

Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)

## Dynamic Resolution of Lithiated *ortho*-Trifluoromethyl Styrene Oxide and the Effect of Chiral Diamines on the Barrier to Enantiomerisation

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## 1. General Information

Tetrahydrofuran (THF), diethyl ether, toluene and hexane were freshly distilled under a nitrogen atmosphere: THF and diethyl ether over sodium/benzophenone ketyl, toluene and hexane over calcium hydride. For the  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra ( $^1\text{H}$  NMR 400 or 600 MHz;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR 100 or 150 MHz),  $\text{CDCl}_3$  was used as the solvent. GC-MS spectrometry analyses were performed on a gas chromatograph (dimethylsilicon capillary column, 30 m, 0.25 mm i.d.) equipped with a mass selective detector operating at 70 eV (EI). Elemental analyses were performed by using a Carlo Erba CHNS-O EA1108-Elemental Analyzer. Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was carried out on precoated 0.25 mm thick plates of Kieselgel 60 F254; visualization was accomplished by UV light (254 nm) or by spraying with a solution of 5 % (w/v) ammonium molybdate and 0.2 % (w/v) cerium(III) sulfate in 100 ml 17.6 % (w/v) aq. sulphuric acid and heating to 473 K for some time until blue spots appear. All reactions involving air-sensitive reagents were performed under nitrogen in oven-dried glassware using syringe-septum cap technique. Lithiation-electrophilic trapping reactions were performed in a diethyl ether /liquid  $\text{N}_2$  ( $-120\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ), acetone/liquid  $\text{N}_2$  ( $-90\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ) or acetone/dry ice ( $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ) cold bath. Racemic oxirane **1** was prepared by the Corey-Chaykovsky epoxidation procedure<sup>1</sup> starting from the corresponding benzaldehyde derivative, whereas oxirane **10** was obtained according to the methodology of Durst and co-workers.<sup>2</sup> Optically active epoxides (*R*)-**1** (e.r. 95:5, 15% yield) and (*R*)-**10** (e.r. 98:2, 20% yield) were synthesized by means of Jacobsen's hydrolytic kinetic resolution<sup>3</sup> starting from the corresponding racemic mixtures.

Oxiranes **1**,<sup>4</sup> **2a4** and **10**<sup>5</sup> are known compounds and their characterization match the literature reports.

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<sup>1</sup> E. J. Corey and M. Chaykovsky *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1965, **87**, 1353.

<sup>2</sup> E. Akguen, M. B. Glinski, K. L. Dhawan and T. Durst, *J. Org. Chem.* 1981, **46**, 2730.

<sup>3</sup> S. E. Schaus, B. D. Brandes, J. F. Larrow, M. Tokunaga, K. B. Hansen, A. E. Gould, M. E. Furrow and E. N. Jacobsen, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2002, **124**, 1307.

<sup>4</sup> J. Deregnacourt, A. Archelas, F. Barbirato, J.-M. Paris and R. Furstoss, *Adv. Synth. Catal.* 2007, **349**, 1405.

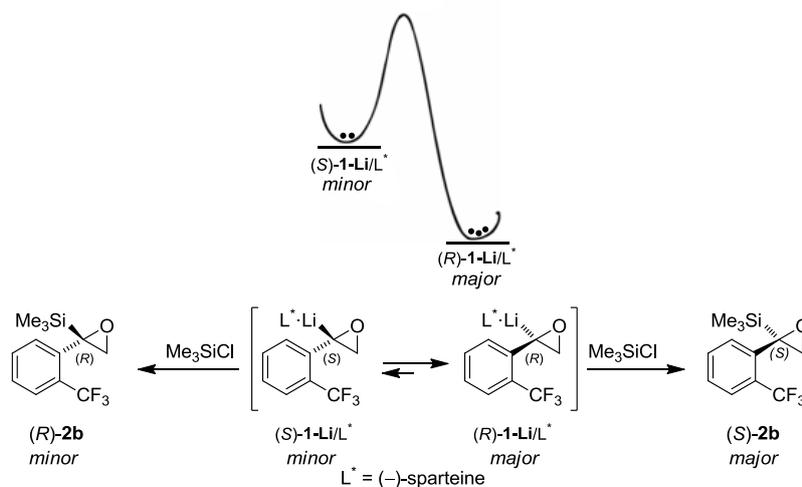
<sup>5</sup> (a) S. A. Weissman, K. Rossen and P. J. Reider, *Org. Lett.* 2001, **3**, 2513; (b) S. A. Weissman, K. Rossen and P. J. Reider, *Org. Lett.* 2005, **7**, 2803.

## 2. General Procedure for the Dynamic Thermodynamic Resolution (DTR) of 1-Li

To a solution of oxirane **1** (1 mmol) and (–)-sparteine **3** (1.2 mmol) in 10 mL of dry hexane (or pentane), at –78 °C and under N<sub>2</sub>, *s*-BuLi (1.2 mmol of a 1.4 M cyclohexane solution) was added dropwise. The resulting yellowish mixture was stirred for 30 min at the above temperature before being quenched with the electrophile (5 mmol) (neat if liquid or diluted in 2 mL of hexane if solid). After additional stirring for 30 min at –78 °C, the reaction vessel was warmed up to room temperature. Then, a solution of sat. aq. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (3 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was poured into 20 mL of water and extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (AcOEt/petroleum ether) to afford oxiranes [D]-**1**, **2a-d**.

## 3. Stereochemical Aspects of the DTR of 1-Li

Since the enantiomerisation of enantio-enriched (*R*)-**1-Li** occurs slowly in an apolar solvent such as hexane and in the presence of TMEDA (see Eyring plot, page S5), retention times (calculated by GC or HPLC analysis, see Section 8) of enantio-enriched products **2a-d** (obtained upon quenching in hexane/TMEDA (*R*)-**1-Li** with the corresponding electrophiles) were compared with those of the same products prepared by DTR in hexane(pentane)/(–)-sparteine. Assuming that the reaction of (*R*)-**1-Li** with electrophiles proceeds with retention of configuration at the benzylic carbon atom (in accordance with what observed in the  $\alpha$ -functionalisation of lithiated styrene oxide derivatives),<sup>6</sup> the major enantiomer of the products **2a-d** (and thus the most stable diastereomeric **1-Li**/(–)-sparteine complex) was assigned the *R* configuration (Scheme S1). The change in the absolute configuration at the benzylic carbon in product **2b** was only due to a change in the relative priority of the substituent groups (Scheme S1).



