Supporting Information

Enantioselective bacterial hydrolysis of amido esters and diamides derived from

(±)-trans-cyclopropane-1,2-dicarboxylic acid

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I. Procedures for the synthesis of racemic compounds implied in the determination of the enantiomeric excesses

1. Mixed benzyl methyl trans-cyclopropane-1,2-dicarboxylate (8).

The required racemic mixed benzyl methyl ester (±)-8 could not be prepared by conventional methods. A nearly racemic sample was obtained as follows: first, (±)-4b (43 mg) was incubated with a bacterial suspension ($A_{650} = 1.5$) in fresh 0.10 M phosphate buffer pH 7.0 (43 mL) and ethanol (0.43 mL), at 28 °C during 25 h. The resulting, nearly racemic, product 6b (ee = 8%, 37 mg, 0.26 mmol) was converted into the acid chloride as described for its analogue (±)-6a in the first step corresponding to the synthesis of (±)-9a-c. Then, the crude acid chloride was dissolved in anhydrous THF (2.0 mL) and treated with benzyl alcohol (53 µL, 0.51 mmol) and triethylamine (72 mL, 0.51 mmol) at room temperature. After 12 h, aqueous 1 M HCl was added and the mixture extracted with AcOEt. Evaporation of organic solvents and purification of the residue by flash chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate 15:1 as the eluent) yielded product 8 (ee = 8% chiral-HPLC analysis) as a colourless liquid. δ_H (300.13 MHz, CDCl₃) 7.43-7.30 (5 H, m, Ph), AB system

centered to 5.13 ppm ($|J_{A,B}| = 12.5$ Hz, 2H, CH₂-Ph,), 3.70 (3 H, s, OMe), 2.38-2.17 (2 H, m, 2 x CH), 1.52-1.40 (m, 2H, CH₂); δ_C (75.5 MHz, CDC1₃) 172.0 (C=O), 171.5 (C=O), 135.4 (C), 128.5 (CH), 128.3 (CH), 128.2 (CH), 66.8 (CH₂), 55.1 (CH₃), 22.3 (CH), 22.2 (CH), 15.4 (CH₂). MS (ESI+) m/z 257.0 ((M+Na)⁺, 100%).

2. *General procedure for the preparation of racemic amido esters* (±)-12a-c.

A mixture of dimethyl (\pm)-*trans*-cyclopropane-1,2-dicarboxylate ((\pm)-**3b**) (0.16 g, 1.0 mmol) and the corresponding amine (1.0 mmol) was heated in a sealed tube nearly to the boiling point of the amine during 20 h (for **12a**) or 60 h (for **12b,c**). Then aqueous 1 M HCl (5 mL) and CH₂Cl₂ (8 mL) were added. The organic phase was separated and the aqueous layer again extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The organic phases were combined and washed with brine. Evaporation of solvents and subsequent flash column chromatography of the residue (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate 2:1 as the eluent) yielded the corresponding amido esters (\pm)-**12a-c**.

(1) Methyl (\pm)-trans-2-(N-benzylcarbamoyl)cyclopropanecarboxylate ((\pm)-**12a**). White solid (0.12 g, 50%); mp 104-105 °C; δ_H (300.13 MHz, CDC1₃) 7.40-7.25 (5 H, m, Ph), 6.14 (1 H, br s, NH), 4.44 (2 H, d, J = 5.7 Hz, CH₂Ph), 3.67 (3 H, s, OCH₃), 2.21 (1 H, ddd, $J_I = 9.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 5.5$ Hz, $J_3 = 3.7$ Hz, CH), 1.94 (1 H, ddd, , $J_I = 8.9$ Hz, $J_2 = 5.4$ Hz, $J_3 = 3.7$ Hz, CH), 1.49 (1 H, ddd, $J_I = 9.1$ Hz, $J_2 = 5.5$ Hz, $J_3 = 3.6$ Hz, CHH), 1.33 (1 H, ddd, $J_I = 9.1$ Hz, $J_2 = 5.5$ Hz, $J_3 = 3.6$ Hz, CHH); δ_C (75.5 MHz, CDC1₃) 173.1 (C=O), 169.9 (C=O), 137.9 (C), 128.7 (CH), 127.8 (CH), 127.6 (CH), 52.0 (CH₃), 44.0 (CH₂), 24.2 (CH), 21.3 (CH), 14.8 (CH₂); MS (ESI+) m/z 256.0 ((M+Na)⁺, 100%).

(2) *Methyl* (\pm)-*trans*-2-(*N*-allylcarbamoyl)cyclopropanecarboxylate ((\pm)-**12b**). White solid (62 mg, 34%); mp 86-87 °C; δ_H (300.13 MHz, CDC1₃) 5.84 [2 H, ddt ($J_{trans} = 17.2$ Hz (d), $J_{cis} = 10.2$ Hz (d), J = 5.7 Hz (t), CH=CH₂) overlapped with br s (NH)], 5.24-5.12 (2 H, m, CH=CH₂), 3.90 (2 H, tt, $J_1 = 5.8$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.5$ Hz, NCH₂), 3.69 (3 H, s, OCH₃), 2.18 (1 H, ddd, $J_1 = 8.8$ Hz, $J_2 = 5.7$ Hz, $J_3 = 3.8$ Hz, CH), 1.94 (1 H, ddd, $J_1 = 8.6$ Hz, $J_2 = 5.8$ Hz, $J_3 = 3.8$ Hz, CH), 1.47 (1 H, ddd, $J_1 = 8.6$ Hz, $J_2 = 5.8$ Hz, $J_2 = 5.7$ Hz, $J_3 = 3.8$ Hz, $J_3 = 3.8$ Hz, CH), 1.33 (1 H, ddd, , $J_1 = 8.7$ Hz, $J_2 = 5.7$ Hz, $J_3 = 3.8$ Hz, CDC1₃) 173.1 (C=O), 169.8 (C=O), 133.8 (CH), 116.7 (CH₂), 52.0 (CH₃), 42.3 (CH₂), 24.3 (CH), 21.3 (CH), 14.7 (CH₂); MS (ESI+) m/z 389.1 ((2M+Na)⁺, 100%; (M+H)⁺, 85%).

(3) Methyl (\pm)-trans-2-(N-allyl-N-methylcarbamoyl)cyclopropanecarboxylate ((\pm)-12c). Colorless oil (20 mg, 10%); δ_H (300.13 MHz, CDC1₃) corresponding to a 47:53 mixture of rotamers: 5.90-5.61 (1 H, m, CH=CH₂), 5.32-5.05 (2 H, m, CH=CH₂), 4.17-3.94 (2 H, m, NCH₂), 3.70 and 3.68 (2 H, two s, OCH₃), 3.09 (3 H for minor rotamer, s, NCH₃), 2.94 (3 H for major rotamer, s, NCH₃), 2.40-2.10 (2 H, m, 2 x CH), 1.50-1.12 (2 H, m, CH₂); δ_C (75.5 MHz, CDC1₃) corresponding to a mixture of rotamers: 173.3, 173.2, 170.3, 169.8, 132.7, 132.4, 117.4, 116.7, 52.2, 52.0, 50.4, 34.7, 34.2, 21.7, 21.1, 21.0, 15.4, 15.3; MS (ESI+) m/z 220.0 ((M+Na)⁺, 100%).

3. General procedure for the preparation of racemic carbamates (\pm) -14a-c

Racemic carbamates (\pm)-**14a-c** were obtained from the corresponding racemic carboxylic acid (\pm)-**11a-c** as described for the optically active samples. In turn, racemic carboxylic acids (\pm)-**11a-c** were prepared as follows: the racemic ethyl amido ester (\pm)-**9a-c** (0.50 mmol) was dissolved in ethanol (0.50 mL) and then aqueous 1 M NaOH (0.50 mL) was added. The mixture was heated at 80 °C during 2 h. After this time, ethanol was removed, water (5 mL) and aqueous 1 M NaOH (0.2 mL) were added, and the mixture extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The organic phase was discarded. The aqueous phase was acidified with conc. HCl and extracted with ethyl acetate (2 × 10 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine and dried with Na₂SO₄. Evaporation of solvents yielded the corresponding racemic carboxylic acid. Spectroscopic data for (\pm)-**11a-c** matched those of the optically active samples.

(±)-**11a**: Yield, 95%; mp 172-173 °C.

(±)-**11b**: Yield, 90%; mp 152-153 °C.

(±)-11c: Yield, 91%; mp 73-75 °C.

4. *General procedure for the derivatization of the carboxylic acids with diazomethane.*

An excess of a solution of diazomethane in a mixture of diethyl ether/methanol (40 mM) was added to a sample of 1.0 mg of the corresponding carboxylic acid. After 2-3 min. solvents were evaporated and the resulting methyl ester was analysed by chiral GC or HPLC. The optically active carboxylic acids (isolated from the enzymatic reactions) and the methyl esters derivatives are collected in Scheme I.



Scheme I. Methyl esters derivatives

II. Chiral HPLC conditions and chromatograms:

1. Biotransformation of methyl (\pm)-trans-2-carbamoylcyclopropanecarboxylate ((\pm)-**4b**) (Table 1 of the manuscript, entry 4)

Remaining substrate (1*R*,2*R*)-**4b** was isolated with ee > 99%. HPLC conditions: Chiralcel OD; hexane/propan-2-ol 90:10, 0.8 mL/min, 210 nm, 20 °C; $t_R = 13.8$ (1*R*,2*R*) and 15.9 (1*S*,2*S*) min; $R_S = 2.1$.



Product (1*S*,2*S*)-**6b** was isolated with ee = 91%. It was transformed into (1*S*,2*S*)-**3b** (Scheme I) GC conditions for (±)-**3b**: RTBetaDEXse chiral column, heating at 50 °C during 5 min, and then, a ramp of 1 °C/min; $t_R = 56.8$ (1*R*,2*R*) and 58.2 (1*S*,2*S*) min; $R_S = 2.9$.



2. Biotransformation of benzyl (\pm) -trans-2-carbamoylcyclopropanecarboxylate $((\pm)$ -4c):

Remaining substrate (1R, 2R)-4c was isolated with ee = 65%.

HPLC conditions: Chiralpak IA; *n*-hexane/propan-2-ol 93:7, 0.8 mL/min, 20 °C, 215 nm; $t_R = 20.4$ (1*S*,2*S*) and 23.1 (1*R*,2*R*) min; $R_S = 2.2$.



Product (1S,2S)-6c was isolated with ee = 94%. For the chiral-HPLC analysis, 6c was transformed into 8 (Scheme I).

HPLC conditions: Chiralpak IA; *n*-hexane/propan-2-ol 98:2, 0.8 mL/min, 20 °C, 215 nm; $t_R = 9.2$ (1*R*,2*R*) and 9.8 (1*S*,2*S*) min; $R_S = 1.3$.



3. Biotransformation of (\pm) -trans-N-benzylcyclopropane-1,2-dicarboxamide $((\pm)$ -10a) (Table 2 of the manuscript, entry 1):

Remaining substrate (1*R*,2*R*)-**10a** was isolated with ee = 75%. HPLC conditions: Chiralpak IA; *n*-hexane/propan-2-ol 95:5, 0.8 mL/min, 20 °C, 215 nm; $t_R = 29.7$ (1*S*,2*S*) and 34.5 (1*R*,2*R*) min; $R_S = 1.4$.



Product (1S,2S)-11a was isolated with ee = 95%. For the chiral-HPLC analysis, 11a was transformed into 12a (Scheme I).

HPLC conditions: Chiralpak IA; *n*-hexane/propan-2-ol 93:7, 0.8 mL/min, 20 °C, 215 nm; $t_R = 17.0$ (1*S*,2*S*) and 18.7 (1*R*,2*R*) min; $R_S = 2.1$.



