

# Catalytic Divergent Synthesis of 3*H* or 1*H* Pyrroles by [3+2] Cyclization of Allenoates with Activated Isocyanides

Jia-Yu Liao,<sup>†</sup> Pan-Lin Shao,<sup>†</sup> and Yu Zhao\*

## Supporting Information

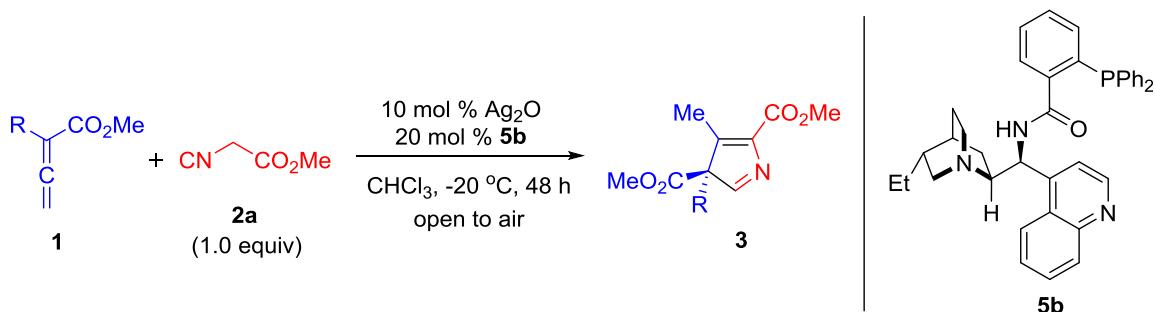
<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
I. General information	S2
II. Ag-catalyzed enantioselective [3+2] cyclization of <b>1</b> and <b>2a</b>	S3
III. Characterization of compounds <b>3</b>	S3
IV. Ag-catalyzed enantioselective cyclization of substituted isocyanoacetate	S14
V. Characterization of compounds <b>6</b>	S14
VI. X-ray crystallographic analysis and determination of configuration of <b>6a</b>	S26
VII. Pyrrole synthesis by PPh <sub>3</sub> -catalyzed [3+2] cyclization of <b>1</b> and <b>2</b>	S28
VIII. Characterization of compounds <b>4</b>	S28
IX. X-ray crystallographic analysis of <b>4v</b>	S38
X. References	S39
XI. NMR spectra of the products	S40

## I. General information

<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AFC 300 (300 MHz) or AMX500 (500 MHz) spectrometer. Chemical shifts were reported in parts per million (ppm), and the residual solvent peak was used as an internal reference: <sup>1</sup>H (chloroform δ 7.26; DMSO δ 2.50; Acetone δ 2.05), <sup>13</sup>C (chloroform δ 77.0; DMSO δ 39.5; Acetone δ 29.8, 206.3). Data are reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, br = broad, dd = doublet of doublets), coupling constants (Hz) and integration. <sup>19</sup>F NMR was measured at 282 MHz, and CFCl<sub>3</sub> (0 ppm) was used as an external standard. Melting point (**MP**) was obtained on Buchi B-540. For thin layer chromatography (**TLC**), Merck pre-coated TLC plates (Merck 60 F254) were used, and compounds were visualized with a UV light at 254 nm. High resolution mass spectra (**HRMS**) were obtained on a Finnigan/MAT 95XL-T spectrometer. **Optical rotations** were recorded on an mrc AP81 automatic polarimeter. Enantiomeric excesses (**ee**) were determined by HPLC analysis on Agilent HPLC units, including the following instruments: pump, LC-20AD; detector, SPD-20A; column, Chiralcel OD-H, Chiraldpak AD-H, AS-H and IA, IB, IC, IE.

Unless otherwise noted, all the reactions were carried out open to air. Dichloromethane (DCM), diethyl ether (Et<sub>2</sub>O), tetrahydrofuran (THF), and toluene were dried over a Pure Solv solvent purification system. Deuterated solvents were purchased from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories and used as received without further purification. Methyl isocyanoacetate (**2a**), ethyl isocyanoacetate and *p*-toluenesulfonylmethyl isocyanide were purchased from Alfa Aesar company and used without further purification. *tert*-Butyl isocyanoacetate<sup>1</sup> and all allenotes were prepared according to literature procedures.<sup>2</sup> Other chemicals were purchased from commercial suppliers and used as received without further purification.

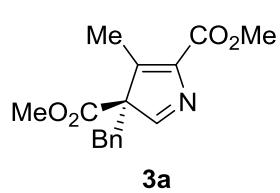
## II. Ag-catalyzed enantioselective [3+2] cyclization of **1** and **2a**



**General procedure.** To a 10 mL vial charged with **5b**<sup>3</sup> (12 mg, 0.020 mmol) and  $\text{Ag}_2\text{O}$  (2.3 mg, 0.010 mmol) was added anhydrous  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (0.5 mL). The mixture was allowed to stir at ambient temperature for 5 min, then allenolate **1** (0.10 mmol) was added in one portion. After the mixture was cooled to  $-20^\circ\text{C}$ , isocyanoacetate **2a** (0.10 mmol) in anhydrous  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (0.5 mL) was added via syringe pump over 2 h. The reaction mixture was stirred at  $-20^\circ\text{C}$  for 48 h, concentrated and purified by flash chromatography (hexanes/ethyl acetate) to afford the product **3**.

## III. Characterization of compounds **3**

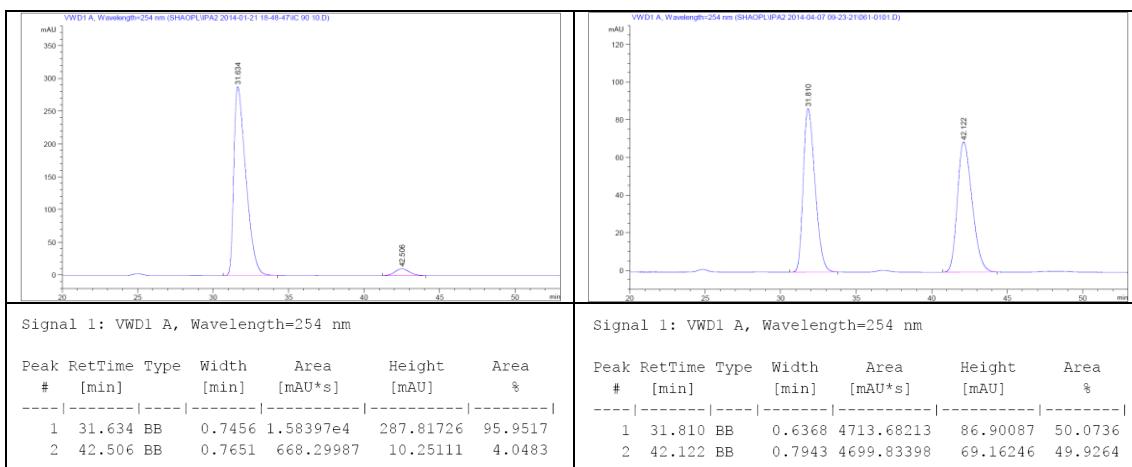
### (S)-dimethyl 3-benzyl-4-methyl-3*H*-pyrrole-3,5-dicarboxylate (**3a**)



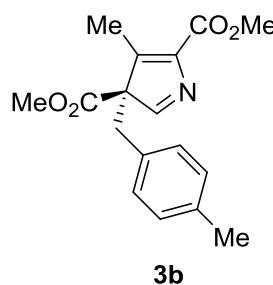
The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 1:1). Colorless syrup, 84% yield. **1H NMR** (500 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  8.21 (s, 1H), 7.21-7.17 (m, 3H), 7.10-7.09 (m, 2H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.63 (d,  $J = 13.9$  Hz, 1H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 3.19 (d,  $J = 13.9$  Hz, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H); **13C NMR** (125 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  170.4, 167.3, 162.7, 148.0, 141.9, 134.3, 129.2, 127.9, 127.0, 74.5, 53.0, 51.4, 36.5, 11.4; **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for  $[\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_4, \text{M}-\text{H}]^-$ : 286.1085; found: 286.1071.

**Optical Rotation:**  $[\alpha]^{25}_D = 86.5$  ( $c = 0.4$ ,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ). The absolute configuration of **3a** was assigned by analogy to **6a**. 92% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralpak IC column,

*n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90:10, flow rate = 1 ml/min, wavelength = 254 nm,  $t_R$  = 31.6 min for major isomer,  $t_R$  = 42.5 min for minor isomer).

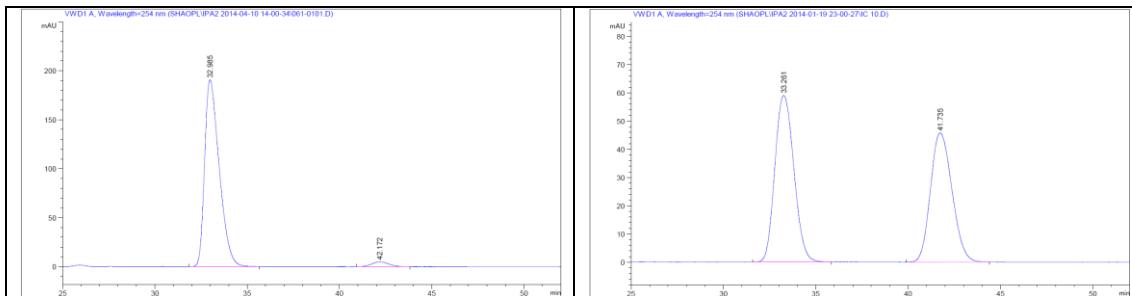


### (S)-dimethyl 4-methyl-3-(4-methylbenzyl)-3*H*-pyrrole-3,5-dicarboxylate (**3b**)



The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 1:1). Colorless syrup, 92% yield. **1H NMR** (500 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  7.19 (s, 1H), 7.01-6.96 (m, 4H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 3.58 (d,  $J$  = 13.9 Hz, 1H), 3.13 (d,  $J$  = 13.9 Hz, 1H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.21 (s, 3H); **13C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  170.5, 167.3, 162.7, 148.1, 141.8, 136.1, 131.2, 129.1, 128.5, 74.6, 53.0, 51.5, 36.2, 20.6, 11.4; **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for [C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>, M-H]<sup>-</sup>: 300.1241; found: 300.1243.

**Optical Rotation:**  $[\alpha]^{25}_D$  = 82.8 (c = 0.3, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). The absolute configuration of **3b** was assigned by analogy to **3a**. 94% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralcel IC column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90:10, flow rate = 1 ml/min, wavelength = 254 nm,  $t_R$  = 33.0 min for major isomer,  $t_R$  = 42.2 min for minor isomer).

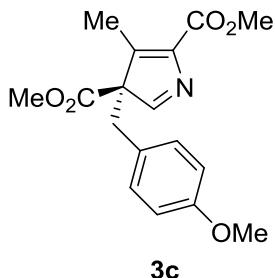


Signal 1: VWD1 A, Wavelength=254 nm						
Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area [mAU*s]	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	32.985	BB	0.7958	1.04640e4	190.81758	97.0669
2	42.172	BB	0.7611	316.1893	4.86621	2.9331

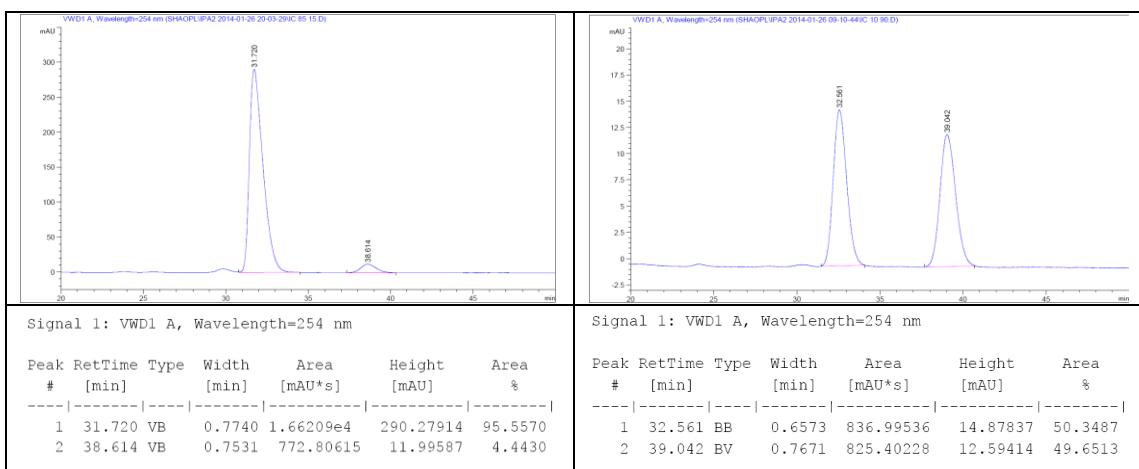
Signal 1: VWD1 A, Wavelength=254 nm						
Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area [mAU*s]	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	33.261	BB	1.0634	4229.10645	59.06289	53.2572
2	41.735	BB	1.2138	3711.79834	45.78618	46.7428

### (S)-dimethyl 3-(4-methoxybenzyl)-4-methyl-3*H*-pyrrole-3,5-dicarboxylate (**3c**)

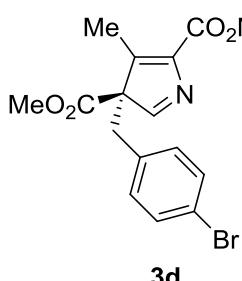


The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 1:1). Colorless syrup, 74% yield. **1H NMR** (500 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  8.19 (s, 1H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 3.56 (d, *J* = 13.8 Hz, 1H), 3.11 (d, *J* = 13.8 Hz, 1H), 2.28 (s, 3H); **13C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  170.5, 167.3, 162.7, 158.1, 148.1, 141.8, 130.3, 126.1, 113.3, 74.7, 54.9, 53.0, 51.5, 35.8, 11.4; **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for [C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>, M-H]<sup>+</sup>: 316.1190; found: 316.1191.

**Optical Rotation:**  $[\alpha]^{25}_D = 62.2$  (c = 0.3, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). The absolute configuration of **3c** was assigned by analogy to **3a**. 91% ee (HPLC condition: Chiraldak IC column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 85:15, flow rate = 1 ml/min, wavelength = 254 nm, t<sub>R</sub> = 31.7 min for major isomer, t<sub>R</sub> = 38.6 min for minor isomer).



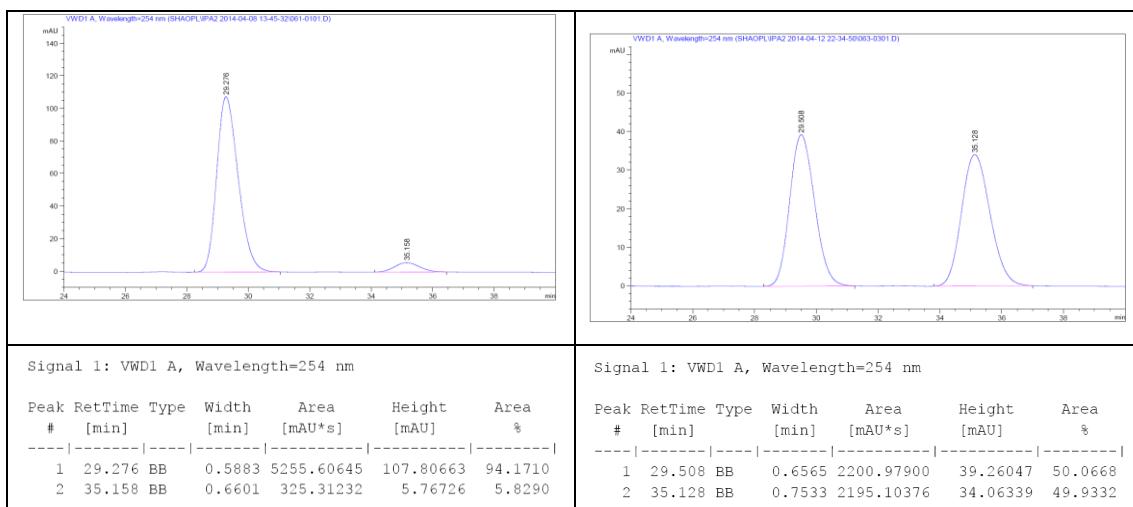
### (S)-dimethyl 3-(4-bromobenzyl)-4-methyl-3*H*-pyrrole-3,5-dicarboxylate (**3d**)



The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 1:1). Colorless syrup, 87% yield. **1H NMR** (500 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  8.22 (s, 1H), 7.38 (d, *J*

$\delta$  = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.06 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 3.61 (d,  $J$  = 13.8 Hz, 1H), 3.20 (d,  $J$  = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 2.28 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  170.3, 167.1, 162.6, 147.8, 142.0, 133.7, 131.5, 130.8, 120.3, 74.2, 53.1, 51.5, 35.5, 11.4; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd. for  $[\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{BrNNaO}_4, \text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ : 388.0155; found: 388.0165.

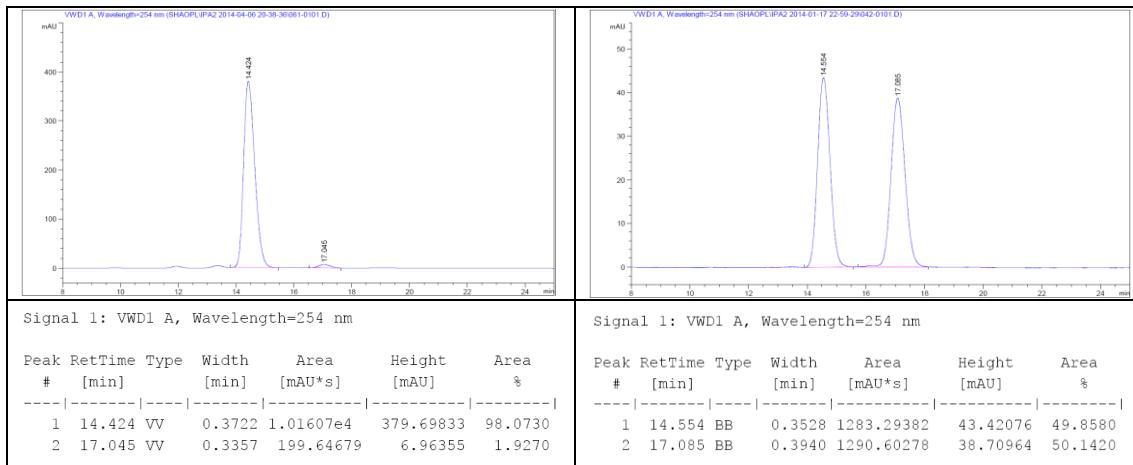
**Optical Rotation:**  $[\alpha]^{25}_D = 64.3$  ( $c = 0.3, \text{CHCl}_3$ ). The absolute configuration of **3d** was assigned by analogy to **3a**. 88% ee (HPLC condition: Chiraldak IC column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90:10, flow rate = 1 ml/min, wavelength = 254 nm,  $t_R = 29.3$  min for major isomer,  $t_R = 35.2$  min for minor isomer).



### (S)-dimethyl 3-(4-fluorobenzyl)-4-methyl-3*H*-pyrrole-3,5-dicarboxylate (**3e**)

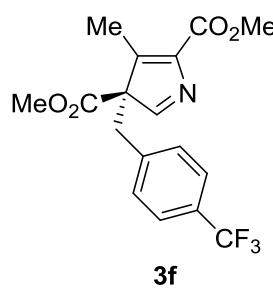
The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 1.5:1). Colorless syrup, 92% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  8.22 (s, 1H), 7.15-7.12 (m, 1H), 7.03-6.99 (m, 1H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.63 (d,  $J$  = 13.9 Hz, 1H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 3.20 (d,  $J$  = 13.9 Hz, 1H), 2.28 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  170.4, 167.2, 162.7, 161.2 (d,  $J$  = 241.4 Hz), 147.8, 142.0, 131.2 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz), 130.4 (d,  $J$  = 2.7 Hz), 114.6 (d,  $J$  = 21.0 Hz), 74.4, 53.0, 51.5, 35.5, 11.4;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (DMSO, 282 MHz):  $\delta$  -115.52; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd. for  $[\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{FNNaO}_4, \text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ : 328.0956; found: 328.0971.

**Optical Rotation:**  $[\alpha]^{25}_D = 39.4$  ( $c = 0.7$ ,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ). The absolute configuration of **3e** was assigned by analogy to **3a**. 96% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralpak IC column,  $n\text{-hexane}/i\text{-PrOH} = 80:20$ , flow rate = 1 ml/min, wavelength = 254 nm,  $t_R = 14.4$  min for major isomer,  $t_R = 17.0$  min for minor isomer).



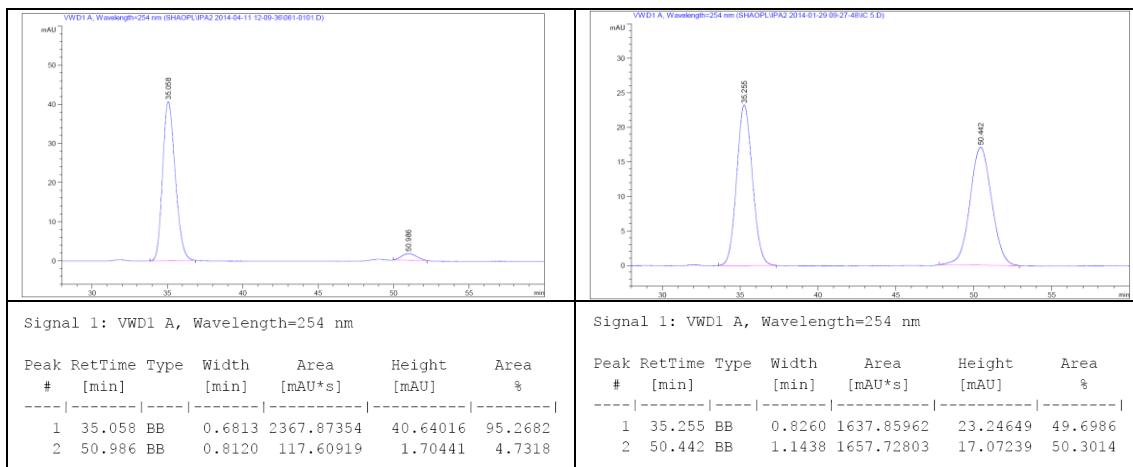
### (S)-dimethyl

#### 4-methyl-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)-3*H*-pyrrole-3,5-dicarboxylate (**3f**)

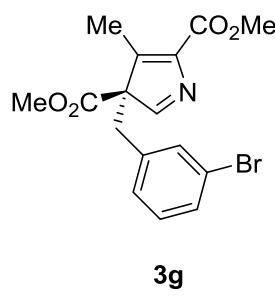


The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 1:1). Colorless syrup, 88% yield. **1H NMR** (500 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  8.26 (s, 1H), 7.57 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 3.73 (d,  $J = 13.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.32 (d,  $J = 14.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.30 (s, 3H); **13C NMR** (125 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  170.2, 167.1, 162.6, 147.7, 142.1, 139.2, 130.1, 127.6 (q,  $J = 31.9$  Hz), 124.7 (q,  $J = 4.6$  Hz), 124.2 (q,  $J = 270.5$  Hz), 74.2, 53.1, 51.5, 35.7, 11.3; **19F NMR** (282 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  -60.94; **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for  $[\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{F}_3\text{NNaO}_4, \text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ : 378.0924; found: 378.0932.

**Optical Rotation:**  $[\alpha]^{25}_D = 50.2$  ( $c = 0.3$ ,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ). The absolute configuration of **3f** was assigned by analogy to **3a**. 91% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralpak IC column,  $n\text{-hexane}/i\text{-PrOH} = 90:10$ , flow rate = 1 ml/min, wavelength = 254 nm,  $t_R = 35.1$  min for major isomer,  $t_R = 51.0$  min for minor isomer).

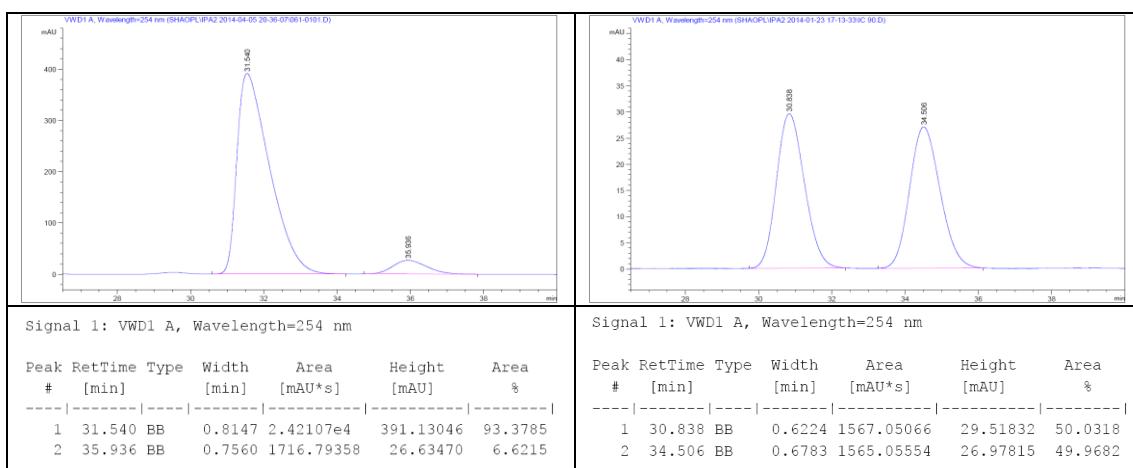


### (S)-dimethyl 3-(3-bromobenzyl)-4-methyl-3*H*-pyrrole-3,5-dicarboxylate (3g)

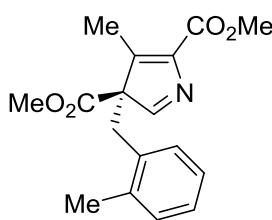


The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 1:1). Colorless syrup, 94% yield. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  8.24 (s, 1H), 7.38-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.16 (t,  $J$  = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.63 (d,  $J$  = 13.9 Hz, 1H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.23 (d,  $J$  = 13.3 Hz, 1H), 2.28 (s, 3H); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (125 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  170.2, 167.1, 162.6, 147.7, 142.1, 137.0, 132.0, 130.0, 128.3, 121.0, 74.2, 53.1, 51.5, 35.5, 11.4; **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for [C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub>BrNNaO<sub>4</sub>, M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 388.0155; found: 388.0159.

**Optical Rotation:**  $[\alpha]^{25}_D$  = 48.2 (c = 0.3, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). The absolute configuration of **3g** was assigned by analogy to **3a**. 87% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralpak IC column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90:10, flow rate = 1 ml/min, wavelength = 254 nm, t<sub>R</sub> = 31.5 min for major isomer, t<sub>R</sub> = 35.9 min for minor isomer).

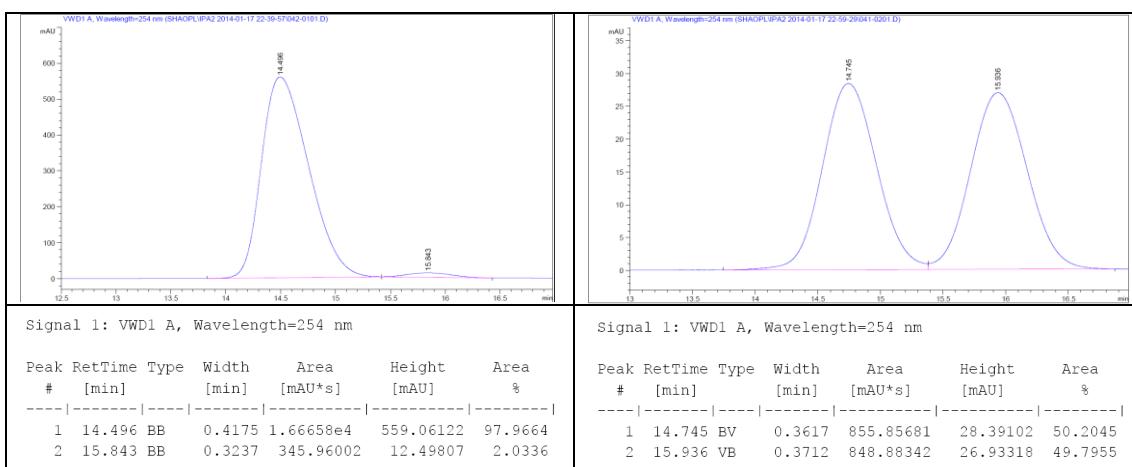


**(S)-dimethyl 4-methyl-3-(2-methylbenzyl)-3*H*-pyrrole-3,5-dicarboxylate (3h)**

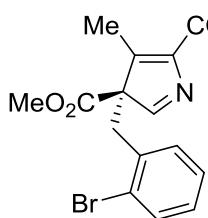


The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 1:1). Colorless syrup, 84% yield. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  8.06 (s, 1H), 7.13-7.08 (m, 2H), 7.03 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 3.62 (d,  $J$  = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 3.07 (d,  $J$  = 14.2 Hz, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.25 (s, 3H); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (125 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  170.1, 167.5, 162.8, 148.2, 141.6, 136.1, 133.1, 130.4, 129.2, 127.2, 125.5, 74.5, 53.1, 51.5, 33.4, 19.4, 11.5; **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for [C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>, M-H]<sup>-</sup>: 300.1241; found: 300.1233.

**Optical Rotation:**  $[\alpha]^{25}_D$  = 52.5 (c = 0.3, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). The absolute configuration of **3h** was assigned by analogy to **3a**. 96% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralpak IC column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 80:20, flow rate = 1 ml/min, wavelength = 254 nm, t<sub>R</sub> = 14.5 min for major isomer, t<sub>R</sub> = 15.8 min for minor isomer).



