Organocatalytic Asymmetric Michael/Acyl Transfer Reaction between α -Nitroketones and 4-Arylidene-pyrrolidine-2,3-diones

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1. General Information:

Chemicals and solvents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used as received. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on 400 MHz, 500MHz and 600 MHz spectrometer. ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on 100 MHz, and 150 MHz. Chemical shifts were reported in parts per million (ppm), and the residual solvent peak was used as an internal reference: proton (chloroform δ 7.260), carbon (chloroform δ 77.23). Multiplicity was indicated as follows: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplet), dd (doublet of doublet), brs (broad singlet). Coupling constants were reported in Hertz (Hz). Using ESI mode HRMS spectra were recorded. Enantiomeric ratios were determined by HPLC analysis performed on Chiral Columns using a Daicel Chiralpak IA, IF, ID and AD-H Column. For visualizing the products UV light and I₂ were used. Silica gel (60-120 mesh size) was used for the column chromatography. Reactions were monitored by TLC on silica gel 60 F254 (0.25 mm).

2. General procedure for the synthesis of *γ*-hydroxyenones:¹

 γ -hydroxyenones was prepared according to reported procedures.

3. General procedure for the synthesis of α -nitro ketone:¹

 α -nitro ketone was prepared according to reported procedures.

4. General procedure for the synthesis of catalyst VII:

The catalyst (VII) was prepared according to reported procedures.²

5. General procedure for the synthesis of compound 3:

In an oven dried round bottom flask, **1a** (27.7 mg, 0.1 mmol), **2a** (16.5 mg, 0.1 mmol) and 10 mol% of catalyst (**VII**) were taken. 0.6 mL 1,2-DCE of was added to the reaction mixture and stirred at room temperature for 12h. Completion of reaction was checked by TLC. After the completion of reaction, solvent was concentrated and reaction mixture was directly purified by column chromatography on silica gel eluting with hexane/ethyl acetate (10-12%) to afford desired product **3a-w**.

6. Catalyst optimization for (R)-1-benzyl-4-(2-nitro-1-phenylethyl)-2-oxo-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl benzoate



entry ^a	catalyst	solvent	yield ^b	ee ^c
1	Ι	CH ₂ Cl ₂	70	20
2	II	CH ₂ Cl ₂	73	34
3	III	CH ₂ Cl ₂	76	55
4	IV	CH ₂ Cl ₂	78	52
5	V	CH ₂ Cl ₂	80	74
6	VI	CH ₂ Cl ₂	75	50
7	VII	CH ₂ Cl ₂	80	80
8	VII	PhCF ₃	78	78
9	VII	THF	80	80
10	VII	CHCl ₃	80	86
11	VII	(CH ₂ Cl) ₂	80	90

^aReactions were carried out with 0.1 mmol of 1a and 0.1 mmol of 2a in 0.6 mL solvent at rt for

12 hours; ^bIsolated yield after silica gel column chromatography; ^cDetermined by HPLC.

7. References:

- 1. Mondal, B.; Pan, S. C. J. Org. Chem. 2018, 83, 5301–5312.
- 2. Mitchell, J. M.; Finney, N. S. TetrahedronLett. 2000, 41, 8431.
- 3. Fofana, m.; Dudognon, Y.; Bertrand, L.; Constantieux, T.; Rodriguez, J.; Ndiaye, I.; Bonne, D.; Bugaut, X. *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2020**, 3486–3490.

8. Characterisation of the products:

(*R*)-1-benzyl-4-(2-nitro-1-phenylethyl)-2-oxo-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl benzoate (3a)



Yellow sticky, 80% (35mg) yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.21 – 8.15 (m, 2H), 7.70 – 7.64 (m, 1H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.37 – 7.27 (m, 6H), 7.22 (ddd, J = 7.8, 3.7, 1.6 Hz, 4H), 4.99 (dd, J = 13.5, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.78 (dd, J = 13.5, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.66 (d, J = 15.1 Hz, 1H), 4.60 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.52 (d, J = 15.1 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (s, 2H).¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.44, 163.89, 140.87, 136.49,

136.16, 135.91, 134.56, 130.90, 129.78, 129.12, 128.97, 128.88, 128.26, 128.07, 127.99, 127.86, 77.00, 48.96, 46.99, 42.76.