4. Biotransformation of (\pm) -trans-N-allylcyclopropane-1,2-dicarboxamide $((\pm)$ -10b) (Table 2 of the manuscript, entry 2):

Remaining substrate (1*R*,2*R*)-**10b** was isolated with ee = 93%. HPLC conditions: Chiralcel OD; *n*-hexane/propan-2-ol 94:6, 0.8 mL/min, 30 °C, 215 nm; $t_R = 13.1$ (1*R*,2*R*) and 14.8 (1*S*,2*S*) min; $R_S = 1.2$.



Product (1S,2S)-11b was isolated with ee = 92%. For the chiral-HPLC analysis, 11b was transformed into 12b (Scheme I).

HPLC conditions: Chiralcel OD; *n*-hexane/propan-2-ol 97:3, 0.8 mL/min, 20 °C, 210 nm; $t_R = 25.9$ (1*R*,2*R*) and 29.2 (1*S*,2*S*) min; $R_S = 1.7$.



5. Biotransformation of (\pm) -trans-N-allyl-N-methylcyclopropane-1,2-dicarboxamide $((\pm)$ -10c) (Table 2 of the manuscript, entry 3):

Remaining substrate (1R,2R)-10c was isolated with ee = 97%.

HPLC conditions: Chiralpak IA; *n*-hexane/propan-2-ol 95:5, 0.8 mL/min, 20 °C, 215 nm; $t_R = 32.6$ (1*S*,2*S*) and 36.7 (1*R*,2*R*) min; $R_S = 1.3$.



Product (1S,2S)-11c was isolated with ee = 99%. For the chiral-HPLC analysis, 11c was transformed into 12c (Scheme I).

HPLC conditions: Chiralcel OD; *n*-hexane/propan-2-ol 95:5, 0.8 mL/min, 20 °C, 215 nm; $t_R = 11.5$ (1*R*,2*R*) and 14.1 (1*S*,2*S*) min; $R_S = 3.5$.



6. The Curtius rearrangement of **11a-c**: carbamates **14a-c**

14a. HPLC conditions: Chiralcel OD; *n*-hexane/propan-2-ol 80:20, 0.8 mL/min, 20 °C, 215 nm; $t_R = 15.3 (1S,2S)$ and 17.8 (1*R*,2*R*) min; $R_S = 1.7$.



14b. HPLC conditions: Chiralcel OD; *n*-hexane/propan-2-ol 80:20, 0.8 mL/min, 20 °C, 210 nm; $t_R = 10.1 (1S,2S)$ and 12.1 (1*R*,2*R*) min; $R_S = 2.3$.



14c. HPLC conditions: Chiralcel OD; *n*-hexane/propan-2-ol 85:15, 0.8 mL/min, 20 °C, 215 nm; $t_R = 17.3 (1S,2S)$ and 21.1 (1*R*,2*R*) min; $R_S = 2.5$.



















¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of 10a (in CD₃OD and DMSO-d₆, respectively):

Ph.

NH₂









S20





¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of (\pm) -**12a** in CDCl₃.



 1 H and 13 C NMR spectra of (±)-**12b** in CDCl₃.



¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of (\pm) -**12c** in CDCl₃.



¹H NMR spectrum of the crude acyl azide (1S, 2S)-**13a** in CDCl₃.



¹H NMR spectrum of the crude acyl azide (1S, 2S)-**13b** in CDCl₃.



¹H NMR spectrum of the crude acyl azide (1S, 2S)-**13c** in CDCl₃.



The molar ratio **13c:12c** is 93:7.



¹H-NMR, ¹³C-NMR, and HSQC spectra of **14a** in DMSO-d₆:





¹H-NMR, ¹³C-NMR, and HSQC spectra of **14b** in CDCl₃:





¹H-NMR, ¹³C-NMR, and HSQC spectra of **14c** in CDCl₃:



