N-heterocyclic carbenes have had such a wide-ranging impact that they now hold a central place in every chemist's toolbox, as modifying ligands on metals and as organocatalysts. This Cluster highlights some recent contributions from prominent players in the field.
Carbene Catalysis

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- S.-L. You
- J. Sun
- M. Shi
- Q. Xu
- Y. R. Chi

Catalyst loading

(10 mol%) KOAc (10 mol%)

R1 = Ph, Bn
R2 = Me, i-Pr

91% yield, 85% ee

NHC-Cu catalyzed A3

Organocatalytic HOMO/LUMO & Usual Ester Activation