Synthesis and Second-Order Nonlinearities of Chiral Prolinol-Substituted Chromophores

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A new series of thiophene- and furan-containing chromophores with a chiral prolinol donor and a sulfone acceptor has been synthesized. The UV-vis absorptions, second-order nonlinear optical properties, and X-ray crystal structures are described.

Keywords: Nonlinear optical materials; Chiral; Heterocyclic compounds.

INTRODUCTION

The potential applications of nonlinear optical (NLO) materials in telecommunications, data storage, and optical information processing have created a need for new materials with very large second-order susceptibilities.¹ We² and others³ have previously demonstrated that heterocyclic chromophores exhibit higher hyperpolarizabilities $(\mu\beta)$ than their benzene analogues. However, it is imperative that nonlinear molecules reside in a noncentrosymmetric environment in order to show this second-order susceptibility. Incorporation of chiral substituent, for example, in N-(4-nitrophenyl)-(L)prolinol (NPP)^{4a} and 2-(*N*-prolinol)-5-nitropyridine (PNP)^{4b} has resulted in a large SHG powder efficiency. Here we report the synthesis of a series of chiral thiophene- and furan-containing chromophores 7-10, 16 and 17 with a prolinol donor and a sulfone acceptor attached to a conjugated system through a π -bridge of C=N. Although the sulforyl group is not as strong an electron-withdrawing group as the nitro, dior tri-cyanoethenyl group, it is synthetically more flexible and has greater transparency in the visible spectrum.⁵

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The synthesis of imino dyes **7-10** is shown in Scheme I. Alkylation of 4-nitrobenzenethiol **1** gave sulfides **2** which were oxidized by MCPBA to the sulfones **3**. Reduction with stannous chloride gave the aniline derivatives **4**. Treatment of 5-bromo-2-thiophenecarbaldehyde **5a** or its furan analogue **5b** with (*S*)-2-pyrrolidinemethanol (prolinol) gave the aldehydes **6**. The imino dyes **7-10** were then prepared in good yields by the condensation of aldehydes **6** with 4-(methylsulfonyl)aniline, 4-(phenylsulfonyl)aniline, 6a **4a**^{6b} or **4b**, 6c respectively.

The synthesis of imino dyes 16 and 17 is shown in Scheme II. Reaction of 4-bromo-nitrobenzene 11 with (*S*)-prolinol gave the substitution product 12.^{4a} Reduction with stannous chloride^{6c} gave the amine 13,^{6d} which was then condensed with the aldehydes² 14 or 15 to give the imines 16 and 17, respectively, in good yields.

The UV-vis absorptions, molecular hyperpolarizabilities ($\mu\beta$), second-harmonic generation (SHG) intensities, and decomposition temperatures (T_d) of imino dyes **7-10**, **16** and **17** are shown in Table 1. To assess the effect of the chiral prolinol group on the NLO properties of these chromophores, the achiral amino compounds **18-21**² are also included in Table 1 for comparison. The UV-vis absorptions were measured in 1,4-dioxane. The rather low λ_{max} values (407-429 nm) of imines **7-10**, **16** and **17** indicate their good transparency in the UV-vis spectrum.

The molecular hyperpolarizabilities ($\mu\beta$) of chromophores **7a-10a**, **18** and **19** were measured in dioxane using the electric-field-induced second harmonic generation (EFISH)⁷ technique at 1064 nm, and the $\mu\beta$ values of the other chromophores were estimated by solvatochromism.⁸ The zero-

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Reagents and conditions: i, Na, Br(CH₂)_nOH, EtOH, reflux, 12 h; ii, MCPBA, CH₂Cl₂, 0 °C, 2 h; iii, SnCl₂·2H₂O, EtOH, reflux, 12 h; iv, (*S*)-prolinol, 48% HBr, sealed-tube, 130 °C, 12 h; v, 4-(methylsulfonyl)aniline, 4-(phenylsulfonyl)aniline, **4a** or **4b**, H₂SO₄ (2 M), EtOH, rt, 2 h.

