## Supplementary information

for

## Asymmetric synthesis of 2-azabicyclo[3.3.1]nonanes by a

## microwave-assisted organocatalyzed tandem

## desymmetrization and intramolecular aldolization

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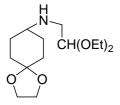
#### Contents

- I) Experimental and NMR data of compounds 1-5
- II) Copies of <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of compounds 1-5

### I) Experimental section

General procedures. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded in CDCI<sub>3</sub> solution. Chemical shifts are reported as  $\delta$  values (ppm) relative to internal Me₄Si. Infrared spectra were recorded on a Nicolet 320 FT-IR spectrophotometer. TLC was performed on SiO<sub>2</sub> (silica gel 60 F<sub>254</sub>, Merck). The spots were located by UV light, a 1% KMnO<sub>4</sub> aqueous solution or a 1.5% K<sub>2</sub>PtCl<sub>6</sub> aqueous solution. Chromatography refers to flash chromatography and was achieved on SiO<sub>2</sub> (silica gel 60, SDS, 230-400 mesh). All reactions were carried out under an argon atmosphere. Drying of the organic extracts during the work-up of reactions was performed over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. HPLC analyses for the determination of enantiomeric excess were carried out using a DAICEL CHIRALPAK IC column (250×4.6 mm I.D., 5 µm; Chiral Technologies Europe) on a Waters model 2487 Dual Absorbance Detector and set at the wavelength of 290 nm. The chromatog. resoln. of compound 4 was achieved using CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 99: 1 as the mobile phase in an isocratic run. Microwave irradiation experiments were performed using a single-mode Discover System from CEM Corporation using standard Pyrex vessel (capacity 10 mL).

### *N*-(2,2-Diethoxyethyl)-4-aminocyclohexanone ethylene acetal (2)



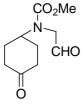
A mixture of cyclohexanedione monoethylene acetal (5 g, 31.05 mmol), 2,2-diethoxyethylamine (5.70 mL, 38.42 mmol)  $CH(OEt)_2$  and molecular sieves (8 g) in  $CH_2CI_2$  (60 mL) was stirred at rt for 4 h. The reaction mixture was filtered on a celite pad and concentrated to yield the corresponding imine. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz):  $\delta$  1.22 (t, 6H, J = 7.1 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.84 (m,

4H), 2.46 (m, 4H), 3.50 (d, 2H, J = 5.40 Hz), 358 (m, 2H), 3.72 (m, 2H), 3.99 (s, 4H), 4.74 (t, 1H, J = 5.4 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz):  $\delta$  15.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 34.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 34.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 36.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 54.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 62.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 64.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 102.8 (CH), 107.9 (C), 172.6 (C=N). The residue was dissolved in MeOH (100 mL) and treated with NaBH<sub>4</sub> (2.3 g, 62.09 mmol) at 0 °C then at rt overnight. Finally the mixture was concentrated, brine was added and the aqueous extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The organics were dried and concentrated to yield amine 2 in a quantitative yield and enough pure to be used in the next step without further purification. An analytical sample was obtained by chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 97:3). 2: IR (NaCl, neat): 3325, 2973, 2935, 2877, 1446, 1376, 1343, 1275, 1237, 1107, 1063, 1036, 922, 854, 733, 664 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $(CDCI_3, 400 \text{ MHz})$ :  $\delta$  1.21 (t, 6H, J = 7.2 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.37 (brs, 1H, NH), 1.45 (m, 2H), 1.55 (td, 2H, J = 12.6, 3.6 Hz), 1.77 (m, 2H), 1.87 (m, 2H), 2.54 (tt, 1H, J = 9.6, 3.6 Hz), 2.74 (d, 2H, J = 5.6 Hz), 3.54 (dq, 2H, J = 9.2, 7.2 Hz), 3.70 (dq, 2H, J = 9.2, 7.2 Hz), 3.93 (s, 4H), 4.58 (t, 1H, J = 5.6 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100) MHz): δ 15.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 30.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 49.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 55.0 (CH), 62.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 64.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 64.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 102.4 (CH), 108.6 (C). HRMS (ESI-TOF): Calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>28</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> 274.2012 (M<sup>+</sup>+1). Found 274.2012.

# *N*-(2,2-Diethoxyethyl)-*N*-(methoxycarbonyl)-4-aminocyclohexanone ethylene acetal (3)

CO<sub>2</sub>Me mixture of amine 2 (8.5 g, 31.05 mmol), methyl Α chloroformate (4.85 mL, 62.1 mmol) and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (8.58 g, 62.1 mmol) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (200 mL) was stirred at rt overnight. The CH(OEt)<sub>2</sub> solvent was then removed, brine was added and the aqueous extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The organics were dried, concentrated and the residue purified by chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>- $CH_2Cl_2/MeOH$  99:1) to yield **3** as a colourless oil (8.74 g, 85%). **IR**: (NaCl, neat): 2974, 2947, 2879, 1700, 1452, 1402, 1372, 1344, 1287, 1247, 1158, 1100, 1064, 982, 930,812, 774 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  1.20 (t, 3H, J = 7.0 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.54-1.94 (m, 8H), 3.25 (brs, 2H), 3.52 (brs, 2H), 3.71 (brs, 5H), 3.92 (s, 4H), 4.62 (brs, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 15.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 27.5 and 27.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 34.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 46.9 and 48.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 52.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 55.7 (CH), 63.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 64.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>),101.5 and 102.0 (CH), 107.8 (C), 156.6 (CO). HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>29</sub>NO<sub>6</sub>Na 354.1887 (M<sup>+</sup>+Na). Found 354.1887.

