

# Organocatalyzed Asymmetric Reactions via Microwave Activation

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## Supporting Information

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**General Remarks.** Concerning <sup>1</sup>H (400 MHz) and <sup>13</sup>C (100 MHz) NMR spectra, chemical shift (δ) are given in ppm relative to tetramethylsilane (0 ppm). Multiplicity is indicated as follows : s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplet), dd (doublet of doublet), br s (broad singlet). Coupling constants are reported in Hz. Optical rotations were measured at 25°C in a 10 cm cell in the stated solvent ; [α]<sub>D</sub> values are given in 10<sup>-1</sup> deg.cm<sup>2</sup> g<sup>-1</sup> (concentration c given as g/100 mL). Enantiomeric excesses were determined by chiral Super Fluid Chromatography (SFC), with appropriated program using a gradient of methanol or by chiral Gas Chromatography (GC), with appropriated program using a gradient of temperature. Temperature programs are described as follows: initial temperature (°C) – initial time (min) – temperature gradient (°C/min) – final temperature (°C); retention times (R<sub>T</sub>) are given in min. Flash chromatography was performed using silicagel 32-63 μm, 60 Å.

Evolution of reaction was followed by TLC. Benzaldehyde **2c** and isobutyraldehyde **4c** were freshly distilled before using. Cyclopentadiene monomer **7** was freshly used after cracking. (*S,S*)-*N*-Isopropyl-2,2'-bipyrrolidine (**iPBP**) was prepared as described in literature procedure.<sup>1</sup> (*5S*)-5-Benzyl-2,2,3-trimethylimidazolidin-4-one hydrochloride **9** was prepared as

<sup>1</sup> O. Andrey, A. Alexakis, A. Tomassini, G. Bernardinelli, *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **2004**, 346, 1147.

described in literature.<sup>2</sup> All other reagents and solvents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used as received.

#### **Microwave irradiation experiments.**

Microwave-assisted reactions were carried out using a focused microwave unit (Biotage Initiator™). The instrument consists of a continuous focused microwave power delivery system with operator selectable power output from 0-300 W. In all experiments, a constant power was applied to ensure reproducibility. Reactions were performed in glass vessels (2-5 mL) sealed with a septum. Pressure measurement is accomplished by a non-invasive sensor integrated into the cavity lid, which measures the deformation of the Teflon seal of the vessels (maximum 20 bar). Temperature controlled is achieved by means of an IR sensor and the indicated temperature corresponds to the maximal temperature reached during each experiment. The specified reaction time corresponds to the total irradiation time. Efficient cooling is accomplished by means of a pressurized air ( with a pressure of 5 bar) during the entire experiment.

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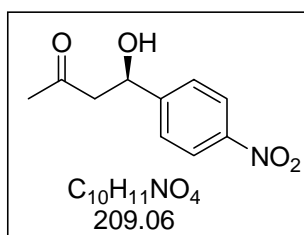
<sup>2</sup> Ahrendt, K. A.; Borths, C. J.; MacMillan, D. W. C. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2000**, *122*, 4243.

## I. Aldol reactions

**General procedure 1 under microwave irradiation.** In a 2-5 mL vessel were introduced L-proline, DMSO (2.4 mL) and finally acetone **1** (20 vol %, 0.6 mL) and the mixture was stirred for 15 min under argon. Aldehyde was added (0.3 mmol) and the vessel was sealed with a septum and placed into the microwave cavity. The microwave source was then turned on. Constant microwave irradiation as well as simultaneous air-cooling (5 bar) were used during the entire reaction time. The evolution of the reaction was monitored by TLC. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was quenched as described in literature procedure<sup>3</sup> using NH<sub>4</sub>Cl aq. sat. and extracted with EtOAc (2x). The combined organic layers were washed successively with water and brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel using a mixture of cyclohexane and ethyl acetate.

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<sup>3</sup> a) List, B.; Lerner, R. A.; Barbas III, C. F. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2000**, 22, 2345. b) Sakthivel, K.; Notz, W.; Bui, T.; Barbas III, C. F. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2001**, 23, 5260.

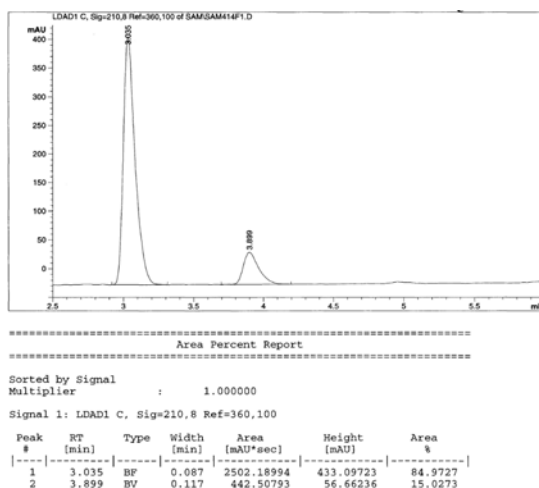


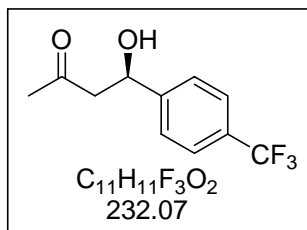
(*R*)-4-hydroxy-4-(4-nitrophenyl)butan-2-one **3a** (Table 2, entry 1):

From 4-nitrobenzaldehyde **2a** (1 eq., 0.3 mmol, 45.3 mg) and L-proline (0.2 eq., 0.06 mmol, 6.9 mg) according to *general procedure 1* (15 W, 0 bar, 35 °C) to give complete conversion after 15 min and to afford aldol product **3a** (43.3 mg, 69%). The

enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral SFC (AS-H column, 2 mL/min, 200 bar, methanol 10%-2-1-25%, 30°C,  $R_t$ : 3.03 (*R*), 3.89 (*S*)).  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +42.6$  ( $c$  1.035,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) :  $\delta$  = 8.22-8.20 (d,  $J$  = 8.60 Hz, 2H), 7.55-7.52 (d,  $J$  = 8.84 Hz, 2H), 5.28-5.24 (m, 1H), 3.56-3.55 (m, 1H), 2.86-2.84 (d, 2H), 2.22 (s, 3H). Other spectroscopic data are in agreement with published data.<sup>3</sup>

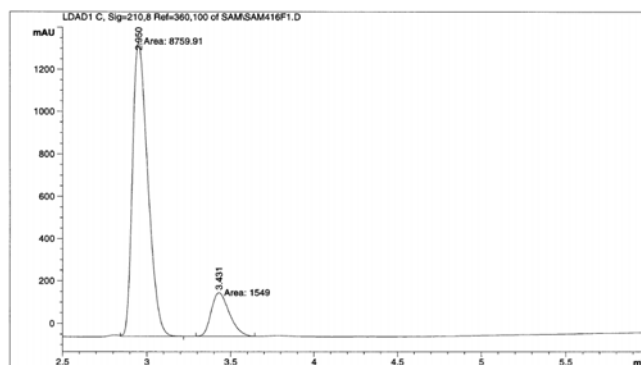




(*R*)-4-hydroxy-4-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)butan-2-one **3b** (Table 2, entry 2): From  $\alpha,\alpha,\alpha$ -trifluoro-*p*-tolualdehyde **2b** (1 eq., 0.3 mmol, 52.23 mg) and L-proline (0.2 eq., 0.06 mmol, 6.9 mg) according to *general procedure 1* (15 W, 0 bar, 32 °C) to give complete conversion after 15 min and to afford aldol product **3b**

(48.5 mg, 70%). The enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral SFC (AS-H column, 2 mL/min, 200 bar, methanol 2%-2-1-15%, 30°C,  $R_t$ : 2.95 (*R*), 3.43 (*S*)).  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +32.6$  ( $c$  1.14,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) :  $\delta$  = 7.62-7.60 (d,  $J$  = 8.08 Hz, 2H), 7.49-7.47 (d,  $J$  = 8.08 Hz, 2H), 5.23-5.20 (m, 1H), 3.44-3.43 (m, 1H), 2.85-2.84 (d, 2H), 2.21 (s, 3H). Other spectroscopic data are in agreement with published data.<sup>4</sup>



