Dearomative [2,3] sigmatropic rearrangement of ammonium ylides followed by 1,4-elimination to form α-(*ortho*-vinylphenyl)amino acid esters

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1. Determination of absolute stereochemistry

1-1. (R)-tert-Butyl 1-methyl-2-(2-vinylphenyl)azetidine-2-carboxylate [(R)-5]

The absolute configuration of **5** was determined by the specific rotation value after conversion into (*R*)-*tert*butyl 2-(2-ethylphenyl)-1-methylazetidine-2-carboxylate [(R)-2].¹



A mixture of (*R*)-**5** (29.2 mg, 0.107 mmol, 98% ee) and Pd-C (loading: 10 wt.%, 2 mg) in *n*-hexane (1.1 mL) was stirred for 1 h at room temperature under a hydrogen atmosphere. The resulting mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite and the filtrate was evaporated. The crude (*R*)-**2** (28.5 mg, 97% yield) was obtained as a colourless oil and sufficiently pure without purification. $[\alpha]^{19}_{589}$ +158.5 (*c* 1.0 in EtOH); IR (film) v_{max}/cm^{-1} 3065, 2971, 2931, 2852, 2782, 1714, 1481, 1454, 1391, 1367, 1253, 1196, 1164, 1121, 1086, 1045, 1029, 975, 952, 908, 845, 822, 760; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.54-7.48 (1H, m, ArH), 7.23-7.14 (3H, m, ArH), 3.48 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.5, 6.0, 2.4 Hz, 4-H), 3.34 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.9, 8.2, 6.0 Hz, 4-H), 2.93 (1H, ddd, *J* = 10.5, 8.2, 2.4 Hz, 3-H), 2.49 (3H, s, NCH₃), 2.355 (1H, q, *J* = 7.4 Hz, CH₂CH₃), 2.351 (1H, q, *J* = 7.4 Hz, CH₂CH₃), 2.19 (1H, ddd, *J* = 10.5, 8.9, 8.5 Hz, 3-H), 1.42 (9H, s, *t*Bu), 1.19 (3H, dd, *J* = 7.4, 7.4 Hz, CH₂CH₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.8, 142.0, 139.3, 127.6, 126.7, 125.4, 125.1, 81.6, 75.7, 52.2, 39.9, 29.8, 28.1, 24.3, 14.5; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₇H₂₆NO₂ [M + H]⁺ 276.1958, found 276.1949.

1-2. (R)-tert-Butyl 2-(dimethylamino)-2-(2-vinylphenyl)acetate [(R)-8a]

The absolute configuration of **8a** was determined by the specific rotation value after conversion into (R)-2-(dimethylamino)-2-(2-ethylphenyl)ethanol [(R)-10].

1-2-1 Conversion of (*R*)-**8a** into (*R*)-**10**



¹ (a) E. Tayama, K. Watanabe and S. Sotome, *Org. Biomol. Chem.*, 2017, **15**, 6668; (b) E. Tayama, K. Watanabe and Y. Matano, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.*, 2016, 3631.

(Step 1) A solution of (R)-8a (71.0 mg, 0.272 mmol, 85% ee) in THF (1.4 mL) was added to a suspention of LiAlH₄ (15 mg, 0.40 mmol) in THF (1.4 mL) at 0 °C and the mixture was stirred for 3 h at room temperature under an argon atmosphere. The resulting mixture was cooled to 0 °C, diluted with Et₂O and quenched with H₂O. The mixture was extracted with EtOAc and the combined extracts were washed with brine. The organic solution was dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated. Purification of the residue by chromatography on silica gel (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH = 6/1 to 4/1 as the eluent) gave (*R*)-2-(dimethylamino)-2-(2-vinylphenyl)ethanol [(R)-9] (37.8 mg, 73% yield) as a colourless oil. (Step 2) A mixture of (R)-9 (37.8 mg, 0.198 mmol) and Pd-C (loading: 10 wt.%, 4 mg) in cyclohexane (2.0 mL) was stirred for 1 h at room temperature under a hydrogen atmosphere. The resulting mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite and the filtrate was evaporated. The residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH = 6/1 to 4/1 as the eluent) to obtain (*R*)-**10** (28.8 mg, 75% yield) as a colourless oil. $[\alpha]^{21}_{589}$ –49.3 (*c* 1.0 in CHCl₃); IR (film) v_{max}/cm⁻¹ 3401, 3062, 3017, 2963, 2872, 2820, 2775, 1487, 1466, 1404, 1374, 1346, 1279, 1258, 1207, 1178, 1158, 1097, 1052, 1039, 953, 885, 851, 799, 757; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ7.35-7.30 (1H, m, ArH), 7.24-7.16 (3H, m, ArH), 3.87 (1H, dd, *J* = 10.3, 6.9 Hz, 1-H), 3.81 (1H, dd, *J* = 6.9, 5.2 Hz, 2-H), 3.71 (1H, dd, *J* = 10.3, 5.2 Hz, 1-H), 2.79 (1H, dq, *J* = 14.4, 7.6 Hz, *CH*₂CH₃), 2.69 (1H, dq, *J* = 14.4, 7.6 Hz, *CH*₂CH₃), 2.56 (1H, br, OH), 2.26 (6H, s, N(CH₃)₂), 1.21 (3H, dd, J = 7.6, 7.6 Hz, CH₂CH₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.3, 135.2, 129.1, 127.8, 127.4, 125.7, 64.7, 63.0, 42.6, 26.0, 16.0; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{12}H_{20}NO [M + H]^+$ 194.1539, found 194.1538.

1-2-2 Preparation of authentic sample (S)-10

The authentic (S)-10 was prepared via diastereoselective addition of 2-ethylphenylmagnesium bromide to N-Boc-iminoacetate of (–)-8-phenylmenthol.^{2,3}



(Step 1) A solution of DCC (0.50 g, 2.4 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (5.0 mL) was added to a mixture of Boc-glycine (0.42 g, 2.4 mmol), (–)-8-phenylmenthol⁴ (465 mg, 2.00 mmol), and DMAP (49 mg, 0.40 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (5.0 mL) at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred for 1 h at 0 °C and for 12 h at room temperature. The resulting mixture was filtered and the filtrate was evaporated. The residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel (*n*-hexane/EtOAc = 7/1 to 5/1 as the eluent) to obtain *N*-Boc-glycine (–)-8-phenylmenthol ester (**11**) (783 mg, quant.) as a colourless gum. (Step 2) A mixture of **11** (783 mg, 2.01 mmol), NBS (356 mg, 2.00 mmol), AIBN (16 mg, 0.097 mmol) in CCl₄ (4.0 mL) was refluxed for 15 min. The resulting mixture was cooled to room temperature and filtered. The filtrate was evaporated and the residue was dissolved in Et₂O (6.0 mL). The solution was added to a solution of 2-ethylphenylmagnesium bromide in Et₂O (ca. 1 M, 6.0 mL, 6.0 mmol, prepared from Mg turnings and 1-bromo-2-ethylbenzene) at 0 °C under an argon atmosphere. After stirring for 5 min at 0 °C, the mixture was quenched with saturated NH₄Cl aq. and extracted with EtOAc. The

² P. Ermert, J. Meyer, C. Stucki, J. Schneebeli and J. -P. Obrecht, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 1988, 29, 1265.

³ Previously, we reported that the reaction of 2-methylphenylmagnesium bromide to *N*-Boc-iminoacetate of (–)-8-phenylmenthol gave (*S*)-isomer with high diastereoselectivity, see: E. Tayama and H. Kimura, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 2007, **46**, 8869.

⁴ O. Ort, Org. Syn., 1987, 65, 203.

combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated. The residue was purified by 2'-(2''-phenylpropan-2''-yl)cyclohexyl 2-((*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)amino)-2-(2-ethylphenyl)acetate [(S)-12] (760 mg, 77% yield) as a pale yellow solid. ¹H NMR of the product (S)-12 showed that the diastereomer ratio was high (ca. 9/1). (Step 3) A solution of (S)-12 (359 mg, 0.727 mmol) in Et₂O (3.6 mL) was added to a suspention of LiAlH₄ (42 mg, 1.1 mmol) in Et₂O (3.6 mL) at 0 °C under an argon atomosphere. The mixture was refluxed for 30 min and the ractant was quenched with H₂O at 0 °C. The mixture was treated with 1 M KHSO₄ aq. and extracted with EtOAc. The combined extracts were washed with saturated NaHCO₃ aq. and brine. The solution was dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated. The residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH = 50/1 to 20/1 as the eluent) to obtain (S)-tert-butyl (1-(2-ethylphenyl)-2hydroxyethyl)carbamate [(S)-13] (169 mg, 88% yield) as a white solid. (Step 4) A solution of (S)-13 (56.9 mg, 0.214 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (2.0 mL) was treated with CF₃CO₂H (1.0 mL) at room temperature. After stirring for 1 h at the same temperature, the resulting mixture was evaporated. The residue was treated with 2 M NaOH aq. and extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The combined extracts were washed with H₂O, dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated. The residue was treated with 37 wt.% HCHO aq. (33 µL, 0.45 mmol) and HCO₂H (33 µL, 0.87 mmol). The mixture was stirred for 1 h at 100 °C and cooled to room temperature. The residue was treated with 2 M NaOH aq. and extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The combined extracts were washed with H₂O, dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated. Purification of the residue by chromatography on silica gel (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH = 10/1to 5/1 as the eluent) gave (S)-2-(dimethylamino)-2-(2-ethylphenyl)ethanol [(S)-10] (22.3 mg, 54% yield) as a colourless oil. $[\alpha]^{25}_{589}$ +52.1 (*c* 1.0 in CHCl₃).

2. Preparation of substrates

(2S,1'R)- and (2R,1'R)-tert-Butyl 1'-(2'-methoxy-1'-phenylethyl)azetidine-2-carboxylate [(2S,1'R)-16a and (2R,1'R)-16a]



(Step 1) D-2-phenylglycine (2.27 g, 15.0 mmol) was added to a suspention of LiAlH₄ (0.85 g, 22.4 mmol) in THF (30 mL) at 0 °C and the mixture was refluxed for 18 h under an argon atmosphere. The resulting mixture was cooled to 0 °C, diluted with Et₂O and quenched with H₂O (0.85 mL). The mixture was treated with 15 wt.% NaOH aq. (0.85 mL) followed by H_2O (2.55 mL) and stirred for over 30 min at room temperature. The mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite and the filtrate was evaporated to obtain crude (R)-2-amino-2phenylethanol [(R)-14] as yellow crystals (1.94 g). (Step 2)⁵ A solution of crude (R)-14 (1.94 g) in THF (28 mL) was added to a suspention of KH (30 wt.% in oil, 2.30 g, 17 mmol) in THF (28 mL) at room temperature under an argon atmosphere. The mixture was stirred for 6 h and treated with MeI (834 µL, 13.4 mmol) at the same temperature. After stirring for 40 h, the resulting mixture was quenched with H_2O at 0 °C and extracted with toluene. The combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated. Purification of the residue by chromatography on silica gel ($CH_2Cl_2/MeOH = 15/1$ to 10/1 as the eluent) gave (R)-2-methoxy-1-phenylethanamine [(R)-15] (839 mg, 41% yield) as a yellow oil. (Step 3) A mixture of (R)-15 (835 mg, 5.52 mmol), tert-butyl 2,4-dibromobutanoate (1.67 g, 5.53 mmol), and K₂CO₃ (2.29 g, 16.6 mmol) in MeCN (28 mL) was refluxed for 12 h. The resulting mixture was cooled to room temperature and filtered. The filtrate was evaporated and the residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel [n-hexane/EtOAc =10/1 to 2/1 as the eluent, R_{f} : (2S,1'R) > (2R,1'R)] to obtain (2S,1'R)-16a (314 mg, 20% yield, 97% ee) as a pale yellow oil and (2R,1'R)-16a (227 mg, 14% yield, 98% ee) as a pale yellow oil. The stereochemistry of (2S,1'R)-16a and (2R,1'R)-16a were determined by analogy with analogous derivatives reported previously.¹ (2S,1'R)-16a: $[\alpha]^{22}_{589}$ -120.3 (c 1.0 in EtOH); 97% ee [determined by HPLC analysis: Daicel Chiralcel OJ-H column (25 cm), *n*-hexane/EtOH = 98/2 as the eluent, flow rate = 0.50 mL/min, t_R = 8.9 min for (2*R*,1'S)-16a (1.5%) and 10.4 min for (2S,1'R)-16a (98.5%)]; IR (film) v_{max}/cm⁻¹ 3061, 3027, 3002, 2976, 2930, 2888, 2826,

⁵ A. B. Smith III, K. M. Yager, B. W. Phillips and C. M. Taylor, Org. Syn., 1998, 75, 19.

1745, 1719, 1494, 1473, 1453, 1390, 1366, 1345, 1315, 1291, 1235, 1222, 1212, 1195, 1155, 1117, 1100, 1069, 1041, 1031, 992, 971, 947, 851, 764, 702; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.42-7.34 (2H, m, Ph), 7.34-7.22 (3H, m, Ph), 3.89 (1H, t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2-H), 3.62 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.0, 8.1 Hz, 2'-H), 3.53 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.1, 3.7 Hz, 1'-H), 3.34 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.0, 3.7 Hz, 2'-H), 3.21 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.09-2.99 (1H, m, 4-H), 2.73 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.7, 8.4, 7.0 Hz, 4-H), 2.19 (2H, ddd, *J* = 8.6, 8.4, 5.6 Hz, 3-H), 1.49 (9H, s, *t*Bu); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.4, 138.7, 128.24, 128.21, 127.5, 80.0, 77.6, 71.1, 65.5, 58.7, 49.6, 28.1, 22.7; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₇H₂₆NO₃ [M + H]⁺ 292.1907, found 292.1897. (2*R*,1'*R*)-**16a**: [α]²³₅₈₉ +43.2 (*c* 1.0 in EtOH); 98% ee [determined by HPLC analysis: Daicel Chiralpak AD-H column (25 cm), *n*-hexane/EtOH = 98/2 as the eluent, flow rate = 0.50 mL/min, *t*_R = 12.7 min for (2*R*,1'*R*)-**16a** (99.1%) and 14.3 min for (2*S*,1'*S*)-**16a** (0.9%)]; IR (film) v_{max}/cm⁻¹ 3061, 3029, 2976, 2930, 2877, 2827, 1739, 1494, 1477, 1454, 1391, 1366, 1302, 1233, 1195, 1153, 1122, 1102, 1050, 1030, 983, 973, 949, 848, 761, 701; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.34-7.20 (5H, m, Ph), 3.65 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.0, 6.2 Hz, 2'-H), 3.61-3.53 (3H, m, 2-H, 4-H, and 1'-H), 3.48 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.0, 5.8 Hz, 2'-H), 3.27 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.16 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.6, 8.6, 7.2 Hz, 4-H), 2.28-2.10 (2H, m, 3-H), 1.19 (9H, s, *t*Bu); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.5, 138.1, 129.0, 128.2, 127.7, 80.1, 76.1, 71.6, 65.0, 59.0, 52.0, 27.7, 22.1; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₇H₂₆NO₃ [M + H]⁺ 292.1907, found 292.1898.

(1*S*,2*S*,1*R*['])-2-(*tert*-Butoxycarbonyl)-1-(2[']-methoxy-1[']-phenylethyl)-1-methylazetidin-1-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate [(1*S*,2*S*,1*R*['])-3a]



A mixture of (2S, 1'R)-**16a** (311 mg, 1.07 mmol) and NaHCO₃ (0.27 g, 3.2 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (5.4 mL) was treated with MeOTf (242 µL, 2.14 mmol) at 0 °C and stirred for 1 h at room temperature. The resulting mixture was evaporated to ca. 1/2 to 1/3 volume and the residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH = 30/1 to 15/1 as the eluent) to obtain (1*S*,2*S*,1'*R*)-**3a** (408 mg, 84% yield) as a colourless gum. The relative stereochemistry was determined by analogy with (1*S*,2*S*,1'*S*)-**1a** and analogous derivatives reported previously.¹ [α]²⁴₅₈₉-37.5 (*c* 1.0 in EtOH); IR (film) ν_{max}/cm^{-1} 3056, 2983, 2937, 2822, 1743, 1459, 1396, 1371, 1259, 1224, 1155, 1125, 1093, 1066, 1031, 990, 973, 934, 884, 841, 772, 755, 709; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.60 (2H, d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, Ph), 7.52-7.42 (3H, m, Ph), 5.66 (1H, dd, *J* = 10.0, 10.0 Hz, 2-H), 5.21 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.7, 3.1 Hz, 1'-H), 5.01 (1H, ddd, *J* = 10.0, 10.0, 9.6 Hz, 4-H), 4.13 (1H, dd, *J* = 11.8, 7.7 Hz, 2'-H), 3.94 (1H, dd, *J* = 11.8, 3.1 Hz, 2'-H), 3.37 (3H, s, NCH₃ or OCH₃), 3.34-3.25 (1H, m, 4-H), 3.24 (3H, s, NCH₃ or OCH₃), 2.95-2.80 (2H, m, 3-H), 1.52 (9H, s, *t*Bu); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.1, 131.0, 130.8, 129.5, 128.7, 120.7 (q, *J* = 319 Hz), 85.1, 75.1, 71.0, 69.8, 62.4, 59.2, 41.6, 27.8, 20.0; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₈H₂₈NO₃ [M – OTf]⁺ 306.2064, found 306.2054.

(2S,1'R)- and (2R,1'R)-tert-Butyl 1-(2'-hydroxy-1'-phenylethyl)azetidine-2-carboxylate [(2S,1'R)-16c and (2R,1'R)-16c]



(Step 1) D-2-phenylglycine (2.27 g, 15.0 mmol) was added to a suspention of LiAlH₄ (0.85 g, 22.4 mmol) in THF (30 mL) at 0 °C and the mixture was refluxed for 18 h under an argon atmosphere. The resulting mixture was cooled to 0 °C, diluted with Et_2O and quenched with H_2O (0.85 mL). The mixture was treated with 15 wt.% NaOH aq. (0.85 mL) followed by H₂O (2.55 mL) and stirred for over 30 min at room temperature. The mixture was and filtered through a pad of Celite and the filtrate was evaporated. The residue was diluted with toluene to crystallize. The crystals were isolated by filtration and dried under reduced pressure to obtain (R)-14 (1.15 g, 56% yield) as yellow crystals. (Step 2) A mixture of (R)-14 (823 mg, 6.0 mmol), tert-butyl 2,4-dibromobutanoate (1.81 g, 5.99 mmol), and K₂CO₃ (2.49 g, 18.0 mmol) in MeCN (30 mL) was refluxed for 12 h. The resulting mixture was cooled to room temperature followed by filtered. The filtrate was evaporated and the residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel [*n*-hexane/EtOAc = 3/1 to 1/2 as the eluent, R_f : (2S,1'R) > (2R,1'R)] to obtain (2S,1'R)-16c (438 mg, 26% yield) as pale yellow crystals and (2R,1'R)-16c (393 mg, 24% yield) as pale yellow crystals. The stereochemistry of (2S,1'R)- and (2R,1'R)-16c were determined by analogy with analogous derivatives reported previously.¹ (2S,1'R)-16c: mp 74-77 °C; $[\alpha]^{22}_{589}$ –117.9 (c 1.0 in EtOH); IR (KBr) ν_{max} /cm⁻¹ 3483, 2967, 2867, 2843, 1748, 1717, 1494, 1455, 1420, 1383, 1367, 1289, 1245, 1223, 1160, 1097, 1077, 1050, 1031, 945, 931, 847, 827, 779, 761, 702; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ7.41-7.22 (5H, m, Ph), 3.87-3.65 (2H, m, 2'-H), 3.81 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.8, 8.8 Hz, 2-H), 3.61-3.49 (1H, m, 1'-H), 3.37 (1H, t, *J* = 3.2 Hz, OH), 3.12 (1H, ddd, *J* = 7.0, 5.6, 5.6 Hz, 4-H), 2.76 (1H, ddd, J = 8.6, 8.6, 7.0 Hz, 4-H), 2.32-2.19 (2H, m, 3-H), 1.50 (9H, s, tBu); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.1, 138.7, 128.4, 128.1, 127.4, 81.8, 73.4, 64.3, 64.1, 49.1, 28.0, 21.5; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₆H₂₄NO₃ [M + H]⁺ 278.1751, found 278.1742. (2R,1'R)-16c: mp 95–99 °C; $[\alpha]^{22}_{589}$ +62.1 (c 1.0 in EtOH); IR (KBr) v_{max}/cm⁻¹ 3446, 3011, 2975, 2939, 2913, 2882, 2833, 1733, 1496, 1479, 1455, 1394, 1369, 1307, 1270, 1246, 1234, 1209, 1153, 1104, 1082, 1060, 1045, 1034, 981, 955, 943, 919, 844, 779, 752, 702; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) *δ* 7.40-7.27 (3H, m, Ph), 7.27-7.22 (2H, m, Ph), 3.76 (1H, dd, *J* = 11.2, 7.7 Hz, 2'-H), 3.71-3.64 (1H, m, 2'-H), 3.67 (1H, dd, J = 8.4, 8.4 Hz, 2-H), 3.56 (1H, dd, J = 7.7, 5.4 Hz, 1'-H), 3.42 (1H, ddd, J = 8.6, 6.4, 2.8 Hz, 4-H), 3.09 (1H, ddd, J = 8.8, 8.4, 6.4 Hz, 4-H), 2.99 (1H, br, OH), 2.22 (1H, dddd, J = 10.4, 8.8, 8.6, 8.4 Hz, 3-H), 2.06 (1H, dddd, J = 10.4, 8.4, 8.4, 2.8 Hz, 3-H), 1.35 (9H, s, *t*Bu); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.6, 136.3, 129.2, 128.4, 128.0, 81.0, 70.5, 63.1, 61.7, 49.1, 27.8, 21.9; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₆H₂₄NO₃ [M + H]⁺ 278.1751, found 278.1742.

(2S,1'R)-tert-Butyl 1-(2'-acetoxy-1'-phenylethyl)azetidine-2-carboxylate [(2S,1'R)-16b]



A solution of (2S,1'R)-16c (102 mg, 0.368 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (1.8 mL) was treated with Ac₂O (52 μ L, 0.55 mmol) followed by DMAP (9 mg, 0.07 mmol) at 0 °C and stirred for 30 min. The resulting mixture was treated with saturated NaHCO₃ aq. and extracted with EtOAc. The combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated. Purification of the residue by chromatography on silica gel (*n*hexane/EtOAc = 5/1 to 3/1 as the eluent) afforded (2S,1'R)-16b (80.3 mg, 68% yield, 98% ee) as a colourless (2S,1'R)-16b: $[\alpha]^{21}_{589}$ -103.4 (c 1.0 in EtOH) for 98% ee [determined by HPLC analysis: Daice] oil. Chiralpak AD-H column (25 cm), *n*-hexane/*i*PrOH = 99/1 as the eluent, flow rate = 0.50 mL/min, t_R = 13.6 min for (2S,1'R)-16b (99.1%) and 15.9 min for (2R,1'S)-16b (0.9%)]; IR (film) v_{max}/cm^{-1} 3060, 3031, 2966, 2937, 2843, 1739, 1493, 1475, 1454, 1367, 1295, 1236, 1158, 1096, 1071, 1035, 994, 962, 944, 850, 822, 791, 761, 703; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39-7.25 (5H, m, Ph), 4.21 (1H, dd, J = 11.2, 7.2 Hz, 2'-H), 4.15 (1H, dd, *J* = 11.2, 4.8 Hz, 2'-H), 3.85 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.4, 8.4 Hz, 2-H), 3.62 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.2, 4.8 Hz, 1'-H), 3.09 (1H, dddd, *J* = 7.0, 7.0, 4.0, 0.6 Hz, 4-H), 2.77 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.5, 8.5, 7.0 Hz, 4-H), 2.30-2.16 (2H, m, 3-H), 2.00 (3H, s, COCH₃), 1.49 (9H, s, tBu); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.4, 170.6, 137.8, 128.4, 128.3, 127.9, 80.7, 69.8, 67.9, 65.3, 49.7, 28.0, 22.2, 21.0; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{18}H_{26}NO_4$ [M + H]⁺ 320.1856, found 320.1847.

(1*S*,2*S*,1*'R*)-1-(2'-Acetoxy-1'-phenylethyl)-2-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)-1-methylazetidin-1-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate [(1*S*,2*S*,1*'R*)-3b]



A mixture of (2S,1'R)-16b (325 mg, 1.02 mmol, 98% ee) and NaHCO₃ (0.26 g, 3.1 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (5.1 mL) was treated with MeOTf (231 µL, 2.04 mmol) at 0 °C and stirred for 1 h at room temperature. The resulting mixture was evaporated to ca. 1/2 to 1/3 volume and the residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH = 15/1 to 8/1 as the eluent) to obtain (1*S*,2*S*,1'*R*)-**3b** (453 mg, 92% yield) as a white solid. The relative stereochemistry was determined by analogy with (1*S*,2*S*,1'*S*)-**1a**.¹ [α]¹⁹₅₈₉-24.9 (*c* 1.0

in EtOH); IR (KBr) v_{max}/cm^{-1} 3058, 2983, 1743, 1459, 1397, 1372, 1259, 1225, 1154, 1030, 995, 925, 885, 838, 772, 756, 709; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.57-7.43 (5H, m, Ph), 5.94 (1H, dd, *J* = 10.0, 10.0 Hz, 2-H), 5.47 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.6, 4.4 Hz, 1'-H), 5.06 (1H, ddd, *J* = 10.0, 10.0, 10.0 Hz, 4-H), 4.84 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.9, 7.6 Hz, 2'-H), 4.64 (1H, dd, *J* = 12.9, 4.4 Hz, 2'-H), 3.32 (1H, ddd, *J* = 10.0, 7.0, 5.2 Hz, 4-H), 3.15 (3H, s, NCH₃), 2.99-2.84 (2H, m, 3-H), 2.05 (3H, s, COCH₃), 1.53 (9H, s, *t*Bu); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.8, 164.2, 131.3, 130.4, 129.7, 128.0, 120.7 (q, *J* = 319 Hz), 86.0, 74.1, 71.5, 62.6, 60.7, 41.0, 27.8, 20.5, 19.5; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₉H₂₈NO₄ [M – OTf]⁺ 334.2013, found 334.2004.

(2R,1'R)-tert-Butyl 1-(2'-acetoxy-1'-phenylethyl)azetidine-2-carboxylate [(2R,1'R)-16b]



A solution of (2R, 1'R)-**16c** (267 mg, 0.963 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (4.8 mL) was treated with Ac₂O (136 µL, 1.44 mmol) followed by DMAP (23 mg, 0.19 mmol) at 0 °C and stirred for 30 min. The resulting mixture was treated with saturated NaHCO₃ aq. and extracted with EtOAc. The combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated. Purification of the residue by chromatography on silica gel (*n*-hexane/EtOAc = 3/1 to 1.5/1 as the eluent) gave (2*R*,1'*R*)-**16b** (260 mg, 85% yield, 99% ee) as a pale yellow oil. $[\alpha]^{21}_{589}$ +53.6 (*c* 1.0 in EtOH) for 99% ee [determined by HPLC analysis: Daicel Chiralpak AD-H column (25 cm), *n*-hexane/*i*PrOH = 98/2 as the eluent, flow rate = 0.50 mL/min, *t*_R = 20.9 min for (2*R*,1'*R*)-**16b** (99.7%) and 22.9 min for (2*S*,1'*S*)-**16b** (0.3%)]; IR (film) ν_{max} /cm⁻¹ 3062, 3029, 3003, 2976, 2934, 2863, 1742, 1494, 1477, 1455, 1389, 1366, 1297, 1232, 1153, 1082, 1052, 1038, 979, 949, 915, 846, 764, 733, 701; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.36-7.23 (5H, m, Ph), 4.29 (1H, dd, *J* = 11.2, 6.4 Hz, 2'-H), 4.16 (1H, dd, *J* = 11.2, 6.4 Hz, 2'-H), 3.65-3.58 (2H, m, 4-H and 1'-H), 3.57 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.4, 8.0 Hz, 2-H), 3.17 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.8, 8.4, 7.0 Hz, 4-H), 2.25 (1H, dddd, *J* = 10.6, 8.8, 8.8, 8.4 Hz, 3-H), 2.17 (1H, dddd, *J* = 10.6, 8.4, 8.0, 2.8 Hz, 3-H), 1.99 (3H, s, COCH₃), 1.20 (9H, s, *t*Bu); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.4, 170.7, 137.0, 129.1, 128.3, 128.0, 80.3, 70.4, 66.8, 64.9, 52.1, 27.7, 21.9, 20.9; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₈H₂₆NO₄ [M + H]⁺ 320.1856, found 320.1848.

(1*R*,2*R*,1´*R*)-1-(2´-Acetoxy-1´-phenylethyl)-2-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)-1-methylazetidin-1-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate [(1*R*,2*R*,1´*R*)-3b]



A mixture of (2R, 1'R)-**16b** (283 mg, 0.886 mmol, 99% ee) and NaHCO₃ (0.22 g, 2.6 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (4.4 mL) was treated with MeOTf (200 µL, 1.77 mmol) at 0 °C and stirred for 1 h at room temperature. The resulting mixture was evaporated to ca. 1/2 to 1/3 volume and the residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH = 20/1 to 8/1 as the eluent) to obtain (1*R*,2*R*,1'*R*)-**3b** (389 mg, 91% yield) as a colourless gum. The relative stereochemistry was determined by analogy with (1*R*,2*R*,1'*S*)-**1a**.¹ $[\alpha]^{21}_{589}$ +14.0 (*c* 1.0 in EtOH); IR (KBr) ν_{max} /cm⁻¹ 3058, 2983, 2935, 1749, 1458, 1396, 1371, 1259, 1225, 1155, 1030, 926, 884, 835, 771, 708; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.64-7.59 (2H, m, Ph), 7.55-7.44 (3H, m, Ph), 5.65 (1H, dd, *J* = 10.0, 9.6 Hz, 2-H), 5.42 (1H, dd, *J* = 10.0, 4.4 Hz, 1'-H), 5.15 (1H, ddd, *J* = 10.2, 10.0, 10.0 Hz, 4-H), 4.81 (1H, dd, *J* = 13.2, 10.0 Hz, 2'-H), 4.59 (1H, dd, *J* = 13.2, 4.4 Hz, 2'-H), 4.15 (1H, ddd, *J* = 10.2, 7.5, 4.8 Hz, 4-H), 3.34 (3H, s, NCH₃), 2.97-2.85 (2H, m, 3-H), 2.13 (3H, s, COCH₃), 1.18 (9H, s, *t*Bu); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169-7, 162-9, 131.3, 130.4, 129-7, 127-9, 120.7 (q, *J* = 318 Hz), 85.0, 74.1, 69.5, 66.0, 60.5, 40.1, 27.4, 20.6, 20.1; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₉H₂₈NO₄ [M – OTf]⁺ 334.2013, found 334.2001.

(*R*)-2-(Dimethylamino)-2-phenylethyl acetate [(*R*)-18a]



(Step 1) A mixture of (R)-14 (1.14 g, 8.31 mmol), 37 wt.% HCHO aq. (1.3 mL, ca. 18 mmol) and HCO₂H (1.3 mL, 34 mmol) was stirred at 100 °C for 2 h. The resulting mixture was treated with 2 M NaOH aq. and extracted with toluene. The combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated. The residue was purified by bulb-to-bulb distillation under reduced pressure (3 to 5 mmHg, 150 to 160 °C) to afford (R)-2-(dimethylamino)-2-phenylethanol [(R)-17a] (1.25 g, 91% yield) as a pale yellow oil. (Step 2) A solution of (R)-17a (1.25 g, 7.57 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (38 mL) was treated with Ac₂O (1.08 mL, 11.4 mmol) followed by DMAP (184 mg, 1.51 mmol) at 0 °C and stirred for 30 min. The resulting mixture was treated with saturated NaHCO3 aq. and extracted with CH2Cl2. The combined extracts were washed with saturated NaHCO₃ aq., dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated. Purification of the residue by chromatography on silica gel (*n*-hexane/EtOAc = 1.5/1 to 1/1 as the eluent) gave (*R*)-**18a** (1.11 g, 71% yield, >99% ee) as a colourless oil. $[\alpha]^{20}_{589}$ –26.0 (c 1.0 in EtOH); >99% ee [determined by HPLC analysis: Daicel Chiralcel OJ-H column (25 cm), *n*-hexane/EtOH = 90/10 as the eluent, flow rate = 0.50 mL/min, $t_R = 18.9$ min for (*R*)-18a (99.8%) and 30.5 min for (S)-18a (0.2%)]; IR (film) v_{max}/cm⁻¹ 3084, 3061, 3028, 2954, 2901, 2865, 2823, 2777, 1738, 1493, 1454, 1436, 1406, 1382, 1365, 1231, 1153, 1100, 1071, 1041, 982, 961, 922, 881, 848, 781, 758, 744, 703; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.37-7.24 (5H, m, Ph), 4.43 (1H, dd, J = 11.6, 6.0 Hz, 1-H), 4.34 (1H, dd, J = 11.6, 6.0 Hz, 1-H), 3.49 (1H, dd, J = 6.0, 6.0 Hz, 2-H), 2.24 (6H, s, N(CH₃)₂), 2.01 (3H, s, COCH₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.0, 138.3, 128.4, 128.2, 127.6, 68.9, 65.4, 43.1, 21.0; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₂H₁₈NO₂ $[M + H]^+$ 208.1332, found 208.1327.

(R)-2-Acetoxy-N-(2'-(tert-butoxy)-2'-oxoethyl)-N,N-dimethyl-1-phenylethanaminium bromide [(R)-6a]



A solution of (*R*)-**18a** (981 mg, 4.73 mmol, >99% ee) and *tert*-butyl bromoacetate (1.05 mL, 7.11 mmol) in MeCN (4.7 mL) was stirred for 15 h at room temperature. The resulting mixture was evaporated and the residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH = 15/1 to 5/1 as the eluent) to give (*R*)-**6a** (1.91 g, quant.) as a white solid. $[\alpha]^{21}_{589}$ -31.1 (*c* 1.0 in EtOH); IR (KBr) ν_{max}/cm^{-1} 2979, 2928, 1741, 1636, 1473, 1458, 1415, 1396, 1370, 1249, 1228, 1155, 1045, 984, 929, 909, 871, 844, 777, 759, 711; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.59-7.47 (5H, m, Ph), 5.68 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.6, 4.4 Hz, 1-H), 5.13 (1H, dd, *J* = 13.9, 7.6 Hz, 2-H), 4.88 (1H, d, *J* = 17.2 Hz, NCH₂CO), 4.83 (1H, dd, *J* = 13.9, 4.4 Hz, 2-H), 4.50 (1H, d, *J* = 17.2 Hz, NCH₂CO), 3.81 (3H, s, N(CH₃)₂), 3.56 (3H, s, N(CH₃)₂), 2.10 (3H, s, COCH₃), 1.52 (9H, s, *t*Bu); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.6, 164.1, 131.5, 130.9 (br), 129.7, 129.0, 85.6, 73.3, 62.2, 61.3, 50.4, 50.0, 28.0, 20.9; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₈H₂₈NO₄ [M – Br]⁺ 322.2013, found 322.2003.

2-Acetoxy-*N*-(2'-(*tert*-butoxy)-2'-oxoethyl)-1-(4''-chlorophenyl)-*N*,*N*-dimethylethanaminium bromide (6b)



(Step 1) A solution of 4-chlorobenzaldehyde (774 mg, 5.51 mmol) and trimethylsulfonium bromide (1.40 g, 8.91 mmol) in DMSO (8.2 mL) was treated with a solution of *t*BuOK (0.93 g, 8.3 mmol) in DMSO (8.2 mL)

at room temperature under an argon atmosphere and stirred for 24 h. The mixture was diluted with H₂O and extracted with toluene. The combined extractes were washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated. Purification of the residue by chromatography on silica gel (*n*-hexane/EtOAc = 40/1 to 20/1 as the eluent) afforded 2-(4-chlorophenyl)oxirane (19b) (530 mg, 62% yield) as a colourless oil. (Step 2) A mixture of 19b (515 mg, 3.33 mmol) and NaN₃ (0.68 g, 10.5 mmol) in H₂O (16.7 mL) was refluxed for 7 h. The mixture was cooled to room temperature, diluted with H₂O and extracted with EtOAc. The combined extractes were washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated. The residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel (*n*-hexane/EtOAc = 5/1 to 1/1 as the eluent) to obtain 2-azido-2-(4-chlorophenyl)ethanol (20b) (465 mg, 71% yield) as a white solid. (Step 3) A mixture of **20b** (442 mg, 2.24 mmol), PPh₃ (0.88 g, 3.4 mmol) and H₂O (0.8 mL) in THF (11.2 mL) was refluxed for 17 h. The mixture was evaporated and the residue was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂. The solution was dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated. Purification of the residue by chromatography on silica gel (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH = 10/1 to 1/1 as the eluent) gave 2-amino-2-(4chlorophenyl)ethanol (21b) (332 mg, 86% yield) as a white solid. (Step 4) A mixture of 21b (322 mg, 1.88 mmol), 37 wt.% HCHO aq. (0.28 mL, ca. 3.8 mmol) and HCO₂H (0.28 mL, 7.4 mmol) was stirred at 80 °C for 30 h. The resulting mixture was treated with 28 wt.% NH₃ aq. and extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The combined extracts were washed with saturated NaHCO₃ aq. followed by brine, dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. Purification of the residue by chromatography on silica gel ($CH_2Cl_2/MeOH = 20/1$ to 10/1 as the eluent) gave 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(dimethylamino)ethanol (17b) (338 mg, 90% yield) as a pale yellow oil. (Step 5) A solution of 17b (343 mg, 1.72 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (8.6 mL) was treated with Ac₂O (0.24 mL, 2.5 mmol) followed by DMAP (50 mg, 0.41 mmol) at 0 °C and stirred for 30 min. The resulting mixture was treated with saturated NaHCO₃ aq. and extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The combined extracts were washed with saturated NaHCO₃ aq. followed by brine, dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated. Purification of the residue by chromatography on silica gel (*n*-hexane/EtOAc = 1/1 to 1/4 as the eluent) gave 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(dimethylamino)ethyl acetate (18b) (286 mg, 69% yield) as a colourless oil. (Step 6) A solution of 18b (280 mg, 1.16 mmol) and tert-butyl bromoacetate (0.25 mL, 1.7 mmol) in MeCN (1.2 mL) was stirred for 15 h at room temperature. The resulting mixture was evaporated and purified by chromatography on silica gel $(CH_2Cl_2/MeOH = 20/1 \text{ to } 5/1 \text{ as the eluent})$ to give **6b** (505 mg, quant.) as a colourless gum. IR (film) v_{max}/cm^{-1} 2981, 2933, 2774, 1738, 1596, 1479, 1420, 1396, 1369, 1227, 1153, 1094, 1044, 1014, 983, 923, 837, 731; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.65 (2H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, ArH), 7.50 (2H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, ArH), 5.76 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.2, 4.4 Hz, 1-H), 5.23 (1H, dd, *J* = 13.5, 7.2 Hz, 2-H), 4.84 (1H, dd, *J* = 13.5, 4.4 Hz, 2-H), 4.82 (1H, d, J = 17.2 Hz, NCH₂CO), 4.55 (1H, d, J = 17.2 Hz, NCH₂CO), 3.78 (3H, s, N(CH₃)₂), 3.56 (3H, s, N(CH₃)₂), 2.09 (3H, s, COCH₃), 1.51 (9H, s, *t*Bu); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) *δ*169.5, 163.7, 137.5, 132.4 (br), 129.8, 127.4 85.5, 72.9, 61.8, 61.1, 50.2, 49.7, 27.8, 20.8; HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{18}H_{27}CINO_4 [M - Br]^+$ 356.1623, found 356.1613.

2-Acetoxy-1-(4''-bromophenyl)-N-(2'-(tert-butoxy)-2'-oxoethyl)-N,N-dimethylethanaminium bromide



(6c): Prepared from 4-bromobenzaldehyde by the same procudure with 6b in 27% overall yield; colourless gum; IR (film) v_{max}/cm^{-1} 2979, 2928, 1743, 1591, 1484, 1452, 1415, 1394, 1368, 1223, 1151, 1068, 1042, 1009, 980, 905, 868, 830, 786, 756, 731; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.66 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz, ArH), 7.57 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz, ArH), 5.74 (1H, dd, J = 7.2, 4.4 Hz, 1-H), 5.21 (1H, dd, J = 13.6, 7.2 Hz, 2-H), 4.83 (1H, dd, J = 13.6, 4.4

Hz, 2-H), 4.82 (1H, d, J = 17.2 Hz, NCH₂CO), 4.55 (1H, d, J = 17.2 Hz, NCH₂CO), 3.79 (3H, s, N(CH₃)₂), 3.56 (3H, s, N(CH₃)₂), 2.09 (3H, s, COCH₃), 1.51 (9H, s, *t*Bu); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.5, 163.8, 132.8, 132.7 (br), 127.9, 126.0, 85.6, 72.9, 61.8, 61.1, 50.2, 49.8, 27.9, 20.8; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₈H₂₇BrNO₄ [M – Br]⁺ 400.1118, found 400.1108.

2-Acetoxy-*N*-(2'-(*tert*-butoxy)-2'-oxoethyl)-*N*,*N*-dimethyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)ethanaminium bromide (6d):



Prepared from *p*-tolubenzaldehyde by the same procudure with **6b** in 28% overall yield; colourless gum; IR (film) v_{max} /cm⁻¹ 2980, 2930, 2764, 1735, 1614, 1516, 1473, 1456, 1396, 1369, 1222, 1153, 1082, 1044, 983, 924, 868, 826, 784, 759, 729; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.45 (2H, d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, ArH), 7.30 (2H, d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, ArH), 5.62 (1H, dd, *J* =

7.3, 4.1 Hz, 1-H), 5.20 (1H, dd, J = 13.4, 7.3 Hz, 2-H), 4.85 (1H, d, J = 17.2 Hz, NCH₂CO), 4.82 (1H, dd, J = 13.4, 4.1 Hz, 2-H), 4.47 (1H, d, J = 17.2 Hz, NCH₂CO), 3.78 (3H, s, N(CH₃)₂), 3.54 (3H, s, N(CH₃)₂), 2.40 (3H, s, ArCH₃), 2.09 (3H, s, COCH₃), 1.52 (9H, s, *t*Bu); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.2, 163.5, 141.2, 130.4 (br), 129.8, 125.5, 84.8, 73.2, 61.5, 61.1, 49.7, 49.3, 27.5, 20.8, 20.5; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₉H₃₀NO₄ [M – Br]⁺ 336.2169, found 336.2159.

2-Acetoxy-*N*-(2'-(*tert*-butoxy)-2'-oxoethyl)-1-(4''-methoxyphenyl)-*N*,*N*-dimethylethanaminium bromide (6e)



23% (overall from **19e**)

A solution of trimethylsulfonium iodide (1.26 g, 6.17 mmol) in DMSO (8.0 mL) was treated with NaH (0.25 g, 6.3 mmol) at 0 °C under an argon atmosphere and stirred for 30 min at the same temperature. A solution of *p*-anisaldehyde (0.61 mL, 5.0 mmol) in DMSO (1.5 mL) was added to the mixture and stirred for 16.5 h at room temperature. The resulting mixture was diluted with H₂O and extracted with toluene. The combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated. The residue was purified by bulb-to-bulb distillation under reduced pressure (3 to 5 mmHg, 150 to 160 °C) to obtain 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)oxirane (**19e**) (610 mg, 81% yield) as a colourless oil. The following procudure was the same with **6b**. The compound **6e** was prepared from **19e** in 23% overall yield. Colourless gum; IR (film) v_{max}/cm^{-1} 2977, 2928, 2839, 2764, 1736, 1610, 1582, 1516, 1460, 1396, 1369, 1311, 1222, 1186, 1152, 1082, 1029, 983, 924, 839, 780, 759, 729; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.52 (2H, d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, ArH), 7.00 (2H, d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, ArH),

5.67-5.58 (1H, m, 1-H), 5.16 (1H, dd, J = 13.6, 7.6 Hz, 2-H), 4.87-4.74 (1H, m, 2-H), 4.81 (1H, d, J = 17.2 Hz, NCH₂CO), 4.47 (1H, d, J = 17.2 Hz, NCH₂CO), 3.85 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.76 (3H, s, N(CH₃)₂), 3.52 (3H, s, N(CH₃)₂), 2.10 (3H, s, COCH₃), 1.52 (9H, s, *t*Bu); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.3, 163.7, 161.2, 132.2 (br), 120.3, 114.6, 85.0, 73.2, 61.5, 61.2, 55.2, 49.7, 49.3, 27.7, 20.7; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₉H₃₀NO₅ [M – Br]⁺ 352.2118, found 352.2108.

2-Acetoxy-N-(2'-(tert-butoxy)-2'-oxoethyl)-1-(2''-chlorophenyl)-N,N-dimethylethanaminium bromide



(6f): Prepared from 2-chlorobenzaldehyde by the same procudure with 6b in 30% overall yield; colourless gum; IR (film) v_{max}/cm^{-1} 2979, 2928, 2771, 1741, 1636, 1591, 1478, 1418, 1396, 1367, 1243, 1150, 1042, 982, 924, 870, 842, 763, 732; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.84-7.78 (1H, m, ArH), 7.59-7.53 (1H, m, ArH), 7.53-7.46 (2H, m, ArH), 6.17 (1H, dd,

J = 8.0, 3.3 Hz, 1-H), 5.40 (1H, dd, J = 13.9, 8.0 Hz, 2-H), 5.03 (1H, d, J = 17.4 Hz, NCH₂CO), 4.88 (1H, d, J = 17.4 Hz, NCH₂CO), 4.75 (1H, dd, J = 13.9, 3.3 Hz, 2-H), 3.88 (3H, s, N(CH₃)₂), 3.54 (3H, s, N(CH₃)₂), 2.10 (3H, s, COCH₃), 1.55 (9H, s, *t*Bu); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.3, 163.6, 136.0, 132.1, 132.0, 130.6, 127.8, 127.0, 85.0, 67.9, 61.9, 61.7, 50.6, 49.6, 27.7, 20.6; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₈H₂₇ClNO₄ [M – Br]⁺ 356.1623, found 356.1613.

2-Acetoxy-N-(2'-(tert-butoxy)-2'-oxoethyl)-1-(3''-chlorophenyl)-N,N-dimethylethanaminium bromide



(6g): Prepared from 3-chlorobenzaldehyde by the same procudure with 6b in 21% overall yield; colourless gum; IR (film) v_{max}/cm^{-1} 2981, 2933, 2774, 1738, 1627, 1596, 1573, 1477, 1396, 1369, 1222, 1152, 1088, 1045, 982, 922, 873, 841, 828, 801, 761, 728; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.61 (1H, d, J = 7.2 Hz, ArH), 7.57-7.46 (3H, m, ArH), 5.68 (1H, br, 1-H), 5.22 (1H, dd, J = 13.6, 7.2 Hz, 2-H), 4.96 (1H, d, J = 17.2 Hz, NCH₂CO), 4.83 (1H,

dd, J = 13.6, 4.4 Hz, 2-H), 4.44 (1H, br d, J = 17.2 Hz, NCH₂CO), 3.86 (3H, s, N(CH₃)₂), 3.61 (3H, s, N(CH₃)₂), 2.11 (3H, s, COCH₃), 1.53 (9H, s, *t*Bu); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.5, 163.7, 135.1, 131.3, 130.93, 130.89, 85.4, 72.8, 61.9, 61.1, 50.2, 49.9, 27.8, 20.7; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₈H₂₇ClNO₄ [M – Br]⁺ 356.1623, found 356.1616.

N-(2'-Acetoxy-1'-phenylethyl)-1-(*tert*-butoxy)-*N*,*N*-dimethyl-1-oxopropan-2-aminium trifluoromethanesulfonate (6h)



(Step 1) A mixture of the (±)-2-acetoxypropionic acid (1.94 g, 14.7 mmol), conc. H₂SO₄ (0.15 mL) and isobutene (excess) in CH₂Cl₂ (15 mL) was stirred for 18 h at room temperature. The resulting mixture was treated with saturated NaHCO₃ aq. and extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The combined extracts were washed brine, dried over Na_2SO_4 and evaporated. Purification of the residue by chromatography on silica gel (*n*hexane/EtOAc = 15/1 to 10/1 as the eluent) gave *tert*-butyl 2-acetoxypropanoate (22) (868 mg, 31% yield) as a colourless oil. (Step 2)⁶ LiOH H₂O (193 mg, 4.60 mmol) was added to a solution of 22 (864 mg, 4.59 mmol) in THF (2.3 mL), MeOH (4.6 mL) and H₂O (4.6 mL) at room temperature and the mixture was stirred for 2 h. The resulting mixture was treated with saturated NH₄Cl aq. and extracted with EtOAc. The combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated. The residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel (n-hexane/EtOAc = 6/1 to 4/1 as the eluent) to give tert-butyl 2hydroxypropanoate (23) (333 mg, 50% yield) as a colourless oil. (Step 3)⁷ A solution of 23 (323 mg, 2.21) mmol) and 2,6-lutidine (0.38 mL, 3.3 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (11 mL) was treated with Tf₂O (0.52 mL, 3.1 mmol) at 0 °C under an argon atmosphere and stirred for 1 h at the same temperature. The resulting mixture was diluted with *n*-hexane followed by 1 M HCl aq. and the mixture was extrated with *n*-hexane. The combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over Na2SO4 and evaporated to afford tert-butyl 2-(((trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl)oxy)propanoate (24) (541 mg, 88% yield) as a brown oil which was used without purification. (Step 4) A mixture of 24 (541 mg, 1.94 mmol) and rac-18a (402 mg, 1.94 mmol, prepared by the same procudure with (R)-18a from DL-2-phenylglycine) was stirred for 36 h at room temperature. The resulting mixture (pale brown gum) was dissolved with CH₂Cl₂ and purified by chromatography on silica gel $(CH_2Cl_2/MeOH = 20/1 \text{ to } 10/1 \text{ as the eluent}))$ to obtain **6h** (876 mg, 93% yield, 1/1 mixture of diastereomers) as a pale brown gum. IR (KBr) v_{max}/cm^{-1} 3058, 2985, 2935, 1738, 1476, 1461, 1397, 1371, 1262, 1225, 1154,

⁶ C.-N. Hsiao and T. Kolasa, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 1992, **33**, 2629.

⁷ A. M. Haydl and B. Breit, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2017, **23**, 541.

1095, 1079, 1031, 924, 840, 775, 755, 710; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.60-7.45 (4.5H, m, Ph), 7.40-7.30 (0.5H, m, Ph), 5.30 (0.5H, dd, J = 7.1, 4.6 Hz, 1'-H), 5.23 (0.5H, dd, J = 7.1, 4.6 Hz, 1'-H), 5.00 (0.5H, dd, J = 13.6, 7.1 Hz, 2'-H), 4.96 (0.5H, dd, J = 13.6, 7.1 Hz, 2'-H), 4.80 (0.5H, dd, J = 10.7, 4.6 Hz, 2'-H), 4.77 (0.5H, dd, J = 10.7, 4.6 Hz, 2'-H), 4.44 (0.5H, q, J = 7.0 Hz, NCHCO), 3.95 (0.5H, q, J = 7.0 Hz, NCHCO), 3.49 (1.5H, s, N(CH₃)₂), 3.39 (1.5H, s, N(CH₃)₂), 3.22 (1.5H, s, N(CH₃)₂), 3.12 (1.5H, s, N(CH₃)₂), 2.08 (1.5H, s, COCH₃), 2.07 (1.5H, s, COCH₃), 1.80 (1.5H, d, J = 7.0 Hz, 1-CH₃), 1.74 (1.5H, d, J = 7.0 Hz, 1-CH₃), 1.53 (4.5H, s, *t*Bu), 1.52 (4.5H, s, *t*Bu); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.8, 169.7, 167.4, 167.0, 131.44, 131.41, 131.1 (br), 129.7, 129.0, 128.7, 128.5, 128.4, 120.7 (q, J = 319 Hz), 85.73, 85.70, 74.9, 74.0, 68.6, 68.4, 61.5, 61.0, 46.9, 46.7, 46.3, 46.1, 27.73, 27.67, 20.7, 20.6, 13.6, 13.1; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₉H₃₀NO₄ [M – OTf]⁺ 336.2169, found 336.2164.

3. HPLC chromatogram for determination of ee

The ee were determined by HPLC analysis using chiral column in comparison with the racemic compounds.

(*R*)-4a (98% ee): Daicel Chiralcel OD-H column (25 cm), *n*-hexane/*i*PrOH = 99.5/0.5 as the eluent, flow rate = 0.50 mL/min, $t_{\rm R}$ = 10.3 min for (*R*)-4a (98.8%) and 12.6 min for (*S*)-4a (1.2%)]



(*R*)-5 (99% ee): Daicel Chiralcel OD-H column (25 cm), *n*-hexane/*i*PrOH = 99.5/0.5 as the eluent, flow rate = 0.50 mL/min, $t_{\rm R}$ = 8.4 min for (*S*)-5 (0.5%) and 8.9 min for (*R*)-5 (99.5%)]





(*R*)-7a: 95% ee [determined by HPLC analysis: Daicel Chiralpak AD-H column (25 cm), *n*-hexane/*i*PrOH = 95/5 as the eluent, flow rate = 0.50 mL/min, $t_{\rm R}$ = 8.5 min for (*S*)-7a (2.3%) and 9.7 min for (*R*)-7a (97.7%)]

(*R*)-**8a** (85% ee): Daicel Chiralpak AD-H column (25 cm), *n*-hexane/*i*PrOH = 99.5/0.5 as the eluent, flow rate = 0.50 mL/min, $t_{\rm R}$ = 8.1 min for (*S*)-**8a** (7.6%) and 9.2 min for (*R*)-**8a** (92.4%)]



4. Copies of ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra



200 192 184 176 168 160 152 144 136 128 120 112 104 96 88 80 72 64 56 48 40 32 24 16 8 0 Chemical Shift (pm)

















S29



























S42

