Supporting Information

Dynamic Kinetic Resolution of α-Keto Esters via Asymmetric Transfer Hydrogenation

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General Information

Methods: Infrared (IR) spectra were obtained using a Jasco 260 Plus Fourier transform infrared spectrometer. Proton and carbon magnetic resonance spectra (¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR) were recorded on a Bruker model DRX 400 or 600 (¹H NMR at 400 MHz or 600 MHz and ¹³C NMR at 100 MHz or 150 MHz) spectrometer with solvent resonance as the internal standard (¹H NMR: CDCl₃ at 7.26 ppm and ¹³C NMR: CDCl₃ at 77.0 ppm). ¹H NMR data are reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, bs = broad singlet, d = doublet, dd = doublet of doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, sept = septuplet, oct = octuplet, m = multiplet), coupling constants (Hz), and integration. Supercritical fluid chromatography was performed on a Berger SFC system equipped with a Chiralcel WO column. Samples were eluted with SFC grade CO2 at the indicated percentage of MeOH. 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 Micromass Quattro II (triple quad) instrument with nanoelectrospray ionization (Note: All samples prepared in methanol). Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on Whatman 0.25 mm silica gel 60 plates. Visualization was accomplished with UV light and/or aqueous ceric ammonium molybdate solution followed by heating. Purification of the reaction

products was carried out by using Siliaflash-P60 silica gel (40-63µm) purchased from Silicycle. All reactions were carried out under an atmosphere of nitrogen in flame-dried glassware with magnetic stirring. Yield refers to isolated yield of analytically pure material unless otherwise noted. Yields and diastereomeric ratios (dr) are reported for a specific experiment and as a result may differ slightly from those found in the tables, which are averages of at least two experiments.

Materials: Benzylidene malonates were prepared according to known procedures. Ethyl glyoxylate was purchased from Sigma Aldrich as a 40% solution in toluene and distilled under reduced pressure prior to use (the concentration after distillation was determined by ¹H NMR). *N,N*-Dimethylformamide (DMF) was distilled from phosphorous pentoxide and stored under nitrogen over 3Å molecular sieves. Triethylamine (NEt₃) was freshly distilled from calcium hydride prior to use. Toluene (PhCH₃) and tetrahdyrofuran (THF) were dried by passage through a column of neutral alumina under nitrogen prior to use. All other reagents were purchased from commercial sources and were used as received unless otherwise noted.

General Procedure A for the Preparation of β -Aryl α -Keto Esters 1a-1i

To a flame-dried 10-mL round-bottomed flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar were added benzylidene malonate (2.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), ethyl glyoxylate (4.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and triazolium salt (0.40 mmol, 0.20 equiv). The flask was sealed with a rubber septum and purged with nitrogen. Toluene (0.5 M concentration with respect to benzylidene malonate) followed by triethylamine (2.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) were then added. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 16 h and diluted with ethyl acetate and water. The organic layer was washed with brine and dried over sodium sulfate. Concentration *in vacuo* afforded the β -aryl α -keto esters which were purified by flash chromatography using the indicated solvent systems.

$$\begin{array}{c|c} \mathsf{CO}_2\mathsf{Me} \\ \mathsf{CO}_2\mathsf{Me} \\ \mathsf{1a} \end{array}$$

3-Ethyl 1,1-dimethyl 3-oxo-2-phenylpropane-1,1,3-tricarboxylate (1a): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A. Flash chromatography (20% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **1a** (0.618 g, 1.92 mmol, 96% yield) as a colorless oil. Analytical data for **1a**: ¹**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.31-7.27 (m, 3H), 7.25-7.24 (m, 2H), 5.22 (d, J = 12 Hz, 1H), 4.30 (d, J = 12 Hz, 1H), 4.26-4.19 (m, 2H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.46 (s, 3H), 1.26 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3 H); ¹³**C**

NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 190.2, 168.2, 167.4, 159.5, 131.4, 129.4, 129.1, 128.6, 62.7, 54.5, 53.2, 52.7, 52.6, 13.8; **IR** (thin film cm⁻¹): 2956, 1731, 1495, 1435, 1256, 1153, 1103, 1052, 854, 753, 700; **TLC** (20% EtOAc/hexanes): R_f : 0.27; **LRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M + H]⁺ $C_{16}H_{18}O_7$: 323.11, Found: 323.07.

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{CI} \\ \text{O} \\ \text{CO}_2\text{Me} \\ \text{O} \\ \text{CO}_2\text{Me} \end{array}$$

3-Ethyl 1,1-dimethyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-oxopropane-1,1,3-tricarboxylate (1b): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A. Flash chromatography (20% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **1b** (0.660 g, 1.9 mmol, 95% yield) as a colorless oil. Analytical data for **1b**: ¹**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.30 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.22 (d, J = 12 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (d, J = 12 Hz, 1H), 4.28-4.22 (m, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.51 (s, 3H), 1.29 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H);

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 189.9, 168.0, 167.2, 159.4, 134.8, 130.7, 130.1, 129.4, 62.9, 54.5, 53.3, 52.7, 51.8, 13.9; **IR** (thin film, cm⁻¹): 3649, 2956, 1732 1491, 1435, 1258, 1154, 1094, 1051, 936, 854, 717, 597; **TLC** (20% EtOAc/hexanes): R_f : 0.32; **LRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]⁺ $C_{16}H_{18}ClO_7$: 357.07, Found: 357.02.

3-Ethyl 1,1-dimethyl 3-oxo-2-(p-tolyl)propane-1,1,3-tricarboxylate (1c): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A. Flash chromatography (20% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **1c** (0.618 g, 1.84 mmol, 92% yield) as a colorless oil. Analytical data for **1c**: ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.12 (m, 4H), 5.19 (d, J = 12 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (d, J = 12 Hz, 1H), 4.27-4.18 (m, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.49 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 1.28 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz,

 $CDCI_3); \ \delta\ 190.2,\ 168.3,\ 167.5,\ 159.6,\ 138.5,\ 129.9,\ 129.3,\ 128.2,\ 62.7,\ 54.5,\ 53.1,\ 52.6,\ 52.3,\ 21.1,\ 13.9;\ \textbf{IR}\ (thin\ film,\ cm^{-1});\ 3649,\ 2956,\ 1731,\ 1513,\ 1436,\ 1257,\ 1153,\ 1100,\ 1053,\ 854,\ 801,\ 718,\ 601;$

TLC (20% EtOAc/hexanes): R_f : 0.32; **LRMS** (ESI): Calculated for $[M+H]^+$ $C_{17}H_{21}O_7$: 337.13, Found: 337.15.

3-Ethyl 1,1-dimethyl 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-oxopropane-1,1,3-tricarboxylate (1d): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A. Flash chromatography (30% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **1d** (0.655 g, 1.86 mmol, 93% yield) as a colorless oil. Analytical data for **1d**: ¹**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.16 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.17 (d, J = 12 Hz, 1H), 4.27 (d, J = 12 Hz, 1H), 4.26-4.19 (m, 2H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.49 (s, 3H), 1.27 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³**C NMR** (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 190.0,

168.2, 167.5, 159.7, 159.6, 130.6, 123.0, 114.6, 62.7, 55.2, 54.4, 53.1, 52.6, 51.8, 13.9; **IR** (thin film, cm⁻¹): 2956, 1731, 1609, 1511, 1436, 1304, 1256, 1180, 1153, 1099, 1052, 1031, 832, 741, 602; **TLC** (30% EtOAc/hexanes): R_f : 0.34; **LRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]⁺ $C_{17}H_{21}O_8$: 353.12, Found: 353.17.

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{CN} \\ \\ \text{O} \\ \\ \text{O} \\ \\ \text{CO}_2 \text{Me} \\ \\ \text{1e} \end{array}$$

3-Ethyl 1,1-dimethyl 2-(4-cyanophenyl)-3-oxopropane-1,1,3-tricarboxylate (1e): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A. Flash chromatography (30% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **1e** (0.625 g, 1.80 mmol, 90% yield) as a white solid. Analytical data for **1e**: ¹**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.62 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 5.29 (d, J = 12 Hz, 1 H), 4.30-4.23 (m, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.50 (s, 3H), 1.30 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H);

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 189.5, 167.8, 166.9, 159.2, 137.3, 132.7, 130.1, 118.0, 112.7, 63.1, 54.5, 53.4, 52.8, 52.2, 13.8; **IR** (thin film, cm⁻¹): 2957, 2230, 1732, 1506, 1436, 1259, 1156, 1097, 1051, 836; **m.p.** 71-73 °C; **TLC** (30% EtOAc/hexanes): R_f : 0.32; **LRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]⁺ $C_{17}H_{18}NO_7$: 348.11, Found: 348.14.

3-Ethyl 1,1-dimethyl 3-oxo-2-(o-tolyl)propane-1,1,3-tricarboxylate (1f): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A. Flash chromatography (20% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **1f** (0.524 g, 1.56 mmol, 78% yield) as a colorless oil. Analytical data for **1f**: ¹**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.18-7.12 (m, 3H), 7.11-7.01 (m, 2H), 5.47 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (d, J = 11.6

Hz, 1H), 4.25-4.16 (m, 2H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.42 (s, 3H), 2.54 (s, 3H), 1.24 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 190.3, 168.3, 167.6, 159.8, 138.5, 131.4, 129.7, 128.5, 128.2, 126.5, 62.7, 54.4, 53.1, 52.4, 48.3, 19.6, 13.8; IR (thin film, cm⁻¹): 3578, 2964, 1734, 1523, 1441, 1264, 1148, 1110, 1057, 852, 806, 714, 605; **TLC** (20% EtOAc/hexanes): R_f : 0.33; **LRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]⁺ $C_{17}H_{21}O_7$: 337.13, Found: 337.14.

$$\begin{array}{c} \mathsf{O} \\ \mathsf{O} \\ \mathsf{CO}_2\mathsf{Me} \\ \mathsf{1g} \end{array}$$

3-Ethyl 1,1-dimethyl 2-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-3-oxopropane-1,1,3-tricarboxylate (1g): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A on a 10 mmol scale. Flash chromatography (30% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **1g** (3.33 g, 9.10 mmol, 91% yield) as a viscous yellow oil. Analytical data for **1g**: ¹**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 6.74-6.70 (m, 3H), 5.95 (bs, 2H), 5.14 (d, J = 12 Hz, 1H), 4.24 (d, J = 12 Hz, 1H), 4.29-4.22 (m, 2H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.54

(s, 3H), 1.29 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³**C NMR** (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 189.9, 168.2, 167.4, 159.6, 148.2, 147.9, 124.6, 123.2, 109.5, 108.8, 101.4, 62.8, 54.6, 53.2, 52.7, 52.0, 13.9; **IR** (thin film, cm⁻¹): 2956, 2360, 1731, 1505, 1489, 1440, 1249, 1225, 1153, 1095, 1037, 932, 857, 812, 638; **TLC** (30% EtOAc/hexanes): R_f : 0.35; **LRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]⁺ $C_{17}H_{19}O_9$: 367.10, Found: 367.01.

3-Ethyl 1,1-dimethyl 2-(furan-2-yl)-3-oxopropane-1,1,3-tricarboxylate (1h): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A. Flash chromatography (20% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **1h** (0.543 g, 1.74 mmol, 87% yield) as an orange oil. Analytical data for **1h**: ¹**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.37 (s, 1H), 6.32-6.30 (m, 2H), 5.40 (d, J = 12 Hz, 1H), 4.36 (d, J = 12 Hz, 1H), 4.33-

4.25 (m, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 1.32 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); 13 C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 187.3, 167.9, 167.3, 159.5, 145.0, 143.9, 111.0, 110.7, 62.9, 53.2, 52.9, 52.4, 46.5, 13.9; IR (thin film, cm⁻¹): 2957, 1736, 1499, 1436, 1252, 1153, 1100, 1051, 1014, 749, 599; TLC (20% EtOAc/hexanes): R_f : 0.27; LRMS (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]⁺ $C_{14}H_{17}O_8$: 313.09, Found: 313.13.

