# Supporting Information Asymmetric olefin isomerization of butenolides via proton transfer catalysis by an organic molecule

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**General Information.** <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian instrument (400 MHz and 100 MHz, respectively) and internally referenced to tetramethylsilane signal or residual protio solvent signals. Data for <sup>1</sup>H NMR are recorded as follows: chemical shift ( $\delta$ , ppm), multiplicity (s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; m, multiplet), integration, coupling constant (Hz). Data for <sup>13</sup>C NMR are reported in terms of chemical shift ( $\delta$ , ppm). Infrared spectra were recorded on a Perkin Elmer FT-IR Spectrometer and are reported in frequency of absorption. Low resolution and high resolution mass spectra were recorded on either a Micromass 70-VSE-B instrument (EI, CI) or a Micromass Q-TOF instrument (ESI). Specific rotations were measured on a Jasco Digital Polarimeter.

High performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) analyses were performed on a Hewlett-Packard 1100 Series instrument equipped with a quaternary pump, using Daicel Chiralpak AS or AS-H Columns (250 x 4.6 mm). UV absorption was monitored at 220 nm.

# 1. Materials:

**Cinchona alkaloid catalysts** (S-Figure 1): 1a, 1b, 1c, 3a, 3b and 4 were prepared according to our reported methods.<sup>1</sup> 2a, hydroquinine (2b) and 5 were purchased from Aldrich Inc. and used without further purification. 6 was prepared according to a reported literature.<sup>2</sup>



# S-Figure 1. Structure of the catalysts

# **Preparation of Catalyst QD-7:**



At 0 °C, *m*-chloroperoxybenzoic acid (77%, 9.20 g, 37.5 mmol) was added in portions to a solution of dihydroquinidine (4.89 g, 15.0 mmol) in chloroform (90 mL). The resulting suspension was allowed to warm to rt and stirred for 3 h at that temperature, during which time the reaction mixture became a clear yellow solution. The reaction was quenched with NaOH(aq) (10% in H<sub>2</sub>O) until pH = 10. The resulting two-phase mixture was extracted with a mixed solvent of CHCl<sub>3</sub>/MeOH (10/1, 50 mL×6). The organic phase was collected and the combined organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and evaporated *in vacuo* to give the crude product S-1 as a light yellow foam (5.30 g, 99% yield). This crude product was used in the next step without further purification.



To the solution of S-1 (5.30 g, 15.0 mmol) in acetone (60 mL) at 0 °C was added dropwise an aqueous solution of sulfurous acid (6% wt, 24 mL, 18 mmol). The resulting mixture was warmed to rt. White solid precipitated out from the solution during the next 2 h. The resulting mixture was stirred overnight until the solution became clear again. Then, the acetone was removed under vacuum and ammonium hydroxide was added to make the solution alkaline. Chloroform (50 mL $\times$ 5) was used to extract the aqueous layer. The organic layers were combined, washed with brine (50 mL), dried over  $Na_2SO_4$  and concentrated in *vacuo*. The residue was subjected to silica gel column chromatography ( $CH_2Cl_2/MeOH =$ 20/1 + 1% Et<sub>3</sub>N) to afford S-2 as a white solid (4.51 g, 86% yield). m. p. 187-188 °C;  $[\alpha]_{D}^{23}$ = +202.9 (c = 0.27, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.88 (t, J = 7.2Hz, 3H), 1.22-1.25 (m, 1H), 1.35-1.47 (m, 5H), 1.68 (bs, 1H), 1.93 (t, J = 10.0Hz, 1H), 2.65-2.74 (m, 2H), 2.78-2.94 (m, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 5.17 (s, 1H), 5.49 (s, 1H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 7.14-7.20 (m, 2H), 7.93 (d, J = 6.4Hz, 1H), 8.45 (d, J = 9.2Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  12.0, 21.9, 25.2, 26.2, 27.3, 37.4, 50.1, 51.0, 55.6, 60.3, 71.0, 101.7, 118.4, 121.1, 122.5, 128.5, 133.7, 135.1, 142.5, 158.6; IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) v 3193, 2934, 2216, 1618, 1573, 1465, 1213, 1024 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS  $(ESI/[M+H]^+)$  Calcd. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> requires m/z 343.2022, found m/z 343.2019.



A round bottom flask (25 mL) equipped with a reflux condenser was charged with S-2 (1.03 g, 3 mmol) and hydrobromic acid (48% wt in water, 6.0 mL). The resulting light yellow solution was subjected to heating in an oil bath (130 °C) under stirring. The solution turned dark red after 5-10 minutes, and was allowed to heat at reflux overnight. The resulting mixture was cooled to rt, and the solution was adjusted to pH = 9 with solid NaOH. The resulting yellow solution was extracted with a mixture of DCM/MeOH (10/1, 50 mL×6). Then the combined golden yellow organic layers were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was subjected to silica gel column chromatography (DCM/MeOH = 4/1+1% NH<sub>4</sub>OH) to give the QD-7 as a yellow solid (885 mg, 90% yield). m.p. 212~214 °C (dec.);  $[\alpha]_D^{23} = +250.8$  (c = 0.28, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$  0.95 (t, *J* = 7.2Hz,

3H), 1.17 (m, 1H), 1.56-1.62 (m, 5H), 1.80 (s, 1H), 2.17 (t, J = 7.2Hz, 1H), 2.89-3.17 (m, 4H), 3.43 (m, 1H), 5.55 (s, 1H), 7.19 (s, 1H), 7.37 (d, J = 9.6Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, J = 6.0Hz, 1H), 8.38 (d, J = 6.4Hz, 1H), 8.50 (d, J = 9.6Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$  12.2, 20.4, 25.9, 26.8, 27.1, 37.7, 50.7, 51.7, 60.8, 71.1, 106.3, 119.9, 122.0, 126.3, 130.8, 134.0, 135.0, 142.1, 163.0; IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) v 3401, 2954, 2527, 1644, 1574, 1453, 1274; HRMS (ESI/[M+H]<sup>+</sup>) Calcd. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>25</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> requires m/z 329.1865, found m/z 329.1857.

# **Preparation of Catalyst Q-7:**



Catalyst Q-7 was synthesized by the same procedure as mentioned above for catalyst QD-7 in 40% yield (344.0 mg) over 3 steps from hydroquinine. m. p. 199~202 °C (dec);  $[\alpha]_D^{23} = -101.6$  (c = 0.25, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$  0.82 (t, *J* = 6.4Hz, 3H), 1.19-1.58 (m, 5H), 1.78-1.86 (m, 3H), 2.40-2.44 (m, 1H), 2.62-2.78 (m, 1H), 3.02-3.16 (m, 2H), 3.29-3.32 (m, 2H), 3.68-3.78 (m, 1H), 5.53 (s, 1H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 7.32 (dd, *J* = 2.4, 9.2Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 4.4Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 8.8Hz, 1H), 8.58 (d, *J* = 4.8Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$  12.1, 20.5, 26.5, 28.2, 28.3, 38.0, 44.3, 58.9, 60.7, 71.4, 105.1, 119.7, 124.2, 128.3, 131.4, 143.5, 146.9, 149.2, 159.2; IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) v 3093, 2952, 1572, 1452, 1273, 1203; HRMS (ESI/[M+H]<sup>+</sup>) Calcd. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>25</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> m/z 329.1865, found m/z 329.1861.

**Wittig reagents (triphenyl phosphonium ylide, S-Figure 2): Y1, Y2** were purchased from VWR Inc. **Y3** was prepared according to a literature procedure.<sup>3</sup>



# S-Figure 2. Wittig Reageants

Acid chlorides (S-Figure 3): A1-A4 were purchased from Aldrich Inc. and used without further purification. A5 was prepared according to the literature procedure.<sup>4</sup>



S-Figure 3. Acid chlorides

Allenoates (S-Figure 4) were prepared according to the literature procedures.<sup>5</sup>



# **S-Figure 4. Preparation of allenoates**

 $\beta$ , y-unsaturated butenolides: 8a was purchased from Aldrich Inc. and used without further purification. 8b-8e were prepared according to Marshall's method.<sup>5</sup>



S-Figure 5.  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$ -unsaturated butenolides

**Preparation of**  $\beta$ **,** $\gamma$ **-unsaturated butenolides 8b-8e<sup>5</sup>** 



 $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$ -unsaturated butenolide 8b. This compound was obtained as a clear liquid in 62% yield after flash chromatography (ethyl ether/petroleum ether = 1/50). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.93 (t, J = 7.2Hz, 3H), 1.31-1.42 (m, 2H), 1.49-1.60 (m, 2H), 2.30 (t, J = 6.0Hz, 2H), 3.17 (d, J = 1.6Hz, 2H), 5.09-5.12 (m, 1H). The spectral data was consistent with that reported in the literature.<sup>6</sup>



 $\beta_{\gamma}$ -unsaturated butenolide 8c. This compound was obtained as a clear liquid in 47% yield after flash chromatography (ethyl ether/petroleum ether = 1/50). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.94 (d, J = 6.4Hz, 6H), 1.90-1.95 (m, 1H), 2.17 (d, J = 7.6Hz, 2H), 3.19 (d, J = 2.4Hz, 2H), 5.11-5.14 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) & 22.2, 25.6, 33.9, 37.4, 99.3, 156.3, 177.0; IR(neat) v 3118, 2957, 2934, 2873, 1806, 1790, 1676, 1466, 1264, 1178, 1110cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI/[M+H]<sup>+</sup>) Calcd. for

C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>13</sub>O<sub>2</sub> m/z 141.0916, found m/z 141.0915.

 $\beta_{\gamma}$ -unsaturated butenolide 8d. This compound was obtained as a clear liquid in 43% yield after flash chromatography (ethyl ether/petroleum ether = 1/50).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.16 (d, *J* = 7.6Hz, 3H), 2.45-2.63 (m, 1H), 3.16-3.19 (m, 2H), 5.06-5.09 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  19.2, 27.7, 33.8, 96.1, 162.2, 177.1; IR(neat) v 3120, 2974, 2938, 2879, 1795, 1672, 1470, 1396, 1273, 1114, 930cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI/[M+H]<sup>+</sup>) Calcd. for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>11</sub>O<sub>2</sub> m/z 127.0759, found m/z 127.0758.

OH 

# General procedure for the preparation of $\beta$ , $\gamma$ -unsaturated butenolides 8f-8k



A modification of Marshall's method was applied. To a solution of allenoate S-3 (1.0 equiv.) in THF/MeOH/H<sub>2</sub>O (4/2/1, 7 mL per mmol S-3) at 0°C was added LiOH(aq) (2.0 mmol in 4 mL water per mmol S-3). The resulting solution was stirred overnight in darkness. Saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (12 mL per mmol S-3) was added to quench the reaction. 12 N HCl solution was then used to adjust the pH of the solution to 3, at which point the solution became cloudy. Then the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (10 mL×3 per mmol S-3). The combined ethyl acetate extracts were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated to give alkynoic acid S-4 and allenic acid S-5 as a colorless liquid mixture. This mixture was then transferred to a round bottom flask charged with a stirring bar. Acetone (4 mL per mmol S-3) was added followed by the addition of silver nitrate (0.2 equiv.). The resulting mixture was stirred overnight in darkness. The acetone was then removed under *vacuo* and the residue was applied to silica gel column chromatography (ethyl ether/petroleum ether = 1/50 - 1/20) to afford  $\beta$ , $\gamma$ -unsaturated butenolides **8f-8k** as colorless liquids.



**β**,γ-unsaturated butenolide 8f. This compound was obtained as a clear liquid in 43% yield after flash chromatography (ethyl ether/petroleum ether = 1/10). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.31 (dd, J = 1.2, 7.6Hz, 3H), 1.98-2.00 (m, 3H), 3.21-3.30 (m, 1H), 5.12-5.15 (m, 1H). The spectral data was consistent with d in the literature 7

that reported in the literature.<sup>7</sup>



**β**,**γ-unsaturated butenolide 8g**. This compound was obtained as a clear liquid in 30% yield after flash chromatography (ethyl ether/petroleum ether = 1/20). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 0.93 (t, *J* 