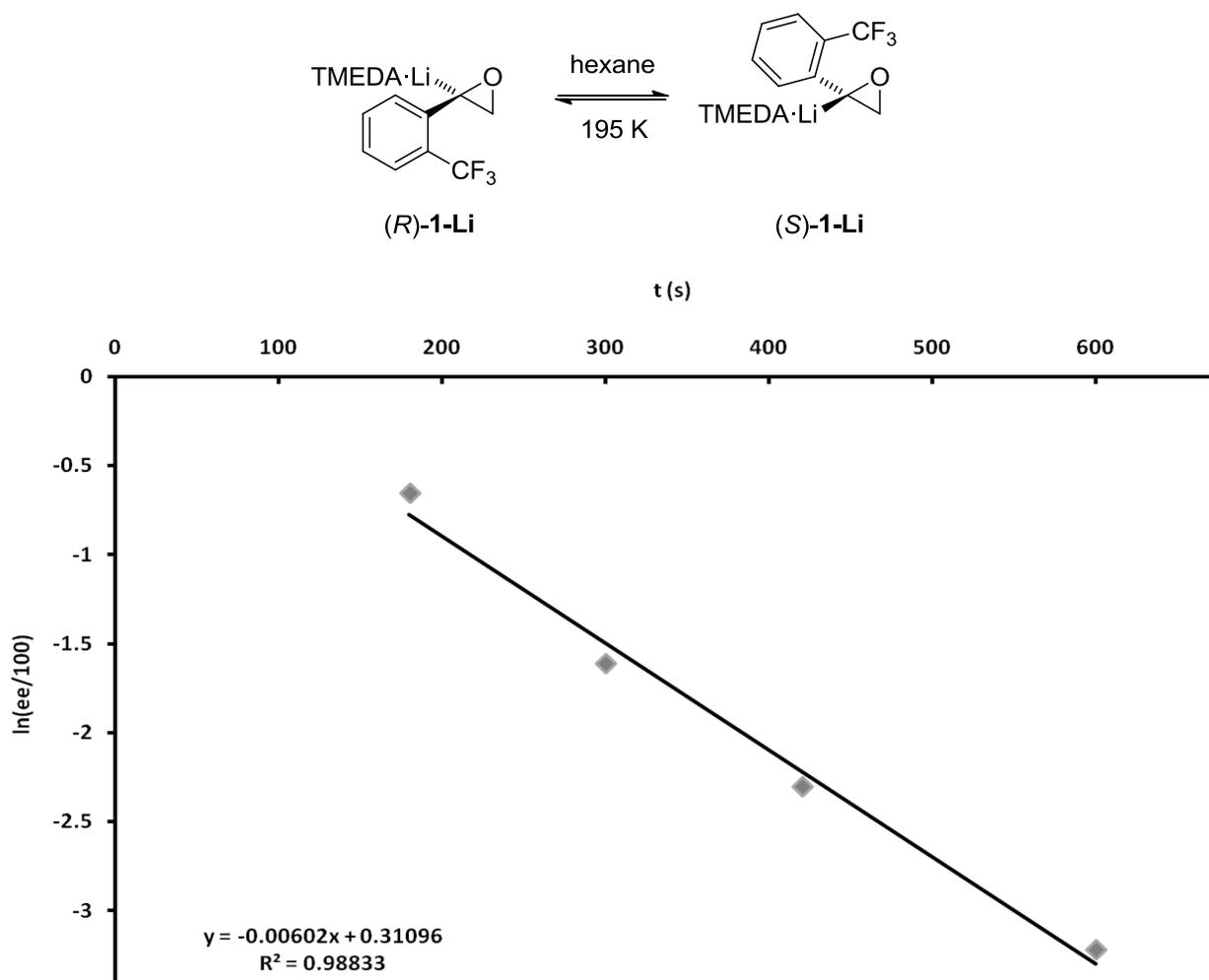
Scheme S1

<sup>6</sup> V. Capriati, S. Florio and R. Luisi *Chem. Rev.* 2008, **108**, 1918.

#### 4. Experimental Procedure Using a Sacrificial Electrophile

To a solution of oxirane **1** (1 mmol) and (–)-sparteine **3** (1.2 mmol) in 10 mL of dry pentane, at –78 °C and under N<sub>2</sub>, *s*-BuLi (1.2 mmol of a 1.4 M cyclohexane solution) was added dropwise and the resulting yellowish mixture was stirred for 15 min. Then, the reaction vessel was cooled to –120 °C and acetone (0.2 mmol diluted in 2 mL of pentane) was slowly added. The mixture was stirred for additional 5 min at –120 °C and, after this time, CH<sub>3</sub>OD (5 equiv) was added all at once. Upon warming up to room temperature, the mixture was poured into 20 mL of water and extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 × 10 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (AcOEt/petroleum ether 1/9) to afford oxiranes **2d** (15 % yield, e.r. 52:48, *R:S*) and [D]-**1** (75 % yield, e.r. 82:18, *R:S*) (see Table 1 in the main text).

## 5. Eyring Plot and Free Energy Barrier for Enantiomerisation of 1-Li in Hexane/TMEDA

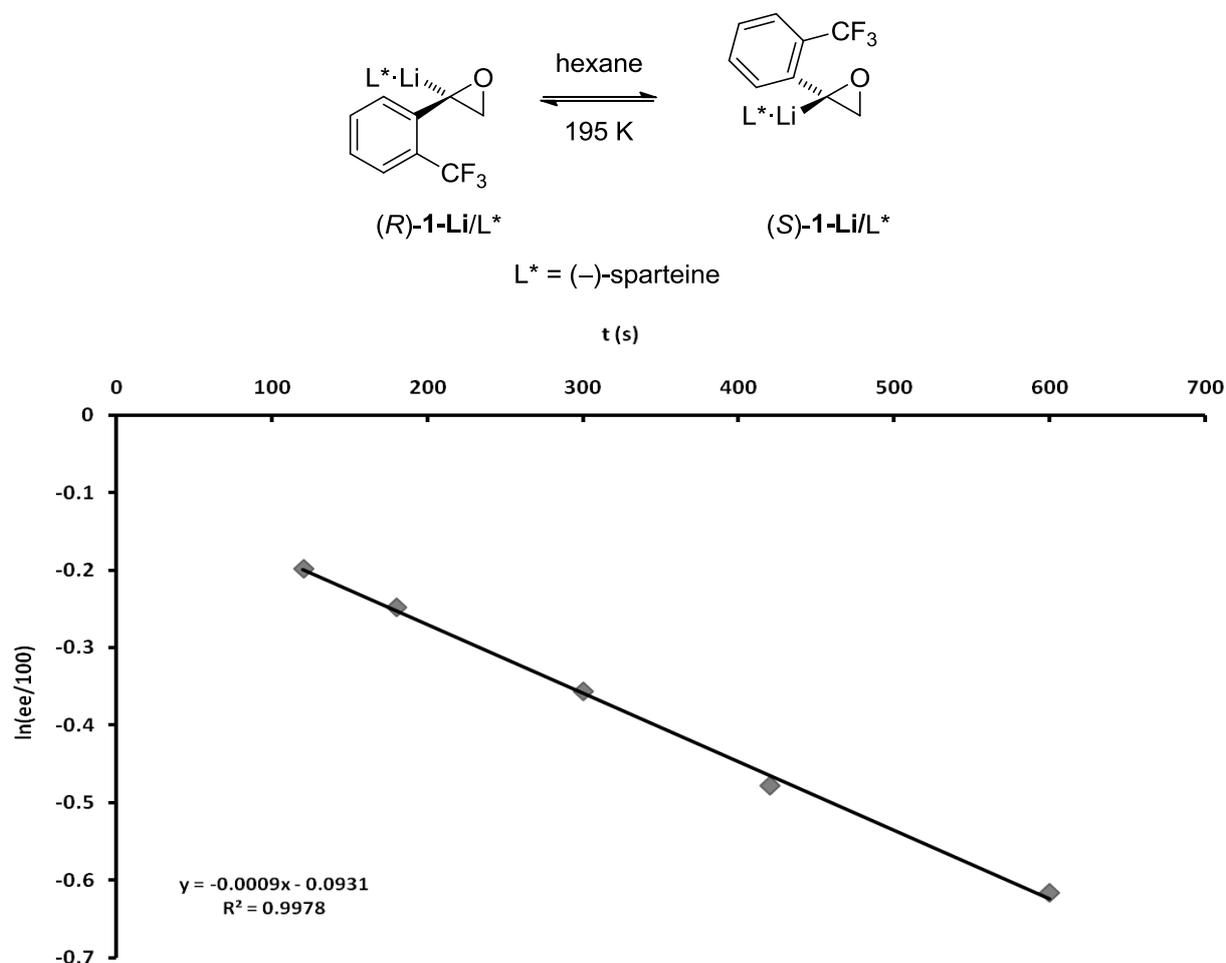


**Figure S1.** Plot of  $\ln(\text{ee}/100)$  vs delay time at 195 K in lithiation–deuteration exchange on *ortho*-trifluoromethylstyrene oxide (*R*)-**1** in hexane/TMEDA.

**Table S1.** Inversion barrier, racemisation half-life and enantiomerisation rate constant for lithiated *ortho*-trifluoromethylstyrene oxide **1-Li** in hexane/TMEDA at 195 K.

ee	t (sec)	$k_{\text{enant}}$ ( $\text{s}^{-1}$ )	$\Delta G^\ddagger$ (kcal/mol)	$t_{1/2 \text{ rac}}$ (sec)
52	180			
20	300			
10	420	$3.01 \times 10^{-3}$	$13.5 \pm 0.1$	115
4	600			

## 6. Eyring Plot and Free Energy Barriers for Enantiomerisation of 1-Li in Hexane/(-)-Sparteine

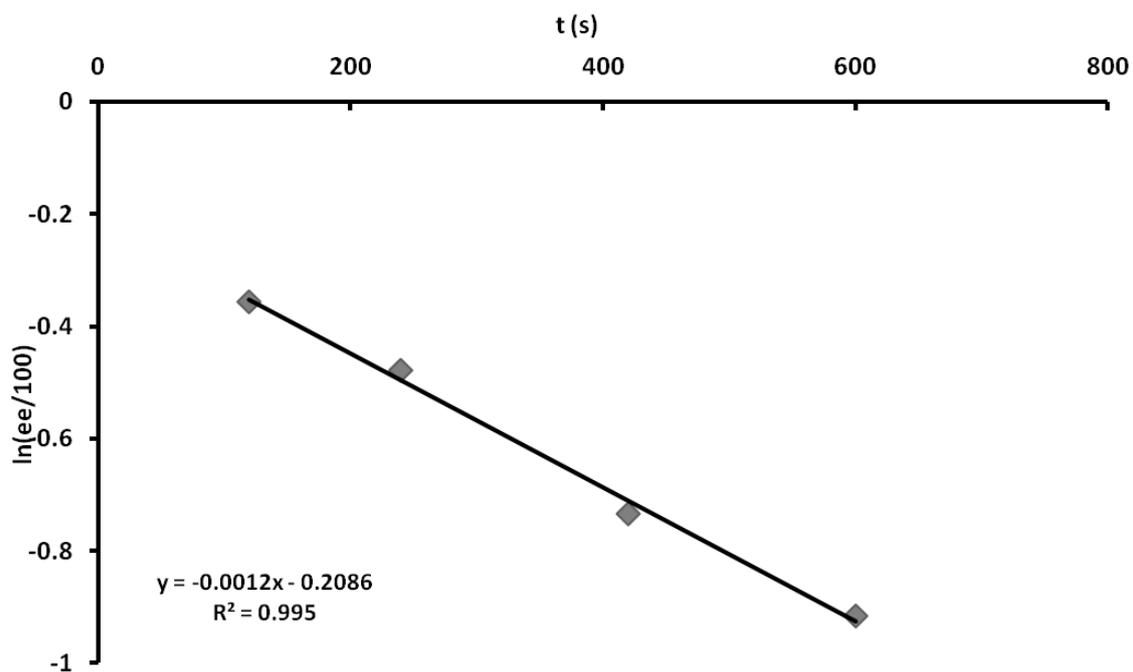
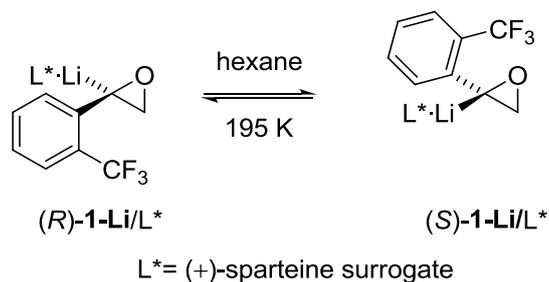


**Figure S2:** Plot of  $\ln(\text{ee}/100)$  vs delay time at 195 K in lithiation–deuteration exchange on *ortho*-trifluoromethylstyrene oxide (*R*)-**1** in hexane/(-)-sparteine.

**Table S2.** Inversion barriers and enantiomerisation rate constants for lithiated *ortho*-trifluoromethylstyrene oxide **1-Li** in hexane/(-)-sparteine at 195 K.

ee	t (sec)	$k_{S \rightarrow R}$ ( $\text{s}^{-1}$ )	$\Delta G_{S \rightarrow R}^\ddagger$ (kcal/mol)	$k_{R \rightarrow S}$ ( $\text{s}^{-1}$ )	$\Delta G_{R \rightarrow S}^\ddagger$ (kcal/mol)
82	120				
78	180				
70	300	$6.81 \times 10^{-4}$	$14.1 \pm 0.1$	$2.03 \times 10^{-4}$	$14.5 \pm 0.1$
62	420				
54	600				

### 7. Eyring Plot and Free Energy Barriers for Enantiomerisation of 1-Li in Hexane/(+)-Sparteine Surrogate



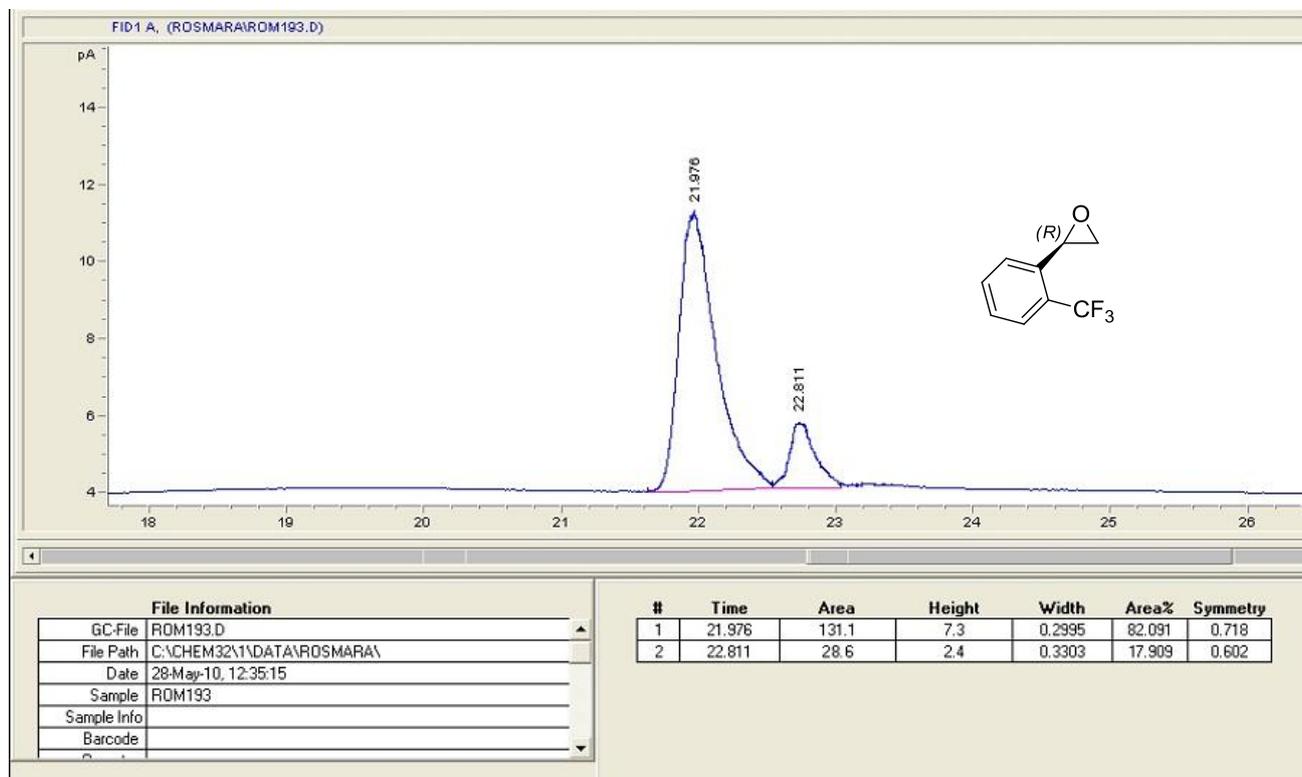
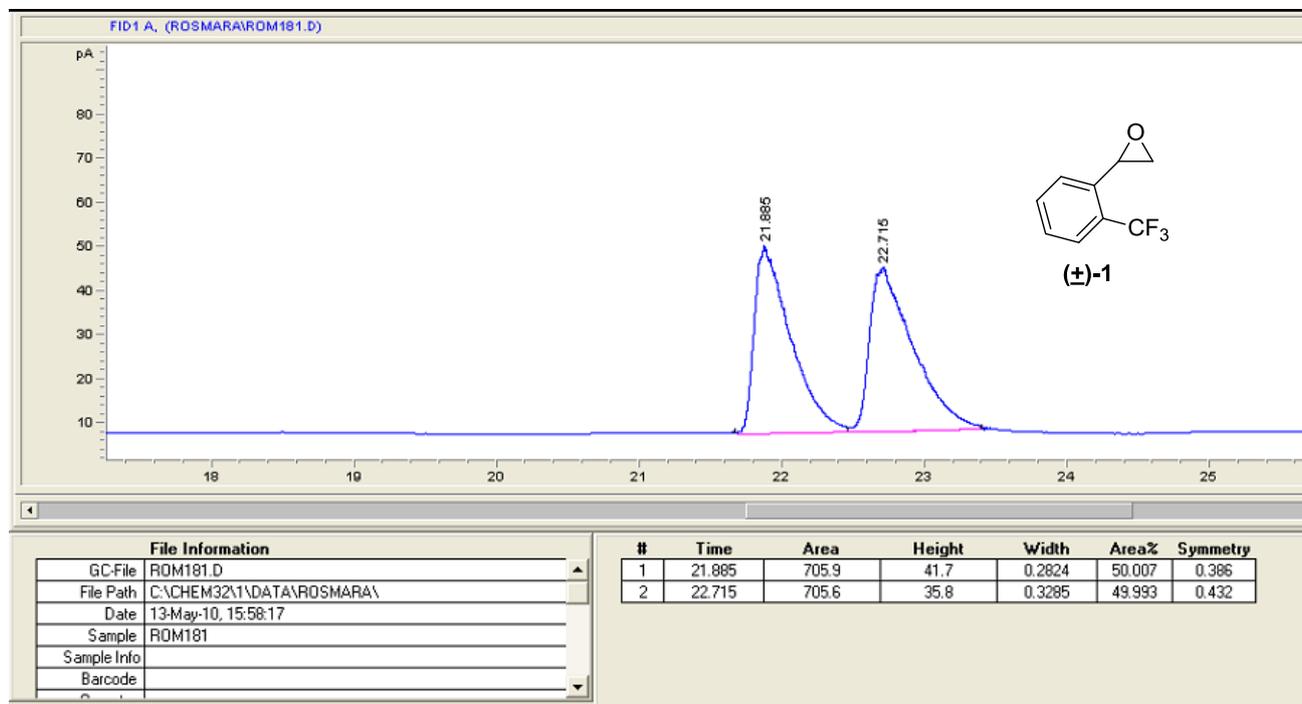
**Figure S3:** Plot of  $\ln(\text{ee}/100)$  vs delay time at 195 K in lithiation–deuteration exchange on *ortho*-trifluoromethylstyrene oxide **1** in hexane/(+)-sparteine surrogate.

