SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Investigating the Reaction Mechanism and

Organocatalytic Synthesis of α, α' -Dihydroxy Ketones

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1. Formation of Mosher's esters.¹

3,3,3-Trifluoro-2-methoxy-2-phenyl-propionic acid 3-hydroxy-2-oxo-3-p-tolyl-propyl ester (Mosher's ester of 3d). The reaction was carried out under anhydrous conditions. To a stirred solution of 3d (0.010 g, 0.03 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (1 mL) was added 2,4,6-collidine (33 μ L, 0.25 mmol) and (*S*)-MTPA chloride (10 μ L, 0.04 mmol), and the reaction was stirred for 12 h at rt. The product was dry loaded onto silica gel and purified using flash chromatography (EtOAc/hexane, 1:4) to afford the titled compound as a colorless oil (0.012 g, 55%), (2*R*,3'*R*) major isomer. *R*_f 0.50 (EtOAc/hexane, 1:4); ¹H NMR (600 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 2.35 (3H, s, CH₃), 3.61 (3H, s, OCH₃), 4.70 (0.61H, d, *J* 17.4 Hz, CHHO (2*R*,3'*R*)), 4.85 (0.39H, d, *J* 17.4 Hz, CHHO (2*S*,3'*R*)), 4.89 (0.39H, d, *J* 17.4 Hz, CHHO (2*S*,3'*R*)), 5.00 (0.61H, d, *J* 17.4 Hz, CHHO (2*R*,3'*R*)), 5.21 (1H, s, CHOH), 7.21 (4H, m, ArH), 7.42 (3H, m, Ph), 7.63 (2H, m, ArH); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 21.4, 55.9, 77.9, 127.3 (signal overlap), 128.6, 130.1 (signal overlap), 133.8, 139.6, 168.3, 201.0; ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz; CDCl₃) δ -72.2; *m/z* (CI) 397 (MH⁺, 10%), 379 (100), 145 (84); *m/z* (HR-CI) calcd for MH⁺ C₂₀H₂₀F₃O₅ 397.12628, found 397.12642.

3,3,3-Trifluoro-2-methoxy-2-phenyl-propionic acid **3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3-hydroxy-2-oxopropyl ester (Mosher's ester of 3e).**The reaction was carried out under anhydrous conditions. To a stirred solution of **3e** (0.008 g, 0.04 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (1 mL) was added 2,4,6-collidine (33 μ L, 0.25 mmol) and (*S*)-MTPA chloride (10 μ L, 0.04 mmol) and the reaction was stirred for 12 h at rt. The product was dry loaded onto silica gel and purified using flash chromatography (EtOAc/hexane, 1:4) to afford the titled compound as a colorless oil (0.010 g, 59%), (2*R*,3'*R*) major isomer. *R*_f 0.50 (EtOAc/hexane, 1:4); ¹H NMR (600 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 3.61 (3H, s, OCH₃), 4.74 (0.63H, d, *J* 16.8 Hz, C*H*HO (2*R*,3'*R*)), 4.88 (0.74H, m, CH₂O (2*S*,3'*R*)), 4.99 (0.63H, d, *J* 16.8 Hz, CHHO (2*R*,3'*R*)), 5.24 (1H, d, *J* 3.0 Hz, CHOH), 7.09 (3H, m, ArH), 7.42 (4H, m, ArH), 7.58 (2H, m, ArH); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 55.9, 66.4, 77.4, 114.3 (d, ²*J*_{CF} 21.1 Hz), 116.6 (d, ²*J*_{CF} 21.1 Hz), 122.9, 127.5 (signal overlap), 128.6 (signal overlap), 130.0, 131.2, 131.7, 139.1, 163.3 (d, ¹*J*_{CF} 246 Hz, *C*F), 166.2, 201.4; ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz; CDCl₃) δ -72.2, -112.4; *m*/z (HR-CI) calcd for MH⁺ C₁₉H₁₇O₅F₄ 401.10060, found 401.10051.

