# Cooperative Lewis Acid—Onium Salt Catalysis as Tool for the Desymmetrization of *meso*-Epoxides

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## **Experimental**

All reactions were performed in oven-dried glassware (stored at 150 °C in an oven and afterwards heated to 630 °C for 5 minutes under vacuum using a heat-gun) and unless otherwise indicated under a positive pressure of nitrogen (0.2 bar). Liquids were added via syringe, solids were added neat against a flow of nitrogen. Solvents were removed by the use of a rotary-evaporator with a bath temperature of 40 °C and pressures between 10 and 700 mbar. Non-volatile compounds were dried *in vacuo* at 0.1 mbar. For work-up procedures and flash chromatography, distilled technical grade solvents were used. Dichloromethane (DCM), diethyl ether, tetrahydrofuran (THF), toluene and acetonitrile used for reactions and purification of the catalysts/ligands were dried under nitrogen using a solvent purification system. *n*-Hexane and *i*-propanol for HPLC were purchased in HPLC-quality and used without further purification. Acetic acid was distilled over P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and LiBr was dried in a Kugelrohr-oven (0.1 mbar, 250 °C, overnight). The epoxides used in catalysis were prepared according to literature procedures (see below). All other laboratory chemicals were purchased from commercial suppliers and were used without purification unless otherwise indicated. Yields refer to purified compounds and are calculated in mol% of the starting material used. Expect as otherwise indicated, reactions were magnetically stirred and monitored by NMRspectroscopy or thin layer-chromatography (TLC) using silica gel plates (silica gel 60 F254). Visualization occurred by fluorescence quenching under UV light and / or by staining with ceric ammonium molybdate. Flash-chromatography was performed on silica-gel 60 (40-63 µm particle size), using a moderate pressure applied *via* hand-pump or nitrogen-flow. In reactions and during catalysis where low temperatures are necessary a cryostatic temperature regulator was used. NMR spectra were recorded at room temperature on spectrometers operating at 700, 500, 400, 300 or 250 MHz (<sup>1</sup>H), 125 or 75 MHz (<sup>13</sup>C) and 376 MHz (<sup>19</sup>F). Chemical shifts δ are referred in terms of ppm, coupling constants J are given in Hz. The following classify the multiplicity: s = singulet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet or unresolved, br = broad signal. Infrared spectra were recorded by the IR-service of the Universität Stuttgart on a FT-IR spectrometer with ATR unit and the signals are given by wavenumbers (cm<sup>-1</sup>). Optical rotation was measured on a polarimeter operating at the sodium D line with a 100 mm path cell length. Melting points were measured using a melting point apparatus in open glass capillaries and are uncorrected. Mass spectra were obtained from the MS-service of the Universität Stuttgart and the methods used are stated below. The er values were determined by HPLC using a chiral stationary phase (methods are shown below).

## **General Procedures**

# General Procedure for the Synthesis of Ammonium and Pyridinium Salts (GP1)



The aldehyde (1.0 equiv., 1.0 mmol) was dissolved in acetonitrile (1 mL of acetonitrile / 1.0 mmol of aldehyde) and the amine/pyridine-derivative (1.1 equiv.) was added. The mixture was stirred for 15 h, after which diethyl ether was added to cause precipitation (10 mL / 1.0 mmol aldehyde). The supernatant solvent was decanted and the precipitate was washed with diethyl ether three times and dried *in vacuo*.

## General Procedure for the Formation of the C<sub>2</sub>-Symmetric Ligands (GP2)



This synthesis followed a published protocol.<sup>[1]</sup> Molecular sieves (4Å 100 mg/mmol) and the corresponding onium salt (2.0 equiv.) were added to a solution of (1R,2R)-(–)-diaminocyclohexane (1.0 equiv.) in ethanol at ambient temperature and the mixture was stirred for 24 hours. After filtration, ethanol was removed *in vacuo*. Subsequent repetitive azeotropic removal of residual ethanol with DCM gave the corresponding pure ligand.

### General Procedure for the Synthesis of the C<sub>1</sub>-Symmetric Ligands (GP3)

#### Mono-Protonation of the Diaminocyclohexane<sup>[2]</sup>



To a rapidly stirred solution of (1R,2R)-(–)-diaminocyclohexane (1.0 equiv.) in diethyl ether, HCl (1.0 equiv., 4 M in dioxane) was slowly added and the resulting mixture was stirred for 15 h at room temperature. The excessive solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue was washed three times with diethyl ether (10 mL). The obtained white powder was used without further purification.

#### **Diimine Formation**



Similar to a literature protocol<sup>[2]</sup> the protonated diamine **9b** (1.0 equiv.) was dissolved in MeOH and molecular sieves (4Å) and aldehyde **10** (1.0 equiv. in MeOH) was added. The resulting mixture was stirred for three hours. A solution of the second aldehyde (1.0 equiv.) in MeOH was slowly given to the reaction and after 5 minutes NEt<sub>3</sub> (1.0 equiv.) was added dropwise. The yellow solution was stirred for additional 15 h. Afterwards the solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue was dissolved in toluene. After filtration over celite, repetitive azeotropic removal of residual toluene with DCM gave a yellow solid, which was washed with *n*-pentane till the washing phase showed no more yellow color. After removing the last residues of solvent under reduced pressure the ligands were obtained as bright yellow powders.

#### General Procedure for the In-Situ-Formation of Catalysts (GP4)



A Schlenk-flask was charged with the respective ligand (0.01 mmol), which was dissolved in DCM (0.5 mL). After five minutes of stirring, a solution of the corresponding aluminum source (1.0 equiv., 0.01 mmol, 1.0 M in heptane) was added dropwise and the resulting solution was stirred for an additional three hours. The *in situ* formed catalysts were then directly used without further purification.

# General Procedure for the Desymmetrization of Epoxides with Acetyl Bromide (GP5)



To a solution of the *in situ* generated catalyst **3d** (0.05 equiv. 0.01 mmol) in DCM (0.50 mL) the corresponding epoxide (1.00 equiv, 0.20 mmol), acetic acid (0.05 equiv., 0.01 mmol, 0.6  $\mu$ L in 20.0  $\mu$ L DCM as a stock solution) and acetyl bromide (10.00 equiv, 2.00 mmol, 245.9 mg, 149.0  $\mu$ L) were successively added at -40 °C and the mixture was stirred for 48 h at this temperature. Afterwards the flask was removed from the cooling bath and the reaction mixture

stirred for an additional hour at ambient temperature. The reaction was quenched by the addition of Hünig's base (0.2 mL) and the resulting mixture was diluted with DCM (2 mL) and filtered over a short pad of silica gel. The solvent was removed and the residue was purified by column chromatography (petrol ether/ethyl acetate 30:1) to obtain the desired products.

