Enantioconvergent alkylation of ketones with racemic secondary alcohols *via* hydrogen borrowing catalysis

Supplementary Information

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1. General Experimental

Reactions were carried out in flame-dried glassware under an atmosphere of nitrogen unless stated otherwise. Room temperature (r.t.) refers to 20-25 °C. Temperatures of 0 °C were obtained using an ice/water bath. Temperatures of -17 °C were obtained using a salt/ice bath. Temperatures of -78 °C were obtained using a dry ice/acetone bath. Heating was achieved using an oil bath equipped with a contact thermometer.

Diethyl ether, CH₂Cl₂ and tetrahydrofuran were purified by filtration through activated alumina columns employing the method of Grubbs *et al.*¹ All other solvents and reagents were used as supplied without prior purification. All other reagents were used directly as supplied by major chemical suppliers, or following purification procedures described by Perrin and Armarego.²

Thin layer chromatography was performed on Merck Kieselgel 60 F_{254} 0.25 mm pre-coated aluminium plates. Product spots were visualized under UV light (λ = 254 nm) and/or by staining with potassium permanganate solution. Flash chromatography was performed using VWR silica gel 60 (40-63 µm particle size) using head pressure by means of a nitrogen line.

NMR spectroscopy was carried out using a Bruker 400 MHz spectrometer in the deuterated solvent stated, using the residual non-deuterated solvent signal as an internal reference. Chemical shifts are quoted in ppm with signal splittings recorded as singlet (s), doublet (d), triplet (t), quartet (q), quintet (qn), sextet (sext), septet (sept), octet (oct), nonet (non) and multiplet (m). The abbreviation br denotes broad. Coupling constants, *J*, are measured to the nearest 0.1 Hz and are presented as observed.

Infrared spectra were recorded neat on a Bruker Tensor 27 spectrometer equipped with an attenuated total reflectance attachment with internal calibration. Absorption maxima (λ_{max}) are quoted in wavenumbers (cm⁻¹). The abbreviation br denotes broad.

Electrospray ionisation (ESI) HRMS were recorded on a Thermo Exactive orbitrap spectrometer equipped with a Waters Equity LC system, with a flow rate of 0.2 mL/min using water:methanol:formic acid (10:89.9:0.1) as eluent. The system uses a heated electrospray ionisation (HESI-II) probe for ESI⁺ and has a resolution of 50,000 FWHM under conditions for maximum sensitivity, with an accuracy of better than 5 ppm for 24 h following external calibration on the day of analysis. The mass reported is that containing the most abundant isotopes, with each value rounded to 4 decimal places and within 5 ppm of the calculated mass. Electron impact ionisation (EI) HRMS were performed on an Agilent 7200 quadrupole time of flight (Q-ToF) instrument equipped with a direct insertion probe supplied by Scientific Instrument Manufacturer (SIM) GmbH. Instrument control and data processing were performed using Agilent MassHunter software. The mass reported is that containing the most abundant isotopes, with each value to 4 decimal places and within 5 ppm of the calculated mass. Optical rotations were recorded on a Schmidt Haensch Unipol L2000 polarimeter in a cell with a path length of 1 dm (using the sodium D line, 589 nm). Concentrations are reported in g/100 mL. Temperatures are reported in °C.

Chiral normal phase HPLC was performed on an Agilent 1260 Series HPLC unit equipped with UV-vis diodearray detector, fitted with the appropriate Daicel Chiralpak column (dimensions: 0.46 cm \emptyset x 25 cm) along with the corresponding guard column (0.4 cm \emptyset x 1 cm). Wavelengths (λ) are reported in nm, retention times (t_R) are reported in minutes and solvent flow rates are reported in mL min⁻¹.

Reverse phase HPLC was performed on a Dionex UltiMate 3000 system equipped with UV-vis variable wavelength detector, fitted with an Agilent InfinityLab Poroshell 120 EC-C18 column (0.46 cm ϕ x 150 mm, 4 μ m pore size).

2. Optimisation

2.1 Index of Ligands



(R)-3,4,5-OMe-MeOBIPHEP



(R)-furyl-MeOBIPHEP



(R)-DM-SEGPHOS





(R)-SEGPHOS



(R)-MeO-BIPHEP



(R)-amino-MeOBIPHEP



(R)-BINAP





(R)-DTBM-MeOBIPHEP



(R)-MonoPhos



(R)-ⁱPr-MeOBIPHEP



(R,R)-ⁱPr-DUPHOS

MeO PAr PAr2



(R)-3,5-^tBu-MeOBIPHEP

DuanPhos



(S)-PHANEPHOS



(R_P,R)-TANIAPHOS

(R)

2.2 Extended Optimisation Table



To a 2–5 mL Biotage® microwave vial equipped with a stirrer bar was added commercially available 3,3-dimethyl-2-butanol (0.60 mmol, 2 equiv), 2',3',4',5',6'-Pentamethylacetophenone (0.30 mmol, 1 equiv), *ligand* (5 mol%), *precatalyst* (4 mol%), *solvent* (0.1 mL, 3 M) and *base* (1.20 mmol, 4 equiv) sequentially in the open atmosphere. The reaction vessel was sealed with a microwave vial cap (containing a ResealTM septum) and heated to the *indicated temperature* in a preheated oil bath for 24 h. The mixture was cooled to r.t., diluted with Et₂O (4 mL), quenched with 3 M HCl (2 mL) and extracted with Et₂O (3 x 4 mL) and the combined organics were dried (MgSO₄), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was dissolved in MeCN (50 mL) and durene (40 mg, 0.30 mmol) was added as an internal standard. The yield was determined by calibrated reverse phase HPLC analysis (Agilent InfinityLab Poroshell 120 EC-C18 column with guard, 75% MeCN, 25% H₂O, 1.0 mL/min, 25 °C, λ = 254 nm, 5 µL injection). Small scale preparative TLC (95:5 pentane/Et₂O) was used to obtain an analytical sample of **3a** (~1 mg) and the enantioselectivity was determined by normal phase HPLC analysis (Chiralpak OD column with guard, 0.3 % IPA, 99.7 % hexane, 0.5 mL/min, 25 °C, λ = 254 nm, 10 µL injection).

Entry	[M] ^[a]	Ligand	Base	Solvent	T/⁰C	Yield 3a ^[b]	e.r. ^[c]
1	lr(cod)acac	(R)-DTBM-SEGPHOS	NaO ^t Bu	^t BuOH	110	91	90:10
2	lr(cod)acac	(R)-SEGPHOS	NaO [#] Bu	[#] BuOH	110	16	59:41
3	lr(cod)acac	(R)-DTBM-MeOBIPHEP	NaO [#] Bu	[#] BuOH	110	88	81:19
4	lr(cod)acac	(R)-3,5-tBu-MeOBIPHEP	NaO ^t Bu	^t BuOH	110	93	68:32
5	lr(cod)acac	(R)-3,4,5-OMe-MeOBIPHEP	NaO ^t Bu	^t BuOH	110	64	79:21
6	lr(cod)acac	(R)-MeO-BIPHEP	NaO ^t Bu	^t BuOH	110	45	50:50
7	Ir(cod)acac	(R)-MonoPhos	NaO ^t Bu	^t BuOH	110	13	58:42
8	Ir(cod)acac	DuanPhos	NaO ^t Bu	[#] BuOH	110	21	62:38
9	Ir(cod)acac	(R)-furyl-MeOBIPHEP	NaO ^t Bu	[#] BuOH	110	8	52:48
10	Ir(cod)acac	(R)-amino-MeOBIPHEP	NaO ^t Bu	[#] BuOH	110	62	61:39
11	Ir(cod)acac	(R)- [/] Pr-MeOBIPHEP	NaO ^t Bu	[#] BuOH	110	5	50:50
12	Ir(cod)acac	(S)-PHANEPHOS	NaO [#] Bu	[#] BuOH	110	20	73:27
13	Ir(cod)acac	(R)-DM-SEGPHOS	NaO [#] Bu	[#] BuOH	110	47	54:46
14	Ir(cod)acac	(<i>R</i>)-BINAP	NaO [#] Bu	[#] BuOH	110	16	56:44
15	Ir(cod)acac	(<i>R,R</i>)- [/] Pr-DUPHOS	NaO ^t Bu	[#] BuOH	110	17	54:46
16	Ir(cod)acac	(R _P ,R)-TANIAPHOS	NaO ^t Bu	[#] BuOH	110	27	77:23
17	Ir(cod)acac	sl-j005	NaO ^t Bu	⁽ BuOH	110	32	55:45
18	lr(cod)acac	(R)-DTBM-GARPHOS	NaO ^t Bu	[#] BuOH	110	90	83:17
19	[Rh(cod)Cl]2	(R)-DTBM-SEGPHOS	NaO ^t Bu	^t BuOH	110	44	50:50

