## $\pi$ –Cu(II)– $\pi$ Complexes as Extremely Active Catalysts for Enantioselective $\alpha$ -Halogenation of *N*-Acyl-3,5-dimethypyrazoles

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We have already developed the enantioselective  $\alpha$ -fluorination reaction of *N*-acylpyrazoles catalyzed by chiral  $\pi$ -Cu(II) catalysts.<sup>1)</sup> Here, we developed the enantioselective  $\alpha$ -halogenation reaction of *N*-acylpyrazoles catalyzed by chiral  $\pi$ -Cu(II)– $\pi$  complexes, which were prepared *in situ* from copper(II) triflate and (*S*)-arylalanine amides.<sup>2)</sup> Although there are vast reports of  $\alpha$ -halogenation reaction, the carbonyl substrates for these are limited to aldehydes, ketones, and 1,3-dicarbonyl compounds that have relatively low p $K_a$  values associated with the  $\alpha$ -hydrogen atoms. Against this background, here the development of highly efficient enantioselective  $\alpha$ -halogenation of *N*-acylpyrazoles is described.

The double  $\pi$ -Cu(II) interaction between the two unsaturated bonds on the chiral ligand and Cu(II) center might play a critical role in the construction of chiral cavity as well as high catalytic activity. The corresponding *N*-( $\alpha$ -haloacyl)pyrazoles were obtained in high yield with high enantioselectivity without the addition of an external base. We would like to propose a possible transition state based on X-ray diffraction analysis of the key intermediates.



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