

## Supporting Information

### **L-Proline supported on ionic liquid-modified magnetic nanoparticles as a highly efficient and reusable organocatalyst for direct asymmetric aldol reaction in water**

Yu Kong<sup>a</sup>, Rong Tan,<sup>\*a</sup> Lili Zhao<sup>a</sup> and Donghong Yin<sup>\*a,b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Institute of Fine Catalysis and Synthesis, Key Laboratory of Chemical Biology and Traditional Chinese Medicine Research (Ministry of Education), Hunan Normal University, Changsha, Hunan, 410081, China

<sup>b</sup> Technology Center, China Tobacco Hunan Industrial Corporation, NO.426 Laodong Road, Changsha, Hunan, 410014, China

## Experimental

### General Procedure for the Direct Asymmetric Aldol Reaction

The selected catalyst (10 mol%, based on L-proline content in the catalyst), ketone (2.5 mmol), aldehyde (0.25 mmol) and deionized water (2 mL) were added in a 10 mL round-bottom flask in turn. The mixture was allowed to react at room temperature for 12 h. The reaction was monitored constantly by TLC. After completion of the reaction, the magnetic catalyst was separated by a magnet near the bottle. The reaction solution was removed from the reaction vessel by decantation while the external magnet held the magnetic catalyst inside the bottle. The magnetic catalyst was then washed with ethyl acetate, separated by magnetic decantation as described above, dried under vacuum overnight at room temperature for the recycle experiment. Ethyl acetate ( $3 \times 10$  mL) was used to extract the aldols from the reaction solution. The combined organic layers were washed with brine and dried with  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ . After the evaporation of ethyl acetate, the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (Acros, 40–60  $\mu\text{m}$ , 60 Å, eluent *n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 3/1 (V/V)) to afford the desired aldol products. Enantiomeric excess of the corresponding aldol products was determined by HPLC analysis with a UV-vis detector using the Daicel chiralpak AD-H, OB-H or AD column. All the aldol products have been identified by comparison with those corresponding authentic samples in detailed HPLC analysis. NMR spectra for the aldol products **1-6** are in agreement with those reported in references.<sup>[1]</sup> The syn and anti diastereomers of the aldols **1-6** were readily distinguished in  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectroscopy by the diagnostic chemical shifts of  $-\text{CHOH}-$  proton.

#### **(2R,10S)-2-(Hydroxy-(2-nitrophenyl)methyl)cyclohexan-1-one (1).**

Enantiomeric excess (85% ee) was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak AD column (2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 15: 85 (V/V) eluent) UV 254 nm, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, major enantiomer  $t_{\text{R}} = 13.4$  min and minor enantiomer  $t_{\text{R}} = 14.2$  min (see Fig. S1 and S2).

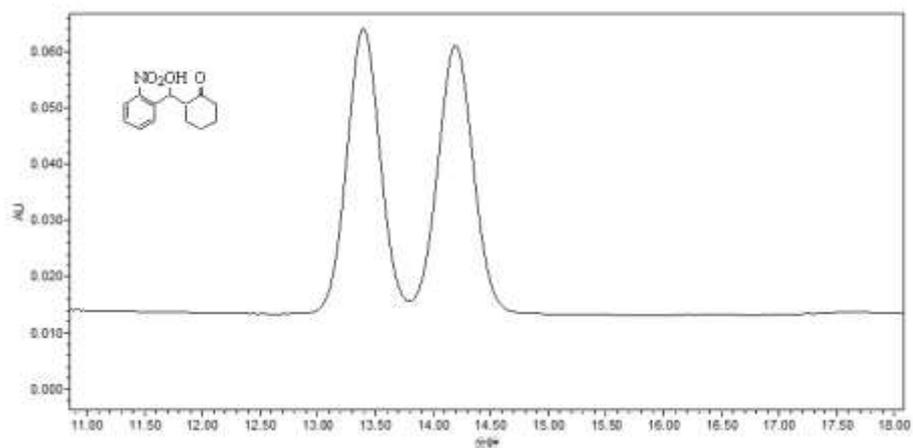


Fig. S1 HPLC of the authentic sample **1**

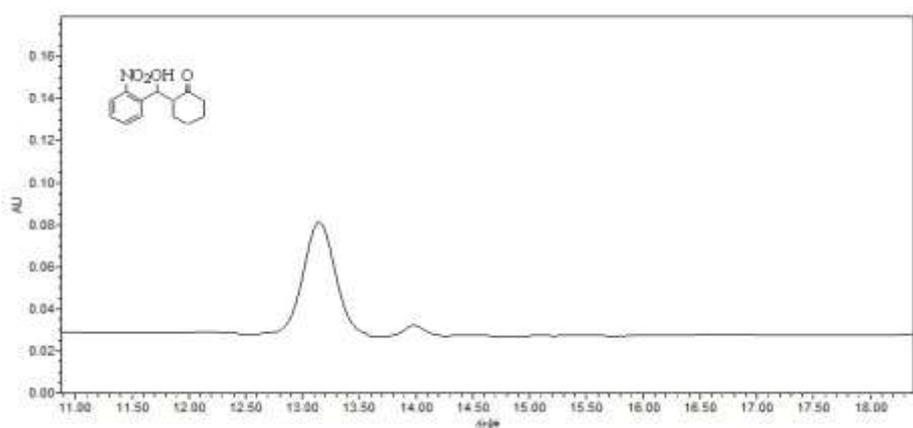


Fig. S2 HPLC of the as-obtained product **1**

The aldol product **1** has been identified by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum, which is in agreement with the reported data.<sup>[1a]</sup> The syn and anti diastereomers of the aldol **1** were distinguished in <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy by the diagnostic chemical shifts of *-CHOH-* proton according to the corresponding chemical shifts published in the reference.<sup>[1b]</sup> (see Fig. S3)

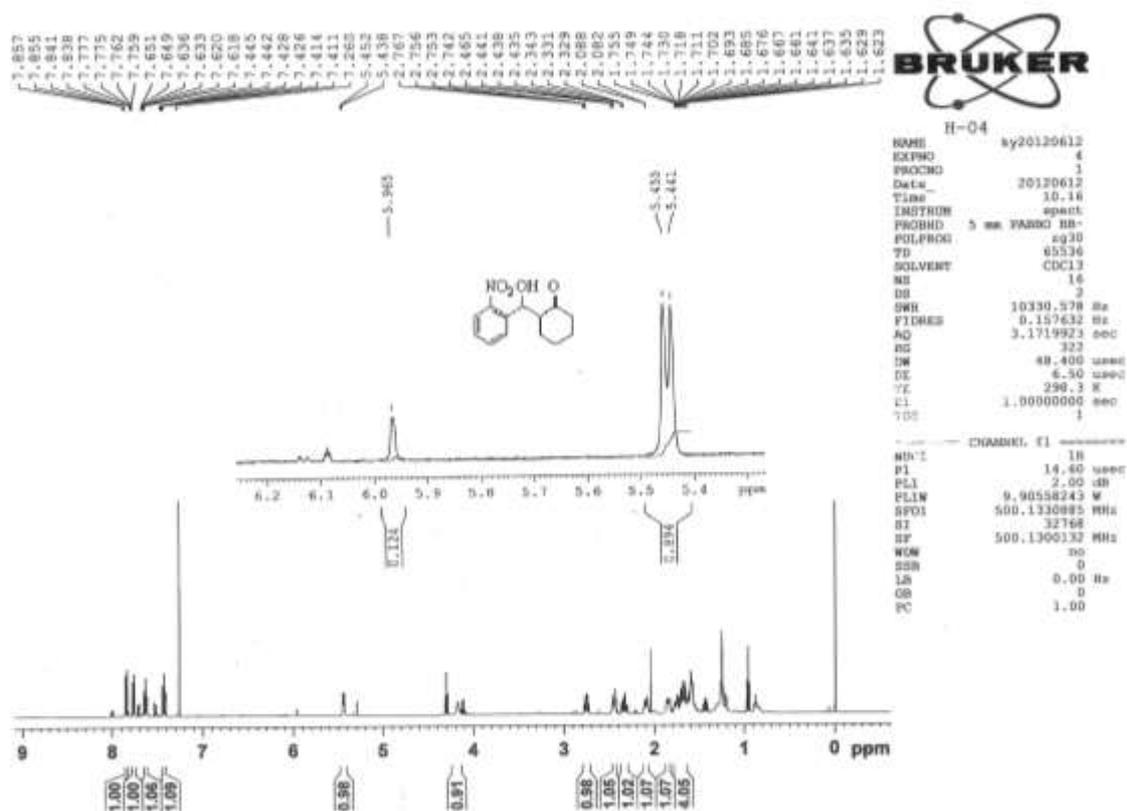


Fig. S3 <sup>1</sup>H NMR of the as-obtained product **1** (inset: Chemical shifts of  $-CHOH-$  proton in sample **1** (anti/syn) =88: 12)

**(2R,10S)-2-(Hydroxy-(4-nitrophenyl)methyl)cyclohexan-1-one (2).**

Enantiomeric excess (75% ee) was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak AD column (2-propanol/*n*-hexane =15: 85 (V/V) eluent) UV 254 nm, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, major enantiomer  $t_R = 16.2$  min and minor enantiomer  $t_R = 21.4$  min (see Fig. S4 and S5).

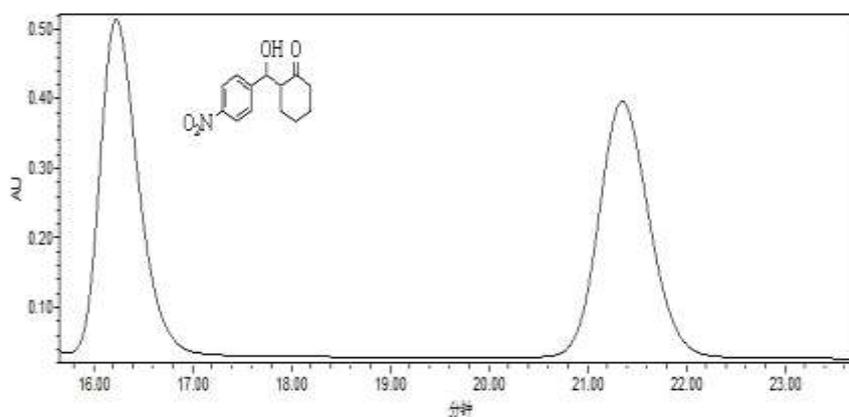


Fig. S4 HPLC of the authentic sample **2**

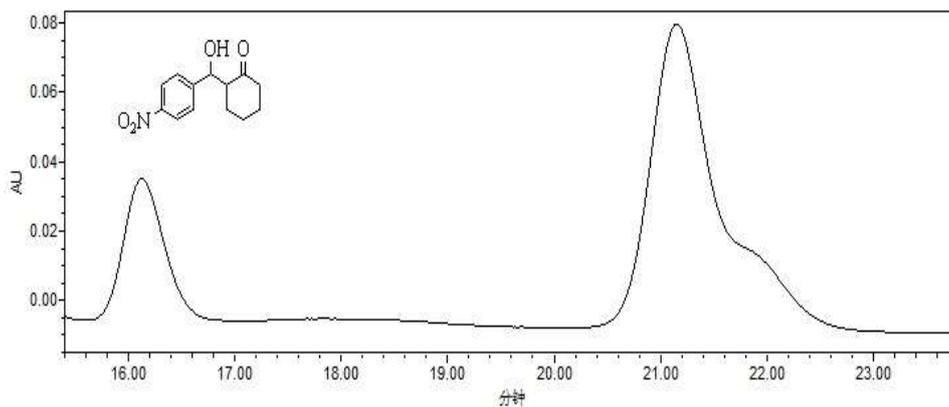


Fig. S5 HPLC of the as-obtained product **2**

The aldol product **2** has been identified by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum, which is in agreement with the reported data. [1a, 1c] The syn and anti diastereomers of the aldol **2** were distinguished in  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectroscopy by the diagnostic chemical shifts of  $-\text{CHOH}-$  proton according to the corresponding chemical shifts published in the reference. [1b] (see Fig. S6)

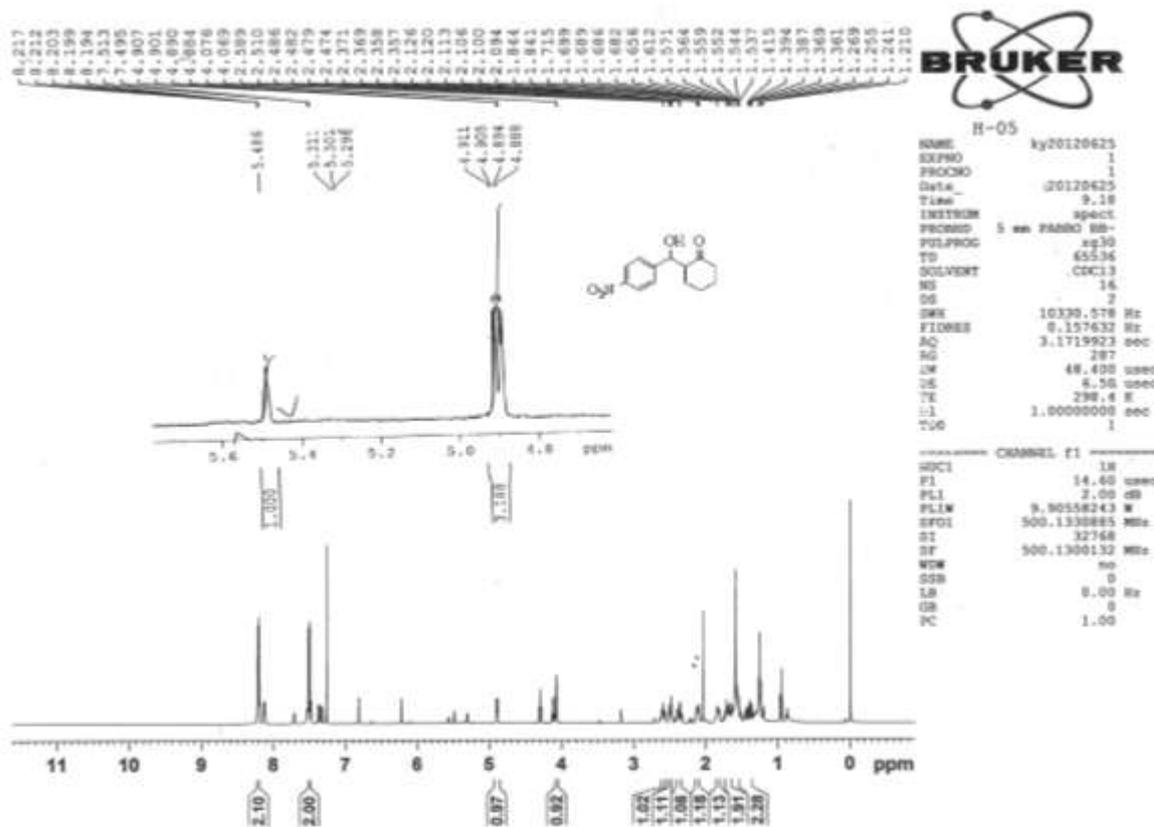


Fig. S6  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of the as-obtained product **2** (inset: Chemical shifts of  $-\text{CHOH}-$  proton in sample **2** (anti/syn) = 76: 24)

**(2R,10S)-2-(Hydroxy-(2-chlorophenyl)methyl)cyclohexa-n-1-one (3).**

Enantiomeric excess (89% ee) was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak AD column (2-propanol/*n*-hexane =10: 90 (V/V) eluent) UV 220 nm, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, major enantiomer  $t_R = 9.9$  min and minor enantiomer  $t_R = 11.1$  min (see Fig. S7 and S8).

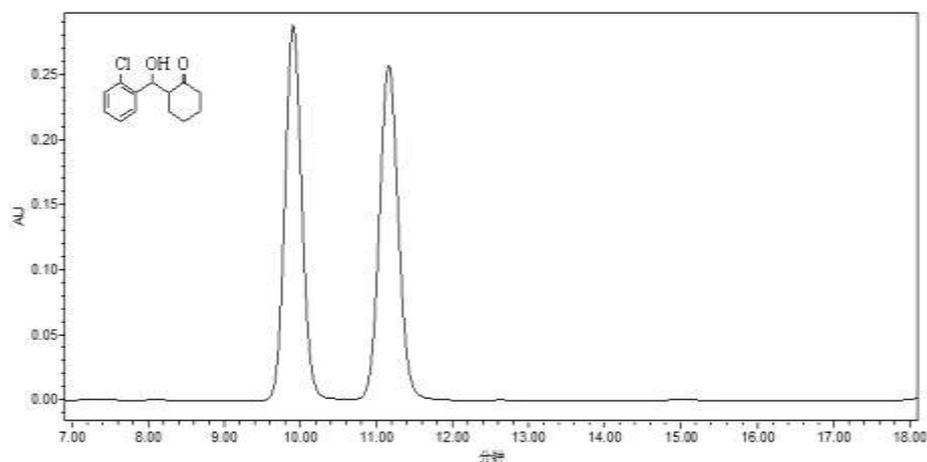


Fig. S7 HPLC of the authentic sample **3**

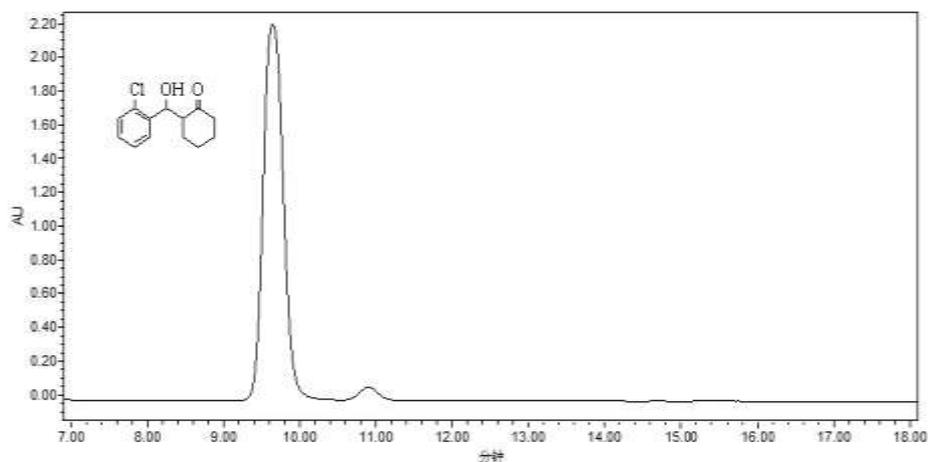


Fig. S8 HPLC of the as-obtained product **3**

The aldol product **3** has been identified by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum, which is in agreement with the reported data.<sup>[1a, 1c]</sup> The syn and anti diastereomers of the aldol **3** were distinguished in  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectroscopy by the diagnostic chemical shifts of  $-\text{CHOH}-$  proton according to the corresponding chemical shifts published in the reference.<sup>[1a, 1c]</sup> (see Fig. S9)

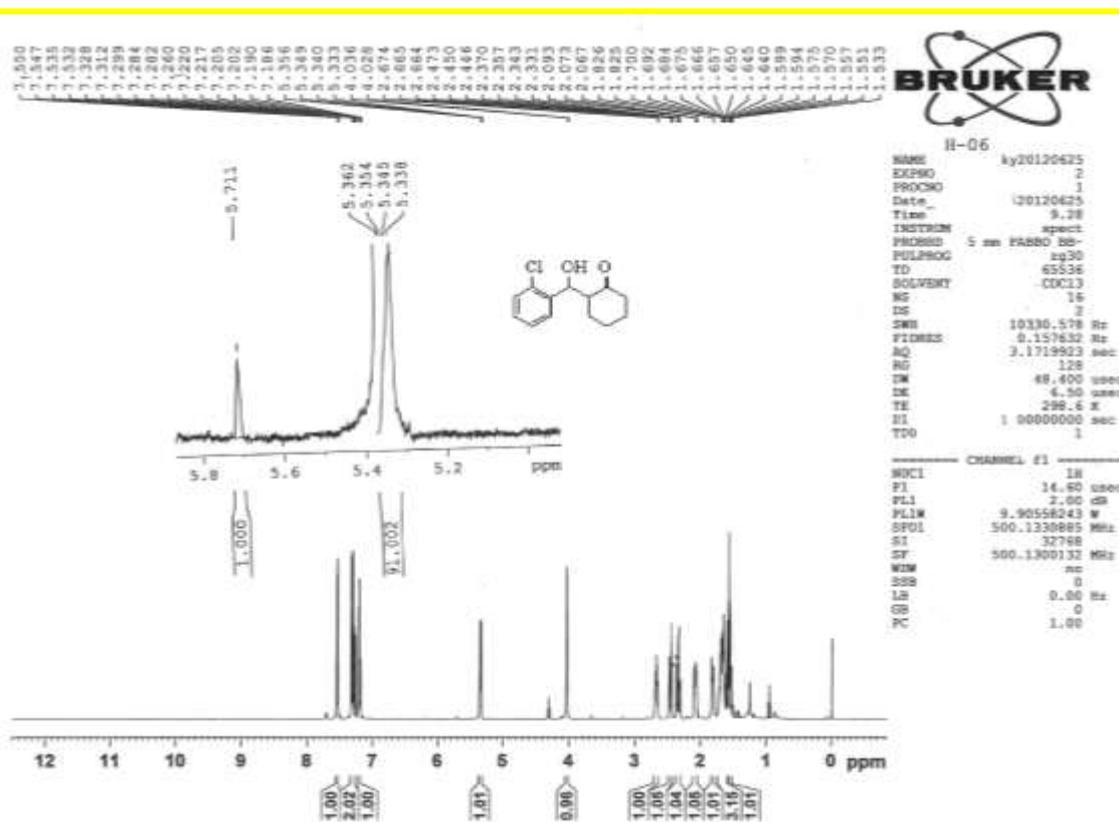


Fig. S9 <sup>1</sup>H NMR of the as-obtained product 3 (inset: Chemical shifts of -CHOH- proton in sample 3 (anti/syn) = 99: 1)

**(2R,10S)-2-(Hydroxy-(4-bromophenyl)methyl)cyclohexan-1-one (4).**

Enantiomeric excess (89% ee) was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak AD column (2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 10: 90 (V/V) eluent) UV 220 nm, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, major enantiomer  $t_R = 16.1$  min and minor enantiomer  $t_R = 13.2$  min (see Fig. S10 and S11).

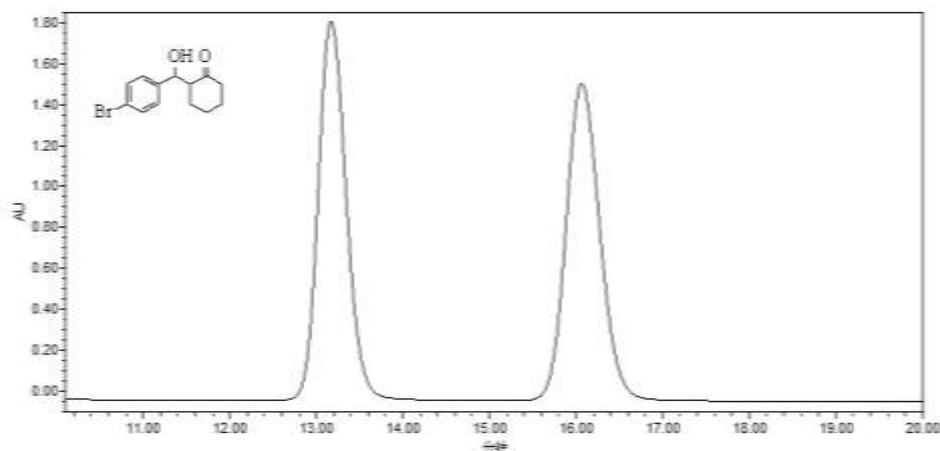


Fig. S10 HPLC of the authentic sample 4

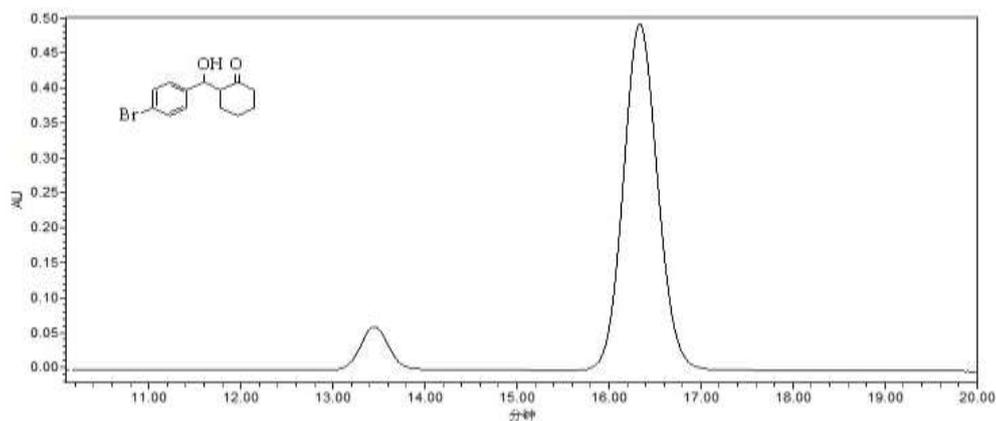


Fig. S11 HPLC of the as-obtained product **4**

The aldol product **4** has been identified by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum, which is in agreement with the reported data.<sup>[1a, 1c]</sup> The syn and anti diastereomers of the aldol **4** were distinguished in  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectroscopy by the diagnostic chemical shifts of  $-\text{CHOH}-$  proton according to the corresponding chemical shifts published in the reference.<sup>[1b]</sup> (see Fig. S12)

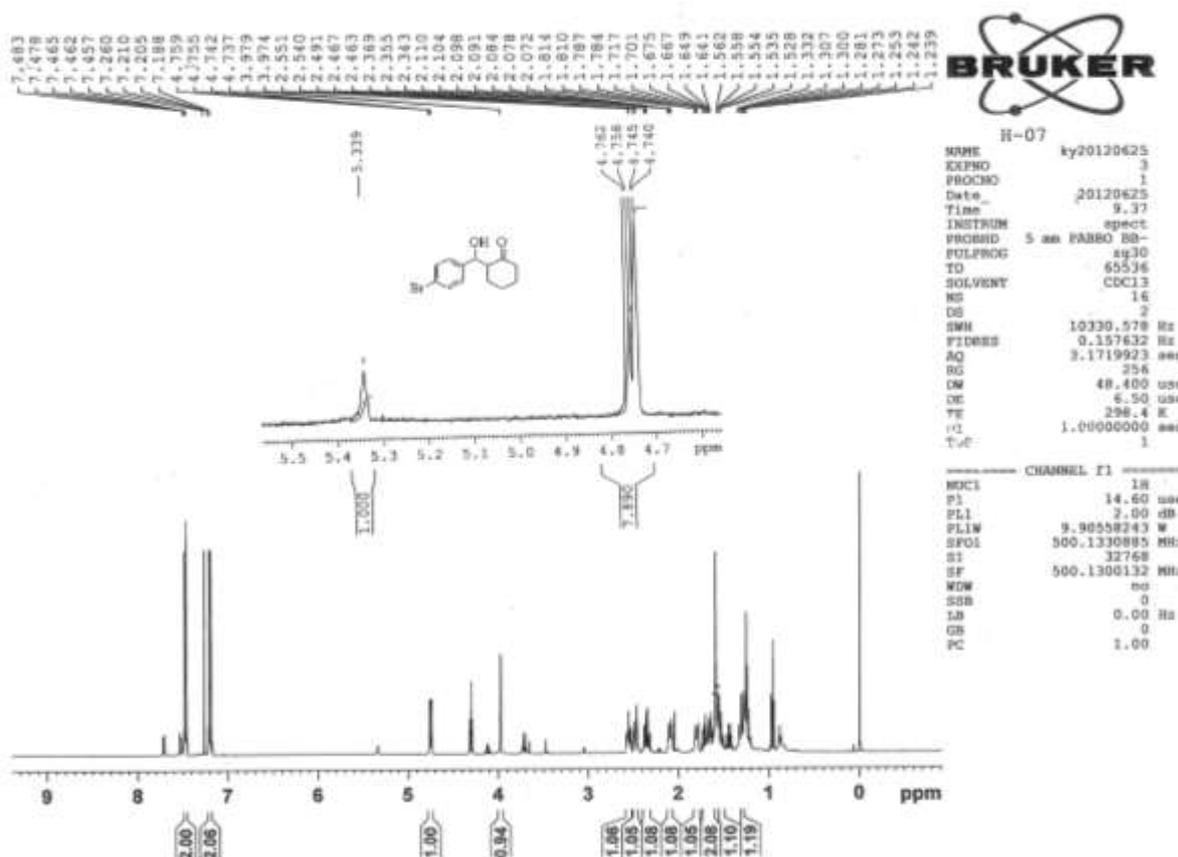


Fig. S12  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of the as-obtained product **4** (inset: Chemical shifts of  $-\text{CHOH}-$  proton in sample **4** (anti/syn) = 89: 11)

**(2R,10S)-2-(Hydroxy-(2-naphthyl)methyl)cyclohexan-1-one (5).**

The aldol product **5** has been identified by comparison of the HPLC retention times with reported values.<sup>[1d]</sup> Enantiomeric excess (45% ee) was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak AD column (2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 2: 98 (V/V) eluent) UV 220 nm, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, major enantiomer  $t_R = 26.2$  min and minor enantiomer  $t_R = 29.6$  min (see Fig. S13).

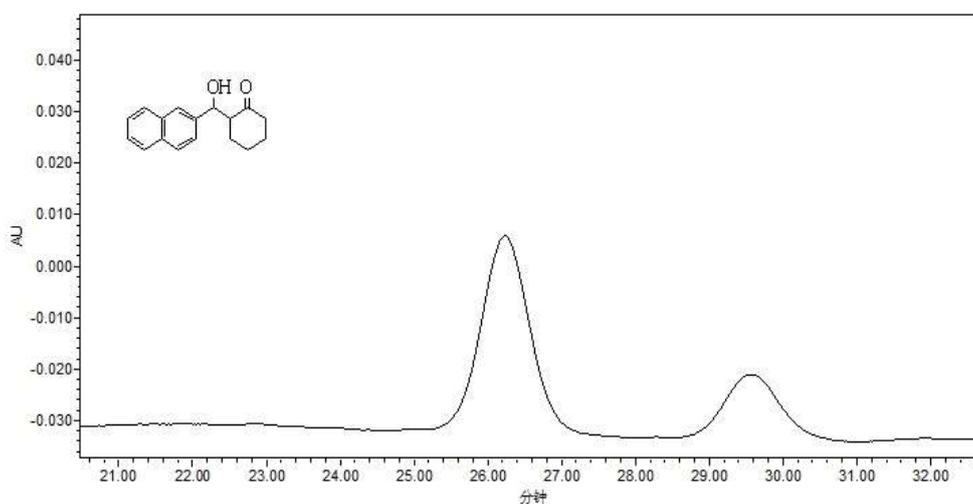


Fig. S13 HPLC of the as-obtained product **5**

The aldol product **5** has been identified by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum, which is in agreement with the reported data.<sup>[1c, 1d]</sup> The syn and anti diastereomers of the aldol **5** were distinguished in  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectroscopy by the diagnostic chemical shifts of  $-\text{CHOH}-$  proton according to the corresponding chemical shifts published in the reference.<sup>[1c]</sup> (see Fig. S14)

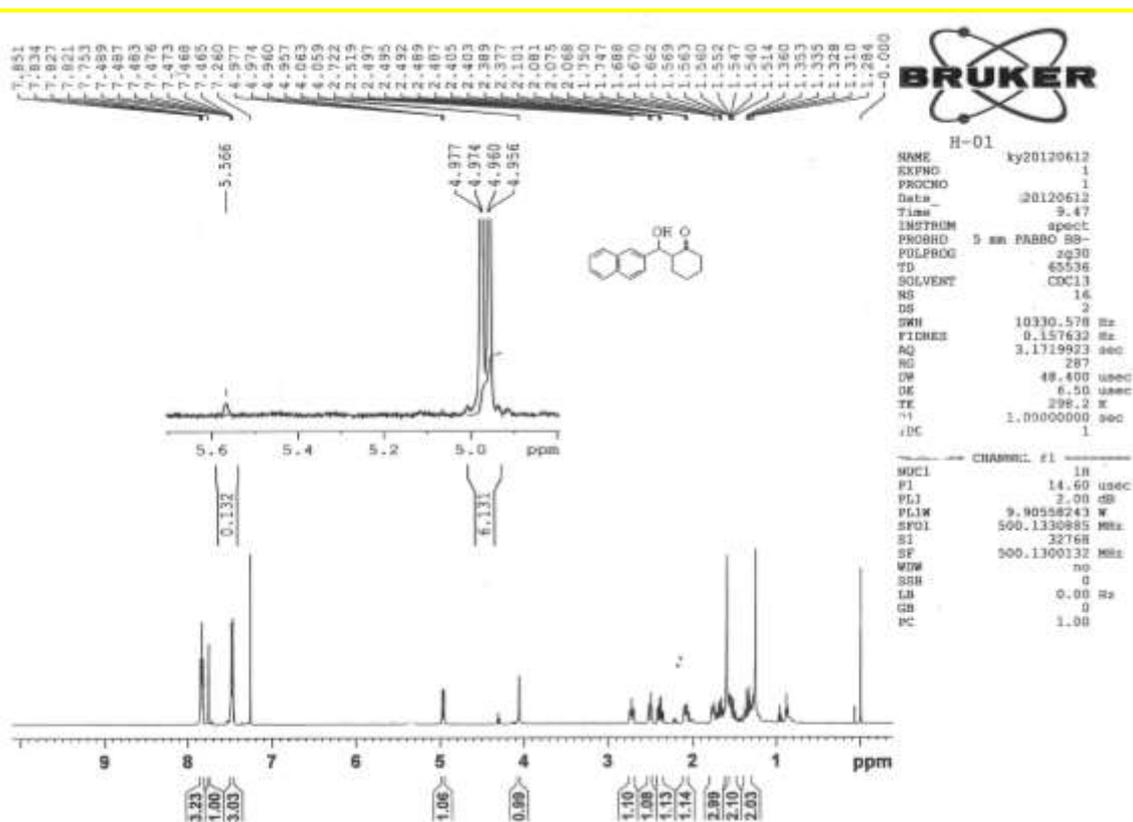


Fig. S14  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of the as-obtained product **5** (inset: Chemical shifts of  $-\text{CHOH}-$  proton in sample **5** (anti/syn) = 98: 2)

**(2R,10S)-2-(Hydroxy-(4-nitrophenyl)methyl)cyclopentanone (**6**).**

Enantiomeric excess (86% ee) was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak AD column (2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 10: 90 (V/V) eluent) UV 220 nm, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, major enantiomer  $t_R = 12.9$  min and minor enantiomer  $t_R = 16.7$  min (see Fig. S15 and S16).

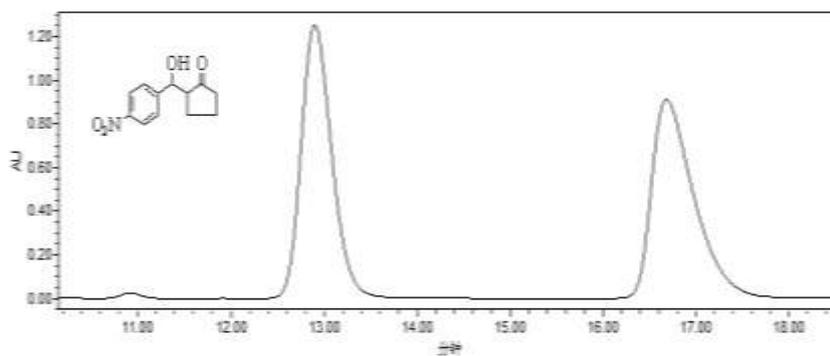


Fig. S15 HPLC of the authentic sample **6**

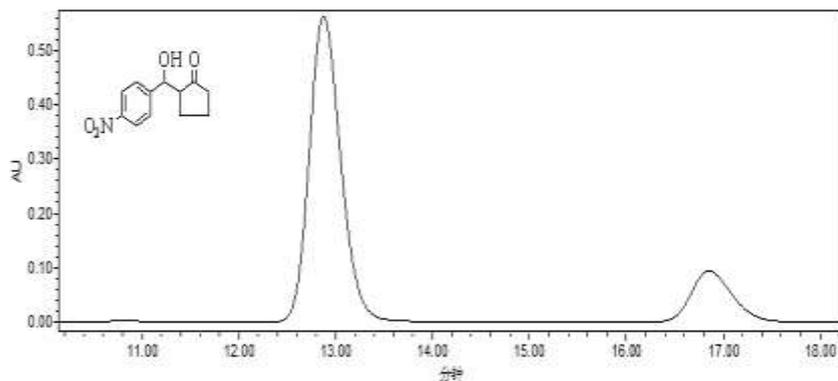


Fig. S16 HPLC of the as-obtained sample 6

The aldol product **6** has been identified by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum, which is in agreement with the reported data.<sup>[1e]</sup> The syn and anti diastereomers of the aldol **6** were distinguished in  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectroscopy by the diagnostic chemical shifts of  $-\text{CHOH}-$  proton according to the corresponding chemical shifts published in the reference.<sup>[1b]</sup> (see Fig. S17)

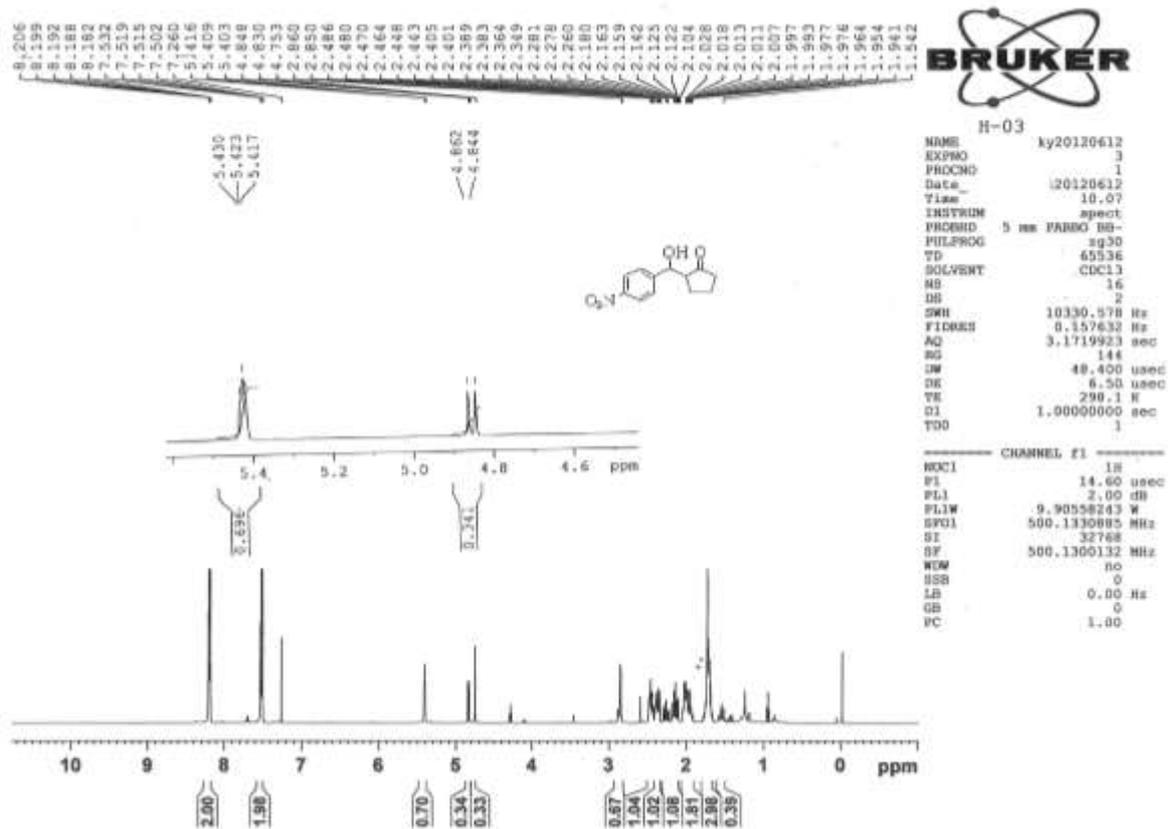


Fig. S17  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of the as-obtained product **6** (inset: Chemical shifts of  $-\text{CHOH}-$  proton in sample **6** (anti/syn) = 33: 67)

**(4R)-Hydroxy-4-(2-nitrophenyl)-butan-2-one (7).**

Enantiomeric excess (77% ee) was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak OB-H column (2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 15: 85 (V/V) eluent) UV 254 nm, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, major enantiomer  $t_R = 8.4$  min and minor enantiomer  $t_R = 7.3$  min (see Fig. S18 and S19).

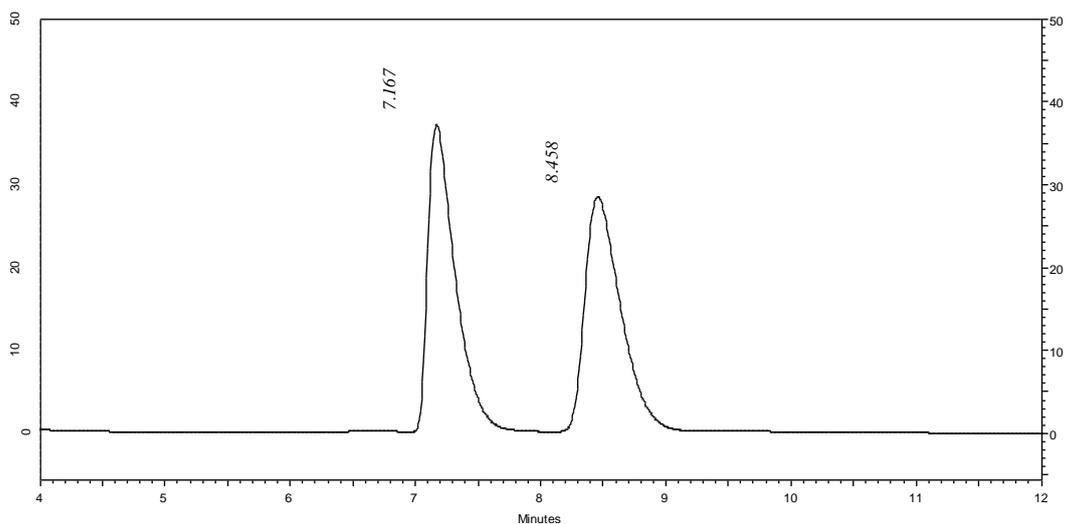


Fig. S18 HPLC of the authentic sample **7**

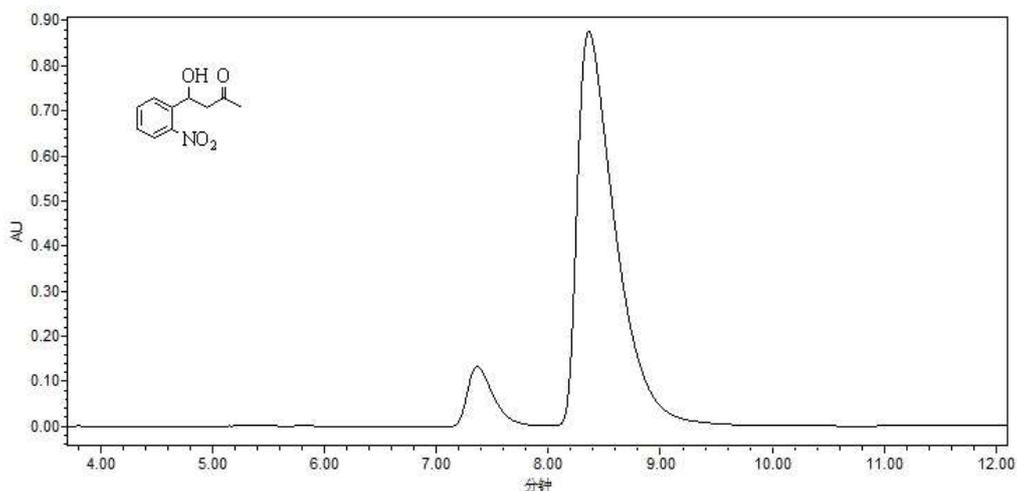


Fig. S19 HPLC of the as-obtained sample **7**

The aldol product **7** has been identified by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra (see Fig. S20 and S21).

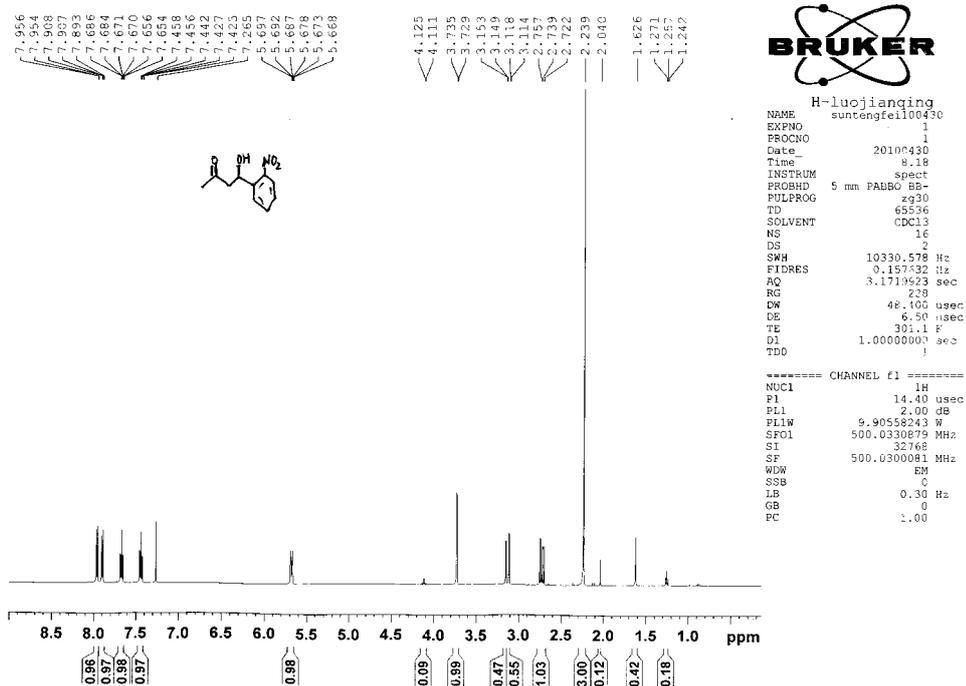


Fig. S20 <sup>1</sup>H NMR of the as-obtained product 7

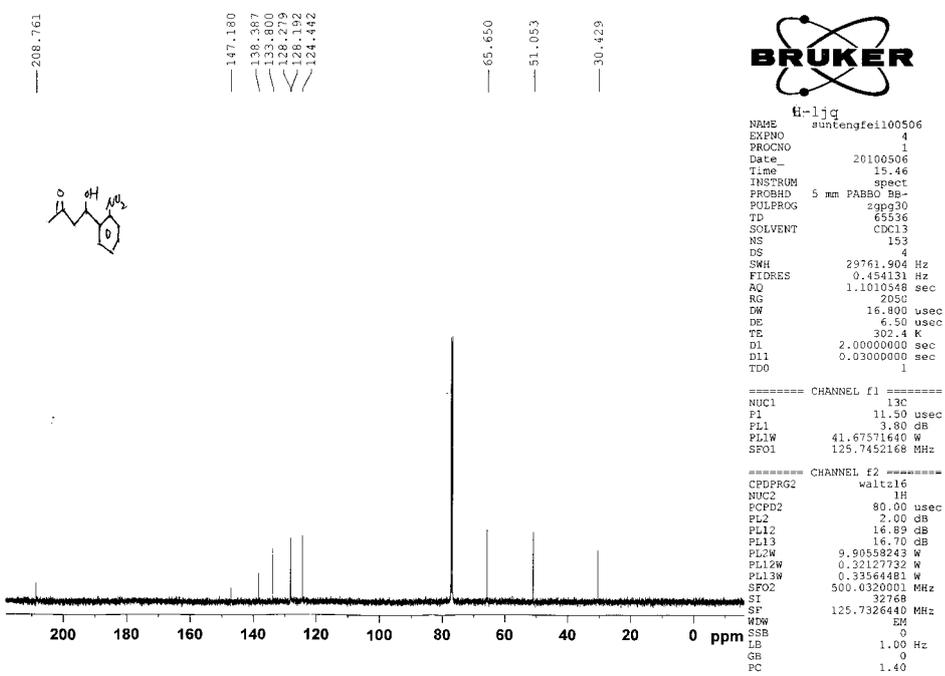


Fig. S21 <sup>13</sup>C NMR of the as-obtained product 7

**(4R)-Hydroxy-4-(4-nitrophenyl)-butan-2-one (8).**

Enantiomeric excess (70% ee) was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak OB-H column (2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 15: 85 (V/V) eluent) UV 254 nm, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, major enantiomer  $t_R = 14.7$  min and minor enantiomer  $t_R = 16.9$  min (see Fig. S22 and S23).

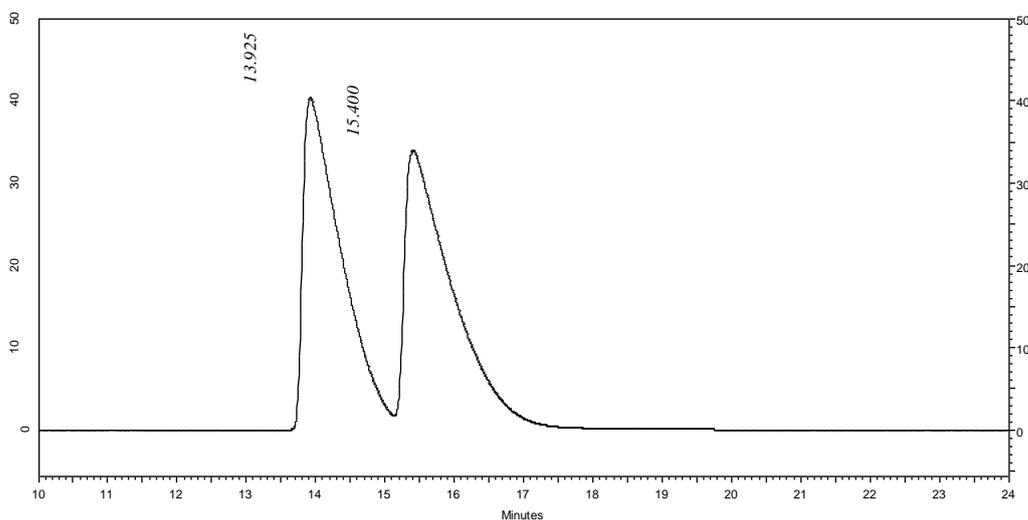


Fig. S22 HPLC of the authentic sample **8**

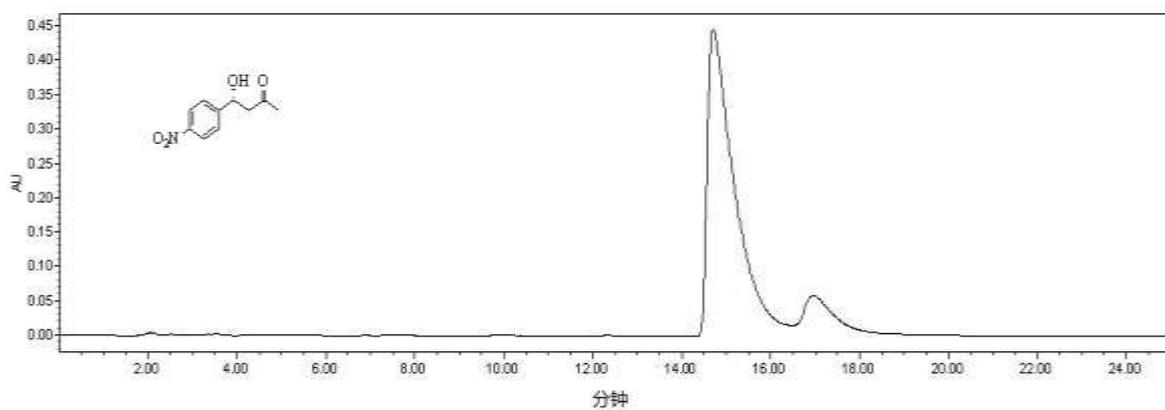


Fig. S23 HPLC of the as-obtained sample **8**

The aldol product **8** has been identified by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra (see Fig. S24 and S25).

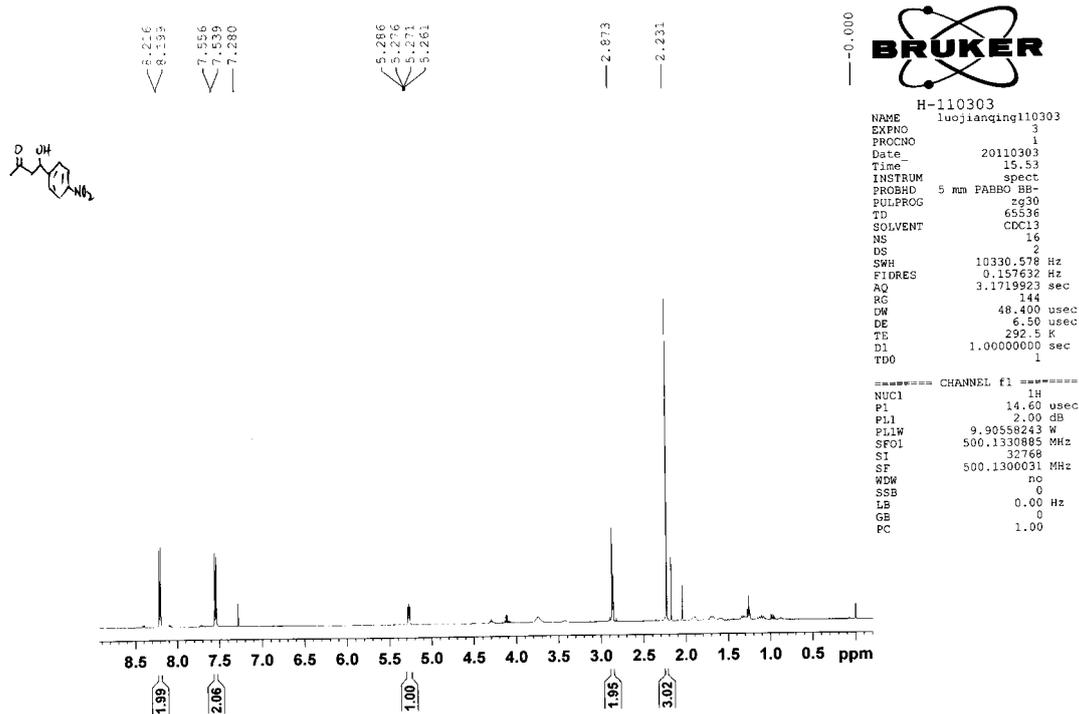


Fig. S24 <sup>1</sup>H NMR of the as-obtained product **8**

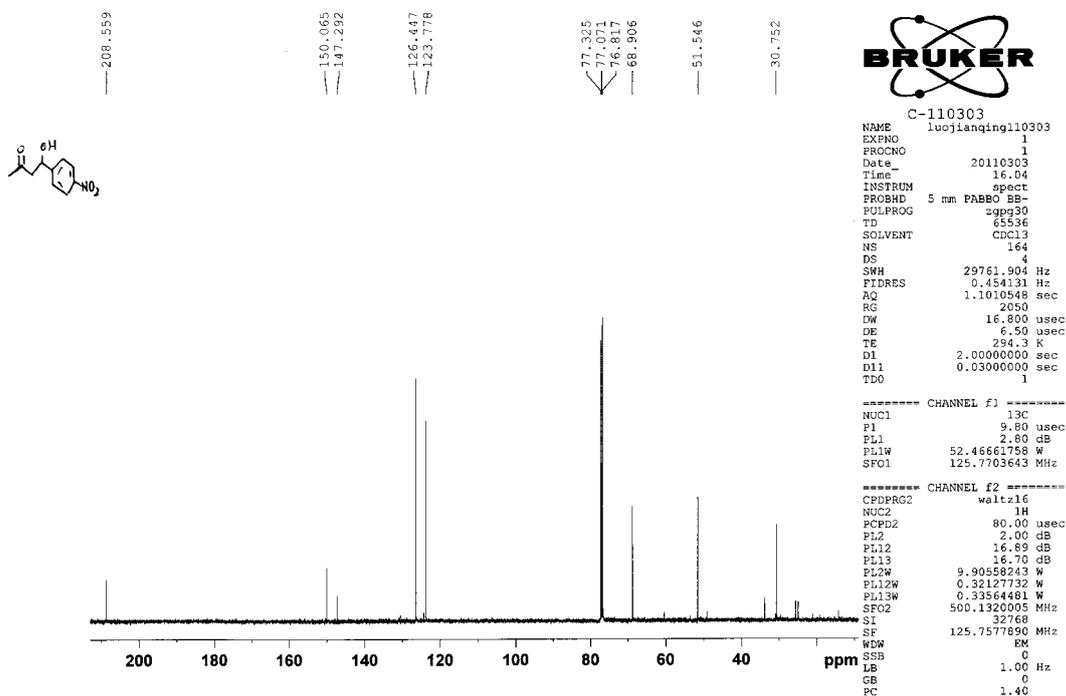


Fig. S25 <sup>13</sup>C NMR of the as-obtained product **8**

**(4R)-(2-Chlorophenyl)-4-hydroxy-2-butanone (9).**

Enantiomeric excess (77% ee) was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak AD column

(2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 7.5: 92.5 (V/V) eluent) UV 254 nm, flow rate 0.8 mL/min, major enantiomer  $t_R = 10.9$  min and minor enantiomer  $t_R = 12.3$  min (see Fig. S26 and S27).

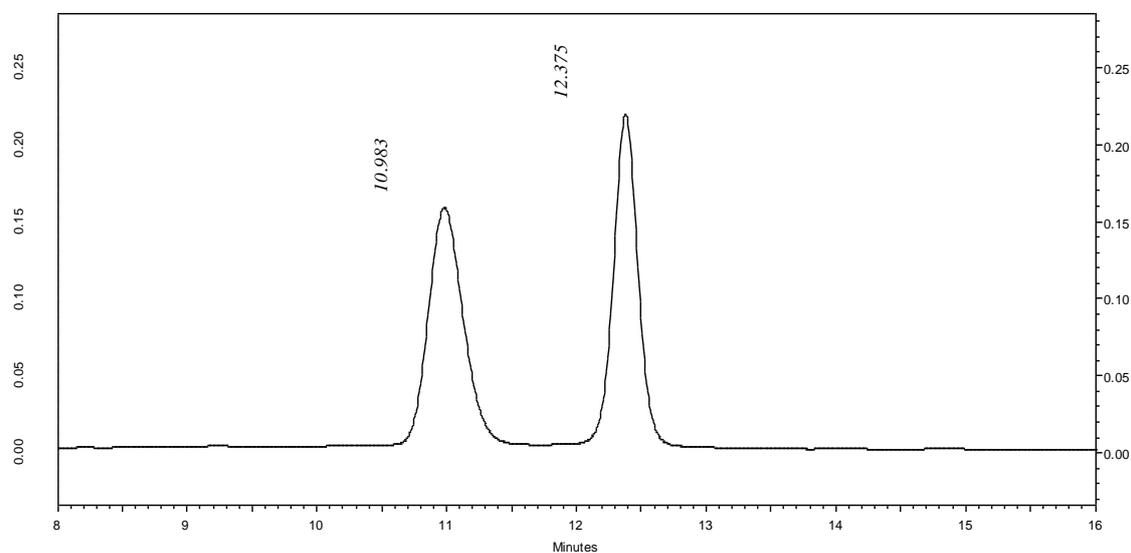


Fig. S26 HPLC of the authentic sample **9**

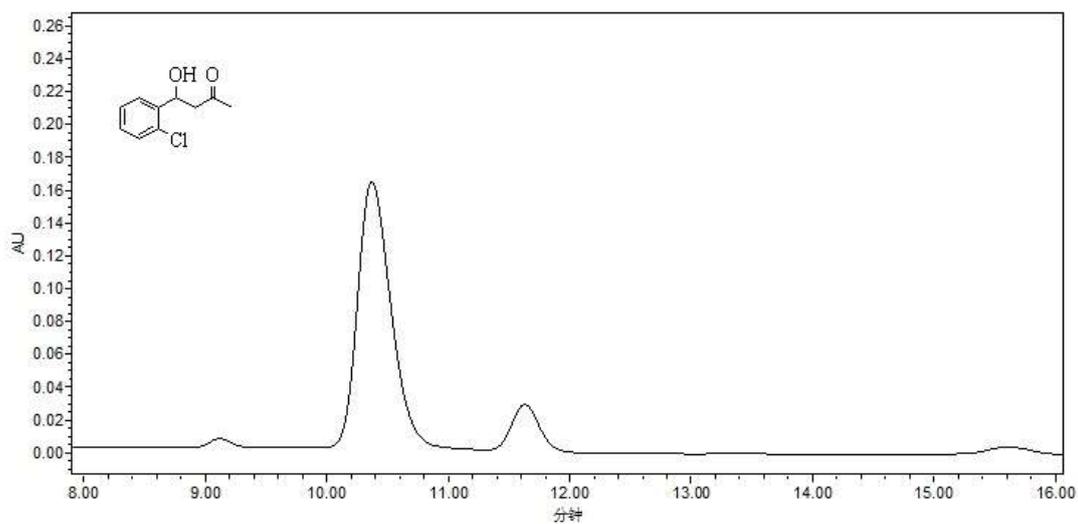


Fig. S27 HPLC of the as-obtained sample **9**

The aldol product **9** has been identified by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra (see Fig. S28 and S29).

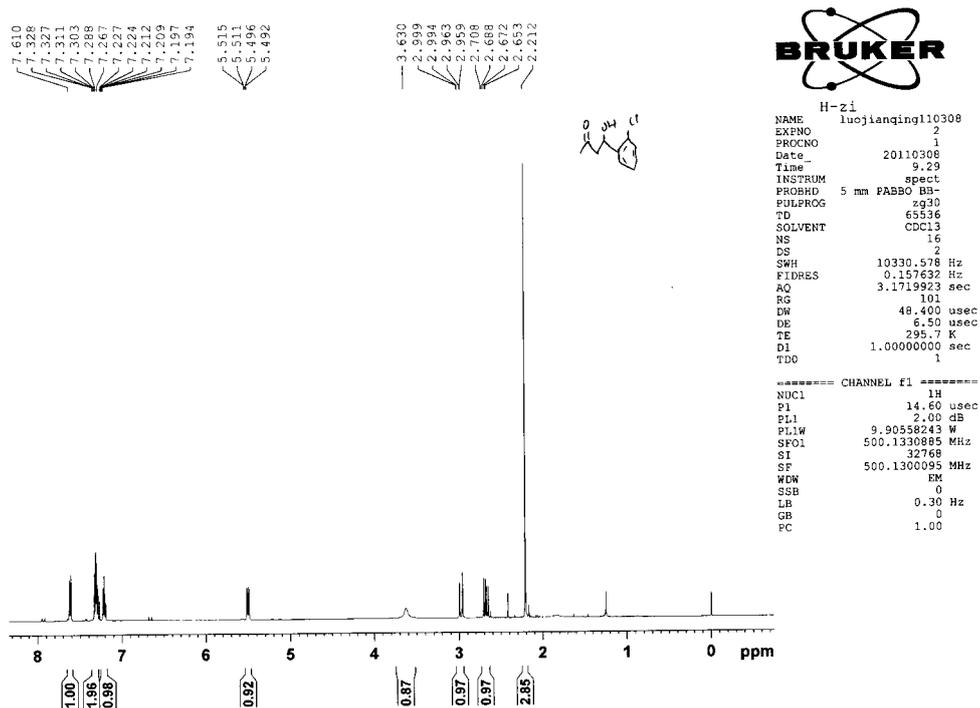


Fig. S28 <sup>1</sup>H NMR of the as-obtained product **9**

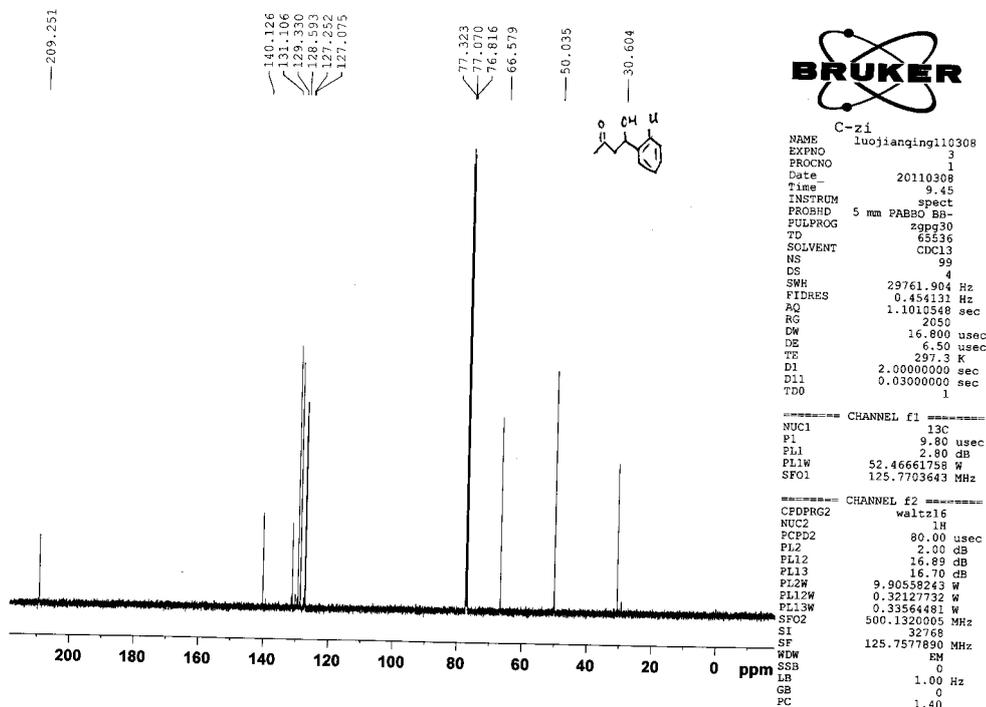


Fig. S29 <sup>13</sup>C NMR of the as-obtained product **9**

**(4R)-(4-Bromophenyl)-4-hydroxy-2-butanone (10).**

Enantiomeric excess (77% ee) was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak AD column (2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 7.5: 92.5 (V/V) eluent) UV 254 nm, flow rate 0.8 mL/min, major enantiomer  $t_R = 15.2$  min and minor enantiomer  $t_R = 16.1$  min (see Fig. S30 and S31).

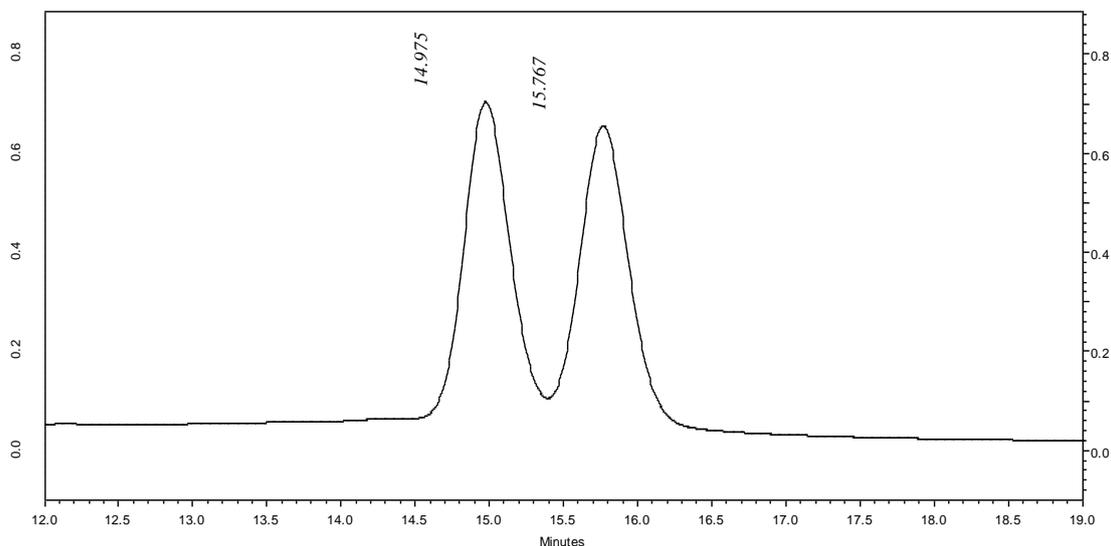


Fig. S30 HPLC of the authentic sample **10**

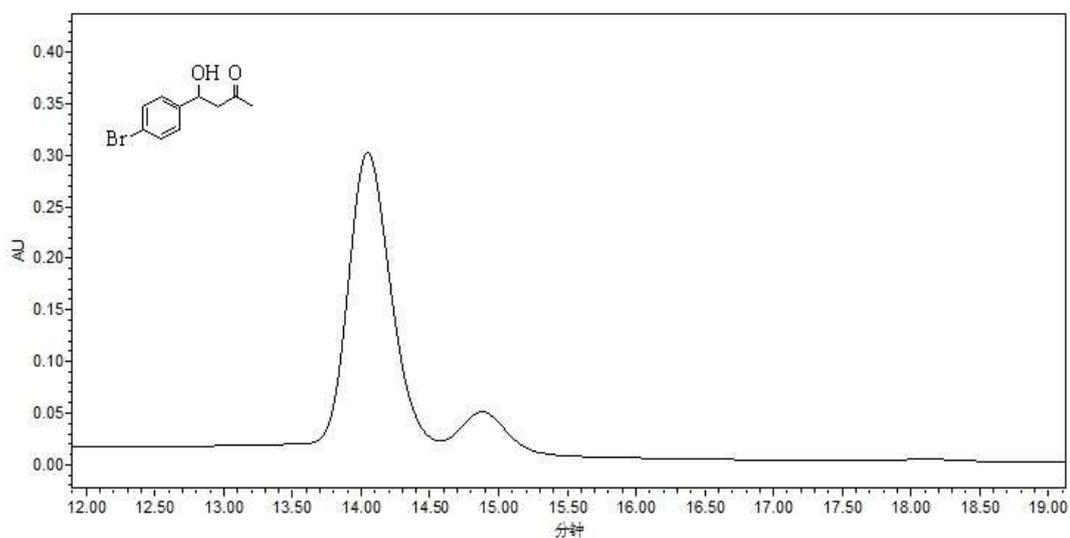


Fig. S31 HPLC of the as-obtained sample **10**

The aldol product **10** has been identified by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra (see Fig. S32 and S33).

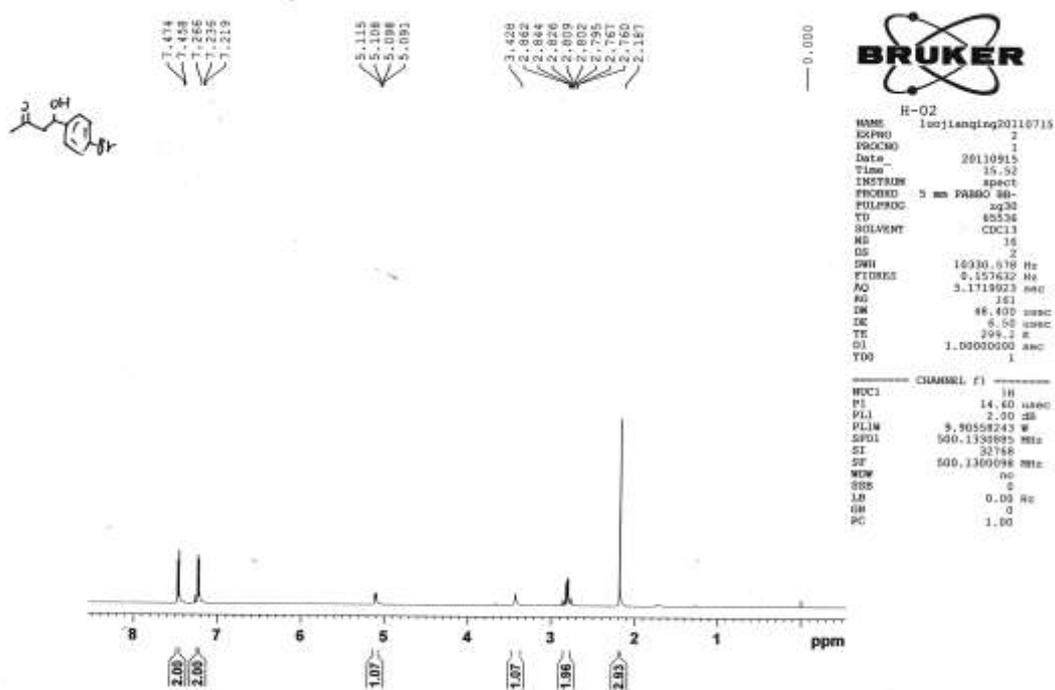


Fig. S32 <sup>1</sup>H NMR of the as-obtained product **10**

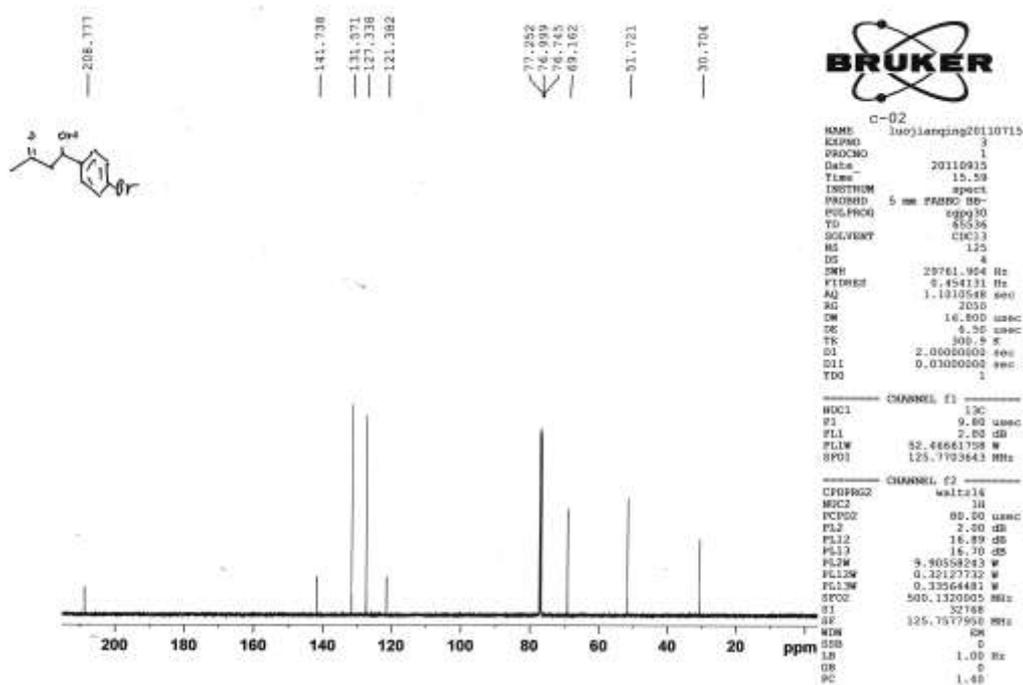


Fig. S33 <sup>13</sup>C NMR of the as-obtained product **10**

**(4R)-(4-Acetamidophenyl)-4-hydroxy-2-butanone (11).**

Enantiomeric excess (83% ee) was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak AD column

(2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 10: 90 (V/V) eluent) UV 254 nm, flow rate 0.8 mL/min, major enantiomer  $t_R = 50.0$  min and minor enantiomer  $t_R = 55.7$  min (see Fig. S34 and S35).

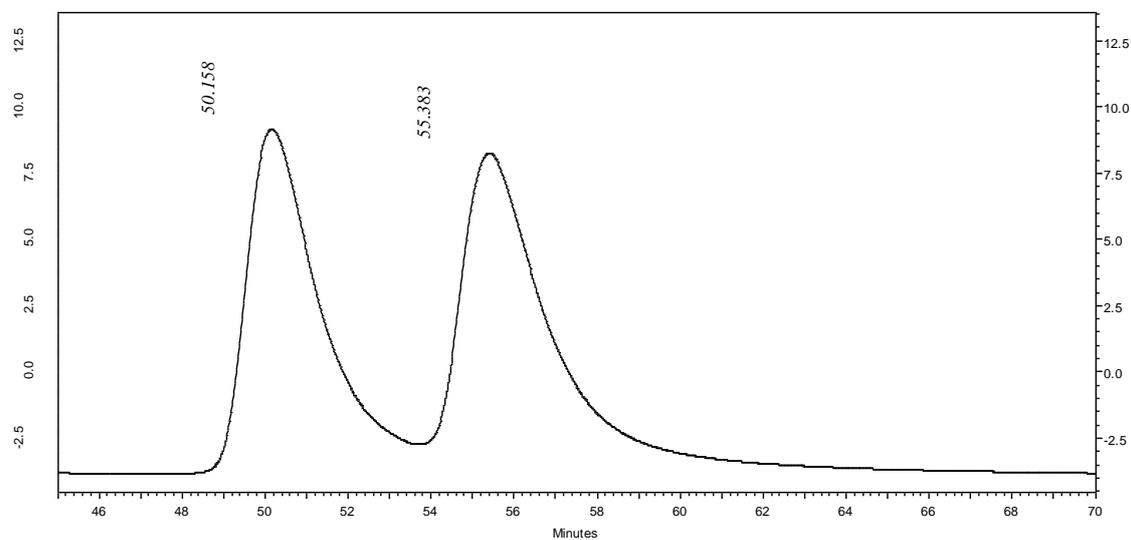


Fig. S34 HPLC of the authentic sample **11**

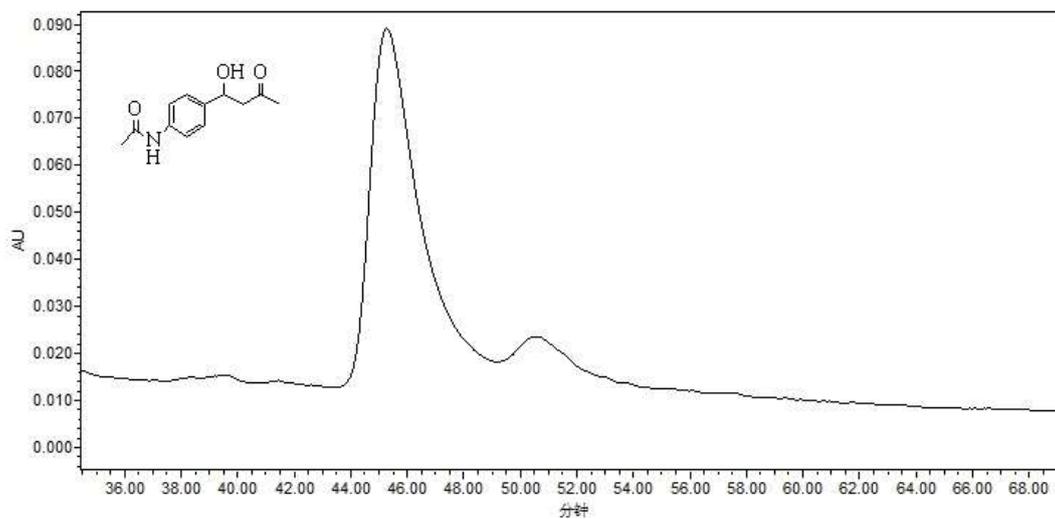


Fig. S35 HPLC of the as-obtained sample **11**

The aldol product **11** has been identified by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra (see Fig. S36 and S37).

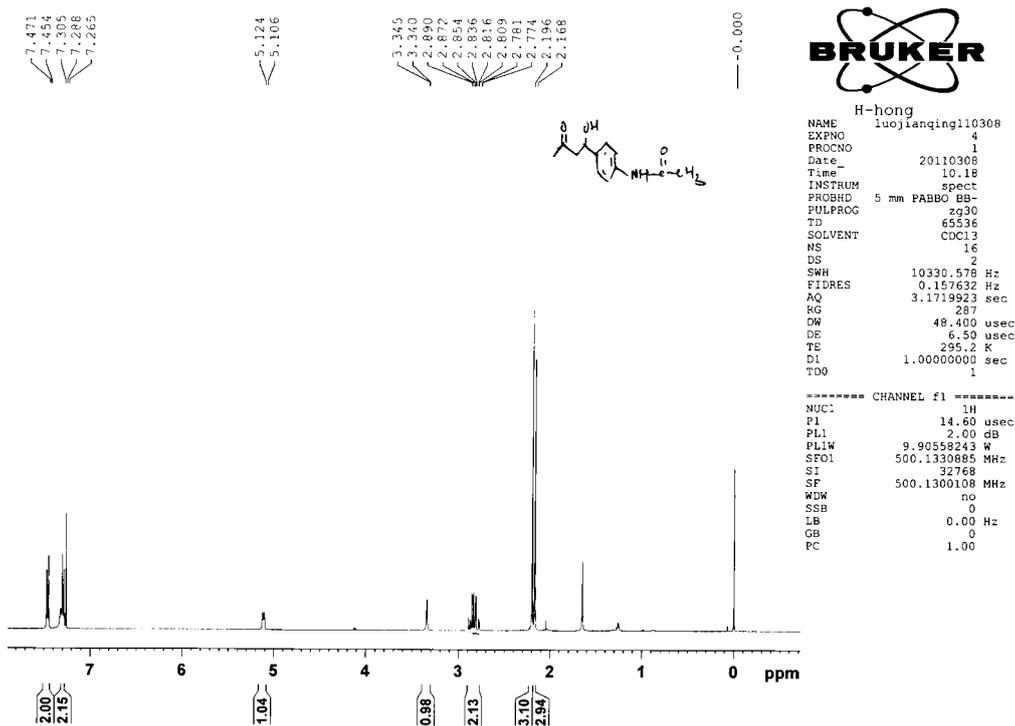


Fig. S36 <sup>1</sup>H NMR of the as-obtained product 11

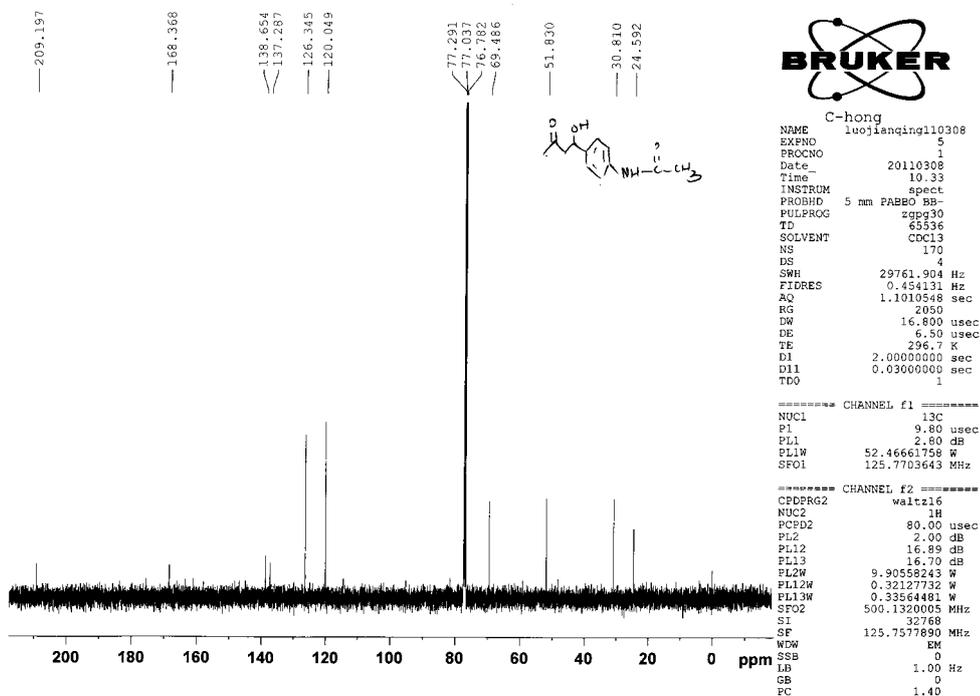


Fig. S37 <sup>13</sup>C NMR of the as-obtained product 11

**(4R)-Hydroxy-4-(2-naphthyl)-2-butanone (12).**

Enantiomeric excess (83% ee) was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak AD column (2-propanol/*n*-hexane = 7.5: 92.5 (V/V) eluent) UV 254 nm, flow rate 0.8 mL/min, major enantiomer  $t_R = 20.9$  min and minor enantiomer  $t_R = 25.2$  min (see Fig. S38 and S39).

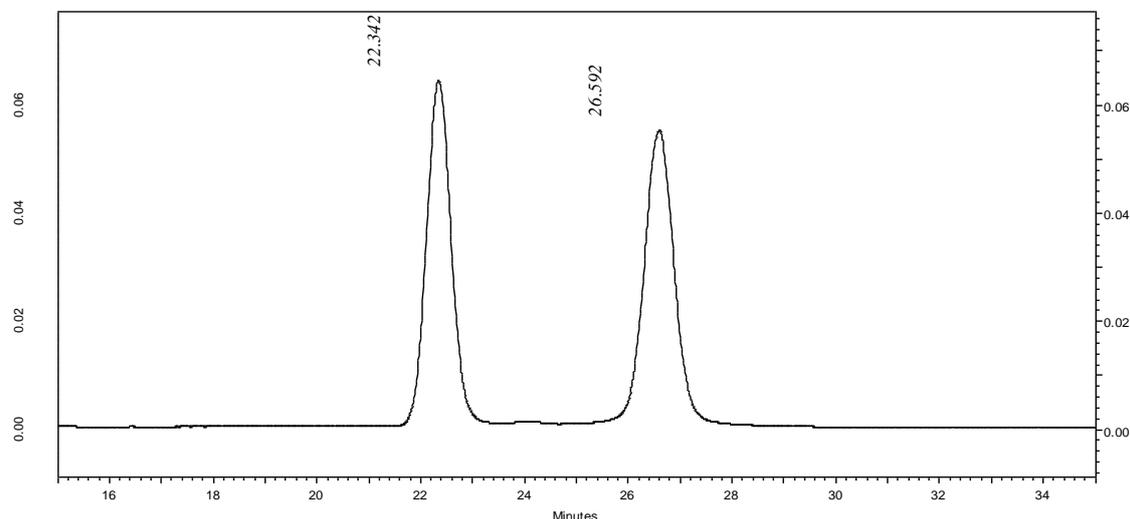


Fig. S38 HPLC of the authentic sample **12**

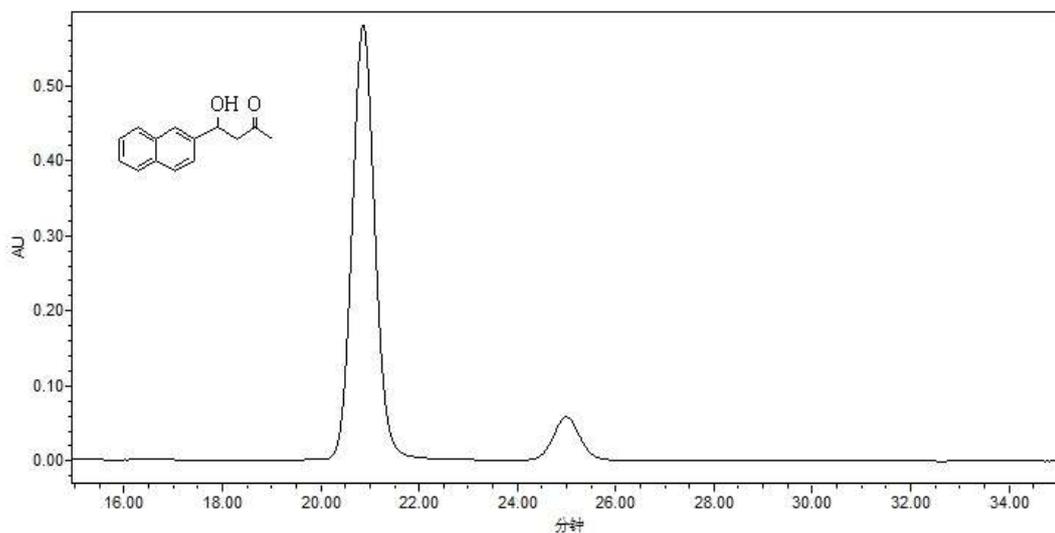


Fig. S39 HPLC of the as-obtained sample **12**

The aldol product **12** has been identified by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra (see Fig. S40 and S41).

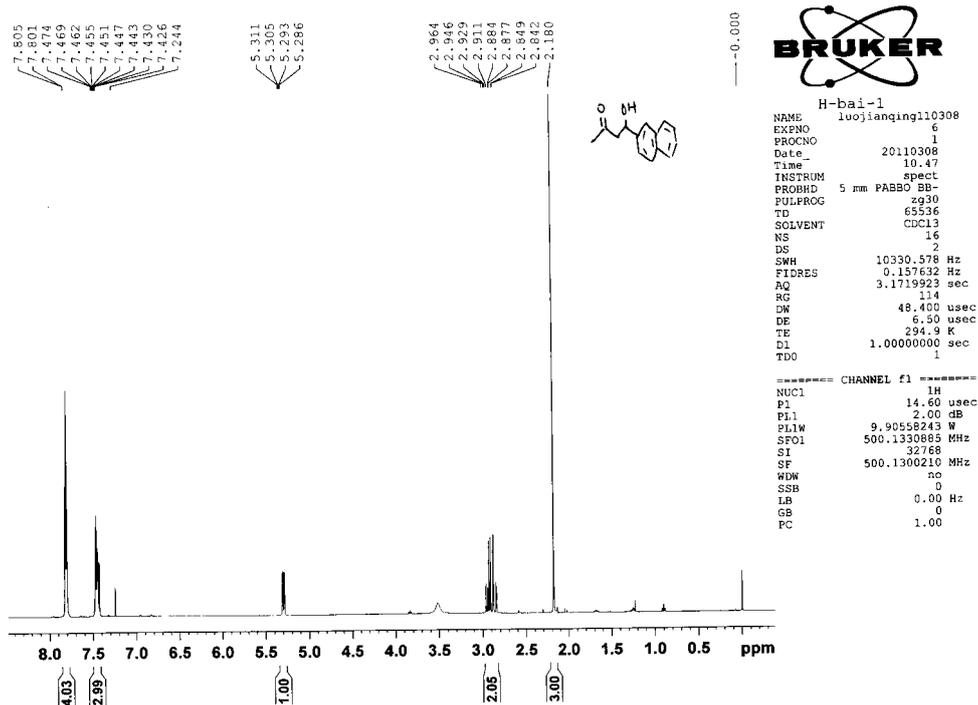


Fig. S40 <sup>1</sup>H NMR of the as-obtained product **12**

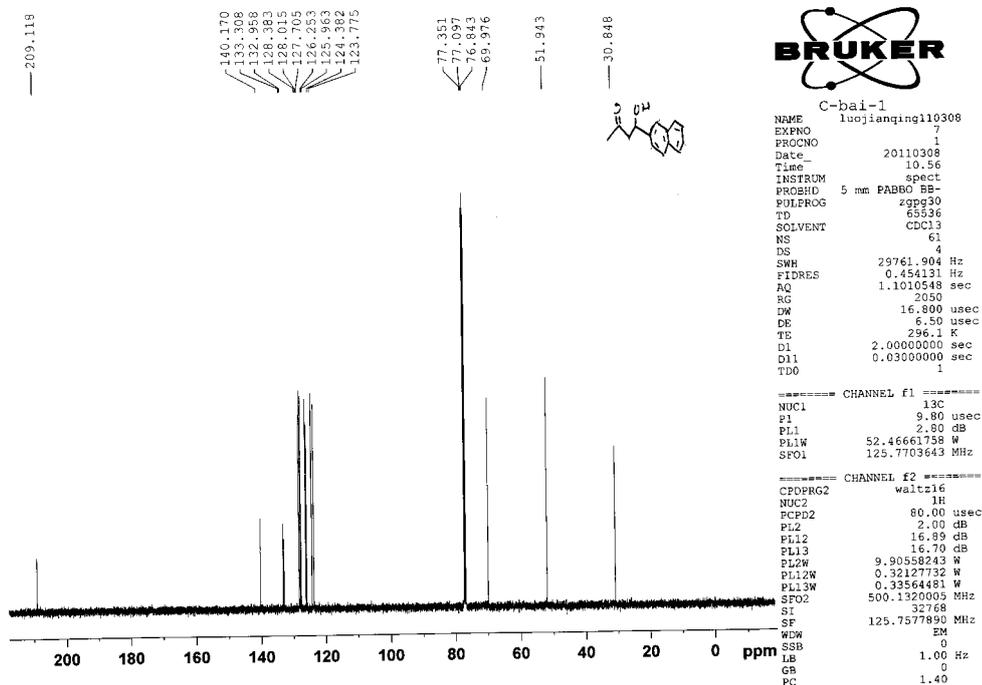


Fig. S41 <sup>13</sup>C NMR of the as-obtained product **12**

## Characterization of Samples

### TG-DTG curves

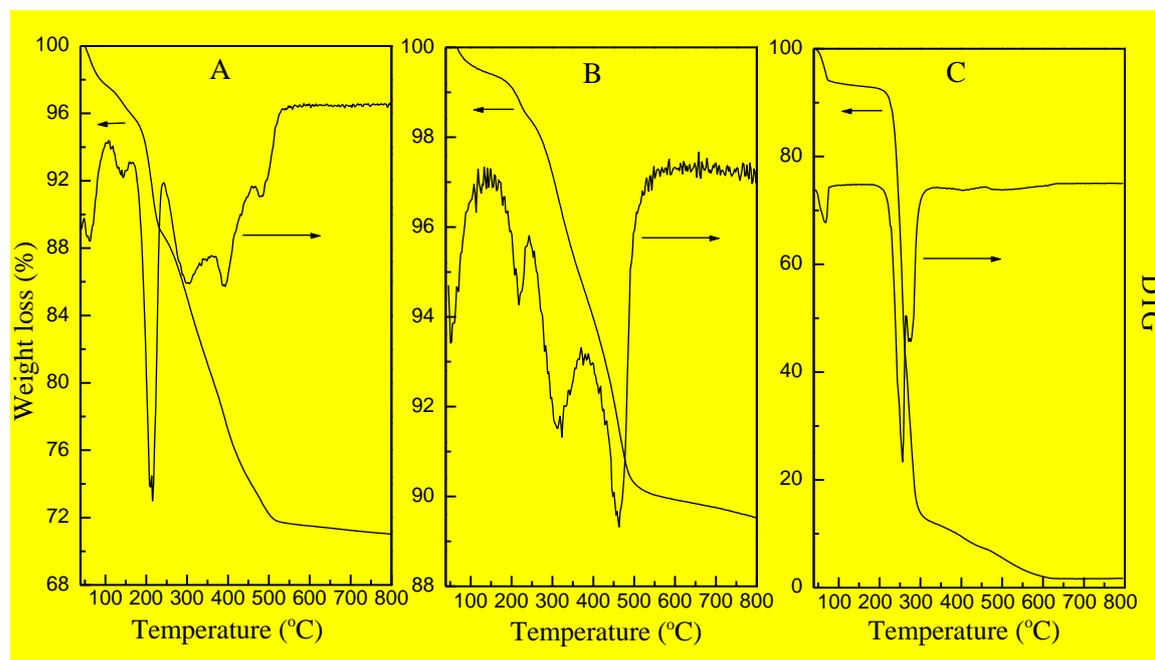


Fig. S42 Thermogravimetric and differential thermogravimetric curves of the **catalyst 1 (A)**, **catalyst 2 (B)** and pristine L-proline (C).

## References

- [1] (a) G. Chen, X. Fu, C. Li, C. Wu and Q. Miao, *J. Organomet. Chem.* 2012, **702**, 19; (b) N. Mase, Y. Nakai, N. Ohara, H. Yoda, K. Takabe, F. Tanaka and C. F. Barbas III, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2006, **128**, 734; (c) W. Miao and T. H. Chan, *Adv. Synth. Catal.* 2006, **348**, 1711; (d) M. Lombardo, F. Pasi, S. Easwar and C. Trombini, *Adv. Synth. Catal.* 2007, **349**, 2061; (e) S. V. Kochetkov, A. S. Kucherenko, G. V. Kryshstal, G. M. Zhdankina and S. G. Zlotin, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* 2012, 7129.