

A Catalytic Asymmetric Synthesis of a Spirofused Azetidinone as a Cholesterol Absorption Inhibitor

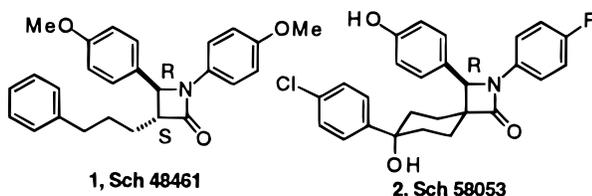
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Introduction

The recent discovery of potent cholesterol absorption inhibition by a class of azetidinone compounds exemplified by **1** and **2** has stimulated significant synthetic interest in developing asymmetric processes.^{1–3} To date, all approaches to these type of azetidinones have employed chiral auxiliary-based chemistry.^{1–4} While recycling of these auxiliaries is possible, the tedious processing and yield losses make it inefficient. Clearly, a catalytic process would be much more cost-effective. A multikilogram requirement of **2** prompted this effort, and we wish to report both a catalytic asymmetric synthesis of **2** and a novel selective hydrogenative debenzoylation.



Results and Discussion

The synthetic strategy was to construct the desired chiral center *via* an aldol condensation followed by amination and cyclization.^{3d} Catalysts employed for the Mukaiyama-type aldol condensation can be divided into two major categories: amino acid derivatives⁴ and artificially designed chiral ligands such as the binaphthol–titanium complexes.⁵ We have chosen the former type of catalyst because such ligands are readily available.

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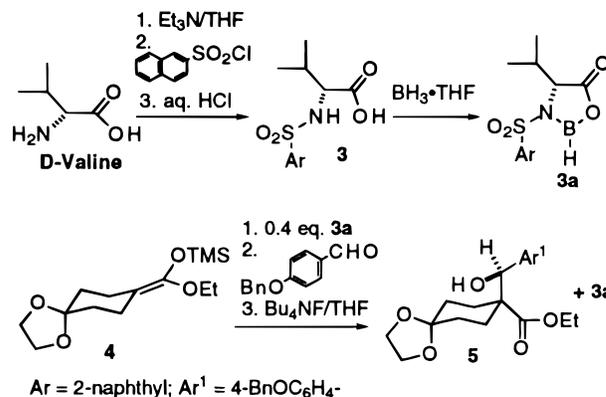
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Scheme 1



After initial screening, **3a**⁶ was found to give the best result and was selected for the studies. A one-step procedure was developed to afford **3** in 87% yield. Catalyst **3a** is formed *in situ* by reaction with $\text{BH}_3 \cdot \text{THF}$ (Scheme 1).

Our initial attempts at the chiral aldol reaction afforded a poor selectivity of 55:45 (*S*:*R*). After distillation of both the solvent and the silyl enol ether **4**, the *S*:*R* ratio improved to 78:22 when 0.4 equiv of **3a** was used. During process development, we identified two more critical factors that control the enantioselectivity: (1) the best ratio of $\text{BH}_3 \cdot \text{THF}$ to **3** is 0.9 and (2) slow addition of the aldehyde is necessary. Under the optimized conditions, the *S*:*R* ratio improved from 78:22 to 95.5:4.5.

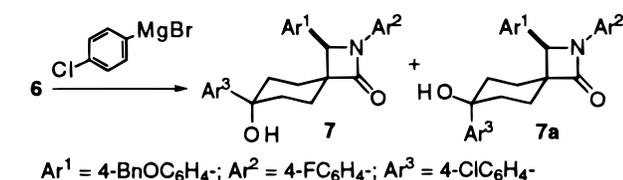
Although this reaction required 0.4 equiv of catalyst, 87% of it was readily recovered. Thus, concentration of the organic layer resulted in **5** as a crystalline solid, enhancing the ee from 90% to 94%. Acidification of the aqueous layer, followed by extraction with *t*-BuOMe, led to the recovery of **3** in 87% yield. There was no loss of enantioselectivity after nine consecutive recycles on a kilogram scale. After recovery, the net consumption of **3** in each run was only 5 mol %.

The addition of $4\text{-ClC}_6\text{H}_4\text{MgBr}$ took place from both faces of the carbonyl group in ketone **6**, producing a diastereomeric mixture of **7** and **7a** with a disappointing ratio of 83:17. Moreover, there were a lot of impurities in the reaction mixture. We suspected that the complex reaction was the result of enolization which could be minimized by reverse addition. Indeed, the reaction proceeded to >98% completion when the ketone **6** was added dropwise to 1.5 equiv of the Grignard reagent. Further studies indicated that the higher the reaction temperature the better the diastereoselectivity. The best result was obtained when the reaction was carried out in toluene at 80 °C as shown in Table 1.

Pd/C-catalyzed debenzoylation of compound **7** generated an unacceptable 4.7% (HPLC area normalization) of the deschloro impurity. Initially, we circumvented this problem by exchanging the benzyl group for TBDMS prior to the Grignard addition and learned that 0.6% of the deschloro impurity arose from the Grignard reagent. We thought that the dechlorination could have been taking place *via* a palladium oxidative insertion into the C–Cl bond followed by a hydrogenative reduction and speculated that addition of a Lewis acid might slow down the insertion. To our delight, the dechlorination pathway

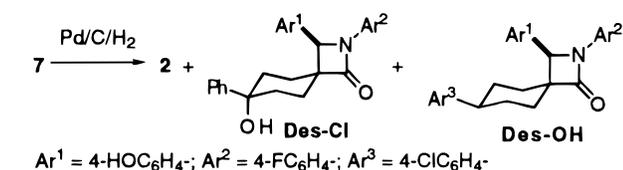
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Table 1



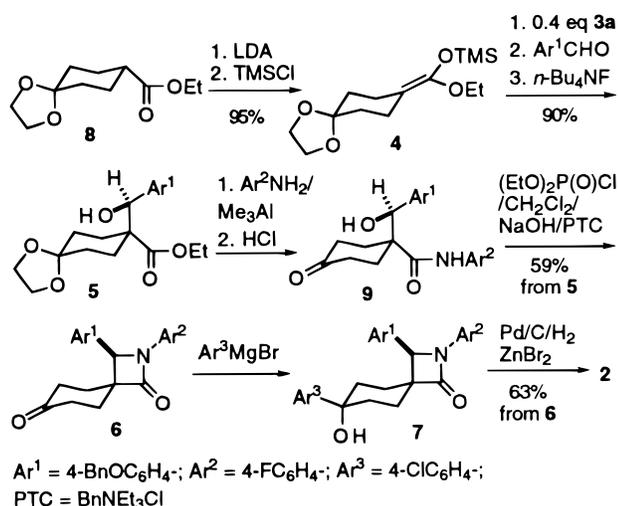
entry	solvent	temp (°C)	7:7a
1	Et ₂ O/THF	-20	83:17
2	<i>t</i> -BuOMe/toluene	50	93:7
3	<i>t</i> -BuOMe/toluene	80	94:6

Table 2



entry	ZnBr ₂	HOAc	Des-Cl, %	Des-OH, %
1	0	0	4.7	2.6
2	0	2 drops	7.1	3.3
3	0.6 equiv	0	0.6	2.0

Scheme 2



is completely blocked when ZnBr₂ is used. For comparison, organic acids such as HOAc do not prevent the dechlorination as shown in entry 2 of Table 2. In addition, ZnBr₂ does not increase the des-OH impurity. To the best of our knowledge, this is a novel selective debenzoylation.⁷

With the development delineated above, we were able to complete the catalytic enantio- and diastereoselective synthesis of **2** as shown in Scheme 2. Thus, enolization of ester **8** with LDA, followed by trapping with TMSCl, gave silyl enol ether **4** in 94% yield. A catalytic chiral aldol reaction followed by *n*-Bu₄NF deprotection afforded the hydroxy ester **5** in 95% ee. Amination of **5** was achieved in high yield with 4-FC₆H₄NH₂ by using Me₃Al.⁸ Conversion of the hydroxy function into a leaving group with (EtO)₂P(O)Cl,³ followed by NaOH-promoted cycliza-

tion in the presence of a catalytic amount of BnNEt₃Cl, generated the β-lactam ring in 59% overall yield. Addition of 4-ClC₆H₄MgBr to ketone **6** in toluene followed by the novel selective debenzoylation produced **2** in 99.5% chemical purity and 99.5% ee. This process was scaled up smoothly and produced 1.5 kg of **2**.

In summary, we have invented a catalytic enantio- and diastereoselective synthesis of **2** which has proven robust enough for large scale use. We have also discovered a novel selective debenzoylation mediated by ZnBr₂.

Experimental Section

All reactions were carried out under nitrogen. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra (300 or 400 MHz) were recorded in CDCl₃ and referred to TMS unless otherwise noted. All starting materials were purchased commercially, and 4-BnOC₆H₄CHO was recrystallized from toluene.

8-Carboethoxy-1,3-dioxaspiro[1.4]decane (8). A mixture of 307.5 g (1.968 mol) of ethyl 4-oxocyclohexanecarboxylate, 131.7 mL (2.362 mol) of ethylene glycol, and 3.74 g (19.68 mmol) of 4-MeC₆H₄SO₃H in a 2-L flask was heated at reflux. Water produced was removed *via* azeotropic distillation. When the reaction slowed, 75 mL of toluene was added and the distillation was continued for about 4 h. The cooled reaction mixture was added slowly to 450 mL of ice cold saturated NaHCO₃ solution and extracted three times with 300 mL of EtOAc. The combined extract was washed with brine, dried with MgSO₄, and concentrated. The residue was distilled at 115–125 °C/0.3 mmHg to give 319.0 g (81%) of **8**. HRMS 215.1283 (M⁺ + H), calcd for C₁₁H₁₉O₄ 215.1292. ¹H NMR δ 4.13 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.96 (s, 4H), 2.4–2.3 (m, 1H), 2.0–1.9 (m, 2H), 1.9–1.75 (m, 4H), 1.65–1.5 (m, 2H), 1.26 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H); IR (neat) 2940 (s), 2840 (s), 1730 (s) cm⁻¹.

8-[Etoxy(trimethylsiloxy)methylidene]-1,3-dioxaspiro[1.5]decane (4). To 23.3 mL (166 mmol) of *i*-Pr₂NH and 130 mL of THF in a dry 1-L three-necked flask equipped with a mechanical stirrer was added dropwise at -20 °C 104 mL (166 mmol) of 1.6 M *n*-BuLi/hexane. After 30 min at -20 °C, a solution of 29.6 g (138 mmol) **8** in 30 mL of THF was added, and the resulting mixture was stirred at -20 °C for 1 h. To the above enolate at -20 °C was added dropwise 26.3 mL (207 mmol) of TMSCl. The resulting mixture was stirred at -20 °C for 30 min and allowed to warm to rt for 1 h. After removal of THF, the residue was transferred into a smaller flask *via* a Schlenk filter and distilled at 87–92 °C/0.3 mmHg to give 38.9 g (94%) of **4**. HRMS 285.1512 (M⁺ - 1), calcd for C₁₄H₂₇O₄ 285.1522. ¹H NMR δ 3.89 (s, 4H), 3.71 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.25–2.20 (m, 2H), 2.19–2.10 (m, 2H), 1.48–1.40 (m, 4H), 1.15 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 0.13 (s, 9H).

(1S)-8-[4-(Benzyloxy)phenyl]-1-(hydroxymethyl)-1-carboethoxy-1,3-dioxaspiro[1.5]decane (5). To 1.23 g (4.0 mmol) of **3** in 5 mL of at 5 °C was added dropwise 4.0 mL (4.0 mmol) of 1.0 M BH₃·THF. The resulting mixture was stirred at 5 °C for 10 min and cooled to -78 °C. To the reaction mixture were added sequentially 3.15 g (11.0 mmol) of silyl enol ether **4** and a solution of 2.12 g (10.0 mmol) 4-BnOC₆H₄CHO in 4 mL EtCN over 2 h using a syringe pump. After stirring at -78 °C for 1 h, the reaction was poured into 50 mL of ice cold saturated NaHCO₃ and extracted three times with 50 mL of EtOAc. The combined extract was washed four times with NaHCO₃ and concentrated to a small volume. To the residue was added 7 mL (7.0 mmol) of 1.0 M *n*-Bu₄NF in THF. After stirring at rt for 1 h, the mixture was extracted with toluene. The combined extract was washed, dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated. The precipitate was filtered and dried at 55 °C to give 3.85 g (90%) of **5** with a 91% ee. [α]_D²⁵ = +10.7° (*c* 0.52, EtOH). Mp 83–85 °C. HRMS 449.1940 (M⁺ + Na), calcd for C₂₅H₃₀O₆Na 449.1942. ¹H NMR δ 7.40–7.25 (m, 5H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 4.99 (s, 2H), 4.61 (s, 1H), 4.15–4.0 (m, 2H), 3.85 (s, 4H), 2.91 (bs, 1H), 2.3–2.2 (m, 1H), 2.0–1.9 (m, 1H), 1.7–1.4 (m, 6H), 1.14 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR δ 175.2, 158.7, 137.2, 133.0, 128.9, 128.5, 127.8, 114.5, 108.7, 79.6, 70.3, 64.6, 61.2, 52.3, 32.3, 32.2, 29.2, 27.8, 14.4. IR (KBr, Nujol) 3480 (m), 2920 (s), 1720 (m) cm⁻¹. Anal. Calcd for C₂₅H₃₀O₆: C, 70.39, H, 7.09. Found: C, 70.07, H, 7.14.

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N-(2-Naphthalenesulfonyl)-D-valine (3). To a mixture of 400.0 g (3.414 mol) of D-valine, 3 L of water, 380 mL of THF, and 1190 mL (8.572 mol) of TEA in a 12-L three-necked flask with a mechanical stirrer was added dropwise at 5–10 °C a solution of 774 g (3.414 mol) of 2-naphthalenesulfonyl chloride in 800 mL of THF. The mixture was allowed to warm to rt and stirred for 2 h. After evaporation of THF, the reaction was poured into 4 L of 3 N HCl and extracted with *t*-BuOMe. Concentration of the solvent gave 910.0 g (87%) of **3** as a white solid. Mp 170–172 °C, (lit.⁶ 170–172 °C), whose spectra data were identical to those reported.⁶

(1S)-4-[4-(Benzyloxy)phenyl]-4-(hydroxymethyl)-4-[[4-(4-fluorophenyl)amino]carbonyl]cyclohexan-1-one (9). To a dry 2-L three-necked flask with a mechanical stirrer were added 41.3 mL (436 mmol) of 4-FC₆H₄NH₂, 120 mL of CH₂Cl₂, and 218 mL (436 mmol) of 2.0 M Me₃Al in toluene. After agitating at rt for 30 min, a solution of 46.7 g (109 mmol) of **5** in 110 mL of CH₂Cl₂ was added dropwise, and the resulting mixture was heated at 50–55 °C for 2 d. The cooled reaction mixture was added dropwise to a solution of 700 mL of 3 N HCl and 400 mL of toluene. The mixture was extracted two times with 400 mL of EtOAc and washed with 300 mL of 3 N HCl. After concentration of the solvent, the residue was dissolved in 250 mL of THF, followed by addition of 300 mL of 3 N HCl, and the mixture was stirred at rt for 3 d. After removal of THF, the crude product was filtered and slurried with saturated NaHCO₃ to give 40.9 g of **9**. Recrystallization from EtOAc/hexane gave an analytical sample. Mp 173–175 °C. HRMS 448.1924 (M⁺ + H), calcd for C₂₇H₂₇FNO₄ 448.1920. ¹H NMR δ 8.88 (s, 1H), 7.48 (dd, *J* = 8.9, 4.8 Hz, 2H), 7.40–7.30 (m, 5H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.04 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.00 (s, 2H), 4.56 (s, 1H), 3.16 (bs, 1H), 2.85–2.75 (m, 1H), 2.75–2.65 (m, 1H), 2.45–2.32 (m, 2H), 2.27 (dm, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 2.15–2.05 (m, 1H), 1.93 (td, *J* = 13.4, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 1.55 (td, *J* = 13.4, 5.3 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ 210.6, 171.5, 159.7, 157.4, 156.5, 137.0, 135.1, 133.7, 128.2, 128.2, 127.7, 127.5, 122.5, 122.4, 115.1, 114.8, 113.6, 76.2, 69.0, 51.4, 37.7, 37.6, 29.5, 29.1. IR (KBr, Nujol) 3280 (m), 2920 (m), 1700 (s), 1640 (s) cm⁻¹.

(3R)-2-(4-Fluorophenyl)-3-[4-(benzyloxy)phenyl]-2-azaspiro[3.5]nonane-1,7-dione (6). To a mixture of 39.3 g of crude **9**, 4 g of BnNEt₃Cl, and 1.0 L of CH₂Cl₂ in a 2-L three-necked flask with a mechanical stirrer were added slowly 232 g of 50% NaOH and 19 mL (132 mmol) of (EtO)₂P(O)Cl over 20 min. The resulting mixture was stirred at rt for 2 h, added slowly to 2 L of ice cold 3 N HCl, and extracted three times with 500 mL of EtOAc. The combined extract was washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated. Addition of 200 mL of Et₂O to the residue precipitated 23.4 g (59% over two steps) of **6**. [α]_D²² = +41.6° (c 0.54, EtOH). Mp 127–129 °C. HRMS 430.1818 (M⁺ + H), calcd for C₂₇H₂₅FNO₃ 430.1805. ¹H NMR δ 7.34–7.17 (m, 7H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.90–6.96 (m, 4H), 4.95 (s, 2H), 4.80 (s, 1H), 2.80–2.75 (m, 1H), 2.5–2.45 (m, 3H), 2.25–2.15 (m, 1H), 1.95–1.80 (m, 2H), 1.52–1.42 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR δ 209.7, 169.5, 160.5, 159.4, 158.1, 136.7, 133.96, 133.94, 128.9, 128.4, 128.1, 127.8, 126.5, 119.0, 118.9, 116.3, 116.1, 115.6, 70.4, 65.2, 58.3, 38.7, 37.9, 32.9, 28.2. IR (KBr, Nujol) 2920 (s), 1735 (m), 1720 (m) cm⁻¹.

(3R)-7-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-[4-(benzyloxy)phenyl]-2-azaspiro[3.5]nonan-1-one (7). To 1750 mL of 1.0 M 4-ClC₆H₄MgBr/*t*-BuOMe in a dry 12-L three-necked flask with a mechanical stirrer was added at 48–52 °C a solution of 500 g (1.164 mol) of **6** in 2 L of toluene over 1 h. After agitating for 30 min, the reaction was cooled to rt and added slowly to 6 L of ice cold 3 N HCl. The mixture was extracted three times with 3 L of EtOAc. The combined extract was washed with 3 L of 3 N HCl and brine, dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated to give 567.0 g of crude **7** as a mixture of two diastereomers (94:6). HRMS 541.1820 (M⁺), calcd for C₃₃H₂₉-

ClFNO₃ 541.1816. ¹H NMR δ 7.50–7.20 (m, 8H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.04 (s, 2H), 4.86 (s, 1H), 2.60–2.50 (m, 1H), 2.16 (td, *J* = 13.8, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 2.05–1.90 (m, 3H), 1.63 (dm, *J* = 13.8 Hz, 1H), 1.32 (dm, *J* = 14.3 Hz, 1H), 1.10 (td, *J* = 13.8, 4.3 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR δ 171.2, 160.4, 159.3, 158.0, 147.4, 133.0, 128.9, 128.7, 128.5, 128.4, 127.9, 127.3, 126.2, 119.0, 118.9, 117.0, 116.2, 116.0, 115.5, 71.8, 70.4, 66.5, 59.3, 35.9, 33.7, 28.3, 22.2. IR (KBr, Nujol) 3410 (w), 2920 (s), 1730 (m) cm⁻¹. **7a.** ¹H NMR δ 7.47 (dd, *J* = 6.8, 1.9 Hz, 2H), 7.44–7.21 (m, 9H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.00–6.95 (m, 2H), 2.53 (td, *J* = 13.4, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (td, *J* = 13.4, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (td, *J* = 13.1, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 2.16 (dm, *J* = 13.4, 1H), 1.81 (dm, *J* = 14.0 Hz, 1H), 1.67–1.49 (m, 3H), 1.39 (td, *J* = 13.4, 4.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR δ 170.8, 160.5, 158.8, 157.3, 147.1, 136.7, 134.1, 134.1, 132.7, 128.6, 128.4, 128.1, 127.9, 127.5, 126.7, 126.0, 118.6, 118.5, 116.0, 115.7, 115.0, 72.5, 70.1, 65.3, 58.4, 36.0, 35.9, 29.2, 24.8. IR (KBr, Nujol) 3450 (w), 2920 (s), 2820 (s), 1730 (m) cm⁻¹.

(3R)-7-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-azaspiro[3.5]nonan-1-one (2). To a 2-L Pyrex pressure bottle were added 35.0 g of 10% Pd/C, 350.0 g (ca. 645 mmol) of crude **7**, and 87.0 g (387 mmol) of ZnBr₂. The bottle was sealed, evacuated, and purged with nitrogen three times. To the sealed bottle was added through a cannula 1100 mL of EtOH. The mixture was hydrogenated at 50 psi for 16 h, filtered through a pad of Celite, and concentrated. The residue was dissolved in 1 L of EtOAc, poured slowly into 1 L of ice cold saturated NaHCO₃, extracted two times with 300 mL of EtOAc. The combined extract was washed with saturated NH₄Cl and brine, dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated. Addition of 1 L of CH₂Cl₂ precipitated 178.0 g (63% over two steps) of **2**. Mp 235–236 °C. [α]_D²⁵ = +50.9° (c 0.42, MeOH). ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ 9.57 (s, 1H), 7.40–7.15 (m, 10H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 5.14 (s, 1H), 5.04 (s, 1H), 2.30 (td, *J* = 12.8, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 2.05 (td, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 1.96 (td, *J* = 13.6, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 1.87 (dm, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 1.72 (dm, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 1.48 (dm, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 1.13 (dm, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 0.84 (td, *J* = 13.6, 3.5 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ 170.6, 158.1 (d, *J* = 240 Hz), 157.4, 149.4, 134.1 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz), 130.9, 130.0, 126.6, 125.4, 118.6 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 116.0 (d, *J* = 23 Hz), 115.6, 70.2, 64.9, 58.5, 34.8, 33.4, 27.5, 21.7. IR (KBr, Nujol) 3420 (m), 3180 (m), 2920 (s) 1730 (s) cm⁻¹. Anal. Calcd for C₂₆H₂₃ClFNO₃: C, 69.10; H, 5.13; N, 3.10; Cl, 7.86; F, 4.21. Found: C, 69.16; H, 5.42; N, 3.19; Cl, 7.75; F, 4.30. Chiral HPLC: 99.5% ee. **Deschloro.** Mp 216–218 °C. HRMS 417.1743 (M⁺), calcd for C₂₆H₂₄FNO₃ 417.1740. ¹H NMR δ 7.34–7.18 (m, 9H), 6.93–6.86 (m, 4H), 6.76 (bs, 1H), 4.84 (s, 1H), 2.56–2.49 (m, 1H), 2.17–1.88 (m, 4H), 1.60–1.56 (m, 1H), 1.29–1.11 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ 170.7, 159.3, 157.4, 156.9, 150.4, 134.12, 134.10, 128.0, 126.3, 125.4, 124.5, 118.7, 118.6, 116.1, 115.9, 115.6, 70.4, 65.0, 58.6, 35.0, 33.4, 27.6, 21.7. IR (KBr, Nujol) 3350, 2920, 1725 cm⁻¹.

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Supporting Information Available: ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, and IR spectra for **4**, **5**, **6**, **7**, **7a**, **8**, **9**, and **2**. Also chiral HPLC chromatograms for **5**, **6**, **9**, and **2** (29 pages). This material is contained in libraries on microfiche, immediately follows this article in the microfilm version of the journal, and can be ordered from the ACS; see any current masthead for ordering information.

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