Scheme II

Scheme I



Reagents and conditions: i, (S)-prolinol, NEt₃, toluene, reflux, 24 h; ii, SnCl₂·2H₂O, toluene, reflux, 12 h; iii, **14** or **15**, H₂SO₄ (2 M), EtOH, rt, 2 h.

frequency hyperpolarizability ($\mu\beta_0$) was calculated using a two-level model.⁹ The Kurtz powder method¹⁰ was used to determine the average SHG intensity at 1064 nm using urea as the reference.

By comparing the $\mu\beta$ values of **7a** and **8a**, it can be seen that the phenylsulfonyl group has a larger effect than the methylsulfonyl group. Consistent with the previous observations,² the $\mu\beta$ values of the thiophene compounds **7a-10a** are larger than those of the furan analogues **7b-10b**. Incorporation of a terminal hydroxyl group in the sulfone moiety also significantly increases the $\mu\beta$ values (for example, **9a** > **10a** > **7a**).

Comparison of the SHG intensities of **7a** and **8a** with those of the achiral amino-substituted imines **18-21** is quite revealing. It can be seen that the chiral prolinol group has a very beneficial effect. However, the presence of the prolinol group itself in chromophores **7-10**, **16** and **17** does not necessarily lead to high SHG intensities for these compounds. It may not be totally coincident that the furan compounds **7b-10b** all exhibit lower SHG values than the thiophene analogues **7a-10a**.

In order to understand the reason why the SHG intensity of **8a** is 10 times higher than that of **7a**, the single crystal X-ray structures of **7a** and **8a** were obtained (Fig. 1). Although both of these compounds have a noncentrosymmetric alignment with a $P2_1$ space group, their crystal packings are quite different. The unit cell of crystal **8a** contains two molecules of chromophores, which are almost parallel to each other so that their dipole moments add up. On the other hand, the unit cell of crystal **7a** contains four molecules of chromophores (together with a molecule of dichloromethane) which are arranged almost antiparallel to one another.

The melting points T_m of these imino dyes were measured by differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) at a heating rate of 20 °C min⁻¹. The phenylsulfones have higher T_m than the methylsulfones, and increasing the methylene unit in the sulfonyl group decreases the T_m . The decomposition temperatures (T_d) of these chromophores are quite high (in most cases greater than 270 °C) as determined by thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) at a heating rate of 10 °C min⁻¹. It is interesting to note that imines **7-10** have considerably higher T_d than imines **16-17**.

In summary, we have successfully synthesized a new

Compound	$\frac{\lambda_{max}}{nm}^{a}$ /	λ_{cutoff} / nm	T _m ∕ °C	T _d ∕ °C	$\frac{\mu\beta_{1064}}{10^{-48}}esu$	$\frac{\mu\beta_0}{10^{-48}esu}$	SHG intensity ^d	space group
7a	413	491	116	300	720 ^b	243	1.3	$P2_1$
7b	407	488	107	301	285 [°]	174	0.07	-
8a	417	519	177	318	1132 ^b	370	13	$P2_1$
8b	416	524	124	269	376 [°]	123	-	-
9a	416	491	115	287	1300 ^b	430	0.3	-
9b	408	487	106	275	325 ^c	107	0.02	-
10a	416	491	86	317	947 ^b	312	0.5	-
10b	408	488	78	308	90 ^c	31	0.07	-
16a	428	516	114	211	582 ^c	172	1.3	-
16b	412	491	105	196	265 ^c	90	0	-
17a	429	532	154	226	1580°	462	0.5	-
17b	419	516	146	240	544 ^c	174	0.5	-
18	412	467	98	320	447 ^b	152	0.7	-
19	420	476	140	351	488 ^b	156	1.5×10^{-2}	<i>P</i> -1
20	412	483	151	303	540 ^c	183	0.08	<i>P</i> -1
21	416	495	158	318	1513 ^c	495	0.8	-

Table 1. UV-vis, Melting Point, Decomposition Temperature, μβ Values, μβ₀ Values, Powder SHG Intensity and Space Group for Imino Dyes

^a Measured in dioxane.

^b Measured by EFISH with a fundamental wavelength of 1064 nm.

^c Estimated by solvatochromic method for a fundamental wavelength of 1064 nm.

^d $I(2\omega)_{\text{sample}}/I(2\omega)_{\text{urea}}$.



series of thiophene- and furan-containing l chromophores with a chira prolinol donor and a sulfone acceptor. These compounds have good transparency in the UV-vis spectrum, high $\mu\beta$ values and good thermal stability, and should be quite useful for NLO applications. The chiral prolinol group not only can help to induce a noncentrosymmetric alignment, but the pendant hydroxyl group on the prolinol substituent can also be further attached to a polymer chain or converted to other functional groups.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Infrared spectra were recorded with a FT-IR spectrometer Analect RFX-65. Specific rotations were measured for samples in CH₂Cl₂ with a polarimeter Horiba SPEA-300. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were measured for samples in CDCl₃ with a FT-NMR spectrometer Bruker AC-300 at 300 and 75 MHz, respectively, with tetramethylsilane as the internal standard. High resolution mass spectra were measured with a mass spectrometer JEOL TMS-HX 110. UV-vis absorption spectra were recorded using a Shimadzu UV-160PC spectrophotometer. Elemental analyses were measured by the Perkin-Elmer 2400 (II). Melting points were measured by differential scanning calorimetry (Perkin-Elmer DSC7) except for compounds **6a** and **6b** whose melting points were



Fig. 1. (a) Packing drawing of compound 7a (space group P2₁); (b) Packing drawing of compound 8a (space group P2₁).

measured with an apparatus Mel-Temp. The silica gel used for flash column chromatography was made by Merck (60 H). All reagents were of reagent grade and were purified prior to use.¹¹

5-[(*S*)-(-)-**2-**(Hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidinyl]-**2-**thiophenecarbaldehyde (6a)

A mixture of 5-bromo-2-thiophenecarbaldehyde 5a (382 mg, 2.0 mmol), (S)-(-)-pyrrolidinemethanol (606 mg, 6.0 mmol), and 48% aq. HBr solution (337 mg, 2.0 mmol) was heated in a sealed tube at 110 °C for 9 h. The mixture was quenched with excess 10% sodium hydroxide solution, and the resulting oil was extracted with methylene chloride (20 $mL \times 3$). The organic layer was dried with magnesium sulfate, and the solvent was removed in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (ethyl acetate/hexane 1:1) to give 6a (296 mg, 70%): mp 108-109 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.99-2.17 (m, 4H), 3.26 (q, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 3.47 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 3.59 (m, 1H), 3.77 (m, 2H), 3.79 (m, 1H), 5.96 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 1H), 9.29 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 23.87, 28.67, 51.96, 61.87, 64.21, 104.09, 125.65, 140.85, 165.12, 179.57; IR (film) 3422, 2926, 2874, 1621, 1530, 1491, 1403, 1369, 1271, 1058, 978, 927, 661 cm⁻¹; HRMS m/z calcd for C₁₀H₁₃NO₂S (M⁺): 211.0667, found 211.0665. Anal. Calcd for C₁₀H₁₃NO₂S: C, 56.85; H, 6.20; N, 6.63. Found: C, 56.83; H, 6.24; N, 6.60%. $[\alpha]_{D}^{25} = -142 (c \ 1.0, CH_2Cl_2).$

5-[(*S*)-(-)-**2**-(Hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidinyl]-**2**-furaldehyde (**6**b)

A mixture of 5-bromo-2-furancarbaldehyde 5b (345 mg, 2.0 mmol) and (S)-(-)-pyrrolidinemethanol (6.0 mmol) was heated in a sealed tube at 110 °C for 9 h. The mixture was quenched with excess 10% sodium hydroxide solution, and the resulting oil was extracted with methylene chloride (20 $mL \times 3$). The organic layer was dried with magnesium sulfate, and the solvent was removed in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (ethyl acetate/hexane 1:1) to give 6b (254 mg, 65%): mp 99-100 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.99-2.01 (m, 4H), 3.36 (q, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 3.52-3.64 (m, 4H), 4.01 (m, 1H), 5.27 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d, J = 4.5 Hz, 1H), 8.78 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 23.87, 28.67, 51.96, 61.87, 64.21, 102.09, 132.65, 144.85, 163.11, 170.04; IR (film) 3437, 2938, 2880, 1641, 1579, 1411, 1281, 1039, 910, 764 cm⁻¹; HRMS *m/z* calcd for C₁₀H₁₃NO₃ (M⁺): 195.0895, found 195.0895. Anal. Calcd for C₁₀H₁₃NO₃: C, 61.53; H, 6.71; N, 7.18. Found: C, 61.47; H, 6.79; N, 7.13%. $[\alpha]_{D}^{25} = -134$ (*c* 1.0, CH₂Cl₂).

General Procedure for Imine Formation

A solution of compound **6a** or **6b** (0.47 mmol), aniline derivative (0.52 mmol) and H_2SO_4 (aq) (0.02 mL, 2 M, 0.047 mmol) in EtOH (5 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 2 h, and an aqueous solution of Na₂CO₃ was then added. The solution was evaporated under vacuum and the residue was then extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL × 3). The organic layer was dried with magnesium sulfate, and the solvent was removed. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (ethyl acetate/hexane 1:1) to give imines **7-10**. Imines **16** and **17** were similarly prepared.

(*S*)-(-)-5-[(2-Hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidinyl]-2-thiophenecarbaldehyde-4-(methylsulfonyl)phenylimine (7a)

(693 mg, 95%): mp 116 °C. ¹H NMR (Acetone- D_6) δ 2.09-2.18 (m, 4H), 3.09 (s, 3H), 3.31 (m, 1H), 3.52-3.79 (m, 4H), 4.04 (br, 1H), 6.01 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d, J = 6.7Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 8.50 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (Acetone- D_6) δ 23.66, 28.43. 43.75, 51.59, 61.33, 64.50, 102.64, 121.36, 124.62, 128.53, 136.36, 137.51, 154.30, 157.10,161.58; IR (film) 3468, 3363, 2914, 1602, 1566, 1490, 1285, 1136, 1051, 956, 833, 760 cm⁻¹; HRMS *m/z* calcd for C₁₇H₂₀N₂O₃S₂ (M⁺): 364.0915, found 364.0909. [α]_D²⁵ = -105 (*c* 1.0, CH₂Cl₂).

(S)-(-)-5-[(2-Hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidinyl]-2-furaldehyde-4-(methylsulfonyl)phenylimine (7b)

(634 mg, 91%): mp 107 °C. ¹H NMR (Acetone- D_6) δ 2.04-2.13 (m, 4H), 3.09 (s, 3H), 3.31 (m, 1H), 3.41-3.57 (m, 4H), 3.94 (m, 1H), 5.36 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 7.86 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 8.05 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (Acetone- D_6) δ 24.40, 44.61, 49.49, 62.21, 63.41, 86.67, 122.12, 129.43, 137.03, 143.95, 147.17, 158.68, 162.23; IR (film) 3411, 2921, 1625, 1533, 1478, 1302, 1268, 1143, 1023, 949, 839, 759 cm⁻¹; HRMS *m/z* calcd for C₁₇H₂₀N₂O₄S (M⁺): 348.1144, found 348.1132. [α]_D²⁵ = -72 (*c* 1.0, CH₂Cl₂).

(S)-(-)-5-[(2-Hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidinyl]-2-thiophenecarbaldehyde-4-(phenylsulfonyl)phenylimine (8a)

(810 mg, 95%): mp 177 °C. ¹H NMR (Acetone- D_6) δ 2.04-2.17 (m, 4H), 3.28 (m, 1H), 3.51-3.69 (m, 4H), 3.99 (m, 1H), 6.00 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (m, 3H), 7.90 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 7.99 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 8.45 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (Acetone- D_6) δ 24.37, 52.33, 62.01, 65.25, 98.68, 103.53, 122.34, 125.32, 128.05, 129.68, 130.15, 133.74, 137.43, 138.38, 143.66, 155.06, 157.84, 162.49; IR (film) 3522, 2870, 1605, 1566, 1494, 1454, 1274, 1149, 1053, 839, 757 cm⁻¹; HRMS *m/z* calcd for $C_{22}H_{22}N_2O_3S_2$ (M⁺): 426.1072, found 426.1074. Anal. Calcd for $C_{22}H_{22}N_2O_3S_2$: C, 61.95; H, 5.20; N, 6.57. Found: C, 61.59; H, 5.17; N, 6.77. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -105$ (*c* 1.0, CH₂Cl₂).

(S)-(-)-5-[(2-Hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidinyl]-2-furaldehyde-4-(phenylsulfonyl)phenylimine (8b)

(763 mg, 93%): mp 124 °C. ¹H NMR (Acetone- D_6) δ 2.03-2.10 (m, 4H), 3.40 (m, 1H), 3.52-3.66 (m, 4H), 3.99 (m, 1H), 5.34 (d, J = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d, J = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.57-7.65 (m, 3H), 7.89 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 8.00 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (Acetone- D_6) δ 23.50, 28.05, 48.58, 61.32, 62.55, 85.97, 121.52, 127.30, 128.95, 129.43, 133.00, 136.45, 142.87, 143.01, 146.29, 157.73, 161.40; IR (film) 3300, 3089, 1679, 1617, 1589, 1446, 1298, 1271, 1152, 1105, 1024, 850, 731 cm⁻¹; HRMS *m/z* calcd for C₂₂H₂₂N₂O₄S (M⁺): 410.1300, found 410.1296. [α]_D²⁵ = -73 (*c* 1.0, CH₂Cl₂).

(S)-(-)-5-[(2-Hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidinyl]-2-thiophenecarbaldehyde-4-[(2-hydroxyethyl)sulfonyl]phenylimine (9a)

(726 mg, 92%): mp 115 °C. ¹H NMR (Acetone- D_6) δ 2.14-2.17 (m, 4H), 3.29-4.09 (m, 11H), 6.00 (d, J = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d, J = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 8.50 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (Acetone- D_6) δ 23.57, 28.33, 51.51, 55.83, 58.29, 61.23, 64.40, 102.62, 121.22, 124.49, 129.18, 135.03, 137.54, 154.22, 157.09, 161.57; IR (film) 3436, 3248, 2923, 1602, 1567, 1446, 1280, 1136, 1033, 847, 736 cm⁻¹; HRMS *m/z* calcd for C₁₈H₂₂N₂O₄S₂ (M⁺): 394.1021, found 394.1034. [α]_D²⁵ = -105 (*c* 1.0, CH₂Cl₂).

(S)-(-)-5-[(2-Hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidinyl]-2-furaldehyde-4-[(2-hydroxyethyl)sulfonyl]phenylimine (9b)

(643 mg, 86%): mp 106 °C. ¹H NMR (Acetone- D_6) δ 2.04-2.17 (4m), 3.37-3.89 (m, 11H), 5.36 (d, J = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, J = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 8.05 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (Acetone- D_6) δ 23.44, 28.07, 48.59, 55.87, 58.37, 61.37, 62.63, 85.92, 121.20, 129.27, 134.95, 143.01, 146.32, 157.81, 161.43; IR (film) 3275, 2920, 1627, 1534, 1477, 1400, 1267, 1134,1025, 872, 735 cm⁻¹; HRMS *m/z* calcd for C₁₈H₂₂N₂O₅S (M⁺): 378.1249, found 378.1260. [α]²⁵_D = -72 (*c* 1.0, CH₂Cl₂).