## Substrate Synthesis

#### cis-Stilbene Oxide (1a)

Substrate  $\mathbf{x}$  which was used throughout the reported investigation as the standard substrate was prepared according to literature known procedures starting from diphenyl acetylene.<sup>[3,4]</sup>

### cis-2,3-Bis(3-fluorophenyl)oxirane (1b)



Intermediate **1b1** was synthesized using a literature known protocol.-<sup>[5]</sup> A dry Schlenk flask was charged with CuI (0.20 equiv., 1.0 mmol, 190.4 mg) and  $PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$  (0.12 equiv., 0.6 mmol, 442.2 mg) under a nitrogen atmosphere. Dry benzene (50 mmol) was added followed by 1-fluoro-3-iodobenzene (2.0 equiv., 10.0 mmol, 2.22 g, 1.16 mL), DBU (12.0 equiv., 60 mmol, 9.13 g, 8.96 mL) and trimethylsilylacetylene (1.0 equiv. 5.0 mmol, 491.1 mg, 0.71 mL). Water (0.8 equiv., 4.0 mmol, 72.0 mg, 72 µL) was added and the flask was wrapped in aluminum foil to protect it from light radiation. The reaction mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 24 h. Afterwards the reaction was quenched by the addition of saturated aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution (25 mL) and stirred for ten minutes at ambient temperature. The phases were separated and the aqueous one extracted with diethyl ether three times (50 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine (100 mL), dried over Mg<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. Column chromatography (petrol ether) of the residue yielded the desired product **1b1** (0.98 g, 92%) as a white solid.

 $C_{14}H_8F_2$ , MW: 214.21 g/mol. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 7.36-7.28 (*m*, 4H, Ar*H*), 7.25-7.22 (*m*, 1H, Ar*H*), 7.22-7.20 (*m*, 1H, Ar*H*), 7.10-7.03 (*m*, 2H, Ar*H*).



Synthesis of the (*Z*)-olefin **1b2** followed a known procedure procedure.<sup>[6]</sup> The alkyne **1b1** (1 equiv., 3.0 mmol, 0.64 g) was put into a dry Schlenk flask and dissolved in THF (20.0 mL). The mixture was cooled to -78 °C and Ti(O<sup>*i*</sup>Pr)<sub>4</sub> (2 equiv., 6.0 mmol, 1.71 g, 1.78 mL) followed by *n*-BuLi (6 equiv., 12.0 mmol, 0.67 g, 7.5 mL 15% in hexane) were added. The dark red solution was stirred at this temperature for 15 minutes and then heated to 50 °C. After 3 hours at this temperature the reaction was quenched by the addition of saturated aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution (10.0 mL) and stirred for an additional 5 minutes. Afterwards the phases were separated and the aqueous one was extracted three times with diethyl ether (25 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine (50.0 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. Column chromatography (petrol ether) of the residue yielded the desired olefin (0.52 g, 80%) a clear oil.

**C**<sub>14</sub>**H**<sub>10</sub>**F**<sub>2</sub>, **MW**: 216.23 g/mol. <sup>1</sup>**H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C)**:  $\delta$  = 7.24-7.16 (*m*, 2H, Ar*H*), 7.02-6.96 (*m*, 2H, Ar*H*), 6.94-6.85 (*m*, 4H, Ar*H*), 6.59 (*s*, 2H, C*H*=C*H*).



For the epoxidation of the olefin **1b2** a literature know procedure<sup>[7]</sup> was employed. A flask was charged with olefin **1b2** (1.00 equiv., 1.22 mmol), which was solved in DCM (2.5 mL) and cooled down to 0 °C. After stirring for 5 minutes at 0 °C MeReO<sub>3</sub> (2.5 mol%, 0.03 mmol, 7.6 mg), pyridine (0.15 equiv., 0.18 mmol, 14.5 mg, 14.8  $\mu$ L) and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (1.50 equiv., 1.83 mmol, 207.5 mg,

0.21 mL 30% in water) were added consecutively. The mixture was allowed to warm up to ambient temperature and rapidly stirred for 48 h. To quench the reaction  $MnO_2$  (2.0 mg) was added and the mixture was diluted with DCM. After separation of the phases the aqueous one was extracted three times with DCM (2.00 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography (petrol ether/ ethyl acetate 30:1) to yield the desired epoxide **1b** as a white solid (0.16 g, 57%).

**C**<sub>14</sub>**H**<sub>10</sub>**F**<sub>2</sub>**O**, **MW**: 232.07 g/mol. **M.p.**: 65 °C. <sup>1</sup>**H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25** °**C**):  $\delta$  = 7.20-7.14 (*m*, 2H, *o*-C*H*CF), 7.00-6.95 (*m*, 2H, *o*-C*H*), 6.91-6.82 (*m*, 4H, *p*-C*H*, *m*-C*H*), 4.35 (*s*, 2H, C*H*O). <sup>13</sup>**C NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C)**:  $\delta$  = 163.9-161.4 (*d*, *J* = 246), 136.8 (*d*, *J* = 7.4), 129.7 (*d*, *J* = 8.2), 122.6 (*d*, *J* = 2.9), 114.9 (*d*, *J* = 21.0), 114.0 (*d*, *J* = 23), 59.3 (*d*, *J* = 2.2). **IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>)**:  $\tilde{v}$  = 3071, 2984, 1589, 1446, 1221, 786, 690. **HRMS (EI)** *m*/*z*: calculated: 232.0700 ; measured: 232.0696.

# **Ligand Synthesis**

### Synthesis of the Onium Salts

1-(3-FormyI-2-hydroxy-5-pentylbenzyl)-4-methylpyridinium Bromide (11)



Pyridinium salt **11** was prepared according to **GP1**. The aldehyde (1.0 mmol, 0.30 g) was treated with 4-methylpyridine (1.1 mmol, 0.11 g, 0.11 mL). The desired compound **11** (0.37 g, 92%) was isolated as a light brown powder. <sup>[8]</sup>

C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>24</sub>BrNO<sub>2</sub>, MW: 377.1 g/mol. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta = 11.41$  (*s*, 1H, Ar-O*H*), 9.86 (*s*, 1H, Ar-C*H*O), 9.40 (*d*, J = 6.7, 2H, *o*-Py-*H*), 8.39 (*d*, J = 2.0, 1H, Ar-*H*), 7.72 (*d*, J = 6.4, 2H, *m*-Py-*H*), 7.45 (*d*, J = 2.1, 1H, Ar-*H*), 6.24 (*s*, 2H, Ar-C*H*2-Py), 2.68–2.63 (*m*, 5H, Ar-C*H*2-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub> and Py-C*H*<sub>3</sub>), 1.68–1.58 (*m*, 2H, (C*H*<sub>2</sub>)pentyl), 1.38–1.25 (*m*, 4H, (C*H*<sub>2</sub>)pentyl), 0.89 (*t*, J = 6.8, 3H, C*H*<sub>3</sub>).

The rest of the analytical data were in compliance to the literature known values.<sup>[8]</sup>

# *N*-Benzyl-1-(5-(*tert*-butyl)-3-formyl-2-hydroxyphenyl)-*N*,*N*-dimethylmethylammonium Bromide (12)



Ammonium salt 12 was prepared according to GP1. The aldehyde (3.7 mmol, 1.00 g) was treated with *N*,*N*-Dimethylbenzylamine (4.1 mmol, 0.55 g, 0.61 mL). The desired compound 12 (1.42 g, 95%) was isolated as a light brown powder.

