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Catalytic Stereoselective Benzylic C-H Functionalizations by Oxidative C-H Activation

and Organocatalysis

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General: ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on Varian 200 MHz or Mercury 400 MHz spectrometers. chemical shifts are reported in ppm from tetramethylsilane with the solvent resonance as the internal standard (deuterochloroform: δ 7.27 ppm). Data are reported as follows: chemical shifts, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, br = broad, m = multiplet), coupling constants (Hz). 13 C NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian 50 MHz or Mercury 100 MHz spectrometers with complete proton decoupling. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm from tetramethylsilane with the solvent as the internal standard (deuterochloroform: δ 77.0 ppm). Mass spectra were performed at an ionizing voltage of 70 eV. Chromatographic purification was done with 240-400 mesh silica gel. Analytical gas chromatography (GC) was performed on a Hewlett-Packard HP 6890 gas chromatograph with a flame ionization detector and split mode capillary injection system, using a 100% dimethylpolysiloxane (carrier gas helium) column or a Megadex5 chiral (25 m) column. Analytical high performance liquid chromatograph (HPLC) was performed on a HP 1090 liquid chromatograph equipped with a variable wavelength UV detector (deuterium lamp 190-600 nm), using Daicel ChiralcelTM OD column (0.46 cm I.D. x 25 cm) (Daicel Inc.), Daicel ChiralcelTM AD column (0.46 cm I.D. x 25 cm) (Daicel Inc.), Daicel ChiralcelTM OF column (0.46 cm I.D. x 25 cm) (Daicel Inc.), Daicel ChiralcelTM OJ column (0.46 cm I.D. x 25 cm) (Daicel Inc.), Daicel ChiralcelTM IC column (0.46 cm I.D. x 25 cm) (Daicel Inc.); HPLC grade isopropanol and *n*hexane were used as the eluting solvents. Xanthene 1, 1,3,5 cycloeptatriene 2 are commercially available, and were used as received. The flavone derivative **3** was prepared according literature.¹ The indole derivatives **4-7** were obtained by the reaction of the methyl indole with aldehydes in the presence of Et₃SiH and CF₃COOH, as reported in literature.² All the other reagents were commercially available (Fluka and Aldrich) and were used as received.

¹ C. Fichtner, G. Remennikov, H. Mayr, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2001**, 4451. ² J. E. Appleton, K. N. Dack, A. D. Green, J. Steele, *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1993**, *34*, 1529.

Supplementary Material (ESI) for Chemical Communications This journal is (c) The Royal Society of Chemistry 2009 **Figure 1**. Mayr's electrophilicity scale.³



³ H. Mayr, B. Kempf, A. R. Ofial, Acc. Chem. Res. 2003, 36, 66, and ref. therein

Figure 1. Mayr's Nucleophilicity scale⁴



⁴ H. Mayr, B. Kempf, A. R. Ofial, Acc. Chem. Res. 2003, 36, 66, and ref. therein

Substrates **A-J** were tested in the direct organocatalytic C-H alkylation using the MacMillan catalyst in the presence of DDQ (1.3 equiv) at 0 °C following the general procedure 1. The outcome of the reaction are indicated in the Table 1. All the reactions were run for 4 hours.

Table 3

Entry	Substrate	Isolated products	
1	N A	Not characterized by-products	
2	B	Starting materials	
3	Me ₂ N C NMe ₂	Not characterized by-products	
4	MeO D OMe	О Н МеО 45%	
5	Me ₂ N E	Me ₂ N 63%	
6	MeO F	Not characterized by-products	
7	G NBOC	Starting materials	
8	N H H	O N 61%	
9		Starting materials	
10	L	Starting materials	



 Table 4. Reaction of *n*-octanal with 1,3,5-cycloeptatriene performed in different solvents and conditions.

Entry ^[a]	T, °C	Additive, 20 mol%	Yield[%]	Ee[%]
1	RT	TFA		
2	-25	TFA	91	16
3	-25	pNO ₂ PhCOOH	90	46
4	-25	1,3,5-MeOPhCOOH	27	44
5	-25		82	40
6	-25	CF ₃ CH ₂ OH	32	20
7	-40	Mandelic acid		20
8	-25	N-BOC-Phe-OH		20
9 ^[b]	-25	Proline		0

^[a] All the reactions were conduced using the general procedure B, in the presence of different additives used in 20 mol% at the indicated temperature for 2.30 hours..^[b] Proline was used instead of the MacMillan catalyst

Synthetic procedures.

Procedure 1. Substrates 1 and 3.

In a two-necked flask containing degassed DCM (1 mL), the organocatalyst 8 (20 mol %), the aldehyde (3 eq., 0.3 mmol) and compound 1 or 3 (0.1mmol) are added under nitrogen at r.t. and the solution was stirred at r.t. for 5 min. After cooling to -25°C, DDQ (1.3 eq.) was added portion wise (3 portions) during 1 hour, and the solution was stirred at -25°C for 4 h. The reaction was quenched with water, and the organic phase was separated. The aqueous phase was extracted twice with DCM; the organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated under reduced pressure to afford the crude reaction mixture, that was purified by FC (cyclohexane/Et₂O = 9/1 for 1a-f, n-hexane/ Et₂O = 95/5 for 3a).

Procedure 2. Substrate 2.

In a two-necked flask containing degassed DCM (1 mL), the organocatalyst **9** (20 mol %), the aldehyde (3 eq., 0.3 mmol) and compound **2** (0.1mmol) are added under nitrogen at r.t. and the solution was stirred at r.t. for 5 min. After cooling to -25° C, DDQ (1.3 eq.) was added portion wise (3 portions) during 1 hour, and the solution was stirred at -25° C for 4 h. The reaction was quenched with water, and the organic phase was separated. The aqueous phase was extracted twice with DCM; the organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated under reduced pressure to afford the crude reaction mixture, that was purified by FC (cyclohexane/Et₂O = 9/1).

Procedure 3. Substrates 4-7.

In a two-necked flask containing degassed DCM (1 mL), the organocatalyst **8** (20 mol %), the aldehyde (3 eq., 0.3 mmol), MeOH (2eq., 0.2 mmol) and compound **4-7** (0.1 mmol) are added under nitrogen at r.t. and the solution was stirred at r.t. for 5 min. After cooling to -25° C, DDQ (1.3 eq.) was added and the solution was stirred at -25° C for 4 h. The reaction was quenched with water, and the organic phase was separated. The aqueous phase was extracted twice with DCM; the organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated under reduced pressure to afford the crude reaction mixture, that was purified by FC (cyclohexane/AcOEt, gradient from 9/1 to 8/2).

2-(9H-xanthen-9-yl)octanal, 1a.



Analytical data for compound 1a are reported in ref. 5.

2-(9H-xanthen-9-yl)propanal, 1b.



 $C_{16}H_{14}O_2$ Fw = 238.28 [α]_D = +7.6 (c 1.1, CHCl₃). Colorless oil.

¹**H NMR** (CDCl₃, 200 MHz) δ: 0.93 (3H, d, J = 7.4 Hz), 2.67-2.76 (1H, m), 4.64 (1H, d, J = 4.0 Hz), 7.02-7.32 (8H, m); 9.78 (1H, s).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 50 MHz) δ: 9.4, 39.7, 55.8, 116.6, 118.0, 121.5, 123.3, 123.4, 123.6, 128.2, 128.3, 128.6, 129.0, 152.9, 153.1, 203.7.

GC-MS: rt: 19.2 min; *m/z*: 238(5), 183(12), 182(146), 181(1000), 180(12), 165(13), 153(15), 152(112), 151(39), 150(14), 127(15), 126(15), 77(10), 76(11), 63(7).

HPLC analysis: Chiracel IC: 99:1 (hexane: *i*-PrOH), flow 0.7mL/min. tm:12.2 min; TM: 11.7 min.

HRMS Calcd for C₁₇H₁₆O₂: 238.09938, [M]⁺, found: 238.0991.

2-(9H-xanthen-9-yl)butanal, 1c.



Supplementary Material (ESI) for Chemical Communications 9 This journal is (c) The Royal Society of Chemistry 2009 ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 200 MHz) δ : 0.84 (3H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 1.45-1.65 (2H, m), 2.42-2.53 (1H, m), 4.49 (1H,

d, J = 4.4 Hz); 7.04-7.32 (8H, m); 9.67 (1H, d, J = 2.6 Hz).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 50 MHz) δ: 12.0, 18.7, 40.0, 62.3, 116.7, 116.8, 122.2, 123.2, 123.4, 123.5, 128.2, 128.3, 128.7, 128.9, 152.9, 153.0, 204.5.

GC-MS: rt: 22.7 min; *m/z*: 252(5), 207(9), 205(7), 196(5), 183(17), 182(18), 181(1000), 180(13),

165(10), 153(18), 152(116), 151(38), 150(14), 139(6), 91(9), 77(9), 76(15), 75(9), 70(9), 69(9), 63(10).

HPLC analysis (derivatized to alcohol): Chiracel OF: gradient from 99:1 (hexane: i-PrOH) to 90:10 in

30min, flow 0.5mL/min. tm:23.3 min; TM: 21.4 min.

HRMS Calcd for C₁₇H₁₆O₂: 252.11503, [M]⁺, found: 252.1151.

3-methyl-2-(9H-xanthen-9-yl)butanal, 1d.



C₁₈H₁₈O₂ Fw = 266.33 $[\alpha]_D = +10.5$ (c 0.38, CHCl₃). White solid. Mp=46.2-48.5°C

¹**H NMR** (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ: 0.90 (3H, d, J = 6.8 Hz), 1.11 (3H, d, J=6.8Hz), 1.94-2.03 (1H,m), 2.31 (1H, ddd, J= 4.0, 6.0, 6.8Hz), 4.50 (1H, d, J = 6.0 Hz), 7.07-7.13 (4H, m), 7.24-7.28 (4H, m), 9.52 (1H, d, J=4.0 Hz).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ: 19.3, 21.7, 26.1, 38.2, 66.2, 116.7, 116.8, 123.1, 123.3, 123.5, 124.0, 128.1, 128.2, 128.7, 128.8, 152.9, 153.2, 204.4.

GC-MS: rt: 26.4 min; *m/z*: 266(2), 223(8), 205(8), 183(16), 182(166), 181(1000), 180(11), 165(12), 153(13), 152(100), 151(31), 150(12), 127(12), 126(10), 76(8), 63(7).

HPLC analysis: Chiracel IC: gradient from 99:1 (hexane: *i*-PrOH) to 90:10 in 30min, flow 0.5mL/min. tm:14.8 min; TM: 15.9 min.

HRMS Calcd for C₁₈H₁₈O₂: 266.13068, [M]⁺, found: 266.1307.

2-(9H-xanthen-9-yl)hex-5-enal, 1e.



 $C_{19}H_{18}O_2$ Fw = 278.35 $[\alpha]_D = +2.3$ (c 0.48, CHCl₃). Colorless oil.

¹**H NMR** (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ: 1.43-1.49 (1H,m), 160-1.69 (1H, m), 1.85-1.91 (1H, m), 1.96-2.02 (1H, m), 2.60 (1H, ddt, J= 2.4, 4.4, 9.6 Hz), 4.50 (1H, d, J= 4.4 Hz), 4.84 (1H, d, J=17.2 Hz), 4.89 (1H, d, J=10.4 Hz), 5.57 (1H, ddt, J= 3.2, 10.4, 17.2 Hz), 7.04-7.12 (4H, m), 7.21-7.28 (4H, m), 9.67 (1H, d, J=2.4 Hz).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ: 24.4, 31.3, 39.9, 59.9, 115.5, 116.7, 116.8, 122.9 (2C), 123.4, 123.6, 128.3, 128.4, 128.7, 128.9, 137.3, 152.8 (2C), 204.2.

GC-MS: rt: 30.2 min; *m/z*: 278(4), 207(14), 183(11), 182(138), 181(1000), 180(10), 153(14), 152(86), 151(23), 127(10), 126(9), 77(7).

HPLC analysis (derivatized to alcohol) Chiracel IC: gradient from 99:1 (hexane: *i*-PrOH) to 90:10 in 30min, flow 0.5mL/min. tm:27.8 min; TM: 29.0 min.

HRMS Calcd for $C_{19}H_{18}O_2$: 278.13068, [M]⁺, found: 268.1308.

3-phenyl-2-(9H-xanthen-9-yl)propanal, 1f.



C₂₂H₁₈O₂ Fw =314.38 $[\alpha]_D = +100.0 (c 0.30, CHCl_3).$ White solid.Mp= 84-89 °C

¹**H NMR** (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ: 2.68-2.90(2H, m), 2.98-3.08 (1H,m), 4.63 (1H, d, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.01 (2H, d, J=8.0Hz), 7.11-7.36 (11H, m), 9.68 (1H, d, J = 3.6 Hz).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ: 31.2, 39.5, 62.4, 116.7, 116.8, 121.7, 122.6, 123.5, 123.6, 126.3 (2C), 128.2, 128.4, 128.5, 128.6 (2C), 128.8, 128.9, 138.7, 152.8, 152.9, 203.4.

Supplementary Material (ESI) for Chemical Communications This journal is (c) The Royal Society of Chemistry 2009 **ESI-MS:** rt: 12.7 min; m/z: 313 (M-H₂+1), 335 (M-H₂+Na⁺).

HPLC analysis: Chiracel IC: gradient from 99:1 (hexane: *i*-PrOH) to 90:10 in 30min, flow 0.5mL/min.

tm:17.1 min; TM: 16.3 min.

HRMS Calcd for C₂₂H₁₈O₂: 314.13068, [M]⁺, found: 314.1307.

2-((2Z,4Z,6Z)-cyclohepta-2,4,6-trienyl) octanal, 2a.



 $C_{15}H_{22}O$ Fw = 218.33 $[\alpha]_D = + 8.4$ (c 0.90, CHCl₃). Colorless oil.

¹**H NMR** (CDCl₃, 200 MHz) δ: 0.88 (3H, t, J = 6.6 Hz), 1.09-1.44 (8H, m), 1.53-1.81 (2H, m), 1.81-2.07 (1H, m), 2.52-2.69 (1H, m), 5.23 (2H, pseudo t, J = 7.2 Hz), 6.24 (2H, m), 6.69 (2H, pseudo t, J = 2.8 Hz), 9.64 (1H, d, J = 3.4Hz).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ: 14.1, 23.6, 29.1, 29.3, 31.8, 34.4, 38.8, 54.0, 122.2, 123.1, 125.6, 125.7, 131.0, 131.1, 204.7.

GC-MS: rt: 14.7 min; *m/z*: 218(5), 147(7), 133(45), 129(19), 128(10), 118(6), 117(28), 116(9), 115(32), 105(40), 104(12), 103(17), 92(92), 91(1000), 90(6), 79(17), 78(29), 77(34), 69(6), 65(46), 55(22), 51(11). **HPLC** analysis: Chiracel OD-H: 99:1 (hexane: *i*-PrOH), flow 0.6mL/min. tm:21.1 min; TM: 19.2 min. **HRMS** Calcd for C₁₅H₂₂O₂: 218.16706, [M]⁺, found: 218.1672.

2-((2Z,4Z,6Z)-cyclohepta-2,4,6-trienyl) butanal, 2c.



 $C_{11}H_{14}O$ Fw = 162.23 $[\alpha]_D = +2.7$ (c 0.67, CHCl₃). Colorless oil.

¹**H NMR** (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ: 0.94 (3H, t, J = 7.2 Hz), 1.74-1.84 (2H, m), 1.97-2.02 (1H, m), 2.54-2.60 (1H, m), 5.24 (2H, dt, J = 5.6, 10.0 Hz), 6.25 (2H, tt, J = 2.8, 10.0 Hz), 6.69 (2H, pseudo t, J = 2.8 Hz), 9.65 (1H, d, J = 3.6Hz).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ: 11.5, 20.2, 38.5, 55.1, 122.1, 123.1, 125.6, 125.8, 131.0, 131.1, 204.5.

Supplementary Material (ESI) for Chemical Communications This journal is (c) The Royal Society of Chemistry 2009 **GC-MS:** rt: 9.3 min; m/z: 162(3), 133(16), 131(7), 128(7), 117(14), 115(29), 105(40), 104(10), 103(20), 92(85), 91(1000), 89(20), 79(18), 78(57), 77(55), 65(77), 63(28), 62(9), 55(24), 51(29).

HPLC analysis: Chiracel OD-H: 99:1 (hexane: *i*-PrOH), flow 0.6mL/min. tm:28.6min; TM: 26.9min.

HRMS Calcd for C₁₁H₁₄O: 162.10447, [M]⁺, found: 162.1045.

2-((2Z,4Z,6Z)-cyclohepta-2,4,6-trienyl)-3-methylbutanal, 2d.

CHO

 $C_{12}H_{16}O$ Fw = 176.25 $[\alpha]_D = +8.8$ (c 0.51, CHCl₃). Colorless oil.

¹**H NMR** (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ : 0.95 (3H, d, J = 7.2 Hz), 1.06 (3H, d, J=7.2Hz), 2.05-2.12 (1H, m), 2.25-2.33 (1H, m), 2.50 (1H, m), 5.21 (2H, dd, J=6.0, 9.2 Hz), 6.24 (2H, pseudo tt, J=2.8, 9.2 Hz), 6.70 (2H, dd, J=2.8 Hz), 9.78 (1H, d, J = 4.4 Hz).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ: 18.6, 21.2, 21.5, 37.3, 59.0, 122.0, 122.7, 125.4, 125.5, 130.9, 131.0, 205.7.

GC-MS: rt: 10.2 min; m/z: 176(5), 174(6), 134(10), 133(94), 131(20), 129(11), 128(17), 117(18), 116(11), 115(50), 105(59), 104(12), 92(114), 91(1000), 90(9), 89(21), 79(39), 78(59), 77(70), 65(80), 63(24), 55(38), 53(17), 52(14), 51(38), 50(12).

HPLC analysis: Chiracel OD-H: 99:1 (hexane: i-PrOH), flow 0.6mL/min. tm:29.0min; TM: 24.9min. **HRMS** Calcd for C₁₂H₁₆O: 176.12012, [M]⁺, found: 176.1200.

2-(2-phenyl-4H-chromen-4-yl) octanal, 3a.



 $C_{23}H_{26}O_2$ Fw = 334.45

Colorless oil.

¹**H** NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ : 0.82 (3H M, t, J = 7.2 Hz), 0.88 (3H m, t, J = 7.2 Hz), 0.91-1.45 (16H, m), 1.61-1.73 (2H m, m), 1.73-1.80 (2H M, m), 2.58-2.62 (1H m, m), 2.62-2.66 (1H M, m), 4.06 (1H m,

Supplementary Material (ESI) for Chemical Communications This journal is (c) The Royal Society of Chemistry 2009 t, J=4.4Hz), 4.22 (1H M, t, J=4.4Hz), 5.38 (1H M, d, J= 4.8Hz), 5.55 (1H m, d, J= 4.8Hz), 7.07-7.26 (6H, m), 7.24 (1H M + 1H m, t, J=5.8Hz), 7.33-7.40 (6H, m), 7.69 (4H, d, J=6.8Hz), 9.72 (1H m, d, J=2.4Hz), 9.84 (1H M, d, J=2.4Hz). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ (major): 13.9, 24.9(2C), 27.8, 29.1, 31.4, 35.0, 59.5, 96.6, 116.7, 116.8,

121.3, 123.7, 124.7, 124.8, 127.9, 128.3, 128.4, 128.7, 133.8, 150.6, 152.5, 204.4.

ESI-MS: rt: 17.3 min; m/z: 335 (M+1), 357 (M+Na⁺).

HPLC analysis: Chiracel IC: gradient from 99:1 (hexane: *i*-PrOH) to 90:10 in 30min, flow 0.5mL/min.

tm (major):12.8 min; TM (major): 14.6 min. tm (minor):15.7 min; TM (minor): 13.8 min.

HRMS Calcd for C₂₄H₂₆O₂: 334.19328, [M]⁺, found: 334.1935.

2-((2-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)(phenyl)methyl)octanal, 4a.



 $C_{24}H_{29}NO$ Fw = 347.49

Colorless oil.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ: 0.79 (3Hanti, t, J=7.2Hz), 0.86 (3Hsyn, t, J=7.2Hz), 1.09-1.28 (16H, m), 1.48-1.54 (2H, m), 1.54-1.62 (2H, m), 2.42 (3Hsyn, s), 2.44 (3Hanti, s), 3.50-3.61 (2H,m), 4.34 (1Hsyn, d, J = 11.6 Hz), 4.46 (1Hanti, d, J = 11.6 Hz), 7.05-7.41 (18H, m), 7.74 (1Hsyn, bs), 7.80 (1Hanti, bs), 9.42 (1Hsyn, d, J = 4.4 Hz), 9.63 (1Hanti, d, J = 4.0 Hz).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ (anti+syn): 13.9(2C), 14.0(2C), 22.4, 22.5, 26.7, 27.0, 28.7, 29.2, 29.3, 29.7, 31.4, 31.5, 43.1, 43.9, 54.3, 54.4, 110.3, 110.4, 112.1 (2C), 118.8, 119.0, 119.5, 119.6, 121.0, 121.1, 126.3 (2C), 127.9, 128.0 (2C), 128.1, 128.2, 128.5, 128.6 (2C), 131.2 (2C), 131.6 (2C), 135.3 (2C), 142.5, 142.6, 204.2, 205.5.

ESI MS: rt: 13.7 min; m/z: 348 (M+H⁺); 370 (M+Na⁺).

HPLC analysis Chiracel IC: gradient from 99:1 (hexane: *i*-PrOH) to 90:10 in 30min, flow 0.5mL/min. TM (anti): 31.6 min; tm (anti): 23.8 min; TM (syn): 21.0 min; tm (syn): 24.5 min;

HRMS Calcd for C₁₇H₁₆O₂: 347.22491, [M]⁺, found: 347.2247.



Analytical data are reported in ref. 5.

2-((2-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)(2-nitrophenyl)methyl)octanal, 5a.



 $C_{24}H_{28}N_2O_3$ Fw = 392.49 [α]_D = +113.0 (c 0.60, CHCl₃). Yellow oil.

¹**H NMR** (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ (syn): 0.86 (3H, t, J=7.2Hz),1.17-1.32 (8H, m), 1.49-1.57 (1H, m), 1.73-1.80 (1H,m), 2.38 (3H, s), 3.45-3.52 (1H,m), 5.22 (1H, d, J = 10.8 Hz), 7.00-7.09 (2H, m), 7.18 (1H, d, J=7.2Hz), 7.30 (1H, t, J=8.0Hz), 7.49-7.59 (2H,m), 7.63 (1H, dd, J=1.2, 8.0Hz), 7.85 (1Hsyn, bs), 7.87 (1H, d, J=8.0Hz), 9.38 (1H, d, J = 4.4 Hz).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ (syn): 12.4, 14.0, 22.5, 26.9, 28.8, 29.1, 31.5, 37.3, 54.6, 110.0, 110.6,

 $118.7,\,119.8,\,121.3,\,124.4,\,127.1,\,127.2,\,129.3,\,132.3,\,132.7,\,135.3,\,136.5,\,150.3,\,203.2.$

ESI MS: rt: 12.9 min (syn); *m/z*: 393 (M+H⁺); 415 (M+Na⁺).

HPLC analysis: Chiracel IC: gradient from 99:1 (hexane: *i*-PrOH) to 90:10 in 30min, flow 1.0mL/min.

TM (syn): 24.1 min; tm (syn): 17.7min.

HRMS Calcd for $C_{24}H_{28}N_2O_3$: 392.20999, [M]⁺, found: 392.2098.

2-benzyl-3-(2-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)propanal, 5f.



 $C_{25}H_{22}N_2O_3$ Fw = 398.45 [α]_D = +131.0 (c 0.27, CHCl₃). Yellow oil.

Supplementary Material (ESI) for Chemical Communications This journal is (c) The Royal Society of Chemistry 2009 ¹**H** NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ (syn): 2.36 (3H, s), 2.87 (1H, dd, J=3.6, 14.0 Hz), 3.18 (1H, dd, J=10.4, 14.0 Hz), 3.99 (1H, ddd, J= 3.6, 10.4, 10.8 Hz), 5.27 (1H, d, J= 10.8 Hz), 6.97-7.26 (9H, m), 7.34 (1H, t, J=8.0Hz), 7.56 (1H, t, J=8.0 Hz), 7.66 (1H, d, J=8.0 Hz), 7.82 (1H, bs), 7.99 (1H, d, J= 8.0Hz), 9.43 (1H, d, J = 3.6 Hz).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ: 12.2, 35.0, 37.8, 55.6, 109.4, 110.7, 118.6, 119.9, 121.3, 124.5, 126.5,

127.0, 128.5, 128.6 (2C), 128.8 (2C), 129.3, 132.3, 132.9, 135.4, 136.2, 138.4, 150.5, 203.0.

ESI MS: rt: 10.9(syn) min; m/z: 399 (M+H⁺); 421 (M+Na⁺).

HPLC analysis Chiracel IC: gradient from 99:1 (hexane: *i*-PrOH) to 90:10 in 30min, flow 0.5mL/min.

TM (syn): 40.4 min; tm (syn): 33.9min; TM (anti): 43.0 min; tm (anti): 28.7min.

HRMS Calcd for C₂₅H₂₂N₂O₃: 398.16034, [M]⁺, found: 398.1602.

2-((4-methoxyphenyl)(2-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)methyl)octanal, 6a.



 $C_{25}H_{31}NO_2$ Fw = 377.52

Colorless oil.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ : 0.79 (3Hanti, t, J=7.2Hz), 0.86 (3Hsyn, t, J=7.2Hz), 1.09-1.28 (16H, m), 1.46-1.66 (4H, m), 2.42 (3Hsyn, s), 2.44 (3Hanti, s), 3.43-3.55 (2H,m), 3.72 (3Hanti, s), 3.75 (3Hsyn, s), 4.28 (1Hsyn, d, J = 11.6 Hz), 4.40 (1Hanti, d, J = 11.6 Hz), 6.76 (2Hanti, d, J=8.4Hz), 6.81 (2Hsyn, d, J=8.4Hz), 7.02-7.11 (4H, m), 7.19-7.31 (6H,m), 7.62 (1Hanti, d, J=7.6Hz), 7.67 (1Hsyn, d, J=7.6Hz), 7.74 (1Hsyn, bs), 7.79 (1Hanti, bs), 9.40 (1Hsyn, d, J = 4.4 Hz), 9.60 (1Hanti, d, J = 4.4 Hz). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ (anti+syn): 12.4, 12.8, 14.0 (2C), 22.5 (2C), 26.7, 27.0, 28.7 (2C), 29.2,

29.3, 31.5, 31.6, 42.2, 43.1, 54.5, 54.6, 55.1, 55.2, 110.3, 110.4, 112.4 (2C), 112.6 (2C), 113.8 (2C), 113.9 (2C), 118.7, 119.0, 119.4, 119.5, 121.0, 121.1, 127.4 (2C), 128.9 (2C), 129.0 (2C), 131.1, 131.4, 134.8, 135.4, 157.9 (2C), 204.3, 205.6.

ESI MS: rt: 12.5 and 13.0 min; *m/z*: 400 (M+Na⁺).

Supplementary Material (ESI) for Chemical Communications This journal is (c) The Royal Society of Chemistry 2009 HPLC analysis: Chiracel IC: gradient from 99:1 (hexane: *i*-PrOH) to 8:2 in 30min, flow 0.5mL/min. TM

(anti): 22.2 min; tm (anti): 20.4min; TM (syn): 24.0min; tm (syn): 25.8min.

HRMS Calcd for C₂₅H₃₁NO₂: 377.23548, [M]⁺, found: 377.2353.

2-benzyl-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-(2-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)propanal, 6f.



¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ: 2.38 (3Hsyn, s), 2.40 (3Hanti, s), 2.68-3.07 (4H, m), 3.72 (3Hanti, s), 3.78 (3Hsyn, s), 3.89-4.00 (2H, m), 4.37 (1Hsyn, d, J= 11.2 Hz), 4.46 (1Hanti, d, J= 11.2 Hz), 6.77 (2Hanti, dd, J=2.4, 6.8 Hz), 6.87 (2Hsyn, dd, J=2.4, 6.8 Hz), 6.99.7.43 (22H, m), 7.78 (1Hsyn, bs), 7.87 (1Hanti, bs), 9.47 (1Hsyn, d, J = 3.6 Hz), 9.68 (1Hanti, d, J = 3.2 Hz).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ (syn+anti): 12.3, 12.5, 35.3, 35.4, 42.6(2C), 43.5(2C), 55.7, 56.4, 110.5, 110.6, 111.9, 112.2, 113.9(2C), 114.1(2C), 118.9, 119.0, 119.5, 119.6, 121.0, 121.1, 126.2, 126.3, 126.4, 127.2, 127.4, 128.2, 128.3(4C), 128.4, 128.5 (2C), 128.9, 129.0, 129.1, 131.2, 131.8, 134.3, 134.5, 135.3, 135.5, 138.6, 139.0, 157.9, 158.0, 204.5, 205.5.

ESI MS: rt: 10.8 and 11.2 min; *m/z*: 384 (M+H⁺); 406 (M+Na⁺).

HPLC analysis IC: gradient from 99:1 (hexane: *i*-PrOH) to 90:10 in 30min, flow 0.5 mL/min. TM (anti):

45.8 min; tm (anti): 48.0 min; TM (syn): 42.8 min; tm (syn): 34.1 min.

HRMS Calcd for C₂₆H₂₅NO₂: 383.18853, [M]⁺, found: 383.1884.

2-((2-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)(4-nitrophenyl)methyl)octanal, 7a.



 $C_{24}H_{28}N_2O_3$ Fw = 392.49

Yellow oil.

¹**H NMR** (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ : 0.77-0.91 (6H, m), 1.34-1.45 (16H, m), 1.46-1.51 (2H, m), 1.52-1.62 (2H, m), 2.42 (3Hsyn, s), 2.44 (3Hanti, s), 3.49-3.58 (1Hsyn, m), 3.61-3.68 (1Hanti, m), 4.45 (1Hsyn, d, J

Supplementary Material (ESI) for Chemical Communications This journal is (c) The Royal Society of Chemistry 2009 = 11.2 Hz), 4.56 (1Hanti, d, J = 11.2 Hz), 7.03-7.14 (4H, m), 7.18-7.34 (4H,m), 7.50 (2Hanti, d, J=8.8 Hz), 7.54 (2Hsyn, d, J=8.8 Hz), 7.89 (1Hsyn, bs), 7.93 (1Hanti, bs), 8.07 (2Hanti, d, J=8.8 Hz), 8.13

(2Hsyn, d, J=8.8 Hz), 9.44 (1Hsyn, d, J = 4.0 Hz), 9.68 (1Hanti, d, J = 4.0 Hz).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ (syn+anti): 12.7 (2C), 14.0 (2C), 22.6 (2C), 26.4, 26.9, 29.1, 29.3, 29.4,

29.7, 31.5, 31.6, 42.4, 43.9, 53.8, 54.0, 110.7 (2C), 118.4, 118.5, 119.9, 120.0, 121.4, 121.5, 123.8 (2C),

123.9 (2C), 128.7 (4C), 127.0 (2C), 131.8 (2C), 132.0 (2C), 135.3 (2C), 150.2 (2C), 150.4 (2C), 203.3,

204.5.

ESI MS: rt: 12.4 and 12.7 min; *m/z*: 393 (M+H⁺).

HPLC analysis IC: gradient from 99:1 (hexane: *i*-PrOH) to 90:10 in 30min, flow 1.0 mL/min. TM (anti):

40.9 min; tm (anti): 31.8 min; TM (syn): 29.3 min; tm (syn): 27.7 min.

HRMS Calcd for $C_{24}H_{28}N_2O_3$: 392.20999, [M]⁺, found: 392.2098 .

Determination of the absolute configuration.

Synthesis of (R)-2-(9H-xanthen-9-yl)propanol



To a solution of N-propionyl oxazolidinone **9** (20 mg, 0.1mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (2mL) a 1 M solution of TiCl₄ in CH_2Cl_2 (0.1mL) was added, followed by DIPEA (0.020mL, 0.12mmol). The resulting violet solution was stirred at 0°C for 30 m, then 9H-Xanthen-9-ol **8** (20 mg, 0.1mmol), immediately followed by 0.1mL of a 1M solution of TiCl₄ in CH_2Cl_2 , were added. The titanium enolate was immediately decolorized and after few minutes a yellow suspension was formed. The slurry was stirred 2 h at 0 °C then quenched with water and diluted with Et_2O (6 mL). The TiO₂ formed was filtered off and the organic phase was separated. The aqueous phase was extracted with ether, then the organic phases were reunited, dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude reaction mixture containing 9H-Xanthen-9-ol, propionyl oxazolidinone and the desired products was transferred to a flask and THF (3mL) was added. The solution 1M in THF). After 60 min, the reaction was quenched with water and diluted with AcOEt. The separated organic phase was dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. Purification by preparative TLC (5:5 cyclohexane/Et₂O) afforded **11** (3 mg, yield=12% over 2 steps).

¹**H NMR** (CDCl₃, 200MHz) δ: 0.65 (3H, t, J=7.0 Hz), 1.50 (1H, bs), 2.0 (1H, m), 3.40-3.59 (2H,m), 4.23 (1H, J=4.2 Hz), 7.03-7.12 (4H,m) 7.19-7.29 (4H, m).

HPLC analysis IC: gradient from 99:1 (hexane: *i*-PrOH) to 90:10 in 30min, flow 0.5mL/min: TM= 27.5min, tm=30.5min (ee=99%).

Synthesis of (S)-4-benzyl-3-(2-((2Z,4Z,6Z)-cyclohepta-2,4,6-trienyl)acetyl)oxazolidin-2-one 13.



To a solution of diisopropylamine (185 μ L, 1.32 mmol) in 12 mL of dry THF under nitrogen, *n*-butyllithium (492 μ L of a 2.5M solution in hexanes, 1.23 mmol) was added at 0°C and the resulting solution was stirred for 10 min. Then the flask was cooled to -78°C, EtOAc (119 μ L, 1.2 mmol) was added and the solution was stirred at the same temperature for 60min.

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In a second flask, tropylium tetrafluoroborate **12** (178mg, 1mmol) and TEA (139 μ L, 1mmol) were suspended in 1.5mL of dry THF and the mixture was cooled to -78°C. Then the content of this second flask was slowly transferred by cannula into the solution of the preformed lithium enolate, while keeping the temperature at -78°C. The reaction was allowed to warm during 1h, then it was quenched with water and extracted with EtOAc t. The combined organic phases were dried on sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was the dissolved in a mixture of THF/MeOH/H₂O (3.6/1/1, total volume: 15mL) and lithium hydroxyde (114mg, 3 mmol) was added at r.t.. After 1h, the reaction was diluted with EtOAc and acidified with 1M HCl. After the extraction, the organic fraction was dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo affording 81mg of 2-((2Z,4Z,6Z)-cyclohepta-2,4,6-trienyl)acetic acid (Y=54% over 2 steps).

The carboxylic acid (81 mg, 0.54 mmol) was dissolved in dry THF (4.0 mL) and TEA (139 μ L, 1.0 mmol) and cooled to -78 °C according to the procedure described by MacMillan at al. in *Science*, **2007**, *316*, 582. Pivaloyl chloride (74 μ L, 0.6 mmol) was added and the reaction was gradually warmed to 0 °C over 90 min. (*S*)-4-benzyloxazolidin-2-one (89 mg, 0.54 mmol) was added followed by lithium chloride (64 mg, 1.5 mmol) and the reaction was warmed to ambient temperature and stirred for 72h. The solution was diluted with ethyl acetate and washed with water, the organic phase was dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. Purification by flash chromatography (silica gel, 9:1 cyclohexane/EtOAc) afforded **13** (90 mg, Y=54%).

¹**H NMR** (CDCl₃, 200MHz) δ: 2.30-2.42 (1H, m), 2.80 (1H, dd, J=9.6, 13.2 Hz), 3.24-3.45 (3H, m), 4.08-4.27 (2H, m), 4.65-4.76 (1H, m), 5.29 (2H, pseudo t, J=7.0 Hz), 6.25 (2H, d, J=9.0Hz), 6.70 (2H, pseudo t, J=2.6 Hz), 7.20-7.35 (5H, m).

Synthesis of (S)-2-((2Z,4Z,6Z)-cyclohepta-2,4,6-trienyl)butan-1-ol 14.



Compound 13 was dissolved in THF (4 mL) and cooled to -78 °C. NaN(SiMe₃)₂ (700 µL, 0.7 mmol) was added and the reaction was stirred for 1 h. Iodoethane (150 µL, 1.88 mmol) was then added and the reaction was warmed to -20 °C over 4 h, then it was quenched with a saturated NH₄Cl aqueous solution (5 mL). The reaction was diluted with EtOAc and the organic phase was washed with brine, dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. The crude mixture obtained was diluted with 400 µL of dry THF, cooled to 0°C and treated with SuperHydride (0.29mL of a solution 1M in THF). After 30 min, the reaction was quenched with water and diluted with EtOAc. The separated organic phase was dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. Purification by preparative TLC (7:3 cyclohexane/EtOAc) afforded 14 (7 mg, Y=15% over 2 steps).

Supplementary Material (ESI) for Chemical Communications This journal is (c) The Royal Society of Chemistry 2009 ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 200MHz) δ: 0.96 (3H, t, J=7.4 Hz), 1.39-1.70 (3H, m), 1.70-1.88 (1H, m), 3.81 (2H, d,

J=4.8 Hz), 5.28-5.37 (2H, m), 6.21-6.25 (2H, m), 6.68 (2H, pseudo t, J=3.4 Hz).

HPLC analysis OD-H 99:1 (hexane: *i*-PrOH), flow 0.6 mL/min. tm= 28.6min, TM=26.9min (ee=90%).



































Chiracel IC: 99:1 (hexane: i-PrOH), flow 0.7mL/min. tm:12.2 min; TM: 11.7 min.







Chiracel IC: 99:1 (hexane: i-PrOH), flow 0.5mL/min. ± 27.5 min; ± 30.5 min.





Chiracel OF: gradient from 99:1 (hexane: *i*-PrOH) to 90:10 in 30min, flow 0.5mL/min. tm:23.3 min; TM: 21.4 min.







Chiracel IC: gradient from 99:1 (hexane: *i*-PrOH) to 90:10 in 30min, flow 0.5mL/min. tm:14.8 min; TM: 15.9 min.







Chiracel IC: gradient from 99:1 (hexane: *i*-PrOH) to 90:10 in 30min, flow 0.5mL/min. tm:27.8 min; TM: 29.0 min.















Chiracel OD-H: 99:1 (hexane: i-PrOH), flow 0.6mL/min. tm:21.1 min; TM: 19.2 min.







2c (Derivatized to alcohol)

Chiracel OD-H: 99:1 (hexane: *i*-PrOH), flow 0.6mL/min. tm:28.6min; TM: 26.9min.





Chiracel OD-H: 99:1 (hexane: i-PrOH), flow 0.6mL/min. tm:29.0min; TM: 24.9min.







Chiracel IC: gradient from 99:1 (hexane: *i*-PrOH) to 90:10 in 30min, flow 0.5mL/min. tm (major):12.8 min; TM (major): 14.6 min. tm (minor):15.7 min; TM (minor): 13.8 min.







Chiracel IC: gradient from 99:1 (hexane: *i*-PrOH) to 90:10 in 30min, flow 0.5mL/min. TM (anti): 31.6 min; tm (anti): 23.8 min; TM (syn): 21.0 min; tm (syn): 24.5 min;









Chiracel IC: gradient from 99:1 (hexane: *i*-PrOH) to 90:10 in 30min, flow 1.0mL/min. TM (syn): 24.1 min; tm (syn): 17.7min.







Chiracel IC: gradient from 99:1 (hexane: *i*-PrOH) to 90:10 in 30min, flow 0.5mL/min. TM (syn): 40.4 min; tm (syn): 33.9min; TM (anti): 43.0 min; tm (anti): 28.7min.







Chiracel IC: gradient from 99:1 (hexane: *i*-PrOH) to 8:2 in 30min, flow 0.5mL/min. TM (anti): 22.2 min; tm (anti): 20.4min; TM (syn): 24.0min; tm (syn): 25.8min.







Chiracel IC: gradient from 99:1 (hexane: *i*-PrOH) to 90:10 in 30min, flow 0.5mL/min. TM (anti): 45.8 min; tm (anti): 48.0min; TM (syn): 42.8 min; tm (syn): 34.1min.







Chiracel IC: gradient from 99:1 (hexane: *i*-PrOH) to 90:10 in 30min, flow 1.0mL/min. TM (anti): 40.9 min; tm (anti): 31.8min; TM (syn): 29.3 min; tm (syn): 27.7min.



