Tetrahedron 68 (2012) 2579-2589

Contents lists available at SciVerse ScienceDirect

Tetrahedron

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/tet

Electroreductive five- and six-membered cyclization of aromatic β - and γ -imino esters derived from (*S*)-aspartic acid and (*S*)-glutamic acid

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history: Received 19 January 2012 Received in revised form 31 January 2012 Accepted 31 January 2012 Available online 7 February 2012

Keywords: Electroreduction Reductive cyclization Imino esters Pyrrolidines Piperidines

ABSTRACT

The electroreduction of aromatic β -dimethylcarbamoyl- β -imino esters, prepared from (*S*)-aspartic acid, in the presence of chlorotrimethylsilane gave five-membered cyclized products, 1-benzoyl-4-hydroxy-5-aryl-*N*,*N*-dimethylpyrrolidine-2-carboxamides and 5-(dimethylcarbamoyl)-2-aryl-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl benzoates, depending on the post-treatment after the electroreduction. The electroreduction of aromatic γ -dialkylcarbamoyl- γ -imino and γ -methoxylmethyl- γ -imino esters, prepared from (*S*)-glutamic acid, and following transformation gave six-membered cyclized products, 1-benzoyl-5-hydroxy-*N*,*N*-dialkyl-6-phenylpiperidine-2-carboxamides and 3-hydroxy-6-(methoxymethyl)-2-phenylpiperidin-1-yl)(phenyl) methanones, respectively.

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1. Introduction

Reductive intramolecular coupling of imino esters is a efficient method for the synthesis of cyclic amines and has been realized by us using electroreduction in the presence of chlorotrimethylsilane (TMSCI). That is, we have reported that the electroreductive intramolecular coupling of aromatic α -, β -, and γ -imino esters gave cyclized products as azetidines,¹ pyrrolidines,² and piperidines,² respectively (Scheme 1). We also disclosed that the electroreductive coupling of aromatic imino diesters prepared from (S)aspartic acid and (S)-glutamic acid dimethyl diesters afforded azetidines, in particular, exclusively in the latter case (Scheme 2).³ These results show that the four-membered cyclization is equivalent to the five-membered cyclization and much more favorable than the sixmembered cyclization in the electroreductive intramolecular coupling of the imino esters.⁴ Therefore, we investigated the other β and γ -imino esters derived from (S)-aspartic and (S)-glutamic acids as the substrates for the electroreductive intramolecular coupling in order to obtain five- and six-membered cyclized products selectively. In this paper, we report that the electroreduction of aromatic β -dimethylcarbamoyl- β -imino esters prepared from (S)-aspartic acid gave five-membered cyclized products exclusively. The cyclized products were obtained as 5-aryl-2-(dimethylcarbamoyl)pyrrolidine-4-ones and 5-(dimethylcarbamoyl)-2-aryl-1H-pyrrol-3-yl benzoates depending on the post-treatment after the



Scheme 1. Electroreductive intramolecular coupling of α -, β -, and γ -imino esters.

electroreduction (Scheme 3). Although the six-membered cyclization of imino esters was presumed to be more difficult from the results in Scheme 2, we also found that the electroreduction of aromatic γ -dialkylcarbamoyl- γ -imino and γ -methoxylmethyl- γ -imino esters prepared from (*S*)-glutamic acid formed six-membered cyclized products, piperidine-5-ones (Scheme 4).

2. Results and discussion

According to our reported method,³ the electroreduction of β -dimethylcarbamoyl- β -imino ester **1a**, prepared from (*S*)-aspartic



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Scheme 2. Electroreductive intramolecular coupling of imino diesters prepared from (*S*)-aspartic acid and (*S*)-glutamic acid dimethyl esters.



Scheme 3. Electroreductive intramolecular coupling of β -dimethylcarbamoyl- β -imino esters prepared from (*S*)-aspartic acid.



X = CONMe₂, CONEt₂, CH₂OMe

Scheme 4. Electroreductive intramolecular coupling of γ -dialkylcarbamoyl- and γ -methoxymethyl- γ -imino esters prepared from (*S*)-glutamic acid.

acid and benzaldehyde, and subsequent N-benzoylation of the resulting mixture were carried out to give five-membered cyclized product as mixed ketal 2a (Scheme 5). The reaction mechanism of the electroreductive cyclization of **1a** is speculated as illustrated in Scheme 6. Two electron transfer and N-silylation to 1a generate carbanion A. Cyclization of A and successive O-silylation of resulting **B** form **C**. Subsequent treatment of **C** with benzoyl chloride gives 2a. The diastereomeric mixture of 2a was transformed to ketone 3a (63% yield from 1a) by treatment with 1 M HCl (Scheme 5). Since the two diastereomers of **3a** (ca. 50:50 mixture) could not be separated, the mixture of 3a was reduced to alcohols with NaBH4 in methanol. Three diastereomeric alcohols 4a, 5a, and 6a were isolated by column chromatography in 29%, 25%, and 7% yields from 1a, respectively. Of the three diastereomers, the stereostructures of 4a and 5a were confirmed to be 2S,4S,5S and 2S,4S,5R, respectively, by X-ray crystallography (Fig. 1). The stereoconfiguration of **6a** was assigned to be 2S,4R,5R as described below. Thus, the cis:trans ratio at 2,5-positions was 48:52 (4a:5a+6a).







Scheme 5. Electroreductive cyclization of 1a and subsequent transformation of 2a to 3a, 4a, 5a, and 6a.



Scheme 6. Reaction mechanism of electroreductive cyclization of 1a.



Fig. 1. X-ray crystal structures of 4a and 5a.

We therefore examined the electroreduction of a variety of aromatic β -dimethylcarbamoyl- β -imino esters **1b**-**h** and the subsequent sequential treatments; N-benzoylation, acid hydrolysis, and reduction with NaBH₄. The results are summarized in Table 1. In all cases, three diastereomeric five-membered cyclized products 4, 5, and 6 were obtained in 46–65% combined yields from 1. The cis:trans ratios at 2,5-positions (4:5+6) were about 50:50 in most cases, although the electroreduction of electron-withdrawing pfluoro and p-cyano substituted imino esters 1e and 1f brought about 64% and 81% 2,5-trans selectivities, respectively. The increase of the diastereoselectivity is presumed to be due to the stabilization of the intermediate carbanion corresponding to **B** in Scheme 6. Of the cyclized products 4-6, the stereostructures of 4e, 4g, 5b, 6c, and 6h were determined by X-ray crystallography (Fig. 2). The stereostructures of the other products were assigned by the correlation of their ¹H NMR spectra as shown in Tables 2–4.

On the other hand, the electroreduction of **1a** and following hydrolysis with 1 M HCl in contact with the atmosphere produced

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Table 1

Electroreduction of 1 and subsequent transformation to 4, 5, and 6





1	Ar	Yield ^a (%)				2,5-cis:trans
		4	5	6	4 + 5 + 6	
1a	Ph	29	25	7	61	48:52
1b	p-MeOC ₆ H ₄	25	16	5	46	54:46
1c	m-MeOC ₆ H ₄	31	28	5	64	48:52
1d	o-MeOC ₆ H ₄	32	23	8	63	51:49
1e	$p-FC_6H_4$	20	29	7	56	36:64
1f	p-NCC ₆ H ₄	10	34	8	52	19:81
1g	1-Naphthyl	25	23	7	55	45:55
1h	2-Naphthyl	37	21	7	65	57:43

^a Isolated yields from **1a-h**.

4e



6c





Fig. 2. X-ray crystal structures of 4e. 4g, 5b, 6c, and 6h.

Table 2 ¹H NMR chemical shifts (δ , ppm) of **4a**–**h**

4	Chemical shift (multitude)2-H, 4-H, 5-H
4a ³	4.28–5.44 (m)
4b	4.17–5.40 (m)
4c	4.31–5.43 (m)
4d	4.17–5.30 (m), 5.51–5.72 (m)
4e ³	4.21–5.53 (m)
4f	4.27–5.81(m)
4g ^a	4.20–5.47 (m), 5.88–6.26 (m)
4h	4.23–5.54 (m)

^a The stereostructure was confirmed by X-ray crystallography.

 Table 3

 ¹H NMR chemical shifts (δ , ppm) of **5a**-h

5		Chemical shift (multitude)			
	2-Н	4-H	5-H		
5a ^a	5.35 (d)	4.18 (dd)	6.76 (d)		
5b ^a	5.32 (d)	4.13 (dd)	6.69 (d)		
5c	5.32 (d)	4.19 (dd)	6.76 (d)		
5d	5.34 (d)	4.17 (dd)	6.58 (d)		
5e	5.35 (d)	4.14 (d)	6.99 (d)		
5f	5.38 (d)	4.12-4.20 (m)	6.88 (d)		
5g	5.46 (d)	4.35 (dd)	6.82 (d)		
5h	5.45 (d)	4.27 (dd)	6.80 (d)		

^a The stereostructure was confirmed by X-ray crystallography.

Table 4

¹H NMR chemical shifts (δ , ppm) of **6a**-**h**

6	Chemical shift (multitude)				
	2-H	4-H	5-H		
6a	5.35 (dd)	4.78-4.86 (m)	5.07-5.11 (m)		
6b	5.27–5.31 (m)	4.74 (dd)	4.99 (d)		
6c ^a	5.32 (dd)	4.76-4.84 (m)	5.00-5.08 (m)		
6d	5.30-5.36 (m)	4.58 (dd)	5.63 (d)		
6e	5.34 (dd)	4.80 (dd)	5.06-5.10 (m)		
6f	5.34 (dd)	4.88 (dd)	5.12 (d)		
6g	5.33-5.41 (m)	4.77-5.00 (m)	5.92-6.04 (m)		
6h ^a	5.46 (dd)	4.89–4.97 (m)	5.28 (d)		

^a The stereostructure was confirmed by X-ray crystallography.



Scheme 7. Electroreductive cyclization of 1a and subsequent transformation to 7a and 8a.

4-hydroxypyrrole **7a** in 52% isolated yield from **1a**. Alternatively, to facilitate the isolation of the somewhat unstable **7a**, the crude **7a** was treated with benzoyl chloride to give 4-benzyloxypyrrole **8a** in 54% yield from **1a** (Scheme 7). The pyrroles **7a** and **8a** were identified by X-ray crystallography (Fig. 3). The other β -dimethylcarbamoyl- β -imino esters **1b**–**h** were electrolyzed, hydrolyzed, and then *0*-benzoylated in a similar manner. The results are summarized in Table 5. In most cases, 4-benzyloxypyrroles **8** were

obtained in moderate yields. However, the yields of electrondonating *p*- and *o*-methoxy substituted products **8b** and **8d** were relatively low, since 4-hydroxypyrroles **7b** and **7d** were probably unstable to the atmospheric conditions.

Next, we examined the electroreduction of aromatic γ -dialkylcarbamoyl- γ -imino esters **9a,b** and γ -methoxylmethyl- γ -imino ester **9c**, prepared from (*S*)-glutamic acid and benzaldehyde, and



Fig. 3. X-ray crystal structures of 7a and 8a.

Table 5

Electroreduction of 1 and subsequent transformation to 8



^a Isolated yields from **1a-h**.

subsequent N-benzoylation and acid hydrolysis. Six-membered cyclized products piperidine-5-ones **10a**–**c** were obtained as mixtures of two diastereomers together with uncyclized products **11a**–**c**. Since the diastereomers of **10a**–**c** could not be separated, the mixtures of **10a**–**c** were treated with NaBH₄ to give two diastereomeric alcohols **12a**–**c** and **13a**–**c**. The results are summarized in Table 6. From **9a** and **9b**, the piperidines **12a**,**b** and **13a**,**b** were obtained in poor yields, 12% and 20% combined yields, respectively. On the contrary, the reaction of **9c** afforded the cyclized piperidines **12c** and **13c** in 44% combined yield, although the ratio

Table 6

Electroreduction of 9 and subsequent transformation to 12 and 13





Fig. 4. X-ray crystal structures of 12a, 13a, and 14.

of the diastereomers was 50:50. The stereostructures of **12a** and **13a** were determined to be 2*S*,*SS*,*6S* and 2*S*,*5R*,*6R* by X-ray crystallography, respectively (Fig. 4). The stereoconfigurations of **12b** and **13b** were assigned by their ¹H NMR correlation with those of **12a** and **13a**. Since the cyclized products **12c** and **13c** could not be still separated, these alcohols were further transformed to separable benzoates **14** and **15** (Scheme 8). The stereostructure of **14** was confirmed to be 2*S*,*3S*,*6S* by X-ray crystallography (Fig. 4). The stereoconfiguration of **13c** was assigned to be 2*R*,*3R*,*6S* by ¹H NMR (difNOE and COSY) analyses for the pure sample obtained by the hydrolysis of **15** (Scheme 8).

3. Conclusion

This paper describes that the electroreductive intramolecular coupling of aromatic β -dimethylcarbamoyl- β -imino esters **1a**–**h** prepared from (*S*)-aspartic acid in the presence of TMSCI followed by N-benzoylation, acid hydrolysis, and reduction with NaBH₄

	Ph N X 9a-c	le 1) + e, TMSCI 2) BzCI/TEA 3) H_3O^+	Ph ^{r/N} NZ + 10a-c	Ph TMS CO ₂ Me HN X 11a-c	
	NaBH ₄ MeOH	HO 55 65 Ph N Z HO 25 28 + Bz 12a-c	HO _{1,5R} 6R Ph ^V N Bz 13a-c		
9	Х		Yield ^a (%)		
			12	13	11
9a	CONMe ₂		9	3	34
9b	CONEt ₂		15	5	24
9c	CH ₂ OMe		22	22	8

^a Isolated yields from **9a**–**c**.



Scheme 8. Benzoylation of 12c and 13c and hydrolysis of 14 and 15.

produced five-membered cyclized products 1-benzoyl-4-hydroxy-5-aryl-*N*,*N*-dimethylpyrrolidine-2-carboxamides as mixtures of three diastereomers, **4a**–**h**, **5a**–**h**, and **6a**–**h**. On the other hand, the electroreduction of **1a**–**h** followed by acid hydrolysis under openair conditions and O-benzoylation gave 5-(dimethylcarbamoyl)-2aryl-1*H*-pyrrol-3-yl benzoates **8a**–**h** as the cyclized products. In addition, the electroreduction of aromatic γ -dialkylcarbamoyl- γ -imino and γ -methoxylmethyl- γ -imino esters **9a**–**c** prepared from (*S*)-glutamic acid followed by N-benzoylation, acid hydrolysis, and reduction with NaBH₄ afforded six-membered cyclized products 1-benzoyl-5-hydroxy-*N*,*N*-dialkyl-6-phenylpiperidine-2carboxamides, **12a**,**b** and **13a**,**b**, and 3-hydroxy-6-((methoxymethyl)-2-phenylpiperidin-1-yl)(phenyl)methanones, **12c** and **13c**, as mixtures of two diastereomers.

4. Experimental section

4.1. General

Column chromatography was performed on silica gel 60. THF and 1,4-dioxane were distilled from sodium benzophenone ketyl radical. TMSCl, TEA, and DMF were distilled from CaH₂.

4.2. Starting materials

Aromatic β - and γ -imino esters were prepared by treatment of ω -methyl esters derived from (*S*)-aspartic acid and (*S*)-glutamic acid with aromatic aldehydes in dichloromethane in the presence of magnesium sulfate at 25 °C and isolated by recrystallization from hexanes/ethyl acetate or used without purification.

4.2.1. (*S*,*E*)-*Methyl* 3-(*benzylideneamino*)-4-(*dimethylamino*)-4oxobutanoate (**1a**). Pale yellow solid; mp 92–93 °C (recryst from hexanes/ethyl acetate=2:1); $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ –120 (*c* 1.01, CHCl₃); IR (KBr) 1733, 1637, 1579, 1498, 761, 744, 698 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.74 (dd, 1H, *J*=6.0, 16.5 Hz), 3.00 (s, 3H), 3.09 (s, 3H), 3.16 (dd, 1H, *J*=7.8, 16.5 Hz), 3.67 (s, 3H), 5.00–5.04 (m, 1H), 7.39–7.48 (m, 3H), 7.73–7.78 (m, 2H), 8.34 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 35.8 (q), 36.9 (q), 37.2 (t), 51.5 (q), 64.4 (d), 128.2 (d), 128.4 (d), 131.1 (d), 135.5 (s), 163.1 (d), 169.7 (s), 171.7 (s).

4.2.2. (*S*,*E*)-*Methyl* 4-(*dimethylamino*)-3-(4-*methoxybenzylidene-amino*)-4-oxobutanoate (**1b**). Colorless paste; $[\alpha]_D^{22}$ –108 (*c* 1.32, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.71 (dd, 1H, *J*=16.5, 6.2 Hz), 2.99 (s, 3H), 3.08 (s, 3H), 3.14 (dd, 1H, *J*=16.5, 8.3 Hz), 3.67 (s, 3H), 3,84 (s, 3H), 4.16 (dd, 1H, *J*=8.3, 6.2 Hz), 6.90–6.95 (m, 2H), 7.67–7.72 (m, 2H), 8.26 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 35.9 (q), 37.0 (q), 37.4 (t), 51.6 (q), 55.3 (q), 64.4 (d), 113.9 (d), 128.6 (s), 130.0 (d), 162.1 (s), 162.4 (d), 170.1 (s), 172.0 (s).

4.2.3. (*S*,*E*)-Methyl 4-(dimethylamino)-3-(3-methoxybenzylideneamino)-4-oxobutanoate (**1c**). Colorless paste; $[\alpha]_{D}^{20}$ -104 (*c* 1.22, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.73 (dd, 1H, *J*=16.5, 6.4 Hz), 3.00 (s, 3H), 3.08 (s, 3H), 3.16 (dd, 1H, *J*=16.5, 7.6 Hz), 3.67 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 5.01 (dd, 1H, *J*=7.6, 6.4 Hz), 6.97–7.02 (m, 1H), 7.24–7.37 (m, 3H), 8.31 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 36.0 (q), 37.0 (q), 37.3 (t), 51.7 (q), 55.3 (q), 64.4 (d), 111.6 (d), 118.0 (d), 121.8 (d), 129.5 (d), 137.0 (s), 159.8 (s), 163.1 (d), 169.8 (s), 171.9 (s).

4.2.4. (*S*,*E*)-*Methyl* 4-(*dimethylamino*)-3-(2-*methoxybenzylidene-amino*)-4-*oxobutanoate* (**1d**). Colorless paste; $[\alpha]_{D}^{21}$ -126 (*c* 1.15, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.68 (dd, 1H, *J*=16.9, 6.1 Hz), 2.99 (s, 3H), 3.08 (s, 3H), 3.20 (dd, 1H, *J*=16.9, 8.3 Hz), 3.67 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 4.97 (dd, 1H, *J*=8.3, 6.1 Hz), 6.88-7.06 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.94-8.01 (m, 1H), 8.79 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 36.0 (q), 37.0 (q), 37.5 (t), 51.7 (q), 55.4 (q), 65.3 (d), 110.9 (d), 120.7 (d), 124.1 (s), 127.3 (d), 132.5 (d), 158.9 (s), 159.4 (d), 170.1 (s), 172.0 (s).

4.2.5. (*S*,*E*)-methyl 4-(dimethylamino)-3-(4-fluorobenzylideneamino)-4-oxobutanoate (**1e**). Pale yellow solid; $[\alpha]_D^{21}$ -109 (*c* 1.16, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.74 (dd, 1H, *J*=16.9, 6.2 Hz), 3.00 (s, 3H), 3.09 (s, 3H), 3.14 (dd, 1H, *J*=16.9, 7.7 Hz), 3.67 (s, 3H), 4.98–5.04 (m, 1H), 7.06–7.14 (m, 2H), 7.71–7.80 (m, 2H), 8.31 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 35.9 (q), 37.0 (q), 37.2 (t), 51.7 (q), 64.3 (d), 115.6 (d, *J*_{CC}=22.1 Hz), 130.3 (d, *J*_{CCCF}=8.6 Hz), 131.9 (s, *J*_{CCCF}=2.9 Hz), 161.6 (d), 164.5 (s, *J*_{CF}=251.9 Hz), 169.8 (s), 171.8 (s).

4.2.6. (*S*,*E*)-*Methyl* 4-(dimethylamino)-3-(4-cyanobenzylideneamino)-4-oxobutanoate (**1f**). Pale yellow paste; $[\alpha]_D^{23} -77.7$ (c 1.10, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.77 (dd, 1H, *J*=17.2, 7.0 Hz), 3.00 (s, 3H), 3.10 (s, 3H), 3.14 (dd, 1H, *J*=17.2, 7.0 Hz), 3.68 (s, 3H), 5.10 (t, 1H, *J*=7.0 Hz), 7.69-7.73 (m, 2H), 7.84-7.88 (m, 2H), 8.37 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 36.0 (q), 37.0 (t), 37.0 (q), 51.8 (d), 64.2 (q), 114.5 (s), 118.3 (s), 128.8 (d), 132.4 (d), 139.3 (s), 161.2 (d), 169.4 (s), 171.7 (s).

4.2.7. (*S*,*E*)-Methyl 4-(dimethylamino)-3-(naphthalen-1-ylmethyleneamino)-4-oxobutanoate (**1g**). Pale yellow paste; $[\alpha]_{D}^{B^2}$ –99.4 (*c* 1.09, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.85 (dd, 1H, *J*=16.6, 6.9 Hz), 3.02 (s, 3H), 3.12 (s, 3H), 3.24 (dd, 1H, *J*=16.6, 6.9 Hz), 3.68 (s, 3H), 5.10 (t, 1H, *J*=6.9 Hz), 7.47–7.63 (m, 3H), 7.83–7.95 (m, 3H), 8.86–8.91 (m, 1H), 8.99 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 36.0 (q), 37.1 (q), 37.5 (t), 51.7 (q), 65.7 (d), 124.2 (d), 125.1 (d), 126.1 (d), 127.4 (d), 128.6 (d), 129.5 (d), 130.9 (s), 131.1 (s), 131.7 (d), 133.7 (s), 163.5 (d), 169.9 (s), 172.0 (s).

4.2.8. (*S*,*E*)-*Methyl* 4-(*dimethylamino*)-3-(*naphthalen*-2ylmethyleneamino)-4-oxobutanoate (**1h**). Pale yellow solid; $[\alpha]_{D^2}^{D^2}$ -108 (*c* 1.05, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.79 (dd, 1H, *J*=16.6, 6.3 Hz), 3.01 (s, 3H), 3.11 (s, 3H), 3.20 (dd, 1H, *J*=16.6, 7.7 Hz), 3.68 (s, 3H), 5.05-5.10 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.81-8.08 (m, 5H), 8.49 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 36.0 (q), 37.1 (q), 37.4 (t), 51.7 (q), 64.6 (d), 123.6 (d), 126.6 (d), 127.4 (d), 127.8 (d), 128.5 (d), 128.7 (d), 130.7 (d), 132.9 (s), 133.3 (s), 134.9 (s), 163.2 (d), 169.9 (s), 172.0 (s).

4.2.9. (*S*,*E*)-Methyl 4-(benzylideneamino)-5-(dimethylamino)-5oxopentanoate (**9a**). Pale yellow paste; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ -44.3 (*c* 1.20, CHCl₃); IR (neat) 1733, 1699, 1647, 1579, 1497, 758, 696 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.12–2.20 (m, 1H), 2.26–2.34 (m, 1H), 2.38–2.44 (m, 2H), 2.98 (s, 3H), 3.13 (s, 3H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 4.50–4.53 (m, 1H), 7.38–7.47 (m, 3H), 7.73–7.78 (m, 2H), 8.30 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 28.1 (t), 30.2 (t), 35.8 (q), 36.8 (q), 51.4 (q), 68.8 (d), 128.2 (d), 128.4 (d), 130.9 (d), 135.5 (s), 162.5 (d), 170.5 (s), 173.4 (s).

4.2.10. (*S*,*E*)-Methyl 4-(benzylideneamino)-5-(diethylamino)-5oxopentanoate (**9b**). Pale yellow paste; $[\alpha]_D^{22}$ -32.3 (*c* 1.03, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.13 (t, 3H, *J*=7.2 Hz), 1.16 (t, 3H, *J*=7.1 Hz), 2.10–2.50 (m, 4H), 3.28–3.60 (m, 4H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 4.51 (t, 1H, *J*=7.0 Hz), 7.38–7.47 (m, 3H), 7.73–7.78 (m, 2H), 8.31 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 12.7 (q), 14.4 (q), 28.4 (t), 30.2 (t), 40.2 (t), 41.3 (t), 51.2 (q), 68.0 (d), 128.1 (d), 128.3 (d), 130.8 (d), 135.6 (s), 162.0 (d), 169.7 (s), 173.3 (s).

4.2.11. (*S*,*E*)-*Methyl* 4-(*benzylideneamino*)-5-*methoxypentanoate* (**9***c*). Pale yellow paste; $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ -65.7 (*c* 1.04, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.90–2.06 (m, 2H), 2.23–2.39 (m, 2H), 3.33 (s, 3H), 3.39–3.55 (m, 3H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 7.37–7.44 (m, 3H), 7.71–7.79 (m, 2H), 8.27 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 27.6 (t), 30.6 (t), 51.4 (q), 58.9 (q), 69.7 (d), 76.0 (t), 128.2 (d), 128.4 (d), 130.6 (d), 135.9 (s), 161.8 (d), 173.7 (s).

4.3. Typical procedure for electroreduction of imino esters 1 and subsequent transformation to 4, 5, and 6

A 0.3 M solution of Bu₄NClO₄ in THF (15 mL) was placed in the cathodic chamber of a divided cell (40 mL beaker, 3 cm diameter, 6 cm height) equipped with a lead cathode $(5 \times 5 \text{ cm}^2)$, a platinum anode $(2 \times 1 \text{ cm}^2)$, and a ceramic cylindrical diaphragm (1.5 cm diameter). A 0.3 M solution of Bu₄NClO₄ in DMF (4 mL) was placed in the anodic chamber (inside the diaphragm). Imino ester (1a) (262 mg, 1 mmol), TMSCl (0.64 mL, 5 mmol), and TEA (0.70 mL, 5 mmol) were added to the cathodic chamber. After 300 C of electricity was passed at a constant current of 100 mA at 25 °C, the catholyte was evaporated in vacuo. The residue was dissolved in Et₂O (20 mL) and insoluble solid was filtered off. After removal of the solvent, the residue was dissolved in THF (5 mL). To the solution were added benzovl chloride (0.12 mL, 1 mmol) and TEA (0.21 mL, 1.5 mmol) at 25 °C. After the suspended mixture was stirred for 2 h, 1 M HCl (5 mL) was added to the mixture. The mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 1 h, diluted with H₂O (10 mL), and then extracted with ethyl acetate three times. After the solvent was removed, the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexanes/ethyl acetate) to give **3a** in 63% yield as a about 50:50 mixture of two diastereomers. Recrystallization of the mixture from hexane/ethyl acetate=1:5 gave *trans*-3a as a pure solid.

To a solution of the crude **3a** in methanol (5 mL) was added NaBH₄ (38 mg, 1.0 mmol) at 0 °C. After being stirred for 30 min at this temperature, the mixture was diluted with water (10 mL) and extracted with ethylacetate three times. After the solvent was removed, the residue was column chromatographed on silica gel (hexanes/ethyl acetate) to give alcohols **4a**, **5a**, and **6a** in 29%, 25%, and 7% yields, respectively.

4.3.1. (2S,5R)-1-Benzoyl-N,N-dimethyl-4-oxo-5-phenylpyrrolidine-2carboxamide (**trans-3a**). White solid; R_f 0.25 (hexane/ethyl acetate=1:5); mp 220–221 °C (recryst from hexane/ethyl acetate=1:5); $[\alpha]_{D}^{20}$ –166 (*c* 0.86, CHCl₃); IR (KBr) 1749, 1635, 1600, 1577, 1492, 731, 704 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.62 (d, 1H, *J*=17.9 Hz), 3.00 (dd, 1H, *J*=10.1, 17.9 Hz), 3.04 (s, 3H), 3.35 (s, 3H), 5.19 (s, 1H), 5.80 (d, 1H, *J*=10.1 Hz), 6.87–6.93 (m, 2H), 7.07–7.21 (m, 8H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 35.6 (q), 35.8 (q), 36.1 (q), 37.0 (q), 38.2 (t), 52.1 (d), 68.1 (d), 125.6 (d), 126.0 (d), 127.1 (d), 127.4 (d), 127.5 (d), 128.0 (d), 128.3 (d), 129.1 (d), 129.4 (d), 135.3 (s), 136.0 (s), 137.2 (s), 171.4 (s), 205.9 (s). Anal. Calcd for C₂₀H₂₀N₂O₃: C, 71.41%; H, 5.99%; N, 8.33%. Found: C, 71.46%; H, 6.02%; N, 8.18%.

4.3.2. (2S,4S,5S)-1-Benzoyl-4-hydroxy-N,N-dimethyl-5phenylpyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (**4a**). White solid; R_f 0.25 (ethyl acetate); mp 194–196 °C (recryst from ethyl acetate); $[\alpha]_{D}^{24}$ 194 (*c* 1.06, CHCl₃); IR (KBr) 3368, 1645, 1628, 1601, 1497, 789, 758, 743, 702 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.08–2.62 (m, 2H), 2.89–3.51 (m, 6H), 4.28–5.44 (m, 4H), 6.83–7.77 (m, 10H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 35.2 (t), 36.3 (q), 37.5 (q), 56.3 (d), 69.4 (d), 74.0 (d), 126.4 (d), 126.7 (d), 127.5 (d), 128.3 (d), 129.1 (d), 135.9 (s), 137.2 (s), 171.0 (s), 173.0 (s). Anal. Calcd for $C_{20}H_{22}N_2O_3$: C, 70.99%; H, 6.55%; N, 8.28%. Found: C, 70.97%; H, 6.56%; N, 8.15%.

4.3.3. (25,45,55)-1-Benzoyl-4-hydroxy-5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-N,N-dimethylpyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (**4b**). White solid; R_f 0.3 (ethyl acetate/ethanol=10:1); mp 182–183 °C (recryst from ethyl acetate); [α] $_{D}^{D1}$ 146 (*c* 1.10, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.94–2.67 (m, 2H), 2.80–3.89 (m, 9H), 4.17–5.40 (m, 4H), 6.47–7.76 (m, 9H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ 33.0 (t), 36.0 (q), 36.5 (q), 37.1 (q), 55.2 (d), 66.3 (d), 71.3 (d), 113.1 (d), 127.0 (d), 127.9 (d), 129.97 (d), 130.04 (d), 131.9 (s), 136.4 (s), 158.4 (s), 170.9 (s), 171.4 (s). Anal. Calcd for C₂₁H₂₄N₂O₄: C, 68.46%; H, 6.57%; N, 7.60%. Found: C, 68.57%; H, 6.64%; N, 7.45%.

4.3.4. (25,45,55)-1-Benzoyl-4-hydroxy-5-(3-methoxyphenyl)-N,N-dimethylpyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (**4c**). Colorless paste; R_f 0.3 (ethyl acetate/ethanol=10:1); [α]_D²⁴ 124 (*c* 1.20, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.11–2.27 (m, 1H), 2.38–2.67 (m, 1H), 2.94–3.95 (m, 9H), 4.31–5.43 (m, 4H), 6.54–7.63 (m, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 35.0 (t), 36.2 (q), 37.4 (q), 54.9 (q), 56.1 (d), 68.9 (d), 73.7 (d), 112.8 (d), 113.7 (d), 120.7 (d), 126.4 (d), 127.3 (d), 128.5 (d), 129.2 (d), 135.7 (s), 138.9 (s), 158.9 (s), 171.0 (s), 172.6 (s); HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₂₅N₂O₄ (M+H)⁺ 369.1816, found 369.1808.

4.3.5. (25,45,55)-1-Benzoyl-4-hydroxy-5-(2-methoxyphenyl)-N,N-dimethylpyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (**4d**). Colorless paste; R_f 0.45 (ethyl acetate/ethanol=10:1); $[\alpha]_D^{24}$ 89.0 (*c* 1.13, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.98–3.96 (m, 11H), 4.17–5.30 (m, 3H), 5.51–5.72 (m, 1H), 6.44–7.96 (m, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 35.9 (t), 36.5 (q), 37.8 (q), 55.1 (d), 56.6 (q), 62.8 (d), 73.2 (d), 109.5 (d), 120.3 (d), 125.2 (s), 126.3 (d), 127.2 (d), 128.0 (d), 129.1 (d), 130.2 (d), 136.1 (s), 155.7 (s), 170.9 (s), 173.4 (s); HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₂₅N₂O₄ (M+H)⁺ 369.1816, found 369.1809.

4.3.6. (2S,4S,5S)-1-Benzoyl-5-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-hydroxy-N,N-dimethylpyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (**4e**). White solid; R_f 0.3 (ethyl acetate/ethanol=10:1); mp 259–260 °C (recryst from CH₂Cl₂); $[\alpha]_D^{24}$ 182 (*c* 1.10, CHCl₃); IR (KBr) 3372, 1643, 1628, 1603, 1578, 1508, 866, 831, 812, 745, 731, 700 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.02–2.74 (m, 2H), 2.83–3.63 (m, 6H), 4.21–5.53 (m, 4H), 6.60–7.80 (m, 9H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ 33.0 (t), 35.6 (q), 36.8 (q), 54.9 (d), 65.9 (d), 71.0 (d), 113.8 (d, *J*_{CCF}=22.1 Hz), 126.5 (d), 127.5 (d), 129.5 (d), 130.3 (d, *J*_{CCCF}=6.7 Hz), 135.6 (s), 136.1 (s), 161.2 (s, *J*_{CF}=246.2 Hz), 170.3 (s), 171.1 (s). Anal. Calcd for C₂₀H₂₁FN₂O₃: C, 67.40%; H, 5.94%; N, 7.86%. Found: C, 67.48%; H, 5.92%; N, 7.74%.

4.3.7. (2*S*,4*S*,5*S*)-1-*Benzoyl*-5-(4-*cyanophenyl*)-4-*hydroxy*-*N*,*N*-*dimethylpyrrolidine*-2-*carboxamide* (**4***f*). White solid; *Rf* 0.35 (ethyl acetate/ethanol=10:1); mp 289–291 °C (recryst from CH₂Cl₂); $[\alpha]_{D^2}^{12}$ 215 (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.04–3.56 (m, 8H), 4.27–5.81 (m, 4H), 6.85–7.92 (m, 9H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ 33.2 (t), 35.6 (q), 36.7 (q), 54.9 (d), 66.1 (d), 71.0 (d), 109.4 (s), 119.2 (s), 126.4 (d), 127.8 (d), 129.0 (d), 129.6 (d), 131.2 (d), 136.2 (s), 145.8 (s), 170.2 (s), 171.0 (s). Anal. Calcd for C₂₁H₂₁N₃O₃: C, 69.41%; H, 5.82%; N, 11.56%. Found: C, 69.40%; H, 5.85%; N, 11.38%.

4.3.8. (25,45,55)-1-Benzoyl-4-hydroxy-N,N-dimethyl-5-(naphthalen-1-yl)pyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (**4g**). White solid; R_f 0.3 (ethyl acetate/ethanol=10:1); mp 269–271 °C (recryst from CH₂Cl₂); [α]_D²⁵ 9.1 (*c* 1.13, CHCl₃); IR (KBr) 3406, 1647, 1624, 1597, 1576, 800, 791, 731 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.10–3.61 (m, 8H), 4.20–5.47 (m, 3H), 5.88–6.26 (m, 1H), 6.65–8.36 (m, 12H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 35.8 (t), 36.2 (q), 36.5 (q), 37.3 (q), 37.7 (q), 38.3 (t), 56.5 (d), 59.0 (d), 65.3 (d), 65.4 (d), 72.5 (d), 73.4 (d), 121.6 (d), 122.4 (d), 124.1 (d), 125.0 (d), 125.4 (d), 125.6 (d), 126.8 (d), 127.2 (d), 127.5 (d), 138.2 (d), 128.6 (d), 128.9 (d), 130.5 (d), 130.7 (s), 132.4 (s), 133.0 (s), 133.7 (s), 135.7 (s), 136.9 (s), 171.0 (s), 171.9 (s), 173.2 (s), 174.5(s). Anal. Calcd for $C_{24}H_{24}N_{2}O_{3}{:}$ C, 74.21%; H, 6.23%; N, 7.21%. Found: C, 74.20%; H, 6.18%; N, 7.09%.

4.3.9. (2S,4S,5S)-1-Benzoyl-4-hydroxy-N,N-dimethyl-5-(naphthalen-2-yl)pyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (**4h**). White solid; R_f 0.4 (ethyl acetate/ethanol=10:1); mp 194–195 °C (recryst from CH₂Cl₂); $[\alpha]_D^{22}$ 214 (*c* 1.08, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.09–2.59 (m, 2H), 2.93–3.48 (m, 6H), 4.23–5.54 (m, 4H), 6.74–8.14 (m, 12H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ 33.2 (t), 36.0 (q), 37.1 (q), 55.4 (d), 66.9 (d), 71.6 (d), 125.7 (d), 125.9 (d), 126.7 (d), 126.9 (d), 127.3 (d), 127.5 (d), 127.6 (d), 127.8 (d), 128.1 (d), 130.0 (d), 132.4 (s), 133.0 (s), 136.3 (s), 137.8 (s), 170.8 (s), 171.5 (s). Anal. Calcd for C₂₄H₂₄N₂O₃: C, 74.21%; H, 6.23%; N, 7.21%. Found: C, 74.25%; H, 6.16%; N, 7.10%.

4.3.10. (2S, 4S, 5R) - 1-Benzoyl-4-hydroxy-N,N-dimethyl-5phenylpyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (**5a**). White solid; R_f 0.45 (ethyl acetate); mp 206–207 °C (recryst from hexanes/ethyl acetate=1:2); $[\alpha]_D^{2^2}$ -55.4 (c 1.12, CHCl₃); IR (KBr) 3341, 1640, 1626, 1599, 1493, 783, 766, 754, 710, 702 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.91 (d, 1H, *J*=14.5 Hz), 2.35–2.42 (m, 1H), 3.10 (s, 3H), 3.44 (s, 3H), 4.18 (dd, 1H, *J*=4.1, 11.4 Hz), 5.16 (s, 1H), 5.35 (d, 1H, *J*=9.6 Hz), 6.76 (d, 1H, *J*=11.3 Hz), 7.03–7.07 (m, 2H), 7.17–7.31 (m, 8H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 33.2 (t), 36.6 (q), 38.0 (q), 55.9 (d), 73.9 (d), 78.8 (d), 125.0 (d), 126.4 (d), 127.3 (d), 127.8 (d), 128.6 (d), 129.6 (d), 135.7 (s), 140.4 (s), 171.4 (s), 173.7 (s). Anal. Calcd for C₂₀H₂₂N₂O₃: C, 70.99%; H, 6.55%; N, 8.28%. Found: C, 71.04%; H, 6.53%; N, 8.20%.

4.3.11. (2S,4S,5R)-1-Benzoyl-4-hydroxy-5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-N,Ndimethylpyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (**5b**). White solid; R_f 0.25 (ethyl acetate); mp 201–202 °C (recryst from ethyl acetate); $[\alpha]_D^{22}$ –89.3 (c 1.05, CHCl₃); IR (KBr) 3198, 3187, 1636, 1618, 1584, 1578, 1506, 849, 808, 795, 731, 704 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.89 (d, 1H, *J*=14.3 Hz), 2.34–2.42 (m, 1H), 3.09 (s, 3H), 3.43 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 4.13 (dd, 1H, *J*=11.5, 4.1 Hz), 5.10 (s, 1H), 5.32 (d, 1H, *J*=9.4 Hz), 6.69 (d, 1H, *J*=11.5 Hz), 6.78–6.84 (m, 2H), 6.93–6.98 (m, 2H), 7.17–7.31 (m, 5H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 33.3 (t), 36.7 (q), 38.2 (q), 55.2 (q), 56.0 (d), 73.5 (d), 79.0 (d), 114.1 (d), 126.4 (d), 126.6 (d), 127.9 (d), 129.7 (d), 132.7 (s), 135.8 (s), 158.8 (s), 171.6 (s), 173.8 (s). Anal. Calcd for C₂₁H₂₄N₂O₄: C, 68.46%; H, 6.57%; N, 7.60%. Found: C, 68.51%; H, 6.56%; N, 7.53%.

4.3.12. (2S,4S,5R)-1-Benzoyl-4-hydroxy-5-(3-methoxyphenyl)-N,N-dimethylpyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (**5c**). White solid; R_f 0.5 (ethyl acetate/ethanol=10:1); mp 192–194 °C (recryst from ethyl acetate/ethanol=1:1); [α]_D²³ –50.7 (*c* 1.10, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.90 (d, 1H, *J*=14.2 Hz), 2.35–2.43 (m, 1H), 3.10 (s, 3H), 3.43 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 4.19 (dd, 1H, *J*=11.4, 4.0 Hz), 5.12 (s, 1H), 5.32 (d, 1H, *J*=9.6 Hz), 6.56–6.67 (m, 2H), 6.74–6.78 (m, 2H), 7.17–7.23 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 33.4 (t), 36.7 (q), 38.2 (q), 55.1 (q), 56.1 (d), 73.9 (d), 79.0 (d), 111.3 (d), 112.3 (d), 117.3 (d), 126.6 (d), 127.9 (d), 129.7 (d), 129.8 (d), 135.8 (s), 142.3 (s), 159.8 (s), 171.5 (s), 173.8 (s). Anal. Calcd for C₂₁H₂₄N₂O₄: C, 68.46%; H, 6.57%; N, 7.60%. Found: C, 68.59%; H, 6.66%; N, 7.58%.

4.3.13. (2S,4S,5R)-1-Benzoyl-4-hydroxy-5-(2-methoxyphenyl)-N,Ndimethylpyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (**5d**). White solid; R_f 0.6 (ethyl acetate/ethanol=10:1); mp 179–180 °C (recryst from hexanes/ ethyl acetate=1:5); $[\alpha]_D^{24}$ –9.8 (*c* 1.07, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.88 (d, 1H, *J*=13.8 Hz), 2.29–2.37 (m, 1H), 3.10 (s, 3H), 3.43 (s, 3H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 4.17 (dd, 1H, *J*=11.5, 4.6 Hz), 5.34 (d, 1H, *J*=9.2 Hz), 5.39 (s, 1H), 6.58 (d, 1H, *J*=11.5 Hz), 6.75–6.79 (m, 1H), 6.89–7.04 (m, 2H), 7.14–7.29 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 33.6 (t), 36.7 (q), 38.1 (q), 55.2 (q), 56.2 (d), 69.5 (d), 77.0 (d), 110.5 (d), 120.4 (d), 125.4 (d), 126.6 (d), 127.8 (d), 128.66 (d), 128.73 (s), 129.5 (d), 135.8 (s), 155.8 (s), 171.4 (s), 173.9 (s). Anal. Calcd for $C_{21}H_{24}N_2O_4$: C, 68.46%; H, 6.57%; N, 7.60%. Found: C, 68.49%; H, 6.53%; N, 7.42%.

4.3.14. (2S,4S,5R)-1-Benzoyl-5-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-hydroxy-N,N-dimethylpyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (**5e**). White solid; R_f 0.3 (ethyl acetate); mp 213–214 °C (ethyl acetate/ethanol=1:1); $[\alpha]_{D}^{22}$ -50.4 (c 1.08, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.93 (d, 1H, *J*=14.4 Hz), 2.34–2.41 (m, 1H), 3.10 (s, 3H), 3.43 (s, 3H), 4.14 (d, 1H, *J*=4.6 Hz), 5.14 (s, 1H), 5.35 (d, 1H, *J*=9.6 Hz), 6.94–7.02 (m, 4H), 7.18–7.33 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 32.3 (t), 36.7 (q), 38.2 (q), 56.0 (d), 73.4 (d), 78.9 (d), 115.6 (d, *J*_{CCF}=21.1 Hz), 126.4 (d), 126.8 (d, *J*_{CCCF}=2.9 Hz), 161.8 (s, *J*_{CF}=246.7 Hz), 171.6 (s), 173.6 (s). Anal. Calcd for C₂₀H₂₁FN₂O₃: C, 67.40%; H, 5.94%; N, 7.86%. Found: C, 67.51%; H, 6.00%; N, 7.75%.

4.3.15. (2S,4S,5R)-1-Benzoyl-5-(4-cyanophenyl)-4-hydroxy-N,N-dimethylpyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (**5f**). White solid; R_f 0.5 (ethyl acetate/ethanol=10:1); mp 242–243 °C (recryst from CH₂Cl₂); $[\alpha]_{D2}^{D2}$ –143 (c 1.17, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.92 (d, 0.1H, *J*=14.2 Hz), 1.97 (d, 0.9H, *J*=14.5 Hz), 2.23–2.37 (m, 0.9H), 2.39–2.46 (m, 0.1H), 2.50 (s, 0.3H), 2.69 (s, 0.3H), 3.10 (s, 2.7H), 3.44 (s, 2.7H), 4.12–4.20 (m, 1H), 5.03 (d, 0.1H, *J*=9.7 Hz), 5.21 (s, 0.9H), 5.38 (d, 0.9H *J*=9.8 Hz), 5.65 (d, 0.1H, *J*=12.2 Hz), 5.72 (s, 0.1H), 6.88 (d, 0.9H *J*=11.9 Hz), 7.13–7.70 (m, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 33.3 (t), 36.7 (q), 38.1 (q), 56.0 (d), 73.8 (d), 78.8 (d), 111.4 (s), 118.1 (s), 126.0 (d), 126.3 (d), 128.1 (d), 129.9 (d), 132.5 (d), 135.4 (s), 145.7 (s), 171.3 (s), 173.4 (s). Anal. Calcd for C₂₁H₂₁N₃O₃: C, 69.41%; H, 5.82%; N, 11.56%. Found: C, 69.45%; H, 5.77%; N, 11.43%.

4.3.16. (2S,4S,5R)-1-Benzoyl-4-hydroxy-N,N-dimethyl-5-(naphthalen-1-yl)pyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (**5g**). White solid; R_f 0.5 (ethyl acetate/ethanol=10:1); mp 222–224 °C (recryst from CH₂Cl₂); $[\alpha]_D^{22}$ 44.3 (*c* 1.13, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.96 (d, 1H, *J*=14.3 Hz), 2.31–2.38 (m, 1H), 3.12 (s, 3H), 3.46 (s, 3H), 4.35 (dd, 1H, *J*=11.7, 4.1 Hz), 5.46 (d, 1H, *J*=9.7 Hz), 5.84 (s, 1H), 6.82 (d, 1H, *J*=11.7 Hz), 7.05–7.50 (m, 9H), 7.73–7.96 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 33.6 (t), 36.7 (q), 38.2 (q), 56.5 (d), 71.8 (d), 77.7 (d), 122.1 (d), 122.9 (d), 125.0 (d), 126.0 (d), 126.4 (d), 126.5 (d), 127.9 (d), 128.3 (d), 128.6 (d), 129.7 (d and s), 133.6 (s), 135.6 (s), 136.1 (s), 171.5 (s), 173.9 (s). Anal. Calcd for C₂₄H₂₄N₂O₃: C, 74.21%; H, 6.23%; N, 7.21%. Found: C, 74.32%; H, 6.22%; N, 7.13%.

4.3.17. (2S,4S,5R)-1-Benzoyl-4-hydroxy-N,N-dimethyl-5-(naphthalen-2-yl)pyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (**5h**). White solid; R_f 0.3 (ethyl acetate); mp 255–256 °C (recryst from CH₂Cl₂); [α]_B⁻¹ –209 (*c* 1.05, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.93 (d, 1H, *J*=14.2 Hz), 2.37–2.45 (m, 1H), 3.12 (s, 3H), 3.47 (s, 3H), 4.27 (dd, 1H, *J*=11.5, 4.2 Hz), 5.32 (s, 1H), 5.45 (d, 1H, *J*=9.5 Hz), 6.80 (d, 1H, *J*=11.5 Hz), 7.11–7.91 (m, 12H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 33.3 (t), 36.7 (q), 38.2 (q), 56.2 (d), 74.0 (d), 78.8 (d), 123.4 (d), 123.5 (d), 126.1 (d), 126.48 (d), 126.52 (d), 127.6 (d), 127.7 (d), 127.9 (d), 128.7 (d), 129.7 (d), 132.5 (s), 133.1 (s), 135.7 (s), 138.1 (s), 171.7 (s), 178.8 (s). Anal. Calcd for C₂₄H₂₄N₂O₃: C, 74.21%; H, 6.23%; N, 7.21%. Found: C, 74.26%; H, 6.25%; N, 7.05%.

4.3.18. (2S,4R,5R)-1-Benzoyl-4-hydroxy-N,N-dimethyl-5phenylpyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (**6a**). White solid; R_f 0.1 (ethyl acetate); mp 218–219 °C (recryst from ethyl acetate); $[\alpha]_D^{55}$ -56.6 (*c* 1.03, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.45 (d, 0.8H, J=7.6 Hz), 1.52 (d, 0.2H, J=4.8 Hz), 2.12–2.24 (m, 2H), 2.56 (s, 0.6H), 2.62 (s, 0.6H), 3.04 (s, 2.4H), 3.26 (s, 2.4H), 4.59–4.65 (m, 0.2H), 4.78–4.86 (m, 0.8H), 5.07–5.11 (m, 1H), 5.35 (dd, 0.8H, J=3.8, 8.4 Hz), 5.49 (d, 0.2H, J=5.8 Hz), 6.95–7.50 (m, 10H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 34.2 (t), 36.2 (q), 37.3 (q), 55.4 (d), 66.6 (d), 71.4 (d), 126.4 (d), 127.60 (d), 127.62 (d), 128.2 (d), 129.2 (d), 136.5 (s), 137.6 (s), 171.2 (s), 171.5 (s). Anal. Calcd for $C_{20}H_{22}N_2O_3$: C, 70.99%; H, 6.55%; N, 8.28%. Found: C, 71.08%; H, 6.60%; N, 8.12%.

4.3.19. (2S,4R,5R)-1-Benzoyl-4-hydroxy-5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-N,N-dimethylpyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (**6b**). White solid; R_f 0.2 (ethyl acetate/ethanol=10:1); mp 165–167 °C (recryst from hexanes/ethyl acetate=1:5); $[\alpha]_D^{21}$ –75.2 (*c* 1.21, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.22–1.30 (m, 0.2H), 2.00–2.31 (m, 2.8H), 2.54 (s, 0.6H), 2.57 (s, 0.6H), 3.00 (s, 2.4H), 3.22 (s, 2.4H), 3.74 (s, 2.4H), 3.78 (s, 0.6H), 4.54–4.60 (m, 0.2H), 4.74 (dd, 0.8H, *J*=14.4, 7.0 Hz), 4.99 (d, 0.8H, *J*=7.0 Hz), 5.03 (dd, 0.2H, *J*=7.8, 5.2 Hz), 5.27–5.31 (m, 0.8H), 5.42 (d, 0.2H, *J*=6.0 Hz), 6.70–7.46 (m, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 34.1 (t), 36.1 (q), 37.2 (q), 55.1 (q), 55.3 (d), 66.0 (d), 71.3 (d), 113.7 (d), 126.4 (d), 127.6 (d), 128.7 (d), 129.1 (s), 129.5 (d), 136.5 (s), 159.0 (s), 171.2 (s), 171.5 (s). Anal. Calcd for C₂₁H₂₄N₂O₄: C, 68.46%; H, 6.57%; N, 7.60%. Found: C, 68.47%; H, 6.57%; N, 7.54%.

4.3.20. (2S,4R,5R)-1-Benzoyl-4-hydroxy-5-(3-methoxyphenyl)-N,N-dimethylpyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (**6***c*). White solid; R_f 0.25 (ethyl acetate/ethanol=10:1); mp 197–198 °C (recryst from CH₂Cl₂); $[\alpha]_D^{24}$ –87.3 (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃); IR (KBr) 3430, 1636, 1613, 1603, 1582, 795, 700 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.68 (d, 1H, *J*=4.2 Hz), 2.08–2.31 (m, 2H), 2.56 (s, 0.6H), 2.59 (s, 0.6H), 3.02 (s, 2.4H), 3.25 (s, 2.4H), 3.72 (s, 2.4H), 3.81 (s, 0.6H), 4.59–4.65 (m, 0.2H), 4.76–4.86 (m, 0.8H), 5.00–5.08 (m, 1H), 5.32 (dd, 0.8H, *J*=7.6, 4.4 Hz), 5.44–5.48 (m, 0.2H), 6.45–7.51 (m, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 34.4 (t), 36.2 (q), 37.3 (q), 55.2 (q), 55.4 (d), 66.5 (d), 71.6 (d), 113.1 (d), 113.6 (d), 119.9 (d), 126.5 (d), 127.7 (d), 129.2 (d), 129.5 (d), 136.6 (s), 139.2 (s), 159.6 (s), 171.2 (s), 171.5 (s). Anal. Calcd for C₂₁H₂₄N₂O₄: C, 68.46%; H, 6.57%; N, 7.60%. Found: C, 68.40%; H, 6.55%; N, 7.51%.

4.3.21. (2S,4R,5R)-1-Benzoyl-4-hydroxy-5-(2-methoxyphenyl)-N,Ndimethylpyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (**6d**). White solid; R_f 0.3 (ethyl acetate/ethanol=10:1); mp 171–172 °C (recryst from hexanes/ethyl acetate=1:5); $[\alpha]_D^{24}$ –37.2 (*c* 1.06, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.93 (br s, 1H), 2.06–2.30 (m, 2H), 2.57 (s, 0.6H), 2.61 (s, 0.6H), 3.04 (s, 2.4H), 3.26 (s, 2.4H), 3.61 (s, 2.4H), 3.90 (s, 0.6H), 4.77 (dd, 0.2H, *J*=12.3, 6.2 Hz), 4.85 (dd, 0.8H, *J*=14.1, 6.8 Hz), 5.06 (dd, 0.2H, *J*=8.2, 5.0 Hz), 5.30–5.36 (m, 0.8H), 5.63 (d, 0.8H, *J*=6.8 Hz), 5.93 (d, 0.2H, *J*=6.2 Hz), 6.65–7.51 (m, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 34.3 (t), 36.2 (q), 37.4 (q), 55.58 (d), 55.60 (q), 70.1 (d), 71.5 (d), 110.7 (d), 120.9 (d), 126.3 (s), 126.4 (d), 127.4 (d), 128.2 (d), 128.9 (d), 129.0 (d), 136.6 (s), 156.6 (s), 171.1 (s), 171.6 (s). Anal. Calcd for C₂₁H₂₄N₂O₄: C, 68.46%; H, 6.57%; N, 7.60%. Found: C, 68.50%; H, 6.58%; N, 7.67%.

4.3.22. (2S,4R,5R)-1-Benzoyl-5-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-hydroxy-N,N-dimethylpyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (**6e**). White solid; R_f 0.3 (ethyl acetate/ethanol=10:1); mp 243–245 °C (recryst from ethyl acetate/ ethanol=1:1); [α]_D²⁴ –74.8 (*c* 0.82, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.11–2.31 (m, 2H), 2.56 (s, 0.6H), 2.61 (s, 0.6H), 3.03 (s, 2.4H), 3.25 (s, 2.4H), 4.60 (dd, 0.2H, *J*=11.5, 5.2), 4.80 (dd, 0.8H, *J*=14.3, 6.7 Hz), 5.06–5.10 (m, 1H), 5.34 (dd, 0.8H, *J*=7.7, 3.1 Hz), 5.46 (d, 0.2H, *J*=6.6 Hz), 6.86–7.48 (m, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 34.3 (t), 36.2 (q), 37.3 (q), 55.4 (d), 66.1 (d), 71.5 (d), 115.3 (d, *J*_{CCCF}=21.1 Hz), 126.4 (d), 127.1 (d), 127.8 (d), 129.3 (d, *J*_{CCCF}=8.6 Hz), 133.4 (s, *J*_{CCCCF}=2.6 Hz), 136.5 (s), 162.2 (s, *J*_{CF}=247.4 Hz), 171.3 (s), 171.5 (s). Anal. Calcd for C₂₀H₂₁FN₂O₃: C, 67.40%; H, 5.94%; N, 7.86%. Found: C, 67.56%; H, 6.09%; N, 7.72%.

4.3.23. (2S,4R,5R)-1-Benzoyl-5-(4-cyanophenyl)-4-hydroxy-N,N-dimethylpyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (**6***f*). White solid; R_f 0.35 (ethyl acetate/ethanol=10:1); mp 247–248 °C (recryst from CH₂Cl₂); $[\alpha]_D^{D3}$ -107 (*c* 1.06, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.21–1.36 (m, 1H), 2.09–2.40 (m, 2H), 2.56 (s, 0.9H), 2.60 (s, 0.9H), 3.01 (s, 2.1H), 3.52 (s, 2.1H), 4.66 (dd, 0.3H, *J*=11.3, 5.6 Hz), 4.88 (dd, 0.7H, *J*=14.3, 6.9 Hz), 5.08 (dd, 0.3H, *J*=7.7, 5.6 Hz), 5.12 (d, 0.7H, *J*=6.9 Hz), 5.34 (dd, 0.7H, *J*=8.3, 3.4 Hz), 5.46 (d, 0.3H, *J*=5.6 Hz), 7.02–7.72 (m, 9H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ 33.7 (t), 35.6 (q), 36.1 (q), 36.5 (t), 36.6 (q), 37.1 (q), 55.7 (d), 57.9 (d), 64.9 (d), 66.4 (d), 69.7 (d), 70.7 (d), 109.7 (s), 110.0 (s), 119.1 (s), 119.4 (s), 126.4 (d), 127.1 (d), 128.1 (d), 128.2 (d), 128.8 (d), 129.1 (d), 129.6 (d), 130.0 (d), 131.6 (d), 131.7 (d), 136.9 (s), 145.3 (s), 170.5 (s), 171.1 (s), 171.4 (s), 171.6 (s). Anal. Calcd for C₂₁H₂₁N₃O₃: C, 69.41%; H, 5.82%; N, 11.56%. Found: C, 69.50%; H, 5.83%; N, 11.40%.

4.3.24. (2S,4R,5R)-1-Benzoyl-4-hydroxy-N,N-dimethyl-5-(naph-thalen-1-yl)pyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (**6**g). Colorless paste; R_f 0.3 (ethyl acetate/ethanol=10:1); $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ 39.9 (c 1.16, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.95–2.33 (m, 3H), 2.52 (s, 0.6H), 2.59 (s, 0.6H), 3.00 (s, 2.4H), 3.22 (s, 2.4H), 4.77–5.00 (m, 1H), 5.08–5.17 (m, 0.2H), 5.33–5.41 (m, 0.8H), 5.92–6.04 (m, 0.8H), 6.34 (d, 0.2H, *J*=5.5 Hz), 6.79–7.91 (m, 12H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 34.3 (t), 35.7 (q), 36.2 (q), 36.5 (q), 37.1 (t), 37.3 (q), 55.5 (d), 58.1 (d), 62.2 (d), 70.4 (d), 71.5 (d), 122.8 (d), 123.4 (d), 124.8 (d), 125.1 (d), 125.6 (d), 125.7 (d), 126.1 (d), 126.2 (d), 127.1 (d), 127.2 (d), 127.4 (d), 127.9 (d), 128.1 (d), 128.3 (d), 128.4 (d), 128.7 (d), 128.9 (d), 129.8 (d), 131.3 (s), 133.2 (s), 133.9 (s), 134.1 (s), 136.2 (s), 171.2 (s), 171.4 (s), 171.6 (s); HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₄H₂₅N₂O₃ (M+H)⁺ 389.1867, found 389.1860.

4.3.25. (2*S*,4*R*,5*R*)-1-Benzoyl-4-hydroxy-N,N-dimethyl-5-(naph-thalen-2-yl)pyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (**6h**). White solid; R_f 0.3 (ethyl acetate/ethanol=10:1); mp >300 °C (recryst from ethanol); $[\alpha]_D^{12}$ -158.5 (*c* 0.10, methanol); IR (KBr) 3430, 1645, 1628, 1601, 1578, 835, 764, 706 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.04–1.40 (m, 1H), 2.17–2.43 (m, 2H), 2.59 (s, 0.6H), 2.66 (s, 0.6H), 3.07 (s, 2.4H), 3.31 (s, 2.4H), 4.69–4.73 (m, 0.2H), 4.89–4.97 (m, 0.8H), 5.17–5.21 (m, 0.2H), 5.28 (d, 0.8H, *J*=7.0 Hz), 5.46 (dd, 0.8H, *J*=8.3, 3.7 Hz), 5.67 (d, 0.2H, *J*=5.7 Hz), 6.98–7.18 (m, 5H), 7.37–7.56 (m, 4H), 7.70–7.91 (m, 3H). Anal. Calcd for C₂₄H₂₄N₂O₃: C, 74.21%; H, 6.23%; N, 7.21%. Found: C, 74.17%; H, 6.30%; N, 7.16%.

4.3.26. (4S)-Methyl 5-(dimethylamino)-5-oxo-4-(phenyl(trimethylsilyl) methylamino)pentanoate (**11a**) (8:2 diastereomeric mixture). Pale yellow paste; R_f 0.75 (hexanes/ethyl acetate=1:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ -0.03 (s, 7.2H), -0.02 (s, 1.8H), 1.57-1.87 (m, 2H), 2.18-2.47 (m, 2H), 2.63 (s, 0.6H), 2.73 (s, 0.6H), 2.77 (s, 2.4H), 3.00 (s, 2.4H), 3.07 (s, 0.8H), 3.23 (s, 0.2H), 3.38-3.47 (m, 1H), 3.63 (s, 2.4H), 3.69 (s, 0.6H), 7.03-7.30 (m, 5H).

4.3.27. (4S)-Methyl 5-(diethylamino)-5-oxo-4-(phenyl(trimethylsilyl) methylamino)pentanoate (**11b**) (7:3 diastereomeric mixture). Pale yellow paste; R_f 0.55 (hexanes/ethyl acetate=2:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ -0.04 (s, 2.7H), -0.03 (s, 6.3H), 0.70 (t, 0.9H, *J*=7.3 Hz), 0.82 (t, 2.1H, *J*=7.3 Hz), 0.97 (t, 0.9H, *J*=7.3 Hz), 1.10 (t, 2.1H, *J*=7.3 Hz), 1.60–1.75 (m, 2H), 2.35–2.76 (m, 2H), 2.85–2.95 (m, 1H), 3.01–3.31 (m, 4H), 3.56–3.64 (m, 3.1H), 3.68 (s, 0.9H), 7.03–7.23 (m, 5H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) major: δ -4.0 (q), 13.0 (q), 14.2 (q), 28.5 (t), 30.2 (t), 40.31 (t), 40.9 (t), 51.3 (q), 54.8 (d), 55.6 (d), 125.0 (d), 126.9 (d), 127.7 (d), 142.5 (s), 173.9 (s), 174.0 (s), minor: δ –3.7 (q), 12.7 (q), 13.6 (q), 29.2 (t), 29.6 (t), 40.27 (t), 41.3 (t), 51.3 (q), 56.7 (d), 56.8 (d), 125.1 (d), 127.0 (d), 127.8 (d), 143.2 (s), 174.2 (s), 174.5 (s).

4.3.28. (25,55,65)-1-Benzoyl-5-hydroxy-N,N-dimethyl-6phenylpiperidine-2-carboxamide (**12a**). White solid; R_f 0.25 (ethyl acetate); mp 179–181 °C (recryst from ethyl acetate); $[\alpha]_D^{D2}$ 106 (*c* 0.83, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.86–1.95 (m, 1H), 1.97–2.06 (m, 2H), 2.19–2.29 (m, 1H), 2,86 (s, 3H), 3.08 (s, 3H), 3.89 (br s, 1H), 4.12–4.19 (m, 1H), 5,04 (d, 1H, *J*=5.1 Hz), 5.20–5.25 (m, 1H), 7.18–7.34 (m, 8H), 7.56–7.61 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR δ 21.5 (t), 26.2 (t), 36.3 (q), 37.2 (q), 49.6 (d), 63.3 (d), 68.6 (d), 126.5 (d), 127.0 (d), 127.9 (d), 128.2 (d), 129.8 (d), 135.9 (s), 138.6 (s), 172.9 (s), 173.5 (s). Anal. Calcd for $C_{21}H_{24}N_2O_3$: C, 71.57%; H, 6.86%; N, 7.95%. Found: C, 71.60%; H, 6.85%; N, 7.88%.

4.3.29. (2S, 5S, 6S) - 1-Benzoyl-5-hydroxy-N,N-diethyl-6phenylpiperidine-2-carboxamide (**12b**). White solid; R_f 0.3 (hexanes/ethyl acetate=1:2); mp 179–180 °C (recryst from ethyl acetate); $[\alpha]_D^{21}$ 125 (*c* 0.75, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.19 (t, 3H, *J*=7.3 Hz), 1.24 (t, 3H, *J*=7.3 Hz), 1.85–1.97 (m, 2H), 2.11–2.28 (m, 2H), 3.27–3.48 (m, 3H), 3.65–3.76 (m, 1H), 4.16–4.23 (m, 1H), 4.61 (d, 1H, *J*=9.2 Hz), 5.00 (d, 1H, *J*=5.0 Hz), 5.22 (t, 1H, *J*=7.3 Hz), 7.14–7.21 (m, 5H), 7.22–7.30 (m, 3H), 7.48–7.53 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 12.7 (q), 14.3 (q), 21.6 (t), 26.3 (t), 41.3 (t), 42.2 (t), 50.0 (d), 64.1 (d), 68.0 (d), 126.5 (d), 126.7 (d), 127.7 (d), 127.9 (d), 128.0 (d), 129.6 (d), 136.1 (s), 139.6 (s), 172.9 (s), 174.1 (s). Anal. Calcd for C₂₃H₂₈N₂O₃: C, 72.60%; H, 7.42%; N, 7.36%. Found: C, 72.68%; H, 7.45%; N, 7.20%.

4.3.30. ((2S,3S,6S)-3-Hydroxy-6-(methoxymethyl)-2-phenylpiperidin-1-yl)(phenyl)methanone (**12c**). Colorless paste; R_f 0.3 (hexanes/ethyl acetate=1:1); $[\alpha]_D^{23}$ 91.1 (*c* 1.00, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.66–1.92 (m, 3H), 2.19–2.31 (m, 1H), 2.77–3.02 (m, 5H), 4.08–4.24 (m, 2H), 5.84–6.33 (m, 1H), 7.17–7.74 (m, 10H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 24.4 (t), 24.7 (t), 52.5 (d), 54.9 (d), 58.0 (q), 70.2 (d), 72.0 (t), 126.3 (d), 126.7 (d), 127.9 (d), 128.3 (d), 128.4 (d), 129.2 (d), 136.6 (s), 138.8 (s), 172.8 (s); HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₀H₂₄NO₃ (M+H)⁺ 326.1758, found 326.1754.

4.3.31. (25,5R,6R)-1-Benzoyl-5-hydroxy-N,N-dimethyl-6phenylpiperidine-2-carboxamide (**13a**). White solid; R_f 0.25 (ethyl acetate); mp 215–216 °C (recryst from ethyl acetate); $[\alpha]_D^{22}$ –58.3 (c 1.03, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.62 (br s, 1H), 1.36–1.56 (m, 3H), 1.78–1.88 (m, 1H), 2.13 (br s, 3H), 2.66 (br s, 3H), 4.49–4.57 (m, 1H), 5.02–5.08 (m, 1H), 5.21–5.27 (m, 1H), 6.91–7.23 (m, 10H). Anal. Calcd for C₂₁H₂₄N₂O₃: C, 71.57%; H, 6.86%; N, 7.95%. Found: C, 71.65%; H, 6.89%; N, 7.82%.

4.3.32. (2S, 5R, 6R) - 1 - Benzoyl-5 - hydroxy-N, N-diethyl-6phenylpiperidine-2-carboxamide (**13b**). White solid; R_f 0.4 (hexanes/ethyl acetate, 1:5); mp 183–184 °C (recryst from ethyl acetate); $[\alpha]_{D1}^{D1}$ -66.0 (*c* 1.01, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.05–2.07 (m, 9H), 2.29–2.47 (m, 1H), 3.16–3.69 (m, 4H), 4.37–4.69 (m, 1H), 4.92–5.40 (m, 2H), 7.03–7.43 (m, 10H); ¹³C NMR δ (CDCl₃) δ 12.7 (q), 13.8 (q), 22.3 (t), 25.0 (t), 40.8 (t), 41.9 (t), 51.6 (d), 62.2 (d), 67.3 (d), 126.6 (d), 126.8 (d), 127.6 (d), 127.9 (d), 128.0 (d), 129.1 (d), 136.5 (s), 139.9 (s), 171.5 (s), 174.2 (s). Anal. Calcd for C₂₃H₂₈N₂O₃: C, 72.60%; H, 7.42%; N, 7.36%. Found: C, 72.74%; H, 7.51%; N, 7.21%.

4.3.33. ((25,3R,6R)-3-Hydroxy-6-(methoxymethyl)-2-phenylpiperidin-1-yl)(phenyl)methanone (**13c**). Colorless paste; R_f 0.3 (hexanes/ethyl acetate=1:1); $[\alpha]_D^{24}$ -122 (c 1.01, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.50–1.96 (m, 3H), 2.07–2.17 (m, 1H), 3.41 (s, 3H), 3.54–3.64 (m, 1H), 3.80–3.85 (m, 1H), 4.29–4.36 (m, 1H), 4.42–4.50 (m, 1H), 4.70–4.78 (m, 1H), 7.19–7.73 (m, 10H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 21.4 (t), 24.6 (t), 27.4 (d), 59.1 (q), 67.7 (d), 70.2 (d), 72.2 (t), 126.3 (d), 126.8 (d), 128.2 (d), 128.4 (d), 129.9 (d), 130.7 (d), 135.6 (s), 138.5 (s), 175.8 (s); HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₀H₂₄NO₃ (M+H)⁺ 326.1758, found 326.1751.

4.4. O-Benzoylation of 12c and 13c

To the 1:1 mixture of **12c** and **13c** (143 mg, 0.44 mmol) was added pyridine (1 mL) and benzoyl chloride (0.12 mL, 1 mmol). The solution was stirred at 25 $^{\circ}$ C for 12 h and then evaporated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexanes/ethyl acetate) to give **14** and **15** in quantitative yields, respectively.

4.4.1. (2S,3S,6S)-1-Benzoyl-6-(methoxymethyl)-2-phenylpiperidin-3yl benzoate (**14**). White solid; R_f 0.6 (hexanes/ethyl acetate=2:1); mp 114–115 °C (recryst from hexanes/ethyl acetate=2:1); $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ 76 (*c* 1.07, CHCl₃); IR (KBr) 1715, 1628, 1601, 1582, 727, 718, 698 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.81–1.98 (m, 2H), 2.12–2.21 (m, 1H), 2.40–2.54 (m, 1H), 2.79–2.97 (m, 5H), 4.00–4.59 (m, 1H), 5.48–5.61 (m, 1H), 6.10–6.60 (m, 1H), 7.24–8.01 (m, 15H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 22.3 (t), 24.9 (t), 52.4 (d), 58.0 (q), 71.6 (t), 72.2 (d), 126.5 (d), 127.0 (d), 128.0 (d), 128.1 (d), 128.3 (d), 128.4 (d), 129.3 (d), 129.5 (d), 129.7 (s), 133.1 (d), 136.3 (s), 138.5 (s), 165.3 (s), 172.4 (s). Anal. Calcd for C₂₇H₂₇NO4: C, 75.50%; H, 6.34%; N, 3.26%. Found: C, 75.52%; H, 6.31%; N, 3.20%.

4.4.2. (2S,3R,6R)-1-Benzoyl-6-(methoxymethyl)-2-phenylpiperidin-3-yl benzoate (**15**). Colorless paste; R_f 0.5 (hexanes/ethyl acetate=2:1); $[\alpha]_D^{21}$ -56.8 (*c* 1.24, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.87–2.21 (m, 4H), 3.37 (s, 3H), 3.66–3.94 (m, 2H), 4.24–4.36 (m, 1H), 5.23 (d, 1H, *J*=4.5 Hz), 5.58–5.66 (m, 1H), 7.11–8.10 (m, 15H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 21.3 (t), 23.0 (t), 52.6 (d), 58.9 (q), 60.3 (d), 71.2 (d), 73.6 (t), 126.95 (d), 127.05 (d), 128.2 (d), 128.26 (d), 128.29 (d), 129.4 (d), 129.7 (s), 129.87 (d), 129.90 (d), 130.0 (d), 136.5 (s), 138.4 (s), 165.3 (s), 174.2 (s); HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₇H₂₈NO₄ (M+H)⁺ 430.2020, found 430.2011.

4.5. Typical procedure for electroreduction of imino esters 1 and subsequent transformation to 8

After electroreduction of **1a** (1 mmol) was carried out as described above, the catholyte was evaporated in vacuo. The residue was dissolved in Et₂O (20 mL) and insoluble solid was filtered off. After the solvent was removed, the residue was dissolved in dioxane (5 mL) and 1 M HCl (5 mL). The mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 12 h with vigorous stirring under open-air conditions, and then the solvent was evaporated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexanes/ethyl acetate) to give **7a** in 52% yield.

To a solution of the crude **7a** in dioxane (5 mL) were added benzoyl chloride (0.12 mL, 1 mmol) and TEA (0.21 mL, 1.5 mmol) at 25 °C. The mixture was stirred for 6 h, diluted with water (10 mL), and then extracted with ethyl acetate three times. After the solvent was removed, the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexanes/ethyl acetate) to give **8a** in 54% yield.

4.5.1. 4-Hydroxy-N,N-dimethyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carboxamide (**7a**). Pale yellow solid; R_f 0.5 (hexanes/ethyl acetate=1:5); mp 246–248 °C (recryst from methanol); IR (KBr) 3229, 1605, 1568, 1539, 1526, 1489, 773, 745, 698, 691, 662 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆) δ 2.86 (br s, 6H), 5.89–5.93 (m, 1H), 6.84–6.90 (m, 1H), 7.04–7.11 (m, 2H), 7.64–7.69 (m, 2H), 8.67 (s, 1H), 10.63 (br s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d₆) δ 37.3 (q), 103.4 (d), 116.9 (s), 121.2 (s), 124.5 (d), 125.0 (d), 128.3 (d), 132.1 (s), 142.1 (s), 162.3 (s). Anal. Calcd for C₂₀H₁₈N₂O₃: C, 71.84%; H, 5.43%; N, 8.38%. Found: C, 71.89%; H, 5.41%; N, 8.28%.

4.5.2. 5-(Dimethylcarbamoyl)-2-phenyl-1H-pyrrol-3-yl benzoate (**8a**). White solid; R_f 0.65 (hexanes/ethyl acetate=1:5); mp 181–183 °C (recryst from ethyl acetate); IR (KBr) 3204, 1728, 1601, 1570, 1520, 1489, 826, 760, 704, 689 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 3.15 (br s, 3H), 3.34 (br s, 3H), 6.80–6.88 (m, 1H), 7.24–7.32 (m, 1H), 7.35–7.44 (m, 2H), 7.48–7.57 (m, 2H), 7.61–7.71 (m, 3H), 8.18–8.26 (m, 2H), 10.08 (br s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 36.8 (q), 38.9 (q), 107.4 (d), 121.5 (s), 123.5 (s), 126.1 (d), 127.2 (d), 128.57 (d), 128.60 (d), 129.4 (s), 130.0 (s), 130.1 (d), 133.5 (d), 134.0 (s), 162.2 (s), 164.6 (s). Anal. Calcd for C₂₇H₂₂N₂O₄: C, 73.96%; H, 5.06%; N, 6.39%. Found: C, 74.07%; H, 5.10%; N, 6.25%.

4.5.3. 5-(Dimethylcarbamoyl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1H-pyrrol-3-yl benzoate (**8b**). White solid; $R_f 0.6$ (hexanes/ethyl acetate=1:5); mp 147–149 °C (recryst from hexanes/ethyl acetate=1:5); ¹H NMR

 $\begin{array}{l} (\text{CDCl}_3) \ \delta \ 3.23 \ (\text{br s, 6H}), \ 3.80 \ (\text{s, 3H}), \ 6.78-6.98 \ (\text{m, 3H}), \ 7.47-7.68 \\ (\text{m, 5H}), \ 8.16-8.24 \ (\text{m, 2H}), \ 10.08 \ (\text{br s, 1H}); \ ^{13}\text{C} \ \text{NMR} \ (\text{CDCl}_3) \ \delta \ 36.9 \\ (\text{q}), \ 38.4 \ (\text{q}), \ 55.2 \ (\text{q}), \ 107.4 \ (\text{d}), \ 114.2 \ (\text{d}), \ 120.9 \ (\text{s}), \ 122.8 \ (\text{s}), \ 123.5 \\ (\text{s}), \ 127.5 \ (\text{d}), \ 128.6 \ (\text{d}), \ 129.5 \ (\text{s}), \ 130.0 \ (\text{d}), \ 133.4 \ (\text{s}), \ 133.5 \ (\text{d}), \ 158.9 \\ (\text{s}), \ 162.2 \ (\text{s}), \ 164.7 \ (\text{s}). \ \text{Anal. Calcd for } \ C_{28}H_{24}N_{2}O_{5}: \ \text{C}, \ 71.78\%; \ \text{H}, \\ 5.16\%; \ \text{N}, \ 5.98\%. \ \text{Found: C}, \ 71.82\%; \ \text{H}, \ 5.18\%; \ \text{N}, \ 5.85\%. \end{array}$

4.5.4. 5-(Dimethylcarbamoyl)-2-(3-methoxyphenyl)-1H-pyrrol-3-yl benzoate (**8c**). White solid; R_f 0.6 (hexanes/ethyl acetate=1:5); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 3.02–3.49 (m, 6H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 6.79–6.86 (m, 2H), 7.17–7.68 (m, 6H), 8.18–8.25 (m, 2H), 9.83 (br s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 36.8 (q), 38.8 (q), 55.1 (q), 107.5 (d), 111.0 (d), 113.6 (d), 118.3 (d), 121.5 (s), 123.2 (s), 128.6 (d), 129.4 (s), 129.8 (d), 130.1 (d), 131.2 (s), 133.6 (d), 134.3 (s), 159.9 (s), 162.0 (s), 164.6 (s). Anal. Calcd for C₂₈H₂₄N₂O₅: C, 71.78%; H, 5.16%; N, 5.98%. Found: C, 71.77%; H, 5.21%; N, 5.92%.

4.5.5. 5-(Dimethylcarbamoyl)-2-(2-methoxyphenyl)-1H-pyrrol-3-yl benzoate (**8d**). White solid; R_f 0.65 (hexanes/ethyl acetate=1:5); mp 143–144 °C (recryst from hexanes/ethyl acetate=1:5); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 3.26 (br s, 6H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 6.73–7.87 (m, 9H), 8.17–8.25 (m, 1H), 10.43 (br s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 37.6 (q), 55.6 (q), 106.5 (d), 111.4 (d), 118.5 (s), 120.26 (s), 120.34 (s), 121.0 (d), 128.1 (d), 128.3 (d), 128.6 (d), 129.5 (s), 130.0 (d), 133.5 (d), 134.5 (s), 155.6 (s), 161.9 (s), 164.6 (s). Anal. Calcd for C₂₈H₂₄N₂O₅: C, 71.78%; H, 5.16%; N, 5.98%. Found: C, 71.92%; H, 5.16%; N, 5.80%.

4.5.6. 5-(Dimethylcarbamoyl)-2-(4-fluorophenyl)-1H-pyrrol-3-yl benzoate (**8e**). Yellow solid; R_f 0.5 (hexanes/ethyl acetate=1:5); mp 194–195 °C (recryst from hexanes/ethyl acetate=1:2); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 3.12 (br s, 3H), 3.34 (br s, 3H), 6.78–6.84 (m, 1H), 7.02–7.12 (m, 2H), 7.48–7.71 (m, 5H), 8.14–8.24 (m, 2H), 10.44 (br s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 37.1 (q), 39.0 (q), 107.4 (d), 115.5 (d, $J_{CCF}=22.1$ Hz), 121.5 (s), 123.0 (s), 126.4 (s, $J_{CCCF}=2.9$ Hz), 128.1 (d, $J_{CCCF}=247.8$ Hz), 162.3 (s), 130.0 (d), 133.5 (d), 133.8 (s), 161.9 (s, $J_{CF}=247.8$ Hz), 162.3 (s), 164.6 (s). Anal. Calcd for C₂₇H₂₁FN₂O₄: C, 71.04%; H, 4.64%; N, 6.14%. Found: C, 71.18%; H, 4.71%; N, 6.12%.

4.5.7. 5-(Dimethylcarbamoyl)-2-(4-cyanophenyl)-1H-pyrrol-3-yl benzoate (**8f**). White solid; R_f 0.55 (hexanes/ethyl acetate=1:5); mp 233–234 °C (recryst from hexanes/ethyl acetate=1:5); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 3.11 (br s, 3H), 3.38 (br s, 3H), 6.82–6.85 (m, 1H), 7.51–7.87 (m, 7H), 8.16–8.29 (m, 2H), 11.08 (br s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 36.9 (q), 39.1 (q), 107.7 (d), 110.0 (s), 118.8 (s), 121.7 (s), 123.2 (s), 126.3 (d), 128.7 (d), 129.0 (s), 130.0 (d), 132.3 (d), 133.8 (d), 134.5 (s), 135.6 (s), 162.2 (s), 164.3 (s). Anal. Calcd for C₂₈H₂₁N₃O₄: C, 72.56%; H, 4.57%; N, 9.07%. Found: C, 72.48%; H, 4.49%; N, 8.97%.

4.5.8. 5-(Dimethylcarbamoyl)-2-(naphthalen-1-yl)-1H-pyrrol-3-yl benzoate (**8**g). White solid; R_f 0.65 (hexanes/ethyl acetate=1:5); mp 236–238 °C (recryst from ethyl acetate); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.70–3.60 (m, 6H), 5.00–5.25 (m, 0.3H), 6.33–6.37 (m, 0.3H), 6.88–6.91 (m, 0.7H), 7.24–8.07 (m, 11.7H), 9.47–9.62 (m, 0.3H), 10.00–10.21 (m, 0.7H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 36.7 (q), 38.5 (q), 106.7 (d), 121.9 (s), 122.8 (s), 125.2 (d), 125.9 (d), 126.0 (d), 126.5 (d), 127.8 (s), 128.0 (d), 128.2 (d), 128.3 (d), 128.7 (d), 129.9 (d), 131.5 (s), 133.2 (d), 133.7 (s), 134.7 (s), 162.0 (s), 164.6 (s). Anal. Calcd for C₃₁H₂₄N₂O₄: C, 76.21%; H, 4.95%; N, 5.73%. Found: C, 76.20%; H, 4.92%; N, 5.68%.

4.5.9. 5-(Dimethylcarbamoyl)-2-(naphthalen-2-yl)-1H-pyrrol-3-yl benzoate (**8h**). White solid; R_f 0.6 (hexanes/ethyl acetate=1:5); mp 183–185 °C (recryst from hexanes/ethyl acetate=1:5); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 3.15 (br s, 3H), 3.35 (br s, 3H), 6.87–6.93 (m, 1H), 7.40–7.91 (m, 9H), 8.08–8.14 (m, 1H), 8.21–8.29 (m, 2H), 10.16 (br s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 36.4 (q), 38.8 (q), 107.5 (d), 121.8 (s), 123.7 (s), 124.3 (d), 125.1 (d), 125.9 (d), 126.2 (d), 127.52 (d), 127.54

(s), 127.9 (d), 128.1 (d), 128.6 (d), 129.4 (s), 130.0 (d), 132.3 (s), 133.3 (s), 133.5 (d), 134.5 (s), 162.3 (s), 164.5 (s). Anal. Calcd for $C_{31}H_{24}N_2O_4$: C, 76.21%; H, 4.95%; N, 5.73%. Found: C, 76.32%; H, 5.02%; N, 5.63%.

4.6. X-ray crystallographic analysis

All measurements were made on a Rigaku RAXIS imaging plate area detector with graphite monochromated Mo Kα radiation. The structure was solved by direct methods with SIR-97 and refined with SHELXL-97. The non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. Hydrogen atoms were refined isotropically. All calculations were performed with the YADOKARI-XG software package. Crystal data are as follows: CCDC 862781–862792 contain the supplementary crystallographic data. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Center via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif.

4.6.1. Crystal data for **4a** (CCDC 862784). C₂₀H₂₂N₂O₃, FW=338.40, mp 194–196 °C, orthorhombic, P2₁2₁2₁ (no. 19), colorless block, a=6.2349(12) Å, b=9.3862(16) Å, c=29.881(5) Å, V=1748.7(5) Å³, T=298 K, Z=4, D_{calcd} =1.285 g/cm³, μ =0.87 cm⁻¹, GOF=0.923.

4.6.2. Crystal data for **4e** (CCDC 862785). C₂₀H₂₁FN₂O₃, FW=356.39, mp 259–260 °C, orthorhombic, *P*2₁2₁2₁ (no. 19), colorless block, *a*=6.2101(7) Å, *b*=9.4330(13) Å, *c*=29.665(3) Å, *V*=1737.8(4) Å³, *T*=298 K, *Z*=4, *D*_{calcd}=1.362 g/cm³, μ =0.99 cm⁻¹, GOF=1.015.

4.6.3. Crystal data for **4g** (CCDC 862786). C₂₄H₂₄N₂O₃, FW=388.45, mp 269–271 °C, orthorhombic, P2₁2₁2₁ (no. 19), colorless block, a=9.4429(13) Å, b=9.5870(14) Å, c=22.697(3) Å, V=2054.7(5) Å³, T=296 K, Z=4, $D_{calcd}=1.256$ g/cm³, $\mu=0.83$ cm⁻¹, GOF=0.946.

4.6.4. Crystal data for **5a** (CCDC 862787). C₂₀H₂₂N₂O₃, FW=338.40, mp 206–207 °C, orthorhombic, *P*2₁2₁2₁ (no. 19), colorless block, *a*=5.8642(10) Å, *b*=9.5412(17) Å, *c*=31.703(5) Å, *V*=1773.8(5) Å³, *T*=298 K, *Z*=4, *D*_{calcd}=1.267 g/cm³, μ =0.86 cm⁻¹, GOF=1.020.

4.6.5. Crystal data for **5b** (CCDC 862788). C₂₁H₂₄N₂O₄, FW=368.42, mp 201–202 °C, orthorhombic, P2₁2₁2₁ (no. 19), colorless block, a=16.140 Å, b=6.064 Å, c=19.062 Å, V=1865.7 Å³, T=298 K, Z=4, $D_{calcd}=1.312$ g/cm³, $\mu=0.91$ cm⁻¹, GOF=1.043.

4.6.6. Crystal data for **6c** (CCDC 862789). C₂₁H₂₄N₂O₄, FW=368.42, mp 197–198 °C, orthorhombic, P2₁2₁2₁ (no. 19), colorless block, a=9.681(3) Å, b=13.873(6) Å, c=14.908(7) Å, V=2002.3(15) Å³, T=298 K, Z=4, D_{calcd}=1.222 g/cm³, μ =0.85 cm⁻¹, GOF=1.017.

4.6.7. Crystal data for **6h** (CCDC 862790). C₂₄H₂₄N₂O₃, FW=388.45, mp >300 °C, orthorhombic, $P_{21}2_{12}2_1$ (no. 19), colorless block, a=14.1824(9) Å, b=14.2274(11) Å, c=10.1258(7) Å, V=2043.2(2) Å³, T=298 K, Z=4, $D_{calcd}=1.263$ g/cm³, $\mu=0.84$ cm⁻¹, GOF=1.015.

4.6.8. Crystal data for **7a** (CCDC 862791). C₁₃H₁₄N₂O₂, FW=230.26, mp 246–248 °C, orthorhombic, *Pbcn* (no. 60), colorless block, a=9.5243(7) Å, b=11.1522(7) Å, c=22.0081(13) Å, V=2337.6(3) Å³, T=298 K, Z=8, D_{calcd} =1.309 g/cm³, μ =0.90 cm⁻¹, GOF=1.053.

4.6.9. Crystal data for **8a** (CCDC 862792). C₂₀H₁₈N₂O₃, FW=334.36, mp 181–183 °C, triclinic, *P*-1 (no. 2), colorless block, *a*=8.880(9) Å, *b*=9.593(6) Å, *c*=10.110(7) Å, α =108.13(8), β =92.52(8), γ =96.80(7), *V*=809.7(11) Å³, *T*=298 K, *Z*=2, *D*_{calcd}=1.371 g/cm³, μ =0.93 cm⁻¹, GOF=1.068.

4.6.10. Crystal data for **12a** (CCDC 862781). $C_{21}H_{24}N_2O_3$, FW=352.42, mp 179–181 °C, orthorhombic, $P_{21}2_12_1$ (no. 19),

colorless block, a=7.9183(4) Å, b=12.2737(8) Å, c=20.0040(10) Å, V=1944.13(19) Å³, T=298 K, Z=4, $D_{calcd}=1.204$ g/cm³, $\mu=0.81$ cm⁻¹, GOF=1.019.

4.6.11. Crystal data for **13a** (CCDC 862782). C₂₁H₂₄N₂O₃, FW=352.42, mp 215–216 °C, monoclinic, P2₁ (no. 4), colorless block, *a*=19.323(5) Å, *b*=7.8956(14) Å, *c*=19.226(5) Å, *β*=18.399(3), V=925.8(4) Å³, T=298 K, Z=4, D_{calcd}=1.264 g/cm³, μ =0.85 cm⁻¹, GOF=1.044.

4.6.12. *Crystal data for* **14** (*CCDC* 862783). C₂₇H₂₇NO₄, FW=429.50, mp 114–115 °C, monoclinic, P2₁ (no. 4), colorless block,

a=8.73(3) Å, *b*=8.26(3) Å, *c*=16.35(6) Å, β =101.8(3), *V*=1155(7) Å³, *T*=298 K, *Z*=2, *D*_{calcd}=1.235 g/cm³, μ =0.83 cm⁻¹, GOF=1.051.

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