Highly efficient asymmetric bioreduction of 1-aryl-2-(azaaryl)ethanones. Chemoenzymatic synthesis of lanicemine

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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1. General information

Enzymes

Codex® KRED Screening Kit was purchased from Codexis.1

General methods

¹H-NMR and proton-decoupled ¹³C-NMR spectra (CDCl₃) were obtained using a Bruker DPX-300 (¹H, 300.13 MHz and ¹³C, 75.5 MHz) spectrometer using the δ scale (ppm) for chemical shifts. Some ¹H-NMR spectra of MTPA ester derivatives were measured in a 600 or 400 MHz spectrometer. Calibration was made on the signal of the solvent (¹H: residual CHCl₃, 7.26; residual CHD₂OD, 3.31; ¹³C: CDCl₃, 76.95; CD₃OD, 49.00). The selective-1D TOCSY experiments were performed using standard Bruker pulse program (selmlgp). HPLC analyses were performed on a Hewlett Packard 1100 LC liquid chromatograph. GC analyses were performed on a Hewlett Packard 6890 Series II chromatograph using the column CP-ChiraSil-DEX CB (25 m × 0.25 nm × 0.25 µm, 12.2 psi N₂). Optical rotations were measured using a Perkin-Elmer 241 polarimeter and are quoted in units of $10^{-1} \cdot \text{deg} \cdot \text{cm}^2 \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$.

2. Synthesis of ketone substrates 1

Ketone substrates were prepared following the method of Wolfe et al.² Over a THF solution of the corresponding (pyridinylmethyl)lithium [or (quinolin-2-ylmethyl)lithium] another 1.2 M THF solution of the corresponding amide, Ar-CO-NEt₂ (2.5 mmol), was dropped ($-70 \, ^{\circ}$ C to rt). Organolithium reagents were previously obtained by dropping ($-70 \, ^{\circ}$ C to rt) a 2.5 M hexane solution of butyllithium (2.5 mmol) over a 1.0 M THF solution of 2-methylpyridine or 2-methylquinoline (2.5 mmol); however, 3- and 4-methylpyridine had to be deprotonated with a THF solution of LDA, to avoid the nucleophilic attack of BuLi to the pyridine ring (to C-2 of 4-Me-Py or to C-2/C-6 of 3-Me-Py). When the reaction was terminated (TLC control, hexane:ethyl acetate 1:1), the same protocol to that described by Wolfe *et al.*² was followed, except that the crude was purified by flash column chromatography. The spectroscopic data of these substrates were in good agreement with those previously published. The ratio of keto-enol tautomers measured in the ¹H-NMR spectra of ketones **1a-e** in CDCl₃ were 63:37 (for **1a** and **1b**), 87:13 (for **1c**), >99:<1 (for **1d**), and 98:2 (for **1e**). Quinoline derivative **1f** consisted into a 7:93 mixture of keto-enaminone tautomers (Scheme S1) such as was established by analysis of the ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR spectra and by comparison with the published data.³

¹ General Information for this set of engineered enzymes is available from the web page of Codexis: <u>https://www.codexis-estore.com/product-page/codex-ketoreductase-kred-screening-kit</u>.

² R. P. Cassity, L. T. Taylor, J. F. Wolfe, J. Org. Chem., 1978, 43, 2286-2288.



Scheme S1

3. Enzymatic screening for the reduction of ketones 1

3.1 General procedure for the bioreduction

Each reaction was carried out in a 1.5 mL Eppendorf tube using 11 µmol of ketone **1** and 2 mg of KRED. The solvent was added in such amount that a final 20 mM substrate concentration was achieved. This solvent consisted in a mixture of propan-2-ol (17.5% v/v), DMSO (if necessary to completely dissolve **1**, up to a maximum of 3.5% v/v), and 125 mM phosphate buffer at pH 7.0 [also containing 1.25 mM MgSO₄ and the cofactor NADP⁺ (1.0 mM)]. The order of addition to the Eppendorf tube was: (1) KRED, (2) the buffer solution, and (3) solution of substrate in the organic solvent(s). The resulting reaction mixture was shaken at 250 rpm and 30 °C during 24 h, except 48 h for ketone **1f**. After this time, the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (2 × 500 µL), the organic layers were separated by centrifugation (90 s, 13000 rpm), combined, and the solvents evaporated. The degree of conversion and enantiomeric excess of the corresponding alcohol was determined by chiral GC and HPLC (see Section 4).

3.2 About the results of the screening

The complete Codexis KREDs kit was tested with all the ketones. However, in some cases, we have only included in the corresponding Table those reactions in which a degree of conversion higher than 25% was achieved.

Table S1. Enzymatic reduction of 1-phenyl-2-(pyridin-2-yl)ethanone (1a) using KREDs following the general procedure of section 3.1.

| O II | N | KRED, NADP ⁺ | <u> </u> | OH N∕∽ |
|---------|-------------------|--|---------------------|--------|
| | a | Propan-2-ol Phosphate buffer, pH 7.0 250 rpm, 30°C, 24 h | | 2a |
| | KRED ^a | <i>C</i> (%) ^{<i>b</i>} | ee (%) ^c | |
| | P1-B02 | 69 | >99 (<i>S</i>) | |
| | P1-B05 | >99 | 66 (<i>S</i>) | |
| | P1-B10 | >99 | >99 (<i>S</i>) | |
| | P1-B12 | >99 | >99 (<i>S</i>) | |
| | P1-C01 | >99 | 14 (<i>S</i>) | |
| | P2-B02 | >99 | 68 (<i>R</i>) | |
| | P2-C02 | >99 | 70 (<i>R</i>) | |
| | P2-D03 | >99 | 42 (<i>R</i>) | |
| | P2-D12 | >99 | 56 (<i>S</i>) | |
| | P2-G03 | >99 | >99 (<i>R</i>) | |

^{*a*}To facilitate the understanding of the information here included, results of the KREDs showing a *R* preference have been highlighted in grey. ^{*b*}Degree of conversion (*C*) is determined by GC analysis (see section 4.1). ^{*c*}Enantiomeric excess (*ee*) of **2a** is determined by chiral-HPLC analysis (see section 4.1). The absolute configuration of the major stereoisomer of the alcohol is indicated between brackets.

Table S2. Enzymatic reduction of 1-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(pyridin-2-yl)ethanone (**1b**) using KREDs following the general procedure of section 3.1.

| O II | N | KRED, NADP ⁺ | | он ү |
|---------|-------------------|--|----------------------------|------|
| F | 1b | Propan-2-ol Phosphate buffer, pH 7 250 rpm, 30°C, 24 h | 7.0 F | 2b |
| | KRED ^a | C (%) ^b | <i>ee</i> (%) ^c | |
| | P1-B02 | 84 | >99 (S) | |
| | P1-B05 | 84 | 98 (R) | |
| | P1-B10 | 90 | >99 (S) | |
| | P1-B12 | 95 | >99 (S) | |
| | P2-B02 | 85 | 95 (R) | |
| | P2-C02 | 90 | 72 (<i>R</i>) | |
| | P2-D03 | >99 | 68 (R) | |
| | P2-D12 | 95 | 28 (S) | |
| | P2-G03 | >99 | >99(R) | |

^{*a*}To facilitate the understanding of the information here included, results of the KREDs showing a *R* preference have been highlighted in grey. ^{*b*}Degree of conversion (*C*) is determined by GC analysis (see section 4.2). ^{*cee*} of **2b** is determined by chiral-HPLC analysis (see section 4.2). The absolute configuration of the major stereoisomer of the alcohol is indicated between brackets.

