

# Catalytic Asymmetric Meerwein-Ponndorf-Verley Reduction of Glyoxylates Induced by Chiral *N,N'*-Dioxide/ $Y(OTf)_3$ Complex

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## Electronic Supporting Information

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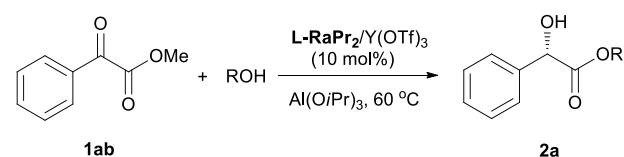
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## (A) General information



Reactions were carried out using commercial available reagents in oven-dried apparatus.  $\text{CHCl}_3$  and *iso*-propanol were dried and distilled from calcium hydride under nitrogen just before use. Molecular sieves were dried at 500 °C for 4 h and restored in nitrogen before use.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra were recorded at 400 MHz. The chemical shifts were recorded in ppm relative to tetramethylsilane and with the solvent resonance as the internal standard. Data were reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet), coupling constants (Hz) and integration.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data were collected at 100 MHz with complete proton decoupling. Chemical shifts were reported in ppm from the tetramethylsilane with the solvent resonance as internal standard. Enantiomeric excesses (ee) were determined by chiral HPLC analysis on Daicel Chiralcel IA/IC/AD-H/AS-H/OD-H and Phenomenex Lux 5u Cellulose-2 in comparison with the authentic racemates. Optical rotations were reported as follows:  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{\text{T}} = (\text{c: g}/100 \text{ mL, in solvent})$ . ESI-HRMS spectra were recorded on a commercial apparatus and methanol or acetonitrile was used to dissolve the sample. The *N,N'*-dioxides were prepared according to the methods reported in the literature.<sup>[1]</sup>

## (B) Optimization of the conditions for the asymmetric MPV reaction of glyoxylates

Table S1: Screening of the secondary alcohols

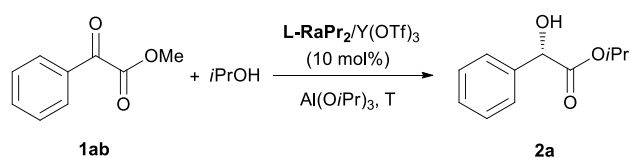


Entry <sup>a</sup>	ROH	t (h)	Yield <sup>b</sup> (%)	ee <sup>c</sup> (%)
1		48	0	-
2		48	0	-

4		48	0	-
5		48	0	-

<sup>a</sup>Unless otherwise noted, the reactions were performed with **L-RaPr**<sub>2</sub>/Y(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (1:1, 10 mol%), **1a** (0.1 mmol), Al(O*i*Pr)<sub>3</sub> (0.05 mmol) in ROH (0.1 M) at 60 °C for 3 h without extrusion of air. <sup>b</sup>Yields of the isolated products. <sup>c</sup>Determined by HPLC analysis using a chiral stationary phase.

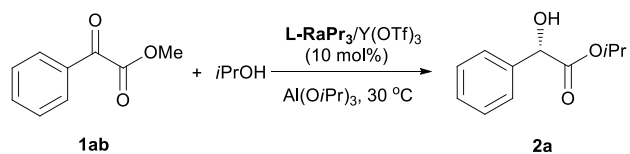
**Table S2: Screening of the reaction temperature**



Entry <sup>a</sup>	T (°C)	t (h)	Yield <sup>b</sup> (%)	ee <sup>c</sup> (%)
1	60	3	99	63
2	50	3	99	69
3	40	5	99	71
4	30	24	99	73
5 <sup>d</sup>	30	24	99	75
6 <sup>d</sup>	0	24	n.r.	-

<sup>a</sup>Unless otherwise noted, the reactions were performed with **L-RaPr**<sub>2</sub>/Y(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (1:1, 10 mol%), **1a** (0.1 mmol), Al(O*i*Pr)<sub>3</sub> (0.05 mmol) in *i*PrOH (0.1 M) without extrusion of air. <sup>b</sup> Yields of the isolated products. <sup>c</sup> Determined by HPLC analysis using a chiral stationary phase. <sup>d</sup>**L-RaPr**<sub>3</sub>/Y(OTf)<sub>3</sub> was used as catalyst.

**Table S3: Screening of the additives**

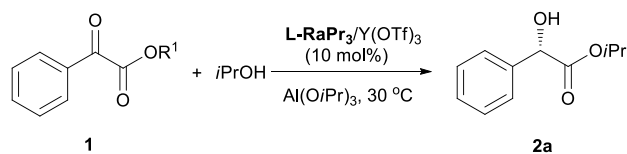


Entry <sup>a</sup>	Additive	t (h)	Yield(%) <sup>b</sup>	ee(%) <sup>c</sup>
1	LiNTf	12	69	72
2 <sup>d</sup>	3 Å MS	12	99	71
3 <sup>e</sup>	4 Å MS	12	99	71
4	Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	12	54	67
5	TsOH	12	trace	-
6	m-CPBA	12	trace	-
7	TEMPO	12	74	69
8	DMAP	12	46	67
9	KHSO <sub>4</sub>	12	34	72
10	NH <sub>4</sub> Cl	12	26	26
11	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	12	46	71
12	LiOH•H <sub>2</sub> O	12	32	73
13	-	12	49	72

<sup>a</sup>Unless otherwise noted, the reactions were performed with **L-RaPr**<sub>3</sub>/Y(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (1:1, 10 mol%), **1b** (0.1 mmol), Al(O*i*Pr)<sub>3</sub> (0.05 mmol) and additive (0.1 mmol) in *i*PrOH (0.1 M) at 30 °C for 12 h without extrusion of air. <sup>b</sup>Yields of the isolated products.

<sup>c</sup>Determined by HPLC analysis using a chiral stationary phase. <sup>d</sup>3 Å MS (25 mg) were added. <sup>e</sup>4 Å MS (25 mg) were added.

**Table S4: Screening of the ester group on the substrates**

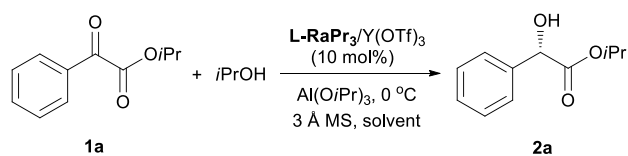


Entry <sup>a</sup>	R <sup>1</sup>	t (h)	Yield(%) <sup>b</sup>	ee(%) <sup>c</sup>
1	Me ( <b>1ab</b> )	12	49	72
2	<i>i</i> Pr ( <b>1a</b> )	4	99	73
3	<i>t</i> Bu ( <b>1ac</b> )	14	99	73

4	Bn ( <b>1ad</b> )	24	99	71
5 <sup>d</sup>	<i>i</i> Pr ( <b>1a</b> )	12	85	79
6 <sup>e</sup>	<i>i</i> Pr ( <b>1a</b> )	24	78	86

<sup>a</sup>Unless otherwise noted, the reactions were performed with **L-RaPr**<sub>3</sub>/Y(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (1:1, 10 mol%), **1** (0.1 mmol), Al(O*i*Pr)<sub>3</sub> (0.05 mmol), 3 Å MS (25 mg) in *i*PrOH (0.1 M) at 30 °C without extrusion of air. <sup>b</sup> Yields of the isolated products. <sup>c</sup> Determined by HPLC analysis using a chiral stationary phase. <sup>d</sup>Performed at 0 °C. <sup>e</sup>Performed at -10 °C.

**Table S5: Screening of the solvent**

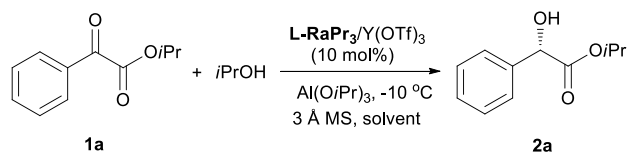


Entry <sup>a</sup>	solvent	solvent volume, <i>i</i> PrOH:solvent ratio	t (h)	Yield(%) <sup>b</sup>	ee(%) <sup>c</sup>
1	DCM	1.0 mL, 1:3	12	82	84
2	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	1.0 mL, 1:3	12	70	86
3	DCE	1.0 mL, 1:3	12	75	80
4	CHCl <sub>2</sub> -CHCl <sub>2</sub>	1.0 mL, 1:3	12	80	81
5	CH <sub>3</sub> -CCl <sub>3</sub>	1.0 mL, 1:3	12	69	80
6	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl-CHCl <sub>2</sub>	1.0 mL, 1:3	12	85	83
7	toluene	1.0 mL, 1:3	12	73	82
8	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	1 mL, 5:1	24	99	85
9	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	1 mL, 3:1	24	99	85
10	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	1 mL, 1:1	24	97	86
11	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	1 mL, 1:2	24	93	87
12	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	1 mL, 1:3	24	90	87
13	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	1 mL, 1:5	24	84	87

<sup>a</sup>Unless otherwise noted, the reactions were performed with **L-RaPr**<sub>3</sub>/Y(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (1:1, 10 mol%), **1** (0.1 mmol), Al(O*i*Pr)<sub>3</sub> (0.05

mmol), 3 Å MS (25 mg) in *i*PrOH/CHCl<sub>3</sub> (v/v = 1/2, 0.1 M) at 0 °C for 12 h without extrusion of air. <sup>b</sup>Yields of the isolated products. <sup>c</sup>Determined by HPLC analysis using a chiral stationary phase.

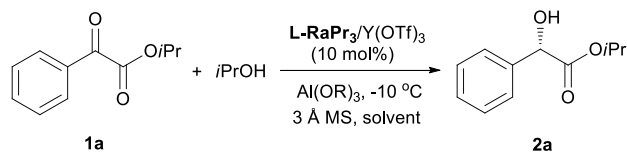
**Table S6: Screening of the amount of additives**



Entry <sup>a</sup>	3 Å MS (mg)	Al(O <i>i</i> Pr) <sub>3</sub> (mmol)	t (h)	Yield(%) <sup>b</sup>	ee(%) <sup>c</sup>
1	25	0.1	24	82	86
2	25	0.05	24	78	86
3	25	0.02	24	70	86
4	25	0.01	24	64	86
5	100	0.1	24	71	84
6	50	0.1	24	67	84
7	10	0.1	24	72	85
8	5	0.1	24	68	86

<sup>a</sup>Unless otherwise noted, the reactions were performed with **L-RaPr<sub>3</sub>/Y(OTf)<sub>3</sub>** (1:1, 10 mol%), **1** (0.1 mmol), Al(O*i*Pr)<sub>3</sub>, 3 Å MS in *i*PrOH and solvent at 0 °C for 12 h without extrusion of air. <sup>b</sup>Yields of the isolated products. <sup>c</sup>Determined by HPLC analysis using a chiral stationary phase.

**Table S7: Screening of the aluminium alkoxides**



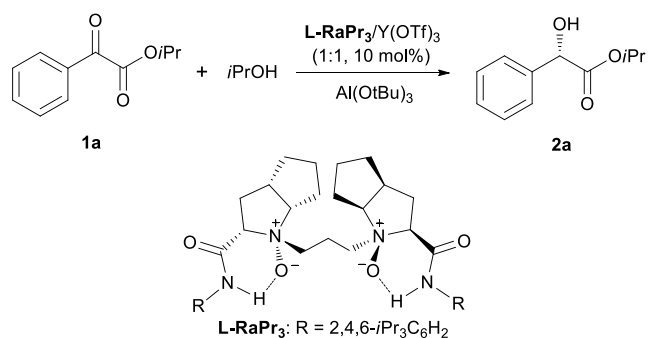
Entry <sup>a</sup>	Al(OR) <sub>3</sub>	t (h)	Yield(%) <sup>b</sup>	ee(%) <sup>c</sup>
1	Al(OEt) <sub>3</sub>	24	77	85
2	Al(O <i>i</i> Pr) <sub>3</sub>	24	78	86

3	Al(O <i>t</i> Bu) <sub>3</sub>	24	79	91
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<sup>a</sup>Unless otherwise noted, the reactions were performed with **L-RaPr**<sub>3</sub>/Y(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (1:1, 10 mol%), **1** (0.1 mmol), Al(O*i*Pr)<sub>3</sub> (0.05 mmol), 3 Å MS (25 mg) in *i*PrOH and solvent at 0 °C for 12 h without extrusion of air. <sup>b</sup>Yields of the isolated products.

<sup>c</sup>Determined by HPLC analysis using a chiral stationary phase.

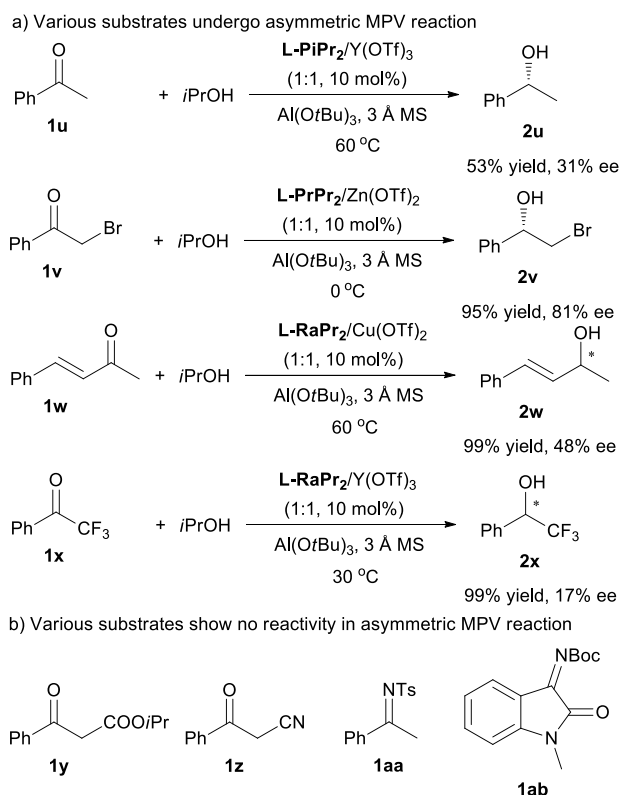
**Table S8: Probing of the effect of the additives.**



Entry <sup>a</sup>	T (°C)	t (h)	Additive	Yield <sup>b</sup> (%)	Ee <sup>c</sup> (%)
1	30	24	-	trace	n.d.
2	30	24	3 Å MS	82	73
3	30	14	Al(O <i>t</i> Bu) <sub>3</sub>	99	73
4	30	3	3 Å MS, Al(O <i>t</i> Bu) <sub>3</sub>	99	73
5	0	24	-	n.r.	-
6	0	24	3 Å MS	n.r.	-
7	0	24	Al(O <i>t</i> Bu) <sub>3</sub>	n.r.	-
8	0	24	3 Å MS, Al(O <i>t</i> Bu) <sub>3</sub>	99	87

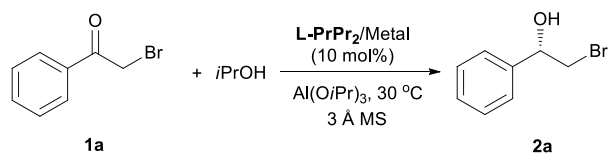
<sup>a</sup>Unless otherwise noticed, the reactions were performed with **L-RaPr**<sub>3</sub>-Metal (1:1, 10 mol%), **1a** (0.10 mmol) and 3 Å MS (25 mg) in *i*PrOH/CHCl<sub>3</sub> (v/v = 1/2, 0.1 M) in air. <sup>b</sup>Yields of the isolated products. <sup>c</sup>Determined by HPLC analysis using a chiral stationary phase.

**(C) Optimization of the conditions for the asymmetric MPV reaction of other ketones.**



With the success in the reduction of glyoxylates, we were encouraged to apply such method to a variety of substrates. After a serious of condition screening, we established the MPV reaction of  $\alpha$ -bromoacetophenone **1v** with *iso*-propanolin the presence of 3 Å MS and Al(O*i*Pr)<sub>3</sub> by employing **L-PrPr<sub>2</sub>/Zn(OTf)<sub>2</sub>** complex as the catalyst at 0 °C for 120 h, and obtained 95% yield and 81% ee (Scheme 3). Other types of substrates were also under investigation. Simple ketones such as **1u** and **1w** had low reaction reactivity and often require high reaction temperature. The 2,2,2-trifluoacetophenone (**1x**) gave a higher reactivity as the trifluomethyl group serves as a efficient electrodrawing group. However, the stereo control was not satisfying after a serious of screening. For substrates **1y** and **1z**, which more inclined to form an enol, the MPV reduction is reluctant, either stablized via a hydrogen bond (**1y**), or a conjugating effect (**1z**). Enlightened by previous work,<sup>10e</sup> we also expanded substrate scope to ketimines **1aa** and **1ab**, yet no desired product was formed. Such facts portrayed the property of chemical specificity towards carbonyl groups in the MPV reaction, and enols or imines were nonreactive.

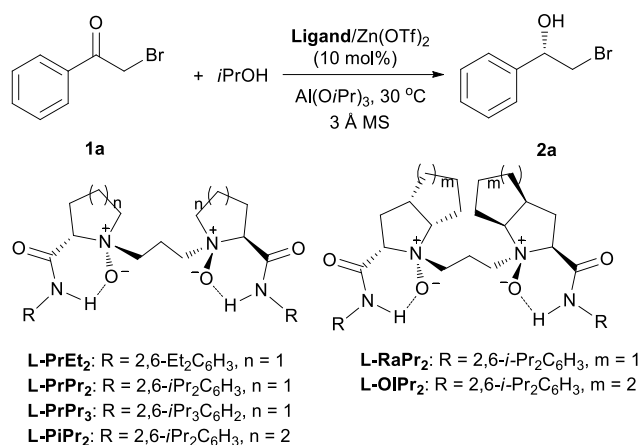


**Table S9: Screening of the metal salts**

Entry <sup>a</sup>	Metal	t (h)	Yield(%) <sup>b</sup>	ee(%) <sup>c</sup>
1	Sc(OTf) <sub>3</sub>	24	99	61
2	Y(OTf) <sub>3</sub>	24	99	67
3	La(OTf) <sub>3</sub>	24	0	-
4	Yb(OTf) <sub>3</sub>	48	99	58
5	Zn(OTf) <sub>2</sub>	24	99	73
6	Ba(OTf) <sub>2</sub>	24	99	71
7	Zn(NTf) <sub>2</sub>	72	0	-
8	Zn(ClO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	72	0	-
9	Zn(BF <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	72	0	-
10	ZnBr <sub>2</sub>	72	0	-

<sup>a</sup>Unless otherwise noted, the reactions were performed with **L-PrPr**<sub>2</sub>-metal (1:1, 10 mol%), **1** (0.1 mmol),  $\text{Al}(\text{O}i\text{Pr})_3$  (0.1 mmol),  $3\text{ \AA MS}$  (25 mg) in  $i\text{PrOH}$  and solvent at  $30\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  without extrusion of air. <sup>b</sup>Yields of the isolated products. <sup>c</sup>Determined by HPLC analysis using a chiral stationary phase.

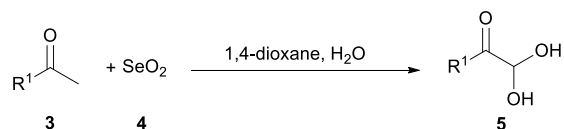
**Table S10: Screening of the ligands**



Entry <sup>a</sup>	Metal	t (h)	Yield <sup>b</sup> (%)	ee <sup>c</sup> (%)
1	L-PrEt <sub>2</sub>	24	trace	50
2	L-PrPr <sub>2</sub>	24	99	73
3	L- PrPr <sub>3</sub>	24	99	64
4	L-PiPr <sub>2</sub>	24	99	69
5	L- RaPr <sub>2</sub>	24	99	43
6 <sup>d</sup>	L-PrPr <sub>2</sub>	120	90	80
7 <sup>d,e</sup>	L-PrPr <sub>2</sub>	120	95	81

<sup>a</sup>Unless otherwise noted, the reactions were performed with L-Zn(OTf)<sub>2</sub> (1:1, 10 mol%), **1** (0.1 mmol), Al(O*i*Pr)<sub>3</sub> (0.1 mmol), 3 Å MS (25 mg) in *i*PrOH at 30 °C without extrusion of air. <sup>b</sup>Yields of the isolated products. <sup>c</sup>Determined by HPLC analysis using a chiral stationary phase. <sup>d</sup>The reaction proceed at 0 °C. <sup>e</sup>Al(O*t*Bu)<sub>3</sub> (0.1 mmol) were used instead of Al(O*i*Pr)<sub>3</sub>.

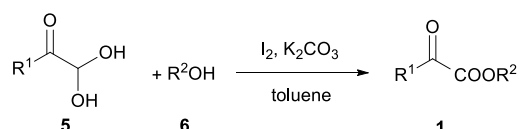
#### (D) Methods for the preparation of $\alpha$ -keto esters.



Glyoxal monohydrides **5a–5u** were prepared according to the methods reported in the literature.<sup>[2]</sup> Into a dry flask were added SeO<sub>2</sub> **4** (11 mmol), 2,6-dioxane (7.5 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (0.6 mL) and the reaction mixture was stirred at 50 °C until **4** dissolve

completely. Then acetyl compound **3** (10 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at 100 °C. The reaction was monitored under TLC.

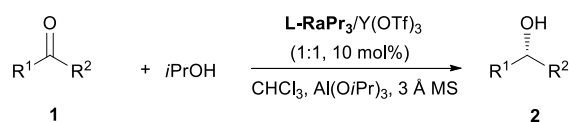
The reaction mixture was filtered through a pad of celite and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. Purification was accomplished by flash column chromatography and recrystallization with water, and a white to pale yellow solid **5** was obtained.



$\alpha$ -Keto esters **1a–1u**, **1ab**, **1ac** and **1ad** were prepared according to the methods reported in the literature.<sup>[3]</sup> Into a dry flask were added **5** (5 mmol), toluene (10 mL) and **6** (7.5 mmol) and the reaction mixture was stirred room temperature until **5** dissolve completely. Then I<sub>2</sub> (5 mmol) and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (10 mmol) were added to the reaction mixture and the reaction was monitored under TLC.

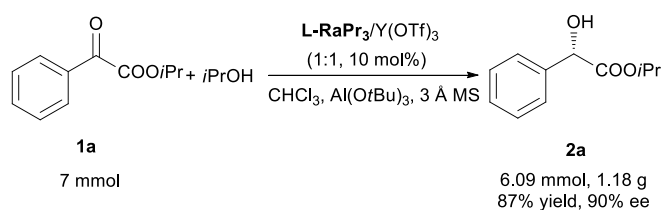
The reaction mixture was washed with aqueous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub> solution and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. Purification was accomplished by flash column chromatography and distillation, and a colorless to pale yellow liquid **1** was obtained.

### (E) Typical procedure for the asymmetric MPV reaction



Chiral *N,N'*-dioxide **L-RaPr<sub>3</sub>** (10 mol%), Y(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (10 mol%), 3 Å MS (25 mg), and Al(*O*tBu)<sub>3</sub> (50 mol%) were added in a dry reaction tube, then *i*PrOH/CHCl<sub>3</sub> (v/v = 1/2, 1 mL) was added in air. The mixture was stirred at 30°C for 30 min. Then, **1** (0.1 mmol) were added. The reaction was stirred vigorously at -10°C for 72 h and at 0 °C for 48 h. The mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to afford the desired product **2**. The yields of **2** were calculated according to the amount of **1**.

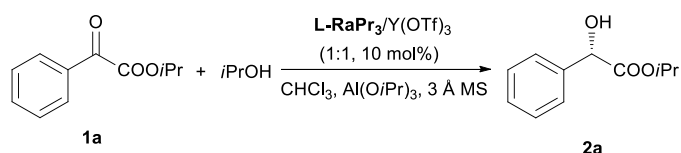
## (F) Gram-scale experiment



Chiral *N,N'*-dioxide **L-RaPr<sub>3</sub>** (10 mol%), Y(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (10 mol%), 3 Å MS (1.750 g), and Al(*O*tBu)<sub>3</sub> (50 mol%) were added in a dry reaction vessel, then *i*PrOH/CHCl<sub>3</sub> (v/v = 1/2, 70 mL) was added in air. The mixture was stirred at 30 °C for 30 min. Then, **1a** (0.1 mmol) were added. The reaction was stirred vigorously at -10 °C for 72 h and at 0 °C for 48 h. The mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to afford the desired product **2a**. The yield of **2a** was calculated according to the amount of **1a**.

## (G) Kinetic information.

### 1. General procedures.



Chiral *N,N'*-dioxide **L-RaPr<sub>3</sub>** (10 mol%), Y(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (10 mol%), 3 Å MS (25 mg), and Al(*O*tBu)<sub>3</sub> (50 mol%) were added in a dry reaction tube, then *i*PrOH/CHCl<sub>3</sub> (1 mL) was added in air. The mixture was stirred at 20°C for 30 min. Then, **1a** (0.1 mmol) were added. The reaction was stirred vigorously at 20 °C minor portion (approx. 20 μL) of the reaction mixture at certain reaction time. Each portion of the mixture was filtered through a pad of celite. After removal of solvent, the residue was analyzed via HPLC.

