Asymmetric Ring Opening of Meso-Epoxides with TMSCN Catalyzed by (pybox)Lanthanide Complexes

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Supporting Information

General: Optical rotations were measured on a Jasco DIP 370 digital polarimeter with a sodium (λ = 489 nm) lamp, and are reported as follows: [α]^T ^C $_{\lambda}$, (*c* g/100 mL, solvent). Infrared spectra were recorded on a Mattson Galaxy Series FTIR 3000 spectrometer. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AM-500 (500 MHz) or AM-400 (400 MHz) spectrometers. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm from tetramethylsilane with the solvent resonance as the internal standard (deuterochloroform: δ 7.26 ppm). Data are reported as follows: chemical shift, integration, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet), and coupling constants (Hz). ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AM-500 (125 MHz) or AM-400 (100MHz) spectrometers with complete proton decoupling. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm from tetramethylsilane with the solvent resonance as the internal standard (deuterochloroform: δ 77.0 ppm). Mass spectra were obtained on a JEOL AX-5-5 or SX-102 high resolution magnetic sector mass spectrometer by the Harvard Mass Spectrometry Laboratory.

Analytical and preparative thin layer chromatography were performed on EM Reagent 0.25 or 0.50 mm silica gel 60-F plates. Flash chromatography was performed using EM silica gel 60 (230-400 mesh). Solvents for extraction and chromatography were HPLC grade.

When necessary, solvents and reagents were dried prior to use. Tetrahydrofuran (THF) and benzene were distilled from sodium or potassium metal/benzophenone ketyl. Dichloromethane were distilled from calcium hydride. Chloroform was dried over activated 3 Å molecular sieves prior to use. All other commercially obtained reagents were used as received. The pybox ligand 2,6-bis[4'-(*S*)-isopropyloxazolin-2'-yl]pyridine **2a** was purchased from Aldrich and was used as received.

Determination of Enantiomeric Purity. Enantiomeric excesses (ee's) were determined by capillary GC analysis using a Hewlett Packard 5890 Series II Gas Chromatograph with H₂ as a carrier gas. The following GC columns were employed: Cyclodex-B ($30m \ge 0.25mm$ id $\ge 0.25\mu m$ film; J&W Scientific) set at a column head pressure of 13 psi; and Chiraldex γ -TA ($20m \ge 0.25mm$ id $\ge 0.125\mu m$ film; Advanced Separation Technologies, Inc.) set at a column head pressure of 7 psi.

General Experimental for the Asymmetric Ring Opening of Meso-epoxides with TMSCN. (1*S*, 2*R*)-2-Trimethylsilyloxy-cyclohexane-1-carbonitrile (1). A 25 mL

flask equipped with a stir bar was charged with $YbCl_3^{-1}$ (28 mg, 0.10 mmol) and 2.6bis[4'-(S)-phenyloxazolin-2'-yl]pyridine 2c (45 mg, 0.12 mmol).² The flask was sealed with a septum and charged with 6 mL THF. The mixture was allowed to stir for 45 min at rt at which time 2 mL CHCl₃ was added to generate a clear solution containing a fine white suspension of uncomplexed YbCl₃. The solution was stirred for an additional 15 min at rt and then filtered into a 25 mL flask through an oven-dried pipette fitted with 0.5 cm cotton. The filtrate was concentrated by rotary evaporation and the residue dried at 0.5 Torr for 10 min to yield an opaque white solid. The flask was fitted with a rubber septum and the catalyst thus obtained was dissolved in 1 mL CHCl₃,³ treated with TMSCN (160 µL, 1.20 mmol), and cooled to -45 °C. Cyclohexene oxide (100 µL, 1.00 mmol) was added and the reaction was allowed to stir 4 days. The mixture was diluted with 20 mL CH₂Cl₂ and filtered through a 2 cm SiO₂ plug. The SiO₂ was rinsed with 100 mL CH₂Cl₂ and the filtrates were combined and concentrated *in vacuo* to yield (1S, 2R)-2-trimethylsilyloxy-cyclohexane-1-carbonitrile (172 mg, 0.87 mmol, 87%). The product was determined to be in 91% ee by chiral GC analysis (Cyclodex-B, 100 °C, isothermal, $t_{\rm R}$ (major) = 21.94 min, $t_{\rm R}$ (minor) = 22.81 min). $[\alpha]^{27}_{\rm D}$ -38.5° (c 4.52, CH₂Cl₂); IR (thin film) 2945, 2864, 2243, 1450, 1252, 1135, 1107, 925, 842; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 3.64-3.70 (m, 1 H), 2.38-2.44 (m, 1 H), 2.08-2.11 (m, 1 H), 1.90-

