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**Transition Metal Compound Mediated  
Reduction of  $\alpha$ -Amino Acids to 1,2-  
Amino Alcohols with  $\text{NaBH}_4$  in Water**

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**Abstract:** A new efficient and cost-effective method for the preparation of 1,2-amino alcohols is described. The reactions of amino acids with  $\text{NaBH}_4$  in the presence of  $\text{NiCl}_2$  or  $\text{MoO}_3$  in water give 1,2-amino alcohols in high yield. When optically pure amino acids were used, optically pure 1,2-amino alcohols were obtained.

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