Supplementary Information (SI) for Reaction Chemistry & Engineering. This journal is © The Royal Society of Chemistry 2025

Supporting Information

Efficient and Convenient Synthesis of Methyl (S)-5-Chloro-2-Hydroxy-1-Oxo-

2,3-Dihydro-1H-Indene-2-Carboxylate: A Key Intermediate for (S)-Indoxacarb

Using Aqueous TBHP as Oxidant

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Table of Contents

1. General information	83
2. Reaction optimization tables	S3
3. Preparation of chiral ligan L1	
4. General procedure for the synthesis of β-keto esters	S6
5. General procedure for the enantioselective hydroxylation of β -keto ester	S12
6. Gram-scale experiment	S18
7. The recyclability of the catalytic system	
8. Mechanistic studies	
9. References	S22
10. Copies of ¹ H and ¹³ C NMR spectras	S23
11. Copies of HPLC chromatogram	S 46

1. General Information

TLC analysis was performed on pre-coated, glass-backed silica gel plates and visualized with UV light. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (200-300 mesh). ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on Agilent-400 MHz. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm versus tetramethylsilane with either tetramethylsilane or the residual solvent resonance used as an internal standard. Abbreviations were used in the description of NMR data as follows: chemical shift (δ , ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, dd = doublet of doublets, m = multiplet), coupling constant (*J*, Hz). Mass spectra were determined on an Agilent 6520 QTOF., using electron spray ionization (ESI). Melting points are performed on an SGWX-4 digital visual melting point apparatus without correction. All other commercial chemicals were used without further purification.

2. Reaction optimization tables

2.1 Optimization of the amount of Zr(acac)₄ and L1 (Table S1)



^{*a*} Reaction conditions: Zr(acac)₄ (x equiv.), L1 (y equiv.), Petroleum ether (4.3 mL), 30 min. Then, 2a (0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), TBHP (70% in H₂O) (0.375 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), 24 h. ^{*b*} Isolated yield and purification by filtration. ^{*c*} Determined by chiral HPLC.

2.2 Optimization of the amount of TBHP and the volume of petroleum ether (Table S2)

		OMe		
	Ph_{T}	NH OH		
	L1: Ph	ИНОН		
		OMe		
		Zr(acac) ₄		O₂Me
\sim	TBHP	$P(70\% \text{ in } H_2O),$		Η
	Za Pelio		a °	
Entry ^a	TBHP (70% in H ₂ O) (equiv.)	Volume of petroleum ether	Yield ^b	ee ^c
Entry ^a	TBHP (70% in H₂O) (equiv.) 1.5	Volume of petroleum ether 4.3 mL	Yield ^b 89%	ee ^c 99%
Entry ^a 1 2	TBHP (70% in H2O) (equiv.) 1.5 2.0	Volume of petroleum ether 4.3 mL 4.3 mL	Yield ^b 89% 82%	ee ^c 99% 99%
Entry ^a 1 2 3	TBHP (70% in H2O) (equiv.) 1.5 2.0 1.2	Volume of petroleum ether 4.3 mL 4.3 mL 4.3 mL	Yield ^b 89% 82% 84%	ee ^c 99% 99%
Entry ^a 1 2 3 4	TBHP (70% in H2O) (equiv.) 1.5 2.0 1.2 1.0	Volume of petroleum ether 4.3 mL 4.3 mL 4.3 mL 4.3 mL 4.3 mL	Yield ^b 89% 82% 84% 78%	ee ^c 99% 99% 99%
Entry ^{<i>a</i>} 1 2 3 4 5	TBHP (70% in H2O) (equiv.) 1.5 2.0 1.2 1.0 1.5 1.5	Volume of petroleum ether 4.3 mL 4.3 mL 4.3 mL 4.3 mL 3.5 mL	Yield ^b 89% 82% 84% 78% 92%	ee ^c 99% 99% 99% 99%

^{*a*} Reaction conditions: Zr(acac)₄ (0.01 mmol, 0.04 equiv.), L1 (0.011 mmol, 0.044 equiv.), Petroleum ether (x mL), 30 min. Then, **2a** (0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), TBHP (70% in H₂O) y equiv.), 24 h. ^{*b*} Isolated yield and purification by filtration. ^{*c*} Determined by chiral HPLC.

