# Asymmetric Michael Addition Organocatalyzed by α,β-Dipeptides Under Solvent-free Reaction Conditions

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# **Supporting Information**

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# 1. Synthesis of L-phenylalanylglycine

**Scheme A:** Synthetic route of L-phenylalanylglycine

# 2. Reaction Optimization Tables

Table A. Effect of the solvent on the Michael addition reaction of isobutyraldehyde to N-phenylmaleimide.

Essay <sup>[a]</sup>	Solvent	Yield <sup>[b]</sup>	er <sup>[c]</sup>
		[%]	
1	EtOH	n.r.	n.d.
2	Toluene	n.r.	n.d.
3	H <sub>2</sub> O	n.r.	n.d.
4	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	77	88 : 12
5	Brine	n.r.	n.d.
6	THF	n.r.	n.d.
7	DMSO	n.r.	n.d.
8	MeOH	n.r.	n.d.
9	CH₃CN	n.r.	n.d.

<sup>[</sup>a] Reaction conditions: aldehyde (5.5 mmol), maleimide (0.5 mmol), NaOH was used in the same amount as **2**, and 0.5 mL of the indicated solvent. [b] Isolated yield. [c] Determined by chiral HPLC.

Table B: Effect of additives and temperature on the Michael addition reaction of isobutyraldehyde to *N*-phenylmaleimide.

Essay <sup>[a]</sup>	HDonor	Base	Temperature [° C]	Yield <sup>[b]</sup> [%]	er <sup>[c]</sup>
1	Urea	NaOH	25	80	68 : 32
2	Urea	DMAP	25	40	71 : 29
3	Thiourea	NaOH	25	75	73 : 27
4	Thiourea	DMAP	25	43	n. d.
5	Sulphamide	NaOH	25	67	75 : 25
6	Sulphamide	DMAP	25	16	n. d.
7	Urea	NaOH	2	80	65 : 35
8	Thiourea	NaOH	2	81	70 : 30
9	Sulphamide	NaOH	2	82	66 : 34
10		NaOH	2	79	86 : 14

<sup>[</sup>a] Reaction conditions: aldehyde (2.75 mmol), maleimide (0.5 mmol), additives were used in the same amount as catalyst **2**. [b] Isolated yield. [c] Determined by chiral HPLC

Table C. Effect of the solvent on the Michael addition reaction of isobutyraldehyde to  $\textit{trans-}\beta$ -nitrostyrene.

Essay <sup>[a]</sup>	Solvent	Yield <sup>[b]</sup> [%]	er <sup>[c]</sup>
1	DMSO	n.r.	n.d.
2	H <sub>2</sub> O	81	93 : 7
3	DMF	n.r.	n.d.
4	MeOH	n.r.	n.d.
5	CH₃CN	n.r.	n.d.
6	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	64	94 : 6
7	iPrOH	n.r.	n.d.
8	Brine	n.r.	n.d.
9	THF	n.r.	n.d.

[a] Reaction conditions: aldehyde (2.75 mmol), trans- $\beta$ -nitrostyrene (0.5 mmol), Additives (DMAP + Hydrogen-bond donor were used in 10% mol) and 0.5 mL of the solvent. [b] Isolated yield. [c] Determined by chiral HPLC.

Table D. Michael Addition Reaction of Aldehydes to Additional Substrates.

Essay <sup>[a]</sup>	R	Ar	Product	Yield <sup>[b]</sup>	er <sup>[c]</sup>
1	CH <sub>3</sub>	2-NO <sub>2</sub> -C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>4</sub> -	23	n.r.	n.d.
2	-(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>4</sub> -	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> -	24	n.r.	n.d.

[a] Reaction conditions: aldehyde (2.75 mmol), *N*-substituted maleimide (0.5 mmol), cat\* and KOH both 10% mol (0.05 mmol). [b] Isolated yield. [c] Determined by chiral HPLC.

Table E. Michael Addition Reaction of Aldehydes to Different Substrates.

Essay <sup>[a]</sup>	Cat*	R	Ar	Product	Yield <sup>[b]</sup>	er <sup>[c]</sup>
7	4	-(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>4</sub> - C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> -	25	n.r.	n.d.	
,	6	-(Cl 12)4-	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> -	23	n.r.	n.d.
0	4	(CH.)	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> -	20	n.r.	n.d.
8	6	-(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>5</sub> -	<b>C</b> 6∏5 <b>-</b>	26	n.r.	n.d.
0	4	CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	C.H	27	n.r.	n.d.
9	6 CH2CH3	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> -	27	n.r.	n.d.	

[a] Reaction conditions: aldehyde (2.75 mmol), *trans*-β-nitrostyrene (0.5 mmol), Additives (DMAP + thiourea were used in 10% mol). [b] Isolated yield. [c] Determined by chiral HPLC.

#### 3. Experimental Properties of the Michael Adducts

## (S)-2-(2,5-Dioxo-1-phenylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-2-methylpropanal, 7

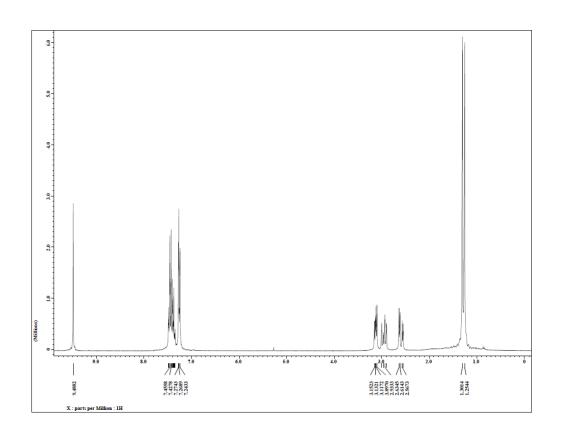
Optical rotation were in agreement with those reported in the literature.<sup>[1,2]</sup> NMR spectra and HPLC chromatograms were in agreement with those reported for the enantiomer in the literature.<sup>[3]</sup>

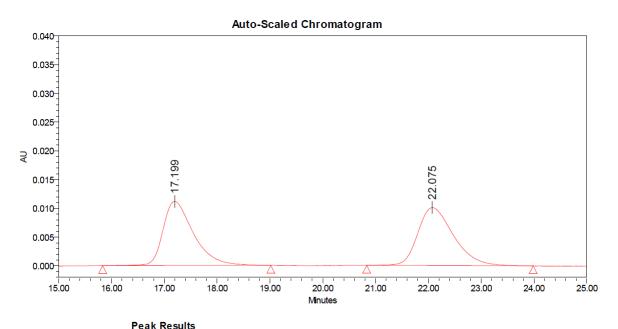
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (ppm): 1.25 (s, 3H), 1.30 (s, 3H), 2.59 (dd,  $J_1 = 5.5$ ,  $J_2 = 18.1$  Hz, 1H), 2.77 (dd,  $J_1 = 9.5$ ,  $J_2 = 18.1$  Hz, 1H), 3.12 (dd,  $J_1 = 5.4$ ,  $J_2 = 9.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.23-7.48 (m, 5H), 9.48 (s, 1H)

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (67.93 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (ppm): 19.6, 20.4, 31.9, 45.06, 48.6, 126.6, 128.8, 129.3, 131.8, 174.9, 177.0, 202.8.