= 7.2Hz, 3H), 1.32 (d, J = 7.6Hz, 3H), 1.33-1.40 (m, 2H), 1.49-1.60 (m, 2H), 2.29 (t, J = 7.6Hz, 3H), 1.33-1.40 (m, 2H), 2.29 (t, J = 7.6Hz, 3H), 1.33-1.40 (m, 2H), 1.49-1.60 (m, 2H), 2.29 (t, J = 7.6Hz, 3H), 1.33-1.40 (m, 2H), 1.49-1.60 (m, 2H), 2.29 (t, J = 7.6Hz, 3H), 1.33-1.40 (m, 2H), 1.49-1.60 (m, 2H), 2.29 (t, J = 7.6Hz, 3H), 1.33-1.40 (m, 2H), 1.49-1.60 (m, 2H), 2.29 (t, J = 7.6Hz, 3H), 1.33-1.40 (m, 2H), 1.49-1.60 (m, 2H), 2.29 (t, J = 7.6Hz, 3H), 1.33-1.40 (m, 2H), 1.49-1.60 (m, 2H), 2.29 (t, J = 7.6Hz, 3H), 1.49-1.60 (m, 2H), 2.29 (t, J = 7.6Hz, 3H), 1.49-1.60 (m, 2H), 1.49-1.60 (m, 2H), 2.29 (t, J = 7.6Hz, 3H), 1.49-1.60 (m, 2H), 2.29 (t, J = 7.6Hz, 3H), 1.49-1.60 (m, 2H), 2.29 (t, J = 7.6Hz, 3H), 1.49-1.60 (m, 2H), 2.29 (t, J = 7.6Hz, 3H), 1.49-1.60 (m, 2H), 2.29 (t, J = 7.6Hz, 3H), 1.49-1.60 (m, 2H), 1.49-1.60 (m, 2H), 2.29 (t, J = 7.6Hz, 3H), 1.49-1.60 (m, 2H), 1 7.6Hz, 2H), 3.19-3.28 (m, 1H), 5.11-5.14(m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 13.7, 15.8, 22.0, 27.6, 27.7, 39.6, 104.7, 155.7, 180.4; IR(CHCl<sub>3</sub>) v 3112, 2960, 2935, 2874, 1807, 1798, 1790, 1676, 1454, 1267, 1131, 1009, 942, 936cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI/[M+H]<sup>+</sup>) Calcd. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>15</sub>O<sub>2</sub> m/z 155.1072, found m/z 155.1071.



 $\beta_{\gamma}$ -unsaturated butenolide 8h. This compound was obtained as a clear liquid in 31% yield after flash chromatography (ethyl ether/petroleum ether = 1/20). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.94 (d, J = 6.8Hz, 6H), 1.32 (d, J = 7.6Hz, 3H), 1.90-1.97 (m, 1H), 2.16 (d, J = 6.8Hz, 2H), 3.22-3.30

(m, 1H), 5.14 (bs, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) & 15.9, 22.1, 22.2, 25.5, 37.2, 39.6, 106.0, 154.8, 180.4.; IR(film) v 3107, 2961, 2934, 2874, 1790, 1676, 1464, 1265, 1128, 1088,  $1008 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (ESI/[M+H]<sup>+</sup>) Calcd. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>17</sub>O<sub>2</sub> m/z 155.1072, found m/z 155.1068.



**B**.y-unsaturated butenolide 8i. This compound was obtained as a clear liquid in 31% yield after flash chromatography (ethyl ether/petroleum ether = 1/15). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.15 (d, J = 7.2Hz, 6H); 1.32 (d, J =7.6Hz, 3H), 2.48-2.52 (m, 1H), 3.23-3.28 (m, 1H), 5.10 (bs, 1H). The spectral data was consistent with that reported in the literature.<sup>8</sup>



 $\beta_{\gamma}$ -unsaturated butenolide 8j. This compound was obtained as a clear liquid in 41% yield after flash chromatography (Ethyl acetate/Hexanes = 1/100). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.97 (t, J = 7.6Hz, 3H), 1.52-1.55 (m, 1H), 1.55-1.58 (m, 1H), 2.00 (s, 3H), 3.17-3.21 (m, 1H), 5.14 (bs, 1H). The spectral data was consistent with that reported in the literature.<sup>8</sup>



 $\beta_{\gamma}$ -unsaturated butenolide 8k. This compound was obtained as a clear liquid in 57% yield after flash chromatography (ethyl ether/petroleum ether = 1/20). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.90-0.98 (m, 6H), 1.32-1.42 (m, 2H), 1.50-1.60 (m, 2H), 1.64-1.74 (m,

2H), 1.78-1.90 (m, 2H), 2.30 (t, J = 7.6Hz, 2H), 3.16-2.23 (m, 1H), 5.12 (bs, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) § 10.8, 13.7, 22.0, 23.9, 27.7, 27.8, 46.1, 102.6, 156.2, 179.6; IR(CHCl<sub>3</sub>) v 3112, 2965, 2935, 2875, 1798, 1676, 1462, 1240, 1127, 1092, 935cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS  $(ESI/[M+H]^+)$  Calcd. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>17</sub>O<sub>2</sub> m/z 169.1229, found m/z 169.1228.

# Preparation of $\beta$ , $\gamma$ -unsaturated butenolide 81



3-methyl-4-oxopentanoic acid was prepared according to a literature procedure.<sup>9</sup> 3-methyl-4oxopentanoic acid (605 mg, 4.6 mmol) was dissolved in a 1:1 mixture of Ac<sub>2</sub>O and AcOH (18 mL). p-TsOH (80 mg, 0.46 mmol) was then added. The resulting solution was heated at 60 °C. Reaction progress was followed by TLC (Hex/EA/AcOH = 5/1/0.01), and after 1 h, the red solution was moved out of the oil bath. After cooling down to rt, H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred for 10 min. The aqueous layer was then extracted with  $Et_2O$  (30 mL×3). The combined organic solvent was washed with NaHCO<sub>3</sub>(sat) until no

more bubbles were produced. Then the organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>(s), and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was applied to silica gel columatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/Petroleum Ether = 1/20) to afford  $\beta$ , $\gamma$ -unsaturated butenolide **8I** as a colorless liquid (191.1 mg, 37% yield) ( $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated butenolide **9I** (80 mg, 16% yield) was also separated as a side product.). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.71 (s, 3H), 1.92 (s, 3H), 3.08 (s, 2H). The spectral data was consistent with that reported in the literature.<sup>7</sup>

#### Preparation of $\beta$ , $\gamma$ -unsaturated butenolide 8m



To the solution of ethyl 2-(2-oxocyclohexyl)acetate (1.84 g, 10 mmol) in a 4:2:1 mixture of THF:MeOH:H<sub>2</sub>O (70 mL) was added LiOH:H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL, 20 mmol, 1.0 M in H<sub>2</sub>O solution) in one portion. The yellow solution was stirred at rt for 1h. After that, saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (40 mL) was added. The aqueous solution was extracted with EtOAc (50 mL $\times$ 4). The combined organic solvents were concentrated under vacuum to yield a crude yellow liquid (2.34 g). One third of the yellow mixture (0.78 g) was then dissolved in a 1:1 mixture of  $Ac_2O$  and AcOH (20 mL). p-TsOH (86 mg, 0.5 mmol) was added. The resulting solution was heated at 60 oC. The reaction progress was followed by TLC (Hex/EA/AcOH = 5/1/0.01), and the red solution was moved out of the oil bath after 1.5 h. After cooling to rt, H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL) was added and the aqueous layer was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (30 mL×3). The combined organic solvent was washed with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> until no more bubbles were produced. Then the organic layer was dried over  $Na_2SO_4(s)$ , and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was applied to silica gel columatography (petroleum ether/diethyl ethyl = 50/1) to afford  $\beta_{\gamma}$ . unsaturated butenolide 8f as a colorless liquid (169 mg, 38% yield) (α,β-unsaturated butenolide **9f** (130 mg, 29% yield) was also separated as a side product.). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) § 1.67-1.73 (m, 2H), 1.76-1.84 (m, 2H), 2.02-2.11 (m, 2H), 2.20-2.30 (m, 2H), 3.05-3.12 (m, 2H). The data is consistent with that reported in the literature.<sup>10</sup>

#### 2. Preparation of racemic isomerization product



To a solution of **8a** (49 mg, 0.50 mmol) in toluene (0.5 mL) at 60 °C was added Et<sub>3</sub>N (0.5 equiv.). When the reaction did not go any further (monitored by TLC, 6 h), the crude reaction mixture was purified by silica gel column chromatography (ether/petroleum ether = 20/1) to afford racemic **9a** as a colorless liquid (29.6 mg, 60% yield) and subjected to HPLC analysis.<sup>11</sup>



Racemic **9b-9d** were separated as colorless liquids from the preparation of **8b-8d**<sup>5</sup> in 5-6% vield. 9e was separated as colorless viscous liquid from the preparation of 8e in 14% yield.



Racemic 9f-9k were separated as colorless liquids from the preparation of 8f-8k (see page s-5 for details) in 8-30% vields (9f, 14%; 9g, 15%; 9h, 8%; 9i, 28%; 9i, 15%; 9k, 30%).

Racemic 91 was prepared in 16% yield (see page s-6 for details) and racemic 9m was prepared in 28% yield (see page s-7 for details).

# 3. General procedure for asymmetric olefin isomerization



At the temperature specified in table 3, to a solution of QD-7 (0.0005-0.02 mmol as specified in table 3) in DCM (0.1 mL) was added 8 (0.10 mmol) in one portion. After 1-72 h as specified in table 3, the reaction was stopped by passing the reaction mixture through a plug of silica gel to remove the catalyst. The silica gel plug was then washed with diethyl ether (2.0-4.0 mL). The filtrate was concentrated in vacuo to give a residue. Pure 9a-9e were obtained by subjecting the residue to silica gel chromatography (see below for details). For **9f-9m**, the residue were found to be pure by NMR analysis.



(S)-(+)- $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -unsaturated butenolide 9a. This product was obtained as a clear liquid in 63% yield after flash chromatography (ethyl ether/petroleum ether = 1/5) and 90% ee as determined by HPLC analysis [Daicel chiralpak AS-H, Hexanes/IPA = 80/20, 1.0 ml/min,  $\lambda$  220nm, t(major) = 12.76 min, t(minor) = 14.02 min] from a reaction catalyzed by QD-7 (10 mol%) at -20°C for 60 hrs.  $\left[\alpha\right]_{D}^{23} = +80.3$ 

(c = 0.34, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.64 (d, *J* = 6.8Hz, 3H), 5.14 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 6.11 (bs, 1H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 6.4Hz, 1H). The spectral data was consistent with that reported in the literature.<sup>12</sup>

(-)-9a was obtained in 56% yield and 90% ee from a reaction catalyzed by Q-7 at -20 °C for 5 days.  $[\alpha]_D^{23} = -90.9$  (c = 0.55, CHCl<sub>3</sub>).

The absolute configuration of (+)-9a was determined to be S by comparing the specific optical rotation with literature value.  $[\alpha]_D{}^{23} = +80.3$  (c = 0.34, CHCl<sub>3</sub>) for 90% ee [lit.<sup>12a</sup>  $[\alpha]_D{}^{23} = +95$  (c = 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>)].



(+)-α,β-unsaturated butenolide 9b. This product was obtained as a clear liquid in 69% yield after flash chromatography (ethyl ether/petroleum ether = 1/5, followed by pure ethyl ether) and 91% ee as determined by HPLC analysis [Daicel chiralpak AS-H, Hexanes/IPA=80/20, 1.0 ml/min,  $\lambda$  220nm, t(major) = 10.60 min, t(minor) = 12.85 min] from a reaction

catalyzed by QD-7 (20 mol%) at -20°C for 72h.  $[\alpha]_D^{23} = +98.9$  (c = 0.49, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.91 (t, J = 7.2Hz, 3H), 1.33-1.48 (m, 4H), 1.62-1.77 (m, 2H), 5.04 (m, 1H), 6.10 (d, J = 4.4Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, J = 5.6Hz, 1H). The data was consistent with that reported in the literature.<sup>13</sup>

(+)- $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated butenolide 9c. This product was obtained as a clear liquid in 64% yield after flash chromatography (ethyl ether/petroleum ether = 1/5, followed by pure ethyl ether) and 90% ee as determined by HPLC analysis [Daicel chiralpak AS-H, Hexanes/IPA=80/20, 1.0 ml/min,  $\lambda$  220nm,

t(major) = 10.53 min, t(minor) = 12.05 min] from a reaction catalyzed by QD-7 (20 mol%) at -20°C for 72h.  $[\alpha]_D^{23} = +66.4$  (c = 0.39, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.00 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 6H), 1.55 (t, J = 6.8Hz, 3H), 1.90-1.95 (m, 1H), 5.09 (t, J = 6.8Hz, 1H), 6.10 (dd, J = 2.0, 5.6Hz, 1H), 7.47 (dd, J = 1.6, 5.6Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  22.0, 23.1, 25.3, 42.2, 82.1, 121.2, 156.8, 173.2; IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) v 3092, 2959, 2934, 2873, 1765, 1601, 1468, 1322, 1163, 1025cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI/[M+H]<sup>+</sup>) Calcd. for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>13</sub>O<sub>2</sub> requires m/z 141.0916, found m/z 141.0915.



(+)- $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated butenolide 9d. This product was obtained as a clear liquid in 73% yield after flash chromatography (ethyl ether/petroleum ether = 1/5, then ethyl ether) and 90% ee as determined by HPLC analysis [Daicel chiralpak AS-H, Hexanes/IPA=80/20, 1.0 ml/min,  $\lambda$  220nm, t(major) = 13.20 min, t(minor) = 16.72 min] from a reaction catalyzed by QD-7 (10 mol%) at rt for 1 hr.  $[\alpha]_D^{23}$  =

+74.6 (c = 0.30, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.01 (dd, *J* = 1.2, 6.8Hz, 6H), 2.02-2.05 (m, 1H), 4.86 (d, *J* = 6.0Hz, 1H), 6.15 (dd, *J* = 1.6, 6.0Hz, 1H), 7.46 (dd, *J* = 1.2, 6.0Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  17.6, 17.9, 31.6, 88.0, 122.2, 154.8, 173.2; IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) v 3091, 2968, 2935, 1783, 1754, 1600, 1468, 1165, 1092cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI/[M+H]<sup>+</sup>) Calcd. for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>11</sub>O<sub>2</sub> requires m/z 127.0759, found m/z 127.0762.

(-)-9d was obtained as a clear liquid in 69% yield and 88% ee from a reaction catalyzed by Q-7 (10 mol%) at rt for 1 hr.  $[\alpha]_D^{23} = -74.3$  (c = 0.37, CHCl<sub>3</sub>).



(+)- $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated butenolide 9e. This product was obtained as a clear liquid in 64% yield after flash chromatography (ethyl ether/petroleum ether = 1/2, then ethyl ether/MeOH = 10/1) and 87% ee as determined by HPLC analysis [Daicel chiralpak AS-H, Hexanes/IPA=80/20, 1.0 ml/min,  $\lambda$  220nm, t(major) = 15.90

min, t(minor) = 19.36 min] from a reaction catalyzed by QD-7 (10 mol%) at -20 °C for 36 hr.  $[\alpha]_{D}^{23} = +70.7 (c = 0.39, CHCl_{3}); {}^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_{3}) \delta 1.65-1.79 (m, 4H), 1.91-$ 2.02 (m, 1H), 3.67-3.76 (m, 2H), 5.09-5.15 (m, 1H), 6.13(dd, J = 2.0, 5.6Hz, 1H), 7.49 (dd, J= 1.2, 5.6Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 27.9, 29.7, 61.9, 83.2, 121.6, 156.3, 173.1; IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) v 3416, 2946, 2876, 1744, 1600, 1333, 1171, 1014, 924cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS  $(ESI/[M+Na]^+)$  Calcd. for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>10</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub> requires m/z 165.0528, found m/z 165.0530.



(S)-(+)- $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -unsaturated butenolide 9f. This product was obtained as a clear liquid in 95% yield and 90% ee as determined by HPLC analysis [Daicel chiralpak AS-H, Hexanes/IPA=90/10, 1.0 ml/min,  $\lambda$  220nm, t(major) = 10.65 min, t(minor) = 12.58 min from a reaction catalyzed by QD-7 (10 mol%) at rt for 1 hr.  $[\alpha]_D^{23} = +72.6$  (c = 0.39, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.44 (d, J = 6.8Hz, 3H), 2.07 (s, 3H), 4.91 (q, J = 6.8Hz, 1H), 5.79 (s, 1H). The data was consistent with that reported in the literature.<sup>1</sup>

The absolute configuration of (+)-9f was determined to be S by comparing the specific optical rotation with literature value.<sup>14</sup>  $\left[\alpha\right]_{D}^{23} = +72.6$  (c = 0.39, CHCl<sub>3</sub>) for 90% ee [lit.  $[\alpha]_{D}^{23} = +92.3 \ (c = 0.15, \text{CHCl}_3)].$ 

(+)-9f was obtained as a clear liquid in 95% yield and 90% ee from a reaction catalyzed by OD-7 (0.5 mol%) at rt for 12 hr.

(R)-(-)-9f was obtained as a clear liquid in 92% yield and 90% ee from a reaction catalyzed by Q-7 (10 mol%) at rt for 1 hr.  $[\alpha]_D^{23} = -76.9$  (c = 0.51, CHCl<sub>3</sub>).



(+)- $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -unsaturated butenolide 9g. This product was obtained as a clear liquid in 94% yield and 90% ee as determined by HPLC analysis [Daicel chiralpak AS-H, Hexanes/IPA=90/10, 1.0 ml/min, λ 220nm, t(major) = 8.39 min, t(minor) = 11.14 min] from a reaction catalyzed by QD-7 (0.5 mol%) at rt for 12 hr.  $[\alpha]_D^{23} = +70.1$  (c = 0.67, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H

NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  0.91 (t, J = 6.8Hz, 3H), 1.32-1.48 (m, 4H), 1.61-1.78 (m, 2H), 1.92 (s, 3H), 4.86-4.90 (m, 1H), 7.03 (t, J = 1.6Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  10.6, 13.8, 22.4, 27.0, 33.1, 81.1, 129.7, 148.8, 174.3; IR (neat) v 3079, 2958, 2932, 2863, 1755. 1660, 1457, 1207, 1097 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI/[M+H]<sup>+</sup>) Calcd. for  $C_9H_{15}O_2$  requires m/z 155.1072, found m/z 155.1072.



(+)- $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated butenolide 9h. This product was obtained as a clear liquid in 95% yield and 90% ee as determined by HPLC analysis [Daicel chiralpak AS-H, Hexanes:IPA=90/10, 1.0 ml/min,  $\lambda$  220nm, t(major) = 8.45 min, t(minor) = 10.61 min] from a reaction catalyzed by QD-7 (0.5 mol%) at rt for 12 hr.  $[\alpha]_D^{23} = +53.2$  (c = 0.75, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400

MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.98 (t, J = 6.8Hz, 6H), 1.47 (t, J = 6.8Hz, 2H), 1.85-1.92 (m, 4H), 4.93 (t, J= 6.0Hz, 1H), 7.04 (t, J = 1.6Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  10.6, 22.1, 23.0, 25.2, 42.5, 79.8, 129.5, 149.2, 174.3; IR (CH<sub>3</sub>Cl) v 3078, 2954, 2873, 1753, 1659, 1462, 1205, 1096cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI/ $[M+H]^+$ ) Calcd. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>15</sub>O<sub>2</sub> requires m/z 155.1072, found m/z 155.1070.



