°C) in non-coordinating ethereal solvent⁴⁸. The nature of the catalyst showed a significant effect on both enantioselectivity and yield of reaction. The chiral Schiff base complexes of aluminium and titanium were also used as catalyst in Diels–Alder reactions⁴⁸.

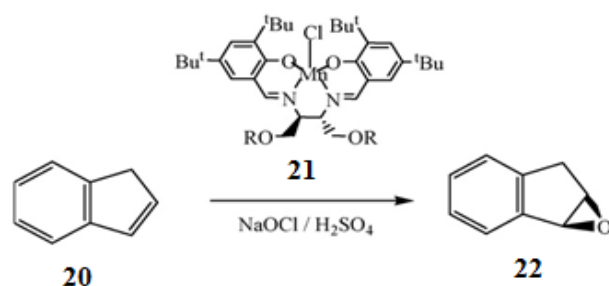
Epoxidation reaction

Chiral manganese(II) complexes of 1,2-bis(salicylideneamino) cyclohexane entrapped in zeolite showed catalytic activity in the enantioselective epoxidation of alkenes⁴⁹. The manganese(II) complexes of

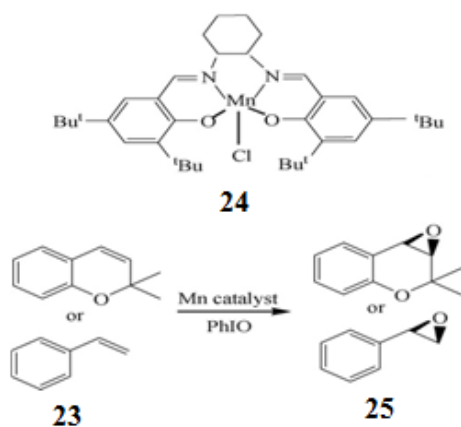
bis(2-pyridinaldehyde) ethylenediamine, bis(2-pyridinaldehyde) propylenediamine ligands were used in epoxidation of olefins but reasonable epoxide selectivity was possible only in the presence of iodosylbenzene (PhIO) oxidant⁴⁹. Compounds 12-15 obtained from 10 and 11 constituted a new class of salen based Schiff base ligands to form complexes with transition and heavy metal ions⁵⁰. The manganese(III) complexes (Scheme 4) 23–26 corresponding to Schiff base ligands 12-15 were chiral catalysts and used in asymmetric epoxidation of indene (Scheme 5)⁵⁰. The manganese(III) salen complexes catalyzed the asymmetric epoxidation of conjugated olefins 23 and 25 (Scheme 6). The addition of bulky Lewis acids such as zinc tetraphenyl (ZnTPP) 27a or zinc octaethylporphyrin (ZnOEP) 27b (Scheme 7) formed stable supramolecular complexes, which showed enhanced catalytic activity of manganese(III) salen complexes⁵¹.



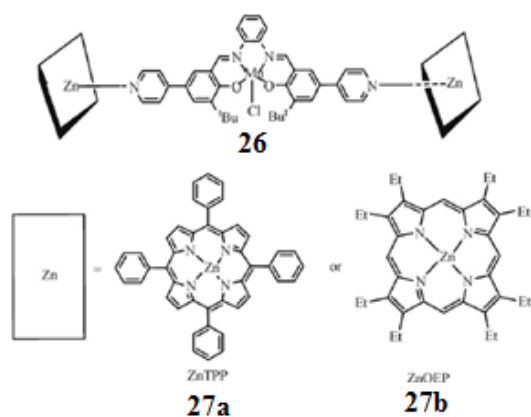
Scheme 4: The synthesis of 2,3-bis(arylideneamino)-1,4-butanediol derivatives⁵⁰ (**19**, **21**) and of their manganese(III) complexes(**24**, **26**).



Scheme 5: The epoxidation of indene⁵⁰ using the manganese(III) complexes of d-2,3-bis(di-t-butyl-salicylideneamino)-1,4-butanediol and-dibenzyl ether.



Scheme 6: Epoxidation of conjugated olefins by manganese(III) complex⁵¹.



Scheme 7. Structures of ZnTPP and ZnOEP supramolecular complexes

McGarrigle and Gilheany⁵² have given a detailed discussion on the achiral and asymmetric epoxidations of alkenes catalysed by chromium and manganese-salen complexes. They mainly focused on the mechanism, catalytic cycle, intermediates, and mode of selectivity. Among these Mn(salen)-type complexes Jacobsen's complex (Figure 2 compound **28**), has been demonstrated to be very effective for the enantioselective epoxidation of unfunctionalised olefins⁵³⁻⁵⁴.

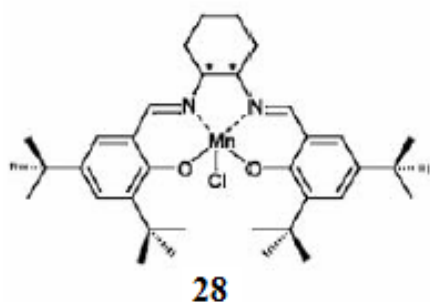


Figure 2: Jacobsen's complex.