C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>28</sub>BrNO<sub>2</sub>, MW: 405.13 g/mol. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 11.60 (*s*, 1H, Ar-OH), 9.95 (*s*, 1H, Ar-CHO), 8.39 (*d*, *J* = 1.8, 1H, *m*-ArH), 7.74 (*d*, *J* = 1.8, 2H, ArH), 7.65 (*d*, *J* = 7.0, 2H, ArH), 7.56-7.48 (*m*, 3H, ArH), 5.14 (*s*, 2H, CH2), 4.99 (*s*, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.15 (*s*, 6H, N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 1.39 (*s*, 9H, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>).

The rest of the analytical data were in compliance to the literature known values.<sup>[9]</sup>

#### 5-(tert-Butyl)-3-((diethylamino)methyl)-2-hydroxybenzaldehyde (13)<sup>[10]</sup>



The synthesis of **13** followed a literature known protocol.<sup>[10]</sup> Ethanol (15.0 mL) and 5-(*tert*-butyl)-2-hydroxybenzaldehyde (1.0 equiv., 15.1 mmol, 2.69 g) were mixed and a solution of formaldehyde in water (35%, 1.5 equiv., 22.7 mmol, 1.84 g, 1.84 mL) followed by diethylamine (1.5 equiv., 22.7 mmol, 1.66 g, 2.37 mL) were added. The mixture was heated to reflux for 24 h. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue diluted by DCM (20 mL). After drying over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and removal of the DCM the crude product was purified by column chromatography (petrol ether/ethyl acetate 10:1, followed by the addition of 5% NEt<sub>3</sub> to the eluent). The desired pure aldehyde (2.19 g, 55%) was obtained as yellow oil.

C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>25</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>, MW: 263.19 g/mol. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 12.21 (*bs*, 1H, Ar-O*H*), 10.42 (*s*, 1H, C*H*O), 7.65 (*d*, *J* = 2.5,1H, *m*-Ar*H*), 7.25 (*d*, *J* = 2.5, 1H, *m*-Ar*H*), 3.81 (*s*, 2H, C*H*<sub>2</sub>), 2.65 (*q*, *J* = 7.2, 4H, NC*H*<sub>2</sub>), 1.28 (*s*, 9H, C(C*H*<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 1.13 (*t*, *J* = 7.2, 6H, NCH<sub>2</sub>C*H*<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 191.2, 160.5, 141.6, 132.2, 123.8, 123.5, 122.6, 56.6, 46.6, 34.2, 31.5, 11.3. IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\tilde{v}$  = 2965, 2870, 1677, 1476, 1215, 962, 742, 611. HRMS (ESI) *m*/z: calculated: 264.1958; measured: 264.1940.

*N*-(5-(*tert*-Butyl)-3-formyl-2-hydroxybenzyl)-*N*-diethyl-*N*-methylammonium Bromide (14)



In a dried Schlenk-flask trimethyloxoniumtetrafluoroborate (0.97 equiv., 1.94 mmol, 0.29 g) was dissolved in dry DCM (25.0 mL) and cooled down -80 °C. At this temperature a solution of aldehyde x (1.00 equiv., 2.00 mmol, 0.53 g) in DCM (5.0 mL) was added dropwise to the reaction and the resulting solution stirred for 8 hours. The mixture was warmed up to ambient temperature overnight and quenched by the addition of MeOH (1.0 mL). The resulting solution was stirred for 30 minutes at ambient temperature, and freed of the solvent *in vacuo*. The crude product was diluted by DCM (5.0 mL) and carefully layered with *n*-hexanes (5.0 mL). After 12 h at -20 °C fridge crystals were obtained. These were collected by filtration and dissolved in DCM (25.0 mL) and lithium bromide (10 equiv., 19.4 mmol, 1.68 g) was added. Afterwards the mixture was stirred for 2 h at ambient temperature. The precipitated salt was removed by filtration and the remaining solvent under reduced pressure to yield the pure bromide salt **14** (0.61 g, 85%) as a white powder.

C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>28</sub>BrNO<sub>2</sub>, MW: 357.13 g/mol. M.p.: 173.1-178.5 °C <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 11.63 (*s*, 1H, Ar-OH), 9.93 (*s*, 1H, CHO), 8.50 (*d*, *J* = 2.4, *m*-ArH), 7.70 (*d*, *J* = 2.4, *m*-ArH), 4.99 (*s*, 2H, NCH<sub>2</sub>Ar), 3.75-3.45 (*m*, *J* = 7.1, 4H, N(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 3.19 (*s*, 3H, NCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.49-1.42 (*t*, *J* = 7.3, 6H, N(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 1.38 (*s*, 9H, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 196.9, 158.7, 144.4, 141.6, 133.0, 120.4, 115.6, 58.5, 55.9, 31.4, 8.5. IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 3421, 2959, 1649, 1476, 1061, 723. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: calculated: 278.2115; measured: 278.2110.

(R,R)-(-)-*N*,*N'*-Bis(3-pentyl-5-(pyridinium-1-ylmethyl)salicylidene)-1,2cyclohexanediamine dibromide (15)<sup>[8]</sup>



Ligand 15 was prepared according to GP2 with aldehyde 11 (2.0 equiv., 0.9 mmol, 328.0 mg) and (1R,2R)-1,2-diaminocyclohexane (1.0 equiv., 0.45 mmol, 51.4 mg as a dark yellow powder (329.3 mg, 91%).<sup>[8]</sup>

 $C_{42}H_{54}Br_2N_4O_2$ , MW: 804.26 g/mol. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta = 14.13$  (*b*, 2H, Ar-OH), 9.44 (*d*, J = 9.7, 4H, *o*-Py-*H*), 8.41 (*tt*, J = 7.9, 1.4, 2H, *p*-Py-*H*), 8.32 (*s*, 2H, Ar-CH=N-Cy), 7.94 (*t*, J = 7.2, 4H, *m*-Py-*H*), 7.81 (*d*, J = 2.2, 2H, Ar-*H*), 7.13 (*d*, J = 1.9, 2H, Ar-*H*), 6.09 (*m*, 4H, Ar-CH<sub>2</sub>-Py), 3.41 (*m*, 2H, Cy-*H*N=CHR)), 2.51 (*m*, 4H, Ar-CH<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>), 1.98–1.85 (*m*, 4H, Cy-*H*<sub>2</sub>), 1.72–1.43 (*m*, 10H, Cy-*H*<sub>2</sub> und (CH<sub>2</sub>)pentyl), 1.33–1.25 (*m*, 8H, (CH<sub>2</sub>)pentyl), 0.86 (*t*, J = 6.7, 6H, (CH<sub>3</sub>)pentyl).