(S)-(-)-5-[(2-Hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidinyl]-2-thiophenecarbaldehyde-4-[(6-hydroxyhexyl)sulfonyl]phenylimine (10a)

(793 mg, 88%): mp 86 °C. ¹H NMR (Acetone- D_6) δ 1.38-1.46 (m, 6H), 1.66 (m, 2H), 2.04-2.17 (m, 4H), 3.14-

3.85 (m, 10H), 6.00 (d, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 8.51 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (Acetone- D_6) δ 22.83, 23.64, 25.22, 27.81, 32.44, 51.57, 55.67, 59.64, 61.28, 61.32, 64.47, 102.63, 121.34, 124.61, 129.24, 134.67, 137.54, 154.31, 157.12, 161.58; IR (film) 3421, 2921, 1626, 1523, 1478, 1399, 1267, 1141, 1023, 872, 748 cm⁻¹; HRMS m/z calcd for C₂₂H₃₀N₂O₄S₂ (M⁺): 450.1647, found 450.1639. [α]_D²⁵ = -87 (c 1.0, CH₂Cl₂).

(S)-(-)-5-[(2-Hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidinyl]-2-thiophenecarbaldehyde-4-[(6-hydroxyhexyl)sulfonyl]phenylimine (10b)

(712 mg, 82%): mp 78 °C. ¹H NMR (Acetone- D_6) δ 1.32-1.50 (m, 6H), 1.44 (m, 2H), 2.04-2.15 (m, 4H), 3.13-4.00 (m, 10H), 5.35 (d, J = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, J = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.82 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 8.05 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (Acetone- D_6) δ 23.49, 24.19, 25.89, 28.48, 28.85, 33.10, 49.25, 56.38, 62.01, 62.04, 63.36, 86.58, 121.93, 129.91, 135.18, 143.67, 147.01, 158.39, 162.08;. IR (film) 3434, 2944, 1629, 1545, 1401, 1282, 1136, 1031, 916, 867 cm⁻¹; HRMS *m/z* calcd for C₂₂H₃₀N₂O₅S (M⁺): 434.1875, found 434.1842. [α]²⁵_D = -64 (*c* 1.0, CH₂Cl₂).

(S)-(-)-5-(Methylsulfonyl)-2-thiophenecarbaldehyde-4-[(2-hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidinyl]phenylimine (16a)

(685 mg, 94%): mp 114 °C. ¹H NMR (Acetone- D_6) δ 1.99-2.14 (m, 4H), 3.18 (m, 1H), 3.28 (s, 3H), 3.42 (m, 2H), 3.66 (m, 1H), 3.84 (m, 1H), 6.67 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 8.81 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (Acetone- D_6) δ 22.96, 28.11, 45.01, 48.47, 60.54, 61.72, 112.18, 123.17, 129.48, 133.45, 137.87, 143.23, 145.50, 147.74, 151.55; IR (film) 3543, 2929, 1610, 1559, 1508, 1290, 1130, 1039, 1010, 965, 820, 765 cm⁻¹; HRMS *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₇H₂₀N₂O₃S₂ (M⁺): 364.0915, found 364.0911. Anal. Calcd for C₁₇H₂₀N₂O₃S₂: C, 56.02; H, 5.53; N, 7.69. Found: C, 56.02; H, 5.67; N, 7.51. [α]²⁵_D = -134 (*c* 1.0, CH₂Cl₂).

(S)-(-)-5-(Methylsulfonyl)-2-furaldehyde-4-[(2-hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidinyl]phenylimine (16b)

(750 mg, 88%): mp 105 °C. ¹H NMR (Acetone- D_6) δ 1.99-2.16 (m, 4H), 3.14 (m, 1H), 3.29 (s, 4H), 3.46 (m, 2H), 3.65 (m, 1H), 3.86 (m, 1H), 6.70 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 7.09 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 8.53 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (Acetone- D_6) δ 22.75, 27.92, 42.64, 48.24, 60.44, 61.48, 112.05, 112.62, 118.10, 122.92, 138.05, 140.45, 147.66, 150.34, 156.82; IR (film) 3363, 1610, 1522, 1507, 1308, 1153, 1097, 1026, 817, 750 cm⁻¹; HRMS *m/z* calcd for C₁₇H₂₀N₂O₄S (M⁺): 348.1144, found 348.1140. $[\alpha]_{D}^{25} = -110 (c \ 1.0, CH_2Cl_2).$

