



Supporting Information

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# Catalytic Asymmetric Reaction with Water: Enantioselective Synthesis of $\alpha$ -Hydroxyesters by Copper- carbenoid O–H Insertion Reaction

Shou-Fei Zhu, Chao Chen, Yan Cai, and Qi-Lin Zhou\*

*State Key Laboratory and Institute of Elemento-organic Chemistry, Nankai University  
Tianjin 300071, China*

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**General.** All reactions and manipulations were performed using standard Schlenk techniques. All solvents were purified and dried using standard procedures. CuCl and CuPF<sub>6</sub>(MeCN)<sub>4</sub> were prepared according to the literature procedures.<sup>1</sup> The other copper salts were purchased and used without further purification. Ligands **1**,<sup>2</sup> (*S<sub>a</sub>S,S*)-Ph-Binabox and (*R<sub>a</sub>S,S*)-Ph-Binabox,<sup>3</sup> (*S,S*)-Ph-Box,<sup>4</sup> (*S,S*)-*i*-Pr-Pybox,<sup>5</sup> (*R*)-BINAP,<sup>6</sup> (*S*)-SDP,<sup>7</sup> (*S*)-Phox,<sup>8</sup> and SIPHOX<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Inorg. Synth. Vol. II, p. 1

<sup>2</sup> a) B. Liu, S.-F. Zhu, L.-X. Wang, Q.-L. Zhou, *Tetrahedron: Asymmetry* **2006**, *17*, 634. b) B. Liu, S.-F. Zhu, W. Zhang, C. Chen, Q.-L. Zhou, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2007**, *129*, 5834.

<sup>3</sup> Y. Uozumi, H. Kyota, E. Kishi, K. Kitayama, T. Hayashi, *Tetrahedron: Asymmetry* **1996**, *7*, 1603.

<sup>4</sup> D. A. Evans, K. A. Woerpel, M. M. Hinman, M. M. Faul, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1991**, *113*, 726.

<sup>5</sup> H. Nishiyama, H. Sakaguchi, T. Nakamura, M. Horihata, M. Kondo, K. Itoh, *Organometallics* **1989**, *8*, 846.

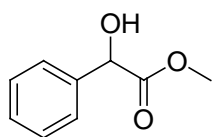
<sup>6</sup> D. Cai, J. F. Payack, D. R. Bender, D. L. Hughes, T. R. Verhoeven, P. J. Reider, *J. Org. Chem.* **1994**, *59*, 7180.

were prepared by literature methods. All the 2-diazophenylacetates were prepared according to the literature procedure.<sup>10</sup> Melting points were measured on a RY-I apparatus and uncorrected. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker or Varian spectrometer at 400 or 300 (<sup>1</sup>H NMR), 100 or 75 (<sup>13</sup>C NMR) MHz. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$  values) were reported in ppm down field from internal Me<sub>4</sub>Si (<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR). Optical rotations were determined using a Perkin Elmer 341 MC polarimeter. HRMS were recorded on VG ZAB-HS mass spectrometer with EI resource. HPLC analyses were performed on a Hewlett Packard Model HP 1100 Series chromatography. SFC analyses were performed on Mettler-Toledo Model Analytix SFC.

## 1. Typical Procedure for Cu-catalyzed Asymmetric Insertion of Carbenoid into Water

The CuSO<sub>4</sub> (2.4 mg, 0.015 mmol, 5 mol%), (*S,S,S*)-**1a** (9.1 mg, 0.018 mmol, 6 mol%) and NaBARF (16.9 mg, 0.018 mmol, 6 mol%) were introduced into an oven-dried Schlenk tube in argon-filled glovebox. After CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3 mL) was injected into the Schlenk tube, the solution was stirred at room temperature under the argon atmosphere for 4 h. Then the Schlenk tube was heated to 40 °C, H<sub>2</sub>O (27 mg, 1.5 mmol) and diazoesters (0.3 mmol) were injected. The resulting mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 15 min and the product was purified by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:5). The analytical data for  $\alpha$ -hydroxyesters are listed below.

## 2. Analytical Data for Insertion Products



**(R)-(-)-Methyl 2-hydroxy-2-phenylacetate (3a).**<sup>11</sup> Colorless oil; 91% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.43–7.33 (m, 5H), 5.18 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.46 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H); 90% ee [SFC condition:

<sup>7</sup> J.-H. Xie, L.-X. Wang, Y. Fu, S.-F. Zhu, B.-M. Fan, H.-F. Duan, Q.-L. Zhou, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2003**, *125*, 4404.

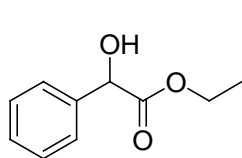
<sup>8</sup> J. V. Allen, G. J. Dawson, C. G. Frost, J. M. J. Williams, S. J. Coote, *Tetrahedron* **1994**, *50*, 799.

<sup>9</sup> S.-F. Zhu; J.-B. Xie, Y.-Z. Zhang, S. Li, Q.-L. Zhou, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2006**, *128*, 12886.

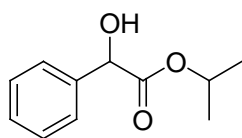
<sup>10</sup> a) M. Regitz, *Angew. Chem.* **1967**, *79*, 786; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.* **1967**, *6*, 733; b) T. C. Maier, G. C. Fu, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2006**, *128*, 4594.

<sup>11</sup> O. Kuisle, E. Quiñoá, R. Riguera, *J. Org. Chem.* **1999**, *64*, 8063.

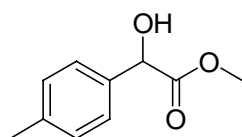
Chiralcel OD-H column, sc CO<sub>2</sub>/*i*-PrOH = 80:20, flow rate = 2.0 mL/min, wavelength = 220 nm, pressure = 100 bar, *t*<sub>R</sub> = 2.35 min for (*S*)-enantiomer, *t*<sub>R</sub> = 2.87 min for (*R*)-enantiomer]; [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> = -122 (*c* 1.00, EtOH) [lit: [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> = -130 (*c* 1.03, EtOH) for (*R*)].<sup>12</sup>



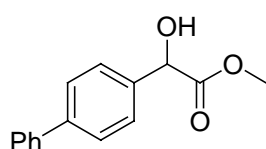
**(*R*)-(-)-Ethyl 2-hydroxy-2-phenylacetate (3b).**<sup>13</sup> Colorless oil; 91% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.43–7.30 (m, 5H), 5.15 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 4.31–4.13 (m, 2H), 3.47 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 1.23 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); 88% ee [SFC condition: Chiralcel OD-H column, sc CO<sub>2</sub>/*i*-PrOH = 94:6, flow rate = 2.0 mL/min, wavelength = 220 nm, pressure = 100 bar, *t*<sub>R</sub> = 4.15 min for (*S*)-enantiomer, *t*<sub>R</sub> = 5.71 min for (*R*)-enantiomer]; [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> = -104 (*c* 1.00, CHCl<sub>3</sub>) [lit: [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> = -126 (*c* 2.01, CHCl<sub>3</sub>) for (*R*)].<sup>14</sup>



**(*R*)-(-)-Isopropyl 2-hydroxy-2-phenylacetate (3c).**<sup>13</sup> Colorless oil; 81% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.44–7.31 (m, 5H), 5.13–5.03 (m, 1H), 3.48 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 1.28 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 3H), 1.11 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 3H); 86% ee [SFC condition: Chiralcel OD-H column, sc CO<sub>2</sub>/*i*-PrOH = 94:6, flow rate = 2.0 mL/min, wavelength = 220 nm, pressure = 100 bar, *t*<sub>R</sub> = 3.46 min for (*S*)-enantiomer, *t*<sub>R</sub> = 4.71 min for (*R*)-enantiomer]; [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> = -96.1 (*c* 1.15, CHCl<sub>3</sub>) [lit: [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> = -98.9 (*c* 1.00, CHCl<sub>3</sub>) for (*R*)].<sup>15</sup>



**(*R*)-(-)-Methyl 2-hydroxy-2-*p*-tolylacetate (3d).**<sup>13</sup> Colorless oil; 83% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.29 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.14 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.40 (brs, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H); 92% ee [SFC condition: Chiralcel OD-H column, sc CO<sub>2</sub>/*i*-PrOH = 90:10, flow rate = 2.0 mL/min, wavelength = 220 nm, pressure = 100 bar, *t*<sub>R</sub> = 3.41 min for (*S*)-enantiomer, *t*<sub>R</sub> = 3.89 min for (*R*)-enantiomer]; [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> = -108 (*c* 0.90, EtOH).



**(-)-Methyl 2-hydroxy-2-(4-biphenyl)acetate (3e).** White solid; 87% yield; mp = 103–104 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.50–7.24 (m, 9H), 5.13 (s, 1H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.53 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75

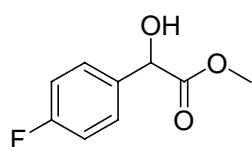
<sup>12</sup> A. Ohno, M. Ikeguchi, T. Kimura, S. Oka, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1979**, *101*, 7036.

<sup>13</sup> D. Basavaiah, P. R. Krishna, *Tetrahedron* **1995**, *51*, 2403.

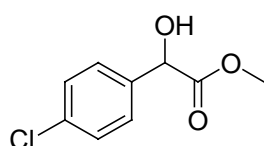
<sup>14</sup> R. Roger, *J. Chem. Soc.* **1932**, 2168.

<sup>15</sup> H. C. Brown, G. G. Pai, *J. Org. Chem.* **1985**, *50*, 1384.

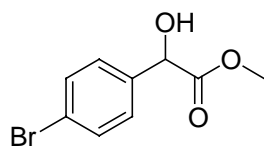
MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  174.1, 141.5, 140.6, 137.3, 128.8, 127.5, 127.4, 127.1, 72.8, 53.0; HRMS (EI) Calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: 242.0943; Found: 242.0969; 92% ee [SFC condition: Chiralcel OD-H column, sc CO<sub>2</sub>/*i*-PrOH = 94:6, flow rate = 2.0 mL/min, wavelength = 220 nm, pressure = 100 bar,  $t_R$  = 18.69 min for minor isomer,  $t_R$  = 20.47 min for major isomer];  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -135$  (*c* 1.80, CHCl<sub>3</sub>).



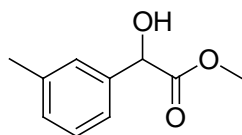
**(-)-Methyl 2-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-hydroxyacetate (3f).**<sup>16</sup> Colorless oil; 90% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.32 (dd, *J* = 5.4 and 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (t, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 5.09 (s, 1H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.47 (brs, 1H); 92% ee [SFC condition: Chiralpak AD-H column, sc CO<sub>2</sub>/*i*-PrOH = 90:10, flow rate = 2.0 mL/min, wavelength = 220 nm, pressure = 100 bar,  $t_R$  = 3.61 min for minor isomer,  $t_R$  = 3.90 min for major isomer];  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -89.4$  (*c* 0.70, acetone).



**(R)-(-)-Methyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-hydroxyacetate (3g).**<sup>16</sup> Colorless oil; 83% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.39–7.32 (m, 4H), 5.16 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.45 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H); 92% ee [SFC condition: Chiralcel OD-H column, sc CO<sub>2</sub>/*i*-PrOH = 94:6, flow rate = 2.0 mL/min, wavelength = 220 nm, pressure = 100 bar,  $t_R$  = 5.80 min for (*S*)-enantiomer,  $t_R$  = 6.26 min for (*R*)-enantiomer];  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -61.4$  (*c* 0.35, acetone).



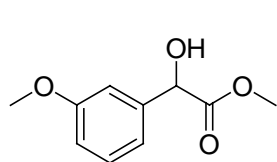
**(R)-(-)-Methyl 2-(4-bromophenyl)-2-hydroxyacetate (3h).**<sup>16</sup> Colorless oil; 86% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.50 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.14 (s, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.48 (brs, 1H); 91% ee [SFC condition: Chiralcel OD-H column, sc CO<sub>2</sub>/*i*-PrOH = 94:6, flow rate = 2.0 mL/min, wavelength = 220 nm, pressure = 100 bar,  $t_R$  = 7.07 min for (*S*)-enantiomer,  $t_R$  = 7.65 min for (*R*)-enantiomer];  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -71.2$  (*c* 0.70, acetone).



**(-)-Methyl 2-hydroxy-2-*m*-tolylacetate (3i).** Colorless oil; 87% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.19–7.04 (m, 4H), 5.04 (d, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.45 (d, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 2.27 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  174.2, 138.4, 138.3, 129.3, 128.5, 127.2, 123.8, 73.0, 52.9, 21.4; HRMS (EI) Calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: 180.0786; Found: 180.0789; 92% ee [SFC condition: Chiralcel OD-H

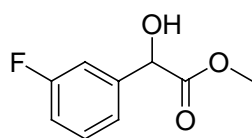
<sup>16</sup> R. Chênevert, M. Létourneau, *Can. J. Chem.* **1990**, *68*, 314.

column, sc CO<sub>2</sub>/*i*-PrOH = 94:6, flow rate = 2.0 mL/min, wavelength = 220 nm, pressure = 100 bar, *t*<sub>R</sub> = 4.68 min for minor isomer, *t*<sub>R</sub> = 5.78 min for major isomer]; [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> = -112 (*c* 0.35, EtOH).



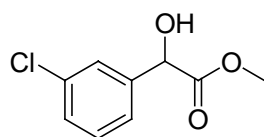
**(R)-(-)-Methyl 2-hydroxy-2-(3-methoxyphenyl)acetate (3j).**<sup>16</sup>

Colorless oil; 89% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.23–7.18 (m, 1H), 6.94–6.89 (m, 2H), 6.81–6.78 (m, 1H), 5.08 (s, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.41 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H); 91% ee [SFC condition: Chiralcel OD-H column, sc CO<sub>2</sub>/*i*-PrOH = 90:10, flow rate = 2.0 mL/min, wavelength = 220 nm, pressure = 100 bar, *t*<sub>R</sub> = 4.42 min for (*S*)-enantiomer, *t*<sub>R</sub> = 5.11 min for (*R*)-enantiomer]; [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> = -97.3 (*c* 0.75, EtOH).



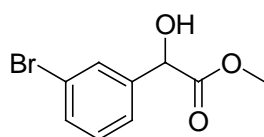
**(-)-Methyl 2-(3-fluorophenyl)-2-hydroxyacetate (3k).** Colorless oil;

85% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.25–7.05 (m, 3H), 6.96–6.90 (m, 1H), 5.09 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz, 1H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.59 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 173.6, 164.5, 161.3, 140.7, 140.6, 130.1, 130.0, 122.2, 115.5, 115.2, 113.8, 113.5, 72.3, 53.1; HRMS (EI) Calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>9</sub>FO<sub>3</sub>: 184.0536; Found: 184.0534; 89% ee [SFC condition: Chiralcel OD-H column, sc CO<sub>2</sub>/*i*-PrOH = 95:5, flow rate = 2.0 mL/min, wavelength = 220 nm, pressure = 100 bar, *t*<sub>R</sub> = 4.15 min for minor isomer, *t*<sub>R</sub> = 4.64 min for major isomer]; [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> = -117 (*c* 0.70, CHCl<sub>3</sub>).



**(R)-(-)-Methyl 2-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-hydroxyacetate (3l).**<sup>17</sup>

Colorless oil; 88% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.43–7.31 (m, 4H), 5.15 (s, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.51 (brs, 1H); 88% ee [SFC condition: Chiralcel OD-H column, sc CO<sub>2</sub>/*i*-PrOH = 90:10, flow rate = 2.0 mL/min, wavelength = 220 nm, pressure = 100 bar, *t*<sub>R</sub> = 3.93 min for (*S*)-enantiomer, *t*<sub>R</sub> = 4.20 min for (*R*)-enantiomer]; [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> = -111 (*c* 1.80, CHCl<sub>3</sub>).



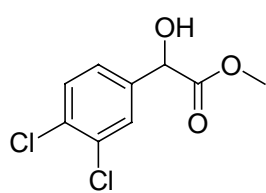
**(-)-Methyl 2-(3-bromophenyl)-2-hydroxyacetate (3m).**<sup>18</sup> Colorless

oil; 92% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.61–7.26 (m, 4H), 5.16 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.52 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H); 88% ee [SFC condition: Chiralcel OJ-H column, sc CO<sub>2</sub>/*i*-PrOH = 94:6, flow rate = 2.0 mL/min,

<sup>17</sup> G. C. Lloyd-Jones, P. D. Wall, J. L. Slaughter, A. J. Parker, D. P. Laffan, *Tetrahedron* **2006**, *62*, 11402.

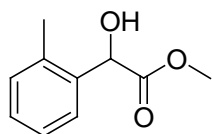
<sup>18</sup> B. M. Bocknack, L.-C. Wang, F. W. Hughes, M. J. Krische, *Tetrahedron* **2005**, *61*, 6266.

wavelength = 220 nm, pressure = 100 bar,  $t_R$  = 5.42 min for major isomer,  $t_R$  = 5.94 min for minor isomer];  $[\alpha]_D^{26} = -100$  ( $c$  0.90, EtOH).



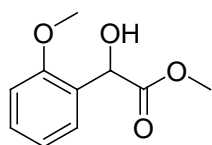
**(R)-(-)-Methyl 2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-2-hydroxyacetate (3n).**

Colorless oil; 91% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.46 (d,  $J$  = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.21–7.17 (m, 1H), 5.06 (d,  $J$  = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.65 (d,  $J$  = 3.0 Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  173.2, 138.3, 132.8, 132.6, 130.5, 128.6, 125.9, 71.7, 53.3; HRMS (EI) Calcd for  $\text{C}_9\text{H}_8\text{Cl}_2\text{O}_3$ : 233.9850; Found: 233.9851; 94% ee [SFC condition: Chiralpak AD-H column, sc  $\text{CO}_2/i\text{-PrOH}$  = 90:10, flow rate = 2.0 mL/min, wavelength = 220 nm, pressure = 100 bar,  $t_R$  = 6.86 min for (*S*)-enantiomer,  $t_R$  = 7.57 min for (*R*)-enantiomer];  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -123$  ( $c$  0.65,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ). The absolute configuration was determined by comparing the specific rotation of corresponding acid with the literature data. See next section for details.



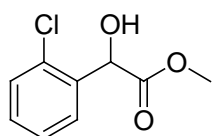
**(-)-Methyl 2-hydroxy-2-*o*-tolylacetate (3o).**

Colorless oil; 81% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.29–7.14 (m, 4H), 5.36 (d,  $J$  = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.53 (d,  $J$  = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  174.6, 136.6, 136.4, 130.8, 128.5, 126.9, 126.3, 70.5, 52.8, 19.2; HRMS (EI) Calcd for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_3$ : 180.0786; Found: 180.0782; 89% ee [SFC condition: Chiralcel OJ-H column, sc  $\text{CO}_2/i\text{-PrOH}$  = 90:10, flow rate = 2.0 mL/min, wavelength = 220 nm, pressure = 100 bar,  $t_R$  = 3.34 min for major isomer,  $t_R$  = 3.74 min for minor isomer];  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -87.0$  ( $c$  0.40, EtOH).



