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Supplementary Information:

# Chiral diene-promoted room temperature conjugate arylation: highly enantioselective synthesis of substituted chiral phenylalanine derivatives and α,α-di(arylmethyl)acetates

Jian-Ping Chen<sup>†</sup> and Ming-Hua Xu\*,<sup>†,‡</sup>

<sup>†</sup>State Key Laboratory of Drug Research, Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Sciences,555 Zuchongzhi Road, Shanghai 201203, China. <sup>‡</sup>Shenzhen Key Laboratory of Discovery and Synthesis of Small Molecule Drugs, Department of Chemistry, Southern University of Science and Technology, 1088 Xueyuan Blvd., Shenzhen 518055, China. *E-mail: xumh@simm.ac.cn; xumh@sustech.edu.cn* 

1. General	2
2. General procedure for Rh-catalyzed 1,4-addition/asymmetric protonation of $\alpha$ -	
phthalylimide tert-butyl acrylate <b>1a</b>	2
3. Characterization data and HPLC of products 3	3
4. Deuterium labeling experiment of phenylalanine product <b>3</b>	19
5. General procedure for Rh-catalyzed asymmetric 1,4-addition/asymmetric	
protonation of acrylate substrates 4	20
6. Characterization data and HPLC of products 5	21
7. Construction of compound 7	39
8. Copies of <sup>1</sup> H NMR and <sup>13</sup> C NMR spectra of products <b>3-7</b>	41

#### 1. General

All anaerobic and moisture-sensitive manipulations were carried out with standard Schlenk techniques under predried nitrogen or argon. Solvents were dried and distilled by standard procedures. NMR spectra were recorded on a Mercury 300 spectrometer (300 MHz for <sup>1</sup>H), and Varian spectrometer (400 MHz or 600 MHz for <sup>1</sup>H, 125 MHz or 150 MHz for <sup>13</sup>C). Chemical shifts are reported in  $\delta$  (ppm) referenced to an internal SiMe4 standard or the residual peak of methanol-d4 ( $\delta$  3.31), dimethyl sulfoxide-d6 ( $\delta$  2.50) for <sup>1</sup>H NMR, and chloroform-d ( $\delta$  77.16), methanol-d4 ( $\delta$  49.00) for <sup>13</sup>C NMR. Optical rotations were measured on a Perkin-Elmer 241 MC polarimeter. HPLC was performed on a JASCO 2000 instrument by using Daicel columns with 2-propanol/hexane as the eluent.

# 2. General procedure for Rh-catalyzed 1,4-addition/asymmetric protonation of α-phthalylimide tert-butyl acrylate 1a



Under Ar atmosphere, a solution of  $\alpha$ -phthalylimide *tert*-butyl acrylate **1a** (0.1 mmol), arylboronic acid **2** (0.3 mmol), [Rh(COE)<sub>2</sub>Cl]<sub>2</sub> (1.8 mg, 0.005 mmol of Rh), **L10** (2.2 mg, 0.0055 mmol) in 1.0 mL of anhydrous toluene was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. To this mixture was added KOH (0.05 mL, 1.0 M, 0.05 mmol). After reaction for another 12 hours, a saturated aq. NH4Cl was added and the mixture was extracted with EtOAc (10 mL×3). The combined organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by silica gel flash chromatography, eluting with petroleum ether/EtOAc (20%-30% EtOAc), to afford the corresponding products **3**.

# 3. Characterization data and HPLC of products 3

#### tert-butyl (S)-2-(1,3-dioxoisoindolin-2-yl)-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)propanoate (3a)



[M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: calcd 404.1474, found 404.1468.

HPLC: Chiralpak IC column (250 mm); detected at 224 nm; *n*-hexane/*i*-propanol = 95/5; flow = 0.7 mL/min; Retention time: 15.9 min, 17.9 min (major).



#### *tert*-butyl (S)-2-(1,3-dioxoisoindolin-2-yl)-3-(p-tolyl)propanoate (3d)



3.51 (dd, *J* = 12.0, 5.4 Hz, 2H), 2.22 (s, 3H), 1.46 (s, 9H).<sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 167.9, 167.7, 136.2, 134.0, 131.7, 129.2, 128.7, 123.4, 82.8, 54.3, 34.2, 27.9, 21.0. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NNaO<sub>4</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: calcd 388.1525, found 388.1517.

