Highly Diastereoselective α-hydroxylation of Fox chiral auxiliary-based Amide Enolates with Molecular Oxygen

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General informations

Commercial reagents were purchased from Aldrich, Acros, or Alfa Aesar and used as received. Trifluoroacetaldehyde-ethylhemiacetal was generously offered by Central Glass Company. Molecular oxygen used was purchased from MESSER (Oxygen 3.5, purity > 99.95%). All oxidation reactions were performed under argon and molecular oxygen atmosphere with oven-dried glassware fitted with rubber septa. Ether and THF were distilled under nitrogen from sodium/benzophenone prior to use. CH₂Cl₂ was distilled under nitrogen from CaH₂ prior to use. Flash chromatography was performed on SDS 60A, (40-63 µm.) silica gel. Thin layer chromatography was performed on precoated aluminium sheets (Macherey-Nagel Alugram SIL/G 0.2mm). They were visualized under a 254 nm UV light. ¹H NMR spectra, ¹⁹F NMR spectra and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Brücker Advance 250 DPX (250 MHz ¹H, 235.6 MHz ¹⁹F, 69.2 MHz ¹³C) or a Jeol ECX-400 (400 MHz ¹H, 376.2 MHz ¹⁹F, 100.5 MHz ¹³C). Chemical shift values (δ) are reported in ppm downfield from Me₄Si (δ 0.0 ppm), C₆F₆ (δ -164.9 ppm) or CDCl₃ as internal standard (δ 77.0 ppm). Data are reported as follows: chemical shift (δ ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, p = pentet, m = multiplet), integration, coupling constant (Hz). Infrared (IR-FT) spectra were performed on a Brücker Tensor. GC analyses were performed on a Agilent 6890N (capillary column HP-5MS, 30 m × 250 µm, N₂ as vector gas). HRMS analyses were performed on a Jeol JMS-GC Mate II. Specific rotations were measured on a JASCO P1010 polarimeter.

Starting material synthesis.

The starting *N*-acylated oxazolidines **1a-e** were prepared according to our previously reported procedures.^{1,2}

Typical procedure for α -hydroxylation reactions in the presence of molecular oxygen and P(OEt)₃.

To a solution of amide **1a** (2.27 g, 8.31 mmol) in THF (85 mL) under argon and at -78 °C was added a solution of NaHMDS (8.31 mL, 1.5 M in THF, 16.6 mmol, 2 eq). The reaction mixture was stirred for 45 min at -78 °C and triethylphosphite (1.53 mL, 9.14 mmol, 1.1 eq) was added. Then molecular oxygen was bubbled through the reaction mixture for 2 h. The reaction mixture was quenched with an aqueous 1 N HCl solution (85 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with diethyl ether (3 x 75 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography (cyclohexane/ethyl acetate 80/20 to 60/40) afforded the alcohol **3a** (2.15 g, 90%, 94% *de*) as a white solid.

(2*S*,4*R*)-2-trifluoromethyl-3-[(*R*)-2-hydroxypropanoyl]-4-phenyl-1,3-oxazolidine ((*R*)-3a).



Recrystallisation in cyclohexane (50 mL) gave pure alcohol (R)-**3a** (1.56 g, 65%) as a white solid.

 ⁽¹⁾ Tessier, A.; Pytkowicz, J.; Brigaud, T. Angew. Chem. 2006, 118, 3759–3763; Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2006, 45, 3677–3681.

⁽²⁾ Tessier, A.; Lahmar, N.; Pytkowicz, J.; Brigaud, T.; J. Org. Chem. 2008, 73, 3970-3973.

m.p. = 75 °C; $[\alpha]_D$ –59.0 (*c* 1.0, CHCl₃); IR (neat) 3215, 1672, 1410, 1278, 1209, 1177, 1148, 1042, 865, 846, 684 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz) δ 0.70 (m, 3H), 2.41 (d, 1H, ³*J* = 8.7 Hz), 3.93 (m, 1H), 4.12 (d, 1H, ²*J* = 8.2 Hz), 4.70 (dd, 1H, ²*J* = 8.2 Hz, ³*J* = 6.4 Hz), 5.21 (d, 1H, ³*J* = 6.4 Hz), 6.13 (m, 1H), 7.22-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.40 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100.5 MHz) δ 19.6, 60.1, 67.6, 76.6, 85.5 (q, ³*J*_{C-F} = 38.1 Hz), 123.3 (q, ²*J*_{C-F} = 288.5 Hz), 126.1, 129.0, 129.6, 141.4, 164.6; ¹⁹F NMR (376.2 MHz) δ –79.9 (bs); MS (EI) 289 [M⁺] (2), 245 (100), 220 (18), 186 (22), 176 (21), 148 (31), 120 (32), 104 (54), 91 (22), 77 (12); HRMS Calculated 289.0926, Found 289.0883; Anal. Calculated for C₁₃H₁₄F₃NO₃: C, 53.98; H, 4.88; N, 4.84. Found C, 54.04; H, 4.75; N, 5.11.

(2*S*,4*R*)-2-trifluoromethyl-3-[(2*R*)-2-hydroxy-3-phenylpropanoyl]-4-phenyl-1,3oxazolidine (3b).



The compound **3b** was obtained as a white solid (3.135 g, 81%, >98% *de*) from the sodium enolate of **1b** (3.597 g, 10.3 mmol) using the typical hydroxylation procedure.

m.p. = 105 °C; $[\alpha]_D$ –67.6 (*c* 1.0, CHCl₃); IR (neat) 3404, 2982, 1656, 1178, 1143 1106, 1082, 843, 751, 701, 683 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz) δ 2.24 (d, 1H, ³*J* = 8.9 Hz), 2.31 (d, 1H, ²*J* = 12.8 Hz), 2.59 (dd, 1H, ²*J* = 12.8 Hz, ³*J* = 9.6 Hz), 3.94 (dd, 1H, ³*J* = 9.6 Hz, ³*J* = 8.9 Hz), 4.09 (d, 1H, ³*J* = 8.7 Hz), 4.69 (dd, 1H, ²*J* = 8.7 Hz, ³*J* = 6.4 Hz), 5.27 (d, 1H, ³*J* = 6.4 Hz), 6.13 (q, 1H, ³*J*_{H-F} = 3.7 Hz), 6.79 (d, 2H, ³*J* = 4.1 Hz), 7.17-7.40 (m, 8H); ¹³C NMR (100.5 MHz) δ 39.4, 60.2, 72.0, 76.6, 85.6 (q, ³*J*_{C-F} = 35.5 Hz), 123.3 (q, ²*J*_{C-F} = 289.5 Hz), 126.0, 126.8, 128.5, 129.1, 129.6, 129.7, 136.5, 141.6, 173.2; ¹⁹F NMR (376.2 MHz) δ -79.9

(d, ${}^{3}J_{H-F} = 3.7 \text{ Hz}$); Anal. Calculated for C₁₈H₁₉F₃NO₃: C, 62.46; H, 4.97; N, 3.83. Found C, 62.35; H, 4.87; N, 3.99.

(2*S*,4*R*)-2-trifluoromethyl-3-[(2*R*)-2-hydroxy-3-methylbutanoyl]-4-phenyl-1,3oxazolidine (3c).



Obtained as a white solid (367 mg, 70%, >98% de) from sodium enolate of **1c** (500 mg, 1.66 mmol) using typical hydroxylation procedure.

m.p. = 122 °C; $[\alpha]_D$ –60.2 (*c* 1.50, CHCl₃); IR (neat) 3641; 2968, 165, 1417, 1266, 1175, 1145, 1104, 1034, 980, 932, 846, 776, 708, 681 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz) δ 0.45 (m, 3H), 0.75 (m, 3H), 1.47 (m, 1H), 2.17 (d, 1H, ³*J* = 8.2 Hz), 3.56 (m, 1H), 4.10 (d, 1H, ²*J* = 6.4 Hz), 4.67 (dd, 1H ²*J* = 6.4 Hz, ³*J* = 4.8 Hz), 5.25 (d, 1H, ³*J* = 4.8 Hz), 6.15 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.42 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100.5 MHz) δ 15.7, 19.0, 30.4, 60.2, 75.9, 76.8, 85,8 (q, ³*J*_{C-F} = 34.5 Hz), 132.3 (q, ²*J*_{C-F} = 289.5 Hz), 126.1, 128.9, 129.5, 142.0, 173.5; ¹⁹F NMR (376.2 MHz) δ –76.4 (bs); HRMS Calculated 317.1239, Found 317.1227; Anal. Calculated for C₁₅H₁₈F₃NO₃: C, 56.78; H, 5.72; N, 4.41. Found: C, 56.32; H, 5.78; N, 4.36.

(2*S*,4*R*)-2-trifluoromethyl-3-[(2*R*)-2-hydroxy-3,3-dimethylbutanoyl]-4-phenyl-1,3oxazolidine (3d).



Obtained as a white solid (222 mg; 42%, >98% de) from sodium enolate of **1d** (500 mg, 1.59 mmol) using typical hydroxylation procedure.

m.p. = 115 °C; $[\alpha]_D$ –64.4 (*c* 1.65, CHCl₃); IR (neat) 3586, 3417, 2962, 1654, 1386, 1363, 1324, 1273, 1179, 1146, 1110, 980, 938, 846; 704, 681 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz) δ 0.74 (s, 9H), 2.13 (d, 1H, ³*J* = 8.0 Hz), 3.54 (d, 1H, ³*J* = 8.0 Hz), 4.08 (d, 1H, ²*J* = 8.2 Hz), 4.65 (m, 1H), 5.29 (m, 1H), 6.14 (m, 1H), 7.15-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.28-7.42 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100.5 MHz) δ 25.5, 34.8, 60.5, 76.6, 78.0, 85.7 (q, ³*J*_{C-F} = 34.5 Hz), 123.4 (q, ²*J*_{C-F} = 289.5 Hz), 124.8, 128.7, 129.4, 152.7, 172.3; ¹⁹F NMR (376.2 MHz) δ –79.2 (bs); HRMS Calculated 331.1395, Found 331.1411; Anal. Calculated for C₁₆H₂₀F₃NO₃: C, 58.00; H, 6.08; N, 4.23. Found: C, 57.71; H, 6.19; N, 4.16.

(2*S*,4*R*)-3-[(2*R*)-3-dibenzylamino-2-hydroxypropanoyl]-2-trifluoromethyl-4-phenyl-1,3oxazolidine (3e).



Obtained as a white solid (386 mg, 75%, >98% de) from sodium enolate of **1e** (500 mg, 1.07 mmol) using typical hydroxylation procedure.

m.p. = 83 °C; $[\alpha]_D$ –15,8 (*c* 0.72, CHCl₃); IR (neat) 3327, 3033, 1643, 1494, 1450, 1380, 1272, 1178, 1141, 1112, 1029, 985, 933, 892, 834, 794, 694, 637 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆, 298 K, two conformers showing coalescence on heating at 323 K) δ 2.30 (dd, 1H, ²*J* = 13.7 Hz, ³*J* = 4.1 Hz), 2.45 (dd, 1H, ²*J* = 13.7 Hz, ³*J* = 7.3 Hz), 3.11 (d, 2H, ²*J* = 14.2 Hz), 3,26 (d, 2H, ²*J* = 14.2 Hz), 3.90 (td, 1H, ³*J* = 7.3 Hz, ³*J* = 4.1 Hz), 4.02 (d, 1H, ²*J*_{C-F} = 8.7 Hz), 4.53 (dd, 1H, ²*J* = 8.7 Hz, ³*J* = 6.4 Hz), 5.53 (d, 1H, ³*J* = 6.4 Hz), 5.68 (d, 1H, ³*J* = 7.3 Hz), 6.34 (q, 1H, ³*J*_{H-F} = 5.1 Hz), 7.05-7.12 (m, 3H), 7.12-7.42 (m, 12H); ¹³C NMR (100.5 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆, 298 K) δ 54.4, 56.9, 59.0, 67.5, 76.1, 84.4 (q, ³*J*_{C-F} = 33.4 Hz), 123.4 (q, ²*J*_{C-F} = 289.5 Hz), 125.8, 126.7, 128.0, 128.4, 129.1, 138.8, 142.4, 172.1; ¹⁹F NMR (376.2 MHz).

DMSO- d_6 , 298 K) δ major conformer : -78.7 (d, ${}^{3}J_{\text{H-F}} = 5.1\text{Hz}$), minor conformer : -79.7 (bs); HRMS Calculated 484.1974, Found 484.1980; Anal. Calculated for C₂₇H₂₇F₃N₂O₃: C, 66.93; H, 5.62; N, 5.78. Found: C, 66.87; H, 5.68; N, 5.79.

Oxidation procedure using Vedejs' reagent.

To a solution of the amide 1a (0.325 g, 1.19 mmol) in THF (10 mL) under argon at -78 °C was added a solution of NaHMDS (0.89 mL, 2M in THF, 1.79 mmol, 1.5 eq). The reaction mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 2 h and freshly prepared MoOPH^[3] (770 mg, 1.79 mmol, 1.5 eq) was added. The mixture was warmed up to -40 °C and stirred for 19 h. The crude reaction mixture was treated with brine (15 mL) and an aqueous 3N HCl solution (10 mL) was added. The mixture was extracted with diethyl ether (3 x 25 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and under reduced Purification concentrated pressure. flash chromatography by (cyclohexane/ethyl acetate 90/10 to 60/40) afforded the alcohol **3a** (167 mg, 49%, 62% *de*) as a mixture of two diastereomers ((R)-3a/(S)-3a : 81/19). The spectral data of each diastereomer were determined in the crude mixture.

(2S,4R)-2-trifluoromethyl-3-[(S)-2-hydroxypropanoyl]-4-phenyl-1,3-oxazolidine ((S)-3a).



¹H NMR (250 MHz) δ 1.35 (d, 3H, ${}^{3}J$ = 6.8 Hz), 3.40 (d, 1H, ${}^{3}J$ = 7.5 Hz), 3.89 (m, 1H), 4.11 (m, 1H), 4.70 (m, 1H), 4.97 (d, 1H, ${}^{3}J$ = 6.4 Hz), 6.23 (q, 1H, ${}^{3}J_{\text{H-F}}$ = 4.9 Hz), 7.19-7.34 (m, 5H); ¹³C NMR (62.9 MHz) δ 21.0, 60.1, 66.5, 76.5, 85.4 (q, ${}^{3}J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 35.6 Hz), 123.3 (q, ${}^{2}J_{\text{C-F}}$ =

⁽³⁾ Organic Syntheses, Coll. Vol. 7 1990, 277; 1986, Vol. 64, p.127.

289.1 Hz), 125.3, 129.0, 129.7, 140.2, 176.2; ¹⁹F NMR (376.2 MHz) δ –81.2 (d, 3F, ³*J*_{H-F} = 4.9 Hz).

(2S,4R)-2-trifluoromethyl-3-[(R)-2-hydroperoxypropanoyl]-4-phenyl-1,3-oxazolidine (4).



To a solution of the amide **1a** (0.150 g, 0.55 mmol) in THF (6 mL) under argon and at -78 °C was added a solution of NaHMDS (0.55 mL, 2 M in THF, 1.1 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 45 min. Then molecular oxygen was bubbled through the reaction mixture for 2 h. The mixture was quenched with water (5 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (3 x 15 ml). The organic layers were combined and dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford the crude hydroperoxide **4** as a white solid (143 mg, 85%).

