Supplementary Material (ESI) for Organic & Biomolecular Chemistry This journal is (c) The Royal Society of Chemistry 2009 Synthesis of Telluroamino Acid Derivatives With Remarkable GPx Like Behavior

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### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

**General.** <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded at 400 and 100 MHz respectively with tetramethylsilane as internal standard. High resolution mass spectra were recorded on a Brucker BioApex 70e FT-ICR (Bruker Daltonics, Billerica, USA) instrument in ESI-mode. GPx reaction was monitored by a Hitachi U-2001 UV Spectrophotometer. GC runs were made on a Shimadzu GC, QP 2010 model, with Rtx-5MS 30m x 0.25mm ID, 0.25um column, injector temperature (260 °C), initial oven temperature (200 °C) and heating rates of 5 °C / min, until 280 °C. Column chromatography was performed using Merck Silica Gel (230-400 mesh) following the methods described by Still.<sup>1</sup> Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed using Merck Silica Gel GF<sub>254</sub>, 0.25 mm thickness. For visualization, TLC plates were either placed under ultraviolet light, or stained with iodine vapor, or acidic vanillin. THF was dried over sodium benzophenone ketyl and distilled prior to use. Chloroform was distilled from phosphorus pentoxide. All other solvents were used as purchased unless otherwise noted.

General procedure for the synthesis of 6. Under argon atmosphere, N-methylmorpholine (50 mg, 0.5 mmol) was added to a solution of bromocarboxylic acid (0.5 mmol) in chloroform (5 mL) at 0 °C. After stirring for 15 minutes at this temperature, ethyl chloroformate (54 mg, 0.5 mmol) was added and stirring was prolonged for additional 45 minutes at 0 °C before addition of **5a-e** (0.5 mmol) and N-methylmorpholine (50 mg, 0.5 mmol). The resulting reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h and then at room temperature for 16 h. After this time it was diluted with chloroform and washed with 1M NaOH (2 x 10 mL), brine (1 x 10 mL), 1M HCl (2 x 10 mL) and brine (1 x 10 mL). The combined organic layers were dried with MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography, when required, eluting with a mixture of hexanes/ethyl acetate (80:20).

(S)-methyl 2-(3-bromopropanamido)-3-methylbutanoate 6a. Yield 83%;  $\alpha_D^{20}$ = +5 (*c* = 1.0, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  = 6.24 (br, 1H), 4.64-4.61 (m, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.72-3.59 (m, 2H), 2.92-2.76 (m, 2H), 2.23-2.15 (m, 1H), 0.98-0.91 (m, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$  = 172.40, 169.73, 57.03, 52.03, 39.31, 31.10, 27.20, 18.78, 17.63; HRMS *m*/*z* calcd. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>16</sub>BrNO<sub>3</sub> + Na<sup>+</sup> 288.0211, found 288.0205.

(8)-methyl 2-(4-bromobutanamido)-3-methylbutanoate 6b. Yield: 76%;  $\alpha_D^{20}$ = +1 (*c* = 1.0, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  = 7.08 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.55-4.51 (m, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.63-3.47 (m, 2H), 2.50-2.46 (m, 2H), 2.21-2.10 (m, 3H), 0.96-0.92 (m, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$  = 172.09, 171.72, 56.73, 51.47, 43.85, 32.31, 30.30, 27.76, 18.40, 17.37; HRMS *m*/*z* calcd. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>18</sub>BrNO<sub>3</sub> + Na<sup>+</sup> 302.0368, found 302.0374.

(S)-methyl 2-(3-bromopropanamido)-3-phenylpropanoate 6c. Yield: 81%;  $\alpha_D^{20} = +70$  (*c* = 1.0, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta = 7.32-7.25$  (m, 3H), 7.12-7.10 (m, 2H), 6.07 (br, 1H), 4.95-4.90 (m, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.66-3.55 (m, 2H), 3.18 (dd,  $J^1 = 14.0$  Hz,  $J^2 = 6.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.12 (dd,  $J^1 = 14.0$  Hz,  $J^2 = 5.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.84-2.69 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta = 14.0$  Hz,  $J^2 = 5.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.84-2.69 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta = 14.0$  Hz,  $J^2 = 5.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.84-2.69 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta = 14.0$  Hz,  $J^2 = 5.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.84-2.69 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta = 14.0$  Hz,  $J^2 = 5.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.84-2.69 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta = 14.0$  Hz,  $J^2 = 5.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.84-2.69 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta = 14.0$  Hz,  $J^2 = 5.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.84-2.69 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta = 14.0$  Hz,  $J^2 = 5.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.84-2.69 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta = 14.0$  Hz,  $J^2 = 5.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.84-2.69 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta = 14.0$  Hz,  $J^2 = 5.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.84-2.69 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta = 14.0$  Hz,  $J^2 = 5.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.84-2.69 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta = 14.0$  Hz,  $J^2 = 5.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.84-2.69 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta = 14.0$  Hz,  $J^2 = 5.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.84-2.69 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta = 14.0$  Hz,  $J^2 = 5.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.84-2.69 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta = 14.0$  Hz,  $J^2 = 5.6$  Hz, 1H),  $\delta = 14.0$  Hz,  $\delta = 14.0$  Hz

Supplementary Material (ESI) for Organic & Biomolecular Chemistry This journal is (c) The Royal Society of Chemistry 2009 171.78, 169.17, 135.60, 129.18, 128.44, 127.03, 53.12, 52.25, 39.22, 37.72, 26.87; HRMS m/z calcd. for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>16</sub>BrNO<sub>3</sub> + Na<sup>+</sup> 336.0211, found 336.0205.

(S)-methyl 2-(4-bromobutanamido)-3-phenylpropanoate 6d. Yield: 85%;  $\alpha_D^{20}$ = +26 (*c* = 1.0, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  = 7.34-7.25 (m, 3H), 7.11-7.09 (m, 2H), 5.98 (br, 1H), 4.92-4.87 (m, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.58-3.34 (m, 2H), 3,17 (dd,  $J^1$  = 14.0 Hz,  $J^2$  = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.06 (dd,  $J^1$  = 14.0 Hz,  $J^2$  = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (t, J = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 2.16-2.06 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$  = 171.72, 171.12, 135.70, 128.71, 128.02, 126.52, 52.77, 51.82, 37.26, 33.53, 32.76, 27.78; HRMS *m/z* calcd. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>18</sub>BrNO<sub>3</sub> + Na<sup>+</sup> 350.0368, found 350.0380.

(S)-methyl 2-(3-bromopropanamido)propanoate 6e. Yield 59%;  $\alpha_D^{20} = -5$  (c = 1.0, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta = 6.57-6.56$  (m, 1H), 4.67-4.60 (m, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.69-3.59 (m, 2H), 2.85-2.80 (m, 2H), 1.43 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta = 173.26$ , 169.21, 52.39, 48.01, 39.22, 26.99, 18.22; HRMS *m*/*z* calcd. for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>12</sub>BrNO<sub>3</sub> + Na<sup>+</sup> 259.9898, found 259.988.

(S)-methyl 2-(3-bromopropanamido)-4-methylpentanoate 6f. Yield 88%;  $\alpha_D^{20}$ = -7 (*c* = 1.0, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  = 6.60-6.59 (m, 1H), 4.70-4.65 (m, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.69-3.59 (m, 2H), 2.90-2.77 (m, 2H), 1.72-1.62 (m, 2H), 1.60-1.54 (m, 1H), 0.96-0.93 (m, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$  = 173.35, 169.51, 52.15, 50.61, 41.29, 39.21, 27.06, 24.63, 22.61, 21.69; HRMS *m*/*z* calcd. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>18</sub>BrNO<sub>3</sub> + Na<sup>+</sup> 302.0368, found 302.0354.

