Supporting Materials to

Ru-Catalyzed Asymmetric Hydrogenation of a-Ketoesters with

CeCl₃·7H₂O as Additive

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General: All reactions were carried out under inert atmosphere of dry argon or nitrogen. THF and toluene were freshly distilled from sodium/benzophenone ketyl, while CH₂Cl₂ was distilled from P₂O₅ under argon atmosphere. EtOH for catalyst preparation or hydrogenation was distilled from magnesium under atmosphere. The preparation of samples and the setup of high-pressure reactor were either carried out in a glovebox or using standard Schlenk-type techniques. ¹HNMR (300 MHz), ¹³CNMR (75.4 MHz) were registered on 300M spectrometers with CDCl₃ as solvent and tetramethylsilane (TMS) as internal standard. Chemical shifts are reported in units (ppm) by assigning TMS resonance in the ¹H spectrum as 0.00 ppm and CDCl₃ resonance in the ¹³C spectrum as 77.0 ppm. All coupling constants (*J* values) were reported in Hertz (Hz). Column chromatography was performed on silica gel 300-400 mesh.

Experiment: asymmetric hydrogenation of α -ketoesters^{1,2}

To a 20 mL Schlenk tube were added [Ru(benzene)Cl₂]₂ (10 mg, 0.02 mmol) and (*S*)-**3** (30 mg, 0.045 mmol). The tube was purged with Argon three times before addition of freshly distilled and degassed EtOH/CH₂Cl₂ (3 mL/3 mL). The resulting mixture was heated at 50 °C for 1 h. The catalyst was dried under reduced pressure and was taken into a glove box in a dry nitrogen atmosphere and dissolved in degassed ethanol (8 mL) which was then put into 4 vials equally. To these vials α -ketoester (1 mmol) was introduced, and then the vials were taken into an autoclave. The autoclave was purged three times with H₂, and the pressure of H₂ was set to 50 atm. before it was placed in an oil bath at designed temperature for 20h. Cooled to ambient temperature and the hydrogen was released carefully. The solvent was removed and the residue was passed through a silica gel column to give the product. Enantiomeric purity of the product was determined by HPLC.

Asymmetric hydrogenation of benzoylformic acid methyl ester (1a) with S/C: 10000

The preparation of catalyst ([Ru(benzene)Cl₂]₂ (10 mg, 0.02 mmol) and (*S*)-**3** (30 mg, 0.045 mmol)) was same as above. In a glove box, the catalyst and CeCl₃·7H₂O (75 mg, 0.2 mmol) were dissolved in 80 mL of MeOH in an autoclave, then to this freshly distilled and degassed methyl benzoylformate (**1a**) (65.6 g, 400 mmol) was introduced. The autoclave was purged three times with H₂, and the pressure of H₂ was set to 60 atm. The autoclave was placed to an oil bath at 100°C for 10h. Work up was same as above to give 66.0 g white solid (**2a**, 99.3% yield, 92% ee). The product was hydrolyzed by heating it in a 5% NaOH aqueous solution at 40°C for 1h, acidified with diluted HCl solution and then extracted with ethyl acetate to give the mandelic acid **4a**. Recrystallization of **4a** (50 g) in 200 mL ClCH₂CH₂Cl gave 41.4g white flakes (**4a**). After transferring **4a** to **2a** in refluxing MeOH with a drop of concentrated sulfuric acid, the ee value of the recrystallized product (**4a**) was determined to be higher than 99%.

Methyl-mandelate $(2a)^{3}$ ¹HNMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.47 (d, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 5.18 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.33-7.44 (m, 5H); ¹³CNMR (75.4MHz, CDCl₃) δ 52.9, 72.9, 126.5, 128.4, 128.5, 138.2,174.0.

Ethyl-4-mandelate (2b)^{4 1}HNMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.23 (t, *J*= 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.51 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.17-4.26 (m, 2H), 5.16 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.33-7.44 (m, 5H); ¹³CNMR (75.4MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.9, 62.0, 72.8, 126.4, 128.2, 128.4, 138.3, 173.5.

Ethyl-4-methylmandelate (2c)⁵ ¹HNMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.23 (t, *J*= 7.2 Hz, 3H), 2.35(s, 3H), 3.44 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.13-4.30 (m, 2H), 5.12 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, *J*= 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, *J*= 8.1 Hz, 2H); ¹³CNMR (75.4MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.0, 21.2, 62.2, 72.7, 126.4, 129.2, 135.5, 138.2, 173.8.

Ethyl-4-methoxylmandelate (2d)⁶ ¹HNMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.23 (t, *J*= 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.43 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 3.81(s, 3H), 4.17-4.26 (m, 2H), 5.11 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 6.88-7.35 (m, 4H); ¹³CNMR (75.4MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.0, 56.3, 62.2, 72.4, 113.9, 127.8, 130.6, 159.6, 173.9.

Ethyl-2-methylmandelate (2e)⁴ ¹HNMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.22 (t, *J*= 7.2 Hz, 3H), 2.44(s, 3H), 3.47 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 4.14-4.30 (m, 2H), 5.36 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.18-7.31 (m, 4H); ¹³CNMR (75.4MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.9, 19.3, 62.1, 70.3, 126.2, 126.6, 128.3, 130.7, 136.3, 136.7, 174.1.

Ethyl-4-fluoromandelate (2f)⁴ ¹HNMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.23 (t, *J*= 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.49 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 4.18-4.28 (m, 2H), 5.14 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 7.03- 7.08 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.42 (m, 2H) ; ¹³CNMR (75.4MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.9, 62.3, 72.1, 115.5(d), 128.2(d), 134.1(d), 161.0(d), 173.4.

Ethyl-4-chloromandelate (2g)⁴ ¹HNMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.23 (t, *J*= 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.54 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 4.15-4.30 (m, 2H), 5.13 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 7.32-7.39

(m, 4H); ¹³CNMR (75.4MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.0, 62.5, 72.1, 127.9, 128.7, 134.2, 136.8, 173.3.

Ethyl-4-bromomandelate (2h)⁴ ¹HNMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.23 (t, *J*= 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.53 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 4.14-4.30 (m, 2H), 5.13 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 7.27-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.48-7.51 (m, 2H); ¹³CNMR (75.4MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.0, 62.5, 72.1, 122.4, 128.2, 131.6, 137.3, 173.2.

Ethyl-2-chloromandelate (2i)^{4 1}HNMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.23 (t, *J*= 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.59 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 4.21-4.27 (m, 2H), 5.55 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 7.27- 7.41 (m, 4H); ¹³CNMR (75.4MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.9, 62.4, 70.3, 127.1, 128.7, 129.7, 129.9, 133.5, 136.1, 173.2.

Ethyl- 2-Hydroxy-propionic acid ethyl ester (2j)⁶ ¹HNMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): 1.26(t, *J*= 7.2Hz, 3H), 1.38(d, *J*= 6.9Hz, 3H), 4.22(m,4H); ¹³CNMR (75.4MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.1, 20.4, 61.7, 66.7, 175.7.

Reference

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2b racemate GC on a β -DEX 325 capillary column













Table 1 entry 6







Table 1 entry 8



13.549

2

440687

4.24

19780

3.20

S3	1
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Table 1 entry 10







	RT (min)	Area (V*sec)	% Area	Height (V)	% Height
1	9.462	6017788	96.28	329006	97.46
2	15.237	232659	3.72	8584	2.54

Table 1 entry 12







Table 1 entry 14







Table 1 entry 16





Table 1 entry 17







Table 2 entry 1Asame to Table 1 entry 2



Table 2 entry 1Csame to Table 1 entry 17



2c racemate























35.14

166701

26.72



2

11.406

3987812







	RT (min)	Area (V*sec)	% Area	Height (V)	% Height
1	17.432	52090045	97.54	1720869	97.34
2	20.299	1311643	2.46	46938	2.66



Table 2 entry 6





	RT (min)	Area (V*sec)	% Area	Height (V)	% Height
1	9.132	5502861	93.50	361300	93.88
2	10.012	382505	6.50	23565	6.12

Table 2 entry 6C















97.66

2.34

264627

2 21.367

363688

9378

97.49

2.51





	RT (min)	Area (V*sec)	% Area	Height (V)	% Height
1	19.045	4678298	49.77	158615	54.45
2	21.504	4720705	50.23	132687	45.55

Table 2 entry 8 A





Table 2 entry 8C













*** End of Report ***

After the catalyst in MeOH solution with 5eq. of catalyst CeCl₃·7H₂O was stirred in air for 10 days, and hydrogenation of **1a** with this solution under the standard condition



(1a)(S/C: 1/10,000) was hydrogenated

458424

6.26

15964

4.29

2 15.506





Enantiomeric purity of the product after recrystallization