ELECTRONIC SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Chiral Bicyclic NHC/Ir Complexes for Catalytic Asymmetric Transfer Hydrogenation of Ketones

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<General>

All anaerobic and moisture-sensitive manipulations were carried out with standard Schlenk techniques under predried nitrogen or glove box techniques under prepurified argon. NMR spectra were recorded at room temperature at 400 MHz or 500 MHz for ¹H and 100 MHz or 125 MHz for ¹³C. Chemical shifts are reported in δ ppm referenced to an internal SiMe₄ standard for ¹H NMR and chloroform-d (δ 77.0) for ¹³C NMR. High-resolution mass spectra were recorded on Orbitrap mass spectrometers. Single crystal X-ray diffraction data were collected at 173K on a CCD diffractometer with Mo Ka (1 = 0.71073) radiation and graphite monochromator.

<Materials>

THF was distilled from sodium benzophenone-ketyl under argon prior to use. CH₂Cl₂ and 1,2-dichloroethane were distilled from CaH₂ under nitrogen and stored in a glass flask with a Teflon stopcock under nitrogen. Methanol was distilled from magnesium under nitrogen and stored in a glass flask with a Teflon stopcock under nitrogen. 3-(1-Trityl-1H-imidazol-4-yl)propionaldehyde (11), (*R*)-5-phenyl-6,7-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazole (1a),and (R)-7-isopropyl-3-phenyl-2,3-dihydroimidazo[5,1-b]oxazole were prepared according to the reported procedures.¹ Aryl magnesium bromides in THF were prepared from magnesium and corresponding aryl bromides. Di(4-tolyl)methyl bromide and di-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)methyl bromide were prepared from the corresponding alcohols and acetyl bromide according to the reported procedures.² *i*-PrOH, 1,2-dibromoethane, Anhydrous CH₃CN, anhydrous thionyl chloride, α , α '-dibromo-*p*-xylene, diphenylmethyl bromide, benzyl bromide, di(4-tolyl)methyl bromide, silver oxide, bis(1,5-cyclooctadiene)diiridium(I) dichloride, and potassium tert-butoxide were used as received.

<Procedures for the Preparation of Chiral Imidazoles 1>



General Procedure A: To a solution of 3-(1-trityl-1*H*-imidazol-4-yl)propionaldehyde (11) (1.0 eq.) in dry THF was added aryl magnesium bromide (1.5 eq.) in THF under N₂ atmosphere at 0 °C. The mixture was gradually warmed up to room temperature and stirred for 15 h. Then, the mixture was cooled to 0 °C and quenched by addition of saturated aqueous NH₄Cl. The aqueous layer was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 twice. Then the combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel to give the desired alcohol 12.

1-Mesityl-3-(1-trityl-1*H***-imidazol-4-yl)propan-1-ol (12b)**; Following the General Procedure A; The aldehyde **11** (1.80 g, 4.91 mmol) and mesitylmagnesium bromide in THF (1.00 M, 7.37 mL, 7.37 mmol) were used; purified by column chromatography (EtOAc) to give **12b** (1.85 g, 78% yield) as white solid; mp 189-191 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.89 (dtd, J = 14.4, 7.2, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 2.22 (s, 3H), 2.20-2.31 (m, 1H), 2.36 (s, 6H), 2.76 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 4.03 (br s, 1H), 5.15 (dd, J = 10.0, 4.0 Hz 1H), 6.57 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (s, 2H), 7.12-7.16 (m, 6H), 7.31-7.34 (m, 9H), 7.36 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 20.7, 25.7, 35.2, 70.7, 75.1, 117.9, 128.0, 129.7, 129.9, 135.8, 136.0, 137.4, 138.1, 141.1, 142.5; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₃₄H₃₅N₂O (M⁺+H) 487.2744, found 487.2724.



1-(2,6-Diisopropylphenyl)-3-(1-trityl-1*H***-imidazol-4-yl)propan-1-ol (12c)**; Following the General Procedure A; The aldehyde **11** (3.02 g, 8.21 mmol) and 2,6-diisopropylphenylmagnesium bromide in THF (1.00 M, 12.3 mL, 12.3 mmol) were used; purified by column chromatography (EtOAc) to give **12c** (3.17 g, 73% yield) as white solid; mp 190-191 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.20 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 12H), 1.93 (dtd, *J* = 14.4, 7.2, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 2.33 (ddt, *J* = 14.4, 10.0, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.79 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.16 (br s, 1H), 3.98 (br s, 1H), 4.22 (br s, 1H), 5.37 (dd, *J* = 10.0, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 6.58 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.13-7.20 (m, 9H), 7.31-7.35 (m, 10H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 24.7, 25.9, 29.1, 37.3, 69.3,

75.1, 117.9, 127.2, 128.0, 129.7, 138.2, 138.3, 141.0, 142.5; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $C_{37}H_{41}N_2O$ (M⁺+H) 529.3213, found 529.3202.



1-(2,4,6-Tricyclohexylphenyl)-3-(1-trityl-1*H***-imidazol-4-yl)propan-1-ol (12d); Following the General Procedure A; The aldehyde 11** (2.00 g, 5.46 mmol) and tricyclohexylphenylmagnesium bromide in THF (1.00 M, 8.19 mL, 8.19 mmol) were used; purified by column chromatography (EtOAc) to give **12d** (2.46 g, 65% yield) as white solid; mp 216-220 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.19-1.52 (m, 15H), 1.64-1.91 (m, 15H), 1.98 (dtd, J = 14.4, 7.6, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.27 (ddt, J = 13.6, 10.0, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (tt, J = 11.2, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 2.74 (dq, J = 14.4, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.79 (dq, J = 14.4, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.79 (br s, 1H), 3.56 (br s, 1H), 3.58 (br s, 1H), 5.31 (dd, J = 10.0, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 6.58 (s, 1H), 6.94 (br s, 2H), 7.12-7.17 (m, 6H), 7.30-7.34 (m, 9H), 7.37 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 26.0, 26.3, 26.5, 27.1, 27.3, 27.3, 34.5, 34.8, 35.3, 37.4, 40.2, 44.6, 69.6, 75.2, 117.9, 128.0, 129.8, 136.0, 138.3, 141.5, 142.7, 146.1; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₄₉H₅₉N₂O (M⁺+H) 691.4622, found 691.4601.



General Procedure B: To a solution of alcohol **12** (1.0 eq.) in CH_2Cl_2 was added thionyl chloride (3.5 eq.). The resulting mixture was heated to 40 °C and stirred for 1 h. Then the mixture was cooled to 0 °C and quenched by addition of saturated aqueous NaHCO₃. The organic layer was separated, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo to give a crude product. The product was dissolved in 30 mL of CH₃CN and refluxed for 20 h. Then, the mixture was cooled to room temperature, added 30 mL of MeOH, and refluxed for an additional 11 h. After concentration, the residue was partitioned between Et₂O and H₂O. The organic layer was extracted with 1N HCl (10 mL) twice. The combined aqueous extracts were adjusted to pH = 8 by addition of NaOH solution

and extracted with CH_2Cl_2 three times. The organic layers were dried over Na_2SO_4 , filtered, and concentrated. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel to give racemic **1**.

(+)- and (-)-5-Mesityl-6,7-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazole (1b); Following the General Procedure B; The alcohol 12b (1.75 g, 3.6 mmol) was used; purified by column chromatography (CHCl₃/MeOH) to give racemic 1b (575 mg, 71% yield) as white solid; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.75 (s, 3H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.65-2.76 (m, 1H), 2.91-3.08 (m, 3H), 5.71 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (s, 1H), 6.83 (s, 1H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 7.18 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 18.5, 20.7, 21.7, 36.2, 56.0, 119.4, 129.3, 130.1, 131.6, 131.8, 136.4, 136.6, 136.7, 137.7; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₅H₁₉N₂ (M⁺+H) 227.1543, found 227.1537; Enantiomerically pure (*R*)-1b and (*S*)-1b were obtained as clear oil by separation using preparative HPLC: Daicel Chiralcel OD-H, 2 cm × 25 cm, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 9/1, 5.0 mL/min; *t*₊ = 26.2 min [(+)-1b [α]_D²²+137.6 (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃)], *t*₋ = 43.4 min [(-)-1b].



(*R*)-(+)- and (*S*)-(-)-5-(2,6-Diisopropylphenyl)-6,7-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazole (1c); Following the General Procedure B; The alcohol 12c (3.17 g, 6.00 mmol) was used; purified by column chromatography (CHCl₃/MeOH) to give racemic 1c (950 mg, 59% yield) as white solid; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.87 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.14 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.31 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.33 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 3H), 2.47 (sept, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.70-2.84 (m, 1H), 2.95–3.12 (m, 3H), 3.33 (sept, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 5.87 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (s, 1H), 7.12 (s, 1H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 21.5, 23.9, 24.1, 24.7, 28.1, 29.9, 38.1, 54.8, 120.1, 122.7, 126.0, 128.7, 129.8, 131.7, 136.1, 147.1, 149.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₈H₂₅N₂ (M⁺+H) 269.2012, found 269.2010; Enantiomerically pure (*R*)-(+)-1c and (*S*)-(-)-1c were obtained as white solid by separation using preparative HPLC: Daicel Chiralcel OD-H, 2 cm × 25 cm, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 9/1, 5.0 mL/min; *t*_R = 18.9 min [(*R*)-(+)-1c [α]_D¹⁸ +113.6 (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃), mp 100-102 °C], *t*_S = 29.8 min [(*S*)-(-)-1c]; The absolute configuration was determined by anomalous dispersion effects in X-ray diffraction measurements on **8cv**.



(+)- and (-)-5-(2,4,6-Tricyclohexylphenyl)-6,7-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazole (1d); Following the General Procedure B; The alcohol 12d (2.46 g, 3.56 mmol) was used; purified by column chromatography (CHCl₃/MeOH) to give racemic 1d (1.15 g, 75% yield) as white solid; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.75 (qt, *J* = 10.4, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 1.07-1.62 (m, 17H), 1.67-1.92 (m, 12H), 2.02 (tt, *J* = 11.0, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (tt, *J* = 11.5, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 2.68-2.78 (m, 1H), 2.81 (tt, *J* = 11.5, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 2.95-3.12 (m, 3H), 5.78 (t, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (s, 1H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 21.6, 26.08, 26.14, 26.2, 26.88, 26.95, 27.18, 27.21, 27.5, 34.3, 34.5, 34.9, 35.0, 35.5, 38.4, 39.4, 41.1, 44.5, 54.7, 120.0, 121.9, 125.1, 129.6, 130.1, 136.3, 146.0, 147.6, 147.8; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₃₀H₄₃N₂ (M⁺+H) 431.3421, found 431.3419; Enantiomerically pure (*R*)-1d and (*S*)-1d were obtained as white solid by separation using preparative HPLC: Daicel Chiralcel OD-H, 2 cm × 25 cm, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 9/1, 5.0 mL/min; *t*₊ = 11.5 min [(+)-1d [α]_D²²+44.1 (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃), mp 218-220 °C], *t*₋ = 55.0 min [(-)-1d].



<Procedures for the Preparation of Bisimidazolium Salts 3>



General Procedure C: A mixture of 1 (2.2 eq.) and linking reagent (1 eq.) in dry CH_3CN was heated to 90 °C and stirred for 3 days. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by reprecipitation to give the desired bisimidazolium salts **3**.

(*R*,*R*)-(+)-2,2'-(1,2-Phenylenebis(methylene))bis(5-phenyl-6,7-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidaz ol-2-ium) dibromide ((*R*,*R*)-(+)-3a); Following the General Procedure C; (*R*)-1a (130 mg, 0.71 mmol) and α,α '-dibromo-*p*-xylene (84.7 mg, 0.32 mmol) were used; purified by reprecipitation (CH₂Cl₂/ether) to give (*R*,*R*)-(+)-3a (201 mg, 99% yield) as light brown solid; mp 98-99 °C; $[\alpha]_D^{22}$ +122.7 (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.54-2.68 (m, 2H), 3.07-3.27 (m, 6H), 5.96 (t, *J* = 6.4, 2H), 6.21 (s, 4H), 7.09 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 2H), 7.20-7.43 (m, 12H), 7.61 (s, 2H), 9.07 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 22.8, 37.6, 51.9, 64.5, 115.5, 126.4, 129.0, 129.4, 129.5, 130.8, 132.8, 136.6, 139.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₃₂H₃₂BrN₄ (M⁺–Br) 551.1805, found 551.1791.



(+)-2,2'-(Ethane-1,2-diyl)bis(5-mesityl-6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-2-ium)

dibromide ((+)-**3b**); Following the General Procedure C; (+)-**1b** (120 mg, 0.53 mmol) and 1,2-dibromoethane (45.3 mg, 0.24 mmol) were used; purified by reprecipitation (CH₂Cl₂/ether) to give (+)-**3b** (132.2 mg, 86% yield) as light brown solid; mp 156-157 °C; $[\alpha]_D^{22}$ +143.9 (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.71 (s, 6H), 2.26 (s, 6H), 2.44 (s, 6H), 2.64-2.75 (m, 2H), 2.91-3.29 (m, 6H), 5.11-5.33 (m, 4H), 6.00 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (s, 2H), 6.90 (s, 2H), 8.73 (s, 2H), 9.31 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 19.0, 20.7, 22.7, 34.4, 48.9, 60.3, 117.3, 128.3, 130.1, 131.1, 132.1, 134.9, 136.8, 137.8, 139.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₃₂H₄₀BrN₄ (M⁺–Br) 559.2431, found 559.2415.



<Procedures for the Preparation of Ir Complexes 4 and 5>



General Procedure D: A mixture of bisimidazolium salt **3** (1.0 eq.), Ag_2O (5.0 eq.), and powderous 4A molecular sieves in 1,2-dichloroethane was refluxed with stirring overnight in dark. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite and the filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure. The resulting silver complex was dissolved in dichloromethane

under N₂, and then added a solution of $[IrCl(cod)]_2$ (1.0 eq.) in CH₂Cl₂. The reaction mixture was stirred overnight in dark at room temperature. To remove insoluble silver salts, the suspension was filtered through Celite and the resulting solution was concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude solid was then purified by gradient column chromatography (SiO₂, first CH₂Cl₂ to give **5**; then CH₂Cl₂/acetone with KPF₆ (2.0 eq.) to give **4**).

