## Supporting Information

A chiral analog of the bicyclic guanidine TBD:
synthesis, structure and Brønsted base catalysis
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## General information:

Anhydrous dichloromethane and tetrahydrofuran were purchased from Acros Organics and stored over molecular sieves. Anthrone and maleimides were purchased from Alfa Aesar and used without further purification. Flash column chromatography: silica gel ( $60 \AA$ pore size, $0.04-0.063 \mathrm{~mm}$ particle size, Macherey-Nagel). Analytical thin-layer chromatography: aluminum plates pre-coated with silica gel ( $60 \AA$ pore size, 0.2 mm , Macherey-Nagel) impregnated with a fluorescent indicator ( 254 nm ). TLC plates were visualized by exposure to ultraviolet light (UV). Proton nuclear magnetic resonance ( ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR) and carbon nuclear magnetic resonance spectra ( ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR $)$ were recorded at 300 K with a Bruker AM $250\left({ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right.$ : $\left.250 \mathrm{MHz} ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}: 63 \mathrm{MHz}\right)$ or a Bruker AV $500\left({ }^{1} \mathrm{H}: 500 \mathrm{MHz} ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}: 126 \mathrm{MHz}\right) \mathrm{NMR}$ spectrometers. Chemical shifts for protons are reported in parts per million ( $\delta$ scale) and internally referenced to the proton resonances of the solvent $\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}: \delta 7.26, \operatorname{DMSO}-d_{6}: \delta 2.50\right.$, $\mathrm{D}_{2} \mathrm{O}: \delta 4.75$ ). Chemical shifts for carbon are reported in parts per million ( $\delta$ scale) and referenced to the carbon resonances of the solvent ( $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}: \delta 77.00$, DMSO- $d_{6}: \delta 39.51$ ). Data are represented as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity ( $s=$ singlet, $b s=$ broad singlet, $d=$ doublet, $\mathrm{t}=$ triplet, $\mathrm{m}=$ multiplet, $\mathrm{dd}=$ double doublet, $\mathrm{dt}=$ double triplet, $\mathrm{td}=$ triple doublet, $\mathrm{tt}=$ triple triplet), coupling constants in Hz , and integration. ESI-MS spectra were obtained on a Fisons VG Plattform II. HRMS spectra were recorded on a MALDI LTQ Orbitrap mass spectrometer from Thermo Scientific. Enantiomeric excess values were determined by chiral HPLC on a Millipore Waters Model 590 with a Model 440 Absorbance Detector. Chiralpak IA was used as a column and Knauer's software Eurochrom 2000 Integration Package for the evaluation. Conditions, if not stated otherwise: $n$-Hexane/isopropanol $10: 3+20 \% \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} ; 0.7$ $\mathrm{mL} / \mathrm{min}$, detection at 254 nm .
Optical rotations were recorded on a Perkin Elmer Polarimeter 241 with the thermostat Haake G and Haake D8. Melting points were determined on a Schorpp apparatus MPM-H2 and are uncorrected. Elemental analyses were recorded on an Elementar vario MICRO cube.

( $\boldsymbol{R}, \mathbf{S}$ )-3-Amino-3-phenylpropanoic acid (rac-13): To a solution of malonic acid ( 80.0 g , $0.77 \mathrm{~mol}, 1.00$ equiv) and benzaldehyde ( $78.0 \mathrm{~mL}, 0.77 \mathrm{~mol}, 1.00$ equiv) in $95 \%$ ethanol ( 450 mL ), ammonium acetate ( $118.70 \mathrm{~g}, 1.54 \mathrm{~mol}, 2.00$ equiv) was added. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 5 h and then allowed to cool to room temperature. After cooling to $-20^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ the resulting precipitate was filtered off, washed with cold ethanol and dried in vacuo to give rac- $\mathbf{1 3}$ as a colourless solid ( $47.6 \mathrm{~g}, 0.29 \mathrm{~mol}, 38 \%) . \mathrm{R}_{f}=0.33\left(\mathrm{MeOH} / \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} 2: 1\right) .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}$ ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{D}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ): $\delta=7.46-7.39(\mathrm{~m}, 5 \mathrm{H}), 4.60(\mathrm{dd}, J=8.0,6.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.82(\mathrm{dd}, J=16.2$,
$8.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.73(\mathrm{dd}, J=16.2,6.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}) \mathrm{ppm} .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(126 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{D}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right): \delta=177.2$, $135.9,129.23,129.20,126.9,52.7,40.4 \mathrm{ppm} . \mathrm{MS}(\mathrm{ESI}): m / z(\%)=166.8(100)\left[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]$. HRMS (MALDI): calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{9} \mathrm{H}_{12} \mathrm{NO}_{2}\left[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]$: 166.08626; found 166.08638.

( $\boldsymbol{R}, \boldsymbol{S}$ )-Propyl 3-amino-3-phenylpropanoate (rac-12): To a suspension of 3-amino-3phenylpropanoic acid (rac-13) ( $46.2 \mathrm{~g}, 0.28 \mathrm{~mol}, 1.00$ equiv.) in $n$-propyl alcohol ( 210 mL , $2.80 \mathrm{~mol}, 10.0$ equiv) conc. sulfuric acid ( $22.4 \mathrm{~mL}, 0.42 \mathrm{~mol}, 1.50$ equiv) was added. The clear solution was refluxed for 4 h and then cooled to room temperature. The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and then 6 M aqueous sodium hydroxide solution was added until pH 8.5 was reached. Then, 100 mL of ethyl acetate and 100 mL of water were added. The phases were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$ and evaporated under reduced pressure to give (rac-12) as a colourless oil ( $47.89 \mathrm{~g}, 0.23 \mathrm{~mol}, 82 \%$ ). $\mathrm{R}_{f}=0.30$ ( $c$-hexane/EtOAc 1:1). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta=7.29-7.22(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 7.16(\mathrm{tt}, J=7.1,1.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.32(\mathrm{t}, J$ $=6.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.95(\mathrm{t}, J=6.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.59(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 1.99(\mathrm{bs}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 1.54$ (sextet, $J=7.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}$ ), $0.83(\mathrm{t}, J=7.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}) \mathrm{ppm} .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(126 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta=171.7$, 144.2, 128.2, 127.0, 125.9, 65.7, 52.3, 43.7, 21.6, 10.0 ppm. MS (ESI): $m / z(\%)=208.8$ (100) $\left[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]$. HRMS (MALDI): calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{12} \mathrm{H}_{18} \mathrm{NO}_{2}\left[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]$: 208.13321; found 208.13309.