20	[Ru(cod)Cl]n	(R)-DTBM-SEGPHOS	NaO ^t Bu	^t BuOH	110	62	77:23
21	[lr(cod)Cl] ₂	(R)-DTBM-SEGPHOS	NaO [#] Bu	^t BuOH	110	89	84:16
22	[lr(coe)Cl] ₂	(R)-DTBM-SEGPHOS	NaO [#] Bu	^t BuOH	110	75	83:17
23	Ru(acac)₃	(R)-DTBM-SEGPHOS	NaO [#] Bu	^t BuOH	110	70	65:35
24	lr(cod)acac	(R)-DTBM-SEGPHOS	NaOH	^t BuOH	110	0	-
25	lr(cod)acac	(R)-DTBM-SEGPHOS	КОН	[#] BuOH	110	16	78:22
26	lr(cod)acac	(R)-DTBM-SEGPHOS	KO [#] Bu	[#] BuOH	110	19	90:10
27	lr(cod)acac	(R)-DTBM-SEGPHOS	KHMDS	[#] BuOH	110	0	-
28	lr(cod)acac	(R)-DTBM-SEGPHOS	NaO ^t Bu	^t BuOH	90	73	75:25
29	lr(cod)acac	(R)-DTBM-SEGPHOS	NaO ^t Bu	PhMe	110	86	87:13

^[a] Loading refers to mol% metal after dissociation of precursors. ^[b] Determined by reverse phase HPLC analysis vs durene as an internal standard. ^[c] Determined by normal phase HPLC analysis using a chiral stationary phase.

3. General procedures

3.1 General Procedure A: Enantioconvergent Hydrogen Borrowing Alkylation

To a 2–5 mL Biotage® microwave vial equipped with a stirrer bar was added the appropriate alcohol (0.60 mmol, 2 equiv), 2',3',4',5',6'-Pentamethylacetophenone (0.30 mmol, 1 equiv), (*R*)-DTBM-SEGPHOS (5 mol%), Ir(cod)acac (4 mol%), ^tBuOH (0.1 mL, 3 M) and NaO^tBu (1.20 mmol, 4.0 equiv) sequentially in the open atmosphere. The reaction vessel was sealed with a microwave vial cap (containing a ResealTM septum) and stirred at 110 °C in a preheated oil bath for 24 h. The mixture was cooled to r.t., diluted with Et₂O (4 mL), quenched with 3 M aq. HCl (2 mL) and extracted with Et₂O (3 x 4 mL) and the combined organics were dried (MgSO₄), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. For ease of purification, residual (*R*)-DTBM-SEGPHOS was removed by treatment of the crude product in Et₂O (~40 mL) with *tert*-butyl hydroperoxide (5-6 M in decane, 50 μ L, ~0.28 mmol), swirled and allowed to stand at r.t. for 10 min. The resulting solution was then concentrated and purified by column chromatography (see experimental methods section for details). Racemic cyclohexane products were obtained using our previously reported procedure.³

4. Experimental Procedures and Characterization Data

4.1 Synthesis of Alcohols

4,4-Dimethylpentan-2-ol, 2b

A solution of 3,3-dimethylbutanal (1.26 mL, 10.0 mmol) in Et_2O (30 mL) was cooled to -78 °C and MeMgBr (3 M in Et_2O , 6.7 mL, 20 mmol) was added dropwise. The resulting reaction mixture was stirred at -15 °C for 2 h. The reaction mixture was quenched with sat. aq. NH₄Cl (30 mL) and extracted with Et_2O (3 x 40 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by column chromatography (Pentane: Et_2O , 80:20) afforded the title compound **2b** as a transparent oil (550 mg, 48%). The spectral data matched that previously reported in the literature.⁴

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_H 3.94 (1H, dqd, *J*=7.7, 6.2, 3.4 Hz), 1.46 (1H, br s, OH), 1.39 (1H, dd, *J*=14.4, 7.7 Hz), 1.31 (1H, dd, *J*=14.4, 3.4 Hz), 1.17 (3H, d, *J*=6.2 Hz), 0.93 (9H, s).
 ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_c 66.0, 53.2, 30.3, 30.2, 26.1.

1-Cyclobutylethan-1-ol, 2e

OН

A solution of cyclobutanecarbaldehyde (841 mg, 10.0 mmol) in Et₂O (30 mL) was cooled to -78 °C and MeMgBr (6.7 mL, 3 M in Et₂O, 20 mmol) was added dropwise. The resulting reaction mixture was stirred at -15 °C for 1 h. The reaction mixture was quenched with sat. aq. NH₄Cl (15 mL) and extracted with Et₂O (3 x 20 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by column chromatography (Pentane:Et₂O, 80:20) afforded the title compound **2e** as a transparent oil (537 mg, 54%).

The spectral data matched that previously reported in the literature.⁵

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_H 3.67 (1H, dq, *J*=7.7, 6.2 Hz), 2.33 – 2.18 (1H, m), 2.09 – 1.62 (6H, m), 1.50 (1H, br s, OH), 1.06 (3H, d, *J*=6.2 Hz).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_C 72.2, 43.0, 24.4, 24.3, 20.3, 17.8.

1-Cyclopentylethan-1-ol, 2f

OН Me

To a stirred solution of LiAlH₄ (266 mg, 7.00 mmol) in Et_2O (40 mL) at 0 °C, was added a solution of 1-cyclopentylethan-1-one (713 mg, 6.40 mmol) in Et_2O (10 mL) slowly. The reaction was slowly warmed to r.t.

over 3 h. After this time, the reaction was quenched by sequential dropwise addition of H_2O (0.3 mL), aq. NaOH (15% w/v, 0.3 mL) and H_2O (0.9 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was diluted with Et₂O (10 mL) and MgSO₄ was added. The mixture was stirred vigorously for 15 min then filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by column chromatography (Pentane:Et₂O, 80:20) afforded the title compound **2f** as a transparent oil (327 mg, 45%).

The spectral data matched that previously reported in the literature.⁶

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_H 3.67 – 3.50 (1H, m), 1.91 – 1.75 (2H, m), 1.74 – 1.46 (5H, m), 1.46 – 1.27 (2H, m), 1.20 – 1.13 (4H, m).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_c 72.5, 48.2, 29.3, 29.0, 25.9, 25.8, 22.4.