Table S3. Enzymatic reduction of 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(pyridin-2-yl)ethanone (1c) using KREDs following the general procedure of section 3.1.

| O N | KRED, NADP ⁺ | OH N |
|--------|--|-----------------|
| MeO 1c | Propan-2-ol Phosphate buffer, pH 7.0 250 rpm, 30°C, 24 h | MeO 2c |
| KRED | C (%) ^a ee | $(\%)^a$ |
| P1-B05 | 81 9 | 7 (<i>R</i>) |
| P2-B02 | >99 8 | 7 (<i>R</i>) |
| P2-C02 | >99 >9 | 99 (<i>R</i>) |
| P2-D03 | 94 4 | 3 (<i>R</i>) |
| P2-G03 | >99 >9 | 99 (R) |

^{*a*}Degree of conversion (*C*) and *ee* of 2c are determined by chiral-HPLC analysis (see section 4.3). The absolute configuration of the major stereoisomer of the alcohol is indicated between brackets.

Table S4. Enzymatic reduction of 1-phenyl-2-(pyridin-3-yl)ethanone (1d) using KREDs following the general procedure of section 3.1.

| | KRED, NADP ⁺ Propan-2-ol Phosphate buffer, pH 7.0 250 rpm, 30°C, 24 h | • | OH * 2d |
|-------------------|---|---------------------|---------------|
| KRED ^a | C (%) ^b | ee (%) ^b | |
| P1-B02 | >99 | >99 (<i>S</i>) | |
| P1-B05 | >99 | 98 (<i>S</i>) | |
| P1-B10 | >99 | >99 (<i>S</i>) | |
| P1-B12 | >99 | >99 (<i>S</i>) | |
| P1-C01 | >99 | 97 (<i>S</i>) | |
| P1-H08 | >99 | 98 (<i>S</i>) | |
| P2-B02 | >99 | 5 (<i>R</i>) | |
| P2-C02 | >99 | <5 (<i>R</i>) | |
| P2-D03 | >99 | 90 (<i>S</i>) | |
| P2-D11 | >99 | >99 (<i>S</i>) | |
| P2-D12 | >99 | 94 (<i>S</i>) | |
| P2-G03 | >99 | 94 (<i>R</i>) | |

^{*a*}To facilitate the understanding of the information here included, results of the KREDs showing a *R* preference have been highlighted in grey. ^{*b*}Degree of conversion (*C*) and *ee* of **2d** are determined by chiral-HPLC analysis (see section 4.4). The absolute configuration of the major stereoisomer of the alcohol is indicated between brackets.

Table S5. Enzymatic reduction of 1-phenyl-2-(pyridin-4-yl)ethanone (1e) using KREDs followingthe general procedure of section 3.1.

| Ö | N | KRED, NADP⁺ | _ | ОН 🔊 |
|----|-------------------|--|---------------------|------|
| 1e | | Propan-2-ol Phosphate buffer, pH 7.0 250 rpm, 30°C, 24 h | | 2e |
| | KRED ^a | C (%) ^b | ee (%) ^b | |
| | P1-B02 | >99 | >99 (S) | |
| | P1-B05 | >99 | 97 (<i>S</i>) | |
| | P1-B10 | >99 | >99 (S) | |
| | P1-B12 | >99 | >99 (S) | |
| | P1-C01 | >99 | 96 (<i>S</i>) | |
| | P1-H08 | >99 | 96 (<i>S</i>) | |
| | P2-B02 | >99 | 36 (<i>S</i>) | |
| | P2-C02 | >99 | 45 (S) | |
| | P2-D03 | >99 | 90 (<i>S</i>) | |
| | P2-D11 | >99 | >98 (S) | |
| | P2-D12 | >99 | 96 (<i>S</i>) | |
| | P2-G03 | >99 | 91 (<i>R</i>) | |
| | P2-H07 | 33 | 90 (<i>S</i>) | |
| | P3-G09 | 36 | 58(R) | |

^{*a*}To facilitate the understanding of the information here included, results of the KREDs showing a *R* preference have been highlighted in grey. ^{*b*}Degree of conversion (*C*) and *ee* of **2e** are determined by chiral-HPLC analysis (see section 4.5). The absolute configuration of the major stereoisomer of the alcohol is indicated between brackets.