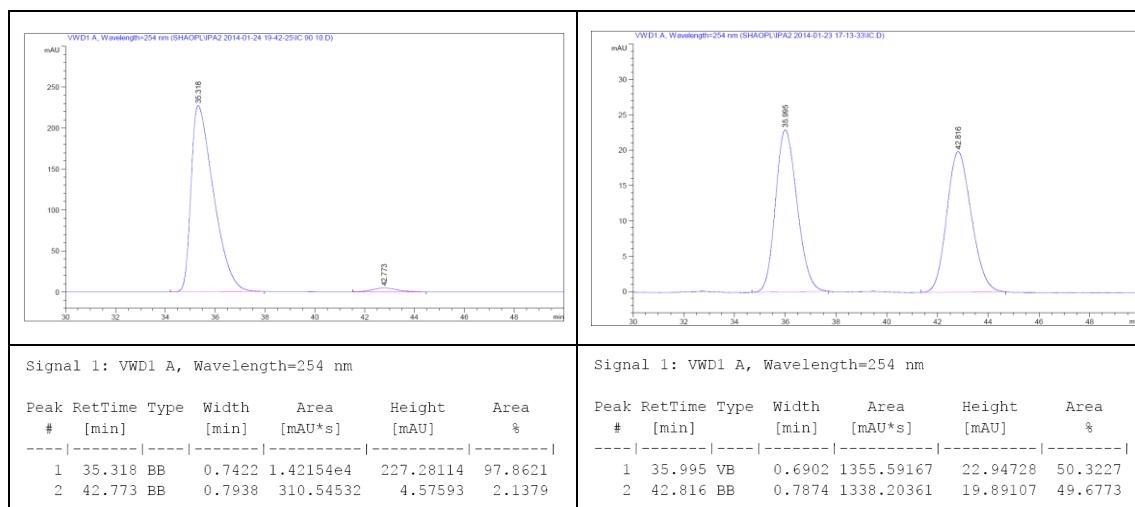
**(S)-dimethyl 3-(2-bromobenzyl)-4-methyl-3*H*-pyrrole-3,5-dicarboxylate (3i)**



The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 1:1). Colorless syrup, 90% yield. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  8.15 (s, 1H), 7.56 (dd,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.17-7.14 (m, 1H),

7.11 (dd,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (d,  $J$  = 14.0 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 3.35 (d,  $J$  = 14.0 Hz, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  169.1, 167.0, 162.7, 147.7, 142.0, 134.0, 132.8, 131.0, 129.4, 127.5, 124.4, 74.3, 53.3, 51.6, 36.0, 11.6; HRMS (ESI), m/z calcd. for [C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub>BrNNaO<sub>4</sub>, M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 388.0155; found: 388.0148.

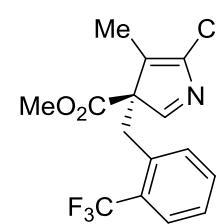
**Optical Rotation:**  $[\alpha]^{25}_{\text{D}} = 71.3$  ( $c = 0.4$ , CHCl<sub>3</sub>). The absolute configuration of **3i** was assigned by analogy to **3a**. 96% ee (HPLC condition: Chiraldak IC column, n-hexane/i-PrOH = 90:10, flow rate = 1 ml/min, wavelength = 254 nm, t<sub>R</sub> = 35.3 min for major isomer, t<sub>R</sub> = 42.8 min for minor isomer).



### (S)-dimethyl

#### 4-methyl-3-(2-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)-3*H*-pyrrole-3,5-dicarboxylate (3j)

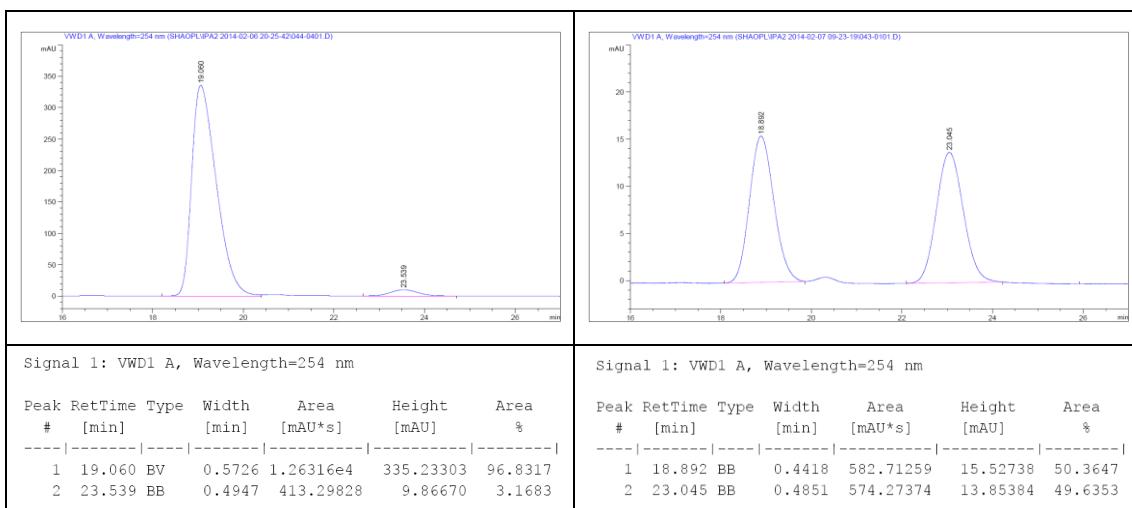
The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 1:1). Colorless syrup, 85% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  7.90 (s, 1H), 7.69 (d,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (d,  $J$  = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.35 (d,  $J$  = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  169.5, 167.1, 162.7, 148.1, 142.3, 133.2, 132.3, 130.3, 127.9, 127.1 (q,  $J$  = 29.2 Hz), 126.1 (q,  $J$  = 5.5 Hz), 124.3 (q,  $J$  = 272.4 Hz), 73.7, 53.4, 51.6, 31.7, 11.3;



**3j**

**<sup>19</sup>F NMR** (282 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  -56.90; **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for [C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>16</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>, M-H]<sup>+</sup>: 354.0959; found: 354.0952.

**Optical Rotation:**  $[\alpha]^{25}_D = -31.6$  (*c* = 0.3, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). The absolute configuration of **3j** was assigned by analogy to **3a**. 94% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralpak IC column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90:10, flow rate = 1 ml/min, wavelength = 254 nm, t<sub>R</sub> = 19.1 min for major isomer, t<sub>R</sub> = 23.5 min for minor isomer).

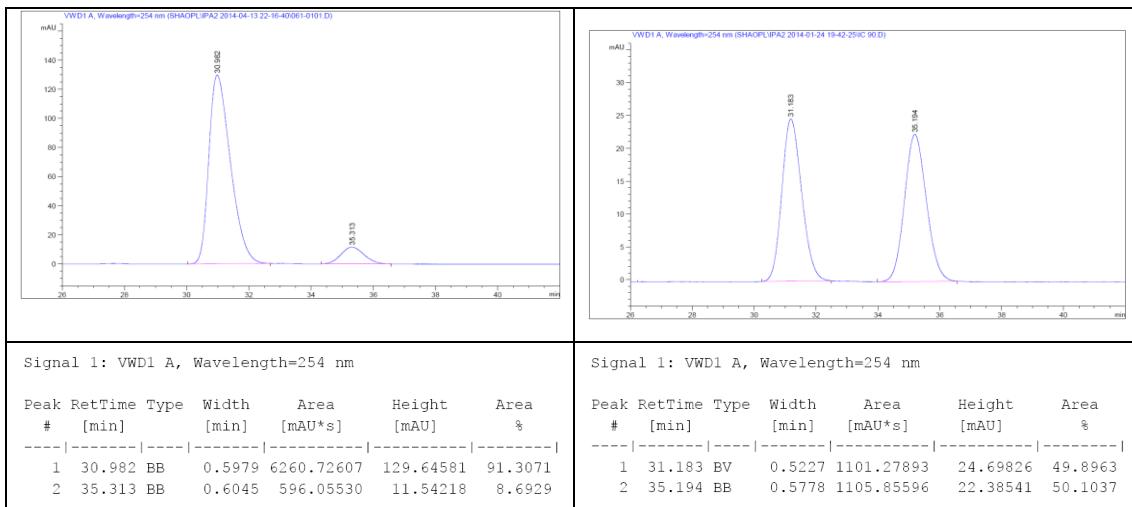


### (S)-dimethyl 3-allyl-4-methyl-3*H*-pyrrole-3,5-dicarboxylate (**3k**)

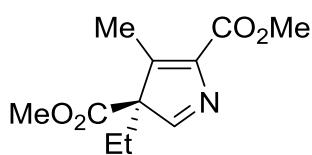
The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 1:1). Colorless syrup, 88% yield. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  8.11 (s, 1H), 5.30-5.22 (m, 1H), 5.12 (dd, *J* = 17.0 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 4.98-4.96 (m, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.61 (s, 3H), 2.99 (dd, *J* = 13.8 Hz, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 2.61 (dd, *J* = 13.8 Hz, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.16 (s, 3H); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (125 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  170.4, 167.1, 162.9, 148.4, 141.6, 130.5, 119.5, 73.3, 53.0, 51.5, 34.4, 11.0; **HRMS** (ESI), m/z calcd. for [C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NNaO<sub>4</sub>, M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 260.0893; found: 260.0900.

**Optical Rotation:**  $[\alpha]^{25}_D = 5.1$  (*c* = 0.2, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). The absolute configuration of **3k** was assigned by analogy to **3a**. 83% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralpak IC column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90:10, flow rate = 1 ml/min, wavelength = 254 nm, t<sub>R</sub> = 31.0 min

for major isomer,  $t_R = 35.3$  min for minor isomer).



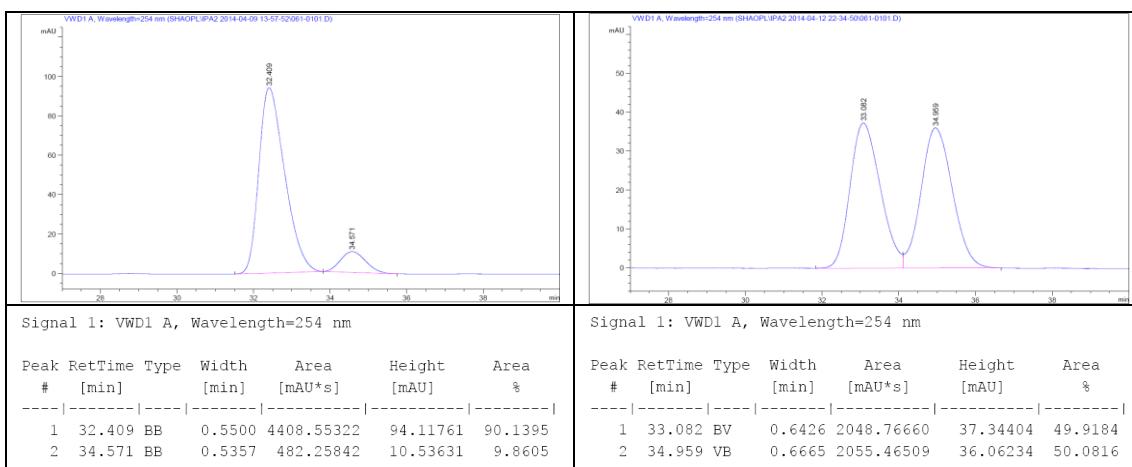
### (S)-dimethyl 3-ethyl-4-methyl-3*H*-pyrrole-3,5-dicarboxylate (**3l**)



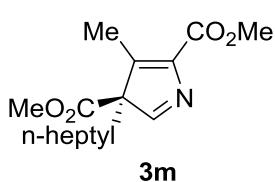
**3l**

The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 1:1). Colorless syrup, 73% yield. **1H NMR** (500 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  8.12 (s, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.61 (s, 3H), 2.31-2.24 (m, 1H), 2.14 (s, 3H), 1.88-1.81 (m, 1H), 0.58 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 3H); **13C NMR** (125 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  171.0, 167.7, 162.9, 148.5, 141.5, 74.3, 52.9, 51.5, 23.9, 10.8, 7.9; **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for [C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NNaO<sub>4</sub>, M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 248.0893; found: 248.0905.

**Optical Rotation:**  $[\alpha]^{25}_D = 6.5$  ( $c = 0.2$ , CHCl<sub>3</sub>). The absolute configuration of **3l** was assigned by analogy to **3a**. 80% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralpak IC column, n-hexane/i-PrOH = 90:10, flow rate = 1 ml/min, wavelength = 254 nm,  $t_R = 32.4$  min for major isomer,  $t_R = 34.6$  min for minor isomer).

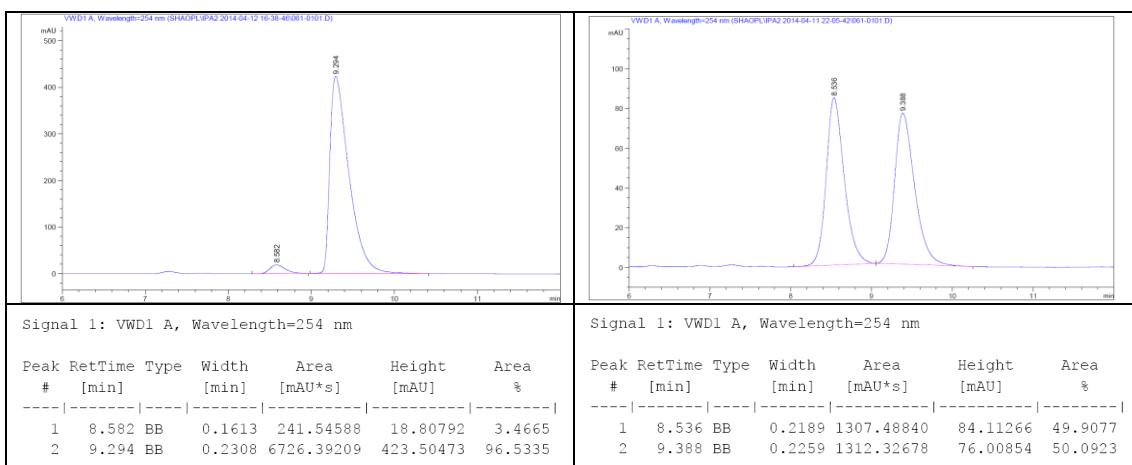


**(S)-dimethyl 3-heptyl-4-methyl-3*H*-pyrrole-3,5-dicarboxylate (**3m**)**

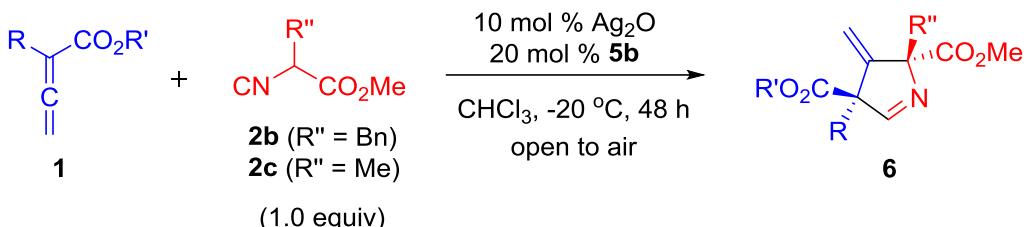


The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 1:1). Colorless syrup, 89% yield. **1H NMR** (500 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  8.14 (s, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.61 (s, 3H), 2.24-2.18 (m, 1H), 2.15 (s, 3H), 1.81-1.75 (m, 1H), 1.25-1.18 (m, 8H), 0.91-0.86 (m, 2H), 0.83 (t,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 3H); **13C NMR** (125 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  171.1, 167.6, 162.9, 148.6, 141.3, 73.9, 52.9, 51.5, 31.1, 30.6, 28.9, 28.2, 23.2, 22.0, 13.8, 10.9; **HRMS** (ESI), m/z calcd. for [C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>25</sub>NNaO<sub>4</sub>, M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 318.1676; found: 318.1679.

**Optical Rotation:**  $[\alpha]^{25}_D$  = +21.1 (c = 0.3, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). The absolute configuration of **3m** was assigned by analogy to **3a**. 93% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralcel IB column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95:5, flow rate = 1 ml/min, wavelength = 254 nm, t<sub>R</sub> = 8.6 min for minor isomer, t<sub>R</sub> = 9.3 min for major isomer).



## IV. Ag-Catalyzed enantioselective cyclization of substituted isocyanoacetate



**General procedure.** To a 10 mL vial charged with **5b** (12 mg, 0.020 mmol) and  $\text{Ag}_2\text{O}$  (2.3 mg, 0.010 mmol) was added anhydrous  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (0.5 mL). The mixture was allowed to stir at ambient temperature for 5 min, then allenolate **1** (0.10 mmol) was added in one portion. After the mixture was cooled to  $-20^\circ\text{C}$ , isocyanoacetate **2b** or **2c** (0.10 mmol) in anhydrous  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (0.5 mL) was added via syringe pump over 2 h. The reaction mixture was stirred at  $-20^\circ\text{C}$  for 48 h, concentrated and purified by flash chromatography (hexanes/ethyl acetate) to afford the product **6**. The pure major diastereomer was isolated and characterized.

## V. Characterization of compounds **6**

### (2*R*,4*S*)-dimethyl

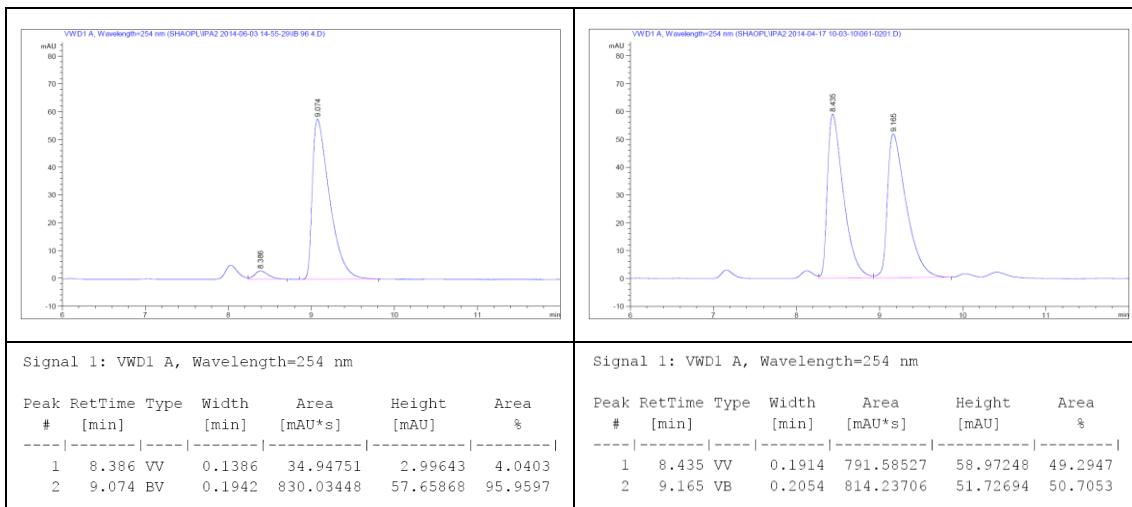
#### 2,4-dibenzyl-3-methylene-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-pyrrole-2,4-dicarboxylate (**6a**)

**6a**

6:1 dr (of crude). The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 3:1). White solid, 85% yield. **MP:** 87-89 °C; **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  7.65 (s, 1H), 7.23-7.18 (m, 3H), 7.17-7.14 (m, 3H), 7.01-6.98 (m, 4H), 5.65 (s, 1H), 5.60 (s, 1H), 3.36 (s, 3H), 3.32 (s, 3H), 3.31 (d,  $J = 15.1$  Hz, 1H), 3.26 (d,  $J = 13.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.00 (d,  $J = 13.9$  Hz, 1H), 2.91 (d,  $J = 13.3$  Hz, 1H); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (125 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  170.9,

170.1, 166.9, 147.3, 135.3, 135.2, 130.8, 130.0, 128.0, 127.3, 126.7, 126.2, 112.5, 84.9, 66.4, 52.6, 52.4, 44.1, 42.7; **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for [C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>24</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>, M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 378.1700; found: 378.1711.

**Optical Rotation:**  $[\alpha]^{25}_D = 51.6$  (c = 1.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). 92% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralpak IB column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 96:4, flow rate = 1 ml/min, wavelength = 254 nm, t<sub>R</sub> = 8.4 min for minor isomer, t<sub>R</sub> = 9.1 min for major isomer).



The *trans* relative configuration of **6a** was determined by the NOE (Figure S1), and reconfirmed by X-ray crystallographic analysis of a single crystal of **6a** (Figure S2).

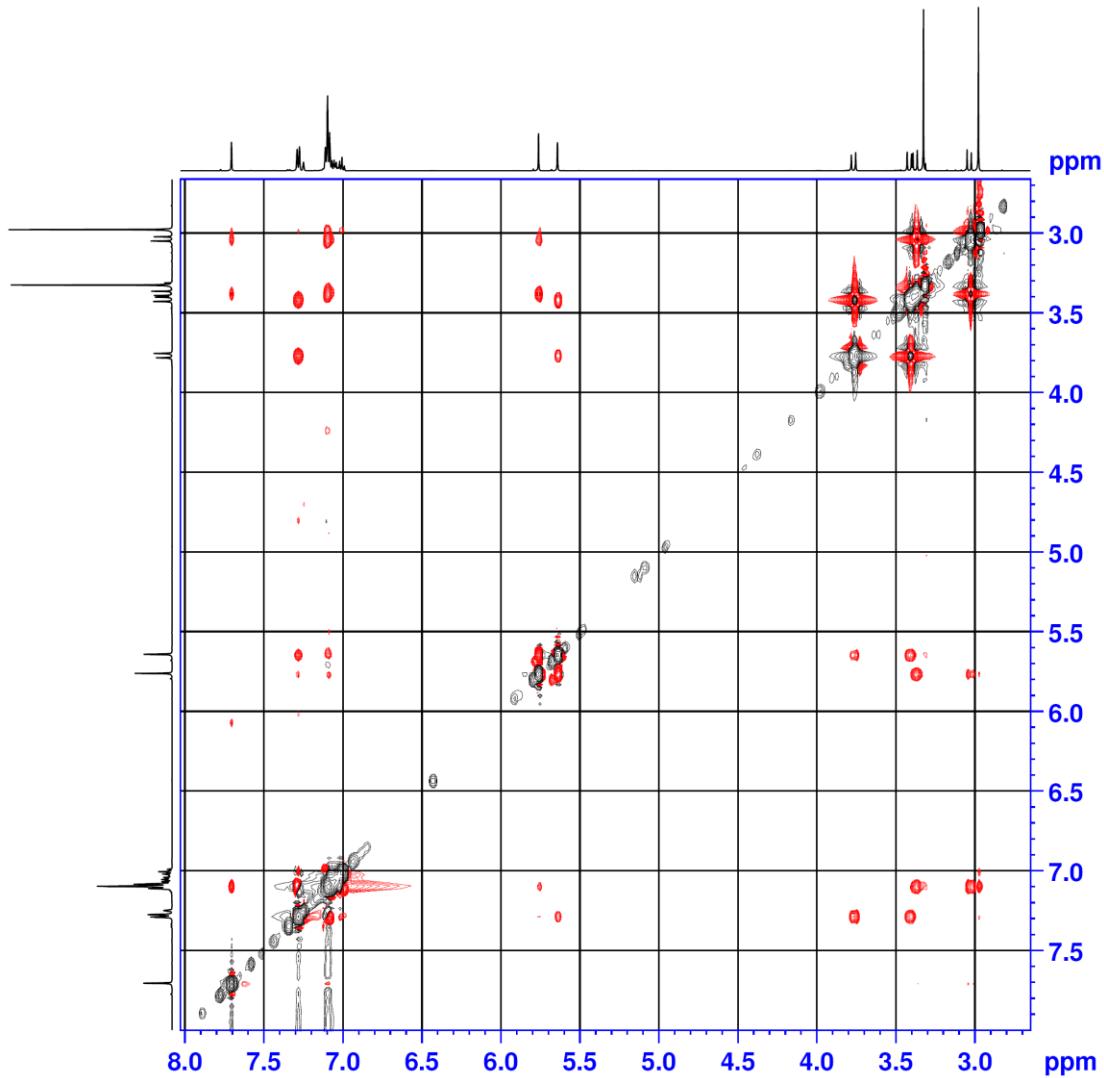
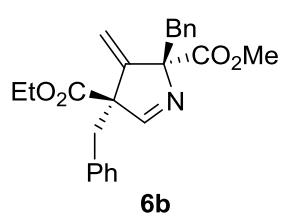


Figure S1. NOESY spectra of **6a**.

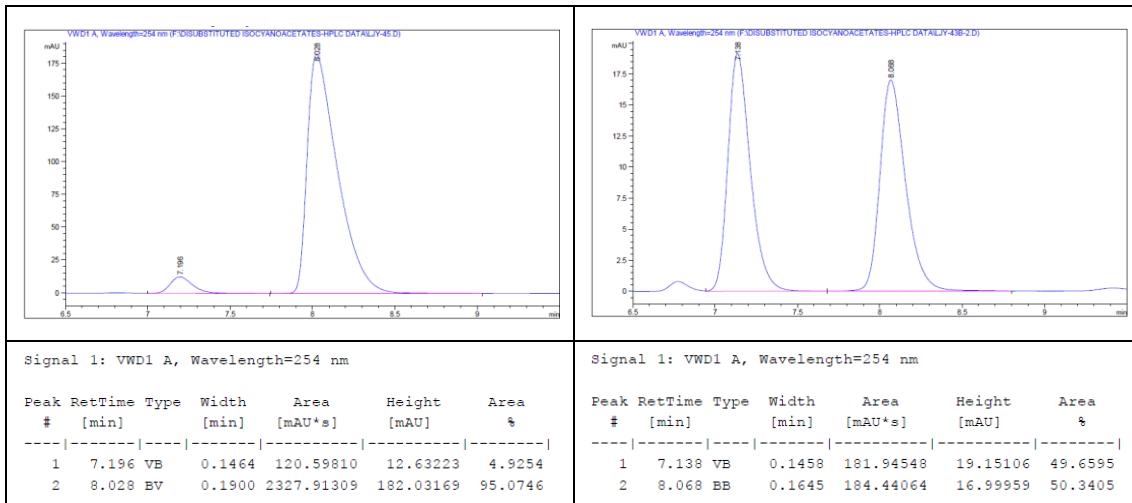
**(2*R*,4*S*)-4-ethyl-2-methyl-2,4-dibenzyl-3-methylene-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-pyrrole-2,4-dicarboxylate (**6b**)**



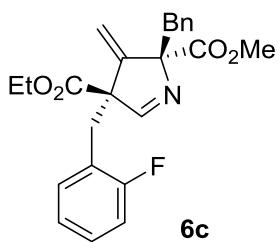
11:1 dr (of crude). The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 3:1). Colorless wax, 90% yield. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.23-7.01 (m, 10H), 5.74 (s, 1H), 5.71 (s, 1H), 3.99-3.88 (m, 1H), 3.75-3.65 (m, 1H), 3.52 (s, 3H), 3.43 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 3.29 (d, *J* = 13.4 Hz, 1H), 3.10 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 2.92 (d, *J* = 13.4 Hz, 1H), 1.03 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 171.6, 170.0, 167.5, 147.5, 135.3, 135.1, 131.2, 130.1, 128.2, 127.5, 126.9, 126.4, 112.9, 85.3, 66.7, 61.6, 52.7, 45.0, 44.4, 13.7; **HRMS**

(ESI): m/z calcd. for  $[C_{24}H_{26}NO_4, M+H]^+$ : 392.1856; found: 392.1867.

**Optical Rotation:**  $[\alpha]^{23}_D = 38.2$  ( $c = 0.5$ ,  $CHCl_3$ ). The absolute configuration of **6b** was assigned by analogy to **6a**. 90% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralpak IB column,  $n$ -hexane/ $i$ -PrOH = 96:4, flow rate = 1 ml/min, wavelength = 254 nm,  $t_R = 7.2$  min for minor isomer,  $t_R = 8.0$  min for major isomer).

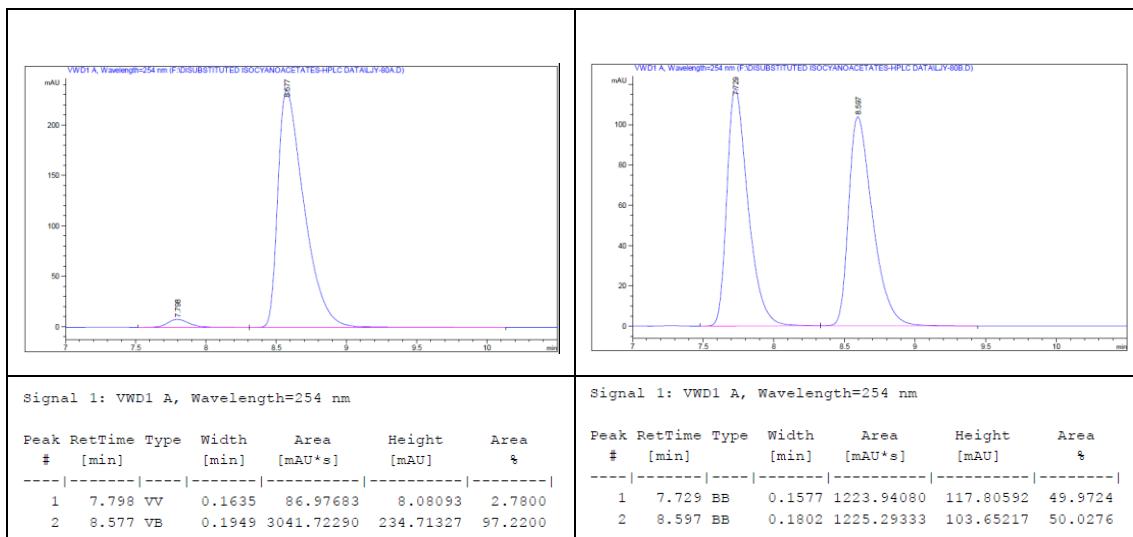


**(2*R*,4*S*)-4-ethyl 2-methyl 2-benzyl-4-(2-fluorobenzyl)-3-methylene-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-pyrrole-2,4-dicarboxylate (6c)**

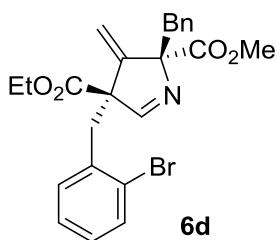


8:1 dr (of crude). The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 3:1). Colorless wax, 78% yield. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.69 (d,  $J = 2.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.20-6.90 (m, 9H), 5.78 (s, 1H), 5.71 (s, 1H), 4.03-3.92 (m, 1H), 3.84-3.73 (m, 1H), 3.46-3.27 (m, 5H), 3.12-2.99 (m, 2H), 1.10 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (75 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  171.6, 169.8, 166.9, 161.1 (d,  $J = 246.2$  Hz), 147.0, 135.3, 132.7 (d,  $J = 4.1$  Hz), 131.1, 129.0 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz), 127.6, 126.5, 123.7 (d,  $J = 3.7$  Hz), 122.3 (d,  $J = 15.8$  Hz), 115.4 (d,  $J = 22.5$  Hz), 113.4, 85.3, 66.7, 61.8, 52.7, 45.5, 36.3, 13.7; **HRMS (ESI):** m/z calcd. for  $[C_{24}H_{25}FNO_4, M+H]^+$ : 410.1762; found: 410.1777.

**Optical Rotation:**  $[\alpha]^{25}_D = 37.6$  ( $c = 0.3$ ,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ). The absolute configuration of **6c** was assigned by analogy to **6a**. 94% ee (HPLC condition: Chiraldak IB column,  $n\text{-hexane}/i\text{-PrOH} = 96:4$ , flow rate = 1 ml/min, wavelength = 254 nm,  $t_R = 7.8$  min for minor isomer,  $t_R = 8.6$  min for major isomer).



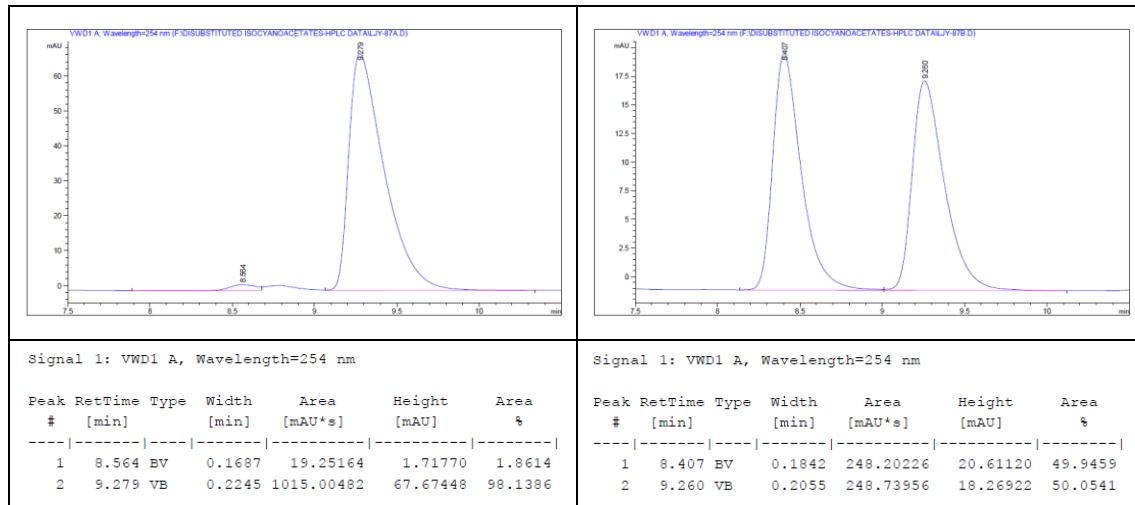
**(2*R*,4*S*)-4-ethyl  
2-benzyl-4-(2-bromobenzyl)-3-methylene-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-pyrrole-2,4-dicarboxyl  
ate (6d)**



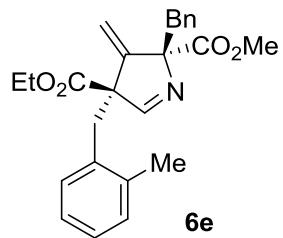
7:1 dr (of crude). The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 3:1). Colorless wax, 70% yield. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.77 (s, 1H), 7.56-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.16-7.06 (m, 8H), 5.78 (d,  $J = 3.3$  Hz, 2H), 4.02-3.91 (m, 1H), 3.78-3.66 (m, 1H), 3.52 (s, 3H), 3.45 (dd,  $J = 13.6, 6.2$  Hz, 2H), 3.24 (d,  $J = 13.7$  Hz, 1H), 3.10 (d,  $J = 13.5$  Hz, 1H), 1.06 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  171.6, 169.9, 166.8, 147.4, 135.2, 133.1, 132.0, 131.1, 128.7, 127.5, 127.1, 126.4, 125.4, 113.5, 85.2, 77.2, 66.8, 61.8, 52.6, 45.2, 42.9, 13.7; **HRMS** (ESI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $[\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{25}\text{BrNO}_4, \text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 470.0961; found: 470.0964.

**Optical Rotation:**  $[\alpha]^{22}_D = 22.1$  ( $c = 0.3$ ,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ). The absolute configuration of **6d** was assigned by analogy to **6a**. 96% ee (HPLC condition: Chiraldak IB column,

*n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 96:4, flow rate = 1 ml/min, wavelength = 254 nm,  $t_R$  = 8.6 min for minor isomer,  $t_R$  = 9.3 min for major isomer).

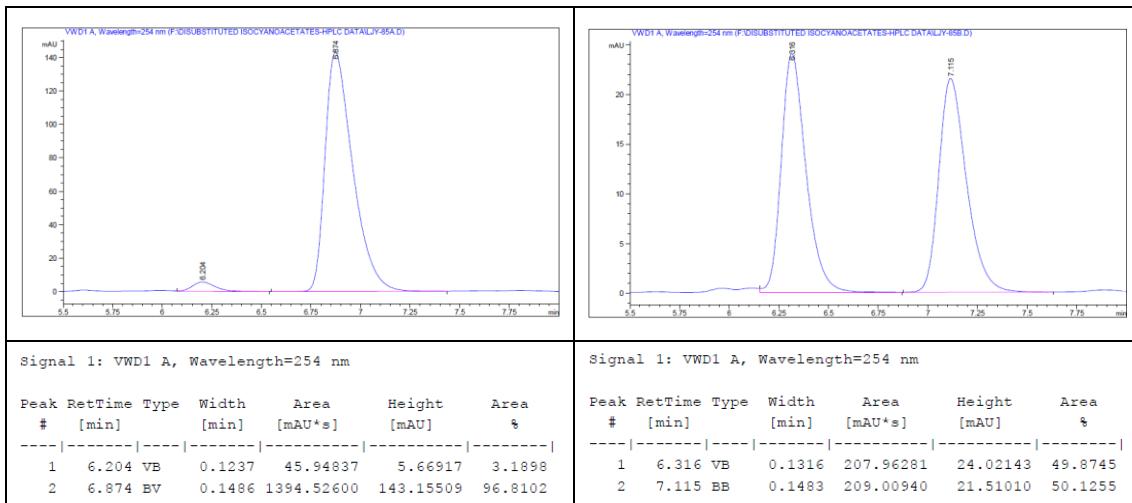


**(2*R*,4*S*)-4-ethyl  
2-methyl  
2-benzyl-4-(2-methylbenzyl)-3-methylene-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-pyrrole-2,4-dicarboxyl  
ate (6e)**

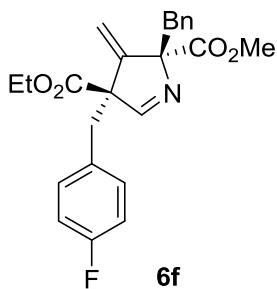


>20:1 dr (of crude). The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 4:1). Colorless wax, 67% yield. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.52 (s, 1H), 7.22-6.98 (m, 9H), 5.75 (s, 1H), 5.69 (s, 1H), 4.00-3.89 (m, 1H), 3.72-3.55 (m, 4H), 3.48 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 3.30 (d, *J* = 13.8 Hz, 1H), 3.15 (d, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 3.02 (d, *J* = 13.8 Hz, 1H), 2.25 (s, 3H), 1.02 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  171.8, 170.3, 168.0, 148.3, 136.6, 135.3, 133.9, 131.3, 130.6, 130.2, 127.5, 127.2, 126.4, 125.8, 112.7, 85.3, 66.7, 61.6, 52.7, 44.4, 41.3, 19.7, 13.7; **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for [C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>28</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>, M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 406.2013; found: 406.2024.

**Optical Rotation:**  $[\alpha]^{24}_D = 36.5$  (*c* = 0.3, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). The absolute configuration of **6e** was assigned by analogy to **6a**. 94% ee (HPLC condition: Chiraldak IB column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 96:4, flow rate = 1 ml/min, wavelength = 254 nm,  $t_R$  = 6.2 min for minor isomer,  $t_R$  = 6.9 min for major isomer).

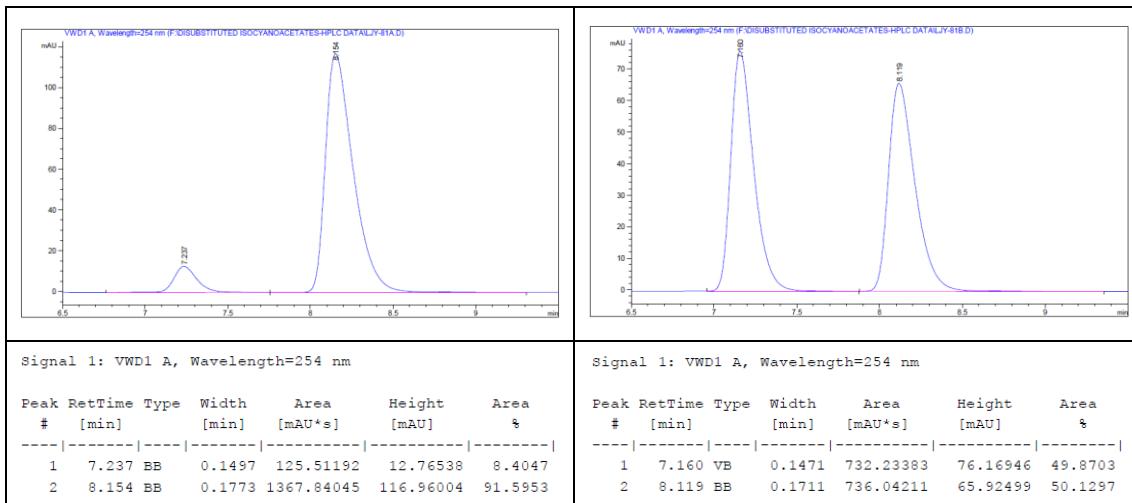


**(2*R*,4*S*)-4-ethyl  
2-methyl  
2-benzyl-4-(4-fluorobenzyl)-3-methylene-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-pyrrole-2,4-dicarboxyla  
te (**6f**)**

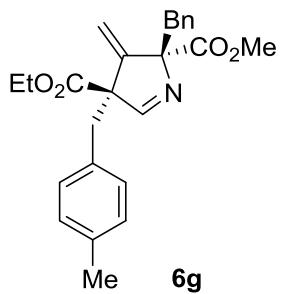


8:1 dr (of crude). The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 3:1). Colorless wax, 87% yield.  **$^1\text{H NMR}$**  (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.62 (s, 1H), 7.21-6.97 (m, 7H), 6.92-6.86 (m, 2H), 5.75 (s, 1H), 5.69 (s, 1H), 4.00-3.90 (m, 1H), 3.80-3.66 (m, 1H), 3.52 (s, 3H), 3.42 (d,  $J = 13.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.26 (d,  $J = 13.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.08 (d,  $J = 13.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.92 (d,  $J = 13.6$  Hz, 1H), 1.06 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H);  **$^{13}\text{C NMR}$**  (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  171.6, 169.9, 167.2, 162.0 (d,  $J = 245.5$  Hz), 147.3, 135.2, 131.8 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz), 131.1, 130.9 (d,  $J = 3.3$  Hz), 127.6, 126.5, 115.1 (d,  $J = 21.3$  Hz), 113.1, 85.4, 66.8, 61.7, 52.7, 45.3, 43.3, 13.8; **HRMS (ESI)**: m/z calcd. for  $[\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{25}\text{FNO}_4, \text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 410.1762; found: 410.1769.

**Optical Rotation:**  $[\alpha]^{25}_{\text{D}} = 23.1$  ( $c = 0.4$ ,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ). The absolute configuration of **6f** was assigned by analogy to **6a**. 83% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralpak IB column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 96:4, flow rate = 1 ml/min, wavelength = 254 nm,  $t_{\text{R}} = 7.2$  min for minor isomer,  $t_{\text{R}} = 8.2$  min for major isomer).

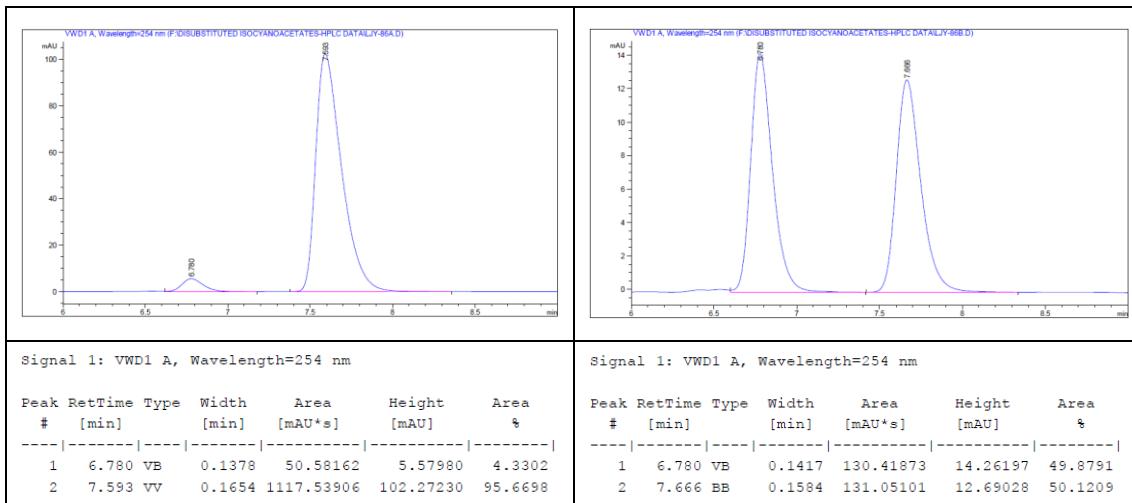


**(2*R*,4*S*)-4-ethyl 2-methyl 2-benzyl-4-(4-methylbenzyl)-3-methylene-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-pyrrole-2,4-dicarboxyl ate (6g)**

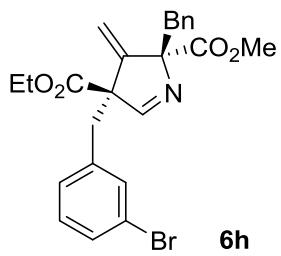


7:1 dr (of crude). The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 4:1). Colorless wax, 58% yield. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.19-7.05 (m, 5H), 7.01 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 5.73 (s, 1H), 5.70 (s, 1H), 3.99-3.89 (m, 1H), 3.77-3.66 (m, 1H), 3.51 (s, 3H), 3.42 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 3.25 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 3.09 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 2.88 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 1.05 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 171.7, 170.1, 167.7, 147.6, 136.5, 135.3, 132.0, 131.2, 130.0, 128.9, 127.6, 126.4, 112.8, 85.3, 66.8, 61.6, 52.7, 45.1, 44.0, 21.0, 13.7; **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for [C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>28</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>, M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 406.2013; found: 406.2020.

**Optical Rotation:** [α]<sup>24</sup><sub>D</sub> = 50.1 (c = 0.2, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). The absolute configuration of **6g** was assigned by analogy to **6a**. 91% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralpak IB column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 96:4, flow rate = 1 ml/min, wavelength = 254 nm, t<sub>R</sub> = 6.8 min for minor isomer, t<sub>R</sub> = 7.6 min for major isomer).

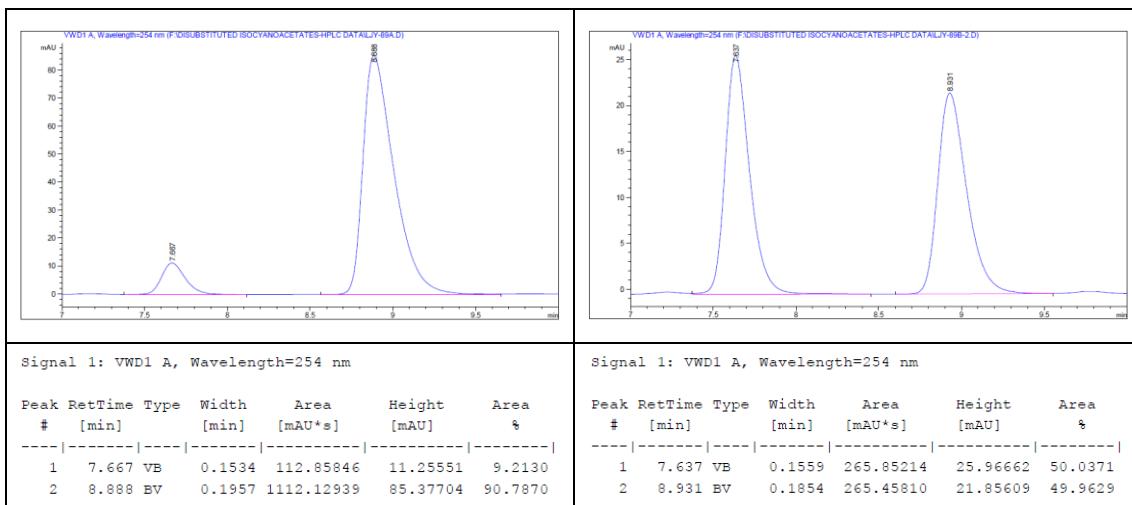


**(2*R*,4*S*)-4-ethyl 2-methyl 2-benzyl-4-(3-bromobenzyl)-3-methylene-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-pyrrole-2,4-dicarboxyl ate (6h)**

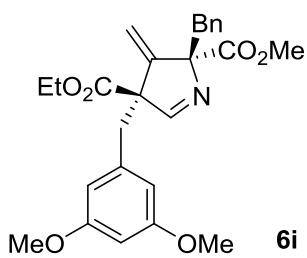


10:1 dr (of crude). The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 3:1). Colorless wax, 74% yield. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.61 (s, 1H), 7.36-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.20-7.19 (m, 1H), 7.17-7.04 (m, 6H), 7.00-6.97 (m, 1H), 5.75 (s, 1H), 5.70 (s, 1H), 4.02-3.91 (m, 1H), 3.77-3.66 (m, 1H), 3.56 (s, 3H), 3.44 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 3.25 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 3.10 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 2.88 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 1.06 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 171.5, 169.8, 167.0, 147.3, 137.5, 135.2, 133.0, 131.2, 130.2, 129.8, 128.9, 127.6, 126.5, 122.3, 113.1, 85.4, 66.6, 61.8, 52.8, 45.0, 43.7, 13.8; **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for [C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>25</sub>BrNO<sub>4</sub>, M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 470.0961; found: 470.0974.

**Optical Rotation:** [α]<sup>22</sup><sub>D</sub> = 29.8 (c = 0.4, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). The absolute configuration of **6h** was assigned by analogy to **6a**. 82% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralpak IB column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 96:4, flow rate = 1 ml/min, wavelength = 254 nm, t<sub>R</sub> = 7.7 min for minor isomer, t<sub>R</sub> = 8.9 min for major isomer).

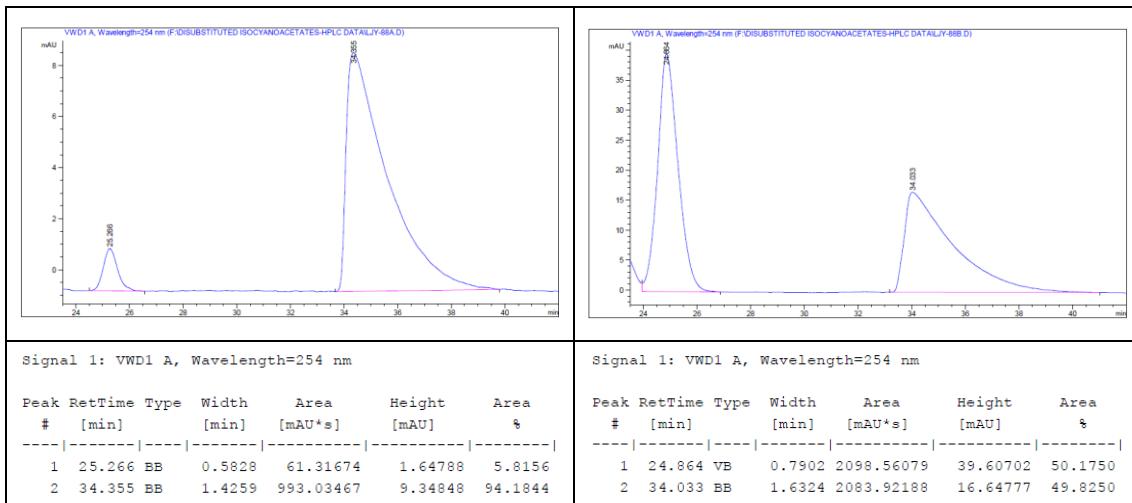


**(2*R*,4*S*)-4-ethyl *2-methyl*  
2-benzyl-4-(3,5-dimethoxybenzyl)-3-methylene-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-pyrrole-2,4-dicar  
boxylate (**6i**)**

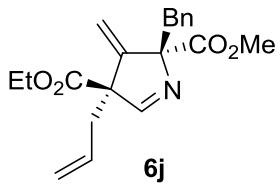


11:1 dr (of crude). The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 3:1). Colorless wax, 86% yield. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.64 (s, 1H), 7.17-7.12 (m, 3H), 7.10-7.06 (m, 2H), 6.28 (t, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.19 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 2H), 5.74 (s, 1H), 5.72 (s, 1H), 3.98-3.92 (m, 1H), 3.73-3.69 (m, 7H), 3.58 (s, 3H), 3.44 (d, J = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 3.23 (d, J = 13.4 Hz, 1H), 3.10 (d, J = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 2.85 (d, J = 13.4 Hz, 1H), 1.05 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 171.8, 170.0, 167.6, 160.6, 147.8, 137.4, 135.3, 131.2, 127.6, 126.5, 112.9, 108.0, 99.2, 85.4, 66.6, 61.6, 55.2, 52.7, 45.1, 44.8, 13.8; **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for [C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>30</sub>NO<sub>6</sub>, M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 452.2068; found: 452.2084.

**Optical Rotation:** [α]<sup>23</sup><sub>D</sub> = 52.5 (c = 0.2, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). The absolute configuration of **6i** was assigned by analogy to **6a**. 88% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralpak IE column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90:10, flow rate = 1 ml/min, wavelength = 254 nm, t<sub>R</sub> = 25.3 min for minor isomer, t<sub>R</sub> = 34.4 min for major isomer).

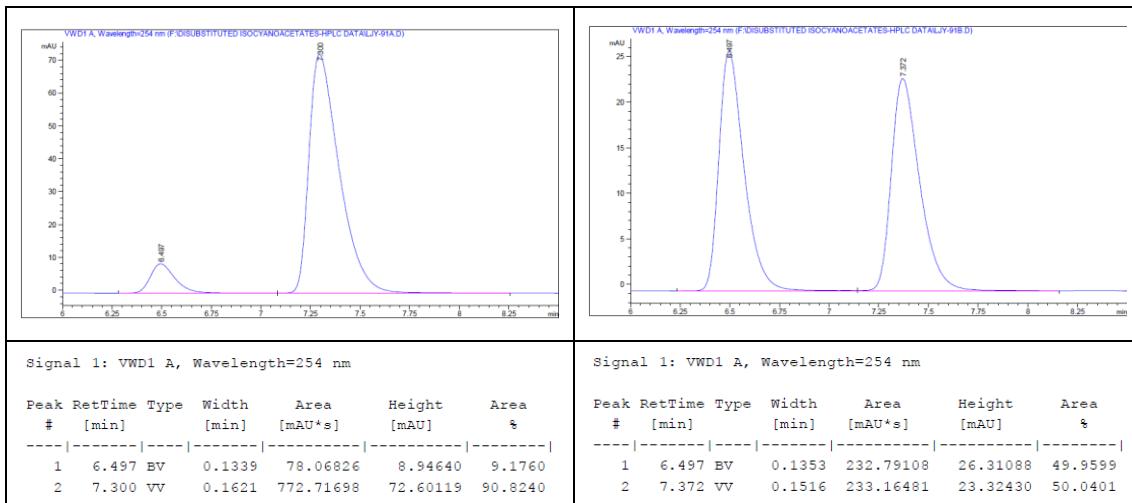


**(2*R*,4*S*)-4-ethyl  
2-methyl  
4-allyl-2-benzyl-3-methylene-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-pyrrole-2,4-dicarboxylate (6j)**

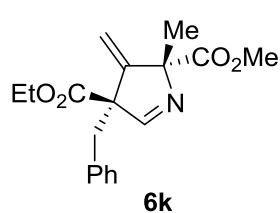


4:1 dr (of crude). The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 3:1). Colorless wax, 67% yield. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.69 (s, 1H), 7.18-7.09 (m, 5H), 5.71-5.47 (m, 3H), 5.11-5.06 (m, 1H), 5.04-4.99 (m, 1H), 4.02-3.91 (m, 1H), 3.82-3.64 (m, 4H), 3.46 (d, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 3.16 (d, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 2.66 (dd, *J* = 13.8, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 2.37 (dd, *J* = 13.8, 7.7 Hz, 1H), 1.11 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 171.7, 169.8, 167.7, 147.4, 135.3, 131.7, 131.2, 127.6, 126.5, 119.5, 112.5, 85.5, 65.5, 61.6, 52.6, 44.7, 42.6, 13.8; **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for [C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>24</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>, M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 342.1700; found: 342.1710.

**Optical Rotation:** [α]<sup>22</sup><sub>D</sub> = 20.3 (c = 0.2, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). The absolute configuration of **6j** was assigned by analogy to **6a**. 82% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralpak IB column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 96:4, flow rate = 1 ml/min, wavelength = 254 nm, t<sub>R</sub> = 6.5 min for minor isomer, t<sub>R</sub> = 7.3 min for major isomer).

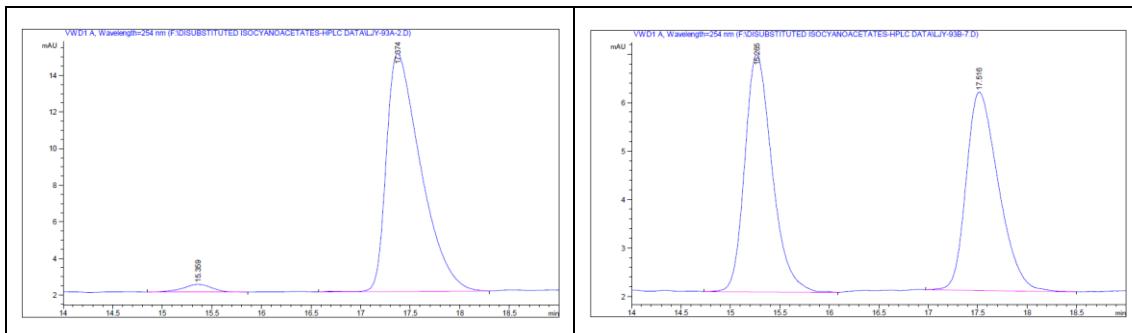


**(2*R*,4*S*)-4-ethyl  
2-methyl  
4-benzyl-2-methyl-3-methylene-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-pyrrole-2,4-dicarboxylate (6k)**



11:1 dr (of crude). The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 3:1). Colorless wax, 79% yield. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.62 (s, 1H), 7.32-7.20 (m, 3H), 7.18-7.08 (m, 2H), 5.49 (s, 2H), 4.23-4.03 (m, 2H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 3.42 (d, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (d, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 1.55 (s, 3H), 1.18 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 172.2, 170.4, 166.8, 150.6, 135.5, 130.2, 128.3, 127.0, 111.1, 81.5, 67.0, 61.7, 52.8, 43.2, 26.2, 13.9; **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for [C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>, M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 316.1543; found: 316.1550.

**Optical Rotation:** [α]<sup>23</sup><sub>D</sub> = -55.8 (c = 0.3, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). The absolute configuration of **6k** was assigned by analogy to **6a**. 94% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralpak IE column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90:10, flow rate = 1 ml/min, wavelength = 254 nm, t<sub>R</sub> = 15.4 min for minor isomer, t<sub>R</sub> = 17.4 min for major isomer).



Signal 1: VWD1 A, Wavelength=254 nm						
Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area [mAU*s]	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	15.359	BB	0.3102	8.88352	4.31435e-1	2.7630
2	17.374	BB	0.3624	312.63379	12.98800	97.2370

Signal 1: VWD1 A, Wavelength=254 nm						
Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area [mAU*s]	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	15.265	BB	0.2972	94.05493	4.89152	50.3094
2	17.516	BB	0.3494	92.89819	4.09208	49.6906

## VI. X-ray crystallographic analysis and determination of configuration of **6a**

The absolute configuration of **6a** (**2R, 4S**) was assigned by X-ray crystallographic analysis of a single crystal of **6a** (Figure S2). The crystal was prepared from the solution of **6a** in hexanes/ethyl acetate (8:1) at ambient temperature.

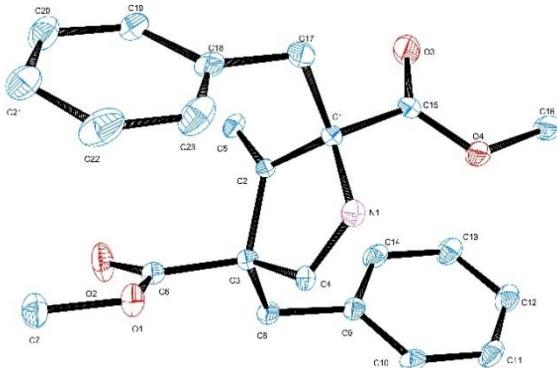


Figure S2. X-ray structure of **6a**

Table S1. Crystal data and structure refinement for e477

Identification code	e477
Empirical formula	C <sub>23</sub> H <sub>23</sub> NO <sub>4</sub>
Formula weight	377.42
Temperature	100(2) K
Wavelength	1.54178 Å
Crystal system	Monoclinic
Space group	P 21
Unit cell dimensions	a = 9.2073(5) Å      α= 90°

	$b = 8.4035(4) \text{ \AA}$	$\beta = 90.524(2)^\circ$
	$c = 12.6305(7) \text{ \AA}$	$\gamma = 90^\circ$
Volume	$977.23(9) \text{ \AA}^3$	
Z	2	
Density (calculated)	$1.283 \text{ Mg/m}^3$	
Absorption coefficient	$0.711 \text{ mm}^{-1}$	
F(000)	400	
Crystal size	$0.329 \times 0.025 \times 0.014 \text{ mm}^3$	
Theta range for data collection	3.499 to $72.628^\circ$	
Index ranges	$-9 \leq h \leq 11, -10 \leq k \leq 10, -15 \leq l \leq 15$	
Reflections collected	12788	
Independent reflections	3778 [ $R(\text{int}) = 0.0558$ ]	
Completeness to theta = $67.679^\circ$	99.0 %	
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on $F^2$	
Data / restraints / parameters	3778 / 1 / 323	
Goodness-of-fit on $F^2$	1.074	
Final R indices [ $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ]	$R_1 = 0.0516, wR_2 = 0.1349$	
R indices (all data)	$R_1 = 0.0518, wR_2 = 0.1352$	
Absolute structure parameter	0.32(9)	
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.409 and $-0.248 \text{ e.\AA}^{-3}$	

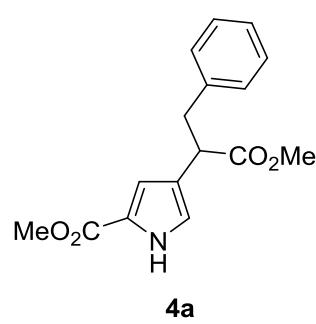
## VII. Pyrrole synthesis by PPh<sub>3</sub>-catalyzed [3+2] cyclization of 1 and 2



**General procedure.** To a 4 mL vial charged with PPh<sub>3</sub> (3.2 mg, 0.012 mmol) was added anhydrous CHCl<sub>3</sub> (0.5 mL). Allenoate **1** (0.12 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and activated isocyanide **2** (0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) were added in one portion. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir at ambient temperature for the given time and then concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (hexanes/ethyl acetate) to afford the product **4**.

## VIII. Characterization of compounds **4**

### Methyl 4-(1-methoxy-1-oxo-3-phenylpropan-2-yl)-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (**4a**)

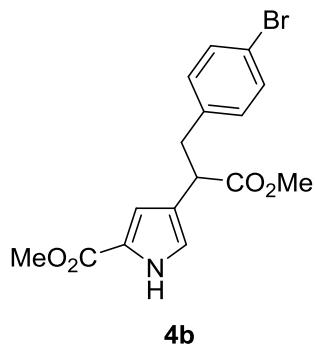


The general procedure outlined above was followed (using 1.0 equiv of allenoate, 24 h). The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 3:1). Colorless wax, 90% yield. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.42 (br s, 1H), 7.28-7.16 (m, 3H), 7.16-7.09 (m, 2H), 6.92-6.86 (m, 1H), 6.81 (dd, *J* = 2.8, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 3.86-3.79 (m, 4H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 3.30 (dd, *J* = 13.6, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 3.01 (dd, *J* = 13.6, 7.0 Hz, 1H); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 174.1, 161.6, 138.9, 128.8, 128.3, 126.3, 122.9, 122.5, 121.3, 114.3, 51.9, 51.5, 46.0, 39.8; **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for [C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>, M-H]<sup>-</sup>: 286.1085; found: 286.1078.

## Methyl

### 4-(3-(4-bromophenyl)-1-methoxy-1-oxopropan-2-yl)-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate

(4b)



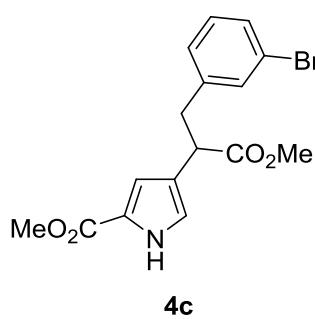
**4b**

The general procedure outlined above was followed (17 h). The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 3:1). Colorless wax, 90% yield. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.17 (br s, 1H), 7.40-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.02-6.95 (m, 2H), 6.90-6.84 (m, 1H), 6.79 (dd, *J* = 2.8, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.80-3.73 (m, 1H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 3.24 (dd, *J* = 13.7, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.95 (dd, *J* = 13.7, 7.2 Hz, 1H); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 173.9, 161.4, 137.9, 131.4, 130.6, 122.7, 122.6, 121.2, 120.3, 114.2, 52.0, 51.5, 45.8, 39.1; **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for [C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>15</sub>BrNO<sub>4</sub>, M-H]<sup>+</sup>: 364.0190; found: 364.0188.

## Methyl

### 4-(3-(3-bromophenyl)-1-methoxy-1-oxopropan-2-yl)-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate

(4c)



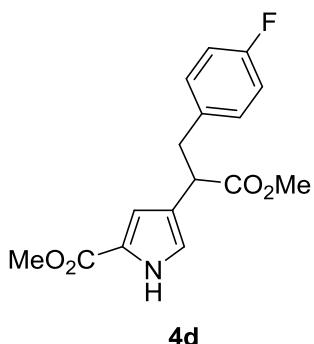
**4c**

The general procedure outlined above was followed (17 h). The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 3:1). Colorless wax, 90% yield. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.30 (br s, 1H), 7.35-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.13-7.00 (m, 2H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 6.81 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 3.86-3.74 (m, 4H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 3.26 (dd, *J* = 13.7, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.96 (dd, *J* = 13.7, 7.0 Hz, 1H); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 173.8, 161.5, 141.3, 131.9, 129.8, 129.5, 127.6, 122.7, 122.6, 122.3, 121.2, 114.1, 52.0, 51.5, 45.7, 39.3; **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for [C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>15</sub>BrNO<sub>4</sub>, M-H]<sup>+</sup>: 364.0190; found: 364.0186.

## Methyl

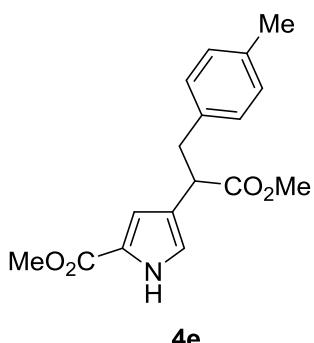
### 4-(3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-methoxy-1-oxopropan-2-yl)-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate

**(4d)**



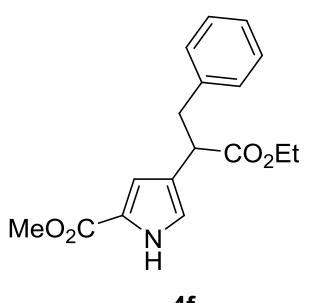
The general procedure outlined above was followed (17 h). The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 3:1). Colorless wax, 94% yield. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.21 (br s, 1H), 7.10-7.02 (m, 2H), 6.97-6.89 (m, 2H), 6.88-6.84 (m, 1H), 6.82-6.78 (m, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.80-3.73 (m, 1H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 3.25 (dd, *J* = 13.7, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (dd, *J* = 13.7, 7.1 Hz, 1H); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 174.0, 161.5 (d, *J* = 242.7 Hz), 161.4, 134.6 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz), 130.3 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 122.8, 122.6, 121.2, 115.1 (d, *J* = 21.3 Hz), 114.2, 52.0, 51.5, 46.1, 39.0; **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for [C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>6</sub>, M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 430.1973; found: 430.1981.

**Methyl 4-(1-methoxy-1-oxo-3-(*p*-tolyl)propan-2-yl)-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (4e)**



The general procedure outlined above was followed (17 h). The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 3:1). Colorless wax, 91% yield. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.26 (br s, 1H), 7.10-6.97 (m, 4H), 6.93-6.86 (m, 1H), 6.82 (dd, *J* = 2.8, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 3.87-3.75 (m, 4H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 3.26 (dd, *J* = 13.7, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (dd, *J* = 13.7, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 174.2, 161.5, 135.8, 129.0, 128.7, 123.1, 122.5, 121.2, 114.3, 51.9, 51.5, 46.1, 39.4, 21.0; **HRMS** (ESI), m/z calcd. for [C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>, M-H]<sup>-</sup>: 300.1241; found: 300.1244.

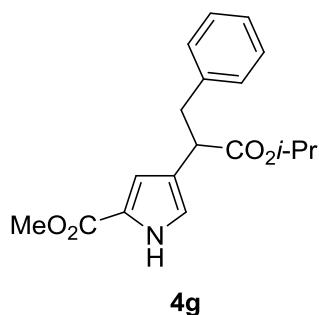
**Methyl 4-(1-ethoxy-1-oxo-3-phenylpropan-2-yl)-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (4f)**



The general procedure outlined above was followed (18 h). The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 3:1). Colorless wax, 95%

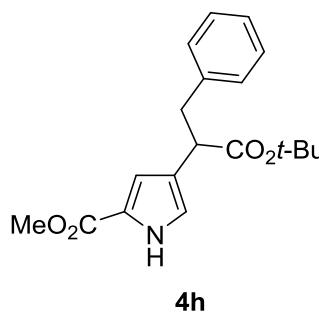
yield. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.16 (br s, 1H), 7.28-7.17 (m, 3H), 7.17-7.10 (m, 2H), 6.93-6.85 (m, 1H), 6.82 (dd, *J* = 2.7, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 4.15-3.99 (m, 2H), 3.87-3.75 (m, 4H), 3.28 (dd, *J* = 13.6, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 3.01 (dd, *J* = 13.6, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 1.15 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 173.7, 161.5, 139.0, 128.9, 128.2, 126.3, 123.2, 122.5, 121.2, 114.3, 60.7, 51.5, 46.1, 39.9, 14.1; **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for [C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>, M-H]<sup>+</sup>: 300.1241; found: 300.1233.

**Methyl 4-(1-isopropoxy-1-oxo-3-phenylpropan-2-yl)-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (4g)**



The general procedure outlined above was followed (16 h). The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 4:1). Colorless wax, 93% yield. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.28 (br s, 1H), 7.29-7.11 (m, 5H), 6.94-6.87 (m, 1H), 6.83 (dd, *J* = 2.5, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 5.04-4.80 (m, 1H), 3.88-3.72 (m, 4H), 3.26 (dd, *J* = 13.6, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (dd, *J* = 13.6, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 1.13 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 3H), 1.08 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 3H); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 173.2, 161.6, 139.0, 128.9, 128.2, 126.3, 123.3, 122.4, 121.2, 114.3, 68.0, 51.4, 46.3, 40.0, 21.6, 21.6; **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for [C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>, M-H]<sup>+</sup>: 314.1398; found: 314.1392.

**Methyl 4-(1-*tert*-butoxy-1-oxo-3-phenylpropan-2-yl)-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (4h)**

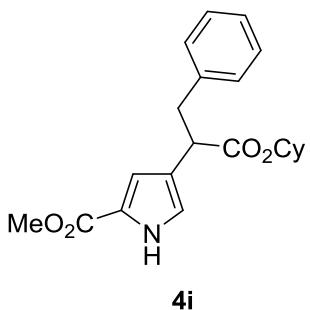


The general procedure outlined above was followed (72 h). The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 4:1). Colorless wax, 95% yield. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.20 (br s, 1H), 7.27-7.13 (m, 5H), 6.92-6.85 (m, 1H), 6.85-6.79 (m, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.72 (dd, *J* = 8.9, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.23 (dd, *J* = 13.6, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (dd, *J* = 13.7, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 1.33 (s, 9H); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 172.88, 161.6, 139.2, 129.0, 128.2, 126.2, 123.7, 122.4, 121.1, 114.3, 80.7,

51.4, 46.9, 40.0, 27.9; **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for [C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>, M-H]<sup>-</sup>: 328.1554; found: 328.1546.

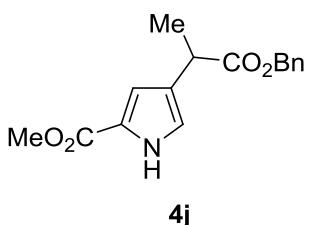
### Methyl

#### **4-(1-(cyclohexyloxy)-1-oxo-3-phenylpropan-2-yl)-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (4i)**



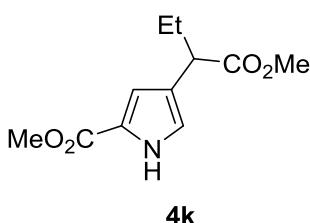
The general procedure outlined above was followed (36 h). The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 4:1). Colorless wax, 93% yield. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.14 (br s, 1H), 7.27-7.12 (m, 5H), 6.93-6.87 (m, 1H), 6.83 (dd, *J* = 2.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 4.69 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 3.87-3.73 (m, 4H), 3.27 (dd, *J* = 13.6, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (dd, *J* = 13.7, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 1.85-1.55 (m, 5H), 1.36-1.18 (m, 5H); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 173.1, 161.5, 139.1, 128.9, 128.2, 126.3, 123.5, 122.4, 121.1, 114.3, 72.9, 51.5, 46.3, 40.0, 31.3, 31.3, 25.3, 23.6; **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for [C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>24</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>, M-H]<sup>-</sup>: 354.1711; found: 354.1706.

#### **Methyl 4-(1-(benzyloxy)-1-oxopropan-2-yl)-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (4j)**



The general procedure outlined above was followed (using 2.0 equiv of allenolate, 23 h). The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 4:1). Colorless oil, 75% yield. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.21 (br s, 1H), 7.40-7.27 (m, 5H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 2H), 5.12 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.73 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 1.49 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 174.6, 161.5, 136.0, 128.5, 128.1, 128.0, 124.8, 122.4, 120.7, 114.1, 66.4, 51.4, 38.0, 18.2; **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for [C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>, M-H]<sup>-</sup>: 286.1085; found: 286.1073.

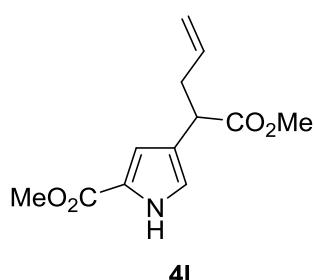
#### **Methyl 4-(1-methoxy-1-oxobutan-2-yl)-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (4k)**



The general procedure outlined above was followed (using

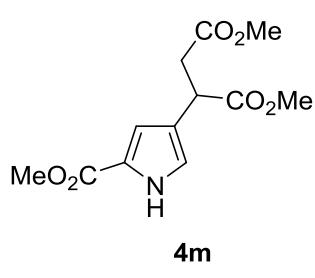
2.0 equiv of allenoate, 23 h). The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 4:1). Colorless oil, 84% yield. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.15 (br s, 1H), 6.96-6.78 (m, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 3.42 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.06-1.89 (m, 1H), 1.84-1.72 (m, 1H), 0.90 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 174.9, 161.5, 123.6, 122.5, 121.1, 114.4, 51.9, 51.5, 45.7, 26.8, 12.0; **HRMS** (ESI), m/z calcd. for [C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>, M-H]<sup>-</sup>: 224.0928; found: 224.0922.

### Methyl 4-(1-methoxy-1-oxopent-4-en-2-yl)-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (**4l**)



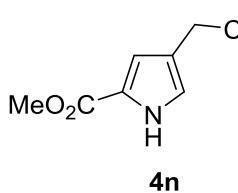
The general procedure outlined above was followed (16 h). The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 4:1). Colorless oil, 81% yield. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.31 (br s, 1H), 6.92-6.83 (m, 2H), 5.82-5.66 (m, 1H), 5.11-4.97 (m, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.70-3.57 (m, 4H), 2.80-2.62 (m, 1H), 2.56-2.41 (m, 1H); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 174.2, 161.5, 135.2, 123.0, 122.5, 121.1, 117.0, 114.3, 51.9, 51.5, 43.8, 37.6; **HRMS** (ESI), m/z calcd. for [C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>, M-H]<sup>-</sup>: 236.0928; found: 236.0923.

### Dimethyl 2-(5-(methoxycarbonyl)-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl)succinate (**4m**)



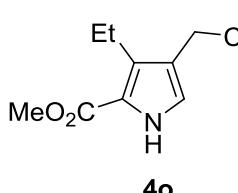
The general procedure outlined above was followed (using 2.0 equiv of allenoate, 16 h). The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 3:1). Colorless wax, 86% yield. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.27 (br s, 1H), 6.88 (s, 1H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 4.04 (dd, *J* = 9.5, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.68 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 6H), 3.10 (dd, *J* = 16.9, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 2.68 (dd, *J* = 16.8, 5.7 Hz, 1H); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 173.6, 172.0, 161.4, 122.8, 122.0, 121.0, 113.9, 52.3, 51.9, 51.5, 39.6, 37.3; **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for [C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NO<sub>6</sub>, M-H]<sup>-</sup>: 268.0827; found: 268.0827.

### Methyl 4-(2-ethoxy-2-oxoethyl)-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (**4n**)



The general procedure outlined above was followed (using 2.0 equiv of allenolate, 20 mol % PPh<sub>3</sub>, 43 h). The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 3:1). Pale brown oil, 56% yield. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.15 (br s, 1H), 6.91 (dd, *J* = 2.1, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 4.15 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.49 (s, 2H), 1.26 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 171.8, 161.5, 122.6, 121.9, 117.8, 115.7, 60.8, 51.4, 32.8, 14.2; **HRMS** (ESI), m/z calcd. for [C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>12</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>, M-H]<sup>+</sup>: 210.0772; found: 210.0764.

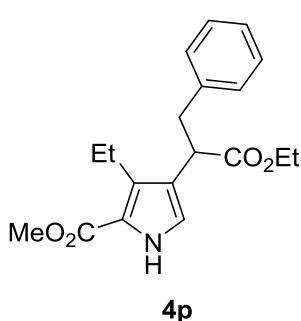
### Methyl 4-(2-ethoxy-2-oxoethyl)-3-ethyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (**4o**)



The general procedure outlined above was followed (using 1.5 equiv of allenolate, 20 mol % PPh<sub>3</sub>, 41 h). The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 3:1). Colorless wax, 59% yield. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.98 (br s, 1H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.15 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.45 (s, 2H), 2.75 (q, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.25 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.11 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 172.0, 161.7, 133.1, 121.4, 118.6, 116.7, 60.8, 51.1, 30.8, 18.0, 15.2, 14.2; **HRMS** (ESI), m/z calcd. for [C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>, M-H]<sup>+</sup>: 238.1085; found: 238.1082.

### Methyl

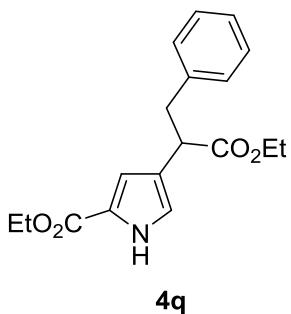
### 4-(1-ethoxy-1-oxo-3-phenylpropan-2-yl)-3-ethyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (**4p**)



The general procedure outlined above was followed (using 2.0 equiv of allenolate, 50 mol % PPh<sub>3</sub>, 95 h). The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 3:1). Colorless wax, 39% yield. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.95 (br s, 1H),

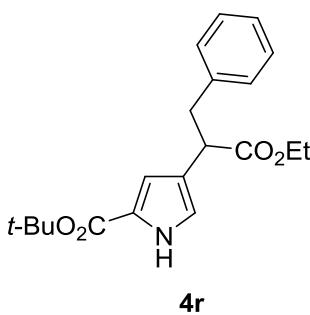
7.28-7.11 (m, 5H), 6.95 (d,  $J$  = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 4.13-3.94 (m, 2H), 3.86-3.74 (m, 4H), 3.28 (dd,  $J$  = 13.5, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (dd,  $J$  = 13.6, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.83-2.57 (m, 2H), 1.16-0.98 (m, 6H);  **$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR** (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  174.1, 161.6, 139.2, 132.7, 128.9, 128.3, 126.4, 122.3, 120.2, 118.3, 60.7, 51.1, 44.1, 40.4, 17.8, 15.5, 14.0; **HRMS** (ESI), m/z calcd. for  $[\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_4, \text{M}-\text{H}]^-$ : 328.1554; found: 328.1552.

### Ethyl 4-(1-ethoxy-1-oxo-3-phenylpropan-2-yl)-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (**4q**)



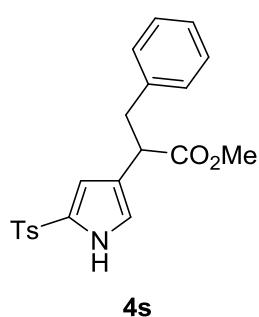
The general procedure outlined above was followed (20 h). The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 3:1). Colorless wax, 97% yield.  **$^1\text{H}$  NMR** (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  9.28 (br s, 1H), 7.31-7.09 (m, 5H), 6.95-6.86 (m, 1H), 6.82 (dd,  $J$  = 2.8, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 4.31 (q,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.16-3.98 (m, 2H), 3.81 (dd,  $J$  = 8.7, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.29 (dd,  $J$  = 13.6, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.01 (dd,  $J$  = 13.6, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 1.35 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.14 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 3H);  **$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR** (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  173.7, 161.2, 139.0, 128.9, 128.2, 126.3, 123.1, 122.8, 121.0, 114.1, 60.7, 60.4, 46.1, 39.9, 14.4, 14.0; **HRMS** (ESI), m/z calcd. for  $[\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_4, \text{M}-\text{H}]^-$ : 314.1398; found: 314.1392.

### tert-Butyl 4-(1-ethoxy-1-oxo-3-phenylpropan-2-yl)-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (**4r**)



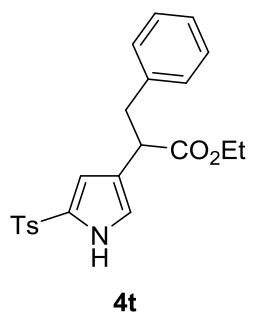
The general procedure outlined above was followed (20 mol %  $\text{PPh}_3$ , 89 h). The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 4:1). Colorless wax, 82% yield.  **$^1\text{H}$  NMR** (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  9.07 (br s, 1H), 7.33-7.09 (m, 5H), 6.92-6.71 (m, 2H), 4.18-3.98 (m, 2H), 3.80 (dd,  $J$  = 8.9, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 3.28 (dd,  $J$  = 13.6, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (dd,  $J$  = 13.6, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 1.56 (s, 9H), 1.13 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 3H);  **$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR** (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  173.8, 160.6, 139.1, 128.9, 128.2, 126.3, 124.3, 123.0, 120.3, 113.5, 80.9, 60.7, 46.2, 40.0, 28.3, 14.0; **HRMS** (ESI), m/z calcd. for  $[\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_4, \text{M}-\text{H}]^-$ : 342.1711; found: 342.1694.

### Methyl 3-phenyl-2-(5-tosyl-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl)propanoate (**4s**)



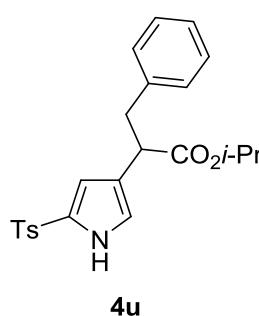
The general procedure outlined above was followed (23 h). The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 3:1). Colorless wax, 79% yield. **1H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.30 (br s, 1H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.33-7.00 (m, 7H), 6.81 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 3.80-3.73 (m, 1H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 3.23 (dd, *J* = 13.5, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 2.94 (dd, *J* = 13.5, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H); **13C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 173.7, 143.9, 139.3, 138.6, 129.8, 128.8, 128.4, 128.3, 126.9, 126.5, 123.7, 121.5, 114.3, 52.0, 46.0, 40.0, 21.6; **HRMS** (ESI), m/z calcd. for [C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S, M-H]<sup>+</sup>: 382.1119; found: 382.1112.

### Ethyl 3-phenyl-2-(5-tosyl-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl)propanoate (**4t**)



The general procedure outlined above was followed (18 h). The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 3:1). Colorless wax, 83% yield. **1H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.58 (br s, 1H), 7.77 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.32-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.12 (m, 3H), 7.11-7.02 (m, 2H), 6.87-6.74 (m, 2H), 4.11-3.95 (m, 2H), 3.76 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 3.22 (dd, *J* = 13.5, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 2.94 (dd, *J* = 13.6, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 1.11 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); **13C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 173.3, 143.9, 139.3, 138.6, 129.8, 128.9, 128.2, 128.1, 126.8, 126.4, 123.7, 121.7, 114.5, 60.8, 46.1, 40.0, 21.5, 14.0; **HRMS** (ESI), m/z calcd. for [C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S, M-H]<sup>+</sup>: 396.1275; found: 396.1268.

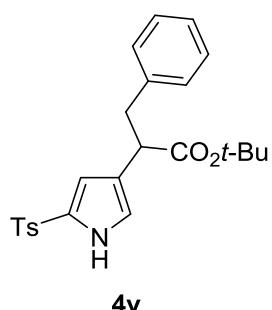
### Isopropyl 3-phenyl-2-(5-tosyl-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl)propanoate (**4u**)



The general procedure outlined above was followed (23 h). The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 4:1). Colorless wax, 86%

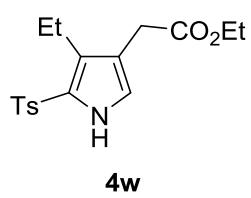
yield. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.52 (br s, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.31-7.04 (m, 7H), 6.89-6.82 (m, 1H), 6.82-6.74 (m, 1H), 5.00-4.82 (m, 1H), 3.73 (dd, J = 9.0, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.21 (dd, J = 13.6, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 2.95 (dd, J = 13.6, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 1.11 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 3H), 1.05 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 3H); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 172.8, 143.8, 139.4, 138.7, 129.8, 128.9, 128.2, 128.1, 126.8, 126.4, 123.9, 121.7, 114.5, 68.1, 46.2, 40.0, 21.5; **HRMS** (ESI), m/z calcd. for [C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>24</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S, M-H]<sup>-</sup>: 410.1432; found: 410.1420.

#### **tert-Butyl 3-phenyl-2-(5-tosyl-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl)propanoate (4v)**



The general procedure outlined above was followed (20 mol % PPh<sub>3</sub>, 47 h). The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 3:1). White solid, 71% yield. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.46 (br s, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.28-7.08 (m, 7H), 6.83 (s, 1H), 6.78 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 3.68 (dd, J = 8.8, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 3.18 (dd, J = 13.6, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 2.92 (dd, J = 13.6, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 1.31 (s, 9H); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 172.5, 143.8, 139.5, 138.8, 129.8, 129.0, 128.1, 128.0, 126.8, 126.3, 124.3, 121.6, 114.5, 80.9, 46.9, 40.0, 27.8, 21.5; **HRMS** (ESI), m/z calcd. for [C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S, M-H]<sup>-</sup>: 424.1588; found: 424.1595.

#### **Ethyl 2-(4-ethyl-5-tosyl-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl)acetate (4w)**



The general procedure outlined above was followed (using 2.0 equiv of allenolate, 30 mol % PPh<sub>3</sub>, 95 h). The crude reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 3:1). Pale brown wax, 58% yield. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.20 (br s, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.32-7.23 (m, 2H), 6.92 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.12 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.38 (s, 2H), 2.62 (q, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 1.23 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.97 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H); **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 171.5, 143.7, 139.9, 130.7, 129.7, 126.7, 123.5, 121.8, 117.5, 60.9, 30.8, 21.5, 17.3, 14.9, 14.1; **HRMS** (ESI), m/z calcd. for [C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S, M-H]<sup>-</sup>: 334.1119; found:

334.1112.

## IX. X-ray crystallographic analysis of **4v**

The conformation of **4v** was determined by X-ray crystallographic analysis of a single crystal of **4v** (Figure S3). The crystal was prepared from the solution of **4v** in hexanes/ethyl acetate at ambient temperature.

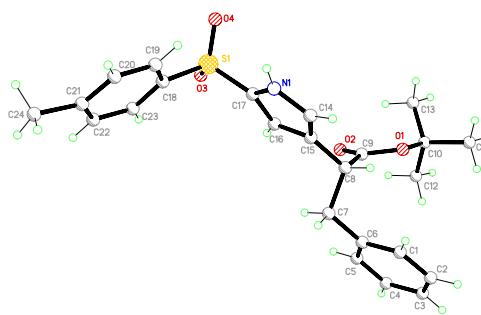


Figure S3. X-ray structure of **4v**

Table S2. Crystal data and structure refinement for E351

Identification code	E351		
Empirical formula	$C_{24}H_{27}NO_4S$		
Formula weight	425.52		
Temperature	100(2) K		
Wavelength	0.71073 Å		
Crystal system	Monoclinic		
Space group	P2 <sub>1</sub> /c		
Unit cell dimensions	$a = 24.358(3)$ Å	$\alpha = 90^\circ$	
	$b = 8.0579(9)$ Å	$\beta = 100.201(3)^\circ$	
	$c = 11.2629(13)$ Å	$\gamma = 90^\circ$	
Volume	$2175.7(4)$ Å <sup>3</sup>		
Z	4		
Density (calculated)	$1.299$ Mg/m <sup>3</sup>		

Absorption coefficient	0.179 mm <sup>-1</sup>
F(000)	904
Crystal size	0.260 x 0.200 x 0.100 mm <sup>3</sup>
Theta range for data collection	1.699 to 27.518°
Index ranges	-31<=h<=27, -10<=k<=10, -13<=l<=14
Reflections collected	14979
Independent reflections	4999 [R(int) = 0.0578]
Completeness to theta = 25.242°	100.0 %
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents
Max. and min. transmission	0.7456 and 0.6607
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>
Data / restraints / parameters	4999 / 0 / 279
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	0.990
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.0581, wR2 = 0.1484
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0772, wR2 = 0.1615
Extinction coefficient	n/a
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.500 and -0.385 e.Å <sup>-3</sup>

## X. References

- Waki, M.; Meienhofer, J. *J. Org. Chem.* **1977**, *42*, 2019.
- (a) Buono, G. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1972**, *13*, 3257. (b) Zhu, X.-F.; Lan, J.; Kwon, O. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2003**, *125*, 4716. (c) Na, R.; Jing, C.; Xu, Q.; Jiang, H.; Wu, X.; Shi, J.; Zhong, J.; Wang, M.; Benitez, D.; Tkatchouk, E.; Goddard III, W. A.; Guo, H.; Kwon, O. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2011**, *133*, 13337.
- Sladojevich, F.; Trabocchi, A.; Guarna, A.; Dixon, D. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2011**, *133*, 1710.

## XI. NMR spectra of the products

