## **Electronic supplementary information**

## An easy entry to optically active α-amino phosphonic acid derivatives using phase transfer catalysis (PTC)

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## **Experimental details:**

**General methods:** <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C, <sup>31</sup>P and <sup>19</sup>F NMR were recorded on a Varian AS 400 spectrometer running at 400, 100, 162 and 376 MHz, respectively, in CDCl<sub>3</sub> as the solvent, unless otherwise stated. Chemical shifts are reported in the  $\delta$  scale relative to residual solvent peaks for <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (<sup>1</sup>H NMR: 7.26 ppm for CDCl<sub>3</sub> and 4.79 ppm for D<sub>2</sub>O/NaOH, <sup>13</sup>C NMR: 77.0 ppm for CDCl<sub>3</sub>) or using an external reference for <sup>31</sup>P, <sup>19</sup>F NMR and <sup>13</sup>C in D<sub>2</sub>O (<sup>31</sup>P NMR: 0.0 ppm for K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> 85%, <sup>19</sup>F NMR: -163.0 ppm for C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>6</sub>, <sup>13</sup>C NMR in D<sub>2</sub>O/NaOH: 0.0 ppm for sodium 3-(trimethylsilyl)-propionate). <sup>13</sup>C NMR, <sup>19</sup>F NMR and <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra were recorded on a broad band decoupled mode. Coupling constants (*J*) are given in Hertz. Mass spectra were recorded on a micromass LCT spectrometer using electrospray (ES) ionisation techniques. Optical rotations were measured on a Perkin-Elmer 241 polarimeter. The enantiomeric excess (ee) of the products was determined by chiral stationary phase HPLC, using a UV detector operating at 215 nm. Melting points were measured on a Büchi smp-20 apparatus and are uncorrected. Chromatographic purifications were performed using 70-230 mesh silica.

**Materials:** All commercially available solvents and reagents were used as received.  $\alpha$ -Amido sulfones **1a-1** were obtained following literature procedures.<sup>1</sup> Racemic samples were obtained at room temperature using tetrabutylammonium bromide as the catalyst.

**Preparation of N-(2-fluorobenzyl)-hydroquininium bromide (4f)**: *o*-Fluorobenzyl bromide (289 µL, 2.4 mmol) was added to a suspension of hydroquinine (652 mg, 2.0 mmol) in toluene (6 mL). The resulting mixture was heated to 80 °C with stirring. After 4 h the reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature and evaporated in vacuo. The residue was dissolved in the minimal amount of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (ca. 1 mL), and poured onto Et<sub>2</sub>O (ca. 20 mL) with stirring. The resulting precipitate was collected by suction filtration, washed several times with Et<sub>2</sub>O giving **4f** as a light pink solid (670 mg, 65% yield). mp >160 °C (dec.);  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  -109 (*c* 0.20 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_H 0.78$  (3 H, t, *J* 7.1), 1.22-1.33 (2 H, m), 1.41-1.50 (1 H, m), 1.67-1.85 (2 H, m), 1.90 (1 H, br s), 2.04 (1 H, br s), 2.30-2.45 (1 H, m), 2.73-2.80 (1 H, m), 3.08-3.18 (1 H, br dt, *J* 6.4 and 11.5), 3.33 (1 H, br t, *J* 11.5), 3.66 (1 H, dd, *J* 7.2 and 11.0), 3.96 (3 H, s), 4.51 (1 H, d, *J* 12.1), 5.15 (1 H, td, *J* 3.3 and 11.7), 6.48 (1 H, d, *J* 11.7), 6.53 (1 H, d, *J* 7.7), 6.76 (1 H, d, *J* 6.9), 7.10 (1 H, d, *J* 2.7), 7.16-7.21 (1 H, m), 7.33 (1 H, dt, *J* 1.1 and 7.7), 7.39 (1 H, dd, *J* 2.6 and 9.3), 7.49-7.57 (1 H, m), 7.81 (1 H, d, *J* 4.9), 8.06 (1 H, d, *J* 9.0), 8.27 (1 H, dt, *J* 1.8 and 7.8), 8.79 (1 H, d, *J* 4.8);  $\delta_C$  11.2, 21.0, 23.8, 25.2, 26.4, 36.1, 50.9, 55.8, 57.3, 63.2, 63.4, 71.3, 100.6, 114.5 (d, *J* 13), 115.9 (d, *J* 22), 120.6, 121.4, 125.8 (d, *J* 26), 126.0, 132.4, 133.4 (d, *J* 9), 136.2, 142.9,

