ENANTIOSELECTIVE AZA-HENRY REACTION OF t-BOC PROTECTED IMINES AND NITROALKANES WITH BIFUNCTIONAL SQUARAMIDE ORGANOCATALYSTS

A THESIS SUBMITTED TO
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF NATURAL AND APPLIED SCIENCES
OF
MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

BY

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IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE
IN
CHEMISTRY

JULY 2015
ENANTIOSELECTIVE AZA-HENRY REACTION OF t-BOC PROTECTED IMINES AND NITROALKANES WITH BIFUNCTIONAL SQUARAMIDE ORGANOCATALYSTS

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ABSTRACT

ENANTIOSELECTIVE AZA-HENRY REACTION OF t-BOC PROTECTED IMINES AND NITROALKANES WITH BIFUNCTIONAL SQUARAMIDE ORGANOCATALYSTS

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June 2015, 121 pages

The first part of this thesis comprises the application of a Cinchona alkaloid derived, bifunctional squaramide organocatalyst in the aza-Henry reaction of t-Boc protected imines and nitroalkanes. The target chiral β-nitroamines are chosen because; they are quite feasible for the corresponding α-amino acids and 1,2-diamines, which are basic structural motif in many natural products and key materials of the many pharmaceuticals. In this part, 12 different chiral β-nitroamine derivatives were synthesized with quinine based novel bifunctional organocatalyst, which has been developed in our group, up to 91% ee under the optimized condition with 10 mol% catalyst loading.

In the second part of the thesis, preliminary studies of enantioselective Henry, aldol, decarboxylative aldol and Friedel-Crafts type substitution domino reactions were conducted with bifunctional organocatalysts. Among these studies, the best result was achieved with Friedel-Crafts type substitution domino reaction as 92% ee in 10 minutes.

Keywords: asymmetric synthesis, organocatalysis, enantioselectivity, aza-Henry, aldol, decarboxylative aldol, Friedel-Crafts, domino
ÖZ

BİFONKSİYONEL SKUARAMİT ORGANOKATALİZÖRLER İLE t-BOC KORUNUMLU İMİNLERİN NİTROALKANLARLA ENANTIYOSEÇİCİ AZA-HENRY TEPKİMESİ

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Temmuz 2015, 121 sayfa

Bu tezin ilk kısmında, Cinchona alkaloid türevinden sentezlenen bifonksiyonel skuaramit organokatalizörünün, nitroalkanlar ile t-Boc korunumlu iminlerin tepkimesindeki uygulamasını içermektedir. Hedeflenen kiral β-nitroamin yapıları α-amino asitlere, pek çok doğal ürünün yapısında ve önemli ilaç hammaddesinde kullanılan 1,2-diaminlere kolayca çevrilebileceği bilinen önemli ara ürünlerdir. Bu kısımda 12 farklı kiral β-nitroamin türevi, grubumuzda sentezlenen kinin temelli özgün bifonksiyonel organokatalizör yardımıyla, %10 mol miktarında optimize edilmiş koşul ile %91 enantiyoseçiciliklere kadar sentezlenmiştir.

Tezin ikinci kısmında Henry, aldol, dekarboksilatif aldol ve Friedel-Crafts tipi sübstitüsyon domino tepkilerinin bifonksiyonel organokatalizör yardımıyla önçül çalışmalar yapılmıştır. İçlerindeki en iyi sonuç Friedel-Crafts tipi sübstitüsyon domino tepkimesi ile %92 enantiyoseçicilikle 10 dakikada elde edilmiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: asimetrik sentez, organokataliz, enantiyoseçicilik, aza-Henry, aldol, dekarboksilatif aldol, Friedel-Crafts, domino
To my beloved grandfathers

Rest in Peace...
I would like to express my appreciation to my supervisor Prof. Dr. Cihangir Tanyeli for giving me the opportunity work in his research group and also for his guidance, support, encouragement, patience, valuable advices during this study.

I would like to express my sincere thanks Dr. Serdar Sezer for pushing me into research and teaching me the laboratory basics. It is a great chance to meet him and I am really grateful for his endless support whenever I need.

I would like to thank Assoc. Prof. Dr. Devrim Özdemirhan for her valuable contributions and discussions.

I also would like to thank Assist. Prof. Dr. Salih Özçubukçu for giving the ideas for imine synthesis and thank you for bearing with me while answering my general chemistry laboratory problems. Unfortunately, I am deeply sorry that he forced me to separate the numbers with °C.

I would like to give my special thanks to my labmates Esra Kanberoğlu and Nurdan Sargin for their friendship, endless support and help anytime I need. I really appreciate that you both provide a great working environment. (Rize'ye de götüreydiniz iyi idi!).

I would like to thank former members of our research group Merve Kapucu and Zehra Kabasakal for their great friendships and helps. I really missed you guys! I also want to thank Yağız Ünver for his great helps when I started to work on the laboratory.

I would like to thank my other labmates İrem Bakırıcı, Duygu İşibol (especially for pushing me to be research assistant), Seda Okumuş, Deniz Tözendemir, Ayşe Ataş, Ezgi Bayer for their endless help and precious friendship all the time.
I wish to thank all my friends, especially İrmak Sancar for being with me whenever I need since I stepped into METU, Başak Öztürk for helping me about everything (everything? yeees everything 😊) and taking care of me, Yudum Uzuner for being a wonderful roommate, not dying from my crying and correcting all the mistakes in this thesis, Selin Ceyhan for being the çingen fiyansé (sen olmasan neyi duyabilirdik ki) and endless helps, Merve Yurtcan for being a loving and one of the most enjoyable friend (everybody needs a Mörv!). I also wish to thank all my friends whom I have worked on stage together, especially Ela İstanbullu and Okan Şeker for saving the day on the stage and being a true friend for me. I also would like to thank Ayşegül Hisar Telli, Melis Kesik, Seza Göker and Sultan Taşkaya Aslan for their precious friendships. I really appreciate you all for the encouragement and support of all these years.

I also would like to thank Dr. Görkem Günbaş for providing me all Apple programs.

I would like to show my gratitude to TÜBİTAK (Projects: 110T870 and 113Z156) and ODTÜ-BAP for granting this study. I would like to thank Betül Eymur for NMR analysis, Zeynep Erdoğan for HRMS analysis and Halil Memiş for providing chemicals and generous donations and all other department staff for their contribution.

Son olarak, teşekkürlerin en büyüüğünü ve de en önemlisini her zaman yanımda olan ve beni desteklemekten bir an bile vazgeçmeyen, başta ablam Dilay Süzek, annem Serpil Susam ve babam Ertan Susam’a armağan ediyorum. Bu ailenin bir parçası olmak her zaman gurur duyduğum ve bana kendimi şanslı hissettiren en değerli şey! Benden desteklerini hiç esirgemeyen tüm Eryılmaz ve Susam ailesi üyeleri (en çok da kuzenden daha çok kardeşim Kutay), minik ailemizi genişleten eriştem Fatih Süzek, bocuklerim Lara ve Bora Süzek, hepiniz iyi ki varsınız! Sizleri çok seviyorum!
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<td>BINAM</td>
<td>1,1’-Binaphthalene-2,2’-diamine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cbz</td>
<td>Carboxybenzyl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMAP</td>
<td>4-Dimethylamino pyridine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS</td>
<td>Molecular Sieves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTBE</td>
<td>Methyl tert-butyl ether</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOMO</td>
<td>Singly Occupied Molecular Orbital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t-Boc</td>
<td>tert-Butoxycarbonyl</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Why is the Asymmetric Synthesis Important?

Most of the living systems, the vital components in particular, contain at least one chiral center. This uniqueness causes the enantiomers of these molecules to diverse in the expected results, as in the thalidomide drug disaster case in West Germany in the late 1950s. Thalidomide was synthesized by Chemie Grünenthal, a German company, and used as sedative to stop morning sickness of pregnant women. In the beginning, it was thought that this drug helps women; however, there had been a drastic increase in the birth defects in the worldwide rapidly. After this drug usage nearly more than 10,000 case were reported.\(^1\) Subsequent studies showed that \((R)\)-\((+)-\)enantiomer provides the sedative effect; whereas, the \((S)-(\text{--})\)-enantiomer causes the birth defects (Figure 1).\(^2\)

\[\text{\textbf{Figure 1. Molecular structures of thalidomide}}\]

This situation forced the drug industry to pay more attention to the chirality concept and improve their products. As the awareness increases, the approval of chiral drugs by Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has also been increased (Figure 2).\(^3\)

Especially, after 2000, drug companies focus on to choose single enantiomer of the active manners.
1.2. How Do We Synthesize the Chiral Molecules?

There are many ways to synthesize chiral molecules. They can be divided into three main subtitles as chiral pool, kinetic resolution and asymmetric catalysis.

1.2.1. Chiral Pool

In this approach, the desired molecules are developed from the naturally occurring chiral products. Basically carbohydrates, amino acids, terpenes etc. are used as starting materials. Although this approach provides the highest enantiomerically pure compounds, the minority of the natural compounds made the scientist to study on another approaches.\(^4\)
1.2.2. Kinetic Resolution

In the kinetic resolution case, the chiral products are obtained from their racemic mixtures and in this method, enzymes or chiral chemicals are used. One enantiomer reacts much faster compared to the other, affording the products in high enantiomerically excess form.\(^5\)

1.2.3. Asymmetric Catalysis

Among the asymmetric synthesis methods, the largest library belongs to the asymmetric catalysis. The general idea is to use small molecules, called ‘catalysts’, in order to accelerate the reaction rate and decrease the activation energy of the reaction without changing the desired product’s structure. Diversity of these reagents can be improved or enhanced in many ways. The main idea for this approach is to synthesize the chiral molecules from prochiral ones with the help of chiral catalyst or reagents. Usually, small, man-made organic molecules are preferred to use, and this approach, also provides an economical way to get highly enantioenriched compounds.\(^6\)

In the literature, many catalytic studies and many catalysts have been reported. These catalysis concepts are divided into three main subjects as; biocatalysis, transition metal catalysis and organocatalysis. We became familiar with the new concept called “organocatalysis” in the last decade.\(^7\)

“Organocatalysis is the acceleration of chemical reactions with a substoichiometric amount of an organic compound which does not contain a metal atom”.\(^8\) These compounds mainly contain carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur atoms and called “organocatalysts”.

Although the catalytic use of small organic molecules is known for a century, the applications can be considered as a new research area. After the mid-1990’s there has been a sharp increase in the organocatalytic research.\(^7\)
1.3. Organocatalysis in Asymmetric Synthesis

1.3.1. Classifications of Organocatalysts

The first classification of the organocatalysts belongs to Berkessel and it can be considered by their interactions between substrates as covalent interaction or non-covalent interaction. In the covalent bond interaction, a new chemical (covalent) bond occurs between the catalyst and substrate; whereas in the non-covalent case, the weak binding takes place such as hydrogen bonding or ionic interactions. The iminium, enamine, SOMO or Lewis base type catalysts considered as covalent catalysis (Figure 3). On the other hand, Brønsted acid, phase transfer, hydrogen bonding, Brønsted base catalysts are grouped into the non-covalent catalysts.

Seayed and List announced another classification in 2005. According to their mechanistic cycle proposal, organocatalysts act as either Lewis acid, Lewis base, Brønsted acid or Brønsted base.

In 2008, MacMillan published an article in Nature, about the development of organocatalysts. He classified the organocatalysts by their activation and induction modes. The most commonly used ones can be considered as; enamine catalyst, hydrogen-bonding catalyst and iminium catalyst. The active manner of the catalyst takes the lead role in the intermediate of the reaction to perform highly enantiomeric species in these types of catalysts. The main idea is increasing the HOMO level or decreasing the LUMO level (Figure 4).
1.3.2. Natural Products in Organocatalysts: Cinchona Alkaloids

Cinchona alkaloids, the natural products isolated from Cinchona trees, and used as catalysts since 1800s. In 1812, Pierre-Joseph Pelletier and Joseph Bienaimé Caventou isolated the first Cinchona alkaloid: “quinine”.\(^{17}\) However, the catalytic usage of these alkaloids was discovered after 1912.\(^{18}\) Although the first trials were not very satisfying, in the last three decades there has been an increase in the reports of catalytic studies with different Cinchona examples (Figure 5).
The first remarkable study with these alkaloids was reported by Pracejus, by using \( O\)-acetyl-quinine 3 as catalyst. He performed a reaction between phenylmethylketene (1) and methanol (Scheme 1). With a few amount of catalyst, the result was quite significant. Although reaction was carried out at very low temperatures, the chemical yield was also good as 93% and the enantiomeric excess was found 74%.

**Scheme 1.** The first remarkable study with Cinchona alkaloids

### 1.3.3. Bifunctional Organocatalysis

One of the biggest breakthroughs in the organocatalytic studies came in the 2003. Takemoto and his co-workers submitted a new type of catalyst, called “bifunctional organocatalyst”, includes both acidic and basic moieties, all in one unit. These types of catalysts provide an easy way in the activation of both substrates simultaneously. They derived an organocatalyst from Schreiner thiourea catalyst; provide a high hydrogen-bond interaction with the substrates (Figure 6).
Takemoto and his co-workers performed the Michael Addition of diethylmalonate (5) to trans-β-nitrostyrene (4) using thiourea type bifunctional organocatalyst 7 (Scheme 2).

In their catalyst, (R,R)-1,2-cyclohexyldiamine unit was used for the chiral scaffold, the basic part of the catalyst is used for the activation of nucleophile by raising HOMO level, and the acidic part, thiourea moiety, is used for the activation of the electrophile by decreasing the LUMO levels.\textsuperscript{20}

### 1.3.4. Squaramides in Organocatalysis

Thiourea type catalysts make it possible to interact substrates with H-bonding and there are many of them to widen the library. However, this brings us to find other H-bonding source. Rawal \textit{et al.} brought a new acidic moiety in to the literature.\textsuperscript{22} They claimed that the squaric acid moiety, depicted in Figure 7, provides a higher spacer than thiourea. The angle of the hydrogens in the squaric acid makes the H-bonding more effective in the transition states.
1.4. Aza-Henry Reactions

Aza-Henry reaction is a modified Henry reaction that occurs between nitroalkanes and imines to form $\beta$-nitroamine products. It is also known as nitro-Mannich reaction, which is the nucleophilic addition of nitronates to the electrophilic imine species to produce new C-C bond. Louis Henry published the first report of this reaction in 1896. In his study, methanolamine 8 was treated with nitromethane and nitroethane to give di- 10 and tripiperidines 9 (Scheme 3).

Scheme 3. The first example of nitro-Mannich reaction
After some studies were reported in this area, Henry made a revision about his study. He changed the product structure; nitromethane underwent a reaction with two moles of methanolamine derivatives 8 and 12 and leaving one free α-H as shown in Scheme 4.

![Scheme 4. Revised structure of the first example of nitro-Mannich reaction](image)

Until 1950, all the reports mentioned in situ formation of imines; however, in the 1950 Hurd and Strong reported that they used preformed imine in their reaction. Benzylideneaniline (14) underwent a reaction with nitroalkanes 15 successfully by refluxing in ethyl alcohol to give β-nitroamine products 16 and 17 (Scheme 5).

![Scheme 5. The first nitro-Mannich reaction with preformed imine](image)

The first study on asymmetric catalytic reaction was published by Shibasaki et al. in 1999. They used heterobimetallic complex as a catalyst 20. They discovered from their previous study that P=O bonds can coordinate with the central metal atom of the catalyst. Therefore, N-phosphonylimine type structures 18 were used as electrophiles. Nitromethane was slowly added as nucleophile over 27h. 91% ee was afforded with 79% chemical yield (Scheme 6).
Scheme 6. The first catalytic example of aza-Henry reaction

In 2004, Takemoto and his co-workers reported the first enantioselective nitro-Mannich reaction by using a bifunctional organocatalyst 7. Various $N$-protected imines were reacted with nitromethane by catalyst 7 (Scheme 7).\(^7\)

Scheme 7. The first organocatalytic aza-Henry reaction

Moderating $\beta$-nitroaldol products with high enantioselectivities is not an easy with $t$-Boc protected imines and nitromethane by using bifunctional organocatalysts due to low conversions. Most of the literature examples show that many scientists prefer to work with nitroethane or other nitroalkane derivatives due to their high acidity. (pKa of nitromethane\(^28\), nitroethane\(^29\) and 1-nitropropane\(^30\) is 10.2, 8.6, 8.92, respectively, in water at 25°C.) Unfortunately, only some of the catalysts work well with nitromethane, and these reactions performed with high catalyst loading scope usually. Sgarzani et al. tested several protecting groups on imine with nitromethane using Cinchona alkaloids as catalyst. The most efficient result was obtained with 20 mol% quinine in mesitylene as 61% ee in 18 hours with 90% conversion.\(^31\) They also screened the effect of modification on the catalyst by using $t$-Boc and Cbz protections. Among the modified catalysts, 3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzene
isothiocyanate substituted one 27 gave the best result with t-Boc protected imine in 88% ee. The optimized form of that study is shown in Scheme 8.

\[
\begin{align*}
N^+ &\quad PG \\
\text{Ar} &\quad \text{CH}_3\text{NO}_2 \\
23 &\quad PG=t\text{-Boc} \\
25 &\quad PG=\text{Cbz}
\end{align*}
\]

**Scheme 8.** Organocatalytic aza-Henry study with quinine derived catalyst

Rampalakos and Wulff also studied on t-Boc imines with nitromethane with their novel bis-thiourea organocatalyst 29 in 2008. Their organocatalyst was based on BINAM as chiral scaffold and the best condition of their reaction was shown in Scheme 9.\(^3\)\(^2\) The maximum enantioselectivity was obtained with 3-chloro substituted imine as 91%. Although they used Et\(_3\)N as additive, yields are quite low. The best chemical yield was obtained with the 1-naphthyl substituted as 65%.

\[
\begin{align*}
N^+ &\quad PG \\
\text{Ar} &\quad \text{CH}_3\text{NO}_2 \\
23 &\quad PG=t\text{-Boc} \\
25 &\quad PG=\text{Cbz}
\end{align*}
\]

**Scheme 9.** Reaction of t-Boc imines and nitroalkanes with bis-thiourea catalyst

In 2012, Zhang *et al.* worked on the same study with quinine based modular bifunctional chiral thiourea 32. After the optimization, derivatization of the imines was conducted with nitromethane and nitroethane, respectively.\(^3\)\(^3\) Their enantiomeric excess values and yields are excellent in both cases without regarding electronic properties of the substituents (Scheme 10).
Scheme 10. Modular bifunctional thiourea with quinine organocatalyst in aza-Henry reaction

The first example of the squaramide type bifunctional catalyst 33 in the aza-Henry reaction was published by Du and co-workers in 2013. Although the main subject was about benzothiazole imines, $\tau$-Boc and tosyl protected imines were also tested under their optimized condition. However, the enantioselectivities were very low compared with their imine bearing benzothiazole (Scheme 11).

Scheme 11. Squaramide type quinine based organocatalyst in aza-Henry reaction

1.5. Miscellaneous Reactions with Organocatalysts

1.5.1. Henry Reactions

Henry reaction simply occurs between an aldehyde or a ketone and a nitroalkane to yield $\beta$–nitroalcohol products. The resultant $\beta$–nitroalcohol motif would have generally possess a stereogenic center by the use of prochiral aldehyde or ketone. In the asymmetric version of Henry reaction, it is quite hard to control the
stereoselectivity in the final products due to fast background reaction. Therefore, there is a limitation in the organocatalytic study of Henry reactions.\textsuperscript{36}

One of the successful studies was done by Hiemstra \textit{et al.} using cinchona derived organocatalyst \textsuperscript{36}\textsuperscript{37} The reaction were performed with 10 mol\% catalyst in THF to afford $\beta$–nitroalcohol products \textsuperscript{35} in very high chemical yields and enantioselectivities (Scheme 12).

\begin{center}
\textbf{Scheme 12. Organocatalytic Henry reaction by Hiemstra}
\end{center}

\subsection{1.5.2. Aldol Reactions}

Asymmetric aldol type reactions are also one of the remarkable C-C bond formation reactions for affording highly enantioenriched $\beta$–hydroxy carbonyl products.\textsuperscript{38} In literature, tremendous amount of organocatalytic reactions exist. Herein, the study of Cheng and co-workers\textsuperscript{39} is depicted in Scheme 13, since the organocatalysts chosen resembles our own organocatalyst library backbone. They used primary and tertiary amine based organocatalytic system instead of bifunctional organocatalyst. The best result was obtained with the catalyst \textsuperscript{38} in 94\% ee and 83\% chemical yield.

\begin{center}
\textbf{Scheme 13. Organocatalytic aldol reaction by Cheng}
\end{center}
1.5.2.1. Decarboxylative Aldol Reactions

Decarboxylative aldol reactions are useful way to synthesize β-hydroxy-α-aminoacid\(^{40}\) and β-hydroxy-thioester\(^{41}\) derivatives. There is only one example performed by Song et al. in literature, with malonic acid half thioesters (MAHTs) 39 and different aldehydes 34 in presence of sulfonamide sulfonamide-based organocatalyst 41 as shown in Scheme 14.

**Scheme 14.** Organocatalytic decarboxylative aldol reaction by Song

1.5.3. Friedel-Crafts / Substitution Domino Type Reactions

This type of reactions are used to perform dihydrobenzofuran (DHB) and dihydronaphthofuran skeletons, which are very important pharmaceutical precursors.\(^ {42}\) Nevertheless, the asymmetric study of these skeletons are not very common. In 2013, Alemán and co-workers succeeded to synthesize almost enantiomerically pure trans-dihydroarylfuran derivatives 44 starting with (Z)-bromonitroalkenes 43 and β-naphthols 42 by squaramide type organocatalyst 45 (Scheme 15).\(^ {43}\)

**Scheme 15.** Organocatalytic Friedel-Crafts / substitution domino reaction by Alemán
1.6. **Aim of the Work**

In this thesis, the main objective was to test our research group’s bifunctional organocatalysts in different types of reactions.

The first part we aimed to optimize aza–Henry reaction of the $t$-Boc protected imines and nitroalkanes to obtain chiral $\beta$-nitroamines using 2-aminoDMAP and quinine based squaramide type bifunctional organocatalysts (Scheme 16). These target $\beta$-nitroamines were chosen because; they are quite feasible for the corresponding 1,2-diamines, $\alpha$-aminoacids, etc.

![Scheme 16. Representative route of the reaction](image)

In our research group, we developed a wide range of bifunctional organocatalyst library, including two main chiral scaffold as 2-aminoDMAP and quinine type Cinchona alkaloid. (Figure 8).

![Figure 8. Bifunctional organocatalysts developed in our research group](image)
In the second part of the thesis, we planned to test the efficacy of those bifunctional organocatalysts in different types of reactions such as Henry (Scheme 17), aldol (Scheme 18), decarboxylative aldol (Scheme 19) and Friedel-Crafts / substitution type domino (Scheme 19) reactions to see their utility.

**Scheme 17.** Organocatalytic Henry reaction

**Scheme 18.** Organocatalytic aldol reaction

**Scheme 19.** Organocatalytic decarboxylative aldol reaction

**Scheme 20.** Organocatalytic Friedel-crafts / substitution domino reaction
CHAPTER 2

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

2.1. Synthesis of t-Butyl Squaramide Anchored Bifunctional Organocatalysts

In our research group, we have developed many bifunctional organocatalysts. These catalysts can be categorized as two major sets of chiral scaffolds. The first set includes 2-aminoDMAP\textsuperscript{45} basic unit derived from (R,R)-1,2-cyclohexyldiamine as chiral scaffold, whereas the second set involves the quinine amine\textsuperscript{46} as chiral base. By anchoring different acidic moieties, such as urea, thiourea and squaramide motifs, we can synthesize different types of bifunctional organocatalysts.

General route for the synthesis of t-butyl squaramide type organocatalyst is used in this thesis depicted in Scheme 21 and 22. After synthesizing 2-aminoDMAP 56 and monosquarate\textsuperscript{47} 57 separately, they were coupled in DCM:MeOH mixture at room temperature to obtain desired organocatalyst 48. By using the same procedure, quinine amine 58 and monosquarate 57 result in organocatalyst 51 (Scheme 22).\textsuperscript{48}

![Scheme 21. Synthetic route for t-butyl squaramide / 2-aminoDMAP](image)
Scheme 22. Synthetic route for \( \tau \)-butyl squaramide / quinine

2.2. Evaluation of the Bifunctional Organocatalysts in Aza-Henry Reaction

2.2.1. Aza-Henry Reaction of \( \tau \)-Boc Protected Imines with Nitroalkanes

Aza-Henry reaction has been initiated with the organocatalysts, involving 2-aminoDMAP based urea 46, thiourea 47 and three different squaramides 48-50 as acidic moieties, developed in Tanyeli’s research group. Benzaldehyde derived \( \tau \)-Boc protected imine 23 was reacted with nitroethane to test the efficiencies of organocatalysts 46-50 in 5 mol% and 2 mol%. The results are given in Table 1. The structures of organocatalysts used in testing reactions are depicted in Figure 9.

Figure 9. 2-AminoDMAP based bifunctional organocatalysts

Among the results, 2 mol% of organocatalyst 48 gave the best result in terms of enantioselectivity of major diastereomeric product (Table 1, entry 8); therefore, it was chosen to be tested for further trials as 1 mol% and 10 mol% catalyst loading. Although 10 mol% catalyst loading (entry 11) afforded high diastereomeric ratio as
92:8 %, we could not get acceptable level of enantioselectivities in both major and minor products. In the case of 1 mol% catalyst loading of 48 (entry 12) slight decrease was observed in terms of diastereoselectivity as 88:12 % compared to 10 mol% catalyst loading. No good ee values were observed.

Table 1. Catalyst screening

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>Catalyst</th>
<th>Cat. Loading (%)</th>
<th>Time (h)</th>
<th>Major ee%</th>
<th>Minor ee%</th>
<th>dr (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>72:28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Rac</td>
<td>93:07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Rac</td>
<td>Rac</td>
<td>80:20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>93:07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Rac</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>80:20</td>
</tr>
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<td>6</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>71:29</td>
</tr>
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<td>2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>Rac</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>92:08</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>78:22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>87:13</td>
</tr>
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<td>10</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>69:31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>36</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>88:12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All of the experiments are conducted in 0.1 M with full conversion.

We continued with further optimization studies with solvent screening (Table 2). Among the screened solvents DCM proved to be the best one with 31% ee in 45 minutes (entry 3).

The next optimization step was temperature screening performed with 2 mol% \( t \)-butyl / 2-aminoDMAP 48 in dichloromethane (Table 3). Since the reaction rate was high and it would cause low stereoselectivity, we decided to lower the temperature. Unfortunately decreasing temperature induced fluctuations in enantiomeric excess values.
Table 2. Solvent Screening

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>Solvent</th>
<th>Time (h/m)</th>
<th>Major ee%</th>
<th>Minor ee%</th>
<th>dr (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Toluene</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>CH₃CN</td>
<td>1 h</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>96:4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>DCM</td>
<td>45 min</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>79:21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Chloroform</td>
<td>1 h</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>88:12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>THF</td>
<td>30 min</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>96:4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1,4-Dioxane</td>
<td>45 min</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>96:4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Xylene</td>
<td>30 min</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>96:4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Hexane</td>
<td>45 min</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>89:11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All of the experiments are conducted in 0.1 M with full conversion.

We could not observe consistent results at different temperatures as given in Table 3. Therefore we tracked the reaction with GC-MS and realized that there was a slight decrease in the product amount as well as increase in the starting material at different time intervals during the course of the reaction. (Appendix- C, Figure C. 1. & Figure C. 2., 1 h & 5 h, respectively) We concluded that fluctuated results could be attributed to retro-Mannich type reaction.

Table 3. Temperature Screening

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>Temperature (°C)</th>
<th>Time (h)</th>
<th>Major ee%</th>
<th>Minor ee%</th>
<th>dr (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>97:3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>-15</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>98:2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
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<td>40</td>
<td>26</td>
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<td>17</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>86:14</td>
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</table>

All of the experiments are conducted in 0.1 M with full conversion in DCM.
Table 4. Temperature Screening with other derivatives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>Temperature (°C)</th>
<th>Time (h)</th>
<th>Conversion* (%)</th>
<th>ee (%)</th>
<th>dr (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Me</td>
<td>-30</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>59^a/11^b</td>
<td>97:3</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Me</td>
<td>-40</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>63^a/73^b</td>
<td>97:3</td>
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<td>H</td>
<td>-40</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
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<td>H</td>
<td>-50</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>-60</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>28*</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All of the experiments are conducted in 0.2 M. ^aMajor diastereomer, ^bminor diastereomer *Calculated with GC-MS.

We continued to temperature screening with p-anisaldehyde derived imine and nitroalkanes (Table 4). A drastic increase in enantioselectivity was observed with nitroethane at -30 °C and -40 °C as 59 and 63%, respectively, for the major isomer (entries 1 and 2). With nitromethane, a consistent increase was observed in terms of enantioselectivity, as 55, 64 and 66% at -40, -50 and -60 °C, respectively (entries 3, 4 and 5). In contrast to benzaldehyde derived imine case, the reaction durations increased, presumably due to the electron-donating group on the para position and also the low acidity of nitromethane. Since the best result was obtained at -60 °C, we decided to proceed further optimization studies with that temperature and with nitromethane. In order to increase the reaction rate, catalyst loading was increased (Table 5).

Although the best result was obtained with 15 mol% of catalyst as 76% ee, further optimizations were performed with 10 mol% catalyst loading by using 3 different imine derivatives (Table 6). Among the derivatives, the unsubstituted imine gave the best result in 48 hours as 73% ee in 92% conversion (Table 6, entry 1).
Table 5. Catalyst loading and concentration screening

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>Cat. Loading (%)</th>
<th>Concentration (M)</th>
<th>Time (h)</th>
<th>Conversion (%)</th>
<th>ee (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conversions are calculated with GC-MS.

Table 6. Derivatization study with catalyst 48

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>Time (h)</th>
<th>Conversion (%)</th>
<th>ee (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>24a</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>24b</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>24c</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All of the experiments are conducted with 0.2M. Conversions are calculated with GC-MS.
The model aza-Henry reaction was also performed with the quinine based bifunctional organocatalysts 51-53 (Figure 10).

![Figure 10. Quinine based bifunctional organocatalysts](image)

With these organocatalysts 51-53, reaction durations were too long by comparing with 2-aminoDMAP organocatalysts 46-50 (Table 7). However, drastic increase was observed in enantioselectivities, in particular with the t-butyl / quinine organocatalyst 51 (Table 7, entry 1). Moreover, no retro-Mannich reaction was observed.

**Table 7.** Catalyst screening with the quinine based squaramides

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>Catalyst</th>
<th>Time (h)</th>
<th>Conversion (%)</th>
<th>ee (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>21 h</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>27 h</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>48 h</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All of the experiments are conducted with 0.2 M. Conversions are calculated with GC-MS.

After choosing the organocatalyst 51 as the best one, further solvent screening studies were done (Table 8). Of the screened solvents, DCM was found to be the
best, once again both in terms of reaction duration and enantioselectivity (Table 8, entry 1). Enantioselectivities in other solvents were quite similar to that of DCM, yet they were not suitable for this reaction since reaction duration was longer. In hexane, the reaction did not occur due to low solubility of both the catalyst and nitromethane (Table 8, entry 3).

**Table 8. Solvent screening with catalyst 51**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>Solvent</th>
<th>Time (h)</th>
<th>Conversion (%)</th>
<th>ee (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>DCM</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Toluene</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Hexane</td>
<td>No Reaction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Chloroform</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>THF</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All of the experiments are conducted with 0.2 M. Conversions are calculated with GC-MS.

As the next step, temperature and concentration parameters were tested (Table 9). The reaction rates were slower than those at room temperature as expected. However, no significant change was observed in enantioselectivities at 0 °C or -40 °C (entries 2 and 3). In addition, at -60 °C, the reaction did not occur. So far, all the reactions were performed with 0.2 M concentration. We also tested 0.1 M and 0.3 M concentrations (entries 5 and 6). Dilution caused a slight increase in enantioselectivity; therefore, we decided to continue with 0.1 M concentration (Table 9, entry 5).
Table 9. Additional temperature and concentration screenings with catalyst 51

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>Cat. Loading (%)</th>
<th>Temperature (°C)</th>
<th>Concentration (M)</th>
<th>Time (h)</th>
<th>Conversion (%)</th>
<th>ee (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>r.t.</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>-40</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>-60</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td></td>
<td>No Reaction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>r.t.</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>r.t.</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>r.t.</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conversions are calculated with GC-MS.

Consequently, the parameters, 10 mol% of organocatalyst 51, 0.1 M concentration in DCM at room temperature were determined to be the best condition for aza-Henry reaction.

In the last part of this study, the optimized parameters were applied to different t-Boc protected imine derivatives with both nitromethane and nitroethane. The results are summarized in Table 10. It was clearly observed that the electron donating groups on the phenyl ring cause elongation of reaction durations, whereas the electron withdrawing groups cause a decrease in reaction duration. However, the direct effect of these groups on the enantioselectivity could not be observed. All the results were quite similar in terms of enantioselectivity, except for 3-chloro substituted imine, which was found to be 64% ee.
Table 10. Derivatization with catalyst 51

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>Products</th>
<th>R&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Time (h)</th>
<th>Conversion (%)</th>
<th>ee (%)</th>
<th>dr&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt; (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>![Product Image] 24a</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>![Product Image] 24b</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>![Product Image] 24c</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>![Product Image] 24d</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>![Product Image] 24e</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>![Product Image] 24f</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>![Product Image] 24g</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>![Product Image] 24h</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>![Product Image] 28a</td>
<td>Me</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>90&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;/80&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>72/28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>![Product Image] 28b</td>
<td>Me</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>44&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;/36&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>75/25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>![Product Image] 28c</td>
<td>Me</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>55&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;/66&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>62/38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>![Product Image] 31a</td>
<td>Et</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>89&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;/86&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>78/22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All of the experiments are conducted with 0.1 M. Conversions are calculated with GC-MS. <sup>a</sup>Anti, <sup>b</sup>syn product.
<sup>c</sup>Determined with both GC-MS and HPLC (anti/syn).
In order to understand the selectivity of the aza-Henry reaction of nitromethane to t-Boc protected imines 23 catalyzed by bifunctional quinine derived squaramide organocatalyst 51 we proposed a transition-state model. Based on the proposed activation modes of nucleophile and electrophile, a plausible transition state model was designed to show the origin of the enantioselectivity. In the transition state, the deprotonation of nitroalkane is achieved by interaction via H bond while, the squaramide moiety activated the t-Boc imine through double hydrogen bonding. Nitromethane anion attacked the activated imine from the Si-face.

![Figure 11. Proposed transition state model](image-url)
2.2.2. Aza-Henry Reaction of Tosyl Protected Imines with Nitroalkanes

We have also tested the efficiencies of organocatalysts developed in our group by using tosyl-protected imines with nitroalkanes in aza-Henry reaction (Table 11). The 2-aminoDMAP based ones were tested with 5 mol% catalyst loading. t-Butyl squaramide 48 and 1-adamantyl squaramide 49 showed promising results (Table 11, entry 2 and 3, respectively). We decreased the catalyst amount to 2 mol%, and t-buty1 squaramide 48 gave best result as 52% ee (Table 11, entry 5). Quinine type organocatalysts 50-53 were also screened with 2 mol% catalyst loading; however, none of them gave better result than organocatalyst 48.

Table 11. Catalyst screening and catalyst loading of tosyl imines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>Catalyst</th>
<th>Cat. Loading (%)</th>
<th>Time (h)</th>
<th>Isolated Yield (%)</th>
<th>ee (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>56</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>49</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>65</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>78</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
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<td>75</td>
<td>63</td>
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<td>48</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All of the experiments are conducted with 0.2 M.

Using 2 mol% organocatalyst 48, solvent screening was performed (Table 12). In addition to DCM, 6 other solvents were tested in this reaction. Among these solvents acetonitrile was found to be the best as 58% ee in 27 hours with 87% isolated yield (Table 12, entry 3).
The concentration parameter of the reaction was also tested by using acetonitrile. Nevertheless, the result did not change; 0.2 M was better than the others. We also lowered the temperature to 0 °C, the enantioselectivity also decreased. Among these trials of tosyl imine reaction with nitromethane, the best condition was found as 2 mol% of organocatalyst 48, 0.2 M concentration in acetonitrile at room temperature (Table 12, entry 3).

**Table 12.** Additional screenings of tosyl imines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>Solvent</th>
<th>Temperature (°C)</th>
<th>Concentration (M)</th>
<th>Time (h)</th>
<th>Isolated Yield (%)</th>
<th>ee (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>DCM</td>
<td>r.t.</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Toluene</td>
<td>r.t.</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>CH₃CN</td>
<td>r.t.</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Chloroform</td>
<td>r.t.</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Xylene</td>
<td>r.t.</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1,4-Dioxane</td>
<td>r.t.</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Hexane</td>
<td>r.t.</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>CH₃CN</td>
<td>r.t.</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>CH₃CN</td>
<td>r.t.</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>CH₃CN</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.3. Evaluation of the Bifunctional Organocatalysts in Henry Reaction

Conducting of Henry reaction with an organocatalyst is very hard, because the background reaction occurs very fast and could cause uncontrollable stereoselectivity. However, we still wanted to see our organocatalysts’ utility in the
reaction of aldehydes with nitromethane. For this purpose, \( p \)-nitrobenzaldehyde \( (34b) \) and nitromethane underwent the reaction in the presence of 2-aminoDMAP organocatalysts \( 46-50 \) (Table 13). Starting with 5 mol% catalyst loading afforded quite fast reaction and resulted in racemic product. Even lowering the catalyst loading to 2 mol%, the results did not change. The best one still belonged to urea / 2-aminoDMAP catalyst \( 46 \) with 6% ee.

**Table 13.** Catalyst screening and catalyst loading of Henry reaction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>Catalyst</th>
<th>Cat. Loading (%)</th>
<th>Time (h)</th>
<th>Isolated Yield (%)</th>
<th>ee (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Rac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Rac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>Rac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Rac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Rac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>84</td>
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<tr>
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<td>78</td>
<td>Rac</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Rac</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All of the experiments are conducted with 0.2 M.

We did trials further with urea catalyst \( 46 \) in different solvents and at low temperatures. However, none of the trials led to a good result, we got maximum 7% ee in hexane and 9% ee in toluene at the room temperature (Table 14, entry 2 and 6, respectively).
Table 14. Additional solvent and temperature screenings of Henry reaction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>Solvent</th>
<th>Temperature (°C)</th>
<th>Time (h)</th>
<th>Isolated Yield (%)</th>
<th>ee (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>DCM</td>
<td>rt</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Toluene</td>
<td>rt</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>CH$_3$CN</td>
<td>rt</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>Rac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Chloroform</td>
<td>rt</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>Rac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Xylene</td>
<td>rt</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Rac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Hexane</td>
<td>rt</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>95</td>
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</tr>
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<td>7</td>
<td>DCM</td>
<td>-40</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Rac</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Hexane</td>
<td>-40</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>Rac</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All of the experiments are conducted with 0.2M.

2.4. Evaluation of the 2-aminoDMAP Backbone in Aldol Reaction

In this part of the study, we focused on testing efficacy of primary amine motif of 2-aminoDMAP 56 with Brønsted acid in the aldol reactions. $p$-Nitrobenzaldehyde (34b) and acetone were chosen as substrates and the reactions were performed on the basis of literature example.$^{39}$ Wide range of Brønsted acids with different molar ratios were screened in the presence or absence of $p$-nitrobenzoic acid at room temperature. The results are summarized in Table 15. The best result was obtained as 43% ee with TFA and AcOH with low isolated yields (entries 5 and 8, respectively).
### Table 15. Screenings of Aldol reaction with acetone

![Chemical structure](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>Catalyst</th>
<th>Acid</th>
<th>Molar Ratio&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt; (organocat:acid)</th>
<th>2nd Acid</th>
<th>Time (h/d)</th>
<th>Isolated yield (%)</th>
<th>ee (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>TfOH</td>
<td>1:1</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>5 days</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>TfOH</td>
<td>1:2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>46 h</td>
<td>nd</td>
<td>Rac</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>TfOH</td>
<td>1:3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>46 h</td>
<td>nd</td>
<td>Rac</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>PTSA</td>
<td>1:1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15 days</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>TFA</td>
<td>1:1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>71 h</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>43</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>TFA</td>
<td>1:1</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>70 h</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>38</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>TFA</td>
<td>1:2</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>94 h</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>AcOH</td>
<td>1:1</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>94 h</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>43</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>PhCOOH</td>
<td>1:1</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>94 h</td>
<td>nd</td>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>4-NO₂PhCOOH</td>
<td>1:1</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>94 h</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Picric</td>
<td>1:1</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>94 h</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>TFA</td>
<td>1:1.5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>48 h</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>TFA</td>
<td>1:1.5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>48 h</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>67 h</td>
<td>12&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>a</sup>With respect to 10 mol% organocatalyst. <sup>b</sup>Isolated salt of TFA and 2-aminoDMAP. <sup>c</sup>Calculated with crude NMR.

### Table 16. Screenings of Aldol reaction with cyclohexanone (59)

![Chemical structure](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>Catalyst</th>
<th>Acid</th>
<th>Molar Ratio&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt; (organocat:acid)</th>
<th>Time (h/d)</th>
<th>Syn ee (%)</th>
<th>Anti ee (%)</th>
<th>dr (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>73 h</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>57:43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>TFA</td>
<td>1:1</td>
<td>46 h</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>64:36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>TFA</td>
<td>1:1.5</td>
<td>46 h</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>60:40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>a</sup>With respect to 10 mol% organocatalyst. <sup>b</sup>Isolated salt of TFA and 2-aminoDMAP.
In the further trials, cyclohexanone 59 was replaced with acetone. Unfortunately, no good results could be obtained (Table 16).

The final trial of aldol reaction was performed with binary organocatalyst system (2-amino-DMAP 56 and L or D-proline) in the reaction of p-nitrobenzaldehyde 34b and acetone (Table 17). Under these circumstances, the reaction rates drastically increased. The resultant aldol products gave the same enantioselectivity as 41% ee in different enantiomeric forms, it could be concluded that the source of enantioselectivity was presumably depending upon proline.

Table 17. Screenings of Aldol reaction with binary catalyst system

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>Catalyst</th>
<th>Acid</th>
<th>Molar Ratio* (organocat:acid)</th>
<th>Time (h/d)</th>
<th>Isolated Yield (%)</th>
<th>ee (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>56+L-proline</td>
<td>AcOH</td>
<td>1:10</td>
<td>35 h</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>-41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>56+D-proline</td>
<td>AcOH</td>
<td>1:10</td>
<td>33 h</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*With respect to 10 mol% organocatalyst.

2.5. Evaluation of the Bifunctional Organocatalysts in Decarboxylative Aldol Reaction

Decarboxylative studies are quite new in the asymmetric synthesis and there are only a few examples with bifunctional organocatalyst.\(^{40,41}\) In 2013, Rouden and co-workers showed the excellent diastereoselective (only anti product) synthesis of anti-\(\beta\)-hydroxy-\(\alpha\)-amino acids from \(\alpha\)-amidohemimalonates with various aldehydes by using different organic bases (Scheme 23).
Herein, we performed the same reaction with our organocatalysts to get both enantioselectively and diastereoselectively enriched products. The catalyst screening was done with 10 mol% organocatalyst 47, 48 and cinchona derivatives thiourea 27 urea 61 ones, known in literature, the structures of 27 and 61 are depicted in Figure 11. The most promising result was obtained with organocatalyst 48 as 55% ee (entry 1). Other enantiomer’s ee% has not yet been determined, because we have not found an applicable HPLC condition.

**Figure 12.** Cinchona derivative of thiourea 27 and urea 61 organocatalysts

**Table 18.** Screenings of Decarboxylative Aldol reaction with bifunctional organocatalysts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>Catalyst</th>
<th>Solvent</th>
<th>Cat. Loading (%)</th>
<th>Time (d)</th>
<th>ee* (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>DCM</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>DCM</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>CH3CN</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>DCM</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>DCM</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All the experiments were conducted with 0.13 M. *Anti* product.
2.6. Evaluation of the Bifunctional Organocatalysts in Friedel-Crafts/Substitution Domino Reaction

Domino reactions are another trending topic in organocatalytic studies in the recent years.\textsuperscript{49,50} Friedel-Crafts/substitution is the most common and widely used C-C bond forming reaction in synthetic organic chemistry. In this part of the thesis, it was chosen as the key step in domino reaction to afford disubstituted dihydronaphthofuran derivatives possessing two chiral centers in enantiomerically enriched form. For this purpose, \((Z)-(2\text{-bromo-2-nitrovinyl})\text{benzene (43)}\) and \(\beta\text{-naphthol (42)}\) were used to perform model organocatalytic Friedel-Crafts/substitution domino type reaction. Initial studies involved the screening studies of 2-aminoDMAP based organocatalyst \textsuperscript{48,49,50} and quinine based organocatalyst \textsuperscript{51,52,53}. The results are summarized in Table 19. First experiment was carried out with 10 mol\% organocatalyst \textsuperscript{51} in chloroform at room temperature and monitored by TLC and directly afforded with one diastereomer due to the stereospecific \(\text{SN}_2\) type reaction. Although HPLC measurement of this product showed promising result as 70\% ee, the reaction rate was too slow and the chemical yield was almost 50\% after 48 hours (entry 1). This is presumably due to the HBr evolved during the course of the reaction that would block the active site of the catalyst, thus leads a decrease in the reaction rate.\textsuperscript{44} In order to prevent the inhibition factor, inorganic bases were used. Fortunately, we observed the positive effect in terms of reaction duration as full conversion for 24 h (entry 5). Of the screened organocatalysts, \(\text{t-butyl / quinine 51}\) proved to be the best one. Further base screening was done with \(\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3\) and drastic decrease was observed in terms of reaction duration for 1 hour in 69\% ee (entry 8). When the reaction was performed in DCM with \(\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3\), the reaction completed with full conversion in 10 minutes with quite enantioselectivity as 92\% ee (entry 9).
Table 19. Screenings of Friedel-Crafts / Substitution Domino Reaction with bifunctional organocatalysts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Catalyst</th>
<th>Solvent</th>
<th>Base</th>
<th>Time (h/m)</th>
<th>ee%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>CHCl&lt;sub&gt;3&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>48 h</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>CHCl&lt;sub&gt;3&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
<td>NaOAc</td>
<td>26 h</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>CHCl&lt;sub&gt;3&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
<td>NaOAc</td>
<td>26.5 h</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>CHCl&lt;sub&gt;3&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
<td>NaOAc</td>
<td>26 h</td>
<td>Rac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>CHCl&lt;sub&gt;3&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
<td>NaOAc</td>
<td>24 h</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>CHCl&lt;sub&gt;3&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
<td>NaOAc</td>
<td>24 h</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>CHCl&lt;sub&gt;3&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
<td>NaOAc</td>
<td>22 h</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>CHCl&lt;sub&gt;3&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
<td>Cs&lt;sub&gt;2&lt;/sub&gt;CO&lt;sub&gt;3&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
<td>1 h</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>DCM</td>
<td>Cs&lt;sub&gt;2&lt;/sub&gt;CO&lt;sub&gt;3&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
<td>10 mins</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>a</sup>All the experiments were conducted with 0.5 M with full conversion. Bases were used 1 equivalent (except entry 1). <sup>b</sup>50% conversion was obtained.
CHAPTER 3

EXPERIMENTAL

3.1 Materials and Methods

$^1$H NMR and $^{13}$C NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl$_3$ on Bruker Spectrospin Avance DPX-400 spectrometer. The chemical shifts were reported in ppm relative to CDCl$_3$ (δ 7.26 and 77.0 for $^1$H and $^{13}$C NMR, respectively) as the internal standard, and the data are specified as s (singlet), bs (broad singlet), d (doublet), dd (doublet of doublet), ddd (doublet of doublet of doublet), bd (broad doublet), t (triplet), td (triplet of triplet), m (multiplet) and coupling constants (J) in Hertz (Hz).

HPLC chromatograms were recorded on Dionex & Thermo-Finnigan HPLC system. Daicel ADH, IA, ODH, ASH, OJH chiral columns were used with different solvent systems. The mass spectra were recorded on Thermo Scientific DSQ II Single Quadrupole GC/MS. HRMS data were detected on a Agilent 6224 TOF LC/MS at UNAM, Bilkent University.

Infrared measurements were done on Thermo Nicolet IS10 ATR / FT-IR spectrophotometer. Optical rotations were measured with Rudolph Scientific Autopol III polarimeter and reported as follows $[\alpha]^D$ (c is in gram per 100 mL solvent). Melting points were obtained on a Thomas Hoover capillary melting point apparatus and are uncorrected.

Using Merck Silica Gel 60, flash column chromatographies were performed. Reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography using precoated silica gel plates (Merck Silica Gel PF-254), visualized by UV-light and polymolybden phosphoric acid in ethanol and potassium permanganate stain as appropriate. All extracts were dried over anhydrous magnesium sulphate and solutions were concentrated under vacuum by using rotary evaporator.
Only characterization data of novel compounds are given in experimental section and related literature is cited.
Compounds names were written with ChemBioDraw 14.0.

3.2 Synthesis of 9-amino (9-deoxy)epihydroquinine 58

The following literature procedure is performed:\textsuperscript{46} Quinine (3.24 g, 10.0 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (3.15 g, 12.0 mmol) were dissolved in 50 mL of dry THF and the solution was cooled to 0 °C. Diisopropyl azodicarboxylate (2.43 g, 12.0 mmol) was added all at once. Then solution of diphenyl phosphoryl azide (3.30 g, 12.0 mmol) in 20 mL of dry THF was added dropwise at 0 °C. The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature. After being stirred for 12h, the solution was heated to 50 °C for 2 h. Then triphenylphosphine (3.41 g, 13.0 mmol) was added and heating was maintained until the gas evolution has ceased (2 h). The solution was cooled to room temperature, and 1 mL of water was added and the solution was stirred for 3 h. Solvents were removed in vacuo and the residue was dissolved in CH\textsubscript{2}Cl\textsubscript{2} and 10% hydrochloric acid (1:1, 100 mL). The aqueous phase was washed with CH\textsubscript{2}Cl\textsubscript{2} (4 × 50 mL). Then the aqueous phase was made alkaline with excess aqueous ammonia and was washed with CH\textsubscript{2}Cl\textsubscript{2} (4 × 50 mL). The combined organic phases was dried over Na\textsubscript{2}SO\textsubscript{4} and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/MeOH/aq. NH\textsubscript{4}OH = 50/50/1 as eluent) affording the title compound as yellowish viscous oil in 75% isolated yield.

Spectroscopic data are in accordance with the literature.\textsuperscript{46}

3.3 Synthesis of \textit{t}-Butyl Mono-Squaramide 57

Squaric acid (4.3 mmol, 500 mg) was refluxed under argon atmosphere during 3h by using absolute ethanol (7 mL). Then the solvent was evaporated under vacuum, and this procedure is
repeated for three times for 30 minutes reflux. The last evaporation affords diethyl squarate as very light yellow oil. In order to make the mono-squaramide, the diethyl squarate is added to tert-butylamine (1 eq) solution in 4 mL DCM and stirred for 24 hours at room temperature. The product was purified with silica gel and EtOAc:Hexane (1:3) as eluent, obtained with 90% yield as white solid.

Spectroscopic data are in accordance with the literature.47

3.4 Synthesis of t-Butyl Squaramide / Quinine Catalyst 51

Mono-squaramide ester (0.2 mmol) was added to a solution of quinine 58 (0.2 mmol) in DCM:MeOH (1:1) mixture. The reaction was stirred 48 hours at room temperature and directly loaded on to silica gel column, which is eluted with gradient EtOAc:MeOH. Product was obtained with 92% yield as slightly white solid.

Mp= 260 °C (decomposed).

Optical rotation was determined as [α]D20 = -180.2° (c=0.1, CH2Cl2).

1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ 8.69 (d, J=4.5 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (d, J=9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (bs, 1H), 7.54 (d, J=4.6 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (dd, J=9.1, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 6.08 (bs, 1H), 5.74 (ddd, J= 17.4, 10.1, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.95 (dd, J=16.3, 9.7 Hz, 1H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.44 (bs, 2H), 3.21-3.10 (m, 1H), 2.72 (bd, J=11.4 Hz, 2H), 2.26 (bs, 1H), 1.71-1.51 (m, 3H), 1.48-1.42 (m, 1H), 1.19 (s, 9H), 0.8 (bs, 1H). 2 protons are not located.

13C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl3): δ 182.3, 181.5, 168.3, 168.1, 158.8, 147.8, 144.9, 144.0, 140.6, 131.8, 128.0, 122.5, 119.7, 115.3, 101.6, 60.4, 56.2, 55.9, 53.3, 41.0, 39.1, 30.6, 29.8, 27.5, 27.4, 25.8.


HRMS: Exact mass calculated for [C28H34N4O3+H]+: 475.2709; found as 475.2712.
3.5 Synthesis of 2-AminoDMAP 56

CuBr (0.2 mmol, 200.8 mg) and $K_3PO_4$ (2.0 mmol, 2.9 g) were added to an oven-dried Schlenk tube and this tube was evacuated and backfilled with argon thrice. $(R, R)$-cyclohexadiamine (1.2 mmol, 960 mg) and 2-bromoDMAP (1 mmol, 1.4 g) were added and same procedure was applied. Dry 1,4-dioxane (7.8 mL) was added under argon atmosphere and the reaction mixture was stirred at 110 °C for 24 hours. The resulting green-blue suspension mixture was left at room temperature for cooling. Then 2 mL of water and 2 mL of concentrated ammonia solution was added. The resulting dark blue solution was extracted with dichloromethane (3 x 25 mL). Then organic phase was washed with brine and dried over MgSO$_4$. The product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel using gradient saturated DCM (using with ammonia solution) and MeOH. Desired product 66 was obtained as light brown solid with 40% yield.

Spectroscopic data are in accordance with the literature.$^{45}$

3.6 Synthesis of t-Butyl squaramide / 2-aminoDMAP catalyst 48

Mono-squaramide ester 57 (0.2 mmol) was added to a solution of 2-aminoDMAP 56 (0.2 mmol) in DCM:MeOH (1:1) mixture. The reaction was stirred 48 hours at room temperature and directly loaded on to silica gel column, which is eluted with gradient saturated DCM:MeOH. Product was afforded with 90% yield as slightly light brown solid.

Spectroscopic data are in accordance with the literature.$^{48}$
3.7 Synthesis of t-Boc Protected Imines

The following slightly modified literature procedure is performed:\textsuperscript{51-53}

The aldehyde (15 mmol) was suspended in 2:1:0.7 H\textsubscript{2}O/MeOH/HCO\textsubscript{2}H (40 mL) and stirred until the mixture became homogeneous. (Gentle heating was necessary to achieve complete dissolution in most cases). Sodium benzenesulfinic acid (20 mmol) and tert-butyl carbamate (10 mmol) were added sequentially. The reaction mixture was stirred for 3 days, the solids collected by filtration and triturated with H\textsubscript{2}O and then diethylether to leave the sulfonylcarbamate.

A suspension of flame dried Cs\textsubscript{2}CO\textsubscript{3} or K\textsubscript{2}CO\textsubscript{3} (6.0 mmol) in a solution of the sulfonylcarbamate (2.0 mmol) in dry, alcohol-free CH\textsubscript{2}Cl\textsubscript{2} (40 mL) was heated at reflux. Small aliquots were removed periodically, filtered, and analyzed by \textsuperscript{1}H NMR spectroscopy (using CDCl\textsubscript{3} treated with K\textsubscript{2}CO\textsubscript{3} to remove trace HCl which hydrolyzes the N-Boc imine) to confirm completion of the reaction (1-4 h). The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, diluted with hexane (40 mL), stirred for 10 min, and filtered. The filtrate was concentrated in vacuo at < 20 °C to leave the N-Boc imine.

3.8 General Procedure for Aza-Henry Reaction: Nitromethane Addition to t-Boc Protected Imines

Racemic synthesis;

Imine (0.1 mmol), nitromethane (0.35 mmol) and Et\textsubscript{3}N (0.01 mmol) were dissolved in DCM (1 mL) and stirred at room temperature. The reaction was monitored with GC-MS upon the consumption of limiting reactant, directly loaded into column chromatography. EtOAc:Hexane mixtures was used as eluent to purify the products.
**Asymmetric synthesis:**

Imine (0.1 mmol), t-butyl/quinine 51 (0.01 mmol) was dissolved in DCM (0.8 mL) for half an hour. Then nitromethane (0.35 mmol) was added to solution and stirred at room temperature. The reaction was monitored with GC-MS upon the consumption of limiting reactant, directly loaded into column chromatography. EtOAc:Hexane mixtures was used as eluent to purify the products.

The following GC-MS method was performed on Thermo TR-5MS 30m x 0.25 mm ID x 0.25 um film, 5% Phenyl Polysilphenylene-siloxane column (260F142P) to track the reactions: Flow = 1.0 mL/min, oven = 0.1 min at 50 °C, to 200 °C at 20 °C/min, 0.1 min at 200 °C; to 260 °C at 10 °C/min, 3.0 min at 260 °C, inlet=220 °C, MS-Transfer Line=250 °C.

### 3.8.1 Synthesis of tert-butyl (S)-(2-nitro-1-phenylethyl) carbamate (24a)

General procedure starting from nitromethane and tert-butyl (phenylmethylene) carbamate afforded to desired chiral product with 96% conversion and 85% ee in 24 h as a white solid.

Optical rotation was determined as $[\alpha]_{D}^{25} = +18.48^\circ$ (c=0.25, CH$_2$Cl$_2$).

**$^1$H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ 7.38-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.27 (m, 3H), 5.37 (bs, 2H), 4.83 (bs, 1H), 4.73-4.65 (m, 1H), 1.43 (s, 9H).

**$^{13}$C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ 154.9, 136.9, 129.3, 128.8, 126.5, 80.8, 79.0, 52.9, 28.4.

**HPLC:** Chiralpak ADH column, 95:5 (n-hexane/i-PrOH), flow rate 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm, temp=25 °C, t$_{major}$= 29.3 min, t$_{minor}$= 31.6 min.

**GC-MS:** Retention time: 10.57 min.

$[M/Z]= 57.08, 91.04, 117.05, 119.05, 132.06, 164.03, 177.03, 224.01.$

**IR(neat):** 3376, 2977, 1685, 1545, 1517, 1255, 1165, 1025, 796, 699 cm$^{-1}$
3.8.2 Synthesis of tert-butyl (S)-(1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-nitroethyl) carbamate (24b)

General procedure starting from nitromethane and N-Boc-4-methoxybenzylideneamine afforded to desired chiral product with 91% conversion and 75% ee in 71 h as a white solid. Optical rotation was determined as $[\alpha]_{D}^{25} = +19.36^\circ$ (c=0.25, CH$_2$Cl$_2$).

$^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$): $\delta$ 7.24 (d, 2H), 6.91 (d, 2H), 5.36-5.30 (m, 1H), 5.24 (d, $J$=7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.85 (bs, 1H), 4.68 (dd, $J$=12.5, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 1.45 (s, 9H).

$^{13}$C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl$_3$): 159.7, 154.7, 128.9, 127.6, 114.5, 136.9, 129.2, 128.7, 126.3, 80.5, 55.3, 52.5.

HPLC: Chiralpak OJH, 92:8 (n-hexane/i-PrOH), flow rate 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm, temp=25 °C, $t_{\text{major}}$= 43.7 min, $t_{\text{minor}}$= 48.9 min.

GC-MS: Retention time: 10.99 min.

[M/Z]$^+$ = 57.09, 77.03, 104.03, 106.05, 120.05, 149.99, 162.92, 164.05.

IR(neat): 3362, 2983, 1689, 1513, 1247, 1164, 1020, 830, 541 cm$^{-1}$

3.8.3 Synthesis of tert-butyl (S)-(2-nitro-1-(o-tolyl)ethyl) carbamate (24c)

General procedure starting from nitromethane and tert-Butyl N-[(2-methylphenyl)methylene] carbamate afforded to desired chiral product with full conversion and 91% ee in 44 h as a white solid. Optical rotation was determined as $[\alpha]_{D}^{25} = +28.08^\circ$ (c=0.25, CH$_2$Cl$_2$).

$^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$): $\delta$ 7.22 (bs, 4H), 5.65 (d, $J$=5.49 Hz, 1H), 5.22 (bs, 1H), 4.79 (bs, 1H), 4.75 (bs, 1H), 4.66 (bs, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 1.42 (s, 9H).
\[^{13}\text{C NMR}\ (100\ \text{MHz, CDCl}_3):\ \delta\ 154.8, 135.9, 135.4, 131.3, 128.6, 126.9, 125.1, 78.1, 49.5, 29.3, 19.2.\]

\[
\text{HPLC:}\ \text{Chiralpak ODH, 90:10 (n-hexane/i-PrOH), flow rate 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm, temp=25 °C, t_{minor}= 17.0 min, t_{major}= 31.1 min.} \]

\[
\text{GC-MS: Retention time: 11.02 min.} \\
[M/Z]^-= 57.09, 59.07, 91.05, 117.06, 119.07, 132.07, 164.04, 177.05, 224.03. \\
\text{IR(neat): 3363, 2980, 1688, 1541, 1526, 1251 cm}^{-1} \\
\]

\[
\text{3.8.4 Synthesis of tert-butyl (S)-(1-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-nitroethyl) carbamate (24d)} \\
\]

General procedure starting from nitromethane and tert-Butyl N-[(3-chlorophenyl)methylene] carbamate afforded to desired chiral product with 91% conversion and 64% ee in 21h as a white solid. Optical rotation was determined as [\alpha]_D^{25} = +16.16° (c=0.25, CH_2Cl_2).

\[
\text{\[^{1}\text{H NMR}\ (400\ \text{MHz, CDCl}_3):\ \delta\ 7.33-7.27\ (m, 4H), 5.48\ (bs, 1H), 5.36\ (bs, 1H), 4.81\ (bs, 1H), 4.73-4.62\ (m, 1H), 1.43\ (s, 9H).} \\
\text{\[^{13}\text{C NMR}\ (100\ \text{MHz, CDCl}_3):\ \delta154.9, 139.1, 135.1, 130.4, 128.9, 126.6, 124.5, 80.9, 78.6, 52.3, 28.2.} \\
\]

\[
\text{HPLC: Chiralpak ADH, 90:10 (n-hexane/i-PrOH), flow rate 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm, temp=25 °C, t_{major}= 10.5 min, t_{minor}= 13.9 min.} \]

\[
\text{GC-MS: Retention time: 11.95 min.} \\
[M/Z]^-= 57.09, 59.06, 77.03, 103.04, 138.00, 196.95. \\
\text{IR(neat): 3362, 2978, 2929, 1687, 1556, 1367, 1248, 1158, 696 cm}^{-1} \\
\]
3.8.5 Synthesis of tert-butyl (S)-(1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-nitroethyl) carbamate (24e)

General procedure starting from nitromethane and tert-Butyl N-[(4-bromo)methylene] carbamate afforded to desired chiral product with full conversion and 91% ee in 16 h as a white solid.

Optical rotation was determined as $[\alpha]_{D}^{25} = +18.23^\circ$ (c=0.25, CH$_2$Cl$_2$).

$^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$): $\delta$ 7.51 (d, $J$=8.5, 2H), 7.19 (d, $J$=8.5, 2H), 5.33 (bs, 2H), 4.82 (bs, 1H), 4.74-4.65 (m, 1H), 1.43 (s, 9H).

$^{13}$C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl$_3$): $\delta$ 154.8, 137.5, 132.4, 131.6, 128.2, 127.8, 122.8, 81.2, 78.7, 52.3, 28.4.

HPLC: Chiralpak ADH, 95:5 (n-hexane/i-PrOH), flow rate 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm, temp=25 °C, $t_{\text{major}}$= 30.4 min, $t_{\text{minor}}$= 41.3 min.

GC-MS: Retention time: 13.00 min.

$[\text{M/}\text{Z}]^+$ = 57.08, 59.06, 77.05, 102.40, 183.93, 197.96, 240.90, 243.93.

IR(neat): 3337, 2977, 2928, 2855, 1697, 1556, 1487, 1367, 1157, 1010 cm$^{-1}$

3.8.6 Synthesis of tert-butyl (S)-(2-nitro-1-(p-tolyl)ethyl) carbamate (24f)

General procedure starting from nitromethane and N-[(4-methylphenyl)methylene] carbamate afforded to desired chiral product with full conversion and 91% ee in 28h as a white solid.

Optical rotation was determined as $[\alpha]_{D}^{25} = +21.92^\circ$ (c=0.25, CH$_2$Cl$_2$).

$^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$): $\delta$ 7.18 (s, 4H), 5.33 (bs, 2H), 4.82 (bs, 1H), 4.72-4.62 (m, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 1.43 (s, 9H).

$^{13}$C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl$_3$): $\delta$ 154.9, 138.7, 134.0, 129.9, 126.4, 80.7, 79.1, 52.8, 28.4, 21.2.
**HPLC:** Chiralpak ADH, 75:25 (n-hexane/i-PrOH), flow rate 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm, temp=5 °C, \( t_{\text{major}} = 15.5 \) min, \( t_{\text{minor}} = 18.1 \) min.

**GC-MS:** Retention time: 11.35 min.
\[ [M/Z] = 57.09, 59.06, 91.04, 118.05, 120.06, 164.00, 177.04, 178.05. \]
**IR(neat):** 3365, 2979, 2929, 1685, 1554, 1515, 1367, 1251, 1164, 817 cm\(^{-1}\)

### 3.8.7 Synthesis of tert-butyl (S)-(1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2-nitroethyl) carbamate (24g)

General procedure starting from nitromethane and \( N \)-[(3-methoxyphenyl)methylene] carbamate afforded to desired chiral product with 98% conversion and 85% ee in 25 h as a white solid.

![Chemical Structure of tert-butyl (S)-(1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2-nitroethyl) carbamate](image)

\(^1\text{H NMR}\) (400 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)): \( \delta 7.28 \) (t, \( J=7.8 \) Hz, 1H), 6.89-6.82 (m, 3H), 5.36 (bs, 2H), 4.81 (bs, 1H), 4.72-4.63 (m, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 1.43 (s, 9H).

\(^{13}\text{C NMR}\) (100 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)): \( \delta 160.2, 154.9, 138.7, 130.4, 118.5, 113.9, 112.5, 80.8, 78.9, 55.4, 52.9, 28.4 \).

**HPLC:** Chiralpak IA, 90:10 (n-hexane/i-PrOH), flow rate 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm, temp=25 °C, \( t_{\text{major}} = 17.6 \) min, \( t_{\text{minor}} = 25.2 \) min.

**GC-MS:** Retention time: 12.26 min.
\[ [M/Z] = 57.08, 59.05, 77.04, 105.05, 119.05, 134.04, 150.07, 193.01, 194.04. \]
**IR(neat):** 3318, 2972, 2850, 2372, 1749, 1716, 1489, 1474, 1396, 1068, 1073 cm\(^{-1}\)

### 3.8.8 Synthesis of tert-butyl (S)-(1-(2-bromophenyl)-2-nitroethyl) carbamate (24h)

General procedure starting from nitromethane and \( N \)-[(2-bromophenyl)methylene] carbamate afforded to desired chiral product with 93% conversion and 82% ee in 22 h as a white solid.
**1H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.59 (d, J=7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d, J=4.4 Hz, 2H), 7.23-7.17 (m, 1H), 5.72 (bs, 1H), 4.90-4.75 (m, 2H), 1.42 (s, 9H).

**13C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.6, 135.5, 133.8, 130.3, 128.3, 128.1, 122.9, 80.9, 77.6, 52.7, 28.4.

**HPLC:** Chiralpak ADH, 85:15 (n-hexane/i-PrOH), flow rate 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm, temp=25 °C, t_major= 9.1 min, t_minor= 13.0 min.

**GC-MS:** Retention time: 12.18 min.

[M/Z]+ = 57.08, 59.05, 77.05, 103.06, 118.05, 147.99, 181.94, 183.94, 185.94, 208.99, 277.90.

**IR(neat):** 3353, 2981, 2933, 1700, 1558, 1488, 1369, 1325, 1162, 1126 cm⁻¹

3.8.9 **Synthesis of tert-butyl ((1R,2S)-2-nitro-1-phenylpropyl) carbamate (28a)**

General procedure starting from nitroethane and tert-butyl (phenylmethylene) carbamate afforded to desired chiral product mixture of syn/anti-isomers with ratio 72:28 (anti/syn) with 85% conversion in 22 h as a white solid.

**1H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.38-7.32 (m, 3H, overlapping signals of anti and syn), 7.25-7.21 (m, 2H, overlapping signals of anti and syn), 5.32 (bd, J= 8.7 Hz, 1H, anti), 5.19 (dd, J=8.9, 5.6 Hz, 1H, overlapping signals of anti and syn), 5.10 (bs, 1H, syn), 4.92 (bs, 1H, overlapping signals of anti and syn), 1.53 (d, J= 6.8 Hz, 3H, overlapping signals of anti and syn), 1.46 (s, 9H, syn), 1.43 (s, 9H, anti).

**13C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): (anti product) δ 155.1, 136.6, 129.1, 128.7, 127.0, 85.9, 80.6, 57.6, 23.8, 15.3. (syn product) δ 155.1, 136.6, 129.1, 128.5, 126.6, 86.8, 80.6, 57.5, 25.4, 17.1.
**HPLC:** Chiralpak ADH, 95:5 (n-hexane/i-PrOH), flow rate 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm, temp=25 °C, $t_{\text{major, syn}}$ = 19.3 min, $t_{\text{minor, syn}}$ = 22.2 min, $t_{\text{minor, anti}}$ = 25.5 min, $t_{\text{major, anti}}$ = 32.4 min.

**GC-MS:** Retention time: 10.46 min (major diastereomer) / 10.64 min (minor diastereomer)

$[M/Z]^-$ = 57.08, 59.06, 78.04, 104.03, 106.04, 117.06, 150.02, 177.00, 206.05.

**IR(neat):** 3370, 3009, 2977, 2914, 2360, 1681, 1548, 1520, 1170, 701 cm$^{-1}$

3.8.10 Synthesis of tert-butyl ((1R,2S)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-nitropropyl) carbamate (28b)

General procedure starting from nitroethane and $N$-Boc-4-methoxybenzylideneamine afforded to desired chiral product mixture of syn/anti-isomers with ratio 75:25 (anti/syn) with 76% conversion in 70 h as a white solid.

$^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$): $\delta$ 7.15 (overlapping signals, 2H, syn), 7.15 (overlapping signals, 2H, anti), 6.87 (overlapping signals, 2H, anti), 5.58 (overlapping signals, 2H, anti), 5.35 (overlapping signals, 2H, anti), 5.10 (overlapping signals, 2H, anti), 5.01 (overlapping signals, 2H, anti), 4.90 (overlapping signals, 2H, anti), 3.78 (overlapping signals, 2H, anti), 3.77 (overlapping signals, 2H, anti), 1.51 (overlapping signals, 2H, anti), 1.49 (overlapping signals, 2H, anti), 1.42 (overlapping signals, 2H, anti), 1.40 (overlapping signals, 2H, anti).

$^{13}$C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl$_3$): (anti product) $\delta$159.8, 155.2, 128.2, 127.8, 114.4, 86.1, 80.5, 57.1, 55.7, 29.8, 15.6. (syn product) $\delta$159.7, 155.0, 129.6, 127.1, 114.5, 86.9, 80.5, 56.9, 55.4, 28.4, 17.0.

**HPLC:** Chiralpak IA, 85:15 (n-hexane/i-PrOH), flow rate 0.5 mL/min, 210 nm, temp=25 °C, $t_{\text{minor, anti}}$ = 18.2 min, $t_{\text{major, anti}}$ = 19.6 min, $t_{\text{minor, syn}}$ = 20.8 min, $t_{\text{major, syn}}$ = 24.9 min.
GC-MS: Retention time: 12.53 min (major diastereomer) / 12.66 min (minor diastereomer)

\[[M/Z]^+] = 57.10, 59.07, 77.07, 109.07, 136.10, 148.11, 180.06, 207.13.\]

IR(neat): 3340, 2979, 2933, 2237, 1683, 1550, 1516, 1252, 1174, 1028, 837 cm\(^{-1}\)

3.8.11 Synthesis of tert-butyl ((1R,2S)-2-nitro-1-(o-tolyl)propyl) carbamate (28c)

General procedure starting from nitroethane and \(N\)-[(2-methylphenyl)methylene] carbamate afforded to desired chiral product mixture of syn/anti-isomers with ratio 62:38 (anti/syn) with full conversion in 26 h as a colorless solid.

\(^1\)H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)): \(\delta\) 7.22-7.17 (bs, overlapping signals of anti and syn, 4H) 5.59-55.3 (m, 1H, syn), 5.35 (bs, 1H, anti), 5.38 (bs, 1H, syn), 4.90-4.80 (bs, overlapping signals of anti and syn), 2.46 (s, 3H, anti), 2.45 (s, 3H, syn), 1.61 (d, \(J = 6.7\) Hz, 3H, overlapping signals of anti and syn), 1.42 (s, 9H, anti), 1.99 (s, 9H, syn).

\(^{13}\)C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)): (anti product) \(\delta\)155.1, 136.3, 135.7, 131.2, 128.4, 126.8, 125.4, 85.2, 80.5, 53.6, 28.3, 19.7, 16.9. (syn product) \(\delta\)155.1, 136.3, 135.8, 131.4, 128.5, 127.0, 125.1, 86.8, 80.5, 53.5, 29.8, 19.5, 15.5.

HPLC: Chiralpak ADH, 80:20 (n-hexane/i-PrOH), flow rate 0.5 mL/min, 210 nm, temp=25 °C, \(t_{\text{minor, syn}} = 13.5\) min, \(t_{\text{major, syn}} = 14.5\) min, \(t_{\text{minor, anti}} = 15.6\) min, \(t_{\text{major, anti}} = 23.7\) min.

GC-MS: Retention time: 10.95 min (major diastereomer) / 11.13 min (minor diastereomer)

\[[M/Z]^+] = 57.11, 59.09, 91.05, 120.11, 164.08.\]

IR(neat): 3335, 2977, 2929, 2362, 1700, 1554, 1365, 1165 cm\(^{-1}\)
3.8.12 Synthesis of tert-butyl (2-nitro-1-phenylbutyl)carbamate (31a)

General procedure starting from 1-nitropropane and tert-butyl (phenylmethylene) carbamate afforded to desired chiral product mixture of syn/anti-isomers with ratio 72:28 (anti/syn) with 96% conversion in 20 h as a white solid.

\[
\text{HN} - \text{O} - \text{O} - \text{NO}_2
\]

\(^1\text{H NMR}\) (400 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)): \(\delta 7.38-7.30\) (m, 3H, overlapping signals of anti and syn), \(7.25-7.22\) (m, 2H, overlapping signals of anti and syn), 5.71 (bd, \(J=7.2\) Hz, 1H, syn) 5.15 (bs, 1H, overlapping signals of anti and syn), 4.74 (bs, 1H, anti), 2.09-2.01 (m, 1H, overlapping signals of anti and syn) 1.91-1.86 (m, 1H, anti), 1.84-1.73 (m, 1H, syn), 1.46 (s, 9H, syn), 1.42 (s, 9H, anti), 0.98 (t, \(J=7.0\) Hz, 3H, anti), 0.97 (t, \(J=7.3\) Hz, 3H, syn)

\(^{13}\text{C NMR}\) (100 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)): (anti product) \(\delta 154.9, 137.7, 128.9, 128.7, 126.9, 93.0, 80.4, 56.8, 29.7, 24.9, 10.5\). (syn product) \(\delta 155.1, 137.7, 129.0, 128.4, 126.3, 93.8, 80.4, 55.9, 28.3, 24.9, 10.3\).

**HPLC:** Chiralpak ASH, 95:5 (n-hexane/i-PrOH), flow rate 0.5 mL/min, 214 nm, temp=25 °C, \(t_{\text{major, syn}}= 19.0\) min, \(t_{\text{major, anti}}= 23.7\) min, \(t_{\text{minor, anti}}= 26.5\) min, \(t_{\text{minor, syn}}= 28.7\) min.

**GC-MS:** Retention time: 10.89 min (major diastereomer) / 11.02 min (minor diastereomer)

\([M/Z]^+ = 57.10, 59.08, 104.07, 106.08, 150.05, 192.11\).

**IR(neat):** 3370, 2977, 2925, 2361, 1682, 1549, 1520, 1359, 1169, 701 cm\(^{-1}\)

3.9 Synthesis of Tosyl Protected Imines

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{O} \\
\text{O} \\
\text{O}
\end{array}
\]
$p$-toluenesulfonamide (29.2 mmol, 5.0 g) and benzaldehyde (35.04 mmol, 3.72 g) were dissolved in dry toluene (20.0 mL) under argon atmosphere. 1-2 crystals of PTSA was added and refluxed for 3 hours. After 3 hours, $^1$H NMR analysis of aliquot taken from reaction mixture indicated the complete conversion to product. Solvent was removed under vacuum and product was washed with diethyl ether to remove impurities. Pure product was obtained with 95% yield as a white solid.

$^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ 9.03 (s, 1H), 7.94-7.85 (m, 4H), 7.61 (t, $J$ = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, $J$ = 7.68 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d, $J$ = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H).

$^{13}$C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ 170.3, 144.7, 135.2, 135.1, 132.8, 131.4, 129.9, 129.2, 128.2, 21.7.

3.10 General Procedure for Aza-Henry Reaction: Nitromethane Addition to Tosyl Protected Imines

Racemic synthesis:
Tosyl imine (0.1 mmol), nitromethane (0.35 mmol) and Et$_3$N (0.01 mmol) were dissolved in DCM (1 mL) and stirred at room temperature. The reaction was monitored with TLC upon the consumption of limiting reactant, directly loaded into column chromatography. EtOAc:Hexane mixtures was used as eluent to purify the products.

Asymmetric synthesis:
Tosyl imine (0.1 mmol) and $t$-butyl/2-aminoDMAP 48 (0.002 mmol) was dissolved in acetonitrile (0.3 mL) for half an hour. Then nitromethane (0.35 mmol) was added to solution and stirred at the room temperature. The reaction was monitored with TLC upon the consumption of limiting reactant, directly loaded into column chromatography. EtOAc:Hexane mixtures was used as eluent to purify the products.
3.10.1 Synthesis of (S)-4-methyl-N-(2-nitro-1-phenylethyl)benzenesulfonamide (22a)

General procedure starting from nitromethane and (E)-N-benzylidene-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide afforded to desired chiral product with 87% conversion and 58% ee in 27 h as a white solid.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{HN} & \text{SO} \\
\text{NO}_2 & \\
\end{align*}
\]

\[^1\text{H} \text{NMR} (400 \text{ MHz, CDCl}_3): \delta 7.63 (d, J= 8.3 \text{ Hz, 2H}), 7.26-7.20 (m, 5H), 7.10-7.06 (m, 2H) \text{ 5.67 (d, J= 8.0 \text{ Hz, 1H}), 5.00} \\
& (dd, J=14.2, 6.8 \text{ Hz, 1H}) 4.84-4.78 (m, 1H), 4.68-4.62 (m, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H). \\
\text{C NMR} (100 \text{ MHz, CDCl}_3): \delta 144.1, 136.6, 135.4, 129.9, 129.3, 127.3, 126.6, 79.1, 55.6, 21.5.
\]

\[\text{HPLC: Chiralpak ODH column, 80:20 (n-hexane/i-PrOH), flow rate 1.0 mL/min, 220 nm, temp=25 \text{ °C, } t_{\text{minor}}= 19.2 \text{ min, } t_{\text{major}}= 22.1 \text{ min.} \]

3.11 General Procedure for Henry Reaction: Nitromethane Addition to Aldehydes

\[\textbf{Racemic synthesis;} \]
\[p\text{-Nitrobenzaldehyde (34b) (0.1 mmol), nitromethane (0.35 mmol) and } \text{Et}_3\text{N (0.01 mmol) were dissolved in DCM (1 mL) and stirred at room temperature. The reaction was monitored with TLC upon the consumption of limiting reactant, directly loaded into column chromatography. EtOAc:Hexane mixtures was used as eluent to purify the products.} \]

\[\textbf{Asymmetric synthesis;} \]
\[p\text{-Nitrobenzaldehyde (34b) (0.1 mmol) and urea/2-aminoDMAP 46 (0.005 mmol) was dissolved in toluene (0.3 mL) for half an hour. Then nitromethane (0.35 mmol) was added to solution and stirred at room temperature. The reaction was monitored} \]
with TLC upon the consumption of limiting reactant, directly loaded into column chromatography. EtOAc:Hexane mixtures was used as eluent to purify the products.

3.11.1 Synthesis of (S)-2-nitro-1-(4-nitroph enyl)ethan-1-ol (35b)

General procedure starting from nitromethane and \( p \)-nitrobenzaldehyde (34b) afforded to desired chiral product with full conversion and 7% ee in 1 h as a yellow solid.

\[
\text{\( ^{1}H \text{ NMR} \) (400 MHz, CDCl\textsubscript{3}): \( \delta \) 8.19 (d, \( J=8.8 \), 2H), 7.56 (d, \( J=8.6 \), 2H), 5.57-5.52 (m, 1H), 4.58-4.48 (m, 2H), 3.20 (bs, 1H).}
\]

\[
\text{\( ^{13}C \text{ NMR} \) (100 MHz, CDCl\textsubscript{3}): \( \delta \) 148.2, 145.1, 127.1, 124.3, 80.7, 70.1.}
\]

**HPLC:** Chiralpak IA column, 80:20 (n-hexane/i-PrOH), flow rate 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm, temp=25 °C, \( t_{\text{major}}=\) 13.5 min, \( t_{\text{minor}}=\) 17.5 min.

3.12 General Procedure for Aldol Reaction: Acetone/Cyclohexanone Addition to Aldehydes

*Racemic synthesis;*

\( p \)-Nitrobenzaldehyde (34b) (0.2 mmol), acetone/cyclohexanone (4 mmol) and pyrrolidine (0.06 mmol) were dissolved in water (0.3 mL) and stirred at room temperature for 10 minutes. The reaction was monitored with TLC upon the consumption of limiting reactant, directly loaded into column chromatography. EtOAc:Hexane mixtures was used as eluent to purify the products.

*Asymmetric synthesis;*

2-AminoDMAP 55 (0.01 mol) was dissolved in trace amount of DCM then Brønsted acid was added and stirred at room temperature for half an hour. \( p \)-Nitrobenzaldehyde (34b) (0.1 mmol) and acetone/cyclohexanone (60) (0.35 mmol)
was added to the solution. The reaction was monitored with TLC upon the consumption of limiting reactant, directly loaded into column chromatography. EtOAc:Hexane mixtures was used as eluent to purify the products.

3.12.1 Synthesis of (S)-4-hydroxy-4-(4-nitrophenyl)butan-2-one (37b)

General procedure starting from acetone and p-nitrobenzaldehyde (34b) by using TFA as Bronsted acid afforded to desired chiral product with 38% isolated yield and 43% ee in 71 h as a yellow solid.

\[
\text{1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl}_3\text{): } \delta 8.20 (d, J=8.8 \text{ Hz}, 2H), 7.53 (d, J=8.6 \text{ Hz}, 2H), 5.26 (dd, J=7.7, 4.4 \text{ Hz}, 1H), 3.63 (bs, 1H), 2.87-2.82 (m, 2H), 2.22 (s, 3H).
\]

\[
\text{13C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl}_3\text{): } 208.6, 150.1, 147.4, 126.5, 123.9, 69.0, 51.6, 30.8.
\]

HPLC: Chiralpak ASH column, 75:25 (n-hexane/i-PrOH), flow rate 0.5 mL/min, 210 nm, temp=25 °C, t\text{ Minor}= 23.2 min, t\text{ Major}= 29.8 min.

3.12.2 Synthesis of 2-(hydroxy(4-nitrophenyl)methyl)cyclohexan-1-one (60b)

General procedure starting from cyclohexanone (59) and p-nitrobenzaldehyde (34b) afforded to desired chiral product with chiral product mixture of syn/anti-isomers with ratio 60:40 (syn/anti) in 46 h as a yellow solid.

\[
\text{1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl}_3\text{): } \delta 8.21 (d, J=8.8 \text{ Hz}, 2H), 7.51 (d, J=8.7 \text{ Hz}, 2H), 4.90 (dd, J=8.4, 1.5 \text{ Hz}, 1H), 4.07 (d, J=2.8 \text{ Hz}, 1H), 2.62-2.55 (m, 1H), 2.53-2.47 (m, 1H), 2.36 (td, J=13.4, 6.2 \text{ Hz}, 1H), 2.15-2.08 (m, 1H), 1.88-1.80 (m, 1H), 1.72-1.36 (m, 1H).
\]

\[
\text{13C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl}_3\text{): } 214.7, 148.4, 147.6, 127.8, 123.6, 74.0, 57.1, 42.7, 30.8, 27.6, 24.7.
\]
$^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$): $\delta$ 8.24 (d, $J$= 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (d, $J$= 8.7 Hz, 2H), 5.48 (bs, 1H), 3.15 (bs, 1H) 2.67-2.60 (m, 1H), 2.52-2.46 (m, 1H), 2.40 (td, $J$= 13.4, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 2.15-2.08 (m, 1H), 1.89-1.83 (m, 1H), 1.75-1.50 (m, 4H).

$^{13}$C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl$_3$): 214.8, 149.3, 147.6, 126.7, 123.6, 70.2, 56.9, 42.7, 27.9, 26.0, 24.9.

HPLC: Chiralpak ADH column, 90:10 (n-hexane/i-PrOH), flow rate 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm, temp=25 °C, $t_{\text{syn, minor}}$ = 17.4 min, $t_{\text{syn, major}}$ = 20.5 min, $t_{\text{anti, minor}}$ = 22.7 min, $t_{\text{anti, major}}$ = 30.2 min.

3.13 Synthesis of $\alpha$-Amidohemimalonates

The following slightly modified literature procedures are combined.$^{40, 56}$

500 mg diethylmalonate hydrochloride (2.36 mmol, 1 eq.) and 1 mL Et$_3$N (7.087 mmol, 3 eq.) was added to 35 mL DCM and stirred for 15 minutes. 0.275 mL benzoyl chloride (2.36 mmol, 1 eq.) was added at 0 °C dropwise and the reaction was stirred for 15 h at room temperature. After 15 h, the reaction mixture was diluted with DCM, washed with HCl (1 N) and extracted with DCM. The combined organic layers were dried (MgSO$_4$) and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification of the crude product was performed by recrystallization from EtOAc/Heptane (1:10) afforded as white needles in 90% yield.

Benzoyl protected aminomalonate (1eq) was dissolved in 1:10 H$_2$O:EtOH mixture. A solution of KOH (1.2 eq) in 1:10 H$_2$O:EtOH again and added dropwise to the reaction at 0 °C. The reaction is stirred at room temperature for 24 hours. HCl (1 N) was added dropwise until pH=1, then the mixture was saturated with NaCl and extracted twice with EtOAc. The combined organic layers were dried with MgSO$_4$
and concentrated under reduced pressure. Crude product was washed saturated NaHCO₃ and extracted with ether. After acidifying the water phase with 1 N HCl until pH=1, extraction was performed with ether to obtain the resultant product as yellowish solid in 45% yield.

\(^1\)H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.94 (bs, 1H), 7.84-7.80 (m, 2H), 7.52 (tt, \(J= 7.4\) Hz, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.40 (m, 2H), 5.37 (d, \(J= 6.7\) Hz, 1H), 4.30-4.25 (m, 2H), 1.29 (t, \(J= 7.14\) Hz, 3H).

\(^13\)C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.5, 168.1, 166.5, 132.6, 132.5, 128.8, 127.5, 63.2, 57.0, 14.0.

3.14 General Procedure for Decarboxylative Aldol Reaction: Aldehyde Addition to α-Amidohemimalonates

**Racemic synthesis;**

Et₃N (1 eq) was added to a solution of malonic acid half ester 54 (1 eq) in dry THF (0.3 mL for 0.2 mmol). aldehyde (1.2 eq) was added to the solution and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 15 h. Reaction was directly loaded into column chromatography. 30:70 EtOAc:Cyclohexane mixture was used as eluent to purify the products.

**Asymmetric synthesis;**

0.16 mmol of aldehyde, 0.13 mmol of malonic acid half ester 54 and 0.01 mmol of \(t\)-butyl /2-aminoDMAP 48 was dissolved in DCM (1.0 mL) and stirred at the room temperature. The reaction was monitored with TLC upon the consumption of limiting reactant, directly loaded into column chromatography. 30:70 EtOAc:Cyclohexane mixture was used as eluent to purify the products.
3.14.1 Synthesis of ethyl 2-benzamido-3-hydroxy-3-(4-nitrophenyl)propanoate (55b)

General procedure starting from 0.13 mmol of malonic acid half ester 54 and p-nitrobenzaldehyde (34b) afforded to desired chiral product with 40% isolated yield and 55% ee in 7 days as a white solid.

\[
\text{H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl}_3\text{): } \delta \text{ 8.19 (d, } J= 8.8 \text{ Hz, 2H) 7.70-7.66 (m, 2H), 7.61 (d, } J= 8.5 \text{ Hz, 2H), 7.52 (tt, } J=7.4, 1.22 \text{ Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.40 (m, 3H), 6.87 (d, } J= 8.8 \text{ Hz, 1H), 5.50 (d, } J= 3.0 \text{ Hz, 1H), 5.15 (dd, } J=8.7, 3.1 \text{ Hz, 1H), 4.32-4.21 (m, 2H), 1.29 (t, } J= 7.2 \text{ Hz, 3H).}
\]

\[
\text{C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl}_3\text{): } \delta 169.1, 169.0, 147.8, 147.0, 132.7, 132.0, 129.0, 127.3, 127.1, 123.6, 75.0, 62.8, 60.1, 14.2.
\]

\[
\text{HPLC: Chiralpak ASH column, 80:20 (n-hexane/i-PrOH), flow rate 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm, temp}=25 ^\circ \text{C, } t_{\text{minor}}= 11.6 \text{ min, } t_{\text{major}}= 18.1 \text{ min.}
\]

3.15 Synthesis of (Z)-(2-bromo-2-nitrovinyl)benzene (43)

The following literature procedure is performed:\(^5^7\)

To a rt stirred solution of \(\beta\)-nitrostyrene 21 (5.0 mmol) in pyridine (6.5 mmol) and cyclohexane (20 mL) was added neat \(\text{Br}_2\) (6.0 mmol) dropwise over 5 min. The cloudy yellow reaction was then heated to reflux and stirred for 4-12 h (monitored by TLC). The reaction mixture was then transferred to a single-neck round-bottom flask with the aid of ethyl acetate. The solvent was removed, and the resulting residue was taken up in ethyl acetate (50 mL). The organic layer was washed with aqueous
Na$_2$S$_2$O$_3$ (1.0 M, 2 × 20 mL), H$_2$O (20 mL), and brine (20 mL) and then dried over Na$_2$SO$_4$. The solvent was removed in vacuo to give a crude solid that was purified by flash chromatography (CH$_2$Cl$_2$/petroleum ether gradient).

Spectroscopic data are in accordance with the literature.$^{57}$

3.16 General Procedure for Friedel-Crafts/Substitution Domino Reaction:
(Z)-(2-bromo-2-nitrovinyl)benzene (43) and β–naphthol (42)

Racemic synthesis;
0.18 mmol β–naphthol (42), 0.1 mmol (Z)-(2-bromo-2-nitrovinyl)benzene (43), and 0.01 mmol of Et$_3$N were dissolved and stirred at the room temperature. The reaction was monitored with TLC upon the consumption of limiting reactant, directly loaded into column chromatography. EtOAc:Hexane mixtures was used as eluent to purify the products.

Asymmetric synthesis;
0.1 mmol (Z)-(2-bromo-2-nitrovinyl)benzene (43), 0.18 mmol β–naphthol (42) and 0.01 mmol of t-butyl/quinine 51 were dissolved in 0.2 mL DCM and stirred at the room temperature. The reaction was monitored with TLC upon the consumption of limiting reactant, directly loaded into column chromatography. EtOAc:Hexane mixtures was used as eluent to purify the products.

3.16.1 Synthesis of 2-nitro-1-phenyl-1,2-dihydrornaphtho[2,1-b]furan (44a)

General procedure starting from (Z)-(2-bromo-2-nitrovinyl)benzene (43) and β–naphthol (42) afforded to desired chiral product with full conversion and 92% ee in 10 minutes as a white solid.
**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.94-7.87 (m, 2H), 7.46 (d, J=8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.33 (m, 6H), 7.22-7.28 (m, 2H), 6.12 (d, J=1.7 Hz, 1H), 5.33 (bs, 1H).

**13C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ156.4, 138.1, 131.6, 129.5, 129.2, 128.6, 127.8, 127.7, 123.1, 118.4, 112.7, 112.0, 55.5.

**HPLC:** Chiralpak ODH column, 90:10 (n-hexane/i-PrOH), flow rate 1.0 mL/min, 220 nm, temp=25 °C, t_{minor} = 8.2 min, t_{major} = 9.4 min.
CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION

In this study, novel bifunctional organocatalysts, developed in Tanyeli’s research group were tested in five different types of reactions. In the first part, aza-Henry reaction of t-Boc protected imines were tested both with 2-aminoDMAP and quinine based bifunctional organocatalysts with nitroalkanes. The best result was obtained with 10 mol% of organocatalyst 51, 0.1M concentration in DCM at room temperature. Under this condition, derivatization studies were done with different imines and nitroalkanes. The enantioselectivities were found up to 91% ee with full conversions for o-methyl 24c, p-bromo 24e and p-methyl 24f substituted imine derivatives with nitromethane. In the same reaction, tosyl protected imine 21 was also tested; however, ee value did not exceed 52% with t-butyl / 2-aminoDMAP organocatalyst 48.

In the second part of the thesis, pioneering studies have done in Henry, aldol, decarboxylative aldol and Friedel-Crafts/Substitution Domino reactions. Unfortunately, in Henry reaction none of the trials showed enantioenriched result. In the aldol reaction study, maximum of 41% ee was achieved with 2-aminoDMAP 56 and proline binary organocatalyst system. Although there are not a lot of studies where decarboxylative aldol study is experimented, the first results indicates that it can be improved with additional screenings. Among the aforementioned reactions, Friedel-Crafts/Substitution Domino reaction gave the most promising result, in terms of enantioselectivity and reaction rate as 92% ee in 10 minutes with full conversion, respectively. Optimization study will continue and the derivatization of the starting materials will be accomplished in the optimized condition in the near future.
REFERENCES


APPENDIX A

NMR DATA

Figure A. 1. $^1$H NMR spectrum of compound 51

Figure A. 2. $^{13}$C NMR spectrum of compound 51
Figure A. 3. $^1$H NMR spectrum of compound 24a

Figure A. 4. $^{13}$C NMR spectrum of compound 24a
Figure A. 5. $^1$H NMR spectrum of compound 24b

Figure A. 6. $^{13}$C NMR spectrum of compound 24b
Figure A. 7. $^1$H NMR spectrum of compound 24c

Figure A. 8. $^{13}$C NMR spectrum of compound 24c
Figure A. 9. $^1$H NMR spectrum of compound 24d

Figure A. 10. $^{13}$C NMR spectrum of compound 24d
Figure A. 11. $^1$H NMR spectrum of compound 24e

Figure A. 12. $^{13}$C NMR spectrum of compound 24e
Figure A. 13. $^1$H NMR spectrum of compound 24f

Figure A. 14. $^{13}$C NMR spectrum of compound 24f
Figure A. 15. $^1$H NMR spectrum of compound 24g

Figure A. 16. $^{13}$C NMR spectrum of compound 24g
Figure A. 17. $^1$H NMR spectrum of compound 24h

Figure A. 18. $^{13}$C NMR spectrum of compound 24h
Figure A. 19. $^1$H NMR spectrum of diastereomeric mixture 28a

Figure A. 20. $^{13}$C NMR spectrum of diastereomeric mixture 28a
Figure A. 21. $^1$H NMR spectrum of diastereomeric mixture 28b

Figure A. 22. $^{13}$C NMR spectrum of diastereomeric mixture 28b
Figure A. 23. $^1$H NMR spectrum of diastereomeric mixture 28c

Figure A. 24. $^{13}$C NMR spectrum of diastereomeric mixture 28c
Figure A. 25. $^1$H NMR spectrum of diastereomeric mixture 31a

Figure A. 26. $^{13}$C NMR spectrum of diastereomeric mixture 31a
Figure A. 27. $^1$H NMR spectrum of compound 21

Figure A. 28. $^{13}$C NMR spectrum of compound 21
Figure A. 29. $^1$H NMR spectrum of compound 22a

Figure A. 30. $^{13}$C NMR spectrum of compound 22a
Figure A. 31. $^1$H NMR spectrum of compound 35b

Figure A. 32. $^{13}$C NMR spectrum of compound 35b
Figure A. 33. $^1$H NMR spectrum of compound 37b

Figure A. 34. $^{13}$C NMR spectrum of compound 37b
Figure A. 35. $^1$H NMR spectrum of anti-60b

Figure A. 36. $^{13}$C NMR spectrum of anti-60b
Figure A. 37. $^1$H NMR spectrum of compound 60b

Figure A. 38. $^{13}$C NMR spectrum of compound 60b
Figure A. 39. $^1$H NMR spectrum of compound 54

Figure A. 40. $^{13}$C NMR spectrum of compound 54
Figure A. 41. $^1$H NMR spectrum of compound 55b

Figure A. 42. $^{13}$C NMR spectrum of compound 55b
Figure A. 43. $^1$H NMR spectrum of compound 44a

Figure A. 44. $^{13}$C NMR spectrum of compound 44a
APPENDIX B

HPLC DATA

Figure B. 1. HPLC chromatogram of rac-24a

Figure B. 2. HPLC chromatogram of enantiomerically enriched 24a
Figure B. 3. HPLC chromatogram of rac-24b

Figure B. 4. HPLC chromatogram of enantiomerically enriched 24b
Figure B. 5. HPLC chromatogram of rac-24c

Figure B. 6. HPLC chromatogram of enantiomerically enriched 24c
Figure B. 7. HPLC chromatogram of rac-24d

Figure B. 8. HPLC chromatogram of enantiomerically enriched 24d
Figure B. 9. HPLC chromatogram of rac-24e

Figure B. 10. HPLC chromatogram of enantiomerically enriched 24e
Figure B. 11. HPLC chromatogram of rac-24f

Figure B. 12. HPLC chromatogram of enantiomerically enriched 24f
Figure B. 13. HPLC chromatogram of rac-24g

Figure B. 14. HPLC chromatogram of enantiomerically enriched 24g
Figure B. 15. HPLC chromatogram of rac-24h

Figure B. 16. HPLC chromatogram of enantiomerically enriched 24h
Figure B. 17. HPLC chromatogram of diastereomeric mixture of rac-28a

Figure B. 18. HPLC chromatogram of enantiomerically enriched 28a
Figure B. 19. HPLC chromatogram of diastereomeric mixture of rac-28b

Figure B. 20. HPLC chromatogram of enantiomerically enriched 28b
Figure B. 21. HPLC chromatogram of *rac*-28c

Figure B. 22. HPLC chromatogram of enantiomerically enriched 28c
Figure B. 23. HPLC chromatogram of *rac*-31a

Figure B. 24. HPLC chromatogram of enantiomerically enriched 31a
Figure B. 25. HPLC chromatogram of rac-22a

Figure B. 26. HPLC chromatogram of enantiomerically enriched 22a
Figure B. 27. HPLC chromatogram of rac-35b

Figure B. 28. HPLC chromatogram of enantiomerically enriched 35b
Figure B. 29. HPLC chromatogram of rac-37b

Figure B. 30. HPLC chromatogram of enantiomerically enriched 37b
Figure B. 31. HPLC chromatogram of rac-55b

Figure B. 32. HPLC chromatogram of enantiomerically enriched 55b
Figure B. 33. HPLC chromatogram of rac-44a

Figure B. 34. HPLC chromatogram of enantiomerically enriched 44a
APPENDIX C

GC-MS DATA

Figure C. 1. GC-MS chromatogram of 1 h reaction

Figure C. 2. GC-MS chromatogram of 5 h reaction
Figure C. 3. GC-MS chromatogram of compound 24a
Figure C. 4. GC-MS chromatogram of compound 24b
Figure C. 5. GC-MS chromatogram of compound 24c
Figure C. 6. GC-MS chromatogram of compound 24d
Figure C. 7. GC-MS chromatogram of compound 24e
Figure C. 8. GC-MS chromatogram of compound 24f
Figure C. 9. GC-MS chromatogram of compound 24g
Figure C. 10. GC-MS chromatogram of compound 24h
Figure C. 11. GC-MS chromatogram of compound 28a
Figure C. 12. GC-MS chromatogram of compound 28b
Figure C. 13. GC-MS chromatogram of compound 28c
Figure C. 14. GC-MS chromatogram of compound 31a