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High Pressure-Assisted Low-Loading Asymmetric Organocatalytic Conjugate Addition of Nitroalkanes to Chalcones

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Supporting Information

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General Information:

All solvents were used as received, unless otherwise noted. Purification of products was performed using forced-flow chromatography on silica gel (Merck Kieselgel 60, 230-400 mesh) with mixtures of hexane/ethyl acetate, or hexane/dichloromethane as eluents. Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on silica gel plates (Merck Kieselgel 60 F_{254}). Visualization of the developed chromatogram was accomplished using UV light or *p*-anisaldehyde and cerium molybdate stains.

All reported NMR spectra were recorded in $CDCl_3$ using Agilent 400-MR (400 MHz) spectrometer. Chemical shifts of ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR are reported as δ values relative to TMS (δ =0.00) and CDCl₃ (δ =77.0), respectively. The following abbreviations are used to indicate the multiplicity: s - singlet; d - doublet; t - triplet; q - quartet; m – multiplet; dm - doublet of multiplets.

Optical rotation was recorded on a Perkin Elmer 241 polarimeter. Enantiomeric ratios of the products were determined using high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) techniques. HPLC analyses were performed on a Merck chromatograph equipped with the diode-array detector (DAD) and Chiralpak[®] IA (25 cm x 0.46 cm, 5 μ m), Chiralpak[®] IB (25 cm x 0.46 cm, 5 μ m), Chiralpak[®] IC (25 cm x 0.46 cm, 5 μ m) or Chiralpak[®] ID (25 cm x 0.46 cm, 5 μ m) columns eluted with *iso*-propanol in hexane. GC analyses to determine yields of model reaction were performed on a Agilent 7890A gas chromatograph equipped with a split-mode capillary injection system and flame ionization detector using capillary column: HP-5 (30 m × 0.32 mm, Hewlett-Packard). Chromatography conditions: carrier gas – nitrogen, injector temperature 280 °C; detector temperature 280 °C.

High pressure experiments were performed at room temperature using laboratory high pressure set-up U101 from Unipress (Warsaw, Poland) equipped with a direct, single-stage piston-cylinder apparatus with a hydraulic press and a liquid piston vessel (LV/30/16) with working volume up to 50 mL. Experiments were conducted in 1.0, 2.0, 3.0, 5.0 and 10 mL Teflon ampoules inserted into the high-pressure vessel filled with hexane as a transmission medium.



Starting materials

All commercially available chemicals were used as received, unless otherwise noted.

Catalysts: Cinchona alkaloid derived thioureas $1a-c^{[1, 2]}$ and squaramides 1d, $1e^{[3]}$ and cupreidine 9-*O*-benzyl ether (1g)^[4] were prepared according to the literature methods.^[1-4] Quinidine (1f) and (1*R*,2*R*)-Takemoto catalyst (1h) were purchased from commercial suppliers and used as received.

Enones were prepared according to the literature procedures, typically through aldol condensation of acetophenone or 4-acetylpyridine with corresponding aromatic aldehyde in ethanol/water in the presence of sodium hydroxide. Selected chalcones: ((*E*)-3-(2-chlorophenyl)-1-phenylprop-2-en-1-one, (*E*)-1-phenyl-3-(2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)prop-2-en-1-one, (*E*)-1-phenyl-3-(cpridin-2-yl)prop-2-en-1-one; (*E*)-1-phenyl-3-(thiophen-2-yl)prop-2-en-1-one; (*E*)-1-(furan-2-yl)-3-phenylprop-2-en-1-one) were obtained in the Wittig reaction of ylide (α -(triphenylphosphoranylidene)acetophenone or α -(triphenylphosphoranylidene)acetophenone or ac-(triphenylphosphoranylidene)acetylfuran) with corresponding aromatic aldehyde.

Commercially available nitromethane and 2-nitropropane were used as received.

General synthetic procedures:

The model reaction study of chalcone with nitromethane

a) Catalyst Screening:

- Stock solution of reagents **I** was used: 2.090 g of chalcone **2a** (10.0 mmol, c = 1.0 mol/L), 1.63 mL of nitromethane (1.84 g, 30 mmol, 3.0 equiv), 340 mg of biphenyl (GC internal standard) and toluene in 10.0 mL volumetric flask.

A 4 mL vial was charged with catalyst 1 (0.01 mmol, 0.5 mol%), followed by 2.0 mL of stock solution of reagents I (2.0 mmol of chalcone 2a, 6.0 mmol of nitromethane and 68 mg of biphenyl in toluene). Part of the reaction mixture was transferred to 1.0 mL Teflon ampoule and compressed in high-pressure apparatus up to 9 kbar at 20-25 °C and decompressed after 2h. The yield and conversion of the reactions carried out under high pressure and atmospheric pressure (remaining ~1 mL) were analyzed by GC on HP-5 capillary column. The GC yield and conversion was determined using biphenyl as an internal standard and calculated with a GC response factor. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis on Chiralpak [®] IC chiral column after filtration through a short pad of silica gel with DCM and concentration.

b) Model reaction optimization studies with catalyst 1a (Figure 2 and Table 2)

- Solution of catalyst 1a (c = 0.010 mol/L) in toluene was used: 12.0 mg (0.02 mmol) of 1a in 2.0 mL volumetric flask.

- Stock solution of reagents **II** was used: 2.086 g of chalcone **2a** (10.0 mmol, c = 2.0 mol/L), 1.64 mL of nitromethane (1.85 g, 30 mmol, 3.0 equiv), 340 mg of biphenyl (GC internal standard) and toluene in 5.0 mL volumetric flask.

A 4 mL vial was charged with 1.0 mL of stock solution of reagents **II** (2.0 mmol of chalcone **2a**, 6.0 mmol of nitromethane and 68 mg of biphenyl in toluene), 400 μ L (0.2 mol%) of catalyst **1a** solution (c = 0.010 mol/L) and diluted with 600 μ L of toluene. Part of the reaction mixture was transferred to 1.0 mL Teflon ampoule and compressed in high-pressure apparatus up to 9 kbar at 20-25 °C for 5h. The yield, conversion and enantiomeric excess were determined by GC and HPLC (for details see Catalyst Screening).

c) Optimization studies with catalyst 1d and 1e (see Table 2):

Squaramide catalysts **1d** and **1e** were used directly because of relatively low solubility in toluene. A 4 mL vial was charged with catalyst **1d** or **1e** (3.8 mg, 0.006 mmol, 0.2 mol%), followed by 3.0 mL of stock solution of reagents **I** (3.0 mmol of chalcone **2a**, 9.0 mmol of nitromethane and 102 mg of biphenyl in toluene). After dissolution of the catalyst, part of the reaction mixture was transferred to 2.0 mL Teflon ampoule and compressed in high-pressure apparatus up to 9 kbar at 20-25 °C for 5h. The reaction mixture was analyzed as previously reported.

General procedure for asymmetric high-pressure mediated addition of nitromethane to chalcones: A 3 mL Teflon ampoule was charged with 9.0 mg (0.015 mmol, 0.5 mol%) of catalyst 1a (or 9.5 mg of 1d), 3.0 mmol of chalcone,^{a)} ~1 mL of toluene and 485-495 μ L of nitromethane (9 mmol, 3.0 equiv).^{b)} The Teflon ampoule was filled up with toluene and after complete dissolution of all reactants was closed. Then the Teflon ampoule with homogenous reaction mixture was placed in a high-pressure chamber filled with the inert liquid (hexane or petroleum ether) and the pressure was slowly increased to 9 kbar at ambient temperature (20–25 °C) by hexane compressing. After the pressure was stabilized, the reaction mixture was kept under these conditions typically for 2 h. After decompression, the reaction mixture was concentrated to remove excess of nitromethane, dissolved in toluene and directly chromatographed on a silica gel using hexane/AcOEt as an eluent to afford γ -nitroketones **3**. The enantioselectivity was determined by HPLC analysis.

