

Peptide Catalysis in Aqueous Emulsions

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1. General aspects and materials

Materials and reagents were of the highest commercially available grade and used without further purification. Reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography using Merck silica gel 60 F254 plates. Compounds were visualized by UV, KMnO_4 and ninhydrin. Flash chromatography was performed using Fluka silica gel 60 (230-400 mesh). ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker DPX 400 or a VARIAN Mercury 300 MHz spectrometer. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm using TMS or the residual solvent peak as a reference. HPLC analyses were performed on an analytical HPLC with a diode array detector from Shimadzu or on an analytical Dionex UltiMate 3000 HPLC system. Electrospray ionisation (ESI) mass spectrometry was performed on a Bruker Esquire 3000 Plus or Bruker Amazon Speed. Electrospray ionization high-resolution mass spectra (ESI-HRMS) were performed on a Bruker maXis by the MS service at the Laboratory for Organic Chemistry, ETH Zurich.

2. Synthesis of the catalysts

2.1. Peptides **1** and **1e – 1g** (solid phase peptide synthesis)

General protocols for solid phase peptide synthesis

Peptide **1** and **1e – 1g** were prepared on solid phase following the general protocol for Fmoc/tBu peptide synthesis according to the procedures described below.

Functionalization of Rink Amide resin: The first amino acid was coupled to a pre-swollen suspension of Rink Amid resin according to the “*General procedure for peptide couplings*” described below.

Functionalization of Wang resin: To a pre-swollen suspension of Wang OH resin in CH_2Cl_2 , was added a solution of the Fmoc amino acid (3 equiv.), *N*-methylimidazole (2.5 eq) and MSNT (3 eq) in CH_2Cl_2 . The reaction mixture was agitated at room temperature for 1 h, then washed with DMF (3x) and CH_2Cl_2 (5x). Quantitative Fmoc tests were performed as spot checks.

General procedure for peptide couplings: $i\text{Pr}_2\text{NEt}$ (4.5 eq) was added to a solution of Fmoc-Xxx-OH (1.5 eq) and HCTU (1.5 eq) in DMF. The activated amino acid was added as a solution in DMF (≈ 500 mM concentration) to the amino-functionalized resin,

swollen in DMF and the mixture was agitated for 1.5 h before washing with DMF (3x) and CH₂Cl₂ (5x).

General procedure for Fmoc-deprotections: 40% piperidine in DMF was added to the resin (preswollen in DMF) and the reaction mixture was agitated for 10 min, drained and the piperidine treatment repeated for another 10 min. Finally the resin was washed with DMF (3x) and CH₂Cl₂ (5x).

General procedure for the cleavage of the peptide from Rink Amide or Wang Resin: The solid supported peptide was cleaved from the Rink Amide resin by treatment with a mixture of TFA:CH₂Cl₂ 2:1 for 1 h and a second time for 20 min. Pooling of filtrates and removal of all volatiles under reduced pressure followed by precipitation with Et₂O afforded the peptide as its TFA salt.

General procedure for the cleavage of the peptide from PS-TEG-NH₂ resin: The solid supported peptide was cleaved from the PS-TEG-NH₂ resin including the tetraethylene glycol moiety by treatment with a mixture of TFA:triflic acid:TIS 8:1:1 for 1 h and a second time for 20 min. Pooling of filtrates and removal of all volatiles under reduced pressure followed by precipitation with Et₂O afforded the peptide as its TFA salt.

H-D-Pro-Pro-Glu-NH₂ (1): Peptide **1** was prepared on Rink Amide AM resin (0.62 mmol/g) on up to a 3.1 mmol scale using the general protocols for solid phase peptide synthesis. TFA·H-D-Pro-Pro-Glu-NH₂ was obtained as a white solid. Spectroscopic data are in agreement with published data.^{1,2}

H-D-Pro-Pro-Glu-Ada-TEG (1e): The peptide was prepared on PS-TEG-NH₂ resin (0.95 mmol/g) on a 250 μmol scale using the general protocols for solid phase peptide synthesis. TFA·H-D-Pro-Pro-Glu-Ada-TEG was obtained as a white solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.17 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (t, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (t, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 4.54 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.41 (t, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 4.34 – 4.21 (m, 1H), 4.04 – 3.88 (m, 1H), 3.81 – 3.67 (m, 5H), 3.67 – 3.56 (m, 8H), 3.56 – 3.48 (m, 3H), 3.48 – 3.32 (m, 3H), 3.32 – 3.13 (m, 2H), 2.55 – 1.86 (m, 14H), 1.66 – 1.55 (m, 2H), 1.55 – 1.43 (m, 2H), 1.43 – 1.10 (m, 14H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 181.5, 173.7, 170.8, 170.1, 169.3, 72.7, 70.7, 70.5, 70.4, 70.1, 62.0, 61.5, 59.2, 54.7, 47.5, 45.2, 39.7, 39.2,

36.7, 32.6, 31.1, 29.7 - 29.3 (m), 27.9, 27.0, 25.9, 24.8, 24.6; MS (ESI, $[M+H]^+$) Calcd for $C_{35}H_{63}N_5NaO_{10}$: 736.5. Found 736.7.

H-D-Pro-Pro-Glu-Ada₂-TEG (1f): The peptide was prepared on PS-TEG-NH₂ resin (0.95 mmol/g) on a 250 μ mol scale using the general protocols for solid phase peptide synthesis. TFA·H-D-Pro-Pro-Glu-Ada₂-TEG was obtained as a white solid.

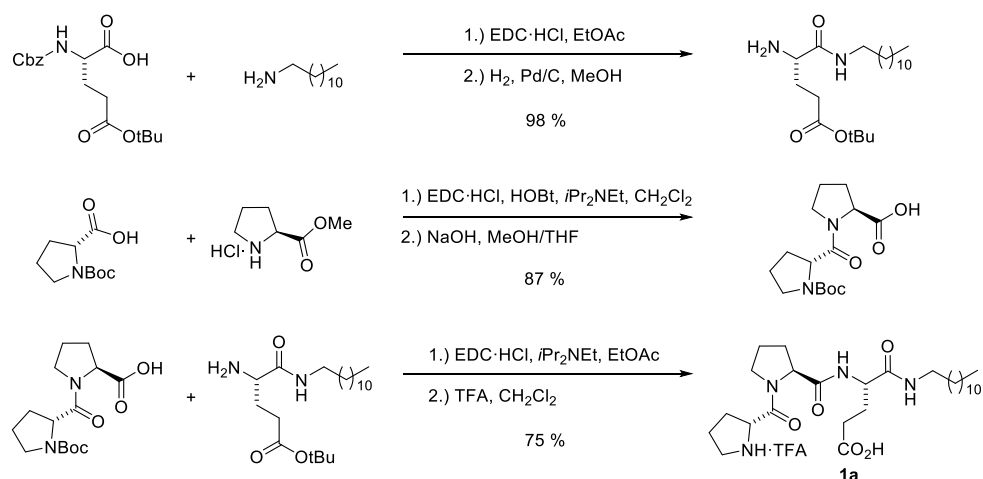
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.13 (s, 1H), 6.99 (s, 1H), 6.86 (s, 2H), 5.81 – 5.60 (m, 1H), 4.56 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.43 (t, $J = 6.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.35 – 4.22 (m, 1H), 4.07 – 3.91 (m, 1H), 3.71 (dd, $J = 5.7, 3.0$ Hz, 5H), 3.68 – 3.57 (m, 9H), 3.56 – 3.48 (m, 3H), 3.47 – 3.35 (m, 3H), 3.29 – 3.13 (m, 5H), 2.57 – 1.83 (m, 16H), 1.70 – 1.55 (m, 4H), 1.55 – 1.40 (m, 4H), 1.40 – 1.13 (m, 28H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 181.4, 173.5, 173.1, 170.4, 169.9, 169.4, 72.6, 70.6, 70.4, 70.3, 70.0, 69.9, 61.8, 61.5, 59.4, 54.7, 47.3, 44.9, 39.5, 39.5, 39.1, 36.8, 36.6, 32.2, 29.6, 29.4 - 29.3 (m), 29.2, 27.7, 26.9, 26.8, 25.8, 25.8, 25.5, 24.9, 24.5; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{47}H_{87}N_6O_{11}$: 911.6427 $[M+H]^+$; found: 911.6429.

H-D-Pro-Pro-Glu-Ada₃-TEG (1g): The peptide was prepared on PS-TEG-NH₂ resin (0.95 mmol/g) on a 250 μ mol scale using the general protocols for solid phase peptide synthesis. TFA·H-D-Pro-Pro-Glu-Ada₃-TEG was obtained as a white solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.11 (s, 1H), 7.00 (s, 1H), 6.85 (s, 1H), 5.68 (d, $J = 17.0$ Hz, 2H), 4.55 (t, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.48 – 4.37 (m, 1H), 4.34 – 4.20 (m, 1H), 4.08 – 3.93 (m, 1H), 3.78 – 3.69 (m, 5H), 3.69 – 3.56 (m, 10H), 3.57 – 3.48 (m, 3H), 3.48 – 3.34 (m, 3H), 3.35 – 3.08 (m, 8H), 2.52 – 1.84 (m, 18H), 1.74 – 1.54 (m, 6H), 1.54 – 1.39 (m, 6H), 1.38 – 0.95 (m, 42H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, 5% CDCl₃ in CD₃OD) δ 182.4, 176.1, 175.9, 172.8, 172.4, 169.6, 73.5, 71.4, 71.4, 71.1, 71.0, 70.4, 62.7, 62.0, 60.9, 55.9, 45.8, 40.3, 40.2, 40.1, 37.1, 37.0, 33.8, 30.5, 30.7 – 29.9 (m), 27.9, 27.8, 27.8, 26.9, 26.8, 26.5, 25.2, 24.6; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{59}H_{109}N_7NaO_{12}$: 1130.8026 $[M+Na]^+$; found: 1130.8013.