[(R,R)-(+)-2,2'-(1,2-Phenylenebis(methylene)bis(5-mesityl-6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidaz ol-2-ylidene)](1,5-cyclooctadiene)iridium hexafluorophosphate ((R,R)-(+)-4a); Following the General Procedure D; (R,R)-(+)-3a (101 mg, 0.15 mmol) was used; purified by recrystallization (THF/hexane) to give (*R*,*R*)-(+)-4a (68.4 mg, 51% yield) as red solid; mp 184-186 °C; $[\alpha]_D^{24} =$ +182.7 (c 0.50, THF); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.18-1.24 (s, 2H), 1.67-1.74 (m, 1H), 1.88 (dq, J = 13.2, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 1.98-2.08 (m, 2H), 2.12-2.33 (m, 5H), 2.54 (dd, J = 16.4, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 2.6 7-2.83 (m, 3H), 2.91-3.01 (m, 1H), 3.21 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 3.58 (dd, J = 12.8, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (td, J = 6.4, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 5.00-5.12 (m, 3H), 5.65 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.33 (d, J = 14.0 Hz, 1H), 6.50 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 6.78-6.82 (m, 2H), 6.87-6.91 (m, 2H), 7.02-7.04 (m, 2H), 7.20-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.26H), 7.45-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.66-7.75 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 20.3, 20.7, 28.9, 29.1, 33.2, 33.3, 37.7, 39.9, 51.6, 51.9, 61.7, 62.4, 75.7, 75.9, 76.0, 79.5, 112.1, 113.8, 125.1, 125.8, 127.5, 128.3, 128.4, 128.9, 129.2, 129.6, 129.65, 129.75, 130.8, 131.9, 134.9, 135.1, 138.4, 138.7, 141.0, 142.2, 172.6, 173.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₄₀H₄₂IrN₄ (M⁺-PF₆) 771.3033, found 771.3010. (R,R)-(+)-2,2'-(1,2-Phenylenebis(methylene)bis((5-phenyl-6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidaz ol-2-vlidene)(1,5-cyclooctadiene)iridiumchloride) ((R,R)-(+)-5a); (R,R)-(+)-5a (42.8 mg, 25%) yield) was obtained as yellow solid; mp 163-164 °C; ¹H NMR spectra of 5a indicated that conformational isomers derived from the restricted rotation around the carbene-Ir bond axis exist in a 2:1:1 ratio; The following data are for a mixture of the isomers ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.84-0.98 (m, 2.0H), 1.02-2.21 (m, 16.0H), 2.32-2.49 (m, 2.0H), 2.74-3.10 (m, 8.0H), 4.07-4.55 (m, 4.0H), 5.40 (dd, J = 8.4, 6.4 Hz, 0.5H), 5.54 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1.0H), 5.60 (d, J = 15.2 Hz, 0.5H), 5.77-5.83 (m, 3.10)1.5H), 5.85 (s, 1.0H), 5.92 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 0.5H), 6.04 (d, J = 15.2 Hz, 1.0H), 6.42 (s, 1.0H), 6.51 (s, 0.5H), 6.62 (s, 0.5H), 7.21-7.43 (m, 14.0H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 21.5, 22.2, 27.3, 28.3, 28.5, 29.5, 29.7, 30.3, 31.0, 31.8, 32.0, 34.6, 34.7, 36.0, 37.5, 39.5, 48.0, 50.9, 51.9, 52.1, 52.2, 52.5, 52.8, 62.2, 64.0, 81.9, 82.4, 82.9, 84.6, 84.9, 126.7, 126.8, 127.8, 128.2, 128.2, 128.6, 128.7, 128.8, 129.0, 129.5, 129.6, 133.9, 134.6, 135.3, 137.3, 137.5, 137.7, 139.5, 142.48, 142.53, 176.0, 176.2, 176.5; $[\alpha]_{D}^{22}$ +89.7 (c 0.50, THF); HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₃₂H₃₁ClIrN₄ (M⁺-IrCl(cod)-cod+H) 699.1861, found 699.1880.



The crystal structure (Fig. S1) and the ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of (*R*,*R*)-(+)-**4a** demonstrated that *cis*-chelating bis-NHC ligand adopted the C₁ symmetric coordination mode toward the Ir center instead of the C₂ symmetric mode. The NMR spectrum measured at higher temperature (50 °C) in CDCl₃ remained uncharged (The complex is not enough soluble in toluene-*d*₈).



Fig. S1 Crystal Structure of **4a**: Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity (perspective view). Hydrogen atoms and PF_6^- anion are omitted for clarity (side and front views).

[(+)-2,2'-(Ethane-1,2-diyl)bis(5-mesityl-6,7-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-2-ylidene)](1,5cyclooctadiene)iridium hexafluorophosphate ((+)-4b); Following the General Procedure D: (+)-3b (103 mg, 0.16 mmol) was used; purified by recrystallization (THF/hexane) to give (+)-4b (32.5 mg, 22% yield) as red solid; mp 174-175 °C; $[\alpha]_D^{24}$ +161.3 (*c* 0.50, THF); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.07 (s, 3H), 1.16-1.22 (m, 2H), 1.31-1.41 (m, 1H), 1.54 (s, 3H), 1.77-1.89 (m, 3H), 1.95 (s, 3H), 1.98-2.09 (m, 1H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 2.21-2.29 (m, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 2.68 (q, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.88-3.02 (m, 6H), 3.61-3.67 (m, 1H), 4.06 (td, *J* = 7.2, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (td, *J* = 7.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 4.50-4.67 (m, 2H), 4.79 (dt, *J* = 14.4, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 4.96-5.00 (m, 1H), 5.71-5.85 (m, 2H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 6.77 (s, 1H), 6.81 (s, 1H), 6.86 (s, 1H), 6.99 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 18.3, 18.8, 20.5, 20.6, 21.0, 21.1, 21.9, 22.3, 28.9, 29.2, 32.9, 33.6, 35.7, 37.1, 47.3, 49.4, 53.7, 58.9, 59.5, 70.5, 73.4, 74.1, 114.3, 116.4, 129.7, 130.2, 131.2, 132.3, 133.7, 134.1, 134.8, 135.3, 135.6, 137.3, 137.9, 138.7, 170.4, 171.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₄₀H₅₀IrN₄ (M⁺–PF₆) 779.3659, found 779.3663. [(+)-2,2'-(Ethane-1,2-diyl)bis((5-phenyl-6,7-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-2-ylidene)(1,5-c yclooctadiene)iridiumchloride) ((+)-5b); (+)-5b (51.7 mg, 35% yield) was obtained as yellow solid; mp 163-164 °C; $[\alpha]_D^{24}$ +128.5 (*c* 0.50, THF); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.78-0.96 (m, 4H), 1.18-1.33 (m, 4H), 1.61-1.72 (m, 2H), 1.70 (s, 6H), 1.79-1.96 (m, 6H), 2.10 (td, *J* = 7.6, 4.4 Hz, 2H), 2.30(s, 6H), 2.37-2.47 (m, 2H), 2.74 (s, 6H), 2.76-2.85 (m, 2H), 2.90-3.25 (m, 6H), 4.36-4.45 (m, 4H), 4.68 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 2H), 4.96 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 2H), 5.99 (dd, *J* = 10.0, 6.8 Hz, 2H), 6.81 (s, 4H), 6.96 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 19.1, 20.8, 21.4, 22.5, 27.6, 29.9, 31.0, 33.7, 35.8, 51.6, 51.9, 53.3, 57.4, 81.6, 84.9, 115.1, 129.6, 131.3, 134.7, 136.0, 137.5, 137.6, 174.1; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $C_{48}H_{62}CIIr_2N_4$ (M⁺–Cl) 1115.3916, found 1115.3906.



<Procedures for the Preparation of Imidazolium Salts 2>



General Procedure E: A mixture of **1** (1 eq.) and alkylhalide (1.2 eq.) in dry acetonitrile was heated to 70 °C and stirred for 3 days. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by reprecipitation to give **2**.

(*R*)-(+)-2-Benzhydryl-5-phenyl-6,7-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-2-ium bromide ((*R*)-(+)-2av): Following the General Procedure E: (*R*)-1a (220 mg, 1.19 mmol) and diphenylmethyl bromide (353 mg, 1.43 mmol) were used; purified by reprecipitation (CH₂Cl₂/Et₂O) to give (*R*)-(+)-2av (488 mg, 95% yield) as light brown solid; mp 87-89 °C; $[\alpha]_D^{22}$ +68.6 (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.61-2.66 (m, 1H), 3.12-3.17 (m, 3H), 6.03 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 7.25-7.39 (m, 15H), 7.54 (s, 1H), 8.97 (s, 1H);¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 22.8, 37.6, 64.5, 67.3, 114.1, 126.4, 127.4, 127.9, 128.8, 129.0, 129.2, 129.27, 129.30, 129.4, 129.5, 131.6, 136.2, 136.7, 138.8; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₅H₂₃N₂ (M⁺–Br): 351.1856, found 351.1848.



(+)-2-Benzhydryl-5-mesityl-6,7-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-2-ium bromide ((+)-2bv); Following the General Procedure E: (+)-1b (100 mg, 0.442 mmol) and diphenylmethyl bromide (131 mg, 0.531 mmol) were used; purified by reprecipitation (CH₂Cl₂/Et₂O) to give (+)-2bv (132 mg, 71% yield) as light brown solid; mp 96-97 °C; $[\alpha]_D^{24}$ +88.2 (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.77 (s, 3H), 2.23 (s, 3H), 2.50 (s, 3H), 2.62-2.73 (dq, *J* = 13.2, 10.0 Hz, 1H), 3.03-3.11 (m, 1H), 3.20-3.30 (m, 2H), 6.31 (t, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (s, 1H), 6.88 (s, 1H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 7.24-7.38 (m, 10H), 7.58 (s, 1H), 8.59 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 19.2, 20.7, 21.1, 23.0, 34.4, 60.8, 66.9, 114.4, 127.7, 128.5, 128.6, 128.9, 129.0, 129.16, 129.18, 129.24, 130.0, 130.9, 131.7, 134.9, 136.2, 136.8, 137.8, 138.4, 138.9; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₈H₂₉N₂ (M⁺–Br) 393.2325, found 393.2307.



(*R*)-(+)-2-Benzhydryl-5-(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)-6,7-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-2-ium bromide ((*R*)-(+)-2cv); Following the General Procedure E: (*R*)-(+)-1c (100 mg, 0.372 mmol) and diphenylmethyl bromide (110 mg, 0.446 mmol) were used; purified by reprecipitation (CH₂Cl₂/Et₂O) to give (*R*)-(+)-2cv (155 mg, 81% yield) as light brown solid; mp 124-126 °C; $[\alpha]_D^{24}$ +107.9 (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.69 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.19 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.24 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.39 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 2.29 (sept, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.74 (dq, *J* = 13.6, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 3.11 (dtd, *J* = 9.6, 6.8, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 3.19-3.38 (m, 2H), 3.48 (sept, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 6.44 (t, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 7.14 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.27-7.44 (m, 11H), 7.66 (s, 1H), 8.68 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 23.0, 23.9, 24.4, 24.5, 24.9, 28.8, 30.0, 36.1, 59.6, 67.0, 114.7, 123.8, 125.9, 127.8, 128.5, 128.9, 129.1, 129.2, 129.3, 130.0, 130.6, 136.1, 136.6, 138.2, 147.8, 148.7; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₃₁H₃₅N₂ (M⁺–Br) 435.2795, found 435.2776.



(R)-(+)-2cv

(+)-2-Benzhydryl-5-(2,4,6-tricyclohexylphenyl)-6,7-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-2-ium bromide ((+)-2dv); Following the General Procedure E: (+)-1d (80.0 mg, 0.186 mmol) and diphenylmethyl bromide (55.2 mg, 0.223 mmol) were used; purified by reprecipitation (CH₂Cl₂/hexane) to give (+)-2dv (85.7 mg, 68% yield) as white solid; mp 185-186 °C; $[\alpha]_D^{19}$ +53.6 (*c* 1.00, THF); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.75 (q, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 0.90 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 1.07-2.04 (m, 29H), 2.38-2.48 (m, 1H), 2.72 (dq, *J* = 14.0, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 2.95-3.26 (m, 3H), 3.35 (dt, *J* = 13.2, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 6.39 (t, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (s, 1H), 7.03 (s, 2H), 7.22-7.46 (m, 10H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 8.65 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 23.0, 23.4, 25.8, 26.0, 26.1, 26.8, 26.9, 27.3, 27.6, 34.1, 34.2, 34.6, 34.9, 35.7, 35.8, 40.3, 40.7, 44.5, 56.9, 59.3, 67.0, 114.4, 123.0, 125.0, 126.6, 127.4, 127.8, 128.6, 128.8, 129.1, 129.1, 129.2, 130.8, 136.2, 136.9, 141.5, 148.3, 147.8, 149.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₄₃H₅₃N₂ (M⁺–Br) 597.4203, found 597.4181.



(+)-2-Benzyl-5-(2,4,6-tricyclohexylphenyl)-6,7-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-2-ium bromide ((+)-2dw); Following the General Procedure E; (+)-1d (60 mg, 0.139 mmol) and benzyl bromide (28.6 mg, 0.167 mmol) were used; purified by reprecipitation (CH₂Cl₂/hexane) to give (+)-2dw (78.0 mg, 93% yield) as white solid; mp 177-178 °C; $[\alpha]_D^{24}$ +4.6 (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.28 (q, *J* = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 0.70 (d, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 0.94-2.03 (m, 29H), 2.40-2.50 (m, 1H), 2.60-2.72 (m, 1H), 2.85-2.97 (m, 1H), 3.04-3.34 (m, 3H), 5.61 (d, *J* = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 5.77 (d, *J* = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 6.22 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 7.33-7.34 (m, 3H), 7.52-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.66 (s, 1H), 8.68 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 22.9, 25.6, 26.0, 26.1, 26.8, 26.88, 26.97, 27.04, 27.2, 34.1, 34.2, 34.5, 34.6, 35.0, 35.2, 36.2, 40.2, 40.9, 44.5, 54.0, 59.1, 115.4, 122.9, 125.2, 126.5, 129.2, 129.6, 133.6, 138.2, 146.3, 147.3, 149.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₃₇H₄₉N₂ (M⁺–Br) 521.3890, found 521.3859.