⁽¹⁾ Both anhydrous $YbCl_3$ and the corresponding hexahydrate afforded catalysts that displayed similar enantioselectivity in the ARO reactions. However, the reactivity of catalyst prepared from anhydrous $YbCl_3$ was significantly greater.

⁽²⁾ The stoichiometry of the catalyst-ligand complex is apparently 1:1, and the use of a slight excess of ligand (1.2 equiv. relative to YbCl₃) afforded best results. Use of larger excess of ligand led to similar enantioselectivities in the ARO but suppressed rates.

⁽³⁾ Reactions were carried out using $CHCl_3$ that had been pre-dried by storage over oven dried 3Å molecular sieves. It was found that over the period of several days, $CHCl_3$ stored in this manner became contaminated with HCl, and this had a significant deleterious effect on the ARO reaction. As a result, freshly dried chloroform (stored <2 days over sieves) was employed.

2.07 (m, 1 H), 1.55-1.75 (m, 3 H), 1.25-1.33 (m, 3 H), 0.17 (s, 9 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 121.6, 71.1, 37.7, 34.7, 28.2, 23.9, 23.3, 0.18; HRMS calculated for C₁₀H₂₃N₂OSi (M+NH₄)⁺: 215.1580; found: 215.1578.

Determination of Absolute Configuration. (1*S*, 2*R*)-2-Cyanocyclohexanol. A 25 mL

flask equipped with a stir bar was charged with (1R, 2S)-2-trimethylsilyloxy-

cyclohexane-1-carbonitrile **1** (110 mg, 0.56 mmol, 80% ee), 2 mL MeOH, and 50 μL TFA at rt. The reaction was allowed to stir for 1 h and concentrated by rotary evaporator. The crude residue obtained was dissolved in 50 mL CH₂Cl₂ and filtered through a SiO₂ plug. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* to yield (1*S*, 2*R*)-2-cyanocyclohexanol (46 mg, 0.37 mmol, 66%). $[\alpha]^{26}_{D}$ +34.1° (*c* 0.255, CH₂Cl₂), lit.⁴ $[\alpha]^{26}_{D}$ +52.0° (*c* 2.5, CH₂Cl₂); IR (thin film) 3460, 2950, 2253, 1450, 1125, 765; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 3.72-3.75 (m, 1 H), 2.38-2.44 (m, 1 H), 2.04-2.18 (m, 3 H), 1.19-1.79 (m, 4 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 123.5, 70.5, 37.5, 33.8, 28.2, 23.9, 23.4; HRMS calculated for C₇H₁₅N₂O (M+NH₄)⁺: 143.1184; found: 143.1189.

(1*R*, 2*S*)-2-Trimethylsilyloxy-cyclopentane-1-carbonitrile. The catalyst was prepared by the general experimental procedure using 40 mg (0.12 mmol) 2,6-bis[4'-(*S*)-(*tert*butyl)oxazolin-2'-yl]pyridine 2b and 28 mg (0.10 mmol) YbCl₃. Using 120 mg (1.20 mmol) TMSCN, 84 mg (1.00 mmol) cyclopentene oxide, in 1 mL CHCl₃ at -10 °C for 7 days yielded the product (1*R*, 2*S*)-7 (152mg, 0.83 mmol, 83%) in 92% ee by chiral GC analysis (Cyclodex-B, 90 °C, isothermal, *t*_R(major) = 19.31 min, *t*_R(minor) = 18.40 min).

⁽⁴⁾ Forró, E.; Lundell, K.; Fülöp, F.; Kanerva, L. T. Tetrahedron: Asymmetry 1997, 8, 3095-3099.

 $[α]^{26}{}_{D}$ +72.0° (*c* 1.58, CH₂Cl₂); IR (thin film) 2960, 2240, 1453, 1378, 1255, 1146, 1023, 842, 752; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 4.35 (dd, 1 H, *J* = 5.6 and 11.7 Hz), 2.60-2.64 (m, 1 H), 2.13-2.17 (m, 1 H), 1.56-1.98 (m, 5 H), 0.15 (s, 9 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 122.0, 77.3, 37.6, 34.7, 28.4, 22.1, -0.1; HRMS calculated for C₉H₁₇NOSi (M)⁺: 183.1079; found: 183.1078. The absolute configuration was assigned by analogy to compound **1**.

(2*R*, 3*S*)-2-Methyl-3-trimethylsilyloxybutyronitrile. The catalyst was prepared by the general experimental procedure using 45 mg (0.12 mmol) 2,6-bis[4'-(*R*)phenyloxazolin-2'-yl]pyridine 2c and 28 mg (0.10 mmol) YbCl₃. Using 120 mg (1.20 mmol) TMSCN, 72 mg (1.0 mmol) *cis*-2,3-epoxybutane, in 1 mL CHCl₃ at -40 °C for 7 days yielded the product (136 mg, 0.80 mmol, 80%) in 90% ee as determined by chiral GC analysis (γ-TA, 50 °C, isothermal, *t*_R(major) = 29.79 min, *t*_R(minor) = 27.77 min). $[\alpha]^{24}_{\text{D}}$ +5.9° (*c* 3.8, CH₂Cl₂); IR (KBr) 2984, 2244, 1379, 1253, 1068, 954, 885, 761; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 3.82-3.88 (m, 1 H), 2.56-2.63 (m, 1H), 1.26 (dd, 6 H, *J* = 7.1 and 9.7 Hz), 0.14 (s, 9 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 121.3, 68.8, 34.4, 21.4, 14.1, 0.1; HRMS calculated for C₈H₂₁N₂OSi (M+NH₄)⁺: 189.1423; found: 189.1423. The absolute configuration was assigned by analogy to compound **1**.

(1*R*, 3*S*, 4*R*)-4-Cyano-3-trimethylsilyloxy-ethyl-1-cyclopentanecarboxylate. The catalyst was prepared by the general experimental procedure using 40 mg (0.12 mmol) 2,6-bis[4'-(*S*)-(*tert*-butyl)oxazolin-2'-yl]pyridine 2b and 28 mg (0.10 mmol) YbCl₃. Using 120 mg (1.20 mmol) TMSCN, 156 mg (1.00 mmol) *trans*-ethyl-3,4-epoxy-ethyl-

1-cyclopentanecarboxylate,⁵ in 1 mL CHCl₃ at 0 °C for 7 days yielded the product (219 mg, 0.86 mmol, 86%) after flash chromatography over SiO₂ using 9:1 hexanes:EtOAc as the eluent (TLC R_f= 0.45, 4:1 hexanes:EtOAc, SiO₂). $[\alpha]^{27}_{D}$ +30° (*c* 1.9, CH₂Cl₂); IR (KBr) 2959, 2242, 1735, 1375, 1254, 1185, 1094, 845, 756; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 4.45 (dd, 1 H, *J* = 5.5 and 11.4 Hz), 4.14 (dd, 2 H, *J* = 7.1 and 14.3 Hz), 3.00-3.08 (m, 1 H), 2.67-2.73 (m, 1 H), 2.41-2.49 (m, 1 H), 2.08-2.23 (m, 2 H), 1.85-1.93 (m, 1 H), 4.45 (t, 3 H, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 0.16 (s, 9 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 174.1, 120.8, 76.2, 61.0, 40.8, 38.0, 37.6, 31.4, 14.2, -0.14; HRMS calculated for C₁₂H₂₅N₂O₃Si (M+NH₄)⁺: 273.1634; found: 273.1630. The product was determined to be in 83% ee by chiral GC analysis of the TFA ester prepared by treatment of product with TFA and TFAA (G-TA, 115 °C, isothermal, *t*_R(major) = 22.95 min, *t*_R(minor) = 20.36 min). The absolute configuration was assigned by analogy to compound **1**.

(*3R*, *4R*)-4-Cyano-3-trimethylsilyloxy-1-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)pyrrolidine. The catalyst was prepared by the general experimental procedure using 40 mg (0.12 mmol) 2,6-bis[4'-(*S*)-(*tert*-butyl)oxazolin-2'-yl]pyridine **2b** and 28 mg (0.10 mmol) YbCl₃. Using 120 mg (1.20 mmol) TMSCN, 181 mg (1.00 mmol) 3,4-epoxy-1-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetyl)pyrrolidine,⁶ in 1 mL CHCl₃ at -10 °C for 7 days yielded the product (201 mg, 0.72 mmol, 72%) after flash chromatography over SiO₂ using 7:3 hexanes:EtOAc as the eluent (TLC R_f = 0.68, 7:3 hexanes:EtOAc, SiO₂). The ring-opened product was determined to be in 87% ee by chiral GC analysis (Cyclodex-B, 115 °C, isothermal,

⁽⁵⁾ Prepared according to the published procedure: Martínez, L. E.; Nugent, W. A.; Jacobsen, E. N. J. Org. Chem. **1996**, *61*, 7963.

 $t_{\rm R}({\rm major}) = 56.43 \text{ min}, t_{\rm R}({\rm minor}) = 57.74 \text{ min}).$ [α]²⁷_D +1.2° (*c* 1.1, CH₂Cl₂); IR (KBr) 2966, 2251, 1682, 1471, 1372, 1257, 1203, 1151, 843, 755; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 4.61-4.68 (m, 1 H), 3.91-4.08 (m, 3 H), 3.58-3.65 (m, 1 H), 3.04-3.15 (m, 1 H), 0.22 (s, 9 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 155.5, 117.5, 116 (q, J_{CF} = 296 Hz), 73.4, 71.1, 54.0, 53.0, 48.0, 47.2 (q, J_{CF} = 79.3 Hz), 37.7, 35.1 (q, J_{CF} = 264 Hz), -0.1; HRMS calculated for C₁₀H₁₉N₃O₂Si (M+NH₄)⁺: 298.1199; found: 298.1201. The absolute configuration was assigned by analogy to compound **1**.

Kinetic Experiments. Catalyst was generated according to the general procedure. The flask containing the catalyst residue was fitted with a rubber septum and the catalyst residue was dissolved in 1.2 mL CHCl₃ and sequentially treated with TMSCN (670 μ L, 5.00 mmol) and 50 μ L dodecane (internal standard) at rt. The reaction was initiated by the addition of cyclohexene oxide (100 μ L, 1.00 mmol). The reaction progress was monitored by the removal of 10 μ L aliquots from the reaction, filtration through a SiO₂ plug with CH₂Cl₂ as the eluent, and GC analysis (HP-5, 50 °C, 4 min, 15 °C / min).

[Yb] (M)	\underline{k}_{obs} (sec ⁻¹)
0.00566	0.000052
0.0108	0.00018
0.0275	0.0011
0.0334	0.0017
0.0459	0.0029

General Procedure for the Synthesis of Pybox Ligands. Method A.⁷ 2,6-Bis[4'-(S)-(*tert*-butyl)oxazolin-2'-yl]pyridine (2b). To a solution of (S)-*tert*-leucinol (1.1g, 9.4

⁽⁶⁾ Prepared according to the published procedure: Martínez, L. E.; Leighton, J. L.; Carsten, D. H.; Jacobsen, E. N. J. Am. Chem. Soc. **1995**, 117, 5897.

⁽⁷⁾Davies, I. W.; Gerena, L.; Lu, N.; Larsen, R. D.; Reider, P. J. J. Org. Chem. 1996, 61, 9629.

mmol) in 16 mL of *i*-PrOAc and 3.8 mL KHCO₃ (1.5 M) at 65 °C was added pyridine dicarbonyldichloride (0.96 g, 4.7 mmol) portion-wise over 10 min. The mixture was heated to 80 °C and allowed to proceed at that temperature for 2 h. The reaction was allowed to cool and then partitioned with 100 mL CHCl₃ in a separatory funnel. The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted 2 X 100 mL CHCl₃. The organic extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered through Celite[®] and concentrated *in* vacuo to yield an opaque white foam. The crude material obtained was suspended in 15 mL BF₃· OEt₂ and heated to 125 °C for 2 h. The solution was allowed to cool to rt and carefully poured into a cooled (0 °C) Erlenmeyer containing 100 mL CH₂Cl₂ and 100 mL 2 N NaOH. The mixture was placed in a separatory funnel, mixed well, and the layers were separated. The aqueous layer was extracted 3 X 100 mL CH_2Cl_2 . The organic extracts were diluted with 200 mL EtOAc and treated with activated carbon. The mixture was filtered through SiO₂ and concentrated *in vacuo* to yield an opaque white solid. The solid was recrystallized from 9:1 hexanes:EtOAc to yield 2,6-bis[4'-(S)-(*tert*-butyl)oxazolin-2'-yl]pyridine (1.16 g, 3.52 mmol, 75%). $[\alpha]^{27}_{D}$ -118° (c 0.50, CH₂Cl₂); IR (KBr) 2959, 2899, 2858, 1643, 1569, 1477, 1377, 1363, 1278, 1108, 1075, 1061, 956, 931; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.26 (d, 2 H, J = 8.1 Hz), 7.86 (t, 1 H, J = 7.7 Hz), 4.49 (t, 2 H, J = 8.8 Hz), 4.33 (t, 2 H, J = 8.8 Hz), 4.11 (dd, 2 H, J = 8.8 and 10.6 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 147.0, 137.2, 126.0, 76.6, 69.8, 34.4, 26.3; HRMS calculated for $C_{19}H_{28}N_3O_2 (M+H)^+$: 330.2181; found: 330.2167.

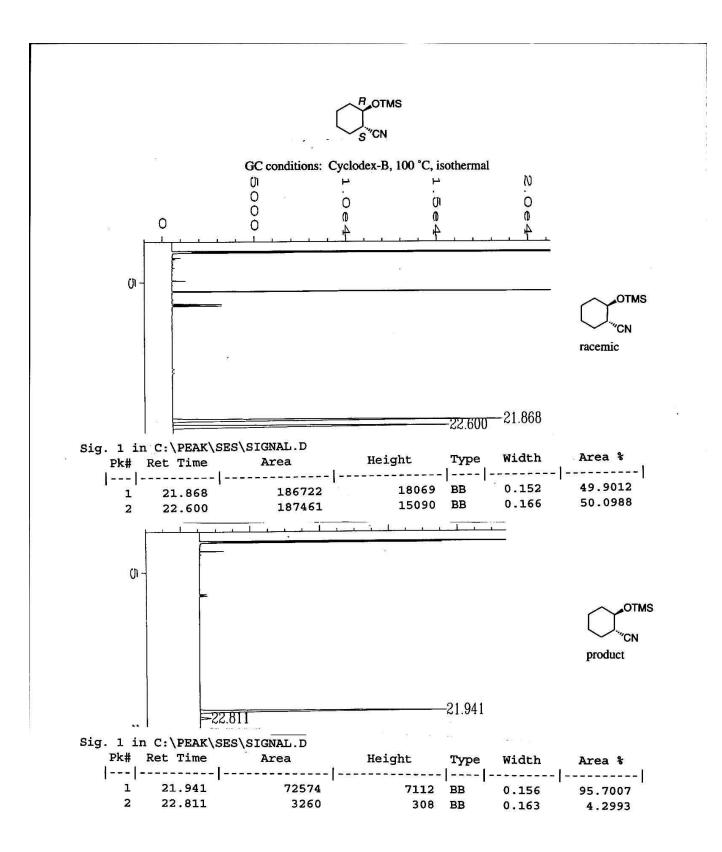
Procedure for the Synthesis of Pybox Ligand (2c).⁸ 2.6-Bis[4'-(S)-phenyloxazolin-2'-yllpyridine. To a solution of (S)-phenylglycinol (2.2 g, 16.2 mmol) in 33 mL of *i*-PrOAc and 8 mL KHCO₃ (1.5 M) at 65 °C was added pyridine dicarbonyldichloride (1.65 g, 8.1 mmol) portion-wise over 15 min. The mixture was heated to 80 °C and allowed to proceed at that temperature for 2 h. The reaction was allowed to cool and then partitioned with 150 mL CHCl₃ in a separatory funnel. The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted 2 X 100 mL CHCl₃. The organic extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered through Celite[®] and concentrated *in vacuo* to yield an opaque white solid. To a solution of the crude solid (3.24 g), DMAP (100 mg, 0.8 mmol), TEA (5.0 mL, 35 mmol) in 32 mL CH₂Cl₂ was added a solution of *p*-TsCl (3.05 g, 16 mmol) in 8 mL CH_2Cl_2 via cannula at rt over 20 min. The reaction was allowed to stir at rt 40 h. The reaction was poured into a cooled (0 °C) Erlenmeyer flask containing 200 mL CH₂Cl₂ and 200 mL 2 N NaOH. The mixture was placed in a separatory funnel, mixed well, and the layers were separated. The aqueous layer was extracted 3 X 200 mL CH₂Cl₂. The organic extracts were diluted with 300 mL EtOAc and treated with activated carbon. The mixture was filtered through SiO₂ and concentrated *in vacuo* to yield an opaque white solid. The crude solid was recrystallized from 9:1 hexanes:EtOAc and the solid obtained was collected by vacuum filtration to yield 2,6bis[4'-(S)-phenyloxazolin-2'-yl]pyridine (2.13g, 5.75 mmol, 72%). $[\alpha]^{27}_{D}$ -182° (c 0.91, CH₂Cl₂); IR (KBr) 3150, 1738, 1650, 1644, 1568, 1453, 1354, 1264, 1240, 1164, 982, 700; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.34 (d, 2 H, J = 7.8 Hz), 7.91 (t, 1 H, J = 7.8 Hz),

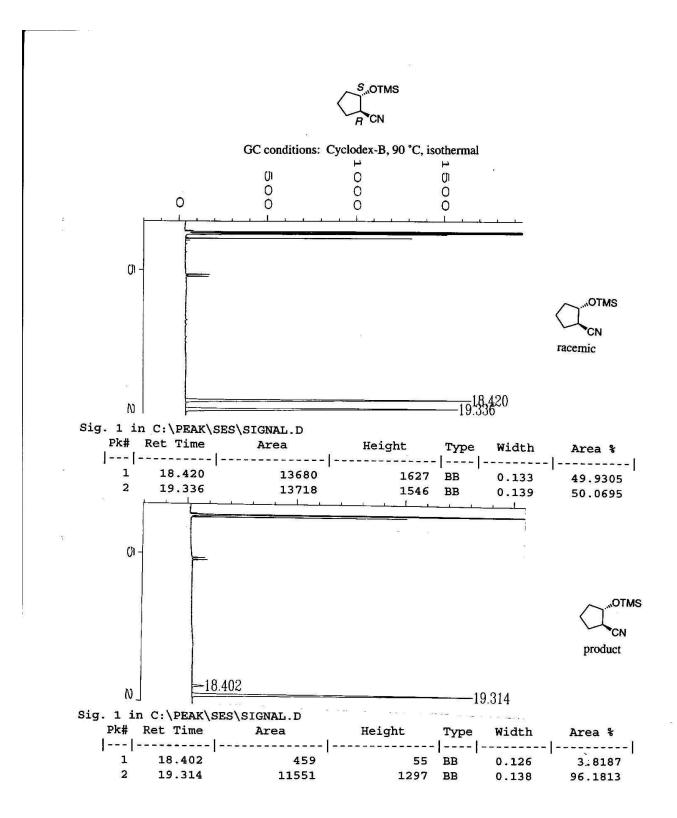
⁽⁸⁾ Modification of a similar procedure used for 2,2-Bis[1-[4-(*S*)-*tert*-butyl-1,3-oxazolinyl]]propane: Evans, D. A.; Peterson, G. S.; Johnson, J. S.; Barnes, D. M.; Campos, K. R.; Woerpel, K. A. *J. Org. Chem.* **1998**, *63*, 4541.

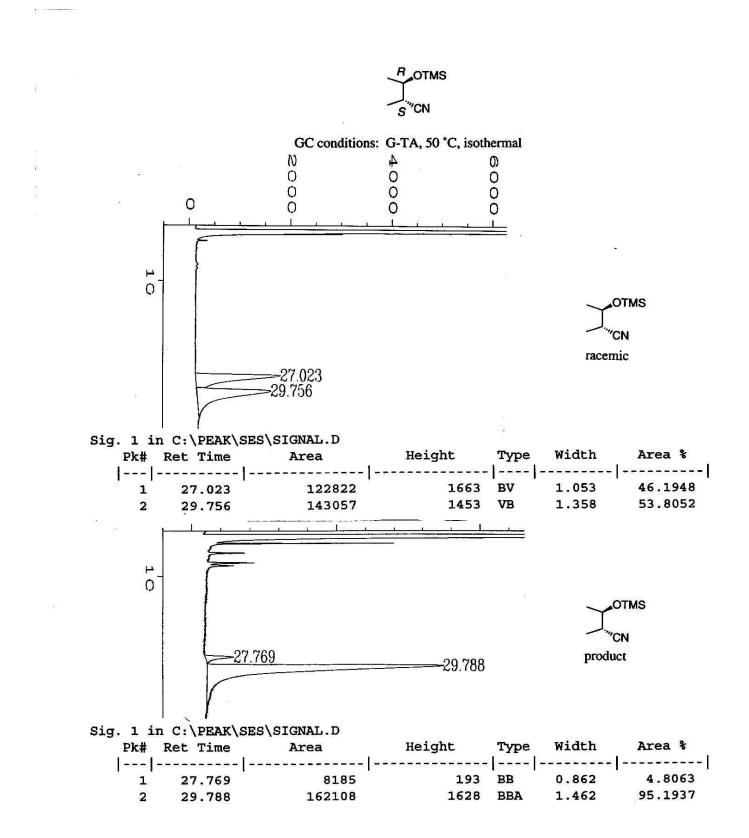
7.29-7.36 (m, 10 H), 5.59 (dd, 2 H, J = 8.7 and 10.2 Hz), 4.92 (dd, 2 H, J = 8.7 and 10.3 Hz), 4.42 (t, 2 H, J = 8.7 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 163.3, 146.6, 141.6, 137.3, 128.7, 127.7, 126.7, 126.2, 75.4, 70.2; HRMS calculated for C₂₃H₁₉N₃O₂ (M+H)⁺: 370.1555; found: 370.1570.

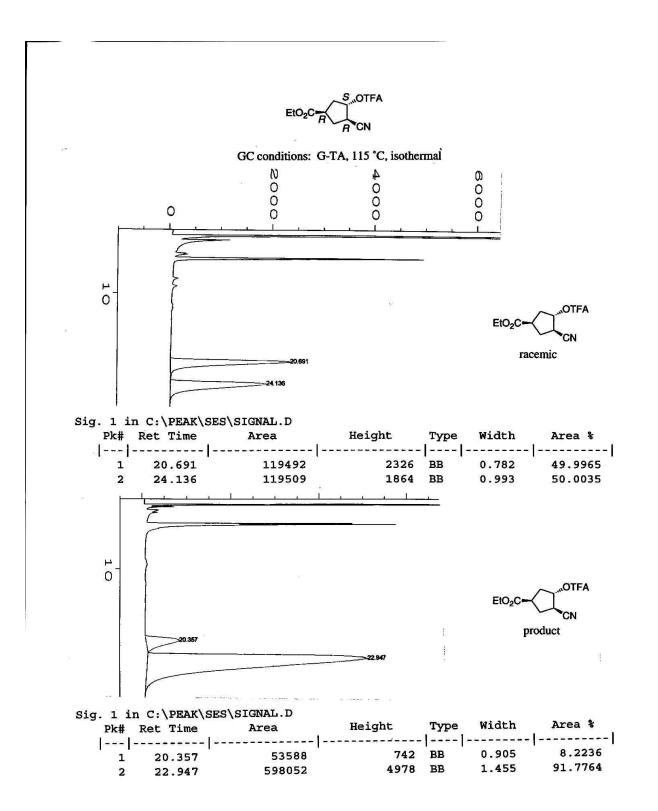
2,6-Bis[4'-(*S***)-benzyloxazolin-2'-yl]pyridine (2d).** Method A. $[\alpha]^{23}_{D}$ -38° (*c* 0.67, CHCl₃); IR (KBr) 2931, 1634, 1497, 1453, 1383, 1109, 1065, 960, 735, 699; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.22 (d, 2 H, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.90 (t, 1 H, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.21-7.33 (m, 10 H), 4.61-4.69 (m, 2 H), 4.46 (t, 2 H, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 4.26 (t, 2 H, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 3.27 (dd, 2 H, *J* = 5.2 and 13.8 Hz), 2.74 (dd, 2 H, *J* = 9.1 and 13.8 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 162.6, 146.7, 137.6, 137.3, 129.1, 128.5, 126.5, 125.7, 72.5, 68.0, 41.6; HRMS calculated for C₂₅H₂₄N₃O₂ (M+H)⁺: 398.1868; found: 398.1885.

[3a*S*-[2(3'a*R**,8'a*S**),3a**a**,8a**a**]]-2,2'-(2,6-Pyridinediyl)bis-[3a,8a-dihydro-8*H*indeno[1,2-*d*]oxazole] (2e). Method A. [α]²³_D-493° (*c* 1.0, CHCl₃); IR (KBr) 2985, 1638, 1572, 1462, 1381, 1110, 829; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.06 (d, 2 H, J = 8.2Hz), 7.73 (t, 1 H, J = 8.2 Hz), 7.49-7.53 (m, 2 H), 7.18-7.24 (m, 6 H), 5.74 (d, 2 H, J =8.0 Hz), 5.52-5.63 (m, 2 H), 3.44 (d, 2 H, J = 4 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 162.7, 146.9, 141.4, 139.8, 136.9, 128.5, 127.3, 125.8, 125.6, 125.2, 84.2, 76.9, 39.6; HRMS calculated for C₂₅H₁₉N₃O₂ (M+H)⁺: 394.1556; found: 394.1566.









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