Ethyl 2,2-dimethyl-4-phenylbutanoate, S1



A stirred solution of diisopropylamine (5.90 mL, 42.1 mmol) in THF (200 mL) was cooled to -78 °C and *n*-butyllithium (1.6 M in hexanes, 26.0 mL, 41.6 mmol) was added dropwise. The resulting solution was warmed to 0 °C and stirred for 15 min and then cooled to -78 °C and ethyl isobutyrate (5.00 mL, 37.2 mmol) was added dropwise. The resulting solution was stirred at -78 °C for 2 h and then (2-bromoethyl)benzene (4.60 mL, 33.6 mmol) was added dropwise. The resulting solution was stirred at -78 °C for 30 min and then warmed to r.t. and stirred for 16 h. After this time, the reaction mixture was quenched with sat. aq. NH₄Cl (250 mL) and extracted with Et₂O (3 x 200 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by column chromatography (Pentane:Et₂O, 95:5) afforded the title compound **S1** as a transparent oil (6.93 g, 94%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_H 7.32 – 7.26 (2H, m), 7.22 – 7.16 (3H, m), 4.15 (2H, q, *J* = 7.1 Hz), 2.62 – 2.48 (2H, m), 1.91 – 1.79 (2H, m), 1.28 (3H, t, *J* = 7.1 Hz), 1.25 (6H, s).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_C 177.8, 142.4, 128.5, 128.4, 125.9, 60.5, 42.9, 42.4, 31.7, 25.3, 14.4.

HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd. for $C_{14}H_{20}O_2Na$ [M+Na]⁺ 243.1356; found at 243.1357, Δ 0.6 ppm.

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 3027, 1726, 1474, 1454, 1177, 1152, 1128, 746, 699.

2,2-Dimethyl-4-phenylbutanal, S2

To a stirred solution of LiAlH₄ (1.72 g, 45.4 mmol) in Et₂O (100 mL) at 0 °C, was added a solution of 2,2-dimethyl-4-phenylbutanal **S1** (5.00 g, 22.7 mmol) in Et₂O (40 mL) slowly. The reaction was warmed to r.t. and stirred for 3 h. After this time, the reaction was quenched by sequential dropwise addition of H₂O (1.7 mL), aq. NaOH (15% w/v, 1.7 mL) and H₂O (5.2 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was diluted with Et₂O (150 mL) and MgSO₄ was added. The mixture was stirred vigorously for 15 min then filtered and concentrated *in vacuo* to

afford crude 2,2-dimethyl-4-phenylbutan-1-ol (3.99 g) which was used in the next step without further purification.

A stirred solution of oxalyl chloride (1.42 mL, 16.8 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (30 mL) was cooled to -78 °C and DMSO (2.38 mL, 33.6 mmol) was added dropwise. The resulting solution was stirred at -78 °C for 15 min and then a solution of crude 2,2-dimethyl-4-phenylbutan-1-ol (2.00 g) in CH_2Cl_2 (12 mL) was added dropwise. The resulting solution was stirred at -78 °C for 1 h and then triethylamine (11 mL, 78 mmol) was added dropwise. The resulting solution was stirred at -78 °C for 30 min and then warmed to r.t. and stirred for 15 min. After this time, the reaction mixture was quenched with water (100 mL) and the layers were separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (2 x 200 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by column chromatography (Pentane:Et₂O, 95:5) afforded the title compound **S2** as a transparent oil (1.85 g, 94% over 2 steps).

The spectral data matched that previously reported in the literature.⁷

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_H 9.49 (1H, s), 7.32 – 7.26 (2H, m), 7.22 – 7.16 (3H, m), 2.57 – 2.50 (2H, m), 1.87 – 1.75 (2H, m), 1.14 (6H, s).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_c 206.1, 142.0, 128.6, 128.4, 126.1, 46.1, 39.4, 30.9, 21.5.

3,3-Dimethyl-5-phenylpentan-2-ol, 2h

A stirred solution of 2,2-dimethyl-4-phenylbutanal **S2** (1.79 g, 10.2 mmol) in THF (50 mL) was cooled to 0 °C and MeMgBr (3 M in Et₂O, 4.20 mL, 12.7 mmol) was added dropwise. The resulting reaction mixture was warmed to r.t. and stirred for 30 min. The reaction mixture was then cooled to 0 °C and quenched with sat. aq. NH₄Cl (50 mL) and the layers were separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (2 x 50 mL) and the combined organic layers were dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by column chromatography (Pentane:Et₂O, 75:25) afforded the title compound **2h** as a transparent oil (1.78 g, 91%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.31 – 7.26 (2H, m), 7.22 – 7.16 (3H, m), 3.65 – 3.58 (1H, m), 2.68 – 2.52 (2H, m), 1.64 (1H, ddd, *J* = 13.6, 12.1, 5.6 Hz), 1.52 (1H, ddd, *J* = 13.5, 12.1, 5.4 Hz), 1.34 (1H, br s, OH), 1.16 (3H, d, *J* = 6.4 Hz), 0.96 (3H, s), 0.95 (3H, s).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) $δ_{c}$ 143.4, 128.5, 128.4, 125.8, 74.5, 41.2, 37.7, 30.6, 22.7, 22.6, 17.9.

HRMS (EI⁺) m/z calcd. for C₁₃H₂₀O [M]⁺ 192.1509; found at 192.1514, Δ 2.6 ppm.

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 3383 (br), 3026, 1454, 1373, 1082, 913, 753, 720, 698.

1-(Adamantan-1-yl)ethan-1-ol, 2i



To a stirred solution of LiAlH₄ (228 mg, 6.60 mmol) in Et₂O (30 mL) at 0 °C, was added a solution of 1-adamantyl methyl ketone (1.07 g, 6.00 mmol) in Et₂O (10 mL) slowly. The reaction was warmed to r.t. and stirred for 1 h. After this time, the reaction was cooled to 0 °C and quenched by sequential dropwise addition of H₂O (0.23 mL), aq. NaOH (15% w/v, 0.23 mL) and H₂O (0.69 mL). The reaction mixture was diluted with Et₂O (40 mL) and MgSO₄ was added. The mixture was stirred vigorously for 15 min then filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by column chromatography (Pentane:Et₂O, 80:20) afforded the title compound **2i** as a white solid (1.03 g, 95%).

The spectral data matched that previously reported in the literature.⁸

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_H 3.28 (1H, p, *J* = 6.3 Hz), 2.03 – 1.95 (3H, m), 1.76 – 1.54 (9H, m), 1.51 – 1.43 (3H, m), 1.33 (1H, d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, OH), 1.09 (3H, d, *J* = 6.5 Hz).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ _C 76.0, 37.8, 37.4, 36.7, 28.5, 16.6.

1-(1-Methylcyclohexyl)ethan-1-ol, 2j



A solution of 1-(1-methylcyclohexyl)ethan-1-one (640 mg, 4.56 mmol) in Et₂O (10 mL) was slowly added to a stirred solution of LiAlH₄ (194 mg, 5.11 mmol) in Et₂O (30 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was slowly warmed to r.t. over 2 h. After this time, the reaction was quenched by sequential dropwise addition of water (0.19 mL), aq. NaOH (15% w/v, 0.19 mL) and water (0.57 mL). The reaction mixture was diluted with Et₂O (10 mL) and MgSO₄ was added. The mixture was stirred vigorously for 15 min then filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by column chromatography (Pentane:Et₂O, 85:15) afforded the title compound **2j** as a pale yellow oil (499 mg, 76%).

The spectral data matched that previously reported in the literature.⁸

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_H 3.51 (1H, q, J=6.4 Hz), 1.63 – 1.12 (10H, m), 1.10 (3H, d, J=6.5 Hz), 0.84 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_C 75.6, 37.3, 34.4, 33.8, 26.5, 21.9, 21.9, 17.7, 17.1. tert-Butyl 3-hydroxy-2,2-dimethylbutanoate, 20



A solution of *tert*-butyl acetoacetate (1.86 g, 10.0 mmol) in MeOH (25 mL) was cooled to 0 °C and NaBH₄ (0.57 g, 10 mmol) was added portion wise. The reaction was slowly warmed to r.t. over 2 h. After this time, the reaction was quenched with saturated sat. aq. NH₄Cl (50 mL) and extracted with Et₂O (3 x 60 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by column chromatography (Pentane:Et₂O, 80:20) afforded the title compound **2o** (1.35 g, 72%) as a transparent oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_{H} 3.75 (1H, p, *J*=6.4 Hz), 2.85 (1H, d, *J*=6.3 Hz, OH), 1.41 (9H, s), 1.09 (9H, m).

 ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_{C} 177.2, 80.9, 72.6, 47.5, 28.1, 22.3, 20.2, 17.9.

HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd. for C₁₀H₂₀O₃Na [M+Na]⁺ 211.1310; found at 211.1306, Δ 0.56 ppm

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 3436, 2977, 1713, 1459, 1392, 1368, 1278, 1256, 1138, 1098, 1036, 909, 849

4.2 Enantioconvergent Hydrogen Borrowing Catalysis

(S)-3,4,4-Trimethyl-1-(2,3,4,5,6-pentamethylphenyl)pentan-1-one, 3a

<u>0.3 mmol scale reaction</u>: Pentamethylacetophenone **1** (57 mg, 0.30 mmol)⁹, commercially available 3,3-dimethyl-2-butanol (75 μ L, 0.60 mmol), (*R*)-DTBM-SEGPHOS (18 mg, 5 mol%), Ir(cod)acac (4.8 mg, 4 mol%) and NaO'Bu (115 mg, 1.20 mmol) were subjected to **General Procedure A**. Purification by column chromatography (Penane:Et₂O, 98:2) afforded the title compound **3a** as a white solid (75 mg, 91%, 90:10 e.r.). Gram scale hydrogen borrowing: To a 100 mL ACE pressure tube equipped with a stirrer bar was added commercially available 3,3-dimethyl-2-butanol (1.25 mL, 10.0 mmol), pentamethylacetophenone **1** (952 mg, 5.00 mmol), (*R*)-DTBM-SEGPHOS (295 mg, 5 mol%), Ir(cod)acac (80 mg, 4 mol%), 'BuOH (1.7 mL, 3 M) and NaO'Bu (1.92 g, 20.0 mmol) sequentially in an air atmosphere. The reaction vessel was sealed and stirred at 110 °C in a preheated oil bath for 24 h. The mixture was cooled to r.t., diluted with Et₂O (20 mL), quenched with 3 M HCl (15 mL) and extracted with Et₂O (3 x 20 mL). The combined organics were dried (MgSO₄), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. For ease of purification, residual (*R*)-DTBM-SEGPHOS was removed by treatment of the crude product in Et₂O (~80 mL) with *tert*-butyl hydroperoxide (5-6 M in decane, 0.50 mL, ~2.8 mmol),

swirled and allowed to stand at r.t. for 10 min. Purification by column chromatography (Pentane: Et_2O , 98:2) afforded the title compound **3a** as a white solid (1.17 g, 85%, 92:8 e.r.). Recrystallization from boiling methanol afforded the title compound **3a** as white needles (834 mg, 71% recovery, 97:3 e.r.).

¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_H 2.86 (1H, dd, *J*=19.3, 0.8 Hz), 2.40 (1H, dd, *J*=19.3, 10.4 Hz), 2.24 (3H, s), 2.19 (6H, s), 2.13 − 2.02 (7H, m), 1.02 (3H, dd, *J*=6.7, 0.8 Hz), 0.87 (9H, s).

¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) $δ_C$ 211.7, 141.1, 135.4, 133.2, 127.4, 48.9, 37.2, 32.6, 27.3, 17.1, 16.8, 16.1, 15.7

HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd. for $C_{19}H_{31}O$ [M+H]⁺ 275.2375; found at 275.2370, Δ 0.1 ppm.

97.216

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 2959, 1703, 1467, 1404, 1365, 1308, 1119, 1054, 989, 912, 803, 676.

m.p. = 93-95 °C.

 $[\alpha]_{D^{25}}$ -29.1 (c = 0.43, CHCl₃).





Chiral HPLC: Chiralpak OD with guard, 0.3 % IPA, 99.7 % hexane, 0.5 mL/min, 25 °C, λ = 254 nm, 10 μ L injection

(R)-3,5,5-Trimethyl-1-(2,3,4,5,6-pentamethylphenyl)hexan-1-one, 3b



Pentamethylacetophenone **1** (57 mg, 0.30 mmol), 4,4-dimethylpentan-2-ol **2b** (70 mg, 0.60 mmol), (*R*)-DTBM-SEGPHOS (18 mg, 5 mol%), Ir(cod)acac (4.8 mg, 4 mol%) and NaO^tBu (115 mg, 1.20 mmol) were subjected to **General Procedure A**. Purification by column chromatography (Pentane:Et₂O, 98:2) afforded the title compound **3b** as a white solid (60 mg, 69%, 63:37 e.r.).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_H 2.73 (1H, dd, J=19.2, 3.9 Hz), 2.57 (1H, dd, J=19.2, 8.7 Hz), 2.42 – 2.27 (1H, m), 2.24 (3H, s), 2.19 (6H, s), 2.11 (6H, s), 1.28 (1H, dd, J=14.0, 5.1 Hz), 1.16 (1H, dd, J=14.0, 5.6 Hz), 1.10 (3H, d, J=6.6 Hz), 0.95 (9H, s).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_c 211.2, 140.9, 135.3, 133.2, 127.4, 55.4, 51.2, 31.4, 30.1, 24.6, 23.1, 17.1, 16.8, 16.0.

HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd. for $C_{20}H_{33}O$ [M+H]⁺ 289.2531; found at 289.2526, Δ 0.11 ppm.

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 3658, 2980, 2956, 1702, 1464, 1381, 1251, 1150, 1113, 1072, 943.

m.p. = 85-86 °C.

 $[\alpha]_{D^{25}}$ -6.2 (c = 1.00, CHCl₃).

Chiral HPLC :Chiralpak IA with guard, 0.3 % IPA, 99.7 % hexane, 1 mL/min, 25 °C, λ = 254 nm, 10 μ L injection



(R)-3-Methyl-1-(2,3,4,5,6-pentamethylphenyl)pentan-1-one, 3c

Et Me

Pentamethylacetophenone **1** (57 mg, 0.30 mmol), commercially available 2-butanol (45 mg, 0.60 mmol), (*R*)-DTBM-SEGPHOS (18 mg, 5 mol%), Ir(cod)acac (4.8 mg, 4 mol%) and NaO^tBu (115 mg, 1.20 mmol) were subjected to **General Procedure A**. Purification by column chromatography (Pentane:Et₂O, 98:2) afforded the title compound **3c** as a white solid (40 mg, 54%, 58:42 e.r.).

¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.68 (1H, dd, J = 18.8, 5.0 Hz), 2.51 (1H, dd, J = 18.8, 7.8 Hz), 2.23 (3H, s), 2.18 (6H, s), 2.14 – 2.08 (7H, m), 1.53 – 1.39 (1H, m), 1.32 – 1.18 (1H, m), 1.02 (3H, d, J = 6.6 Hz), 0.91 (3H, t, J = 7.4 Hz).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_c 211.5, 141.0, 135.4, 133.2, 127.4, 52.7, 29.6, 19.7, 17.2, 16.8, 16.1, 11.5. [N.B. the peak at d = 29.6 ppm corresponds to two overlapping signals].

HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd. for $C_{17}H_{27}O$ [M+H]⁺ 247.2056; found at 247.2057, Δ –0.19 ppm.

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 2958, 2924, 2874, 1699, 1459, 1401, 1378, 1360, 1303, 1144, 1096, 999.

m.p. = 40–41 °C.

 $[\alpha]_{D}^{25}$ -2.9 (c = 1.00, CHCl₃).

Chiral HPLC: Chiralpak IA with guard, 0.3 % IPA, 99.7 % hexane, 1 mL/min, 25 °C, λ = 210 nm, 10 μ L injection



(S)-3-Cyclopropyl-1-(2,3,4,5,6-pentamethylphenyl)butan-1-one, 3d



Pentamethylacetophenone **1** (57 mg, 0.30 mmol), commercially available 1-cyclopropylethanol (59 μ l, 0.60 mmol), (*R*)-DTBM-SEGPHOS (18 mg, 5 mol%), Ir(cod)acac (4.8 mg, 4 mol%) and NaO^tBu (115 mg, 1.20 mmol) were subjected to **General Procedure A**. Purification by column chromatography (Pentane:Et₂O, 98:2) afforded the title compound **3d** as a white solid (57 mg, 73%, 72:28 e.r.).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_H 2.88 (1H, dd, *J*=19.0, 4.2 Hz), 2.64 (1H, dd, *J*=19.0, 8.3 Hz), 2.23 (3H, s), 2.19 (6H, s), 2.12 (6H, s), 1.53 − 1.42 (1H, m), 1.13 (3H, d, *J*=6.7 Hz), 0.64 (1H, dtt, *J*=9.6, 8.0, 5.0 Hz), 0.51 − 0.31 (2H, m), 0.24 − 0.10 (2H, m).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_c 211.2, 141.0, 135.4, 133.2, 127.4, 53.1, 33.5, 20.1, 18.3, 17.1, 16.8, 16.1, 4.3, 4.1. HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd. for C₁₈H₂₇O [M+H]⁺ 259.2062; found at 259.2058, Δ 0.41 ppm.

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 2927, 1701, 1457, 1401, 1351, 1313, 1129, 1016, 821.

m.p. = 43-44 °C.

[α]_D²⁵ -13.6 (c = 1.00, CHCl₃).



Chiral HPLC: Chiralpak IG with guard, 0.9 % IPA, 99.1 % hexane, 1 mL/min, 25 °C, λ = 210 nm, 10 μ L injection

(S)-3-Cyclobutyl-1-(2,3,4,5,6-pentamethylphenyl)butan-1-one, 3e



Pentamethylacetophenone **1** (57 mg, 0.30 mmol), 1-cyclobutylethan-1-ol **2e** (60 mg, 0.60 mmol), (*R*)-DTBM-SEGPHOS (18 mg, 5 mol%), Ir(cod)acac (4.8 mg, 4 mol%) and NaO^tBu (115 mg, 1.20 mmol) were subjected to **General Procedure A**. Purification by column chromatography (Pentane:Et₂O, 98:2) afforded the title compound **3e** as a white solid (65 mg, 80%, 78:22 e.r.).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_H 2.65 (1H, dd, *J*=18.8, 2.2 Hz), 2.40 – 2.29 (1H, m), 2.23 (3H, s), 2.18 (6H, s), 2.15 – 1.89 (10H, m) 1.89 – 1.55 (4H, m), 0.97 (3H, d, *J*=6.1 Hz).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_c 211.6, 141.1, 135.4, 133.2, 127.4, 49.9, 41.9, 34.7, 26.8, 26.7, 17.4, 17.2, 17.1, 16.8, 16.1.

HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd. for $C_{19}H_{29}O$ [M+H]⁺ 273.2218; found at 273.2213, Δ -0.03 ppm.

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 3657, 2980, 2923, 1703, 1462, 1380, 1252, 1153, 1072, 955.

m.p. = 69-70 °C.

[α]_D²⁵ -20.5 (c = 1.00, CHCl₃).

Chiral HPLC: (Chiralpak IG with guard, 0.9 % IPA, 99.1 % hexane, 1 mL/min, 25 °C, λ = 210 nm, 10 μ L injection)





(S)-3-Cyclopentyl-1-(2,3,4,5,6-pentamethylphenyl)butan-1-one, 3f



Pentamethylacetophenone **1** (57 mg, 0.30 mmol), 1-cyclopentylethan-1-ol **2f** (60 mg, 0.60 mmol), (*R*)-DTBM-SEGPHOS (18 mg, 5 mol%), Ir(cod)acac (4.8 mg, 4 mol%) and NaO^tBu (115 mg, 1.20 mmol) were subjected to **General Procedure A**. Purification by column chromatography (Pentane:Et₂O, 98:2) afforded the title compound **3f** as a white solid (59 mg, 69%, 84:16 e.r.).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_H 2.80 (1H, dd, *J*=19.0, 2.8 Hz), 2.51 (1H, dd, *J*=19.0, 9.5 Hz), 2.24 (3H, s), 2.19 (6H, s), 2.15 – 2.04 (7H, m) 1.84 – 1.45 (7H, m), 1.30 – 1.10 (2H, m), 1.07 (3H, d, *J*=6.6 Hz).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_c 211.5, 141.1, 135.4, 133.2, 127.4, 51.9, 45.9, 33.0, 30.7, 30.2, 25.8, 25.6, 18.9, 17.1, 16.8, 16.1.

HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd. for $C_{20}H_{31}O [M+H]^+ 287.2369$; found at 287.2370, $\Delta 0.12$ ppm.

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 2949, 2868, 1701, 1451, 1401, 1307, 1099, 934.

m.p. = 60-61 °C.

[α]_D²⁵ -21.1 (c = 1.00, CHCl₃).

Chiral HPLC: (Chiralpak IG with guard, 0.9 % IPA, 99.1 % hexane, 1 mL/min, 25 °C, λ = 210 nm, 10 μ L injection)



(S)-3-Cyclohexyl-1-(2,3,4,5,6-pentamethylphenyl)butan-1-one, 3g



Pentamethylacetophenone **1** (57 mg, 0.30 mmol), commercially available 1-cyclohexylethanol (77 mg, 0.60 mmol), (*R*)-DTBM-SEGPHOS (18 mg, 5 mol%), Ir(cod)acac (4.8 mg, 4 mol%) and NaO^tBu (115 mg, 1.20 mmol) were subjected to **General Procedure A**. Purification by column chromatography (Pentane:Et₂O, 98:2) afforded the title compound **3g** as a white solid (73 mg, 81%, 82:18 e.r.).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_H 2.77 (1H, dd, *J* = 19.0, 3.5 Hz), 2.50 (1H, dd, *J* = 19.0, 9.2 Hz), 2.25 (3H, s), 2.20 (6H, s), 2.19 – 2.13 (1H, m), 2.12 (6H, s), 1.83 – 1.57 (5H, m), 1.34 – 0.95 (9H, m).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_H 211.7, 141.0, 135.3, 133.1, 127.3, 50.3, 42.8, 32.7, 30.3, 29.1, 26.9, 26.8, 26.8, 17.1, 16.9, 16.8, 16.0.

HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd. for C₂₁H₃₂ONa [M+Na]⁺ 323.2345; found at 323.2344, Δ –0.31 ppm.

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 2922, 2851, 1702, 1448, 1402, 1379, 1352, 1311, 1276, 1111, 1070, 994.

m.p. = 71–72 °C.

[α]_D²⁵ –13.4 (c = 1.00, CHCl₃).