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{TsN} \\ \text{O} \\ \text{CO}_2\text{Me} \\ \text{1i} \end{array}$$

3-Ethyl 1,1-dimethyl 3-oxo-2-(1-tosyl-1H-indol-3-yl)propane-1,1,3-tricarboxylate (1i): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A. Flash chromatography (30% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **1i** (0.918 g, 1.78 mmol, 89% yield) as a viscous yellow oil. Analytical data for **1i**: ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.94 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (m, 1H), 7.51 (s,1H), 7.33-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.21 (m, 2H), 5.48 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 1H),

4.39 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 4.21-4.12 (m, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.25 (s, 3H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 1.15 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H);); ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 188.9, 168.0, 167.2, 159.5, 145.1, 135.1, 134.9, 129.9, 126.8, 126.4, 125.4, 123.7, 119.9, 113.6, 113.4, 62.8, 53.9, 53.2, 52.5, 43.5, 21.5, 13.7; **IR** (thin film, cm⁻¹): 2955, 1732, 1596, 1447, 1372, 1286, 1251, 1176, 1123, 1093, 1050, 979, 814, 748, 704, 669, 573, 538; **TLC** (30% EtOAc/hexanes): R_f: 0.25; **LRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+Na] C₂₅H₂₅NO₉SNa + MeOH: 570.14, Found: 570.03.

$$\begin{array}{c} \operatorname{BocN} \\ \operatorname{O} \\ \operatorname{CO}_2\operatorname{Me} \\ \operatorname{1j} \end{array}$$

3-Ethyl 1,1-dimethyl 2-(1-(tert-butoxycarbonyl)-1H-indol-3-yl)-3-oxopropane-1,1,3-tricarboxylate (1j): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A. Flash chromatography (20% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **1j** (0.775 g, 1.68 mmol, 84% yield) as a pale yellow solid. Analytical data for **1j**: 1 **H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.12 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H) 7.70-7.68 (m, 1H), 7.45 (s, 1H), 7.35-7.27 (m, 2H), 5.53 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 4.39 (d, J = 11.6

Hz, 1H), 4.25-4.15 (m, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.43 (s, 3H), 1.65 (s, 9H), 1.22 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 188.9, 168.2, 167.2, 159.5, 149.1, 135.5, 128.7, 125.9, 125.0, 123.0, 119.3, 115.2, 111.0, 84.3, 62.8, 54.0, 53.2, 52.7, 43.3, 28.1, 13.7; IR (thin film, cm⁻¹): 2980, 1733, 1453, 1367, 1257, 1154, 1083, 1051, 748; m.p. 96-97.5 °C; TLC (20% EtOAc/hexanes) R_f: 0.29; LRMS (ESI): Calculated for [M+Na] $C_{23}H_{17}NO_9Na + MeOH$: 516.18, Found: 516.21.

3-Ethyl 1,1-dimethyl 3-oxo-2-phenethylpropane-1,1,3-tricarboxylate (1k): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A. Flash chromatography (20% EtOAc/hexanes) provided 1k (0.775 g, 1.86 mmol, 93% yield) as a colorless oil. Analytical data for 1k: 1 H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.29-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.21-7.18 (m, 1H), 7.12-7.11 (m, 2H), 4.41-4.33 (m, 2H), 4.13

(ddd, J = 10.8, 8.4, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (d, J = 10.8 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (s, 3H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 2.59-2.56 (m, 2H), 1.99-1.87 (m, 2H), 1.40 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³**C NMR** (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 194.8, 168.6, 168.1, 140.6, 128.5, 128.3, 126.3, 62.7, 54.2, 53.1, 52.9, 45.2, 32.4, 31.7, 14.0; **IR** (thin film, cm⁻¹): 2955, 1797, 1730, 1603, 1496, 1455, 1436, 1257, 1155, 1097, 1064, 752, 700; **TLC** (20% EtOAc/hexanes) R_f: 0.29; **LRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]⁺ C₁₈H₂₃O₇: 351.14, Found: 351.16.

Preparation of m-Terphenyl Sulfonyl Chloride S1

To a flame-dried 50-mL round-bottomed flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar and rubber septum were added 1,3-dichlorobenezne (1.47 g, 10.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and THF (25 mL). The solution was cooled to -78 °C and nBuLi (1.6 M in hexanes, 11.0 mmol, 1.1 equiv) was added dropwise over 10 min. The resultant white slurry was stirred at -78 °C for 1.5 hrs. While being kept at -78 °C, this reaction mixture was then added to a room temperature solution of phenylmagnesium bromide [prepared from bromobenzne (3.14 g, 20.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and magnesium (578 mg, 24.0 mmol, 2.4 equiv)] in 30 mL of THF via cannula. The mixture was heated at reflux overnight, cooled to ambient temperature, and then to -78 °C. Sulfuryl chloride (1 M in CH₂Cl₂, 20.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was added via syringe in a single portion and the reaction was warmed slowly to room temperature overnight. After being cooled to 0 °C, the reaction mixture was diluted with 1 M HCl and extracted three times with diethyl ether. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude brown solid was recrystallized from hexanes and CHCl₃ to give the desired sulfonyl chloride (2.0 g, 6.1 mmol, 61% yield) whose spectral properties matched those reported in the literature.¹

Preparation of L8

A 10-mL round-bottomed flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with (1S,2S)-1,2-di(1-naphthyl)-1,2-ethanediamine dihydrochloride (250 mg, 0.649 mmol, 1.0 equiv). Dichloromethane (3 mL) and 2 M NaOH (3 mL) were added sequentially and the biphashic mixture was cooled to 0 °C. *m*-Terphenyl sulfonyl chloride **S1** (213 mg, 0.649 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added and the reaction was warmed to room temperature and stirred for 3 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate and water. The organic was washed with brine, dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated *in vacuo*. Flash chromatography (50% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **L8** (330 mg, 0.545 mmol, 84% yield) as a white solid. Analytical data for **L8**: ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.07 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.72-7.67 (m, 2H), 7.66-7.02 (m, 20H), 6.97 (bs, 1H), 6.72 (bs, 1H), 5.57 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 4.95 (d, J = 7.6 Hz), 4.68 (bs, 1H), 1.75 (bs, 2H); ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 141.9, 140.9, 139.7, 137.8, 135.3, 133.8, 133.6, 131.6, 131.0, 130.7, 130.0, 129.2, 128.8, 128.6, 128.2, 127.9, 127.7, 127.7, 126.1, 126.0, 125.4, 125.3, 125.1, 125.0, 124.3, 123.6, 122.9, 122.4; **IR** (thin film, cm⁻¹): 2926, 2357, 1868, 1716, 1608, 1541, 1507, 1456, 1338, 1158, 1028, 929, 778, 759, 700, 664, 592, 529; **m.p.** 158-160 °C; **TLC** (50% EtOAc/hexanes) R_f:

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¹ Kosugi, Y.; Akakura, M.; Ishihara, K. *Tetrahedron* **2007**, *63*, 6191.

0.25; **LRMS** (ESI): Calculated for $[M+H]^+$ $C_{40}H_{33}N_2O_2S$: 605.23, Found: 605.29; $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ +170.6 (c = 1.30, CHCl₃).

General Procedure B for the Preparation of Racemic γ-Butyrolactones 2a-2j

Sodium borohydride (1.0 equiv) was added to a solution of β -aryl α -keto ester (1.0 equiv) in methanol (0.5 M concentration) at room temperature. When gas evolution ceased, 1 mL saturated ammonium chloride was added. 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 a mixture of α -hydroxy ester and γ -butyrolactone. The crude reaction mixture was dissolved in tetrahydrofuran (0.5 M concentration) and formic acid:triethylamine 5:2 azeotrope (1.0 equiv) was added. The reaction heated at 70 °C for 1 hour, at which point the reaction mixture was allowed to cool to ambient temperature and diluted with diethyl ether and water. The organic layer was washed with brine and dried over sodium sulfate. Concentration *in vacuo* afforded the γ -butyrolatones which were purified by flash chromatography using the indicated solvent systems.

General Procedure C for the ATH-DKR of β -Aryl α -Keto Esters

To a flame-dried 1-dram vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar were added [RuCl(arene)] $_2$ (0.02 equiv) and ligand (0.08 equiv). The vial was sealed with a rubber septum and purged with nitrogen. DMF (0.5 mL) was added and the rubber septum was quickly replaced with a PTFE-lined screw cap. The mixture was heated at 70 °C for 30 min and cooled to ambient temperature. A solution of β -aryl α -keto ester (1.0 equiv in 1.0 mL DMF) followed by formic acid:triethylamine 5:2 azeotrope (5.0 equiv) were added. The vial was purged with nitrogen and the reaction was heated at 70 °C for 16 h, at which point the reaction mixture was allowed to cool to ambient temperature and diluted with ethyl acetate and water. The organic layer was washed with water (x2), brine, and dried over sodium sulfate. Concentration *in vacuo* afforded the γ -butyrolactones which were purified by flash chromatography using the indicated solvent systems.

Catalyst Optimization Studies

Optimization of [RuCl2(arene)]2 with 1a and L1

[RuCl ₂ (arene)] ₂	e.r.
[RuCl ₂ (hexamethylbenzene)] ₂	62:38
[RuCl ₂ (p-cymene)] ₂	70:30
[RuCl ₂ (benzene)] ₂	71:29

Full Ligand Screen

Procedures for Synthesis of γ-Butyrolactones 2a-2j

(2R,3R,4R)-2-ethyl 4-methyl 5-oxo-3-phenyltetrahydrofuran-2,4-dicarboxylate (2a): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure C using β -aryl α -keto ester 1a (50 mg, 0.155 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [RuCl₂(p-cymene)]₂ (1.9 mg, 0.0031 mmol, 0.02 equiv), L8 (7.5 mg, 0.0124 mmol, 0.08 equiv), and HCOOH:NEt₃ 5:2 azeotrope (67 mg, 0.775 mmol, 5.0 equiv). Flash chromatography (20% EtOAc/hexanes) provided γ -butyrolactone 2a (42.0

mg, 0.143 mmol, 92% yield) as a white solid. Analytical data for **2a**: ¹**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.35-7.32 (m, 3H), 7.22-7.20 (m, 2H), 5.18 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.52 (dd, J = 12, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (d, J = 12 Hz, 1H), 3.92-3.87 (m, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.86-3.74 (m, 1H), 0.84 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³**C NMR** (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 170.5, 167.7, 167.2, 132.6, 129.0, 128.7, 127.4, 78.9, 61.7, 53.4, 48.7, 47.8, 13.5; **IR** (thin film, cm⁻¹): 2963, 1797, 1742, 1455, 1437, 1382, 1280, 1218, 1133, 1075, 994, 940, 751, 699; **m.p.** 100-102 °C; **TLC** (20% EtOAc/hexanes) R_f:0.26; **LRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]⁺ C₁₅H₁₇O₆: 293.10, Found: 293.16 **SFC Analysis**: WO column, 2% MeOH, 1.5 mL/min, 150 bar, 210 nm; t_{minor} = 12.5 min t_{major} = 14.5, 95:5 er; [α]₀²⁵ -150.9 (c = 1.70, CHCl₃).

(2R,3R,4R)-2-ethyl 4-methyl 3-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-oxotetrahydrofuran-2,4-dicarboxylate (2b): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure C using β-aryl α-keto ester 1b (55 mg, 0.155 mmol, 1.0 equiv), $[RuCl_2(p\text{-cymene})]_2$ (1.9 mg, 0.0031 mmol, 0.02 equiv), L8 (7.5 mg, 0.0124 mmol, 0.08 equiv), and HCOOH:NEt₃ 5:2 azeotrope (67 mg, 0.775 mmol, 5.0 equiv). Flash chromatography provided γ-butyrolactone 2b (47.6 mg, 0.146 mmol, 94% yield) as a white solid. Analytical data for 2b: ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.34

(d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 5.16 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (dd, J = 11.2, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.18 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 3.98-3.90 (m, 1H), 3.87-3.82 (m, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 0.92 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 170.0, 167.6, 167.0, 134.8, 131.3, 129.6, 129.2, 128.9, 128.5, 78.6, 61.9, 53.5, 48.9, 47.2, 13.6; **IR** (thin film, cm⁻¹): 2957, 1796, 1741, 1437, 1382, 1302, 1213, 1128, 1060, 840, 708, 564; **m.p.** 94-94 °C; **TLC** (20% EtOAc/hexanes) R_f: 0.31; **LRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]⁺ C₁₅H₁₆ClO₆: 327.06, Found: 327.10; **SFC Analysis**: WO column, 2% MeOH, 1.5 mL/min, 150 bar, 210 nm; t_{minor} = 13.4 min t_{major} = 17.3, 96:4 er; [α]_D²⁵ -143.1 (c = 1.5, CHCl₃).

(2R,3R,4R)-2-ethyl 4-methyl 5-oxo-3-(p-tolyl)tetrahydrofuran-2,4-dicarboxylate (2c): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure C using β -aryl α -keto ester 1c (52 mg, 0.155 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [RuCl₂(p-cymene)]₂ (1.9 mg, 0.0031 mmol, 0.02 equiv), L8 (7.5 mg, 0.0124 mmol, 0.08 equiv), and HCOOH:NEt₃ 5:2 azeotrope (67 mg, 0.775 mmol, 5.0 equiv). Flash chromatography provided γ -butyrolactone 2c (40 mg, 0.130 mmol, 84%

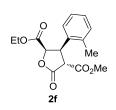
yield) as a white solid. Analytical data for **2c**: ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.15 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.09 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.15 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.47 (dd, J = 11.2, 8 Hz, 1H), 4.21 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 3.93-3.89 (m, 1H), 3.82-3.78 (m, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 0.88 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 170.5, 167.8, 167.3, 138.5, 129.6, 127.3, 79.0, 61.7, 53.3, 49.0, 47.6, 21.0, 13.5; **IR** (thin film, cm⁻¹): 2957, 1796, 1742, 1519, 1438, 1381, 1306, 1213, 1131, 1058, 828, 517; **m.p.** 85-86 °C; **TLC** (30% EtOAc/hexanes) R_f: 0.38; **LRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]⁺ C₁₆H₁₉O₆: 307.12, Found: 307.16; **HPLC Analysis**: Chiralpak IB,10% ^fPrOH/hexanes, constant flow at 1.00 mL/min, 210 nm; t_{minor} = 12.5 min t_{major} = 15.8 min, 95.5:4.5 er; [α]_D²⁵ -191.3 (c = 1.7, CHCl₃).

