

Supporting Information

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Contact Ion Pair Directed Lewis-Acid Catalysis: Asymmetric Formation of *trans*-Configured β-Lactones

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Experimental

Except as otherwise indicated, all reactions were carried out in oven or flame dried glassware under a positive pressure of argon. Dichloromethane was purified by distillation and dried by a passage over activated alumina under nitrogen atmosphere. All aldehydes and N,Ndiisopropylethylamine (Acros, >99.5%) were distilled from CaH₂ under nitrogen. 5-Hexenal was prepared from the corresponding commercially available alcohol according to published procedures.^[1] Enantiomerically pure (+)-(S,S)-1,2-diaminocyclohexane was generously donated by Reuter Chemische Apparatebau KG (RCA; Freiburg, Germany). Propionyl bromide (Aldrich, 98%), n-Valeroyl bromide (TCI Europe., >98%), 5-tert-butyl-2-hydroxy-benzaldehyde (Aldrich, 98%), pyridine (Fluka, >99.8%), anhydrous pentane (Fluka, over molecular sieve, >99.5%), nhexane (Fluka, UV quality), cyclohexane (Thommen & Furler), ethyl acetate (Thommen & Furler), diethyl ether (Fluka) and triethylamine (Fluka, >99.5%) were used as purchased. All other laboratory chemicals were purchased from ABCR, Acros, Aldrich, Fluka, J.T. Baker or *Merck* and were used without purification. For work-up procedures and flash chromatography, distilled technical grade solvents were used. Unless otherwise indicated, all liquids were added *via* syringe, solids were added neat against an argon flow. Solvents were removed at a heating bath temperature of 40 °C and 800 - 30 mbar pressure by rotary evaporation. Non-volatile compounds were dried *in vacuo* at 0.01 mbar. Except as otherwise indicated, reactions were magnetically stirred and monitored either by ¹H-NMR spectra or thin layer chromatography (TLC) using silica gel plates from *Merck* (silica gel 60 F_{254}). Visualization occurred by fluorescence quenching under UV light and by staining with aqueous KMnO₄ / NaOH. Purification by flash chromatography was performed on silica gel 60 Å, 32-62, provided by Fluka, using a forced flow of eluent at 0.2-0.4 bar pressure. NMR-spectra were recorded on a Varian Gemini 300, a Varian Mercury 300 and a Bruker ARX300 spectrometer operating at 300 MHz (¹H) and 75 MHz (¹³C). Chemical shifts δ are referred in terms of ppm and *J*-coupling

constants are given in Hz. Abbreviations for multiplicity are as follows: s (singulet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quadruplet), m (multiplet), b (broad signal). IR-spectra were recorded on a Perkin Elmer Spectrum One FT-IR with a Universal ATR Sampling Accessory and the signals are given by wave numbers (cm⁻¹). Optical rotation was measured on a *Jasco DIP-100 digital polarimeter* operating at the sodium D line with a 100 mm path length cell. Melting points were measured using a *Büchi* 535 melting point apparatus in open glass capillaries and are uncorrected. Mass spectra were obtained from the ETH Zürich MS Service. High resolution EI mass spectra were performed on a Micromass AutoSpec Ultima and were calibrated with perfluorotributylamine (PFTBA) prior to data acquisition. High resolution ESI mass spectra were performed on an Ion Spec Ultima 2 FTICR. ESI mass spectra were performed on a Finnigan TSQ7000. Combustion analysis was performed by the Mikroelementaranalytisches Laboratorium at ETH Zürich. Analytical gas chromatography (GC) was performed on a Hewlett Packard HP6890 Series gas chromatograph and a ThermoFinnigan TraceGC gas chromatograph with a flame ionization detector using a Chrompac Chirasil-Dex CB silica capillary column (25 m x 0.25 mm x 0.25 µm film thickness). Hydrogen was used as the carrier gas at the indicated pressure. Analytical high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) was performed on a Hitachi LaChrom Elite liquid chromatograph equipped with a variable wavelength UV detector (deuterium lamp, 190-600 nm), using a Daicel ChiralcelTM OD-H column (25 x 0.46 cm). HPLC grade isopropanol and hexanes were used as the eluting solvents.

Synthesis of salen ligand S4



1-(5-tert-Butyl-3-formyl-2-hydroxybenzyl)pyridinium bromide (83)^[2]

3-Bromomethyl-5-*tert*-butyl-2-hydroxy-benzaldehyde (**S2**)^[3] (6.07 g, 22.4 mmol) was dissolved in dry acetonitrile (80 mL) and pyridine (1.90 mL, 23.5 mmol) was added. The suspension was stirred for 14 h at ambient temperature. Et₂O (50 mL) was added and the mixture was filtered. After washing with Et₂O (50 mL) the product was dried *in vacuo* to give **S3** as a white solid (7.20 g, 20.6 mmol, yield: 92%). No further purification was necessary.

C₁₇H₂₀BrNO₂, MW: 350.25 g/mol. Mp: >250 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO, 21 °C): δ = 11.16 (*s*, 1 H, C_{Ar}O*H*); 10.05 (*s*, 1 H, C*H*O); 9.14 (*d*, *J* = 5.5, 2 H, *o*-C*H*_{Pyr}); 8.60 (*tt*, *J* = 7.6, 1.3, 1 H, *p*-C*H*_{Pyr}); 8.15 (*m*, 2 H, *m*-C*H*_{Pyr}); 8.09 (*d*, *J* = 2.6, 1 H, C*H*_{Ar}); 7.88 (*d*, *J* = 2.6, 1 H, C*H*_{Ar}); 5.89 (*s*, 2 H, C_{Ar}C*H*₂); 1.22 (*s*, 9 H, C(C*H*₃)₃). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO, 21 °C): δ = 196.3, 156.7, 145.9, 145.0, 142.8, 136.3, 130.7, 128.1, 121.9, 121.2, 58.9, 34.1, 30.9. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: Calc. for [M-Br]⁺: 270.1489. Found: 270.1489. Anal. Calcd. for C₁₇H₂₀BrNO₂: C, 58.30; H, 5.76; N, 4.00; O, 9.14; Br, 22.81. Found: C, 58.36; H, 5.69; N, 4.06.

(*S*,*S*)-(+)-N,N'-Bis(3-*tert*-butyl-5-(pyridinium-1-ylmethyl)salicylidene)-1,2-cyclohexanediamine dibromide (S4)

To a solution of (1S,2S)-(+)-1,2-diaminocyclohexane (0.20 g, 1.78 mmol, 1 equiv.) in ethanol (20 mL) at ambient temperature aldehyde **S3** (1.26 g, 3.56 mmol, 2 equiv.) and molecular sieves

(4Å) were added. The mixture was stirred for 24 h at ambient temperature. After filtration, EtOH was removed *in vacuo*. Subsequent repetitive azeotropic removal of residual EtOH with DCM gave **S4** as an orange solid (1.38 g, 1.78 mmol, yield: 100%). No further purification was necessary.

C₄₀**H**₅₀**Br**₂**N**₄**O**₂, **MW**: 778.66 g/mol. **Mp**: decomposition above 195 °C. $[\alpha]_D^{24,3°C}$ (c = 1.100, acetonitrile) = +320.5 ± 0.1. ¹**H NMR (300 MHz, CD**₂**Cl**₂, **21** °**C**): δ = 14.16 (*bs*, 2 H, C_{Ar}O*H*); 9.55 (*d*, *J* = 5.5, 4 H, *o*-C*H*_{Pyr}); 8.46 (*t*, *J* = 7.8, 2 H, *p*-C*H*_{Pyr}); 8.38 (*s*, 2 H, N=C*H*C_{Ar}); 8.22 (*d*, *J* = 2.5, 2 H, C*H*_{Ar}); 7.99 (*m*, 4 H, *m*-C*H*_{Pyr}); 7.32 (*d*, *J* = 2.5, 2 H, C*H*_{Ar}); 6.13 (*dd*, 4 H, C_{Ar}C*H*₂); 3.43 (*d*, *J* = 9.5, 2 H, (C*H*)_{ring}-N); 1.90 (*m*, 4 H, (C*H*₂)_{ring}); 1.67 (*m*, 2 H, (C*H*₂)_{ring}); 1.47 (*m*, 2 H, (C*H*₂)_{ring}); 1.27 (*s*, 18 H, C(C*H*₃)₃). ¹³C **NMR (75 MHz, CD**₂**Cl**₂, **21** °**C**): δ = 164.9, 159.1, 145.4, 145.3, 142.0, 133.0, 130.3, 128.1, 120.7, 118.2, 71.6, 60.1, 34.6, 33.2, 31.6, 24.5. **HRMS** (**ESI**) *m/z*: Calc. for [M²⁺-Br⁻]⁺: 697.3112. Found: 697.3114.

Formation of the active catalyst 8g

To a solution of diimine **S4** (0.16 g, 0.21 mmol, 1 equiv.) in DCM (3.5 mL) a solution of Me₃Al in toluene (2 M, 0.10 mL, 0.21 mmol, 1 equiv.) was added. The mixture was stirred for 3 h at ambient temperature. Pentane (5 mL) was added to fully precipitate complex **8g** and the mixture was filtered under nitrogen. Washing the filter cake with an additional amount of pentane (5 mL) and drying *in vacuo* afforded the active catalyst as bright yellow powder in quantitative yield. To avoid decomposition, the complex was synthesized at the same day as the catalysis was carried out.

General procedure for the formation of β -lactones 3



To a mixture of complex **8g** (0.075 mmol, 0.1 equiv.) in DCM (3 mL) was successively added at -70 °C aldehyde **2** (0.75 mmol, 1 equiv.), acid bromide **1** (4.5 mmol, 6 equiv.) and diisopropylethylamine (1.875 mmol, 2.5 equiv.). The resulting heterogeneous mixture was stirred at -70 °C for 24 h. The reaction mixture was poured into aqueous 1 M HCl (30 mL) and extracted with DCM (2 x 20 mL). The combined organic phase was dried over MgSO₄ and filtered through a short plug of silica gel. DCM was subsequently removed *in vacuo*. For β-lactones **3a**, **3c**, **3e** and **3h** the yield was determined by ¹H-NMR using acetophenone as internal standard. The crude product mixtures of all other β-lactones were purified by flash chromatography.

(3R,4R)-trans-3-Methyl-4-(2-phenylethyl)oxetan-2-one (3a)



β-Lactone **3a** (0.41 mmol, yield: 82%, ee = 88% dr = 97:3) was prepared from propionylbromide (**1a**) and 3-phenylpropionaldehyde (**2a**) according to the general procedure, but using 0.50 mmol of **2a** in 2 mL of DCM. The *dr* value was determined by ¹H-NMR and the *ee* value by HPLC

(Chiralcel OD-H, 97:3 *n*-hexane/*i*PrOH, 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm). An analytically pure sample was obtained as colorless oil by flash chromatography (pentane / diethyl ether 20:1).

C₁₂**H**₁₄**O**₂, **MW**: 190.24 g/mol. Spectral data for the racemate have been reported earlier.^[4] [*α*] $_{D}^{25,9^{\circ}C}$ (c = 1.280, CHCl₃) = +67.4 ± 0.1. ¹**H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 21 °C)**: δ = 7.34-7.17 (*m*, 5 H, CH_{Ar}); 4.16 (*ddd*, *J* = 7.5, 5.9, 4.0, 1 H, CH-O); 3.20 (*qd*, *J* = 7.5, 4.0, 1 H, CH-C(O)); 2.77 (*m*, 2 H, CH₂CH₂C_{Ar}); 2.13 (*m*, 2 H, CH₂CH₂C_{Ar}); 1.32 (*d*, *J* = 7.5, 3 H, CH₃). ¹³C **NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 21 °C): δ = 171.6, 139.9, 128.5, 128.2, 126.3, 78.6, 50.8, 35.6, 31.4, 12.5. IR (ATR): v = 2935, 1816, 1603, 1124, 840, 698. HRMS (EI) *m/z*: Calc. for [M⁺]: 190.0988. Found: 190.0989. Anal. Calcd. for C₁₂H₁₄O₂: C, 75.76; H, 7.42; O, 16.82. Found: C, 75.85; H, 7.53.

(3R,4R)-trans-3-Methyl-4-heptyloxetan-2-one (3b)



β-Lactone **3b** was prepared from propionylbromide (**1a**) and octanal according to the general procedure. Purification by flash chromatography (pentane / diethyl ether 20:1) gave **3b** as colorless oil (107 mg, 0.58 mmol, 77%, ee = 87% dr = 96:4). The *dr* value was determined by ¹H-NMR and the *ee* value by GC (ThermoFinnigan TraceGC, Chrompac Chirasil-Dex CB column 25 m x 0.25 mm, flow rate 1.1 mL/min, method: 60 °C, ramp @ 5 °C/min to 180 °C, hold 20 min).

C₁₁H₂₀O₂, MW: 184.28 g/mol. Spectral data for the racemate has been reported earlier.^[4] [α] $_{D}^{26.4^{\circ}C}$ (c = 1.175, CHCl₃) = +45.6 ± 0.1. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 21 °C): δ = 4.17 (*td*, *J* = 6.6, 4.0, 1 H, CH-O); 3.21 (*qd*, *J* = 7.5, 4.0, 1 H, CH-C(O)); 1.93-1.68 (*m*, 2 H, CH₂CH₂CH-O); 1.39 (*d*, *J* = 7.5, 3 H, CHCH₃) 1.49-1.28 (*m*, 10 H, (CH₂)₅CH₃); 0.88 (*t*, *J* = 6.6, 3 H, CH₂CH₃). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 21 °C): $\delta = 171.9$, 79.5, 50.7, 34.2, 31.7, 29.2, 29.1, 25.0, 22.6, 14.1, 12.6. IR (ATR): v = 2927, 1821, 1123. HRMS (EI) *m/z*: Calc. for [M-H]⁺: 183.1380. Found: 183.1382. Anal. Calcd. for C₁₁H₂₀O₂: C, 71.70; H, 10.94; O, 17.36. Found: C, 71.55; H, 10.80.

(3R,4R)-trans-3-Methyl-4-(4-pentenyl)oxetan-2-one (3c)



β-Lactone **3c** (0.37 mmol, yield: 74%, *ee* = 88%, *dr* = 96:4) was prepared from propionylbromide (**1a**) and 5-hexenal according to the general procedure, but using 0.50 mmol of aldehyde in 2 mL DCM The *dr* value was determined by ¹H-NMR and the *ee* value by GC (Hewlett Packard HP6890, Chrompac Chirasil-Dex CB column 25 m x 0.25 mm, flow rate 1.1 mL/min, method: 60 °C for 2 min, ramp @ 5 °C/min to 150 °C, hold 0.75 min, ramp @ 8 °C/min to 200 °C). An analytically pure sample was obtained as colorless oil by flash chromatography (pentane / diethyl ether 20:1).

C₉**H**₁₄**O**₂, **MW**: 154.21 g/mol. Spectral data for the racemate has been reported earlier.^[4] [*α*] $_{D}^{21.8°C}$ (c = 1.025, CHCl₃) = +58.7 ± 0.3. ¹**H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 21 °C)**: δ = 5.78 (*ddt*, *J* = 16.9, 10.2, 6.7, 1 H, CH₂CH=CH₂); 5.07-4.97 (*m*, 2 H, CH=CH₂); 4.18 (*ddd*, *J* = 7.3, 6.1, 4.0, 1 H, CH-O); 3.23 (*qd*, *J* = 7.5, 4.0, 1 H, CH-C(O)); 2.12 (*m*, 2 H, CH₂CH=CH₂); 1.93-1.71 (*m*, 2 H, CH₂CH₂CH-O); 1.64-1.42 (*m*, 2 H, CH₂CH₂CH₂); 1.39 (*d*, *J* = 7.5, 3 H, CHCH₃). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 21 °C): δ = 171.9, 137.6, 115.3, 79.3, 50.7, 33.4, 33.1, 24.1, 12.4. IR (ATR): v = 2936, 1817, 1641, 1123. HRMS (EI) *m/z*: Calc. for [M⁺]: 154.0989. Found: 154.0991.

(3R,4R)-trans-3-Methyl-4-(9-decenyl)oxetan-2-one (3d)



β-Lactone **3d** was prepared from propionylbromide (**1a**) and undecylenic aldehyde according to the general procedure. Purification by flash chromatography (pentane / diethyl ether 20:1) gave **3d** as colorless oil (104 mg, 0.47 mmol, 62%, *ee* = 87%, *dr* = 94:6). The *dr* value was determined by ¹H-NMR and the *ee* value by GC (ThermoFinnigan TraceGC, Chrompac Chirasil-Dex CB column 25 m x 0.25 mm, flow rate 1.1 mL/min, method: 60 °C, ramp @ 5 °C/min to 180 °C, hold 20 min).

C₁₄**H**₂₄**O**₂, **MW**: 224.34 g/mol. [α] $_{D}^{27.0^{\circ}C}$ (c = 1.245, CHCl₃) = +40.5 ± 0.1. ¹**H** NMR (300 MHz, **CDCl₃, 21** °**C**): δ = 5.81 (*ddt*, *J* = 16.8, 10.1, 6.7, 1 H, CH₂C*H*=CH₂); 5.03-4.91 (*m*, 2 H, CH=CH₂); 4.17 (*ddd*, *J* = 7.1, 6.3, 4.0, 1 H, CH-O); 3.22 (*qd*, *J* = 7.5, 4.0, 1 H, CH-C(O)); 2.04 (*m*, 2 H, CH₂CH=CH₂); 1.93-1.68 (*m*, 2 H, CH₂CH₂CH-O); 1.45-1.25 (*m*, 12 H, CH₂(CH₂)₆CH₂); 1.39 (*d*, *J* = 7.5, 3H, CHCH₃). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 21 °C): δ = 171.9, 139.0, 114.1, 79.5, 50.7, 34.2, 33.8, 29.4, 29.3, 29.2, 29.1, 28.9, 25.9, 12.6. IR (ATR): v = 2926, 1821, 1640, 1122. HRMS (EI) *m/z*: Calc. for [M⁺]: 224.1776. Found: 224.1776. Anal. Calcd. for C₁₄H₂₄O₂: C, 74.95; H, 10.78; O, 14.26. Found: C, 75.06; H, 10.56.

(3R,4R)-trans-3-Methyl-4-ethyloxetan-2-one (3e)



β-Lactone **3e** (0.76 mmol, yield: 76%, ee = 87% dr = 95:5) was prepared from propionylbromide (**1a**) and propanal according to the general procedure, but using 1.00 mmol of aldehyde in 4 mL of DCM. The *dr* value was determined by ¹H-NMR and the *ee* value by GC (ThermoFinnigan

TraceGC, Chrompac Chirasil-Dex CB column 25 m x 0.25 mm, flow rate 1.1 mL/min, method: 60 °C, ramp @ 5 °C/min to 180 °C, hold 20 min). An analytically pure sample was obtained as light-yellow oil by flash chromatography (pentane / diethyl ether 20:1).

C₆**H**₁₀**O**₂, **MW**: 114.14 g/mol. [α] $_{D}^{25.5^{\circ}C}$ (c = 1.625, CHCl₃) = +55.0 ± 0.1. ¹**H** NMR (**300** MHz, **CDCl₃, 21** °**C**): δ = 4.13 (*td*, *J* = 6.6, 4.0, 1 H, CH-O); 3.23 (*qd*, *J* = 7.5, 4.0, 1 H, CH-C(O)); 1.97-1.72 (*m*, 2 H, CH₃CH₂CH-O); 1.39 (*d*, *J* = 7.5, 3 H, CHCH₃); 1.02 (*t*, *J* = 7.5, 3 H, CH₂CH₃). ¹³**C** NMR (**75** MHz, CDCl₃, **21** °**C**): δ = 171.8, 80.5, 50.3, 27.3, 12.7, 9.1. **IR (ATR)**: v = 2937, 1816, 1125, 848. **HRMS (EI)** *m/z*: Calc. for [M-H]⁺: 113.0597. Found: 113.0592.

(3R,4R)-trans-3-Methyl-4-propyloxetan-2-one (3f)



β-Lactone **3f** was prepared from propionylbromide (**1a**) and butanal according to the general procedure. Purification by flash chromatography (pentane / diethyl ether 20:1) gave **3f** as colorless oil (64 mg, 0.50 mmol, 67%, *ee* = 93%, *dr* = 97:3). The *dr* value was determined by ¹H-NMR and the *ee* value by GC (Hewlett Packard HP6890, Chrompac Chirasil-Dex CB column 25 m x 0.25 mm, flow rate 1.1 mL/min, method: 60 °C for 2 min, ramp @ 5 °C/min to 150 °C, hold 0.75 min, ramp @ 8 °C/min to 200 °C).

C₇**H**₁₂**O**₂, **MW**: 128.17 g/mol. [*α*] $_{D}^{23.2^{\circ}C}$ (c = 1.005, CHCl₃) = +65.5 ± 0.1. Spectral data for **3f** has been reported earlier.^[5] ¹**H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 21 °C)**: δ = 4.19 (*ddd*, *J* = 7.4, 6.1, 4.0, 1 H, CH-O); 3.23 (*qd*, *J* = 7.5, 4.0, 1 H, CH-C(O)); 1.92-1.68 (*m*, 2 H, CH₂CH₂CH-O); 1.55-1.35 (*m*, 2 H, CH₂CH₃); 1.39 (*d*, *J* = 7.5, 3H, CHCH₃); 0.99 (*t*, *J* = 7.4, 3 H, CH₂CH₃). ¹³**C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 21 °C)**: δ = 171.8, 79.3, 50.7, 36.1, 18.4, 13.7, 12.5. **IR (ATR)**: v = 2962, 1817, 1124, 872, 814. **HRMS (EI)** *m/z*: Calc. for [M⁺]: 128.0832. Found: 128.0832.

(3R,4R)-trans-3-Methyl-4-butyloxetan-2-one (3g)



β-Lactone **3g** was prepared from propionylbromide (**1a**) and pentanal according to the general procedure, but using 1.00 mmol of aldehyde in 4 mL of DCM. Purification by flash chromatography (pentane / diethyl ether 20:1) gave **3g** as colorless oil (91 mg, 0.64 mmol, 64%, ee = 89%, dr = 97:3). The *dr* value was determined by ¹H-NMR and the *ee* value by GC (ThermoFinnigan TraceGC, Chrompac Chirasil-Dex CB column 25 m x 0.25 mm, flow rate 1.1 mL/min, method: 60 °C, ramp @ 5 °C/min to 180 °C, hold 20 min).

C₈**H**₁₄**O**₂, **MW**: 142.20 g/mol. Spectral data for the racemate has been reported earlier.^[6] [α] $_{D}^{28.3^{\circ}C}$ (c = 1.080, CHCl₃) = +58.0 ± 0.1. ¹**H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 21 °C)**: δ = 4.18 (*ddd*, *J* = 7.1, 6.3, 4.0, 1 H, CH-O); 3.22 (*qd*, *J* = 7.5, 4.0, 1 H, CH-C(O)); 1.94-1.69 (*m*, 2 H, CH₂CH₂CH-O); 1.48-1.30 (*m*, 2 H, CH₂CH₃); 1.39 (*d*, *J* = 7.5, 3 H, CHCH₃); 0.93 (*t*, *J* = 7.1, 3 H, CH₂CH₃). ¹³C **NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 21 °C)**: δ = 171.9, 79.5, 50.7, 33.8, 27.1, 22.4, 13.9, 12.6. **IR (ATR)**: v = 2934, 1818, 1124, 840. **HRMS (EI)** *m/z*: Calc. for [M-H]⁺: 141.0910. Found: 141.0911. **Anal. Calcd. for C**₈**H**₁₄**O**₂: C, 67.57; H, 9.92; O, 22.50. Found: C, 67.41; H, 9.72.

(3R,4R)-trans-3-Methyl-4-iso-butyloxetan-2-one (3h)



β-Lactone **3h** (0.38 mmol, yield: 76%, ee = 87%, dr = 94:6) was prepared from propionylbromide (**1a**) and isovaleraldehyde according to the general procedure, but using 0.50 mmol of aldehyde in 2 mL of DCM. The *dr* value was determined by ¹H-NMR and the *ee* value

by GC (Hewlett Packard HP6890, Chrompac Chirasil-Dex CB column 25 m x 0.25 mm, flow rate 1.1 mL/min, method: 60 °C for 2 min, ramp @ 5 °C/min to 150 °C, hold 0.75 min, ramp @ 8 °C/min to 200 °C). An analytically pure sample was obtained as colorless oil by flash chromatography (pentane / diethyl ether 20:1).

C₈**H**₁₄**O**₂, **MW**: 142.20 g/mol. [α] $_{D}^{27.4^{\circ}C}$ (c = 1.000, CHCl₃) = +59.9 ± 0.1. ¹**H** NMR (**300** MHz, **CDCl₃, 21** °**C**): δ = 4.25 (*ddd*, *J* = 7.5, 5.9, 4.0, 1 H, CH-O); 3.21 (*qd*, *J* = 7.5, 4.0, 1 H, CH-C(O)); 1.85-1.71 (*m*, 2 H, CHC*H*₂CH-O); 1.67-1.56 (*m*, 1 H, C*H*(CH₃)₂); 1.39 (*d*, *J* = 7.5, 3 H, CHC*H*₃); 0.97 (*d*, *J* = 6.5, 3 H, CH₂C*H*₃). ¹³**C** NMR (**75** MHz, **CDCl₃, 21** °**C**): δ = 171.9, 78.5, 51.2, 43.0, 25.4, 22.8, 22.3, 12.5. **IR (ATR):** v = 2959, 1817, 1120, 882. **HRMS (EI)** *m/z*: Calc. for [M⁺]: 142.0988. Found: 142.0988.

(3R,4R)-trans-3-Propyl-4-(2-phenylethyl)oxetan-2-one (3i)



β-Lactone **3i** was prepared from valeroylbromide and 3-phenylpropionaldehyde according to the general procedure. Purification by flash chromatography (DCM / pentane 3:1, then pentane / diethyl ether 40:1) gave **3i** as colorless oil (149 mg, 0.68 mmol, 91%, *ee* = 94%, *dr* = 98:2). The *dr* value was determined by ¹H-NMR and the *ee* value by HPLC (Chiralcel OD-H, 97:3 *n*-hexane/*i*PrOH, 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm).

C₁₄H₁₈O₂, MW: 218.29 g/mol. [α] $_{D}^{26.4\circ C}$ (c = 1.300, CHCl₃) = +59.2 ± 0.1. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 21 °C): δ = 7.33-7.16 (*m*, 5 H, CH_{Ar}); 4.22 (*ddd*, *J* = 7.9, 5.5, 4.0, 1 H, CH-O); 3.19 (*ddd*, *J* = 8.4, 6.9, 4.0, 1 H, CH-C(O)); 2.75 (*m*, 2 H, CH₂CH₂C_{Ar}); 2.11 (*m*, 2 H, CH₂CH₂C_{Ar}); 1.70 (*m*, 2 H, CH₂CH-C(O)); 1.41 (*m*, 2 H, CH₃CH₂CH₂); 0.92 (*t*, *J* = 7.3, 3 H, CH₃). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 21 °C): δ = 171.1, 140.0, 128.5, 128.2, 126.2, 77.1, 56.0, 36.2, 31.4, 29.8,

20.3, 13.8. **IR (ATR):** v = 2931, 1813, 1603, 1114, 838, 748, 698. **HRMS (EI)** *m/z*: Calc. for [M]⁺: 218.1301. Found: 218.1300. **Anal. Calcd. for C₁₄H₁₈O₂**: C, 77.03; H, 8.31; O, 14.66. Found: C, 77.22; H, 8.38.

(3R,4R)-trans-3-Propyl-4-(2-phenylethyl)oxetan-2-one (3j)



β-Lactone **3j** was prepared from valeroylbromide and 5-hexenal according to the general procedure. Purification by flash chromatography (pentane / diethyl ether 40:1) gave **3j** as colorless oil (131 mg, 0.72 mmol, 96%, ee = 95%, dr = 98:2). The *dr* value was determined by ¹H-NMR and the *ee* value by GC (ThermoFinnigan TraceGC, Chrompac Chirasil-Dex CB column 25 m x 0.25 mm, flow rate 1.1 mL/min, method: 60 °C, ramp @ 5 °C/min to 180 °C, hold 20 min).

C₁₁**H**₁₈**O**₂, **MW**: 182.26 g/mol. [α] $_{D}^{22.6^{\circ}C}$ (c = 1.280, CHCl₃) = +38.6 ± 0.1. ¹**H** NMR (300 MHz, **CDCl₃, 21** °**C**): δ = 5.78 (*ddt*, *J* = 16.9, 10.2, 6.7, 1 H, CH₂C*H*=CH₂); 5.07-4.97 (*m*, 2 H, CH=CH₂); 4.23 (*ddd*, *J* = 7.5, 5.8, 4.0, 1 H, CH-O); 3.19 (*ddd*, *J* = 8.7, 6.6, 4.0, 1 H, CH-C(O)); 2.12 (*m*, 2 H, CH₂CH=CH₂); 1.92-1.69 (*m*, 4 H, CH₂CH₂CH-O/ CH₂CH-C(O)); 1.64-1.37 (*m*, 4 H, CH₂CH₂CH₂/CH₂/CH₃CH₂CH₂); 0.96 (*t*, *J* = 7.3, 3 H, CH₃). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 21 °C): δ = 171.3, 137.6, 115.3, 77.9, 56.0, 33.8, 33.2, 30.0, 24.3, 20.4, 13.9. IR (ATR): v = 2933, 1814, 1641, 1120. HRMS (EI) *m/z*: Calc. for [M-H]⁺: 182.1301. Found: 182.1304. Anal. Calcd. for C₁₁H₁₈O₂: C, 72.49; H, 9.95; O, 17.56. Found: C, 72.71; H, 9.98.

(3R,4R)-trans-3-Propyl-4-ethyloxetan-2-one (3k)



β-Lactone **3k** was prepared from valeroylbromide and propanal according to the general procedure, but using 0.50 mmol of aldehyde in 2 mL of DCM. Purification by flash chromatography (pentane / diethyl ether 40:1) gave **3k** as light-yellow oil (45 mg, 0.32 mmol, 63%, *ee* = 94%, *dr* = 97:3). The *dr* value was determined by ¹H-NMR and the *ee* value by GC (ThermoFinnigan TraceGC, Chrompac Chirasil-Dex CB column 25 m x 0.25 mm, flow rate 1.1 mL/min, method: 60 °C, ramp @ 5 °C/min to 180 °C, hold 20 min).

C₈**H**₁₄**O**₂, **MW**: 142.20 g/mol. Spectral data for the racemate has been reported earlier.^[7] [α] $_{D}^{24.5^{\circ}C}$ (c = 1.215, CHCl₃) = +25.8 ± 0.1. ¹**H** NMR (**300** MHz, CDCl₃, **21** °C): δ = 4.18 (*td*, *J* = 6.6, 4.0, 1 H, CH-O); 3.19 (*ddd*, *J* = 8.8, 6.6, 4.0, 1 H, CH-C(O)); 1.96-1.64 (*m*, 4 H, CH₃CH₂CH-O/ CH₂CH-C(O)); 1.54-1.36 (*m*, 2 H, CH₃CH₂CH₂); 1.02 (*t*, *J* = 7.5, 3 H, CH₃); 0.96 (*t*, *J* = 7.3, 3 H, CH₃). ¹³C NMR (**75** MHz, CDCl₃, **21** °C): δ = 171.4, 79.1, 55.5, 30.0, 27.5, 20.4, 13.8, 9.2. **IR (ATR):** v = 2964, 1813, 1125, 849. **HRMS (EI)** *m/z*: Calc. for [M]⁺: 142.0988. Found: 142.0988. **Anal. Calcd. for C**₈**H**₁₄**O**₂: C, 67.57; H, 9.92; O, 22.50. Found: C, 67.85; H, 9.88.

(3R,4R)-trans-3-Propyl-4-propyloxetan-2-one (3l)



β-Lactone **31** was prepared from valeroylbromide and butanal according to the general procedure. Purification by flash chromatography (pentane / diethyl ether 40:1) gave **31** as colorless oil (109 mg, 0.70 mmol, 93%, ee = 95%, dr = 98:2). The *dr* value was determined by

¹H-NMR and the *ee* value by GC (ThermoFinnigan TraceGC, Chrompac Chirasil-Dex CB column 25 m x 0.25 mm, flow rate 1.1 mL/min, method: 60 °C, ramp @ 5 °C/min to 180 °C, hold 20 min).

C₉**H**₁₆**O**₂, **MW**: 156.22 g/mol. [α] $_{D}^{22.3^{\circ C}}$ (c = 1.630, CHCl₃) = +36.8 ± 0.1. ¹**H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 21 °C)**: δ = 4.22 (*ddd*, *J* = 7.4, 5.9, 4.0, 1 H, CH-O); 3.18 (*ddd*, *J* = 8.7, 6.6, 4.0, 1 H, CH-C(O)); 1.90-1.63 (*m*, 4 H, CH₂CH₂CH-O/ CH₂CH-C(O)); 1.53-1.34 (*m*, 4 H, 2x CH₃CH₂CH₂); 0.96 (*m*, 6 H, 2x CH₃). ¹³**C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 21 °C)**: δ = 171.4, 77.9, 55.9, 36.5, 29.9, 20.3, 18.4, 13.8. **IR (ATR)**: v = 2960, 1813, 1125, 818. **HRMS (EI)** *m/z*: Calc. for [M-C₂H₅]⁺: 127.0754. Found: 127.0754. **Anal. Calcd. for C**₉H₁₆**O**₂: C, 69.19; H, 10.32; O, 20.48. Found: C, 69.26; H, 10.29.

(3R,4R)-trans-3-Propyl-4-butyloxetan-2-one (3m)



β-Lactone **3m** was prepared from valeroylbromide and pentanal according to the general procedure, but using 0.50 mmol of aldehyde in 2 mL of DCM. Purification by flash chromatography (pentane / diethyl ether 40:1) gave **3m** as colorless oil (78 mg, 0.46 mmol, 92%, ee = 93%, dr = 96:4). The *dr* value was determined by ¹H-NMR and the *ee* value by GC (ThermoFinnigan TraceGC, Chrompac Chirasil-Dex CB column 25 m x 0.25 mm, flow rate 1.1 mL/min, method: 60 °C, ramp @ 5 °C/min to 180 °C, hold 20 min).

C₁₀H₁₈O₂, MW: 170.25 g/mol. [α] $_{D}^{26.9^{\circ}C}$ (c = 1.135, CHCl₃) = +30.5 ± 0.1. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 21 °C): δ = 4.22 (*ddd*, *J* = 7.3, 6.1, 4.0, 1 H, CH-O); 3.18 (*ddd*, *J* = 8.7, 6.6, 4.0, 1 H, CH-C(O)); 1.93-1.61 (*m*, 4 H, CH₂CH₂CH-O/ CH₂CH-C(O)); 1.52-1.29 (*m*, 6 H, CH₃CH₂CH₂CH/ CH₃CH₂CH₂CH₂); 0.94 (*m*, 6 H, 2x CH₃). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 21

°C): $\delta = 171.4$, 78.1, 55.9, 34.1, 30.0, 27.1, 22.4, 20.4, 13.9, 13.8. **IR (ATR):** v = 2958, 1814, 1125, 837. **HRMS (EI)** *m/z*: Calc. for [M-H]⁺: 169.1223. Found: 169.1224. **Anal. Calcd. for** C₁₀H₁₈O₂: C, 70.55; H, 10.66; O, 18.80. Found: C, 70.71; H, 10.49.

(3R,4R)-trans-3-Propyl-4-iso-butyloxetan-2-one (3n)



β-Lactone **3n** was prepared from valeroylbromide and isovaleraldehyde according to the general procedure, but using 0.50 mmol of aldehyde in 2 mL of DCM. Purification by flash chromatography (pentane / diethyl ether 40:1) gave **3n** as colorless oil (65 mg, 0.38 mmol, 76%, ee = 94%, dr = 96:4). The dr value was determined by ¹H-NMR and the ee value by GC (ThermoFinnigan TraceGC, Chrompac Chirasil-Dex CB column 25 m x 0.25 mm, flow rate 1.1 mL/min, method: 60 °C, ramp @ 5 °C/min to 180 °C, hold 20 min).

C₁₀**H**₁₈**O**₂, **MW**: 170.25 g/mol. [α] $_{D}^{24.9^{\circ}C}$ (c = 1.600, CHCl₃) = +47.4 ± 0.1. ¹**H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 21 °C)**: δ = 4.30 (*ddd*, *J* = 8.0, 5.2, 4.0, 1 H, CH-O); 3.17 (*ddd*, *J* = 8.4, 6.9, 4.0, 1 H, CH-C(O)); 1.88-1.36 (*m*, 6 H, CHC*H*₂CH-O/ CH₃C*H*₂C*H*-C(O)); 0.93 (*m*, 6 H, 2x C*H*₃). ¹³**C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 21 °C)**: δ = 171.4, 76.9, 56.4, 43.5, 29.9, 25.4, 22.8, 22.4, 20.3, 13.8. **IR (ATR)**: v = 2958, 1815, 1116. **HRMS (EI)** *m/z*: Calc. for [M-C₄H₉]⁺: 113.0597. Found: 113.0596. **Anal. Calcd. for C**₁₀**H**₁₈**O**₂: C, 70.55; H, 10.66; O, 18.80. Found: C, 70.71; H, 10.59.

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STANDARD 1H OBSERVE



































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Sample Name: TK10-234Chrom

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2474.83414 308.20886

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Signal 1: FID1

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Totals :

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Results obtained with enhanced integrator!

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694.56091 695.22876 1389.78967

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Sample Name: TK10-229Chrom



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Area Percent Report

Signal 1.0000 1.0000 Sorted By Multiplier Dilution

Use Multiplier & Dilution Factor with ISTDs

Signal 1: FID1 B,

Area %	96.56572 3.43428		
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Signal 1: FID1 B,

Area %	49.99379 50.00621		
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GC 6890 21.02.2008 14:15:58 TK

GC 6890 21.02.2008 14:12:32 TK

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