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ARTICLE TYPE

Asymmetric organocatalytic desymmetrization of 4,4-disubstituted cyclohexadienones at high pressure: a new powerful strategy for the synthesis of highly congested chiral cyclohexenones^{1, †}

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A highly diastereoselective and enantioselective method for the asymmetric desymmetrization of 4,4disubstituted cyclohexadienones by using the Michael addition reaction of malonates under catalysis with

10 the primary amine-thiourea conjugate catalyst and PPY at high pressure was developed.

Introduction

Asymmetric desymmetrization can provide a powerful and highly expedient strategy for the construction of two or more new chiral stereogenic centers from prochiral compounds in a single-step

- ¹⁵ operation. Accordingly, a variety of methods that use both enzymatic and non-enzymatic processes have been developed that show high to excellent enantioselectivity, and most involve the intrinsic nature of *meso*-anhydrides, epoxides and diols.² In addition to these precedents, recent efforts have been directed to
- ²⁰ explore the versatile utility of organocatalytic transformations.³ These include, for example, functionalization of *meso*-diols and anhydrides,⁴ aldol and related reactions,⁵ discrimination of cyclohexadienes,^{2f,6} Baeyer-Villiger oxidation of cyclobutanones,⁷ and others.⁸ Among these, we were particularly
- ²⁵ interested in devising an efficient method for differentiating between the two double bonds in 4,4-disubstituted cyclohexadienones based on organocatalytic asymmetric Michael addition reactions, since functionalized cyclohexenones or cyclohexanones are important key components in synthetic and ³⁰ natural products chemistry.⁹

Although there have been reports on intramolecular approaches to the desymmetrization of cyclohexadienones, ${}^{6g,h,j-n}$ to the best of our knowledge, very little information is available on intermolecular variants. 6p,10 Presumably, this might be the result

 $_{35}$ of severe steric congestion at β -carbon atoms. Despite this fairly limited accessibility, we thought that the asymmetric discrimination of cyclohexadienones based on an intermolecular Michael addition strategy would be a great challenge for the

† Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) available: [details of any 45 supplementary information available should be included here]. See DOI: 10.1039/b000000x/ synthesis of cyclohexenone derivatives containing up to two stereocenters, in which an all-carbon quaternary stereogenic ⁵⁰ center was part of the stereoarray. In view of the great advances in the organocatalytic construction of quaternary stereogenic carbon centers,¹¹ this should contribute to progress in this field. Herein, we report a highly successful method for realizing this expectation by taking advantage of our recent findings on ⁵⁵ asymmetric Michael addition reactions using a dual catalyst system composed of the primary amine-thiourea conjugate catalyst **A** or **B** and 4-pyrrolidinopyridine (PPY) (Figure 1).¹²



Fig. 1 Catalysts A and B.

Results and discussion

The starting 4,4-disubstituted cyclohexadienones **1a-f** used in this work were prepared by α -selenylation followed by oxidative ⁶⁵ elimination of the corresponding cyclohexenone precursors,¹³ which were readily accessible from α, α' -disubstituted acetaldehydes and methyl vinyl ketone via Robinson-type annulation.¹⁴ On the other hand, 4-methyl-4-trichloromethyl-2,2cyclohexadienone (**1g**) was prepared from *p*-cresol by the Zincke-⁷⁰ Suhl reaction, as described in the literature.¹⁵

First, we examined the asymmetric desymmetrization of 4methyl-4-phenyl-2,5-cylohexadienone (1a) through the Michael addition reaction of diethyl malonate (2). The results are summarized in Table 1.

⁷⁵ Under our previously established standard conditions with 10 mol% of catalyst **A** and 10 mol% of PPY at atmospheric pressure,^{12a} the desired reaction proceeded sluggishly to afford

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6 3:1 7 30 0.6 GPa, 2 days 89/11 94 / 86 3:1 30 73 8 30 30 0.4 GPa, 2 days 54 89/11 92 / 76 3:1 9^h 3:1 30 30 0.8 GPa, 2 days 82 84 / 16 -92 / -85 "Reactions performed at a concentration of 0.2 M in the solvent listed. "Combined yields of isolated products 3a and 4a. Yields based on the reacted

"Reactions performed at a concentration of 0.2 M in the solvent listed. "Combined yields of isolated products **3a** and **4a**. Yields based on the reacted **1a** (entries 1–5) or **2** (entries 6 and 7). "Determined by ¹H NMR (500 MHz). "Determined by chiral HPLC analysis using Chiralcel AD (hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90 : 10, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm). "THF was used as a solvent. ^{*f*}0.5 M in the solvent. ^{*g*}By-product **5** was isolated in 43% yield. ^{*h*}Catalyst **B** was used in place of catalyst **A**.

the desymmetrization products *anti*-adduct **3a** and *syn*-adduct **4a** with high diastereo- and enantioselectivity, but in only 11% yield (entry 1). We applied a high-pressure technique to accelerate this reaction, ^{12b,16} and observed that the pressure played an essential ⁵ role in the present system (entry 2). Consistent with our previous observations,¹⁷ when THF was used as a solvent, the reaction progress was completely suppressed, which indicated that a hydrogen-bond interaction between the substrate and the catalyst may be inhibited in this HBD solvent (entry 3).¹⁸ While an ¹⁰ increase in the catalyst loading to 30 mol% improved the product yield (entry 4),¹⁹ the use of 3 equiv of 2 resulted in the formation of a large amount of the double-Michael adduct 5 due to the ease of the second-step reaction (entry 5) (Figure 2).



Fig. 2 By-product 5.

After several experiments, we concluded that this problem could be easily solved by using an excess of 1a, and the products 20 3a and 4a were obtained in 82% combined yield with high diastereo- (3a/4a = 84 : 16) and enantioselectivity (3a, 92% ee; 4a, 86% ee) (entry 6). In this case we also recognized the critical

factor of pressure and yields decreased at lower pressures (entries 6-8).^{12b} As expected, the use of catalyst **B** completely reversed ²⁵ this desymmetrization dictation (entry 9).

With our optimized reaction conditions in hand, we then explored the general scope of the reaction, and the results are summarized in Table 2.20 All reactions were performed in toluene at 0.8 GPa and rt for 2 days in the presence of 30 mol% of the 30 respective catalyst A and PPY. Various 4-alkyl-4-aryldisubstituted cyclohexadienones 1b-f reacted smoothly with 2 to give the products in good yields (up to 99%) and with high diastereo- (up to 93 : 7) and enantioselectivity (up to 93% ee for 3 and 99% ee for 4). When the size of the 4-alkyl group was 35 increased from Me to Et (compare 3a with 3b), the diastereoselectivity significantly decreased. while the enantioselectivity remained roughly the same. Unexpectedly, cyclohexadienone 1g could react only very slowly even with 1 equiv of 2 at 0.8 GPa for 4 days and the product 3g was obtained 40 as an almost single diastereomer in 10% yield with 33% ee.

The absolute configurations of the products **3a** and **4a** were determined unambiguously by conversion to the corresponding cyclohexanone derivatives **7** and **10**, and comparison of their optical rotations with those of the authentic samples prepared ⁴⁵ independently from optically pure (*R*)-cyclohexenone **8**¹⁴ (Scheme 1). Thus, catalytic hydrogenation of **3a** in EtOH as a solvent at rt in the presence of a catalytic amount of Pd/C afforded **7**, $[\alpha]^{27}_{\rm D}$ +5.4 (*c* = 0.49, EtOH, 92% ee), in 36% yield²¹ without a loss of diastereometic and enantiometic excess. On the





^{*a*}Reactions performed at a concentration of 0.2 M in toluene. ^{*b*}Combined yield of isolated products **3** and **4**, and based on the reacted **2**. The absolute configuration of the products was surmised by analogy with **3a**. ^{*c*}By-product **6** was formed in 8% yield. ^{*d*}Determined by ¹H NMR (500 MHz). ^{*c*}Determined by chiral HPLC analysis using Chiralcel AD (hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90 : 10, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, λ = 254 nm) except for **3b**, **3e** (hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95 : 5, flow rate 0.5 mL/min), and **3f** (hexane/*i*-PrOH = 99 : 1, flow rate 0.5 mL/min).



Scheme 1 Determination of the absolute configurations of the products 3a and 4a.

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other hand, the authentic sample of (3S,4R)-9, $[\alpha]^{26}_{D}$ -5.8 (c = 1.0, EtOH, 97% ee), was prepared from 8 and 2 in 77% yield with high *anti*-selectivity (*syn/anti* = 7 : 93) via the diastereoselective Michael addition reaction using catalyst **B** at

- s atmospheric pressure and rt for 2.5 days. The results of optical rotation revealed that 7 and 9 are enantiomers of each other, and hence 7 has a (3R,4S)-configuration for the all-carbon substituted quaternary stereogenic center and the adjacent tertiary stereogenic center, and therefore also for the corresponding moieties in 3a.
- ¹⁰ In a similar manner, the absolute configuration of **4a** was determined to be (3R,4R) after it was reduced to **10**; this compound was in good agreement with (3R,4R)-**11** derived from (R)-**8** with the assistance of catalyst **A**. The latter reaction proceeded fairly slowly due to steric congestion at the C3 ¹⁵ position, but with good *syn*-selectivity (*syn/anti* = 86 : 14) as a
- result of so-called catalyst control. Meanwhile, the relative stereochemistry of *syn-* and *anti-*adducts, *i.e.*, (3S,4R)-9 and (3R,4R)-11, was confirmed by NOESY experiments (Figure 3). Thus, (3S,4R)-9 revealed an NOE interaction between the C4
- ²⁰ methyl and the malonate proton, indicating that a phenyl ring has a favorable axial position.²² On the other hand, the interaction between the C4 methyl and the C3 methine in (3R,4R)-11 reflected the existence of a severe steric repulsion between the equatorial phenyl ring and the axial malonate substituent.



Fig. 3 NOESY experiments of (3S,4R)-9 and (3R,4R)-11 (500 MHz, CDCl₃). Characteristic correlations are shown. Important vicinal coupling constants are indicated by dashed arrows.

- ³⁰ Based on the experimental results described above and our recent studies, we propose a mechanism to account for the present high level of asymmetric desymmetrization of cyclohexadienones (Figure 4).^{12,16} First, the dual catalyst system composed of catalyst **A** and PPY can activate both **2** as a Michael
- ³⁵ donor via double hydrogen bonding with a thiourea part of catalyst A and 1a as a Michael acceptor by anchoring to form the ketiminium ion intermediate with a free amine part of catalyst A (I). After proton abstraction by PPY, the resulting malonate anion then attacks one of the two enantiotopic double bonds from the
- ⁴⁰ less-hindered side opposite a rather bulky phenyl ring as in an intramolecular fashion (II). As a result of the main control from the cyclohexanediamine chiral motif of catalyst A, high discrimination would be enforced to give the desired chiral

adduct (III), **3a** after hydrolysis, which is consistent with the ⁴⁵ experimental results.



