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

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**Supporting Information** 

# **Table of Contents**

1. General remarks
2. Materials
3. Preparation of sulphides4
4. Enantiospecific on-water bromination9
4.1. General procedure for small-scale bromination of active substrates (GP1)9
4.2. General procedure for small-scale bromination of deactivated substrates (GP2)9
4.3. Copy of <sup>1</sup> H NMR spectra of <b>2a</b> crude of reaction14
4.4. Recycle of residual waters for consecutive brominations15
4.5. Gram-scale enantiospecific on-water bromination16
5. Comparison of reaction times and ees of in-solution vs on-water
5.1. Procedure for in-solution desulphurative bromination18
5.2. Procedure for on-water desulphurative bromination18
6. References
7. HPLC traces of optically active compounds20
8. Copies of <sup>1</sup> H NMR and <sup>13</sup> C NMR spectra44

## **1.** General remarks

Vigorous stirring was achieved with an Ika C-MAG HS 7 magnetic stirrer. <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>19</sup>F and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance 400 MHz spectrometer. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are reported in ppm relative to residual solvent signals for <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (<sup>1</sup>H NMR: 7.26 ppm for CDCl<sub>3</sub>, <sup>13</sup>C NMR: 77.00 ppm for CDCl<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were acquired with <sup>1</sup>H 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 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 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 <sup>1</sup>H 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.<sup>1</sup>

## 3. Preparation of sulphides



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

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



Synthesized according to published procedure.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>1</sup> The title compound was isolated by flash column chromatography (silica gel; petroleum ether/EtOAc, 98:2) as a colourless oil (91% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 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). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 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. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -114.51. [ $\alpha$ ]D<sup>20</sup> = -141.0 (c 1.05, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). HRMS (APCI): C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub>FO<sub>2</sub>S [M + H]<sup>+</sup>, 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>1</sup>H NMR

(400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 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). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 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]D<sup>20</sup> = -139.2 (c 1.02, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). HRMS (APCl): C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>BrO<sub>2</sub>S [M - H]<sup>-</sup>, 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>1</sup> The title compound OCH(CF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>1</sup> The title OCH(CF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>1</sup> The title OCH(CF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>1</sup>H

NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  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). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  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. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -62.40. [ $\alpha$ ]D20 = -105.7 (c 1.06, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). HRMS (APCl): C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>21</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NOS [M + H]<sup>+</sup>, 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.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> 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



CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  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). [ $\alpha$ ]D20 = -127.0 (c 1.15, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). HRMS (APCI): C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>18</sub>BrO<sub>3</sub>S<sub>2</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup>, 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 
$$(S)-1$$
  $R$   $(S)-1$   $R$   $(S)-2$   $R$   $(R)-2$   $(S)-2$   $(S)-2$ 

(*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.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> 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). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  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). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  169.90, 139.79, 132.05, 128.88, 122.73, 52.22, 46.60, 44.49. [ $\alpha$ ]D20 = +51.0 (c 1.02, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). 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.<sup>3</sup> 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). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  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). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  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. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -112.37. [ $\alpha$ ]D20 = +55.5 (c 0.99, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). HRMS (APCl): C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>10</sub>FO<sub>2</sub> [M – Br]<sup>+</sup>, 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 literature<sup>3</sup>.  $[\alpha]D20 = +42.7$  (c 1.03, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). 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). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 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, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 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. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -73.16. [ $\alpha$ ]D20 = +33.0 (c 0.97, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). HRMS (APCI):  $C_{12}H_6BrF_6O_2$  [M – HBr – H]<sup>-</sup>, 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). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3)  $\delta$ 

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). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  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. <sup>19</sup>F NMR  $(376 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3) \delta$  -73.19.  $[\alpha]$ D20 = +50.4 (c 1.19, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). HRMS (APCl): C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>6</sub>ClF<sub>6</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [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 literature<sup>3</sup>. [ $\alpha$ ]D20 = +63.3 (c 0.98, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). 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). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  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). <sup>13</sup>C 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, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). HRMS (APCI): C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>12</sub><sup>79</sup>Br<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>SNa [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 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 <sup>1</sup>H 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 Br<sub>2</sub> (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 Et<sub>2</sub>O (1 x 1 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, concentrated and the product distribution was analysed via <sup>1</sup>H 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 Br<sub>2</sub> (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added. After 20 minutes, the organic phase was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (1 x 1 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, concentrated and the product distribution was analysed via <sup>1</sup>H NMR. The residual waters (2.0 mL). Under vigorous magnetic stirring at 1500 rpm, neat Br<sub>2</sub> (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added. After 20 minutes, the organic phase was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (1 x 1 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, concentrated and the product distribution was analysed via <sup>1</sup>H 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 Br<sub>2</sub> to achieve complete conversion; *i.e.* after four cycles the bromination of **1a** required 1.4 equiv of Br<sub>2</sub> 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 Br<sub>2</sub> (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 N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. Upon completion of the reaction – or at stopping of conversion – monitored via <sup>1</sup>H 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 <sup>1</sup>H 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 <sub>2</sub>	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.
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  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 <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C 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)











