



香港中文大學
The Chinese University of Hong Kong



Journal Club

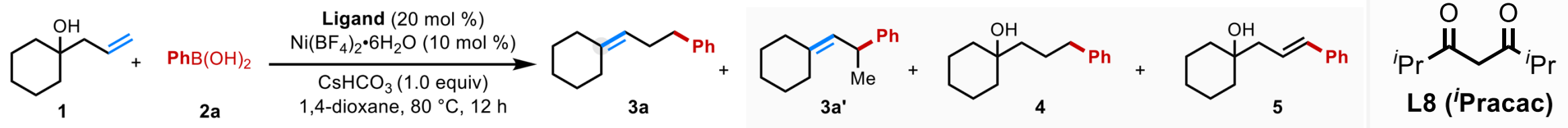
Kenyon Chow

01/09/2026

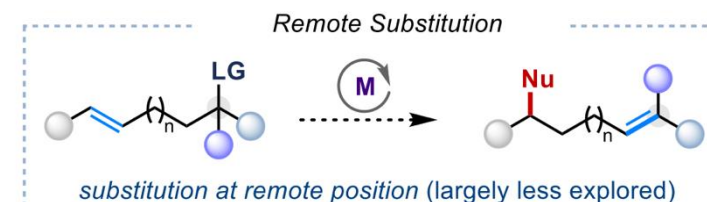
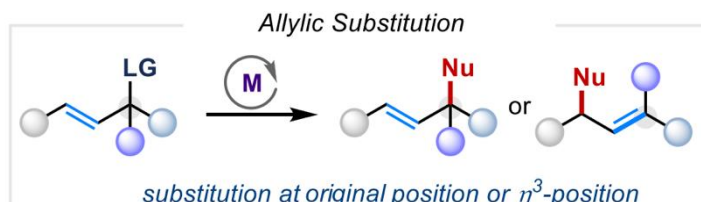
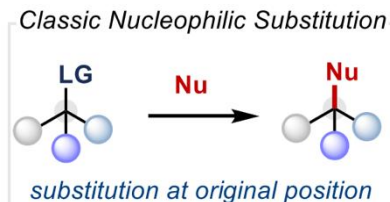
1 September 2026



b. Ligand effect for remote substitution

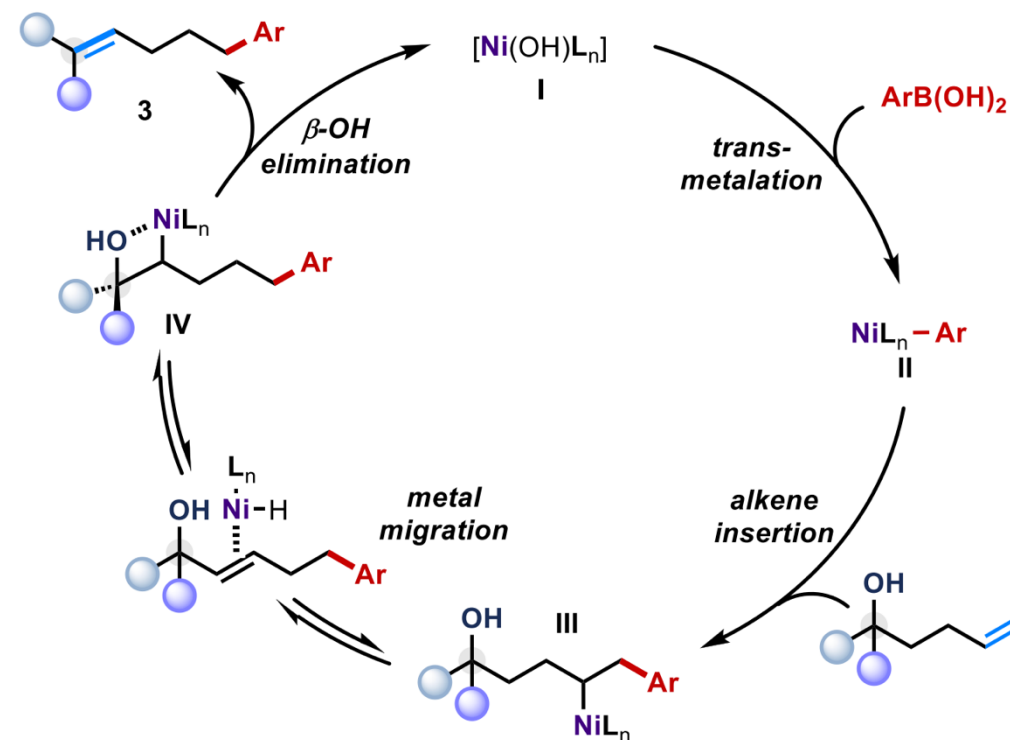


- Paper suggested that remote substitution has not been explored, while classical $\text{S}_{\text{N}}1$, $\text{S}_{\text{N}}2$, allylic substitution are largely explored.
- If OH group want to be substituted, which often uses tosylate groups and halides, will decrease the yield of product.



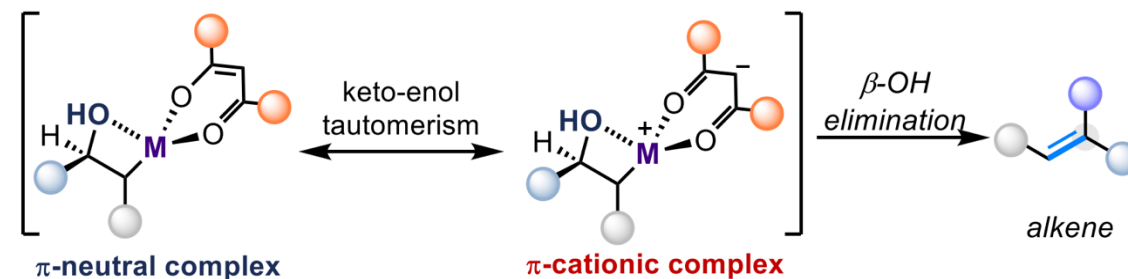
- In compound IV, we could find out that it suggests beta-OH elimination, which is normally unlikely to happen

e. Proposed catalytic cycle for Ni-catalyzed remote aryl substitution

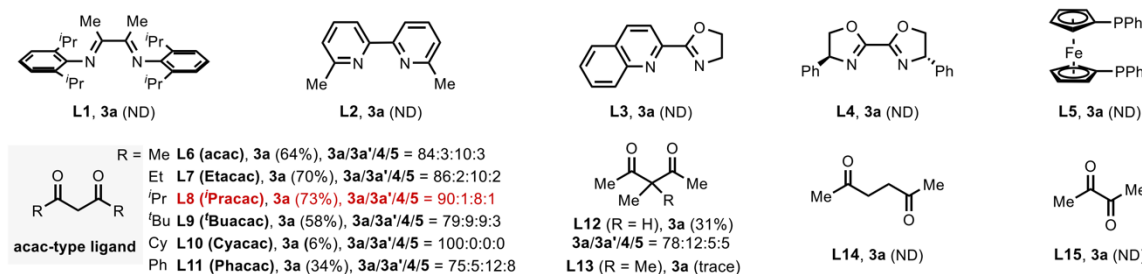
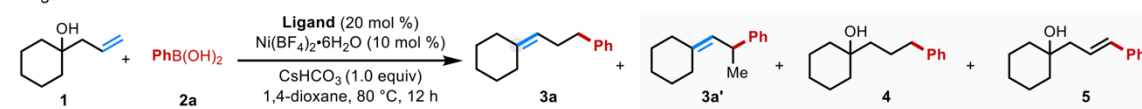


Favoring beta-OH elimination

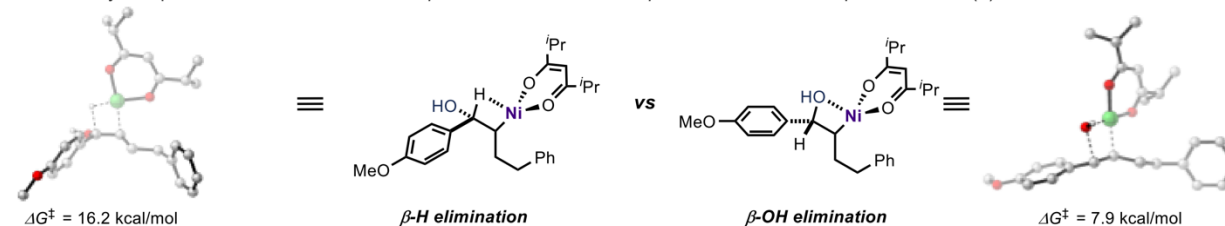
- Ability for ketone to tautomerise
- Ligand enhance oxophilicity of metal catalyst
- Ability for ligand to make nickel more Lewis acidic, favoring the Ni-O interaction
- DFT calculation has been provided below
- structure of an alcohol complexes showed a shortened Ni(II)-OH(R) bond suggesting that the β -diketone ligand could enhance the oxophilicity of the nickel metal
- Consider L12, where the enol form is more stabilised, the yield and regioselectivity decreases, suggesting the importance of rapid keto-enol tautomerism



b. Ligand effect for remote substitution



a. Preliminary computational studies on selective β -OH elimination versus β -H elimination in the presence of Ni(II)/*i*Pracac



2.6.3 The Free Energy Profile for Different Pathways (kcal/mol)

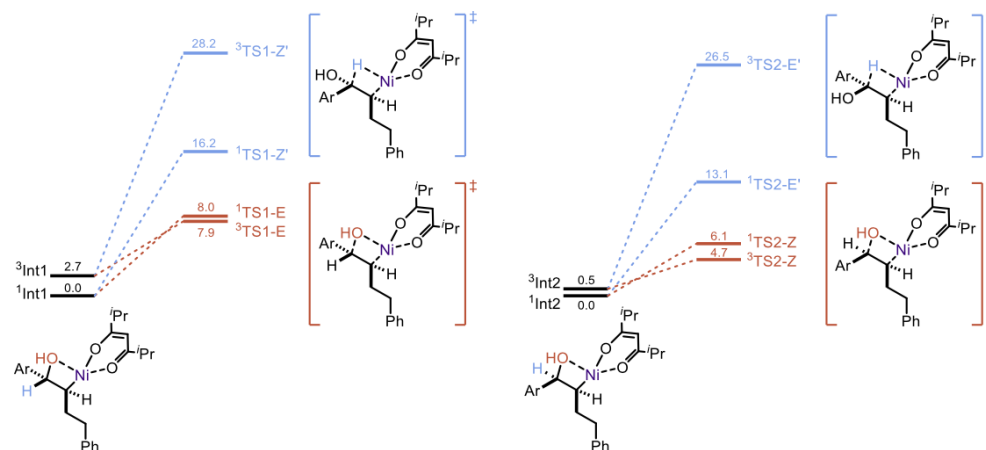


Figure S9. The free energy profile for different pathways

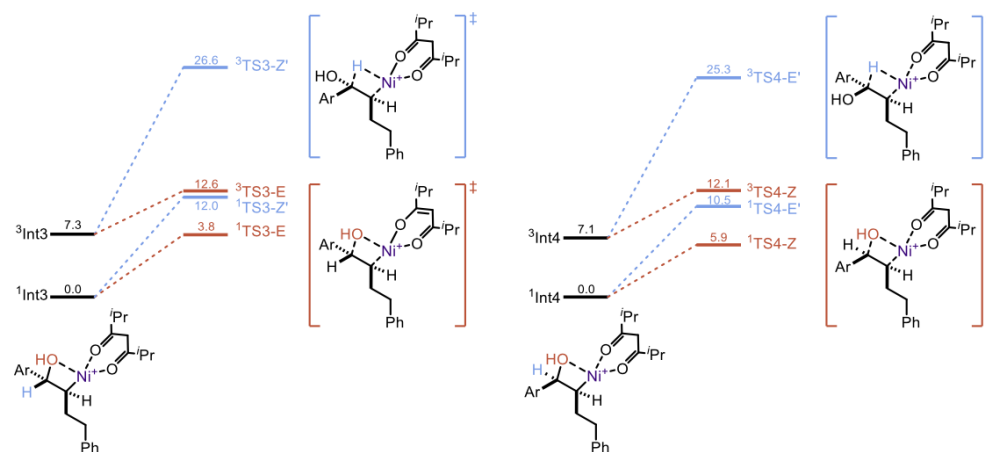
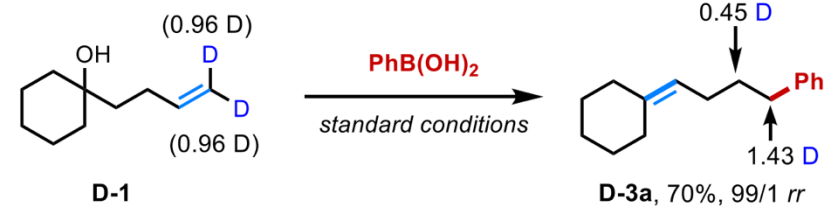
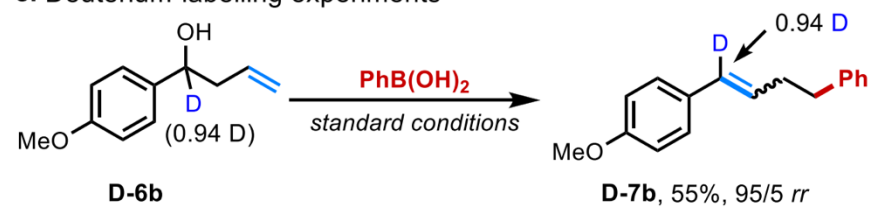


Figure S10. The free energy profile for different pathways

c. Deuterium-labelling experiments

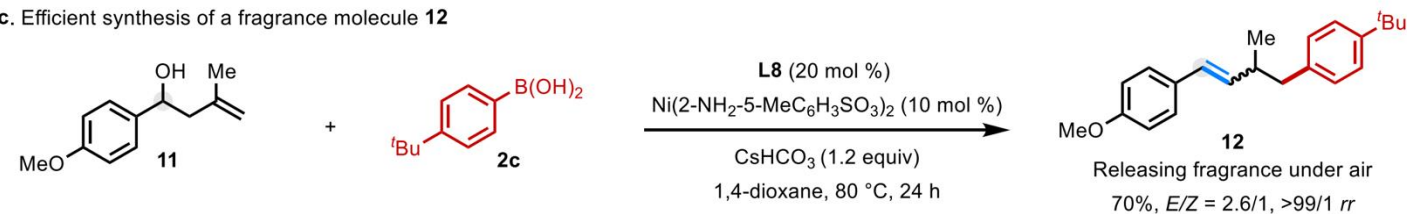


Relies on carbo-nickelation, nickel migration, and selective β -OH elimination

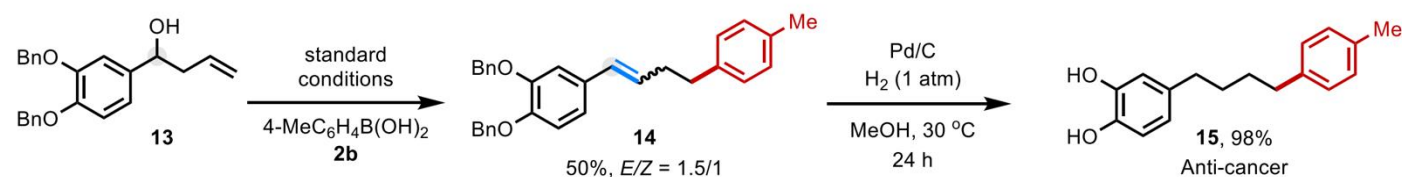
Overcomes the usual preference for β -H elimination

The bulky 1,3-diketone ligand is key to enabling the desired pathway

c. Efficient synthesis of a fragrance molecule **12**



d. Efficient synthesis of bioactive compound **15** with anti-cancer activity



Thank You