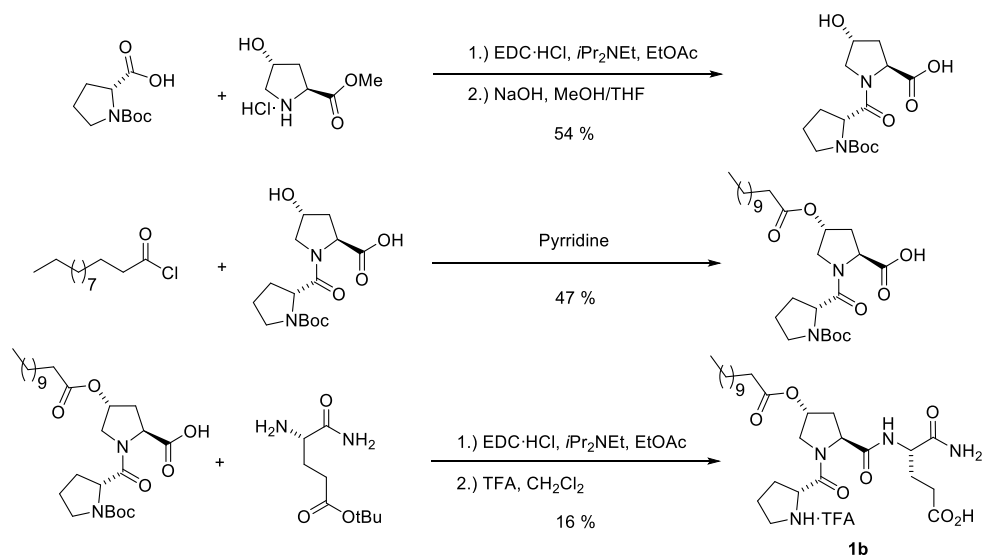
2.2. Peptides 1a-d (solution phase synthesis)

H-D-Pro-Pro-Glu-NH-C₁₂H₂₅ (1a): Catalyst **1a** was prepared by solution phase peptide synthesis as described previously³ according to the strategy outlined below (Scheme S-1). Spectroscopic data are in agreement with published data.³



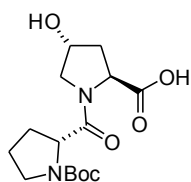
Scheme S-1. Synthesis of Peptide Catalyst 1a

H-D-Pro-Hyp(OCOC₁₁H₂₃)-Glu-NH₂ (1b): Catalyst **1b** was prepared by solution phase peptide synthesis according to the strategy outlined below (Scheme S-2).



Scheme S-2. Synthesis of Peptide Catalyst 1b

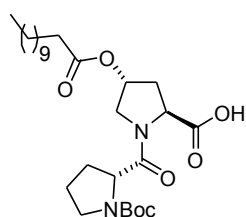
Boc-D-Pro-Hyp-OH



Boc-D-Pro-OH (1.77 g, 8.22 mmol, 1.0 eq), and EDC·HCl (1.89 g, 8.60 mmol, 1.05 eq) were suspended in EtOAc (10 mL). Then *i*Pr₂NEt (3.37 mL, 19.3 mmol, 2.3 eq) was added and the mixture was stirred for 10 min before H-Hyp-OMe·TFA (1.99 g, 8.22 mmol, 1.0 eq) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 6 h, diluted with 20 mL of EtOAc and washed with 1 M HCl (20 mL), water (20 mL), sat. NaHCO₃ (20 mL) and brine (20 mL). The combined aqueous layers were re-extracted with EtOAc (10 × 50 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the resulting colourless solid was purified by column chromatography on silica gel eluting with 10% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂ yielding 1.51 g of a colourless solid. The solid was suspended in a 1:1 mixture of THF and MeOH and 360 mg (9.0 mmol, 2.0 eq) of sodium hydroxide in a minimal amount of water was added. The mixture was stirred for 1.5 h. The resulting solution was acidified with 10 mL of a 1 M HCl solution and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (5x50 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄. Removal of the solvent under reduced pressure yielded 1.44 g of a colourless solid (54%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 4.57 – 4.47 (m, 2H), 4.46 – 4.36 (m, 1H), 3.78 (dd, *J* = 10.9, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.68 – 3.47 (m, 2H), 3.47 – 3.35 (m, 1H), 2.43 – 2.17 (m, 2H), 2.17 – 2.03 (m, 2H), 2.03 – 1.70 (m, 2H), 1.44 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 175.1, 174.0, 155.9, 81.6, 71.0, 59.6, 55.8, 47.8, 38.5, 31.3, 28.7, 28.5, 24.3; MS (ESI, [M+Na]⁺) Calcd for C₁₅H₂₄N₂NaO₆: 351.2. Found: 351.3.

Boc-D-Pro-Hyp(COC₁₁H₂₃)-OH

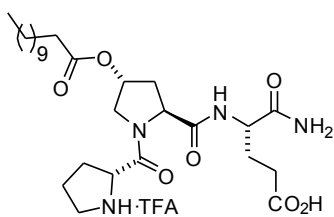


Lauric acid (1.22 g, 6.10 mmol, 2.0 eq) was added to thionyl chloride (3.12 mL, 42.6 mmol, 14 eq) and the resulting solution refluxed for 1.5 h. The reflux condenser was replaced by a distillation bridge and the excess thionyl chloride was removed under reduced pressure (100 mbar). To the resulting brown residue was added dropwise Boc-D-Pro-Hyp-OH (1.00 g, 3.05 mmol, 1.0 eq) in 1.5 mL pyridine at 0°C. The resulting mixture was diluted with 5 mL CH₂Cl₂ and stirred at room temperature for 40 h. The reaction mixture was added to a mixture of 50 mL 1M HCl and 10 g ice and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3x 50 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over NaSO₄ and evaporated to dryness. The resulting brown solid was purified by column chromatography on silica gel eluting with CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/HOAc (100:10:1) providing 726 mg of a light brown solid (726 mg, 47%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.47 – 5.26 (m, 1H), 4.88 – 4.65 (m, 1H), 4.49 – 4.17 (m,

1H), 4.17 – 3.76 (m, 1H), 3.76 – 3.31 (m, 3H), 2.67 – 1.73 (m, 8H), 1.71 – 1.53 (m, 2H), 1.44 and 1.40 (2 x s, 9H), 1.35 – 1.19 (m, 16H), 0.88 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 177.4, 174.5, 173.5, 153.7, 80.4, 72.3, 69.2, 58.9, 57.9, 53.6, 53.5, 46.9, 46.7, 35.3, 30.2, 29.7 – 29.5 (m), 28.4, 28.2, 28.2, 28.1, 24.8, 24.5, 23.6, 20.9, 14.1; (Mixture of two conformers in a ratio of approximately 2.5:1); MS (ESI, $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$) Calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{46}\text{N}_2\text{NaO}_7$: 533.3. Found: 533.6.

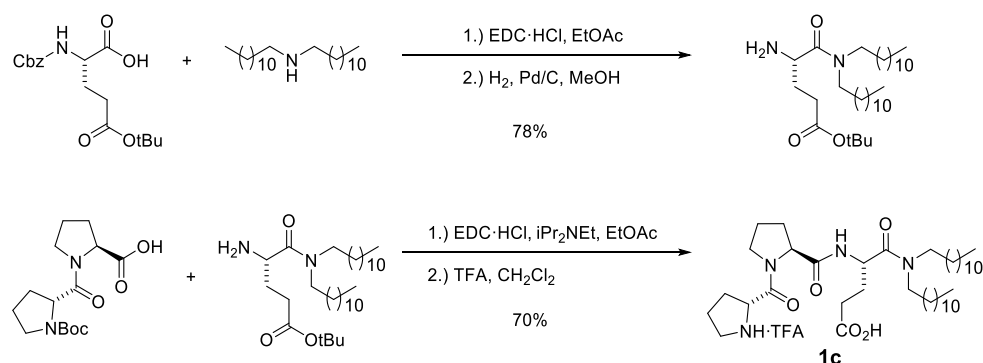
TFA·H-D-Pro-Hyp(COC₁₁H₂₃)-Glu-NH₂ (1b)



Boc-D-Pro-Hyp(COC₁₁H₂₃)-OH (727 mg, 1.42 mmol, 1.0 eq), HCl·H-Glu(OtBu)-NH₂ (340 mg, 1.42 mmol, 1.0 eq) and EDC·HCl (326 mg, 1.70 mol, 1.2 eq) were suspended in 3 mL EtOAc and *i*Pr₂NEt (583 μL , 3.41 mmol, 1.2 eq) was added. The resulting suspension was stirred at room temperature over night. The reaction mixture was diluted with 20 mL EtOAc and washed with 1M HCl (2x15 mL), 10% NaHCO₃ (2x 15 mL) and dried over Na₂SO₄. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel eluting with 5 % MeOH in EtOAc. The resulting colourless oil was dissolved in a mixture of TFA and CH₂Cl₂ 2:1 and stirred at room temperature for 30 min. Removal of all volatile components under reduced pressure provided the peptide as the TFA salt (145 mg, 16 %).

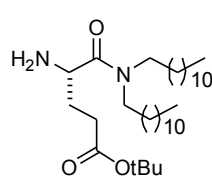
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 5.44 – 5.35 (m, 1H), 4.56 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.51 (dd, $J = 8.7, 7.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.40 (dd, $J = 9.4, 4.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.94 (dd, $J = 11.7, 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.72 (dt, $J = 11.7, 1.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.43 (dt, $J = 11.3, 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.40 – 3.30 (m, 1H), 2.59 – 2.38 (m, 3H), 2.34 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 2.27 (ddd, $J = 13.6, 7.9, 5.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.22 – 2.02 (m, 3H), 2.02 – 1.84 (m, 2H), 1.60 (p, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 1.41 – 1.21 (m, 18H), 0.92 – 0.86 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 176.7, 175.9, 174.5, 173.4, 168.8, 73.9, 60.5, 60.4, 53.9, 53.6, 47.7, 36.0, 34.9, 33.1, 31.2, 30.7, 30.6, 30.5, 30.4, 30.2, 29.8, 28.6, 25.9, 25.2, 23.7, 14.4; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{47}\text{N}_4\text{O}_5$: 539.3439 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$; found: 539.3439.

H-D-Pro-Pro-Glu-N(C₁₂H₂₅)₂ (1c): Catalyst **1c** was prepared by solution phase peptide synthesis according to the strategy outlined below (Scheme S-3).



Scheme S-3. Synthesis of Peptide Catalyst 1c

H-Glu(OtBu)N(C₁₂H₂₅)₂

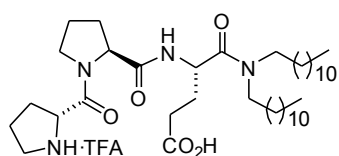


Z-Glu(OtBu)-OH (1.00 g, 2.96 mmol, 1.0 eq), didodecylamine (1.05 g, 2.96 mmol, 1.0 eq) and EDC·HCl (681 mg, 3.55 mmol, 1.2 eq) were suspended in EtOAc (15 mL) and stirred at room temperature over night. The reaction mixture was diluted with 80 mL

EtOAc and washed with 0.1 M HCl (3 × 20 mL), 5 % Na₂CO₃ (2 × 20 mL) and brine (40 mL). The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄ and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The resulting colourless solid was dissolved in 15 mL MeOH. Pd/C (10 % w/w, 150 mg) was added and the mixture was stirred under a hydrogen atmosphere at room temperature for 5 h. The reaction mixture was filtered over a pad of celite. The celite was washed with MeOH (3 × 5 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give a colorless solid (1.23 g, 78 %).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.34 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 1H), 3.59 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 3.56 – 3.39 (m, 2H), 3.15 – 2.97 (m, 2H), 2.46 (ddd, *J* = 16.6, 8.5, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 2.39 – 2.25 (m, 1H), 1.92 – 1.80 (m, 1H), 1.67 – 1.45 (m, 5H), 1.43 (s, 9H), 1.37 – 1.14 (m, 36H), 0.86 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 6H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 175.1, 172.8, 80.2, 50.2, 47.2, 46.1, 31.9, 31.3, 30.7, 29.6 - 29.5 (m), 29.4, 29.3, 29.3, 28.1, 28.1, 27.7, 27.0, 26.8, 22.7, 14.1; MS (ESI, [M+H]⁺) Calcd for C₃₃H₆₇N₂O₃: 539.5. Found: 539.8.

TFA·H-D-Pro-Pro-Glu-N(C₁₂H₂₅)₂ (1c)

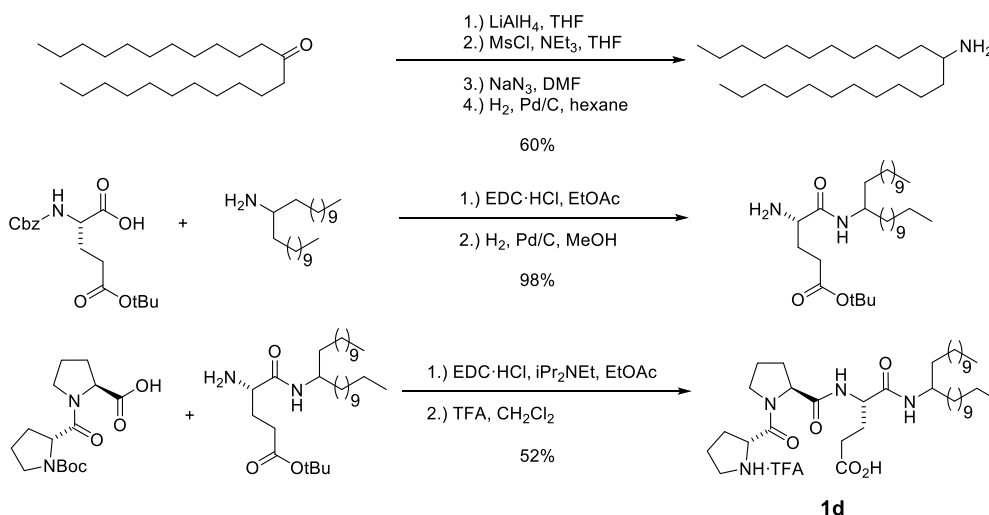


Boc-D-Pro-Pro-OH (380 mg, 1.22 mmol, 1.0 eq) and EDC·HCl (280 mg, 1.46 mmol, 1.2 eq) were suspended in 10 mL EtOAc and *i*Pr₂NEt (251 μL, 1.2 eq) followed by H-Glu(OtBu)-N(C₁₂H₂₅)₂ were added. The suspension was stirred at room temperature for 4h. The mixture was diluted with EtOAc (20 mL) and

washed with 1 M HCl (10 mL), H₂O (10 mL), sat. NaHCO₃ (10 mL) and brine (2 × 10 mL). The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄ and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel eluting with a mixture of EtOAc and pentanes (2:1). The colorless oil was dissolved in 3 mL TFA/CH₂Cl₂ 2:1 and stirred at room temperature for 60 min. Removal of all volatile components under reduced pressure provided the peptide as the TFA salt (579 mg, 70 %).

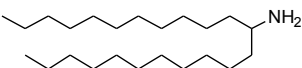
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.07 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.86 – 4.69 (m, 2H), 4.59 – 4.49 (m, 1H), 3.84 – 3.72 (m, 1H), 3.62 – 3.33 (m, 5H), 3.33 – 3.24 (m, 1H), 3.09 (dt, *J* = 13.0, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.64 – 2.33 (m, 3H), 2.29 – 1.78 (m, 9H), 1.47 – 1.53 (m, 2H), 1.54 – 1.42 (m, 2H), 1.39 – 1.12 (m, 36H), 0.87 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 176.9, 171.0, 170.0, 168.3, 60.9, 59.0, 49.5, 48.1, 47.1, 47.0, 46.7, 31.9, 29.7 – 29.4 (m), 29.3, 29.1, 29.0, 28.8, 28.6, 27.4, 26.9, 26.8, 26.5, 24.8, 24.4, 22.7, 14.1; HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₃₉H₇₃N₄O₅: 677.5575 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 677.5573.

H-D-Pro-Pro-Glu-NH-CH(C₁₁H₂₃)₂ (1d): Catalyst **1d** was prepared by solution phase peptide synthesis according to the strategy outlined below (Scheme S-4).



Scheme S-4. Synthesis of Peptide Catalyst 1d

12-Aminotricosane

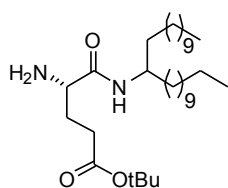
 LiAlH₄ (682 mg, 18.0 mmol, 1.2 eq) was placed in 10 mL of THF. The mixture was cooled to 0°C and a suspension of 13-tricosanone (5.00 g, 14.8 mmol, 1.0 eq) in THF was added. The ice bath was removed and stirring was continued for 6 h. The reaction mixture was poured into 100 mL ice/water and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (4x50 mL). The combined extracts were

dried over Na₂SO₄ and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give 12-tricosanol as a colourless solid. The alcohol (3.00 g, 8.81 mmol, 1.0 eq) was dissolved in 60 mL THF, NEt₃ (1.35 mL, 9.69 mmol, 1.1 eq) was added followed by the dropwise addition of MsCl (1.96 mL, 25.3 mmol, 2.9 eq). The resulting suspension was stirred at room temperature for 90 min, filtered, washed with 15 mL of H₂O and 5 mL of brine and dried over Na₂SO₄. Removal of all volatiles under reduced pressure resulted in a colourless oil which was dissolved in 50 mL DMF. Sodium azide (2.36 g, 36.3 mmol, 4.8 eq) was slowly added in portions. The resulting suspension was heated to 85°C over night. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature followed by the addition of 100 mL hexanes and 20 mL H₂O. The organic layer was washed with 20 mL sat. NaHCO₃ solution and brine and dried over MgSO₄. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the resulting residue purified by column chromatography on silica gel eluting with pentanes. 12-azidotricosane was obtained as a colorless oil. The oil was dissolved in 20 mL hexane and Pd/C (10% w/w, 58 mg) was added. The resulting mixture was stirred under a H₂ atmosphere over night. Filtration through a plug of Celite and removal of the solvent under reduced pressure provided 12-aminotricosane as a colorless solid (2.23 g, 60 % overall yield).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.73 – 2.59 (m, 1H), 1.48 – 1.10 (m, 42H), 0.87 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 6H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 51.2, 38.2, 31.9, 29.8, 29.7 – 29.6 (m), 29.3, 26.2, 22.7, 14.1.

Spectroscopic data is in agreement with published data.⁴

H-Glu(OtBu)-NH-CH(C₁₁H₂₃)₂

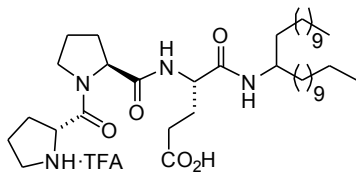


Z-Glu(OtBu)-OH (100 mg, 295 μmol, 1.0 eq), 12-aminotricosane (100 mg, 295 μmol, 1.0 eq) and EDC·HCl (68.6 mg, 354 μmol, 1.2 eq) were suspended in EtOAc (5 mL) and stirred at room temperature for 3 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with 15 mL of EtOAc and washed with 1 M HCl (2x10 mL), sat. NaHCO₃ (10 mL) and brine (10 mL) and dried over Na₂SO₄. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the resulting colorless solid was dissolved in 6 mL of a 5:1 mixture of MeOH and hexane. Pd/C (10% w/w, 5 mg) was added and the resulting mixture was stirred under a H₂ atmosphere for 3 h. Filtration through a plug of silica and removal of the solvents under reduced pressure provided 151 mg of a colorless solid (98 %).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.88 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 3.98 – 3.77 (m, 1H), 3.37 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 2.41 – 2.31 (m, 2H), 2.12 – 2.02 (m, 1H), 1.87 – 1.75 (m, 1H), 1.59 – 1.04 (m, 40 H), 1.44 (s, 9H); 0.87 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 6H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.8, 172.9, 80.5, 54.8, 48.8, 35.2, 31.9, 31.2, 30.5, 29.6, 29.6, 29.6 – 29.2 (m), 28.1,

26.4, 22. 7, 14.1; MS (ESI, $[M+H]^+$) Calcd for $C_{32}H_{65}N_2O_3$: 525.5. Found: 525.7.

H-D-Pro-Pro-Glu-NH-CH($C_{11}H_{23}$)₂ (1d)

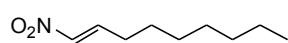


Boc-D-Pro-Pro-OH (59.5 mg, 191 μ mol, 1.0 eq), H-Glu(O*t*Bu)-NH-CH($C_{11}H_{23}$)₂ (100 mg, 191 μ mol, 1.0 eq) and EDC·HCl (43.9 mg, 229 μ mol, 1.2 eq) were suspended in 3 mL EtOAc and *i*Pr₂NEt (39.2 μ L, 229 μ mol, 1.2 eq) was added. After stirring at room temperature over night the reaction mixture was diluted with 20 mL EtOAc and washed successively with 1M HCl (3x10 mL), sat. NaHCO₃ (2x10 mL) and brine (10 mL) and dried over MgSO₄. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel eluting with EtOAc. The resulting colorless oil was dissolved in a mixture of TFA and CH₂Cl₂ 2:1 and stirred at room temperature for 90 min. Removal of all volatile components under reduced pressure gave the peptide as the TFA salt (77.2 mg, 52 %).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.86 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 4.78 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.53 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.47 (td, J = 7.2, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 3.97 – 3.71 (m, 3H), 3.52 (td, J = 9.7, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.45 – 3.30 (m, 1H), 2.67 – 2.44 (m, 3H), 2.44 – 2.24 (m, 3H), 2.24 – 1.92 (m, 4H), 1.84 – 1.70 (m, 1H), 1.63 – 1.04 (m, 41H), 0.87 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 6H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 179.5, 169.4, 169.1, 168.9, 62.0, 59.2, 53.1, 49.2, 47.5, 46.9, 42.8, 35.1, 34.8, 31.9, 31.9, 30.1, 29.9 – 29.2 (m), 28.8, 26.0, 25.6, 25.6, 24.9, 24.3, 23.9, 22.7, 14.1; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $C_{38}H_{71}N_4O_5$: 663.5419 $[M+H]^+$; found: 663.5417.

3. Synthesis of not commercially available nitroolefins

(E)-Nitronon-1-ene

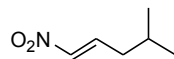


To a solution of octanal (2.44 mL, 20.0 mmol, 1.0 eq) and nitromethane (2.18 mL, 40.0 mmol, 2.0 eq) in toluene (10 mL) was added a functionalized mesoporous silica catalyst (500 mg, aminopropyl-MCM).⁵ The resulting mixture was heated to 100°C over night. The catalyst was removed by filtration and the resulting solution concentrated *in vacuo* on a rotary evaporator. Column chromatography on silica gel eluting with a mixture of pentane and EtOAc (10:1) provided 2.16 g of a yellow oil (76 %).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.26 (dt, *J* = 13.4, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 13.4 Hz, 1H), 2.26 (q, *J* = 7.3, 2H), 1.50 (p, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.39 – 1.18 (m, 8H), 0.87 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 142.8, 139.5, 31.6, 29.0, 28.9, 28.4, 27.7, 22.5, 14.0.

Spectroscopic data is in agreement with published data.⁶

(E)-4-Methyl-nitropent-1-ene



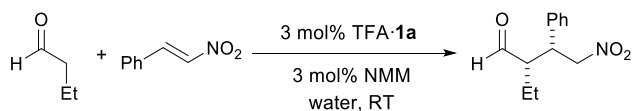
To a solution of *iso*-valeraldehyde (1.25 mL, 11.6 mmol, 1.0 eq) and nitroethane (1.27 mL, 23.2 mmol, 2.0 eq) in toluene (10 mL) was added a functionalized mesoporous silica catalyst (500 mg, aminopropyl-MCM).⁵ The resulting mixture was heated to 100°C over night. The catalyst was removed by filtration and the resulting solution concentrated *in vacuo* on a rotary evaporator. Column chromatography on silica gel eluting with a mixture of pentane and EtOAc (10:1) provided 902 mg of a yellow oil (60 %).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.25 (td, *J* = 13.4, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (td, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 2.21 – 2.13 (m, 2H), 1.77 - 1.89 (m, 1H), 0.96 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.5, 140.1, 37.2, 27.7, 22.2, 22.2.

Spectroscopic data is in agreement with published data.⁶

4. Catalytic reactions Additional reaction conditions examined within this study

Substrate concentration and equivalence

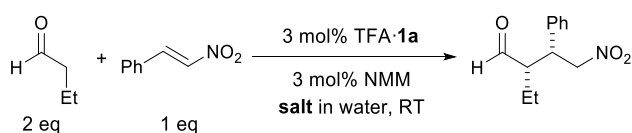


	Butanal conc. [M]	Nitrostyrene conc. [M]	Ratio	Time [h]	Conversion [%] ^a	dr ^a	ee [%] ^b
1	0.88	0.44	2:1	8	>95	98:2	91
2	0.44	0.44	1:1	18	80	96:4	89
3	0.44	0.88	1:2	8	>95	97:3	90
4	1.32	0.44	3:1	8	>95	97:3	91
5	2.20	0.44	5:1	8	>95	97:3	91
6	0.30	0.15	2:1	24	>95	95:5	88
7	0.44	0.22	2:1	24	>95	97:3	90
8 ^c	1.76	0.88	2:1	2	80	91:9	91
9 ^c	4.40	2.20	2:1	2	90	89:11	90

a Determined by ¹H-NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture. b Determined by chiral-phase HPLC analysis.

c The reaction mixture consisted of large droplets in water rather than an emulsion.

Use of inorganic salt solutions as the reaction medium

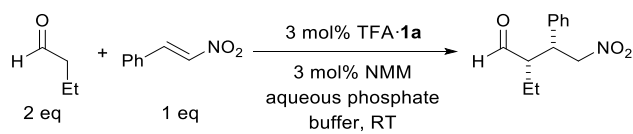


	salt	Time [h]	Conversion [%] ^a	dr ^a	ee [%] ^b
1	none	8	>95	98:2	91
2	NaCl	8	>95	97:3	91
3	NaCl (sat.)	8	>95	92:8	91
4	NH ₄ Cl	8	>95	96:4	90
5 ^c	NaHSO ₄	--	--	--	--
6	NaHCO ₃	4	>95 ^d	94:6	83
7	KOAc	2	>95	90:10	83
8	NaNO ₃	2	>95	97:3	84

a Determined by ¹H-NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture. b Determined by chiral-phase HPLC analysis.

c No reaction. d Large amounts of a precipitate formed in the course of the reaction.

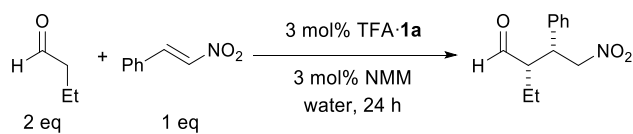
Effect of pH on the reaction



	pH	buffer conc. [mM]	Time[h]	Conversion [%] ^a	dr ^a	ee [%] ^b
1	4.8	10	<36	>95	97:3	90
2	5.0	10	<36	>95	96:4	91
3	5.0	1	8	73	95:5	90
4	5.5	10	8	>95	97:3	90
5	6.5	10	8	>95	96:4	91
6	8.0	10	8	>95	95:5	87
7	8.5	1000	8	>95	95:5	86

a Determined by ¹H-NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture. b Determined by chiral-phase HPLC analysis.

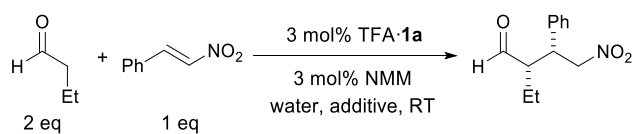
Effect of temperature



	temp [°C]	conversion [%]	dr ^a	ee [%] ^b
1	RT	quant.	98:2	91
2	12	57	96:4	90
3	5	12	99:1	91
4	0	5	99:1	90
5	-10	no reaction	--	--

a Determined by ¹H-NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture. b Determined by chiral-phase HPLC analysis.

Complete list of examined organic additives



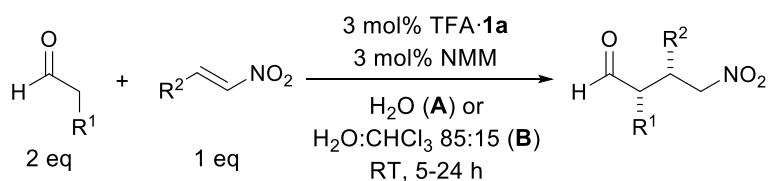
	additive	Time [h]	Conversion [%] ^a	dr ^a	ee [%] ^b
1	none	8	>95	98:2	91
2	lauric acid (10 mol%)	14	>95	93:7	91
3	lauric acid (50 mol%)	14	>95	95:5	90
4	EtOH (10% v/v)	8	>95	99:1	92
5	<i>i</i> PrOH (10% v/v)	8	79	99:1	92
6	<i>t</i> BuOH (10% v/v)	8	85	99:1	92
7	DMSO (10% v/v)	8	>95	97:3	91
8	acetone (10% v/v)	6	77	97:3	90
9	Et ₂ O (10% v/v)	<36	>95	95:5	91
10	dioxane (10% v/v)	<36	>95	95:5	91
11	DME (10% v/v)	6	>95	99:1	92
12	THF (10% v/v)	6	68	97:3	92
13	EtOAc (10% v/v)	<36	>95	96:4	91
14	MeCN (10% v/v)	<36	>95	96:4	90
15	CHCl ₃ (10% v/v)	14	>95	96:4	93
16	toluene (10% v/v)	14	>95	97:3	93
17	PEG (700 g/mol, 100 mg)	5	32	91:9	91
18	PEG (6000 g/mol, 100 mg)	5	17	96:4	94
19	CHCl ₃ (15% v/v)	5	>95	97:3	95
20	toluene (15% v/v)	14	53	97:3	94

a Determined by ¹H-NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture. b Determined by chiral-phase HPLC analysis.