IR (neat) 3306, 2922, 2855, 1658, 1177, 1145, 705, 683 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz) δ 0.72 (d, 3H, ³*J* = 6.4 Hz), 4.13 (d, 1H, ²*J* = 8.6 Hz), 4.31 (q, 1H, ³*J* = 6.4 Hz), 4.73 (dd, 1H, ²*J* = 8.6 Hz, ³*J* = 6.9 Hz,), 5.26 (d, 1H, ³*J* = 6.9 Hz), 6.19 (q, 1H, ³*J*_{H-F} = 4.8 Hz), 7.24-7.40 (m, 5H), 8.77 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.5 MHz) δ 13.6, 60.1, 76.8, 79.5, 85.6 (q, ³*J*_{C-F} = 35.6 Hz), 123.3 (q, ²*J*_{C-F} = 289.5 Hz), 126.2, 129.1, 129.7, 141.4, 171.5; ¹⁹F NMR (376.2 MHz) δ -80.1 (d, ³*J*_{H-F} = 4.8 Hz); MS (EI) 287 [M⁺-H₂O] (6), 244 (95), 216 (56), 201 (59), 173 (100), 153 (26), 124 (79), 104 (52), 91 (47).

(2*S*,4*R*)-3-[(*R*)-2-benzyloxypropanoyl]-2-trifluoromethyl-4-phenyl-1,3-oxazolidine (5a).



To a solution of alcohol (*R*)-**3a** (1.50 g, 5.19 mmol) in THF (18 mL) cooled to 0 °C and under argon atmosphere was added NaH (259 mg, 6.48 mmol, 1.25 eq). The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 45 min. Benzyl bromide (1.55 mL, 13.0 mmol, 2.5 eq) was added and the mixture was allowed to warm up to room temperature and stirred overnight. The mixture was quenched with water (30 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (3 x 25 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography (cyclohexane/ethyl acetate 95/5 to 85/15) afforded the protected alcohols **5a** (1.93 g, 98%, >98% *de*) as a white solid.

m.p. = 89 °C; $[\alpha]_D$ –70.9 (*c* 1.0, CHCl₃); IR (neat) 1662, 1409, 1326, 1270, 1103, 1061, 902, 876, 828, 751, 697,687 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz) δ 0.85 (d, 3H, ³*J* = 6.4 Hz), 3.75 (q, 1H, ³*J* = 6.4 Hz), 4.00 (d, 1H, ²*J* = 8.7 Hz), 4.39 (d, 1H, ²*J* = 11.9 Hz), 4.50 (d, 1H, ²*J* = 11.9 Hz), 4.59 (dd, 1H, ²*J* = 8.7 Hz ³*J* = 6.9 Hz), 4,75 (d, 1H, ³*J* = 6.9 Hz), 6.19 (q, 1H, ³*J*_{H-F} = 4.7 Hz), 6.98-7.00 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.44 (m, 8H); ¹³C NMR (100.5 MHz) δ 15.3, 60.2, 69.6, 72.6, 76.6, 85.3 (q, ³*J*_{C-F} = 34.5 Hz), 123.5 (q, ²*J*_{C-F} = 288.5 Hz), 125.9, 128.0, 128.2, 128.8, 129.5, 137.8, 141.5, 172.4; ¹⁹F NMR (376.2 MHz) δ –80.3 (d, ³*J*_{H-F} = 4.7 Hz); HRMS Calculated 379.1395, Found 379.1432; Anal. Calculated for C₂₀H₂₀F₃NO₃: C, 63.32; H, 5.31; N, 3.69. Found: C, 63.74; H, 5.40; N, 3.75.

(2*R*,4*S*)-3-[(2*R*)-2-benzyloxy-3-phenylpropanoyl]-2-trifluoromethyl-4-phenyl-1,3oxazolidine (5b).

Obtained from alcohol **3b** (460 mg, 1.26 mmol) using a similar procedure as for **5a**. Purification by flash chromatography (cyclohexane/ethyl acetate 95/5 to 90/10) afforded the protected alcohols **5b** (550 mg, 96%, >98% *de*) as a white solid. m.p. = 82 °C; $[\alpha]_D$ –118.4 (*c* 1.0, CHCl₃); IR (neat) 2986, 1661, 1203, 1180, 1143, 1092, 841, 728, 689 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz) δ 2.09 (dd, 1H, ²*J* = 14.2 Hz, ³*J* = 3.7 Hz), 2.85 (dd, 1H, ²*J* = 14.2 Hz, ³*J* = 9.6 Hz), 3.85 (dd, 1H, ³*J* = 9.6 Hz, ³*J* = 3.7 Hz), 3.94 (d, 1H, ²*J* = 8.7 Hz), 4.37 (s, 2H), 4.42 (d, 1H, ³*J* = 6.9 Hz), 4.53 (dd, 1H, ²*J* = 8.7 Hz, ³*J* = 6.9 Hz), 6.18 (q, 1H, ³*J*_{H-F} = 4.8 Hz), 6.65-6.68 (m, 2H), 6.88-7.00 (m, 2H), 7.00-7.09 (m, 2H), 7.09-7.38 (m, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100.5 MHz) δ 36.6, 60.0, 70.4, 76.5, 76.6, 85.3 (q, ³*J*_{C-F} = 35.5 Hz), 123.4 (q, ²*J*_{C-F} = 288.5 Hz), 128.1, 128.7, 129.0, 129.7, 137.1, 137.7, 141.7, 171.5; ¹⁹F NMR (376.2 MHz) δ -79.9 (d, ³*J*_{H-F} = 4.8 Hz); HRMS Calculated 455.1708; Anal. Calculated for C₂₆H₂₄F₃NO₃: C, 68.56; H, 5.31; N, 3.08. Found: C, 70.13; H, 5.74; N, 2.98.

Typical procedure for the chiral auxiliary removal

To a solution of the amide **5a** (250 mg, 0.66 mmol) in diethyl ether (6 mL) cooled at -10 °C and under argon atmosphere, was slowly added LiAlH₄ (100 mg, 2.64 mmol, 4 eq). The reaction mixture was stirred at -10 °C for 2 h. Water (95 µL, 5.27 mmol, 8 eq), aqueous NaOH 15% (28 µL, 0.11 mmol, 0.16 eq) and water (285 µL, 15.8 mmol, 24 eq) were sequentially added. The resulting mixture was filtered and the white powder was abundantly washed with diethyl ether. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure to afford 250 mg of a mixture of hemiaminal **6a** (30%),⁴ aldehyde **7a** (35%),⁵ and oxazolidine **8** (35%).⁵ The conversion of the hemiaminal **6a** into **7a** and **8** was completed by stirring the reaction mixture for 2 h in a slightly acidic chloroform solution (0.09 mmol acetic acid in 25 mL chloroform). The reaction mixture was then concentrated under reduced pressure to afford 240 mg (96%) of a mixture of aldehyde **7a** and Fox chiral auxiliary **8**. The spectral data of **6a** and **7a** were determined in the mixture. The spectral data of **8** are given in our previous report.¹

⁽⁴⁾ The ratio of **6a**, **7a** and **8** were determined by 1 H NMR.

(2S,4R)-3-[(R)-2-benzyloxy-1-hydroxypropyl]-2-trifluoromethyl-4-phenyl-1,3-

oxazolidine (6a).

¹H NMR (400 MHz) : δ 1.12 (d, 3H, ³*J* = 6.0 Hz); 2.62 (m, 1H); 3.13 (d, 1H, ³*J* = 1.4 Hz); 3.33 (dq, 1H, ³*J* = 6.0 ³*J* = 1.4 Hz); 4.09-4.13 (m, 1H); 4.21-4.24 (m, 1H); 4.36 (d, 1H, ²*J* = 11.0 Hz); 4.48-4.54 (m, 1H); 4.59 (d, 1H, ²*J* = 11.0 Hz); 5.95 (q, 1H, ³*J*_{H-F} = 5.8 Hz); 7.25-7.43 (m, 10H); ¹⁹F NMR (376.5 MHz) : δ –83.2 (d, ³*J*_{H-F} = 5.8 Hz).

(R)-2-benzyloxypropanal (7a).



¹H NMR spectral data are in accordance with the literature.^[5]

¹H NMR (400 MHz) δ 1.32 (d, 3H, ${}^{3}J$ = 6.9 Hz), 3.89 (dq, 1H, ${}^{3}J$ = 1.37, ${}^{3}J$ = 6.9 Hz), 4.59 (d, 1H, ${}^{2}J$ = 11.9 Hz), 4.65 (d, 1H, ${}^{2}J$ = 11.9 Hz), 7.31-7.40 (m, 5H), 9.66 (s, 1H); 13 C NMR (100.5 MHz) δ 15.4, 72.1, 79.6, 128.5, 128.2, 128.1, 137.5, 203.6.

In a similar manner, the LiAlH₄ reduction of **5b** (500 mg, 1.10 mmol) gave the hemiaminal **6b**. The hydrolysis of **6b** afforded an equimolar mixture of aldehyde **7b** and Fox chiral auxiliary **8** (504 mg) in a quantitative yield.

⁽⁵⁾ Dubost, C.; Leroy, B.; Markó, I. E.; Tinant, B.; Declercq, J.–P.; Bryans, J. *Tetrahedron* 2004, *60*, 7693–7704.

(2*S*,4*R*)-3-[(*R*)-2-benzyloxy-1-hydroxy-3-phenylpropyl]-2-trifluoromethyl-4-phenyl-1,3oxazolidine (6b).



¹H NMR (400 MHz) : δ 2.53 (dd, 1H, ²*J* = 14.0 Hz, ³*J* = 7.8 Hz); 2.97 (d, 1H, ³*J* = 2.8 Hz); 3.04 (dd, 1H, ²*J* = 14.0 Hz, ³*J* = 3.7 Hz); 3.94-3.98 (m, 1H); 4.13-4.07 (m, 1H); 4.21 (d, 1H, ²*J* = 10.7 Hz); 4.23-4.27 (m, 1H); 4.27 (d, 1H, ²*J* = 10.7 Hz); 4.59 (m, 1H); 5.38 (q, 1H, ³*J*_{H-F} = 6.0 Hz); 7.09-7.38 (m, 15H); ¹⁹F NMR (376.5 MHz) : δ –82.8 (d, ³*J*_{H-F} = 6.0 Hz)

(*R*)-2-benzyloxy-3-phenylpropanal (7b).



¹H NMR (400 MHz) δ 2.93 (dd, 1H, ²*J* = 14.2 Hz, ³*J* = 8.6 Hz), 3.03 (dd, 1H, ²*J* = 14.2 Hz, ³*J* = 5.0 Hz), 3.97 (ddd, 1H, ³*J* = 8.6 Hz, ³*J* = 5.0 Hz, ³*J* = 2.3 Hz), 4.47 (d, 1H, ²*J* = 11.9 Hz), 4.59 (d, 1H, ²*J* = 11.9 Hz), 7.16-7.4 (m, 10H), 9.68 (d, 1H, ³*J* = 2.3 Hz); ¹³C RMN (100.5 MHz) δ 36.8, 72.9, 84.3, 126.9, 128.0, 128.1, 128.5, 128.6, 129.6, 136.6, 137.2, 203.2.

Typical procedure for the preparation of enantiopure α -benzyloxycarboxylic acids (9a,b).

The LiAlH₄ reduction of **5a** (797 mg, 2.10 mmol), followed by a slightly acidic medium hydrolysis gave an equimolar mixture of aldehyde **7a** and oxazolidine **8** (800 mg). To a solution of this crude mixture in *tert*-butanol (35 mL) at room temperature were added a solution of 2-methylbut-2-ene (11.5 mL, 2M in THF, 23.1 mmol, 11 eq) and a solution of NaClO₂ (1.897 g, 21.0 mmol, 10 eq) and NaH₂PO₄ (2.618 g, 16.8 mmol, 8 eq) in water (25

mL). The resulting yellow solution was stirred at room temperature for 1 h 30 min. THF and *t*-butanol were removed under reduced pressure. Water (25 mL) was added and the aqueous layer was extracted with a mixture of cyclohexane and ethyl acetate (90/10) (3 x 50 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to give the oxazolidine **8** (261 mg, 57%) as a colourless oil. The aqueous layer was acidified to pH 2 with an aqueous 3N HCl solution and was then extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 75 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to under reduced pressure. The crude mixture was purified by flash chromatography (dichloromethane/ methanol 95/5) to afford acid **9a** (310 mg, 82%) as a pale yellow solid. Spectral data and optical rotation of **7a** were consistent with literature values.^[6,7]

(R)-2-benzyloxypropanoic acid (9a).

m.p. 43 °C; $[\alpha]_D$ +82.7 (c 2.25, EtOH), lit.^[5] $[\alpha]_D$ +97.0 (*c* 0.71, EtOH); IR (neat) 3111, 1729, 1494, 1456, 1408, 1197, 1142, 1120, 804, 732, 694; ¹H NMR (400 MHz) δ 1.50 (d, 3H, ³*J* = 6.9 Hz), 4.12 (q, 1H, ³*J* = 6.9 Hz), 4.53 (d, 1H, ²*J* = 11.4 Hz), 4.72 (d, 1H, ²*J* = 11.4 Hz), 7.29-7.37 (m, 5H), 10.19 (bs, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.5 MHz) δ 18.5, 72.2, 73.6, 128.1, 128.2, 128.7, 137.2, 178.5; HRMS Calculated 180.0787, Found 180.0822; Anal. Calculated for C₁₀H₁₂O₃: C, 66.65; H, 6.71; Found: C, 65.50; H, 6.76.

⁽⁶⁾ Nakata, M.; Arai, M.; Tomooka, K.; Ohsawa, N.; Kinoshita, M. Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn 1989, 62, 2618–2635.

⁽⁷⁾ Chun, C. C.; Lee, G.-J.; Kim, J. N.; Kim, T. H. *Tetrahedron: Asymmetry* **2005**, 2989–2992.

According to the same procedure from **5b** (300 mg, 0.66 mmol), the acid **9b** (81 mg, 48%) was obtained as a pale yellow solid after purification by flash chromatography (cyclohexane/ ethyl acetate 90/10 to 80/20). The optical rotation of **9b** was consistent with the literature value.^[8]

(*R*)-2-(benzyloxy)-3-phenylpropanoic acid (9b)

m.p. 49 °C; $[\alpha]_D$ +72.5 (*c* 0.8, EtOH), lit.^[8] $[\alpha]_D$ +76.1 (*c* 0.73, EtOH); IR (neat) 3030, 2932, 1722, 1485, 1456, 1391, 1317, 1230, 1158, 1061, 987, 739, 696, 654 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz) δ 3.05 (dd, 1H, ²*J* = 13.7 Hz, ³*J* = 8.2 Hz), 3.17 (dd, 1H, ²*J* = 14.2 Hz, ³*J* = 4.2 Hz), 4.19 (dd, ³*J* = 8.2 Hz, ³*J* = 4.1 Hz), 4.41 (d, 1H, ²*J* = 11.7 Hz), 4.66 (d, 1H, ²*J* = 11.7 Hz), 7.14-7.32 (m, 10H), 8.98 (bs, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.5 MHz) δ 39.0, 73.0, 78.7, 127.0, 128.1, 128.2, 128.5, 128.5, 129.7, 136.8, 136.9, 176.8; HRMS Calculated 256.1099, Found 256.1097.

Typical procedure for the preparation of enantiopure α -benzyloxyalcohols (10a,b).

The LiAlH₄ reduction of **5a** (250 mg, 0.66 mmol), followed by a slightly acidic medium hydrolysis gave an equimolar mixture of aldehyde **7b** and oxazolidine **8** (240 mg). To a solution of this crude mixture in solution in methanol (2 mL) was slowly added NaBH₄ (19 mg, 0.50 mmol, 0.8 eq). The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h 30 min at room temperature. The reaction was quenched with water (10 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (3 x 15 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography

(cyclohexane/ethyl acetate 95/5 to 85/15) afforded the expected alcohol **10a** (54 mg, 51%) as a colourless oil, and the oxazolidine **8** (89 mg, 65%) as a colourless oil.

(R)-2-benzyloxypropan-1-ol (10a)

[α]_D –46.7 (*c* 0.90, CHCl₃); lit.^[8] [α]_D –47 (*c* 1.0, CHCl₃); IR (neat) 3400, 3063, 3031, 2971, 2928, 2869, 1495, 1453, 1374, 1342, 1208, 1142, 1044, 987, 906, 856, 800, 736, 696 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz) δ 1.18 (d, 3H, ³*J* = 6.0 Hz), 2.09 (s, 1H), 3.47-3.54 (m, 1H), 3.58-3.65 (m, 1H), 3.65-3.72 (m, 1H), 4.49 (d, 1H, ²*J* = 11.7 Hz), 4.66 (d, 1H, ²*J* = 11.7 Hz), 7-30-7.36 (m, 5H); ¹³C NMR (100.5 MHz) δ 16.0, 66.5, 70.9, 75.7, 127.9, 128.6, 138.5; HRMS Calculated 166.0994, Found 166.1000.

According to the same procedure from **5b** (500 mg, 1.1 mmol), the alcohol **10b** (222 mg, 83%) was obtained as a colourless oil after purification by flash chromatography (cyclohexane/ diethyl ether 90/10 to 60/40). The oxazolidine **8** (175 mg, 74%) was recovered as a colourless oil.

(*R*)-2-(benzyloxy)-3-phenylpropanol (10b).

 $[\alpha]_{\rm D}$ +15.2 (*c* 1.10, CH₂Cl₂); lit.^[9] $[\alpha]_{\rm D}$ +22.2 (*c* 1.00, CH₂Cl₂); IR (neat) 3402, 3028, 2922, 2868, 1494, 1452, 1349, 1208, 1028, 738, 697 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz) δ 2.05 (s, 1H), 2.80

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(dd, 1H, ${}^{2}J$ = 13.7 Hz, ${}^{3}J$ = 6.4 Hz), 2.94 (dd, 1H, ${}^{2}J$ = 13.7 Hz, ${}^{3}J$ = 6.4 Hz), 3.48-3.52 (m, 1H), 3.63-3.72 (m, 2H), 4.49 (d, 2H, ${}^{2}J$ = 11.5 Hz), 4.56 (d, 2H, ${}^{2}J$ = 11.5 Hz), 7.18-7.36 (m, 10H); 13 C NMR (100.5 MHz) δ 37.6, 63.8, 72.0, 80.97, 126.5, 127.9, 128.6, 129.5, 138.2, 138.3; HRMS Calculated 242.1307, Found 242.1300.

Typical procedure for the determination of the enantiomeric purity of benzyloxycarboxylic acid (9a).

To a solution of acid **9a** (50 mg, 0.28 mmol) in DMF (1 mL), HOBt (56 mg, 0.42 mmol, 1.5 eq) and 1-ethyl-3-[3-dimethylaminopropyl]carbodiimide hydrochloride (EDC) (80 mg, 0.42 mmol, 1.5 eq) were added under argon. The reaction mixture was stirred for 10 min, cooled at 0 °C and (*S*)-1-phenylethanamine (44 μ L, 3.5 mmol, 1.25 eq) and triethylamine (154 μ L, 1.11 mmol, 4 eq) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h and overnight at room temperature. Dichloromethane (10 mL) was added and the organic layer was washed twice with water and once with aqueous 1N HCl. The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford 89 mg (quantitative yield) of crude amide as a brown oil. Analysis of this crude amide by GC and NMR showed the presence of a single diastereomer.

(2*R*)-2-(benzyloxy)-*N*-((*S*)-1-phenylethyl)propanamide.

¹H NMR (400 MHz) δ 1.39 (d, 3H, ³*J* = 6.9 Hz), 1,47 (d, 3H, ³*J* = 6.9 Hz), 3.99 (q, 1H, ³*J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 4.54 (d, 1H, ²*J* = 11.6 Hz), 4.61 (d, 1H, ²*J* = 11.6 Hz), 5.11 (dq, 1H, ³*J* = 6.7 Hz, ³*J* = 6.9 Hz), 6.79 (d, 1H, ³*J* = 6.7 Hz) 7.15-7.35 (m, 10H), ¹³C NMR (100.5 MHz) δ 18.8, 22.2, 41.2, 72.2, 76.5, 126.1, 127.4, 128.0, 128.3, 128.8, 137.4, 143.2, 172.4.

Typical procedure for the determination of the enantiomeric purity of benzyloxyalcohol (10b).

A solution of (*R*)-3,3,3-trifluoro-2-methoxy-2-phenylpropanoic acid (70 mg, 0.3 mmol, 3 eq) in toluene (3.5 mL) was concentrated under reduced pressure at 0 °C. Under argon, the acid was dissolved in dichloromethane (1.5 mL) then oxalyl choride (34 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 4 eq) and DMF (0.05 mmol) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature until gas emission ceased (20 min). The reaction mixture was cooled at 0 °C, and the solvent were removed under reduced pressure for 30 min and then dissolved in dichloromethane (1.5 mL). This solution is slowly added to a solution of alcohol **10b** (24 mg, 1 mmol, 1 eq), DMAP (3 mg, 0.03 mmol, 0.3 eq), and triethylamine (70 μ L, 0.5 mmol, 5 eq) in dichloromethane (1 mL). A soft gas emission was observed. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. Dichloromethane (15 mL) was added. This organic layer was washed with saturated NH₄Cl (2 x 15 mL), saturated NaHCO₃ (2 x 15mL) and water (15 mL). The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford the crude ester (58 mg, quantitative yield) as a yellow oil. Analysis of this crude ester by NMR showed the presence of a single diastereomer.

(2*R*)-[(*R*)-2-benzyloxy-3-phenylpropyl]-3,3,3-trifluoro-2methoxy-2-phenylpropanoate

¹H NMR (400 MHz) δ 2.80 (dd, 1H, ²*J* = 14.0 Hz, ³*J* = 6.7 Hz), 2.88 (dd, 1H, ³*J* = 14.0 Hz, ³*J* = 6.9 Hz), 3.46 (bs, 3H), 3.85 (tdd, 1H, ³*J* = 8.7 Hz, ³*J* = 6.9 Hz, ³*J* = 6.7 Hz), 4.14 (dd, 1H, ²*J* = 11.5 Hz, ³*J* = 8.7 Hz), 4.32 (d, 1H, ²*J* = 11.5 Hz), 4.42 (dd, 1H, ²*J* = 11.5 Hz, ³*J* = 3.7 Hz), 4.44 (d, 1H, ²*J* = 11.5 Hz), 7.10-7.55 (m, 15H); ¹³C NMR (100.5 MHz) δ 38.1, 55.6, 66.9,

72.2, 77.8, 84.8 (q, ${}^{3}J_{C-F} = 27.8$ Hz), 123.5 (q, ${}^{2}J_{C-F} = 288.5$ Hz), 126.7, 127.6, 127.7, 127.8, 128.4, 128.6, 128.6, 129.6, 129.7, 132.3, 137.4, 138.0, 166.6; ${}^{19}F$ NMR (376 MHz) δ –74.64 (s).

Preparation of (2*S*,4*R*)-2-trifluoromethyl-3-(2-iodopropanoyl)-4-phenyl-1,3-oxazolidine (11).



To a solution of the amide **1a** (2.0 g, 7.32 mmol) in THF under argon at -78 °C was added a solution of NaHMDS (7.3 mL, 2M in THF, 14.64 mmol, 2 eq). The reaction mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 45 min then *N*-iodosuccinimide (3.29 g, 14.64 mmol, 2 eq) was added. The mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 3 h. The reaction mixture was quenched with water and extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. Purification by flash chromatography (cyclohexane/ ethyl acetate 95/5 to 85/15) followed by a washing with a saturated sodium bisulfite aqueous solution afforded the iodide **11** (0.568 g, 19%, 82 % *de*) as a white solid.

IR (neat) 2915, 1655, 1388, 1279, 1177, 1147, 1104, 993, 932, 880, 847, 700 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz) δ 1.55 (d, 3H, ³*J* = 6.9 Hz), 4.10 (dd, 1H, ²*J* = 6.9, ³*J* = 6.2 Hz), 4.11 (q, 1H, ³*J* = 6.9 Hz), 4.74 (dd, 1H, ²*J* = 6.9 Hz, ³*J* = 6.8 Hz), 5.06 (dd, 1H, ³*J* = 6.8 Hz, ³*J* = 6.2 Hz), 6.15 (q, 1H, ³*J*_{H-F} = 5.1 Hz), 7.19-7.22 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.43 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100.5 MHz) δ 14.1, 21.9, 60.2, 76.7, 85.6 (q, ³*J*_{C-F} = 35.5 Hz), 123.4 (q, ²*J*_{C-F} = 289.5 Hz), 125.2, 129.1, 129.9, 141.2, 171.5; ¹⁹F NMR (376.5 MHz) δ -80.3 (d, ³*J*_{H-F} = 5.1 Hz); HRMS Calculated 398.9943, Found 398.9934.

Radical oxygenation of iodide (11)

Molecular oxygen was bubbled through a solution of the iodide **11** (215 mg, 0.54 mmol) in dichloromethane (1.5 mL) under argon at -50 °C and triethylborane (1.08 mL, 1 M in hexane, 1.08 mmol) was added. The reaction was followed on TLC plate. The reaction mixture was stirred at -50 °C with oxygen bubbling for 1 h 30 min before triethylborane (1.08 ml, 1 M in hexane, 1.08 mmol) was added once more. No evolution was observed after 1 h 30 min so the reaction mixture was quenched with MeOH and concentrated to furnish a crude mixture of iodide (59%)^[10] and alcohols ((*R*)-**3a** (30%) and (*S*)-**3a** (11%)).^[4] Purification by flash chromatography (cyclohexane / ethyl acetate 90/10 to 80/20) afforded the alcohol **3a** as a mixture of diastereomers (44 mg, 28%, (*R*)-**3a**/(*S*)-**3a** : 73/27) and the iodide **11** (80 mg, 37%).

⁽¹⁰⁾ ratio measured by 19 F NMR.







































































































