

Highly Enantioselective Organocatalytic Michael Addition of Nitroalkanes to 4-Oxo-Enoates

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1. General methods

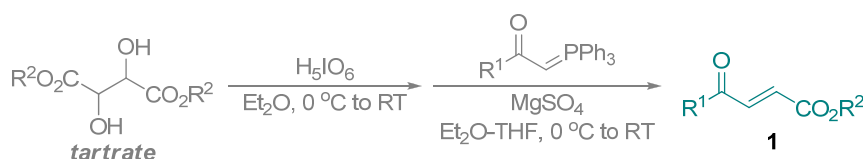
IR was recorded on a Perkin-Elmer PE-983 infrared spectrometer with absorption in cm^{-1} . Melting points were determined on X4 type melting point apparatus and were uncorrected. Proton and carbon nuclear magnetic resonance (^1H & ^{13}C NMR) spectra were recorded on Varian-Mercury 400/600 (400/600 MHz) spectrometers. Chemical shifts (δ) are reported in parts per million (ppm) relative to residual solvent signals (CHCl_3 , 7.26 ppm for ^1H NMR, CDCl_3 , 77.0 ppm for ^{13}C NMR). Data are reported as follows: chemical shift (δ), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, dd = doublet of doublets, dd = doublet of triplets, m = multiplet, brs = broad signal), coupling constants (Hz). Mass spectra were measured on a Finnigan Trace MS spectrometer. Elementary analyses were taken on a Vario EL III elementary analysis instrument. Chromatographic purification of products was accomplished using nitrogen-forced-flow chromatography according to the method of Still.¹ The enantiomeric excess (ee) of the products was determined by chiral stationary phase HPLC. Optical rotations were measured with JASCO P-1020 polarimeter.

2. Materials

Commercial reagents were purified prior to use following the guidelines of Perrin and Armarego.² Flash chromatography was conducted using 60 silica (mesh 230-400). Catalysts **V-I** were prepared according to literature procedures.³

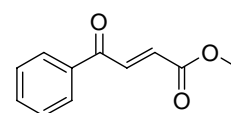
3. Experimental Procedures and Characterizations

Step A.

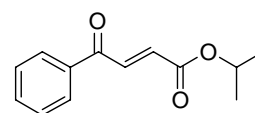


Representative procedure for the preparation of 4-oxo-enoates. Periodic acid dihydrate (10 mmol, 2.28 g) was added in portionwise to a stirred solution of dibenzyl tartrate (10 mmol, 3.30 g) in 20 mL of freshly distilled diethyl ether at RT. After stirred for 3 hours, the suspension was suction-filtrated and the solid was washed with 25 mL of freshly distilled tetrahydrofuran. Magnesium sulfate (3.0 g) was added to the organic phase, and the mixture was then cooled by an ice bath. 30 minutes later, 2-(triphenylphosphoranylidene)acetophenone (15 mmol, 5.71 g) was added and the suspension was allowed to warm slowly to RT. After completed (monitored by TLC analysis), suction filtration and concentration, the residue was subjected to flash chromatography (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 15/1) to afford (*E*)-benzyl 4-phenyl-4-oxo-2-butenate **1d** as a yellow solid in 72% yield (2 steps). *NOTE: 1a* was used as received.

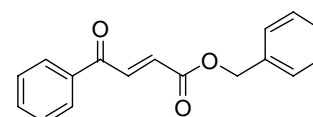
(*E*)-Methyl 4-phenyl-4-oxo-2-butenate (1b). Yellow liquid, 46% yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.00 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 189.3, 165.9, 136.5, 133.8, 132.0, 128.8, 128.8, 52.3; MS (EI) *m/z* 190 (*M*⁺).



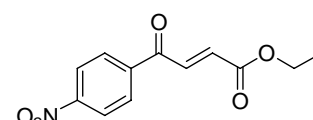
(*E*)-Isopropyl 4-phenyl-4-oxo-2-butenate (1c). Yellow liquid, 67% yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.00 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 5.19-5.13 (m, 1H), 1.33 (s, 3H), 1.32 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 189.4, 164.9, 136.5, 136.0, 133.6, 132.9, 128.7, 68.8, 21.6; MS (EI) *m/z* 219 (*M*⁺+1).



(*E*)-Benzyl 4-phenyl-4-oxo-2-butenate (1d). Yellow solid, 72% yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.99 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.44-7.35 (m, 5H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 5.28 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 189.3, 165.3, 136.7, 136.4, 135.2, 133.8, 132.1, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.4, 128.3, 67.0; MS (EI) *m/z* 266 (*M*⁺).

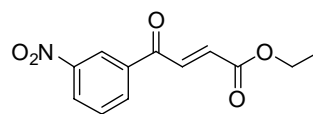


(*E*)-Ethyl 4-(4-nitro-phenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenate (1e). Yellow solid, 65% yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.37 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 8.16 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 4.33 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.37 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C

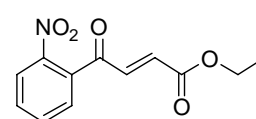


NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 188.1, 165.0, 150.5, 141.0, 135.1, 134.2, 130.0, 124.0, 61.6, 14.1; MS (EI) m/z 249 (M^+).

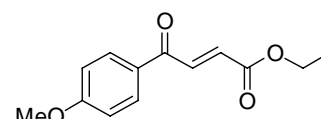
(E)-Ethyl 4-(3-nitro-phenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenolate (1f). Yellow solid, 73% yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.82 (s, 1H), 8.49 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 8.33 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 4.34 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.37 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 187.3, 164.9, 148.4, 137.6, 134.7, 134.1, 134.0, 130.1, 127.8, 123.3, 61.6, 14.0; MS (EI) m/z 249 (M^+).



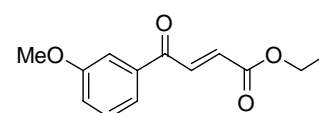
(E)-Ethyl 4-(2-nitro-phenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenolate (1g). Yellow solid, 64% yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.22 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.31 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 191.9, 164.8, 146.2, 139.3, 135.0, 134.5, 132.8, 132.3, 128.5, 124.5, 61.5, 14.0; MS (EI) m/z 249 (M^+).



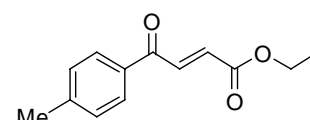
(E)-Ethyl 4-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenolate (1h). Yellow solid, 80% yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.01 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.92 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.87 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 4.30 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 1.37 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 187.4, 165.6, 164.0, 136.3, 132.6, 131.3, 129.5, 114.0, 61.1, 55.4, 14.0; MS (EI) m/z 234 (M^+).



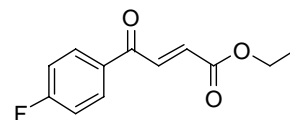
(E)-Ethyl 4-(3-methoxy-phenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenolate (1i). Yellow solid, 75% yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.89 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (s, 1H), 7.42 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 4.31 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 1.36 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 189.1, 165.4, 159.9, 137.8, 136.2, 132.4, 129.7, 121.4, 120.4, 112.6, 61.2, 55.3, 14.0; MS (EI) m/z 234 (M^+).



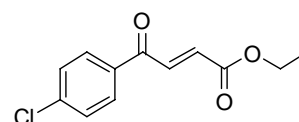
(E)-Ethyl 4-(4-methyl-phenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenolate (1j). Yellow liquid, 77% yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.92-7.90 (m, 3H), 7.31 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.88 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 4.30 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 1.35 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 188.7, 165.5, 144.7, 136.3, 134.0, 132.0, 129.4, 128.8, 61.2, 21.6, 14.1; MS (EI) m/z 218 (M^+).



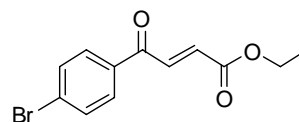
(E)-Ethyl 4-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenolate (1k). Yellow liquid, 73% yield. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 8.05 (dd, $J = 8.4$ and 5.4 Hz, 2H), 7.88 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.19 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 6.89 (d, $J = 16.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.31 (q, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 1.36 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 187.6, 166.8, 165.3, 166.1, 135.8, 132.9, 132.8, 132.6, 131.5, 131.4, 116.0, 115.9, 61.3, 14.0; MS (EI) m/z 222 (M^+).



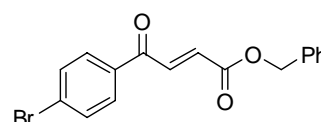
(E)-Ethyl 4-(4-chloro-phenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenolate (1l). Yellow liquid, 69% yield. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.95 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.87 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 6.90 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.31 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.36 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 188.2, 165.4, 140.4, 135.7, 134.9, 133.0, 129.2, 61.4, 14.1; MS (EI) m/z 237 (M^+-1), 239 (M^++1).



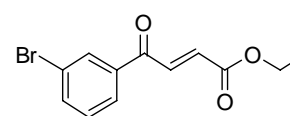
(E)-Ethyl 4-(4-bromo-phenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenolate (1m). Yellow liquid, 74% yield. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.87 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.85 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 6.90 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.31 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.35 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 188.4, 165.3, 135.6, 135.2, 133.0, 132.1, 130.0, 129.2, 61.4, 14.1; MS (EI) m/z 282 (M^+-1), 284 (M^++1).



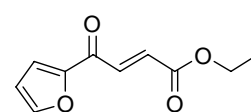
(E)-Benzyl 4-(4-bromo-phenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenolate (1n). Yellow solid, 85% yield. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.88 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 6.94 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H), 5.28 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 188.3, 165.2, 136.1, 135.2, 132.6, 132.2, 130.2, 129.2, 128.2, 128.5, 128.4, 67.2; MS (EI) m/z 344 (M^+-1), 346 (M^++1).



(E)-Ethyl 4-(3-nitro-phenyl)-4-oxo-2-butenolate (1o). Yellow solid, 72% yield. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 8.12 (s, 1H), 7.92 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.31 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.36 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 187.6, 164.9, 138.0, 136.3, 135.2, 132.9, 131.4, 130.1, 127.1, 122.9, 61.2, 13.9; MS (EI) m/z 282 (M^+-1), 284 (M^++1).



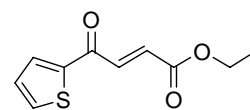
(E)-Ethyl 4-(2-furanyl)-4-oxo-2-butenolate (1p). Yellow solid, 74% yield. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.87 (d, $J = 4.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, $J = 4.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.21 (t, $J = 4.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.31 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.36 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR



(150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 181.0, 165.4, 144.2, 135.8, 135.6, 133.4, 132.0, 128.5, 61.3, 14.1; MS (EI) m/z 194 (M⁺).

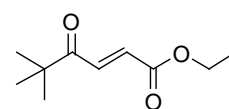
(E)-Ethyl 4-(2-thienyl)-4-oxo-2-butenolate (1q). Yellow solid, 76% yield.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.87 (d, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 4.31 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.36 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 181.0, 165.4, 144.2, 135.8, 135.6, 133.4, 132.0, 128.5, 61.3, 14.1; MS (EI) m/z 210 (M⁺).

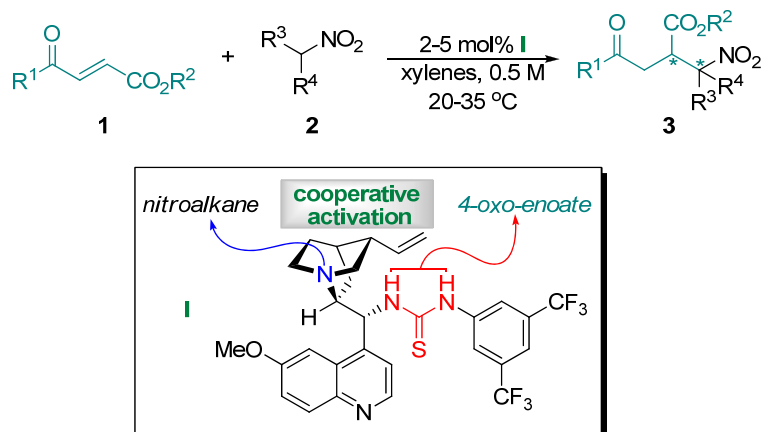


(E)-Ethyl 4-(tert-butyl)-4-oxo-2-butenolate (1r). Colorless liquid, 59% yield.

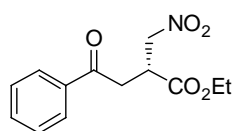
¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.51 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 4.27 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.33 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.20 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 203.0, 165.2, 135.0, 131.1, 60.8, 43.2, 25.4, 13.8; MS (EI) m/z 184 (M⁺).



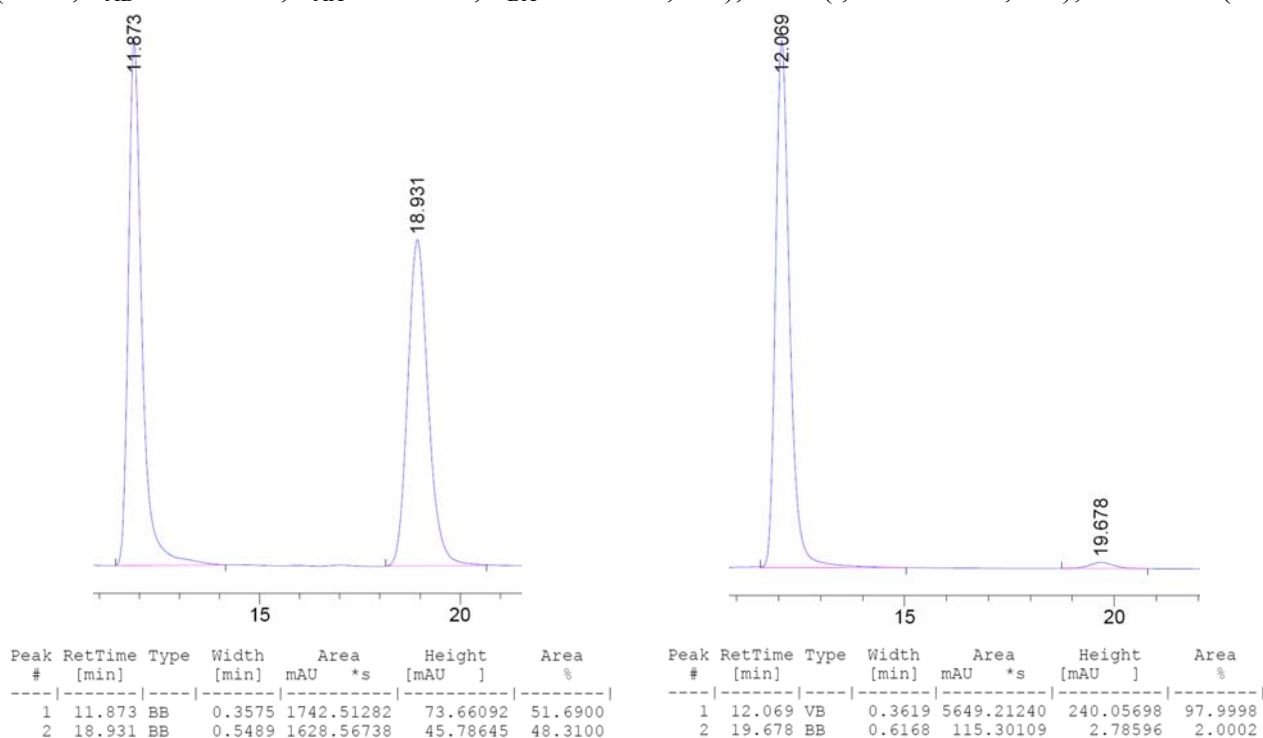
Step B.