(+)- $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -unsaturated butenolide 9i. This product was obtained as a clear liquid in 99% yield and 94% ee as determined by HPLC analysis [Daicel chiralpak AS-H, Hexanes/IPA=90/10, 1.0 ml/min,  $\lambda$  220nm, t(major) = 8.66

min, t(minor) = 11.44 min from a reaction catalyzed by QD-7 (0.5 mol%) at rt for 12 hr.  $[\alpha]_D^{23} = +77.3$  (c = 0.71, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.97 (d, J = 6.4Hz, 3H), 0.99 (d, J = 6.8Hz, 3H), 1.91-2.00 (m, 4H), 4.68-4.70 (m, 1H), 7.05 (d, J = 1.6Hz, 1H). The data was consistent with that reported in the literature.<sup>15</sup>



(+)- $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -unsaturated butenolide 9j. This product was obtained as a clear liquid in 95% yield and 91% ee as determined by HPLC analysis [Daicel chiralpak AS-H, Hexanes/IPA=90/10, 1.0 ml/min,  $\lambda$  220nm, t(major) = 9.45 min, t(minor) = 11.84 min from a reaction catalyzed by QD-7 (0.5 mol%) at rt for 12 hr.  $[\alpha]_D^{23} = +73.8$  (c = 0.60, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 

1.17 (t, J = 7.2Hz, 3H), 1.41 (d, J = 6.8Hz, 3H), 2.31 (q, J = 7.2Hz, 2H), 4.96-5.03 (m, 1H), 6.99 (d, J = 2.0Hz, 1H); The data was consistent with that reported in the literature.<sup>16</sup>



(+)- $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -unsaturated butenolide 9k. This product was obtained as a clear liquid in 95% yield and 91% ee as determined by HPLC analysis [Daicel chiralpak AS-H, Hexanes/IPA=90/10, 1.0 ml/min, λ 220nm, t(major) = 7.13 min, t(minor) = 10.13 min from a reaction catalyzed by QD-7 (0.5 mol%) at rt for 12 hr.  $[\alpha]_D^{23} = +42.4$  (c = 0.88, CHCl<sub>3</sub>);

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.91 (t, J = 7.2Hz, 3H), 1.17 (t, J = 7.2Hz, 3H), 1.25-1.46 (m, 4H), 1.56-1.73 (m, 2H), 2.30 (q, J = 7.2Hz, 2H), 4.86-4.91 (m, 1H), 7.00 (d, J = 1.6Hz, 1H);  $^{13}$ C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  11.7, 13.8, 18.6, 22.4, 27.0, 33.2, 81.3, 135.8, 147.2, 173.9; IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) v 3118, 2957, 2934, 2873, 1806, 1790, 1676, 1466, 1264, 1110, 1091, 931cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI/ $[M+H]^+$ ) Calcd. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>17</sub>O<sub>2</sub> requires m/z 169.1229, found m/z 169.1227.



(S)-(+)- $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -unsaturated butenolide 91. This product was obtained as a clear liquid in 95% yield and 81% ee as determined by HPLC analysis [Daicel chiralpak AS-H, Hexanes/IPA=70/30, 1.0 ml/min,  $\lambda$  220nm, t(major) = 13.05 min, t(minor) = 11.67 min] from a reaction catalyzed by QD-7 (10 mol%) at -20°C for 24 hr.; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.44 (d, J = 6.8Hz, 3H), 2.07 (s, 3H), 4.91 (q, J =

6.8Hz, 1H), 5.79 (s, 1H). The data was consistent with that reported in the literature.<sup>17</sup>

The absolute configuration of (+)-91 was determined to be S by comparing the specific optical rotation with literature value.<sup>17</sup>  $\left[\alpha\right]_{D}^{23} = +17.2$  (c = 0.39, CHCl<sub>3</sub>) for 81% ee. [lit.  $[\alpha]_{\rm D} = +20.2 \ (c = 5.00, \text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2)].$ 



(+)- $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -unsaturated butenolide 9m. This product was obtained as a clear liquid in 83% yield and 82% ee as determined by HPLC analysis [Daicel chiralpak AS, Hexanes/IPA=50/50, 1.0 ml/min,  $\lambda$  220nm, t(major) = 12.5 min, t(minor) = 11.4 min] from a reaction catalyzed by cat. OD-7 (10 mol%) at -20°C for 24 hr.  $[\alpha]_{D}^{23}$  = +100.7 (c = 0.42, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.23-1.41 (m, 2H), 1.42-1.54 (m, 1H), 1.88-1.98 (m, 1H), 2.00-2.09 (m, 1H), 2.22-2.34 (m, 1H), 2.50-2.60 (m, 1H),

2.83-2.94 (m, 1H), 4.68 (dd, J = 6.4 & 8.9 Hz, 1H), 5.71-5.77 (s, 1H). The data was consistent with that reported in the literature.<sup>18</sup>

# 4. 0.1 mol% QD-7 catalyzed isomerization of 8f to 9f



To a DCM solution of QD-7 (0.0001 mmol, 20 uL, 0.005M) was added **8f** (0.10 mmol) in one portion. After 24 h, the reaction was stopped by passing the reaction mixture through a plug of silica gel to remove the catalyst. The silica gel plug was then washed with diethyl ether (2.0-4.0 mL). The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* to give **9f** in 91% yield and 86% ee.

# 5. Kinetic Method.

The kinetic parameters of this reaction were determined by *in situ* monitoring of the consumption of  $\beta$ , $\gamma$ -unsaturated butenolide **8f** by following the reaction progress via NMR. The experiment was conducted according to Johnson's procedure.<sup>19</sup>

Plotting  $-\ln[8f]$  versus time gave a straight line ( $R^2 = 0.999$ , Figure A), thus establishing first-order dependence on butenolide 8f.

The reaction order in catalyst QD-7 was established by determining the rate constants ( $k_{obs}$ ) at various catalyst concentrations. According to the rate law (eq.1), equation 2 can be obtained. From eq.2, equation 3 can be derived. Thus the slope obtained from the plot of  $-ln(k_{obs})$  versus the catalyst concentration would be the order of catalyst. The slope = 1.18 (Figure E) indicates the first order dependence on catalyst.

$$\begin{split} &\mathsf{R} = -k_{obs}[S] = -k[S][C]^m \qquad (eq. \ 1) \\ &k_{obs} = k[C]^m \qquad (eq. \ 2) \\ &\ln(k_{obs}) = m\ln[C] + \ln(k) \qquad (eq. \ 3) \end{split}$$

The general kinetic method will be illustrated with a specific example. To a 5 mm NMR tube was added  $\beta$ , $\gamma$ -unsaturated butenolide **8f** (0.05 mmol, 5.6 mg) and CDCl<sub>3</sub> (0.40 mL). An initial <sup>1</sup>H NMR was taken to determine the ratio of substrate peak and the internal standard peak. Then catalyst QD-7 (0.005 mmol, 1.6 mg) was added to the NMR tube in one portion. The NMR tube was well shaken and put back into the NMR machine. Every minute a <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra was taken to follow the progress of the reaction until the reaction reached about 70% conversion. Substrate concentration was determined by the integration of the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra: The substrate **8f** peak at 5.10 ppm (integrated from 5.069 ppm to 5.139 ppm) was followed. The chloroform peak at 7.26 ppm was used as an internal standard. The k<sub>obs</sub> for each run was determined from the slope of the line obtained by plotting the -ln[**8f**] versus time.

Figure A. Determination of the order of butenolide 8f



Figure A shows a linear relationship between  $-\ln[8f]$  and time, indicating the reaction is first order in 8f.

Figure B. Determination of the order of butenolide 8f



Figure B showed a nonlinear relationship between [8f] and time, indicating the reaction is NOT zeroth order in 8f

Figure C. Determination of the order of butenolide 8f



Figure C showed a nonlinear relationship between 1/[8f] and time, indicating the reaction is NOT second order in 8f

Figure D. Kinetic	profiles for	the catalyst	QD-7
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Catalyst 10 mol%,  $k_{obs} = 9.568E-4$ ,  $ln(k_{obs}) = -6.952$ ,  $R^2 = 0.999$ Catalyst 7.5 mol%,  $k_{obs} = 6.489E-4$ ,  $ln(k_{obs}) = -7.340$ ,  $R^2 = 0.999$ Catalyst 5.0 mol%,  $k_{obs} = 3.758E-4$ ,  $ln(k_{obs}) = -7.886$ ,  $R^2 = 0.992$ Catalyst 2.5 mol%,  $k_{obs} = 1.857E-4$ ,  $ln(k_{obs}) = -8.591$ ,  $R^2 = 0.983$ 

Figure F. Determination of the reaction order on the catalyst QD-7



Figure F showed that the slope of  $ln(k_{obs})$  vs ln[QD-7] is 1.18, which is close to 1, indicating the reaction is first order dependence on the catalyst.

# 6. <sup>13</sup>C Kinetic Isotope Effect Study.

 $\beta$ , $\gamma$ -unsaturated butenolide **8f** (560 mg, 5.0 mmol) and n-Octane (28.6 mg, 0.25 mmol) were dissolved in DCM (5 mL, distilled) in a 20 ml vial charged with a stirring bar. Catalyst QD-7 (8.2 mg, 0.025 mmol) was added in one portion and the reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 3h. An aliquot of 10 uL reaction solution was taken out, passed through a pad of silica. The silica was washed with Et<sub>2</sub>O (0.8 mL). The organic solvents were collected, diluted to 1.0 mL and subjected to GC analysis for conversion. Meanwhile, Et<sub>2</sub>O (5.0 mL) was added to the remaining of the reaction solution and the resulting yellow suspension was passed through a plug of silica, which was washed with Et<sub>2</sub>O (30.0 mL). The combined organic solvent was concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was applied to silica gel columatography (Eluent: Pentane/Et<sub>2</sub>O = 15/1) to afford recovered  $\beta$ , $\gamma$ -unsaturated butenolide **8f** as a clear liquid (Warning: The butenolide **8f** is very volatile, don't leave under reduced pressure for long.).

The <sup>13</sup>C NMR analysis of the recovered and virgin samples of  $\beta$ , $\gamma$ -unsaturated butenolide **8f** was performed by following Singleton's <sup>13</sup>C NMR method.<sup>20</sup> The NMR sample of virgin and recovered **8f** was prepared identically as follows: a 5 mm high precision NMR tube was charged with **8f** (80 mg, 0.71 mmol), then CDCl<sub>3</sub> was added to a total height of 4.0 cm. The <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectra were recorded with H-decoupling and 45 degree pulses on 400MHz NMR spectrometer. A 100 s delay between pulses was imposed to minimize T1 variations (d1 = 100 s, at = 5.0 s, nt = 720). Polynomial fit zeroth-order baseline correction was applied. Integrations were determined by using a range of  $\pm$  5 times the half peak width around each peak. The C**5**, which isotopic composition can be safely assumed not to change during the reaction, was employed as an "internal standard" for <sup>13</sup>C integrations. The average <sup>13</sup>C integration ratio of the recovered and virgin samples of **8f** is shown in Table S1.



C#	virgin	recovered (71% conv)	recovered/virgin	change(%)
2	0.969	0.973	1.004	0.4
3	0.971	0.969	0.998	-0.2
4	0.987	1.010	1.023	2.3
5(ref)	1.000	1.000	1.000	0.0
6	0.988	0.992	1.004	0.4
C#	virgin	recovered (70% conv)	recovered/virgin	change(%)
2	0.969	0.972	1.003	0.3
3	0.971	0.973	1.002	0.2
4	0.987	1.011	1.024	2.4
5(ref)	1.000	1.000	1.000	0.0
6	0.988	0.992	1.004	0.4
C#	virgin	recovered (69% conv)	recovered/virgin	change(%)
2	0.969	0.975	1.006	0.6
3	0.971	0.974	1.003	0.3
4	0.987	1.011	1.024	2.4
5(ref)	1.000	1.000	1.000	0.0
6	0.988	0.990	1.002	0.2

Table S1.	<sup>13</sup> C integration	of the recovered	and virgin	samples of	butenolide 8f <sup>a</sup>
				200	

<sup>*a*</sup> Due to practical limitations, the NMR data was collected with a time between pulses inadequate for relaxation of the carbonyl carbon (C1) precluding an accurate integration.



The most pronounced carbon isotope effect was observed on the carbon 4 when the <sup>13</sup>C ratio of recovered **8f** at 71% conversion was compared to that of the virgin sample  $({}^{13}C(recovered))/{}^{13}C(virgin)$  at C4 = 1.023, average of three runs). This indicates that the rate limiting step is the protonation step, in which only carbon 4 is involved in the bond formation.

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le C:\Chem32\1\DATA\WUYW\WUYW-II-125-NEW-1.D
Name: WUYW-II-125-new

Operator	:	wuyw					
Instrument	1	Instrument 1	Lo	ocation	:	-	
ction Date	:	5/3/2010 9:38:54 PM					
Method	2	C:\CHEM32\1\METHODS\METHOD1.M					
changed		5/3/2010 9:32:54 PM by wuyw					
~		(modified after loading)					
vsis Method		C:\CHEM32\1\METHODS\METHOD1.M					
changed		5/3/2010 10:00:01 PM by wuyw					
		(modified after loading)					
le Info	÷	AS-H(new), 1mL/min, Hex/IPA=80	/20,	220nm,	le	ft,	49bar



\*\*\* End of Report \*\*\*

nt 1 5/3/2010 10:00:33 PM wuyw Data File C:\CHEM32\1\DATA\WUYW\HUYW-III-125-1.D Sample Name: wuyw-III-125

Page

Acq. Operator Acq. Instrument Injection Date	t Wuyw : Instrument 1 : 1/5/2011 9:20:41 PM	Seq. Line Location Ini	: 3 : Vial 22 : 1
		Inj Volume	r 10 µl
Acq. Method	: C:\CHEM32\1\METHODS\METHOD1.M		
Last changed	t 1/5/2011 8:50:14 PM by wuyw (modified after loading)		
Analysis Method	: C:\CHEM32\1\METHODS\METHOD1.M		
Last changed	<pre>r 6/16/2011 10:47:07 AM by Eran (modified after loading)</pre>		
Sample Info	: AS-H, Hex:IPA = 80:20, 220nm,	1.0 mL/min,	, 62 bar, Left



Area Percent Report

Sorted By : Signal Multiplier : 1.0000 Dilution : 1.0000 Use Multiplier & Dilution Factor with ISTDs

Sign	al 1: VW	DI A,	Wavelen	gth=220 nm		
Feak #	RetTime [min]	Туре	Width [min]	Area mAU *s	Height [mAU ]	Area 4
1 2	12.266	BV VB	0.3008	1000.50435 1.76223e4	49.30965 675.02240	5.3725 94.6275
Tota	ls :			1.86228e4	724.33205	



(S)-**9a**, 90% ee from 10 mol% QD-**7** catalyzed reaction.



(*R*)-**9a**, 90% ee from 10 mol% Q-**7** catalyzed reaction.



HPLC, Chiralpak AS-H, Hexanes:Isopropanol = 80:20, 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda$ = 220nm



Racemic 9b







HPLC, Chiralpak AS-H, Hexanes: Isopropanol = 80:20, 1.0 mL/min,  $\lambda$ = 220 nm











# HPLC, Chiralpak AS-H, Hexanes: Isopropanol = 80:20, 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda$ = 220 nm





Data File C:\CHEM32\1\DATA\WUYW\WUYW-V-107-2-2.D Sample Name: WUYW-V-107-2



# HPLC, Chiralpak AS-H, Hexanes:Isopropanol = 90:10, 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda$ = 220 nm



Racemic 9f





(S)-**9f**, 90% ee from 0.5 mol% QD-**7** catalyzed reaction.









d By : Signal plier : 1.0000 ion : 1.0000 ultiplier & Dilution Factor with ISTDs

8.91414e4 4522.59912

1 1: VWD1 A, Wavelength=220 nm

s :

Data File C:\CHEM32\1\DATA\WUYN\WUYN-III-48-3-12H-1.D Sample Name: WUYN-III-48-3-12h

Acq. Operator	: wuyw		
Acq. Instrument	: Instrument 1	Location	1
Injection Date	: 5/12/2010 9:08:45 PM		
Acq. Method	: C:\CHEM32\1\METHODS\METHOD1.M		
Last changed	: 5/12/2010 9:24:48 PM by wuyw (modified after loading)		
Analysis Method	: C:\CHEM32\1\METHODS\METHOD1.M		
Last changed	: 6/6/2011 2:05:00 PM by wuyw		
Sample Info	: AS-H(new), 1mL/min, Hex/IPA=90/	10, 220nm,	left, 47bar



# HPLC, Chiralpak AS-H, Hexanes:Isopropanol = 90:10, 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda$ = 220 nm







(+)-**9i**, 94% ee from 0.5 mol% QD-**7** catalyzed reaction.







Racemic 9j



t 1 5/14/2010 11:48:29 AM wuyw

Page





s : 3.62253e4 2392.42297



# HPLC, Chiralpak AS-H, Hexanes: Isopropanol = 70:30, 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda$ = 220 mm



Racemic 91



**9I**, 81% ee from 10 mol% QD-**7** catalyzed reaction.



Instrument 1 5/21/2010 5:18:14 PM Brian



Data File C:\CHEM32\1\DATA\WUYW\WUYW-III-104-24H-1.D Sample Name: WUYW-III-104-24h

Acq. Operator	1	WUYW				
Acq. Instrument	1	Instrument 1	Locatio	n	:	-
Injection Date		7/15/2010 2:25:02 PM				
Acg. Method		C:\CHEM32\1\METHODS\YANG-ISOVA1	LECHO, M			
Last changed	:	7/15/2010 2:47:27 PM by wuyw (modified after loading)				
Analysis Method	1	C:\CHEM32\1\METHODS\METHOD1.M				
Last changed	1	5/27/2011 10:45:18 AM by Brian (modified after loading)				
Sample Info	1	AS, Hex: IPA=50:50, 1.0 mL/min,	220 nm,	14	ft.	40bar





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\*\*\* End of Report \*\*\*

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**9m**, 82% ee from 10 mol% QD-**7** catalyzed reaction