(S)-3-Amino-3-phenylpropanoic acid (13): To 115 mL of a 50 mM aqueous solution of disodium hydrogen phosphate dodecahydrate with a pH of 7.00 was added 2.30 g of lipase (Amano Lipase PS; available from Aldrich) and stirred for 1 h at $50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The clear solution was poured into a solution of ester rac-12 ( $46.25 \mathrm{~g}, 0.22 \mathrm{~mol}$ ) in methyl tert-butyl ether ( 115 mL ) and stirred for 24 h at $50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. After cooling to room temperature 190 mL acetone was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The resulting precipitate was filtered off and dried in vacuo to give $\mathbf{1 3}$ as a colourless solid ( $16.30 \mathrm{~g}, 0.10 \mathrm{~mol}, 45 \%, 90 \%$ based on $S$-12). $[\alpha]_{\mathrm{D}}{ }^{20}=-8.00^{\circ}$ (c: 0.03, $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ), Lit.: $[\alpha]_{\mathrm{D}}{ }^{25}=-8^{\circ}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right)[1] . \mathrm{R}_{f}=0.33$ (MeOH/ $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ 2:1). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}$ and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$-NMR were identical to the spectra of rac-12. MS
$(\mathrm{ESI}): m / z(\%)=166.0(100)\left[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]$. HRMS (MALDI): calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{9} \mathrm{H}_{12} \mathrm{NO}_{2}\left[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]$: 166.08626; found 166.08619 .
[1] G. Tasnádi, E. Forró, F. Fülöp, Tetrahedron: Asymmetry 2008, 19, 2072-2077.

(S)-3-Amino-3-phenylpropan-1-ol (34): To a suspension of (S)-3-amino-3-phenylpropanoic acid ( $\mathbf{1 3}, 16.22 \mathrm{~g}, 0.098 \mathrm{~mol}, 1.00$ equiv) and $\mathrm{NaBH}_{4}(9.46 \mathrm{~g}, 0.25 \mathrm{~mol}, 2.55$ equiv) in dry THF ( 350 mL ) at $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and under an argon atmosphere was added very slowly a solution of $\mathrm{I}_{2}$ $(30.46 \mathrm{~g}, 0.12 \mathrm{~mol}, 1.20$ equiv) in dry THF ( 95 mL ). The reaction mixture was refluxed for 18 h and then cooled to room temperature. Methanol was added drop by drop until the solution became clear. After stirring for 1 h at room temperature the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. To the residue was added $20 \%$ aqueous $\mathrm{KOH}(300 \mathrm{~mL})$ and the mixture stirred for 4 h at room temperature. The aqueous phase was extracted with $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ and washed with water. The combined organic layers were dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$ and evaporated under reduced pressure to give 34 as a colorless oil ( $12.78 \mathrm{~g}, 0.085 \mathrm{~mol}, 86 \%$ ). $\mathrm{R}_{f}=0.42$ ( $\mathrm{MeOH} / \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} 2: 1$ ). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right.$ ): $\delta=7.32(\mathrm{t}, J=7.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}$ ), 7.27-7.21 $(\mathrm{m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 4.10(\mathrm{dd}, J=8.5,4.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.82-3.74(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.67(\mathrm{bs}, 3 \mathrm{H}$, exchangeable with $\mathrm{D}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ), 1.92-1.81 (m, 2 H ) ppm. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(126 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta=146.1,128.7,127.1,125.7$, 62.3, $56.6,39.5 \mathrm{ppm}$. MS (ESI): $m / z(\%)=152.0(110)\left[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]$. HRMS (MALDI): calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{9} \mathrm{H}_{14} \mathrm{NO}\left[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]: 152.10699$; found 152.10678.

(S)-tert-Butyl (3-hydroxy-1-phenylpropyl)carbamate (14): To a solution of (S)-3-amino-3-phenylpropan-1-ol (34, $4.45 \mathrm{~g}, 29.43 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.00$ equiv) and triethylamine ( $4.90 \mathrm{~mL}, 35.35$ mmol, 1.20 equiv) in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(50 \mathrm{~mL})$ at $0{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ was added slowly a solution of di-tert-butyl dicarbonate ( $6.42 \mathrm{~g}, 29.42 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.00$ equiv) in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(15 \mathrm{~mL})$ and stirred for 3 h at $0{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. After stirring the solution for 2 days at room temperature the amount of solvent was reduced to $50 \%, 1 \mathrm{M} \mathrm{HCl}(50 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added and stirred for 10 min . at room temperature. The aqueous phase was extracted with $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ and washed with water. The combined organic layers were dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$ and evaporated under reduced pressure. Purification by silica gel chromatography ( $c$-hexane/EtOAc 3:1) gave 14 as a colourless solid ( $7.38 \mathrm{~g}, 29.36 \mathrm{mmol}$,
$100 \%$ ). $\mathrm{R}_{f}=0.60$ ( $c$-hexane/EtOAc 1:1). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(250 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right.$ ): $\delta=7.34-7.19(\mathrm{~m}, 5$ H), 5.05 (broad, 1 H ), 4.85 (broad, 1 H ), 3.66 (dd, $J=7.4,4.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}$ ), 2.93 (broad, 1 H ), 2.10-1.97 (m, 1 H$), 1.86-1.74(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 1.40(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}) \mathrm{ppm} .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(63 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta=$ $155.9,142.1,128.2,126.8,126.0,79.3,58.7,51.7,38.9,28.0 \mathrm{ppm} . \mathrm{MS}(\mathrm{ESI}): m / z(\%)=$ 252.0 (110) [ $\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}$]. HRMS (MALDI): calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{14} \mathrm{H}_{22} \mathrm{NO}_{3}\left[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]$: 252.15942; found 252.15953. At this stage, an enantiomeric excess $\geq 99 \%$ was determined by HPLC.

(S)-3-((tert-Butoxycarbonyl)amino)-3-phenylpropyl methanesulfonate (35): To a solution of alcohol $\mathbf{1 4}(4.16 \mathrm{~g}, 16.55 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.00$ equiv) and methanesulfonyl chloride ( $1.41 \mathrm{~mL}, 18.22$ mmol , 1.10 equiv) in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(50 \mathrm{~mL})$ at $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ was added triethylamine ( $2.52 \mathrm{~mL}, 18.18 \mathrm{mmol}$, 1.10 equiv) over a period of 30 minutes. After stirring for 2 h at $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and over night at room temperature, the solvent was evaporated and $\mathrm{EtOAc}(70 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added. The reaction mixture was washed with $0.5 \mathrm{M} \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}(20 \mathrm{~mL})$, water $(2 \times 50 \mathrm{~mL})$ and brine $(2 \times 50 \mathrm{~mL})$, dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$ and concentrated in vacuo. Purification by silica gel chromatography (chexane/EtOAc 7:3) gave 35 as a colourless solid ( $4.33 \mathrm{~g}, 13.14 \mathrm{mmol}, 79 \%$ ). $\mathrm{R}_{f}=0.70$ ( $c-$ hexane/EtOAc 1:1). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta=7.28(\mathrm{t}, J=7.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.23-7.19(\mathrm{~m}$, $3 \mathrm{H}), 4.82$ (broad, 1 H ), 4.76 (broad, 1 H ), 4.21-4.10 (m, 2 H ), $2.92(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H})$, 2.20-2.08 (m, 2 H), 1.34 (s, 9 H ) ppm. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(126 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right.$ ): $\delta=155.2,141.1,128.9,127.8,126.3$, $79.9,66.9,51.5,37.3,35.9,28.3 \mathrm{ppm}$. MS (ESI): $m / z(\%)=330.6(100)\left[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]$. HRMS (MALDI): calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{15} \mathrm{H}_{23} \mathrm{NO}_{5} \mathrm{SK}\left[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{K}^{+}\right.$]: 368.09285; found 368.09299 .

(S)-tert-Butyl (3-azido-1-phenylpropyl)carbamate (15): To a solution of mesylate 35 (4.14 $\mathrm{g}, 12.57 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.00$ equiv) in DMF ( 100 mL ) was added carefully $\mathrm{NaN}_{3}(2.45 \mathrm{~g}, 37.69 \mathrm{mmol}$, 3.00 equiv) and stirred for 5 days at room temperature. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(100 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added to the residue. The clear solution was washed with brine ( $2 \times 50 \mathrm{~mL}$ ), dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$ and concentrated in vacuo. Purification by silica gel chromatography ( $c$-hexane/EtOAc 6:1) gave 15 as a colourless solid ( $3.34 \mathrm{~g}, 12.09$ $\mathrm{mmol}, 96 \%) . \mathrm{R}_{f}=0.68\left(c\right.$-hexane/EtOAc 3:1). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta=7.28(\mathrm{t}, J=$ $7.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.23-7.19(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 4.86$ (broad, 1 H ), 4.70 (broad, 1 H ), 3.28-3.19 (m, 2 H ),
1.99-1.94 (m, 2 H ), $1.35(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}) \mathrm{ppm} .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(126 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta=155.1,141.5,128.8$, 127.6, 126.3, 79.7, 52.6, 48.5, 35.8, 28.3 ppm . Anal. calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{14} \mathrm{H}_{20} \mathrm{~N}_{4} \mathrm{O}_{2}: \mathrm{C}, 60.85$; H , 7.30; N, 20.28; found: C, 60.85; H, 7.16; N, 20.53.

(S)-tert-Butyl (3-amino-1-phenylpropyl)carbamate (16): A solution of azide $\mathbf{1 5}$ (4.80 g, $17.4 \mathrm{mmol})$ in dry methanol $(100 \mathrm{~mL})$ was treated with palladium ( $0.74 \mathrm{~g}, 10 \%$ on charcoal) and stirred under a balloon of $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ overnight. The black suspension was filtered through Celite to obtain a clear solution that was concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification by silica gel chromatography $\left(\mathrm{MeOH} / \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} 2: 1\right)$ gave amine 16 as a light yellow solid ( $3,65 \mathrm{~g}, 14,6$ $\mathrm{mmol}, 84 \%) . \mathrm{R}_{f}=0.13\left(\mathrm{MeOH} / \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} 2: 1\right) .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta=7.27(\mathrm{t}, J=7.6$ $\mathrm{Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}$ ), 7.23-7.17 (m, 3 H ), 5.43 (broad, 1 H , exchangeable with $\mathrm{D}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ), 4.73 (broad, 1 H ), 2.73-2.63 (m, 2 H), 1.90-1.75 (m, 2 H ), $1.36(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}), 1.31\left(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}\right.$, exchangeable with $\left.\mathrm{D}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right)$ ppm. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(126 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta=155.4,142.7,128.6,127.1,126.2,79.3,53.0,40.0$, 38.9, 28.4 ppm . MS (ESI): $m / z(\%)=250.95(100)\left[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]$. HRMS (MALDI): calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{14} \mathrm{H}_{23} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\left[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]: 251.17540$; found 251.17568 .

(S)-tert-Butyl (3-oxo-1-phenylpropyl)carbamate (17): To a solution of alcohol $\mathbf{1 4}$ ( 1.94 g , $7.72 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.00$ equiv) and triethylamine ( $4.39 \mathrm{~mL}, 31.67 \mathrm{mmol}, 4.10$ equiv) in dry $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ $(12.50 \mathrm{~mL})$ and dry DMSO $(3.13 \mathrm{~mL})$ at $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and under an argon atmosphere was added a suspension of the sulfur trioxide pyridine complex ( $2.46 \mathrm{~g}, 15.46 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.00$ equiv) and dry pyridine ( $1.43 \mathrm{~mL}, 17.75 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.30$ equiv) in dry DMSO ( 3.13 mL ). After 10 minutes at $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ the stirring was continued for 2 h at room temperature. The reaction mixture was cooled to $0{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and water ( 50 mL ) was added. The aqueous phase was extracted with $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ and washed with brine $(2 \times 50 \mathrm{~mL})$. The combined organic layers were dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$ and evaporated under reduced pressure. Purification by silica gel chromatography (chexane/EtOAc 7:3) gave aldehyde $\mathbf{1 7}$ as a colourless solid ( $1.68 \mathrm{~g}, 6.74 \mathrm{mmol}, 87 \%$ ). $\mathrm{R}_{f}=$ 0.43 ( $c$-hexane/EtOAc 3:1). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right.$ ): $\delta=9.68(\mathrm{t}, J=1.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.28$ (t, $J=7.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}$ ), 7.24-7.20 (m, 3 H ), 5.14 (broad, 1 H ), 5.05 (broad, 1 H ), 2.95-2.82 (m, 2 H), 1.35 (s, 9 H ) ppm. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(126 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta=200.2,155.0,140.9,128.9,127.8$,
126.3, 80.0, $50.1,49.9,28.3 \mathrm{ppm} . \mathrm{MS}(\mathrm{ESI}): m / z(\%)=250.6(100)\left[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]$. HRMS (MALDI): calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{14} \mathrm{H}_{20} \mathrm{NO}_{3}\left[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]: 250.14377$; found 250.14386. Anal. calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{14} \mathrm{H}_{19} \mathrm{NO}_{3}$ : C, 67.45; H, 7.68; $\mathrm{N}, 5.62$; found: C, $67.30 ; \mathrm{H}, 7.33$; $\mathrm{N}, 5.37$.


Di-tert-butyl ((1S,1'S)-azanediylbis(1-phenylpropane-3,1-diyl))dicarbamate (18): A solution of amine $\mathbf{1 6}(1.38 \mathrm{~g}, 5.51 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.00$ equiv) and aldehyde $\mathbf{1 7}(1.37 \mathrm{~g}, 5.50 \mathrm{mmol}$, 1.00 equiv) in dry THF ( 50 mL ) was stirred for 2 days under an argon atmosphere at room temperature. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and methanol ( 50 mL ) was added to the residue. After stirring for 1 h at room temperature $\mathrm{NaBH}_{4}(0.42 \mathrm{~g}, 11.10 \mathrm{mmol}$, 2.01 equiv) was added and the reaction mixture stirred at room temperature for 4 days. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and an aqueous solution of $20 \% \mathrm{KOH}(40 \mathrm{~mL}$ ) was added to the residue. After stirring for 2 h at room temperature the aqueous phase was extracted with $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(5 \times 50 \mathrm{~mL})$, the combined organic layers were dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$ and evaporated under reduced pressure. Purification by silica gel chromatography (chexane/EtOAc 1:3) gave amine 18 as a colourless foam ( $1.55 \mathrm{~g}, 3.20 \mathrm{mmol}, 58 \%$ ). $\mathrm{R}_{f}=0-0.18$ ( $c$-hexane/EtOAc 1:3). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$-NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta=7.27(\mathrm{t}, J=7.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 4 \mathrm{H}$ ), 7.23-7.18 (m, 6 H), 5.68 (broad, 2 H ), 4.71 (broad, 2 H ), 2.55-2.47 (m, 4 H ), 1.94-1.79 (m, 4 H ), 1.71 (broad, 1 H ), $1.37(\mathrm{~s}, 18 \mathrm{H}) \mathrm{ppm} .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(126 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta=155.4,142.6,128.5$, 127.1, 126.2, 79.3, 53.4, 46.4, 36.4, 28.4 ppm . MS (ESI): $m / z(\%)=484.1(110)\left[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]$. HRMS (MALDI): calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{28} \mathrm{H}_{42} \mathrm{~N}_{3} \mathrm{O}_{4}\left[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]$: 484.31698 ; found 484.31618.

(S)- $\boldsymbol{N}^{1}$-((S)-3-Amino-3-phenylpropyl)-3-phenylpropan-1,3-diamine (19): To a solution of Boc-derivative $\mathbf{1 8}\left(1.49 \mathrm{~g}, 3.08 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.00\right.$ equiv) in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(80 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added TFA ( 2.37 $\mathrm{mL}, 30.76 \mathrm{mmol}, 10.00$ equiv) and stirred for 4 days at room temperature. The reaction mixture was heated to reflux for 23 h and then cooled to room temperature. The solution was washed with $8 \mathrm{M} \mathrm{KOH}(50 \mathrm{~mL})$ and extracted with $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(5 \times 50 \mathrm{~mL})$. The combined organic layers were dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$ and evaporated under reduced pressure to give triamine 19 as a yellow oil $(0.87 \mathrm{~g}, 3.07 \mathrm{mmol}, 100 \%)$. $\mathrm{R}_{f}=0-0.15\left(\mathrm{MeOH} / \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} 2: 1\right) .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta=7.29-7.22(\mathrm{~m}, 8 \mathrm{H}), 7.20-7.17(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 3.95(\mathrm{t}, J=6.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2$
H), 2.67-2.59 (m, 4 H ), 2.50 (broad, 5 H ), 1.83 (q, $J=6.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 4 \mathrm{H}) \mathrm{ppm} .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{NMR}(126$ $\left.\mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta=145.8,128.5,127.0,126.0,54.9,47.2,37.8 \mathrm{ppm} . \mathrm{MS}(\mathrm{ESI}): \mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z}(\%)=$ 283.9 (110) $\left[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]$. HRMS (MALDI): calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{18} \mathrm{H}_{26} \mathrm{~N}_{3}\left[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]$: 284.21212; found 284.21235.


Hydroiodide salt of (2S,8S)-2,8-Diphenyl-2,3,4,6,7,8-hexahydro-1H-pyrimido[1,2-a]pyrimidine (10a): To a solution of triamine $19(0.83 \mathrm{~g}, 2.93 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.00$ equiv) in nitromethane $(20 \mathrm{~mL})$ under an argon atmosphere was added dimethyl trithiocarbonate $(0.42 \mathrm{~mL}, 3.81$ mmol, 1.30 equiv) as a solution in nitromethane ( 3 mL ) dropwise over a period of 1 h . The yellow solution was heated to reflux for 2 h and then allowed to cool to room temperature. Acetic acid ( $0.67 \mathrm{~mL}, 11.72 \mathrm{mmol}, 4.00$ equiv) and methyl iodide ( $0.37 \mathrm{~mL}, 5.86 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.00$ equiv) were added. The reaction mixture was heated to reflux for 3 h and then left stirring at room temperature under argon overnight. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(20 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added to the residue and then extracted witch $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(5 \times 40 \mathrm{~mL})$. The combined organic layers were led through silica and were eluted with ( $c$-hexane/EtOAc 1:1) to remove an excess of reagents. Elution with $\left(\mathrm{MeOH} / \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} 2: 1\right)$ gave the hydroiodide 10a as light red solid ( $0.82 \mathrm{~g}, 1.96 \mathrm{mmol}, 67 \%$ ). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{DMSO}-\mathrm{d}_{6}\right): \delta=7.89(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}$, exchangeable with $\left.\mathrm{D}_{2} \mathrm{O}, \mathrm{NH}\right), 7.44(\mathrm{t}, J=7.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 7.38-7.34(\mathrm{~m}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 4.70(\mathrm{t}, J=5.0$ $\mathrm{Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}$ ), $3.47(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 3.24(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.26(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.00(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}) \mathrm{ppm} .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{NMR}(126$ MHz, DMSO- $\mathrm{d}_{6}$ ): $\delta=150.9,141.2,128.7,127.9,126.2,51.7,44.6,28.5 \mathrm{ppm}$. MS (ESI): $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z}$ $(\%)=292.1(36000000)\left[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]$. HRMS (MALDI): calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{22} \mathrm{~N}_{3}\left[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]$: 292.18082; found 292.18073.


Generation of the free guanidine 10: A solution of the hydroiodide $10 \mathrm{a}(0.41 \mathrm{~g}, 0.98 \mathrm{mmol}$, 1.00 equiv.) in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ ( 50 mL ) was shaken with aqueous $\mathrm{NaOH}(20 \mathrm{M}, 70 \mathrm{~mL}$ ) and then washed with water. The combined organic layers were dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$ and then concentrated under reduced pressure to give the free guanidine $\mathbf{1 0}$ as a colourless foam ( 0.27 $\mathrm{g}, 0.93 \mathrm{mmol}, 95 \%) \cdot[\alpha]_{\mathrm{D}}{ }^{20}=+6.21^{\circ}(\mathrm{c}: 0.07, \mathrm{MeOH}) . \mathrm{R}_{f}=0.80\left(\mathrm{MeOH} / \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} 2: 1\right) .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{DMSO}_{6}$ ): $\delta=10.13$ (broad, $1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{NH}$ ), 7.37 (t, $J=7.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 4 \mathrm{H}$ ), 7.32-7.29
$(\mathrm{m}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 4.48(\mathrm{t}, J=4.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 3.24(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 3.03(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.14(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 1.94(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H})$ ppm. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(126 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{DMSO}-\mathrm{d}_{6}\right): \delta=150.7,141.9,128.4,127.3,126.1,50.6,43.4,28.1$ ppm.

General procedures for the reaction of anthrone derivatives 20 or 21 with $N$-substituted maleimides 22-24. All reactions were run in closed 50 mL polyethylene vessels. To a solution of anthrone ( $0.15-0.60 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ or other solvents (abs., 8 mL ) at $-40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, the catalyst 10 ( 0.1 equiv) was added. After stirring for 15 minutes, maleimide was added to the mixture in one portion. The solution was allowed to warm up to $-15^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ overnight and stirred for two more days at this temperature. After warming up to room temperature the reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography ( $c$-hexane/EtOAc 10:1) to afford the different products as crystalline solids.

The racemic Diels-Alder products rac-25-rac-27 were prepared with triethylamine (1.0 equiv) instead of guanidine 10. After stirring for 24 hours at room temperature the reaction mixture was also purified by flash column chromatography ( $c$-hexane/EtOAc 10:1).

The racemic retro-aldol products rac-28-rac-31 were prepared with triethylamine (1.0 equiv.) instead of guanidine in the presence of a small amount of $\mathrm{LiClO}_{4}$ acting as Lewis acid. After stirring for 7 days at room temperature the reaction mixture was also purified by flash column chromatography ( $c$-hexane/EtOAc 10:1).

rac-25: $\mathrm{R}_{f}=0.24$ ( $c$-hexane/EtOAc 4:1). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$-NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta=7.75(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.3 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $1 \mathrm{H}), 7.58(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.43(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.36-7.30(\mathrm{~m}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 7.26-7.23(\mathrm{~m}, 2$ H), $6.51-6.48(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 4.85(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.56(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.51(\mathrm{dd}, J=8.6,3.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$, $3.29(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}) \mathrm{ppm}$. MS (ESI): $m / z(\%)=368.15(40000)\left[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]$. HRMS (MALDI): calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{24} \mathrm{H}_{18} \mathrm{NO}_{3}\left[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]$: 368.12812; found 368.12834.

rac-26: $\mathrm{R}_{f}=0.17$ (c-hexane/EtOAc 4:1). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$-NMR $\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta=7.37-7.28(\mathrm{~m}, 6$ H), $7.24(\mathrm{dd}, J=7.3,1.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.19-7.15(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 6.63-6.59(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 5.09(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.77$ (d, $J=3.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}$ ), 3.52 (d, $J=8.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}$ ), 3.45 (dd, $J=8.9,3.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}) \mathrm{ppm} . \mathrm{MS}$ (ESI): $m / z(\%)=436.02(70000)\left[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]$. HRMS (MALDI): calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{24} \mathrm{H}_{15} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} \mathrm{NO}_{3} \mathrm{~K}\left[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{K}^{+}\right]:$ 474.00606; found 474.00618 .

rac-27: $\mathrm{R}_{f}=0.24$ ( $c$-hexane/EtOAc 4:1). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta=7.31-7.28(\mathrm{~m}, 3$ H), $7.24(\mathrm{dd}, J=7.6,1.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.20-7.15(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 6.60(\mathrm{~d}, J=2.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.42(\mathrm{dd}, J=$ $8.2,2.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 5.06(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.76(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.51(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.44(\mathrm{dd}, J$ $=8.8,3.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.33(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}) \mathrm{ppm}$. MS (ESI): $m / z(\%)=486.00(32000)\left[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]$. HRMS (MALDI): calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{25} \mathrm{H}_{16} \mathrm{Cl}_{3} \mathrm{NO}_{3} \mathrm{~K}$ [ $\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{K}^{+}$]: 521.92873; found 521.98331.

rac-28: $\mathrm{R}_{f}=0.13$ ( $c$-hexane/EtOAc 4:1). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta=8.39(\mathrm{dd}, J=7.7$, $1.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 8.35(\mathrm{dd}, J=7.7,1.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.71(\mathrm{td}, J=7.6,1.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.67(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.0$ $\mathrm{Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}$ ), 7.61-7.52 (m, 4 H), 7.49-7.46 (m, 2 H), 7.43-7.40 (m, 1 H), 7.11-7.09 (m, 2 H), 5.28 (d, $J=3.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}$ ), $3.66-3.62(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.42(\mathrm{dd}, J=18.7,9.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.09$ (dd, $J=18.7$, $4.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}) \mathrm{ppm}$. MS (ESI): $m / z(\%)=368.15(55000)\left[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]$. HRMS (MALDI): calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{24} \mathrm{H}_{18} \mathrm{NO}_{3}\left[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]$: 368.12812; found 368.12833.

rac-29: $\mathrm{R}_{f}=0.13$ ( $c$-hexane/EtOAc 4:1). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta=8.38(\mathrm{dd}, J=7.3$, $1.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 8.34(\mathrm{dd}, J=7.9,1.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.70(\mathrm{td}, J=7.7,1.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.65(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.7$ $\mathrm{Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.61-7.52(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 7.49(\mathrm{dd}, J=7.3,1.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.31(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.10$ (d, $J=2.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.90(\mathrm{dd}, J=8.0,2.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 5.24(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.64-3.60(\mathrm{~m}, 1$ H), 2.43-2.38 (m, 1 H ), $2.40(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.10-2.04(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}) \mathrm{ppm}$. MS (ESI): $m / z(\%)=414.03$ (7500) $\left[\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]$. HRMS (MALDI): calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{25} \mathrm{H}_{18} \mathrm{ClNO}_{3} \mathrm{~K}\left[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{K}^{+}\right]: 454.06068$; found 454.06100 .

rac-30: $\mathrm{R}_{f}=0.18$ (c-hexane/EtOAc 4:1). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta=8.39-8.36(\mathrm{~m}, 1$ H), $8.34(\mathrm{dd}, J=7.9,1.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.70(\mathrm{td}, J=7.8,1.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.65(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$, $7.60-7.53(\mathrm{~m}, 5 \mathrm{H}), 7.49-7.46(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.99(\mathrm{dt}, J=8.7,2.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 5.25(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1$ H), $3.64-3.61(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.42(\mathrm{dd}, J=18.8,9.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.08(\mathrm{dd}, J=18.7,4.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}) \mathrm{ppm}$. MS (ESI): $m / z(\%)=445.98(19000)\left[M+H^{+}\right]$. HRMS (MALDI): calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{24} \mathrm{H}_{16} \mathrm{BrNO}_{3} \mathrm{~K}$ [ $\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{K}^{+}$]: 483.99451; found 483.99513 .

rac-31: $\mathrm{R}_{f}=0.07\left(c\right.$-hexane/EtOAc 4:1). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta=7.58(\mathrm{dt}, J=8.7$, $2.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.55(\mathrm{dd}, J=8.0,1.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.53-7.49(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 7.41(\mathrm{t}, J=8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$, $7.36(\mathrm{dd}, J=8.0,0.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.01(\mathrm{dt}, J=8.7,2.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 5.15(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.60-$ $3.56(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.58(\mathrm{dd}, J=18.5,9.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.28(\mathrm{dd}, J=18.6,5.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}) \mathrm{ppm} . \mathrm{MS}$ $(\mathrm{ESI}): m / z(\%)=515.94(12000)\left[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]$. HRMS (MALDI): calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{24} \mathrm{H}_{14} \mathrm{BrCl}_{2} \mathrm{NO}_{3} \mathrm{~K}$ [ $\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{K}^{+}$]: 551.91657; found 551.91693.

## Determination of absolute configurations by chemical correlation



A solution of bromo compound $\mathbf{3 0}(14 \mathrm{mg}, 0.03 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.00$ equiv, $R$ isomer dominates with $95 \%$ ee) in dry methanol ( 20 mL ) was treated with a small amount of palladium ( $10 \%$ on charcoal) and stirred under a balloon of $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ for 1 hour. The black suspension was filtered through Celite to obtain a clear solution that was concentrated under reduced pressure. The raw material was used without further purification for analysis by chiral HPLC: $R$ isomer dominates with $90 \%$ ee.


A solution of bromo compound $32(23 \mathrm{mg}, 0.05 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.00$ equiv, $S, S$ isomer dominates with $40 \%$ ee) in dry methanol ( 10 mL ) was treated with a small amount of palladium ( $10 \%$ on charcoal) and stirred under a balloon of $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ for 22 hours. The black suspension was filtered through Celite to obtain a clear solution that was concentrated under reduced pressure. The raw material was used without further purification for analysis by chiral HPLC: $S, S$ isomer dominates with $35 \%$ ee


To a solution of bromo compound $32(48 \mathrm{mg}, 0.11 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.00$ equiv, $S, S$ isomer dominates with $40 \%$ ee ) in methanol ( 20 mL ) was added triethylamine ( $0.01 \mathrm{~mL}, 0.07 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.64$ equiv) and stirred for 1 hour at room temperature. The clear solution was concentrated under reduced pressure and filtered through silica gel (EtOAc) in order to remove triethylamine. The raw material was used without further purification for analysis by chiral HPLC: $R$ isomer dominates with $31 \%$ ee. Prolonged reaction times may lead to complete racemization of $\mathbf{3 0}$.

Chromatogram of racemic $N$-Boc- $\beta$-phenylalaninol rac-14
(Chiralpak IA; $n$-hexane/iPrOH 10/1; $0.8 \mathrm{~mL} / \mathrm{min}$ )
Racemic:


Chromatogram of $N$-Boc- $\beta$-phenylalaninol 14 (ee > 99) (conditions as shown above):


Chromatogram of racemic Diels-Alder adduct rac-25 (anthrone $20+N$-phenyl maleimide 22) (Chiralpak IA; $n$-hexane $/ \mathrm{iPrOH} 10 / 3+20 \% \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} ; 0.7 \mathrm{~mL} / \mathrm{min}$ ) Racemic:


Catalyzed by guanidine 10:


Chromatogram of racemic Diels-Alder adduct rac-26 (chloro anthrone $21+N$-phenyl maleimide 22) (Chiralpak IA; $n$-hexane $/ \mathrm{iPrOH} 10 / 3+20 \% \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} ; 0.7 \mathrm{~mL} / \mathrm{min}$ ) Racemic:


Catalyzed by guanidine 10:


Chromatogram of racemic Diels-Alder adduct rac-27 (chloro anthrone $21+\mathrm{N}-3-$ chloro,4-methylphenyl maleimide 23) (Chiralpak IA; n-hexane/iPrOH 10/3 + 20\% $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} ; 0.7 \mathrm{~mL} / \mathrm{min}$ )

Racemic:


Catalyzed by guanidine 10:


Chromatogram of racemic retro-aldol product rac-28 (anthrone $20+N$-phenyl maleimide 22) (Chiralpak IA; $n$-hexane $/ \mathrm{iPrOH} 10 / 3+20 \% \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} ; 0.7 \mathrm{~mL} / \mathrm{min}$ ) Racemic:


Catalyzed by guanidine 10:


28 recrystallized:


Chromatogram of racemic retro-aldol product rac-29 (anthrone $20+N$-3-chloro,4methylphenyl maleimide 23) (Chiralpak IA; n-hexane/iPrOH $10 / 3+20 \% \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} ; 0.7$ $\mathrm{mL} / \mathrm{min}$ )

Racemic:


Catalyzed by guanidine 10:


29 recrystallized:


Chromatogram of racemic retro-aldol product rac-30 (anthrone $20+N-4-$
bromophenyl maleimide 24) (Chiralpak IA; n-hexane/iPrOH $10 / 3+20 \% \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} ; 0.7$ $\mathrm{mL} / \mathrm{min}$ )

Racemic:


Catalyzed by guanidine 10:


30 recrystallized:


Chromatogram of racemic retro-aldol product rac-31 (chloro anthrone $21+\mathrm{N}-4-$ bromophenyl maleimide 24) (Chiralpak IA; $n$-hexane/iPrOH $10 / 3+20 \% \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} ; 0.7$ $\mathrm{mL} / \mathrm{min}$ )

Racemic:


Catalyzed by guanidine 10:



32

Chromatogram of Diels-Alder adduct 32 (Chiralpak IA; n-hexane/iPrOH/ $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ 64/19/17; $0.7 \mathrm{~mL} / \mathrm{min}$ )

Catalyzed by bisoxazoline 33:



Chromatogram of Diels-Alder adduct 25 ( $S, S$ isomer prevails) obtained by hydrogenation of 32 (Chiralpak IA; n-hexane/iPrOH $10 / 3+20 \% \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} ; 0.7 \mathrm{~mL} / \mathrm{min}$ )
$\rightarrow$ major isomer of 32 (see above) has $S, S$ configuration



30
28

Chromatogram of retro-aldol product 28 obtained by hydrogenation of $R$-30 (configuration confirmed by crystal structure determination) (Chiralpak IA; nhexane/iPrOH $\left.10 / 3+20 \% \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} ; 0.7 \mathrm{~mL} / \mathrm{min}\right)$
$\rightarrow$ major isomer of $\mathbf{2 8}$ has $R$ configuration



Chromatogram of retro-aldol product 30 ( $31 \%$ ee, $R$ configuration prevails) obtained by ring opening of 32 ( $40 \%$ ee) (Chiralpak IA; $n$-hexane/iPrOH $10 / 3+20 \% \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$; $0.7 \mathrm{~mL} / \mathrm{min}$ )
$\rightarrow$ major isomer of $\mathbf{3 2}$ has $S, S$ configuration


## X-ray data of guanidine 10 , crystallized as salt with benzoic acid.

A single crystal (colorless block with dimensions $0.26 \times 0.36 \times 0.40 \mathrm{~mm}$ ) was measured on a SIEMENS SMART diffractometer at a temperature of about $-88{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Repeatedly measured reflections remained stable. An empirical absorption correction with program SADABS (Sheldrick, 2000) gave a correction factor between 0.934 and 1.000. Equivalent reflections, including Friedel opposites, were averaged. R(I)internal $=0.127$. The structure was determined by direct methods using program SHELXS. The C -bound H atoms were geometrically positioned and were constrained. The N -bound H atoms were taken from a difference synthesis and were refined with a N-H distance constraint of $0.88(2) \AA$. The structure was refined on $F^{2}$ values using program SHELXL-97. The final difference density was between -0.21 and $+0.17 \mathrm{e} / \AA^{3}$.

The asymmetric unit contains two cations of guanidine 10, two benzoate anions and an ethyl acetate solvate molecule. Each cation is connected by two $\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{H} * \mathrm{O}$ hydrogen bonds to an anion. Each pyrimidine ring approximately has a C5-envelope conformation with the phenyl substituent in a pseudo-axial position. The cation-anion pairs and the ethylacetate solvate groups are connected by a number of very weak intermolecular $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \pi$ (phenyl) and $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{O}$ contacts.

| Empirical formula | $\mathrm{C}_{56} \mathrm{H}_{62} \mathrm{~N}_{6} \mathrm{O}_{6}$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Formula weight | 915.12 |
| Temperature | $185(2) \mathrm{K}$ |
| Wavelength | $0.71073 \AA$ |
| Crystal system, space group | monoclinic, $\mathrm{P} 2_{1} \quad$ |
| Unit cell dimensions | $\mathrm{a}=15.2019(12) \AA \quad \alpha=90$ deg. |
|  | $\mathrm{b}=9.6219(8) \AA \quad \beta=101.0070(10)$ deg. |
|  | $\mathrm{c}=17.1451(14) \AA \quad \gamma=90 \mathrm{deg}$. |
| Volume | $2461.7(3) \AA^{3}$ |
| Z, Calculated density | $2,1.235 \mathrm{Mg}^{3} / \mathrm{m}^{3}$ |
| Absorption coefficient | $0.081 \mathrm{~mm}^{-1}$ |
| F(000) | 976 |
| Crystal size | $0.40 \times 0.36 \times 0.26 \mathrm{~mm}$ |
| Theta range for data collection | 1.64 to 26.00 deg. |
| Limiting indices | $-18 \leq \mathrm{h} \leq 18,-11 \leq \mathrm{k} \leq 11,-21 \leq 1 \leq 21$ |
| Reflections collected $/$ unique | $25966 / 5087[\mathrm{R}(\mathrm{int})=0.1274]$ |
| Completeness to theta $=26.00$ | $99.1 \%$ |
| Absorption correction | Semi-empirical from equivalents |

Max. and min. transmission
Refinement method
Data / restraints / parameters
Goodness-of-fit on $\mathrm{F}^{2}$
Final R indices $[\mathrm{I}>2 \sigma(\mathrm{I})]$
R indices (all data)
Largest diff. peak and hole
Deposition number
1.000 and 0.934

Full-matrix least-squares on $\mathrm{F}^{2}$
5087/5/626
1.133
$\mathrm{R} 1=0.0943, \mathrm{wR} 2=0.0972$
$R 1=0.1706, w R 2=0.1135$
0.172 and $-0.211 \mathrm{e} / \mathrm{A}^{3}$

CCDC - 1482611

Compound $\mathbf{1 0}$ as benzoate salt:


## X-ray data of compound 29.

Data for compounds 29 and $\mathbf{3 0}$ were collected on a STOE IPDS II two-circle diffractometer with a Genix Microfocus tube with mirror optics using $\operatorname{Mo} K_{\alpha}$ radiation ( $\lambda=0.71073 \AA$ ) and were scaled using the frame scaling procedure in the X-AREA program system (Stoe \& Cie, 2002). The structures were solved by direct methods using the program SHELXS (Sheldrick, 2008) and refined against $F^{2}$ with full-matrix least-squares techniques using the program SHELXL-97 (Sheldrick, 2008).

| Empirical formula | $\mathrm{C}_{25} \mathrm{H}_{18} \mathrm{ClNO}_{3}$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Formula weight | 415.85 |
| Temperature | $173(2) \mathrm{K}$ |
| Wavelength | $0.71073 \AA$ |

Crystal system
Space group
Unit cell dimensions

Volume
Z
Density (calculated)
Absorption coefficient
F(000)
Crystal size
Theta range for data collection
Index ranges
Reflections collected
Independent reflections
Completeness to theta $=25.000^{\circ}$
Absorption correction
Max. and min. transmission
Refinement method
Data / restraints / parameters
Goodness-of-fit on F2
Final R indices $[\mathrm{I}>2 \sigma(\mathrm{I})]$
R indices (all data)
Absolute structure parameter
Largest diff. peak and hole
Deposition number

Orthorhombic
$\mathrm{P} 2_{1} 2_{1} 2_{1}$
$a=6.2818(11) \AA \quad \alpha=90^{\circ}$.
$b=18.682(5) \AA \quad \beta=90^{\circ}$.
$\mathrm{c}=33.725(5) \AA \quad \gamma=90^{\circ}$.
3957.9(14) $\AA^{3}$

8
$1.396 \mathrm{Mg} / \mathrm{m}^{3}$
$0.221 \mathrm{~mm}^{-1}$
1728
$0.290 \times 0.020 \times 0.020 \mathrm{~mm}^{3}$
2.262 to $26.261^{\circ}$.
$-7 \leq h \leq 7,-22 \leq k \leq 23,-41 \leq 1 \leq 39$
34726
$7819[\mathrm{R}(\mathrm{int})=0.4418]$
99.9 \%

Semi-empirical from equivalents
1.000 and 0.147

Full-matrix least-squares on $\mathrm{F}^{2}$
7819 / 510 / 543
0.978
$R 1=0.1530, w R 2=0.2038$
$R 1=0.2976, w R 2=0.2666$
0.4(4)
0.341 and $-0.382 \mathrm{e} / \mathrm{A}^{3}$

CCDC - 1482612
compound 29:


## X-ray data of compound 30.

| Empirical formula | $\mathrm{C}_{24} \mathrm{H}_{16} \mathrm{BrNO}_{3}$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| Formula weight | 446.29 |
| Temperature | 173(2) K |
| Wavelength | 0.71073 A |
| Crystal system | Orthorhombic |
| Space group | $\mathrm{P} 2_{1} 2_{1} 2_{1}$ |
| Unit cell dimensions | $a=5.7034(5) \AA \quad \alpha=90^{\circ}$. |
|  | $b=11.3752(11) \AA \quad \beta=90^{\circ}$. |
|  | $\mathrm{c}=29.276(2) \AA \quad \gamma=90^{\circ}$. |
| Volume | 1899.3(3) $\AA^{3}$ |
| Z | 4 |
| Density (calculated) | $1.561 \mathrm{Mg} / \mathrm{m}^{3}$ |
| Absorption coefficient | $2.191 \mathrm{~mm}^{-1}$ |
| F(000) | 904 |
| Crystal size | $0.260 \times 0.040 \times 0.010 \mathrm{~mm}^{3}$ |
| Theta range for data collection | 1.921 to $24.998^{\circ}$. |
| Index ranges | $-5 \leq \mathrm{h} \leq 6,-13 \leq \mathrm{k} \leq 13,-34 \leq 1 \leq 32$ |
| Reflections collected | 9377 |
| Independent reflections | $3341[\mathrm{R}(\mathrm{int})=0.1359]$ |
| Completeness to theta $=25.000^{\circ}$ | 99.8\% |
| Absorption correction | Semi-empirical from equivalents |
| Max. and min. transmission | 1.000 and 0.382 |
| Refinement method | Full-matrix least-squares on $\mathrm{F}^{2}$ |
| Data / restraints / parameters | 3341 / 0 / 262 |
| Goodness-of-fit on F2 | 0.811 |
| Final R indices [ $\mathrm{I}>2 \sigma(\mathrm{I})$ ] | $\mathrm{R} 1=0.0547, \mathrm{wR} 2=0.0886$ |
| R indices (all data) | $\mathrm{R} 1=0.1305, \mathrm{wR} 2=0.1099$ |
| Absolute structure parameter | -0.01(3) |
| Largest diff. peak and hole | 0.276 and $-0.289 \mathrm{e} / \mathrm{A}^{3}$ |
| Deposition number | CCDC - 1482613 |

The absolute configuration of compound $\mathbf{3 0}$ is $R$.

Compound 30:


## Copies of ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR spectra of new compounds

Compound rac-13:



## Compound rac-12:




## Compound 13:




## Compound 34:




## Compound 14:



## Compound 35:




## Compound 15:



## Compound 16:




## Compound 17:




## Compound 18:



## Compound 19:




## Compound 10a:




## Compound 10:



## Compound rac-25:



Compound rac-26:


## Compound rac-27:



Compound rac-28:


## Compound rac-29:



Compound rac-30:


## Compound rac-31:



