

Supporting Information

Exploring Morita-Baylis-Hillman Reactions of *p*-Quinols

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General Considerations: Melting points were obtained in open capillary tubes and are uncorrected. ^1H - and ^{13}C -NMR spectra were generally recorded in a AV-300 Bruker at 300 and 75 MHz respectively using CDCl_3 or acetone- d_6 as solvent. A DRX-500 Bruker was used in the specific cases for ^1H -NMR (500 MHz), ^{13}C -NMR (125 MHz) and double resonance experiments. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm relative to CDCl_3 (δ 7.27 ppm) and acetone- d_6 (δ 2.09 ppm). HRMS were measured at 70 eV. All reactions were monitored by thin-layer chromatography that was performed on precoated sheets of silica gel 60, and flash column chromatography was done with silica gel 60 (230-400 mesh) of Merck. Eluting solvents are indicated in the text. Synthesis of 4-hydroxy-4-methylcyclohexa-2,5-dienone (*p*-quinol) **1** has been previously described.¹

(1) Carreño, M. C.; González-López, M.; Urbano, A. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2006**, *45*, 2737-2741.

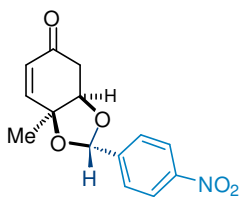
EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

General procedure A: Synthesis of fusionated ketal derivatives 3a-d:

To a mixture of *p*-quinol (1.00 mmol) and the corresponding aldehyde (1.20 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (0.5 ml) was added DMAP (0.15 mmol, 15 mol %) at rt. After 3 days, the mixture was acidified with hydrochloric acid 10 % and then extracted with AcOEt (2 x 5 ml). The organic layer was dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (eluent indicated in each case).

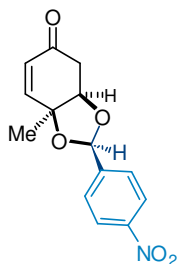
3a,4-Dihydro-7a-methyl-2-(4-nitrophenyl)[d][1,3]dioxol-5(7aH)-one (3a).

Following general procedure A, the reaction of **1** (52 mg, 0.42 mmol) with *p*-nitrobenzaldehyde (75.5 mg, 0.50 mmol) and DMAP (7.6 mg, 0.063 mmol) gave compound **3a**, as a 90:10 mixture of diastereoisomers, separated after flash chromatography (eluent Hex:AcOEt 3:1): major diastereoisomer (less polar) (78 mg, 67%) and minor diastereoisomer (most polar) (4 mg, 3%).



Major diastereoisomer: **(2S*,3aR*,7aS*)-(3a)**: White solid. M.p.: 128-130 °C. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.25 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.62 (dd, *J* = 10.4 and 2.1 Hz, 1H), 6.18 (dd, *J* = 10.3 and 0.8 Hz, 1H), 5.90 (s, 1H), 4.32 (q, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 3.02 (ddd, *J* = 17.3, 2.5 and 0.9 Hz, 1H), 2.67 (dd, *J* = 17.1 and 2.9 Hz, 1H), 1.63 (s, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 194.8, 148.4, 146.6, 145.0, 130.1, 127.2 (2C), 123.7 (2C), 101.1, 79.3, 78.5, 38.5, 21.2. MS (EI) *m/z* (%): 275 (0.4), 274 (2.2) [M-1]⁺, 108 (84), 107 (100) HRMS Calcd for C₁₄H₁₃NO₅ 298.0685, found 298.0680[M+Na]⁺.

Minor diastereoisomer: **(2R*,3aR*,7aS*)-(3a)**: Colorless oil. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.21 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 6.50 (dd, *J* = 10.3 and 2.4 Hz, 1H),

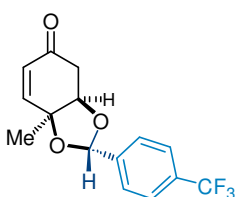


6.08 (s, 1H), 5.90 (dd, *J* = 10.3 and 0.7 Hz, 1H), 4.47 (dt, *J* = 3.6 and 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.07 (ddd, *J* = 17.7, 2.5 and 0.9 Hz, 1H), 2.74 (dd, *J* = 17.8, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 1.60 (s, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 194.2, 149.3 (2C), 144.3, 127.6 (2C), 126.7, 123.6 (2C), 101.7, 81.4 (2C), 37.9, 21.9. MS (ES) *m/z* (%): 298 [M+Na]⁺ (100). HRMS Calcd for C₁₄H₁₃NO₅ 298.0685, found 298.0682 [M+Na]⁺.

2-(4-Trifluoromethyl)phenyl-3a,4-dihydro-7a-methylbenzo[d] [1,3]dioxol-5(7aH)-one (3b).

Following general procedure A, the reaction of **1** (50 mg, 0.40 mmol) with *p*-(trifluoromethyl)benzaldehyde (65 μ l, 0.48 mmol) and DMAP (7.2 mg, 0.060 mmol) gave compound **3b** as a 80:20 mixture of diastereoisomers, separated after flash chromatography (eluent Hex:AcOEt 3:1): major diastereoisomer (less polar) (53 mg, 44%) and minor diastereoisomer (most polar) (17 mg, 14 %).

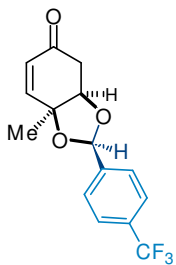
Major diastereoisomer: (**2S*,3aR*,7aS***)-**3b**: White solid. M.p.: 58-60 °C. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (300



MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.66 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.63 (dd, J = 10.3, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 6.17 (d, J = 10.4 Hz, 1H), 5.88 (s, 1H), 4.32 (q, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (dd, J = 17.5 and 0.9 Hz, 1H), 2.65 (dd, J = 17.6 and 3.1 Hz, 1H), 1.62 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 194.9, 146.8, 142.1, 131.4, 130.0 (q, J = 32.6 Hz), 126.6 (2C), 125.4

(q, J = 3.6 Hz, 2C), 123.9 (q, J = 272.6 Hz), 101.7, 79.2, 78.3, 38.5, 21.2. MS (ES) m/z (%): 299 (27) $[\text{M}+1]^+$, 321 (100) $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$. HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{F}_3\text{O}_3$ 321.0706, found 321.0709 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$.

Minor diastereoisomer: (**2R*,3aR*,7aS***)-**3b**: White solid. M.p.: 52-54 °C. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (300



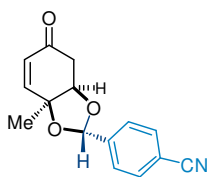
MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.62 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.53 (dd, J = 10.4 and 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.06 (s, 1H), 5.93 (d, J = 10.4 Hz, 1H), 4.46 (dt, J = 3.7 and 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.07 (ddd, J = 17.8, 2.3 and 0.9 Hz, 1H), 2.74 (dd, J = 17.8 and 3.8 Hz, 1H), 1.60 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 194.3, 149.5, 141.2, 131.4 (J = 32.3 Hz), 130.0, 127.0 (2C), 126.5, 125.3 (J = 3.8 Hz, 2C), 123.9 (J = 272.9 Hz), 102.2,

81.3, 76.8, 37.9, 21.9. MS (ES) m/z (%): 321 (100) $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, 205 (14.3). HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{F}_3\text{O}_3$ 321.0706, found 321.0709 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$.

4-(3a,6,7,7a-Tetrahydro-3a-methyl-6-oxobenzo[d][1,3]dioxol-2-yl)benzonitrile (3c).

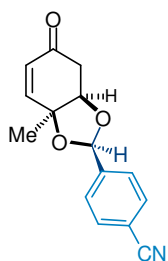
Following general procedure A, the reaction of **1** (50 mg, 0.40 mmol) with *p*-cyanobenzaldehyde (65 μ l, 0.48 mmol) and DMAP (7.2 mg, 0.060 mmol) gave compound **3c** as a 80:20 mixture of diastereoisomers, separated after flash chromatography (eluent Hex:AcOEt 3:1): major diastereoisomer (less polar) (43 mg, 42%) and minor diastereoisomer (most polar) (18 mg, 18 %).

Major diastereoisomer: **4-(2*S**,3*aS**,7*aR**)-3c** White solid. M.p.: 112-114 °C. ¹H-NMR



(300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.68 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.61 (dd, *J* = 10.5 and 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.17 (d, *J* = 10.5 Hz, 1H), 5.85 (s, 1H), 4.29 (q, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (ddd, *J* = 17.5, 2.6 and 1.1 Hz, 1H), 2.66 (dd, *J* = 17.4 and 3.1 Hz, 1H), 1.61 (s, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 194.8, 146.6, 143.2, 132.3 (2C), 130.1, 127.0 (2C), 118.5, 113.1, 101.4, 79.3, 78.5, 38.5, 21.2. MS (ES) *m/z* (%): 256 (100) [M+1]⁺. HRMS Calcd for C₁₅H₁₃NO₃ 256.0961, found 256.0968 [M+1]⁺.

Minor diastereoisomer: **4-(2*R**,3*aS**,7*aR**)-3c**: Yellow pale solid. M.p.: 98-100 °C. ¹H-NMR

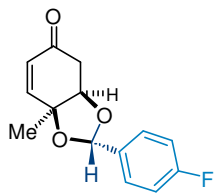


(300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.65 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.50 (dd, *J* = 10.3 and 2.8 Hz, 1H), 6.04 (s, 1H), 5.91 (d, *J* = 10.3 Hz, 1H), 4.46 (dt, *J* = 3.7 and 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.06 (ddd, *J* = 17.8, 2.4 and 1.0 Hz, 1H), 2.74 (dd, *J* = 17.8, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 1.59 (s, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 194.1, 149.3, 142.4, 132.0 (2C), 127.4 (2C), 118.4, 113.1, 101.9, 81.3, 77.2, 37.9, 21. MS (ES) *m/z* (%): 279 (17.4) 278 (100) [M+Na]⁺, 205 (12). HRMS Calcd for C₁₅H₁₃NO₅ 278.0780, found 278.0787 [M+Na]⁺.

2-(4-Fluorophenyl)-3*a*,4-dihydro-7*a*-methylbenzo[*d*][1,3]dioxol-5(7*aH*)-one (**3d**).

Following general procedure A, the reaction of **1** (20 mg, 0.16 mmol) with *p*-fluorobenzaldehyde (20 μl, 0.19 mmol) and DMAP (2.9 mg, 0.024 mmol) gave compound **3d** as a 85:15 mixture of diastereoisomers, separated after flash chromatography (eluent Hex:AcOEt 3:1): major diastereoisomer (less polar) (21 mg, 53%) and minor diastereoisomer (most polar) (5 mg, 10 %).

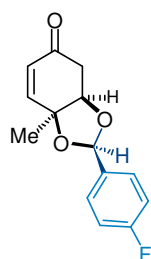
Major diastereoisomer: **(2*S**,3*aR**,7*aS**)-(3d)**: White solid. M.p.: 70-72 °C. ¹H-NMR



(300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.43 (m, 2H), 7.07 (m, 2H), 6.62 (dd, *J* = 10.3 and 2.1 Hz, 1H), 6.17 (dd, *J* = 10.4 and 1.0 Hz, 1H), 5.81 (s, 1H), 4.34 (q, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (ddd, *J* = 17.5, 2.7 and 1.0 Hz, 1H), 2.65 (dd, *J* = 17.4, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 1.62 (s, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 195.1,

163.3 (d, $J = 246$ Hz), 146.9, 134.0, 130.1, 128.2 (d, $J = 8$.Hz, 2C), 115.3 (d, $J = 21.7$ Hz, 2C), 102.1, 79.1, 78.0, 38.6, 21.2. MS (ES) m/z (%): 271 (100) $[M+Na]^+$. HRMS Calcd for $C_{14}H_{13}FO_3$ 271.0740, found 271.0745 $[M+Na]^+$.

Minor diastereoisomer: **(2R*,3aR*,7aS*)-(3d)**: White solid. M.p.: 50-52 °C. 1H -NMR



(300 MHz, $CDCl_3$): $\delta = 7.36$ (m, 2H), 7.04 (m, 2H), 6.57 (dd, $J = 10.3$ and 2.3 Hz, 1H), 5.99 (s, 1H), 5.97 (dd, $J = 10.3$ and 0.8 Hz, 1H), 4.43 (dt, $J = 3.8$ and 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.06 (ddd, $J = 17.7$, 2.2 and 0.9 Hz, 1H), 2.74 (dd, $J = 17.7$ and 3.9 Hz, 1H), 1.58 (s, 3H). ^{13}C -NMR (75 MHz, $CDCl_3$): $\delta = 193.4$, 158.9 (d, $J = 272$ Hz), 148.8, 132.1 (d, $J = 3.4$ Hz), 127.8 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2C), 125.3, 114.3 (d, $J = 22.3$ Hz, 2C), 101.7, 80.2, 76.2, 36.9,

21.1. MS (ES) m/z (%): 271 (100) $[M+Na]^+$, 249 (4), 203 (21). HRMS Calcd for $C_{14}H_{13}FO_3$ 271.0736, found 271.0740 $[M+Na]^+$.

General procedure B: Synthesis of mono Morita-Baylis-Hillman adducts.

To a mixture of *p*-quinol (1.00 mmol) and the corresponding aromatic aldehyde (1.20 mmol) in MeOH (0.5 ml) was added DMAP (0.15 mmol, 15 mol %). The mixture was stirred at rt the time indicated in each case. Then, the mixture was acidified with hydrochloric acid 10 % and the organic solvent was eliminated. The resulting mixture was extracted with AcOEt (2 x 5 ml). The organic layer was dried over anhydrous $MgSO_4$, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (eluent indicated in each case).

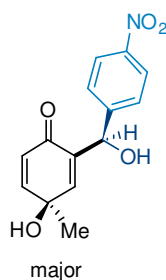
General procedure C: Synthesis of double Morita-Baylis-Hillman adducts.

To a mixture of *p*-quinol derivative (1.00 mmol), the corresponding aromatic aldehyde (2.00 mmol) and $LiClO_4$ (0.70 mmol, 70 mol%) in THF (0.5 ml) was added DABCO (0.15 mmol, 15 mol%). The mixture was stirred at rt and under argon during the time indicated in each case. Then, the mixture was acidified with hydrochloric acid 10 % and then extracted with AcOEt (2 x 5 ml). The organic layer was dried over anhydrous $MgSO_4$, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (eluent indicated in each case).

2-(Hydroxy-(4-nitrophenyl)methyl)-4-methyl-*p*-quinol (**4a**).

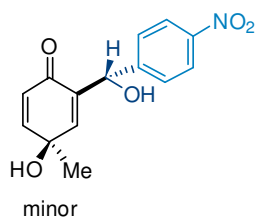
Following general procedure B, the reaction of **1** (23 mg, 0.18 mmol) with *p*-nitrobenzaldehyde (33 mg, 0.50 mmol) and DMAP (3.2 mg, 0.027 mmol) gave compound **4a** as a 60:40 mixture of diastereoisomers, separated after flash chromatography (eluent Hex:AcOEt 3:1): major diastereoisomer (less polar) (22 mg, 40%) and minor diastereoisomer (most polar) (12 mg, 24 %). Time reaction: 3 days.

Major diastereoisomer (**4a**): (4*S**)-2-((*R**)-Hydroxy-(4-nitrophenyl)methyl)-4-methyl-*p*-



quinol: White solid. M.p.: 152-154 °C. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.21 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (dd, *J* = 10.0 and 3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (dd, *J* = 3.0 and 1.0 Hz, 1H), 6.13 (d, *J* = 10.1 Hz, 1H), 5.73 (brs, 1H), 3.38 (brs, 1H), 1.43 (s, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 185.1, 152.3, 148.2, 148.1, 147.5, 137.7, 127.3 (2C), 127.1, 123.7 (2C), 71.0, 67.7, 26.8. MS (ES) *m/z* (%): 298 (100) [M+Na]⁺, 258 (49). HRMS Calcd for C₁₄H₁₃NO₅ 298.0688, found 298.0685[M+Na]⁺.

Minor diastereoisomer (**4a**): (4*S**)-2-((*S**)-Hydroxy-(4-nitrophenyl)methyl)-4-methyl-*p*-

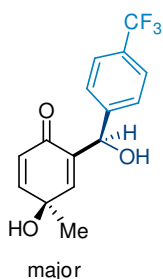


quinol: White solid. M.p.: 138-140 °C. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.19 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (dd, *J* = 10.6 and 3.2 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (dd, *J* = 3.0 and 1.0 Hz, 1H), 6.11 (d, *J* = 10.5 Hz, 1H), 5.72 (brs, 1H), 3.37 (brs, 1H), 1.42 (brs, 1H). ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 185.3, 152.4, 148.2, 148.4, 147.5, 137.6, 127.3 (2C), 127.1, 123.7 (2C), 71.3, 67.7, 26.7. MS (ES) *m/z* (%): 298 (23) [M+Na]⁺, 111 (35), 61(100). HRMS Calcd for C₁₄H₁₃NO₅ 298.0688, found 298.0685[M+Na]⁺.

2-(Hydroxy-(4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)methyl)-4-methyl-*p*-quinol (**4b**).

Following general procedure B, the reaction of **1** (50 mg, 0.40 mmol) with *p*-(trifluoromethyl)benzaldehyde (65 μl, 0.48 mmol) and DMAP (7.2 mg, 0.060 mmol) gave compound **4b** as a 60:40 mixture of diastereoisomers, separated after flash chromatography (eluent Hex:AcOEt 3:1): major diastereoisomer (less polar) (50 mg, 42%) and minor diastereoisomer (most polar) (33 mg, 28 %). Time reaction: 3 days.

Major diastereoisomer **(4b)**: **(4*S*^{*})-2-((*R*^{*})-Hydroxy-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)methyl)-4-methyl-*p*-quinol**. White solid. M.p.: 100-102 °C. ¹H-NMR (300

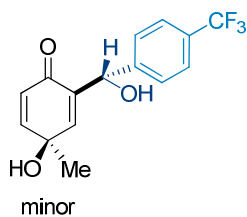


MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.62 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.90 (dd, *J* = 10.1 and 3.3 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (brs, 1H), 6.12 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 5.69 (brs, 1H), 3.32 (brs, 1H), 1.50 (s, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 185.4, 152.3, 148.0, 144.9, 137.9, 130.0 (q, *J* = 32.4 Hz, 2C), 127.2, 126.8 (2C), 125.4 (q, *J* = 4.0 Hz), 124.1 (q, *J* = 271.9 Hz), 71.3, 67.7, 26.8. MS (FAB+) *m/z* (%): 299 (100) [M+1]⁺, 298 (20) [M]⁺, 297 (49). HRMS Calcd for C₁₅H₁₃F₃O₃ 298.0817, found 299.0899 [M+1]⁺.

(*S*)-4-hydroxy-2-((*S*)-hydroxy(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)methyl)-4-methylcyclohexa-2,5-dienone

Minor diastereoisomer **(4b)**:

(4*S*^{*})-2-((*S*^{*})-Hydroxy-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)methyl)-4-methyl-*p*-quinol. White

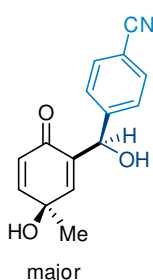


solid. M.p.: 78-80 °C. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.62 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.90 (dd, *J* = 10.0 and 3.1 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (dd, *J* = 2.9 and 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.13 (d, *J* = 10.5 Hz, 1H), 5.70 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 3.38 (d, *J* = 2.9 Hz, 1H), 1.47 (s, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 185.4, 152.2, 147.9, 144.9, 137.9, 130.0 (q, *J* = 32.7 Hz, 2C), 127.3, 126.8 (2C), 125.4 (q, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 124.0 (q, *J* = 272.6 Hz), 71.5, 67.6, 26.7. MS (ES+) *m/z* (%): 321 (49) [M+Na]⁺, 281 (100). HRMS Calcd for C₁₅H₁₃F₃O₃ 321.0709 [M+Na]⁺, found 321.0712 [M+Na]⁺.

2-Hydroxy-(4-cianophenyl)methyl-4-methyl-*p*-quinol (**4c**).

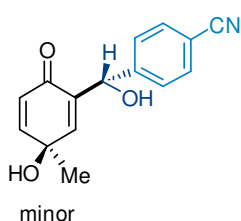
Following general procedure B, the reaction of **1** (50 mg, 0.40 mmol) with *p*-cyanobenzaldehyde (65 μl, 0.48 mmol) and DMAP (7.2 mg, 0.060 mmol) gave compound **4c** as a 60:40 mixture of diastereoisomers, separated after flash chromatography (eluent Hex:AcOEt 3:1): major diastereoisomer (less polar) (33 mg, 28 %) and minor diastereoisomer (most polar) (24 mg, 24 %). Time reaction: 3 days.

Major diastereoisomer (**4c**): **(4*S**)-2-((*R**)-Hydroxy-(4-cyanophenyl)methyl)-4-methyl-**



p-quinol: Colorless oil. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.63 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (dd, J = 9.9 and 2.9 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (dd, J = 2.9 and 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.12 (d, J = 9.9 Hz, 1H), 5.68 (brs, 1H), 3.40 (brs, 1H), 1.50 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 185.2, 152.5, 148.2, 146.4, 137.7, 132.3 (2C), 127.2 (2C), 127.1, 118.6, 111.6, 71.1, 67.6, 26.8. MS (ES) m/z (%): 278 (77) $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, 239 (18.9), 238 (100). HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}_3$ 278.0791, found 278.0787 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$.

Minor diastereoisomer (**4c**): **(4*S**)-2-((*S**)-Hydroxy-(4-cyanophenyl)methyl)-4-methyl-**

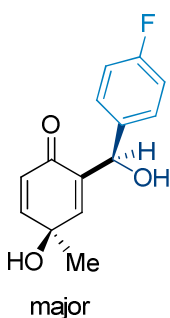


p-quinol: Colorless oil. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.63 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (dd, J = 9.8 and 3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, J = 2.9 Hz, 1H), 6.12 (d, J = 9.9 Hz, 1H), 5.66 (s, 1H), 3.40 (s, 1H), 1.47 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 185.3, 152.5, 148.3, 146.5, 137.5, 132.3 (2C), 127.2 (2C), 127.1, 118.8, 111.5, 71.3, 67.6, 26.7. MS (FAB+) m/z (%): 256 (16) $[\text{M}+1]^+$, 255 (2) $[\text{M}]^+$, 57 (100). HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}_3$ 278.0787, found 278.0787 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$.

2-Hydroxy-(4-Fluorophenyl)methyl)-4-methyl-*p*-quinol (**4d**).

Following general procedure B, the reaction of **1** (40 mg, 0.32 mmol) with *p*-fluorobenzaldehyde (40 μl , 0.38 mmol) and DMAP (5.8 mg, 0.048 mmol) gave compound **4b** as a 60:40 mixture of diastereoisomers, separated after flash chromatography (eluent Hex:AcOEt 3:1): major diastereoisomer (less polar) (35 mg, 44%) and minor diastereoisomer (most polar) (22 mg, 28%). Time reaction: 4 days.

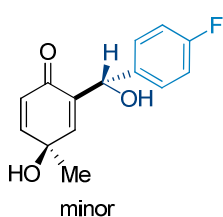
Major diastereoisomer (**4d**): **(4*S**)-2-((*R**)-Hydroxy-(4-fluorophenyl)methyl)-4-methyl-**



p-quinol. White solid. M.p.: 128-130 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.38-7.34 (m, 2H), 7.07-7.02 (m, 2H), 6.89 (dd, J = 10.2 and 3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (dd, J = 2.9 and 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.12 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 5.64 (brs, 1H), 3.23 (brs, 1H), 1.49 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 185.6, 165.5 (d, J = 245 Hz), 152.1, 147.6, 138.4, 128.3 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2C), 127.3, 115.3 (d, J = 21.7 Hz, 2C), 71.1, 67.6, 26.8. MS (ES) m/z (%): 271 (100) $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, 231 (16). HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{13}\text{FO}_3$ 271.0740, found 278.0747

$[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$.

Minor diastereoisomer (**4d**):



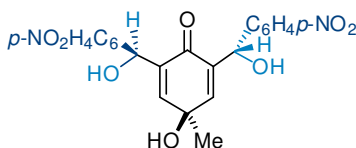
(4S*)-2-((S*)-Hydroxy-(4-fluorophenyl)methyl)-4-methyl-*p*-quinol.

White solid. M.p.: 140-142 °C. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.38-7.34 (m, 2H), 7.07-7.02 (m, 2H), 6.90 (dd, J = 10.0, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (dd, J = 3.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.13 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 5.64 (s, 1H), 3.43 (s, 1H), 1.47 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 185.5, 162.3 (d, J = 242.5 Hz), 152.1, 147.5, 138.4, 128.3 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2C), 127.3, 115.4 (d, J = 21.5 Hz, 2C), 71.2, 67.6, 26.7. MS (ES) m/z (%): 271 (51) $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, 231 (100). HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{13}\text{FO}_3$ 271.0740, found 278.0753 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$.

2,6-Bis(hydroxy(4-nitrophenyl)methyl)-4-methyl-*p*-quinol (**5a**), (**6a**) and (**7a**)

Following general procedure C, the reaction of **1** (70 mg, 0.56 mmol) with *p*-nitrobenzaldehyde (170 mg, 1.12 mmol), DABCO (9.4 mg, 0.084 mmol) and LiClO_4 (41.7 mg, 0.70 mmol) gave a 50:10:40 mixture of three diastereoisomers **5a**, **6a** and **7a**, separated after flash chromatography (eluent Hex:AcOEt 3:1): **5a** (less polar) (79 mg, 33%), **6a** (14 mg, 6%) and **7a** (most polar) (62 mg, 26%). Time reaction: 3 days.

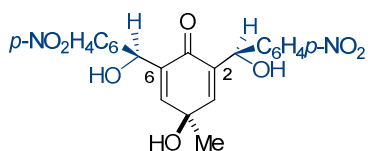
2,6-Bis-((S*)-hydroxy(4-nitrophenyl)methyl)-4-methyl-*p*-quinol (5a**):** Yellow solid.



M.p.: 200-202 °C. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (300 MHz, Acetone- d_6): δ = 8.15 (dd, J = 8.7 and 3.5 Hz, 4H), 7.65 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 4H), 7.19 (m, 2H), 5.74 (brs, 1H), 5.69 (brs, 1H), 5.06 (brs, 1H), 1.47 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75 MHz, Acetone- d_6): δ = 184.2, 152.1, 151.9, 149.7, 149.4, 148.0 (2C), 139.1, 138.9, 128.8 (2C), 123.9 (2C), 69.4, 69.1, 67.6, 27.8. MS (ES+) m/z (%): 449 (100) $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, 450 (23.5). HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}_8$ 449.0940 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, found 449.0955 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$.

(4s*)-2-((R*)-Hydroxy-(4-nitrophenyl)methyl)-6-((S*)-hydroxy(4-nitrophenyl)

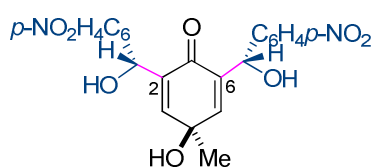
methyl)-4-methyl-*p*-quinol (6a**):** $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (300 MHz, Acetone- d_6): δ = 8.07 (d, J = 8.8



Hz, 4H), 7.57 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 4H), 7.13 (brs, 2H), 5.80 (brs, 2H), 5.01 (brs, 2H), 1.49 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75 MHz, Acetone- d_6): δ = 183.0, 150.5 (2C), 148.0 (2C), 146.5 (2C), 137.6 (2C), 127.1 (4C), 122.4 (4C), 67.9 (2C), 66.1, 26.5. MS (ES+) m/z (%): 449 (100) $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, 450 (24). HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}_8$ 449.0940 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, found 449.0955 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$.

(4*r)-2-((*R**)-Hydroxy-(4-nitrophenyl)methyl)-6-((*S**)-hydroxy(4-nitrophenyl)**

methyl)-4-methyl-*p*-quinol (7a): $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (300 MHz, Acetone- d_6): δ = 8.10 (d, J = 8.6



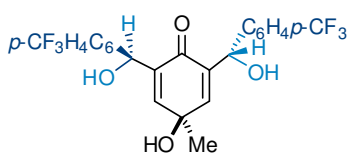
Hz, 4H), 7.62 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 4H), 7.13 (brs, 2H), 5.75 (m, 2H), 5.02 (brs, 2H), 5.00 (brs, 2H), 1.43 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75 MHz, Acetone- d_6): δ = 183.6, 150.0 (2C), 149.0 (2C),

147.0 (2C), 138.0 (2C), 127.7 (4C), 123.0 (4C), 68.7 (2C), 66.9, 26.8. MS (ES+) m/z (%): 449 (100) $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, 450 (24.3), 301 (48.7). HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}_8$ 449.0946 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, found 449.0955 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$.

2,6-Bis(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)(hydroxyl)methyl)-4-methyl-*p*-quinol (5b), (6b) and (7b).

Following general procedure C, the reaction of **1** (70 mg, 0.56 mmol) with *p*-(trifluoromethyl) benzaldehyde (170 mg, 1.12 mmol), DABCO (9.4 mg, 0.084 mmol) and LiClO_4 (41.5 mg, 0.39 mmol) gave a 50:10:40 mixture of three diastereoisomers **5b**, **6b** and **7b**, separated after flash chromatography (eluent Hex:AcOEt 3:1): **5b** (less polar) (89 mg, 34%), **6b** (16 mg, 6%) and **7b** (most polar) (63 mg, 24 %). Time reaction: 2 days.

2,6-Bis((*R)-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)(hydroxyl)methyl)-4-methyl-*p*-quinol (5b).**

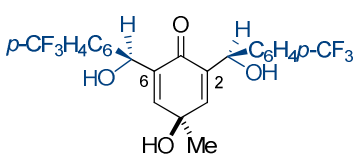


Yellow pale solid. M.p.: 170-172 °C. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.60 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 7.47 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 6.79 (dd, J = 15.0 and 2.4 Hz, 2H), 5.69 (s, 2H), 3.08 (brs,

2H), 1.48 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 185.2, 148.5, 148.4, 144.8 (2C), 138.1 (2C), 130.2 (q, J = 32.3 Hz, 2C), 124.0 (q, J = 272.5 Hz, 2C), 125.5 (q, J = 3.6 Hz, 4C), 126.8 (4C), 70.7, 70.6, 67.6, 26.8. MS (FAB+) m/z (%): 473 (10.5) $[\text{M}+1]^+$, 437 (100), 173 (98). HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{18}\text{F}_6\text{O}_4$ 495.1007 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, found 495.1005 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$.

(4*s)-6-((*R**)-(4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)(hydroxyl)methyl)-2-((*S**)-(4-(trifluoro**

methyl)phenyl)(hydroxyl)methyl)-4-methyl-*p*-quinol (6b). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (300 MHz, CDCl_3):

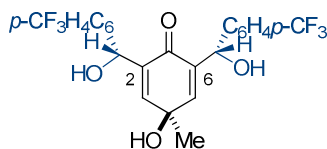


δ = 7.61 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 4H), 7.48 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 4H), 6.75 (s, 2H), 5.69 (s, 2H), 3.08 (brs, 2H), 1.52 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 185.4, 148.4 (2C), 144.7 (2C), 138.1 (2C), 130.2 (q, J = 33.2 Hz, 2C), 126.8 (4C), 125.5 (q, J = 3.8 Hz,

4C), 124.0 (q, J = 273.2 Hz, 2C), 70.8 (2C), 67.7, 27.0. MS (FAB+) m/z (%): 473 (6) $[\text{M}+1]^+$, 421 (100), 437 (84). HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{18}\text{F}_6\text{O}_4$ 495.0999, found 498.1001 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$.

(4*r)-2-((*R**)-(4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)(hydroxyl)methyl)-6-((*S**)-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)(hydroxyl)methyl)-4-methyl-*p*-quinol (7b).** Yellow pale solid. M.p.:

120-122 °C. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.62 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 4H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 4H), 6.77 (s, 2H), 5.70 (s, 2H), 3.38 (brs, 2H), 1.43 (s, 3H).



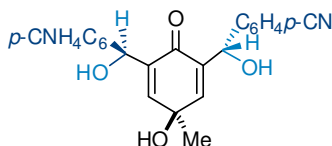
¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 184.4, 148.8 (2C), 144.7 (2C), 138.0 (2C), 130.1 (q, *J* = 32.1 Hz, 2C), 126.8 (4C), 125.5 (q, *J* = 3.5 Hz, 4C), 124.0 (q, *J* = 271.8 Hz, 2C), 70.7 (2C), 67.4,

26.6. MS (FAB+) *m/z* (%): 473 (19) [M+1]⁺, 455 (85), 173 (100). HRMS Calcd for C₂₃H₁₈F₆O₄ 495.0986, found 495.1001[M+Na]⁺. *r*_t = 85.5 min, T = 25°C

2,6-Bis(4-(cyanophenyl)(hydroxyl)methyl)-4-methyl-*p*-quinol (5c), (6c) and (7c).

Following general procedure C, the reaction of **1** (70 mg, 0.56 mmol) with *p*-cyanobenzaldehyde (152 μl, 1.12 mmol), DABCO (9.4 mg, 0.084 mmol) and LiClO₄ (41.5 mg, 0.39 mmol) gave a 46:12:42 mixture of three diastereoisomers **5c**, **6c** and **7c**, separated after flash chromatography (eluent Hex:AcOEt 3:1): **5c** (less polar) (64 mg, 28%), **6c** (15 mg, 7%) and **7c** (most polar) (57 mg, 25%). Time reaction: 4 days.

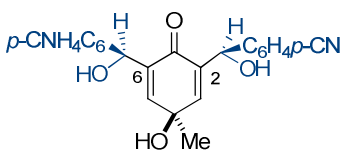
2,6-Bis((*R)-(4-(cyanophenyl)(hydroxyl)methyl)-4-methyl-*p*-quinol (5c).** Yellow pale solid. M.p.: 180-182 °C. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, acetone-*d*₆): δ =



7.66-7.54 (m, 4H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 6.84 (dd, *J* = 3.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (dd, *J* = 3.0 and 0.9 Hz, 1H), 5.70 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 5.67 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 2.94

(d, *J* = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 1.49 (s, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, acetone-*d*₆): δ = 184.2, 150.0, 149.9, 149.5, 149.3, 139.1, 138.9, 132.8 (2C), 132.7 (2C), 128.7 (4C), 119.4 (2C), 111.6 (2C), 69.3, 69.6, 67.6, 27.8. MS (ES+) *m/z* (%): 409 (100) [M+Na]⁺. HRMS Calcd for C₂₃H₁₈N₂O₄ 409.1158[M+Na]⁺, found 409.1136 [M+Na]⁺.

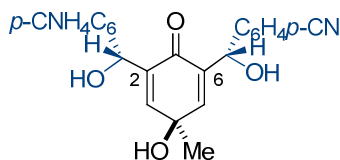
(4*s)-6-((*R**)-(4-(Cyanophenyl)(hydroxyl)methyl)-2-((*S**)-(4-(cyanophenyl)(hydroxyl)**



methyl)-4-methyl-*p*-quinol (6c). ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, acetone-*d*₆): δ = 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 4H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 6.81 (s, 2H), 5.67 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 2H), 3.04 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 1.52 (s, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, acetone-*d*₆): δ = 183.5,

148.9 (2C), 148.4 (2C), 138.1 (2C), 131.7 (4C), 127.5 (4C), 118.4 (2C), 110.6 (2C), 68.5 (2C), 66.5, 27.0. MS (ES+) m/z (%): 409 (100) $[M+Na]^+$. HRMS Calcd for $C_{23}H_{18}N_2O_4$ 409.1158 $[M+Na]^+$, found 409.1140 $[M+Na]^+$.

(4*r)-2-((*R**)-(4-(Cyanophenyl)(hydroxyl)methyl)-6-((*S**)-(4-(cyanophenyl)(hydroxyl)**



methyl)-4-methyl-*p*-quinol (7c). Yellow pale solid. M.p.:

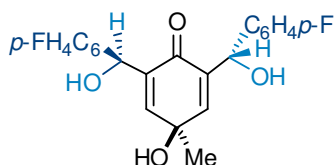
181-183 °C. 1H -NMR (300 MHz, acetone- d_6): δ = 7.60 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 4H), 7.48 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 4H), 6.82 (s, 2H), 5.65 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 3.33 (d, J = 5.3 Hz, 2H), 1.45 (s, 3H). ^{13}C -NMR

(75 MHz, acetone d_6): δ = 184.5, 149.9 (2C), 149.8 (2C), 138.9 (2C), 132.7 (4C), 128.5 (4C), 119.3 (2C), 111.5 (2C), 69.8 (2C), 67.8, 27.7. MS (ES+) m/z (%): 409 (100) $[M+Na]^+$, 410 (26.3), 301 (21.5). HRMS Calcd for $C_{23}H_{18}N_2O_4$ 409.1158 $[M+Na]^+$, found 409.1147 $[M+Na]^+$.

2,6-Bis(4-fluorophenyl)(hydroxyl)methyl)-4-hydroxy-4-methyl-*p*-quinol (5d), (6d) and (7d).

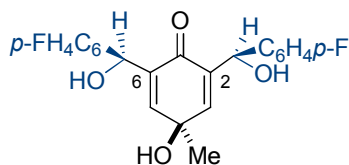
Following general procedure C, the reaction of **1** (70 mg, 0.56 mmol) with *p*-fluorobenzaldehyde (66 μ l, 1.12 mmol), DABCO (9.4 mg, 0.084 mmol) and $LiClO_4$ (41.5 mg, 0.39 mmol) gave a 53:13:34 mixture of three diastereoisomers **5d**, **6d** and **7d**, separated after flash chromatography (eluent Hex:AcOEt 3:1): **5d** (less polar) (79 mg, 38%), **6d** (19 mg, 9%) and **7d** (most polar) (52 mg, 25 %). Time reaction: 4 days.

2,6-Bis((*R)-(4-fluorophenyl)(hydroxyl)methyl)-4-methyl-*p*-quinol (5d).** White solid. M.p.: 154-156 °C. 1H -NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 7.35-7.30 (m, 4H), 7.07-7.01 (m, 4H),

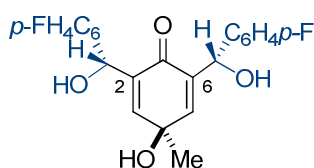


6.79 (dd, J = 3.1 and 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (dd, J = 3.0 and 1.2 Hz, 1H), 5.64 (brs, 1H), 2.93 (brs, 2H), 1.47 (s, 3H). ^{13}C -NMR (75 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 185.5, 162.4 (d, J = 247 Hz, 2C), 147.8

(2C), 138.6, 138.5, 136.6, 136.5, 128.3 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 4C), 115.4 (d, J = 21.9 Hz, 4C), 70.5, 70.6, 67.7, 26.9. MS (ES) m/z (%): 395 (100) $[M+Na]^+$, 396 (26), 309 (49). HRMS Calcd for $C_{21}H_{18}F_2O_4$ 395.1061, found 395.1065 $[M+Na]^+$.

(4*s)-2-((*R**)-(4-Fluorophenyl)(hydroxyl)methyl)-6-((*S**)-(4-hydroxy-4-fluoro****phenyl)(hydroxyl)methyl)-4-methyl-*p*-quinol (6d).** ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.35-

7.30 (m, 4H), 7.06-7.01 (m, 4H), 6.72 (s, 2H), 5.63 (brs, 2H),

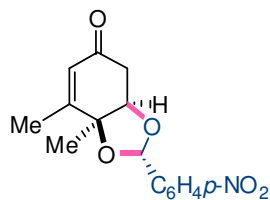
3.03 (brs, 2H), 1.50 (s, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ =185.7, 162.4 (d, *J* = 247 Hz, 2C), 148.0 (2C), 138.5 (2C),136.0 (d, *J* = 2.9 Hz, 2C), 128.3 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 4C), 115.4 (d,*J* = 21.3 Hz, 4C), 70.8 (2C), 67.5, 27.2. MS (ES+) *m/z* (%): 395 (30.9) [M+Na]⁺, 393 (23.1).HRMS Calcd for C₂₁H₁₈F₂O₄ 395.1070, found 395.1065 [M+Na]⁺.**(4*r**)-2-((*R**)-(4-Fluorophenyl)(hydroxyl)methyl)-6-((*S**)-(4-hydroxy-4-fluorophenyl)****(hydroxyl)methyl)-4-methyl-*p*-quinol (7d).** Yellow pale solid.M.p.: 138-140 °C. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.35-7.30

(m, 4H), 7.07-7.01 (m, 4H), 6.76 (s, 2H), 5.62 (s, 2H), 3.08

(brs, 2H), 1.44 (s, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 185.0,162.7 (d, *J* = 242 Hz, 2C), 148.9 (2C), 140.5 (2C), 139.6 (2C), 129.5 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 4C),115.3 (d, *J* = 21.9 Hz, 4C), 69.6 (2C), 67.7, 27.9. MS (ES+) *m/z* (%): 395 (100) [M+Na]⁺,355 (37.6), 309 (43.8). HRMS Calcd for C₂₁H₁₈F₂O₄ 395.1069, found 395.1065 [M+Na]⁺.**3a,4-Dihydro-7,7a-dimethyl-2-(4-nitrophenyl)benzo[*d*][1,3] dioxol-5(7aH)-one (9).**

Following general procedure A, the reaction of 3-methyl-*p*-quinol **8** (20 mg, 0.14 mmol) with *p*-nitrobenzaldehyde (25.3 mg, 0.50 mmol) and DMAP (3.4 mg, 0.028 mmol) gave compound **9** as a 90:10 mixture of diastereoisomers, separated after flash chromatography (eluent Hex:AcOEt 3:1): major diastereoisomer (less polar) (27 mg, 67%) and minor diastereoisomer (most polar) (3 mg, 7 %). Time reaction: 3 days.

Major diastereoisomer **(9)**: **(2*S**,3a*R**,7a*S**)-3a,4-Dihydro-7,7a-dimethyl-2-(4-nitrophenyl)benzo[*d*][1,3] dioxol-5(7aH)-one.** White solid. M.p.: 82-84 °C. ¹H-NMR

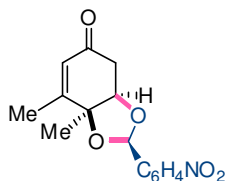
(300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.24 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.63 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz,2H), 6.04 (m, 1H), 5.81 (s, 1H), 4.27 (t, *J* = 2.9 Hz, 1H), 2.98 (ddd, *J*= 17.7, 2.5 and 0.9 Hz, 1H), 2.64 (dd, *J* = 17.1 and 3.3 Hz, 1H),2.09 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 3H), 1.62 (s, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ =

194.3, 156.9, 148.5, 145.1, 128.3, 127.2 (2C), 123.6 (2C), 100.8, 80.7, 79.9, 38.1, 20.0,

17.6. MS (FAB) *m/z* (%): 283 (100), 290 [M+H]⁺. HRMS Calcd for C₁₅H₁₅NO₅ 290.1028,found 290.1024 [M+H]⁺.

Minor diastereoisomer **(9)**: **(2*R**,3*aR**,7*aS**)-3*a*,4-Dihydro-7,7*a*-dimethyl-2-(4-nitrophenyl)benzo[*d*][1,3] dioxol-5(7*aH*)-one**. Colorless oil. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃):

δ = 8.20 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.07 (s, 1H), 5.80 (s, 1H), 4.44 (dd, *J* = 3.5 and 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.07 (d, *J* = 17.7 Hz, 1H), 2.74 (dd, *J* = 17.7 and 3.8 Hz, 1H), 1.85 (s, 3H), 1.58 (s, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 193.8, 159.8, 152.6, 144.4, 127.4 (2C), 125.6, 123.6 (2C), 101.7, 82.1, 79.0, 37.6, 20.7, 18.2. MS (FAB) *m/z* (%): 290 [M+H]⁺.

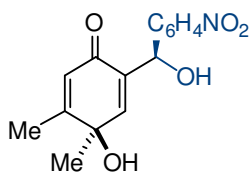


HRMS Calcd for C₁₅H₁₅NO₅ 290.1028, found 290.1033 [M+H]⁺.

2-(Hydroxy(4-nitrophenyl)methyl)-4,5-dimethyl-*p*-quinol (**10**).

Following general procedure C, the reaction of **8** (40 mg, 0.29 mmol) with *p*-nitrobenzaldehyde (88 mg, 0.58 mmol), DABCO (6.5 mg, 0.058 mmol) and LiClO₄ (12.1 mg, 0.20 mmol) gave compound **10** as a 77:23 mixture of diastereoisomers, separated after flash chromatography (eluent Hex:AcOEt 3:1): minor diastereoisomer (less polar) (12 mg, 13%), major diastereoisomer (most polar) (43 mg, 48%). Time reaction: 3 days.

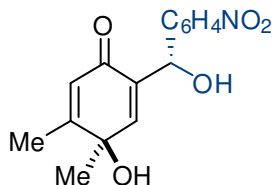
Major diastereoisomer: **(4*R**)-2-((*R**)-Hydroxy-(4-nitrophenyl)methyl)-4,5-dimethyl-*p*-quinol (**10**)**. White solid. M.p.: 132-134 °C. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.21 (d, *J* =



8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.69 (d, *J* = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.01 (q, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 5.70 (s, 1H), 3.63 (s, 1H), 2.10 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 3H), 1.45 (s, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 185.7, 162.9, 149.1, 148.5, 147.4, 137.1, 127.3 (2C), 125.8, 123.7 (2C), 71.5,

69.6, 26.1, 17.8. MS (ES) *m/z* (%): 312 (100) [M+Na]⁺. HRMS Calcd for C₁₄H₁₅NO₅ 312.0848, found 312.0836 [M+Na]⁺.

Minor diastereoisomer: **(4*R**)-2-((*S**)-Hydroxy-(4-nitrophenyl)methyl)-4,5-dimethyl-*p*-quinol (**10**)**. Pale yellow solid. M.p.: 152-154 °C. ¹H-NMR (300



MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.21 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.66 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 6.02 (q, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 5.72 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz, 1H), 3.55 (d, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 2.10 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 3H), 1.47 (s, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 185.6, 162.8, 148.9, 148.4,

147.4, 137.2, 127.3 (2C), 125.7, 123.6 (2C), 71.2, 69.6, 26.2, 17.8. MS (ES) *m/z* (%): 312 (100) [M+Na]⁺. HRMS Calcd for C₁₄H₁₅NO₅ 312.0842, found 312.08273 [M+Na]⁺.