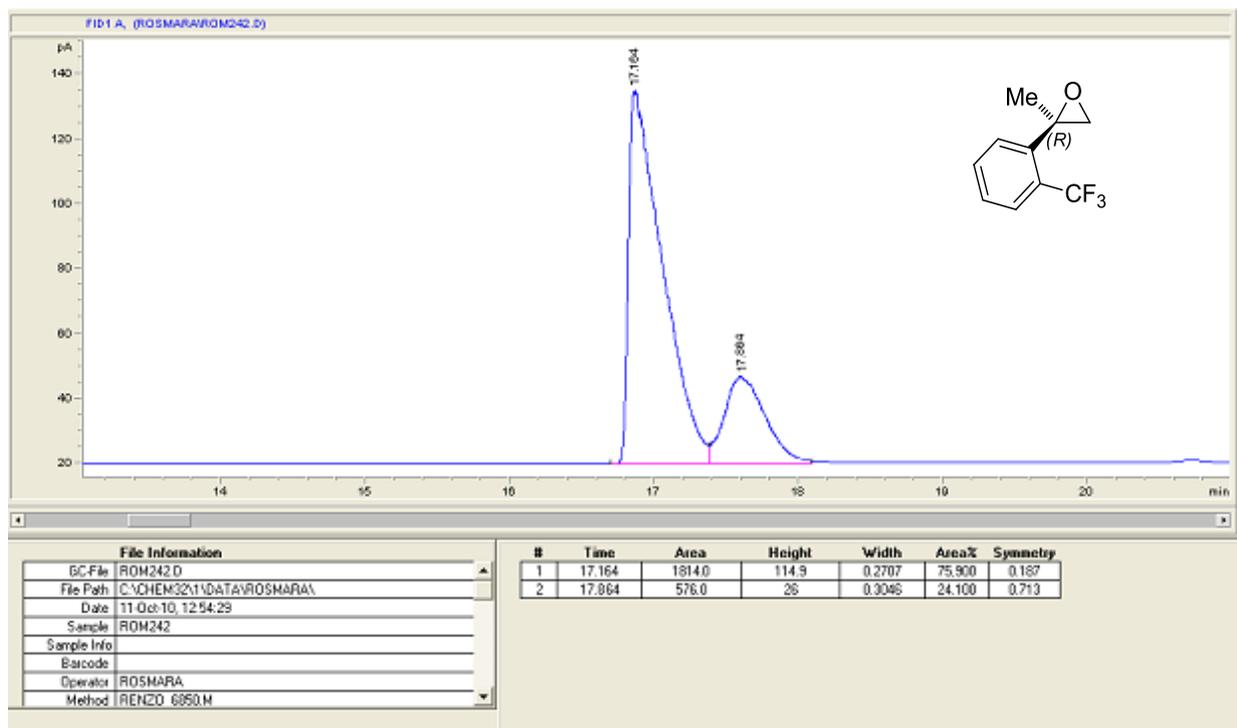
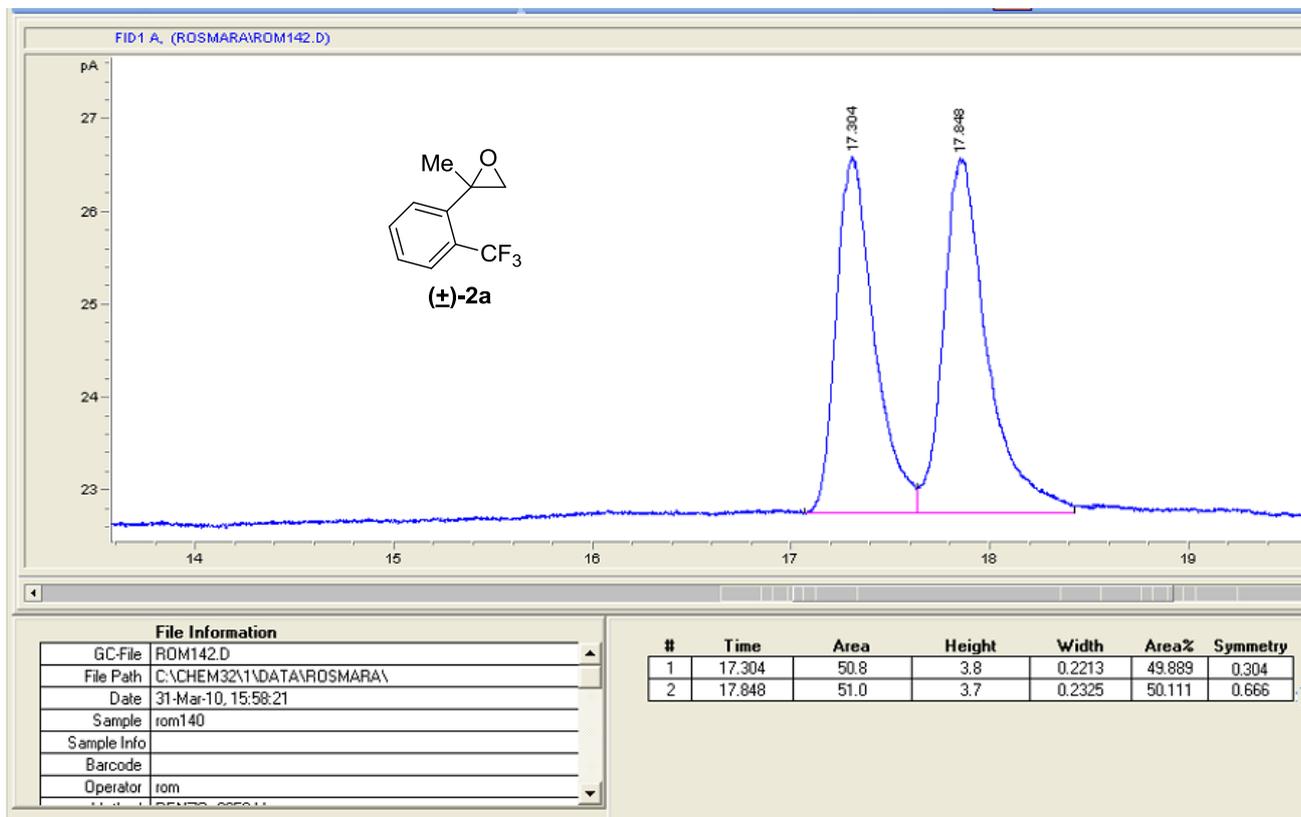
**Table S3.** Inversion barriers and enantiomerisation rate constants for lithiated *ortho*-trifluoromethylstyrene oxide **1-Li** in hexane/(+)-sparteine surrogate at 195 K.