Katsuki and co-workers⁵⁵⁻⁵⁶ first reported the synthesis and catalytic application of ruthenium(II)-complex, (Figure 3 compound **29**), containing chiral tetradentate (N₂O₂) Schiff base ligand in the asymmetric epoxidation of conjugated olefins in the presence of various terminal oxidants.

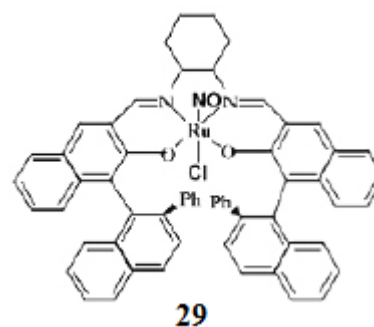


Figure 3: Ruthenium(II)-complex, containing chiral tetradentate (N₂O₂) Schiff base ligand.

Mezzetti and co-workers⁵⁷⁻⁵⁸ have carried out the asymmetric epoxidation using ruthenium(II) complexes containing tetradentate chiral Schiff base ligands with N₂P₂ donors, (Figure 4, compounds **30**, **31**), with hydrogen peroxide as terminal oxidant.

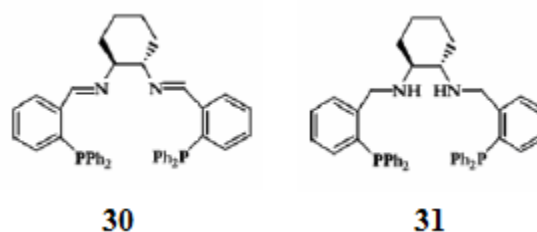
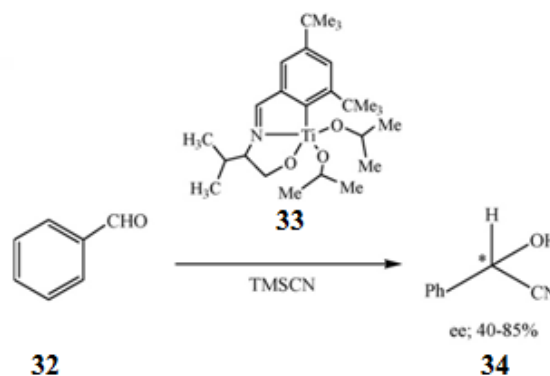


Figure 4: Ruthenium(II) complexes containing tetradentate chiral Schiff base ligands with N₂P₂ donors.

Oxidation reaction

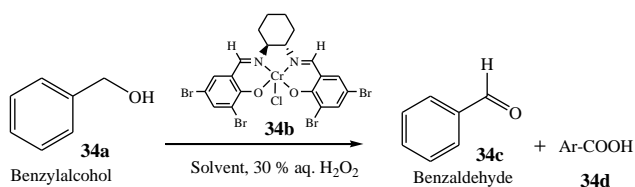
Chiral Schiff base ligands of ONO type with transition metal ions, i. e., titanium(IV), vanadium(IV), copper(II) or zinc(II), were used in various asymmetric chemical transformations. The addition of trimethylsilylcyanide to benzaldehyde, **32** in the presence of titanium(IV) ions resulted in trimethylsilyl cyanohydrins **34** in 40–85 % enantioselectivity (Scheme 8a)⁵⁹.



Scheme 8a: Chiral Schiff base catalyzed synthesis of trimethylsilyl cyanohydrins⁵⁹

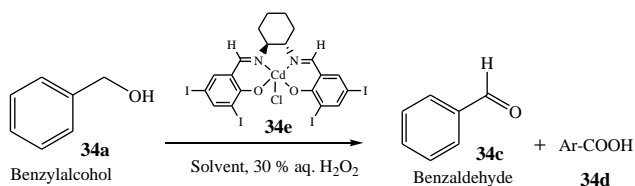
Chiral Schiff base ligands of ON type with transition metal ion, i. e., Chromium(III) was used in the chemical transformation. The oxidation of benzylalcohol, **34a** to benzaldehyde, **34c** using 30 % H₂O₂ in the presence Cr

complex of chiral schiff base catalyst, **34b** resulted in benzaldehyde, **34c** in 75.0 % and some benzoic acid (**Scheme 8b**)^{60a}. The oxidation of benzyl alcohol was used



Scheme 8b: Chiral Schiff base, **34b** catalyzed synthesis of benzaldehyde⁶⁰

Chiral Schiff base ligands of ON type with transition metal ion, i. e., cadmium(II) was used in the chemical transformation. The oxidation of benzylalcohol, **34a** to benzaldehyde, **34c** using 30 % H₂O₂ in the presence Cd complex of chiral schiff base catalyst, **34e** resulted in benzaldehyde, **34c** in 51.33 % and some benzoic acid (**Scheme 8c**)^{60b}. The oxidation of benzyl alcohol was used as model reaction using acetonitrile as solvent. The present reaction system was heterogeneous system of catalysis.

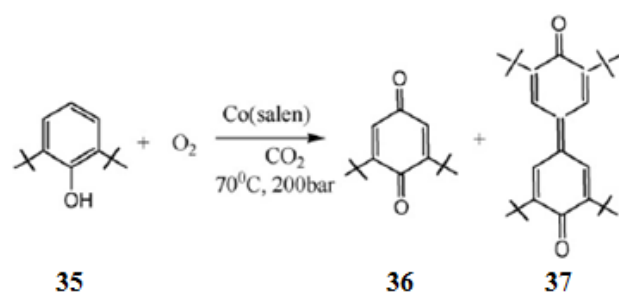


Scheme 8c: Chiral Schiff base, **34e** catalyzed synthesis of benzaldehyde^{60b}

Schiff base complexes of chromium(III), manganese(II), iron(II), cobalt(II), nickel(II) and copper(II) were encapsulated in zeolites and tested for their activity in the formation of cyclohexanol and cyclohexanone by oxidation of cyclohexane⁶¹. Reaction was catalyzed more successfully with manganese(II) ions than other ions complexed with Schiff bases. The conversion of cyclohexane was enhanced from 2.4 % to 60 % with immobilized metal complexes, which indicated that zeolites-Y acted as cytochrome P-450 oxidation system⁶¹. The manganese(III) complexes of *N,N*-ethylene bis-(salicylidene aminato)salen; *N,N*-ethylenebis-(5-chlorosalicylidene aminato)Cl salen; *N,N*-ethylene bis-(5-bromosalicylidene aminato) Br-salen and *N,N*-ethylene bis-(5-nitrosalicyli-2,2-diene aminato) NO salen were encapsulated in zeolites-Y for aerobic oxidation of styrene to benzaldehyde, styrene oxide and phenyl acetaldehyde⁶². The cobalt(II) complexes were effective in the oxidation of reactive substrates, such as aldehydes and phenols. The phenoxy radicals were assumed to be responsible for the oxidation of phenols in the presence of cobalt(II) complexes⁶³. These complexes showed high catalytic activity in the oxidation of phenols in super critical CO₂, which suggested that this high activity of cobalt(II) salen complex in super critical CO₂ would expand the range of substrates for oxidation. The oxidation resistant substrates such as hydrocarbons and lignins could be

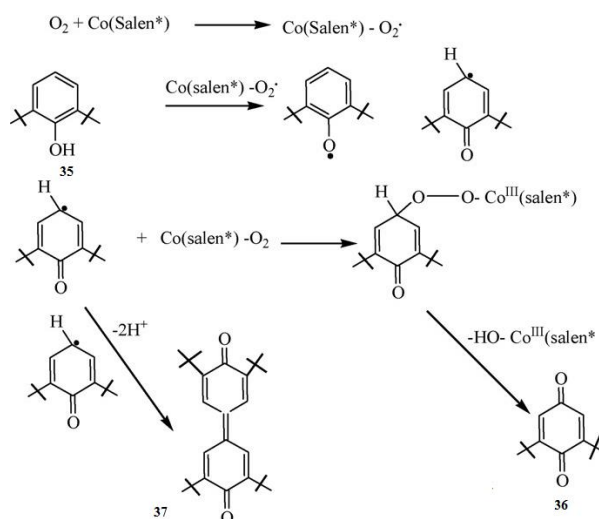
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oxidized using these catalysts in super critical CO₂⁶⁴⁻⁶⁵. The iron, manganese and chromium ions complexes of *meso*-tetrakis(2,6-dichloro-3-sulphophenyl)-porphyrin chloride Schiff base were used as catalyst in the presence of hypochlorite as terminal oxidant⁶⁵. Cobalt(II) salen complexes were also used as catalyst in oxidation of 2,6-di-tert-butylphenol (2,6-DTBP) and 3,5-di-tert-butylphenol (3,5-DTBP) in super critical CO₂⁶⁶. The conversion and catalyst selectivity were studied as a function of temperature, pressure, and concentration of catalyst and terminal oxidant. Selectivity in favour of oxygen transfer product 2,6-di-tert-butyl-1,4-benzoquinone (DTBQ) **36** over self-coupling phenoxy radicals (**Scheme 9**) was observed⁶⁶ on varying the concentration of oxygen and total pressure.



Scheme 9: Cobalt(II) salen catalyzed aerobic oxidation of DTBP⁶⁶, DTBP = 2,6-di-tert-butylphenol.

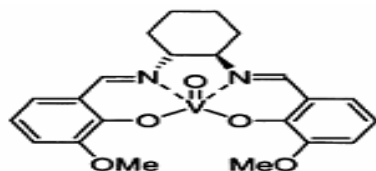
The selectivity in oxidation remained unaffected over a wide range of temperature and concentration of catalyst. The dioxygen complex as effective oxidant in both initial radical formation step and in oxygenation of phenoxy radical was studied but no direct reaction was found between phenoxy radicals and O₂. The observed behaviour of radicals has provided support for the mechanism proposed for these reactions (**Scheme 10**)⁶⁶⁻⁶⁷.



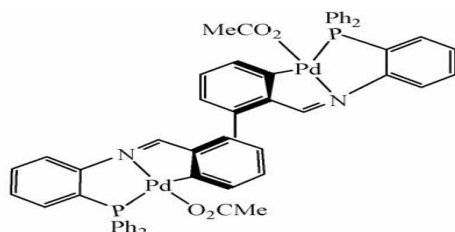
Scheme 10: Proposed reaction mechanism for the oxidation of DTBP by cobalt(II) salen⁶⁶⁻⁶⁷. DTBP = 2,6-di-tert-butylphenol.

Waldemar et al. showed that **4** also catalyses the asymmetric oxidation of silyl ketene acetals in high enantioselectivity³⁹.

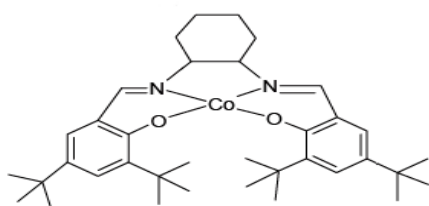
In 1986 Nakajima et al. studied the application of chiral Schiff base complexes in enantioselective sulfide oxidations⁶⁸. Using tetradentate Schiff base-oxovanadium(IV) complex, (Figure 5, compound **38**), as catalyst, they could achieve an enantioselectivity of 42% ee in the oxidation of methylphenyl sulfide to the corresponding sulfoxide.

**38****Figure 5:** Schiff base-oxovanadium(IV) complex.

Titanium(IV), vanadium(IV), copper(II) or zinc(II) complexes of chiral Schiff base ligands of –O–N–O– type were used in various asymmetric chemical transformations^{60,69}. The binuclear palladium Schiff base complex, (Figure 6, compound **39**), was found to be effective catalysts in direct oxygenation of unfunctionalized hydrocarbons and phenols⁷⁰⁻⁷⁴.

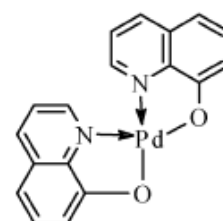
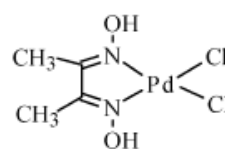
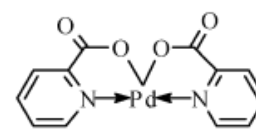
**39****Figure 6:** The binuclear palladium Schiff base complex.

Co(salen) and its analogues, (Figure 7, compound **40**), have been used for catalyzing the oxidation of phenols and alcohols with dioxygen as oxidant⁷⁵. To efficiently bind dioxygen and to be catalytically active, Co(salen) needs an axial ligand. The dioxygen is coordinated orthogonally to the square planar coordination sphere of Co(salen). The axial ligand is needed to fill the sixth coordination site, opposite to dioxygen. Pyridine is the most common axial ligand used in the Co(salen) catalysed oxidation reactions⁷⁶.

**40****Figure 7:** Co(salen) complex.

Heck reaction

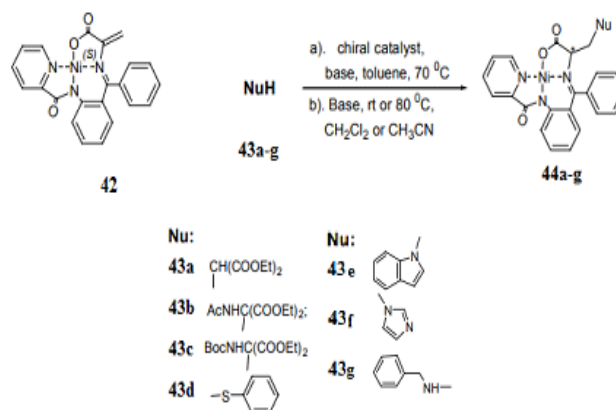
Palladium(II) complexes of nitrogen Schiff base ligands showed higher catalytic activity in Heck reaction compared to commercially used phosphene Schiff base complexes⁷⁷. High yields of the E-cinnamates and E-stilbenes were obtained by the Mizoroki–Heck reaction with Pd(II) complexes of 8- hydroxyquinoline(**a**), **41**, dimethyl glyoxime(**b**), and picolinic acid (**c**),ligands.

**Cat 1 - Pd (Oxine)₂****Cat 2 - Pd (DMG)Cl₂****a****b****Cat 3 - Pd (Pic)₂****c****41**

Metal complexes of the Schiff bases derived from quinoxaline-2-carboxaldehyde and 3-hydroxyquinoxaline-2-carboxaldehyde are rare⁷⁸⁻⁸². However there are many reports on the synthesis, biological and other applications of the compounds having quinoxaline rings. So a brief discussion on these types of compounds is included in this review.

Michael Addition

Belokon⁸² et al., have elaborated of a new type of a substrate based on the Ni(II) complex of a Schiff base of dehydroalanine, **42**, and Michael addition of nucleophiles to it, leading to the synthesis of racemic α -amino acids (**Scheme 11**).

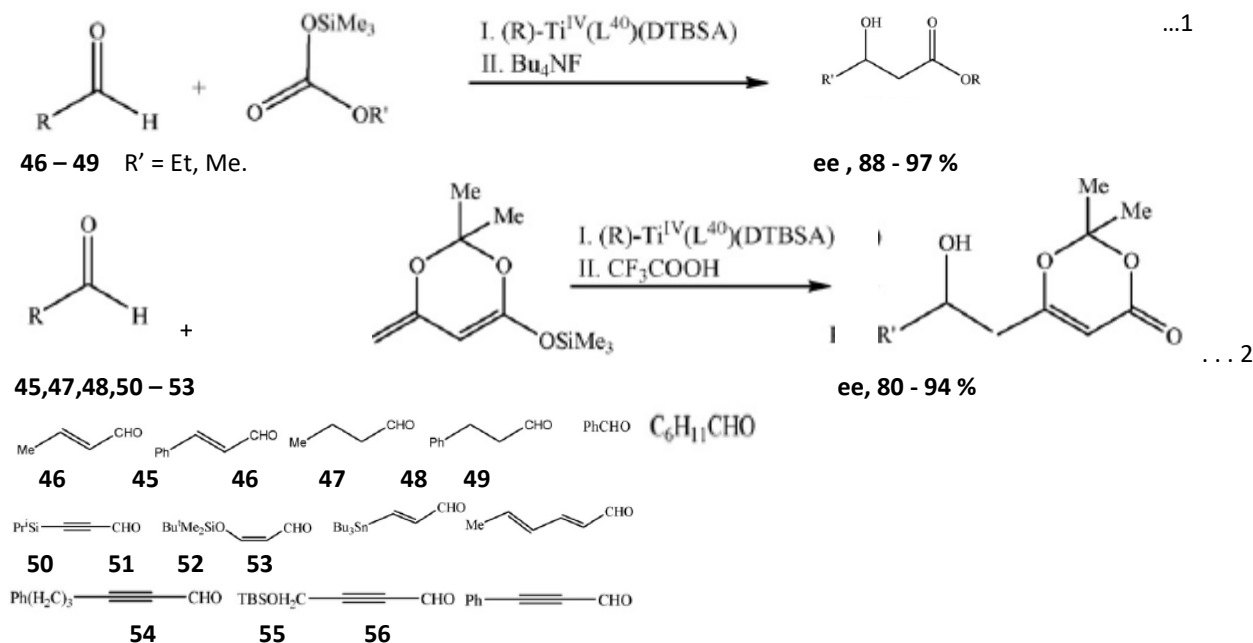
**Scheme 11:** Michael addition of various nucleophiles **43a-g** to substrate **42**.

Aldol condensation reaction

Aldol condensation between ketones and aldehydes is an easy way for carbon-carbon bond. Metal oxides have been used as catalysts in difficult Aldol condensation reactions with acetaldehydes or formaldehydes⁸³⁻⁸⁴. Pyridoxal-catalysed aldol reaction of amino acid with aldehydes or ketones is a biologically important process to add new carbon-carbon bonds. The Aldol condensation of glycine

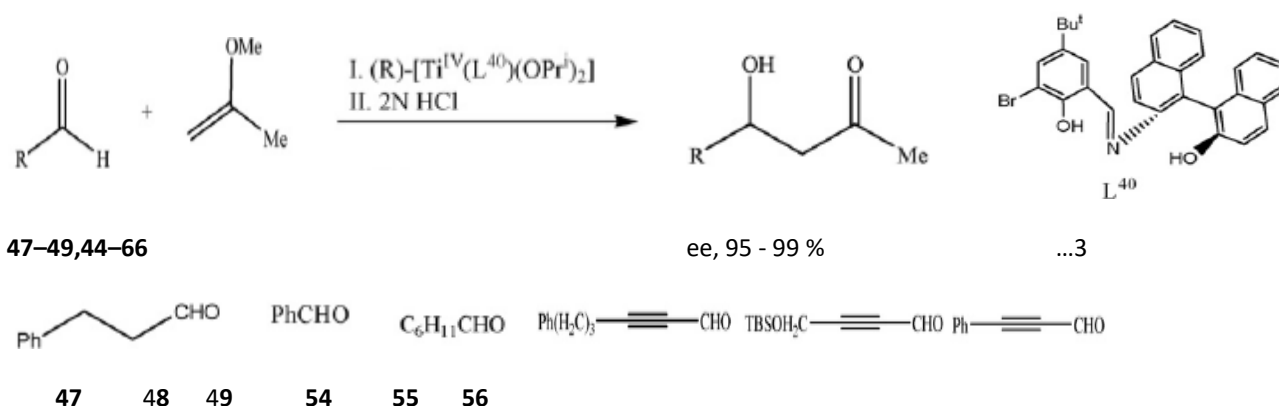
and acetaldehyde was catalyzed using pyridoxal as catalyst, which produced a significant amount of threonine and aldothreonine as reaction products⁸⁴⁻⁸⁵.

Titanium(IV) binaphthyl(Di-t-butylsalicylicacid, DTBSA), Schiff base complexes showed activity in enantioselective aldol condensation of dienolate with a variety of aldehydes **46 – 49, 50 - 53** (Reactions 1 and 2 in **Scheme 12**), which produced about 88–97 % ee⁸⁶⁻⁸⁷.



Scheme 12 : Reactions 1 and 2 and various aldehydes **46 - 49, 50 – 53** used.

These complexes were also used as catalysts in the aldol addition reaction between CH₂C(OMe) Me and aldehydes **47 – 49, 54 – 56**, which showed 95–99% ee (**Scheme 13**).



Scheme 13: Reaction and various aldehydes **7 – 9, 14 – 16** used.

To facilitate the separation of catalyst in aldol addition reactions between silyl ketene, acetals and aldehydes, polymer supported chiral binaphthal Schiff base titanium(IV) complexes were used, which showed 26 % ee⁸⁸. Recently aluminum(III) chiral complexes of binaphthal Schiff base ligand were also used to catalyze the aldol addition/acyl transfer reactions between 5-methoxyoxazoles and aldehydes⁸⁹, which afforded corresponding (4S, 5S)-oxazoline products with 98 % ee and 60 % turnover number. Schiff base complexes of

aluminum(III) were active in the reaction between 5-methoxyoxazoles and benzaldehydes to produce optically active *cis*-oxazoline adducts with > 99% ee⁸⁹.

Polymerization reaction

Drozdak et al. reported a detailed discussion on catalytic activity in the atom transfer radical polymerization and ring opening metathesis polymerization of various substrates using Ru-catalysts having salicylaldimino-type Schiff bases as one of the ligands,(Figure 8 compound **57**)⁹⁰.

Polymethylmethacrylate was prepared in presence of Cr(III) and Ni(II)salen complexes as catalysts for the controlled radical polymerization of the methylmethacrylate monomer⁹¹.

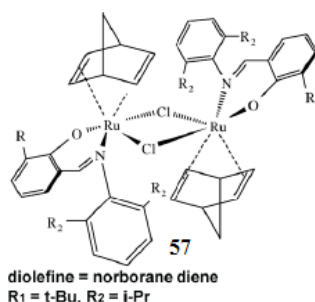


Figure 8: Ru-catalyst with salicylaldehyde-type Schiff base as ligand.

Hydrogenation reaction

A series of chiral N4-Schiff bases, containing amine or sulfonamide functionalities has been synthesized by Karame et al.⁹². Coupled with ruthenium catalysts, these Schiff bases induce interesting results in the hydrogenation of acetophenone. The asymmetric hydrogenation reaction was carried out under hydrogen pressure ($p = 30$ bar) at room temperature in the presence of the chiral catalyst prepared in situ.

Hydrogenation of imines

Venkatachalam and Ramesh also reported the transfer hydrogenation of imines to amines mediated by ruthenium(III) bis-bidentate Schiff base complexes⁹³.

Hydrogenation of ketones

Schiff base complexes of transition metals are efficient catalysts in carrying out asymmetric reduction of dialkyl ketones⁹⁴⁻⁹⁷. The catalytic activity in the transfer hydrogenation of aliphatic and aromatic ketones in the presence of isopropanol and KOH has been investigated with ruthenium(III) Schiff base complexes of general formula $[RuX(EPh_3)(LL')]$ where $X = Cl$ or Br , $E = P$ or As and $LL' = [ONNO]$ donor of the heterocyclic Schiff base ligands, (Figure 9 compounds **58-60**)⁹⁸.

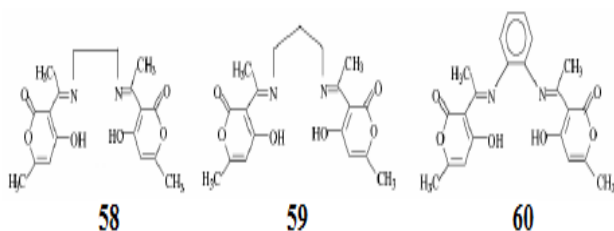


Figure 9: Ruthenium(III) Schiff base complexes of general formula $[RuX(EPh_3)(LL')]$ where $X = Cl$ or Br , $E = P$ or As and $LL' = [ONNO]$ donor of the heterocyclic Schiff base ligands.

Hydrogenation of alkene and alkynes

A series of palladium(II) complexes of Schiff bases with the nitrogen ligands have been synthesised and their catalytic activity in the hydrogenation of alkenes and alkynes in mild conditions (with 1 atm dihydrogen pressure at 40 °C) has

been studied by Costa et al.⁹⁹. Two representative examples of these Schiff base complexes are given below (Figure 10 compounds **61** and **62**).

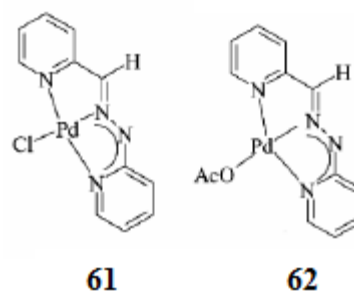
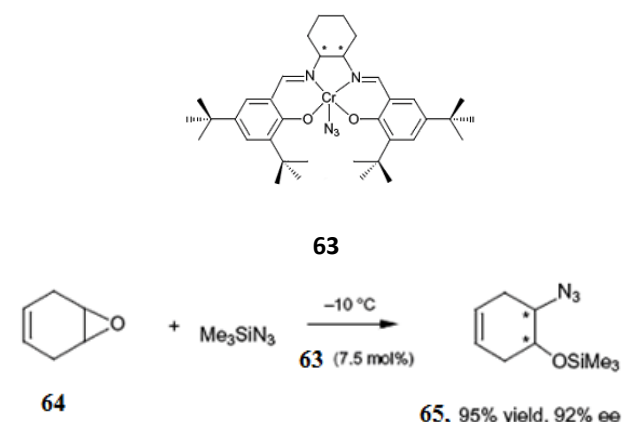


Figure 10: Palladium(II) complexes of Schiff bases with the nitrogen ligands.

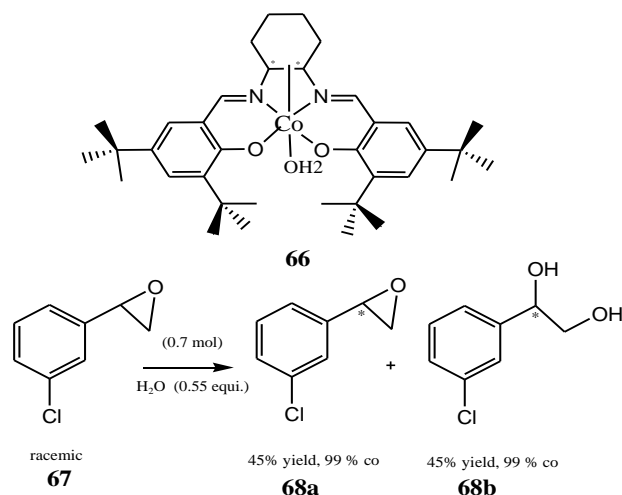
Ring opening reaction of epoxides

The ring-opening of cyclohexa-1,4-diene monoepoxide was carried out by Jacobsen's group¹⁰⁰ under solvent free conditions in presence of 7.5 mol% of (Figure 11 compound **63**) and azidotrimethylsilanol to produce the azido silyl ether in 92% enantiomeric excess (Scheme-14).



Scheme-14: Ring-opening reaction of epoxide

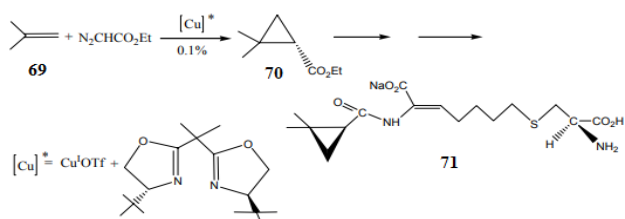
Jacobsen also discovered¹⁰¹ that the Co(salen) complex **66** was active in the hydrolytic kinetic resolution of racemic epoxides which enables access to terminal epoxides and diols in high enantiomeric purity (Scheme 15).



Scheme 15: Resolution of racemic epoxides.

Cyclopropanation reaction The catalytic cyclopropanation of olefins using diazo compounds has been one of the highlights since Nozaki and co-workers introduced the use of transition metal catalysts for this purpose about 55 years ago^{102,103}.

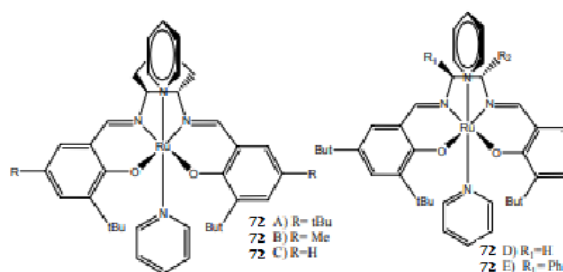
Application: Practical application include the synthesis of 2,2-dimethylcyclopropane carboxylate from isobutene¹⁰⁴, a key step in the commercial production of cilastatin (**Scheme 16**) and of the esters of chrysanthemic acid^{105,106}.



Scheme 16: Synthesis of Cilastatin

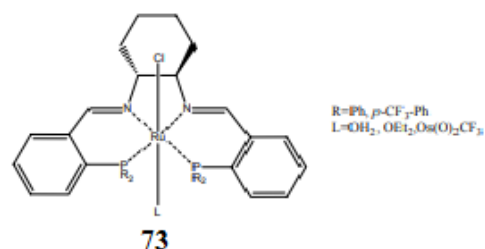
Cilastatin is a dehydropeptidase and acts as an in-vivo stabilizer of the carbapenem antibiotic imipenem with achiral diazoesters. Similarly, the chiral ruthenium complexes discovered for cyclopropanation include many ruthenium chiral Schiff base complexes^{107,108}.

In 2002, another type of highly enantioselective and diastereoselective cyclopropanation catalyst was reported by J. A. Miller and co-worker. Schiff base ligands containing chiral centers were prepared, and implemented on ruthenium resulting in chiral Ru(II) complexes. These complexes have two pyridine ligands at axial positions. By using EDA, trans-isomers in a highly enantioselective way were (obtained in all case at least 10.6:1). These compounds are also very efficient catalysts for the asymmetric cyclopropanation of both electron rich and electron deficient olefins. It was observed that side reactions barely occurred (dimerization products).



Scheme 17: Chiral Schiff base ruthenium complexes (compound 72)

A Ru (II) catalyst with a chiral PNNP-type ligand was reported to highly increase cis enantioselectivity in cyclopropanation when styrene or its derivatives were used as substrates; especially, when they carry an electron donating group at the para-position. From this result, the electronic tuning of the ligands could optimize the results for asymmetric cyclopropanation. Also the detection of and intermediate by ¹H and ³¹P NMR was successful.



Scheme 18: Ru (II) catalyst with a chiral PNNP-type ligand (compound 72) reported by Mezzetti.

Decomposition of Hydrogenperoxide

Using the aqueous hydrogen peroxide in the (salen)Mn(III) catalyzed epoxidations is related to the hydrogen peroxide decomposition (homolytic cleavage of O–O bond) catalyzed by the salen itself¹⁰⁹. The tetradentate Schiff bases N,N'-bis(salicylidene) ethylenediamine(salen), N,N'-bis(salicylidene) hexylenediamine(salhex), and N,N'-bis(salicylidene)-o-phenylenediamine(sal-o-phen) are very strongly adsorbed by cation exchange resins (Dowex-50W) with manganese(II) as a counter ion, forming stable complexes. The kinetics of the catalytic decomposition of H₂O₂ in presence of these complexes has been studied in aqueous medium. The decomposition reaction is first order with respect to H₂O₂ in the case of salen and sal-o-phen and third order in the case of salhex. The greater the ligand methylene chain length or the greater the steric effect of the ligand, the greater will be the rate of reaction. The reaction is governed by the entropy of activation. A reaction mechanism is proposed¹⁰⁹.

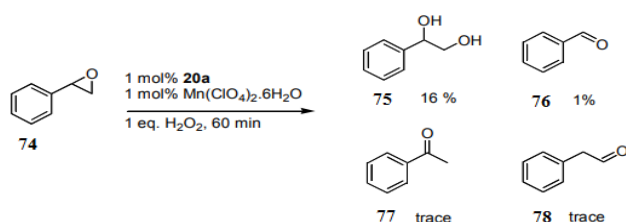
Carbon-carbon, carbon-hydrogen and carbon-heteroatom bond formation

The Schiff base approach afforded quite active and stable ruthenium catalysts successfully initiating a variety of organic transformations spanning carbon-carbon, carbon hydrogen and carbon-heteroatom bond formation¹¹⁰.

Epoxide decomposition

The hydrolysis of styrene oxide seems to be the main pathway to the diol. This was confirmed by an experiment employing the usual conditions and using styrene oxide as the substrate. When styrene oxide is treated with H₂O₂ in acetone, no epoxide is degraded. In the presence of 1 mol% of ligand and 1 mol % of Mn(ClO₄)₂·6H₂O, after 1 h, 18 % of the initial amount of epoxide is degraded.

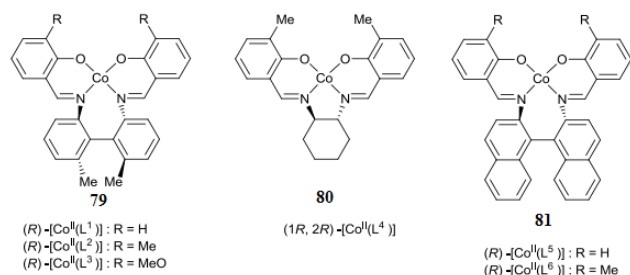
Addition of base increased the decomposition of H₂O₂ and yields dropped dramatically (< 5%). Hydrolysis of epoxides is a common problem in epoxidations using H₂O₂^{111,112}. Therefore pyridine is used as additional base and ligand in ruthenium catalyzed epoxidations¹¹³. Instead, addition of base (NaHCO₃ or triethylamine) did not lead to improved catalytic activity or suppression of epoxide hydrolysis.



Scheme 19: Decomposition of styrene oxide under conditions employed in catalytic Epoxidation reaction.

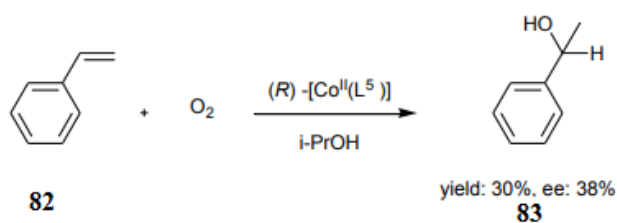
Hydroxylation of styrene

The metal complexes of chiral Schiff base ligands showed stereoselectivity in organic transformation like the hydroxylation of styrene: the enantioselective hydroxylation of styrene was the first organic reaction to involve a metal complex of a binaphthyl Schiff-base ligand as catalyst¹¹⁴. In 1988, Nishinaga and co-workers reported that (R) - $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^n)]$ ($n = 1, 6$) (**Scheme 20**) can catalyze hydroxylation of styrene with dioxygen¹¹⁵.



Scheme 20: Cobalt Schiff base complexes used as catalysts in oxygenation of styrene

The reactions were conducted in the presence of alcohol, affording optically active 1-phenylethanol in 30% yield and 38% ee for catalyst (R) - $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^5)]$ as more efficient one (**Scheme 21**).



Scheme 21: Hydroxylation of styrene with (R) - $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{L}^5)]$.

CONCLUSION

The present review paper gives an overview of catalysis properties of chiral Schiff base metal complexes synthesized and used in various reactions. The compounds synthesized from the Chiral amines and their metal complexes are useful for many applications such as Diels–Alder reaction, Epoxidation reaction, Oxidation reaction, Heck reaction, Michael addition, Aldol condensation reaction, Polymerization reaction, Hydrogenation reaction, Hydrogenation of imine, Hydrogenation of Ketone, Hydrogenation of alkene and alkyne, Ring opening reaction of epoxide, Cyclopropanation reaction, Decomposition of hydrogen peroxide, C-C, C-H and C-Metal Bond formation, Epoxide Decomposition and

Hydroxylation of styrene etc. In some cases these chiral Schiff base serves to build a chemical skeleton for many intermediates. Thus, this review may be useful to many researchers for further developments of catalysis properties of chiral Schiff base metal complexes and useful to study their varied reactions in near future.

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