ELECTRONIC SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Visible photons for the nucleophilic ring opening of epoxides.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. General information.

All the chemicals employed in the present investigation are commercially available and have been purchased in the highest purity grade available. Arylazo sulfones **1a,b** (Figure S1) were previously synthesized and fully characterized by our research groups.^{S1, S2} Epoxides 2a-f, 2i (Figure S1) were commercially available and were used without any further purifications, epoxide 2g^{S3} and 2h^{S4} were prepared following known procedures. Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) plates (silica gel 60 F254) were visualized either with an UV lamp (254 nm), or treatment with the properly chosen stain. Flash column chromatography was carried out by using 40-63 μm particle sized silica gel with air pressure. NMR experiments were carried out in the deuterated solvent of choice. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a 300 or 75 MHz spectrometer, respectively.

GC−MS analyses were carried out using a Thermo Scientific DSQII single quadrupole GC−MS system. A Restek Rtx-5MS (30 m \times 0.25 mm \times 0.25 µm) capillary column was used for the separation of analytes with helium as a carrier gas at 1 mL/min. The injection in the GC system was performed in split mode, and the injector temperature was 250 °C. The GC oven temperature was held at 60 °C for 2 min, increased to 220 °C by a temperature ramp of 5 °C min⁻¹, and held for 10 min. The transfer line temperature was 250 °C, and the ion source temperature was 250 °C. High resolution mass spectra were determined on an AEI MS-9 using electrospray ionization (ESI) and a time-of-flight (TOF). Chemical shifts (δ) are reported in parts per million (ppm) relative to residual solvent as the internal reference. The following abbreviations are used for the multiplicities: s: singlet; d: doublet; t: triplet; q: quadruplet; quint: quintuplet; hept: heptaplet; m: multiplet or overlap of non-equivalent resonances; br s: broad singlet; app: apparent; rot: rotamer. Coupling constants (*J*) are reported in Hertz (Hz). Photochemical experiments have been carried out in 3 mL pyrex vials. A 40W Kessil lamp (emission centered at 427 nm) has been employed as the light source in an EvoluChemTM PhotoRedox monobox equipped with a fan as the cooling system (Figure S3). The reaction course has been monitored by means of TLC and GC-FID analyses.

Figure S1. Arylazo sulfones **1a,b** and epoxides **2a-i** employed in the present work.

Figure S2. Visible portion of the UV-Vis spectra of $1a,b$ (10⁻² M) in acetonitrile.

Table S1. Optimization for the PAG catalyzed ring-opening of **2a**.

Table S1 (continued)

2. Experimental details

General procedure for the synthesis of compounds 3-56. An epoxide **2a-i** (0.5-1 mmol, 1-2 M, 1.0 equiv.) and the chosen nucleophilic partner (2.5 equiv.) were mixed together in a flame-dried vial. Then, arylazo sulfone **1a** (5 mol%) was then added and the obtained mixture was irradiated under vigorous stirring with a 427 nm KESSIL Lamp for 16 h (Figure S3). In selected cases, the reaction was performed in DMC or in a DMC:water 1:1 mixture. The crude product was isolated by means of column chromatography (stationary phase: 40-63 μm particle sized silica gel, eluant: cyclohexaneethyl acetate mixture). In some cases, the work-up consists in the addition of MgSO4, removal of the desiccant and the solvent that allows to obtain a product of sufficient purity.

Figure S3. Photochemical set-up employed for the visible-light epoxides ring opening: EvoluChemTM PhotoRedox monobox equipped with a fan as the cooling system placed upon a stirring plate with a 427 nm emission centred KESSIL lamp. Lamp off (left), lamp on (right).

General procedure for the large-scale ring-opening reaction. In a flame-dried glass vessel, the selected epoxide **2a-e** (5 mmol, 2.5 M, 1.0 equiv.) and the nucleophile (12.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) were dissolved in DMC/water 1:1 to reach a final volume of 5 mL. Arylazo sulfone **1a** (0.25 mmol, 5 mol%) was added and the so formed mixture was irradiated under vigorous stirring with a 427 nm KESSIL Lamp (Figure S4). After 16 h the completion of the reaction was checked both by GC-FID analysis and by TLC. The isolated pure products were obtained after chromatographic column separation (silica gel as stationary phase and cyclohexane-ethyl acetate mixtures as eluants) or by simple work-up (vide supra). Compounds **15**, **17**, **33**, **36**, **37**, **39** and **43** have been then isolated in >99%, yield by adopting this approach.

Procedure for the ring-opening reaction under flow conditions. In an Erlenmeyer flask, a solution containing 20 mmol of the chosen epoxide **2b** or **2c** (5 M, 1 equiv.), 198.0 mg of **1a** (1 mmol, 5 mol%) and 4.0 mL of DMC/water 1:1 was charged into a coiled tubing reservoir (PTFE, internal diameter: 1 mm; Figure S5a). The reaction mixture was then flown through the channels of the reactor Figure S5b by means of a syringe pump (Figure S5c) using a flow rate of 50 μ L·min⁻¹ upon irradiation with a LED lamp (Kessil PR-160L, 40 W, emission centred at 427 nm; see a representative picture of the experimental setup in Figure S6). A fan cooling was applied to keep temperature below 30 °C. The progress of the reaction was monitored by GC-FID and, upon completion, after 6 h the crude mixture was poured into a round bottom flask and the solvent removed via rotary evaporation. The product thus obtained were isolated in satisfying purity by treatment with MgSO4, filtration and removal of the solvent under vacuum. By adopting this approach, compounds **33** and **36** have been isolated both in >99%, yield.

Figure S5. Flow set-up. a) coiled tubing reservoir with the reaction mixture. b) photochemical reactor c) syringe-pump employed.

Figure S6. Overall view of the flow set-up employed for this protocol, a box equipped with a fan inside, a syringe-pump that pushed the solution from the coiled tube reservoir to the channel of the reactor where the mixture was irradiated by a 427 nm emission centred KESSIL lamp. The photolyzed solution is recovered in an Erlenmeyer flask.

Synthesis of compounds 3-56.

2-Methoxy-2-phenylethan-1-ol (3). Starting from 113 μ L of **2a** (1 mmol), 100 L of MeOH (2.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) and 9.9 mg of **1a** (0.05 mmol, 5 mol%). Product **3** (152.0 mg, 1 mmol, >99% yield, pale yellow oil) was isolated by flash

column chromatography (eluent Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 9:1). Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature.^{S5}

3. ¹H NMR (CDCl3, 300 MHz) δ 7.34–7.17 (m, 5H), 4.26 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 3.66–3.48 (m, 2H), 3.24 (s, 3H), 3.16 (s, 1H).¹³C{¹H} NMR (CDCl3, 75 MHz) δ 138.4, 128.4, 128.0, 126.8, 84.8, 67.2, 56.8.

2-Ethoxy-1-phenylethan-1-ol (4). Starting from 113 μ L of **2a** (1 mmol), 142 μ L of EtOH (2.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) and 9.9 mg of **1a** (0.05 mmol, 5 mol%). Product **4** (166.0 mg, 1 mmol, >99% yield, pale yellow oil) was isolated by flash column chromatography (eluent Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 9:1). Spectroscopic data were

in accordance with the literature.^{S5}

4. ¹H NMR (CDCl3, 300 MHz) δ 7.53–7.17 (m, 5H), 4.44 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 3.74–3.57 (m, 2H), 3.55–3.37 (m, 2H), 2.87–2.68 (m, 1H), 1.24 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CDCl3, 75 MHz) δ 139.1, 128.5, 128.0, 126.8, 82.9, 67.4, 64.6, 15.4.

2-Phenyl-2-propoxyethan-1-ol (5). Starting from 113 μ L of **2a** (1 mmol), 186 L of propanol (2.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) and 9.9 mg of **1a** (0.05 mmol, 5 mol%). Product **5** (126.0 mg, 0.7 mmol, 70% yield, pale yellow oil) was isolated by flash column chromatography (eluent Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 9:1). Spectroscopic

data were in accordance with the literature.^{S5}

5. ¹H NMR (CDCl3, 300 MHz) δ 7.45–7.25 (m, 5H), 4.43 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 3.78–3.53 (m, 2H), 3.49–3.25 (m, 2H), 2.56 (s, 1H), 1.65 (sextet, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 0.95 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CDCl3, 75 MHz) δ 139.0, 128.4, 127.9, 126.7, 82.8, 70.8, 67.4, 22.9, 10.5.

 $2-Butoxy-2-phenylethan-1-ol (6)$. Starting from 113 μ L of $2a$ (1 mmol), 228 μ L of 1-butanol (2.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) and 9.9 mg of **1a** (0.05 mmol, 5 mol%). Product **6** (170.8 mg, 0.88 mmol, 88% yield, pale yellow oil) was isolated by flash column chromatography (eluent Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 9:1). Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature.^{S6}

6. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.38–7.14 (m, 5H), 4.34 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 3.67–3.44 (m, 2H), 3.43–3.19 (m, 2H), 2.55 (s, 1H), 1.61–1.19 (m, 4H), 0.84 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H).¹³C $\{\text{^1H}\}$ NMR (CDCl3, 75 MHz) δ 139.0, 128.4, 127.9, 126.7, 82.9, 68.9, 67.3, 31.8, 19.2, 13.8.