^{a)} Reactions were carried out also on 5 mmol or 2 mmol scale in 5 mL or 2 mL Teflon ampoule respectively. ^{b)} The reaction mixture can be also prepared in separate vial and then transferred into Teflon ampoule and filled up with toluene.

General procedure for asymmetric high-pressure mediated addition of **2-nitropropane to chalcones:** A 2 mL Teflon ampoule was charged with 12.0 mg (0.02 mmol, 1 mol%) of catalyst 1a, 2.0 mmol of chalcone and 545-550 µL of 2-nitropropane (6 mmol, 3.0 equiv). The Teflon ampoule was filled up with toluene and after complete dissolution of all reactants was closed. Then the Teflon ampoule with homogenous reaction mixture was placed in a high-pressure chamber filled with the inert liquid (hexane or petroleum ether) and the pressure was slowly increased to 9 kbar at ambient temperature (20-25 °C) by hexane compressing. After the pressure was stabilized, the reaction mixture was kept under these conditions typically for 5 h. After decompression, the reaction mixture was concentrated to remove excess of 2-nitropropane, dissolved in toluene and directly chromatographed on a silica gel using hexane/AcOEt as an eluent to afford γ -nitroketones 4.

The **absolute configuration** of products **3a**, **4a**, (3S,4R)-**5** and (3R,4R)-**6** was determined by comparison of the optical rotations with the literature values (for details, see in *Analytical data of products*).

Analytical data of products 3a-p, 4a-i, 5 and 6

(*R*)-4-Nitro-1,3-diphenylbutan-1-one (3a): ^[1, 3-9]

Ph O Ph O

(ref. 6): (*R*)-**3a** $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +21.1$ (c 0.36, CHCl₃, 93% ee)], [(*S*)-**3a**: 90-93% yield, 98% ee with 0.2 or 0.5 mol% of **1d** at 9 kbar for 5h and 2h respectively]; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.94–7.88 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.60–7.53 (m, 1H, COPh), 7.48–7.41 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.36–7.23 (m, 5H, Ph), 4.83 (dd, *J* = 12.5, 6.6 Hz, 1H, CH₂NO₂), 4.68 (dd, *J* = 12.5, 8.0 Hz, 1H, CH₂NO₂), 4.26–4.18 (m, 1H, C<u>H</u>Ph), 3.48 (dd, *J* = 17.7, 6.4 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 3.42 (dd, *J* = 17.7, 7.5 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.8 (CO), 139.1 (C), 136.3 (C), 133.5 (CH), 129.0 (2xCH), 128.7 (2xCH), 128.0 (2xCH), 127.8 (CH), 127.4 (2xCH), 79.5 (CH₂), 41.5 (CH₂), 39.2 (CH); enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak[®] IC column (Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 75/25, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, λ = 225 nm): *ent*-(*S*) t_r = 11.4 min and *ent*-(*R*) t_r = 12.7 min.

(*R*)-1-(Furan-2-yl)-4-nitro-3-phenylbutan-1-one (3b): ^[5-7]



 O_2N .

white solid; 95% yield, 737 mg, 96% ee (reaction in 3 mL Teflon ampoule with 3 mmol of enone, 0.5 mol% of **1a** at 9 kbar for 2h); [(*S*)-**3b**: 93% yield, 97% ee with 0.5 mol% of **1d** at 9 kbar for 2h]; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.56 (dd, *J* = 1.7, 0.7 Hz, 1H, furyl), 7.35–7.23 (m, 5H, Ph), 7.18 (dd, *J* = 3.6, 0.7 Hz, 1H, furyl), 6.52 (dd, *J* = 3.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H, furyl), 4.80 (dd, *J* = 12.5, 6.6 Hz, 1H,

CH₂NO₂), 4.68 (dd, J = 12.5, 8.1 Hz, 1H, CH₂NO₂), 4.23–4.13 (m, 1H, C<u>H</u>Ph), 3.35 (dd, J = 17.1, 6.7 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 3.26 (dd, J = 17.1, 7.6 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 185.9 (CO), 152.3 (C), 146.6 (CH), 138.7 (C), 129.0 (2xCH), 127.9 (CH), 127.4 (2xCH), 117.5 (CH), 112.5 (CH), 79.4 (CH₂), 41.2 (CH₂), 39.1 (CH); enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak[®] IA column (Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 80/20, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 256$ nm): *ent*-(*S*) t_r = 10.7 min and *ent*-(*R*) t_r = 12.4 min.

(*R*)-4-Nitro-3-phenyl-1-(thiophen-2-yl)butan-1-one (3c): ^[5, 8]



white solid; 96% yield, 790 mg, 95% ee (reaction in 3 mL Teflon ampoule with 3 mmol of enone, 0.5 mol% of **1a** at 9 kbar for 2h), [(*S*)-**3c**: 95% yield, 97.5% ee with 0.5 mol% of **1d** at 9 kbar for 2h]; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.69 (dd, *J* = 3.8, 1.1 Hz, 1H, thienyl), 7.64 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H, thienyl), 7.35–7.23 (m, 5H,

Ph), 7.11 (dd, J = 5.0, 3.8 Hz, 1H, thienyl), 4.83 (dd, J = 12.6, 6.6 Hz, 1H, CH₂NO₂), 4.69 (dd, J = 12.6, 8.1 Hz, 1H, CH₂NO₂), 4.24–4.15 (m, 1H, C<u>H</u>Ph), 3.40 (dd, J = 16.9, 6.5 Hz, 2H, CH₂CO), 3.34 (dd, J = 16.9, 7.3 Hz, 2H, CH₂CO); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 189.7 (CO), 143.5 (C), 138.8 (C), 134.3 (CH), 132.2 (CH), 129.0 (2xCH), 128.2 (CH), 127.9 (CH), 127.4 (2xCH), 79.3 (CH₂), 42.1 (CH₂), 39.4 (CH); enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak[®] IB column (Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 75/25, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 256$ nm): *ent*-(*R*) t_r = 16.2 min and *ent*-(*S*) t_r = 18.1 min.

(R)-4-Nitro-3-phenyl-1-(pyridin-4-yl)butan-1-one (3d):



white solid; 92% yield, 496 mg, 91.5% ee (reaction in 2 mL Teflon ampoule with 2 mmol of enone, 0.5 mol% of **1a** at 9 kbar for 2h), [(*S*)-**3d**: 94% yield, 95% ee with 0.5 mol% of **1d** at 9 kbar for 2h]; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.79 (dm, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 2H, pyridyl), 7.66 (dm, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 2H, pyridyl), 7.36–7.31 (m,

2H, Ph), 7.30–7.24 (m, 3H, Ph), 4.80 (dd, J = 12.5, 7.1 Hz, 1H, CH₂NO₂), 4.69 (dd, J = 12.5, 7.4 Hz, 1H, CH₂NO₂), 4.21 (ps quint, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H, CHPh), 3.48 (dd, J = 18.0, 6.8 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 3.44 (dd, J = 18.0, 7.0 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.4 (CO), 150.9 (2 x CH), 142.0 (C), 138.5 (C), 129.1 (2 x CH), 128.0 (CH), 127.3 (2 x CH), 120.7 (2 x CH), 79.2 (CH₂), 41.7 (CH), 38.9 (CH₂); LR-MS (ESI): mass calculated for [M+H]⁺ (C₁₅H₁₅N₂O₃⁺) *m/z* 271.11, found *m/z* 271.1; enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak[®] IC column (Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 60/40, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 225$ nm): *ent-(R)* t_r = 26.4 min and *ent-(S)* t_r = 36.1 min.

