SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Discovery of (S)-3'-hydroxyblebbistatin and (S)-3'-aminoblebbistatin: polar myosin II inhibitors with superior research tool properties

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Table of contents

- 1. Synthetic protocols and compound characterization
 - 1.1. Reagents and materials
 - 1.2. Synthesis of aryl iodide 4b
 - 1.3. Synthesis of aryl iodide 4c
 - 1.4. Synthesis of tris(3,5-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazolyl-1-yl)methane (**S5**)
 - 1.5. General procedure for the *N*-arylation of 2-pyrrolidinone with aryl iodides
 - 1.5.1. Synthesis of pyrrolidinone 6a
 - 1.5.2. Synthesis of pyrrolidinone **6b**
 - 1.5.3. Synthesis of pyrrolidinone 6d
 - 1.6. Synthesis of pyrrolidinone 6c
 - 1.7. Synthesis of pyrrolidinethione 10
 - 1.8. Synthesis of methyl 2-amino-5-methylbenzoate (7)
 - 1.9. General procedure for the synthesis of amidines from pyrrolidinones
 - 1.9.1. Synthesis of amidine 8a
 - 1.9.2. Synthesis of amidine 8b
 - 1.9.3. Synthesis of amidine 8d
 - 1.10. General procedure for the synthesis of quinolones from amidines
 - 1.10.1. Synthesis of quinolone 9a
 - 1.10.2. Synthesis of quinolone 9b
 - 1.10.3. Synthesis of quinolone 9d
 - 1.11. Synthesis of (S)-3'-diallylaminoblebbistatin ((S)-12) and (S)-3'-diallylaminoblebbistatin ((S)-12)
 - 1.12. Synthesis of diazomethane (CH₂N₂)
- 2. X-ray christallographic data
 - 2.1. X-ray christallographic data of (S)-2
 - **Figure S1.** Molecular structure of compounds (*S*)-2, showing thermal displacement ellipsoids at the 50% probability level and atom labeling scheme of the non-hydrogen atoms.
 - **Figure S2.** Packing in the crystal structure of compound (S)-2, along the a-axis.

2.2. X-ray christallographic data of (R)-2

Figure S3. Molecular structure of compounds (R)-2, showing thermal displacement ellipsoids at the 50% probability level and atom labeling scheme of the non-hydrogen atoms.

Figure S4. Packing in the crystal structure of compound (R)-2, along the a-axis.

3. ¹H NMR spectra, ¹³C NMR spectra and LC-MS chromatograms

Figure S5. ¹H NMR spectrum of **4b**.

Figure S6. ¹H NMR spectrum of **4c**.

Figure S7. ¹³C NMR spectrum of 4c.

Figure S8. ¹H NMR spectrum of **S5**.

Figure S9. ¹H NMR spectrum of 6a.

Figure S10. ¹H NMR spectrum of **6b**.

Figure S11. ¹³C NMR spectrum of **6b**.

Figure S12. ¹H NMR spectrum of 6d.

Figure S13. ¹³C NMR spectrum of 6d.

Figure S14. ¹H NMR spectrum of **6c**.

Figure S15. ¹³C NMR spectrum of 6c.

Figure S16. ¹H NMR spectrum of 10.

Figure S17. ¹³C NMR spectrum of 10.

Figure S18. ¹H NMR spectrum of 7.

Figure S19. ¹H NMR spectrum of 8a.

Figure S20. ¹H NMR spectrum of 8b.

Figure S21. ¹³C NMR spectrum of 8b.

Figure S22. ¹H NMR spectrum of 8d.

Figure S23. ¹³C NMR spectrum of 8d.

Figure S24. ¹H NMR spectrum of 9a.

Figure S25. ¹H NMR spectrum of 9b.

Figure S26. ¹³C NMR spectrum of 9b.

Figure S27. ¹H NMR spectrum of 9d.

Figure S28. ¹³C NMR spectrum of 9d.

Figure S29. 1 H NMR spectrum of (S)-1.

Figure S30. ¹H NMR spectrum of (*S*)-11.

Figure S31. ¹³C NMR spectrum of (S)-11.

Figure S32. ¹H NMR spectrum of (S)-13.

Figure S33. 13 C NMR spectrum of (S)-13.

Figure S34. ¹H NMR spectrum of (S)-12.

Figure S35. 13 C NMR spectrum of (S)-12.

Figure S36. ¹H NMR spectrum of (S)-2.

Figure S37. 13 C NMR spectrum of (S)-2.

Figure S38. 1 H NMR spectrum of (S)-3.

Figure S39. 13 C NMR spectrum of (S)-3.

Figure S40. ¹H NMR spectrum of (S)-16.

Figure S41. ¹³C NMR spectrum of (S)-16.

Figure S42. ¹H NMR spectrum of (*S*)-17.

Figure S43. 13 C NMR spectrum of (S)-17.

Figure S44. Proof of formation of corresponding methyl ester of (S)-17 via ¹H NMR (overlay of (S)-17).

Figure S45. Proof of formation of corresponding methyl ester of (S)-17 via LC.

Figure S46. Proof of formation of corresponding methyl ester of (S)-17 via MS (MS-spectrum of compound with $t_R = 0.324$ min in Figure S45).

Figure S47. Proof of formation of corresponding methyl ester of (S)-17 via MS (MS-spectrum of compound with $t_R = 2.606$ min in Figure S45).

4. Chiral HPLC chromatograms

Figure S48. Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (*S*)-1 spiked with (*R*)-1.

Figure S49. Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (S)-1.

Figure S50. Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (R)-1.

Figure S51. Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (S)-11 spiked with (R)-11.

Figure S52. Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (S)-11.

Figure S53. Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (*R*)-11.

- **Figure S54.** Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (S)-13 spiked with (R)-13.
- **Figure S55.** Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (*S*)-13.
- **Figure S56.** Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (*R*)-13.
- **Figure S57.** Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (S)-12 spiked with (R)-12.
- **Figure S58.** Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (S)-12.
- **Figure S59.** Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (*R*)-12.
- **Figure S60.** Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (S)-2 spiked with (R)-2.
- **Figure S61.** Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (*S*)-2.
- **Figure S62.** Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (R)-2.
- **Figure S63.** Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (*S*)-3 spiked with (*R*)-3.
- **Figure S64.** Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (*S*)-3.
- **Figure S65.** Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (R)-3.
- **Figure S66.** Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (S)-16 spiked with (R)-16.
- **Figure S67.** Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (S)-16.
- **Figure S68.** Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (R)-16.
- **Figure S69.** Chiral HPLC chromatogram of corresponding methyl ester of (S)-17 spiked with corresponding methyl ester of (R)-17.
- **Figure S70.** Chiral HPLC chromatogram of corresponding methyl ester of (S)-17.
- **Figure S71.** Chiral HPLC chromatogram of corresponding methyl ester of (R)-17.
- 5. Actin-activated ATPase assay
 - **Figure S72.** Observed (S)-13 precipitation in assay buffer when applied at concentrations higher than $40 \mu M$.
- 6. Microscopic imaging of fluorescence
 - **Figure S73.** Fluorescence imaging of GFP-negative MCF-7/6 breast carcinoma cells treated with 0.1% DMSO as a solvent control.
 - **Figure S74.** Fluorescence imaging of GFP-negative MCF-7/6 breast carcinoma cells treated with 5 μ M of (S)-3'-aminoblebbistatin (S)-3.
 - **Figure S75.** Fluorescence imaging of GFP-negative MCF-7/6 breast carcinoma cells treated with (*S*)-3'-hydroxyblebbistatin (*S*)-2.

7. References

1. Synthetic protocols and compound characterization

1.1. Reagents and materials

Dichloromethane was dried by heating under reflux over CaH₂ and distilled under an atmosphere of nitrogen. Tetrahydrofuran was dried by heating under reflux with sodium/benzophenone under a nitrogen atmosphere and collected by distillation. Dry 1,4-dioxane and dry methanol were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and Acros Organics, respectively. Reagents were purchased at the highest commercial quality and were used as received without further purification.

Yields refer to chromatographically and spectroscopically (¹H NMR) homogeneous material, unless otherwise stated.

Reactions were monitored on an Agilent 1200 series HPLC system fitted with an Ascentis® Express C18-column (2.7 μ m particle size, 4.6 mm internal diameter), using acetonitrile/water (5 mM NH₄OAc) as eluent. Low-resolution mass spectra were recorded on an Agilent 1100 series VL mass spectrometer (ESI, 70 eV). High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded using an Agilent Technologies 6210 series time-of-flight (TOF) mass spectrometer equipped with an ESI/APCI-multimode source. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was carried out on 0.25 mm Merck silica plates (60 F_{254}) and spots were visualized by UV light (254 nm). Flash column chromatography was performed on an automated Reveleris® X2 flash chromatography system, using Reveleris® C18 or Reveleris® silica cartridges. Melting points were determined using a Wagner & Munz WME Heizbank Kofler bench.

NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance III instrument. 1 H NMR (400 MHz) chemical shifts are recorded in CDCl₃ or DMSO-d₆, reported in ppm and measured relative to tetramethylsilane or the residual undeuterated solvent as the internal reference, respectively. 13 C NMR (100.6 MHz) chemical shifts are reported in ppm and were measured relative to the residual undeuterated solvent as the internal reference. The following abbreviations were used to explain NMR peak multiplicities: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, p = pentet, m = multiplet, br = broad.

The enantiomeric excess (ee) of chiral compounds was determined *via* chiral HPLC analysis using a Daicel Chiralpak IA column (5 µm particle size, 150 mm length, 2.1 mm internal diameter). Detection wavelengths were set at 268, 234 and 296 nm. Analyses under reversed phase and normal phase conditions were performed at 25 °C and 35 °C, respectively. Optical rotations were obtained on a Jasco P-2000 polarimeter and are reported in deg mL g⁻¹ dm⁻¹; concentrations are reported in grams per 100 mL.

1.2. Synthesis of aryl iodide 4b

Allylation of 3-iodophenol (S1) to afford aryl iodide 4b was based on a publication of Brown Ripin and Vetelino.¹

In a bulb of 500 mL containing 225 mL of 2-methyltetrahydrofuran, 39.0 g of 3-iodophenol (S1) (177 mmol, 1 equiv), 340 mL of 25% aqueous NaOH, 0.857 g of tetra-*n*-butylammonium bromide (2.66 mmol, 0.015 equiv) and 16.2 mL of allyl bromide (186 mmol, 1.05 equiv) were brought together. The resulting mixture was stirred under reflux for 2 hours, cooled down to room temperature and diluted with 350 mL of diethyl ether and 175 mL of water. The two layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with 350 mL of diethyl ether. The combined organic layers were concentrated under reduced pressure to a volume of 350 mL, washed with 175 mL of brine and dried over magnesium sulfate. Evaporation *in vacuo* afforded aryl iodide 4b (46.1 g, quant.) as a yellow-orange oil.

1-(Allyloxy)-3-iodobenzene (4b)^{2,3}

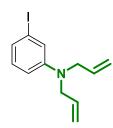
Yield = quant. Yellow-orange oil. ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 4.50 (dt, J = 5.2, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 5.29 (dq, J = 10.5, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 5.40 (dq, J = 17.3, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.02 (ddt, J = 17.3, 10.5 Hz, 1H), 6.85–6.90 (m, 1H), 6.99 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.26–7.28 (m, 1H), 7.26–7.30 (m, 1H). **MW** = 260.07. ¹H NMR spectrum is provided in Figure S5.

1.3. Synthesis of aryl iodide 4c

The allylation of 3-iodoaniline (S2) to produce aryl iodide 4c was based on a publication of Vandekerckhove et al.⁴

A bulb of 500 mL, equipped with an oven-dried reflux condenser and kept under a nitrogen atmosphere, was loaded with 100 mL of dry tetrahydrofuran and 11.5 mL of 3-iodoaniline (S2) (95.6 mmol, 1 equiv). Then, the solution was cooled to 0 °C and 120 mL of lithiumbis(trimethylsilyl)amide (1 M solution in tetrahydrofuran, 120 mmol, 1.25 equiv) and 33.1 mL of allyl bromide (382 mmol, 4 equiv) were added. The reaction was stirred for 2 hours at reflux temperature. Next, the solution was cooled to 0 °C, a second portion of lithiumbis(trimethylsilyl)amide (1 M solution in tetrahydrofuran, 120 mL, 120 mmol, 1.25 equiv) was added and the reaction mixture was refluxed for 1 hour. The solution was again cooled to 0 °C, a third portion of lithiumbis(trimethylsilyl)amide (1 M solution in tetrahydrofuran, 47.8 mL, 47.8 mmol, 0.5 equiv) was added and the solution was stirred for another hour at reflux temperature. Subsequently, the mixture was cooled down to room temperature, quenched with 800 mL of saturated aqueous NH₄Cl and evaporated under reduced pressure. The residual aqueous layer was extracted with an equal volume of ethyl acetate (3×). The combined organic layers were concentrated in vacuo to a volume of 600 mL, washed with an equal volume of saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ and brine. Drying with magnesium sulfate and evaporation in vacuo resulted in a red oil. The side product N,N-bis(trimethylsilyl)allylamine (S3) was distilled off (20 mbar, 56–63 °C). The residue (28.8 g) was dissolved in 17 mL of hexane and half of the total volume was manually injected on a Reveleris® 120 g silica cartridge (12% sample loading) for purification via automated flash chromatography (flow rate: 80 mL min⁻¹; eluent: 7 CV of 100% hexane, followed by 4 CV of 100% ethyl acetate; detection wavelength: 254 nm). The same conditions were applied to purify the other half of the crude mixture. Evaporation of the combined fractions resulted in aryl iodide 4c (21.4 g, 75%) as a yellow oil.

N,*N*-diallyl-3-iodoaniline (4c)



Yield = 75%. Yellow oil. R_f = 0.24 (hexane). ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 3.88 (dt, J = 4.7, 1.7 Hz, 4H), 5.16 (dq, J = 17.5, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 5.17 (dq, J = 10.0, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 5.82 (ddt, J = 17.5, 10.0, 4.7 Hz, 2H), 6.63 (ddd, J = 8.2, 2.5, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.97–7.01 (m, 1H), 6.99–7.01 (m, 1H). ¹³**C NMR** (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 52.6, 95.4, 111.5, 116.3, 120.9, 125.1, 130.4, 133.2, 149.8. **MS** (ESI): m/z (%) = 299.6 ([M+H]⁺, 100). **HRMS**

(ESI): calculated for $C_{12}H_{15}IN$ ([M+H]⁺) 300.0244; found 300.0254. **MW** = 299.16. ¹H NMR spectrum and ¹³C NMR spectrum are provided in Figures S6–S7.

1.4. Synthesis of tris(3,5-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazolyl-1-yl)methane (S5)

Tris(3,5-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)methane (S5) was synthesized *via* a procedure reported by Reger et al.⁵

In a bulb of 1 L containing 500 mL of demineralized water, 48.1 g of 3,5-dimethylpyrazole (S4) (500 mmol, 1 equiv) and 8.06 g of tetra-*n*-butylammonium bromide (25.0 mmol, 0.05 equiv) were brought together. With vigorous mechanical stirring, 318 g of sodium carbonate (3.00 mol, 6 equiv) was added gradually to the reaction mixture. After cooling to room temperature, 250 mL of chloroform was added and the mixture was refluxed for 3 days during which an orange-red emulsion had formed. Next, the solids were filtered off on a sintered glass Büchner funnel and the filter cake was rinsed with chloroform until the filtrate turned colorless. The organic and aqueous layers in the filtrate were separated. The organic layer was washed with an equal volume of brine and dried over magnesium sulfate. Evaporation *in vacuo* afforded a dark brown solid (60.6 g) which was recrystallized from absolute ethanol to give tris(3,5-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)methane (S5) (19.2 g, 39%) as an off-white powder.

Tris(3,5-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)methane (S5)^{6,7}

Yield = 39%. Off-white powder (from absolute ethanol). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃):
$$\delta = 2.01$$
 (br. s, 9H), 2.18 (s, 9H), 5.88 (s, 3H), 8.07 (s, 1H). MW = 298.39. ¹H NMR spectrum is provided in Figure S8.

1.5. General procedure for the N-arylation of 2-pyrrolidinone with aryl iodides

The preparation of pyrrolidinones **6a**,**b**,**d** was adopted from Haldón et al.⁸

In a flame-dried bulb of 250 mL containing 100 mL of dry 1,4-dioxane, 0.952 g of CuI (5.00 mmol, 0.05 equiv) and 1.49 g of tris(3,5-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)methane (**S5**) (5.00 mmol, 0.05 equiv) were brought together under a nitrogen atmosphere. Then, aryl iodide (100 mmol, 1 equiv), 9.12 mL of 2-pyrrolidinone (120 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and 42.4 g of K₃PO₄ (200 mmol, 2 equiv) were added and the reaction mixture was stirred at reflux temperature for 24 hours. A beige suspension was formed during this step. Next, the suspension was cooled down to room temperature and the solids were filtered off on a sintered glass Büchner funnel. The filter cake was rinsed with ethyl acetate until the filtrate turned colorless. The filtrate was washed with an equal volume of 3 M aqueous HCl (3×) and brine, after which the organic layer was dried over magnesium sulfate and evaporated *in vacuo*.