Fig. 4 Plausible mechanism.

Conclusions

⁵⁰ In conclusion, we have developed a highly diastereoselective and enantioselective method for the asymmetric desymmetrization of 4,4-disubstituted cyclohexadienones by using the Michael addition reaction of malonates under catalysis with the primary amine-thiourea conjugate catalyst **A** or **B** and PPY at high ⁵⁵ pressure. This method is particularly useful for constructing highly functionalized cyclohexenones containing a quaternary carbon stereogenic center and two contiguous stereocenters in only one step. Further studies on the application of this method to natural product synthesis are now in progress in our laboratory.

Experimental section

Typical procedure for the asymmetric desymmetrization of 1a (Table 1, entry 6). A mixture of 1a (166 mg, 0.9 mmol) and diethyl malonate (2, 48 mg, 0.3 mmol) in the presence of 65 catalyst A (34.7 mg, 30 mol%) and PPY (13.3 mg, 30 mol%) in toluene (1.4 mL) was placed in a Teflon reaction vessel and the mixture was allowed to react at 0.8 GPa and rt for 2 days. After the pressure was released, the mixture was concd and purified by column chromatography on alumina (eluted with hexane-AcOEt) 70 to give 3a (71.4 mg, 69%) and 4a (13.4 mg, 13%) along with the recovered 1a (103 mg).

Diethyl 2-((1*S***,2***R***)-1-methyl-4-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-[1,1'biphenyl]-2-yl)malonate (3a).** Colorless oil; R_f 0.26 (hexane / ⁷⁵ AcOEt = 5 : 1); $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ +91.6 (c = 0.93, EtOH, 92% ee); FTIR (KBr) v 1754, 1730, 1683 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.10 (3H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 1.28 (3H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 1.52 (3H, s), 2.59 (1H, dd, J = 17.0, 4.0 Hz), 2.71 (1H, dd, J = 17.0, 12.0 Hz), 3.27 (1H, ddd, J = 12.0, 5.5, 4.0 Hz), 3.35 (1H, d, J = 5.5 Hz), 3.80–3.92 (2H, m), 4.19 (2H, q, J = 7.5 Hz), 6.07 (1H, d, J = 10.0 Hz), 6.72 (1H, d, J = 10.0 Hz), 7.25–7.38 (5H, m); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.77, 13.96, 18.04, 37.64, 44.23, 44.52, 52.11, 61.54, 61.60, 126.96 (×2), 127.04, 127.31, 128.62 (×2), 5 144.31, 158.00, 167.80, 168.37, 198.11; HRMS Calcd for C₂₀H₂₄O₅ 344.1624, found 344.1623.

The ee of the product was determined by chiral HPLC analysis (Chiralpak AD column, 0.46×25 cm, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90 : 10, 1.0 cm³/min): R_t (*major*) = 12.6 min; R_t (*minor*) = 14.1 ¹⁰ min.

Diethyl 2-((*IR*,2*R*)-1-methyl-4-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)malonate (4a). Colorless oil; R_f 0.19 (hexane / AcOEt = 5 : 1); $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ -71.7 (*c* = 0.09, EtOH, 86% ee); ¹⁵ FTIR (KBr) v 1756, 1730, 1683 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.09 (3H, t, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 1.20 (3H, t, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 1.67 (3H, s), 2.55 (1H, dd, *J* = 22.0, 6.0 Hz), 2.88 (1H, dd, *J* = 22.0, 14.0 Hz), 3.11 (1H, dt, *J* = 14.0, 6.0 Hz), 3.46 (1H, d, *J* = 6.0 Hz), 3.67-3.81 (2H, m), 4.03-4.16 (2H, m), 6.18 (1H, d, *J* = 12.0 Hz), 20 6.78 (1H, d, *J* = 12.0 Hz), 7.28-7.38 (5H, m); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.72, 13.94, 26.51, 36.92, 43.91, 44.16, 51.91, 61.13, 61.89, 127.58, 127.89, 128.03 (×2), 128.45 (×2), 138.50, 155.80 (×2), 167.43, 168.64, 198.71; HRMS Calcd for C₂₀H₂₄O₅ 344.1624, found 344.1622.

The ee of the product was determined by chiral HPLC analysis (Chiralpak AD column, 0.46×25 cm, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90 : 10, 1.0 cm³/min): R_t (*major*) = 10.7 min; R_t (*minor*) = 17.6 min.

Tetraethyl 2,2'-(2-methyl-5-oxo-2-phenylcyclohexane-1,3diyl)dimalonate (by-product 5; Table 1, entry 5). Colorless oil; $R_{\rm f}$ 0.15 (hexane / AcOEt = 5 : 1); FTIR (KBr) v 1028, 1148, 1304, 1729 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $^{\text{TM}}$ 1.07–1.26 (12H, m), 1.62 (3H, s), 2.64 (2H, dd, J = 5.3 Hz), 2.72-2.85 (3H,

³⁵ m), 3.17 (1H, d, J = 4.0 Hz), 3.40 (1H, d, J = 3.5 Hz), 3.64 (1H, dt, J = 3.9, 13.0 Hz), 3.85–4.06 (6H, m), 4.09–4.19 (2H, m), 7.24–7.27 (1H, m), 7.33–7.39 (4H, m); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.71, 13.78, 13.85, 13.92, 38.69, 39.10, 39.57, 43.58, 46.31, 52.10, 52.36, 61.39, 61.48, 61.68, 61.75, 127.23, 127.47 (×2), 40 128.59 (×2), 142.69, 168.39, 168.45, 168.49, 168.55, 208.41;

⁴⁰ 128.59 (×2), 142.69, 168.39, 168.45, 168.49, 168.55, 208.41 HRMS Calcd for $C_{27}H_{36}O_9 + H$ 505.2438, found 505.2437.

