The Versatile Roles of Ammonium Salt Catalysts in Enantioselective

Reduction and Alkylation of α,β-Unsaturated Aldehydes: Iminium

Catalysis, Enamine Catalysis, and Acid Catalysis

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General Remarks

General: All manipulations were conducted with Schlenk tube. ¹H-NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AVIII-400 spectrometers. Chemical shifts (in ppm) were referenced to tetramethylsilane ($\delta = 0$ ppm) in CDCl₃ as an internal standard. 13C-NMR spectra were obtained by the same NMR spectrometers and were calibrated with CDCl₃ ($\delta = 77.00$ ppm). Mass spectra were obtained using electron impact ionization (EI) mass spectrometer or electrospray ionization (ESI) mass spectrometer. Optical rotations were measured as follows: $[\alpha]_{D^{\pi}}$ (c in g per 100 mL of solvent). HPLC analysis was performed on Agilent 1200 using AD-H or OD-H columns. Unless otherwise noted, materials and solvents obtained from commercial suppliers were used without further purification. **1f-1h** were prepared according to literature methods.¹

Experimental Section

(R)-2-Benzyl-3,3-bis(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)propanal (4aa)



Typical Procedure (1): Catalyst D (4.1 mg, 0.015 mmol), catalyst B (19.9 mg, 0.06 mmol), ethyl Hantzsch esters 2 (60.7 mg, 0.24 mmol) were mixtured in 2.0 mL toluene. The trans-Cinnamaldehyde 1a (39.6 mg, 0.3 mmol) was added after the reaction mixture was cooled to -5 $^{\circ}$ C. The reaction was stirred for one day at -5 $^{\circ}$ C, then bis(4-dimethylamino-phenyl)methanol **3a** (54.0 mg, 0.2mmol) was added and the reaction continues for another four days. The crude reaction mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography column using hexane/Et₂O = 5/1 as the eluent to afford 73.4 mg (95 % yield, 87% ee) of 4aa. HPLC analysis on a AD-H column at 0°C: hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90/10, flow rate 0.50 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm: ^{τ} major = 28.1 min., ^{τ} minor = 31.2 min.; $[\alpha]_D^{rt}$ = -10.5 (c = 1.14, CHCl₃, 87% ee); IR:(KBr) v_{max} 2921, 2856, 2799, 1720, 1612, 1520, 1350, 816 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 9.53 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 7.25-7.04 (m, 9H), 6.70 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.61 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.02 (d, J = 10.8 Hz, 1H), 3.52-3.44 (m, 1H), 2.92-2.76 (m, 2H), 2.90 (s, 6H), 2.85 (s, 6H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 204.8, 149.3, 149.2, 139.1, 130.7, 130.1, 129.0, 128.58, 128.55, 128.3, 126.2, 113.0, 112.9, 57.8, 50.7, 40.6, 40.5, 34.8; MS (70 eV): m/z (%): 253.2 (100), 386.3 (10) [M]⁺. HRMS m/z (ESI): Calcd. for $C_{26}H_{31}N_{2}O[M+H]^{+}$ 387.24309, Found: 387.24292.

(R)-3,3-Bis(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)-2-(4-methylbenzyl)propanal (4ba)



The reaction was carried out following the typical procedure (1) at the appointed temperature. The reaction of catalyst **D** (4.1 mg, 0.015 mmol), catalyst **B** (19.9 mg, ethyl Hantzsch 2 0.06 mmol), esters (60.7)mg, 0.24 mmol), 4-methyl-Cinnamaldehyde 1b 43.8 0.3 mmol). (mg, bis(4-dimethylamino-phenyl)methanol **3a** (54.0 mg, 0.2mmol) in toluene (2.0 mL) afford 74.0 mg (93 % yield, 81% ee) of 4ba. HPLC analysis on a AD-H column at 0°C: hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90/10, flow rate 0.50 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm: ^{τ} major = 30.5 min., ^{τ} minor = 28.6 min.; $[\alpha]_{D}^{rt}$ = +5.0 (c = 2.39, CHCl₃, 81% ee); IR:(KBr) v_{max} 2916, 2883, 2854, 2798, 1716, 1613, 1519, 1348, 804 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 9.51 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.69 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.60 (d, J $= 8.4 \text{ Hz}, 2\text{H}, 4.01 \text{ (d}, J = 10.8 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}), 3.48-3.42 \text{ (m}, 1\text{H}), 2.89-2.73 \text{ (m}, 2\text{H}), 2.88 \text{ (s}, 3.42 \text{ (m}, 3.42 \text{ ($ 6H), 2.84 (s, 6H), 2.27 (s, 3H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 204.9, 149.2, 149.15, 135.8, 135.6, 130.8, 130.2, 129.0, 128.8, 128.5, 112.9, 112.8, 57.8, 50.6, 40.6, 40.5, 34.4, 20.9; MS (70 eV): m/z (%): 253.2 (100), 400.4 (10) [M]⁺. HRMS m/z (ESI): Calcd. for C₂₇H₃₃N₂O [M+H]⁺ 401.25874, Found: 401.25878

(*R*)-2-(4-Chlorobenzyl)-3,3-bis(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)propanal (4ca)



The reaction was carried out following the typical procedure (1) at the appointed temperature. The reaction of catalyst **D** (4.1 mg, 0.015 mmol), catalyst **B** (19.9 mg, 0.06 mmol), ethyl Hantzsch esters **2** (60.7 mg, 0.24 mmol), 4-chloro-Cinnamaldehyde **1c** (50.0 mg, 0.3 mmol), bis(4-dimethylamino-phenyl)methanol **3a** (54.0 mg, 0.2mmol) in toluene (2.0 mL) afford 73.3 mg (87 % yield, 80% ee) of **4ca**. HPLC analysis on a AD-H column at 0°C: hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90/10, flow rate 0.50 mL/min, λ = 254 nm: ^T major = 49.8 min., ^T minor = 30.3 min.; [α]_D^{*rt*} = -19.8 (*c* = 2.63, CHCl₃, 80% ee); IR:(KBr) v_{max} 2931, 2886, 2859, 2803, 1714, 1612, 1520, 1350, 807 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 9.51 (s, 1H), 7.17-7.09 (m, 6H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.68 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.61 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.98 (d, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 1H), 3.44-3.41 (m, 1H), 3.04-2.68 (m, 2H), 2.89 (s, 6H), 2.85 (s, 6H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 204.5, 149.3, 149.2, 137.6, 131.9, 130.4, 130.3, 129.8, 128.5,128.47, 128.4, 112.9, 112.8, 57.7, 50.7, 40.55, 40.48, 34.0; MS (70 eV): m/z (%): 253.2 (100), 420.3 (10) [M]⁺. HRMS m/z (ESI): Calcd. for C₂₆H₃₀ClN₂O [M+H]⁺ 421.20412, Found: 421.20390.

(R)-3,3-Bis(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)-2-(2-fluorobenzyl)propanal (4da)



The reaction was carried out following the typical procedure (1) at the appointed temperature. The reaction of catalyst **D** (4.1 mg, 0.015 mmol), catalyst **B** (19.9 mg, 0.06 mmol), ethyl Hantzsch esters **2** (60.7 mg, 0.24 mmol), 2-fluoro-Cinnamaldehyde **1d** (45.0 mg, 0.3 mmol), bis(4-dimethylamino-phenyl)methanol **3a** (54.0 mg, 0.2mmol) in toluene (2.0 mL) afford 76.7 mg (95 % yield, 90% ee) of **4da**. HPLC analysis on a AD-H column at 0°C: hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95/5, flow rate 0.50 mL/min, λ = 254 nm: ^T major = 35.5 min., ^T minor = 47.5 min.; [α]_D^{*rt*} = -11.5 (*c* = 1.75, CHCl3, 90% ee); IR:(KBr) v_{max} 2920, 2884, 2795, 1723, 1614, 1520, 1348, 1227, 803, 758 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 9.51 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 7.23-6.92 (m, 8H), 6.69 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.61 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 4.02 (d, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 1H), 3.55-3.49 (m, 1H), 2.90-2.78 (m, 2H), 2.89 (s, 6H), 2.85 (s, 6H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 204.0, 161.0 (d, *J* = 243Hz), 149.3, 149.27, 131.44, 131.39, 130.5, 130.1, 128.56, 128.54, 128.09, 128.01, 126.1, 125.9, 123.93, 123.90, 115.3, 115.1, 112.95, 112.86, 56.6, 51.1, 40.6, 40.5, 28.6; HRMS m/z (ESI): Calcd. for C₂₆H₃₀FN₂O [M+H]⁺ 405.23367, Found: 405.23324.

(*R*)-3-Phenyl-2-(9H-xanthen-9-yl)propanal (4ab)



The reaction was carried out following the typical procedure (1) at the appointed temperature. The reaction of catalyst **D** (4.1 mg, 0.015 mmol), catalyst **B** (19.9 mg, 0.06 mmol), ethyl Hantzsch esters **2** (60.7 mg, 0.24 mmol), *trans*-Cinnamaldehyde **1a** (39.6 mg, 0.3 mmol), 9H-xanthen-9-ol **3b** (39.6 mg, 0.2mmol) in MeNO₂ (2.0 mL) afford 60.3 mg (96 % yield, 70% ee) of **4ba**. HPLC analysis on a AD-H column at 0°C: hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95/5, flow rate 0.50 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm: ^{τ} major = 16.4 min., ^{τ} minor = 19.2 min.; [α]_D^{*n*} = -23.9 (*c* = 2.51, CHCl₃, 70% ee); IR:(KBr) v_{max} 2925, 1722, 1477, 1457, 1247, 754 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 9.64 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.06 (m, 11H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.59 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 3.01-2.96 (m, 1H), 2.83-2.76 (m, 1H), 2.72-2.66 (m, 1H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 203.5, 152.9, 152.86, 138.8, 129.0, 128.8, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 126.3, 123.7, 123.5, 122.6, 121.7, 116.8, 117.77, 62.4, 39.5, 31.2; MS (70 eV): m/z (%): 181.0 (100); HRMS m/z (ESI): Calcd. for C₂₂H₁₈NaO₂ [M+Na]⁺ 337.11990, Found: 337.12018.

(R)-3-Phenyl-2-(9H-thioxanthen-9-yl)propanal (4ac)



The reaction was carried out following the typical procedure (1) at the appointed temperature. The reaction of catalyst **D** (4.1 mg, 0.015 mmol), catalyst **B** (19.9 mg, 0.06 mmol), ethyl Hantzsch esters **2** (60.7 mg, 0.24 mmol), *trans*-Cinnamaldehyde **1a** (39.6 mg, 0.3 mmol), 9H-thioxanthen-9-ol **3c** (42.8 mg, 0.2mmol) in MeNO₂ (2.0 mL) afford 56.8 mg (86 % yield, 67% ee) of **4ca**. HPLC analysis on a AD-H column at 0°C: hexane/i-PrOH = 95/5, flow rate 0.50 mL/min, λ = 254 nm: ^T major = 25.2 min., ^T minor = 19.5 min.; [α]_D^{*rt*} = +25.0 (*c* = 1.20, CHCl₃, 67% ee); IR:(KBr) v_{max} 2932, 1715, 1462, 1442, 762, 750, 694 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 9.43 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.10 (m, 9H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.38 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 3.56-3.53 (m, 1H), 2.86 (dd, *J*_I = 14.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 10.4 Hz, 1H), 2.52 (dd, *J*_I = 14.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 4.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 203.9, 138.5, 135.3, 135.2, 133.2, 133.1, 130.1, 129.6, 128.7, 128.4, 127.5, 127.45, 127.2, 127.1, 126.7, 126.5, 126.3, 52.6, 50.0, 34.7; HRMS m/z (ESI): Calcd. for C₂₂H₁₈NaOS [M+Na]⁺ 353.09706, Found: 353.09736.

(2R,3R)-2-(Bis(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)methyl)-3-phenylbutanal (4ea)



Typical Procedure (2): Catalyst D (4.1 mg, 0.015 mmol), catalyst B (19.9 mg, 0.06 mmol), ethyl Hantzsch Esters 2 (60.7 mg, 0.24 mmol) were mixtured in 2.0 mL toluene. The 3-phenylbut-2-enal 1e (43.8 mg, 0.3 mmol, E/Z = 3/1) was added after the reaction mixture was cooled to -5 °C. The reaction was stirred for 1.5 day at bis(4-dimethylamino-phenyl)methanol 3a (54.0 mg, 0.2mmol) was -5 °C, then added and the temperature was rised to $+20^{\circ}$ C to react for another four days. The crude reaction mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography column using hexane/Et₂O = 5/1 as the eluent to afford 65.6 mg (82 % yield, 93% ee, 7:1 dr) of 4ea. HPLC analysis on a AD-H column at $0^{\circ}C$: hexane/i-PrOH = 95/5, flow rate 0.50 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm: ^{τ} major = 27.1 min., ^{τ} minor = 38.3 min., ^{τ'} major = 20.1 min., ^{τ'} minor = 45.4 min.; $[\alpha]_D^{rt}$ = -9.6 (c = 2.09, CHCl₃, 93% ee, 7:1 dr); IR:(KBr) v_{max} 2971, 2931, 2879, 2796, 1696, 1608, 1517, 1343, 803, 697 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 9.60 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 7.31-7.04 (m, 9H), 6.72-6.67 (m, 2H), 6.59-6.57 (m, 2H), 4.19 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 3.52-3.48 (m, 1H), 3.10-3.06 (m, 1H), 2.91 (s, 6H), 2.90 (s, 6H), 1.35-1.28 (m, 3H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 205.5, 149.2, 149.1, 144.7, 131.2, 130.4, 128.8, 128.5, 128.4, 127.5, 126.4, 113.0, 112.8, 61.0, 48.6, 40.64, 40.56, 39.0, 15.5; MS (70 eV): m/z (%): 253.3 (100), 400.6 (2) $[M]^+$. HRMS m/z (ESI): Calcd. for C₂₇H₃₃N₂O $[M+H]^+$ 401.25874, Found: 401.25850.





The reaction was carried out following the typical procedure (2) at the appointed temperature. The reaction of catalyst **D** (4.1 mg, 0.015 mmol), catalyst **B** (19.9 mg, mmol). ethyl Hantzsch esters 2 (60.7 0.24 0.06 mg, mmol), (*E*)-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)but-2-enal 0.3 1f (52.8 mg, mmol). bis(4-dimethylamino-phenyl)methanol **3a** (54.0 mg, 0.2mmol) in toluene (2.0 mL) afford 63.4 mg (74 % yield, 94% ee, 6:1 dr) of 4fa. HPLC analysis on a AD-H column at 0 °C: hexane/i-PrOH = 90/10, flow rate 0.50 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm: ^{τ} major = 24.9 min., ^{τ} minor = 30.6 min., ^{τ'} major = 20.6 min., ^{τ'} minor = 39.7 min.; $[\alpha]_D^{rt}$ = -17.6 (c = 2.27, CHCl₃, 94% ee, 6:1 dr); IR:(KBr) v_{max} 2927, 2831, 2802, 1719, 1611, 1514, 1348, 1247, 1027, 829, 810 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 9.59 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.04 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 4H), 6.82 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.68 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.58 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.17 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.47-3.45 (m, 1H), 3.04-2.97 (m, 1H), 2.89 (s, 6H), 2.84 (s, 6H), 1.28 (d, J =7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 205.7, 158.0, 149.11, 149.06, 136.8, 131.2, 130.4, 128.8, 128.4, 128.3, 113.8, 113.5, 113.1, 113.0, 112.8, 61.2, 55.1, 48.5, 40.6, 40.5, 38.2, 15.7; MS (70 eV): m/z (%): 253.1 (100), 430.6 (3) [M]⁺; HRMS m/z (ESI): Calcd. for $C_{28}H_{35}N_2O_2 [M+H]^+ 431.26930$, Found: 431.26886.

(2R,3R)-2-(Bis(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)methyl)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)butanal (4ga)



The reaction was carried out following the typical procedure (2) at the appointed temperature. The reaction of catalyst **D** (4.1 mg, 0.015 mmol), catalyst **B** (19.9 mg, 0.06 mmol), ethyl Hantzsch esters 2 (60.7)mg, 0.24 mmol), (E)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)but-2-enal 49.2 0.3 mmol). 1g (mg, bis(4-dimethylamino-phenyl)methanol **3a** (54.0 mg, 0.2mmol) in toluene (2.0 mL) afford 50.8 mg (61 % yield, 99% ee, 7:1 dr) of 4ga. HPLC analysis on a AD-H column at 0 °C: hexane/i-PrOH = 90/10, flow rate 0.50 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm: ^{τ} major = 18.6 min., ^{τ} minor = 23.0 min., ^{τ'} major = 14.3 min., ^{τ'} minor = 29.3 min.; $[\alpha]_{D}^{rt}$ = +12.6 (c = 1.90, CHCl₃, 96% ee, 7:1 dr); IR:(KBr) v_{max} 2970, 2925, 2853, 2799, 1696, 1610, 1513, 1345, 1220, 800 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 9.59 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.08-6.93 (m, 6H), 6.68 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.58 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.16 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 3.44-3.38 (m, 1H), 3.07-3.03 (m, 1H), 2.89 (s, 6H), 2.85 (s, 6H), 1.29 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 205.4, 149.20, 149.15, 140.4, 131.0, 130.1, 128.9, 128.8, 128.78, 128.3, 115.3, 115.0, 113.0, 112.8, 61.2, 48.7, 40.6, 40.5, 38.4, 15.6; MS (70 eV): m/z (%): 253.2 (100), 418.4 (7) [M]⁺; HRMS m/z (ESI): Calcd. for C₂₇H₃₂FN₂O [M+H]⁺ 419.24932, Found: 419.24921.

(2R,3R)-2-(Bis(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)methyl)-3-(4-bromophenyl)butanal (4ha)



The reaction was carried out following the typical procedure (2) at the appointed temperature. The reaction of catalyst **D** (4.1 mg, 0.015 mmol), catalyst **B** (19.9 mg, mmol). Hantzsch (60.7 0.06 ethvl esters 2 mg, 0.24 mmol). (E)-3-(4-bromophenyl)but-2-enal 0.3 1h (67.5 mg, mmol), bis(4-dimethylamino-phenyl)methanol **3a** (54.0 mg, 0.2mmol) in toluene (2.0 mL) afford 57.2 mg (60% yield, >99% ee, 6:1 dr) of 4ha. HPLC analysis on a AD-H column at 0°C: hexane/i-PrOH = 95/5, flow rate 0.50 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm: ^{τ} major = 31.3 min., ^{τ'} major = 19.0 min., ^{τ'} minor = 50.5 min.; $[\alpha]_{D}^{rt}$ = -15.8 (c = 1.77, CHCl₃, >99% ee, 6:1 dr); IR:(KBr) v_{max} 2966, 2916, 2883, 2854, 2793, 1718, 1613, 1521, 1349, 806 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 9.58 (s, 1H), 7.37 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.23-6.90 (m, 6H), 6.66 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.58 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.15 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 3.42-3.40 (m, 1H), 3.02-3.00 (m, 1H), 2.89 (s, 6H), 2.84 6H), 1.30-1.25 (m, 3H); MS (70 eV): m/z (%): 253.2 (100); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) & 205.1, 149.2, 149.1, 143.8, 131.4, 130.8, 130.0, 129.2, 128.8, 128.3, 120.1, 113.0, 112.7, 60.9, 48.8, 40.6, 40.5, 38.6, 15.5; HRMS m/z (ESI): Calcd. for C₂₇H₃₂BrN₂O [M+H]⁺ 479.16925, Found: 479.16884.

2-(Bis(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)methyl)-3,7-dimethyloct-6-enal (4ia)



The reaction was carried out following the typical procedure (2) at the appointed temperature. The reaction of catalyst **D** (4.1 mg, 0.015 mmol), catalyst **B** (19.9 mg, 0.06 mmol), ethyl Hantzsch esters **2** (60.7 mg, 0.24 mmol), citral (E + Z) **1i** (45.6 mg, 0.3 mmol), bis(4-dimethylamino-phenyl)methanol **3a** (54.0 mg, 0.2mmol) in toluene (2.0 mL) afford 48.1 mg (59 % yield, 85% ee, 2:1 dr) of **4ia**. HPLC analysis on a AD-H column at 0°C: hexane/i-PrOH = 99/1, flow rate 0.50 mL/min, λ = 254 mm: ^{τ} major = 34.3 min., ^{τ} minor = 25.4 min., ^{τ'} major = 31.7 min., ^{τ'} minor = 26.7 min.; [α]_D^{*rt*} = +173.6 (c = 1.82, CHCl₃, 85% ee, 2:1 dr); IR:(KBr) v_{max} 2922, 2854, 2803, 1718, 1613, 1520, 1349, 808 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 9.61 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.13-7.09 (m, 4H), 6.65 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.60 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H),

5.01-4.97 (m, 1H), 4.29-4.23 (m, 1H), 3.17-3.11 (m, 1H), 2.87 (s, 6H), 2.84 (s, 6H), 2.01-1.97 (m, 2H), 1.64 (s, 3H), 1.58 (s, 3H), 1.47-1.41 (m, 1H), 1.32-1.21 (m, 2H), 1.01-0.97 (m, 3H); MS (70 eV): m/z (%): 253.3 (100), 406.7 (6) $[M]^+$; HRMS m/z (ESI): Calcd. for C₂₇H₃₉N₂O $[M+H]^+$ 407.30569, Found: 407.30563.

(2R,3R)-3-Phenyl-2-(9H-xanthen-9-yl)butanal (4eb)



The reaction was carried out following the typical procedure (2) at the appointed temperature. The reaction of catalyst **D** (4.1 mg, 0.015 mmol), catalyst **B** (19.9 mg, 0.06 mmol), ethyl Hantzsch esters **2** (60.7 mg, 0.24 mmol), The 3-phenylbut-2-enal **1e** (43.8 mg, 0.3 mmol, E/Z = 3/1), 9H-xanthen-9-ol **3b** (39.6 mg, 0.2mmol) in MeNO₂ (2.0 mL) afford 37.9 mg (58% yield, 99% ee, >25:1 dr) of **4eb**. HPLC analysis on a OD-H column at 0°C : hexane/i-PrOH = 99/1, flow rate 0.50 mL/min, λ = 254 nm: ^T major = 21.5 min., ^T minor = 26.0 min.; $[\alpha]_D^{rt} = -44.4$ (c = 2.07, CHCl₃, 90% ee, >25:1 dr); IR:(KBr) v_{max} 2961, 2926, 2849, 1708, 1478, 1455, 1252, 753, 702 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 9.39 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.46-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.20 (m, 6H), 7.12-7.05 (m, 5H), 4.18 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 3.25-3.19 (m, 1H), 2.94-2.89 (m, 1H), 1.12 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 203.4, 153.1, 152.6, 144.4, 129.2, 129.0, 128.5, 128.3, 128.1, 127.7, 126.9, 124.4, 123.8, 123.3, 121.5, 116.8, 116.6, 66.3, 38.5, 37.4, 21.4; MS (70 eV): m/z (%): 181.0 (100); HRMS m/z (ESI): Calcd. for C₂₃H₂₀NaO₂ [M+Na]⁺ 351.13555, Found: 351.13559.

(2R,3R)-3-Phenyl-2-(9H-thioxanthen-9-yl)butanal (4ec)



The reaction was carried out following the typical procedure (2) at the appointed temperature. The reaction of catalyst **D** (4.1 mg, 0.015 mmol), catalyst **B** (19.9 mg, 0.06 mmol), ethyl Hantzsch esters **2** (60.7 mg, 0.24 mmol), The 3-phenylbut-2-enal **1e** (43.8 mg, 0.3 mmol, E/Z = 3/1), 9H-thioxanthen-9-ol **3c** (42.8 mg, 0.2mmol) in MeNO₂ (2.0 mL) afford 26.6 mg (39 % yield, 86% ee, >25:1 dr) of **4ec**. HPLC analysis on a AD-H column at 0°C: hexane/i-PrOH = 99/1, flow rate 0.50 mL/min, λ = 254 nm: ^T major = 22.5 min., ^T minor = 27.8 min.; $[\alpha]_D^{rt} = +18.2$ (c = 1.32, CHCl₃, 86% ee, >25:1 dr); IR:(KBr) v_{max} 2961, 2927, 1721, 1460, 1443, 757, 701 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 9.44 (d, 1H, J = 3.2 Hz), 7.47-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.40-7.37 (m, 1H), 7.35-7.29 (m, 3H), 7.26-7.14 (m, 8H), 4.55 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 3.48-3.44 (m, 1H), 2.79-2.75 (m, 1H), 1.24 (d, 1H, J = 6.8 Hz); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz,

CDCl₃, ppm) δ 203.0, 114.1, 136.0, 135.5, 133.4, 133.3, 130.3, 129.3, 128.7, 127.4, 127.3, 127.0, 126.9, 126.7, 126.6, 126.4, 58.9, 47.1, 38.3, 16.5; MS (70 eV): m/z (%): 197.1 (100); HRMS m/z (ESI): Calcd. for C₂₃H₂₀NaOS [M+Na]⁺ 367.11271, Found: 367.11295.

The synthesis of the compound 6



The compound 6 were prepared according to literature methods.² Compound 4eb (131.7 mg, 0.4 mmol, 90% ee, >25:1 dr) was dissolved in dry THF (5 mL) and the mixture was cooled to 0 °C. Then solid NaBH₄ (4 mmol, 10 equiv) was added in one portion. Frothing occurs but is readily controllable through magnetic stirring of the solution. After 30 minutes the mixture was quenched with few drops of water. Brine (10 mL) was added and the resulting mixture extracted with AcOEt (3×10 mL). The combined organics were washed with brine (5 mL), dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated in vacuo. The crude residue was dissolved in 7 mL of dry pyridine and tosyl chloride (1.2 mmol, 10 equiv) was added in one portion. The reaction was stirred 2 day at 40°C. Water (20 mL) and diethyl ether were added. After separation of the two phases, the aqueous phase was further extracted with diethyl ether (2x20 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with water, dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated in vacuo. The product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to afford 156.8 mg (81 % yield, 88% ee, >25:1 dr) of 6. HPLC analysis on a AD-H column which was cooled to $0^{\circ}C$: hexane/i-PrOH = 95/5, flow rate 0.50 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm: ^{τ} major = 22.4 min., ^{τ} minor = 23.6 min.; $[\alpha]_D^{rt} = -35.3$ (c = 1.02, CHCl₃, 88% ee, >25:1 dr); IR:(KBr) v_{max} 2925, 1477, 1357, 1255, 1173, 937, 757, 552 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 7.63 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.71-7.13 (m, 8H), 7.06-6.94 (m, 7H), 4.11-4.04 (m, 2H), 3.90-3.85 (m, 1H), 3.00-2.92 (m, 1H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 2.19-2.13 (m, 1H), 1.01 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) & 153.0, 152.9, 145.8, 144.6, 132.7, 129.7, 128.9, 128.72, 128.7, 127.97, 127.92, 127.2, 126.3, 124.0, 123.3, 123.2, 123.0, 116.6, 116.55, 68.2, 53.2, 38.5, 38.4, 21.6, 17.6; HRMS m/z (ESI): Calcd. for $C_{30}H_{28}NaO_4S$ [M+Na]⁺ 507.16005, Found: 507.15948.

Single crystals of compund 6 suitable for X-ray crystallographic analysis were obtained by means of slow crystallization from a mixture of Hexane- Et_2O .

Reference:

- (1) M. Stadler, B. List, synlett 2008, 597.
- (2) R. R. Shaikh, A. Mazzanti, M. Petrini, G. Bartoli, P. Melchiorre, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2008, **47**, 8707.

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S29





















S38





















S43









S47









Racemic















entry 12, Table 1; yield = 99%; ee = 37%