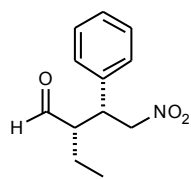
4.2. General procedure for the conjugate addition reaction between aldehydes and nitroolefins in aqueous medium

To a solution of the peptide (as the TFA salt, 13.2 μmol , 3 mol%) and *N*-methylmorpholine (13.6 μmol , 3 mol%) in water (1 mL, conditions **A**) or water and CHCl_3 (85:15, 1.2 mL, conditions **B**), was added aldehyde (880 μmol , 2.0 eq.) and the nitroolefin (440 μmol , 1.0 eq.). The reaction mixture was sonicated until no more solid nitroolefin was observed and a stable white emulsion was obtained (approximately 2 min). The resulting emulsion was agitated at room temperature. After consumption of the nitroolefin, sodium chloride (330 mg) was added. The aqueous layer was extracted with CHCl_3 (5 x 1 mL). The combined organic layers were concentrated and directly purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel eluting with a mixture of cyclohexane and EtOAc.

4.3. Analytical data of γ -nitroaldehydes



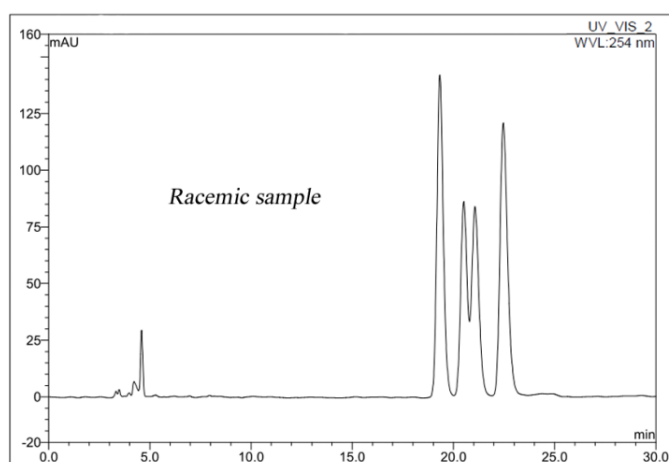
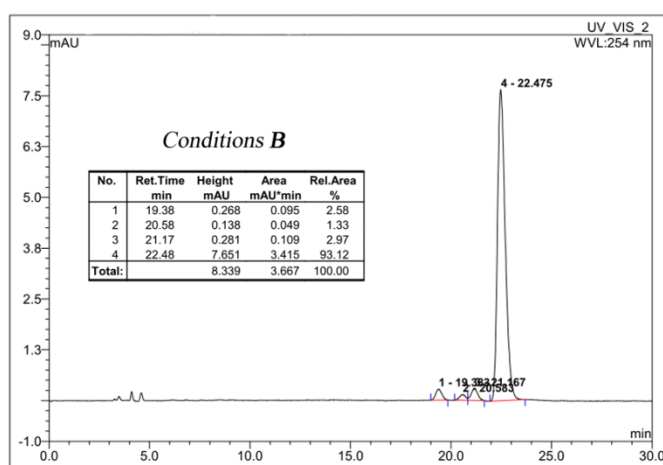
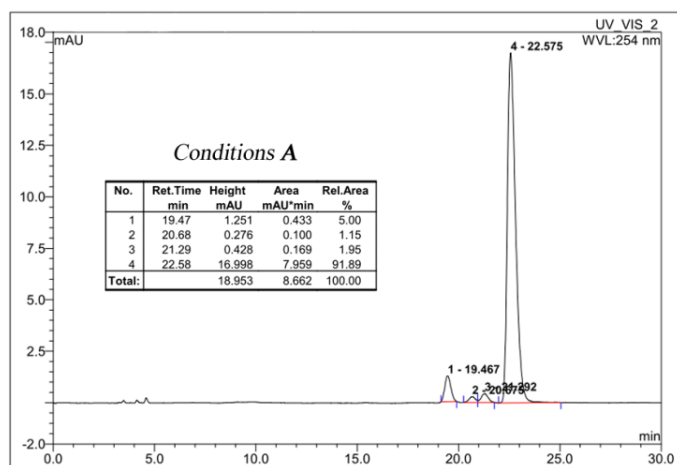
(2*S*,3*R*)-2-Ethyl-4-nitro-3-phenylbutanal



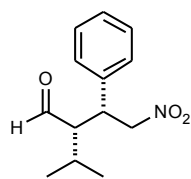
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.72 (d, $J = 2.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.32 (m, 3H), 7.18 (m, 2H), 4.72 (dd, $J = 5.0$ Hz, 12.7 Hz, 1H), 4.63 (dd, $J = 9.7$ Hz, 12.7 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (dt, $J = 5.0$ Hz, 9.8 Hz, 1H), 2.68 (dddd, $J = 2.6$ Hz, 5.0 Hz, 7.6 Hz, 10.1 Hz, 1H), 1.51 (m, 2H), 0.84 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 203.1, 136.8, 129.1, 128.1, 128.0, 78.5, 55.0, 42.7, 20.4, 10.7.

Spectroscopic data is in agreement with published data.¹

The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC using a Chiracel AD-H column (*n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH 98:2, 25°C) at 0.9 mL/min, UV detection at 254 nm: t_R : (*syn*, minor) = 19.5 min, (*syn*, major) = 22.6 min.



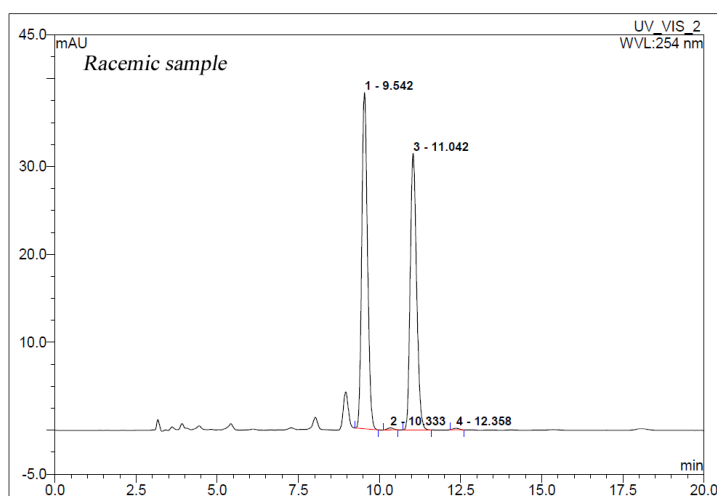
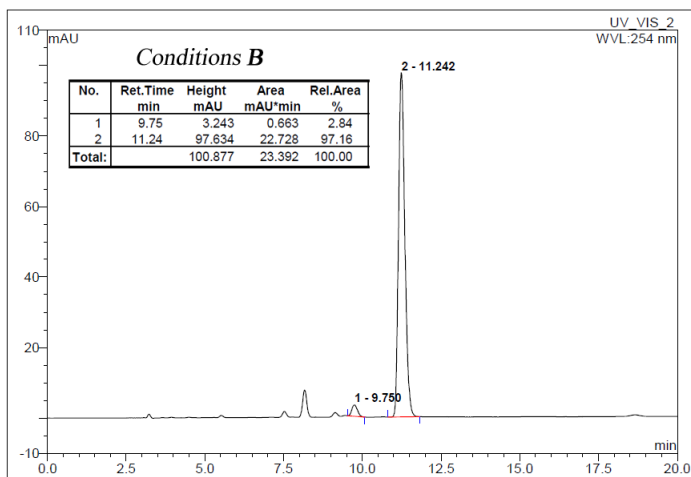
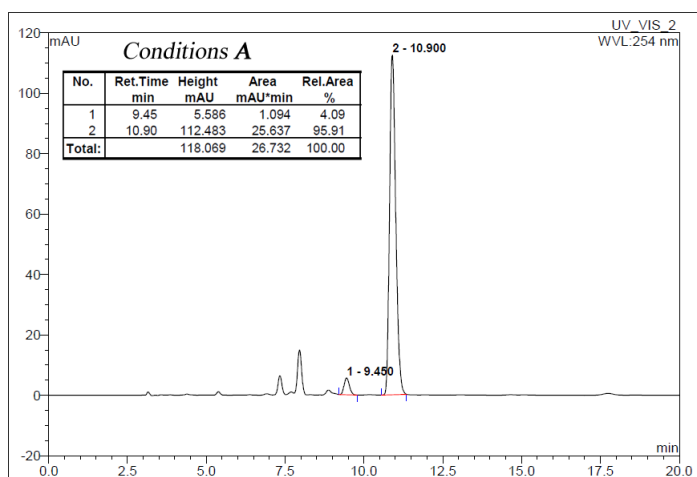
(2*S*,3*R*)-2-Isopropyl-4-nitro-3-phenylbutanal



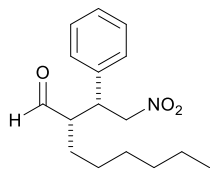
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.92 (d, $J = 2.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.38 – 7.25 (m, 3H), 7.21 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 4.67 (dd, $J = 12.5, 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.57 (dd, $J = 12.5, 9.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.90 (td, $J = 10.3, 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.77 (ddd, $J = 10.7, 4.2, 2.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.72 (heptd, $J = 7.0, 4.2$ Hz, 1H), 1.09 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 4H), 0.88 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 204.3, 137.1, 129.1, 128.1, 127.9, 79.0, 58.7, 41.9, 27.9, 21.6, 17.0.

Spectroscopic data is in agreement with published data.¹

The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC using a Chiralcel AD-H column (*n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH 95:5, 25°C) at 1.0 mL/min, UV detection at 254 nm: t_R : (*syn*, minor) = 9.5 min, (*syn*, major) = 11.0 min.



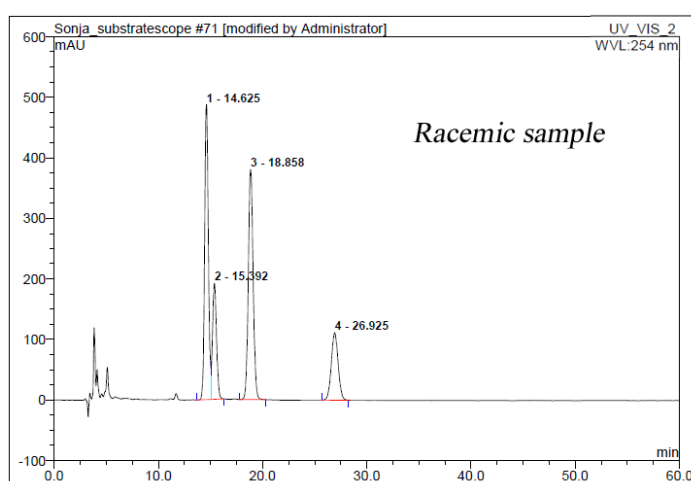
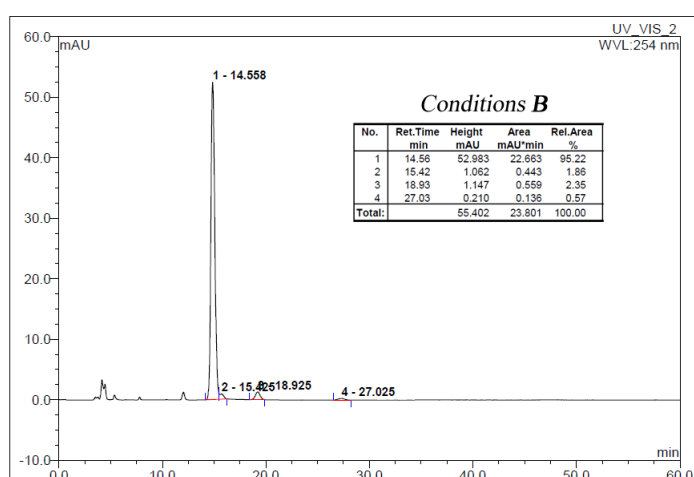
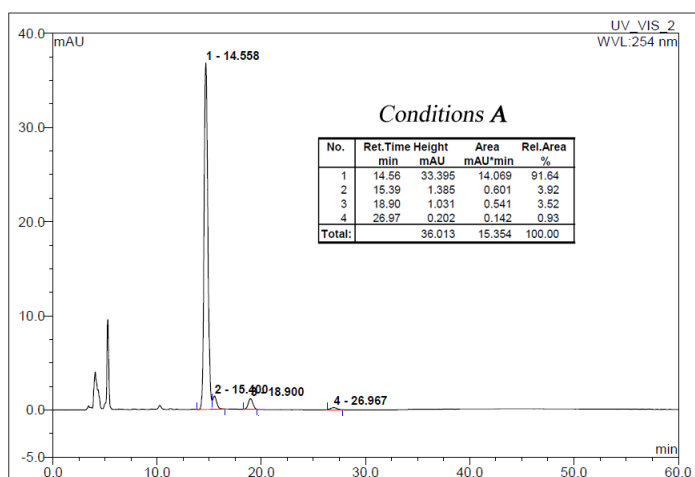
(S)-2-((R)-2-Nitro-1-phenylethyl)octanal



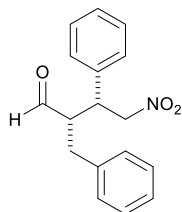
^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.71 (d, $J = 2.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.40 – 7.28 (m, 3H), 7.22 – 7.13 (m, 2H), 4.71 (dd, $J = 12.7, 5.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.64 (dd, $J = 12.7, 9.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.77 (td, $J = 9.3, 5.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.76 – 2.63 (m, 1H), 1.53 – 1.05 (m, 10H), 0.86 – 0.78 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 203.3, 136.8, 129.1, 128.1, 128.0, 78.4, 53.9, 31.3, 29.0, 27.3, 26.3, 22.4, 13.9.

Spectroscopic data is in agreement with published data.⁷

The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC using a Chiracel OD-H column (*n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH 90:10, 25°C) at 1.0 mL/min, UV detection at 254 nm: t_{R} : (*syn*, major) = 14.6 min, (*syn*, minor) = 18.9 min.



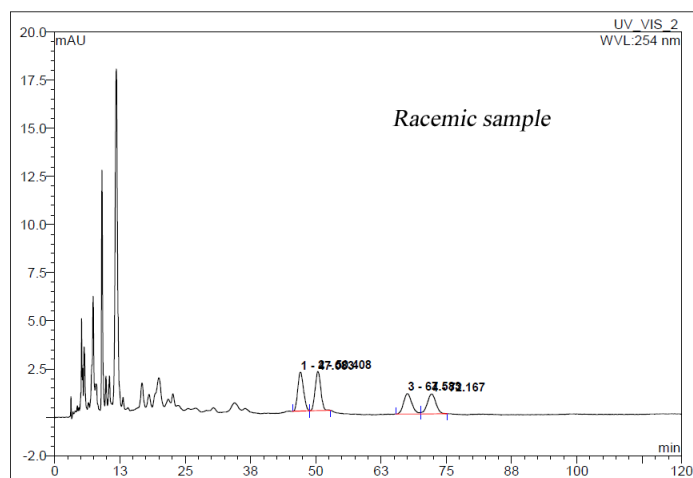
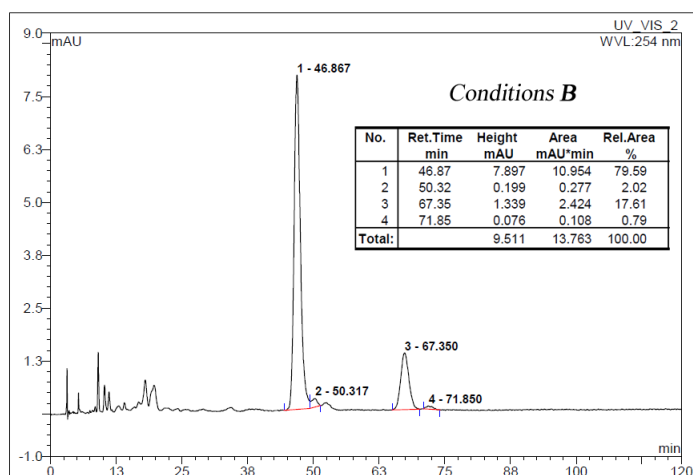
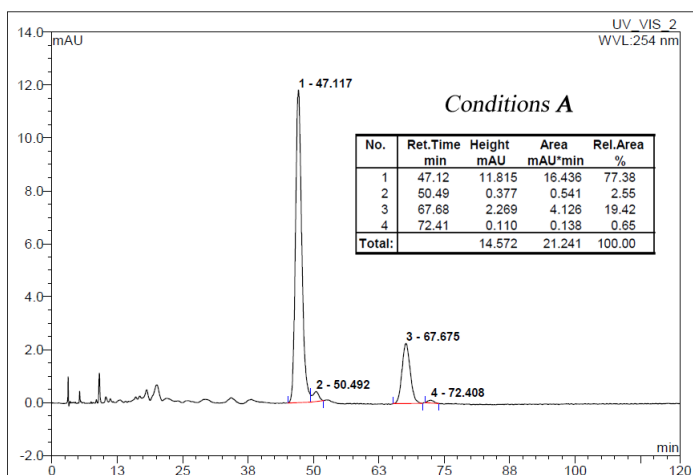
(2*S*,3*R*)-2-Benzyl-4-nitro-3-phenylbutanal



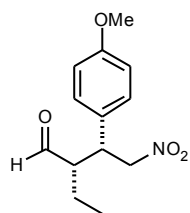
^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.72 (d, $J = 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.43 – 7.10 (m, 8H), 7.07 – 7.00 (m, 2H), 4.76 – 4.67 (m, 2H), 3.83 (td, $J = 8.5$, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 3.17 – 3.03 (m, 1H), 2.82 – 2.70 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 202.9, 137.1, 136.7, 129.2, 128.8, 128.7, 128.3, 128.0, 126.9, 78.0, 55.3, 43.4, 34.2.

Spectroscopic data is in agreement with published data.¹

The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC using a Chiracel OD-H column (*n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH 95:5, 40°C) at 1.0 mL/min, UV detection at 254 nm: t_{R} : (*syn*, major) = 47.1 min, (*syn*, minor) = 50.4 min.



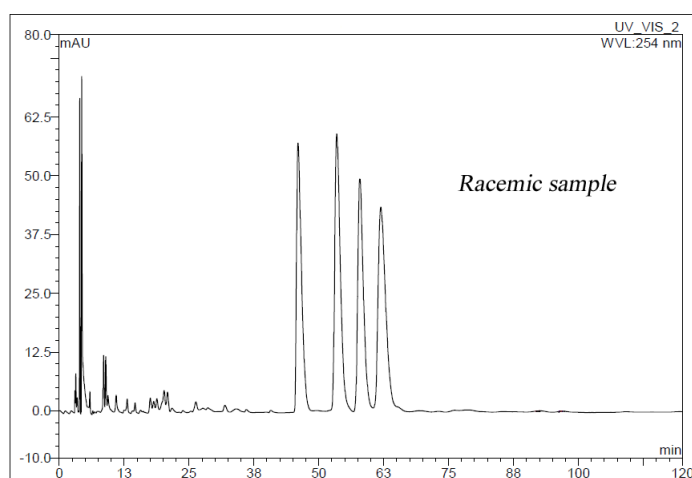
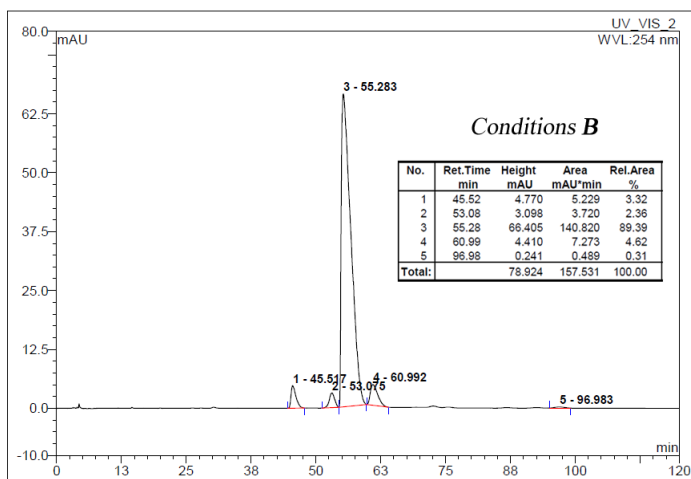
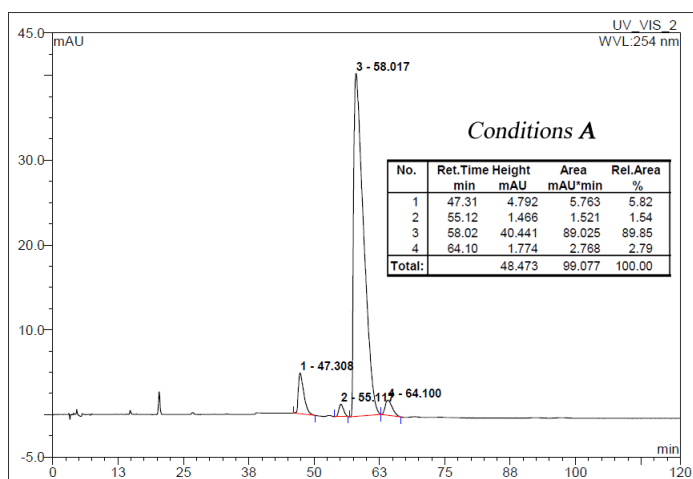
(2*S*,3*R*)-2-Ethyl-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-nitrobutanal



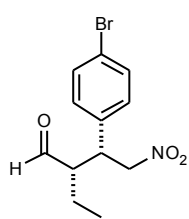
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.69 (d, $J = 2.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.11 – 7.05 (m, 2H), 6.88 – 6.83 (m, 2H), 4.68 (dd, $J = 12.5, 5.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.57 (dd, $J = 12.5, 9.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.76 – 3.67 (m, 1H), 2.62 (dddd, $J = 10.2, 7.5, 4.7, 2.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.57 – 1.41 (m, 2H), 0.81 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 203.3, 159.2, 129.0, 128.5, 114.4, 78.7, 55.2, 55.1, 42.0, 20.3, 10.6.

Spectroscopic data is in agreement with published data.⁸

The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC using a Chiralcel AD-H column (*n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH 99.5:0.5, 25°C) at 1.0 mL/min, UV detection at 254 nm: t_{R} : (*syn*, minor) = 47.3 min, (*syn*, major) = 58.0 min.



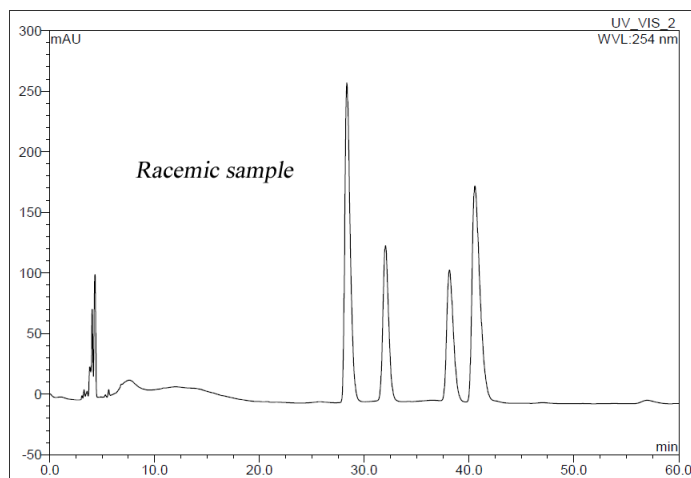
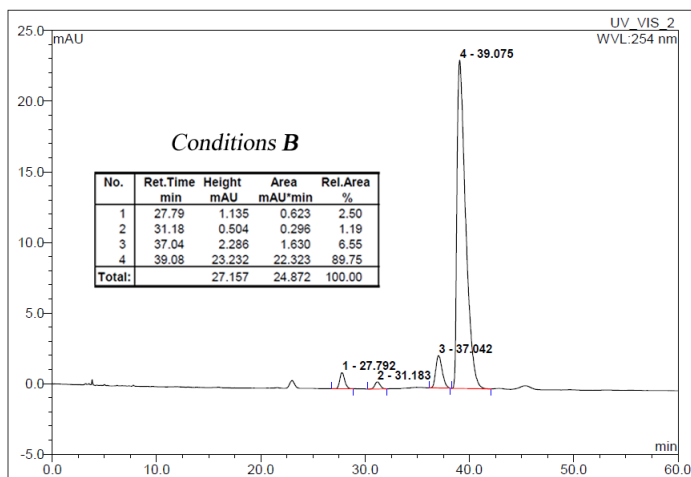
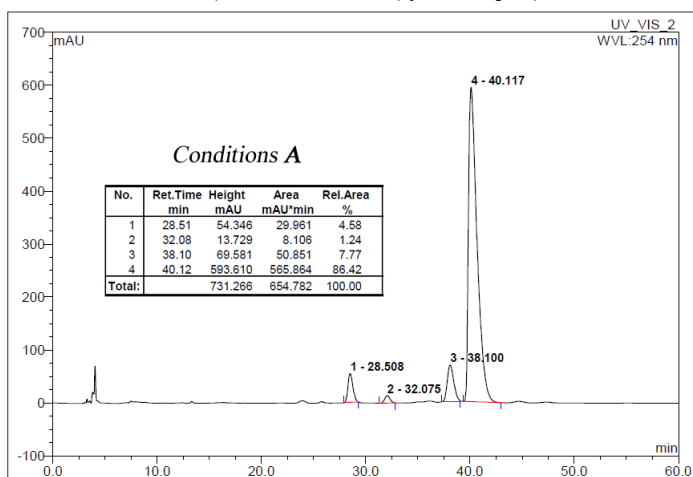
(2*S*,3*R*)-2-Ethyl-3-(4-bromophenyl)-4-nitrobutanal



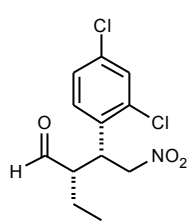
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.71 (d, $J = 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.53 – 7.41 (m, 2H), 7.10 – 7.03 (m, 2H), 4.72 (dd, $J = 12.8, 4.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.59 (dd, $J = 12.8, 9.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.77 (td, $J = 9.9, 4.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.66 (dddd, $J = 10.3, 8.2, 4.8, 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 1.60 – 1.41 (m, 2H), 0.83 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 202.6, 135.9, 132.3, 129.7, 122.1, 78.2, 54.6, 42.1, 20.3, 10.5.

Spectroscopic data is in agreement with published data.⁶

The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC using a Chiracel AD-H column (*n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH 98.5:1.5, 25°C) at 1.0 mL/min, UV detection at 254 nm: t_{R} : (*syn*, minor) = 28.5 min, (*syn*, major) = 40.1 min.



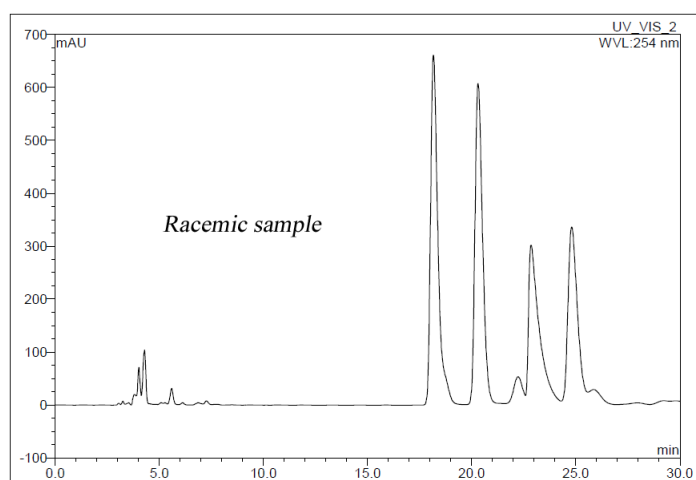
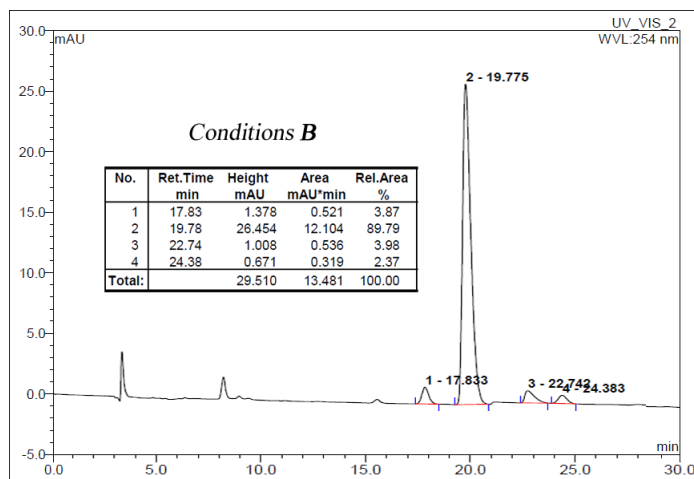
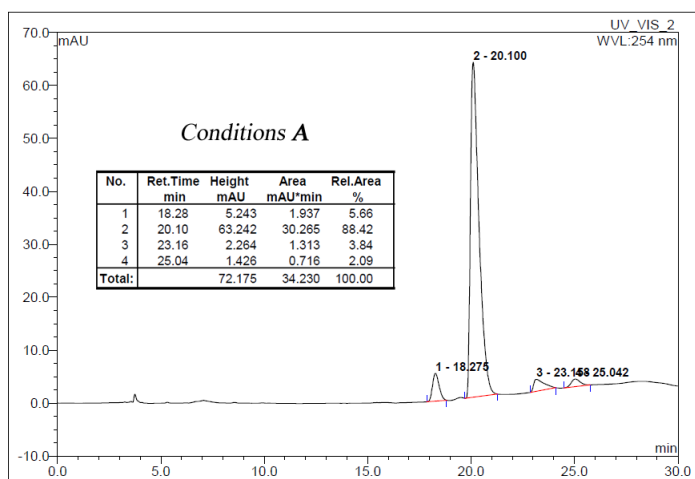
(2*S*,3*R*)-2-Ethyl-3-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-4-nitrobutanal



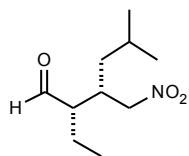
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.72 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.26 (dd, $J = 8.4, 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.84 (dd, $J = 13.0, 9.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.68 (dd, $J = 13.0, 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.30 (td, $J = 9.2, 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.93 (dddd, $J = 9.2, 7.4, 5.2, 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 1.67 – 1.44 (m, 2H), 0.87 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 202.4, 135.1, 134.5, 133.2, 130.3, 127.8, 76.5, 53.7, 38.7, 20.4, 10.6.

