Supporting Information

for

Highly efficient organocatalysts for the asymmetric aldol reaction

C. G. Jacoby, Pedro H. V. Vontobel, M. F. Bach and P. H. Schneider*

Instituto de Química, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), PO Box 15003, 91501-970 Porto Alegre-RS, Brazil. paulos@iq.ufrgs.br

Experimental Section

General Information

The NMR spectra were recorded on 400 MHz spectrometer Varian Inova 400 e Bruker Avance 400. Chemical shifts (δ) are expressed in ppm downfield from TMS as internal standard in spectra made in CDCl3. Coupling constants are reported in Hz. All enantiomeric excesses were obtained from HPLC using chiral stationary phase in a Shimadzu LC-20AT chromatograph. Optical rotations were obtained in a Jasco P-2000 polarimeter. Melting points were obtained in a Buchi Melting Point M-560 equipment. Infrared spectra were obtained in a Shimadzu IR Prestige-21 spectrometer. HRMS spectra were obtained in a Micromass Q-Tof micro mass spectrometer. All the column chromatography separations were done by using silica gel 230-400 Mesh. Solvents were purified by usual methods. Other reagents were obtained from commercial source and used without further purification.

General procedure for the synthesis of phenacyl esters 3a-e

The amino acid (5 mmol) was added to a solution of triethylamine (0.8 mL, 5 mmol) in ethyl acetate (30 mL) at room temperature. Then the corresponding 2-bromoacetophenone (5 mmol) was introduced and the reaction mixture was stirred for 24 h. The reaction was treated with aqueous NaHCO₃ 5% solution (30 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 20 mL). The organic extracts were
combined, washed with water (3 x 20 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was used without further purification.

3-(tert-butyl) 4-(2-oxo-2-phenylethyl) (R)-thiazolidine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3a)

The product was obtained as a white solid. Yield: 90 %. Mp 88-92 °C. [α]D²⁰ = -59 (c 0.4, CH₂Cl₂). IR (KBr): 3392, 3007, 2981, 2936, 2890, 1760, 1706, 1388, 1367, 1174, 1137. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, conformer mixture) δ: 7.90 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), [5.58 (d, J = 16.3 Hz), 5.47 (d, J = 16.4 Hz), 5.36 (d, J = 16.1 Hz) and 5.26 (d, J = 16.4 Hz), 2H], [5.05 - 4.93 (m) and 4.92 - 4.78 (m), 1H], 4.66 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 4.57 - 4.45 (m, 1H), 3.55 - 3.35 (m, 2H), 1.48 (s, 9H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, conformer mixture) δ: 191.6, 191.2, 170.3, 170.2, 153.3, 153.1, 134.0, 133.9, 128.9, 127.7, 81.3, 66.5, 61.3, 49.1, 48.5, 34.7, 33.5, 28.3, 28.2.

3-(tert-butyl) 4-(2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-oxoethyl) (R)-thiazolidine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3b)

The product was obtained as a brown oil. Yield: 79 %. [α]D²⁰ = -16 (c 0.5, CH₂Cl₂). IR (film): 3009, 2972, 2935, 2841, 1758, 1704, 1690, 1601, 1385, 1370, 1241, 1169. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, conformer mixture) δ: 7.87 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), [5.53 (d, J = 16.2 Hz), 5.42 (d, J = 16.0 Hz), 5.30 (d, J = 15.9 Hz) and 5.21 (d, J = 16.6 Hz), 2H], [5.03-4.94 (m) and 4.89-4.80 (m), 1H], 4.65 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 4.56-4.46 (m, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.56-3.36 (m, 2H), 1.54-1.37 (m, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, conformer mixture) δ: 190.0, 189.6, 170.4, 170.3, 164.1, 163.4, 153.3, 153.1, 131.1, 130.0, 126.9, 114.1, 113.8, 81.3, 66.4, 66.2, 61.3, 55.5, 49.1, 48.6, 34.8, 34.4, 28.3, 28.2.