N-(2-fluorobenzyl)-hydroquininidinium bromide (4g): Following the procedure used for 4f, the title coumpound was



144.2, 147.8, 158.2, 162.0 (d, J 248);  $\delta_{\rm F}$  -114.5; m/z (ESI) 435 [M<sup>+</sup>].

obtained as a light pink solid (793 mg, 77% yield). mp >210 °C;  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  +125 (*c* 0.33 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_H 0.89$  (3 H, t, *J* 7.2), 1.03 (1 H, ddd, *J* 5.1, 9.6 and 13.9), 1.54-1.86 (4 H, m), 1.91 (1 H, br s); 2.07 (1 H, br s), 2.49 (1 H, br t, *J* 12.4), 2.91 (1 H, br q, *J* 10.0), 3.44 (1 H, br t, *J* 3.5), 3.71 (1 H, br t, *J* 10.3), 3.79 (1 H, br t, *J* 9.2), 3.93 (3 H, s), 4.39-4.47 (1 H, m), 4.81 (1 H, d, *J* 12.2), 6.24 (1 H, d, *J* 11.9), 6.61 (1 H, d, *J* 6.0), 6.72 (1 H, d, *J* 6.3), 7.13 (1 H, br t, *J* 8.9), 7.19 (1 H, d, *J* 2.6),

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> (a) E. Bernacka, A. Kapacz and A. Zwierzak, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 2001, **42**, 5093-5094; (b) A. G. Wenzel and E. N. Jacobsen, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2002, **124**, 12964-12965.

7.28 (1 H, dt, J 1.2 and 7.6), 7.32 (1 H, dd, J 2.6 and 9.2), 7.44-7.51 (1 H, m), 7.82 (1 H, d, J 4.5), 7.99 (1 H, d, J 9.3), 8.12 (1 H, dt, J 1.7 and 7.6), 8.70 (1 H, d, J 4.5);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  11.4, 21.0, 24.2, 24.3, 24.6, 36.1, 55.8, 55.9, 56.4, 56.9, 64.6, 69.6, 100.8, 114.7 (d, J 13), 116.0 (d, J 22), 120.5, 121.4, 125.5, 125.6, 132.1, 133.2 (d, J 8), 136.3, 142.8, 144.2, 147.6, 158.1, 161.9 (d, J 249);  $\delta_{\rm F}$  -113.4; m/z (ESI) 435 [M<sup>+</sup>].

General procedure for the catalytic reaction of dimethylphosphite 2e with  $\alpha$ -amido sulfones 1: Dimethylphosphite **2b** (14  $\mu$ L, 0.15 mmol for N-Boc  $\alpha$ -amido sulfones **1a**,c,e,g,i,j,l, 28  $\mu$ L, 0.30 mmol for N-Cbz  $\alpha$ -amido sulfones **1b**,d,f,h,k) was added to a test tube containing a mixture of  $\alpha$ -amido sulfone 1 (0.10 mmol) and catalyst 4f (2.6 mg, 0.005 mmol) in toluene (1 mL). After the resulting mixture had been cooled to -78 °C, finely ground KOH (17 mg, 0.30 mmol), weighed in a oven-dried vial, was added in one portion. The reaction mixture was then vigorously stirred at the same temperature without any precaution to exclude moisture or air. After 60 h, sat. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (ca. 2 mL) was added, and the mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature. The toluene layer was separated, and the aqueous phase extracted twice with toluene (ca 1 mL). The combined organic extracts were then charged directly on a silica gel column, and the product was obtained using a *n*-hexane/EtOAc/acetone 5:3:2 mixture as eluent.