(+)-2-(4,4'-Dimethylphenyl)-5-(2,4,6-tricyclohexylphenyl)-6,7-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidaz ol-2-ium bromide ((+)-2dx); Following the General Procedure E; (+)-1d (80 mg, 0.186 mmol) and di-(4-tolyl)methyl bromide (61.4 mg, 0.223 mmol) were used; purified by reprecipitation (CH₂Cl₂/hexane) to give (+)-2dx (85.3 mg, 65% yield) as white solid; mp 168-169 °C; $[\alpha]_D^{24}$ +77.6 (*c* 1.00, THF); ¹H NMR δ 0.76 (q, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 0.93 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 1.07-2.06 (m, 29H), 2.31-2.33 (m, 6H), 2.40-2.50 (m, 1H), 2.70 (dq, *J* = 13.6, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 3.01-3.25 (m, 3H), 3.40 (dt, *J* = 18.4, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 6.41 (t, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (s, 1H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 2H), 7.11-7.16 (m, 6H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (s, 1H), 8.49 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 20.9, 21.0, 21.1, 22.9, 23.3, 25.8, 26.0, 26.1, 26.7, 26.8, 27.3, 27.6, 34.1, 34.2, 34.5, 34.8, 35.8, 40.3, 40.6, 44.5, 59.3, 66.9, 114.4, 122.8, 125.0, 126.7, 127.2, 127.6, 129.0, 129.2, 129.6, 129.7, 130.3, 133.3, 134.0, 136.8, 138.3, 138.7, 138.7, 139.0, 146.3, 147.7, 149.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₄₅H₅₇N₂ (M⁺–Br) 625.4516, found 625.4490.



(+)-2-(4,4'-Di-methoxymethylphenyl)-5-(2,4,6-tricyclohexylphenyl)-6,7-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[1,2 -c]imidazol-2-ium bromide ((+)-2dy); Following the General Procedure E; (+)-1d (80 mg, 0.186 mmol) and di-(4-methoxymethylphenyl)methyl bromide (68.5 mg, 0.223 mmol) were used; Since this compound could not be purified by reprecipitation, the crude mixture was used without isolation for the next step (see the preparation of (+)-8dy).



(+)-2-(4,4'-Di-trifluoromethylphenyl)-5-(2,4,6-tricyclohexylphenyl)-6,7-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[1,2 -c]imidazol-2-ium bromide ((+)-2dz); Following the General Procedure E; (+)-1d (80 mg, 0.186 mmol) and di-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)methyl bromide (85.4 mg, 0.223 mmol) were used; purified by reprecipitation (CH₂Cl₂/hexane) to give (+)-2dz (102.9 mg, 68% yield) as light brown solid; mp 185-186 °C; $[\alpha]_D^{24}$ +135.3 (*c* 1.00, THF); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.60 (q, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 0.79 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 1.03-1.12 (m, 1H), 1.17-1.92 (m, 27H), 1.98-2.05 (m, 1H), 2.39-2.50 (m, 1H), 2.76 (dq, *J* = 13.6, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 2.92-3.01 (m, 1H), 3.08-3.19 (m, 1H), 3.21-3.40 (m, 2H), 6.38 (t, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (s, 1H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.60-7.65 (m, 6H), 8.33 (s, 1H), 9.02 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 22.9, 25.7, 25.99, 26.04, 26.7, 26.85, 26.91, 27.3, 27.6, 34.1, 34.6, 34.8, 35.6, 35.7, 40.4, 40.9, 44.5, 59.6, 65.2, 114.0, 123.1, 123.47 (q, *J* = 277 Hz), 123.51 (q, *J* = 277 Hz), 125.2, 126.13, 126.17, 126.19, 128.3, 129.8, 131.24 (q, *J* = 33.4 Hz), 131.25, 131.27 (q, *J* = 33.4 Hz), 138.6, 139.7, 140.3, 146.1, 147.6, 149.5; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₄₅H₅₁F₆N₂ (M⁺-Br) 733.3951, found 733.3944.



(R)-6-Benzyl-7-isopropyl-3-phenyl-2,3-dihydroimidazo[5,1-b]oxazol-6-ium

hexafluorophosphate ((*R*)-(–)-2ew); Following the General Procedure E; (*R*)-7-isopropyl-3-phenyl-2,3-dihydroimidazo[5,1-b]oxazole (194 mg, 0.849 mmol) and benzyl bromide (174.0 mg, 1.02 mmol) were used; purified by reprecipitation (CH₂Cl₂/ether); Then, the bromide counter anion was converted into PF₆⁻. The residue was dissolved in acetone/H₂O (1/1) and added KPF₆. After stirring at room temperature for 8 h, the mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo to give (*R*)-(–)-2ew (232.6 mg, 59% yield) as brown solid; mp 67-68 °C; $[\alpha]_D^{22}$ –60.7 (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.15 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 1.26 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 2.84 (sept, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 4.91 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 5.15 (d, J = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 5.20 (t, J = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 5.42 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 5.96 (dd, J = 8.5, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.22-7.43 (m, 10H), 7.86 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 20.8, 21.2, 23.5, 52.4, 60.8, 84.0, 113.7, 123.9, 126.7, 127.8, 129.3, 129.5, 129.8, 130.1, 132.1, 134.1, 147.5; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₂₃N₂O (M⁺–PF₆) 319.1805, found 319.1794.



((*R*)-(–)-2ew)

<Procedures for the Preparation of Monodentate NHC/Ir Complexes 8>



General Procedure F: A mixture of imidazolium salt **2** (1 eq.), Ag₂O (2.5 eq.), and powderous 4A molecular sieves in 1,2-dichloroethane was refluxed with stirring overnight in dark. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite and filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure. The resulting silver complex was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 under N₂, and then added a solution of $[IrCl(cod)]_2$ (0.52 eq.) in CH_2Cl_2 . The reaction mixture was stirred overnight in dark at room temperature. To remove insoluble silver salts, the suspension was filtered through Celite and the filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure. The resulting was concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was then purified by column chromatography (SiO₂) to give the desired product.

[(*R*)-(+)-2-Benzhydryl-5-phenyl-6,7-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-2-ylidene](1,5-cyclooct adiene)iridiumchloride ((*R*)-(+)-8av); Following the General Procedure F: (*R*)-(+)-2av (100 mg, 0.237 mmol) and [IrCl(cod)]₂ (82.9 mg, 0.123 mmol) were used; purified by column chromatography (AcOEt/hexane = 1/1) to give (*R*)-(+)-8av (113.9 mg, 70% yield) as yellow solid; mp 216-220 °C; $[\alpha]_D^{21}$ +115.5 (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR spectra of 8av indicated that conformational isomers derived from the restricted rotation around the carbene–Ir bond axis exist in a 2:1 ratio; The following data are for a mixture of the isomers; ¹H NMR (CD₃Cl) δ 0.82-0.92 (m, 0.65H), 1.04-1.16 (m, 1.30H), 1.18-1.44 (m, 2.70H), 1.46-2.05 (m, 4.00H), 2.21-2.27 (m, 0.35H), 2.30-2.50 (m, 1.65H), 2.66 (td, *J* = 7.6, 2.8 Hz, 0.35H), 2.75-3.09 (m, 3H), 4.11 (td, J = 7.2, 2.8 Hz, 0.35H), 2.75-3.09 (m, 3H), 4.11 (td,

0.35H), 4.23-4.29 (m, 0.35H), 4.48-4.55 (m, 1.30H), 5.37 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 0.35H), 5.79 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 0.65H), 6.51 (s, 1.00H), 7.21-7.48 (m, 15H), 7.99 (s, 0.65H), 7.99 (s, 0.35H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 21.5, 22.2, 28.1, 28.6, 29.4, 31.8, 32.3, 34.0, 34.4, 37.8. 39.5, 48.6, 51.7, 52.1, 52.2, 62.3, 64.0, 67.6, 67.7, 82.9, 83.3, 84.3, 111.6, 111.7, 126.3, 126.9, 127.3, 127.4, 127.5, 127.7, 127.88, 127.92, 128.0, 128.1, 128.2, 128.40, 128.46, 128.51, 128.6, 128.9, 129.5, 129.8, 130.0, 136.6, 137.6, 139.3, 139.9, 140.4, 141.0, 142.6, 176.6, 177.1; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₃₃H₃₄IrN₂ (M⁺–Cl) 651.2346, found 651.2343; A single crystal suitable for X-ray single-crystal structure determination was obtained by recrystallization from hot hexane.³