1.5.1. Synthesis of pyrrolidinone 6a

Pyrrolidinone **6a** was synthesized from aryl iodide **4a** (11.2 mL, 100 mmol, 1 equiv) and 2-pyrrolidinone (9.12 mL, 120 mmol, 1.2 equiv). Evaporation *in vacuo* afforded pyrrolidinone **6a** (14.3 g, 89%) as beige fibers. An analytical sample was prepared by recrystallization from absolute ethanol.

1-Phenylpyrrolidin-2-one (6a)^{9,10}

Yield = 89%. Beige fibers. ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃):
$$\delta$$
 = 2.16 (p, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.61 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.11–7.17 (m, 1H), 7.33–7.40 (m, 2H), 7.58–7.64 (m, 2H). **MW** = 161.20. ¹H NMR spectrum is provided in Figure S9.

1.5.2. Synthesis of pyrrolidinone 6b

Pyrrolidinone **6b** was synthesized from aryl iodide **4b** (45.0 g, 173 mmol, 1 equiv) and 2-pyrrolidinone (15.8 mL, 208 mmol, 1.2 equiv). Evaporation *in vacuo* afforded a red oil (38.9 g) which was further purified *via* automated flash chromatography with hexane/ethyl acetate as eluent. Half of the crude mixture was manually injected on a

Reveleris® 120 g silica cartridge (16% sample loading) and the injection valve was subsequently rinsed twice with 5 mL of the initial mobile phase (flow rate: 80 mL min⁻¹; eluent: 2 column volumes (CV) of 12% ethyl acetate, followed by a gradient from 12% to 100% ethyl acetate over 10 CV and finally 2 CV of 100% ethyl acetate; detection wavelengths: 254 nm and 268 nm). Next, the same conditions were applied to purify the other half of the crude mixture and evaporation of the combined fractions yielded pyrrolidinone **6b** (28.2 g, 75%) as a yellow-orange oil.

1-(3-(Allyloxy)phenyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (6b)

Yield = 75%. Yellow-orange oil. R_f = 0.51 (ethyl acetate). ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.15 (p, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.61 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 4.55 (dt, J = 5.3, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 5.29 (dq, J = 10.6, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 5.42 (dq, J = 17.3, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.06 (ddt, J = 17.3, 10.6, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (ddd, J = 8.2, 2.2, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (ddd, J = 8.2, 2.2, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H). ¹³C **NMR** (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 18.0, 32.9, 48.9, 68.9, 106.8, 110.8, 112.1, 117.8, 129.5, 133.2, 140.6, 158.9, 174.3. **MS** (ESI): m/z (%) = 218.1 ([M+H]⁺, 100). **HRMS** (ESI): calculated for C₁₃H₁₆NO₂ ([M+H]⁺) 218.1176; found 218.1178. **MW** = 217.26. ¹H NMR spectrum and ¹³C NMR spectrum are provided in Figures S10–S11.

1.5.3. Synthesis of pyrrolidinone 6d

Pyrrolidinone **6d** was synthesized from aryl iodide **4d** (28.5 g, 124 mmol, 1 equiv) and 2-pyrrolidinone (11.3 mL, 149 mmol, 1.2 equiv). Evaporation *in vacuo* afforded pyrrolidinone **6d** (20.4 g, 88%) as beige crystals. An analytical sample was prepared by recrystallization from absolute ethanol.

3-(2-Oxopyrrolidin-1-yl)benzonitrile (6d)¹¹

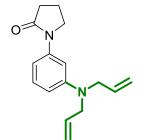
Yield = 88%. Beige crystals (mp 83 °C). ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.21 (p, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.64 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (dt, J = 8.0, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (ddd, J = 8.0, 2.3, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.96–7.99 (m, 1H). ¹³**C NMR** (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 17.8, 32.6, 48.3, 112.9, 118.6, 122.5, 123.5, 127.6, 129.7, 140.2, 175.6. **MS** (ESI): m/z (%) = 186.9 ([M+H]⁺, 100). **HRMS** (ESI): calculated for C₁₁H₁₁N₂O ([M+H]⁺) 187.0866; found 187.0860. **MW** = 186.21. ¹H NMR spectrum and ¹³C NMR spectrum are provided in Figures S12–S13.

1.6. Synthesis of pyrrolidinone 6c

For the synthesis of pyrrolidinone **6c**, the general procedure for the *N*-arylation of 2-pyrrolidinone with aryl iodides was slightly modified.

In a flame-dried bulb of 250 mL containing 96 mL of dry 1,4-dioxane, 0.909 g of CuI (4.76 mmol, 0.05 equiv) and 1.42 g of tris(3,5-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)methane (S5) (4.76 mmol, 0.05 equiv) were brought together under a nitrogen atmosphere. Then, 28.5 g of aryl iodide 4c (95.3 mmol, 1 equiv), 8.68 mL of 2-pyrrolidinone (114 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and 40.5 g of K₃PO₄ (191 mmol, 2 equiv) were added under a nitrogen atmosphere and the reaction mixture was stirred under reflux for 24 hours. Next, a second portion of CuI (0.909 g, 4.76 mmol, 0.05 equiv) and of tris(3,5-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)methane (S6) (1.42 g, 4.76 mmol, 0.05 equiv) were added and the reaction mixture was refluxed for 24 hours. Afterwards, a third portion of CuI (0.909 g, 4.76 mmol, 0.05 equiv) and of tris(3,5-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)methane (S6) (1.42 g, 4.76 mmol, 0.05 equiv) were added and the mixture was stirred for another 24 hours at reflux temperature. A beige suspension was formed during this reaction. After cooling to room temperature, the solids were filtered off on a sintered glass Büchner funnel and the filter cake was rinsed with ethyl acetate until the filtrate turned colorless. The filtrate was washed with an equal volume of saturated aqueous NH₄Cl (3×) and brine, after which the organic layer was isolated and dried with magnesium sulfate. Evaporation in vacuo afforded an orange-red oil (32.5 g) of which 5.41 g was dissolved in acetonitrile and coated under reduced pressure onto 10.8 g of Davisil® C18 silica. Subsequently, purification was performed via automated flash chromatography with water/acetonitrile as eluent on a Reveleris® 120 g C18 cartridge (5% sample loading; flow rate: 80 mL min⁻¹; eluent: 2 CV of 20% acetonitrile, followed by a gradient from 20% to 40% acetonitrile over 30 CV and finally a gradient from 40% to 100% acetonitrile over 20 CV; detection wavelengths: 222 nm and 262 nm). Next, the same conditions were repeated another 5 times to purify the remaining parts of the crude mixture. Coevaporation of the combined fractions with chloroform, to remove traces of water, resulted in pyrrolidinone 6c (19.3 g, 79%) as a yellow-orange oil.

1-(3-(Diallylamino)phenyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (6c)



Yield = 79%. Yellow oil. R_f = 0.27 (hexane/ethyl acetate, 3:2). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.12 (p, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.58 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H),

S14

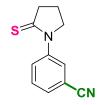
3.93 (dt, J= 4.9, 1.7 Hz, 4H), 5.16 (dq, J= 9.3, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 5.19 (dq, J= 16.3, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 5.85 (ddt, J= 16.3, 9.3, 4.9 Hz, 2H), 6.47–6.52 (m, 1H), 6.75 (ddd, J= 8.1, 2.1, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (t, J= 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (t, J= 2.1 Hz, 1H). ¹³C **NMR** (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 18.1, 32.9, 49.1, 52.9, 104.7, 108.0, 108.9, 116.1, 129.2, 133.9, 140.3, 149.2, 174.1. **MS** (ESI): m/z (%) = 256.8 ([M+H]⁺, 100). **HRMS** (ESI): calculated for C₁₆H₂₁N₂O ([M+H]⁺) 257.1648; found 257.1647. **MW** = 256.35. ¹H NMR spectrum and ¹³C NMR spectrum are provided in Figures S14–S15.

1.7. Synthesis of pyrrolidinethione 10

In a flame-dried bulb of 100 mL containing 50 mL of dry tetrahydrofuran, 1.86 g of pyrrolidinone **6d** (1.00 mmol, 1 equiv) and 2.00 g of Lawesson's reagent **S6** (0.500 mmol, 0.5 equiv) were brought together under a nitrogen atmosphere and stirred for 30 minutes at reflux temperature. Then, the reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C, diluted with 50 mL of diethyl ether and the resulting slurry was filtered off over celite. Evaporation of the filtrate *in vacuo* afforded a yellow solid (3.70 g) which was dissolved in toluene and coated under reduced pressure onto 14.8 g of silica. Subsequently, purification was performed *via* automated flash chromatography with hexane/ethyl acetate as eluent on a Reveleris® 80 g silica cartridge (5% sample loading; flow rate: 60 mL min⁻¹; eluent: 2 CV of 0% ethyl acetate, followed by a gradient from 0% to 30% ethyl acetate over 60 CV and finally 5 CV of 100% ethyl acetate; detection wavelength: 272 nm). This afforded pyrrolidinethione **10** (1.60 g, 79%) as off-white fibers.

When excess Lawesson's reagent S6 (more than 0.5 equivalents) and/or prolonged reaction times (more than 30 minutes) were used at elevated temperatures (70 °C), thionation of the nitrile functionality in pyrrolidinethione 10 also occurred, resulting in side product S8. Moreover, it should be noted it is crucial to use toluene to dissolve the crude product prior to flash chromatography: in order to obtain a high yield and good separation between desired product 10, Lawesson's reagent byproduct S7 and thiobenzamide S8 during chromatography, it is important to obtain a free-flowing, well-coated mixture. From an extensive series of solvents (toluene, ethyl acetate, acetone, tetrahydrofuran, dichloromethane, chloroform, methanol and acetonitrile), toluene was the only solvent able to do so.

3-(2-Thioxopyrrolidin-1-yl)benzonitrile (10)



Yield = 79%. Off-white fibers (mp 132 °C). ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.27 (p, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 3.24 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 4.15 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.53–7.63 (m, 2H), 7.87–7.92 (m, 2H). ¹³**C NMR** (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 20.7, 46.4, 58.1, 113.2, 117.9, 128.3, 129.4, 130.0,

130.9, 141.2, 204.0. **MS** (ESI): m/z (%) = 203.2 ([M+H]⁺, 100). **MW** = 202.28. ¹H NMR spectrum and ¹³C NMR spectrum are provided in Figures S16–S17.

1.8. Synthesis of methyl 2-amino-5-methylbenzoate (7)

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{excess concd } \text{H}_2\text{SO}_4\\ \text{HO} \\ \text{O} \\ \text{S9} \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} \text{excess concd } \text{H}_2\text{SO}_4\\ \text{MeOH, } \Delta, \text{ 3 days} \\ \text{7} \\ \end{array}$$

The preparation of methyl 2-amino-5-methylbenzoate (7) was adopted from Lawson et al.¹²

To a solution of 30.5 g of 2-amino-5-methylbenzoic acid (S9) (184 mmol, 1 equiv) in 500 mL of methanol, 30 mL of concentrated H_2SO_4 was added and the resulting mixture was stirred at reflux temperature for 3 days. After cooling to room temperature, the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The yellow residue was taken up in 250 mL of ethyl acetate and washed subsequently with an equal volume of 1 M aqueous NaOH. The organic layer was dried over magnesium sulfate and evaporated *in vacuo* to afford methyl 2-amino-5-methylbenzoate (7) (31.0 g, quant.) as a beige-orange powder.

Methyl 2-amino-5-methylbenzoate (7)^{13,14}

Yield = quant. Beige-orange powder.
1
H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.22 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 5.53 (br. s, 2H), 6.59 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (dd, J = 8.3, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H). MW = 165.19. 1 H NMR spectrum is provided in Figure S18.

1.9. General procedure for the synthesis of amidines from pyrrolidinones

The synthesis of amidines **8a,b,d** from pyrrolidinones **6a,b,d** was performed *via* a modified procedure of Lucas-Lopez et al.¹⁵

A flame-dried bulb of 100 mL, kept under a nitrogen atmosphere, was loaded with 40 mL of dry dichloromethane and pyrrolidinone (15.0 mmol, 1 equiv). Next, 2.80 mL of POCl₃ (30.0 mmol, 2 equiv) was added and the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 hours. Afterwards, a solution of methyl 2-amino-5-methylbenzoate (7) (2.60 g, 15.8 mmol, 1.05 equiv) in dry dichloromethane (15 mL) was added *via* syringe and the reaction mixture was heated to 35 °C for 24 hours. Then, the reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C, basified with 3 M aqueous NaOH until the pH equaled 10, and subsequently extracted with an equal volume of ethyl acetate (3×). The combined organic layers were washed with an equal volume of brine, dried over magnesium sulfate and evaporated *in vacuo*.

1.9.1. Synthesis of amidine 8a

Amidine **8a** was synthesized from pyrrolidinone **6a** (2.42 g, 15.0 mmol, 1 equiv) and methyl 2-amino-5-methylbenzoate (7) (2.60 g, 15.8 mmol, 1.05 equiv). Evaporation *in vacuo* afforded an orange-brown oil (5.71 g) which was dissolved in acetonitrile/dichloromethane (1:1) and coated under reduced pressure onto 11.4 g of Davisil® C18 silica. Subsequently, purification was performed *via* automated flash chromatography with water/acetonitrile as eluent on a Reveleris® 120 g C18 cartridge (5% sample loading; flow rate: 80 mL min⁻¹; eluent: 2 CV of 30% acetonitrile, followed by a gradient from 30% to 100% acetonitrile over 20 CV and finally 2 CV of 100% acetonitrile; detection wavelengths: 218 nm and 246 nm). Coevaporation with chloroform, to remove traces of water, afforded amidine **8a** (3.90 g, 78%) as an off-white powder. An analytical sample was prepared by recrystallization from absolute ethanol.

Methyl 5-methyl-2-((1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-ylidene)amino)benzoate (8a)¹⁵

Yield = 78%. Off-white powder. ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.03 (p, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 2.46 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.87 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 6.71 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.02–7.08 (m, 1H), 7.18 (dd, J = 8.1, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.31–7.38 (m, 2H),

7.65 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.79–7.84 (m, 2H). **MW** = 308.37. ¹H NMR spectrum is provided in Figure S19.

1.9.2. Synthesis of amidine 8b

Amidine **8b** was synthesized from pyrrolidinone **6b** (26.5 g, 122 mmol, 1 equiv) and methyl 2-amino-5-methylbenzoate (7) (21.1 g, 128 mmol, 1.05 equiv). Evaporation *in vacuo* afforded an orange-brown oil (42.9 g) of which 14.3 g was dissolved in dichloromethane and coated under reduced pressure onto 28.6 g of silica. Subsequently, purification was performed *via* automated flash chromatography with hexane/ethyl acetate/triethylamine as eluent on a Reveleris® 120 g silica cartridge (12% sample loading; flow rate: 80 mL min⁻¹; eluent: 2 CV of a 7% ethyl acetate/triethylamine mixture (ethyl acetate + 16% triethylamine), followed by a gradient from 7% to 60% ethyl acetate/triethylamine mixture over 10 CV and finally 3 CV of a 60% ethyl acetate/triethylamine mixture over 10 combined fractions were repeated twice to purify the remaining parts of the crude mixture. Evaporation of the combined fractions afforded amidine **8b** (22.2 g, 50%) as a light yellow powder.

Methyl 2-((1-(3-(allyloxy)phenyl)pyrrolidin-2-ylidene)amino)-5-methyl-benzoate (8b)

Yield = 50%. Light yellow powder (mp 66 °C).
$$R_f$$
 = 0.42 (hexane/ethyl acetate/triethylamine, 7:3:0.5). ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.03 (p, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.46 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.85 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 4.53 (dt, J = 5.4, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 5.25 (dq, J = 10.6, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 5.39 (dq, J = 17.2, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.05 (ddt, J = 17.2, 10.6, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 6.62 (ddd, J = 8.1, 2.2, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (dd, J = 8.1, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (ddd, J = 8.1, 2.2, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (t, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H). ¹³**C NMR** (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 19.7, 20.6, 29.2, 50.7, 51.7, 68.8, 107.3, 109.4, 112.6, 117.7, 121.9, 122.9, 129.2, 131.0, 133.5, 133.5, 142.7, 150.6, 158.8, 159.7, 167.8. **MS** (ESI): m/z (%) = 364.6 ([M+H]⁺, 100). **HRMS** (ESI): calculated for C₂₂H₂₅N₂O₃ ([M+H]⁺) 365.1860; found

365.1848. MW = 364.44. ¹H NMR spectrum and ¹³C NMR spectrum are provided in Figures S20–S21.

1.9.3. Synthesis of amidine 8d

Amidine **8d** was synthesized from pyrrolidinone **6d** (20.8 g, 112 mmol, 1 equiv) and methyl 2-amino-5-methylbenzoate (7) (19.4 g, 117 mmol, 1.05 equiv). Evaporation *in vacuo* afforded a red-brown oil (38.8 g) of which 6.47 g was dissolved in acetonitrile/dichloromethane (1:1) and coated under reduced pressure onto 12.9 g of Davisil® C18 silica. Subsequently, purification was performed *via* automated flash chromatography with water/acetonitrile as eluent on a Reveleris® 120 g C18 cartridge (5% sample loading; flow rate: 80 mL min⁻¹; eluent: 2 CV of 30% acetonitrile, followed by a gradient from 30% to 100% acetonitrile over 20 CV and finally 2 CV of 100% acetonitrile; detection wavelengths: 216 nm and 274 nm). Next, the same conditions were repeated

another 5 times to purify the remaining parts of the crude mixture. Coevaporation of the combined fractions with chloroform, to remove traces of water, yielded amidine **8d** (11.2 g, 30%) as an off-white powder.