Table S6. Enzymatic reduction of 1-phenyl-2-(quinolin-2-yl)ethanone (1f) using KREDs following the general procedure of section 3.1.



^{*a*}Degree of conversion (*C*) and *ee* of 2f are determined by chiral-HPLC analysis (see section 4.6). The absolute configuration of the major stereoisomer of the alcohol is indicated between brackets.

4. HPLC and CG analytical data for C and ee determinations

4.1. Bioreductions of 1a: Degree of conversion (C) was analyzed by GC: CP-ChiraSil; program: 160/5/1/180/20/200 [(initial T (°C) / time (min) / ramp (°C/min) / T (°C) / ramp (°C/min) / final T (°C)]. Retention times (min): 15.80 (ketone 1a); 17.00 and 17.33 (alcohol 2a).

The *ee* of **2a** was determined by HPLC: Chiralcel OJ-H, hexane:propan-2-ol 90:10, 25 °C, 0.8 mL/min, 214 nm. Retention times (min): 14.27 (*R*) and 16.60 (*S*); $R_s = 4.0$.

4.2. Bioreductions of **1b**: *C* was analyzed by GC: CP-ChiraSil; program: 160/5/1/175/20/180 [(initial *T*(°C)/time (min)/ramp (°C/min) / *T*(°C) / ramp (°C/min) / final *T*(°C)]. Retention times (min): 14.92 (ketone **1b**); 17.39 and 17.93 (alcohol **2b**).

The *ee* of **2b** was determined by HPLC: Chiralcel OJ-H, hexane:propan-2-ol 95:5, 30 °C, 0.8 mL/min, 214 nm. Retention times (min): 16.61 (*R*) and 17.66 (*S*); $R_{\rm S} = 1.8$.

4.3. Bioreductions of 1c: Degree of conversion and *ee* of 2c were determined by HPLC: Chiralpak AD-H, hexane:propan-2-ol 90:10, 35 °C, 0.8 mL/min, 214 nm. Retention times (min): 17.75 (ketone 1c); 20.96 [(R)-2c] and 22.54 [(S)-2c], $R_S = 1.5$.

4.4. Bioreductions of 1d: Degree of conversion was analyzed by HPLC: Chiralcel OJ-H, hexane:propan-2-ol 80:20, 30 °C, 0.8 mL/min, 214 nm. Retention times (min): 10.92 and 11.24 (alcohol 2d); 15.74 (ketone 1d).

The *ee* of **2d** was determined by HPLC: Chiralpak AD-H, hexane:propan-2-ol 90:10, 30 °C, 0.8 mL/min, 214 nm. Retention times (min): 18.05 (*S*) and 20.51 (*R*); $R_s = 2.4$.

4.5. *Bioreductions of 1e*: Degree of conversion and *ee* of **2e** were determined by HPLC: Chiralpak AD-H, hexane:propan-2-ol 90:10, 30 °C, 0.8 mL/min, 214 nm. Retention times (min): 16.99 [(*R*)-**2e**] and 18.48 [(*S*)-**2e**], $R_{\rm S}$ = 1.7; 22.00 (ketone **1e**).

4.6. Bioreductions of 1*f*: Degree of conversion and *ee* of 2*f* were determined by HPLC: Chiralpak AD-H, hexane:propan-2-ol 70:30, 30 °C, 0.8 mL/min, 214 nm. Retention times (min): 8.71 (ketone 1*f*); 12.40 [(*S*)-2*f*] and 14.08 [(*R*)-2*f*], $R_{\rm S}$ = 2.5.

4.7. 2-(2-Azido-2-phenylethyl)pyridine (5) and 1-phenyl-2-(pyridin-2-yl)ethanamine (6)

The ee of **5** was determined after hydrogenation and transformation of the resulting amine **6** into its N-Boc derivative **7** (see the following section 4.8).

4.8. tert-Butyl [1-phenyl-2-(pyridin-2-yl)ethyl]carbamate 7

The ee of 7 was determined by HPLC: Chiralcel OD, hexane:propan-2-ol 98:2, 25 °C, 0.8 mL/min, 214 nm. Retention times (min): 19.83 [(*R*)-7] and 22.94 [(*S*)-7], $R_S = 1.8$.

5. Copy of chiral HPLC chromatograms

Racemic 1-phenyl-2-(pyridin-2-yl)ethanol 2a



(R)-2a (ee > 99%) isolated from the bioreduction of 1a with KRED-P2-G03



(S)-2a (ee > 99%) isolated from the bioreduction of 1a with KRED-P1-B12.





(R)-2b (ee > 99%) isolated from the bioreduction of 1b with KRED-P2-G03



(S)-2b (ee > 99%) isolated from the bioreduction of 1b with KRED-P1-B12



Racemic 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(pyridin-2-yl)ethanol 2c



(*R*)-2c (ee > 99%) isolated from the bioreduction of 1c with KRED-P2-G03





(S)-2d (ee > 99%) isolated from the bioreduction of 1d with KRED-P1-B02





(*R*)-2e (ee = 91%) isolated from the bioreduction of 1e with KRED-P2-G03









(S)-2f (ee >99%) isolated from the bioreduction of 1f with KRED-P1-B02



Enantioenriched (ee = 38%) sample of tert-butyl (R)-[1-phenyl-2-(pyridine-2-yl)ethyl]carbamate 7



(S)-7 (ee = 97%) derived from (S)-6 and (S)-5, in the strategy starting from (R)-2a (ee > 99%)



(*R*)-7 (ee = 97%) derived from (*R*)-6 and (*R*)-5, in the strategy starting from (*S*)-2a (ee > 99%)



6. Assignment of the absolute configuration of the optically active alcohols 2 from their MTPA ester derivatives 3

General procedure for the preparation of esters 3.

A solution of the corresponding racemic or enantioenriched alcohol **2** (75 μ mol) in anhydrous THF (1.5 mL) was treated with 4-(dimethylamino)pyridine (150 μ mol) and (*S*)-MTPA-Cl (100 μ mol). After completion (TLC control, hexane:ethyl acetate 1:1), aqueous saturated NaHCO₃ (8 mL) was added to the mixture and then it was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 × 10 mL). The joined organic phases were washed with brine (10 mL) and dried with anh. Na₂SO₄. Evaporation of the solvent and subsequent flash column chromatography purification (hexane-ethyl acetate mixtures as the eluent) yielded the MTPA ester derivatives **3** (Scheme S2).



¹H-NMR spectra (CDCl₃) of the diastereomeric mixture of MTPA esters **3** and those obtained from the enantioenriched samples are collected bellow. The residual signal at 4.12 ppm of some spectra corresponds to CH_2 of residual ethyl acetate.

7. Copy of NMR spectra of Mosher ester derivatives **3** 7.1.1. ¹H-NMR spectra (300 MHz) of the diastereomeric mixture of MTPA esters **3a** prepared from racemic alcohol 2a.



8.8 8.6 8.4 8.2 8.0 7.8 7.6 7.4 7.2 7.0 6.8 6.6 6.4 6.2 6.0 5.8 5.6 5.4 5.2 5.0 4.8 4.6 4.4 4.2 4.0 3.8 3.6 3.4 3.2 3.0 2.8 f1 (ppm)

7.2.1. ¹H-NMR spectra (300 MHz) of the diastereomeric mixture of MTPA esters **3b** prepared from racemic alcohol **2b**.



8.8 8.6 8.4 8.2 8.0 7.8 7.6 7.4 7.2 7.0 6.8 6.6 6.4 6.2 6.0 5.8 5.6 5.4 5.2 5.0 4.8 4.6 4.4 4.2 4.0 3.8 3.6 3.4 3.2 3.0 2.8 f1 (ppm)

7.2.2. ¹H-NMR spectrum (300 MHz) of (*R*,*R*)-**3b** obtained from (*R*)-**2b**.



8.8 8.6 8.4 8.2 8.0 7.8 7.6 7.4 7.2 7.0 6.8 6.6 6.4 6.2 6.0 5.8 5.6 5.4 5.2 5.0 4.8 4.6 4.4 4.2 4.0 3.8 3.6 3.4 3.2 3.0 2.8 f1 (ppm)

7.3.1. ¹H-NMR spectra (300 MHz) of the diastereomeric mixture of MTPA esters 3c prepared from racemic alcohol 2c.





8.8 8.6 8.4 8.2 8.0 7.8 7.6 7.4 7.2 7.0 6.8 6.6 6.4 6.2 6.0 5.8 5.6 5.4 5.2 5.0 4.8 4.6 4.4 4.2 4.0 3.8 3.6 3.4 3.2 3.0 2.8 f1 (ppm)

7.4.1. ¹H-NMR spectra (600 MHz) of the diastereomeric mixture of MTPA esters **3d** prepared from racemic alcohol **2d**.



8.6 8.4 8.2 8.0 7.8 7.6 7.4 7.2 7.0 6.8 6.6 6.4 6.2 6.0 5.8 5.6 5.4 5.2 5.0 4.8 4.6 4.4 4.2 4.0 3.8 3.6 3.4 3.2 3.0 f1 (ppm)

Selective 1D TOCSY experiments by excitation of the resonances at 8.26 (left) and 8.50 (right) ppm.



7.4.2. ¹H-NMR spectrum (600 MHz) of (R,S)-3d obtained from (S)-2d.



8.8 8.6 8.4 8.2 8.0 7.8 7.6 7.4 7.2 7.0 6.8 6.6 6.4 6.2 6.0 5.8 5.6 5.4 5.2 5.0 4.8 4.6 4.4 4.2 4.0 3.8 3.6 3.4 3.2 3.0 2.8 f1 (ppm)

7.5.1. ¹H-NMR spectra (300 MHz) of the diastereomeric mixture of MTPA esters **3e** prepared from racemic alcohol **2e**.



8.8 8.6 8.4 8.2 8.0 7.8 7.6 7.4 7.2 7.0 6.8 6.6 6.4 6.2 6.0 5.8 5.6 5.4 5.2 5.0 4.8 4.6 4.4 4.2 4.0 3.8 3.6 3.4 3.2 3.0 2. f1 (ppm)

7.5.2. ¹H-NMR spectrum (300 MHz) of (R,R)-3e obtained from (S)-2e.



1.0 8.8 8.6 8.4 8.2 8.0 7.8 7.6 7.4 7.2 7.0 6.8 6.6 6.4 6.2 6.0 5.8 5.6 5.4 5.2 5.0 4.8 4.6 4.4 4.2 4.0 3.8 3.6 3.4 3.2 3.0 2. f1 (ppm)



7.6.1. ¹H-NMR spectra (400 MHz) of the diastereomeric mixture of MTPA esters **3f** prepared from racemic alcohol **2f**.

Selective 1D TOCSY experiments by excitation of the resonances at 7.90 (left) and 8.04 (right) ppm.



7.6.2. ¹H-NMR spectrum (300 MHz) of (R,S)-**3f** obtained from (S)-**2f**.



8.4 8.2 8.0 7.8 7.6 7.4 7.2 7.0 6.8 6.6 6.4 6.2 6.0 5.8 5.6 5.4 5.2 5.0 4.8 4.6 4.4 4.2 4.0 3.8 3.6 3.4 3.2 3.0 2.8 f1 (ppm)

8. Copy of ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR spectra of compounds 2a-f, 5, 6, and 7

1-Phenyl-2-(pyridin-2-yl)ethanol 2a





170 165 160 155 150 145 140 135 130 125 120 115 110 105 100 95 90 85 80 75 70 65 60 55 50 45 40 35 f1 (ppm)



1-Phenyl-2-(pyridin-3-yl)ethanol 2d















160 155 150 145 140 135 130 125 120 115 110 105 100 95 90 85 80 75 70 65 60 55 50 45 40 35 30 f1 (ppm)