The rest of the analytical data were in compliance to the literature known values.<sup>[8]</sup>

(*R*,*R*)-(+)-*N*,*N*'-Bis(3-*tert*-butyl-5-((*N*-benzyl-*N*,*N*-dimethylammonium)-1-ylmethyl)-salicylidene)-1,2-cyclohexadiamine dibromide (16)<sup>[9]</sup>



Ligand **16** was prepared according to **GP2** with aldehyde **12** (2.0 equiv., 0.84 mmol, 341.6 mg) and (1R,2R)-1,2-diaminocyclohexane (1.0 equiv., 0.42 mmol, 48.0 mg) as a yellow powder (345.6 mg, 92%).

 $C_{42}H_{54}Br_2N_4O_2$ , MW: 888.36 g/mol. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 14.04 (*bs*, 2H, Ar-OH), 8.37 (*s*, 2H, Ar-CH=N), 7.87 (*s*, 2H, Ar-H), 7.66 (*m*, 4H, Ar-H), 7.48-7.37 (*m*, 6H, Ar-H), 7.31 (*bs*, 2H, Ar-H), 5.10-4.95 (*m*, 6H, ArCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.86 (*m*, 2H, ArCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.41 (*m*, 2H, Cy-CH), 3.11 (*s*, 6H, NCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.07 (*s*, 6H, NCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.99-1.84 (*m*, 4H, Cy-CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.51-1.38 (*m*, 4H, cy-CH<sub>2</sub>), .123 (*s*, 18H, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>).

The rest of the analytical data were in compliance to the literature known values.<sup>[9]</sup>

# *N*-Benzyl-1-(3-((*E*)-(((1*R*,2*R*)-2-(((*E*)-3,5-di-*tert*-butyl-2hydroxybenzyliden)amino)Cy)imino)methyl)-2-hydroxy-5-*tert*-butyl-benzyl)-*N*,*N*dimethylammonium bromide (17)



Ligand 17 was prepared according to GP3 using HCl (1.0 equiv., 1.43 mmol, 0.71 mL 2M in  $Et_2O$ ), to protonate (1*R*,2*R*)-1,2-diaminocyclohexane (1.0 equiv., 1.43 mmol, 0.16 g) in  $Et_2O$  (10.0 mL). For the condensation the hydrochloride 9b (1.0 equiv., 0.98 mmol, 0.15 g) was dissolved in 10.0 mL of MeOH and 3,5-Di-*tert*-butyl-2-hydroxybenzaldehyde (1.1 equiv., 1.08 mmol, 0.25 g), ammonium bromide 12 (1.0 equiv., 0.98 mmol, 0.25 g) and triethylamine (2.0 equiv., 1.96 mmol, 0.20 g, 0.27 mL) were added subsequently (each one dissloved in 3.00 mL of MeOH). The desired ligand 17 (0.85 mmol, 0.61 g, 85%) was obtained as a bright yellow solid.

**C**<sub>42</sub>**H**<sub>60</sub>**BrN**<sub>3</sub>**O**<sub>2</sub>, **MW**: 717.39 g/mol. **M.p.:** 218.2-220.7 °C decomposition. [*α*]<sup>20</sup>**D** (**c** = 0.10 mg/mL, DCM): +198.0. <sup>1</sup>**H NMR (500 MHz, CDCI3, 24** °C):  $\delta$  = 14.21 (*s*, 1H, Ar-O*H*), 13.55 (*s*, 1H, Ar-O*H*), 8.29 (*s*, 1H, Ar-C*H*-N), 8.21 (*s*, 1H, Ar-C*H*-N), 7.75 (*d*, *J* = 2.60, 1H, Ar-*H*), 7.60 (*d*, *J* = 7.66, 2H, Ar-*H*), 7.45-7.33(*m*, 3H, Ar-*H*), 7.27 (*d*, *J* = 2.69, 1H, Ar-*H*), 7.22 (*d*, *J* = 2.39, 1H, Ar-*H*), 6.91 (*d*, *J* = 2.60, 1H, Ar-*H*), 5.03-4.71 (*m*, 4H, N-C*H*2-Ar), 3.03 (*s*, 6H, N-C*H*3), 1.89-1.49 (*m*, 8H, Cy-*H*2), 1.33 (*s*, 9H, *t*Bu*H*), 1.19 (*s*, 9H, *t*Bu-*H*), 1.17 (*s*, 9H, *t*Bu*H*). <sup>13</sup>**C NMR (75 MHz, CDCI3, 25 °C)**:  $\delta$  =165.7, 164.8, 159.8, 158.0, 141.8, 140.2,136.7, 136.1, 133.4, 131.2, 130.7, 129.2, 127.6, 127.1, 125.8, 118.3, 117.8, 114.8, 72.4, 71.5, 68.2,62.7, 49.1, 48.9, 35.0, 34.1, 34.1, 33.5, 32.7, 31.5, 31.4, 31.3, 31.0, 29.4, 29.4, 24.3, 24.2. **IR (solid)**:  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 3399, 2954, 2863, 2181, 1629, 1476, 1477, 1441, 1362, 923, 861, 730. **HRMS (ESI)** *m*/*z*: calculated 638.4680; measured: 638.4689.

*N-*(5-(*tert*-Butyl)-3-((*E*)-(((1*R*,2*R*)-2-(((*E*)-3,5-di-*tert*-butyl-2hydroxybenzylidene)amino)methyl)-2-hydroxybenzyl)-*N*-diethyl-*N*-methylammonium Bromide (18)



Ligand **18** was prepared according to **GP3** using HCl (1.0 equiv., 0.33 mmol, 82.4  $\mu$ L, 4M in 1,4dioxane), to protonate (1*R*,2*R*)-1,2-diaminocyclohexane (1.0 equiv., 0.33 mmol, 38.4 mg) in Et<sub>2</sub>O (1.0 mL). For the condensation the hydrochloride **9b** was dissolved in MeOH (2.0 ml) and 3,5-di*tert*-butyl-2-hydroxybenzaldehyde (1.1 equiv., 0.36 mmol, 85.0 mg), ammonium bromide **14** (1.0 equiv., 0.33 mmol, 118.1 g) and triethylamine (2.0 equiv., 0.66 mmol, 66.7 mg, 91.4  $\mu$ L) were added subsequently (each one dissolved in 0.5 mL of MeOH). The desired ligand **18** (0.28 mmol, 190.0 mg, 86%) was obtained as a bright yellow solid.

 $C_{38}H_{60}BrN_{3}O_{2}$ , MW: 669.39 g/mol. M.p.: 155.1-165.1 °C decomposition. [a]<sup>20</sup>D (c = 0.18 mg/mL, DCM): +313.5. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 14.31 (s, 1H, ArOH), 13.60 (s,

1H, ArO*H*), 8.36 (*s*, 1H, C*H*=N), 8.29 (*s*, 1H, C*H*=N), 7.81 (*d*, *J* = 2.3, Ar*H*), 7.35 (*d*, *J* = 2.4, Ar*H*), 7.28 (*d*, *J* = 2.3, Ar*H*), 7.00 (*d*, *J* = 2.4, Ar*H*), 4,85-4.57 (*m*, 2H, C*H*<sub>2</sub>N), 3.81-3.24 (*m*, 4H, N(C*H*<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 3.10 (*s*, 3H, NC*H*<sub>3</sub>), 2.03 (*m*, 1H, Cy*H*), 1.91 (*m*, 3H, Cy*H*), 1.72 (*m*, 2H, Cy*H*), 1.49 (*m*, 2H, Cy*H*), 1.39 (*m*, 15H, C(C*H*<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>, N(CH<sub>2</sub>C*H*<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 1.26 (*m*, 18H, C(C*H*<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 165.9, 164.9, 160.0, 158.1, 141.9, 140.4, 136.9, 136.1, 131.3, 127.2, 125.9, 118.4, 117.9, 114.7, 72.5, 71.7, 59.7, 56.0, 55.8, 35.2, 34.24, 34.20, 33.6, 32.8, 31.6, 31.4, 29.5, 24.46, 24.43, 8.5. IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 3411, 2954, 2864, 1630, 1477, 1036, 731. HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z*: calculated: 590.4680; measured: 590.4699.

## Catalysis

#### Isolation of Catalyst 3c



Catalyst **3c** was formed as mentioned in **GP3**. To a solution of ligand **17** (1.0 equiv., 0.056 mmol, 40.1 mg) in DCM was given AlEt<sub>2</sub>Cl (1.1 equiv., 0.061 mmol, 7.4 mg, 61  $\mu$ L, 1M in heptane). This mixture was stirred for 48 h. To the solution was added dry *n*-pentane to percipitate the catalyst. The percipitate was washed twice with dry *n*-pentane and dried under reduced pressure to yield the desired catalyst as a yellow solid (33.1 mg, 76%).

 $C_{42}H_{58}AlBrClN_3O_2$ , MW: 779.28 g/mol. M.p.:>200 °C decomposition. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3, 25 °C): δ = 8.44 (*s*, 1H, CHN), 8.32 (*s*, 1H, CHN), 8.12 (*m*, 1H, ArH), 7.69-7.42 (*m*, 7H, ArH), 7.20 (*d*, *J* = 2.5, ArH), 5.30-5.20 (*m*, 1H, NCHPh), 5.18-5.06 (*m*, 1H, NCHPh), 5.05-4.85 (*m*, 2H, NCH<sub>2</sub>Ar), 3.64 (*m*, 2H, CyH), 3.14 (*s*, 3H, NCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.11 (*s*, 3H, NCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.55 (*m*, 2H, CyH), 2.10 (*m*, 2H, CyH), 1.59 (*s*, 9H, *t*BuH), 1.55-1.48 (*m*, 4H, CyH), 1.36 (*s*, 9H, *t*BuH), 1.33 (*s*, 9H,

*t*Bu*H*). <sup>13</sup>CNMR (75 MHz, CDCl3, 25 °C):  $\delta = 165.9$  (*m*), 162.2, 161.8, 140.2, 140.0, 139.5, 139.2, 133.8, 133.3, 131.1, 130.6, 129.2, 128.3, 127.9, 119.1, 118.6, 118.3, 67.6, 64.8, 63.8, 63.4, 48.9, 48.5, 35.5, 34.1, 34.0, 31.2, 31.1, 29.7, 27.8, 27.6, 24.0, 23.8. IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\tilde{\nu} = 2952$ , 2864, 1636, 1557, 1473, 1361, 1258, 865, 844, 705, 595. HRMS (ESI) m/z: calculated for [M]<sup>+</sup> C<sub>42</sub>H<sub>58</sub>AlClN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 698.4027; measured: 698.4009.

In situ formation of catalyst 3d



Catalyst **3d** was formed as mentioned in **GP3**. To a solution of ligand **x** (1.0 equiv., 0.01 mmol, 6.7 mg) in DCM was added AlEt<sub>2</sub>Cl (1.0 equiv., 0.01 mmol, 1.0 mg, 10  $\mu$ L, 1M in *n*-heptane). The catalyst was used without further purification.

### (1S,2S)-2-Bromo-1,2-diphenylethyl acetate (4a)



Acetate **4a** was prepared according to **GP4** using stilbenoxide (1.0 equiv., 0.2 mmol, 39.3 mg) and isolated by column chromatography (petrol ether/ ethyl acetate 30:1) as a white solid (56.1 mg,

88%, *er* 92:8). The enantiomeric ratio was determined by HPLC: Chiralcel AD-H, *n*-hexane/*i*PrOH (99/1), 0.8 mL min<sup>-1</sup>, 210 nm, 14.8 min (major enantiomer) 16.4 min (minor enantiomer).

C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>15</sub>BrO<sub>2</sub>, MW: 319.20 g/mol. M.p.: 65.0 °C.  $[\alpha]^{20}$ D (c = 0.21 mg/mL, DCM): +107.1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 7.24-7.15 (*m*, 8H, Ar*H*), 7.14-7.08 (*m*, 2H, Ar*H*), 6.22 (*d*, 1H, C*H*Br), 5.17 (*d*, *J* = 9.4, 1H, C*H*O), 2.17 (*s*, 3H, C*H*<sub>3</sub>-CO). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 21 °C):  $\delta$  = 168.8, 137.8, 136.8, 128.8, 128.7, 128.62, 128.59, 128.4, 127.5, 78.7, 56.8, 21.3. IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 3056, 3031, 2969, 1742, 1369, 1223, 1021, 758, 697, 611, 537. HRMS (ESI) *m*/z: calculated for [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>15</sub>BrO<sub>2</sub>Na: 343.0129; measured: 343.0122.

#### (1S,2S)-2-Bromo-1,2-di-p-tolylethyl acetate (4b)



Acetate **4b** was prepared according to **GP4** using 2,3-di-*p*-tolyloxirane (1.0 equiv. 0.2 mmol, 44.9 mg) and isolated by column chromatography (petrol ether/ ethyl acetate 30:1) as a colorless oil (61.2 mg, 88%, er 91:9). The enantiomeric ratio was determined by HPLC: Chiralcel ODH, <sup>*n*</sup>hexane/<sup>*i*</sup>PrOH (99/1), 0.8 mL min<sup>-1</sup>, 210 nm, 10.35 min (major enantiomer) 14.35 min (minor enantiomer).

C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>BrO<sub>2</sub>, MW: 347.25 g/mol.  $[α]^{20}$ D (c = 0.16 g/100mL, DCM): +98.9. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 7.14-7.09 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.05-6.96 (m, 6H, ArH), 6.21 (d, J = 9.5, 1H, CHBr), 5.18 (d, J = 9.3, 1H, CHO), 2.26 (s, 3H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.24 (s, 3H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.14 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>-CO). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 169.8, 138.6, 138.4, 135.1, 133.9, 129.3, 129.1, 128.5, 127.5, 78.4, 57.0, 21.3. IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\tilde{v}$  = 3027, 2922, 1741, 1370, 1224, 1019, 814, 727, 523. HRMS (EI) *m/z*: Calculated for [M]<sup>+</sup> C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>BrO<sub>2</sub>: 346.0568; found: 346.0568.



Acetate **4c** was prepared according to **GP4** using 2,3-di-*m*-tolyloxirane (1.0 equiv. 0.2 mmol, 44.9 mg) and isolated by coloumn chromatography (petrol ether/ ethyl acetate 30:1) as a colorless oil, (59.1 mg, 85%, er 91:9). The enantiomeric ratio was determined by HPLC: Chiralcel ODH, <sup>*n*</sup>hexane/<sup>*i*</sup>PrOH (99/1), 0.8 mL min<sup>-1</sup>, 210 nm 10.67 min (major enantiomer) 15.36 min (minor enantiomer).

C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>BrO<sub>2</sub>, MW: 347.25 g/mol. [α]<sup>20</sup>D (c = 0.18 g/100 mL, DCM): +101.7. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 7.08-6.87 (*m*, 8H, Ar*H*), 6.18 (*d*, *J* = 9.3, 1H, C*H*Br), 5.12 (*d*, *J* = 9.3, 1H, C*H*O), 2.23 (*s*, 3H, ArC*H*<sub>3</sub>), 2.20 (*s*, 3H, ArC*H*<sub>3</sub>), 2.13 (*s*, 3H, C*H*<sub>3</sub>-CO). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 169.8, 138.2, 138.0, 137.8, 136.8, 129.5, 129.31, 129.29, 128.4, 128.19, 128.17, 125.7, 124.6, 78.5, 57.1, 21.42, 21.37, 21.26. IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 3024, 2921, 1742, 1370, 1222, 1024, 787, 710, 463.HRMS (EI) *m*/*z*: Calculated for [M]<sup>+</sup>C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>BrO<sub>2</sub>: 346.0568; measured: 346.0571.

#### (1S,2S)-2-Bromo-1,2-bis(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl acetate (4d)



Acetate **4d** was prepared according to **GP4** using 2,3-bis(4-fluorophenyl)oxirane (1.0 equiv. 0.2 mmol, 46.5 mg) and isolated by column chromatography (petrol ether/ ethyl acetate 30:1)as a

colorless oil (63.2 mg, 91%, er 95:5). The enantiomeric ratio was determined by HPLC: Chiralcel ODH, "hexane/<sup>i</sup>PrOH (99/1), 0.8 mL min<sup>-1</sup>, 210 nm, 13.92 min (major enantiomer) 19.04 min (minor enantiomer).

C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>13</sub>BrF<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, MW: 355.18 g/mol. [α]<sup>20</sup>D (c = 0.24 g/100mL, DCM): +114.9. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 7.24-7.17 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.15-7.07 (m, 2H, ArH), 6.97-6.87 (m, 4H, ArH), 6.19 (d, J = 9.3, 1H, CHBr), 5.15 (d, J = 9.3, 1H, CHO), 2.19 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>-CO). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = -112.1 to -112.2 (m), -112.4 to -112.6 (m). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 169.5, 163.8 (d, J = 9.0), 161.3 (d, J = 9.4), 133.4 (d, J = 3.7), 132.4 (d, J = 3.1), 130.3 (d, J = 8.7), 129.1 (d, J = 8.1), 115.7, 115.52, 115.46, 115.3, 77.9, 55.3, 21.0. IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 3075, 1741, 1605, 1509, 1218, 1159, 1028, 834, 735, 529. HRMS (EI) m/z: Calculated for [M]<sup>+</sup>C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>13</sub>BrF<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 354.0067; measured: 354.0066.

#### (1S,2S)-2-Bromo-1,2-bis(3-fluorophenyl)ethyl acetate (4e)



Acetate **4e** was prepared according to **GP4** using 2,3-bis(3-fluorophenyl)oxirane (1.0 equiv. 0.2 mmol, 46.5 mg) and isolated by coloumn chromatography (petrol ether/ ethyl acetate 30:1) as a colurless oil (65.3 mg, 92%, er 96:4). The enantiomeric ratio was determined by HPLC: Chiralcel ODH, *<sup>n</sup>*hexane/<sup>*i*</sup>PrOH (99/1), 0.8 mL min<sup>-1</sup>, 210 nm, 14.03 min (major enantiomer) 19.84 min (minor enantiomer).

C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>13</sub>BrF<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, MW: 355.18 g/mol. [α]<sup>20</sup>D (c = 0.15 g/100mL, DCM): +106.2. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C):  $\delta$  = 7.25-7.15 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.06-6.98 (m, 2H, ArH), 6.97-6.88 (m, 4H, ArH), 6.18 (d, J = 8.9, 1H, CHBr), 5.12 (d, J = 9.0, 1H, CHO), 2.20 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>-CO). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = -112.01 to -112.07 (m), -112.11 to -112.2 (m). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 170.0, 163.8 (d, J = 9.8), 161.4 (d, J = 9.5), 139.9 (d, J = 7.3), 130.2 (d, J = 8.6), 130.0 (d, J = 8.0), 124.3 (d, J = 3.3), 123.3 (d, J = 3.0), 116.0 (d, J = 20.7), 115.93 (d, J = 5.9), 115.88 (d, J = 2.0), 115.7 (d, J = 7.4), 114.3 (d, J = 22.7), 77.7, 55.0, 21.1. IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>):

 $\tilde{v} = 3065, 1746, 1593, 1449, 1223, 906, 727, 715, 481.$  **HRMS (ESI)** *m/z*: Calculated for [M]<sup>+</sup> C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>13</sub>BrF<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 354.0067; measured: 354.0061.

### (1S,2S)-2-Bromo-1,2-bis(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethyl acetate (4f)



Acetate **4f** was prepared according to **GP4** using 2,3-bis(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)oxirane (1.0 equiv. 0.2 mmol, 66.5 mg) and isolated by coloumn chromatography (petrol ether/ ethyl acetate 30:1) as a colorless oil (81.0 mg, 89%, *er* 95.5:4.5,). The enantiomeric ratio was determined by HPLC: Chiralcel ODH, <sup>*n*</sup>hexane/<sup>*i*</sup>PrOH (99/1), 0.8 mL min<sup>-1</sup>, 210 nm, 14.40 min (major enantiomer) 18.24 min (minor enantiomer).

C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>13</sub>BrF<sub>6</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, MW: 455.19 g/mol. [α]<sup>20</sup>D (c = 0.35 g/100mL, DCM): +76.6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 7.51-7.41 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.37-7.29 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.27-7.19 (m, 2H, ArH), 6.21 (d, J = 8.6, 1H, CHBr), 5.16 (d, J = 8.6, 1H, CHO), 2.15 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>-CO). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = -62.83, -62.84. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 169.5, 141.2, 140.2, 131.3 (d, J = 5.1), 131.0 (d, J = 5.1), 129.1, 127.9, 125.8 (m), 125.6 (m), 125.1 (d, J = 8.8), 122.4 (d, J = 8.6), 77.5, 54.4, 21.1. IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 3077, 2961, 1747, 1322, 1223, 1165, 1111, 1067, 1018, 846, 607. HRMS (EI) *m/z*: Calculated for [M-F]<sup>+</sup> C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>13</sub>BrF<sub>5</sub>: 435.0019; measured: 435.0023.



Acetate **4g** was prepared according to **GP4** using 2,3-bis(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)oxirane (1.0 equiv. 0.2 mmol, 66.5 mg) and isolated by coloumn chromatography (petrol ether/ ethyl acetate 30:1) as a colorless oil (74.6 mg, 82%, *er* 88:12). The enantiomeric ratio was determined by HPLC: Chiralcel ODH, *n*hexane/*i*PrOH (99/1), 0.8 mL min<sup>-1</sup>, 210 nm, 14.08 min (minor enantiomer) 15.52 min (major enantiomer).

C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>13</sub>BrF<sub>6</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, MW: 455.19 g/mol. [α]<sup>20</sup>D (c = 0.15 g/100 mL, DCM): +71.8. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 7.56-7.48 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.47-7.28 (m, 6H, ArH), 6.24 (d, J = 8.2, 1H, CHBr), 5.19 (d, J = 8.2, 1H, CHO), 2.21 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>-CO). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = -62.95, -62.98. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 169.4, 138.1, 137.2, 131.8, 131.5-130.4 (m), 130.7, 129.2, 128.9, 125.8-125.4 (m), 124.9 (d, J = 9.3), 124.1-123.9 (m), 122.2 (d, J = 9.3), 77.6, 54.4, 20.5. IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 3069, 2961, 1747, 1326, 1222, 1163, 1119, 1073, 1033, 806, 699, 662. HRMS (EI) *m/z*: Calculated for [M-F]<sup>+</sup>: 435.0019; measured: 435.0019.

#### (1S,2S)-2-Bromo-1,2-bis(3-chlorophenyl)ethyl acetate (4h)



Acetate **4h** was prepared according to **GP4** using 2,3-bis(3-chlorophenyl)oxirane (1.0 equiv. 0.2 mmol, 53.0 mg) and isolated by coloumn chromatography (petrol ether/ ethyl acetate 30:1) as a colorless oil (69.1 mg, 89%, er 90.5:9.5). The enantiomeric ratio was determined by HPLC:

Chiralcel ODH, <sup>*n*</sup>hexane/<sup>*i*</sup>PrOH (99/1), 0.8 mL min<sup>-1</sup>, 210 nm, 14.30 min (major enantiomer) 18.16 min (minor enantiomer).

C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>13</sub>BrCl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, MW: 388.08 g/mol. [α]<sup>20</sup>D (c = 0.17 g/100 mL, DCM): +61.9. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 7.25-7.02 (*m*, 7H, Ar*H*), 6.96-6.91 (*m*, 1H, Ar*H*), 6.10 (*d*, *J* = 8.8, 1H, C*H*Br), 5.03 (*d*, *J* = 8.8, 1H, C*H*O), 2.14 (*s*, 3H, C*H*<sub>3</sub>-CO). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 169.5, 139.4, 138.5, 134.53, 134.51, 129.9, 129.7, 129.1, 129.0, 128.9, 127.4, 126.8, 125.8, 77.6, 54.9, 21.1. IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 3064, 1744, 1575, 1430, 1371, 1219, 1028, 882, 787, 732, 693, 671, 465. HRMS (EI) *m*/*z*: Calculated for [M]<sup>+</sup> C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>13</sub>BrCl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 385.9476; measured: 385.9489.

#### (1S,2S)-2-Bromo-1,2-bis(3-methoxyphenyl)ethyl acetate (4i)



Acetate **4i** was prepared according to **GP4** using 2,3-bis(3-methoxyphenyl)oxirane (1.0 equiv. 0.2 mmol, 44.9 mg) and isolated by coloumn chromatography (petrol ether/ ethyl acetate 10:1) as a colorless oil (64.5 mg, 85%, er 91:9). The enantiomeric ratio was determined by HPLC: Chiralcel ODH, *n*hexane/*i*PrOH (99/1), 0.8 mL min<sup>-1</sup>, 210 nm, 25.87 min (major enantiomer) 39.52 min (minor enantiomer).

C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>BrO<sub>4</sub>, MW: 379.25 g/mol. [*α*]<sup>20</sup>D (c = 0.15 g/100 mL, DCM): +76.6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 24 °C):  $\delta$  = 7.16-7.06 (*m*, 2H, Ar*H*), 6.87-6.64 (*m*, 6H, Ar*H*), 6.23 (*d*, *J* = 9.5, 1H, C*H*Br), 5.15 (*d*, *J* = 9.3, 1H, C*H*O), 3.73 (*s*, 3H, OC*H*<sub>3</sub>), 3.68 (*s*, 3H, OC*H*<sub>3</sub>), 2.18 (*s*, 3H, C*H*<sub>3</sub>-CO). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 169.9, 159.6, 159.4, 139.2, 138.3, 129.6, 129.4, 121.0, 119.8, 114.5, 114.2, 113.1, 78.4, 56.7, 55.4, 55.3, 21.2. IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 3002, 2960, 2835, 1743, 1600, 1586, 1491, 1455, 1435, 1371, 1261, 1219, 1152, 1027, 873, 785, 712, 698, 487. HRMS (EI) *m*/*z*: Calculated for [M]<sup>+</sup>C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>BrO<sub>4</sub>: 378.0467; found: 378.0462.

## Derivatization

#### (1S,2R)-2-Azido-1,2-diphenylethyl acetate (6)



The synthesis of **6** was inspired by a literature known procedure.<sup>[11]</sup> The protected bromohydrin **x** (1.0 equiv., 0.25 mmol, 80.4 mg; 91:9 *er*) was dissolved in dry DMF (0.35 mL) and sodium azide (1.5 equiv., 0.38 mmol, 24.6 mg) was added. The mixture was heated to 85 °C and stirred at that temperature for 36 h. The reaction was quenched by the addition of water (2.00 mL) and extracted three times with  $Et_2O$  (10.00 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine (20 mL) three times, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. After workup the desired compound was obtained as a colorless oil (64.0 mg, 90%, 87:13 *er*). The enantiomeric ratio was determined by HPLC: Chiralcel ODH, *"hexane/<sup>i</sup>*PrOH (99/1), 0.8 mL min<sup>-1</sup>, 210 nm, 15.25 min (major enantiomer) 18.24 min (minor enantiomer).

C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, MW: 281.32 g/mol. [*α*]<sup>20</sup>D (c = 0.18 g/100 mL, DCM): +36.6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 7.35-7.29 (*m*, 6H, Ar*H*), 7.26-7.18 (*m*, 4H, Ar*H*), 5.95 (*d*, *J* = 6.5, 1H, C*H*N), 4.90 (*d*, *J* = 6.5, 1H, C*H*O), 2.00 (*s*, 3H, C*H*<sub>3</sub>CO). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 169.5, 136.2, 135.7, 128.76, 128.74, 128.6, 128.3, 127.91, 127.86, 77.6, 69.1, 21.0. IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 3065, 2101, 1744, 1371, 1222, 1026, 761, 699. HRMS (EI) *m/z*: Calculated for [M-C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>6</sub>BrN<sub>3</sub>]<sup>+</sup> C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>9</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 149.0603; measured: 149.0606.

#### (1S,2R)-2-Azido-1,2-diphenylethylethan-1-ol (7)



Azido acetate **6** (1.0 equiv., 0.06 mmol, 16.9 mg) was dissolved in a mixture of water and methanol (1:4, 0.30 mL), potassium carbonate (2.0 equiv., 0.12 mmol, 16.6 mg) was added and the resulting mixture was stirred for one hour at ambient temperature. The mixture was extracted three times with diethyl ether (2.0 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over sodium sulfate and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. Column chromatography of the crude product yielded the desired azido alcohol (15.4 mg, 91%) as colorless oil.

C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O, MW: 239.28 g/mol. [α]<sup>20</sup>D (c = 0.13 g/100 mL, DCM): -61.2. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 7.37-7.27 (*m*, 6H, Ar*H*), 7.26-7.20 (*m*, 4H, Ar*H*), 4.80 (*d*, *J* = 6.6, 1H, C*H*N), 4.66 (*d*, *J* = 6.6, 1H, C*H*O), 2.09 (*bs*, 1H, O*H*).

The rest of the analytical data were in compliance to the literature known values.<sup>[11]</sup>

#### (1S,2R)-1,2-Diphenyl-2-(4-phenyl-1H-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl)ethyl acetate (8)



The synthesis of molecule **8** was in analogy to a literature known method.<sup>[12,13]</sup> Azido acetate **6** (1.00 equiv., 0.100 mmol, 28.1 mg), copper (II) acetate (0.10 equiv., 0.010 mmol, 2.0 mg) and 2-aminophenol (0.05 equiv., 0.005 mmol, 0.5 mg) were dissolved in DCM (0.2 mL) and mixed with water (0.2 mL). Phenyl acetylene (1.00 equiv., 0.100 mmol, 10.2 mg, 9.5  $\mu$ L) was added dropwise

and the mixture was stirred for 12 hours at ambient temperature. Afterwards the reaction was extracted three times with DCM (2.0 mL) and the combined organic phases were washed with brine (3.0 mL) and dried over sodium sulfate. After removal of the solvent under reduced pressure, the crude product was purified by column chromatography (petrol ether/ethyl acetate 5:1) to yield the desired product **7** as a white solid (29.9 mg, 89%).

C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, MW: 383.45 g/mol. M.p.: 135.1-138.5 °C.  $[\alpha]^{20}$ D (c = 0.13 g/100 mL, DCM): -15.3. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C): δ = 7.69(*d*, *J* = 7.5, 2H, Ar*H*), 7.56 (*m*, 2H, Ar*H*), 7.55 (*s*, 1H, C*H*N<sub>3</sub>), 7.41-7.33 (*m*, 5H, Ar*H*), 7.31-7.28 (*m*, 3H, Ar*H*), 6.83 (*d*, *J* = 9.1, 1H, C*H*N(CN)), 5.86 (*d*, *J* = 9.0, 1H, C*H*O), 1.92 (*s*, 3H, C*H*<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C): δ = 169.2, 147.5, 136.6, 135.4, 130.5, 129.3, 129.04, 128.97, 128.89, 128.7, 128.5, 128.3, 127.2, 125.8, 119.8, 75.5, 69.2, 20.9. IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 3125, 3083, 3033, 1737, 1370, 1301, 1025, 766, 698, 560. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: Calculated for [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 406.1526; measured: 406.1517.



Kinetic Comparison between catalysts 3d and 3e

# **Spectral data**

## cis-2,3-Bis(fluorophenyl)oxirane (1b)





# *N*-(5-(*tert*-Butyl)-3-formyl-2-hydroxybenzyl)-*N*-diethyl-*N*-methylammonium Bromide (14)



*N*-Benzyl-1-(3-((*E*)-(((1*R*,2*R*)-2-(((*E*)-3,5-di-*tert*-butyl-2hydroxybenzyliden)amino)Cy)imino)methyl)-2-hydroxy-5-*tert*-butyl-benzyl)-*N*,*N*dimethylammonium bromide (17)



N-(5-(tert-Butyl)-3-((E)-(((1R,2R)-2-(((E)-3,5-di-tert-butyl-2-

hydroxybenzylidene)amino)methyl)-2-hydroxybenzyl)-*N*-diethyl-*N*-methylammonium Bromide (18)





170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 

## (1S,2S)-2-Bromo-1,2-diphenylethyl acetate (4a)



(1S,2S)-2-Bromo-

1,2-di-p-tolylethyl acetate (4b)







## (1S,2S)-2-Bromo-1,2-bis(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl acetate (4d)









(1S,2S)-2-Bromo-1,2-bis(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethyl acetate (4f)

















## HPLC-Data





racemic reference:



UV Results			
Retention Time	Height	Area	Area %
14.827	513632	13260877	49.89
16.480	464398	13318650	50.11
Totals			
	978030	26579527	100.00







UV Results			
Retention Time	Height	Area	Area %
11.307	188458	3127539	50.22
15.573	146288	3100341	49.78
Totals			
	334746	6227880	100.00









UV Results			
Retention Time	Height	Area	Area %
12.000	1668576	29796439	50.37
18.933	524630	29356079	49.63
Totals			
	2193206	59152518	100.00







UV Results			
Retention Time	Height	Area	Area %
14.453	993132	20312733	48.66
18.720	821618	21427976	51.34
Totals			
	1814750	41740709	100.00







UV Results			
Retention Time	Height	Area	Area %
13.760	2262824	40968349	51.18
15.200	1976611	39077373	48.82
Totals			
	4239435	80045722	100.00







×	2	
Totals		
6087216	164464134	100.000
	•	

racemic reference:



UV Results			
Retention Time	Height	Area	Area %
15.040	335288	7725863	49.69
18.507	288448	7821882	50.31
Totals			
	623736	15547745	100.00







UV Results			
Retention Time	Height	Area	Area %
12.693	837791	28962984	51.03
19.680	450190	27790330	48.97
Totals			
	1287981	56753314	100.00







3749937

79424216

100.000

#### racemic reference:



UV Results			
Retention Time	Height	Area	Area %
16.693	177351	4160776	49.85
18.987	154765	4185488	50.15
Totals			
	332116	8346264	100.00







#### Racemic reference:



UV Results			
Retention Time	Height	Area	Area %
23.467	164224	6190078	50.12
32.427	102146	6160773	49.88
Totals			
	266370	12350851	100.00











UV Results			
Retention Time	Height	Area	Area %
16.267	499721	11202000	51.54
17.547	434799	10531090	48.46
Totals			
	934520	21733090	100.00

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