[(+)-2-Benzhydryl-5-mesityl-6,7-dihydro-5*H***-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-2-ylidene](1,5-cyclooctadie ne)iridiumchloride ((+)-8bv); Following the General Procedure F: (+)-2bv (90 mg, 0.190 mmol) and [IrCl(cod)]₂ (66.5 mg, 0.099 mmol) were used; purified by column chromatography (CH₂Cl₂) followed by recrystallization (THF/hexane) to give (+)-8bv (117.6 mg, 85% yield) as yellow solid; mp 101-102 °C; [\alpha]_D^{21} +82.0 (***c* **1.00, THF); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.70 (dtd,** *J* **= 13.2, 8.8, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 0.78-0.91 (m, 1H), 1.09-1.18 (m, 1H), 1.36-1.44 (m, 1H), 1.52-1.60 (m, 1H), 1.72-1.94 (m, 3H), 1.88 (s, 3H), 2.00 (td,** *J* **= 8.4, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.41-2.52 (m, 1H), 2.64 (t,** *J* **= 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.72 (s, 3H), 2.88-3.05 (m, 3H), 4.36-4.41 (m, 1H), 4.41-4.47 (m, 1H), 6.02-6.08 (m, 1H), 6.42 (s, 1H), 6.79 (s, 1H), 6.96 (s, 1H), 7.20-7.40 (m, 10H), 8.05 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 19.4, 20.8, 21.5, 22.5, 27.3, 29.9, 31.0, 33.7, 35.4, 51.1, 53.1, 57.6, 67.7, 81.8, 84.8, 111.6, 126.5, 127.4, 128.0, 128.5, 128.6, 129.5, 129.7, 131.1, 134.6, 135.6, 137.4, 137.7, 138.4, 140.5, 140.7, 176.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₃₆H₄₀IrN₂ (M⁺–Cl) 693.2815, found 693.2797.**



[(*R*)-(+)-2-Benzhydryl-5-(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)-6,7-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-2-ylide ne](1,5-cyclooctadiene)iridiumchloride ((*R*)-(+)-8cv); Following the General Procedure F: (*R*)-(+)-2cv (80 mg, 0.155 mmol) and [IrCl(cod)]₂ (54.2 mg, 0.081 mmol) were used; purified by column chromatography (CH₂Cl₂) to give (*R*)-(+)-8cv (99.1 mg, 83% yield) as yellow solid; mp

114-116 °C; $[\alpha]_D^{21}$ +121.6 (*c* 1.00, THF); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.74 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 3H), 0.82-0.90 (m, 1H), 1.02-1.11 (m, 2H), 1.18 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.23 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.21-1.33 (m, 1H), 1.38-1.48 (m, 1H), 1.59 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.58-1.70 (m, 1H), 1.78 (dddd, *J* = 14.0, 10.8, 7.6, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.01 (dddd, *J* = 14.0, 10.0, 7.6, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.14 (td, *J* = 7.8, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 2.41 (td, *J* = 7.6, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 2.51-2.60 (m, 1H), 2.68 (sept, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.94-3.17 (m, 3H), 4.05 (sept, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 4.18 (td, *J* = 8.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 4.65 (td, *J* = 8.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 6.20 (dd, *J* = 10.4, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 6.44 (s, 1H), 7.16 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.21-7.39 (m, 12H), 8.38 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 22.0, 22.5, 23.3, 24.8, 26.4, 28.0, 28.4, 29.8, 33.0, 33.5, 35.4, 51.3, 53.3, 56.0, 67.9, 81.1, 83.6, 112.2, 123.2, 125.5, 126.8, 127.4, 128.0, 128.4, 128.5, 129.5, 136.1, 138.1, 140.3, 140.8, 147.3, 147.8, 176.5; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₃₉H₄₆IrN₂ (M⁺–Cl) 735.3285, found 735.3264; A single crystal suitable for X-ray single-crystal structure determination was obtained by slow diffusion of pentane into a solution of (*S*)-(-)**8cv** in CH₂Cl₂.



[(+)-2-Benzhydryl-5-(2,4,6-trihexylphenyl)-6,7-dihydro-5*H***-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-2-ylidene](1 ,5-cyclooctadiene)iridiumchloride ((+)-8dv); Following the General Procedure F: (+)-2dv (106 mg, 0.157 mmol) and [IrCl(cod)]₂ (54.8 mg, 0.082 mmol) were used; purified by column chromatography (EtOAc/hexane = 1/9) to give (+)-8dv (117.3 mg, 80% yield) as yellow solid; mp 186-187 °C; [\alpha]_D^{21} +114.6 (***c* **1.00, THF); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.86-0.98 (m, 4H), 1.05-1.94 (m, 32H), 2.02-2.16 (m, 1H), 2.18-2.24 (m, 1H), 2.28-2.40 (m, 3H), 2.41-2.58 (m, 2H), 2.92-3.14 (m, 3H), 3.70-3.78 (m, 1H), 4.01 (td,** *J* **= 7.8, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 4.75 (td,** *J* **= 7.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.12 (dd,** *J* **= 9.6, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 6.40 (s, 1H), 6.96 (d,** *J* **= 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d,** *J* **= 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.21-7.39 (m, 10H), 8.51 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 22.2, 26.17, 26.22, 26.6, 26.87, 26.94, 27.0, 27.3, 27.7, 27.8, 31.1, 31.8, 33.3, 33.6, 34.39, 34.44, 34.8, 35.0, 35.5, 37.6, 39.3, 40.4, 44.7, 50.6, 54.2, 55.8, 68.0, 79.6, 84.3, 112.0, 122.6, 124.7, 126.8, 127.3, 127.9, 128.4, 128.5, 129.5, 133.6, 138.2, 140.6, 140.8, 145.9, 147.0, 147.4, 176.8; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₅₁H₆₄IrN₂ (M⁺–Cl) 897.4693, found 897.4676.**





clooctadiene)**iridiumchloride** ((+)-**8dw**); Following the General Procedure F: (+)-**2dw** (45 mg, 0.075 mmol) and [IrCl(cod)]₂ (26.1 mg, 0.039 mmol) were used; purified by column chromatography (EtOAc/hexane = 1/9) to give (+)-**8dw** (57.8 mg, 90% yield) as yellow solid; mp 154-156 °C; $[\alpha]_D^{21}$ +68.3 (*c* 1.00, THF); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.83-1.04 (m, 4H), 1.13-1.95 (m, 32H), 2.04 (ddt, *J* = 15.2, 10.4, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.24-2.33 (m, 2H), 2.35-2.42 (m, 1H), 2.45-2.58 (m, 2H), 2.75 (td, *J* = 11.2, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 3.02-3.14 (m, 3H), 3.67-3.76 (m, 1H), 4.05 (td, *J* = 8.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 4.64 (td, *J* = 7.6, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 5.47 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 6.09-6.15 (m, 1H), 6.17 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 6.47 (s, 1H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 1.2Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.36 (m, 5H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 22.2, 26.1, 26.2, 26.5, 26.9, 27.0, 27.5, 27.7, 27.8, 29.7, 30.4, 32.5, 33.3, 33.9, 34.27, 34.35, 34.5, 34.9, 35.6, 37.6, 39.3, 40.4, 44.7, 50.8, 53.3, 55.1, 55.7, 80.4, 83.8, 112.3, 122.5, 124.6, 127.1, 127.6, 128.7, 133.7, 137.7, 138.6, 145.8, 147.0, 147.4, 176.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₃₇H₄₈ClIrN₂Na (M⁺-cod+Na) 771.3027, found 771.3052.



[(+)-2-(4,4'-Dimethylbenzhydryl)-5-(2,4,6-trihexylphenyl)-6,7-dihydro-5*H***-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imida zol-2-ylidene](1,5-cyclooctadiene)iridiumchloride ((+)-8dx); Following the General Procedure F: (+)-2dx (40 mg, 0.056 mmol) and [IrCl(cod)]₂ (19.6 mg, 0.030 mmol) were used; purified by column chromatography (EtOAc/hexane = 1/9) to give (+)-8dx (44 mg, 81% yield) as yellow solid; mp 170-171 °C; [\alpha]_D^{19} +118.3 (***c* **0.50, THF); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.86-0.96 (m, 4H), 1.06-1.94 (m, 32H), 2.04-2.16 (m, 1H), 2.18-2.24 (m, 1H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.30-2.40 (m, 3H), 2.41-2.57 (m, 2H), 2.92-3.14 (m, 3H), 3.72-3.80 (m, 1H), 3.99 (td,** *J* **= 7.8, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 4.74 (td,** *J* **= 7.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.11 (dd,** *J* **= 9.6, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 6.4 (s, 1H), 6.96 (d,** *J* **= 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.06-7.14 (m, 7H), 7.25 (d,** *J* **= 8.0 Hz, 2H), 8.40 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 21.1, 21.4, 22.3, 26.18, 26.23, 26.6, 26.9, 27.0, 27.3, 27.7, 27.8, 29.7, 31.1, 31.9, 33.2, 33.6, 34.4, 34.9, 35.0, 35.5, 37.6, 39.3, 40.4, 50.6, 54.1, 55.8, 67.6, 79.4, 84.1, 111.9, 122.6, 124.6, 126.6, 129.0, 129.1, 129.4, 133.7, 136.8, 137.6, 137.8, 138.0, 138.1, 145.9, 147.0, 147.3, 176.4; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₅₃H₆₈IrN₂ (M⁺–Cl) 925.5006, found 925.4985.**



[(+)-2-(4,4'-Methoxybenzhydryl)-5-(2,4,6-trihexylphenyl)-6,7-dihydro-5*H***-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidaz ol-2-ylidene](1,5-cyclooctadiene)iridiumchloride ((+)-8dy); Following the General Procedure F: The crude mixture of (+)-2dy and [IrCl(cod)]₂ (65.0 mg, 0.097 mmol) were used; purified by column chromatography (EtOAc/hexane = 1/9) to give (+)-8dy (62.8 mg, 34% yield (2 steps)) as yellow solid; mp 174-175 °C; [\alpha]_D^{20} +135.3 (***c* **0.50, THF); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.88-1.95 (m, 36H), 2.06-2.16 (m, 1H), 2.19-2.25 (m, 1H), 2.30-2.66 (m, 5H), 2.92-3.14 (m, 3H), 3.71-3.80 (m, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 4.00 (td,** *J* **= 8.4, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 4.73 (td,** *J* **= 7.2, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.10 (dd,** *J* **= 10.0, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 6.44 (s, 1H), 6.81 (d,** *J* **= 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (d,** *J* **= 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (d,** *J* **= 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d,** *J* **= 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d,** *J* **= 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d,** *J* **= 8.4 Hz, 2H), 8.37 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 22.3, 26.18, 26.23, 26.6, 26.9, 27.0, 27.4, 27.7, 27.8, 31.1, 32.0, 33.3, 33.6, 34.4, 34.5, 34.8, 35.0, 35.6, 37.6, 39.3, 40.4, 44.7, 50.7, 54.1, 55.2, 55.8, 67.0, 79.5, 84.0, 111.8, 113.7, 113.8, 122.6, 124.6, 127.8, 130.6, 133.0, 133.4, 133.7, 138.1, 145.9, 147.0, 147.4, 158.7, 159.1, 176.4; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₅₃H₆₈IrN₂O₂ (M⁺-Cl) 957.4905, found 957.4871.**



(+)**-8dy**

[(+)-2-(4,4'-Trifluoromethylbenzhydryl)-5-(2,4,6-trihexylphenyl)-6,7-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-2-ylidene](1,5-cyclooctadiene)iridiumchloride ((+)-8dz); (+)-2dz (60 mg, 0.074 mmol) and [IrCl(cod)]₂ (25.8 mg, 0.038 mmol) were used; purified by column chromatography (EtOAc/hexane = 1/9) to give (+)-8dz (51.5 mg, 65% yield) as yellow solid; mp 178-180 °C; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ +112.5 (*c* 1.00, THF); ¹H NMR δ 0.83-1.96 (m, 36H), 2.06 (ddt, *J* = 15.2, 10.4, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.17-2.24 (m, 2H), 2.28-2.40 (m, 2H), 2.43-2.61 (m, 2H), 2.96-3.18 (m, 3H), 3.65-3.73 (m, 1H), 4.07 (td, *J* = 8.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 4.78 (td, *J* = 7.6, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 6.12 (dd, *J* = 9.6, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 6.42 (s, 1H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 8.74 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 22.3, 26.16, 26.5, 26.87, 26.93, 27.0, 27.3, 27.76, 27.81, 31.0, 32.1, 33.3, 33.6, 34.40, 34.43, 34.6, 34.9, 35.4, 37.6, 39.5, 40.5, 44.7, 50.8, 54.5, 56.0, 67.1, 80.7, 85.1, 111.3, 122.7, 123.9 (q, J = 276 Hz), 124.7, 125.7, 127.1, 129.8, 130.2 (q, J = 33.3 Hz), 133.2, 139.2, 143.7, 143.8, 145.7, 147.0, 147.7, 177.7; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₅₃H₆₂F₆IrN₂ (M⁺-Cl) 1033.4441, found 1033.4438. Anal. calcd for C₅₃H₆₂ClF₆IrN₂ C, 59.56; H, 5.85, found C, 59.10; H, 5.76.



<Procedures for the Asymmetric Transfer Hydrogenation of Ketones>



General Procedure G: (–)-8dz (0.20 μ mol, 0.1 or 0.05 mol %) was weighed into a flask. To this were added a solution of *t*-BuOK in *i*-PrOH (10 or 20 mL, 2 mM, 1 mol %) and aryl ketone **6** (2.00 or 4.00 mmol, 1.0 eq.), then the mixture was stirred at 70 °C for 1 h. After cooling to ambient temperature, the mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (ether/hexane) to give **7**. The enantiomeric excess of the product was determined by HPLC analysis with chiral stationary phase column (Daicel Chiralcel; OD-H, OB-H, or AD-H).