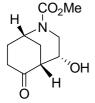
### *N*-(Methoxycarbonyl)-N-(2-oxoethyl)-4-aminocyclohexanone (1)



A solution of carbamate **3** (2 g, 6 mmol), THF (30 mL) and 5% HCl (60 mL) was stirred at rt for 10 min then it was extracted with  $CH_2CI_2$ . The organics were dried and concentrated to yield ketoaldehyde **1** (1.2 g, 95%) enough pure to be used in the next step without further purification. An analytical sample was obtained by chromatography ( $CH_2CI_2/AcOEt$  1:1). **IR** (NaCl, neat): 2956,

2875, 2832, 2717, 1700, 1453, 1406, 1369, 1328, 1296, 1222, 1191, 1134, 1097, 997, 953, 775 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  1.74 (brs, 2H), 2.09 (m, 2H), 2.39-2.60 (m, 4H), 3.72 and 3.80 (2s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.90 and 3.97 (2s, 2H), 4.41 and 4.63 (2brs, 1H), 9.56 (s, 1H, CHO); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$  29.7 and 30.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 39.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 52.2 and 52.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 53.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 53.1 and 53.4 (CH), 156.0 and 156.6 (CO), 198.0 (CHO), 208.8 (CO); HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>Na 236.0893 (M<sup>+</sup>+Na). Found: 236.0893.

#### (1*RS*,4*SR*,5*SR*)-4-Hydroxy-2-methoxycarbonyl-2-azabicyclo[3.3.1]nonan-6one (*rac*-4)

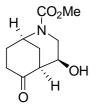


A solution of carbamate **3** (1 g, 3 mmol), THF (20 mL) and 10% HCI (40 mL) was stirred at rt for 4 h. The mixture was then extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$ , the organics were dried and the solvent removed to yield *rac*-4 (0.56 g, 87%). An analytical sample was obtained by chromatography ( $CH_2Cl_2/AcOEt$  1:1). **IR** (NaCl, neat): 3413, 3008, 2953, 2926, 2872, 1698, 1450, 1403, 1341, 1300,

1263, 1217, 1192, 1121, 1106, 1087, 1070, 1037, 978, 942, 753 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz, gCOSY):  $\delta$  1.90-2.24 (m, 4H), 2.46 (dt, 1H, *J* = 18, 8.4 Hz, H-7ax), 2.59 (ddd, 1H, *J* = 18, 9.2, 4.8 Hz, H-7eq), 2.82 (brs, 1H, H-5), 2.89 (t, 1H, *J* = 12.4 Hz, H-3ax), 3.24 and 3.27 (2d, 1H, *J* = 5.6 Hz, OH), 3.73 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.98 (brs, 1H, H-4), 4.23 and 4.37 (2dd, 1H, *J* = 13.2, 6 Hz, H-3eq), 4.45 and

4.61 (2brs, 1H, H-1); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$  27.7 and 28.6 (C-9), 29.4 and 29.9 (C-8), 38.3 (C-7), 43.4 and 43.7 (C-1), 45.9 and 46.1 (C-3), 49.4 (C-5), 52.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 67.4 and 67.7 (C-4), 156.0 (CO), 212.3 and 213.2 (C-6). **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> 214.1073 (M<sup>+</sup>+H). Found 214.1074.

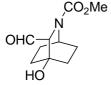
# (1*R*,4*S*,5*S*)-4-Hydroxy-2-methoxycarbonyl-2-azabicyclo[3.3.1]nonan-6-one (4).



In a 10 mL vessel was placed ketoaldehyde **1** (0.1 g, 0.47 mmol), catalyst C (43 mg, 0.12 mmol, 25%), acetonitrile (1ml) and water (0.08 mL, 4.4 mmol). The mixture was subsequently heated with stirring to 100 °C using microwave irradiation for 15 min. After concentration, the reaction mixture was purified by chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/AcOEt 1:1) to give **4** (70 mg, 70%) as a

viscous colourless oil: HPLC (Daicel Chiralpak IC, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 99:1, 1 mL min<sup>-1</sup>,  $\lambda$  = 290 nm; major isomer t = 8.48 min, minor isomer 9.63 min, 70% ee). **4**:  $[\alpha]_{D}^{23} = -74$  (c = 1.7, CHCl<sub>3</sub>).

# Methyl 3-Formyl-4-hydroxy-2-azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane-2-carboxylate (*rac*-5).



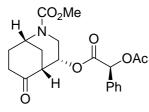
A mixture of ketoaldehyde **1** (0.1 g, 0.47 mmol),  $CH_2CI_2$  (25 mL),  $K_2CO_3$  (0.2 g, 3.6 mmol), THF (10 mL) and  $H_2O$  (25 ml) was shaken for about 4 minutes then it was extracted with  $CH_2CI_2$ . The organics were dried and concentrated to yield pure isoquinuclidine **rac-5** as a colourless viscous oil (88 mg,

88%). An analytical sample was obtained by chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/AcOEt 1:1). **IR** (NaCl, neat): 3416, 2954, 2917, 2872, 2722, 1733, 1680, 1453, 1396, 1336, 1249, 1193, 1141, 1104, 1037, 1007, 957, 772, 734 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H **NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz, gCOSY):  $\delta$  1.50-2.16 (m, 8H), 2.62 and 2.79 (2brs, 1H, OH), 3.70 and 3.75 (2s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.94 and 4.03 (2brs, 1H, H-3), 4.10 and 4.24 (2brs, 1H, H-1), 9.71 and 9.72 (2d, 1H, *J* = 1.2 Hz, CHO); <sup>13</sup>C **NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$  25.9 and 26.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.4 and 26.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.9 and 29.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 33.0 and 33.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 43.7 and 44.3 (C-1), 52.8 and 52.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 68.4 and 68.8 (C-3), 71.3 and 71.4 (C-4), 154.9 and 155.9 (CO), 204.2 and 204.4 (CHO); **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>Na 236.0893 (M<sup>+</sup>+Na). Found 236.0893.

### Resolution of (±)-rac-4

To a solution of (±)-*rac*-4 (0.08 g, 0.35 mmol) in pyridine (2 mL) was added a solution of (S)-O-acetyl mandeloyl chloride (0.225 g, 1.06 mmol) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (2mL) dropwise at -5 °C and the mixture was stirred at this temperature for 3h. The reaction mixture was then quenched with water, extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  and the organics were dried and concentrated. After chromatography (hexane/AcOEt 1:1) the two diastereomers were obtained almost pure with other intermediate fractions, overall yield 82%.

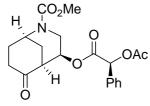
### (1S,4R,5R)-4.AcMA (less polar)



**IR (NaCl, neat)**: 3067, 3016, 2953, 2873, 1747, 1700, 1495, 1448, 1409, 1374, 1342, 1300, 1230, 1107, 1047, 957, 754, 698 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz, 55 °C, gCOSY):  $\delta$  1.90-2.07 (m, 3H), 2.18 (m, 1H), 2.20 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.43 (ddd, 1H, J = 18, 11.2, 8.4 Hz, H-7ax), 2.52

(dd, 1H, J = 18, 8 Hz, H-7eq), 2.83 (brs, 1H, H-5), 3.23 (dd, 1H, J = 14, 10 Hz, H-3ax), 3.73 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.31 (brs, 1H, H-3eq), 4.44 (brs, 1H, H-1), 5.10 (dt, 1H, J = 9.2, 7.2 Hz, H-4), 5.85 (s, 1H, CHAr), 7.34-7.45 (m, 5H, ArH); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$  20.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 29.9 (C-8), 30.7 (C-9), 38.7 (C-7), 43.7 (C-3), 44.3 (C-1), 47.2 (C-5), 52.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 69.2 (C-4), 74.5 (CHAr), 127.5, 128.8, 129.3 (CHAr), 133.3 (ipso-C), 156.0 (CO), 167.8 (CO), 170.3 (CO), 206.8 (C-6); **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NO<sub>7</sub>Na 412.1367 (M<sup>+</sup>+Na). Found 412.1364.

#### (1*R*,4*S*,5*S*)-4.AcMA (more polar)



**IR** (NaCl, neat): 3067, 3012, 2953, 2874, 1752, 1700, 1448, 1408, 1374, 1341, 1300, 1234, 1106, 1084, 1047, 958, 752, 698 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz, 55 °C, gCOSY):  $\delta$  1.90-2.08 (m, 3H), 2.15 (m, 1H), 2.15 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.33 (ddd, 1H, J = 17.6, 12, 8.8 Hz, H-7ax), 2.56

(dd, 1H, J = 17.6, 8 Hz, H-7eq), 2.98 (brs, 1H, H-5), 3.01 (dd, 1H, J = 14.4, 10.4 Hz, H-3ax), 3.71 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.21 (dd, 1H, J = 13.6, 7.6 Hz H-3eq), 4.43 (brs, 1H, H-1), 5.08 (dt, 1H, J = 8.8, 7.2 Hz, H-4), 5.92 (s, 1H, CHAr), 7.34-7.46 (m, 5H, ArH); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$  20.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 29.8 (C-8), 30.7 (C-9), 38.6 (C-7), 43.4 (C-3), 44.3 (C-1), 47.2 (C-5), 52.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 69.3 (C-4), 74.3 (CHAr), 127.7, 128.8, 129.3 (CHAr), 133.8 (ipso-C), 155.9 (CO), 167.7 (CO), 169.9 (CO), 207.0 (CO); **HRMS** (ESI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NO<sub>7</sub>Na 412.1367 (M<sup>+</sup>+Na). Found 412.1364.