(S)-(-)-5-(Phenylsulfonyl)-2-thiophenecarbaldehyde-4-[(2-hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidinyl]phenylimine (17a)

(679 mg, 90%): mp 154 °C. ¹H NMR (Acetone- D_6) δ 1.95-2.13 (m, 4H), 3.15 (m, 1H), 3.43 (m, 2H), 3.63 (m, 2H), 3.82 (m, 2H), 6.65 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.63-7.77 (m, 4H), 8.04 (d, J =7.9 Hz, 2H), 8.77 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (Acetone- D_6) δ 23.75, 28.90, 49.26, 61.35, 62.65, 112.97, 123.99, 125.32, 128.05, 130.39, 130.44, 134.42, 134.65, 138.61, 143.01, 144.58, 146.09, 148.56, 153.25; IR (film) 3375, 2937, 1603, 1571, 1495, 1461, 1345, 1282, 1200, 1140, 1052, 930, 839, 706 cm⁻¹; HRMS *m*/*z* calcd for C₂₂H₂₂N₂O₃S₂ (M⁺): 426.1072, found 426.1071. [α]_D²⁵ = -124 (*c* 1.0, CH₂Cl₂).

(S)-(-)-5-(Phenylsulfonyl)-2-furaldehyde-4-[(2-hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidinyl]phenylimine (17b)

(602 mg, 85%): mp 146 °C. ¹H NMR (Acetone- D_6) δ 1.95-2.13 (m, 4H), 3.15 (m, 1H), 3.43 (m, 2H), 3.63 (m, 1H), 3.83 (m, 2H), 6.65 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.07 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.62-7.80 (m, 3H), 8.03 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 8.46 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (Acetone- D_6) δ 23.40, 28.19, 28.19, 48.53, 61.93, 112.22, 112.80, 119.36, 123.16, 127.78, 129.77, 134.18, 138.43, 140.65, 147.91, 150.10, 157.84; IR (film) 3394, 2937, 1717, 1571, 1530, 1494, 1461, 1359, 1285, 1137, 1088, 860, 768 cm⁻¹; HRMS *m*/*z* calcd for C₂₂H₂₂N₂O₄S (M⁺): 410.1300, found 410.1292. [α]_D²⁵ = -103 (*c* 1.0, CH₂Cl₂).

Crystal Data for 7a

 $C_{35}H_{42}Cl_2N_4O_6S_4$, M = 813.88, monoclinic, space group $P2_1$, a = 8.350(3), b = 24.035(6), c = 10.075(3) Å, $\beta = 103.56(3)^\circ$, V = 1965.6(11) Å³, Z = 2, $D_c = 1.375$ g cm⁻³, F(000) = 852, $\mu = 4.1$ cm⁻¹, crystal size = $0.25 \times 0.20 \times 0.20$ mm. 4389 reflections measured, 2623 unique which were used in all calculations. $R_f = 0.039$, $R_w = 0.039$. CCDC 138449.

Crystal Data for 8a

 $C_{22}H_{22}N_2O_3S_2$, M = 426.54, monoclinic, space group $P2_1$, a = 6.1649(17), b = 7.816(3), c = 21.065(4) Å, $\beta = 93.492(19)^\circ$, V = 1013.1(5) Å³, Z = 2, $D_c = 1.398$ g cm⁻³, F(000) = 448, $\mu = 5.4$ cm⁻¹, crystal size = $0.50 \times 0.40 \times 0.05$ mm. 1927 reflections measured, 1684 unique which were used in all calculations. $R_f = 0.057$, $R_w = 0.050$. CCDC 138448.

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