In the HPLC, the amount of substance *N* is proportional to the chromatographic peak area.

$$N_i = f_i A_i.$$

In the equation,  $A_i$  refers to chromatographic peak area of the substance,  $f_i$  refers to the correction factors of peak area. For **1a** and **2a**, it is deduced that,

$$f_{2a}/f_{1a} = (N_{2a}A_{1a}) / (N_{1a}A_{2a}).$$

In order to obtain  $f_{1a}/f_{2a}$ , a series of mixture of **1a** and **2a** were analyzed.

Entry	$N_{2a} / N_{1a}$	$A_{1a} / A_{2a}$	$f_{2a} / f_{1a}$
1	0.01	276.7	2.77
2	0.03	88.29	2.65
3	0.05	54.87	2.74
4	0.1	26.32	2.63
5	0.15	18.88	2.83
6	0.2	13.16	2.63
7	0.25	10.20	2.55
8	0.3	8.49	2.55
9	0.4	6.45	2.58
10	0.6	4.37	2.62
11	0.8	3.34	2.68
			2.66 <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Average of entry 1 to entry 11.

It is estimated that the  $f_{1a}/f_{2a}$  for **1a** and **2a** is 2.66. As a result, the HPLC analysis of portion of the reaction mixture at certain reaction time would give out the mole ratio of **1a** and **2a**, thus the yield of **2a** at certain reaction time can be calculated. The set of experiment was implemented under given alcohol concentration.

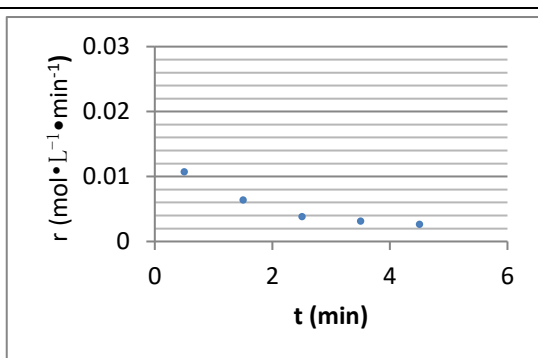
For  $t = 0.5(t_i + t_{i+1})$ , the reaction rate  $r$  of **1a** was estimated using an approximate formula,

$$r = (c_i - c_{i+1}) / (t_{i+1} - t_i) \quad .$$

## 2. Data collection.

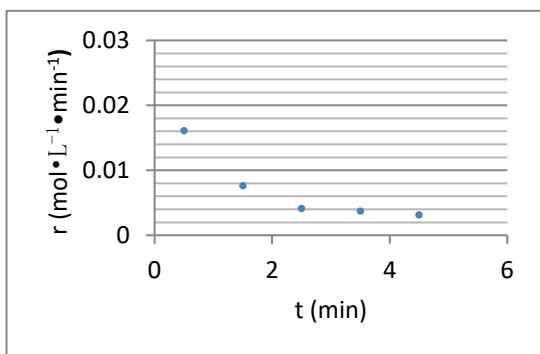
Solvent: *i*PrOH/CHCl<sub>3</sub> (v/v = 1/5, 1 mL)

Entry	t (min)	$A_{1d}/A_{2a}$	Ee of <b>2a</b>	Yield of <b>2a</b> (%)
1	0	-	-	0
2	1	22.04	82	10.8
3	2	12.83	82	17.2
4	3	10.00	82	21.0
5	4	8.35	82	24.2
6	5	7.24	82	26.9



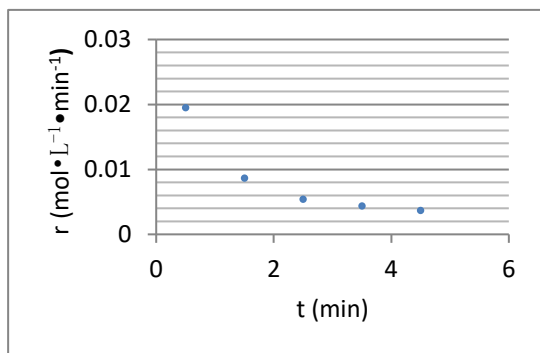
Solvent: *i*PrOH/CHCl<sub>3</sub> (v/v = 1/2, 1 mL)

Entry	t (min)	$A_{1d}/A_{2a}$	Ee of <b>2a</b>	Yield of <b>2a</b> (%)
1	0	-	-	0
2	1	13.86	82	16.1
3	2	8.53	82	23.8
4	3	6.87	81	27.9
5	4	5.73	82	31.7
6	5	4.98	83	34.8



Solvent: *i*PrOH/CHCl<sub>3</sub> (v/v = 1/1, 1 mL)

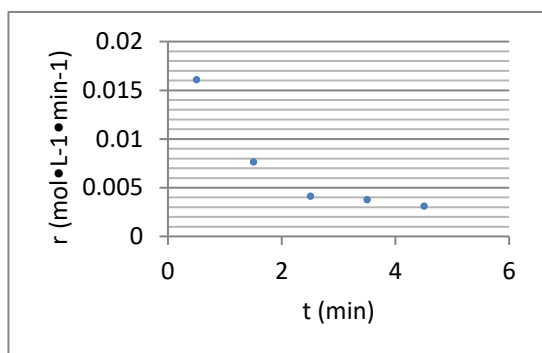
Entry	t (min)	$A_{1a}/A_{2a}$	Ee of <b>2a</b>	Yield of <b>2a</b> (%)
1	0	-	-	0
2	1	10.96	82	19.5
3	2	6.76	82	28.3
4	3	5.25	82	33.6
5	4	4.33	82	38.0
6	5	3.71	82	41.8



Solvent: *i*PrOH (1 mL)

Entry	t (min)	$A_{1a}/A_{2a}$	Ee of <b>2a</b>	Yield of <b>2a</b> (%)
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1	0	-	-	0
2	1	13.86	80	19.5
3	2	8.533	80	28.3
4	3	6.868	79	33.6
5	4	5.734	80	38.0
6	5	4.977	80	41.8



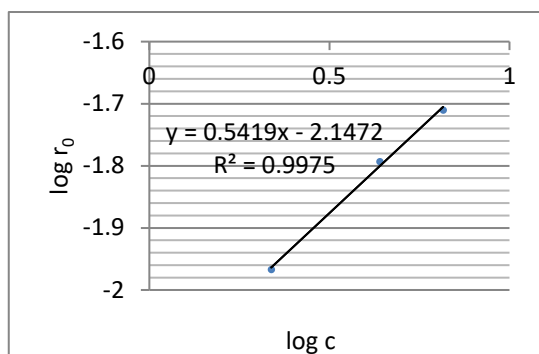
### 3. Data analyses and explanations.

As we can observed from charts and graphs above, the following can be concluded.

- 1) In every individual experiment, the ee value stayed unchanged at the first 5 min of the reaction. We believe consumption of **1a** or formation of optically active **2a** have no influence of the ee of the product **2a**.
- 2) For mixed reaction solvents, the reaction rate increased as the concentration of *i*PrOH increase. We calculated the reaction rate of *i*PrOH by using  $r_0$  at different *i*PrOH concentration. The reaction order of *i*PrOH is about 0.54.

Entry	<i>i</i> PrOH/CHCl <sub>3</sub>	$c(i\text{PrOH})$ (mol·L <sup>-1</sup> )	$r_0$ (mol·L <sup>-1</sup> ·min <sup>-1</sup> )	ln(c)	ln( $r_0$ )
1	1/5	2.18	0.0108	0.338	-1.97
2	1/2	4.36	0.0161	0.639	-1.79
3	1/1	6.54	0.0195	0.816	-1.71

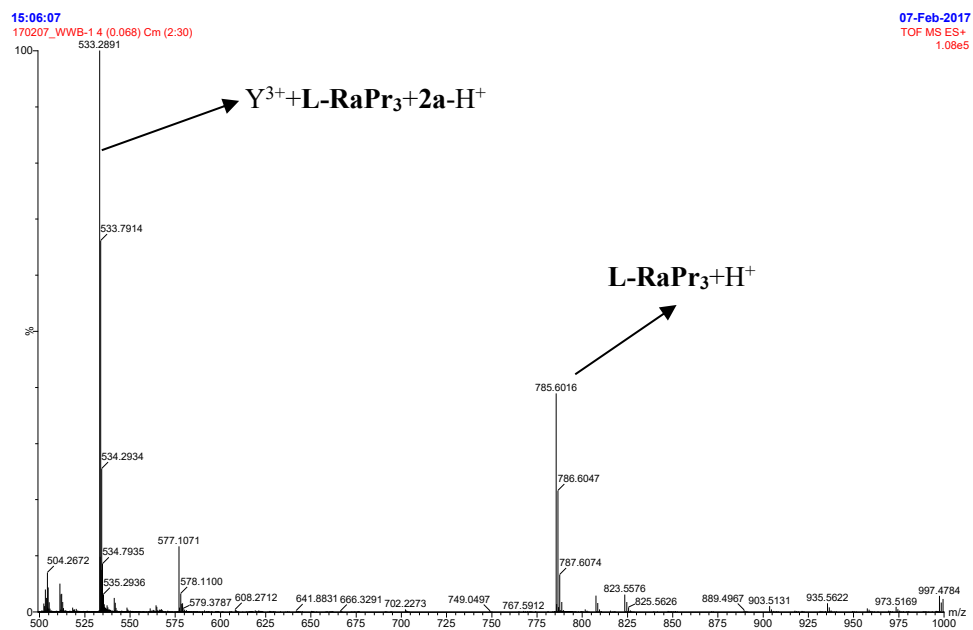
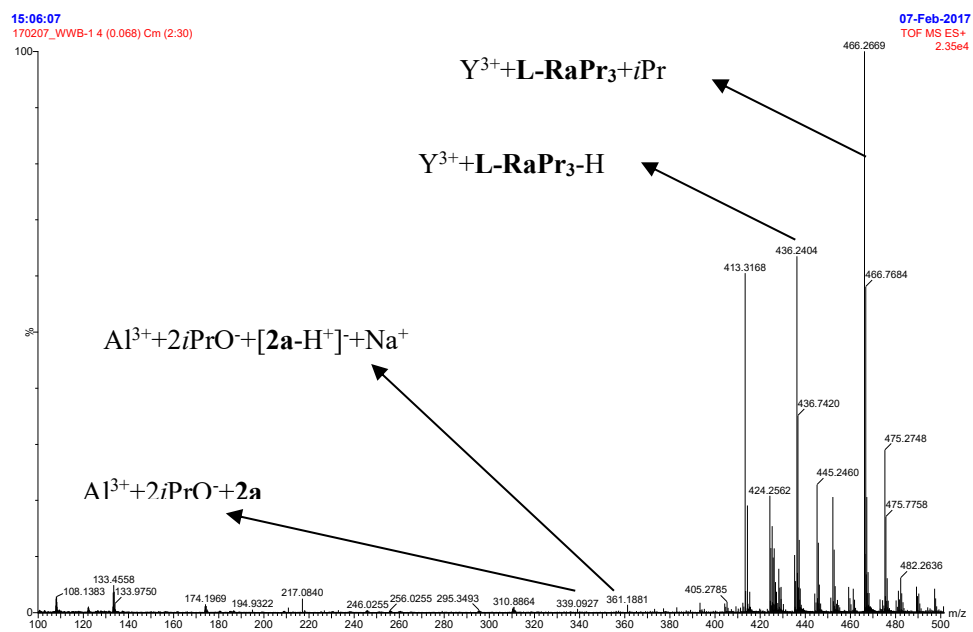


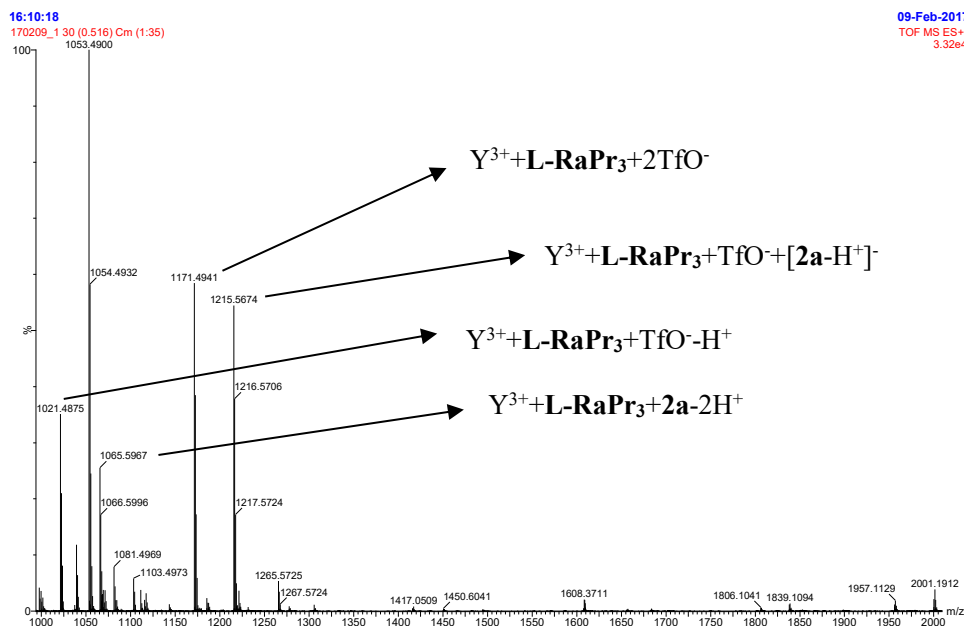


Further calculation did not elicit the reaction order of **1a** at different *i*PrOH concentrations. We assume that in such catalytic system, formula for elementary reaction is not feasible for **1a**.

- 3) When *i*PrOH was used as solvent the reaction rate at the first 5 min of was slightly slower than the mixed reaction solvent of *i*PrOH and chloroform (v/v = 1:1). Moreover, the ee value was lower than the mixed reaction solvent.
- 4) Such low reaction order of *i*PrOH and solvent effect suggested that it might be not *i*PrOH itself but the formed aluminium alkoxide that served as the true reactant, as proposed in the manuscript.

### (H) HRMS data of the reaction.





$Y(OTf)_3 + L-RaPr_3 + 1a + Al(OtBu)_3$  (0.1:0.1:1:0.5) :

$[Al^{3+}+2iPrO^-+2a]$  Calcd for : 339.1752, found : 339.0927;

$[Al^{3+}+2iPrO^-+[2a-H^+]^- + Na^+]$  Calcd for : 361.1572, found : 361.1881;

$[Y^{3+}+L-RaPr_3-H^+]$  Calcd for : 436.2424, found : 436.2404;

$[Y^{3+}+L-RaPr_3+iPrO^-]$  Calcd for : 466.2711, found : 466.2669;

$[Y^{3+}+L-RaPr_3+2a-H^+]$  Calcd for : 533.2895, found : 533.2891;

$[L-RaPr_3+H^+]$  Calcd for : 785.5945, found : 785.6016;

$[Y^{3+}+L-RaPr_3+TfO^-+[2a-H^+]^-]$  Calcd for : 1215.5310, found : 1215.5674;

$[Y^{3+}+L-RaPr_3+2TfO^-]$  Calcd for : 1171.3966, found : 1171.4941;

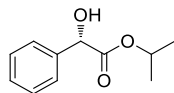
$[Y^{3+}+L-RaPr_3+2a-2H^+]$  Calcd for : 1065.5711, found : 1065.5967;

$[Y^{3+}+L-RaPr_3+TfO^-H^+]$  Calcd for : 1021.4875, found : 1021.4367.

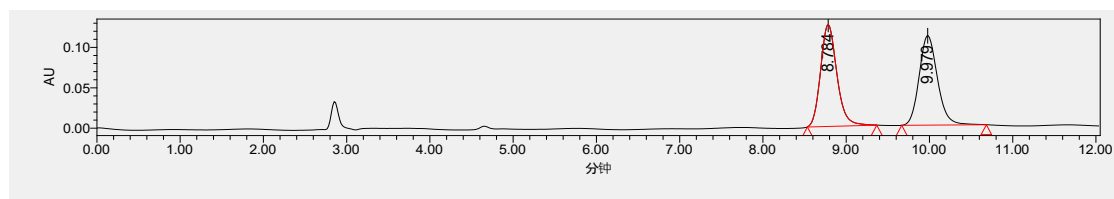
The peak for species  $Al^{3+}+2iPrO^-+2a$ ,  $Y^{3+}+L-RaPr_3+iPrO^-$ ,  $Y^{3+}+L-RaPr_3+2a-H^+$  and  $Y^{3+}+L-RaPr_3+TfO^-+[2a-H^+]^-$  were found. The find of the peak of  $Al^{3+}+2iPrO^-+2a$  species allowed us to presume that aluminium alkoxide should have a direct influence in the forming of **2a**. Moreover, any form of  $Y^{3+}+L-RaPr_3+iPrO^-+2a$ , indicating *i*PrOH may serves as direct reductant in the catalytic cycle was not found.

## (I) Spectral characterization data and HPLC conditions for the products

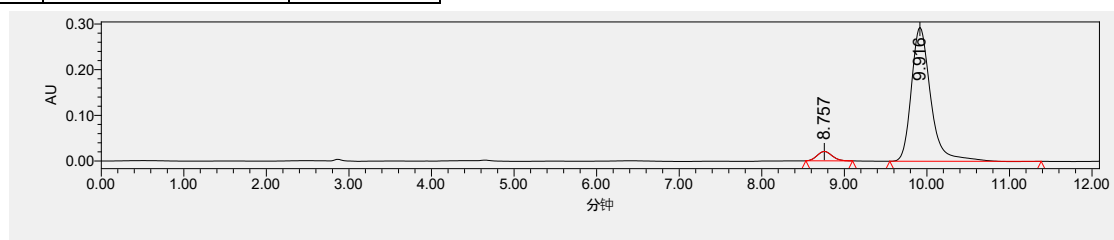
### (S)-iso-propyl mandelate (2a)



(**C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>3</sub>**) a white solid; 98% yield, 90% ee.  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +100.81$  ( $c = 0.248$ , in  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ), {Lit.<sup>[4]</sup> $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -96.1$  ( $c = 1.15$ , in  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ), conf. (*R*)}. HPLC Phenomenex Lux 5u Cellulose-2, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 10/90, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 210$  nm, retention time: 8.76 min, 9.92 min.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.50 – 7.28 (m, 5H), 5.17 – 4.98 (m, 2H), 3.57 – 3.44 (m, 1H), 1.28 (d,  $J = 6.3$  Hz, 3H), 1.11 (d,  $J = 6.3$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta = 173.25, 138.56, 128.50, 128.30, 126.43, 72.89, 70.20, 21.72, 21.41$ . ESI-HRMS: calcd for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{14}\text{NaO}_3^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$  217.0835, found 217.0833.

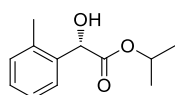


	Retention Time	%Area
1	8.784	50.31
2	9.979	49.69

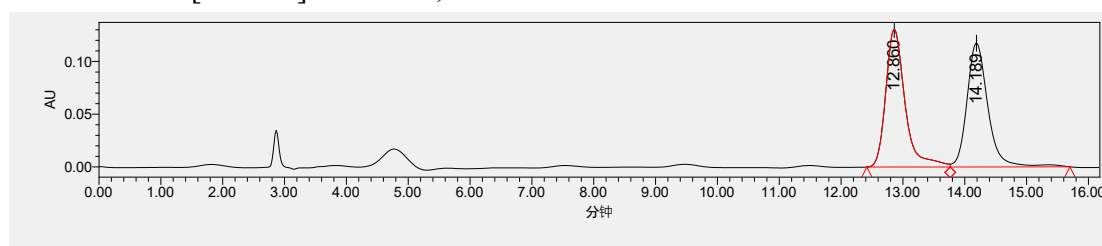


	Retention Time	%Area
1	8.757	5.14
2	9.916	94.86

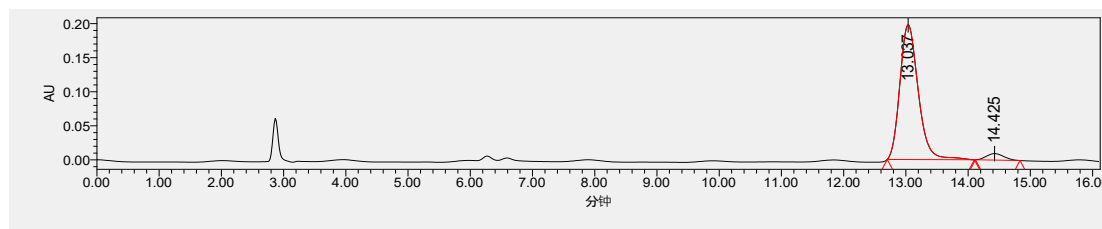
**(S)-iso-propyl  $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -(2-methylphenyl)acetate (2b)**



(C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) a colorless oil; 99% yield, 91% ee.  $[\alpha]_D^{21} = +117.86$  ( $c = 0.328$ , in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). HPLC Phenomenex Lux 5u Cellulose-2, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 5/95, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 210$  nm, retention time: 13.04 min, 14.43 min. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.29 – 7.00 (m, 4H), 5.25 (d,  $J = 5.3$  Hz, 1H), 5.00 (dt,  $J = 12.5, 6.3$  Hz, 1H), 3.39 (d,  $J = 5.3$  Hz, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 1.19 (d,  $J = 6.3$  Hz, 3H), 1.03 (d,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 172.71, 135.85, 135.33, 129.69, 127.25, 125.51, 125.15, 69.36, 69.08, 20.67, 20.39, 18.28$ . ESI-HRMS: calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>  $[M+Na^+]$  231.0992, found 231.0992.

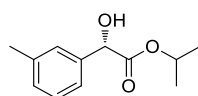


	Retention Time	%Area
1	12.860	50.25
2	14.189	49.75

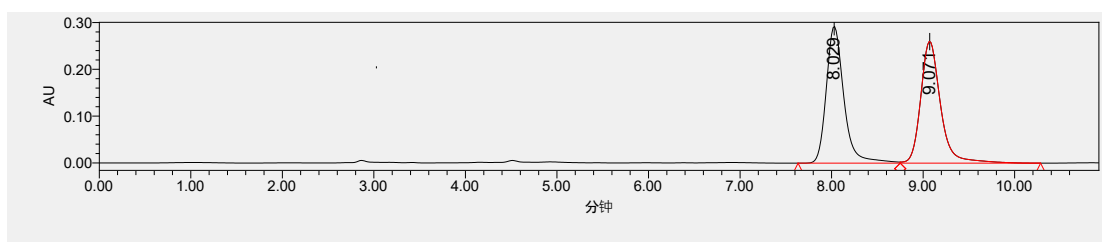


	Retention Time	%Area
1	13.037	95.62
2	14.425	4.38

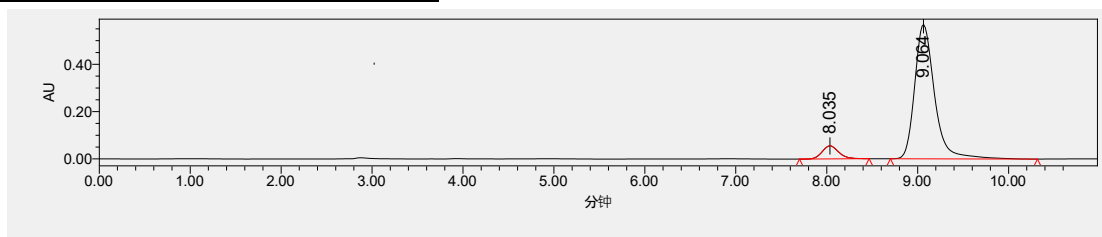
**(S)-iso-propyl  $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -(3-methylphenyl)acetate (2c)**



(**C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>3</sub>**) a colorless oil; 98% yield, 85% ee.  $[\alpha]_D^{21} = +78.67$  ( $c = 0.286$ , in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). HPLC Phenomenex Lux 5u Cellulose-2, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 10/90, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 210$  nm, retention time: 8.04 min, 9.06 min.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.20 – 7.02 (m, 4H), 5.10 – 4.86 (m, 2H), 3.39 (d,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 1H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 1.21 (d,  $J = 6.3$  Hz, 3H), 1.05 (d,  $J = 6.3$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 172.29, 137.43, 137.19, 128.03, 127.36, 126.02, 122.55, 71.89, 69.08, 20.69, 20.39. ESI-HRMS: calcd for **C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>**  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$  231.0992, found 231.0997.

