# **Supporting Information**

# A Non-Iterative, Flexible and Highly Stereoselective Synthesis of Polydeoxypropionates – Synthesis of (+)-Vittatalactone

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## 1 General Methods

Unless otherwise noted, all reactions were carried out in dry solvents under argon atmosphere using standard vacuum line techniques. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl<sub>3</sub> solution using a Varian Gemini 2000 spectrometer (300 MHz) and Bruker Avance DRX 400 (400 MHz). The signals were referenced to residual chloroform (7.26 ppm, <sup>1</sup>H, 77.15 ppm, <sup>13</sup>C). Chemical shifts are reported in ppm, multiplicities are indicated by s (singulet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), p (pentet), m (multiplet) and brs (broad singulet). Melting points were determined uncorrected on a Boetius heating table. IR spectra were obtained with a FTIR spectrometer (Genesis ATI Mattson/Unicam). Optical rotations were measured using a Polarotronic polarimeter (Schmidt & Haensch). All ESI mass spectra were recorded on a Bruker APEX II FT-ICR. HPLC analyses were carried out on a Jasco MD-2010 plus instrument with chiral stationary phase column (Daicel Chiralcel OD-H column). Solvents were distilled from indicated drying reagents: dichlormethane  $(CaH_2)$ , tetrahydrofuran (Na, bezophenone), diethyl ether (Na, benzophenone), toluene (Na, benzophenone). Diethyl ether, ethyl acetate and hexane were technical grade and distilled from KOH. Flash column chromatography was performed by using Merck silica gel 60 230-400 mesh (0.040-0.063 mm). Abbreviations for solvents are used as followed: Diethyl ether (E), ethyl acetate (EA), hexane (Hex), dichloromethane (DCM). Spots were monitored by thin-layer chromatography on precoated TLC Silica gel 60 F<sub>254</sub> plates (Merck), were visualized by UV and treated with phosphomolybdic acid staining solution, vanillin staining solution, KMnO<sub>4</sub> staining solution or formaldehyde staining solution. Hydrogenation experiments were carried out in a Premex MED 1234 autoclave at the indicated reaction conditions.

## 2 Protection of Syn-Aldols

## 2.1 Synthesis of Benzoate 1a



3.12 g (9.47 mmol, 1.0 eq) of *E*-aldol product were dissolved in 40 mL of DCM and cooled to 0°C. After addition of 1.53 mL (18.9 mmol, 2.0 eq) of pyridine, 1.98 ml (17.1 mmol, 1.8 eq) of benzoyl chloride were added. A catalytic amount of DMAP (tip of spatula) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred over night at RT. The reaction was quenched by the addition of sat. aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> and diluted with ether . The organic phase was washed twice with 1N HCl and dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After removal of the solvent the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (EA/Hex 1/7  $\rightarrow$  1/5) to give 3.76 g (8.70 mmol, 92%) of **1a** as a colorless, viscous oil.

 $[\alpha]_D^{22} = +52.1 \text{ (c} = 1.21, \text{ CHCl}_3).$ 

**TLC**:  $R_f = 0.33$  (EA/Hex 1/4).

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta = 8.08 - 8.05$  (m, 2H), 7.61 – 7.58 (m, 1H), 7.49 – 7.44 (m, 2H), 7.34 – 7.25 (m, 3H), 7.20 – 7.17 (m, 2H), 5.90 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H ), 5.85 – 5.66 (m, 2H), 5.12 (s, 1H), 5.01 (dd, J = 8.7, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 4.98 (s, 1H), 4.62 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 4.25 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (dd, J = 9.0, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 3.21 (dd, J = 13.5, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 2.79 (dd, J = 13.5, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 1.84 (s, 3H), 1.71 (dd, J = 6.0, 1.2 Hz, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C-NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta$  = 171.6, 165.6, 153.4, 141.3, 135.2, 133.1, 131.9, 130.2, 129.8, 129.7, 129.6, 128.9, 128.5, 127.4, 124.2, 114.3, 76.47, 66.16, 55.39, 49.99, 37.64, 19.06, 18.21 ppm.

**IR** (Film) v (cm<sup>-1</sup>) = 3541, 3379, 3062, 3030, 2972, 2918, 2856, 2255, 1789, 1713, 1651, 1602, 1584, 1478, 1450, 1384, 1268, 1099, 1070, 1026, 969, 911, 830, 804, 761, 712, 671, 644, 595, 566, 506.

**HR-MS** (ESI): calcd. for:  $C_{26}H_{27}NO_5Na([M+Na]^+)$ : 456.17814; found: 456.17810.

#### 2.2 Synthesis of Benzoate 7



940 mg (2.85 mmol, 1.0 eq) of Z-aldol product were dissolved in 10 mL of DCM and cooled to 0°C. After addition of 0.46 mL (1.49 mmol, 2.0 eq) of pyridine, 0.59 mL (1.34 mmol, 1.8 eq) of benzoyl chloride were added. A catalytic amount of DMAP (tip of spatula) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred over night at RT. The reaction was quenched by the addition of sat. aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> and diluted with ether. The organic phase was washed twice with 1N HCl and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After removal of the solvent the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (E/Hex  $1/3 \rightarrow 1/1$ ) to give 1.17 g (2.69 mmol, 95%) of **7** as a colorless, viscous oil.

 $[\alpha]_D^{24} = +43.0 (c = 1.0, CHCl_3).$ 

**TLC**:  $R_f = 0.33$  (EA/Hex 1/4).

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta = 8.08 - 8.02$  (m, 2H), 7.61 – 7.53 (m, 1H), 7.50 – 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.33 – 7.23 (m, 3H), 7.21 – 7.14 (m, 2H), 5.91 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 5.87 – 5.75 (m, 1H), 5.68 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 5.47 (dd, J = 9.8, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 5.13 (s, 1H), 4.98 (s, 1H), 4.62 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 4.25 (t, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 4.17 (dd, J = 9.0, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 3.20 (dd, J = 13.5, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 2.80 (dd, J = 13.5, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 1.87 (s, 3H), 1.76 (dd, J = 6.8, 1.7 Hz, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C-NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta = 171.7$ , 165.6, 153.5, 141.4, 135.2, 133.2, 130.5, 130.2, 129.8, 129.6, 129.0, 128.5, 127.4, 123.8, 114.3, 76.71, 66.23, 55.49, 44.82, 37.73, 19.04, 13.95 ppm.

**IR** (Film) v (cm<sup>-1</sup>) = 3063, 3029, 2976, 2920, 1778, 1720, 1653, 1602, 1584, 1493, 1451, 1384, 1360, 1315, 1271, 1208, 1178, 1108, 1070, 1053, 1026, 910, 788, 762, 711, 641, 595, 576, 505.

**HR-MS** (ESI): calcd. for:  $C_{26}H_{27}NO_5Na([M+Na]^+)$ : 456.17814; found: 456.17820.

## **3** General Procedure for the Oxy-Cope Rearrangement of Syn-Aldols



The substrates were dissolved in toluene (10 mL/g of substrate), transferred into a screw cap-round bottom flask and degassed with a stream of argon for 5 min. The tube was sealed and placed into a heating bath at the reaction conditions indicated for each case. After 4-6 h the solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the products were purified by flash column chromatography (E/Hex  $1/2 \rightarrow 1/1$ ).

#### 3.1 Oxy-Cope Product 2a



According to the general procedure above 3.99 g (9.20 mmol) of **1a** were heated to 180°C over a period of 4 h to give 3.79 g (8.74 mmol, 95%) of **2a** as a viscous, colorless oil after purification. The product solidified on standing.

 $[\alpha]_{D}^{25} = -18.7 \text{ (c} = 0.97, \text{CHCl}_3).$ 

**TLC**:  $R_f = 0.30$  (EA/Hex 1/5).

**Melting Point**: 87 – 88°C

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta = 8.10 - 8.06$  (m, 2H), 7.62 - 7.56 (m, 1H), 7.51 - 7.46 (m, 2H), 7.35 - 7.13 (m, 8H), 4.68 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 4.21 - 4.12 (m, 2H), 3.29 (dd, J = 3.3, 13.5 Hz, 1H), 2.75 - 2.67 (m, 2H), 2.38 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.74 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 3H), 1.65 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C-NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta = 165.0$ , 163.5, 155.8, 153.4, 135.4, 133.3, 131.5, 129.8, 129.5, 129.4, 128.9, 128.6, 127.3, 119.8, 118.9, 66.10, 55.34, 37.86, 36.49, 35.06, 19.03, 18.00 ppm.

**IR** (Film) v (cm<sup>-1</sup>) = 3534, 3350, 3068, 3063, 3029, 2964, 2919, 2871, 2740, 2254, 1778, 1731, 1681, 1633, 1601, 1583, 1491, 1479, 1452, 1384, 1266, 1122, 1072, 1053, 1023, 1003, 945, 913, 876, 858, 803, 761, 750, 732, 711, 675, 642, 617, 595, 572, 506.

**HR-MS** (ESI): calcd. for:  $C_{26}H_{27}NO_5Na([M+Na]^+)$ : 456.17814; found: 456.17794. **HPLC**: Chiralcel OD-H column, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 92/8, flow rate = 0.8 mL min<sup>-1</sup>;  $t_R = 28.3$  min.

## 3.2 Oxy-Cope Product 7



According to the general procedure above 1.59 g (3.68 mmol) of **7** were heated to 200°C over a period of 6 h to give 1.338 g (3.09 mmol, 84%, 96:4) of **7** as a viscous, colorless oil after purification.

 $[\alpha]_{D}^{24} = +94.0 \ (c = 1.0, CHCl_3).$ 

**TLC**:  $R_f = 0.30$  (EA/Hex 1/5).

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta = 8.12 - 8.05$  (m, 2H), 7.62 – 7.55 (m, 1H), 7.52 – 7.43 (m, 2H), 7.37 – 7.14 (m, 8H), 4.66 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 4.21 – 4.11 (m, 2H), 3.29 (dd, J = 13.4, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 2.81 – 2.65 (m, 2H), 2.38 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.75 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 3H), 1.15 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C-NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta = 165.2$ , 163.6, 156.0, 153.5, 135.5, 133.4, 131.7, 129.9, 129.6, 129.5, 129.0, 128.7, 127.4, 119.9, 119.0, 66.22, 55.42, 37.99, 36.60, 35.12, 19.07, 18.16 ppm.

**IR** (Film) *v* (cm<sup>-1</sup>) = 3525, 3088, 3028, 3006, 2970, 2954, 2914, 2885, 2654, 1781, 1718, 1680, 1632, 1601, 1583, 1490, 1477, 1452, 1385, 1356, 1311, 1270, 1207, 1173, 1145, 1122, 1073, 1051, 1026, 1001, 988, 945, 873, 858, 834, 816, 799, 763, 750, 731, 707, 637, 589, 575, 560, 505, 437.

**HR-MS** (ESI): calcd. for:  $C_{26}H_{27}NO_5Na([M+Na]^+)$ : 456.17814; found: 456.17814.

**HPLC**: Chiralcel OD-H column, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 92/8, flow rate = 0.8 mL min<sup>-1</sup>; major isomer  $t_R = 26.4$  min; minor isomer  $t_R = 37.9$  min.

## **4** General Procedure for the Hydrogenation of Oxy-Cope Products



In a glass vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar were weighed the substrate and 2 mol % of the Ir-catalyst. The mixture was dissolved in dry DCM (c = 0.3 - 0.6M). The vial was placed into the hydrogenation autoclave which was sealed and purged once with hydrogen. The reaction was stirred at room temperature under 80 - 90 atm of hydrogen for 18 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the products were purified by flash column chromatography (E/Hex  $1/2 \rightarrow 1/1$ ). For screening purposes 0.1 mmol of substrate and 2 mol % of Ir-catalyst were dissolved in 0.5 mL of DCM and submitted to the reaction conditions above. The diastereometic excesses were determined by chiral HPLC.

#### 4.1 Hydrogenation Product syn-4a



1.80 g (4.15 mmol) of **2a** and 135 mg (0.083 mmol, 0.02 eq.) of  $[Ir(cod)ent-3d]BAr_F$  were dissolved in 8 mL of DCM and submitted to the reaction conditions above to give 1.78 g (4.06 mmol, 98%, 97:3 *syn/anti*) of *syn-4a* as a viscous, colorless oil after purification.

 $[\alpha]_{D}^{22} = +32.0 \ (c = 1.0, CHCl_3).$ 

**TLC**:  $R_f = 0.30$  (EA/Hex 1/5).

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta = 8.10 - 8.01$  (m, 2H), 7.60 - 7.51 (m, 1H), 7.50 - 7.39 (m, 2H), 7.38 - 7.23 (m, 3H), 7.23 - 7.16 (m, 2H), 4.65 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 4.28 - 4.05 (m, 4H), 3.28 (dd, J = 13.4, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 2.96 (m<sub>c</sub>, 2H), 2.72 (dd, J = 13.4, 9.7 Hz, 1H), 2.15 - 2.01 (m, 1H),

1.85 – 1.63 (m, 2H), 1.57 – 1.44 (m, 2H), 1.21 – 1.10 (m, 1H), 1.05 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 0.98 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C-NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta = 173.5$ , 166.7, 153.5, 135.42, 132.9, 130.5, 129.6, 129.4, 129.0, 128.4, 127.4, 69.77, 66.24, 55.24, 41.17, 37.99, 33.20, 31.01, 30.29, 29.78, 20.02, 17.86 ppm.

**IR** (Film) v (cm<sup>-1</sup>) = 3062, 3029, 2958, 2925, 1782, 1715, 1602, 1584, 1452, 1387, 1352, 1314, 1274, 1212, 1112, 1070, 1053, 1026, 983, 845, 806, 761, 744, 713, 674, 630, 595, 504. **HR-MS** (ESI): calcd. for: C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>31</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>Na ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>): 460.20944; found: 460.20893.

**HPLC**: Chiralcel OD-H column, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 92/8, flow rate = 0.8 mL min<sup>-1</sup>; major diastereomer  $t_R = 35.7$  min; minor diastereomer  $t_R = 39.1$  min.

#### 4.2 Hydrogenation Product anti-4a



1.14 g (2.62 mmol) of **2a** and 86 mg (0.052 mmol, 0.02 eq.) of  $[Ir(cod)3d]BAr_F$  were dissolved in 5 mL of DCM and submitted to the reaction conditions above to give 1.11 g (2.53 mmol, 97%, 96:4 *anti/syn*) of *anti-***4a** as a viscous, colorless oil after purification.

 $[\alpha]_{D}^{24} = +25.0 \ (c = 1.0, CHCl_3).$ 

**TLC**: *R*<sub>f</sub> = 0.30 (EA/Hex 1/5).

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta = 8.10 - 8.01$  (m, 2H), 7.60 - 7.51 (m, 1H), 7.48 - 7.39 (m, 2H), 7.37 - 7.23 (m, 3H), 7.23 - 7.14 (m, 2H), 4.66 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 4.26 - 4.04 (m, 4H), 3.28 (dd, J = 13.4, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (m<sub>c</sub>, 2H), 2.76 (dd, J = 13.4, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 2.07 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 1.84 - 1.49 (m, 3H), 1.39 - 1.23 (m, 2H), 1.01 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 0.94 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C-NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta = 173.5$ , 166.6, 153.5, 135.4, 132.9, 130.6, 129.6, 129.5, 129.0, 128.4, 127.4, 70.30, 66.21, 55.21, 40.77, 37.96, 33.34, 31.99, 30.34, 29.73, 19.20, 16.87 ppm.

**IR** (Film) *v* (cm<sup>-1</sup>) = 3541, 3063, 3030, 2960, 2925, 1783, 1716, 1602, 1584, 1496, 1452, 1386, 1352, 1314, 1273, 1211, 1111, 1070, 1052, 1026, 982, 936, 788, 712, 675, 631, 594, 565, 505.

**HR-MS** (ESI): calcd. for:  $C_{26}H_{31}NO_5Na([M+Na]^+)$ : 460.20944; found: 460.20912. **HPLC**: Chiralcel OD-H column, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 92/8, flow rate = 0.8 mL min<sup>-1</sup>; minor diastereomer t<sub>R</sub> = 35.7 min; major diastereomer t<sub>R</sub> = 39.1 min.

#### 4.3 Hydrogenation Product anti-8



1.12 g (2.58 mmol) of **7** and 84 mg (0.051 mmol, 0.02 eq.) of  $[Ir(cod)ent-3d]BAr_F$  were dissolved in 5 mL of DCM and submitted to the reaction conditions above to give 1.07 g (2.45 mmol, 95%, 94:6 *anti/syn*) of *anti-***8** as a viscous, colorless oil after purification.

 $[\alpha]_D^{24} = +38.0 \ (c = 1.0, CHCl_3).$ 

**TLC**:  $R_f = 0.30$  (EA/Hex 1/5).

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta = 8.09 - 8.01$  (m, 2H), 7.60 - 7.51 (m, 1H), 7.49 - 7.40 (m, 2H), 7.37 - 7.24 (m, 3H), 7.24 - 7.15 (m, 2H), 4.73 - 4.60 (m, 1H), 4.26 - 4.04 (m, 4H), 3.29 (dd, J = 13.3, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 2.76 (dd, J = 13.3, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 2.15 - 1.97 (m, 1H), 1.85 - 1.44 (m, 3H), 1.39 - 1.23 (m, 2H), 1.01 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 0.94 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C-NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta = 173.6$ , 166.7, 153.5, 135.4, 132.9, 130.6, 129.6, 129.5, 129.0, 128.4, 127.4, 70.32, 66.25, 55.25, 40.78, 38.02, 33.39, 32.06, 30.38, 29.78, 19.24 ppm.

**IR** (Film) v (cm<sup>-1</sup>) = 3468, 3065, 3030, 2961, 2920, 1785, 1718, 1602, 1452, 1385, 1351, 1314, 1273, 1211, 1111, 1070, 1026, 982, 787, 762, 711, 629.

**HR-MS** (ESI): calcd. for: C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>31</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>Na ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>): 460.20944; found: 460.20925.

**HPLC**: Chiralcel OD-H column, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 92/8, flow rate = 0.8 mL min<sup>-1</sup>; minor diastereomer  $t_R = 29.3$  min; major diastereomer  $t_R = 35.8$  min.

## 4.4 Hydrogenation Product syn-8



1.11 g (2.57 mmol) of **7** and 84 mg (0.051 mmol, 0.02 eq.) of  $[Ir(cod)3d]BAr_F$  were dissolved in 5 mL of DCM and submitted to the reaction conditions above to give 1.10 g (2.52 mmol, 98%, 92:8 *syn/anti*) of *syn-***8** as a viscous, colorless oil after purification.

 $[\alpha]_D^{24} = +34.0 \ (c = 1.0, CHCl_3).$ 

**TLC**:  $R_f = 0.30$  (EA/Hex 1/5).

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta = 8.09 - 8.00$  (m, 2H), 7.61 – 7.50 (m, 1H), 7.50 – 7.39 (m, 2H), 7.37 – 7.23 (m, 3H), 7.23 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 4.64 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 4.27 – 4.05 (m, 4H), 3.28 (dd, J = 13.4, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 2.96 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 2.76 (dd, J = 13.4, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 2.09 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 1.90 – 1.62 (m, 2H), 1.56 – 1.39 (m, 2H), 1.24 – 1.08 (m, 1H), 1.05 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 0.98 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta = 173.5$ , 166.7, 153.5, 135.4, 132.9, 130.6, 129.6, 129.5, 129.0, 128.5, 127.4, 69.78, 66.25, 55.25, 41.10, 38.02, 33.20, 31.01, 30.30, 29.78, 20.08, 17.86 ppm.

**IR** (Film) *v* (cm<sup>-1</sup>) = 3541, 3063, 3029, 2958, 2925, 2254, 1782, 1715, 1602, 1584, 1452, 1387, 1352, 1314, 1275, 1212, 1112, 1070, 1053, 1026, 983, 915, 845, 806, 761, 713, 674, 631, 594, 504.

**HR-MS** (ESI): calcd. for: C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>31</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>Na ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>): 460.20944; found: 460.20926.

**HPLC**: Chiralcel OD-H column, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 92/8, flow rate = 0.8 mL min<sup>-1</sup>; major diastereomer  $t_R = 29.3$  min; minor diastereomer  $t_R = 35.8$  min.