2-Isopropoxy-2-phenylethan-1-ol (7). Starting from $113 \mu L$ of $2a$ (1 mmol), 191 L of isopropyl alcohol (2.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) and 9.9 mg of **1a** (0.05 mmol, 5 mol%). Product **7** (138.6 mg, 0.77 mmol, 77% yield, pale yellow oil) was isolated

by flash column chromatography (eluent Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 9:1). Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature.^{S5}

7. ¹H NMR (CDCl3, 300 MHz) δ 7.39–7.29 (m, 5H), 4.56 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 4.7 Hz, 1H), 3.69–3.56 (m, 3H), 2.47 (s, 1H), 1.23 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 3H), 1.16 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 3H).¹³C{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 140.2, 128.9, 128.4, 127.3, 80.5, 70.1, 68.0, 24.0, 21.9.

 $2-(Cyclohexyloxy) - 2-phenylethan-1-ol (8)$. Starting from 113 μL of $2a(1)$ mmol), 260 µL of cyclohexanol (2.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) and 9.9 mg of **1a** (0.05) mmol, 5 mol%). Product **8** (191.0 mg (0.87 mmol, 87% yield, yellow oil) was isolated by flash column chromatography (eluent Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 95:5). Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature.^{S5}

8 ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.45–7.26 (m, 5H), 4.61 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 4.7 Hz, 1H), 3.71–3.53 (m, 2H), 3.31 (tt, *J* = 9.4, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 2.60 (s, 1H), 2.11–1.96 (m, 1H), 1.85–1.66 (m, 3H), 1.52 (s, 1H), 1.43–1.30 (m, 2H), 1.21 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3) δ 139.8, 128.3, 127.7, 126.7, 79.6, 75.5, 67.4, 33.5, 31.5, 25.6, 24.1, 23.9.

2-(Isopentyloxy)-2-phenylethan-1-ol (9). Starting from 113 μ L of 2a (1 mmol), $272 \mu L$ of isoamyl alcohol (2.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) and 9.9 mg of **1a** (0.05 mmol, 5 mol%). Product **9** (158.1 mg (0.76 mmol, 76% yield, colourless oil) was isolated by flash column chromatography (eluent Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 9:1).

9. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.52–7.21 (m, 5H), 4.42 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 3.74–3.62 (m, 2H), 3.44 (d, *J* = 22.6 Hz, 2H), 2.59 (s, 1H), 1.81–1.65 (m, 1H), 1.58–1.39 (m, 2H), 0.91 (dd, *J* = 12.3, 6.6 Hz, 6H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 139.0, 128.4, 127.9, 126.7, 82.9, 67.5, 67.3, 38.6, 24.9, 22.7, 22.3.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: calcd. for $C_{13}H_{21}O_2$ [M+H]⁺: 209.1543, found: 209.1547.

 2 -(*tert*-Butoxy)-2-phenylethan-1-ol (10). Starting from 113 μ L of 2a (1 mmol), 239 uL of *tert*-butanol (2.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) and 9.9 mg of 1a (0.05 mmol, 5 mol%). Product **10** (124.2 mg, 0.64 mmol, 64% yield, colourless oil that crystalized upon storage in the fridge) was isolated by flash column

chromatography (eluent Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 9:1). Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature.^{S5}

10. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.44–7.07 (m, 5H), 4.56 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 3.45 (t, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 2.30 (s, 1H), 1.12 (s, 9H). ${}^{13}C\{{}^{1}H\}$ NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 142.2, 128.1, 127.2, 126.3, 75.1, 74.8, 67.8, 28.7.

 2 -Phenyl-2- $(2,2,2)$ -trifluoroethoxy)ethan-1-ol (11) . Starting from 113 μ L of $2a$ (1 mmol), $166.5 \mu L$ of 2,2,2-trifluoroethanol (2.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) and 9.9 mg of **1a** (0.05 mmol, 5 mol%). Product **11** (178.5 mg, 0.81 mmol, 81% yield, pale yellow oil) was isolated by flash column chromatography (eluent Cyclohexane-

Ethyl acetate 9:1). Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature.^{S7} NMR analyses pointed out the presence of 1-phenyl-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)ethan-2-ol (< 5%) as a minor regioisomer not visible by GC-MS analysis (see below).

11. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.58–7.05 (m, 5H), 4.82–4.37 (m, 1H), 4.08–3.45 (m, 4H), 2.52 (s, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 136.6, 128.8, 128.4, 126.8, 123.8 (q, *J* = 278.6 Hz), 84.5, 67.3 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 66.1 (q, *J* = 34.3 Hz).

GC-MS trace of the crude reaction mixture (Up). GC-MS analysis of product **11** (Down).

2-((1,1,1,3,3,3-Hexafluoropropan-2-yl)oxy)-2-phenylethan-1-ol (12). Starting from 113 μ L of 2a (1 mmol), 258 μ L of 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2propanol (2.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) and 9.9 mg of **1a** (0.05 mmol, 5 mol%). Product **12** (88.2 mg, 0.38 mmol, 38% yield, pale yellow oil) was isolated by flash column

chromatography (eluent Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 8:2). Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature.^{S8} NMR analyses pointed out the presence of $1-(1,1,1,3,3,3)$ -hexafluoropropan-2yl)oxy)-2-phenylethan-2-ol as a minor regioisomer (< 5%) not visible by GC-MS analysis (see below).

12. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.48–7.25 (m, 5H), 4.89 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 4.33–4.08 (m, 1H), 3.97 (dd, *J* = 12.3, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (dd, *J* = 12.3, 3.6 Hz, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3) δ 129.5, 128.8, 128.7, 127.6, 121.39 (q, *J* = 283.5 Hz), 86.0, 73.8–71.9 (m), 66.6.

GC-MS trace of the crude reaction mixture (Up). GC-MS analysis of product **12** (Down).

2-Phenyl-2-(prop-2-yn-1-yloxy)ethan-1-ol (13). Starting from 113 μ L of 2a (1) mmol), 145 µL of propargyl alcohol (2.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) and 9.9 mg of 1a (0.05 mmol, 5 mol%). Product **13** (143.4 mg, 0.81 mmol, 81% yield, pale yellow oil) was isolated by flash column chromatography (eluent Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 9:1). Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature.^{S9} NMR

analyses pointed out the presence of 1-phenyl-2-(prop-2-yn-1-yloxy)ethan-2-ol $(< 5\%$) as a minor regioisomer not visible by GC-MS analysis (see below).

13. ¹H NMR (CDCl3, 300 MHz) δ 7.39–7.31 (m, 5H), 4.70 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 4.22 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.88–3.63 (m, 2H), 2.90–2.63 (m, 1H), 2.47 (t, *J* $= 2.4$ Hz, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 137.4, 128.5, 128.3, 127.0, 81.7, 79.5, 74.7, 66.9, 55.9.

GC-MS trace of the crude reaction mixture (Up). GC-MS analysis of product **13** (Down).

 2 -(Pent-4-en-1-yloxy)-2-phenylethan-1-ol (14). Starting from 113 μ L of $2a$ (1) mmol), 256 μ L of pent-4-en-1-ol (2.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) and 9.9 mg of **1a** (0.05 mmol, 5 mol%). Product **14** (138.8 mg, 0.67 mmol, 67% yield, colourless oil) was isolated by flash column chromatography (eluent Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 9:1).

14. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.64–7.07 (m, 5H), 5.82 (ddt, *J* = 16.9, 10.2, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 5.20– 4.81 (m, 2H), 4.42 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 3.84–3.20 (m, 4H), 2.64 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 2.33–1.96 (m, 2H), 1.97–1.43 (m, 2H). ${}^{13}C\{{}^{1}H\}$ NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 138.9, 138.1, 128.4, 127.9, 126.7, 114.7, 82.9, 68.5, 67.3, 30.3, 28.9.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: calcd. for $C_{13}H_{19}O_2$ [M+H]⁺: 229.1204, found: 229.1202.

