

Supporting Information

for

Group-assisted purification (GAP) chemistry for the synthesis of Velcade via asymmetric borylation of *N*-phosphinylimines

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Experimental details, characterization data of all products, and copies of NMR spectra.

General remarks

All commercially available solvents, unless otherwise mentioned, were used without purification. DCM was distilled from CaH₂. Toluene was distilled from Na/benzophenone. B₂Pin₂ was purchased from Frontier Scientific. CuCl (>99.99%) was purchased from Aldrich. All the glasswares used were dried overnight at 110 °C.

All melting points are uncorrected. The NMR spectra were recorded at 400, 100, and 162 MHz for ^1H , ^{13}C , and ^{31}P , respectively with a JEOL ECS 400 MHz spectrometer. Chemical shifts were reported in ppm downfield from internal Me_4Si and external 85% H_3PO_4 , respectively. Optical rotations were determined using an Autopol[®] IV automatic polarimeter. X-ray diffraction analysis was performed on a Bruker smart-1000 X-ray diffraction meter.

Preparation of achiral copper(I) catalyst ICyCuO^{*t*}Bu

[1,3-Dicyclohexylimidazol-2-ylidene]copper(I) *tert*-butoxide, ICyCuO^{*t*}Bu, was prepared starting from 1,3-dicyclohexyl-1*H*-imidazol-3-ium chloride (ICy·HCl) ¹ according to literature method² with slight improvement in one step.

A 10 ml Schlenk tube with a Teflon-coated magnetic stirbar was charged with CuCl (0.41 g, 4.1 mmol), NaO^{*t*}Bu (0.99 g, 10.3 mmol), and ICy·HCl (1.08 g, 4.0 mmol). The mixture was protected with argon. THF (10 mL) was added, and the reaction mixture was stirred for 16 hours. The resulting cloudy solution was added 10 mL DCM, then filtered through dried Celite, and concentrated in vacuo. The title compound was obtained as gray foam (1.33 g, 90%).

Preparation of phosphinyl imine 2 and borylation product 3

Imine 2a:

To a 10 mL Schlenk tube with a Teflon-coated magnetic stirbar was added anhydrous MgSO_4 (0.62 g, 7 equiv) and 4 Å molecular sieves (2.0 g). The tube was put into a 250 °C oven for 24 h before dried in high vacuum when hot. After the tube was cooled down completely, (S,S)-phosphinamide **1** (200 mg, 0.74 mmol) was

¹ Prepared according to literature: Herrmann, W. A.; Kocher, C.; Gookn, L. J.; Artus, G. R. J. *Chem. Eur. J.* **1996**, 2, 1627–1636.

² Laitar, D. S.; Tsui, E. Y.; Sadighi, J. P. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2006**, 128, 11036–11037.

added. The mixture was protected with argon atmosphere. Isovaleraldehyde (2 equiv) and DCM (5 mL) were added with syringe then. The reaction mixture was stirred vigorously for 5 days. The resulting slurry was filtered on dried Celite and washed thoroughly by DCM for 5 times. The filtrate was concentrated at room temperature and then put into high vacuum overnight. The crude product was checked by ^{31}P NMR and ^1H NMR and used directly for next step without further purification. (S,S)-**2a**: colorless oil. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 0.58 (CH_3 , d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 0.65 (CH_3 , d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 1.63–1.74 (CH, m, 1H), 1.92–1.98 (CH_2 , m, 1H), 2.02–2.08 (CH_2 , m, 1H), 2.18–2.63 (CH_2 , m, 4H), 3.36–3.54 (CH, m, 2H), 7.07–7.28 (Ar-H, m, 10H), 8.14–8.25 ($\text{N}=\text{CH}$, m, 1H). ^{31}P NMR (CDCl_3 , 162 MHz) δ 55.4 (s). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 183.9, 183.8, 136.7, 136.7, 135.8, 135.7, 129.0, 128.9, 128.6, 128.4, 128.4, 127.9, 127.9, 126.9, 126.9, 126.7, 126.7, 48.8, 48.0, 47.9, 47.7, 45.5, 44.7, 32.4, 32.3, 27.8, 27.7, 25.5, 22.4, 22.3.

*General procedure to imine **2b–2d**:*

To a 10 mL Schlenk tube with a Teflon-coated magnetic stirbar was added (S,S)-phosphinamide **1** (200 mg, 0.74 mmol). 5 mL of toluene was added then under argon atmosphere. Aldehyde (2 equiv) and $\text{Ti}(\text{OiPr})_4$ (3.0 equiv) were added subsequently. The suspension was stirred at room temperature for 2–3 days. The reaction was monitored by ^{31}P NMR. When complete, the clear solution was concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by rapid silica gel column chromatography (silica gel was dried in 250 $^\circ\text{C}$. Solvents were dried over molecular sieves. EtOAc/hexanes/ NEt_3 = 1/1/0.02) to afford the hemiaminal **7** or its mixture with imine. The product was re-dissolved in CDCl_3 and monitored by ^{31}P NMR. After 3 hours, the solution was concentrated again to afford the imine as the main product.

Imine 2b (mixture with hemiaminal, 10:1):

Colorless oil. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 0.79 (CH_3 , d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3H), 0.84 (CH_3 , d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3H), 2.26–2.71 (m, 5H), 3.44–3.59 (PCH, m, 2H), 7.15–7.35 (Ar-H, m, 10H), 8.17 (N=CH, dd, $J = 4.1$ Hz, $J = 33.4$ Hz, 1H). ^{31}P NMR (CDCl_3 , 162 MHz) δ 55.2 (s). [For hemiaminal, two isomers, δ 51.3 (s) and 49.8 (s)] ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 187.7, 187.5, 136.9, 136.8, 135.9, 135.9, 129.3, 129.2, 129.1, 129.0, 128.7, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 128.0, 127.0, 127.0, 126.7, 126.7, 48.9, 48.2, 45.5, 44.6, 37.0, 36.8, 32.6, 32.5, 27.8, 27.7, 25.4, 17.9, 17.8.

Imine 2c (mixture with hemiaminal, ~2:1):

Colorless oil. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 0.88–1.64 (m, 11H), 2.03–2.71 (m, 5H), 3.43–3.59 (PCH, m, 2H), 7.16–7.42 (Ar-H, m, 10H), 8.15 (N=CH, dd, $J = 4.2$ Hz, $J = 34.4$ Hz, 1H). ^{31}P NMR (CDCl_3 , 162 MHz) δ 55.2 (s). [For hemiaminal, two isomers, δ 51.5 (s) and 50.0 (s)]

Imine 2d (mixture with hemiaminal, ~3:1):

Colorless oil. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 1.97–2.69 (m, 8H), 3.42–3.60 (PCH, m, 2H), 6.94–7.37 (Ar-H, m, 15H), 8.33 (N=CH, td, $J = 3.4$ Hz, $J = 33.0$ Hz, 1H). ^{31}P NMR (CDCl_3 , 162 MHz) δ 55.5 (s). [For hemiaminal, two isomers, δ 52.0 (s) and 49.8 (s)]

General procedure to imine 2e and 2f:

To a 10 mL Schlenk tube with a Teflon-coated magnetic stirbar was added (S,S)-phosphinamide **1** (200 mg, 0.74 mmol). 5 mL of toluene was added then under argon atmosphere. Aldehyde (1.1 equiv) and $\text{Ti}(\text{OiPr})_4$ (2.0 equiv) were added subsequently. The suspension was stirred at 80 °C for 20 hours before cooled down

to room temperature. Water (7 equiv) was added then and the mixture was stirred vigorously for 3 minutes. The suspension was filtered by Celite and the filtrate was then concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was checked by ^1H NMR and ^{31}P NMR, and used for next step without further purification.

Imine 2e (crude):

Pale yellow solid. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 2.36–2.76 (CH_2 , m, 4H), 3.68–3.76 (PCH, m, 2H), 7.08–7.71 (Ar-H, m, 15H), 8.77 (N=CH, d, $J = 32.6$ Hz, 1H). ^{31}P NMR (CDCl_3 , 162 MHz) δ 56.2 (s).

Imine 2f (crude):

Pale yellow solid. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 2.32–2.74 (CH_2 , m, 4H), 3.52–3.62 (PCH, m, 2H), 3.84 (OCH_3 , s, 3H), 6.87–6.91 (m, 2H), 6.99–7.66 (m, 12H), 8.48 (N=CH, d, $J = 32.5$ Hz, 1H). ^{31}P NMR (CDCl_3 , 162 MHz) δ 56.3 (s).

General procedure for the borylation reaction and GAP operation

A 10 mL Schlenk tube was charged with the crude imine **2**, B_2Pin_2 (375 mg, 2 equiv), catalyst ICyCuOt-Bu (54 mg, 20 mol %) and 4 Å Molecule Sieves (2.0 g). The mixture was protected with argon atmosphere. Toluene (4 mL) was added with syringe then. The reaction mixture was stirred vigorously for 3 days. The resulting slurry was filtered on Celite and washed by EtOAc for 5 times. The filtrate was condensed and then checked by ^{31}P NMR to determine the conversion and the crude dr value. GAP operations: 1) Method A: The filtrate was re-dissolved in EtOAc and washed with 1 N HCl, water and brine successively, then dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 . The crude product was obtained by filtration and concentration then. 5 mL of hexanes was added to triturate the crude product. After 30 minutes, the organic

extraction layer was decanted and another 5 mL hexanes was added again. The resulting slurry was then filtered and the solid was washed with 2 mL hexanes. The solid product was collected and dried in vacuo. The yield was calculated and the dr value and purity were checked by ^{31}P NMR and ^1H NMR. 2) Method B: The filtrate was re-dissolved in EtOAc/hexanes (20 mL, v/v = 1:1), and then filtered on Celite. The filtrate was concentrated and triturated with hexanes (5 mL). After 30 minutes, the organic extraction layer was decanted and another 5 mL hexanes was added again. The resulting slurry was then filtered and the solid was washed with 2 mL hexanes. The solid product was collected and dried in vacuo. The yield was calculated and the dr value and purity were checked by ^{31}P NMR and ^1H NMR.

(S,S,R)-3a:

dr > 99:1. White solid (56%). $[\alpha]_D^{25} -127.1$ (c 1.40, CH_2Cl_2). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 0.58 (CH_3 , d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 3H), 0.59 (CH_3 , d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 3H), 0.92–0.97 (CH, m, 1H), 1.03–1.08 (CH_2 , m, 1H), 1.12 (CH_3 , s, 6H), 1.16 (CH_3 , s, 6H), 1.21–1.28 (CH, m, 1H), 1.91–2.03 (CH_2 , NH, m, 2H), 2.14–2.25 (CH_2 , m, 1H), 2.33–2.49 (CH_2 , m, 2H), 2.62–2.72 (CH, m, 1H), 3.03–3.11 (CH, m, 1H), 3.41–3.51 (NCH, m, 1H), 7.19–7.41 (Ar-H, m, 10H). ^{31}P NMR (CDCl_3 , 162 MHz) δ 53.3 (s). [For the (S, S, S)-**3a**, $\delta = 54.0$ (s)] ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 137.3, 137.3, 137.2, 137.2, 128.9, 128.9, 128.7, 128.3, 127.9, 127.9, 126.7, 126.5, 83.7, 48.6, 47.8, 42.9, 31.6, 31.1, 31.0, 28.1, 28.0, 25.1, 24.7, 24.5, 22.7, 22.6, 22.3, 14.1. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{40}\text{BNO}_3\text{P}$ ($[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$): 468.2839; found: 468.2852.

(S,S,R)-3b:

dr > 99:1. White solid (26%). $[\alpha]_D^{25} -13.8$ (c 0.50, CH_2Cl_2). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 0.53 (CH_3 , d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3H), 0.57 (CH_3 , d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H), 1.16 (CH_3 , s,

6H), 1.18 (CH₃, s, 6H), 1.30–1.38 (Me₂CH, m, 1H), 1.99–2.10 (m, 1H), 2.18–2.29 (m, 2H), 2.34–2.50 (m, 2H), 2.60–2.66 (m, 1H), 3.01–3.10 (m, 1H), 3.45–3.55 (m, 1H), 7.19–7.39 (Ar-H, m, 10H). ³¹P NMR (CDCl₃, 162 MHz) δ 52.2 (s). [For the (S, S, S)-**3b**, δ = 53.2 (s)] ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 137.5, 137.5, 128.9, 128.9, 128.8, 128.5, 128.1, 128.0, 126.7, 126.7, 126.6, 83.9, 77.3, 48.6, 47.9, 47.3, 46.5, 32.2, 31.0, 30.9, 28.2, 28.1, 25.0, 24.8, 19.5, 19.0. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₂₆H₃₈BNO₃P ([M + H]⁺): 454.2682; found: 454.2672.

(S,S,R)-3c:

dr = 99:1. White solid (40%). [α]_D²⁵ –31.9 (c 1.70, CH₂Cl₂). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 0.50–0.68 (m, 2H), 0.80–0.93 (m, 3H), 1.15 (CH₃, s, 6H), 1.16 (CH₃, s, 6H), 1.59–2.63 (m, 12H), 2.97–3.05 (m, 1H), 3.42–3.52 (m, 1H), 7.17–7.37 (Ar-H, m, 10H). ³¹P NMR (CDCl₃, 162 MHz) δ 52.8 (s). [For the (S, S, S)-**3c**, δ = 53.5 (s)] ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 137.8, 137.7, 137.4, 137.4, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 128.1, 128.0, 126.7, 126.6, 120.1, 118.5, 83.9, 77.1, 60.4, 58.4, 48.6, 47.8, 47.6, 46.8, 42.0, 33.7, 33.3, 30.6, 30.5, 29.9, 29.7, 28.4, 28.3, 26.4, 26.3, 26.2, 25.2, 25.0, 25.0, 24.8, 24.7. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₂₉H₄₂BNO₃P ([M + H]⁺): 494.2995; found: 494.2982.

(S,S,R)-3d:

dr = 98:2. White solid (45%). [α]_D²⁵ –74.3 (c 0.40, CH₂Cl₂). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 1.15 (CH₃, s, 6H), 1.17 (CH₃, s, 6H), 1.40–1.48 (m, 2H), 1.97–2.06 (m, 1H), 2.19–2.49 (m, 6H), 2.71–2.79 (m, 1H), 3.00–3.08 (m, 1H), 3.45–3.55 (m, 1H), 6.94–6.96 (m, 2H), 7.08–7.12 (m, 1H), 7.16–7.39 (m, 12H). ³¹P NMR (CDCl₃, 162 MHz) δ 53.2 (s). [For the (S, S, S)-**3c**, δ = 54.1 (s)] ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 142.3, 137.3, 129.0, 128.9, 128.9, 128.5, 128.2, 127.9, 127.9, 126.8, 126.7, 125.6, 84.1,

77.3, 48.6, 47.8, 47.0, 46.2, 35.9, 32.7, 31.0, 30.9, 28.0, 27.9, 25.0, 24.8. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{31}H_{40}BNO_3P$ ($[M + H]^+$): 516.2839; found: 516.2827.

(S,S,R)-3e:

dr > 99:1 after CC purification (51%). (*Not stable in air*) White solid. 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 400 MHz) δ 0.94 (CH_3 , s, 6H), 1.02 (CH_3 , s, 6H), 2.07–2.41 (m, 4H), 2.78–2.85 (m, 1H), 3.11–3.18 (m, 1H), 3.49–3.57 (m, 1H), 3.94 (dd, $J = 6.0$ Hz, $J = 11.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.85–6.87 (m, 2H), 7.11–7.41 (m, 13 H). ^{31}P NMR ($CDCl_3$, 162 MHz) δ 52.8 (s). ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 100 MHz) δ 141.9, 137.7, 137.6, 136.6, 136.5, 129.0, 129.0, 128.7, 128.6, 128.2, 127.9, 127.8, 127.0, 127.0, 126.4, 126.4, 84.4, 77.3, 48.2, 47.4, 46.2, 45.4, 32.6, 32.5, 27.2, 27.1, 24.6, 24.4. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{29}H_{36}BNO_3P$ ($[M + H]^+$): 488.2526; found: 488.2510.

(S,S,R)-3f:

dr > 99:1. White solid (44%). (*Not stable in air*) 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 400 MHz) δ 0.94 (CH_3 , s, 6H), 1.02 (CH_3 , s, 6H), 2.06–2.39 (m, 4H), 2.76–2.85 (m, 1H), 3.08 (dd, $J = 3.2$ Hz, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.46–3.56 (m, 1H), 3.77 (OCH_3 , s, 3H), 3.87 (dd, $J = 5.5$ Hz, $J = 11.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.75–7.39 (Ar-H, m, 14H). ^{31}P NMR ($CDCl_3$, 162 MHz) δ 52.8 (s). ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 100 MHz) δ 158.3, 137.7, 137.7, 136.6, 136.6, 133.8, 129.3, 129.2, 129.1, 129.0, 128.8, 128.2, 127.9, 127.8, 127.0, 126.9, 126.3, 114.0, 84.4, 77.3, 55.3, 48.2, 47.4, 46.2, 45.4, 32.6, 32.5, 27.2, 27.1, 24.6, 24.4. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{30}H_{38}BNO_3P$ ($[M + H]^+$): 518.2632; found: 518.2609.

Deprotection of 3a

To a 50 mL Schlenk tube with a stirbar was added (S,S,R)-**3a** (200 mg, 0.43 mmol). The compound was protected with argon atmosphere. MeOH and H_2O were

added as a mixture (1:2, 11 mL) with syringe. Then, 1.5 equivalent of HCl (4.0 M in dioxane, 0.16 mL) was added dropwise at room temperature with a syringe. The suspension was stirred vigorously at room temperature for 16 h. 5 mL H₂O was added. The resulting slurry was then filtered. The solid was washed by 2 mL H₂O and dried in high vacuum to provide a pure and quantitative amount of (*R,R*)-phosphinic acid **5**. The combined filtrate was condensed to remove methanol, then extracted with 5 mL DCM. The water phase was separated and added 10 mL MeOH, then condensed under vacuum. A white solid was obtained then. DCM was added to extract the product and the pure (*R*)-3-methyl-1-(4',4',5',5'-tetramethyl-1',3',2'-dioxaborolan-2'-yl)butan-1-amine hydrogen chloride salt **4** (98 mg, 92%) was got after concentration. The ¹H NMR was in accord with that reported in Ellman's work. $[\alpha]_D^{25} -7.4$ (c 1.6, CH₂Cl₂). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 0.97 (CH₃, d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 6H), 1.30 (CH₃, s, 12H), 1.62–1.94 (CH, CH₂, m, 3H), 2.94 (NCH, br, 1H), 8.20 (NH₃, br, 3H).

NMR spectra

