(R)-tert-Butyl 1-(dimethoxyphosphoryl)-3-phenylpropylcarbamate (3b). Following the general procedure and performing the reaction on a 1 mmol scale, the title compound was obtained as a colourless thick oil in 94% yield. The ee of the product was determined by HPLC using a Daicel Chiralpak AD-H column (hexane/*i*PrOH 80:20, flow rate 0.75 mL/min,  $t_{mai}$  10.7 min;  $t_{min}$  8.4 min; 88% ee).  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  -19 (c 0.64 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_{\rm H}$  [some protons show multiple resonances for the presence of different rotamers due to restricted rotation around the C-N bonds] 1.47 (9 H, s), 1.78-1.96 (1 H, m), 2.08-2.21 (1 H, m), 2.62-2.73 (1 H, m), 2.76-2.86 (1 H, m), 3.74 (3 H, d, J 10.7), 3.77 (3 H, d, J 10.7), 3.91 (0.1 H, br s), 4.04-4.16 (0.9 H, m), 4.48 (0.1 H, br s), 4.75 (1 H, d, J 9.9), 7.16-7.22 (3 H, m), 7.25-7.31 (2 H, m);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  28.2, 31.7, 32.0 (d, J 14), 46.1 (d, J 158), 52.9 (d, J

6), 53.1 (d, J 7), 80.1, 126.1, 128.4, 140.8, 155.3;  $\delta_{\rm P}$  28.3; m/z (ESI) 366 [M<sup>+</sup> + Na].

To verify the possibility of performing a Boc-deprotection CbzCl derivatisation sequence without affecting the enantiomeric excess of the products, necessary for the determination of the ee of products 3e.g.i.k.l which could not be easily detected by the HPLC UV-detector, a sample of **3b** with 76% ee was treated as follows: TFA (39  $\mu$ L, 0.5 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.5 mL) was added to a cooled (0 °C) solution of **3b** (18 mg, 0.05 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.5 mL). The resulting solution was then stirred at room temperature for 5 h, then sat. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (ca. 2 mL) and sat. Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (ca. 1 mL) were added at 0 °C, followed by EtOAc (2 mL) and CbzCl (11 µL, 0.07 mmol). The resulting biphasic mixture was then vigorously stirred at room temperature overnight. The N-Cbz protected 3d was then extracted with EtOAc, the organic phase dried on MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was then purified by a short column chromatography on silica gel. HPLC analysis of thus obtained 3d using a Daicel Chiralpak AD-H column (nhexane/iPrOH 80:20, flow rate 0.75 mL/min, tmai 12.4 min; tmin 14.7 min), revealed 75% ee, thus showing that racemisation did not occur to a considerable extent.

(S)-tert-Butyl 1-(dimethoxyphosphoryl)-3-phenylpropylcarbamate (ent-3b). Following the general procedure using catalyst 4g derived from hydroquinidine (0.01 mmol, 10 mol%) and using 3 equiv. of dimethyl phosphite **2b**, the title compound was obtained as a colourless thick oil in 88% yield. The ee of the product was determined by HPLC using a Daicel Chiralpak AD-H column (hexane/*i*PrOH 80:20, flow rate 0.75 mL/min,  $t_{maj}$  8.4 min;  $t_{min}$  10.7 min; 34% ee). [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> +6 (c 0.58 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>). Spectral data were identical to

compound 3b.



(R)-Benzyl 1-(dimethoxyphosphoryl)-3-phenylpropylcarbamate (3d). Following the general procedure the title compound was obtained as a white solid in 95% yield. The ee of the product was determined by HPLC using a Daicel Chiralpak AD-H column (hexane/*i*PrOH 80:20, flow rate 0.75 mL/min,  $t_{maj}$  12.4 min;  $t_{min}$  14.7 min; 84% ee). mp 80-82 °C;  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  -17 (c 0.62 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_H$  [some protons show multiple resonances for the presence of different rotamers due to restricted rotation around the C-N bonds] 1.83-1.97 (1 H, m), 2.11-2.23 (1 H, m), 2.61-2.72 (1 H, m), 2.76-2.85 (1 H, m), 3.70 (3 H, d, J 10.1), 3.73 (3 H, d, J 11.6), 3.99 (0.1 H, br s), 4.09-4.22 (0.9 H, m), 4.95 (0.1 H, br s), 5.12 (1 H, d, J 11.7), 5.17 (0.9 H, br s), 5.17 (1 H, d, J 11.7), 7.10-7.21 (3 H, m), 7.22-7.30 (2 H, m), 7.30-7.40 (5 H, m);  $\delta_{C}$  31.6 (d, J 4), 32.0 (d, J 14), 47.0 (d, J 156), 52.0 (d, J 6), 53.1 (d, J 7), 67.2, 126.1, 128.0, 128.2, 128.4, 128.5, 136.2, 140.7, 155.9 (d, J 5); δ<sub>P</sub> 27.7 m/z (ESI) 400 [M<sup>+</sup> + Na].

