Catalytic Asymmetric Conjugate Addition of Grignard Reagents to Coumarins – Synthesis of Versatile Chiral Building Blocks

Johannes F. Teichert and Ben L. Feringa*

Supporting Information

1. General

Chromatography: Merck silica gel type 9385 230-400 mesh, TLC: Merck silica gel 60,0.25 mm. Components were visualized by UV and cerium/molybdenum staining. Progress and conversion of the reaction were determined by GC-MS (GC, HP6890: MS HP5973) with an HP1 or HP5 column (Agilent Technologies, Palo Alto, CA). Mass spectra were recorded on a AEI-MS-902 mass spectrometer (EI⁺) or a LTQ Orbitrap XL (ESI⁺). ¹H, ¹⁹F and ¹³C NMR were recorded on a Varian AMX400 (400 and 100.59 MHz, respectively), a Varian VXR300 (300 and 75 MHz, respectively) or a Varian Gemini 200, using CDCl₃ as solvent. Chemical shift values are reported in ppm with the solvent resonance as the internal standard (CHCl₃: δ 7.26 for ¹H, δ 77.0 for ¹³C). Data are reported as follows: chemical shifts, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, br = broad, m = multiplet), coupling constants (Hz), and integration. Optical rotations were measured on a *Schmidt* + *Haensch* polarimeter (Polartronic MH8) with a 10 cm cell (*c* given in g/100 mL). Enantiomeric excesses (ee values) were determined by HPLC analysis using a Shimadzu LC-10ADVP HPLC equipped with a Shimadzu SPD-M10AVP diode array detector and chiral columns as indicated. *Ees* were determined by comparison of the racemic mixture with the corresponding chiral compounds or the mixtures of both R and S enantiomers. All reactions were carried out under a nitrogen atmosphere using oven dried glassware and using standard Schlenk techniques. CH₂Cl₂ was dried and distilled over calcium hydride, THF and Et₂O were dried and distilled over Na/benzophenone. Toluene was dried and distilled over Na. MTBE was dried and distilled over CaH₂. CuBr•SMe₂ was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, and used without further purification. Grignard reagents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (MeMgBr, EtMgBr, n-HexMgBr, *i*-BuMgBr), all other Grignard reagents were prepared from the corresponding bromides with Mg in Et₂O. All Grignard reagents were titrated using s-BuOH and catalytic amounts of 1,10-phenanthroline before use. L1 was prepared according to literature,¹ L2-L5 were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. All coumarins were commercially available, 3c and 3d were prepared (see below).

2.) Synthesis of starting materials



General Procedure for the methylation of salicylic aldehydes (synthesis of S2)

The corresponding salicylic aldehyde **S1** (1.00 eq.) was dissolved in DMF (Volume: 100 mL/10 mmol) and the solution cooled to 0 °C. Then, 1.00 eq. sodium hyride (as 60% suspension in mineral oil) was added slowly and the reaction mixture was stirred for 15 min at 0 °C (or until gas evolution ceased, respectively). Then, 2.00 eq. methyl iodide was added dropwise, and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 21 °C. When TLC showed full consumption of the starting material, the reaction was quenched by addition of water (100 mL/10 mmol). The mixture was washed with water and brine (50 mL / 10 mmol each), extracted with EtOAc (2x 50 mL / 10 mmol) and the organic phases was dried over MgSO₄. The crude product was used without further purification.

5-chloro-2-methoxybenzaldehyde (S2a)



S2 a

Following the general procedure for methylation of salicylic aldehydes, 2.167 g 5-chloro-2methoxybenzaldehyde **S2a** (12.70 mmol, 99 % yield) was isolated as a pale yellow solid from the reaction of 5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzaldehyde (2.00 g, 12.77 mmol) with methyl iodide (1.597 ml, 25.5 mmol).

¹H NMR: (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.30 (s, 1H), 7.64 (s, 1H), 7.46 – 7.34 (m, 1H), 6.87 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR: (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 188.12, 160.07, 135.16, 127.53, 126.00, 125.37, 113.18, 55.79.

HR-MS: (ESI^+) calculated for $C_8H_8ClO_2$ [M+H⁺]: 171.0207, found: 171.0204.

5-bromo-2-methoxybenzaldehyde (S2b)



S2b

Following the general procedure for methylation of salicylic aldehydes, 2.097 g 5-bromo-2methoxybenzaldehyde **S2b** (9,75 mmol, 98 % yield) was isolated as a pale yellow solid from the reaction of 5-bromo-2-hydroxybenzaldehyde (2.00 g, 9.95 mmol) with methyl iodide (1.244 ml, 19.90 mmol).

¹H NMR: (201 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.31 (s, 1H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (dd, *J* = 8.9, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR: (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 188.13, 160.57, 138.12, 130.70, 125.83, 113.63, 113.19, 55.82. HR-MS: (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_8H_8BrO_2$ [M+H⁺]: 214.9702, found: 214.9696.

General procedure for the Wittig reaction of methyl 2-(triphenylphosphoranylidene)acetate with salicylic aldehydes Salicylic aldehyde **S2** (1.00 eq.) was dissolved in toluene (Volume: 50 mL/ 10 mmol), and 1.20 eq. methyl 2-(triphenylphosphoranylidene)acetate was added to the mixture. This was heated to 110 °C until TLC showed full conversion of the starting material. After cooling, diethylether (50 mL/10 mmol) was added to precipitate any triphenylphosphinoxide, which was subsequently filtered off. All volatiles were removed under reduced pressure to give the crude products, which were purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, pentane/EtOAc 8:2) to yield **S3** as a mixture of E/Z isomers.

Methyl 3-(5-chloro-2-methoxyphenyl)acrylate (S3a)



Following the general procedure for the Wittig reaction with salicylic aldehydes, 2.384 g methyl 3-(5-chloro-2-methoxyphenyl)acrylate **S3a** (10.52 mmol, 90 % yield) was isolated as a white solid from the reaction of 5-chloro-2-methoxybenzaldehyde **S2a** (2.00 g, 11.72 mmol) with methyl 2-(triphenylphosphoranylidene)acetate (4.70 g, 14.07 mmol). ($R_f = 0.80$ in pentane/EtOAc 8:2).

¹H NMR: (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (dd, J = 8.9, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.45 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR: (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.25, 156.61, 138.50, 130.70, 129.68, 127.97, 125.57, 124.64, 119.30, 112.28, 55.62, 51.50.

HR-MS: (ESI^+) calculated for $C_{11}H_{12}ClO_3$ [M+H⁺]: 227.0470, found: 227.0465.

Methyl 3-(5-bromo-2-methoxyphenyl)acrylate (S3b)



S3b

Following the general procedure for the Wittig reaction with salicylic aldehydes, 1.977 g methyl 3-(5-bromo-2-methoxyphenyl)acrylate **S3b** (7.29 mmol, 78 % yield) was isolated as a white solid from the reaction of 5-bromo-2-methoxybenzaldehyde **S2b** (2.00 g, 9.30 mmol) with methyl 2-(triphenylphosphoranylidene)acetate (3.73 g, 11.16 mmol). ($R_f = 0.65$ in pentane/EtOAc 8:2).

¹H NMR: (201 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.87 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.46 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR: (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.32, 157.14, 138.52, 138.49, 133.68, 130.99, 125.20, 119.39, 112.85, 112.78, 55.66, 51.61.

HR-MS: (ESI^+) calculated for $C_{11}H_{12}BrO_3$ [M+H⁺]: 270.9964, found: 270.9969.

General procedure for the synthesis of coumarin derivatives 3c, 3d from methyl acrylates

According to a modified literature procedure,² 1.00 eq. methyl acrylate S3 was dissolved in toluene (Volume: 50 mL/ 5 mmol) and the mixture cooled to 0 °C. Then, 2.00 eq. boron tribromide was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was heated to 110 °C for 4h. After cooling to room temperature, water (50 mL / 5 mmol) was added and the aqueous layer was extracted twice with CHCl₃ (30 mL / 5 mmol). After drying over MgSO₄ and removal of all volatiles under reduced pressure, the crude mixture was purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, pentane/EtOAc 8:2) to yield the desired coumarins **3c** or **3d**.

6-chloro-2H-chromen-2-one (3c)



3c

Following the general procedure for the synthesis of coumarin derivatives from esters, 0.613 g 6-chloro-2H-chromen-2-one **3c** (3.40 mmol, 77 % yield) was isolated as a pale yellow solid from the reaction of methyl 3-(5-chloro-2-methoxyphenyl)acrylate **S3a** (1.00 g, 4.41 mmol) with boron tribromide (0.834 ml, 8.82 mmol). ($R_f = 0.75$ in pentane/EtOAc 8:2).

¹H NMR: (201 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.63 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (dt, *J* = 4.9, 2.3 Hz, 2H), 7.30 – 7.18 (m, 1H), 6.44 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR: (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.94, 152.32, 142.15, 131.65, 129.58, 127.05, 119.72, 118.20, 117.74.

HR-MS: (ESI^{+}) calculated for C₉H₆ClO₂ [M+H⁺]: 181.0051, found: 181.0051.

6-bromo-2H-chromen-2-one (3d)



3d

Following the general procedure for the synthesis of coumarin derivatives from esters, 0.522 g 6-bromo-2H-chromen-2-one **3d** (2.320 mmol, 63 % yield) was isolated as an orange solid from the reaction of methyl 3-(5-bromo-2-methoxyphenyl)acrylate **S3b** (1.00 g, 3.69 mmol) with boron tribromide (0.697 ml, 7.38 mmol). ($R_f = 0.90$ in pentane/EtOAc 8:2).

¹H NMR: (201 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.68 – 7.55 (m, 3H), 7.29 – 7.15 (m, 1H), 6.45 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR: (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.90, 159.88, 142.04, 134.54, 130.13, 120.28, 118.60, 117.83, 116.94.

HR-MS: (ESI^{+}) calculated for C₉H₆BrO₂ [M+H⁺]: 224.9546, found: 224.9548.

3. General Procedure for the asymmetric Cu-catalyzed conjugate addition of Grignard reagents to Coumarins

Copper Bromide dimethyl sulfide complex (5.0 mol %) and 5.5 mol % (R,S_{Fe})-reverse Josiphos (L4) were dissolved in MTBE (Volume: 15 mL / 1 mmol substrate) and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 15 min. Then, the mixture was cooled to -72 °C and subsequently 2.5 eq. of the appropriate Grignard reagent was added. The mixture stirred for and additional 10 min at -72 °C. Then, a solution of 1.00 eq. of the appropriate coumarin 1 or **3** in MTBE (Volume: 5 mL / 1 mmol) was added dropwise over a period of 1 h. The reaction mixture was stirred until TLC showed full conversion. Then, the reaction was quenched by adding HCl solution in Et₂O (2.0 mL / 1 mmol substrate) at -72 °C. Then, 20 mL / 1 mmol). After washing two times with aqueous saturated NH₄Cl solution (2x 50 mL / 1 mmol) and reextraction of the aqueous layer with Et₂O (20 mL / 1 mmol), the combined organic layers were dried over MgSO₄. All volatiles were removed under reduced pressure to give the crude product, which was purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, EtOAc/Pentane) to yield **2** or **4**.

General Procedure for the synthesis of racemic products of the Cu-catalyzed conjugate addition to Coumarins

1.00 eq. of the appropriate coumarin (0,485 mmol) and 30.0 mol % copper bromide dimethyl sulfide complex (0.030 g, 0.145 mmol) and 60.0 mol % triphenylphosphine (0.076 g, 0.291 mmol) were dissolved in MTBE (Volume: 15 ml), cooled to -40 °C and stirred for 10 min. Then, 2.50 eq. of the appropriate Grignard reagent (1.212 mmol) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was stirred overnight at -40 °C. Then, the reaction was quenched by addition of 2.0 mL HCl in Et₂O (2N). Then, 20 mL saturated aqueous NH₄Cl solution was added at low temperature and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature. Then, it was diluted with Et₂O (30 mL). After washing two times with aqueous saturated NH₄Cl solution (2x 50 mL) and reextraction of the aqueous layer with Et₂O (20 mL), the combined organic layers were dried over MgSO₄. All volatiles were removed under reduced pressure to give the crude product, which was purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, EtOAc/Pentane) to yield the desired compounds.

(R)-4-ethylchroman-2-one (2a)



2a

Following the general procedure for the asymmetric Cu-catalyzed conjugate addition, 0.135 g (R)-4-ethylchroman-2-one **2a** (0.768 mmol, 96% yield) was isolated as a pale yellow oil from the reaction of 2H-chromen-2-one **1** (0.117 g, 0.8 mmol) with ethylmagnesium bromide solution (3.0 molar in Et₂O) (0.67 ml, 2.00 mmol). The desired product was purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, pentane/EtOAc 10:1, $R_f = 0.68$ in pentane/EtOAc 10:1, 95% *ee*).

¹H NMR: (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.29 – 7.21 (m, 1H), 7.21 – 7.15 (m, 1H), 7.11 (dd, J = 10.7, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 2.96 – 2.86 (m, 1H), 2.78 (qd, J = 15.8, 4.9 Hz, 2H), 1.64 (tdd, J = 14.0, 11.3, 6.2 Hz, 3H), 0.95 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR: (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.48, 151.22, 128.17, 127.84, 126.42, 124.20, 117.00, 36.52, 34.35, 27.50, 11.11.

HR-MS: (ESI^{+}) calculated for $C_{11}H_{12}O_2Na [M+Na^{+}]$: 199.0730, found: 199.0730.

 $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{20} = 53.6 \text{ (c} = 1.0 \text{ in CHCl}_3)$ $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{20} = 114.6 \text{ (c} = 1.0 \text{ in C}_6\text{H}_6)$

The two $\left[\alpha\right]_{D}^{20}$ values have been used for determination of the absolute configuration by comparison with literature data.^{3, 4}

ee determination by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak AD: n-heptane/2-propanol 95:5, 40 °C isotherm, 220 nm), retention times: 8.3 min (major), 8.9 min (minor).

(R)-4-hexylchroman-2-one (2c)



2 c

Following the general procedure for the asymmetric Cu-catalyzed conjugate addition, 0.177 g (R)-4-hexylchroman-2-one 2c (0.760 mmol, 95 % yield) was isolated as a pale yellow solid from the reaction of 2H-chromen-2-one 1 (0.117 g, 0.8 mmol) with n-hexylmagnesium bromide solution (2.0 molar in Et₂O) (1.00 ml, 2.00 mmol). The desired product was purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, pentane/EtOAc 10:1, $R_f = 0.78$ in pentane/EtOAc 10:1, 99% ee).

¹H NMR: (201 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.30 – 6.95 (m, 4H), 3.04 – 2.87 (m, 1H), 2.81 – 2.61 (m, 2H), 1.66 - 1.45 (m, 2H), 1.44 - 1.02 (m, 8H), 0.84 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR: (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.26, 151.09, 127.99, 127.65, 126.72, 124.10, 116.85, 34.94, 34.54, 34.47, 31.47, 28.94, 26.44, 22.41, 13.88.

HR-MS: (ESI^+) calculated for $C_{15}H_{20}O_2Na [M+Na^+]$: 255.1356, found: 255.1356.

 $[\alpha]_{D}^{20} = 47.6 \ (c = 1.0 \ in \ CHCl_{3})$

ee determination by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak OB-H: n-heptane/2-propanol 95:5, 40 °C isotherm, 210 nm), retention times: 10.5 min (minor), 12.4 min (major).

(S)-4-isopropylchroman-2-one (2d)



2d

Following the general procedure for the asymmetric Cu-catalyzed conjugate addition, 0.145 g (S)-4-isopropylchroman-2-one 2d (0.760 mmol, 95 % yield) was isolated as a pale yellow oil from the reaction of 2H-chromen-2-one 1 (0.117 g, 0.8 mmol) with isopropylmagnesium bromide solution (1.5 molar in Et₂O) (1.33 ml, 2.00 mmol). The desired product was purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, pentane/EtOAc 10:1, $R_f = 0.90$ in pentane/EtOAc 10:1, 63% ee).

¹H NMR: (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.27 – 7.19 (m, 1H), 7.14 (dd, J = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.11 – 7.04 (m, 1H), 7.01 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 2.85 (dd, J = 10.7, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 2.78 – 2.63 (m, 2H), 1.82 (dd, J = 13.5, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 0.93 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 0.88 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR: (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.65, 151.46, 128.84, 128.09, 125.30, 123.87, 116.81, 41.61, 32.05, 31.96, 20.00, 19.00.

HR-MS: (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{12}H_{15}O_2$ [M+H⁺]: 191.1067, found: 191.1066.

 $[\alpha]_{D}^{20} = 21.6 \text{ (c} = 1.0 \text{ in CHCl}_{3})$

ee determination by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak OB-H: n-heptane/2-propanol 98:2, 40 °C isotherm, 210 nm), retention times: 15.5 min (major), 17.2 min (minor).

(R)-4-isobutylchroman-2-one (2e)



Following the general procedure for the asymmetric Cu-catalyzed conjugate addition, 0.118 g (R)-4-isobutylchroman-2-one **2e** (0.576 mmol, 72 % yield) was isolated as a pale yellow solid from the reaction of 2H-chromen-2-one **1** (0.117 g, 0.8 mmol) with isobutylmagnesium bromide solution (2.0 molar in Et₂O) (1.00 ml, 2.00 mmol). The desired product was purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, pentane/EtOAc 10:1, $R_f = 0.78$ in pentane/EtOAc 10:1, 93% *ee*).

¹H NMR: (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.29 – 7.20 (m, 1H), 7.20 – 7.15 (m, 1H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 3.07 (dd, *J* = 5.3, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 2.76 (ddd, *J* = 19.5, 15.8, 4.7 Hz, 2H), 1.63 (dt, *J* = 13.4, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 1.42 (dtd, *J* = 21.2, 13.9, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 0.98 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H), 0.89 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR: (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.34, 151.20, 128.12, 127.48, 127.17, 124.25, 117.09, 43.62, 34.69, 32.76, 24.84, 22.59, 22.22.

HR-MS: (ESI^+) calculated for $C_{13}H_{17}O_2$ [M+H⁺]: 205.1223, found: 205.1223.

 $[\alpha]_{D}^{20} = 72.0 \text{ (c} = 1.0 \text{ in CHCl}_{3})$

ee determination by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak OB-H: n-heptane/2-propanol 98:2, 40 °C isotherm, 210 nm), retention times: 13.8 min (major), 15.4 min (minor).

(R)-4-(but-3-enyl)chroman-2-one (2f)



Following the general procedure for the asymmetric Cu-catalyzed conjugate addition, 0.106 g (R)-4-(but-3-en-1-yl)-3,4-dihydronaphthalen-2(1H)-one **2f** (0.528 mmol, 66 % yield) was isolated as a pale yellow oil from the reaction of 2H-chromen-2-one **1** (0.117 g, 0.8 mmol) with butenylmagnesium bromide solution (2.38 molar in Et₂O) (0.84 ml, 2.00 mmol). The desired product was purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, pentane/EtOAc 10:1, $R_f = 0.85$ in pentane/EtOAc 10:1, 93% *ee*).

¹H NMR: (201 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.38 – 6.93 (m, 4H), 5.93 – 5.62 (m, 1H), 5.24 – 4.83 (m, 2H), 3.10 – 2.93 (m, 1H), 2.91 – 2.61 (m, 2H), 2.25 – 1.95 (m, 2H), 1.79 – 1.55 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR: (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.20, 151.23, 137.18, 128.27, 127.76, 126.42, 124.26, 117.09, 115.61, 34.57, 34.28, 33.51, 30.54.

HR-MS: (ESI⁺) calculated for C₁₃H₁₄O₂Na [M+Na⁺]: 225.0886, found: 225.0884.

 $[\alpha]_{D}^{20} = 72.6 \ (c = 1.0 \ in \ CHCl_3)$

ee determination by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak OD-H: n-heptane/2-propanol 99:1, 40 °C isotherm, 210 nm), retention times: 20.4 min (minor), 21.6 min (major).

(R)-4-phenethylchroman-2-one (2g)



Following the general procedure for the asymmetric Cu-catalyzed conjugate addition, 0.126 g (R)-4-phenethylchroman-2-one **2g** (0.499 mmol, 73% yield) was isolated as an orange solid from the reaction of 2H-chromen-2-one **1** (0.117 g, 0.8 mmol) with phenylethylmagnesium bromide solution (1.50 molar in Et₂O) (1.14 ml, 2.00 mmol). The desired product was purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, pentane/EtOAc 10:1, $R_f = 0.65$ in pentane/EtOAc 10:1, 94% *ee*).

¹H NMR: (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.36 – 7.26 (m, 3H), 7.25 – 7.04 (m, 6H), 3.11 – 2.98 (m, 1H), 2.90 – 2.80 (m, 2H), 2.79 – 2.58 (m, 2H), 2.04 – 1.85 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR: (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.06, 151.17, 140.68, 128.39, 128.25, 128.14, 127.68, 126.30, 126.01, 124.23, 117.02, 35.86, 34.48, 34.35, 32.56.

HR-MS: (ESI^+) calculated for $C_{17}H_{16}O_2Na [M+Na^+]$: 275.1043, found: 275.1042.

 $[\alpha]_{D}^{20} = 57.0 \text{ (c} = 1.0 \text{ in CHCl}_{3})$

ee determination by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak AD: n-heptane/2-propanol 95:5, 40 °C isotherm, 210 nm), retention times: 8.3 min (minor), 9.0 min (major).

(R)-4-(4-chlorobutyl)chroman-2-one (2h)



Following the general procedure for the asymmetric Cu-catalyzed conjugate addition, 0.075 g (R)-4-(4-chlorobutyl)chroman-2-one **2h** (0.315 mmol, 46 % yield) was isolated as a yellow oil from the reaction of 2H-chromen-2-one **1** (0.117 g, 0.8 mmol) with (4-chlorobutyl)magnesium bromide solution (2.30 molar in Et₂O) (0.744 ml, 2.00 mmol). The desired product was purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, pentane/EtOAc 10:1, $R_f = 0.65$ in pentane/EtOAc 10:1, 98% *ee*).

The product contains traces of dehalogenated product.

¹H NMR: (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.31 – 7.23 (m, 1H), 7.18 (dd, J = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (td, J = 7.4, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 3.52 (dt, J = 6.5, 5.1 Hz, 2H), 2.99 (dd, J = 5.8, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 2.80 (ddd, J = 19.7, 15.9, 4.8 Hz, 2H), 1.77 (ddd, J = 7.7, 6.1, 3.7 Hz, 2H), 1.68 – 1.52 (m, 4H).

¹³C NMR: (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.20, 151.21, 128.39, 127.79, 126.33, 124.35, 117.18, 44.58, 35.10, 34.75, 33.87, 32.25, 24.05.

HR-MS: (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{13}H_{16}O_2$ [M+H⁺]: 239.0833, found: 239.0842.

 $[\alpha]_{D}^{20} = 84.6 \ (c = 1.0 \ in \ CHCl_{3})$

ee determination by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak OD-H: n-heptane/2-propanol 98:2, 40 °C isotherm, 210 nm), retention times: 26.0 min (major), 27.0 min (minor).

(R)-4-ethyl-6-methylchroman-2-one (4a)



Following the general procedure for the asymmetric Cu-catalyzed conjugate addition, 0.140 g (R)-4-ethyl-6-methylchroman-2-one **4a** (0.736 mmol, 92 % yield) was isolated as a pale yellow oil from the reaction of 6-methyl-2H-chromen-2-one **3a** (0.128 g, 0.8 mmol) with ethylmagnesium bromide solution (3.00 molar in Et₂O) (0.67 ml, 2.00 mmol). The desired product was purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, pentane/EtOAc 10:1, $R_f = 0.85$ in pentane/EtOAc 10:1, 94% *ee*).

¹H NMR: (201 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.09 – 6.85 (m, 3H), 2.90 – 2.78 (m, 1H), 2.77 – 2.61 (m, 2H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 1.70 – 1.44 (m, 2H), 0.93 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR: (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.51, 149.05, 133.63, 128.50, 128.15, 126.03, 116.53, 36.42, 34.26, 27.43, 20.59, 11.00.

HR-MS: (ESI^+) calculated for $C_{12}H_{15}O_2$ [M+H⁺]: 191.1067, found: 191.1067.

 $[\alpha]_{D}^{20} = 19.0 \text{ (c} = 1.0 \text{ in CHCl}_{3})$

ee determination by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak OJ-H: n-heptane/2-propanol 98:2, 40 °C isotherm, 210 nm), retention times: 15.8 min (major), 17.3 min (minor).

(R)-4-ethyl-7-methylchroman-2-one (4b)



Following the general procedure for the asymmetric Cu-catalyzed conjugate addition, 0.141 g (R)-4-ethyl-7-methylchroman-2-one **4b** (0.741 mmol, 93 % yield) was isolated as a pale yellow oil from the reaction of 7-methyl-2H-chromen-2-one **3b** (0.128 g, 0.8 mmol) with ethylmagnesium bromide solution (3.00 molar in Et₂O) (0.67 ml, 2.00 mmol). The desired product was purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, pentane/EtOAc 10:1, $R_f = 0.70$ in pentane/EtOAc 10:1, 97% *ee*).

¹H NMR: (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.04 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (dd, J = 7.7, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (s, 1H), 2.89 – 2.81 (m, 1H), 2.74 (qd, J = 15.7, 4.9 Hz, 2H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 1.59 (qt, J = 13.9, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.93 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR: (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.54, 151.05, 138.28, 127.47, 124.84, 123.22, 117.30, 36.09, 34.45, 27.50, 20.89, 11.00.

HR-MS: (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{12}H_{15}O_2$ [M+H⁺]: 191.1067, found: 191.1062. [α]_D²⁰ = 37.0 (c = 1.0 in CHCl₃)

ee determination by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak OJ-H: n-heptane/2-propanol 98:2, 40 °C isotherm, 210 nm), retention times: 16.9 min (major), 18.2 min (minor).

(R)-6-chloro-4-ethylchroman-2-one (4c)



Following the general procedure for the asymmetric Cu-catalyzed conjugate addition, 0.135 g (R)-6-chloro-4-ethylchroman-2-one **4c** (0.641 mmol, 80 % yield) was isolated as an orange oil from the reaction of 6-chloro-2H-chromen-2-one **3c** (0.144 g, 0.8 mmol), which was added as a solution in 7 mL MTBE/CH₂Cl₂ (5:2), with ethylmagnesium bromide solution (3.00 molar in Et₂O) (0.67 ml, 2.00 mmol). The desired product was purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, pentane/EtOAc 10:1, $R_f = 0.55$ in pentane/EtOAc 10:1, 95% *ee*).

¹H NMR: (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.24 – 7.11 (m, 2H), 6.95 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.93 – 2.83 (m, 1H), 2.82 – 2.66 (m, 2H), 1.73 – 1.47 (m, 2H), 0.94 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR: (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.55, 149.73, 129.16, 128.09, 127.57, 118.27, 97.86, 36.36, 33.81, 27.23, 10.91.

HR-MS: (ESI^+) calculated for $C_{11}H_{12}ClO_2$ [M+H⁺]: 211.0520, found: 211.0517.

 $[\alpha]_{D}^{20} = 16.8 (c = 1.0 \text{ in CHCl}_{3})$

ee determination by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak OB-H: n-heptane/2-propanol 98:2, 40 °C isotherm, 210 nm), retention times: 27.0 min (major), 33.1 min (minor).

(R)-6-bromo-4-ethylchroman-2-one (4d)



Following the general procedure for the asymmetric Cu-catalyzed conjugate addition, 0.175 g (R)-6-bromo-4-ethylchroman-2-one **4d** (0.686 mmol, 86 % yield) was isolated as a yellow oil from the reaction of 6-bromo-2H-chromen-2-one **3d** (0.180 g, 0.8 mmol), which was added as a solution in 8 mL MTBE/CH₂Cl₂ (5:3), with ethylmagnesium bromide solution (3.00 molar in Et₂O) (0.67 ml, 2.00 mmol). The desired product was purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, pentane/EtOAc 10:1, $R_f = 0.55$ in pentane/EtOAc 10:1, 96% *ee*).

¹H NMR: (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.41 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 6.90 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.94 – 2.81 (m, 1H), 2.81 – 2.61 (m, 2H), 1.60 (td, J = 14.5, 7.0 Hz, 2H), 0.94 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR: (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.44, 150.25, 131.04, 130.48, 128.54, 118.67, 116.68, 36.31, 33.80, 27.26, 10.93.

HR-MS: (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{11}H_{12}BrO_2$ [M+H⁺]: 255.0015, found: 255.0010. [α]_D²⁰ = 5.40 (c = 1.0 in CHCl₃)

ee determination by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak OB-H: n-heptane/2-propanol 98:2, 40 °C isotherm, 210 nm), retention times: 24.1 min (major), 28.4 min (minor).

(R)-4-ethyl-6,7-dimethoxychroman-2-one (4e)



Following the general procedure for the asymmetric Cu-catalyzed conjugate addition, 0.063 g (R)-4-ethyl-6,7-dimethoxychroman-2-one **4e** (0.267 mmol, 55 % yield) was isolated as a brown oil from the reaction of 6,7-dimethoxy-2H-chromen-2-one **3e** (0.100 g, 0.485 mmol), which was added as a solution in 5.0 mL MTBE/CH₂Cl₂ (1:1), with ethylmagnesium bromide solution (3.00 molar in Et₂O) (0.404 ml, 2.00 mmol). The desired product was purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, pentane/EtOAc 8:2, R_f = 0.50 in pentane/EtOAc 8:2, 64% *ee*).

¹H NMR: (201 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.63 (s, 1H), 6.60 (s, 1H), 3.85 (d, J = 3.3 Hz, 6H), 2.88 – 2.63 (m, 3H), 1.60 (dd, J = 13.2, 6.6 Hz, 2H), 0.95 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR: (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.56, 148.72, 145.46, 145.00, 117.27, 110.41, 101.28, 56.41, 56.07, 36.34, 34.49, 27.80, 11.12.

HR-MS: (ESI⁺) calculated for C₁₃H₁₇O₄ [M+H⁺]: 237.1121, found: 237.1118. $[\alpha]_{D}^{20} = 20.8$ (c = 1.0 in CHCl₃)

ee determination by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak AD-H: n-heptane/2-propanol 98:2, 40 °C isotherm, 210 nm), retention times: 32.0 min (major), 44.1 min (minor).

(R)-4-ethyl-5,7-dimethoxychroman-2-one (4f)



Following the general procedure for the asymmetric Cu-catalyzed conjugate addition, 0.125 g (R)-4-ethyl-5,7-dimethoxychroman-2-one **4f** (0.528 mmol, 66 % yield) was isolated as a pale yellow solid from the reaction of 5,7-dimethoxy-2H-chromen-2-one **3f** (0.165 g, 0.8 mmol), which was added as a solution in 5.0 mL MTBE/CH₂Cl₂ (1:1), with ethylmagnesium bromide solution (3.00 molar in Et₂O) (0.667 ml, 2.00 mmol). The desired product was purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, pentane/EtOAc 8:2, $R_f = 0.75$ in pentane/EtOAc 8:2, 48% *ee*).

¹H NMR: (201 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.22 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 2.3 Hz, 2H), 3.78 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 6H), 3.30 – 3.08 (m, 1H), 2.71 (qd, *J* = 15.9, 4.1 Hz, 2H), 1.66 – 1.33 (m, 2H), 0.89 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR: (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.64, 159.96, 157.28, 152.52, 107.63, 94.69, 93.82, 55.53, 55.42, 33.82, 30.22, 27.30, 11.03. HR-MS: (ESI⁺) calculated for C₁₃H₁₇O₄ [M+H⁺]: 237.1121, found: 237.1121. [α]_D²⁰ = 10.6 (c = 1.0 in CHCl₃) *ee* determination by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak OJ-H: n-heptane/2-propanol 95:5, 40 °C isotherm, 210 nm), retention times: 24.0 min (major), 27.4 min (minor).

(R)-ethyl 3-(2-hydroxyphenyl)pentanoate (6)



6

In a flame-dried Schlenk tube, 2.5 mol% copper bromide dimethyl sulfide complex (4.11 mg, 0.020 mmol) and 3.0 mol% reverse Josiphos L4 (0.014 g, 0.024 mmol) were dissolved in MTBE (Volume: 10.0 ml) and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 15 min. Then, the mixture was cooled to -72 °C and 2.5 eq. ethylmagnesium bromide solution (c = 3.0 molar, 0.800 ml, 2.4 mmol) were added and the mixture stirred for 10 more min. Then, a solution of 1.00 eq. 2H-chromen-2-one 1 (0.117 g, 0.8 mmol) in MTBE (Volume: 5.0 ml) was added dropwise over a period of 1 h. The reaction was stirred until TLC showed full conversion to the 1,4-addition product (~2 h). Then, 5.00 eq. ethanol (0.234 ml, 4.00 mmol) were added and the reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred at that temperature for 5 h. Then, the reaction was quenched by adding saturated NH₄Cl solution (50 mL) and the reaction mixture was diluted with Et₂O (50 mL). After separation of the organic phase it was dried over MgSO₄ and all volatiles were removed under reduced pressure to give the crude product as a yellow oil. This was further purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, pentane/EtOAc 10:1, R_f = 0.55 in pentane/EtOAc 10:1, 95% *ee*) to yield (R)-ethyl-3-(2-hydroxyphenyl)pentanoate **6** (0.154 g, 0.693 mmol, 87 %) as a colourless oil.

¹H NMR: (201 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.19 – 6.98 (m, 3H), 6.96 – 6.82 (m, 2H), 4.30 – 3.91 (m, 2H), 3.36 (dtd, J = 13.1, 7.6, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 2.70 (qd, J = 16.4, 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.89 – 1.59 (m, 2H), 1.18 (t, J = 7.22 Hz, 3H), 0.84 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR: (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.74, 154.14, 130.49, 127.22, 120.78, 117.03, 60.86, 40.90, 35.98, 27.77, 13.92, 12.02.

HR-MS: (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{13}H_{18}O_3Na$ [M+Na⁺]: 245.1148, found: 245.1149. [α]_D²⁰ = -2.0 (c = 1.0 in CHCl₃)

ee determination by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak AD-H: n-heptane/2-propanol 99:1, 40 °C isotherm, 210 nm), retention times: 76.2 min (minor), 80.0 min (major).

(R)-3-(2-hydroxyphenyl)-N-propylpentanamide (7)



In a flame-dried Schlenk tube, 2.5 mol% copper bromide dimethyl sulfide complex (4.11 mg, 0.020 mmol) and 3.0 mol% reverse Josiphos L4 (0.014 g, 0.024 mmol) were dissolved in MTBE (Volume: 10.0 ml) and the mixture stirred at room temperature for 15 min. The mixture was cooled to -72 °C and 2.5 eq. ethylmagnesium bromide solution (c = 3.0 molar, 0.800 ml, 2.4 mmol) were added and the mixture stirred for 10 more min. Next, a solution of

1.00 eq. 2H-chromen-2-one **1** (0.117 g, 0.8 mmol) in MTBE (Volume: 5.0 ml) was added dropwise over a period of 1 h. The reaction was stirred until TLC showed full conversion to the 1,4-addition product (~2 h). Then, 5.00 eq. propan-1-amine (0.329 ml, 4.00 mmol) were added and the reaction mixture was warmed up to room temperature and stirred at that temperature for 16 h. The reaction was quenched by adding saturated NH₄Cl solution (50 mL) and the reaction mixture was diluted with Et₂O (50 mL). After separation of the organic phase it was dried over MgSO₄ and all volatiles were removed under reduced pressure to give the crude product as a yellow oil. This was further purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, pentane/EtOAc 1:1, $R_f = 0.60$ in pentane/EtOAc 1:1, 96% *ee*) to yield (R)-3-(2-hydroxyphenyl)-N-propylpentanamide 7 (0.154 g, 0.656 mmol, 82 %) as a colourless oil.

¹H NMR: (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.71 (s (br), 1H), 7.12 – 7.02 (m, 2H), 6.94 – 6.83 (m, 2H), 6.26 (s (br), 1H), 3.34 (dd, J = 11.5, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.07 (dd, J = 13.3, 6.7 Hz, 2H), 2.65 (dd, J = 15.3, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (dd, J = 15.3, 10.2 Hz, 1H), 1.72 (td, J = 14.2, 6.5 Hz, 2H), 1.48 – 1.28 (m, 2H), 0.81 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 0.75 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR: (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.76, 154.50, 130.74, 127.19, 127.01, 120.50, 117.24, 43.32, 41.32, 36.21, 27.77, 22.33, 12.15, 11.03.

HR-MS: (ESI^+) calculated for $C_{14}H_{22}NO_2$ [M+H⁺]: 236.1645, found: 236.1644.

 $[\alpha]_{D}^{20} = -38.4 \text{ (c} = 1.0 \text{ in CHCl}_{3})$

ee determination by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak AB-H: n-heptane/2-propanol 95:5, 40 °C isotherm, 210 nm), retention times: 25.9 min (minor), 32.4 min (major).

(3S,4R)-4-ethyl-3-(hydroxy(phenyl)methyl)chroman-2-one (8)



8

In a flame-dried Schlenk tube, 2.5 mol% copper bromide dimethyl sulfide complex (4.11 mg, 0.020 mmol) and 3.0 mol% reverse Josiphos L4 (0.014 g, 0.024 mmol) were dissolved in MTBE (Volume: 10.0 ml) and stirred at room temperature for 15 min. The mixture was cooled to -72 °C and 2.5 eq. ethylmagnesium bromide solution (c = 3.0 molar, 0.800 ml, 2.4 mmol) were added and the mixture stirred for 10 more min. A solution of 1.00 eq. 2Hchromen-2-one 1 (0.117 g, 0.8 mmol) in MTBE (Volume: 5.0 ml) was added dropwise over a period of 1 h. The reaction was stirred until TLC showed full conversion to the 1,4-addition product (~2 h). Then, 5.00 eq. benzaldehyde (0.405 ml, 4.00 mmol) were added and the reaction mixture was warmed up to room temperature and stirred at that temperature for 4 h. Then, the reaction was quenched by adding saturated aq. NH₄Cl solution (50 mL) and the reaction mixture was diluted with Et₂O (50 mL). After separation of the organic phase it was dried over MgSO₄ and all volatiles were removed under reduced pressure to give the crude product as a yellow oil. This was further purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, toluene/MeOH 30:1, $R_f = 0.45$ (major), 0.35 (minor) in toluene/MeOH 30:1) to yield (3S,4R)-4-ethyl-3-(hydroxy(phenyl)methyl)chroman-2-one 8 (0.176 g, 0.624 mmol, 78 %) as a colourless oil.

Product 8 was isolated as a mixture of 2 diastereomers (ratio 3:1), signals are assigned where resolved.

¹H NMR: (201 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.48 – 6.92 (m, 9H, major + minor), 4.59 (d, J = 9.4 Hz, 1H, major), 4.43 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H, minor), 3.27 – 3.03 (m, 2H, major + minor), 2.73 (s (br), 1H, major + minor), 2.24 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H, minor), 1.49 (qd, J = 14.4, 7.3 Hz, 2H, major + minor), 0.90 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H, major), 0.77 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H, minor).

¹³C NMR: (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.46 (minor), 167.92 (major), 150.48 (minor), 150.45 (major), 140.77 (major), 140.47 (minor), 129.22, 128.87 (minor), 128.83 (major), 128.61 (major), 128.55 (minor), 128.36, 128.31 (minor), 128.26 (major), 128.09, 127.38, 126.80, 126.34, 125.89, 124.87, 124.32 (minor), 124.26 (major), 116.64 (minor), 116.34 (major), 72.58 (mjaor), 64.91 (minor), 53.93 (major), 53.29 (minor), 39.70 (minor), 39.07 (major), 28.59 (major), 28.18 (minor), 11.07 (major), 10.87 (minor).

HR-MS: (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{18}H_{18}O_3Na [M+Na^+]$: 305.1148, found: 305.1149. [α]_D²⁰ = 72.4 (c = 1.0 in CHCl₃)

4. References

1. Smith, C. R.; Mans, D. J.; RajanBabu, T. V. Org. Synth. 2008 85, 238.

- 2. Dubuffet, T.; Loutz, A.; Lavielle, G. Synth. Commun. 1999, 29, 929-936.
- 3. Meyers, A. I.; Whitten, C. E. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1976**, 1947-1950.

4. Stephan, E.; Rocher, R.; Aubouet, J.; Pourcelot, G.; Cresson, P. Tetrahedron: Asymmetry **1994**, 5, 41-44.

5. NMR spectra and HPLC traces

5-chloro-2-methoxybenzaldehyde (S2a)





5-bromo-2-methoxybenzaldehyde (S2b)





17















:0











(R)-4-ethylchroman-2-one (2a)















1: 210 nm, 8 nm				
Pk #	Name	Retention Time	Area	Area Percent
1	1	5.696	13595789	97.67
2	2	6.005	323703	2.33
Totals				
			13919492	100.00















(R)-4-isobutylchroman-2-one (2e)























Pk #	Name	Retention Time	Area	Area Percent
1	1	20.480	368749	3.38
2	2	21.472	10552647	96.62
m - 1				
Totals			10001007	100.00
			10921396	100.00

(R)-4-phenethylchroman-2-one (2g)











Pk #	Name	Retention Time	Area	Area Percent
1	1	8.224	768520	2.85
2	2	8.917	26233032	97.15
Totals				
			27001552	100.00
•				

Peak: 1

33













Pk #	Name	Retention Time	Area	Area Percent
1	?	25.952	14938105	98.93
2	?	26.987	161227	1.07
Totals				
			15099332	100.00

(R)-4-ethyl-6-methylchroman-2-one (4a)






(R)-4-ethyl-7-methylchroman-2-one (4b)

















(R)-6-bromo-4-ethylchroman-2-one (4d)









43











MeO







(R)-ethyl 3-(2-hydroxyphenyl)pentanoate (6)





(R)-3-(2-hydroxyphenyl)-N-propylpentanamide (7)







(3S,4R)-4-ethyl-3-(hydroxy(phenyl)methyl)chroman-2-one (8)