3. Preparation of chiral ligan L1



Under argon, 60 mL of toluene and 15 mL of ethanol were added to a mixture of 3bromo-2-hydroxybenzaldehyde (2.010 g, 10 mmol), (2-methoxyphenyl) boronic acid (1.823 g, 12 mmol) and Pd(PPh₃)₄ (0.254 g, 0.22 mmol), giving a yellow solution, to which solid anhydrous K₂CO₃ (3.040 g, 22 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 4 hours under reflux and then allowed to cool to room temperature. Afterwards, the mixture was transferred to a separating funnel to which water and ethyl acetate were added. The water phase was extracted with ethyl acetate, and the organic phase was combined and dried with Na₂SO₄. Purification using column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/dichloromethane = 3/1) to give the desired product **6** as a white solid (2.043 g, 89%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 11.31 (s, 1H), 9.94 (s, 1H), 7.56 (t, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.12 – 6.98 (m, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H). Analytical data are in agreement with those reported in the literature ^[1].

To a solution of (1S,2S)-1,2-diphenylethane-1,2-diamine (0.849 g, 4.0 mmol) in ethanol (120 mL) was added 2-hydroxy-2'-methoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-3-carbaldehyde **6** (1.826 g, 8.0 mmol). The reaction mixture refluxed for 14 h under argon. After cooling to 0 °C, to the above reaction mixture was added sodium borohydride (0.454 g, 12 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 h, and a second portion of sodium borohydride (0.227 g, 6 mmol) was added. After stirring at room temperature for 1 h, the reaction mixture was poured into water 50 mL and the ethanol was removed in vacuo. The suspension was extracted with dichloromethane and the combined organic layers were washed with brine. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and the solvent was concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5/1) to L1 as a white solid (2.394 g, 94%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.37 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.31 (dd, *J* = 7.4, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 7.24 – 7.18 (m, 6H), 7.16 (dd, *J* = 7.4, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 7.04 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.98 – 6.93 (m, 4H), 6.86 – 6.82 (m, 2H), 6.79 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 4.01 (s, 2H), 3.86 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 2H), 3.77 (s, 6H), 3.65 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 2H). Analytical data are in agreement with those reported in the literature ^[2].

4. General procedure for the synthesis of β-keto esters ^[2,3]



To a suspension of NaH (7.5 mmol, 60% dispersion in mineral oil) in dimethyl carbonate or diethyl carbonate (4.8 mL) was added a solution of indanone **3** (3.0 mmol) in dimethyl carbonate or diethyl carbonate (4.8 mL) dropwise at room temperature. The resulting mixture was heated to reflux until full conversion of **3** as indicated by TLC. The resulting solid was dissolved in H_2O (12 mL) and HCl (2 M, 3 mL), extracted with DCM and dried over Na₂SO₄. Purification using column chromatography on silica gel to give the desired product **2**.



Following general procedure and **2a** was obtained as a yellow solid (579 mg, 86%) after purification by flash chromatography. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (duplicate signals are observed for some hydrogens; asterisks indicate those corresponding to the enol rotamer) 10.34^{*} (s, 1H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.56^{*} (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.51

(s, 1H), 7.46^{*} (s, 1H), 7.39 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 3.86^{*} (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.76 (dd, J = 8.3, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 3.56 (dd, J = 17.6, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 3.51^{*} (s, 2H), 3.36 (dd, J = 17.5, 8.4 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (duplicate signals are observed for some carbons; asterisks indicate those corresponding to the enol rotamer) 198.1, 169.2, 155.1, 144.8^{*}, 142.2, 135.5^{*}, 133.7, 128.8, 127.5^{*}, 126.9, 125.9, 125.3^{*}, 121.8^{*}, 53.3, 53.11^{*}, 53.09, 51.5^{*}, 32.5^{*}, 30.0. Analytical data are in agreement with those reported in the literature ^[2].



Following general procedure and **2b** was obtained as a brown liquid (490 mg, 80%) after purification by flash chromatography. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (duplicate signals are observed for some hydrogens; asterisks indicate those corresponding to the enol rotamer) 10.46^{*} (s, 1H), 7.67 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.54^{*} (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (s, 1H), 7.21 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 3.85^{*} (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.74 (dd, J = 8.2, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 3.52 (dd, J = 17.3, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 3.48^{*} (s, 2H), 3.33 (dd, J = 17.2, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.44^{*} (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (duplicate signals are observed for some carbons; asterisks indicate those corresponding to the enol rotamer) 199.0, 169.8, 154.3, 147.0, 133.0, 129.3^{*}, 129.2, 127.0^{*}, 126.9, 124.64, 124.60^{*}, 53.5, 53.4^{*}, 52.9, 52.8^{*}, 32.4^{*}, 30.2, 22.3, 22.2^{*}. Analytical data are in agreement with those reported in the literature ^[2].



