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# C-Boron Enolates Enable Catalyzed Carboboration of Internal 1,3-Enynes

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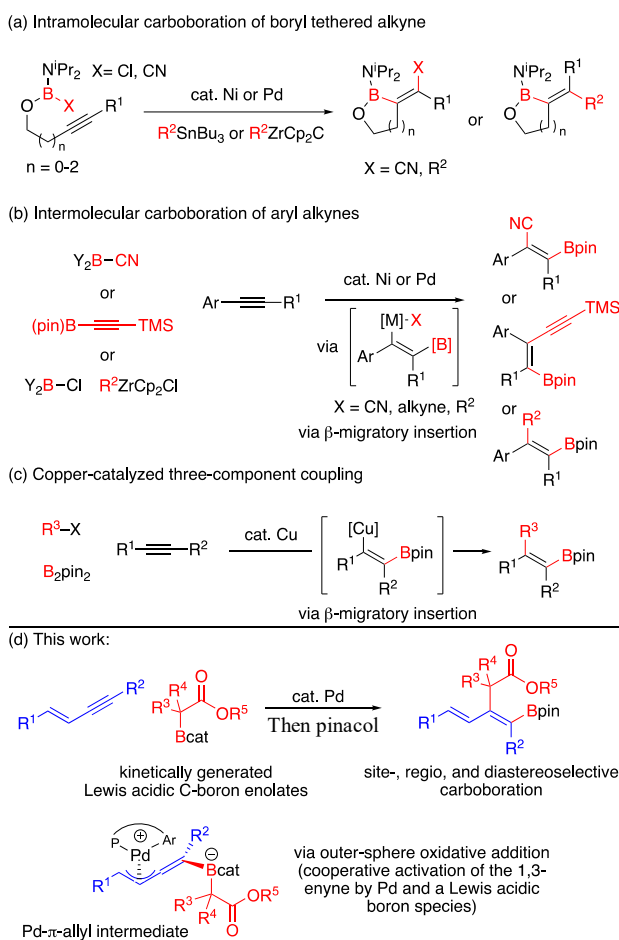
**ABSTRACT:** A new family of carbon-bound boron enolates, generated by a kinetically controlled halogen exchange between chlorocatecholborane and silylketene acetals, is described. These C-boron enolates are demonstrated to activate 1,3-enyne substrates in the presence of a Pd(0)/Senphos ligand complex, resulting in the first examples of a carboboration reaction of an alkyne with enolate-equivalent nucleophiles. Highly substituted dienyl boron building blocks are produced in excellent site-, regio-, and diastereoselectivity by the described catalytic cis-carboboration reaction.

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Alkenyl boronates are versatile building blocks in synthetic chemistry.<sup>1</sup> The ability of organoboron compounds to engage in Suzuki-Miyaura cross couplings<sup>2</sup> and to transform into various derivatives<sup>3</sup> have made alkenyl boronates highly appealing in organic synthesis. In this context, numerous approaches<sup>4</sup> have been developed to synthesize di-<sup>5</sup> and tri-<sup>6</sup> substituted alkenyl boronates. The synthesis of tetrasubstituted alkenyl<sup>7</sup> boronates on the other hand, particularly in regioselective and stereoselective fashion, has been more challenging.<sup>8</sup> Pioneering work by Suginome et al. (Scheme 1, a) established the nickel- or palladium catalyzed *intramolecular* boryl migration approach using alkyne substrates tethered with boryl moiety.<sup>9</sup> Similarly, nickel and palladium catalyzed *intermolecular* carboboration of alkynes with various carbon sources (Scheme 1b) was reported.<sup>10</sup> More recently, copper-catalyzed three-component coupling of an alkyne, B<sub>2</sub>pin<sub>2</sub>, and an electrophile (Scheme 1c) has received attention.<sup>11</sup> Despite these advances, carboboration reactions are still relatively limited in substrate scope and generality. In particular, stereoselective carboborations to produce tetra-substituted alkenes often face regio- and dia-stereoselectivity issues for internal unsymmetrical alkynes.<sup>11a-e</sup> We recently reported the *trans*-hydroboration and *trans*-cyanoboration of 1,3-enynes catalyzed by a 1,4-azaborine biaryl phosphine (Senphos)-Pd complex.<sup>12</sup> The distinguishing feature of the Pd-Senphos catalyst system is the proposed unusual outer-sphere oxidative addition mechanism<sup>13</sup> (a cooperative activation of the 1,3-enyne by LPd(0) and a Lewis acidic boron species) that introduces the boron group into the alkyne substrate with concomitant formation of a Pd- $\pi$ -allyl species (vs. a more conventional  $\beta$ -migratory insertion pathway by reactions illustrated in Scheme 1, a-c). Given the known versatility of Pd  $\pi$ -allyl intermediate to achieve diverse functionalizations,<sup>14</sup> we envisioned that new bond connections can be

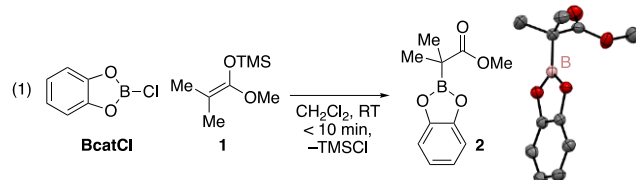
achieved with a variety of nucleophilic boron reagents. In this communication, we report the first carboboration reaction of an alkyne with a boron enolate, thus expanding the scope of carboboration reactions to include the ubiquitous family of enolate nucleophiles.<sup>15</sup> The highly substituted dienyl boronates (containing a tetra-substituted alkene unit) are produced with exquisite site-, regio-, and diastereo-selectivity (Scheme 1d). Senphos ligand type structures are demonstrated to be uniquely enabling in achieving high catalytic efficiency and selectivity in this transformation.

### Scheme 1. Regio- and Stereoselective Synthesis of Tetrasubstituted Alkenyl boronates



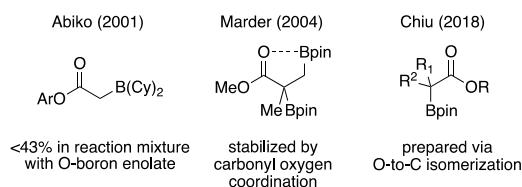
Key to successful development is the discovery of a new family of C-boron enolates as a suitably activating carboboration reagent. Treatment of a silylketene acetal **1** with catecholborane **BcatCl** cleanly furnishes C-catecholboron enolate **2**, which we have unambiguously structurally characterized by single crystal X-ray diffraction analysis (eq. 1). Compound **2** represents a rare example of a C-boron enolate without boron quaternization. The boron atom is completely planar (sum of bond angles = 360°), and the C=O bond is pointed in a direction relative to the C–B bond ( $\angle\text{B-C-C=O} = -124.4(2)^\circ$ ) that is inconsistent with intramolecular coordination. The  $^1\text{H}$  (*gem*-dimethyl signal at  $\delta$  1.5 ppm,  $^{13}\text{C}$  (carbonyl carbon signal at  $\delta$  177.0 ppm), and  $^{11}\text{B}$  NMR (signal at  $\delta$  34 ppm) of a  $\text{CDCl}_3$  solution of **2** are also fully consistent with the C-boron enolate structure vs. O-boron enolate *in solution*.

**Figure 1.** Generation of C-boron enolates



To date, only few examples of unquaternized C-boron enolates have been reported.<sup>16</sup> Abiko et al. reported the first C-boron enolates derived from carboxylic esters in their double aldol reaction study, which exists as equilibrium with the corresponding O-boron enolates.<sup>17</sup> Marder's group observed C-boron enolates in a diborylation reaction, the stability of which was attributed to carbonyl oxygen coordination to  $\beta$ -boryl group.<sup>18</sup> Recently, Chiu group synthesized C-pinacolboron enolates through alkenyl ester 1,4-hydroboration followed by a thermodynamically driven O-to-C isomerization.<sup>19</sup>

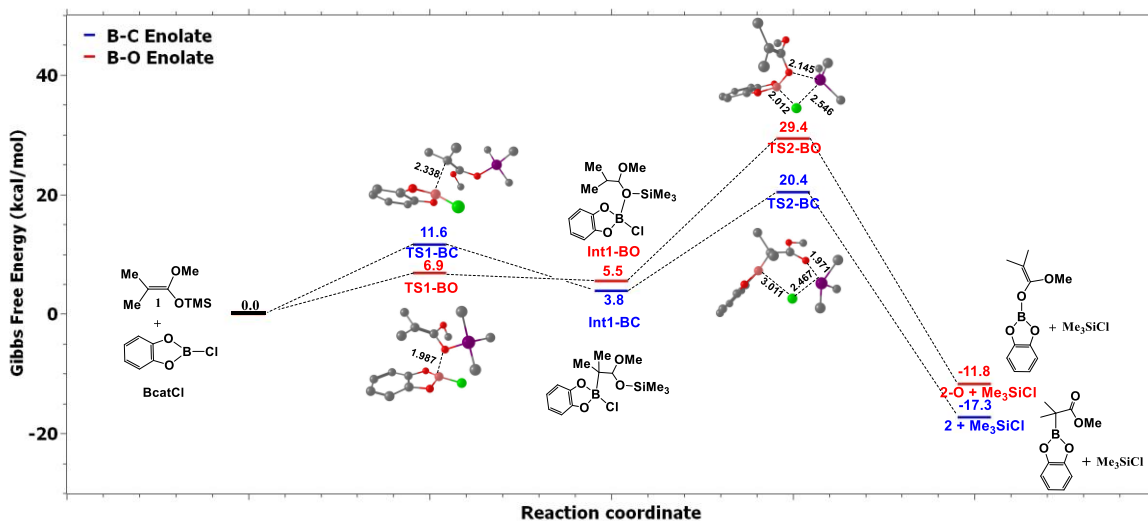
**Scheme 2.** C-Boron Enolates without Boron Quaternization accessed via thermodynamic control



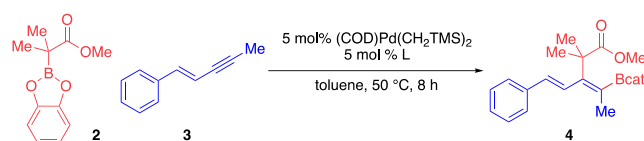
The distinguishing feature of our method illustrated in eq 1 is that the C-boron enolate is formed under kinetically controlled conditions. The reaction between **BcatCl** and silylketene acetal **1** does not lead to an observable built up of O-boron enolate by NMR. Furthermore, DFT calculations (see ESI for computational details) for the reaction between **BcatCl** and silylketene acetal **1**, performed at the SMD( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ )-W97XD/6-31G(d,p) level of theory (Scheme 3),<sup>20,21</sup> evidence a two-step mechanism (scheme 3) and predict that the rate-determining TMSCl elimination step is significantly more energetically unfavorable for the O-boron enolate pathway ( $\Delta G^\ddagger = 29.4$  kcal/mol, red color) than for the C-boron enolate pathway ( $\Delta G^\ddagger = 20.4$  kcal/mol,

blue color). DFT calculations also predict that the kinetically favored C-boron enolate product is also more stable than the O-boron enolate by 5.7 kcal/mol.

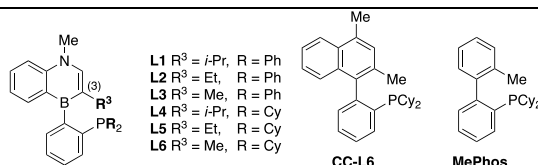
**Scheme 3.** Energy profiles for the reaction between BcatCl and **1** computed at SMD(CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)-W97XD/6-31G(d,p) level of theory ( $\Delta G$  in kcal/mol).



With a C-boron enolate in hand that is sufficiently Lewis acidic to possibly activate the 1,3-ene substrate in an outer-sphere oxidative addition fashion, we surveyed a series of ligands to optimize the carboboration reaction. In the presence of 5 mol% (COD)Pd(CH<sub>2</sub>TMS)<sub>2</sub>/ Senphos **L1**, reaction of 1,3-ene **3** with C-boron enolate **2** (generated from 2 equiv. BcatCl and 3 equiv. silyl ketene acetal **1**, see Supporting Information for experimental details) in toluene at 50 °C affords the corresponding *cis*-carbaboration product **4** in 10% yield with >98:2 *cis*-addition selectivity (Table 1, entry 1). In the absence of the catalyst under otherwise identical reaction conditions, no background reaction is observed. Switching the C(3) substituent R<sup>3</sup> = *i*-Pr on the ligand to a sterically less demanding Et group improves the product yield (entry 2). A further decrease in the steric demand at the C(3) ligand position does not lead to further improvement in yield (entry 3, R<sup>3</sup> = Me). Interestingly, changing the R group on the phosphorous atom from R = Ph to Cy improves the product yield significantly when R<sup>3</sup> = Me (entry 6). However, the corresponding R<sup>3</sup> = *i*-Pr ligand **L4** remains ineffective in supporting the Pd catalysis (entry 4). Moderate yield was achieved with ligand **L5** (R<sup>3</sup> = Et, R = Cy, entry 5). Having established the optimal ligand structure as **L6**, we determined that the corresponding carbonaceous ligand **CC-L6** (entry 7) and the commercially available, structurally related **MePhos**<sup>22</sup> (entry 8) are inferior ligands in terms of both efficiency and selectivity, highlighting the importance of the electronic structure provided by the BN heterocyclic Senphos ligands.<sup>23</sup> We also note that elevating the temperature from 50 °C to 60 °C results in a significant decrease in yield, presumably due to the competing decomposition of the reactive C-boron enolate **2** (entry 6 vs entry 9).<sup>24</sup>

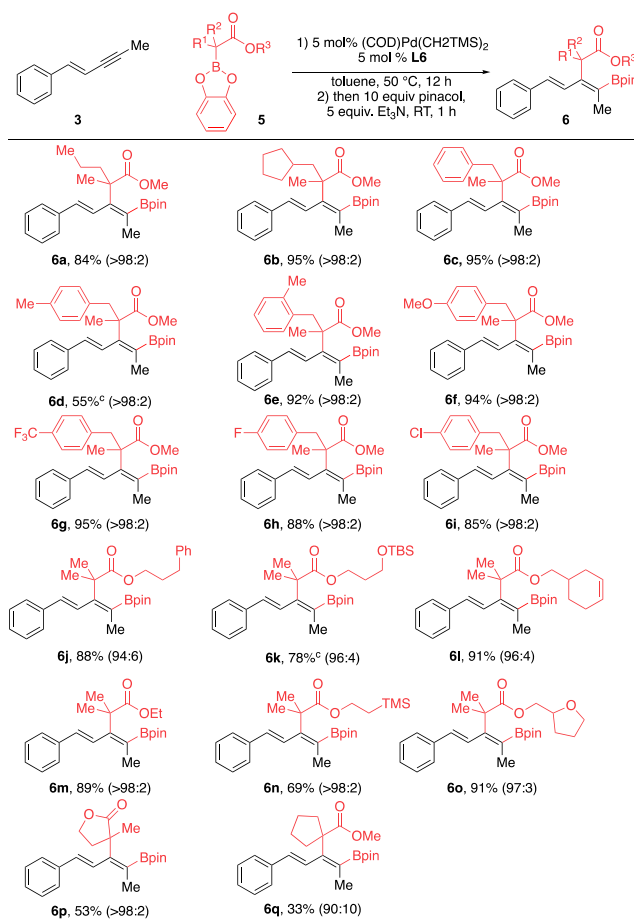
**Table 1.** Ligand Survey of Internal 1,3-enyne *cis*-Carboboration<sup>a</sup>

| entry | L             | Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>    | Selectivity <sup>b</sup>             |
|-------|---------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1     | <b>L1</b>     | 10                        | > 98:2 <i>cis</i> addition           |
| 2     | <b>L2</b>     | 45                        | > 98:2 <i>cis</i> addition           |
| 3     | <b>L3</b>     | 43                        | > 98:2 <i>cis</i> addition           |
| 4     | <b>L4</b>     | 5                         | N.D.                                 |
| 5     | <b>L5</b>     | 72                        | > 98:2 <i>cis</i> addition           |
| 6     | <b>L6</b>     | <b>90(88)<sup>c</sup></b> | <b>&gt; 98:2 <i>cis</i> addition</b> |
| 7     | <b>CC-L6</b>  | 48                        | 88:12 <i>cis</i> addition            |
| 8     | <b>MePhos</b> | 30                        | 88:12 <i>cis</i> addition            |
| 9     | <b>L6</b>     | 30 <sup>d</sup>           | > 98:12 <i>cis</i> addition          |



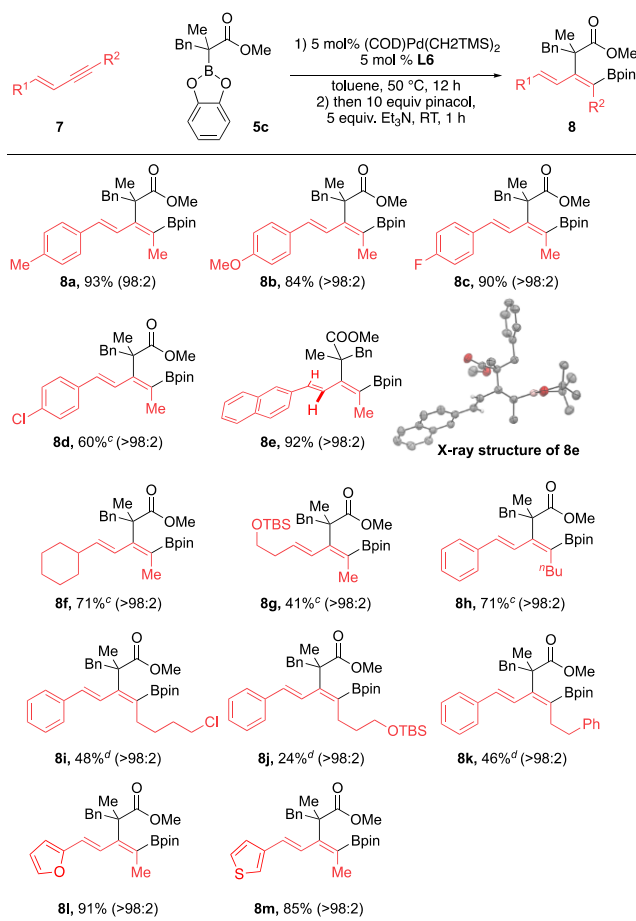
<sup>a</sup> See SI for detailed procedure. <sup>b</sup> Yield and selectivity were determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of unpurified reaction mixtures with CH<sub>2</sub>Br<sub>2</sub> as the internal standard. <sup>c</sup> Isolated yield (in parenthesis) of the Bpin adduct. <sup>d</sup> Reaction performed at 60 °C.

Having identified optimal conditions, we next explored the scope of this transformation with different C-boron enolates (**Table 2**). Aryl substituents such as methoxy (entry **6f**), trifluoromethyl (entry **6g**), and aryl halides (entries **6h** and **6i**) are well tolerated. For as of yet to be determined reasons, a lower yield was observed for the *para*-methyl substituted aryl C-boron enolate (**6d**) while the *ortho*-methyl substituted C-boron enolate (entry **6e**) performed with high efficiency. Silyl ether (entry **6k**) and cyclic alkene (entry **6l**) functional groups are also tolerated. Sterically demanding cyclic C-boron enolates (entries **6p** and **6q**) are also suitable substrates, albeit a lower yield was observed.

**Table 2.** Reaction Scope of C-Boron Enolates<sup>a,b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> See SI for detailed procedure. Selectivity was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the purified product. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yields are reported as the average of two runs. <sup>c</sup> 18 h reaction time.

We then evaluated the generality of this method with respect to the internal 1,3-enyne (**Table 3**). 1,3-Enynes bearing an aryl group at the **R**<sup>1</sup> position generally give higher yields than alkyl groups (entry **6c**, **8a-c** vs. **8f-g**). When the steric demand at the **R**<sup>2</sup> position increases (**R**<sup>2</sup> > Me), the reaction becomes more sluggish (entries **8h-k**), however, the high diastereoselectivity is maintained. We are pleased to determine that heteroaryl derived enynes (furan: entry **8l**, and thiophene: entry **8m**) are excellent substrates for the carboboration reaction. We have obtained the X-ray crystal structure of product **8e**,<sup>25</sup> thus unambiguously establishing the connectivity and the diastereoselectivity of the reaction. Notably, the solid structure of compound **8e** shows an almost perpendicular diene structure with a C=C-C=C dihedral angle of -69.4(2)°, which highlights the steric demand imposed by the highly substituted alkene.<sup>26</sup> Overall, Table 3 illustrates that across all surveyed 1,3-enynes high site-, regio- and diastereoselectivity can be achieved for the carboboration.

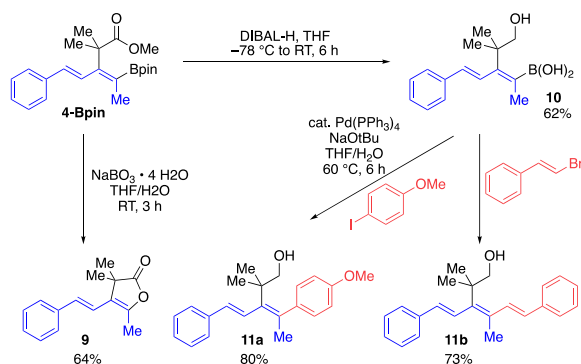
**Table 3.** Reaction Scope of Internal 1,3-Enynes<sup>a,b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> See SI for detailed procedure. Selectivity was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the purified product. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yields are reported as the average of two runs. <sup>c</sup> 18 h reaction time. <sup>d</sup> 18 h reaction time with 10 mol% [Pd]/**L6**.

The highly substituted dienyl Bpin products can serve as useful intermediates in subsequent stereospecific transformations. For example, **4-Bpin** can be readily oxidized to afford the 2-furanone scaffold **9**, which comprises an important class of heterocyclic compounds in fragrances<sup>27</sup> and biologically active molecules.<sup>28</sup> Reduction of **4-Bpin** produces the dienyl boronic acid **10** which can further undergo Suzuki-Miyaura cross coupling with aryl or alkenyl halides to furnish the corresponding bis-aryl conjugated diene (**11a**) and triene (**11b**), respectively.

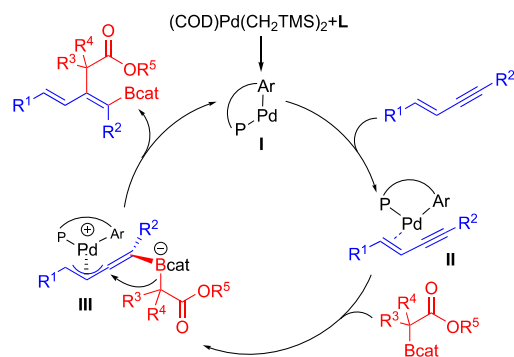


#### Scheme 4. Derivatization of Reaction Products



A plausible reaction mechanism is illustrated in Scheme 5. In the presence of Senphos ligand **L** the (COD)Pd(CH<sub>2</sub>TMS)<sub>2</sub> precatalyst reductively eliminates 1,2-bis(trimethylsilyl)ethane to form the active LPd(0) species **I**,<sup>29</sup> which then subsequently binds to the 1,3-enyne. The LPd(0)-enyne complex **II** is then activated by the Lewis acidic C-boron enolate to furnish the outer-sphere oxidative adduct **III**. The Pd  $\pi$ -allyl is then attacked by an enolate equivalent to yield the product with concomitant regeneration of LPd(0) species **I**.<sup>14</sup> C-Boron enolates are uniquely effective for this coupling reaction due to its more Lewis acidic boron center (vs. O-boron enolate) that can help activate the enyne substrate via an outer-sphere oxidation mechanism.<sup>30</sup> The stronger Lewis acidic character of the C-boron enolate versus O-boron enolate is corroborated by the electronic structure calculations where an analysis of LUMOs with a strong boron contribution reveals a significant lower energy for C-boron enolate (see ESI).

#### Scheme 5. Proposed Catalytic Cycle



In summary, we discovered a new class of C-boron enolates via a kinetically controlled halogen exchange between chlorocatecholborane and silylketene acetals. These C-boron enolates are uniquely capable

in activating 1,3-enyne substrates in the presence of a Pd(0)/Senphos ligand complex via a proposed outer-sphere oxidative addition reaction mechanism, resulting in the first examples of a carboboration reaction of an alkyne with enolate-equivalent nucleophiles. The described catalytic *cis*-carboboration reaction produces highly substituted dienyl boron building blocks in high site-, regio-, and diastereoselectivity under mild conditions. Current efforts are directed toward developing new metal/Senphos-catalyzed processes as well as a better understanding of the underlying reaction mechanisms.

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## AUTHOR INFORMATION

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