3,3,3-Trifluoro-2-methoxy-2-phenyl-propionic acid 3-(4-chloro-phenyl)-3-hydroxy-2-oxopropyl ester (Mosher's ester of 3f). The reaction was carried out under anhydrous conditions. To a stirred solution of 3f (0.007 g, 0.04 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (1 mL) was added 2,4,6-collidine (33 μ L, 0.25 mmol) and (*S*)-MTPA chloride (10 μ L, 0.04 mmol), and the reaction was stirred for 12 h at rt. The product was dry loaded onto silica gel and purified using flash chromatography (EtOAc/hexane, 1:4) to afford the titled compound as a colourless oil (0.009 g, 60%), (2*R*,3'*R*) major isomer. *R*_f 0.50 (EtOAc/hexane, 1:4); *v*_{max}(neat)/cm⁻¹ 3420, 2930, 2855, 1734; ¹H NMR (600 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 3.60 (3H, s, OCH₃), 4.74 (0.70H, d, *J* 17.1 Hz, C*H*HO (2*R*,3'*R*)), 4.88 (0.60H, m, CH₂O (2S,3'*R*)), 4.99 (0.70H, d, *J* 17.1 Hz, CH*H*O (2*R*,3'*R*)), 5.22 (1H, d, *J* 3.0 Hz, C*H*OH), 7.29–7.42 (7H, m, ArH), 7.52 (2H, m, ArH); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 55.9, 66.5, 84.7 (d, ²*J*_{CF} 28.5 Hz), 123.1 (d, ¹*J*_{CF} 285 Hz), 127.5, 128.6, 128.7, 129.7, 130.0, 131.7, 135.2, 135.6, 166.2, 201.4; ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz; CDCl₃) δ -72.2; *m/z* (HR-ES-) calcd for [M-H]⁻ C₁₉H₁₅³⁵ClF₃O₅ 415.0560, found 415.0506.

3,3,3-Trifluoro-2-methoxy-2-phenyl-propionic acid **3-(3-fluorophenyl)-3-hydroxy-2-oxopropyl ester (Mosher's ester of 3i).** The reaction was carried out under anhydrous conditions. To a stirred solution of **3i** (0.008 g, 0.04 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (1 mL) was added 2,4,6-collidine (33 μ L, 0.25 mmol) and (*S*)-MTPA chloride (10 μ L, 0.04 mmol) the reaction was stirred for 12 h at rt. The product was dry loaded onto silica gel and purified using flash chromatography (EtOAc/hexane, 1:4) to afford the titled compound as a colourless oil (0.010 g, 59%), and (2*R*,3'*R*) as the major isomer. *R*_f 0.50 (EtOAc/hexane, 1:4); ¹H NMR (600 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 3.61 (3H, s, OCH₃), 4.73 (0.63H, d, *J* 16.8 Hz, C*H*HO (2*R*,3'*R*)), 4.87 (0.75H, m, CH₂O (2S,3'*R*)), 4.99 (0.63H, d, *J* 16.8 Hz, CHHO (2*R*, 3'*R*)), 5.24 (1H, d, *J* 3.0 Hz, CHOH), 7.04–7.10 (2H, m, ArH), 7.29–7.43 (5H, m, ArH), 7.58 (2H, m, ArH); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 55.9, 66.4, 77.4, 114.2 (d, ²*J*_{CF} 21.0 Hz), 116.5 (d, ²*J*_{CF} 21.1 Hz), 127.5, 128.6 (signals superimposed), 130.0, 131.2, 131.7, 139.1, 163.3 (d, ¹*J*_{CF} 246 Hz, *C*F), 166.2, 201.4; ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz; CDCl₃) δ -72.2, -112.4; *m/z* (HR-ES+) calcd for MH⁺ C₁₉H₁₇F₄O₅ 401.10060, found 401.10051.

3,3,3-Trifluoro-2-methoxy-2-phenyl-propionic acid **3-hydroxy-3-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2-oxopropyl ester (Mosher's ester of 3k).** The reaction was carried out under anhydrous conditions. To a stirred solution of **3k** (0.007 g, 0.04 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (1 mL) was added 2,4,6-collidine (33 μL, 0.25 mmol) and (*S*)-MTPA chloride (10 μL, 0.04 mmol) and the reaction was stirred for 12 h at rt. The product was dry loaded onto silica gel and purified using flash chromatography (EtOAc/hexane, 1:4) to afford the titled compound as a colorless oil (0.010 g, 67%), (2*R*,3'*R*) as the major isomer. *R*_f 0.50 (EtOAc/hexane, 1:4); ¹H NMR (600 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 3.61 (3H, s, OC*H*₃), 3.81 (3H, s, OC*H*₃), 4.71 (0.64H, d, *J* 17.1 Hz, C*H*HO (2*R*,3'*R*)), 4.87 (0.32H, d, *J* 17.1 Hz, C*H*HO (2S,3'*R*)), 4.92 (0.32H, d, *J* 17.1 Hz, C*H*HO (2S,3'*R*)), 5.03 (0.64H, d, *J* 17.1 Hz, CHHO (2*R*,3'*R*)), 5.22 (1H, s, CHOH), 6.86–6.92 (3H, m, ArH), 7.31 (1H, app. t, *J* 7.8 Hz, ArH), 7.41 (3H, m, ArH), 7.59 (2H, m, ArH); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 55.5, 55.9, 66.5, 77.6, 112.6, 115.2, 119.6, 127.5, 128.6 (signal overlap), 130.0, 130.6, 138.2, 160.4, 166.3, 201.6; ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz; CDCl₃) δ -72.2; *m*/*z* (HR-ES-) calcd for [M-H]⁻C₂₀H₁₈F₃O₆ 411.1056, found 411.1036.

3-[1-Hydroxy-2-oxo-3-(3,3,3-trifluoro-2-methoxy-2-phenyl-propionyloxy)-propyl]-benzoic acid methyl ester (Mosher's ester of 3l). The reaction was carried out under anhydrous conditions. To a stirred solution of **3l** (0.010 g, 0.04 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (1 mL) was added 2,4,6-collidine (33 μ L, 0.25 mmol) and (*S*)-MTPA chloride (10 μ L, 0.04 mmol) the reaction was stirred for 12 h at rt. The product was dry loaded onto silica gel and purified using flash chromatography (EtOAc/hexane, 1:4) to afford the titled compound as a colourless oil (0.013 g, 65%), (2*R*,3'*R*) as the major isomer. $R_{\rm f}$ 0.50 (EtOAc/hexane, 1:4); ¹H NMR (600 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 3.62 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.80 (3H, s, OCH₃), 4.72 (0.83H, d, *J* 17.0 Hz, C*H*HO (2*R*,3'*R*)), 4.87 (0.17H, d, *J* 17.0 Hz, C*H*HO (2S,3'*R*)), 4.93 (0.17H, d, *J* 17.0 Hz, CHHO (2S,3'*R*)), 5.04 (0.83H, d, *J* 17.0 Hz, CHHO (2*R*,3'*R*)), 5.22 (1H, s, CHOH), 6.86–6.92 (3H, m, ArH), 7.31 (1H, app. t, *J* 7.8 Hz, ArH), 7.41 (3H, m, ArH), 7.59 (2H, m, ArH); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz; CDCl₃) δ 55.5, 55.9, 66.5, 78.0, 112.6, 115.2, 119.6, 127.5, 127.6, 128.6 (signal overlap), 130.0, 130.6, 160.4, 166.3, 201.6; ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz; CDCl₃) δ -72.2; *m/z* (HR-ES+) calcd for MNa⁺ C₂₁H₁₉F₃O₇Na 463.0981, found 463.0975.

¹H NMR study of the reaction bewteen **1** and **2a** to give **3a** (%conversion, not isolated yield) at pH 8 using 0, 5, 25, 50, 100 mol% of NMM













¹H NMR of [1-¹³C]-3-dihydroxy-1-phenyl-2-propanone [1-¹³C]-3b





S9

¹³C NMR of [1-¹³C]-3-dihydroxy-1-phenyl-2-propanone [1-¹³C]-3b







ESI-(-)-MS spectrum for the reaction between 2c and Li-1 catalysed by DABCO



500

ESI-(-)-MS/MS spectrum for m/z 215 for the reaction between 2c and Li-1 catalysed by DABCO



ESI-(-)-MS/MS spectrum for m/z 327 for the reaction between 2c and Li-1 catalysed by DABCO





¹H NMR of 1,3-dihydroxy-1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-propanone (3d)



¹³C NMR of 1,3-dihydroxy-1-(4-methylphenyl)-2-propanone (3d) QН `ОН Ö 77.35 77.13 76.92 Normalized Intensity 010 0.05 130.06 127.00 65.25 -77.59 -21.33 -209.24 -139.32 -134.42 140 120 10 Chemical Shift (ppm) 80 240 220 200 180 160 100 60 40 20 -20 0





Run Mo Peak M Calcul	de : easurement: ation Type:	Analysis Peak Area Percent						→ 15.142 ≫16.575
Peak No.	Peak Name	Result ()	Ret. Time (min)	Time Offset (min)	Area (counts)	Width Sep. 1/2 Code (sec)	Status Codes	
1 2		50.3474 49.6526	15.142 16.575	0.000	9281514 9153424	BB 29.5 BB 33.2		
	Totals:	100.0000		0.000	18434938			
Total	Unidentified	1 Counts :	18434938	counts				
Run Moo Peak Mo Calcul	de : easurement: ation Type:	Analysis Peak Area Percent						15 - 15 - 17 - 17 - 17 - 17 - 17 - 17 -
Peak No.	Peak Name	Result ()	Ret. Time (min)	Time Offset (min)	Area (counts)	Width Sep. 1/2 Code (sec)	Status Codes	
1 2 3 4 5		2.3881 5.2700 6.3906 33.7376 52.2136	3.165 3.545 6.991 15.990 17.475	0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000	126887 280009 339549 1792559 2774230	BV 11.1 VB 13.9 BB 13.2 BV 30.8 VB 34.4		
	Totals:	99.9999		0.000	5313234			15

Total Unidentified Counts : 5313233 counts



21% ee





(3R)-major isomer

¹H NMR of 1-(4-fluorophenyl)-1,3-dihydroxy-2-propanone (3e)













Chiral HPLC analysis of monobenzoylated 3e

Run Mode Peak Mea Calculat	surement: ion Type:	Analysis Peak Area Percent							15.302
Peak No.	Peak Name	Result ()	Ret. Time (min)	Time Offset (min)	Area (counts)	Sep. Code	Width 1/2 (sec)	Status Codes	
1 2 3		0.4931 50.3005 49.1529	3.108 13.022 15.302	0.000	92849 9471602 9255510	BB BB BB BB	0.0 24.8 29.6 0.7		Ţ
4 5 		0.0449 0.0085 	28.165 32.872	0.000	1607 ====================================	BB BB	0.7		12 - 13 - 15 - 15 - 17 -

Run Mode : Analysis Peak Measurement: Peak Area Calculation Type: Percent

Peak No.	Peak Name	Result ()	Ret. Time (min)	Time Offset (min)	Area (counts)	Sep. Code	Width 1/2 (sec)	Status Codes
1		31.8326	13.182	0.000	894459	BB	26.9	
2		68.1674	15.482	0.000	1915422	BB	29.7	
	Totals:	100.0000		0.000	2809881			





¹H NMR of key region of 1-(4-Fluorophenyl)-1-hydroxy-3-(2,2,2-trifluoro-1-methoxy-1-phenyl-ethoxy)-2-propanone (Mosher's ester of 3e)



(3R)-major isomer

¹H NMR of 1-(4-chlorophenyl)-1,3-dihydroxy-2-propanone (3f)



0

ÓН

Ph_OMe

0

CF₃





CI

S24







5

φ



(3*R*)-major isomer

Ph OMe

ö

°CF₃



S27

`OH ö MeO 9.298 .404 .452 ഗ 160.370 78 .242 .248 .484 . ഗയ 4 20 27 65 5 2 \heartsuit 1 1 -J 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 ppm

QН



Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for Organic & Biomolecular Chemistry This journal is C The Royal Society of Chemistry 2012



S29







Chiral HPLC analysis of monobenzoylated 3i



kun Mode : Analysis
eak Measurement: Peak Area
calculation Type: Percent

Peak No.	Peak Name	Result ()	Ret. Time (min)	Time Offset (min)	Area (counts)	Sep. Code	Width 1/2 (sec)	Status Codes
1		3.6996	3.172	0.000	69223	BB	0.0	
2		24.2664	3.562	0.000	454047	BB	12.5	
3		30,0109	6.952	0.000	561531	BB	13.5	
4		16.6789	11.785	0.000	312078	BB	26.2	
5		17.1284	14.618	0.000	320489	BB	27.9	
6		6.4561	16.432	0.000	120800	BB	17.2	
7		1.7596	17.432	0.000	32925	BB	0.4	
	Totals:	99.9999		0.000	1871093			



14

2

3

12



38% ee

¹H NMR of key region of 3,3,3-trifluoro-2-methoxy-2-phenyl-propionic acid 3-(3-fluoro-phenyl)-3-hydroxy-2-oxo-propyl ester (Mosher's ester of 3i)



(3R)-major isomer

Ph OMe

Ö

CF₃

0

ÓН





¹H NMR of 1,3-dihydroxy-1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2-propanone (3k)



S37

¹³C NMR of 1,3-dihydroxy-1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2-propanone (3k)





-

1

2

Totals:

Detected Peaks: 2



Run Mode : Analysis Peak Measurement: Peak Area Calculation Type: Percent Ret. Time Peak Peak Offset Result Time No. Name



Width

36% ee

37.062

¹H NMR of key region of 3,3,3-trifluoro-2-methoxy-2-phenyl-propionic acid 3-hydroxy-3-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2-oxo-propyl ester (Mosher's ester of 3k)



(3R)-major isomer



¹H NMR of 3-(1,3-dihydroxy-2-oxo-propyl)-benzoic acid methyl ester (3l)

OH

ЮH

MeO₂C



S42







Peak No.	Peak Name	Result ()	Ret. Time (min)	Time Offset (min)	Area (counts)	Sep. Code	Width 1/2 (sec)	Status Codes			8,451
		0.0139	0.927	0.000	5716	BB	0.0				-77
1		0.4437	3.164	0.000	182245	BV	11.3				4
~		0.0247	3.358	0.000	10160	VV	6.5				14 .
		0.7037	3.538	0.000	289006	VB	13.7				· 11
6		0.2298	4.156	0.000	94396	BB	13.7				11
· 5		27.1571	6.917	0.000	11153284	BB	22.5			385	-
5		0.3003	12,953	0.000	123312	BB	19.3			4	11
· 6		0.3483	14.028	0.000	143032	BB	21.7			A	11
8		0.8107	16.432	0.000	332938	BB	32.0			Α	
10		0.0294	18,477	0.000	12063	BB	2.8			11	
11		19.1927	24.885	0.000	1882375	BB	30.1			- 11	
11		31.6999	20.453	0,000	13019923	201	55 A			11	
1.9		12.6452	30.642	0.000	5193323	VB	58.6			71	
1.6		0.8636	34.427	0,000	354677	BV	40.0			11 .	
16		2.2141	34.697	0,000	909321	VV	87.3			11	1 1
10		3.3233	37.821	0.000	1364878	VB	73.7			11	
10		THE OWNER WATCHING TO A		11 (11 (11 (11 (11 (11 (11 (11 (11 (11	$(a,b,b) \in \{a,b,c\} \in \{a,b,c\} \in \{a,b,c\}$					11	
	Totals:	100.0000		0.000	41069549					11	1
Fotal	Unidentified	Counts :	41069544	counts							JΥ
Detect	ed Peaks; 16	Re	jected P	eaks; 0	Identii	ied P	eaks: 0)	how	1	25%

¹H NMR of key region of 3-[1-hydroxy-2-oxo-3-(3,3,3-trifluoro-2-methoxy-2-phenyl-propionyloxy)-propyl]-benzoic acid methyl ester (Mosher's ester of 3l)



(3R)-major isomer

3. References

1. a) J. L. Galman and H. C. Hailes, *Tetrahedron: Asymmetry*, 2009, **20**, 1828–1831; b) A. Cázares, J. L. Galman, L. G. Crago, M. E. B. Smith, J. Strafford, L. Ríos-Solís, G. J. Lye, P. A. Dalby and H. C. Hailes, *Org. Biomol. Chem.*, 2010, **6**, 1301–1309.