## **Supporting Information**

## Asymmetric Total Syntheses of Megacerotonic Acid and Shimobashiric Acid A

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## **General Information**

Methods: Infrared (IR) spectra were obtained using a Jasco 260 Plus Fourier transform infrared spectrometer. Proton and carbon nuclear magnetic resonance spectra (<sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR) were recorded on a Bruker DRX 400 or 600 (<sup>1</sup>H NMR at 400 MHz or 600 MHz and <sup>13</sup>C NMR at 100 or 150 MHz) spectrometer with solvent resonance as the internal standard (<sup>1</sup>H NMR: CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 7.26 ppm, acetone- $d_6$  at 2.05 ppm, methanol- $d_4$  at 3.30 ppm, D<sub>2</sub>O at 4.79 ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR:  $CDCl_3$  at 77.0 ppm, acetone- $d_6$  at 29.8 ppm, methanol- $d_4$  at 49.0) or tetramethylsilane as the internal standard at 0.00 ppm. <sup>1</sup>H NMR data are reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, bs = broad singlet, d = doublet, dd = doublet of doublet, dt = doublet of triplets, ddd = doublet of doublets, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet), coupling constants (Hz), and integration. Supercritical fluid chromatography was performed on a Berger SFC system equipped with Chiralcel AD, AS, OD, and WO columns (φ 4.6 mm x 250 mm). Samples were eluted with SFC grade CO<sub>2</sub> at the indicated percentage of MeOH with an oven temperature of 40 °C. HPLC analysis was performed on an Agilent Technologies 1200 System equipped with Chiralpak IA, IB, and IC columns (constant flow at 1.00 mL/min). Optical rotations were measured using a 2 mL cell with a 1 dm path length on a Jasco DIP 1000 digital polarimeter. Mass spectra were obtained using a Thermo Scientific LTQ FT Ultra instrument with electrospray ionization (Note: All samples prepared in methanol with ammonium acetate, formic acid, or cesium acetate additives). Melting point data was collected on a Thomas Hoover Capillary Melting Point Apparatus and are uncorrected. Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on Sorbent Technologies Silica G 0.20 mm silica gel plates. Visualization was accomplished with UV light, aqueous basic potassium permanganate solution, or Seebach's TLC stain followed by heating. Flash chromatography was performed using Silia-P flash silica gel (40-63 µm) purchased from Silicycle. Yield refers to isolated yield of analytically pure material unless otherwise noted.

**Materials:** Triethylamine (Et<sub>3</sub>N) and *tert*-amyl alcohol (<sup>*t*</sup>AmylOH) were freshly distilled from calcium hydride prior to use. Sodium *tert*-amylate (NaO<sup>t</sup>Amyl) solution was prepared by reaction of sodium metal (cut into thin strips) with freshly distilled *tert*-amyl alcohol at 50 °C. Dichloromethane (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>), diethyl ether (Et<sub>2</sub>O), tetrahydrofuran (THF), and toluene were dried by passage through a column of neutral alumina under nitrogen prior to use. Ethyl glyoxylate was purchased from Sigma Aldrich or Alfa Aesar and distilled according to a literature procedure immediately before use (the concentration after distillation was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy).<sup>1</sup> (*R*,*R*)-1,2-di(naphthyl)-1,2-ethanediamine-dihydrochloride salt<sup>2</sup> and *m*-terphenyl sulfonyl chloride<sup>3</sup> were prepared according to literature procedures. All other reagents were purchased from commercial sources and used as received unless otherwise noted. Anhydrous dimethylformamide (DMF) and dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) were purchased from Sigma Aldrich or Fisher Scientific.

## Preparation of (*R*,*R*)-*N*-(2-amino-1,2-di(naphthalene-1-yl)ethyl)-[*m*-terphenyl]-2'sulfonamide, L1



To a 100 mL round-bottomed flask equipped with oversized magnetic stir bar containing 3M NaOH (18 mL) and dichloromethane (18 mL) was added (R,R)-1,2-di(naphthyl)-1,2-ethanediamine-dihydrochloride salt (1.38 g, 3.58 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The resulting mixture was stirred vigorously for 14 h. The reaction was cooled to 0 °C and *m*-terphenyl sulfonyl chloride (1.18 g, 3.58 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added. The reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature over 30 min. After 1.5 h at room temperature, the reaction was diluted with water (15 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 20 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated. Flash chromatography (50% EtOAc/hexanes) provided L1 (1.04 g, 1.72 mmol, 48%) as an off-white solid. Analytical data for L1 matched that previously reported.<sup>3</sup>

### Preparation of Enone 13a



To a solution of piperonal (12.29 g, 81.9 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and 4<sup>'</sup>-methoxyacetophenone (12.29 g, 81.9 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in ethanol (40 mL) was added 10% aqueous sodium hydroxide (2.4 mL). After 22 h, the yellow suspension was diluted with ethanol/water (50/50, 50 mL). Suction filtration and washing with ethanol/water (50/50, 150 mL) provided **13a** (22.7 g, 80.3 mmol, 98% yield) as a yellow solid. Analytical data for **13a**: <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.06 – 7.96 (m, 2H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.14 – 7.09 (m, 1H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.02 (s, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H).; <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  188.5, 163.3, 149.7, 148.3, 143.8, 131.2, 130.7, 129.5, 125.0, 119.8, 113.8, 108.6, 106.6, 101.6, 55.5; **IR** (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1652, 1602, 1506, 1036; **m.p.** 130-131 °C; **TLC** (20% EtOAc/hexanes) R<sub>f</sub> : 0.22; **HRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]+ C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>15</sub>O<sub>4</sub>: 283.0970, Found: 283.0965.

### Preparation of Enone S1



To a solution of piperonal (750 mg, 5.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and acetovanillone (830 mg, 5.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in methanol (15 mL) was added 40% aqueous sodium hydroxide (5 mL). After 25 h, the reaction was diluted with water (20 mL) and brought to pH = 0 with concentrated hydrochloric acid resulting in warming of the reaction solution. After cooling to room temperature and stirring for 4.5 h, suction filtration provided **S1** (692 mg, 2.3 mmol, 46% yield) as a bright yellow solid. Analytical data for **S1** matched that previously reported.<sup>4</sup>

#### **Preparation of Enone 13c**



To a solution of piperonal (2.25 g, 15.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and 4<sup>'</sup>-ethylacetophenone (2.22 g, 15.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in ethanol (40 mL) was added 40% aqueous sodium hydroxide (1.5 mL). After 15 h, the yellow suspension was diluted with water (30 mL). Suction filtration and washing with ethanol/water (50/50, 40 mL) provided **13c** (3.95 g, 14.1 mmol, 94% yield) as a yellow solid. Analytical data for **13c**: <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.98 – 7.93 (m, 2H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 7.34 – 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.03 (s, 2H), 2.73 (q, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.28 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  189.9, 149.8, 149.6, 148.4, 144.2, 136.0, 129.5, 128.6, 128.1, 125.1, 120.2, 108.6, 106.6, 101.6, 29.0, 15.2; **IR** (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1652, 1580, 1500, 1362, 991; **m.p.** 105-106 °C; **TLC** (20% EtOAc/hexanes) R<sub>f</sub> : 0.38; **HRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]+ C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: 281.1178, Found: 281.1173.

### Preparation of Enone 13d



To a solution of piperonal (1.50 g, 9.99 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and 2<sup>'</sup>-fluoroacetophenone (1.38 g, 9.99 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in ethanol (15 mL) was added 40% aqueous sodium hydroxide (1 mL). After 5 h, the yellow suspension was diluted with water (45 mL). Suction filtration provided **13d** 

(2.56 g, 9.47 mmol, 95% yield) as a yellow solid. Analytical data for **13d**: <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.80 (td, J = 7.5, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (dd, J = 15.7, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (dddd, J = 8.3, 7.1, 5.0, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.28 – 7.13 (m, 4H), 7.12 – 7.09 (m, 1H), 6.84 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.02 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  188.9 (d, J = 2.4 Hz), 161.1 (d, J = 253.0 Hz), 150.1, 148.4, 144.8, 133.7 (d, J = 8.8 Hz), 130.9 (d, J = 2.7 Hz), 129.2, 127.3 (d, J = 13.4 Hz), 125.5, 124.5 (d, J = 3.4 Hz), 123.7 (d, J = 6.6 Hz), 116.5 (d, J = 23.2 Hz), 108.7, 106.8, 101.6; **IR** (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1655, 1454, 930, 766; **m.p.** 127-128 °C; **TLC** (20% EtOAc/hexanes) R<sub>f</sub> : 0.35; **HRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]+ C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>12</sub>FO<sub>3</sub>: 271.0770, Found: 271.0765.

#### Tert-Butoxycarbonylation of Enone 13b



To 50 mL round-bottomed flask equipped with magnetic stir bar containing a semi-solution of enone **S1** (676 mg, 2.27 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and 18-crown-6 (60 mg, 0.23 mmol, 0.10 equiv) in ethyl acetate (10 mL) was added potassium carbonate (471 mg, 3.41 mmol, 1.5 equiv) followed by di-*tert*-butyl dicarbonate (495 mg, 2.27 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The resulting orange suspension was stirred at room temperature. After 27 h, the reaction was partitioned between ethyl acetate (25 mL) and water (25 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (10 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine (15 mL), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated to provide **13b** (904 mg, 2.27 mmol, 100% yield) as a crystalline, yellow solid. Analytical data for **13b**: <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.74 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.03 (s, 2H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 1.56 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  189.0, 151.6, 150.8, 150.0, 148.4, 144.9, 143.8, 137.0, 129.3, 125.3, 122.3, 121.5, 119.7, 112.1, 108.7, 106.6, 101.6, 83.9, 56.1, 27.6; **IR** (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1761, 1661, 1585, 1506, 805; **m.p.** 141-143 °C; **TLC** (20% EtOAc/hexanes) R<sub>f</sub> : 0.22; **HRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]+ C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>23</sub>O<sub>7</sub>: 399.1444, Found: 399.1440.

### <u>General Procedure A for the Preparation of $\beta$ -Substituted- $\alpha$ , $\delta$ -Diketo Esters 12a-d</u>



To a flame-dried round-bottomed flask equipped with magnetic stir bar were added enone **13a-d** (1.0 equiv), triazolium salt (0.2 equiv), and freshly distilled ethyl glyoxylate solution (1.0 equiv, ~90% in toluene). The flask was sealed with a rubber septum and purged with nitrogen. Dichloromethane (0.5 M) followed by triethylamine (1.5 equiv) were then added. After 1.5 h and

5 h additional ethyl glyoxylate solution (1.0 equiv, respectively) was added. After 24 h, the reaction was concentrated *in vacuo* and purified by flash chromatography using the indicated solvent system.