(S)-1-Phenylethanol ((S)-7a); Following the General Procedure G; 88% yield; this product was characterized by comparison of the spectroscopic data with those reported previously;⁴ Daicel Chiralcel OD-H, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95/5, 1.0 mL/min, $t_{\rm R}$ = 8.6 min (minor), $t_{\rm S}$ = 10.1 min (major); 97% ee; $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{20}$ –54.8 (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃).



(S)-1-Phenylpropanol ((S)-7b); Following the General Procedure G; 93% yield; this product was

characterized by comparison of the spectroscopic data with those reported previously;⁴ Daicel Chiralcel OD-H, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 98/2, 1.0 mL/min, $t_{\rm R}$ = 11.8 min (minor), $t_{\rm S}$ = 12.6 min (major); 97% ee; $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{20}$ –45.3 (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃).



(S)-1-Phenylbutanol ((S)-7c); Following the General Procedure G; 79% yield; this product was characterized by comparison of the spectroscopic data with those reported previously;⁴ Daicel Chiralcel OD-H, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 98/2, 0.8 mL/min, $t_{\rm R}$ = 16.1 min (minor), $t_{\rm S}$ = 17.9 min (major); 97% ee; $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{23}$ -54.4 (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃).



(S)-1-Phenylpentanol ((S)-7d); Following the General Procedure G; 15% yield; this product was characterized by comparison of the spectroscopic data with those reported previously;⁴ Daicel Chiralcel OD-H, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 98/2, 1.0 mL/min, $t_{\rm R}$ = 12.5 min (minor), $t_{\rm S}$ = 13.7 min (major); 97% ee; $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{23}$ –39.4 (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃).



(S)-1-(*p*-Tolyl)ethanol ((S)-7e); Following the General Procedure G; 86% yield; this product was characterized by comparison of the spectroscopic data with those reported previously;⁵ Daicel Chiralcel AD-H, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95/5, 1.0 mL/min, $t_{\rm R}$ = 12.3 min (minor), $t_{\rm S}$ = 12.9 min (major); 92% ee; [α]_D²³ –49.7 (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃).



(S)-1-(*m*-Tolyl)ethanol ((S)-7f); Following the General Procedure G; 20% yield; this product was characterized by comparison of the spectroscopic data with those reported previously;⁵ Daicel Chiralcel OD-H, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 98/2, 1.0 mL/min, $t_{\rm R}$ = 11.8 min (minor), $t_{\rm S}$ = 16.4 min (major); 83% ee; $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{23}$ –45.3 (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃).



(*S*)-1,2-Diphenyl-1-ethanol ((*S*)-7g); Following the General Procedure G; 66% yield; this product was characterized by comparison of the spectroscopic data with those reported previously;⁴ Daicel Chiralcel OD-H, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95/5, 1.0 mL/min, $t_{\rm R}$ = 12.6 min (minor), $t_{\rm S}$ = 15.2 min (major); 98% ee; $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{22}$ –12.4 (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃).



(S)-1-(*p*-Furuorophenyl)ethanol ((S)-7h); Following the General Procedure G; 90% yield; this product was characterized by comparison of the spectroscopic data with those reported previously;⁵ Daicel Chiralcel OB-H, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95/5, 0.8 mL/min, $t_{\rm S}$ = 9.7 min (major), $t_{\rm R}$ = 10.9 min (minor); 92% ee; $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{23}$ –45.6 (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃).



(S)-1-(*p*-Chlorophenyl)ethanol ((S)-7i); Following the General Procedure G; 91% yield; this product was characterized by comparison of the spectroscopic data with those reported previously;⁵ Daicel Chiralcel OB-H, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95/5, 0.8 mL/min, $t_{\rm R}$ = 9.5 min (major), $t_{\rm S}$ = 11.3 min (minor); 95% ee; $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{22}$ -36.9 (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃).



(S)-1-(*p*-Bromophenyl)ethanol ((S)-7j); Following the General Procedure G; 91% yield; this product was characterized by comparison of the spectroscopic data with those reported previously;⁵ Daicel Chiralcel OB-H, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95/5, 0.8 mL/min, $t_{\rm S}$ = 10.0 min (major), $t_{\rm R}$ = 12.3 min (minor); 93% ee; $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{21}$ –37.3 (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃).



(S)-1-(*p*-Iodophenyl)ethanol ((S)-7k); Following the General Procedure G; 60% yield; this product was characterized by comparison of the spectroscopic data with those reported previously;⁵ Daicel Chiralcel OB-H, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95/5, 0.8 mL/min, $t_{\rm S} = 10.4$ min (major), $t_{\rm R} = 12.6$ min (minor); 95% ee; $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{22}$ –30.9 (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃).



(*S*)-1-(*p*-Methoxyphenyl)-ethanol ((*S*)-7l); Following the General Procedure G; 55% yield; this product was characterized by comparison of the spectroscopic data with those reported previously;⁵ Daicel Chiralcel OD-H, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 98/2, 1.0 mL/min, $t_{\rm R}$ = 18.0 min (minor), $t_{\rm S}$ = 19.8 min (major); 94% ee; $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{23}$ –45.2 (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃).



(S)-1-(2-Naphtyl)-1-ethanol ((S)-7m); Following the General Procedure G; 37% yield; this product was characterized by comparison of the spectroscopic data with those reported previously;⁵ Daicel Chiralcel OD-H, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95/5, 1.0 mL/min, $t_{\rm S}$ = 16.6 min (major), $t_{\rm R}$ = 18.6 min (minor); 83% ee; $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{23}$ –39.4 (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃).



(S)-7m

<Notes and References>

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- 3 The crystallographic coordinates have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre; deposition no. 1059389 ((*S*)-(-)-8av) and 1059390 ((*S*)-(-)-8cv). These data can be obtained free of charge via http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/conts/retrieving.html (or from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 IEZ, UK; fax (+44) 1223-336-033; e-mail deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk).
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<¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra of New Compounds>
















































































































<¹H NMR Spectra of Known Compounds>



























<HPLC Analysis Data of Alcohols 7>

(Table 3, entry 13)





(Table 4, entry 2)

	Chiral Column:	OD-H,	254 nm,	1.0 mL/min,	Hex/iPrOH = 98/2
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(Table 4, entry 4)

Chiral	Column [.]	OD-H	254 nm	08	ml /min	Hex/ <i>i</i>	-PrOH :	= 98/2
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(Table 4, entry 6)







(Table 4, entry 8)

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Chiral Column: AD-H, 254 nm, 0.8 mL/min, Hex/i-PrOH = 98/2
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2 12.92 (S)-isomer 8186695 96.1534 319381 5170.9 2.647 ----

(Table 4, entry 10)

Chiral Column: OD-H, 254 nm, 1.0 mL/min, Hex/*i*-PrOH = 98/2





(Table 4, entry 12)







(Table 4, entry 14)







(Table 4, entry 15)

Chiral	Column:	OB-H	254 nm.	0.8	ml /min.	Hex/i	-PrOH	= 98	1/2
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(Table 4, entry 18)







(Table 4, entry 20)

Chiral Column:	OB-H. 2	254 nm.	0.8 mL/min.	Hex/ <i>i</i> -PrOH	= 98/2
orman oonannin.			0.0 1112/ 11111,		00/2







(Table 4, entry 22)

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Chiral Column: OD-H, 254 nm, 1.0 mL/min, Hex/i-PrOH = 98/2
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(Table 4, entry 24)

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Chiral Column: OD-H, 254 nm, 1.0 mL/min, Hex/i-PrOH = 95/5
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