## Supporting Information

### One-pot Preparation of Piperazines by Regioselective Ring-Opening of Non-Activated Arylaziridines

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### Content

- General
- General Procedure for the Dimerization of Aziridines 1a-r.

Spectroscopic data of piperazines 2a-r.

Determination of the enantiomeric purity.

X-ray Structures

Copy of 1H-NMR and 13C-NMR spectra of piperazines 2a-r.

#### General

Dry acetonitrile was commercially available and used without further purification. For the <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra (<sup>1</sup>H NMR 400, 500, 600 MHz, <sup>13</sup>C NMR 100, 125, 150 MHz), CDCl<sub>3</sub>, CD<sub>3</sub>OD and CD<sub>3</sub>CN were used as the solvents. MS-ESI analyses were performed on Agilent 110 LC/MSD trap system VL. GC-MS spectrometry analyses were carried out on a gas chromatograph (dimethylsilicon capillary column, 30 m, 0.25 mm i.d.) equipped with a mass selective detector operating at 70 eV (EI). Melting points are uncorrected. Infra-red spectra of the compounds were recorded as a film or as KBr disc as indicated, by a Perkin-Elmer 283 spectrometer. Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was carried out on aluminium backed plates pre-coated (0.25 mm) with Silica Gel 60 F254. Detection was accomplished by UV light (254 nm), by spraying a 5% solution of (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Mo<sub>7</sub>O<sub>24</sub> 4 H<sub>2</sub>O (phosphomolibdic acid) in EtOH, or in a 5% solution (w/v) of ammonium molybdate and 0.2% (w/v) of cerium(III)sulfate in 17.6% (w/v) aqueous sulfuric acid followed by heating until dark spots appear, or in a iodine chamber. For flash chromatography silica Gel 60, 0.040-0.063 mm particle size was used. CHN analyses were performed on a EuroEA 3000 analyzer. Optical rotation  $[\alpha]^{20}$  values were measured by using a polarimeter with a cell of 1 dm path length; the concentration (c) is expressed in g/100mL. All air- and water-sensitive reactions were carried out in oven-dried glassware under argon or nitrogen atmosphere using syringe-septum cap techniques. Aziridines **1a-r** were prepared according to reported procedures.<sup>1</sup>

#### General Procedure for the Dimerization of Aziridines 1a-r.

In a sealed glass tube, to a pre-warmed solution of aziridine (1.0 mmol) in 10.0 ml of acetonitrile at 70 °C, MgBr<sub>2</sub> (0.05 mol %) was added. The resulting suspension was stirred at 70 °C until consumption of the starting aziridine (TLC, GC, GC-MS monitoring). The reaction mixture was then poured in 20 mL of water and extracted with EtOAc ( $3 \times 10$  mL). The combined organic layers were dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and the solvent evaporated *in vacuo*. The crude was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/Hexane) or by crystallization. Piperazines **2a**, *meso*-**2b**, and **2m** have been already reported.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> a) Capriati, V.; Florio, S.; Luisi, R.; Musio, B. *Org. Lett.* **2005**, *7*, 17, 3749-3752. b) Sawamura, M; Hamashima, H; Ito, Y. *J. Org. Chem.* **1990**, *55*, 5935. c) Huszthy, P; Oue, M; Bradshaw, J. S.; Zhu, C. Y.; Wang, T.; Dalley, N. K.; Curtis, J. C.; Izatt, R. M. *J. Org. Chem.* **1992**, *57*, 5383-5394. d) Anderson, W. K.; Milowsky, A. S. *J. Med. Chem.* **1986**, *29*, 2241 – 2249. e) Fujita, S.; Imamura, K.; Nozaki, H. *Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn.* **1971**, *44*, 1975-1977.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> a) Takasu, K.; Miyamoto, H.; Tanaka, K.; Taga, T.; Bando, M.; Fuji, K. *Chemical & Pharmaceutical Bulletin* **2000**, *48*, 12, 2014-2016. b) Yang, Z. -Z., ; He, L. -N.; Peng, S. -Y.; Liu, A. -H. *Green Chemistry* **2010**, *12*, 10, 1850-1854. c) Bretschneider, H. *Monatshefte fuer Chemie* **1948**, *78*, 82-116.



 $(2R^{*},5S^{*})-2,5$ -diphenyl-1,4-dimethylpiperazine (meso-2a). white solid, Mp = 180 °C, R<sub>f</sub> [Hexane/EtOAc (8:2)] = 0.6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 600 MHz)  $\delta$  7.42 (m, 2H), 7.36 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.29-7.31 (m, 1H), 3.27 (dd, J = 2.8, 10.6 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (dd, J = 3.0, 11.8 Hz, 1H), 2.38 (dd, J = 11.1, 11.5 Hz, 1H), 2.07 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) δ 141.1, 128.5, 127.9, 127.6, 69.4, 64.1, 43.2. GC-MS m/z (%) 266 [M<sup>+</sup>, 35], 223 (41), 222 (28), 119 (36), 118 (86), 104 (100). FT-IR (KBr,

cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2950, 2835, 2786, 1635, 1451, 1144, 1098, 753, 699. Anal. Calcd for  $C_{18}H_{22}N_2$ : C, 81.16%; H, 8.32%; N, 10.52%. Found: C, 80.93%; H, 8.12%; N, 10.29%.



