Enantiospecific on-water bromination: a mild and efficient protocol for the preparation of alkyl bromides

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1. General remarks

Vigorous stirring was achieved with an Ika C-MAG HS 7 magnetic stirrer. ¹H, ¹⁹F and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance 400 MHz spectrometer. Chemical shifts (δ) are reported in ppm relative to residual solvent signals for ¹H and ¹³C NMR (¹H NMR: 7.26 ppm for CDCl₃, ¹³C NMR: 77.00 ppm for CDCl₃). ¹³C NMR spectra were acquired with ¹H broad band decoupled mode. Coupling constants (J) are in Hz. Melting points were measured using a Stuart scientific melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. High resolution mass spectra were obtained on a Bruker micrOTOF-Q III LC-MS spectrometer interfaced to a Dionex UltiMate 3000 LC (APCI method). Optical rotations were measured on a Perkin-Elmer 343 polarimeter. The enantiomeric excess (ee) was determined by chiral stationary phase HPLC using a Shimadzu SIL-20AHT HPLC instrument.

2. Materials

Analytical grade solvents and commercially available reagents were used as received. Dry CH₂Cl₂, DCE, toluene, MeCN and DMF were purchased from commercial sources. Dry THF was obtained from an Inert Pure Solv Micro drying solvent system. Reactions were monitored by TLC analysis (Merck, aluminum plates, silica gel 60 F254) and/or ¹H NMR spectroscopy. Flash column chromatography was performed using silica gel 60 (0.040-0.063 mm, 230-400 mesh). Cinnamate esters, 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoropropan-2-yl cinnamates, were synthesized according to published procedure.¹

3. Preparation of sulphides



Enantioenriched sulphides (*S*)-**1g-i** were prepared according to published procedure.¹ Synthesis of methyl esters (*S*)-**1a-f** was achieved with known procedure.¹ Amide (*S*)-**1j** was obtained according to procedure.¹ Mesylates (*S*)-**1k,l** were synthesized following published procedure.²

Methyl (S)-3-phenyl-3-(phenylthio)propanoate – (S)-1a



Synthesized according to published procedure.¹ The title compound was isolated by flash column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/EtOAc, 98:2) as a colourless oil (95% yield). All analytical data are

consistent with those reported in the literature.¹ Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 99:1, 1.0 mL/min, 25 °C, 210 nm): tr (major) = 13.9 min; tr (minor) = 8.9 min: 98.07% ee.

Methyl (S)-3-(phenylthio)-3-(o-tolyl)propanoate – (S)-1b



Synthesized according to published procedure.¹ The title compound was isolated by flash column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/EtOAc, 95:5) as a yellow oil (89% yield). All analytical data are

consistent with those reported in the literature.³ Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 98:2, 1.0 mL/min, 25 °C, 210 nm): tr (major) = 12.9 min; tr (minor) = 6.1 min: 78.86% ee.

Methyl (S)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(phenylthio)propanoate – (S)-1c



Synthesized according to published procedure.¹ The title compound was isolated by flash column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/EtOAc, 98:2) as a colourless oil (91% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.33 – 7.17 (m, 7H), 6.93 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.63 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 3.57 (s, 3H), 2.95 (dd, J = 15.8, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.88 (dd, J = 15.8, 8.6 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.05, 162.03 (d, J = 246.2 Hz), 136.30 (d, J = 3.2 Hz), 133.55, 133.27, 129.29 (d, J = 8.1 Hz) 128.97, 128.04, 115.38 (d, J = 21.5 Hz), 51.88, 48.40, 40.48. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -114.51. [α]D²⁰ = -141.0 (c 1.05, CHCl₃). HRMS (APCI): C₁₆H₁₆FO₂S [M + H]⁺, calculated: 291.0855, found: 291.0850. Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 99:1, 1.0 mL/min, 5°C, 210 nm): tr (major) = 8.4 min; tr (minor) = 12.5 min: 97.66% ee.

Methyl (S)-3-(phenylthio)-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)propanoate – (S)-1d



Synthesized according to published procedure.¹ The title compound was isolated by flash column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/EtOAc, 95:5) as a white solid (93% yield).. All analytical data are

consistent with those reported in the literature.³ Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 99:1, 1.0 mL/min, 10 °C, 210 nm): tr (major) = 7.2 min; tr (minor) = 10.3 min: 98.21% ee.

Methyl (S)-3-(4-bromophenyl)-3-(phenylthio)propanoate – (S)-1e



Synthesized according to published procedure.¹ The title compound was isolated by flash column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/EtOAc, 98:2) as a white solid (99% yield). Mp: 43-45 °C. ¹H NMR

(400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.37 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.31 – 7.21 (m, 5H), 7.10 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 4.59 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 2.95 (dd, J = 15.9, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.87 (dd, J = 15.9, 8.6 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.97, 139.66, 133.57, 133.05, 131.61, 129.36, 129.01, 128.13, 121.40, 51.96, 48.54, 40.52. [α]D²⁰ = -139.2 (c 1.02, CHCl₃). HRMS (APCl): C₁₆H₁₄BrO₂S [M - H]⁻, calculated: 348.9898, found: 348.9903. Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 99:1, 1.0 mL/min, 25 °C, 210 nm): tr (major) = 7.8 min; tr (minor) = 10.8 min: 98.57% ee.

Methyl (S)-3-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(phenylthio)propanoate – (S)-1f



Synthesized according to published procedure.¹ The title compound was isolated by flash column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/EtOAc, 9552) as a white solid (73% yield). All analytical data are

consistent with those reported in the literature.³ Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 99:1, 1.0 mL/min, 25 °C, 210 nm): tr (major) = 7.3 min; tr (minor) = 9.4 min: 98.36% ee.

1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoropropan-2-yl (S)-3-phenyl-3-(phenylthio)propanoate – (S)-1g



Synthesized according to published procedure.¹ The title compound OCH(CF₃)₂ was isolated by flash column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/EtOAc, 98:2) as a white solid (97% yield). All analytical data are

consistent with those reported in the literature.¹ Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 99.2:0.8, 0.5 mL/min, 5 °C, 210 nm): tr (major) = 10.3 min; tr (minor) = 11.2 min: 97.31%.

1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoropropan-2-yl (S)-3-(4-bromophenyl)-3-(phenylthio)propanoate – (S)-1h



Synthesized according to published procedure.¹ The title OCH(CF₃)₂ compound was isolated by flash column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/EtOAc, 98:2) as a white solid (94% yield).

All analytical data are consistent with those reported in the literature.¹ Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 99.2:0.8, 0.6 mL/min, 10 °C, 210 nm): tr (major) = 8.6 min; tr (minor) = 10.0 min: 99.11% ee.

1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoropropan-2-yl (S)-3-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(phenylthio)propanoate – (S)-1i



Synthesized according to published procedure.¹ The title OCH(CF₃)₂ compound was isolated by flash column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/EtOAc, 98:2) as a white solid (91% yield).

All analytical data are consistent with those reported in the literature.¹ Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 99.2:0.8, 0.5 mL/min, 5 °C, 210 nm): tr (major) = 10.3 min; tr (minor) = 12.3 min: 98.77% ee.

(S)-N-benzyl-3-(phenylthio)-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)propenamide – (S)-1j



Synthesized according to published procedure.¹ The title compound was isolated by flash column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/EtOAc, 70:30) as a white solid (90% yield). Mp: 100-103 °C. ¹H

NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.49 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.29 – 7.20 (m, 8H), 7.02 – 6.97 (m, 2H), 5.81 (bs, 1H), 4.78 (dd, J = 8.5, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 4.40 (dd, J = 14.8, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 4.22 (dd, J = 14.8, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 2.89 (dd, J = 14.5, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 2.70 (dd, J = 14.5, 8.9 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.12, 145.12, 137.68, 133.17, 133.01, 129.65 (q, J = 32.4 Hz), 129.05, 128.66, 128.12, 128.02, 127.59, 127.55, 125.51 (q, J = 3.7 Hz), 49.32, 43.60, 43.18. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.40. [α]D20 = -105.7 (c 1.06, CHCl₃). HRMS (APCl): C₂₃H₂₁F₃NOS [M + H]⁺, calculated: 416.1296, found: 416.1290. Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 80:20, 1.0 mL/min, 5°C, 210 nm): tr (major) = 8.3 min; tr (minor) = 11.8 min: 95.02% ee.

(S)-3-phenyl-3-(phenylthio)propyl methanesulphonate – (S)-1k

SPh Synthesized according to published procedure.² The title compound was OMs isolated by flash column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/EtOAc, 80:20) as a colourless oil (67% yield). All analytical data are

consistent with those reported in the literature.² Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 85:15, 1.0 mL/min, 10 °C, 210 nm): tr (major) = 16.0 min; tr (minor) = 17.5 min: 97.90% ee.

(S)-3-(4-bromophenyl)-3-(phenylthio)propyl methanesulphonate – (S)-11



CDCl₃) δ 7.40 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (s, 5H), 7.09 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 4.38 – 4.31 (m, 1H), 4.24 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 4.18 – 4.08 (m, 1H), 2.93 (s, 3H), 2.37 (td, J = 13.8, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.25 (td, J = 14.2, 6.0 Hz, 1H). [α]D20 = -127.0 (c 1.15, CHCl₃). HRMS (APCI): C₁₆H₁₈BrO₃S₂ [M + H]⁺, calculated: 400.9881, found: 400.9875. Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 85:15, 1.0 mL/min, 10 °C, 210 nm): tr (major) = 16.7 min; tr (minor) = 22.6 min: 98.80% ee.

4. Enantiospecific on-water bromination

4.1. General procedure for small-scale bromination of active substrates (GP1)

$$Ar \xrightarrow{SPh}_{(S)-1} R \xrightarrow{Br_2 (1.0 \text{ equiv})}_{H_2O, \text{ rt, 15-60 min}} Ar \xrightarrow{Br}_{\overline{T}} R$$

(*S*)-**1** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was charged in a 10 mL vial, followed by addition of PhCl (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and water (2.0 mL) with formation of two unmixable phases. Under vigorous magnetic stirring at 1500 rpm, neat Br_2 (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added with immediate colour change of the organic phase to brick-orange. During the reaction time a gradual disappearance of the colour was observed. Upon complete consumption of (*S*)-**1** the organic phase was extracted with Et_2O (3 x 1 mL), dried over Na_2SO_4 , concentrated and purified via flash column chromatography on silica gel.

4.2. General procedure for small-scale bromination of deactivated substrates (GP2)

Ar
$$(S)-1$$
 R $(S)-1$ $Br_2 (2.0 equiv)$
 $PhCl (1.0 equiv)$
 $H_2O, rt, 16 hrs$ Ar $(R)-2$ R

(*S*)-**1** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was charged in a 10 mL vial, followed by addition of PhCl (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and water (2.0 mL) with formation of two unmixable phases. Under vigorous stirring at 1500 rpm, neat Br_2 (0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was added with immediate colour change of the organic phase to brick-orange. During the reaction time a gradual disappearance of the colour was observed. Upon complete consumption of (*S*)-**1** the organic phase was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3 x 1 mL), dried over Na_2SO_4 , concentrated and purified via flash column chromatography on silica gel.

Methyl (R)-3-bromo-3-phenylpropanoate – (R)-2a



Prepared according to GP1. The title compound was isolated by flash column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/EtOAc, 99:1) as a colourless oil (48 mg, 99% yield). All analytical data are consistent with those reported in

the literature.³ Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-

hexane/i-PrOH, 99:1, 1.0 mL/min, 25 °C, 210 nm): tr (major) = 8.5 min; tr (minor) = 15.6 min: 72.49% ee.

Methyl (R)-3-bromo-3-(o-tolyl)propanoate - (R)-2b



Prepared according to GP1. The title compound was isolated by flash column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/EtOAc, 99:1) as a colourless oil (42 mg, 81% yield). All analytical data are consistent with those reported in

the literature.³ Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 98:2, 1.0 mL/min, 25 °C, 210 nm): tr (major) = 5.9 min; tr (minor) = 10.6 min: 55.97% ee.