Methyl 2-((1-(3-cyanophenyl)pyrrolidin-2-ylidene)amino)-5-methylbenzoate (8d)

Yield = 30%. Off-white powder (mp 116 °C). R_f = 0.32 (hexane/ethyl acetate/triethylamine, 7:3:0.5). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.08 (p, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.49 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.86 (t, J = 7.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.08–8.17 (m, 1H), 8.21 (t, J = 1.3 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 19.6, 20.6, 29.0, 50.2, 51.8, 112.4, 119.2, 121.2, 122.5, 123.0, 124.0, 125.9, 129.4, 131.2, 131.6, 133.7, 142.2, 149.8, 159.8, 167.4. MS (ESI): m/z (%) = 333.6 ([M+H]⁺, 100). HRMS (ESI): calculated for C₂₀H₂₀N₃O₂ ([M+H]⁺) 334.1550; found 334.1543. MW = 333.38. ¹H NMR spectrum and ¹³C NMR spectrum are provided in Figures S22–S23.

1.10. General procedure for the synthesis of quinolones from amidines

The synthesis of quinolones **9a,b,d** from amidines **8a,b,d** was performed *via* a modified procedure of Lawson et al.¹²

A flame-dried bulb of 100 mL, kept under a nitrogen atmosphere, was loaded with 15 mL of dry tetrahydrofuran and amidine (14.7 mmol, 1 equiv). Then, the solution was cooled to -78 °C and 36.8 mL of lithiumbis(trimethylsilyl)amide (1 M solution in tetrahydrofuran, 36.8 mmol, 2.5 equiv) was added. Subsequently, the mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1 hour before being quenched by the addition of 60 mL of saturated aqueous NH₄Cl. The layers were separated and the organic layer was washed with an equal volume of saturated aqueous NH₄Cl (2×) and concentrated *in vacuo* to approximately 10 mL. Next, the residue was diluted with 75 mL of ethyl acetate, dried over magnesium sulfate and evaporated *in vacuo*.

1.10.1. Synthesis of quinolone 9a

Quinolone **9a** was synthesized from amidine **8a** (4.54 g, 14.7 mmol, 1 equiv). Evaporation *in vacuo* gave a yellow-orange powder which was washed on a sintered glass Büchner funnel with ice cold ethyl acetate until the filtrate turned colorless. This afforded quinolone **9a** (3.98 g, 98%) as a beige powder.

6-Methyl-1-phenyl-1,2,3,9-tetrahydro-4*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]quinolin-4-one (9a)¹⁵

Yield = 98%. Beige powder. ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, DMSO-d⁶): δ = 2.41 (s, 3H), 3.17 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 4.07 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.01 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (br. s, 1H), 8.05 (br. s, 2H), 10.46 (br. s, 1H). **MW** = 276.33. ¹H NMR spectrum is provided in Figure S24.

1.10.2. Synthesis of quinolone 9b

Quinolone **9b** was prepared from amidine **8b** (19.9 g, 54.6 mmol, 1 equiv). Evaporation *in vacuo* resulted in an orange powder (18.7 g) which was washed on a sintered glass Büchner funnel with ice cold ethyl acetate until the filtrate turned colorless. This afforded quinolone **8b** (15.0 g, 82%) as an off-white powder.

1-(3-(Allyloxy)phenyl)-6-methyl-1,2,3,9-tetrahydro-4*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]quinolin-4-one (9b)

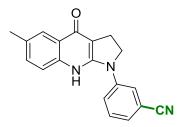
Yield = 82%. Off-white powder (mp 203 °C). R_f = 0.13 (ethyl acetate). ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, DMSO-d⁶): δ = 2.42 (s, 3H), 3.17 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 4.06 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 4.63 (dt, J = 5.2, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 5.29 (dq, J = 10.6, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 5.46 (dq, J = 17.2, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 6.11 (ddt, J = 17.2, 10.6, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 6.60 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (dd, J = 8.4,

1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (br. s, 1H), 8.04 (br. s, 1H), 10.46 (br. s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, DMSO-d⁶): $\delta = 21.5$, 22.3, 48.6, 68.6, 104.5, 106.9, 107.5, 110.0, 117.9, 119.1, 121.0, 126.7, 129.6, 130.8, 131.2, 134.4, 143.8, 146.8, 154.2, 158.9, 159.8. MS (ESI): m/z (%) = 332.7 ([M+H]⁺, 100). HRMS (ESI): calculated for $C_{21}H_{21}N_2O_2$ ([M+H]⁺) 333.1598; found 333.1604. MW = 332.40. ¹H NMR spectrum and ¹³C NMR spectrum are provided in Figures S25–S26.

1.10.3. Synthesis of quinolone 9d

Quinolone **9d** was obtained from amidine **8d** (10.8 g, 30.9 mmol, 1 equiv). Evaporation *in vacuo* resulted in an ochreous powder (12.3 g) which was washed on a sintered glass Büchner funnel with ice cold ethyl acetate until the filtrate turned colorless. This afforded quinolone **9d** (8.01 g, 86%) as a beige powder.

3-(6-Methyl-4-oxo-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]quinolin-1-yl)benzonitrile (9d)



Yield = 86%. Beige powder (mp 252 °C). ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, DMSO-d⁶): δ = 2.43 (s, 3H), 3.20 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 4.10 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (br. s, 1H), 8.39 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 8.62 (br. s, 1H), 10.63 (br. s, 1H). ¹³**C NMR** (100.6 MHz, DMSO-d⁶): δ = 21.5, 22.3, 48.4, 106.8, 111.8,

119.2, 119.8, 120.1, 121.0, 121.8, 124.1, 126.8, 130.3, 131.1, 131.8, 143.2, 146.5, 154.7, 159.4. **MS** (ESI): m/z (%) = 301.7 ([M+H]⁺, 100). **HRMS** (ESI): calculated for $C_{19}H_{16}N_3O$ ([M+H]⁺) 302.1288; found 302.1296. **MW** = 301.34. ¹H NMR spectrum and ¹³C NMR spectrum are provided in Figures S27–S28.

1.11. Synthesis of (S)-3'-diallylaminoblebbistatin ((S)-12) and (S)-3'-diallylaminoblebbistatin ((S)-12)

- (a) i) 2 equiv POCl₃, dry CH_2Cl_2 , rt, 24 h, N_2 ; ii) 1.05 equiv **7**, dry CH_2Cl_2 , 35 °C, 24 h, N_2
- (b) 2.5 equiv LiHMDS, dry THF, 0 °C, 1 h, N₂
- (c) i) 1.2 equiv LiHMDS, dry THF, -78 °C, 30 min, Ar;
 - ii) 2.4 equiv 14 (for (S)-12) or 15 (for (R)-12), dry THF, -15 °C, 16 h, Ar

Amidine **8c** was obtained from pyrrolidinone **6c** (24.6 g, 96.0 mmol, 1 equiv) and methyl 2-amino-5-methylbenzoate (7) (16.7 g, 101 mmol, 1.05 equiv) *via* the general procedure for the synthesis of amidines from pyrrolidinones. During aqueous work-up, part of the amidine **8c** was converted into side product **S10** due to hydrolysis of the amidine functionality. Evaporation *in vacuo* afforded a red-brown oil (39.0 g) of which 6.50 g was dissolved in acetonitrile/dichloromethane (1:1) and coated under reduced pressure onto 13.0 g of Davisil® C18 silica. Subsequently, purification was performed *via* automated flash chromatography with water/acetonitrile as eluent on a Reveleris® 120 g C18 cartridge (5% sample loading; flow rate: 80 mL min⁻¹; eluent: 2 CV of 40% acetonitrile, a gradient from 40% to 80% acetonitrile over 20 CV, 4 CV of 80% acetonitrile and finally 3 CV of 100% acetonitrile; detection wavelengths: 256 nm and 330 nm). Next, the same conditions were repeated another 5 times to purify the remaining parts of the crude mixture. Coevaporation of the combined fractions with chloroform, to remove traces of water, resulted in crude amidine **8c** as a red-brown oil (11.9 g) that still contained side product **S10** as impurity.

Quinolone **9c** was synthesized from the crude amidine **8c** (8.69 g, 21.5 mmol, 1 equiv) *via* the general procedure for the synthesis of quinolones from amidines. Evaporation *in vacuo* resulted in a red oil (8.83 g) which was dissolved in tetrahydrofuran and coated under reduced pressure onto 26.5 g of silica. Subsequently, purification was performed *via* automated flash chromatography with hexane/ethyl acetate/methanol as eluent on a Reveleris® 80 g silica cartridge (11% sample loading; flow rate: 60 mL min⁻¹; eluent: 2 CV of 50% ethyl acetate, a gradient from 50% to 100% ethyl acetate over 10 CV, 5 CV of 100% ethyl acetate and finally 25 CV of a 10% methanol/90% ethyl acetate; detection wavelengths: 256 nm and 334 nm). Evaporation resulted in crude quinolone **9c** as an orange oil (4.97 g) that still contained side product **S11** (formed out of side product **S10** during reaction) as impurity.

Synthesis of (S)-3'-diallylaminoblebbistatin (S)-12

(S)-3'-diallylaminoblebbistatin (S)-12 was synthesized from the crude quinolone 9c (3.96 g, 10.7 mmol, 1 equiv) via the general procedure for the asymmetric α -hydroxylation of quinolones and using Davis' oxaziridine 14 (7.64 g, 25.6 mmol, 2.4 equiv). Evaporation in vacuo resulted in (S)-12 (3.02 g, 73%) as an orange powder. The enantiomeric excess was 76% as determined by chiral HPLC analysis (Daicel Chiralpak IA column, acetonitrile/water (45:55), 1.0 mL min⁻¹, 25 °C). The powder was redissolved in 60 mL of boiling absolute ethanol and left untouched for 1 hour at room temperature. After 40 minutes fibers had formed, which were filtered off after an additional 20 minutes. This resulted in (S)-3'-diallylaminoblebbistatin (S)-12 (1.03 g, 25%) as bright orange cotton-like fibers with an enantiomeric excess of >99%.

(S)-1-(3-(diallylamino)phenyl)-3a-hydroxy-6-methyl-1,2,3,3a-tetrahydro-4H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]quinolin-4-one ((S)-12)

Yield = 25%. Bright orange, cotton-like fibers (from absolute ethanol, mp 167 °C). **ee** >99%, chiral HPLC: $t_{\rm R}$ ((*S*)-11) = 27.1 min, $t_{\rm R}$ ((*R*)-11) = 31.1 min (Daicel Chiralpak IA column, acetonitrile/water (45:55), 1.0 mL min⁻¹, 25 °C). [α]²⁵_D = -248 ± 2 (c = 0.11 in tetrahydrofuran). ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ = 2.19–2.27 (m, 2H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 3.87–3.95 (m, 1H), 3.94–4.07 (m, 5H), 3.12–5.24 (m, 4H), 5.92 (ddt, J = 17.1, 10.2, 5.1 Hz, 2H), 6.47 (dd, J = 8.1, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (s, 1H), 6.98 (dd,

J = 8.1, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (dd, J = 8.1, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (t, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, DMSO-d₆): $\delta = 20.7$, 28.8, 47.9, 53.0, 73.5, 104.8, 107.4, 108.3, 116.4, 121.4, 126.2, 126.8, 129.4, 132.5, 134.8, 137.0, 141.9, 148.9, 149.8, 165.7, 195.1. MS (ESI): m/z (%) = 387.5 ([M+H]⁺, 100). HRMS (ESI): calculated for $C_{24}H_{26}N_3O_2$ ([M+H]⁺) 388.2020; found 388.2035. MW = 387.47. ¹H NMR spectrum, ¹³C NMR spectrum and chiral HPLC chromatograms are provided in Figures S35–S36 and Figures S57–S58.

Synthesis of (R)-3'-diallylaminoblebbistatin (R)-12

(*R*)-3'-diallylaminoblebbistatin (*R*)-12 was synthesized from the crude quinolone 9c (0.967 g, 2.60 mmol, 1 equiv) *via* the general procedure for the asymmetric α -hydroxylation of quinolones and using Davis' oxaziridine 15 (1.86 g, 6.24 mmol, 2.4 equiv). Evaporation *in vacuo* resulted in (*R*)-3'-diallylaminoblebbistatin (*R*)-12 (0.686 g, 68%) as an orange powder. The enantiomeric excess was 74% as determined by chiral HPLC analysis (Daicel Chiralpak IA column, acetonitrile/water (45:55), 1.0 mL min⁻¹, 25 °C). The powder was redissolved in 15 mL of boiling absolute ethanol and left untouched for 50 minutes at room temperature. After 30 minutes fibers had formed, which were filtered off after an additional 20 minutes. This resulted in (*R*)-3'-diallylaminoblebbistatin (*R*)-12 (0.160 g, 16%) as bright orange cotton-like fibers with an enantiomeric excess of 98%.

(R)-1-(3-(diallyl-amino)phenyl)-3a-hydroxy-6-methyl-1,2,3,3a-tetrahydro-4H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]quinolin-4 one ((R)-12)

O OH N N **Yield** = 16%. Bright orange cotton-like fibers (from absolute ethanol, mp 167 °C). **ee** 98%, chiral HPLC: $t_{\rm R}$ ((*R*)-11) = 31.1 min, $t_{\rm R}$ ((*S*)-11) = 27.7 min (Daicel Chiralpak IA column, acetonitrile/water (45:55), 1.0 mL min⁻¹, 25 °C). [α]²⁵_D = +327 ± 3 (c = 0.18 in tetrahydrofuran). ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ = 2.19–2.27 (m, 2H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 3.87–3.95 (m, 1H), 3.94–4.07 (m, 5H), 3.12–5.24 (m, 4H), 5.92 (ddt, J= 17.1,

10.2, 5.1 Hz, 2H), 6.47 (dd, J = 8.1, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (s, 1H), 6.98 (dd, J = 8.1, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (dd, J = 8.1, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (t, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H).

13C NMR (100.6 MHz, DMSO-d₆): $\delta = 20.7$, 28.8, 47.9, 53.0, 73.5, 104.8, 107.4, 108.3, 116.4, 121.4, 126.2, 126.8, 129.4, 132.5, 134.8, 137.0, 141.9, 148.9, 149.8, 165.7, 195.1. MS (ESI): m/z (%) = 387.5 ([M+H]⁺, 100). HRMS (ESI): calculated for $C_{24}H_{26}N_3O_2$ ([M+H]⁺) 388.2020; found 388.2023. MW = 387.47. Chiral HPLC chromatogram is provided in Figure S59.

1.12. Synthesis of diazomethane (CH₂N₂)

CAUTION! Diazomethane is a toxic and explosive compound! When dealing with diazomethane, the experimenter should first thoroughly study the literature on the properties and safe generation and handling of this hazardous reagent! The synthesis must be carried out in a properly working hood using dedicated and thoroughly inspected equipment! Do not use sharp-edged glassware or ground joints!

A 250 mL distilling flask was fitted with a condenser set for distillation and with a dropping funnel by means of special cork stoppers. The condenser was connected to an L-shaped glass tube which in his turn was connected to an ice-cooled 250 mL Büchner flask by means of special cork stoppers. Pressure build-up has to be avoided by means of an opening to the environment.

A solution of 2.14 g of *N*-methyl-*N*-nitroso-*para*-toluenesulfonamide (**S12**) (10.0 mmol, 1 equiv) in 25 mL of diethyl ether was added to the distilling flask which was cooled to 0 °C. A solution of 0.561 g of KOH (10.0 mmol, 1 equiv) in 60 mL of absolute ethanol was added dropwise by means of an addition funnel (without mechanical stirring!). After complete addition, a solution of diazomethane in diethyl ether was distilled off by heating the reaction mixture to 60 °C for about 30 minutes, using a warm (but CERTAINLY BELOW 70 °C) water bath. CAUTION! At no time the water should boil! Never use other means of heating! Diazomethane may explode at 100 °C! During distillation, diethyl ether was added *via* the dropping funnel until the distillate turned colorless. The yellow distillate, a dilute solution of diazomethane in diethyl ether, was collected in a Büchner flask cooled to 0 °C. CAUTION! Explosion hazard! The solution should be dilute!

2. X-ray christallographic data

For the reported structures, X-ray intensity data were collected, at 100 K, on an Agilent Supernova Dual Source (Cu at zero) diffractometer equipped with an Atlas CCD detector using ω scans and CuK α (λ = 1.54184 Å) radiation. The images were interpreted and integrated with the program CrysAlisPro (Rigaku Oxford Diffraction). Using Olex2, the structures were solved by direct methods using the ShelXS structure solution program and refined by full-matrix least-squares on F² using the ShelXL program package. Non-hydrogen atoms were anisotropically refined and the hydrogen atoms in the riding mode and isotropic temperature factors fixed at 1.2 times U(eq) of the parent atoms (1.5 times U(eq) for methyl and hydroxyl groups).

CCDC 1485738 and 1485739 contain the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper and can be obtained free of charge *via* www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/conts/retrieving.html (or from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12, Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK; fax: +44-1223-336033; or deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk).

2.1. X-ray christallographic data of (S)-2

Crystal data for compound (S)-2. $C_{18}H_{16}N_2O_3$, M = 308.33, orthorhombic, space group $P2_12_12_1$ (No. 19), a = 4.87924(5) Å, b = 14.43858(15) Å, c = 20.3657(2) Å, V = 1434.75(3) Å³, Z = 4, T = 100 K, $\rho_{calc} = 1.427$ g cm⁻³, $\mu(Cu-K\alpha) = 0.805$ mm⁻¹, F(000) = 648, 63297 reflections measured, 2948 unique ($R_{int} = 0.1028$) which were used in all calculations. The final R1 was 0.0477 ($I > 2\sigma(I)$) and wR2 was 0.1282 (all data).

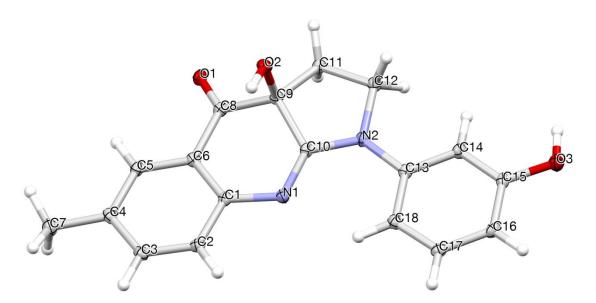


Figure S1. Molecular structure of compound (*S*)-**2**, showing thermal displacement ellipsoids at the 50% probability level and atom labeling scheme of the non-hydrogen atoms.

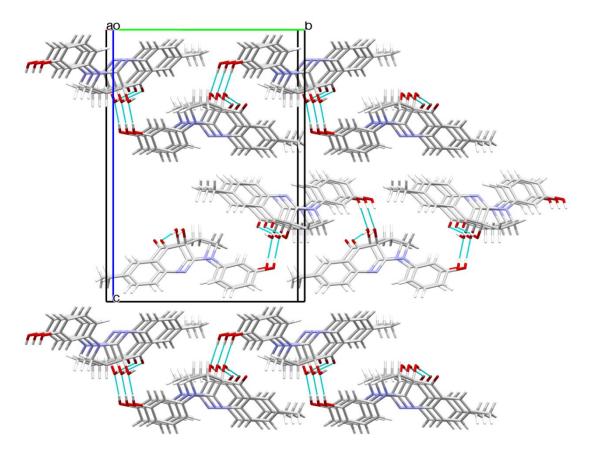


Figure S2. Packing in the crystal structure of compound (*S*)-2, along the a-axis. Hydrogen bonds, formed between the hydroxyl groups, are indicated.

2.2. X-ray christallographic data of (R)-2

Crystal data for compound (R)-2. $C_{18}H_{16}N_2O_3$, M = 308.33, orthorhombic, space group $P2_12_12_1$ (No. 19), a = 4.88084(6) Å, b = 14.45507(15) Å, c = 20.3743(2) Å, V = 1437.47(3) Å³, Z = 4, T = 100 K, $\rho_{calc} = 1.425$ g cm⁻³, $\mu(Cu-K\alpha) = 0.803$ mm⁻¹, F(000) = 648, 31031 reflections measured, 49208 unique ($R_{int} = 0.1088$) which were used in all calculations. The final R1 was 0.0498 ($I > 2\sigma(I)$) and wR2 was 0.0498 (all data).

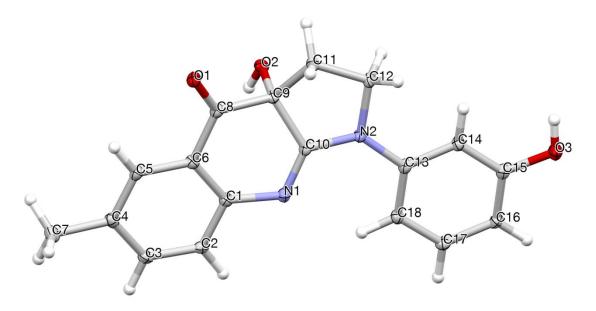


Figure S3. Molecular structure of compound (R)-2, showing thermal displacement ellipsoids at the 50% probability level and atom labeling scheme of the non-hydrogen atoms.

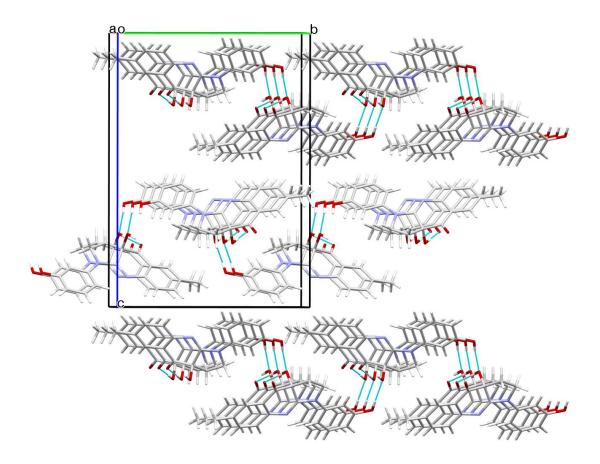


Figure S4. Packing in the crystal structure of compound (*R*)-2, along the a-axis. Hydrogen bonds, formed between the hydroxyl groups, are indicated.

3. ¹H NMR spectra, ¹³C NMR spectra and LC-MS chromatograms

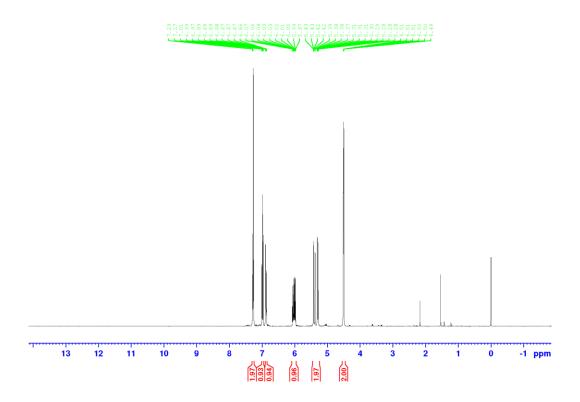


Figure S5. ¹H NMR spectrum of 4b.

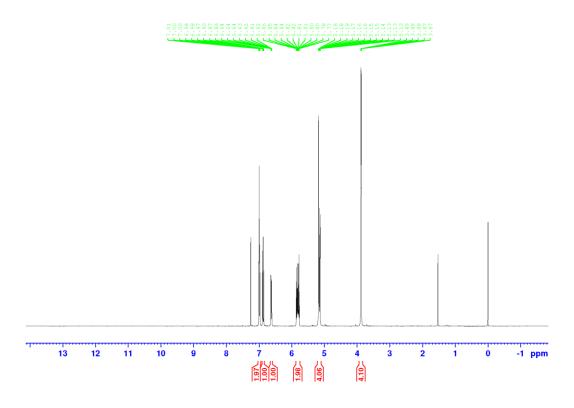


Figure S6. ¹H NMR spectrum of 4c.

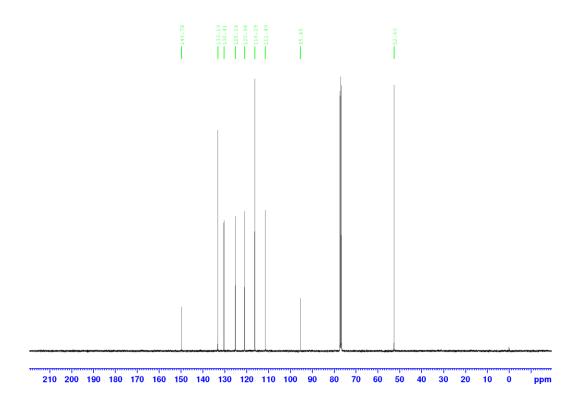


Figure S7. ¹³C NMR spectrum of 4c.

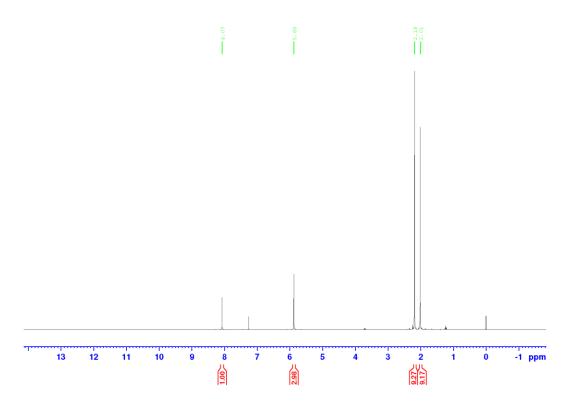


Figure S8. ¹H NMR spectrum of **S6**.

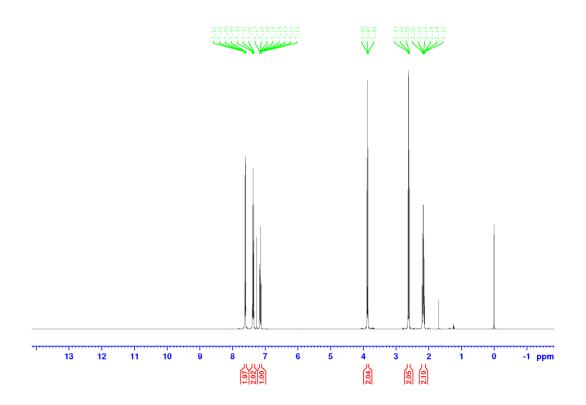


Figure S9. ¹H NMR spectrum of 6a.

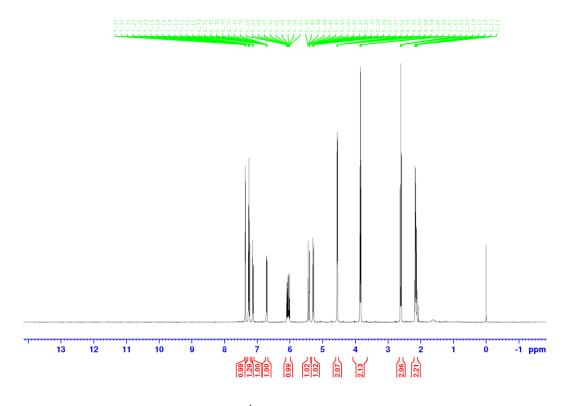


Figure S10. ¹H NMR spectrum of 6b.

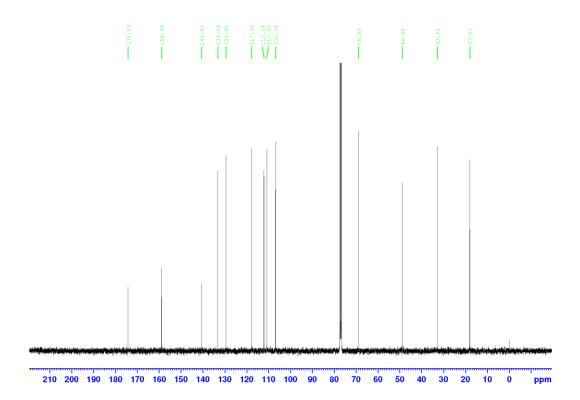


Figure S11. ¹³C NMR spectrum of **6b**.

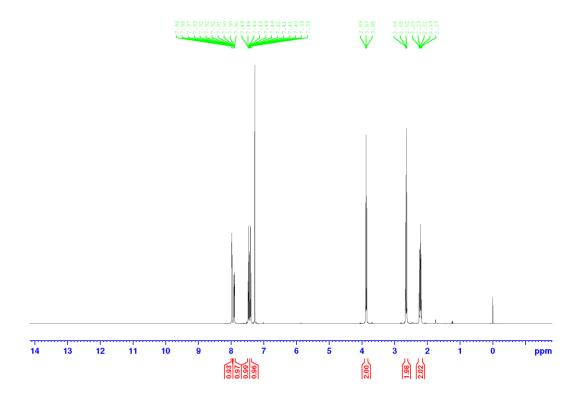


Figure S12. ¹H NMR spectrum of 6d.

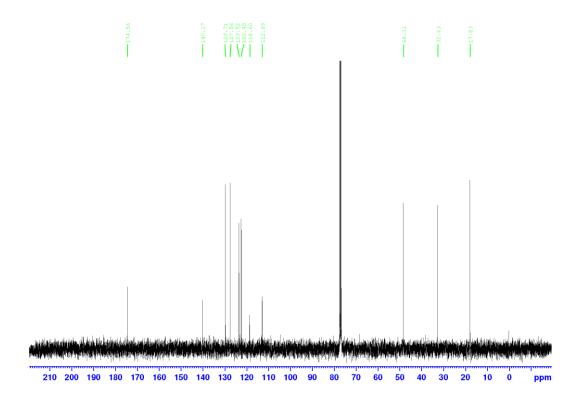


Figure S13. ¹³C NMR spectrum of **6d**.

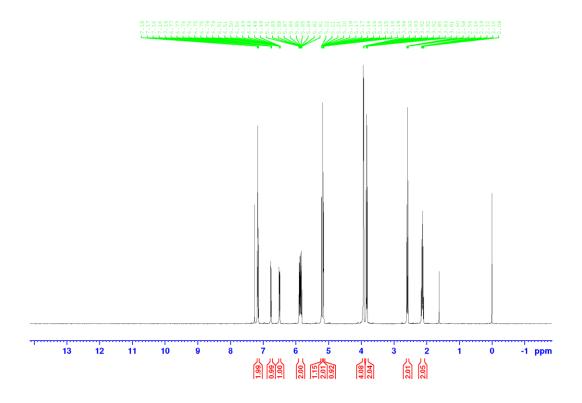


Figure S14. ¹H NMR spectrum of 6c.

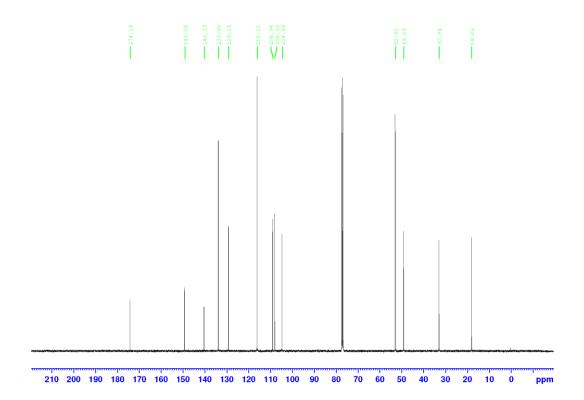


Figure S15. ¹³C NMR spectrum of **6c**.

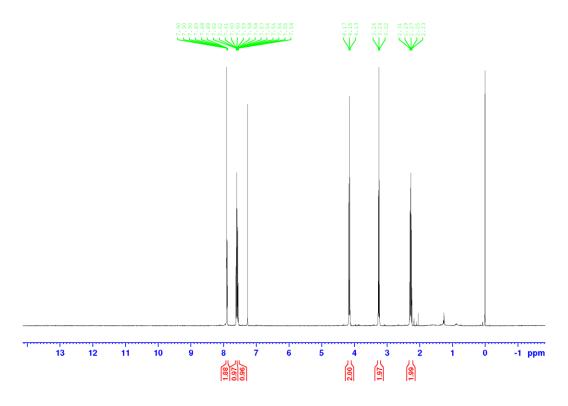


Figure S16. ¹H NMR spectrum of 10.

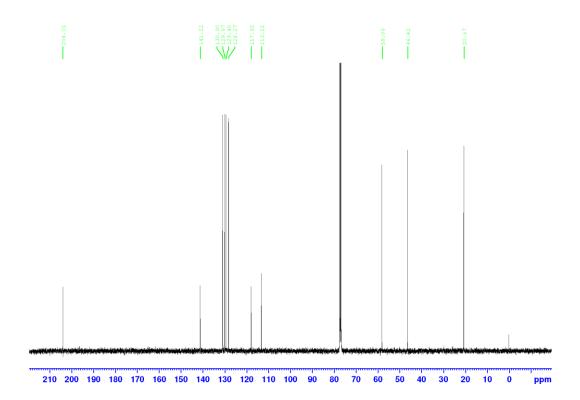


Figure S17. ¹³C NMR spectrum of 10.