(R)-tert-Butyl cyclohexyl(dimethoxyphosphoryl)methylcarbamate (3e). Following the general procedure the title compound was obtained as a white solid in 94% yield. The ee of the product was determined by HPLC, after conversion into its Cbz derivative 3f through Boc deprotection followed by CbzCl derivatisation (vide supra), using a Daicel Chiralpak AD-H column (hexane/iPrOH 80:20, flow rate 0.75 mL/min, tmai 10.8 min;  $t_{\min}$  13.7 min; 82% ee). mp 59-60 °C;  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  -11 (c 0.47 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_H$  [some protons show

multiple resonances for the presence of different rotamers due to restricted rotation around the C-N bonds] 0.99-1.33 (6

H, m), 1.45 (9 H, s), 1.60-1.91 (5 H, m), 3.76 (6 H, d, *J* 10.4), 3.99 (1 H, ddd, *J* 4.5, 10.7 and 18.4), 4.52 (0.1 H, br d, *J* 12.1), 4.78 (0.9 H, d, *J* 11.4);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  25.8 (d, *J* 12), 26.0, 27.9, 28.0, 28.2, 30.4 (d, *J* 12), 38.5 (d, *J* 5), 51.2 (d, *J* 152), 52.3 (d, *J* 7), 52.8 (d, *J* 7), 80.0, 155.5 (d, *J* 5);  $\delta_{\rm P}$  28.1; *m/z* (ESI) 344 [M<sup>+</sup> + Na].

(*R*)-Benzyl cyclohexyl(dimethoxyphosphoryl)methylcarbamate (3f). Following the general procedure the title compound was obtained as a white solid in 93% yield. The ee of the product was determined by HPLC using a Daicel Chiralpak AD-H column (hexane/*i*PrOH 80:20, flow rate 0.75 mL/min,  $t_{maj}$  10.8 min;  $t_{min}$  13.7 min; 89% ee). mp 86-88 °C;  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  -6 (*c* 0.54 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_H$  0.97-1.31 (5H, m), 1.58-1.92 (6H, m), 3.69 (3H, d, J 9.3), 3.74 (3H, d, J 10.4), 3.87-3.97 (0.1 H, m), 4.03 (0.9H, ddd, J 4.3, 10.7 and 18.9), 4.80 (0.1 H, br d, J 11.3), 5.06 (0.9H, br d, J 10.6), 5.09 (1H, d, J 12.3), 5.15 (1H, d, J 12.3), 7.30-7.37 (5H, m);  $\delta_C$  25.9 (d, J 12), 26.0, 27.9, 28.0, 30.4 (d, J 11), 38.5 (d, J 4), 52.0 (d, J 150), 52.8 (d, J 6), 52.9 (d, J 6), 67.2, 128.0, 128.2, 128.5, 136.2, 156.2;  $\delta_P$  27.5; *m/z* (ESI) 378 [M<sup>+</sup> + Na].

(S)-Benzyl cyclohexyl(dimethoxyphosphoryl)methylcarbamate (*ent*-3f). Following the general procedure using catalyst 4g derived from hydroquinidine (0.010 mmol, 10 mol%), the title compound was obtained as a white solid in 99% yield. The ee of the product was determined by HPLC using a Daicel Chiralpak AD-H column (hexane/*i*PrOH 80:20, flow rate 0.75 mL/min,  $t_{mai}$  13.7 min;  $t_{min}$  10.8 min; 78% ee).  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  +5 (*c* 0.68 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>). Spectral data were identical to compound **3f**.