HPLC: Chiralpak AD-3 column (250 mm); detected at 224 nm; *n*-hexane/*i*-propanol = 95/5; flow = 0.7 mL/min; Retention time: 12.9 min (major), 18.6 min.



tert-butyl (S)-3-(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)-2-(1,3-dioxoisoindolin-2-yl)propanoate (3e)



10.7 Hz, 2H), 1.45 (s, 9H), 1.20 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ168.0, 167.8, 149.4, 134.0, 133.9, 131.8, 128.4, 125.4, 123.3, 82.7, 54.1, 34.4, 34.1, 31.3, 27.9. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>29</sub>NNaO<sub>4</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: calcd 430.1994, found 430.1990.

HPLC: Chiralpak AD-H column (250 mm); detected at 224 nm; *n*-hexane/*i*-propanol = 95/5; flow = 1.0 mL/min; Retention time: 10.4 min (major), 12.5 min.



## tert-butyl (S)-2-(1,3-dioxoisoindolin-2-yl)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)propanoate (3f)

99% yield, colorless oil, 90% ee.  
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 
$$\delta$$
 7.89-7.73 (m, 2H), 7.69 (dd, J  
<sup>3</sup>f = 6.2, 2.2 Hz, 2H), 7.18-6.99 (m, 2H), 6.86 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H),  
5.03 (dd, J = 8.8, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 3.48 (dd, J = 14.1, 10.6 Hz, 2H),

1.43 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  167.7, 167.6, 161.3 (d,  $J_{CF}$  = 291 Hz), 134.1, 132.8, 131.6, 130.3 (d,  $J_{CF}$  = 11 Hz), 123.5, 115.4 (d,  $J_{CF}$  = 24 Hz), 82.9, 54.1, 33.9, 27.9. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>20</sub>FNNaO<sub>4</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: calcd 392.1274, found 392.1268.

HPLC: Chiralpak AD-3 column (250 mm); detected at 224 nm; *n*-hexane/*i*-propanol = 95/5; flow = 0.7 mL/min; Retention time: 9.9 min (major), 15.5 min.



# tert-butyl (S)-3-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(1,3-dioxoisoindolin-2-yl)propanoate (3g)



93% yield, colorless oil, 91% ee. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.75 (s, 2H), 7.68 (s, 2H), 7.10 (dd, *J* = 17.5, 8.3 Hz, 4H), 5.08-4.92 (m, 1H), 3.48 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 1.42 (s, 9H).<sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 167.7, 167.6, 135.7, 134.2, 132.6, 131.6, 130.2, 128.7, 123.5, 83.0, 53.9, 34.1, 27.9. HRMS (ESI) for C21H20ClNNaO4

[M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: calcd 408.0979, found 408.0968.

HPLC: Chiralpak AD-3 column (250 mm); detected at 224 nm; n-hexane/i-propanol = 95/5; flow = 0.7 mL/min; Retention time: 11.0 min (major), 16.5 min.



tert-butyl (S)-3-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(1,3-dioxoisoindolin-2-yl)propanoate (3h)



93% yield, colorless oil, 95% ee.
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.79 (dd, J = 5.2, 3.2 Hz, 2H),
7.70 (dd, J = 5.6, 3.0 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.05 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 5.04 (m, 1H), 3.50 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H),

1.45 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 167.7, 167.6, 136.2, 134.2, 131.7, 131.6, 130.6, 123.5, 120.7, 83.0, 53.8, 34.2, 27.9. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>20</sub>BrNNaO<sub>4</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: calcd 452.0473, found 452.0476.

HPLC: Chiralpak AD-3 column (250 mm); detected at 224 nm; *n*-hexane/*i*-propanol = 95/5; flow = 0.7 mL/min; Retention time: 17.0 min (major), 26.2 min.



*tert*-butyl (*S*)-2-(1,3-dioxoisoindolin-2-yl)-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)propanoa--te (3i)



HPLC: Chiralpak IC column (250 mm); detected at 224 nm; *n*-hexane/*i*-propanol = 95/5; flow = 0.7 mL/min; Retention time: 13.4 min, 15.6 min (major).



tert-butyl (S)-3-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-2-(1,3-dioxoisoindolin-2-yl)propanoate (3j)



1.48 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 167.9, 167.8, 140.7, 139.5, 136.2, 134.1, 131.7, 129.3, 128.7, 127.2, 126.9, 123.9, 123.4, 82.9, 54.1, 34.4, 27.9. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>27H25</sub>NNaO<sub>4</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: calcd 450.1681, found 442.1674.

HPLC: Chiralpak AD-3 column (250 mm); detected at 224 nm; *n*-hexane/*i*-propanol = 95/5; flow = 0.7 mL/min; Retention time: 16.4 min (major), 28.8 min.



*tert*-butyl (*S*)-2-(1,3-dioxoisoindolin-2-yl)-3-(4-(methoxymethyl)phenyl)propanoa--te (3k)



130.6, 129.9, 123.5, 116.4, 94.6, 82.8, 56.0, 54.4, 33.9, 28.0. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>25</sub>NNaO<sub>5</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: calcd 418.1630, found 418.1629.

HPLC: Chiralpak AD-H column (250 mm); detected at 224 nm; *n*-hexane/*i*-propanol = 90/10; flow = 0.7 mL/min; Retention time: 12.5 min (major), 15.2 min.



# tert-butyl (S)-2-(1,3-dioxoisoindolin-2-yl)-3-phenylpropanoate (31)



99% yield, colorless oil, 90% ee. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.77 (td, J = 5.3, 2.0 Hz, 2H), 7.71-7.63 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.05 (m, 5H), 5.08 (dd, *J* = 10.5, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 3.65-3.42 (m, 2H), 1.45 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 167.9, 167.7,

137.2, 134.0, 131.7, 128.8, 128.5, 126.7, 123.4, 82.8, 54.2, 34.7, 27.9. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NNaO<sub>4</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: calcd 374.1368, found 374.1363.

HPLC: Chiralpak AD-H column (250 mm); detected at 224 nm; n-hexane/i-propanol = 95/5; flow = 0.7 mL/min; Retention time: 9.3 min (major), 12.9 min.



#### tert-butyl (S)-2-(1,3-dioxoisoindolin-2-yl)-3-(3-methoxyphenyl)propanoate (3m)



3.53 (dd, J = 12.5, 6.6 Hz, 2H), 1.46 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 167.8, 167.7, 159.6, 138.7, 134.0, 131.7, 129.5, 123.4, 121.2, 114.1, 112.6, 82.8, 55.1, 54.1, 34.7, 27.9. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NNaO<sub>5</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: calcd 404.1474, found 404.1471.

HPLC: Chiralpak AD-3 column (250 mm); detected at 224 nm; *n*-hexane/*i*-propanol = 95/5; flow = 0.7 mL/min; Retention time: 16.4 min (major), 20.2 min.



# tert-butyl (S)-3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-(1,3-dioxoisoindolin-2-yl)propanoate (3n)



3.70 (s, 3H), 3.50-3.42 (m, 2H), 1.46 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 167.9, 167.7, 148.7, 147.6, 134.0, 131.7, 129.5, 123.4, 120.9, 111.7, 111.1, 82.8, 55.7, 55.7, 54.1, 34.2, 27.9. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>25</sub>NNaO<sub>6</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: calcd 434.1580, found 434.1575.

HPLC: Chiralpak AD-H column (250 mm); detected at 224 nm; *n*-hexane/*i*-propanol = 80/20; flow = 0.7 mL/min; Retention time: 10.9 min (major), 12.6 min.



tert-butyl (S)-2-(1,3-dioxoisoindolin-2-yl)-3-(naphthalen-2-yl)propanoate (30)



91% yield, colorless oil, 94% ee.
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.78-7.66 (m, 6H), 7.61 (dt, J = 5.2, 3.0 Hz, 2H), 7.43-7.31 (m, 3H), 5.34-5.19 (m, 1H), 3.76 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 1.49 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ

167.9, 167.8, 134.7, 134.0, 133.5, 132.4, 131.7, 128.3, 127.7, 127.6, 127.5, 126.9, 126.0, 125.5, 123.4, 82.9, 54.1, 34.9, 28.0. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NNaO<sub>4</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: calcd 424.1525, found 424.1517.

HPLC: Chiralpak IC column (250 mm); detected at 224 nm; *n*-hexane/*i*-propanol = 95/5; flow = 0.7 mL/min; Retention time: 13.0 min, 14.4 min (major).



#### tert-butyl (S)-2-(1,3-dioxoisoindolin-2-yl)-3-(naphthalen-1-yl)propanoate (3p)



J = 11.2, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 4.19-4.05 (m, 1H), 3.97-3.80 (m, 1H), 1.49 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  167.9, 167.6, 134.0, 133.8, 133.3, 131.8, 131.7, 128.9, 127.7, 127.1, 126.3, 125.7, 125.2, 123.3, 123.2, 82.9, 53.6, 31.8, 28.0. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NNaO<sub>4</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: calcd 424.1525, found 424.1517.

HPLC: Chiralpak AD-3 column (250 mm); detected at 224 nm; *n*-hexane/*i*-propanol = 95/5; flow = 0.7 mL/min; Retention time: 13.8 min (major), 15.7 min.



# tert-butyl (S)-2-(1,3-dioxoisoindolin-2-yl)-3-(o-tolyl)propanoate (3q)



99% yield, colorless oil, 94% ee. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.88-7.75 (m, 2H), 7.69 (m, 2H), 7.19-6.84 (m, 4H), 5.09 (dd, J=11.0, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 3.68-3.34 (m, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 1.47 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 168.0, 167.7, 136.6, 135.2, 134.0, 131.7, 130.5, 129.6, 126.9, 125.9, 123.4, 82.8, 52.5, 32.3, 27.9, 19.3.

HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NNaO<sub>4</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: calcd 388.1525, found 388.1520.

HPLC: Chiralpak AD-H column (250 mm); detected at 224 nm; n-hexane/i-propanol = 95/5; flow = 0.7 mL/min; Retention time: 10.3 min (major), 11.9 min.



#### tert-butyl (S)-3-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-(1,3-dioxoisoindolin-2-yl)propanoate (3r)



14.2, 4.7 Hz, 1H), 3.55 (dd, J = 14.1, 11.4 Hz, 1H), 1.46 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  167.6, 167.5, 135.0, 134.4, 134.0, 131.7, 131.3, 129.6, 128.4, 126.8, 123.4, 82.9, 52.2, 33.0, 27.9. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>20</sub>ClNNaO<sub>4</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: calcd 408.0979, found 408.0974.

HPLC: Chiralcel OD-3 column (250 mm); detected at 224 nm; *n*-hexane/*i*-propanol = 90/10; flow = 0.7 mL/min; Retention time: 7.8 min, 11.5 min (major).



#### 4. Deuterium labeling experiment of phenylalanine product 3



Under Ar atmosphere, a solution of  $\alpha$ -phthalylimide *tert*-butyl acrylate **1a** (0.1 mmol), 4-methoxy arylboronic acid **2a** (0.3 mmol), [Rh(COE)<sub>2</sub>Cl]<sub>2</sub> (1.8 mg, 0.005 mmol of Rh), **L10** (2.2 mg, 0.0055 mmol) in 1.0 mL of anhydrous toluene was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. To this mixture was added aqueous KOH in D<sub>2</sub>O (0.05 mL, 1.0 M, 0.05 mmol). After reaction for another 12 hours, a saturated aq. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl was added and the mixture was extracted with EtOAc (10 mL×3). The combined organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by silica gel flash chromatography, eluting with petroleum ether/EtOAc (20%-30% EtOAc), to afford the corresponding products **3a-D**.



# 5. General procedure for Rh-catalyzed asymmetric 1,4-addition/asymmetric protonation of acrylate substrates 4



Under Ar atmosphere, a solution of acrylate **4** (0.1 mmol), arylboronic acid **2** (0.3 mmol),  $[Rh(COE)_2Cl]_2$  (1.8 mg, 0.005 mmol of Rh), **L9** (2.2 mg, 0.0055 mmol) in 1.0 mL of anhydrous toluene was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. To this mixture was added KOH (0.05 mL, 1.0 M, 0.05 mmol). After reaction for another 12 hours, a saturated aq. NH4Cl was added and the mixture was extracted with EtOAc (10 mL×3). The combined organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by silica gel flash chromatography, eluting with petroleum ether/EtOAc (1%-5% EtOAc), to afford the corresponding products **5**.

# 6. Characterization data and HPLC of products 5

#### tert-butyl (R)-2-(4-methoxybenzyl)-3-(thiophen-2-yl)propanoate (5a)

98% yield, light yellow oil, 98% ee. 98% yield, light yellow oil, 98% ee. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.09 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H), 6.95-6.84 (m, 1H), 6.80 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.11 (dd, J = 14.7, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.92 (dd, J = 20.1, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 2.83 (t, J = 12.5 Hz, 2H), 2.79-2.64 (m, 1H), 1.26 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  173.4, 157.7, 141.3, 130.6, 129.6, 126.1, 125.1, 123.2, 113.3, 80.1, 54.8, 50.1, 37.0, 31.7, 27.5. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>24</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub>S [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: calcd 355.1344, found 355.1337.