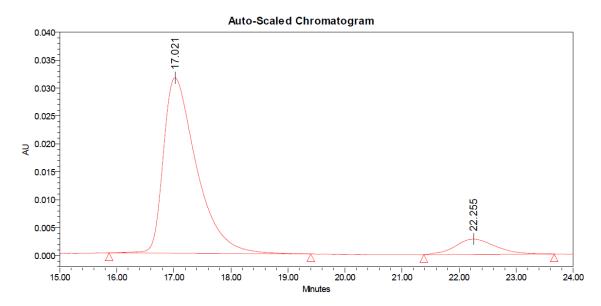
$$[\alpha]_D^{25^{\circ}C} = -1.1$$
 (c = 0.333, CHCl<sub>3</sub>).

HPLC (Chiralcel OD-H, hexane/i-PrOH 80/20, 1 mL/min, λ = 210 nm): t<sub>major</sub> = 17 min, t<sub>minor</sub> = 22 min.





	Peak Results							
	RT	Area	Height	% Area				
1	17.199	446710	11149	48.56				
2	22.075	473221	10096	51.44				



	Peak Results							
		RT	Area	Height	% Area			
	1	17.021	1266540	31437	90.36			
	2	22.255	135076	2753	9.64			

## (S)-2-(1-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-3-yl)-2-methylpropanal, 9

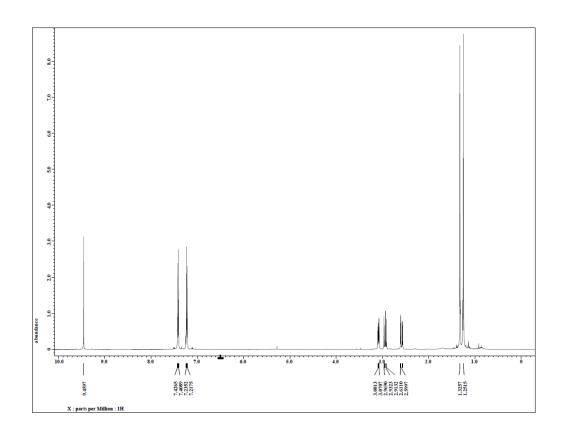
Optical rotation was in agreement with that previously reported in the literature.<sup>[2]</sup> NMR and HPLC in agreement with those reported in the literature for the enantiomeric compound.<sup>[3]</sup>

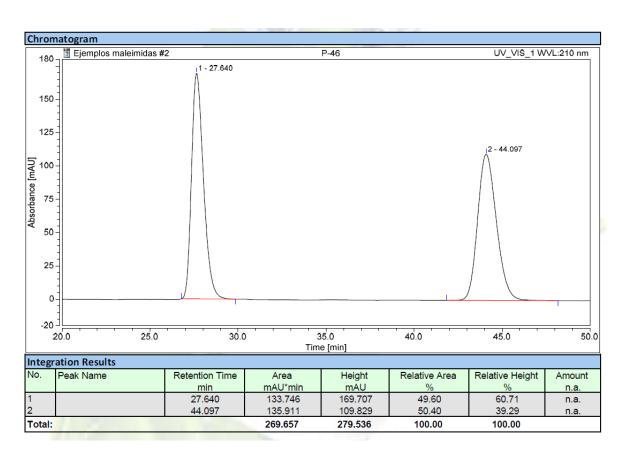
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (ppm): 1.25 (s, 3H), 1.32 (s, 3H), 2.59 (dd,  $J_1$  = 5.6,  $J_2$  = 18.4 Hz, 1H), 2.94 (dd,  $J_1$  = 9.6,  $J_2$  = 18.3 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (dd,  $J_1$  = 5.6,  $J_2$  = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d,  $J_{A-B}$  = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d,  $J_{AB}$  = 8.8, 2H), 9.46 (s, 1H).

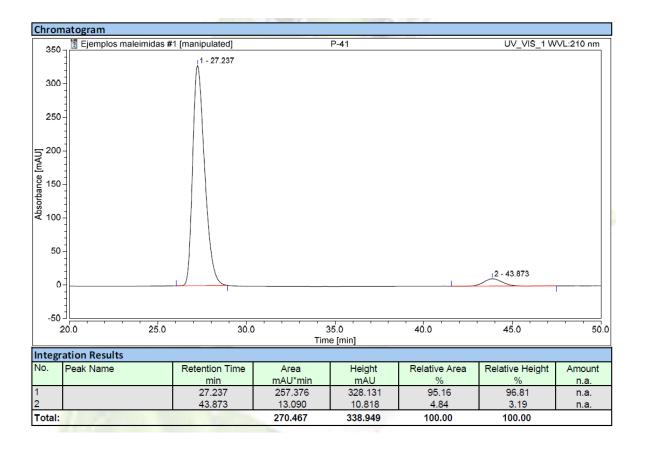
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.76 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (ppm): 19.9, 20.6, 32.0, 45.0, 48.8, 127.9, 129.5, 130.4, 134.6, 174.6, 176.8, 202.9.

 $[\alpha]_D^{25^{\circ}C} = -1.5$  (c = 0.333, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>).

HPLC (Chiralcel OD-H, hexane/i-PrOH 75/25, 0.6 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 210 nm);  $t_{major}$  = 27 min,  $t_{minor}$  = 44 min.







$$\begin{array}{c} O \\ N \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} O \\ \end{array} \\ \\ \begin{array}{c} O \\ \end{array} \\ \\ \begin{array}{c}$$

### (S)-2-(1-(4-Bromophenyl)-2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-3-yl)-2-methylpropanal, 10.

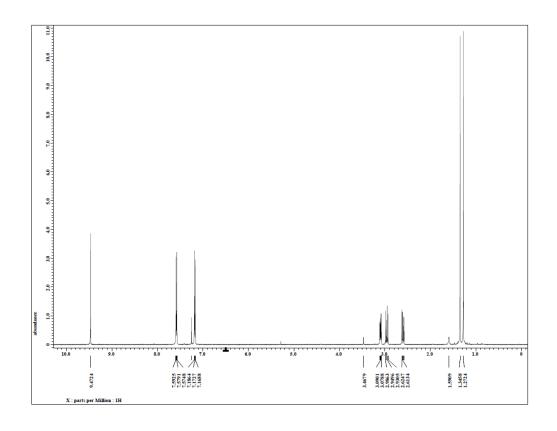
Optical rotation was in agreement with that previously reported.<sup>[1]</sup> NMR spectra and HPLC in agreement with those reported in the literature for the enantiomeric compound.<sup>[3]</sup>

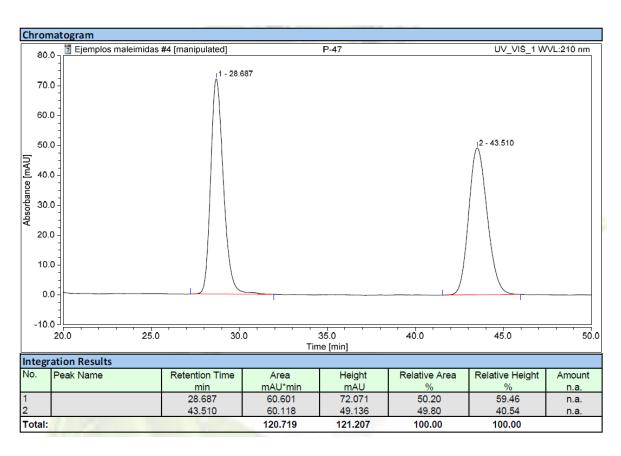
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (ppm): 1.27 (s, 3H), 1.34 (s, 3H), 2.59 (dd,  $J_1 = 5.6$ ,  $J_2 = 18.4$  Hz, 1H), 2.95 (dd,  $J_1 = 9.5$ ,  $J_2 = 18.3$  Hz, 1H), 3.09 (dd,  $J_1 = 5.6$ ,  $J_2 = 9.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d,  $J_{A-B} = 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d,  $J_{AB} = 8.6$ , 2H), 9.47 (s, 1H).

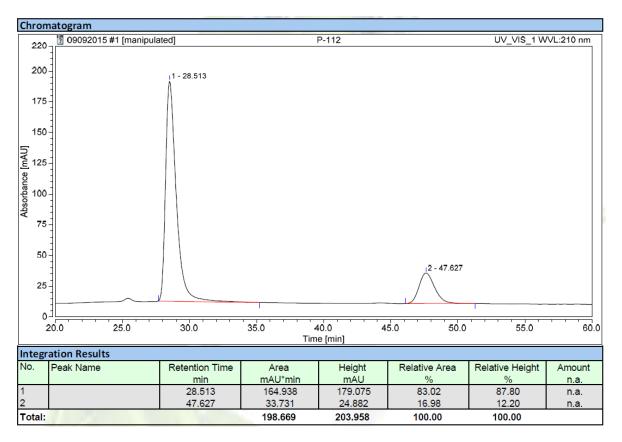
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.76 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (ppm): 20.0, 20.6, 32.0, 45.1, 48.8, 122.6, 128.1, 130.9, 132.4, 174.5, 176.6, 202.8.

 $[\alpha]_D^{25^{\circ}C} = -1.2$  (c = 0.3, CHCl<sub>3</sub>).

HPLC (Chiralcel OD-H, hexane/i-PrOH 75/25, 0.6 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 210 nm):  $t_{major}$  = 28.5 min,  $t_{minor}$  = 47.6 min.







# (S)-2-(1-(3-Chlorophenyl)-2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-3-yl)-2-methylpropanal, 12

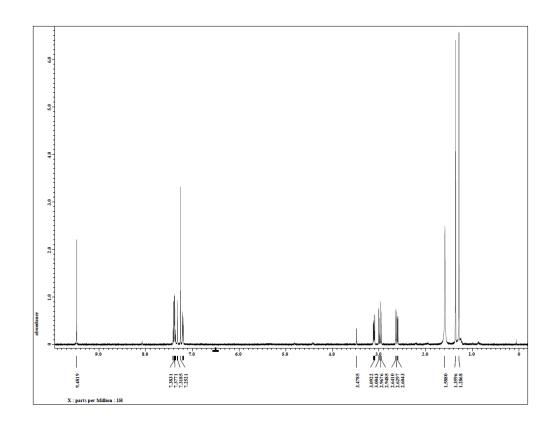
NMR spectra and HPLC were in agreement with those reported in the literature for the enantiomeric compound.<sup>[3]</sup>

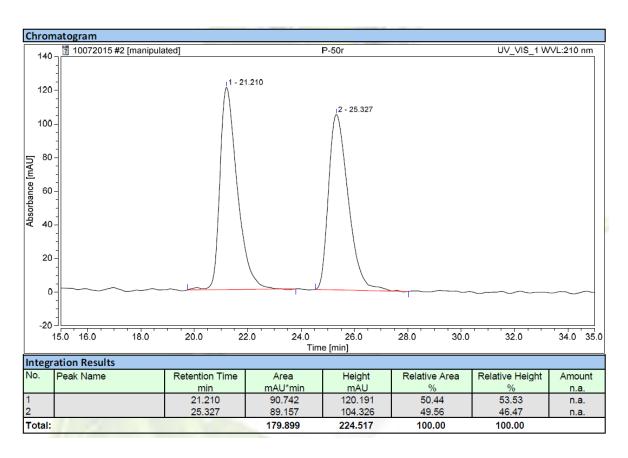
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (ppm): 1.28 (s, 3H), 1.36 (s, 3H), 2.61 (dd,  $J_1 = 5.6$ ,  $J_2 = 18.3$  Hz, 1H), 2.97 (dd,  $J_1 = 9.5$ ,  $J_2 = 18.3$  Hz, 1H), 3.10 (dd,  $J_1 = 5.6$ ,  $J_2 = 9.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.10-7.42 (m, 4H), 9.48 (s, 1H).