(*R*)-tert-Butyl 1-(dimethoxyphosphoryl)-3-methylbutylcarbamate (3g). Following the general procedure the title compound was obtained as a colourless oil in 93% yield. The ee of the product was determined by HPLC, after conversion into its Cbz derivative **3h** through Boc deprotection followed by CbzCl derivatisation (*vide supra*), using a Daicel Chiralpak AD-H column (hexane/iPrOH 80:20, flow rate 0.75 mL/min,  $t_{maj}$  8.2 min;  $t_{min}$  10.3 min; 83% ee).  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  -35 (c 0.60 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_H$  [some protons show multiple resonances for the presence of different rotemers due to restricted rotation around the C N bonds] 0.91 (3 H d

multiple resonances for the presence of different rotamers due to restricted rotation around the C-N bonds] 0.91 (3 H, d, *J* 6.8), 0.93 (3 H, d, *J* 6.8), 1.43 (9 H, s), 1.49-1.59 (2 H, m), 1.67-1.78 (1 H, m), 3.75 (3 H, d, *J* 10.7), 3.76 (3 H, d, *J* 10.5), 3.95-4.05 (0.1 H, m), 4.13 (0.9 H, ddd, *J* 5.5, 10.4 and 20.7), 4.31 (0.1 H, d, *J* 9.9), 4.57 (0.9 H, d, *J* 10.4);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  21.1, 23.2, 24.4 (d, *J* 13), 28.2, 38.4, 44.7 (d, *J* 156), 52.9 (d, *J* 6), 53.1 (d, *J* 6), 80.0, 155.2;  $\delta_{\rm P}$  29.2; *m*/*z* (ESI) 318 [M<sup>+</sup> + Na].

(*R*)-Benzyl 1-(dimethoxyphosphoryl)-3-methylbutylcarbamate (3h). Following the general procedure the title compound was obtained as a colourless oil in 66% yield. The ee of the product was determined by HPLC using a Daicel Chiralpak AD-H column (hexane/*i*PrOH 80:20, flow rate 0.75 mL/min,  $t_{maj}$  8.2 min;  $t_{min}$  10.3 min; 86% ee). [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> -33 (*c* 0.63 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_{\rm H}$  [some protons show multiple resonances for the presence of different rotamers due to restricted rotation around the C-N bonds] 0.93 (3 H, d, *J* 6.4), 0.94

(3 H, d, J 6.6), 1.52-1.60 (2 H, m), 1.67-1.77 (1 H, m), 3.71 (3 H, d, J 10.4), 3.75 (3 H, d, J 10.4), 4.01-4.09 (0.1 H, m), 4.19 (0.9 H, ddd, J 5.9, 10.4 and 25.7), 4.60 (0.1 H, d, J 11.1), 4.88 (0.9 H, d, J 10.2), 5.08 (1 H, d, J 12.4), 5.15 (1 H, d, J 12.2), 7.28-7.38 (5 H, m);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  21.0, 23.3, 24.3 (d, J 13), 38.4, 45.5 (d, J 156), 52.9 (d, J 7), 53.0 (d, J 7), 67.1, 127.9, 128.2, 128.5, 136.2, 155.9;  $\delta_{\rm P}$  28.6; m/z (ESI) 352 [M<sup>+</sup> + Na].

The absolute configuration of compound 3h was determined to be R by comparison of its optical rotation with a literature value:

Measured optical rotation (86% ee):  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  -33 (*c* 0.63 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>) Lit.<sup>2</sup>  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  -36.4 (*c* 1 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>) for the (*R*)-isomer.