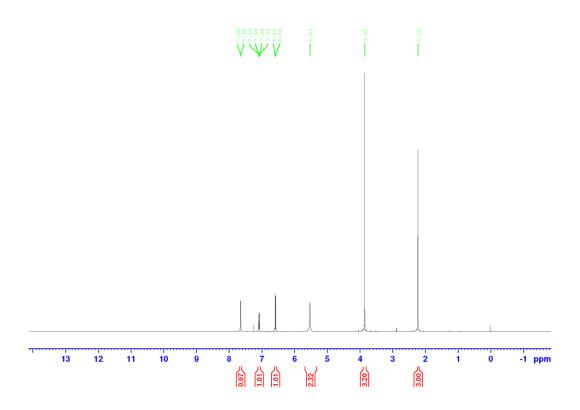


Figure S18. ¹H NMR spectrum of **7**.

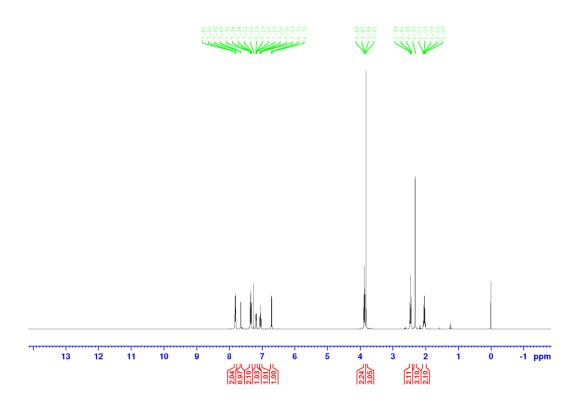


Figure S19. ¹H NMR spectrum of 8a.

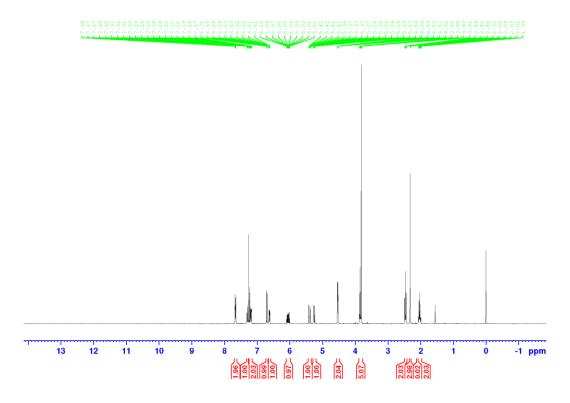


Figure S20. ¹H NMR spectrum of 8b.

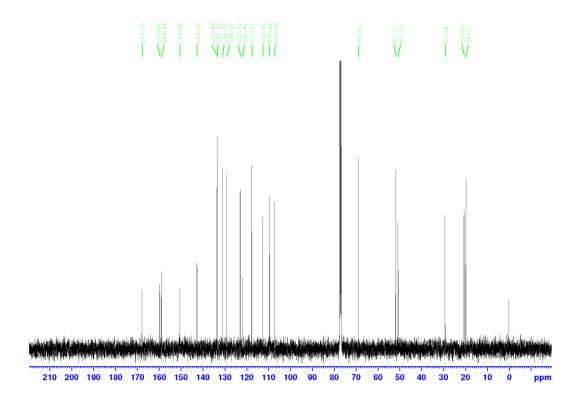


Figure S21. ¹³C NMR spectrum of 8b.

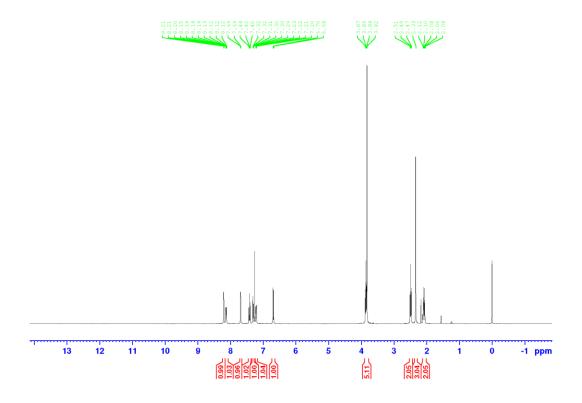


Figure S22. ¹H NMR spectrum of 8d.

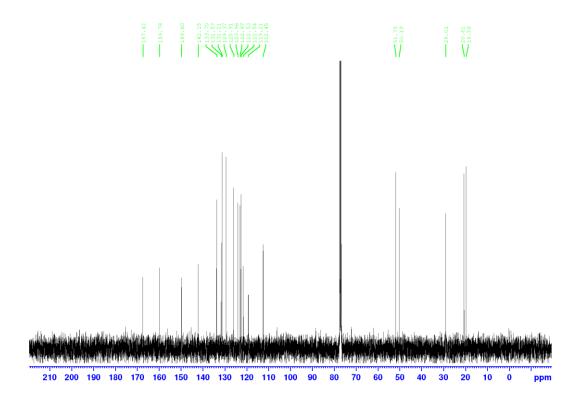


Figure S23. ¹³C NMR spectrum of 8d.

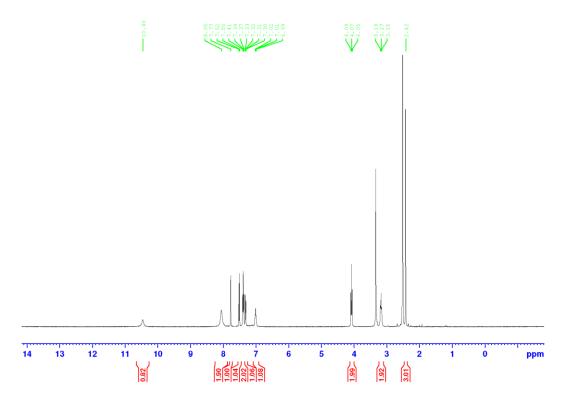


Figure S24. ¹H NMR spectrum of 9a.

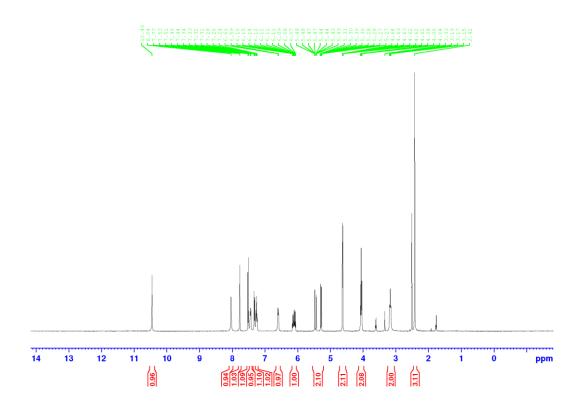


Figure S25. ¹H NMR spectrum of 9b.

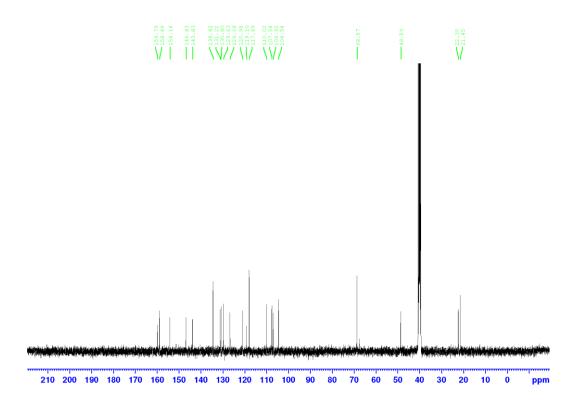


Figure S26. ¹³C NMR spectrum of 9b.

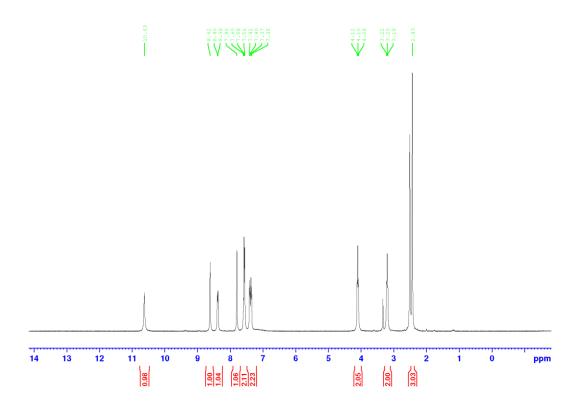


Figure S27. ¹H NMR spectrum of 9d.

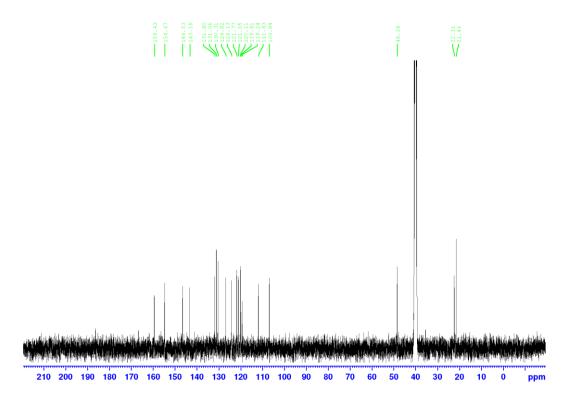


Figure S28. ¹³C NMR spectrum of 9d.

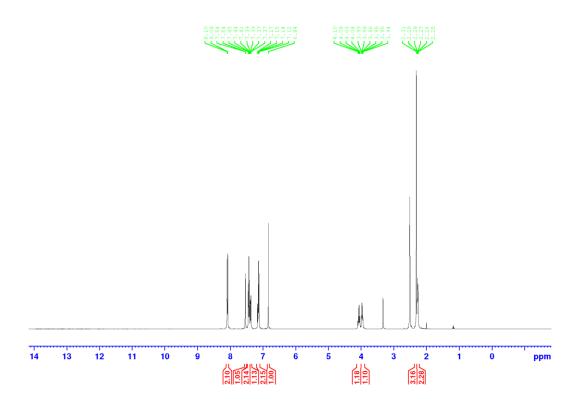


Figure S29. 1 H NMR spectrum of (S)-1.

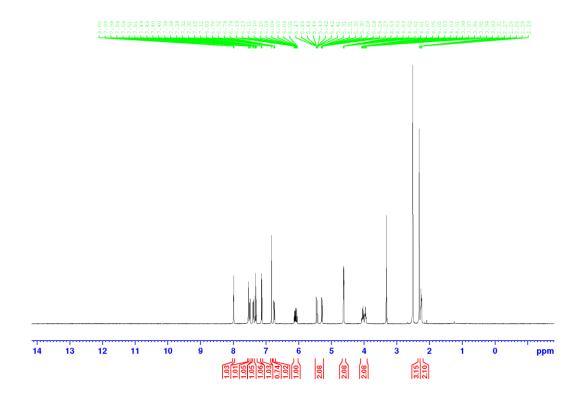


Figure S30. ¹H NMR spectrum of (S)-11.

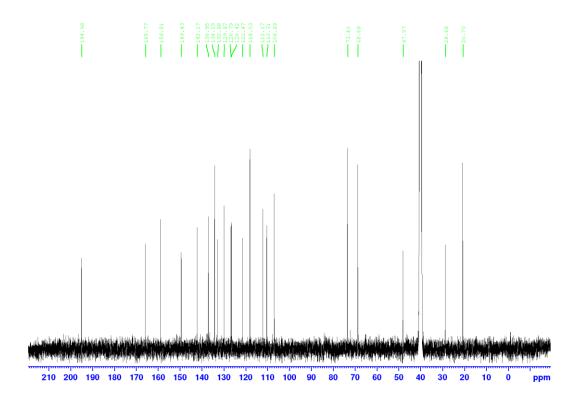


Figure S31. ¹³C NMR spectrum of (*S*)-**11**.

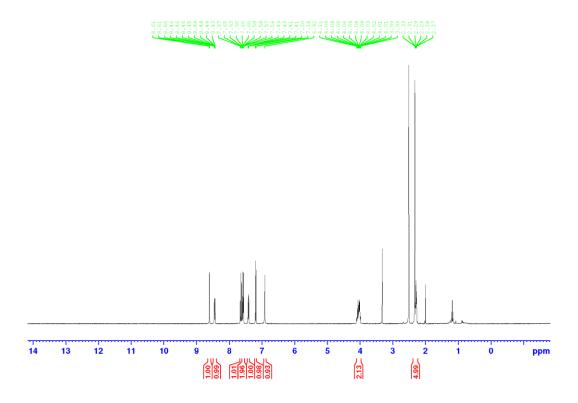


Figure S32. ¹H NMR spectrum of (S)-13.

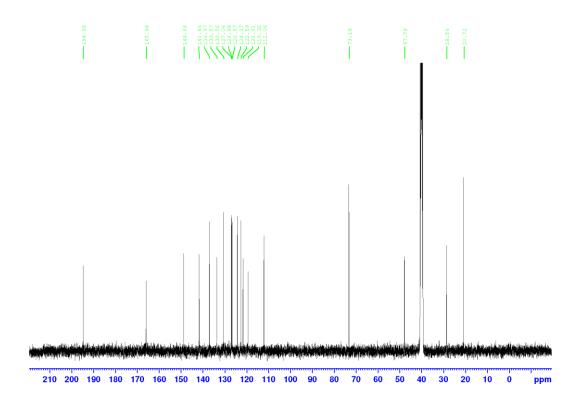


Figure S33. ¹³C NMR spectrum of (*S*)**-13**.

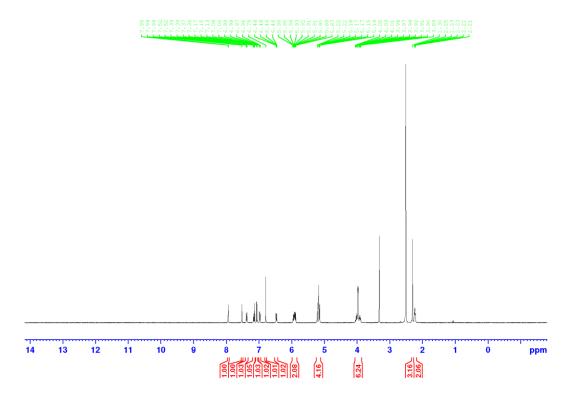


Figure S34. ¹H NMR spectrum of (*S*)**-12**.

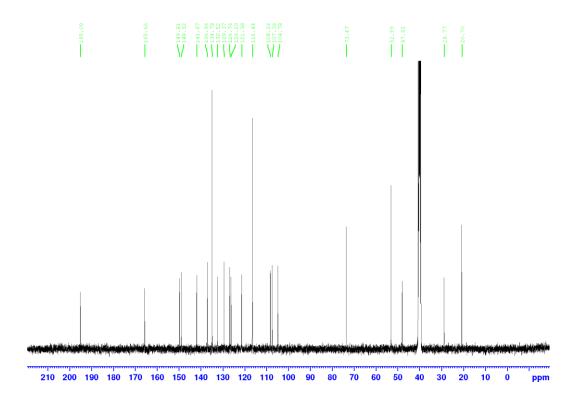


Figure S35. ¹³C NMR spectrum of (*S*)**-12**.

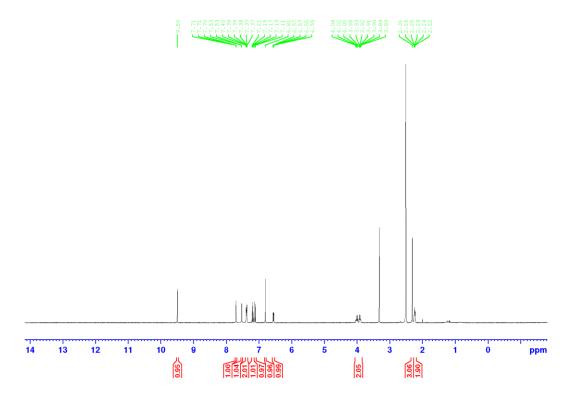


Figure S36. ¹H NMR spectrum of (*S*)-2.

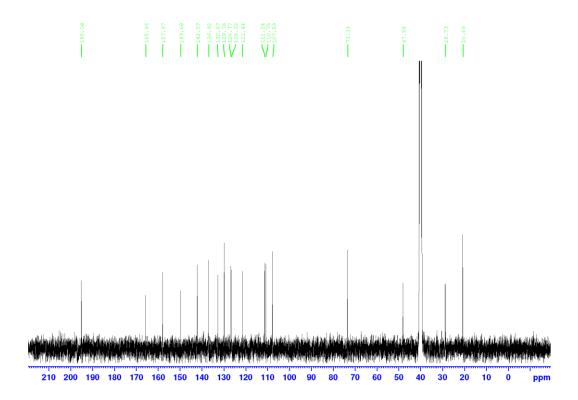


Figure S37. 13 C NMR spectrum of (S)-2.

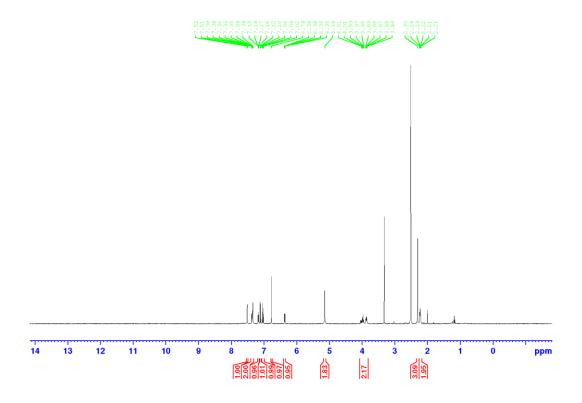


Figure S38. ¹H NMR spectrum of (*S*)**-3**.

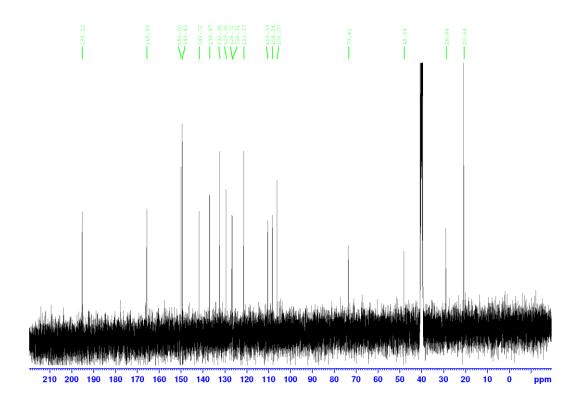


Figure S39. 13 C NMR spectrum of (S)-3.

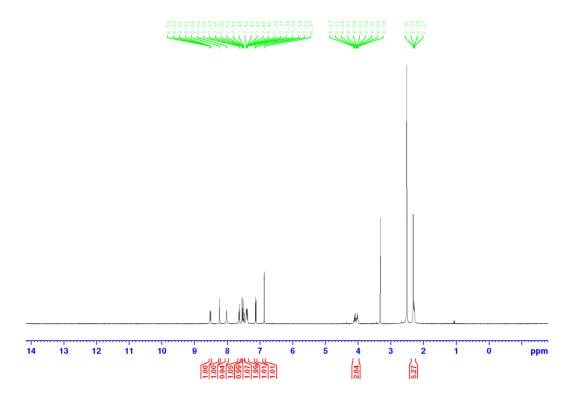


Figure S40. ¹H NMR spectrum of (S)-16.

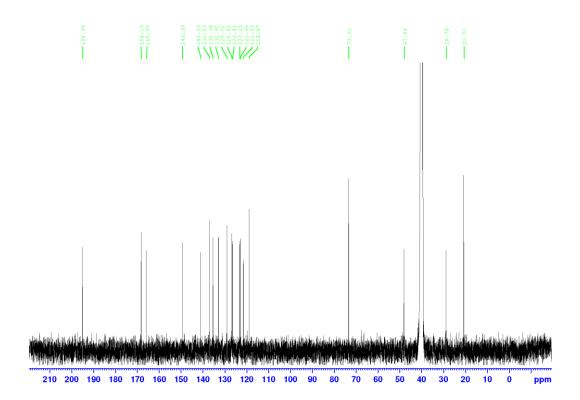


Figure S41. ¹³C NMR spectrum of (*S*)**-16**.

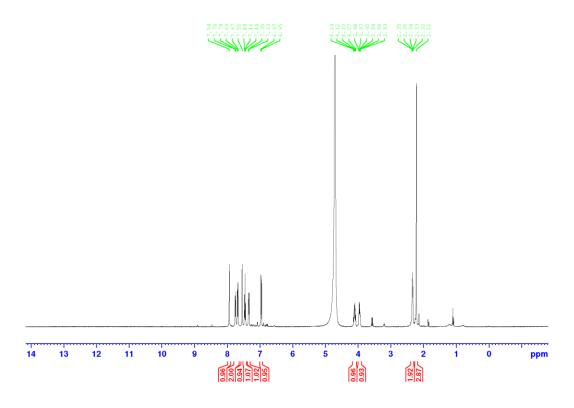


Figure S42. ¹H NMR spectrum of (S)-17.

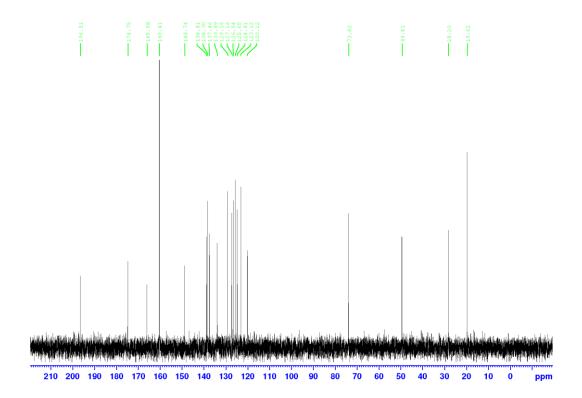


Figure S43. ¹³C NMR spectrum of (*S*)-17.

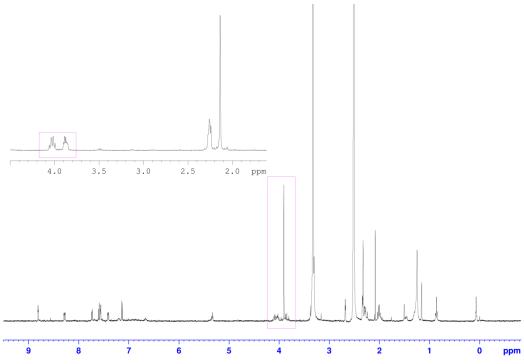


Figure S44. Proof of formation of corresponding methyl ester of (*S*)-17 *via* ¹H NMR (overlay of (*S*)-17).

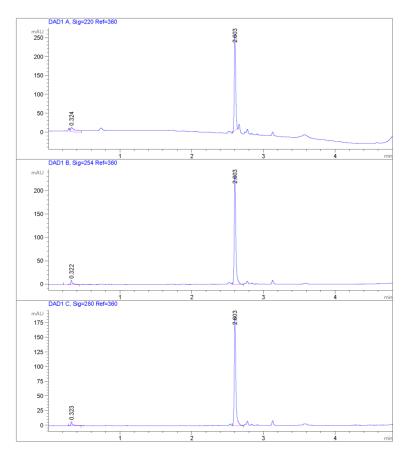


Figure S45. Proof of formation of corresponding methyl ester of (S)-17 via LC.

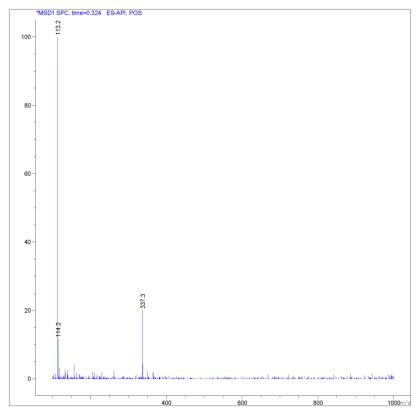


Figure S46. Proof of formation of corresponding methyl ester of (*S*)-17 *via* MS (MS-spectrum of compound with $t_R = 0.324$ min in Figure S45).

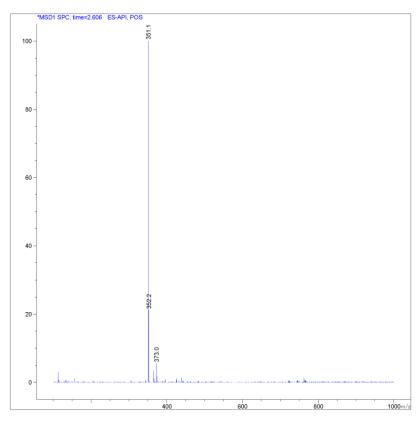


Figure S47. Proof of formation of corresponding methyl ester of (*S*)-17 *via* MS (MS-spectrum of compound with $t_R = 2.606$ min in Figure S45).

4. Chiral HPLC chromatograms

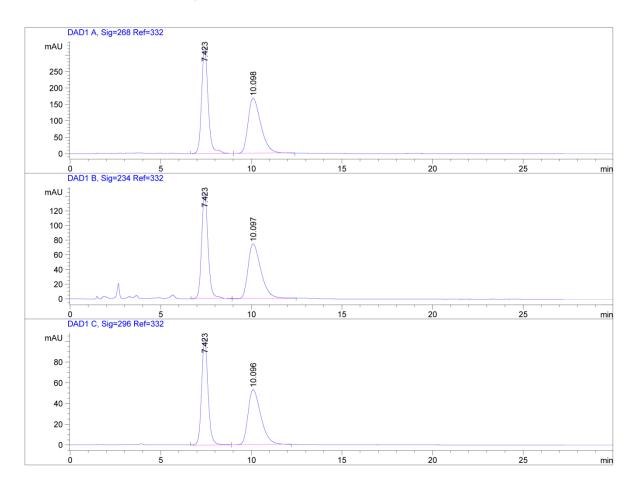


Figure S48. Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (S)-1 spiked with (R)-1.

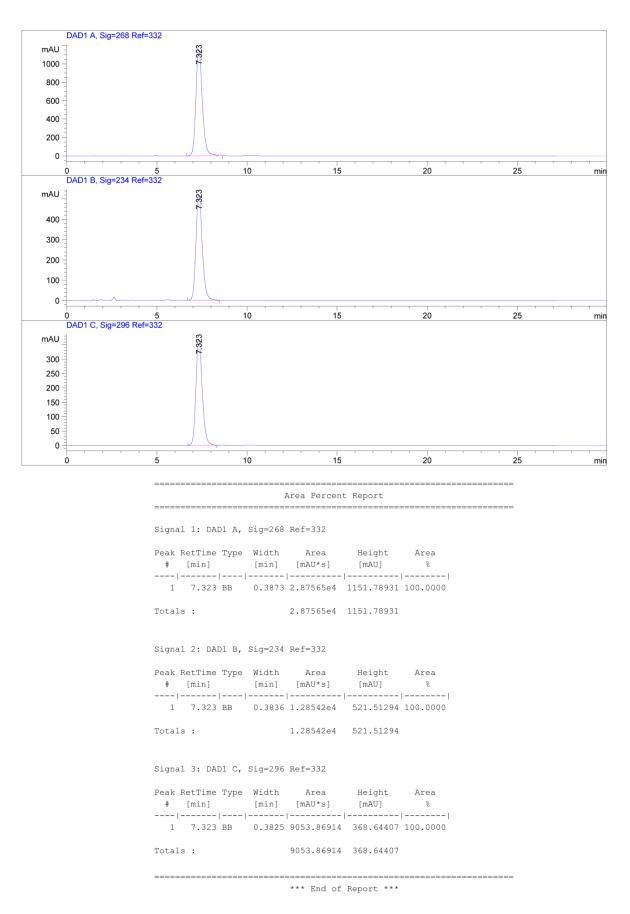


Figure S49. Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (*S*)-1.

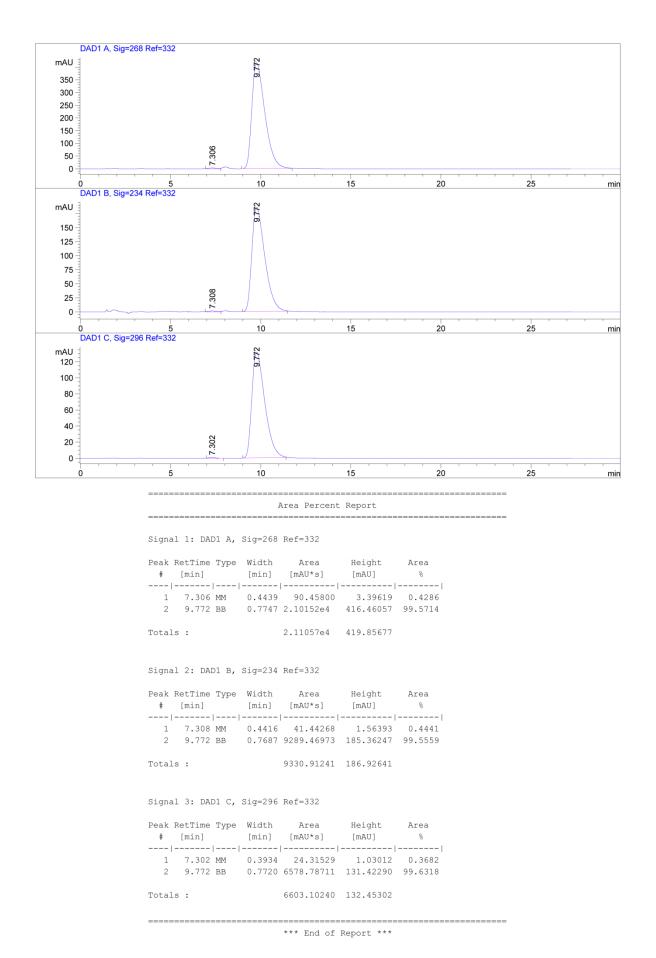


Figure S50. Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (R)-1.

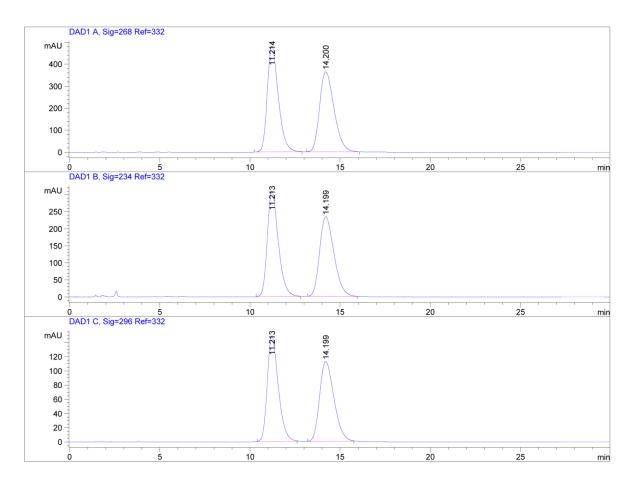


Figure S51. Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (S)-11 spiked with (R)-11.

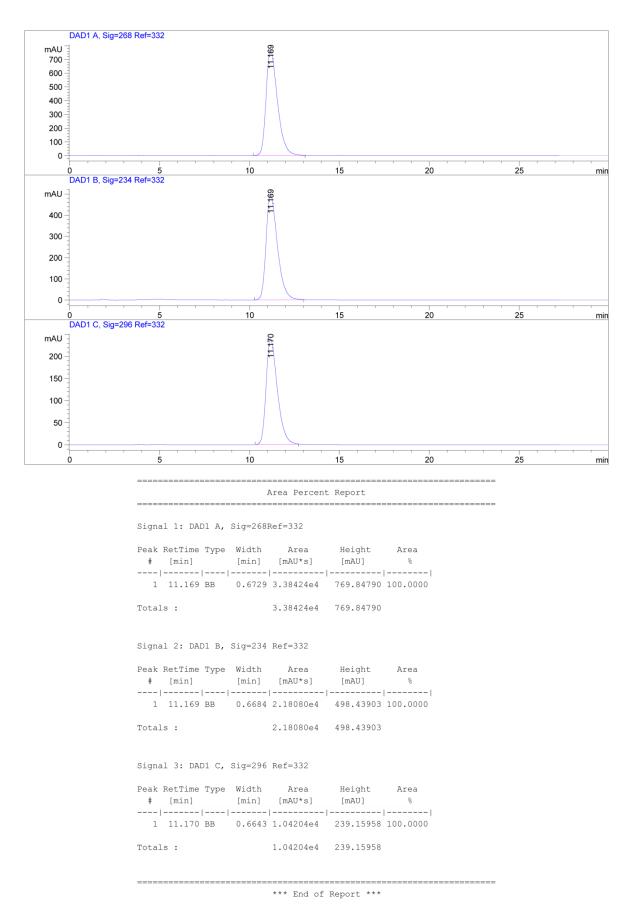


Figure S52. Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (*S*)-11.

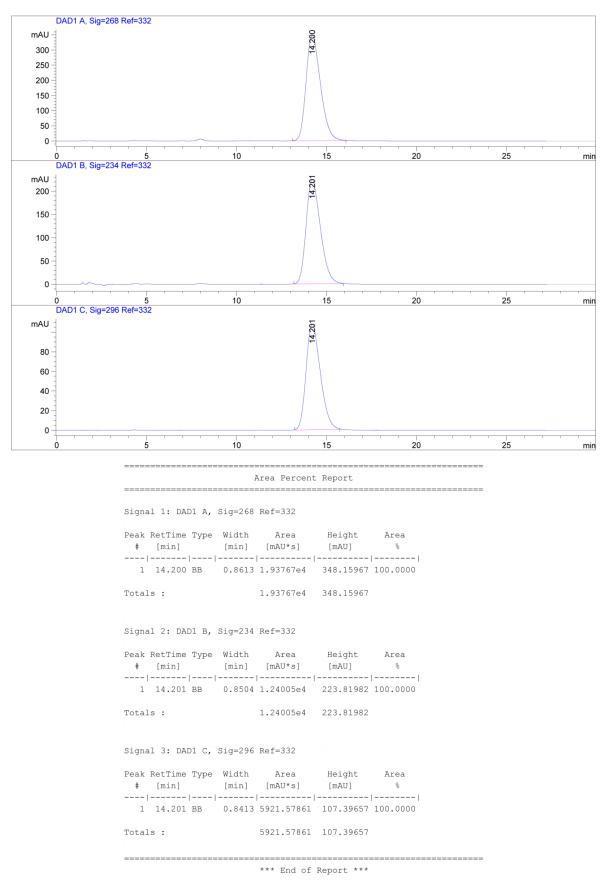


Figure S53. Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (*R*)-11.

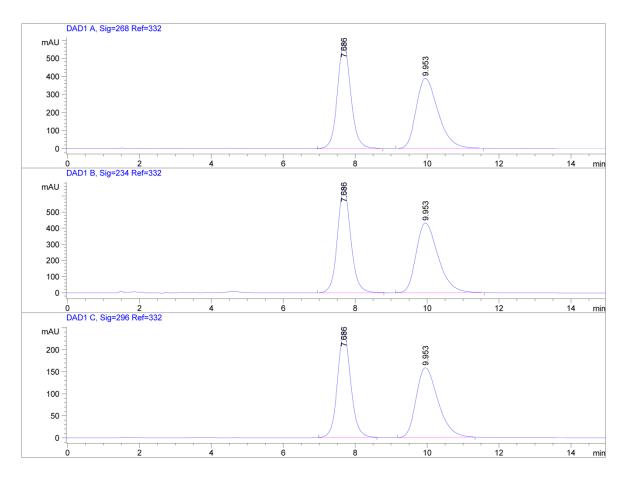


Figure S54. Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (S)-13 spiked with (R)-13.

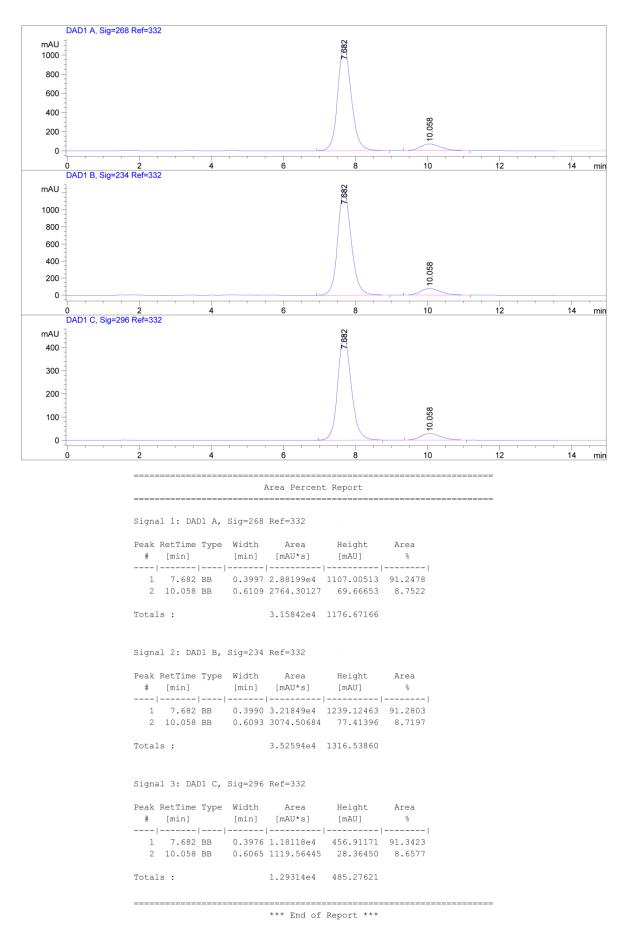


Figure S55. Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (*S*)-13.

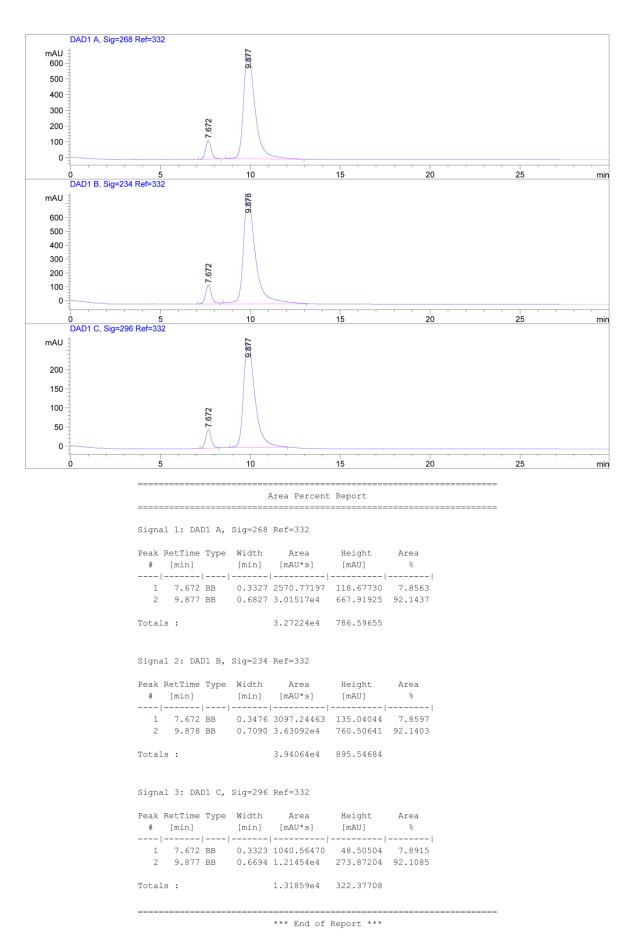


Figure S56. Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (*R*)-13.

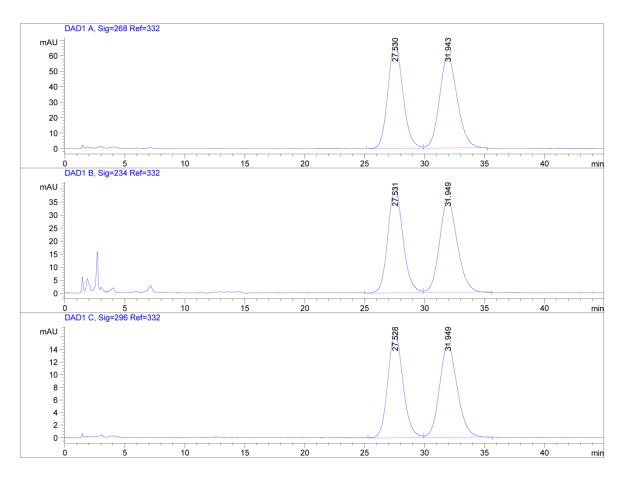


Figure S57. Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (S)-12 spiked with (R)-12.

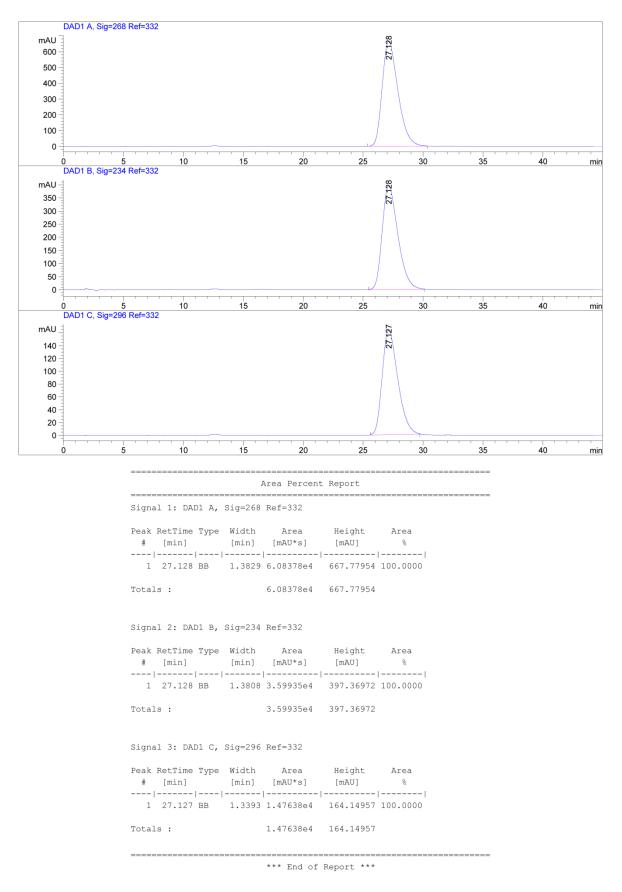


Figure S58. Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (*S*)-12.

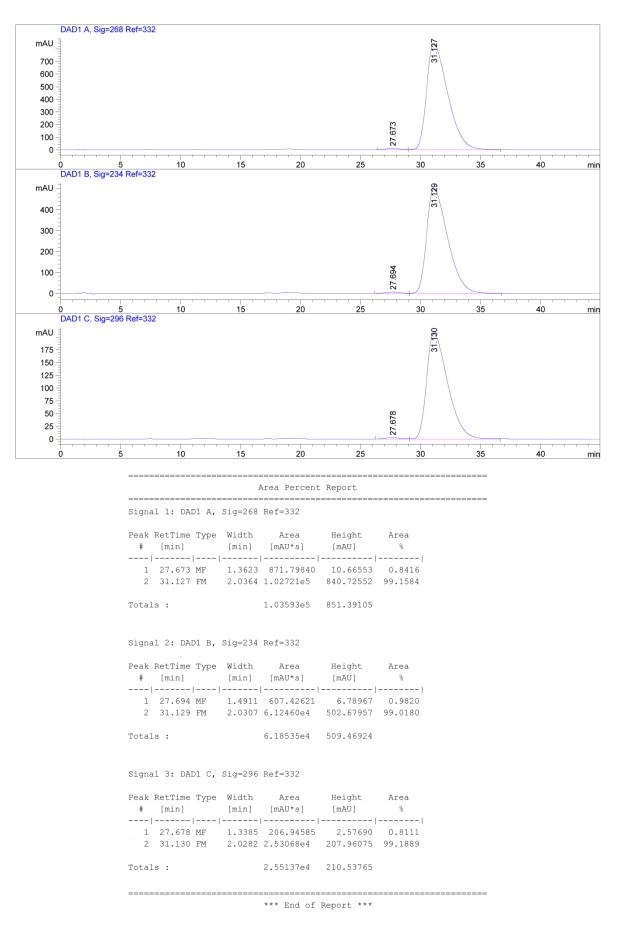


Figure S59. Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (*R*)-12.

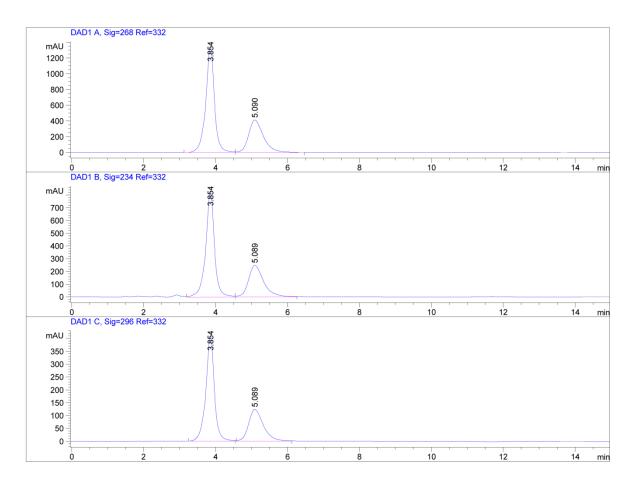


Figure S60. Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (S)-2 spiked with (R)-2.

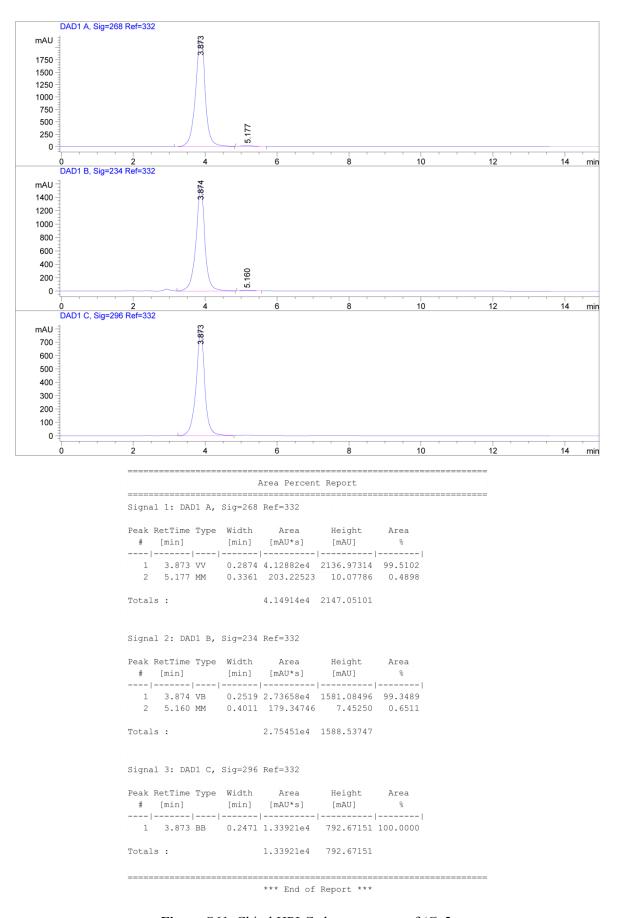


Figure S61. Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (*S*)-2.

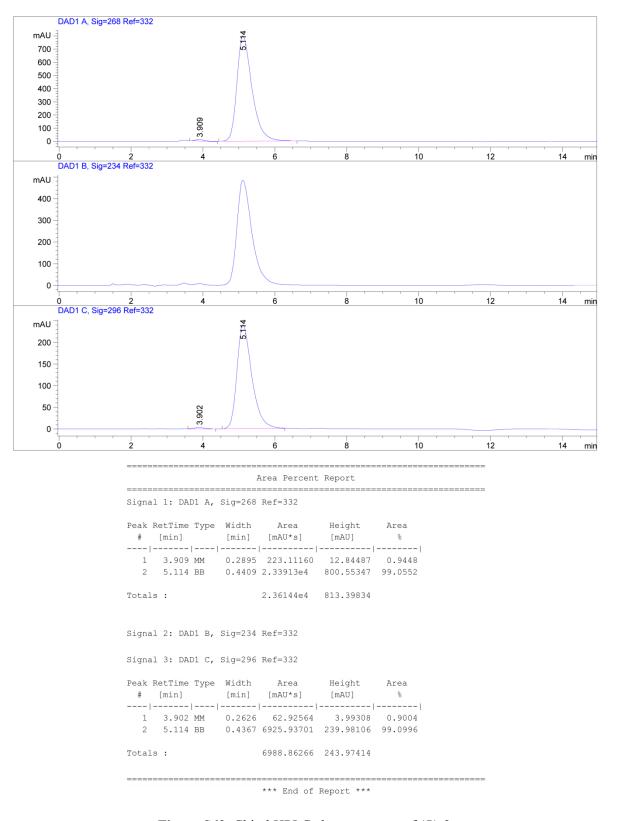


Figure S62. Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (R)-2.

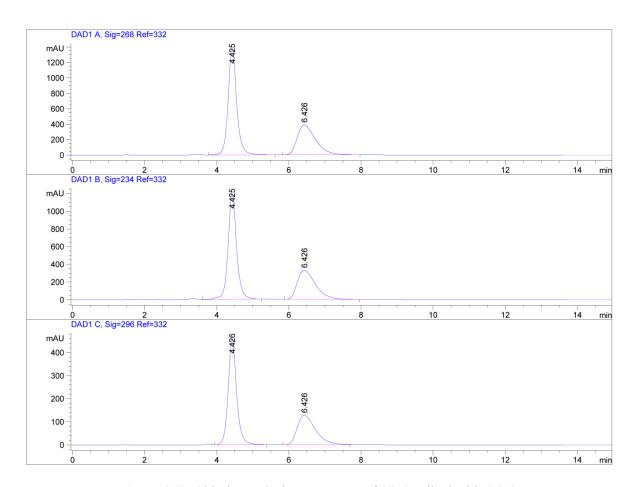


Figure S63. Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (S)-3 spiked with (R)-3.