HPLC: Chiralcel OD-3 column (250 mm); detected at 224 nm; *n*-hexane/*i*-propanol = 99/1; flow = 1.0 mL/min; Retention time: 11.5 min (major), 12.7 min.



#### *tert*-butyl (*R*)-3-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-2-(thiophen-2-ylmethyl)propanoate (5b)



1H), 6.84 (m, 1H), 3.28-3.11 (m, 1H), 2.96 (m, 4H), 1.28 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 173.3, 141.2, 140.5, 138.8, 137.6, 129.0, 128.3, 126.7, 126.6, 126.5, 126.2, 125.2, 123.3, 80.2, 49.8, 37.4, 31.8, 27.4. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub>S [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: calcd 401.1551, found 401.1547.

HPLC: Chiralcel OD-3 column (250 mm); detected at 224 nm; *n*-hexane/*i*-propanol = 99/1; flow = 0.7 mL/min; Retention time: 13.1 min (major), 20.4 min.



*tert*-butyl (*R*)-3-(naphthalen-2-yl)-2-(thiophen-2-ylmethyl)propanoate (5c)



98% yield, light yellow oil, 98% ee.
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.77 (t, J = 9.4 Hz, 3H), 7.62 (s, 1H), 7.46-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.32 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (d, J = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 6.93-6.86 (m, 1H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 3.25-3.08 (m, 2H),

3.07-2.90 (m, 3H), 1.23 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 173.3, 141.2, 136.1, 133.0, 131.8, 127.5, 127.2, 127.0, 126.2, 125.5, 125.2, 124.9, 123.3, 80.2, 49.8, 37.9, 31.8, 27.4. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>24</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub>S [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: calcd 375.1395, found 375.1392.

HPLC: Chiralcel OD-3 column (250 mm); detected at 254 nm; *n*-hexane/*i*-propanol = 99/1; flow = 0.7 mL/min; Retention time: 11.2 min (major), 12.3 min.



*tert*-butyl (*R*)-3-(naphthalen-1-yl)-2-(thiophen-2-ylmethyl)propanoate (5d)



98% yield, light yellow oil, 97% ee.
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.95 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (dd, J = 9.1, 6.1 Hz, 2H), 7.44-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.15 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 6.97-6.89

(m, 1H), 6.85 (s, 1H), 3.41 (dd, J = 13.9, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 3.29 (dd, J = 14.1, 5.4 Hz, 2H), 3.18-3.00 (m, 2H), 1.23 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  173.4, 141.2, 134.6, 133.4, 131.4, 128.3, 126.8, 126.7, 126.2, 125.5, 125.3, 125.0, 124.8, 123.3, 123.2, 80.1, 49.0, 34.9, 32.1, 27.4. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>24</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub>S [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: calcd 375.1395, found 375.1392.

HPLC: Chiralcel OD-3 column (250 mm); detected at 224 nm; *n*-hexane/*i*-propanol = 99/1; flow = 0.7 mL/min; Retention time: 13.1 min (major), 20.4 min.



tert-butyl (R)-2-(4-(tert-butyl)benzyl)-3-(thiophen-2-yl)propanoate (5e)



HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>30</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub>S [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: calcd 381.1864, found 381.1857.

HPLC: Chiralcel OD-3 column (250 mm); detected at 224 nm; *n*-hexane/*i*-propanol = 99.5/0.5; flow = 0.5 mL/min; Retention time: 30.85 min (major), 35.24 min.



tert-butyl (R)-2-(4-bromobenzyl)-3-(thiophen-2-yl)propanoate (5f)



95% yield, light yellow oil, 96% ee.
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.39 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (d, J = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.98-6.86 (m, 1H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 3.16 (dd, J = 14.5, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.04-2.91 (m, 1H),

2.85 (dd, *J* = 15.6, 8.1 Hz, 2H), 2.80-2.70 (m, 1H), 1.28 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 173.0, 140.9, 137.6, 130.9, 130.3, 126.2, 125.3, 123.4, 119.7, 80.3, 49.7, 37.0, 31.9, 27.5. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>21</sub>BrNaO<sub>2</sub>S [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: calcd 403.0343, found 403.0334.

HPLC: Chiralcel OD-3 column (250 mm); detected at 224 nm; *n*-hexane/*i*-propanol = 99.5/0.5; flow = 0.5 mL/min; Retention time: 14.49 min (major), 15.69 min.



tert-butyl (R)-2-(2-methoxybenzyl)-3-(thiophen-2-yl)propanoate (5g)



98% yield, light yellow oil, 96% ee. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.19 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.15-7.09 (m, 2H), 6.94-6.76 (m, 4H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.17 (dd, J = 13.2, 8.1 Hz,1H), 3.09-2.95 (m, 2H), 2.94-2.78 (m, 2H), 1.24 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 173.7, 157.2, 141.7, 130.4, 127.2, 126.9, 126.0, 124.9, 123.0, 119.6, 109.7, 79.7, 54.7, 47.7, 33.0, 32.0, 27.4. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>24</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub>S [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>:

calcd 355.1344, found 355.1337.

HPLC: Chiralcel OD-3 column (250 mm); detected at 224 nm; *n*-hexane/*i*-propanol = 93/7; flow = 0.6 mL/min; Retention time: 11.2 min (major), 14.8 min.



#### tert-butyl (R)-3-(benzo[b]thiophen-2-yl)-2-(4-methoxybenzyl)propanoate (5h)



99% yield, light yellow oil, 98% ee.
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.77 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H),
7.67 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.13 (d, J =

8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 6.84 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.23 (dd, J = 14.4, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.10-2.87 (m, 3H), 2.82 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 1.29 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  173.3, 157.8, 142.6, 139.6, 139.2 130.5, 129.7, 123.7, 123.2, 122.4, 121.8, 121.7, 113.3, 80.3, 54.8, 49.5, 37.0, 32.5, 27.5. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub>S [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: calcd 405.1500, found 405.1506.

HPLC: Chiralcel OD-3 column (250 mm); detected at 254 nm; *n*-hexane/*i*-propanol = 99/1; flow = 0.7 mL/min; Retention time: 11.9 min (major), 13.0 min.



#### tert-butyl (R)-3-(benzo[b]thiophen-2-yl)-2-(4-methylbenzyl)propanoate (5i)



98% yield, light yellow oil, 97% ee. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.77 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.71-7.60 (m, 1H), 7.37-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.10 (m, 4H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 3.22 (dd, J = 14.2, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.07-2.87 (m, 3H), 2.83 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 1.29 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 173.7, 143.0, 139.9, 139.5, 135.9, 135.6, 129.0, 128.9, 124.0, 123.6, 122.8, 122.1, 122.0, 80.7, 49.7, 37.8, 32.8, 27.9, 21.0. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub>S [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: calcd 389.1551, found 389.1549. HPLC: Chiralcel OJ-H column (250 mm); detected at 224 nm; n-hexane/i-propanol =

99/1; flow = 0.7 mL/min; Retention time: 13.8 min (major), 17.7 min.



Peak No.	Peak ID	Ret Time	Height	Area	Conc.	
1		13.815	520208.563	24421908.000	98.5015	
2		17.728	6697.141	371524.000	1.4985	
Total			526905.704	24793432.000	100.0000	

*tert*-butyl (*R*)-3-(benzo[b]thiophen-2-yl)-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)propanoate (5j)

96% yield, light yellow oil, 90% ee.  
96% yield, light yellow oil, 90% ee.  
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 
$$\delta$$
 7.79 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H),  
7.71-7.63 (m, 1H), 7.55 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.41-7.24 (m,  
4H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 3.34-3.17 (m, 1H), 3.12-2.88 (m, 4H), 1.26 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125  
MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  173.1, 143.0, 142.3, 139.9, 139.5, 129.4, 128.9 (q,  $J_{CF} = 32.5$  Hz),  
125.2 (q,  $J_{CF} = 3.8$  Hz), 124.2, 123.8, 123.2 (q,  $J_{CF} = 292$  Hz), 122.9, 122.5, 122.2, 81.1,  
49.4, 37.8, 33.2, 27.8. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>23</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub>S [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: calcd 443.1269,  
found 443.1265.

HPLC: Chiralpak AD-H column (250 mm); detected at 224 nm; *n*-hexane/*i*-propanol = 95/5; flow =1.0 mL/min; Retention time: 12.6 min (major), 14.3 min.



#### *tert*-butyl (*R*)-3-(benzo[b]thiophen-2-yl)-2-(4-bromobenzyl)propanoate (5k)



93% yield, light yellow oil, 95% ee.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.77 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (dd, *J* =

14.6, 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.17-6.97 (m, 3H), 3.31-3.16 (m, 1H), 3.09-2.70 (m, 4H), 1.28 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 172.9, 142.1, 139.5, 139.1, 137.5, 131.0, 130.4, 123.8, 123.3, 122.5, 121.9, 121.7, 119.9, 80.6, 49.1, 37.04 32.6, 27.5. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>22H23</sub>BrNaO<sub>2</sub>S [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: calcd 453.0500, found 453.0496.

