

# **Bioinspired Chemistry with Proline-rich Peptides**

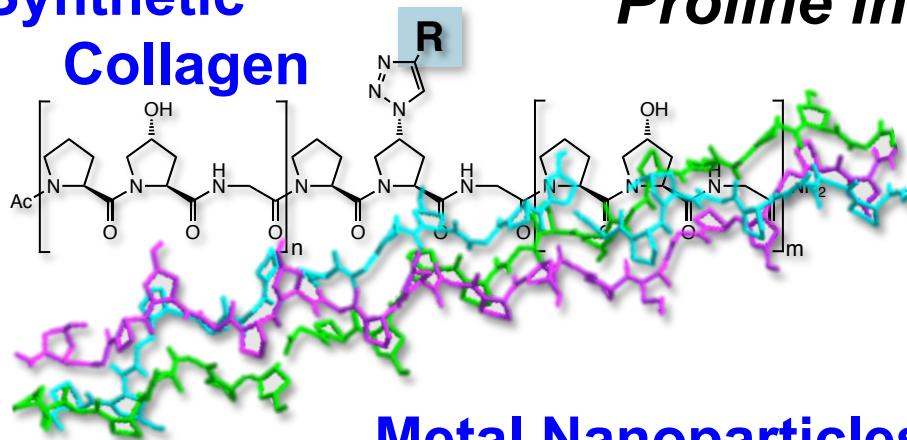
**Ischia Advanced School of Organic Chemistry**

**Lacco Ameno, Ischia, September 27<sup>th</sup> 2016**



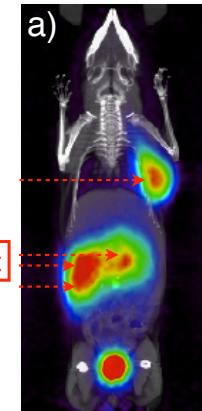
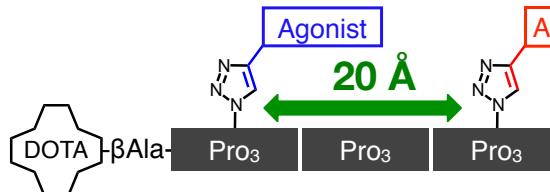
Helma Wennemers  
Laboratorium für Organische Chemie  
ETH Zürich, Schweiz

# Synthetic Collagen

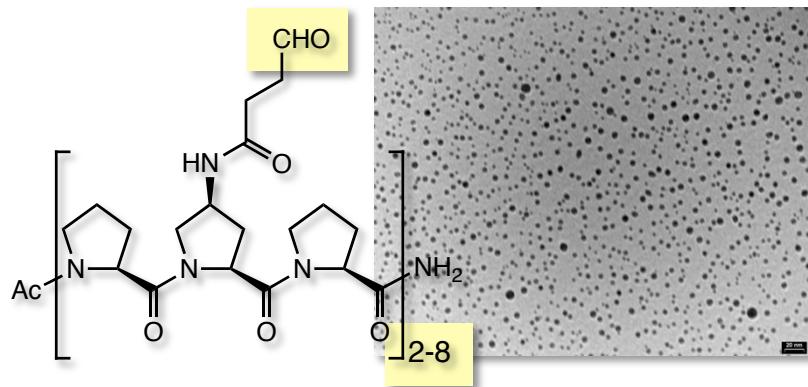


# ***Proline in the Wennemers Lab***

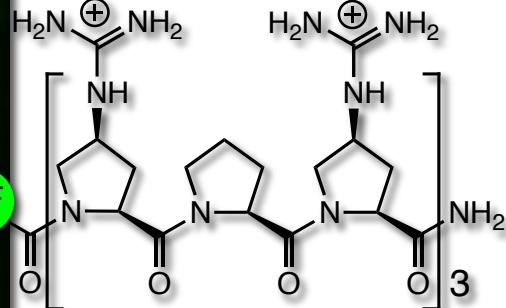
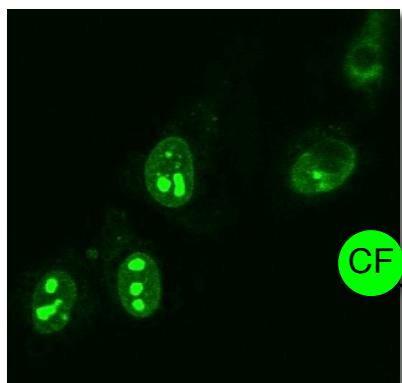
# Tumor Targeting



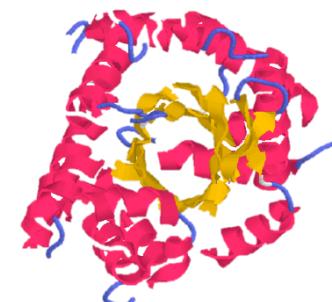
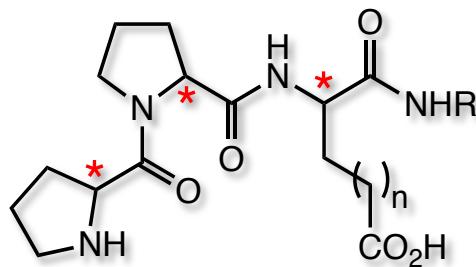
# Metal Nanoparticles



# Cell-Penetration

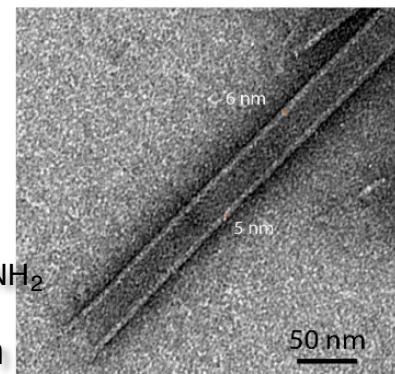
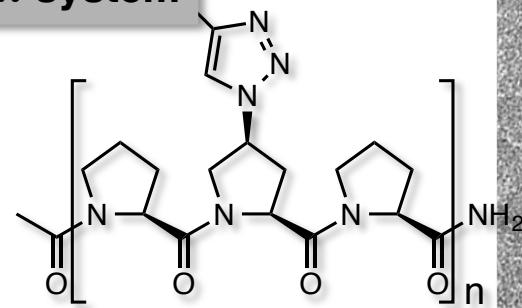


## Asymmetric Catalysis



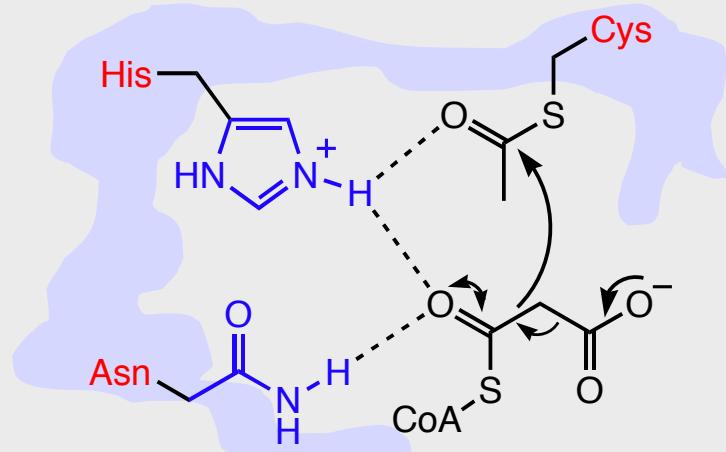
# Supramolecular Assemblies

## **$\pi$ -system**

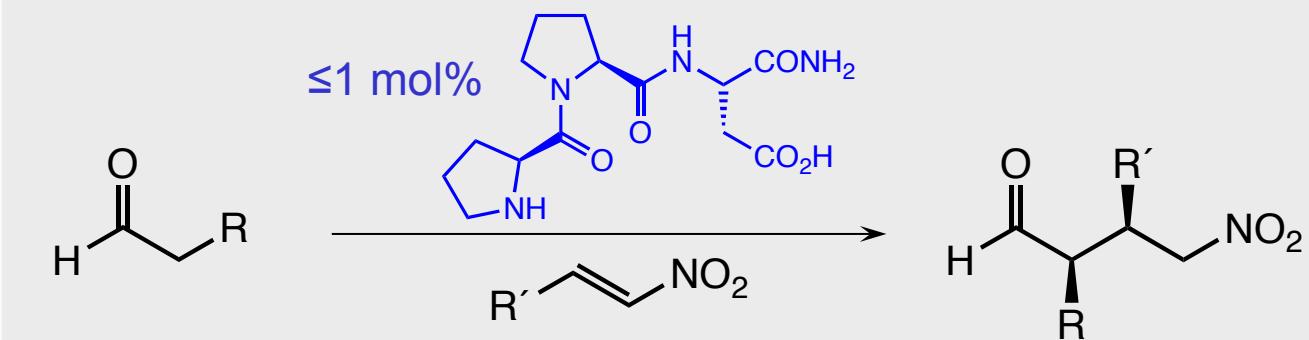


# Bioinspired Catalysis

## Catalysis Inspired by Polyketide Synthases

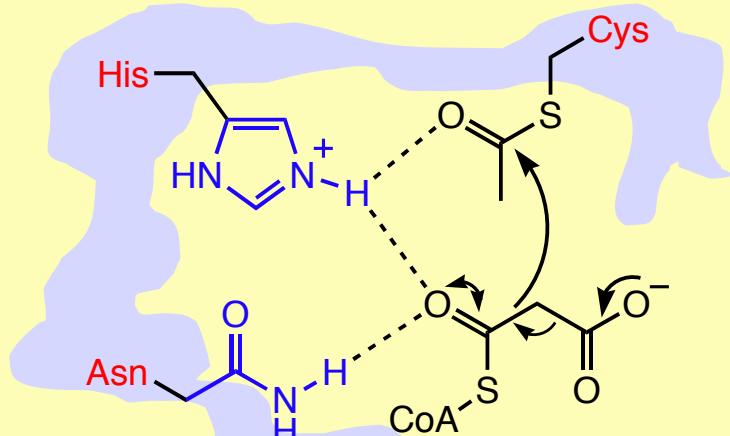


## Catalytically Active Peptides

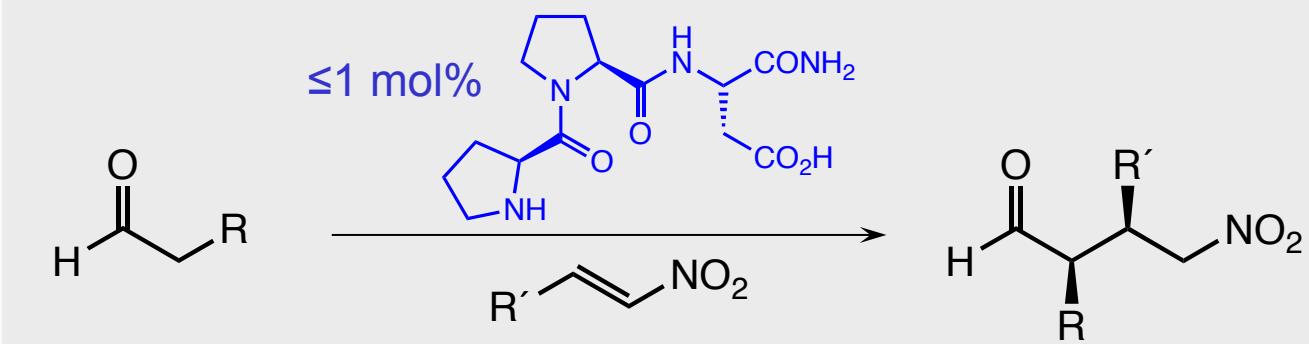


# Bioinspired Catalysis

## Catalysis Inspired by Polyketide Synthases

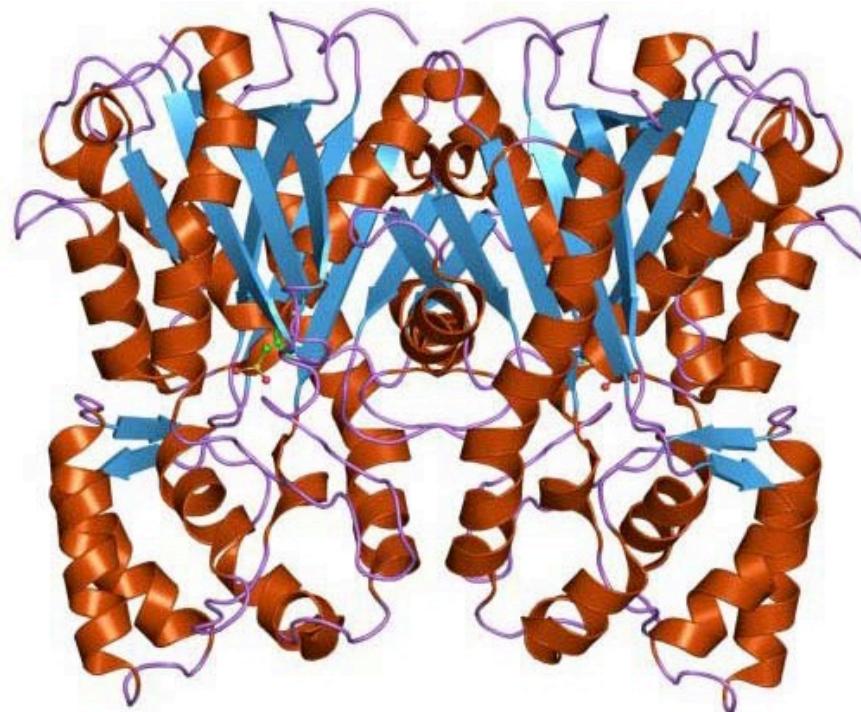
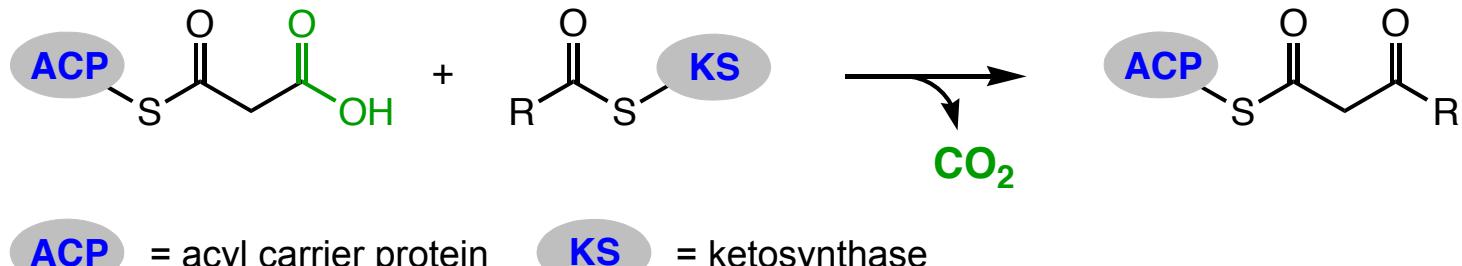


## Catalytically Active Peptides



# Catalysis Inspired by Polyketide Synthases

Polyketide and fatty acid biosynthesis



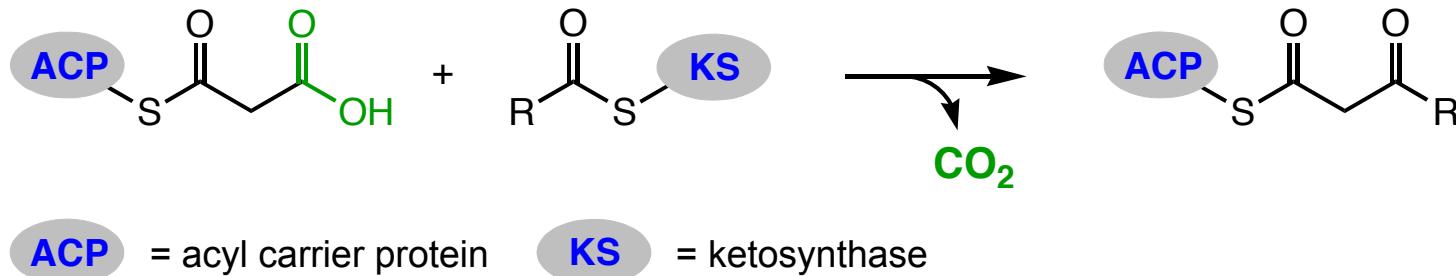
Type III Polyketide Synthase

40 – 45 kDa

S. Moore, J.P. Noel et al.,  
*J. Biol. Chem.* **2004**, 43, 45162.

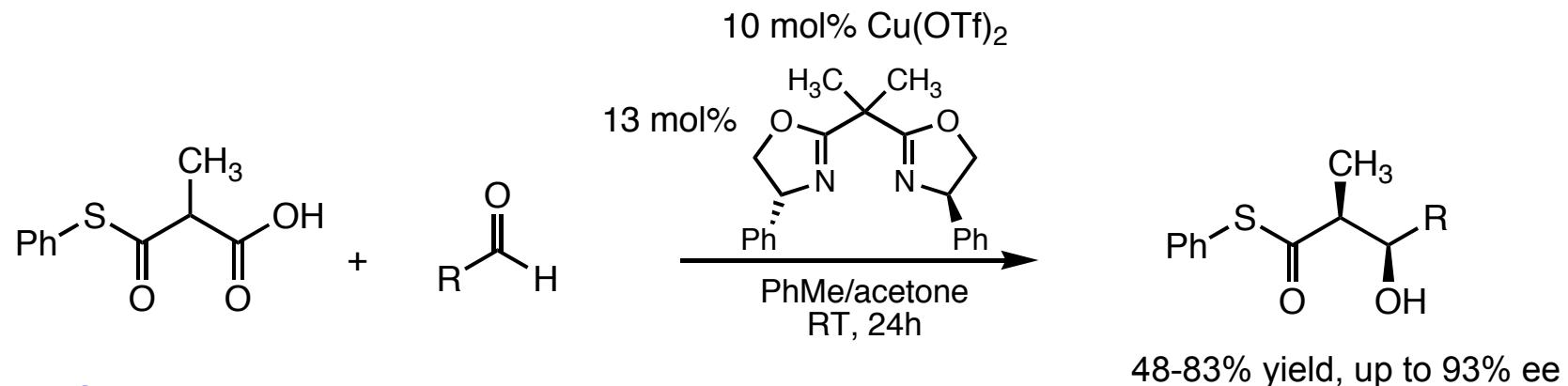
# Catalysis Inspired by Polyketide Synthases

## Polyketide and fatty acid biosynthesis



## Synthetic, metal-catalyzed variants

Knoevenagel and Claisen Condensations: [Kobuke \(1978\)](#), [Matile \(2000\)](#), [Thomas \(2006\)](#)  
Aldol reaction: [Cozzi \(2004\)](#)

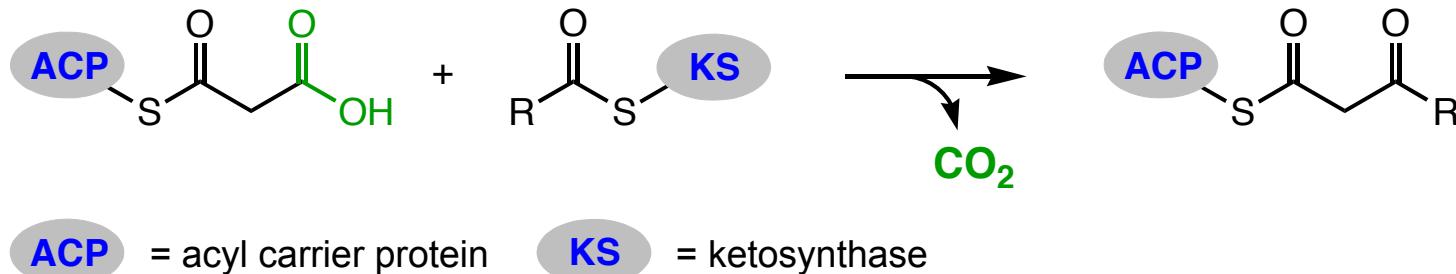


M. D. Shair and coworkers:

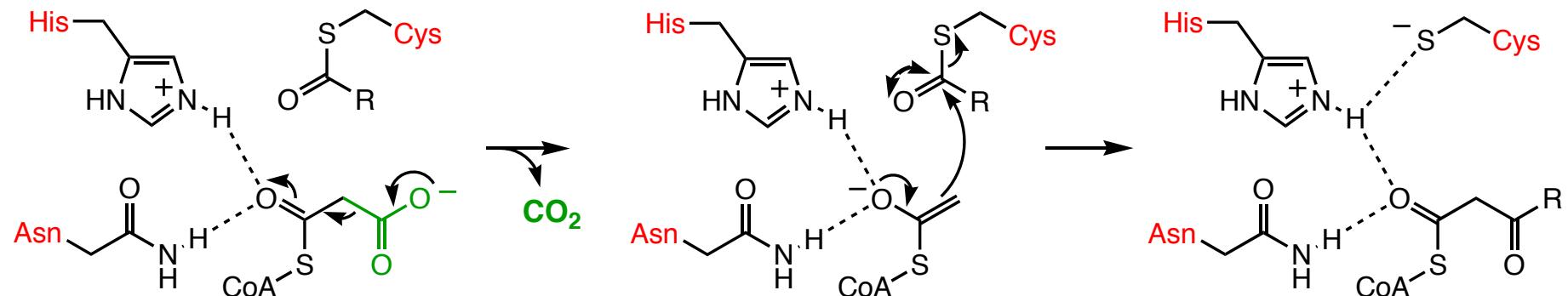
*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2007**, *129*, 1032; *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2005**, *127*, 7284; *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2003**, *125*, 2852.

# Active Site of Polyketide Synthases

polyketide and fatty acid biosynthesis

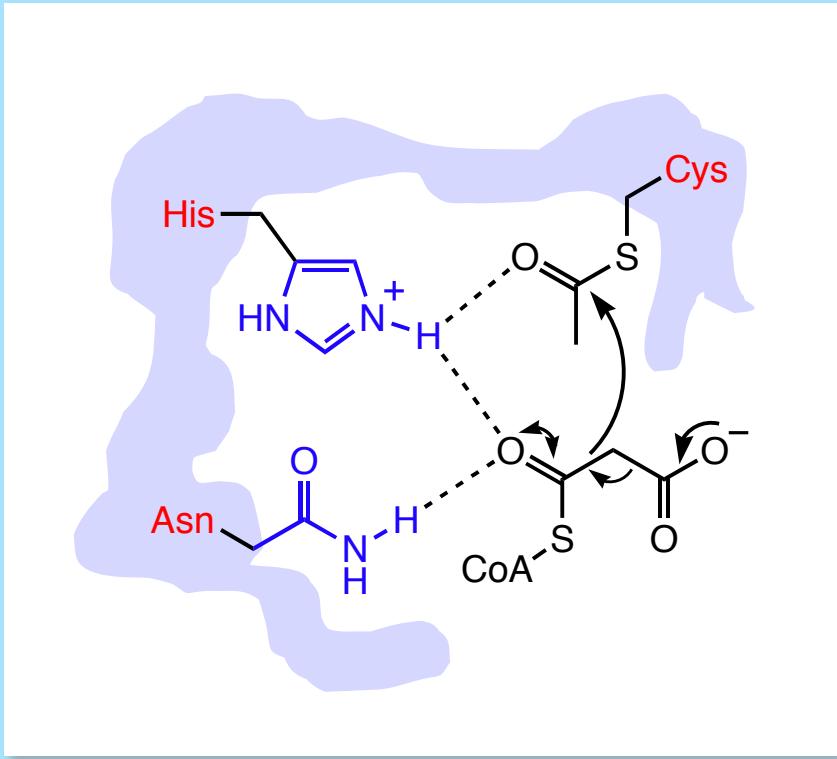


In the active site: catalytic triad Cys-His-Asn/His

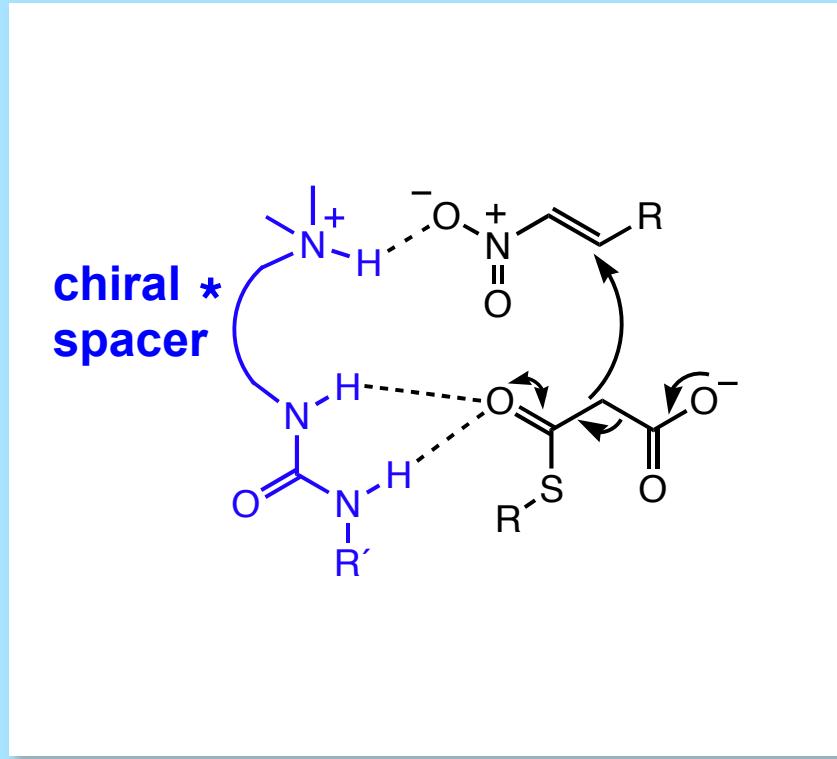


from: B.S. Moore, J.P. Noel et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* **2004**, 279, 45162.

# A Polyketide Synthase Inspired Organocatalyst?

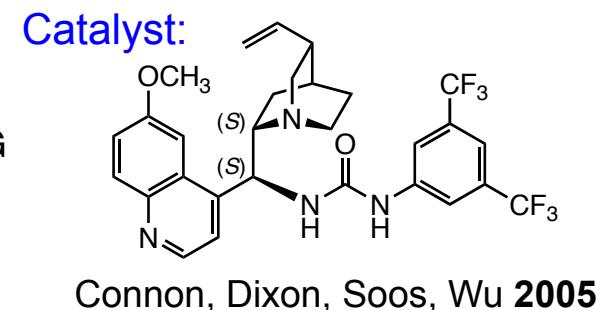
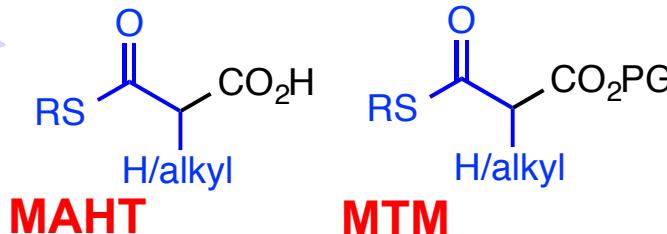
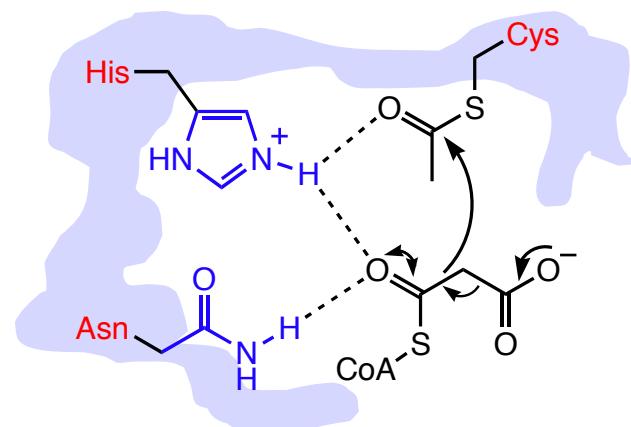


active site of polyketide synthases

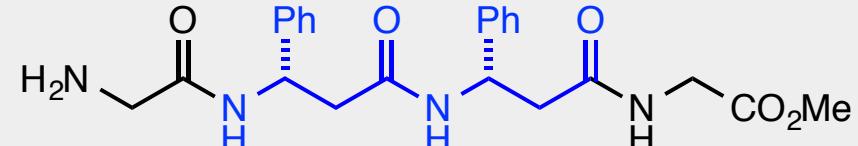
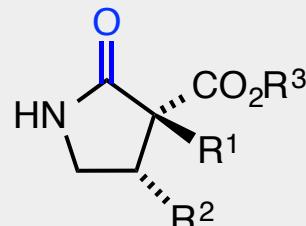
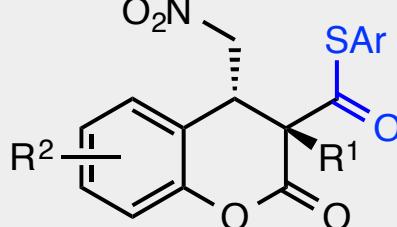
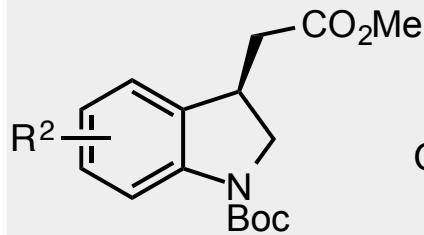
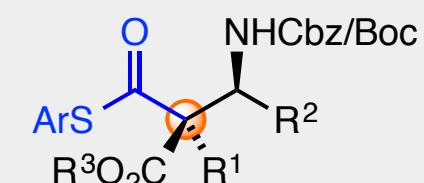
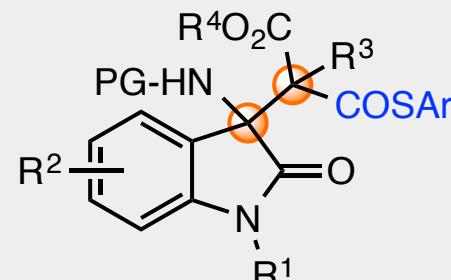
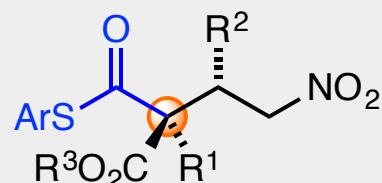


synthetic catalyst ?

# Thioesterenolate Chemistry Inspired by Polyketide Synthases

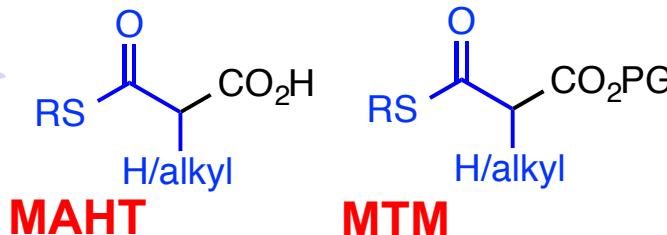
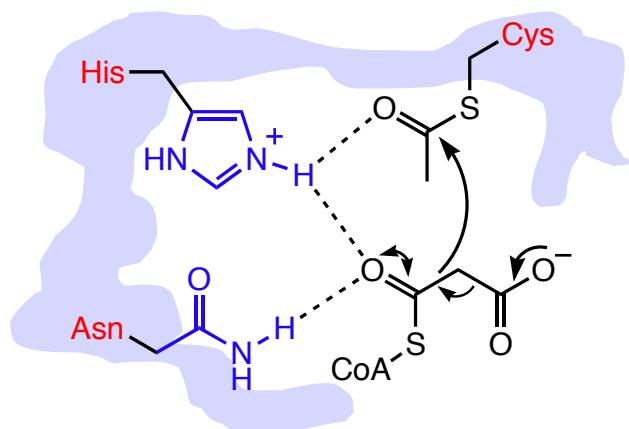


**Examples:**



with Jana Lubkoll, Paolo Clerici, Yukihiro Arakawa, Andrej Kolarovic, Sven Fritz, Oliver Engl  
 ACIE 2007, 6841. OBC 2012, 110. JOC 2014, 3937. ACIE 2014, 8779. OL 2014, 4236. OL 2014, 5454. ACIE 2015, 8193.

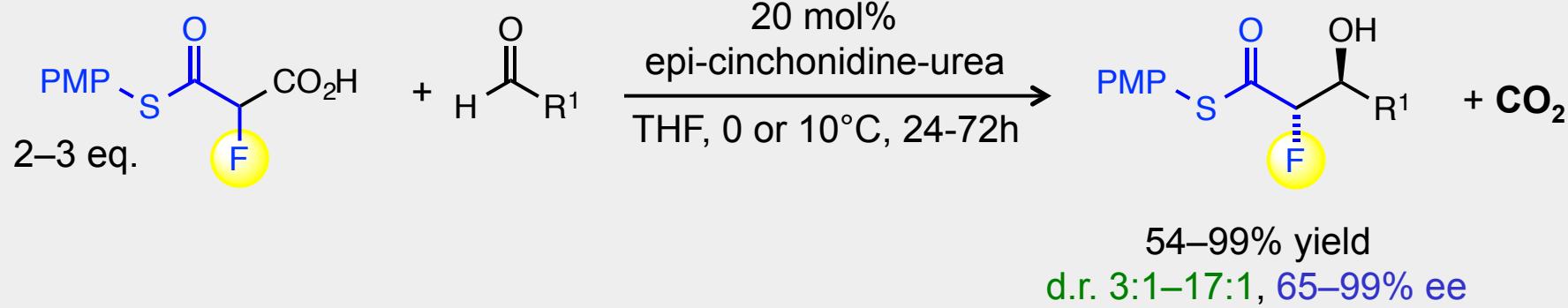
# **Thioesterenolate Chemistry Inspired by Polyketide Synthases**



**Catalyst:**

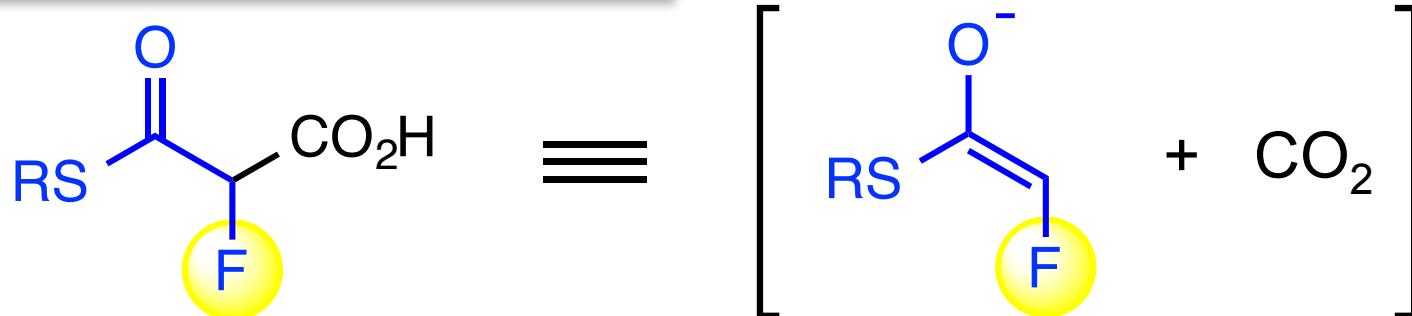
**ACIE** 2007, 6841. **OBC** 2012, 110. **JOC** 2014, 3937. **ACIE** 2014, 8779. **OL** 2014, 4236. **OL** 2014, 5454. **ACIE** 2015, 8193.

## Enantioselective aldol reactions with fluoroacetate

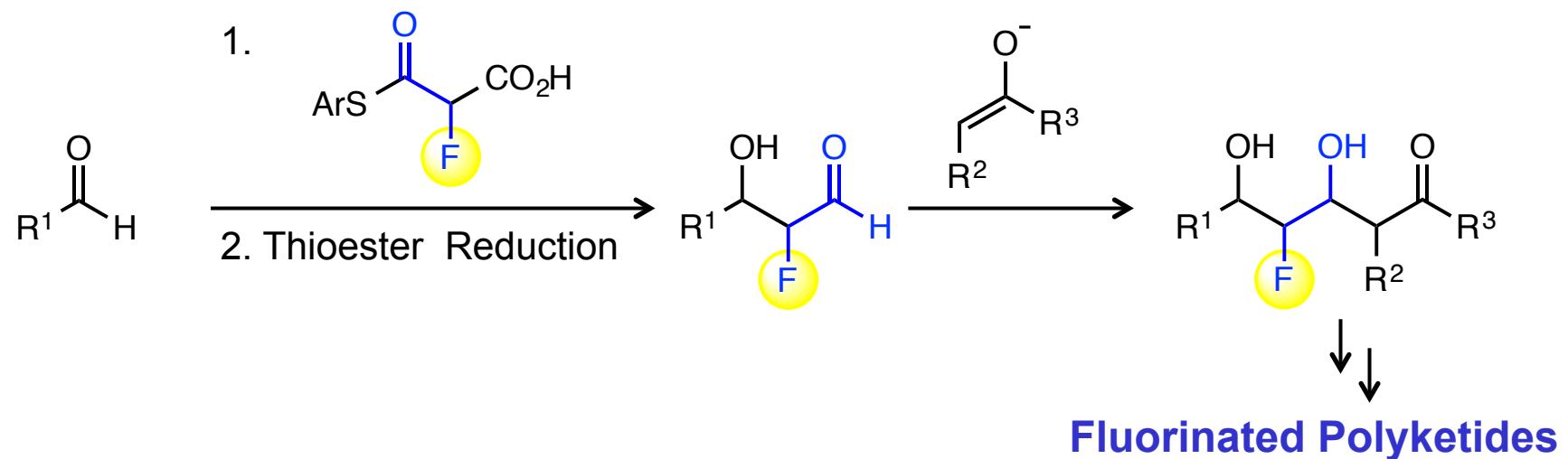


J. Saadi, H.W. *Nat. Chem.* **2016**, *8*, 276.

## Synthon for Fluoroacetate

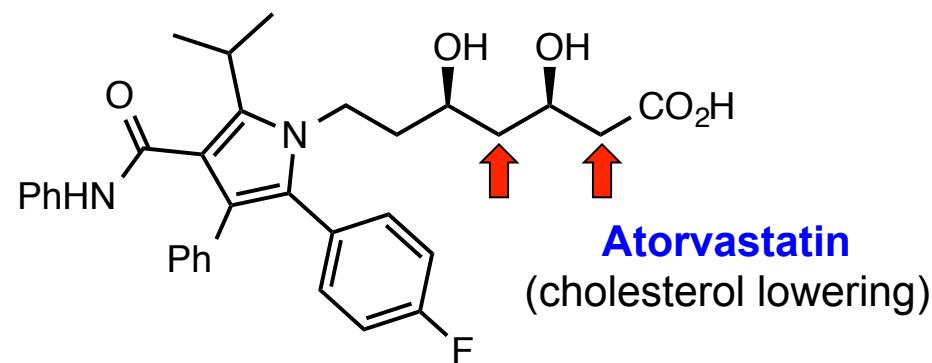
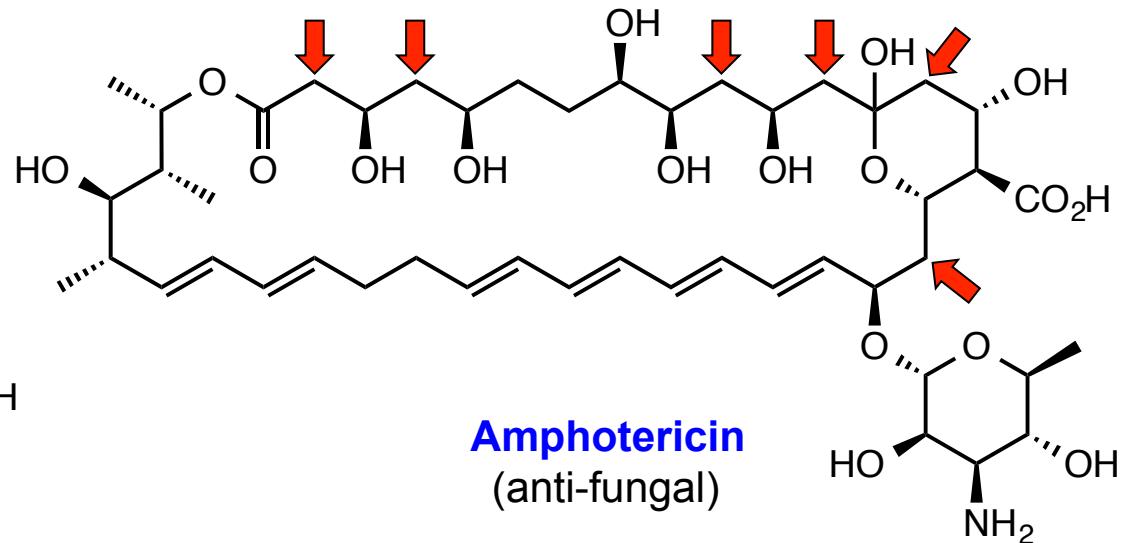
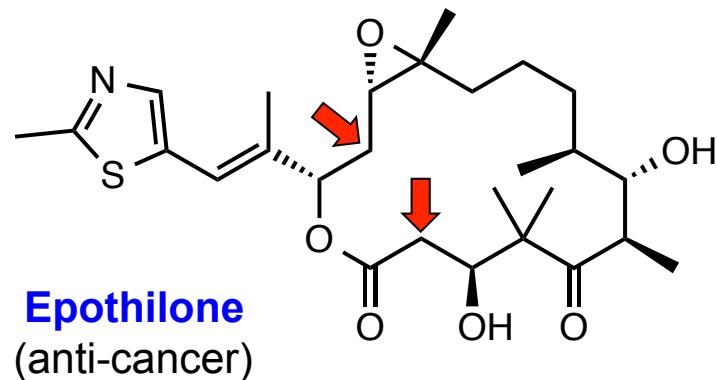


## Synthon for Fluoroacetaldehyde

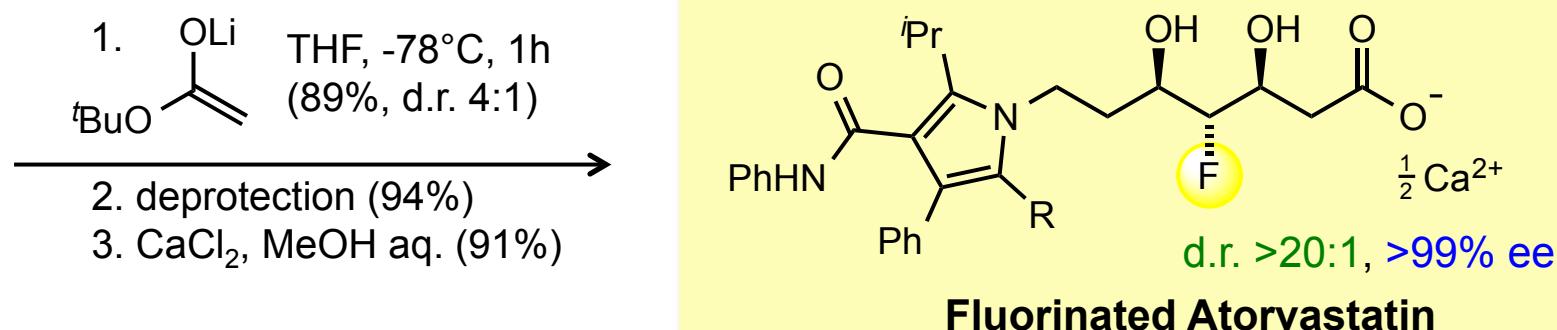
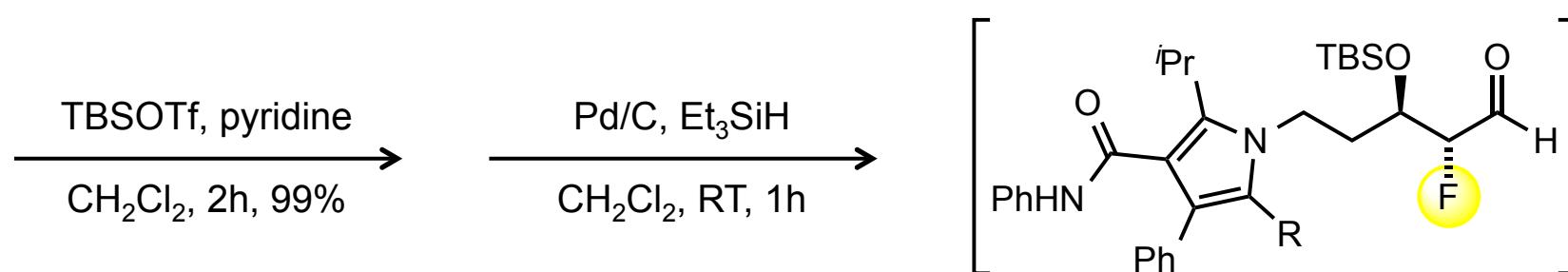
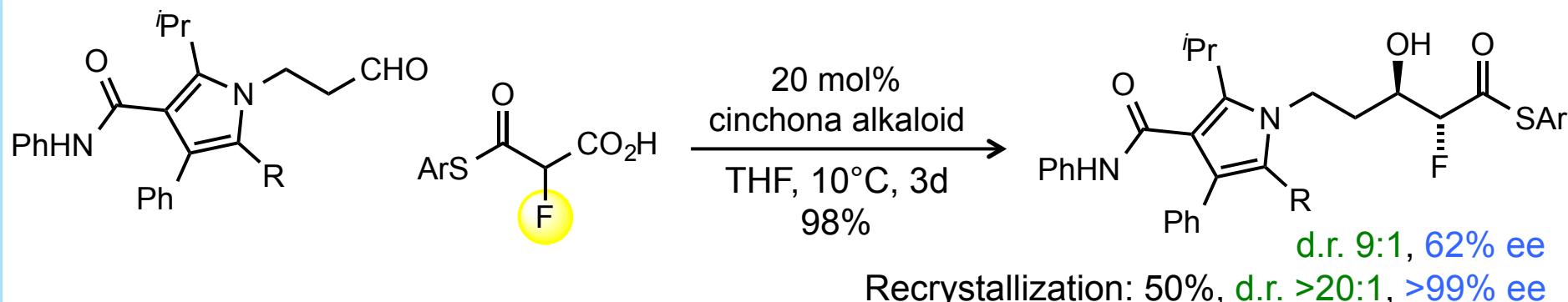


# Acetate Derived Compounds

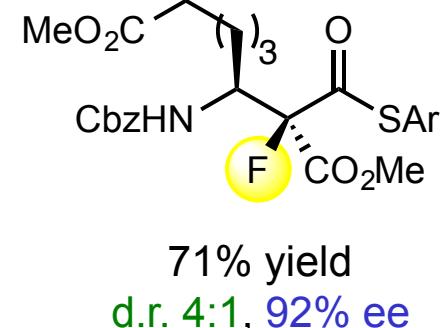
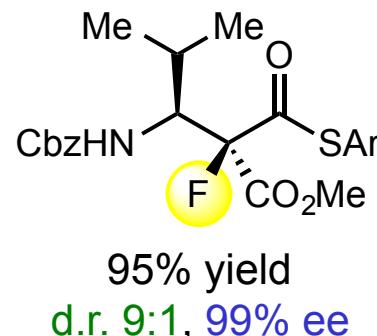
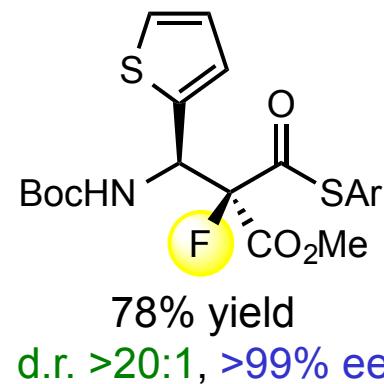
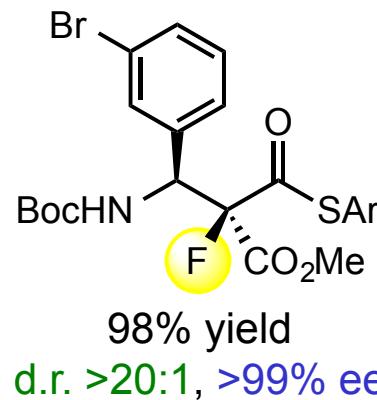
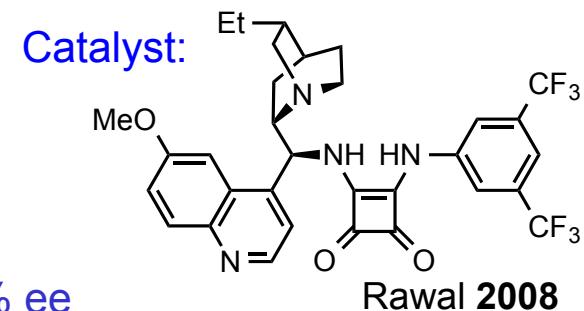
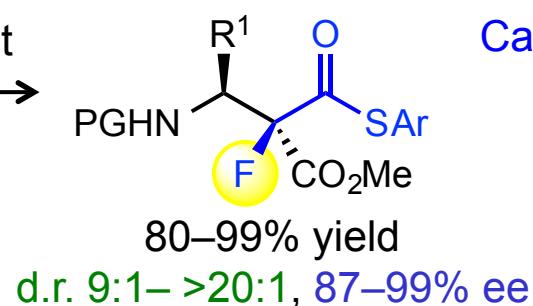
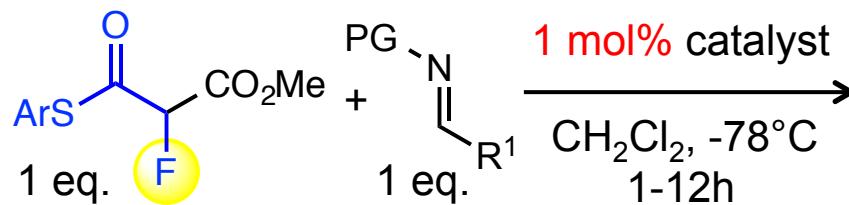
...many more examples



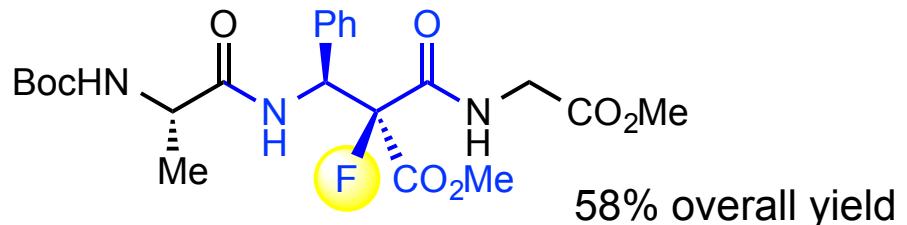
# Synthesis of Fluorinated Atorvastatin



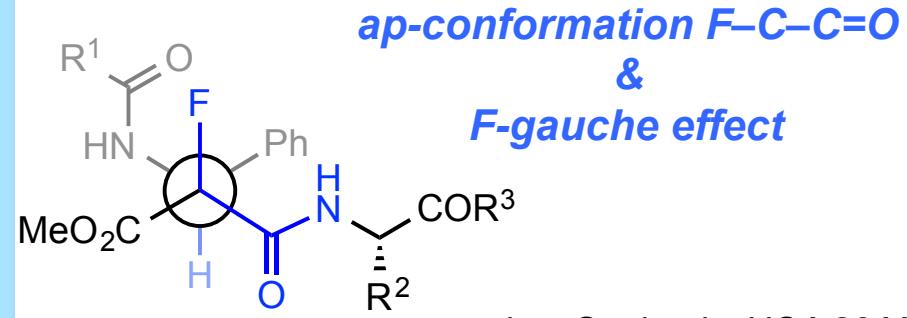
# Stereoselective Synthesis of $\alpha$ -Fluorinated $\beta$ -Amino Acids



**coupling reagent free peptide synthesis**



**conformational control**



## Inspiration from Polyketide Synthases

**MAHT and MTM = Thioester Enolate Equivalents**

- Mild, organocatalytic asymmetric reactions
- Low catalyst loadings, clean reactions, scalable

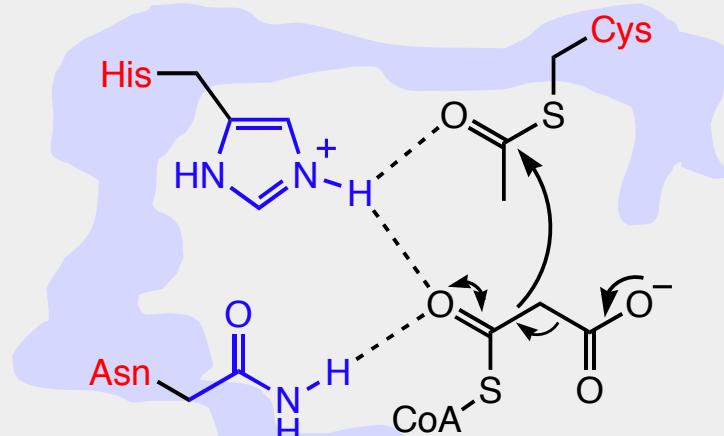
Natural Enzyme and  
Building Blocks



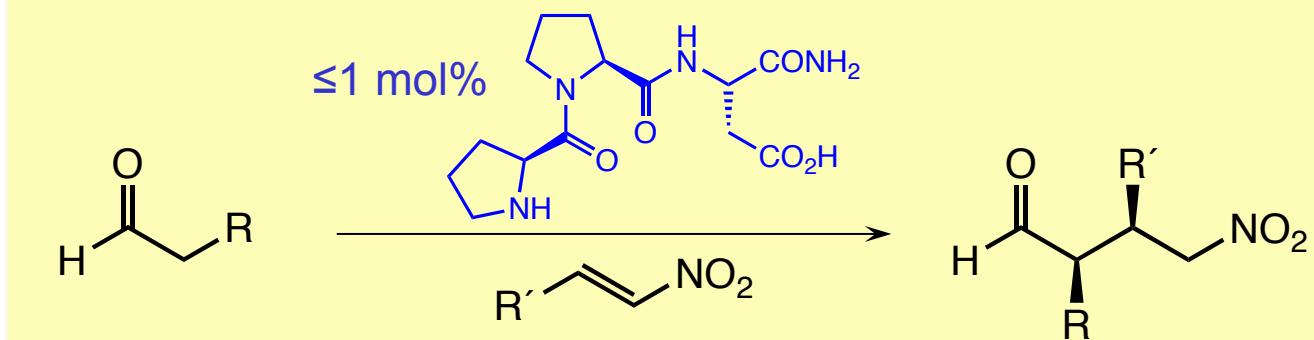
Synthetic Methodology

# Bioinspired Catalysis

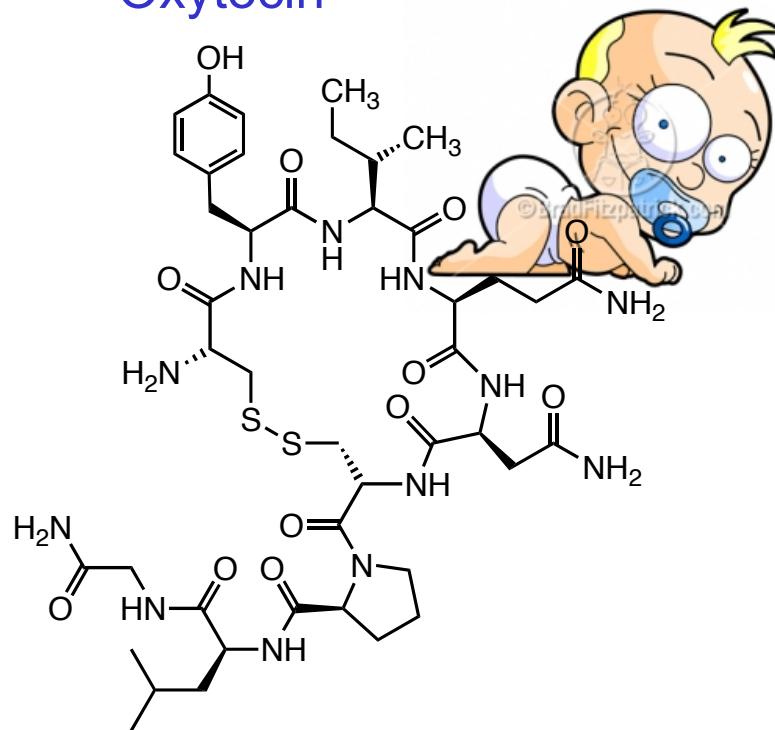
## Catalysis Inspired by Polyketide Synthases



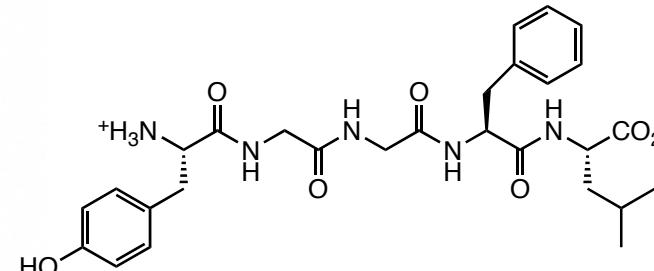
## Catalytically Active Peptides



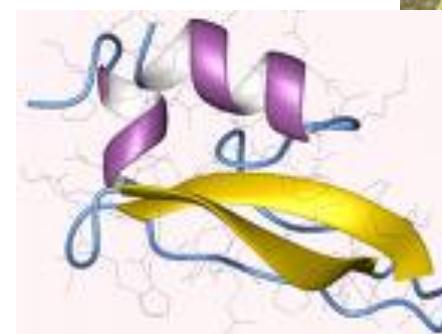
### Oxytocin



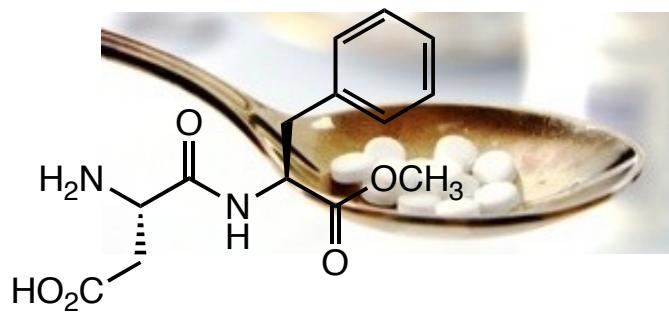
### Enkephalines



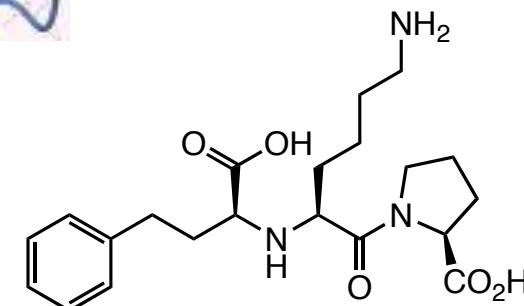
### Dendrotoxin



### Aspartam

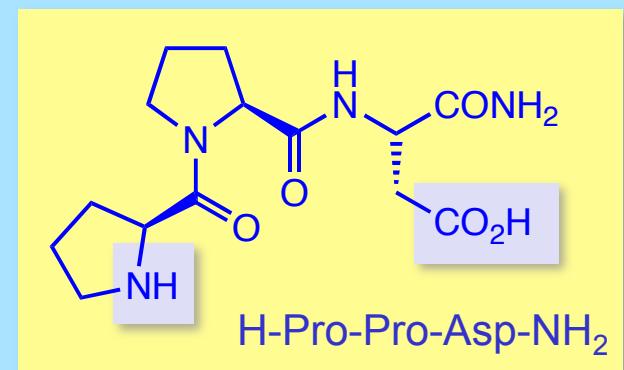
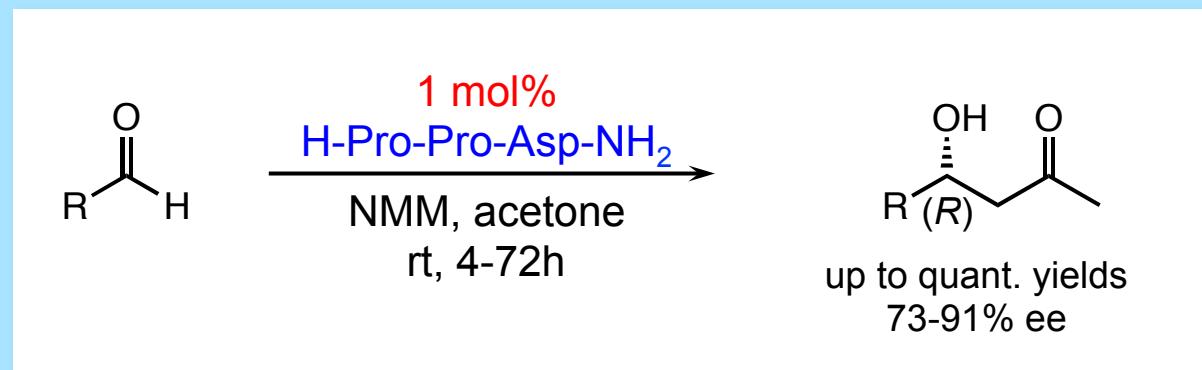
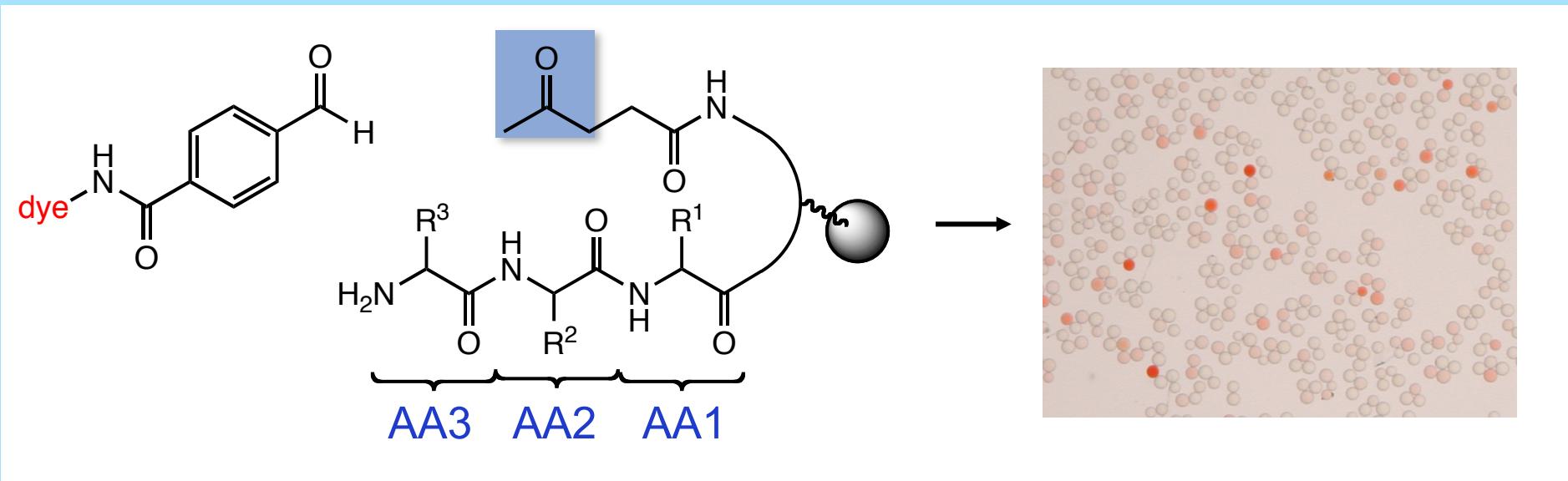


### Lisinopril



Numerous functions but not a single naturally occurring catalytically active peptide known

# Screening Peptides for Catalysts of Aldol Reactions



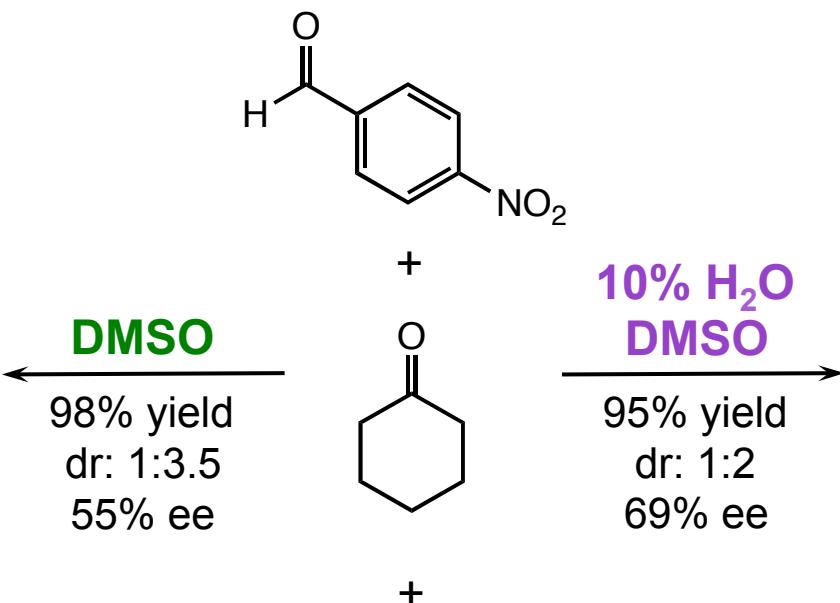
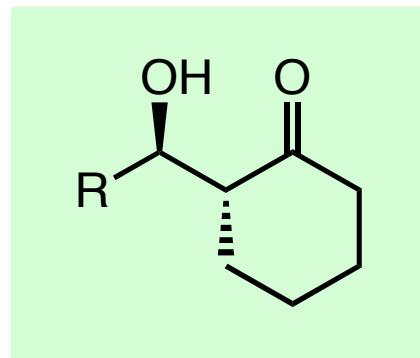
- Significantly higher activity compared to proline (30 mol% of Pro necessary)

Krattiger, McCarthy, Pfaltz, H.W., *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2003**, 42, 1722.

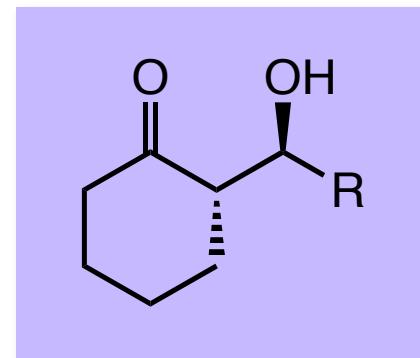
Krattiger, Kovasy, Revell, Ivan, H.W., *OL* **2005**, 7, 1101. Revell, H.W., *Tetrahedron* **2007**, 63, 8420 & *ASC* **2008**, 350, 1046.

# Opposite Enantioselectivities in Different Solvents

(R,S)-enantiomer

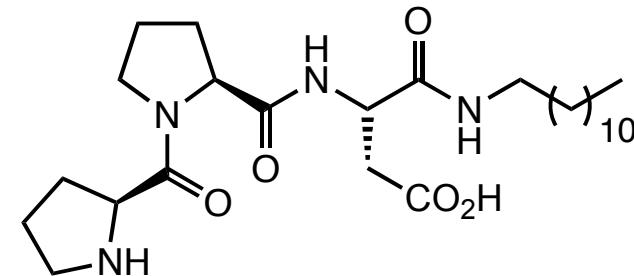
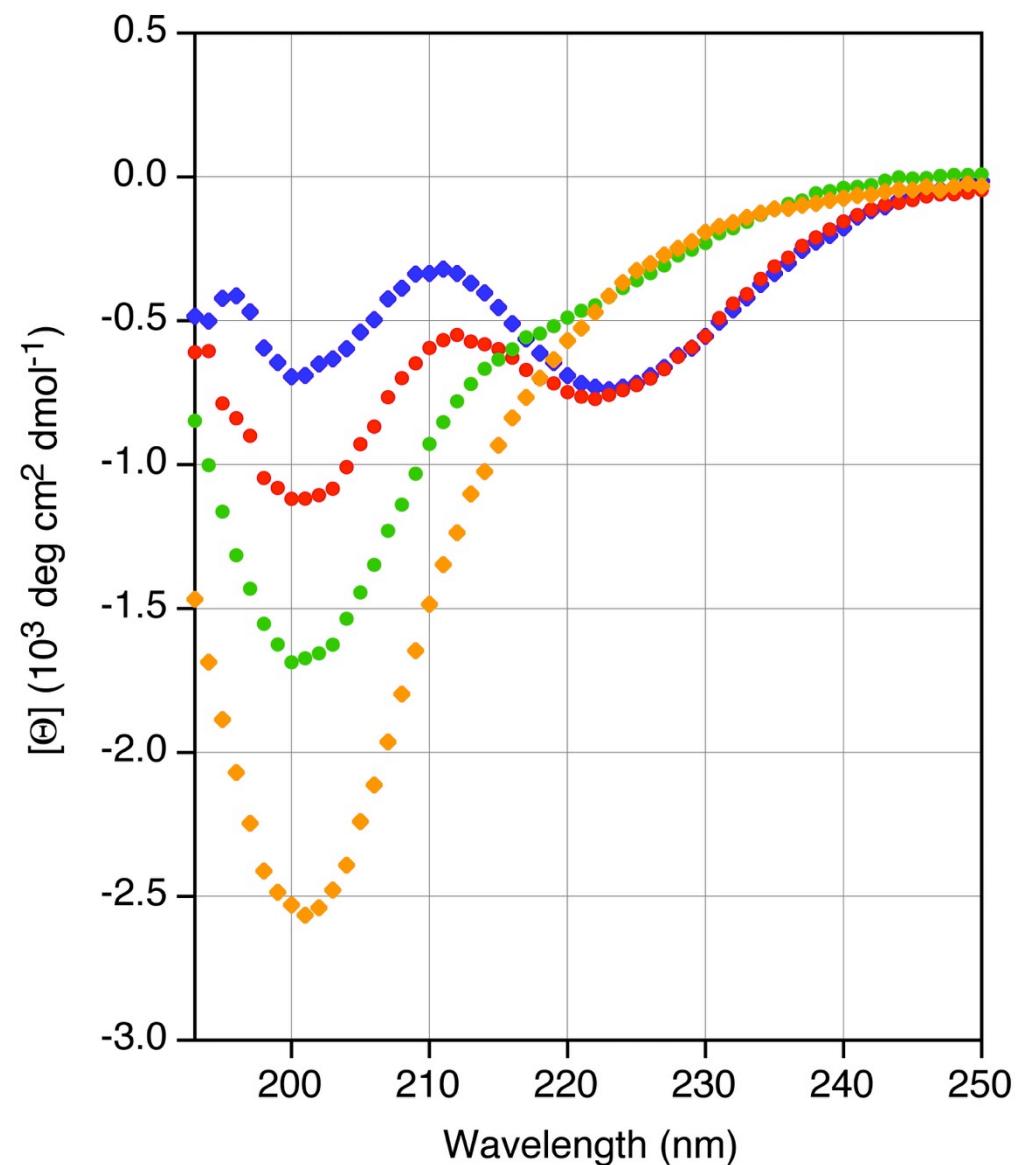


(S,R)-enantiomer



5 mol%  
H-Pro-Pro-Asp-NHC<sub>12</sub>H<sub>25</sub>

# CD-Spectra of H-Pro-Pro-Asp-NH<sub>2</sub> in Different Solvents



MeOH

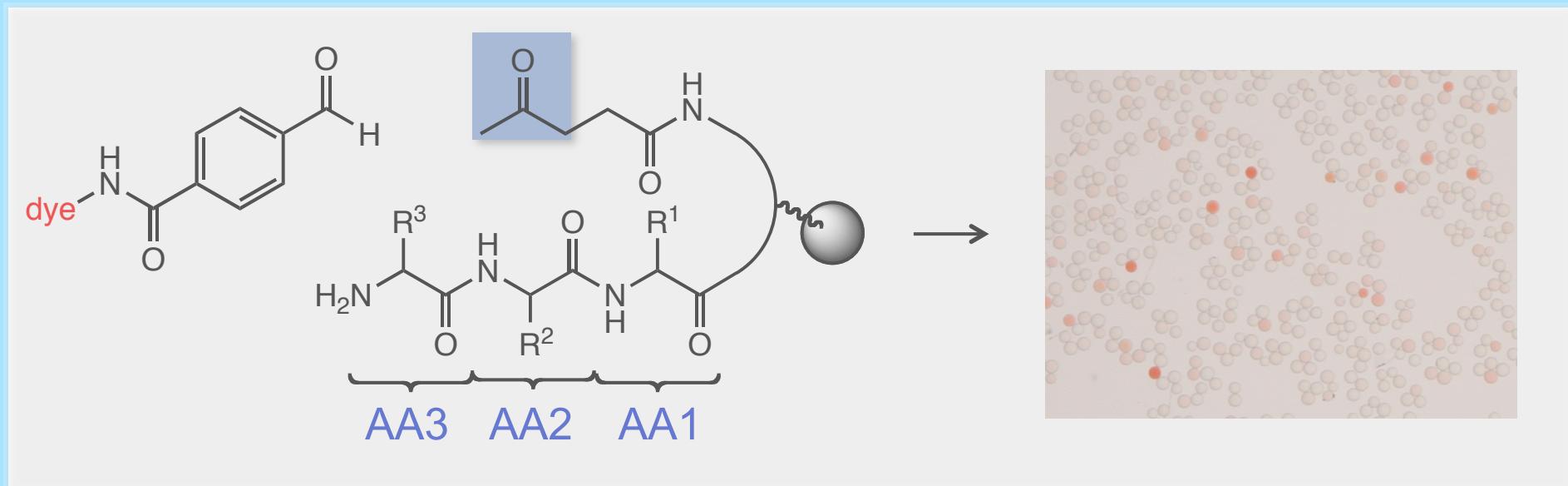
10% H<sub>2</sub>O in MeOH

50% H<sub>2</sub>O in MeOH

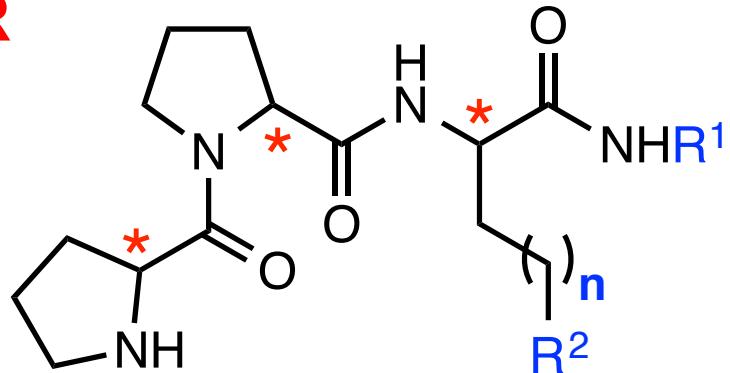
Water

Different conformations are adopted in different solvents

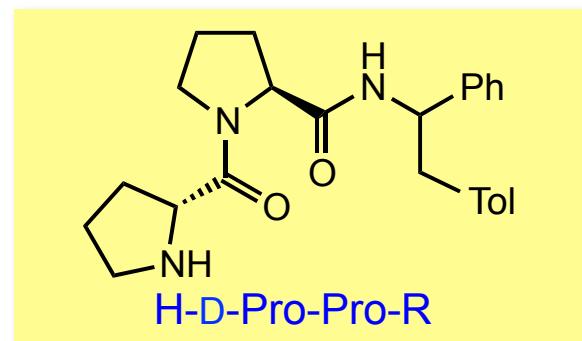
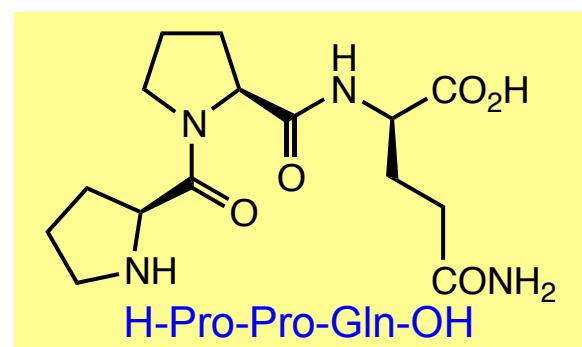
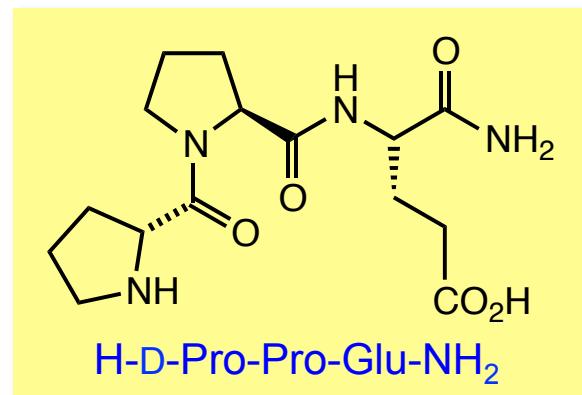
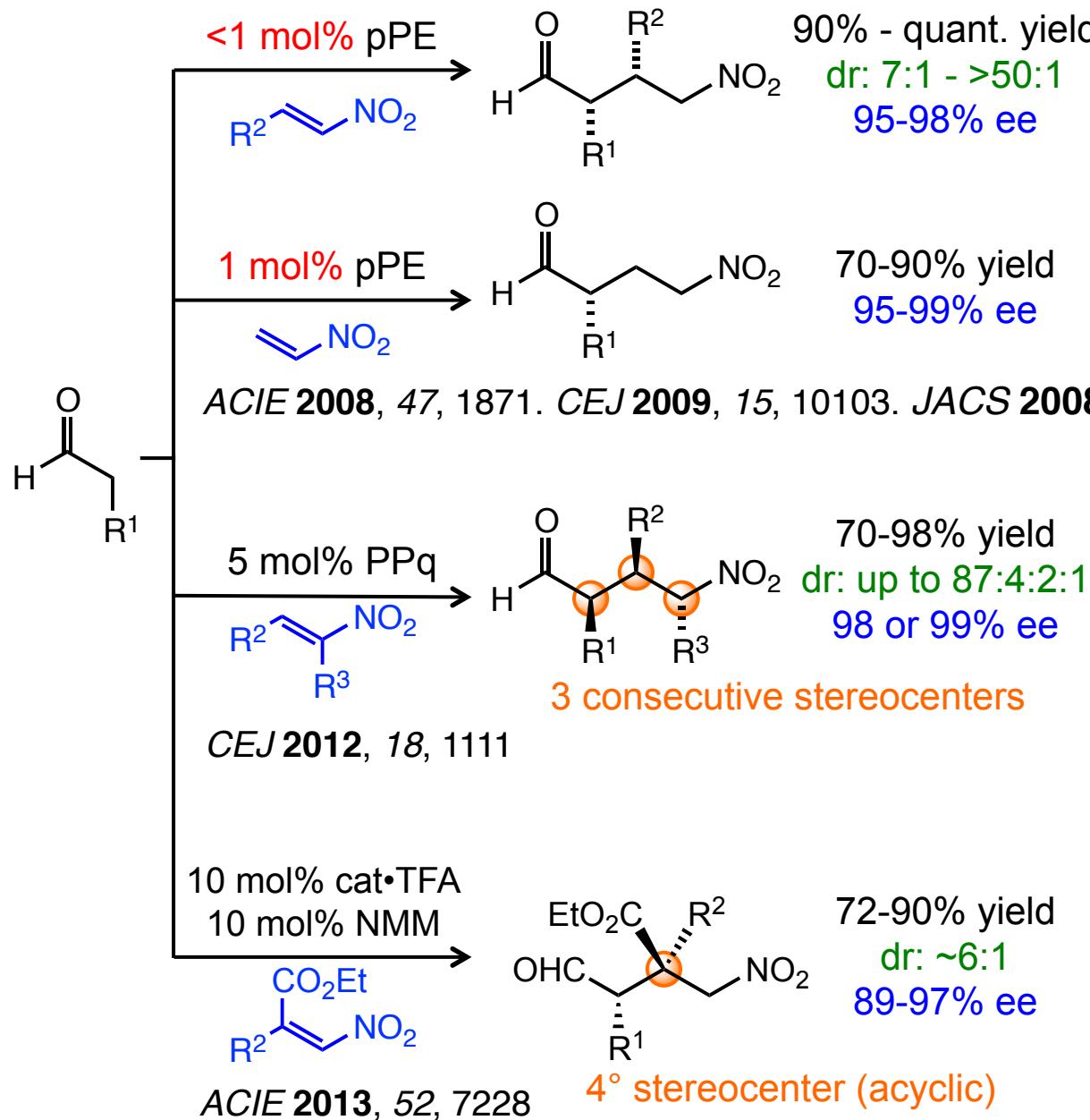
# Combinatorial Chemistry – H-Pro-Pro-Xaa-R



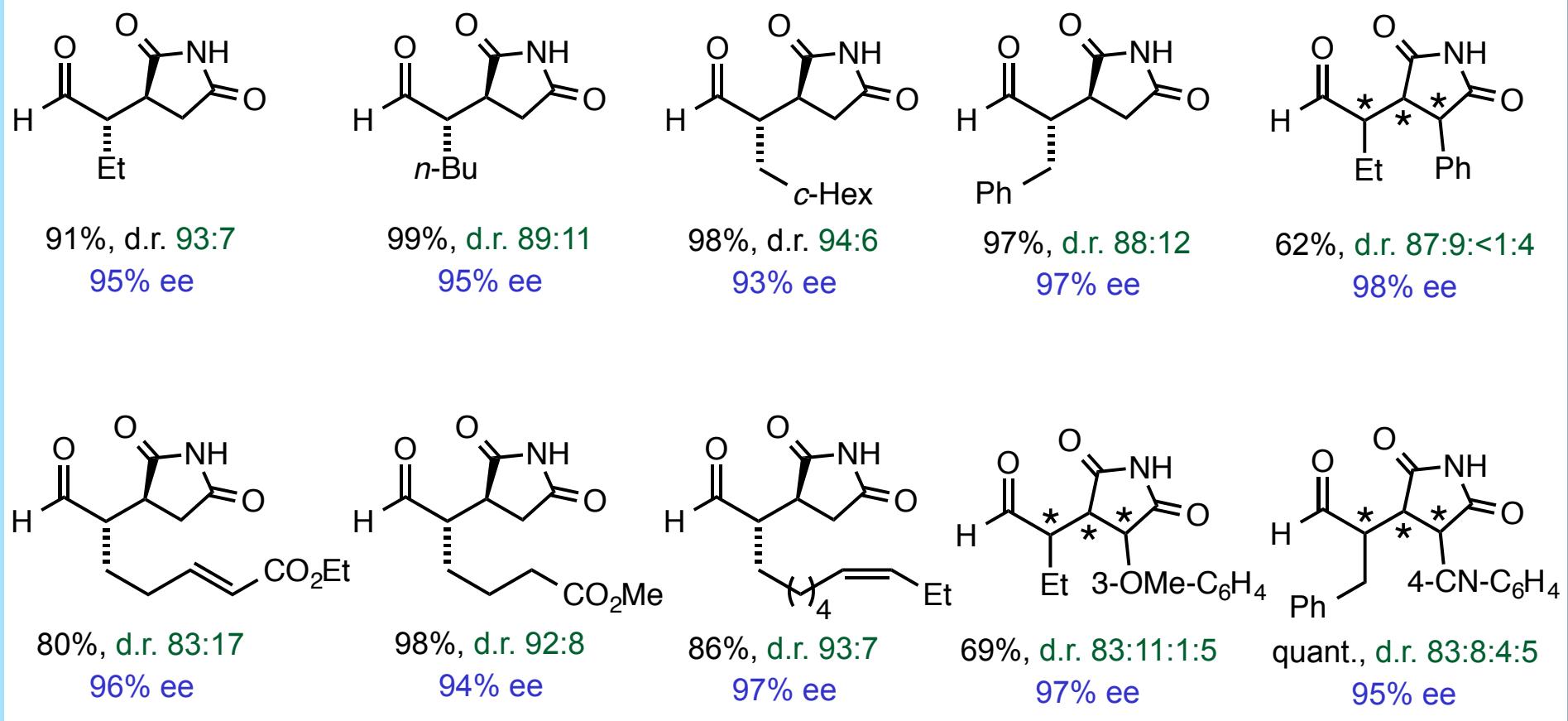
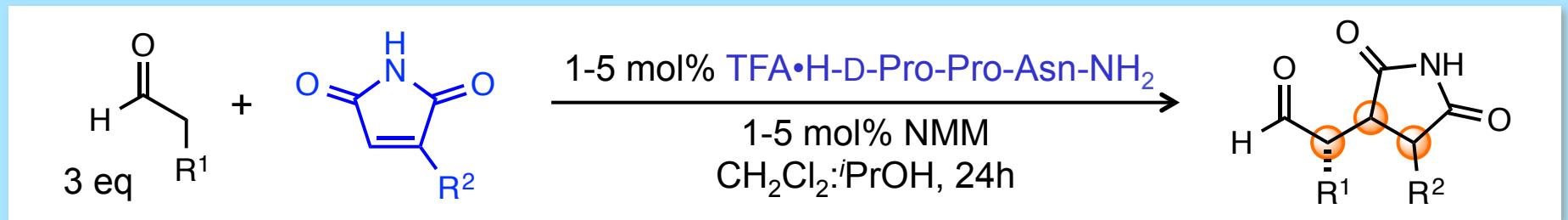
**H-Pro-Pro-Xaa-R**



# Tailored Peptidic Catalysts

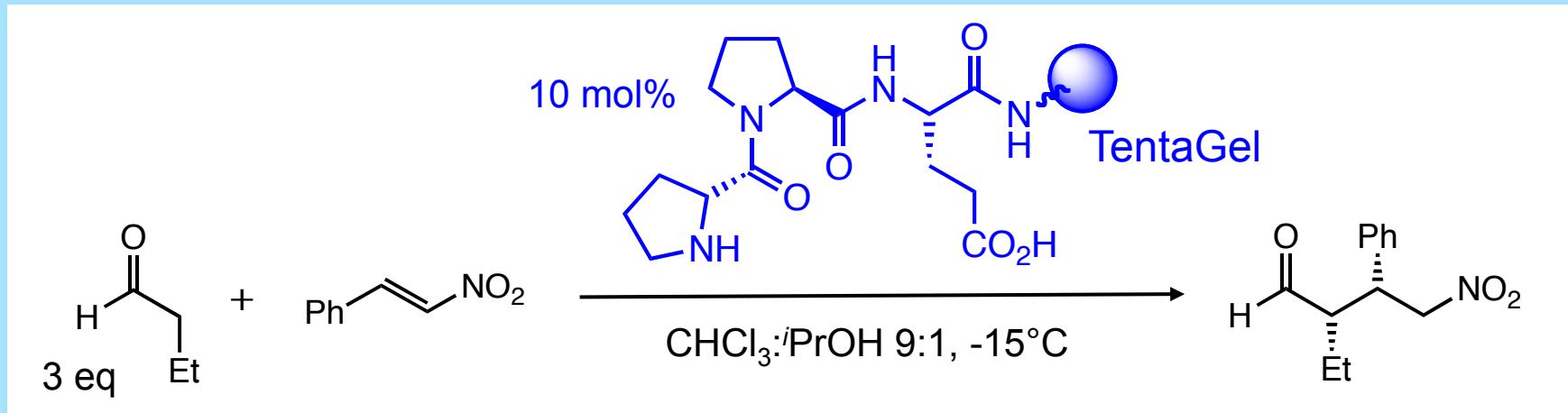


# Maleimides as Electrophiles



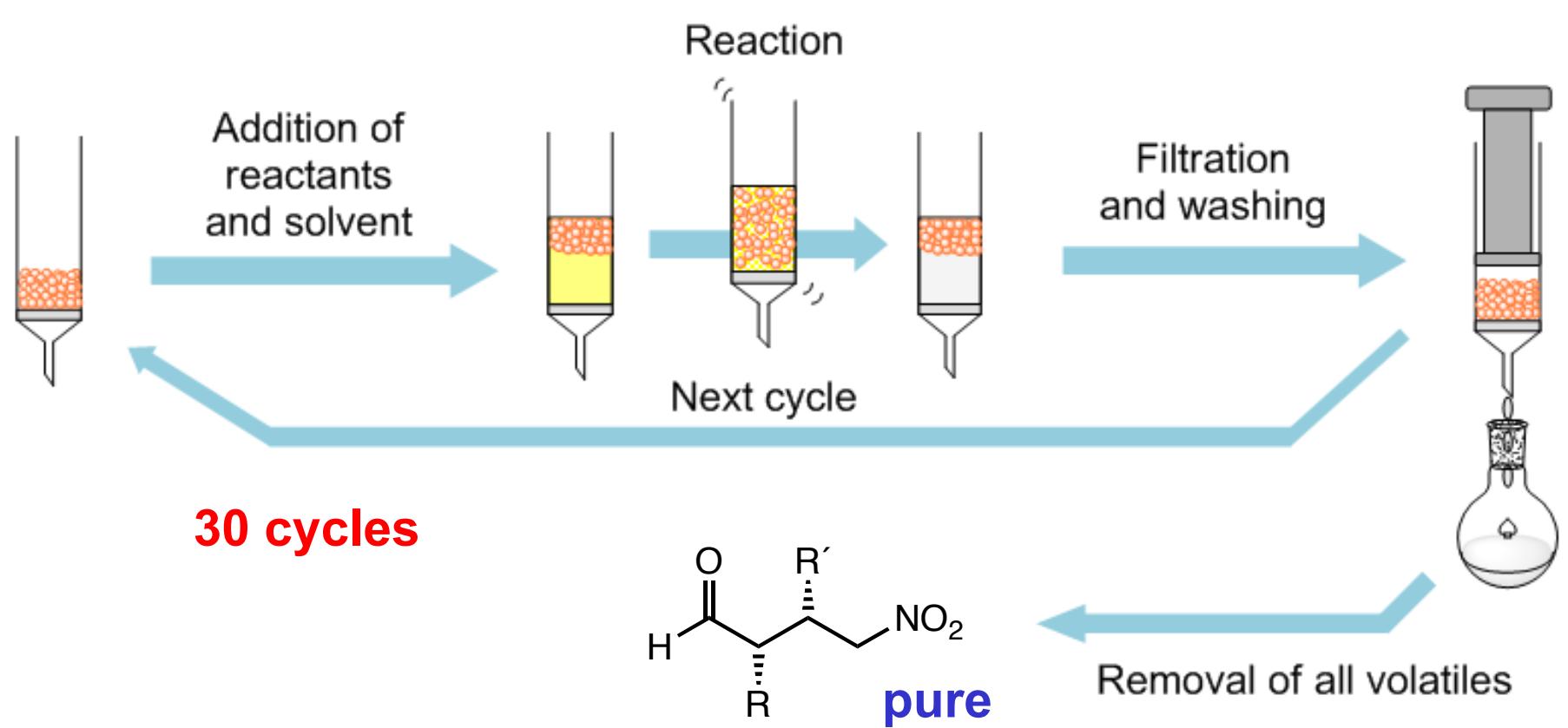
Claudio Grünfelder

# Solid-supported H-D-Pro-Pro-Glu-NH-TentaGel



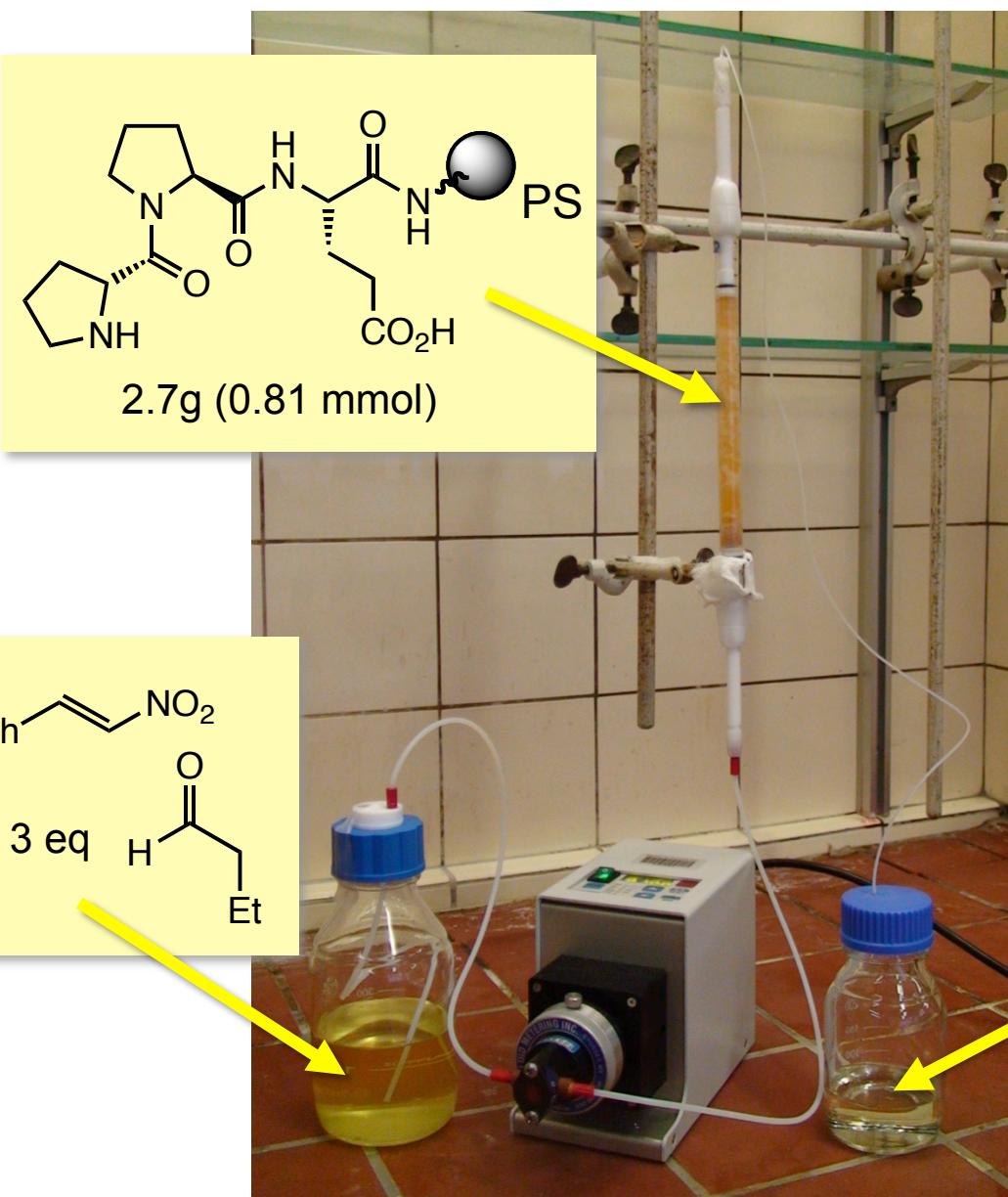
|   |        |                 |                               |
|---|--------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> cycle                     | 20h    | >99% yield      | <i>syn:anti</i> >99:1, 96% ee |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> cycle  | 20-24h | 96 – >99% yield | <i>syn:anti</i> >99:1, 96% ee |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> cycle | 20-24h | quant. conv.    | not determined                |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> cycle                    | 23h    | >99% yield      | <i>syn:anti</i> >99:1, 96% ee |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> cycle | 20-24h | 97 – >99% yield | <i>syn:anti</i> >99:1, 96% ee |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> cycle                    | 24h    | 99% conv.       | <i>syn:anti</i> >99:1, 96% ee |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> cycle | 24-36h | 99 – >99% yield | <i>syn:anti</i> >99:1, 96% ee |

# H-D-Pro-Pro-Glu-NH-TentaGel



- Correct elemental analysis
- No chromatographic purification

# Enamine Catalysis in Flow



Flow rate 0.23 ml/min at RT

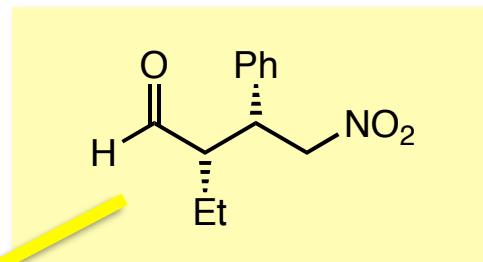
33 h: 40.6 g (95% conv.)

*syn:anti* = 25:1, 95% ee

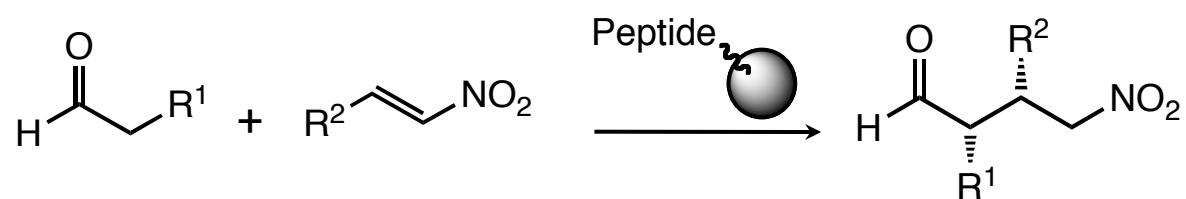
TON = 222

## Recrystallization (unoptimized)

24 g, *syn:anti* >99:1, 99% ee



# Enamine Catalysis in Flow

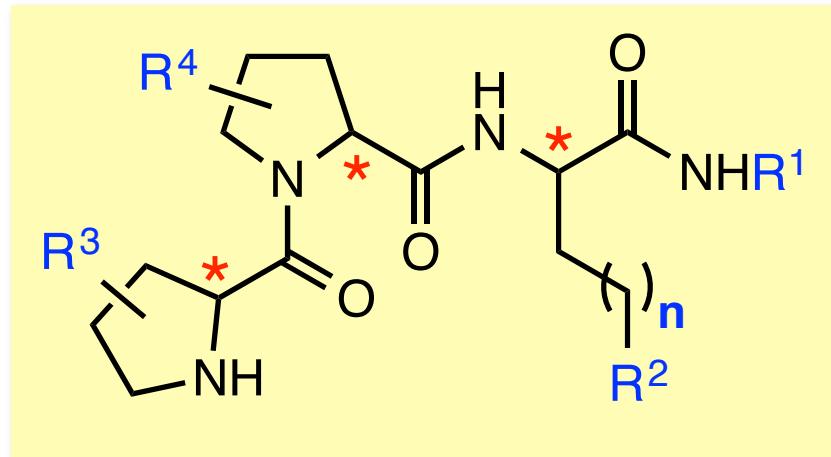


| Run      | R <sup>1</sup> | R <sup>2</sup>                     | Flow rate<br>(ml/min) | Flow time<br>(h) | Amount (g)<br>[Conv (%)] | <i>syn:anti</i> | ee<br>(%) | TON |
|----------|----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----|
| 1        | Et             | Ph                                 | 0.23                  | 33               | 40.6 [95]                | 25:1            | 95        | 222 |
| 2 (0 °C) | Et             | Ph                                 | 0.08                  | 9                | 3.1 [95]                 | 50:1            | 97        | 17  |
| 3        | Et             | Ph                                 | 0.23                  | 2                | 1.4 [96]                 | 23:1            | 95        | 7   |
| 4        | Et             | 4-Br-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> | 0.12                  | 5                | 2.1 [quant.]             | 20:1            | 95        | 9   |
| 5        | Me             | Ph                                 | 0.12                  | 6                | 2.7 [quant.]             | 13:1            | 93        | 16  |
| 6        | Et             | 4-Cl-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> | 0.12                  | 4                | 1.5 [quant.]             | 25:1            | 95        | 7   |
| 7        | Et             | Ph                                 | 0.12                  | 35               | 26 [96]                  | 30:1            | 95        | 142 |

Total Turn Over Number: >600

Yukihiro Arakawa

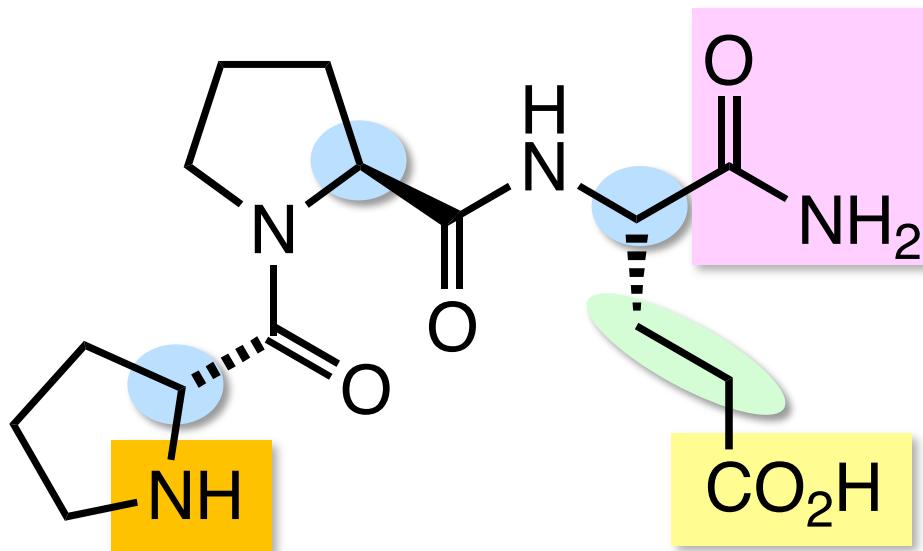
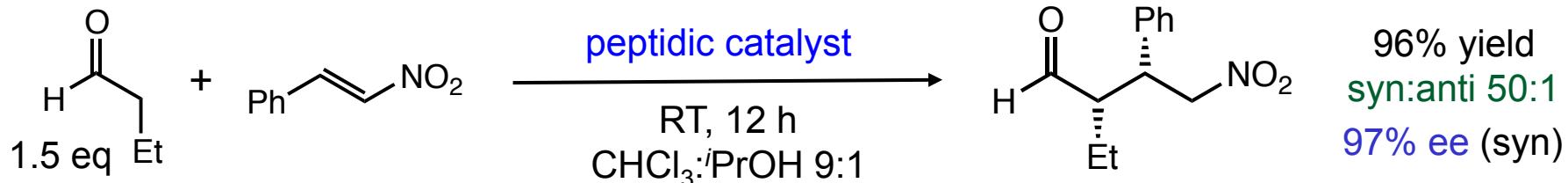
## Peptidic Catalysts: H-Pro-Pro-Xaa-R



- High reactivity and robustness
- Modular structure – tunable and adaptable
- High Chemoselectivity and Stereoselectivity

Reaction Mechanism?

# Structure–Activity Studies



2° amine:  
Reactive center

Carboxylic acid:  
Critical for reactivity  
and  
stereoselectivity

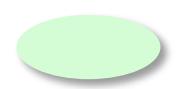
No additives necessary



Stereochemistry

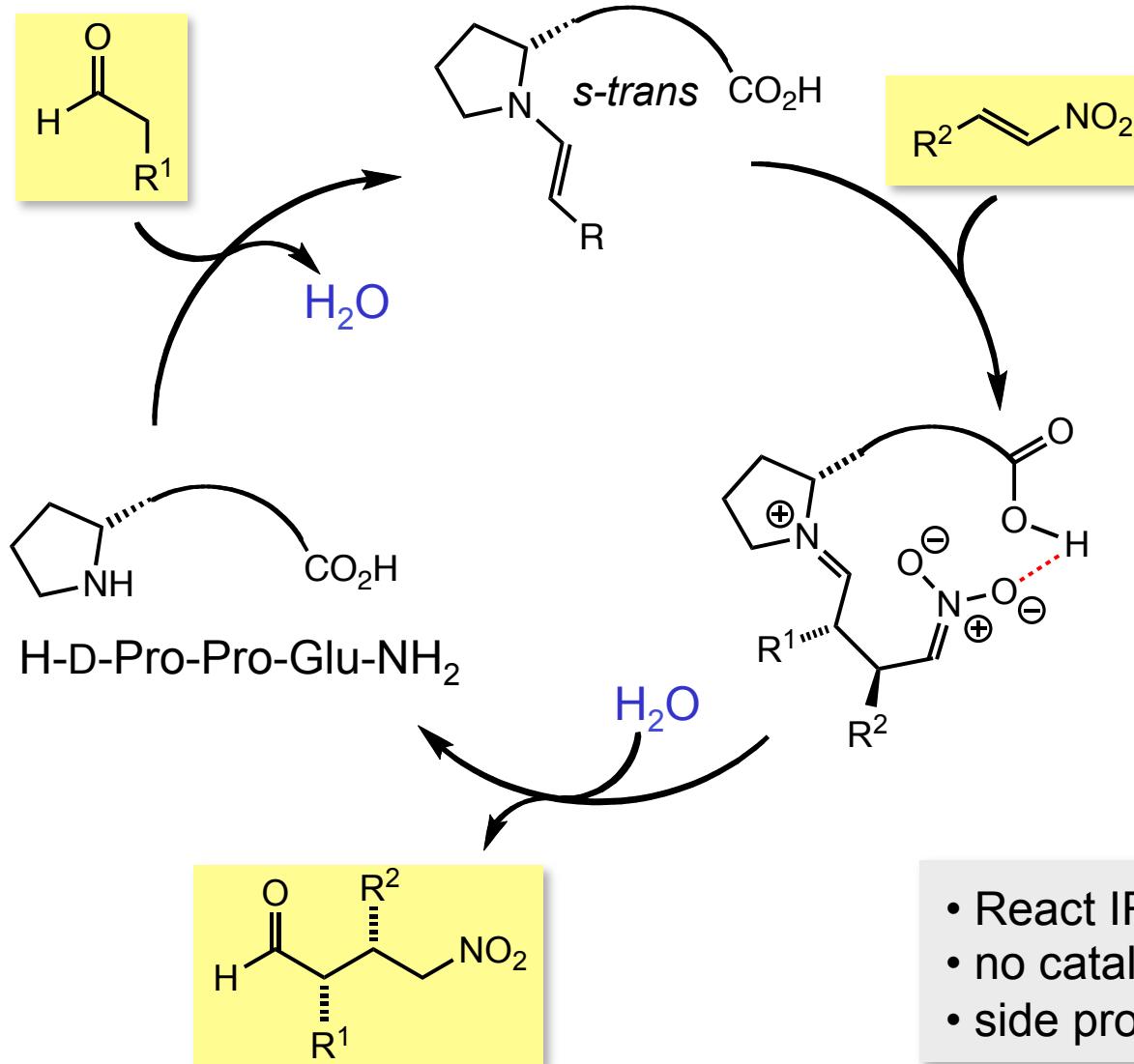


C-terminus



linker length

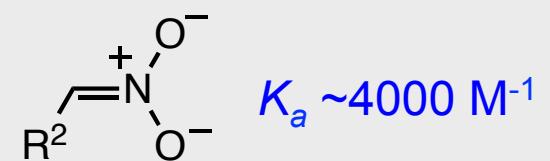
# Proposed Mechanism



Interactions with  $\text{R}-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$



Very weak!

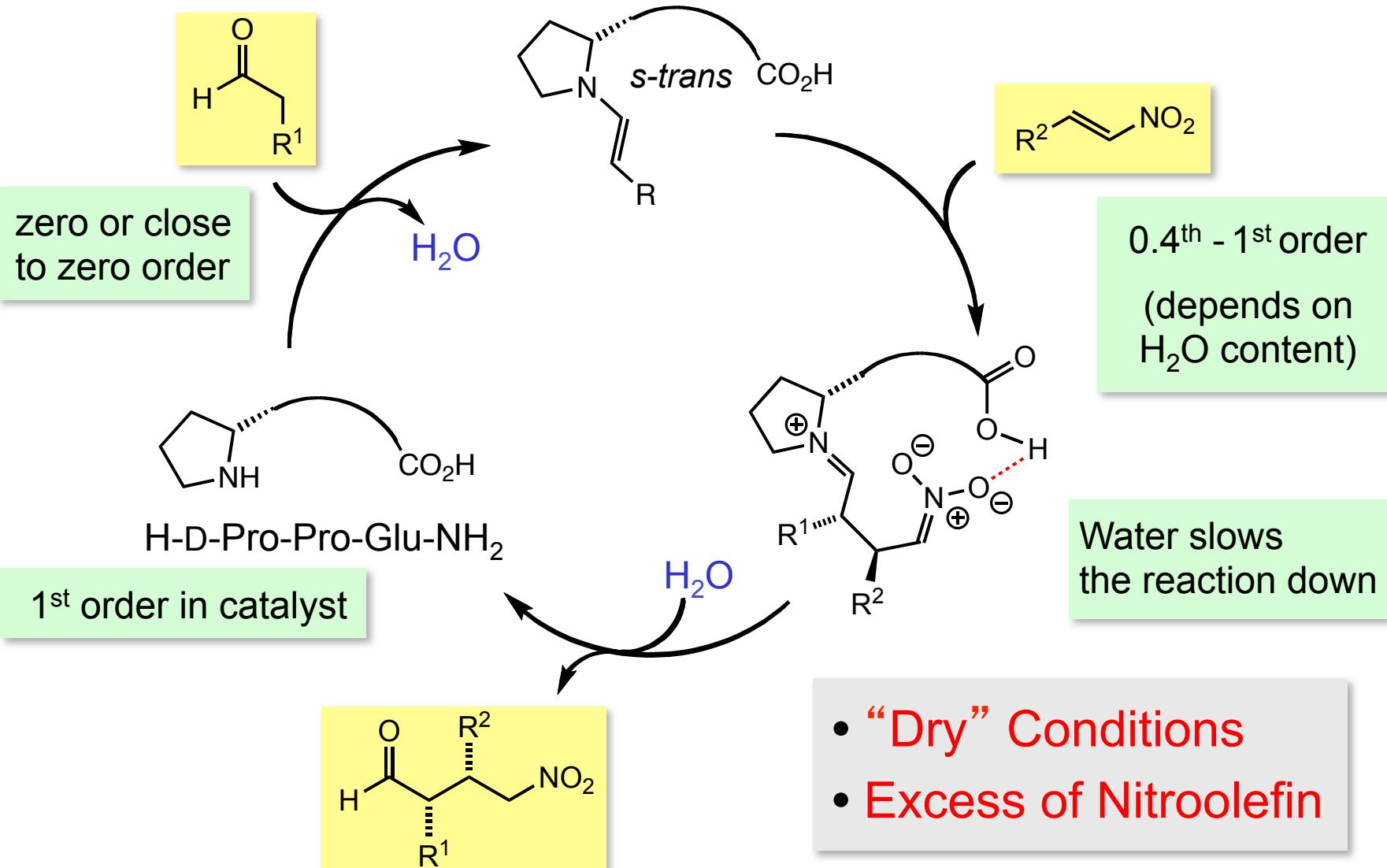


$K_a \sim 4000 \text{ M}^{-1}$

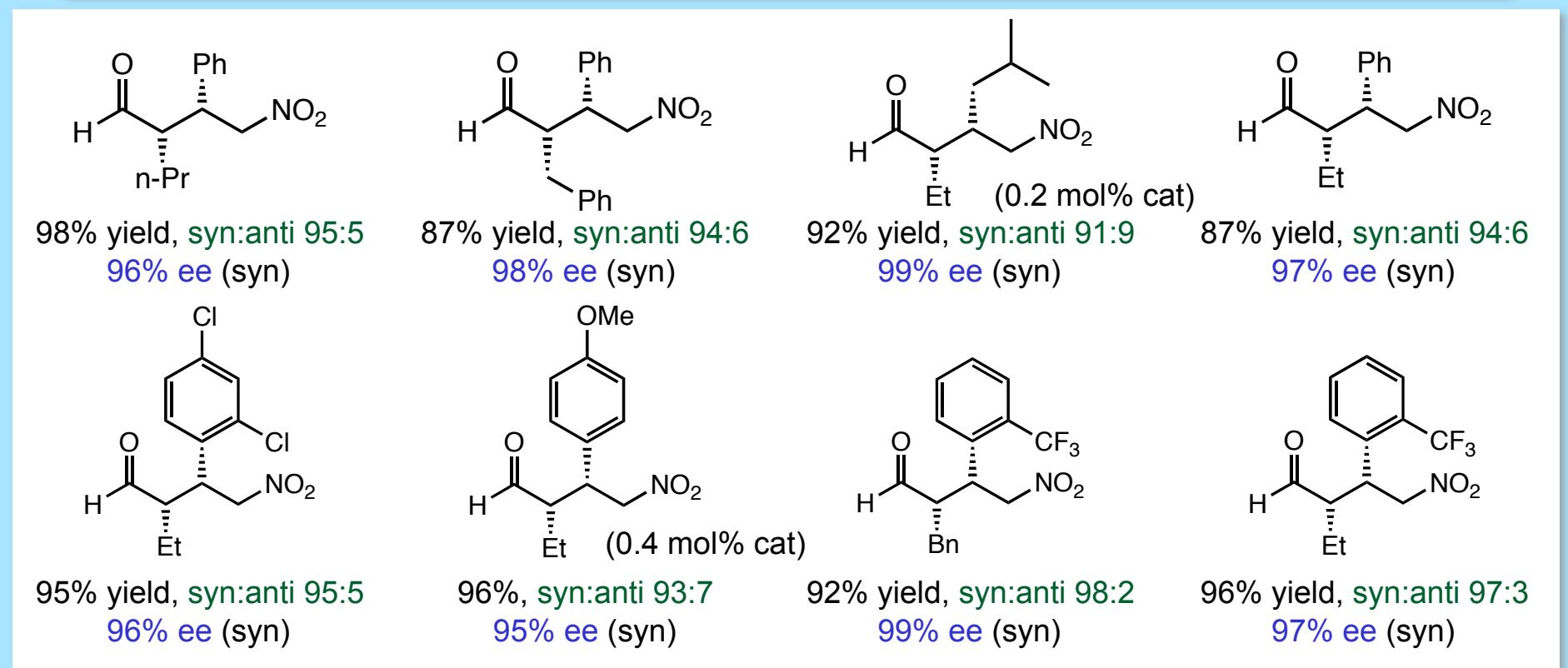
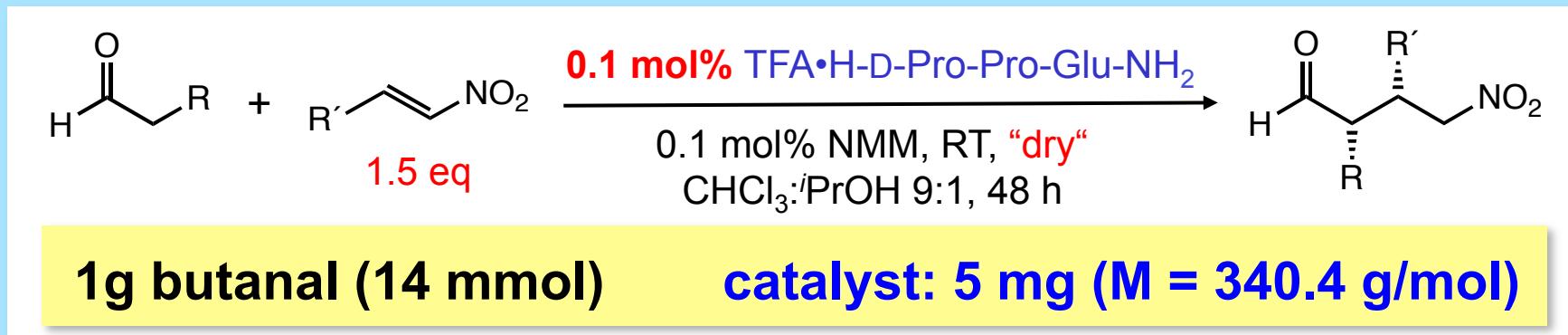
Hamilton, *CEJ*, 2000, 6, 2449  
Kelly, *JACS* 1994, 116, 7072

- React IR – *in situ* monitoring
- no catalyst deactivation
- side products  $\leq 3\%$

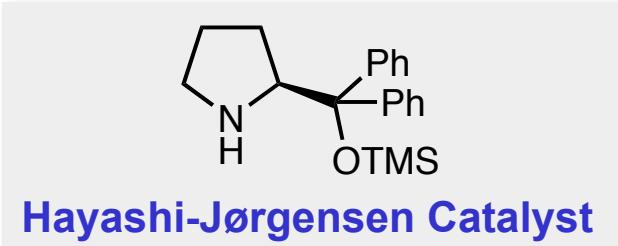
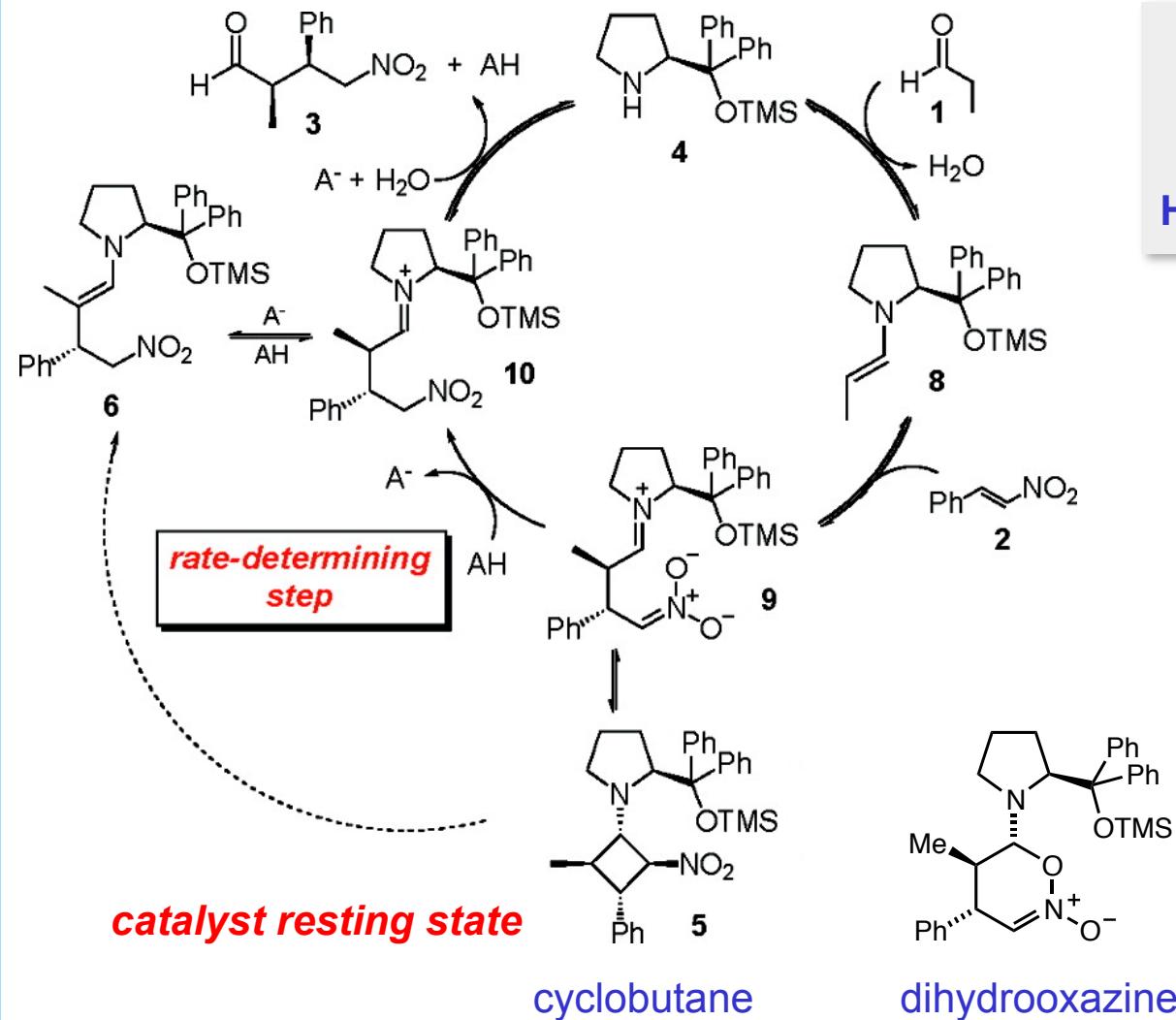
# Kinetic Studies



# Improved Conditions: Catalyst Loading of 0.1 mol%!



# Mechanism for Reactions with the Hayashi-Jørgensen Catalyst

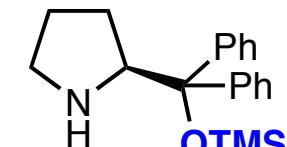
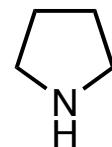
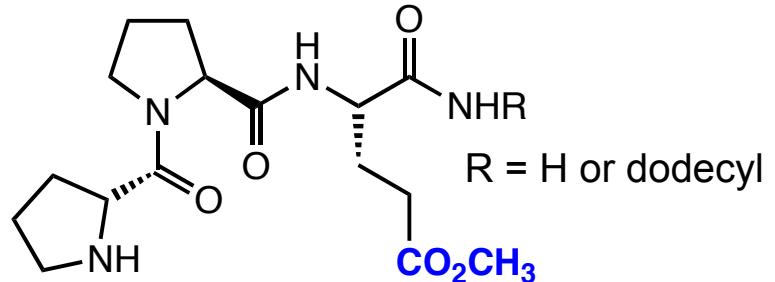
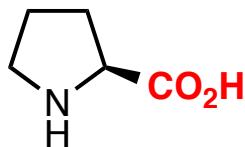
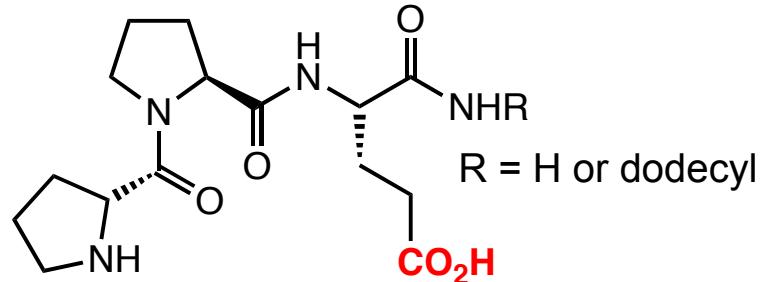


## Differences to Peptide Catalyzed Reactions

- role of water
- rate orders of nitroolefin and RCHO
- acidic additives

Hayashi, Seebach, *HCA* 2011, 94, 719. Pápai, Pihko, *ACIE* 2012, 52, 13144  
Blackmond, *JACS* 2011, 133, 8822. *JACS* 2012, 134, 6741.

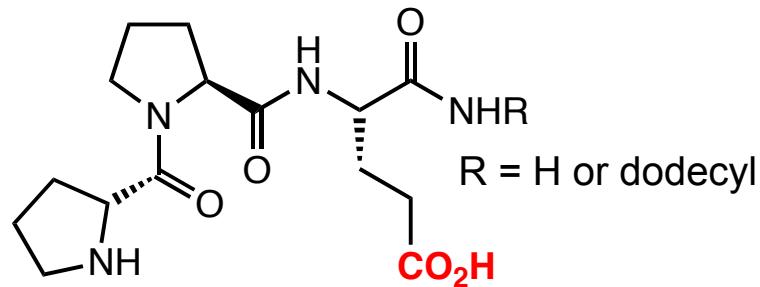
# Intramolecular versus Intermolecular Carboxylic Acid

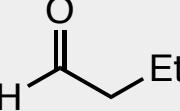


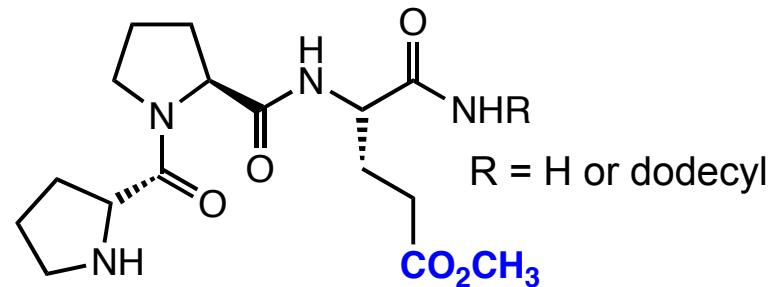
Does the presence or absence of an intramolecular proton donor control the reaction mechanism?

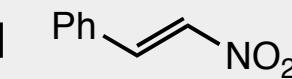
Jörg Duschmalé

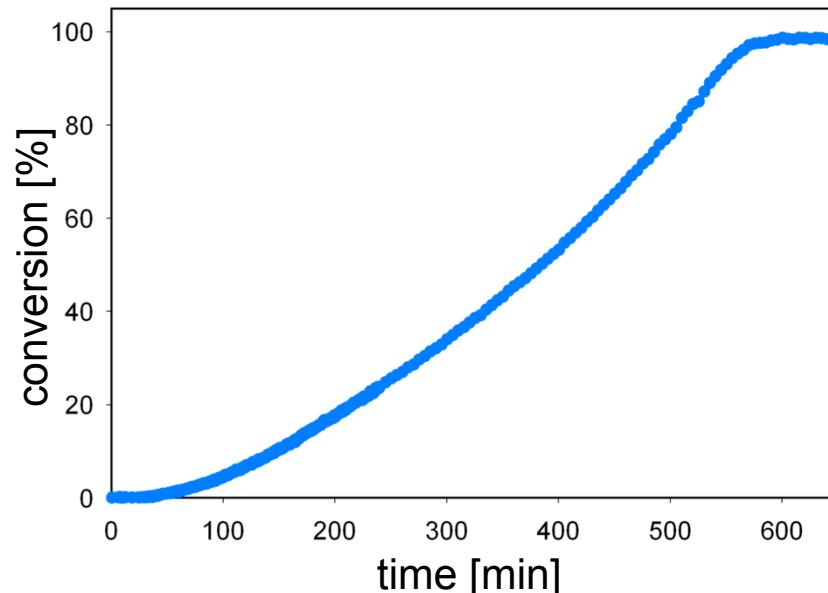
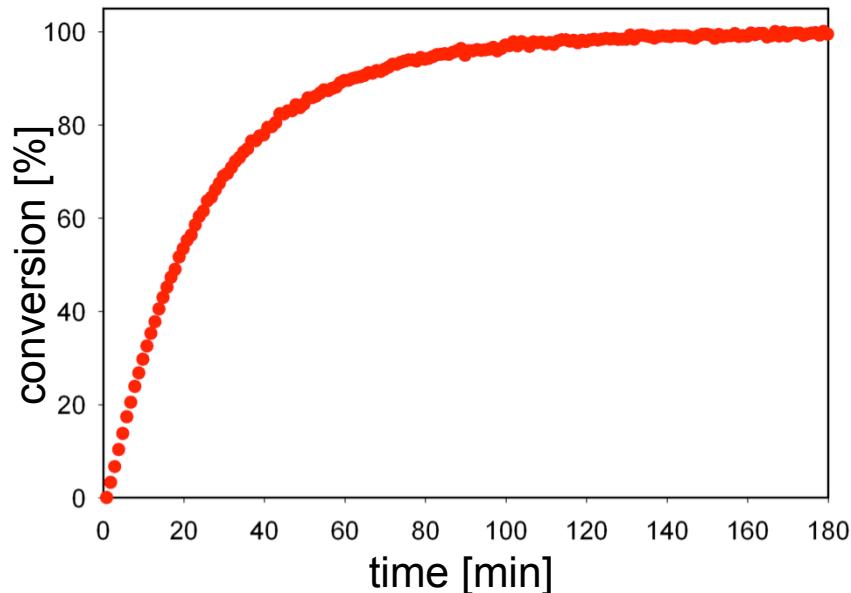
# Kinetic Studies



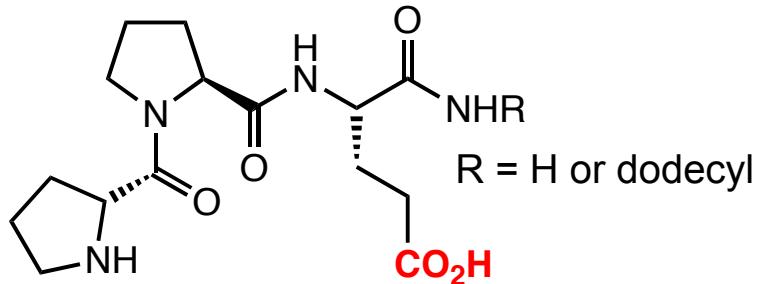
Reaction with 1.5 eq 

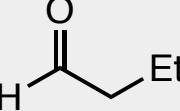


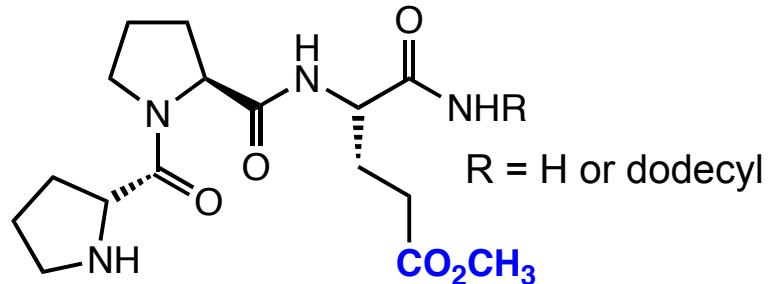
and 1.0 eq 

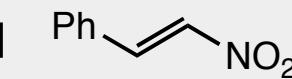


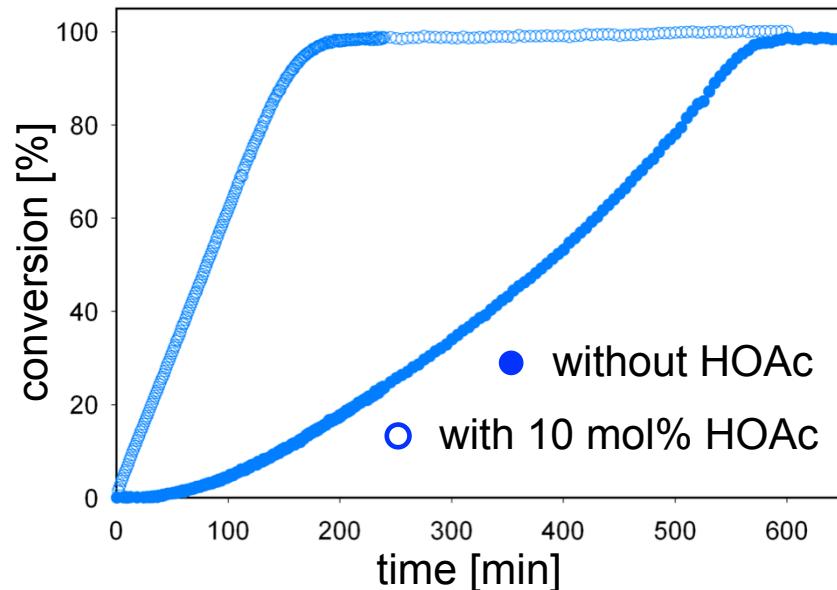
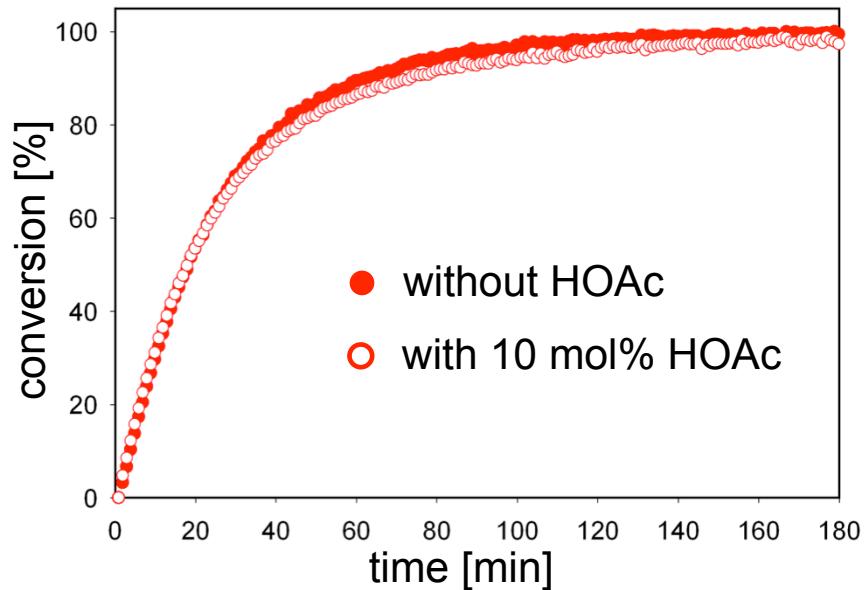
# Kinetic Studies



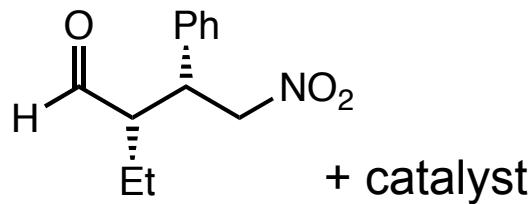
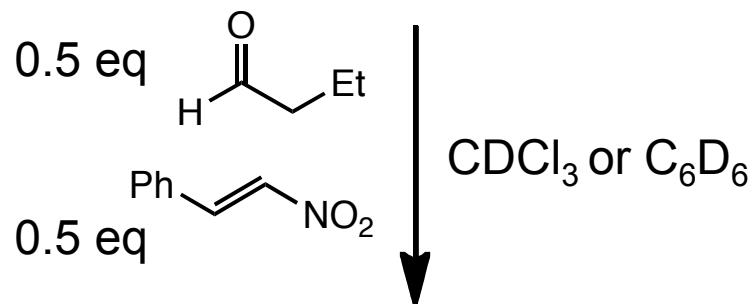
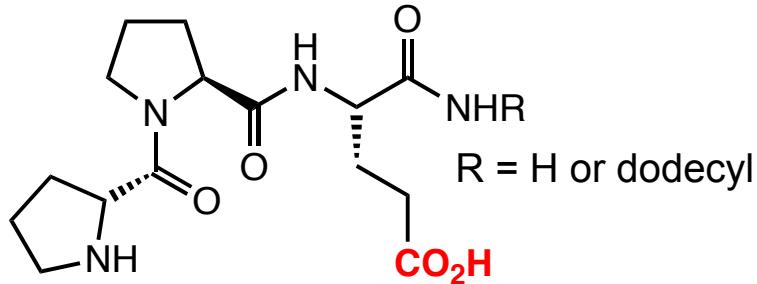
Reaction with 1.5 eq 



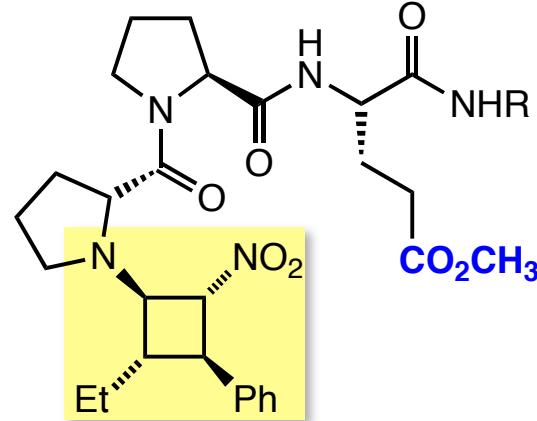
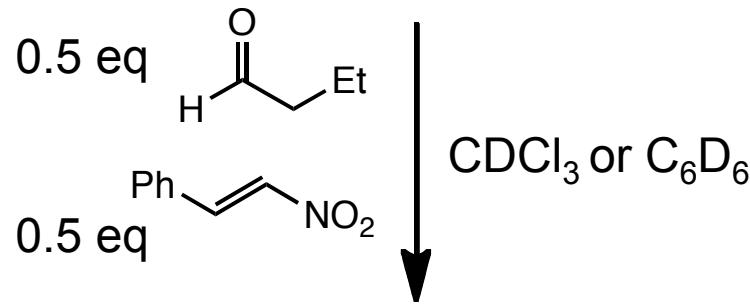
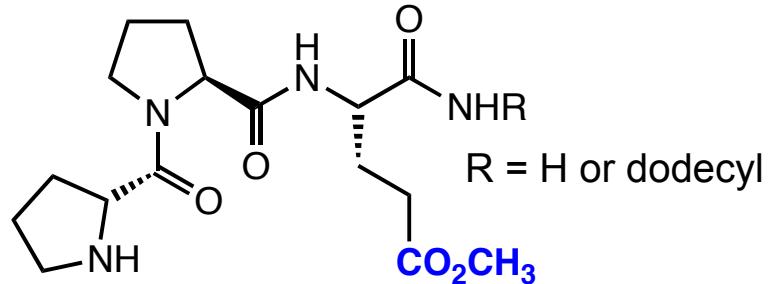
and 1.0 eq 



# NMR-Spectroscopic Studies

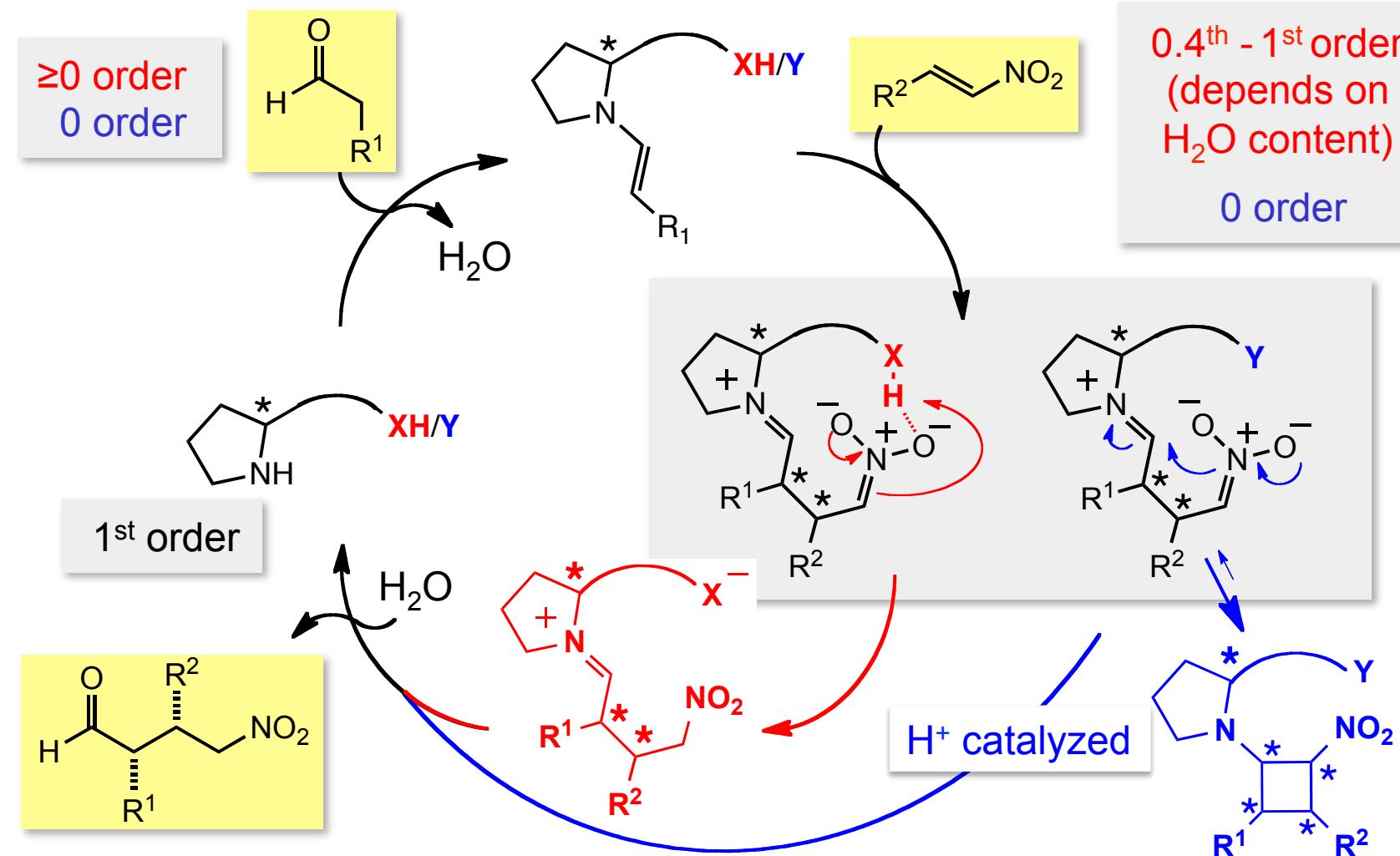


**Full conversion to 1,4-addition product**



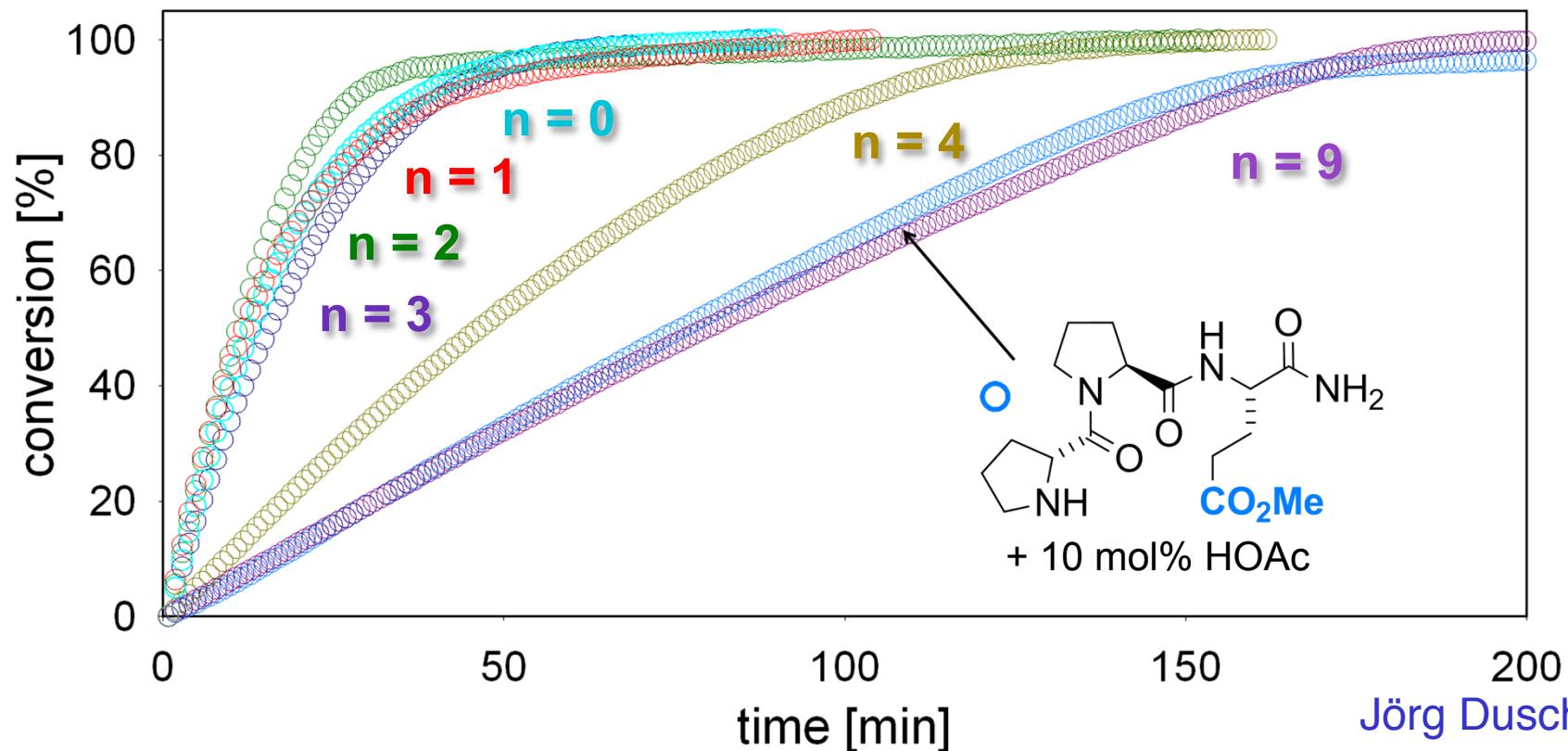
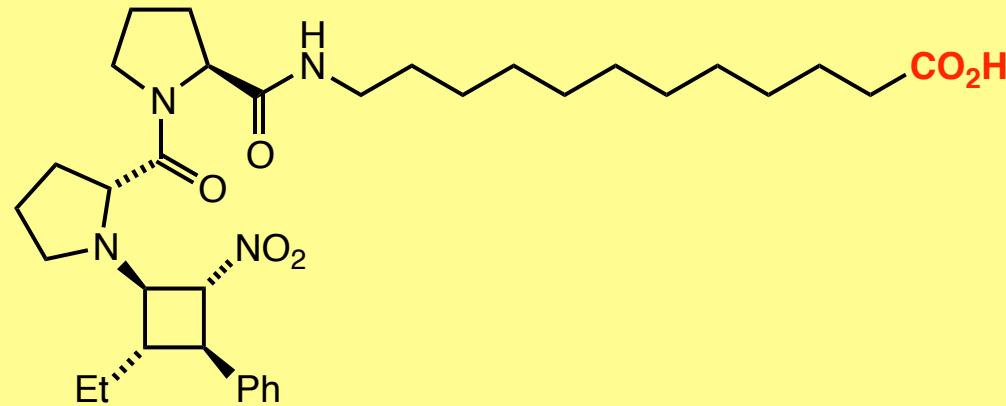
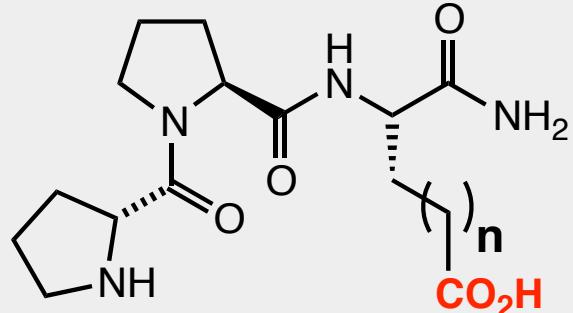
**1,4-addition product not formed**

# Proposed Reaction Mechanisms

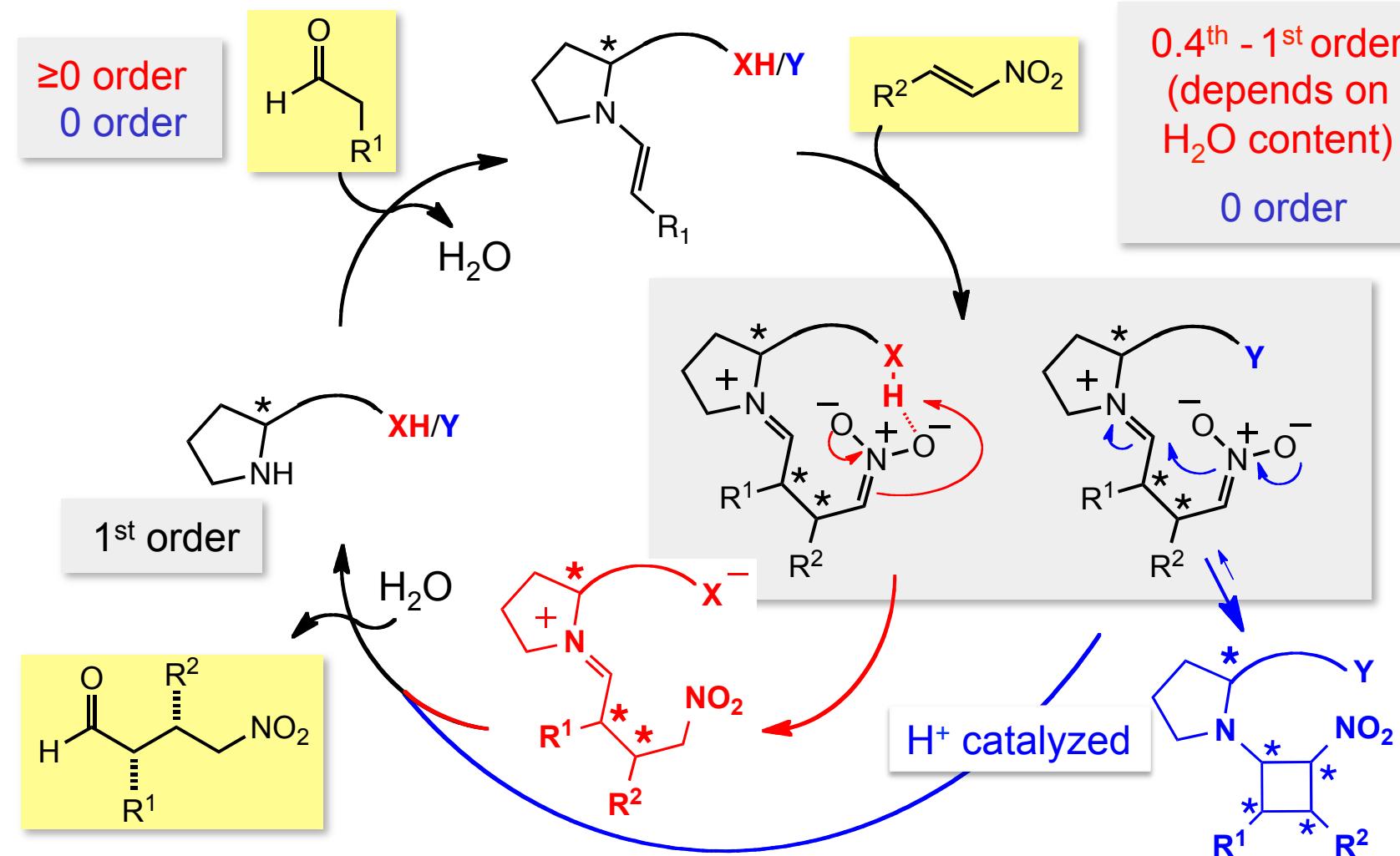


The rate determining step depends on the presence or absence of a suitably positioned intramolecular proton donor.

# Probing the Reaction Pathways: Distant Proton Donor

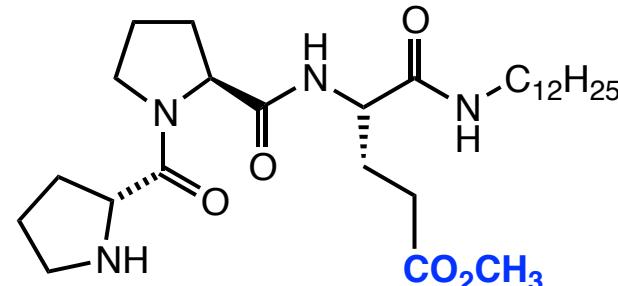
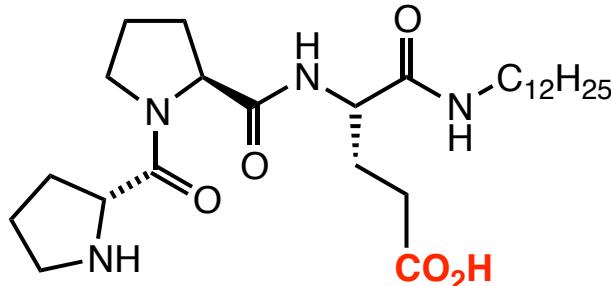


# Proposed Reaction Mechanisms

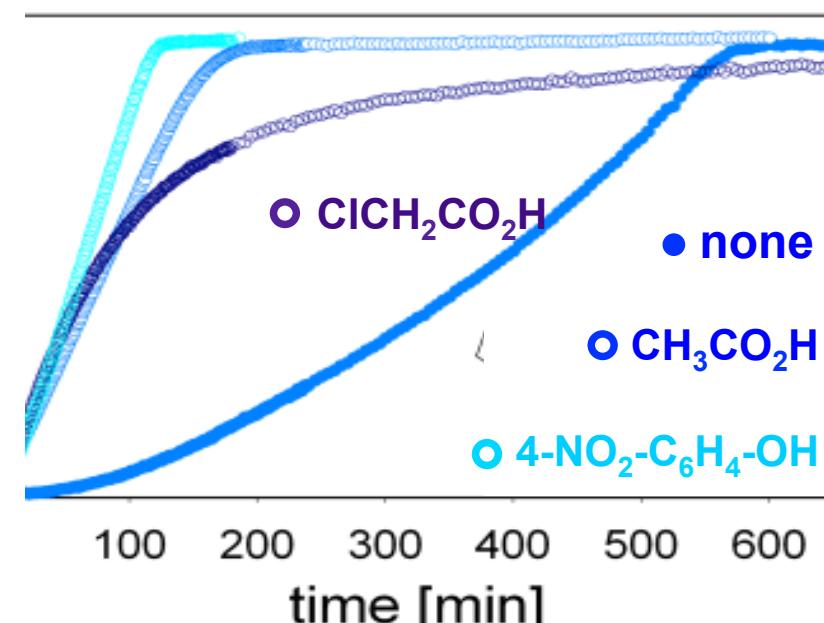
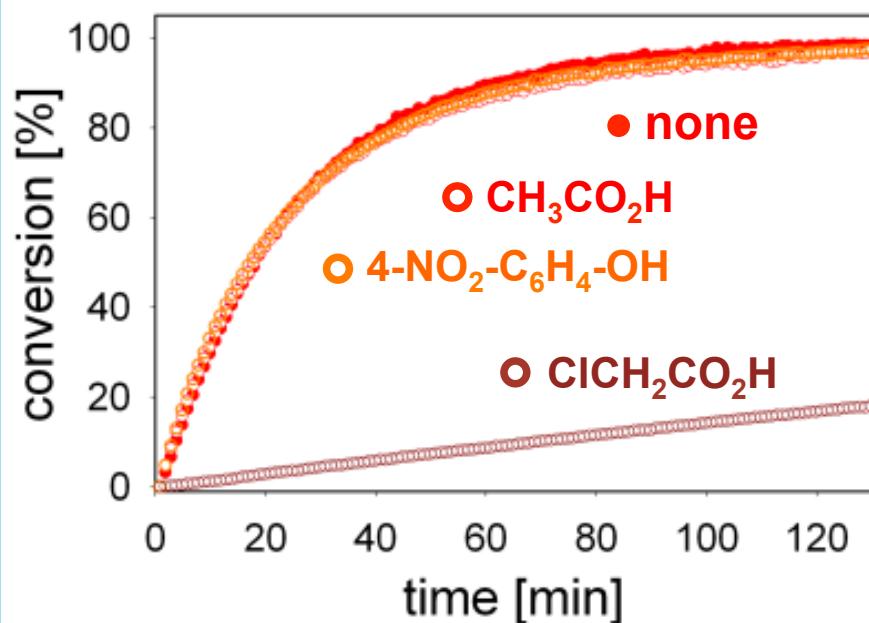


The rate determining step depends on the presence or absence of a suitably positioned intramolecular proton donor.

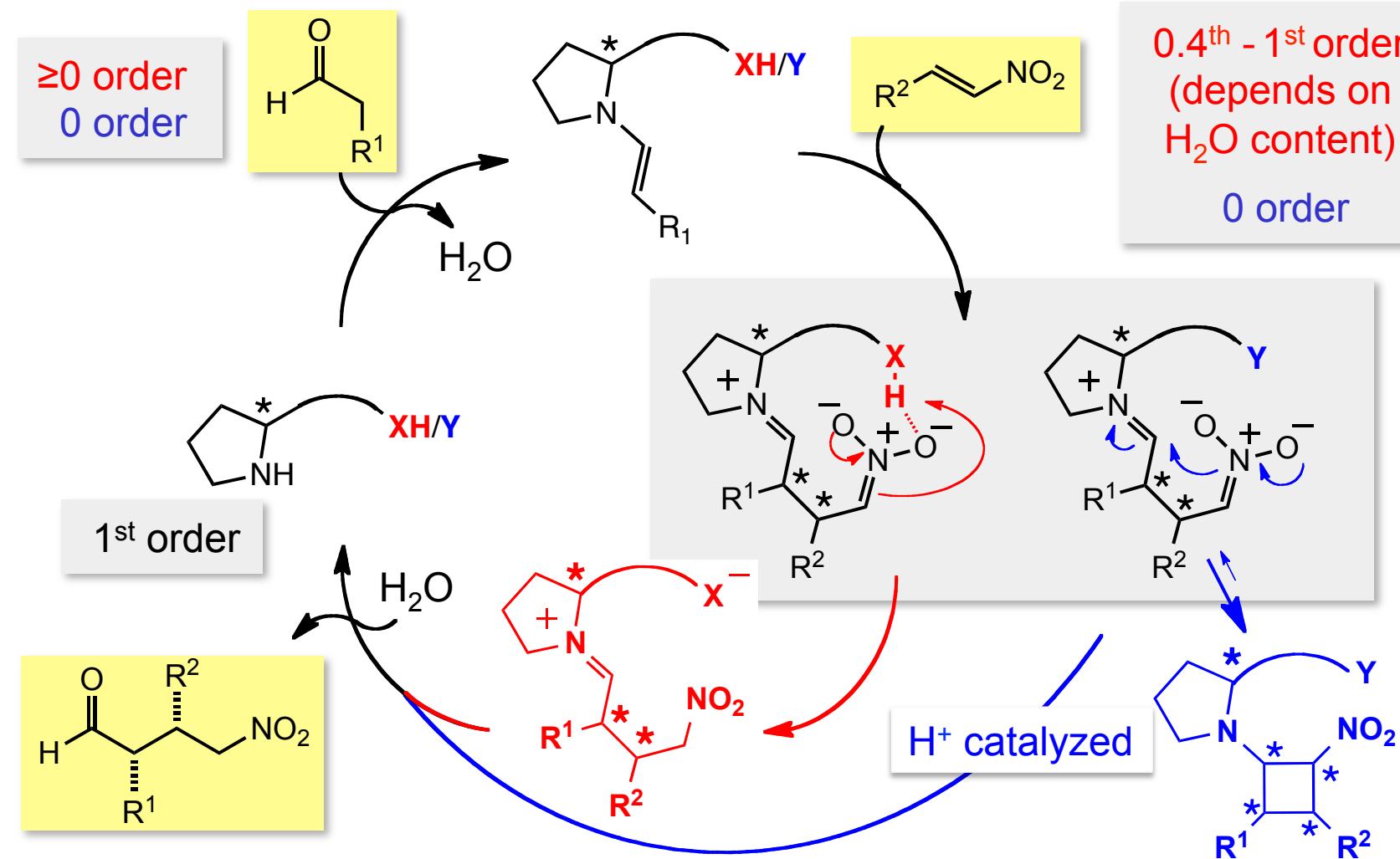
# Probing the Reaction Pathways: Addition of Acid



Reaction with 1.5 eq  $\text{CH}_3\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{Et}$  and 1.0 eq  $\text{PhCH}=\text{CHNO}_2$  and **0.1 eq additive**



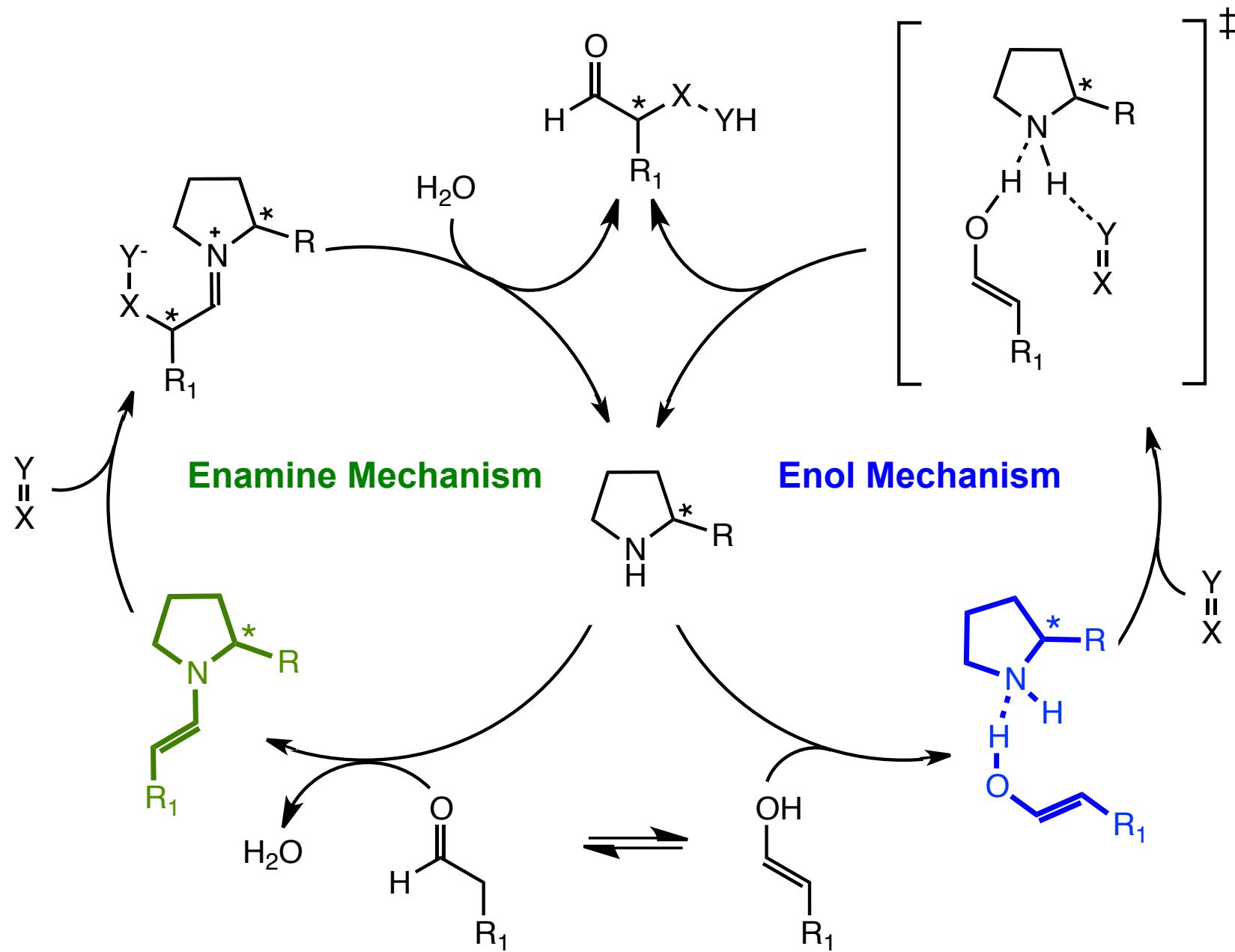
# Proposed Reaction Mechanisms



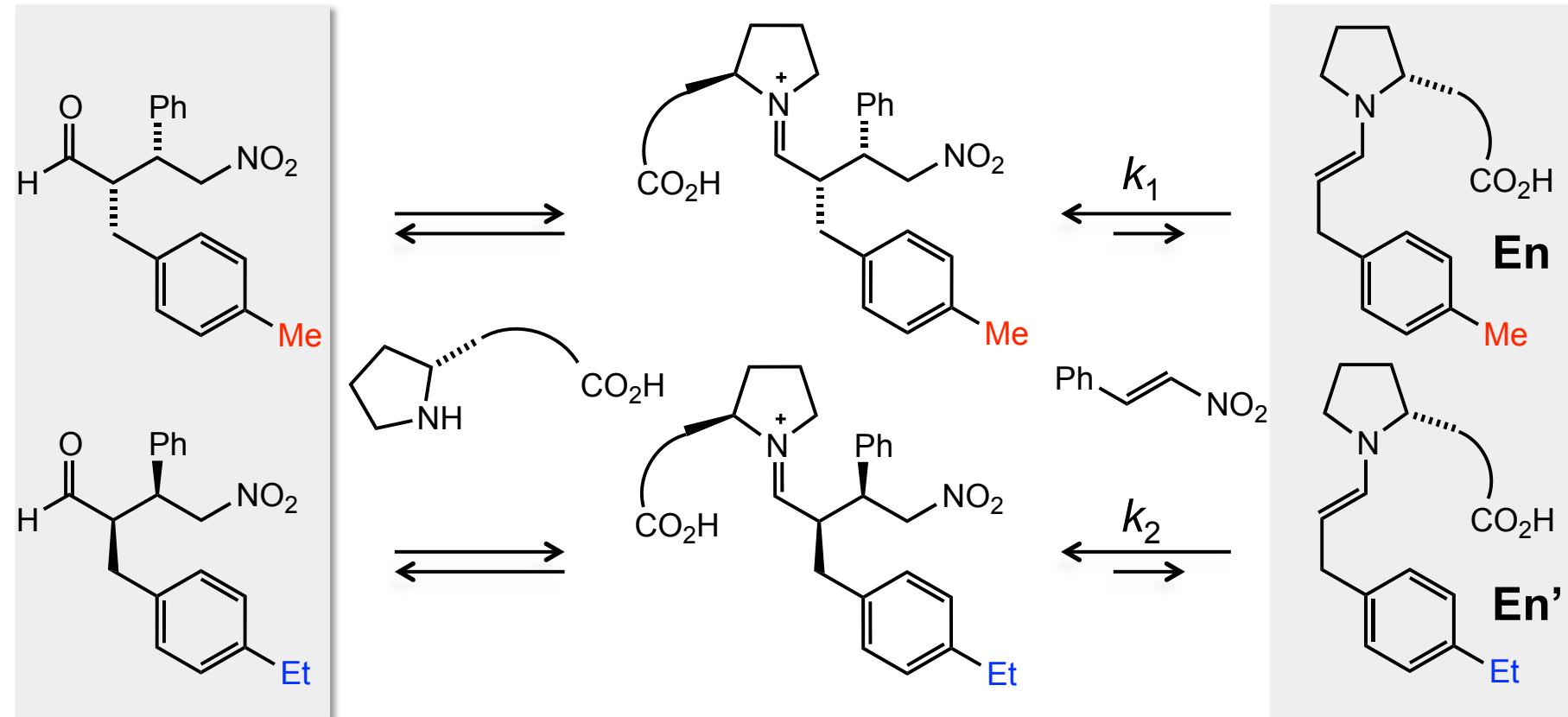
$\text{XH} = \text{CO}_2\text{H}$ ,

$\text{Y} = \text{no proton donor}$

# Enol Mechanism or Enamine Mechanism?



# ESI-MS Back Reaction Monitoring with Quasienantiomers



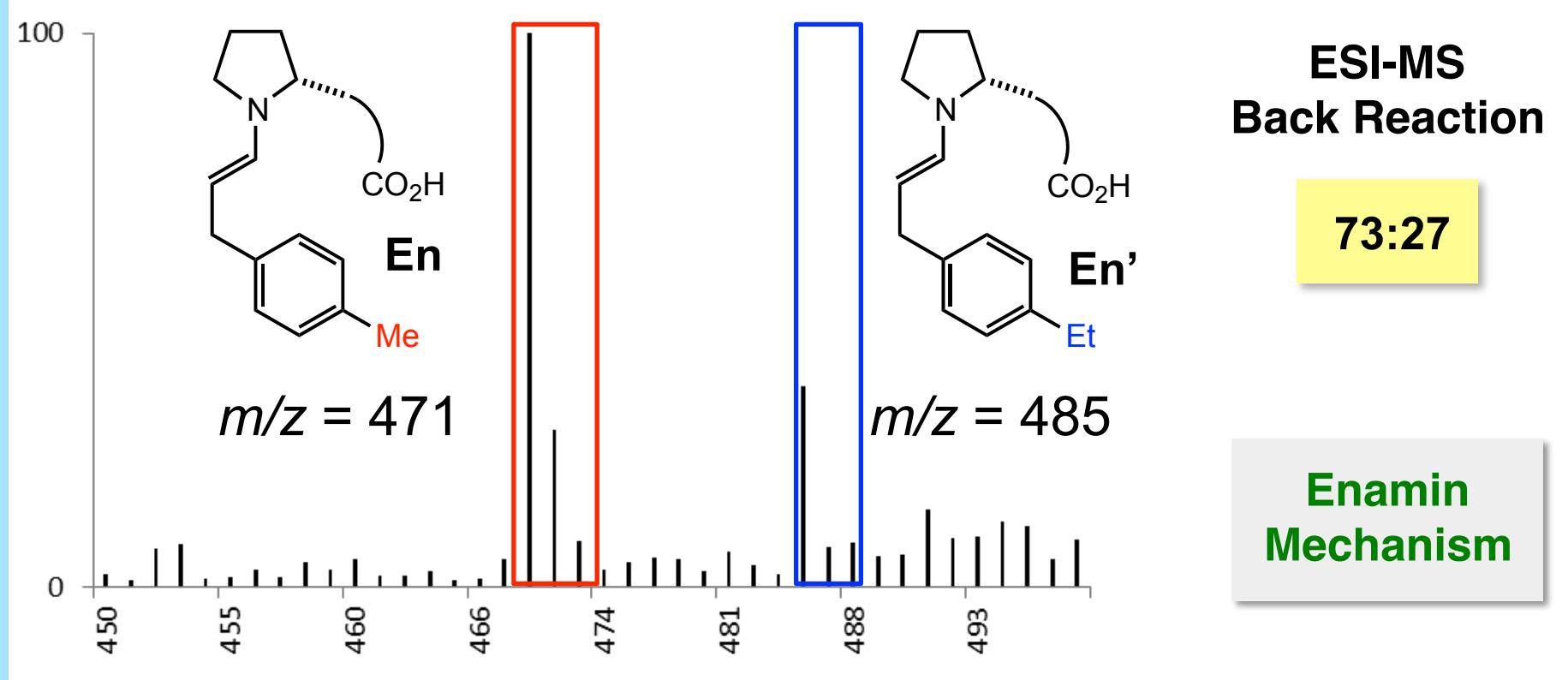
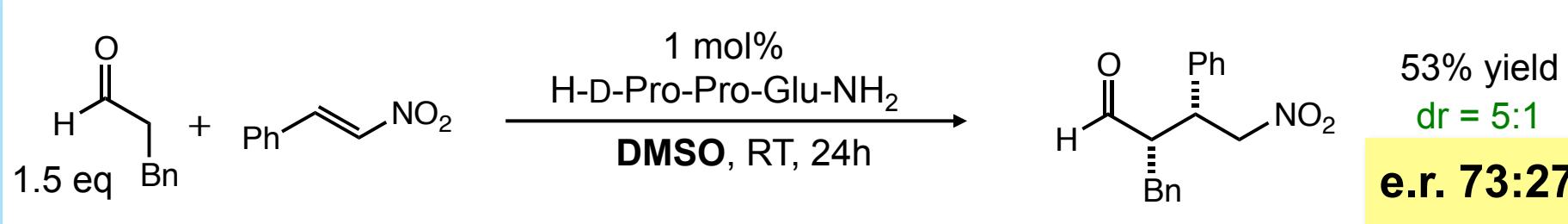
**En/En'** of back reaction = e.r. of forward reaction

**Enamine mechanism**

**C-C bond formation enantioselectivity determining step**

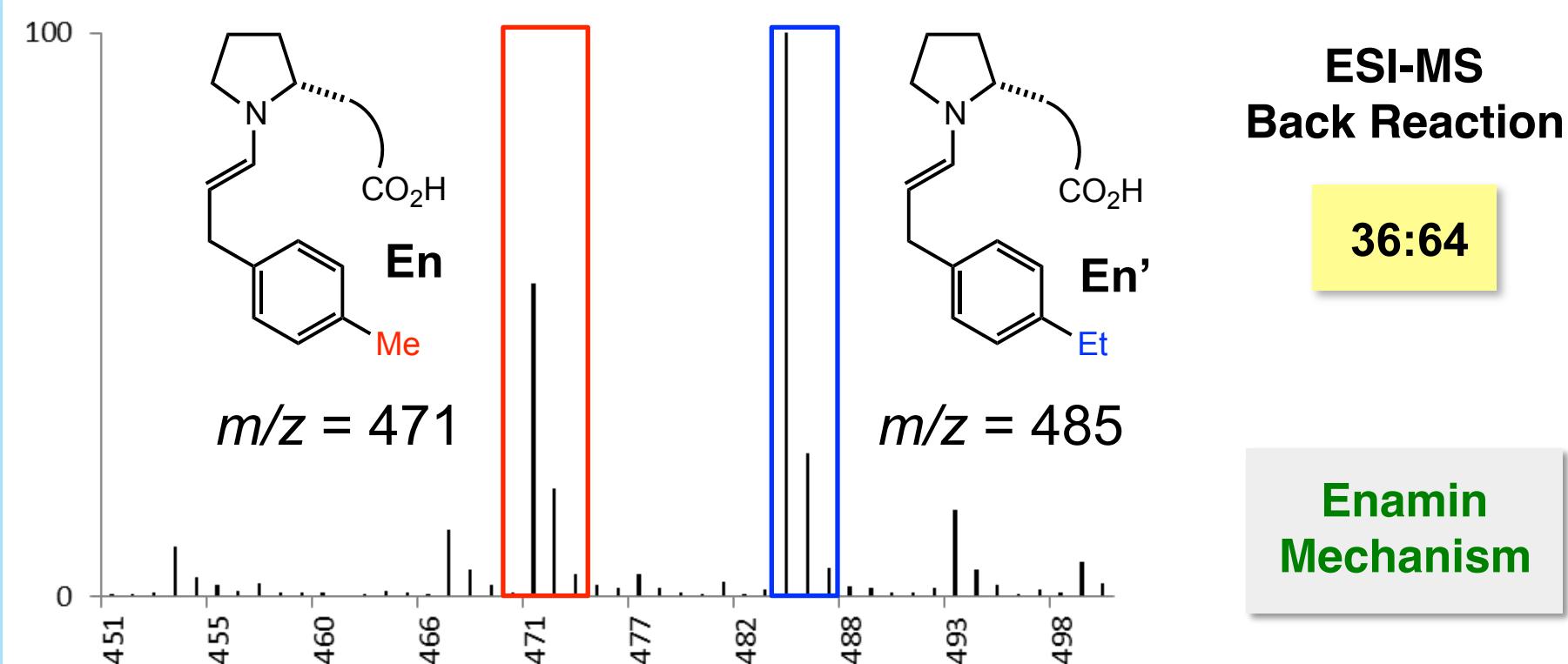
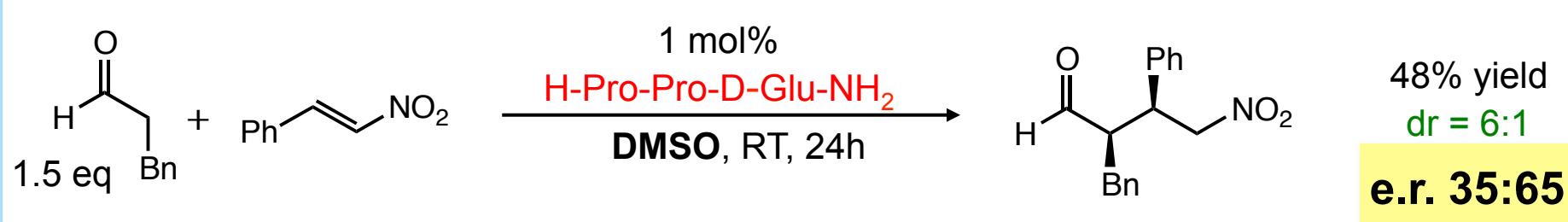
$$\frac{k_1}{k_2} = \frac{\text{En}}{\text{En}'}$$

# Enamine versus Enol Mechanism



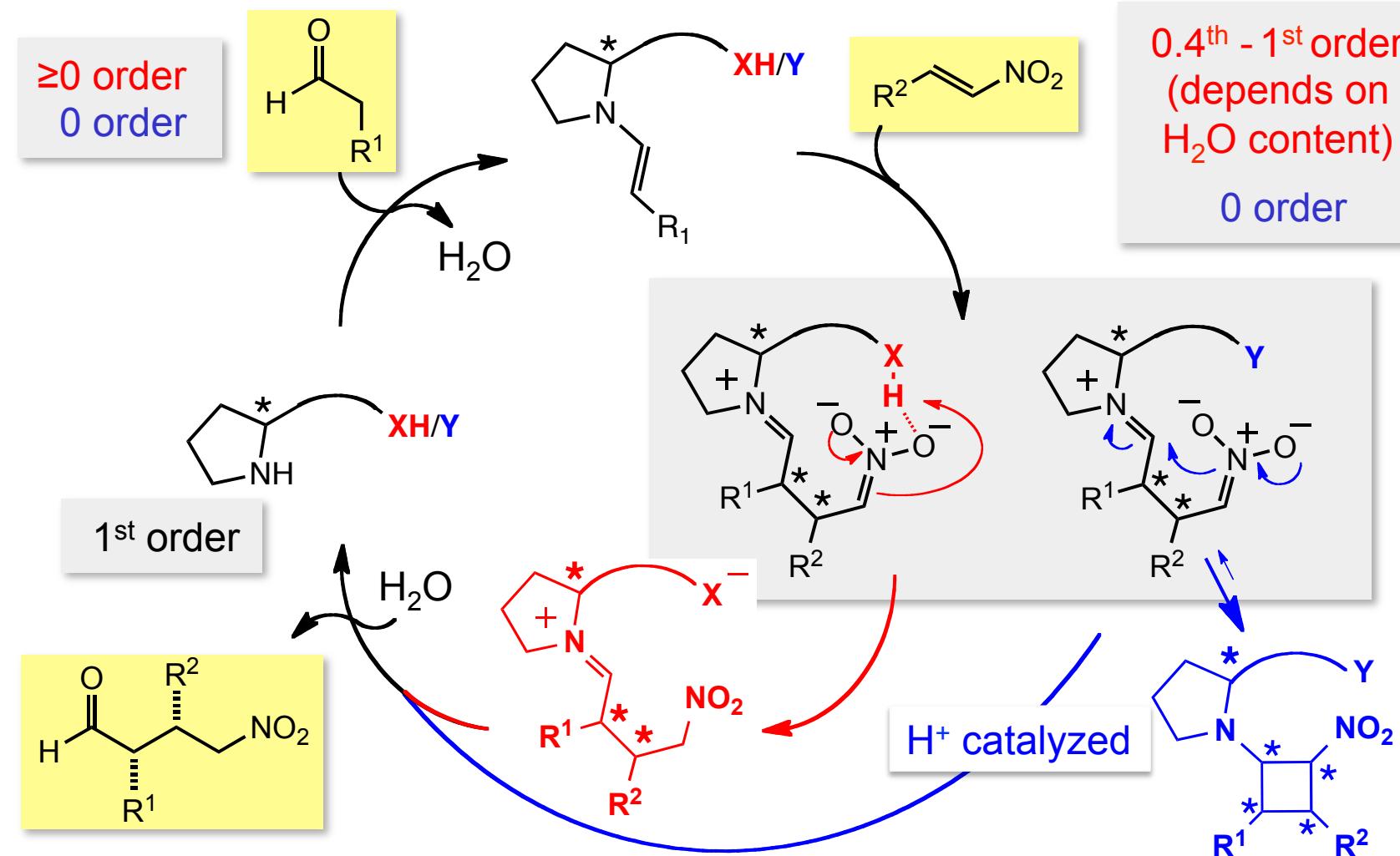
C-C bond formation enantioselectivity determining step

# Enamine versus Enol Mechanism



C-C bond formation enantioselectivity determining step

# Proposed Reaction Mechanism



The rate determining steps depend on the presence or absence of an intramolecular proton source.

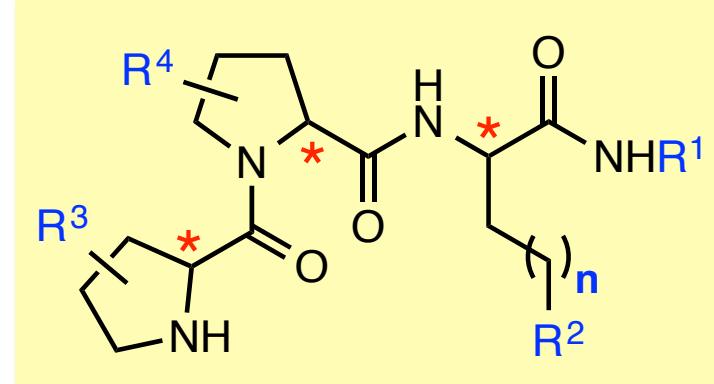
Jörg Duschmalé

# Summary and Conclusions

**H-Pro-Pro-Xaa-R** (Xaa = acid amino acid)

- **Highly reactive, modular, robust**

- mild reaction conditions
- broad substrate scope
- flow system
- no additives necessary

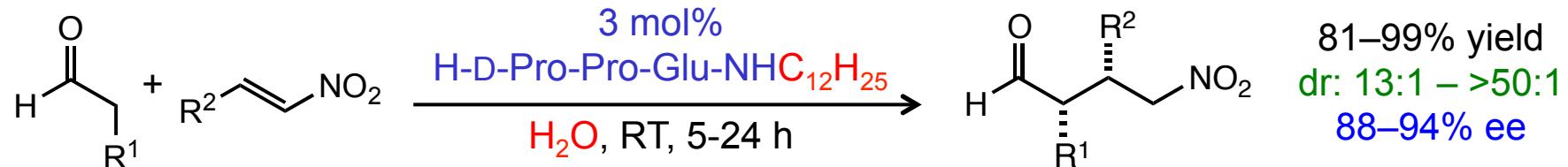


- **Chemo- and Stereoselectivity is tunable and adaptable**
- **Conformational flexibility is likely key to high effectiveness**

**Peptidic Catalysts: Features of Enzymes and Synthetic Catalysts**

# Summary and Conclusions

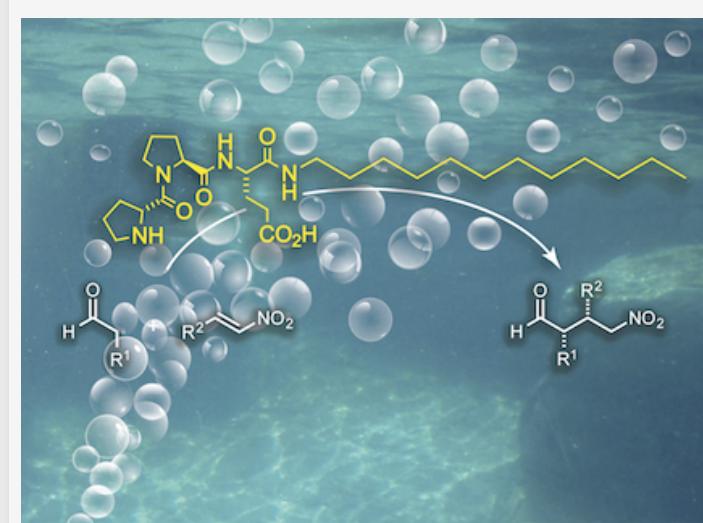
## Catalysis in Water



alkylated peptide  
in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$   
**foam**



after  
addition  
of reactants  
**emulsion**



J. Duschmalé, S. Kohrt, H.W., *Chem. Commun.*, 2014, 50, 8109.

**Peptides might have played a role in the evolution of enzymes**

# Thank you!

