Category

Organo- and

Biocatalysis

Key words

myoglobin
dioxazolones
enantiodivergence
nitrene transfer

C-H amidation

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Stereoselective Construction of β -, γ - and δ -Lactam Rings via Enzymatic C–H Amidation *Nat. Catal.* **2024**, 7, 65–76, DOI: 10.1038/s41929-023-01068-2.

Enzymatic C–H Amidation toward Stereoselective Construction of β -, γ - and δ -Lactams

Proposed mechanism for catalyzed C-H amidation

Selected examples



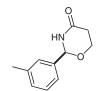
75% yield, er = 99.5:0.5 *(*R*) enantiomer: er = 95.5:4.5



90% yield, er = 99.5:0.5 *(*R*) enantiomer: er = 99.5:0.5



86% yield, er = 99.5:0.5



90% yield, er = 99.5:0.5

Significance: Houk, Fasan, and co-workers disclose the haemoprotein-catalysed intramolecular C–H amidation of dioxazolone reagents toward the asymmetric synthesis of β -, γ - and δ -lactams with good to excellent enantioselectivity. Mechanistic studies suggest that the protein-mediated enantioinduction in the C–N bond-forming process occurs in the radical rebound step. Furthermore, an alkaloid natural product and a drug molecule were synthesized in a reduced number of steps (7–8 versus 11–12) compared to previous reports.

Comment: Enantiodivergent biocatalysts are highly desirable for medicinal chemistry and other synthetic applications, yet their development is often challenging. Notably, examination of the primary myoglobin (Mb) active-site mutant library uncovered a variant, Mb(L29T,H64V,V68L), which induces the cyclization with opposite enantioselectivity to that of Mb*, resulting in the production of the *R*-configured γ -lactam product.

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