Diethyl 2-((15,2*R***)-1-ethyl-4-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-[1,1'biphenyl]-2-yl)malonate (3b).** Colorless oil; $R_{\rm f}$ 0.33 (hexane / 45 AcOEt = 5 : 1); $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{26}$ +67.9 (c = 1.0, EtOH, 91% ee); FTIR (KBr) v 1754, 1730, 1684 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.84 (3H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 1.14 (3H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 1.28 (3H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 1.87 (1H, dq, J = 13.5, 7.5 Hz), 2.18 (1H, dq, J = 13.5, 7.5 Hz), 2.49 (1H, dd, J = 17.5, 5.0 Hz), 2.74 (1H, dd, J = 17.5, 3.98 (2H, q, J = 7.5 Hz), 4.13–4.23 (2H, m), 6.22 (1H, d, J = 10.0 Hz), 6.97 (1H, d, J = 10.0 Hz), 7.25–7.38 (5H, m); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.90, 13.83, 13.93, 25.11, 37.35, 46.12, 48.00, 51.45, 61.52, 61.67, 127.09, 127.58 (×2), 128.67 (×2), 51 (28.98, 142.38, 155.67, 168.14, 168.66, 197.83; HRMS Calcd for C₂₁H₂₆O₅ 358.1780, found 358.1777.

The ee of the product was determined by chiral HPLC analysis (Chiralpak AD column, 0.46×25 cm, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95 : 5, 0.5 cm³/min): R_t (*major*) = 33.8 min; R_t (*minor*) = 36.7 min.

Diethyl 2-((1*R***,2***R***)-1-ethyl-4-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-[1,1'biphenyl]-2-yl)malonate (4b).** Colorless oil; $R_{\rm f}$ 0.26 (hexane / AcOEt = 5 : 1); $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{25}$ -29.9 (c = 0.48, EtOH, 86% ee); FTIR ⁶⁵ (KBr) v 1759, 1730, 1683 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.90 (3H, t, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 1.10 (3H, t, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 1.19 (3H, t, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 2.11 (1H, dq, *J* = 14.5, 7.5 Hz), 2.20 (1H, dq, *J* = 14.5, 7.5 Hz), 2.62 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.0, 5.0 Hz), 2.84 (1H, dd, *J* = 18.0, 9.5 Hz), 3.22 (1H, dt, *J* = 9.5, 5.0 Hz), 3.38 (1H, d, *J* = 5.0 Hz), 70 3.79 (2H, q, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 4.01–4.14 (2H, m), 6.25 (1H, d, *J* = 10.5 Hz), 6.93 (1H, d, *J* = 10.5 Hz), 7.27–7.37 (5H, m); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.98, 13.69, 13.90, 31.66, 36.76, 41.83, 47.66, 51.97, 61.11, 61.78, 127.44, 128.21(×2), 128.52(×2), 129.49, 138.21, 154.21, 167.63, 168.68, 198.25; HRMS Calcd for 75 C₂₁H₂₆O₅ 358.1780, found 358.1778.

The ee of the product was determined by chiral HPLC analysis (Chiralpak AD column, 0.46×25 cm, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95 : 5, 0.5 cm³/min): R_t (*major*) = 28.2 min; R_t (*minor*) = 49.4 min.

⁸⁰ **Diethyl 2-((1***S***,2***R***)-4'-methoxy-1-methyl-4-oxo-1,2,3,4tetrahydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)malonate (3c).** Colorless oil; $R_{\rm f}$ 0.15 (hexane / AcOEt = 5 : 1); $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{26}$ +105.8 (c = 0.97, EtOH, 92% ee); FTIR (KBr) v 1754, 1729, 1683, 1609, 1514 cm⁻¹; ¹H 85 NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.12 (3H, t, J = 7.0 Hz), 1.28 (3H, t, J= 7.0 Hz), 1.49 (3H, s), 2.60 (1H, dd, J = 17.5, 5.0 Hz), 2.71 (1H, dd, J = 17.5, 12.5 Hz), 3.22 (1H, dt, J = 12.5, 5.0 Hz), 3.35 (1H, d, J = 5.0 Hz), 3.81 (3H, s), 3.84–3.95 (2H, m), 4.20 (2H, q, J = 7.0 Hz), 6.05 (1H, d, J = 10.0 Hz), 6.70 (1H, d, J = 10.0 Hz), 6.89 90 (2H, m), 7.24 (2H, m); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.80,

⁵⁰ (2H, m), 7.24 (2H, m); ⁵²C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) 8 13.80, 13.98, 18.07, 37.67, 43.63, 44.68, 52.10, 55.27, 61.53, 61.65, 113.93 (×2), 126.87, 128.09 (×2), 136.29, 158.45, 158.63, 167.90, 168.47, 198.31; HRMS Calcd for $C_{21}H_{26}O_6$ 374.1729, found 374.1727.

The ee of the product was determined by chiral HPLC analysis (Chiralpak AD column, 0.46×25 cm, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90 : 10, 1.0 cm³/min): R_t (*major*) = 15.9 min; R_t (*minor*) = 18.8 min.

2-((1R.2R)-4'-methoxy-1-methyl-4-oxo-1.2.3.4-Diethyl 100 tetrahydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)malonate (4c). Colorless oil; R_f 0.13 (hexane / AcOEt = 5 : 1); $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ -68.7 (c = 0.31, EtOH, 89% ee); FTIR (KBr) v 1756, 1729, 1683, 1609, 1513 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR $(500 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3) \delta 1.11 (3\text{H}, \text{t}, J = 7.5 \text{ Hz}), 1.22 (3\text{H}, \text{t}, J = 7.5 \text{Hz})$ 105 Hz), 1.64 (3H, s), 2.53 (1H, dd, J = 17.5, 4.5 Hz), 2.85 (1H, dd, J = 17.5, 11.5 Hz), 3.08 (1H, dt, J = 11.5, 4.5 Hz), 3.45 (1H, d, J = 4.5 Hz), 3.72-3.85 (2H, m), 3.80 (3H, s), 4.06-4.17 (2H, m), 6.15 (1H, d, J = 10.0 Hz), 6.74 (1H, d, J = 10.0 Hz), 6.87 (2H, d, J = 9.0 Hz), 7.23 (2H, d, J = 9.0 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) 110 δ 8.99, 13.70, 13.91, 31.66, 36.76, 41.83, 47.66, 51.96, 61.12, 61.78, 127.44, 128.20 (×2), 128.53 (×2), 129.49, 138.21, 154.23, 167.64, 168.69, 198.27; HRMS Calcd for C₂₁H₂₆O₆ 374.1729, found 374.1737.

The ee of the product was determined by chiral HPLC ¹¹⁵ analysis (Chiralpak AD column, 0.46×25 cm, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90 : 10, 1.0 cm³/min): R_t (*major*) = 14.0 min; R_t (*minor*) = 23.6 min.

18.06, 37.58, 44.03, 44.41, 52.09, 61.64, 61.77, 121.48, 127.36, 128.80 (×2), 131.72 (×2), 143.44, 157.08, 167.69, 168.20, 197.72; HRMS Calcd for $C_{20}H_{23}BrO_5$ 422.0729, found 422.0735.

The ee of the product was determined by chiral HPLC ⁵ analysis (Chiralpak AD column, 0.46×25 cm, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90 : 10, 1.0 cm³/min): R_t (*major*) = 21.6 min; R_t (*minor*) = 25.6 min.

Diethyl 2-((1*R***,2***R***)-4'-bromo-1-methyl-4-oxo-1,2,3,4tetrahydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)malonate (4d). White solid, mp 102-106 °C; R_f 0.18 (hexane / AcOEt = 5 : 1); [\alpha]_D^{25} -87.2 (c = 0.24, EtOH, 90% ee); FTIR (KBr) v 1743, 1719, 1682 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) \delta 1.12 (3H, t,** *J* **= 7.0 Hz), 1.21 (3H, t,** *J* **= 7.0 Hz), 1.65 (3H, s), 2.58 (1H, dd,** *J* **= 17.5, 4.5 Hz), 2.83 (1H, dd,** *J* **= 17.5, 10.5 Hz), 3.10 (1H, dt,** *J* **= 10.5, 4.5 Hz), 3.41 (1H, d,** *J* **= 4.5 Hz), 3.72–3.86 (2H, m), 4.04–4.16 (2H, m), 6.17 (1H, d,** *J* **= 10.0 Hz), 6.74 (1H, d,** *J* **= 10.0 Hz), 7.20 (2H, d,** *J* **= 8.5 Hz), 7.47 (2H, d,** *J* **= 8.5 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) \delta 13.73, 13.93, 26.54, 36.83, 43.61, 44.10, 51.87, 61.32, 62.00, 121.91, 128.19, 129.81 (×2), 131.52 (×2), 137.90, 154.87, 167.37, 168.44, 198.13; HRMS Calcd for C₂₀H₂₃BrO₅ 422.0729, found 422.0747.**

The ee of the product was determined by chiral HPLC analysis (Chiralpak AD column, 0.46×25 cm, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90 : 10, 1.0 cm³/min): R_t (*major*) = 19.3 min; R_t (*minor*) = 27.0 min

Diethyl 2-((1*S***,2***R***)-1-methyl-4-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-[1,1':4',1''-terphenyl]-2-yl)malonate (3e). Colorless oil; R_f 0.23 (hexane / AcOEt = 5 : 1); [\alpha]_D^{26} +152.8 (c = 1.0, EtOH, 92% ee); FTIR (KBr) v 1754, 1729, 1683 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) \delta 1.10 (3H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 1.30 (3H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 1.56 (3H, s), 2.64 (1H, dd, J = 17.5, 5.0 Hz), 2.74 (1H, dd, J = 17.5, 12.0 Hz), 3.32 (1H, dt, J = 12.0, 5.0 Hz), 3.41 (1H, d, J = 5.0 Hz), 3.80–3.94 (2H, m), 4.22 (2H, q, J = 7.5 Hz), 6.10 (1H, d, J = 10.0 Hz), 6.76 (1H, d, J = 10.0 Hz), 7.34–7.46 (5H, m), 7.58–7.61 (4H, m); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) \delta 13.79, 13.98, 18.08, 37.70, 44.07, 44.50, 52.26, 61.58, 61.68, 126.92 (×2), 127.11, 127.25 (×2), 127.47 (×3), 128.81 (×2), 140.14, 140.22, 143.32, 157.92, 167.83, 168.39, 198.09; HRMS Calcd for C₂₆H₂₈O₅ 420.1937, found 420.1936.**

The ee of the product was determined by chiral HPLC analysis (Chiralpak AD-H column, 0.46×25 cm, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95 : 5, 0.5 cm³/min): R_t (*major*) = 71.7 min; R_t (*minor*) = 86.6 min.

Diethyl 2-((1*R***,2***R***)-1-methyl-4-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-[1,1':4',1''-terphenyl]-2-yl)malonate (4e). White solid, mp 74– 79 °C; R_f 0.14 (hexane / AcOEt = 5 : 1); [\alpha]_D^{25} -88.5 (c = 0.06, EtOH, 87% ee); FTIR (KBr) v 1759, 1725, 1683 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) \delta 1.07 (3H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 1.20 (3H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 1.71 (3H, s), 2.59 (1H, dd, J = 17.5, 5.0 Hz), 2.91 (1H, dd, J = 17.5, 11.5 Hz), 3.15 (1H, dt, J = 11.5, 5.0 Hz), 2.91 (1H, dd, J = 5.0 Hz), 3.67–3.81 (2H, m), 4.03–4.16 (2H, m), 6.20 (1H, d, J = 10.0 Hz), 6.81 (1H, d, J = 10.0 Hz), 7.31–7.46 (5H, m), 7.56– 7.58 (4H, m); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) \delta 13.72, 13.94, 26.58, 36.98, 43.73, 44.26, 52.02, 61.18, 61.92, 126.90 (×2), 127.00 (×2), 127.54, 127.94 128.55 (×2), 128.85 (×2), 137.57, 140.14, 140.35, 155.69, 167.50, 168.62, 198.61; HRMS Calcd for C₂₆H₂₈O₅ 420.1937, found 420.1938.**

The ee of the product was determined by chiral HPLC analysis (Chiralpak AD-H column, 0.46×25 cm, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95 : 5, 0.5 cm³/min): R_t (*major*) = 67.5 min; R_t (*minor*) = 124.0

min.

2,2'-(2-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-2-methyl-5-Tetraethyl 10 oxocyclohexane-1,3-diyl)dimalonate (6) (Table 2, footnote c). Colorless oil; $R_f 0.08$ (hexane / AcOEt = 5 : 1); FTIR (KBr) v 1728, 1313, 1148, 1028 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.09 (3H, t, J = 7.3 Hz), 1.15 (5H, dt, J = 4.3, 7.1 Hz), 1.24 (4H, t, J = 7.0 Hz), 1.66 (3H, s), 2.67 (2H, dd, J = 5.5, 17.0 Hz), 2.76–2.91 $_{15}$ (3H, m), 3.24 (1H, d, J = 4.0 Hz), 3.44 (1H, d, J = 3.5 Hz), 3.66 (1H, dt, J = 4.0, 12.5 Hz), 3.84-4.07 (6H, m), 4.11-4.21 (2H, m),7.36 (1H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 7.44–7.47 (4H, m), 7.59 (4H, d, J = 8.5 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.74, 13.81, 13.88, 13.96, 21.85, 38.86, 39.12, 39.58, 43.44, 46.30, 52.18, 52.30, 61.46, 20 61.52, 61.76, 61.82, 126.76 (×2), 127.02 (×2), 127.52, 128.06 (×2), 128.88 (×2), 139.79, 140.00, 141.68, 168.40, 168.49 (×2), 168.56, 208.48; HRMS Calcd for C₃₃H₄₀O₉+H 581.2751, found 581.2743.

2-((1S,6R)-4-oxo-3',4'-dihydro-2'H-Diethyl 25 spiro[cyclohex[2]ene-1,1'-naphthalen]-6-yl)malonate (3f). Colorless oil; $R_{\rm f} 0.20$ (hexane / AcOEt = 5 : 1); $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{26}$ +107.3 (c = 1.0, EtOH, 78% ee); FTIR (KBr) v 1754, 1729, 1682 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.06 (3H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 1.25 (3H, t, J $_{30} = 7.5$ Hz), 1.67–1.76 (1H, m), 1.93–2.03 (2H, m), 2.26 (1H, dt, J = 12.5, 2.5 Hz), 2.65 (1H, dd, J = 17.0, 5.0 Hz), 2.69 (1H, dd, J = 17.0, 12.5 Hz), 2.76–2.81 (1H, m), 2.86 (1H, ddd, J = 16.0, 11.5, 12.55.0 Hz), 3.35 (1H, d, J = 5.5 Hz), 3.58–3.64 (2H, m), 3.73 (1H, ddd, J = 14.5, 11.0, 7.0 Hz), 4.15-4.21 (2H, m), 5.92 (1H, d, J = $_{35}$ 10.0 Hz), 6.93 (1H, d, J = 10.0 Hz), 7.10–7.22 (4H, m); 13 C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) & 13.74, 14.00, 19.94, 30.15, 30.33, 37.73, 43.36, 43.46, 53.07, 61.48, 61.55, 125.25, 126.56, 126.99, 128.11, 129.63, 138.36 (×2), 159.64, 167.68, 168.26, 197.94; HRMS Calcd for C₂₂H₂₆O₅ + H 371.1859, found 371.1834.

The ee of the product was determined by chiral HPLC analysis (Chiralpak AD-H column, 0.46×25 cm, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 99 : 1, 0.5 cm³/min): R_t (*minor*) = 103.7 min; R_t (*major*) = 111.6 min.

Diethyl 2-((1R,6R)-4-oxo-3',4'-dihydro-2'H-45 spiro[cyclohex[2]ene-1,1'-naphthalen]-6-yl)malonate (4f). White solid, mp 163–165 °C; R_f 0.21 (hexane / AcOEt = 5 : 1); $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ +7.70 (c = 0.13, EtOH, >99% ee); FTIR (KBr) v 1743, 1718, 1682 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.06 (3H, t, J = ⁵⁰ 7.5 Hz), 1.19 (3H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 1.76–1.82 (1H, m), 1.89–1.96 (1H, m), 2.09–2.20 (2H, m), 2.64 (1H, dd, J = 17.5, 5.0 Hz), 2.82 (1H, dd, J = 17.5, 8.0 Hz), 2.84 (1H, dd, J = 17.5, 6.0 Hz), 2.96(1H, ddd, J = 17.0, 7.0, 5.0 Hz), 3.38 (1H, q, J = 6.0 Hz), 3.57 (1H, d, J = 7.5 Hz), 3.62-3.68 (1H, m), 3.78-3.85 (1H, m), 3.92-55 4.04 (2H, m), 6.10 (1H, d, J = 10.5 Hz), 6.82 (1H, dd, J = 10.5, 1.0 Hz), 7.09–7.18 (4H, m); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.77 (×2), 18.71, 28.36, 33.37, 37.18, 40.61, 43.10, 52.60, 61.41, 61.57, 125.44, 127.39, 127.51, 129.55, 129.59, 137.38, 138.31, 156.27, 167.89, 168.54, 196.97; HRMS Calcd for 60 C₂₂H₂₆O₅ + H 371.1859, found 371.1856.

The ee of the product was determined by chiral HPLC analysis (Chiralpak AD-H column, 0.46×25 cm, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95 : 5, 0.5 cm³/min): R_t (*major*) = 85.4 min.

⁶⁵ **Diethyl 2-((1***S***,2***R***)-1-methyl-1-trichloromethyl-4-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrophenyl)malonate (3g). Colorless oil; R_f 0.30 (hexane / AcOEt = 5 : 1); [\alpha]_D^{25} -10.5 (***c* **= 0.50, EtOH, 33% ee); FTIR (KBr) v 1747, 1731, 1691 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) \delta 1.26 (3H, t,** *J* **= 7.5 Hz), 1.27 (3H, t,** *J* **= 7.5 Hz), 1.65 70 (3H, s), 2.83 (1H, dd,** *J* **= 17.5, 6.0 Hz), 2.88 (1H, dd,** *J* **= 17.5,** 9.0 Hz), 3.78 (1H, ddd, J = 9.0, 6.0, 2.5 Hz), 4.11–4.27 (4H, m), 4.26 (1H, d, J = 2.5 Hz), 6.16 (1H, d, J = 11.0 Hz), 6.94 (1H, d, J = 11.0 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.92, 14.02, 19.62, 37.87, 38.31, 53.04, 56.10, 61.70, 62.15, 107.73, 130.47, 148.76, 5 168.12. 168.23, 196.45; HRMS Calcd for C₁₅H₁₉Cl₃O₅ + H 385.0376, found 385.0381.

The ee of the product was determined by chiral HPLC analysis (Chiralpak AD column, 0.46×25 cm, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 99 : 1, 1.0 cm³/min): R_t (*minor*) = 24.0 min; R_t (*major*) = 30.9 ¹⁰ min.

Diastereoselective Michael addition reaction of (*R*)-8 using **catalyst B.** A mixture of (*R*)-8 (140 mg, 0.75 mmol; 97% ee)¹⁴ and diethyl malonate (**2**, 180 mg, 1.125 mmol) in the presence of ¹⁵ catalyst **B** (29 mg, 10 mol%) and PPY (11 mg, 10 mol%) in toluene (0.75 mL) was reacted at rt for 2.5 days (a small amount of unreacted (*R*)-8 was remained in the mixture). Then, the mixture was concd and purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with hexane-AcOEt) to give (3*S*,4*R*)-9 (187 mg, ²⁰ 72%) as a colorless oil and its diastereomer (13 mg, 5%).

Diethyl 2-((1*S*,2*R*)-2-methyl-5-oxo-2-phenylcyclohexyl)malonate ((3*S*, 4*R*)-9). Colorless oil; R_f 0.20 (hexane / AcOEt = 5 : 1); $[\alpha]_D^{26}$ -5.8 (*c* = 1.0, EtOH, >97% ee); FTIR (KBr) v 1751, ²⁵ 1720 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.12 (3H, t, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 1.26 (3H, t, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 1.54 (3H, s), 1.82 (1H, ddd, *J* = 14.0, 6.0, 3.0 Hz), 2.23 (1H, dt, *J* = 14.0, 5.0 Hz), 2.42 (1H, m), 2.53-2.59 (2H, m), 2.79 (1H, dd, *J* = 15.5, 13.0 Hz), 3.17 (1H, d, *J* = 4.0 Hz), 3.30 (1H, dt, *J* = 13.0, 4.0 Hz), 3.85-3.94 (2H, m), 30 4.12-4.23 (2H, m), 7.24 (1H, t, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.35 (2H, t, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.42 (2H, d, *J* = 7.5 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.82, 13.96, 17.54, 38.18, 40.49, 40.81, 40.90, 44.52, 52.46, 61.33, 61.56, 125.94 (×2), 126.76, 128.62 (×2), 145.84, 168.19, 168.53, 209.52; HRMS Calcd for C₂₀H₂₆O₅ 346.1780, found 35 346.1789.

The ee of the product was determined by chiral HPLC analysis (Chiralpak AD column, 0.46×25 cm, hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90 : 10, 1.0 cm³/min): R_1 (*major*) = 15.2 min.

⁴⁰ **Catalytic hydrogenation of 3a.** To a solution of **3a** (50 mg, 0.145 mmol) in EtOH (0.7 mL) was added 10% Pd/C (5 mg), and the mixture was stirred under hydrogen at rt. After consumption of the starting material (1 h), the mixture was filtered and concd. The crude sample was purified by column chromatography on ⁴⁵ silica gel (eluted with hexane-AcOEt) to give (3*R*,4*S*)-7 (18 mg, 36%) as a colorless oil.²¹

Diethyl 2-((1*R*,2*S*)-2-methyl-5-oxo-2-phenylcyclohexyl)malonate ((3*R*, 4*S*)-7). Colorless oil; R_f 0.20 (hexane / AcOEt = 505:1); $[\alpha]_D^{27}$ +5.4 (c = 0.49, EtOH, 92% ee); FTIR (KBr) v 1754, 1718 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.12 (3H, t, J = 7.0 Hz), 1.26 (3H, t, J = 7.0 Hz), 1.54 (3H, s), 1.83 (1H, ddd, J = 14.0, 6.0, 3.0 Hz), 2.24 (1H, dt, J = 14.0, 5.0 Hz), 2.43 (1H, m), 2.53–2.60 (2H, m), 2.80 (1H, dd, J = 15.0, 13.0 Hz), 3.18 (1H, d, 55J = 4.5 Hz), 3.30 (1H, dt, J = 13.0, 4.5 Hz), 3.86–3.95 (2H, m), 4.12–4.22 (2H, m), 7.24 (1H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 7.36 (2H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 7.43 (2H, d, J = 7.5 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.01, 14.15, 17.70, 38.38, 40.68, 40.98, 41.08, 44.72, 52.64, 61.53, 61.76, 126.13 (×2), 126.95, 128.81 (×2), 146.01, 168.38, 60 168.74, 209.75; HRMS Calcd for C₂₀H₂₆O₅ 346.1780, found

346.1786. The ee of the product was determined by chiral HPLC analysis (Chiralpak AD column, 0.46×25 cm, hexane/*i*-PrOH =

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95 : 5, 1.0 cm³/min): R_t (major) = 15.4 min; R_t (minor) = 14.5 65 min.

Diastereoselective Michael addition reaction of (*R***)-8 using catalyst A.** A mixture of (*R*)-8 (140 mg, 0.75 mmol; 97% ee)¹⁴ and diethyl malonate (**2**, 180 mg, 1.125 mmol) in the presence of ⁷⁰ catalyst **A** (29 mg, 10 mol%) and PPY (11 mg, 10 mol%) in toluene (0.75 mL) was reacted at rt for 6.5 days (a considerable amount of unreacted (*R*)-8 was remained in the mixture). Then, the mixture was concd and purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluted with hexane-AcOEt) to give (3*R*,4*R*)-**11** (96 ⁷⁵ mg, 37%) as a colorless oil and its diastereomer (16 mg, 6%). The latter compound was indistinguishable from (3*S*,4*R*)-**9**

Diethyl 2-((1*R*,2*R*)-2-methyl-5-oxo-2-phenylcyclohexyl)malonate ((3*R*, 4*R*)-11). Colorless oil; $R_{\rm f}$ 0.15 (hexane / AcOEt = 5 : 1); $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{28}$ +68.1 (c = 0.92, EtOH, >97% ee); FTIR (KBr) v 1751, 1731, 1713, 1279 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.10 (3H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 1.21 (3H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 1.56 (3H, s), 2.03– 2.07 (1H, m), 2.44–2.55 (3H, m), 2.63 (1H, dd, J = 17.5, 2.5 Hz), 85 2.78 (1H, dd, J = 17.5, 7.0 Hz), 3.09 (1H, d, J = 3.5 Hz), 3.23 (1H, m), 3.90–4.01 (2H, m), 4.03–4.14 (2H, m), 7.21–7.25 (1H, m), 7.33–7.35 (4H, m); ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.77, 13.83, 27.30, 30.17, 36.70, 39.40, 39.72, 44.18, 52.84, 61.38, 61.53, 125.86 (×2), 126.61, 128.59 (×2), 146.30, 168.94, 168.98, 90 208.51; HRMS Calcd for C₂₀H₂₆O₅ 346.1780, found 346.1779.

The ee of the product was determined by chiral HPLC analysis (Chiralpak AD column, 0.46×25 cm, hexane/*i*-PrOH = $90 : 10, 1.0 \text{ cm}^3/\text{min}$): R_i (*major*) = 8.4 min.

⁹⁵ Catalytic hydrogenation of 4a. Following the previous procedure for the preparation of (3R,4S)-7, (3R,4R)-10 was obtained in 31% yield and found to be indistinguishable from (3R,4R)-11 prepared as above except for the chiral behaviors.

¹⁰⁰ (3*R*,4*R*)-10. Colorless oil; $R_{\rm f}$ 0.15 (hexane / AcOEt = 5 : 1); $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{27}$ +60.9 (*c* = 0.23, EtOH, 85% ee); HRMS Calcd for C₂₀H₂₆O₅ 346.1780, found 346.1785.

The ee of the product was determined by chiral HPLC analysis (Chiralpak AD column, 0.46×25 cm, hexane/*i*-PrOH = ¹⁰⁵ 90 : 10, 1.0 cm³/min): R_t (*major*) = 8.3 min; R_t (*minor*) = 9.8 min.

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