Isothiourea-Catalysed Enantioselective Radical Conjugate Addition under Batch and Flow Conditions

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1. General methods and commercial starting materials

Starting materials and solvents for the reactions were acquired from commercial sources (Acros Organics, Aldrich Chemical Co., Alfa Aesar, TCI Chemicals, Fluorochem and/or BLDpharm) unless otherwise specified. For thin layer chromatography (TLC), silica gel plates with fluorescence indicator 254 nm were used and compounds were visualized by irradiation with UV light and/or by treatment with a solution of potassium permanganate in water followed by heating. Flash column chromatography was performed using Geduran[®] Silica Gel 60 (0.040-0.063 nm). Cyclohexane and ethyl acetate for flash column chromatography were acquired from commercial sources and were used without previous purification. NMR spectra were acquired on a Bruker Avance 300 MHz spectrometer, running at 300 and 75 MHz for ¹H and ¹³C, respectively. Chemical shifts (δ) are reported in ppm relative to residual solvent signals (CDCl₃, 7.26 ppm; and CD₃OD, 3.31 ppm for ¹H-NMR; 77.2 ppm and 49.0 ppm for ¹³C-NMR, respectively). ¹³C-NMR was acquired on a broad band decoupled mode. ¹⁹F-NMR spectra were acquired on a Bruker Avance 500 MHz spectrometer running at 470 MHz. The following abbreviations are used to describe peak patterns when appropriate: s (singlet), bs (broad singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), p (pentet), sext (sextet), hept (heptet), m (multiplet), dd (doublet of doublets), dt (double of triplets), gd (quartet of doublets). Electrospray ionization has been used for measuring the exact mass (indicated for each case): HRMS (ESI) (Electrospray ionization mass spectroscopy) was acquired with an Agilent Technologies 6120 Quadrupole LC/MS. In this technique, MassWorks software ver. 4.0.0.0 (Cerno Bioscience) was used for the formula identification. MassWorks is a MS calibration software which calibrates for isotope profile as well as for mass accuracy, allowing highly accurate comparisons between calibrated and theoretical spectra.¹

1.1. Batch Setup

For the photocatalytic reactions in batch, a 23W CFL was used as light source.

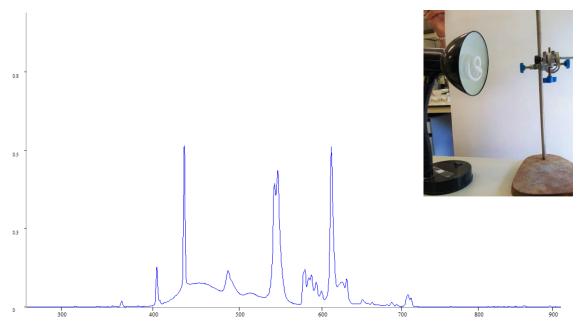


Figure S1. Emission spectrum of 23W CFL (400-700 nm) and imagine of the lamp used.

1.2. Flow Setup

-Homemade Setup

All continuous-flow experiments were carried out using a homemade flow-setup (**Figure S2**) including a 15 mL perfluoroalcoxy (PFA) reactor coil (inner diameter: 1.6 mm, external diameter 3.0 mm) and a lamp white LED (60W). Each reaction mixture was injected under inert atmosphere using Vapourtec E-series injection system.



Figure S2

-Vapourtec setup

Some preliminary experiments were carried out using a commercially available Vapourtec Eseries device equipped with a UV-150 photoreactor (**Figure S3**) including a 15 mL perfluoroalcoxy (PFA) reactor coil (inner diameter: 1.6 mm, external diameter 3.0 mm) and a lamp LED (60W, 420 nm, 450 nm, or 470 nm).

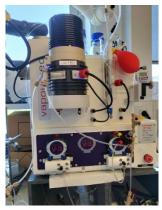
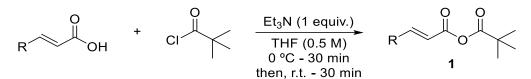


Figure S3

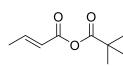
2. General procedure A: Synthesis of starting materials

2.1. General procedure A1: Synthesis of α , β -unsaturated anhydrides



They were prepared following a modified procedure described in the literature:² A solution of pivaloyl chloride (1.0 equiv.) in THF (5 mL) was added dropwise over an ice-cooled solution of the corresponding α , β -unsaturated acid (10.0 mmol) and triethylamine (1.0 equiv.) in THF (20 mL). The mixture was stirred 30 minutes at 0°C, then it was warmed to room temperature and stirred for further 30 min. The crude was filtered and rinsed with THF (2 x 5 mL). The filtrated was concentrated under reduced pressure to give pure product **1** as a colourless oil.

(E)-But-2-enoic pivalic anhydride (1a)



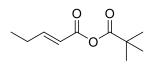
Following the general procedure A1, (*E*)-but-2-enoic acid (860.9 mg, 10 mmol) and pivaloyl chloride (1.2 mL, 10 mmol) gave product **1a** as a colourless oil (96% yield).

¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.21 – 6.73 (m, 1H), 5.86 (dd, *J* = 15.5, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 1.93 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 1.25 (s, 9H) ppm.

¹³**C-NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 174.3, 162.1, 149.4, 122.3, 40.1, 26.7 (3C), 18.5 ppm.

HRMS (ESI⁺): calculated for C₉H₁₅O₃ [M-H]⁺: 171.1016; found: 171.1027.

(E)-Pent-2-enoic pivalic anhydride (1b)



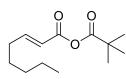
Following the general procedure A1, (E)-pent-2-enoic acid (1.00 g, 10 mmol) and pivaloyl chloride (1.2 mL, 10 mmol) gave product **1b** as a colourless oil (88% yield).

¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.13 (dt, *J* = 15.7, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 5.83 (dt, *J* = 15.7, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.37 – 2.18 (m, 2H), 1.26 (s, 9H), 1.08 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H) ppm.

¹³**C-NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 174.3, 162.4, 155.4, 119.9, 40.1, 26.7 (3C), 25.8, 12.0 ppm.

HRMS (ESI⁺): calculated for $C_{10}H_{17}O_3$ [M-H]⁺: 185.1172; found: 185.1170.

(E)-Oct-2-enoic pivalic anhydride (1c)



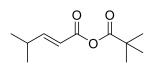
Following the general procedure A1, (*E*)-oct-2-enoic acid (1.40 g, 10 mmol) and pivaloyl chloride (1.2 mL, 10 mmol) gave product 1c as a colourless oil (95% yield).

¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.08 (dt, J = 15.5, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 5.84 (dt, J = 15.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 2.24 (qd, J = 7.3, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 1.62 – 1.40 (m, 2H), 1.32 – 1.24 (m, 13H), 0.88 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H) ppm.

¹³**C-NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 174.3, 162.3, 154.4, 120.7, 40.1, 32.6, 31.4, 27.6, 26.7, 26.6 (3C), 22.5, 14.0 ppm.

HRMS (ESI⁺): calculated for C₁₃H₂₃O₃ [M-H]⁺: 227.1642; found: 227.1647.

(E)-4-Methylpent-2-enoic pivalic anhydride (1d)



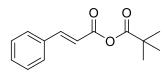
Following the general procedure A1, (*E*)-4-methylpent-2-enoic acid (1.14 g, 10 mmol) and pivaloyl chloride (1.2 mL, 10 mmol) gave product **1d** as a colourless oil (91% yield).

¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.05 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 5.79 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 2.61 – 2.40 (m, 1H), 1.28 (s, 9H), 1.08 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H) ppm.

¹³**C-NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 174.3, 162.7, 160.1, 118.1, 40.1, 31.4, 26.7 (3C), 21.1 ppm.

HRMS (ESI⁺): calculated for $C_{11}H_{19}O_3$ [M-H]⁺: 199.1329; found: 199.1311.

(E)-Cinnamic pivalic anhydride (1e)



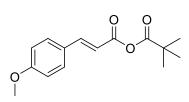
Following the general procedure A1, (*E*)-but-2-enoic acid (1.48 g, 10 mmol) and pivaloyl chloride (1.2 mL, 10 mmol) gave product **1e** as a colourless oil (83% yield).

¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.76 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.62 – 7.51 (m, 2H), 7.48 – 7.36 (m, 3H), 6.44 (dd, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 1.33 (s, 9H) ppm.

¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 174.2, 162.8, 148.6, 133.8, 131.4, 129.2 (2C), 128.7 (2C), 117.0, 40.2, 26.7 (3C) ppm.

HRMS (ESI⁺): calculated for C₁₄H₁₇O₃ [M-H]⁺: 233.1172; found: 233.1166.

(E)-3-(4-Methoxyphenyl)acrylic pivalic anhydride (1f)



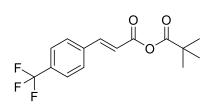
Following the general procedure A1, (*E*)-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)acrylic acid (1.78 g, 10 mmol) and pivaloyl chloride (1.2 mL, 10 mmol) gave product **1f** as a colourless oil (92% yield).

¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.71 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 7.54 − 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.04 − 6.86 (m, 2H), 6.30 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 1.32 (s, 9H) ppm.

¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 174.4, 163.2, 162.4, 148.4, 130.6 (2C), 126.6, 114.7 (2C), 114.3, 55.6, 40.1, 26.8 (3C) ppm.

HRMS (ESI⁺): calculated for C₁₅H₁₉O₄ [M-H]⁺: 263.1278; found: 263.1781.

(E)-3-(4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acrylic pivalic anhydride (1g)



Following the general procedure A1, (*E*)-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acrylic acid (2.19 g, 10 mmol) and pivaloyl chloride (1.2 mL, 10 mmol) gave product **1g** as a white solid (80% yield).

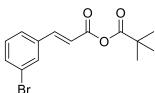
¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.78 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.71 − 7.63 (m, 4H), 6.52 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 1.33 (s, 9H) ppm.

¹³**C-NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 174.0, 162.3, 146.4, 137.2, 132.7 (q, *J* = 32.8 Hz), 128.8 (2C), 126.2 (q, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 2C), 123.9 (q, *J* = 272.3 Hz), 119.7, 40.3, 26.7 (3C) ppm.

¹⁹**F-NMR** (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -63.0 ppm.

HRMS (ESI⁺): calculated for C₁₅H₁₆F₃O₃ [M-H]⁺: 301.1046; found: 301.1045.

(E)-3-(3-Bromophenyl)acrylic pivalic anhydride (1h)



Following the general procedure A1, (*E*)-3-(3-bromophenyl)acrylic acid (2.27 g, 10 mmol) and pivaloyl chloride (1.2 mL, 10 mmol) gave product **1h** as a colourless oil (86% yield).

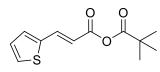
¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.70 – 7.61 (m, 2H), 7.59 – 7.49 (m, 1H),

7.49 – 7.42 (m, 1H), 7.35 – 7.22 (m, 1H), 6.42 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 1.31 (s, 9H) ppm.

¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 174.0, 162.3, 146.6, 135.8, 134.0, 131.2, 130.7, 127.2, 123.3, 118.5, 40.2, 26.7 (3C) ppm.

HRMS (ESI⁺): calculated for C₁₄H₁₆BrO₃ [M-H]⁺: 311.0277; found: 311.0289.

Pivalic (E)-3-(thiophen-2-yl)acrylic anhydride (1i)



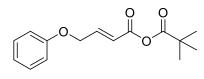
Following the general procedure A1, (*E*)-3-(thiophen-2-yl)acrylic acid (1.54 g, 10 mmol) and pivaloyl chloride (1.2 mL, 10 mmol) gave product **1i** as a pale yellowish solid (79% yield).

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.85 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, J = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, J = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (dd, J = 5.1, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 6.21 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 1.31 (s, 9H) ppm.

¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 174.2, 162.7, 140.7, 139.0, 132.6, 130.2, 128.6, 115.4, 40.1, 26.7 (3C) ppm.

HRMS (ESI⁺): calculated for C₁₂H₁₅O₃S [M-H]⁺: 239.0736; found: 239.0721.

(E)-4-phenoxybut-2-enoic pivalic anhydride (1j)



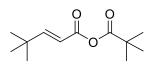
Following the general procedure A1, (*E*)-4-phenoxybut-2enoic acid (475 mg, 2.67 mmol) and pivaloyl chloride (0.33 mL, 2.67 mmol) gave product **1**j as a yellowish oil (87% yield).

¹**H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.34 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.20 (dt, *J* = 15.7, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 7.03 – 6.98 (m, 1H), 6.95 – 6.90 (m, 2H), 6.27 (dt, *J* = 15.7, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 4.74 (dd, *J* = 3.8, 2.2 Hz, 2H), 1.30 (s, 9H) ppm.

¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 173.9, 161.7, 157.9, 146.8, 129.7, 121.7, 120.8, 114.7, 66.3, 40.1, 26.6 ppm.

HRMS (ESI⁺): calculated for C₁₅H₁₈O₄Na [M+Na]⁺ requires 285.1103, found 285.1090 (-2.4 ppm).

(E)-4,4-dimethylpent-2-enoic pivalic anhydride (1k)



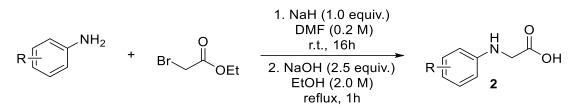
Following general procedure A1, (*E*)-4,4-dimethylpent-2-enoic acid (369 mg, 2.88 mmol) and pivaloyl chloride (0.35 mL, 2.88 mmol) gave product **1k** as a clear, colourless liquid (90% yield).

¹**H-NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.08 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 5.76 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 1.29 (s, 9H), 1.11 (s, 9H).

¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): 174.3, 163.7, 163.0, 116.2, 40.1, 34.4, 28.6, 26.7.

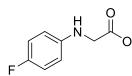
HRMS (ESI⁺): calculated for C₁₂H₂₀O₃Na [M+Na]⁺ requires 235.1310, found 235.1300 (-2.1 ppm)

2.2. General procedure A2: Synthesis of α -amino acids



They were prepared following a modified procedure described in the literature:³ The corresponding aniline (10 mmol) and ethyl 2-bromoacetate (10 mmol) were dissolved in dry DMF (50 mL). NaH (10 mmol) was slowly added and left stirring at room temperature overnight. Solvent was removed under reduced pressure and brine (50 mL) was added to the residue. Then, it was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 50 mL) and combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated. The crude ester was reflux for 1 hour in 5M aqueous solution of NaOH (2.5 equiv.) and ethanol (5 mL). After cooling to room temperature, it was extracted with ethyl acetate (20 mL) and aqueous layer was acidified with concentrated HCl to pH=5, observing a precipitate. The precipitate was filtered, washed with water (5 mL) and dried using a schelnk line to give pure α -amino acid **2**.

(4-Fluorophenyl)glycine (2b)



Following the general procedure A2, 4-fluoroaniline (1.11 g, 10 mmol) and ethyl 2-bromoacetate (1.1 mL, 10 mmol) gave, after hydrolysis, product **2b** as a pale brown solid (56% yield).

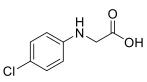
¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 6.87 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.60 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 4.4 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 2H) ppm.

¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 175.0, 157.4 (d, J = 233.6 Hz), 145.9, 116.3 (d, J = 22.6 Hz, 2C), 114.9 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2C), 46.8 ppm.

¹⁹**F-NMR** (470 MHz, CD₃OD): δ -130.3 ppm.

HRMS (ESI⁺): calculated for C₈H₉FNO₂ [M-H]⁺: 170.0612; found: 170.0615.

(4-Chlorophenyl)glycine (2c)



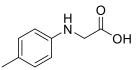
Following the general procedure A2, 4-chloroaniline (1.27 g, 10 mmol) and ethyl 2-bromoacetate (1.1 mL, 10 mmol) gave, after hydrolysis, product **2c** as a pale orange solid (20% yield).

¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 7.08 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.57 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 1H) ppm.

¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 174.8, 148.2, 129.8 (2C), 122.9, 115.0 (2C), 46.2 ppm.

HRMS (ESI⁺): calculated for C₈H₉ClNO₂ [M-H]⁺: 186.0316; found: 186.0326.

p-Tolylglycine (2d)



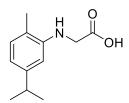
Following the general procedure A2, *p*-toluidine (1.07 g, 10 mmol) and ethyl 2-bromoacetate (1.1 mL, 10 mmol) gave, after hydrolysis, product **2d** as a pale orange solid (69% yield).

¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 6.95 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.56 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 2H), 2.20 (s, 3H) ppm.

¹³**C-NMR** (75 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 175.2, 146.8, 130.5 (2C), 128.3, 114.5 (2C), 47.0, 20.5 ppm.

HRMS (ESI⁺): calculated for C₉H₁₂NO₂ [M-H]⁺: 166.0863; found: 166.08760.

(5-Isopropyl-2-methylphenyl)glycine (2e)



Following the general procedure A2, 5-isopropyl-2-methylaniline (1.49 g, 10 mmol) and ethyl 2-bromoacetate (1.1 mL, 10 mmol) gave, after hydrolysis, product **2e** as a pale brown solid (81% yield).

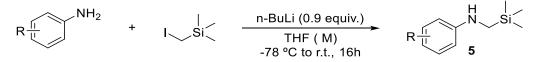
¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 6.92 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.50 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.7

Hz, 1H), 6.36 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 2H), 2.78 (hept, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.14 (s, 3H), 1.20 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 6H) ppm.

¹³**C-NMR** (75 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 175.2, 148.9, 146.7, 131.0, 121.3, 116.5, 109.5, 46.5, 35.4, 24.6 (2C), 17.1 ppm.

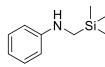
HRMS (ESI⁺): calculated for C₁₂H₁₈NO₂ [M-H]⁺: 208.1332; found: 208.1341.

2.3. General procedure A3: Synthesis of α -silyl anilines



They were prepared following a procedure described in the literature:⁵ *n*-Butyllithium (1.1 equiv, 2.5 M in hexanes) was added dropwise to a solution of the corresponding aniline (1.0 equiv.) in anhydrous THF (0.33 M) under N₂. The resulting mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stir for 3 hours. After cooling to 0 °C, (lodomethyl)trimethylsilane (1.1 equiv.) was added dropwise to the mixture. The resulting mixture was then allowed to warm to room temperature and stir overnight. Sat. NH₄Cl (aq.) was then added slowly, followed by an equal volume of H₂O. The mixture was then extracted with EtOAc (× 3), the organic phases were then combined, washed (brine), dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated under reduced pressure to give the crude product. The crude product was then purified, as specified, either via column chromatography or distillation under reduced pressure.

N-((trimethylsilyl)methyl)aniline (5a)

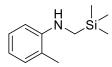


Following the general procedure A3, aniline (0.91 mL, 10.0 mmol) and (iodomethyl)trimethylsilane (1.63 mL, 11.0 mmol) gave product **5a** as a yellow oil (90% yield) after vacuum distillation.

¹**H-NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.21-7.15 (m, 2H) 6.72-6.64 (m, 3H), 3.46 (s, 1H), 2.50 (s, 2H), 0.14 (s, 9H) ppm.

¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 150.7, 129.3, 117.1, 112.5, 33.7, -2.5 ppm.

2-methyl-N-((trimethylsilyl)methyl)aniline (5b)

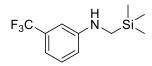


Following the general procedure A3, *o*-toluidine (1.06 mL, 10.0 mmol and (iodomethyl)trimethylsilane (1.63 mL, 11.0 mmol) gave product **5b** as a clear, colourless oil (68% yield) after vacuum distillation.

¹**H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.20-7.13 (m, 1H), 7.07-7.01 (m, 1H), 6.75-6.70 (m, 1H), 6.68-6.62 (m, 1H), 3.34 (s, 1H), 2.52 (s, 2H), 2.14 (s, 3H), 0.16 (s, 9H).

¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 148.4, 129.9, 127.3, 121.7, 116.6, 109.5, 33.4, 17.4, -2.5 ppm

3-(trifluoromethyl)-N-((trimethylsilyl)methyl)aniline (5c)



Following the general procedure A3, 3-(trifluoromethyl)aniline (1.61 g, 10.0 mmol) and (iodomethyl)trimethylsilane (1.63 mL, 11.0 mmol) gave product **5c** as a clear oil (52%) after vacuum distillation.

¹**H-NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.26-7.22 (m, 1H), 6.93-6.90 (m, 1H), 6.87-6.85 (m, 1H), 6.81-6.76 (m, 1H), 3.67 (s, 1H), 2.51 (m, 2H), 0.15 (s, 9H) ppm.

¹⁹**F-NMR** (471 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -62.8 ppm

HRMS (ESI⁺): calculated for C₁₁H₁₇F₃NSi [M+H]⁺ requires 248.1082, found 248.1077

N-((trimethylsilyl)methyl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-amine (5d)

Following the general procedure A3, [1,1'-biphenyl]-2-amine (1.69 g, 10.0 mmol) and (iodomethyl)trimethylsilane gave product **5d** (1.63 mL, 11.0 mmol) as a pale yellow oil (57% yield) after column chromatography (1% to

5% EtOAc in petrol).

¹**H-NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.45-7.42 (m, 4H), 7.39-7.34 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.26 (m, 1H), 7.13-7.09 (m, 1H), 6.84-6.80 (m, 1H), 6.80-6.75 (m, 1H), 3.384 (s, 1H), 2.49 (s, 2H), 0.02 (s, 9H) ppm.

¹³**C-NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃): 147.3, 139.5, 129.9, 129.5, 128.9 (2C), 127.5, 127.3, 116.6, 110.1, 33.3, -2.6.

HRMS (ESI⁺): calculated for C₁₆H₂₂NSi [M+H]⁺ requires 256.1522, found 256.1522

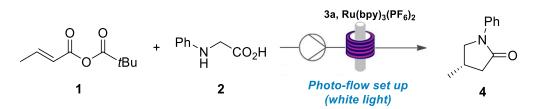
3. Optimization tables

Table S1. Optimization of addition of α -amino acids in batch conditions.

		3S)-HyperBTM (20 mol%) µ(bpy)₃(PF ₆)₂ (2 mol%) TBAB (1.0 equiv.) pCN:CH₃Ph (1:1, 0.05 M) P3 W CFL, 4 h, N₂, r.t.	
	ⁱ Pr Ph N S Ph N S Ph N S S HCI	Ph-N-S	
	(2 <i>R</i> ,3 <i>S</i>)-HyperBTM (2 <i>R</i> ,3 <i>S</i>)-HyperBTM (3a) (3b)	·HCI (S)-BTM (3c)	
Entry ^a	Deviation from optimized cond	litions Yield (%	;) ^ь er (%) ^с
1	No deviation	65 (59)) 81:19
2	(2 <i>R</i> ,3 <i>S</i>)-HyperBTM·HCl (3b) instea	ad of 3a n.r.	-
3	(S)-BTM (3c) instead of 3a	24	55:45
4	fac-Ir(ppy)₃ instead of Ru(bpy)₃	(PF ₆) ₂ 45	70:30
5	4-CzIPN instead of Ru(bpy)₃(P	PF ₆) ₂ 30	80:20
6	Ru(bpy) ₃ Cl ₂ instead of Ru(bpy) ₃	(PF ₆) ₂ n.r.	-
7	CH ₃ CN instead of CH ₃ CN:CH ₃	Ph 70	70:30
8	CH ₃ Ph instead of CH ₃ CN:CH ₃	Ph n.r.	-
9	CH ₃ CN:CF ₃ Ph <i>instead of</i> CH ₃ CN:	CH₃Ph 59	81:19
10	CH ₃ CN: ^t BuOMe <i>instead of</i> CH ₃ CN	I:CH₃Ph 34	81:19
11	DCM:CH ₃ Ph <i>instead of</i> CH ₃ CN:C	CH₃Ph 25	83:17
12	TBAB: 0.5 equiv. of instead of 1.0) equiv. 76	75:25
13	TBAB: 1.5 equiv. of instead of 1.0) equiv. 53	81:19
14	K ₂ HPO ₄ (1 equiv.)	40	81:19
15	K ₂ HPO ₄ instead of TBAB	42	75:25
16	TBAC instead of TBAB	46	80:20
17	TBAI instead of TBAB	30	82:18
18	Blue LED	43	79:21
19	No light	n.r.	-
20 ª Read	No photocatalyst ction conditions: 1a (0.15 mmol), 2a (0.18	n.r. mmol), TBAB (1 equiv.), R	- u(bpy)3(PF6)2

^a Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.15 mmol), **2a** (0.18 mmol), TBAB (1 equiv.), Ru(bpy)₃(PF₆)₂ (2 mol%), (2*R*,3*S*)-HyperBTM (**3a**) (20 mol%), MeCN:MePh (1:1, 0.05 M) at r.t, under N₂ was irradiated using a 23W CFL during 4h. ^b ¹H-NMR yields using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as internal standard. Isolated yield in brackets. ^c Enantiomeric ratio was measured by Supercritical Fluid Chromatography (SFC) using chiral columns.

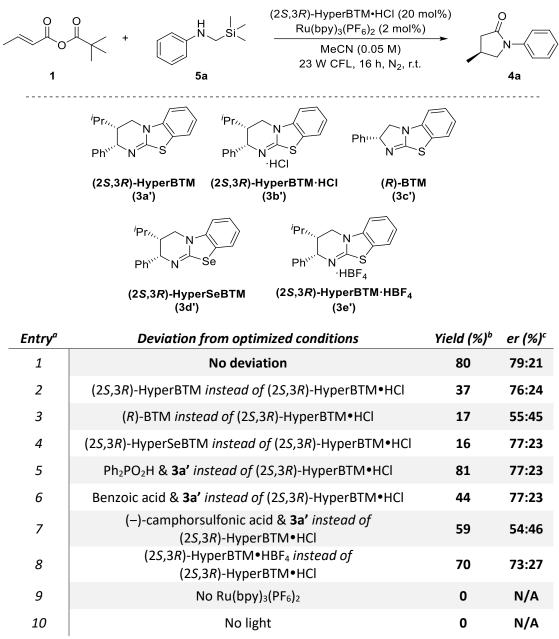
Table S2. Optimization of addition of α -amino acids in flow conditions.



Entry ^a	Deviation from optimized conditions	Yield (%) ^b	er (%)°
1	No deviation	81 (73)	73:27
2	0.13 mL/min (120') <i>instead of</i> 0.25 mL/min (60')	81	73:27
3	Absence of K ₂ HPO ₄	<5	73:27
4	0.5 mL/min (30') <i>instead of</i> 0.25 mL/min (60')	62	73:27
5	Purple LED instead of White LED	70	73:27
6	Blue LED (450 nm) instead of White LED	57	73:27
7	Blue LED (470 nm) instead of White LED	20	73:27

^a Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.15 mmol), **2a** (0.18 mmol), TBAB (1 equiv.), K_2HPO_4 (0.5 equiv.), $Ru(bpy)_3(PF_6)_2$ (2 mol%), (2*R*,3*S*)-HyperBTM (**3a**) (20 mol%), MeCN:MePh (1:1, 0.05 M) at r.t, under N₂ was pump by Vapourtec system at 0.25 mL/min (60 min residence time) and irradiated with White LED. ^b ¹H-NMR yields using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as internal standard. Isolated yield in brackets. ^c Enantiomeric ratio was measured by Supercritical Fluid Chromatography (SFC) using chiral columns.

Table S3. Optimization of Brønsted acid using α -silyl amines.



^a Reaction conditions: **5a** (0.15 mmol), **1a** (0.18 mmol), Ru(bpy)₃(PF₆)₂ (2 mol%), (2*S*,3*R*)-HyperBTM•HCl (**3a**) (20 mol%), MeCN (0.05 M) at r.t, under N₂ and irradiated with 23W CFL. ^b ¹H-NMR yields using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as internal standard. Isolated yield in brackets. ^c Enantiomeric ratio was measured by GC analysis on a chiral stationary phase.

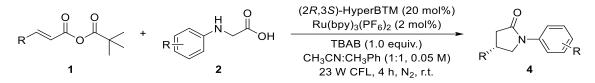
Table S4. Optimization of solvent using α -silyl amines.

	O + N 5a H (2S,3R)-HyperBTM+HCl (20 Ru(bpy) ₃ (PF ₆) ₂ (2 mol% Solvent (0.05 M) 23 W CFL, 16 h, N ₂ , r.t		O N 4a
Entry ^a	Solvent	Yield (%)⁵	er (%)°
1	CH ₂ Cl ₂ :PhMe (1:1)	29	96:4
2	CHCl₃:PhMe (1:1)	9	N/A
3	CH ₂ Cl ₂ :PhCl (1:1)	36	95:5
4	CH ₂ Cl ₂ :MeCN (1:1)	70	80:20
5	CH ₂ Cl ₂ :MeCN (2:1)	68	82:18
6	CH ₂ Cl ₂ :Acetone (1:3)	50	87:13
7	CH ₂ Cl ₂ :Acetone (1:1)	64	88:12
8	CH ₂ Cl ₂ :Acetone (3:1)	54	89:11
9	Acetone:PhMe (1:1)	7	N/A
10	Acetone:PhMe (1:3)	7	N/A
11	MeCN	80	79:21
12	MeCN:MTBE (1:1)	60	88:12
13	MeCN:PhCF ₃ (1:1)	71	86:14
14	MeCN:PhCl (1:1)	74	83:17
15	MeCN:PhMe (1:1)	80	86:14
16	MeCN:PhMe (1:2)	62	89:11
17	MeCN:PhMe (1:3)	52	91:9
18	MeCN:PhCl (1:3)	55	89:11

^a Reaction conditions: **5a** (0.15 mmol), **1a** (0.18 mmol), Ru(bpy)₃(PF₆)₂ (2 mol%), (2*S*,3*R*)-HyperBTM•HCl (**3a**) (20 mol%), solvent (0.05 M) at r.t, under N₂ and irradiated with 23W CFL. ^b ¹H-NMR yields using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as internal standard. Isolated yield in brackets. ^c Enantiomeric ratio was measured by GC analysis on a chiral stationary phase.

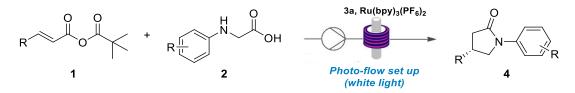
4. General procedure B: Enantioselective Radical Conjugate Addition to Anhydrides

4.1. General procedure B1: Addition of α-Amino acids in batch conditions



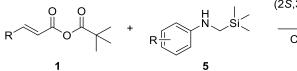
Anhydride **1** (0.18 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) was added to a sealed vial followed by Ru(bpy)₃(PF₆)₂ (2.6 mg, 0.003 mmol), (2*R*,3*S*)-HyperBTM **3a** (9.3 mg, 0.03 mmol), tetrabutylammonium bromide (48.4 mg, 0.15 mmol) and α -amino acid **2** (0.15 mmol). Toluene (1.5 mL) and acetonitrile (1.5 mL) were added to the vial followed by a magnetic stirrer. The vial was closed with a PTFE/rubber septum and three freeze-pump-thaw cycles were performed. The reaction was irradiated using a white 23W CFL lamp at room temperature for 4 hours. After that, solvents were evaporated under reduced pressure and the crude was checked by ¹H-NMR using 1,3,5-trimethoxybencene as internal standard. The crude was purified by flash column chromatography using the eluents indicated in each case to give final product **4**.

4.2. General procedure B2: Addition of α-Amino acids in flow conditions

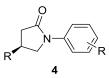


Anhydride **1** (0.18 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) was added to a sealed vial followed by Ru(bpy)₃(PF₆)₂ (2.6 mg, 0.003 mmol), (2*R*,3*S*)-HyperBTM **3a** (9.3 mg, 0.03 mmol), tetrabutylammonium bromide (48.4 mg, 0.15 mmol), K₂HPO₄ (13.1 mg, 0.075 mmol) and α -amino acid **2** (0.15 mmol). Toluene (1.5 mL) and acetonitrile (1.5 mL) were added. The vial was closed with a PTFE/rubber septum and three freeze-pump-thaw cycles were performed. The reaction was pumped by Vapourtec pump B with a 0.25 mL/min flow rate (60 min residence time) and collected at the end of the reactor. After that, solvents were evaporated under reduced pressure and the crude was purified by flash column chromatography using the eluents indicated in each case to give the final product **4**.

4.3. General procedure B3: Addition of α -Silyl anilines in batch conditions



(2*S*,3*R*)-HyperBTM·HCI (20 mol%) Ru(bpy)₃(PF₆)₂ (2 mol%) CH₃CN:CH₃Ph (1:2, 0.05 M) 23 W CFL, 16 h, N₂, r.t.



A flame dried vial was charged with anhydride (1.2 equiv.), (2*S*,3*R*)-HyperBTM•HCl (0.20 equiv.) and [Ru(bpy)₃](PF₆)₂ (2 mol %). Separately, both MeCN and PhMe were degassed *via* N₂ or Ar sparging for >20 minutes. The α -silyl amine (1.0 equiv.) was then dissolved in MeCN:PhMe (1:2, 0.05 M) and added to the other vial *via* syringe. The resulting mixture was then stirred under 23 W CFL irradiation overnight at room temperature. The mixture was then diluted with EtOAc and washed with sat. NaHCO₃. The aqueous phase was then extracted with EtOAc (× 2), the organic phases were then combined, washed (brine), dried (NaSO₄) and concentrated under reduced pressure to give the crude residue. The crude product was then purified *via* column chromatography using the conditions specified.

4.4. Experimental Data and Characterization of Products 4

(R)-4-Methyl-1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one (4a)

Following the general procedure B, (*E*)-but-2-enoic pivalic anhydride **1a** (30.6 mg, 0.18 mmol) and phenylglycine **2a** (22.7 mg, 0.15 mmol) gave product **4a** (B1: 59% yield, 81:19 *er*; B2: 73% yield, 73:27 *er*; B3: 62% yield) as a colorless oil which crystallised on standing. Eluent: cyclohexane: ethyl acetate, slow gradient from 95:5 to 85:15.

B1: $[\alpha]^{20}_{D}$ = +1.56 (c 0.64, CHCl₃) {Lit.⁴ (ent) $[\alpha]^{22}_{D}$ = -3.1 (c 1.152, CH₂Cl₂)}

¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.67 – 7.56 (m, 2H), 7.47 – 7.31 (m, 2H), 7.21 – 7.07 (m, 1H), 3.95 (dd, *J* = 9.4, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.45 (dd, *J* = 9.4, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.76 (dd, *J* = 16.6, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 2.68 – 2.48 (m, 1H), 2.26 (dd, *J* = 16.6, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 1.21 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H) ppm.

¹³**C-NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 174.0, 139.6, 129.0 (2C), 124.6, 120.1 (2C), 56.1, 41.2, 26.5, 19.7 ppm.

HRMS (ESI⁺): calculated for C₁₁H₁₄NO [M-H]⁺: 176.1070; found: 176.1089.

B1: The enantiomeric excess was determined by SFC using a Chiralpak IG-3 column [CO₂/MeOH 90:10 during 20 min, flow rate 2.0 mL/min], $\tau_{minor} = 10.10$ min, $\tau_{major} = 11.06$ min (19:81 *er*).

B2: The enantiomeric excess was determined by SFC using a Chiralpak IG-3 column [CO₂/MeOH 90:10 during 20 min, flow rate 2.0 mL/min], τ_{minor} = 9.89 min, τ_{major} = 11.06 min (27:73 *er*).

B3: The enantiomeric excess was determined by GC analysis using a Restek Rt-βDEXcst (length: 30 m, thickness: 0.25 mm, film thickness: 0.25 μm, carrier gas: He, linear velocity: 28 cmsec⁻¹, temperature: 140 °C, 20 minute hold, ramp to 150 °C (1 °C min⁻¹), 30 minute hold, ramp to 180 °C (1 °C min⁻¹) : τ_{minor} = 61.37 min, τ_{major} = 61.72, 89:1 er.

(*R*)-4-Ethyl-1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one (4b)

Following the general procedure B, (*E*)-pent-2-enoic pivalic anhydride N-Ph **1b** (33.2 mg, 0.18 mmol) and phenylglycine **2a** (22.7 mg, 0.15 mmol) gave product **4b** (B1: 53% yield, 84:16 *er*; B2: 94% yield, 76:24 *er*, B3: 88%, 89:11 *er*) as a colorless oil which crystallised on standing. Eluent: cyclohexane: ethyl acetate, slow gradient from 95:5 to 85:15. B1: $[\alpha]^{20}_{D}$ = +9.46 (*c* 0.56, CHCl₃).

¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.66 – 7.53 (m, 2H), 7.42 – 7.31 (m, 2H), 7.21 – 7.09 (m, 1H), 3.93 (dd, *J* = 9.6, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.50 (dd, *J* = 9.6, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.97 – 2.59 (m, 1H), 2.49 – 2.21 (m, 2H), 1.90 – 1.45 (m, 2H), 0.99 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H) ppm.

¹³**C-NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 173.9, 139.6, 129.0 (2C), 124.6, 120.1 (2C), 54.4, 39.2, 33.3, 27.5, 11.9 ppm.

HRMS (ESI⁺): calculated for C₁₂H₁₆NO [M-H]⁺: 190.1226; found: 190.1230.

B1: The enantiomeric excess was determined by SFC using a Chiralpak IG-3 column [CO₂/MeOH 90:10 during 20 min, flow rate 2.0 mL/min], $\tau_{minor} = 12.26 \text{ min}$, $\tau_{major} = 13.48 \text{ min}$ (16:87 *er*).

B2: The enantiomeric excess was determined by SFC using a Chiralpak IG-3 column [CO₂/MeOH 90:10 during 20 min, flow rate 2.0 mL/min], τ_{minor} = 12.52 min, τ_{major} = 13.90 min (24:76 *er*).

B3: The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC using a Chiralcel AS-H column [99.5:0.5 Hexane:IPA, 1 mLmin⁻¹, 254 nm, 30 °C] τ_{minor} = 40.98 min, τ_{major} = 43.63 min (89:11 *er*)

(R)-4-Pentyl-1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one (4c)

Following the general procedure B, (*E*)-oct-2-enoic pivalic anhydride **1c** N-Ph (40.7 mg, 0.18 mmol) and phenylglycine **2a** (22.7 mg, 0.15 mmol) gave product **4c** (B1: 77% yield, 84:16 *er*; B2: 95% yield, 76:24 *er*) as a colorless oil which crystallised on standing. Eluent: cyclohexane: ethyl acetate, slow gradient from 95:5 to 85:15. B1: $[\alpha]^{20}_{D}$ = +3.50 (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃).

¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.60 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.39 – 7.32 (m, 2H), 7.13 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (dd, *J* = 9.5, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.49 (dd, *J* = 9.5, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.72 (dd, *J* = 16.4, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 2.43

(hept, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.29 (dd, J = 16.4, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 1.59 – 1.42 (m, 2H), 1.42 – 1.13 (m, 6H), 0.96 – 0.86 (m, 3H) ppm.

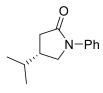
¹³**C-NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 173.9, 139.6, 129.0 (2C), 124.6, 120.1 (2C), 54.6, 39.6, 34.6, 31.9, 31.8, 27.3, 22.7, 14.2 ppm.

HRMS (ESI⁺): calculated for C₁₅H₂₂NO [M-H]⁺: 232.1696; found: 232.1695.

B1: The enantiomeric excess was determined by SFC using a Chiralpak IA column [CO₂/MeOH from 95:5 to 60:40 in 8 min, flow rate 3.0 mL/min], τ_{minor} = 3.62 min, τ_{major} = 3.81 min (16:84 *er*).

B2: The enantiomeric excess was determined by SFC using a Chiralpak IA column [CO₂/MeOH from 95:5 to 60:40 in 8 min, flow rate 3.0 mL/min], $\tau_{minor} = 3.47$ min, $\tau_{major} = 3.64$ min (24:76 *er*).

(S)-4-Isopropyl-1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one (4d)



Following the general procedure B, (*E*)-4-methylpent-2-enoic pivalic anhydride **1d** (35.7 mg, 0.18 mmol) and phenylglycine **2a** (22.7 mg, 0.15 mmol) gave product **4d** (B1: 58% yield, 87:13 *er*, B2: 87% yield, 80.5:19.5 *er*, B3: 74%, 93:7 *er*) as a colorless oil which crystallised on standing. Eluent:

cyclohexane: ethyl acetate, slow gradient from 95:5 to 85:15. B1: $[\alpha]^{20}_{D}$ = +13.63 (*c* 0.80, CHCl₃).

¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.68 – 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.46 – 7.29 (m, 2H), 7.19 – 7.04 (m, 1H), 3.87 (dd, *J* = 9.6, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 3.56 (dd, *J* = 9.6, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 2.68 (dd, *J* = 16.8, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 2.35 (dd, *J* = 16.8, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 2.27 – 1.92 (m, 1H), 1.86 – 1.52 (m, 1H), 0.98 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 6H) ppm.

¹³**C-NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 174.0, 139.6, 129.0 (2C), 124.6, 120.1 (2C), 53.2, 38.9, 37.9, 32.7, 20.6, 20.2 ppm.

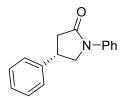
HRMS (ESI⁺): calculated for C₁₃H₁₈NO [M-H]⁺: 204.1383; found: 204.1391.

B1: The enantiomeric excess was determined by SFC using a Chiralpak IB-3 column [CO₂/MeOH 95:5 during 20 min, flow rate 1.0 mL/min], $\tau_{minor} = 9.18$ min, $\tau_{major} = 10.20$ min (13:87 *er*).

B2: The enantiomeric excess was determined by SFC using a Chiralpak IB-3 column [CO₂/MeOH 95:5 during 20 min, flow rate 1.0 mL/min], $\tau_{minor} = 9.50$ min, $\tau_{major} = 10.46$ min (19.5:80.5 *er*).

B3: The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC using a Chiralpak IB column [99.5:0.5 Hexane:IPA, 1 mLmin⁻¹, 254 nm, 30 °C] τ_{major} = 35.21 min, τ_{minor} = 41.97 min (93:7 *er*)

(S)-1,4-Diphenylpyrrolidin-2-one (4e)



Following the general procedure B, (*E*)-cinnamic pivalic anhydride **1e** (41.8 mg, 0.18 mmol) and phenylglycine **2a** (22.7 mg, 0.15 mmol) gave product **4e** (B1: 50% yield, 81:19 *er*, B2: 75% yield, 70:30 *er*) as a colorless oil which crystallised on standing. Eluent: cyclohexane: ethyl acetate, slow gradient

from 95:5 to 85:15. B1: $[\alpha]^{20}_{D}$ = -4.33 (*c* 0.60, CHCl₃).

¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.76 – 7.52 (m, 2H), 7.48 – 7.28 (m, 7H), 7.22 – 7.10 (m, 1H), 4.21 (dd, *J* = 9.7, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (dd, *J* = 9.7, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.79 – 3.63 (m, 1H), 3.04 (dd, *J* = 17.0, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 2.81 (dd, *J* = 17.0, 8.8 Hz, 1H) ppm.

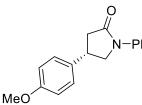
¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 173.1, 141.8, 139.3, 129.2 (2C), 129.1(2C), 127.5, 127.0 (2C), 124.9, 120.2 (2C), 55.9, 40.5, 37.4 ppm.

HRMS (ESI⁺): calculated for C₁₆H₁₆NO [M-H]⁺: 238.1226; found: 238.1232.

B1: The enantiomeric excess was determined by SFC using a Chiralpak IC column [CO₂/MeOH from 95:5 to 60:40 in 8 min, flow rate 3.0 mL/min], $\tau_{minor} = 5.31 \text{ min}$, $\tau_{major} = 5.68 \text{ min}$ (81:19 *er*).

B2: The enantiomeric excess was determined by SFC using a Chiralpak IC column [CO₂/MeOH from 95:5 to 60:40 in 8 min, flow rate 3.0 mL/min], τ_{minor} = 5.31 min, τ_{major} = 5.68 min (70:30 *er*).

(S)-4-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one (4f)



Following the general procedure B, (*E*)-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)acrylic pivalic anhydride **1f** (47.2 mg, 0.18 mmol) and phenylglycine **2a** (22.7 mg, 0.15 mmol) gave product **4f** (B1: 79% yield, 79:21 *er*; B2: 74% yield, 72:28 *er*, B3: 35% yield, 77:23 *er*) as a colorless oil which

crystallised on standing. Eluent: cyclohexane: ethyl acetate, slow gradient from 95:5 to 85:15. B1: $[\alpha]^{20}_{D} = -8.71$ (c 0.85, CHCl₃).

¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.70 – 7.50 (m, 2H), 7.49 – 7.32 (m, 2H), 7.27 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 7.19 – 7.08 (m, 1H), 7.00 – 6.87 (m, 2H), 4.16 (dd, *J* = 9.6, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.93 – 3.78 (m, 3H), 3.65 (p, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (dd, *J* = 16.9, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 2.76 (dd, *J* = 16.9, 8.9 Hz, 1H) ppm.

¹³**C-NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 173.2, 158.9, 139.3, 133.7, 129.0 (2C), 128.0 (2C), 124.8, 120.1 (2C), 114.5 (2C), 56.1, 55.5, 40.7, 36.7 ppm.

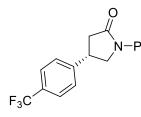
HRMS (ESI⁺): calculated for C₁₇H₁₈NO₂ [M-H]⁺: 268.1332; found: 268.1322.

B1: The enantiomeric excess was determined by SFC using a Chiralpak IA column [CO₂/MeOH from 95:5 to 60:40 in 8 min, flow rate 3.0 mL/min], $\tau_{minor} = 6.23$ min, $\tau_{major} = 6.56$ min (21:79 *er*).

B2: The enantiomeric excess was determined by SFC using a Chiralpak IA column [CO₂/MeOH from 95:5 to 60:40 in 8 min, flow rate 3.0 mL/min], $\tau_{minor} = 6.24$ min, $\tau_{major} = 6.60$ min (28:72 *er*).

B3: The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC using a Chiralcel AD-H column (90:10 hexane:IPA, flow rate 1 mLmin⁻¹, 254 nm, 30 °C), $\tau_{minor} = 20.96$ min, $\tau_{major} = 28.64$ min (23:77 *er*)

(S)-1-Phenyl-4-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (4g)



Following the general procedure B, (*E*)-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acrylic pivalic anhydride **1g** (54.0 mg, 0.18 mmol) and phenylglycine **2a** (22.7 mg, 0.15 mmol) gave product **4g** (B1: 42% yield, 62:38 *er*, B2: 56% yield, 81:19 *er*, B3 22%, 76:24 *er*) as a colorless oil which crystallised on standing. Eluent: cyclohexane:

ethyl acetate, slow gradient from 95:5 to 80:20. B1: $[\alpha]^{20}_{D} = -2.79$ (*c* 0.43, CHCl₃).

¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.67 – 7.53 (m, 4H), 7.53 – 7.33 (m, 4H), 7.24 – 7.11 (m, 1H), 4.25 (dd, *J* = 9.7, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (dd, *J* = 9.7, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (p, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.07 (dd, *J* = 17.0, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.79 (dd, *J* = 17.0, 8.5 Hz, 1H) ppm.

¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 172.5, 146.0, 139.1, 130.0 (q, J = 27.6 Hz), 129.2 (2C), 127.4 (2C), 126.2 (q, J = 3.8 Hz, 2C), 125.1, 124.2 (q, J = 271.9 Hz), 120.2 (2C), 55.5, 40.2, 37.1 ppm.

¹⁹**F-NMR** (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -62.6 ppm.

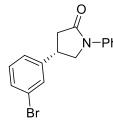
HRMS (ESI⁺): calculated for C₁₇H₁₅F₃NO [M-H]⁺: 306.1100; found: 306.1095.

B1: The enantiomeric excess was determined by SFC using a Chiralpak IA column [CO₂/MeOH from 95:5 to 60:40 in 8 min, flow rate 3.0 mL/min], $\tau_{minor} = 4.43$ min, $\tau_{major} = 4.85$ min (38:62 *er*).

B2: The enantiomeric excess was determined by SFC using a Chiralpak IA column [CO₂/MeOH from 95:5 to 60:40 in 8 min, flow rate 3.0 mL/min], $\tau_{minor} = 4.52 \text{ min}$, $\tau_{major} = 4.93 \text{ min}$ (19:81 *er*).

B3: The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC using a Chiralcel AD-H column [90:10 Hexane:IPA, flowrate 1 mLmin⁻¹, 254 nm, 30 °C], $\tau_{minor} = 15.19$ min, $\tau_{major} = 17.81$ (76:24 *er*).

(S)-4-(3-bromophenyl)-1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one (4h)



Following the general procedure B, (*E*)-3-(3-bromophenyl)acrylic pivalic anhydride **1h** (56.0 mg, 0.18 mmol) and phenylglycine **2a** (22.7 mg, 0.15 mmol) gave product **4h** (B1: 47% yield, 79:21 *er*; B2: 61% yield, 79:21 *er*) as a colorless oil which crystallised on standing. Eluent: cyclohexane: ethyl acetate, slow gradient from 95:5 to 80:20. B1: $[\alpha]^{20}_{p} = -4.26$ (*c* 0.54, CHCl₃). ¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.66 − 7.58 (m, 2H), 7.48 − 7.34 (m, 4H), 7.29 − 7.22 (m, 2H), 7.21 − 7.08 (m, 1H), 4.20 (dd, *J* = 9.8, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (dd, *J* = 9.8, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.78 − 3.58 (m, 1H), 3.03 (dd, *J* = 17.0, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 2.77 (dd, *J* = 17.0, 8.8 Hz, 1H) ppm.

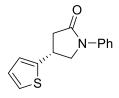
¹³**C-NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 172.6, 144.1, 139.1, 130.8, 130.7, 130.2, 129.1 (2C), 125.5, 125.0, 123.2, 120.2 (2C), 55.5, 40.2, 37.0 ppm.

HRMS (ESI⁺): calculated for C₁₆H₁₅BrNO [M-H]⁺: 316.0332; found: 316.0349.

B1: The enantiomeric excess was determined by SFC using a Chiralpak IA column [CO₂/MeOH from 95:5 to 60:40 in 8 min, flow rate 3.0 mL/min], $\tau_{minor} = 6.02 \text{ min}$, $\tau_{major} = 6.95 \text{ min}$ (79:21 *er*).

B2: The enantiomeric excess was determined by SFC using a Chiralpak IA column [CO₂/MeOH from 95:5 to 60:40 in 8 min, flow rate 3.0 mL/min], $\tau_{minor} = 6.11 \text{ min}$, $\tau_{major} = 7.02 \text{ min}$ (79:21 *er*).

(R)-1-Phenyl-4-(thiophen-2-yl)pyrrolidin-2-one (4i)



Following the general procedure B, pivalic (*E*)-3-(thiophen-2-yl)acrylic anhydride **1i** (42.9 mg, 0.18 mmol) and phenylglycine **2a** (22.7 mg, 0.15 mmol) gave product **4i** (B1: 25% yield, 78:22 *er*; B2: 86% yield, 65:35 *er*) as a colorless oil which crystallised on standing. Eluent: cyclohexane: ethyl

acetate, slow gradient from 95:5 to 85:15. B1: $[\alpha]^{20}_{D} = -1.25$ (*c* 0.32, CHCl₃).

¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.65 – 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.47 – 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.23 (dt, *J* = 4.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.20 – 7.10 (m, 1H), 7.03 – 6.91 (m, 2H), 4.29 – 4.10 (m, 1H), 4.06 – 3.86 (m, 2H), 3.14 – 2.96 (m, 1H), 2.91 – 2.70 (m, 1H) ppm.

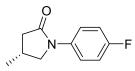
¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 172.4, 144.9, 139.1, 129.1, 127.3, 125.0, 124.3, 124.2, 120.3, 56.3, 41.4, 33.3 ppm.

HRMS (ESI⁺): calculated for C₁₄H₁₄NOS [M-H]⁺: 244.0791; found: 244.0809.

B1: The enantiomeric excess was determined by SFC using a Chiralpak IC column [CO₂/MeOH from 95:5 to 60:40 in 8 min, flow rate 3.0 mL/min], $\tau_{minor} = 5.56$ min, $\tau_{major} = 5.89$ min (78:22 *er*).

B2: The enantiomeric excess was determined by SFC using a Chiralpak IC column [CO₂/MeOH from 95:5 to 60:40 in 8 min, flow rate 3.0 mL/min], τ_{minor} = 5.69 min, τ_{major} = 6.01 min (65:35 *er*).

(R)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-methylpyrrolidin-2-one (4j)



Following the general procedure B, (*E*)-but-2-enoic pivalic anhydride **1a** (30.6 mg, 0.18 mmol) and (4-fluorophenyl)glycine **2b** (25.4 mg, 0.15 mmol) gave product **4j** (B1: 35% yield, 84:16 *er*) as a colorless oil which

crystallised on standing. Eluent: cyclohexane: ethyl acetate, slow gradient from 95:5 to 80:20. B1: $[\alpha]^{20}_{D} = -15.00$ (*c* 0.12, CHCl₃).

¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.61 – 7.48 (m, 2H), 7.12 – 6.97 (m, 2H), 3.90 (dd, *J* = 9.4, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.41 (dd, *J* = 9.4, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.74 (dd, *J* = 16.6, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 2.66 – 2.39 (m, 1H), 2.24 (dd, *J* = 16.6, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 1.20 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H) ppm.

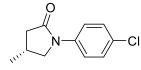
¹³**C-NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 173.8, 159.6 (d, *J* = 244.1 Hz), 135.7 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz), 121.8 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2C), 115.6 (d, *J* = 22.3 Hz, 2C), 56.3, 40.9, 26.5, 19.6 ppm.

¹⁹**F-NMR** (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -117.9 ppm.

HRMS (ESI⁺): calculated for C₁₁H₁₃FNO [M-H]⁺: 194.0976; found: 194.0981.

B1: The enantiomeric excess was determined by SFC using a Chiralpak IC column [CO₂/MeOH 95:5 during 45 min, flow rate 2.0 mL/min], τ_{minor} = 21.89 min, τ_{major} = 23.17 min (84:16 *er*).

(R)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-methylpyrrolidin-2-one (4k)



Following the general procedure B, (*E*)-but-2-enoic pivalic anhydride **1a** (30.6 mg, 0.18 mmol) and (4-chlorophenyl)glycine **2c** (27.8 mg, 0.15 mmol) gave product **4k** (B1: 64% yield, 87:13 *er*) as a colorless oil which

crystallised on standing. Eluent: cyclohexane: ethyl acetate, slow gradient from 95:5 to 80:20. B1: $[\alpha]^{20}_{D} = -6.67$ (c 0.45, CHCl₃).

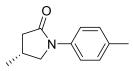
¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.59 – 7.50 (m, 1H), 7.35 – 7.28 (m, 1H), 3.91 (dd, J = 9.4, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.41 (dd, J = 9.4, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.75 (dd, J = 16.7, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 2.66 – 2.44 (m, 1H), 2.25 (dd, J = 16.7, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 1.21 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H) ppm.

¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 174.0, 138.2, 129.6, 129.0 (2C), 121.1 (2C), 55.9, 41.1, 26.4, 19.6 ppm.

HRMS (ESI⁺): calculated for C₁₁H₁₃ClNO [M-H]⁺: 210.0680; found: 210.0685.

B1: The enantiomeric excess was determined by SFC using a Chiralpak IA column [CO₂/MeOH 90:10 during 20 min, flow rate 2.0 mL/min], $\tau_{minor} = 10.23$ min, $\tau_{major} = 10.65$ min (13:87 *er*).

(R)-4-methyl-1-(p-tolyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (4l)



Following the general procedure B, (*E*)-but-2-enoic pivalic anhydride **1a** (30.6 mg, 0.18 mmol) and *p*-tolylglycine **2d** (24.8 mg, 0.15 mmol) gave product **4I** (B1: 75% yield, 78:22 *er*; B2: 80% yield, 72:28 *er*) as a colorless

oil which crystallised on standing. Eluent: cyclohexane: ethyl acetate, slow gradient from 95:5 to 80:20. B1: $[\alpha]^{20}_{D} = -2.89$ (*c* 0.76, CHCl₃).

¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 3.92 (dd, *J* = 9.5, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.42 (dd, *J* = 9.5, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 2.74 (dd, *J* = 16.6, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 2.65 – 2.46 (m, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.24 (dd, *J* = 16.6, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 1.20 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H) ppm.

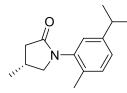
¹³**C-NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 173.8, 137.1, 134.3, 129.5 (2C), 120.2 (2C), 56.2, 41.1, 26.5, 21.0, 19.7 ppm.

HRMS (ESI⁺): calculated for C₁₂H₁₆NO [M-H]⁺: 190.1226; found: 190.1232.

B1: The enantiomeric excess was determined by SFC using a Chiralpak IG-3 column [CO₂/MeOH 90:10 during 20 min, flow rate 2.0 mL/min], τ_{minor} = 13.59 min, τ_{major} = 15.06 min (22:78 *er*).

B2: The enantiomeric excess was determined by SFC using a Chiralpak IG-3 column [CO₂/MeOH 90:10 during 20 min, flow rate 2.0 mL/min], $\tau_{minor} = 12.41$ min, $\tau_{major} = 13.55$ min (28:72 *er*).

(R)-1-(5-isopropyl-2-methylphenyl)-4-methylpyrrolidin-2-one (4m)



Following the general procedure B, (*E*)-but-2-enoic pivalic anhydride **1a** (30.6 mg, 0.18 mmol) and (5-isopropyl-2-methylphenyl)glycine **2e** (31.1 mg, 0.15 mmol) gave product **4m** (B1: 79% yield, 68:32 *er*; B2: 95% yield, 63:37 *er*) as a colorless oil which crystallised on standing. Eluent:

cyclohexane: ethyl acetate, slow gradient from 95:5 to 75:25. B1: $[\alpha]^{20}_{D} = -1.41$ (c 0.71, CHCl₃).

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.18 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (dd, J = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (dd, J = 9.6, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.32 (dd, J = 9.6, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 2.86 (p, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.79 – 2.54 (m, 2H), 2.35 – 2.23 (m, 1H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 1.28 – 1.18 (m, 9H) ppm.

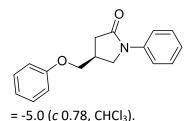
¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 174.0, 147.8, 137.3, 132.8, 131.2, 126.1, 124.6, 58.2, 39.8, 33.7, 27.6, 24.1 (2C), 20.0, 17.7 ppm.

HRMS (ESI⁺): calculated for C₁₅H₂₂NO [M-H]⁺: 232.1696; found: 232.1685.

B1: The enantiomeric excess was determined by SFC using a Chiralpak IA column [CO₂/MeOH 90:10 during 20 min, flow rate 2.0 mL/min], τ_{minor} = 4.85 min, τ_{major} = 5.32 min (68:32 *er*).

B2: The enantiomeric excess was determined by SFC using a Chiralpak IA column [CO₂/MeOH 90:10 during 20 min, flow rate 2.0 mL/min], $\tau_{minor} = 5.07$ min, $\tau_{major} = 5.64$ min (62:38 *er*).

(S)-4-(phenoxymethyl)-1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one (40)



Following the general procedure B3, (E)-4-phenoxybut-2-enoic pivalic anhydride **1j** (47.2 mg, 0.18 mmol) and *N*-((trimethylsilyl)methyl)aniline **5a** (26.9 mg, 0.15 mmol) gave product **4o** (B3: 49% yield, 85:15 *er*) as a colourless oil. B3: $[\alpha]^{20}_{D}$

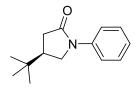
¹**H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.68 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.42 – 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.33 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.21 – 7.12 (m, 1H), 7.03 – 6.94 (m, 1H), 6.94 – 6.87 (m, 2H), 4.09 – 4.03 (m, 2H), 4.00 (dd, J = 9.2, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (dd, J = 9.9, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 3.05 – 2.91 (m, 1H), 2.84 (dd, J = 17.1, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 2.57 (dd, J = 17.1, 6.4 Hz, 1H) ppm.

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.8, 158.5, 139.2, 129.6, 128.9, 124.7, 121.3, 120.0, 114.5, 69.1, 51.4, 35.6, 31.0.

HRMS (ESI⁺): calculated for C₁₇H₁₇O₂NNa [M+Na]⁺ requires 290.1157, found 290.1143.

B3: The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC using a Chiralcel AD-H column [95:5 Hexane:IPA, 1 mLmin⁻¹, 254 nm, 30 °C] τ_{minor} = 25.99 min, τ_{major} = 31.09 min (85:15 *er*)

(R)-4-(tert-butyl)-1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one (4n)



Following the general procedure B3, (E)-4,4-dimethylpent-2-enoic pivalic anhydride **1k** (38.2 mg, 0.18 mmol) and *N*-((trimethylsilyl)methyl)aniline **5a** (26.9 mg, 0.15 mmol) gave product **4n** (B3: 33% yield, 95:15 *er*) as a colourless oil. B3: $[\alpha]^{20}_{D} = -8.6$ (*c* 0.36, CHCl₃).

¹**H-NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.64 − 7.59 (m, 2H), 7.39 − 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.16 − 7.10 (m, 1H), 3.77 (dd, *J* = 9.7, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (dd, *J* = 9.7, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 2.56 (dd, *J* = 17.1, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (dd, *J* = 17.1, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 2.39 − 2.28 (m, 1H), 0.96 (s, 9H) ppm.

¹³C-NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 173.9, 139.6, 128.9, 124.6, 120.2, 50.4, 42.1, 34.9, 31.8, 27.0 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calculated for C₁₄H₁₉NONa [M+Na]⁺ requires 240.1364, found 240.1353

B3: The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC using a Chiralcel AD-H [99:1 Hexane:IPA, 1 mLmin⁻¹, 254 nm, 30 °C] τ_{minor} = 36.71, τ_{major} = 44.24 (95:15 *er*)

(S)-4-methyl-1-(o-tolyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (4p)

Following the general procedure B, (E)-but-2-enoic pivalic anhydride 1a (30.6 mg, 0.18 mmol) and 2-methyl-N-((trimethylsilyl)methyl)aniline 5b (29.0 mg, 0.15 mmol) gave product 4p (B3: 65% yield, 82:18 er) as a colourless oil. B3: $[\alpha]^{20}_{p} = +28.8$ (*c* 0.24, CHCl₃).

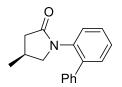
¹**H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.28-7.18 (m, 3H), 7.15-7.09 (m, 1H), 3.81 (dd, *J* = 9.7, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.30 (dd, J = 9.6, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 2.73 (dd, J = 16.4, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.68-2.56 (m, 1H), 2.23 (s, 3H), 1.23 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H) ppm.

¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 174.0, 137.5, 135.6, 131.2, 127.9, 126.9, 126.6, 58.0, 39.6, 27.5, 19.9, 18.1 ppm.

HRMS (ESI⁺): calculated for C₁₂H₁₆NO [M+H]⁺: 190.1232; found: 190.1224 (-1.4 ppm)

B3: The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC using a Chiralcel OD-H column [98:2 Hexane: IPA, 1 mLmin⁻¹, 211 nm, 30 °C] τ_{major} = 38.60 min, τ_{minor} = 43.67 min (82:18 er)

(S)-1-([1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)-4-methylpyrrolidin-2-one (4q)



Following the general procedure B except using PhMe:MeCN (1:2) instead, (E)-but-2-enoic pivalic anhydride 1a (30.6 mg, 0.18 mmol) and N-((trimethylsilyl)methyl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-amine 5d (38.3 mg, 0.15 mmol) gave product 4q (B3: 67% yield, 63:37 er) as a colourless oil. B3: $[\alpha]^{20}_{D}$ =

+12.9 (*c* 1.19, CHCl₃).

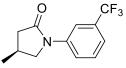
¹**H-NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.44-7.28 (m, 9H), 3.30 (dd, *J* = 9.6, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.80 (dd, *J* = 9.5, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 2.59 (dd, J = 16.7, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.26 (m, 1H), 2.06 (dd, J = 16.7, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 0.90 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H) ppm.

¹³C-NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 175.5, 140.0, 139.2, 136.5, 131.0, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5 (2C), 128.2, 127.7, 57.6, 39.6, 27.1, 19.6 ppm.

HRMS (ESI⁺): calculated for C₁₇H₁₈NO [M+H]⁺ requires 252.1388, found 252.1383

B3: The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC using a Chiralcel OD-H column [95:5 Hexane:IPA, 1 mLmin⁻¹, 211 nm, 30 °C] τ_{minor} = 17.99 min, τ_{major} = 20.51 min (63:37 *er*)

(S)-4-methyl-1-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (4r)



Following the general procedure B, (E)-but-2-enoic pivalic anhydride 1a (30.6 mg, 0.18 mmol) and 3-(trifluoromethyl)-N-((trimethylsilyl)methyl)aniline 5c (37.1 mg, 0.15 mmol) gave product 4r (B3: 61%, 81:19 *er*) as a colourless oil. B3: $[\alpha]^{20}_{P} = -2.2$ (*c* 1.32, CHCl₃).

¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.94-7.88 (m, 1H), 7.81 (s, 1H), 7.51-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.41-7.36 (m, 1H), 3.97 (dd, J = 9.3, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.48 (dd, J = 9.3, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 2.79 (dd, J = 16.9, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.65 -2.53 (m, 1H), 2.29 (dd, J = 16.9, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 1.24 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H) ppm.

¹³C-NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 174.2, 140.1, 129.5, 123.0, 120.9 (q, *J* = 3.7 Hz) 116.2 (q, *J* = 4.3 Hz), 55.8, 41.1, 26.4, 19.6 ppm.

¹⁹**F-NMR** (471 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -62.6 ppm

HRMS (ESI⁺): calculated for C₁₂H₁₃F₃NO [M+H]⁺ requires 244.0944, found 244.0948

B3: The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC using a Chiralcel IC column [97:3 Hexane: IPA, 2 mLmin⁻¹, 211 nm, 30 °C] τ_{minor} = 10.45 min, τ_{major} = 12.12 min (81:19 *er*).

5. Stern-Volmer Luminescence quenching studies

Emission spectra were recorded on a JASCO Spectrofluorometer FP-8600 equipped with a TC-815 Peltier thermostated single cell holder (water-cooled) controlled by Spectra Manager Version 2.10.01.

For all luminescence quenching experiments, the excitation wavelength was fixed at 420 nm, while the emission spectra were acquired from 500 nm to 700 nm, observing the maximum emission peak for $Ru(bpy)_3(PF_6)_2$ at 597 nm. MeCN was used as solvent.

The emission spectrum of the 0.03 mM solution of $Ru(bpy)_3(PF_6)_2$ is reported in Figure S4.

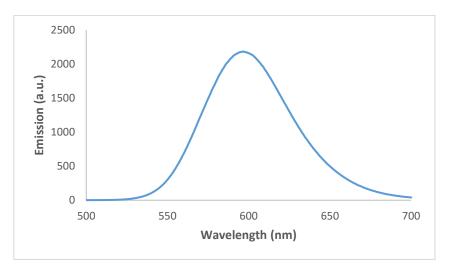


Figure S4 Emission spectrum of Ru(bpy)₃(PF₆)₂ (excitation wavelength 420 nm)

In a typical Stern-Volmer luminescence quenching experiment, the appropriate amount of quencher (Q) is added to the MeCN solution of $Ru(bpy)_3(PF_6)_2$ (0.03 mM) in a Teflon-top 10x10 mm precision cell (2.4 mL) made of Quartz SUPRASIL[®]. After degassing for 30 sec under an argon atmosphere, the emission spectra of the samples were collected.

The Stern-Volmer plots displayed in **Figure S4** show a linear correlation between the concentration of quencher [Q] and I_0/I according to the equation:

$$I_0/_I = K_{SV} \times [Q] + 1$$

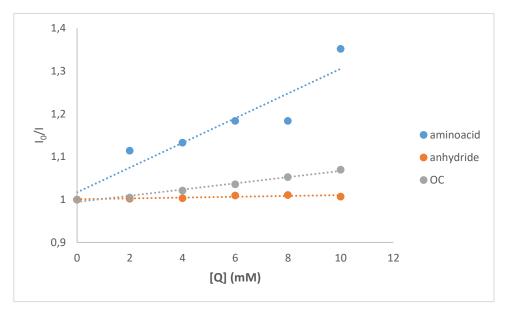


Figure S4 Stern-Volmer quenching plot

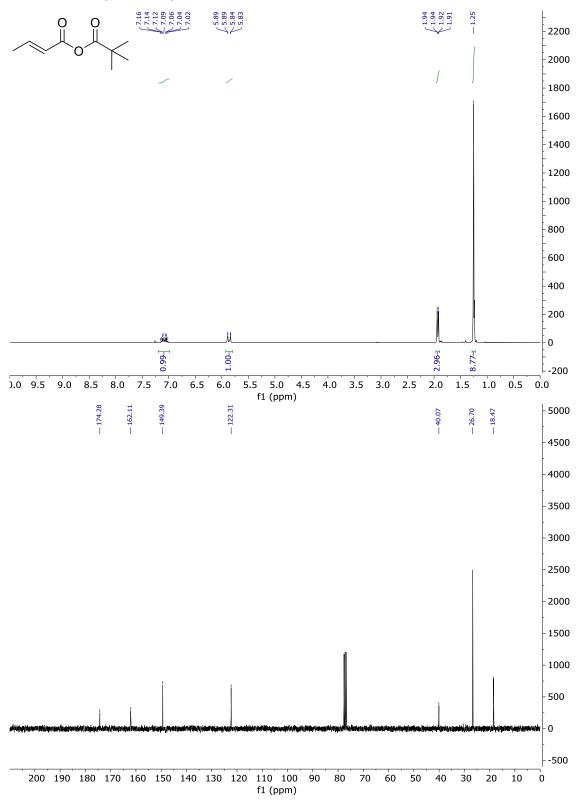
The data plotted in the chart confirms the lack of interaction between the $Ru(bpy)_3(PF_6)_2$ and the anhydride, as well as with the organocatalyst. Furthermore, it presents the possibility of the amino acid quenching the excited state of $^*Ru(bpy)_3(PF_6)_2$, suggesting that the initial step of the reaction should involve the oxidation of the amino acid by $^*Ru(bpy)_3(PF_6)_2$, as proposed in the plausible mechanism (*See main manuscript*).

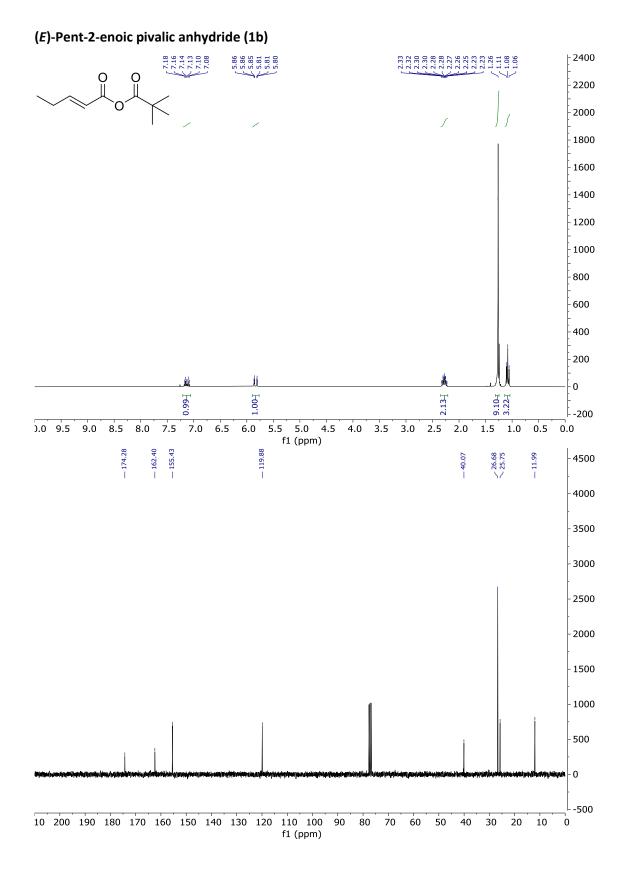
6. References

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- Pagire, S. K.; Kumagai, N.; Shibasaki M, Introduction of a 7-aza-6-MeO-indoline auxiliary in Lewis-acid/photoredox cooperative catalysis: highly enantioselective aminomethylation of α,β-unsaturated amides, *Chemical Science*, **11**, 5168-5174 (2020).

7. Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectra

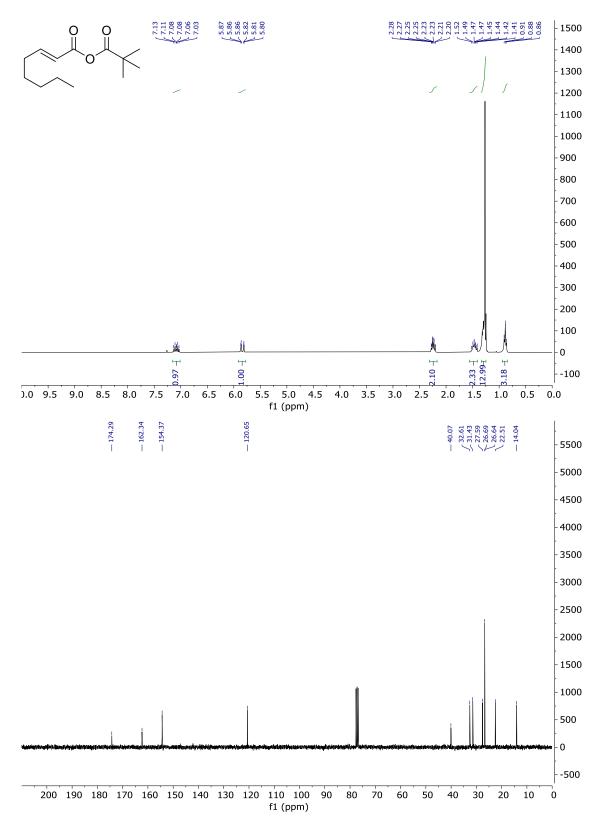
(E)-But-2-enoic pivalic anhydride (1a)

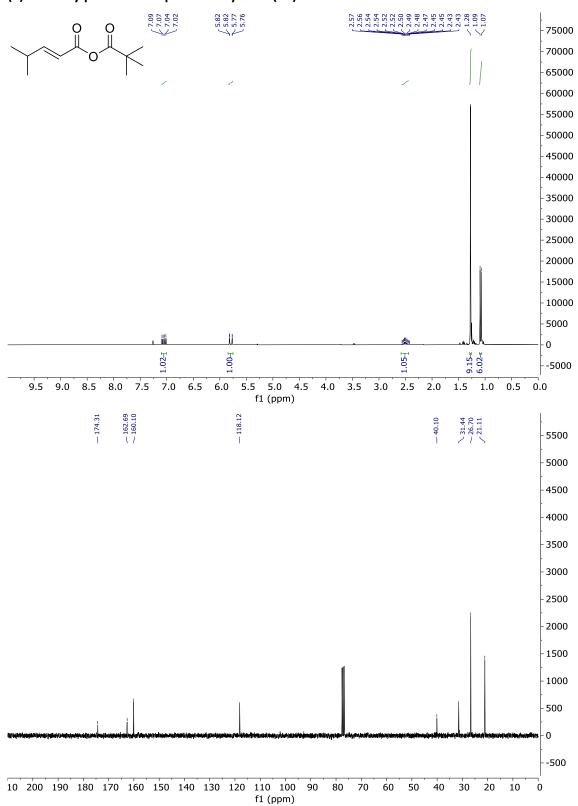




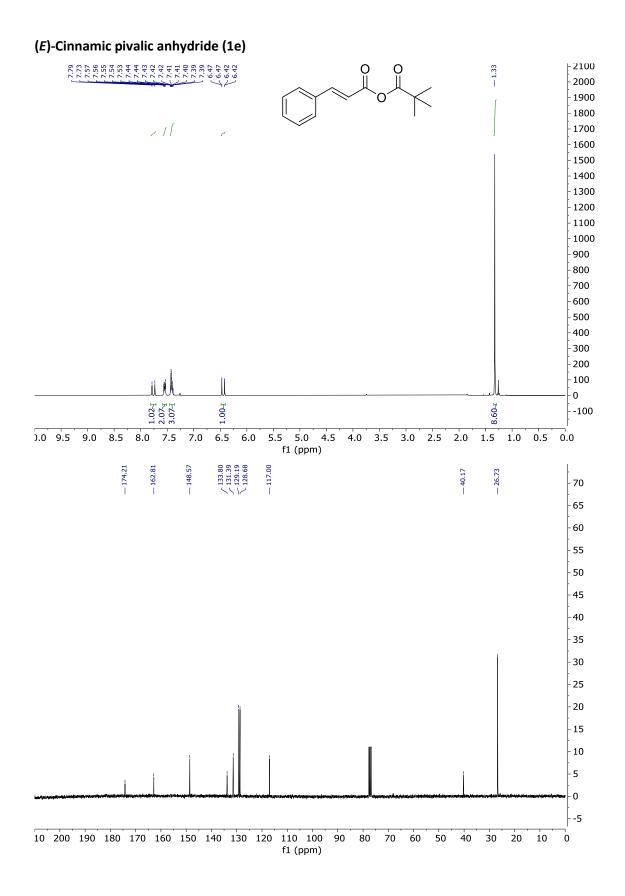
S33

(E)-Oct-2-enoic pivalic anhydride (1c)

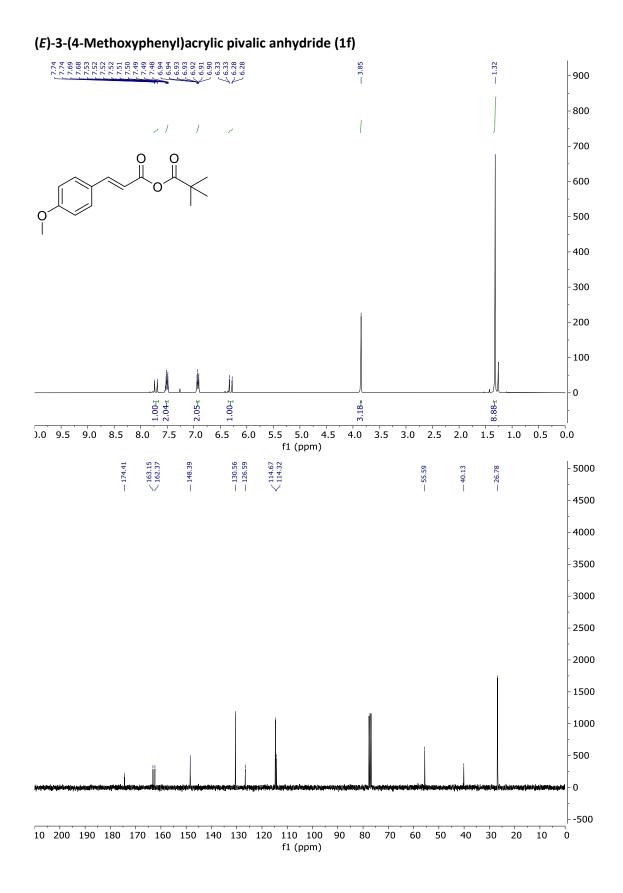




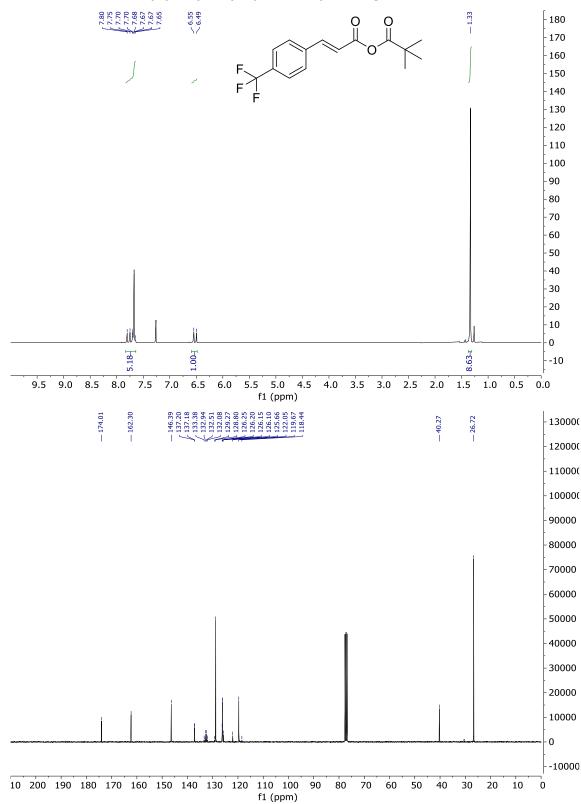
(E)-4-Methylpent-2-enoic pivalic anhydride (1d)



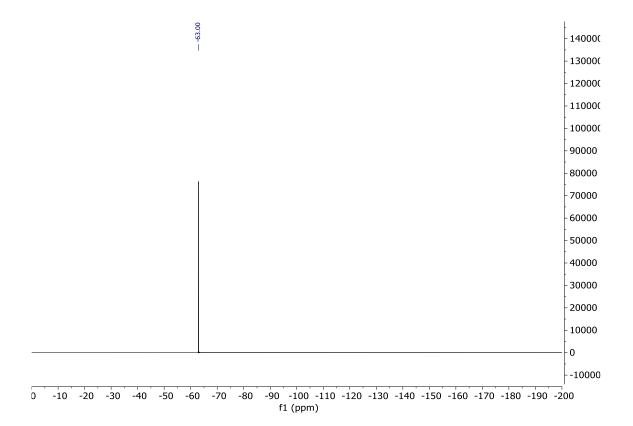
S36

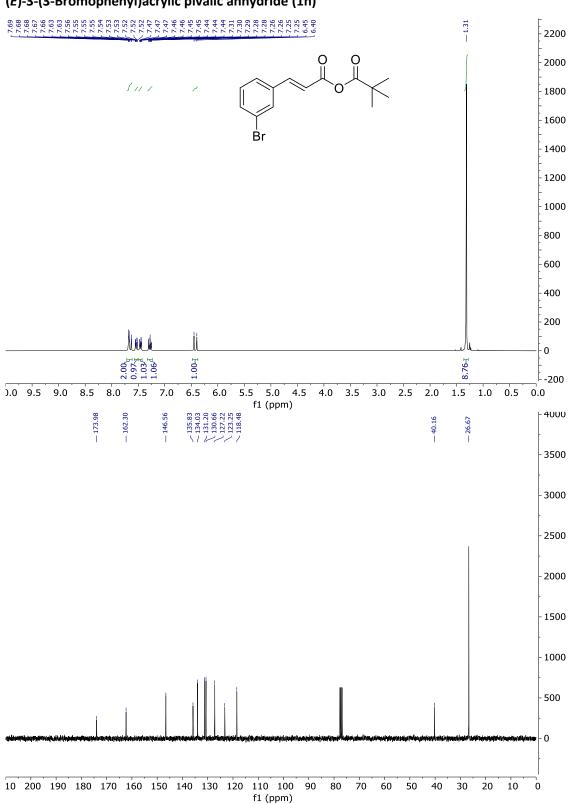


S37

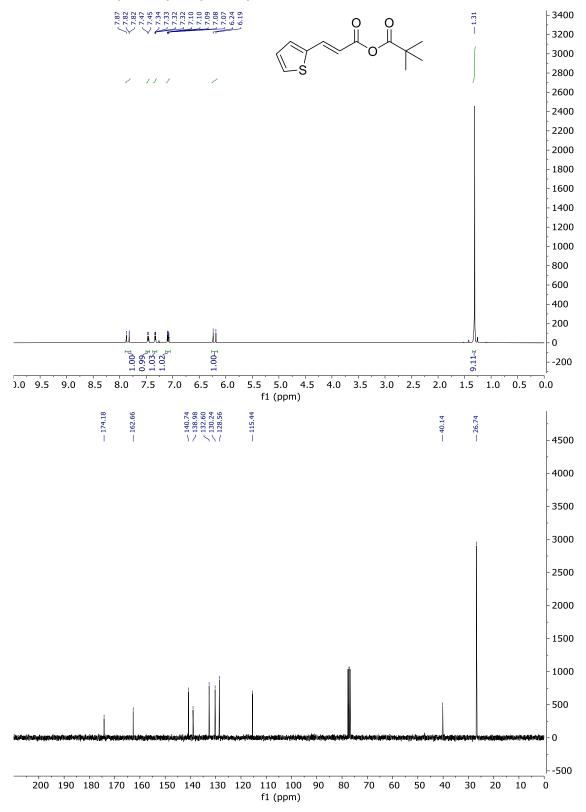


(E)-3-(4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acrylic pivalic anhydride (1g)

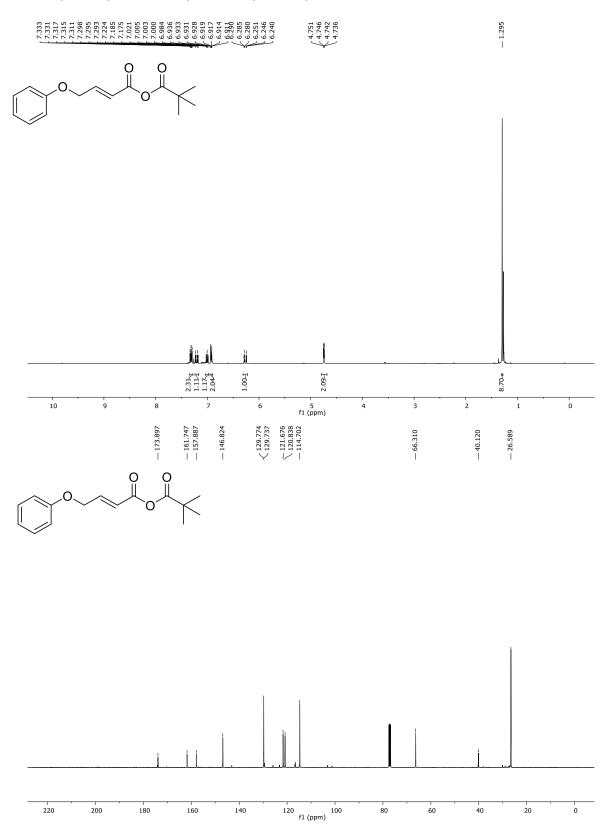




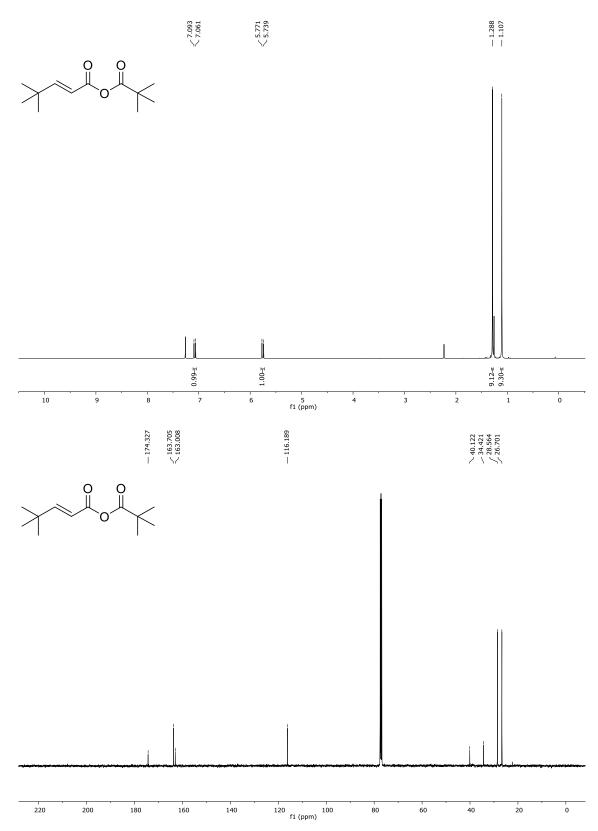
Pivalic (E)-3-(thiophen-2-yl)acrylic anhydride (1i)

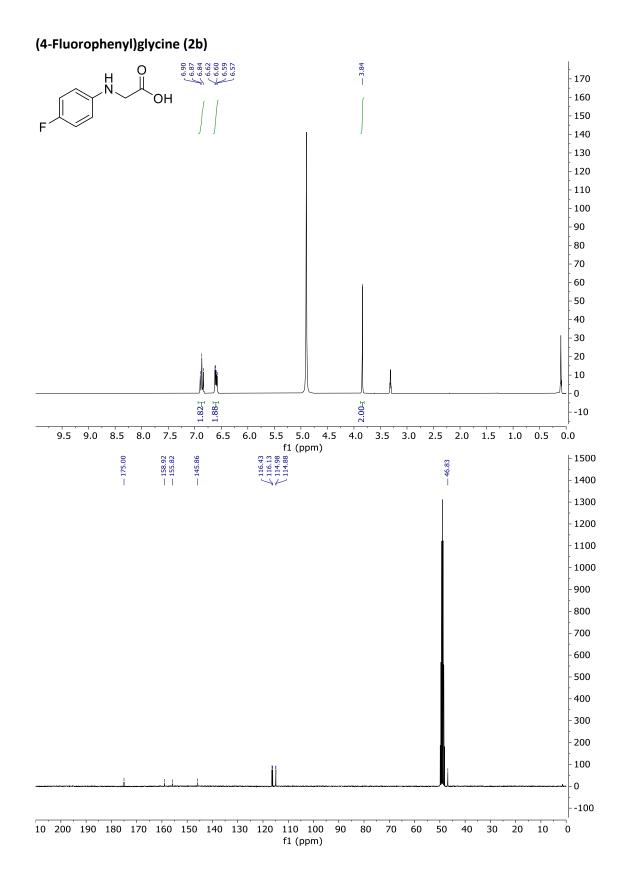


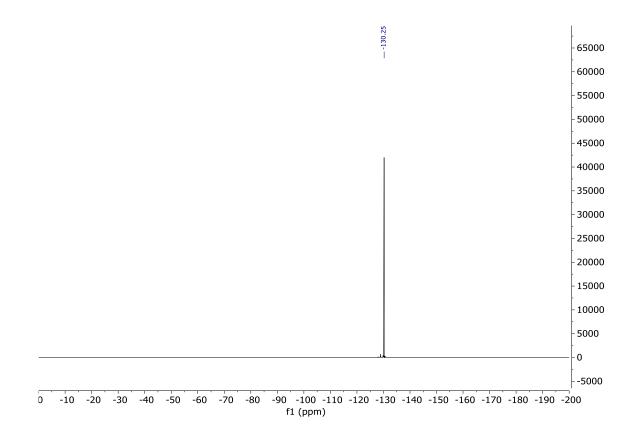
(E)-4-phenoxybut-2-enoic pivalic anhydride (1j)

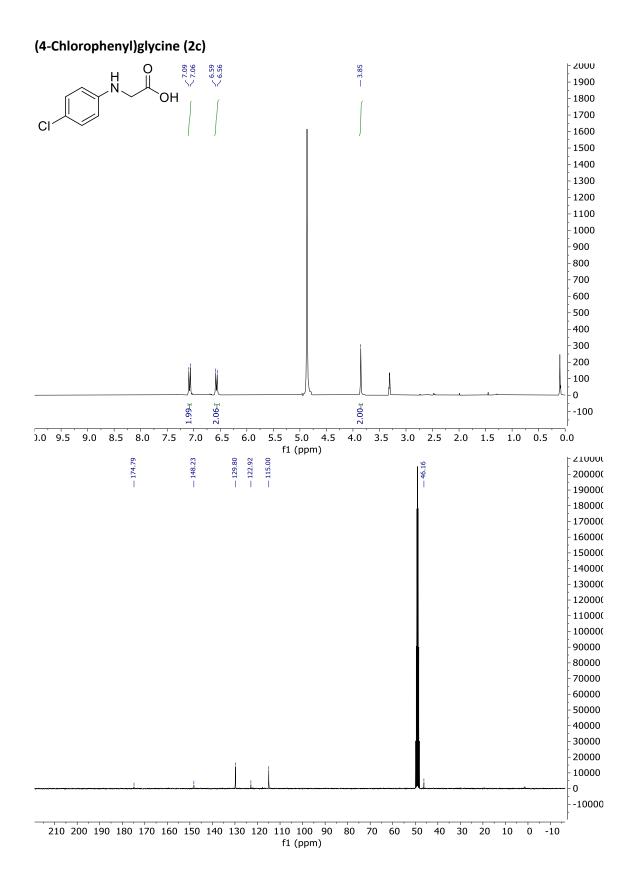


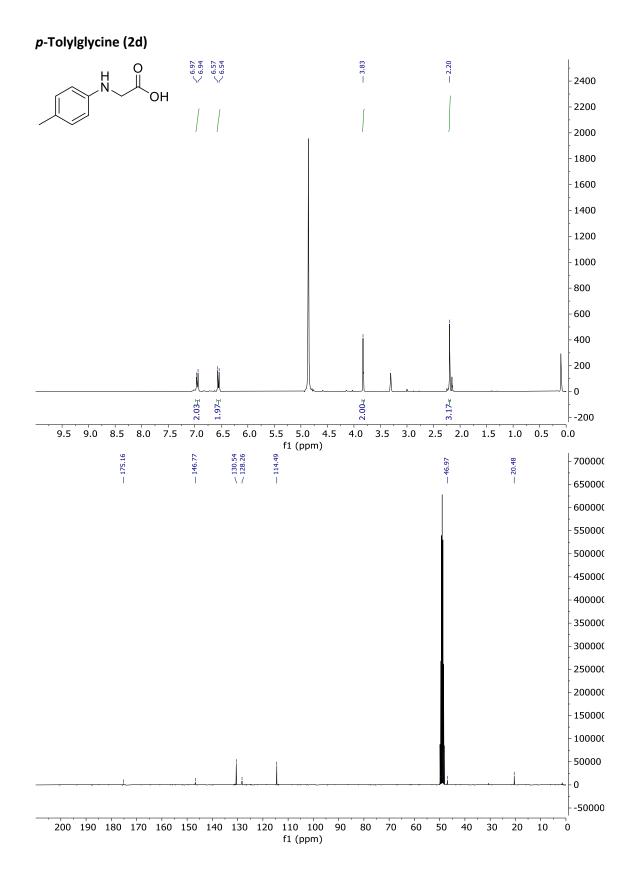
(E)-4,4-dimethylpent-2-enoic pivalic anhydride (1k)

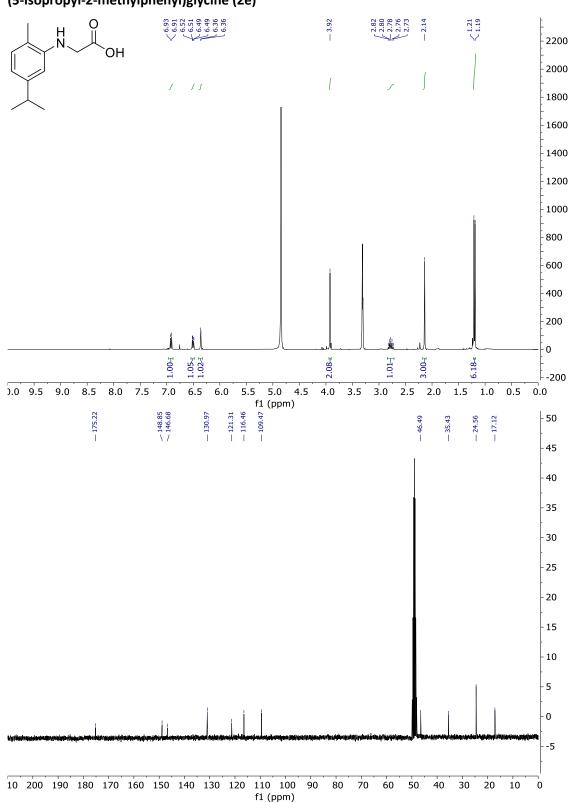






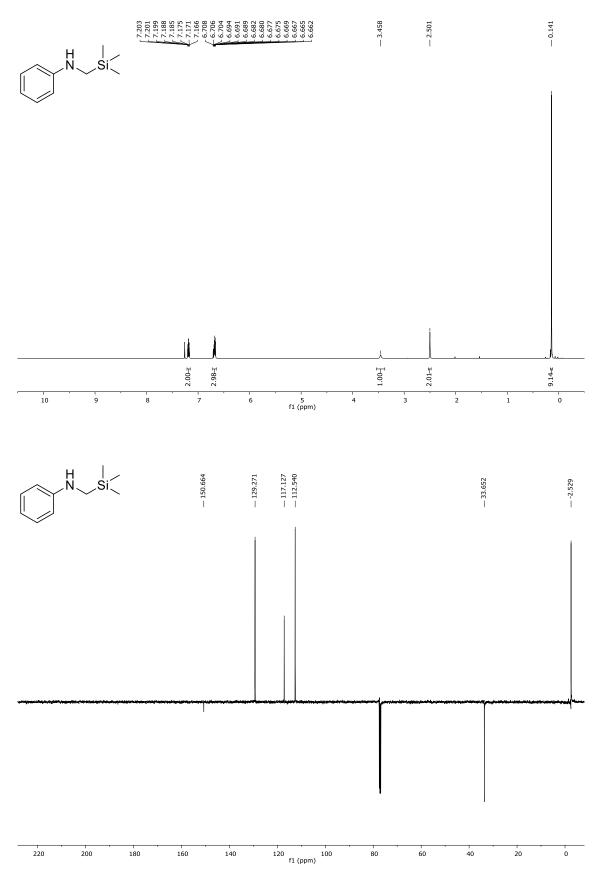




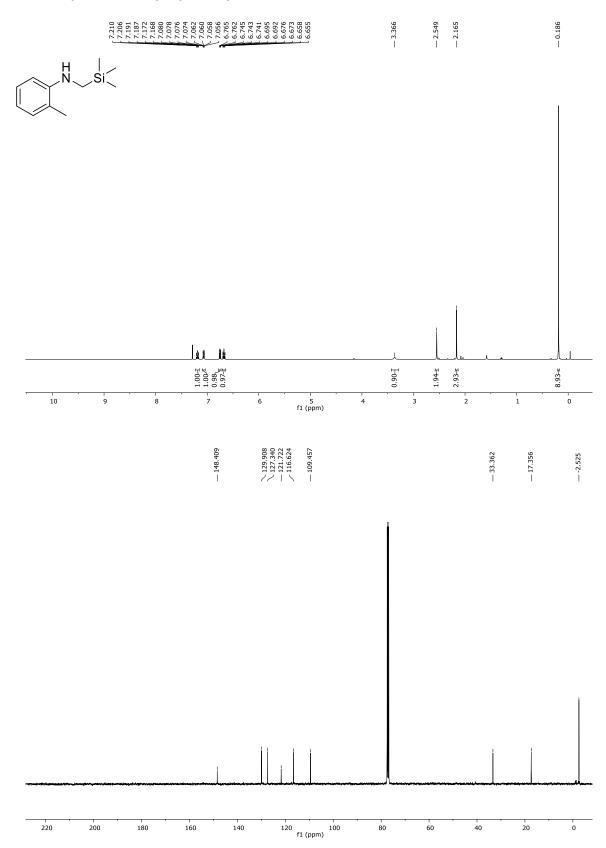


(5-Isopropyl-2-methylphenyl)glycine (2e)

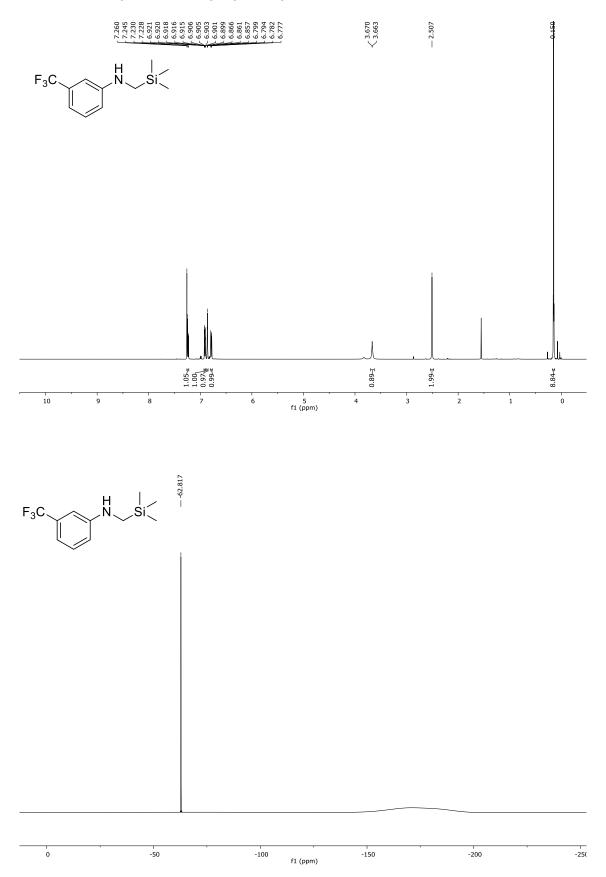
N-((trimethylsilyl)methyl)aniline (5a)

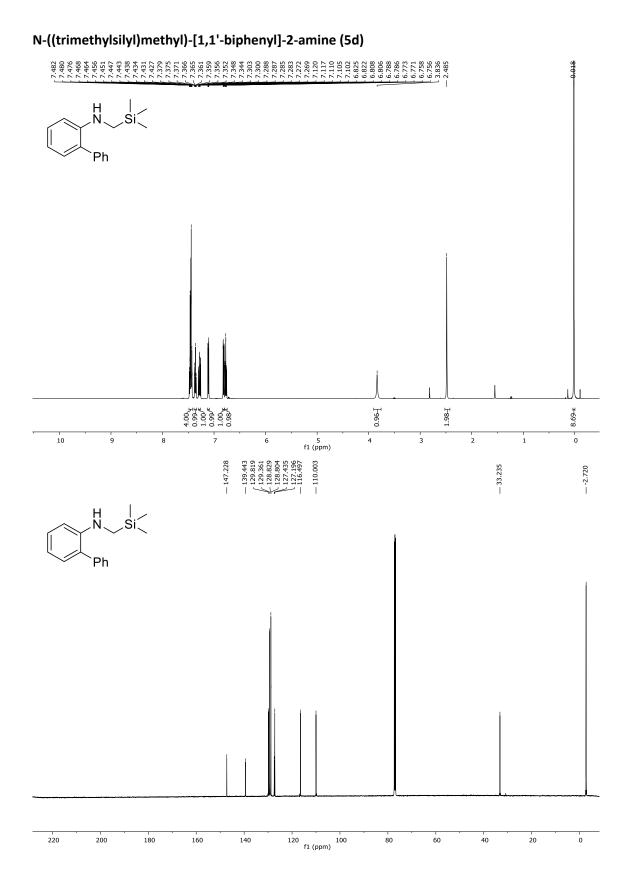


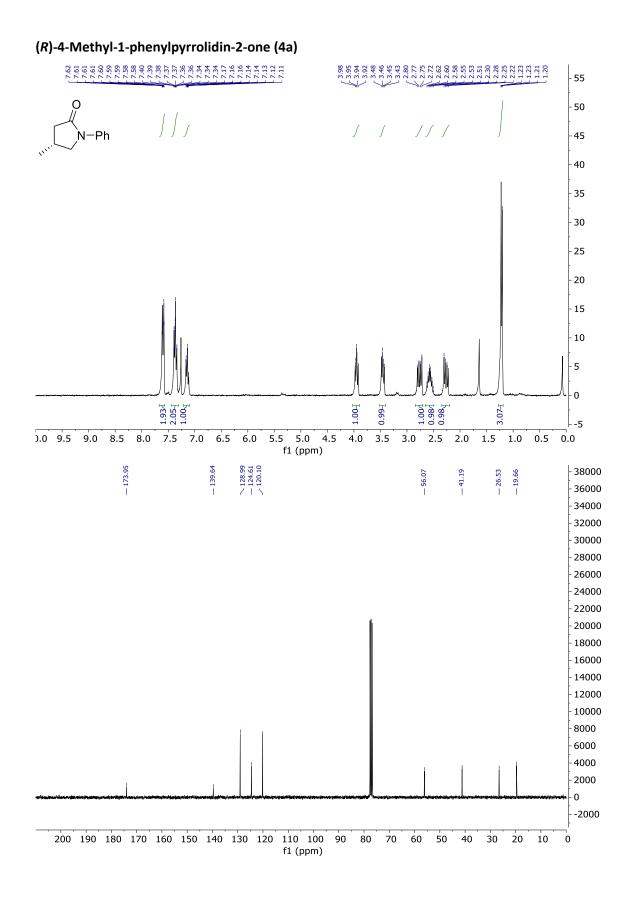
2-methyl-N-((trimethylsilyl)methyl)aniline (5b)

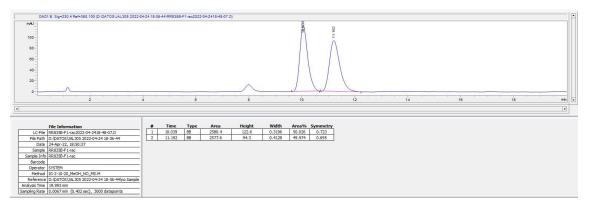


3-(trifluoromethyl)-N-((trimethylsilyl)methyl)aniline (5c)

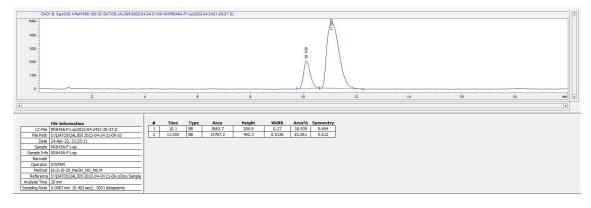


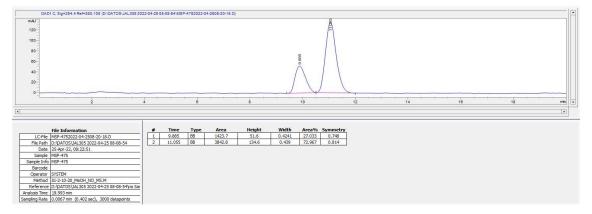




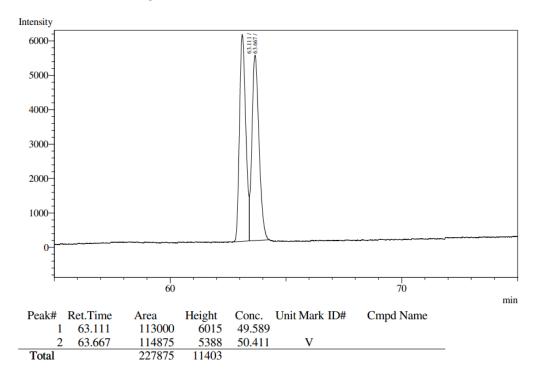


Batch reaction chromatogram (Manuscript, Table 2):

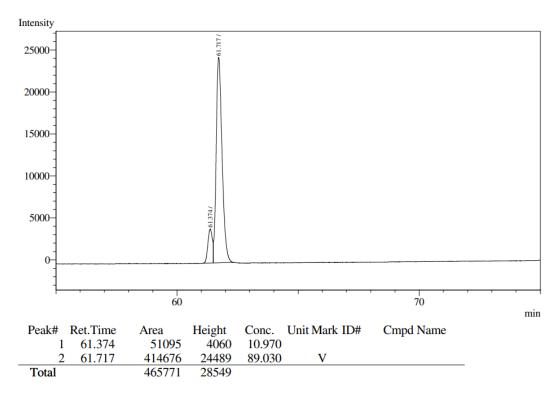


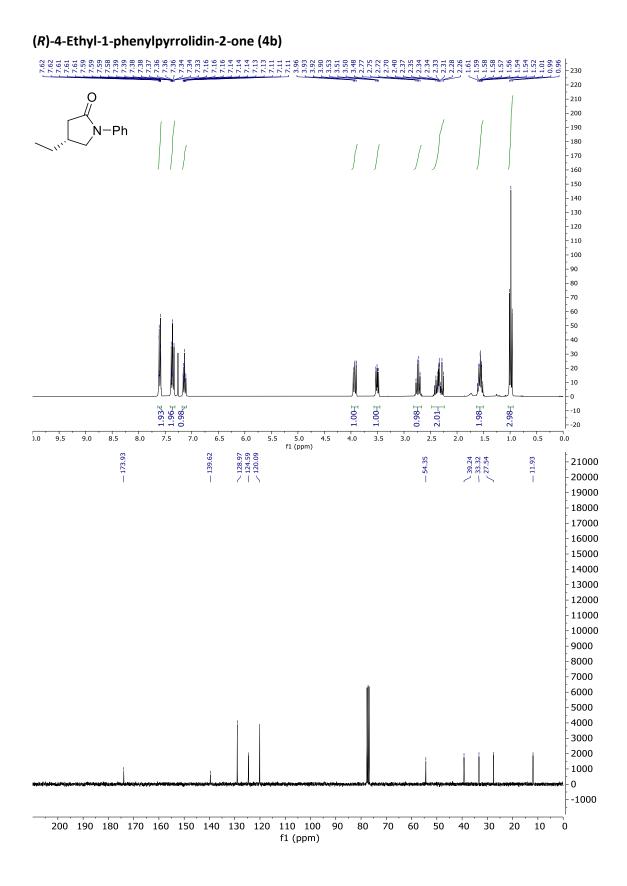


Racemic Gas chromatogram

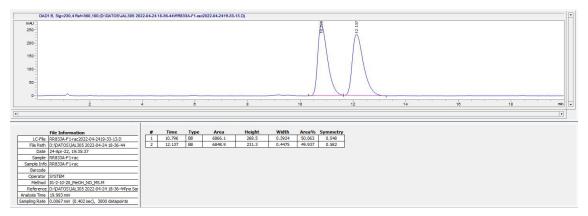




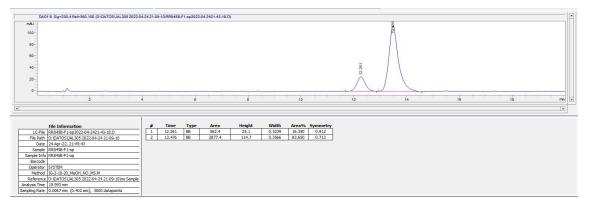


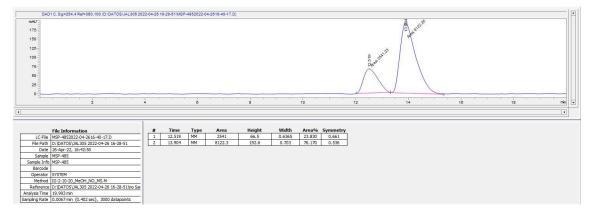


S56



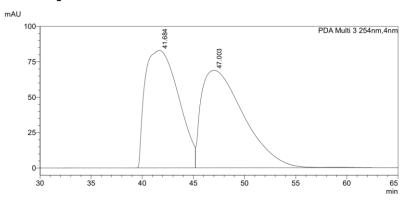
Batch reaction chromatogram (Manuscript, Table 2):





Batch racemic chromatogram using α -silyl amine

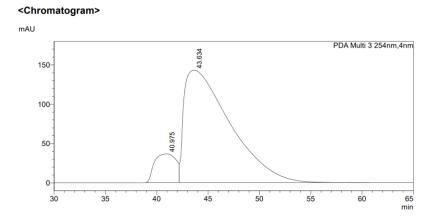




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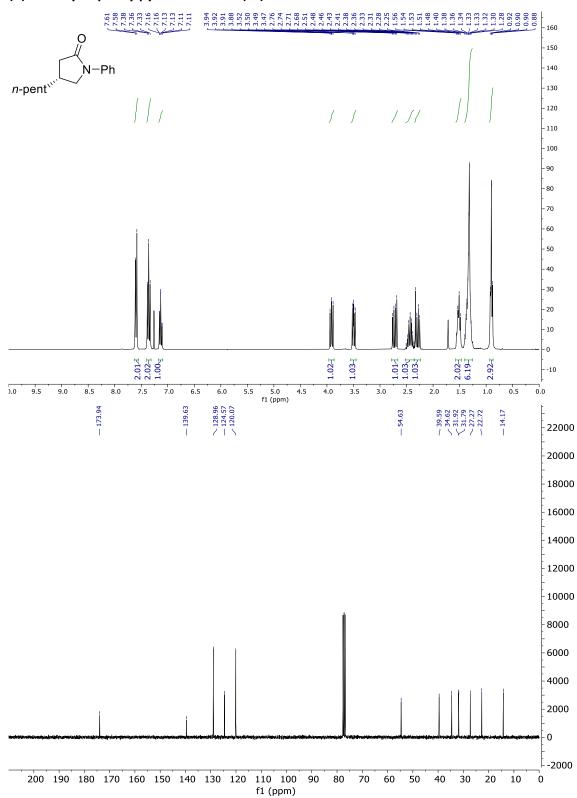
PDA C	h3 254nm	
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area%
1	41.684	48.577
2	47.003	51.423
Total		100.000

Batch chromatogram using α -silyl amine

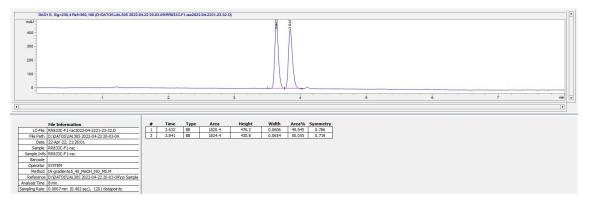




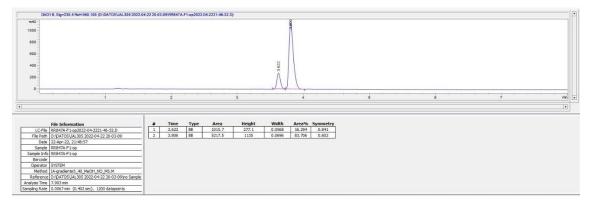
PDA C	h3 254nm	
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area%
1	40.975	10.566
2	43.634	89.434
Total		100.000

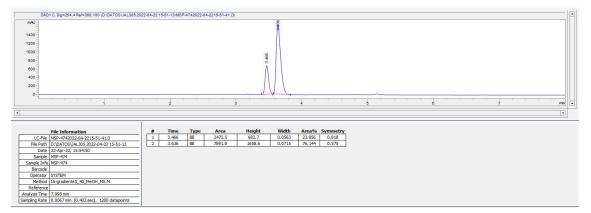


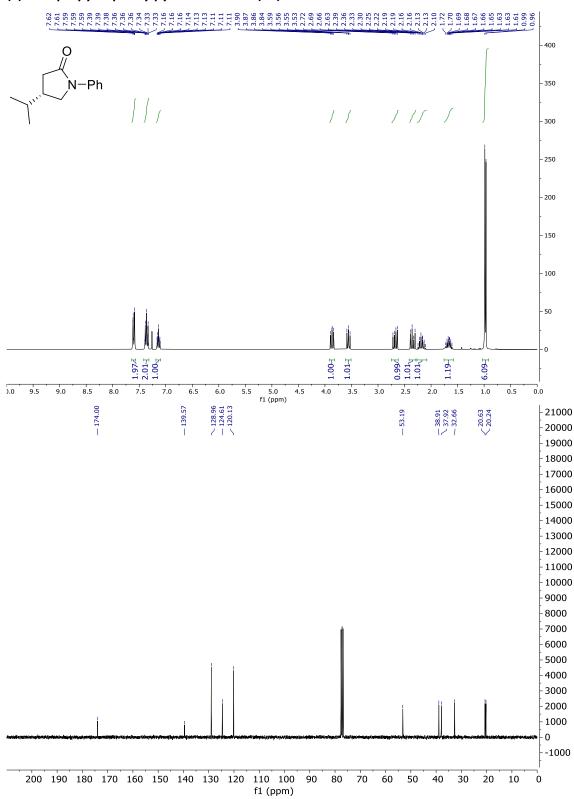
(R)-4-Pentyl-1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one (4c)



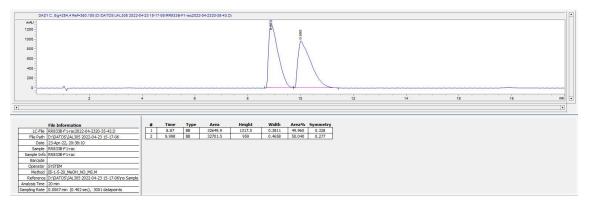
Batch reaction chromatogram (Manuscript, Table 2):



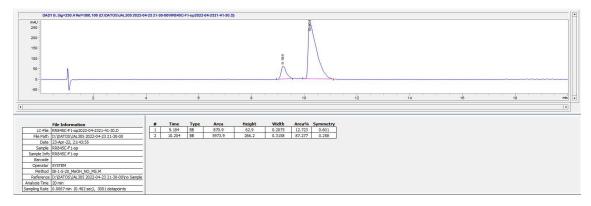


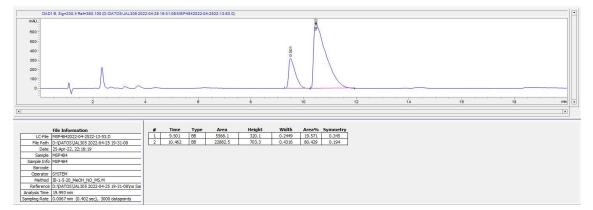


(S)-4-Isopropyl-1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one (4d)



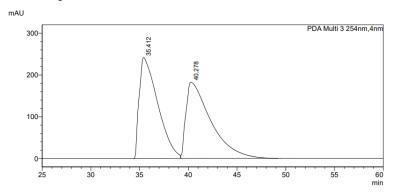
Batch reaction chromatogram (Manuscript, Table 2):





Racemic chromatogram using α -silyl amine

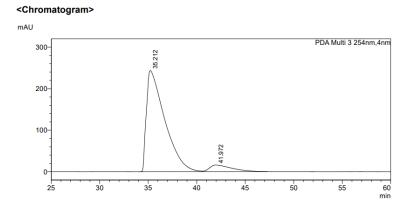
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<Peak Table>

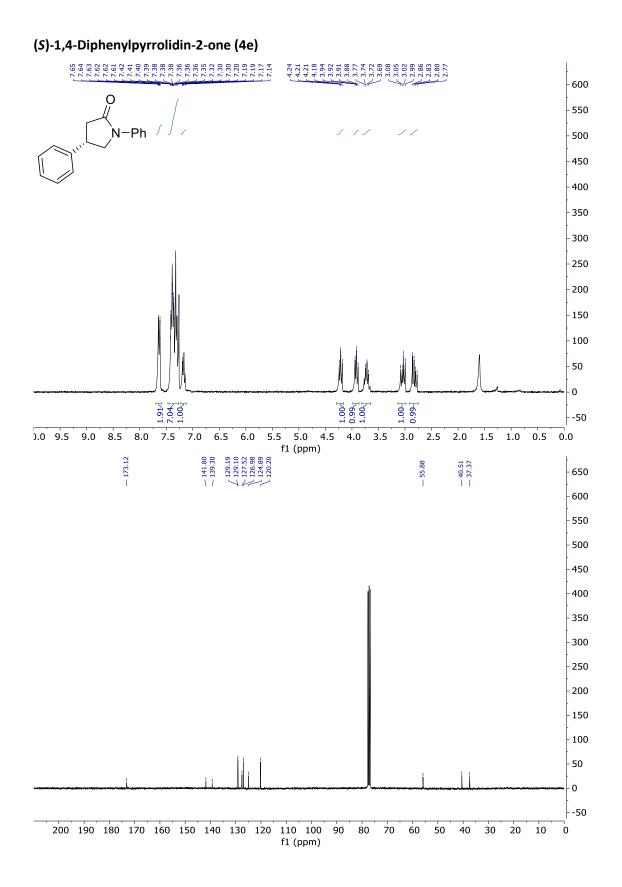
	PDA Ch3 254nm		
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area%	
1	35.412	49.729	
2	40.278	50.271	
Total		100.000	

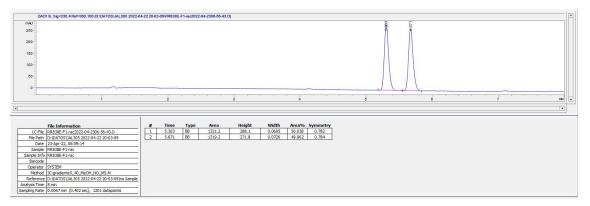
Batch chromatogram using α -silyl amine



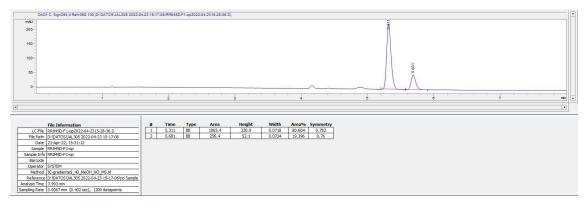
<Peak Table>

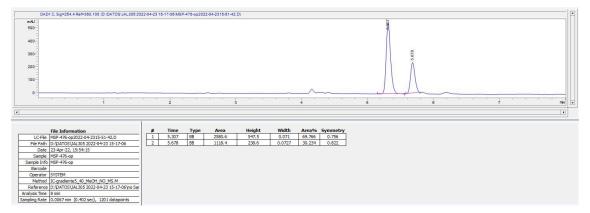
PDA C	h3 254nm	
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area%
1	35.212	92.626
2	41.972	7.374
Total		100.000

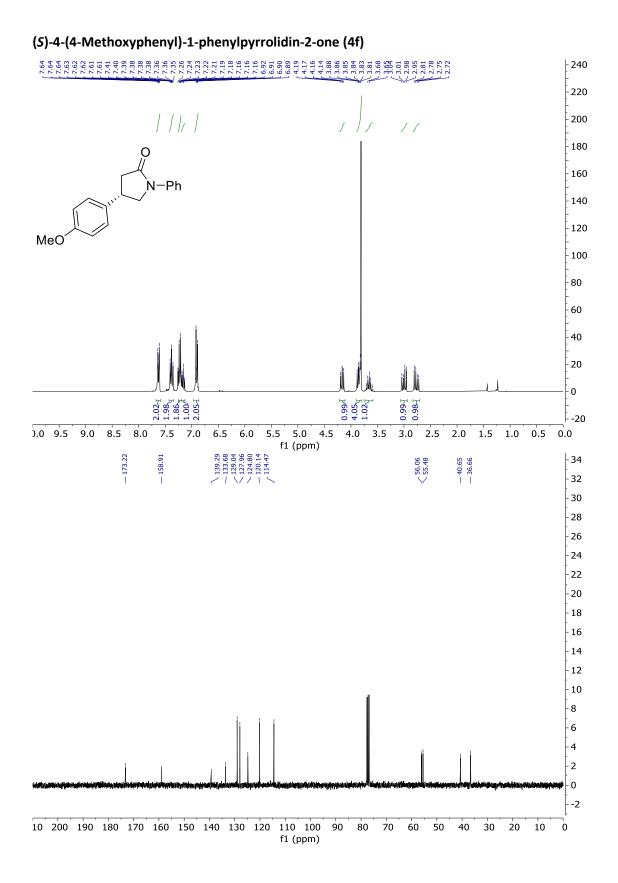




Batch reaction chromatogram (Manuscript, Table 2):



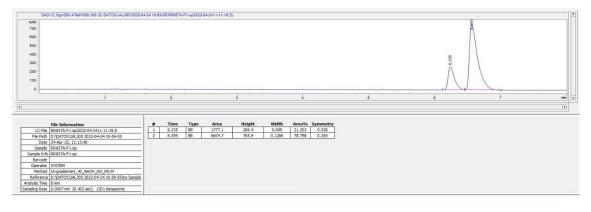


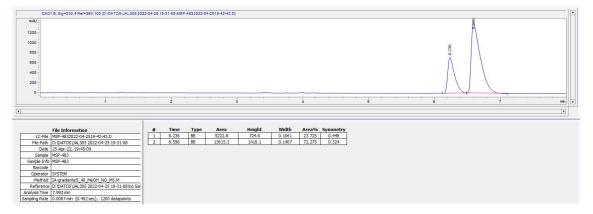


S66

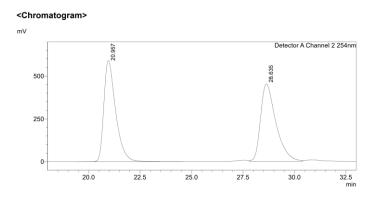


Batch reaction chromatogram (Manuscript, Table 2):





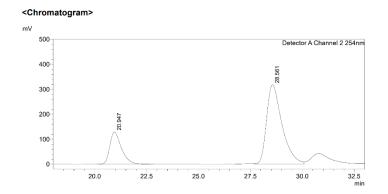
Racemic reaction chromatogram (from the α -silyl amine)



<Peak Table>

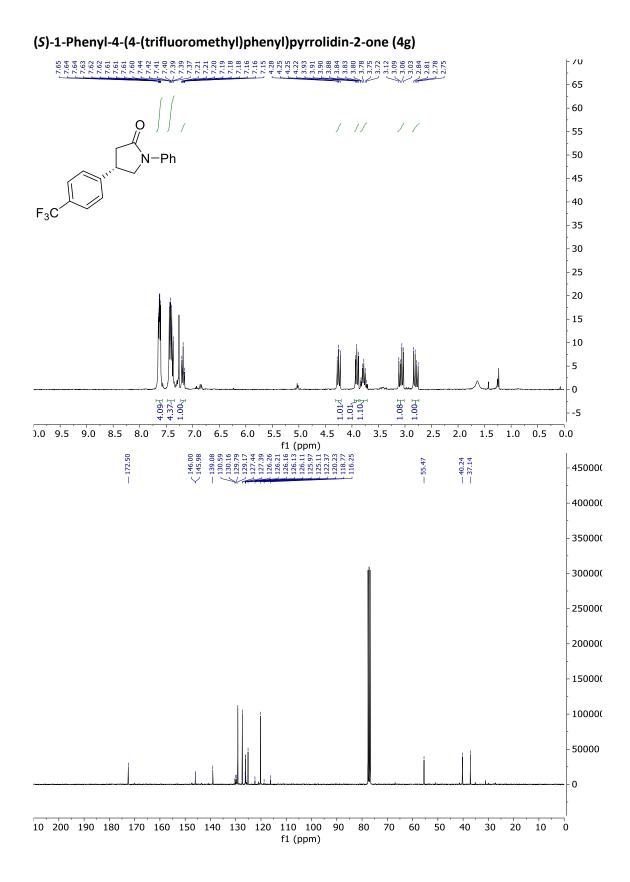
Detector A Channel 2 254nm			
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area%	
1	20.957	49.931	
2	28.635	50.069	
Total		100.000	

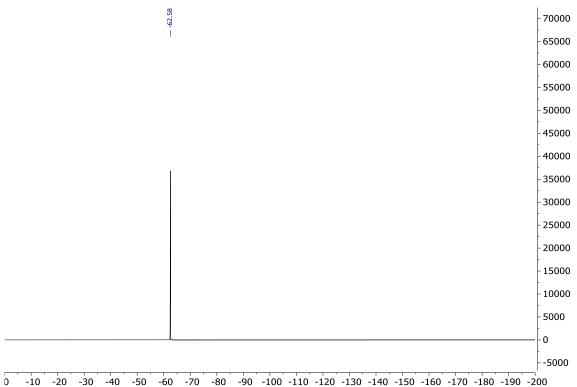
Batch reaction chromatogram (from the α -silyl amine)



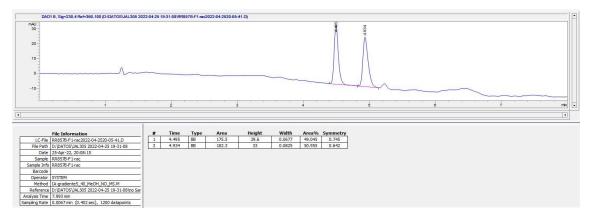
<Peak Table>

Detector A Channel 2 254nm		
Ret. Time	Area%	
20.947	23.285	
28.561	76.715	
	100.000	
	Ret. Time 20.947 28.561	

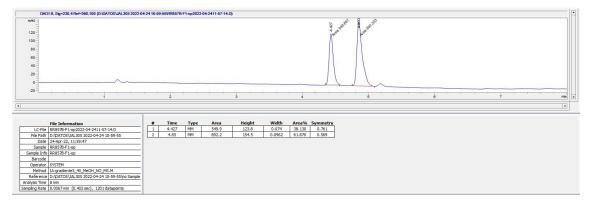




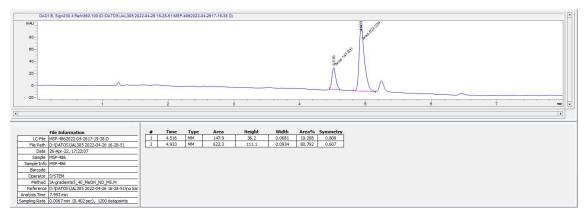
f1 (ppm)

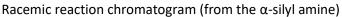


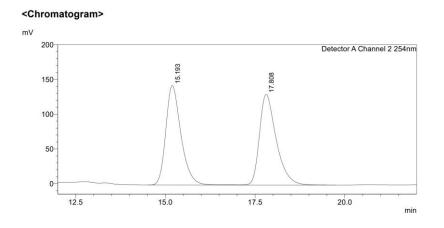
Batch reaction chromatogram (Manuscript, Table 2):



Flow reaction chromatogram (Manuscript, Table 4):





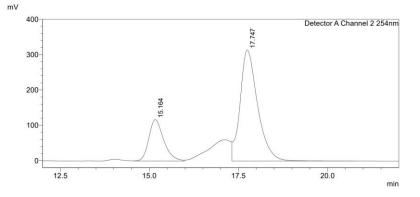


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	ca	N 1	a		

Detector A Channel 2 254nm Peak# Ret. Time Area%		
Ret. Time	Area%	
15.193	49.847	
17.808	50.153	
	100.000	
	15.193	

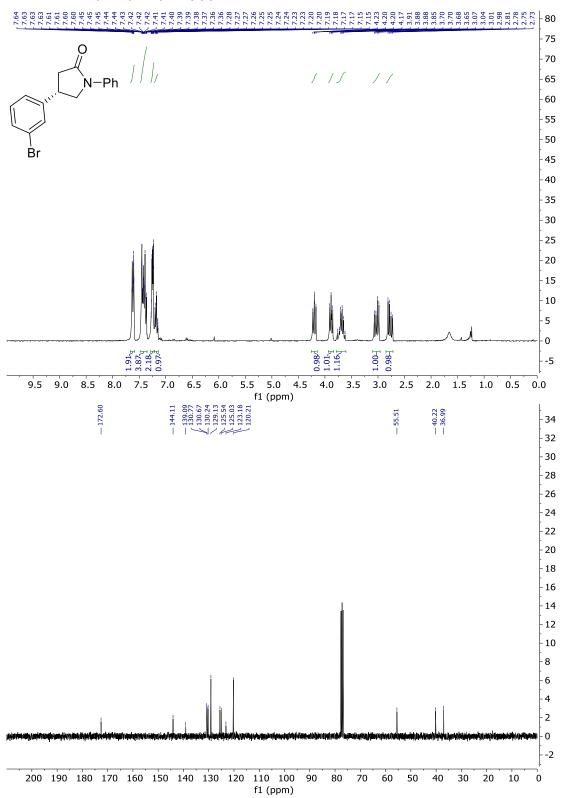
Batch reaction chromatogram (from the α -silyl amine)







Detector A Channel 2 254nm		
Ret. Time	Area%	
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17.747	75.997	
	100.000	
	Ret. Time 15.164 17.747	



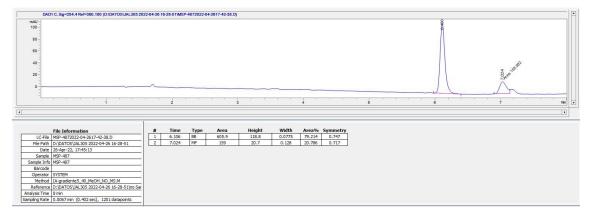
(S)-4-(3-bromophenyl)-1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one (4h)

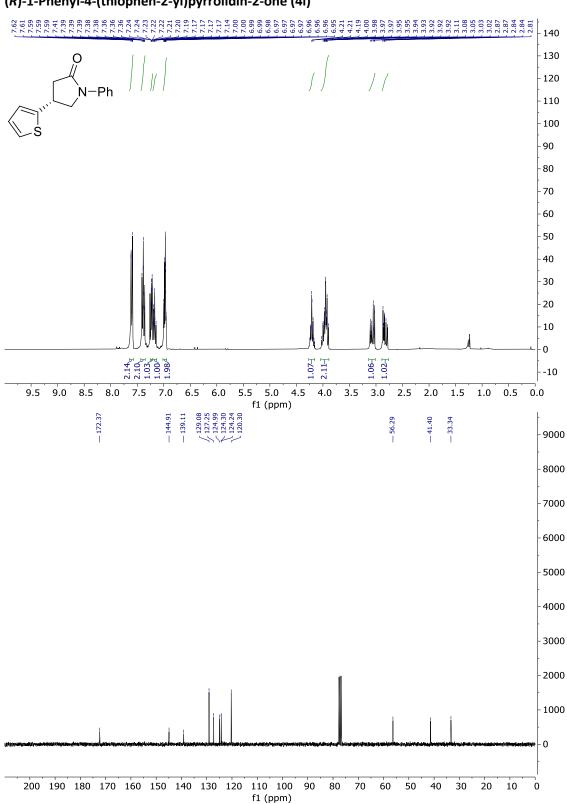


Batch reaction chromatogram (Manuscript, Table 2):

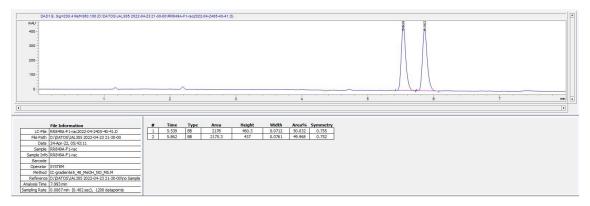


Flow reaction chromatogram (Manuscript, Table 4):

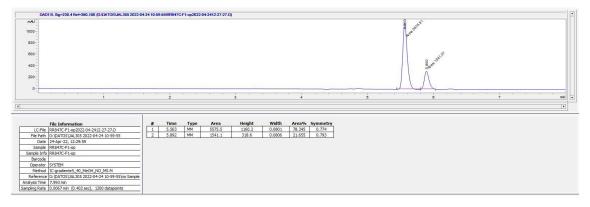




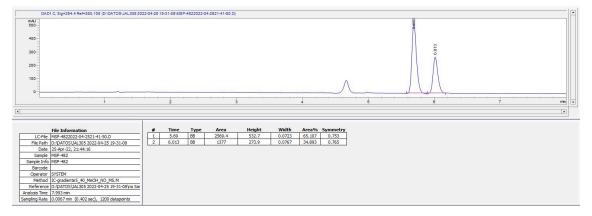
(R)-1-Phenyl-4-(thiophen-2-yl)pyrrolidin-2-one (4i)

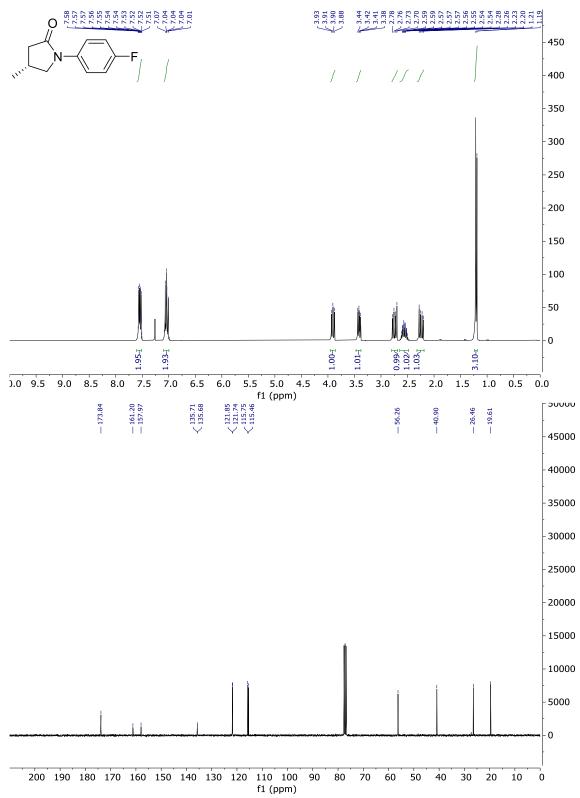


Batch reaction chromatogram (Manuscript, Table 2):

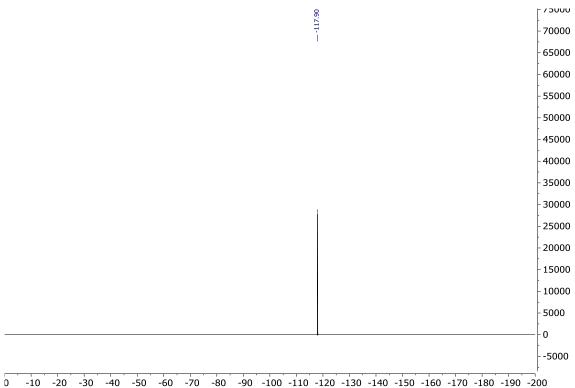


Flow reaction chromatogram (Manuscript, Table 4):

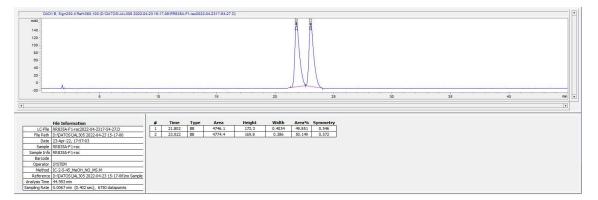




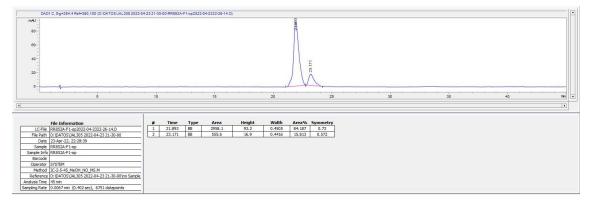
(R)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-methylpyrrolidin-2-one (4j)

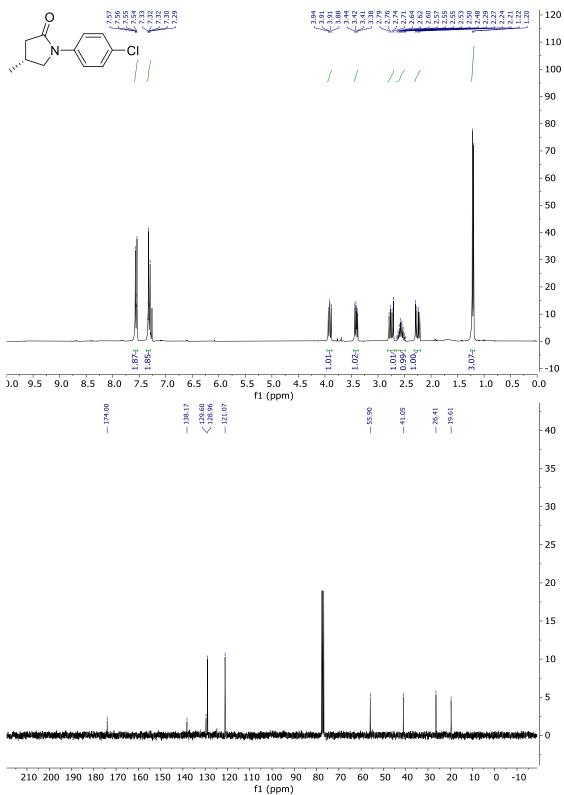


f1 (ppm)

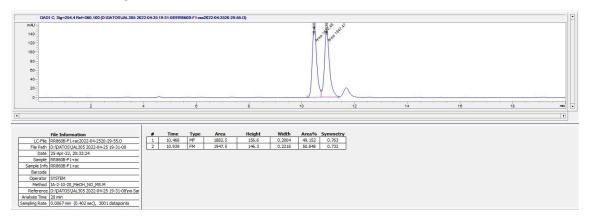


Batch reaction chromatogram (Manuscript, Table 2):

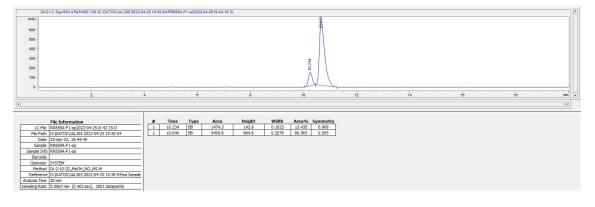


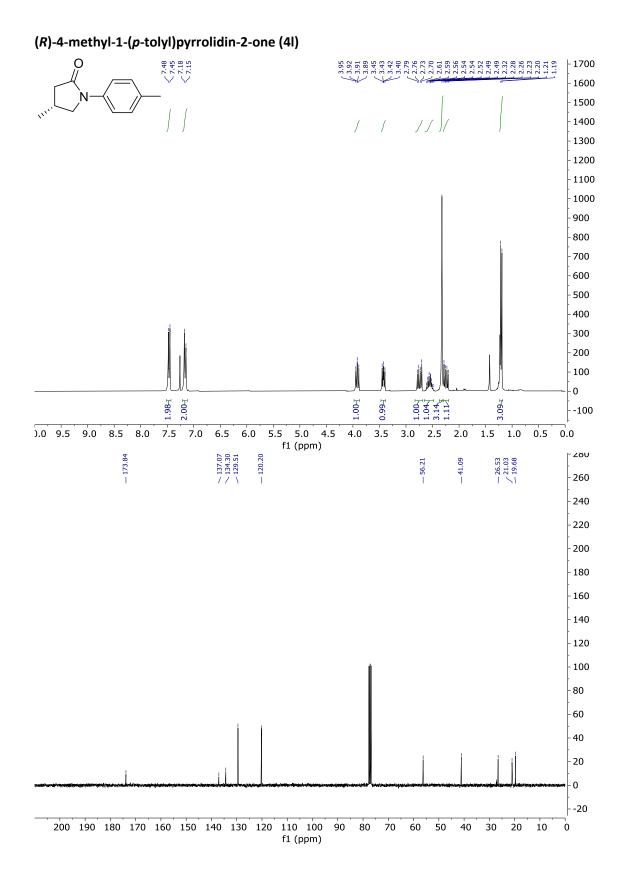


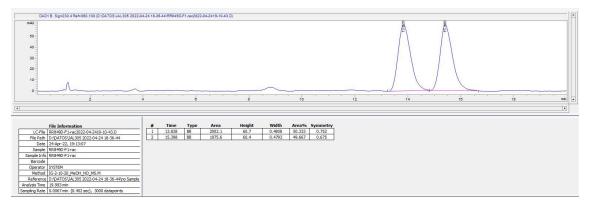
(R)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-methylpyrrolidin-2-one (4k)



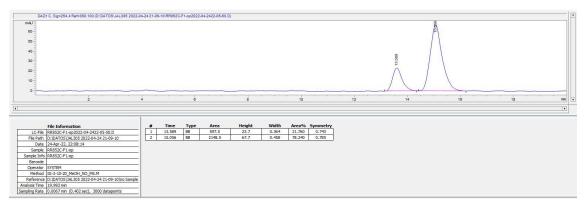
Batch reaction chromatogram (Manuscript, Table 2):



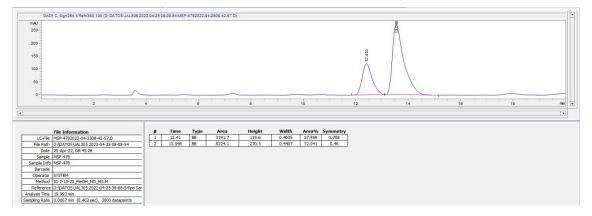


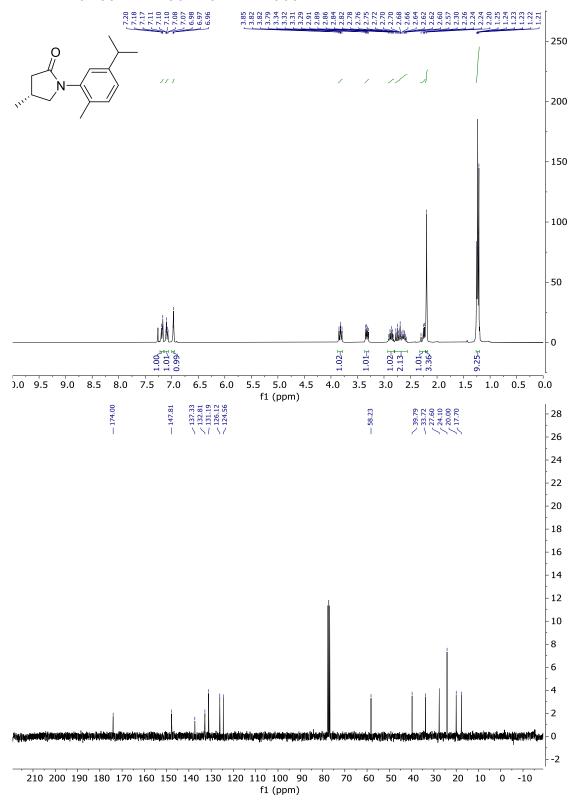


Batch reaction chromatogram (Manuscript, Table 2):

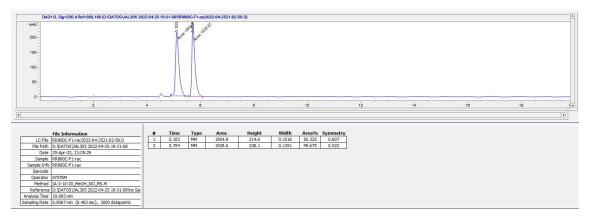


Flow reaction chromatogram (Manuscript, Table 4):

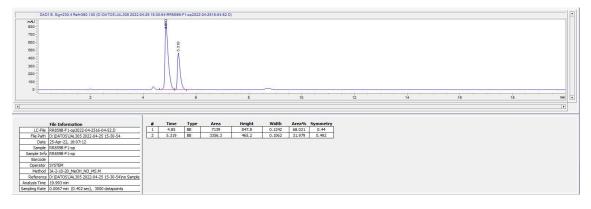




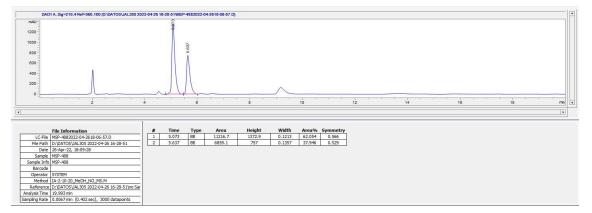
(R)-1-(5-isopropyl-2-methylphenyl)-4-methylpyrrolidin-2-one (4m)

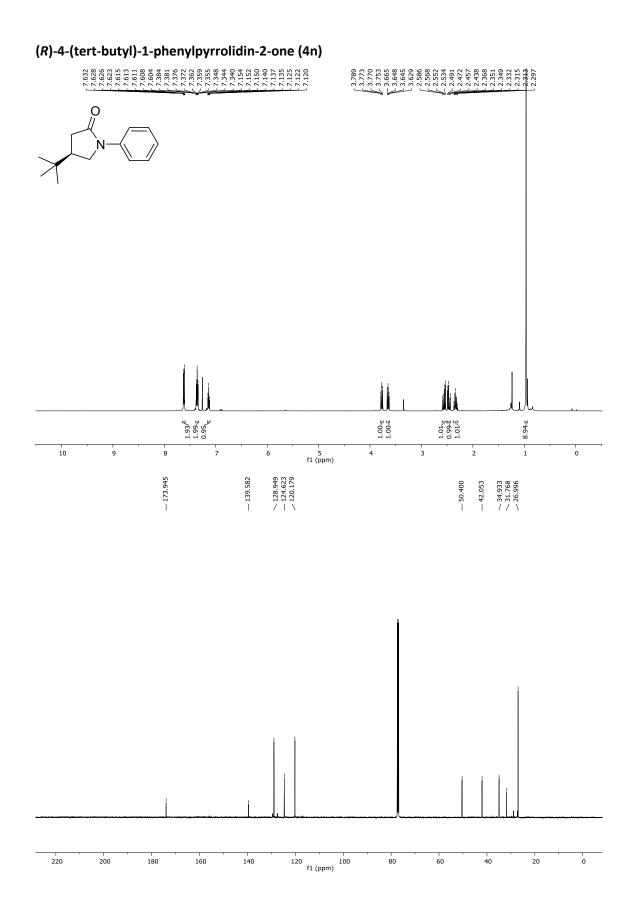


Batch reaction chromatogram (Manuscript, Table 2):

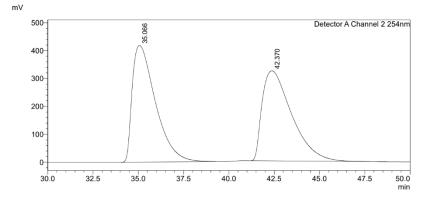


Flow reaction chromatogram (Manuscript, Table 4):





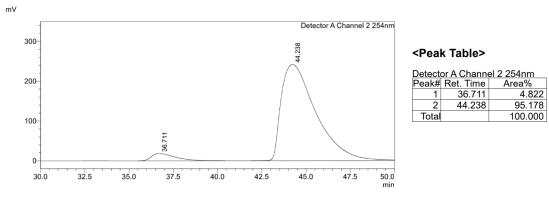
<Chromatogram>



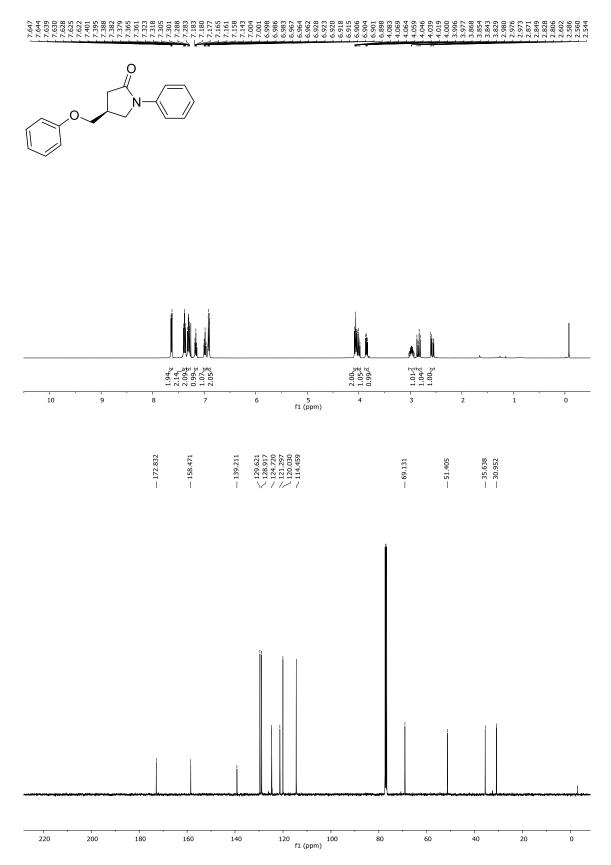
Detector A Channel 2 254nm		
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area%
1	35.066	50.384
2	42.370	49.616
Total		100.000

Batch reaction chromatogram

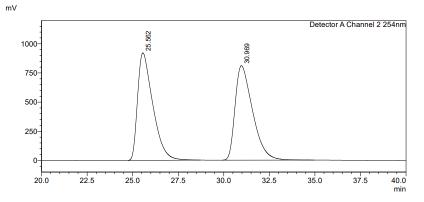
<Chromatogram>



(S)-4-(phenoxymethyl)-1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one (40)



<Chromatogram>

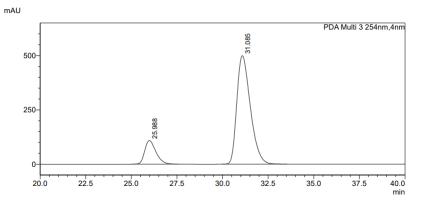


<Peak Table>

Detector A Channel 2 254nm			
Peak# Ret. Time Area%			
1	25.562	49.817	
2	30.969	50.183	
Total		100.000	

Batch reaction chromatogram

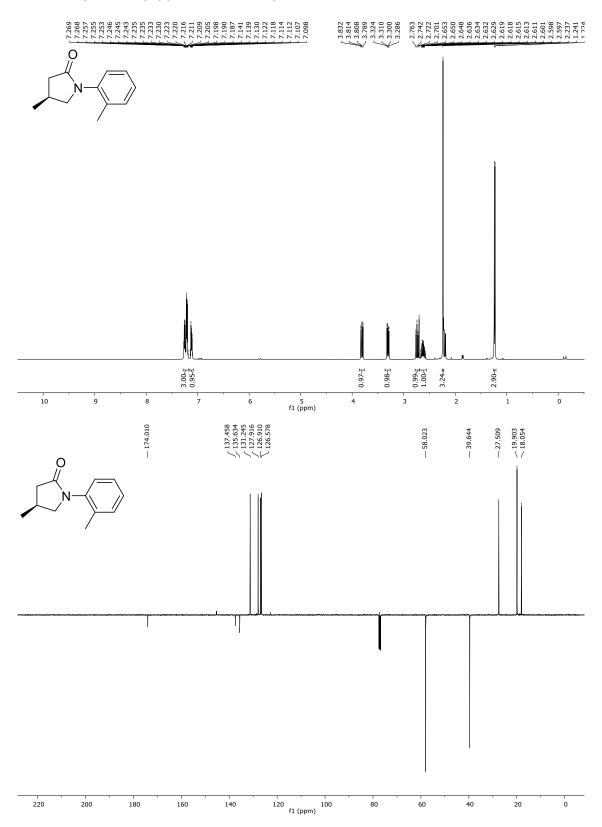
<Chromatogram>



<Peak Table>

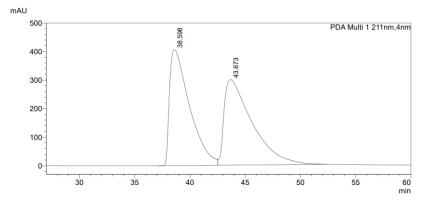
PDA C	h3 254nm	
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area%
1	25.988	15.201
2	31.085	84.799
Total		100.000

(S)-4-methyl-1-(o-tolyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (4p)



Racemic reaction chromatogram

<Chromatogram>

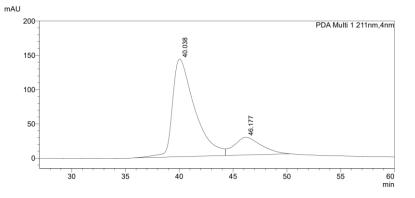


<Peak Table>

PDA Ch1 211nm		
Peak#	Ret. Time Area%	
1	38.598	49.168
2	43.673	50.832
Total		100.000

Batch reaction chromatogram

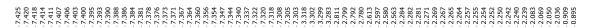


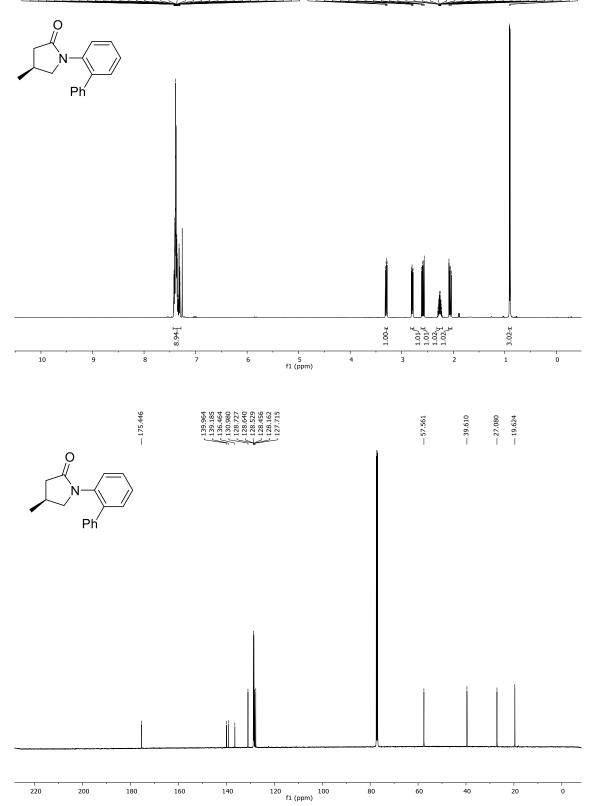


<Peak Table>

PDA Ch1 211nm		
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area%
1	40.038	81.865
2	46.177	18.135
Total		100.000

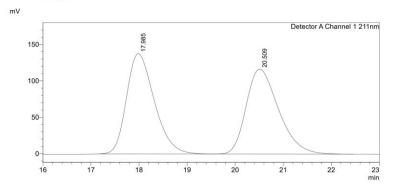
(S)-1-([1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)-4-methylpyrrolidin-2-one (4q)





Racemic Reaction chromatogram

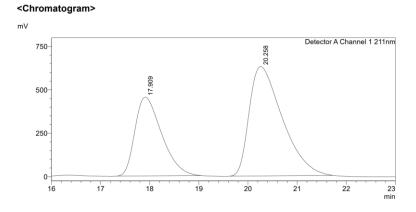
<Chromatogram>



<Peak Table>

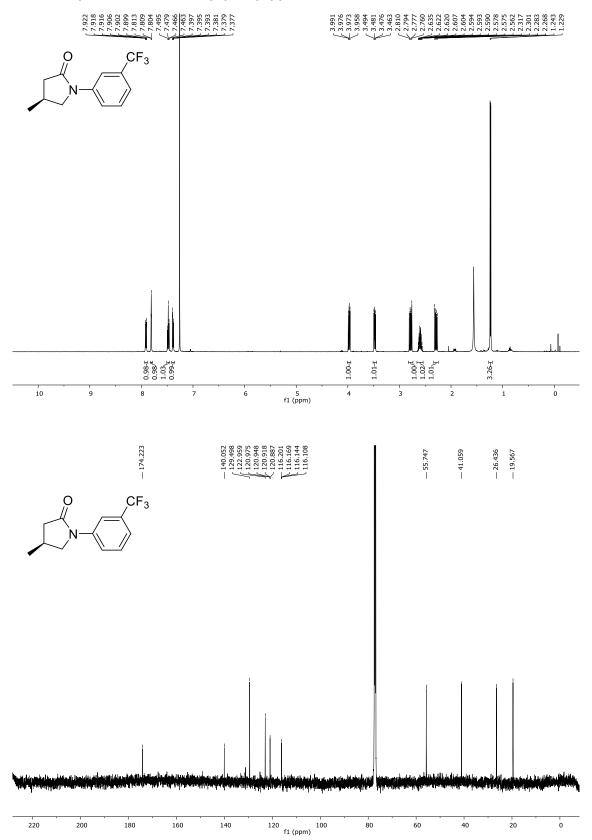
	or A Channe	el 1 211nm		
Peak#	# Ret. Time Area%			
1	17.985	50.299		
2	20.509	49.701		
Total		100.000		

Batch Reaction chromatogram

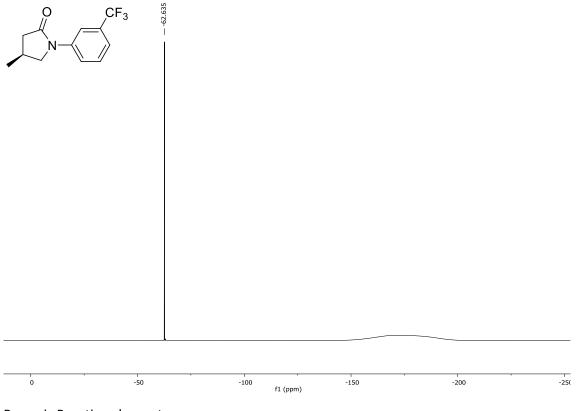


<Peak Table>

	or A Channe	
Peak# Ret. Time Area%		Area%
1	17.909	36.707
2	20.258	63.293
Total		100.000

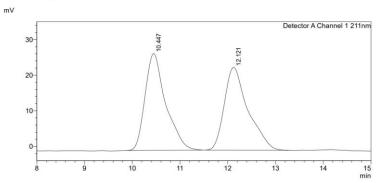


(S)-4-methyl-1-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (4r)



Racemic Reaction chromatogram

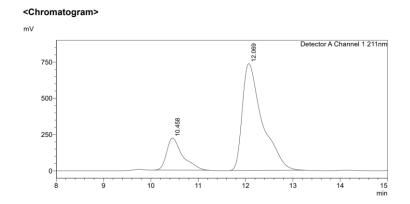
<Chromatogram>



<Peak Table>

Detector A Channel 1 211nm			
Peak#	Ret. Time Area%		
1	10.447	50.456	
2	12.121	49.544	
Total		100.000	

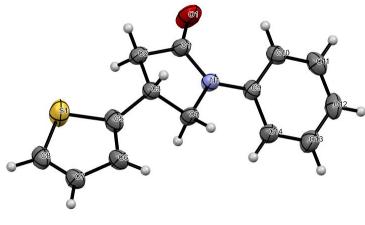
Batch Reaction Chromatogram



<Peak Table>

Detector A Channel 1 211nm				
Peak#	Peak# Ret. Time Area%			
1	10.458	19.368		
2	12.069	80.632		
Total 100.000				

8. Single Crystal X-Ray Structure of γ-lactam 4i



CCDC 2168909

A clear colourless, prism-like specimen of $C_{14}H_{13}NOS$, approximate dimensions 0.100 mm x 0.200 mm x 0.200 mm, was used for the X-ray crystallographic analysis. The X-ray intensity data were measured ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å).

The total exposure time was 7.91 hours. The frames were integrated with the Bruker SAINT software package using a narrow-frame algorithm. The integration of the data using an orthorhombic unit cell yielded a total of 18463 reflections to a maximum θ angle of 25.33° (0.83 Å resolution), of which 2173 were independent (average redundancy 8.497, completeness = 99.6%, R_{int} = 3.27%, R_{sig} = 1.71%) and 2035 (93.65%) were greater than $2\sigma(F^2)$. The final cell constants of <u>a</u> = 7.3283(4) Å, <u>b</u> = 12.3775(6) Å, <u>c</u> = 13.1594(6) Å, volume = 1193.64(10) Å³, are based upon the refinement of the XYZ-centroids of 7833 reflections above 20 $\sigma(I)$ with 6.365° < $2\theta < 52.12^{\circ}$. Data were corrected for absorption effects using the Multi-Scan method (SADABS). The ratio of minimum to maximum apparent transmission was 0.891. The calculated minimum and maximum transmission coefficients (based on crystal size) are 0.9510 and 0.9750.

The structure was solved and refined using the Bruker SHELXTL Software Package, using the space group P 21 21 21, with Z = 4 for the formula unit, $C_{14}H_{13}NOS$. The final anisotropic full-matrix least-squares refinement on F² with 142 variables converged at R1 = 5.71%, for the observed data and wR2 = 16.69% for all data. The goodness-of-fit was 1.085. The largest peak in the final difference electron density synthesis was 0.864 e⁻/Å³ and the largest hole was -0.425 e⁻/Å³ with an RMS deviation of 0.076 e⁻/Å³. On the basis of the final model, the calculated density was 1.354 g/cm³ and F(000), 512 e⁻.

Table 1. Sample and crystal data.

	•	
Identification code	Identification code 03567	
Chemical formula	C ₁₄ H ₁₃ NOS	
Formula weight	243.31 g/mo	l
Temperature	296(2) K	
Wavelength	0.71073 Å	
Crystal size	0.100 x 0.200 x 0.200 mm	
Crystal habit	clear colourless prism	
Crystal system	orthorhombic	
Space group	P 21 21 21	
Unit cell dimensions	a = 7.3283(4) Å	α = 90°
	b = 12.3775(6) Å	β = 90°
	c = 13.1594(6) Å	γ = 90°
Volume	1193.64(10) ų	
Z	4	
Density (calculated)	1.354 g/cm ³	
Absorption coefficient	0.252 mm ⁻¹	
F(000)	512	

Table 2. Data collection and structure refinement.

Theta range for data collection	3.51 to 25.33°	
Index ranges	-8<=h<=8, -14<=k<=14, -13<=l<=15	
Reflections collected	18463	
Independent reflections	2173 [R(int) = 0.0327]	
Coverage of independent reflections		
Absorption correction	Multi-Scan	
Max. and min. transmission	0.9750 and 0.9510	
Structure solution technique	direct methods	
Structure solution program	XT, VERSION 2018/2	
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²	
Refinement program	SHELXL-2019/1 (Sheldrick, 2019)	
Function minimized	$\Sigma w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2$	
Data / restraints / parameters	2173 / 3 / 142	
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.085	
Final R indices	2035 data; I>2σ(I) R1 = 0.0571, wR2 = 0.1606	
	all data R1 = 0.0615, wR2 = 0.1669	
Weighting scheme	w=1/ $[\sigma^{2}(F_{o}^{2})+(0.0969P)^{2}+0.9851P]$ where P= $(F_{o}^{2}+2F_{c}^{2})/3$	
Absolute structure parameter	0.06(3)	
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.864 and -0.425 eÅ ⁻³	
R.M.S. deviation from mean	0.076 eÅ ⁻³	

Table 3. Atomic coordinates and equivalent isotropic atomic displacement parameters (Å²).

U(eq) is defined as one third of the trace of the orthogonalized U_{ij} tensor.

	x/a	y/b	z/c	U(eq)
C2	0.4203(7)	0.8063(3)	0.3593(4)	0.0355(10)
C1	0.4307(7)	0.7792(4)	0.4703(3)	0.0372(10)
C3	0.3649(6)	0.7002(3)	0.3081(3)	0.0308(9)
C4	0.4443(7)	0.6151(3)	0.3808(3)	0.0364(10)
C5	0.4258(7)	0.6850(4)	0.2001(4)	0.0433(8)
C6	0.4100(7)	0.5878(4)	0.1405(3)	0.0403(8)
C7	0.4835(7)	0.6072(4)	0.0419(3)	0.0403(8)
C8	0.5510(7)	0.7074(4)	0.0272(3)	0.0433(8)
C9	0.4698(6)	0.6110(4)	0.5714(3)	0.0324(9)
C10	0.4262(6)	0.6554(4)	0.6657(3)	0.0355(10)
C11	0.4612(7)	0.5971(4)	0.7540(3)	0.0447(12)
C12	0.5368(8)	0.4963(5)	0.7501(3)	0.0469(13)
C13	0.5803(8)	0.4510(4)	0.6563(4)	0.0466(12)
C14	0.5482(7)	0.5076(4)	0.5675(3)	0.0381(10)
N1	0.4384(6)	0.6687(3)	0.4800(3)	0.0323(8)
01	0.4367(8)	0.8433(3)	0.5401(3)	0.0680(14)
S1	0.5281(2)	0.78485(12)	0.13172(10)	0.0565(5)

Table 4. Bond lengths (Å).

C2-C1	1.502(7)	C2-C3	1.531(6)
C1-01	1.215(6)	C1-N1	1.374(5)
C3-C5	1.501(7)	C3-C4	1.538(6)
C4-N1	1.464(5)	C5-C6	1.441(7)
C5-S1	1.703(5)	C6-C7	1.425(6)
C7-C8	1.349(7)	C8-S1	1.686(5)
C9-C10	1.394(6)	C9-C14	1.404(7)
C9-N1	1.418(5)	C10-C11	1.392(6)
C11-C12	1.367(8)	C12-C13	1.392(7)
C13-C14	1.383(6)		

Table 5. Bond angles (°).

C1-C2-C3	104.5(3)	01-C1-N1	125.4(4)
01-C1-C2	126.3(4)	N1-C1-C2	108.3(4)
C5-C3-C2	116.4(4)	C5-C3-C4	113.0(4)
C2-C3-C4	102.3(3)	N1-C4-C3	103.5(3)
C6-C5-C3	126.5(4)	C6-C5-S1	110.7(3)
C3-C5-S1	122.8(4)	C7-C6-C5	108.9(4)
C8-C7-C6	115.1(4)	C7-C8-S1	111.7(4)
C10-C9-C14	119.1(4)	C10-C9-N1	121.3(4)
C14-C9-N1	119.6(4)	C11-C10-C9	119.8(4)
C12-C11-C10	121.1(4)	C11-C12-C13	119.6(4)
C14-C13-C12	120.4(5)	C13-C14-C9	120.0(4)
C1-N1-C9	125.8(4)	C1-N1-C4	111.7(4)
C9-N1-C4	121.5(3)	C8-S1-C5	93.6(2)

Table 6. Torsion angles (°).

C3-C2-C1-O1	-165.3(6)	C3-C2-C1-N1	16.7(5)
C1-C2-C3-C5	-152.2(4)	C1-C2-C3-C4	-28.5(4)
C5-C3-C4-N1	156.0(4)	C2-C3-C4-N1	30.0(5)
C2-C3-C5-C6	171.9(5)	C4-C3-C5-C6	53.9(6)
C2-C3-C5-S1	-7.3(6)	C4-C3-C5-S1	-125.4(4)
C3-C5-C6-C7	179.8(5)	S1-C5-C6-C7	-0.8(5)
C5-C6-C7-C8	0.8(6)	C6-C7-C8-S1	-0.4(6)
C14-C9-C10-C11	0.2(7)	N1-C9-C10-C11	-179.1(4)
C9-C10-C11-C12	-0.5(7)	C10-C11-C12-C13	0.3(8)
C11-C12-C13-C14	0.2(8)	C12-C13-C14-C9	-0.5(8)
C10-C9-C14-C13	0.3(7)	N1-C9-C14-C13	179.6(5)
O1-C1-N1-C9	-5.6(9)	C2-C1-N1-C9	172.5(4)
O1-C1-N1-C4	-174.9(6)	C2-C1-N1-C4	3.1(6)
C10-C9-N1-C1	25.7(7)	C14-C9-N1-C1	-153.6(5)
C10-C9-N1-C4	-166.0(5)	C14-C9-N1-C4	14.8(6)
C3-C4-N1-C1	-21.5(5)	C3-C4-N1-C9	168.7(4)
C7-C8-S1-C5	-0.1(4)	C6-C5-S1-C8	0.5(4)
C3-C5-S1-C8	179.9(4)		

Table 7. Anisotropic atomic displacement parameters (Å²).

The anisotropic atomic displacement factor exponent takes the form: $-2\pi^2 [~h^2~a^{*2}~U_{11}+...+2~h~k~a^*~b^*~U_{12}~]$

	U ₁₁	U ₂₂	U ₃₃	U ₂₃	U ₁₃	U_{12}
C2	0.044(2)	0.026(2)	0.037(2)	0.0005(18)	-0.002(2)	0.0027(17)
C1	0.052(2)	0.028(2)	0.032(2)	-0.0022(18)	-0.002(2)	0.005(2)
C3	0.036(2)	0.029(2)	0.027(2)	-0.0013(18)	-0.0023(17)	-0.0004(18)
C4	0.059(3)	0.0242(19)	0.026(2)	-0.0037(16)	-0.002(2)	0.000(2)
C5	0.0489(19)	0.052(2)	0.0291(17)	0.0060(15)	-0.0001(15)	0.0015(17)
C6	0.052(2)	0.0422(18)	0.0266(15)	-0.0042(13)	0.0003(15)	0.0011(15)
C7	0.052(2)	0.0422(18)	0.0266(15)	-0.0042(13)	0.0003(15)	0.0011(15)
C8	0.0489(19)	0.052(2)	0.0291(17)	0.0060(15)	-0.0001(15)	0.0015(17)
C9	0.037(2)	0.033(2)	0.027(2)	0.0008(17)	-0.0044(18)	-0.0010(19)
C10	0.039(2)	0.040(2)	0.027(2)	-0.0038(18)	-0.0010(18)	0.0007(19)
C11	0.046(3)	0.060(3)	0.028(2)	-0.003(2)	0.001(2)	-0.003(3)
C12	0.051(3)	0.057(3)	0.033(2)	0.017(2)	-0.003(2)	-0.002(3)
C13	0.058(3)	0.039(3)	0.044(3)	0.009(2)	-0.002(2)	0.002(2)
C14	0.052(3)	0.031(2)	0.031(2)	-0.0014(18)	0.002(2)	0.000(2)
N1	0.048(2)	0.0255(17)	0.0232(17)	-0.0028(13)	-0.0042(16)	-0.0003(16)
01	0.136(4)	0.0312(18)	0.0374(19)	-0.0112(15)	-0.008(3)	0.005(2)
S1	0.0829(10)	0.0474(8)	0.0392(7)	0.0036(6)	0.0017(7)	-0.0153(8)

Table 8. Hydrogen atomic coordinates and isotropic atomic displacement parameters (Å²).

	x/a	y/b	z/c	U(eq)
H2A	0.5377	0.8310	0.3342	0.043000
H2B	0.3300	0.8621	0.3470	0.043000
H3	0.2315	0.6946	0.3100	0.037000
H4A	0.3706	0.5499	0.3809	0.044000
H4B	0.5685	0.5966	0.3622	0.044000
H6	0.3599	0.5230	0.1628	0.048000
H7	0.4850	0.5546	-0.0085	0.048000
H8	0.6035	0.7308	-0.0333	0.052000
H10	0.3739	0.7238	0.6696	0.043000
H11	0.4327	0.6273	0.8168	0.054000
H12	0.5589	0.4581	0.8097	0.056000
H13	0.6314	0.3823	0.6534	0.056000
H14	0.5786	0.4772	0.5052	0.046000

Table 9. Hydrogen bond distances (Å) and angles (°).

Donor-H Acceptor-H Donor-Acceptor Angle

C10-H10 O1	0.93	2.30	2.854(6)	117.5
------------------------	------	------	----------	-------