Spectroscopic data is in agreement with published data.⁶

The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC using a Chiralcel AD-H column (*n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH 98.5:1.5, 25°C) at 1.0 mL/min, UV detection at 254 nm: t_R : (*syn*, minor) = 18.3 min, (*syn*, major) = 20.1 min.



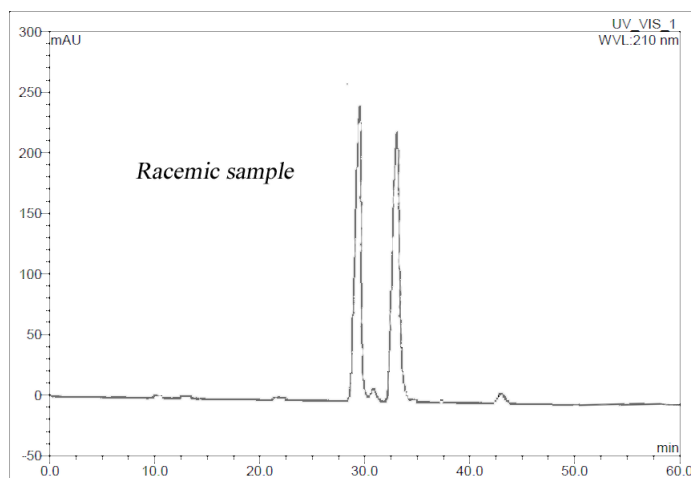
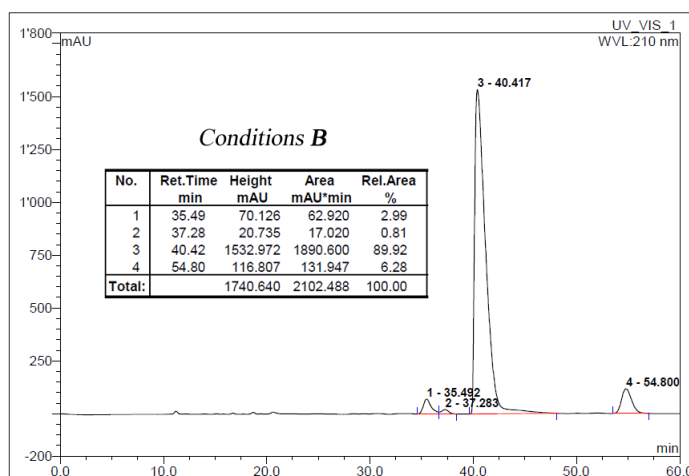
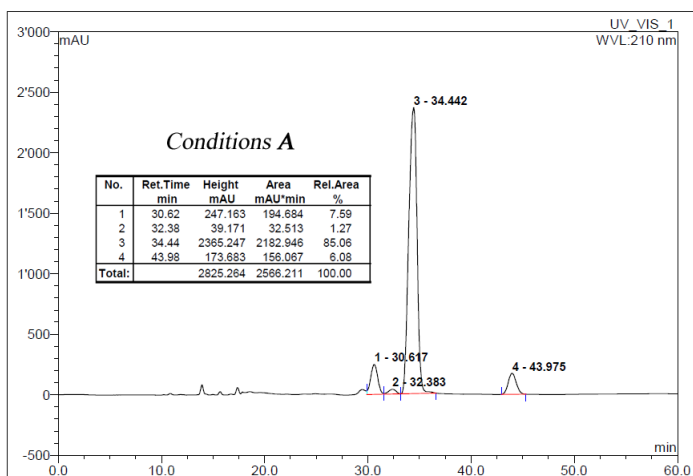
(2*S*,3*S*)-2-Ethyl-5-methyl-3-(nitromethyl)hexanal



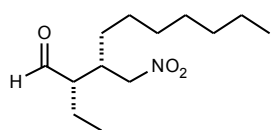
NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.72 (d, J = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 4.47 (dd, J = 6.4, 12.5 Hz, 1H), 4.42 (dd, J = 6.6, 12.5 Hz, 1H), 2.73 (m, 1H), 2.43 (dtd, J = 1.3, 4.7, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 1.80 (m, 1H), 1.61 (m, 1H), 1.50 (dq, J = 4.9, 7.4, 14.8 Hz, 1H), 1.24 (m, 2H), 1.01 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 0.92 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 3H), 0.90 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 203.0, 77.1, 54.0, 38.3, 34.7, 25.2, 22.7, 22.0, 18.5, 12.2.

Spectroscopic data is in agreement with published data.⁶

The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC using a Chiracel AD-H column (*n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH 99.25:0.75, 25°C) at 0.3 mL/min, UV detection at 210 nm: t_R : (*syn*, minor) = 35.5 min, (*syn*, major) = 40.1 min.



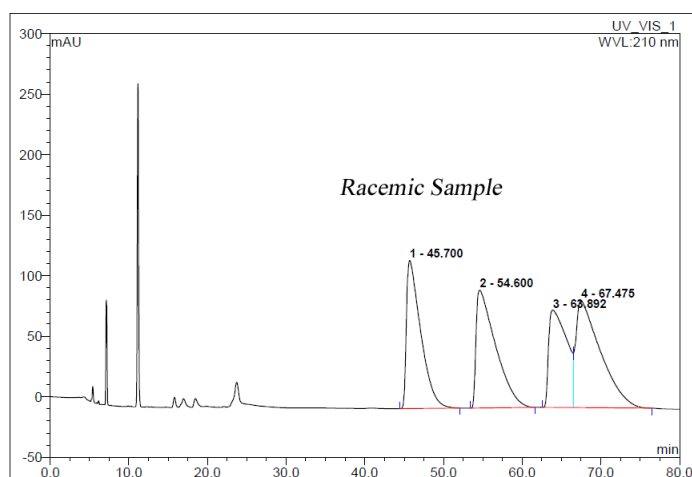
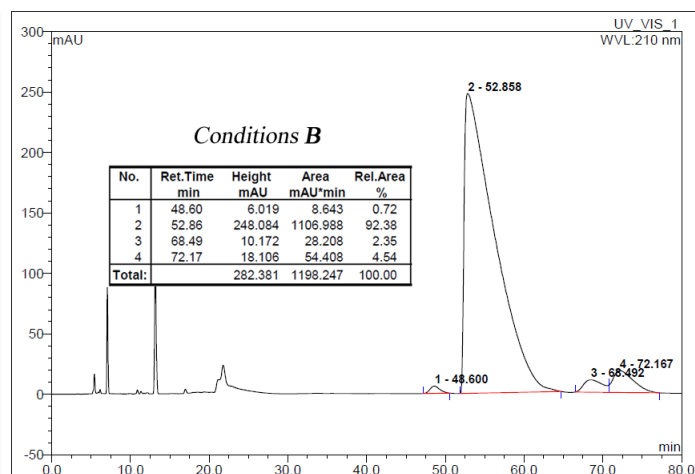
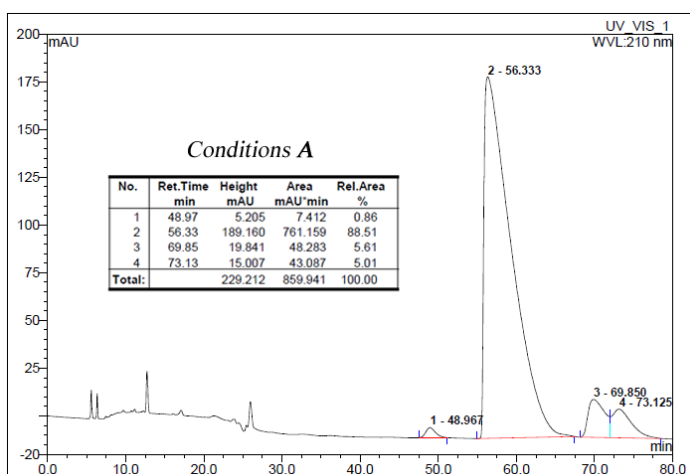
(2*S*,3*S*)-2-Ethyl-3-(nitromethyl)decanal



^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.70 (d, $J = 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.46 (dd, $J = 12.6, 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.41 (dd, $J = 12.4, 6.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.63 (qd, $J = 6.4, 4.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.40 (ddt, $J = 8.4, 4.9, 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 1.78 (ddq, $J = 14.5, 8.7, 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 1.52 (dq, $J = 14.8, 7.5, 4.7$ Hz, 1H), 1.45 – 1.16 (m, 12H), 0.99 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H), 0.90 – 0.81 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 203.1, 77.0, 53.9, 36.8, 31.7, 29.4, 29.1, 29.0, 26.7, 22.6, 18.6, 14.0, 12.1.

Spectroscopic data is in agreement with published data.⁶

The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC using a Chiracel AD-H column (*n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH 99.8:0.2, 25°C) at 0.6 mL/min, UV detection at 210 nm: t_R : (*syn*, major) = 56.3 min, (*syn*, minor) = 73.1 min.



5. References

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