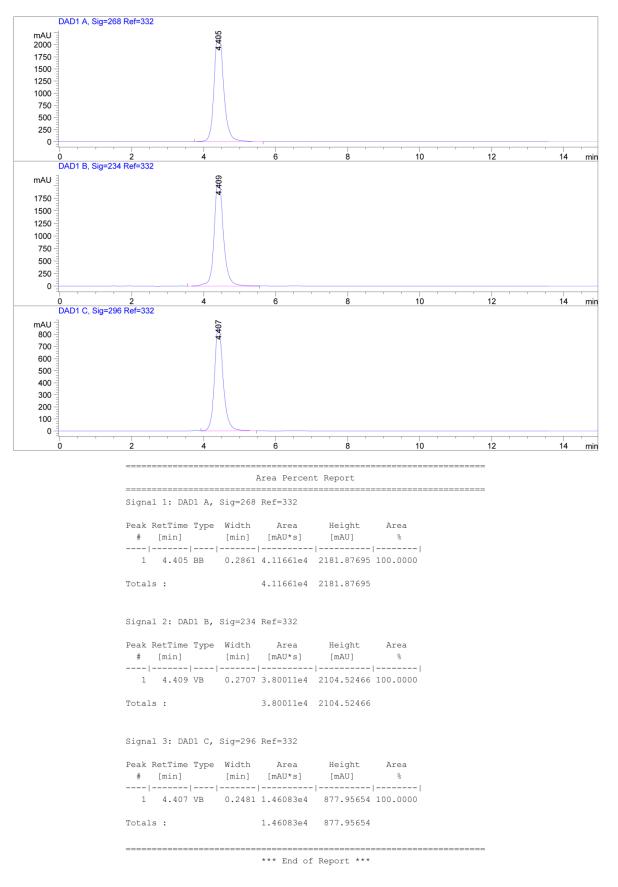


Figure S64. Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (*S*)-3.

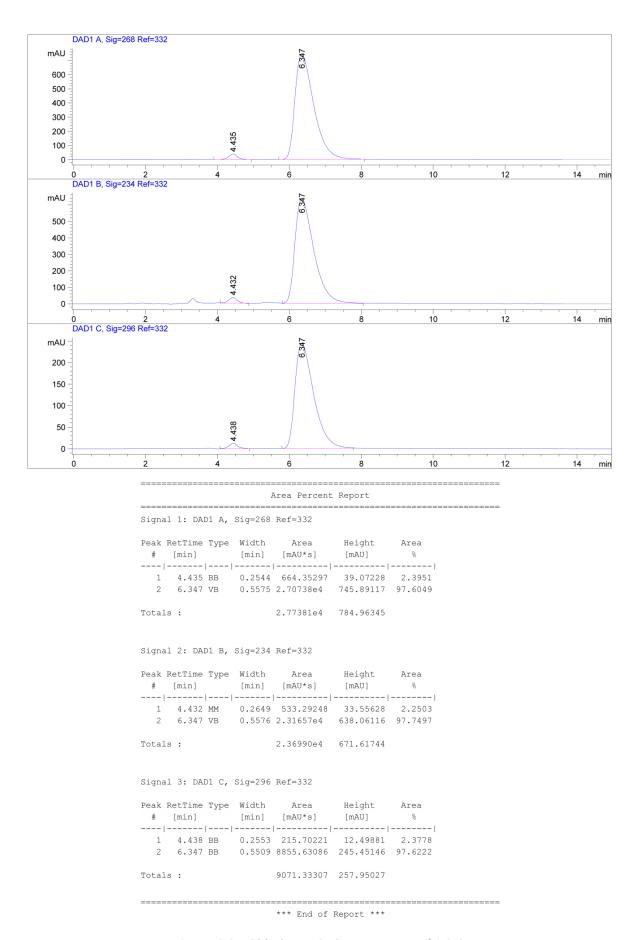


Figure S65. Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (*R*)-3.

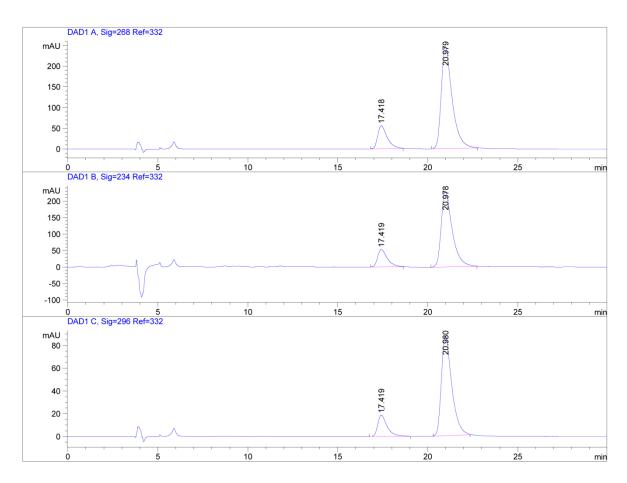


Figure S66. Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (S)-16 spiked with (R)-16.

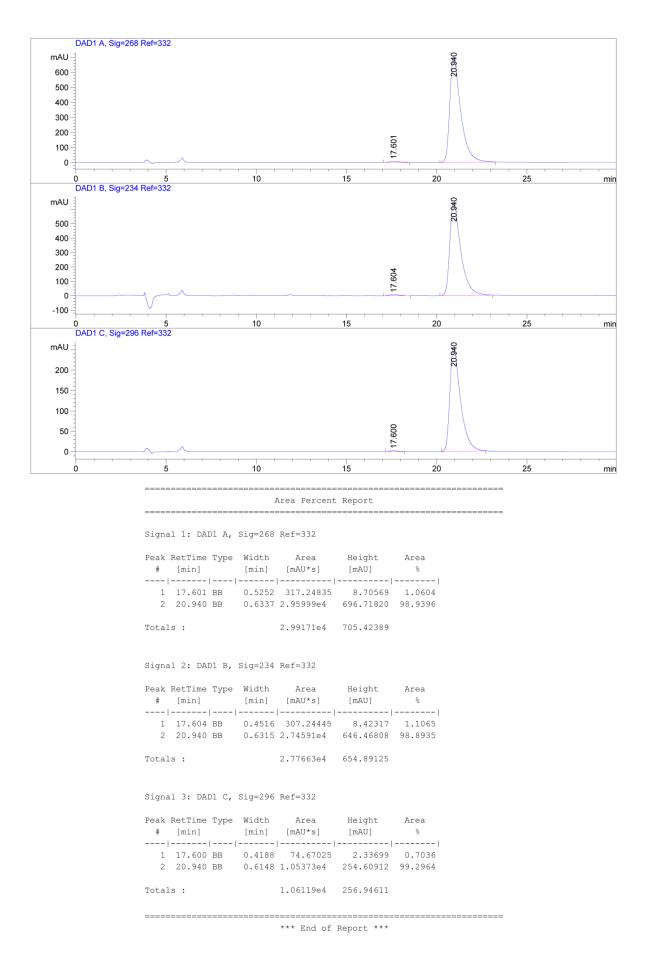


Figure S67. Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (*S*)-16.

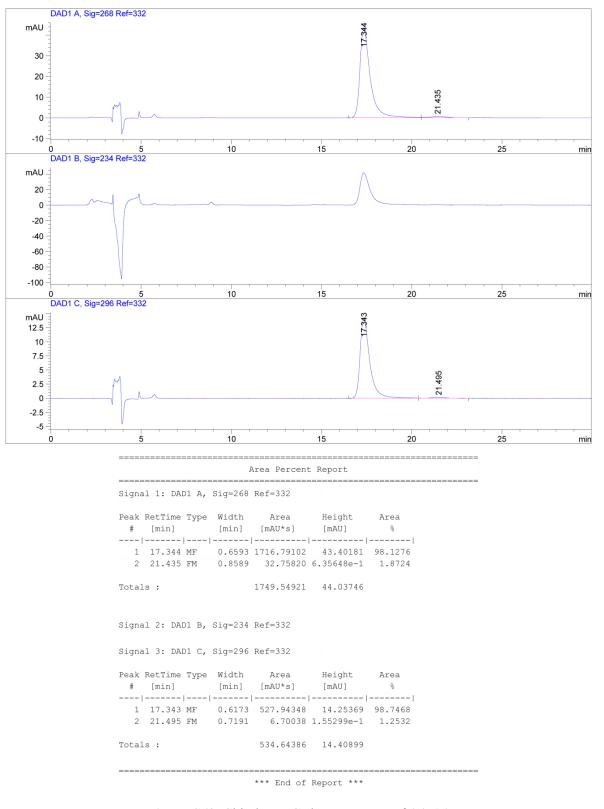


Figure S68. Chiral HPLC chromatogram of (*R*)-16.

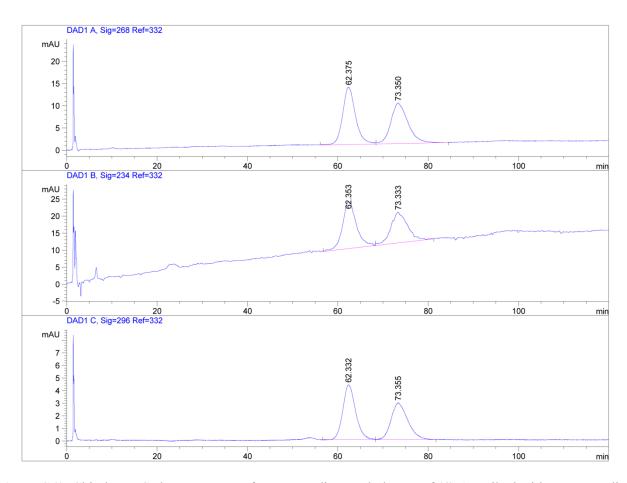


Figure S69. Chiral HPLC chromatogram of corresponding methyl ester of (S)-17 spiked with corresponding methyl ester of (R)-17.

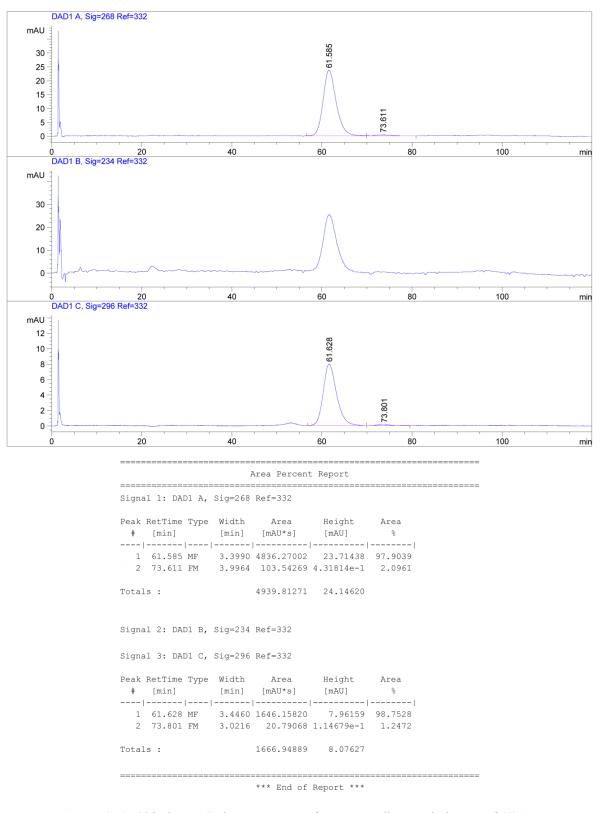


Figure S70. Chiral HPLC chromatogram of corresponding methyl ester of (*S*)-17.

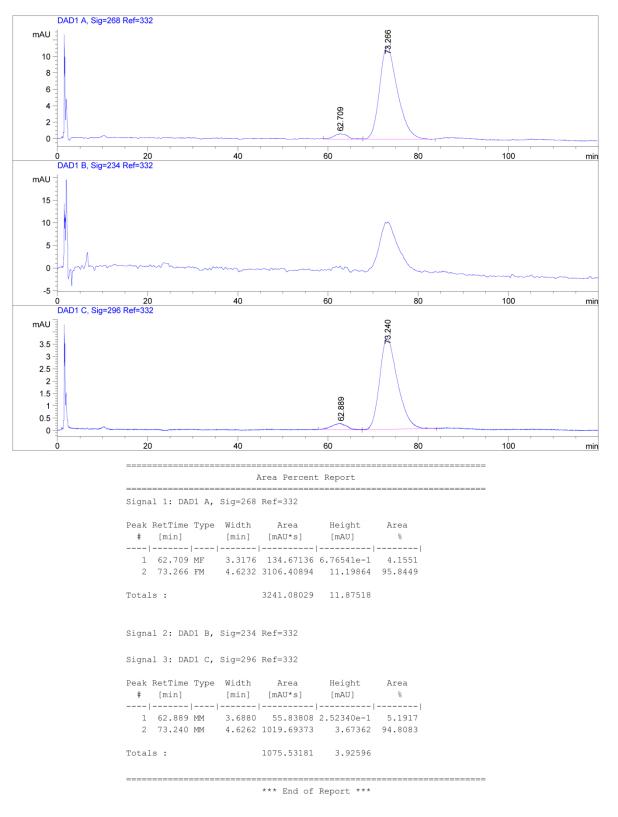


Figure S71. Chiral HPLC chromatogram of corresponding methyl ester of (*R*)-17.

5. Actin-activated ATPase assay

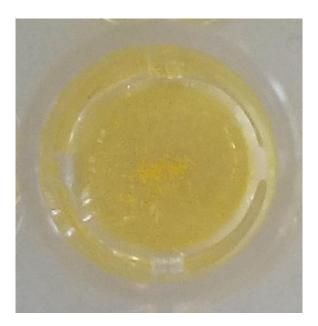


Figure S72. Observed (S)-13 precipitation in assay buffer when applied at concentrations higher than 40 μ M.

6. Microscopic imaging of fluorescence

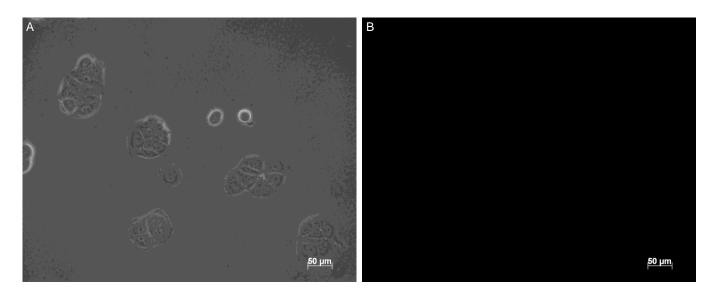


Figure S73. Fluorescence imaging of GFP-negative MCF-7/6 breast carcinoma cells treated with 0.1% DMSO as a solvent control. (A) Brightfield image. (B) Fluorescence image (488 nm excitation).

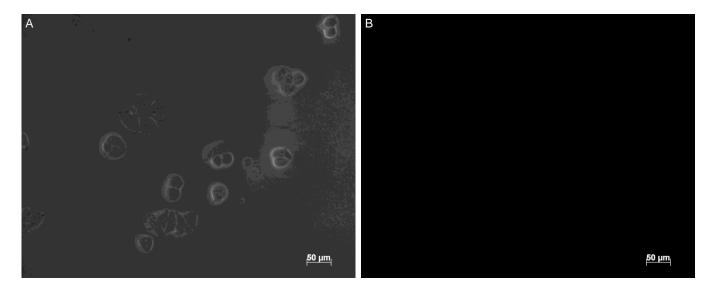


Figure S74. Fluorescence imaging of GFP-negative MCF-7/6 breast carcinoma cells treated with 5 μ M of (*S*)-3'-aminoblebbistatin (*S*)-3. (A) Brightfield image. (B) Fluorescence image (488 nm excitation).

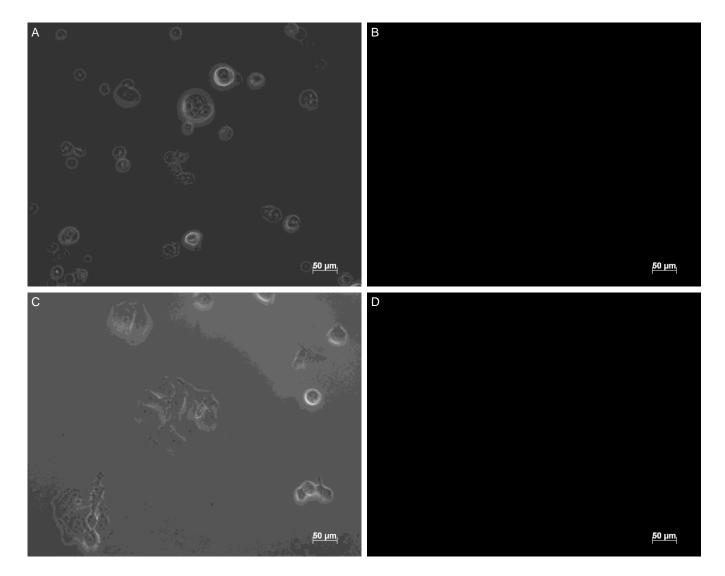


Figure S75. Fluorescence imaging of GFP-negative MCF-7/6 human breast carcinoma cells treated with (S)-3'-hydroxyblebbistatin (S)-2. (A) Brightfield image and (B) fluorescence image (488 nm excitation) of treatment with 5 μ M of (S)-3'-hydroxyblebbistatin (S)-2. (C) Brightfield image and (D) fluorescence image (488 nm excitation) of treatment with 50 μ M of (S)-3'-hydroxyblebbistatin (S)-2.

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