(*R*)-3-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-4-nitro-1-phenylbutan-1-one (3e): ^[5,8]



white solid; 97% yield, 869 mg, 94.5% ee ee (reaction in 3 mL Teflon ampoule with 3 mmol of enone, 0.5 mol% of **1a** at 9 kbar for 2h), [(*S*)-**3d**: 95% yield, 97.5% ee with 0.5 mol% of **1d** at 9 kbar for 2h]; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.96–7.90 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.59–7.53 (m, 1H, COPh), 7.48–7.41 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.28–7.18 (m, 2H, Ar), 6.93–6.85 (m, 2H, Ar), 4.85 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H, CH₂NO₂), 4.42 (quint, *J* =

6.9 Hz, 1H, C<u>H</u>Ar), 3.86 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.53 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H, CH₂CO); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.6 (CO), 157.1 (C), 136.6 (C), 133.3 (CH), 129.5 (CH), 128.9 (CH), 128.6 (2xCH), 128.0 (2xCH), 126.6 (C), 120.9 (CH), 111.0 (CH), 77.9 (CH₂), 55.3(CH₃), 39.8 (CH₂), 35.9 (CH); enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak[®] IC column (Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 75/25, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 225$ nm): *ent*-(*R*) t_r = 13.3 min and *ent*-(*S*) t_r = 14.4 min.

(*R*)-4-Nitro-1-phenyl-3-(*o*-tolyl)butan-1-one (3f): ^[1, 10]



colorless viscous oil; 95% yield, 537 mg, 93.5% ee (reaction in 2 mL Teflon ampoule with 2 mmol of enone, 0.5 mol% of **1a** at 9 kbar for 2h), [(*S*)-**3e**: 91% yield, 96.5% ee with 0.5 mol% of **1d** at 9 kbar for 2h]; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.93–7.88 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.59–7.53 (m, 1H, COPh), 7.47–7.41 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.21–7.11 (m, 4H, Ar), 4.78 (dd, *J* = 12.4, 7.1 Hz, 1H, CH₂NO₂), 4.65 (dd, *J* = 12.4, 7.6 Hz,

1H, CH₂NO₂), 4.58–4.48 (m, 1H, C<u>H</u>Ar), 3.46 (dd, J = 17.8, 6.5 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 3.38 (dd, J = 17.8, 7.3 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 2.46 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.9 (CO), 137.3 (C), 136.5 (C), 136.3 (C), 133.5 (CH), 131.2 (CH), 128.7 (2xCH), 128.0 (2xCH), 127.5 (CH), 126.6 (CH), 125.4 (CH), 79.0 (CH₂), 41.6 (CH₂), 34.4 (CH), 19.6 (CH₃); enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak[®] IC column (Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 75/25, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 225$ nm): *ent*-(*S*) t_r = 9.3 min and *ent*-(*R*) t_r = 10.4 min.

(*R*)-3-(2-Chlorophenyl)-4-nitro-1-phenylbutan-1-one (3g): ^[5, 6, 8]



colorless viscous oil; 96% yield, 580 mg, 94.5% ee (reaction in 2 mL Teflon ampoule with 2 mmol of enone, 0.5 mol% of **1a** at 9 kbar for 2h), [(*S*)-**3f**: 93% yield, 97.5% ee with 0.5 mol% of **1d** at 9 kbar for 2h]; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.01–7.89 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.62–7.55 (m, 1H, COPh), 7.51–7.44 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.43–7.38 (m, 1H, Ar), 7.32–7.19 (m, 3H, Ar), 4.89 (dd, *J* = 12.8, 6.9 Hz, 1H, CH₂NO₂), 4.86

(dd, J = 12.8, 6.7 Hz, 1H, CH₂NO₂), 4.69 (ps quint, J = ~6.7 Hz, 1H, C<u>H</u>Ar), 3.58 (dd, J = 17.9, 7.4 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 3.53 (dd, J = 17.9, 6.3 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.7 (CO), 136.2 (C), 136.2 (C), 133.8 (C), 133.6 (CH), 130.4 (CH), 129.0 (CH), 128.7 (2xCH), 128.4 (CH), 128.0 (2xCH), 127.4 (CH), 77.5 (CH₂), 39.9 (CH₂), 36.1 (CH); enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak[®] IB column (Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 80/20, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 225$ nm): *ent-(S)* t_r = 12.2 min and *ent-(R)* t_r = 13.6 min.

(*R*)-4-Nitro-1-phenyl-3-(2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)butan-1-one (3h): ^[11]



colorless viscous oil; 95% yield, 639 mg, 95.5% ee (reaction in 2 mL Teflon ampoule with 2 mmol of enone, 0.5 mol% of **1a** at 9 kbar for 2h), [(*S*)-**3h**: 96% yield, 96% ee with 0.5 mol% of **1d** at 9 kbar for 2h]; this enone is very active at atmospheric pressure: 29% yield after 20h. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95–7.89 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.71 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H, Ar), 7.61–7.55 (m, 1H, COPh), 7.54 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H,

Ar), 7.49–7.43 (m, 3H, COPh and Ar), 7.42–7.37 (m, 1H, Ar), 4.88 (dd, J = 12.7, 6.5 Hz, 1H, CH₂NO₂), 4.81 (dd, J = 12.7, 7.1 Hz, 1H, CH₂NO₂), 4.69–4.60 (m, 1H, CHAr), 3.54 (dd, J = 17.8, 8.3 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 3.46 (dd, J = 17.8, 5.3 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.3 (CO), 137.9 (q, J = 1.5 Hz, C), 136.0 (C), 133.6 (CH), 132.4 (q, J = 1.0 Hz, CH), 128.7 (2 x CH), 128.6 (q, J = 29.8 Hz, C-CF₃), 128.0 (2 x CH), 127.8 (CH), 127.5 (CH), 126.8 (q, J = 5.9 Hz, CH), 124.1 (q, J = 274.0 Hz, CF₃), 78.3 (CH₂), 41.5 (CH₂), 34.6 (q, J = 2.0 Hz, CH); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -58.9 (s, 3F); enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak[®] IC column (Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 90/10, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 225$ nm): *ent*-(*R*) t_r = 12.7 min and *ent*-(*S*) t_r = 15.1 min.

(R)-3-(Naphthalen-1-yl)-4-nitro-1-phenylbutan-1-one (3i): ^[6,9]



colorless viscous oil; 92% yield, 585 mg, 96% ee (reaction in 2 mL Teflon ampoule with 2 mmol of enone, 0.5 mol% of **1a** at 9 kbar for 2h), [(*S*)-**3g**: 84% yield, 98% ee with 0.5 mol% of **1d** at 9 kbar for 2h]; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.22 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H, Nf), 7.94–7.89 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.87 (dm, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H, Nf), 7.78 (dd, *J* = 7.1, 2.2 Hz, 1H, Nf), 7.62–7.49 (m, 3H, 1H – COPh, 2H – Nf), 7.46–7.35 (m,

4H, 2H – COPh, 2H – Nf), 5.17 (ps quint, J = ~6.9 Hz, 1H, C<u>H</u>Ar), 4.92 (dd, J = 12.5, 6.7 Hz, 1H, CH₂NO₂), 4.87 (dd, J = 12.5, 7.0 Hz, 1H, CH₂NO₂), 3.63 (dd, J = 18.1, 6.3 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 3.59 (dd, J = 18.1, 7.2 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.9 (CO), 136.3 (C), 135.1 (C), 134.2 (C), 133.6 (CH), 130.9 (C), 129.2 (CH), 128.7 (2xCH), 128.4 (CH), 128.0 (2xCH), 126.9 (CH), 126.0 (CH), 125.2 (CH), 123.4 (CH, broad), 122.4 (CH), 78.8 (CH₂), 41.4 (CH₂), 33.5 (CH, broad); enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak[®] IC column (Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 80/20, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 225$ nm): *ent*-(*S*) t_r = 13.2 min and *ent*-(*R*) t_r = 14.7 min.

(*R*)-3-(3-Chlorophenyl)-4-nitro-1-phenylbutan-1-one (3j): ^[5, 8]



colorless viscous oil (solidified upon standing); 94% yield, 570 mg, 95% ee (reaction in 2 mL Teflon ampoule with 2 mmol of enone, 0.5 mol% of **1a** at 9 kbar for 2h), [(*S*)-**3h**: 95% yield, 97.5% ee with 0.5 mol% of **1d** at 9 kbar for 2h]; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.94–7.89 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.61–7.55 (m, 1H, COPh), 7.50–7.43 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.31–7.22 (m, 3H, Ar), 7.19 (ddd, *J* = 4.5, 3.2, 1.9 Hz, 1H, Ar),

4.82 (dd, J = 12.7, 6.4 Hz, 1H, CH₂NO₂), 4.67 (dd, J = 12.7, 8.2 Hz, 1H, CH₂NO₂), 4.26–4.17 (m, 1H, C<u>H</u>Ar), 3.46 (dd, J = 17.8, 6.5 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 3.41 (dd, J = 17.8, 7.3 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.4 (CO), 141.2 (C), 136.2 (C), 134.8 (C), 133.7 (CH), 130.3 (CH), 128.8 (2xCH), 128.1 (CH), 128.0 (2xCH), 127.7 (CH), 125.8 (CH), 79.2 (CH₂), 41.3 (CH₂), 38.9 (CH); enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak[®] IC column (Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 75/25, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 225$ nm): *ent*-(*S*) t_r = 9.8 min and *ent*-(*R*) t_r = 10.8 min.

(*R*)-3-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-4-nitro-1-phenylbutan-1-one (3k): ^[3, 5-9, 11]



white solid; 93% yield, 554 mg, 94.5% ee (reaction in 2 mL Teflon ampoule with 2 mmol of enone, 1 mol% of **1a** at 9 kbar for 2h), [(*S*)-**3i**: 85% yield, 98% ee with 0.5 mol% of **1d** at 9 kbar for 2h]; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.94–7.89 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.60–7.54 (m, 1H, COPh), 7.49–7.42 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.20 (dm, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H, Ar), 6.85 (dm, *J* = ~8.5 Hz, 2H, Ar), 4.80 (ddd, *J* = 12.3, 6.6, 0.8 Hz, 1H, CH₂NO₂), 4.64 (ddd, *J* = 12.3, 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H, CH₂NO₂), 4.22–4.13

(m, 1H, C<u>H</u>Ar), 3.77 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 3H, OCH₃), 3.39 (ddd, J = 17.6, 7.4, 1.2 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 3.45 (dd, J = 17.6, 6.6 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.9 (CO), 159.0 (C), 136.4 (C), 133.5 (CH), 131.0 (C), 128.7 (2xCH), 128.5 (2xCH), 128.0 (2xCH), 114.4 (2xCH), 79.8 (CH₂), 55.2 (CH₃), 41.6 (CH₂), 38.6 (CH); enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak[®] IC column (Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 75/25, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 225$ nm): *ent*-(*S*) t_r = 16.6 min and *ent*-(*R*) t_r = 18.1 min.

(*R*)-4-nitro-1-phenyl-3-*p*-tolylbutan-1-one (3l): ^[3, 5, 6, 8, 11]



white solid; 81% yield, 457 mg, 97% ee (reaction in 2 mL Teflon ampoule with 2 mmol of enone, 1 mol% of **1e** at 9 kbar for 5h), [(S)-**3j**: 79% yield, 98% ee with 1 mol% of **1d** at 9 kbar for 5h]; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.93–7.88 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.59–7.53 (m, 1H, COPh), 7.48–7.41 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.19-7.10 (m, 4H, Ar), 4.80 (dd, J = 12.4, 6.6 Hz, 1H, CH₂NO₂), 4.65 (dd, J = 12.4, 8.0 Hz, 1H, CH₂NO₂), 4.23– 4.14 (m, 1H, C<u>H</u>Ar), 3.45 (dd, J = 17.5, 6.5 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 3.40 (dd, J = 17.5, 7.4 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 2.30 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz,

CDCl₃) δ 196.9 (CO), 137.5 (C), 136.3 (C), 136.0 (C), 133.5 (CH), 129.7 (2xCH), 128.7 (2xCH), 128.0 (2xCH), 127.2 (2xCH), 79.7 (CH₂), 41.5 (CH₂), 38.9 (CH), 21.0 (CH₃); enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak[®] IC column (Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 85/15, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, λ = 225 nm): *ent*-(*S*) t_r = 17.4 min and *ent*-(*R*) t_r = 18.7 min [or Chiralpak[®] IB column (Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 85/15, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, λ = 225 nm): *ent*-(*S*) t_r = 13.4 min and *ent*-(*R*) t_r = 15.3 min].

(*R*)-3-(4-Fluorophenyl)-4-nitro-1-phenylbutan-1-one (3m): ^[1,7,10]



white solid; 95% yield, 544 mg, 95% ee (reaction in 2 mL Teflon ampoule with 2 mmol of enone, 0.5 mol% of **1a** at 9 kbar for 2h), [(*S*)-**3m**: 94% yield, 96% ee with 0.5 mol% of **1d** at 9 kbar for 2h]; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.93–7.88 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.61–7.55 (m, 1H, COPh), 7.49–7.42 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.29–7.23 (m, 2H, Ar), 7.05– 6.95 (m, 2H, Ar), 4.81 (dd, *J* = 12.5, 6.5 Hz, 1H, CH₂NO₂), 4.65 (dd, *J* = 12.5, 8.2 Hz, 1H, CH₂NO₂), 4.27–4.18 (m, 1H, C<u>H</u>Ar), 3.45 (dd, *J* = 17.7, 6.7 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 3.41 (dd, *J* = 17.7, 7.3 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO);

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.6 (CO), 162.1 (d, J = 246.7 Hz, CF), 136.2 (C), 134.8 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, C), 133.6 (CH), 129.1 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2 x CH), 128.7 (2 x CH), 127.9 (2 x CH), 115.9 (d, J = 21.6 Hz, 2 x CH), 79.5 (CH₂), 41.5 (CH₂), 38.5 (CH₃); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –114.2 (m, F); enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak[®] IC column (Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 90/10, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 225$ nm): *ent*-(*S*) t_r = 20.1 min and *ent*-(*R*) t_r = 23.7.

(S)-4-Nitro-1-phenyl-3-(pyridin-2-yl)butan-1-one (3n):^[12]



white solid; 88% yield, 475 mg, 90.5% ee (reaction in 2 mL Teflon ampoule with 2 mmol of enone, 0.5 mol% of **1a** at 9 kbar for 2h), [(*R*)-**3k**: 83% yield, 97.5% ee with 0.5 mol% of **1d** at 9 kbar for 2h]; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.51 (dm, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1H, pyridyl); 7.96–7.88 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.63 (td, *J* = 7.7, 1.8 Hz, 1H, pyridyl), 7.59–7.53 (m, 1H, COPh), 7.48–7.41 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.36 (dm, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H,

pyridyl), 7.16 (ddd, J = 7.5, 4.9, 1.1 Hz, 1H, pyridyl), 4.95 (dd, J = 13.0, 8.5 Hz, 1H, CH₂NO₂), 4.82 (dd, J = 13.0, 6.0 Hz, 1H, CH₂NO₂), 4.41–4.32 (m, 1H, CH₂pyridyl), 3.69 (dd, J = 17.9, 7.3 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 3.37 (dd, J = 17.9, 6.3 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.9 (CO), 158.7 (C), 149.5 (CH), 136.9 (CH), 136.3 (C), 133.5 (CH), 128.7 (2xCH), 128.0 (2xCH), 124.1 (CH), 122.5 (CH), 78.2 (CH₂), 40.8 (CH₂), 40.4 (CH); enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak[®] IC column (Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 75/25, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 225$ nm): *ent*-(*R*) t_r = 11.7 min and *ent*-(*S*) t_r = 13.6 min.

(S)-4-Nitro-1-phenyl-3-(thiophen-2-yl)butan-1-one (30): ^[8, 13]



white solid; 89% yield, 488 mg, 88% ee (reaction in 2 mL Teflon ampoule with 2 mmol of enone, 1 mol% of **1a** at 9 kbar for 2h), [(*R*)-**3l**: 87% yield, 97.5% ee with 1 mol% of **1d** at 9 kbar for 2h]; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.96–7.91 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.61–7.56 (m, 1H, COPh), 7.50–7.44 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.20 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 1.3 Hz, 1H,

thienyl), 6.96 (ddd, J = 3.5, 1.3, 0.6 Hz, 1H, thienyl), 6.93 (dd, J = 5.0, 3.5 Hz, 1H, thienyl), 4.84 (dd, J = 12.6, 6.3 Hz, 1H, CH₂NO₂), 4.70 (dd, J = 12.6, 7.6 Hz, 1H, CH₂NO₂), 4.59–4.51 (m, 1H, C<u>H</u>thienyl), 3.54 (dd, J = 17.8, 6.3 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 3.48 (dd, J = 17.8, 7.3 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.4 (CO), 141.8 (C), 136.2 (C), 133.7 (CH), 128.7 (2xCH), 128.0 (2xCH), 127.1 (CH), 125.5 (CH), 124.7 (CH), 79.8 (CH₂), 42.3 (CH₂), 34.7 (CH); enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak[®] IC column (Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 75/25, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 225$ nm): *ent*-(*R*) t_r = 11.8 min and *ent*-(*S*) t_r = 13.7 min.

(*R*,*E*)-3-(Nitromethyl)-1,5-diphenylpent-4-en-1-one (3p): ^[3, 8, 14-16]



white solid; 82% yield, 483 mg, 96% ee (reaction in 2 mL Teflon ampoule with 2 mmol of enone, 2 mol% of **1a** at 9 kbar for 5h), [(*S*)-**3m**: 77% yield, 97.5% ee with 1 mol% of **1d** at 9 kbar for 5h]; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.97–7.93 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.62–7.56 (m, 1H, COPh), 7.51–7.45 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.35–7.20 (m, 5H, Ph), 6.57 (d,

J = 15.9 Hz, 1H, -<u>H</u>C=CH-), 6.16 (dd, J = 15.9, 8.6 Hz, 1H, -HC=C<u>H</u>-), 4.71 (dd, J = 12.1, 5.9 Hz, 1H, CH₂NO₂), 4.61 (dd, J = 12.1, 7.4 Hz, 1H, CH₂NO₂), 3.80–3.70 (m, 1H, C<u>H</u>vinyl), 3.29 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H, CH₂CO); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.0 (CO), 136.4 (C), 136.2 (C), 133.6 (CH), 133.4 (CH), 128.7 (2xCH), 128.5 (2xCH), 128.0 (2xCH), 127.9 (CH), 126.5 (CH), 126.4 (2xCH), 78.8 (CH₂), 40.3 (CH₂), 37.3 (CH); enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak[®] IC column (Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 85/15, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 256$ nm): *ent-(S)* t_r = 15.1 min and *ent-(R)* t_r = 16.2 min.

(*R*)-4-Methyl-4-nitro-1,3-diphenylpentan-1-one (4a): [10,17-19]



white solid; 92% yield, 818 mg, 91% ee (reaction in 3 mL Teflon ampoule with 3 mmol of chalcone, 1 mol% of **1a** at 9 kbar for 5h); $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +73.9$ (c 1.00, CHCl₃, 91% ee), [lit. (ref. 10): $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +67$ (c 1.00, CHCl₃, 92% ee); (ref. 19): (*S*)-**4a** $[\alpha]_D^{24} = -77.5$ (c 1.0, CHCl₃,

92% ee); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.90–7.81 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.56–7.51 (m, 1H, COPh), 7.46–7.38 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.32–7.19 (m, 5H, Ph), 4.15 (dd, J = 10.4, 3.4 Hz, 1H, C<u>H</u>Ph), 3.68 (dd, J = 17.2, 10.4 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 3.27 (dd, J = 17.2, 3.4 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 1.63 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.54 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.7 (CO), 137.8 (C), 136.6 (C), 133.2 (CH), 129.2 (2xCH), 128.6 (2xCH), 128.4 (2xCH), 127.9 (2xCH), 127.7 (CH), 91.2 (C), 48.9 (CH), 39.1 (CH₂), 26.1 (CH₃), 22.6 (CH₃); enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak[®] IC column (Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 80/20, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 225$ nm): *ent*-(*R*) t_r = 7.5 min and *ent*-(*S*) t_r = 10.1 min.

(*R*)-1-(Furan-2-yl)-4-methyl-4-nitro-3-phenylpentan-1-one (4b): ^[17, 18]



white solid; 84% yield, 485 mg, 89% ee (reaction in 2 mL Teflon ampoule with 2 mmol of enone, 1 mol% of **1a** at 9 kbar for 5h); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.54 (dd, J = 1.7, 0.7 Hz, 1H, furyl), 7.30–7.19 (m, 5H, Ph), 7.12 (dd, J = 3.6, 0.7 Hz, 1H, furyl), 6.49 (dd, J = 3.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H, furyl), 4.12 (dd, J = 10.7, 3.6 Hz, 1H,

C<u>H</u>Ph), 3.58 (dd, J = 16.8, 10.7 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 3.09 (dd, J = 16.8, 3.6 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 1.62 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.54 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 185.9 (CO), 152.4 (C), 146.3 (CH), 137.5 (C), 129.2 (2xCH), 128.4 (2xCH), 127.8 (CH), 117.1 (CH), 112.3 (CH), 91.2 (C), 48.7 (CH), 38.8 (CH₂), 25.8 (CH₃), 22.7 (CH₃); LR-MS (ESI): mass calculated for [M+H]⁺ (C₁₆H₁₈NO₄⁺) m/z 288.12, found m/z 288.18; enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak[®] IC column (Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 80/20, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 225$ nm): *ent*-(*R*) t_r = 16.5 min and *ent*-(*S*) t_r = 18.2 min.

(*R*)-4-Methyl-4-nitro-3-phenyl-1-(thiophen-2-yl)pentan-1-one (4c): ^[17, 18]



white solid; 94% yield, 567 mg, 87% ee (reaction in 2 mL Teflon ampoule with 2 mmol of enone, 1 mol% of **1a** at 9 kbar for 5h); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.71 (dd, J = 3.8, 1.1 Hz, 1H, thienyl), 7.59 (dd, J = 5.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H, thienyl), 7.31–7.20 (m, 5H, Ph), 7.10 (dd, J = 5.0, 3.8 Hz, 1H, thienyl), 4.12 (dd, J = 10.5, 3.5 Hz, 1H,

C<u>H</u>Ph), 3.59 (dd, J = 16.6, 10.5 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 3.21 (dd, J = 16.6, 3.5 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 1.62 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.54 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 189.5 (CO), 143.7 (C), 137.5 (C), 133.9 (CH), 131.9 (CH), 129.2 (2xCH), 128.4 (2xCH), 128.1 (CH), 127.8 (CH), 91.1 (C), 49.1 (CH), 39.8 (CH₂), 26.1 (CH₃), 22.6 (CH₃); LR-MS (ESI): mass calculated for [M+H]⁺ (C₁₆H₁₈NO₃S⁺) *m*/*z* 304.10, found *m*/*z* 304.15; enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak[®] IC column (Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 80/20, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 225$ nm): *ent*-(*R*) t_r = 11.3 min and *ent*-(*S*) t_r = 15.7 min.

(*R*)-4-Methyl-4-nitro-3-phenyl-1-(pyridin-4-yl)pentan-1-one (4d): ^[20]



white solid; 88% yield, 524 mg, 92% ee (reaction in 2 mL Teflon ampoule with 2 mmol of enone, 1 mol% of **1a** at 9 kbar for 5h); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.77 (dm, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 2H, pyridyl), 7.61 (dm, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 2H, pyridyl), 7.33–7.18 (m, 5H, Ph), 4.11 (dd, *J* = 10.5, 3.4 Hz, 1H, C<u>H</u>Ph), 3.66 (dd, *J* = 17.4, 10.5 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 3.27 (dd, *J* = 17.4, 3.4 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 1.63 (s, 3H,

CH₃), 1.54 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.4 (CO), 150.9 (2 x CH), 142.2 (C), 137.2 (C), 129.1 (2 x CH), 128.5 (2 x CH), 128.0 (CH), 120.8 (2 x CH), 91.0 (C), 48.7 (CH), 39.5 (CH₂), 26.3 (CH₃), 22.2 (CH₃); LR-MS (ESI): mass calculated for [M+H]⁺ (C₁₇H₁₉N₂O₃⁺) *m/z* 299.14, found *m/z* 299.16; enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak[®] IC column (Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 60/40, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, λ = 225 nm): *ent*-(*R*) t_r = 18.7 min and *ent*-(*S*) t_r = 30.7 min.

(R)-3-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-4-nitro-1-phenylpentan-1-one (4e):



white solid; 91% yield, 596 mg, 87% ee (reaction in 2 mL Teflon ampoule with 2 mmol of enone, 1 mol% of **1a** at 9 kbar for 5h); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88–7.83 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.55–7.49 (m, 1H, COPh), 7.45–7.38 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.23–7.17 (m, 1H, Ar), 7.09 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.6 Hz, 1H, Ar), 6.89–6.83 (m, 2H, Ar), 4.73 (bd, J = ~8 Hz, 1H, C<u>H</u>Ar), 3.82 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.67 (bdd, J = 17.2, 10.5 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 3.33 (dd, J = 17.2, 3.8 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 1.59 (s, 3H, CH₃),

1.56 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.3 (CO), 157.9 (C), 136.7 (C), 133.0 (CH), 128.6 (CH), 128.5 (2xCH), 127.9 (2xCH), 126.7 (C), 120.5 (CH), 111.2 (CH), 91.6 (C), 55.6 (CH), 39.0 (CH₂), 26.3 (CH₃), 22.3 (b, CH₃); HRMS (ESI) exact mass calculated for [M+H]⁺ (C₁₉H₂₂NO₄) requires *m/z* 328.1543, found *m/z* 328.1541; enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak[®] IC column (Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 80/20, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, λ = 225 nm): *ent*-(*R*) t_r = 7.6 min and *ent*-(*S*) t_r = 11.3 min.

(*R*)-3-(2-chlorophenyl)-4-methyl-4-nitro-1-phenylpentan-1-one (4f): ^[21]



colorless viscous oil; 92% yield, 609 mg, 90.5% ee (reaction in 2 mL Teflon ampoule with 2 mmol of enone, 1 mol% of **1a** at 9 kbar for 5h); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89–7.84 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.56–7.51 (m, 1H, COPh), 7.46–7.37 (m, 3H, 2H – COPh, 1H – Ar), 7.21–7.11 (m, 3H, Ar), 4.84 (dd, *J* = 10.5, 3.5 Hz, 1H, C<u>H</u>Ar), 3.63 (dd, *J* = 17.5, 10.5 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 3.44 (dd, *J* = 17.5, 3.5 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 1.65

(s, 3H, CH₃), 1.62 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.5 (CO), 136.3 (C), 136.2 (C), 133.3 (CH), 130.1 (CH), 128.7 (CH), 128.6 (2xCH), 128.0 (2xCH + CH), 126.9 (CH), 91.4 (C), 43.3 (CH), 39.8 (CH₂), 26.3 (CH₃), 22.4 (CH₃); LR-MS (ESI): mass calculated for [M+H]⁺ (C₁₈H₁₉ClNO₃⁺) *m/z* 332.11, found *m/z* 332.16; enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak[®] IC column (Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 80/20, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, λ = 225 nm): *ent*-(*R*) t_r = 6.5 min and *ent*-(*S*) t_r = 7.8 min.

(R)-4-Methyl-4-nitro-1-phenyl-3-(2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)pentan-1-one (4g):



colorless viscous oil; 84% yield, 615 mg, 94% ee (reaction in 2 mL Teflon ampoule with 2 mmol of enone, 1 mol% of **1a** at 9 kbar for 5h); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.90–7.85 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.67 (dm, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H, Ar), 7.57–7.48 (m, 2H, COPh and Ar), 7.46–7.33 (m, 4H, COPh and Ar), 4.58 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 5.0 Hz, 1H, C<u>H</u>Ph), 3.86 (dd, *J* = 16.8, 5.0 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 3.32 (dd, *J* = 16.8, 7.9 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 1.60 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.57 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.4 (CO), 137.7 (q, *J* = 1.3 Hz, C), 136.3 (C), 133.3 (CH), 132.0 (q,

J = 1.0 Hz, CH), 129.8 (q, J = 29.2 Hz, C-CF₃), 128.6 (2 x CH), 128.5 (CH), 128.1 (2 x CH), 127.8 (CH), 126.8 (q, J = 5.9 Hz, CH), 124.1 (q, J = 274.5 Hz, CF₃), 91.2 (C), 43.0 (q, J = 2.2 Hz, CH), 40.7 (CH₂), 27.0 (q, J = 0.7 Hz, CH₃), 23.7 (q, J = 1.4 Hz, CH₃); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -56.3 (s, 3F); LR-MS (ESI): mass calculated for [M+H]⁺ (C₁₉H₁₉F₃NO₃⁺) *m/z* 366.13, found *m/z* 366.17; enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak[®] IC column (Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 95/5, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 225$ nm): *ent*-(*R*) t_r = 8.5 min and *ent*-(*S*) t_r = 9.8 min.

(S)-4-Methyl-4-nitro-1-phenyl-3-(pyridin-2-yl)pentan-1-one (4h): ^[22]



white solid; 88% yield, 527 mg, 85% ee (reaction in 2 mL Teflon ampoule with 2 mmol of enone, 1 mol% of **1a** at 9 kbar for 5h); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.46 (ddd, J = 4.8, 1.8, 0.8 Hz, 1H, pyridyl), 7.93–7.87 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.61 (ddd, J = 7.7, 1.9, 1.8 Hz, 1H, pyridyl), 7.55–7.49 (m, 1H, COPh), 7.45–7.38 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.35 (dm, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H, pyridyl), 7.13 (ddd, J = 7.5, 4.8, 1.1 Hz, 1H, pyridyl), 4.32 (dd, J = 10.7, 2.1 Hz, 1H, CHpyridyl), 4.22 (dd, J = 17.2,

10.7 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 3.08 (dd, J = 17.2, 2.1 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 1.74 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.52 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.3 (CO), 157.7 (C), 148.9 (CH), 136.6 (C), 136.3 (CH), 133.1 (CH), 128.5 (2xCH), 128.0 (2xCH), 126.3 (CH), 122.4 (CH), 91.3 (C), 49.6 (CH), 38.5 (CH₂), 25.5 (CH₃), 22.7 (CH₃); LR-MS (ESI): mass calculated for [M+H]⁺ (C₁₇H₁₉N₂O₃⁺) m/z 299.14, found m/z 299.18; enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak[®] IC column (Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 80/20, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 256$ nm): *ent*-(*S*) t_r = 8.5 min and *ent*-(*R*) t_r = 9.9 min.

(S)-4-Methyl-4-nitro-1-phenyl-3-(thiophen-2-yl)pentan-1-one (4i): ^[22]



white solid; 86% yield, 520 mg, 89% ee (reaction in 2 mL Teflon ampoule with 2 mmol of enone, 2 mol% of **1a** at 9 kbar for 20h); 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.90–7.84 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.58–7.52 (m, 1H, COPh), 7.47–7.40 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.16 (dd, J = 5.1, 1.1 Hz, 1H, thienvl), 6.94 (dd, J = 3.6, 1.1 Hz, 1H, thienvl), 6.91 (dd, J = 5.1, 3.6 Hz, 1H, thienyl), 4.54 (dd, J = 10.6, 2.9 Hz, 1H, CHthienyl), 3.64 (dd,

J = 17.1, 10.6 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 3.17 (dd, J = 17.1, 2.9 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 1.71 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.60 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.1 (CO), 140.5 (C), 136.5 (C), 133.3 (CH), 128.6 (2xCH), 128.0 (2xCH), 127.5 (CH), 126.8 (CH), 124.8 (CH), 91.1 (C), 44.4 (CH), 40.8 (CH₂), 26.0 (CH₃), 22.6 (CH₃); LR-MS (ESI): mass calculated for $[M+H]^+$ (C₁₆H₁₈NO₃S⁺) m/z 304.10, found m/z 304.15; enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak[®] IC column (Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 80/20, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 256$ nm): *ent*-(S) t_r = 8.3 min and *ent*-(*R*) $t_r = 12.1$ min.

4-Nitro-1,3-diphenylpentan-1-one (5): ^[9,10,3]

Reaction carried out in 3 mL Teflon ampoule with 3 mmol of chalcone, 3 equiv of nitroethane and 0.5 mol% of **1a** or **1d** in toluene at 9 kbar for 2h.

With catalyst 1a: 94% yield, 800 mg, (quantitative conversion), anti-5/syn-5 ratio 2:1 (by NMR and GC), (3R,4R)-5: 95% ee and (3R,4S)-5: 94% ee.

With catalyst 1d: 93% yield, 790 mg, (quantitative conversion), anti-5/syn-5 ratio 1:1.2 (by NMR and GC), (3S,4S)-5: 97% ee and (3S,4R)-5: 98% ee.

anti-5: (3R,4R)-4-Nitro-1,3-diphenylpentan-1-one (95% ee) obtained with 1a or (3S,4S)-4-

nitro-1,3-diphenylpentan-1-one (97% ee) obtained with 1d: ^[9]



white solid; less polar (in hexane/AcOEt 95:5 \rightarrow 9:1); ¹H NMR (400 MHz. CDCl₃) § 7.86–7.81 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.56–7.50 (m, 1H, COPh), 7.44–7.38 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.33–7.28 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.26–7.21 (m, 3H, Ph), 4.89 (dq, J = 9.8, 6.6 Hz, 1H, CHNO₂), 3.95 (ps td, J = ~9.7, 4.1 Hz, 1H, CHPh), 3.55

(dd, J = 17.1, 9.5 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 3.26 (dd, J = 17.1, 4.1 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 1.37 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.5 (CO), 138.3 (C), 136.5 (C), 133.3 (CH), 128.9 (2 x CH), 128.6 (2 x CH), 128.3 (2 x CH), 127.9 (2 x CH), 127.7 (CH), 87.2 (CH), 45.5 (CH), 41.4 (CH₂), 17.9 (CH₃); enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak[®] IC column (Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 92/8, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 225$ nm): *ent*-(3*R*,4*R*) t_r = 16.2 min and *ent*-(3S,4S) t_r = 18.2 min.

(syn-5): (3R,4S)-4-Nitro-1,3-diphenylpentan-1-one (94% ee) obtained with 1a or (3S,4R)-4-

nitro-1,3-diphenylpentan-1-one (98% ee) obtained with 1d: [9]



white solid; more polar (in hexane/AcOEt 95:5 \rightarrow 9:1); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.94–7.88 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.58–7.52 (m, 1H, COPh), 7.47–7.40 (m, 1H, COPh), 7.31–7.17 (m, 5H, Ph), 4.99 (ps quint, J = 6.7Hz, 1H, CHNO₂), 3.97 (dd, J = 13.5, 6.5 Hz, 1H, CHPh), 3.60 (dd, J =

17.7, 6.4 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 3.46 (dd, J = 17.7, 7.3 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 1.54 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.1 (CO), 138.1 (C), 136.5 (C), 133.4 (CH), 1286 (2 x CH), 128.6 (2 x CH), 128.1 (2 x CH), 127.9 (2 x CH), 127.8 (CH), 86.1 (CH), 44.6 (CH), 39.9 (CH₂), 16.82 (CH₃); enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak[®] IC column (Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 92/8, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 225$ nm): *ent*-(3*R*,4*S*) t_r = 13.9 min and *ent*-(3S, 4R) t_r = 17.2 min.

(3S,4R)-5 (obtained with 1d): $[\alpha]_D^{23} = -39.9$ (c 1.2, CHCl₃, 98% ee), [lit. (ref. 9): for (3R,4S)-5 $[\alpha]_{D}^{25} = +33.2$ (c 1.2, CHCl₃, 84% ee).

4-Nitro-1,3-diphenylhexan-1-one (6):^[9]

Reaction carried out in 2 mL Teflon ampoule with 2 mmol of chalcone, 3 equiv of 1-nitropropane and 0.5 mol% of **1a** or **1d** in toluene at 9 kbar for 2h.

With catalyst **1a**: 96% yield, 569 mg, (quantitative conversion), *anti*-**6**/*syn*-**6** ratio 1.7:1 (by NMR and GC), (3R,4R)-**6**: 93.5% ee and (3R,4S)-**6**: 87.7% ee.

With catalyst 1d: 95% yield, 566 mg, (quantitative conversion), *anti*-6/syn-6 ratio 1:1.4 (by NMR and GC), (3*S*,4*S*)-6: 97% ee and (3*S*,4*R*)-6: 98% ee.

(3R,4R)-4-Nitro-1,3-diphenylhexan-1-one (93.5% ee) obtained with 1a or (3S,4S)-4-nitro-1,3-diphenylhexan-1-one (97% ee) obtained with 1d:^[9]



white solid; less polar (in hexane/AcOEt 95:5 \rightarrow 9:1); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.84–7.80 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.54–7.49 (m, 1H, COPh), 7.43–7.37 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.32–7.19 (m, 5H, Ph), 4.71 (td, *J* = 10.6, 3.2 Hz, 1H, CHNO₂), 3.93 (td, *J* = 10.1, 3.5 Hz, 1H, C<u>H</u>Ph), 3.56 (dd, *J* = 17.0, 10.1 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 3.20 (dd, *J* = 17.0, 3.5 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO),

1.93–1.80 (m, 1H, C<u>H</u>₂CH₃), 1.58–1.46 (m, 1H, C<u>H</u>₂CH₃), 0.86 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.4 (CO), 138.6 (C), 136.4 (C), 133.2 (CH), 128.9 (2 x CH), 128.5 (2 x CH), 128.1 (2 x CH), 127.9 (2 x CH), 127.6 (CH), 94.4 (CH), 44.7 (CH), 41.4 (CH₂), 25.6 (CH₂), 10.3 (CH₃); enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak[®] ID column (Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 95/5, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 225$ nm): *ent*-(3*R*,4*R*) t_r = 17.8 min and *ent*-(3*S*,4*S*) t_r = 25.1 min.

(3R,4R)-6 (obtained with 1a): $[\alpha]_D^{26} = +14.2$ (c 1.2, CHCl₃, 94% ee), [lit. (ref. 9): for (3R,4R)-5 $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +12.3$ (c 1.5, CHCl₃, 81% ee).

(3R,4S)-4-Nitro-1,3-diphenylhexan-1-one (87.5% ee) obtained with 1a or (3S,4R)-4-nitro-1,3-diphenylhexan-1-one (98% ee) obtained with 1d: ^[9]



white solid; more polar (in hexane/AcOEt 95:5 \rightarrow 9:1); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.94–7.88 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.59–7.53 (m, 1H, COPh), 7.48–7.41 (m, 2H, COPh), 7.32–7.17 (m, 5H, Ph), 4.82 (ddd, *J* = 10.5, 6.8, 3.8 Hz, 1H, CHNO₂), 3.98 (ps q, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H, C<u>H</u>Ph), 3.59 (dd, *J* = 17.7, 6.5 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO), 3.42 (dd, *J* = 17.7, 7.0 Hz, 1H, CH₂CO),

2.06–1.93 (m, 1H, C<u>H₂</u>CH₃), 1.91–1.80 (m, 1H, C<u>H₂</u>CH₃), 0.98 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.1 (CO), 138.4 (C), 136.6 (C), 133.4 (CH), 128.7 (2 x CH), 128.6 (2 x CH), 128.2 (2 x CH), 128.0 (2 x CH), 127.8 (CH), 93.3 (CH), 43.7 (CH), 40.5 (CH₂), 24.6 (CH₂), 10.5 (CH₃); enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using a Chiralpak[®] ID column (Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 95/5, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 225$ nm): *ent*-(3*R*,4*S*) t_r = 20.5 min and *ent*-(3*S*,4*R*) t_r = 22.2 min.

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3b

CHIRALPAK[®] IA Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 80/20; flow rate 1.0 mL/min 256 nm









3c









100,000

Ph

 O_2N

4568904

9105490

Ο

3d



38

Conc 1

95,782

100,000

4,218

40



912104

21624038



3e

CHIRALPAK[®] IC Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 75/25; flow rate 1.0 mL/min 225 nm







3f

CHIRALPAK[®] IC Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 75/25; flow rate 1.0 mL/min 225 nm





0,5 0,4 0,3 0,2 0,1 0,0 13 11 '|' 12 10 Retention Time (min) RT Area Conc 1 98,198 9,36 2745298 10,48 50390 1,802 100,000 2795688

96.4% ee with 1d



3g

CHIRALPAK[®] IB Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 80/20; flow rate 1.0 mL/min 225nm













F₃C

3h

CHIRALPAK[®] IC Hexane/i-PrOH: 90/10; flow rate 1.0 mL/min 225 nm



3i

CHIRALPAK[®] IC Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 80/20; flow rate 1.0 mL/min 225 nm





5589126





CI

3j













For the reaction with catalyst **1d** enantiomeric excess was determined using a Chiralpak[®] IB column. For Chiralpak[®] IC column in this case we observed small amount of impurity overlapping with minor enantiomer.







12

0,2

0,1

0,0

RT

11,63 13,60

1000

9 10 11

CHIRALPAK[®] IC Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 75/25; flow rate 1.0 mL/min 225 nm







13 14 15 16 17



30

CHIRALPAK[®] IC Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 75/25; flow rate 1.0 mL/min 225 nm









Ph

Ο

3p



CHIRALPAK[®] IC Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 85/15; flow rate 1.0 mL/min 256 nm



CHIRALPAK[®] IC Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 80/20; flow rate 1.0 mL/min 225 nm







CHIRALPAK[®] IC Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 80/20; flow rate 1.0 mL/min 225nm





CHIRALPAK[®] IC Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 80/20; flow rate 1.0 mL/min 225nm





CHIRALPAK[®] IC Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 60/40; flow rate 1.0 mL/min 225nm



4c



CHIRALPAK[®] IC Hexane/i-PrOH: 80/20; flow rate 1.0 mL/min 225 nm



4f CI Ο O_2N Ph

RACEMATE



CHIRALPAK[®] IC Hexane/i-PrOH: 80/20; flow rate 1.0 mL/min 225 nm

Conc 1

93,429

100,000

6,571





CHIRALPAK[®] IC Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 95/5; flow rate 1.0 mL/min 225 nm



93.9%ee with 1a 1,2 1,0 0,8 0,6 0,4 0,2 0,0 11,0 9,0 8,5 10,0 7,5 8,0 9,5 10,5 Retention Time (min) RT Area Conc 1 8,37 8333301 96,969 9,63 260452 3,031 8593753 100,000



RACEMATE



CHIRALPAK[®] IC Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 80:20; flow rate 1.0 mL/min 256 nm











CHIRALPAK[®] ID Hexane/*i*-PrOH: 95/5; flow rate 1.0 mL/min 225 nm





Copies of NMR spectra





S-41



























6.13 6.13 6.13 6.13 6.13 6.13 6.13 6.13 $\begin{array}{c} -4.73\\ -4.70\\ -4.69\\ -4.61\\ -4.61\\ -4.61\\ -4.60\\ -4.60\\ -4.63\\ -3.77\\ -3.77\\ -3.76\\ -3.76\\ -3.72\\ -3$ - 7.96 - 7.94 - 7.94



S-55

S-65

230 220 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 f1 (ppm)