1-Phenylethane-1,2-diol (15). Starting from 113 μ L of 2a (1 mmol), 387 μ L of a solution DMC:water (1:1) and 9.9 mg of **1a** (0.05 mmol, 5 mol%). Product **15** (138.0 mg, 1.0 mmol, >99% yield) was isolated by flash column chromatography

(eluent Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 7:3). The same reaction was performed on a larger scale employing 565 L of **2a** (5 mmol), 49.5 mg of **1a** (0.25 mmol, 5 mol%) in 1.9 mL of a DMC:water (1:1) solution. Product **15** (690 mg, 5.0 mmol, >99% yield) was isolated in satisfying purity by treatment with MgSO4, filtration and removal of the solvent under vacuum. Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature.^{S10}

15. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.35–7.26 (m, 5H), 4.76 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 4.44 (s, 1H), 4.10 (s, 1H), 3.73–3.55 (m, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3) δ 140.5, 128.3, 127.7, 126.0, 74.6, 67.9.

m. p. = $62.4 - 63.0$ (lit.^{S11} = $61.3 - 64.2$)

2-Azido-2-phenylethan-1-ol (16). Starting from 113 μ L of **2a** (1 mmol), 130 mg of sodium azide (2.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv.), 9.9 mg of **1a** (0.05 mmol, 5 mol%) dissolved in 100 μ L of a DMC:H₂O (1:1) solution. Product 16 (140.2 mg, 0.86) mmol, 86% yield, pale yellow oil) was isolated by flash column chromatography

(eluent Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 7:3). The same reaction was performed on a larger scale employing 565 µL of 2a (5 mmol), 650 mg of sodium azide (12.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) and 49.5 mg of **1a** (0.25 mmol, 5 mol%) dissolved in 500 μ L of a DMC:H₂O (1:1) solution. Product **16** (815 mg, 5.0) mmol, >99% yield) was isolated in satisfying purity by treatment with MgSO4, filtration and removal of the solvent under vacuum. Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature.^{S12}

16. ¹H NMR (CDCl3, 300 MHz) δ 7.44–7.32 (m, 5H), 4.67 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 3.74 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.58 (s, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CDCl3, 75 MHz) δ 136.8, 129.4, 129.2, 127.6, 68.3, 66.9.

2-Phenylthiirane (17). Starting from 113 µL of **2a** (1 mmol), 240.0 mg of KSCN (2.5) mmol, 2.5 equiv.) and 9.9 mg of $1a$ (0.05 mmol, 5 mol%) dissolved in 100 μ L of a DMC:H2O (1:1) solution. Product **17** (116.3 mg, 0.85 mmol, 85% yield, colourless

oil) was isolated by flash column chromatography (eluent Cyclohexane). The same reaction was performed on a larger scale employing 565 μ L of 2a (5 mmol), 1.2 g of potassium thiocyanate (12.5) mmol, 2.5 equiv.), 49.5 mg of **1a** (0.25 mmol, 5 mol%) dissolved in 500 μ L of a DMC:H₂O (1:1) solution. Product **17** (680 mg, 5.0 mmol, >99% yield) was isolated in satisfying purity by treatment with MgSO4, filtration and removal of the solvent under vacuum. Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature.^{S13}

17. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.64–7.01 (m, 5H), 3.93 (dd, *J* = 6.6, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 2.90 (dd, *J* = 6.6, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 2.69 (dd, $J = 5.6$, 1.5 Hz, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 139.0, 128.5, 127.6, 126.7, 36.1, 27.3.

2-Phenoxy-2-phenylethan-1-ol (18). Starting from 113 μ L of **2a** (1 mmol), 235 mg of phenol (2.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) and 9.9 mg of **1a** (0.05 mmol, 5 mol%). Product **18** (64.8 mg, 0.32 mmol, 32% yield, colourless oil) was isolated by flash column chromatography (eluent Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 8:2). Spectroscopic

data were in accordance with the literature.^{S14}

18. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.42–7.03 (m, 7H), 6.97–6.64 (m, 3H), 5.31–5.11 (m, 1H), 3.86– 3.75 (m, 2H), 2.23 (bs, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3) δ 157.7, 137.7, 129.3, 128.7, 128.1, 126.2, 121.1, 115.8, 81.0, 67.5.

 $2-(\text{Benzyloxy})-2-\text{phenylethan-1-ol}$ (19). Starting from 113 μL of $2a$ (1) mmol), $260 \mu L$ of benzyl alcohol (2.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) and 9.9 mg of 1a (0.05 mmol, 5 mol%). Product **19** (228.0 mg, 1.0 mmol, >99% yield, colourless oil) was isolated by flash column chromatography (eluent

Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 95:5). Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature.^{S15} **19.** ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.45–7.35 (m, 10H), 4.69 (s, 1H), 4.64–4.52 (m, 2H), 4.38 (d, *J* = 11.5 Hz, 1H), 3.83–3.61 (m, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3) δ 138.9, 137.9, 128.6, 128.4, 128.2, 127.9, 127.8, 127.0, 82.3, 70.7, 67.3.

2-((4-Chlorophenyl)thio)-2-phenylethan-1-ol (20) **.** Starting from 56.5 μ L of **2a** (0.5 mmol), 178.6 mg of 4-chlorotiophenol (1.25 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) and 4.9 mg of **1a** (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%). Product **20** (97.7 mg, 0.37 mmol,

74% yield, colourless oil) was isolated by flash column chromatography (eluent Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 8:2). Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature. S16

20. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.50–6.87 (m, 9H), 4.21 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.89–3.76 (m, 2H), 2.29 (s, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3) δ 138.6, 133.8, 133.7, 132.2, 129.0, 128.7, 128.0, 127.8, 65.1, 56.1.

 $2-((4-Bromophenyl)$ thio)-2-phenylethan-1-ol (21) . Starting from 56.5 μ L of **2a** (0.5 mmol), 178.6 mg of 4-chlorotiophenol (1.25 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) and 4.9 mg of **1a** (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%). Product **21** (78.5 mg, 0.37 mmol,

51% yield, colourless oil) was isolated by flash column chromatography (eluent Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 8:2). Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature. $S17$

21. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.42–7.28 (m, 7H), 7.25–7.13 (m, 2H), 4.34–4.28 (m, 1H), 3.99– 3.86 (m, 2H), 2.03 (s, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3) δ 138.4, 133.9, 132.8, 131.9, 128.70 127.9, 127.9, 121.7, 65.1, 56.1.

 $2-(1-Methyl-1H-indol-3-vl)-2-phenylethan-1-ol (22)$. Starting from 56.5 μ L of $2a$ (0.5 mmol), 156 μ L of 1-methylindole (1.25 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) and 4.9 mg of **1a** (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%). Product **22** (99.8 mg, 0.39 mmol, 78% yield, pale yellow oil) was isolated by flash column chromatography (eluent Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 7:3). Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature. 518

22. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.51 (dt, *J* = 8.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.41–7.32 (m, 5H), 7.31–7.22 (m, 2H), 7.13–7.04 (m, 1H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.52 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 4.32–4.15 (m, 2H), 3.79 $(s, 3H)$, 1.72 (bs, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.8, 137.1, 128.5, 128.2, 127.4, 126.6, 126.6, 121.8, 119.4, 119.0, 114.4, 109.2, 66.4, 45.5, 32.7.

 $2-(1-Ethyl-1H-indol-3-yl)-2-phenylethan-1-ol (23)$. Starting from 56.5 μL of $2a$ (0.5 mmol), 181 μ L of 1-ethylindole (1.25 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) and 4.9 mg of **1a** (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%). Product **23** (95.4 mg, 0.36 mmol, 72% yield, pale yellow oil) was isolated by flash column chromatography (eluent Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 7:3).

23. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.55 (dt, *J* = 8.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.45–7.36 (m, 5H), 7.32–7.26 (m, 2H), 7.16–7.07 (m, 2H), 4.56 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 4.31–4.16 (m, 4H), 1.81 (s, 1H), 1.53 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3) δ 141.9, 136.2, 128.5, 128.3, 127.6, 126.6, 124.9, 121.7, 119.5, 118.9, 114.5, 109.3, 66.5, 45.6, 40.9, 15.4.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: calcd. for C₁₈H₂₀NO [M+H]⁺: 266.1547, found: 266.1539.

 $2-(1-Pentyl-1H-indol-3-vl)-2-phenylethan-1-ol (24)$. Starting from 56.5 μ L of **2a** (0.5 mmol) , 170 μ L of 1-pentylindole $(1.25 \text{ mmol}, 2.5 \text{ equiv.})$ and 4.9 mg of **1a** (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%). Product **24** (120.0 mg, 0.39 mmol, 80% yield, pale yellow oil) was isolated by flash column chromatography (eluent Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 7:3).

24. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.50 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.41–7.33 (m, 5H), 7.29–7.22 (m, 2H), 7.13–7.03 (m, 2H), 4.53 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 4.32–4.18 (m, 2H), 4.12 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.88 (p, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.69 (s, 1H), 1.42–1.36 (m, 4H), 0.98–0.91 (m, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3) δ 141.8, 136.5, 128.5, 128.2, 127.5, 126.6, 125.6, 121.6, 119.4, 118.8, 114.2, 109.4, 66.4, 46.3, 45.5, 29.9, 29.1, 22.2, 13.9.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: calcd. for C₂₁H₂₆NO [M+H]⁺: 308.2016, found:. 308.2020.

 $2-(1-AIlyI-1H-indol-3-yI)-2-phenylethan-1-ol (25)$. Starting from 56.5 μ L of $2a$ (0.5 mmol), 190 μ L of 1-allylindole (1.25 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) and 4.9 mg of 1a (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%). Product **25** (77.6 mg, 0.28 mmol, 56% yield, pale yellow oil) was isolated by flash column chromatography (eluent Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 7:3).

25. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.39 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.31–7.21 (m, 5H), 7.20–7.09 (m, 3H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 5.92 (dtt, *J* = 16.8, 11.1, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 5.16–5.02 (m, 2H), 4.80–4.58 (m, 2H), 4.42 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 4.32–4.02 (m, 2H), 1.51 (bs, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.6, 136.6, 133.4, 128.5, 128.2, 127.6, 126.6, 121.8, 119.4, 119.1, 117.3, 114.7, 109.6, 66.4, 48.7, 45.5.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: calcd. for C₁₉H₂₀NO [M+H]⁺: 278.1547, found: 278.1537.

2-(1-Propargyl-1H-indol-3-yl)-2-phenylethan-1-ol (26). Starting from 56.5 μL of **2a** (0.5 mmol), 194 μL of 1-propargylindole (1.25 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) and 4.9 mg of **1a** (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%). Product **26** (74.3 mg, 0.27 mmol, 54% yield, pale yellow oil) was isolated by flash column chromatography (eluent Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 7:3).

26. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.61 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.55–7.37 (m, 7H), 7.28–7.17 (m, 2H), 4.96 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 2H), 4.62 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 4.40–4.26 (m, 2H), 2.54 (q, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 1.97 (s, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3) δ 141.6, 136.3, 128.6, 128.3, 127.9, 126.7, 125.0, 122.2, 119.6, 115.6, 109.4, 77.8, 73.6, 66.4, 45.6, 35.7.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: calcd. for C₁₉H₁₈NO [M+H]⁺: 276.1390, found: 276.1386.

2-Phenyl-2-(2,4,6-trimethoxyphenyl)ethan-1-ol (27). Starting from 56.5 L of **2a** (0.5 mmol), 210 mg of 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene (1.25 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) and 4.9 mg of **1a** (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%) in 500 μL of DMC. Product **27** (126.7 mg, 0.44 mmol, 88% yield, colourless solid) was

isolated by flash column chromatography (eluent Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 7:3). Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature.^{S8}

27. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.27–7.15 (m, 4H), 7.12–7.03 (m, 1H), 6.09 (s, 2H), 4.75 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.23 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.67 (s, 6H), 1.74 (s, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.0, 159.4, 142.4, 128.0, 127.9, 125.6, 110.5, 91.2, 64.8, 55.7, 55.2, 43.2. m. p. = $80.3 - 80.9$ °C (lit.^{S8} = $80.0 - 81.0$)

 $2-(2,6-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-phenylethan-1-ol (28)$. Starting from 56.5 µL of **2a** (0.5 mmol), 163 μ L of 1,3-dimethoxybenzene (1.25 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) and 4.9 mg of **1a** (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%). Product **28** (100.6 mg, 0.39 mmol, 78% yield, pale yellow oil) was isolated by flash column chromatography (eluent

Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 8:2). Traces of another isomer (<5%) was detected by NMR analysis. GC-MS analysis of the crude mixture showed that the byproduct has the same molecular weight of **28** (see below).

28. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.36–7.26 (m, 5H), 7.13–7.07 (m, 1H), 6.51 (s, 2H), 4.61 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.15 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 1.83 (s, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3) δ 159.5, 158.3, 141.7, 128.6, 128.4, 126.3, 122.2, 104.1, 98.8, 65.3, 55.4, 55.2, 45.9.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: calcd. for C₁₆H₁₈O₃Na [M+Na]⁺: 259.1354, found: 281.1153

GC-MS trace of the crude reaction mixture (Up). GC-MS analysis of product **28** (retention time 36.0 min, middle) and its regioisomer (retention time 34.8 min, down).

 $2-(2,6-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-phenylethan-1-ol (29)$. Starting from 56.5 µL of **2a** (0.5 mmol), 150 μ L of 5-methylbenzo[d][1,3]dioxole (1.25 mmol, 2.5) equiv.) and 4.9 mg of **1a** (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%). Product **29** (76.8 mg, 0.30 mmol, 60% yield, pale yellow oil) was isolated by flash column

chromatography (eluent Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 8:2). Traces of a minor regioisomer (<2%) were detected by NMR analysis. GC-MS analysis of the crude mixture showed that the byproduct has the same molecular weight of **29** (see below).

29. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.32–7.23 (m, 5H), 6.86 (s, 1H), 6.69 (s, 1H), 5.93 (s, 2H), 4.35 $(t, J = 7.1 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H})$, 4.11 (dd, $J = 7.1$, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 2.22 (s, 3H), 1.66 (s, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3) δ 145.9, 145.8, 141.0, 132.1, 130.2, 128.6, 128.2, 126.6, 110.9, 107.1, 100.7, 65.9, 49.0, 19.7. HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: calcd. for $C_{16}H_{17}O_3$ [M-H₂O+H]⁺: 239.1078, found: 239.1065.

GC-MS trace of the crude reaction mixture (Up). GC-MS analysis of product **29** (retention time 36.8 min, middle) and its regioisomer (retention time 35.5 min, down).

2-Methoxycyclohexan-1-ol (30). Starting from 50.0 μ L of **2b** (0.5 mmol), 55 μ L of methanol (1.25 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) and 4.9 mg of **1a** (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%). Product **30** (65.5 mg, 0.5 mmol, >99% yield, colourless oil, *trans* isomer) was

isolated by flash column chromatography (eluent Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 9:1) as the only diastereoisomer (see also the chromatogram of the crude mixture below). Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature.^{S19}

30. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 3.33–3.25 (m, 5H), 2.82 (ddd, *J* = 10.4, 8.5, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 2.09– 1.93 (m, 1H), 1.93–1.80 (m, 1H), 1.67–1.49 (m, 2H), 1.21–0.92 (m, 4H).¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3) δ 84.7, 73.3, 56.1, 32.0, 28.2, 23.9, 23.7.

GC-MS trace of the crude reaction mixture.

2-Methoxycyclohexan-1-ol (31). Starting from 50.0 μ L of **2b** (0.5 mmol), 73 μ L of ethanol (1.25 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) and 4.9 mg of **1a** (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%). Product **31** (72.1 mg, 0.5 mmol, >99% yield, colourless oil, *trans* isomer) was

isolated by flash column chromatography (eluent Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 9:1) as the only diastereoisomer (see also the chromatogram of the crude mixture below). Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature.^{S19}

31. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 4.35–4.31 (m, 2H), 3.67 (dq, *J* = 9.3, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 3.45–3.31 (m, 2H), 3.12–2.84 (m, 1H), 2.12–1.83 (m, 2H), 1.67–1.63 (m, 2H), 1.26–1.17 (m, 6H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3) δ 83.2, 73.5, 63.9, 31.9, 29.1, 24.2, 23.8, 15.5.

GC-MS trace of the crude reaction mixture.

 2 -(Prop-2-yn-1-yloxy)cyclohexan-1-ol (32). Starting from 50 μ L of 2b (0.5) mmol), $73 \mu L$ of propargyl alcohol $(1.25 \text{ mmol}, 2.5 \text{ equiv.})$ and $4.9 \text{ mg of } 1a$ (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%). Product **32** (75.4 mg, 0.5 mmol, >99% yield, pale yellow

oil, *trans* isomer) was isolated by flash column chromatography (eluent Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 9:1) as the only diastereoisomer (see also the chromatogram of the crude mixture below).

32. ¹H NMR (CDCl3, 300 MHz) δ 4.30 (dd, *J* = 15.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.19 (dd, *J* = 15.9, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.44 (ddd, *J* = 10.3, 8.4, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 3.25 (ddd, *J* = 10.3, 8.5, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.79 (s, 1H), 2.45 (t, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 2.18–1.91 (m, 2H), 1.71 (tt, $J = 8.6$, 2.6 Hz, 2H), 1.31–1.13 (m, 4H). ¹³C $\{^1H\}$ NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3) δ 82.9, 80.2, 74.2, 73.4, 56.0, 32.0, 28.8, 24.0, 23.7.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: calcd. for $C_9H_{15}O_2$ [M+H]⁺: 155.1074, found: 155.1078.

GC-MS trace of the crude reaction mixture.

Cyclohexane-1,2-diol (33). Starting from $50.0 \mu L$ of $2b$ (0.5 mmol), 4.9 mg of $1a$ $(0.025 \text{ mmol}, 5 \text{ mol})$ % dissolved in 100 µL of a DMC:H₂O (1:1) solution. Product **33** (58.8 mg, 0.5 mmol, >99% yield, colorless solid, *trans* isomer) was isolated in

The same reaction was performed on a larger scale employing 500 μ L of 2b (5 mmol), 49.5 mg of 1a $(0.25 \text{ mmol}, 5 \text{ mol})$ % dissolved in 1.0 mL of a DMC:water $(1:1)$ solution. Product 33 (588 mg, 5.0) mmol, >99% yield) was isolated as above. The same reaction was performed in flow employing 2.0 mL of **2b** (20 mmol), 198 mg of **1a** (1 mmol, 5 mol%) and 4 mL of a DMC:water (1:1) solution. Product **33** (2.32 g, 20 mmol, >99% yield) was collected in the Erlenmeyer flask after 6 h of

satisfying purity by treatment with MgSO₄, filtration and removal of the solvent under vacuum.

irradiation and obtained as a pure solid after the removal of the solvent under vacuum. Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature. 520

33. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 4.27 (s, 2H), 3.34–3.25 (m, 2H), 1.97–1.87 (m, 2H), 1.70–1.61 (m, 2H), 1.21 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 4H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3) δ 75.4, 32.8, 24.2. m. p. = 100–103 °C (lit.^{S21} 102–103 °C).

2-Azidocyclohexan-1-ol (34). Starting from 100 uL of 2b (1 mmol), 162.5 mg of sodium azide (2.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv.), 4.9 mg of **1a** (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%) dissolved in 100 μ L of a DMC:H₂O (1:1) solution.

Product **34** (141.5 mg, 1.0 mmol, >99% yield, colorless solid, *trans* isomer) was isolated in satisfying purity by treatment with MgSO4, filtration and removal of the solvent under vacuum. Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature.^{S22}

34. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 3.51–3.29 (m, 1H), 3.25–2.97 (m, 1H), 2.64 (s, 1H), 2.11–1.91 (m, 2H), 1.74 (dd, *J* = 6.2, 3.1 Hz, 2H), 1.28 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 4H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3) δ 73.4, 67.0, 32.9, 29.7, 24.1, 23.7.

7-Thiabicyclo $[4.1.0]$ **heptane** (35). Starting from 50.0 μ L of 2b (0.5 mmol), 120 mg of KSCN (1.25 mmol 2.5 equiv.), 4.9 mg of **1a** (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%) dissolved in 100 L of a DMC:H2O (1:1) solution. Product **35** (57.0 mg, 0.5 mmol, 99% yield,

colourless oil) was isolated in satisfying purity by treatment with MgSO4, filtration and removal of the solvent under vacuum. Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature.^{S23} **35.** ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 3.27–3.14 (m, 2H), 2.16 (td, *J* = 5.4, 4.5, 2.4 Hz, 4H), 1.60–1.49 $(m, 2H)$, 1.24 (s, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 36.9, 25.7, 19.3.

Propylene glycol (36). Starting from 17.7 μ L of 2c (0.5 mmol), 4.9 mg of 1a (0.025) 36 OH mmol, 5 mol%) dissolved in 100 µL of a DMC:H₂O (1:1) solution. Product 36 (38.0) **OH** mg, 0.5 mmol, 99% yield, colourless oil) was isolated in satisfying purity by treatment with MgSO4, filtration and removal of the solvent under vacuum. The same reaction was performed on a larger scale employing $177 \mu L$ of $2c$ (5 mmol), 49.5 mg of $1a$ (0.25 mmol, 5 mol%) dissolved in 1.0 mL of a DMC:H2O (1:1) solution. Product **36** (380 mg, 5.0 mmol, >99% yield) was isolated as above.

The same reaction was performed in flow employing 708 μ L of 2c (20 mmol),198 mg of 1a (1 mmol, 5 mol%) dissolved in 4.0 mL of a DMC:H2O (1:1) solution. Product **36** (1.52 g, 20 mmol, >99% yield) was collected in the Erlenmeyer flask after 6 h of irradiation and obtained as a pure solid after the removal of the solvent under vacuum. Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature. S²⁴

36. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 4.68–4.37 (m, 2H), 3.86–3.64 (m, 1H), 3.46 (ddd, *J* = 11.4, 5.9, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 3.27 (ddd, $J = 11.4$, 7.7, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 1.03 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 3H).¹³C $\binom{1}{1}$ NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3) δ 68.1, 67.5, 18.5.

1-Azidopropan-2-ol (37). Starting from 17.7 μ L of **2c** (0.5 mmol), 81.2 mg of sodium azide (1.25 mmol, 2.5 equiv.), 4.9 mg of **1a** (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%) dissolved in 100 µL of a DMC:H₂O (1:1) solution. Product 37 (50.5 mg, 0.5 mmol, >99%

yield, colourless oil) was isolated in satisfying purity by treatment with MgSO4, filtration and removal of the solvent under vacuum. The same reaction was performed on a larger scale employing $177 \mu L$ of **2c** (5 mmol), 813 mg of sodium azide (12.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv.), 49.5 mg of **1a** (0.25 mmol, 5 mol%) dissolved in 1.0 mL of a DMC:H2O (1:1) solution. Product **37** (505 mg, 5.0 mmol, >99% yield) was isolated as above. Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature.^{S25}

37. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 3.87 (dtd, *J* = 7.1, 6.3, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 3.34–3.03 (m, 2H), 2.91 (bs, 1H), 1.12 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3) δ 66.3, 57.8, 19.8.

Hexane-1,2-diol (38). Starting from $61.7 \mu L$ of $2d$ (0.5 mmol), 4.9 mg of $1a$ 38 **OH** OH (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%) dissolved in 100 μ L of a DMC:H₂O (1:1) solution. Product **38** (59.0 mg, 0.5 mmol, 99% yield, colourless oil) was isolated in satisfying purity by treatment with MgSO4, filtration and removal of the solvent under vacuum. Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature. $S¹¹$

38. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 4.04 (s, 2H), 3.69–3.41 (m, 2H), 3.28 (dd, *J* = 11.3, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 1.37–1.13 (m, 6H), 0.79 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 72.2, 66.6, 32.6, 27.7, 22.6, 13.9.

1-Azidohexan-2-ol (39). Starting from $61.7 \mu L$ of **2d** (0.5 mmol), 81.2 mg of sodium azide (1.25 mmol, 2.5 equiv.), 4.9 mg of **1a** (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%) dissolved in 100 μ L of a DMC:H₂O (1:1) solution. Product 39 (70.2 mg, 0.5)

mmol, $>99\%$ yield, pale yellow oil) was isolated in satisfying purity by treatment with MgSO₄, filtration and removal of the solvent under vacuum. The same reaction was performed on a larger scale employing $617 \mu L$ of $2d$ (5 mmol), 813 mg of sodium azide (12.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv.), 49.5 mg of **1a** (0.25 mmol, 5 mol%) dissolved in 1 mL of a DMC:H2O (1:1) solution. Product **39** (715 mg, 5.0 mmol, >99% yield) was isolated as above. Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature.^{S26}

39. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3δ 3.79–3.73 (m, 1H), 3.38 (dd, *J* = 12.4, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 3.25 (dd, *J* = 12.4, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 2.25 (bs, 1H), 1.53–1.32 (m, 6H), 0.92 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3H). ¹³C $\{\text{^1H}\}$ NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3) δ 70.7, 57.0, 33.9, 27.5, 22.5, 13.8.

2-Butylthiirane (40). Starting from $61.7 \mu L$ of **2d** (0.5 mmol), 120 mg of S 40 KSCN (1.25 mmol 2.5 equiv.), 4.9 mg of **1a** (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%) dissolved in 100 μ L of a DMC:H₂O (1:1) solution. Product 40 (58.0 mg, 0.5 mmol, >99% yield, colourless oil) was isolated in satisfying purity by treatment with MgSO4, filtration and removal of the solvent under vacuum. Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature.^{S23}

40. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 2.89 (q, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 2.50 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 2.15 (d, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 1.52–1.34 (m, 6H), 0.93 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 36.2, 35.9, 31.4, 25.8, 22.2, 13.9.

Ring opening of 1,2-epoxyoctane 2e with methanol. Compound **41** and **41'** were

obtained starting from 76.0 μ L of $2e$ (0.5 mmol), 55 μ L of methanol (1.25 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) and 4.9 mg of **1a** (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%). Compounds **41** (40.1 mg, 0.25 mmol, 50% yield) and **41'** (34.4 mg, 0.22 mmol, 43% yield) were isolated by flash column chromatography (eluent Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 9:1) both as colourless oils (see the chromatogram of the crude mixture below). The same reaction performed with 64.0 μ L of $2e$ (0.5 mmol), 55 μ L of methanol (1.25 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) and 6.9 mg of **1b** (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%) afforded **41** and **41'** respectively in 70% and 30% yield as determined by GC analysis. Spectroscopic data for **41** and **41'** were in accordance with the literature.^{S27}

41. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 3.81–3.76 (m, 1H), 3.44–3.40 (m, 4H), 3.25 (dd, *J* = 9.5, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 2.32 (s, 1H), 1.47–1.40 (m, 2H), 1.34–1.30 (m, 8H), 0.95–0.85 (m, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3) δ 79.0, 70.2, 58.9, 33.0, 31.6, 29.2, 25.4, 22.5, 13.9.

41'. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 3.76–3.66 (m, 1H), 3.53-3.46 (m, 1H), 3.42 (s, 3H), 3.33–3.23 $(m, 1H)$, 1.99 (s, 1H), 1.62–1.38 (m, 2H), 1.33–1.29 (m, 8H), 0.95–0.85 (m, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3) δ 81.5, 63.9, 56.9, 31.6, 30.2, 29.4, 25.2, 22.5, 13.9.

GC-MS trace of the crude reaction mixture.

Octane-1,2-diol (42). Starting from 76.0 µL of 2e (0.5 mmol), 4.9 mg of 42 **OH** OH **1a** (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%) dissolved in 100 μ L of a DMC:H₂O (1:1) solution. Product **42** (73.0 mg, 0.5 mmol, >99% yield, colourless oil) was isolated in satisfying purity by treatment with MgSO4, filtration and removal of the solvent under vacuum. Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature.^{S11}

42. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 3.97 (s, 2H), 3.71–3.52 (m, 2H), 3.37 (dd, *J* = 11.3, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 1.49–1.18 (m, 10H), 0.97–0.73 (m, 3H). ${}^{13}C{^1H}$ NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 72.2, 66.6, 32.9, 31.7, 29.3, 25.5, 22.5, 13.9.

2-Azidooctan-1-ol (43). Starting from 76.0 µL of 2e (0.5 mmol), 81.2 mg of sodium azide (1.25 mmol, 2.5 equiv.), 4.9 mg of **1a** (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%) dissolved in 100 µL of a DMC:H₂O (1:1) solution. Product 43

(85.2 mg, 0.5 mmol, >99% yield, colourless oil) was isolated in satisfying purity by treatment with MgSO4, filtration and removal of the solvent under vacuum. The same reaction was performed on a larger scale employing 760 µL of 2e (5 mmol), 813 mg of sodium azide (12.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv.), 49.5 mg of $1a$ (0.25 mmol, 5 mol%) dissolved in 400 μ L of a DMC:H₂O (1:1) solution. Product 43 (850) mg, 5.0 mmol, >99% yield) was isolated as above.

43. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 3.82–3.74 (m, 1H), 3.40 (dd, *J* = 12.4, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 3.27 (dd, *J* = 12.4, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 1.90 (bs, 1H), 1.53–1.45 (m, 2H), 1.35–1.29 (m, 8H), 0.95–0.86 (m, 3H). ${}^{13}C\{{}^{1}H\}$ NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 70.8, 57.0, 34.2, 31.6, 29.1, 25.3, 22.5, 14.0. HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: calcd. for $C_8H_{19}N_3O$ [M+H]⁺: 172.1452, found: 172.1448.

2-Hexylthiirane (44). Starting from $76.0 \mu L$ of $2e$ (0.5 mmol), 120 mg of KSCN (1.25 mmol 2.5 equiv.), 4.9 mg of **1a** (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%) dissolved in 100 μ L of a DMC:H₂O (1:1) solution. Product 44 (72.0 mg, 0.5 mmol, >99% yield,

colourless oil) was isolated in satisfying purity by treatment with MgSO4, filtration and removal of the solvent under vacuum. Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature.^{S23}

44. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 2.89 (q, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 1H), 2.50 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 2.15 (d, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 1.54–1.48 (m, 2H), 1.36–1.27 (m, 8H), 0.89 (t, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3) δ 36.5, 36.0, 31.6, 29.2, 28.8, 25.8, 22.5, 14.0.

Ring opening of isobutene oxide 2f with n-butanol. Starting from 88.0 uL of **2f** (1.0 mmol), 228 uL of butanol (2.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) and 9.9 mg of **1a** (0.05 mmol, 5 mol%). The two regioisomers **45** S28 and **45'**S29 (146.0 mg, 1.0 mmol, >99% yield in a 1:1 ratio, see the chromatogram below) were isolated

as an inseparable mixture by treatment with MgSO4, filtration and removal of the solvent under vacuum.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃ of the mixture) δ 3.64–3.29 (m, 3H + 3H), 3.24 (s, 1H + 1H), 2.19 (s, 1H), 1.70–1.43 (m, 2H + 2H), 1.42–1.28 (m, 2H + 2H), 1.21–1.14 (m, 13H), 0.98–0.90 (m, 3H + $3H$).¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃ of the mixture) δ 74.9, 74.7, 68.9, 67.4, 61.4, 32.3, 22.5, 22.0, 19.3, 19.2, 13.8.

GC-MS trace of the crude reaction mixture.

2-Methylpropane-1,2-diol (46). Starting from $88.0 \mu L$ of $2f(1.0 \text{ mmol})$, 9.9 mg of 46 HO .OH **1a** (0.05 mmol, 5 mol%) dissolved in 200 μ L of a DMC:H₂O (1:1) solution. Product **46** (90.0 mg, 1.0 mmol, >99% yield, colourless oil) was isolated in satisfying purity by treatment with MgSO4, filtration and removal of the solvent under vacuum. Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature.^{S30}

46. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.90 (s, 2H), 3.38 (s, 2H), 1.17 (s, 6H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3) δ 71.2, 70.6, 25.5.

HO. 47

1-Azido-2-methylpropan-2-ol (47). Starting from 88.0 µL of 2f (1.0 mmol), 164.2 mg of sodium azide (2.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv.), 9.9 mg of **1a** (0.05 mmol, 5 mol%) dissolved in 200 μ L of a DMC:H₂O (1:1) solution. Product 47 (115.0 mg, 1.0 mmol, >99% yield, colourless oil) was isolated in satisfying purity by treatment with MgSO4, filtration and removal of the solvent under vacuum. Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature.^{S31}

47. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.26 (s, 2H), 2.01 (s, 1H), 1.26 (s, 6H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3) δ 70.8, 62.0, 26.7.

1-(Benzyloxy)-3-methoxypropan-1-ol (48). Starting from 77.0 µL of $2g$ (0.5 mmol), 51 μ L of MeOH and 4.9 mg of 1a (0.025 mmol, 5)

mol%). Product **48** (98.0 mg, 0.5 mmol, >99% yield, pale yellow oil) was isolated by flash column chromatography (eluent Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 9:1). (Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature.^{S32}

48. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.47–7.20 (m, 5H), 4.58 (s, 2H), 4.16–3.87 (m, 1H), 3.55 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 5.5 Hz, 2H), 3.47 (t, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 2H), 3.40 (s, 3H), 2.54 (s, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3) δ 137.9, 128.3, 127.7, 127.6, 73.7, 73.4, 71.2, 69.4, 59.1.

 $1-(\text{Benzyloxy})-3-ethoxypropan-2-ol (49)$. Starting from 77.0 μ L of $2g$ (0.5 mmol), 73 µL of EtOH and 4.9 mg of **1a** (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%). Product **49** (105.1 mg, 0.5 mmol, >99% yield, pale yellow oil) was isolated

by flash column chromatography). NMR analyses pointed out the presence of 2-(benzyloxy)-3 ethoxypropan-1-ol as the minor regioisomer (<5%). GC-MS analysis of the crude mixture showed that the byproduct has the same molecular weight of **49** (see below).

49. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.41–7.34 (m, 5H), 4.58 (s, 2H), 4.20–3.89 (m, 1H), 3.59–3.47 (m, 6H), 2.65 (s, 1H), 1.22 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 137.9, 128.3, 127.6, 127.5, 73.3, 71.5, 71.3, 69.4, 66.7, 15.0.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: calcd. for C₁₂H₁₈O₃Na [M+Na]⁺: 233.1154, found: 233.1144.

GC-MS trace of the crude reaction mixture (Up). GC-MS analysis of product **49** (retention time 23.8 min, middle) and its regioisomer (retention time 24.2 min, down).

3-(Benzyloxy)propane-1,2-diol (50). Starting from 77.0 µL of 2g (0.5) mmol), 4.9 mg of $1a$ (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%) dissolved in 100 μ L of a DMC:H2O (1:1) solution. Product **50** (91.0 mg, 0.5 mmol, >99% yield, colourless oil) was isolated in satisfying purity by treatment with MgSO4, filtration and removal of the solvent under vacuum. Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature.^{S33}

50. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.55–7.12 (m, 5H), 4.56 (s, 2H), 3.90 (td, $J = 5.9$, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 3.75–3.61 (m, 2H), 3.60–3.51 (m, 2H), 2.70 (s, 2H). ${}^{13}C(^{1}H)$ NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 137.6, 128.4, 127.8, 127.7, 73.5, 71.7, 70.6, 63.9.

1-Azido-3-(benzyloxy)propan-2-ol (51). Starting from $77.0 \mu L$ of $2g$ (0.5 mmol), 81.2 mg of sodium azide (1.25 mmol, 2.5 equiv.), 4.9 mg of **1a** (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%) dissolved in 100 μ L of a DMC:H₂O (1:1)

solution. Product **51** (98.0 mg, 0.46 mmol, 91% yield, pale yellow oil) was isolated by flash column chromatography (eluant Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 7:3). Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature.^{S34}

51. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.43–7.30 (m, 5H), 4.58 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 2H), 3.99 (q, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 3.59–3.52 (m, 3H), 3.40 (dd, *J* = 5.5, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 2.57 (s, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3) δ 137.5, 128.4, 127.7, 127.7, 73.5, 71.2, 69.6, 53.4.

 $2-($ (Benzyloxy)methyl)thiirane (52). Starting from 77.0 μ L of $2g$ (0.5) mmol), 120 mg of KSCN (1.25 mmol 2.5 equiv.), 4.9 mg of **1a** (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%) dissolved in 100 µL of a DMC:H₂O (1:1) solution. Product 52 (91.0)

mg, 0.5 mmol, $>99\%$ yield, colourless oil) was isolated in satisfying purity by treatment with MgSO₄. filtration and removal of the solvent under vacuum. Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature.^{S35}

52. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.70–7.11 (m, 5H), 4.62 (s, 1H), 3.72 (dd, *J* = 10.6, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 3.52 (dd, *J* = 10.6, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 3.14 (ddd, *J* = 12.1, 6.7, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 2.55 (dt, *J* = 6.2, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 2.24 (dd, $J = 5.3$, 1.3 Hz, 1H).¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 137.8, 128.4, 127.7, 127.7, 74.6, 73.0, 32.1, 23.7.

Methyl 2,3-dihydroxy-3-phenylpropanoate (53). Starting from 178 μL of $2h$ (1 mmol), 9.9 mg of $1a$ (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%) dissolved in 200 μ L of a DMC:H2O (1:1) solution. Product **53** (99.9 mg, 0.51 mmol, 51%

yield) was isolated as a 1:1 mixture of diastereomers by flash column chromatography (eluent Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 7:3). Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature.^{S36}

53. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, of the mixture) δ 7.47–7.29 (m, 5H + 5H), 5.03 (t, *J* = 3.5 Hz, 1H + 1H), 4.51 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 4.38 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.11 (bs, 2H + 2H).

 ${}^{13}C_{1}{}^{1}H$ NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, of the mixture) δ 173.1, 172.3, 139.8, 138.5, 129.4, 128.4, 128.2, 128.1, 128.0, 126.2, 126.1, 120.0, 74.9, 74.7, 52.8, 52.3.

Methyl 3-azido-2-hydroxy-3-phenylpropanoate (54). Starting from 178 µL of **2h** (1 mmol), 162.4 mg of sodium azide (2.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv.), 9.9 mg of $1a$ (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%) dissolved in 200 μ L of a DMC:H₂O

(1:1) solution. Product **54** (41.9 mg, 0.19 mmol, 19% yield, colourless oil) was isolated by flash column chromatography (eluent Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 7:3) as the *trans* isomer. Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature.⁸³⁶

54. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.41–7.32 (m, 5H), 4.88 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 4.72–4.13 (m, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.93 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3) δ 171.7, 134.2, 128.8, 128.6, 127.6, 73.7, 67.2, 52.6.

3-Chloropropane-1,2-diol (55). Starting from 39.0 µL of 2i (0.5 mmol), 4.9 OH \overline{C} 55 HO. mg of $1a$ (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%) dissolved in 100 μ L of a DMC:H₂O (1:1) solution. Product **55** (55.0 mg, 0.5 mmol, >99% yield, pale yellow oil) was isolated in satisfying purity by treatment with MgSO4, filtration and removal of the solvent under vacuum. Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature.⁸³⁷

55. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 3.91 (td, *J* = 5.7, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 3.77–3.72 (m, 1H), 3.68–3.55 (m, 3H), 3.28 (bs, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3) δ 71.7, 63.6, 45.7.

1,3-Diazidopropan-2-ol (56). Starting from 39.0 µL of 2i (0.5 mmol), 81.2 mg OH N_{2} N_3 56 of sodium azide (1.25 mmol, 2.5 equiv.), 4.9 mg of **1a** (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%) dissolved in 100 μ L of a DMC:H₂O (1:1) solution. Product 56 (71.0 mg, 0.5 mmol, >99% yield, pale yellow oil) was isolated in satisfying purity by treatment with MgSO4, filtration and removal of the solvent under vacuum. Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature. S38

56. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 5.85 (bs, 1H), 4.03–3.82 (m, 1H), 3.45–3.31 (m, 4H), 3.27 (bs, 2H). ${}^{13}C\{{}^{1}H\}$ NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 69.5, 53.8.

Post transformations.

Scheme S1. Telescopic synthesis of a 2-phenyl-4-methyl-1,3-dioxolane.

Telescopic synthesis of 2-phenyl-4-methyl-1,3-dioxolane 57 (Scheme S1). Propylene glycol **36** was prepared by irradiation of a solution of 88.5 μ L of 2c (5 mmol), 49.9 mg of 1a (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%) in 1 mL of a MeCN:H2O (1:1). Product **36** (380.0 mg, 5.0 mmol, 99% yield) was isolated in satisfying purity by treatment with MgSO4, filtration and removal of the solvent under vacuum.

Diol 36 was mixed with 510 μ L of benzaldehyde (5 mmol, 1 equiv.), 240 mg of MgSO₄ (2 mmol, 0.4 equiv.) and 49.5 mg of **1a** (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%) in 8 mL of dimethyl carbonate and irradiated for 2 h under vigorous stirring. S39 The photolyzed mixture was concentrated under vacuum. Product **57** (738 mg, 4.5 mmol, 90% yield, colourless oil) was isolated by flash column chromatography (eluent Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 7:3) as a mixture of diastereoisomers in a (4:3) ratio. Spectroscopic data for **57** were in accordance with literature.^{S40}

4-Methyl-2-phenyl-1,3-dioxolane (57).

57 ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3, of the mixture) δ 7.61–7.56 (m, 4H minor), 7.48– 7.41 (m, 5H major), 6.04 (s, 1H minor), 5.88 (s, 1H major), 4.45–4.22 (m, 3H

minor + major), 4.13 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 6.5 Hz, 1H minor), 3.61 (dt, *J* = 18.5, 7.5 Hz, 2H minor + major), 1.43 (d, $J = 6.1$ Hz, 3H major), 1.38 (d, $J = 6.1$ Hz, 3H minor). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, of the mixture) δ 138.7, 138.1, 129.2, 129.0, 128.3, 126.6, 126.3, 104.0, 103.0, 73.3, 72.2, 71.9, 71.3, 18.5, 18.3.

Scheme S2. Telescopic synthesis of adipic acid.

Telescopic synthesis of adipic acid 58 (**Scheme S2).** 1,2-Cyclohexandiol **33** was synthesized by irradiation of a solution of 500 μ L of 2b (5 mmol), 49.5 mg of 1a (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%) in 1 mL of a MeCN:H2O (1:1). Product **33** (510.0 mg, 5 mmol, 99% yield) was isolated in satisfying purity by treatment with MgSO4, filtration and removal of the solvent under vacuum.

Diol **33** was dissolved in 1 mL of a DMC/water 1:1 mixture. To the so formed mixture, 36 mg of NiCl₂ hexahydrate were added and the mixture was cooled to 0° C under vigorous stirring. Finally, 30 mL of bleach (5% aqueous sodium hypochlorite solution) were poured into the mixture while maintaining a vigorous stirring.^{S41} After 2 h the resulting solution was acidified with 2 M HCl and extracted with ether, dried over MgSO4, concentrated under vacuum affording the crude product that was recrystalized from water yielding 555 mg of **58** (76% yield) as a white solid. Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature.⁸⁴¹

Adipic acid (58).S41

58. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d6*) δ 11.81 (s, 2H), 2.24–2.10 (m, 4H), 1.54–1.40 (m, 4H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d6*) δ 174.3, 33.3,

24.0.

m. p. (water) = 152–153 °C (lit.S39 = 153–154 °C).

Scheme S3. Telescopic synthesis of substituted triazole **59**.

Telescopic synthesis of triazole 59 (**Scheme S3**)**.** Compound **39** was synthesized by irradiation of a solution of $617 \mu L$ of $2d$ (5 mmol), 813 mg of sodium azide (12.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv.), 49.5 mg of $1a$ (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%) in 400 L of MeCN:H2O (1:1. Product **39** (715 mg, 5 mmol, 99% yield) was isolated in satisfying purity by treatment with MgSO4, filtration and removal of the solvent under vacuum.

To the azido alcohol 39 obtained, 1 mL of glycerol, 548 μ L of phenylacetylene and 4.8 mg of CuI were added. The so-formed mixture was stirred for 90 min at room temperature, quenched with 5 mL of H2O, extracted with diethyl ether, dried over MgSO4, filtrated and concentrated under vacuum. Product **59** (1.25 g, 5 mmol, >99% yield, colourless solid) was isolated by flash column chromatography (eluant Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 7:3). Spectroscopic data were in accordance with the literature.^{S42}

1-(4-Phenyl-1*H***-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl)hexan-2-ol (59).**

59. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.81 (s, 1H), 7.68 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 7.44–7.26 (m, 3H), 4.56–4.41 (m, 1H), 4.21 (dt, *J* =

16.8, 5.6 Hz, 2H), 3.74 (s, 1H), 1.69–1.35 (m, 6H), 0.94 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3) δ 147.1, 130.2, 128.7, 127.9, 125.4, 121.1, 70.3, 56.3, 34.1, 27.5, 22.4, 13.9. m. p. = 92–93 °C (lit.^{S43} = 92–94 °C).

Scheme S4. Telescopic synthesis of diol **15**.

Telescopic synthesis of diol 15 (**Scheme S4**)**.** Styrene (104 mg, 1.00 mmol) was placed in a roundbottom flask, followed by 2,2,2-trifluoro-1-phenylethanone (9.0 mg, 0.05 mmol). *tert*-butyl alcohol (1 mL), aqueous buffer solution (1 mL, 0.6 M K₂CO₃, 4×10^{-4} M EDTA), acetonitrile (0.8 mL) and 30% aqueous H₂O₂ (1.8 mL) were added consecutively. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 2 h at room temperature. Then, the reaction mixture was diluted with H_2O (6 mL) and extracted with CHCl₃ (3×6 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with H₂O (2×6 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. (100% yield).⁵⁴⁴ The resulting crude mixture was placed in a glass vial, followed by arylazo sulfones **1a** (9.9 mg, 0.05 mmol, 5 mol%) and acetonitrile:water (1:1, 0.5 mL). The vial was left stirring under blue LED bulb irradiation (427 nm) for 16 h. Product **15** (120 mg, 0.87 mmol, 87% yield, colourless solid) was isolated by flash column chromatography (eluant Cyclohexane-Ethyl acetate 7:3).

3. Mechanistic investigation.

Kinetic analyses. In a flame-dried vial, epoxide 2a (113 µL, 1 mmol, 2 M, 1.0 equiv.) and methanol (100 μ L, 2.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) were dissolved in DMC (500 μ L as the final volume). Arylazo sulfone 1a (0.05 mmol, 5 mol%) was then added and the so formed mixture was irradiated under vigorous stirring with a 40W 427 nm KESSIL Lamp. The irradiations were monitored at 15', 30', 60', 120', 180', 240', 480', 960' and each mixture was diluted 1:20 with a solution of DMC containing the standard (cyclododecane, 0.1 M) and analysed by GC-FID (Figure S7).

Figure S7. Kinetic studies on the reaction of the ring opening of styrene oxide **2a.** In the plot the yield of formation of the product **3** is reported.

4. Process Mass Intensity (PMI).

The Process Mass Intensity metric was calculated for selected reactions herein reported.

Synthesis of 2-Azido-2-phenylethan-1-ol (16).

Scheme S5. Synthesis of **16**.

 PMI $\frac{Mass_{2a} + Mass_{NaN_3} + Mass_{H_2O} + Mass_{DMC} + Mass_{PAG} + Mass_{MgSO_4}}{Mg_{SC}}$ $Mass₁₆$ $\frac{601 mg + 650 mg + 250 mg + 268 mg + 49.5 mg + 500 mg}{4.500 mg + 250 mg + 250 g}$ 815 ma Measured PMI = 2.84 Kg/Kg

Scheme S6. Synthesis of **33** on different conditions.

$$
PMI_{(0.5 \, mmol \, scale)}
$$
\n
$$
\frac{Mass_{2b} + Mass_{H_2O} + Mass_{DMC} + Mass_{PAG} + Mass_{MgSO_4}}{Mass_{33}}
$$
\n
$$
\frac{49.1 \, mg + 50.0 \, mg + 53.5 \, mg + 4.90 \, mg + 50.0 \, mg}{58.8 \, mg}
$$
\n
$$
Measured \, PMI = 3.53 \, Kg/Kg
$$
\n
$$
PMI_{(5.0 \, mmol \, scale)}
$$
\n
$$
\frac{Mass_{2b} + Mass_{H_2O} + Mass_{DMC} + Mass_{PAG} + Mass_{MgSO_4}}{Mass_{33}}
$$
\n
$$
\frac{491 \, mg + 500 \, mg + 535 \, mg + 49.0 \, mg + 500 \, mg}{588 \, mg}
$$
\n
$$
Measured \, PMI = 3.53 \, Kg/Kg
$$
\n
$$
PMI = 3.53 \, Kg/Kg
$$

 $PMI_{(20 \,mmol scale flow)}$

Scheme S7. Synthesis of **36** on different conditions.

$$
PMI_{(0.5 \, mmol \, scale)}
$$
\n
$$
\frac{Mass_{2c} + Mass_{H_2O} + Mass_{DMC} + Mass_{PAG} + Mass_{MgSO_4}}{Mass_{36}}
$$
\n
$$
\frac{15.1 \, mg + 50.0 \, mg + 53.5 \, mg + 4.90 \, mg + 50.0 \, mg}{38.0 \, mg}
$$
\n
$$
Measured \, PMI = 4.56 \, Kg/Kg
$$
\n
$$
PMI_{(5.0 \, mmol \, scale)}
$$
\n
$$
\frac{Mass_{2c} + Mass_{H_2O} + Mass_{DMC} + Mass_{PAG} + Mass_{MgSO_4}}{Mass_{36}}
$$
\n
$$
\frac{151 \, mg + 500 \, mg + 535 \, mg + 49.0 \, mg + 500 \, mg}{380 \, mg}
$$
\n
$$
Measured \, PMI = 4.56 \, Kg/Kg
$$
\n
$$
PMI_{(20 \, mmol \, scale \, flow)}
$$
\n
$$
\frac{Mass_{2b} + Mass_{H_2O} + Mass_{DMC} + Mass_{PAG} + Mass_{MgSO_4}}{Mass_{33}}
$$
\n
$$
\frac{608 \, mg + 200 \, mg + 963 \, mg + 198 \, mg + 1000 \, mg}{1520 \, mg}
$$
\n
$$
Measured \, PMI = 1.95 \, Kg/Kg
$$

5. References.

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6. ¹H and ¹³{ ¹H}C NMR spectra of compounds 3-59.

1 H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz)

1 H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz)

1 H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz)

 $\frac{1}{200}$

 $\frac{1}{190}$

 $\frac{1}{180}$

 $\frac{1}{170}$

 $\frac{1}{150}$

 $\frac{1}{160}$

 $\frac{1}{140}$

 $\frac{1}{130}$

 $\frac{1}{120}$

 $\frac{1}{100}$

 $\frac{1}{90}$

 $rac{1}{80}$

 $\frac{1}{70}$

 $rac{1}{60}$

 $\frac{1}{50}$

 $\frac{1}{40}$

 $\frac{1}{30}$

 $\frac{1}{20}$

 $\frac{1}{10}$

 $\frac{1}{110}$

S59

 $\frac{1}{0}$

 $\frac{1}{200}$

 $\frac{1}{190}$

 $\frac{1}{180}$

 $\frac{1}{170}$

 $\frac{1}{160}$

 $\frac{1}{140}$

 $\frac{1}{150}$

 $\frac{1}{130}$

 $\frac{1}{120}$

 $\frac{1}{110}$

 $\begin{array}{c}\n1 \\
100 \\
ppm\n\end{array}$

 $\frac{1}{90}$

 $\frac{1}{80}$

 $\frac{1}{70}$

 $\frac{1}{60}$

 $\frac{1}{50}$

 $\frac{1}{40}$

 $\frac{1}{30}$

 $\frac{1}{20}$

 $\frac{1}{10}$

 $\overline{0}$

 $\frac{1}{190}$

 $\frac{1}{180}$

 $\frac{1}{170}$

 $\frac{1}{160}$

 $\frac{1}{150}$

 $\begin{array}{c}\n1 \\
100 \\
ppm\n\end{array}$ $\frac{1}{90}$ $\frac{1}{80}$

 $\frac{1}{70}$

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 $\frac{1}{30}$

 $rac{1}{20}$

 $\frac{1}{10}$

 1 H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz)

 $\frac{1}{190}$

 $\frac{1}{180}$

 $\frac{1}{170}$

 $\frac{1}{160}$

 $\frac{1}{140}$

 $\frac{1}{110}$

 $\begin{array}{c}\n1 \\
100 \\
ppm\n\end{array}$

 $\frac{1}{90}$

 $\frac{1}{80}$

 $\frac{1}{40}$

 $\frac{1}{30}$

 $\begin{array}{c}\n1 \\
10\n\end{array}$

 1 H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz)

41

 0.0

 $\frac{1}{200}$

 $\frac{1}{190}$

 $\frac{1}{180}$

 $\frac{1}{170}$

 $\frac{1}{160}$

 $\frac{1}{150}$ $\frac{1}{140}$ $\frac{1}{130}$

 $\frac{1}{70}$ $\frac{1}{60}$

 $\frac{1}{80}$

 $\frac{1}{50}$

 $\frac{1}{30}$

 $\frac{1}{20}$

 $\frac{1}{10}$

 $\frac{1}{0}$

