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1 General Information

All reactions were carried out in flame dried glassware under a nitrogen atmosphere using standard Schlenk techniques. Glassware and stir bars contaminated with transition metals were treated with aqua regia (conc. HCl/conc. HNO₃ 3:1) prior to cleaning. For cleaning, glassware and stir bars were kept in a iso-PrOH/KOH bath overnight, rinsed with H₂O, kept in a citric acid/ H_2O bath overnight and finally rinsed with deionized H_2O and dried at 120 °C. Solutions and reagents were added with nitrogen-flushed disposable syringes/needles. Solvents were added using glass syringes and stainless steel needles (stored at 120 °C). Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on silica gel 60 G/UV₂₅₄ aluminium sheets (Macherey-Nagel). Flash column chromatography was performed on silica gel Davisil LC60A (40-63 µm, pore size 60 Å, Grace) using the indicated solvents. NMR spectra were recorded on AV400, AV500 or AV700 instruments (Bruker) at the Institut für Chemie of Technische Universität Berlin. Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm) and are referenced to the residual solvent resonance as the internal standard according to the standard literature.^[1] Data are reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (br s = broad singlet, s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, $m_c =$ centrosymmetric multiplet), coupling constants (Hz), integration and - if possible - atom assignment. The assignment refers to the atom number shown in the corresponding molecule figure and was achieved by analysis of DEPT (DEPT 135) and 2D-NMR spectra (COSY, HMQC, HSQC, HMBC, NOESY). If a distinct assignment was not possible, atoms were marked with "*" and are interchangeable. Designation "Ar" refers to atoms of an aromatic system where a distinct assignment was not possible. Melting points (m.p.) were determined using a Leica Galen III melting point apparatus (Wagner & Munz). Infrared (IR) spectra were recorded on a Cary 630 FT-IR spectrometer equipped with an ATR unit (Agilent Technologies). Mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained from the Analytical Facility at the Institut für Chemie at Technische Universität Berlin (ESI/APCI: LTQ Orbitrap XL, Thermo Scientific; EI: GC-system 5975C, HP-5MS, Agilent Technologies). Analytical gas chromatography (GC) of reaction mixtures and pure substances was performed using a gas chromatograph 430-GC (Varian Inc.). The instrument was equipped with a FactorFour VF-WAXms capillary column (Varian Inc., length: 30 m, inner diameter: 0.25 mm, film thickness of the stationary phase: 0.25 µm). The following temperature program was used for the analysis: carrier gas N₂; injection temperature 270 °C; detector temperature 270 °C; flow rate 4.0 mL/min; temperature program: 40 °C start temperature, 20 °C/min heating rate to 250 °C for 10 min, then 20 °C/min heating rate to final temperature 260 °C for 5 min. The data was recorded with the program Galaxie 1.9.302.952 (Varian Inc.). Enantiomeric excesses were determined by analytical high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) analysis on an Agilent Technologies 1290 Infinity instrument with a chiral stationary phase using a Daicel Chiralcel OD-H column (*n*-heptane/iso-propanol = 98:2, 0.5 mL/min, 20 °C, 30 bar).

1.1 Solvents

THF and 1,4-dioxane were dried over sodium/benzophenone and distilled under N_2 atmosphere prior to use. Et₃N and CH₂Cl₂ were dried over CaH₂ and distilled under N₂ atmosphere prior to use. Acetone and EtOH were destilled under reduced pressure prior to use. Solvents (technical grade) for extraction/chromatography (*n*-pentane, cyclohexane, CH₂Cl₂, *tert*-butyl methyl ether, EtOAc) were distilled under reduced pressure prior to use. Liquid substrates for hydrogenation reactions were degassed prior to use.

1.2 Reactions under H₂ pressure

All reactions under H_2 pressure were carried out in glass vials (50 x 14 mm, *Schütt*), equipped with a magnetic stir bar and a rubber septum in autoclaves BR-100 or Br-300 (including the appropriate heating blocks, *Berghof*). The autoclave was purged with N₂ (3 x 10 bar) before the vials were placed in the autoclave and the septum was pierced under a counter flow of N₂. The autoclave was purged with N₂ (1 x 1 bar, 3 x 10 bar) and H₂ (3 x 10 bar) or D₂ (2 x 5 bar) before the appropriate H₂ or D₂ pressure was applied (pressure is given as initial pressure before heating). The heating block was pre-heated before the autoclave was placed inside. After the respective reaction time the autoclave was allowed to cool to rt and H₂ or D₂ was released. The autoclave was purged with N₂ (3 x 10 bar) before the vials were taken out.

1.3 Chemicals

All reagents were purchased from established commercial suppliers (*Sigma-Aldrich, Alfa Aesar, TCI, Acros, Strem,, Merck, ABCR, Fluka, Fisher Scientrific*) and used without further purification. H₂ (99.999%) and D₂ (99.8%) was purchased from *Air Liquide*. (1*E*,2*E*)-*N*¹,*N*²-dimesitylethane-1,2-diimine,^[2] diethyl 3,3'-(1,4-phenylene)(2*E*,2'*E*)-bis(but-2-enoate) (**8r**),^[3] ethyl (*E*)-2-methyl-3-phenylbut-2-enoate (**8I**),^[4] ethyl 3-propylhex-2-enoate (**8v**),^[3] ethyl (2*E*,4*E*)-5-phenylpenta-2,4-dienoate (**12**)^[5], ethyl (*E*)-3-(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)but-2-enoate (**8n**),^[6] 1-(4-((*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy)phenyl)ethan-1-one^[7] and (*E*)-3-phenylbut-2-enoic acid^[8] were synthesized following known procedures.

2 Additional optimization data

2.1 Influence of catalyst, base, solvent, pressure and temperature



| Entry | [Cu] | Conv . ^{<i>b</i>} [%] | |
|-------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | [IMesCuCl] 3 | >95 | |
| 2 | [IPrCuBr] S1 | 67 | |
| 3 | [IPrCuCl] 4 | 94 | |
| 4 | [SIPrCuCl] 7 | 41 | |
| 5 | [SIMesCuCI] 6 | >95 | |
| 6 | [IAdCuCl] 5 | 17 | |
| 7 | [SIpOMeMesCuCI] S2 | >95 | |

^a All reactions with 4.6 µmol [Cu] in 1.1 mL solvent. ^b Determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy.

Table S2: Influence of base.^a



| Entry | Conditions | Conv. ^b [%] | |
|-------|---------------------------|------------------------|--|
| 1 | no [IMesCuCl] 3 | 0 | |
| Ι | 1.1 equiv NaO <i>t</i> Bu | 0 | |
| 2 | no NaO <i>t</i> Bu | 0 | |
| 2 | no [IMesCuCI] 3 | 0 | |
| 3 | no NaO <i>t</i> Bu | 0 | |
| 4 | 10 mol% NaO <i>t</i> Bu | 6 | |
| 5 | 30 mol% NaO <i>t</i> Bu | >95 | |
| 6 | 50 mol% NaO <i>t</i> Bu | >95 | |
| 7 | 80 mol% NaO <i>t</i> Bu | >95 | |

^a All reactions with 4.6 µmol [Cu] in 1.1 mL solvent. ^b Determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy.



| Entry | solvent | Conv. ^b [%] | | |
|-------|-------------|------------------------|--|--|
| 1 | THF | 32 | | |
| 2 | 1,4-dioxane | >95 | | |
| 3 | 2-Me-THF | 8 | | |
| 4 | DMF | 0 | | |
| 5 | MeCN | 6 | | |
| 6 | cyclohexane | 27 | | |

| Entry | solvent | Conv. ^b [%] | |
|-------|---------------------|------------------------|--|
| 7 | <i>n</i> -hexane | 27 | |
| 8 | benzene | 18 | |
| 9 | chlorobenzene | 5 | |
| 10 | 1,2-dichlorobenzene | 16 | |
| 11 | toluene | 44 | |

^a All reactions with 4.6 µmol [Cu] in 1.1 mL solvent. ^b Determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy.

 Table S4: Influence of H₂-pressure and temperature.^a



| Entry | H ₂ pressure | Temperature | | |
|-------|-------------------------|-------------|-----|--|
| Linuy | [bar] | [°C] | | |
| 1 | 50 | 60 | >95 | |
| 2 | 10 | 60 | 5 | |
| 3 | 10 | 100 | >95 | |
| 4 | 1 ^{<i>c</i>} | 100 | 0 | |
| 5 | 1 ^{<i>c</i>} | 120 | 0 | |
| 6 | 5 | 120 | 0 | |

^a All reactions with 5.5 µmol [Cu] in 1 mL solvent. ^b Determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy. ^c Reaction was performed in an H₂-purged pressure tube.

Table S5: Performance of Cu catalysts at low H₂ pressure.^a



| Entry | [Cu] | H ₂ pressure | Temperature | $C_{opv} \stackrel{b}{\sim} [9/1]$ |
|-------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|
| Entry | [00] | [bar] | [°C] | |
| 1 | [IMesCuCI] 3 | 10 | 60 | 5 |
| 2 | [SIpOMeMesCuCI] S2 | 10 | 60 | 10 |
| 3 | [SIMesCuCl] 6 | 10 | 60 | 79 |
| 4 | [SIMesCuCl] 6 | 1 <i>°</i> | 100 | 32 |
| 5 | [SIMesCuCI] 6 | 10 | 100 | >95 (71%) ^d |

^a All reactions with 5.5 µmol [Cu] in 1 mL solvent. ^b Determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy. ^c Reaction was performed in an H₂-purged pressure tube. ^d Isolated yield.

Table S6: Investigation of *E*- and *Z*-enoates.^a



| Entry | Enoate | Conv. ^b [%] |
|-------|-------------|------------------------|
| 1 | <i>E</i> -1 | >99 |
| 2 | <i>Z</i> -1 | >99 |

^a All reactions with 5.5 µmol [Cu] in 1 mL solvent. ^b Determined by GC analysis

3 General procedures

3.1 General procedure 1 – synthesis of α , β -unsaturated esters 8 *via* Horner-Wadsworth-Emmons reaction (GP1)



According to a literature procedure^[3] NaH (60 wt% in mineral oil, 2.00 equiv) is suspended in THF (0.5M) and cooled to 0 °C. The corresponding phosphonate (2.00 equiv) is added dropwise and the reaction mixture is stirred at 0 °C for 30 min. The corresponding ketone (1.00 equiv) is added (neat for liquids, in solution in THF for solids 0.1 mL/mmol). The cooling bath is removed and the mixture is stirred at 40 °C until full conversion was detected (conversion monitored *via* TLC). After quenching the reaction by addition of H₂O (2 mL/mmol ketone) the aqueous phase is extracted with *tert*-butyl methyl ether (3 x 3 mL/mmol) and the combined organic layers are dried over Na₂SO₄ and filtered. All volatiles are removed under reduced pressure and the obtained crude product **8** is purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel.

3.2 General procedure 2 – H₂-mediated conjugate reduction (GP2)



In a 5 mL glass vial equipped with a septum, [SIMesCuCl] (**6**, 5.1 mg, 13 µmol, 5.0 mol%) is placed and the vial is transferred into a N₂-filled glovebox. NaO*t*Bu (7.2 mg, 75 µmol, 30 mol%) is added and the solids are dissolved in 1,4-dioxane (1 mL). The mixture is stirred for 5 min at 40 °C. The degassed α , β -unsaturated ester **8** (0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv) is dissolved in 1,4-dioxane (0.5 mL) and transferred to the reaction vial. The vial is placed in an autoclave and the septum is pierced with a needle under N₂-counterflow. The autoclave is purged with H₂ (3 x 10 bar). The reaction mixture is stirred for 16 h at 100 °C under H₂-atmosphere (10 bar). The crude reaction mixture is filtered over a small plug silica (eluant: CH₂Cl₂,

0.5 x 3 cm, 10 mL) and all volatiles are removed under reduced pressure. The crude product **9** is purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel.

4 Experimental Details

4.1 Syntheses of α , β -unsaturated esters and amides

4.1.1 Ethyl (E)-3-phenylbut-2-enoate (1)



C₁₂H₁₄O₂ Mw = 190.24 Prepared according to **GP1** from acetophenone (2.3 mL, 20.0 mmol, 1.00 equiv), NaH (60 wt% in mineral oil, 1.60 g, 40.0 mmol, 2.00 equiv) and triethyl phosphonoacetate (7.9 mL, 40 mmol, 2.0 equiv) in THF (40 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 48 h at 40 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl

ether = 100:1) yielded **1** as a colorless oil (2.59 g, 13.6 mmol, 68%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.35$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.32 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 2.58 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 3H), 4.22 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 6.13 (q, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.33–7.39 (m, 3H), 7.45–7.50 (m, 2H) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.4, 18.0, 59.9, 117.3, 126.4, 128.6, 129.0, 142.3, 155.5, 166.9 ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{12}H_{15}O_2^+$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 191.1067, found: 191.1070. The data is in accordance with literature.^[9]

4.1.2 Ethyl (*E*)-3-(naphthalen-2-yl)but-2-enoate (8a)



8a C₁₆H₁₆O₂ Mw = 240.30 Prepared according to **GP1** from 2-acetonaphthone (5.11 g, 30.0 mmol, 1.00 equiv), NaH (60 wt% in mineral oil, 2.40 g, 60.0 mmol, 2.00 equiv) and triethyl phosphonoacetate (11.9 mL, 60.0 mmol, 2.00 equiv) in THF (60 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 48 h at 40 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography

on silica gel (cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 100:1) yielded **8a** as a colorless oil (4.93 g, 20.5 mmol, 68%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.59$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 4:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.35 (m_c, 3H), 2.70 (m, 3H), 4.26 (m_c, 2H), 6.29–6.31 (m, 1H), 7.50 (m_c, 2H), 7.60 (dd, *J* = 8.6 Hz, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.81–7.88 (m, 3H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.5, 18.0, 60.0, 117.6, 124.0, 126.0, 126.6, 126.8, 127.7, 128. 2, 128.6, 133.2, 133.6, 139.5, 155.3, 167.0 ppm. **HRMS** (APCI) for C₁₆H₁₇O₂⁺ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 241.1223, found: 241.1228. The data is in accordance with literature.^[10]

4.1.3 tert-Butyl (E)-3-phenylbut-2-enoate (8b)



C₁₄H₁₈O₂ Mw = 218.30 Prepared according to **GP1** from acetophenone (2.1 mL, 18.6 mmol, 1.0 equiv), NaH (60 wt% in mineral oil, 1.48 g, 37.1 mmol, 2.00 equiv) and *tert*-butyl 2-(diethoxyphosphoryl)acetate (**S4**, 9.36 g, 37.1 mmol, 2.0 equiv) in THF (35 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 7 h at

40 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel

(cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 20:1) yielded **8b** as a colorless oil (2.10 g, 9.76 mmol, 65%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.80$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.52 (s, 9H), 2.53 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 3H), 6.05 (q, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.31–7.37 (m, 3H), 7.43–7.48 (m, 2H) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 17.9, 28.4, 80.1, 119.2, 126.4, 128.5, 128.8, 142.7, 154.1, 166.5 ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{14}H_{19}O_2^+$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 219.1380, found: 219.1375.

IR (ATR): $\tilde{v} = 2975$ (w), 1703 (s), 1625 (s), 1445 (m), 1365 (m), 1273 (m), 1203 (w), 1138 (s), 1011 (m), 915 (w), 871 (m), 758 (m), 692 (s) cm⁻¹.

4.1.4 Ethyl 3,3-diphenylacrylate (8c)



8c C₁₇H₁₆O₂ Mw = 252.31

Prepared according to **GP1** from benzophenone (3.64 g, 20.0 mmol, 1.00 equiv), NaH (60 wt% in mineral oil, 1.60 g, 40.0 mmol, 2.00 equiv) and triethyl phosphonoacetate (7.9 mL, 40 mmol, 2.0 equiv) in THF (40 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 48 h at 40 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 50:1) yielded **8c** as a colorless oil (2.87 g, 11.4 mmol, 57%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.46$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.11 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 4.05 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 6.37 (s, 1H), 7.19–7.24 (m, 2H), 7.28–7.42 (m, 8H) ppm.

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.1, 60.1, 117.6, 127.9, 128.2, 128.4, 128.4, 129.2, 129.4, 139.1, 140.9, 156.5, 166.2 ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{17}H_{17}O_2^+$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 253.1223, found: 253.1217. The data is in accordance with literature.^[3]

4.1.5 Ethyl (*E*)-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)but-2-enoate (8d)



C₁₃H₁₆O₃ Mw = 220.27 Prepared according to **GP1** from 4-methoxy acetophenone (3.00 g, 20.0 mmol, 1.00 equiv), NaH (60 wt% in mineral oil, 1.60 g, 40.0 mmol, 2.00 equiv) and triethyl phosphonoacetate (7.9 mL, 40 mmol, 2.0 equiv) in THF (40 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 48 h at 40 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on

silica gel (cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 50:1) yielded **8d** as a yellow oil (2.87 g, 13.0 mmol, 65%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.36$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.31 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 2.56 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 3H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 4.21 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 6.11 (q, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (m_c, 2H), 7.45 (m_c, 2H) ppm. ¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.4, 17.7, 55.4, 59.8, 113.9, 115.4, 127.7, 134.4, 154.9, 160.5, 167.1 ppm. **HRMS** (APCI) for C₁₃H₁₇O₃⁺ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 221.1172, found: 221.1165.

The data is in accordance with the literature.^[3]

4.1.6 Ethyl (*E*)-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)but-2-enoate (8e)



Mw = 258.24

Prepared according to **GP1** from 4-trifluoroacetophenone (3.76 g, 20.0 mmol, 1.00 equiv), NaH (60 wt% in mineral oil, 1.60 g, 40.0 mmol, 2.00 equiv) and triethyl phosphonoacetate (7.9 mL, 40 mmol, 2.0 equiv) in THF (40 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 48 h at 40 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on

silica gel (cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 50:1) yielded **8e** as a colorless oil (3.31 g, 12.8 mmol, 65%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.46$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.32 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 2.57 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 3H), 4.23 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 6.14 (q, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H) ppm. ¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.4, 18.0, 60.2, 119.1, 124.1 (q, *J* = 272.2 Hz), 125.6 (q, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 126.7, 130.9 (q, *J* = 32.7 Hz), 145.9, 153.8, 166.5 ppm.

¹⁹**F NMR** (659 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = -62.7 ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{13}H_{14}F_{3}O_{2}^{+}$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 259.0940, found: 259.0935.

The data is in accordance with literature.^[9]

4.1.7 Ethyl (E)-3-(4-bromophenyl)but-2-enoate (8f)



C₁₂H₁₃BrO₂ Mw = 269.14 Prepared according to **GP1** from 1-(4-bromophenyl)ethan-1-one (2.99 g, 15 mmol, 1.0 equiv), NaH (60 wt% in mineral oil, 1.20 g, 30.0 mmol, 2.00 equiv) and triethyl phosphonoacetate (6.0 mL, 30 mmol, 2.0 equiv) in THF (30 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 48 h at 40 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on

silica gel (cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 50:1) yielded **8f** as a colorless oil (2.54 g, 9.44 mmol, 63%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.44$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.31 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 2.54 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 3H), 4.21 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 6.11 (m_c, 1H), 7.33 (m_c, 2H), 7.49 (m_c, 2H) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.4, 17.9, 60.1, 117.7, 123.3, 128.0, 131.8, 141.2, 154.1, 166.7 ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{12}H_{14}^{-79}BrO_2^{+}$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 269.0172, found: 269.0168.

The data is in accordance with literature.^[9]

4.1.8 Ethyl (E)-3-(4-chlorophenyl)but-2-enoate (8g)



Mw = 224.68

Prepared according to **GP1** from 1-(4-chlorophenyl)ethan-1-one (2.0 mL, 15 mmol, 1.0 equiv), NaH (60 wt% in mineral oil, 1.20 g, 30.0 mmol, 2.00 equiv) and triethyl phosphonoacetate (6.0 mL, 30 mmol, 2.0 equiv) in THF (30 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 48 h at 40 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on

silica gel (cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 50:1) yielded **8g** as a colorless oil (2.15 g, 10.0 mmol, 67%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.48$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.31 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 2.54 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 3H), 4.21 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 6.10 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (m_c, 2H), 7.40 (m_c, 2H) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.4, 17.9, 60.0, 117.7, 127.7, 128.8, 135.1, 140.7, 154.1, 166.7 ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{12}H_{14}^{35}CIO_2^+$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 225.0677, found: 225.0672. The data is in accordance with literature.^[9]

4.1.9 Ethyl (E)-3-(o-tolyl)but-2-enoate (8h)



triethyl phosphonoacetate (6.0 mL, 30 mmol, 2.0 equiv) in THF (30 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 48 h at 40 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 50:1) yielded **8h** as a colorless oil (1.97 g, 9.66 mmol, 64%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.55$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 10:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.31 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 2.44 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 3H), 4.21 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 5.76 (q, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.05–7.08 (m, 1H), 7.14–7.23 (m, 3H) ppm. ¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.4, 19.8, 20.9, 59.9, 119.5, 125.8, 127.2, 127.8, 130.5, 134.0, 144.0, 158.3, 166.8 ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{13}H_{17}O_2^+$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 205.1223, found: 205.1218. The data is in accordance with literature.^[11]

4.1.10 Ethyl (E)-3-(4-nitrophenyl)but-2-enoate (8i)



Prepared according to **GP1** from 4-nitroacetophenone (2.48 g, 15.0 mmol, 1.00 equiv), NaH (60 wt% in mineral oil, 1.20 g, 30.0 mmol, 2.00 equiv) and triethyl phosphonoacetate (6.0 mL, 6.78 g, 30.0 mmol, 2.00 equiv) in THF (40 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 24 h at 40 °C. Purification by flash column

chromatography on silica gel cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 20:1) yielded **8i** as a colorless oil (E/Z = 88:12, 1.20 g, 5.12 mmol, 34%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.37$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.32 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 2.58 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 3H), 4.24 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.18 (m_c, 1H), 7.61 (m_c, 2H), 8.21 (m_c, 2H) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.4, 18.0, 60.4, 120.3, 123.9, 127.4, 148.1, 148.7, 152.8, 166.2 ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{14}H_{18}N_2O_3^+$ [(M+H+MeCN)⁺] calculated: 262.1306, found: 262.1158. **IR** (ATR): \tilde{v} = 2986 (w), 2907 (w), 2114 (w), 1709 (s), 1594 (m), 1511 (s), 1339 (s), 1274 (m), 1177 (s), 1039 (m), 846 (s).

4.1.11 Ethyl (E)-3-(4-cyanophenyl)but-2-enoate (8j)



C₁₃H₁₃NO₂ Mw = 215.25

Prepared according to **GP1** from 4-acetylbenzonitrile (2.17 g, 15 mmol, 1.0 equiv), NaH (60 wt% in mineral oil, 1.20 g, 30.0 mmol, 2.00 equiv) and triethyl phosphonoacetate (6.0 mL, 30 mmol, 2.0 equiv) in THF (30 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 48 h at 40 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel

cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 20:1) yielded **8j** as a colorless oil (2.10 g, 9.76 mmol, 65%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.21$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.31 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 2.55 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 3H), 4.22 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 6.13 (q, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (m_c, 2H), 7.66 (m_c, 2H) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.4, 17.8, 60.3, 112.6, 118.5, 119.8, 127.1, 132.4, 146.8, 153.1, 166.2 ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{13}H_{14}NO_2^+$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 216.1019, found: 216.1020. The data is in accordance with literature.^[9]

4.1.12 Ethyl (E)-3-(4-acetylphenyl)but-2-enoate (8k)



Prepared according to **GP1** from 1,1'-(1,4-phenylene)bis(ethan-1-one) (2.43 g, 15.0 mmol, 1.00 equiv), NaH (60 wt% in mineral oil, 0.670 g, 16.5 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and triethyl phosphonoacetate (3.3 mL, 17 mmol, 1.1 equiv) in THF (40 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 24 h at 40 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on

silica gel cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 10:1) yielded **8k** as a colorless oil (E/Z = 87:13, 1.29 g, 5.54 mmol, 37%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.23$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.32 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 2.58 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 3H), 2.61 (s, 3H), 4.23 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.17 (q, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (m_c, 2H), 7.95 (m_c, 2H) ppm. Indicative signals for the *Z*-isomer are at δ = 1.10, 4.00, 5.95, 7.28.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.5 (C-2"), 18.0 (C-4), 26.8 (C-6'), 60.2 (C-1"), 119.0 (C-2), 126.7 (C-2'), 128.7 (C-3'), 137.3 (C-4'), 146.9 (C-1'), 154.1 (C-3), 166.6 (C-1), 197.6 (C-5') ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{14}H_{17}O_3^+$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 233.1172, found: 233.1169.

IR (ATR): \tilde{v} = 2975 (w), 1681 (m), 1626 (m), 1358 (m), 1261 (s), 1159 (s), 1039 (m), 829 (m). The data is in accordance with literature.^[12]

4.1.13 Ethyl (E)-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)but-2-enoate (8l)



C₁₂H₁₆O₃ Mw = 206.24

In a 10 mL-schlenkflask ethyl (*E*)-3-(4-((*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy)phenyl)but-2-enoate (**8m**, 204 mg, 1.24 mmol, 1.00 equiv) was desolved in THF (5 mL). Tetrabutylammonium fluoride solution (1M, 1.4 mL, 1.4 mmol, 1.1 equiv) was added. The resulting solution was stirred for 1 h at rt until full conversion

(conversion monitored *via* TLC). After quenching the reaction by addition of saturated aqueous NH_4CI solution (10 mL) the aqueous phase was extracted with *tert*-butyl methyl ether (3 x 10 mL) and the combined organic layers are dried over MgSO₄ and filtered. All volatiles were removed and the obtained crude product **8I** was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (cyclohexane/ *tert*-butyl methyl ether = 10:1). The product **8I** was obtained as a white solid (150 mg, 0.728 mmol, 59%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.57$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 2:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.31 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 2.55 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 3H), 4.21 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 5.15 (br s, 1H), 6.09 (q, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (m_c, 2H), 7.40 (m_c, 2H) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.4, 17.8, 59.9, 115.4, 115.5, 128.0, 134.7, 155.0, 156.7, 167.3 ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for C₁₃H₁₄NO₂⁺ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 207.1016, found: 207.1011.

IR (ATR): \tilde{v} = 3340 (m), 1676 (m), 1595 (m), 1509 (w), 1435 (w), 1274 (m), 1171 (m), 1041 (w), 869 (w), 835 (m) cm⁻¹.

M.p.: T = 94 °C.

4.1.14 Ethyl (E)-3-(4-((tert-butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy)phenyl)but-2-enoate (9m)



Prepared according to **GP1** from 1-(4-((*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy)phenyl)ethan-1-one (1.7 g, 4.6 mmol, 1.0 equiv), NaH (60 wt% in mineral oil, 0.40 g, 10.0 mmol, 2.2 equiv) and triethyl phosphonoacetate (2.0 mL, 10 mmol, 2.2 equiv) in THF (10 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for

20 h at 40 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel cyclohexane/*tert*butyl methyl ether = 100:1) yielded **9m** as a white solid (E/Z = 93:7, 0.550 g, 1.24 mmol, 27%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.69$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.10 (s, 9H), 1.28 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 2.49 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 3H), 4.18 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 6.03 (q, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (m_c, 2H), 7.25 (m_c, 2H), 7.34–7.40 (m, 4H), 7.41–7.46 (m, 2H), 7.69–7.73 (m, 4H) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.4, 17.6, 19.6, 26.6, 59.7, 115.4, 119.7, 127.5, 127.9, 130.1, 132.7, 134.7, 135.6, 155.0, 156.7, 167.2 ppm.

The NMR spectra contain 7% of the *Z*-Isomer, indicative signals in 1 H NMR are at 1.20, 3.74, 5.29 and 7.68 ppm.

²⁹SI DEPT NMR (99MHz, J = 20 Hz, CDCl₃): δ = -5.6 ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{28}H_{33}O_3Si^+$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 445.2193, found: 445.2184. **IR** (ATR): $\tilde{v} = 2930$ (w), 2892 (w), 2857 (w), 1703 (m), 1598 (m), 1507 (m), 1424 (w), 1372 (w), 1258 (s), 1112 (s), 1044 (m), 1007 (w), 916 (s), 819 (s), 696 (s) cm⁻¹. **M.p.**: T = 69 °C.

4.1.10 Ethyl (E)-3-(thiophen-2-yl)but-2-enoate (80)



Prepared according to **GP1** from 1-(thiophen-2-yl)ethan-1-one (1.6 mL, 15 mmol, 1.0 equiv), NaH (60 wt% in mineral oil, 1.20 g, 30.0 mmol, 2.00 equiv) and triethyl phosphonoacetate (6.0 mL, 30 mmol, 2.0 equiv) in

 $C_{10}H_{12}O_2S$ Mw = 196.26 THF (30 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 36 h at 40 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel

(cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 50:1) yielded **80** as a colorless oil (1.64 g, 8.33 mmol, 56%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.43$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 10:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.31 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 2.60 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 3H), 4.20 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 6.25 (q, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (m_c, 1H), 7.30–7.32 (m, 2H) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.4, 17.4, 59.9, 114.4, 126.7, 127.1, 128.0, 145.7, 147.8, 166.8 ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{10}H_{13}O_2S^+$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 197.0631, found: 197.0626. The data is in accordance with literature.^[9]

I ne data is in accordance with literature.

4.1.15 Ethyl (E)-3-cyclopropyl-3-phenylacrylate (8p)



8p C₁₄H₁₆O₂

Mw = 216.28

Prepared according to **GP1** from cyclopropyl(phenyl)methanone (2.1 mL, 15 mmol, 1.0 equiv), NaH (60 wt% in mineral oil, 1.20 g, 30.0 mmol, 2.00 equiv) and triethyl phosphonoacetate (6.0 mL, 30 mmol, 2.0 equiv) in THF (30 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 48 h at 40 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 50:1) yielded **8p** as a colorless oil

(0.64 g, 3.0 mmol, 35%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.5$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 0.47 (m_c, 2H), 0.89 (m_c, 2H), 1.30 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 3.12 (m_c, 1H), 4.21 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 5.79 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.11–7.15 (m, 2H), 7.27–7.33 (m, 3H) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.0, 13.6, 14.4, 59.8, 118.9, 127.8, 127.8, 128.1, 138.9, 163.2, 167.0 ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{14}H_{17}O_2^+$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 217.1223, found: 217.1215. The data is in accordance with literature.^[9]

4.1.16 Hex-5-en-1-yl (E)-3-phenylbut-2-enoate (8q)



 $C_{16}H_{20}O_2$ Mw = 244.33 Following a literature procedure,^[13] in a 25 mL-schlenk tube, (E)-3-phenylbut-2-enoic acid (0.50 g, 3.1 mmol, 1.00 equiv) was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL). DMAP (452 mg, 3.70 mmol, 1.20 equiv) and hex-5-en-1-ol (0.73 mL, 6.2 mmol, 2.0 equiv) were added. The resulting solution was cooled to 0 °C and DCC

(954 mg, 4.62 mmol, 1.50 equiv) was added. The solution was stirred for 5 min at 0 °C and 18 h at rt until full conversion was detected (conversion monitored *via* TLC). Precipitated urea was filtered off over a plug of silica gel (3 x 3 cm, eluent: CH_2Cl_2 , 30 mL). The filtrate was evaporated and the obtained crude product **8q** was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (*n*-pentane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 100:1). Remaining urea residues were removed by dissolving the product **8q** in Et₂O (10 mL) and washing the organic layer with aqueous HCI (2M, 3 x 10 mL). The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄, filtered and all volatiles were removed. The product **8q** was obtained as a yellow oil (330 mg, 1.35 mmol, 44%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.73$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.46–1.55 (m, 2H), 1.66–1.74 (m, 2H), 2.11 (m_c, 2H), 2.57 (d, J = 1.3 Hz, 3H), 4.16 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 4.97 (m_c, 1H), 5.02 (m_c, 1H), 5.81 (m_c, 1H), 6.13 (q, J = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.34–7.40 (m, 3H), 7.45–7.50 (m, 2H) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 18.0, 25.4, 28.3, 33.4, 63.9, 114.9, 117.3, 126.4, 128.6, 129.0, 138.5, 142.3, 155.6, 167.0 ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{16}H_{21}O_2^+$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 245.1536, found: 245.1532.

IR (ATR): $\tilde{v} = 2934$ (w), 1709 (s), 1626 (m), 1575 (w), 1445 (w), 1379 (w), 1343 (m), 1270 (m), 1154 (s), 1023 (m), 909 (m), 870 (m), 764 (s), 692 (m) cm⁻¹.

4.1.17 Ethyl (E)-3-cyclohexylbut-2-enoate (8t)



8t

 $C_{12}H_{20}O_2$ Mw = 196.29 Prepared according to **GP1** from 1-cyclohexylethan-1-one (2.1 mL, 15 mmol, 1.0 equiv), NaH (60 wt% in mineral oil, 1.20 g, 30.0 mmol, 2.00 equiv) and triethyl phosphonoacetate (6.0 mL, 30 mmol, 2.0 equiv) in THF (30 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 48 h at 40 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel

(cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 50:1) yielded **8t** as a colorless oil (E/Z = 90:10, 2.22 g, 11.3 mmol, 75%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.56$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 10:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.11–1.39 (m, 8H), 1.55–1.82 (m, 5H), 1.96 (tt, J = 1.9 Hz, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 2.13 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 3H), 4.13 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 5.64 (m_c, 1H) ppm.

The sample contains 10% of the *Z*-isomer (detected *via* ¹H NMR and ¹H-¹H NOESY). Therefore, the value of the integration for the cyclohexyl substituent is too high (see the attached spectra).

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.4, 17.5, 26.2, 26.5, 31.5, 48.8, 59.5, 114.0, 164.9, 167.4 ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{12}H_{21}O_2^+$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 197.1536, found: 197.1531.

The data is in accordance with literature.^[14]

4.1.18 Ethyl (E)-3-methylundec-2-enoate (8u)





Prepared according to **GP1** from decan-2-one (2.8 mL, 15 mmol, 1.0 equiv), NaH (60 wt% in mineral oil, 1.20 g, 30.0 mmol, 2.00 equiv) and triethyl phosphonoacetate (6.0 mL, 30 mmol, 2.0 equiv) in THF (30 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 48 h at 40 °C. Purification by flash column

chromatography on silica gel (cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 50:1) yielded **8u** as a colorless oil (E/Z = 77:23, 3.17 g, 14.0 mmol, 93%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.59$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

E-isomer:

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 0.88 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 1.16–1.36 (m, 13H), 1.41–1.49 (m, 2H), 2.12 (m_c, 2H), 2.14 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 3H), 4.14 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 5.65 (q, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.2, 14.4, 18.9, 22.7, 27.5, 29.3, 29.3, 29.5, 31.9, 41.0, 59.5, 115.5, 160.4, 167.0 ppm.

Z-isomer:

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 0.87 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 2.54 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 3H), 4.21 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 6.10 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 1.87 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 3H), 4.13 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 5.63 (m_c, 1H) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.2, 14.4, 25.2, 28.3, 29.3, 29.5, 29.8, 33.5, 59.4, 116.0, 160.8 ppm.

E- and *Z*-Isomer could be identified *via* ¹H-¹H NOESY.

Not all signals for the *Z*-isomer could be detected in ¹H and ¹³C NMR due to low concentration and overlay with signals of the *E*-isomer.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{14}H_{27}O_2^+$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 227.2006, found: 227.1997.

The data is in accordance with literature.^[14]

4.1.19 (E)-N,N-diethyl-3-phenylbut-2-enamide (10)



10 C₁₄H₁₉NO Mw = 217.31

Prepared according to **GP1** from acetophenone (0.47 mL, 4.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), NaH (60 wt% in mineral oil, 316 mg, 7.96 mmol, 2.00 equiv) and diethyl (2-(diethylamino)-2-oxoethyl)phosphonate (**S6**, 1.8 mL, 8.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) in THF (8 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 24 h at 40 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel

(cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 4:1) yielded **10** as a colorless oil (589 mg, 2.71 mmol, 68%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.16$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.18 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 6H), 2.30 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 3H), 3.43 (m_c, 4H), 6.29 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.29–7.38 (m, 3H), 7.42–7.46 (m, 2H) ppm.

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 13.3, 14.5, 18.0, 39.7, 42.7, 120.3, 126.1, 128.2, 128.5, 142.3, 145.6, 167.7 ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{14}H_{20}NO^+$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 218.1539, found: 218.1531.

The data is in accordance with literature.^[15]

4.1.20 Ethyl (*E*)-3-(4-(phenylethynyl)phenyl)but-2-enoate (S3)



Preparedaccordingto $\mathbf{GP1}$ from1-(4-(phenylethynyl)phenyl)ethan-1-one(1.65 g,7.50 mmol,1.00 equiv),NaH(60 wt% in mineral oil,0.60 g,15 mmol,2.0 equiv)andtriethylphosphonoacetate(3.0 mL,3.4 g,15 mmol,2.0 equiv) in THF(20 mL). The reaction mixture was

stirred for 24 h at 40 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 70:1) yielded **S3** as a colorless oil (1.36 g, 4.96 mmol, 66%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.46$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.33 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 2.58 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 3H), 4.23 (q, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 6.17 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.34–7.38 (m, 2H), 7.45–7.49 (m, 2H), 7.51–7.56 (m, 5H) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.4, 17.7, 60.0, 89.1, 90.9, 117.7, 123.2, 124.1, 126.4, 128.5, 128.5, 131.7, 131.8, 141.9, 154.5, 166.8 ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{20}H_{19}O_2^+$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 291.1380, found: 291.1383.

IR (ATR): \tilde{v} = 2978 (w), 2908 (w), 2117 (w), 1705 (m), 1619 (m), 1440 (m), 1342 (m), 1272 (m), 1167 (s), 1039 (m), 879 (m), 831 (s), 756 (s).

4.2 Syntheses of alkyl phosphonates

4.2.1 tert-Butyl 2-(diethoxyphosphoryl)acetate (S4)



Mw = 252.25

According to a literature procedure^[16] a 25 mL two neck flask with reflux condenser was charged with *tert*-butyl bromoacetate (7.2 mL, 50 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and triethylphosphite (8.6 mL, 50 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at 100 °C and heated to reflux for 14 h until full conversion was detected (conversion monitored *via* TLC).

The obtained crude product **S4** was purified by fractional distillation (106 °C, $8.6 \cdot 10^{-1}$ mbar) and yielded **S4** as a colorless oil (10.8 g, 43.0 mmol, 86%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.56$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.34 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 6H), 1.46 (s, 9H), 2.87 (d, *J* = 21.4 Hz, 2H), 4.15 (m_c, 4H) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 16.4 (d, J = 6.1 Hz), 28.0, 35.7 (d, J = 133.1 Hz), 62.5 (d, J = 6.0 Hz), 82.1, 165.0 (d, J = 6.3 Hz) ppm.

³¹**P NMR** (202 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 20.5 (m_c) ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{10}H_{22}O_5P^+$ [(M-H)⁺] calculated: 253.1199, found: 253.1191.

The data is in accordance with literature.^[16,17]

4.2.2 2-Chloro-N,N-diethylacetamide (S5)



S5

 $C_6H_{12}CINO$ Mw = 149.62 According to a literature procedure^[18] diethylamine (3.1 mL, 30 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was dissolved in CH_2CI_2 (150 mL). Triethylamine (4.8 mL, 38 mmol, 1.3 equiv) was added and chloroacetylchloride (2.6 mL, 33 mmol, 1.1 equiv) was added dropwise over 15 min. The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at rt until full conversion (conversion monitored *via* TLC). The reaction mixture

was diluted with CH_2CI_2 (50 mL) and washed with aqueous HCl (1M, 3 x 40 mL). The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄ and filtered. The obtained crude product **S5** was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 2:1) and yielded **S5** as a orange oil (3.18 g, 21.3 mmol, 71%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.28$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 1:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.13 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.22 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 3.37 (m_c,

4H), 4.04 (s, 2H) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 12.7, 14.4, 40.6, 41.3, 42.5, 165.8 ppm. **HRMS** (APCI) for C₆H₁₃CINO⁺ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 150.0680, found: 150.0677. **IR** (ATR): \tilde{v} = 2973 (w), 1639 (s), 1429 (m), 1380 (m), 1315 (w), 1253 (m), 1218 (m), 1120 (m), 1098 (m), 1016 (w), 950 (w), 788 (m), 721 (w) cm⁻¹.

4.2.3 Diethyl (2-(diethylamino)-2-oxoethyl)phosphonate (S6)



Mw = 251.26

According to a literature procedure^[15] a 25 mL two neck flask with reflux condenser was charged with 2-chloro-N,N-diethylacetamide (**S6**, 3.00 g, 20.0 mmol, 1.00 equiv) and triethylphosphite (3.6 mL, 21.1 mmol, 1.15 equiv) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 8 h at 180 °C. The obtained crude product **S6** was purified by fractional distillation

(125 °C, 1.2·10⁻¹ mbar) and yielded **S6** as a colorless oil (4.01 g, 15.9 mmol, 80%).

Bp = $125 \degree C (1.2 \cdot 10^{-1} \text{ mbar}).$

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.12 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.18 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.32 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 6H), 3.00 (d, *J* = 22.0 Hz, 2H), 3.40 (m_c, 4H), 4.16 (m_c, 4H) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 13.0, 14.2, 16.4 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz), 33.5 (d, *J* = 134.0 Hz), 40.6, 43.1, 62.6 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 164.0 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz) ppm.

³¹**P NMR** (202 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 21.4 (m_c) ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{10}H_{23}NO_4P^+$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 252.1359, found: 252.1351.

The data is in accordance with literature.^[15]

4.3 Synthesis of [SIMesCuCI] 6



 $C_{20}H_{30}Cl_2N_2$ Mw = 369.37 4.3.1 Synthesis of N^1, N^2 -dimesitylethane-1,2-diaminium chloride (S7)

Following a literature procedure,^[2] in a 250 mL-schlenk flask, N^1 , N^2 dimesitylethane-1,2-diimine (5.00 g, 17.1 mmol, 1.00 equiv) was dissolved in THF (80 mL) and and the solution was cooled to 0 °C. NaBH₄ (2.59 g, 68.4 mmol, 4.00 equiv) was added and the

suspension was stirred for 15 min at 0 °C. Concentrated aqueous HCl (2.9 ml, 34 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was added dropwise over 30 min. The suspension was stirred for 1 h at 0 °C. Aqueous HCl (3M, 130 mL) was added and the suspension was stirred for 16 h at rt. The precipitate was collected on a sintered funnel and washed with H₂O (100 mL). The obtained product was dried under reduced pressure (2·10⁻² mbar) and used without further purification. The product **S7** (4.88 g, 13.2 mmol, 77%) was obtained as a white solid.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 2.22 (s, 6H, H-2"), 2.31–2.40 (m, 12H, H-1"), 3.34–3.49 (m, 4H, H-1), 6.91 (s, 4H, H-3') ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 18.0 (C-1"), 20.2 (C-2"), 46.9 (C-4), 129.8 (C-3'), 130.9 (C-1'), 135.8 (C-4') ppm. C-2' could not be detected in ¹³C NMR.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{20}H_{29}N_2^+$ [(M–2CI–H)⁺]: calculated: 297.2325, found: 297.2320.

The data is in accordance with literature.^[19]

4.3.2 Synthesis of 1,3-dimesityl-4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-3-ium chloride (S8)



S8 C₂₁H₂₇CIN₂ Mw = 342.91

Following a literature procedure^[20], in a 100 mL-two-necked flask, N^1 , N^2 -dimesitylethane-1,2-diaminium chloride (**S7**, 4.80 g, 13.0 mmol, 1.00 equiv) was suspended in triethylorthoformate (65 mL) and formic acid (3 drops) was added. The resulting suspension was stirred for 48 h at 120 °C. The precipitate was filtered off and washed with Et₂O (30 mL). The obtained crude

product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel ($CH_2Cl_2/MeOH = 50:1$) and yielded **S8** (3.09 mg, 9.01 mmol, 69%) as yellow solid.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.25 (s, 6H, H-2"), 2.32–2.39 (m, 12H, H-1"), 4.50–4.59 (m, 4H, H-4), 6.88–6.94 (m, 4H, H-3'), 9.41 (m_c, 1H, H-2) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 18.0 (C-1"), 21.1 (C-2"), 52.0 (C-4), 130.1 (C-3'), 130.3 (C-1'), 135.0 (C-2"), 140.5 (C-4'), 160.0 (C-2) ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{21}H_{27}N_2^+$ [(M–Cl)⁺]: calculated: 307.2169, found: 442.1559.

IR (ATR): $\tilde{v} = 3242$ (w), 2953 (w), 2914 (w), 2830 (w), 1620 (s), 1481 (m), 1450 (m), 1376 (w), 1266 (s), 1216 (s), 1151 (w), 1042 (m), 984 (w), 936 (w), 845 (m), 819 (m), 731 (s) cm⁻¹. The data is in accordance with literature.^[20]

4.3.3 Synthesis of (1,3-dimesitylimidazolidin-2-yliden)copper(I) chloride (6)



Mw = 405.44

Following a literature procedure,^[21] a 25 mL-two-necked flask was charged with copper(I) chloride (99.99%, 289 mg, 2.92 mmol, 1.00 equiv), 1,3-dimesityl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-imidazol-3-ium chloride (**S8**, 1.00 g, 2.92 mmol, 1.00 equiv) and K_2CO_3 (806 mg, 5.83 mmol, 2.00 equiv). The flask was evacuated and backfilled

with nitrogen (2 x). Acetone (12 mL) was added and the resulting yellow suspension was

stirred for 24 h at 60 °C. The reaction mixture was filtered over a plug of silica (3 x 2 cm, eluent: CH_2Cl_2 , 2 x 30 mL) and the yellow filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure to ~5 mL. *n*-Pentane (50 mL) was added rapidly to precipitate the crude product, which was collected on a funnel and washed with *n*-pentane (2 x 20 mL). The resulting yellow crystals were dried under reduced pressure. Copper(I)/NHC complex **6** (845 mg, 2.09 mmol, 72%) was obtained as yellow crystals.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.29 (s, 6H, H-2"), 2.31 (s, 12H, H-1"), 3.94 (br s, 4H, H-4), 6.95 (s, 4H, H-3') ppm.

¹³**C** NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 18.1 (C-1"), 21.1 (C-2"), 51.1 (C-4), 129.9 (C-3'), 135.1 (C-4'), 135.5 (C-1'), 138.8 (C-2') ppm. The ¹³C-NMR resonance of C-2 could not be detected. HRMS (APCI) for C₂₃H₂₉CuN₃⁺[((M–CI)MeCN)⁺]: calculated: 410.1657, found: 410.1649. IR (ATR): \tilde{v} = 2909 (w), 1607 (w), 1485 (s), 1438 (m), 1315 (w), 1270 (s), 1189 (w), 1020 (w), 849 (s), 802 (w), 731 (w) cm⁻¹.

M.p.: T = 205 °C.

The data is in accordance with literature.^[21]

4.4 Conjugate reduction products

4.4.1 Ethyl 3-phenylbutanoate (2)



Prepared according to **GP2** from ethyl (*E*)-3-phenylbut-2-enoate (1, 95 mg, 0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [SIMesCuCl] (6, 10 mg, 25 μ mol, 5.0 mol%) and NaO*t*Bu (14 mg, 0.15 mmol, 30 mol%) in 1,4-dioxane (2.0 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at 100 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel

(cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 30:1) yielded **2** as a colorless oil (68 mg, 0.35 mmol, 71%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.33$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 20:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.18 (m_c, 3H, H-1), 1.31 (d, ³*J*_{10,5} = 7.0 Hz, 3H, H-10), 2.58 (m_c, 2H, H-4), 3.28 (m_c, 1H, H-5), 4.08 (q, ³*J*_{2,1} = 7.1 Hz, 2H, H-2), 7.18–7.24 (m, 3H, H-7, H-9), 7.28–7.33 (m, 2H, H-8)ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.2 (C-1), 21.9 (C-10), 36.6 (C-5), 43.1 (C-4), 60.3 (C-2), 126.4 (C-7)*, 126.8 (C-9)*, 128.5 (C-8), 145.8 (C-6), 172.5 (C-3) ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{12}H_{17}O_2^+$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 193.1223, found: 193.1222.

The data is in accordance with literature.^[22]

4.4.2 Ethyl 3-(naphthalen-2-yl)butanoate (9a)



Prepared according to **GP2** from ethyl (*E*)-3-(naphthalen-2-yl)but-2enoate (**8a**, 60 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [SIMesCuCl] (**6**, 5.1 mg, 13 μ mol, 5.0 mol%) and NaO*t*Bu (7.2 mg, 75 μ mol, 30 mol%) in 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at 100 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel

(*n*-pentane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 50:1) yielded **9a** as a colorless oil (41.1 mg, 0.170 mmol, 68%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.45$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.16 (t, ³*J*_{1,2} = 7.1 Hz, 3H, H-1), 1.39 (d, ³*J*_{16,5} = 6.9 Hz, 3H, H-16), 2.67 (m_c, 2H, H-4), 3.46 (m_c, 1H, H-5) 4.07 (m_c, 2H, H-2), 7.38 (dd, ³*J*_{15,14} = 8.4 Hz, ⁴*J*_{15,7} = 1.8 Hz, 1H, H-15), 7.44 (m_c, 2H, H-10/H-11)*, 7.65 (m_c, 1H, H-7), 7.77–7.82 (m, 3H, H-9/H-12/H-14)* ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.2 (C-1), 21.9 (C-16), 36.7 (C-5), 43.0 (C-4), 60.4 (C-2), 125.0 (C-7), 125.4 (C-10)*, 125.6 (C-15), 126.0 (C-11)*, 127.6 (C-9)*, 127.7 (C-12)*, 128.2 (C-14)*, 132.4 (C-13), 133.6 (C-8), 143.3 (C-6), 172.4 (C-3) ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{16}H_{19}O_2^+$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 243.1380, found: 243.1374.

The data is in accordance with literature.^[23]

4.4.3 tert-Butyl 3-phenylbutanoate (9b)



9b C₁₄H₂₀O₂ Mw = 220.31 Prepared according to **GP2** from tert-butyl (*E*)-3-phenylbut-2-enoate (**8b**, 55 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [SIMesCuCI] (**6**, 5.1 mg, 13 μ mol, 5.0 mol%) and NaO*t*Bu (7.2 mg, 75 μ mol, 30 mol%) in 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at 100 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (*n*-

pentane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 50:1) yielded **9b** as a colorless oil (46 mg, 0.21 mmol, 84%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.65$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.28 (d, ³*J*_{10,5} = 7.0 Hz, 3H, H-10), 1.35 (s, 9H, H-1), 2.49 (m_c, 2H, H-4), 3.22 (m_c, 1H, H-5), 7.00–7.23 (m, 3H, H-7/H-9), 7.26–7.31 (m, 2H, H-8) ppm. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 22.0 (C-10), 28.1 (C-1), 36.9 (C-5), 44.3 (C-4), 80.3 (C-2), 126.3 (C-9), 126.9 (C-7), 128.4 (C-8), 146.0 (C-6), 171.8 (C-3) ppm. HRMS (EI) for C₁₄H₂₀O₂⁻⁺ [(M)⁺⁺] calculated: 220.1457, found: 220.1467. IR (ATR): \tilde{v} = 2969 (w), 1724 (s), 1603 (w), 1452 (w), 1365 (m), 1255 (w), 1144 (s), 1082 (w), 1018 (m), 956 (m), 907 (w), 843 (m), 754 (m), 697 (s) cm⁻¹.

4.4.4 Ethyl 3,3-diphenylpropanoate (9c)



9c C₁₇H₁₈O₂ Mw = 254.33

Prepared according to **GP2** from ethyl 3,3-diphenylacrylate (**8c**, 63 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [SIMesCuCl] (**6**, 5.1 mg, 13 µmol, 5.0 mol%) and NaO*t*Bu (7.2 mg, 75 µmol, 30 mol%) in 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at 100 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (*n*-pentane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 50:1) yielded **9c** as a colorless oil (50.1 mg, 0.197 mmol, 79%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.45$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CD_2Cl_2): δ = 1.11 (t, ${}^{3}J_{1,2}$ = 7.1 Hz, 3H, H-1), 3.04 (d, ${}^{3}J_{4,5}$ = 8.0 Hz, 2H, H-4), 4.01 (q, ${}^{3}J_{2,1}$ = 7.1 Hz, 2H, H-2), 4.52 (t, ${}^{3}J_{5,4}$ = 8.0 Hz, 1H, H-5), 7.16–7.21 (m, 2H, H-9), 7.22–7.31 (m, 8H, H-7/H-8) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CD_2Cl_2): $\delta = 14.2$ (C-1), 40.9 (C-4), 47.4 (C-5), 60.7 (C-2), 126.8 (C-9), 128.0 (C-7), 128.9 (C-8), 144.2 (C-6), 171.9 (C-3) ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{17}H_{19}O_2^+$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 255.1380, found: 255.1374.

The data is in accordance with literature.^[24]

4.4.5 Ethyl 3-(4-methoxyphenyl)butanoate (9d)



9d C₁₃H₁₈O₃ Mw = 222.28

Prepared according to **GP2** from ethyl (*E*)-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)but-2-enoate (**8d**, 55 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [SIMesCuCI] (**6**, 5.1 mg, 13 μ mol, 5.0 mol%) and NaO*t*Bu (7.2 mg, 75 μ mol, 30 mol%) in 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at 100 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on

silica gel (*n*-pentane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 30:1) yielded **9d** as a colorless oil (42.4 mg, 0.191 mmol, 76%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.30$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.18 (t, ³*J*_{1,2} = 7.1 Hz, 3H, H-1), 1.27 (d, ³*J*_{11,5} = 7.0 Hz, 3H, H-11), 2.53 (m_c, 2H, H-4), 3.23 (m_c, 1H, H-5), 3.78 (s, 3H, H-10), 4.07 (m_c, 2H, H-2), 6.83 (m_c, 2H, H-8), 7.14 (m_c, 2H, H-7) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.3 (C-1), 22.1 (C-11), 35.8 (C-5), 43.3 (C-4), 55.3 (C-10), 60.3 (C-2), 113.9 (C-8), 127.7 (C-7), 138.0 (C-6), 158.2 (C-9), 172.5 (C-3) ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{13}H_{19}O_3^+$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 223.1329, found: 223.1324.

The data is in accordance with literature.^[25,26]

4.4.6 Ethyl 3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)butanoate (9e)



Prepared according to **GP2** from ethyl (*E*)-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)but-2-enoate (**8e**, 64 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [SIMesCuCI] (**6**, 5.1 mg, 13 μ mol, 5.0 mol%) and NaO*t*Bu (7.2 mg, 75 μ mol, 30 mol%) in 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at 100 °C. Purification by flash column

chromatography on silica gel (*n*-pentane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 50:1) yielded **9e** as a colorless oil (41.4 mg, 0.159 mmol, 64%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.45$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.17 (t, ³*J*_{1,2} = 7.1 Hz, 3H, H-1), 1.31 (d, ³*J*_{10,5} = 7.0 Hz, 3H, H-10), 2.59 (m_c, 2H, H-4), 3.34 (m_c, 1H, H-5), 4.07 (m_c, 2H, H-2), 7.33 (d, ³*J*_{7,8} = 8.2 Hz, 2H, H-7), 7.41 (d, ³*J*_{8,7} = 8.3 Hz, 2H, H-8) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.2 (C-1), 21.8 (C-11), 36.5 (C-5), 42.6 (C-4), 60.5 (C-2), 124.4 (q, ${}^{1}J_{10,F}$ = 271.5 Hz, C-10), 125.5 (q, ${}^{3}J_{8,F}$ = 3.6 Hz, C-8), 127.3 (C-7), 128.8 (q, ${}^{2}J_{9,F}$ = 32.2 Hz, C-9), 149.8 (C-6), 172.0 (C-3) ppm.

¹⁹**F NMR** (659 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = –62.4 ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{13}H_{16}F_{3}O_{2}^{+}$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 261.1097, found: 261.1090.

IR (ATR): $\tilde{v} = 2970$ (w), 1731 (s), 1618 (m), 1457 (w), 1419 (w), 1371 (w), 1322 (s), 1268 (w), 1160 (s), 1112 (s), 1066 (s), 1015 (m), 953 (w), 838 (s), 712 (w) cm⁻¹.

The ¹H and ¹³C NMR data is in accordance with literature.^[27]

4.4.7 Ethyl 3-(4-bromophenyl)butanoate (9f)



9f C₁₂H₁₅BrO₂ Mw = 271.15 Prepared according to **GP2** from ethyl (*E*)-3-(4-bromophenyl)but-2enoate (**8f**, 67 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [SIMesCuCI] (**6**, 5.1 mg, 13 µmol, 5.0 mol%) and NaO*t*Bu (7.2 mg, 75 µmol, 30 mol%) in 1,4dioxane (1.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at 100 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (*n*pentane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 50:1) yielded **9f** as a colorless oil

(57.9 mg, 0.214 mmol, 85%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.48$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.18 (t, ³*J*_{1,2} = 7.1 Hz, 3H, H-1), 1.27 (d, ³*J*_{10,5} = 6.9 Hz, 3H, H-10), 2.54 (m_c, 2H, H-4), 3.24 (m_c, 1H, H-5), 4.07 (m_c, 2H, H-2), 7.09 (m_c, 2H, H-7), 7.41 (m_c, 2H, H-8) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.2 (C-1), 21.9 (C-10), 36.1 (C-5), 42.8 (C-4), 60.4 (C-2), 120.1 (C-9), 128.7 (C-7), 131.6 (C-8), 144.8 (C-6), 172.1 (C-3) ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{12}H_{16}^{-79}BrO_2^+$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 271.0328, found: 271.0323. **IR** (ATR): \tilde{v} = 2966 (w), 1729 (s), 1488 (m), 1455 (w), 1406 (w), 1369 (m), 1260 (m), 1160 (s), 1071 (m), 1031 (m), 949 (w), 821 (s), 762 (w), 716 (w) cm⁻¹. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR data is in accordance with literature.^[28]

4.4.8 Ethyl 3-(4-chlorophenyl)butanoate (9g)



9g C₁₂H₁₅ClO₂ Mw = 226.70 Prepared according to **GP2** from ethyl (*E*)-3-(4-chlorophenyl)but-2enoate (**8g**, 56 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [SIMesCuCI] (**6**, 5.1 mg, 13 µmol, 5.0 mol%) and NaO*t*Bu (7.2 mg, 75 µmol, 30 mol%) in 1,4dioxane (1.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at 100 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (*n*pentane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 50:1) yielded **9g** as a colorless oil

(37 mg, 0.16 mmol, 65%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.52$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.17 (t, ${}^{3}J_{1,2}$ = 7.1 Hz, 3H, H-1), 1.27 (d, ${}^{3}J_{10,5}$ = 7.0 Hz, 3H, H-10), 2.54 (m_c, 2H, H-4), 3.25 (m_c, 1H, H-5), 4.06 (m_c, 2H, H-2), 7.15 (m_c, 2H, H-7), 7.25 (m_c, 2H, H-8) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.2 (C-1), 21.9 (C-10), 36.0 (C-5), 42.9 (C-4), 60.4 (C-2), 128.3 (C-7), 128.7 (C-8), 132.1 (C-9), 144.3 (C-6), 172.2 (C-3) ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{12}H_{16}^{35}CIO_2^+$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 227.0833, found: 227.0828.

IR (ATR): $\tilde{v} = 2965$ (w), 2115 (w), 1729 (s), 1492 (m), 1457 (w), 1410 (w), 1369 (m), 1259 (m), 1161 (s), 1093 (s), 1032 (s), 950 (w), 825 (s), 732 (w) cm⁻¹.

4.4.9 Ethyl 3-(o-tolyl)butanoate (9h)



Prepared according to **GP2** from ethyl (*E*)-3-(*o*-tolyl)but-2-enoate (**8h**, 51 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [SIMesCuCl] (**6**, 10.2 mg, 25.0 μ mol, 10.0 mol%) and NaO*t*Bu (7.2 mg, 75 μ mol, 30 mol%) in 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at 100 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (*n*-

pentane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 50:1) yielded **9h** as a colorless oil (90% conversion, 28.6 mg, 0.138 mmol, 55%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.60$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.18 (t, ³*J*_{1,2} = 6.9 Hz, 3H, H-1), 1.25 (d, ³*J*_{13,4} = 6.9 Hz, 3H, H-13), 2.37 (s, 3H, H-12), 2.57 (m_c, 2H, H-4), 3.53 (m_c, 1H, H-5), 4.08 (q, ³*J*_{2,1} = 7.1 Hz, 2H, H-2), 7.06–7.21 (m, 4H, H-7/H-8/H-9/H-10) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.2 (C-1), 19.5 (C-12), 21.4 (C-13), 31.6 (C-5), 42.3 (C-4), 60.3 (C-2), 125.1 (C-7), 126.1 (C-8)*, 126.3 (C-9)*, 130.5 (C-10), 135.4 (C-11), 144.0 (C-6), 172.6 (C-3) ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{13}H_{19}O_2^+$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 207.1380, found: 207.1379. The data is in accordance with literature.^[26]

4.4.10 Ethyl 3-(4-nitrophenyl)butanoate (9i)



C₁₂H₁₅NO₄ Mw = 237.25 Prepared according to **GP2** from ethyl (*E*)-3-(4-nitrophenyl)but-2enoate (**8i**, 58 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [SIMesCuCI] (**6**, 5.1 mg, 13 µmol, 5.0 mol%) and NaO*t*Bu (7.2 mg, 75 µmol, 30 mol%) in 1,4dioxane (1.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at 100 °C. No conversion could be observed in ¹H NMR, GC and GC-MS.

Crude ¹H NMR of conjugate reduction of 8i



GC of conjugate reduction of 8i



Peak results :

| Index | Name | Time [Min] | Quantity [% Area] | Height [uV] | Area [uV.Min] | Area % [%] |
|-------|---------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1 | UNKNOWN | 8,55 | 1,41 | 501,9 | 27,9 | 1,414 |
| 2 | UNKNOWN | 8,72 | 3.43 | 603,6 | 67.6 | 3,429 |
| 3 | UNKNOWN | 9,09 | 92.05 | 9660,2 | 1814,8 | 92,054 |
| 4 | UNKNOWN | 13.88 | 3,10 | 368,0 | 61,2 | 3,104 |
| Total | | | 100.00 | 11133.7 | 1971.5 | 100.000 |



GC/ MS of conjugate reduction of 8i





4.4.11 Ethyl 3-(4-cyanophenyl)butanoate (9j)



9j C₁₃H₁₅NO₂ Mw = 217.26

Prepared according to **GP2** from ethyl (*E*)-3-(4-cyanophenyl)but-2enoate (**8j**, 54 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [SIMesCuCl] (**6**, 5.1 mg, 13 μ mol, 5.0 mol%) and NaO*t*Bu (7.2 mg, 75 μ mol, 30 mol%) in 1,4dioxane (1.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at 100 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (*n*- pentane/tert-butyl methyl ether = 15:1) yielded 9j as a colorless oil (9.8 mg, 45 µmol, 5%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.30$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 4:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.17 (t, ${}^{3}J_{1,2}$ = 7.1 Hz, 3H, H-1), 1.30 (d, ${}^{3}J_{11,5}$ = 7.0 Hz, 3H, H-11), 2.58 (m_c, 2H, H-4), 3.33 (m_c, 1H, H-5), 4.06 (m_c, 2H, H-2), 7.33 (m_c, 2H, H-7), 7.59 (m_c, 2H, H-8) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.2 (C-1), 21.7 (C-11), 36.7 (C-5), 42.4 (C-4), 60.6 (C-2), 110.5 (C-9), 119.0 (C-10), 127.8 (C-7), 132.5 (C-8), 151.3 (C-6), 171.8 (C-3) ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{13}H_{15}NO_2^+$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 218.1176, found: 218.1182.

IR (ATR): \tilde{v} = 2972 (w), 2227 (m), 1732 (s), 1608 (w), 1505 (w), 1457 (w), 1416 (w), 1371 (w), 1266 (w), 1174 (m), 1116 (w), 1033 (w), 838 (w) cm⁻¹.

4.4.12 Ethyl 3-(4-acetylphenyl)butanoate (9k)



Prepared according to **GP2** from ethyl (*E*)-3-(4-acetylphenyl)but-2enoate (**8k**, 58 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [SIMesCuCI] (**6**, 5.1 mg, 13 µmol, 5.0 mol%) and NaO*t*Bu (7.2 mg, 75 µmol, 30 mol%) in 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at 100 °C. No conversion could be observed in ¹H NMR, GC and GC-MS.

Crude ¹H NMR of conjugate reduction of 8k



GC of conjugate reduction of 8k



Peak results :

| Index | Name | Time [Min] | Quantity [% Area] | Height [uV] | Area [uV.Min] | Area % [%] |
|-------|---------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| 4 | UNKNOWN | 8,25 | 3,52 | 7526,1 | 391,2 | 3,524 |
| 3 | UNKNOWN | 8,44 | 2.05 | 3136.5 | 227,9 | 2.053 |
| 2 | UNKNOWN | 8,87 | 90,95 | 92915,4 | 10097,6 | 90,953 |
| 1 | UNKNOWN | 13,16 | 3.47 | 2677.6 | 385.3 | 3,470 |
| Total | | | 100.00 | 106255.6 | 11101.9 | 100,000 |

GC/MS data of conjugate reduction of 8k








4.4.13 Ethyl 3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)butanoate (9I)



9I C₁₂H₁₆O₃ Mw = 208.25

Prepared according to **GP2** from ethyl (*E*)-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)but-2enoate (**8I**, 45 mg, 0.22 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [SIMesCuCI] (**6**, 5.1 mg, 13 μ mol, 6.0 mol%) and NaO*t*Bu (7.2 mg, 75 μ mol, 34 mol%) in 1,4dioxane (1.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at 100 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (*n*- pentane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 10:1) yielded **9I** as a colorless oil (conv. 81%, 21.3 mg, 0.102 mmol, 47%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.44$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 4:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.18 (t, ³*J*_{1,2} = 7.1 Hz, 3H, H-1), 1.26 (d, ³*J*_{11,5} = 6.9 Hz, 3H, H-11), 2.53 (m_c, 2H, H-4), 3.22 (m_c, 1H, H-5), 4.07 (m_c, 2H, H-2), 4.82 (s, 1H,O*H*), 6.74 (m_c, 2H, H-8), 7.08 (m_c, 2H, H-7) ppm.

The ¹H NMR spectra still contains 9% of the starting material.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.3 (C-1), 22.1 (C-10), 35.9 (C-5), 43.4 (C-4), 60.4 (C-2), 115.3 (C-8), 128.0 (C-7), 138.0 (C-6), 154.1 (C-9), 172.7 (C-3) ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{12}H_{17}O_3^+$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 209.1172, found: 209.1169.

IR (ATR): \tilde{v} = 3349 (m), 2965 (w), 1704 (s), 1613 (m), 1515 (s), 1444 (m), 1371 (m), 1266 (m), 1219 (m), 1174 (m), 1109 (w), 1032 (m), 833 (s) cm⁻¹.

4.4.14 Ethyl 3-(4-((tert-butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy)phenyl)butanoate (9m-OEt) and *tert*-butyl 3-(4-((tert-butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy)phenyl)butanoate (9m-O*t*Bu)



Prepared according to **GP2** from diethyl ethyl (*E*)-3-(4-((tertbutyldiphenylsilyl)oxy)phenyl)but-2-enoate (104 mg, 0.250 mmol, 1.00 equiv), [SIMesCuCI] (**6**, 10.2 mg, 25.0 μ mol, 10.0 mol%) and NaO*t*Bu (14 mg, 0.15 mmol, 60 mol%) in 1,4dioxane (1.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at 100 °C. A crude reaction mixture of the product **9m-OEt** and

tert-butyl 3-(4-((tert-butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy)phenyl)butanoate (**9m-O***t***Bu**) as a side product (**9m-O***tt***9m-O***t***Bu** = 83:17) was obtained. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (*n*-pentane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 100:1) yielded **9m-OEt** as a colorless oil (44.9 mg, 0.101 mmol, 40%) and **9m-O***t***Bu** as a colorless oil (8.6 mg, 0.018 mmol, 7%).

Ethyl 3-(4-((tert-butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy)phenyl)butanoate (9m-OEt):

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.37$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).



¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.08 (s, 9H, H-15), 1.39 (t, ³ $J_{1,2}$ = 7.1 Hz, 3H, H-1), 1.21 (d, ³ $J_{16,5}$ = 6.9 Hz, 3H, H-16), 2.46 (m_c, 2H, H-4), 3.14 (m_c, 1H, H-5), 4.03 (q, ³ $J_{2,1}$ = 7.1 Hz, 2H, H-2), 6.68 (m_c, 2H, H-8), 6.92 (m_c, 2H, H-7), 7.32–7.37 (m, 4H, H-12), 7.39–7.43 (m, 2H, H-13), 7.67–7.73 (m, 4H, H-11) ppm. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.3 (C-1), 19.6 (C-14), 21.9 (C-16), 26.6 (C-15), 35.9 (C-5),
43.4 (C-4), 60.2 (C-2), 119.6 (C-8), 127.5 (C-7). 127.8 (C-12), 129.9 (C-13), 133.2 (C-10),
135.6 (C-11), 138.3 (C-6), 154.0 (C-9), 172.6 (C-3) ppm.

²⁹SI DEPT NMR (99MHz, J = 20 Hz, CDCl₃): $\delta = -6.6$ ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{18}H_{27}O_4^+$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 447.2350, found: 447.2343.

IR (ATR): $\tilde{v} = 2930$ (m), 2856 (w), 1731 (s), 1606 (m), 1509 (s), 1471 (w), 1427 (m), 1367 (w), 1252 (s), 1160 (m), 1107 (s), 1032 (w), 916 (s), 832 (m), 779 (w), 740 (m), 698 (s) cm⁻¹.

tert-Butyl 3-(4-((tert-butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy)phenyl)butanoate (9m-OtBu):

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.47$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.08 (s, 9H, H-15), 1.19 (d, ³*J*_{16,5} = 7.0 Hz, 3H, H-16), 1.31 (s, 9H, H-1), 2.38 (m_c, 2H, H-4), 3.09 (m_c, 1H, H-5), 6.68 (m_c, 2H, H-8), 6.93 (m_c, 2H, H-7), 7.32–7.38 (m, 4H, H-12), 7.38–7.44 (m, 2H, H-13), 7.69–7.72 (m, 4H, H-11) ppm.

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 19.6 (C-14), 22.1 (C-16), 26.6 (C-15), 28.1 (C-1), 36.1 (C-5),
44.5 (C-4), 80.1 (C-2), 119.5 (C-8), 127.6 (C-7), 127.8 (C-12), 129.9 (C-13), 133.2 (C-10),
135.6 (C-11), 138.4 (C-6), 154.0 (C-9), 171.9 (C-1) ppm.

²⁹SI DEPT NMR (99MHz, J = 20 Hz, CDCl₃): δ = -6.7 ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{20}H_{25}O_3^+$ [(M+H–Ph–*t*Bu)⁺] calculated: 341.1567, found: 341.1569. **IR** (ATR): \tilde{v} 2960 (m), 2857 (w), 1727 (s), 1607 (w), 1509 (s), 1472 (w), 1427 (w), 1365 (w),

1255 (s), 1148 (m), 1110 (m), 1011 (w), 920 (m), 834 (m), 779 (w), 741 (w), 701 (s) cm⁻¹.

4.4.15 Ethyl 3-(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)butanoate (9n)



 $M_W = 235.32$

Prepared according to **GP2** from ethyl (1)-3-(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)but-2-enoate (**8n**, 61 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [SIMesCuCI] (**6**, 5.1 mg, 13 μ mol, 5.0 mol%) and NaO*t*Bu (7.2 mg, 75 μ mol, 30 mol%) in 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at 100 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (*n*-pentane/*tert*-butyl methyl

ether = 50:1) yielded **9n** as a colorless oil (38.1 mg, 0.162 mmol, 65%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.16$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.20 (t, ³*J*_{1,2} = 7.1 Hz, 3H, H-1), 1.26 (d, ³*J*_{11,5} = 6.9 Hz, 2H, H-11), 2.52 (m_c, 2H, H-4), 2.91 (s, 6H, H-10), 3.19 (m_c, 1H, H-5), 4.08 (m_c, 2H, H-2), 6.69 (m_c, 2H, H-8), 7.10 (m_c, 2H, H-7) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.3 (C-1), 22.0 (C-11), 35.6 (C-5), 40.9 (C-10), 43.5 (C-4), 60.2 (C-2), 113.0 (C-8), 127.4 (C-7), 134.0 (C-6), 149.4 (C-9), 172.8 (C-3) ppm. **HRMS** (APCI) for C₁₄H₂₂NO₂⁺ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 236.1645, found: 236.1640. The data is in accordance with literature.^[6]

4.4.16 Ethyl 3-(thiophen-2-yl)butanoate (9o)



Mw = 198.28

Prepared according to **GP2** from ethyl (*E*)-3-(thiophen-2-yl)but-2-enoate (**8o**, 49 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [SIMesCuCI] (**6**, 5.1 mg, 13 μ mol, 5.0 mol%) and NaO*t*Bu (7.2 mg, 75 μ mol, 30 mol%) in 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at 100 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (*n*-

pentane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 30:1) yielded **9o** as a colorless oil (38.8 mg, 0.196 mmol, 78%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.55$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.22 (t, ${}^{3}J_{1,2}$ = 7.1 Hz, 3H, H-1), 1.38 (d, ${}^{3}J_{10,5}$ = 6.9 Hz, 3H, H-10), 2.61 (m_c, 2H, H-4), 3.59 (m_c, 1H, H-5), 4.12 (q, ${}^{3}J_{2,1}$ = 7.1 Hz, 2H, H-2), 6.83 (m_c, 1H, H-7), 6.91 (dd, ${}^{3}J_{8,7}$ = 5.1 Hz, ${}^{3}J_{8,9}$ = 5.1 Hz, 1H, H-8), 7.13 (dd, ${}^{3}J_{9,8}$ = 5.1 Hz, ${}^{4}J_{9,7}$ = 1.1 Hz, 1H, H-9) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.3 (C-1), 22.7 (C-10), 32.1 (C-5), 44.0 (C-4), 60.5 (C-2), 123.0 (C-7), 123.0 (C-8), 126.7 (C-9), 149.8 (C-6), 172.0 (C-3) ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{10}H_{15}O_2S^+$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 199.0787, found: 199.0782.

IR (ATR): $\tilde{v} = 2971$ (w), 1729 (s), 1456 (w), 1369 (m), 1344 (w), 1280 (m), 1248 (m), 1160 (m), 1071 (w), 1028 (m), 947 (w), 848 (m), 691 (s) cm⁻¹.

The ¹H NMR data is in accordance with literature.^[29]

4.4.17 Ethyl 3-cyclopropyl-3-phenylpropanoate (9p)



C₁₄H₁₈O₂ Mw = 218.30

Prepared according to **GP2** from ethyl (*E*)-3-cyclopropyl-3phenylacrylate (**8p**, 54 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [SIMesCuCl] (**6**, 5.1 mg, 13 µmol, 5.0 mol%) and NaO*t*Bu (7.2 mg, 75 µmol, 30 mol%) in 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at 100 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (*n*pentane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 50:1) yielded **9p** as a colorless oil

(52.0 mg, 0.238 mmol, 95%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.52$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 0.14 (m_c, 1H, H-11_α)*, 0.27 (m_c, 1H, H-11'_α)*, 0.41 (m_c, 1H, H-11_β)*, 0.57 (m_c, 1H, H-11'_β), 1.03 (m_c, 1H, H-10), 1.15 (t, ³J_{1,2} = 7.1 Hz, 3H, H-1), 2.37 (m_c, 1H, H-11'_β)*

1H, H-5), 2.73 (m_c, 2H, H-4), 4.04 (m_c, 2H, H-2), 7.18–7.25 (m, 3H, H-7/H-9), 7.26–7.32 (m, 2H, H-8) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 4.1 (C-11)*, 5.4 (C-11')*, 14.2 (C-1), 17.2 (C-10), 41.9 (C-4), 47.3 (C-5), 60.3 (C-2), 126.5 (C-9), 127.4 (C-7), 128.4 (C-8), 144.2 (C-6), 172.5 (C-3) ppm. **HRMS** (APCI) for C₁₄H₁₉O₂⁺ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 219.1380, found: 219.1372.

The data is in accordance with literature.^[30]

4.4.18 Hex-5-en-1-yl 3-phenylbutanoate (9q)



9q C₁₆H₂₂O₂ Mw = 246.3 Prepared according to **GP2** from hex-5-en-1-yl (*E*)-3phenylbut-2-enoate (**8q**, 61 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [SIMesCuCl] (**6**, 5.1 mg, 13 μ mol, 5.0 mol%) and NaO*t*Bu (7.2 mg, 75 μ mol, 30 mol%) in 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at 100 °C. Purification by

flash column chromatography on silica gel (*n*-pentane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 50:1) yielded **9q** as a colorless oil (40.9 mg, 0.166 mmol, 66%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.53$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.17 (d, ³*J*_{14,9} = 7.0 Hz, 3H, H-14), 1.19–1.27 (m, 2H, H-4), 1.38–1.46 (m, 2H, H-5), 1.90 (m_c, 2H, H-3), 2.45 (m_c, 2H, H-8), 3.14 (m_c, 1H, H-9), 3.88 (d, ³*J*_{6,5} = 6.6 Hz, 2H, H-6), 4.82 (m_c, 1H, H-1*Z*), 4.86 (m_c, 1H, H-1*E*), 5.63 (m_c, 1H, H-2), 7.03–7.11 (m, 3H,H-11/H-13), 7.13–7.19 (m, 2H, H-12) ppm.

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 22.0 (C-14), 25.7 (C-4), 28.1 (C-5), 33.3 (C-3), 36.7 (C-9),
43.1 (C-8), 64.3 (C-6), 114.9 (C-1), 126.5 (C-13), 126.8 (C-11), 128.6 (C-12), 138.4 (C-2),
145.8 (C-10), 172.6 (C-3) ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{16}H_{13}O_2^+$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 247.1693, found: 247.1690.

IR (ATR): \tilde{v} = 2930 (w), 1730 (s), 1639 (w), 1602 (w), 1452 (w), 1265 (m), 1162 (m), 1082 (m), 993 (m), 909 (m), 760 (m), 698 (s) cm⁻¹.

4.4.19 Diethyl 3,3'-(1,4-phenylene)dibutyrate (9r)



Prepared according to **GP2** from diethyl 3,3'-(1,4-phenylene)(2E,2'E)-bis(but-2-enoate) (**8k**, 76 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [SIMesCuCI] (**6**, 10.2 mg, 25.0 µmol, 10.0 mol%) and NaO*t*Bu (14 mg, 0.15 mmol, 60 mol%) in 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for

16 h at 100 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (*n*-pentane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 25:2) yielded **9r** as a colorless oil (47.9 mg, 0.156 mmol, 62%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.31$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.17 (t, ${}^{3}J_{1,2}$ = 7.1 Hz, 6H, H-1), 1.27 (d, ${}^{3}J_{8,4}$ = 6.9 Hz, 6H, H-8), 2.54 (m_c, 4H, H-4), 3.24 (m_c, 2H, H-5), 4.07 (q, ${}^{3}J_{2,1}$ = 7.1 Hz, 4H, H-2), 7.14 (s, 4H, H-7) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.3 (C-1), 21.8 (C-8), 36.2 (C-5), 43.1 (C-4), 60.3 (C-2), 126.9 (C-7), 143.8 (C-6), 172.5 (C-3) ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{18}H_{27}O_4^+$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 307.1904, found: 307.1903.

IR (ATR): $\tilde{v} = 2964$ (w), 1729 (s), 1510 (w), 1456 (w), 1369 (m), 1264 (m), 1158 (s), 1095 (w), 1032 (s), 949 (w), 831 (m), 721 (w) cm⁻¹.

4.4.20 Ethyl 2-methyl-3-phenylbutanoate (9s)



Prepared according to **GP2** from ethyl (*E*)-2-methyl-3-phenylbut-2-enoate (**8s**, 51 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [SIMesCuCl] (**6**, 10.2 mg, 25.0 µmol, 10.0 mol%) and NaO*t*Bu (7.2 mg, 75 µmol, 30 mol%) in 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at 100 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (*n*-pentane/Et₂O = 50:1) yielded **9** as a colorless oil (66% conversion, 37 mg combined yield of *E*-8s, *Z*-8s, *syn*-**9s** and *anti*-**9s**).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.59$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

Major diastereomer:

$9 = \frac{6}{8} + \frac{5}{7} + \frac{6}{11} + \frac{6}{11$

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 0.93 (d, ${}^{3}J_{11,4}$ = 6.9 Hz, 3H, H-11), 1.23– 1.27 (m, 2H, H-10), 1.28 (t, ${}^{3}J_{1,2}$ = 7.1 Hz, 3H, H-1), 2.57 (m_c, 1H, H-4), 2.89 (m_c, 1H, H-5), 4.18 (m_c, 2H, H-2), 7.11–7.23 (m, 3H, H-7/H-9)*,

Minor diastereomer:

7.26–7.41 (m, 2H, H-8)* ppm.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.01 (t, ³*J*_{1,2} = 7.1 Hz, 3H, H-1), 1.17 (d, ³*J*_{11,4} = 6.9 Hz, 3H, H-11), 1.23–1.27 (m, 2H, H-10), 2.64 (m_c, 1H, H-4), 3.03 (m_c, 1H, H-5), 3.91 (m_c, 2H, H-2), 7.11–7.23 (m, 3H, H-7/H-9)*, 7.26–7.41 (m, 2H, H-8)* ppm.

Integrated signals in ¹H NMR which are not further listed belong to the starting material (*E*-**8s**) and its isomer (*Z*-**8s**). Due to overlaying signals, ¹³C signals have not been correlated. For **MS** see following GC/MS data.



GC of 9s



Peak results :

| Index | Name | Time [Min] | Quantity [% Area] | Height [uV] | Area [uV.Min] | Area % [%] |
|-------|---------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1 | UNKNOWN | 9,96 | 26,83 | 281221,8 | 14658,6 | 26,832 |
| 2 | UNKNOWN | 10,15 | 39,25 | 397480,1 | 21441,8 | 39,249 |
| 3 | UNKNOWN | 10,37 | 13,46 | 125736,1 | 7354,0 | 13,461 |
| 4 | UNKNOWN | 10,83 | 20,46 | 131657,1 | 11175,8 | 20,457 |
| Total | | | 100,00 | 936095.0 | 54630.3 | 100,000 |



GC/MS of 9s minor diastereomer

GC/MS of 9s major diasteromer



GC/MS of E-8s



GC/MS of Z-8s



4.4.21 Ethyl 3-cyclohexylbutanoate (9t)



Prepared according to **GP2** from ethyl (*E*)-3-cyclohexylbut-2-enoate (**8t**, 49 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [SIMesCuCl] (**6**, 5.1 mg, 13 μ mol, 5.0 mol%) and NaO*t*Bu (7.2 mg, 75 μ mol, 30 mol%) in 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at 100 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (*n*-

pentane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 50:1) yielded **9t** as a colorless oil (41 mg, 0.21 mmol, 83%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.63$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 0.88 (d, ³*J*_{10,5} = 6.8 Hz 3H, H-10), 0.91–1.04 (m, 2H, H-9*), 1.05–1.23 (m, 4H, H-6/H-7*/H-7'*), 1.25 (t, ³*J*_{1,2} = 7.1 Hz, 3H, H-1), 1.59–1.68 (m, 3H, H-9'*/H-8*), 1.69–1.78 (m, 2H, H-8'*), 1.85 (m_c, 1H, H-5), 2.21 (m_c, 2H, H-4), 4.12 (q, ³*J*_{2,1} = 7.1 Hz, 2H, H-2) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.4 (C-1), 16.6 (C-10), 26.7 (C-7)*, 26.8 (C-8)*, 26.8 (C-9)*, 29.0 (C-7')*, 30.4 (C-8')*, 35.5 (C-5), 39.4 (C-4), 42.7 (C-6), 60.2 (C-2), 174.0 (C-3) ppm. **HRMS** (APCI) for C₁₂H₂₃O₂⁺ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 199.1693, found: 199.1689.

The data is in accordance with literature.^[31]

4.4.22 Ethyl 3-methylundecanoate (9u)



Prepared according to **GP2** from ethyl (*E*)-3-methylundec-2enoate (**8u**, 57 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [SIMesCuCl] (**6**, 5.1 mg, 13 μ mol, 5.0 mol%) and NaO*t*Bu (7.2 mg, 75 μ mol, 30 mol%) in 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at 100 °C. Purification by flash column

chromatography on silica gel (*n*-pentane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 50:1) yielded **9u** as a colorless oil (52.7 mg, 0.231 mmol, 92%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.78$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 0.87 (t, ³*J*_{13,12} = 13.9 Hz, 3H, H-13), 0.92 (d, ³*J*_{14,5} = 6.6 Hz, 3H, H-14), 1.12–1.34 (m, 17H, H-1/H-6/H-7/H-8/H-9/H-10/H-11/H-12), 1.94 (m_c, 1H, H-5), 2.18 (m_c, 2H, H-4), 4.12 (q, ³*J*_{2,1} = 7.1, 2H, H-7) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.2 (C-13), 14.4 (C-1), 19.8 (C-14), 22.8 (C-12)*, 27.0 (C-10)*, 29.4 (C-9)*, 29.7 (C-8)*, 29.9 (C-7)*, 30.5 (C-5), 32.0 (C-11)*, 36.8 (C-6), 42.1 (C-4), 60.1 (C-2), 173.5 (C-3) ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{14}H_{29}O_2^+$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 229.2162, found: 229.2157.

IR (ATR): \tilde{v} = 2923 (m), 2853 (m), 1735 (s), 1461 (m), 1371 (m), 1250 (m), 1159 (m), 1032 (m), 954 (w), 844 (w), 722 (w) cm⁻¹.

4.4.23 Ethyl 3-propylhexanoate (9v)



9v C₁₁H₂₂O₂ Mw = 186.29

Prepared according to **GP2** from ethyl 3-propylhex-2-enoate (46 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [SIMesCuCI] (**6**, 5.1 mg, 13 µmol, 5.0 mol%) and NaO*t*Bu (7.2 mg, 75 µmol, 30 mol%) in 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at 100 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (*n*-pentane/Et₂O = 50:1) yielded **9v** as a colorless oil (100% conversion, due to volatility of the product the

yield could not be determined).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.78$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CD_2Cl_2): δ = 0.88 (t, ${}^{3}J_{8,7}$ = 7.0 Hz, 6H, H-8), 1.19–1.33 (m, 11H, H-1/H-6/H-7), 1.84 (m_c, 1H, H-5), 2.19 (d, ${}^{3}J_{4,5}$ = 6.8 Hz, 2H, H-4), 4.08 (q, ${}^{3}J_{2,1}$ = 7.1 Hz, 2H, H-2) ppm.

Due to volatility of the product, the sample contains *n*-pentane residues. Therefore, the value of the integration for H-8 and H1/H-6/H-7 is too high (see the attached spectra).

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CD₂Cl₂): δ = 14.4 (C-1/C-8), 20.0 (C-7), 35.0 (C-5), 36.6 (C-6), 39.6 (C-4), 60.3 (C-2), 173.7 (C-3) ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{11}H_{23}O_2^+$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 187.1693, found: 187.1692.

IR (ATR): $\tilde{v} = 2957$ (s), 2929 (m), 2871 (m), 2358 (w), 1735 (s), 1641 (w), 1462 (m), 1374 (w), 1302 (w), 1247 (m), 1173 (m), 1106 (w), 1036 (m), 854 (w), 739 (w) cm⁻¹.

4.4.24 N,N-diethyl-3-phenylbutanamide (11)



C₁₄H₂₁NO

Mw = 219.32

Prepared according to **GP2** from (*E*)-*N*,*N*-diethyl-3-phenylbut-2-enamide (**10**, 46 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [SIMesCuCl] (**6**, 5.1 mg, 13 µmol, 5.0 mol%) and NaO*t*Bu (7.2 mg, 75 µmol, 30 mol%) in 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at 100 °C. Purification by preparative TLC (Al_2O_3 , cyclohexane/ *tert*-butyl methyl

ether = 5:1, Et₃N 2%) yielded **11** as a colorless oil (60% conversion (average of 3 runs), 9.5 mg, 43 μ mol, 17%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.28$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 2:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CD₂Cl₂): δ = 1.02 (t, ³*J*_{1,2} = 7.1 Hz, 3H, H-1)*, 1.07 (t, ³*J*_{1',2'} = 7.1 Hz, 3H, H-1')*, 1.28 (d, ³*J*_{10,5} = 7.0 Hz, 3H, H-10), 2.51 (m_c, 2H, H-4), 3.19 (t, ³*J*_{2,1} = 7.1 Hz, 2H, H-2), 3.23–3.38 (m, 3H, H-5/H-2'), 7.14–7.20 (m, 1H, H-9), 7.21–7.31 (m, 4H, H-7/H-8) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CD₂Cl₂): δ = 13.2 (C-1)*, 14.5 (C-1')*, 21.8 (C-10), 36.9 (C-5), 40.39 (C-2)**, 41.8 (C-4), 42.2 (C-2')**, 126.4 (C-9), 127.3 (C-7), 128.6 (C-8), 147.3 (C-6), 170.7 (C-3) ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for C₁₄H₂₂NO⁺ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 220.1696, found: 220.1694. **IR** (ATR): \tilde{v} = 2968 (m), 2931 (w), 2359 (w), 1638 (s), 1454 (m), 1278 (w), 11276 (w), 1222 (w), 1142 (w), 1085 (w), 1021 (w), 761 (w), 701 (m) cm⁻¹.

4.4.25 Ethyl (E)-5-phenylpent-4-enoate (13a)





13a C₁₃H₁₆O₂ Mw = 204.26 Prepared according to **GP2** from ethyl (2E,4E)-5-phenylpenta-2,4dienoate (**12**, 51 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [SIMesCuCl] (**6**, 10.2 mg, 25.0 µmol, 10.0 mol%) and NaO*t*Bu (7.2 mg, 75 µmol, 30 mol%) in 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at 100 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on

silica gel (*n*-pentane/Et₂O = 50:1) yielded **13** as a colorless oil (81% conversion, 35 mg combined yield of **12**, **13a**, **13b** and **13c**).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.61$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.26 (t, ³*J*_{1,2} = 7.1 Hz, 3H, H-1), 2.45–2.57 (m, 4H, H4/H-5), 4.15 (q, ³*J*_{2,1} = 7.1 Hz, 2H, H-2), 6.21 (dt, ³*J*_{6,7} = 15.8 Hz, ³*J*_{6,5} = 6.6 Hz, 1H, H-6), 6.43 (d, ³*J*_{7,6} = 15.8 Hz, 1H, H-7), 7.15–7.23 (m, 1H, H-11)*, 7.26–7.37 (m, 4H, H-9/H-10)* ppm.

¹³**C** NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.4 (C-1), 28.4 (C-5), 34.2 (C-4), 60.5 (C-2), 126.1 (C-9), 127.2 (C-11)*, 127.3 (C-10)*, 128.6 (C-6), 131.0 (C-7), 137.5 (C-8), 173.1 (C-3) ppm.

Other unpicked and not integrated signals belong to the starting material or the other products.

Indicative signals for the starting material **12** in the ¹H NMR are at δ = 5.84, 5.99 and 6.89 ppm. Indicative for the 1,6-conjugate reduction product **13b** are the signals at δ = 5.82 and 7.00 ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{13}H_{17}O_2^+$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 205.1223, found: 205.1221.



GC of 13









GC/MS of 13a







4.4.26 Ethyl 3-(4-styrylphenyl)butanoate (S9)



Prepared according to **GP2** from ethyl (*E*)-3-(4-(phenylethynyl)phenyl)but-2-enoate (**S3**, 69 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [SIMesCuCI] (**6**, 10.2 mg, 25.0 µmol, 10.0 mol%) and NaO*t*Bu (7.2 mg, 75 µmol, 30 mol%) in 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at 100 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (*n*-pentane/Et₂O = 50:1) yielded a mixture of **S9-***E*, **S9-***Z* and **S10** as a colorless oil (full conversion, 44.6 mg combined yield of **S9-***E*, **S9-***Z* and **S10**).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.16$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 50:1).







C₂₀H₂₂O₂ Mw = 249.39

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CD₂Cl₂): δ = 1.18 (t, ³*J*_{1,2} = 7.1 Hz, 3H, H-1), 1.25–1.32 (m, 3H, H-16), 2.45–2.66 (m, 2H, H-4), 3.19–3.34 (m, 1H, H-5), 4.03–4.13 (m, 2H, H-2), 7.13 (m_c, 2H, H-10/H-11), 7.05–7.53 (m, 9H, H-7/H-8/H-13/H-14/H-15) ppm.

Due to overlaying signals, ¹³C signals have not been

correlated.

Indicative signals for the alkane product **S10** in the ¹H NMR are at δ = 2.89 ppm. **HRMS** (APCI) for C₂₀H₂₃O₂⁺ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 295.1693, found: 295.1691.





GC/MS of S9-Z



GC/MS of S10





4.5 Additives tested in the conjugate reduction

In order to further probe the functional group tolerance of the present protocol, we have added three protic additives (1.0 equivalents with respect to the enoate **1**) to the standard conditions, namely *n*-octanol, benzoic acid and aniline. Robustness and functional group tolerance screening experiments^[32] were following **GP 2**. Additionally to the substrate 1.00 equiv of an additiv was added to the reaction mixture together with the starting material.





^a All reactions with 5.5 µmol [Cu] in 1 mL solvent. ^b Determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy or GC analysis. ^c Reaction was performed in an H₂-purged pressure tube. ^d Isolated yield.

As can be seen from the table, the copper-catalyzed conjugate reduction tolerates the alcohol additive, with full conversion reached, however, we detect 63% of transesterification product (octyl ester).

Addition of the significantly more acidic benzoic acid led to a complete halt of the reaction, most probably due to protonation of the key *tert*-butoxide additive.

The addition of 1.0 equivalents aniline led to significantly lower conversion (only 62% reached), displaying the limits of the present catalyst. A mixture of products was found, including the corresponding reduced and not reduced amides derived from anilin.

4.5.1 Analytical data for the additives tested:

4.5.1.1 1-Ocantol as additive



GC-data



Peak results :

| Index | Name | Time [Min] | Quantity [% Area] | Height [uV] | Area [uV.Min] | Area % [%] |
|-------|---------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1 | UNKNOWN | 5,71 | 36,52 | 259180,5 | 15184,1 | 36,518 |
| 2 | UNKNOWN | 9,06 | 63,48 | 621326,4 | 26395,8 | 63,482 |
| Total | | | 100,00 | 880506,9 | 41579,9 | 100,000 |

GC/MS-data





4.5.1.2 Benzoic acid as additive



GC-data



Peak results :

| Index | Name | Time [Min] | Quantity [% Area] | Height [uV] | Area [uV.Min] | Area % [%] |
|-------|---------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1 | UNKNOWN | 6,56 | 100,00 | 1649337.9 | 66134.0 | 100,000 |
| Total | | | 100,00 | 1649337.9 | 66134,0 | 100,000 |

GC/MS-data



4.5.1.3 Anilin as additive







Peak results :

| Index | Name | Time [Min] | Quantity [% Area] | Height [uV] | Area [uV.Min] | Area % [%] |
|-------|---------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1 | UNKNOWN | 2.88 | 29,90 | 198626,2 | 12051,3 | 29,902 |
| 5 | UNKNOWN | 5,73 | 9,59 | 86987.7 | 3865,8 | 9.592 |
| . 4 | UNKNOWN | 6,56 | 38,24 | 218050.0 | 15413,5 | 38.244 |
| 6 | UNKNOWN | 9,96 | 2,49 | 12578.6 | 1001,6 | 2,485 |
| 3 | UNKNOWN | 10.85 | 13,69 | 42289,7 | 5518,3 | 13,692 |
| 2 | UNKNOWN | 13,09 | 6,09 | 21185.8 | 2452.6 | 6.085 |
| Total | | | 100.00 | 579718,1 | 40303,1 | 100,000 |

GC-MS data












4.6 Deuteration experiments

Deuteration experiments were following **GP 2** using D₂ instead of H₂.

Deuterium incorporation was determined *via* quantitative ¹H NMR and comparison of two selected ¹H NMR signals (relaxation delay (d_1), and selected ¹H NMR signals with the respective substrates).

4.6.1 Ethyl 3-phenylbutanoate- d_n (2- d_n)



Mw = 194.27

Prepared according to **GP2** from ethyl (*E*)-3-phenylbut-2-enoate (**1**, 48 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [SIMesCuCl] (**6**, 10 mg, 25 µmol, 10 mol%) and NaO*t*Bu (14 mg, 0.15 mmol, 30 mol%) in 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 48 h at 100 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (*n*-pentane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 50:1) yielded **2-***d_n* as a colorless oil

(38.6 mg, 0.198 mmol, 79%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.48$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (700 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.15–1.20 (m, 2.9H, H-1), 1.26–1.30 (m, 2.6H, H-10), 2.49–2.63 (m, 1.4H, H-4), 4.07 (m_c, 1.8H, H-2), 7.17–7.24 (m, 3H, H-7, H-9), 7.27–7.32 (m, 2H, H-8) ppm.

²H NMR (77 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.30 (s, D-10), 2.55 (m_c, D-4), 3.25 (s, D-5), 4.07 (s, D-2) ppm. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.3 (C-1), 21.8 (C-10), 36.6 (C-5), 43.1 (C-4), 60.3 (C-2), 126.4 (C-7)*, 126.8 (C-9)*, 128.5 (C-8), 145.8 (C-6), 172.5 (C-3) ppm. Due to low concentration C-5 could not be detected in ¹³C NMR but was identified *via* coupling in HMBC. HRMS (APCI) for C₁₂H₁₅D₂O₂⁺ [(M–D+2H)⁺] calculated: 195.1349, found: 195.1344.

IR (ATR): \tilde{v} = 2974 (w), 1729 (s), 1603 (w), 1493 (w), 1446 (m), 1367 (m), 1324 (m), 1246 (m), 1178 (s), 1094 (m), 1031 (s), 909 (w), 849 (w), 755 (m), 697 (s) cm⁻¹.

The deuterium incorporation was determined by comparing the integrals of the corresponding ¹H NMR signal H-2 (δ = 4.07 ppm), H-4 (δ = 2.49–2.63 ppm), H-5 (δ = 3.27 ppm) and H-10 (δ = 1.26–1.30 ppm) with H-7/H-9 (δ = 7.17–7.24 ppm) [¹H NMR (700 MHz, CDCl₃), d₁ = 23 s].

4.6.2 Ethyl 3,3-diphenylpropanoate-dn (9c-dn)



Prepared according to **GP2** from ethyl ethyl 3,3-diphenylacrylate (**8c**, 63 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [SIMesCuCl] (**6**, 10 mg, 25 µmol, 10 mol%) and NaO*t*Bu (14 mg, 0.15 mmol, 30 mol%) in

9c-d_n C₁₇H₁₅D₃O₂ Mw = 257.14 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 48 h at 100 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (*n*-pentane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 50:1) yielded **9c-** d_n as a colorless oil (48.5 mg, 0.188 mmol, 75%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.40$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (700 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.03–1.13 (m, 2.1H, H-1), 3.01–3.05 (m, 0.4H, H-4), 3.98– 4.05 (m, 1.2H, H-2), 7.16–7.20 (m, 2H, H-9), 7.22–7.25 (m, 4H, H-7)*, 7.26–7.29 (m, 4H, H-8)* ppm.

²**H NMR** (77 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.15 (s, D-1), 1.27 (s, D-11), 2.51 (m_c, D-4), 3.21 (s, D-5), 4.07 (s, D-2) ppm.

¹³**C** NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 14.5 (C-1), 41.0 (C-4), 46.7 (C-5), 60.5 (C-2), 126.6 (C-9), 127.8 (C-7), 128.6 (C-8), 128.9 (C-6), 143.5 (C-6), 171.9 (C-3) ppm.

Due to low concentration C-1, C-4, C-5 and C-2 could not be detected in ¹³C NMR but were identified *via* coupling in HMQC and HMBC.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{17}H_{16}D_3O_2^+$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 258.1568, found: 258.1562.

IR (ATR): $\tilde{v} = 3024$ (w), 2978 (w), 2127 (w), 1726 (s), 1599 (w), 1492 (m), 1446 (m), 1351 (w), 1259 (s), 1174 (w), 1122 (m), 1024 (m), 909 (w), 741 (m), 696 (s) cm⁻¹.

The deuterium incorporation was determined by comparing the integrals of the corresponding ¹H NMR signal H-1 (δ = 1.03–1.13 ppm), H-2 (δ = 3.98–4.05 ppm), H-4 (δ = 3.01–3.05 ppm) and H-5 (δ = 4.53–4.55 ppm) with H-9 (δ = 7.16–7.20 ppm) [¹H NMR (700 MHz, CDCl₃), d₁ = 21 s].

4.6.3 Ethyl 3-(4-methoxyphenyl)butanoate-2,2,3-d₃ (9d-d_n)



 $C_{13}H_{15}D_3O_3$ Mw = 225.14

Prepared according to **GP2** from ethyl (*E*)-3-(4methoxyphenyl)but-2-enoate (**8d**, 55 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [SIMesCuCI] (**6**, 10 mg, 25 μ mol, 10 mol%) and NaO*t*Bu (14 mg, 0.15 mmol, 30 mol%) in 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 48 h at 100 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (*n*-pentane/*tert*-butyl

methyl ether = 30:1) yielded $9d-d_n$ as a colorless oil (41.4 mg, 0.184 mmol, 74%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.26$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (700 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.14–1.20 (m, 2.3H, H-1), 1.23–1.28 (m, 2.7H, H-11), 2.45–2.57 (m, 0.6H, H-4), 3.78 (s, 3H, H-10), 4.01–4.10 (m, 1.4H, H-2), 6.83 (m_c, 2H, H-8), 7.13 (m_c, 2H, H-7) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (125 MHz, CD₂Cl₂): δ = 13.2–14.5 (m, C-1), 21.4–22.3 (m, C-11), 35.2–36.0 (m, C-5), 42.3–43.4 (m, C-4), 55.5 (C-10), 59.7–60.7 (m, C-2), 114.1 (C-8), 128.0 (C-7), 138.3 (C-6), 158.5 (C-9), 172.5 (C-3) ppm.

²**H NMR** (77 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.15 (s, D-1), 1.27 (s, D-11), 2.51 (m_c, 0.7D, D-4), 3.21 (s, D-5), 4.07 (s, D-2) ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{13}H_{16}D_3O_3^+$ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 226.1517, found: 226.1508.

IR (ATR): $\tilde{v} = 2956$ (w), 2835 (w), 2133 (w), 1725 (s), 1611 (m), 1511 (s), 1459 (m), 1362 (w), 1241 (s), 1176 (s), 1095 (m), 1031 (s), 829 (s) 725 (w), 633 (w) cm⁻¹.

The deuterium incorporation was determined by comparing the integrals of the corresponding ¹H NMR signal H-1 (δ = 1.14–1.20 ppm), H-2 (δ = 4.01–4.10 ppm), H-4 (δ = 2.45–2.57 ppm), H-5 (δ = 3.21 ppm) and H-11 (δ = 1.23–1.28 ppm) with H-10 (δ = 3.78 ppm) [¹H NMR (700 MHz, CDCl₃), d₁ = 18 s].

4.6.4 Ethyl 3-phenylbutanoate-2,2-d₂ (S14-d_n)





Prepared according to **GP2** from ethyl 3-phenylbutanoate (**3**, 48 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [SIMesCuCl] (**6**, 10 mg, 25 μ mol, 10 mol%) and NaO*t*Bu (14 mg, 0.15 mmol, 30 mol%) in 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 48 h at 100 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (*n*-pentane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 100:1) yielded **S14-***d_n* as a

colorless oil (26.8 mg, 0.198 mmol, 79%).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.48$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 9:1).

¹**H NMR** (700 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.12–1.19 (m, 2.0H, H-1), 1.30 (d, ³*J*_{10,5} = 7.0 Hz, 3H, H-10), 2.48–2.63 (m, 0.4H, H-4), 3.26 (m_c, 1H, H-5), 4.02–4.10 (m, 1.0H, H-2), 7.17–7.23 (m, 3H, H-7, H-9), 7.27–7.31 (m, 2H, H-8) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 13.9–14.4 (m, C-1), 21.8–21.9 (m, C-10), 36.4–36.7 (m, C-5), 42.2–43.3 (m, C-4), 59.7–60.4 (m, C-2), 126.5 (C-9), 126.9 (C-7), 128.6 (C-8), 145.8 (C-6), 172.5 (C-3) ppm.

²**H NMR** (77 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.14 (s, D-1), 2.55 (m_c, D-4), 4.06 (s, D-2) ppm.

HRMS (APCI) for $C_{12}H_{14}D_3O_2^+$ [(M+D+H)⁺] calculated: 196.1409, found: 196.1411.

IR (ATR): \tilde{v} = 2962 (w), 2927 (w), 1731 (s), 1603 (w), 1494 (w), 1453 (w), 1376 (w), 1255 (m), 1173 (w), 802 (w), 759 (w), 700 (m) cm⁻¹.

The deuterium incorporation was determined by comparing the integrals of the corresponding ¹H NMR signal H-2 (δ = 4.02–4.10 ppm), H-4 (δ = 2.48–2.63 ppm) and H-1 (δ = 1.12–1.19 ppm) with H-7/H-9 (δ = 7.17–7.23 ppm) [¹H NMR (700 MHz, CDCl₃), d₁ = 23 s].

4.7 Competition with alkyne semihydrogenation

4.7.1 Ethyl 3-(4-styrylphenyl)butanoate (S9)



Prepared according to **GP2** from ethyl (*E*)-3-(4-(phenylethynyl)phenyl)but-2-enoate (**S3**, 69 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [SIMesCuCI] (**6**, 10.2 mg, 25.0 µmol, 10.0 mol%) and NaO*t*Bu (7.2 mg, 75 µmol, 30 mol%) in 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at 100 °C. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (*n*-pentane/Et₂O = 50:1) yielded a mixture of **S9-***E*, **S9-***Z* and **S10** as a colorless oil (full conversion, 44.6 mg combined yield of **S9-***E*, **S9-***Z* and **S10**).

 $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.16$ (SiO₂, cyclohexane/*tert*-butyl methyl ether = 50:1).





S9-Z

 $C_{20}H_{22}O_2$ Mw = 249.39 ¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CD₂Cl₂): δ = 1.19 (t, ³*J*_{1,2} = 7.1 Hz, 3H, H-1), 1.25–1.32 (m, 3H, H-16), 2.45–2.66 (m, 2H, H-4), 3.19–3.34 (m, 1H, H-5), 4.03–4.13 (m, 2H, H-2), 6.55 (m_c, 2H, H-10/H-11), 7.05–7.53 (m, 9H, H-7/H-8/H-13/H-14/H-15) ppm.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD_2CI_2): δ = 1.18 (t, ³ $J_{1,2}$ = 7.1 Hz, 3H, H-1), 1.25–1.32 (m, 3H, H-16), 2.45–2.66 (m, 2H, H-4), 3.19–3.34 (m, 1H, H-5), 4.03–4.13 (m, 2H, H-2), 7.13 (m_c, 2H, H-10/H-11), 7.05–7.53 (m, 9H, H-7/H-8/H-13/H-14/H-15) ppm.

Due to overlaying signals, ¹³C signals have not been

correlated.

Indicative signals for the alkane product **S10** in the ¹H NMR are at δ = 2.89 ppm. **HRMS** (APCI) for C₂₀H₂₃O₂⁺ [(M+H)⁺] calculated: 295.1693, found: 295.1691. ¹H NMR of S9





GC/MS of S9-Z



GC/MS of S10





4.8 Circumstantial evidence for possible recycling and re-isolation of the catalyst [SIMesCuCl] (6)

To address the issue of the homogeneous or hetergenous nature of the catalyst, attempts have been carried out to re-isolate the catalyst (**6**), by quenching the standard conjugate reduction reaction with HCl in Et_2O . These experiments have failed to deliver the desired complex **6**. However, in various catalytic conjugate reductions of enoates employing compound **6** as catalyst, we have identified the corresponding mass (Mw = 404) by GC/MS analysis. (see below for a representative GC/MS trace).

ċι

[SiMesCuCl] (**6**) C₂₁H₂₆ClCuN₂ Mw: 404,11

From the reaction of **1** with anilin as additive (see section 4.5.1.3): Note the peak at 15.56 min.



5 Asymmetric conjugate reduction of α,β-unsaturated esters



5.1 General procedure 3 – asymmetric conjugate reduction (GP3)

In a glass vial equipped with a septum, CuCl (99.99%, 2.0 mg, 20 µmol, 10 mol%) and L* (24 µmol, 12 mol%) are placed and the vial is transferred into a glovebox. Dried NaO*t*Bu (21.4 mg, 0.222 mmol, 1.10 equiv) is added and the solids are dissolved in 1,4-dioxane (1 mL). The mixture is stirred for 10 min at 40 °C. The degassed α , β -unsaturated ester **1** (38.4 mg, 0.202 mmol, 1.00 equiv) is dissolved in 1,4-dioxane (0.2 mL) and transferred to the reaction vial. The vial is placed in an autoclave and the septum is pierced with a needle under N₂-counterflow. The autoclave is purged with H₂ (3 x 10 bar). The reaction mixture is stirred for 48 h at 60 °C under H₂-atmosphere (100 bar). The crude reaction mixture is filtered over a small plug silica (eluent: CH₂Cl₂, 0.5 x 3 cm, 10 mL) and all volatiles are removed under reduced pressure. The crude product **2** is purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel.

Table S7: Asymmetric conjugate reduction – Ligand screening.^a





^a All reactions with 2.0 μmol [Cu] in 1.2 mL solvent.. ^b Determined by GC analysis. ^c Determined by HPLC, OD-H, *n*-heptane/*i*PrOH = 98:2, 0.5 mL/min, 20 °C, 30 bar.

HPLC data for racemic mixture







Signal 3: DAD1 C, Sig=210,4 Ref=360,100

| Peak | RetTime | Туре | Width | Area | Height | Area |
|------|---------|------|--------|------------|------------|---------|
| # | [min] | | [min] | [mAU*s] | [mAU] | % |
| | | | | | | |
| 1 | 10.484 | MM | 0.2518 | 1.74194e4 | 1152.90198 | 81.9633 |
| 2 | 16.005 | MM | 0.3233 | 3833.27954 | 197.61829 | 18.0367 |



2.12527e4 1350.52026



HPLC data for 2 with 15, table S7, entry 2:



Signal 3: DAD1 C, Sig=210,4 Ref=360,100

| Peak Re | etTime | Туре | Width | Area | Height | Area |
|---------|--------|------|--------|------------|-----------|---------|
| # | [min] | | [min] | [mAU*s] | [mAU] | % |
| | | - | | | | |
| 1 1 | L0.552 | MM | 0.3109 | 8753.63086 | 469.27487 | 77.8565 |
| 2 1 | 16.427 | MM | 0.3289 | 2489.65576 | 126.16525 | 22.1435 |

Totals :

1.12433e4 595.44012







Signal 3: DAD1 C, Sig=210,4 Ref=360,100

| Peak | RetTime | Туре | Width | Area | Height | Area |
|------|---------|------|--------|-----------|------------|---------|
| # | [min] | | [min] | [mAU*s] | [mAU] | % |
| | | | | | | |
| 1 | 10.527 | MM | 0.2658 | 1.79983e4 | 1128.76367 | 62.7978 |
| 2 | 16.402 | MM | 0.3433 | 1.06624e4 | 517.70624 | 37.2022 |







Signal 3: DAD1 C, Sig=210,4 Ref=360,100

| Peak | RetTime | Туре | Width | Area | Height | Area |
|------|---------|------|--------|------------|-----------|---------|
| # | [min] | | [min] | [mAU*s] | [mAU] | % |
| | | | | | | |
| 1 | 10.610 | MM | 0.3442 | 1.09759e4 | 531.48633 | 53.3297 |
| 2 | 16.390 | MM | 0.4014 | 9605.26758 | 398.84921 | 46.6703 |



2.05811e4 930.33554



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7 Spectra
































S114

















S121





















¹³C DEPT NMR

























%Transmittance






















¹H NMR








































































































%Transmittance

















%Transmittance



tert-Butyl 3-(4-((tert-butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy)phenyl)butanoate (9m-OtBu)









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| | 150 | 100 | 50 | 0 | -50 | -100 | -150 | -200 | -250 | -300 | ppm |

--6.77



9m-O*t*Bu

²⁹Si DEPT




%Transmittance













Ethyl 3-(thiophen-2-yl)butanoate (9o)

¹H NMR



































































Ethyl-2-methyl-3-phenylbutanoate (9s)
















¹³C DEPT NMR









































%Transmittance

N,N-diethyl-3-phenylbutanamide (11)

¹H NMR



















S286




















¹³C DEPT NMR

















%Transmittance









quant. ¹H NMR









¹³C DEPT NMR






















































%Transmittance



















| 210 | 200 | 190 | 180 | 17 | 70 | 160 | 150 | 140 | 130 | 120 | 110 | 100 | | 80 | 70 | 60 | 50 | 40 | 30 | 20 | 10 | ppm |
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¹³C DEPT NMR









































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| | | | 150 | | 130 | | | | | 70 | | 50 | | | 20 | | ppm |










S365

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Ethyl (*E*)-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)but-2-enoate (8e)

¹H NMR





6.15 6.15 6.14 6.14



222























Ethyl (*E*)-3-(4-bromophenyl)but-2-enoate (8f)

¹H NMR





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S386







Ethyl (E)-3-(4-chlorophenyl)but-2-enoate (8g) 0 L $\sum_{1.30}^{1.33}$ 2.55 222 191 6.11 6.10 ¹H NMR CI-8g

`O´




















S399



























%Transmittance



































%Transmittance



S430








































¹³C DEPT NMR








































Ethyl (*E*)-3-cyclohexylbut-2-enoate (8t)








































































































%Transmittance























%Transmittance

Chloro-N,N-diethylacetamide (S5)

¹H NMR













