Following general procedure and **2c** was obtained as a yellow solid (362 mg, 55%) after purification by flash chromatography. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (duplicate signals are observed for some hydrogens; asterisks indicate those corresponding to the enol rotamer) 10.39^{*} (s, 1H), 7.77^{*} (s, 1H), 7.58 – 7.47^{*} (m, 1H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz,

1H), 7.25 - 7.18 (m, 2H), 7.00^* (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.98^* (d, J = 26.9 Hz, 2H), 3.85^* (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.75^* (s, 3H), 3.65 (d, J = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 3.47 (d, J = 17.4 Hz, 1H), 3.31 (dd, J = 16.8, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.18^* (d, J = 16.9 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (duplicate signals are observed for some carbons; asterisks indicate those corresponding to the enol rotamer) 200.9^{*}, 199.6, 172.1^{*}, 169.7, 159.9^{*}, 159.8, 146.7, 145.3^{*}, 136.5, 134.8^{*}, 127.3, 125.8^{*}, 125.5^{*}, 125.2, 106.3^{*}, 105.7, 56.1^{*}, 55.8, 54.0, 53.6^{*}, 52.9, 51.4^{*}, 38.8^{*}, 29.7. Analytical data are in agreement with those reported in the literature ^[2].



Following general procedure and **2d** was obtained as a gray solid (412 mg, 67%) after purification by flash chromatography. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (duplicate signals are observed for some hydrogens; asterisks indicate those corresponding to the enol rotamer) 10.38^{*} (s, 1H), 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.51 – 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.39^{*} (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.35^{*} (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.79^{*} (s, 3H), 3.74 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 3.51 (dd, *J* = 17.2, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 3.46^{*} (s, 2H), 3.33 (dd, *J* = 17.1, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.40^{*} (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (duplicate signals are observed for some carbons; asterisks indicate those corresponding to the enol rotamer) 199.7, 169.8, 151.1, 140.5^{*}, 138.0, 136.9, 136.8^{*}, 135.5, 130.6^{*}, 126.3, 124.7, 124.5^{*}, 121.2^{*}, 53.6, 52.9, 51.3^{*}, 32.2^{*}, 30.0, 21.5^{*}, 21.2. Analytical data are in agreement with those reported in the literature ^[2].



Following general procedure and **2e** was obtained as an orange liquid (437 mg, 77%) after purification by flash chromatography. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (duplicate signals are observed for some hydrogens; asterisks indicate those corresponding to the

enol rotamer) 10.39^{*} (s, 1H), 7.78 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.49 – 7.44^{*} (m, 2H), 7.40 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.86^{*} (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.75 (dd, J = 8.0, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 3.58 (dd, J = 17.2, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 3.52^{*} (s, 2H), 3.39 (dd, J = 17.3, 8.3 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (duplicate signals are observed for some carbons; asterisks indicate those corresponding to the enol rotamer) 199.6, 169.6, 153.7, 135.7, 135.53^{*}, 135.45, 135.2^{*}, 128.3^{*}, 127.5, 126.8, 126.5^{*}, 124.9, 124.7^{*}, 53.4, 53.1^{*}, 53.0, 52.8^{*}, 30.3, 30.0^{*}. Analytical data are in agreement with those reported in the literature ^[2].



Following general procedure and **2f** was obtained as a white solid (709 mg, 94%) after purification by flash chromatography. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.18 (s, 1H), 6.92 (s, 1H), 3.99 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.74 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 3.47 (dd, *J* = 17.0, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 3.29 (dd, *J* = 17.1, 7.9 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.1, 170.0, 156.2, 149.9, 149.4, 128.0, 107.4, 104.9, 56.5, 56.3, 53.5, 52.9, 30.1. Analytical data are in agreement with those reported in the literature ^[2].

Following general procedure and **2g** was obtained as a white solid (527 mg, 86%) after purification by flash chromatography. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (duplicate signals are observed for some hydrogens; asterisks indicate those corresponding to the enol rotamer) 10.76^{*} (s, 1H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.83^{*} (s, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.69 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 3.49 (dd, *J* = 17.2, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 3.44^{*} (s, 1H), 3.30 (dd, *J* = 17.2, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.63^{*} (s, 3H), 2.60 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (duplicate signals are observed for some carbons; asterisks indicate those corresponding to the enol rotamer) 200.3, 169.9, 154.3,

143.9^{*}, 139.9, 134.8, 132.7, 129.7, 129.3^{*}, 128.9^{*}, 123.9, 122.3^{*}, 53.6, 52.77^{*}, 52.76, 51.2^{*}, 32.2^{*}, 29.9, 18.5^{*}, 18.4.



Following general procedure and **2h** was obtained as a yellow solid (539 mg, 75%) after purification by flash chromatography. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.05 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 3.87 – 3.82 (m, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.63 (dd, *J* = 17.5, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.42 (dd, *J* = 17.6, 7.8 Hz, 1H).¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 199.8, 169.9, 157.4, 136.8, 132.9, 129.6, 129.4, 129.3, 128.4, 127.0, 124.0, 123.7, 53.7, 52.9, 30.7.



Following general procedure and **2i** was obtained as a brown liquid (346 mg, 56%) after purification by flash chromatography. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (duplicate signals are observed for some hydrogens; asterisks indicate those corresponding to the enol rotamer) 10.55^{*} (s, 1H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.70 – 7.64 (m, 1H), 7.64 – 7.60^{*} (m, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.48 – 7.45^{*} (m, 1H), 7.42 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.88^{*} (s, 3H), 3.87 – 3.82 (m, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.73^{*} (s, 1H), 3.67^{*} (dd, *J* = 14.5, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.32 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 1H), 1.50 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.42^{*} (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (duplicate signals are observed for some carbons; asterisks indicate those corresponding to the enol rotamer) 199.0, 169.6, 158.1, 135.7, 135.6^{*}, 134.8, 129.8^{*}, 128.1, 127.1^{*}, 125.2, 124.5, 123.6^{*}, 120.9^{*}, 62.1, 58.1^{*}, 52.8, 51.3^{*}, 39.3^{*}, 37.7, 20.1, 17.1^{*}.



Following general procedure and **2j** was obtained as a brown liquid (519 mg, 79%) after purification by flash chromatography. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (duplicate signals are observed for some hydrogens; asterisks indicate those corresponding to the enol rotamer) 10.70^{*} (s, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.68 – 7.63 (m, 1H), 7.61^{*} (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.47 – 7.42^{*} (m, 2H), 7.40 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.35^{*} (td, J = 7.4, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 3.89^{*} (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.50 (s, 1H), 1.57 (s, 3H), 1.43^{*} (s, 6H), 1.36 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (duplicate signals are observed for some carbons; asterisks indicate those corresponding to the enol rotamer) 199.9, 169.7, 162.3, 155.2^{*}, 135.8, 134.3, 134.2^{*}, 130.2^{*}, 128.1, 127.0^{*}, 124.3, 123.5, 121.9^{*}, 121.1^{*}, 111.7^{*}, 65.4, 52.2, 51.3^{*}, 45.2^{*}, 42.8, 30.6, 26.3^{*}, 24.7.



Following general procedure and **2k** was obtained as a brown liquid (473 mg, 66%) after purification by flash chromatography. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (duplicate signals are observed for some hydrogens; asterisks indicate those corresponding to the enol rotamer) 10.43* (s, 1H), 7.71 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.56* (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (s, 1H), 7.46* (s, 1H), 7.38 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.36* (s, 1H), 4.33* (q, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 4.25 (q, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 3.74 (dd, J = 8.0, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 3.55 (dd, J = 17.3, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 3.51* (s, 1H), 3.36 (dd, J = 17.4, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 1.37* (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 1.32 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (duplicate signals are observed for some carbons; asterisks indicate those corresponding to the enol rotamer) 198.2, 168.8, 155.2, 144.8*, 142.2, 135.6*, 133.8, 128.8, 127.5*, 126.9, 125.9, 125.3*, 121.7*, 62.1, 60.4*, 53.5, 32.6*, 30.1, 29.8*, 14.6*, 14.3.