**(S)-dimethyl 2-(3-bromopropanamido)succinate 6g.** Yield 77%;  $\alpha_D^{20}$ = +25 (*c* = 1.0, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  = 6.99 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.93-4.88 (m, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.66-3.62 (m, 2H), 3.03 (dd, *J*<sup>1</sup> = 17.6 Hz, *J*<sup>2</sup> = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 2.93-2.81 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$  = 171.22, 170.82, 169.49, 52.60, 51.84, 48.37, 38.95, 35.80, 26.90; HRMS *m*/*z* calcd. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>14</sub>BrNO<sub>5</sub> + Na<sup>+</sup> 317.9953, found 317.9942.

General procedure for the synthesis of 7. Under argon atmosphere, sodium borohydride was added to a solution of the diaryl ditelluride (0.55 mmol) in THF (4 mL). Ethanol (2 mL) was then dropwise added and the clear solution formed was stirred at room temperature for 10 minutes. After this time a THF (1mL) solution of **6a-g** (1 mmol) was added dropwise. After stirring for 24 h at room temperature, the reaction mixture was quenched with aqueous saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (10 mL) and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 x 15 mL). The combined organic layers were dried with MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography first eluting with hexanes and then with a mixture of hexanes/ethyl acetate (80:20).

(S)-methyl 3-methyl-2-(3-(phenyltellanyl)propanamido)butanoate 7a. Yield: 82%;  $\alpha_D^{20}$ = -7 (*c* = 1.0, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  = 7.75-7.73 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.19 (m, 3H), 6.04 (br, 1H), 4.59-4.56 (m, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.06 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.89-2.79 (m, 2H), 2.19-2.12 (m, 1H), 0.97-0.89 (m, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$  = 172.45, 172.08, 138.42, 129.14, 127.64, 112.04, 56.94, 52.06, 38.30, 31.24, 18.85, 17.79, 1.22; HRMS *m/z* calcd. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>Te + OMe 424.0768, found 424.0767.

(S)-methyl 3-methyl-2-(4-(phenyltellanyl)butanamido)butanoate 7b. Yield: 87%;  $\alpha_D^{20}$  +1 (c = 1.0, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  = 7.73-7.71 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.18 (m, 3H), 5.94 (br, 1H), 4.57-4.53 (m, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 2.92 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.35 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.17-2.07 (m, 3H), 0.94-0.88 (m, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$  = 172.28, 171.72, 137.99, 128.86, 127.29, 111.06, 56.67, 51.72, 37.69, 30.74, 27.18, 18.65, 17.60, 7.36; HRMS *m/z* calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>Te + OMe 438.0924, found 438.0924.

(S)-methyl 3-phenyl-2-(3-(phenyltellanyl)propanamido)propanoate 7c. Yield: 86%;  $\alpha_D^{20}$ = +50 (*c* = 1.0, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  = 7.72-7.69 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.18 (m, 6H), 7.10-7.08 (m, 2H), 6.03 (br, 1H), 4.90-4.85 (m, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.14 (dd, *J*<sup>1</sup> = 14.0 Hz, *J*<sup>2</sup> = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.07 (dd, *J*<sup>1</sup> = 14.0 Hz, *J*<sup>2</sup> = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.01 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.81-2.69 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$  = 171.80, 171.72, 138.14, 135.61, 129.05, 128.99, 128.31, 127.46, 126.87, 111.99, 52.91, 52.10, 37.92, 37.56, 0.99; HRMS *m*/*z* calcd. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>Te + OMe 472.0768, found 472.0767.

(S)-methyl 3-phenyl-2-(4-(phenyltellanyl)butanamido)propanoate 7d. Yield: 86%;  $\alpha_D^{20}$ = +24 (*c* = 1.0, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  = 7.71-7.69 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.18 (m, 6H), 7.08-7.06 (m, 2H), 5.90 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.90-4.85 (m, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.14 (dd, *J*<sup>1</sup> = 14.0 Hz, *J*<sup>2</sup> = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.04 (dd, *J*<sup>1</sup> = 14.0 Hz, *J*<sup>2</sup> = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.83-2.80 (m, 2H), 2.26 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.07-2.02 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$  = 172.01, 171.43, 138.35, 135.75, 129.13, 128.50, 127.60, 127.05, 111.20, 52.86, 52.24, 37.88, 37.78, 27.16, 7.47; HRMS *m/z* calcd. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>Te + OMe 486.0924, found 486.0924.

(S)-methyl 2-(3-(phenyltellanyl)propanamido)propanoate 7e. Yield: 86%;  $\alpha_D^{20}$ = +7 (*c* = 1.0, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  = 7.73-7.70 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.14 (m, 3H), 6.52 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.59-4.52 (m, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.06-3.01 (m, 2H), 2.82-2.75 (m, 2H), 1.37 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$  = 173.19, 171.73, 138.14, 128.93, 127.41, 111.99, 52.15, 47.75, 37.89, 18.01, 1.02; HRMS *m*/*z* calcd. for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>Te + OMe 396.0455, found 396.0458.

(S)-methyl 4-methyl-2-(3-(phenyltellanyl)propanamido)pentanoate 7f. Yield: 89%;  $\alpha_D^{20}$ = -10 (*c* = 1.0, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  = 7.74-7.71, (m, 2H), 7.29-7.16 (m, 3H), 6.19-6.12 (m, 1H), 4.66-4.60 (m, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.07-3.02 (m, 2H), 2.86-2.74 (m, 2H), 1.69-1.59 (m, 2H), 1.57-1.48 (m, 1H), 0.96-0.92 (m 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$  = 173.45, 171.98, 138.32, 129.11, 127.56, 112.00, 52.12, 50.54, 41.47, 38.12, 24.68, 22.62, 21.82, 1.09; HRMS *m/z* calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>Te + H<sup>+</sup> 408.0818, found 408.0803.

(8)-dimethyl 2-(3-(phenyltellanyl)propanamido)succinate 7g. Yield: 78%;  $\alpha_D^{20} = +17$  ( $c = 1.0, CH_2Cl_2$ ); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta = 7.80-7.72$  (m, 2H), 7.30-7.15 (m, 3H), 6.60 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.87-4.83 (m, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.09-2.97 (m, 3H), 2.89-2.73 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta = 171.98$ , 171.41, 170.97, 138.51, 129.12, 127.67, 111.86, 52.69, 51.93, 48.37, 38.03, 35.93, 1.01; HRMS *m/z* calcd. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>Te + H<sup>+</sup> 424.0404, found 424.0390.

(S)-dimethyl 2-(3-(p-tolyltellanyl)propanamido)succinate 7i. Yield: 67%;  $\alpha_D^{20}$ = +23 (*c* = 1.0, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  = 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.55 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.86-4.82 (m, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.05-2.99 (m, 3H), 2.88-2.71 (m, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$  = 172.07, 171.48, 171.01, 139.07, 137.87, 130.11, 107.46, 52.73, 51.96, 48.38, 38.12, 35.97, 21.12, 0.95; HRMS *m/z* calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>Te + OMe, found 468.0686.

(S)-dimethyl 2-(3-(o-tolyltellanyl)propanamido)succinate 7j. Yield: 70%;  $\alpha_D^{20}$ = +19 (*c* = 1.0, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  = 7.67 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.27-7.14 (m, 3H), 6.05 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.86-4.84 (m, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.11-3.01 (m, 3H), 2.90-2.73, (m, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$  = 172.01, 171.48, 171.01, 142.56, 137.47, 129.07, 127.95, 126.51, 116.31, 52.76, 51.97, 48.41, 38.00, 35.98, 26.51, 0.13; HRMS *m/z* calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>Te + OMe 468.0666, found 468.0682.

(S)-dimethyl 2-(3-(4-methoxyphenyltellanyl)propanamido)succinate 7k. Yield: 62%;  $\alpha_D^{20}$ = +24 (*c* = 1.0, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  = 7.72-7.67 (m, 2H), 6.78-6.73 (m, 2H), 6.50 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.86-4.82 (m, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.11-2.66 (m, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$  = 172.09, 171.56, 171.06, 141.06, 141.32, 140.27, 115.22, 100.60, 55.16, 52.84, 52.00, 48.42, 38.14, 36.02, 1.20; HRMS *m/z* calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>6</sub>Te 453.0431, found 453.0431.

(S)-dimethyl 2-(3-(4-chlorophenyltellanyl)propanamido)succinate 7l. Yield: 77%;  $\alpha_D^{20}$ = +13 (*c* = 1.0, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  = 7.67-7.65 (m, 2H), 7.19-7.16 (m, 2H), 6.54 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.86-4.82 (m, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.56-3.00 (m, 3H), 2.87-2.78 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$  = 171.84, 170.96, 140.04, 134.31, 129.41, 109.68, 52.79, 52.01, 48.43, 37.92, 35.97, 1.54; HRMS *m/z* calcd. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>Te + OMe 488.0114, found 488.0136.

(S)-dimethyl 2-(3-(2-chlorophenyltellanyl)propanamido)succinate 7m. Yield: 60%;  $\alpha_D^{20}$  = +17 (*c* = 1.0, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  = 7.54-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.35-7.33 (m, 1H), 7.20-7.09 (m, 2H), 6.60 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.88-4.84 (m, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.12-2.83 (m, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$  = 171.98, 171.50, 170.97, 138.71, 135.84, 128.76, 128.42, 127.26, 116.94, 52.81, 52.03, 48.48, 37.53, 35.97, 0.97; HRMS *m/z* calcd. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>Te + OMe 488.0114, found 488.0097.

(S)-dimethyl 2-(3-(naphthalen-2-yltellanyl)propanamido)succinate 7n. Yield: 75%;  $\alpha_D^{20}$  = +16 (*c* = 1.0, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  = 8.25 (s, 1H), 7.80-7.74 (m, 3H), 7.67-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.50-7.43 (m, 2H), 6.55 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.86-4.79 (m, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.13-2.97 (m 3H), 2.90-2.74 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$  = 171.96, 171.44, 170.95, 138.18, 135.17, 134.02, 128.28, 127.64, 127.18, 126.27, 109.26, 52.71, 51.95, 48.39, 38.07, 35.95, 1.15; HRMS *m/z* calcd. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>221</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>Te + OMe 504.0660, found 504.0681.

(S)-dimethyl 2-(3-(naphthalen-1-yltellanyl)propanamido)succinate 7o. Yield: 46%;  $\alpha_D^{20}$  = +12 (*c* = 1.0, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  = 8.27 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.13-8.10 (m, 1H), 7.84-7.78 (m, 2H), 7.57-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.29 (m, 1H), 6.46 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.86-4.82 (m, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 3.11-3.00 (m 3H), 2.88-2.69 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$  = 172.12, 171.54, 171.02, 139.42, 139.42, 132.41, 130.16, 129.49, 128.85, 126.24, 111.17, 52.81, 52.03, 48.44, 38.08, 36.02, 1.18; HRMS *m/z* calcd. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>Te + OMe 504.0660, found 504.0648.

**Determination of GPX-like activity.** Catalytic GPX model reaction  $(H_2O_2 + 2PhSH \rightarrow 2H_2O + PhSSPh)$  was initiated by the addition of  $H_2O_2$  (40 µL of a 125 mM solution, final concentration = 5 mmol/L) to a methanol solution of PhSH (200 µL of a 25 mM solution, final concentration = 5 mmol/L) containing the catalyst (50 µL of a 2 mM solution, final concentration = 0.1 mmol/L) at 30 °C. The reaction was monitored by UV spectroscopy at 305 nm, (6 min), at least more than three times under the same conditions.

#### NMR Spectra of New Compounds







Supplementary Material (ESI) for Organic & Biomolecular Chemistry







![](_page_9_Figure_1.jpeg)

GC run of compound  $\mathbf{7g}$ 

![](_page_9_Figure_3.jpeg)

GC run of PhSSPh

![](_page_10_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_10_Figure_1.jpeg)

<sup>1</sup> Still, W. C.; Kahn, M.; Mitra, A. *J. Org. Chem.* **1978**, *43*, 2923.