Ethyl 3-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,5dioxopentanoate (12a): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A: enone 13a (5.00 g, 17.7 mmol), triazolium salt (1.28 g, 3.53 mmol), ethyl glyoxylate (3 x 2.0 g, 3 x 17.7 mmol), dichloromethane (35.3 mL), triethylamine (3.69 mL, 26.5 mmol). Flash chromatography (20-40% EtOAc/hexanes) provided 12a (6.70 g,

contained 4% enone which could not be efficiently separated) as a clear, viscous oil. This material was reduced in its entirety (*vide infra*). In another experiment an analytically pure sample was obtained by careful selection of a clean fraction. Analytical data for **12a**: <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.98 – 7.70 (m, 2H), 6.98 – 6.87 (m, 2H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.81 – 6.70 (m, 2H), 6.01 – 5.86 (m, 2H), 5.04 (dd, *J* = 10.6, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 4.43 – 4.20 (m, 2H), 3.91 (dd, *J* = 17.9, 10.6 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 3H), 3.36 (dd, *J* = 17.9, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 1.32 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  195.8, 192.0, 163.8, 160.4, 148.2, 147.3, 130.4, 128.9, 128.8, 122.3, 113.7, 109.1, 108.7, 101.2, 62.5, 55.5, 47.8, 42.9, 13.9; **IR** (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2906, 1728, 1670, 1601, 1488, 1171, 1038; **TLC** (30% EtOAc/hexanes) R<sub>f</sub> : 0.29; **HRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+Cs]+ C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>20</sub>CsO<sub>7</sub>: 517.0263, Found: 517.0265.



Ethyl 3-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-5-(4-((tert-butoxycarbonyl)oxy)-3methoxyphenyl)-2,5-dioxopentanoate (12b): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A: enone **13b** (850 mg, 2.13 mmol), triazolium salt (155 mg, 0.426 mmol), ethyl glyoxylate (3 x 242 mg, 3 x 0.426 mmol), dichloromethane (4.2 mL), triethylamine (0.45 mL, 3.2 mmol). Flash chromatography (20-25% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **12b** (1.01 g, 2.02 mmol, 95% yield) as pale yellow solid.

Analytical data for **12b**: <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.56 – 7.53 (m, 2H), 7.22 – 7.14 (m, 1H), 6.81 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 6.80 – 6.74 (m, 2H), 5.94 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 2H), 5.04 (dd, *J* = 10.4, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 4.33 – 4.24 (m, 2H), 3.91 (dd, *J* = 18.1, 10.4 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.38 (dd, *J* = 18.1, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 1.54 (s, 9H), 1.32 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  196.2, 191.8, 160.3, 151.5, 150.6, 148.2, 147.4, 144.4, 134.5, 128.4, 122.4, 122.4, 121.5, 111.5, 109.0, 108.8, 101.2, 84.0, 62.5, 56.0, 47.9, 42.9, 27.5, 13.9; **IR** (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2982, 1762, 1730, 1683, 1506, 1488, 1146, 1039, 738; **m.p.** 108-109 °C **TLC** (30% EtOAc/hexanes) R<sub>f</sub> : 0.29; **HRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]+ C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>29</sub>O<sub>10</sub>: 501.1761, Found: 501.1758.



Ethyl 3-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-5-(4-ethylphenyl)-2,5dioxopentanoate (12c): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A: enone 13c (3.90 g, 13.9 mmol), triazolium salt (1.01 g, 2.78 mmol), ethyl glyoxylate (3 x 1.58 g, 3 x 13.9 mmol), dichloromethane (28 mL), triethylamine (2.9 mL, 21 mmol). Flash chromatography (10-15% EtOAc/hexanes) provided 12c (5.30 g, 13.9

mmol, 99% yield) as a viscous yellow oil. Analytical data for **12c**: <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.87 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.28 – 7.26 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.81 – 6.73

(m, 2H), 5.94 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 2H), 5.05 (dd, J = 10.5, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 4.35 – 4.24 (m, 2H), 3.94 (dd, J = 18.1, 10.5 Hz, 1H), 3.39 (dd, J = 18.1, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.69 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.32 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.24 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C** NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  197.0, 191.9, 160.4, 150.5, 148.2, 147.3, 133.6, 128.7, 128.4, 128.1, 122.3, 109.1, 108.7, 101.2, 62.5, 47.8, 43.0, 28.9, 15.1, 13.9; **IR** (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2968, 2935, 2905, 1729, 1678, 1607, 1488, 1038, 766; **TLC** (30% EtOAc/hexanes) R<sub>f</sub> : 0.28; **HRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]+ C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>23</sub>O<sub>6</sub>: 383.1495, Found: 383.1492.



Ethyl 3-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-5-(2-fluorophenyl)-2,5dioxopentanoate (12d): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A: enone 13d (500 mg, 1.85 mmol), triazolium salt (134 mg, 0.37 mmol), ethyl glyoxylate (3 x 230 mg, 3 x 1.85 mmol), dichloromethane (3.7 mL), triethylamine (0.39 mL, 2.8 mmol). Flash chromatography (15-20% EtOAc/hexanes) provided 12d (685 mg, 1.84

mmol, 99% yield) as a viscous yellow oil. Analytical data for **12d**: <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.86 (td, J = 7.6, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.57 – 7.48 (m, 1H), 7.23 – 7.19 (m, 1H), 7.12 (ddd, J = 11.3, 8.3, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.78 – 6.74 (m, 2H), 5.94 – 5.92 (m, 2H), 5.05 (dd, J =10.8, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 4.33 – 4.22 (m, 2H), 3.95 (ddd, J = 18.9, 10.8, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 3.39 (dt, J = 18.9, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 1.32 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 195.4 (d, J = 4.1 Hz), 191.7, 162.2 (d, J = 255.7 Hz), 160.4, 148.1, 147.4, 135.1 (d, J = 9.1 Hz), 130.6 (d, J = 2.3 Hz), 128.4, 124.5 (d, J = 3.3 Hz), 124.3 (d, J = 12.6 Hz), 122.4, 116.7 (d, J = 23.7 Hz), 109.0, 108.7, 101.2, 62.5, 47.8 (d, J = 2.3 Hz), 47.6 (d, J = 8.5 Hz), 13.9; **IR** (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2984, 2904, 1739, 1683, 1610, 1487, 1453, 1038, 768; **TLC** (20% EtOAc/hexanes) R<sub>f</sub>: 0.21; **HRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]+ C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>18</sub>FO<sub>6</sub>: 373.1087, Found: 373.1087.

### General Procedure B for Preparation of Racemic δ-Keto-α-Hydroxy Esters (±)-14a-d



Lithium triethylborohydride (1.0 equiv, 1.0 M solution in THF) was added to a solution of  $\beta$ -substituted  $\alpha$ , $\delta$ -diketo ester **12a-d** (1.0 equiv) in THF (0.5 M concentration) at -78 °C. The reaction was allowed to stir at this temperature for 10 min and quenched with saturated ammonium chloride. The reaction was further diluted with diethyl ether and water. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated *in vacuo* to give  $\alpha$ -keto  $\delta$ -hydroxy esters **x** which were purified by flash chromatography using the indicated solvent systems.

General Procedure C for Preparation of Enantioenriched δ-Keto-α-Hydroxy Esters 14a-d



To a flame-dried 20 mL scintillation vial equipped with magnetic stir bar were added [RuCl<sub>2</sub>(*p*-cymene)]<sub>2</sub> (0.3-0.4 mol %) and **L1** (1.2-1.6 mol %). The vial was purged with nitrogen and DMSO (0.01 M) was added. The resulting solution was heated to 70 °C. After 1 h, the red solution was cooled to room temperature and transferred via cannula to a solution of  $\alpha$ -keto ester **12a-d** (1.0 equiv) in DMSO (0.6 M) under nitrogen. Formic acid/triethylamine azeotrope (5:2, 5.0 equiv) was added. After the indicated time period the reaction was diluted with water and extracted with ethyl acetate (2x). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography using the indicated solvent systems.



(2S,3S)-Ethyl 3-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-2-hydroxy-5-(4methoxyphenyl)-5-oxopentanoate (14a): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure C:  $[RuCl_2(p-cymene)]_2$  (32.5 mg, 0.053 mmol, 0.3 mol %), L1 (128 mg, 0.212 mmol, 12 mol %), DMSO (5.3 mL);  $\alpha$ -keto ester 12a (6.70 g, contained 4% enone from preparation, *vide supra*), DMSO (30 mL), formic acid/triethylamine

azeotrope (5:2, 7.64 mL, 88.4 mmol, 5.0 equiv); 24 h. The diastereomer ratio (>20:1 dr) was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic analysis of the crude reaction mixture in which no diastereomer was observed. Flash chromatography provided **14a** (6.31 g, 16.3 mmol, 92% yield over 2 steps, >20:1 dr) as a pale yellow, viscous oil. Analytical data for **14a**: <sup>1</sup>H **NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.98 – 7.95 (m, 2H), 6.95 – 6.89 (m, 2H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.75 – 6.67 (m, 2H), 5.90 (q, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 2H), 4.50 (dd, *J* = 6.1, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 4.14 (qq, *J* = 7.4, 3.6 Hz, 2H), 3.86 (s, 4H), 3.62 (dd, *J* = 17.5, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 3.34 (dd, *J* = 17.5, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 2.88 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 1.26 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C **NMR** (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  196.7, 173.7, 163.5, 147.4, 146.6, 132.7, 130.3, 130.0, 121.8, 113.7, 108.9, 108.0, 100.9, 72.6, 61.8, 55.4, 43.4, 40.2, 14.2; **IR** (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3503, 2903, 1733, 1673, 1601, 1506, 1489, 1037; **TLC** (30% EtOAc/hexanes) R<sub>f</sub> : 0.19; **HRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]+ C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>23</sub>O<sub>7</sub>: 387.1444, Found: 387.1440; **SFC Analysis**: AD column, 20% MeOH, 1.5 mL/min, 150 bar, 210 nm; t<sub>major</sub> = 10.1 min, t<sub>minor</sub> = 13.5 min, 96:4 er; **[**α**]**p<sup>25</sup> -17.9 (*c* = 0.26, MeOH).

### (2S,3S)-Ethyl

3-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-5-(4-((tertbutoxycarbonyl)oxy)-3-methoxyphenyl)-2-hydroxy-5-



oxopentanoate (14b): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure C: [RuCl<sub>2</sub>(p-cymene)]<sub>2</sub> (14.8 mg, 0.024 mmol, 0.4 mol %), L1 (58.6 mg, 0.097 mmol, 16 mol %), DMSO (2.4 mL); α-keto ester 12b (3.03 g, 6.06 mmol, 1.0 equiv), DMSO (9.7 mL), formic

acid/triethylamine azeotrope (5:2, 2.62 mL, 30.3 mmol, 5.0 equiv); 28 h. The diastereomer ratio (>20:1 dr) was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic analysis of the crude reaction mixture in which no diastereomer was observed. Flash chromatography provided **14b** (2.92 g, 5.81 mmol, 96%, >20:1 dr) as a sticky, vellow foam. Analytical data for **14b**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); δ 7.63 – 7.56 (m, 2H), 7.19 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.74 – 6.67 (m, 2H), 5.90 (s, 2H), 4.49 (dd, J = 5.9, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 4.14 (qq, J = 7.4, 3.6 Hz, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.84 (ddd, J = 7.6, 6.4, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 3.61 (dd, J = 17.6, 7.7 Hz, 1H), 3.39 (dd, J = 17.6, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.90 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 1.54 (s, 9H), 1.25 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C** NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  197.0, 173.5, 151.4, 150.7, 147.5, 146.7, 144.2, 135.5, 132.4, 122.4, 121.8, 121.4, 111.5, 108.9, 108.0, 100.9, 83.9, 72.6, 61.8, 56.0, 43.4, 40.5, 27.5, 14.2; **IR** (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3503, 2981, 1762, 1684, 1506; **TLC** (30% EtOAc/hexanes) R<sub>f</sub>: 0.19; **HRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]+ C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>31</sub>O<sub>10</sub>: 503.1917, Found: 503.1921; **SFC Analysis**: AD column, 15% MeOH, 1.5 mL/min, 150 bar, 210 nm; t<sub>maior</sub> = 7.4 min,  $t_{minor} = 8.8 \text{ min}$ , 97:3 er;  $[\alpha]_{p}^{25} + 3.2$  (c = 0.34, MeOH).



3-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-5-(4-ethylphenyl)-2-(2S,3S)-Ethyl hydroxy-5-oxopentanoate (14c): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure C: [RuCl<sub>2</sub>(p-cymene)]<sub>2</sub> (9.0 mg, 0.015 mmol, 0.3 mol %), L1 (35.5 mg, 0.059 mmol, 12 mol %), DMSO (1.5 mL); α-keto ester **12c** (1.87 g, 4.89 mmol, 1.0 equiv), DMSO (8.3 mL), formic acid/triethylamine azeotrope (5:2, 2.12 mL, 24.5 mmol, 5.0 equiv); 22 h.

The diastereomer ratio (>20:1 dr) was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic analysis of the crude reaction mixture in which no diastereomer was observed. Flash chromatography provided 14c (1.84 g, 4.79 mmol, 98%, >20:1 dr) as a viscous pale yellow oil. Analytical data for 14c: <sup>1</sup>H **NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.91 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.84 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.77 - 6.65 (m, 2H), 5.90 (q, J = 1.5 Hz, 2H), 4.51 (dd, J = 6.1, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 4.15 (qq, J = 1.5 Hz, 2H), 4.51 (dd, J = 6.1, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 4.15 (qq, J = 1.5 Hz, 2H), 4.51 (dd, J = 1.5 Hz, 2H), 4.5 (dd, J = 1.5 (dd, J = 1.5 Hz, 2H), 4.5 (dd, J = 1.5 Hz, 2H), 4.5 (dd, J = 1.5 (dd, 7.2, 3.6 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (ddd, J = 8.0, 6.1, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (dd, J = 17.7, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.38 (dd, J = 17.7, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 2.90 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 2.69 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.25 (td, J = 7.4, 6.3 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 197.8, 173.7, 150.2, 147.4, 146.6, 134.6, 132.6, 128.3, 128.0, 121.8, 108.9, 108.0, 100.9, 72.6, 61.8, 43.3, 40.5, 28.9, 15.1, 14.2; **IR** (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3502, 2968, 1733, 1683, 1505, 1489, 1038, 813; TLC (30% EtOAc/hexanes) Rf: 0.28; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]+ C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>25</sub>O<sub>6</sub>: 385.1651, Found: 385.1648; SFC Analysis: AD column, 20% MeOH, 1.5 mL/min, 150 bar, 210 nm;  $t_{major} = 8.6 \text{ min}$ ,  $t_{minor} = 10.6 \text{ min}$ , 97:3 er;  $[\alpha]_{D}^{25}$  -11.8 (c = 0.12, MeOH).



**(2S,3S)-Ethyl 3-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-5-(2-fluorophenyl)-2-hydroxy-5-oxopentanoate (14d):** The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure C: [RuCl<sub>2</sub>(*p*-cymene)]<sub>2</sub> (14.4 mg, 0.023 mmol, 0.3 mol %), **L1** (56.8 mg, 0.094 mmol, 12 mol %), DMSO (2.3 mL); α-keto ester **12d** (2.91 g, 7.82 mmol, 1.0 equiv), DMSO (13.3 mL), formic acid/triethylamine

azeotrope (5:2, 3.38 mL, 39.1 mmol, 5.0 equiv); 23 h. The diastereomer ratio (>20:1 dr) was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic analysis of the crude reaction mixture in which no diastereomer was observed. Flash chromatography provided 14d (2.77 g, 7.40 mmol, 95%, >20:1 dr) as a viscous pale yellow oil. Analytical data for **14d**: <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.82 (td, J = 7.6, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (dddd, J = 8.3, 7.1, 5.0, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (ddd, J = 8.0, 7.3, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (ddd, J = 11.3, 8.3, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 6.74 - 6.65 (m, 2H), 5.91 -5.89 (m, 2H), 4.52 (dd, J = 6.2, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 4.15 (qq, J = 7.1, 3.6 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (dddd, J = 7.5, 6.2, 3.3, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 3.67 (ddd, J = 18.5, 7.9, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 3.43 (ddd, J = 18.5, 6.2, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 2.84 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 1.27 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  196.5 (d, J = 4.3Hz), 173.7, 161.9 (d, J = 255.2 Hz), 147.4, 146.6, 134.6 (d, J = 9.0 Hz), 132.4, 130.5 (d, J = 2.6 Hz), 125.6 (d, J = 12.9 Hz), 124.4 (d, J = 3.4 Hz), 121.9, 116.7 (d, J = 23.7 Hz), 109.0, 108.0, 100.9, 72.6, 61.8, 45.5 (d, J = 7.7 Hz), 43.1, 14.2; **IR** (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3502, 2983, 2902, 1733, 1685, 1609, 1488, 1452, 1098, 1038, 766; TLC (20% EtOAc/hexanes) Rf: 0.21; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]+ C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>19</sub>FNaO<sub>6</sub>: 397.1063, Found: 397.1060; SFC Analysis: AD column, 20% MeOH, 1.5 mL/min, 150 bar, 210 nm;  $t_{minor} = 6.8 \text{ min}$ ,  $t_{maior} = 8.5 \text{ min}$ , 98:2 er;  $[\alpha]_{D}^{25}$  -17.0 (c = 0.22, MeOH).

### General Procedure D for Preparation of δ-Keto-α-Carboxy Imidazoles 15a-d



To a flame-dried round-bottomed flask equipped with magnetic stir bar under nitrogen was added 1,1'-carbonyldiimidazole (1.5 equiv) and dichloromethane. To the resulting suspension was added a solution of  $\delta$ -keto- $\alpha$ -hydroxy ester **14a-d** (1.0 equiv) in dichloromethane. The reaction was stirred for the indicated time period then diluted with dichloromethane and water. The aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane. The combined organic extracts were dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography using the indicated solvent systems.



## (2S,3S)-3-(Benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-1-ethoxy-5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-

**1,5-dioxopentan-2-yl 1H-imidazole-1-carboxylate** (15a): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure D: 1,1'-carbonyldiimidazole (3.90 g, 24.1 mmol), dichloromethane (32 mL),  $\delta$ -keto- $\alpha$ -hydroxy ester **14a** (6.20 g, 16.1 mmol); 19 h. Flash chromatography provided **15a** (7.25 g, 15.1 mmol, 94% yield) as a white foam. Analytical data for **15a**: <sup>1</sup>H **NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.11-8.10

(m, Hz, 1H), 7.93 – 7.88 (m, 2H), 7.39-7.38 (m, 1H), 7.09 – 7.04 (m, 1H), 6.93 – 6.87 (m, 2H), 6.81 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.80 – 6.70 (m, 2H), 5.92 (s, 2H), 5.55 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 4.23 – 4.02 (m, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.50 (dd, J = 17.6, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.39 (dd, J = 17.5, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 1.17 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  195.1, 167.3, 163.8, 147.9, 147.8, 147.0, 137.0, 131.8, 130.8, 130.2, 129.3, 121.6, 117.1, 113.8, 108.4, 108.3, 101.1, 77.9, 62.0, 55.4, 41.2, 39.8, 13.9; **IR** (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2981, 1752, 1674, 1601, 1397, 1172, 1038, 733; **TLC** (50% EtOAc/hexanes)  $R_f$  : 0.11; **HRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M-C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>+MeOH]+ C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>25</sub>O<sub>9</sub>: 445.1499, Found: 445.1495; **[\alpha]<sub>p</sub><sup>25</sup> -6.3 (c = 0.26, MeOH).** 



### (2S,3S)-3-(Benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-5-(4-((tert-

**butoxycarbonyl)oxy)-3-methoxyphenyl)-1-ethoxy-1,5-dioxopentan-2-yl 1H-imidazole-1-carboxylate (15b):** The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure D: 1,1'-carbonyldiimidazole (248 mg, 1.53 mmol), dichloromethane (2.0 mL), δ-keto-α-hydroxy ester **14b** (512 mg, 1.02 mmol); 2 h. Flash chromatography provided **15b** (550 mg, 0.93 mmol, 91% yield) as a white foam. Analytical data

for **15b**: <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.12 (t, J = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (t, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (dd, J = 1.7, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 6.82 – 6.79 (m, 1H), 6.79 – 6.72 (m, 2H), 5.94 (s, 2H), 5.55 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 4.25 – 4.09 (m, 3H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.51 (dd, J = 17.8, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.45 (dd, J = 17.7, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 1.54 (s, 9H), 1.20 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C** NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  195.5, 167.2, 151.6, 150.6, 148.0, 147.9, 147.2, 144.5, 137.1, 134.9, 131.6, 131.0, 122.5, 121.7, 121.3, 117.1, 111.5, 108.4, 108.4, 101.2, 84.1, 77.8, 62.1, 56.1, 41.2, 40.2, 27.5, 14.0; **IR** (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2981, 1760, 164, 1506, 1396, 1145, 737; **TLC** (50% EtOAc/hexanes)  $R_f : 0.19$ ; **HRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M-C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>+MeOH]+ C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>30</sub>O<sub>12</sub>: 561.1972, Found: 561.1970; **[\alpha]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> +10.8 (c = 0.32**, MeOH).



(2*S*,3*S*)-3-(Benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-1-ethoxy-5-(4-ethylphenyl)-1,5dioxopentan-2-yl 1H-imidazole-1-carboxylate (15c): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure D: 1,1'carbonyldiimidazole (1.12 g, 6.91 mmol), dichloromethane (9.2 mL), δketo-α-hydroxy ester 14c (1.77 g, 4.60 mmol); 3 h. Flash chromatography provided 15c (2.16 g, 4.51 mmol, 98% yield) as a white foam. Analytical data for 15c: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.11 (t, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.89 –

7.83 (m, 2H), 7.39 (t, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.30 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 7.08 (dd, J = 1.7, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.80 – 6.73 (m, 2H), 5.94 (s, 2H), 5.56 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 4.27 – 4.05 (m, 3H), 3.54 (dd, J = 17.7, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 3.43 (dd, J = 17.7, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 2.69 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.24 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 1.19 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C** NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  196.3, 167.3,

150.7, 148.0, 147.9, 147.1, 137.1, 134.1, 131.8, 130.9, 128.2, 121.7, 117.1, 108.5, 108.4, 101.2, 77.9, 62.1, 41.2, 40.1, 28.9, 15.1, 14.0; **IR** (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2969, 2935, 1735, 1682, 1606, 1490, 1396, 1239, 1039, 735; TLC (30% EtOAc/hexanes) Rf: 0.08; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for [M- $C_{3}H_{3}N_{2}+MeOH]+C_{24}H_{27}O_{8}$ : 443.1706, Found: 443.1702;  $[\alpha]_{0}^{25}+1.8$  (*c* = 0.29, MeOH).



(2S,3S)-3-(Benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-1-ethoxy-5-(2-fluorophenyl)-1,5dioxopentan-2-yl 1H-imidazole-1-carboxylate (15d): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure D: 1,1'-carbonyldiimidazole (1.73 g, 10.7 mmol), dichloromethane (14.2 mL),  $\delta$ -keto- $\alpha$ -hydroxy ester **14d** (2.66 g, 7.11 mmol); 24 h. Flash chromatography provided 15d (3.19 g, 6.81

**NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.10 (t, J = 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (td, J = 7.6, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.54 – 7.46 (m, 1H), 7.38 (t, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.22 – 7.17 (m, 1H), 7.10 (ddd, J = 11.4, 8.3, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (dd, J = 1.7, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.77 – 6.71 (m, 2H), 5.92 (s, 2H), 5.53 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 4.24 – 4.05 (m, 3H), 3.57 (ddd, J = 18.4, 7.7, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.46 (ddd, J = 18.4, 6.4, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 1.19 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  195.0 (d, J = 3.9 Hz, 167.2, 161.8 (d, J = 254.2 Hz), 148.0, 147.8, 147.0, 137.0, 135.0 (d, J = 9.1 Hz), 131.5, 130.8, 130.6 (d, J = 2.5 Hz), 124.9 (d, J = 12.6 Hz), 124.6 (d, J = 3.3 Hz), 121.7, 117.0 , 116.7 (d, J = 24.0 Hz), 108.4 , 108.2 , 101.1 , 77.8 , 62.0 , 45.2 (d, J = 8.2 Hz), 41.0 (d, J = 2.0 Hz), 13.9; IR (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2905, 1749, 1685, 1609, 1489, 1452, 1039, 765; TLC (30% EtOAc/hexanes) R<sub>f</sub>: 0.08; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for [M-C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>+MeOH]+ C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>22</sub>FO<sub>8</sub>: 433.1299, Found:433.1295;  $[\alpha]_{P}^{25}$  -10.0 (*c* = 0.21, MeOH).

### General Procedure E for Preparation of β-Keto-γ-Butyrolactones 9a-d



To a flame-dried, oversized round-bottomed flask (500 mL-1000 mL) equipped with magnetic stir bar under nitrogen was added a solution of  $\delta$ -keto- $\beta$ -carboxy imidazole **15a-d** (1 equiv) in anhydrous tetrahydrofuran (0.1 M). The flask was cooled to -78 °C and a solution of potassium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide (0.5 M in toluene) was added slowly as a steady stream. After 15 min, the reaction was warmed to 0 °C in an ice bath. After 1 h, the reaction was warmed to room temperature. After an additional 30 min, the reaction was quenched with aqueous saturated ammonium chloride, diluted with water, and extracted with diethyl ether (2x). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography using the indicated solvent systems.



Ethyl (2*S*,3*S*,4*R*)-3-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-4-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-5-oxotetrahydrofuran-2-carboxylate (9a): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure E:  $\delta$ -keto- $\beta$ -carboxy imidazole 15a (3.17 g, 6.60 mmol), tetrahydrofuran (72 mL), potassium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide (13.2 mL, 6.60 mmol). The diastereomer ratio (>20:1 dr) was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic analysis of the

crude reaction mixture in which no diastereomer was observed. Flash chromatography provided **9a** (2.02 g, 4.90 mmol, 74% yield, >20:1 dr) as colorless viscous oil. Analytical data for **9a**: <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.09 – 8.01 (m, 2H), 7.01 – 6.96 (m, 2H), 6.77 – 6.64 (m, 3H), 5.26 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 4.94 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 4.66 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (ddq, *J* = 42.5, 10.8, 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 1.00 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  189.5, 171.1, 168.0, 164.5, 148.0, 147.6, 132.1, 128.3, 128.1, 121.1, 114.1, 108.5, 108.0, 101.3, 79.3, 61.6, 55.6, 52.3, 46.8, 13.7; **IR** (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2982, 1785, 1742, 1671, 1601, 1507, 1037; **TLC** (30% EtOAc/hexanes) R<sub>f</sub> : 0.24; **HRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]+ C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>21</sub>O<sub>8</sub>: 413.1236, Found: 413.1237; **[α]**<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> +97.8 (*c* = 0.26, MeOH).



Ethyl (2*S*,3*S*,4*R*)-3-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-4-(4-((tertbutoxycarbonyl)oxy)-3-methoxybenzoyl)-5-oxotetrahydrofuran-2carboxylate (9b): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure E: δ-keto- $\beta$ -carboxy imidazole 15b (2.28 g, 3.83 mmol), tetrahydrofuran (38 mL), potassium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide (7.67

mL, 3.83 mmol); The diastereomer ratio (>20:1 dr) was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic analysis of the crude reaction mixture in which no diastereomer was observed. Flash chromatography provided **9b** (2.02 g, 4.90 mmol, 74% yield, >20:1 dr) as a colorless solid. Analytical data for **9b**: <sup>1</sup>H **NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.71 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.30 – 7.24 (m, 1H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 5.93 (q, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 2H), 5.24 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 4.97 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 4.65 (t, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 4.03 – 3.91 (m, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 1.54 (s, 9H), 0.99 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C **NMR** (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  190.4, 170.7, 168.0, 151.6, 150.5, 148.1, 147.7, 145.1, 133.9, 127.5, 123.4, 122.7, 121.0, 112.6, 108.5, 107.9, 101.3, 84.1, 79.2, 61.7, 56.1, 52.4, 47.0, 27.5, 13.7; **IR** (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2982, 1762, 1684, 1507, 889; **m.p.** 68-70 °C; **TLC** (30% EtOAc/hexanes) R<sub>f</sub> : 0.27; **HRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+Na]+ C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>28</sub>NaO<sub>11</sub>: 551.1529, Found: 551.1530; **[** $\alpha$ ]p<sup>25</sup> + 156.0 (*c* = 0.14, MeOH).



Ethyl (2*S*,3*S*,4*R*)-3-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-4-(4-ethylbenzoyl)-5oxotetrahydrofuran-2-carboxylate (9c): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure E: δ-keto-β-carboxy imidazole **15c** (2.08 g, 4.34 mmol), tetrahydrofuran (47 mL), potassium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide (8.70 mL, 4.34 mmol). The diastereomer ratio (>20:1 dr) was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic analysis of the crude

reaction mixture by comparison of the integration of resonances at  $\delta$  5.26 (major diastereomer) and  $\delta$  5.10 (minor diastereomer). Flash chromatography provided **9c** (1.23 g, 3.00 mmol, 69%

yield, >20:1 dr) as a colorless, viscous oil. Analytical data for **9c**: <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.00 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.36 – 7.30 (m, 2H), 6.74 – 6.65 (m, 3H), 5.92 (t, J = 1.1 Hz, 2H), 5.25 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 5.00 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 4.66 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (ddq, J = 41.5, 10.7, 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.72 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.25 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 0.99 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 190.9, 170.9, 168.0, 151.6, 148.0, 147.6, 133.0, 129.8, 128.4, 127.9, 121.0, 108.5, 108.0, 101.3, 79.2, 61.6, 52.3, 46.8, 29.0, 15.0, 13.7; **IR** (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2969, 1787, 1741, 1680, 1606, 1505, 1038, 737; **TLC** (30% EtOAc/hexanes) R<sub>f</sub> : 0.35; **HRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]+ C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>23</sub>O<sub>7</sub>: 411.1444, Found: 411.1441; [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> +131.1 (c = 0.58, MeOH).

> **Ethyl** (2*S*,3*S*,4*R*)-3-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-4-(2-fluorobenzoyl)-5oxotetrahydrofuran-2-carboxylate (9d): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure E: δ-keto-β-carboxy imidazole **15d** (3.09 g, 6.60 mmol), tetrahydrofuran (66 mL), potassium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide (13.2 mL, 6.60 mmol);The keto/enol ratio (7:1) was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic analysis by comparison of the integration of resonances at δ

EtO<sub>2</sub>C

5.94 (keto) and  $\delta$  5.79 (enol). The diastereomer ratio (>20:1 dr) was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic analysis of the crude reaction mixture in which no diastereomer was observed. Flash chromatography provided 9d (1.62 g, 4.05 mmol, 61% yield, 4:1 mixture of keto (>20:1 dr) to enol tautomers) as a colorless, viscous oil. Analytical data for 9d: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (Keto tautomer, 600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.89 (td, J = 7.6, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.63 – 7.57 (m, 1H), 7.30 – 7.25 (m, 1H), 7.19 (ddd, J = 11.6, 8.3, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.77 – 6.68 (m, 3H), 5.94 (s, 2H), 5.17 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.14 (dd, J = 10.1, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 4.64 (ddd, J = 10.4, 8.4, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (ddq, J = 47.0, 10.8, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.02 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (Enol tautomer, 600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  11.66 (s, 1H), 7.02 (td, J = 7.6, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.86 (ddd, J = 10.6, 8.3, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.82 - 6.78 (m, 1H), 6.45 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.42 - 6.36 (m, 2H), 5.79 (d, J = 10.7 Hz, 1H), 5.25 (d, J = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 4.72 (d, J = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (ddg, J = 69.5, 10.9, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.91 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (Keto tautomer, 150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  190.1 (d, J = 3.5 Hz), 170.5, 167.9, 162.2 (d, J = 256.1 Hz), 148.1, 147.7, 136.0 (d, J = 9.5 Hz), 131.4 (d, J = 1.7 Hz), 127.3, 124.8 (d, J = 3.3 Hz), 121.1, 117.1, 116.9, 108.5, 108.0, 101.3, 78.9, 61.7, 55.4 (d, J = 8.3 Hz), 46.5, 13.7; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (Enol tautomer, 150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 175.5, 167.2, 164.4, 158.8 (d, J = 251.8 Hz), 147.7, 132.5 (d, J = 8.7 Hz), 129.7, 129.3 (d, J = 2.6 Hz), 124.2 (d, J = 10.7 Hz), 124.0 (d, J = 3.4 Hz), 122.2, 115.7, 115.6, 108.7, 107.6, 101.4, 100.9, 79.9, 61.4, 46.0 (d, J = 7.8 Hz), 13.6; **IR** (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1791, 1747, 1685, 1609, 1506, 1490, 1454, 1038, 766; **TLC** (30% EtOAc/hexanes) R<sub>f</sub>: 0.27; **HRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]+ C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>18</sub>FO<sub>7</sub>: 401.1037, Found: 401.1033;  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$  +66.4 (c = 0.14, MeOH).

#### General Procedure F for Reduction of β-Keto-γ-Butyrolactones 8a-d



To a round-bottomed flask equipped with magnetic stir bar containing a suspension of 10% palladium on carbon (100 mg/mmol) in absolute ethanol under nitrogen was added a solution of  $\beta$ -keto- $\gamma$ -butyrolactones **9a-9d** in ethyl acetate. The flask was either purged with hydrogen (balloon) and vigorously stirred at room temperature under a hydrogen atmosphere for 1 h or placed in Parr bomb, cycled with nitrogen (3 x 25 psi), hydrogen (3 x 50 psi), then held at 50 psi hydrogen and stirred vigorously for 1h. The crude reaction mixture was filtered over a plug of silica gel eluting with ethyl acetate and concentrated *in vacuo*. The alcohol was used without further purification unless otherwise noted.



Ethyl (2*S*,3*S*,4*R*)-3-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-4-((*R*)-hydroxy(4methoxyphenyl)methyl)-5-oxotetrahydrofuran-2-carboxylate (8a): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure F: Pd/C (153 mg), ethanol (6.0 mL), β-keto-γ-butyrolactone **9a** (629 mg, 1.53 mmol), ethyl acetate (6.0 mL), hydrogen (balloon). Filtration and concentration provided **8a** (620 mg, 1.50 mmol, 98%, 8:1 dr). The

diastereomer ratio was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic analysis of the crude reaction mixture by comparison of the integration of resonances at  $\delta$  4.95 (major diastereomer) and  $\delta$  4.97 (minor diastereomer). Analytical data for **8a**: <sup>1</sup>H **NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.15 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.72 – 6.68 (m, 2H), 6.60 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.44 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 6.39 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 5.88 (d, *J* = 0.9 Hz, 2H), 4.94 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 4.83 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.97 – 3.78 (m, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.69 (dd, *J* = 11.1, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.44 (dd, *J* = 11.1, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 0.94 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C **NMR** (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  176.7, 168.1, 159.5, 147.5, 147.0, 131.4, 127.8, 127.6, 121.4, 113.7, 113.6, 108.1, 108.0, 101.1, 78.9, 73.8, 61.6, 55.2, 49.6, 47.0, 13.7; **IR** (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3503, 2903, 1781, 1613, 1513, 1446, 1038, 736; **TLC** (30% EtOAc/hexanes) R<sub>f</sub>: 0.16; **HRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+Na]+ C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NaO<sub>8</sub>: 437.1212, Found: 437.1211; [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> +158.2 (*c* = 0.18, MeOH).



# Ethyl (2*S*,3*S*,4*R*)-3-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-4-((*R*)-(4-((tertbutoxycarbonyl)oxy)-3-methoxyphenyl)(hydroxy)methyl)-5-

**oxotetrahydrofuran-2-carboxylate (8b):** The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure F: Pd/C (9.5 mg), ethanol (0.5 mL),  $\beta$ -keto- $\gamma$ -butyrolactone **9b** (50 mg, 0.095 mmol), ethyl acetate (0.5 mL), hydrogen (50 psi). Filtration and concentration provided **8b** (50 mg,

0.094 mmol, 99%, >20:1 dr). The diastereomer ratio was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic analysis of the crude reaction mixture. Analytical data for **8b**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  6.91 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 6.60 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.80

1H), 6.46 – 6.41 (m, 2H), 5.89 (s, 2H), 4.94 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 4.83 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 3.95 – 3.77 (m, 2H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.72 (d, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 3.71 – 3.65 (m, 1H), 3.46 (dd, J = 11.5, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 1.51 (s, 9H), 0.92 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C** NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  176.5, 168.1, 151.14, 151.06, 147.7, 147.2, 139.9, 138.2, 127.1, 122.0, 121.2, 118.8, 110.8, 108.1, 107.7, 101.2, 83.3, 78.8, 73.7, 61.6, 55.8, 49.0, 46.9, 27.5, 13.6; IR (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3503, 2982, 1761, 1507, 1146, 1037, 738; **TLC** (30% EtOAc/hexanes) R<sub>f</sub> : 0.14; **HRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+Na]+ C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>30</sub>NaO<sub>11</sub>: 553.1686, Found: 553.1685; **[a]** $_{D}^{25}$  +110.7 (c = 0.18, MeOH).



## Ethyl (2*S*,3*S*,4*R*)-3-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-4-((*R*)-(4ethylphenyl)(hydroxy)methyl)-5-oxotetrahydrofuran-2-carboxylate

**(8c):** The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure F: Pd/C (380 mg), ethanol (15 mL),  $\beta$ -keto- $\gamma$ -butyrolactone **9c** (1.56 g, 3.80 mmol), ethyl acetate (15 mL), hydrogen (50 psi). Flash chromatography provided **8c** (1.15 g, 2.79 mmol, 73%, 3:1 dr). Analytical data for **8c**: <sup>1</sup>H

**NMR** (Major Diastereomer, 600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.13 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 6.57 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.43 – 6.38 (m, 2H), 5.86 (s, 2H), 4.94 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 4.82 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 3.95 – 3.77 (m, 2H), 3.71 (dd, J = 11.1, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.65 – 3.63 (bs, 1H), 3.44 (dd, J = 11.1, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 2.52 (q, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 1.12 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 0.92 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (Major Diastereomer, 150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 176.7, 168.1, 147.4, 146.9, 144.3, 136.4, 127.7, 126.5, 125.4, 121.3, 108.02, 107.99, 101.0, 78.8, 73.9, 61.5, 49.4, 46.9, 28.4, 15.6, 13.6; **IR** (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3504, 2965, 1781, 1506, 1491, 1446, 1039, 737; **TLC** (30% EtOAc/hexanes) R<sub>f</sub>: 0.27; **HRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+Na]+ C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>24</sub>NaO<sub>7</sub>: 435.1420, Found: 435.1416; **[α]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup>** +150.9 (c = 0.34, MeOH).



Ethyl (2*S*,3*S*,4*R*)-3-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-4-((*R*)-(2fluorophenyl)(hydroxy)methyl)-5-oxotetrahydrofuran-2-carboxylate (8d): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure F: Pd/C (138 mg), ethanol (15 mL), β-keto-γ-butyrolactone **9d** (1.38 g, 3.45 mmol), ethyl acetate (15 mL), hydrogen (balloon). Filtration and concentration provided **8d** (1.38 g, 3.42 mmol, 99%, 7:1 dr). Analytical data for **8d**: <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** 

(600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.47 (td, J = 7.5, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.09 – 7.03 (m, 1H), 7.01 (td, J = 7.5, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (ddd, J = 10.7, 8.1, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 6.54 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.43 – 6.38 (m, 2H), 5.85 (dd, J = 8.1, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 5.21 (dd, J = 7.6, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 4.96 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 4.10 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.97 – 3.77 (m, 3H), 3.42 (dd, J = 12.1, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 0.92 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 177.0, 168.1, 159.3 (d, J = 244.9 Hz), 147.4, 147.0, 129.5 (d, J = 8.6 Hz), 127.9 (d, J = 3.8 Hz), 126.9 (d, J = 12.6 Hz), 126.3, 124.2 (d, J = 3.3 Hz), 121.2, 114.8 (d, J = 21.8 Hz), 108.0, 107.7, 101.1, 78.9, 67.3 (d, J = 2.9 Hz), 61.6, 48.0, 47.0, 13.6; **IR** (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3503, 2902, 1790, 1743, 1506, 1490, 1454, 1038, 761; **TLC** (30% EtOAc/hexanes) R<sub>f</sub>: 0.19; **HRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+Na]+ C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>20</sub>FO<sub>7</sub>: 403.1193, Found: 403.1193; **[α]**<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> +42.1 (c = 0.15, MeOH).

## Preparation of α-Benzylidene-γ-Butyrolactone 6a



To a flame-dried 100 mL round-bottomed flask equipped with magnetic stir bar were added alcohol **8a** (1.80 g, 4.34 mmol) and dry toluene (43.4 mL). To the resulting solution was added Nafion<sup>®</sup> SAC-13 (434 mg, 100 mg/mmol). The flask was sealed with a rubber septum, purged with nitrogen, stirred, and heated to 75 °C. After 23 h the reaction was filtered (sintered glass funnel, ethyl acetate rinse). Flash chromatography (25-30% ethyl acetate/hexanes) provided **6a** (1.20 g, 3.03 mmol, 70%, >20:1 *E:Z*). Analytical data for **6a**: <sup>1</sup>H **NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.73 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.70 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 2H), 6.66 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 5.90 (dd, *J* = 13.9, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 5.16 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 4.77 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 3.95 – 3.79 (m, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 1.03 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C **NMR** (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  171.4, 167.1, 161.3, 147.9, 147.4, 139.7, 132.8, 129.5, 125.9, 122.5, 122.3, 114.2, 108.8, 108.3, 101.2, 78.6, 61.4, 55.3, 47.0, 13.8; **IR** (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1757, 1645, 1602, 1558, 1166, 1037; **m.p.** 109-110 °C; **TLC** (30% EtOAc/hexanes) **R**<sup>*c*</sup>: 0.18; **HRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]+ C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>21</sub>O<sub>7</sub>: 397.1287, Found: 397.1284; **[** $\alpha$ ]**p**<sup>25</sup> +389.5 (*c* = 0.20, MeOH).

## General Procedure G for Preparation of α-Benzylidene-γ-Butyrolactones 6b-6d



To a flame-dried scintillation vial equipped with magnetic stir bar were added alcohol **8b-d** (275 mg, 1.0 equiv) and toluene. To the resulting solution was added methyl *N*-(triethylammoniumsulfonyl)carbamate (2.0 equiv). The resulting mixture was heated to 80 °C under nitrogen. After 1.5 h the reaction was concentrated and purified by flash chromatography using the indicated solvent systems.



Ethyl (2*S*,3*R*)-3-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-4-((*E*)-4-((tertbutoxycarbonyl)oxy)-3-methoxybenzylidene)-5-oxotetrahydrofuran-2-carboxylate (6b): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure G: alcohol **8b** (275 mg, 0.518 mmol, 1.0 equiv), toluene (5.2 mL), methyl *N*-(triethylammoniumsulfonyl)carbamate (Burgess reagent, 247 mg, 1.04 mmol, 2.0 equiv). Flash chromatography

(20% acetone/petroleum ether) provided **6b** (163 mg, 0.318 mmol, 61%, >20:1 *E:Z*) as a white foam. Analytical data for **6b**: <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.74 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, *J* =

8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (dd, J = 8.3, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.73 – 6.67 (m, 2H), 6.64 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 5.91 (dd, J = 6.6, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 5.16 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.77 (dd, J = 8.0, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (ddq, J = 59.4, 10.8, 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 1.52 (s, 9H), 1.03 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C** NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  170.9, 166.9, 151.2, 150.9, 148.1, 147.6, 141.7, 139.4, 131.9, 129.4, 125.4, 124.5, 122.8, 122.2, 113.9, 108.7, 108.3, 101.3, 83.9, 78.7, 61.5, 55.9, 47.0, 27.5, 13.8; **IR** (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1761, 1507, 1256, 1146, 1036, 737; **TLC** (30% EtOAc/hexanes) R<sub>f</sub> : 018; **HRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]+ C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>29</sub>O<sub>10</sub>: 513.1761, Found: 513.1759; **[α]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup>** +133.3 (c = 0.14, MeOH).



Ethyl (2*S*,3*R*)-3-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-4-((*E*)-4-ethylbenzylidene)-5oxotetrahydrofuran-2-carboxylate (6c): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure G: alcohol 8c (200 mg, 0.485 mmol, 1.0 equiv), toluene (4.9 mL), methyl *N*-(triethylammoniumsulfonyl)carbamate (Burgess reagent, 231 mg, 0.97 mmol, 2.00 equiv). Flash chromatography (15% acetone/petroleum ether)

provided **6c** (80 mg, 0.203 mmol, 42%, >20:1 *E:Z*) as a white foam. Analytical data for **6c**: <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.76 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.71 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 2H), 6.66 (t, *J* = 1.1 Hz, 1H), 5.90 (dd, *J* = 16.4, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 5.16 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.78 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (ddq, *J* = 55.3, 10.7, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.61 (q, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.19 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 1.04 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  171.2, 167.0, 147.9, 147.3, 147.3, 140.0, 131.0, 130.6, 129.6, 128.3, 124.5, 122.3, 108.8, 108.3, 101.2, 78.7, 61.4, 47.1, 28.7, 15.1, 13.8; **IR** (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2968, 2932, 1760, 1645, 1488, 1171, 1038, 736; **m.p.** 106-107 °C; **TLC** (30% EtOAc/hexanes) R<sub>f</sub> : 0.26; **HRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]+ C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>23</sub>O<sub>6</sub>: 395.1495, Found: 395.1492; **[α]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup>** +333.7 (*c* = 0.17, MeOH).



Ethyl (2*S*,3*R*)-3-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-4-((*E*)-2-fluorobenzylidene)-5oxotetrahydrofuran-2-carboxylate (6d): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure G: alcohol 8d (402 mg, 1.00 mmol, 1.00 equiv), toluene (10 mL), methyl *N*-(triethylammoniumsulfonyl)carbamate (Burgess reagent, 477 mg, 2.00 mmol, 2.00 equiv). Flash chromatography (20% acetone/petroleum ether) provided 6d (213 mg, 0.554 mmol, 55%,

>20:1 *E:Z*) as a white foam. Analytical data for **6d**: <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.98 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.29 – 7.24 (m, 1H), 7.16 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.03 – 6.94 (m, 2H), 6.67 – 6.55 (m, 3H), 5.88 (dd, *J* = 17.4, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 5.18 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.77 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (ddq, *J* = 58.5, 10.8, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.00 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  170.4, 167.1, 161.0 (d, *J* = 254.1 Hz), 147.8, 147.3, 132.0 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 131.9 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz), 130.2 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz), 128.7, 128.0, 123.9 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 122.3, 121.5 (d, *J* = 12.1 Hz), 115.8, 115.7, 108.8, 108.2, 101.2, 78.6, 61.5, 47.3 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz), 13.7; **IR** (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2984, 1764, 1653, 1488, 1445, 1238, 1198, 1175, 1038, 760; **m.p.** 113-115 °C; **TLC** (30% EtOAc/hexanes) R<sub>f</sub> : 0.22; **HRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]+ C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>18</sub>FO<sub>6</sub>: 385.1087, Found: 385.1083; **[\alpha]**<sub>0</sub><sup>25</sup> +151.5 (*c* = 0.20, MeOH).

#### Epimerization/Hydrolysis of α-Benzylidene-γ-Butyrolactone 16a



To a flame-dried 25 mL round-bottomed flask were added  $\alpha$ -benzylidene- $\gamma$ -butyrolactone **6a** (250 mg, 0.631 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and tert-amyl alcohol (12.5 mL). To the resulting semi-solution under nitrogen was added sodium tert-butoxide (121 mg, 1.26 mmol, 2.0 equiv). The creamcolored suspension was stirred vigorously at room temperature. After 6 h, the reaction was cooled to 0 °C and quenched with 1M HCI (10 mL). The reaction was extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 15 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>). and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (96.5:3:0.5 dichloromethane:methanol:acetic acid). The residue obtained was taken up in ethyl acetate (20 mL) and washed with water (3 x 10 mL), brine (10 mL), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated in vacuo to give acid 16a (172 mg, 0.467 mmol, 74%, 14:1 dr) as a cream colored foam. Analytical data for **16a**: <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  7.70 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.94 - 6.80 (m, 5H), 6.00 (dd, J = 12.5, 1.1 Hz, 2H), 4.88 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 4.81 (t, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  171.0, 170.3, 161.6, 148.6, 147.3, 139.0, 133.9, 132.9, 126.0, 122.1, 120.3, 114.3, 108.6, 107.3, 101.5, 80.8, 54.9, 47.9; IR (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2905, 1759, 1645, 1601, 1514, 1168, 1038, 736; TLC (94.5:5:0.1 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH:AcOH) R<sub>f</sub>: 0.36; **HRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]+ C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>17</sub>O<sub>7</sub>: 369.0974, Found: 369.0970;  $[\alpha]_{p}^{25}$  +275.2 (c = 0.10, MeOH). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.80 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.80 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.79 - 6.74 (m, 3H), 5.96 (dd, J = 12.8, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 4.85 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 4.60 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 173.9, 171.6, 161.6, 148.7, 147.5, 141.1, 133.0, 132.8, 125.8, 120.2, 120.0, 114.4, 109.0, 107.2, 101.4, 80.7, 55.4, 48.1. Data reported by Brown, et al.:<sup>5</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.80 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.81 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.77 (m, 3H), 5.97-5.95 (2d, J = 1.2 Hz, 2H), 4.84 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 4.60 (s, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR not reported.

### Preparation of Megacerotonic Acid 1a



To a flame-dried 10 mL round-bottomed flask equipped with magnetic stir bar were added acid **16a** (25.0 mg, 0.068 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and dichloromethane (2.5 mL). To the resulting solution under nitrogen at 0 °C was added dropwise boron tribromide (105  $\mu$ L, 272 mg, 1.09 mmol, 16

equiv). After 15 min the reaction was fitted with a reflux condenser and heated to 45 °C under nitrogen. After 6 h the reaction was cooled to room temperature, guenched through the condenser with dropwise addition of 0.1M NaOH (8 mL), and stirred vigorously for 20 min. The resulting mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 10 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated in vacuo. A portion of the crude product (5/6) was purified by semi-preparative HPLC (A: 10 mM NH<sub>4</sub>OAc in water, B: 90:10 acetonitrile:10 mM NH<sub>4</sub>OAc in water; A:B 90:10 to 50:50 over 41 min). The fractions collected were concentrated on rotatory evaporator to remove acetonitrile and extracted with ethyl acetate (10 mL). The aqueous layer was brought to pH = 0 with concentrated sulfuric acid and extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 10 mL). The combined organic extracts (excluding the first) were washed with brine, dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated to yield megacerotonic acid **1a** (6.6 mg, 0.019 mmol, 34%) as colorless, amorphous solid. Analytical data for **1a**: <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, referenced to TMS):  $\delta$  7.72 (s, 1H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.88 (s, 1H), 6.82 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.73 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H) 4.79 (overlapped with H<sub>2</sub>O, 1H), 4.65 (s, 1H); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, MeOD):  $\delta$  7.67 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.74 (d, J =8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 6f.70 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.63 (dd, J = 8.2, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 4.78 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 4.51, (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, referenced to TMS):  $\delta$  176.4, 176.1, 159.1, 145.4, 144.4, 141.9, 134.3, 133.2, 126.2, 122.7, 120.3, 117.5, 116.6, 115.9, 84.5, 49.0; **IR** (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3420, 2360, 2341, 1733, 1717, 1636, 1603, 1517, 1254, 1191, 1171, 1058, 834; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for [M+Na]+ C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NaO<sub>7</sub>: 365.0637, Found: 365.0638;  $[\alpha]_{D}^{26}$  +171.9 (*c* = 0.14, 5% AcOH/H<sub>2</sub>O).

Comparison of Physicochemical Properties for Megacerotonic Acid					
Data Type	Data Reported in Isolation Paper	Our Synthetic Sample	Data Reported for Papin Synthetic Sample		
<sup>1</sup> H NMR (D <sub>2</sub> O)	<sup>1</sup> H NMR (300 MHz, $D_2O$ ) 4.52 (1H, dd, $J$ = 1.6, 3.0 Hz) 4.74 (1H, d, $J$ = 3.0 Hz) 6.53 (1H, dd, $J$ = 2.0,6.2 Hz) 6.62 (2H, d, $J$ = 6.6 Hz) 6.70 (1H, d, $J$ = 6.2 Hz) 6.82 (1H, d, $J$ = 2.0 Hz) 7.14 (2H, d. $J$ = 6.6 Hz) 7.58 (1H, d, $J$ = 1.6 Hz)	<sup>1</sup> H NMR (600 MHz, D <sub>2</sub> O, TMS) 4.65 (s, 1H) Overlapped with H <sub>2</sub> O 6.73 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H) 6.77 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H) 6.82 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H) 6.88 (s, 1H) 7.33 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H) 7.72 (s, 1H)	<sup>1</sup> H NMR (400 MHz, $D_2O$ ) 4.63 (ddt, $J = 2.5$ Hz, 1H) 4.83 (d, $J = 3.1$ Hz, 1H) 6.66 (dd, $J = 8.3$ , 2.2 Hz, 1H) 6.72 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H) 6.80 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H) 6.87 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H) 7.24 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H) 7.66 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H)		
<sup>1</sup> H NMR (MeOD)	Not reported	4.51 (s, 1H) 4.78 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H) 6.63 (dd, $J = 8.2$ , 2.2 Hz, 1H) 6.70 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H) 6.73 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H) 6.74 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H) 7.29 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H) 7.67 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H).	Not reported		
<sup>13</sup> C NMR	<sup>13</sup> C NMR (75.5MHz, D <sub>2</sub> O) 177.6, 177.5, 161.0, 147.3, 146.3, 144.0, 136.2, 134.8, 127.8, 123.9, 122.0, 119.3, 118.4, 117.8, 85.8, 50.6	<sup>13</sup> C NMR (150 MHz, D <sub>2</sub> O) 176.4, 176.1, 159.1, 145.4, 144.4, 141.9, 134.3, 133.2, 126.2, 122.7, 120.3, 117.5, 116.6, 115.9, 84.5, 49.0.	<sup>13</sup> C NMR (100 MHz, acetone- <i>d</i> <sub>6</sub> ) 172.4, 171.5, 160.6, 146.6, 145.7, 139.9, 134.1, 132.7, 126.2, 122.5, 119.3, 116.8, 116.7, 114.7, 82.0, 48.8		
Rotation (5% AcOH)	+233.0 (c 1.66)	+171.9 (c 0.14)	NA		
IR	1735	3420, 2360, 2341, 1733, 1717, 1636, 1603, 1517, 1254, 1191, 1058, 834	1735		
MS	343 (M+H)	360.1083 (M+Na = 360.1086)	Not reported		

The spectral properties of synthetic megacerotonic acid vary significantly from both those reported by Takeda in its isolation as well as that reported by Brown, *et al.* in their racemic total synthesis. We were unable to obtain either a natural sample or synthetic sample. We postulate based on our experience with shimobashiric acid A (*vide infra*) that the differences in NMR shifts observed are a result of concentration differences. A concentration vs. chemical shift study (below) appears to support this hypothesis. Finally, we note that our <sup>1</sup>H NMR data for **16a** matches that of the pentultimate intermediate in the published racemic synthesis (*vide supra*).

<sup>1</sup> H NMR shifts of our synthetic sample as a function of concentration (600 MHz, D <sub>2</sub> O)					
Concentration	Resonance (δ)				
11.6 mg/mL	4.56, 4.73, 6.68, 6.73, 6.78, 6.86, 7.30, 7.67				
5.8 mg/mL	4.59, 4.74, 6.72, 6.77, 6.81, 6.87, 7.34, 7.70				
2.9 mg/mL	4.60, 4.75, 6.74, 6.78, 6.82, 6.87, 7.36, 7.72				
1.5 mg/mL	4.60, 4.75, 6.75, 6.80, 6.83, 6.87, 7.37, 7.73				
0.7 mg/mL	4.61, 4.75, 6.77, 6.80, 6.83, 6.87, 7.38, 7.73				

#### Hydrolysis of Tert-Butoxycarbonyl α-Benzylidene-γ-Butyrolactone S2



To a scintillation vial were added  $\alpha$ -benzylidene- $\gamma$ -butyrolactone **6b** (50 mg, 0.098 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and toluene (2.0 mL). To the resulting solution was added p-toluenesulfonic acid monohydrate (37.1 mg, 0.195 mmol, 2.0 equiv). The resulting mixture was heated to 75 °C. After 4 h the reaction was cooled to room temperature, diluted with 1M HCl (10 mL), and extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 10 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (30-40% ethyl acetate/hexanes) to give  $\alpha$ -benzylidene- $\gamma$ -butyrolactone **S2** (36 mg, 0.087 mmol, 89%) as a pale yellow, viscous oil. Analytical data for S2: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.71 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (dd, J = 8.3, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.73 - 6.69 (m, 2H), 6.67 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 5.98 (s, 1H), 5.90 (dd, J = 6.9, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 5.17 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 4.79 (dd, J = 8.3, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 3.95 – 3.76 (m, 2H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 1.03 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C** NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  171.4, 167.2, 148.1, 148.0, 147.4, 146.5, 140.4, 129.6, 126.7, 125.7, 122.3, 121.9, 114.7, 112.3, 108.8, 108.3, 101.3, 78.6, 61.4, 55.9, 47.0, 13.7; IR (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3420, 2917, 1750, 1636, 1517, 1164, 736; TLC (50% EtOAc/hexanes) R<sub>f</sub>: 0.18; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]+ C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>21</sub>O<sub>8</sub>: 413.1236, Found: 413.1233;  $[\alpha]_{p}^{25}$  +426.0 (*c* = 0.11, MeOH).

#### Epimerization/Hydrolysis of α-Benzylidene-γ-Butyrolactone 16b



To a flame-dried 10 mL round-bottomed flask were added  $\alpha$ -benzylidene- $\gamma$ -butyrolactone **S1** (20 mg, 0.048 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and *tert*-amyl alcohol (2.5 mL). To the resulting solution, after heating to 40 °C, a solution of sodium *tert*-amylate in *tert*-amyl alcohol (0.87 mL, 0.145 mmol, 3.0 equiv) was added dropwise. After 6.5 h, the reaction was cooled to 0 °C and quenched with 1M HCl (3 mL). The reaction was extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 5 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (98:2:0.3 dichloromethane:methanol:acetic acid). The residue obtained was taken up in ethyl acetate (10 mL) and washed with water (5 x 8 mL), brine (5 mL), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated *in vacuo* to give acid **16b** (13.7 mg, 0.036 mmol, 73%, 14:1 dr) as a clear oil. Analytical data for **16b**: <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, Acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  7.67 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.92 – 6.85 (m, 3H), 6.82 (d, *J* =

8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.00 (dd, J = 7.3, 1.1 Hz, 2H), 4.82 (s, 2H), 3.66 (s, 3H).<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  172.1, 171.5, 150.0, 149.5, 148.3, 148.2, 140.5, 135.2, 127.2, 126.4, 122.2, 121.3, 116.1, 114.2, 109.6, 108.1, 102.4, 81.8, 56.2, 48.8; **IR** (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3502, 2917, 2360, 1749, 1716, 1636, 1518, 1254, 1163, 1036, 817; **TLC** (94.5:5:0.1 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH:AcOH) R<sub>f</sub> : 0.27; **HRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]+ C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>17</sub>O<sub>8</sub>: 385.0923, Found: 385.0919; **[** $\alpha$ **]**<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> +222.6 (*c* = 0.17, MeOH).

### Preparation of Shimobashiric Acid A 1b



To a solution of acid 16b (9.6 mg, 0.025 mmol) in toluene (2.0 mL) at room temperature was added trifluoromethanesulfonic acid (excess, ~20 drops). After 2 min, the reaction was diluted with water (5 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 5 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried ( $Na_2SO_4$ ) and concentrated. A portion of the crude product (5/6) was purified by semi-preparative HPLC (A: 10 mM NH₄OAc in water, B: 90:10 acetonitrile:10 mM NH<sub>4</sub>OAc in water; A:B 90:10 to 50:50 over 41 min). The fractions collected were concentrated on rotatory evaporator to remove acetonitrile and extracted with ethyl acetate (10 mL). The aqueous layer was brought to pH=0 with concentrated sulfuric acid and extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 10 mL). The combined organic extracts (excluding the first) were washed with brine, dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated to yield shimobashiric acid A **1b** (4.5 mg, 0.012 mmol, 48%) as a colorless oil. Analytical data for **1b**: <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, MeOD):  $\delta$  7.68 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (dd, J = 8.3, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.77 - 6.75 (m, 2H), 6.75 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 6.66 (dd, J = 8.2, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 4.78 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 4.54 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.55 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, MeOD) δ 174.4, 173.2, 150.7, 149.0, 147.3, 146.3, 141.8, 132.9, 128.0, 126.7, 122.0, 119.2, 117.1, 116.4, 114.9, 114.1, 83.1, 56.3, 49.7; **IR** (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3392, 2919, 2849, 1734, 1635, 1597, 1518, 1289, 1204, 1179, 1059, 820; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for  $[M+Na] + C_{19}H_{16}NaO_8$ : 395.0743, Found: 395.0740;  $[\alpha]_{D}^{26} + 295.6$  (c = 0.20, MeOH).

Comparison of Physicochemical Properties for Shimobashiric Acid A					
Data Type	Data Reported in	Our Synthetic Sample	Obtained Natural Sample		
<sup>1</sup> H NMR (MeOD)	Isolation Paper <sup>1</sup> H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD) $3.56$ (s, $3H$ ) $4.55$ (bs, $1H$ ) $4.55$ (bs, $1H$ ) $4.78$ (overlapped, $1H$ ) $6.67$ (dd, $J = 8.0, 2.0$ Hz, $1H$ ) $6.75$ (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, $1H$ ) $6.77$ (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, $1H$ ) $6.77$ (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, $1H$ ) $6.89$ (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, $1H$ ) $6.99$ (dd, $J = 8.5, 2.0$ Hz, $1H$ )	<sup>1</sup> H NMR (600 MHz, MeOD) 3.55 (s, 3H) 4.54 (d, $J = 2.3$ Hz, 1H) 4.78 (d, $J = 2.3$ Hz, 1H) 6.66 (dd, $J = 8.2$ , 2.2 Hz, 1H) 6.75 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 1H) 6.77 - 6.75 (m, 2H) 6.88 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H) 6.98 (dd, $J = 8.3$ , 2.0 Hz, 1H)	<sup>1</sup> H NMR (600 MHz, MeOD) 3.55 (s, 3H) 4.52 (s, 1H) 4.59 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H) 6.68 (dd, $J = 8.1$ , 2.2 Hz, 1H) 6.73 (s, 1H) 6.74 (s, 1H) 6.81 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H) 6.90 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H) 6.96 (dd, $J = 8.1$ , 2.0 Hz, 1H)		
<sup>13</sup> C NMR (MeOD)	7.68 (d, <i>J</i> = 2.0 Hz, 1H) <sup>13</sup> C NMR (100 MHz, MeOD) 174.5, 173.7, 150.7, 149.1, 147.4, 146.3, 141.7, 133.7, 128.0, 126.9, 122.5, 119.4, 117.2, 116.4, 115.1, 114.3, 83.6, 56.4, 49.5	7.68 (d, <i>J</i> = 2.0 Hz, 1H) <sup>13</sup> C NMR (150 MHz, MeOD) 174.4, 173.2, 150.7, 149.0, 147.3, 146.3, 141.8, 132.9, 128.0, 126.7, 122.0, 119.2, 117.1, 116.4, 114.9, 114.1, 83.1, 56.3, 49.7	7.61 (d, <i>J</i> =2.1 Hz, 1H)		
Rotation (MeOH)	+205.0 (c 0.16)	+295.6 (c 0.20)	NA		
IR	Not Reported	3392, 2919, 2849, 1734, 1635, 1597, 1518, 1289, 1204, 1179, 1059, 820	NA		
MS	373.0928	373.0921 (M+H = 373.0923)	NA		

The data reported by Murata and coworkers for natural shimobashiric acid A agrees well with data obtained with our synthetic sample. We obtained a natural sample of shimobashiric acid A (~0.16 mg) from Murata and the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of this sample varied significantly for several resonances relative to those reported in its isolation (e.g. 4.58 ppm vs 4.78 ppm). Postulating the presence of concentration dependent shifts, we analyzed an equal mixture of natural (0.08 mg) and synthetic shimobashiric acid A (0.08 mg) by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy. This analysis clearly showed coalescence of the resonances in question, indicating concentration dependent changes in NMR resonances. This feature may be relevant in the analysis of megacerotonic acid (*vide supra*).

## Preparation of γ-Butyrolactone 4



To a flame-dried 250 mL round-bottomed flask equipped with magnetic stir bar were added [RuCl<sub>2</sub>(p-cymene)]<sub>2</sub> (65.6 mg, 0.107 mmol, 0.005 equiv), ligand L1 (259 mg, 0.428 mmol, 0.02 equiv), and anhydrous DMF (30 mL). The resulting solution was stirred under a N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere at 70 °C. After 1 h, the reaction solution was cooled to room temperature and a solution of  $\alpha$ -keto- $\beta$ -aryl ester **S3** (7.85 g, 21.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in DMF (20 mL) was added. The reaction solution was diluted with DMF (57 mL) and formic acid:triethylamine azeotrope (5:2, 9.3 mL, 107 mmol, 5.0 equiv) was added. The resulting solution was heated to 70 °C. After 20 h, the reaction was cooled to room temperature and diluted with water (200 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (250 mL, 50 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with water (2 x 150 mL), brine (75 mL), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated to give crude  $\gamma$ -butyrolactone **4** as a 19:1 mixture of diastereomers. The diastereomer ratio was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic analysis of the crude reaction mixture by comparison of the integration of resonances at  $\delta$  5.11 (major diastereomer) and  $\delta$  4.82 (minor diastereomer). **HPLC Analysis**: Chiralpak IB column, 15% Isopropanol/Hexanes, 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm; t<sub>major</sub> = 15.2 min t<sub>minor</sub> = 18.4 min, 90:10 er.

The crude product was eluted over a plug of silica gel with a mixture of ethyl acetate/hexanes (30/70, 300 mL). The resulting oil was recrystallized from diethyl ether/hexanes to yield  $\gamma$ -butyrolactone **4** (3.55 g, 10.6 mmol, 49% yield, >20:1 dr) as white crystalline solid. Analytical data for **4**: <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  6.76 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.68-6.66 (m, 2H), 5.95 (s, 2H), 5.12 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 4.41 (dd, *J* = 11.5, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 4.13 (d, *J* = 11.5 Hz, 1H), 4.00-3.94 (m, 1H), 3.92-3.87 (m, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 0.97 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  170.3, 167.7, 167.2, 148.2, 147.8, 126.1, 120.9, 108.6, 107.8, 101.4, 78.9, 61.8, 53.3, 49.1, 47.6, 13.7; **IR** (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1793, 1741, 1507, 1143, 1038; **m.p.** 85-87 °C; **TLC** (30% EtOAc/hexanes) R<sub>f</sub>: 0.26; **HRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+Na]+ C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NaO<sub>8</sub>: 359.0743, Found: 359.0738; **HPLC Analysis**: Chiralpak IB column, 15% Isopropanol/Hexanes, 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm; t<sub>major</sub> = 15.2 min t<sub>minor</sub> = 18.4 min, 93:7 er; **[\alpha]<sub>p</sub><sup>25</sup> +195.8 (***c* **= 0.25, MeOH).** 

### Preparation of γ-Butyrolactone 5



To a 1-dram vial were added  $\gamma$ -butyrolactone **4**, potassium carbonate (51.4 mg, 0.372 mmol, 2.5 equiv), 18-crown-6 (2.0 mg, 0.007 mmol, 0.05 equiv), and dibromomethane (0.5 mL). The resulting slurry was stirred vigorously. After 4.5 days, the reaction was partitioned between ethyl acetate (5 mL) and water (5 mL). The aqueous layer was separated and extracted with ethyl acetate (5 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine (5 mL), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated to give crude  $\gamma$ -butyrolactone **5** as a single diastereomer. Flash chromatography (25-30% ethyl acetate/hexanes) provided  $\gamma$ -butyrolactone **5** (55.8 mg, 0.130 mmol, 87% yield) as white solid. Analytical data for **5**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  6.71-6.69 (m, 1H), 6.64-6.63 (m, 2H), 5.93 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 5.36 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.14 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.02-3.94 (m, 3H), 3.90 (d, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 1H), 3.43 (s, 3H), 0.97 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  170.3, 166.3, 166.2, 147.8, 147.6, 127.3, 122.8, 109.2, 108.1, 101.4, 78.1, 61.7, 61.6, 52.9, 52.3, 33.1, 13.7; **IR** (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2983, 1799, 1742, 1490, 1447, 1038, 736; m.p. 130-132 °C; TLC (30% EtOAc/hexanes) R<sub>f</sub> : 0.21; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for [M+Na]+ C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>17</sub>BrNaO<sub>8</sub>: 451.0004, Found: 451.0001; **[** $\alpha$ **]** $_{D}^{25}$  +110.3 (*c* = 0.20, MeOH).

### Preparation of α-Methylidene-γ-Butyrolactone 2



To a 20 mL scintillation vial were added  $\gamma$ -butyrolactone **5** (639.5 mg, 1.49 mmol, 1.0 equiv), lithium chloride (126 mg, 2.98 mmol, 2.0 equiv), and anhydrous DMSO (10 mL). The reaction vial was purged with N<sub>2</sub> and heated to 130 °C. After 5.5 h the reaction was cooled to room temperature and partitioned between ethyl acetate (25 mL) and water (25 mL). The aqueous layer was separated and extracted with ethyl acetate (15 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with water (10 mL), brine (10 mL), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated. Flash chromatography (20-30% ethyl acetate/hexanes) provided  $\alpha$ -methylidene- $\gamma$ -butyrolactone **2** (245 mg, 0.844 mmol, 57% yield) as a viscous very pale orange oil. Analytical data for **2**: <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  6.77 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.51 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz, 1H), 5.95 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 2H), 5.62 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 5.13 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 4.52, (dt, *J* = 9.3, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 3.94-3.89 (m, 1H), 3.84-3.79 (m, 1H), 0.97 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  169.2, 167.7, 148.0, 147.6, 135.9, 128.6, 125.0, 122.7, 108.9, 108.4, 101.3, 78.4, 61.6, 48.3, 13.7; **IR** (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2985, 2904, 1780, 1746,

1490, 1446, 1095, 1068, 1038, 736; **TLC** (30% EtOAc/hexanes)  $R_f$ : 0.26; **HRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]+ C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>15</sub>O<sub>6</sub>: 291.0869, Found: 291.0864 [ $\alpha$ ] $_{D}^{25}$  +256.2 (*c* = 0.13, MeOH).

## Preparation of $\alpha$ -Benzylidene- $\gamma$ -Butyrolactone 6a Via Heck Coupling



To a flame-dried 1-dram vial equipped with magnetic stir bar were added  $\alpha$ -methylene- $\gamma$ butyrolactone **2** (26 mg, 0.09 mmol, 1.0 equiv), 4-iodoanisole (23.4 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1.1 equiv), palladium(II) acetate (3.0 mg, 0.013 mmol, 15 mol %) and DMF (400 µL) under an atmosphere of air. Triethylamine (38 µL, 0.27 mmol, 3.0 equiv) was added and the resulting mixture heated to 70 °C. After 20 h, the reaction was cooled to rt and diluted with ethyl acetate (5 mL), washed with water (2 x 5 mL), brine (5 mL), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography to yield **6a** (6.6 mg, 0.017 mmol, 19%) as a clear oil. Analytical data for **6a** matched that reported above.

## Attempt 1 at Preparation of α-Benzylidene-γ-Butyrolactone 6a Via Cross Metathesis



To a flame-dried 1-dram vial sealed with Teflon puncture cap under N<sub>2</sub> equipped with magnetic stir bar containing Grubbs second generation catalyst (1.8 mg, 0.002 mmol, 2.5 mol %) was added a solution of  $\alpha$ -methylene- $\gamma$ -butyrolactone **2** (25 mg, 0.09 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and 4-vinylanisole (17 µg, 0.13 mmol, 1.5 equiv) in dichloromethane (200 µL) at room temperature. The resulting solution was heated to 50 °C. After 20 h the reaction was concentrated on rotary evaporator. <sup>1</sup>H NMR of the crude product showed no conversion of  $\alpha$ -methylene- $\gamma$ -butyrolactone **2** to desired product **6a**.

## Attempt 2 at Preparation of α-Benzylidene-γ-Butyrolactone 6a Via Cross Metathesis



To a flame-dried 1-dram vial sealed with Teflon puncture cap under  $N_2$  equipped with magnetic stir bar containing Grubbs second generation catalyst (3.6 mg, 0.004 mmol, 5.0 mol %) and

chlorodiphenylphosphine (1.2  $\mu$ L, 0.10 mmol, 10 mol %) was added a solution of  $\alpha$ -methylene- $\gamma$ -butyrolactone **2** (25 mg, 0.09 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and 4-vinylanisole (17  $\mu$ g, 0.13 mmol, 1.5 equiv) in dichloromethane (200  $\mu$ L) at room temperature. The resulting solution was heated to 50 °C. After 20 h the reaction was concentrated on rotary evaporator. <sup>1</sup>H NMR of the crude product showed no conversion of  $\alpha$ -methylene- $\gamma$ -butyrolactone **2** to desired product **6a**.

## Preparation of γ-Butyrolactone 7



To a 100 mL round-bottomed flask were added  $\gamma$ -butyrolactone **4** (1.00 g, 2.97 mmol, 1.0 equiv), lithium chloride (252 mg, 5.95 mmol, 2.0 equiv), anhydrous DMSO (30 mL), and water (0.6 mL). The reaction flask was purged with N<sub>2</sub> and heated to 140 °C. After 19 h, the reaction was cooled to room temperature and partitioned between ethyl acetate (50 mL) and water (50 mL). The aqueous layer was separated and extracted with ethyl acetate (25 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with water (2 x 20 mL), brine (15 mL), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated. Flash chromatography (30% ethyl acetate/hexanes) provided  $\gamma$ -butyrolactone **7** (723 mg, 2.60 mmol, 87% yield) as a pale yellow solid. Analytical data for **7**: <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  6.75 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.68-6.65 (m, 2H), 5.94 (s, 2H), 5.07 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 4.03-3.98 (m, 2H), 3.98-3.92 (m, 1H), 3.90-3.85 (m, 1H), 2.98 (dd, *J* = 17.3, 10.1 Hz, 1H), 2.81 (dd, *J* = 17.3, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 0.97 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  175.1, 167.9, 148.0, 147.4, 128.4, 120.8, 108.4, 107.8, 101.3, 80.1, 61.4, 43.8, 32.5, 13.7; **IR** (thin film, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2984, 2904, 1793, 1742, 1506, 1447, 1038, 818; **m.p.** 80-81 °C; **TLC** (30% EtOAc/hexanes) R<sub>f</sub>: 0.21; **HRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]+ C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>15</sub>O<sub>6</sub>: 279.0869, Found: 279.0866; **[** $\alpha$ **]** $_{0}^{25}$  +118.5 (*c* = 0.22, MeOH).

## Preparation of γ-Butyrolactone 8a Via Aldol Reaction



To a flame-dried 1 dram vial equipped with magnetic stir bar containing diisopropylamine (53  $\mu$ L, 0.38 mmol, 2.1 equiv) at 0 °C was added a solution of *n*-butyl lithium in hexanes (0.21 mL, 2.0 equiv). After 15 min, tetrahydrofuran (0.4 mL) was added. The resulting solution was cooled to -78 °C and a solution of  $\gamma$ -butyrolactone **7** (50 mg, 0.180 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in tetrahydrofuran (1.0 mL) was added dropwise. After 15 min, neat *p*-anisaldehyde (22  $\mu$ L, 0.180 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added dropwise. After 10 min, the reaction was quenched with aqueous saturated ammonium chloride (2 mL) and allowed to warm to room temperature. The resulting mixture

was diluted with water (2 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 5 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried ( $Na_2SO_4$ ) and concentrated. Flash chromatography (20-40% ethyl acetate/hexanes) provided **8a** (33 mg, 0.079 mmol, 44%) as a 2:1 mixture of diastereomers.

## Preparation of α-Benzylidene-γ-Butyrolactone 6a Via Elimination



To a solution of alcohol **8a** (27 mg, 0.065 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in toluene (5 mL) was added *p*-toluenesulfonic acid (5 mg, 20 wt%). The resulting mixture was heated to 160 °C under nitrogen. After 1 h the reaction was cooled to room temperature and concentrated. Flash chromatography (30% ethyl acetate/hexanes) provided **6a** (13.4 mg, 0.034 mmol, 52%, >20:1 *E:Z*) as a clear oil. Analytical data for **6a** matched that shown above.

## References

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S31





S33











S36


S37



















































































200 180 160 140 120 100 80 60 40 20 ppm

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S71










S75

4

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0.96 0.99 0.99 1.07 2.09 2.09 2.09 0.96 1.07 1.07

8

9







S77







### Comparison of Authentic Shimobashiric Acid A to Synthetic Sample



### SFC Traces

## SFC Analysis of 14a



Peak #	RT [min]	Area (mAU*sec)	Area [%]
1	10.1	1642.37	3.5
2	13.3	45339.7	96.5

# SFC Analysis of 14b



Peak #	RT [min]	Area (mAU*sec)	Area [%]
1	7.4	882.346	3.3
2	8.8	25567.0	96.7

### SFC Analysis of 14c



Peak #	RT [min]	Area (mAU*sec)	Area [%]
1	8.6	1352.48	3.3
2	10.6	39818.4	96.7

### SFC Analysis of 14d



Peak #	RT [min]	Area (mAU*sec)	Area [%]
1	6.8	373.229	2.2
2	8.5	16464.8	97.8



Before Recrystallization			
Peak #	RT [min]	Area (mAU*sec)	Area [%]
1	15.1	40378.7	89.7
2	18.4	4623.44	10.3
After Recrystallization			
Peak #	RT [min]	Area (mAU*sec)	Area [%]
1	15.3	55428.2	92.9
2	18.4	4209.64	7.1