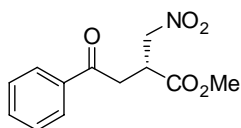
General procedure for the asymmetric nitro-Michael reaction. To a solution of nitroalkane **2** (1.0 mmol or 15 mmol) and 4-oxo-enoate **1** (0.25 or 5 mmol) in xylenes (0.5 mL or 10 mL) was added catalyst **I** at ambient temperature. After completed (monitored by TLC analysis), the mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EA = 4/1 as eluant) to afford the desired product **3**.



(R)-Ethyl 2-(nitromethyl)-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanoate (3a). Prepared according to the general procedure from **1a** (0.25 mmol), **2a** (1.00 mmol), **I** (0.0125 mmol) and xylenes (0.5 mL) at 25 °C for 12 h to provide the title compound as a colorless oil (95% yield, 96% ee). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.96 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 4.87 (ABX, *J*_{AB} = 14.4 Hz, *J*_{AX} = 6.0 Hz, *J*_{BX} = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 4.80 (ABX, *J*_{AB} = 14.4 Hz, *J*_{AX} = 6.0 Hz, *J*_{BX} = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 4.24-4.21 (m, 2H), 3.78-3.74 (m, 1H), 3.61 (ABX, *J*_{AB} = 18.6 Hz, *J*_{AX} = 5.4 Hz, *J*_{BX} = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.39 (ABX, *J*_{AB} = 18.6 Hz, *J*_{AX} = 5.4 Hz, *J*_{BX} = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 1.26 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR(100

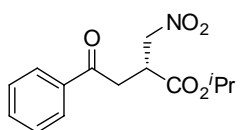
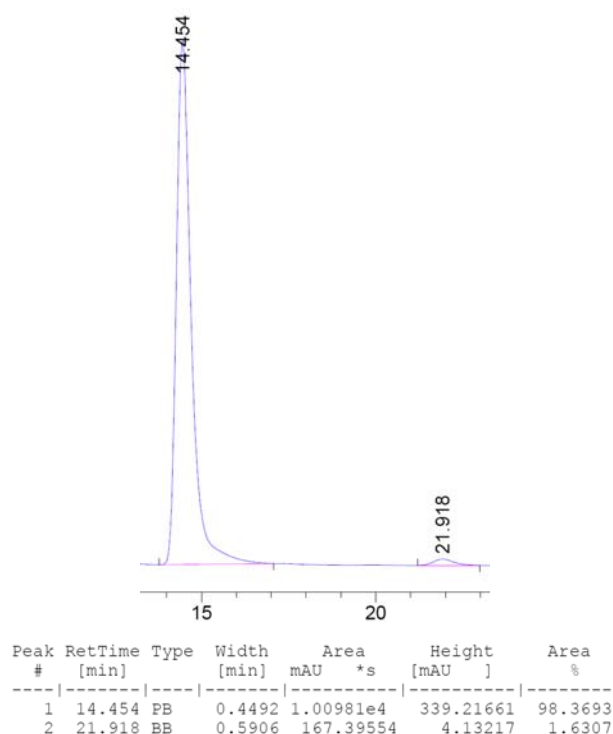
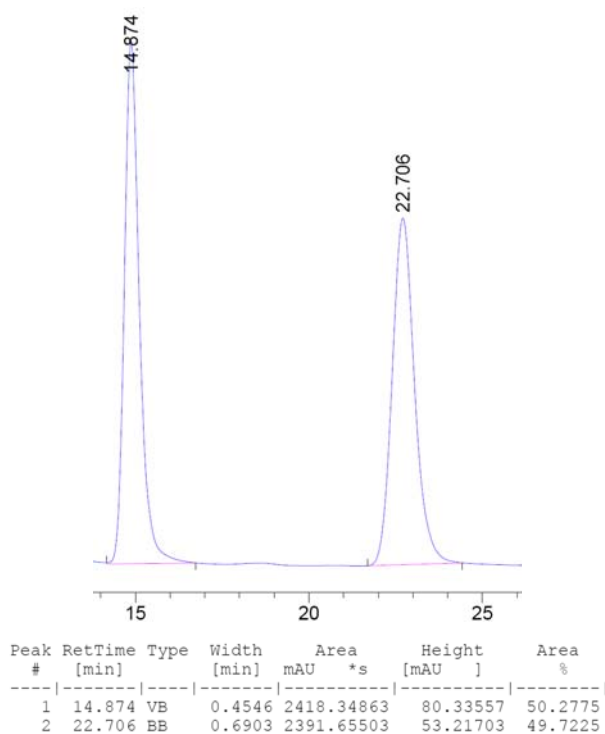


MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 196.4, 170.8, 135.9, 133.8, 128.7, 128.0, 74.7, 61.8, 38.3, 36.9, 13.9; MS (EI) m/z 264 ($M^+ - 1$); *Anal. Calcd.* for C₁₃H₁₅NO₅: C, 58.86; H, 5.70; N, 5.28; Found: C, 58.95; H, 5.57; N, 5.18; [α]_D²⁵ = -3.2 (c = 0.58, CHCl₃); the enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak OD column: hexane/2-propanol = 80/20, 1 mL/min, 254 nm, t_{major} = 12.07 min, t_{minor} = 19.68 min.)



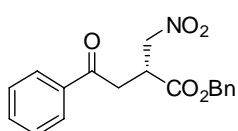
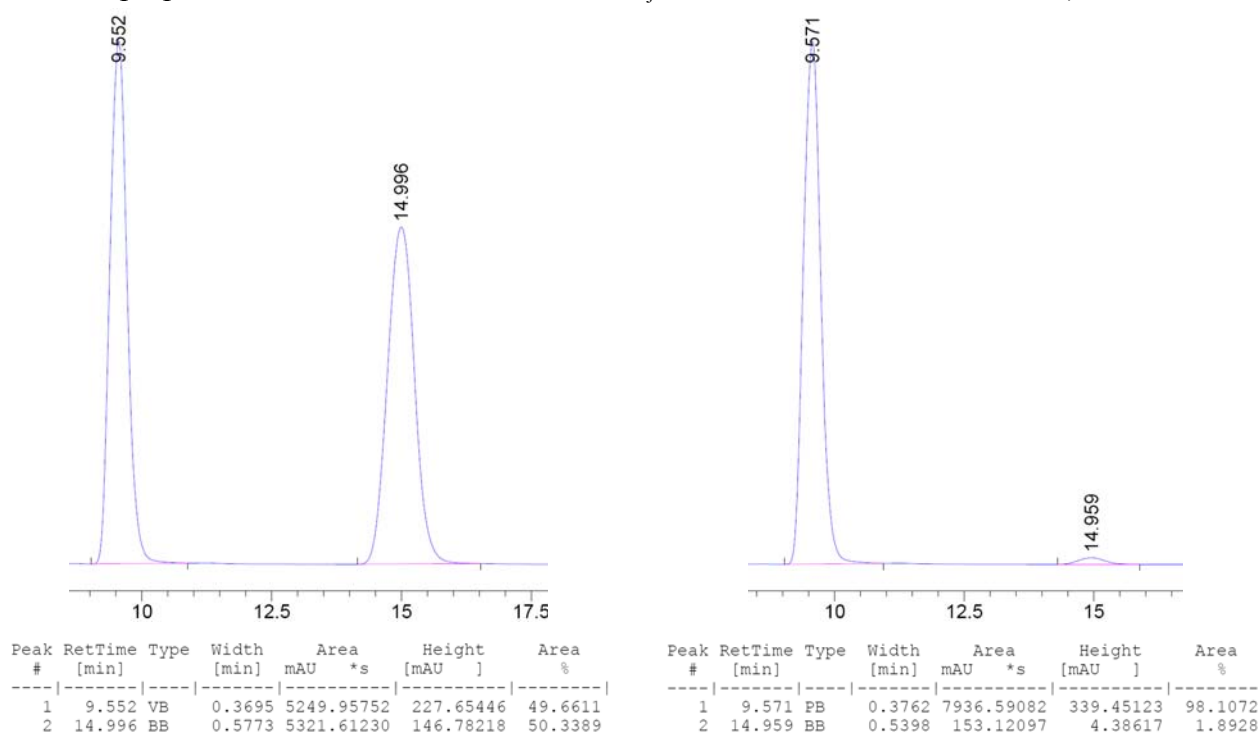
(R)-Methyl 2-(nitromethyl)-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanoate (3b). Prepared according to the general procedure from **1b** (0.25 mmol), **2a** (1.00 mmol), **I** (0.0125 mmol) and xylenes (0.5 mL) at 25 °C for 10 h to provide the title compound as a colorless oil (89% yield, 96% ee). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃)

δ (ppm) 7.96 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 4.88 (ABX, J_{AB} = 14.4 Hz, J_{AX} = 6.0 Hz, J_{BX} = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 4.80 (ABX, J_{AB} = 14.4 Hz, J_{AX} = 6.0 Hz, J_{BX} = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.62 (ABX, J_{AB} = 18.6 Hz, J_{AX} = 5.4 Hz, J_{BX} = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.41 (ABX, J_{AB} = 18.6 Hz, J_{AX} = 5.4 Hz, J_{BX} = 7.2 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 196.3, 171.3, 135.7, 133.8, 128.7, 128.0, 74.6, 38.1, 37.0, 13.9; *Anal. Calcd.* for C₁₂H₁₃NO₅: C, 57.37; H, 5.22; N, 5.58; Found: C, 57.43; H, 5.33; N, 5.47; the enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak OD column: hexane/2-propanol = 80/20, 1 mL/min, 254 nm, t_{major} = 14.45 min, t_{minor} = 21.92 min.)



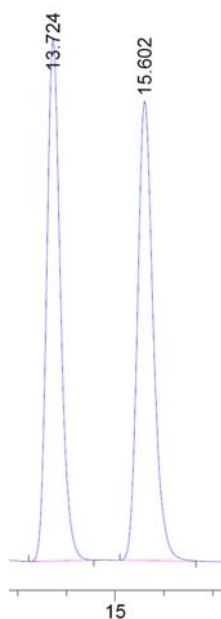
(R)-Isopropyl 2-(nitromethyl)-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanoate (3c). Prepared according to the general procedure from **1c** (0.25 mmol), **2a** (1.00 mmol), **I** (0.0125 mmol) and xylenes (0.5 mL) at 25 °C for 12 h to provide the title compound as a colorless oil (97% yield, 96% ee). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃)

δ (ppm) 7.96 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.61 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 5.10-5.06 (m, 1H), 4.85 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 14.4$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 6.0$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.80 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 14.4$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 6.0$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.74-3.70 (m, 1H), 3.60 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 18.0$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 4.8$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.36 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 18.0$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 4.8$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 1.23 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 196.5, 170.3, 135.9, 133.8, 128.7, 128.0, 74.8, 69.6, 38.5, 36.9, 21.5; *Anal. Calcd.* for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_5$: C, 60.21; H, 6.14; N, 5.02; Found: C, 60.27; H, 6.03; N, 4.95; the enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak OD column: hexane/2-propanol = 80/20, 1 mL/min, 254 nm, $t_{\text{major}} = 9.57$ min, $t_{\text{minor}} = 14.96$ min.)

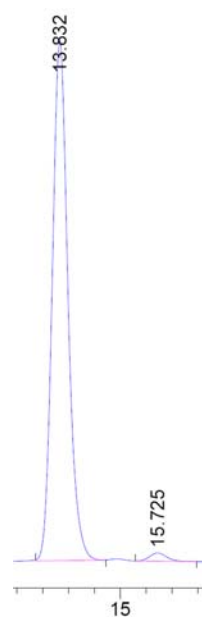


(R)-Benzyl 2-(nitromethyl)-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanoate (3d). Prepared according to the general procedure from **1d** (0.25 mmol), **2a** (1.00 mmol), **I** (0.0125 mmol) and xylenes (0.5 mL) at 25 °C for 12 h to provide the title compound as a colorless oil (98% yield, 96% ee). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3)

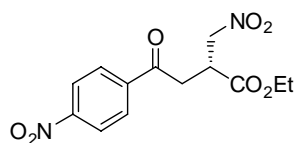
δ (ppm) 7.94 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.60 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.34 (br, 5H), 5.19 (s, 2H), 4.88 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 14.4$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 5.4$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 4.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.81 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 14.4$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 5.4$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 4.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.82 (br, 1H), 3.63 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 18.6$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 4.8$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.40 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 18.6$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 4.8$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 6.0$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 196.4, 170.7, 135.8, 135.0, 133.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.2, 128.0, 67.6, 38.3, 36.9; *Anal. Calcd.* for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_5$: C, 66.05; H, 5.23; N, 4.28; Found: C, 66.12; H, 5.19; N, 4.17; the enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak AD column: hexane/2-propanol = 80/20, 1 mL/min, 254 nm, $t_{\text{major}} = 13.70$ min, $t_{\text{minor}} = 15.59$ min.)



Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU*s	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	13.724	VB	0.2999	2581.40430	131.78053	49.8474
2	15.602	PB	0.3431	2597.21069	115.85150	50.1526

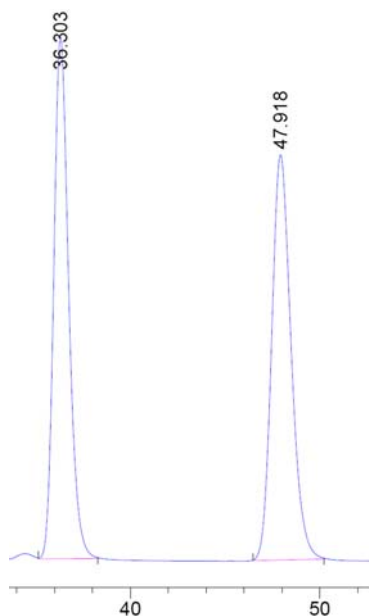


Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU*s	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	13.702	VV	0.3091	984.35724	49.21328	98.1922
2	15.590	MM	0.3948	18.12283	7.64977e-1	1.8078

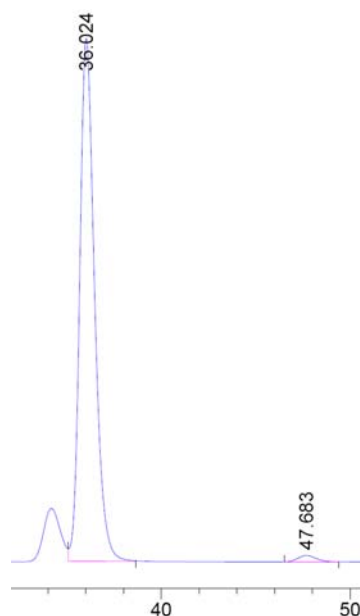


(R)-Ethyl 2-(nitromethyl)-4-(4-nitrophenyl)-4-oxobutanoate (3e).

Prepared according to the general procedure from **1e** (0.25 mmol), **2a** (1.00 mmol), **1** (0.0125 mmol) and xylenes (0.5 mL) at 25 °C for 8 h to provide the title compound as a colorless oil (94% yield, 97% ee). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.34 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 8.14 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.86 (dd, *J* = 5.4 and 1.8 Hz, 2H), 4.26-4.21 (m, 2H), 3.81-3.76 (m, 1H), 3.69 (ABX, *J*_{AB} = 18.6 Hz, *J*_{AX} = *J*_{BX} = 6.0 Hz, 1H),

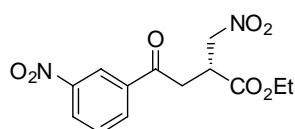


Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU*s	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	36.303	VB	0.8361	4721.67383	86.52353	49.6823
2	47.918	BB	1.0906	4782.06543	67.22177	50.3177



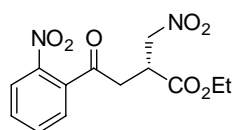
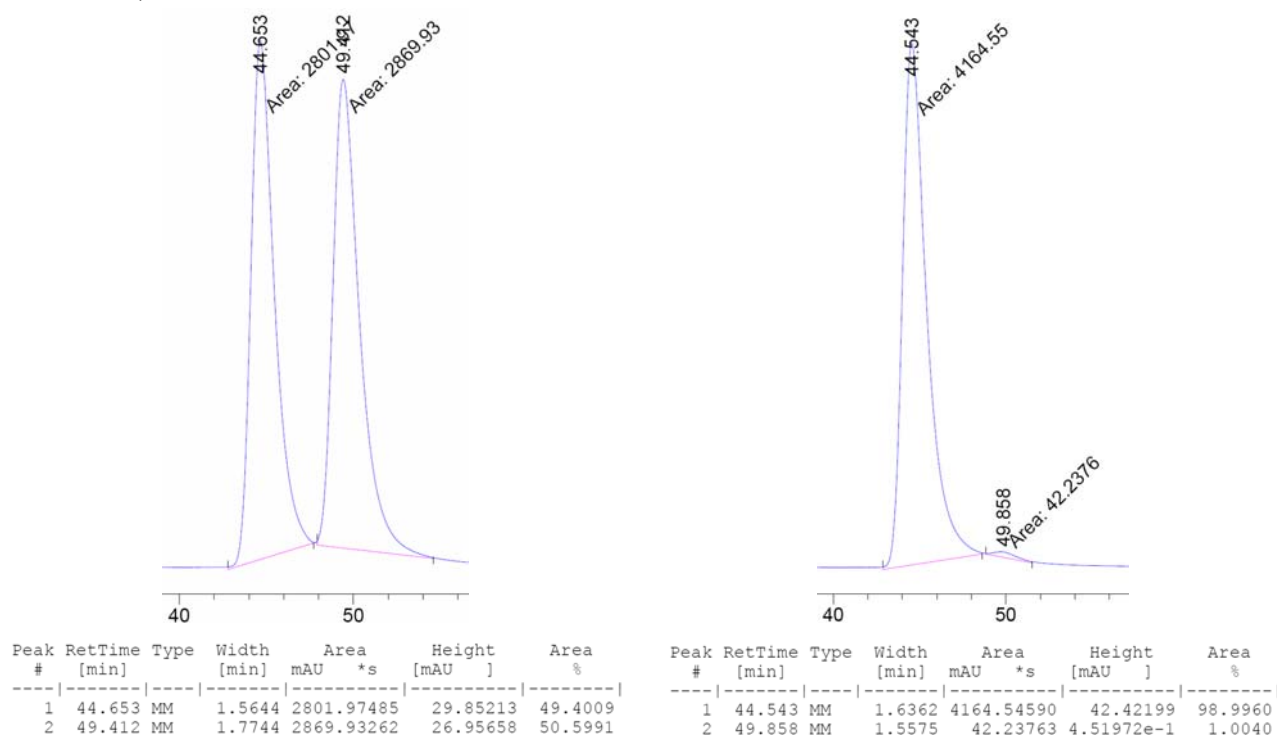
Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU*s	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	36.024	VB	0.8296	1.76288e4	324.16568	98.4952
2	47.683	BB	1.0359	269.32166	3.97075	1.5048

3.40 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 18.6$ Hz, $J_{AX} = J_{BX} = 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 1.27 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 195.3, 170.3, 150.6, 140.2, 129.2, 124.0, 74.6, 62.1, 38.3, 37.4, 13.9; *Anal. Calcd.* for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{O}_7$: C, 50.33; H, 4.55; N, 9.03; Found: C, 50.47; H, 4.36; N, 8.88; the enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak AD column: hexane/2-propanol = 80/20, 1 mL/min, 254 nm, $t_{\text{major}} = 36.02$ min, $t_{\text{minor}} = 47.68$ min.)



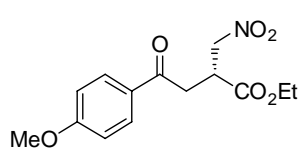
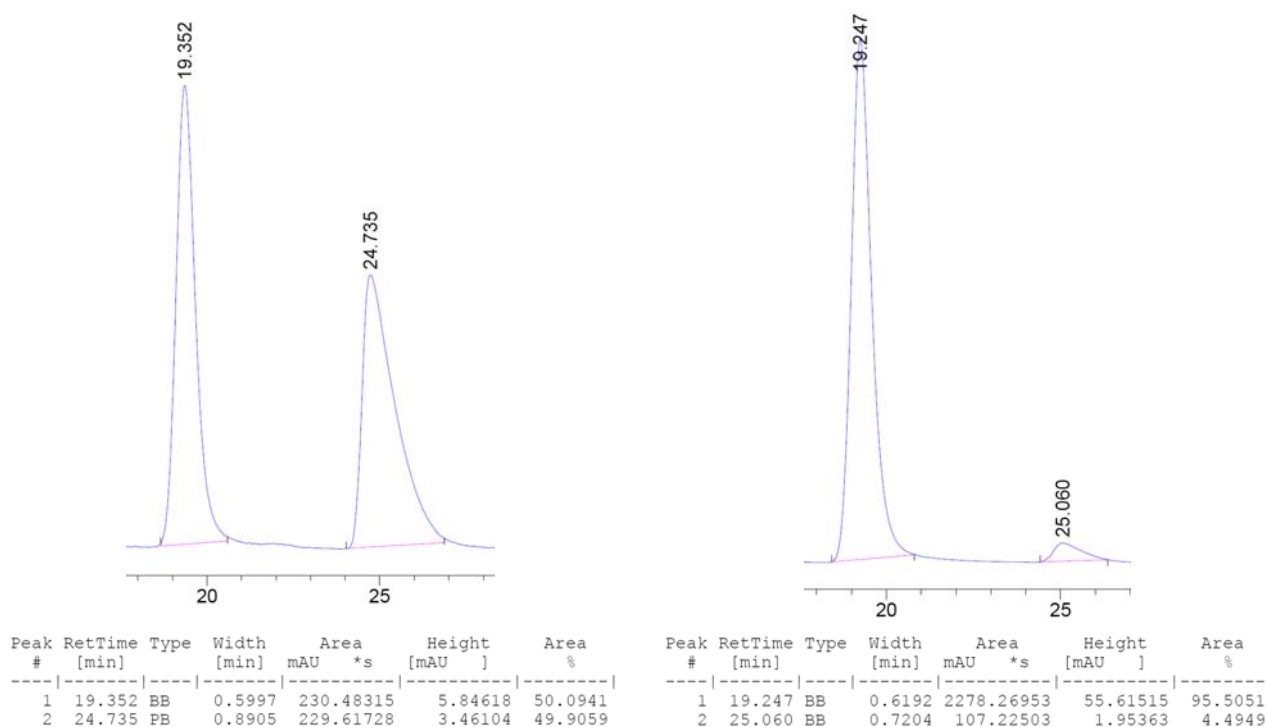
(R)-Ethyl 2-(nitromethyl)-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-4-oxobutanoate (3f).

Prepared according to the general procedure from **1f** (0.25 mmol), **2a** (1.00 mmol), **I** (0.0125 mmol) and xylenes (0.5 mL) at 25 °C for 4 h to provide the title compound as a colorless oil (95% yield, 98% ee). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 8.78 (s, 1H), 8.46 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.31 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.90 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 14.4$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 6.0$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.85 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 14.4$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 6.0$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.26-4.20 (m, 2H), 3.83-3.79 (m, 1H), 3.71 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 18.0$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 5.4$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.44 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 18.0$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 5.4$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 1.27 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 194.6, 170.3, 148.4, 137.0, 133.6, 130.1, 127.9, 122.9, 74.6, 62.0, 38.2, 37.2, 13.9; *Anal. Calcd.* for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{O}_7$: C, 50.33; H, 4.55; N, 9.03; Found: C, 50.29; H, 4.48; N, 8.54; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} = -6.2$ ($c = 2.5$, CHCl_3); the enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak OD column: hexane/2-propanol = 80/20, 1 mL/min, 254 nm, $t_{\text{major}} = 44.54$ min, $t_{\text{minor}} = 49.86$ min.)



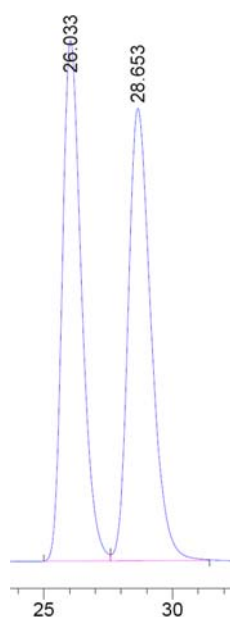
(R)-Ethyl 2-(nitromethyl)-4-(2-nitrophenyl)-4-oxobutanoate (3g). Prepared according to the general procedure from **1g** (0.25 mmol), **2a** (1.00 mmol), **I** (0.0125 mmol) and xylenes (0.5 mL) at 25 °C for 20 h to provide the title compound as a colorless oil (65% yield, 91% ee). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3)

δ (ppm) 8.16 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.78 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.65 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.94-4.88 (m, 2H), 4.27-4.23 (m, 2H), 3.80-3.76 (m, 1H), 3.42 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 18.6$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 4.8$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.29 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 18.6$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 4.8$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 1.29 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 199.2, 170.5, 145.3, 136.8, 134.6, 130.9, 127.3, 124.6, 73.9, 62.0, 41.2, 38.0, 13.9; *Anal. Calcd.* for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{O}_7$: C, 50.33; H, 4.55; N, 9.03; Found: C, 50.23; H, 4.66; N, 8.95; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} = 13.8$ ($c = 2.1$, CHCl_3); the enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak OD column: hexane/2-propanol = 80/20, 1 mL/min, 254 nm, $t_{\text{major}} = 19.25$ min, $t_{\text{minor}} = 25.06$ min.)

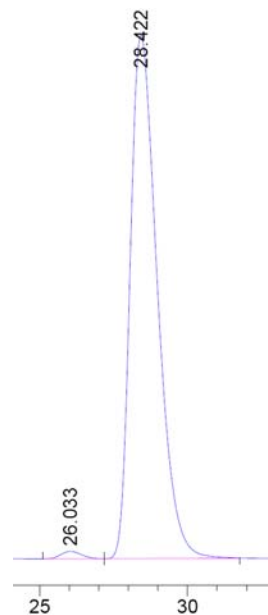


(R)-Ethyl 4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(nitromethyl)-4-oxobutanoate (3h).

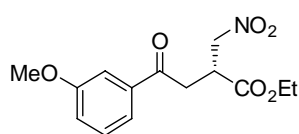
Prepared according to the general procedure from **1h** (0.25 mmol), **2a** (1.00 mmol), **1** (0.0125 mmol) and xylenes (0.5 mL) at 25 °C for 14 h to provide the title compound as a colorless oil (84% yield, 98% ee). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.94 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 6.95 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 4.86 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 14.4$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 6.6$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.76 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 14.4$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 6.6$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.23-4.20 (m, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.76-3.72 (m, 1H), 3.55 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 18.0$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 4.8$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.34 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 18.0$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 4.8$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 1.26 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 194.8, 171.0, 163.9, 130.4, 128.9, 113.9, 74.8, 61.8, 55.5, 38.4, 36.5, 13.9; *Anal. Calcd.* for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_6$: C, 56.94; H, 5.80; N, 4.74; Found: C, 57.01; H, 5.76; N, 4.67; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} = 4.4$ ($c = 1.3$, CHCl_3); the enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak AS column: hexane/2-propanol = 75/25, 1 mL/min, 254 nm, $t_{\text{minor}} = 26.03$ min, $t_{\text{major}} = 28.42$ min.)



Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU	Area *s	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	26.033	BV	0.8039	4663.16211		89.36094	49.2968
2	28.653	VB	0.9511	4796.20361		77.60720	50.7032

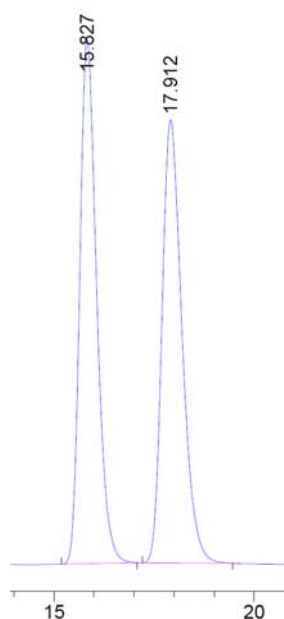


Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU	Area *s	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	26.033	PP	0.7567	139.90353		2.90647	1.0828
2	28.422	VB	0.9737	1.27811e4		201.30963	98.9172

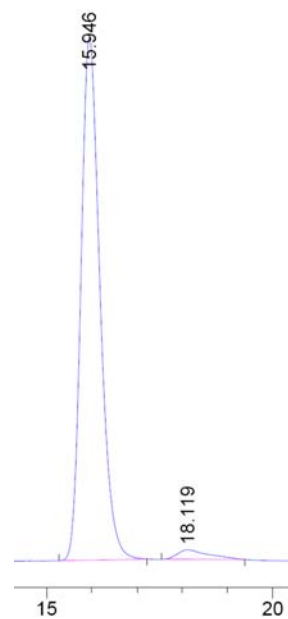


(R)-Ethyl 4-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2-(nitromethyl)-4-oxobutanoate (3i).

Prepared according to the general procedure from **1i** (0.25 mmol), **2a** (1.00 mmol), **1** (0.0125 mmol) and xylenes (0.5 mL) at 25 °C for 14 h to provide the title compound as a colorless oil (91% yield, 94% ee). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.54 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (s, 1H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.87 (ABX, *J*_{AB} = 14.4 Hz, *J*_{AX} = 6.0 Hz, *J*_{BX} = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 4.79 (ABX, *J*_{AB} = 14.4 Hz, *J*_{AX} = 6.0 Hz, *J*_{BX} = 5.4

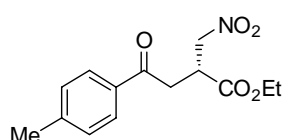


Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU	Area *s	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	15.827	BB	0.4481	2569.52319		88.07060	49.9596
2	17.912	BB	0.5313	2573.68335		74.46767	50.0404

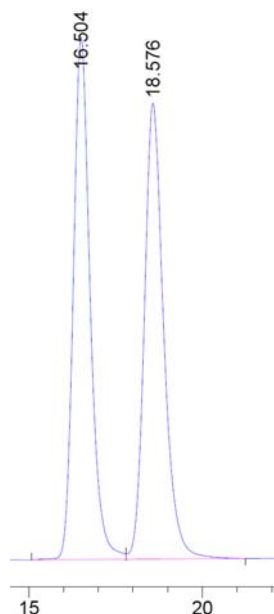


Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU	Area *s	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	15.946	BB	0.4465	1541.16003		53.07421	97.0157
2	18.119	BB	0.5988	47.40838		9.78347e-1	2.9843

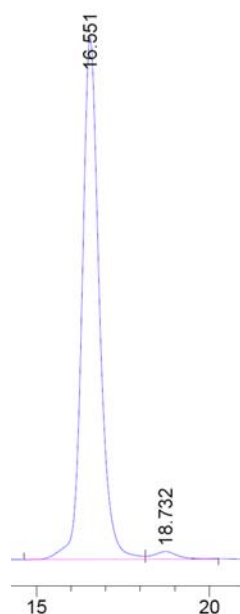
Hz, 1H), 4.24-4.20 (m, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.77-3.73 (m, 1H), 3.59 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 18.0$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 4.8$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.38 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 18.0$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 4.8$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.26 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 196.3, 170.8, 159.8, 137.1, 129.7, 120.6, 120.2, 112.2, 74.7, 61.8, 55.4, 38.3, 37.1, 13.9; *Anal. Calcd.* for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_6$: C, 56.94; H, 5.80; N, 4.74; Found: C, 57.02; H, 5.85; N, 4.47; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} = 1.4$ ($c = 3.0$, CHCl_3); the enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak AS column: hexane/2-propanol = 75/25, 1 mL/min, 254 nm, $t_{\text{major}} = 15.95$ min, $t_{\text{minor}} = 18.12$ min.)



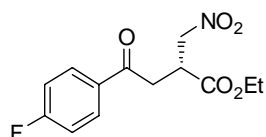
(R)-Ethyl 2-(nitromethyl)-4-oxo-4-p-tolylbutanoate (3j). Prepared according to the general procedure from **1j** (0.25 mmol), **2a** (1.00 mmol), **I** (0.0125 mmol) and xylenes (0.5 mL) at 25 °C for 7 h to provide the title compound as a colorless oil (93% yield, 96% ee). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.86 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 4.86 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 14.4$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 6.0$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.79 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 14.4$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 6.0$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.24-4.19 (m, 2H), 3.76-3.73 (m, 1H), 3.58 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 18.0$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 4.8$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.36 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 18.0$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 4.8$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 1.26 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 196.0, 170.9, 144.7, 133.4, 129.4, 128.2, 74.7, 61.8, 38.4, 36.8, 21.7, 13.9; *Anal. Calcd.* for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_5$: C, 60.21; H, 6.14; N, 5.02; Found: C, 60.27; H, 6.09; N, 4.96; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} = 6.3$ ($c = 1.6$, CHCl_3); the enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak OD column: hexane/2-propanol = 90/10, 1 mL/min, 254 nm, $t_{\text{major}} = 16.55$ min, $t_{\text{minor}} = 18.73$ min.)



Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU	Area *s	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	16.504	PV	0.5080	8080.30713		240.76898	49.8324
2	18.576	VB	0.5860	8134.66699		209.93437	50.1676

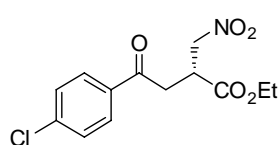
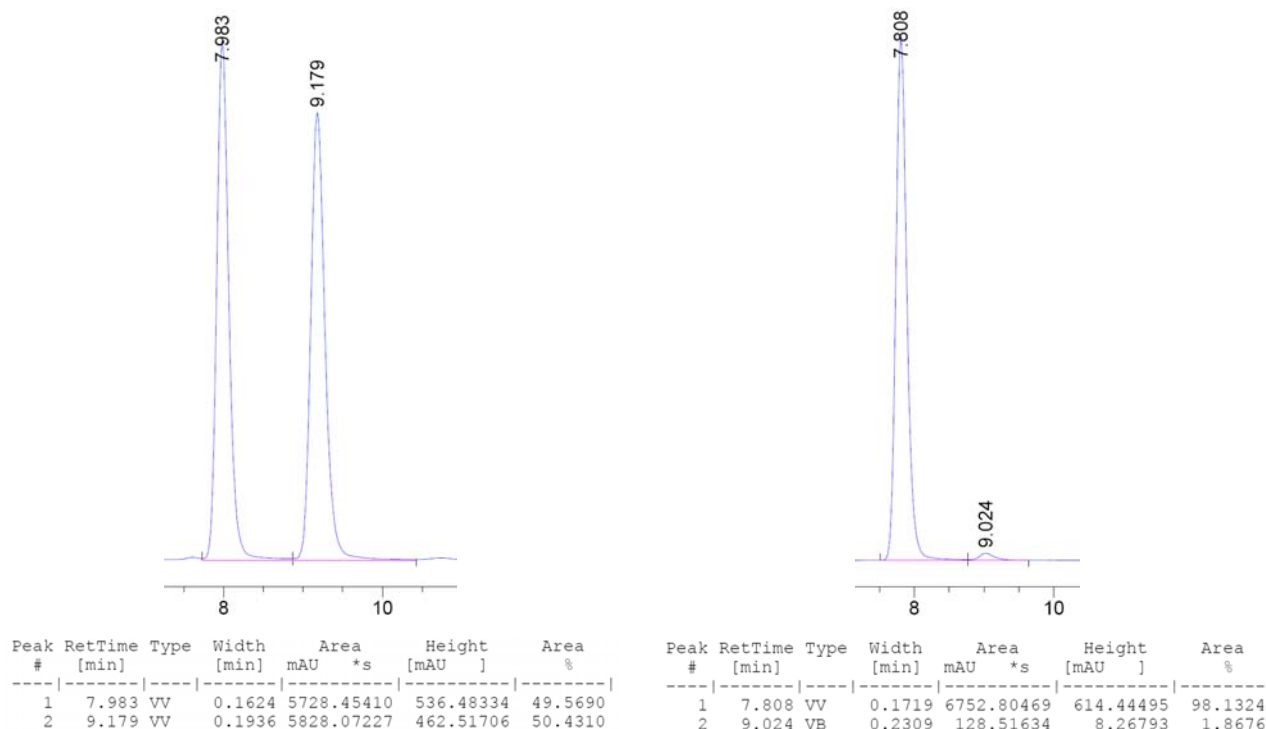


Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU	Area *s	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	16.551	VV	0.5234	9616.66797		275.69974	97.9705
2	18.732	VB	0.7024	199.21292		4.08860	2.0295



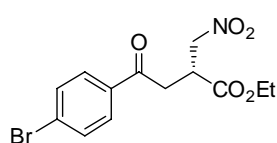
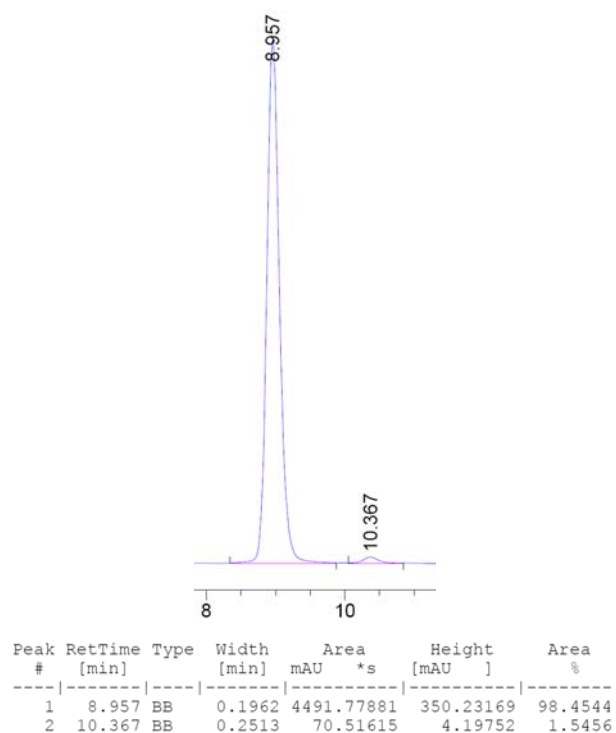
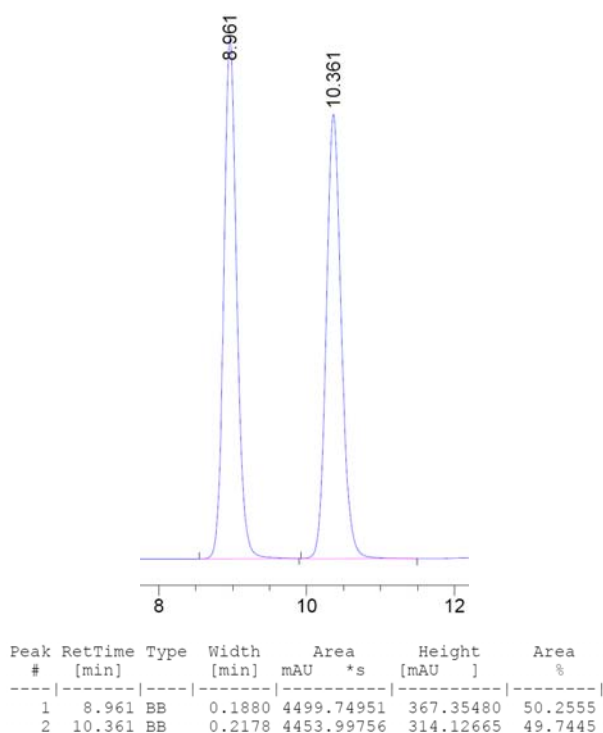
(R)-Ethyl 4-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(nitromethyl)-4-oxobutanoate (3k). Prepared according to the general procedure from **1k** (0.25 mmol), **2a** (1.00 mmol), **I** (0.0125 mmol) and xylenes (0.5 mL) at 25 °C for 8 h to provide the

title compound as a colorless oil (93% yield, 96% ee). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 8.00 (d, $J = 8.4$ and 5.4 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (t, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2H), 4.86 (ABX, $J_{\text{AB}} = 14.4$ Hz, $J_{\text{AX}} = 6.0$ Hz, $J_{\text{BX}} = 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.81 (ABX, $J_{\text{AB}} = 14.4$ Hz, $J_{\text{AX}} = 6.0$ Hz, $J_{\text{BX}} = 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.25-4.19 (m, 2H), 3.77-3.73 (m, 1H), 3.59 (ABX, $J_{\text{AB}} = 18.0$ Hz, $J_{\text{AX}} = 5.4$ Hz, $J_{\text{BX}} = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.35 (ABX, $J_{\text{AB}} = 18.0$ Hz, $J_{\text{AX}} = 5.4$ Hz, $J_{\text{BX}} = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.26 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 194.9, 170.7, 166.9, 165.2, 132.3, 132.3, 130.8, 130.7, 116.0, 115.8, 74.7, 61.9, 38.3, 36.8, 13.9; *Anal. Calcd.* for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{14}\text{FNO}_5$: C, 55.12; H, 4.98; N, 4.94; Found: C, 55.03; H, 4.89; N, 4.78; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} = -4.6$ ($c = 1.0$, CHCl_3); the enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak AD column: hexane/2-propanol = 70/30, 1 mL/min, 254 nm, $t_{\text{major}} = 7.81$ min, $t_{\text{minor}} = 9.02$ min.)



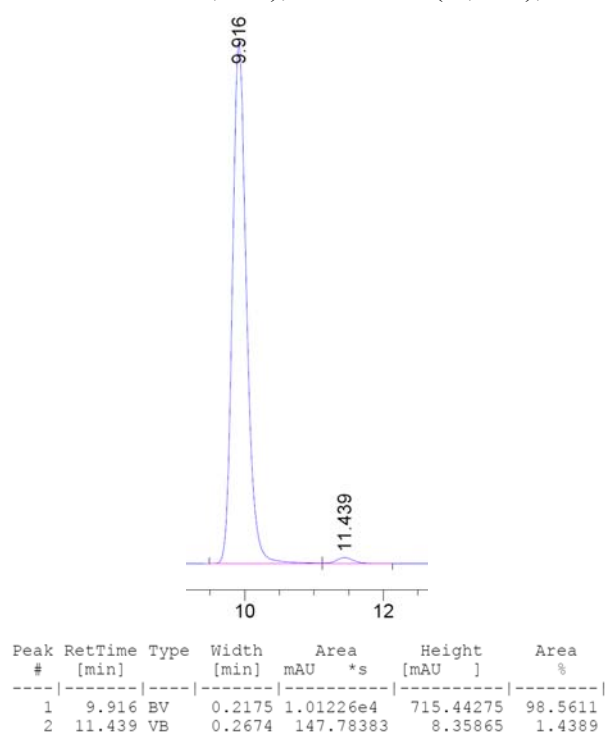
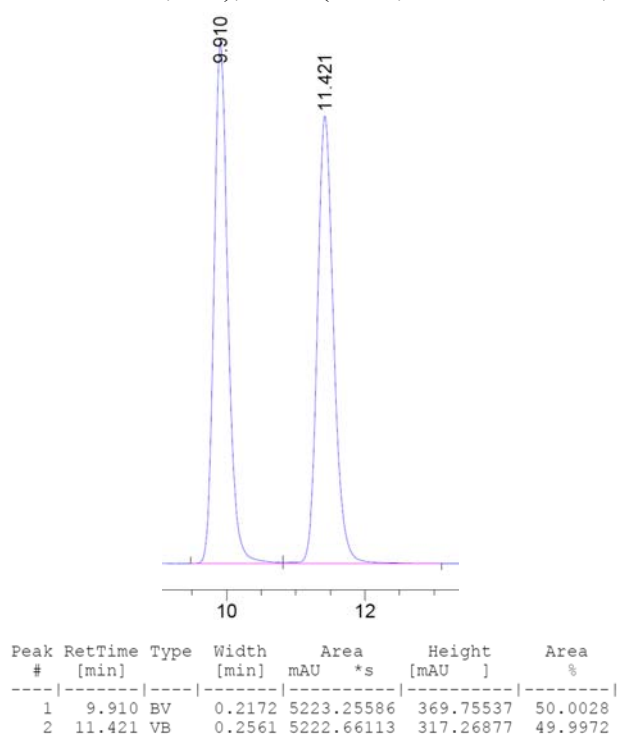
(R)-Ethyl 4-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(nitromethyl)-4-oxobutanoate (3l).

Prepared according to the general procedure from **1l** (0.25 mmol), **2a** (1.00 mmol), **1** (0.0125 mmol) and xylenes (0.5 mL) at 25 °C for 6 h to provide the title compound as a colorless oil (96% yield, 97% ee). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.91 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.47 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 4.86 (ABX, $J_{\text{AB}} = 14.4$ Hz, $J_{\text{AX}} = J_{\text{BX}} = 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.81 (ABX, $J_{\text{AB}} = 14.4$ Hz, $J_{\text{AX}} = J_{\text{BX}} = 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.25-4.20 (m, 2H), 3.76-3.72 (m, 1H), 3.59 (ABX, $J_{\text{AB}} = 18.0$ Hz, $J_{\text{AX}} = 4.8$ Hz, $J_{\text{BX}} = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.34 (ABX, $J_{\text{AB}} = 18.0$ Hz, $J_{\text{AX}} = 4.8$ Hz, $J_{\text{BX}} = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.26 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 195.3, 170.6, 140.2, 134.2, 129.4, 129.0, 74.7, 61.9, 38.3, 36.9, 13.9; *Anal. Calcd.* for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{14}\text{ClNO}_5$: C, 52.10; H, 4.71; N, 4.67; Found: C, 52.15; H, 4.73; N, 4.55; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} = 4.65$ ($c = 2.28$, CHCl_3); the enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak AD column: hexane/2-propanol = 70/30, 1 mL/min, 254 nm, $t_{\text{major}} = 8.96$ min, $t_{\text{minor}} = 10.37$ min.)

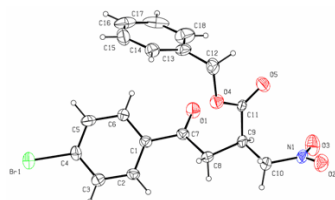


(R)-Ethyl 4-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(nitromethyl)-4-oxobutanoate (3m).

Prepared according to the general procedure from **1m** (0.25 mmol), **2a** (1.00 mmol), **1** (0.0125 mmol) and xylenes (0.5 mL) at 25 °C for 8 h to provide the title compound as a colorless oil (91% yield, 97% ee). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.86 (ABX, *J*_{AB} = 14.4 Hz, *J*_{AX} = *J*_{BX} = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 4.81 (ABX, *J*_{AB} = 14.4 Hz, *J*_{AX} = *J*_{BX} = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 4.25-4.19 (m, 2H), 3.76-



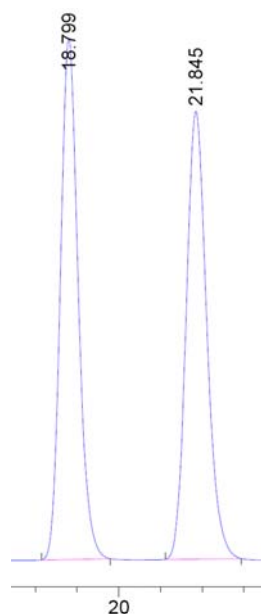
3.72 (m, 1H), 3.58 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 18.6$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 5.4$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.33 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 18.6$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 5.4$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.26 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 195.5, 170.1, 134.5, 132.0, 129.5, 129.0, 74.7, 61.9, 38.2, 36.8, 13.9; *Anal. Calcd.* for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{14}\text{BrNO}_5$: C, 45.37; H, 4.10; N, 4.07; Found: C, 45.29; H, 4.17; N, 3.98; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} = 5.0$ ($c = 1.0$, CHCl_3); the enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak AD column: hexane/2-propanol = 70/30, 1 mL/min, 254 nm, $t_{\text{major}} = 9.92$ min, $t_{\text{minor}} = 11.44$ min.)



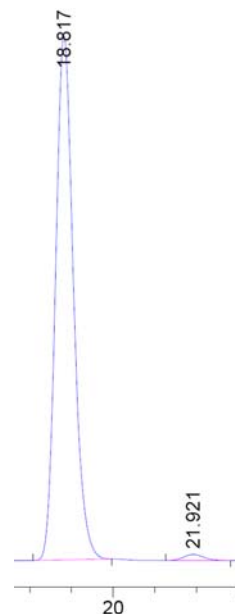
(R)-Benzyl 4-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(nitromethyl)-4-oxobutanoate (3n).

Prepared according to the general procedure from **1n** (0.50 mmol), **2a** (2.00 mmol), **I** (0.025 mmol) and xylenes (1.0 mL) at 25 °C for 10 h to provide the title compound as a white solid (85% yield, 97% ee). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.79 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.35-7.26 (m, 5H), 5.18 (s, 2H), 4.86 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 14.4$ Hz,

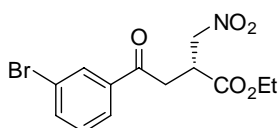
$J_{AX} = 4.8$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.82 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 14.4$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 4.8$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 6.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.82-3.78 (m, 1H), 3.58 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 18.6$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 5.4$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.34 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 18.6$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 5.4$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 6.6$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 195.4, 170.5, 134.9, 134.5, 132.0, 129.0, 128.6, 128.5, 128.2, 74.6, 67.6, 38.3, 36.8; *Anal. Calcd.* for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{BrNO}_5$: C, 53.22; H, 3.97; N, 3.45; Found: C, 53.26; H, 3.89; N, 3.37; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{16} = -6.3$ ($c = 0.89$, CH_2Cl_2); the enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak AD column: hexane/2-propanol = 80/20, 1 mL/min, 254 nm, $t_{\text{major}} = 18.82$ min, $t_{\text{minor}} = 21.92$ min.)



Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU	Area *s	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	18.799	BB	0.4544	1770.99316		60.10022	50.0679
2	21.845	BB	0.5271	1766.18652		51.64923	49.9321



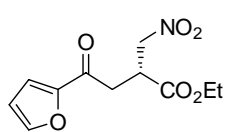
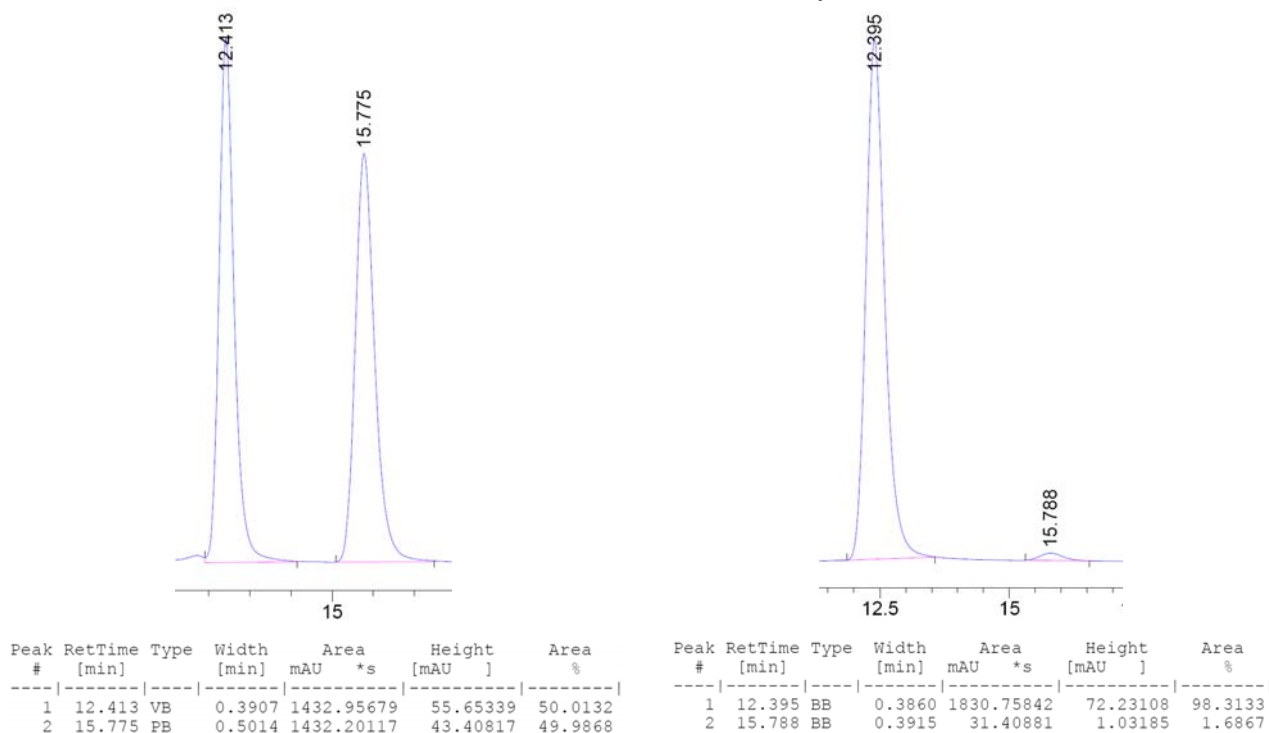
Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU	Area *s	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	18.817	PB	0.4566	2.59765e4		876.08905	98.7013
2	21.921	BB	0.5253	341.79984		10.15180	1.2987



(R)-Ethyl 4-(3-bromophenyl)-2-(nitromethyl)-4-oxobutanoate (3o).

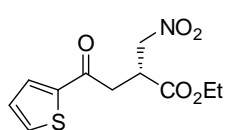
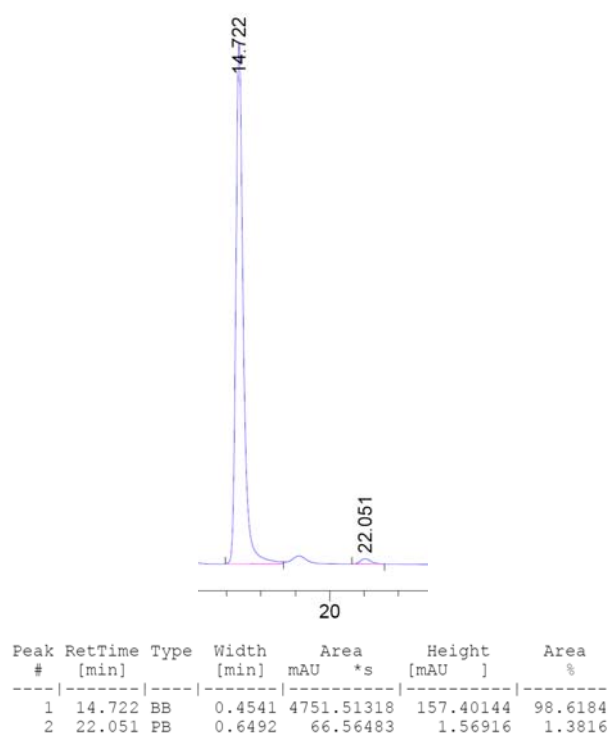
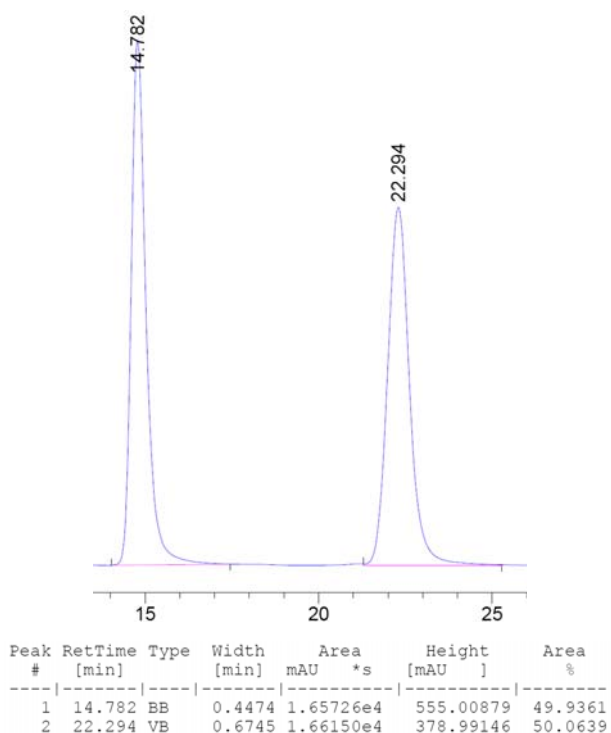
Prepared according to the general procedure from **1n** (0.50 mmol), **2a** (2.00 mmol), **I** (0.025 mmol) and xylenes (1.0 mL) at 25 °C for 4 h to provide the

title compound as a colorless oil (90% yield, 97% ee). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 8.09 (s, 1H), 7.89 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.86 (ABX, $J_{\text{AB}} = 14.4$ Hz, $J_{\text{AX}} = J_{\text{BX}} = 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.81 (ABX, $J_{\text{AB}} = 14.4$ Hz, $J_{\text{AX}} = J_{\text{BX}} = 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.25-4.20 (m, 2H), 3.77-3.73 (m, 1H), 3.59 (ABX, $J_{\text{AB}} = 18.0$ Hz, $J_{\text{AX}} = 6.0$ Hz, $J_{\text{BX}} = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.35 (ABX, $J_{\text{AB}} = 18.0$ Hz, $J_{\text{AX}} = 6.0$ Hz, $J_{\text{BX}} = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.26 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 195.2, 170.5, 137.5, 136.6, 131.1, 130.3, 126.6, 123.1, 74.6, 61.9, 38.2, 37.0, 13.9; *Anal. Calcd.* for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{14}\text{BrNO}_5$: C, 45.37; H, 4.10; N, 4.07; Found: C, 45.33; H, 4.21; N, 4.00; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} = -2.5$ ($c = 2.5$, CHCl_3); the enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak OD column: hexane/2-propanol = 80/20, 1 mL/min, 254 nm, $t_{\text{major}} = 12.40$ min, $t_{\text{minor}} = 15.79$ min.)



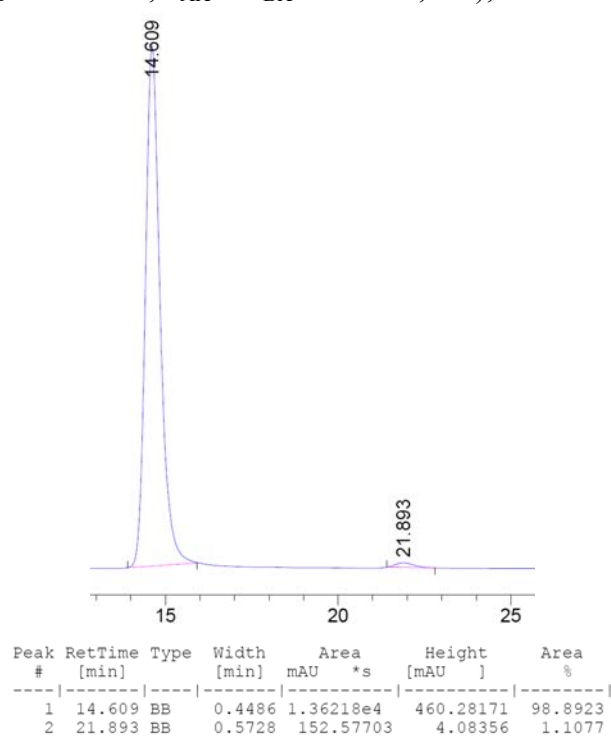
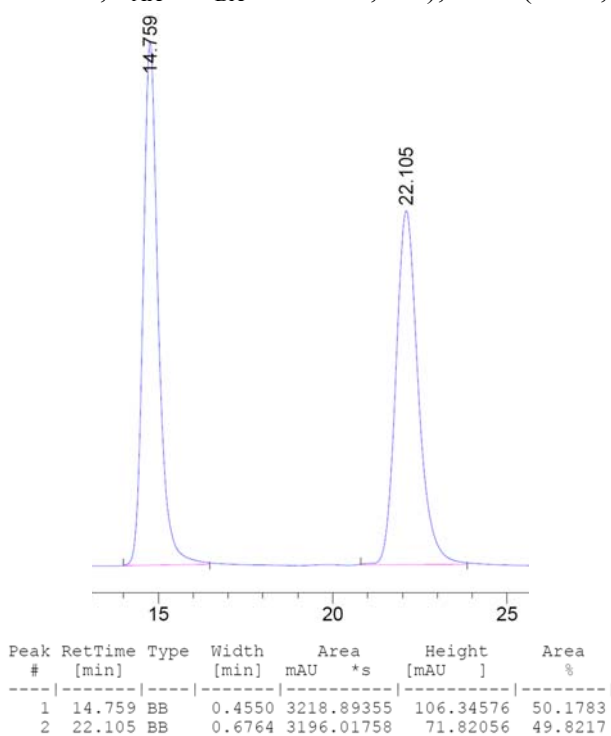
(R)-Ethyl 4-(furan-2-yl)-2-(nitromethyl)-4-oxobutanoate (3p). Prepared

according to the general procedure from **1n** (0.50 mmol), **2a** (2.00 mmol), **I** (0.025 mmol) and xylenes (1.0 mL) at 25 °C for 6 h to provide the title compound as a colorless oil (92% yield, 97% ee). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.76 (br, 1H), 7.69 (d, $J = 4.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.15 (br, 1H), 4.85 (ABX, $J_{\text{AB}} = 14.4$ Hz, $J_{\text{AX}} = 6.0$ Hz, $J_{\text{BX}} = 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.80 (ABX, $J_{\text{AB}} = 14.4$ Hz, $J_{\text{AX}} = 6.0$ Hz, $J_{\text{BX}} = 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.24-4.18 (m, 2H), 3.74-3.71 (m, 1H), 3.55 (ABX, $J_{\text{AB}} = 18.0$ Hz, $J_{\text{AX}} = 5.4$ Hz, $J_{\text{BX}} = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.32 (ABX, $J_{\text{AB}} = 18.0$ Hz, $J_{\text{AX}} = 5.4$ Hz, $J_{\text{BX}} = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.24 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 189.2, 170.6, 142.8, 134.5, 132.6, 128.3, 74.6, 61.9, 38.3, 37.4, 13.9; *Anal. Calcd.* for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}_6$: C, 51.77; H, 5.13; N, 5.49; Found: C, 51.90; H, 5.08; N, 5.37; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} = -1.3$ ($c = 2.6$, CHCl_3); the enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak OD column: hexane/2-propanol = 80/20, 1 mL/min, 254 nm, $t_{\text{major}} = 14.72$ min, $t_{\text{minor}} = 22.05$ min.)

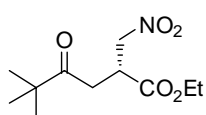


(R)-Ethyl 2-(nitromethyl)-4-oxo-4-(thiophen-2-yl)butanoate (3q). Prepared according to the general procedure from **1n** (0.50 mmol), **2a** (2.00 mmol), **I** (0.025 mmol) and xylenes (1.0 mL) at 25 °C for 4 h to provide the title compound as a colorless oil (86% yield, 98% ee). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ

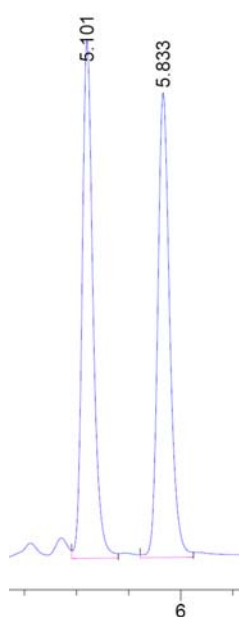
(ppm) 7.77 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (t, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 4.86 (ABX, *J*_{AB} = 14.4 Hz, *J*_{AX} = *J*_{BX} = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 4.81 (ABX, *J*_{AB} = 14.4 Hz, *J*_{AX} = *J*_{BX} = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 4.25-4.19



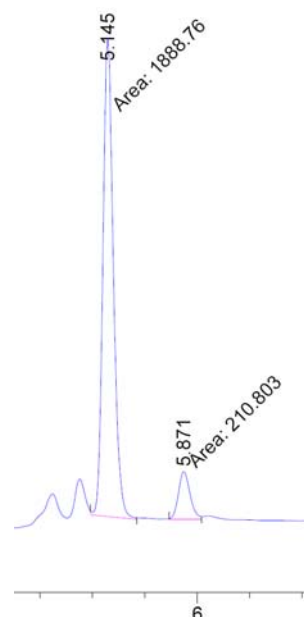
(m, 2H), 3.75-3.71 (m, 1H), 3.55 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 18.0$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 5.4$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.33 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 18.0$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 5.4$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.25 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 189.2, 170.6, 142.8, 134.5, 132.6, 128.3, 74.6, 61.9, 38.3, 37.3, 13.9; *Anal. Calcd.* for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}_5\text{S}$: C, 48.70; H, 4.83; N, 5.16; Found: C, 48.80; H, 4.76; N, 5.03; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} = -4.7$ ($c = 2.1$, CHCl_3); the enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak OD column: hexane/2-propanol = 80/20, 1 mL/min, 254 nm, $t_{\text{major}} = 14.61$ min, $t_{\text{minor}} = 21.89$ min.)



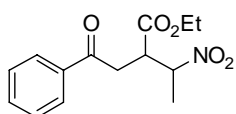
(R)-Ethyl 5,5-dimethyl-2-(nitromethyl)-4-oxohexanoate (3r). Prepared according to the general procedure from **3r** (0.25 mmol), **2a** (1.00 mmol), **I** (0.025 mmol) and xylenes (0.5 mL) at 25 °C for 4 h to provide the title compound as a colorless oil (47% yield, 80% ee). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 4.76 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 14.4$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 6.0$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.67 4.76 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 14.4$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 6.0$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.21-4.15 (m, 2H), 3.57-3.53 (m, 1H), 3.08 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 18.6$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 5.4$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.91 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 18.6$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 5.4$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.26 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 1.17 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 212.7, 170.8, 74.8, 61.7, 44.0, 38.2, 35.3, 26.3, 14.0; *Anal. Calcd.* $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_5$: C, 53.87; H, 7.81; N, 5.71; Found: C, 53.81; H, 7.73; N, 5.63; the enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak AD column: hexane/2-propanol = 80/20, 1 mL/min, 210 nm, $t_{\text{major}} = 14.61$ min, $t_{\text{minor}} = 21.89$ min.)



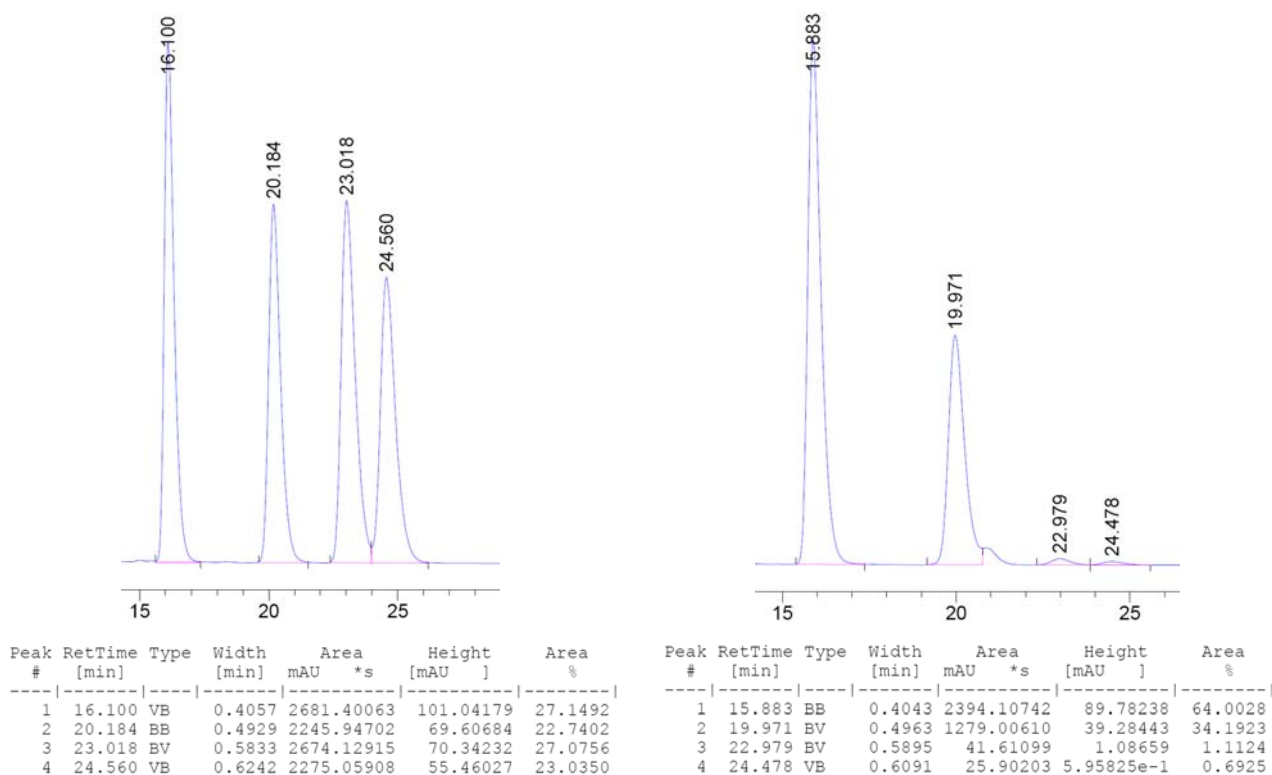
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2	5.833	VV	0.1230	2493.39624		309.76343	49.8099



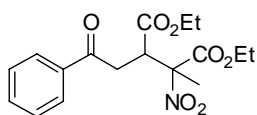
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1	5.145	MM	0.1152	1888.75977		273.32944	89.9597
2	5.871	MM	0.1283	210.80342		27.37632	10.0403



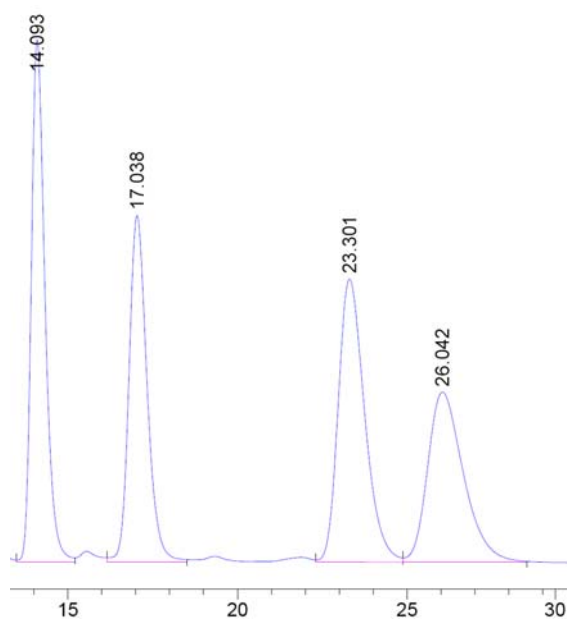
Ethyl 2-(1-nitroethyl)-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanoate (3s). Prepared according to the general procedure from **1a** (0.25 mmol), **2b** (1.00 mmol), **I** (0.0125 mmol) and xylenes (0.5 mL) at 25 °C for 4 h to provide the title compound as a colorless oil (89% yield, d.r. = 65 : 35, 97 and 96% ee). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.96 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.48 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 2H), 5.07-



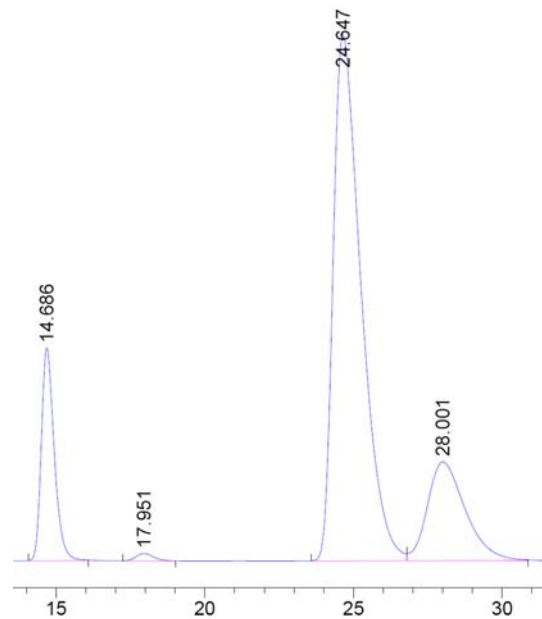
5.02 (m, 1H), 4.24-4.17 (m, 2H), 3.82-3.79 (m, 1H), 3.67-3.56 (m, 2H), 3.29-3.05 (m, 1H), 1.63-1.62 (m, 3H), 1.27-1.23 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 196.5, 170.6, 136.0, 135.9, 133.6, 128.7, 128.1, 128.0, 82.7, 82.3, 61.7, 44.3, 43.7, 36.0, 16.8, 13.9; *Anal. Calcd.* for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_5$: C, 60.21; H, 6.14; N, 5.02; Found: C, 60.27; H, 6.08; N, 4.96; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} = 7.2$ (c = 2.4, CHCl_3); the enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak OJ column: hexane/2-propanol = 80/20, 1 mL/min, 254 nm, $t_{\text{major}} = 15.88$ min, $t_{\text{minor}} = 22.98$ min and $t_{\text{major}} = 19.97$ min, $t_{\text{minor}} = 24.48$ min.)



Diethyl 2-methyl-2-nitro-3-(2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)succinate (3t). Prepared according to the general procedure from **1a** (0.25 mmol), **2c** (1.00 mmol), **1** (0.0125 mmol) and xylenes (0.5 mL) at 25 °C for 4 h to provide the title compound as a colorless oil (99% yield, d.r. = 82 : 18, 68 and 92% ee). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.96 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.59 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 4.31-4.24 (m, 4H), 4.17-4.14 (m, 2H), 3.71-3.66 (m, 1H), 3.25 (d, $J = 17.4$ Hz, 1H), 1.95 (s, 3H), 1.32-1.29 (m, 3H), 1.23-1.21 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 196.3, 169.8, 165.9, 135.9, 133.5, 128.6, 128.0, 127.9, 92.8, 63.3, 61.8, 45.7, 37.1, 20.2, 13.8, 13.6; *Anal. Calcd.* for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_7$: C, 58.11; H, 6.02; N, 3.99; Found: C, 58.15; H, 6.17; N, 3.89; the enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak OJ column: hexane/2-propanol = 80/20, 1 mL/min, 254 nm, $t_{\text{minor}} = 14.69$ min, $t_{\text{major}} = 24.65$ min, and $t_{\text{minor}} = 17.95$ min, $t_{\text{major}} = 28.00$ min.)

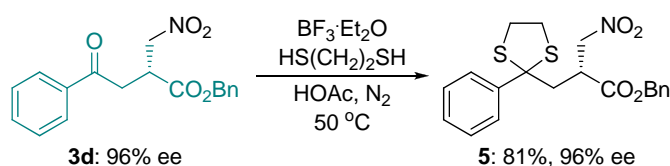


Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU *s	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	14.093	VV	0.4296	1254.71460	44.67906	26.5211
2	17.038	VB	0.5650	1095.34521	29.64609	23.1525
3	23.301	VV	0.8363	1311.34033	24.19097	27.7180
4	26.042	VB	1.1121	1069.60718	14.58085	22.6084

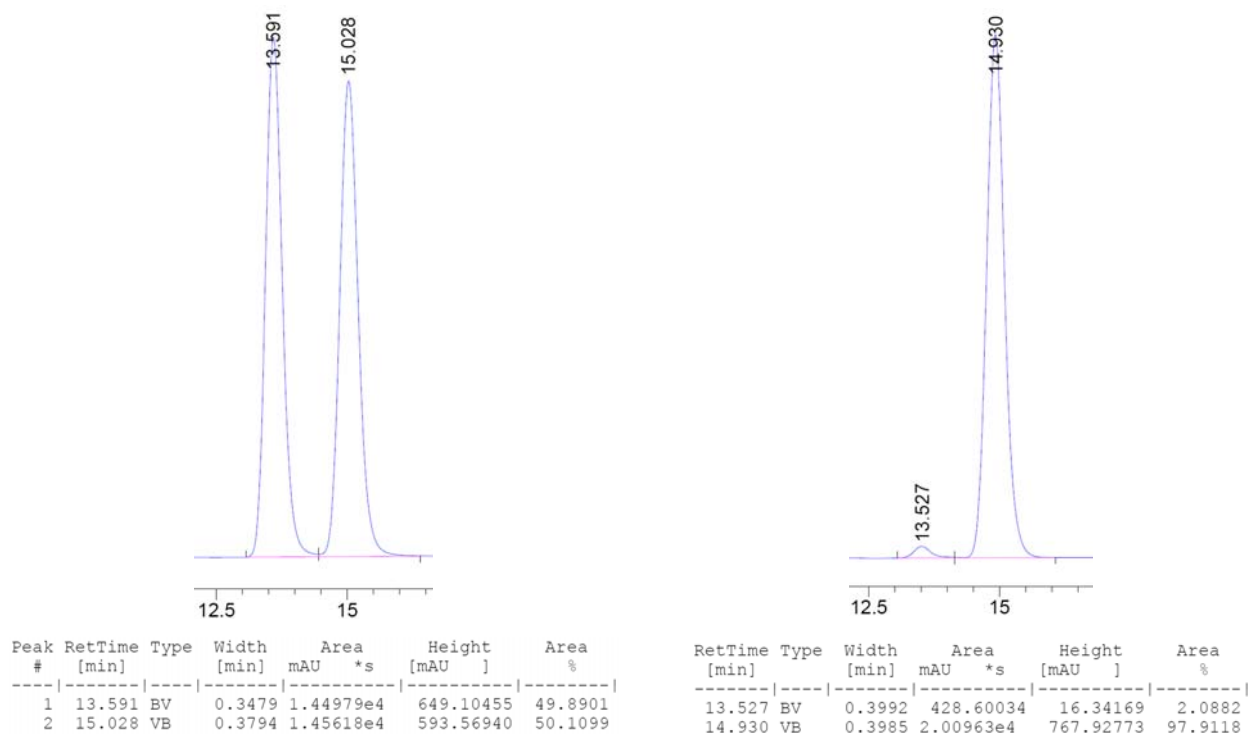


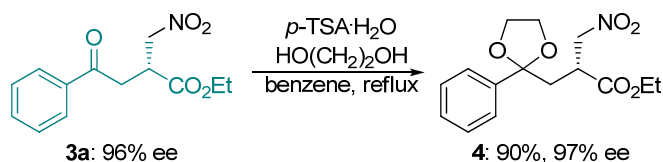
Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU *s	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	14.686	BB	0.4647	953.74664	31.43013	12.9667
2	17.951	BB	0.6286	44.86840	1.09033	0.6100
3	24.647	BV	0.9874	5062.63428	77.68647	68.8293
4	28.001	VB	1.3322	1294.09692	14.58433	17.5940

4. Synthesis of functionalized β^2 -amino acid derivatives

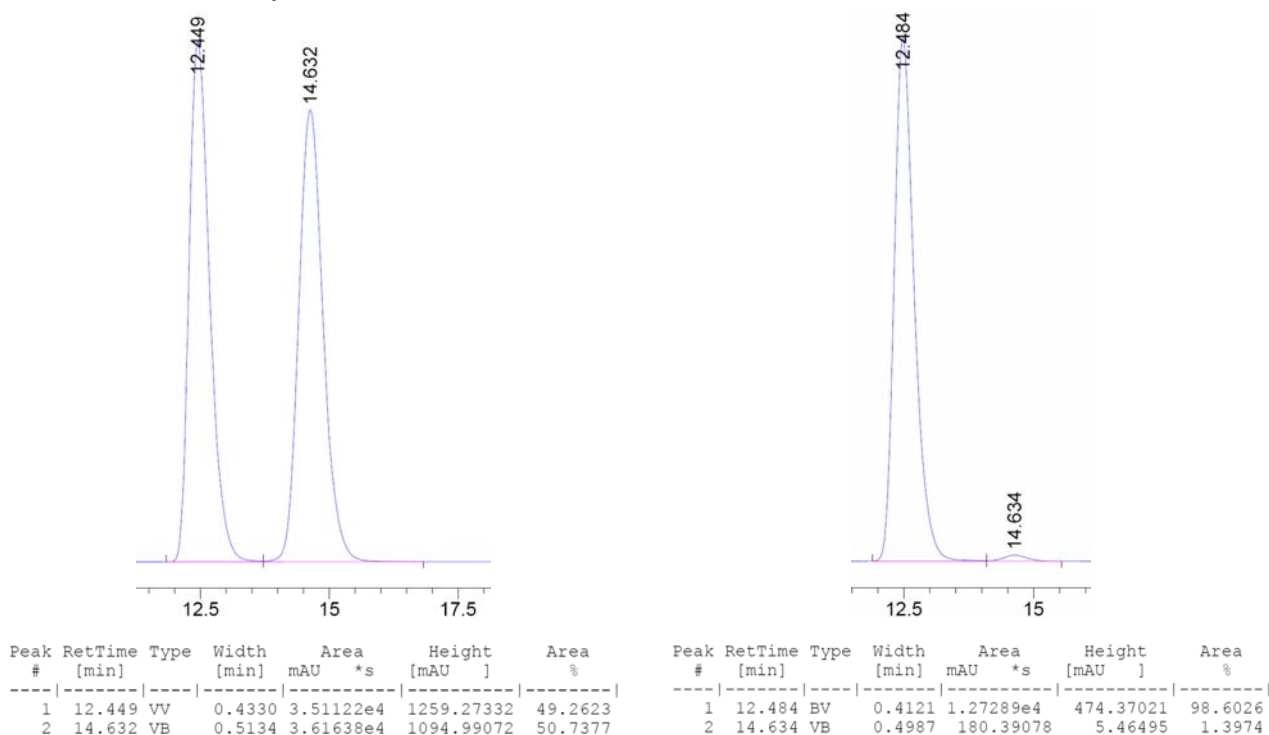


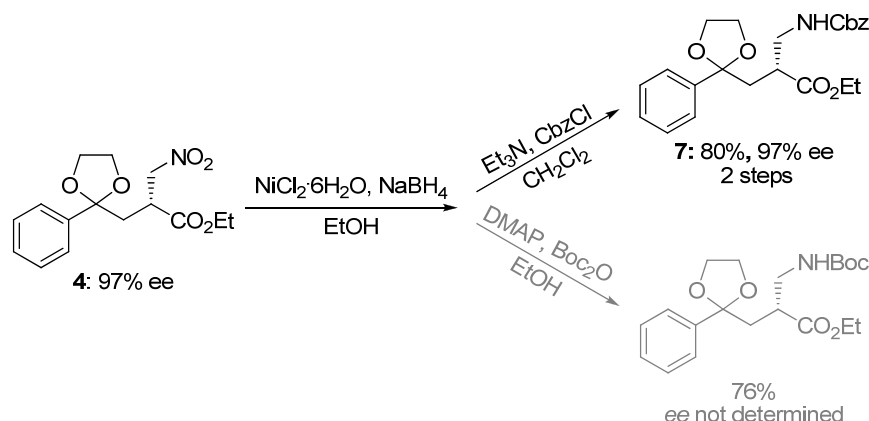
(R)-Benzyl 3-nitro-2-[(2-phenyl-1,3-dithiolan-2-yl)methyl] propanoate (5). To an oven-dried three-necked flash equipped with a condenser was sequentially added (R)-benzyl 2-(nitromethyl)-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanoate (**3d**, 1.10 g), 1,2-ethanedithiol (1.5 mL), and HOAc (8.0 mL) was added $\text{BF}_3\cdot\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ (1.5 mL) under nitrogen at room temperature. The mixture was then stirred at 50 °C under nitrogen for 48 h. Then HOAc was removed under high vacuum at 40 °C and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography to afford **5** (PE/EtOAc = 7/1, 1.10 g, 81%, 96% ee) as a pale yellow oil. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.65 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.38-7.34 (m, 3H), 7.33-7.30 (m, 4H), 7.27-7.24 (m, 1H), 5.08 (q, $J = 12.0$ Hz, 2H), 4.56 (ABX, $J_{\text{AB}} = 14.4$ Hz, $J_{\text{AX}} = 7.8$ Hz, $J_{\text{BX}} = 4.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.49 (ABX, $J_{\text{AB}} = 14.4$ Hz, $J_{\text{AX}} = 7.8$ Hz, $J_{\text{BX}} = 4.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.39-3.33 (m, 3H), 3.28-3.25 (m, 2H), 2.99 (ABX, $J_{\text{AB}} = 15.0$ Hz, $J_{\text{AX}} = J_{\text{BX}} = 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.39 (ABX, $J_{\text{AB}} = 15.0$ Hz, $J_{\text{AX}} = J_{\text{BX}} = 5.4$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 171.41, 143.6, 135.0, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 127.6, 126.8, 75.6, 72.9, 67.3, 43.5, 41.9, 39.5, 39.2; MS (EI) m/z 403 (M^+); *Anal. Calcd.* for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_4\text{S}_2$: C, 59.53; H, 5.25; N, 3.47; Found: C, 59.61; H, 5.23; N, 3.40; the enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak AD column: hexane/2-propanol = 80/20, 1 mL/min, 210 nm, $t_{\text{minor}} = 13.53$ min, $t_{\text{major}} = 14.93$ min.)