5. General procedure for the enantioselective hydroxylation of β-keto ester



General procedure A:

To a solution of L1 (0.014 g, 0.022 mmol) in petroleum ether (7.00 mL) was added $Zr(acac)_4$ (0.010 g, 0.020 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. Then, β -keto ester 2 (0.50 mmol) and TBHP (70% in H₂O, 0.096 mL, 0.75 mmol) were added sequentially. The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 24 hours. The precipitates were formed during the course of the reaction, which was filtered and washed thoroughly with cold petroleum ether to give the desired product 1.

General procedure B:

To a solution of L1 (0.014 g, 0.022 mmol) in petroleum ether (7.00 mL) was added $Zr(acac)_4$ (0.010 g, 0.020 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. Then, β -keto ester 2 (0.50 mmol) and TBHP (70% in H₂O, 0.096 mL, 0.75 mmol) were added sequentially, and the resulting solution was stirred at room temperature. After 24 hours, additional TBHP (70% in H₂O, 0.048 mL, 0.375 mmol) was added once every 8 hours for a total of 3 times. The precipitates were formed during the course of the reaction, which was filtered and washed thoroughly with cold petroleum ether to give the desired product 1.

General procedure C:

To a solution of L1 (0.014 g, 0.022 mmol) in petroleum ether (7.00 mL) was added Zr(acac)₄ (0.010 g, 0.020 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30

min. Then, β -keto ester **2** (0.50 mmol) and TBHP (70% in H₂O, 0.096 mL, 0.75 mmol) were added sequentially, and the resulting solution was stirred at room temperature. After 24 hours, additional TBHP (70% in H₂O, 0.048 mL, 0.375 mmol) was added once every 8 hours for a total of 3 times. The mixture was concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by column chromatography to give the desired product **1**.

General procedure D:

To a solution of L1 (0.014 g, 0.022 mmol) in petroleum ether (7.00 mL) was added $Zr(acac)_4$ (0.010 g, 0.020 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. Then, β -keto ester 2 (0.50 mmol) and TBHP (70% in H₂O, 0.096 mL, 0.75 mmol) were added sequentially. The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 24 hours. The mixture was concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by column chromatography to give the desired product 1.



Following general procedure A and **1a** was obtained as a solid (111 mg, yield 92%, ee 99%) after purification by filtration. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): $\delta = 7.74$ (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (s, 1H), 7.42 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (s, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.70 (d, J = 17.5 Hz, 1H), 3.24 (d, J = 17.5 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR(CDCl₃, 100 MHz): $\delta = 199.6$, 171.7, 153.7, 143.0, 132.0, 129.2, 126.9, 126.5, 80.5, 53.8, 39.0. HRMS (ESI): m/z [M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₁₁H₉ClNaO₄: 263.0082; found: 263.0078. HPLC analysis CHIRALPAK OD-H, Hexane: *i*-PrOH=9:1, 25 °C, 1.0 mL/min flow rate, detection at 254 nm, t1=13.99 min (major), t2=17.75 min (minor). Analytical data are in agreement with those reported in the literature ^[2,3].



Following general procedure A and **1b** was obtained as a solid (109 mg, yield 99%, ee 97%) after purification by filtration. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.70 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (s, 1H), 7.24 (brs, 1H), 3.94 (s, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.68 (d, *J* = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 3.21 (d, *J* = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 2.47 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 200.7, 172.0, 152.6, 147.3, 131.2, 129.4, 127.2, 124.4, 80.0, 52.4, 40.7, 21.8. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₂H₁₃O₄ [M+H]⁺: 221.0808, found: 221.0805. HPLC analysis CHIRALPAK OD-H, Hexane: *i*-PrOH=47:3, 25 °C, 0.8 mL/min flow rate, detection at 254 nm, t1=20.20 min (major), t2=24.92 min (minor). Analytical data are in agreement with those reported in the literature ^[2].



Following general procedure A and **1c** was obtained as a solid (106 mg, yield 90%, ee 94%) after purification by filtration. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (s, 1H), 7.22 (s, 1H), 4.11 (s, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.66 (d, J = 17.1 Hz, 1H), 3.18 (d, J = 16.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 201.0, 172.1, 159.9, 145.3, 134.8, 127.3, 125.8, 106.3, 81.2, 55.8, 53.6, 38.8. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₂H₁₃O₅ [M+H]⁺: 237.0757, found: 237.0767. HPLC analysis CHIRALPAK OD-H, Hexane: *i*-PrOH=9:1, 25 °C, 1.0 mL/min flow rate, detection at 254 nm, t1=13.95 min (major), t2=15.94 min (minor). Analytical data are in agreement with those reported in the literature ^[2].



