Electronic Supporting Information for

# Organocatalytic enantioselective conjugate addition of nitromethane to alkylidenemalonates: Asymmetric synthesis of pyrrolidine-3carboxylic acid derivatives

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**General information:** All the reactions were carried out using oven dried glassware under an atmosphere of Argon (Ar). All reagents were used as purchased from commercial supplier without further purification. Solvents were dried and distilled following usual protocols. Flash column chromatography was performed in all cases using the indicated solvent system on Rankem silica gel (230-400 mesh) purchased from Rankem India. Analytical thin layer chromatography was performed using Merck 60 F254 precoated silica gel plate (0.2 mm thickness) and compounds were visualized by irradiation of UV light. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were measured with Bruker-200 (200 MHz) and Bruker-400 (400 MHz) using CDCl<sub>3</sub>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR chemical shifts are expressed in ppm ( $\delta$ ) relative to CDCl<sub>3</sub> ( $\delta$  = 7.26) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR chemical shifts are expressed in ppm ( $\delta$ ) relative to CDCl<sub>3</sub> resonance ( $\delta$  = 77.0). High performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) analyses were conducted using chiralpack AD-H column (0.46 cm x 15 cm). Specific optical rotation values were measured on Jasco-P1200 polarimeter.

Catalysts  $\mathbf{A}$ - $\mathbf{B}^1$  and  $\mathbf{C}$ - $\mathbf{F}^2$  were prepared according to literature procedures and all the spectral data matches with the desire compounds.



### Sci-Finder substructure search on March 2012

General procedure for the enantioselective addition of nitromethane to alkylidene malonate: Under argon atmosphere to a stirred solution of benzylidene malonate **5a** (0.10 g, 0.40 mmol) in nitromethane (1.1 mL, 50 equiv) was added organocatalyst **C** (0.023 g, 0.10 mmol) at room temperature (25 °C). The resulting mixture was stirred at the same temperature and monitored by TLC. After being stirred for 4 days reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuum under rt. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (Hexanes/EtOAc = 9/1) to afford the desired product **6a** (0.083 g, 67%).

(S)-Diethyl-2-(2-nitro-1-phenylethyl) malonate (6a): The product was prepared by following



the general procedure and was obtained as a colourless liquid in 67% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.29-7.24 (m, 5H), 4.91-4.86 (m, 2H), 4.29-4.17 (m, 3H), 4.00 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.81 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 1.26 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.04 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  167.6, 167.0, 136.4, 129.1 (2C), 128.5, 128.2 (2C),

77.8, 62.3, 62.0, 55.2, 43.1, 14.1, 13.9. **LC-MS** (ESI) m/z: 310.2  $[M+H]^+$ , 327.2  $[M+NH_4]^+$ . The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using Chiralpak AD-H column [Hexane/*i*-PrOH 85/15; flow rate 1.0 mL/min;  $\lambda = 254$  nm;  $t_R = 7.6$  min (minor), 21.7 min (major)] ee 72%.  $[\alpha]^{25}_{D} = +6.12$  (c, 1.30, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). The absolute stereochemistry of the addition product was assigned as (*S*) by comparison of the optical data with literature reported value<sup>3</sup>  $[\alpha]^{25}_{D} = +7.30$  (c, 1.07, CHCl<sub>3</sub>).

(S)-Diethyl-2-(1-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-nitroethyl) malonate (6b): The product was prepared by



following the general procedure and was obtained as a colourless liquid in 70% yield.  $[\alpha]^{25}{}_{D} = +7.17$  (c, 1.11, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.26-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.01 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.96-4.76 (m, 2H), 4.28-4.17 (m, 3H), 4.02 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.77 (d, J

= 9.4 Hz, 1H), 1.26 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.07 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>**C** NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  167.5, 166.9, 162.7 (d, J = 246.5 Hz), 132.2, 130.0 (d, J = 8.0 Hz), 116.1 (d, J = 21.5 Hz), 77.8, 62.4, 62.2, 55.1, 42.5, 14.1, 13.9. LC-MS (ESI) m/z: 328.2 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 345.3 [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using Chiralpak AD-H column [Hexane/*i*-PrOH 75/25; flow rate 1.0 mL/min;  $\lambda = 254$  nm;  $t_R = 5.5$  min (minor), 18.9 min (major)] ee 98%.

(S)-Diethyl-2-(1-(2-fluorophenyl)-2-nitroethyl) malonate (6c): The product was prepared by



following the general procedure and was obtained as a yellow gummy liquid in 68% yield.  $[\alpha]^{25}{}_{D} = +3.84$  (c, 1.41, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.29-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.08-7.02 (m, 2H), 4.94-4.45 (m, 2H), 4.45-4.39 (m, 1H), 4.26-4.18 (m, 2H), 4.00-3.93 (m, 3H), 1.25 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz,

3H), 1.02 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  167.2, 166.6, 160.9 (d, J = 245 Hz), 130.6 (d, J = 4.0 Hz), 130.2 (d, J = 8.6 Hz), 124.4 (d, J = 3.3 Hz), 123.0 (d, J = 13.0 Hz), 115.9 (d, J = 21.8 Hz), 76.2 (d, J = 2.5 Hz), 62.1, 61.8, 53.2 (d, J = 2.1 Hz), 38.5, 13.8, 13.6. LC-MS (ESI) m/z: 328.2 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 345.4 [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using Chiralpak AD-H column [Hexane/*i*-PrOH 75/25; flow rate 1.0 mL/min;  $\lambda = 254$  nm; t<sub>R</sub> = 4.0 min (minor), 8.8 min (major)] ee 76%.

(S)-Diethyl-2-(2-nitro-1-(4-nitrophenyl) ethyl) malonate (6d): The product was prepared by



following the general procedure and was obtained as a white solid in 76% yield.  $[\alpha]_{D}^{25} = +4.83$  (c, 0.78, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.19 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.02-4.83 (m, 3H), 4.35 (m, 1H), 4.23 (q, J = 7.0 Hz 2H), 4.04 (q, J = 7.0

Hz, 2H), 3.82 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 1.26 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.09 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  167.1, 166.6, 148.0, 144.0, 129.5 (2C), 124.3 (2C), 77.1, 62.7, 62.5, 54.6, 42.8, 14.2, 14.0. LC-MS (ESI) m/z: 355.3 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 372.3 [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using Chiralpak AD-H column [Hexane/*i*-PrOH 75/25; flow rate 1.0 mL/min;  $\lambda$ = 254 nm; t<sub>R</sub> = 5.3 min (minor), 9.8 min (major)] ee 97%.

(S)-Diethyl-2-(1-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-nitroethyl) malonate (6e): The product was prepared by



following the general procedure and was obtained as a colourless liquid in 69% yield.  $[\alpha]^{25}{}_{D} = +8.42$  (c, 1.18, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.44-7.40 (m, 1H), 7.28-7.21 (m, 3H),5.11 (dd, *J*= 13.5 Hz, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 4.91 (dd, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 4.75 (dt, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 4.4

Hz, 1H), 4.25 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 4.20-4.13 (m, 3H), 1.25 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.15 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  167.6, 167.0, 134.3, 134.0, 130.6, 129.7, 129.1, 127.4, 75.9, 62.3, 62.2, 53.3, 39.6, 14.1, 13.9. **LC-MS** (ESI) m/z: 344.2 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 361.2 [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using Chiralpak AD-H column

[Hexane/*i*-PrOH 75/25; flow rate 1.0 mL/min;  $\lambda$ = 254 nm; t<sub>R</sub> = 3.9 min (minor), 17.6 min (major)] ee 76%.

(S)-Diethyl-2-(1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-nitroethyl) malonate (6f): The product was prepared by



following the general procedure and was obtained as a gummy liquid in 67% yield.  $[\alpha]_{D}^{25} = +6.57$  (c, 1.12, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.29 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 4.89-4.82 (m, 2H), 4.26-4.16 (m, 3H), 4.02 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.76 (d, J

= 9.2 Hz, 1H), 1.25 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.07 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 167.3, 166.7, 134.8, 134.4, 129.5 (2C), 129.2 (2C), 77.4, 62.3, 62.1, 54.8, 42.4, 14.0, 13.8. LC-MS (ESI) m/z: 344.2 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 361.3 [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using Chiralpak AD-H column [Hexane/*i*-PrOH 75/25; flow rate 1.0 mL/min;  $\lambda$ = 254 nm; t<sub>R</sub> = 6.7 min (minor), 17.6 min (major)] ee 80%.

(S)-Diethyl-2-(1-(2-bromophenyl)-2-nitroethyl) malonate (6g): The product was prepared by



following the general procedure and was obtained as a yellow gummy liquid in 64% yield.  $[\alpha]^{25}_{D} = +4.09$  (c, 1.10, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.59 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (m, 2H), 7.19-7.10 (m, 1H), 5.16-5.05 (m, 1H), 4.98-4.87 (m, 1H), 4.80-4.71 (m, 1H), 4.25-4.03

(m, 5H), 1.22 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.11 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  167.4, 166.8, 135.4, 133.8, 129.7, 128.6, 127.9, 124.9, 75.8, 62.1 (2C), 53.3, 41.5, 14.0, 13.8. LC-MS (ESI): m/z 390.0 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 407.0 [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using Chiralpak AD-H column [Hexane/*i*-PrOH 75/25; flow rate 1.0 mL/min;  $\lambda = 254$  nm; t<sub>R</sub> = 3.6 min (minor), 16.5 min (major)] ee 70%.

(S)-Diethyl-2-(2-nitro-1-(p-tolyl) ethyl) malonate (6h): The product was prepared by following the general procedure and was obtained as a yellow gummy liquid in 65% yield.  $[\alpha]^{25}_{D} = +3.72$  (c, 1.17, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.09 (s, 4H), 4.94-4.71 (m, 2H), 4.25-4.11 (m, 3H), 3.95 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.77 (d, J = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 2.28 (s,

3H), 1.24 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.04 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 167.4, 166.8, 138.0, 133.0, 129.5 (2C), 127.8 (2C), 77.7, 62.0, 61.8, 55.0, 42.6, 21.0, 13.9, 13.7. LC-MS (ESI): m/z 324.3 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 341.1 [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>. The enantiomeric excess was determined by

HPLC analysis using Chiralpak AD-H column [Hexane/*i*-PrOH 75/25; flow rate 1.0 mL/min;  $\lambda$ = 254 nm; t<sub>R</sub> = 4.8 min (minor), 11.8 min (major)] ee 68%.

(S)-Diethyl-2-(1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-nitroethyl) malonate (6i): The product was prepared by



following the general procedure and was obtained as a yellow gummy liquid in 64% yield.  $[\alpha]^{25}{}_{D} = +4.21$  (c, 1.43, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.19 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.87 (d, J =8.6 Hz, 2H), 4.95-4.78 (m, 2H), 4.32-4.18 (m, 3H), 4.05 (q, J = 7.2

Hz, 2H), 3.82 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 1.30 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.11 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  167.5, 166.8, 159.3, 129.1 (2C), 127.9, 114.2 (2C), 77.8, 62.0, 61.7, 55.1, 42.2, 13.9, 13.7. LC-MS (ESI): m/z 340.3 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 357.1 [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using Chiralpak AD-H column [Hexane/*i*-PrOH 75/25; flow rate 1.0 mL/min;  $\lambda = 254$  nm; t<sub>R</sub> = 5.7 min (minor), 14.4 min (major)] ee 59%.

(R)-Diethyl-2-(2-nitro-1-(thiophen-2-yl) ethyl) malonate (6j): The product was prepared by



following the general procedure and was obtained as a yellow gummy liquid in 62% yield.  $[\alpha]^{25}{}_{D} = -3.14$  (c, 0.65, CHCl<sub>3</sub>) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.32-7.20 (m, 1H), 7.00-6.89 (m, 2H), 5.03-4.86 (m, 2H), 4.55 (m, 1H), 4.23 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 4.11 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.86 (d, J =

8.0 Hz, 1H), 1.26 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.16 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  167.4, 167.0, 138.7, 127.2, 127.0, 125.7, 78.3, 62.4, 62.3, 55.7, 38.6, 14.1, 14.0. LC-MS (ESI) m/z: 316.2 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 333.2 [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using Chiralpak AD-H column [Hexane/*i*-PrOH 75/25; flow rate 1.0 mL/min;  $\lambda$ = 254 nm; t<sub>R</sub> = 4.8 min (minor), 8.7 min (major)] ee 66%.

(R)-Diethyl-2-(2-nitro-1-(pyridin-2-yl) ethyl) malonate (6k): The product was prepared by



following the general procedure and was obtained as a dark red coloured liquid in 58% yield.  $[\alpha]^{25}{}_{D} = -1.14$  (c, 0.62, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.51 (d, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (dt, J = 7.6 Hz, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (dd, J = 7.6 Hz, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 5.10 (dd, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H)

13.6 Hz, 9.8 Hz, 1H), 4.80 (dd, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 4.35 (dt, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 4.23 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.03 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.96 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 1.26 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H),

1.08 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  167.7, 167.2, 156.7, 149.7, 136.9, 124.7, 123.0, 76.7, 62.3, 62.0, 54.2, 44.0, 14.1, 14.0. LC-MS (ESI) m/z: 311.2 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using Chiralpak AD-H column [Hexane/*i*-PrOH 75/25; flow rate 1.0 mL/min;  $\lambda$ = 254 nm; t<sub>R</sub> = 9.2 min (minor), 10.7 min (major)] ee 63%.

(S)-diethyl-2-(2-nitro-1-(1-((4-nitrophenyl) sulfonyl)-1H-indol-3-yl) ethyl)malonate (6l): The



product was prepared by following the general procedure and was obtained as a yellow gummy liquid in 57% yield.  $[\alpha]^{25}{}_{\rm D} = -20.15$  (c, 0.75, CHCl<sub>3</sub>) <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.25 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.94 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.93 (m, 1H), 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.39-7.29 (m, 2H), 5.00 (dd, J = 8.2 Hz, 12.8 Hz, 1H), 4.90 (dd, J = 4.8 Hz, 12.8 Hz, 1H),

4.46 (dt, J = 8.0 Hz, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 4.24-4.14 (m, 2H), 4.06-3.97 (m, 3H), 1.22 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.04 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  167.0, 166.7, 150.6, 142.5, 134.7, 129.3, 128.0 (2C), 126.0, 124.7, 124.5, 124.4 (2C), 119.4, 119.3, 113.7, 76.6, 62.2, 62.1, 53.4, 34.0, 13.8, 13.6. **LC-MS** (ESI) m/z: 532.0 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using Chiralpak AD-H column [Hexane/*i*-PrOH 75/25; flow rate 1.0 mL/min;  $\lambda$ = 254 nm; t<sub>R</sub> = 12.7 min (major), 16.4 min (minor)] ee 55%.

(S)-Diisopropyl-2-(2-nitro-1-phenylethyl) malonate (6-isopropyl): The product was prepared



by following the general procedure and was obtained as a colourless liquid in 47% yield.  $[\alpha]^{25}{}_{D} = +7.27$  (c, 1.15, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.40-7.21 (m, 5H), 5.08 (m, 1H), 4.99-4.76 (m, 3H), 4.25-4.14 (m, 1H), 3.74 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 1.24 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 6H),

1.06 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 3H), 1.01 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 167.0, 166.2, 136.2, 128.8 (2C), 128.2, 128.0 (2C), 77.8, 69.8, 69.5, 55.1, 42.8, 21.5, 21.4, 21.22, 21.20. LC-MS (ESI) m/z: 338.0 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 355.2 [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using Chiralpak AD-H column [Hexane/*i*-PrOH 75/25; flow rate 1.0 mL/min;  $\lambda$ = 254 nm; t<sub>R</sub> = 4.0 min (major), 7.4 min (minor)] ee 73%.

(*S*)-**Di-tert-butyl-2-(2-nitro-1-phenylethyl) malonate (6-tert-butyl):** The product was prepared by following the general procedure and was obtained as a white solid in



27% yield.  $[\alpha]^{25}{}_{D} = +6.74$  (c, 1.05, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.27 (m, 5H), 4.93 (dd, J = 12.7, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 4.79 (dd, J = 12.7, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 4.12 (dt, J = 9.6 Hz, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 3.61 (d, J = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 1.46 (s, 9H), 1.22 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  167.1, 166.2, 136.8, 129.0 (2C), 128.5 (2C), 128.3, 83.1, 82.5, 78.4, 56.7, 43.3, 28.0 (3C), 27.7 (3C). LC-MS (ESI) m/z: 366.2 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 383.3 [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using Chiralpak AD-H column [Hexane/*i*-PrOH 75/25; flow rate 1.0 mL/min;  $\lambda$ = 254 nm; t<sub>R</sub> = 3.6 min (major), 7.3 min (minor)] ee 51%.

(S)-Dibenzyl-2-(2-nitro-1-phenylethyl) malonate (6-dibenzyl): The product was prepared by



following the general procedure and was obtained as a white solid in 67% yield.  $[\alpha]_{D}^{25} = +2.73$  (c, 1.01, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.35-7.06 (m, 15H), 5.16 (s, 2H), 4.94 (s, 2H), 4.84 (d, *J*= 6.8 Hz, 2H), 4.26 (m, 1H), 3.93 (d, *J*= 9.2 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (50

MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  167.4, 166.7, 136.2 (2C), 134.9 (2C), 129.2 (2C), 128.9 (2C), 128.8 (2C), 128.7 (2C), 128.6 (2C), 128.5 (2C), 128.2 (2C), 77.6, 68.0, 67.9, 55.2, 43.2. **LC-MS** (ESI) m/z: 451.2 [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using Chiralpak AD-H column [Hexane/*i*-PrOH 75/25; flow rate 1.0 mL/min;  $\lambda$ = 254 nm; t<sub>R</sub> = 6.5 min (minor), 18.4 min (major)] ee 78%.

(3S)-Ethyl-2-acetyl-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-nitrobutanoate (8): The product was prepared by



following the general procedure and was obtained as a yellow gummy liquid in 78% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  major diastereomer 7.21 (dd, J = 8.0, 5.2 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (t, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 4.82-4.77 (m, 2H), 4.23 (q, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 4.05 (d, J = 10.8 Hz, 1H),

4.17-4.03 (m, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 1.27 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  200.8, 167.0, 162.4 (d, J = 246.3 Hz), 132.1, 129.6 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2C), 116.0 (d, J = 21.8 Hz, 2C), 77.8, 61.9, 41.5, 29.6, 25.2, 13.7. **LC-MS** (ESI) m/z: 298.2 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 315.2 [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis using Chiralpak AD-H column [Hexane/*i*-PrOH 85/15; flow rate 1.0 mL/min;  $\lambda$ = 254 nm; t<sub>R</sub> = 3.3 min (major), 6.4 min (minor)] ee 70%.

#### General procedure for the synthesis of compounds 9a and 10a:

The compound (3R, 4S)-Ethyl 4-phenylpyrrolidine-3-carboxylate (10a) was synthesized following literature procedure.<sup>4</sup>



(3R, 4S)-Ethyl-2-oxo-4-phenylpyrrolidine-3-carboxylate (9a): The product was obtained as a



brown solid in 93% yield.  $[\alpha]_{D}^{25} = +66.43$  (c, 0.9, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.36-7.24 (m, 5H), 6.62 (br s, 1H), 4.24 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.09 (q, J = 8.4 Hz, 17.4 Hz, 1H), 3.87-3.78 (m, 1H), 3.55 (d, J = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 3.43 (t, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 1.28 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (50

MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  172.6, 169.1, 139.8, 128.9, 127.5, 126.9, 61.8, 55.1, 47.6, 44.3, 14.0. **HRMS** (ESI) calculated for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>, 234.1130 m/z [M+H]<sup>+</sup> found 234.1131.

(3*R*, 4S)-Ethyl-4-phenylpyrrolidine-3-carboxylate (10a): The product was obtained as a yellow gummy liquid in 61% yield.  $[\alpha]^{25}{}_{D} = +33.46$  (c, 0.65, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.36-7.23 (m, 5H), 4.13 (q, *J*= 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.58-3.45 (m, 2H), 3.39-3.34 (m, 2H), 3.12-2.87 (m, 4H), 2.47 (s, 1H), 1.22 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  174.5, 141.7, 128.2 (2C), 126.8 (2C), 126.3, 60.3, 55.8, 52.4, 51.7, 50.1, 13.7. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>.

220.1138 m/z [M+H]<sup>+</sup> found 220.1353.

## General procedure for substrate preparation:

All the substrates **5a-l** and **7** were prepared according to literature<sup>5</sup> reported procedure.

In a round bottomed flask equipped with a Dean-Stark apparatus diethyl malonate (1.51 g, 9.43 mmol) and benzaldehyde (1.0 g, 9.43 mmol) was taken in anhydrous benzene (50 ml). Then

piperidine (cat. amount) and glacial acetic acid (cat. amount) were added to the mixture. The mixture was refluxed until the substrate disappeared. After the completion of the reaction the mixture was cooled, diluted with diethyl ether (50 ml) and water (25 ml). The organic layer was separated and washed successively with water (25 ml), HCl (1M) solution and sodium bicarbonate solution. The organic layer was dried and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 9/1) to afford the desired product (1.95 g, 83%).



**Diethyl-2-benzylidenemalonate (5a):** The product was prepared by following the general procedure and was obtained as a yellow liquid in 83% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.72(s, 1H), 7.43-7.35 (m, 4.37-4.23 (m, 3H), 1.35-1.23 (m, 6H)

5H), 4.91-4.86 (m, 2H), 4.37-4.23 (m, 3H), 1.35-1.23 (m, 6H).



**Diethyl-2-(4-fluorobenzylidene) malonate (5b):** The product was prepared by following the general procedure and was obtained as a yellow gummy liquid in 84% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ 

7.62 (s, 1H), 7.43-7.36(m,2H), 7.04-6.95 (m, 2H), 7.01 (t, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.43-4.18 (m, 4H), 1.30-1.19 (m, 6H).



**Diethyl-2-(2-fluorobenzylidene) malonate (5c):** The product was prepared by following the general procedure and was obtained as gummy liquid in 79% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.90 (s, 1H), 7.48-

7.32 (m, 2H), 7.15-7.04 (m, 2H), 4.30 (dq, *J*= 7.2 Hz, 14.2 Hz, 2.2 Hz, 4H), 1.33 (t, *J*= 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.25 (t, *J*= 7.2 Hz, 3H).



**Diethyl-2-(4-nitrobenzylidene) malonate (5d):** The product was prepared by following the general procedure and was obtained as pale yellow solid in 93% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.16

(d, *J*= 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J*= 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.26 (q, *J*= 7.2 Hz, 14.2 Hz, 4H), 1.31-1.17 (m, 6H).



**Diethyl-2-(2-chlorobenzylidene) malonate (5e):** The product was prepared by following the general procedure and was obtained as a yellow gummy liquid in 86% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$ 

7.98(s, 1H), 7.42-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.15 (m, 2H), 4.32-4.14 (m, 4H), 1.29 (t, *J*= 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.14 (t, *J*= 7.2 Hz, 3H).



**Diethyl-2-(4-chlorobenzylidene) malonate (5f):** The product was prepared by following the general procedure and was obtained as a yellow liquid in 83% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.46-7.36 (m, 4H), 4.43-4.23 (m, 4H), 1.41-1.30 (m, 6H).



**Diethyl-2-(2-bromobenzylidene) malonate (5g):** The product was prepared by following the general procedure and was obtained as a yellow gummy liquid in 78% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ 

8.01 (s, 1H), 7.66 (dd, *J*= 1.6 Hz, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.36-7.24 (m, 2H), 4.42-4.21 (m, 4H), 1.39 (t, *J*= 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.21 (t, *J*= 7.1 Hz, 3H).



**Diethyl-2-(4-methylbenzylidene) malonate (5h):** The product was prepared by following the general procedure and was obtained as a yellow gummy liquid in 84% yield. <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ

7.63(s, 1H), 7.28(d, *J*=8.2Hz, 2H), 7.11 (d, *J*=8.0Hz, 2H), 4.29-4.17 (m, 4H), 2.3 (s, 3H), 1.29-1.20 (m, 6H).



**Diethyl-2-(4-methoxybenzylidene) malonate (5i):** The product was prepared by following the general procedure and was obtained as a brown gummy liquid in 78% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz,

CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.46 (d, *J*= 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d, *J*= 9.0 Hz, 2H), 4.45-4.27 (m, 4H), 3.87 (s, 8H), 1.40-1.33 (m, 6H).



**Diethyl-2-(thiophen-2-ylmethylene) malonate (5j):** The product was prepared by following the general procedure and was obtained as a yellow gummy liquid in 79% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.84(s, 1H), 7.52 (d, *J*= 5.0Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d, *J*=3.8Hz, 1H), 7.07 (dd,

*J*=3.8 Hz, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 4.45-4.19 (m, 4H), 1.41-1.24 (m, 6H).



**Diethyl-2-(pyridin-2-ylmethylene) malonate (5k):** The product was prepared by following the general procedure and was obtained as yellow solid in 74% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.58 (d, *J*= 4.6 Hz,

1H), 7.70 (dt, *J*= 7.8 Hz, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.38 (d, *J*= 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.27-7.21( m, 1H) , 4.45-4.26(m, 4H), 1.38-1.30 (m, 6H)

Diethyl-2-((1-((4-nitrophenyl) sulfonyl)-1H-indol-3-yl)methylene)malonate (5l): The product



was prepared by following the general procedure and was obtained as yellow solid in 77% yield. <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.30 (d, *J*= 8.8 Hz, 2H), 8.07 (d, *J*= 9.0 Hz, 2H), 8.01-7.97 (m, 2H), 7.84 (s, 1H), 7.68 (dd, *J*= 1.8 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.33 (m, 2H), 4.47-4.28 (m, 4H), 1.41-1.32 (m, 6H).



**Diisopropyl-2-benzylidenemalonate** (**5-isopropyl**): The product was prepared by following the general procedure and was obtained as a colorless liquid in 75% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.65 (s, 1H), 7.47-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.32 (m, 3H), 5.26-5.12 (m, 2H), 1.24-1.21 (m, 12H).



**Di-tert-butyl-2-benzylidenemalonate** (5-tertbutyl): The product was prepared by following the general procedure and was obtained as a

yellow gummy liquid in 81% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.55(s, 1H), 7.52-7.48(m,

2H), 7.39-7.34 (m, 3H), 1.53 (s, 9H), 1.52 (s, 9H).



**Dibenzyl-2-benzylidenemalonate** (**5-dibenzyl**): The product was prepared by following the general procedure and was obtained as white solid in 85% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.78(s, 1H), 7.35-7.22 (m, 15H), 5.06 (s, 2H), 4.84 (s, 4H).



(Z)-Ethyl-2-(4-fluorobenzylidene)-3-oxobutanoate (7): The product was prepared by following the general procedure and was obtained as a yellow gummy liquid in 83% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200

MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.42- 7.32 (m, 3H), 7.02-6.94 (m, 2H), 4.23 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 14.4 Hz, 2H), 2.3 (s, 3H), 1.18 (t, *J* =7.0 Hz, 3H).

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## <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra



<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of compound **6a** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)





<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of compound **6b** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



 $^{13}$ C NMR Spectrum of compound **6b** (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>).



<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of compound **6c** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of compound **6d** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of compound **6e** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



<sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectrum of compound **6e** (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>).



<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of compound **6f** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of compound **6g** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 ppm









<sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectrum of compound **6h** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>).



<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of compound **6i** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of compound **6j** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



<sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectrum of compound **6j** (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>).



<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of compound **6k** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10

ppm

<sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectrum of compound **6k** (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>).



<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of compound **6l** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



<sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectrum of compound **6**I (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>).



<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of compound **6-isopropyl** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



<sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectrum of compound **6-isopropyl** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>).



<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of compound **6-tertbutyl** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

8.5





<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of compound **6-dibenzyl** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



<sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectrum of compound **6-dibenzyl** (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>).

ppm



<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of compound **8** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



<sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectrum of compound **8** (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>).



<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of compound **5a** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of compound **5c** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of compound **5d** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of compound **5e** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of compound **5g** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of compound **5h** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

4449 4.413 4.377 4.377 4.345 4.274 3.872 3.872





<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of compound **5i** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of compound **5**j (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of compound **5k** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of compound **5-isopropyl** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of compound **5-tertbutyl** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of compound **5-dibenzyl** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



<sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of compound **7** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

HPLC Chromatogram



HPLC Chromatogram of compound (±) 6a.



HPLC Chromatogram of compound 6a.



HPLC Chromatogram of compound (±) 6b.



HPLC Chromatogram of compound 6b.



HPLC Chromatogram of compound (±) 6c.



HPLC Chromatogram of compound 6c.



HPLC Chromatogram of compound (±) 6d.



HPLC Chromatogram of compound 6d.



HPLC Chromatogram of compound (±) 6e.



HPLC Chromatogram of compound 6e.



HPLC Chromatogram of compound (±) 6f.



HPLC Chromatogram of compound 6f.



HPLC Chromatogram of compound (±) 6g.



HPLC Chromatogram of compound 6g.



HPLC Chromatogram of compound (±) 6h.



HPLC Chromatogram of compound 6h.



HPLC Chromatogram of compound (±) 6i.



HPLC Chromatogram of compound 6i.



HPLC Chromatogram of compound (±) 6j.



HPLC Chromatogram of compound 6j.



HPLC Chromatogram of compound (±) 6k.



HPLC Chromatogram of compound 6k.

![](_page_59_Figure_1.jpeg)

HPLC Chromatogram of compound (±) 61.

![](_page_60_Figure_1.jpeg)

HPLC Chromatogram of compound 61.

![](_page_61_Figure_1.jpeg)

HPLC Chromatogram of compound (±) 6-isopropyl.

![](_page_62_Figure_1.jpeg)

HPLC Chromatogram of compound 6-isopropyl.

![](_page_63_Figure_1.jpeg)

HPLC Chromatogram of compound (±) 6-tertbutyl.

![](_page_64_Figure_1.jpeg)

HPLC Chromatogram of compound 6-tertbutyl.

![](_page_65_Figure_1.jpeg)

HPLC Chromatogram of compound (±) 6-dibenzyl.

![](_page_66_Figure_1.jpeg)

HPLC Chromatogram of compound 6-dibenzyl.

![](_page_67_Figure_1.jpeg)

HPLC Chromatogram of compound (±) 8

![](_page_68_Figure_1.jpeg)

HPLC Chromatogram of compound 8.