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# Stereoselective Desymmetrisation of Prochiral α,α-Dicyanoalkenes via Domino Michael-Michael Addition Reactions

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### 1. General method

TLC was performed on glass-backed silica plates. Column chromatography was performed using silica gel (200–300 mesh) eluting with ethyl acetate and petroleum ether. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR were recorded on Bruker 300 or 75 MHz spectrometers, respectively. Chemical shifts were reported in ppm down field with tetramethylsilane resonance as the internal standard. ESI HRMS was recorded on a Bruker Apex-2. Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis on Chiralpak columns. All other reagents were used without purification as commercially available.

#### 2. General procedure for the desymmetrisation reaction.



Compound **2** (0.1 mmol), **3** (0.12 mmol), catalyst **1a** 6.5 mg (0.02 mmol), TFA 2.9  $\mu$ L (0.04 mmol) and DIPEA (2.2  $\mu$ L, 0.015 mmol) were stirred in THF (0.3 mL) at 25 °C for 110 h. Then the reaction was quenched by adding 1 mol/L HCl (0.5 mL). The mixture was diluted with EtOAc (10 mL), washed with water, and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. The solvent was removed and flash chromatography on silica gel (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether) gave the product **4**.



**4a** 81% yield;  $R_f = 0.1$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1);  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +17.2$  (c = 0.87 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>); 99% ee; The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on Chiralpak AS column [20% 2-propanol/hexane, 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 220$  nm, t (minor) = 21.14 min, t (major) = 13.46 min]; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.39-7.28 (m, 3H), 7.22-7.20 (m, 2H), 4.43 (s, 1H), 3.26

(td, J = 3.4 Hz, 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.88 (d, J = 13.3 Hz, 1H), 2.70-2.66 (m, 1H), 2.62-2.57 (m, 2H), 2.44 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 1.83-1.78 (m, 3H), 1.70-1.62 (m, 1H), 1.37-1.32 (m, 1H), 0.95-0.89 (m, 2H), 0.79 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 205.3, 141.4, 129.2, 127.6, 126.9, 111.4, 110.4, 48.9, 48.8, 44.6, 43.7, 41.8, 31.1, 30.9, 29.7, 28.6, 24.9, 22.0; ESI-HRMS: calcd. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O+Na 329.1630, found 329.1630.

**4b** 71% yield;  $R_f = 0.1$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 15:1);  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +18.1$  (c = 0.66 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>);



>99.5% ee; The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on Chiralpak AS column [20% 2-propanol/hexane, 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 220 nm, t (minor) = 22.94 min, t (major) = 15.03 min]; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.13 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz,, 2 H), 4.43 (s, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.22 (td, *J* = 3.3 Hz, 12.7 Hz, 1H), 2.87

(d, J = 13.4 Hz, 1H), 2.71-2.62 (m, 1H), 2.60-2.50 (m, 2H), 2.37 (d, J = 11.7 Hz, 1H), 1.82-1.76 (m, 3H), 1.68-1.63 (m, 1H), 1.39-1.34 (m, 1H), 0.99-0.83 (m, 2H), 0.79 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 205.5, 158.8, 133.4, 127.8, 114.5, 111.4, 110.5, 55.3, 49.1, 48.9, 44.5, 42.9, 42.0, 31.1, 30.9, 29.7, 28.6, 24.9, 22.0; ESI-HRMS: calcd. for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O+Na 359.1735, found 359.1732.



**4c** 64% yield;  $R_f = 0.1$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 25:1);  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +7.5$  (*c* = 0.33 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>); >99.5% ee; The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on Chiralpak AS column [20% 2-propanol/hexane, 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 220$  nm, t (minor) = 23.33 min, t (major) = 10.37 min]; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.35 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d, J =

8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.42 (s, 1H), 3.26 (td, J = 4.5 Hz, 12.9 Hz, 1H), 2.87 (d, J = 13.3 Hz, 1H), 2.65-2.56 (m, 3H), 2.39 (d, J = 11.7 Hz, 1H), 1.81-1.76 (m, 3H), 166-1.59 (m, 1H), 1.35-1.24 (m, 1H), 1.01-0.84 (m, 2H), 0.80 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 204.8, 139.9, 133.3, 129.5, 128.9, 128.8, 128.2, 111.4, 110.3, 48.8, 48.7, 44.5, 43.2, 41.7, 31.1, 30.9, 29.6, 28.6, 24.9, 22.0; ESI-HRMS: calcd. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>21</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O+Na 363.1240, found 363.1240.



**4d** 72% yield;  $R_f = 0.1$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 25:1);  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +12.0$  (c = 0.37 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>); 95% ee; The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on Chiralpak AS column [20% 2-propanol/hexane, 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 220$  nm, t (minor) =17.73 min, t (major) = 12.31 min]; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.34-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.20 (s, 1H), 7.10 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 1H),

4.43 (s, 1H), 3.26 (td, J = 4.6 Hz, 12.6 Hz, 1H), 2.87 (d, J = 13.3 Hz, 1H), 2.71-2.57 (m, 3H), 2.42 (d, J = 11.5 Hz, 1H), 1.79-1.77 (m, 3H), 1.66-1.64 (m, 1H), 1.37-1.32 (m, 1H), 0.99-0.88 (m, 2H), 0.81 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 204.7, 143.4, 135.1, 130.6, 127.9, 127.0, 125.2, 111.4, 110.3, 48.8, 48.6, 44.5, 43.5, 41.5, 31.1, 30.9, 29.6, 28.6, 24.9, 22.0; ESI-HRMS: calcd. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>21</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O+Na 363.1240, found 363.1240.



**4e** 68% yield;  $R_f = 0.1$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 25:1);  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +3.3$  (c = 0.41 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>); 92% ee; The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on Chiralpak AS column [20% 2-propanol/hexane, 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 220$  nm, t (minor) = 20.53 min, t (major) = 10.89 min]; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.41-7.31 (m, 3H), 7.25-7.19 (m, 1H), 4.44 (s, 1H), 4.01

(td, J = 5.0 Hz, 12.1 Hz, 1H), 2.88 (d, J = 13.4 Hz, 1H), 2.63-2.50 (m, 4H), 1.86-1.78 (m, 4H), 1.34-1.29 (m, 1H), 1.02-0.86 (m, 2H), 0.81 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 204.6, 139.1, 133.9, 130.1, 128.5, 128.0, 127.0, 111.5, 110.4, 48.8, 47.9, 44.5, 41.2, 38.6, 31.2, 31.1, 29.7, 28.8, 25.5, 22.0; ESI-HRMS: calcd. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>21</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O+Na 363.1240, found 363.1240.



**4f** 45% yield;  $R_f = 0.1$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1);  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -15.3$  (c = 0.33 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>); 98% ee; The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on Chiralpak AD column [20% 2-propanol/hexane, 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 254$  nm, t (minor) = 7.40 min, t (major) = 5.57 min]; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.03 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.92-7.89 (m, 1H), 7.82-7.79 (m,

1H), 7.58-7.50 (m, 4H), 4.48 (s, 1H), 4.32-4.22 (m, 1H), 2.98 (d, J = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 2.79 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 2.69-2.65 (m, 3H), 1.85-1.81 (m, 2H), 1.62-1.60 (m, 2H), 1.40 (d, J = 14.5 Hz, 1H), 1.05-0.89 (m, 2H), 0.64 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 205.3, 138.0, 134.1, 131.3, 129.3, 127.7, 126.7, 125.9, 125.8, 123.2, 121.6, 111.6, 110.5, 49.3, 49.0, 44.8, 41.5, 36.7, 31.3, 31.0, 29.7, 28.9, 25.8, 21.9; ESI-HRMS: calcd. for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O+Na 379.1786, found 379.1748.



**4g** 64% yield;  $R_f = 0.1$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 18:1);  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +17.3$  (*c* = 0.68 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>); 97% ee; The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on Chiralpak AS column [20% 2-propanol/hexane, 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 220$  nm, t (minor) = 19.70 min, t (major) = 12.96 min]; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.37 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.32 (dd, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 6.11 (d,

J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 4.40 (s, 1H), 3.43 (td, J = 4.2 Hz, 13.3 Hz, 1H), 2.88-2.79 (m, 2H), 2.59-2.48 (m, 3H), 1.75-1.70 (m, 4H), 1.45-1.40 (m, 1H), 1.05-0.94 (m, 2H), 0.87 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 204.9, 153.7, 142.1, 111.3, 110.4, 110.2, 106.6, 48.6, 46.0, 44.1, 40.3, 37.3, 31.3, 31.0, 29.6, 28.4, 24.9, 22.0; ESI-HRMS: calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>+Na 319.1422, found 319.1400.



**4h** 60% yield;  $R_f = 0.1$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 25:1);  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +16.7$  (*c* = 0.69 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>); 97% ee; The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on Chiralpak AD column [10% 2-propanol/hexane, 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 220$  nm, t (minor) = 15.34 min, t (major) = 12.68 min]; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.26-7.22 (m, 1H), 6.97 (dd, J = 3.5 Hz, 5.1 Hz,

1H), 6.88-6.87 (m, 1H), 4.43 (s, 1H), 3.62 (td, J = 6.8 Hz, 11.2 Hz, 1H), 2.86 (d, J = 13.4 Hz, 1H), 2.78-2.70 (m, 2H), 2.58 (d, J = 13.4 Hz, 1H), 2.35-2.32 (m, 1H), 1.82-1.63 (m, 4H), 1.57-1.53 (m, 1H), 1.02-0.93 (m, 2H), 0.85 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 204.2, 145.1, 127.0, 124.5, 124.2, 111.3, 110.4, 49.9, 48.9, 44.4, 43.7, 39.1, 31.1, 29.7, 28.7, 25.0, 22.0; ESI-HRMS: calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>OS+Na 335.1194, found 335.1214.



**4i** 54% yield;  $R_f = 0.1$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20:1);  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +12.0$  (*c* = 0.37 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>); 98% ee; The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on Chiralpak AS column [20% 2-propanol/hexane, 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 254$  nm, t (minor) = 12.58 min, t (major) = 29.58 min]; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 4.42 (s, 1H), 2.69 (d, *J* = 13.0 Hz, 1H), 2.50-2.46 (m, 2H),

2.18-2.14 (m, 2H), 1.96-1.92 (m, 2H), 1.73-1.64 (m, 3H), 1.61-1.54 (m, 2H), 1.42-1.29 (m, 1H), 1.28-1.23 (m, 3H), 1.08-0.98 (m, 1H), 0.94-0.87 (m, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 206.6, 111.4, 110.6, 48.9, 45.8, 44.9, 41.0, 35.7, 35.5, 31.0, 30.6, 29.9, 28.7, 24.9, 22.2, 18.6, 14.1; ESI-HRMS: calcd. for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O+Na 295.1786, found 295.1766.



**4j** 61% yield;  $R_f = 0.1$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 25:1);  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -9.3$  (*c* = 0.78 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>); 95% ee; The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on Chiralpak AS column [20% 2-propanol/hexane, 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 220$  nm, t (minor) = 23.86 min, t (major) = 14.38 min]; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.38-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.27 (m, 4 H), 7.23-7.18 (m, 2H), 7.06-7.02 (m, 2H), 4.58 (s, 1H), 3.46 (td, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 13.0 Hz, 1H), 2.94 (d,

J = 13.3 Hz, 1H), 2.90-2.80 (m, 1H), 2.77-2.56 (m, 4H), 2.05-1.96 (m, 3H), 1.60-1.51 (m, 2H), 1.45-1.34 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 205.0, 143.9, 141.0, 129.4, 128.7, 127.8, 126.9, 126.8, 126.3, 111.4, 110.4, 48.9, 48.8, 44.5, 43.6, 42.0, 35.8, 31.3, 30.1, 28.8, 28.0; ESI-HRMS: calcd. for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O+Na 391.1786, found 391.1743.

**4k** 66% yield;  $R_f = 0.1$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 18:1);  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -7.1$  (*c* = 0.87 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>); 97% ee;



The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on Chiralpak ADcolumn [20% 2-propanol/ hexane, 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 220$  nm, t (minor) = 12.62 min, t (major) = 7.99 min]; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.29-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.21-7.16 (m, 3 H), 7.05 (d, J = 8.3 Hz,, 2H), 6.90 (d, J = 8.5 Hz,, 2H), 4.58 (s, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.40 (td, J = 4.4 Hz, 12.4 Hz, 1H), 2.93 (d, J = 13.4 Hz, 1H),

2.88-2.80 (m, 1H), 2.78-2.58 (m, 3H), 2.52-2.49 (m, 1H), 2.05-1.95 (m, 3H), 1.64-1.50 (m, 2H), 1.43-1.33 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 205.2, 158.9, 143.9, 133.1, 128.7, 127.8, 126.8, 126.3, 114.7, 111.4, 110.4, 55.3, 49.0, 48.9, 44.4, 42.8, 42.3, 35.8, 31.3, 30.1, 28.8, 28.1; ESI-HRMS: calcd. for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>+Na 421.1892, found 421.1895.



**41** 67% yield;  $R_f = 0.1$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 25:1);  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -2.8$  (*c* = 1.1 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>); 97% ee; The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on Chiralpak AS column [20% 2-propanol/hexane, 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 220$  nm, t (minor) = 28.01 min, t (major) = 11.36 min]; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.36-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.17 (m, 5H), 7.05-7.03 (m, 2H), 4.58 (s, 1H), 3.44 (td, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 12.2 Hz, 1H), 2.93

(d, J = 13.3 Hz, 1H), 2.86-2.77 (m, 1H), 2.72-2.51 (m, 4H), 2.05-1.94 (m, 3H), 1.61-1.50 (m, 2H), 1.48-1.42 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 204.5, 143.6, 139.5, 133.5, 129.6, 128.7, 128.2, 126.9, 126.3, 111.3, 110.3, 48.8, 48.6, 44.4, 43.0, 41.9, 35.8, 31.3, 30.0, 28.8, 28.0; ESI-HRMS: calcd. for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>23</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O+Na 425.1397, found 425.1422.



**4m** 62% yield;  $R_f = 0.1$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 25:1);  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -15.8$  (*c* = 0.35 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>); 90% ee; The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on Chiralpak AD column [20% 2-propanol/hexane, 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 220$  nm, t (minor) = 11.23 min, t (major) = 7.94 min]; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.36 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.32-7.19 (m, 3 H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 6.32 (dd, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 6.20 (d, *J* = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 4.57 (s, 1H),

3.63 (td, J = 3.8 Hz, 11.7 Hz, 1H), 2.95-2.82 (m, 3H), 2.64 (d, J = 13.3 Hz, 3H), 2.04-2.00 (m, 1H), 1.93-1.89 (m, 2H), 1.69-1.61 (m, 1H), 1.57-1.49 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 204.6, 153.4, 143.9, 142.2, 128.7, 126.9, 126.4, 111.2, 110.3, 106.8, 48.7, 46.0, 44.0, 40.7, 37.1, 35.8, 31.2, 30.5, 28.7, 28.0; ESI-HRMS: calcd. for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>+Na 381.1579, found 381.1563.

**4n** 61% yield;  $R_f = 0.1$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 25:1);  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +8.9$  (c = 0.75 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>); 94% ee;



The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on Chiralpak AS column [20% 2-propanol/hexane, 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 220$  nm, t (minor) = 18.64 min, t (major) = 9.47 min]; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.39-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.29-7.20 (m, 2H), 4.42 (s, 1H), 3.27 (td, J = 4.3 Hz, 13.2 Hz, 1H), 2.88 (d, J = 13.3 Hz, 1H), 2.67 (t, J = 13.3 Hz, 1H ), 2.61-2.53 (m, 2H), 2.45-2.41 (m, 1H), 1.86-1.78 (m, 3H), 1.54-1.53 (m,

1H), 1.42-1.37 (m, 1H), 1.16-1.08 (m, 3H), 1.07-0.84 (m, 3H), 0.78 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 205.4, 141.3, 129.2, 127.6, 126.9, 111.5, 110.5, 48.9, 48.7, 44.9, 43.7, 41.8, 38.9, 31.1, 29.4, 28.9, 28.6, 27.9, 19.5, 14.0; ESI-HRMS: calcd. for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O+Na 357.1943, found 357.1949.



**4o** 71% yield;  $R_f = 0.1$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 25:1);  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -9.3$  (c = 0.78 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>); 99.5% ee; The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on Chiralpak AS column [20% 2-propanol/hexane, 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 220$  nm, t (minor) = 24.08 min, t (major) = 9.08 min]; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.46-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.29-7.21 (m, 2H), 4.35 (s, 1H), 3.28

(td, J = 4.1 Hz, 11.7 Hz, 1H), 2.88 (d, J = 13.3 Hz, 1H), 2.78-2.69 (m, 1H), 2.62-2.54 (m, 2H), 2.49-2.44 (m, 1H), 1.84-1.79 (m, 3H), 1.38-1.29 (m, 2H), 1.05-0.93 (m, 2H), 0.70 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 205.2, 141.3, 129.1, 127.7, 127.0, 111.5, 110.5, 48.9, 48.7, 44.7, 43.7, 42.1, 39.6, 32.2, 31.2, 29.0, 27.0, 23.3, 22.2; ESI-HRMS: calcd. for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O+Na 371.2099, found 371.2074.



**4p** 60% yield;  $R_f = 0.1$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 25:1);  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -16.9$  (*c* = 0.74 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>); 98% ee; The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on Chiralpak AS column [20% 2-propanol/ hexane, 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 220$  nm, t (minor) = 16.26 min, t (major) = 13.92 min]; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.93 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 4H), 7.34-7.31 (m, 3H), 5.29-5.22 (m, 1H), 4.54 (s, 1H), 3.31 (td, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 11.9 Hz, 1H), (m, 1H), 2.92 (d, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 2.81-2.62 (m, 4H), 2.31-2.25 (m, 1H), 2.00-1.97 (m, 2H), 1.84-1.79 (m, 1H), 1.52-1.48

(m, 2H);  ${}^{13}$ C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 204.5, 165.4, 140.7, 133.2, 129.7, 129.5, 129.4, 128.4, 128.0, 127.0, 111.1, 110.1, 66.6, 48.3, 48.0, 44.4, 44.2, 42.2, 31.4, 28.1, 27.7, 26.7; ESI-HRMS: calcd. for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>+Na 435.1685, found 435.1641.

# Supplementary Material (ESI) for Organic & Biomolecular Chemistry

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#### 3. Procedure for the Synthesis of Compound 5



The mixture of **4a** (30.6 mg, 0.1 mmol) and Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (65 mg, 0.2 mmol) in freshly distilled dry THF (0.3 mL) was stirred at 50 °C until the reaction was complete. The mixture was diluted with EtOAc (10 mL) and washed with water. After dried with anhydrous sodium sulfate, the solvent was removed and flash chromatography on silica gel (4% ethyl acetate/petroleum ether) gave compound **5** (23.8 mg, 99% yield).  $R_f = 0.1$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 25:1);  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +11.0$  (c = 0.75 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>); 99% ee; The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on Chiralpak AS column [20% 2-propanol/hexane, 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 220$  nm, t (minor) = 33.19 min, t (major) = 26.55 min]; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.36-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.28-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.22-7.17 (m, 2H), 5.93 (s, 1H), 2.88-2.84 (m, 1H), 2.72-2.68 (m, 1H), 2.63-2.48 (m, 3H), 2.38-2.29 (m, 1H), 2.06-2.03 (m, 1H), 1.73-1.62 (m, 2H), 1.56-1.50 (m, 1H), 1.33-1.25 (m, 1H), 0.98 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 199.0, 166.9, 142.5, 128.8, 127.3, 126.8, 124.6, 47.8, 45.2, 37.7, 36.2, 31.4, 30.0, 26.9, 17.0; ESI-HRMS: calcd. for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O+Na 263.1412, found 263.1439.

#### 4. Procedure for the Synthesis of Compound 6



TiCl<sub>4</sub> (44  $\mu$ L, 0.4mmol) was added dropwise by using a syringe to a stirred suspension of Zn powder (52 mg, 0.80 mmol) in freshly distilled dry THF (0.3 mL) at room temperature under Ar atmosphere. Then the mixture was refluxed for 2 h. The suspension of the formed low-valent titanium reagent was cooled to room temperature and the solution of **4a** (30.6 mg, 0.1mmol) in anhydrous THF (0.20 mL) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 h, and then quenched with 5% HCl (1.0 mL). The mixture was extracted with CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3×10 mL). The combined organic phase was washed with water (2×10 mL) and dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>.

# Supplementary Material (ESI) for Organic & Biomolecular Chemistry

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After concentration, the crude product was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, ethyl acetate/petroleum ether, 1:3) to give pure compound **6** (13.8 mg, yield 45%).  $R_f = 0.1$  (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 4:1);  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +14.0$  (c = 0.61 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>); 99% ee; The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC on Chiralpak IC column [20% 2-propanol/hexane, 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda = 254$  nm, t (minor) = 6.21 min, t (major) = 5.33 min]; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.31-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.21-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.17-7.12 (m, 1H), 4.66 (s, 2H), 2.90-2.86 (m, 1H), 2.28 (d, J = 9.9 Hz, 1H), 2.17-2.13 (m, 2H), 2.08-2.01 (m, 3H), 1.98-1.97 (m, 1H), 1.78-1.70 (m, 2H), 1.68-1.57 (m, 1H), 1.44-1.41 (m, 2H), 1.37-1.32 (m, 1H), 0.98 (d, J = 7.21 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 163.7, 147.2, 128.3, 127.0, 125.6, 117.5, 81.8, 79.2, 46.5, 46.0, 44.8, 38.3, 37.9, 36.1, 30.0, 27.5, 27.4, 18.0; ESI-HRMS: calcd. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O+Na 331.1786 found 331.1749.

## 5. NMR and HPLC spectra















	(min)	(V *sec)	% Area	(V)	% Height
1	10.378	84999784	99.99	1739110	99.98
2	23.339	10554	0.01	-404	0.02

























ppm

200





neters 75. NHZ 1.00 0

20.00 cm 5.00 cm 220.500 ppm 16640.64 Hz -0.500 ppm -37.73 Hz 11.05000 ppm/cm 833.91864 Hz/cm









































![](_page_37_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_37_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_38_Figure_2.jpeg)

	RT (min)	Area (V *sec)	% Area	Height (V)	% Height
1	9.089	24912430	99.74	466384	99.82
2	24.083	64713	0.26	-855	0.18

![](_page_39_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_39_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_40_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_40_Figure_2.jpeg)

	RT (min)	Area (V *sec)	% Area	Height (Ⅴ)	% Height
1	13.922	93224575	99.23	2092995	99.23
2	16.267	725414	0.77	16186	0.77

![](_page_41_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_43_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_43_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_44_Figure_2.jpeg)