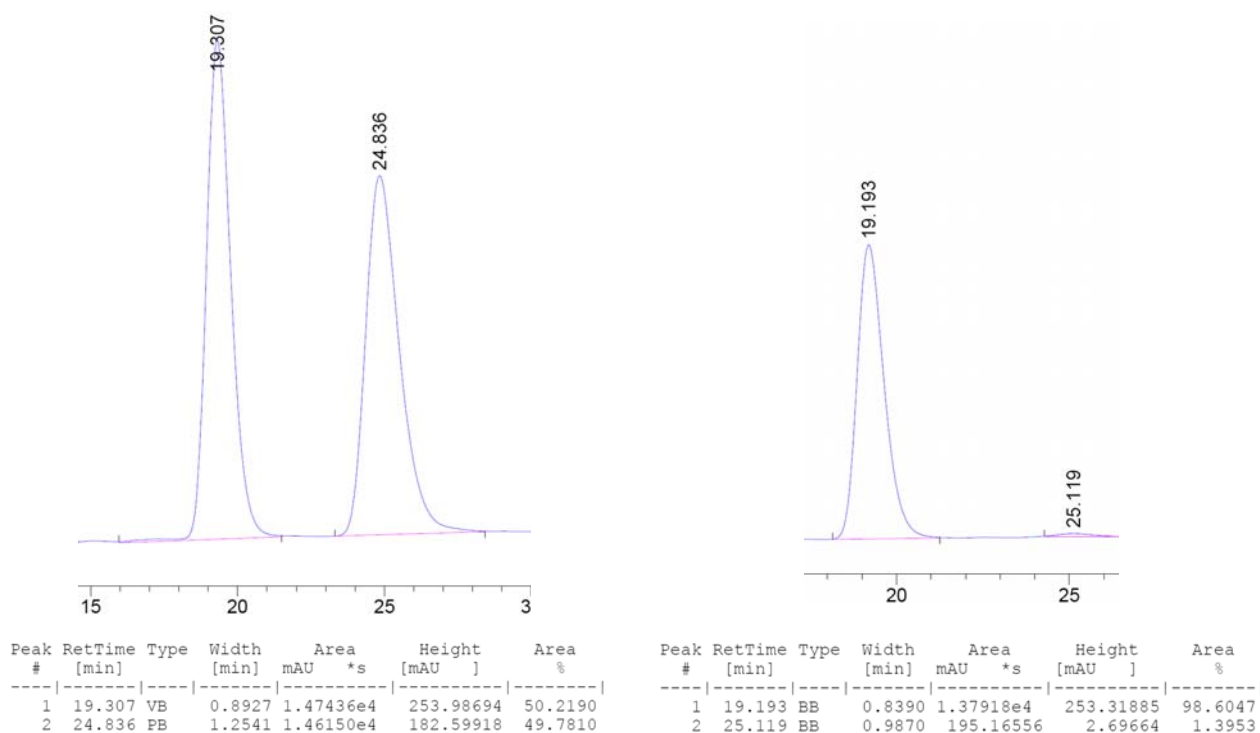
(R)-Ethyl 3-nitro-2-((2-phenyl-1,3-dioxolan-2-yl)methyl)propanoate (4). To an oven-dried three-necked flash equipped with a water separator was sequentially charged with (*R*)-ethyl 2-(nitromethyl)-4-oxo-4-phenylbutanoate (**3a**, 0.56 g), benzene (25 mL) and *p*-TSA·H₂O (80 mg). The mixture was then heated to reflux under nitrogen for 24 h. After cooling, the reaction system was diluted with ethyl acetate (50 mL), washed with sat. NaHCO₃ and dried over MgSO₄. Suction filtration and concentration afforded the residue, which was purified by flash column chromatography to obtain the desired product **4** (PE/EtOAc = 7/1, 0.56 g, 94%, 97% ee) as a colorless oil. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.44 (br, 1H), 7.43 (br, 1H), 7.37-7.32 (m, 3H), 4.82 (ABX, *J*_{AB} = 14.4 Hz, *J*_{AX} = 9.0 Hz, *J*_{BX} = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.74 (ABX, *J*_{AB} = 14.4 Hz, *J*_{AX} = 9.0 Hz, *J*_{BX} = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.22-4.13 (m, 2H), 4.06-3.98 (m, 2H), 3.79-3.71 (m, 2H), 3.44-3.40 (m, 1H), 2.44 (ABX, *J*_{AB} = 15.0 Hz, *J*_{AX} = 4.8 Hz, *J*_{BX} = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 2.16 (ABX, *J*_{AB} = 15.0 Hz, *J*_{AX} = 4.8 Hz, *J*_{BX} = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 1.27 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 171.9, 141.3, 128.3, 125.4, 125.3, 75.1, 61.3, 38.8, 38.6, 13.9; MS (EI) *m/z* 413 (M⁺); *Anal. Calcd.* for C₂₃H₂₇NO₆: C, 66.81; H, 6.58; N, 3.39; Found: C, 66.89; H, 6.38; N, 3.27; the enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak OD column: hexane/2-propanol = 90/10, 1 mL/min, 210 nm, *t*_{minor} = 12.48 min, *t*_{major} = 14.63 min.)



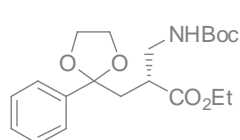


(R)-Ethyl 3-(benzyloxycarbonylamino)-2-((2-phenyl-1,3-dioxolan-2-yl)methyl) propanoate (7).

NaBH₄ (1.35 g) was added slowly in portionwise to a stirred solution of **4** (1.10 g) and NiCl₂•6H₂O (0.98 g) in EtOH (20 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction was stirred at 0 °C for 0.5 h before quenched with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl (50 mL). The mixture was diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (40 mL), extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 40 mL), dried over MgSO₄. Suction filtration over Celite and concentration *in vacuo* afforded the crude amine, which was dissolved in 20 mL of freshly distilled CH₂Cl₂. Et₃N (0.7 mL) was added and the mixture was cooled by an ice-bath for 15 min. Then benzyl chloroformate (0.55 mL) was added dropwise via syringe over 15 min. 3 h later, the reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl and extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic phase was dried over MgSO₄. The residue obtained after filtration and concentration was subjected to flash chromatography to obtain the desired product **7** as a colorless oil (PE/EtOAc = 3/1, 1.07 g, 80%, 97% ee). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.44 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.37-7.24 (m, 8H), 5.11-5.06 (m, 3H), 4.16-4.04 (m, 2H), 4.03-3.95 (m, 2H), 3.74 (br, 2H), 3.50-3.37 (m, 2H), 2.87 (br, 1H), 2.40 (ABX, *J*_{AB} = 14.4 Hz, *J*_{AX} = 7.8 Hz, *J*_{BX} = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 2.03 (ABX, *J*_{AB} = 14.4 Hz, *J*_{AX} = 7.8 Hz, *J*_{BX} = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 1.25 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 173.9,



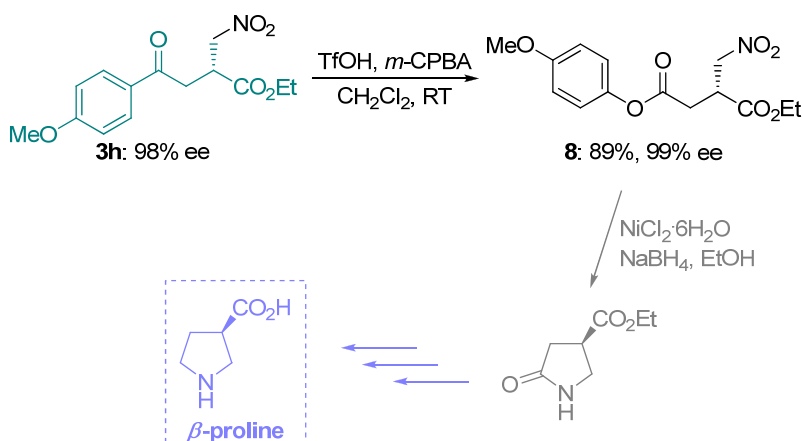
155.8, 141.8, 136.1, 127.8, 127.7, 127.5, 127.4, 127.3, 127.2, 124.9, 108.6, 65.7, 63.9, 63.8, 59.8, 59.7, 42.5, 40.6, 39.3, 13.5; MS (EI) m/z 413 (M^+); $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -5.1$ ($c = 5.0$, CH_2Cl_2); *Anal. Calcd.* for $C_{23}H_{27}NO_6$: C, 66.81; H, 6.58; N, 3.39; Found: C, 66.89; H, 6.38; N, 3.27; the enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak OD column: hexane/2-propanol = 90/10, 1 mL/min, 210 nm, $t_{major} = 19.19$ min, $t_{minor} = 25.12$ min.)



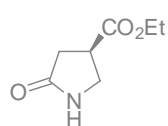
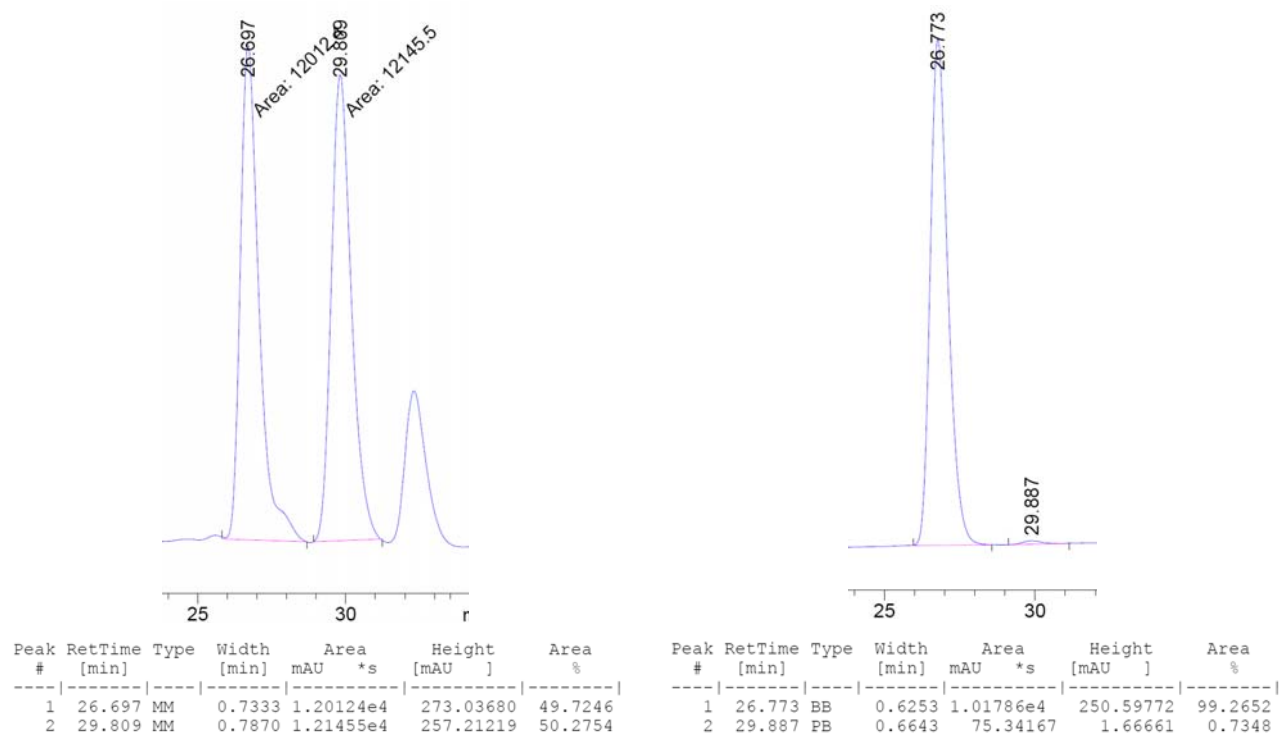
(R)-Ethyl

3-(tert-butoxycarbonylamino)-2-((2-phenyl-1,3-dioxolan-2-yl)methyl)propanoate.

1H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ (ppm) 7.45 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.34-7.28 (m, 3H), 4.82 (br, 1H), 4.17-4.09 (m, 2H), 4.05-3.96 (m, 2H), 3.74 (br, 2H), 3.39-3.29 (m, 2H), 2.83 (br, 1H), 2.40 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 15.0$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 9.0$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 4.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.01 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 15.0$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 9.0$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 4.2$ Hz, 1H), 1.42 (s, 9H), 1.27 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ (ppm) 174.2, 155.3, 141.9, 127.7, 127.6, 125.1, 108.9, 78.5, 64.1, 64.0, 59.9, 42.3, 40.9, 39.5, 27.9, 13.8; MS (EI) m/z 379 (M^+); *Anal. Calcd.* for $C_{20}H_{29}NO_6$: C, 63.31; H, 7.70; N, 3.69; Found: C, 63.26; H, 7.75; N, 3.60;



(R)-1-Ethyl 4-(4-methoxyphenyl) 2-(nitromethyl)succinate (8).⁴ To a three-necked flask containing **3h** (1 mmol, 295 mg) were sequentially added dichloromethane (5 mL), TfOH (20 mol%, 30 mg) and *m*-Chloro perbenzoic acid (430 mg, 2.0 equiv., ~80% purity) under nitrogen at RT. The mixture was stirred at RT for 21 h. Then the white solid was removed by suction filtration and washed with dichloromethane. The organics were removed *in vacuo* and the residue was purified by column chromatography to provide the desired product as a colorless oil (89%, 99% ee). 1H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ (ppm) 7.00 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2H), 6.89 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2H), 4.88 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 14.4$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 6.0$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.80 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 14.4$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 6.0$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.27-4.23 (m, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.65-3.59 (m, 1H), 3.10 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 17.4$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 6.0$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.97-3.10 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 17.4$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 6.0$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.29 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ (ppm) 169.9, 169.5, 157.1, 143.5, 121.8, 114.1, 74.1, 61.7, 55.1, 38.7, 32.6, 13.6; MS (EI) m/z 311 (M^+); *Anal. Calcd.* for $C_{14}H_{17}NO_7$: C, 54.02; H, 5.50; N, 4.50; Found: C, 54.12; H, 5.39; N, 4.35; the enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak AD column: hexane/2-propanol = 90/10, 1 mL/min, 210 nm, $t_{major} = 26.77$ min, $t_{minor} = 29.89$ min.)



(R)-ethyl 5-oxopyrrolidine-3-carboxylate. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 6.90 (br, 1H), 4.20 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.64-3.62 (m, 2H), 3.35-3.32 (m, 1H), 2.67 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 17.4$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 7.8$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 9.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.58 (ABX, $J_{AB} = 17.4$ Hz, $J_{AX} = 7.8$ Hz, $J_{BX} = 9.6$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 176.7, 172.6, 61.3, 44.4, 38.8, 33.1, 14.1; MS (EI) m/z 157 (M^+); *Anal. Calcd.* for $\text{C}_7\text{H}_{11}\text{NO}_3$: C, 53.49; H, 7.05; N, 8.91; Found: C, 53.57; H, 7.13; N, 8.83;

¹ Still, W. C.; Kahn, M.; Mitra, A. J. *J. Org. Chem.* **1978**, *43*, 2923.

² Perrin, D. D.; Armarego, W. L. F. *Purification of Laboratory Chemicals*, 4th ed.; Pergamon Press: Oxford, 1997.

³ a) Okino, T.; Hoashi, Y.; Takemoto, Y. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2003**, *125*, 12672; b) Li, B.; Jiang, L.; Liu, M.; Chen, Y.; Ding, L.; Wu, Y. *Synlett* **2005**, 603; c) McCooey, S. H.; Connon, S. J. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2005**, *44*, 6367; d) Ye, J.; Dixon, D. J.; Hynes, P. S. *Chem. Commun.* **2005**, 4481.

⁴ Kotsuki, H.; Arimura, K.; Araki, T.; Shinohara, T. *Synlett* **1999**, 462.

5. NMR Spectra of 4-oxo-enoates 1b-t, γ -keto esters 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8