Chiral HPLC: Chiralpak IC with guard, 1 % IPA, 99 % hexane, 1 mL/min, 25 °C, λ = 210 nm, 10 μ L injection



(S)-3,4,4-Trimethyl-1-(2,3,4,5,6-pentamethylphenyl)-6-phenylhexan-1-one, 3h



Pentamethylacetophenone **1** (57 mg, 0.30 mmol), 3,3-dimethyl-5-phenylpentan-2-ol **2h** (115 mg, 0.60 mmol), (*R*)-DTBM-SEGPHOS (18 mg, 5 mol%), Ir(cod)acac (4.8 mg, 4 mol%) and NaO^tBu (115 mg, 1.20 mmol) were subjected to **General Procedure A**. Purification by column chromatography (Pentane:Et₂O, 98:2) afforded the title compound **3h** as a white solid (61 mg, 56%, 82:18 e.r.).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_H 7.31 – 7.24 (2H, m), 7.21 – 7.12 (3H, m), 2.87 (1H, d, *J* = 19.0 Hz), 2.67 – 2.48 (2H, m), 2.45 (1H, dd, *J* = 19.1, 10.5 Hz), 2.36 – 2.23 (1H, m), 2.24 (3H, s), 2.20 (6H, s), 2.12 (6H, s), 1.63 – 1.43 (2H, m), 1.06 (3H, d, *J* = 6.6 Hz), 0.93 (3H, s), 0.93 (3H, s).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_c 211.6, 143.5, 141.0, 135.5, 133.3, 128.5, 128.4, 127.3, 125.7, 48.5, 42.8, 35.1, 34.7, 30.5, 24.8, 24.6, 17.2, 16.8, 16.1, 15.3.

HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd. for C₂₆H₃₆ONa [M+Na]⁺ 387.2658; found at 387.2661, Δ 0.56 ppm.

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 2960, 1702, 1454, 1374, 1308, 1114, 914, 755, 734, 699.

m.p. = 81-82 °C.

 $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ –15.2 (c = 1.00, CHCl₃).



Chiral HPLC: Chiralpak IA with guard, 0.3 % IPA, 99.7 % hexane, 1 mL/min, 25 °C, λ = 210 nm, 10 μ L injection

(S)-3-(Adamantan-1-yl)-1-(2,3,4,5,6-pentamethylphenyl)butan-1-one, 3i



Pentamethylacetophenone **1** (57 mg, 0.30 mmol), 1-(adamantan-1-yl)ethan-1-ol **2i** (108 mg, 0.60 mmol), (*R*)-DTBM-SEGPHOS (18 mg, 5 mol%), Ir(cod)acac (4.8 mg, 4 mol%) and NaO^tBu (115 mg, 1.20 mmol) were subjected to **General Procedure A.** Purification by column chromatography (Pentane:Et₂O, 98:2) afforded the title compound **3i** as a white solid (85 mg, 81%, 85:15 e.r.).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_H 3.00 – 2.83 (1H, m), 2.35 (1H, dd, *J*=19.3, 10.4 Hz), 2.24 (3H, s), 2.19 (6H, s), 2.11 (6H, s), 2.00 – 1.93 (3H, m), 1.92 – 1.83 (1H, m), 1.79 – 1.41 (12H, m), 0.99 (3H, d, *J*=6.7 Hz).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_c 212.1, 141.2, 135.3, 133.2, 127.3, 47.3, 39.4, 37.4, 37.3, 34.2, 28.8, 17.2, 16.8, 16.1, 14.1.

HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd. for $C_{25}H_{37}O [M+H]^+$ 353.2844; found at 353.2840, $\Delta 0.17$ ppm.

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 2901, 2847, 2360, 1703, 1447, 1403, 1379, 1356, 1308, 1123, 1102, 1021, 998, 914, 804, 732, 688, 647.

m.p. = 126–127 °C.

[α]_{D²⁵} -23.2 (c = 0.43, CHCl₃).

Chiral HPLC: (Chiralpak IA with guard, 0.3 % IPA, 99.7 % hexane, 1 mL/min, 25 °C, λ = 210 nm, 10 μ L injection)



(S)-3-(1-Methylcyclohexyl)-1-(2,3,4,5,6-pentamethylphenyl)butan-1-one, 3j



Pentamethylacetophenone **1** (57 mg, 0.30 mmol), 1-(1-methylcyclohexyl)ethan-1-ol **2j** (85 mg, 0.60 mmol), (*R*)-DTBM-SEGPHOS (18 mg, 5 mol%), Ir(cod)acac (4.8 mg, 4 mol%) and NaO^tBu (115 mg, 1.20 mmol) were subjected to **General Procedure A** with an extended reaction time (48 h). Purification by column chromatography (Pentane:Et₂O, 98:2) afforded the title compound **3j** as a white solid (55 mg, 52%, 78:22 e.r.). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.85 (1H, dt, *J*=19.2, 1.2 Hz), 2.38 (1H, dd, *J*=19.2, 10.3 Hz), 2.28 – 2.16 (10H, m),

2.11 (6H, s), 1.57 – 1.20 (10H, m), 0.99 (3H, d, J=6.7), 0.75 (3H, s).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_c 211.9, 141.2, 135.4, 133.2, 127.4, 48.1, 36.1, 35.9, 35.2, 34.7 26.5, 22.0, 21.9, 19.9, 17.1, 16.8, 16.1, 14.7.

HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd. for C₂₂H₃₅O [M+H]⁺ 315.2688; found at 315.2682, Δ -0.01 ppm.

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 2923, 1702, 1459, 1381, 1309, 1114, 912.

m.p. = 90-91 °C.

 $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ -20.9 (c = 1.00, CHCl₃).

Chiral HPLC: Chiralpak IC with guard, 0.3 % IPA, 99.7 % hexane, 1 mL/min, 25 °C, λ = 210 nm, 10 μ L injection



(S)-1-(2,6-Dimethylphenyl)-3,4,4-trimethylpentan-1-one, 3k



Commercially available 1-(2,6-Dimethylphenyl)ethan-1-one (45 mg, 0.30 mmol), commercially available 3,3-dimethyl-2-butanol (75 μ L, 0.60 mmol), (*R*)-DTBM-SEGPHOS (18 mg, 5 mol%), Ir(cod)acac (4.8 mg, 4 mol%) and NaO^tBu (115 mg, 1.20 mmol) were subjected to **General Procedure A**. Purification by column chromatography (Pentane:Et₂O, 98:2) afforded the title compound **3k** as a transparent oil (64 mg, 92%, 83:17 e.r.).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.18 – 7.15 (1H, m), 7.04 – 6.99 (2H, m), 2.86 (1H, dd, *J*=18.8, 1.6 Hz), 2.44 (1H, dd, *J*=18.8, 10.4 Hz), 2.23 (6H, s), 2.06 (1H, dqd, *J*=10.5, 6.7, 1.8 Hz), 1.00 (3H, dd, *J*=6.8, 0.8 Hz), 0.88 (9H, s). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C}$ 210.4, 142.9, 132.5, 128.5, 127.9, 48.0, 37.3, 32.7, 27.3, 19.2, 15.7. HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd. for C₁₆H₂₅O [M+H]⁺ 233.1905; found at 233.1903 Δ 1.09 ppm. FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 2959, 2871, 2361, 1703, 1596, 1464, 1403, 1365, 1295, 1247, 1212, 1113, 1034, 985, 920,

811, 770, 741, 686.

 $[\alpha]_{D^{25}}$ -21.3 (c = 1.00, CHCl₃).

Chiral HPLC: (Chiralpak IG with guard, 0.3 % IPA, 99.7 % hexane, 0.5 mL/min, 25 °C, λ = 210 nm, 10 μ L injection)



(S)-3,4,4-Trimethyl-1-(2,4,6-triisopropylphenyl)pentan-1-one, 3l



Commercially available 1-(2,4,6-triisopropylphenyl)ethan-1-one (74 mg, 0.30 mmol), commercially available 3,3-dimethyl-2-butanol (75 μ L, 0.60 mmol), (*R*)-DTBM-SEGPHOS (18 mg, 5 mol%), Ir(cod)acac (4.8 mg, 4 mol%) and NaO'Bu (115 mg, 1.20 mmol) were subjected to **General Procedure A**. Purification by column chromatography (Pentane:Et₂O, 98:2) afforded the title compound **3I** as a light yellow oil (60 mg, 60%, 88:12 e.r.).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_H 6.99 (2H, s), 2.98 – 2.78 (2H, m), 2.78 – 2.54 (2H, m, br), 2.44 (1H, dd, *J*=19.3, 10.4 Hz), 2.06 (1H, dqd, *J*=10.4, 6.7, 1.7 Hz), 1.25 (18H, br d, *J*=7.0 Hz), 1.00 (3H, d, *J*=6.7 Hz), 0.87 (9H, s).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_c 210.9, 149.4, 143.5, 138.5, 121.2, 49.8, 37.3, 34.5, 32.5, 31.0 (br), 27.3, 24.7 (br), 24.1, 15.6.

HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd. for C₂₃H₃₉O [M+H]⁺ 331.3001; found at 331.2995 Δ -0.22 ppm.

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 2960, 2871, 1703, 1607, 1461, 1404, 1364, 1293, 1245, 1215, 986, 877, 773, 654. [α]₀²⁵ -28.0 (c = 1.00, CHCl₃).

Chiral HPLC: (Chiralpak IA with guard, 0.1 % IPA, 99.9 % hexane, 1 mL/min, 25 °C, λ = 254 nm, 10 μ L injection)



4.3 Derivatisation of Products

(S)-3,4,4-Trimethylpentanoic acid, 11



To a 2–5 mL Biotage® microwave vial equipped with a stirrer bar was added ketone **3a** (55 mg, 0.20 mmol, 97:3 e.r.), hexafluoroisopropanol (1.8 mL) and 37% aq. HCl (0.26 mL, 12 M) sequentially in the open atmosphere. The reaction vessel was sealed with a microwave vial cap (containing a ResealTM septum) and stirred at 65 °C in a preheated oil bath for 24 h. The mixture was cooled to r.t., diluted with H₂O (10 mL) and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 x 20 mL) and the combined organics were dried (MgSO₄), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by column chromatography (Pentane:Et₂O, 98:2) afforded the title compound **11** as a light yellow oil (27 mg, 93%).

The spectral data matched that previously reported in the literature.¹⁰

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_H 10.97 (1H, br s, COO*H*), 2.55 (1H, dd, *J* = 15.0, 3.3 Hz), 1.99 (1H, dd, *J* = 14.9, 10.8 Hz), 1.84 – 1.75 (1H, m), 0.92 (3H, d, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 0.88 (9H, s).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_c 180.9, 39.9, 37.4, 32.8, 27.2, 15.1.

HRMS (ESI⁻) m/z calcd. for C₈H₁₅O₂ [M–H]⁻ 143.1078; found at 143.1075, Δ –1.89 ppm.

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 2962, 1707, 1468, 1413, 1367, 1304, 1220, 1179, 1109, 940, 669.

 $[\alpha]_{D^{20}}$ -19.1 (c = 0.9, EtOH); Lit. $[\alpha]_{D^{20}}$ +19.6 (c = 0.9, EtOH) for the (*R*)-enantiomer.¹¹

(S)-3,4,4-Trimethylpentan-1-ol, 12

HO Me

A stirred solution of ketone **3a** (110 mg, 0.40 mmol, 97:3 e.r.) in CH₂Cl₂ (2 mL) was cooled to $-17 \,^{\circ}$ C (ice/NaCl bath). Br₂ (42 µL, 0.80 mmol) was added dropwise and the resulting solution was stirred at $-17 \,^{\circ}$ C for 15 min. The reaction mixture was then warmed to r.t. and the majority of the volatiles were removed under a stream of nitrogen and the resulting solid was dried *in vacuo* (0.2 mmHg) for 30 sec. The residue was dissolved in THF (4 mL) and the resulting stirred solution was cooled to 0 °C. LiAlH₄ (76 mg, 2.00 mmol) was added in a single portion and the reaction mixture was warmed to r.t. and stirred for 1 h. The resulting mixture was diluted with Et₂O (4 mL) and quenched by sequential dropwise addition of H₂O (76 µL), aq. NaOH (15% w/v, 76 µL) and H₂O (228 µL). MgSO₄ was added and the resulting suspension was stirred vigorously for 15 min and then filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by column chromatography (Pentane:Et₂O, 70:30) afforded the title compound **12** as a transparent oil (48 mg, 92%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_H 3.73 (1H, ddd, *J*=10.3, 8.2, 4.5 Hz), 3.60 (1H, ddd, *J*=10.3, 7.9, 7.1 Hz), 1.86 – 1.75 (1H, m), 1.42 (1H, s, OH), 1.31 – 1.12 (2H, m), 0.96 – 0.75 (12H, m).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_c 62.5, 39.5, 35.1, 33.0, 27.3, 14.6.
HRMS (ESI⁺) This compound could not be observed by ESI, APCI or EI analysis.
FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 3319 (br), 2973, 2881, 1379, 1088, 1046, 880, 803.
[α]_D²⁰ -14.9 (c = 3.32, EtOH).

(15,2R,5S)-2-Isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl (S)-3,4,4-trimethylpentanoate, 13



Br₂ (21 μ L, 0.40 mmol) was added dropwise to a cooled (-17 °C ice/NaCl bath) solution of ketone **3a** (55 mg, 0.20 mmol, 97:3 e.r.) in CH₂Cl₂ (1 mL). The resulting solution was stirred at -17 °C for 15 min followed by addition of D-Menthol (94 mg, 0.60 mmol). The reaction mixture was warmed to r.t. and stirred for 16 h. After this time, the mixture was diluted with Et₂O (10 mL) and H₂O (10 mL), then extracted with Et₂O (3 x 10 mL) and the combined organics were dried (MgSO₄), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by column chromatography (Pentane:Et₂O, 98:2) afforded the title compound **13** as a transparent oil (51 mg, 90%, >95:5 d.r.).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.68 (1H, td, *J*=10.9, 4.3 Hz), 2.46 (1H, ddd, *J*=14.2, 3.4, 0.8 Hz), 2.04 – 1.74 (4H, m), 1.72 – 1.62 (2H, m), 1.55 – 1.32 (2H, m), 1.20 – 0.79 (21H, m), 0.75 (3H, d, *J*=7.0 Hz).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_C 174.0, 74.1, 47.2, 41.2, 40.3, 38.1, 34.5, 32.9, 31.6, 27.3, 26.4, 23.6, 22.2, 20.9, 16.4, 15.0.

HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd. for $C_{18}H_{35}O_2$ [M+H]⁺ 283.2637; found at 283.2633, Δ 0.47 ppm.

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 2957, 2871, 1731, 1457, 1368, 1294, 1257, 1201, 1163, 1083, 1057, 1039, 1014, 987. **[α]**₀²⁵ +38.5 (c = 1.00, CHCl₃).

(1R,2S,5R)-2-Isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl (S)-3,4,4-trimethylpentanoate, 14



Br₂ (21 μ L, 0.40 mmol) was added dropwise to a cooled (-17 °C ice/NaCl bath) solution of ketone **3a** (55 mg, 0.20 mmol, 97:3 e.r.) in CH₂Cl₂ (1 mL). The resulting solution was stirred at -17 °C for 15 min followed by addition of L-Menthol (94 mg, 0.60 mmol). The reaction mixture was warmed to r.t. and stirred for 16 h. After this time, the mixture was diluted with Et₂O (10 mL) and H₂O (10 mL), then extracted with Et₂O (3 x 10 mL) and the combined organics were dried (MgSO₄), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by column

chromatography (Pentane:Et₂O, 98:2) afforded the title compound **14** as a transparent oil (49 mg, 87%, >95:5 d.r.).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_{H} 4.68 (1H, td, J=10.9, 4.3 Hz), 2.46 (1H, ddd, J=14.2, 3.4, 0.8 Hz), 2.09 – 1.73 (4H, m), 1.73 – 1.63 (2H, m), 1.56 – 1.31 (2H, m), 1.18 – 0.79 (21H, m), 0.75 (3H, d, J=7.0 Hz).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_C 173.9, 74.0, 47.2, 41.0, 40.0, 38.1, 34.5, 32.8, 31.5, 27.3, 26.5, 23.7, 22.2, 20.9, 16.5, 15.0.

HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd. for $C_{18}H_{34}NaO_2$ [M+Na]⁺ 305.2457; found at 305.2452, Δ 0.31 ppm.

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 2956, 2870, 1731, 1457, 1368, 1294, 1256, 1201, 1163, 1082, 1057, 1039, 1013, 987. **[α]**₀²⁵ -63.8 (c = 1.00, CHCl₃).

tert-Butyl ((S)-3,4,4-trimethylpentanoyl)-D-phenylalaninate, 15



Br₂ (21 μ L, 0.40 mmol) was added dropwise to a cooled (-17 °C ice/NaCl bath) solution of ketone **3a** (55 mg, 0.20 mmol, 97:3 e.r.) in CH₂Cl₂ (1 mL). The resulting solution was stirred at -17 °C for 15 min followed by addition of H-D-Phe-O^tBu·HCl (103 mg, 0.40 mmol) and ^{*i*}Pr₂EtN (140 μ L, 0.80 mmol). The reaction mixture was warmed to r.t. and stirred for 16 h. After this time, the mixture was diluted with Et₂O (10 mL) and washed successively with 1 M aq. HCl (10 mL) and sat. aq. NaHCO₃ (10 mL). The combined organics were dried (MgSO₄), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by column chromatography (Pentane:Et₂O, 80:20) afforded the title compound **15** as a pale yellow solid and a single diastereomer (62 mg, 89%, >95:5 d.r.).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_H 7.26 – 7.12 (3H, m), 7.12 – 7.05 (2H, m), 5.78 (1H, d, *J*=7.8 Hz, N*H*), 4.72 (1H, dt, *J*=7.8, 6.1 Hz), 3.01 (2H, d, *J*=6.1 Hz), 2.39 – 2.26 (1H, m), 1.73 – 1.59 (2H, m), 1.34 (9H, s), 0.80 – 0.76 (12H, s)

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_c 173.0, 171.1, 136.5, 129.6, 128.5, 127.0, 82.4, 53.5, 40.5, 39.8, 38.3, 32.8, 28.1, 27.3, 14.9.

HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd. for C₂₁H₃₃O₃NNa [M+Na]⁺ 370.2353; found at 370.2355 Δ -0.01 ppm.

FTIR (neat) v_{max}/cm⁻¹ = 3291, 2964, 1732, 1644, 1546, 1498, 1456, 1367, 1255, 1155, 1104, 848, 740, 699. **m.p.** = 105-106 °C.

 $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ -59.7 (c = 1.00, CHCl₃).

tert-Butyl ((S)-3,4,4-trimethylpentanoyl)-L-phenylalaninate, 16



Br₂ (21 μ L, 0.40 mmol) was added dropwise to a cooled (-17 °C ice/NaCl bath) solution of ketone **3a** (55 mg, 0.20 mmol, 97:3 e.r.) in CH₂Cl₂ (1 mL). The resulting solution was stirred at -17 °C for 15 min followed by addition of H-L-Phe-O^tBu·HCl (103 mg, 0.40 mmol) and ⁱPr₂EtN (140 μ L, 0.80 mmol). The reaction mixture was warmed to r.t. and stirred for 16 h. After this time, the mixture was diluted with Et₂O (10 mL) and washed successively with 1 M aq. HCl (10 mL) and sat. aq. NaHCO₃ (10 mL). The combined organics were dried (MgSO₄), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by column chromatography (Pentane:Et₂O, 80:20) afforded the title compound **16** as a pale yellow solid and a single diastereomer (65 mg, 94%, >95:5 d.r.).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_H 7.34 – 7.02 (5H, m), 5.80 (1H, d, *J*=7.8 Hz, N*H*), 4.73 (1H, dt, *J*=7.8, 6.1 Hz), 3.01 (2H, d, *J*=6.1 Hz), 2.35 (1H, dd, *J*=13.6, 2.7 Hz), 1.77 – 1.58 (2H, m), 1.33 (9H, s), 0.78 (9H, s), 0.75 – 0.70 (3H, m).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_c 172.9, 171.1, 136.5, 129.6, 128.5, 127.0, 82.4, 53.6, 40.2, 39.8, 38.5, 32.8, 28.1, 27.3, 14.9.

HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd. for C₂₁H₃₃O₃NNa [M+Na]⁺ 370.2353; found at 370.2353 Δ -0.01 ppm.

FTIR (neat) v_{max}/cm⁻¹ = 3292, 2965, 1735, 1646, 1543, 1498, 1456, 1367, 1226, 1155, 1102, 847, 740, 699. **m.p.** = 89-91 °C.

 $[\alpha]_{D^{25}}$ +40.7 (c = 1.00, CHCl₃).

S-propyl (S)-3,4,4-trimethylpentanethioate, 17



Br₂ (21 μL, 0.40 mmol) was added dropwise to a cooled (-17 °C ice/NaCl bath) solution of ketone **3a** (55 mg, 0.20 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (1 mL). The resulting solution was stirred at -17 °C for 15 min followed by addition of 1-propanethiol (56 μL, 0.60 mmol). The reaction mixture was warmed to r.t. and stirred for 16 h. After this time, the mixture was diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) and sat. aq. Na₂S₂O₃ (10 mL), then extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 x 10 mL) and the combined organics were dried (MgSO₄), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by column chrotography (Pentane:Et₂O, 98:2) afforded the title compound **17** as a pale yellow oil (37 mg, 93%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.85 (2H, t, *J*=7.3 Hz), 2.69 (1H, dd, *J*=14.4, 3.2 Hz), 2.23 (1H, dd, *J*=14.4, 10.8 Hz), 1.85 (1H, dqd, *J*=10.8, 6.8, 3.2 Hz), 1.59 (2H, hex, *J*=7.3 Hz), 0.97 (3H, t, *J*=7.3 Hz), 0.91 – 0.82 (12H, m). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C}$ 200.4, 47.4, 40.8, 33.0, 31.0, 27.3, 23.2, 14.7, 13.5. HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd. for C₁₁H₂₃O₂S [M+H]⁺ 203.1470; found at 203.1467, Δ 1.39 ppm. **FTIR** (neat) v_{max}/cm⁻¹ = 2963, 2873, 2360, 2341, 1693, 1463, 1378, 1366, 1286, 1221, 1113, 1017, 986, 776, 692, 669.

[α]_D²⁵ -22.1 (c = 1.00, CHCl₃).

5. References

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6. NMR Spectra





































S46









S50







S53