(*R*)-tert-Butyl 1-(dimethoxyphosphoryl)heptylcarbamate (3i). Following the general procedure the title compound was obtained as a colourless oil in 84% yield. The ee of the product was determined by HPLC, after conversion into its Cbz derivative through Boc deprotection followed by CbzCl derivatisation (*vide supra*), using a Daicel Chiralpak AD-H column (hexane/*i*PrOH 80:20, flow rate 0.75 mL/min,  $t_{maj}$  7.4 min;  $t_{min}$  9.4 min; 87% ee). [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> -25 (*c* 0.53 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_{\rm H}$  [some protons show multiple resonances for the presence of different rotamers due to restricted rotation around the C-N bonds] 0.86 (3 H, t,

multiple resonances for the presence of different rotamers due to restricted rotation around the C-N bonds] 0.86 (3 H, t, J 6.4), 1.21-1.58 (8 H, m), 1.43 (9 H, s), 1.74-1.85 (2 H, m), 3.76 (3 H, d, J 10.6), 3.77 (3 H, d, J 10.6), 3.85-3.95 (0.1 H, m), 4.05 (0.9 H, dtd, J 3.6, 10.9 and 19.4), 4.32 (0.1 H, br s), 4.62 (0.9 H, d, J 9.8);  $\delta_{C}$  14.0, 22.5, 25.6 (d, J 14), 28.2, 28.7, 29.8, 31.5, 46.6 (d, J 155), 52.8 (d, J 6), 53.0 (d, J 7), 80.0, 155.3;  $\delta_{P}$  28.8; m/z (ESI) 346 [M<sup>+</sup> + Na].

(*R*)-Benzyl 1-(dimethoxyphosphoryl)hexylcarbamate (3j). Following the general procedure the title compound was obtained as a colourless oil in 97% yield. The ee of the product was determined by HPLC using a Daicel Chiralpak AD-H column (hexane/*i*PrOH 80:20, flow rate 0.75 mL/min,  $t_{maj}$  7.9 min;  $t_{min}$  9.8 min; 95% ee).  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  -25 (*c* 0.62 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_H$  [some protons show multiple resonances for the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> P. A. Bartlett, J. E. Hanson and P. G. Giannousis, J. Org. Chem., 1990, **55**, 6268-6274.

presence of different rotamers due to restricted rotation around the C-N bonds] 0.86 (3 H, t, *J* 6.7), 1.19-1.52 (6 H, m), 1.76-1.93 (2 H, m), 3.71 (3 H, d, *J* 10.4), 3.74 (3 H, d, *J* 10.8), 3.91-4.02 (0.1 H, m), 4.08 (0.9 H, dtd, *J* 3.8, 10.6 and 20.8), 4.73 (0.1 H, d, *J* 9.2), 4.98 (0.9 H, d, *J* 10.4), 5.09 (1 H, d, *J* 12.2), 5.13 (1 H, d, *J* 12.2), 7.27-7.37 (5 H, m);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  13.9, 22.3, 25.3 (d, *J* 13), 29.7, 31.2, 47.2 (d, *J* 156), 52.9 (d, *J* 7), 53.1 (d, *J* 7), 67.1, 128.0, 128.2, 128.5, 136.3, 156.0;  $\delta_{\rm P}$  28.2; *m/z* (ESI) 366 [M<sup>+</sup> + Na].

(S)-Benzyl 1-(dimethoxyphosphoryl)hexylcarbamate (*ent*-3j). Following the general procedure using catalyst 4g derived from hydroquinidine (10 mol%) the title compound was obtained as a colourless oil in 94% yield. The ee of the product was determined by HPLC using a Daicel Chiralpak AD-H column (hexane/*i*PrOH 80:20, flow rate 0.75 mL/min,  $t_{mai}$  9.8 min;  $t_{min}$  7.9 min; 84% ee). [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> +22 (*c* 0.60 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>). Spectral data were identical to compound 3j.

(*R*)-tert-Butyl 1-(dimethoxyphosphoryl)propylcarbamate (3k). Following the general procedure the title compound was obtained as a colourless oil in 78% yield. The ee of the product was determined by HPLC, after conversion into its Cbz derivative through Boc deprotection followed by CbzCl derivatisation (*vide supra*), using a Daicel Chiralpak AD-H column (hexane/*i*PrOH 80:20, flow rate 0.75 mL/min,  $t_{maj}$  8.2 min;  $t_{min}$  10.4 min; 80% ee). [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> -27 (*c* 0.40 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta$ <sub>H</sub> [some protons show multiple resonances for the presence of different rotamers due to restricted rotation around the C-N bonds] 1.01 (3 H, t, *J* 7.6), 1.44 (9 H, s), 1.50-1.64 (1 H, m), 1.82-1.96 (1 H, m), 3.76 (3 H, d, *J* 10.7), 3.77 (3 H, d, *J* 10.5), 4.01 (1 H, dtd, *J* 4.0, 10.3 and 20.5), 4.33

 $(0.1 \text{ H, br s}), 4.65 (0.9 \text{ H, d}, J 10.5); \delta_{C} 10.4 (d, J 13), 23.3, 28.2, 47.9 (d, J 156), 52.9 (d, J 7), 53.1 (d, J 7), 80.0, 155.5; \delta_{P} 28.6; m/z (ESI) 290 [M<sup>+</sup> + Na].$ (*R*)-tert-Butyl 1-(dimethoxyphosphoryl)ethylcarbamate (31). Following the general procedure the title compound

<sup>Boc</sup> NH  $rac{1}{0}$   $rac{1}$ 

(*R*)-Benzyl 1-(dimethoxyphosphoryl)ethylcarbamate (3m). Following the general procedure the title compound was obtained as a colourless oil in 76% yield. The ee of the product was determined by HPLC using a Daicel Chiralpak AD-H column (hexane/*i*PrOH 90:10, flow rate 0.75 mL/min,  $t_{maj}$  13.8 min;  $t_{min}$  17.1 min; 80% ee). [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> -15 (*c* 1.0 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_{\rm H}$  [some protons show multiple resonances for the presence of different rotamers due to restricted rotation around the C-N bonds] 1.39 (3 H, dd, *J* 7.4 and 16.6), 3.73 (3 H, d, *J* 

10.8), 3.75 (3 H, d, J 10.8), 4.11-4.26 (1 H, m), 4.85 (0.1 H, br s), 5.09 (0.9 H, d, J 11.0), 5.11 (2 H, s), 7.28-7.37 (5 H, m);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  15.9, 42.8 (d, J 158), 53.0 (d, J 6), 53.2 (d, J 6), 67.1, 128.1, 128.2, 128.5, 136.1, 155.6;  $\delta_{\rm P}$  28.6; m/z (ESI) 310 [M<sup>+</sup> + Na].

The absolute configuration of compound 3m was determined to be R by comparison of its optical rotation with a literature value:

Measured optical rotation (80% ee):  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  -15 (*c* 1.0 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>) Lit.<sup>3</sup>  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  -17.5 (*c* 1 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>) for the (*R*)-isomer.

(*R*)-tert-Butyl 1-(dimethoxyphosphoryl)-2-phenylethylcarbamate (3n). Following the general procedure the title compound was obtained as a colourless oil in 83% yield. The ee of the product was determined by HPLC using a Daicel Chiralpak AD-H column (hexane/*i*PrOH 80:20, flow rate 0.75 mL/min,  $t_{maj}$  10.7 min;  $t_{min}$  8.3 min; 84% ee).  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  -22 (*c* 0.73 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta_H$  [some protons show multiple resonances for the presence of different rotamers due to restricted rotation around the C-N bonds] 1.20 (2 H, s), 1.38 (7 H, s), 2.61-2.75 (0.2 H, m), 2.83 (0.8 H, td, *J* 10.2 and 14.5), 3.20 (1 H, ddd, *J* 5.1, 8.9 and 13.7), 3.76 (6 H, d, *J* 10.9), 4.12-4.20 (0.2 H, m), 4.41 (0.8 H, dtd, *J* 4.9, 10.6 and 21.2), 4.49 (0.2 H, br s), 4.68 (0.8 H, br s), 7.19-7.31 (5 H, m);  $\delta_C$  28.1, 36.0, 47.4 (d, *J* 157), 52.9 (d, *J* 7), 53.2 (d, *J* 7), 80.0, 126.7, 128.4, 129.2, 136.5 (d, *J* 12), 155.0;  $\delta_P$  27.8; *m/z* (ESI) 352 [M<sup>+</sup> + Na].

**Preparation of** (*R*)-1-amino-3-phenylpropylphosphonic acid hydrochloride (5). In a test tube equipped with magnetic stirrer bar was placed phosphonate **3b** (0.1 mmol) in HCl 10 M (1.8 mL). The solution was refluxed for 18 h, which was followed by removal of the solvent under reduced pressure. The title compound was obtained as a white solid in 84% yield. The ee of the product was determined by

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> J. E. Hanson, A. K. Kaplan and P. A. Bartlett, *Biochemistry*, 1989, **28**, 6294-6305.

HPLC, after conversion into its N-Cbz dimethyl derivative **3d** according to literature procedure,<sup>4</sup> using a Daicel Chiralpak AD-H column (hexane/*i*PrOH 80:20, flow rate 0.75 mL/min,  $t_{maj}$  12.4 min;  $t_{min}$  14.7 min; 85% ee). mp> 300 °C (dec.);  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  -17 (*c* 0.48 in 1 N NaOH<sub>aq</sub>.);  $\delta_H$  (D<sub>2</sub>O/NaOH) 1.64 (1 H, br s), 2.07 (1 H, br s), 2.47-2.76 (2 H, m), 2.82-3.00 (1 H, m), 7.27 (1 H, br s), 7.37 (4 H, br s);  $\delta_C$  (D<sub>2</sub>O/NaOH) 35.9 (d, *J* 13.5), 37.0, 52.7 (d, *J* 138), 128.8, 131.6, 146.2;  $\delta_P$  (D<sub>2</sub>O/NaOH) 22.0 *m/z* (ESI) 216 [M<sup>+</sup> + H].

Preparation of (*R*)-benzyl 1-(monomethoxyphosphoryl)ethylcarbamate (6). In a test tube equipped with magnetic stirrer bar was placed phosphonate **3m** (0.076 mmol) in NaOH 2 M (0.1 ml). The mixture was stirred at 20 or overnight. After dilution with H<sub>2</sub>O (5 mL), the solution was washed twice with CHCl<sub>3</sub>, acidified with 0.7 mL of concentrated HCl, and extracted 4 times with CHCl<sub>3</sub>. The combined CHCl<sub>3</sub> extracts were dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent was evaporated to give the title compound was obtained as a pale yellow waxy solid in 88% yield. The ee of the product was determined by HPLC, after conversion into its dimethyl derivative **3m** exceeding to literature precedure <sup>4</sup> using a Daigel Chirabely AD H column (havang/iPrOH 00.10, flow rate 0.75

**3m** according to literature procedure,<sup>4</sup> using a Daicel Chiralpak AD-H column (hexane/iPrOH 90:10, flow rate 0.75 mL/min,  $t_{maj}$  13.8 min;  $t_{min}$  17.1 min; 80% ee).  $\delta_{\rm H}$  [some protons show multiple resonances for the presence of different rotamers due to restricted rotation around the C-N bonds] 1.35 (3 H, dd, *J* 7.4 and 17.4), 3.72 (3 H, d, *J* 11.2), 3.92-4.31 (1 H, m), 5.11 (1 H, s), 5.28 (0.85 H, br s), 5.67 (0.15 H, br s), 7.34 (5 H, br s) 8.30 (1 H, br s);  $\delta_{\rm C}$  15.6, 43.0 (d, *J* 161), 52.6 (d, *J* 6), 67.2, 128.1, 128.2, 128.5, 136.1, 155.8;  $\delta_{\rm P}$  [<sup>31</sup>P spectrum shows multiple resonances for the presence of different rotamers due to restricted rotation around the C-N bonds] 28.3 (0.15 P), 28.9 (0.85 P).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> G. D. Joly and E. N. Jacobsen, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2004, **126**, 4102-4103.

Copies of the <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C, <sup>19</sup>F and <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra for compounds **4f**,**4g**, **3b**,**3d-n**, **5** and **6**.

## <sup>1</sup>H NMR

























<sup>13</sup>C NMR











<sup>13</sup>C NMR











<sup>13</sup>C NMR







<sup>13</sup>C NMR











100

50

150





<sup>13</sup>C NMR



0

- 50

-100

-150

ppm



150 100 50 0 -50 -100 -150

ppm