Supporting information

An enantioselective desymmetrisation approach to C9substituted *trans*-hydrindene rings based on a diastereotopic group-selective intramolecular Diels-Alder reaction.

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Nadia Azzi,^a Ed Griffen,^b Mark Light^c and Bruno Linclau*^a

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A) Synthesis of 3-[(2*E*,7*E*)-6-((*E*)-buta-1,3-dienyl)-deca-2,7,9-trienoyl]oxazolidin-2-one (11)



To a solution of oxalyl chloride (754 μ L, 6.8 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (3.4 mL) at -78 °C was added DMSO (963 μ L, 13.6 mmol). After 20 min, a solution of alcohol **9** (417 mg, 2.3 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (1 mL) was added. After 2.5 h, TEA (1.9 mL, 13.6 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was warmed up to 0 °C. After 30 min at this temperature, the reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was suspended in THF and filtered through a glass frit followed by rinsing with THF. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* to afford an orange oil which was used in the next step without further purification.

To a solution of phosphonate **10** (1.4 g, 5.1 mmol) in THF (5 mL) at 0 °C was added NaHMDS (1 M in THF, 5.1 mL, 5.1 mmol). The bright yellow solution was stirred for 5 min at the same temperature and was warmed up to room temperature. A solution of crude aldehyde, as obtained above, in THF (1 mL) was added. The orange solution was stirred for 2 h. The reaction was quenched with phosphate buffer pH 7.2 (10 mL) and diluted with AcOEt (10 mL). The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with AcOEt (2 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with 1 M aqueous NaHSO₄ (1 × 10 mL), water (1 × 10 mL), saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (1 × 10 mL), brine (1 × 10 mL) and dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. After removing the solvent *in vacuo*, the residue was purified by column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt 2:1) to afford **11** as a yellow oil (347 mg, 52% from **9**).

IR (film): $v_{max} 2923$ (w), 1773 (s), 1681 (m), 1633 (m), 1603 (w), 1360 (s), 1219 (s), 1004 (s) cm⁻¹;

¹H NMR (300 MHz; CDCl₃): $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.24 (1 H, d, *J* 15.5, CH=C*H*-C=O), 7.12 (1 H, dt, *J* 15.5 and 6.4, C*H*=CH-C=O), 6.31 (2 H, dt, *J* 16.9 and 10.2, 2× CH₂=C*H*), 6.05 (2 H,

dd, *J* 15.3 and 10.3, 2× CH₂=CH-C*H*), 5.57 (2 H, dd, *J* 15.3 and 7.7, 2× CH₂=CH-CH=C*H*), 5.14 (2 H, dd, *J* 17.0 and 1.7, 2× CH=CH_{cis}*H*_{trans}), 5.01 (2 H, dd, *J* 10.2 and 1.7, 2× CH=C*H*_{cis}H_{trans}), 4.42 (2 H, t, *J* 8.0, C*H*₂-N), 4.06 (2 H, t, *J* 8.1, C*H*₂-O), 2.81 (1 H, quint, *J* 7.4, C*H*-CH₂-CH₂), 2.28 (2 H, q, *J* 7.3, C*H*₂-CH=CH) and 1.62 (2 H, q, *J* 7.5, CH-C*H*₂-CH₂) ppm;

¹³C NMR (75 MHz; CDCl₃): δ_{C} 165.2 (1 × s), 153.4 (1 × s), 150.9 (1 × d), 136.8 (2 × d), 136.1 (2 × d), 131.3 (2 × d), 120.2 (1 × d), 116.1 (2 × t), 62.0 (1 × t), 45.0 (1 × d), 42.6 (1 × t), 32.9 (1 × t), 30.3 (1 × t) ppm;

MS (CI) *m/z* 288 ((M+H)⁺, 26%), 201 (30), 172 (18), 146 (92), 91 (100);

HRMS (ES) for $C_{17}H_{21}NO_3Na (M+Na)^+$ calcd 310.1413 found 310.1417.







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B) The IMDA process



Under thermal conditions:

To a solution of **11** (284 mg, 0.99 mmol) in anhydrous toluene (20 mL) in a sealed tube was added BHT (2 mg, 0.01 mmol). The solution was degassed with a nitrogen stream. The reaction was heated at 150 °C for 24 h. The solvent was removed and the residue was purified by column chromatography (neat CH_2Cl_2) to afford the product as a white solid (227 mg, 80%) in a 70:30 ratio of **12/13**.

Under achiral Lewis-acid catalysed conditions:

To a solution of **11** (40 mg, 0.14 mmol) in anhydrous CH_2Cl_2 (4.6 mL) at -78 °C was added Me₃Al (2 M in hexane, 100 µL, 0.20 mmol). The bright yellow solution was immediately warmed up to -30 °C. After 4 h at this temperature, the reaction was diluted with Et₂O (5 mL) and quenched with saturated aqueous solution of Rochelle's salt (5 mL). After the phase separation, the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (2 × 5 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine (1 × 5 mL) and dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. After removing the solvent *in vacuo*, the residue was purified by column chromatography (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH 99.5:0.5) to afford **12/13** as a white solid (24 mg, 59%) as a 78:22 ratio of **12/13**.

With the chiral bis(oxazoline) catalyst:

To a solution of **11** (60 mg, 0.21 mmol) in anhydrous CH_2Cl_2 (5.2 mL) was added a solution of [Cu(S,S)-bis(tert-butyloxazoline)](SbF₆)₂ (0.014 M in CH₂Cl₂, 1.5 mL, 0.02 mmol). The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. The solvent

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was removed and the residue was purified by column chromatography (neat CH_2Cl_2) to afford 2 as a white solid (34 mg, 56%) in a 82:18 ratio of 12/13.

The diastereoisomers were separated by reverse phase HPLC (X-Terra Prep RP₁₈ column 5µm 19×100 mm, mobile phase 50-55% 1% aqueous NH₃ in CH₃CN and the detection was performed at 230 nm).

Data for the major isomer 12:

mp 94 °C;

IR (film): v_{max} 2961 (w), 2911 (w), 2864 (w), 1784 (s), 1688 (s), 1650 (w), 1604 (w), 1385 (s), 1200 (s) cm^{-1} ;

¹H NMR (400 MHz; C₆D₆): $\delta_{\rm H}$ 6.33 (1 H, dt, J 17.1 and 10.0, H₁₂), 6.02 (1 H, dd, J 15.0 and 11.0, H₁₁), 5.84 (1 H, d, J 9.5 and 2.0, H₂), 5.55 (1 H, m, H₃), 5.41 (1 H, dd, J 15.0 and 8.5, H₁₀), 5.07 (1 H, dd, J 17.0 and 2.0, H_{13trans}), 4.95 (1 H, dd, J 10.0 and 2.0, H_{13cis}), 4.20 (1 H, td, J 10.6 and 6.0, H₅), 3.08-2.97 (4 H, m, H₁₄, H₁₅), 2.62 (1 H, m, H₄), 2.34 (1 H, m, H₄), 2.09-1.97 (2 H, m, H₉, H₆), 1.93 (1 H, m, H₈), 1.82 (2 H, m, H₁), 1.74 (1 H, m, H₇), 1.39-1.24 (2 H, m, H₇, H₈) ppm;

¹³C NMR (100 MHz; C₆D₆): $\delta_{\rm C}$ 175.9 (1 × s, C₁₇), 154.2 (1 × s, C₁₆), 139.0 (1 × d, C₁₀), 138.2 (1 × d, C₁₂), 132.0 (1 × d, C₁₁), 128.9 (1 × d, C₂), 126.9 (1 × d, C₃), 115.7 $(1 \times t, C_{13}), 61.7 (1 \times t, C_{15}), 49.7 (1 \times d, C_6), 47.2 (1 \times d, C_9), 46.4 (1 \times d, C_1), 44.2$ $(1 \times d, C_5), 42.9 (1 \times t, C_{14}), 31.2 (1 \times t, C_4), 30.9 (1 \times t, C_7), 27.8 (1 \times t, C_8) ppm$; ES (CI) m/z 288 ((M+H)⁺, 82), 201 (22), 173 (8), 91 (100);

HRMS (EI) for $C_{17}H_{21}NO_3$ (M)⁺ calcd 287.1521 found 287.1525.



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Partial data for the minor isomer 13:

IR (film): v_{max} 2961 (w), 2911 (w), 2864 (w), 1784 (s), 1688 (s), 1650 (w), 1604 (w), 1385 (s), 1200 (s) cm⁻¹;

¹H NMR (400 MHz; C₆D₆): $\delta_{\rm H}$ 6.36 (1 H, dt, *J* 17.1 and 10.2, H₁₂), 6.08 (1 H, dd, *J* 15.0 and 10.0, H₁₁), 5.87 (1 H, d, *J* 9.5, H₂); 5.17 (1 H, d, *J* 16.6, H_{13trans}), 5.01 (1 H, d, *J* 10.5 and 1.5, H_{13cis}) and 4.27 (1 H, td, *J* 9.5 and 6.5, H₅) ppm;

¹³C NMR (100 MHz; C₆D₆): δ_{C} 175.9 (1 × s, C₁₇), 154.2 (1 × s, C₁₆), 138.8 (1 × d, C₁₀), 138.2 (1 × d, C₁₂), 129.3 (1 × d, C₁₁), 128.9 (1 × d, C₂), 126.9 (1 × d, C₃), 115.7 (1 × t, C₁₃), 61.7 (1 × t, C₁₅); 48.1 (1 × d, C₆), 44.4 (1 × d, C₉), 43.9 (1 × d, C₁), 43.2 (1 × d, C₅), 42.9 (1 × t, C₁₄), 31.3 (1 × t, C₇); 31.2 (1 × t, C₄) and 28.6 (1 × t, C₈) ppm; MS (CI) *m/z* 288 ((M+H)⁺, 82%), 201 (22), 173 (8), 91 (100);

HRMS (EI) for $C_{17}H_{21}NO_3$ (M)⁺ calcd 287.1521 found 287.1525.

Comparison with literature ¹H NMR data to establish the *trans* ring junction in the minor diastereoisomer

| entry | cycloadduct | ¹ H NMR of H5 in CDCl ₃ | H A |
|-------|-------------|---|--------------------|
| 1 | 12 | δ 3.92, td, $J = 10.2$, 6.0 Hz | $ \left[\right] $ |
| 2 | 13 | δ 3.91, td, $J = 10.6$, 6.2 Hz | 5 _H |
| 3 | 15 | δ 3.91, td, $J = 10.8$, 6.2 Hz ^a | 0 N |
| | | | |
| | | | 15 |

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C) Mosher's ester analysis





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