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Enantioselective Baeyer-Villiger Oxidation: Desymmetrization of Meso Cyclic Ketones and Kinetic Resolution of Racemic 2-Arylcyclohexanones

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# **Enantioselective Baeyer-Villiger Oxidation**

### Desymmetrization of meso-cyclic ketones:

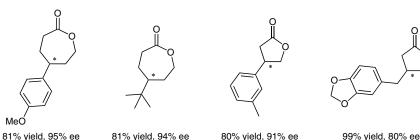
R 
$$\longrightarrow$$
 O + MCPBA  $\xrightarrow{\text{ligand-Sc(OTf)}_3}$  R  $\xrightarrow{\text{toAc, -60 °C, 18 h}}$  R

$$O = \begin{pmatrix} & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & &$$

(abnormal lactone) (normal lactone)

### Kinetic resolution of racemic cyclohexanones:

#### Selected examples of desymmetrization:



## Selected examples of kinetic resolution:

**Significance:** The asymmetric Baeyer–Villiger oxidation of prochiral and racemic cyclic ketones effectively synthesized optically active  $\epsilon$ - and  $\gamma$ -lactones. The desymmetrization of racemic cyclohexanones interestingly showed a reversal of migratory aptitude with high levels of enantioselectivity.

**Comment:** The authors continued their use of chiral *N,N'*-dioxide-metal catalysts for the Baeyer–Villiger oxidation reaction. During the desymmetrization of *meso*-cyclohexanones and *meso*-cyclobutanones, the electronic and steric nature of the substituents appeared to have no effect on enantioselectivity; the opposite was true for the kinetic resolution of racemic cyclohexanones.

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