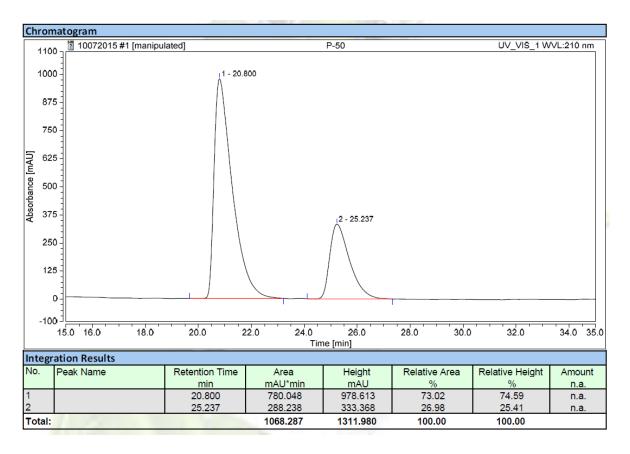
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.76 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (ppm): 20.0, 20.6, 32.0, 45.0, 48.8, 124.8, 126.9, 129.0, 130.2, 132.9, 134.8, 174.4, 176.6, 202.8.

$$[\alpha]_D^{25^{\circ}C} = -5.0$$
 (c = 0.3, CHCl<sub>3</sub>).

HPLC (Chiralcel OD-H, hexane/i-PrOH 75/25, 0.9 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 210 nm):  $t_{major}$  = 20.8 min,  $t_{minor}$  = 25.2 min.







## (S)-2-(2,5-Dioxo-1-phenylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-2-ethylbutanal, 14

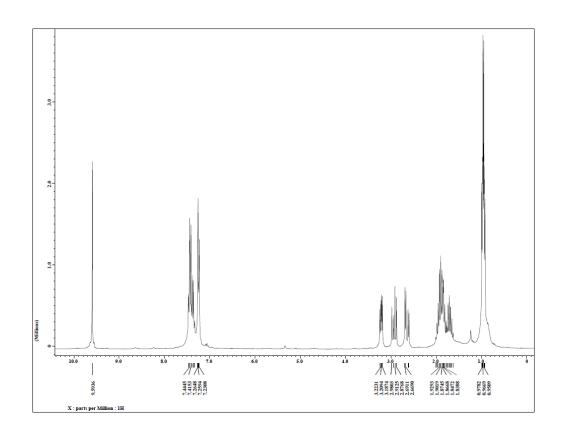
Optical rotation was in agreement with that reported in the literature. [1] NMR spectra and HPLC in agreement with those reported in the literature for the enantiomeric compound. [3]

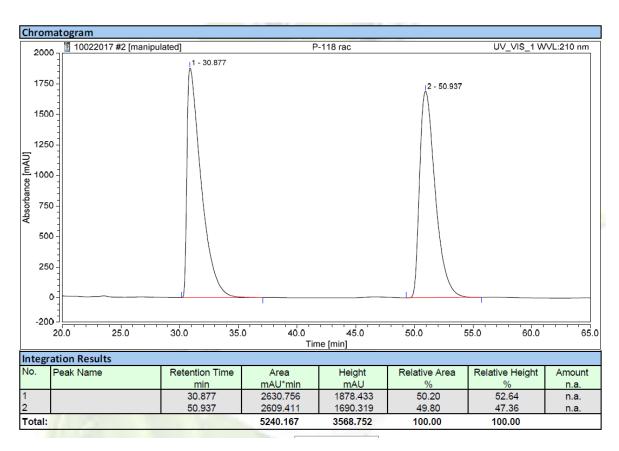
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (ppm): 0.94 (t, J = 4.5 Hz. 3H), 0.98 (t, J = 4.5, 3H), 1.62-2.20 (m, 4H), 2.64 (dd,  $J_1 = 5.8$ ,  $J_2 = 18.4$  Hz, 1H), 2.93 (dd,  $J_1 = 9.5$ ,  $J_2 = 18.3$  Hz, 1H), 3.22 (dd,  $J_1 = 5.8$ ,  $J_2 = 9.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.23-7.45 (m, 5H), 9.59 (s, 1H).

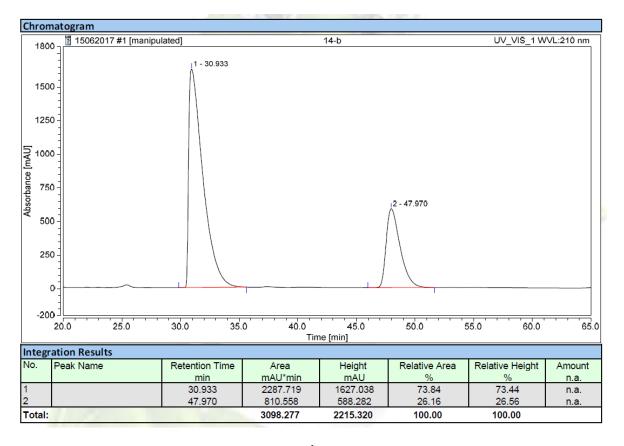
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.76 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (ppm): 8.14, 8.23, 23.3, 24.4, 31.8, 41.9, 54.6, 126.6, 128.7, 129.2, 132.0, 175.1, 177.4, 204.2.

$$[\alpha]_D^{25^{\circ}C} = -8.0 \text{ (c} = 0.3, CH_2Cl_2).$$

HPLC (Chiralcel OD-H, hexane/i-PrOH 75/25, 0.5 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 210 nm):  $t_{major}$  = 30.0 min,  $t_{minor}$  = 52.3 min.







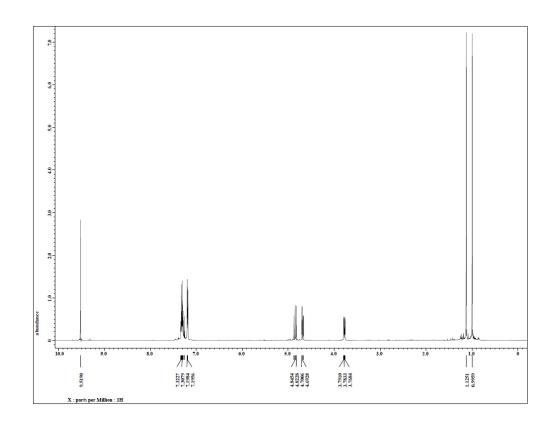
## (S)-2,2-Dimethyl-4-nitro-3-phenylbutanal, 8

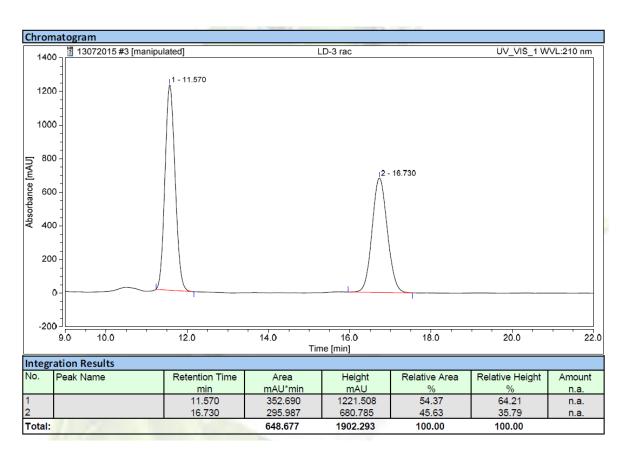
Optical rotation was in agreement with that previously reported.<sup>[4,5]</sup> NMR spectra and HPLC in agreement with those reported in the literature.<sup>[6]</sup>

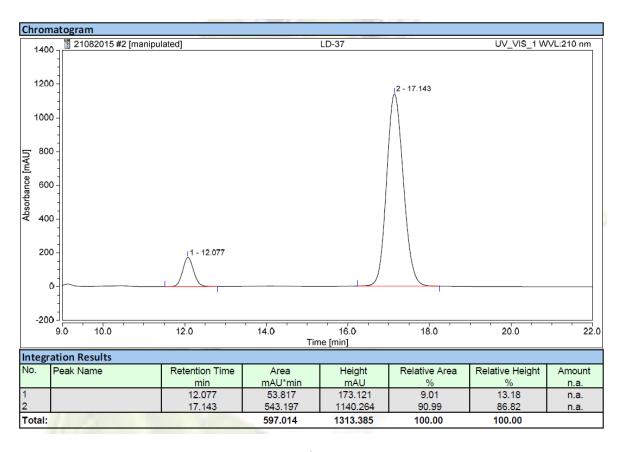
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (ppm): 0.99 (s, 3H), 1.12 (s, 3H), 3.78 (dd,  $J_1 = 3.9$ ,  $J_2 = 11.3$  Hz, 1H), 4.68 (dd,  $J_1 = 3.9$ ,  $J_2 = 13.1$  Hz, 1H), 4.85 (dd,  $J_1 = 11.3$ ,  $J_2 = 13$  Hz, 1H), 6.86-6.93 (m, 2H), 7.17 (dd,  $J_1 = 1.6$ ,  $J_2 = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.24 (m, 1H), 9.49 (s, 1H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.76 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (ppm): 18.9, 21.8, 48.3, 48.5, 76.4, 128.2, 128.8, 129.2, 135.4, 204.4.  $[\alpha]_D^{25^{\circ}C} = -1.5 \ (c = 0.4, CHCl_3).$ 

HPLC (Chiralcel OD-H, hexane/i-PrOH 80/20, 1 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 210 nm):  $t_{minor}$  = 12.0 min,  $t_{major}$  = 17.1 min.







# (S)-3-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-2,2-dimethyl-4-nitrobutanal, 15

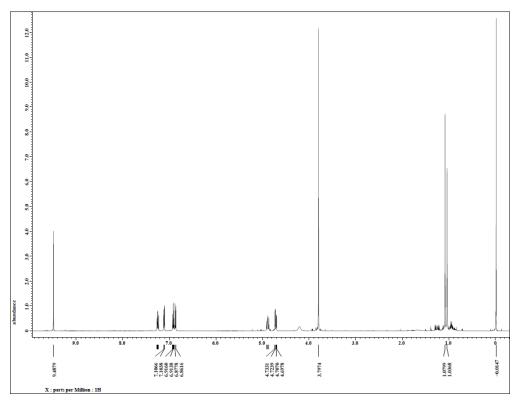
NMR spectra and HPLC were in agreement with those reported in the literature. [6]

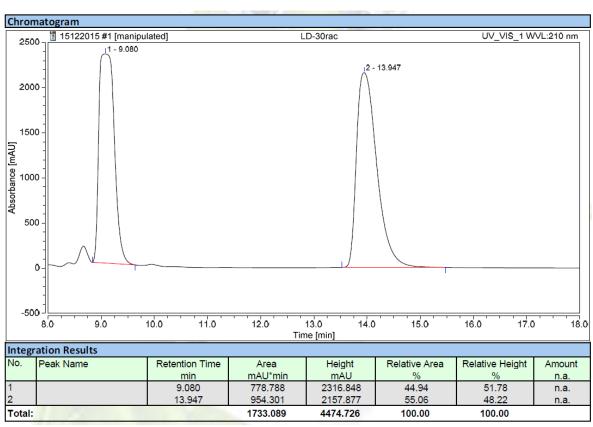
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (ppm): 1.03 (s, 3H), 1.08 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 4.23 (a, 1H), 4.71 (dd,  $J_1 = 4.6$ ,  $J_2 = 13.1$  Hz, 1H), 4.89 (dd,  $J_1 = 10.9$ ,  $J_2 = 13.1$  Hz, 1H), 6.87-7.28 (m, 4H), 9.51 (s, 1H).

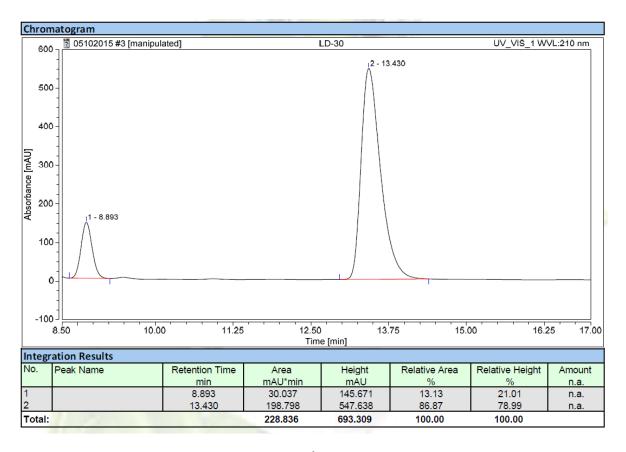
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.76 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (ppm): 20.0, 21.1, 48.5, 55.4, 55.4, 75.9, 111.4, 120.8, 124.1, 129.4, 129.8, 157.4, 204.2.

 $[\alpha]_D^{25^{\circ}C}$  = +11.7 (c = 0.47, CHCl<sub>3</sub>).

HPLC (Chiralcel OD-H, hexane/i-PrOH 80/20, 0.8 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 210 nm):  $t_{minor}$  = 8.9 min.,  $t_{major}$  = 13.4 min.







# (R)-3-(2-Bromophenyl)-2,2-dimethyl-4-nitrobutanal, 16.

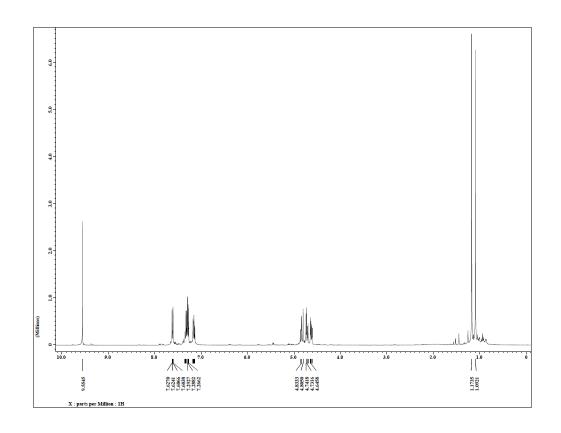
Optical rotation was in agreement with that previously reported in the literature. [4] NMR spectra and HPLC were in agreement with those reported in the literature. [6]

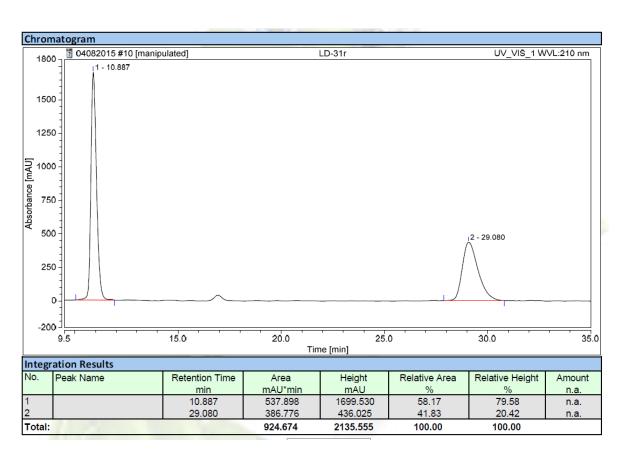
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (ppm): 1.09 (s, 3H), 1.17 (s, 3H), 4.62 (dd,  $J_1$  = 3.6,  $J_2$  = 11.3 Hz, 1H), 4.72 (dd,  $J_1$  = 4.2,  $J_2$  = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 4.80 (dd,  $J_1$ = 11.3,  $J_2$  = 13.1 Hz, 1H), 7.13-7.63 (m, 4H), 9.55 (s, 1H).

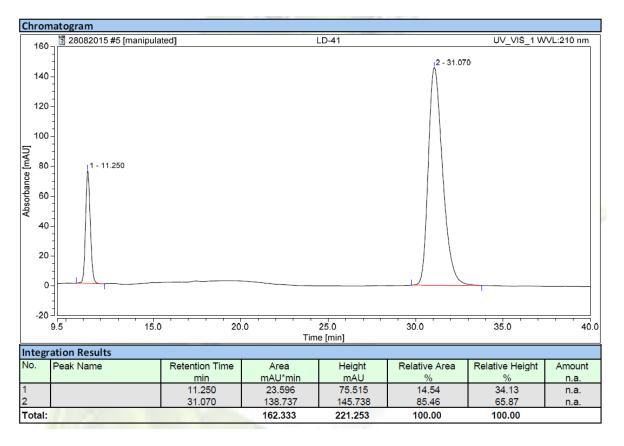
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.76 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (ppm): 18.9, 21.1, 45.4, 49.2, 76.5, 127.0, 127.9, 128.4, 129.6, 134.0, 135.6, 203.9.

 $[\alpha]_D^{25^{\circ}C} = -0.66$  (c = 0.46, CHCl<sub>3</sub>).

HPLC (Chiralcel OD-H, hexane/i-PrOH 80/20, 1 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 210 nm):  $t_{minor}$  = 10.9 min.,  $t_{major}$  = 29.0 min.







### (S)-3-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2,2-dimethyl-4-nitrobutanal, 17.

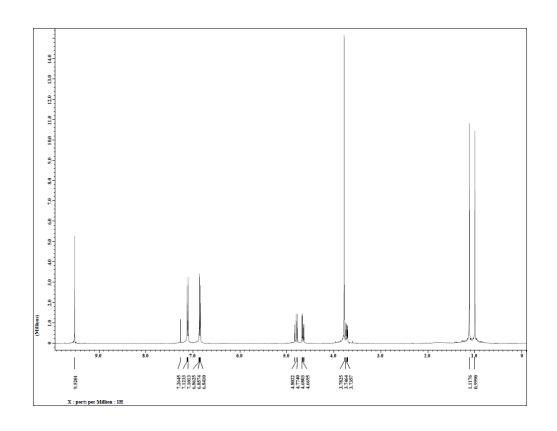
Optical rotation was in agreement with that previously reported in the literature.<sup>[4]</sup> NMR spectra and HPLC were in agreement with those reported in the literature.<sup>[6]</sup>

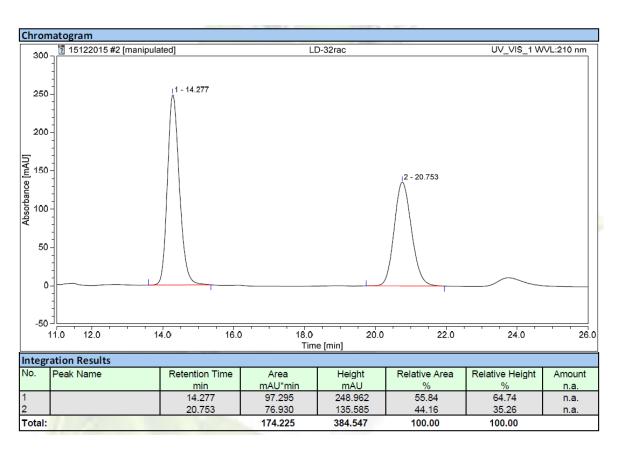
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (ppm): 0.99 (s, 3H), 1.12 (s, 3H), 3.74 (dd,  $J_1$  = 4.2,  $J_2$  = 11.5 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 4.66 (dd,  $J_1$ = 4.3,  $J_2$  = 12.9 Hz, 1H), 4.80 (dd,  $J_1$  = 11.2,  $J_2$  = 12.9 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d,  $J_{AB}$  = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (d,  $J_{AB}$  = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 9.52 (s, 1H).

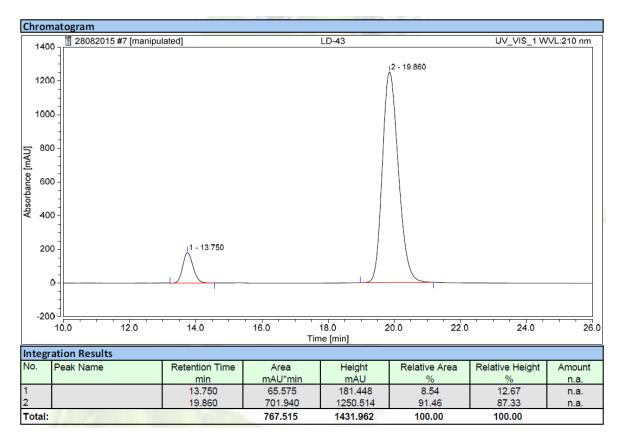
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100.52 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (ppm): 19.0, 21.7, 47.9, 48.5, 55.3, 76.6, 114.2, 127.2, 130.2, 159.4, 204.6.

 $[\alpha]_D^{25^{\circ}C} = +2.7$  (c = 0.41, CHCl<sub>3</sub>).

HPLC (Chiralcel OD-H, hexane/i-PrOH 75/25, 0.8 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 210 nm):  $t_{minor}$  = 13.7 min.,  $t_{major}$  = 19.9 min.







### (S)-2,2-Dimethyl-4-nitro-3-(p-tolyl)butanal, 18.

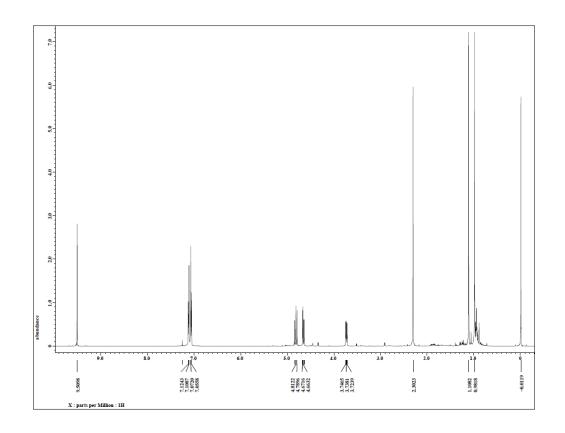
NMR spectra and HPLC data were in agreement with those reported for the enantiomeric compound in the literature. [6]

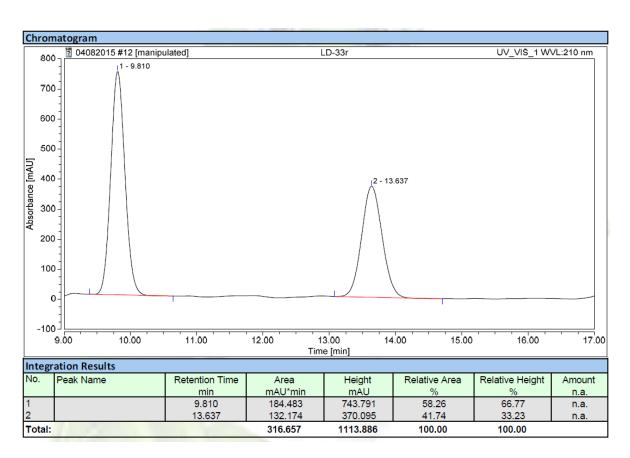
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (ppm): 0.98 (s, 3H), 1.11 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 3.73 (dd,  $J_1 = 4.2$ ,  $J_2 = 11.3$  Hz, 1H), 4.65 (dd,  $J_1 = 4.2$ ,  $J_2 = 12.7$  Hz, 1H), 4.81 (dd,  $J_1 = 11.3$ ,  $J_2 = 12.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.09 (m, 4H), 9.51 (s, 1H).

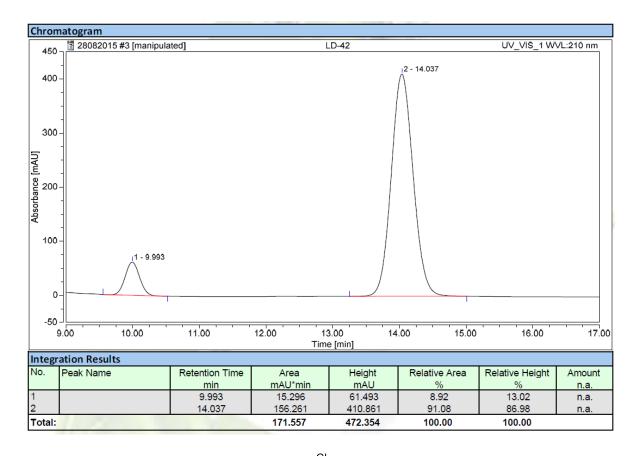
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.76 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (ppm): 18.9, 21.1, 21.6, 48.2, 48.3, 76.5, 129.0, 129.5, 132.2, 138.0, 204.5.

 $[\alpha]_D^{25^{\circ}C} = -1.2$  (c = 0.40, CHCl<sub>3</sub>).

HPLC (Chiralcel OD-H, hexane/i-PrOH 80/20, 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 210 nm):  $t_{minor}$  = 10.0 min.,  $t_{major}$  = 14.0 min.







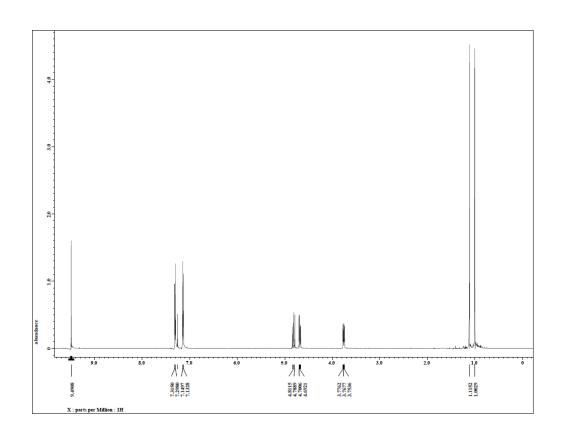
### (S)-3-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2,2-dimethyl-4-nitrobutanal, 19

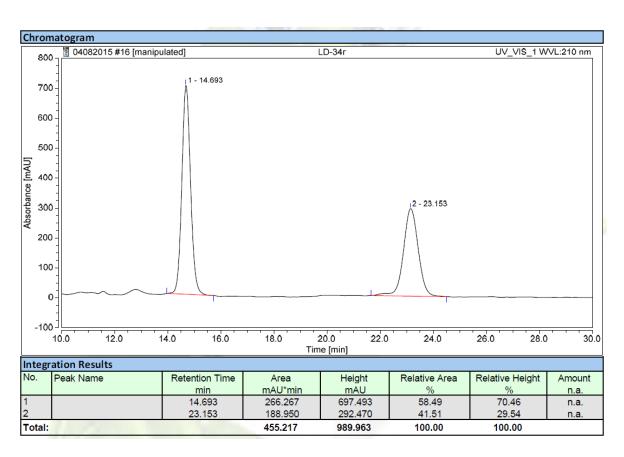
NMR spectra and HPLC data in agreement with those reported for the enantiomeric compound in the literature. [6]

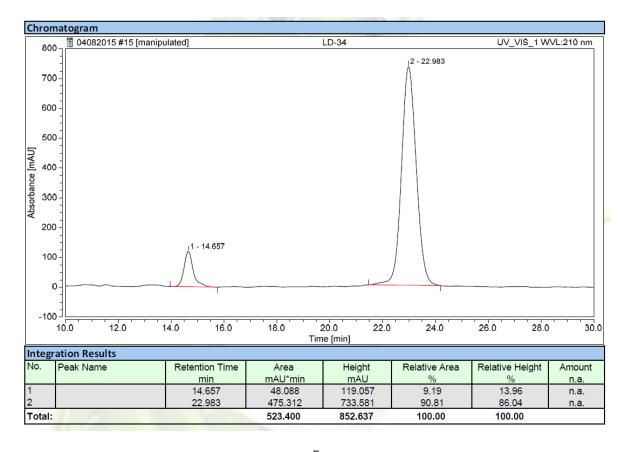
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (ppm): 1.00 (s, 3H), 1.11 (s, 3H), 3.76 (dd,  $J_1$  = 4.2,  $J_2$  = 11.3 Hz, 1H), 4.68 (dd,  $J_1$ = 4.3,  $J_2$  = 13.1 Hz, 1H), 4.81 (dd,  $J_1$  = 11.3,  $J_2$  = 13.1 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (d,  $J_{AB}$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d,  $J_{AB}$  = 8.4 Hz, 4H), 9.49 (s, 1H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.76 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (ppm): 19.0, 21.8, 48.0, 48.3, 76.2, 129.1, 130.5, 134.0, 134.3, 203.9.  $[\alpha]_D^{25^\circ C} = -3.0 \ (c = 0.333, CHCl_3).$ 

HPLC (Chiralcel OD-H, hexane/i-PrOH 80/20, 0.8 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 210 nm):  $t_{minor}$  = 14.6 min.,  $t_{major}$  = 23.0 min.







### (S)-3-(4-Fluorophenyl)-2,2-dimethyl-4-nitrobutanal, 20

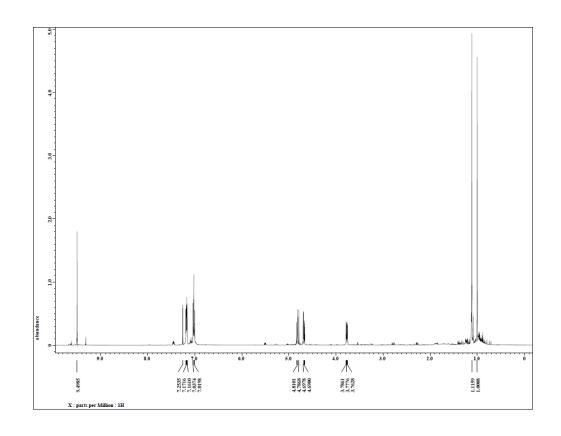
NMR spectra and HPLC data were in agreement with those reported in the literature for the enantiomeric compound. [6]

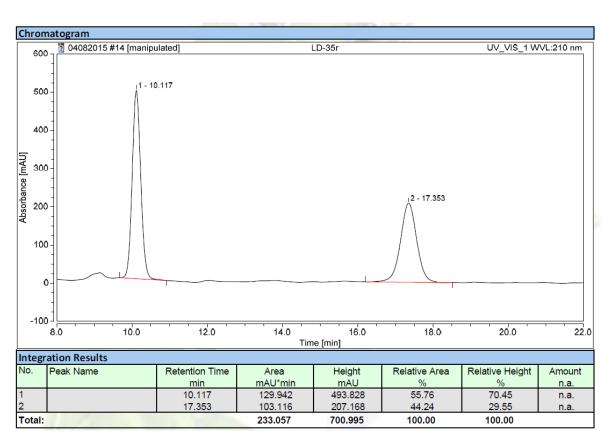
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (ppm): 1.00 (s, 3H), 1.16 (s, 3H), 3.77 (dd,  $J_1 = 4.0$ ,  $J_2 = 11.6$  Hz, 1H), 4.68 (dd,  $J_1 = 3.9$ ,  $J_2 = 12.9$  Hz, 1H), 4.81 (dd,  $J_1 = 11.6$ ,  $J_2 = 12.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.00-7.19 (m, Hz, 4H), 9.5 (s, 1H).

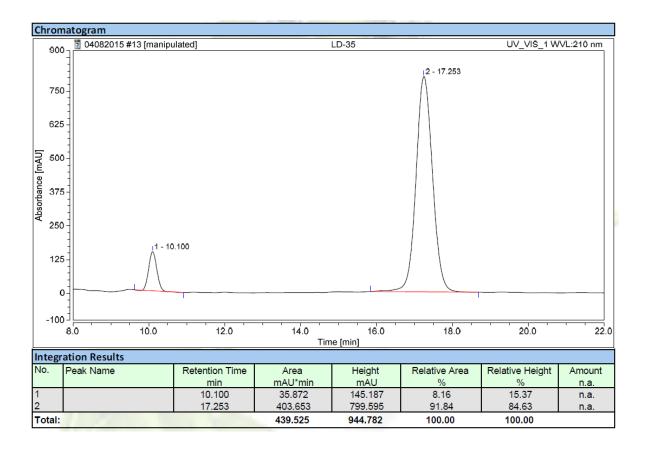
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.76 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (ppm): 19.0, 21.8, 47.9, 48.3, 76.9, 115.8 (d,  $J_{C-F} = 21.1 \text{ Hz}$ ), 130.8 (d,  $J_{C-F} = 8.6 \text{ Hz}$ ), 131.2, 162.5 (d,  $J_{C-F} = 247.6 \text{ Hz}$ ), 203.9.

 $[\alpha]_D^{25^{\circ}C}$  = +8.0 (c = 0.29, CHCl<sub>3</sub>).

HPLC (Chiralcel OD-H, hexane/i-PrOH 80/20, 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 210 nm):  $t_{minor}$  = 10.1 min.,  $t_{major}$  = 17.2 min.







### 4. Bibliography

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