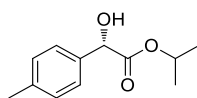


	Retention Time	%Area
1	8.029	49.84
2	9.071	50.16

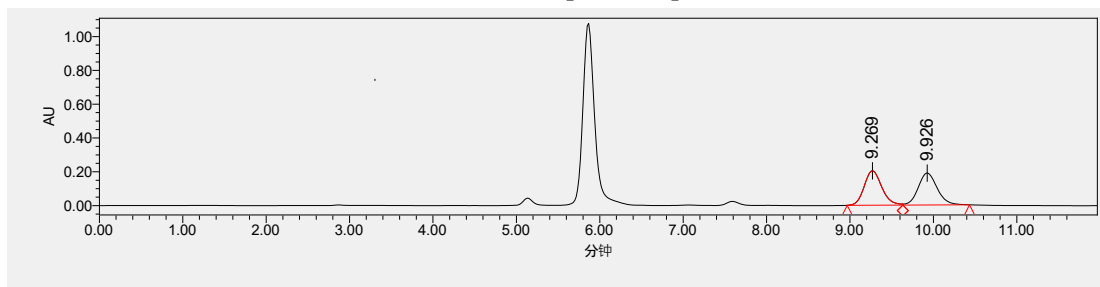


	Retention Time	%Area
1	8.035	7.50
2	9.064	92.50

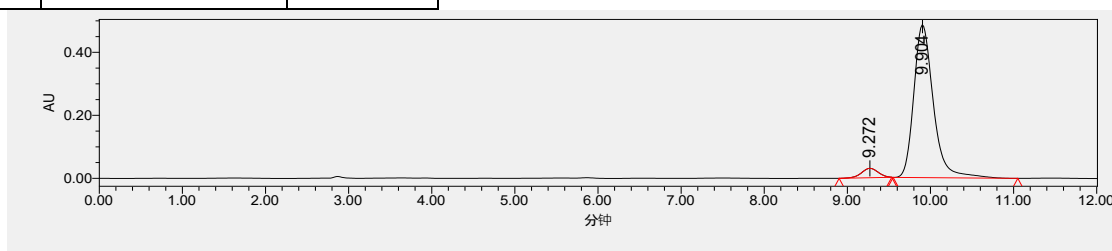
**(*S*)-iso-propyl  $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -(4-methylphenyl)acetate (2d)**



(**C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>3</sub>**) a white solid; 98% yield, 90% ee.  $[\alpha]_D^{23} = +92.31$  ( $c = 0.260$ , in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). HPLC Phenomenex Lux 5u Cellulose-2, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 5/95, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 210$  nm, retention time: 9.27 min, 9.90 min.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.27 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 7.13 – 7.02 (m, 2H), 5.10 – 4.86 (m, 2H), 3.38 (d,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 1H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 1.20 (d,  $J = 6.3$  Hz, 3H), 1.04 (d,  $J = 6.3$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta = 172.36, 137.01, 134.61, 128.17, 125.33, 71.72, 69.02, 20.68, 20.39, 20.14$ . ESI-HRMS: calcd for **C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>**  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$  231.0992, found 231.1000.

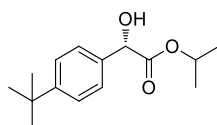


	Retention Time	%Area
1	9.269	49.90
2	9.926	50.10



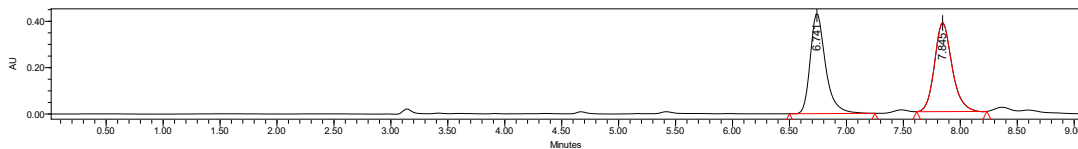
	Retention Time	%Area
1	9.272	4.96
2	9.904	95.04

**(S)-iso-propyl  $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenyl)acetate (2e)**

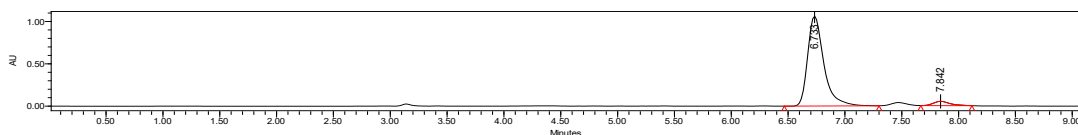


(**C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>24</sub>O<sub>3</sub>**) a white solid; 99% yield, 91% ee.  $[\alpha]_D^{12} = +71.93$  ( $c = 0.228$ , in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). HPLC DAICEL CHIRALCEL IA, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 10/90, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 210$  nm, retention time: 6.73 min, 7.84 min.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

$\delta$  7.36 – 7.21 (m, 4H), 5.01 (dd,  $J = 12.5, 6.2$  Hz, 2H), 3.34 (d,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 1H), 1.28 – 1.18 (m, 12H), 1.07 (d,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta = 172.30, 150.22, 134.53, 125.07, 124.43, 71.67, 69.02, 33.54, 30.27, 20.71, 20.45$ . ESI-HRMS: calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{22}\text{NaO}_3^+$  [ $\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$ ] 273.1467, found 273.1465.

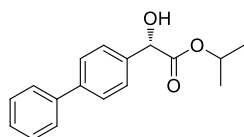


	Retention Time	%Area
1	6.741	49.58
2	7.845	50.42



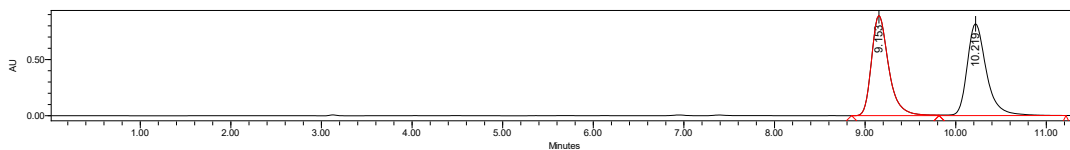
	Retention Time	%Area
1	6.733	95.34
2	7.842	4.66

### (*S*)-*iso*-propyl $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -(4-phenylphenyl)acetate (**2f**)

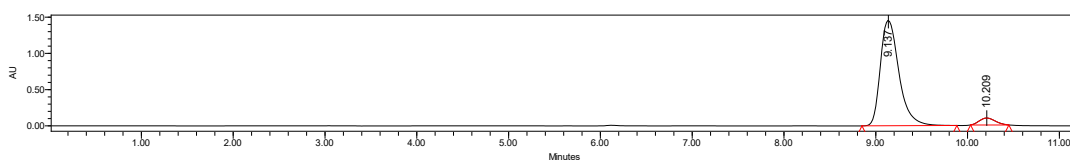


( $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_3$ ) a white solid; 99% yield, 89% ee.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{18} = +114.97$  ( $c = 0.294$ , in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). HPLC DAICEL CHIRALCEL IA, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 10/90, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 210$  nm, retention time: 9.14 min, 10.21 min.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.55 – 7.49 (m, 4H), 7.44 – 7.33 (m, 4H), 7.27 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1H), 5.09 (s, 2H), 5.01 (dt,  $J = 12.5, 6.3$  Hz, 1H), 3.47 (s, 1H), 1.22 (d,  $J = 6.3$  Hz, 3H), 1.06 (d,  $J = 6.3$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta = 173.03, 151.04, 135.93, 126.06, 125.39, 82.98, 72.83, 34.56, 31.33, 27.92$ .  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta = 173.22, 141.18, 140.62, 137.56, 128.82, 127.46, 127.27, 127.12, 126.88, 72.68, 70.32, 21.76, 21.49$ . ESI-HRMS: calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{18}\text{NaO}_3^+$  [ $\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$ ] 293.1148, found 293.1158.



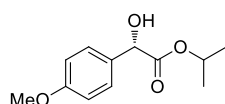


	Retention Time	%Area
1	9.153	49.44
2	10.219	50.56

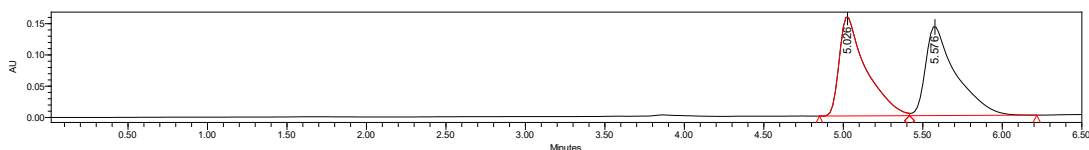


	Retention Time	%Area
1	9.137	94.69
2	10.209	5.31

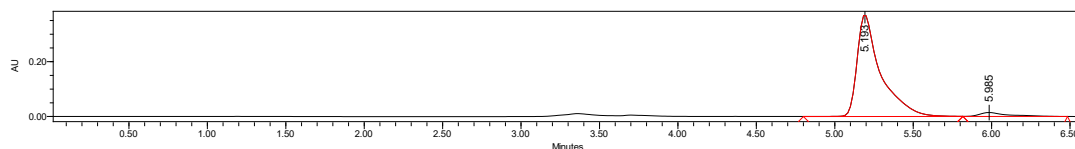
**(S)-iso-propyl  $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -(4-methoxyphenyl)acetate (2g)**



(**C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>4</sub>**) a white solid; 90% yield, 89% ee.  $[\alpha]_D^{22} = +92.25$  ( $c = 0.258$ , in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). HPLC DAICEL CHIRALCEL IA, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 10/90, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 210$  nm, retention time: 5.19 min, 5.99 min.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.32 (dd,  $J = 9.1, 2.4$  Hz, 2H), 6.96 – 6.83 (m, 2H), 5.15 – 4.99 (m, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.44 (dd,  $J = 5.8, 2.6$  Hz, 1H), 1.27 (d,  $J = 6.3$  Hz, 3H), 1.11 (d,  $J = 6.3$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta = 173.43, 159.60, 130.82, 127.73, 113.92, 72.51, 70.00, 55.27, 21.70, 21.43$ . ESI-HRMS: calcd for **C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NaO<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>**  $[\text{M} + \text{Na}^+]$  261.1097, found 261.1098.

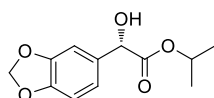


	Retention Time	%Area
1	5.026	49.56
2	5.576	50.44

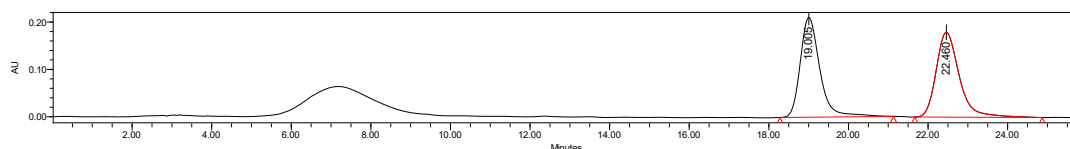


	Retention Time	%Area
1	5.193	94.53
2	5.985	5.47

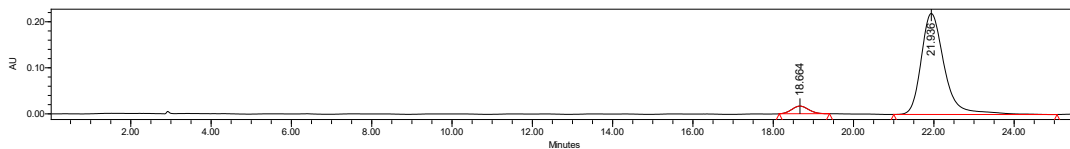
**(S)-iso-propyl  $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -(3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl)acetate (2h)**



(**C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>5</sub>**) a white solid; 99% yield, 90% ee.  $[\alpha]_D^{12} = +78.40$  ( $c = 0.250$ , in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). HPLC Phenomenex Lux 5u Cellulose-2, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 10/90, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 210$  nm, retention time: 18.66 min, 21.94 min.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  6.89 (dd,  $J = 5.8, 1.6$  Hz, 2H), 6.83 – 6.74 (m, 1H), 5.96 (s, 2H), 5.14 – 4.97 (m, 2H), 3.43 (d,  $J = 5.8$  Hz, 1H), 1.28 (d,  $J = 6.3$  Hz, 3H), 1.14 (d,  $J = 6.3$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta = 173.23, 147.81, 147.62, 132.48, 120.25, 108.23, 106.88, 101.17, 72.64, 70.23, 21.71, 21.46$ . ESI-HRMS: calcd for **C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NaO<sub>5</sub><sup>+</sup>**  $[M+\text{Na}^+]$  261.0733, found 261.0740.

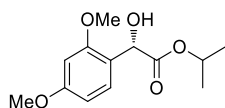


	Retention Time	%Area
1	19.005	50.21
2	22.460	49.79

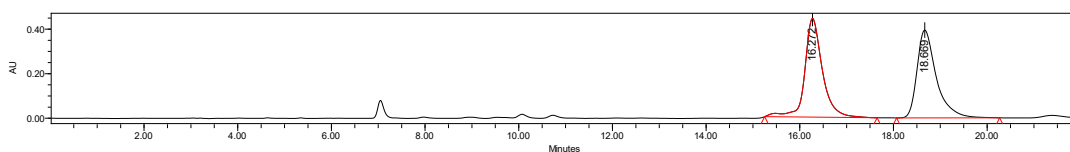


	Retention Time	%Area
1	18.664	5.20
2	21.936	94.80

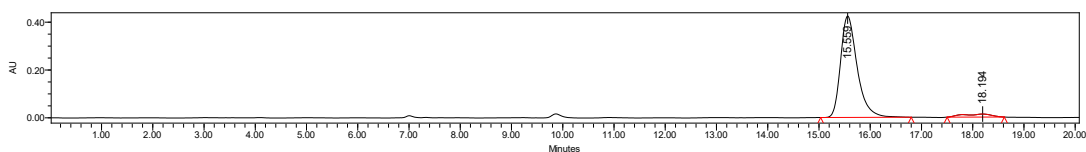
**(S)-iso-propyl  $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -(2,4-dimethoxyphenyl)acetate (2i)**



(C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>4</sub>) a white solid; 99% yield, 90% ee.  $[\alpha]_D^{19} = +83.70$  ( $c = 0.270$ , in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). HPLC DAICEL CHIRALCEL IA, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 10/90, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 210$  nm, retention time: 5.26 min, 8.97 min. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.12 – 7.05 (m, 1H), 6.41 – 6.36 (m, 2H), 5.07 (s, 1H), 5.02 (dt,  $J = 12.5, 6.3$  Hz, 1H), 3.73 (d,  $J = 5.0$  Hz, 6H), 3.41 (s, 1H), 1.16 (d,  $J = 6.3$  Hz, 3H), 1.07 (d,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 173.58, 161.15, 158.24, 130.29, 120.03, 104.21, 98.90, 70.07, 69.39, 55.37, 21.69, 21.47$ . ESI-HRMS: calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NaO<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+Na<sup>+</sup>] 261.1097, found 261.1102.

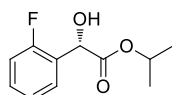


	Retention Time	%Area
1	16.272	50.85
2	18.669	49.15

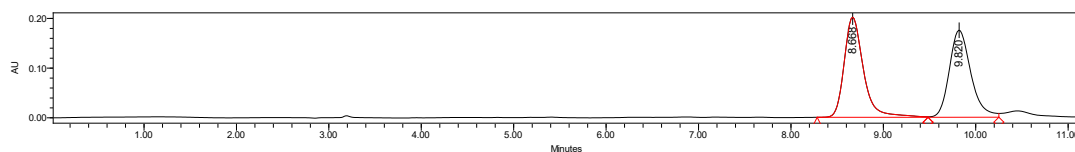


	Retention Time	%Area
1	15.559	95.00
2	18.194	5.00

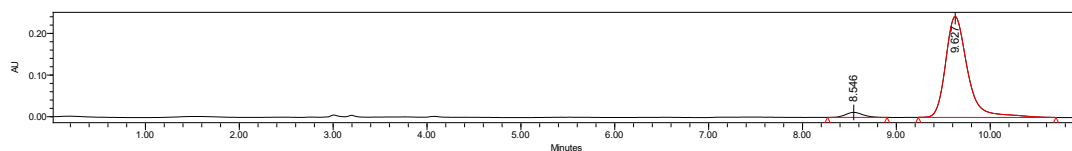
**(S)-iso-propyl  $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -(2-fluorophenyl)acetate (2j)**



(**C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>15</sub>FO<sub>3</sub>**) a white solid; 99% yield, 92% ee.  $[\alpha]_D^{12} = +100.00$  ( $c = 0.306$ , in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). HPLC Phenomenex Lux 5u Cellulose-2, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 10/90, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 210$  nm, retention time: 8.55 min, 9.63 min.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.45 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.21 – 7.00 (m, 2H), 5.34 (d,  $J = 5.2$  Hz, 1H), 5.21 – 5.01 (m, 1H), 3.56 (d,  $J = 5.3$  Hz, 1H), 1.19 (dd,  $J = 59.9, 6.1$  Hz, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta = 172.78, 161.75, 159.28, 130.21, 130.13, 128.71, 128.67, 126.13, 125.99, 124.31, 124.27, 115.78, 115.56, 70.43, 67.74, 21.62, 21.34$ . ESI-HRMS: calcd for **C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>13</sub>FNaO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>** [ $\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$ ] 235.0741, found 235.0741.

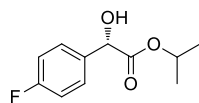


	Retention Time	%Area
1	8.668	50.75
2	9.820	49.25

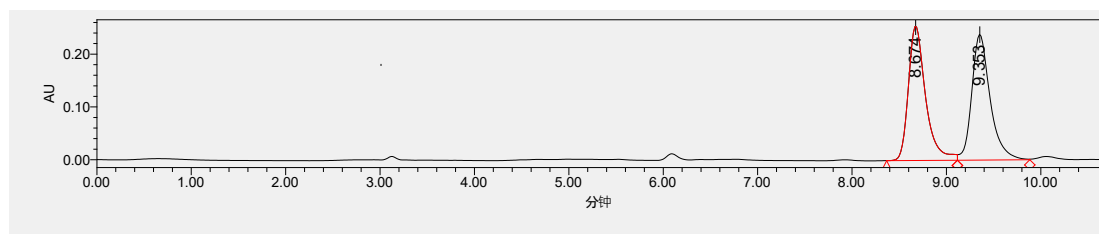


	Retention Time	%Area
1	8.546	3.84
2	9.627	96.16

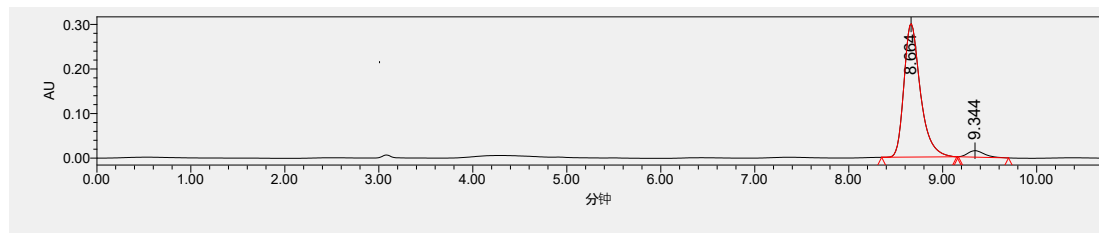
**(S)-iso-propyl  $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -(4-fluorophenyl)acetate (2k)**



(C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>13</sub>FO<sub>3</sub>) a white solid; 98% yield, 91% ee.  $[\alpha]_D^{19} = +103.17$  ( $c = 0.252$ , in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). HPLC DAICEL CHIRALCEL IA, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 5/95, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 210$  nm, retention time: 8.66 min, 9.34 min. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.47 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 7.03 – 6.23 (m, 2H), 5.10 – 4.87 (m, 2H), 3.48 (d,  $J = 5.6$  Hz, 1H), 1.21 (d,  $J = 6.3$  Hz, 3H), 1.04 (d,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 172.04, 162.86, 160.41, 133.32, 133.28, 127.18, 127.10, 114.48, 114.27, 71.17, 69.35, 20.66, 20.37$ . ESI-HRMS: calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>13</sub>FNaO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+Na<sup>+</sup>] 235.0741, found 235.0747.

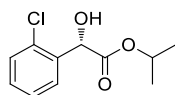


	Retention Time	%Area
1	8.674	49.97
2	9.353	50.03

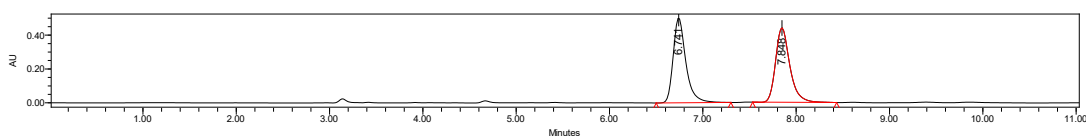


	Retention Time	%Area
1	8.664	95.40
2	9.344	4.60

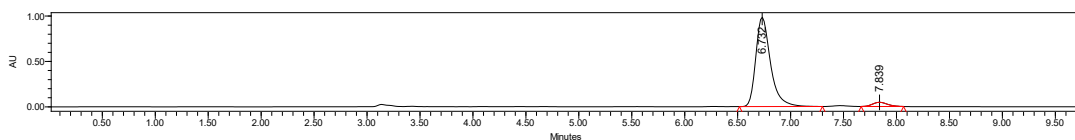
**(S)-iso-propyl  $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -(2-chlorophenyl)acetate (2l)**



(**C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>13</sub>ClO<sub>3</sub>**) a white solid; 99% yield, 91% ee.  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +99.15$  ( $c = 0.234$ , in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ), HPLC DAICEL CHIRALCEL IA, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 10/90, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 210$  nm, retention time: 6.73 min, 7.84 min.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.35 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.22 – 7.17 (m, 2H), 5.43 (d,  $J = 2.9$  Hz, 1H), 5.01 (d,  $J = 6.3$  Hz, 1H), 3.57 (d,  $J = 4.0$  Hz, 1H), 1.19 (d,  $J = 6.3$  Hz, 3H), 1.04 (d,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta = 171.73, 135.28, 132.55, 128.86, 128.58, 127.66, 126.02, 69.45, 69.42, 20.59, 20.36$ . ESI-HRMS: calcd for **C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>13</sub>Cl<sup>34</sup>.9689NaO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>**  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$  251.0445, found 251.0449; calcd for **C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>13</sub>Cl<sup>36</sup>.9659NaO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>**  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$  253.0416, found 253.0422.

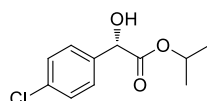


	Retention Time	%Area
1	6.741	50.30
2	7.848	49.70



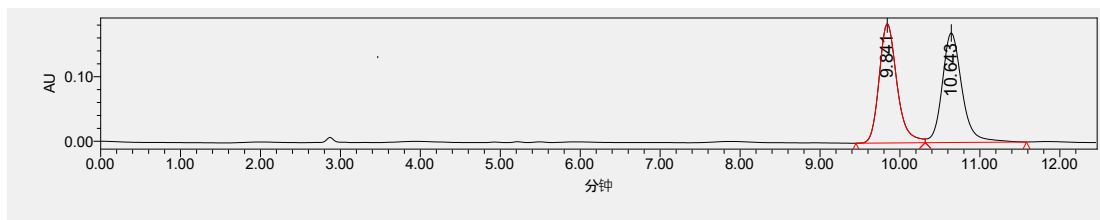
	Retention Time	%Area
1	6.732	95.48
2	7.839	4.52

**(S)-iso-propyl  $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -(4-chlorophenyl)acetate (2m)**

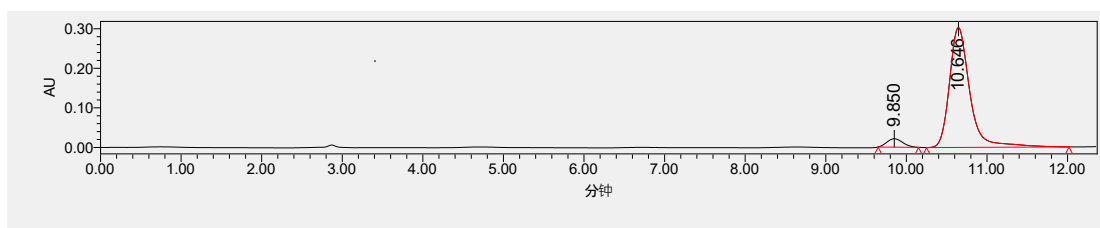


(**C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>13</sub>ClO<sub>3</sub>**) a white solid; 98% yield, 90% ee.  $[\alpha]_D^{18} = +95.93$  ( $c = 0.246$ , in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). HPLC Phenomenex Lux 5u Cellulose-2, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 5/95, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 210$  nm, retention time: 9.93 min, 10.51 min.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400

MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.38 – 7.11 (m, 4H), 5.13 – 4.81 (m, 2H), 3.50 (d,  $J$  = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 1.21 (d,  $J$  = 6.3 Hz, 3H), 1.04 (d,  $J$  = 6.3 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 171.82, 135.98, 133.09, 127.62, 126.76, 71.15, 69.48, 20.66, 20.38. ESI-HRMS: calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>13</sub>Cl<sup>34.9689</sup>NaO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+Na<sup>+</sup>] 251.0445, found 251.0449; calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>13</sub>Cl<sup>36.9659</sup>NaO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+Na<sup>+</sup>] 253.0416, found 253.0391.

