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## Supporting Information

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# **Dynamic Combinatorial Resolution: Direct Asymmetric Lipase-Mediated Screening of a Dynamic Nitroaldol Library**

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## **General**

Reagents were purchased from commercial sources and used as received.  $^1\text{H}$ - and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR data were recorded on a Bruker Avance 400 spectrometer at 400 (100) MHz and/or a Bruker Avance DMX 500 at 500 (125) MHz respectively. Chemical shifts are reported as  $\delta$  values (ppm) with  $\text{CDCl}_3$  ( $^1\text{H}$  NMR  $\delta$  7.26,  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR  $\delta$  77.0) as internal standard.  $J$  values are given in Hertz (Hz). Analytical high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) with chiral stationary phase was performed on HP-Agilent 1110 Series instrumentation and a UV detector, using a Daicel Chiralpak OD-H column (46×250 mm, 5  $\mu\text{m}$ ). Solvents for HPLC use were spectrometric grade. Melting points were analyzed using a Stuart Scientific melting point apparatus SMP3. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on precoated Polygram<sup>®</sup> SIL G/UV<sub>254</sub> silica plates (0.20 mm, Macherey-Nagel) and visualized by UV-detection. Flash column chromatography was performed on silica gel 60, 0.040-0.063 mm (SDS). HRMS was performed by Instrumentstationen, Kemicentrum, Lund University, Sweden.

## Generation of DCLs and lipase-mediate screening

The nitroaldol DCLs were generated by using five different aldehydes (**1** to **5**, 0.1 mmol each), together with 1 equivalent of 2-nitropropane (8.9 mg, 0.1 mmol) in dry toluene (0.5 mL). DCL generation was initiated by addition of 10 equivalents of dry triethylamine (101 mg, 1 mmol) at 40°C. The library was followed by <sup>1</sup>H NMR at 298K, by addition of aliquots (10  $\mu$ L) from the reaction mixture to CDCl<sub>3</sub> (0.55 mL). For the lipase-mediate screening, *Pseudomonas cepacia* (PS-C I, immobilized on ceramic, Sigma-Aldrich EC 3.1.1.3, 160 mg) together with ground 4  $\text{\AA}$  molecular sieves (20 mg), and five equivalents of *p*-chlorophenyl acetate (85 mg, 0.5 mmol) were added. The reaction was performed at 40°C without stirring under argon atmosphere, followed by <sup>1</sup>H NMR.

### *p*-chlorophenyl acetate<sup>[1]</sup>

Acetyl chloride (5.5 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of 4-chlorophenol (0.643 g, 5.0 mmol), triethylamine (1.52 g, 15 mmol), and DMAP (12 mg, 0.1 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. The solution was washed with diluted HCl (3  $\times$  8 mL), and the combined aqueous phases were reextracted with ether (3  $\times$  8 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (aq, 5 mL), and brine (4 mL), and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was concentrated in vacuo, and the crude mixture was purified on silica (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/hexane, 7:3 (v/v)). Colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 2.29 (s, 3H), 7.03 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.34 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.8 Hz).

### 2-methyl-2-nitro-1-(3-nitrophenyl)propyl acetate (**3-6 ester**)

3-nitrobenzaldehyde (**3**) (37.75 mg, 0.25 mmol) was dissolved in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (0.5 ml) followed by adding 2-nitropropane (**6**) (111.25 mg, 1.25 mmol) and triethylamine (75.75 mg, 0.75 mmol) and stirred at room temperature for 3 h. The reaction was acidified with diluted HCl, extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3  $\times$  2 mL) and the combined organic layers washed with brine (2  $\times$  1 mL). The organic phase was dried with MgSO<sub>4</sub> and the solvent evaporated. The crude mixture was dissolved in dry pyridine (1 mL) followed by addition of 5 equivalents of acetic anhydride (127.5 mg, 1.25 mmol). The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 6 h and work-up as above provided the corresponding crude racemic mixture of compound **3-6 ester**. The crude

mixture was purified by column chromatography with isocratic system  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{Hexane}$  (7:3 (*v/v*)) as an eluent to yield compound **3-6 ester**. 60 mg. Colorless amorphous solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 1.52 (3H, s), 1.66 (3H, s), 2.13 (3H, s), 6.39 (1H, s), 7.58 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.8, 8.0 Hz), 7.66 (1H, d, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 8.20 (1H, brs), 8.24 (1H, brd, *J* = 8.0 Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 20.3, 20.7, 23.8, 77.8, 89.6, 122.3, 124.1, 129.7, 133.7, 137.3, 148.3, 168.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF): 300.1182 ( $[\text{M}+\text{NH}_4]^+$ ,  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_3\text{O}_6^+$ ; calc. 300.1190).

### **2-methyl-2-nitro-1-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)propyl acetate (1-6 ester)**

Prepared using the same protocol as for compound **3-6 ester**. 67 mg. Colorless solid. m.p. 108–110°C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 1.50 (3H, s), 1.64 (3H, s), 2.10 (3H, s), 6.35 (1H, s), 7.46 (2H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.64 (2H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 20.1, 20.7, 24.1, 77.8, 89.7, 122.4, 125.5, 128.0, 131.1, 131.4, 139.1, 168.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF): 323.1211 ( $[\text{M}+\text{NH}_4]^+$ ,  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{18}\text{F}_3\text{N}_2\text{O}_4^+$ ; calc. 323.1213).

### **Determination of enantiomeric purity**

The ee:s of final products **1-6 ester** and **3-6 ester**, were determined by analytical HPLC utilizing a chiral normal-phase column (OD-H; Isopropanol/hexane, 1:99; flow rate 0.5 mL/min): racemic **1-6 ester**  $t_{\text{R}}$  23 and 24 min; racemic **3-6 ester**  $t_{\text{R}}$  60 and 65 min.

### **(*S*)-(-)-MTPA ester of 7-6<sup>[2]</sup>**

A reaction mixture consisting of **7-6** (4 mg) resulting from the kinetic resolution by enzyme-lipase PS-C I (90% ee), pyridine (0.5 mL), and (*R*)-(-)- $\alpha$ -methoxy- $\alpha$ -trifluoromethylphenylacetyl chloride (20 mg) was left standing at room temperature for 40 h. The mixture was acidified with dilute HCl and extracted with EtOAc ( $3 \times 1$  mL), and washed with brine. The EtOAc layer was dried, yielding the (*S*)-(-)-MTPA ester of **7-6a** (2 mg). Colorless oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 1.47 (3H, s), 1.60 (3H, s), 3.41 (3H, s, OMe), 6.65 (1H, s), 7.38 (3H, m, aromatic protons of MTPA), 7.40 (2H, m, aromatic protons of MTPA), 7.44 (2H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 8.23 (2H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz).

### **(*R*)-(+)-MTPA ester of 7-6<sup>[2]</sup>**

Preparation of the (*R*)-(+)-MTPA ester of **7-6** from (*S*)-(+)- $\alpha$ -methoxy- $\alpha$ -trifluoromethylphenylacetyl chloride was performed in the same manner as that of the (*S*)-(-)-MTPA ester derivative. Colorless oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 1.48 (3H, s), 1.55 (3H, s), 3.45 (3H, s, OMe), 6.57 (1H, s), 7.28 (2H, d,  $J$  = 7 Hz), 7.37 (3H, m, aromatic protons of MTPA), 7.42 (2H, m, aromatic protons of MTPA), 8.16 (2H, d,  $J$  = 7 Hz).

## References

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