ESI HRMS: calcd. For C₂₆H₂₂N₂O₅ [M+H]⁺ 443.1601, found 443.1601.

HPLC Analysis: ee = 90%, IF Column, *n*-Hexane/*i*-PrOH = 70/30, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, λ = 220 nm (t_{major}= 20.9 min, t_{minor} = 23.3 min).

From literature study, the optical rotation of the compound (S) **3a** is $[\boldsymbol{\alpha}]_D^{20} = 30.69$ (c 1.03, CHCl₃, 25.1 °C).³

This sample was measured on an Autopol I, Serial #35386 Manufactured by Rudolph Research Analytical, Hackettstown, NJ, USA.

Measurement Date : Friday, 12-MAR-2021

Set Temperature : OFF

Time Delay : Disabled

<u>n</u> 5	<u>Average</u> -35.00		<u>Std.Dev.</u> 3.70	<u>% RSD</u> -10.57	<u>Maxi</u> -31.6	<u>mum</u> 57	<u>Minimum</u> -41.11	
S.No	Sample ID	Time	Result	Scale	OR °Arc	WLG.nm	Lg.mm	Temp.
1	mm acyl1	02:30 PM	-41.11	SR	-0.074	589	100.00	27.5
2	mm acyl1	02:30 PM	-33.89	SR	-0.061	589	100.00	27.5
3	mm acyl1	02:30 PM	-32.78	SR	-0.059	589	100.00	27.5
4	mm acyl1	02:30 PM	-31.67	SR	-0.057	589	100.00	27.5
5	mm acyl1	02:31 PM	-35.56	SR	-0.064	589	100.00	27.5

 $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -35.00 \text{ (c } 1.03, \text{ CHCl}_3, 27.5 \text{ °C})$

(*R*)-1-benzyl-4-(2-nitro-1-phenylethyl)-2-oxo-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl



methylbenzoate(3b). light orange sticky, 80% (36mg) yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.07 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.41 – 7.26 (m, 8H), 7.26 – 7.15 (m, 4H), 4.98 (dd, J = 13.5, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.77 (dd, J = 13.5, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.67 (d, J = 15.1 Hz, 1H), 4.57 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.51 (d, J = 15.1 Hz, 1H), 3.69 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.51, 163.95, 145.62, 140.87, 136.51, 136.00,

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135.95, 130.98, 129.78, 129.70, 129.11, 128.88, 128.26, 128.06, 127.88, 125.16, 76.91, 48.96, 46.95, 42.81, 22.08.

ESI HRMS: calcd. For C₂₇H₂₄N₂O₅ [M+H]⁺ 457.1758, found 457.1758.

HPLC Analysis: ee = 88%, IF Column, *n*-Hexane/*i*-PrOH = 70/30, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, λ = 220 nm (t_{major}= 24.6 min, t_{minor} = 26.5 min).

(R)-1-benzyl-4-(2-nitro-1-phenylethyl)-2-oxo-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl4-methoxybenzoate (3c).



Colourless sticky solid, 82% (38mg) yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.13 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.42 – 7.27 (m, 6H), 7.22 (dt, J = 10.5, 4.1 Hz, 4H), 7.04 – 6.96 (m, 2H), 4.99 (dd, J = 13.5, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.77 (dd, J = 13.5, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.67 (d, J = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 4.57 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.50 (d, J = 15.1 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.68 (d, J = 3.1 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.74, 164.61,

163.59, 140.88, 136.51, 135.97, 135.95, 133.15, 129.75, 129.09, 128.85, 128.25, 128.04, 127.89, 120.14, 114.28, 76.91, 55.79, 48.95, 46.93, 42.80.

ESI HRMS: calcd. For $C_{27}H_{24}N_2O_6 [M+H]^+ 473.1707$, found 473.1707.

HPLC Analysis: ee = 80%, Chiralpak IA Column, *n*-Hexane/*i*-PrOH = 80/20, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm (t_{major} = 43.5 min, t_{minor} = 47.4 min).

(R)-1-benzyl-4-(2-nitro-1-phenylethyl)-2-oxo-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl4-ethoxybenzoate (3d)

Pale yellow semi solid, 78% (38mg) yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.12 (d, J = 8.9 Hz,



2H), 7.38 - 7.26 (m, 6H), 7.25 - 7.18 (m, 4H), 6.98 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 4.96 (s, 1H), 4.78 (s, 1H), 4.65 (s, 1H), 4.57 (s, 1H), 4.52 (s, 1H), 4.13 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.68 (d, J = 3.4 Hz, 2H), 1.46 (s, 3H).¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.64, 164.18, 163.64, 140.90, 136.52, 135.99, 135.93, 133.15, 129.76, 129.09, 128.85, 128.25, 128.04, 127.90, 119.88, 114.70, 76.91, 64.11, 48.95, 46.94, 42.82, 14.85.

ESI HRMS: calcd. For C₂₈H₂₆N₂O₆ [M+H]⁺487.1864, found 487.1863.

HPLC Analysis: ee = 80%, Chiralpak IA Column, *n*-Hexane/*i*-PrOH = 80/20, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm (t_{major} = 38.6 min, t_{minor} = 44.5 min).

(*R*)-1-benzyl-4-(2-nitro-1-phenylethyl)-2-oxo-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl [1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylate (3e)



Light yellow sticky solid, 82% (42mg) yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.28 – 8.23 (m, 2H), 7.78 – 7.73 (m, 2H), 7.67 (dd, J = 5.2, 3.3 Hz, 2H), 7.54 – 7.47 (m, 2H), 7.46 – 7.41 (m, 1H), 7.37 – 7.28 (m, 6H), 7.23 (dt, J = 10.8, 4.1 Hz, 4H), 5.01 (dd, J = 13.5, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.79 (dd, J = 13.5, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.68 (d, J = 15.1 Hz, 1H), 4.61 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.53 (d, J = 15.1 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 2H).¹³C

NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.51, 163.82, 147.36, 140.88, 139.94, 136.48, 136.11, 135.90, 131.46, 129.81, 129.23, 129.13, 128.92, 128.68, 128.27, 128.09, 127.89, 127.64, 127.61, 126.58, 77.43, 48.98, 46.98, 42.80.

ESI HRMS: calcd. For $C_{32}H_{26}N_2O_5 [M+H]^+ 519.1914$, found 519.1914.

HPLC Analysis: ee = 82%, Chiralpak IA Column, *n*-Hexane/*i*-PrOH = 80/20, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm (t_{major} = 45.7 min, t_{minor} = 51.5 min).

(R)-1-benzyl-4-(2-nitro-1-phenylethyl)-2-oxo-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl4-fluorobenzoate (3f)



Yellow semi solid, 79% (36mg) yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.26 – 8.12 (m, 2H), 7.38 – 7.27 (m, 6H), 7.26 – 7.14 (m, 6H), 4.97 (dd, J = 13.5, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 4.76 (dd, J = 13.5, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.67 (d, J = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 4.61 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.52 (d, J = 15.1 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (s, 2H).¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) 13C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.12, 165.57, 164.34, 162.92, 140.73, 136.41, 136.20, 135.77,

133.69, 133.59, 129.82, 129.14, 128.94, 128.25, 128.11, 127.84, 124.22, 124.19, 116.40, 116.18, 77.43, 48.94, 46.98, 42.70.

ESI HRMS: calcd. For C₂₆H₂₁FN₂O₅ [M+H]⁺ 461.1507, found 461.1506.

HPLC Analysis: ee = 90%, Chiralpak IF Column, *n*-Hexane/*i*-PrOH = 80/20, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 220$ nm (t_{major} = 39.3 min, t_{minor} = 42.7 min).

(R)-1-benzyl-4-(2-nitro-1-phenylethyl)-2-oxo-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl

bromobenzoate (3g)



Light yellow sticky solid, 78% (40mg) yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.03 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.38 – 7.26 (m, 6H), 7.21 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 4H), 4.96 (dd, J = 13.5, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.75 (dd, J = 13.5, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.66 (d, J = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 4.60 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.52 (d, J = 15.1 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (s, 2H).¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.26, 163.23, 140.72, 136.41, 136.27, 135.75, 132.40, 132.30, 130.03, 129.83, 129.15, 128.96, 128.26, 128.12, 127.83,

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126.88, 77.43, 48.95, 47.01, 42.69.

ESI HRMS: calcd. For C₂₆H₂₁BrN₂O₅ [M+H]⁺ 521.0707, found 521.0708. **HPLC Analysis:** ee = 90%, Chiralpak IA Column, *n*-Hexane/*i*-PrOH = 80/20, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm (t_{major} = 43.6 min, t_{minor} = 47.9 min).

(R)-1-benzyl-4-(2-nitro-1-phenylethyl)-2-oxo-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl3-methylbenzoate (3h)



Yellow sticky, 70% (32mg) yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.01 – 7.96 (m, 2H), 7.48 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.36 – 7.27 (m, 6H), 7.24 – 7.19 (m, 4H), 4.99 (dd, J = 13.5, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.78 (dd, J = 13.5, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 4.67 (d, J = 15.1 Hz, 1H), 4.58 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.51 (d, J = 15.1 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (d, J = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H).¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.45, 164.10, 140.79, 138.84, 136.46, 136.07, 135.87, 135.38, 131.41, 129.76, 129.09,

128.87, 128.85, 128.24, 128.05, 127.86, 127.78,76.98, 48.94, 46.93, 42.76, 21.49. **ESI HRMS**: calcd. For C₂₇H₂₄N₂O₅ [M+H]⁺457.1758, found 457.1757. **HPLC Analysis:** ee = 72%, Chiralpak IF Column, *n*-Hexane/*i*-PrOH = 70/30, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 220$ nm (t_{major} = 21.0 min, t_{minor} = 23.3 min).

(*R*)-1-benzyl-4-(2-nitro-1-phenylethyl)-2-oxo-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl methoxybenzoate (3i)



Orange semi solid 72% (34mg) yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.79 (dt, J = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (dd, J = 2.7, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.36 – 7.27 (m, 6H), 7.22 (ddd, J = 6.8, 4.6, 2.5 Hz, 5H), 5.00 (dd, J = 13.6, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 4.76 (dd, J = 13.6, 7.7 Hz, 1H), 4.68 (d, J = 15.1 Hz, 1H), 4.58 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.51 (d, J = 15.1 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.70 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 2H).¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.37, 163.79, 159.93, 140.79, 136.43, 136.07, 135.78, 129.98, 129.79, 129.10,

3-

129.06, 128.90, 128.23, 128.06, 127.85, 123.36, 121.52, 114.82, 76.96, 55.76, 48.96, 46.93, 42.76.

ESI HRMS: calcd. For $C_{27}H_{24}N_2O_6 [M+H]^+ 473.1707$, found 473.1714.

methylbenzoate (3j)

HPLC Analysis: ee = 66%, Chiralpak IA Column, *n*-Hexane/*i*-PrOH = 70/30, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 220$ nm (t_{major} = 22.4 min, t_{minor} = 18.5 min).

(*R*)-1-benzyl-4-(2-nitro-1-phenylethyl)-2-oxo-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl 2-



Pale yellow semi solid, 65% (29mg) yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.14 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (td, J = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.41 – 7.26 (m, 8H), 7.22 (ddd, J = 7.7, 4.0, 1.6 Hz, 4H), 5.00 (dd, J = 13.4, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.79 (dd, J = 13.4, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 4.67 (d, J = 15.1 Hz, 1H), 4.59 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.53 (d, J = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 2H), 2.70 (s, 3H).¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.57, 164.15, 142.43, 140.91, 136.46, 136.00, 135.96, 133.71, 132.25, 131.94, 129.77, 129.12, 128.88, 128.27, 128.08, 127.85, 126.94, 126.31,77.43, 48.97, 46.98, 42.71, 22.17.

ESI HRMS: calcd. For C₂₇H₂₄N₂O₅ [M+H]⁺457.1758, found 457.1757.

HPLC Analysis: ee = 68%, Chiralpak ADH Column, *n*-Hexane/*i*-PrOH = 80/20, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 220$ nm (t_{major} = 15.9 min, t_{minor} = 14.9 min).

(*R*)-1-benzyl-4-(2-nitro-1-phenylethyl)-2-oxo-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl 2-





Yellow sticky solid, 68% (32mg) yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.04 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.61 – 7.56 (m, 1H), 7.35 – 7.27 (m, 8H), 7.23 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 7.09 – 7.03 (m, 2H), 5.10 (dd, J = 13.5, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 4.94 (dd, J = 13.6, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 4.68 (d, J = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 4.56 – 4.47 (m, 2H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.68 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 2H).¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.56, 163.34, 160.16, 136.57, 136.31, 135.98, 135.33, 133.27, 129.72, 129.09, 128.83, 128.24, 128.03, 128.00,

120.68, 117.58, 112.26, 77.43, 56.21, 49.10, 46.91, 42.98.

ESI HRMS: calcd. For C₂₇H₂₄N₂O₆ [M+H]⁺473.1707, found 473.1711.

HPLC Analysis: ee = 70%, Chiralpak ID Column, *n*-Hexane/*i*-PrOH = 70/30, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 220$ nm (t_{major} = 59.0 min, t_{minor} = 72.9 min).

(*R*)-1-benzyl-4-(2-nitro-1-phenylethyl)-2-oxo-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl 2-naphthoate (3l)



White sticky solid, 75% (37mg) yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.78 (s, 1H), 8.15 (dd, J = 8.6, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.02 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (ddd, J = 8.1, 6.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (ddd, J = 8.0, 6.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (td, J = 7.8, 7.3, 1.7 Hz, 4H), 7.30 (dd, J = 7.4, 2.0 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (ddd, J = 11.1, 6.9, 1.8 Hz, 4H), 5.03 (dd, J = 13.6, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 4.79 (dd, J = 13.6, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.69 (d, J = 15.1 Hz, 1H), 4.79 (dd, J = 13.6, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.69 (d, J = 15.1 Hz, 1H), 4.79 (dd, J = 13.6, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.69 (dd, J = 15.1 Hz, 1H), 4.79 (dd, J = 13.6, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.69 (dd, J = 15.1 Hz, 1H), 4.79 (dd, J = 13.6, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.69 (dd, J = 15.1 Hz, 1H), 4.69 (dd, J = 1

1H), 4.63 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.53 (d, J = 15.1 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (d, J = 4.2 Hz, 2H).¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.49, 164.11, 140.85, 136.45, 136.33, 136.20, 135.84, 133.11, 132.60, 129.90, 129.79, 129.27, 129.12, 128.89, 128.83, 128.26, 128.08, 127.88, 127.21, 125.70, 125.03, 76.98, 48.97, 46.95, 42.77.

ESI HRMS: calcd. For C₃₀H₂₄N₂O₅ [M+H]⁺493.1758, found 493.1767.

HPLC Analysis: ee = 80%, Chiralpak IF Column, *n*-Hexane/*i*-PrOH = 70/30, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm (t_{major} = 35.9 min, t_{minor} = 40.3 min).

(R)-1-benzyl-4-(2-nitro-1-phenylethyl)-2-oxo-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl3-

phenylpropanoate (3m)



Colourless semi solid, 65% (31mg) yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.33 – 7.27 (m, 10H), 7.21 – 7.16 (m, 3H), 7.11 – 7.07 (m, 2H), 4.62 (dtd, J = 21.6, 13.5, 8.0 Hz, 3H), 4.50 – 4.40 (m, 2H), 3.60 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 3.09 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 3.00 – 2.95 (m, 2H).¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.14, 164.41, 140.40, 139.97, 136.38, 135.85, 135.82, 129.71, 129.11, 128.89, 128.86,

128.59, 128.20, 128.08, 127.81, 126.81, 77.44, 48.85, 46.91, 42.58, 35.47, 30.79.

ESI HRMS: calcd. For $C_{28}H_{26}N_2O_5 [M+H]^+ 479.1914$, found 479.1915.

HPLC Analysis: ee = 72%, Chiralpak IF Column, *n*-Hexane/*i*-PrOH = 80/20, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 220$ nm (t_{major} = 37.3 min, t_{minor} = 35.4 min).

(R)-1-benzyl-4-(2-nitro-1-phenylethyl)-2-oxo-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl

cyclohexanecarboxylate (3n)



Pale yellow semi solid, 70% (31mg) yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.36 – 7.29 (m, 5H), 7.28 – 7.26 (m, 1H), 7.21 – 7.14 (m, 4H), 4.95 – 4.87 (m, 1H), 4.80 – 4.73 (m, 1H), 4.66 – 4.58 (m, 1H), 4.54 – 4.45 (m, 2H), 3.67 – 3.56 (m, 2H), 2.68 – 2.60 (m, 1H), 2.15 – 2.07 (m, 2H), 1.89 – 1.80 (m, 2H), 1.72 – 1.65 (m, 2H), 1.43 – 1.27 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.28, 164.47, 140.72, 136.44,

136.00, 135.48, 129.74, 129.08, 128.85, 128.20, 128.03, 127.83, 48.84, 46.88, 42.92, 42.64, 29.05, 25.81, 25.43.

ESI HRMS: calcd. For C₂₆H₂₈N₂O₅ [M+H]⁺449.2071, found 449.2072.

HPLC Analysis: ee = 72%, Chiralpak IA Column, *n*-Hexane/*i*-PrOH = 80/20, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 220$ nm (t_{major} = 16.7 min, t_{minor} = 15.5 min).

(R)-1-benzyl-4-(2-nitro-1-(p-tolyl)ethyl)-2-oxo-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl benzoate (30)



Light yellow semi solid, 83% (38mg) yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.17 (dd, J = 8.3, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.72 – 7.64 (m, 1H), 7.53 (dd, J = 10.8, 4.8 Hz, 2H), 7.36 – 7.29 (m, 3H), 7.23 – 7.19 (m, 4H), 7.06 – 6.99 (m, 2H), 4.97 (dd, J = 13.4, 7.7 Hz, 1H), 4.77 – 4.65 (m, 2H), 4.59 – 4.49 (m, 2H), 3.69 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 1.60 (s, 3H).¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.30, 163.93, 140.90,

136.38, 135.81, 134.69, 131.66, 131.63, 130.90, 129.69, 129.61, 129.14, 129.01, 128.28, 128.13, 127.80, 116.93, 116.71, 77.02, 48.90, 46.98, 42.09.

ESI HRMS: calcd. For C₂₇H₂₄N₂O₅ [M+H]⁺457.1758, found 457.1766.

HPLC Analysis: ee = 72%, Chiralpak IA Column, *n*-Hexane/*i*-PrOH = 80/20, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm (t_{major} = 24.5 min, t_{minor} = 21.4 min).

(*R*)-1-benzyl-4-(1-(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)-2-nitroethyl)-2-oxo-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl benzoate (3p)



White semi solid, 72% (40mg) yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.21 – 8.15 (m, 2H), 7.71 – 7.62 (m, 1H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.38 – 7.27 (m, 5H), 7.24 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 7.14 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 4.97 (dd, J = 13.5, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 4.75 (dd, J = 13.5, 7.7 Hz, 1H), 4.67 (d, J = 15.1 Hz, 1H), 4.55 (dd, J = 19.1, 11.5 Hz, 2H), 3.73 (s, 2H), 1.27 (s, 10H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ

164.50, 163.86, 151.91, 140.68, 136.54, 136.42, 134.51, 132.67, 130.89, 129.09, 128.94, 128.27, 128.04, 127.99, 127.51, 126.67, 77.07, 49.00, 46.94, 42.28, 31.38.

ESI HRMS: calcd. For C₃₀H₃₀N₂O₅ [M+H]⁺499.2227, found 499.2228.

HPLC Analysis: ee = 72%, Chiralpak ADH Column, *n*-Hexane/*i*-PrOH = 80/20, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm (t_{major} = 10.5 min, t_{minor} = 11.8 min).

(*R*)-1-benzyl-4-(1-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-nitroethyl)-2-oxo-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl benzoate (3q)



Pale Yellow semi solid, 80% (37mg) yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.21 – 8.14 (m, 2H), 7.71 – 7.65 (m, 1H), 7.54 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.38 – 7.27 (m, 3H), 7.25 – 7.17 (m, 4H), 7.10 – 6.96 (m, 2H), 4.97 (dd, J = 13.4, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.75 (dd, J = 13.4, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 4.68 (d, J = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 4.57 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.52 (d, J = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 3.75 – 3.63 (m, 2H).¹³C NMR (125 MHz, 1H), 4.57 (hz, 2H).

CDCl₃) δ 164.10, 163.73, 163.67, 161.70, 140.77, 136.21, 135.60, 134.46, 131.51, 131.48, 130.70, 129.49, 129.42, 128.95, 128.81, 128.09, 127.94, 127.68, 116.71, 116.54, 48.71, 46.82, 41.92, 29.71.

ESI HRMS: calcd. For C₂₆H₂₁FN₂O₅ [M+H]⁺ 461.1507, found 461.1513.

HPLC Analysis: ee = 84%, Chiralpak IF Column, *n*-Hexane/*i*-PrOH = 80/20, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm (t_{major} = 33.3 min, t_{minor} = 42.0 min).

(*R*)-1-benzyl-4-(1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-nitroethyl)-2-oxo-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl benzoate (3r)



Yellow semi solid, 79% (38mg) yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.16 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (dd, J = 10.6, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.37 – 7.28 (m, 5H), 7.25 – 7.14 (m, 4H), 4.96 (dd, J = 13.5, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.75 (dd, J = 13.5, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 4.67 (d, J = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 4.60 – 4.49 (m, 2H), 3.69 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 2H).¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.26, 163.91, 141.07, 136.35,

135.51, 135.00, 134.71, 134.33, 130.89, 130.00, 129.25, 129.16, 129.02, 128.30, 128.16, 76.79, 48.88, 47.01, 42.15.

ESI HRMS: calcd. For C₂₆H₂₁ClN₂O₅ [M+H]⁺ 477.1212, found 477.1224.

HPLC Analysis: ee = 76%, Chiralpak ADH Column, *n*-Hexane/*i*-PrOH = 70/30, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm (t_{major} = 12.7 min, t_{minor} = 14.8 min).

(*R*)-1-benzyl-4-(1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-nitroethyl)-2-oxo-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl benzoate (3s)



Yellow semi solid, 82% (76mg) yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.20 – 8.13 (m, 2H), 7.68 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.49 – 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.39 – 7.28 (m, 3H), 7.25 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 7.11 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.96 (dd, J = 13.5, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.75 (dd, J = 13.5, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 4.67 (d, J = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 4.59 – 4.49 (m, 2H), 3.69 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 2H).¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.24,

163.90, 141.10, 136.34, 135.40, 134.84, 134.72, 132.97, 130.90, 129.55, 129.17, 129.03, 128.30, 128.17, 127.75, 123.10, 76.71, 48.88, 47.00, 42.22.

ESI HRMS: calcd. For $C_{26}H_{21}BrN_2O_5 [M+H]^+ 521.0707$, found 521.0726.

HPLC Analysis: ee = 76%, Chiralpak ADH Column, *n*-Hexane/*i*-PrOH = 80/20, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm (t_{major} = 25.6 min, t_{minor} = 21.3 min).

(S)-1-benzyl-4-(1-(2-fluorophenyl)-2-nitroethyl)-2-oxo-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl benzoate (3t)



Yellow semi solid, 79% (36mg) yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.15 (dd, J = 8.3, 1.1 Hz, 2H), 7.70 – 7.63 (m, 1H), 7.52 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.38 – 7.27 (m, 4H), 7.26 – 7.19 (m, 3H), 7.12 – 7.03 (m, 2H), 5.01 (dd, J = 11.4, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 4.91 – 4.80 (m, 2H), 4.67 (d, J = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 4.56 (d, J = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (s, 2H).¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.30, 163.63, 161.82, 159.36, 141.37, 136.44, 134.97, 134.54, 130.87, 130.80, 130.72, 129.62, 129.58,

129.14, 128.93, 128.27, 128.10, 127.90, 125.45, 125.41, 122.78, 122.64, 116.71, 116.49, 75.41, 75.38, 48.95, 46.99, 36.80, 36.77.

ESI HRMS: calcd. For $C_{26}H_{21}FN_2O_5 [M+H]^+ 461.1507$, found 461.1516.

HPLC Analysis: ee = 86%, Chiralpak ID Column, *n*-Hexane/*i*-PrOH = 75/25, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm (t_{major} = 56.1 min, t_{minor} = 68.1 min).

(S)-1-benzyl-4-(1-(2,6-difluorophenyl)-2-nitroethyl)-2-oxo-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl



benzoate (3u)

White sticky solid, 78% (37mg) yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.18 – 8.09 (m, 2H), 7.70 – 7.64 (m, 1H), 7.52 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.39 – 7.28 (m, 3H), 7.26 – 7.18 (m, 3H), 6.88 – 6.78 (m, 2H), 5.02 – 4.93 (m, 1H), 4.82 (dq, J = 15.5, 7.7 Hz, 2H), 4.67 (d, J = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 4.56 (d, J = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (d, J = 4.3 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.96,

163.45, 141.32, 136.16, 134.43, 134.36, 130.65, 130.33, 130.27, 128.96, 128.77, 128.10, 127.95, 127.59, 118.51, 112.65, 112.44, 105.22, 104.96, 104.71, 75.12, 48.69, 46.81, 36.19, 36.17, 29.70.

ESI HRMS: calcd. For $C_{26}H_{20}F_2N_2O_5 [M+H]^+ 479.1413$, found 479.1424.

HPLC Analysis: ee = 72%, Chiralpak ADH Column, *n*-Hexane/*i*-PrOH = 70/30, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm (t_{major} = 11.4 min, t_{minor} = 10.1 min).

(*R*)-1-benzyl-4-(1-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-nitroethyl)-2-oxo-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl benzoate (3v) light yellow semi solid, 80% (40mg) yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.20



-8.15 (m, 2H), 7.68 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (dd, J = 8.5, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 6.80 - 6.72 (m, 3H), 4.98 (dd, J = 13.5, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 4.73 (dd, J = 13.5, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.68 (d, J = 15.1 Hz, 1H), 4.55 -4.48 (m, 2H), 3.83 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 6H), 3.71 (d, J = 4.6 Hz, 2H).¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.48, 164.07, 149.94, 149.37,

140.63, 136.54, 136.48, 134.63, 130.85, 129.11, 129.00, 128.22, 128.08, 127.90, 119.98, 111.81, 110.71, 77.26, 56.20, 56.11, 49.05, 46.94, 42.55.

ESI HRMS: calcd. For C₂₈H₂₆N₂O₇ [M+H]⁺ 503.1813, found 503.1814.

HPLC Analysis: ee = 72%, Chiralpak ADH Column, *n*-Hexane/*i*-PrOH = 80/20, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm (t_{major} = 37.1 min, t_{minor} = 32.4 min).

(R)-1-benzyl-4-(2-nitro-1-(thiophen-2-yl)ethyl)-2-oxo-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl

benzoate (3w) light brown semi solid, 81% (36mg) yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) & 8.24



-8.14 (m, 2H), 7.67 (dd, J = 10.6, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.38 – 7.29 (m, 3H), 7.27 – 7.22 (m, 3H), 6.94 (d, J = 3.4 Hz, 2H), 4.98 – 4.91 (m, 2H), 4.85 – 4.79 (m, 1H), 4.63 (d, J = 3.4 Hz, 2H), 3.81 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 2H).¹³**C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl**₃) δ 164.28, 163.57, 140.87, 137.77, 136.42, 135.52, 134.58, 130.92, 130.38, 129.15, 128.97, 128.66, 128.25, 128.11, 127.90, 127.74, 126.70, 126.31, 77.32,

48.63, 47.00, 37.39.

ESI HRMS: calcd. For $C_{24}H_{20}N_2O_5S$ [M+H]⁺ 449.1166, found 449.1167.

HPLC Analysis: ee = 82%, Chiralpak IA Column, *n*-Hexane/*i*-PrOH = 80/20, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm (t_{major} = 34.1 min, t_{minor} = 36.9 min).

9. NMR spectra of the products:









































R. 8.173 R. 8.173 R. 8.175 R. 9.175 R. 9.175<







S33























10. HPLC spectra of the products:











S41



S44