Methyl (R)-3-bromo-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)propanoate - (R)-2c



Prepared according to GP2. The title compound was isolated by flash column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/EtOAc, 99:1) as a colourless oil (50 mg, 80% yield). All analytical data are consistent with

those reported in the literature.³ Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 99:1, 1.0 mL/min, 25 °C, 210 nm): tr (major) = 8.7 min; tr (minor) = 9.3 min: 92.33% ee.

Methyl (R)-3-bromo-3-(4-bromophenyl)propanoate - (R)-2d



Prepared according to GP1. The title compound was isolated by flash column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/EtOAc, 99:1) as a colourless oil (52 mg, 81% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.48 (d, J

= 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 5.34 (dd J = 8.4, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.32 (dd, J = 16.3, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 3.19 (dd, J = 16.3, 6.6 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.90, 139.79, 132.05, 128.88, 122.73, 52.22, 46.60, 44.49. [α]D20 = +51.0 (c 1.02, CHCl₃). Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 99:1, 1.0 mL/min, 5 °C, 210 nm): tr (major) = 10.8 min; tr (minor) = 11.6 min: 79.04% ee.

Methyl (R)-3-bromo-3-(4-chlorophenyl)propanoate - (R)-2e



Prepared according to GP1. The title compound was isolated by flash column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/EtOAc, 99:1) as a colourless oil (55 mg, 99% yield). All analytical data are consistent with

those reported in the literature.³ Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 99:1, 1.0 mL/min, 10 °C, 210 nm): tr (major) = 8.6 min; tr (minor) = 9.0 min: 82.83% ee.

Methyl (R)-3-bromo-3-(4-fluorophenyl)propanoate - (R)-2f



Prepared according to GP1. The title compound was isolated by flash column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/EtOAc, 99:1) as a colourless oil (47 mg, 90% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.41 (dd, J

= 8.5, 5.3 Hz, 2H), 7.04 (t, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.39 (dd, J = 8.4, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.34 (dd, J = 16.3, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 3.20 (dd, J = 16.3, 6.5 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.00, 162.58 (d, J = 248.5 Hz), 136.70 (d, J = 3.3 Hz), 129.03 (d, J = 8.4 Hz), 115.86 (d, J = 21.8 Hz), 52.19, 46.85, 44.80. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -112.37. [α]D20 = +55.5 (c 0.99, CHCl₃). HRMS (APCl): C₁₀H₁₀FO₂ [M – Br]⁺, calculated: 181.0659, found: 181.0641. Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 98:2, 0.5 mL/min, 10 °C, 210 nm): tr (major) = 14.0 min; tr (minor) = 15.0 min: 72.84% ee.

(R)-N-benzyl-3-bromo-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)propenamide – (R)-2g



determined by HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 90:10, 1.0 mL/min, 10 °C, 210 nm): tr (major) = 15.3 min; tr (minor) = 18.7 min: 67.23% ee.

1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoropropan-2-yl (R)-3-bromo-3-phenylpropanoate – (R)-2h



Prepared according to GP1. The title compound was isolated as an F_3 inseparable mixture with 1,1,1,3,3,3- hexafluoropropan-2-yl cinnamate (5%) by flash column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/EtOAc, 99:1) as a colourless oil (65 mg, 99% yield). All analytical data are consistent with those reported in the literature³. $[\alpha]D20 = +42.7$ (c 1.03, CHCl₃). Enantiomeric excess was

determined by HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 99.2:0.8, 0.6 mL/min, 10 °C, 210 nm): tr (major) = 11.1 min; tr (minor) = 9.8 min: 84.13% ee.

1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoropropan-2-yl (R)-3-bromo-3-(4-bromophenyl)propanoate – (R)-2i



Prepared according to GP1. The title compound was isolated as an CF_3 inseparable mixture with 1,1,1,3,3,3- hexafluoropropan-2-yl cinnamate (14%) by flash column chromatography (silica gel;

petroleum ether/EtOAc, 99:1) as a colourless oil (97 mg, 95% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.50 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 5.74 (hept, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 5.32 (dd, J = 8.4, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.53 (dd, J = 16.6, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.41 (dd, J = 16.6, 6.5 Hz, 1H). 13 C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.34, 138.73, 132.23, 128.71, 123.18, 120.15 (qd, J = 281.9, 2.9 Hz), 66.78 (dt, J = 69.9, 34.9 Hz), 44.71, 43.72. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -73.16. [α]D20 = +33.0 (c 0.97, CHCl₃). HRMS (APCI): $C_{12}H_6BrF_6O_2$ [M – HBr – H]⁻, calculated: 374.9455, found: 374.9461. Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 99.2:0.8, 0.6 mL/min, 10 °C, 210 nm): tr (major) = 10.2 min; tr (minor) = 10.7 min: 90.93% ee.

1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoropropan-2-yl (R)-3-bromo-3-(4-chlorophenyl)propanoate – (R)-2j



Prepared according to GP1. The title compound was isolated as an CF_3 inseparable mixture with 1,1,1,3,3,3- hexafluoropropan-2-yl cinnamate (6%) by flash column chromatography (silica gel;

petroleum ether/EtOAc, 99:1) as a colourless oil (80 mg, 97% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ

7.38 – 7.31 (m, 4H), 5.73 (hept, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 5.34 (virt t, J = 7.73 Hz, 1H), 3.53 (dd, J = 16.6, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.42 (dd, J = 16.6, 6.5 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.36, 138.22, 135.02, 129.26, 128.45, 120.15 (qd, J = 282.1, 3.0 Hz), 66.78 (dt, J = 69.9, 35.0), 44.69, 43.79. ¹⁹F NMR $(376 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3) \delta$ -73.19. $[\alpha]$ D20 = +50.4 (c 1.19, CHCl₃). HRMS (APCl): C₁₂H₆ClF₆O₂ [M – HBr – H], calculated: 330.9961, found: 330.9966. Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK AD-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 98:2, 1.0 mL/min, 10 °C, 210 nm): tr (major) = 5.6 min; tr (minor) = 5.0 min: 92.14% ee.

(R)-3-bromo-3-phenylpropyl methanesulphonate – (R)-2k



Prepared according to GP1. The title compound was isolated by flash column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/EtOAc, 80:20) as a

colourless oil (55 mg, 93% yield). All analytical data are consistent with those reported in the literature³. [α]D20 = +63.3 (c 0.98, CHCl₃). Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 85:15, 1.0 mL/min, 10 °C, 210 nm): tr (major) = 13.2 min; tr (minor) = 14.4 min: 67.06% ee.

(R)-3-bromo-3-(4-bromophenyl)propyl methanesulphonate – (R)-21



Prepared according to GP1. The title compound was isolated by flash OMs column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/EtOAc, 80:20) as a colourless oil (63 mg, 84% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.50 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 5.08 (dd, J = 9.5, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 4.44 – 4.38 (m, 1H), 4.32 (dt, J = 10.3, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 3.04 (s, 3H), 2.60 (ddt, J = 14.6, 9.6, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 2.53 – 2.44 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR $(101 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3) \delta 139.78, 132.16, 128.98, 122.79, 67.54, 49.03, 38.88, 37.38. [\alpha]D20 = +46.3 (c)$ 0.95, CHCl₃). HRMS (APCI): C₁₀H₁₂⁷⁹Br₂O₃SNa [M + Na]⁺, calculated: 392.8772, found: 392.8766. Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 85:15, 1.0 mL/min, 10 °C, 210 nm): tr (major) = 21.7 min; tr (minor) = 20.6 min: 72.41% ee.

4.3. Copy of ¹H NMR spectra of 2a crude of reaction



4.4. Recycle of residual waters for consecutive brominations

1a (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was charged in a 10 mL vial, followed by addition of PhCl (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and water (2.0 mL) with formation of two unmixable phases. Under vigorous magnetic stirring at 1500 rpm, neat Br₂ (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added with immediate colour change of the organic phase to brick-orange. During the reaction time a gradual disappearance of the colour was observed. After 20 minutes, the organic phase was extracted with Et₂O (1 x 1 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, concentrated and the product distribution was analysed via ¹H NMR. The residual waters were then collected and re-used in a consecutive experiment. Fresh **1a** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was charged in a 10 mL vial, followed by addition of PhCl (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and the collected residual waters (2.0 mL). Under vigorous magnetic stirring at 1500 rpm, neat Br₂ (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added. After 20 minutes, the organic phase was extracted with Et₂O (1 x 1 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, concentrated and the product distribution was analysed via ¹H NMR. The residual waters (2.0 mL). Under vigorous magnetic stirring at 1500 rpm, neat Br₂ (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added. After 20 minutes, the organic phase was extracted with Et₂O (1 x 1 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, concentrated and the product distribution was analysed via ¹H NMR. The residual waters were then collected and re-used in a following experiment. The consecutive use of residual waters gradually impaired the rate of conversion requiring greater amounts of Br₂ to achieve complete conversion; *i.e.* after four cycles the bromination of **1a** required 1.4 equiv of Br₂ to reach complete consumption of the substrate.

4.5. Gram-scale enantiospecific on-water bromination



(*S*)-**1a** (10.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was charged in a 25 mL round flask, followed by addition of PhCl (10.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and water (5 mL) with formation of two unmixable phases. Under vigorous stirring at 1500 rpm, neat Br₂ (10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added with immediate colour change of the organic phase to brick-orange. During the reaction time a gradual disappearance of the colour was observed. Upon complete consumption of (*S*)-**1a** the aqueous phase was carefully removed via high-vacuum (pressure \leq 1.0 mbar) evaporation without further handling and the residual non-viscous organic crude was collected and directly charged in a flash column chromatography for purification (silica gel; petroleum ether/EtOAc, 98:2). Product (*R*)-**2a** was isolated as a colourless oil (1.90 g, 78%). Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis (CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 98:2, 0.8 mL/min, 25 °C, 210 nm): tr (major) = 7.4 min; tr (minor) = 11.6 min: 72.56% ee.







5. Comparison of reaction times and ees of in-solution vs on-water



5.1. Procedure for in-solution desulphurative bromination

To a stirred solution of (*S*)-**1a** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in dry DCM (1.0 mL) was added the oxidant (quantities as reported in Table S1) at rt under N₂ atmosphere. Upon completion of the reaction – or at stopping of conversion – monitored via ¹H NMR analysis, the solvent was evaporated and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/EtOAc, 98:2) to afford (*R*)-**2a** in yields and ees as reported in Table S1. Ees were determined by HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase.

5.2. Procedure for on-water desulphurative bromination

To a stirred suspension of (*S*)-**1a** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in water (1.0 mL) was added the oxidant (quantities as reported in Table S1) at rt. Upon completion of the reaction monitored via ¹H NMR analysis, the organic phase was extracted with Et_2O (3 x 1 mL), dried over Na_2SO_4 , concentrated and purified via flash column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/EtOAc, 98:2) to afford (*R*)-**2a** in yields and ees as reported in Table S1. Ees were determined by HPLC analysis on chiral stationary phase.

			In-DCM			On-water				
Entry	Oxidant	Ox equiv	Time	Conv	Yield	ee	Time	Conv	Yield	ee
1	DBI	1.0	15 min	100%	98%	61	5 min	100%	97%	63
2	NBS	2.0	60 hrs	80%	73%	81	2 hrs	100%	97%	68
3	Br ₂	1.0	25 min	100%	99%	83	10 min	100%	99%	67

Table S1 Comparison of reaction times and ees of in-solution vs on-water

6. References

- 1 X. Fang, J. Li and C. J. Wang, *Org. Lett.*, 2013, **15**, 3448–3451.
- 2 D. Canestrari, S. Lancianesi, E. Badiola, C. Strinna, H. Ibrahim and M. F. A. Adamo, *Org. Lett.*, 2017, **19**, 918–921.
- D. Canestrari, C. Cioffi, I. Biancofiore, S. Lancianesi, L. Ghisu, M. Ruether, J. O'Brien, M. F.
 A. Adamo and H. Ibrahim, *Chem. Sci.*, 2019, **10**, 9042–9050.

7. HPLC traces of optically active compounds

7.1. HPLC traces of (\pm)-1a and (–)-(S)-1a

CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 99:1, 1.0 mL/min, 25 °C, 210 nm





7.2. HPLC traces of (\pm)-1b and (–)-(S)-1b

CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 98:2, 1.0 mL/min, 25 °C, 210 nm



7.3. HPLC traces of (\pm)-1c and (–)-(S)-1c

CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 99:1, 1.0 mL/min, 5°C, 210 nm





7.4. HPLC traces of (±)-1d and (–)-(S)-1d

CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 99:1, 1.0 mL/min, 10 °C, 210 nm



7.5. HPLC traces of (\pm)-1e and (–)-(S)-1e

CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 99:1, 1.0 mL/min, 25 °C, 210 nm



7.6. HPLC traces of (±)-1f and (–)-(S)-1f

CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 99:1, 1.0 mL/min, 25 °C, 210 nm



7.7. HPLC traces of (\pm) -1g and (-)-(S)-1g

CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 99.2:0.8, 0.5 mL/min, 5 °C, 210 nm



mAU



7.8. HPLC traces of (±)-1h and (–)-(S)-1h

CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 99.2:0.8, 0.6 mL/min, 10 °C, 210 nm



7.9. HPLC traces of (±)-1i and (–)-(S)-1i

CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 99.2:0.8, 0.5 mL/min, 5 °C, 210 nm





7.10. HPLC traces of (±)-1j and (–)-(S)-1j

CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 80:20, 1.0 mL/min, 5°C, 210 nm



7.11. HPLC traces of (±)-1k and (–)-(S)-1k

CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 85:15, 1.0 mL/min, 10 °C, 210 nm



min

Detector A Channel 2 210nm										
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Conc.						
1	16.026	40414864	1742884	98.949						
2	17.450	429409	21333	1.051						
Total		40844273	1764218							

7.12. HPLC traces of (±)-1I and (–)-(S)-1I

CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 85:15, 1.0 mL/min, 10 °C, 210 nm



7.13. HPLC traces of (±)-2a and (+)-(R)-2a

CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 99:1, 1.0 mL/min, 25 °C, 210 nm





7.14. HPLC traces of (±)-2b and (+)-(R)-2b

CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 98:2, 1.0 mL/min, 25 °C, 210 nm





7.15. HPLC traces of (±)-2c and (+)-(R)-2c

CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 99:1, 1.0 mL/min, 25 °C, 210 nm



7.16. HPLC traces of (±)-2d and (+)-(R)-2d

CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 99:1, 1.0 mL/min, 5 °C, 210 nm



Detector A Channel 2 210nm Peak# Ret. Time Area Height Conc. 18290682 1491073 96.163 8.697 1 2 9.340 729799 66642 3.837 1557715 19020481 Total

7.17. HPLC traces of (±)-2e and (+)-(R)-2e

CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 99:1, 1.0 mL/min, 10 °C, 210 nm





7.18. HPLC traces of (±)-2f and (+)-(R)-2f

CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 98:2, 0.5 mL/min, 10 °C, 210 nm



7.19. HPLC traces of (±)-2g and (+)-(R)-2g

CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 90:10, 1.0 mL/min, 10 °C, 210 nm



9.847 1175533 90217 2 11.148 13639589 890118 92.065 Total 14815122 980335

7.20. HPLC traces of (±)-2h and (+)-(R)-2h

CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 99.2:0.8, 0.6 mL/min, 10 °C, 210 nm





7.21. HPLC traces of (±)-2i and (+)-(R)-2i

CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 99.2:0.8, 0.6 mL/min, 10 °C, 210 nm



7.22. HPLC traces of (±)-2j and (+)-(R)-2j

CHIRALPAK AD-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 98:2, 1.0 mL/min, 10 °C, 210 nm





7.23. HPLC traces of (±)-2k and (+)-(R)-2k

CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 85:15, 1.0 mL/min, 10 °C, 210 nm



7.24. HPLC traces of (±)-2I and (+)-(R)-2I

CHIRALPAK IB-H, n-hexane/i-PrOH, 85:15, 1.0 mL/min, 10 °C, 210 nm





8. Copies of ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra

110 100 f1 (ppm) 200 190 180 130 120







210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 f1 (ppm)











