

# Asymmetric, Lewis-Acid Catalysed, Diels-Alder Reactions of Phthalazine

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Clusters  
Skylia Cluster Gießen, FUCHS-CSC  
Frankfurt

Software  
GAUSSIAN, ORCA

Additional Software  
CYLview, Avogadro

Institute  
Institut für Organische Chemie

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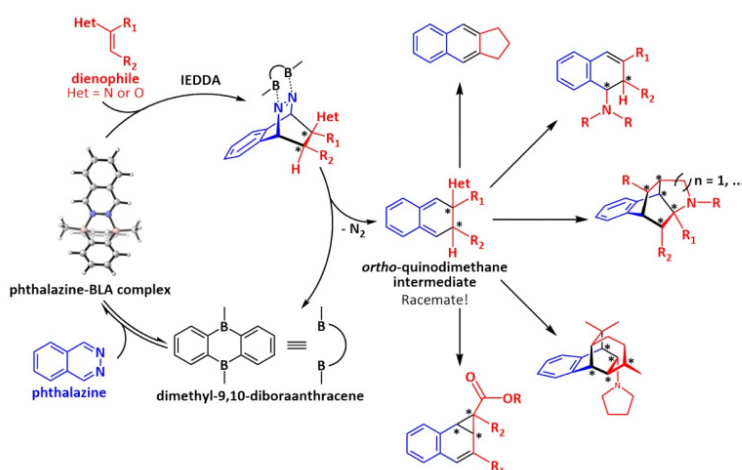


Fig. 1

## Introduction

Novel methods to access complex molecular structures open new avenues for applications in medical as well as material sciences. That is the reason why we investigate inverse electron-demand Diels-Alder (IEDDA) reactions of phthalazine. Starting from simple reactants like aldehydes, amines and phthalazine, complex structures can be generated within one step executing such IEDDA (Fig. 1). But phthalazine is an unreactive species in this context. Therefore, it has to be activated, for example by a Lewis-acid (LA) catalyst, like dimethyl-9,10-diboraanthracene (DBA). One major aspect of such reactions is the energy gap between the LUMO (lowest unoccupied molecule orbital) of phthalazine and the HOMO (highest occupied molecule orbital) of the dienophile. The orbital energies of phthalazine are lowered by bidentate coordination to the LA catalyst, which enables the reaction. Currently, we focus on the development of chiral bidentate LA to execute these transformations in an enantioselective fashion since chirality plays a crucial role. In this process, the 3D structure of the phthalazine-LA-catalyst complex is of particular interest.

## Methods

Geometries can be modulated and energy gaps can be preestimated by computational chemistry. We design chiral LAs and apply computational chemistry to modulate the binding behaviour of phthalazine to these candidates. Sterics in addition to non-covalent interactions determine the favourable conformation of the resulting phthalazine-LA complex and

control the orientation of the incoming dienophile. This information can be extracted from computations and be used to predict, which chiral LA candidates are promising, especially in the context of enantioselectivity.

## Results

The most promising catalyst candidates are based on the 9,10-diboraanthracene scaffold, which is functionalized with various chiral substituents. We developed synthesis strategies to prepare them and already synthesised some of them.

## Outlook

At the moment, we concentrate on the synthesis and characterisation of these bidentate LAs. In parallel we apply them to IEDDA reactions of phthalazine and investigate the enantiomeric ratios of the products.

## Publications

Sebastian Ahles, Silas Götz, Luca Schweighauser, Mirko Brodsky, Simon N. Kessler, Andreas H. Heindl, and Hermann A. Wegner. 2018. An Amine Group Transfer Reaction Driven by Aromaticity. *Org. Lett.* <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.orglett.8b02967>

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Luca Schweighauser, Ina Bodoky, Simon N. Kessler, Daniel Häussinger, Carsten Donsbach, and Hermann A. Wegner. 2016. Bidentate Lewis Acid Catalyzed Domino Diels-Alder Reaction of Phthalazine for the Synthesis of Bridged Oligocyclic Tetrahydronaphthalenes. *Org. Lett.* 18, 6, 1330-1333. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.orglett.6b00276>

Luca Schweighauser and Hermann A. Wegner. 2016. Bis-Boron Compounds in Catalysis: Bidentate and Bifunctional Activation. *Chem. Eur. J.* 22, 40, 14094-14103. <https://doi.org/10.1002/chem.201602231>

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