Following general procedure B and **1d** was obtained as a solid (90 mg, yield 81%, ee 95%) after purification by filtration. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.03 (s, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.69 (d, *J* = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 3.21 (d, *J* = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 201.0, 172.2, 149.8, 138.4, 137.6, 133.8, 126.3, 125.3, 80.8, 53.6, 39.1, 21.2. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₂H₁₂NaO₄ [M+Na]⁺: 243.0628, found: 243.0636. HPLC analysis CHIRALPAK OD-H, Hexane: *i*-PrOH=47:3, 25 °C, 0.8 mL/min flow rate, detection at 254 nm, t1=18.07 min (major), t2=21.32 min (minor). Analytical data are in agreement with those reported in the literature ^[2].



Following general procedure B and **1e** was obtained as a solid (87 mg, yield 85%, ee 90%) after purification by filtration. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.81 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.07 (s, 1H), 3.82 – 3.66 (m, 4H), 3.27 (d, *J* = 17.4 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 201.5, 171.9, 152.2, 136.3, 133.5, 128.3, 127.1, 124.5, 79.7, 52.5, 40.9. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₁H₁₁O₄ [M+H]⁺: 207.0652, found: 207.0655. HPLC analysis CHIRALPAK AD-H, Hexane: *i*-PrOH=22:3, 25 °C, 1.0 mL/min flow rate, detection at 254 nm, t1=18.07 min (major), t2=19.53 min (minor). Analytical data are in agreement with those reported in the literature ^[2].



Following general procedure C and **1f** was obtained as a solid (60 mg, yield 45%, ee 97%) after purification by column chromatography. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.20 (s, 1H), 6.91 (s, 1H), 4.00 (s, 3H), 3.96 (d, J = 11.0 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.65 (d, J = 17.0 Hz, 1H), 3.17 (d, J = 17.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ

199.3, 172.3, 156.8, 150.0, 148.3, 126.2, 107.4, 105.3, 80.8, 56.5, 56.2, 53.5, 39.1. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{13}H_{15}O_6$ [M+H]⁺: 267.0863, found: 267.0860. HPLC analysis CHIRALPAK AD-H, Hexane: *i*-PrOH=3:1, 25 °C, 1.0 mL/min flow rate, detection at 254 nm, t1=19.22 min (major), t2=23.06 min (minor). Analytical data are in agreement with those reported in the literature ^[2].



Following general procedure C and **1g** was obtained as a solid (69 mg, yield 62%, ee 53%) after purification by column chromatography. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.51 (dd, *J* = 13.4, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.03 (s, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.70 (d, *J* = 17.3 Hz, 1H), 3.20 (d, *J* = 17.3 Hz, 1H), 2.63 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 201.6, 172.2, 152.9, 140.6, 135.6, 131.2, 130.0, 123.8, 80.5, 53.6, 38.8, 18.5. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₂H₁₃O₄ [M+H]⁺: 221.0808, found: 221.0804. HPLC analysis CHIRALPAK OD-H, Hexane: *i*-PrOH=9:1, 25 °C, 1.0 mL/min flow rate, detection at 254 nm, t1=9.22 min (major), t2=11.40 min (minor).



Following general procedure C and **1h** was obtained as a solid (39 mg, yield 30%, ee 30%) after purification by column chromatography. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.00 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 4.12 (s, 1H), 3.84 (d, *J* = 14.7 Hz, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.37 (d, *J* = 17.6 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 201.1, 172.2, 156.1, 137.6, 133.1, 129.8, 129.7, 128.6, 127.9, 127.3, 124.2, 123.7, 80.7, 53.6, 39.6. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₅H₁₃O₄ [M+H]⁺: 257.0808, found: 257.0808.

HPLC analysis CHIRALPAK OD-H, Hexane: *i*-PrOH=9:1, 25 °C, 1.0 mL/min flow rate, detection at 254 nm, t1=16.85 min (major), t2=19.27 min (minor).



Following general procedure C and **1i** was obtained as a solid (47 mg, yield 42%, ee 63%) after purification by column chromatography. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.80 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (td, *J* = 7.7, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 1H), 3.80 (q, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 1.34 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 201.1, 172.5, 158.6, 136.4, 132.8, 128.3, 125.6, 125.2, 82.1, 53.7, 42.6, 16.2. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₂H₁₃O₄ [M+H]⁺: 221.0808, found: 221.0807. HPLC analysis CHIRALPAK OD-H, Hexane: *i*-PrOH=22:3, 25 °C, 1.0 mL/min flow rate, detection at 254 nm, t1=7.64 min (major), t2=8.74 min (minor).



Following general procedure B and **1j** was obtained as a solid (63 mg, yield 53%, ee 2%) after purification by filtration. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.76 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (s, 1H), 3.61 (s, 3H), 1.39 (s, 3H), 1.23 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 200.7, 172.0, 160.9, 136.1, 133.1, 128.0, 124.6, 123.3, 87.7, 53.3, 46.8, 29.9, 21.4. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₃H₁₅O₄ [M+H]⁺: 235.0965, found: 235.0961. HPLC analysis CHIRALPAK OD-H, Hexane: *i*-PrOH=23:2, 25 °C, 0.8 mL/min flow rate, detection at 254 nm, t1=11.52 min (major), t2=12.60 min (minor).



Following general procedure D and **1k** was obtained as a solid (44 mg, yield 35%, ee 83%) after purification by column chromatography. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (s, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 4.22 (q, *J* = 6.2, 2H), 4.03 (s, 1H), 3.70 (d, *J* = 17.8 Hz, 1H), 3.23 (d, *J* = 17.7 Hz, 1H), 1.20 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 199.7, 171.2, 153.8, 142.9, 132.1, 129.1, 126.8, 126.5, 80.4, 63.1, 39.1, 14.1. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₂H₁₁ClNaO₄ [M+Na]⁺: 277.0238, found: 277.0254. HPLC analysis CHIRALPAK OD-H, Hexane: *i*-PrOH=9:1, 25 °C, 1.0 mL/min flow rate, detection at 254 nm, t1=10.29 min (major), t2=12.49 min (minor). Analytical data are in agreement with those reported in the literature ^[3].

6. Gram-scale experiment

To a solution of L1 (0.841 g, 1.32 mmol) in petroleum ether (420.00 mL) was added $Zr(acac)_4$ (0.585 g, 1.20 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. Then, methyl 5-chloro-1-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-indene-2-carboxylate **2a** (6.739 g, 30.0 mmol) and TBHP (70% in H₂O, 5.79 mL, 45 mmol) were added sequentially. The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 36 hours. Fine white precipitates were formed during the course of the reaction. The white solid product **1a** was isolated by filtration and washed thoroughly with cold petroleum ether: the amount of the obtained product **1a** was 7.053 g (yield 98%, ee 91%).

7. The recyclability of the catalytic system

To a solution of L1 (0.140 g, 0.22 mmol) in petroleum ether (70.0 mL) was added $Zr(acac)_4$ (0.098 g, 0.20 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. Then, methyl 5-chloro-1-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-indene-2-carboxylate **2a** (1.123 g, 5.0 mmol) and TBHP (70% in H₂O, 7.5 mmol) were added sequentially. The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 24 hours. Fine white precipitates were

formed during the course of the reaction. The white solid was isolated by filtration. Firstly, the filtrate solution containing the catalyst was decanted into another flask and fresh portions of ester 2a and TBHP (70% in H₂O) were added to initiate the reaction, and the reaction was reperformed over 3 cycles. Then, the solid was washed thoroughly with cold petroleum ether to give the product 1a.

First cycle: the amount of the obtained product **1a** was 1.095 g (yield 91%, ee 99%) Second cycle: the amount of the obtained product **1a** was 0.902 g (yield 75%, ee 63%) Third cycle: the amount of the obtained product **1a** was 0.517 g (yield 43%, ee 16%)

8. Mechanistic studies

8.1 HRMS Study

To a solution of L1 (7.0 mg, 0.011 mmol) in petroleum ether (3.5 mL) was added $Zr(acac)_4$ (5.0 mg, 0.010 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. Then, a small amount of the mixture was taken in dichloromethane for high resolution mass spectrometry. The HRMS of the in situ generated Zr(IV)-L1 complex exhibits a ion peak at m/z 824.2404, whose mass correspond to $[Zr^{IV}(L1)(acac)]^+$ (calculated m/z = 824.2397) (Figure S1)



Figure S1 HRMS spectrum of Zr(IV)-L1 generated in situ in the reaction of $Zr(acac)_4$ and L1 in petroleum ethe at room temperature.

8.2 NMR Study

A NMR tube was charged with L1 (2.0 mg, 0.0031 mmol), $Zr(acac)_4$ (1.4 mg, 0.028 mmo) and cyclohexane- d_{12} (1.0 mL) and the resulting solution was stirred at room temperature. After 30 min, the mixture was determined by ¹H NMR analysis. The full ¹H NMR spectra were given in Figure S2, compared with the ¹H NMR spectra of $Zr(acac)_4$, acetylacetone and L1, significant chemical shift changes were observated at δ 5.48-5.06 ppm and 2.00-1.35 ppm. The spectra from δ 5.48 ppm to 5.06 ppm were enlarged in Figure S3. From Figure S3, the α -H (-CH-) of acac⁻ in Zr(acac)_4 (δ 5.33 ppm) disappeared and the α -H (-CH-) of acac⁻ in Zr(acac)_4 (δ 5.32 ppm) appeared. Furthermore, Figure S4 showed that the CH₃ of acac⁻ in Zr(acac)_4 (δ 1.80 ppm) disappeared and the CH₃ of acac⁻ in Zr(IV)-L1 complex (δ 1.45 ppm) appeared.



Figure S2 The formation of Zr(IV)-L1 complex evidenced by 1 H NMR analysis. (A) the resulting solution of the reaction between L1 and $Zr(acac)_4$; (B) $Zr(acac)_4$; (C) acetylacetone (Hacac); (D) L1.



Figure S3 The enlarged spectra of Figure S2 scaled from δ 5.48 to 5.06 ppm. (A) the resulting solution of the reaction between L1 and Zr(acac)₄; (B) Zr(acac)₄; (C) acetylacetone (Hacac); (D) L1.



Figure S4 The enlarged spectra of Figure S2 scaled from δ 2.00 to 1.35 ppm. (A) the resulting solution of the reaction between L1 and $Zr(acac)_4$; (B) $Zr(acac)_4$; (C) acetylacetone (Hacac); (D) L1.

9. References

- [1] H.-L. Mu, W.-P. Ye, D.-P. Song, Y.-S. Li, Organometallics, 2010, 29, 6282.
- [2] J. Chen, H.-Y. Gu, X.-Y. Zhu, W.-W. Nam and B. Wang, *Adv. Synth. Catal.*, 2020, 362, 2976.
- [3] F. Yang, J. Zhao, X. Tang, G. Zhou, W. Song, Q. Meng, Org. Lett., 2017, 19, 448.

10. Copies of $^1\mathrm{H}$ and $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR spectra

10.1 chiral ligan L1



¹H NMR of compound 6

10.2 β-keto esters



¹H NMR of compound 2a



¹H NMR of compound 2c





¹³C NMR of compound 2e

S29

¹³C NMR of compound 2g

¹³C NMR of compound 2i

¹H NMR of compound 2i

¹³C NMR of compound 2j

¹H NMR of compound 2k

¹³C NMR of compound 2k

10.3 The products of enantioselective hydroxylation

¹H NMR of compound 1h

¹³C NMR of compound 1i

¹H NMR of compound 1k

11. Copies of HPLC chromatogram11.1 HPLC chromatogram of the Products

HPLC chromatogram of 1a

HPLC chromatogram of 1b

ID#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area %	Resolution
1	13.948	5264852	207216	97.216	
2	15.944	150797	5746	2.784	2.945

HPLC chromatogram of 1d

HPLC chromatogram of 1e

ID#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area %	Resolution
1	18.068	2522781	104962	94.879	
2	19.526	136152	4992	5.121	2.179

HPLC chromatogram of 1f

ID#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area %	Resolution
1	19.674	3943280	117186	50.033	
2	23.727	3938122	98908	49.967	4.202

ID	Fret. Time	Area	Height	Area %	Resolution
1	19.215	9030907	276886	98.389	
2	23.061	147825	3880	1.611	4.128

HPLC chromatogram of 1g

ID#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area %	Resolution
1	9.219	2383650	151142	76.506	
2	11.398	731981	38859	23.494	4.933

HPLC chromatogram of 1h

HPLC chromatogram of 1i

HPLC chromatogram of 1j

ID#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area %	Resolution
1	11.516	1954801	107965	50.970	
2	12.599	1880401	94763	49.030	2.207

min

HPLC chromatogram of 1k

11.2 HPLC chromatogram of the recyclability of the catalytic system

racemate

Third cycle

11.3 HPLC chromatogram of gram-scale experiment

racemate