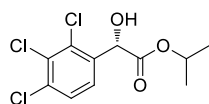


	Retention Time	%Area
1	9.841	49.67
2	10.643	50.33



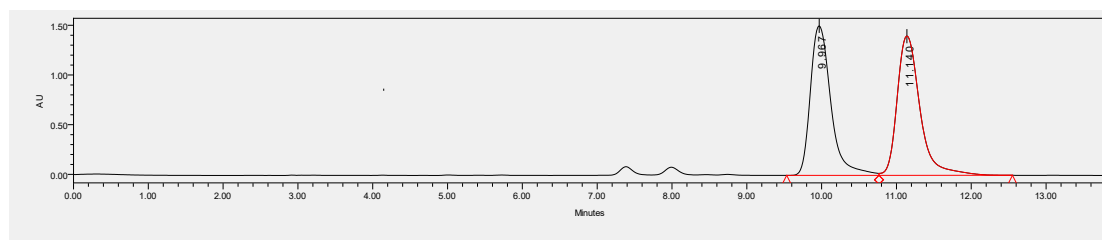
	Retention Time	%Area
1	9.850	5.18
2	10.646	94.82

**(S)-iso-propyl  $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -(2,3,4-trichlorophenyl)acetate (2n)**

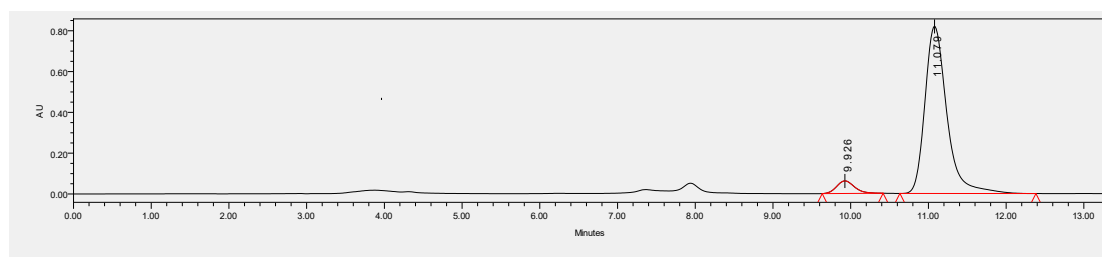


(C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>11</sub>Cl<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) a white solid; 99% yield, 89% ee. [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>16</sup> = +127.69 ( $c$  = 0.242, in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). HPLC Phenomenex Lux 5u Cellulose-2, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 5/95, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 210 nm, retention time: 9.93 min, 11.08 min. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.40 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 5.49 (d,  $J$  = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 5.08 (dt,  $J$  = 12.0, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (d,  $J$  = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 1.20 (dd,  $J$  = 54.4, 6.2 Hz, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 172.01, 136.95, 134.14, 133.62, 132.26,

128.44, 126.78, 70.99, 70.77, 21.58, 21.42. ESI-HRMS: calcd for  $C_{11}H_{11}Cl_3^{34.9689}NaO_3^+$   $[M+Na^+]$  318.9671, found 318.9676; calcd for  $C_{11}H_{11}Cl_2^{34.9689}Cl^{36.9659}NaO_3^+$   $[M+Na^+]$  320.9642, found 320.9656.

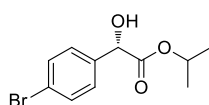


	Retention Time	%Area
1	9.967	49.15
2	11.140	50.85



	Retention Time	%Area
1	9.926	5.75
2	11.079	94.25

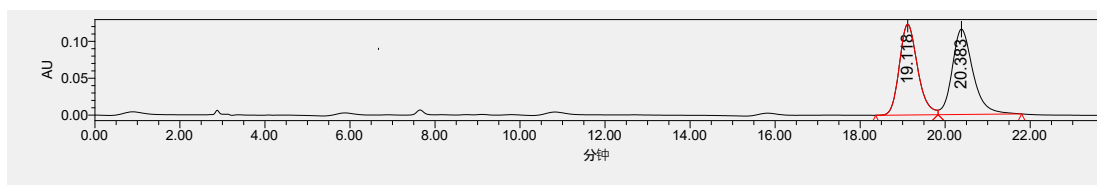
**(S)-iso-propyl  $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -(2-bromophenyl)acetate (2o)**



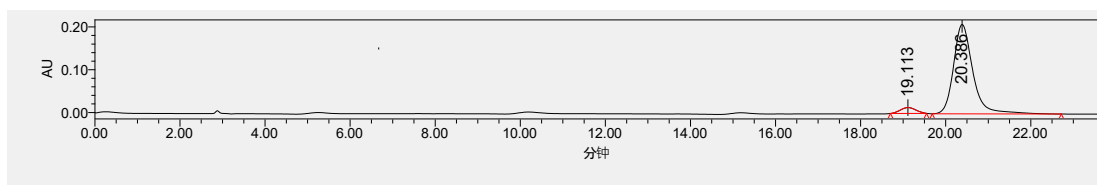
( $C_{11}H_{13}BrO_3$ ) a white solid; 98% yield, 90% ee.  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +79.11$  ( $c = 0.316$ , in  $CH_2Cl_2$ ). HPLC Phenomenex Lux 5u Cellulose-2, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 2/98, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 210$  nm, retention time: 19.11 min, 20.39 min.  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.46 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.27 – 7.17 (m, 2H), 5.13 – 4.84 (m, 2H), 3.52 (d,  $J = 5.6$  Hz, 1H), 1.21 (d,  $J = 6.3$  Hz, 3H), 1.04 (d,  $J = 6.3$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (101 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta = 172.41, 137.97, 131.52, 128.08, 122.11, 83.55, 72.35, 27.83$ .  $^{13}C$  NMR (101 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta = 172.77, 137.53, 131.60, 128.13, 122.31, 72.24, 70.54, 21.70$ .



21.42. ESI-HRMS: calcd for  $C_{11}H_{13}Br^{78,9183}NaO_3^+$   $[M+Na^+]$  294.9940, found 294.9948; calcd for  $C_{11}H_{13}Br^{80,9163}NaO_3^+$   $[M+Na^+]$  296.9920, found 296.9900.

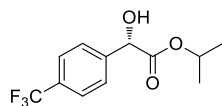


	Retention Time	%Area
1	19.118	48.23
2	20.383	51.77

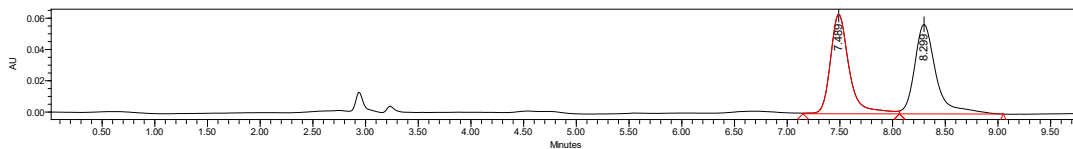


	Retention Time	%Area
1	19.113	5.04
2	20.386	94.96

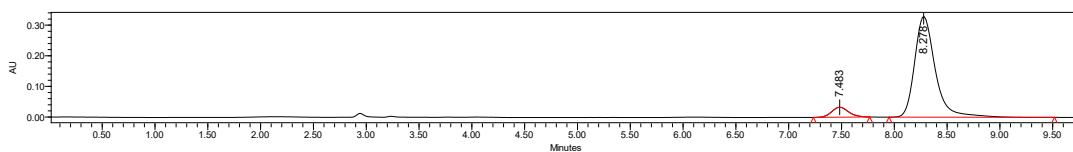
**(S)-iso-propyl  $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acetate (2p)**



( $C_{13}H_{15}F_3O_3$ ) a white solid; 99% yield, 85% ee.  $[\alpha]_D^{17} = +73.62$  ( $c = 0.254$ , in  $CH_2Cl_2$ ). HPLC Phenomenex Lux 5u Cellulose-2, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 5/95, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 210$  nm, retention time: 7.48 min, 8.28 min.  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.69 – 7.46 (m, 4H), 5.11 (d,  $J = 5.2$  Hz, 1H), 5.00 (dt,  $J = 12.5, 6.3$  Hz, 2H), 3.56 (d,  $J = 5.5$  Hz, 1H), 1.23 (d,  $J = 6.3$  Hz, 3H), 1.04 (d,  $J = 6.3$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (101 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta = 171.50, 141.29, 129.59, 129.26, 125.71, 124.44, 124.40, 124.36, 124.32, 121.64, 71.24, 69.78, 20.65, 20.36$ . ESI-HRMS: calcd for  $C_{12}H_{13}F_3NaO_5^+$   $[M+Na^+]$  285.0709, found 285.0719.

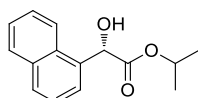


	Retention Time	%Area
1	7.489	49.44
2	8.299	50.56

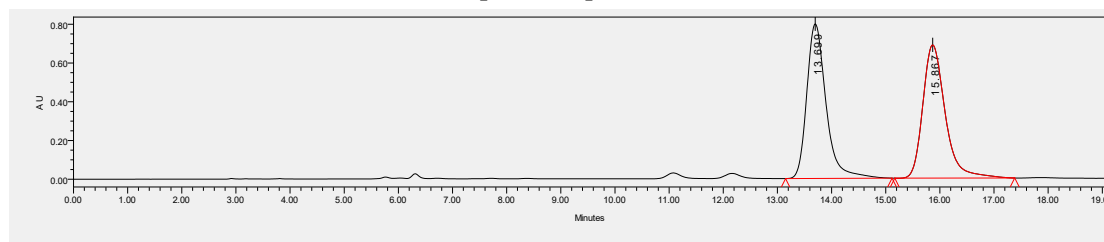


	Retention Time	%Area
1	7.483	7.51
2	8.278	92.49

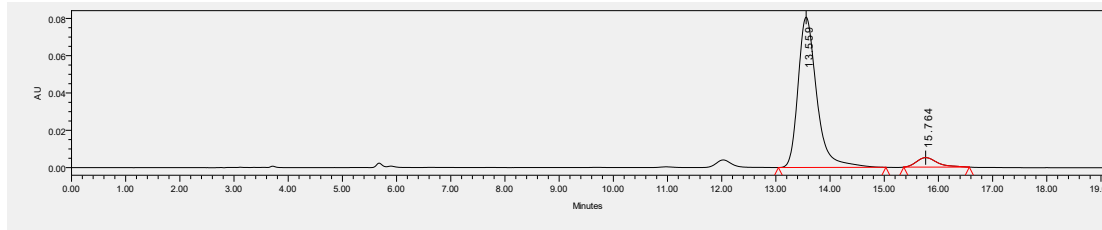
### (*S*)-*iso*-propyl $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -(naphthalen-1-yl)acetate (**2q**)



(**C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>3</sub>**) a white solid; 99% yield, 86% ee.  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +93.18$  ( $c = 0.264$ , in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). HPLC Phenomenex Lux 5u Cellulose-2, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 10/90, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 210$  nm, retention time: 13.56 min, 15.76 min.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.18 – 8.02 (m, 1H), 7.85 – 7.71 (m, 2H), 7.51 – 7.31 (m, 4H), 5.69 (s, 1H), 5.02 (dt,  $J = 12.5, 6.3$  Hz, 1H), 3.53 (s, 1H), 1.16 (d,  $J = 6.3$  Hz, 3H), 0.92 (d,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta = 173.77, 134.35, 134.02, 131.10, 129.31, 128.74, 126.40, 125.84, 125.63, 125.20, 123.85, 71.40, 70.32, 21.68, 21.36$ . ESI-HRMS: calcd for **C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>**  $[M+\text{Na}^+]$  267.0997, found 267.0998.

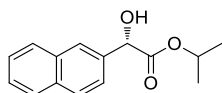


	Retention Time	%Area
1	13.699	50.00
2	15.867	50.00

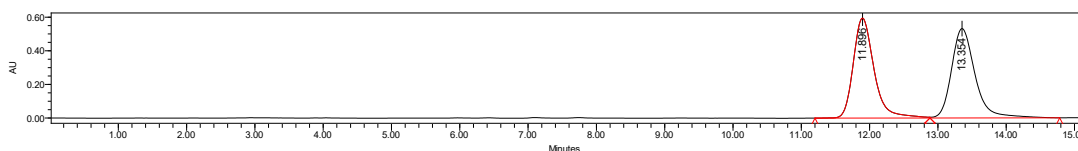


	Retention Time	%Area
1	13.559	93.37
2	15.764	6.63

### (*S*)-*iso*-propyl $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -(naphthalen-2-yl)acetate (**2r**)

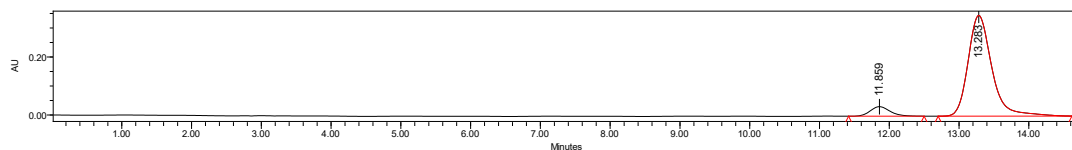


(**C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>3</sub>**) a white solid; 99% yield, 86% ee.  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +85.71$  ( $c = 0.308$ , in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). HPLC Phenomenex Lux 5u Cellulose-2, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 10/90, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 210$  nm, retention time: 11.86 min, 13.28 min.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.83 (s, 1H), 7.80 – 7.67 (m, 3H), 7.49 – 7.35 (m, 3H), 5.21 (d,  $J = 5.2$  Hz, 1H), 5.00 (dt,  $J = 12.5, 6.3$  Hz, 1H), 3.59 (d,  $J = 5.7$  Hz, 1H), 1.20 (d,  $J = 6.3$  Hz, 3H), 1.00 (d,  $J = 6.3$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta = 173.27, 135.94, 133.24, 133.20, 128.34, 128.16, 127.71, 126.28, 126.27, 125.79, 124.14, 73.06, 70.36, 21.75, 21.45$ . ESI-HRMS: calcd for **C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>** [ $\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$ ] 267.0997, found 267.0995.



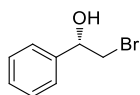
	Retention Time	%Area
1	11.896	49.78

2	13.354	50.22
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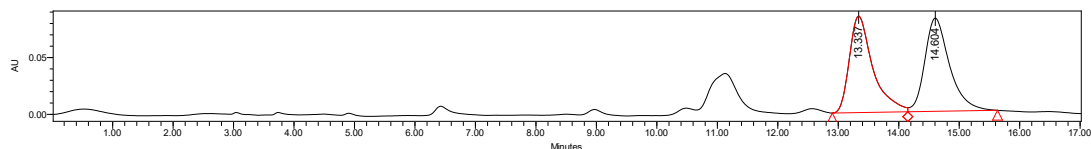


	Retention Time	%Area
1	11.859	6.95
2	13.283	93.05

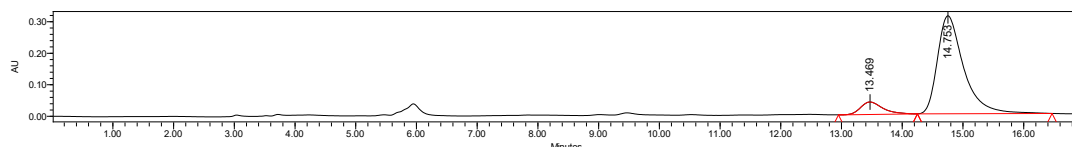
**(S)- 2-bromo-1-phenylethanol (2v)**



(**C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>3</sub>**) a white solid; 95% yield, 81% ee.  $[\alpha]_D^{27} = +44.36$  ( $c = 0.780$ , in  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ), {Lit.<sup>[5]</sup> $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -45.5$  ( $c = 1.0$ ,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ), conf. (*R*)}. HPLC DAICEL CHIRALCEL ODH, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 5/95, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 210$  nm, retention time: 13.47 min, 14.75 min. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.39 – 7.27 (m, 5H), 4.93 – 4.81 (m, 1H), 3.58 (dd,  $J = 10.5, 3.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.49 (dd,  $J = 10.4, 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 2.94 (d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta = 140.44, 128.72, 128.50, 126.06, 73.83, 40.07$ . ESI-HRMS: calcd for **C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>14</sub>Br<sup>78,9183</sup>NaO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>**  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$  222.9734, found 222.9739. **C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>14</sub>Br<sup>80,9163</sup>NaO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>**  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$  224.9714, found 224.9725.

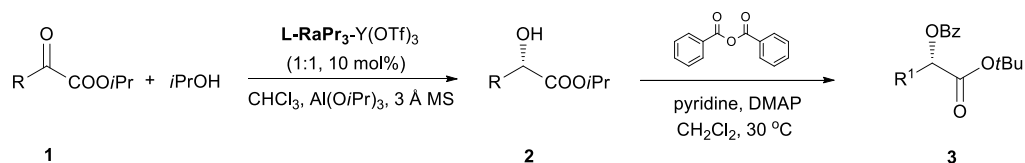


	Retention Time	%Area
1	13.337	49.54
2	14.604	50.46



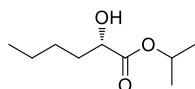
	Retention Time	%Area
1	13.469	9.74
2	14.753	90.26

**(J) Spectral characterization data and HPLC conditions for the alkyl products**



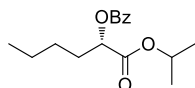
**2s-2t** (x mmol) obtained in asymmetric intramolecular Cannizzaro reaction, benzoic anhydride (1.1x mmol), pyridine (x mmol), DMAP (x mmol) and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1 mL) were added in the reaction tube sequentially. The reaction was stirred vigorously at 30°C (monitored by TLC). The mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate) to afford the desired product **2s-2t**. The ee of **2s-2t** was determined according to the ee of **3s-3t**.

**(S)-iso-propyl 2-hydroxyhexanoate (2s)**



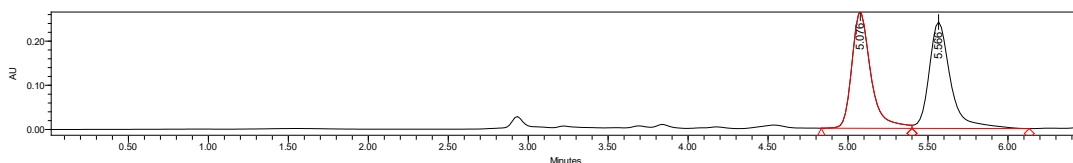
(C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) a colorless oil; 99% yield.  $[\alpha]_D^{19} = +15.08$  ( $c = 0.252$ , in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>).  
ESI-HRMS: calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+Na<sup>+</sup>] 117.1154, found 117.1161.

**(S)-iso-propyl 2-benzoxyhexanoate (3s)**

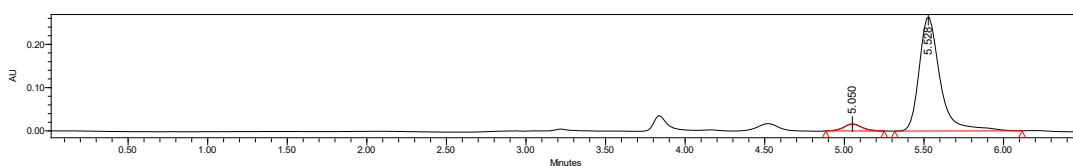


(C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>4</sub>) a colorless oil; 90% ee.  $[\alpha]_D^{18} = +67.75$  ( $c = 0.306$ , in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). HPLC Phenomenex Lux 5u Cellulose-2, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 5/95, flow rate = 1.0

mL/min,  $\lambda = 210$  nm, retention time: 5.05 min, 5.53 min.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.11 – 7.97 (m, 2H), 7.51 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.45 – 7.34 (m, 2H), 5.22 – 5.06 (m, 1H), 5.02 (dt,  $J = 12.5, 6.3$  Hz, 1H), 2.00 – 1.83 (m, 2H), 1.45 – 1.29 (m, 4H), 1.21 (d,  $J = 6.3$  Hz, 3H), 1.17 (d,  $J = 6.3$  Hz, 3H), 0.87 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta = 169.91, 166.18, 133.22, 129.82, 129.68, 128.40, 73.05, 68.96, 30.93, 27.36, 22.32, 21.75, 21.70, 13.90$ . ESI-HRMS: calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{22}\text{NaO}_4^+$  [ $\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$ ] 301.1416, found 301.1414.

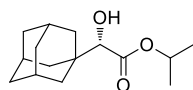


	Retention Time	%Area
1	5.076	49.32
2	5.566	50.68



	Retention Time	%Area
1	5.050	5.08
2	5.528	94.92

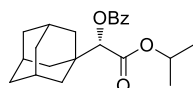
### **(S)-iso-propyl 2-hydroxy-2-(adamantan-1-yl)acetate (2u)**



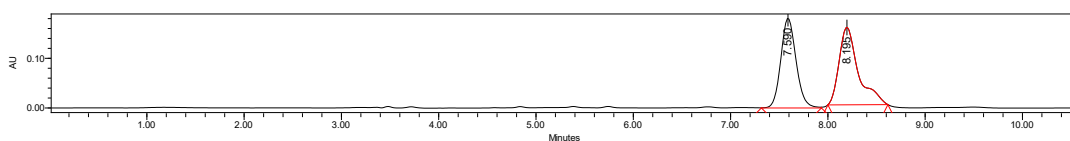
( $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_3$ ) a colorless oil; 99% yield.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{19} = +81.20$  ( $c = 0.266$ , in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  5.06 (dt,  $J = 12.5, 6.3$  Hz, 1H), 3.53 (s, 1H), 2.63 (s, 1H), 1.93 (s, 3H), 1.64 (d,  $J = 12.0$  Hz, 3H), 1.56 (d,  $J = 9.8$  Hz, 9H), 1.23 (t,  $J = 6.4$  Hz, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta = 173.49, 78.80, 69.35, 37.96, 37.15, 36.94$ ,

28.26, 22.08, 21.89. ESI-HRMS: calcd for  $C_{15}H_{24}NaO_3^+$   $[M+Na^+]$  275.1623, found 275.1615.

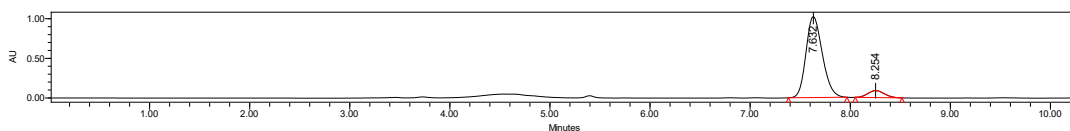
**(S)-iso-propyl 2-benzyloxy-2-(adamantan-1-yl)acetate (3u)**



( $C_{22}H_{28}O_3$ ) a colorless oil; 84% ee.  $[\alpha]_D^{18} = +90.78$  ( $c = 0.326$ , in  $CH_2Cl_2$ ). HPLC DAICEL CHIRALCEL IC, 2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 5/95, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 210$  nm, retention time: 7.63 min, 8.25 min. ESI-HRMS: calcd for  $C_{22}H_{28}NaO_3^+$   $[M+Na^+]$  379.1885, found 379.1888.



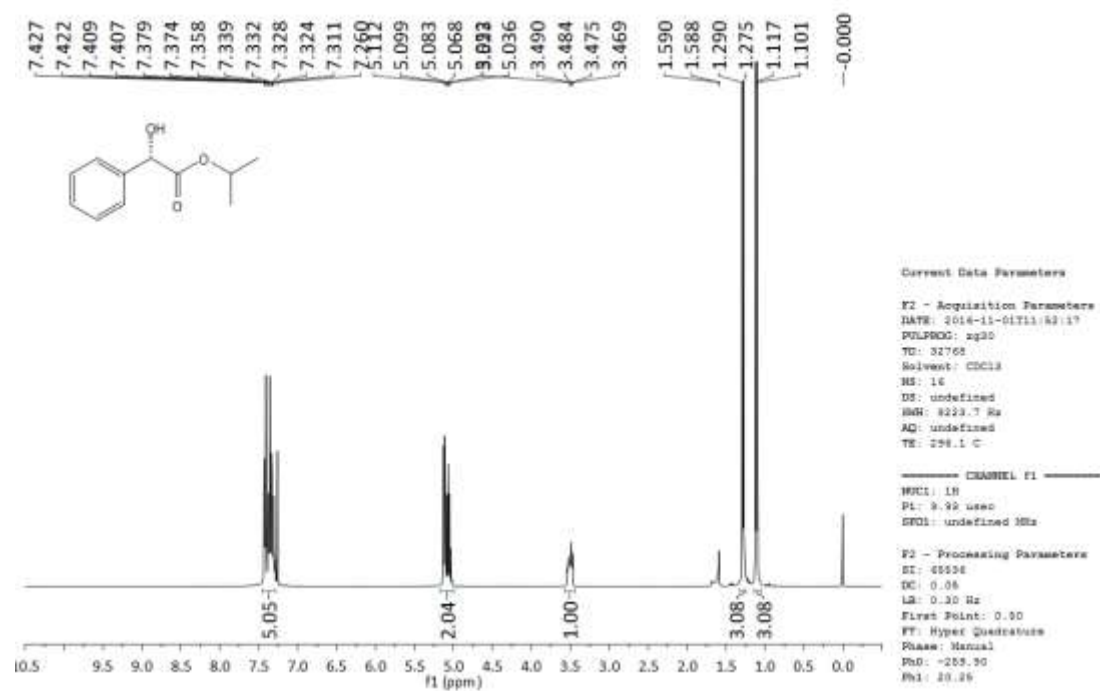
	Retention Time	%Area
1	7.590	47.92
2	8.195	52.08



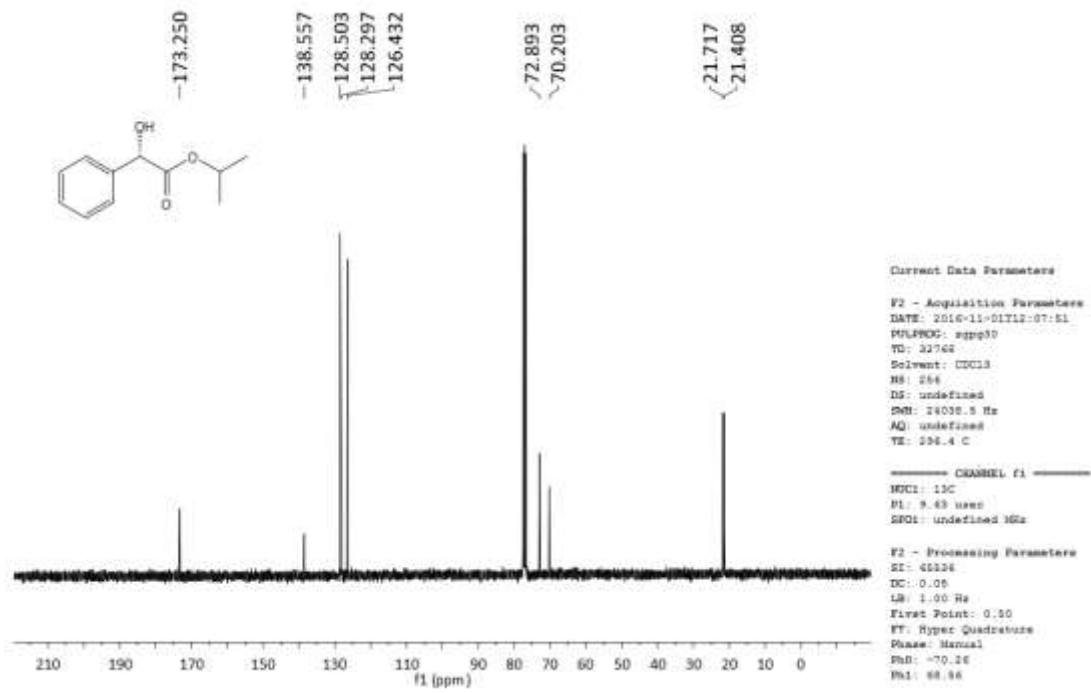
	Retention Time	%Area
1	7.632	91.99
2	8.254	8.01

## (K) Copies of NMR spectra for catalysts and products

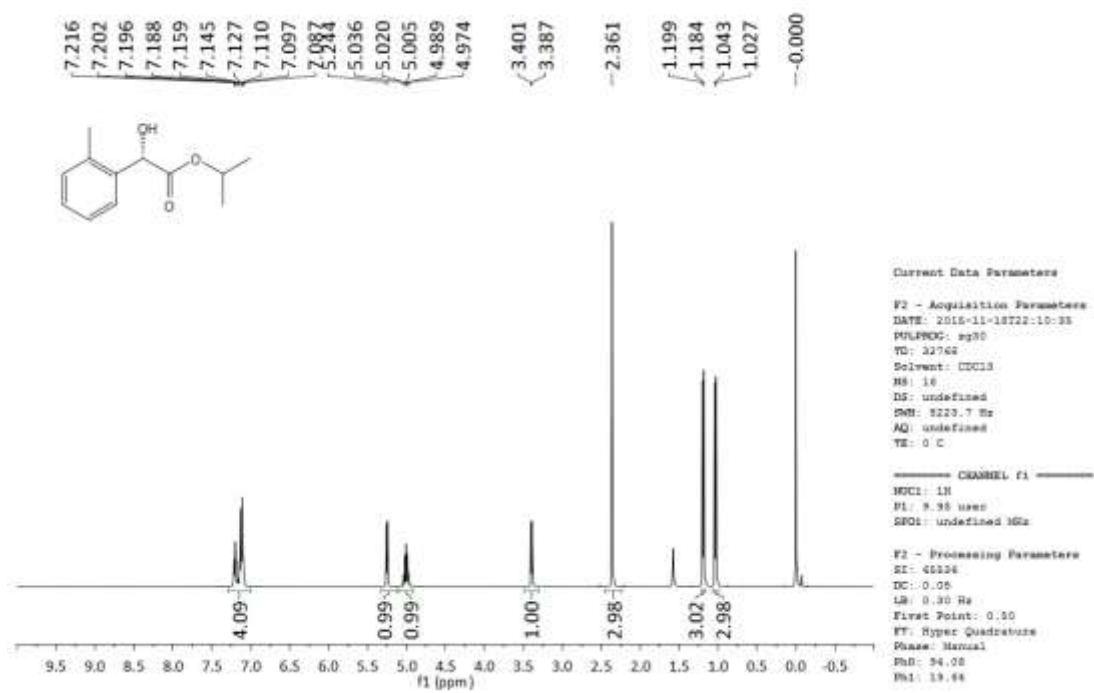
### (S)-iso-propyl mandelate (2a)

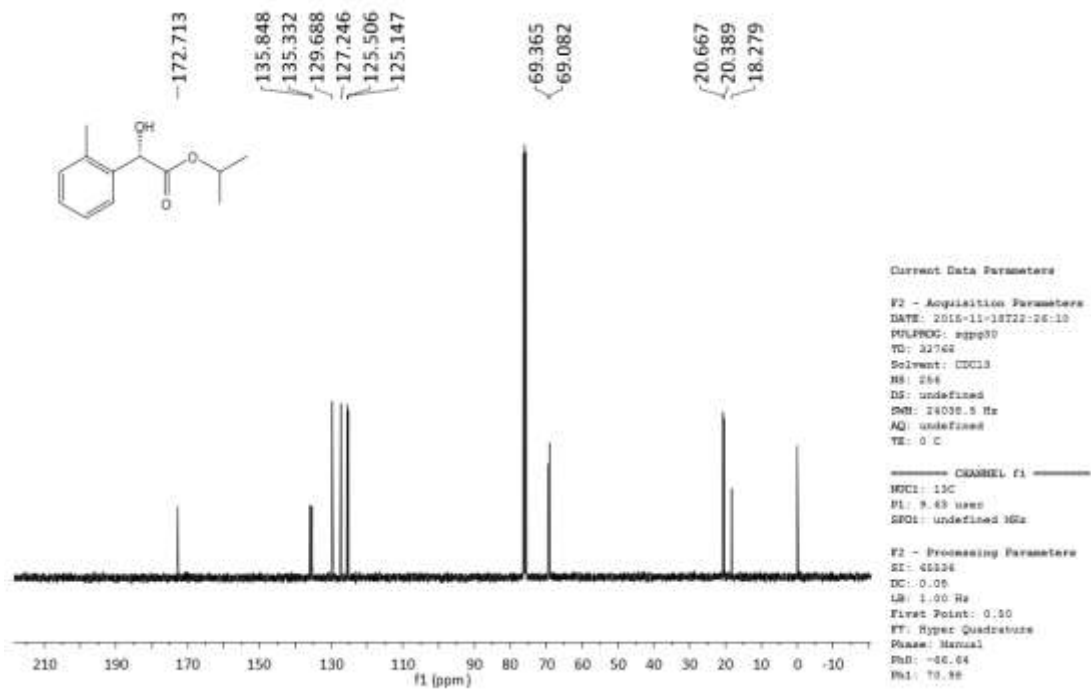




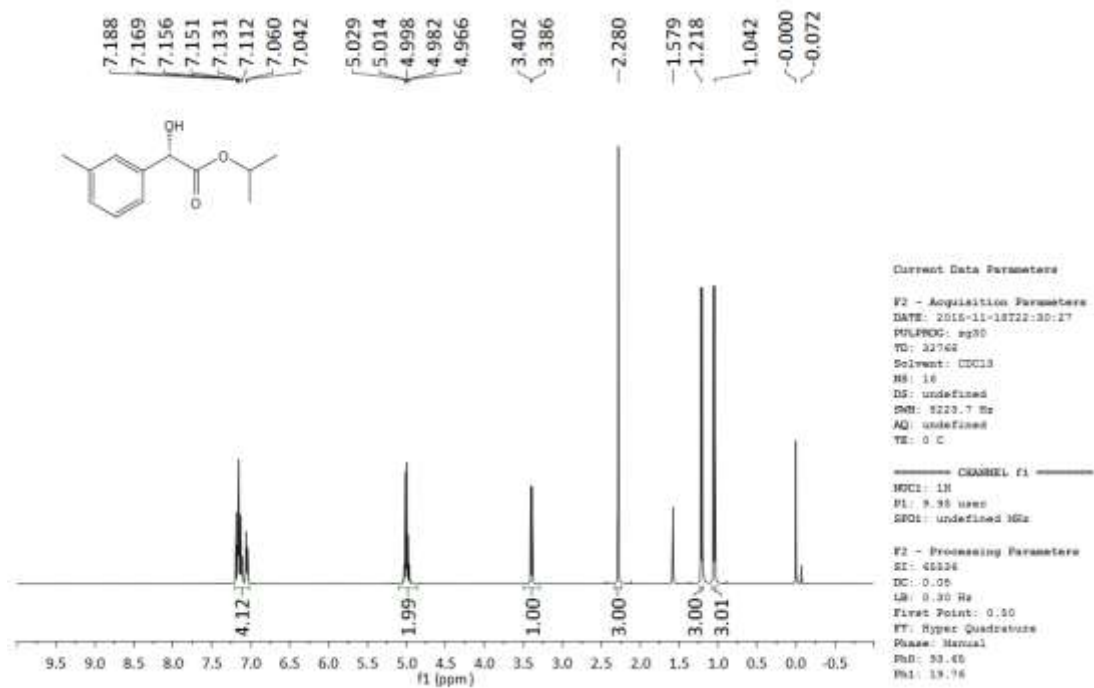


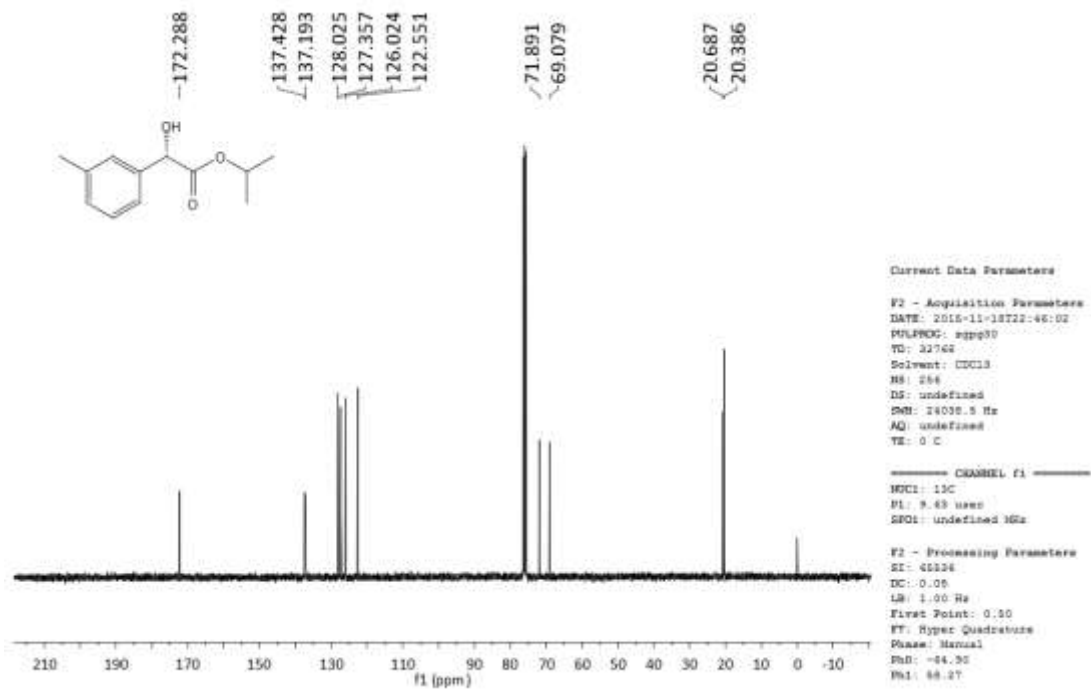
**(S)-iso-propyl  $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -(2-methylphenyl)acetate (2b)**



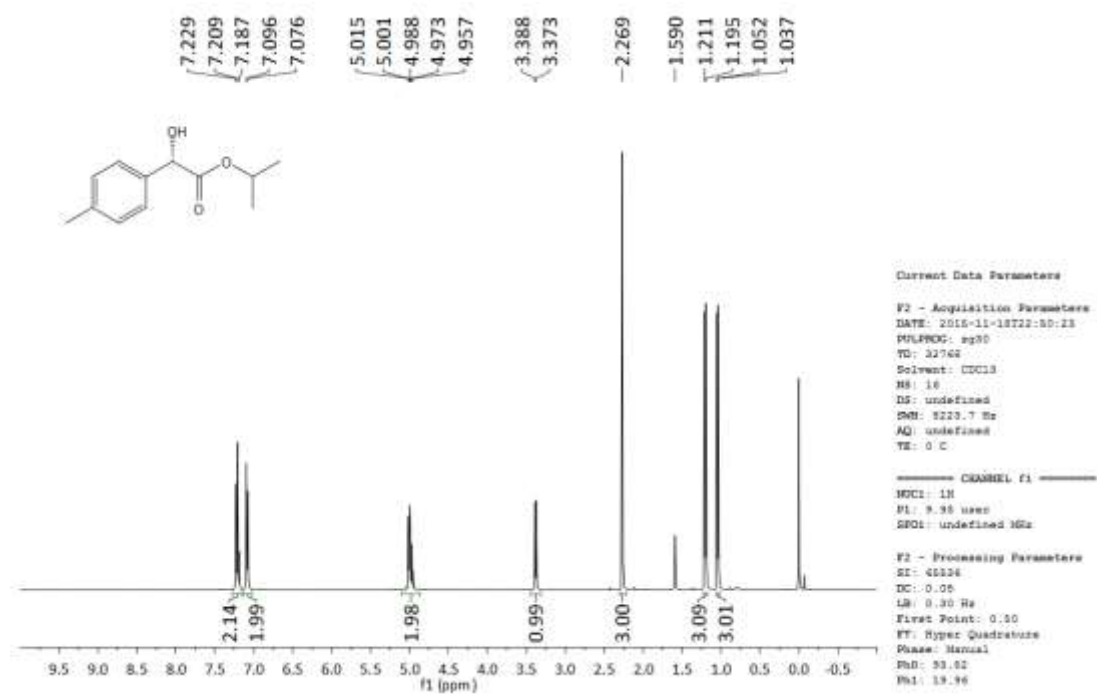


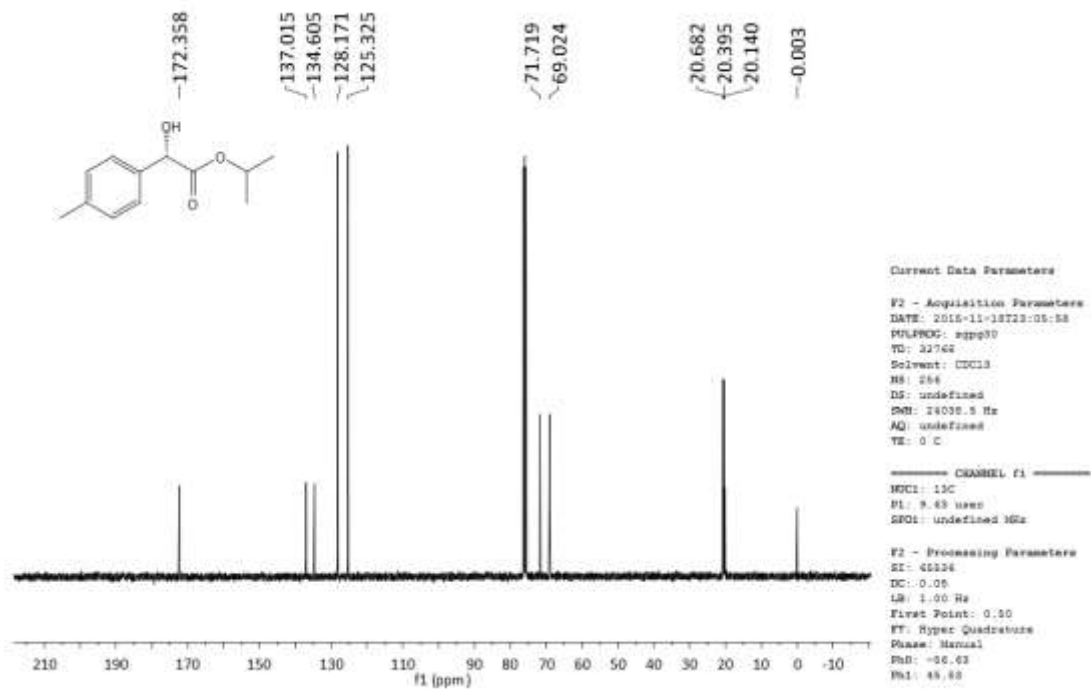
**(S)-iso-propyl  $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -(3-methylphenyl)acetate (2c)**



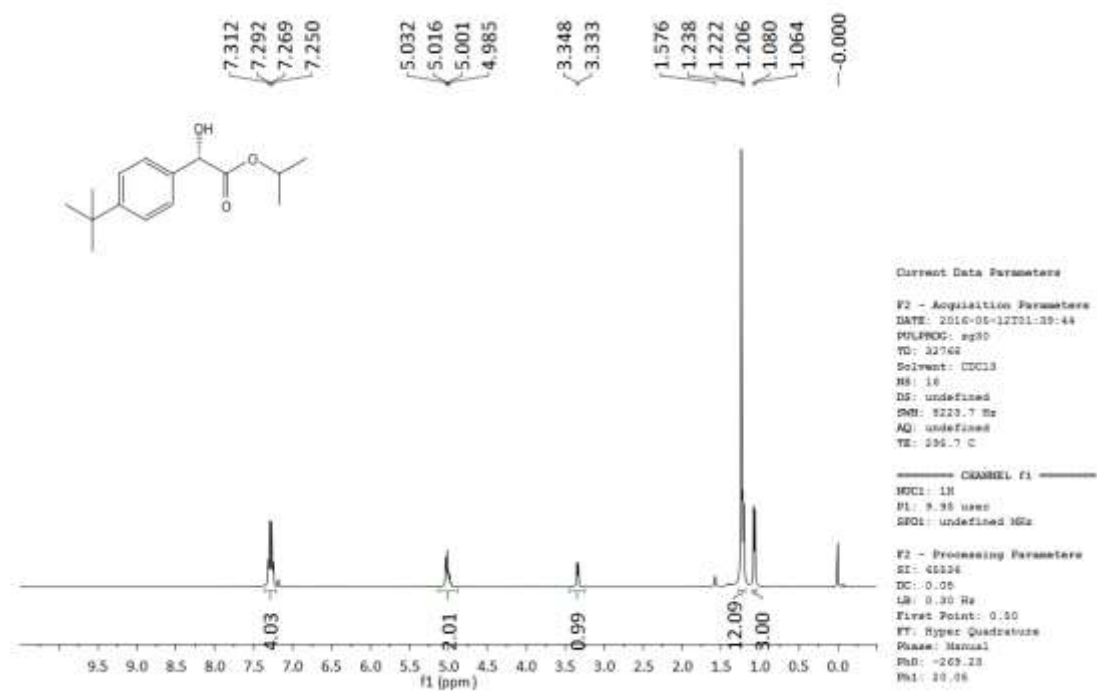


**(S)-iso-propyl  $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -(4-methylphenyl)acetate (2d)**

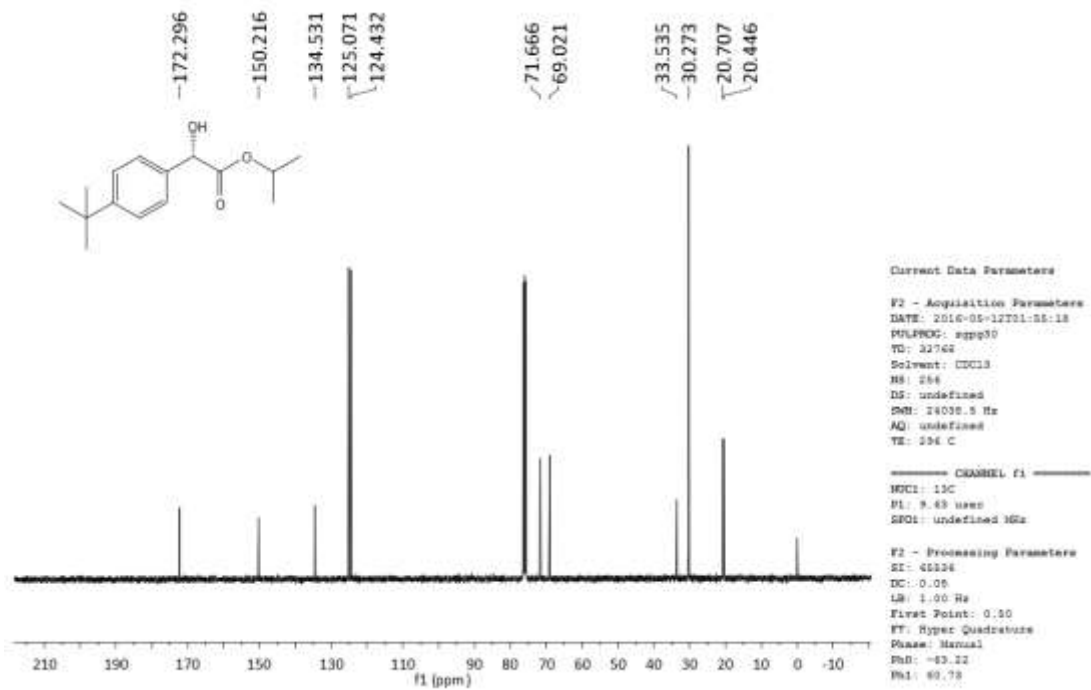




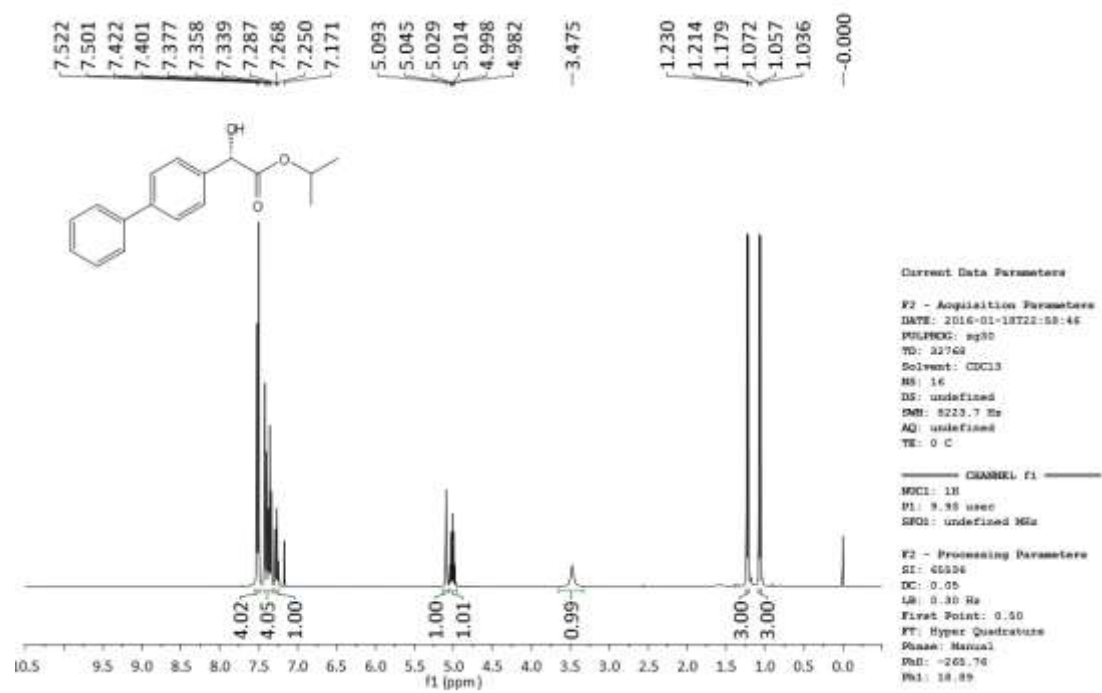
**(S)-iso-propyl  $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenyl)acetate (2e)**

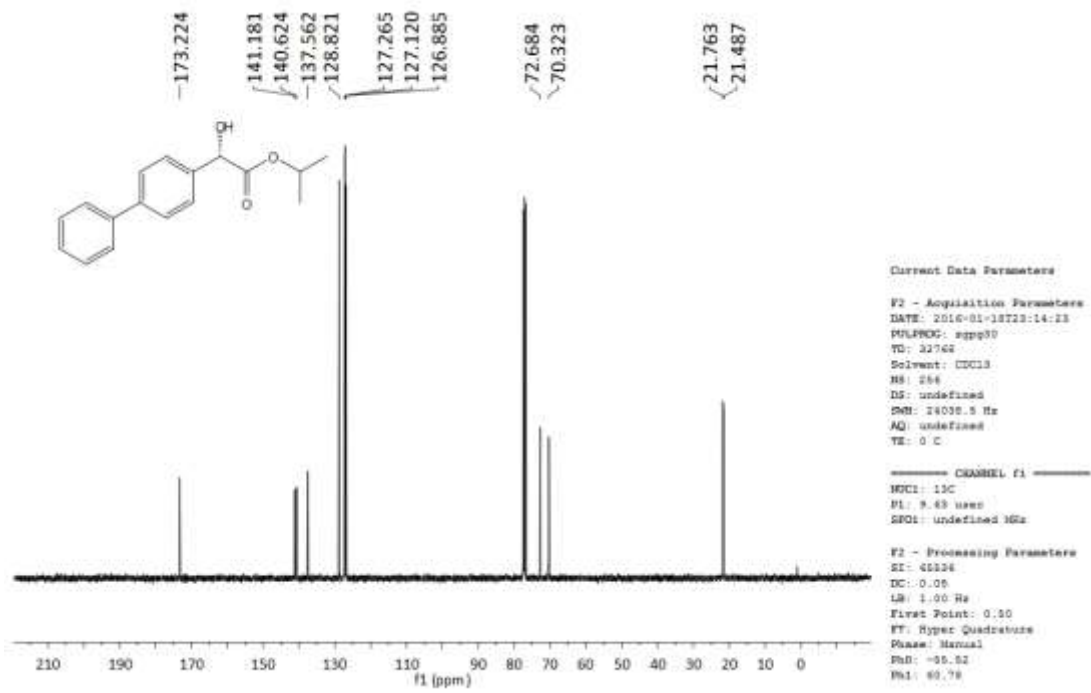




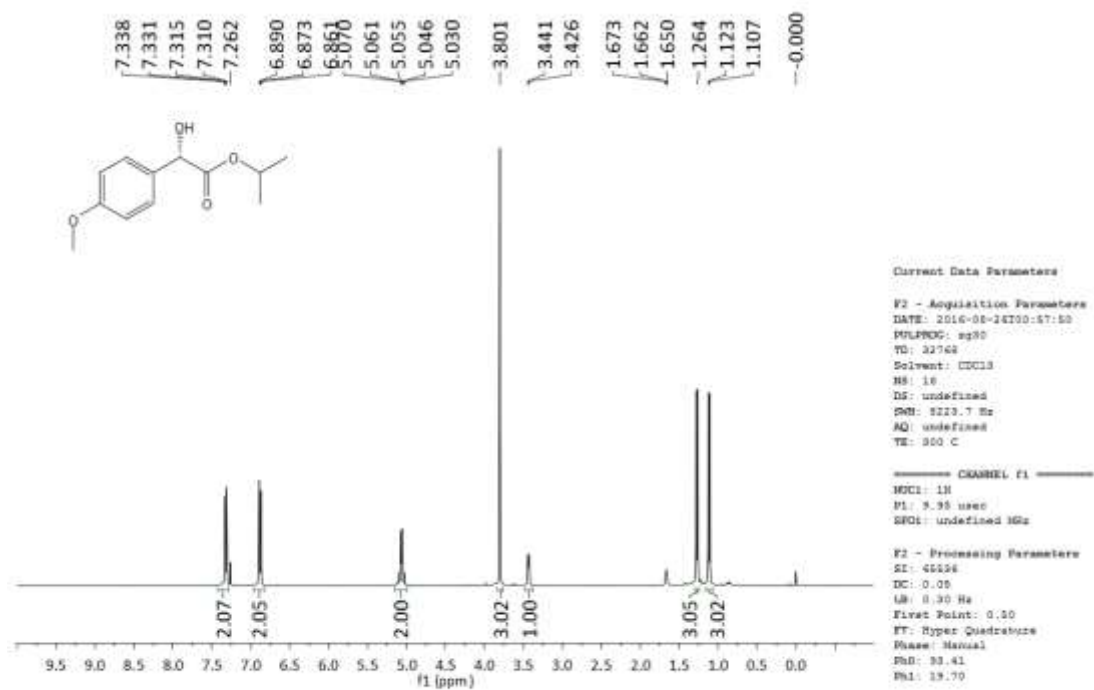


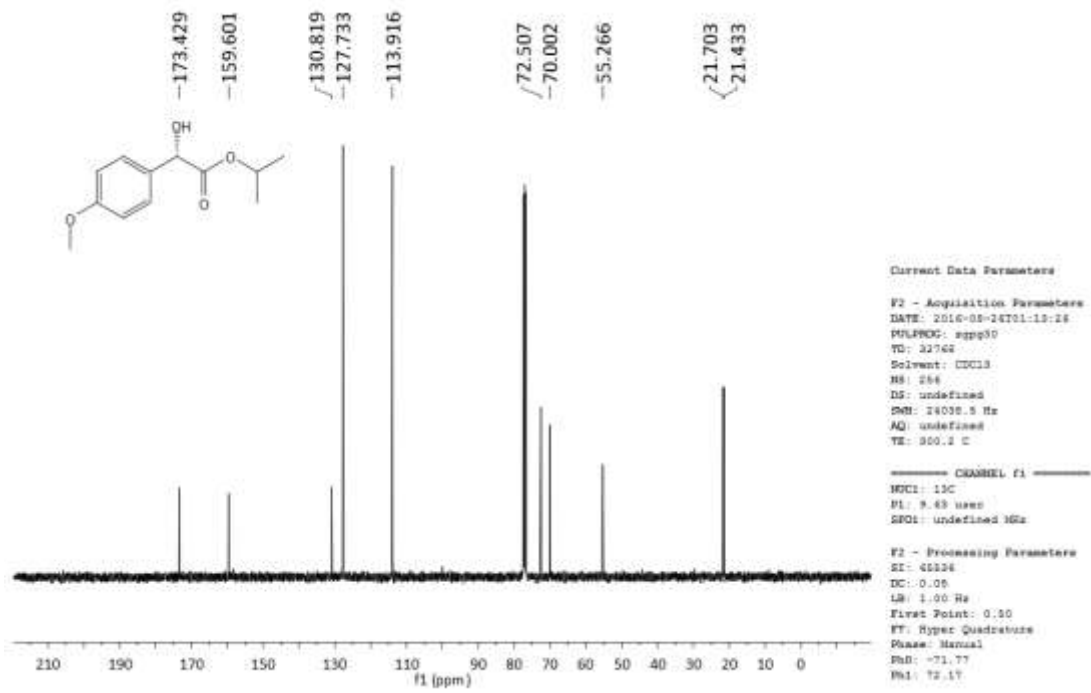
**(S)-iso-propyl  $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -(4-phenylphenyl)acetate (2f)**



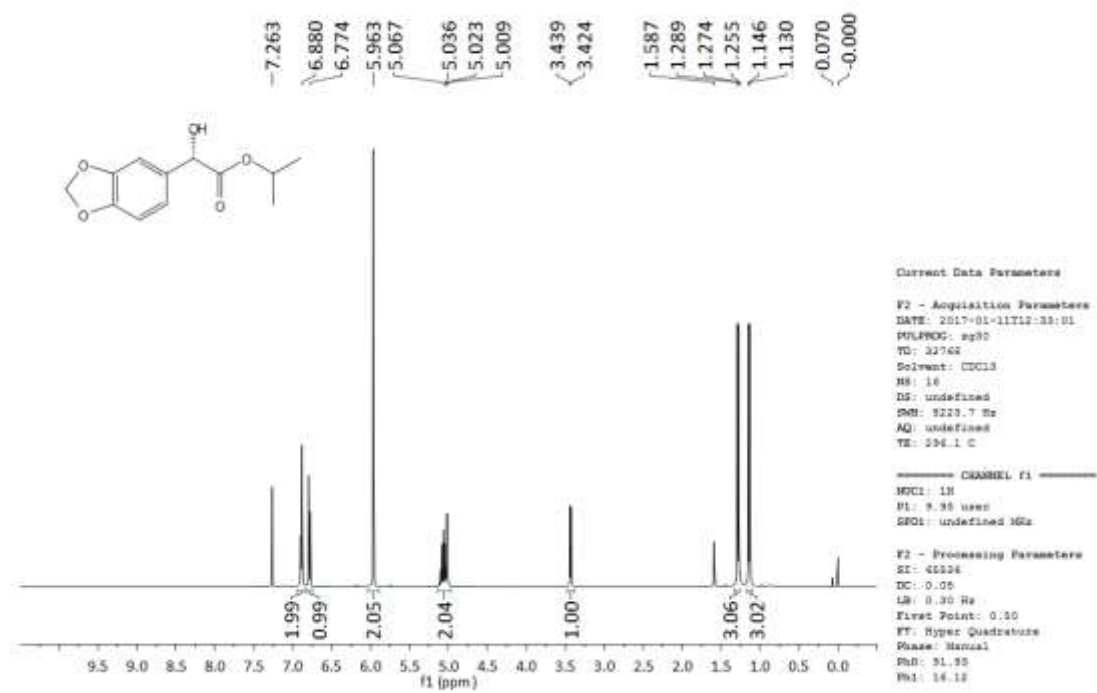


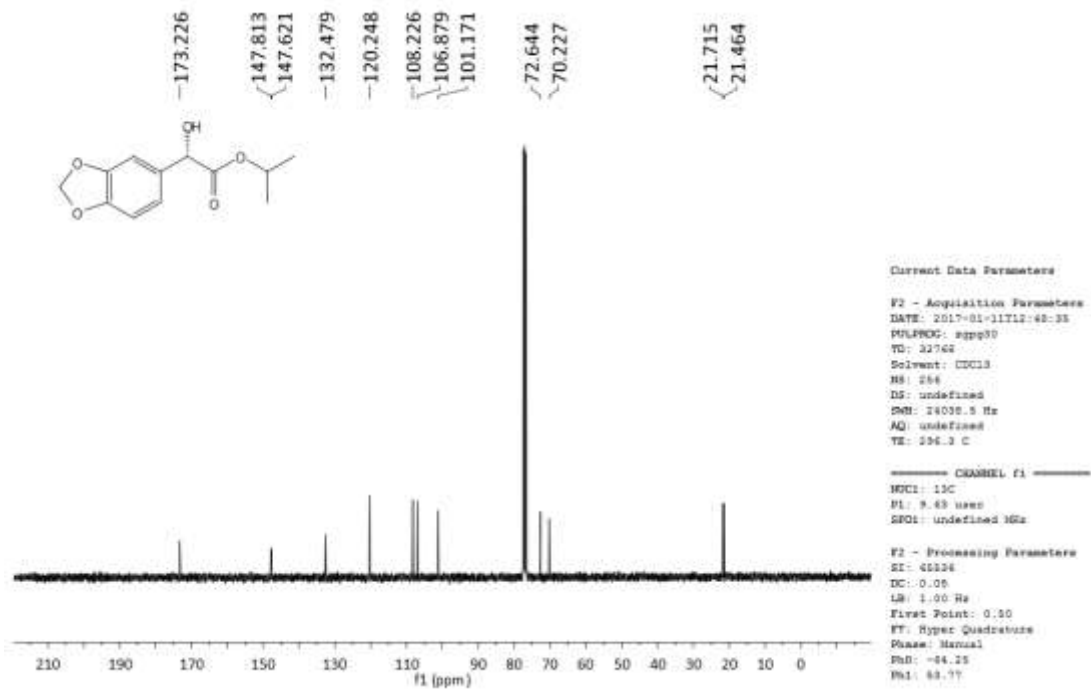
**(S)-iso-propyl  $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -(4-methoxyphenyl)acetate (2g)**



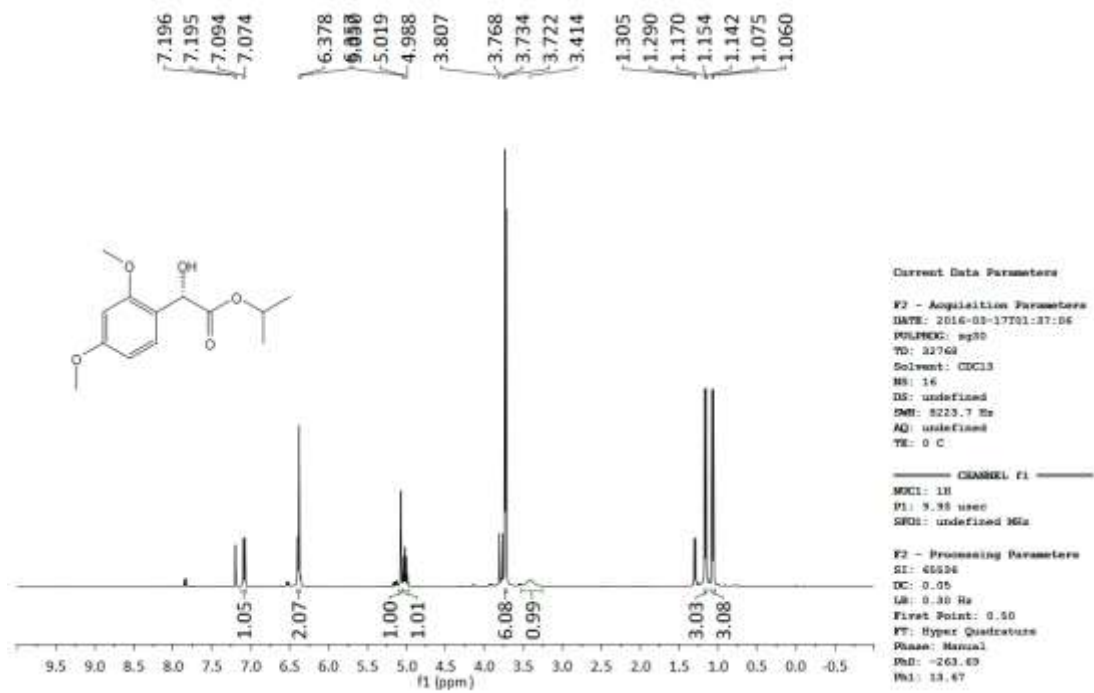


**(S)-iso-propyl  $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -(3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl)acetate (2h)**

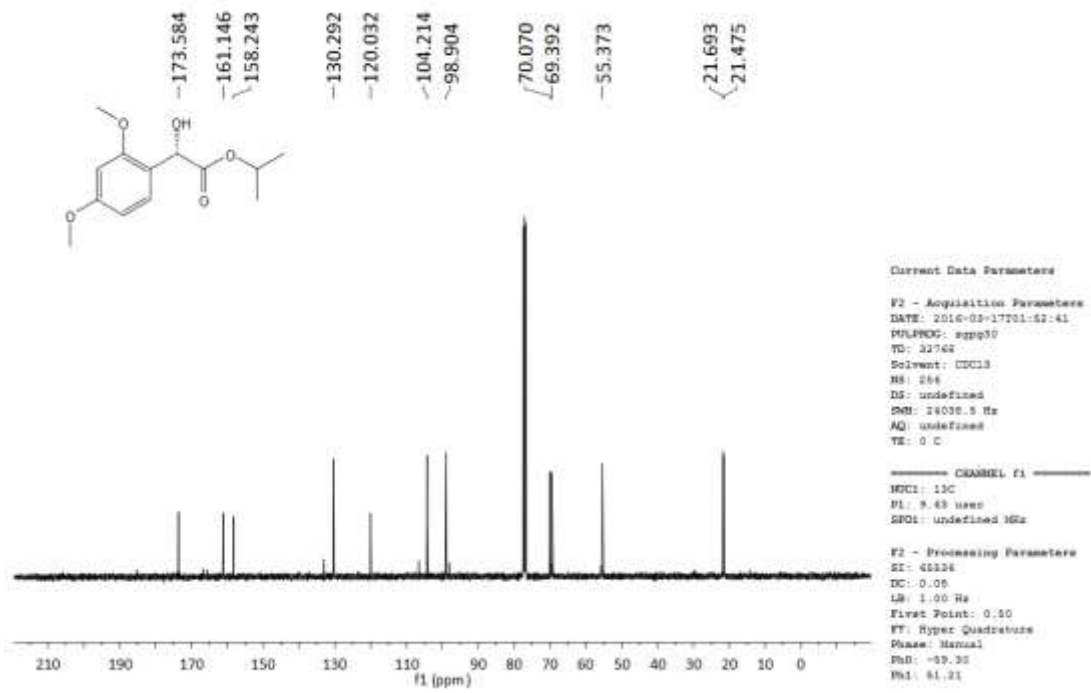




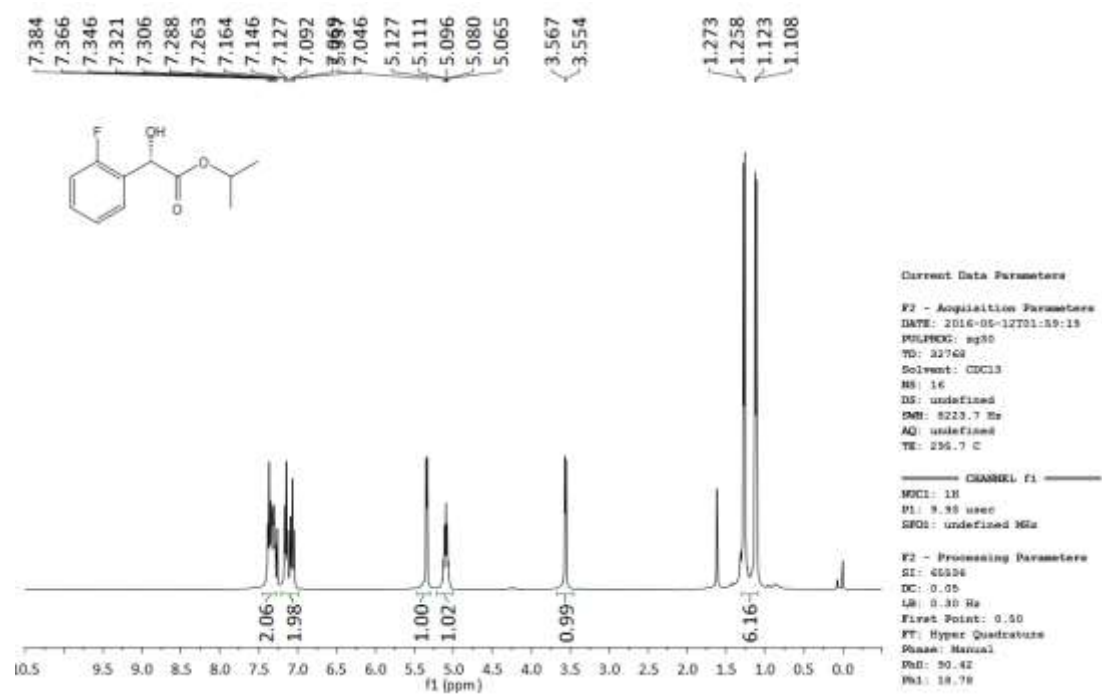
**(S)-iso-propyl  $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -(2,4-dimethoxyphenyl)acetate (2i)**

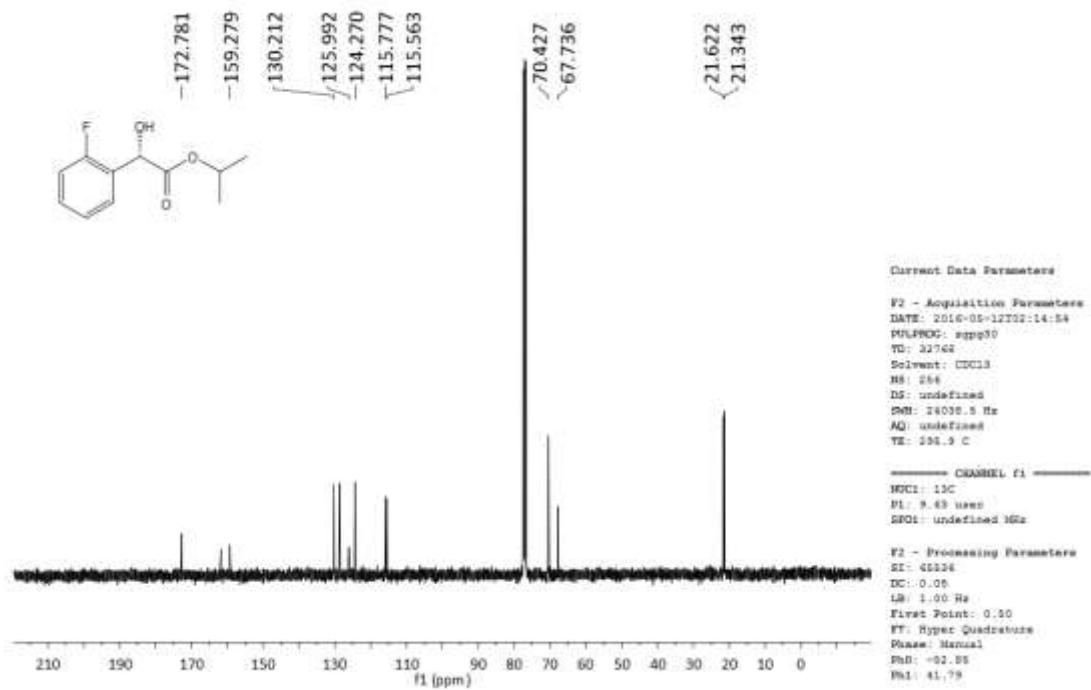




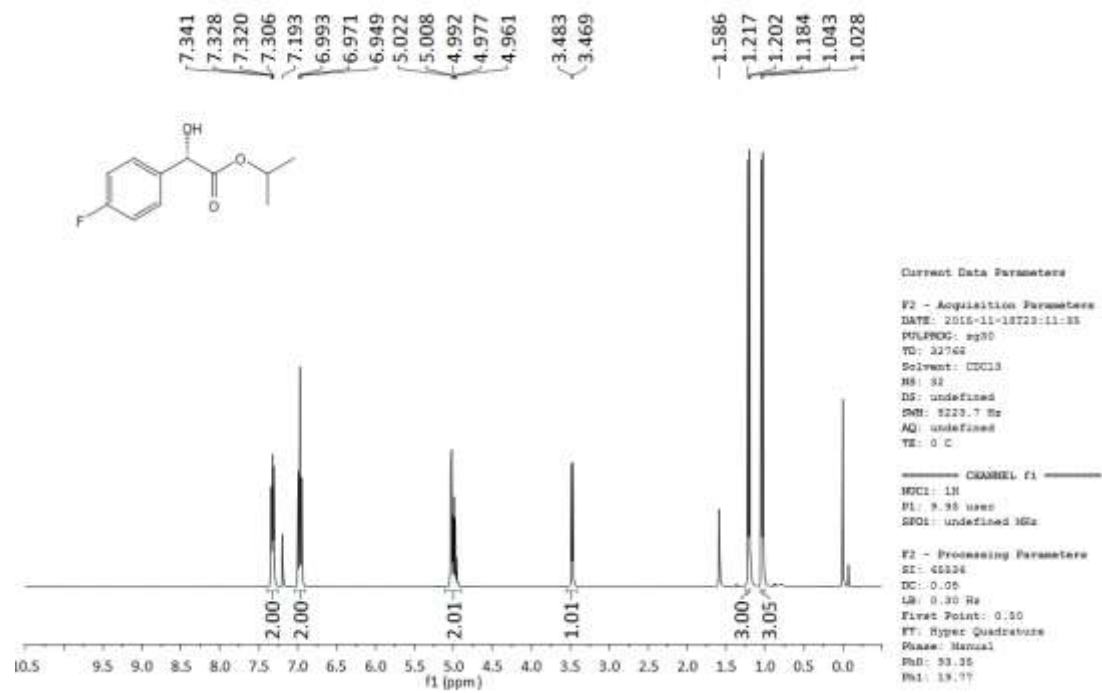


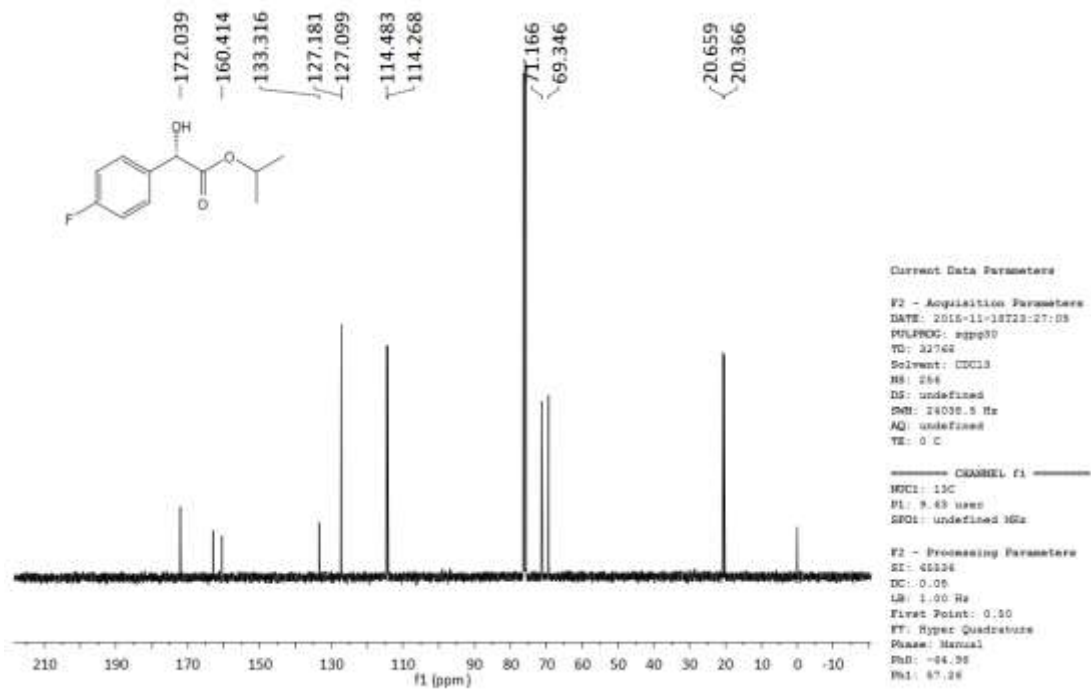
**(S)-iso-propyl  $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -(2-fluorophenyl)acetate (2j)**



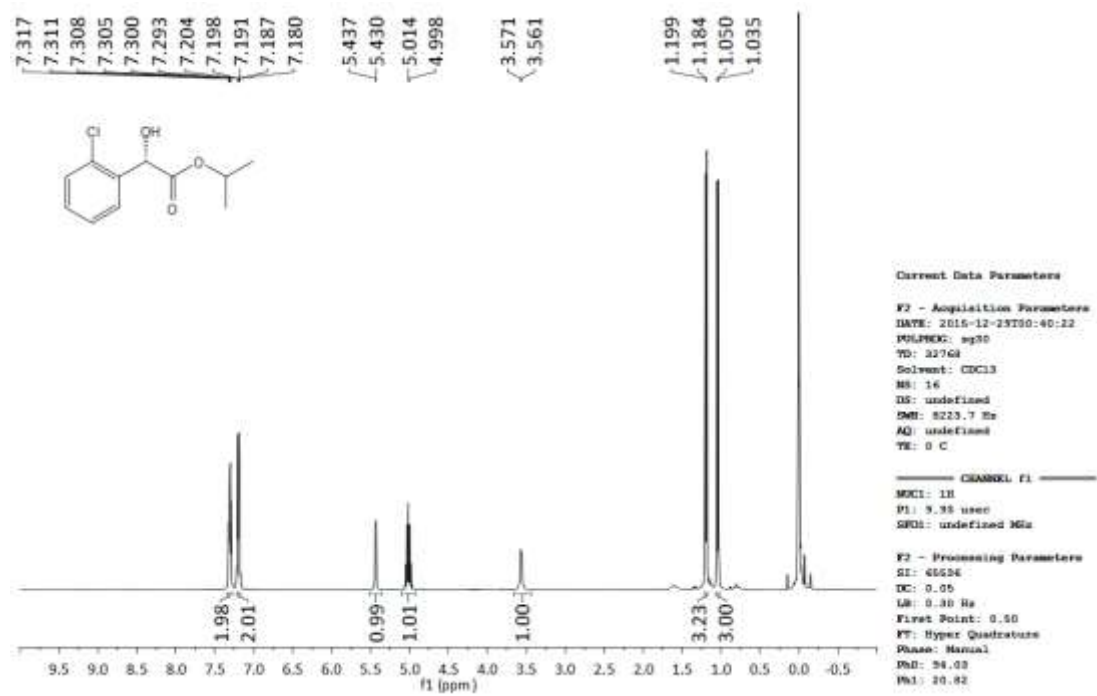


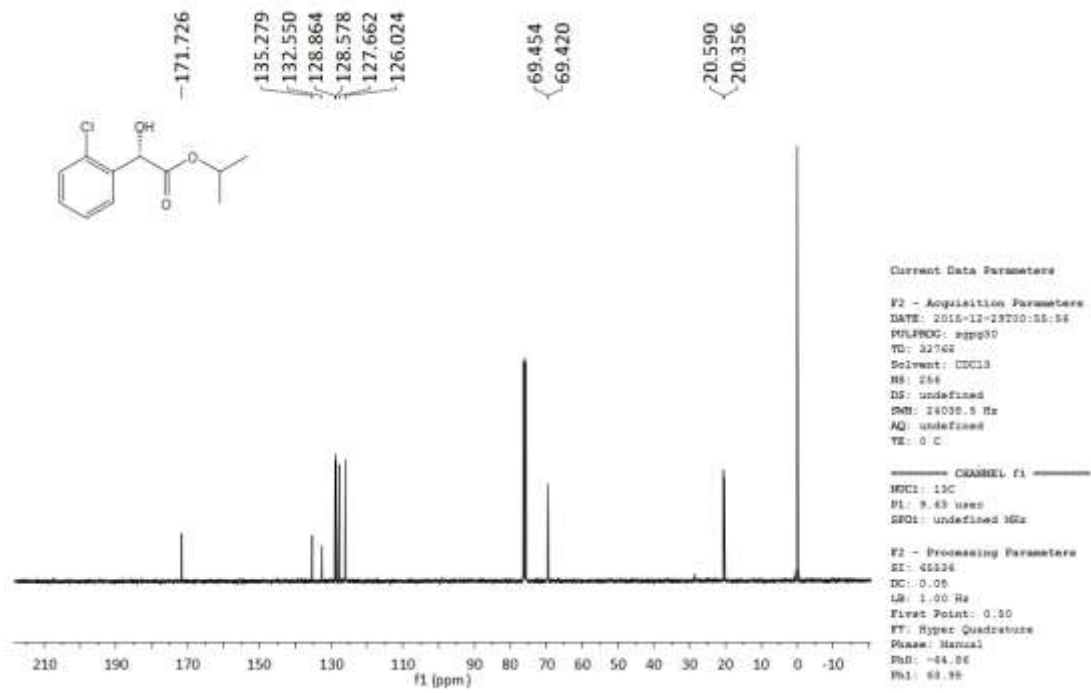
**(S)-iso-propyl  $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -(4-fluorophenyl)acetate (2k)**



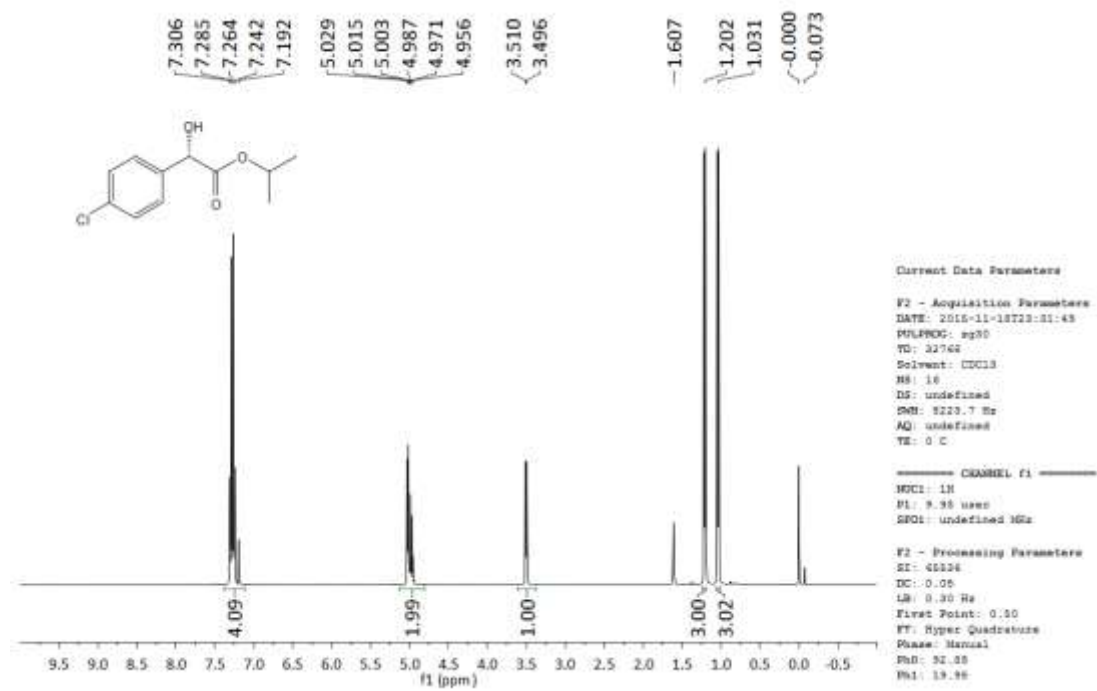


**(S)-iso-propyl  $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -(2-chlorophenyl)acetate (21)**

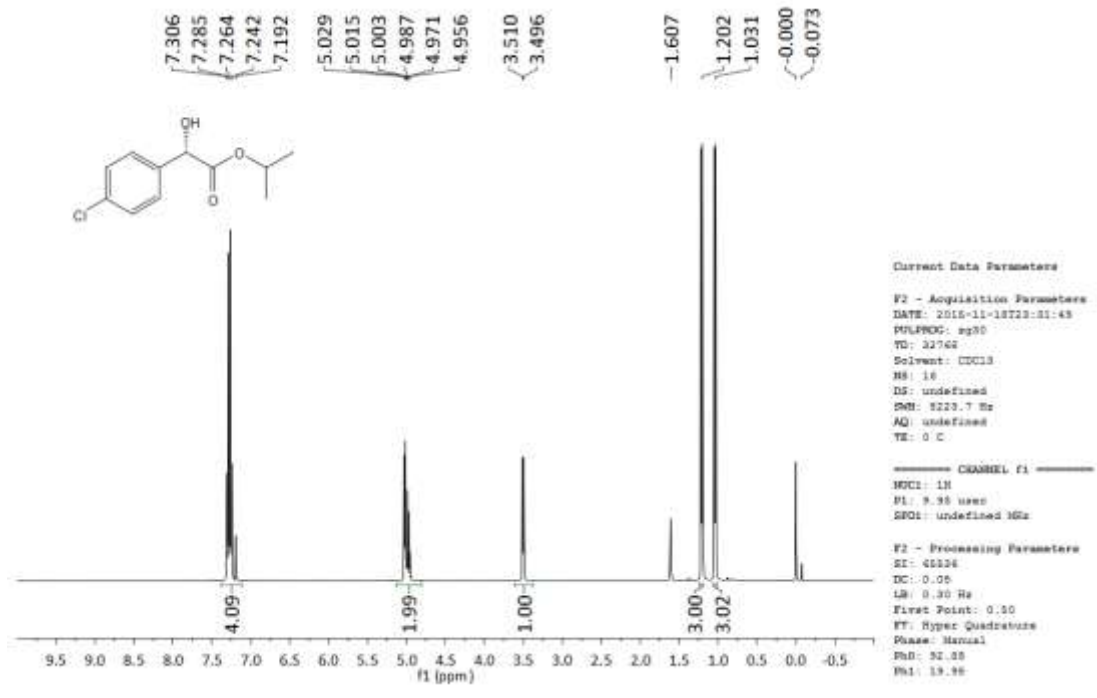




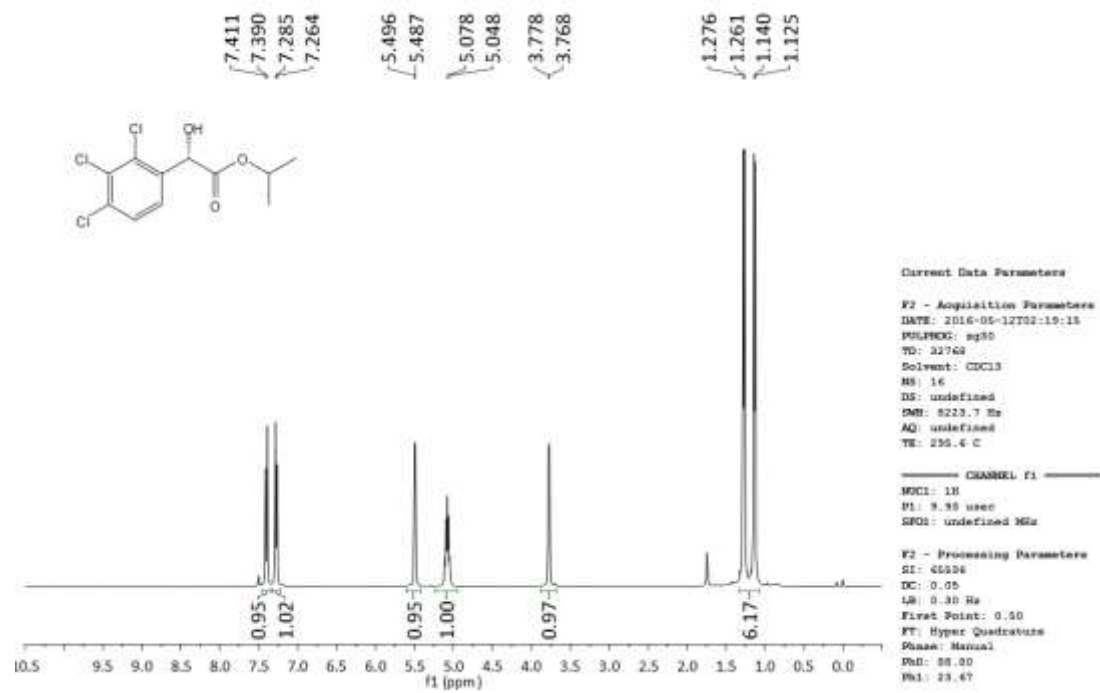
**(S)-iso-propyl  $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -(4-chlorophenyl)acetate (2m)**

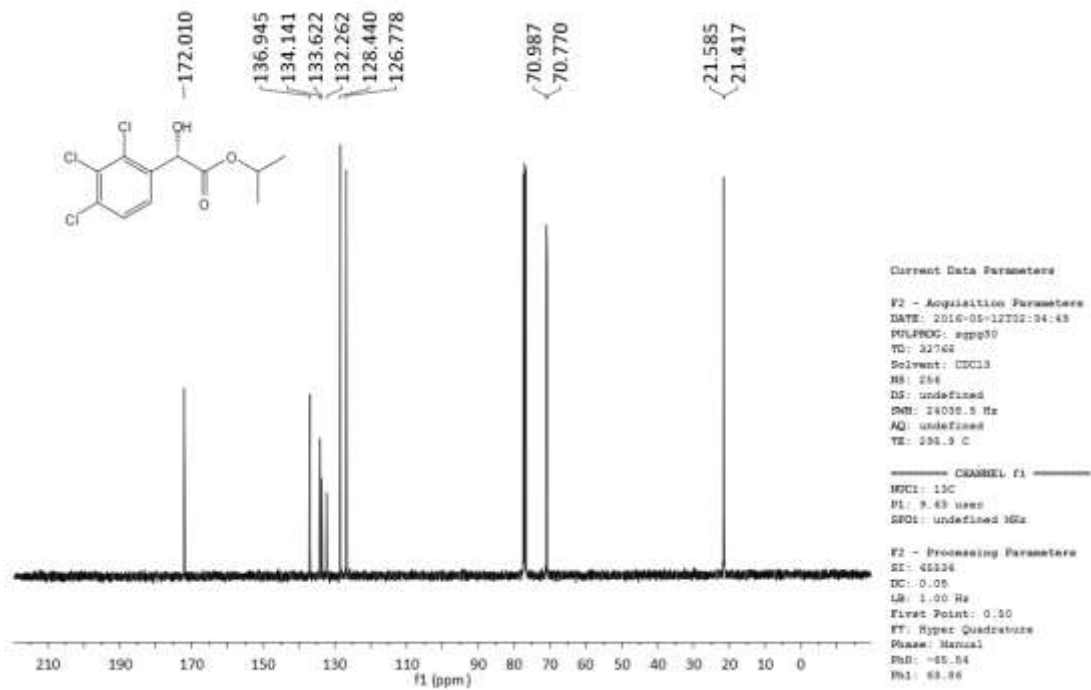




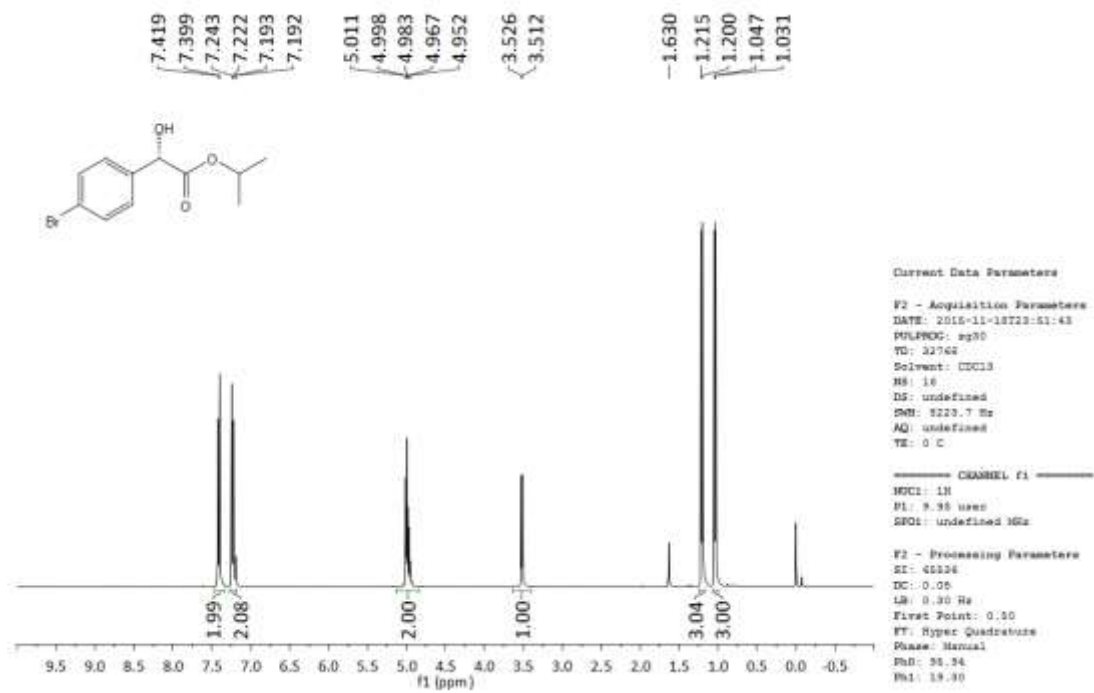


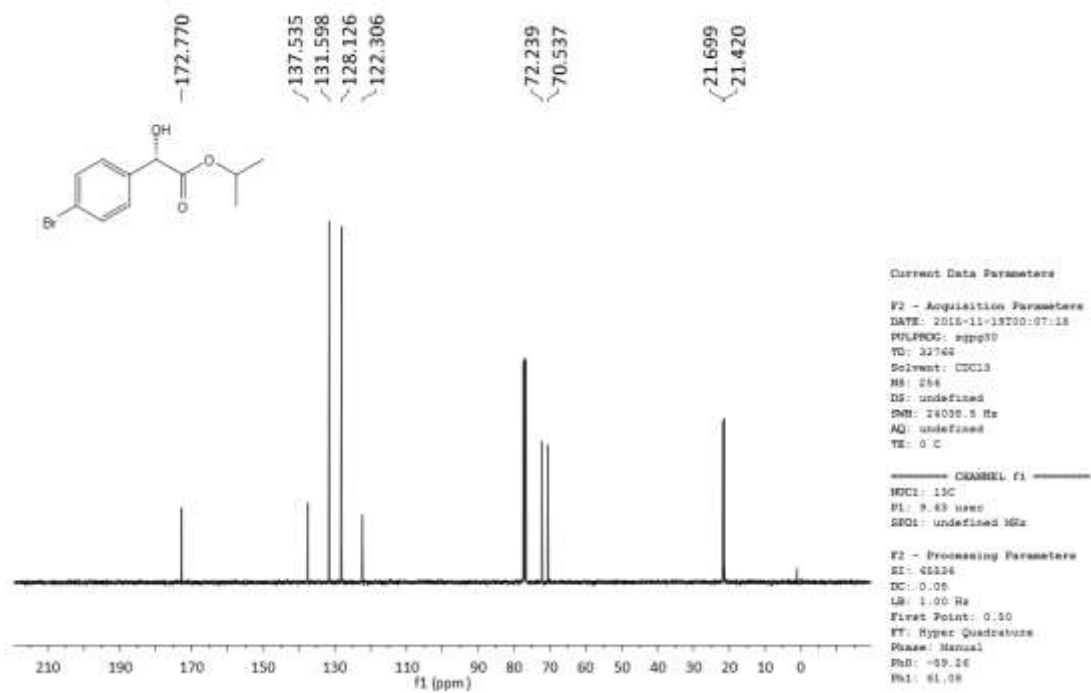
**(S)-iso-propyl  $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -(2,3,4-trichlorophenyl)acetate (2n)**



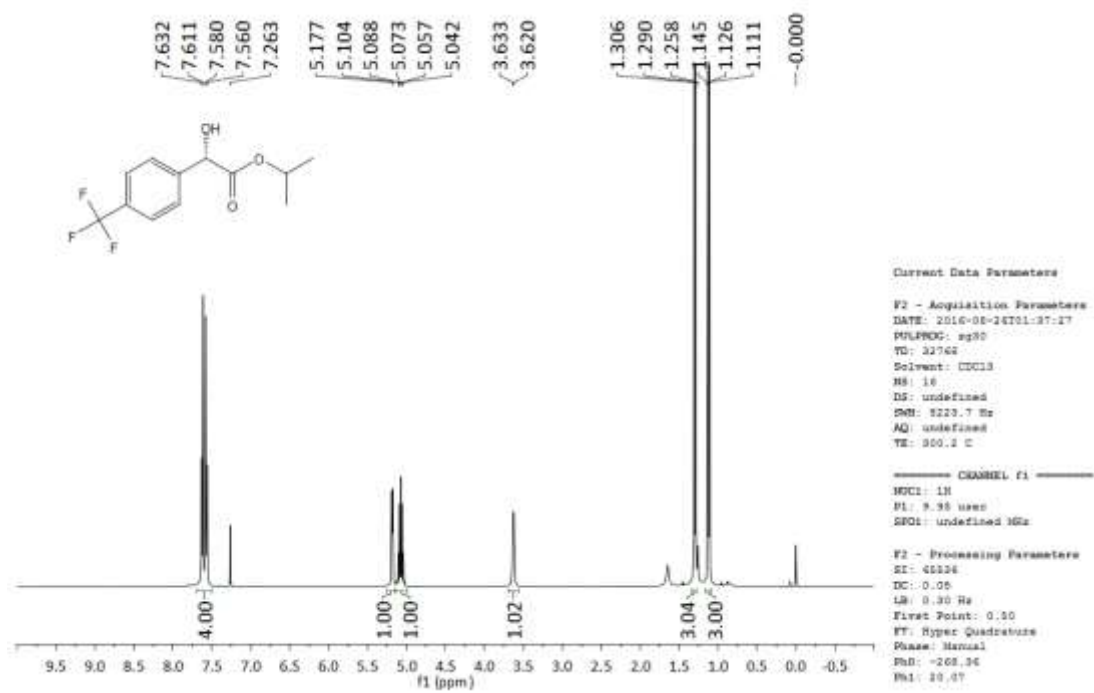


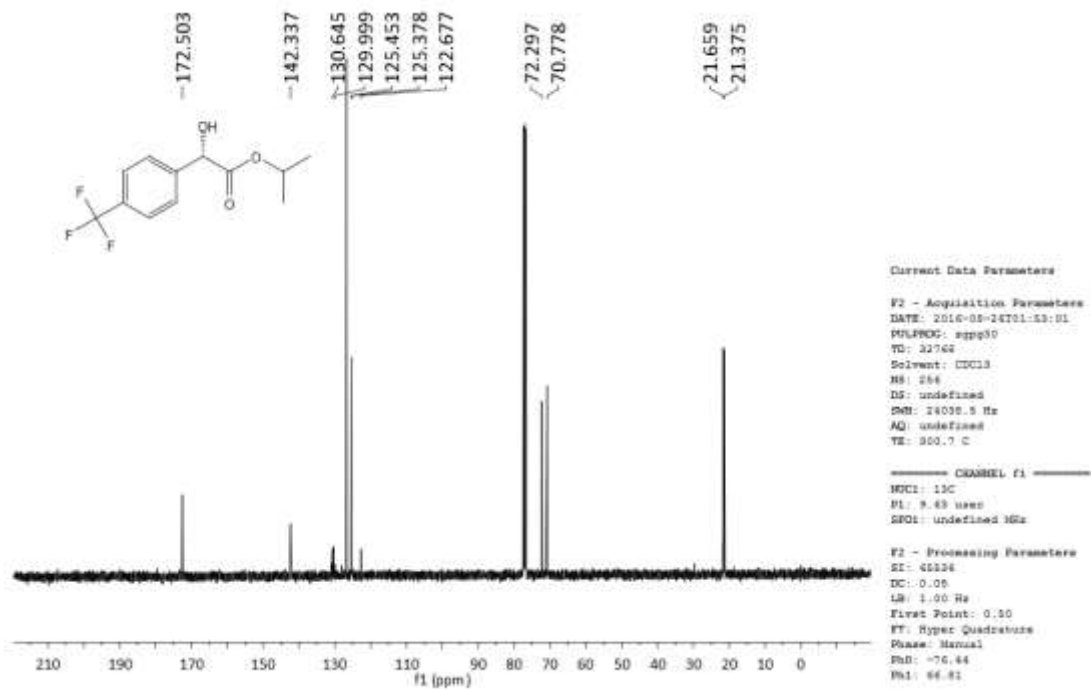
**(S)-iso-propyl  $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -(2-bromophenyl)acetate (2o)**



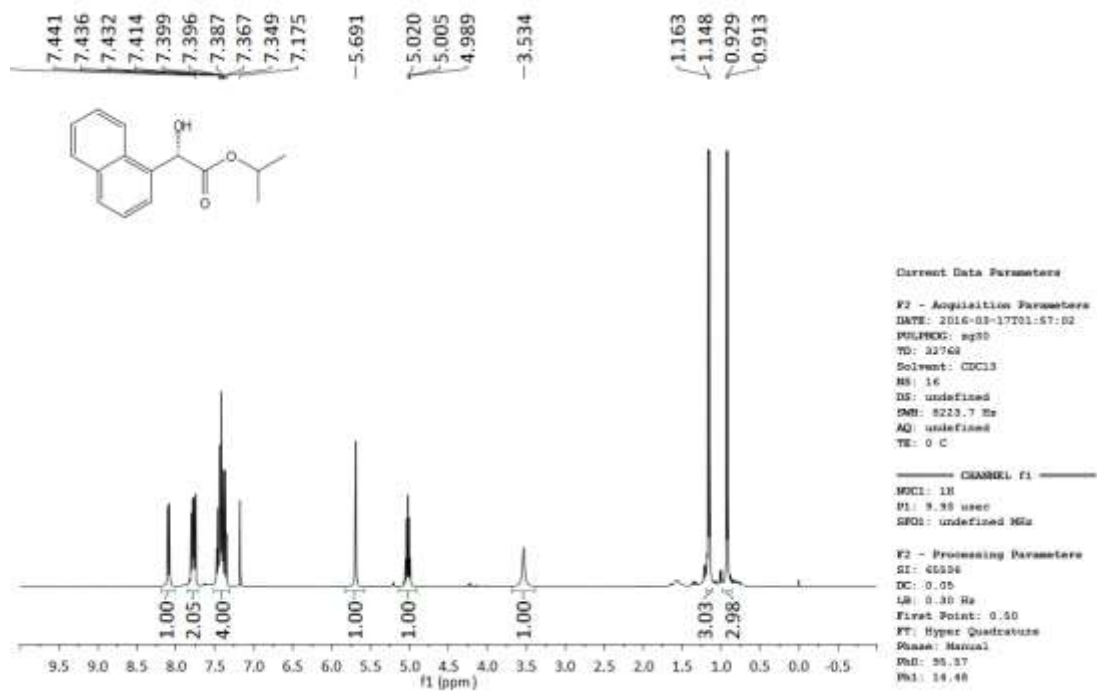


**(S)-iso-propyl  $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acetate (2p)**

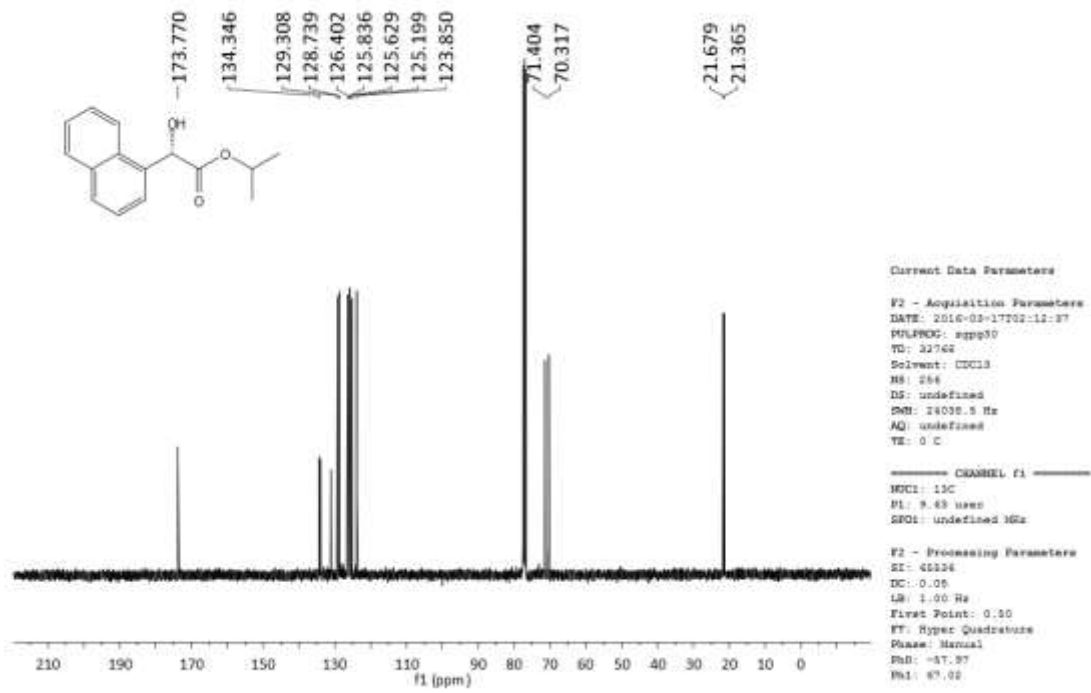




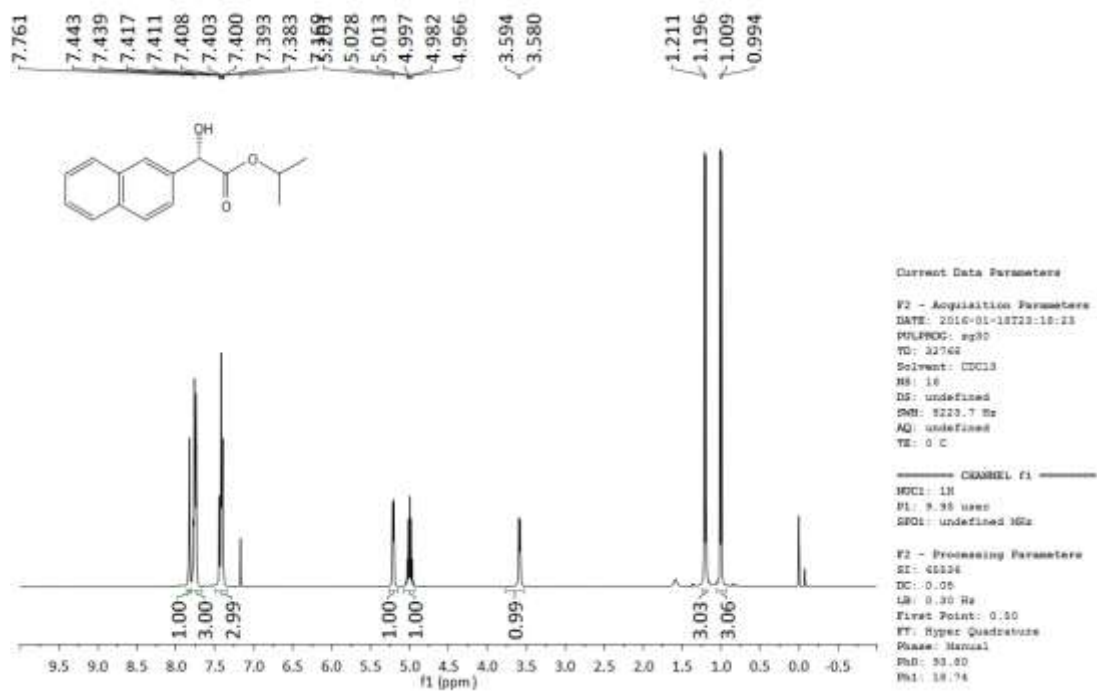
**(S)-iso-propyl  $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -(naphthalen-1-yl)acetate (2q)**

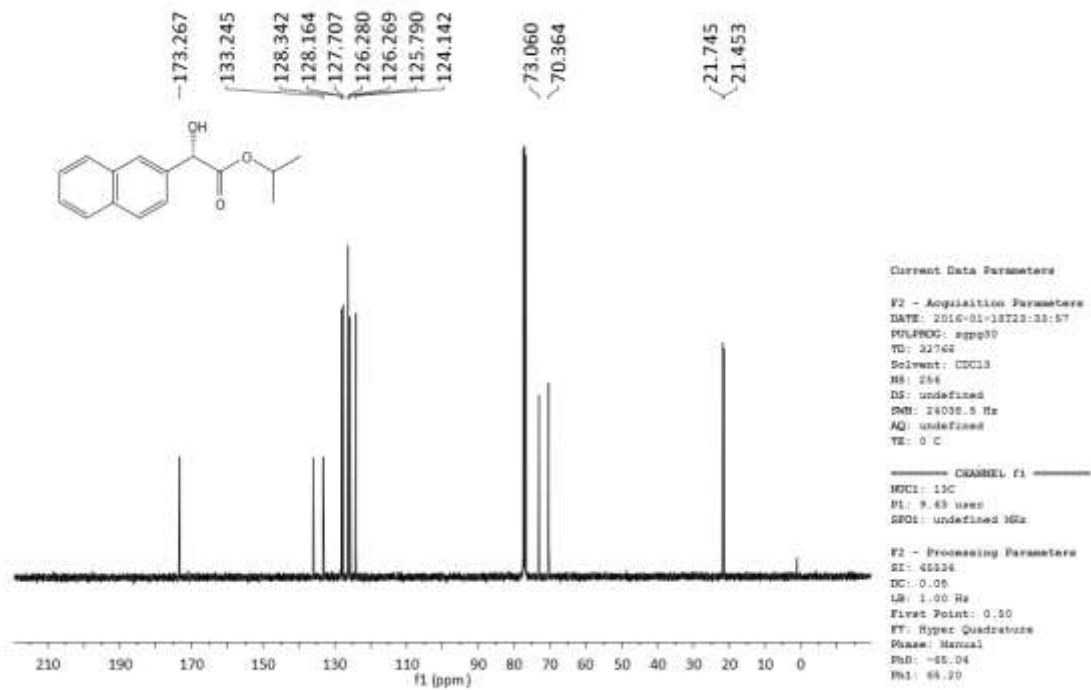




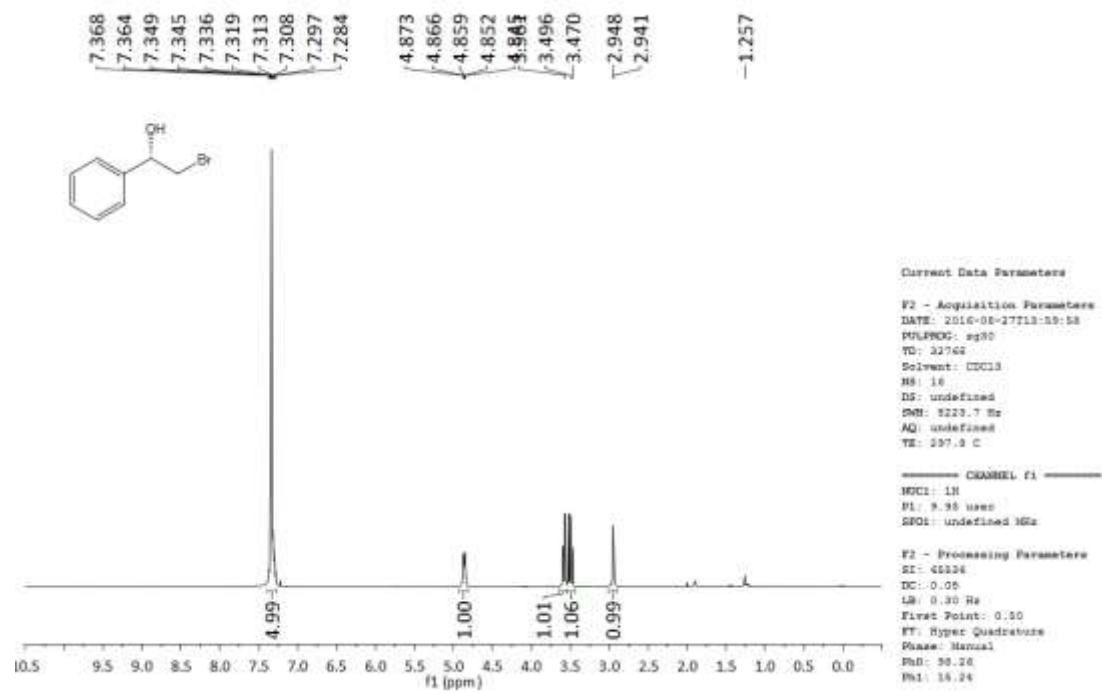


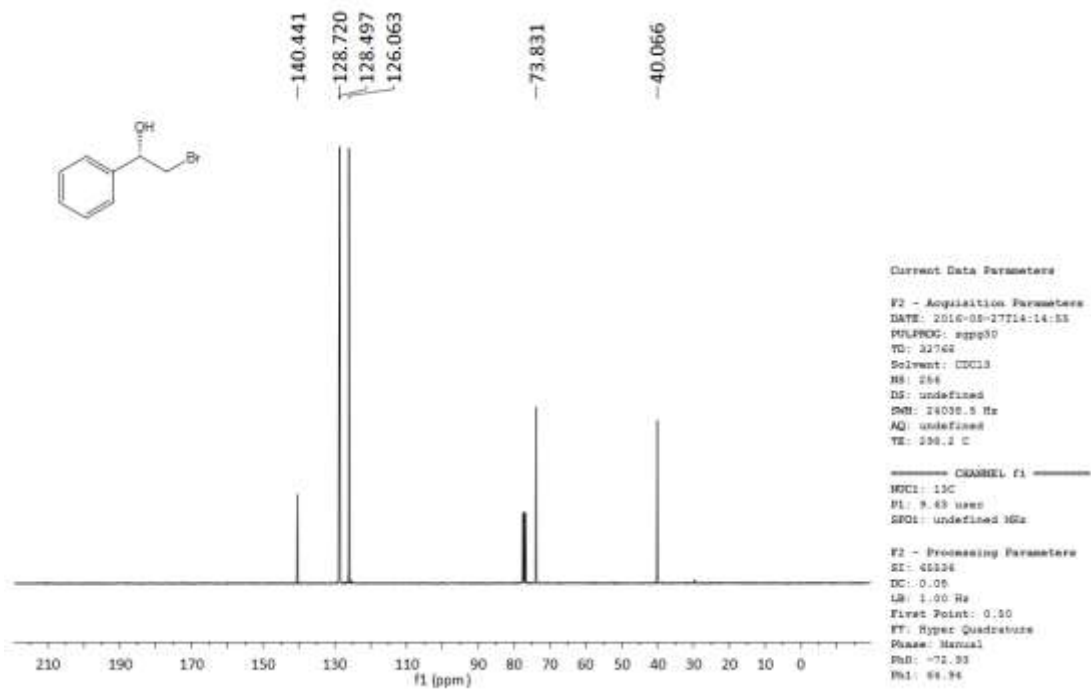
**(S)-iso-propyl  $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -(naphthalen-2-yl)acetate (2r)**



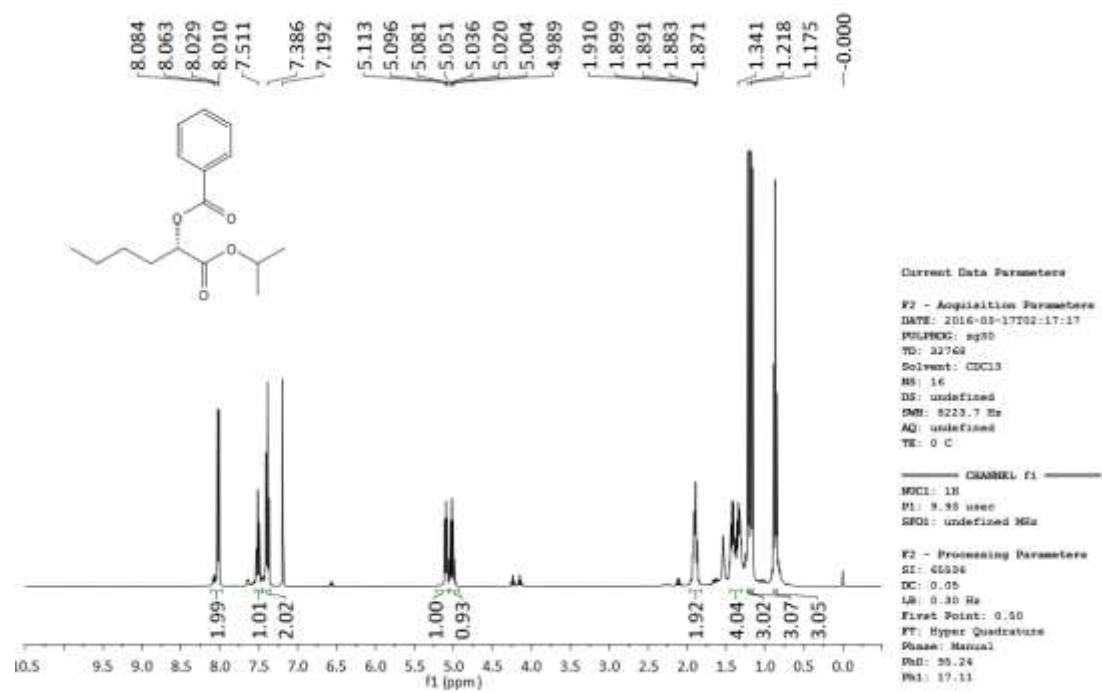


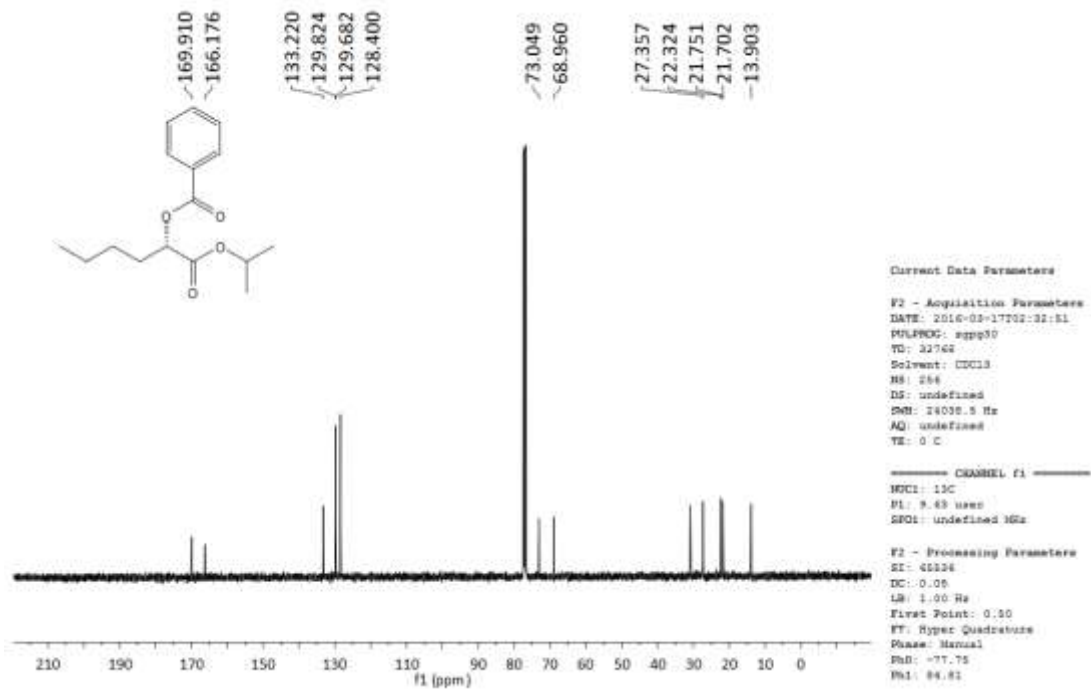
**(S)- 2-bromo-1-phenylethanol (2u)**



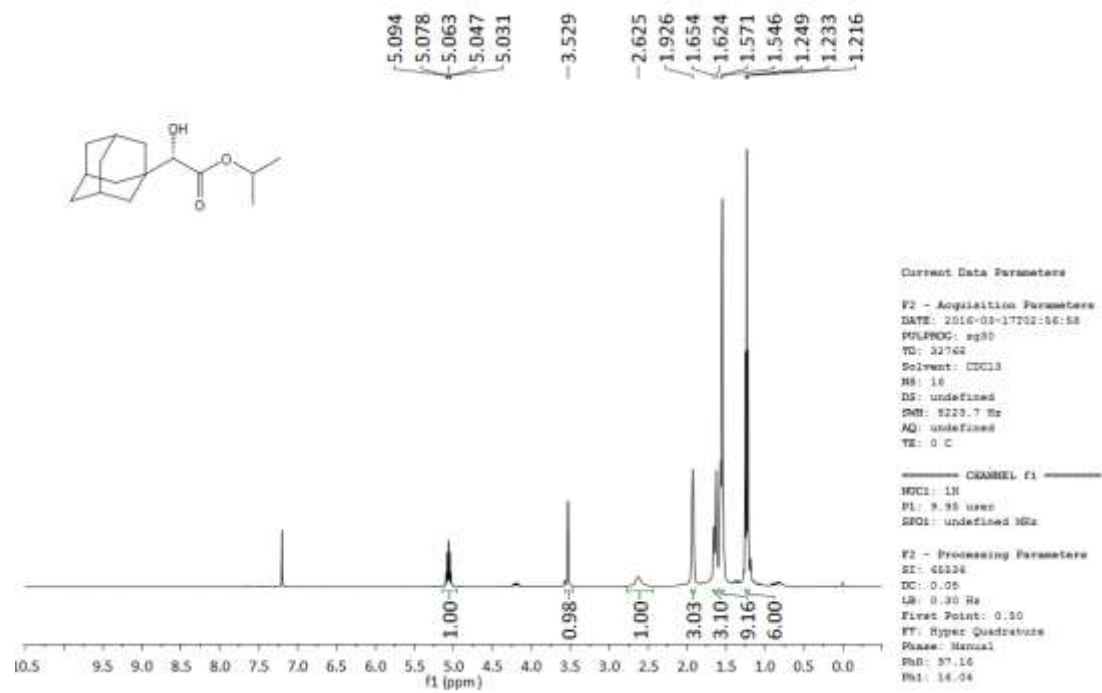


**(S)-iso-propyl 2-benzoxyhexanoate (3s)**

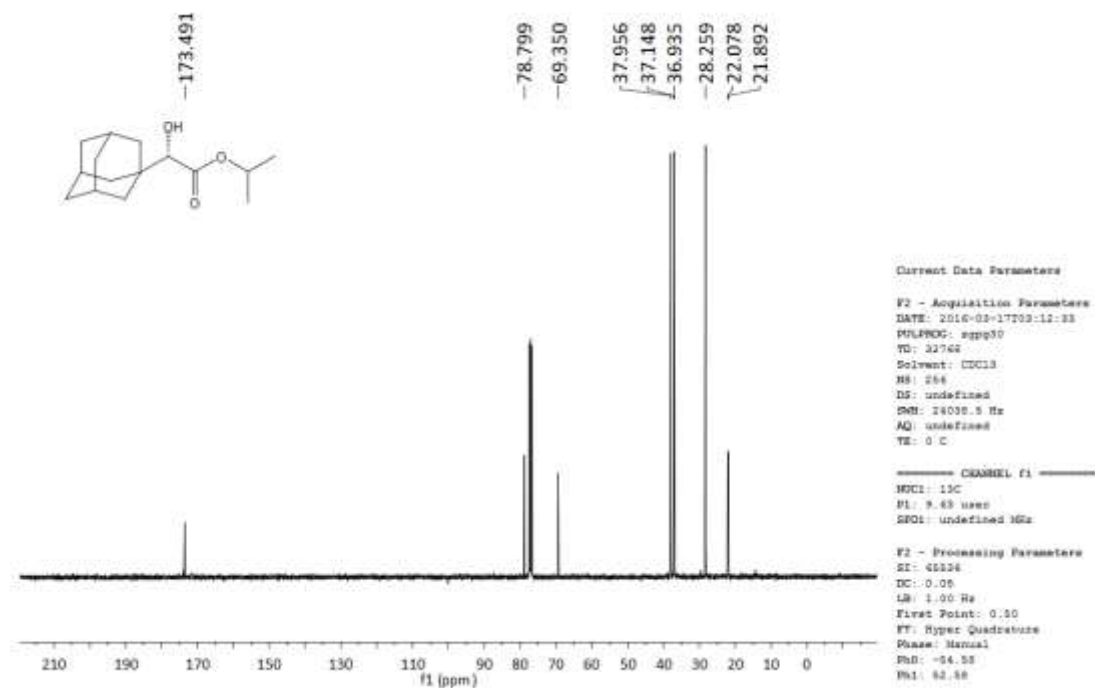




**(S)-iso-propyl 2-hydroxy-2-(adamantan-1-yl)acetate (2t)**







## (L) References

- [1] Z. P. Yu, X. H. Liu, Z. H. Dong, M. S. Xie and X. M. Feng, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2008, **120**, 1308.
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- [4] Y. H. Zhang, X. H. Liu, L. Zhou, W. B. Wu, T. Y. Huang, Y. T. Liao, L. L. Lin and X. M. Feng, *Chem. Eur. J.* 2014, **20**, 15884.
- [5] M. L. Contente, I. Serra, F. Molinari, R. Gandolfi, A. Pinto and D. Romano, *Tetrahedron*, 2016, **72**, 3974.