(*S*,*S*)-1,4-dimethyl-2,5-diphenylpiperazine (*S*,*S*-2a).  $[\alpha]_{589}^{20}$  =+56.4 (c=0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). Enantiomeric purity (er = 3:97) was determined by HPLC analysis (Daicel Chiralpak AD, Hexane/ Isopropanol= 97:3 + 0.2% Et<sub>2</sub>NH, Flow rate=0.50 mL/min,  $\lambda$ = 254 nm): for racemic piperazine t<sub>1</sub> = 7.79 min, t<sub>2</sub> = 8.68 min; for enantioenriched piperazine resulted t = 8.68 min). See er determination section.



(*R*,*R*)-1,4-dimethyl-2,5-diphenylpiperazine (*R*,*R*-2a).  $[\alpha]_{589}^{20}$  =-56.4 (c=0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). Enantiomeric purity (er = 97:3) was determined by HPLC analysis (Daicel Chiralpak AD, Hexane/ Isopropanol= 97:3 + 0.2% Et<sub>2</sub>NH, Flow rate=0.50 mL/min,  $\lambda$ = 254 nm): for racemic piperazine t<sub>1</sub> = 7.79 min, t<sub>2</sub> = 8.68 min; for enantioenriched piperazine resulted t = 7.79 min). See er determination section.



 $(2R^*,5R^*)-2,5$ -diphenyl-1,4-diethylpiperazine (2b). yellow oil, R<sub>f</sub> [Hexane/EtOAc (8:2)] = 0.2. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 7.70 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.35-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.31 (m, 1H), 3.72 (dd, J = 3.9, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (dd, J = 6.3, 11.8 Hz, 1H), 2.67 (dd, J = 3.8, 11.8 Hz, 1H), 2.34-2.42 (m, 1H), 2.18-2.27 (m, 1H), 1.01 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  129.3, 128.0, 127.2, 63.8, 54.1, 48.3, 11.9. GC-MS *m/z* (%) 294 [M<sup>+</sup>, 16], 236 (35), 207 (31), 146 (18), 134 (44), 133 (87), 132 (95), 118 (71), 104

(100), 91 (50), 77(15). FT-IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3027, 2969, 2814, 1661, 1452, 1386, 1312, 1155, 760, 703.



 $(2R^*,5S^*)$ -2,5-diphenyl-1,4-dipropylpiperazine (meso-2c). white solid, Mp = 110 °C, R<sub>f</sub> [Hexane/EtOAc (9:1)] = 0.6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  7.40 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.24-7.27 (m, 1H), 3.39 (dd, J = 2.8, 10.5 Hz, 1H), 3.05 (dd, J = 2.9, 11.6 Hz, 1H), 2.36-2.43 (m, 1H), 2.24 (t, J = 11.1 Hz, 1H), 1.83-1.90 (m, 1H), 1.28-1.42 (m, 2H), 0.69 (t, J = 7.3 Hz,

3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) δ 142.0, 128.3, 128.0, 127.3, 67.7, 60.8, 56.5, 19.1, 11.7. GC-MS *m/z* (%) 322 [M<sup>+</sup>, 23], 293 (41), 250 (44), 222 (19), 189 (22), 146 (90), 118 (100), 104 (68), 91 (64), 77 (11), 70 (16). FT-IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2957, 2870, 2791, 1451, 1388, 1142, 1115, 1012, 744, 699. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>30</sub>N<sub>2</sub>: C, 81.94%; H, 9.38%; N, 8.69%. Found: C, 81.88%; H, 9.36%; N, 8.74%.



 $(2R^*,5R^*)-2,5$ -diphenyl-1,4-dipropylpiperazine (2c). yellow oil,  $R_f$  [Hexane/EtOAc (9:1)] = 0.2. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 7.67 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.24-7.28 (m, 1H), 3.66 (dd, J = 3.9, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (dd, J = 6.3, 11.9 Hz, 1H), 2.60 (dd, J = 3.8, 11.9 Hz, 1H), 2.21-2.28(m, 1H), 2.06-2.13 (m, 1H), 1.39-1.48 (m, 2H), 0.79 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)

δ 141.0, 129.3, 128.0, 127.1, 64.4, 56.5, 54.8, 20.0, 11.8. GC-MS *m/z* (%) 322 [M<sup>+</sup>, 23], 293 (35), 250 (40), 222 (18), 189 (20), 146 (89), 118 (100), 104 (67), 91 (62), 77 (11), 70 (17). FT-IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2960, 2809, 1653, 1451, 1260, 1107, 1018, 800, 759, 702.



 $(2R^*,5S^*)$ -1,4-diisopropyl-2,5-diphenylpiperazine (meso-2d): white solid, Mp = 222 °C, R<sub>f</sub> [Hexane/EtOAc (8:2)] = 0.6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 600 MHz)  $\delta$  7.43 (m, 2H), 7.35 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.28-7.30 (m, 1H), 3.66 (dd, J = 2.7, 10.2 Hz, 1H), 2.81-2.86 (m, 2H), 2.44 (t, J = 10.7 Hz, 1H), 0.97 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 0.76 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H).<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>,150 MHz)  $\delta$  142.2, 128.4, 127.3, 64.7,

52.6, 48.0, 21.0, 12.3. GC-MS m/z (%) 322 [M<sup>+</sup>, 3], 307 (9), 279 (8), 250 (14), 161 (26), 147 (86), 132 (100), 104 (39), 91 (25). FT-IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2966, 2818, 1639, 1454, 1173, 1119, 1030, 746, 699. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>30</sub>N<sub>2</sub>: C, 81.94%; H, 9.38%; N, 8.69%. Found: C, 81.64%; H, 9.12%; N, 8.52%.



 $(2R^*, 5R^*)$ -1,4-diisopropyl-2,5-diphenylpiperazine (2d): yellow oil,  $R_f$  [Hexane/EtOAc (8:2)] = 0.2. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  7.67 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.32-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.25-7.28 (m, 1H), 3.90 (m, 1H), 2.91 (dd, J = 6.3, 11.8 Hz, 1H), 2.78-2.84 (m, 2H), 0.91 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 3H), 0.83 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 0.84 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 0.83 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 0.84 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 0.83 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 0.84 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 0.84 (dHz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 150 MHz) δ 142.5, 129.0, 128.0, 126.9, 61.9, 49.3, 48.9, 20.5, 16.4. GC-

MS m/z (%) 322 [M<sup>+</sup>, 3], 307 (8), 279 (7), 250 (13), 161 (23), 147 (80), 132 (100), 104 (39), 91 (26). FT-IR (film, cm<sup>-</sup> <sup>1</sup>): 2965, 1600, 1452, 1183, 1113, 1030, 761, 702.



(2R\*,5S\*)-2,5-Bis(4-chlorophenyl)-1,4-dimethylpiperazine (meso-2f): white solid, Mp = 221 °C, R<sub>f</sub> [Hexane/EtOAc (8:2)] = 0.6, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 600 MHz)  $\delta$  7.32 (m, 4H), 3.20 (dd, J = 2.8, 10.6 Hz, 1H), 2.88 (dd, J = 2.8, 11.8 Hz, 1H), 2.28 (t, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 2.01 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) δ 139.7, 133.2, 129.2, 128.7, 68.6, 63.9, 43.1. GC-MS m/z (%) 334

[M<sup>+</sup>, 16], 291 (15), 152 (27), 138 (100). FT-IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2946, 2789, 1635, 1488, 1451, 1145, 1099, 838, 815, 522; Anal. Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>: C, 64.48%; H, 6.01%; N, 8.36%. Found: C, 64.20%; H, 6.12%; N, 8.29%.



 $(2R^*, 5R^*)$ -2,5-Bis(4-chlorophenyl)-1,4-dimethylpiperazine (2f): white solid, Mp = 139 °C, R<sub>f</sub> [Hexane/EtOAc (8:2)] = 0.2.<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 600 MHz)  $\delta$  7.56 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, J =8.3 Hz, 2H), 3.50 (m, 1H), 2.81 (dd, J = 6.2, 11.9 Hz, 1H), 2.60 (dd, J = 3.6, 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.10 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) δ 138.4, 133.1, 130.5, 128.2, 65.0, 57.4, 43.1. GC-MS *m/z* (%) 334 [M<sup>+</sup>, 13], 291 (14), 152 (27), 138 (100). FT-IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2937, 2796, 1641, 1488, 1157, 1084, 840, 816,

526; Anal. Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>: C, 64.48%; H, 6.01%; N, 8.36%. Found: C, 64.51%; H, 5.95%; N, 8.23%.



(2R\*,5S\*)-2,5-Bis(4-bromophenyl)-1,4-dimethylpiperazine (meso-2g): white solid, Mp = 227 °C,  $R_f$  [Hexane/EtOAc (8:2)] = 0.6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 600 MHz)  $\delta$  7.49 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 3.21 (dd, J = 2.4, 10.6 Hz, 1H), 2.90 (dd, J = 2.8, 11.8 Hz, 1H), 2.29 (t, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 2.04 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 150 MHz) δ 140.2, 131.7, 129.5, 121.3, 68.6, 63.8,

43.2. GC-MS m/z (%) 424 [M<sup>+</sup>, 20], 381 (23), 302 (5), 300 (6), 198 (25), 196 (22), 184 (99), 182 (100). FT-IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2926, 2795, 1485, 1144, 1095, 1069, 840, 803, 517. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>: C, 50.97%; H, 4.75%; N, 6.60%. Found: C, 50.56%; H, 4.89%; N, 6.39%.



(2R\*,5R\*)-2,5-Bis(4-bromophenyl)-1,4-dimethylpiperazine (2g): yellow oil,  $R_{\rm f}$ [Hexane/EtOAc (8:2)] = 0.2. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  7.47-7.53 (m, 4H), 3.48- 3.50 (m, 1H), 2.81 (dd, J = 6.3, 12.2 Hz, 1H), 2.60 (dd, J = 3.7, 11.8 Hz, 1H), 2.10 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 150 MHz) δ 138.8, 131.2, 130.9, 121.3, 65.0, 57.4, 43.1. GC-MS *m/z* (%) 424 [M<sup>+</sup>, 19],

381 (24), 302 (6), 300 (6), 198 (25), 196 (22), 184 (100), 182 (100). FT-IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2927, 2794, 1762, 1485, 1156, 1093, 1072, 1011, 816.



(2R\*,5S\*)-2,5-bis(2-bromophenyl)-1,4-dimethylpiperazine (meso-2h): Purification by crystallizing from EtOAc, white solid, Mp = dec, R<sub>f</sub> [Hexane/EtOAc (8:2)] = 0.6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$ 7.64 (dd, J = 1.5, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (dd, J = 0.9, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (dt, J = 1.6, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (dd, J = 2.9, 11.5 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (dd, J = 3.0, 11.6 Hz, 1H), 2.20 (t, J = 10.9 Hz, 1H), 2.02 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 150 MHz) δ 139.9, 132.8, 129.7, 128.6, 127.6, 124.2, 66.8, 62.3, 43.0.

GC-MS m/z (%) 424 [M<sup>+</sup>, 22], 381 (23), 345 (53), 343 (54), 302 (98), 300 (100), 199 (89), 198 (93), 197 (90), 196 (80), 184 (51), 182 (51), 103 (40), 77 (28), 42 (36). FT-IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3061, 1692, 1457, 1098, 849, 606. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>: C, 50.97%; H, 4.75%; N, 6.60%. Found: C, 51.02%; H, 4.69.%; N, 6.58%.



(2R\*,5R\*)-2,5-bis(2-bromophenyl)-1,4-dimethylpiperazine (2h): yellow oil, Rf [Hexane/EtOAc (8:2)] = 0.6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  8.17 (dd, J = 1.4, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (dd, J = 1.2, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (dt, J = 0.9, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (dt, J = 1.7, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (dd, J = 4.1, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 2.87 (dd, J = 6.0, 12.4 Hz, 1H), 2.78 (dd, J = 4.0, 12.2 Hz, 1H), 2.26 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 150 MHz)

δ 139.8, 133.0, 130.3, 128.5, 127.2, 125.1, 62.2, 55.6, 42.5. GC-MS *m/z* (%) 424 [M<sup>+</sup>, 22], 381 (25), 345 (52), 343 (53), 302 (97), 300 (100), 199 (90), 198 (95), 197 (92), 196 (80), 184 (53), 182 (53), 103 (39), 77 (27), 42 (37). FT-IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3060, 2938, 2845, 2795, 1677, 1465, 1159, 1094, 1019, 754.



(S,S-2h):  $[\alpha]_{589}^{20} = +14$  (c=0.2, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). Enantiomeric purity (er = 5:95) was determined by HPLC analysis (Daicel Chiralpak ODH, Hexane/ Isopropanol= 90:10, Flow rate=0.50 mL/min,  $\lambda$ = 254 nm); for racemic piperazine  $t_1 = 7.80$  min,  $t_2 = 8.86$  min; for enantioenriched piperazine resulted t = 8.86min). See er determination section.



 $(2R^*,5S^*)$ -1,4-Dimethyl-2,5-di(2-methylphenyl)piperazine (meso-2i): white solid, Mp = 173 °C,  $R_{f}$  [Hexane/EtOAc (8:2)] = 0.6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  7.54 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.19-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.13-7.16 (m, 2H), 3.53 (dd, J = 2.5, 10.4 Hz, 1H), 2.89 (dd, J = 2.9, 11.8 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 2.31 (t, J = 11.1 Hz, 1H), 2.01 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  138.9, 136.0, 130.4, 127.4, 126.9, 126.3, 64.1, 63.0, 42.8, 19.8. GC-MS m/z (%) 294 [M<sup>+</sup>, 24], 251 (20), 236 (15), 132 (27), 118

(100). FT-IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2935, 2847, 2794, 1638, 1449, 1258, 1143, 1098, 768. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>2</sub>: C, 81.59%; H, 8.90%; N, 9.51%. Found: C, 81.71%; H, 9.03%; N, 9.19%.



(2R\*,5R\*)-1,4-Dimethyl-2,5-di(2-methylphenyl)piperazine (2i): yellow oil, R<sub>f</sub> [Hexane/EtOAc (8:2)] = 0.2. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  8.09 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.23-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.13-7.18 (m, 2H), 3.84 (dd, J = 4.0, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 2.95 (dd, J = 6.2, 12.4 Hz, 1H), 2.64 (dd, J = 4.0, 12.4 Hz, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.20 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) δ 139.4, 136.4, 130.3, 128.8, 126.7, 125.8, 59.3, 55.9, 42.6, 19.8. GC-MS m/z (%) 294 [M<sup>+</sup>, 20], 251 (22), 236 (13), 132 (28), 118 (100). FT-IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2939, 2786, 1459, 1353, 1157, 1024, 752.

(*R*,*R*)-1,4-Dimethyl-2,5-di(2-methylphenyl)piperazine.  $[\alpha]_{589}^{20}$  =-25.43 (c=0.7, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). Enantiomeric purity (er = 30:70) was determined by HPLC analysis (Cellulose – Lux2, Hexane/ Isopropanol= 99:0.1, Flow rate=0.50 mL/min,  $\lambda$ = 254 nm): for racemic piperazine  $t_1 = 7.27$  min,  $t_2 = 8.23$  min; for enantioenriched piperazine resulted t = 8.23 min. See er determination section.



Unseparable diasteromeric mixture, dr = 1:1, 75%. 2,5-dimesityl-1,4-dimethylpiperazine (meso-**2i** + **2j**).  $R_f$  [Hexane/EtOAc (8:2)] = 0.6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  6.86 (s, 4H), 4.01 (dd, J = 5.9, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (dd, J = 3.0, 10.8 Hz, 1H), 3.50 (dd, J = 9.5, 12.9 Hz, 1H), 2.79 (dd, J = 3.0, 11.5 Hz, 1H), 2.73 (s, 3H), 2.53 (m, 7H), 2.39-2.44 (m, 4H), 2.29 (s, 6H), 2.18 (s, 3H), 2.02 (s, 3H).

The attached protonic spectrum refers to a chromatographic fraction containing a 60:40 diasteromeric mixture. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) & 137.7, 137.2, 136.8, 135.9, 135.9, 135.8, 133.6, 131.1, 129.9, 129.1, 64.8, 59.2, 59.1, 56.3, 42.7, 42.3, 21.7, 21.2, 20.8, 20.8, 20.7, GC-MS *m/z* (%) 350 [M<sup>+</sup>, 4], 306 (21), 162 (44), 146 (100). FT-IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2939, 2762, 1611, 1446, 1370, 1096, 849, 808.

(2R\*,5S\*)-1,4-Dimethyl-2,5-di(naphthalen-2-yl)piperazine (meso-2k): white solid, Mp = dec.  $R_f$  [Hexane/EtOAc (8:2)] = 0.6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz)  $\delta$  7.84-7.89 (m, 4H), 7.60 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.46-7.52 (m, 2H), 3.51 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (dd, J = 2.4, 11.9 Hz, 1H), 2.55 (t, J = 11.3 Hz, 1H), 2.12 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz)  $\delta$  138.6, 133.5, 133.1, 128.3, 127.8, 127.7, 126.9, 126.1, 125.8, 69.5, 64.0, 43.3. GC-MS m/z (%) 366 [M<sup>+</sup>, 20], 323 (6), 168 (19), 154 (100).

FT-IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2936, 2835, 2784, 1506, 1446, 1323, 1093, 822, 749, 480. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>5</sub>: C, 85.21%; H, 7.15%; N, 7.64%. Found: C, 85.10%; H, 7.06%; N, 7.59%.



(2*R*\*,5*R*\*)-1,4-Dimethyl-2,5-di(naphthalen-2-yl)piperazine (2k): vellow oil:  $R_{\rm f}$ [Hexane/EtOAc (8:2)] = 0.2. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  8.16 (s, 1H), 7.84-7.91 (m, 4H), 7.44-7.51 (m, 2H), 3.74 (dd, J = 4.0, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 3.05 (dd, J = 6.2, 11.9 Hz, 1H), 2.73 (dd, J = 3.8, 11.9 Hz, 1H), 2.18 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) δ 137.7, 133.2, 132.8, 128.2, 128.0, 127.6, 127.5, 127.4, 125.9, 125.7, 65.8, 57.7, 43.4, GC-MS m/z (%) 366 [M<sup>+</sup>, 16], 323 (6), 168 (18), 154 (100).

FT-IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3054, 2934, 2793, 1599, 1506, 1452, 1372, 1121, 1093, 820, 746.