4-(2-(4-bromophenyl)-2-oxoethyl) 3-(tert-butyl) (R)-thiazolidine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3c)

The product was obtained as a yellow oil. Yield: 90 %. [α]D²⁰ = -24 (c 0.6, CH₂Cl₂). IR (film): 3382, 3087, 2975, 2936, 2882, 1755, 1706, 1679, 1587, 1168, 1071. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, conformer mixture) δ: 7.69 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), [5.45 (d, J = 16.3 Hz), 5.35 (d, J = 16.2 Hz), 5.24 (d, J = 16.3 Hz) and 5.15 (d, J = 16.4 Hz), 2H], [4.92 (dd, J = 6.0; 3.9 Hz) and 4.84-4.74 (m), 1H], 4.58 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 4.44 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 3.45-3.28 (m, 2H), 1.48-1.32 (m, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100
MHz, CDCl₃, conformer mixture) δ: 190.8, 190.4, 170.3, 170.1, 153.3, 153.1, 132.6, 132.3, 131.8, 131.6, 129.2, 81.4, 66.3, 61.3, 49.1, 48.5, 34.7, 33.5, 28.3, 28.2.

3-(tert-butyl) 4-(2-(4-nitrophenyl)-2-oxoethyl) (R)-thiazolidine-3,4-dicarboxylate (3d)

The product was obtained as a yellow wax. Yield: 96 %. [α]D²⁰ = -46 (c 0.5, CH₂Cl₂).¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, conformer mixture) δ: 8.36 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 8.08 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), [5.57 (d, J = 16.4 Hz), 5.48 (d, J = 16.5 Hz), 5.38 (d, J = 16.4 Hz) and 5.28 (d, J = 16.7 Hz), 2H], [5.04–4.96 (m) and 4.93–4.83 (m), 1H], 4.74–4.57 (m, 1H), 4.51 (dd, J = 15.1; 8.9 Hz, 1H), 3.50–3.39 (m, 2H), 1.47 (s, 9H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, conformer mixture) δ: 190.6, 190.2, 170.2, 170.1, 153.2, 153.0, 150.7, 138.8, 131.0, 129.0, 124.1, 123.5, 81.4, 66.6, 66.5, 61.3, 49.0, 48.5, 34.6, 33.4, 28.2.

1-(tert-butyl) 2-(2-oxo-2-phenylethyl) (S)-pyrrolidine-1,2-dicarboxylate (3e)

The product was obtained as a white solid. Yield: 85 %. Mp 78-81 °C. [α]D²⁰ = -54 (c 1, CH₂Cl₂) [lit.² Mp 80-83 °C, [α]D²⁰ = -67.8 (c 1, DMF)]. IR (KBr): 3394, 3025, 2976, 2936, 2893, 1758, 1707, 1597, 1450, 1398, 1370, 1171, 1119. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, conformer mixture) δ: 7.93–7.87 (m, 2H), 7.65–7.57 (m, 1H), 7.46–7.54 (m, 2H), [5.57 (d, J = 16.4 Hz), 5.42 (d, J = 16.3 Hz), 5.34 (d, J = 16.3 Hz) and 5.22 (d, J = 16.4 Hz), 2H], 4.49 (dd, J = 8.5; 3.7 Hz) and 4.48–4.36 (m, 1H), 3.64–3.51 (m, 1H), 3.51–3.35 (m, 1H), 2.40–2.22 (m, 2H), 2.15–1.98 (m, 1H), 1.98–1.77 (m, 1H), 1.60–1.38 (m, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, conformer mixture) δ: 192.2, 191.8, 172.6, 172.5, 154.5, 153.9, 134.2, 134.1, 134.0, 133.9, 128.9, 128.8, 127.7, 80.0, 79.9, 66.1, 65.9, 59.0, 58.7, 46.7, 46.4, 31.0, 30.1, 28.5, 28.4, 24.3, 23.6.

General procedure for the synthesis of compounds 5a-e

Ammonium acetate (1.54 g, 20 mmol) was added to a solution of the corresponding phenacyl ester (2 mmol) in toluene (20 mL). The mixture was refluxed with a Dean-Stark trap for 19 h. Then the reaction was cooled to room temperature and poured into water (20 mL). The organic layer was washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution (20 mL) and water (20 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in ethyl acetate (2 mL) and a solution of
TFA (4 mL) in ethyl acetate (4 mL) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature and the reaction was monitored by TLC. After 1-2 h, the mixture was neutralized with K₂CO₃ and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 5 mL). The organic extracts were combined, washed with water, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure. The product was purified with flash column chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate.

(R)-4-(5-phenyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl)thiazolidine (5a)

The product was obtained as a yellow solid. Yield: 91 %. Mp 178-182 °C. [α]₂⁰ = -19 (c 0.3, CH₂Cl₂). IR (KBr): 3042, 2979, 2945, 1684, 1441, 1208, 1140. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ: 12.3 (bs, 1H), 7.74 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (s, 1H), 7.33 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.40 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 4.17 (s, 2H), 3.23 (dd, J = 9.8; 6.4 Hz, 1H), 3.16 (dd, J = 9.8; 6.4 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ: 147.1, 133.9, 128.5, 126.0, 124.2, 113.9, 61.9, 53.9, 37.4. HRMS calculated for [C₁₂H₁₃N₃S+H]⁺: 232.0909, obtained: 232.0986.

(R)-4-(5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)thiazolidine (5b)

The product was obtained as a brown solid. Yield: 83 %. Mp 166-169 °C. [α]₂⁰ = -50 (c 0.3, CH₂Cl₂). IR (KBr): 3055, 2946, 2887, 1687, 1208, 1141. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.65-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.08 (s, 1H), 6.93-6.65 (m, 2H), 4.32-4.05 (m, 1H), 3.90-3.55 (m, 5H), 3.50-2.95 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ: 157.9, 130.2, 126.6, 125.6, 114.2, 114.0, 55.2, 55.0. HRMS calculated for [C₁₃H₁₅N₃OS+H]⁺: 262.1014, obtained: 262.1082.

(R)-4-(5-(4-bromophenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)thiazolidine (5c)

The product was obtained as a yellow solid. Yield: 93 %. Mp 174-178 °C. [α]₂⁰ = -34 (c 0.3, CH₂Cl₂). IR (film): 3261, 3035, 2981, 2943, 2893, 1687, 1476, 1435, 1208, 1140. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.54 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (s, 1H), 4.45 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 4.20 (s, 2H), 3.33 (dd, J = 10.3; 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.28 (dd, J = 10.3; 6.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 148.7, 147.4, 132.0, 131.8, 126.4, 120.9, 114.6, 61.4, 50.7, 37.4. HRMS calculated for [C₁₂H₁₂BrN₃oS+H]⁺: 310.0013, obtained: 309.9938.
(R)-4-(5-(4-nitrophenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)thiazolidine (5d)

The product was obtained as a yellow solid. Yield: 95 %. Mp 185-190 °C. $[\alpha]_{D}^{20} = -23$ (c 0.2, CH$_2$Cl$_2$). IR (KBr): 3265, 3021, 2981, 2946, 2885, 1588, 1506, 1333, 1146, 1111. $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) δ: 8.18 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 2H), 7.89 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 2H), 7.50 (s, 1H), 4.99-4.92 (m, 1H), 4.34-4.30 (m, 2H), 3.64 (dd, $J = 11.2$; 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.47 (dd, $J = 11.1$; 6.3 Hz, 1H). $^{13}$C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d$_6$) δ: 148.5, 145.1, 141.6, 137.8, 124.6, 124.1, 116.8, 61.8, 53.9, 37.2. HRMS calculated for [C$_{12}$H$_{12}$N$_4$O$_2$S+H]$^+$: 277.0759, obtained: 277.0804.

(S)-5-phenyl-2-(pyrrolidin-2-yl)-1H-imidazole (5e)

The product was obtained as a brown oil. Yield: 81 %. $[\alpha]_{D}^{20} = -38$ (c 0.2, CH$_2$Cl$_2$). IR (film): 3036, 2948, 2913, 1655, 1450, 1402, 1290, 1186. $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) δ: 7.85 (s, 1H), 7.70 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.39 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.30 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.54 (t, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.29-3.19 (m, 1H), 3.17-3.07 (m, 1H), 2.35-2.19 (m, 1H), 2.18-2.07 (m, 1H), 2.03-1.86 (m, 3H). $^{13}$C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl$_3$) δ: 140.6, 133.9, 130.9, 128.8, 128.2, 125.6, 55.2, 46.3, 30.9, 25.2. HRMS calculated for [C$_{13}$H$_{15}$N$_3$+2H]$^+$: 215.1422, obtained: 215.1365.

General procedure for organocatalytic asymmetric direct aldol reaction

A solution of organocatalyst 5d (0.014 g, 0.05 mmol), benzoic acid (0.006 g, 0.05 mmol) and the corresponding ketone (5 mmol) was stirred at room temperature for 0.5 h. Then the system was cooled to 0 °C, the aldehyde (0.5 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 120 h. The solution was returned to room temperature, treated with saturated aqueous NH$_4$Cl solution (1 mL) and extracted with dichloromethane (3 x 2 mL). The organic extracts were combined, dried over Na$_2$SO$_4$, filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure. The product was purified with flash column chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate and hexane (20:80).

(S)-2-((R)-hydroxy(phenyl)methyl)cyclohexan-1-one (8a)
The product was obtained in 81 % yield with >99 % ee and >19:1 dr. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on Chiralcel OD-H, hexane/2-propanol 90:10, 221 nm, flow rate 0.5 mL/min: $t_{R(maj)} = 17.9$ min ($S,R$); $t_{R(min)} = 26.7$ min ($R,S$). $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +18$ (c 1, CHCl₃) [lit.$^3 [\alpha]_D^{25} = +19$ (c 1, CHCl₃)]. $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.37-7.23 (m, 5H), 4.79 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.99 (bs, 1H), 2.63 (dd, $J = 12.8; 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.48 (dd, $J = 13.7; 4.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.42-2.30 (m, 1H), 2.08 (dtt, $J = 11.8; 5.7; 3.1$ Hz, 1H), 1.83-1.74 (m, 1H), 1.73-1.60 (m, 1H), 1.62-1.46 (m, 2H), 1.36-1.22 (m, 1H).

(S)-2-((R)-hydroxy(p-tolyl)methyl)cyclohexan-1-one (8b)

The product was obtained in 42 % yield with >99 % ee and >19:1 dr. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on Chiralcel AD-H, hexane/2-propanol 90:10, 220 nm, flow rate 0.5 mL/min: $t_{R(maj)} = 23.1$ min ($S,R$). $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +17$ (c 0.2, CHCl₃) [lit.$^4 [\alpha]_D^{25} = +12.9$ (c 0.17, CHCl₃)]. $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.15-6.90 (m, 4H), 4.68 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 4.13 (bs, 1H), 2.58-1.85 (m, 4H), 1.73-1.35 (m, 5H).

(S)-2-((R)-(4-bromophenyl)(hydroxy)methyl)cyclohexan-1-one (8c)

The product was obtained in 99 % yield with 98 % ee and >19:1 dr. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on Chiralcel AD-H, hexane/2-propanol 90:10, 220 nm, flow rate 1.0 mL/min: $t_{R(maj)} = 13.8$ min ($S,R$); $t_{R(min)} = 11.7$ min ($R,S$). $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +24$ (c 1, CHCl₃) [lit.$^4 [\alpha]_D^{24} = +22.6$ (c 0.7, CHCl₃)]. $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.45 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.18 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 4.74 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.65-2.15 (m, 3H), 2.13-1.90 (m, 1H), 1.83-1.35 (m, 4H), 1.32-1.10 (m, 1H).

4-((R)-hydroxy((S)-2-oxocyclohexyl)methyl)benzonitrile (8d)

The product was obtained in 92 % yield with 99 % ee and 8:1 dr. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on Chiralcel AD-H, hexane/2-propanol 80:20, 220 nm, flow rate 0.5 mL/min: $t_{R(maj)} = 24.2$ min ($R,S$); $t_{R(min)} = 30.0$ min ($R,S$). $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.68-7.60 (m, 2H), 7.48-7.40 (m, 2H), 4.85 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.08 (bs, 1H), 2.58 (dddd, $J = 13.0; 8.4; 5.5; 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.53-2.44 (m, 1H), 2.36 (td, $J = 13.6; 6.1; 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.17-2.06 (m, 1H), 1.87-1.78 (m, 1H), 1.75-1.52 (m, 3H), 1.40-1.32 (m, 1H).
(S)-2-((R)-hydroxy(4-nitrophenyl)methyl)cyclohexan-1-one (8e)

The product was obtained in 98 % yield with >99 % ee and >19:1 dr. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on Chiralcel AD-H, hexane/2-propanol 90:10, 254 nm, flow rate 1.0 mL/min: t_R(maj) = 29.1 min (S,R); t_R(min) = 21.8 min (R,S). [α]_D^{25} = +10 (c 1, CHCl_3) [lit.⁴ [α]_D^{25} = +12.8 (c 1.85, CHCl_3)]. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ: 8.21 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 4.90 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 3.13 (bs, 1H), 2.65-2.25 (m, 3H), 2.18-2.03 (m, 1H), 1.90-1.45 (m, 5H).

(S)-2-((R)-hydroxy(3-nitrophenyl)methyl)cyclohexan-1-one (8f)

The product was obtained in 93 % yield with >99 % ee and >19:1 dr. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on Chiralcel AD-H, hexane/2-propanol 95:05, 254 nm, flow rate 0.8 mL/min: t_R(maj) = 34.2 min (S,R); t_R(min) = 45.2 min (R,S). [α]_D^{25} = +26 (c 1, CHCl_3) [lit.⁴ [α]_D^{25} = +32.5 (c 1.35, CHCl_3)]. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ: 8.17 (s, 1H), 8.11 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.52-7.34 (m, 1H), 4.88 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.45 (bs, 1H), 2.69-2.19 (m, 3H), 2.15-1.90 (m, 1H), 1.89-1.38 (m, 5H).

(S)-2-((R)-hydroxy(2-nitrophenyl)methyl)cyclohexan-1-one (8g)

The product was obtained in 99 % yield with 99 % ee and >19:1 dr. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on Chiralcel AD-H, hexane/2-propanol 90:10, 254 nm, flow rate 1.0 mL/min: t_R(maj) = 16.5 min (S,R); t_R(min) = 18.0 min (R,S). [α]_D^{25} = +15 (c 1, CHCl_3) [lit.⁴ [α]_D^{25} = +19.8 (c 1.6, CHCl_3)]. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ: 7.78 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 5.38 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.69 (dt, J = 12.7; 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.46-2.34 (m, 1H), 2.27 (td, J = 13.2; 6.1 Hz, 1H), 2.08-1.98 (m, 1H), 1.83-1.74 (m, 1H), 1.74-1.46 (m, 4H).

(S)-2-((R)-hydroxy(4-nitrophenyl)methyl)cyclopentan-1-one (8h)

The product was obtained in 81 % yield with 98 % ee and 3:1 dr. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on Chiralcel AD-H, hexane/2-propanol 90:10, 280 nm, flow rate 0.5 mL/min: t_R(maj) = 55.5 min (S,R); t_R(min) = 52.5 min (R,S). [α]_D^{25} = -25 (c 0.5, CHCl_3) [lit.⁴ [α]_D^{25} = -30.6 (c 0.56, CHCl_3)]. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ: 8.22 (d,
J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 4.85 (d, J = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 2.55-2.25 (m, 2H), 2.23-1.90 (m, 3H), 1.85-1.65 (m, 2H).

(S)-2-((R)-hydroxy(2-nitrophenyl)methyl)cyclopentan-1-one (8i)

The product was obtained in 99% yield with 99% ee and 3:1 dr. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on Chiralcel OD-H, hexane/2-propanol 95:5, 254 nm, flow rate 1.0 mL/min: t_R(maj) = 24.2 min (S,R), t_R(min) = 26.3 min (R,S). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 8.13-7.85 (m, 1H), 7.81 (t, J = 8.1; 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.69-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.47-7.40 (m, 1H), 5.44 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 4.49 (bs, 1H), 2.58-2.48 (m, 1H), 2.47-2.38 (m, 1H), 2.37-2.24 (m, 1H), 2.08-1.97 (m, 1H), 1.83-1.67 (m, 3H).

(S)-2-((R)-(4-bromophenyl)(hydroxy)methyl)cyclopentan-1-one (8j)

The product was obtained in 99% yield with >99% ee and 5:1 dr. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on Chiralcel AD-H, hexane/2-propanol 95:5, 220 nm, flow rate 1.0 mL/min: t_R(maj) = 22.3 min (S,R). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.48-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.16 (m, 2H), 4.67 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 2.47-2.29 (m, 2H), 218-2.12 (m, 1H), 2.00-1.90 (m, 2H), 1.80-1.62 (m, 2H).

**Procedure for organocatalytic asymmetric Michael reaction**

A solution of organocatalyst 5d (0.014 g, 0.05 mmol), benzoic acid (0.006 g, 0.05 mmol) and the cyclohexanone (0.52 mL, 5 mmol) was stirred at room temperature for 0.5 h. β-nitrostyrene (0.075 g, 0.5 mmol) was then added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 72 h. The solution was treated with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl solution (1 mL) and extracted with dichloromethane (3 x 5 mL). The organic extracts were combined, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure. The product was purified with flash column chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate and hexane (20:80).

(R)-2-((S)-2-nitro-1-phenylethyl)cyclohexan-1-one (10)

The product was obtained in 35% yield with >99% ee and 19:1 dr. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on Chiralcel AS-H, hexane/2-propanol 75:25, 254 nm, flow rate 1.0 mL/min: t_R(min) = 8.23 min (R,S). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.53-7.23
(m, 3H), 7.19-7.06 (m, 2H), 4.95 (dd, $J = 11.2$ Hz; 4.5 Hz, 1H), 4.56 (dd, 2H), 3.68 (dt, $J = 4.5$ Hz; 9.9 Hz, 1H), 2.67 (ddd, $J = 12.0$ Hz; 8.6 Hz, 8.0 Hz; 2H), 2.45-2.20 (m, 2H), 1.78-1.41 (m, 4H), 1.20-1.05 (m, 1H).

References

NMR spectra of catalysts and synthetic intermediates

Figure S1. $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of 3a.
Figure S2. $^{13}$C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of 3a.

Figure S3. $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of 3b.
Figure S4. $^{13}$C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of 3b.
Figure S5. $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of 3c.

Figure S6. $^{13}$C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of 3c.
Figure S7. $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of 3d.

Figure S8. $^{13}$C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of 3d.
**Figure S9.** $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of compound 5e precursor.

**Figure S10.** $^{13}$C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of compound 5e precursor.

**Figure S11.** $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d$_6$) spectrum of 5a.
Figure S12. $^1$H-$^1$H COSY (400 MHz, DMSO-d$_6$) spectrum of 5a.

Figure S13. $^{13}$C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d$_6$) spectrum of 5a.
Figure S14. $^1$H-$^{13}$C HSQC (400 MHz, DMSO-d$_6$) spectrum of 5a.

Figure S15. $^1$H-$^{13}$C HMBC (400 MHz, DMSO-d$_6$) spectrum of 5a.
Figure S16. $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$/DMSO-d$_6$) spectrum of 5b.

Figure S17. $^{13}$C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d$_6$) spectrum of 5b.
**Figure S18.** $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of 5c.

**Figure S19.** $^{13}$C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of 5c.
Figure S20. $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$/DMSO-d$_6$) spectrum of 5d.

Figure S21. $^{13}$C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d$_6$) spectrum of 5d.
Figure S22. $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$/DMSO-d$_6$) spectrum of 5e.

Figure S23. $^{13}$C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of 5e.
HPLC chromatograms and NMR spectra of products
Figure S24. $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of 8a.

Figure S25. HPLC chromatogram of 8a.

Figure S26. HPLC chromatogram of racemic standard of 8a.
Figure S27. $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of 8b.

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Figure S28. HPLC chromatogram of 8b.
Figure S29. HPLC chromatogram of racemic standard of 8b.

Figure S30. $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of 8c.
Figure S31. HPLC chromatogram of 8c.

Figure S32. HPLC chromatogram of racemic standard of 8c.
Figure S33. $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of 8d.

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Figure S34. HPLC chromatogram of 8d.
Figure S35. HPLC chromatogram of racemic standard of 8d.

Figure S36. $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of 8e.
**Figure S37.** HPLC chromatogram of 8e.

**Figure S38.** HPLC chromatogram of racemic standard of 8e.
Figure S39. $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of 8f.

Figure S40. HPLC chromatogram of 8f.
Figure S41. HPLC chromatogram of racemic standard of 8f.

Figure S42. $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of 8g.
Figure S43. HPLC chromatogram of 8g.

Figure S44. HPLC chromatogram of racemic standard of 8g.
Figure S45. $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of 8h.

Figure S46. HPLC chromatogram of 8h.
Figure S47. HPLC chromatogram of racemic standard of 8h.

Figure S48. $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of 8i.
Figure S49. HPLC chromatogram of 8i.

Figure S50. HPLC chromatogram of racemic standard of 8i.
Figure S51. $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of 8j.

Figure S52. HPLC chromatogram of 8j.
Figure S53. HPLC chromatogram of racemic standard of 8j.

Figure S54. $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of 10.
**Figure S55.** HPLC chromatogram of 10.

![HPLC chromatogram of 10](image.png)

**Figure S56.** HPLC chromatogram of racemic standard of 10.

![HPLC chromatogram of racemic standard of 10](image.png)