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Highly Enantioselective Asymmetric Transfer Hydrogenation (ATH) of α-Phthalimide Ketone[†]

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1. General information

Unless stated otherwise, all reactions were carried out under an atmosphere of Ar using standard Schlenk techniques. All solvents and reagents were obtained from commercial sources and were used without further purification. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Mercury 300 MHz or Varian Mercury 400 MHz or Agilent Mercury 400 MHz spectrometer in chloroform-d. All signals were reported in ppm with the internal TMS signal at 0.0 ppm or chloroform signal at 7.26 ppm as a standard. Data for ¹H NMR were recorded as follows: chemical shift (δ , ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet or unresolved, coupling constant(s) in Hz, integration). ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Mercury 75 MHz or Agilent Mercury 100 MHz spectrometer in chloroform-d. All signals are reported in ppm with the internal chloroform signal at 77.0 ppm as a standard. Enantiomeric excesses (ee) were determined by chiral high-performance liquid chromatography (chiral HPLC) using Chiralpak IC or OJ-H column. Infrared spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer Spectrum One FT-IR spectrometer. Chromatography: Flash chromatography was performed on silica gel (Merck Silica Gel 60, 300-400 mesh). TLC was performed on aluminium backed silica plates (60F254, 0.2 mm) which were developed using standard visualising agents. High resolution mass spectra was determined by a micrOTOF-II HRMS/MS instrument (Bruker). Optical rotation values were measured with instruments operating at $\lambda = 589$ nm, corresponding to the sodium D line at the temperatures indicated.

2. Typical Procedure for the asymmetric transfer hydrogenation reaction.

A solution of [Ru(cymene)Cl₂]₂ (7.6 mg, 0.0125 mmol) and Ts-DPEN (9.2 mg, 0.0250 mmol) in DMF/MeOH (4 ml, v/v 4/1) was stirred at r.t. for 3 h, then substrate (**1a**, 0.25 mmol) was added followed by HCO₂H/Et₃N (v/v, 5/2, 0.4 mL) and the mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 20 h. The reaction was then diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (15 mL) and washed with a solution of Na₂CO₃ (0.5 M, 10 mL).The aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2 x 15 mL), the combined organic layer was dried and concentrated, and the residue was purified by flash chromatography to afford **2a** (70.4 mg) as a white solid, 92% yield with 99 % *ee* (Daicel Chirapak IC, ^{*i*}PrOH/hexanes = 20/80, 1.0 mL/min⁻¹, λ = 254 nm: t_R (major) = 12.2 min, t_R (minor) = 13.3 min); [a]_D²⁰ = -28.8° (c = 0.60, CHCl₃); The absolute configuration of the major enantiomer is (R) by the comparison of the reported data.¹⁻⁴

(R)-2-(2-hydroxy-2-phenylethyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione 2a¹⁻⁴



92% yield with >99 % *ee* (Daicel Chirapak IC, ^{*i*}PrOH/hexanes = 20/80, 1.0 mL/min⁻¹, $\lambda = 254$ nm: $t_{\rm R}$ (major) = 12.2 min, $t_{\rm R}$ (minor) = 13.3 min); $[a]_{\rm D}^{20} = -28.8^{\circ}$ (c = 0.60, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89-7.84 (m, 2H), 7.76-7.72 (m, 2H), 7.48-7.30 (m, 5H), 5.10-5.05 (m, 1H), 4.07-3.92 (m, 2H), 2.84 (d, J = 5.1 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.7, 141.0, 134.1, 131.8, 128.5, 128.0, 125.8, 123.4, 72.5, 45.7; IR (Film) *v*: 3481, 1697, 1406, 1055 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI⁻) calcd for [C₁₆H₁₂NO₃]⁻: 266.0812. Found: 266.0810.

(R)-2-(2-(3-fluorophenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione 2b



95% yield with 94 % *ee* (Daicel Chirapak IC, ^{*i*}PrOH/hexanes = 30/70, 1.0 mL/min⁻¹, λ = 254 nm: *t*_R (major) = 7.7 min, *t*_R (minor) = 7.2 min); [α]_D²⁵ = -29.1° (*c* = 0.61, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88-7.84 (m, 2H), 7.77-7.73 (m, 2H), 7.37-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.18 (m, 2H), 7.02-6.96 (m, 1H), 5.10-5.04 (m, 1H), 4.06-3.93 (m, 2H), 3.05 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, *d*₆-acetone) δ 168.5, 134.8, 132.8, 130.7 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz), 123.5, 122.6, 122.5(7), 114.8 (d, *J* = 21.2 Hz), 113.4, 113.2, 70.7, 46.1; IR (Film) *v*: 3466, 1697, 1139 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI-) calcd for [C₁₆H₁₁FNO₃]⁻: 284.0717. Found: 284.0719.

(R)-2-(2-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione 2c^{1, 3-4}



87% yield with 93 % *ee* (Daicel Chirapak OJ-H, ^{*i*}PrOH/hexanes = 20/80, 1.0 mL/min⁻¹, λ = 254 nm: *t*_R (major) = 12.0 min, *t*_R (minor) = 17.8 min); [α]_D²⁵ = -34.2° (*c* = 0.59,

CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.87-7.85 (m, 2H), 7.75-7.73 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.05 (t, *J* = 9.7 Hz, 2H), 5.09-5.04 (m, 1H), 4.05-3.90 (m, 2H), 2.95 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.7, 164.0, 136.8, 134.2, 131.7, 127.5 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 123.5, 115.4 (d, *J* = 21.1 Hz), 71.9, 45.7; IR (Film) *v*: 3506, 1687, 1508 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI⁻) calcd for [C₁₆H₁₁FNO₃]⁻: 284.0717. Found: 284.0717. **(R)-2-(2-(2-fluorophenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione 2d**



96% yield with 80 % *ee* (Daicel Chirapak IC, ^{*i*}PrOH/hexanes = 30/70, 1.0 mL/min⁻¹, λ = 254 nm: t_R (major) = 7.6 min, t_R (minor) = 8.8 min); $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ = -49.2° (*c* = 0.60, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.84-7.80 (m, 2H), 7.74-7.70 (m, 2H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.13 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.06-7.00 (m, 1H), 5.34-5.30 (m, 1H), 4.13-3.99 (m, 2H), 3.29 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.6, 159.7 (d, *J* = 244.6 Hz), 134.1, 131.7, 129.4 (d, *J* = 19.6 Hz), 134.1, 131.7, 129.4 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 127.9 (d, *J* = 13.6 Hz), 127.4 (d, *J* = 4.1 Hz), 124.2 (d, *J* = 3.5 Hz), 123.4, 115.2 (d, *J* = 21.6 Hz), 67.2 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz), 44.2 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz); IR (Film) *v*: IR 3506, 1703, 1425, 1396 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI⁻) calcd for [C₁₆H₁₁FNO₃]⁻: 284.0717. Found: 284.0716.

(R)-2-(2-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione 2e³



70% yield with 95 % *ee* (Daicel Chirapak OJ-H, ^{*i*}PrOH/hexanes = 20/80, 1.0 mL/min⁻¹, $\lambda = 254$ nm: t_R (major) = 11.9 min, t_R (minor) = 18.0 min); $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -28.3^\circ$ (c = 0.64, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89-7.86 (m, 2H), 7.77-7.73 (m, 2H), 7.48 (s, 1H), 7.35-7.28 (m, 3H), 5.07-5.02 (m, 1H), 4.04-3.93 (m, 2H), 3.04 (d, J = 5.1 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.7, 143.1, 134.5, 134.2, 131.7, 129.8, 128.1, 126.1, 124.0, 123.5, 72.0, 45.6; IR (Film) v: 3406, 1701, 1400 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI⁻) calcd for [C₁₆H₁₁³⁵CINO₃]⁻: 300.0422. Found: 300.0425.

(R)-2-(2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione 2f¹⁻³



78% yield with 90 % *ee* (Daicel Chirapak OJ-H, ^{*i*}PrOH/hexanes = 30/70, 1.0 mL/min⁻¹, $\lambda = 254$ nm: $t_{\rm R}$ (major) = 7.9 min, $t_{\rm R}$ (minor) = 9.7 min); [α]_D²⁵ = -26.3° (*c* = 0.63, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88-7.85 (m, 2H), 7.77-7.73 (m, 2H), 7.41-7.32 (m, 4H), 5.07-5.03 (m, 1H), 4.05-3.92 (m, 2H), 3.01 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.7, 139.5, 134.2, 131.7, 128.7, 127.3, 123.5, 108.6, 72.0, 45.6; IR (Film) *v*: 3431, 1697, 1405cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI⁻) calcd for [C₁₆H₁₁³⁵ClNO₃]⁻: 300.0422. Found: 300.0425.

(R)-2-(2-(3-bromophenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione 2g



90% yield with 97 % *ee* (Daicel Chirapak OJ-H, ^{*i*}PrOH/hexanes = 20/80, 1.0 mL/min⁻¹, $\lambda = 254$ nm: t_R (major) = 12.3 min, t_R (minor) = 18.0 min); $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -24.6^\circ$ (c = 0.61, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.90-7.84 (m, 2H), 7.77-7.72 (m, 2H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.44-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.21 (m, 1H), 5.07-5.00 (m, 1H), 4.03-3.92 (m, 2H), 3.06 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.7, 143.3, 134.2, 131.7, 131.1, 130.1, 129.0, 124.5, 123.5, 122.7, 71.9, 45.6; IR (Film) *v*: 3446, 1754, 1701, 1400 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI⁻) calcd for [C₁₆H₁₁⁷⁹BrNO₃]⁻: 343.9917. Found: 343.9932. **(R)-2-(2-(4-bromophenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione 2h¹⁻²**



82% yield with 91 % *ee* (Daicel Chirapak OJ-H, ^{*i*}PrOH/hexanes = 30/70, 1.0 mL/min⁻¹, $\lambda = 254$ nm: t_R (major) = 8.3 min, t_R (minor) = 10.5 min); $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -32.2^\circ$ (c = 0.41, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88-7.84 (m, 2H), 7.77-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.49 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 5.07-5.02 (m, 1H), 4.05-3.90 (m, 2H), 3.03

(d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.7, 140.0, 134.3, 131.7, 131.6(7), 127.6, 123.5, 121.9, 72.1, 45.5; IR (Film) *v*: 3458, 1716, 1575 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI⁻) calcd for [C₁₆H₁₁⁷⁹BrNO₃]⁻: 343.9917. Found: 343.9922.

(R)-2-(2-hydroxy-2-(4-iodophenyl)ethyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione 2i



78% yield with 92 % *ee* (Daicel Chirapak OJ-H, ^{*i*}PrOH/hexanes = 30/70, 1.0 mL/min⁻¹, $\lambda = 254$ nm: $t_{\rm R}$ (major) = 9.3 min, $t_{\rm R}$ (minor) = 12.2 min); $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{25} = -23.9^{\circ}$ (c = 0.61, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88-7.84 (m, 2H), 7.77-7.68 (m, 4H), 7.21 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 5.06-5.02 (m, 1H), 4.04-3.89 (m, 2H), 3.02 (d, J = 5.1 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.7, 140.7, 137.6, 134.3, 131.7, 127.8, 125.5, 93.6, 72.2, 45.5; IR (Film) *v*: 3433, 1713, 1691 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI⁻) calcd for [C₁₆H₁₁INO₃]⁻: 391.9778. Found: 391.9798.

(R)-2-(2-hydroxy-2-(3-methoxyphenyl)ethyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione 2j^{1,4}



82 % yield with 96 % *ee* (Daicel Chirapak IC, ^{*i*}PrOH/hexanes = 30/70, 1.0 mL/min⁻¹, λ = 254 nm: t_R (major) = 15.7 min, t_R (minor) = 21.0 min); $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ = -25.5° (*c* = 0.42, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.87-7.85 (m, 2H), 7.75-7.72 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.04-7.03 (m, 2H), 6.84 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 5.04 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 4.06-3.91 (m, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 2.90 (s 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.7, 159.7, 142.7, 134.1, 131.8, 129.6, 123.4, 118.1, 113.8, 111.0, 72.4, 55.2, 45.6; IR (Film) v: 3481, 1697, 1406, 1055 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [C₁₇H₁₄NO₄]⁻: 316.0968. Found: 316.0963.

(R)-2-(2-hydroxy-2-(naphthalen-1-yl)ethyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione 2k²



70% yield with 91 % *ee* (Daicel Chirapak IC, ^{*i*}PrOH/hexanes = 30/70, 1.0 mL/min⁻¹, λ = 254 nm: $t_{\rm R}$ (major) = 9.0 min, $t_{\rm R}$ (minor) = 19.9 min); [α]_D²⁵ = -1.1° (*c* = 0.57, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.36 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.91-7.90 (m, 3H), 7.86-7.82 (m, 2H), 7.78-7.75 (m, 2H), 7.64 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 5.90-5.86 (m, 1H), 4.19-4.02 (m, 2H), 2.76 (d, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.9, 136.8, 133.6, 132.0, 130.2, 128.9, 128.6, 126.6, 125.8, 125.4, 123.5, 123.0, 122.9, 69.7, 45.4; IR (Film) *v*: 3506, 1697, 1319 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [C₂₀H₁₄NO₃]⁻: 316.0968. Found: 316.0970.

(R)-2-(2-hydroxy-2-(naphthalen-2-yl)ethyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione 2l²⁻⁴



75% yield with 95 % *ee* (Daicel Chirapak IC, ^{*i*}PrOH/hexanes = 30/70, 1.0 mL/min⁻¹, λ = 254 nm: t_R (major) = 10.5 min, t_R (minor) = 11.4 min); $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ = -15.3° (*c* = 0.46, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.93 (s, 1H), 7.88-7.83 (m, 5H), 7.76-7.72 (m, 2H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.47 (m, 2H), 5.27-5.22 (m, 1H), 4.16-4.01 (m, 1H), 3.03 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.8, 138.4, 134.1, 133.2, 133.1, 131.8, 128.4, 128.0, 127.7, 126.2, 126.1, 124.9, 123.7, 123.5, 72.8, 45.6; IR (Film) *v*: 3456, 1714, 1595 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [C₂₀H₁₄NO₃]⁻: 316.0968. Found: 316.0963.

(R)-1-Phthalimide-propan-2-ol 2m¹



89% yiled with 25% *ee* (Daicel Chirapak OD, ^{*i*}PrOH/hexanes = 20/80, 1.0 mL/min⁻¹, λ = 254 nm: $t_{\rm R}$ (major) = 7.6 min, $t_{\rm R}$ (minor) = 8.3 min); [α]_D²⁵ = -4.6° (*c* = 0.80, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.26 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 3H), 2.37 (br, 1H), 3.70-3.81 (m, 2H), 4.10-4.14 (m, 1H) 7.71-7.76 (m, 2H), 7.84-7.89 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.9, 134.1, 131.9, 123.4, 66.7, 45.5, 21.0.

(R)-2-amino-1-phenylethan-1-ol 3a⁵



Known compound. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -59.5^\circ$ (c = 0.22, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.37-7.27 (m, 5H), 4.67 (dd, J = 7.6, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 3.02 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.83 (m, 1H), 2.40 (bs, 3H).

4. Reference

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5. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR Spectra of Compounds









































6. HPLC spectra of the products





















































239.842

Total:

463.587

100.00

100.00



