 $(2R^*, 5S^*)$ -2,5-bis(3-methoxyphenyl)-1,4-dimethylpiperazine (meso-2l): white solid, Mp = 124 °C,  $R_f$  [Hexane/EtOAc (7:3)] = 0.6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 600 MHz)  $\delta$  7.27-7.28 (m, 1H), 6.99-7.03 (m, 2H), 6.84 (dd, J = 1.8, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.24 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (dd, J = 2.6, 11.7 Hz, 1H), 2.37 (t, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 2.08 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 150 MHz) δ 159.8, 142.9, 129.4, 120.2, 113.2, 69.4, 64.0, 55.3, 43.2. GC-MS m/z (%) 326 [M<sup>+</sup>, 25], 283 (9), 149 (16), 148 (26), 134 (100); FT-IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2926, 2789, 1597, 1483, 1459, 1266, 1239, 1040, 786, 698; Anal. Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: C, 73.59%; H, 8.03%; N, 8.58%. Found: C, 73.49%; H, 7.99%; N, 8.61%.



 $(2R^*,5R^*)$ -2,5-bis(3-methoxyphenyl)-1,4-dimethylpiperazine (2l): yellow oil. R<sub>f</sub> [Hexane/EtOAc (7:3)] = 0.2. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 600 MHz)  $\delta$  7.35 (s, 1H), 7.27-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.21 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (dd, J = 2.0, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.53 (m, 1H), 2.93 (dd, J = 5.7, 11.6 Hz, 1H), 2.66 (dd, J = 3.6, 11.9 Hz, 1H), 2.14 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 150 MHz):  $\delta$  159.4, 132.1, 132.0, 131.9, 131.9, 128.9, 128.5, 128.4, 121.8, 115.1, 112.6, 65.6, 57.6, 55.2, 43.1. GC-MS *m/z* (%) 326 [M<sup>+</sup>, 26], 283 (10), 149 (16), 148 (26), 134 (100). FT-IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2931, 2836, 2791, 1759, 1599,

1485, 1453, 1266, 1167, 1044, 786, 459.



(2*R*\*,5*S*\*)-2,5-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-1,4-dimethylpiperazine (*meso*-2m): yellow solid, Mp = 161 °C, R<sub>f</sub> [Hexane/EtOAc (7:3)] = 0.6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 7.26 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.14 (dd, *J* = 2.6, 10.7 Hz, 1H), 2.87 (dd, *J* = 2.9, 11.7 Hz, 1H), 2.29 (t, *J* = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 1.98 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) δ

159.0, 128.8, 126.6, 113.8, 68.6, 64.1, 55.2, 43.0. GC-MS m/z (%) 326 [M<sup>+</sup>, 14], 283 (7), 134 (100). FT-IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2944, 2786, 1610, 1513, 1441, 1249, 1031, 842. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: C, 73.59%; H, 8.03%; N, 8.58%. Found: C, 73.22%; H, 7.96%; N, 8.21%.



 $(2R^*,5S^*)$ -2,5-di(2-Allylphenyl)1,4-dimethylpiperazine (*meso*-2n): white solid, Mp = 124 °C, R<sub>f</sub> [Hexane/EtOAc (8.5:1.5)] = 0.6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 600 MHz)  $\delta$  7.52 (br s, 1H), 7.06-7.17 (m, 3H), 5.91 (ddt, J = 6.2, 10.2, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 4.96 (ddt, J = 1.6, 10.1, 17.06 Hz, 2H), 3.42-3.51 (m, 3H), 2.81 (dd, J = 2.8, 11.8 Hz, 1H), 2.20 (t, J = 11.1 Hz, 1H), 1.89 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz)  $\delta$  139.2, 137.8, 137.4, 129.9, 127.8, 127.1, 126.7, 116.0, 63.8, 43.0, 31.6, 14.1. GC-MS *m/z* (%) 346

 $[M^{+}, 24], 302 (45), 158 (32), 144 (33), 129 (100), 116 (32), 44 (15). FT-IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): 2940, 2842, 2792, 1636, 1449, 1095, 900, 764. Anal. Calcd for C_{24}H_{30}N_2: C, 83.19\%; H, 8.73\%; N, 8.08\%. Found: C, 83.21\%; H, 8.70\%; N, 8.00\%.$ 



 $(2R^*,5R^*)-2,5-di(2-Allylphenyl)1,4-dimethylpiperazine (2n): yellow oil. R<sub>f</sub> [Hexane/EtOAc (8.5:1.5)] = 0.2. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) <math>\delta$  8.11 (dd, J = 1.2, 7.8 Hz), 7.29 (dt, J = 1.6, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (dt, J = 1.5, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (dd, J = 1.6, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 5.98 (ddt, J = 6.2, 10.2, 16.8 Hz, 1H), 5.02 (ddq, J = 1.7, 17.1, 33.3 Hz, 2H), 3.86 (dd, J = 4.1, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 3.56 (ddt, J = 1.6, 6.6, 15.8

Hz, 1H), 3.43 (ddt, J = 1.9, 6.0, 16.1 Hz, 1H), 2.95 (dd, J = 6.2, 12.6 Hz, 1H), 2.67 (dd, J = 4.1, 12.6 Hz, 1H), 2.21 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz)  $\delta$  139.7, 138.2, 137.6, 129.9, 129.1, 126.9, 126.3, 115.6, 58.6, 55.9, 42.6, 37.2 GC-MS *m/z* (%): 346 [M<sup>+</sup>, 26], 302 (43), 172 (21), 158 (33), 144 (33), 129 (100), 116 (32). FT-IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2925, 2852, 2790, 1637, 1450, 1025, 913, 754.



(2*R*\*,5*S*\*)-1,4-Dimethyl-2,5-di(3-trifluoromethylphenyl)piperazine (*meso-2o*): white solid, Mp = 127 °C, R<sub>f</sub> [Hexane/EtOAc (8:2)] = 0.6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  7.68 (s, 1H), 7.55-7.60 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.49 (m, 1H), 3.33 (dd, *J* = 2.4, 10.3 Hz, 1H), 2.94 (dd, *J* = 2.9, 11.7 Hz, 1H), 2.33 (t, *J* = 10.9 Hz, 1H), 2.04 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz)  $\delta$  142.2, 131.3, 131.0 (q, *J* = 32.5 Hz), 129.0, 124.6, 124.5, 124.1 (q, *J* = 272.4 Hz), 68.8, 63.9, 43.2. GC-MS *m/z* (%) 402 [M<sup>+</sup>, 26], 359 (34), 186 (100), 172 (63). FT-IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2919, 2849, 1446, 1328, 1253, 1157, 1128, 1098, 1070,

800. Anal. Calcd for  $C_{20}H_{20}F_6N_2$ : C, 59.70%; H, 5.01%; N, 6.96%. Found: C, 59.57%; H, 4.98%; N, 6.94%.



(2*R*\*,5*R*\*)-1,4-Dimethyl-2,5-di(3-trifluoromethylphenyl)piperazine (20): yellow oil. R<sub>f</sub> [Hexane/EtOAc (8:2)] = 0.2. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  8.05 (s, 1H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.58 (m, 1H), 7.47-7.50 (m, 1H), 3.62 (dd, *J* = 4.1, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 2.85 (dd, *J* = 6.2, 12.1 Hz, 1H), 2.68 (dd, *J* = 3.8, 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.13 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  140.6, 132.5, 130.4 (q, *J* = 32.1), 128.5, 125.8, 124.3, 124.2 (q, *J* = 272.1 Hz), 65.1, 57.2, 43.1. GC-MS *m/z* (%): 402 [M<sup>+</sup>, 23], 359 (33), 186 (100), 172 (60). FT-IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2936, 2800, 1667, 1449, 1328, 1164, 1125, 1074,

804, 704.



 $(2R^*,5S^*)$ -1,4-Dimethyl-2,5-di(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)piperazine (*meso*-2p): white solid, Mp = 202 °C, R<sub>f</sub> [Hexane/EtOAc (8:2)] = 0.6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  7.62 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 3.32 (dd, J = 2.9, 10.6 Hz, 1H), 2.93 (dd, J = 3.0, 11.7 Hz, 1H), 2.32 (dd, J = 10.8, 11.5 Hz, 1H), 2.04 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz)  $\delta$  145.2, 130.0 (q, J = 32.4 Hz), 128.2, 125.5, 124.2 (q, J = 272.0 Hz), 68.8, 63.8, 43.2. GC-MS

m/z (%) 402 [M<sup>+</sup>, 26], 359 (33), 186 (100), 172 (66). FT-IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2955, 2801, 1619, 1322, 1168, 1136, 1064, 848. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>20</sub>F<sub>6</sub>N<sub>2</sub>: C, 59.70%; H, 5.01%; N, 6.96%. Found: C, 59.35%; H, 5.15%; N, 6.65%.



 $(2R^*,5R^*)$ -1,4-Dimethyl-2,5-di(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)piperazine (2p): white solid, Mp = 109 °C, R<sub>f</sub> [Hexane/EtOAc (8:2)] = 0.2. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  7.74 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 3.58 (dd, *J* = 4.0, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.83 (dd, *J* = 6.2, 12.1 Hz, 1H), 2.64 (dd, *J* = 3.9, 12.1 Hz, 1H), 2.11 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz)  $\delta$  143.9, 129.8 (q, *J* = 32.4 Hz), 129.5, 125.1, 124.2 (q, *J* = 272.0 Hz), 65.2, 57.2, 43.2. GC-MS *m/z* (%) 402

 $[M^+, 31]$ , 359 (43), 186 (100), 172 (62). FT-IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2932, 2804, 1619, 1327, 1163, 1120, 1067, 853. Anal. Calcd for  $C_{20}H_{20}F_6N_2$ : C, 59.70%; H, 5.01%; N, 6.96%. Found: C, 59.90%; H, 5.13%; N, 6.85%.



(2*R*\*,5*S*\*)-1,4-Dimethyl-2,5-di(2-propylphenyl)piperazine (*Meso-*2q): white solid, Mp = 157 °C, R<sub>f</sub> [Hexane/EtOAc (9:1)] = 0.6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz) δ 7.52 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.05-7.15 (m, 3H), 3.47 (dd, *J* = 2.4, 10.3 Hz, 1H), 2.83 (dd, *J* = 2.9, 11.8 Hz, 1H), 2.67-2.73 (m, 1H), 2.53-2.59 (m, 1H), 2.25 (t, *J* = 11.1 Hz, 1H), 1.92 (s, 3H), 1.53-1.61 (m, 2H), 0.93 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz,

3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  140.6, 138.9, 129.5, 127.7, 126.8, 126.1, 64.1, 63.7, 43.0, 34.8, 24.7, 14.2. GC-MS *m/z* (%) 350 [M<sup>+</sup>, 19], 306 (37), 264 (30), 146 (100), 131 (76). FT-IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2948, 2866, 1456, 1095, 760. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>34</sub>N<sub>2</sub>: C, 82.23%; H, 9.78%; N, 7.99%. Found: C, 82.10%; H, 9.67%; N, 8.03%.



 $(2R^*,5R^*)$ -1,4-Dimethyl-2,5-di(2-propylphenyl)piperazine (2q): yellow oil, R<sub>f</sub> [Hexane/EtOAc (9:1)] = 0.2. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  8.10 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.22-7.26 (m, 1H), 7.13-7.20 (m, 2H), 3.89 (m, 1H), 2.97 (dd, J = 6.2, 12.3 Hz, 1H), 2.58-2.77 (m, 3H), 2.16 (s, 3H), 1.54-1.64 (m, 2H), 0.97 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  141.2, 139.0, 129.6, 129.0, 126.8,

125.8, 58.9, 56.8, 42.5, 35.2, 25.0, 14.2. GC-MS m/z (%) 350 [M<sup>+</sup>, 19], 306 (39), 264 (30), 174 (26), 162 (30), 146 (100), 131 (77). FT-IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2957, 2870, 1455, 1024, 753.



 $(2R^*,5S^*)$ -2,5-di(5-Fluoro-2-methylphenyl)1,4-dimethylpiperazine (*meso*-2r): white solid, Mp = 168 °C, R<sub>f</sub> [Hexane/EtOAc (9:1)] = 0.6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz)  $\delta$  7.23 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (dd, J = 6.0, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (dt, J = 2.8, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 3.41 (d, J = 10.3 Hz, 1H), 2.80 (dd, J = 2.8, 11.8 Hz, 1H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 2.17 (t, J = 10.9 Hz, 1H), 1.95 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz)  $\delta$  161.7 (d, J = 243.1 Hz), 141.3 (d, J = 6.6 Hz), 131.5 (d, J = 7.7 Hz), 131.3, 114.1 (d, J = 19.3 Hz), 113.7 (d, J = 21.0 Hz), 64.1, 62.8, 42.9, 18.9 GC-MS m/z (%) 330 [M<sup>+</sup>, 22], 287 (17), 152 (34), 136

(100). FT-IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2977, 2948, 2796, 1611, 1589, 1492, 1260, 1091, 805. Anal. Calcd for  $C_{20}H_{24}F_2N_2$ : C, 72.70%; H, 7.32%; N, 8.48%. Found: C, 72.61%; H, 7.34%; N, 8.43%.

HPLC analysis (Daicel Chiralpak AD, Hexane/ Isopropanol= 97:3 + 0.2% Et<sub>2</sub>NH, Flow rate=0.50 mL/min,  $\lambda$ = 254 nm): for racemic piperazine t<sub>1</sub> = 7.79 min, t<sub>2</sub> = 8.68 min; for enantioenriched piperazine (*S*,*S*)-2a t = 8.72 min). For enantioenriched piperazine (*R*,*R*-2a) t = 7.83 min)



HPLC analysis (Daicel Chiralpak ODH, Hexane/ Isopropanol= 90:10, Flow rate=0.50 mL/min,  $\lambda$ = 254 nm): for racemic piperazine t<sub>1</sub> = 7.80 min, t<sub>2</sub> = 8.86 min; for enantioenriched piperazine (*S*,*S*)-2h t = 8.86 min).



HPLC analysis (Cellulose – Lux2, Hexane/ Isopropanol= 99:0.1, Flow rate=0.50 mL/min,  $\lambda$ = 254 nm): for racemic piperazine t<sub>1</sub> = 7.95 min, t<sub>2</sub> = 8.87 min; for enantioenriched piperazine (*R*,*R*)-2i t = 8.87 min.



X-Ray structure of meso-2a



X-Ray structure of meso-2n



X-Ray structure of **2f** 

















































A Martin Balanter Balanter



































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