Area Percent Report

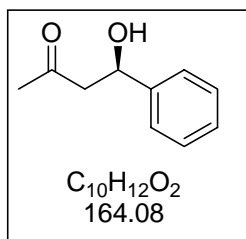
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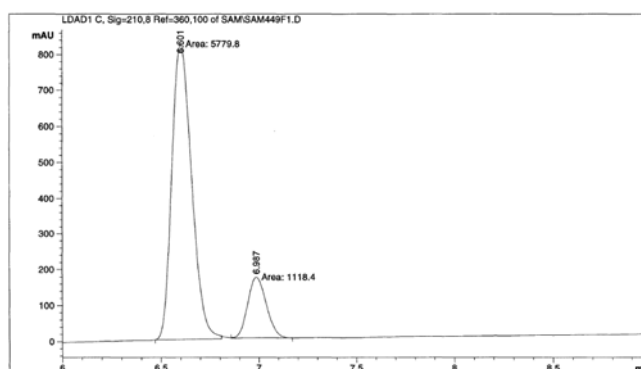
<sup>4</sup> Kotrusz, P.; Kmentová, I.; Gotov, B.; Toma, Š.; Solčániová, E. *Chem. Comm.* **2002**, 2510.



(*R*)-4-hydroxy-4-phenylbutan-2-one **3c** (Table 2, entry 3): From benzaldehyde **2c** (1 eq., 0.3 mmol, 30  $\mu$ L) and L-proline (0.3 eq., 0.09 mmol, 10.3 mg) according to *general procedure 1* (15 W, 0 bar, 31  $^{\circ}$ C) to give 89% conversion after 1 h and to afford aldol product **3c** (34.2 mg, 70%). The enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral SFC (OD-

H column, 2 mL/min, 200 bar, methanol 10%-2-1-25%, 30 $^{\circ}$ C,  $R_t$ : 6.60 (*R*), 6.98 (*S*)).  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +37.2$  ( $c$  0.575,  $ee = 68\%$ ,  $CHCl_3$ ).

$^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) :  $\delta$  = 7.36-7.30 (m, 4H), 7.29-7.26 (m, 1H), 5.17-5.14 (m, 1H), 3.29 (br, 1H), 2.92-2.79 (m, 2H), 2.19 (s, 3H). Other spectroscopic data are in agreement with published data.<sup>3</sup>

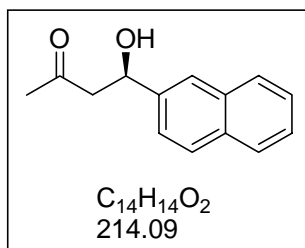


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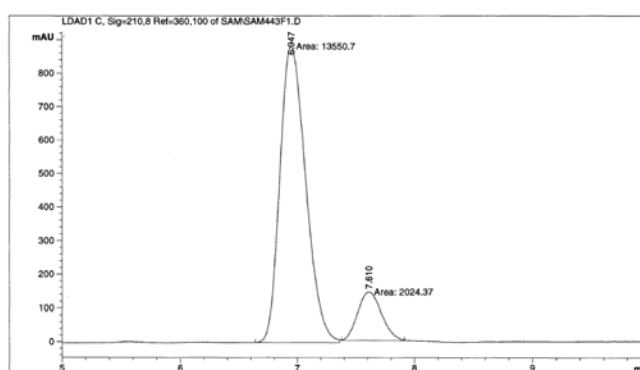
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2	6.987	MM	0.110	1118.40088	169.07425	16.2129



(*R*)-4-hydroxy-4-(naphthalen-2-yl)butan-2-one **3d** (Table 2, entry 4): From 2-naphtaldehyde **2d** (1 eq., 0.3 mmol, 46.9 mg) and L-proline (0.3 eq., 0.09 mmol, 10.3 mg) according to *general procedure 1* (15 W, 0 bar, 31 °C) to give 79% conversion after 1 h and to afford aldol product **3d** (35.9 mg, 56%). The enantiomeric

excess was determined by chiral SFC (AD column, 2 mL/min, 200 bar, methanol 10%-2-1-25%, 30°C, *R*<sub>t</sub>: 6.94 (*R*), 7.61 (*S*)). [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> = +34.8 (*c* 0.525, ee= 74%, CHCl<sub>3</sub>).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) :  $\delta$  = 7.85-7.83 (m, 4H), 7.50-7.45 (m, 3H), 5.35-5.31 (m, 1H), 3.39-3.38 (m, 1H), 2.96-2.93 (m, 2H), 2.21 (s, 3H). Other spectroscopic data are in agreement with published data.<sup>3</sup>

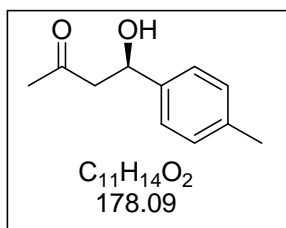


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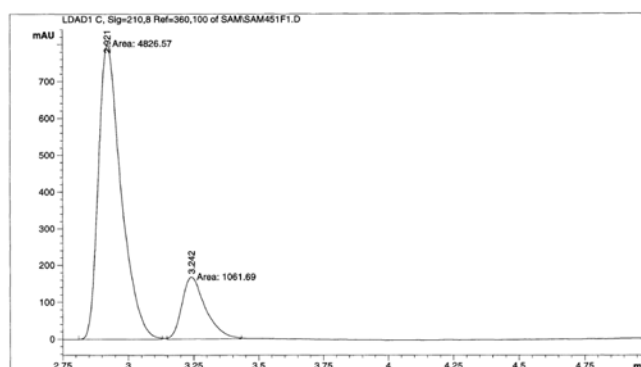
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1	6.947	MM	0.256	13550.65723	882.59186	87.0025
2	7.610	MM	0.236	2024.37146	142.79712	12.9975



(*R*)-4-hydroxy-4-*p*-tolylbutan-2-one **3e** (Table 2, entry 5): From *p*-tolualdehyde **2e** (1 eq., 0.3 mmol, 35  $\mu\text{L}$ ) and L-proline (0.3 eq., 0.09 mmol, 10.3 mg) according to *general procedure 1* (15 W, 0 bar, 32  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) to give 82% conversion (with 1:1 ratio of aldol product **3e** and  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated ketone derived from aldol product **3e**) after 1 h and

to afford aldol product **3d** (20.3 mg, 38%). The enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral SFC (AS-H column, 2 mL/min, 200 bar, methanol 10%-2-1-25%, 30 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,  $R_t$ : 2.92 (*R*), 3.24 (*S*)).  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = +21.4$  ( $c$  0.41,  $\text{ee} = 64\%$ ,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) :  $\delta = 7.25\text{--}7.23$  (m, 2H), 7.17–7.15 (m, 2H), 5.13–5.11 (m, 1H), 3.17 (br, 1H), 2.92–2.77 (m, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.19 (s, 3H). Other spectroscopic data are in agreement with published data.<sup>5</sup>



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Area Percent Report  
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Multiplier : 1.000000

Signal 1: LDAD1 C, Sig=210,8 Ref=360,100

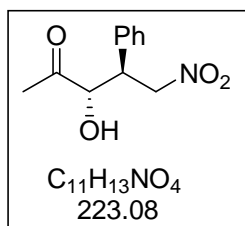
Peak #	RT [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area [mAU*sec]	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	2.921	MM	0.100	4826.57178	803.33917	81.9694
2	3.242	MM	0.105	1061.68762	168.70941	18.0306

<sup>5</sup> Tang, Z.; Jiang, F.; Yu, L.-T.; Cui, X.; Gong, L.-Z.; Mi, A.-Q.; Jiang, Y.-Z.; Wu, Y.-D. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2003**, 125, 5262.



## II. Conjugate Additions

**General procedure 2 under microwave irradiation.** In a 2-5 mL vessel were introduced (*R,R*)-*i*PBP (0.15 eq. 0.05 mmol, 9.1 mg), CHCl<sub>3</sub> (2.5 mL), β-nitrostyrene (1 eq., 0.335 mmol, 50 mg) and finally the aldehyde or the ketone (10 eq., 3.35 mmol) and the vessel was sealed with a septum and placed into the microwave cavity. The microwave source was then turned on. Constant microwave irradiation as well as simultaneous air-cooling (5 bar) were used during the entire reaction time. The evolution of the reaction was monitored by TLC. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was then hydrolyzed as described in literature procedure<sup>1</sup> using 1N HCl (2 mL). The layers were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2x). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel using a mixture of cyclohexane and ethyl acetate.

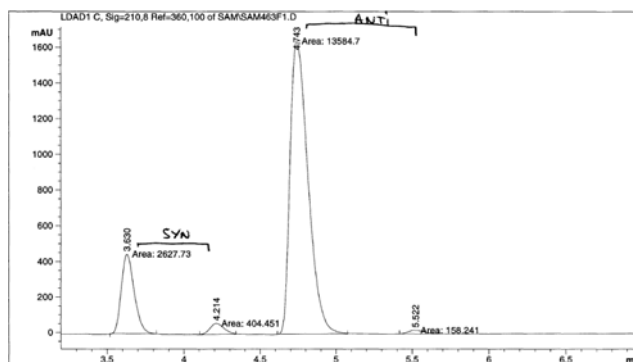


(3*S*,4*S*)-3-hydroxy-5-nitro-4-phenylpentan-2-one **6a** (Table 3, entry 2) :

From hydroxyketone **4a** (10 eq., 3.35 mmol, 0.23 mL) according to *general procedure 2* (15 W, 0 bar, 28°C) to give complete conversion after 4 h and to afford Michael adduct **6a** as a mixture of two inseparable diastereoisomers (*syn/anti* 11:89) (62.3 mg, 83%). The

enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral SFC (OJ column, 2 mL/min, 200 bar, methanol 5%-2-1-15%, 30°C, *R<sub>t</sub>*: 4.7 (*S,S*), 5.5 (*R,R*)).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) : δ = 7.41-7.23 (m, 5H), 4.84-4.79 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub>=6.04, *J*<sub>2</sub>=13.36 Hz, 1H), 4.67-4.62 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub>=8.32, *J*<sub>2</sub>=13.64 Hz, 1H), 4.40-4.39 (m, 1H), 3.83 (dt, *J*<sub>1</sub>=6.04, *J*<sub>2</sub>=8.32 Hz, 1H), 3.80-3.73 (m, 1H), 2.07 (s, 3H). Other spectroscopic data are in agreement with published data.<sup>1</sup>

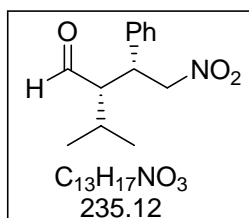


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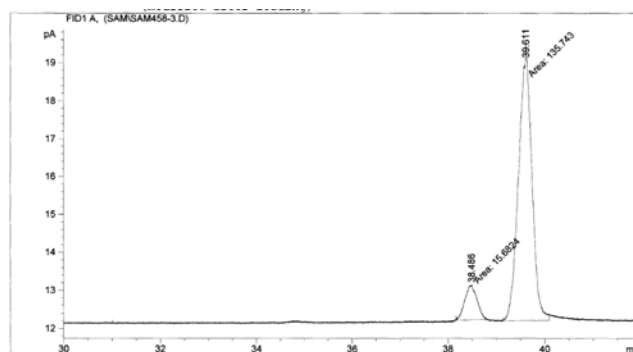
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2	4.214	MM	0.108	404.45056	62.43424	2.4110
3	4.743	MM	0.138	13584.70117	1642.41650	80.9812
4	5.522	MM	0.122	158.24146	21.53666	0.9433



(2*S*,3*R*)-2-isopropyl-4-nitro-3-phenylbutanal **6b** (Table 3, entry 4) : From 3-methylbutyraldehyde **4b** (10 eq., 3.35 mmol, 0.36 mL) according to *general procedure 2* (15 W, 0 bar, 27°C) to give complete conversion after 1 h and to afford Michael adduct **6b** (76.4 mg, 97%).

The enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral GC (Hydrodex-B-3P, iso 150°C,  $R_t$ : 38.48 (*R,S*), 39.61 (*S,R*)).  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -51.6$  ( $c$  1.0,  $ee = 78\%$ ,  $CHCl_3$ ).

$^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) :  $\delta = 9.93$  (d, 1H,  $J = 2.2$  Hz), 7.36-7.29 (m, 3H), 7.20-7.17 (m, 2H), 4.69-4.64 (dd, 1H,  $J = 4.32$  Hz,  $J = 12.64$  Hz), 4.60-4.54 (m, 1H), 3.92-3.86 (m, 1H), 2.79-2.75 (m, 1H), 1.75-1.67 (m, 1H), 1.10-1.09 (d, 3H,  $J = 7.08$  Hz), 0.89-0.87 (d, 3H,  $J = 7.08$  Hz). Other spectroscopic data are in agreement with published data.<sup>1</sup>

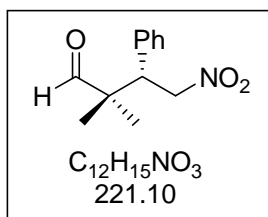


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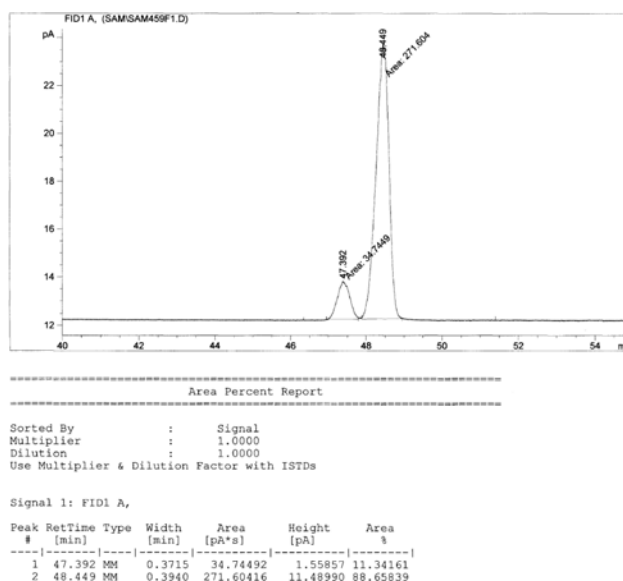
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2	39.611	MM	0.3099	135.74301	7.30098	89.64349



(*S*)-2,2-dimethyl-4-nitro-3-phenylbutanal **6c** (Table 3, entry 6) : From isobutyraldehyde **4c** (10 eq., 3.35 mmol, 0.30 mL) and according to *general procedure 2* (15 W, 0 bar, 27°C) to give 80% conversion after 2 h and to afford Michael adduct **6c** (56.7 mg, 76%). The enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral GC (Hydrodex-B-3P, iso 140°C,  $R_t$ : 47.39 (*R*), 48.44 (*S*)).  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -6.7$  ( $c$  1.0, ee= 77%,  $CHCl_3$ ).

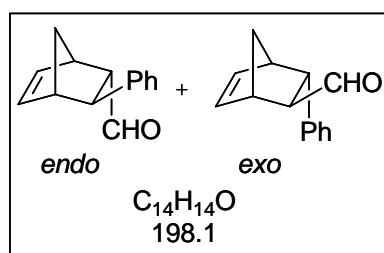
$^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) :  $\delta$  = 9.53 (s, 1H), 7.33-7.29 (m, 3H), 7.20-7.18 (m, 2H), 4.88-4.82 (m, 1H), 4.71-4.66 (m, 1H), 3.80 (m, 1H), 1.13 (s, 3H), 1.00 (s, 3H). Other spectroscopic data are in agreement with published data.<sup>1</sup>



### III. Diels-Alder reaction

**General procedure 3 under microwave irradiation.** In a 2-5 mL vessel were introduced (5*S*)-5-Benzyl-2,2,3-trimethylimidazolidin-4-one hydrochloride **9** (0.05 eq. 0.095 mmol, 25 mg), MeOH/H<sub>2</sub>O (95/5 v/v 2 mL), and (*E*)-cinnamaldehyde **8** (1 eq., 1.915 mmol, 0.25 mL). The solution was stirred 2 minutes under argon before addition of cyclopentadiene monomer **7** (3 eq., 5.745 mmol, 0.48 mL) and the vessel was sealed with a septum and placed into the microwave cavity. The microwave source was then turned on. Constant microwave irradiation as well as simultaneous air-cooling (5 bar) were used during the entire reaction time. The evolution of the reaction was monitored by TLC. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was then quenched as described in literature procedure<sup>2</sup> diluting with Et<sub>2</sub>O and washed successively with H<sub>2</sub>O and brine. The organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered,

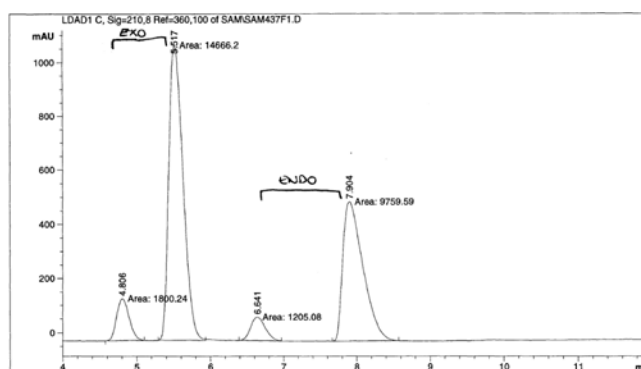
concentrated under reduced pressure. Hydrolysis of the product dimethyl acetal was performed by stirring the crude product mixture in TFA:H<sub>2</sub>O:CHCl<sub>3</sub> (1:1:2, 12 mL) for 2 h at room temperature, followed by neutralization with sat. aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> and extraction with Et<sub>2</sub>O. Purification of the Diels-Alder adduct was accomplished by silica gel chromatography using a mixture of cyclohexane and ethyl acetate.



(1*S*,2*S*,3*S*,4*R*)-3-phenylbicyclo[2.2.1]hex-5-ene-2-carboxaldehyde **endo-10** and (1*R*,2*S*,3*S*,4*S*)-3-phenylbicyclo[2.2.1]hex-5-ene-2-carboxaldehyde **exo-10** (Table 4, entry 3) : Prepared according to *general procedure* 3 (50 W, 1 bar, 65 °C) to give 84% conversion after 1 h and

to afford 1:1.2 **endo-10**/**exo-10** mixture as a pale yellow oil. Product ratio was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR on the crude material. The enantiomeric excess of each diastereoisomer was determined on the primary alcohols coming from the reduction of the aldehydes **endo-10**/**exo-10** mixture by SFC (chiralpak AD column, 2 mL/min, 200 bar, MeOH 10%-2-1-25%, 30°C, *R*<sub>t</sub>: *exo* : 4.80 (*R*), 4.51 (*S*), and *endo* : 6.64 (*R*), 7.90 (*S*)).

**Endo-10** : <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) : δ = 9.61 (d, 1H, J=), 7.14-7.33 (m, 5H), 6.62-6.43 (m, 1H), 6.17-6.15 (m, 1H), 3.34 (br, 1H), 3.13 (br, 1H), 3.09 (m, 1H), 2.99 (m, 1H), 1.79-1.84 (m, 1H), 1.65-1.59 (m, 1H). Other spectroscopic data are in agreement with published data.<sup>6</sup>



Area Percent Report

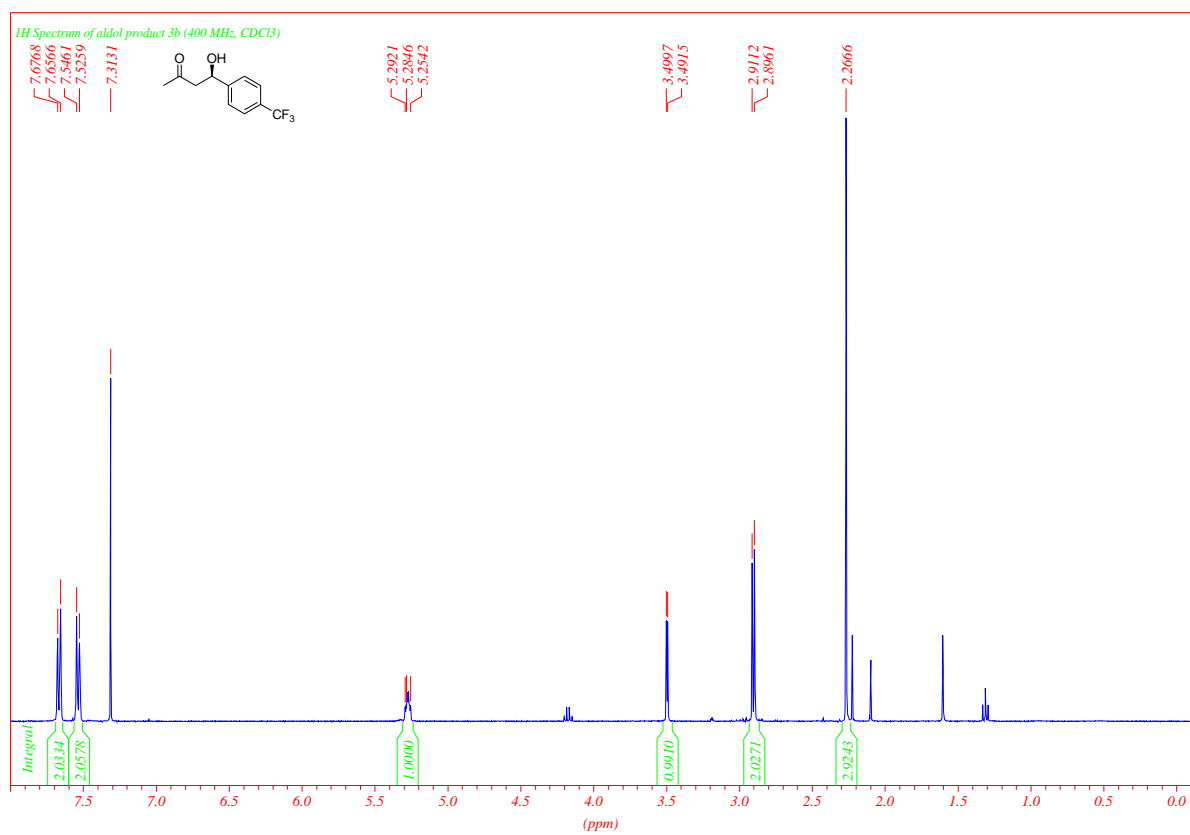
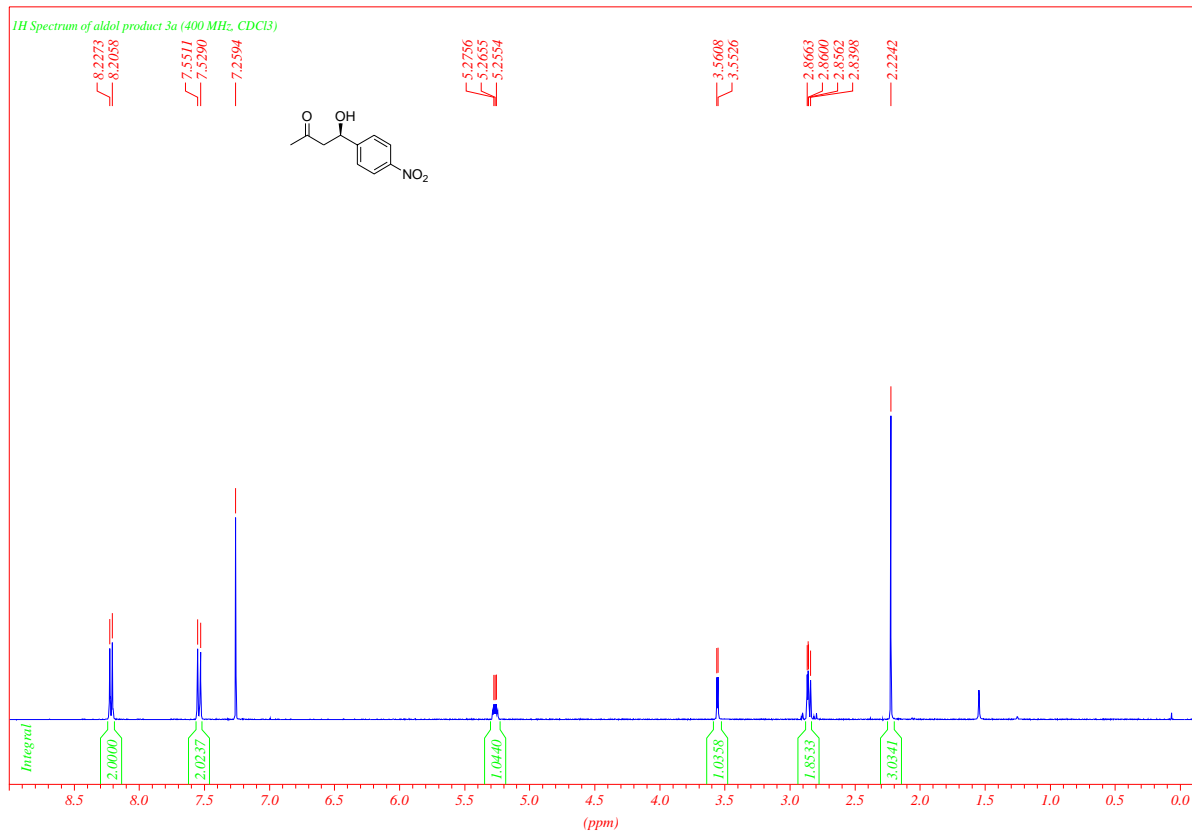
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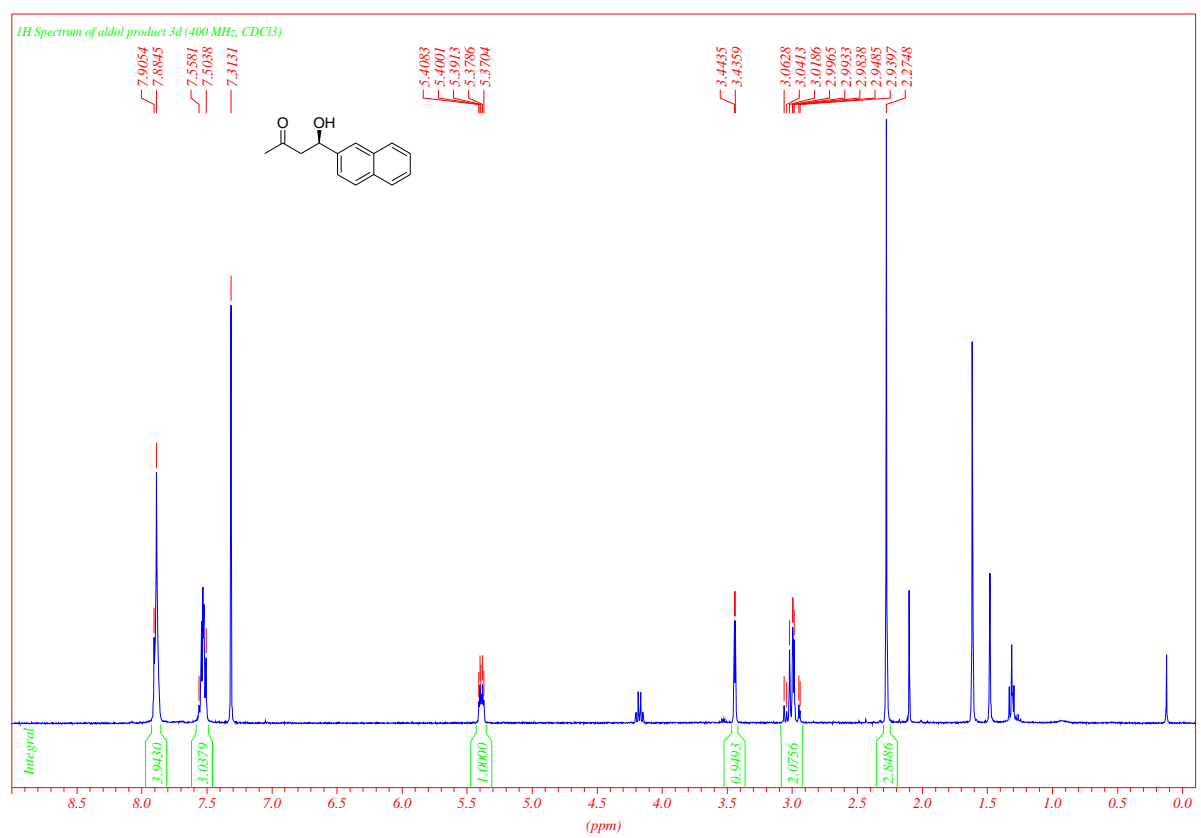
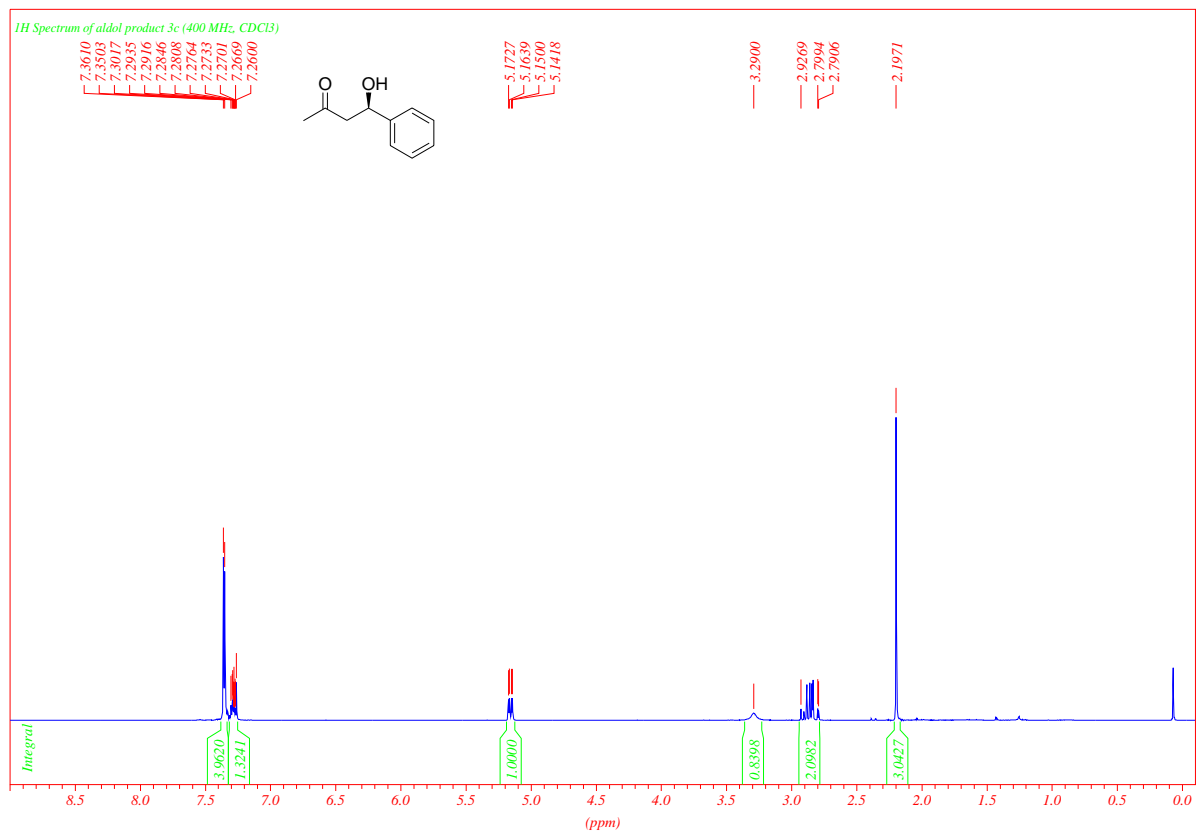
Sorted by Signal  
Multiplier : 1.000000

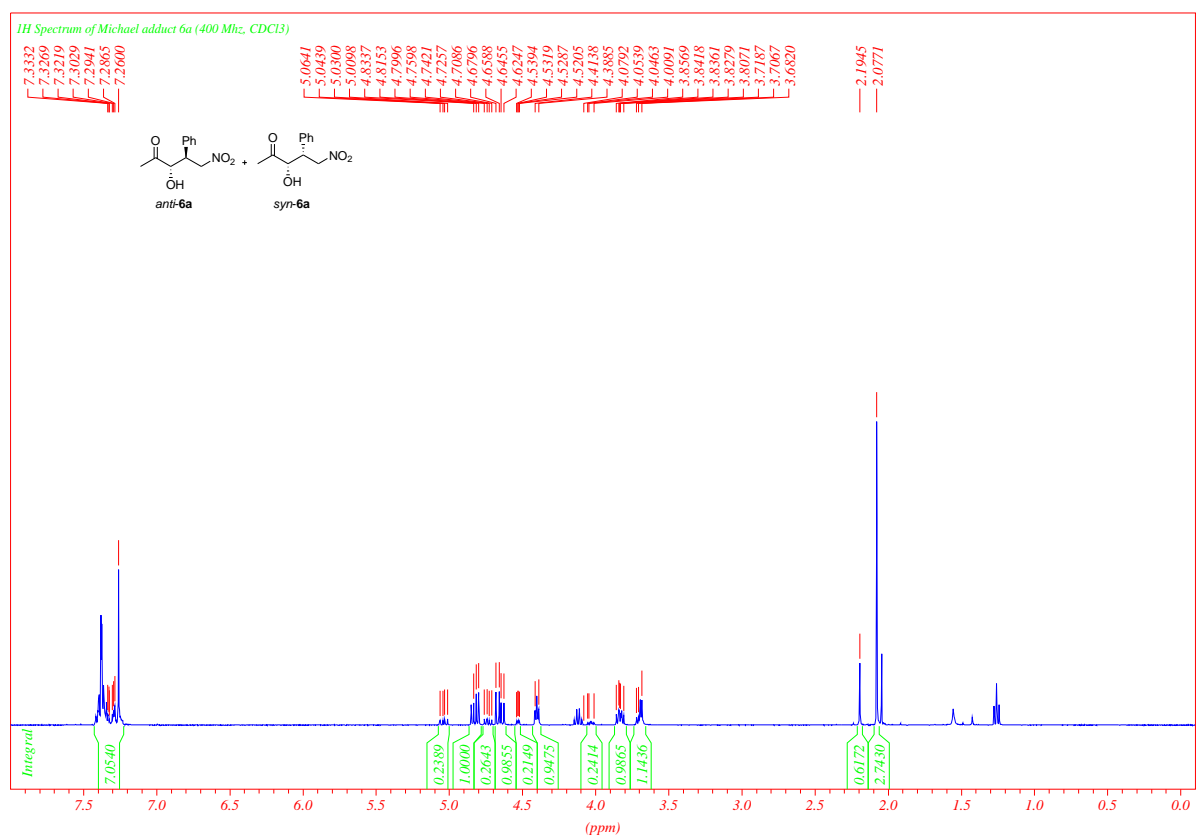
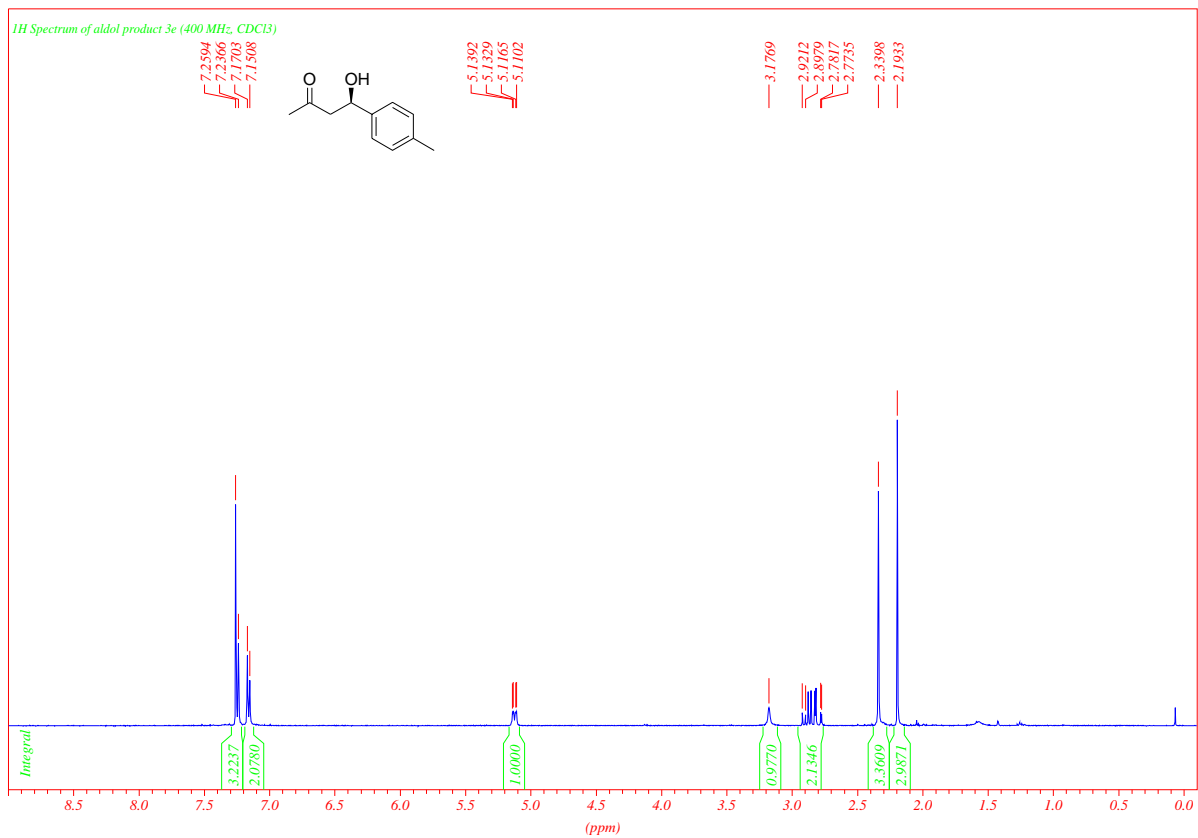
Signal 1: LDAD1 C, Sig=210,8 Ref=360,100

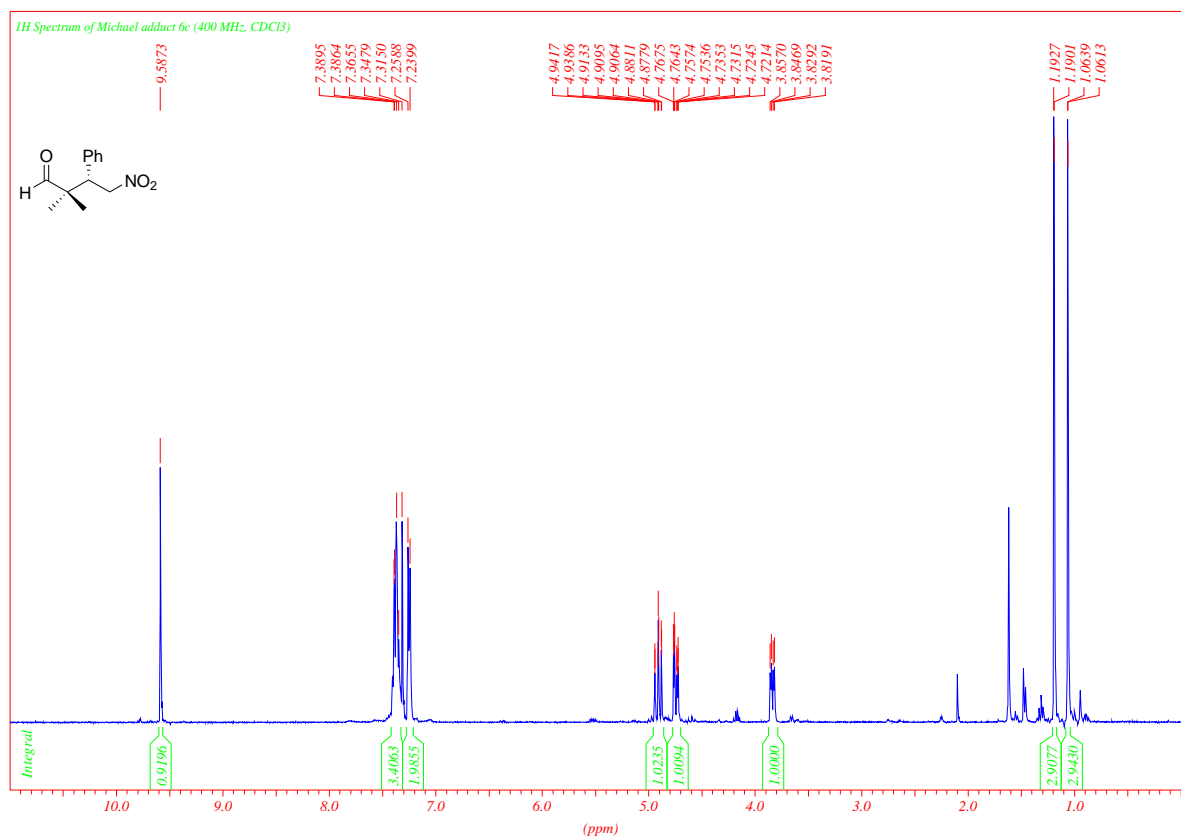
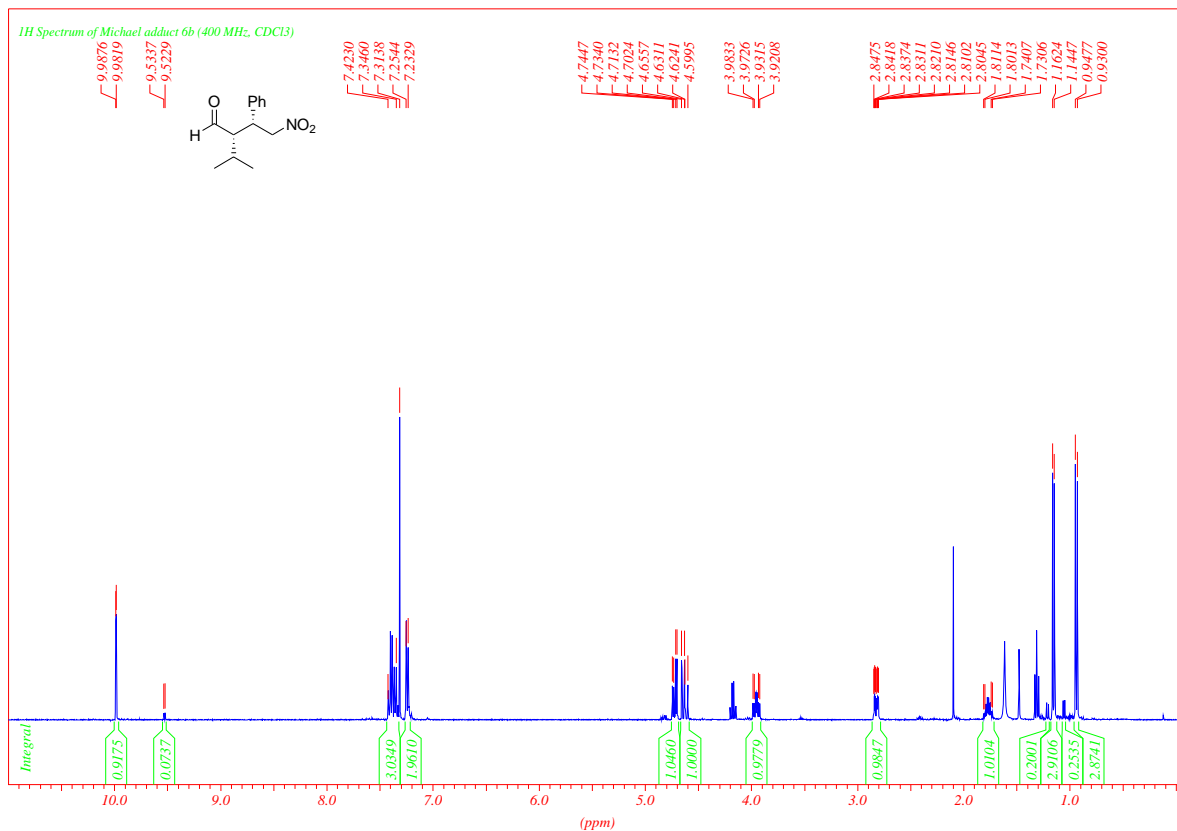
Peak #	RT [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area [mAU*sec]	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	4.806	MM	0.196	1800.23523	153.10909	6.5628
2	5.517	MM	0.224	14666.16406	1090.52527	53.4655
3	6.641	MM	0.236	1205.07861	84.94010	4.3931
4	7.904	MM	0.317	9759.58887	512.82208	35.5786

<sup>6</sup> Ishihara, K.; Kurihara, H.; Matsumoto, M.; Yamamoto, H. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1998**, *120*, 6920.

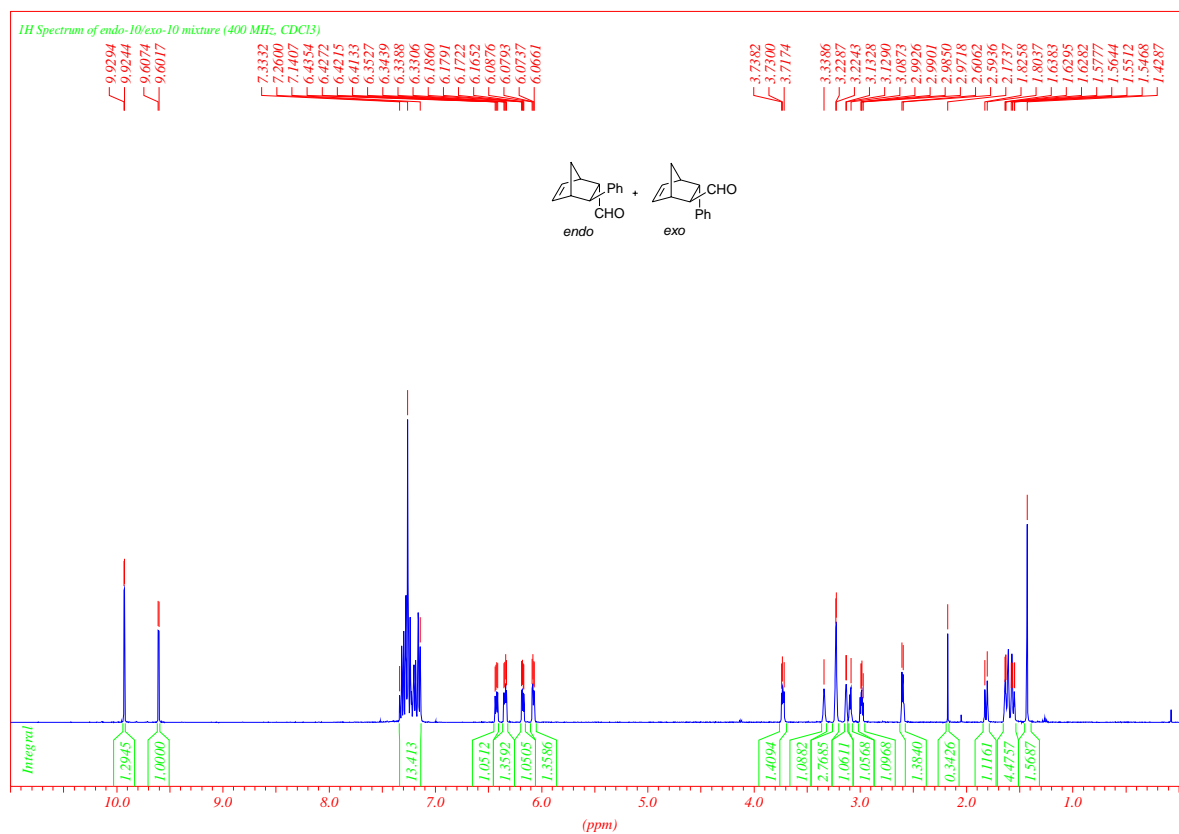












**Temperature, pressure and microwave power profiles for the reaction mixture corresponding to Table 1, entry 10 (constant microwave power of 15 W during 15 min, using simultaneous cooling).**

Status: OK

Absorption Level: Very High

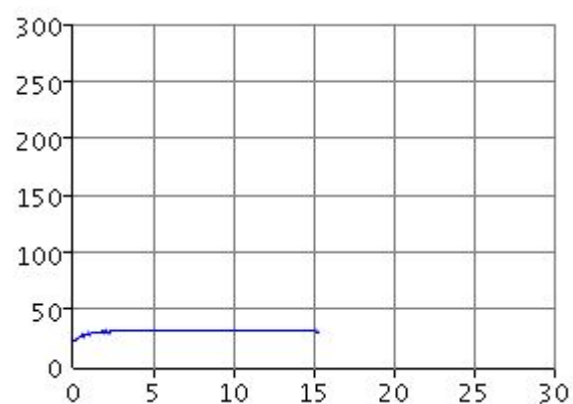
Vial: 2.0-5.0 ml

Pre-stirring: 0

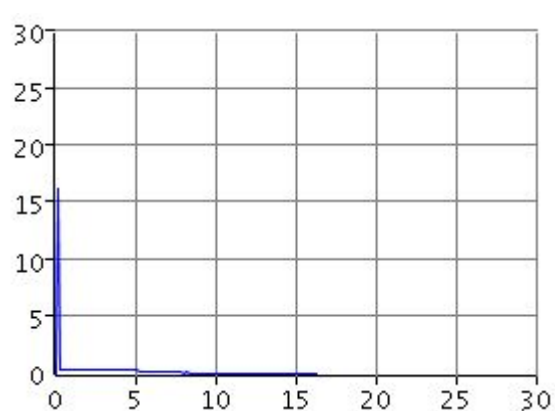
Initial power: 0

Step	Time	°C	bar	W	FHT	Cooling
1	00:15:00	Off	Off	15	On	On

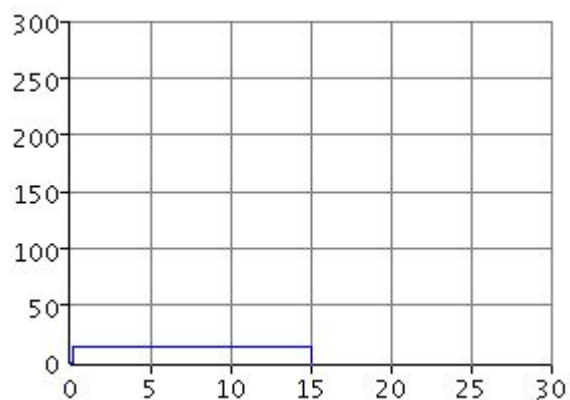
**Temperature (°C)**



**Pressure (bar)**



**Power (W)**



**Temperature, pressure and microwave power profiles for the reaction mixture corresponding to Table 2, entry 1 (constant microwave power of 15 W during 15 min, using simultaneous cooling).**

Status: OK

Absorption Level: Very High

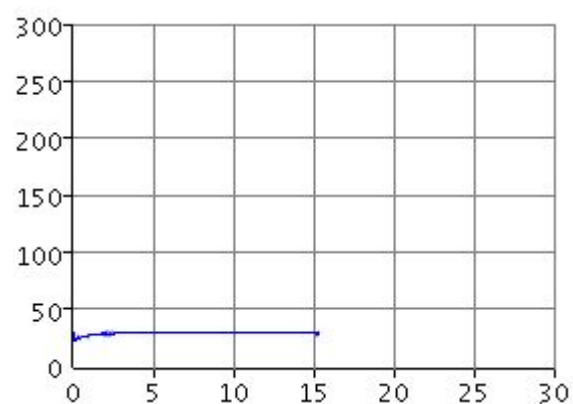
Vial: 2.0-5.0 ml

Pre-stirring: 0

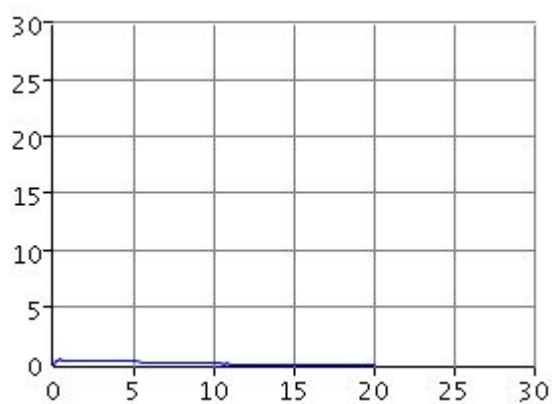
Initial power: 0

Step	Time	°C	bar	W	FHT	Cooling
1	00:15:00	Off	Off	15	On	On

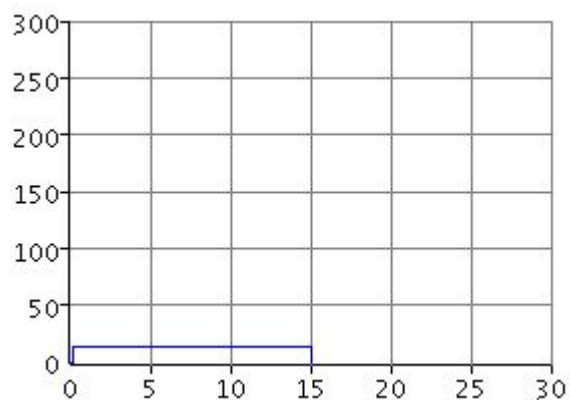
**Temperature (°C)**



**Pressure (bar)**



**Power (W)**



**Temperature, pressure and microwave power profiles for the reaction mixture corresponding to Table 2, entry 3 (constant microwave power of 15 W during 1 h, using simultaneous cooling).**

Status: OK

Absorption Level: Very High

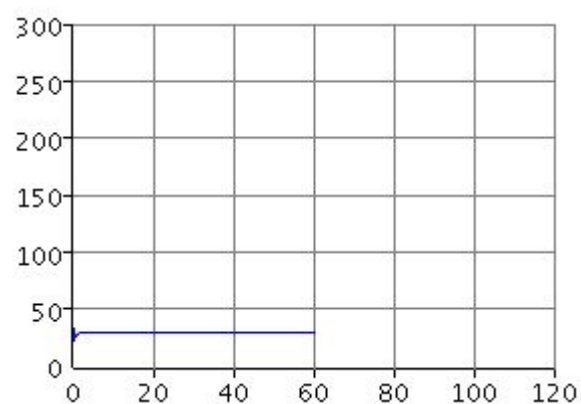
Vial: 2.0-5.0 ml

Pre-stirring: 0

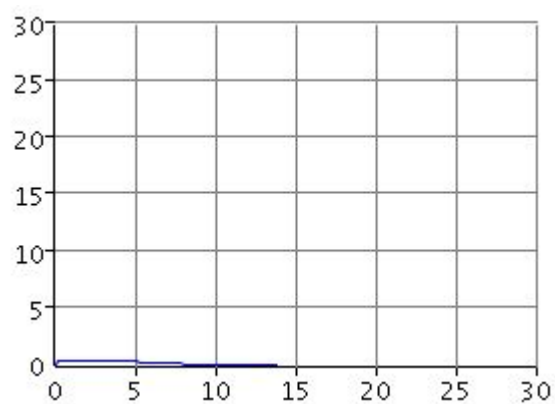
Initial power: 0

Step	Time	°C	bar	W	FHT	Cooling
1	01:00:00	Off	Off	15	On	On

**Temperature (°C)**



**Pressure (bar)**



**Power (W)**