**(R)-(-)-Methyl 2-hydroxy-2-(2-methoxyphenyl)acetate (3p).**<sup>13</sup>

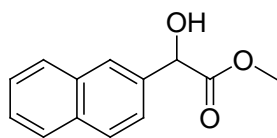
Colorless oil; 71% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.35–7.28 (m, 2H), 7.00–6.90 (m, 2H), 5.29 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.53 (d,  $J$  = 6.9 Hz, 1H); 50% ee [SFC condition: Chiralcel OD-H column, sc  $\text{CO}_2/i\text{-PrOH}$  = 90:10, flow rate = 2.0 mL/min, wavelength = 220 nm, pressure = 100 bar,  $t_R$  = 4.48 min for (*S*)-enantiomer,  $t_R$  = 4.88 min for (*R*)-enantiomer];  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -70.7$  ( $c$  0.40, EtOH).



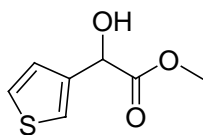
**(R)-(-)-Methyl 2-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-hydroxyacetate (3q).**<sup>17</sup>

Colorless oil; 90% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.41–7.38 (m, 2H), 7.30–7.26 (m, 2H), 5.57 (d,  $J$  = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.57 (d,  $J$  = 4.8 Hz, 1H); 36% ee [SFC condition: Chiralcel OJ-H column, sc  $\text{CO}_2/i\text{-PrOH}$  = 94:6, flow rate = 2.0

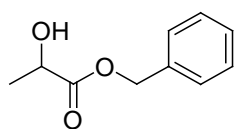
mL/min, wavelength = 220 nm, pressure = 100 bar,  $t_R$  = 5.43 min for (*R*)-enantiomer,  $t_R$  = 6.12 min for (*S*)-enantiomer];  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -84.6$  (*c* 0.92, CHCl<sub>3</sub>).



**(*R*)-(-)-Methyl 2-hydroxy-2-naphthalen-2-ylacetate (3r).**<sup>19</sup> White solid; 76% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.90–7.82 (m, 4H), 7.53–7.48 (m, 3H), 5.35 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.55 (d, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 1H); 90% ee [SFC condition: Chiralcel OD-H column, sc CO<sub>2</sub>/*i*-PrOH = 90:10, flow rate = 2.0 mL/min, wavelength = 220 nm, pressure = 100 bar,  $t_R$  = 9.76 min for (*S*)-enantiomer,  $t_R$  = 10.60 min for (*R*)-enantiomer];  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -144$  (*c* 1.00, CHCl<sub>3</sub>).



**(-)-Methyl 2-hydroxy-2-thiophene-3-ylacetate (3s).** Colorless oil; 70% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.22–7.15 (m, 2H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 5.17 (d, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.62 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  173.5, 139.3, 126.3, 125.9, 122.7, 69.5, 52.8; HRMS (EI) Calcd for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>8</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S: 172.0194; Found: 172.0194; 90% ee [SFC condition: Chiralcel OD-H column, sc CO<sub>2</sub>/*i*-PrOH = 90:10, flow rate = 2.0 mL/min, wavelength = 220 nm, pressure = 100 bar,  $t_R$  = 3.79 min for minor isomer,  $t_R$  = 4.21 min for major isomer];  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -108$  (*c* 0.65, CHCl<sub>3</sub>).



**(*R*)-(+)-Benzyl 2-hydroxypropionate (3t).**<sup>20</sup> Colorless oil; 78% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.40–7.33 (m, 5H), 5.21 (s, 2H), 4.36–4.28 (m, 1H), 2.85 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 1.43 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H); 78% ee [HPLC condition: Chiralcel OD-H column, *n*-Hex/*i*-PrOH = 96:4, flow rate = 1.0 mL/min, wavelength = 220 nm,  $t_R$  = 20.95 min for (*S*)-enantiomer,  $t_R$  = 21.86 min for (*R*)-enantiomer];  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +13.2$  (*c* 0.72, MeOH).

### 3. Typical Procedure for Hydrolysis of Methyl 2-Hydroxyphenylacetate

A solution of methyl 2-hydroxyphenylacetate (170 mg, 1.02 mmol) in EtOH (3 mL) was added to an aqueous solution of NaOH (4 mL, 1.25 M) at 0 °C. After being stirred for 2 h, the reaction mixture was acidified by 3 M hydrochloric acid and extracted with EtOAc (10 mL X

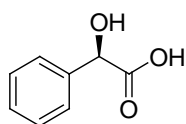
<sup>19</sup> M. Kimura, A. Kuboki, T. Sugai, *Tetrahedron: Asymmetry* **2002**, *13*, 1059.

<sup>20</sup> I. Shin, M. Lee, J. Lee, M. Jung, W. Lee, J. Yoon, *J. Org. Chem.* **2000**, *65*, 7667.

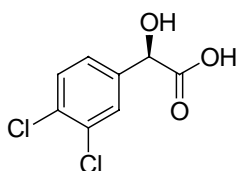


3). The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, and concentrated in vacuum to give mandelic acid (**4a**) (154 mg, quant.) as a white solid which was recrystallized from DCE to give a optically pure (*R*)-mandelic acid in 74% yield. The analytical data for 2-hydroxyphenylacetic acids are listed below.

#### 4. Analytical Data for Mandelic Acids



**(*R*)-(-)-Mandelic acid (4a).**<sup>21</sup> White solid; 74% yield; mp = 132–133 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, Acetone-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 7.52–7.27 (m, 7H), 5.22 (s, 1H); [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> = –157 (*c* 2.00, EtOH).



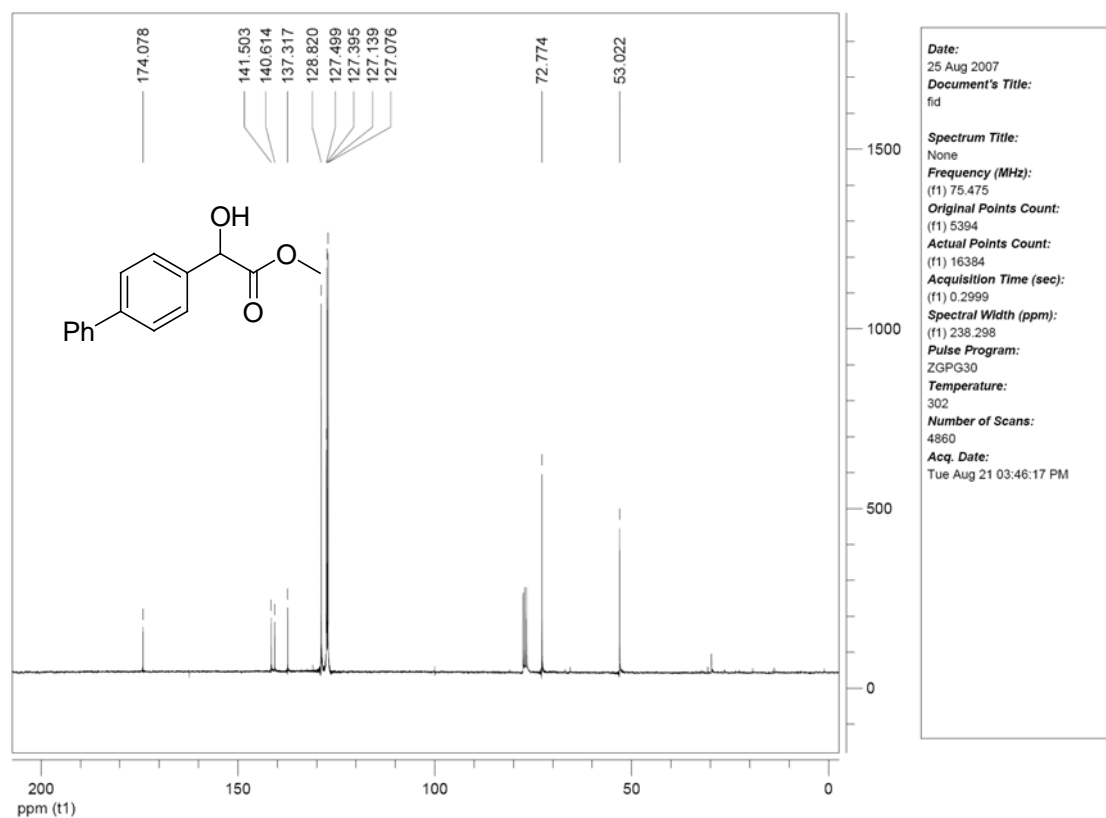
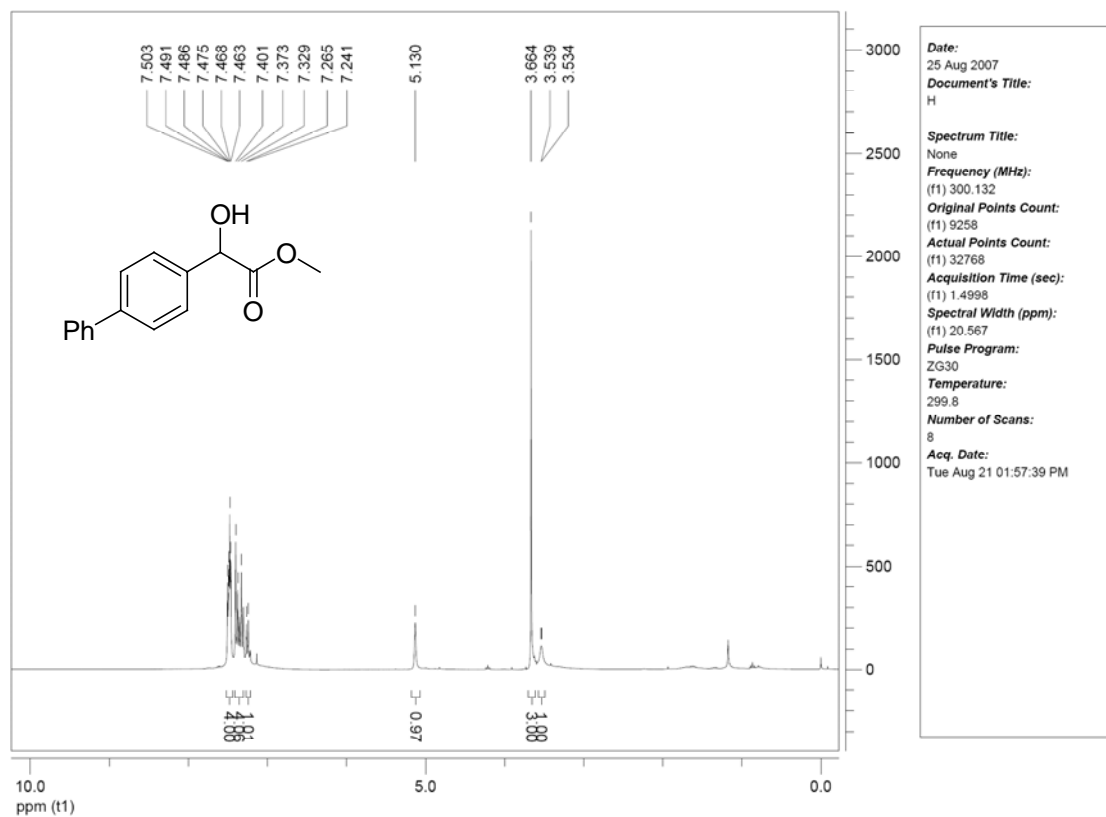
**(*R*)-(-)-2-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)-2-hydroxyacetic acid (4n).**<sup>22</sup> White solid; 65% yield; mp = 117–118 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, Acetone-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 7.72–7.49 (m, 5H), 5.29 (s, 1H); [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> = –115 (*c* 0.50, H<sub>2</sub>O).

<sup>21</sup> P. L. Polavarapu, L. P. Fontana, H. E. Smith, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1986**, *108*, 94.

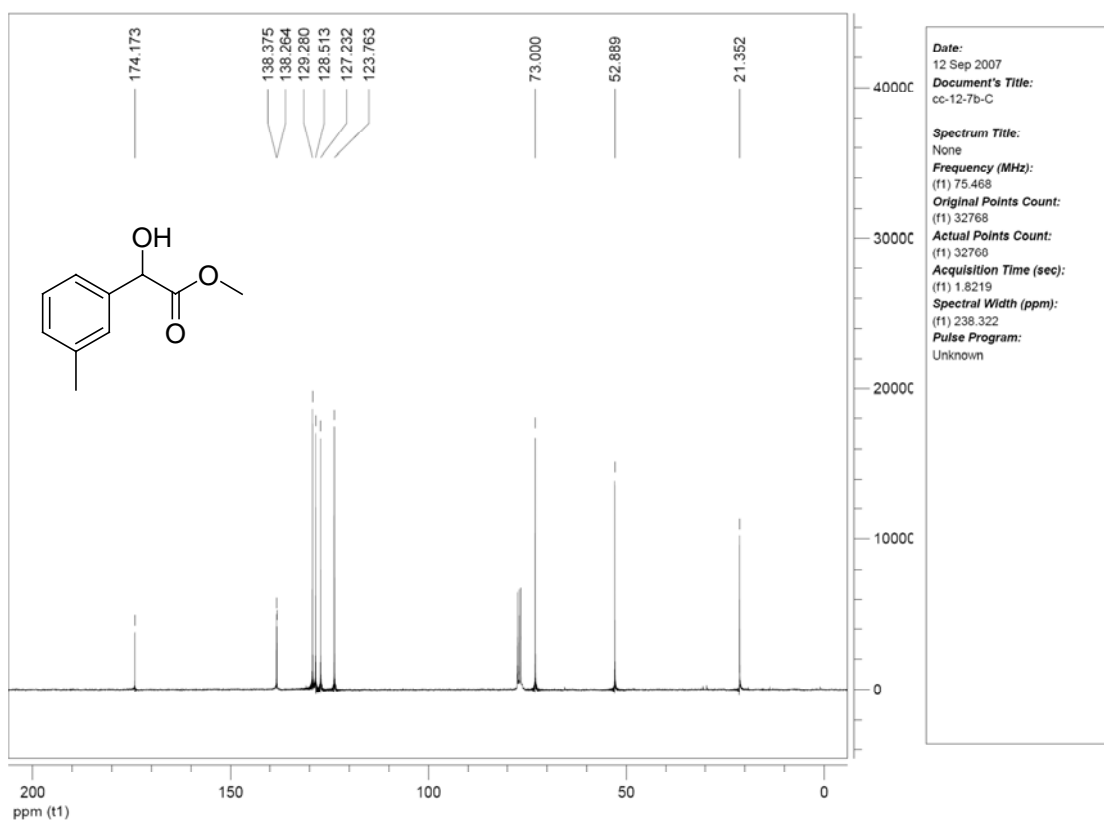
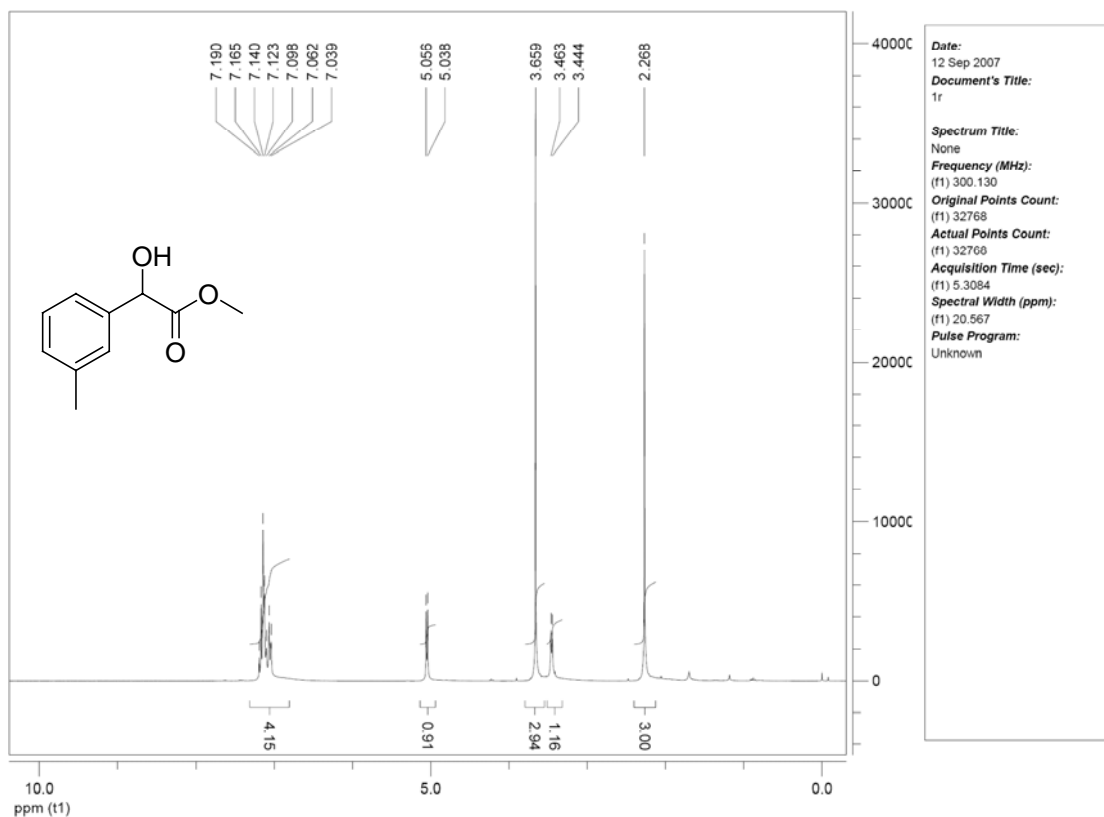
<sup>22</sup> J. R. E. Hoover, G. L. Dunn, D. R. Jakas, L. L. Lam, J. J. Taggart, J. R. Guarini, L. Phillips, *J. Med. Chem.* **1974**, *17*, 34.

## 5. NMR Spectra for New Compounds

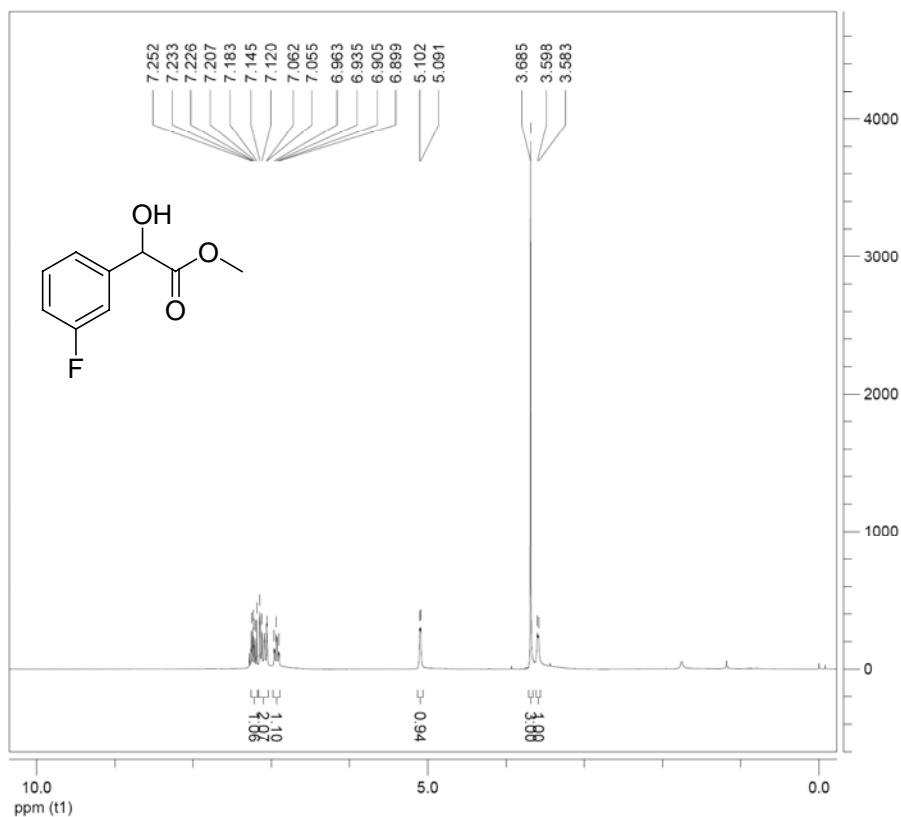
### Mehtyl 2-hydroxy-2-biphenylacetate (3e)



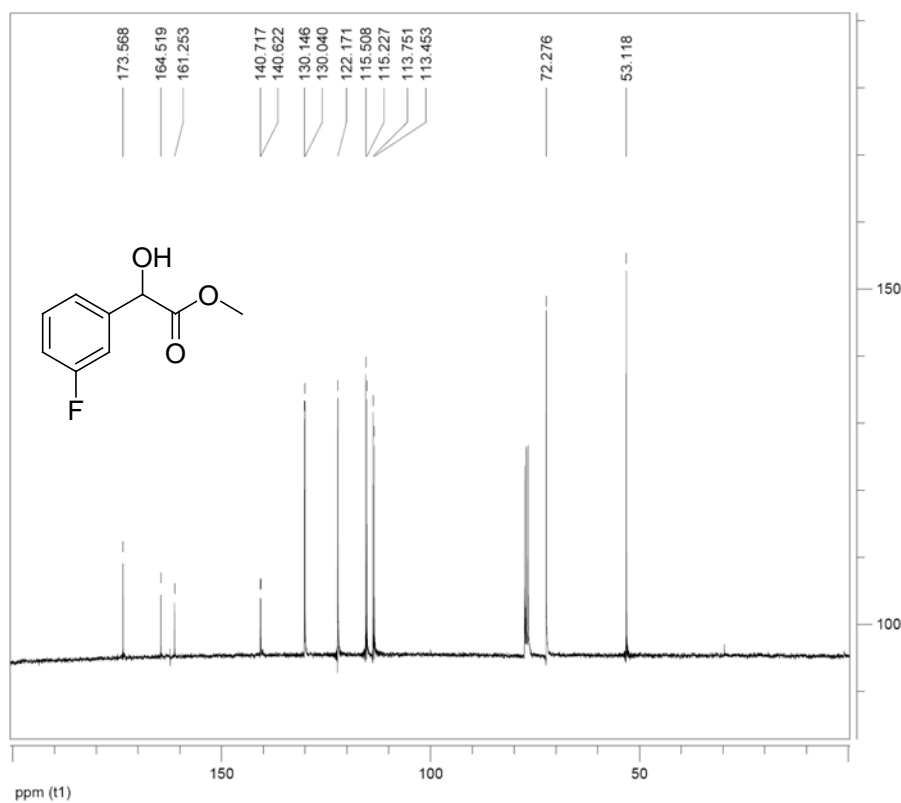
# Methyl 2-hydroxy-2-*m*-tolylacetate (3i)



# Methyl 2-(3-fluorophenyl)-2-hydroxyacetate (3k)

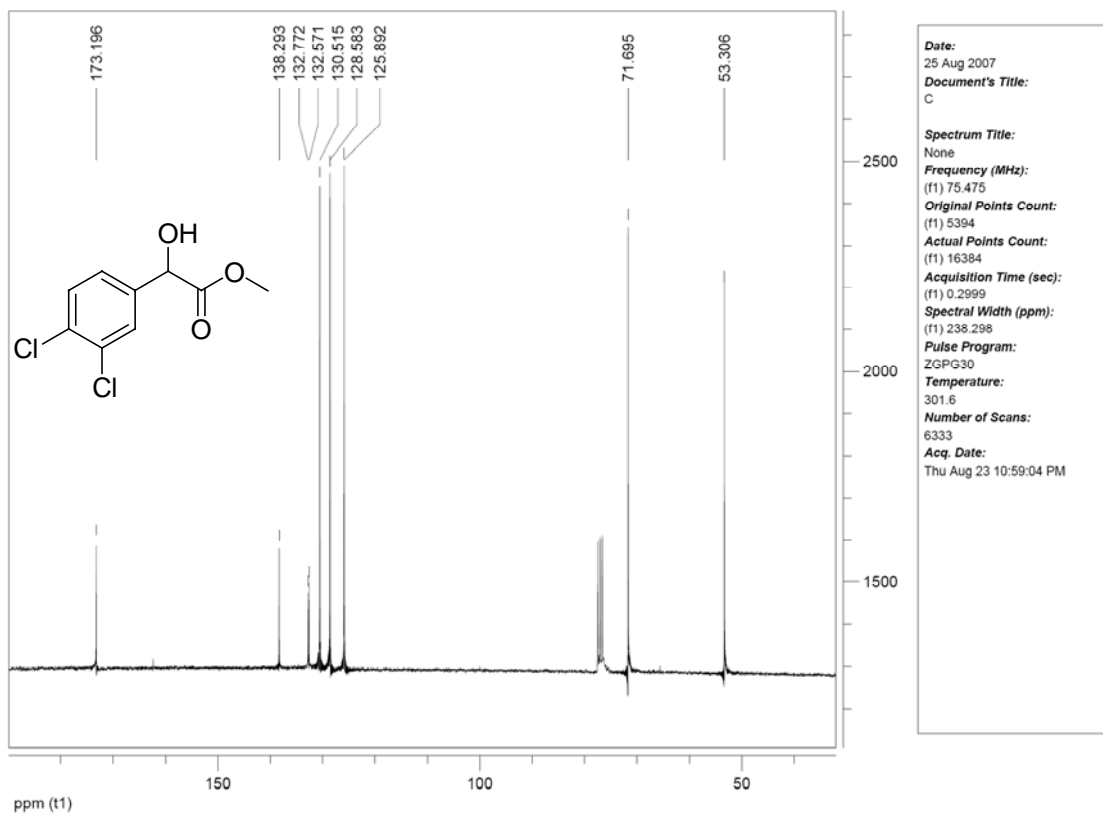
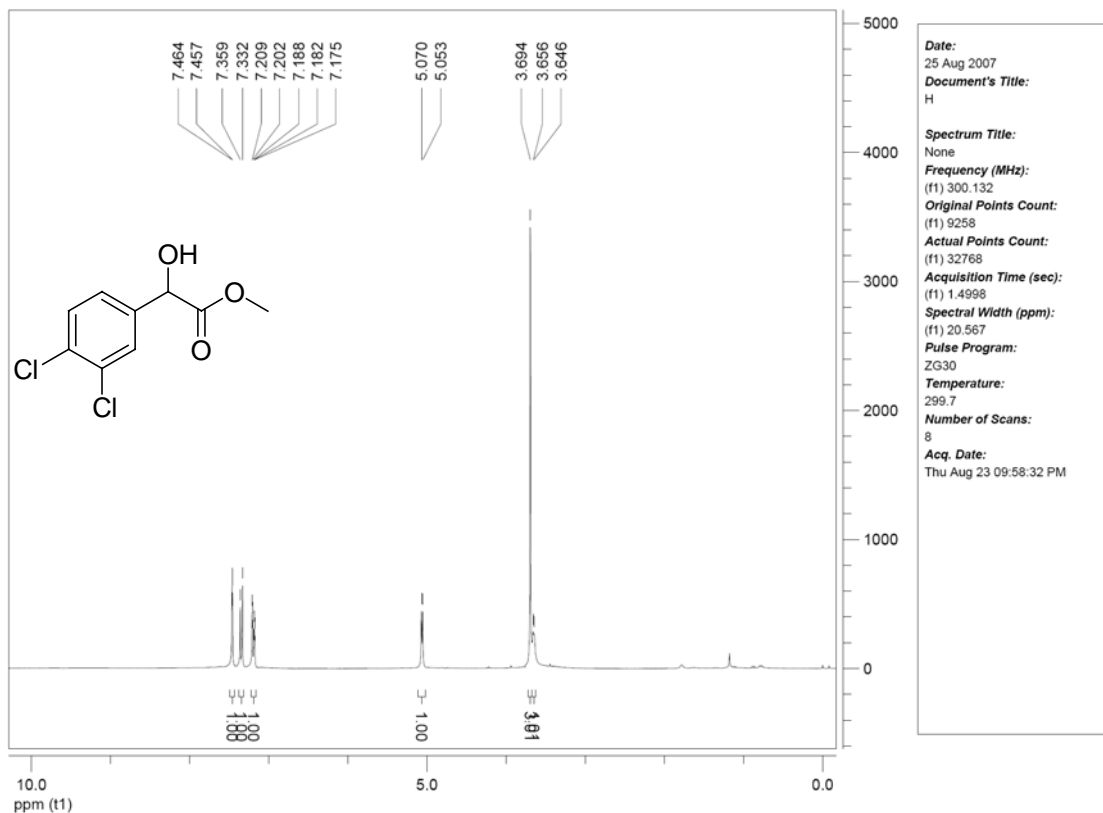


**Date:** 25 Aug 2007  
**Document's Title:** H  
**Spectrum Title:** None  
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**Original Points Count:** (f1) 9258  
**Actual Points Count:** (f1) 32768  
**Acquisition Time (sec):** (f1) 1.4998  
**Spectral Width (ppm):** (f1) 20.567  
**Pulse Program:** ZG30  
**Temperature:** 300.3  
**Number of Scans:** 8  
**Acq. Date:** Fri Aug 17 04:37:42 PM

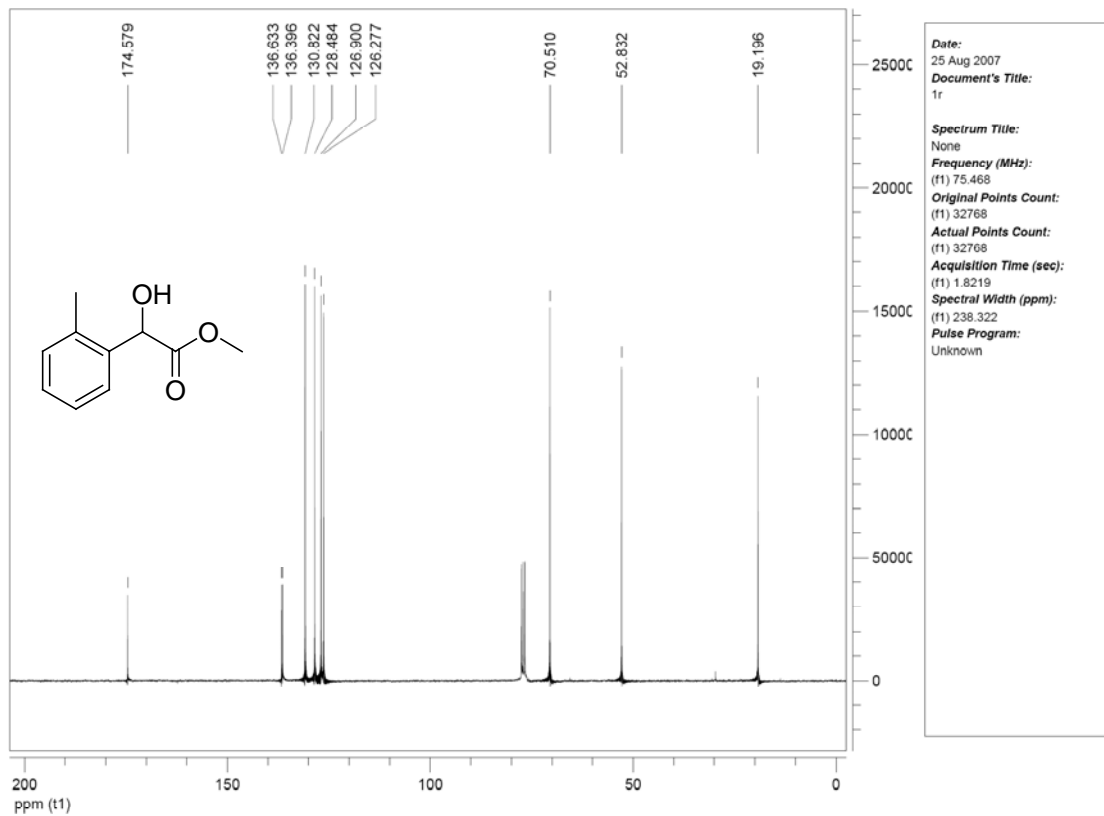
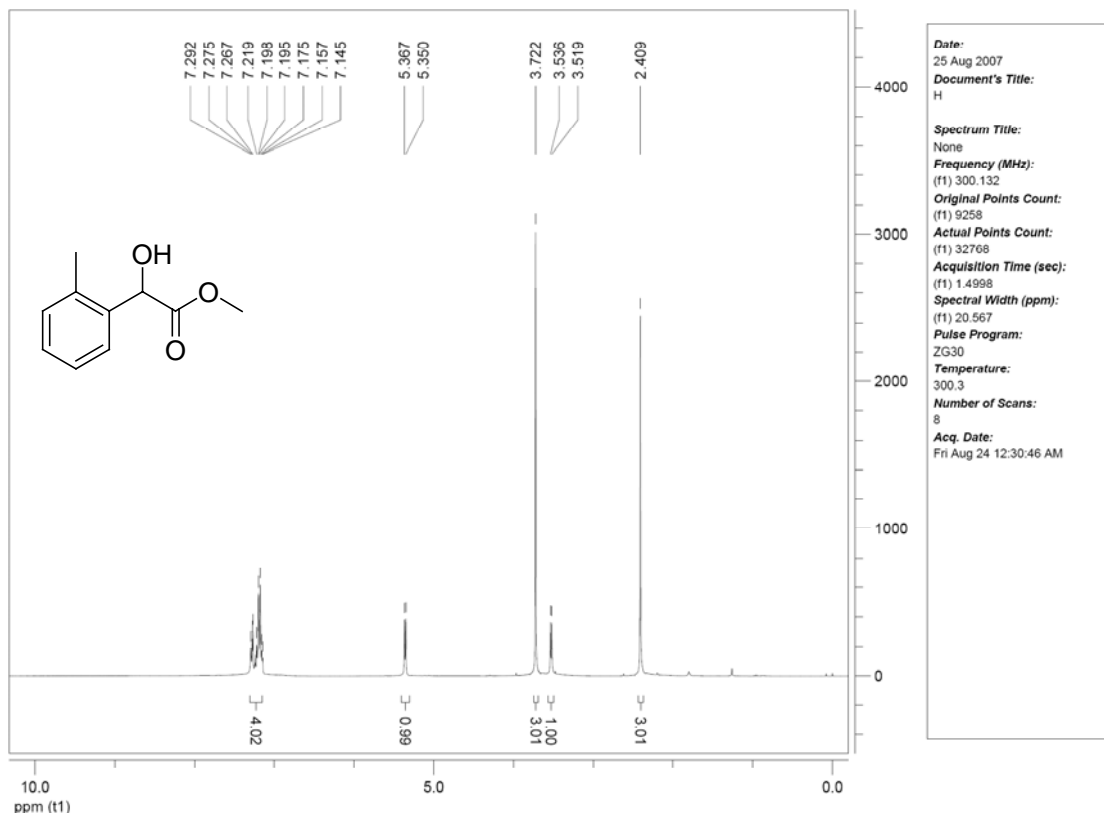


**Date:** 25 Aug 2007  
**Document's Title:** 1  
**Spectrum Title:** None  
**Frequency (MHz):** (f1) 75.475  
**Original Points Count:** (f1) 5394  
**Actual Points Count:** (f1) 16384  
**Acquisition Time (sec):** (f1) 0.2999  
**Spectral Width (ppm):** (f1) 238.298  
**Pulse Program:** ZGPG30  
**Temperature:** 301.8  
**Number of Scans:** 4932  
**Acq. Date:** Fri Aug 17 06:31:40 PM

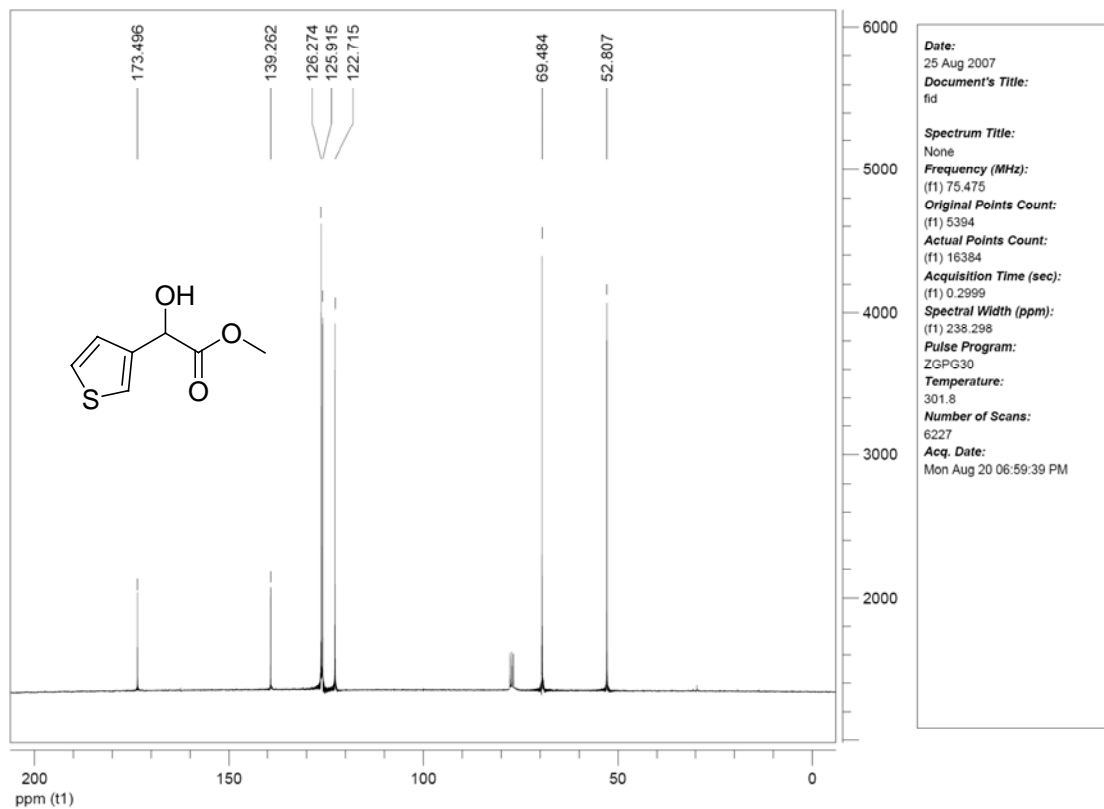
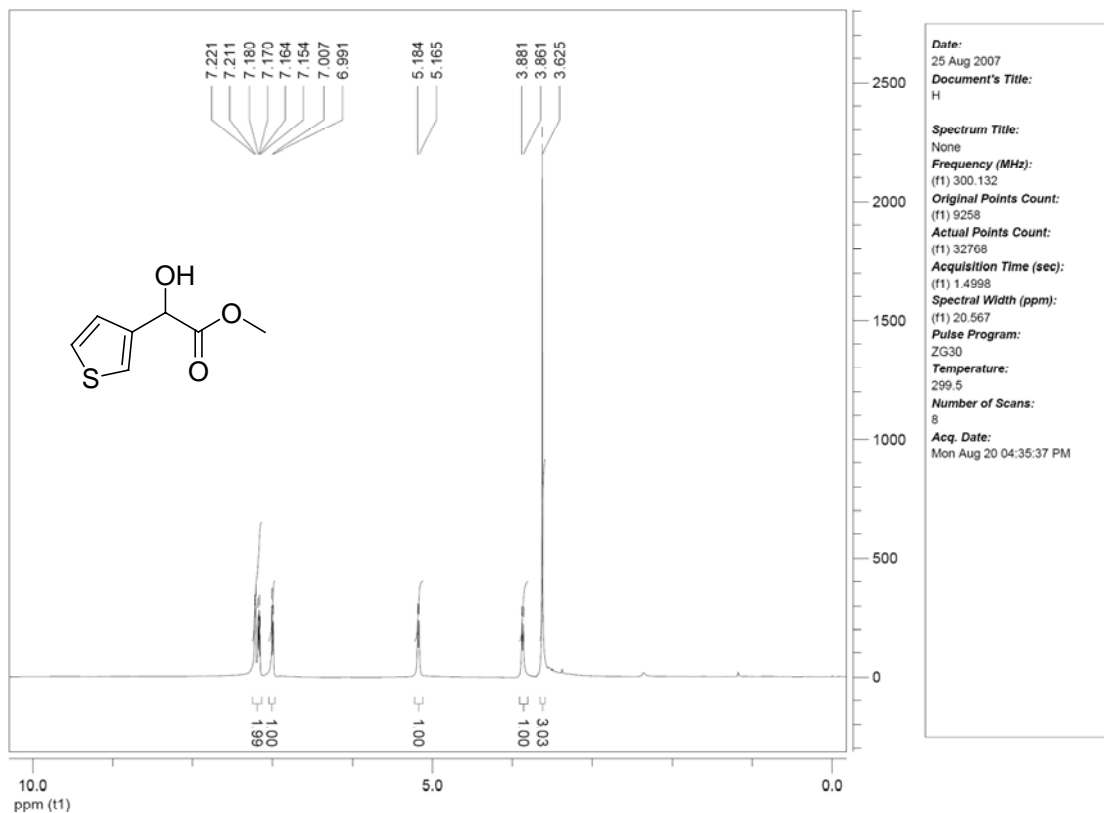
**Methyl 2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-2-hydroxyacetate (3n)**



# Methyl 2-hydroxy-2-*o*-tolylacetate (3o)

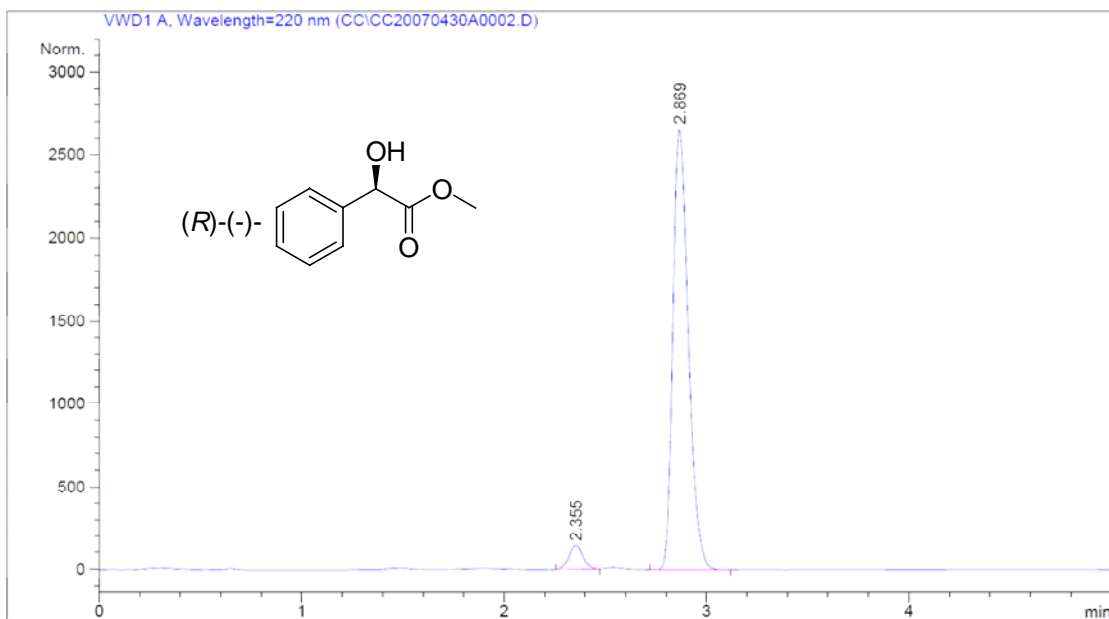
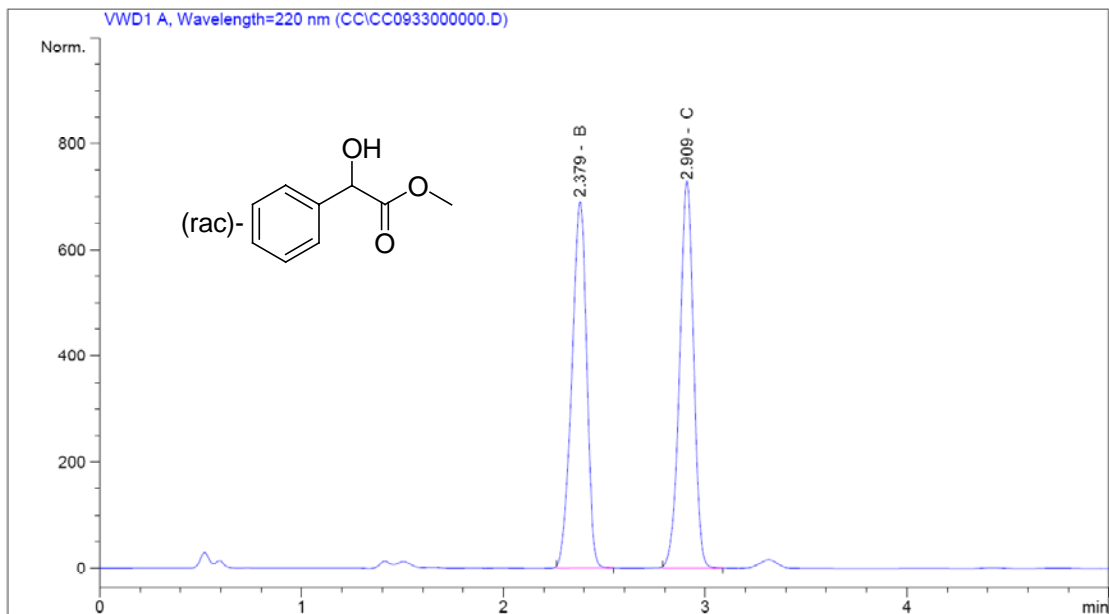


# Methyl 2-hydroxy-2-thiophene-3-ylacetate (3s)



## 6. HPLC and SFC Charts for O-H Insertion Products

### Methyl 2-hydroxy-2-phenylacetate (3a)

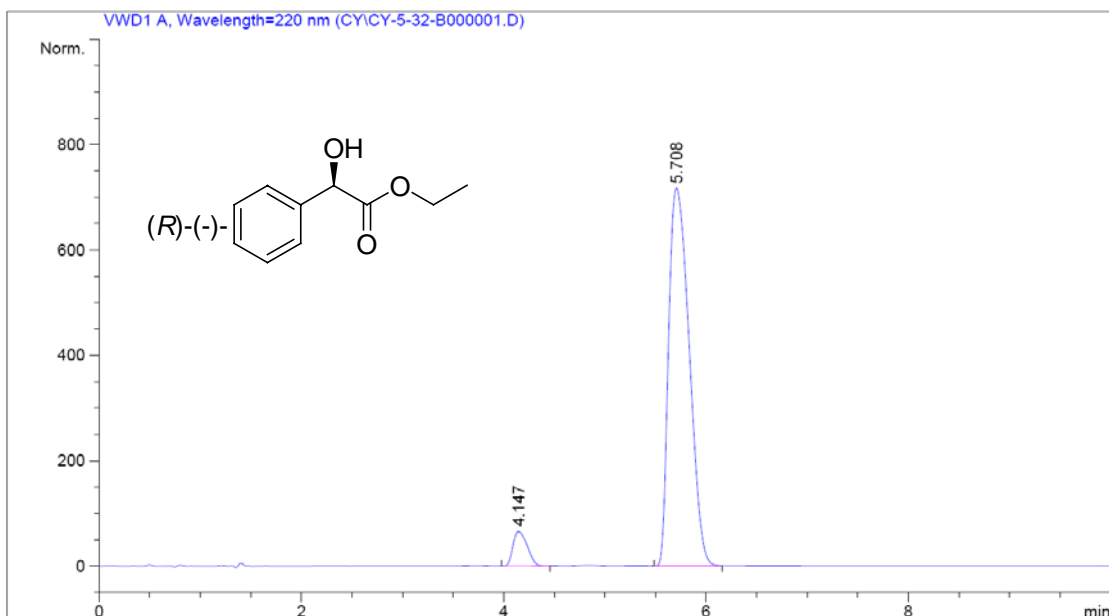
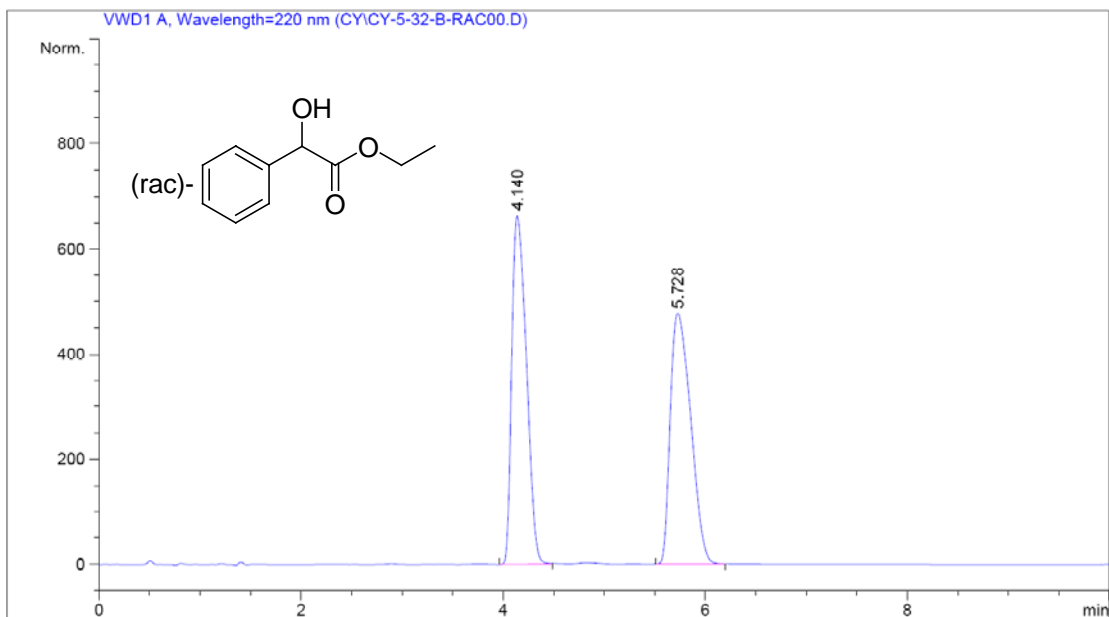


Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU	Area %	Name
1	2.355	BV	0.0750	706.05042	4.7537	?
2	2.867	VB	0.0825	1.41465e4	95.2463	?

Uncalib. totals : 1.48525e4 100.0000



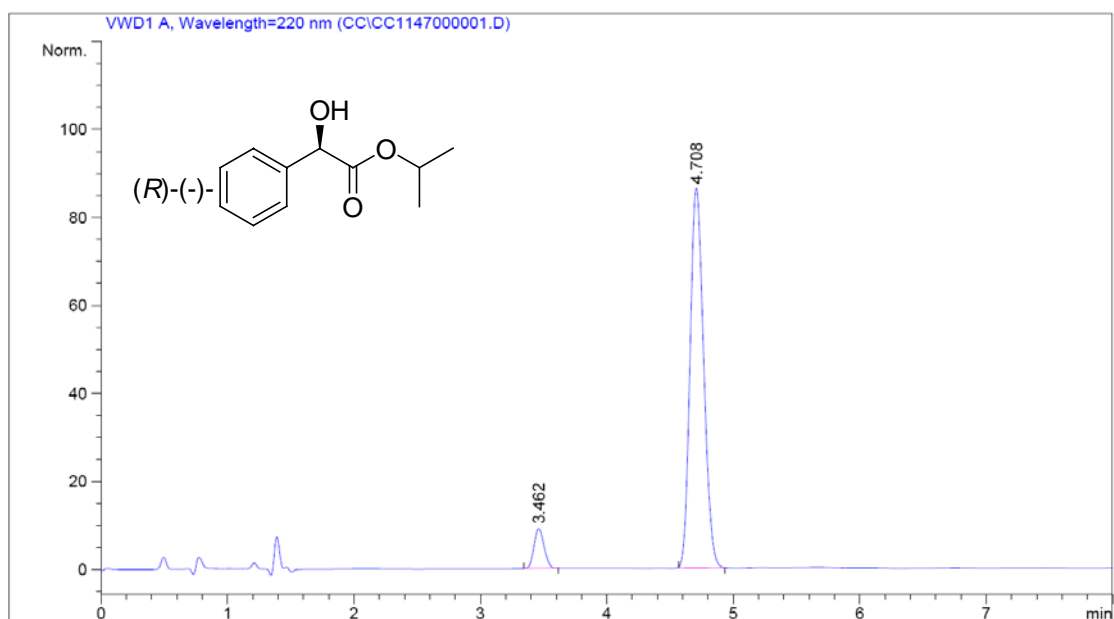
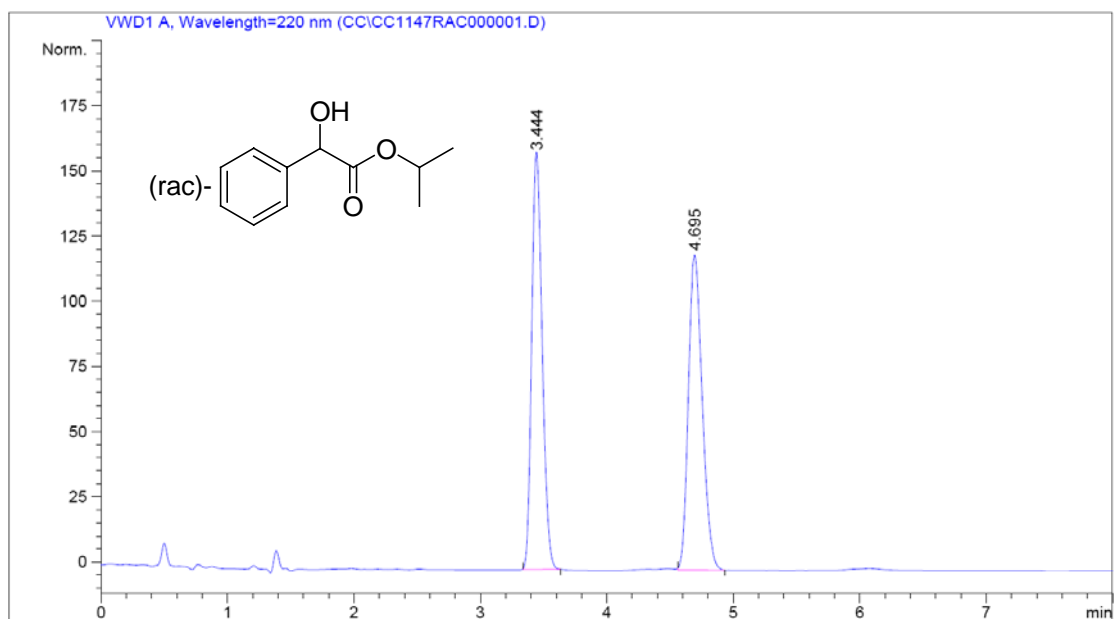
### Ethyl 2-hydroxy-2-phenylacetate (3b)



Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU	Area %	Name
1	4.147	BB	0.1602	640.73077	5.9798	?
2	5.708	BB	0.2310	1.00742e4	94.0202	?

Uncalib. totals : 1.07149e4 100.0000

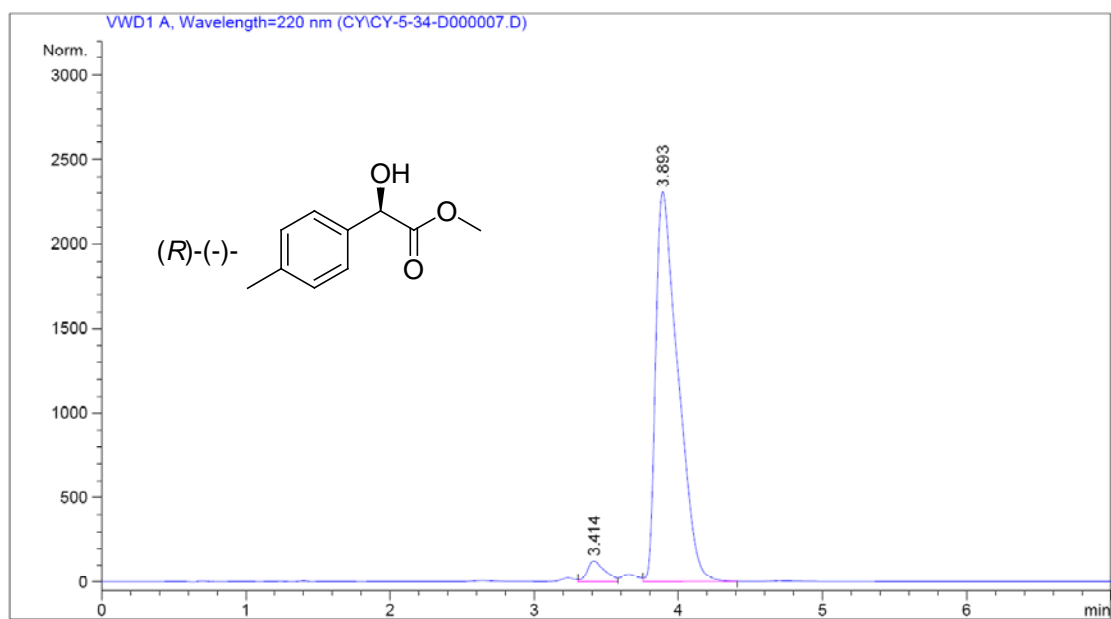
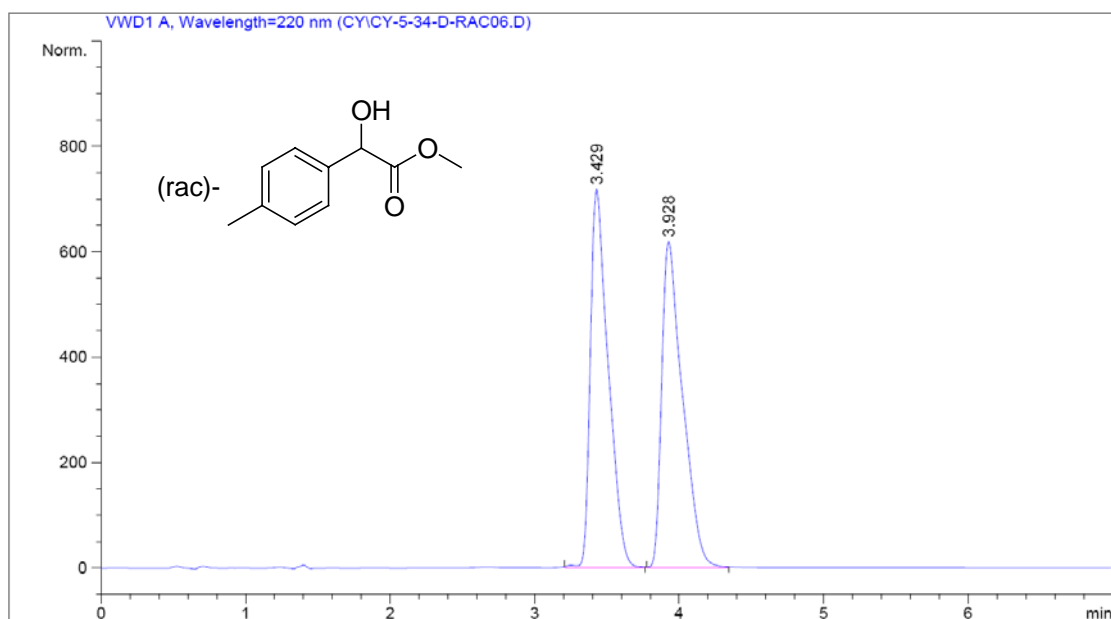
### Isopropyl 2-hydroxy-2-phenylacetate (3c)



Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU	Area *s	Area %	Name
1	3.462	BB	0.0877	49.80808	7.1859	?	
2	4.708	BB	0.1191	643.32587	92.8141	?	

Uncalib. totals : 693.13395 100.0000

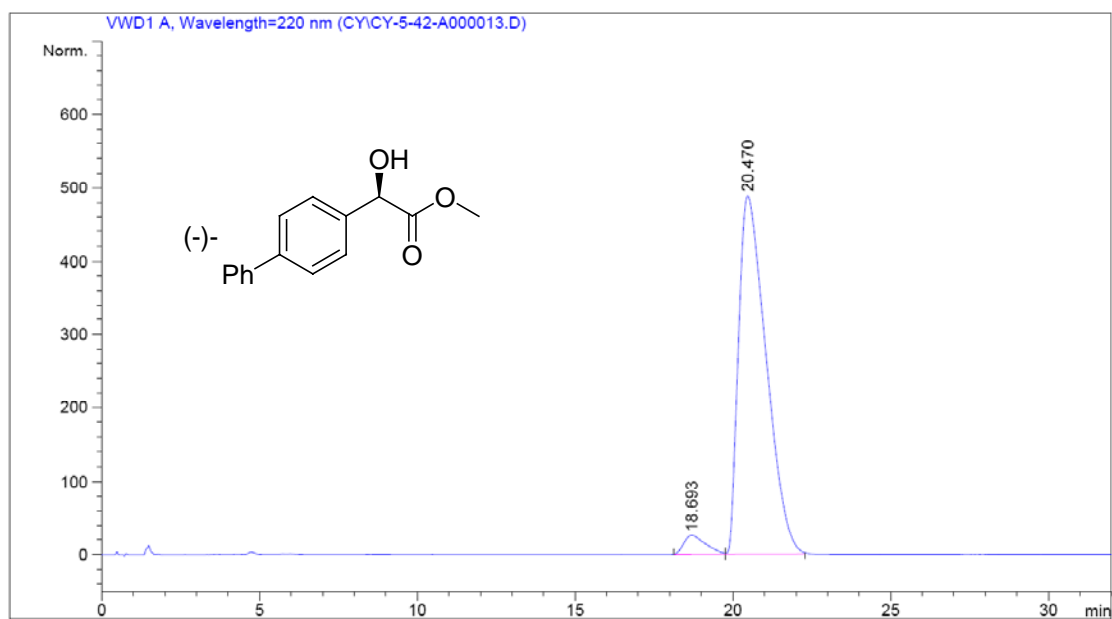
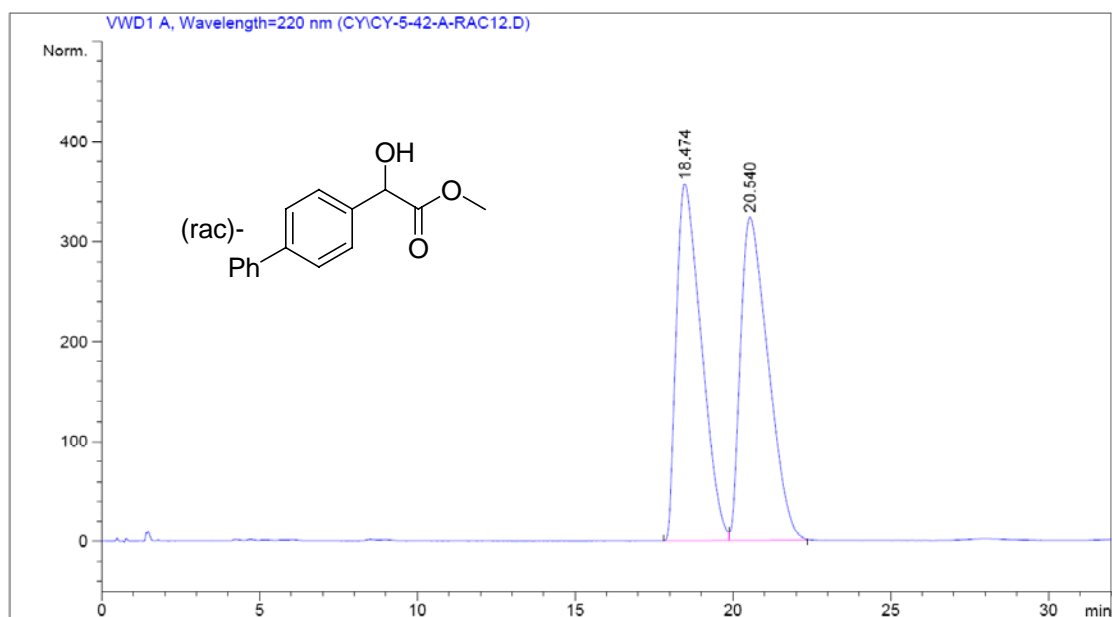
### Methyl 2-hydroxy-2-*p*-tolylacetate (3d)



Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU	Area *s	Area %	Name
1	3.414	VV	0.1226	1062.66467		4.1174	?
2	3.893	VB	0.1556	2.47464e4		95.8826	?

Uncalib. totals : 2.58090e4 100.0000

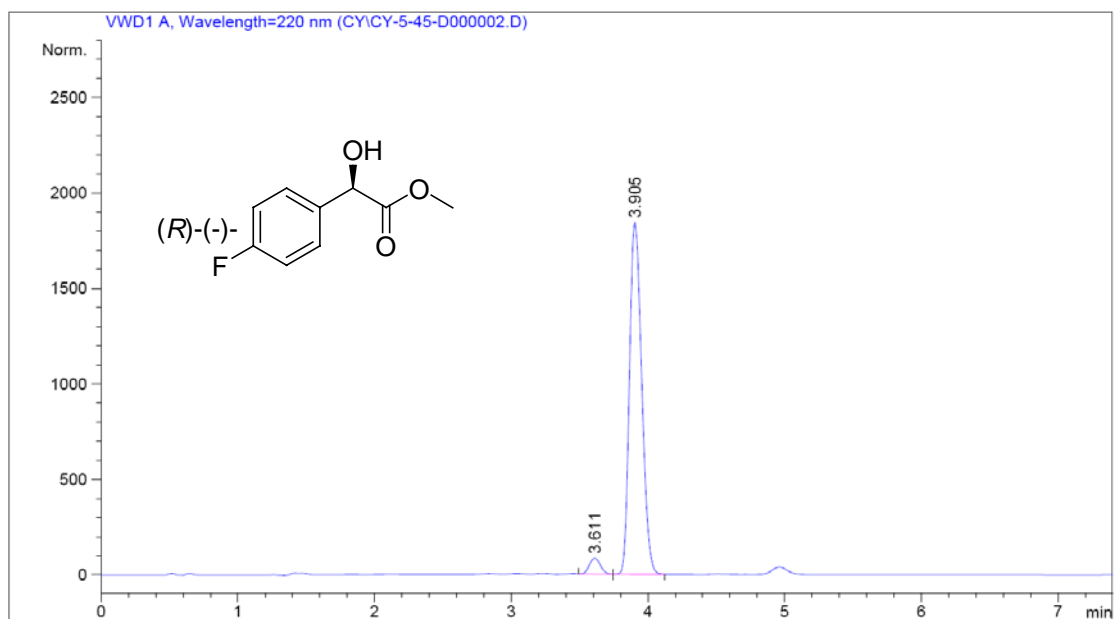
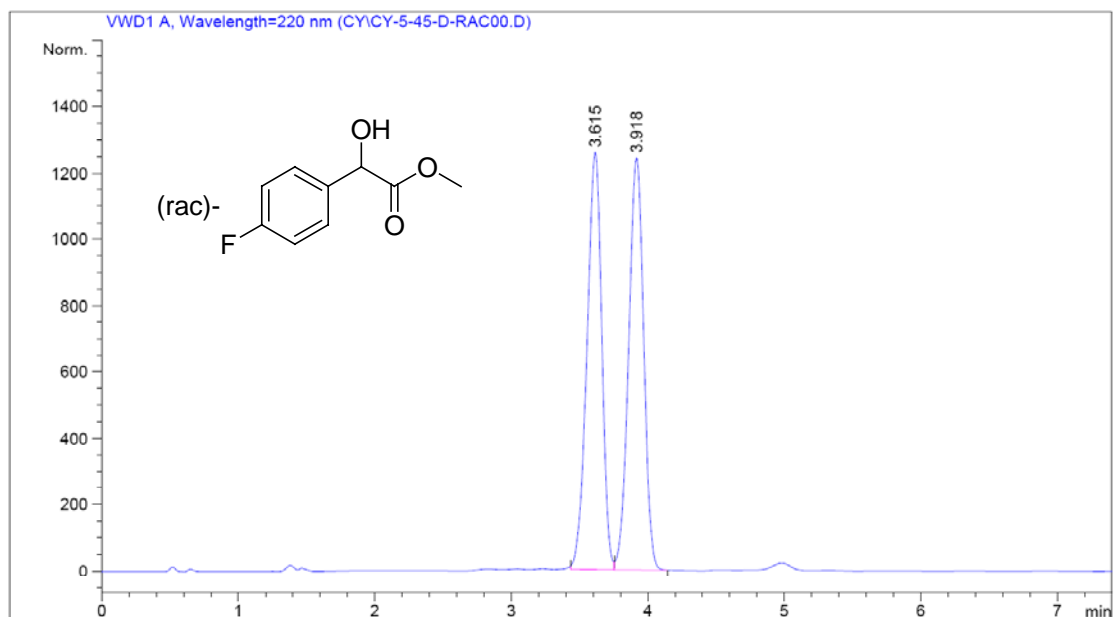
## Mehtyl 2-hydroxy-2-biphenylacetate (3e)



Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU	Area *s	Area %	Name
1	18.693	BV	0.6932	1212.89990		3.9385	?
2	20.470	VB	0.8907	2.95829e4		96.0615	?

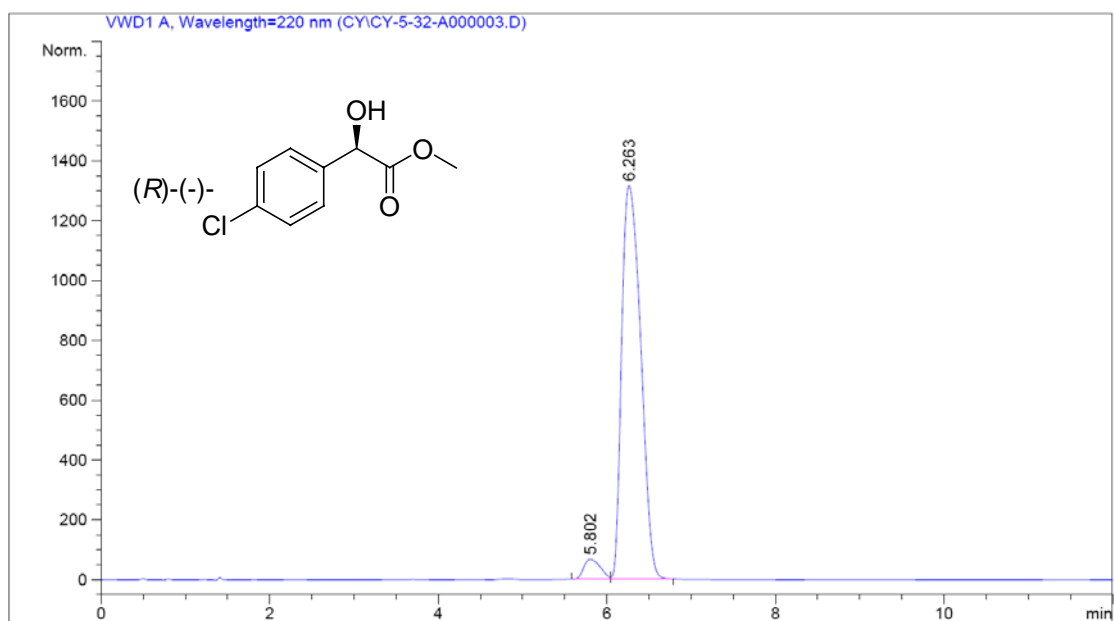
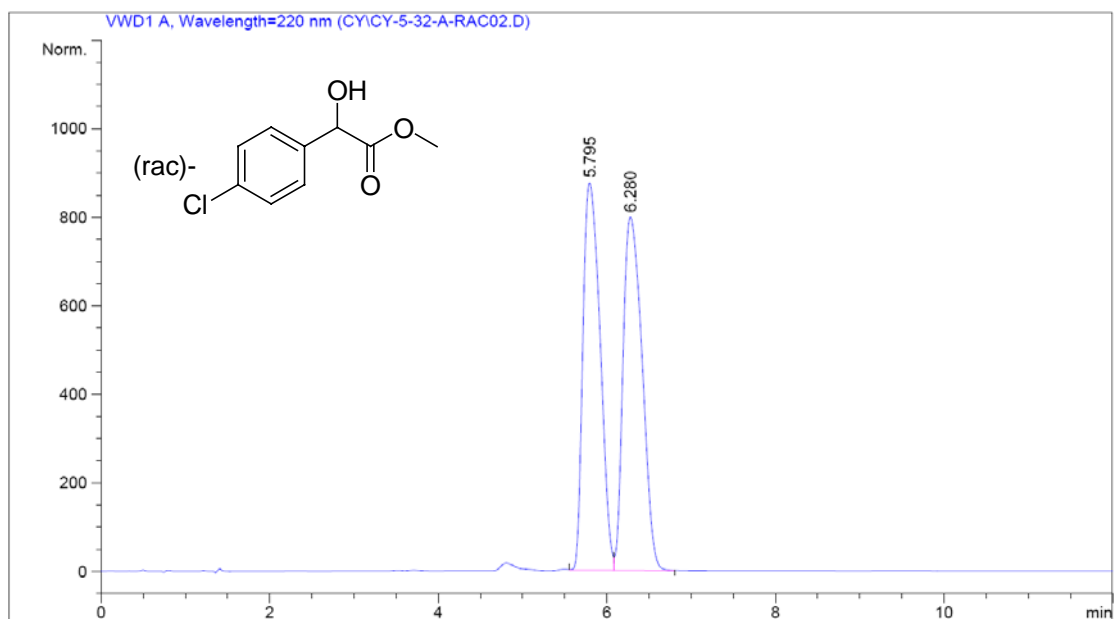
Uncalib. totals : 3.07958e4 100.0000

### Methyl 2-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-hydroxyacetate (3f)



Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU	Area %	Name
1	3.611	BV	0.0907	473.03259	3.9603	?
2	3.905	VB	0.0974	1.14712e4	96.0397	?
Uncalib. totals :				1.19443e4	100.0000	

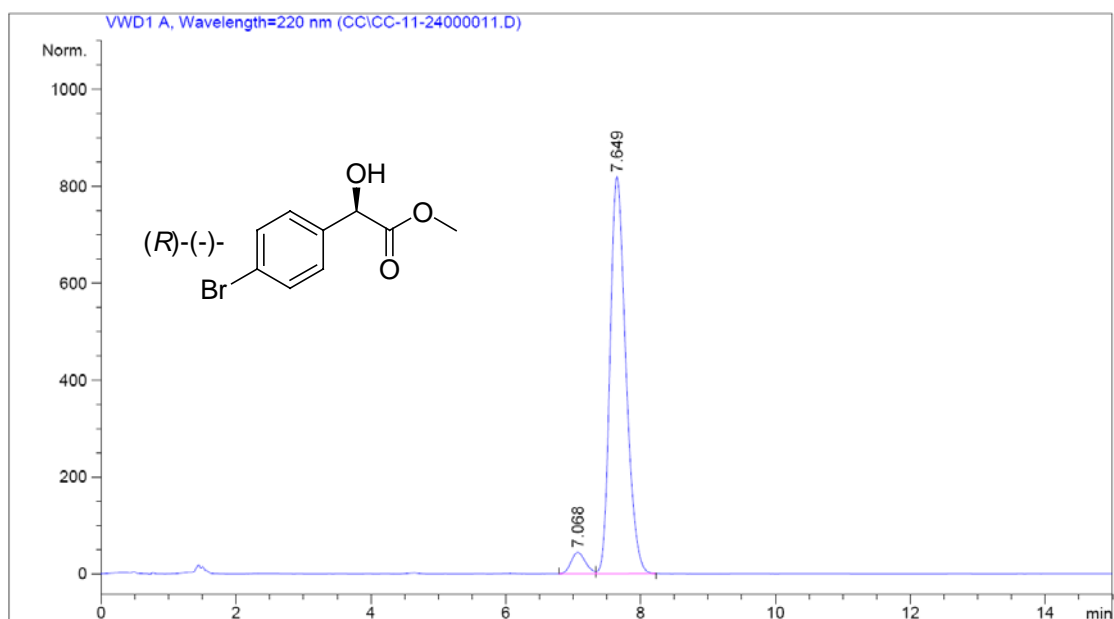
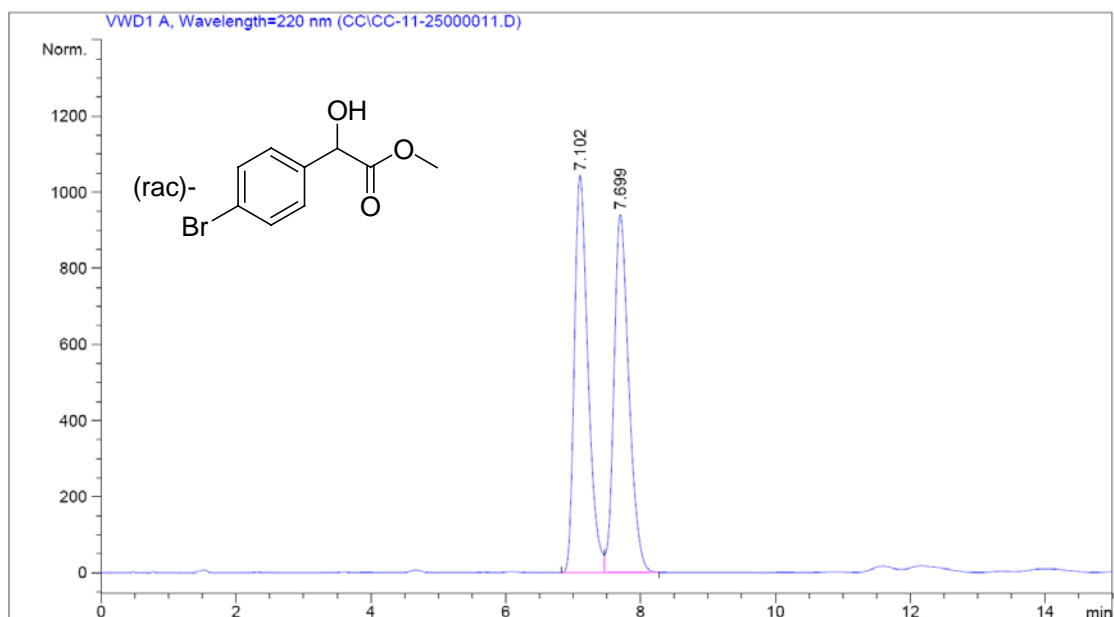
### Methyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-hydroxyacetate (3g)



Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU	Area *s	Area %	Name
1	5.802	BV	0.2306	900.09546		4.1837	?
2	6.263	VB	0.2613	2.06141e4		95.8163	?

Uncalib. totals : 2.15142e4 100.0000

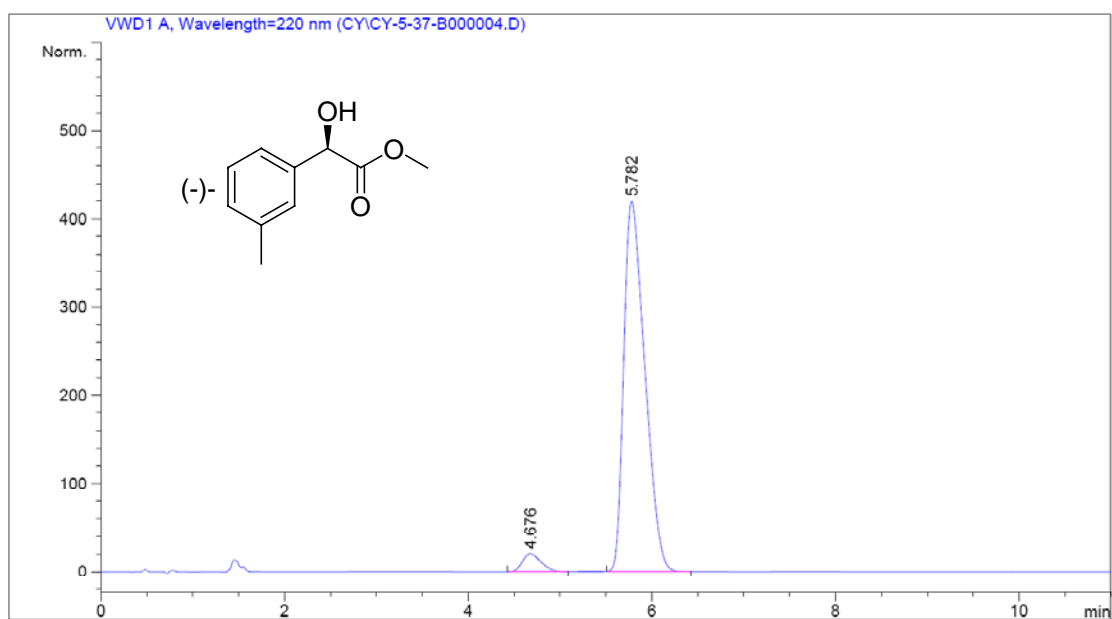
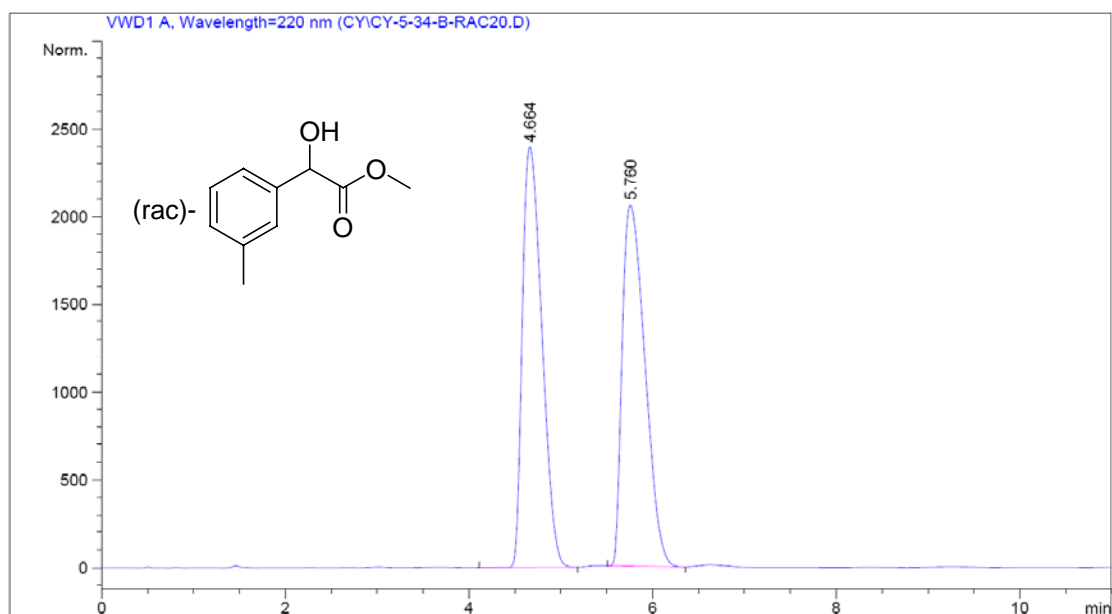
### Methyl 2-(4-bromophenyl)-2-hydroxyacetate (3h)



Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU	Area %	Name
1	7.068	BV	0.2304	657.94080	4.7047	?
2	7.649	VB	0.2495	1.33267e4	95.2953	?

Uncalib. totals : 1.39846e4 100.0000

### Methyl 2-hydroxy-2-*m*-tolylacetate (3i)

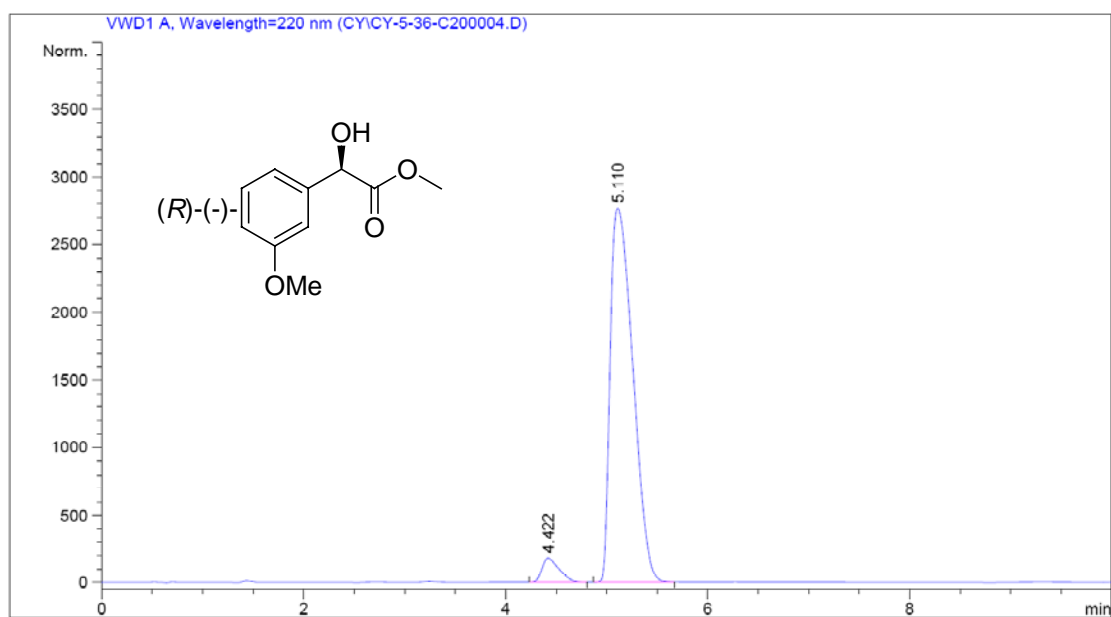
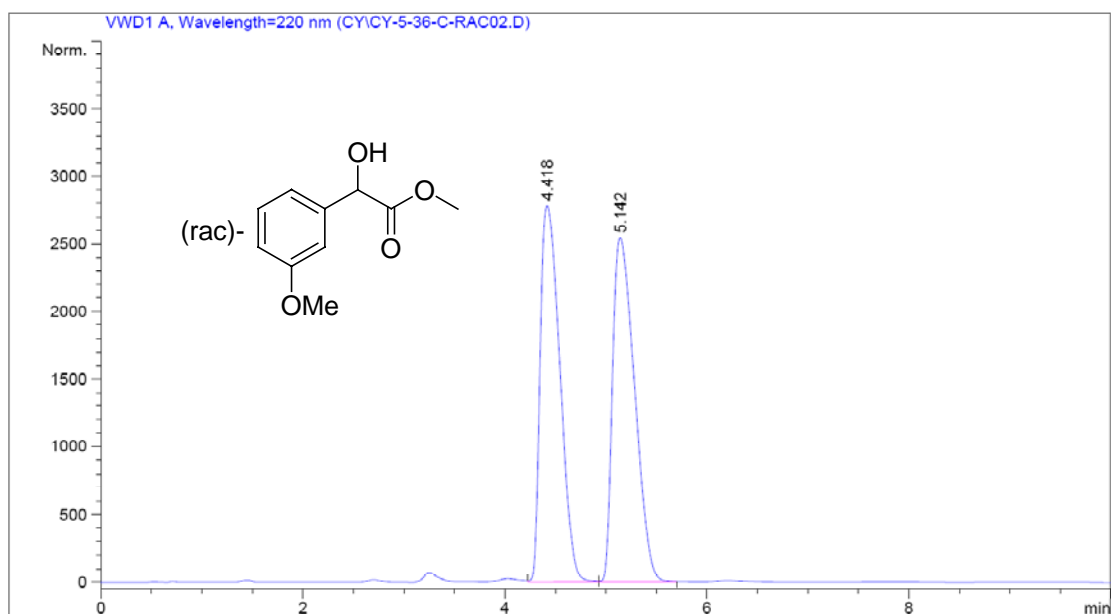


Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU *s	Area %	Name
1	4.676	BB	0.2146	281.81863	4.0539	?
2	5.782	BB	0.2438	6669.95361	95.9461	?

Uncalib. totals : 6951.77225 100.0000



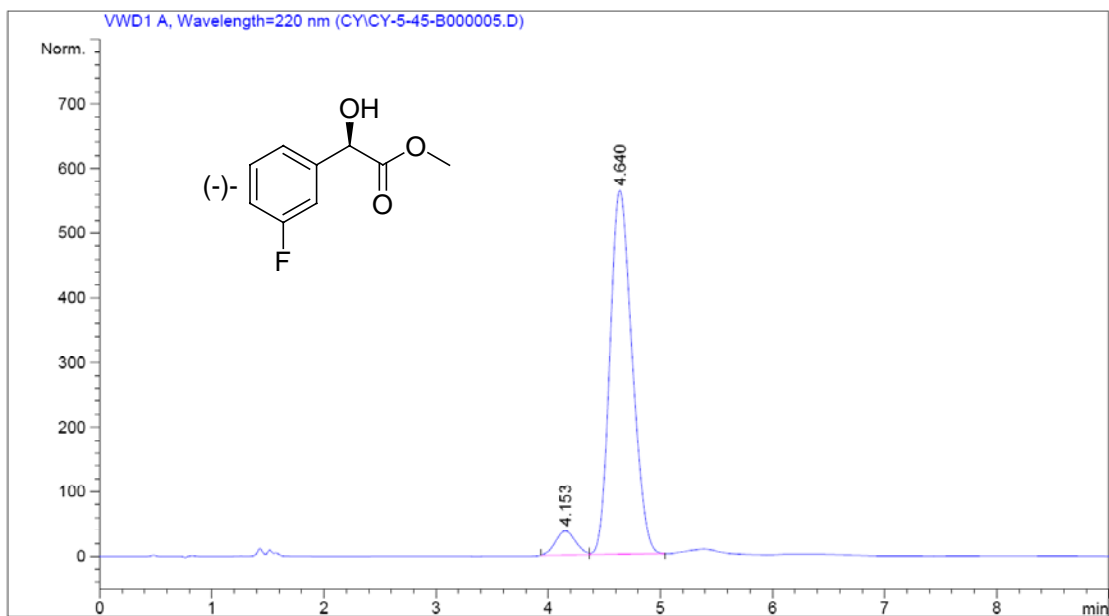
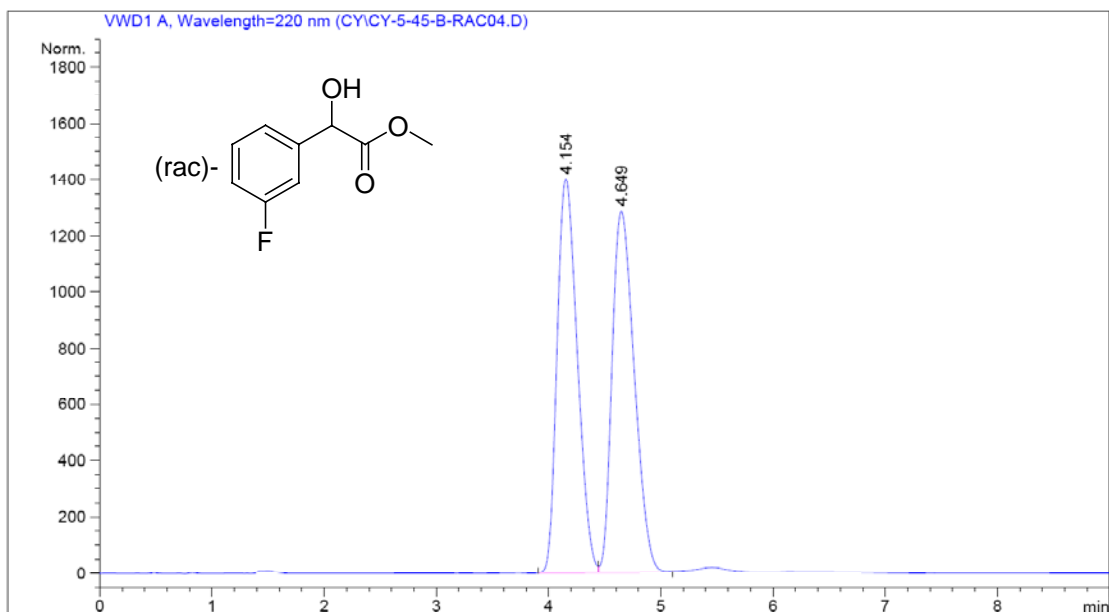
### Methyl 2-hydroxy-2-(3-methoxyphenyl)acetate (3j)



Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU	Area %	Name
1	4.422	BB	0.1739	2121.41138	4.7026	?
2	5.110	BB	0.2540	4.29896e4	95.2974	?

Uncalib. totals : 4.51110e4 100.0000

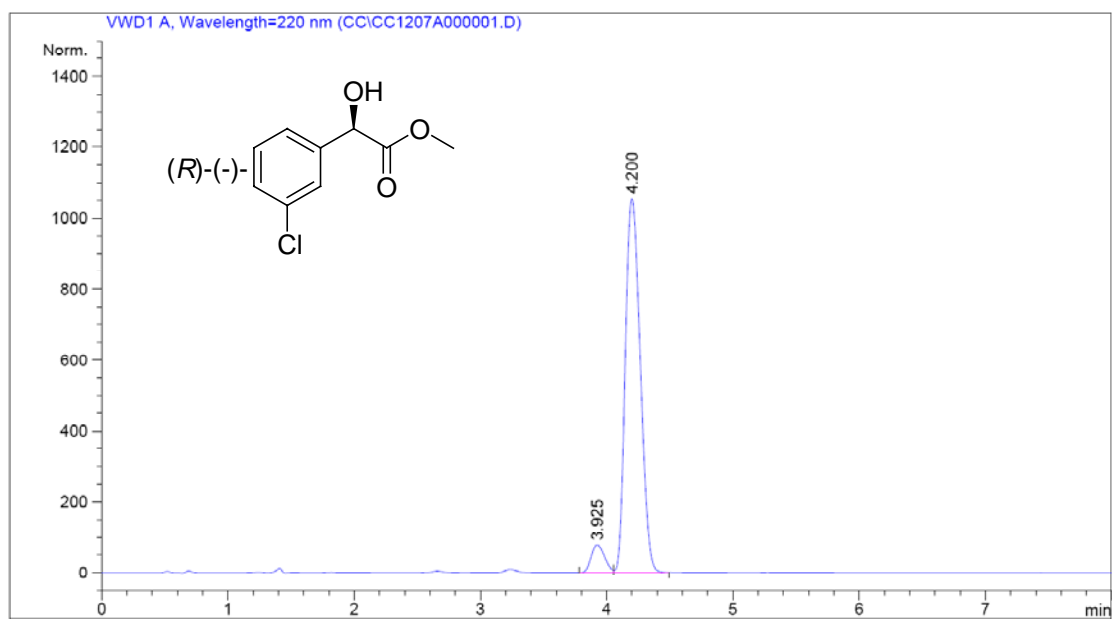
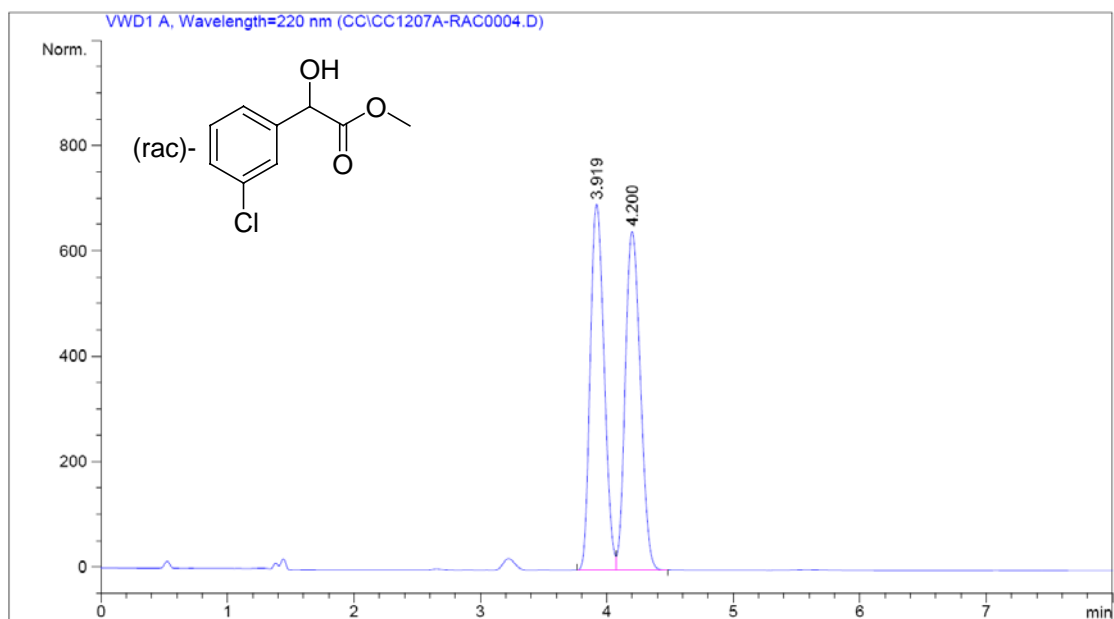
### Methyl 2-(3-fluorophenyl)-2-hydroxyacetate (3k)



Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU	Area *s	Area %	Name
1	4.153	BV	0.1940	467.53360	5.7116	?	
2	4.640	VB	0.2124	7718.12891	94.2884	?	

Uncalib. totals : 8185.66251 100.0000

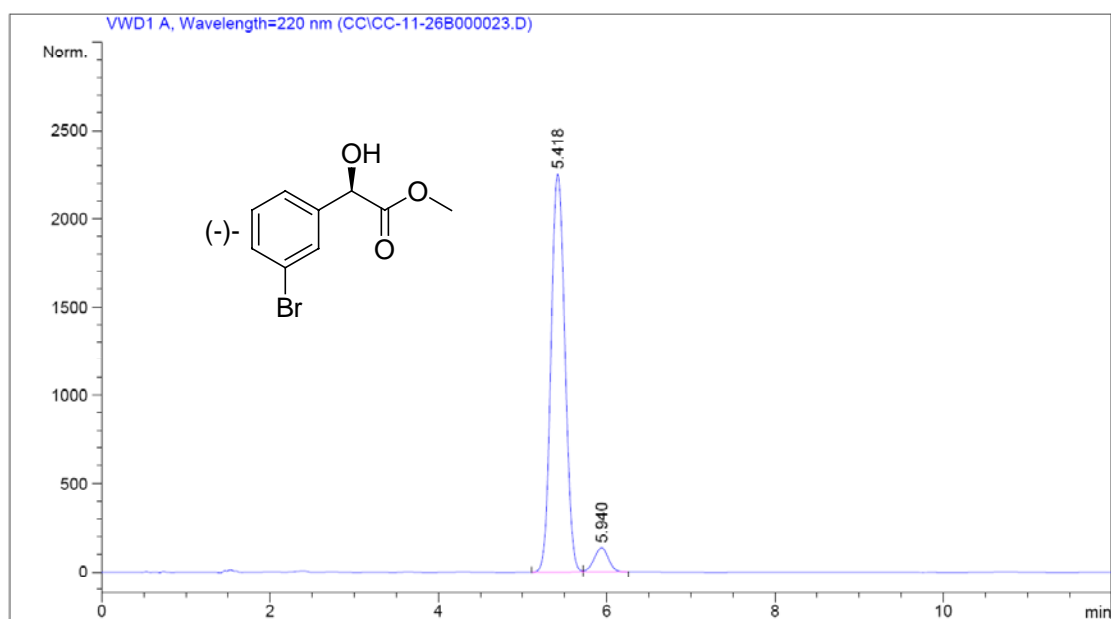
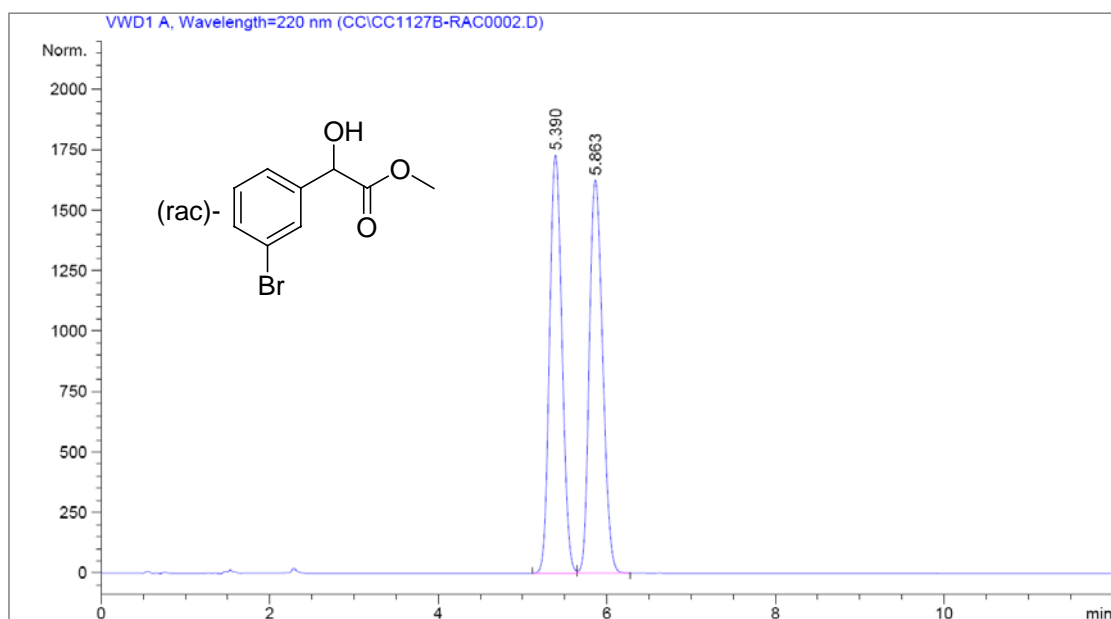
**(-)-Methyl 2-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-hydroxyacetate (3l)**



Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU	Area %	Name
1	3.925	BV	0.1186	576.97192	6.2340	?
2	4.200	VB	0.1323	8678.22070	93.7660	?

Uncalib. totals : 9255.19263 100.0000

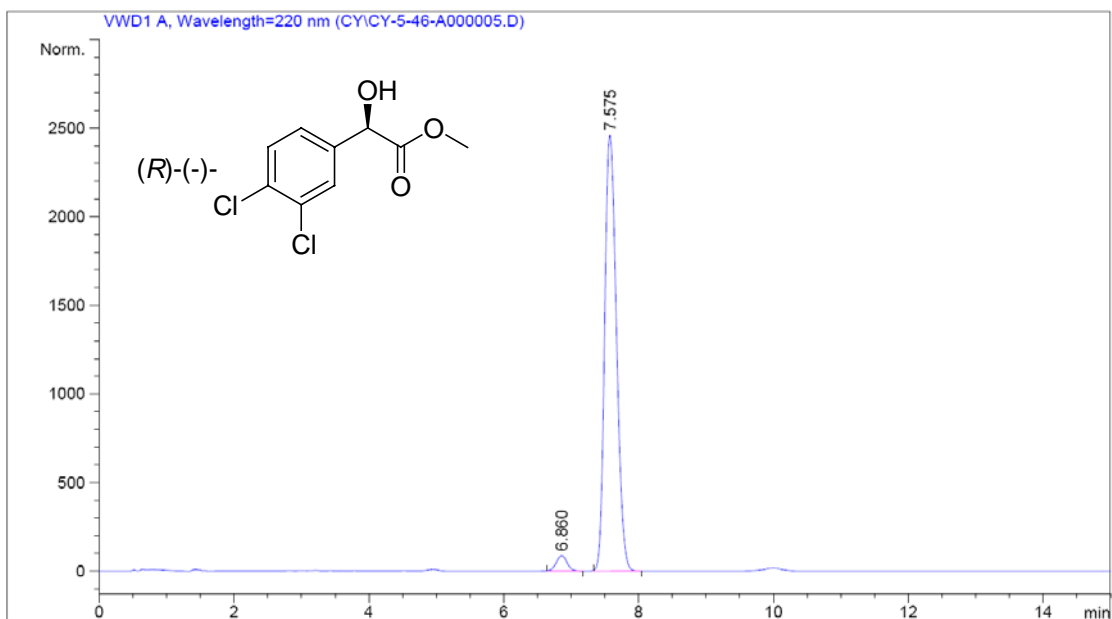
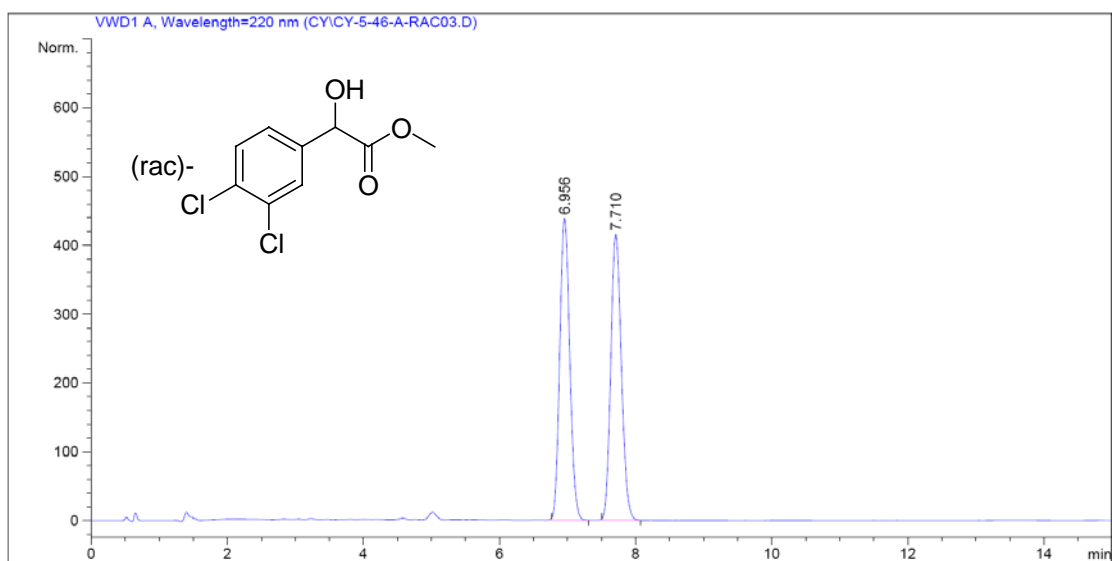
### Methyl 2-(3-bromophenyl)-2-hydroxyacetate (3m)



Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU	Area %	Name
1	5.418	BV	0.1819	2.58546e4	94.1936	?
2	5.940	VB	0.1838	1593.75732	5.8064	?

Uncalib. totals : 2.74483e4 100.0000

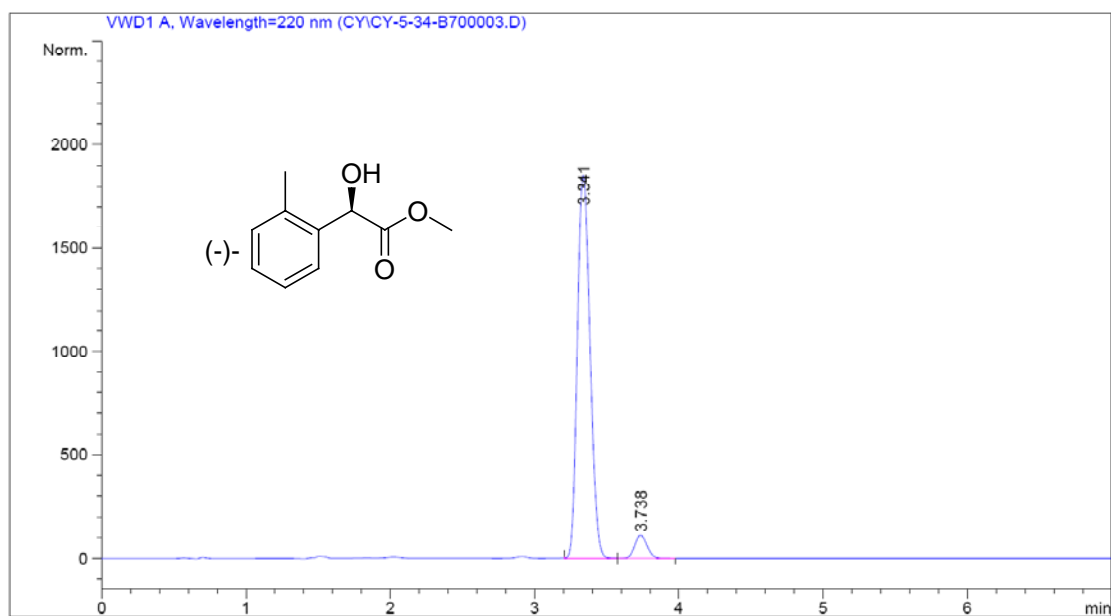
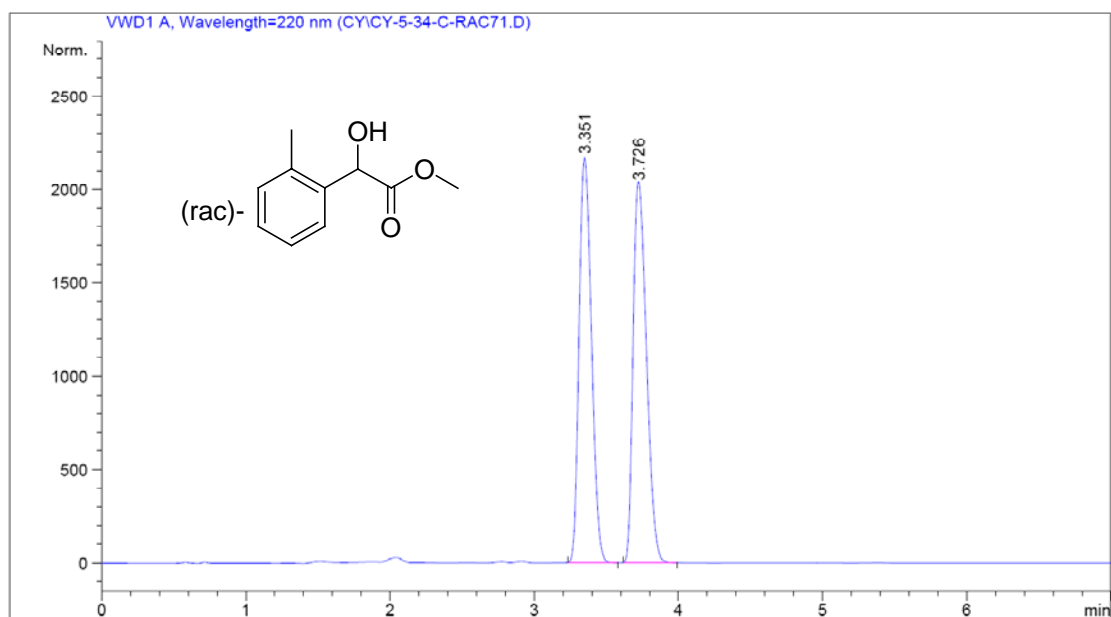
## Methyl 2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-2-hydroxyacetate (3n)



Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU *s	Area %	Name
1	6.860	BB	0.1785	975.15881	3.1712	?
2	7.575	BB	0.1937	2.97758e4	96.8288	?

Uncalib. totals : 3.07509e4 100.0000

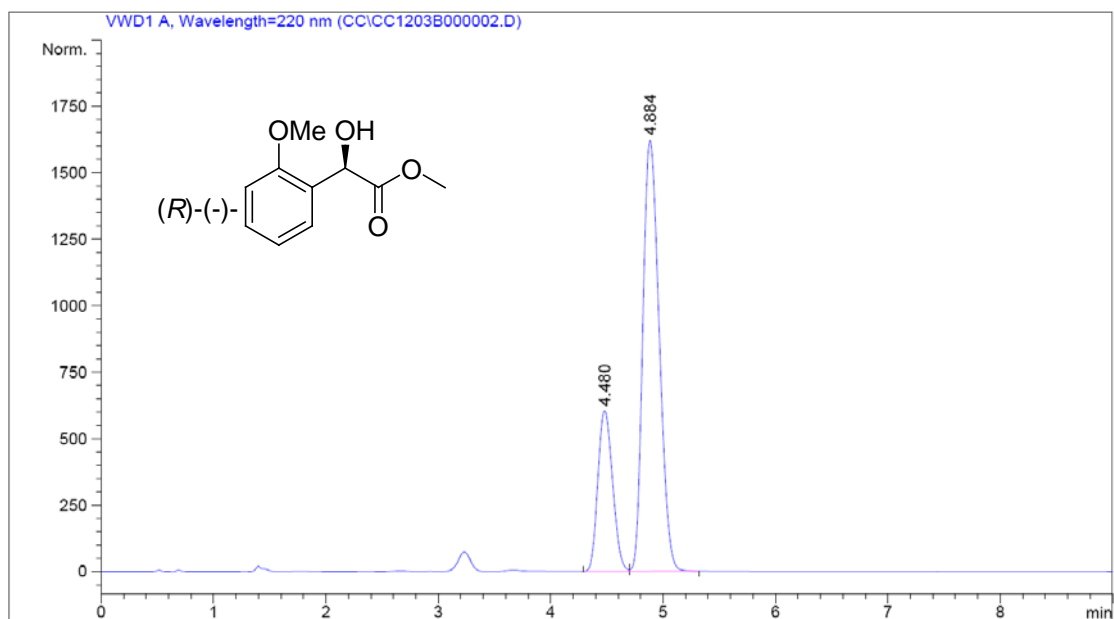
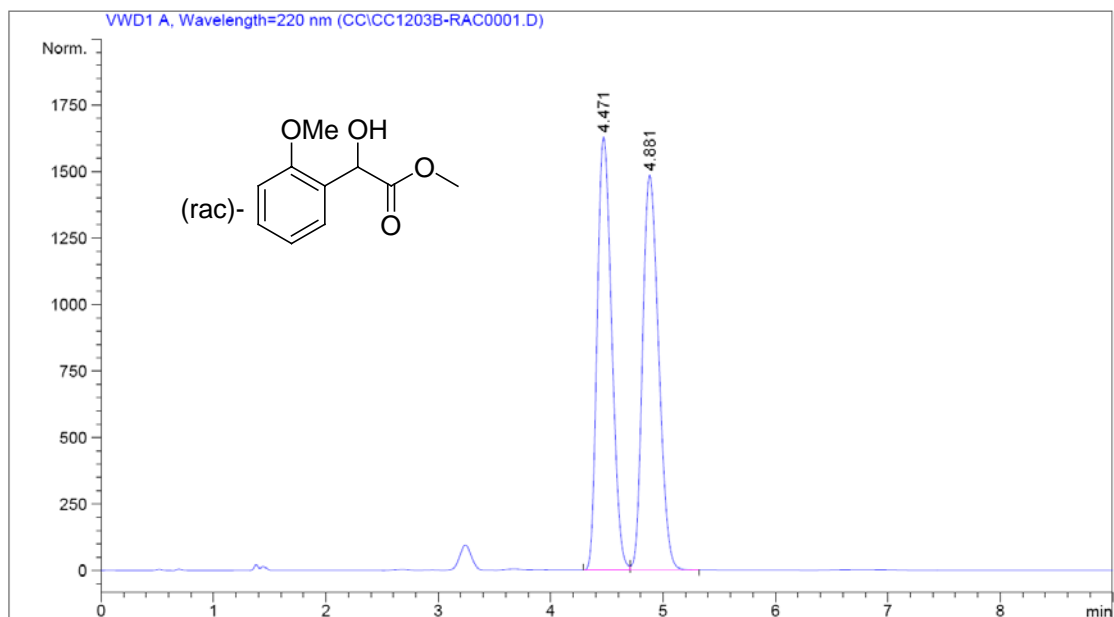
### Methyl 2-hydroxy-2-*o*-tolylacetate (3o)



Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU	Area *s	Area %	Name
1	3.341	BB	0.1015	1.12703e4		94.5132	?
2	3.738	BB	0.1080	654.27826		5.4868	?

Uncalib. totals : 1.19246e4 100.0000

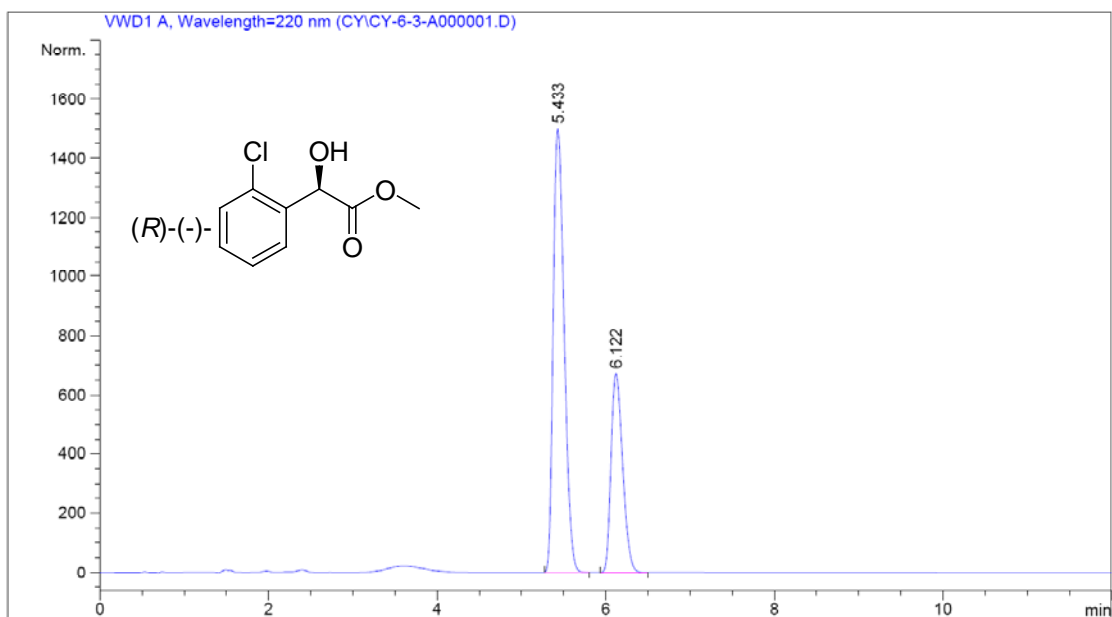
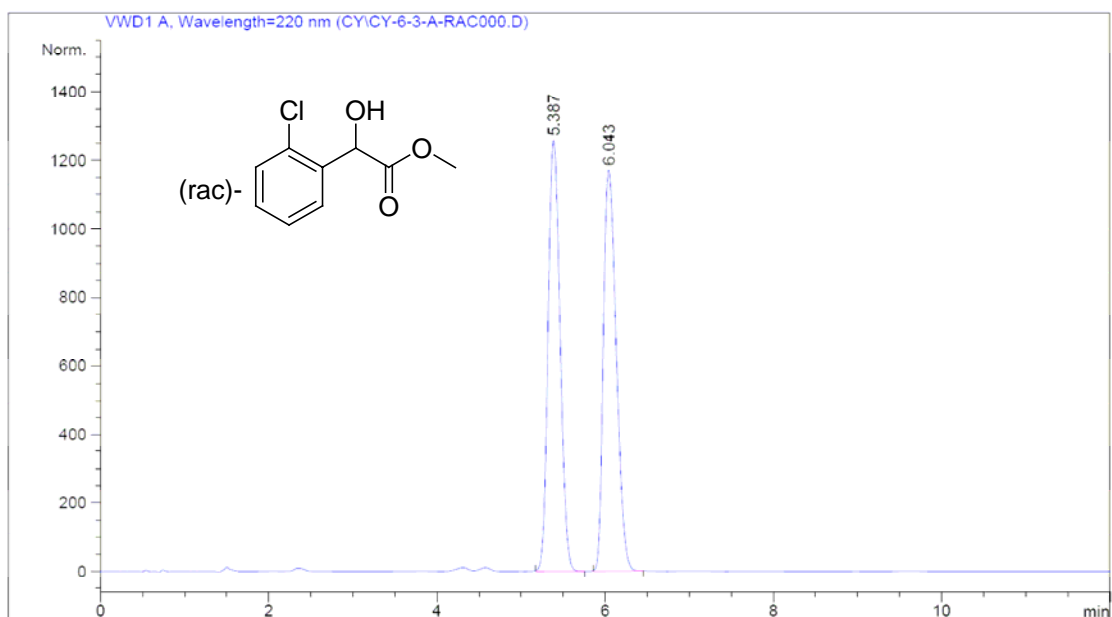
### Methyl 2-hydroxy-2-(2-methoxyphenyl)acetate (3p)



Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU	Area *s	Area %	Name
1	4.480	BV	0.1441	5507.33936	25.1827	?	
2	4.884	VB	0.1600	1.63622e4	74.8173	?	

Uncalib. totals : 2.18695e4 100.0000

## Methyl 2-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-hydroxyacetate (3q)



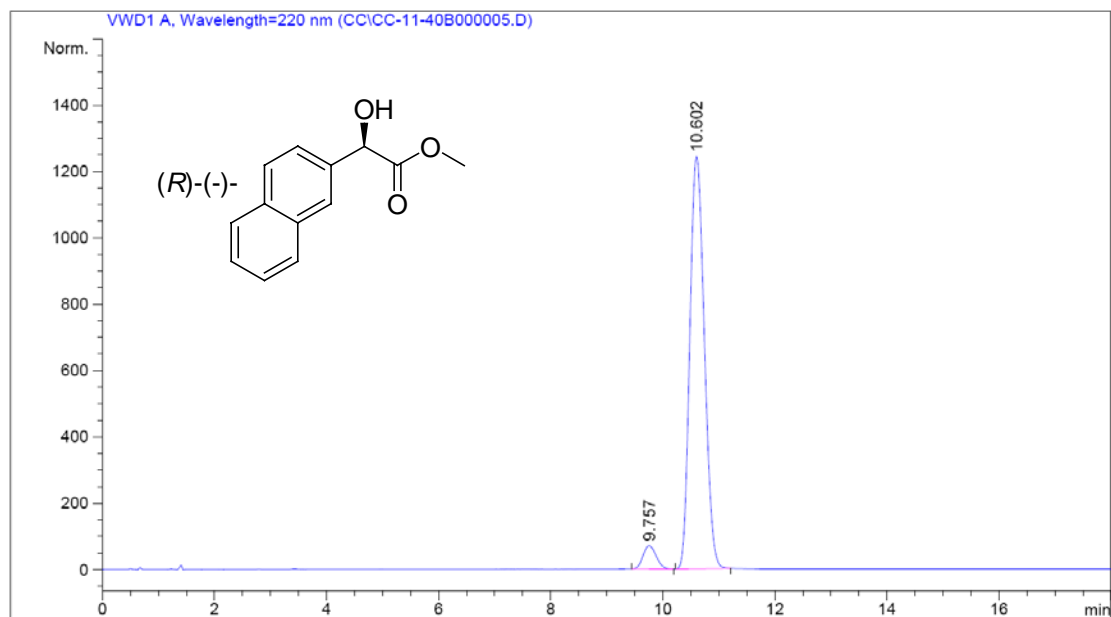
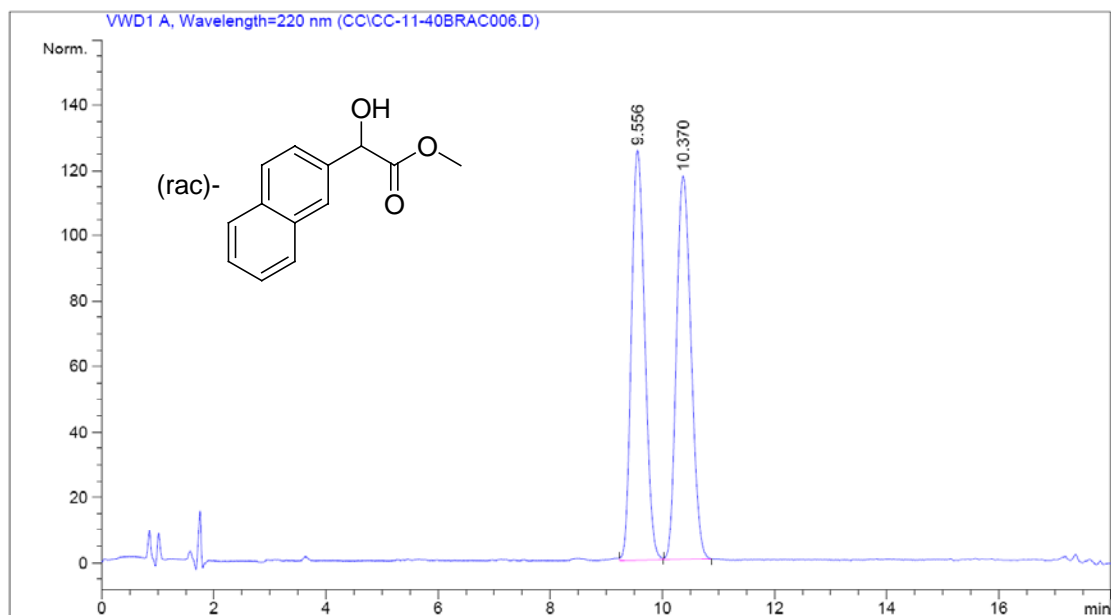
Uncalibrated Peaks:

Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU	Area %	Name
1	5.433	BB	0.1427	1.34908e4	67.8844	?
2	6.122	BB	0.1517	6382.38525	32.1156	?

Uncalib. totals : 1.98732e4 100.0000

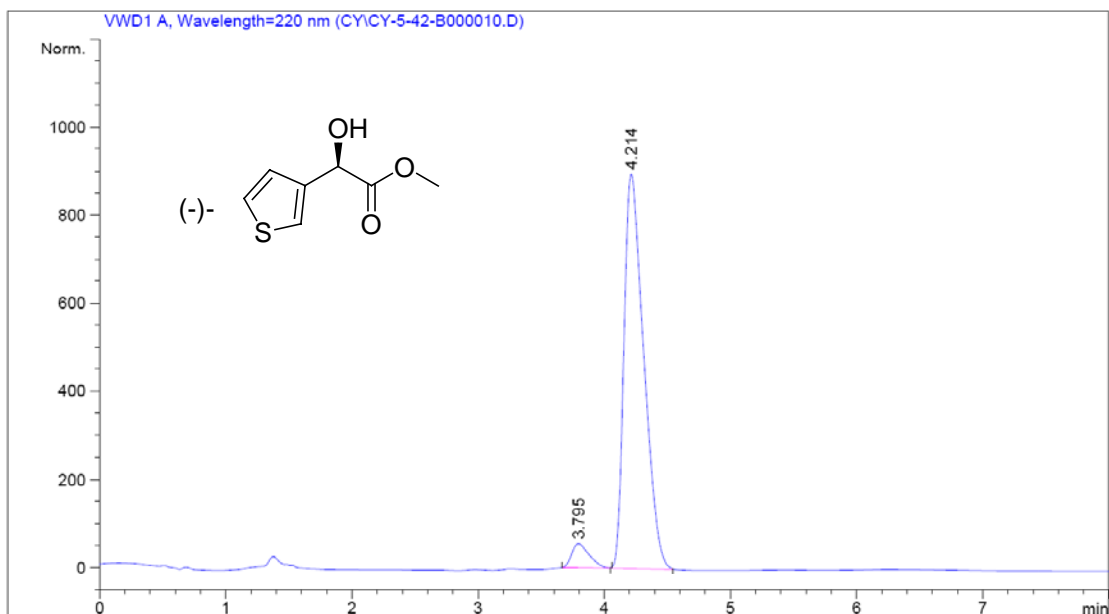
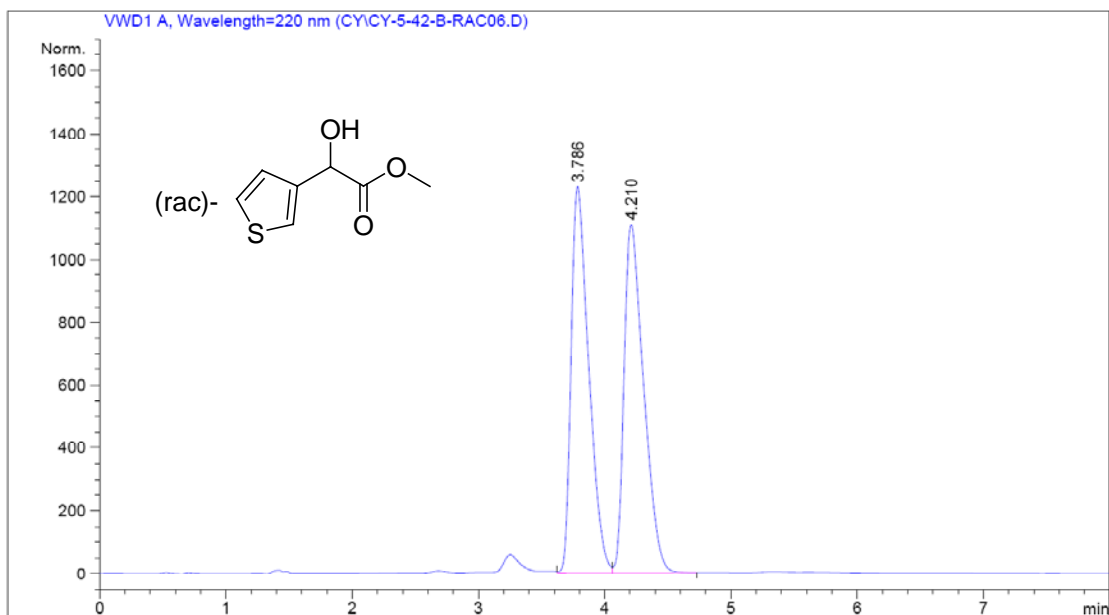


### Methyl 2-hydroxy-2-naphthalen-2-ylacetate (3r)



Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU	Area *s	Area %	Name
1	9.757	BB	0.2542	1125.72778	4.8067	?	
2	10.602	BB	0.2820	2.22943e4	95.1933	?	
Uncalib. totals :				2.34200e4	100.0000		

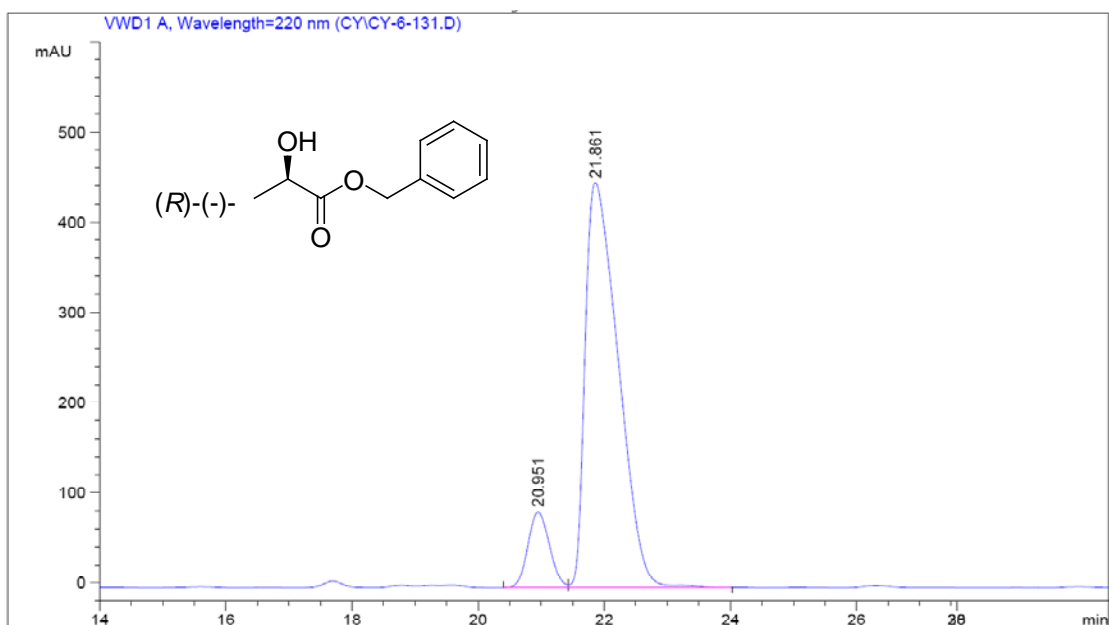
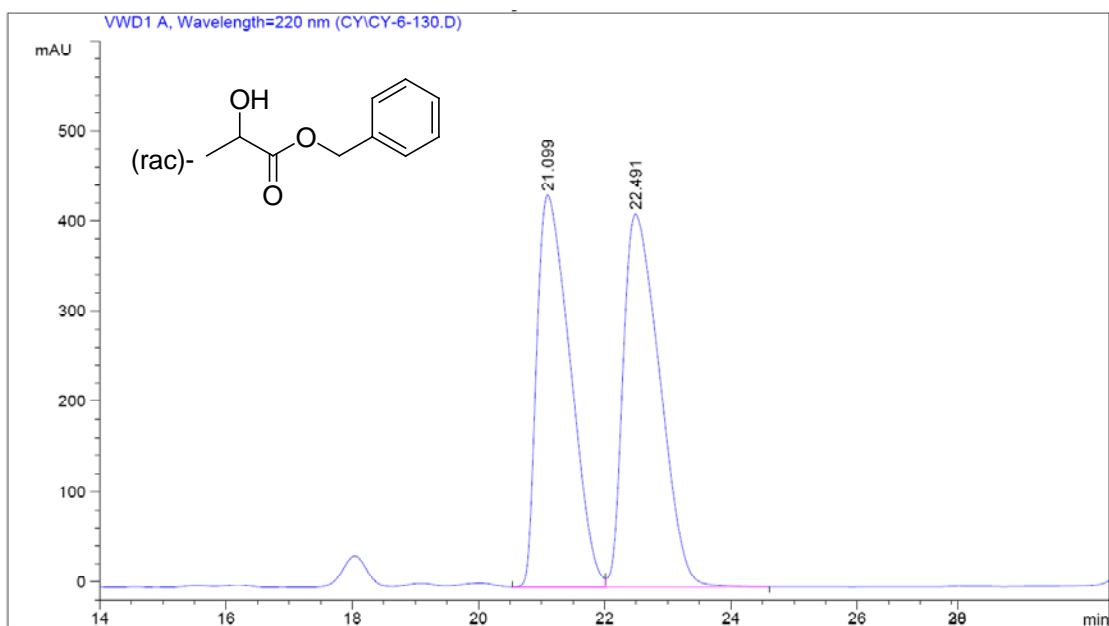
### Methyl 2-hydroxy-2-thiophene-3-ylacetate (3s)



Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU	Area %	Name
1	3.795	BB	0.1443	514.14624	5.0422	?
2	4.214	BB	0.1610	9682.80273	94.9578	?

Uncalib. totals : 1.01969e4 100.0000

## Benzyl 2-hydroxypropionate (3t)



Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU *s	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	20.951	BV	0.3742	2010.90552	84.34593	10.9802
2	21.861	VB	0.5926	1.63030e4	448.93365	89.0198
Totals :				1.83139e4	533.27959	