HPLC: Chiralpak AD-3 column (250 mm); detected at 254 nm; *n*-hexane/*i*-propanol = 99/1; flow =1.0 mL/min; Retention time: 14.5 min, 15.8 min (major).



#### tert-butyl (R)-3-(benzo[b]thiophen-2-yl)-2-(naphthalen-1-ylmethyl)propanoate (5l)



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.99 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (d, J = 7.2 Hz)Hz, 1H), 7.57-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.39 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.30

(dd, J = 14.6, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 3.44 (dt, J = 17.0, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 3.38-3.25 (m, 2H), 3.25-3.01 (m, 2H), 1.23 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 173.4, 142.4, 139.5, 139.2, 134.5, 133.5, 131.5, 128.4, 127.0, 126.9, 125.6, 125.1, 124.9, 123.7, 123.3, 123.2, 122.5, 121.9, 121.7, 80.4, 48.5, 35.1, 33.0, 27.4. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub>S [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: calcd 425.1551, found 425.1546.

HPLC: Chiralcel OD-H column (250 mm); detected at 254 nm; *n*-hexane/*i*-propanol = 99/1; flow = 0.6 mL/min; Retention time: 16.0 min (major), 19.7 min.



#### tert-butyl (R)-3-(benzo[b]thiophen-2-yl)-2-(2-chlorobenzyl)propanoate (5m)



92% yield, light yellow oil, 90% ee.
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.77 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.35 (m, 1H), 7.29 (dd, J = 8.5, 6.8 Hz, 3H), 7.21-7.15 (m, 2H), 7.07 (s, 1H), 3.31 (dd, J = 14.0,

8.2 Hz, 1H), 3.25-3.12 (m, 1H), 3.08 (dd, J = 13.0, 6.3 Hz, 3H), 1.26 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  173.4, 142.6, 139.9, 139.6, 136.5, 134.3, 131.4, 129.5, 128.0, 126.6, 124.1, 123.6, 122.8, 122.2, 122.1, 80.8, 47.6, 36.2, 33.3, 27.8. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>23</sub>ClNaO<sub>2</sub>S [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: calcd 409.1005, found 409.1006.

HPLC: Chiralcel OD-3 column (250 mm); detected at 254 nm; *n*-hexane/*i*-propanol = 99/1; flow = 0.7 mL/min; Retention time: 8.8 min, 9.4 min (major).



#### tert-butyl (R)-3-(benzo[b]thiophen-2-yl)-2-(2-methoxybenzyl)propanoate (5n)



98% yield, light yellow oil, 99% ee.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.76 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.19-7.10 (m, 2H), 7.05 (s, 1H), 6.87 (t, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.26 (dd, *J* =

14.3, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 3.20-3.08 (m, 1H), 3.02 (dd, J = 14.2, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 2.97-2.81 (m, 2H), 1.25 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  173.7, 157.3, 143.0, 139.6, 139.2, 130.5, 127.4, 126.8, 123.6, 123.1, 122.4, 121.6, 121.5, 119.8, 109.8, 80.0, 54.8, 47.2, 45.2, 33.3, 32.8, 27.5. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub>S [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: calcd 405.1500, found 405.1496.

HPLC: Chiralpak AD-H column (250 mm); detected at 254 nm; *n*-hexane/*i*-propanol = 99/1; flow = 0.6 mL/min; Retention time: 20.6 min (major), 26.8 min.



#### tert-butyl (R)-3-(benzo[b]thiophen-2-yl)-2-(2-methylbenzyl)propanoate (50)



91% yield, light yellow oil, 97% ee.
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.77 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.23 (m, 3H), 7.21-7.14 (m, 3H), 7.05 (s, 1H), 3.36-3.22 (m, 1H), 3.11-2.93 (m, 3H), 2.92-2.80 (m, 1H), 3.11-2.93 (m, 2H), 2.92-2.80 (m, 2H)

1H), 2.52(s, 3H), 1.28 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 173.8, 142.9, 139.9, 139.5, 137.0, 136.3, 130.3, 129.7, 126.5, 125.8, 124.1, 123.6, 122.8, 122.2, 122.1, 80.7, 48.3, 35.8, 33.2, 27.8, 19.5. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub>S [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: calcd 389.1551, found 389.1550.

HPLC: Chiralcel OD-3 column (250 mm); detected at 224 nm; *n*-hexane/*i*-propanol = 99/1; flow = 0.7 mL/min; Retention time: 9.3 min, 10.2 min (major).



*tert*-butyl (*R*)-3-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-2-(benzo[b]thiophen-2-ylmethyl)propanoate (5p)

99% yield, light yellow oil, 96% ee.  
99% yield, light yellow oil, 96% ee.  
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 
$$\delta$$
 7.79 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.68  
(d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 6.7  
Hz, 2H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.40-7.23 (m, 5H), 7.07 (s, 1H), 3.37-3.17 (m, 1H),  
3.04 (dd, *J* = 22.0, 10.5 Hz, 3H), 2.92 (dd, *J* = 17.0, 10.4 Hz, 1H), 1.30 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C  
NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  173.2, 142.5, 140.6, 139.6, 139.2, 138.9, 137.5, 129.1,  
128.3, 126.7, 126.6, 126.5, 123.7, 123.3, 122.5, 121.8, 121.7, 80.4, 49.3, 37.5, 32.6,  
27.5. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>28</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub>S [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: calcd 451.1708, found 451.1706.  
HPLC: Chiralpak AD-3 column (250 mm); detected at 224 nm; *n*-hexane/*i*-propanol =  
90/10; flow = 0.5 mL/min; Retention time: 17.2 min (major), 18.5 min.


## tert-butyl (R)-3-(benzofuran-2-yl)-2-(4-methoxybenzyl)propanoate (5q)



93% yield, light yellow oil, 90% ee.
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.46 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H),
7.38 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.21-7.13 (m, 2H), 7.10 (d, J =

8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.80 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.41 (s, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 2.97 (dt, J = 25.6, 12.5 Hz, 4H), 2.82-2.69 (m, 1H), 1.27 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  173.3, 157.8, 156.1, 154.3, 130.4, 129.7, 128.3, 122.9, 122.0, 119.9, 113.3, 110.3, 103.0, 80.2, 54.8, 46.7, 36.9, 30.3, 27.5. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NaO<sub>4</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: calcd 389.1729, found 389.1724.

HPLC: Chiralpak IC column (250 mm); detected at 254 nm; *n*-hexane/*i*-propanol = 99/1; flow = 0.7 mL/min; Retention time: 25.0 min (major), 30.6 min.



*tert*-butyl (*R*)-2-(3-(tert-butoxy)-2-(4-methoxybenzyl)-3-oxopropyl)-*1H*-indole-1carboxylate (5r)



HPLC: Chiralcel OD-H column (250 mm); detected at 224 nm; *n*-hexane/*i*-propanol = 99/1; flow = 0.7 mL/min; Retention time: 8.3 min (major), 14.5 min.



## 7. Construction of compound 7



A 10 mL vessel was charged with the product 5r (46.5 mg, 0.10 mmol, 97% ee) in 4 mL HCl/dioxane and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 hours. After the reaction was completed, saturated Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> was added to the system and was extracted with EtOAc (2x10 mL). The combined organic layers were dried on anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and removed under vacuum and the residue was used for next step directly. To the above residue was added dichloromethane (5 mL), EDCI (29 mg, 0.15 mmol), 4-dimethylaminopyridine (25 mg, 0.20 mmol) and the solution was stirred for 12 h at room temperature. After solvent evaporation, the crude compound was purified by column chromatography over silica gel to furnish the desired cyclic product (R)-2-(4-methoxybenzyl)-1,2-dihydro-3H-pyrrolo[1,2-a]indol-3-one (7): 88% yield, light yellow oil, 97% ee. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.10 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.31-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.18 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (d, J = 8.6Hz, 2H), 6.22 (s, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.47 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 3.34 (dd, *J* = 14.1, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 3.17 (dd, J = 17.7, 9.1 Hz, 1H), 2.90 (dd, J = 14.2, 9.1 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) & 172.9, 158.0, 141.6, 134.8, 130.0, 129.7, 129.5, 123.6, 122.8, 120.0, 113.7, 113.3, 100.0, 54.8, 48.0, 35.8, 24.9. HRMS (ESI) for C19H17NNaO2 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: calcd 314.1157, found 314.1154.

HPLC: Chiralcel AD-H column (250 mm); detected at 254 nm; *n*-hexane/*i*-propanol = 90/10; flow = 0.7 mL/min; Retention time: 10.9 min (major), 11.3 min.





## 8. Copies of <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of products 3-7


































