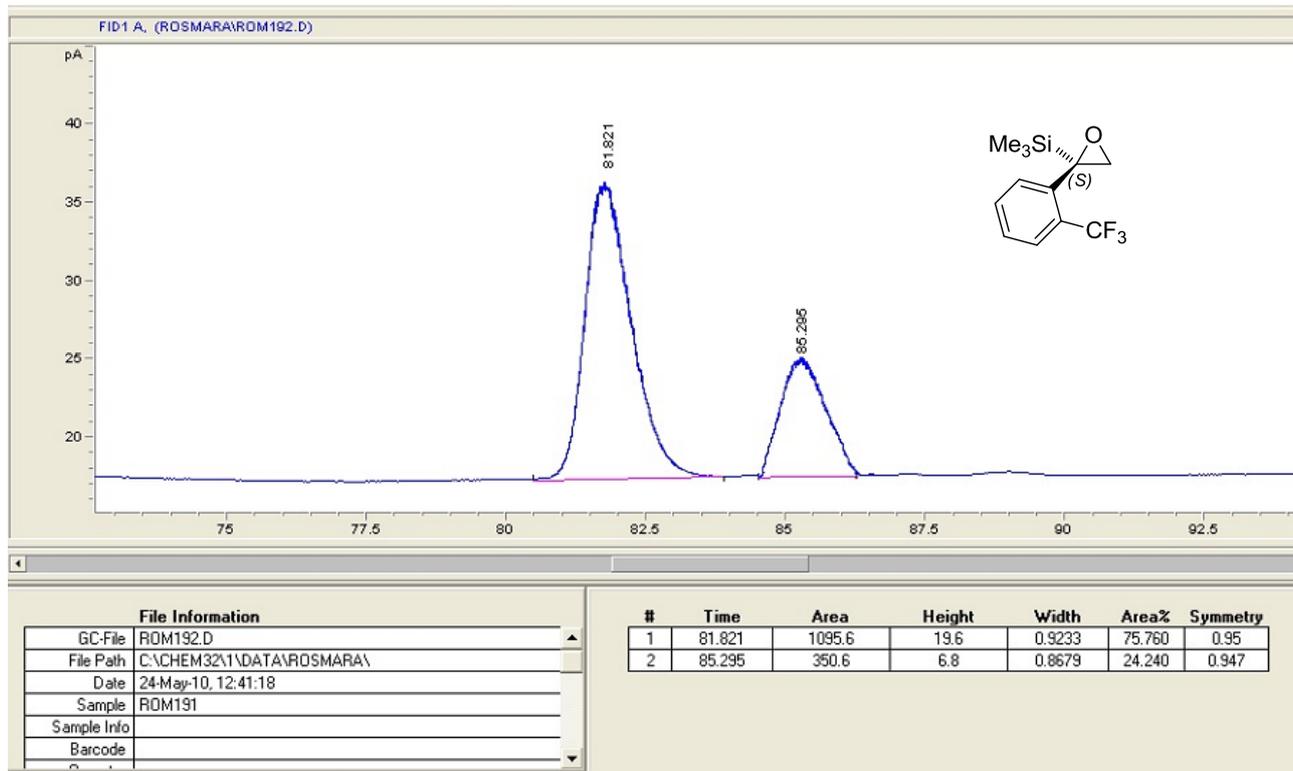
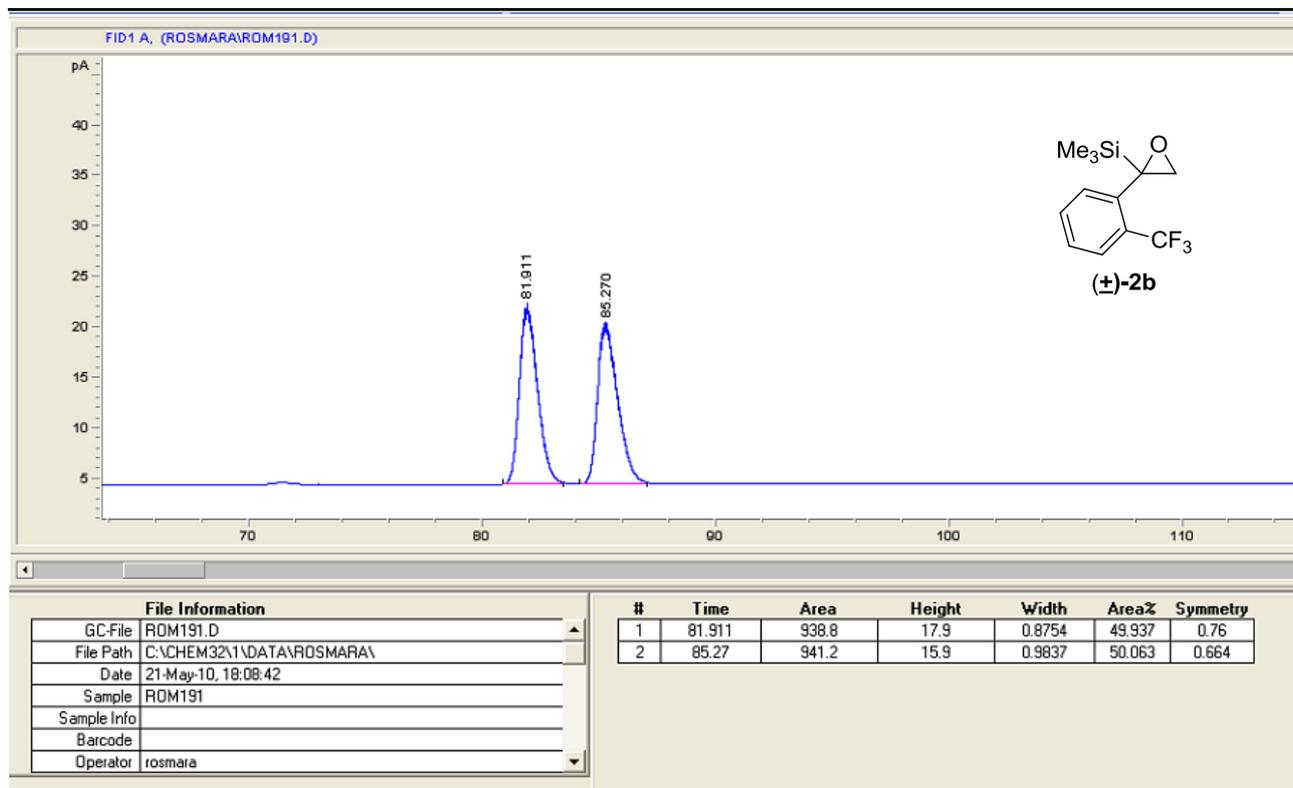
ee	t (sec)	$k_{R \rightarrow S}$ ( $\text{s}^{-1}$ )	$\Delta G_{R \rightarrow S}^\ddagger$ (kcal/mol)	$k_{S \rightarrow R}$ ( $\text{s}^{-1}$ )	$\Delta G_{S \rightarrow R}^\ddagger$ (kcal/mol)
70	120	$8.37 \times 10^{-4}$	$14.0 \pm 0.1$	$3.59 \times 10^{-4}$	$14.3 \pm 0.1$
62	240				
48	420				
40	600				

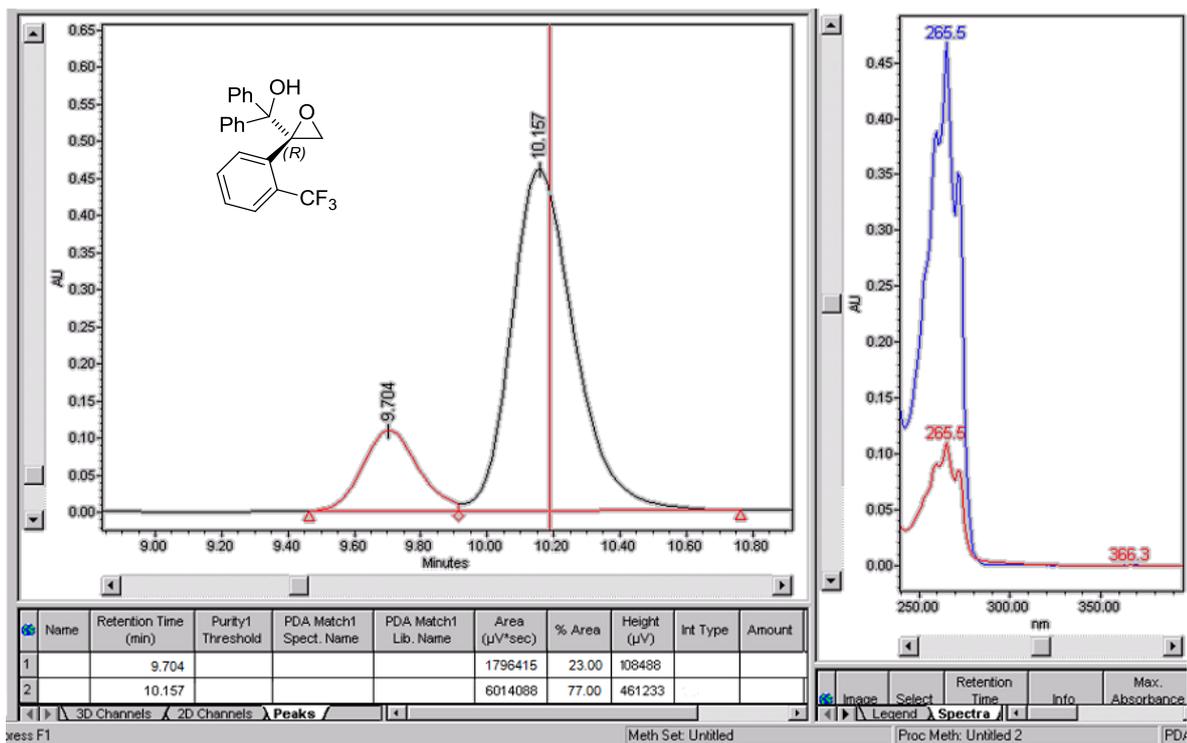
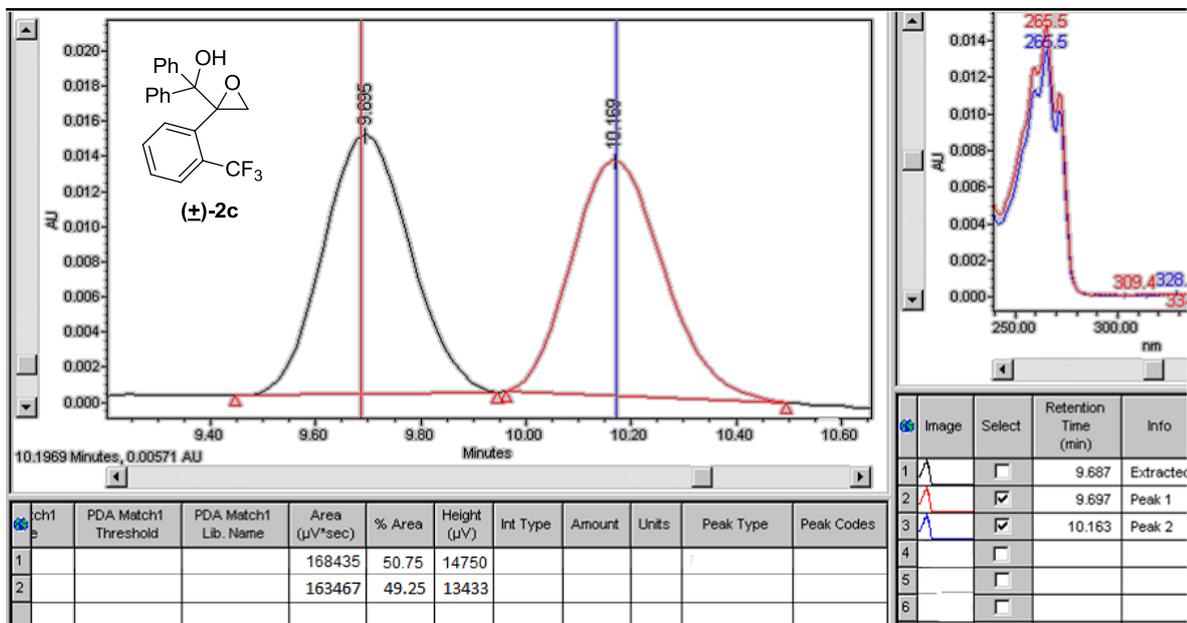
## 8. Determination of Enantiomeric Ratios of Compounds **1**, **2a–d**, and **10**

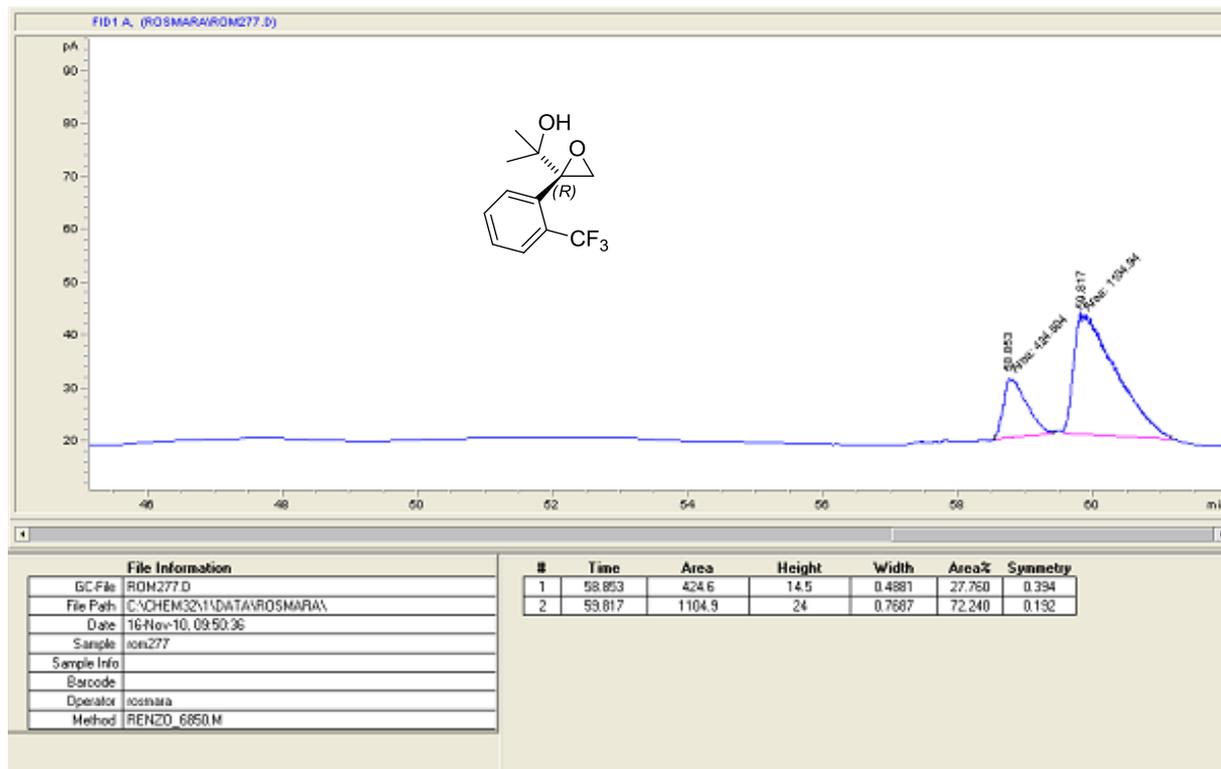
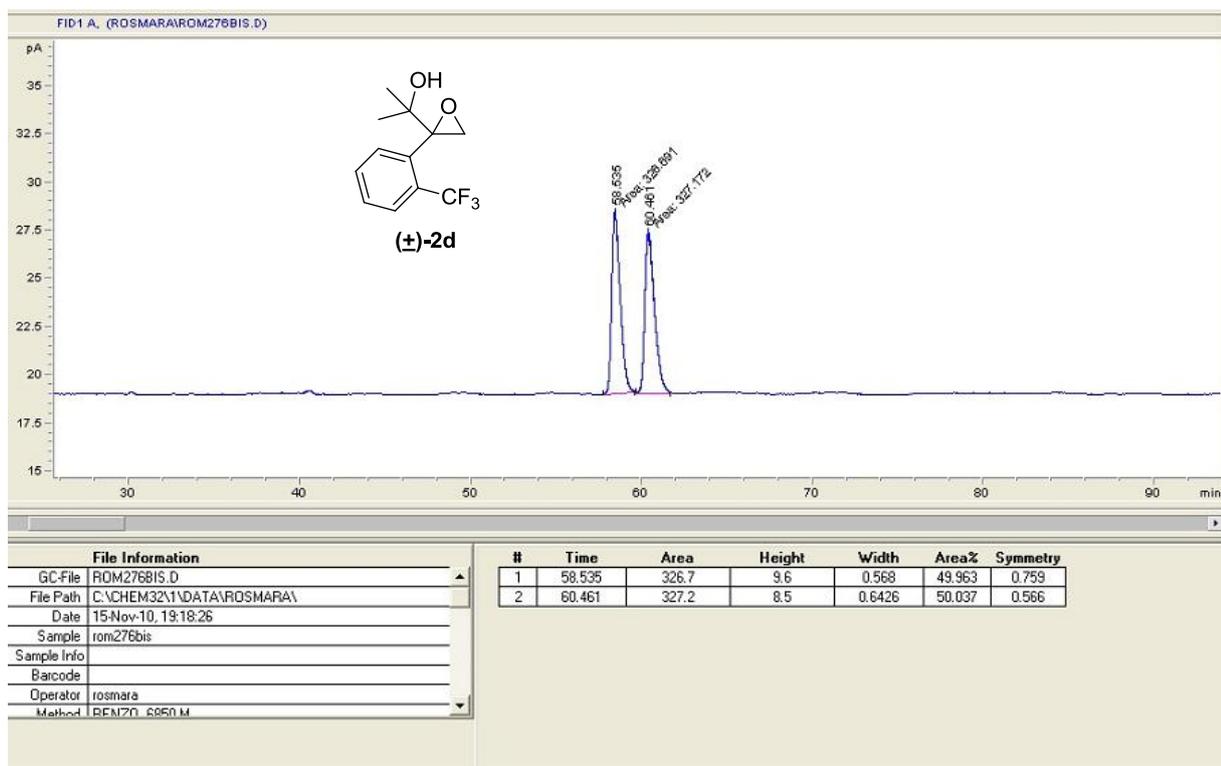
Enantiomeric ratios were determined as follows. In the case of compounds **1**, **2a–c** and **10**, by GC analysis employing a Chirasil-DEX CB column (250-0.25 mm, column head pressure 18 psi, He flow rate 2 mL min<sup>-1</sup>): oven temperature 75 °C for [D]-**1** [(*R*):  $t_{R\ major}$  = 21.9 min; (*S*):  $t_{R\ minor}$  = 22.7 min]; oven temperature 75 °C for **2a** [(*R*):  $t_{R\ major}$  = 17.3 min; (*S*):  $t_{R\ minor}$  = 17.8 min]; oven temperature 70 °C for **2b** [(*S*):  $t_{R\ major}$  = 81.9 min; (*R*):  $t_{R\ minor}$  = 85.3 min]; oven temperature 100 °C for **2c** [(*R*) :  $t_{R\ minor}$  = 58.5 min; (*S*):  $t_{R\ major}$  = 60.5 min]; oven temperature 70 °C for **10** [(*R*):  $t_{R\ major}$  = 14.8 min; (*S*):  $t_{R\ minor}$  = 15.4 min]. In the case of compound **2d**, by HPLC analysis employing a Daicel Chiralcel OD-H column: 250-4.6 mm, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH 90:10, flow rate 0.5 mL min<sup>-1</sup>,  $\lambda$  = 260 nm; (*R*):  $t_{R\ minor}$  = 9.7 min; (*S*):  $t_{R\ major}$  = 10.2 min.

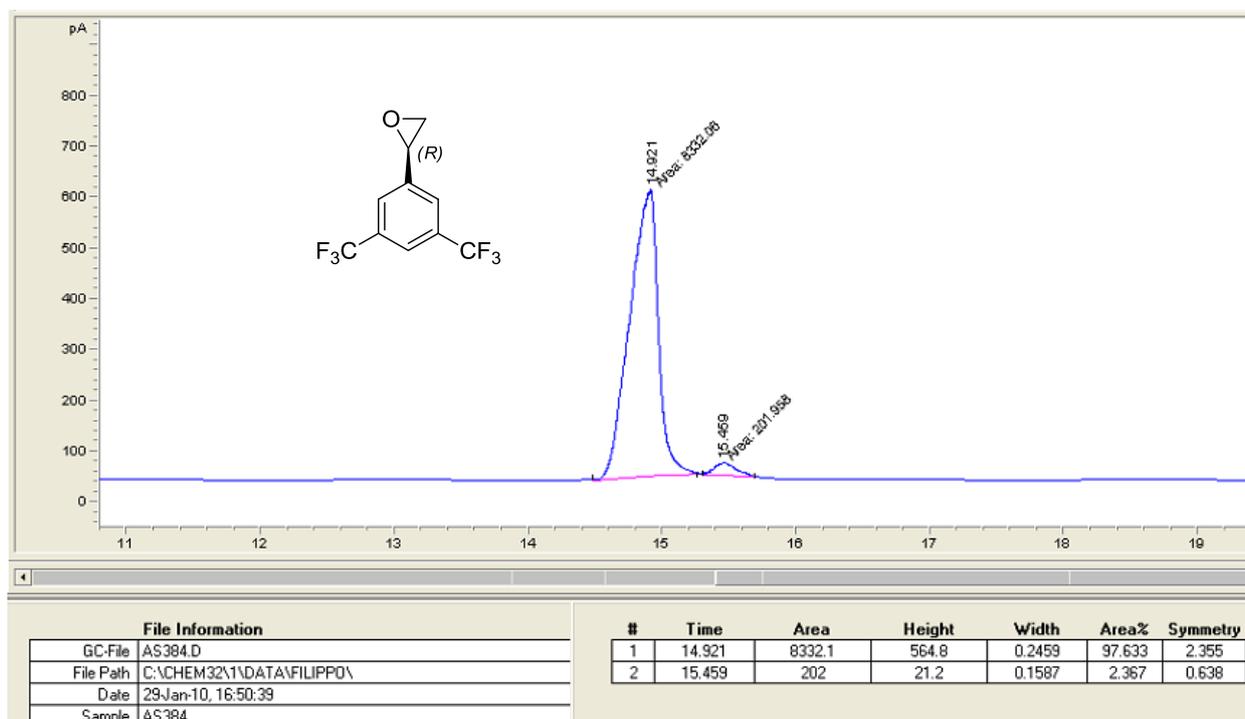
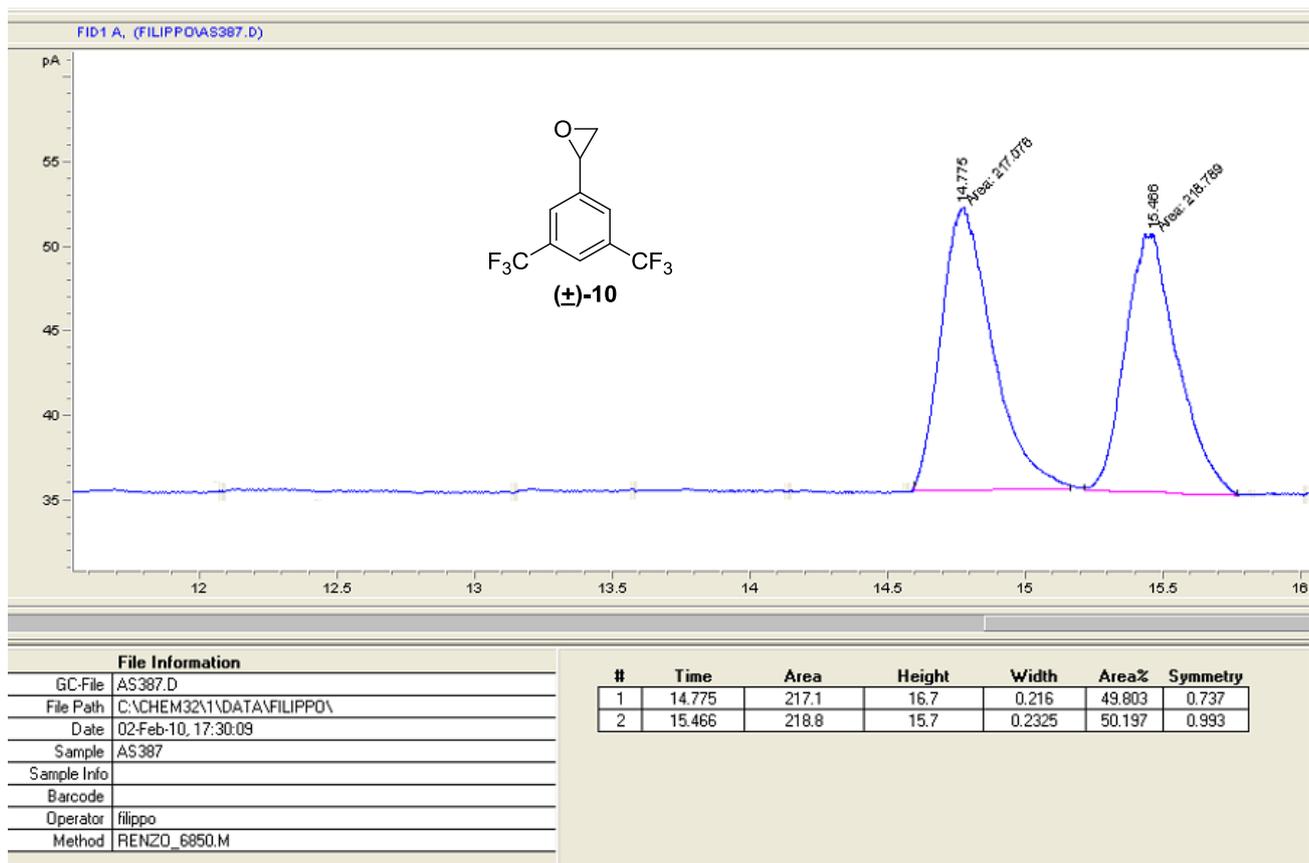




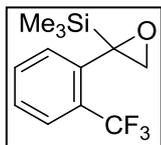




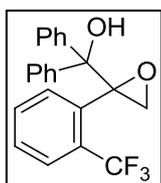




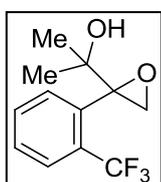
## 9. Characterization and Spectral Data of Compounds 2b-d



**Trimethyl[1-(2-trifluoromethylphenyl)epoxyethyl]silane (2b):** 70%, yellow oil.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz): 0.03 (s, 9 H), 3.05 (d,  $J = 5.1$  Hz, 1 H), 3.12 (d,  $J = 5.1$  Hz, 1 H), 7.33-7.59 (m, 4 H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 150 MHz)  $\delta$ : -3.6, 52.8, 54.8, 124.5 (q,  $^1J_{\text{C-F}} = 274.0$  Hz), 126.2, 127.0, 129.9, 131.5, 140.0. **GC-MS** (70 eV)  $m/z$  (%): 260 (9,  $\text{M}^+$ ), 191 (74), 149 (90), 129 (98), 77 (100). **FT-IR** (film)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 843, 1035, 1124, 1316, 2924, 2960. **Elemental analysis** calcd (%) for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{15}\text{F}_3\text{OSi}$ : C, 55.36; H, 5.81 found: C, 55.52; H, 5.93.



**1,1-Diphenyl-2-(2-trifluoromethylphenyl)-2,3-epoxy-1-propanol (2c):** (75%), waxy solid.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ , 600 MHz)  $\delta$ : 2.52 (d,  $J = 4.2$  Hz, 1 H), 2.69 (d,  $J = 4.2$  Hz, 1 H), 6.20 (bs, 1 H), 7.10-7.70 (m, 14 H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 150 MHz)  $\delta$ : 51.9, 64.2, 78.7, 124.6 (q,  $^1J_{\text{C-F}} = 274.0$  Hz), 126.8, 127.3, 127.5, 127.6, 127.9, 128.4, 129.8 (q,  $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 30.7$  Hz), 130.7, 131.7, 135.2, 141.9, 142.8. **GC-MS** (70 eV)  $m/z$  (%): 352 (20,  $\text{M}^+ - \text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), 183 (100), 165 (57), 105 (75), 77 (3). **FT-IR** (film)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 701, 770, 1037, 1108, 1315, 1448, 3468. **Elemental analysis** calcd (%) for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{17}\text{F}_3\text{O}_2$ : C, 71.34; H, 4.63 found: C, 71.52; H, 4.70.



**2-Methyl-3-(2-trifluoromethylphenyl)-3,4-epoxy-2-butanol (2d):** (90%), yellow oil.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)  $\delta$ : 1.25 (s, 3 H), 1.27 (s, 3 H), 2.02 (bs, 1 H), 3.04 (d,  $J = 4.6$  Hz, 1 H), 3.50 (d,  $J = 4.6$  Hz, 1 H), 7.46-7.75 (m, 4 H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 600 MHz)  $\delta$ : 25.4, 26.9, 53.3, 64.1, 71.3, 124.5 (q,  $^1J_{\text{C-F}} = 274.0$  Hz), 128.6 (q,  $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 30.0$  Hz), 128.5, 131.1, 131.9, 135.6. **GC-MS** (70 eV)  $m/z$  (%): 188 (20), 168 (100), 140 (43), 129 (98), 59 (55). **FT-IR** (film)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 770, 1036, 1119, 1175, 1315, 2984, 3468. **Elemental analysis** calcd (%) for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{13}\text{F}_3\text{O}_2$ : C, 58.54; H, 5.32 found: C, 58.71; H, 5.66.

### 10. $^1\text{H}$ and $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR Spectra of Compounds 2b-d