## **5** General Procedure for the α-Methylation of Hydrogenation Products

The hydrogenation products were dissolved in anhydrous THF (c = 0.2 M), cooled to -78°C and a solution of 2M NaHMDS in THF (1.15 eq) was added dropwise. The reaction was stirred for 45 min and MeI (1.50 eq) was added. The reaction was quenched with a few drops of sat. aq. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl after TLC analysis indicated full conversion of starting material (3 – 4h). The solvent of the reaction mixture was removed under reduced pressure and the crude mixture was directly subjected to a silica gel column with a plug of anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> using toluene. Flash column chromatography (E/Hex  $1/3 \rightarrow 1/1$ ) gave the methylated products. NMR spectra showed only a single diastereomer.

#### 5.1 *alpha*-Methylation of *syn*-4a



3.15 g (7.20 mmol, 1.0 eq) *syn*-**4a** were dissolved in 36 mL THF, treated with 4.14 mL (8.28 mmol, 1.15 eq) of NaHMDS (2M in THF) and 0.67 mL (10.80 mmol, 1.50 eq) MeI according to the general procedure above. Purification of the crude product gave 3.03 g (6.72 mmol, 93%) *syn, syn*-**5** as a colorless, viscous oil.

 $[\alpha]_{D}^{22} = +38.0 \ (c = 1.0, CHCl_3).$ 

**TLC**:  $R_f = 0.39$  (EA/Hex 1/5).

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta = 8.07 - 8.03$  (m, 2H), 7.59 - 7.52 (m, 1H), 7.49 - 7.41 (m, 2H), 7.37 - 7.24 (m, 3H), 7.23 - 7.17 (m, 2H), 4.66 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 4.28 - 4.12 (m, 3H), 4.08 (dd, J = 10.7, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 3.24 (dd, J = 13.4, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 2.76 (dd, J = 13.4, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 2.10 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 1.94 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 1.56 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 1.50 - 1.41 (m, 1H), 1.21 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 1.17 - 1.08 (m, 2H), 1.05 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 0.93 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C-NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta = 177.2$ , 166.8, 153.1, 135.4, 132.9, 130.6, 129.6, 129.6, 129.0, 128.5, 127.4, 69.82, 66.10, 55.33, 41.60, 40.68, 37.94, 35.45, 30.21, 28.29, 20.50, 18.76, 18.00 ppm.

**IR** (Film) v (cm<sup>-1</sup>) = 3541, 3063, 3029, 2960, 2929, 1779, 1715, 1602, 1584, 1453, 1386, 1350, 1314, 1274, 1112, 1071, 1052, 1026, 973, 922, 839, 807, 761, 744, 713, 688, 592, 506. **HR-MS** (ESI): calcd. for: C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>33</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>Na ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>): 474.22509; found: 474.22500.

## 5.2 alpha-Methylation of anti-4a



658 mg (1.50 mmol, 1.0 eq) *anti*-**4a** were dissolved in 7.5 mL THF, treated with 0.865 mL (1.73 mmol, 1.15 eq) of NaHMDS (2M in THF) and 0.140 mL (2.26 mmol, 1.50 eq) MeI according to the general procedure above. Purification of the crude product gave 630 mg (1.40 mmol, 93%) *anti, syn*-**5** as a colorless, viscous oil.

 $[\alpha]_D^{22} = +28.0 (c = 1.0, CHCl_3).$ 

**TLC**: *Rf* = 0.39 (EA/Hex 1/5).

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta = 8.09 - 8.01$  (m, 2H), 7.58 - 7.51 (m, 1H), 7.47 - 7.40 (m, 2H), 7.36 - 7.24 (m, 3H), 7.23 - 7.18 (m, 2H), 4.68 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 4.23 - 4.07 (m, 4H), 3.90 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 3.24 (dd, J = 13.4, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 2.76 (dd, J = 13.4, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 2.05 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 1.90 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 1.56 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 1.23 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 1.30 - 1.16 (m, 3H), 1.01 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 0.89 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C-NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta = 177.3$ , 166.7, 153.1, 135.4, 132.9, 130.6, 129.6, 129.5, 129.0, 128.4, 127.4, 70.17, 66.08, 55.32, 41.30, 40.84, 37.92, 35.45, 30.29, 28.15, 19.89, 18.53, 17.01 ppm.

**IR** (Film) v (cm<sup>-1</sup>) = 3541, 3063, 3029, 2961, 2929, 2874, 1778, 1715, 1602, 1584, 1453, 1386, 1350, 1314, 1274, 1209, 1112, 1071, 1051, 1026, 973, 922, 839, 806, 761, 745, 713, 624, 593, 506.

**HR-MS** (ESI): calcd. for: C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>33</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>Na ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>): 474.22509; found: 474.22483.

## 5.3 *alpha*-Methylation of *anti*-8



505 mg (1.15 mmol, 1.0 eq) *anti*-**8** were dissolved in 6 mL THF, treated with 0.664 mL (1.33 mmol, 1.15 eq) of NaHMDS (2M in THF) and 0.108 mL (1.73 mmol, 1.50 eq) MeI according to the general procedure above. Purification of the crude product gave 484 mg (1.07 mmol, 93%) *anti, anti*-**5** as a colorless, viscous oil.

 $[\alpha]_D^{24} = +43.0 \ (c = 1.0, CHCl_3).$ 

**TLC**:  $R_f = 0.39$  (EA/Hex 1/5).

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta = 8.08 - 7.98$  (m, 2H), 7.61 – 7.49 (m, 1H), 7.48 – 7.39 (m, 2H), 7.37 – 7.14 (m, 5H), 4.67 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 4.28 – 3.99 (m, 4H), 3.87 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 3.27 (dd, J = 13.3, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 2.77 (dd, J = 13.3, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 2.03 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 1.73 – 1.53 (m, 2H), 1.42 (m<sub>c</sub>, 2H), 1.34 – 1.23 (m, 2H), 1.22 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 0.98 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 0.91 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C-NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta = 177.7$ , 166.7, 153.1, 135.4, 132.9, 130.6, 129.6, 129.5, 129.0, 128.5, 127.4, 70.31, 66.12, 55.52, 41.30, 38.02, 35.45, 30.40, 27.94, 19.19, 17.38, 16.85 ppm.

**IR** (Film) v (cm<sup>-1</sup>) = 3541, 3063, 3029, 2963, 2928, 2255, 1780, 1716, 1602, 1584, 1453, 1387, 1350, 1314, 1274, 1210, 1112, 1070, 1052, 1026, 972, 914, 841, 806, 761, 734, 713, 648, 593, 506.

**HR-MS** (ESI): calcd. for: C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>33</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>Na ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>): 474.22509; found: 474.22480.

## 5.4 *alpha*-Methylation of *syn*-8



265 mg (0.605 mmol, 1.0 eq) syn-8 were dissolved in 3 mL THF, treated with 0.348 mL (0.696 mmol, 1.15 eq) of NaHMDS (2M in THF) and 0.057 mL (0.91 mmol, 1.50

eq) MeI according to the general procedure above. Purification of the crude product gave 250 mg (0.557 mmol, 92%) *syn, anti-5* as a colorless, viscous oil.

 $[\alpha]_{D}^{24} = +37.0 \ (c = 1.0, CHCl_3).$ 

**TLC**:  $R_f = 0.39$  (EA/Hex 1/5).

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta = 8.06 - 7.99$  (m, 2H), 7.58 - 7.52 (m, 1H), 7.49 - 7.41 (m, 2H), 7.37 - 7.23 (m, 3H), 7.23 - 7.17 (m, 2H), 4.64 (qd, J = 6.7, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 4.23 - 4.11 (m, 3H), 4.05 (dd, J = 10.7, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 3.25 (dd, J = 13.3, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 2.76 (dd, J = 13.3, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 2.05 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 1.71 - 1.60 (m, 1H), 1.61 - 1.51 (m, 1H), 1.48 - 1.38 (m, 2H), 1.20 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.15 - 1.06 (m, 1H), 1.03 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 0.95 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C-NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta = 177.6$ , 166.8, 153.1, 135.5, 133.0, 130.5, 129.6, 129.6, 129.0, 128.5, 127.4, 69.78, 66.13, 55.49, 41.67, 40.41, 38.00, 35.42, 30.24, 27.99, 20.05, 17.99, 17.28 ppm.

**IR** (Film) v (cm<sup>-1</sup>) = 3541, 3063, 3029, 2962, 2928, 1780, 1716, 1602, 1584, 1453, 1387, 1350, 1314, 1274, 1210, 1112, 1070, 1053, 1026, 971, 922, 788, 761, 712, 626, 593, 506. **HR-MS** (ESI): calcd. for: C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>33</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>Na ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>): 474.22509; found: 474.22482.

## 6 Derivatization of syn, syn-5

## 6.1 Hydrolytic Cleavage of Auxiliary<sup>[1]</sup>



185 mg (0.410 mmol, 1.0 eq) syn, syn-5 were dissolved in 8 mL of a 3/1 mixture of THF/water and cooled to 0°C. After the addition of 0.175 mL (2.05 mmol, 5.0 eq) hydrogen peroxide (35%), 65 mg (0.86 mmol, 2.0 eq) LiOH (56%) were added. The reaction was stopped after 90 min by the addition of 1.50 mL (2.25 mmol) 1.5N Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>. After removal of the THF under reduced pressure the mixture was buffered with bicarbonate to maintain a basic pH. The aqueous phase was washed twice with DCM and then acidified by dropwise addition of conc. HCl. The aqueous phase was then extracted three times with ethyl acetate and dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After removal of the solvent the crude product was

purified by filtration through a plug of silica (EA/Hex 1/1) to give 96 mg (0.33 mmol, 80%) of the acid as a colorless liquid.

 $[\alpha]_D^{24} = +8.0 (c = 1.0, CHCl_3).$ 

**TLC**:  $R_f = 0.65$  (EA/Hex 1/1).

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta = 11.32$  (brs, 1H), 8.08 – 8.00 (m, 2H), 7.59 – 7.50 (m, 1H), 7.49 – 7.38 (m, 2H), 4.20 (dd, J = 10.7, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 4.08 (dd, J = 10.7, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 2.58 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 2.07 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 1.79 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 1.65 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 1.47 – 1.33 (m, 1H), 1.18 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.15 – 1.04 (m, 2H), 1.01 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 0.95 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C-NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta$  = 183.5, 166.8, 132.9, 130.5, 129.6, 128.4, 69.90, 41.46, 40.88, 37.35, 30.15, 28.26, 20.36, 18.13, 17.64 ppm.

**IR** (Film) v (cm<sup>-1</sup>) = 2963, 1719, 1602, 1584, 1453, 1383, 1314, 1274, 1176, 1113, 1070, 1026, 970, 805, 712, 687, 675.

**HR-MS** (ESI): calcd. for:  $C_{17}H_{24}O_4Na([M+Na]^+)$ : 315.15668; found: 315.15696.

## 6.2 Reductive Cleavage of Auxiliary<sup>[1]</sup>



2.81 g (6.22 mmol, 1.0 eq) of syn, syn-5 were dissolved in 30 mL of a 3/1 mixture of THF/water and cooled to 0°C. 1.41 g (33.3 mmol, 6.0 eq) NaBH<sub>4</sub> were added in one portion and the reaction was warmed to RT overnight. After 18h another 2.0 eq NaBH<sub>4</sub> were added and the reaction was quenched with sat. aq. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl after TLC showed full consumption of the starting material (prolonged reaction time leads to the diol as byproduct). The reaction was diluted with ether and the organic phase was washed with water and dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Removal of the solvent under reduced pressure and purification by flash column chromatography (EA/Hex 1/4  $\rightarrow$ 1/3) gave 1.56 g (5.59 mmol, 90%) of the alcohol as a colorless liquid.

 $[\alpha]_D^{22} = -12.0 \text{ (c} = 1.0, \text{CHCl}_3).$ **TLC**:  $R_f = 0.57 \text{ (EA/Hex 1/2)}.$  <sup>1</sup>**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta = 8.08 - 8.01$  (m, 2H), 7.60 - 7.52 (m, 1H), 7.48 - 7.39 (m, 2H), 4.23 (dd, J = 10.8, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 4.10 (dd, J = 10.8, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 3.51 (dd, J = 10.5, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 3.38 (dd, J = 10.5, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.05 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 1.81 - 1.57 (m, 2H), 1.55 - 1.23 (m, 3H), 1.03 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 1.10 - 0.97 (m, 1H), 0.94 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H), 0.90 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C-NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta$  = 166.8, 133.0, 130.6, 129.6, 128.5, 69.61, 68.17, 41.41, 41.29, 33.14, 30.35, 27.77, 20.93, 18.38, 17.61 ppm.

**IR** (Film) v (cm<sup>-1</sup>) = 3427, 3063, 2957, 2918, 1719, 1602, 1584, 1452, 1387, 1314, 1274, 1197, 1176, 1114, 1070, 1027, 973, 806, 780, 712, 687, 674.

**HR-MS** (ESI): calcd. for:  $C_{17}H_{24}O_4Na([M+Na]^+)$ : 301.17796; found: 301.17752.

#### 6.3 Elongation to Tetradeoxypropionate Chain Applying Myers' Method



To a suspension of 112 mg (2.65 mmol, 6.0 eq) anhydrous LiCl in 1.5 mL THF were added 0.264 mL (1.88 mmol, 4.25 eq) diisopropyl amine and 0.743 mL (1.86 mmol, 4.2 eq) *n*BuLi (2.5M in hexane) at -78°C. The mixture was stirred for 20 min, then a solution of 205 mg (0.928 mmol, 2.1 eq) pseudoephedrine amide in 2 mL THF was added dropwise and stirred for 90 min. The reaction mixture was warmed to 0°C and a solution of 176 mg (0.442 mmol, 1.0 eq) iodide in 1 mL THF was added. The reaction was allowed warm to RT over night and stirred for an additional 18h. Excess enolate was quenched by the addition of sat. aq. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl. The mixture was diluted with diethyl ether, washed with water and sat. aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub>. The organic phase was dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (E/Hex  $1/1 \rightarrow 7/3$ ) to give 162 mg (0.329 mmol, 75%) of tetradeoxypropionate **10** as a viscous, colorless oil.

 $[\alpha]_D^{24} = +36.0 \text{ (c} = 1.0, \text{ CHCl}_3).$ TLC:  $R_f = 0.39 \text{ (E/Hex 7/3)}.$  <sup>1</sup>**H-NMR** (6:1 rotamer ratio, asterisk denotes minor rotamer peaks, 400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta = 7.40 - 7.20$  (m, 5H), 4.65 – 4.51 (m, 1H), 4.40 (brs, 1H), 4.09\* (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 3.45 (dd, J = 9.7, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.33 (dd, J = 9.7, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.04 – 2.91\* (m, 1H), 2.88\* (s, 3H), 2.84 (s, 3H), 2.76 – 2.63 (m, 1H), 2.04 – 1.89\* (m, 1H), 1.77 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 1.72 – 1.55 (m, 2H), 1.45 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 1.28 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 1.13 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 1.05 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 1.01 – 0.79 (m, 19H), 0.75 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 0.02 (s, 6H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C-NMR** (6:1 rotamer ratio, asterisk denotes minor rotamer peaks, 100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C): δ = 179.1, 177.8\*, 142.7, 141.4\*, 128.8\*, 128.4, 127.5, 127.1\*, 126.4, 76.56, 75.32\*, 68.16, 59.25\*, 58.17, 45.78\*, 45.56, 41.43\*, 41.28, 41.08, 34.10, 33.26, 33.18, 28.02\*, 27.93, 27.56\*, 27.47, 26.11\*, 26.07, 21.29\*, 21.11\*, 20.96, 20.82, 18.93\*, 18.45, 18.26, 18.12\*, 18.01, 15.56\*, 14.52, -5.25 ppm.

**IR** (Film) v (cm<sup>-1</sup>) = 3385, 3063, 3029, 2955, 2928, 2856, 1621, 1462, 1408, 1376, 1298, 1253, 1098, 1051, 1006, 938, 836, 786, 701, 666, 520.

**HR-MS** (ESI): calcd. for: C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>53</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>SiNa ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>): 514.369242; found: 514.36936.

## 7 Total Synthesis of (+)-Vittatalactone

## 7.1 Synthesis of Hydroxy Ester



To a solution of *syn*, *syn*-**5** (1.10 g, 2.43 mmol, 1.0 eq) in DCM (24 mL, c = 0.1 M) was added NaOMe (2.24 mL, 5.4 M in MeOH, 12.2 mmol, 5.0 eq). After stirring at room temperature for 24 hours full conversion was indicated by TLC. The reaction mixture was diluted with a phosphate buffer solution pH 7 (30 mL) and water (30 mL) and extracted with ehter (3 x 50mL). The combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by silica gel chromatography (EA/Hex  $1/6 \rightarrow 1/4$ ) to afford 347 mg (1.72 mmol, 71 %) of the hydroxy ester as a colorless oil.

 $[\alpha]_D^{23} = +41.3 \text{ (c} = 1.10, \text{CHCl}_3).$ **TLC**:  $R_f = 0.77 \text{ (EA/Hex 1:1)}.$  <sup>1</sup>**H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta$  = 3.63 (s, 3H), 3.44 (dd, *J* = 5.4, 10.5 Hz, 1H), 3.34 (dd, *J* = 6.5, 10.5 Hz, 1H), 2.54 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 1.86 (s, 1H), 1.76 – 1.63 (m, 2H), 1.49 – 1.39 (m, 1H), 1.26 (ddd, *J* = 6.3, 7.4, 13.7 Hz, 1H), 1.11 (d, *J* = 7.0, 3H), 1.01 (ddd, *J* = 4.9, 9.2, 13.9 Hz, 1H), 0.92 (ddd, *J* = 6.3, 7.5, 14.1 Hz, 1H), 0.86 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 6H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C-NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta = 177.6$ , 68.26, 51.52, 41.29, 41.21, 37.47, 33.03, 28.38, 20.47, 18.36, 17.12 ppm.

**IR** (Film) v (cm<sup>-1</sup>) = 3434, 2954, 2928, 2874, 1738, 1461, 1437, 1379, 1262, 1196, 1174, 1092, 1041, 987, 827, 764.

**HR-MS** (ESI): calcd. for  $C_{11}H_{23}O_3([M+H]^+)$ : 203,16417; found: 203,16418.

## Synthesis of Iodo Ester 12



To a solution of the hydroxy ester (44.4 mg, 0.219 mmol, 1.0 eq) in a 1/1 mixture of ether/CH<sub>3</sub>CN (1.0 mL, c = 0.2 M) was added PPh<sub>3</sub> (98.0 mg, 0.373 mmol, 1.7 eq), imidazole (27.0 mg, 0.394 mmol, 1.9 eq), and I<sub>2</sub> (105 mg, 0.416 mmol, 1.8 eq). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h until full conversion was indicated by TLC. The residual iodine was reduced with sat. aq. Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (10 ml) and stirred for 30 minutes. The mixture was extracted with ether (3 x 10 mL) and the combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Removal of the solvent under reduced pressure and purification by silica gel chromatography (E/Hex 1/40) gave 64.3 mg (0.206 mmol, 94 %) of iodo ester **12** as a colorless oil.

 $[\alpha]_D^{23} = +5.6 (c = 1.10, CHCl_3).$ 

**TLC**: *R*<sub>f</sub> = 0.51 (E/Hex 1:20).

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta$  = 3.67 (s, 3H), 3.22 (dd, *J* = 4.3, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 3.13 (dd, *J* = 5.8, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 2.58 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 1.71(ddd, *J* = 4.5, 9.1, 13.9 Hz, 1H), 1.58 – 1.38 (m, 2H, 6H), 1.29 (ddd, *J* = 6.8, 6.8, 13.6 Hz, 1H), 1.16 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.16 – 0.97 (m, 2H), 0.95 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H), 0.89 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl 26°C): δ = 177.4, 51.65, 44.24, 41.40, 37.43, 31.73, 28.35, 21.24, 20.06, 19.25, 18.28, 18.18 ppm.

**IR** (Film) *v* (cm<sup>-1</sup>) = 2957, 1737, 1460, 1434, 1379, 1311, 1260, 1194, 1171, 1090, 987, 827, 608, 588.

**HR-MS** (ESI): calcd. for  $C_{11}H_{22}IO_2([M+H]^+)$ : 313,06590; found: 313,06574.

#### 7.2 (2S,4S,6S)-Methyl 2,4,6,8-tetramethylnonanoate



To a solution of iodide **12** (2.39 g, 7.66 mmol, 1.0 eq) and Li<sub>2</sub>CuCl<sub>4</sub> (3.83 mL, 0.38 mmol, c = 1 M in THF, 5 mol %) in a mixture of THF (7.5 mL, 1 M) and NMP (3.0 mL, 30.6 mmol, 4.0 eq) were added dropwise, at room temperature, 10.0 mL isopropyl magnesium chloride (1.0 M solution in THF, 10.0 mmol, 1.3 eq). Stirring was continued for 30 minutes until full conversion was indicated by TLC. The suspension was quenched with sat. aq. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (50 mL) and stirred for another 30 minutes. The mixture was extracted with ether (3 x 50mL) and solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography (E/Hex 1/40) to afford 1.35 g (5.91 mmol, 77 %) of the ester as a colorless oil.

 $[\alpha]_D^{23} = +5.1 \ (c = 1.00, CHCl_3).$ 

**TLC**: *R*<sup>*f*</sup> = 0.67 (E/Hex 1:20).

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta$  = 3.65 (s, 3H), 2.55 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 1.71 (ddd, *J* = 4.2, 9.3, 13.9 Hz, 1H), 1.66-1.40 (m, 3H), 1.13 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 1.18 – 0.75 (m, 5H), 0.85 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 6H), 0.82 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 0.79 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C** NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta = 176.4$ , 50.35, 45.74, 44.69, 40.31, 36.36, 27.12, 26.42, 24.16, 22.60, 21.11, 19.25, 19.12, 17.18 ppm.

**IR** (Film) v (cm<sup>-1</sup>) = 2955, 2870, 1740, 1612, 1381, 1261, 1171, 1150, 1081, 794. **HR-MS** (ESI): calcd. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>28</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Na ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>): 251,19815; found: 251,19816.

#### (2S,4S,6S)-2,4,6,8-Tetramethylnonanal 13



To a solution of the ester (260 mg, 1.14 mmol, 1.0 eq) in 5.5 mL DCM (c = 0.2 M) was added dropwise over 10 minutes at -90°C DIBAH (1.14 ml, 1M in Hexane, 1.0 eq). The solution was warmed to -78°C over 2h and full conversion was indicated by GC-MS. The suspension was quenched with 5 mL methanol and the white residue was dissolved in 5 mL of 2N H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The mixture was extracted with ether (3 x 20 mL) and the combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Removal of the solvent under reduced pressure and purification by silica gel chromatography (E/Hex 1/20) gave 204 mg (1.03 mmol, 90 %) of aldehyde **13** as a colorless oil.

 $[\alpha]_{D}^{23} = -2.6 (c = 1.10, CHCl_3).$ 

**TLC**:  $R_f = 0.90$  (E/Hex 1/20).

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta = 9.56$  (d, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 2.43 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 1.76 – 1.48 (m, 6H), 1.21 – 1.01 (m, 3H), 1.06 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 0.98 – 0.88 (m, 2H), 0.86 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H), 0.85 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 0.82 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H), 0.81 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C** NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta$  = 204.3, 45.41, 44.60, 43.06, 37.37, 26.77, 26.53, 24.17, 22.73, 20.95, 19.37, 19.32, 13.36 ppm.

**IR** (Film) v (cm<sup>-1</sup>) = 2956, 1708, 1465, 1415, 1384, 1227, 1093, 1020, 942, 824, 642, 562. **HR-MS** (ESI): calcd. for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>23</sub>ONa ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>): 221,18759; found: 221,18781.

## 7.3 Synthesis of Norephedrine Ester 14 by anti-Aldol-Reaction



Into a 25 mL round-bottom flask was placed norephedrine ester (403 mg, 0.84 mmol, 1.0 eq), DCM (4.2 mL, c = 0.2M) and NEt<sub>3</sub> (0.28 mL, 2.02 mmol, 2.4 eq). The solution was cooled to -78°C and 1.85 mL of a freshly prepared solution of dicyclohexylboron triflate (1M in hexane, 1.85 mmol, 2.2 eq) was added over 5 minutes. The reaction mixture was stirred for 2.5 h at -78°C and the freshly prepared aldehyde **13** (200 mg, 1.01 mmol, 1.2 eq) in 1.0 mL DCM was added dropwise to the mixture. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at -78°C and was then allowed to warm to room temperature over 1 h. The mixture was quenched by the addition of a phosphate buffer solution pH 7 (3.4 mL, 4 mL/mmol) and then diluted with methanol (17 mL, 20 mL/mmol) and hydrogen peroxide (1.7 mL, 33 %, 2 mL/mmol). The mixture was stirred overnight, diluted with aq. sat. NaCl and extracted with ether (4 x 20 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub> and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by silica gel chromatography (EA/Hex 1/40  $\rightarrow$  1/30  $\rightarrow$  1/10) to afford 490 mg (0.72 mmol, 86%) of **14** as a white solid.

 $[\alpha]_D^{23} = +11.4 (c = 1.10, CHCl_3).$ 

**TLC**: *Rf* = 0.61 (EA/Hex 1/5).

Melting Point: 40-43°C

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta = 7.37 - 7.29$  (m, 2H), 7.29 - 7.14 (m, 6H), 6.93 - 6.82 (m, 4H), 5.85 (d, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 4.81 (d, J = 16.6 Hz, 1H), 4.58 (d, J = 16.6 Hz, 1H), 4.18 - 4.06 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 3.66 (dd, J = 2.0, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 2.65 - 2.55 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 2.51 (s, 6H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 1.82 - 1.39 (m, 5H), 1.18 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 1.07 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.23 - 0.79 (m, 20H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta$  = 175.3, 142.6, 140.4, 138.8, 138.4, 133.5, 132.2, 128.5 128.4, 128.0, 127.8, 127.3, 126.0, 78.37, 74.34, 56.92, 48.37, 46.62, 46.00, 43.78, 41.44, 31.06, 27.65, 27.03, 25.33, 23.92, 23.08, 22.12, 21.02, 20.59, 13.91, 13.61, 13.06 ppm. **IR** (Film) *ν* (cm<sup>-1</sup>) = 3443, 3032, 2956, 1742, 1630, 1605, 1497, 1456, 1383, 1325, 1251, 1205, 1154, 1056, 1031, 1013, 984, 930, 858, 752, 730, 698, 660, 597, 587, 537, 431, 414. **HR-MS** (ESI): calcd. for C<sub>42</sub>H<sub>61</sub>NaNO<sub>5</sub>S ([M-Na]<sup>+</sup>): 700.40062; found: 700.40082.

## (2R,3R,4S,6S,8S)-3-Hydroxy-2,4,6,8,10-pentamethylundecanoic acid



Ester 14 (127.5 mg, 0.188 mmol, 1.0 eq) was dissolved in a mixture of THF/MeOH/H<sub>2</sub>O (1/1/1, 1.8 mL, c = 0.1 M) and treated with LiOH (22.6 mg, 0.940 mmol, 5.0 eq). The reaction mixture was stirred for 24 h until full conversion was indicated by TLC. The mixture was diluted with 15 mL water and acidified with 4 N HCl to pH 1. The aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (4 x 10 mL), the combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by silica gel chromatography (EA/H 1/10  $\rightarrow$  EA/ Hex 1/5 + 1 % AcOH) to afford 41.6 mg (0.153 mmol, 81 %) of hydroxy acid as a viscous, colorless oil.

 $[\alpha]_{D}^{23} = -13.0 \ (c = 1.00, CHCl_3).$ 

TLC: *R*<sub>f</sub> = 0.45 (EA/Hex 2/1, 5 % AcOH).

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta$  = 3.66 (dd, J = 2.8, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 2.64 (dq, J = 7.1, 14.3 Hz, 1H), 1.75 (ddq, J = 2.9, 7.0, 14.0 Hz, 1H), 1.68 – 1.53 (m, 3H), 1.45 (ddd, J = 6.2, 7.5, 13.6 Hz, 1H), 1.14-1.20 (m, 1H), 1.17 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.10 (ddd, J = 3.5, 8.1, 13.6 Hz, 1H), 1.00 (dd, J = 6.9, 13.7 Hz, 1H), 0.96 – 0.90 (m, 2H), 0.87 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 0.86 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 0.85 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H), 0.84 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H), 0.83 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C** NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta$  = 181.8, 75.04, 46.60, 45.90, 43.59, 41.50, 31.53, 27.69, 27.15, 25.34, 23.94, 22.11, 20.71, 20.65, 14.19, 13.15 ppm.

**IR** (Film) v (cm<sup>-1</sup>) = 2957, 2927, 2029, 1959, 1714, 1461, 1383, 1209, 982, 788.

**HR-MS** (ESI): calcd. for C<sub>42</sub>H<sub>62</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>SNa ([M-Na]<sup>+</sup>): 700.40062; found: 700.40082.

7.4 (+)-Vittalactone 11



To a solution of the hydroxy acid (38.4 mg, 0.141 mmol, 1.0 eq) in pyridine (0.35 mL, 0.4 M) and DMAP (1.7 mg, 0.014 mmol, 0.1 eq) was added *p*-TsCl (54.0 mg, 0.282 mmol, 2.0 eq) at room temperature. After stirring for 24 h full conversion was indicated by TLC. The reaction mixture was diluted with 10 mL ether and the precipitate was filtered off. The solution was dried over anhydous  $Na_2SO_4$  and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by silica gel chromatography (E/ Hex 1/10) to afford 29.3 mg (0.114 mmol, 81 %) of vittatalactone **11** as a colorless oil.

 $[\alpha]_{D}^{23} = +2.5 \text{ (c} = 0.80, \text{CHCl}_{3}). \text{ (Lit.: } [\alpha]_{D}^{23} = +1.2, \text{ c} = 1.29, \text{DCM}^{[2]}, ent-11: [\alpha]_{D}^{23} = -2.6, \text{ c} = 0.47 \text{ CHCl}_{3}^{[3]})$ 

**TLC**:  $R_f = 0.66$  (EA/Hex 5/1).

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta = 3.87$  (dd, J = 4.0, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 3.24 (dq, J = 4.1, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 1.87 (m<sub>c</sub>, 1H), 1.72 – 1.48 (m, 3H), 1.39 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 1.27 – 0.96 (m, 4H), 1.02 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 0.94-0.81 (m, 2H), 0.90 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 3H), 0.88 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 3H), 0.84 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 6H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C** NMR (75 MHz, CDDl<sub>3</sub>, 26°C):  $\delta = 172.3$ , 83.99, 49.13, 46.24, 45.39, 40.05, 35.03, 27.89, 27.54, 25.43, 24.13, 22.03, 21.26, 20.99, 16.02, 13.13 ppm.

**IR** (Film) v (cm<sup>-1</sup>) = 2957, 2927, 2029, 1959, 1714, 1461, 1383, 1209, 982, 788.

**HR-MS** (ESI): calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>30</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Na ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>): 277.21380; found: 277.21406.

## 8 Determination of Relative Configuration of Trideoxypropionates



To determine the stereoinduction of  $[Ir(cod)3d]BAr_F$  and of  $[Ir(cod)ent-3d]BAr_F$  the two *alpha*-methylation products *syn, syn-5* and *anti, syn-5* were treated with DIBAH in THF 22

to give the corresponding, fully reduced diols. Whereas the diol derived from *anti, syn-***5** shows a full set of signals (10 carbon signals) in the <sup>13</sup>C- and <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum, the diol derived from *syn, syn-***5**, due to its *meso*-nature, shows only a reduced set of singals (6 carbon signals). The spectra of the diols are shown below. Since the diols could not be separated from the cleaved auxiliary, optical rotation could not be used for analysis of the diols.



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9 NMR Spectra





24













27





28

































f1 (ppm) 







35











Supplementary Material (ESI) for Chemical Communications This journal is (c) The Royal Society of Chemistry 2011 OBz OH 4,254 4,258 4,218 4,218 4,218 4,129 4,129 4,106 4,003 3,353 3,3519 3,3519 3,3519 3,3519 3,3519 3,3519 3,3519 3,353 3,3519 3,355 3,355 3,355 3,355 3,355 3,355 3,355 3,355 3,355 3,355 3,556 4,557 4,5586 4,558 4,558 4,558 4,558 4,55864,558 4, 2.056 2.035 1.739 1.771 1.711 1.711 1.713 1.713 1.713 1.713 1.713 1.713 1.676 1.656 1.656 1.656 1.656 0.947 0.947 0.925 0.913 0.891 8.053 8.051 8.028 8.028 7.552 7.528 7.461 7.439 7.435 7.435 7.435 7.435 1 ]] ]] 3.20Å 1.87 1.95 0:1 0.95 2.37-2.94 40.1 1.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 1.5 8.0 4.0 2.0 4.5 f1 (ppm)  $\begin{array}{c} -132.977 \\ 130.583 \\ -129.638 \\ -128.477 \end{array}$ - 77.580 - 77.156 - 76.733 - 69.619 - 68.174  $< \frac{41.414}{41.302}$ -20.935 $\leq 18.390$  $\leq 17.614$ √ 33.153 -- 30.362 > 27.775 140 135 130 125 120 115 110 105 100 95 90 85 80 75 f1 (ppm) 70 65 60 55 50 45 40 35 30 25 20 15

















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Supplementary Material (ESI) for Chemical Communications

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