(2R,3R,4R)-2-ethyl 4-methyl 3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-oxotetrahydrofuran-2,4-dicarboxylate (2d): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure C using β-aryl α-keto ester 1d (55 mg, 0.155 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [RuCl₂(p-cymene)]₂ (1.9 mg, 0.0031 mmol, 0.02 equiv), L8 (7.5 mg, 0.0124 mmol, 0.08 equiv), and HCOOH:NEt₃ 5:2 azeotrope (67 mg, 0.775 mmol, 5.0 equiv). Flash chromatography provided γ-butyrolactone 2d (45 mg, 0.140 mmol, 90% yield) as a white solid. Analytical data for 2d: ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.13

(d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.87 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 5.14 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.45 (dd, J = 11.4, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.19 (d, J = 11.4 Hz, 1H), 3.95-3.80 (m, 1H), 3.84-3.8 (m, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 0.93 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³**C NMR** (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 170.5, 167.8, 167.3, 159.8, 128.6, 124.5, 114.3, 79.0, 61.7, 55.3, 53.4, 49.1, 47.2, 13.6; **IR** (thin film, cm⁻¹): 2958, 1796, 1742, 1613, 1518, 1440, 1382, 1256, 1218, 1182, 1132, 1096, 1058, 1030, 835, 750, 683; **m.p.** 106-107 °C; **TLC** (30% EtOAc/hexanes) R_f: 0.31; **LRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+Na] C₁₆H₁₈O₇Na: 345.10, Found: 345.18; **HPLC Analysis**: Chiralpak IB,10% ^fPrOH/hexanes, constant flow at 1.00 mL/min, 210 nm; t_{minor} = 18.7 min t_{major} = 23.6 min, 95:5 er; $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ -179.2 (c = 1.9, CHCl₃).

(2R,3R,4R)-2-ethyl 4-methyl 3-(4-cyanophenyl)-5-oxotetrahydrofuran-2,4-dicarboxylate (2e): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure C using β -aryl α -keto ester 1e (54 mg, 0.155 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [RuCl₂(p-cymene)]₂ (1.9 mg, 0.0031 mmol, 0.02 equiv), L8 (7.5 mg, 0.0124 mmol, 0.08 equiv), and HCOOH:NEt₃ 5:2 azeotrope (67 mg, 0.775 mmol, 5.0 equiv). Flash chromatography provided γ -butyrolactone 2d (43 mg, 0.136 mmol, 88%)

yield) as a white solid. Analytical data for **2e**: ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.67 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.21 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.56 (dd, J = 11.2, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.21 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 3.96-3.90 (m, 1H), 3.85-3.79 (m, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 0.90 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.4, 167.3, 166.7, 138.2, 132.7, 128.4, 117.9, 112.8, 78.1, 62.1, 53.6, 48.6, 47.6, 13.6; **IR** (thin film, cm⁻¹): 2360, 2333, 1796, 1742, 1312, 1271, 1134, 995, 836, 670; **m.p.** 104-107 °C; **TLC** (30% EtOAc/hexanes) R_f: 0.25; **LRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+Na] C₁₆H₁₅NO₆Na: 340.08, Found: 340.18; **HPLC Analysis**: Chiralpak IB, 25% ^fPrOH/hexanes, constant flow at 1.00 mL/min, 210 nm; t_{minor} = 18.6 min t_{major} = 22.4 min, 95:5 er; [α]_D²⁵ -177.4 (c = 1.7, CHCl₃).



(2R,3R,4R)-2-ethyl 4-methyl 5-oxo-3-(o-tolyl)tetrahydrofuran-2,4-dicarboxylate (2f): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure C using β-aryl α-keto ester 1f (52 mg, 0.155 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [RuCl₂(p-cymene)]₂ (1.9 mg, 0.0031 mmol, 0.02 equiv), L8 (7.5 mg, 0.0124 mmol, 0.08 equiv), and HCOOH:NEt₃ 5:2 azeotrope (67 mg, 0.775 mmol, 5.0 equiv). Flash chromatography provided γ-butyrolactone 2d (39 mg, 0.127 mmol, 82%)

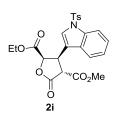
yield) as a white solid. Analytical data for **2f**: ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.23-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.19-7.16 (m, 1H), 7.09-7.07 (m, 1H), 5.24 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.72 (dd, J = 12, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.34 (d, J = 12 Hz, 1H), 3.86-3.81 (m, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.74-3.7 (m, 1H), 0.80 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 170.5, 167.7, 167.3, 137.4, 131.0, 130.7, 128.5, 126.5, 125.0, 77.3, 61.6, 53.3, 48.3, 44.8, 19.6, 13.4; **IR** (thin film, cm⁻¹): 2359, 2341, 1797, 1742, 1440, 1381, 1317, 1212, 1135, 1021, 752, 538; **m.p.** 103-104 °C; **TLC** (20% EtOAc/hexanes) R_f: 0.29; **LRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+H] ⁺ C₁₆H₁₉O₆: 307.12, Found: 307.16; **HPLC Analysis**: Chiralpak IB, 10% [/]PrOH/hexanes, constant flow at 1.00 mL/min, 210 nm; t_{minor} = 12.1 min t_{major} = 15.0 min, 89:11 er; [α]_D ²⁵ -136.4 (c = 1.4, CHCl₃).

(2R,3R,4R)-2-ethyl 4-methyl 3-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-5-oxotetrahydrofuran-2,4-dicarboxylate (2g): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure C using β -aryl α -keto ester 1g (57 mg, 0.155 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [RuCl₂(p-cymene)]₂ (1.9 mg, 0.0031 mmol, 0.02 equiv), L8 (7.5 mg, 0.0124 mmol, 0.08 equiv), and HCOOH:NEt₃ 5:2 azeotrope (67 mg, 0.775 mmol, 5.0 equiv). Flash chromatography provided γ -butyrolactone 2d (43 mg,

0.129 mmol, 83% yield) as a white solid. Analytical data for **2g**: ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 6.77 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.68-6.67 (m, 2H), 5.96 (s, 2H), 5.12 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.41 (dd, J = 11.6, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.14 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 4.05-3.87 (m, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 0.98 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 170.3, 167.7, 167.2, 148.2, 147.9, 126.2, 120.9, 108.6, 107.8, 101.4, 78.9, 61.8, 53.3, 49.2, 47.7, 13.7; **IR** (thin film, cm⁻¹): 2906, 2363, 2349, 1797, 1740, 1506, 1494, 1446, 1304, 1256, 1237, 1142, 1093, 1037, 931, 801; **m.p.** 86-87 °C; **TLC** (30% EtOAc/hexanes) R_f: 0.31; **LRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]⁺ C₁₆H₁₇O₈: 337.09, Found: 337.09; **HPLC Analysis**: Chiralpak IB, 10% ^{[P}PrOH/hexanes, constant flow at 1.00 mL/min, 210 nm; t_{minor} = 21.8 min t_{major} = 25.8 min, 96:4 er; [α]_D²⁵ -206.3 (c = 2.1, CHCl₃).

(2R,3S,4R)-2-ethyl 4-methyl 3-(furan-2-yl)-5-oxotetrahydrofuran-2,4-dicarboxylate (2h): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure C using β -aryl α -keto ester 1h (48 mg, 0.155 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [RuCl₂(p-cymene)]₂ (1.9 mg, 0.0031 mmol, 0.02 equiv), L8 (7.5 mg, 0.0124 mmol, 0.08 equiv), and HCOOH:NEt₃ 5:2 azeotrope (67 mg, 0.775 mmol, 5.0 equiv). Flash chromatography provided γ -butyrolactone 2h (40 mg, 0.141 mmol, 91%

yield) as a clear oil. Analytical data for **2h**: ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.38-7.37 (m, 1H), 6.34-6.33 (m, 1H), 6.28-6.27 (m, 1H), 5.14 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.56 (dd, J = 11.6, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (d, J = 11.6, 1H), 4.10-4.04 (m, 1H), 3.99-3.92 (m, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 1.09 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³**C NMR** (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.6, 167.6, 166.8, 146.7, 143.2, 110.7, 109.0, 77.2, 62.2, 53.5, 48.2, 41.9, 13.7; **IR** (thin film, cm⁻¹): 2963, 1797, 1743, 1440, 1382, 1305, 1215, 1133, 1061, 841, 708, 560; **TLC** (20% EtOAc/hexanes) R_f : 0.21; **LRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]⁺ $C_{13}H_{15}O_7$: 283.08, Found: 283.03; **HPLC Analysis**: Chiralpak IA, 10% PrOH/hexanes, constant flow at 1.00 mL/min, 210 nm; t_{minor} = 11.4 min t_{major} = 12.5 min, 95:5 er; $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ -52.3 (c = 1.2, CHCl₃).



(2R,3R,4R)-2-ethyl 4-methyl 5-oxo-3-(1-tosyl-1H-indol-3-yl)tetrahydrofuran-2,4-dicarboxylate (2i): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure C using β -aryl α -keto ester 1i (80 mg, 0.155 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [RuCl₂(p-cymene)]₂ (1.9 mg, 0.0031 mmol, 0.02 equiv), L8 (7.5 mg, 0.0124 mmol, 0.08 equiv), and HCOOH:NEt₃ 5:2 azeotrope (67 mg, 0.775 mmol, 5.0 equiv). Flash chromatography provided γ -butyrolactone 2h (68 mg, 0.141 mmol,

91% yield) as a white solid. Analytical data for **2i**: ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.99 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (s, 1H), 7.37-7.35 (m, 1 H), 7.32-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.54-7.23 (m, 1H), 5.30 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.64 (dd, J = 11.6, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.20 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.64-3.56 (m, 1H), 3.36-3.28 (m, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 0.41 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H); ¹³**C NMR** (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.8, 167.6, 167.0, 145.3, 135.0, 134.8, 130.0, 129.2, 126.9, 125.6, 123.6, 123.4, 119.5, 115.5, 113.7, 77.6, 61.4, 53.5, 48.4, 39.9, 30.2, 21.5, 12.9; **IR** (thin film, cm⁻¹): 2978, 2348, 1800, 1742, 1595, 1449, 1373, 1290, 1215, 1175, 1139, 1092, 1075, 1021, 974, 912, 816, 762, 747, 703, 680, 655; **m.p.** 99-100 °C **TLC** (30% EtOAc/hexanes) R_f: 0.28; **LRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+Na] $C_{24}H_{23}NO_8SNa$: 508.10, Found: 508.10; **SFC Analysis**: WO column, 10%

MeOH, 1.5 mL/min, 150 bar 210 nm; $t_{minor} = 16.5$ min $t_{major} = 22.5$ min, 96.5:3.5 er; $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ -81.2 (c = 1.7, CHCl₃).

(2R,3R,4R)-2-ethyl 4-methyl 3-(1-(tert-butoxycarbonyl)-1H-indol-3-yl)-5-oxotetrahydrofuran-2,4-dicarboxylate (2j): The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure C using β -aryl α -keto ester 1j (71.5 mg, 0.155 mmol, 1.0 equiv), [RuCl₂(p-cymene)]₂ (1.9 mg, 0.0031 mmol, 0.02 equiv), L8 (7.5 mg, 0.0124 mmol, 0.08 equiv), and HCOOH:NEt₃ 5:2 azeotrope (67 mg, 0.775 mmol, 5.0 equiv). Flash chromatography provided γ -butyrolactone 2h (59 mg,

0.136 mmol, 88% yield) as a white solid. Analytical data for **2j**: ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.11 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.57-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.44 (s, 1H), 7.37-7.30 (m, 2H), 5.35 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.70 (dd, J = 11.6, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.24 (d, J = 11.6, 1H), 3.85-3.80 (m, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 0.69 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H); ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 170.1, 167.9, 167.2, 149.2, 135.4, 129.0, 125.3, 123.2, 123.0, 118.9, 115.4, 113.5, 84.5, 77.9, 61.7, 53.4, 48.8, 40.0, 28.1, 13.2; **IR** (thin film, cm⁻¹): 2979, 1800, 1739, 1454, 1375, 1338, 1310, 1273, 1258, 1220, 1155, 1078, 1018, 857, 840, 763, 748; **m.p.** 84-85 °C; **TLC** (30% EtOAc/hexanes): R_f: 0.4; **LRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]⁺ C₂₂H₂₆NO₈: 432.17, Found: 432.18; **HPLC Analysis**: Chiralpak IB, 10% ⁱPrOH/hexanes, constant flow at 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm; t_{minor} = 11.7 min t_{maior} = 12.6 min, 96:4 er; [α]_p²⁵ -75.7 (c =2.3, CHCl₃).

Large Scale Preparation of γ-Butyrolactone 2g

To a flame-dried 250-mL round-bottomed flask were added [RuCl₂(p-cymene)]₂ (83.6 mg, 0.137 mmol, 0.005 equiv), **L8** (330 mg, 0.546 mmol, 0.020 equiv) and 50 mL of DMF. The mixture was heated at 70 °C under nitrogen for 45 min and cooled to ambient temperature. A solution of β -aryl α -keto ester **1g** (10.0 g, 27.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in 20 mL DMF was added via syringe and the reaction mixture was further diluted with 66 mL DMF. Formic acid:triethylamine 5:2 azeotrope (11.8 g, 136.5 mmol, 5.0 equiv) was added in a single portion and the reaction was heated at 70 °C for 16 h, at which point the reaction was cooled to ambient temperature and diluted with ethyl acetate and water. The aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (x2) and the combined organics were washed with water (x3) followed by brine (x1), dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated *in vacuo*. A 150-mL frit funnel (7 cm diameter) was charged with silica gel (4 cm in height). The crude reaction mixture was dissolved in the minimum amount of dichloromethane and passed through the pad of silica gel using 150 mL of 30% EtOAc/hexanes; the filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo*. The resultant residue was dissolved in the minimum amount of diethyl ether. Hexanes were added until the solution became cloudy. This solution was stored in the freezer overnight. The crystals were collected by filtration to yield enantiopure **1g** (6.61 g, 19.6 mmol, 72% yield).

Preparation of γ-Butyrolactone 3a

To a 1-dram vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar were added **2a** (29.2 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.0 equiv), allyl bromide (24.2 mg, 0.200 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and THF (1 mL). DBU (30.4 mg, 0.200 mmol, 2.0

equiv) was added and the reaction was stirred at room temperature for 2 h and then diluted with water and ethyl acetate. The organic was washed with water followed by brine, dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated *in vacuo*. Flash chromatography provided **3a** (31.2 mg, 0.940 mmol, 94% yield) as a white solid. Analytical data for **3a**: ¹H **NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.25-7.24 (m, 3H), 7.15-7.13 (m, 2H), 5.90-5.85 (m, 1H), 5.35-5.30 (m, 2H), 5.22 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.91-3.81 (m, 2H), 3.89 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.22 (s, 3H), 2.97 (dd, J = 14.1, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.85 (dd, J = 14.1, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 0.83 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C **NMR** (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 171.6, 167.6, 166.3, 134.8, 130.5, 128.6, 128.4, 128.2, 121.5, 77.3, 61.6, 60.4, 53.6, 52.1, 40.1, 13.5; **IR** (thin film, cm⁻¹): 2921, 2359, 1797, 1759, 1740, 1436, 1221, 1168, 1125, 1087, 1028, 929, 705; **m.p.** 100-101.5 °C; **TLC** (20% EtOAc/hexanes) R_f : 0.22; **LRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]⁺ $C_{18}H_{21}O_6$: 333.13, Found: 333.16; $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ -35.5 (c =6.5, CHCl₃).

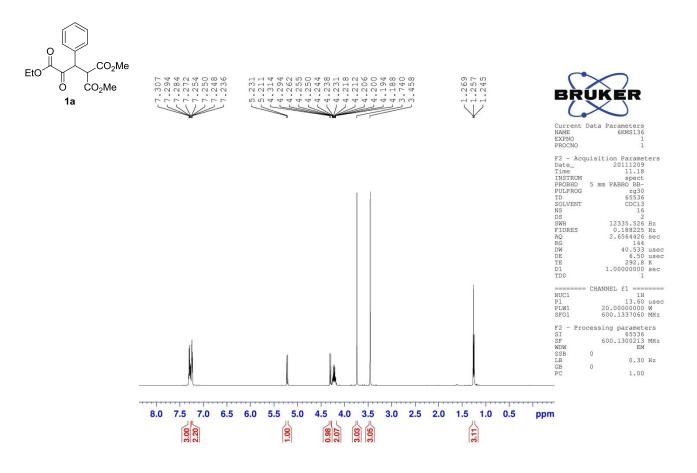
Preparation of γ-Butyrolactone 3b

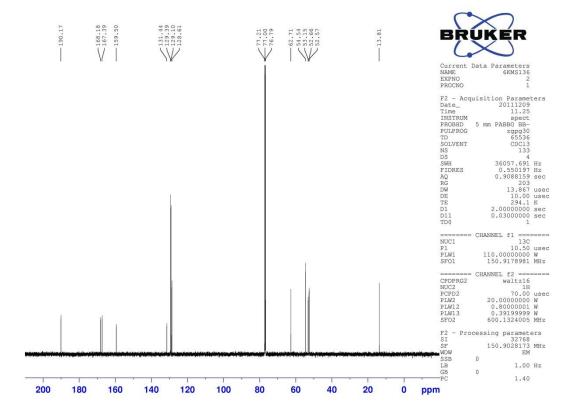
Preparation of α -methylene γ -Butyrolactone 3c

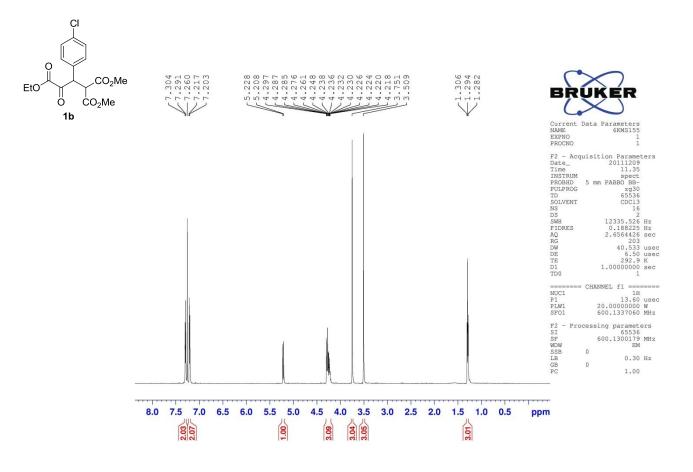
To a flame-dried 1-dram vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar were added **2a** (29.2 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and dibromomethane (0.125 mL). 18-crown-6 (1.30 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.05 equiv) and potassium carbonate (35 mg, 0.25 mmol, 2.5 equiv) were added sequentially and the reaction was stirred at ambient temperature for 36 h. The reaction was diluted with water and ethyl acetate and the organic was washed with water followed by brine, dried over sodium sulfate and

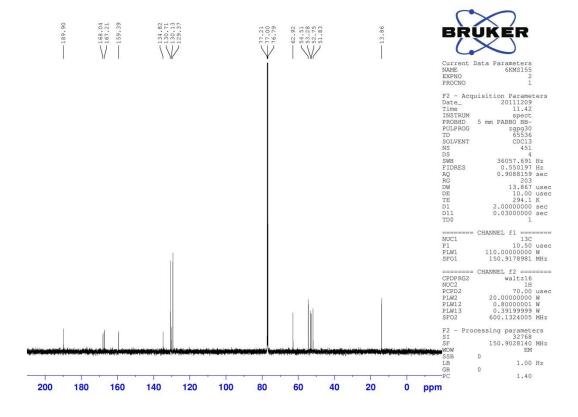
concentrated *in vacuo*. Flash chromatography (30% EtOAc/hexeanes) provided **S2** (32 mg, 0.084 mmol, 84% yield) as a white solid. Analytical data for **S2**: 1 **H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.28-7.26 (m, 3H), 7.17-7.15 (m, 2H), 5.42 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.20 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.01 (d, J = 10.8 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (d, J = 10.8 Hz, 1H), 3.92-3.86 (m, 2H), 3.30 (s, 3H), 0.84 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); 13 **C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 170.3, 166.2, 134.2, 128.9, 128.7, 128.3, 78.2, 61.8, 61.6, 52.8, 52.7, 33.2, 13.5; **IR** (thin film, cm⁻¹): 2360, 1795, 1751, 1736, 1232, 1146, 1086, 1041, 709; **m.p.** 161-162 $^{\circ}$ **C**; **TLC** (30% EtOAc/hexanes) R_f: 0.32; **LRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+Na] C₁₆H₁₇BrO₆Na: 407.01, Found: 407.01; $\mathbf{fal_n}^{25}$ = -37.3 (c = 2.0, CHCl₃).

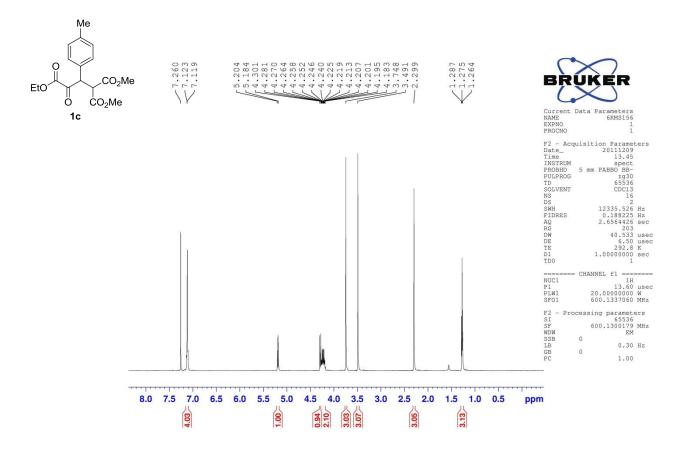
To a 1-dram vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar were added **S2** (26 mg, 0.067 mmol, 1.0 equiv), lithium chloride (6.0 mg, 0.134 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and DMSO (1 mL). The vial was fitted with a PTFE screw-cap and heated in an oil bath at 140 °C for 16 h, at which point the reaction was cooled to ambient temperature and diluted with water and ethyl acetate. The organic was washed with water (x2) followed by brine (x1), dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated *in vacuo*. Flash chromatography (20% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **3c** (14 mg, 0.057 mmol, 85% yield) as a white solid. Analytical data for **3c**: ¹**H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.33-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.21-7.19 (m, 2H), 6.54 (d, J = 3 Hz, 1H), 5.63 (d, J = 3 Hz, 1H), 5.18 (d, J = 9 Hz, 1H), 4.62-4.59 (dt, J = 9.6, 3 Hz 1H), 3.85-3.80 (m, 1H), 3.68-3.63 (m, 1H), 0.84 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.3, 167.7, 135.8, 135.3, 129.0, 128.8, 128.4, 125.1, 78.4, 61.5, 48.6, 13.5; **IR** (thin film, cm⁻¹): 2983, 2359, 1780, 1747, 1402, 1188, 1095, 1067, 757, 702; **m.p.** 113-114 °C; **TLC** (20% EtOAc/hexanes) R_f : 0.25; **LRMS** (ESI): Calculated for [M+H]⁺ $C_{14}H_{15}O_4$: 247.10, Found: 247.12; $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ -62.3 (c =2.2, CHCl₃).

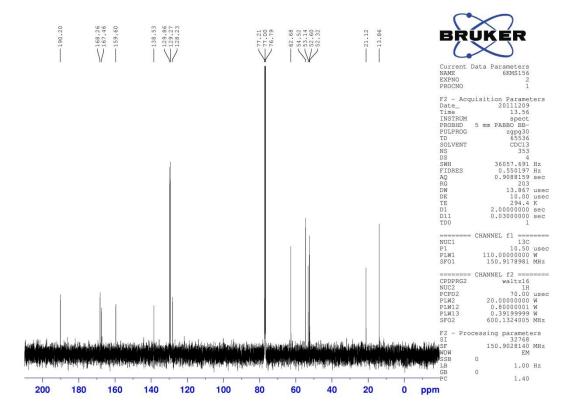


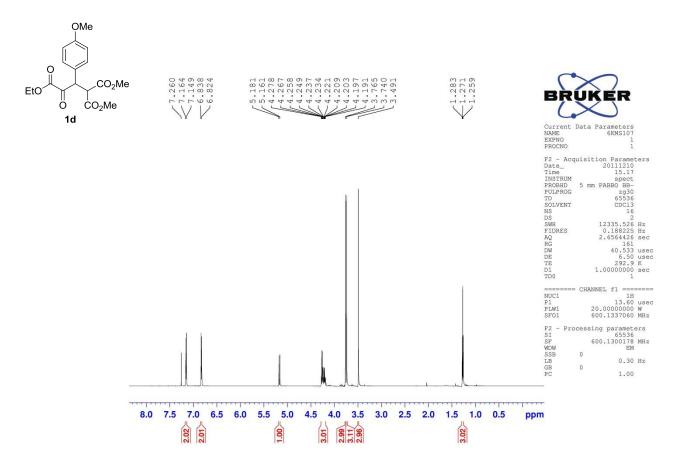


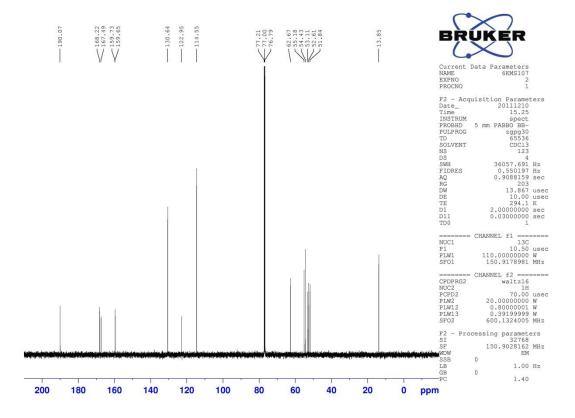


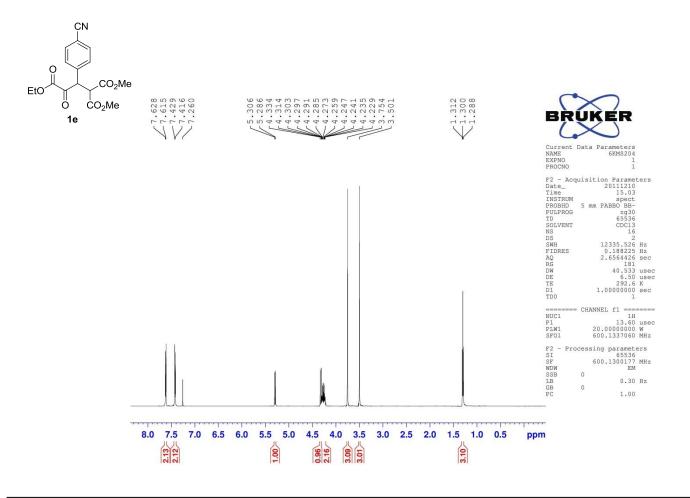


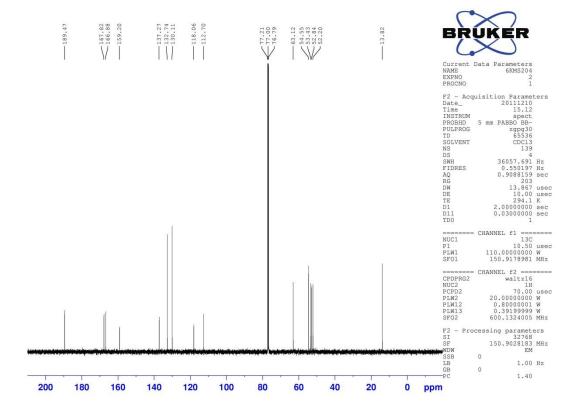


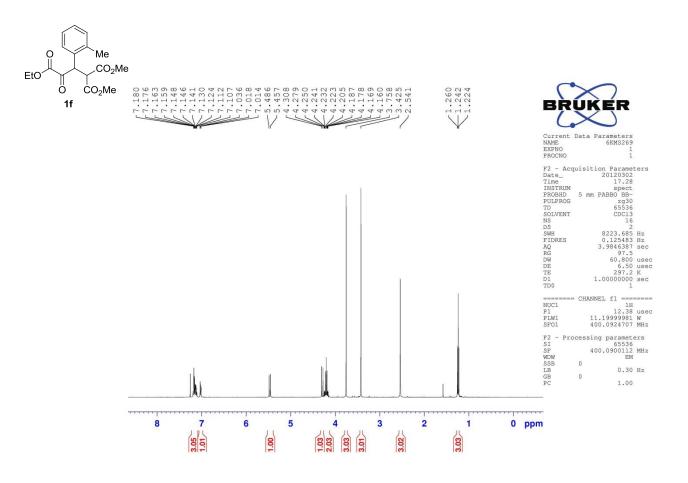


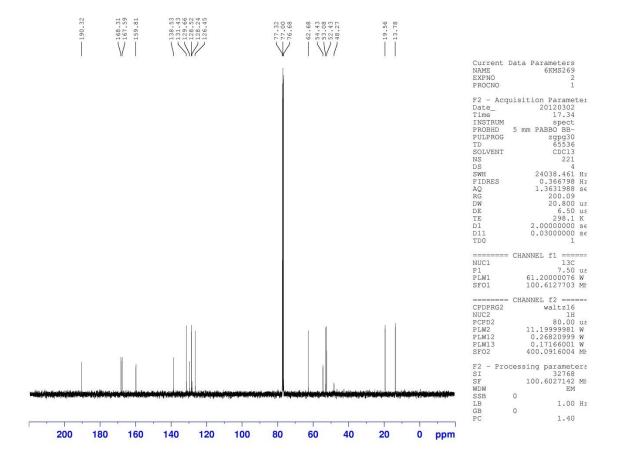


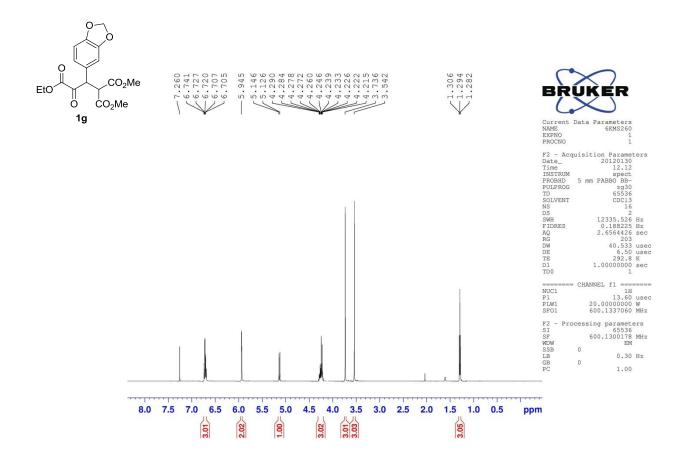


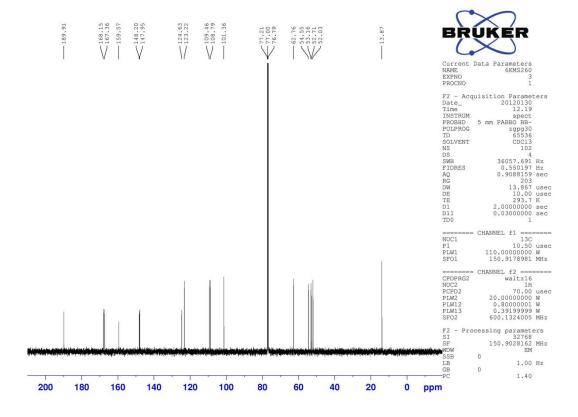


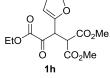


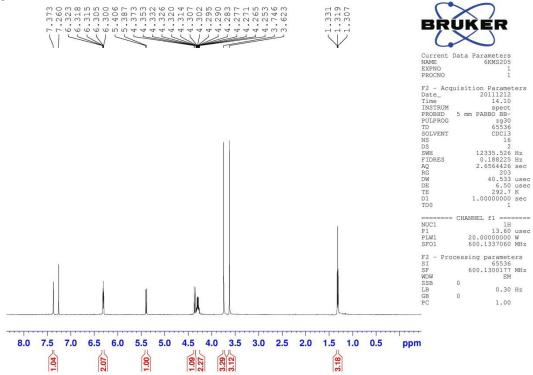


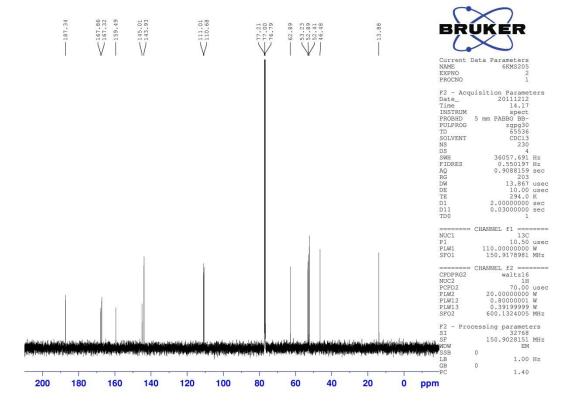


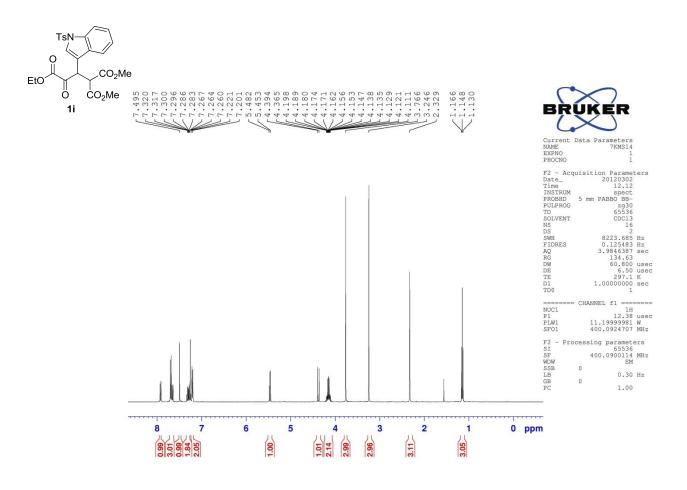


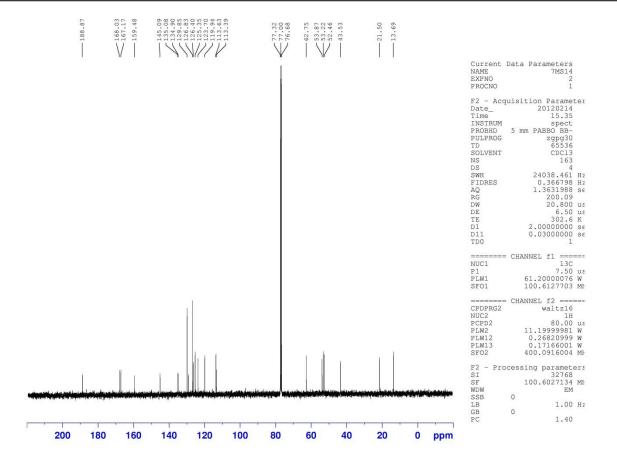


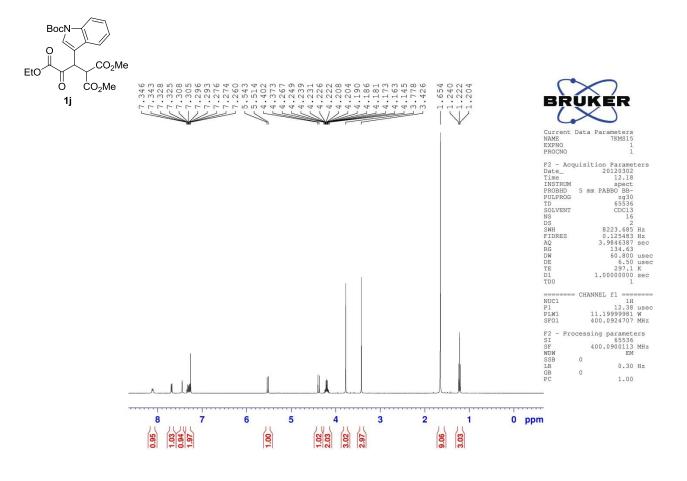


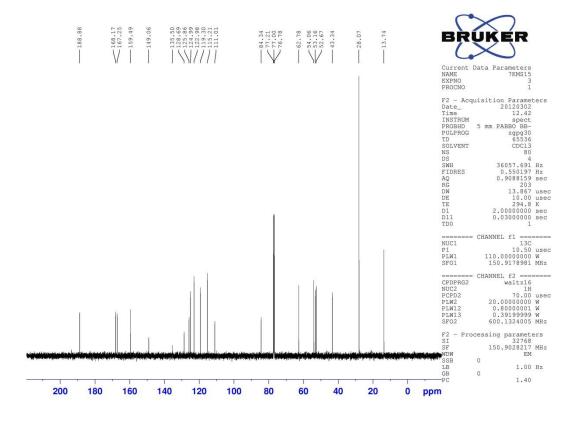


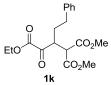


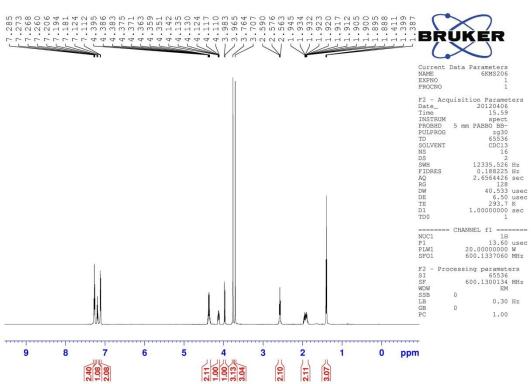


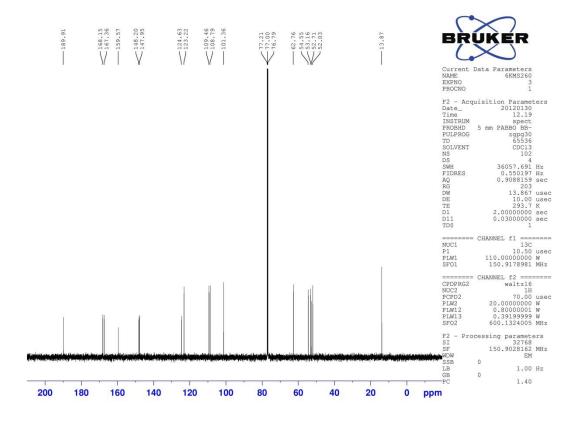


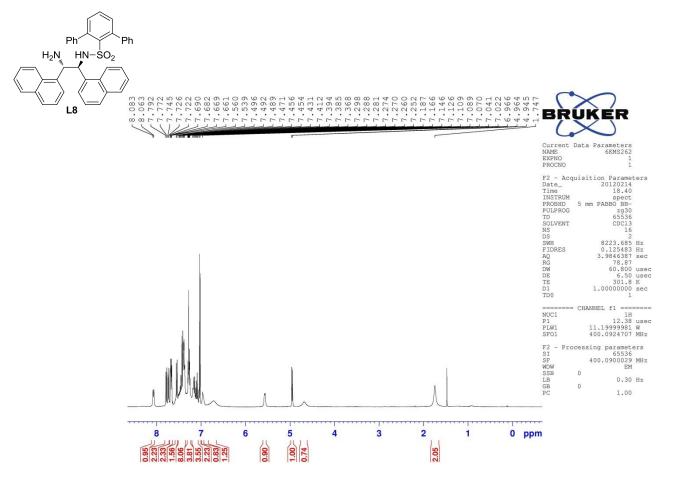


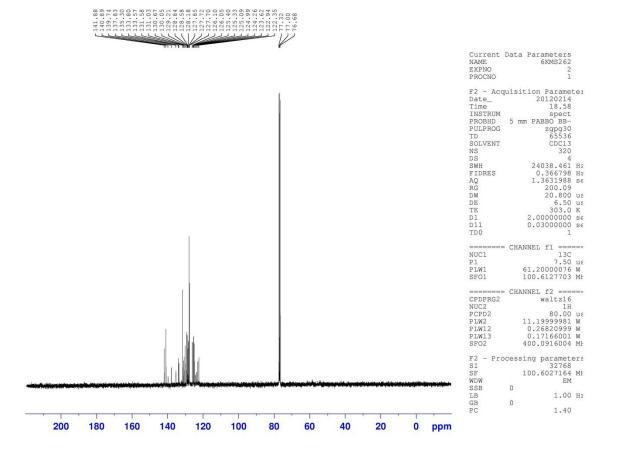


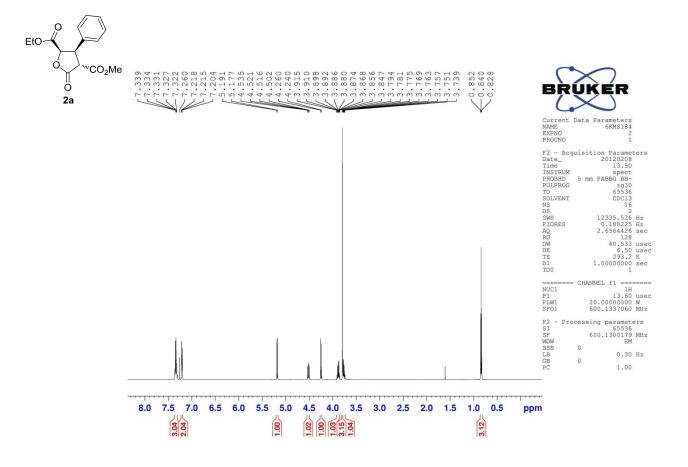


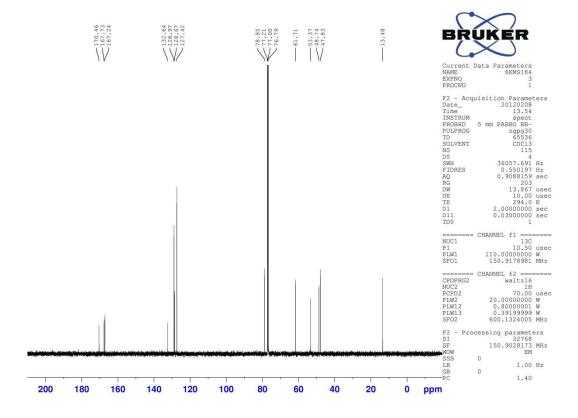


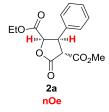


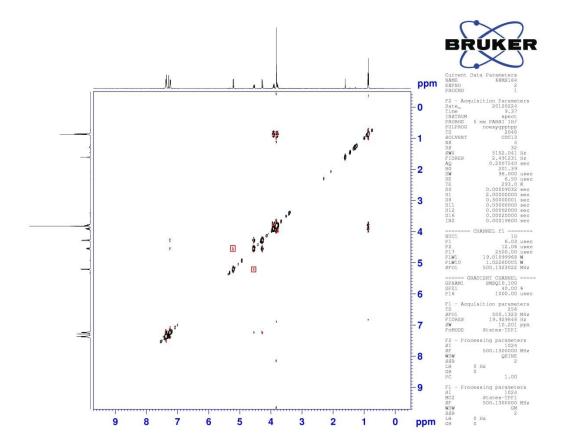




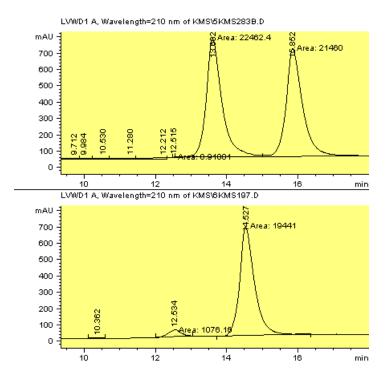


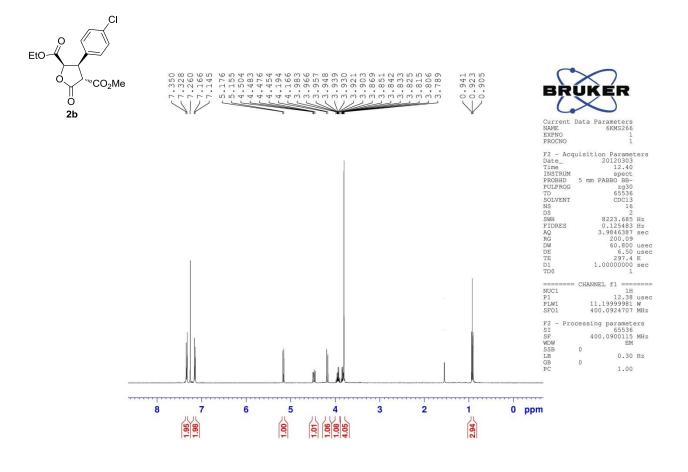


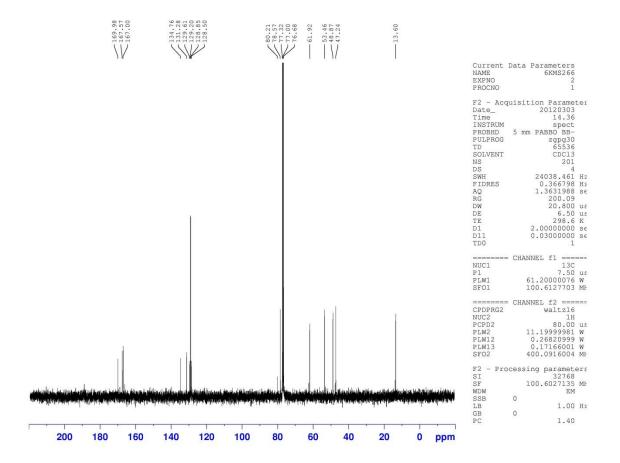


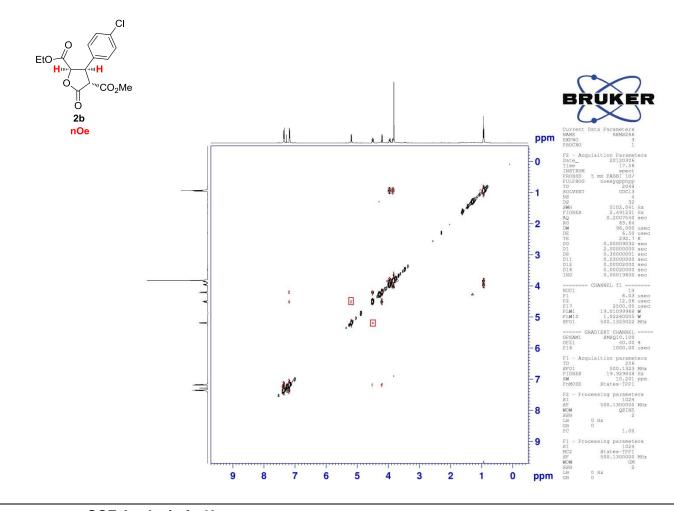


SFC Analysis for 2a:

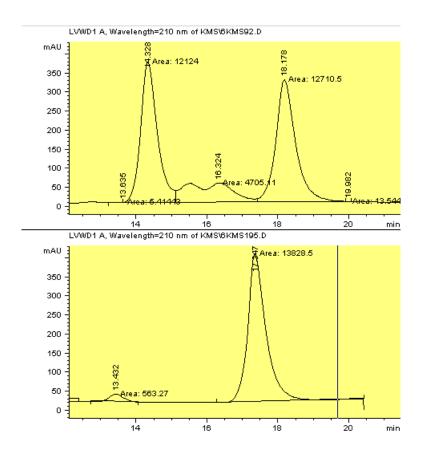


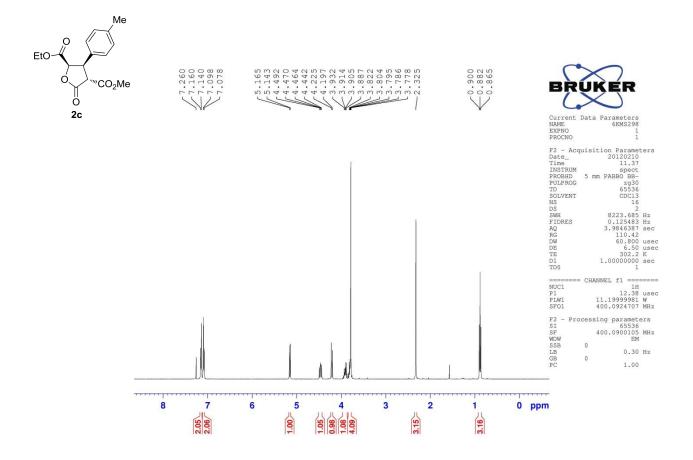


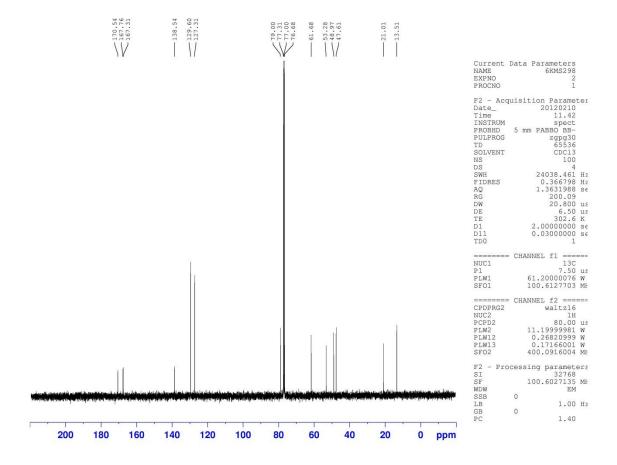


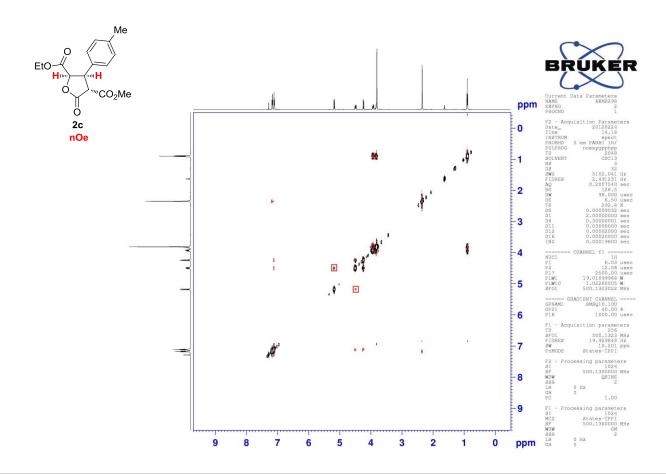


SCF Analysis fo 2b:

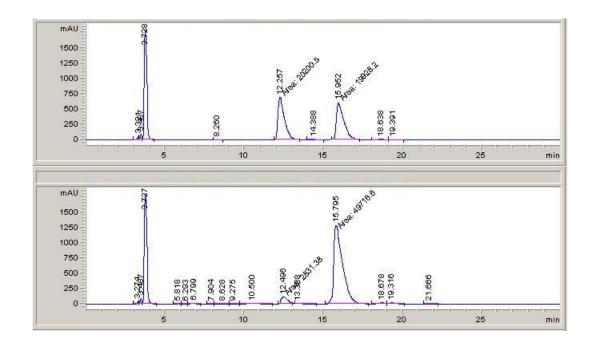


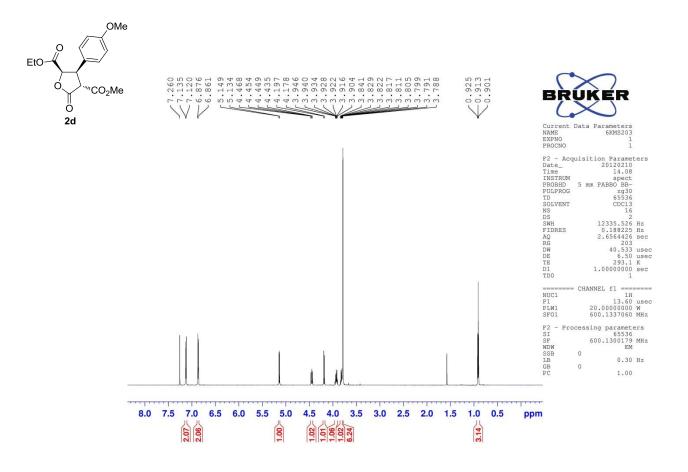


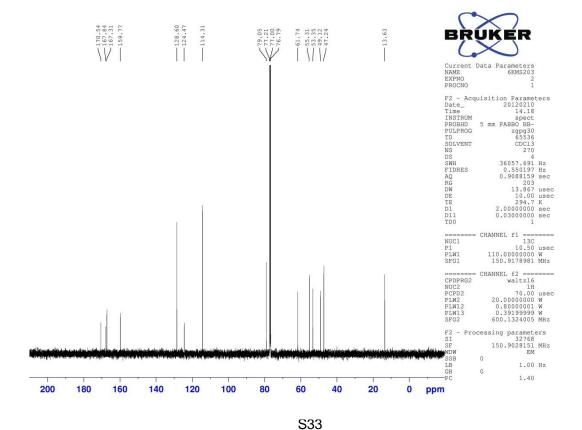


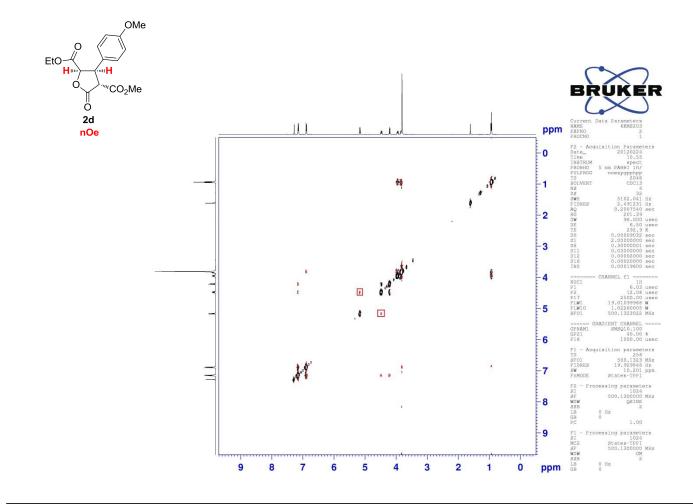


HPLC Analysis for 2c:

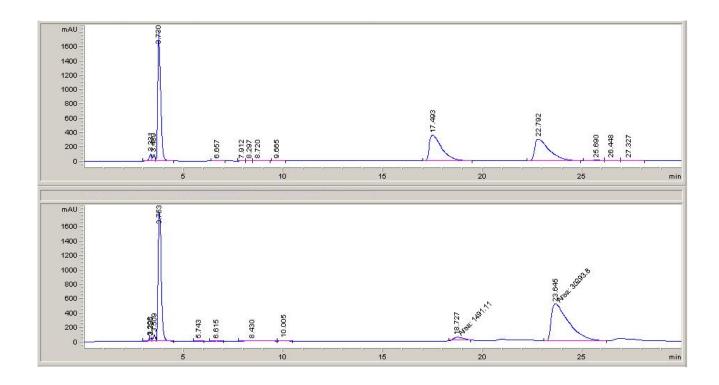


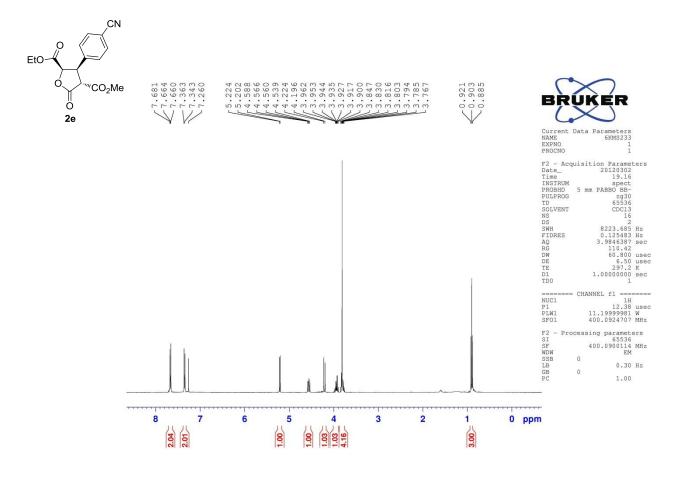


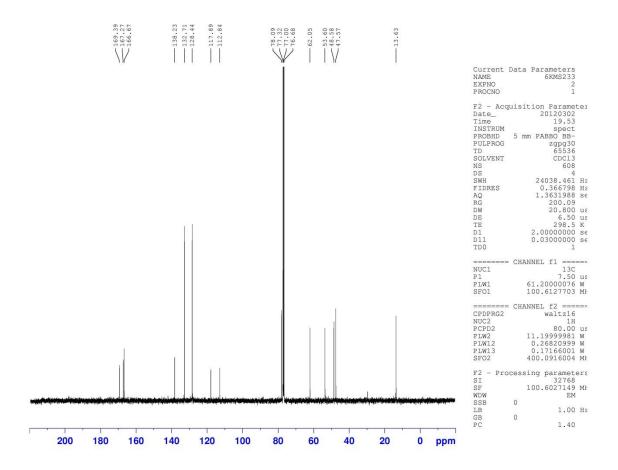


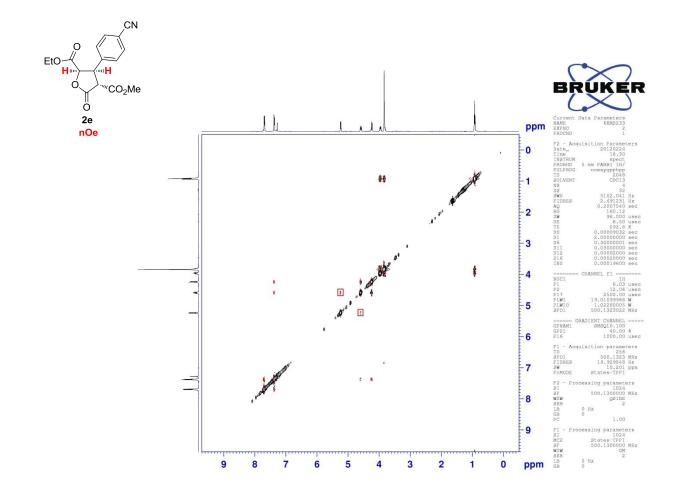


HPLC Analysis for 2d:

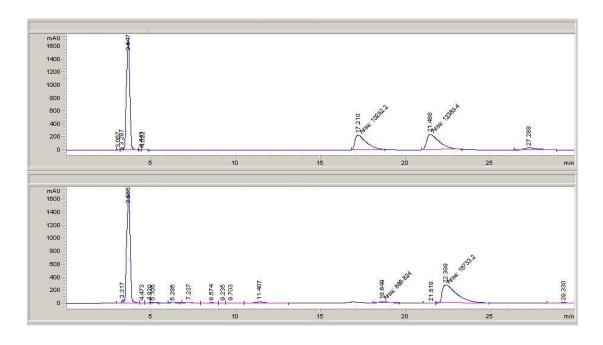


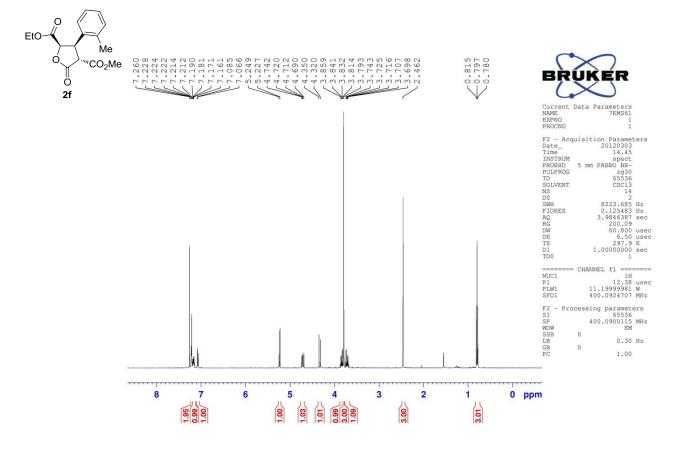


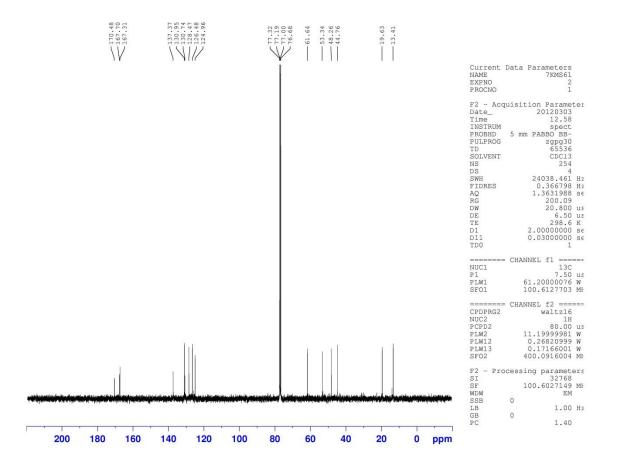


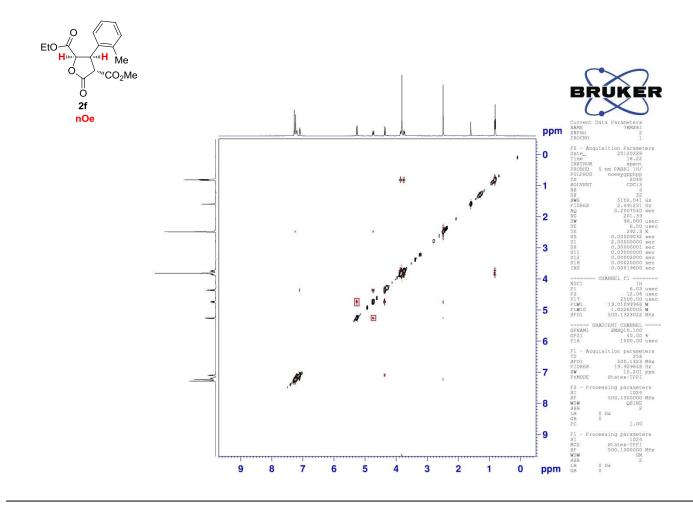


HPLC Analysis for 2e:

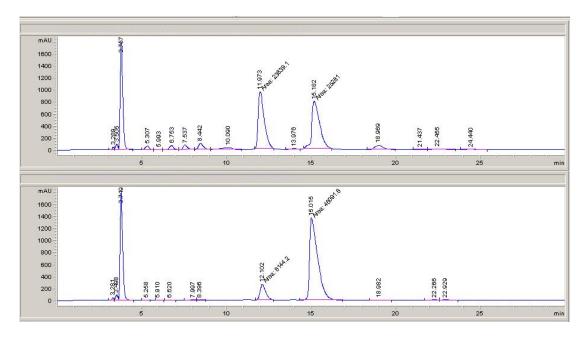


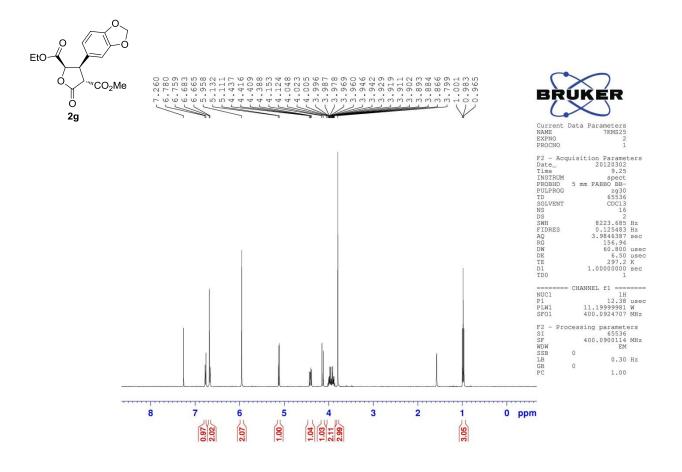


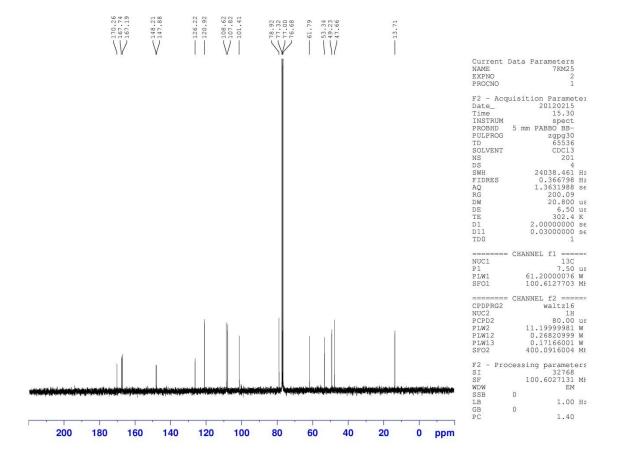


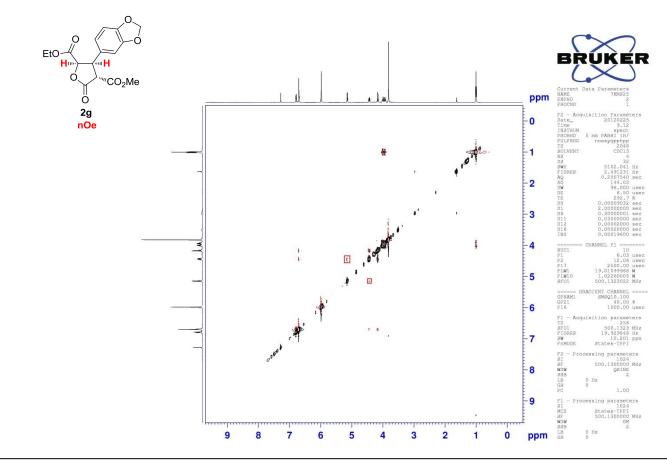


HPLC Analysis for 2f:

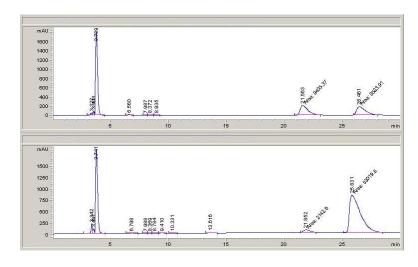


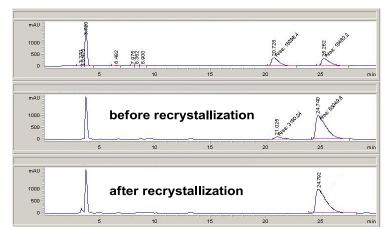


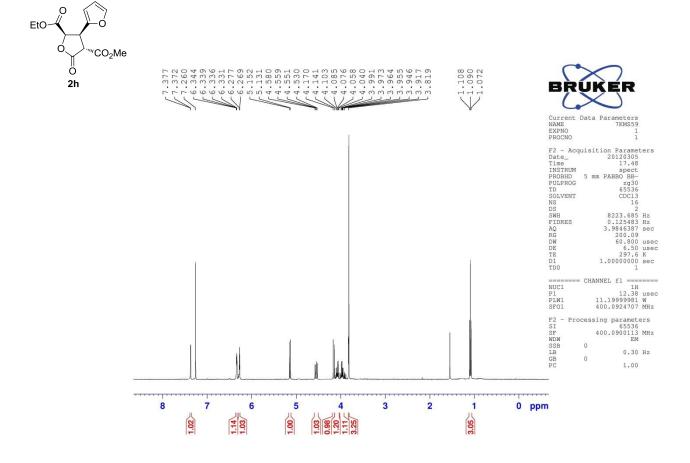


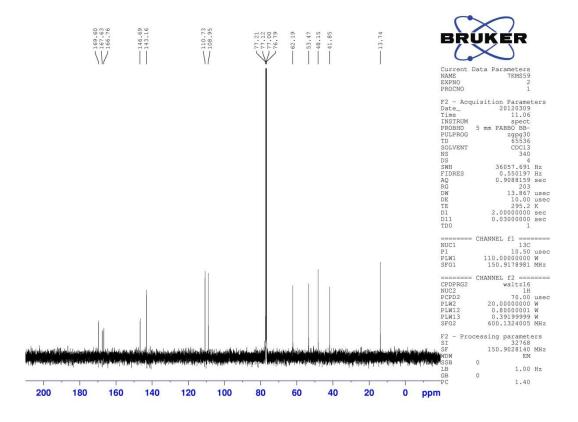


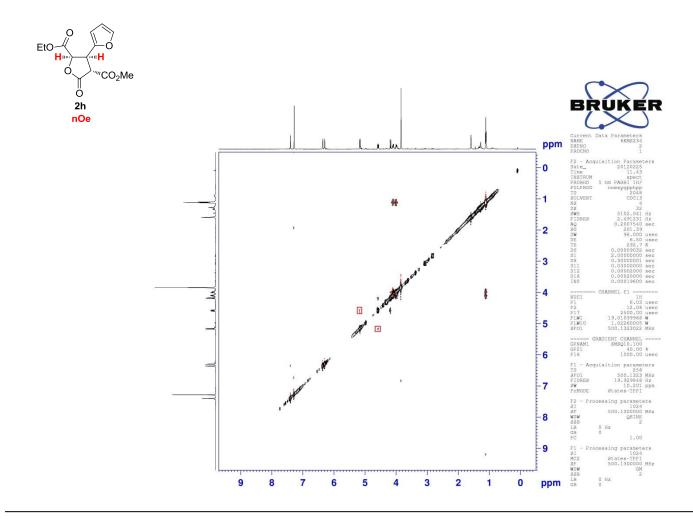
HPLC Analysis for 2g (top: small scale; bottom: large scale)



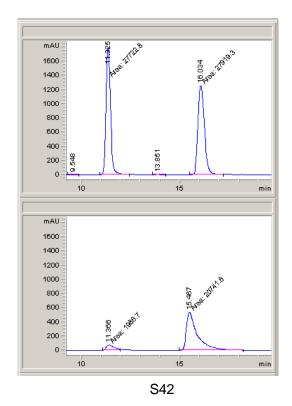


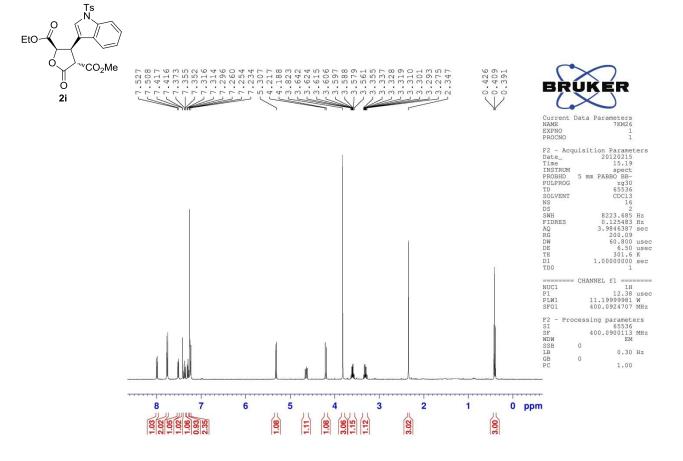


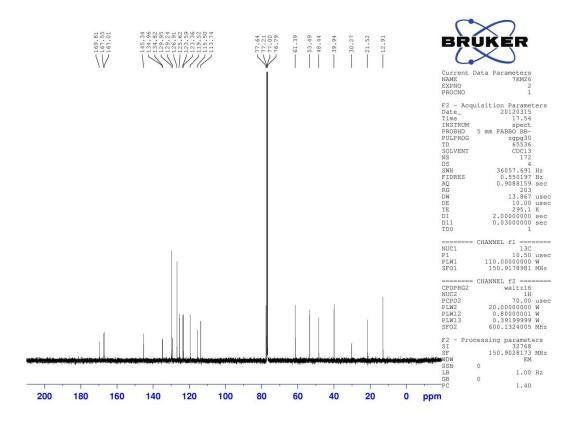


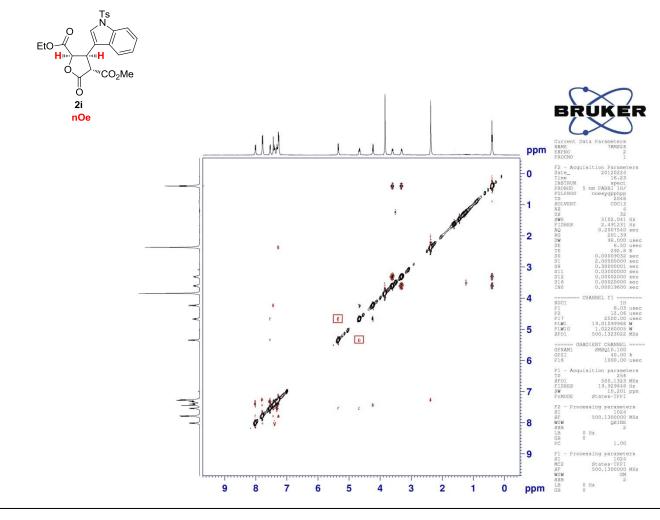


HPLC Analysis of 2h:

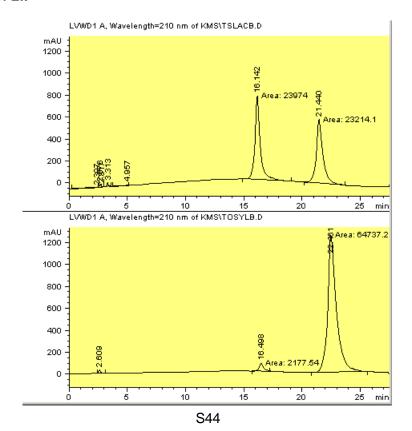


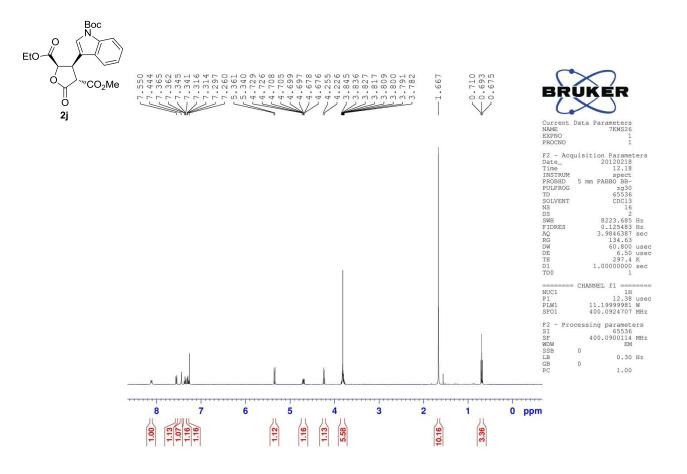


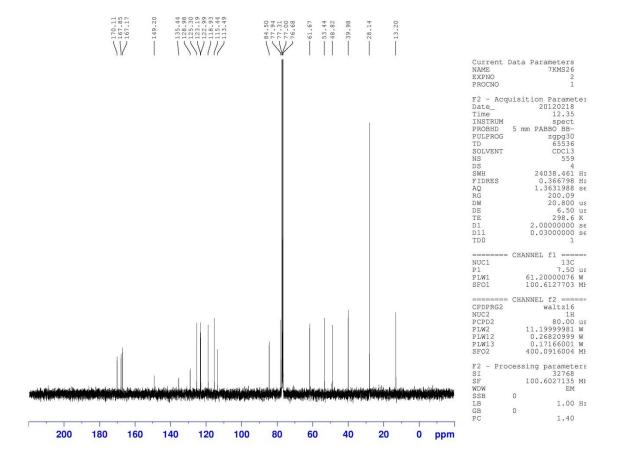


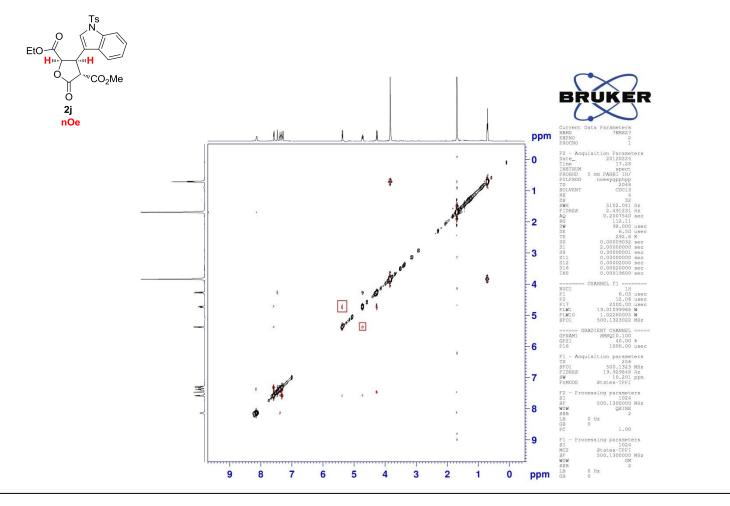


SFC Analysis of 2i:









HPLC Analysis of 2j:

