

Supporting Information

Catalytic Enantioselective Synthesis of C_1 - and C_2 -Symmetric Spirobiindanones through Counterion-Directed Enolate C-Acylation

Benjamin F. Rahemtulla, Hugh F. Clark, and Martin D. Smith*

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Supporting Information

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1.1 General Information

Reactions requiring moisture-sensitive reagents were carried out in flame-dried glassware, under an atmosphere of argon (balloon pressure). Dichloromethane, tetrahydrofuran and toluene were purified by filtration through activated alumina columns employing the method of Grubbs *et al.*^[1] Water was purified by an Elix[®] UV-10 system. Reagents were used directly as supplied by major chemical suppliers, or following purification procedures described by Perrin and Armarego.^[2] Petrol 40-60 refers to the fraction of petroleum ether which boils in the range 40-60 °C. Brine refers to a saturated aqueous solution of sodium chloride.

Silica gel chromatography was carried out using Merck Geduran[®] Silicagel (40-63 µm particle size). Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was carried out using pre-coated, aluminium backed plates (Merck Kieselgel 60 F254). Visualisation was achieved with ultraviolet irradiation (254 nm) and staining with permanganate.

NMR spectroscopy was carried out using Bruker Avance spectrometers in the deuterated solvent stated, using the residual non-deuterated solvent signal as an internal reference (¹H NMR: CDCl₃ (7.26), (CD₃)₂SO (2.50); ¹³C NMR: CDCl₃ (77.16), (CD₃)₂SO (39.52); ¹⁹F NMR: CFCl₃ (0.00)). Chemical shifts are quoted in ppm, based on appearance rather than interpretation. Signal patterns are indicated as: br s, broad singlet; s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; m, multiplet. Coupling constants, *J*, are quoted to the nearest 0.1 Hz and are presented as observed. Diastereotopic protons are denoted by letters, e.g. H_A, H_B etc.

All ¹⁹F NMR spectra are reported as proton/fluorine decoupled unless otherwise stated.

Due to significant (C-F) coupling and unresolved fine structure, perfluorophenyl ¹³C peaks are reported only when clearly resolved.

Infrared spectra were prepared as a neat film and were recorded using a Bruker Tensor 27 FTIR spectrometer using an ATR module.

Low resolution mass spectrometry was carried out using ESI and was performed on a Micromass LCT Premier Spectrometer. HRMS was carried out using Bruker MicroTDF and Micromass GCT spectrometers under electrospray ionization (ESI) or ammonia chemical ionization (ACI)/electron ionization (EI) conditions respectively.

Analytical chiral HPLC was carried out on a Dionex UltiMate 3000 HPLC system comprising a Dionex LPG-3400A pump, WPS-3000SL autosampler and TCC-3000SD column compartment, and a Daicel Chiralpak column (0.46 cm \times 25 cm), equipped with an appropriate guard column (0.4 cm \times 1 cm).

Melting points were determined using a Reichert melting point apparatus and are uncorrected, Optical rotations were recorded on a Schmidt-Haensch Unipol L2000 polarimeter and values are quoted [° mL g⁻¹ dm⁻¹]. Concentrations are quoted in g/100 mL.

1.2 General Experimental Procedures

General Procedure A: Aldol Condensation of 1-Indanones with *o*-Carboxybenzaldehydes^[3]

Aldol condensation: To a stirred room temperature solution of *the appropriate 1-indanone* (1.0 eq.) and *the appropriate o-carboxybenzaldehyde* (1.0 eq.) in ethanol (2.4 mL/mmol indanone) was added aqueous sodium hydroxide (1 M, 1.8 eq.). The reaction mixture was stirred for 15 minutes after which cold water was added and the resulting solution poured onto diethyl ether. The aqueous layer was separated and the organic layer extracted with water. The combined aqueous extracts were acidified with aqueous sulfuric acid (2.5 M) and the precipitate isolated *via* filtration, then dried under high vacuum to afford the corresponding unsaturated acid.

General Procedure B: Esterification of Unsaturated Acids

Esterification of unsaturated acids: To a stirred suspension of *the appropriate crude unsaturated acid* (1.0 eq.) in dichloromethane (3.0 mL/mmol acid) was added oxalyl chloride (1.5 eq.) followed by 1 drop of *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide. After evolution of gas had ceased (30 minutes), the mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was subsequently dissolved in dichloromethane (3.0 mL/mmol acid) and to this solution was added pentafluorophenol (1.0 eq.) and triethylamine (3.0 eq.). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours upon which it was quenched by addition of water and diluted in dichloromethane. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer extracted twice with dichloromethane. The combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification of the residue *via* flash chromatography (see experimental methods section for specific details) afforded the corresponding unsaturated activated ester.

General Procedure C: Hydrogenation of Unsaturated Acids or Activated Esters^[3]

A stirred suspension of *the corresponding unsaturated acid or activated ester* (1.0 eq.) and palladium on carbon (10 wt. %) (0.1 mg/mg *unsaturated acid or ester*) *or* platinum(IV) oxide (0.1 mg/mg *unsaturated acid or ester*) in ethyl acetate (7.0 mL/mmol acid *or* ester) was purged with hydrogen (1 balloon). After 10 minutes, purging was stopped and the balloon was replaced with a new balloon of hydrogen. Once the starting material had been consumed (indicated by TLC analysis) the reaction flask was opened to air, the reaction mixture filtered through Celite[®] with dichloromethane and the resulting solution concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification of the residue *via* flash chromatography *or* recrystallization (see experimental methods section for specific details) afforded the corresponding saturated acid/activated ester.

General Procedure D: Asymmetric Phase-Transfer C-Acylation of Activated Esters

In a 7 mL screw-topped vial, *the appropriate saturated activated ester* (1.0 eq.) and **17** (0.10 eq.) were dissolved in toluene (10 mL/mmol ester) and 50% w/w aqueous potassium phosphate (10.0 eq.) was added. The biphasic reaction mixture was rapidly stirred at room temperature for *the appropriate time* and then water and dichloromethane were added. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted twice with dichloromethane. The combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification of the residue *via* flash chromatography (see experimental methods section for specific details) afforded the corresponding enantioenriched spirobiindanone.

General Procedure E: Racemic Phase-Transfer C-Acylation of Activated Esters

The appropriate saturated activated ester (1.0 eq.) and tetrabutylammonium bromide (0.10 eq.) were dissolved in toluene (10 mL/mmol ester) and potassium hydroxide (2.0 eq.) was added. The biphasic reaction mixture was rapidly stirred at room temperature for *the appropriate time* and then water and dichloromethane were added. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted twice with dichloromethane. The combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification of the residue *via* flash chromatography (see experimental methods section for specific details) afforded the corresponding racemic spirobiindanone.

1.3 Catalyst Synthesis

Catalysts that were not commercially available were prepared following well established literature procedures of *N*-alkylation of cinchona alkaloids.^[4]

1.4 Supplemental Optimization Table



Entry	R ¹	Catalyst	Base (eq.)	Solvent (M)	e.r. ^[b]
1	Ph	Bu ₄ NBr	K ₂ CO ₃ (10) (aq) ^[c]	PhMe (0.1)	50:50
2	Ph	10	$K_2CO_3(10)(aq)^{[c]}$	PhMe (0.1)	56:44
3	Ph	10	KOH (10) (aq) ^[c]	PhMe (0.1)	-
4	Ph	10	KOH (1) (s)	PhMe (0.1)	59:41
5	Ph	10	$CsOH \cdot H_2O(1)(s)$	PhMe (0.1)	54:46
6	Ph	32	KOH (1) (s)	PhMe (0.1)	48:52
7	Ph	12	KOH (1) (s)	PhMe (0.1)	54:46
8	Ph	13	KOH (1) (s)	PhMe (0.1)	43:57
9	Ph	33	KOH (1) (s)	PhMe (0.1)	65:35
10	Ph	11	KOH (1) (s)	PhMe (0.1)	69:31
11	Ph	11	$NaOPh \cdot H_2O(1)(s)$	PhMe (0.1)	51:49
12	Ph	11	KOH (0.1) (s)	PhMe (0.1)	63:37
13	Ph	11	$NaOPh H_2O(0.1)(s)$	PhMe (0.1)	61:39
14	C_6F_5	11	KOH (1) (s)	PhMe (0.1)	42:58
15	C_6F_5	10	KOH (1) (s)	PhMe (0.1)	75:25
16	C_6F_5	32	KOH (1) (s)	PhMe (0.1)	27:73
17	C_6F_5	12	KOH (1) (s)	PhMe (0.1)	79:21
18	C_6F_5	13	KOH (1) (s)	PhMe (0.1)	25:75
19	C_6F_5	14	KOH (1) (s)	PhMe (0.1)	36:64
20	C_6F_5	15	KOH (1) (s)	PhMe (0.1)	29:71
21	C_6F_5	16	KOH (1) (s)	PhMe (0.1)	17:83
22	C_6F_5	33	KOH (1) (s)	PhMe (0.1)	85:15
23	C_6F_5	34	KOH (1) (s)	PhMe (0.1)	80:20
24	C_6F_5	35	KOH (1) (s)	PhMe (0.1)	87:13
25	C_6F_5	17	KOH (1) (s)	PhMe (0.1)	88:12
26	C_6F_5	17	$CsOH \cdot H_2O(2)(s)$	PhMe (0.1)	-
27	C_6F_5	17	$K_2CO_3(1)(s)$	PhMe (0.1)	95:5
28	C_6F_5	17	$K_2CO_3(10)(aq)^{[c]}$	PhMe (0.1)	96:4
29	C_6F_5	17	Cs_2CO_3 (10) (aq) ^[c]	PhMe (0.1)	93:7
30	C_6F_5	17	$K_{3}PO_{4}(2)(s)$	PhMe (0.1)	89:11
31	C_6F_5	17	K ₃ PO ₄ (10) (aq) ^[c]	PhMe (0.1)	97:3
32	C_6F_5	17	$K_{3}PO_{4}(10)(aq)^{[c]}$	$CH_2Cl_2(0.1)$	89:11
33	C_6F_5	17	$K_{3}PO_{4}(10)(aq)^{[c]}$	$^{P}Pr_{2}O(0.1)$	81:19
34	C_6F_5	17	$K_{3}PO_{4}(10)(aq)^{[c]}$	PhH (0.1)	95:5
35	C ₆ F ₅	17	$K_{3}PO_{4}(10)(aq)^{[c]}$	PhMe (1)	89:11

[a] Conditions: substrate 7 or 8 (0.02 mmol), Catalyst (10 mol%), Base, Solvent, r.t., 48 h. [b] e.r. determined by chiral stationary phase HPLC. [c] Base: 50% aq., w/w.



35: R^1 = 9-anthracenyl, R^2 = OMe, X = Br





13: $R^1 = Ph, R^2 = OMe, X = CI$ **14**: $R^1 = C_6F_5, R^2 = OMe, X = CI$ **15**: $R^1 = 3,5-({}^{f}Bu)_2C_6H_3, R^2 = OMe, X = Br$ **16**: $R^1 = 9$ -anthracenyl, $R^2 = OMe, X = Br$ **32**: $R^1 = Ph, R^2 = H, X = CI$

1.5 Experimental Procedures

1.5.1 Starting Material Synthesis



The requisite saturated ester starting materials were prepared according to the general scheme outlined above. Indan-1-ones were commercially available or prepared according to literature procedures.^[5] *o*-Carboxybenzaldehydes were prepared according to literature procedures through *o*-lithiation of benzoic acid derivatives, trapping with *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide, followed by hydrolysis of the amide.^[6] Indan-1-ones and *o*-carboxybenzaldehydes were then converted to the corresponding saturated ester *via* a three-step sequence of aldol condensation/esterification/hydrogenation according to **General Procedures A, B and C**.



2-((1-Oxo-1,3-dihydro-2H-inden-2-ylidene)methyl)benzoic acid, 36

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure A.

Aldol condensation with 1-indanone (2.20 g, 16.7 mmol), *o*-carboxybenzaldehyde (2.50 g, 16.7 mmol), ethanol (40 mL), aqueous sodium hydroxide (1 M, 30 mL, 30 mmol). Crude unsaturated acid **36** was obtained as a pale yellow solid (4.13 g).

2-((1-Oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-2-yl)methyl)benzoic acid, 37

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure C.

Hydrogenation with crude unsaturated acid **36** (2.90 g, 11.0 mmol), palladium on carbon (290 mg), ethyl acetate (76 mL). Purification *via* recrystallization from benzene afforded the title compound **37** as a white crystalline solid (2.25 g, 72% for 2 steps). The spectral data matched that previously reported in the literature.^[7]

m.p. 144-146 °C (benzene), [lit. 141-143 °C]^[7];

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ = 11.30 (br s, 1H, H₁₈), 8.09 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H, H₁₅), 7.78 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H, H₇), 7.55 (td, *J* = 7.4, 1.1 Hz, 1H, H₁₃), 7.50 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.3 Hz, 1H, H₅), 7.43–7.30 (m, 4H, H₄, H₆, H₁₂ & H₁₄), 3.87–3.75 (m, 1H, H_{10A}), 3.23–3.10 (m, 3H, H₂, H_{3A}, H_{10B}), 2.96–2.85 (m, 1H, H_{3B});

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_{C} = 208.0, 172.7, 153.6, 142.6, 136.4, 134.7, 133.0, 131.9, 131.7, 128.7, 128.3, 127.4, 126.6, 126.5, 124.0, 48.7, 35.0, 32.4;

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 3070, 1716, 1687, 1603, 1575, 1489, 1465, 1434, 1404, 1271, 1209, 1150, 1075;

LRMS (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{17}H_{14}O_3Na^+ = 289$, mass found = 289.

Phenyl 2-((1-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-inden-2-yl)methyl)benzoate, 7

To a mixture of **37** (600 mg, 2.28 mmol), *N*-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-*N*'-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride (562 mg, 2.93 mmol, 1.30 eq.), and 4-(dimethylamino)pyridine (13 mg, 0.11 mmol, 0.05 eq.) in flame-dried round-bottom flask was added dichloromethane (3 mL) and the mixture was stirred for 30 minutes. A solution of phenol (208 mg, 2.21 mmol, 0.98 eq.) in dichloromethane (3 mL) was added to the mixture and stirred for 14 hours. The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and then poured onto brine (15 mL) and extracted with dichloromethane (10 mL \times 3). The combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash chromatography, eluting with 1:9 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60, to afford title compound **7** as a colourless oil that solidified on standing (554 mg, 73%).

m.p. 63-65 °C (ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60);

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H} = 8.19$ (dd, J = 7.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H, H₁₅), 7.76 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H, H₇), 7.59–7.51 (m, 2H, H₅ & H₁₃), 7.49–7.32 (m, 6H, H₄, H₁₂, H₁₄, H₂₀ & H₂₁), 7.30–7.20 (m, 3H, H₆ & H₁₉), 3.83–3.69 (m, 1H, H_{10A}), 3.26–3.13 (m, 3H, H₂, H_{3A}, H_{10B}), 3.00–2.88 (m, 1H, H_{3B});

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_{C} = 207.6, 166.0, 153.5, 150.8, 142.5, 136.6, 134.7, 132.7, 131.9, 131.4, 129.6, 129.2, 127.4, 126.7, 126.6, 126.0, 124.0, 115.4, 48.7, 35.0, 32.3;

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 3068, 2918, 1734, 1708, 1599, 1576, 1486, 1464, 1434, 1328, 1288, 1247, 1191, 1163, 1120, 1071, 1046, 1001;

HRMS (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{23}H_{18}O_3Na^+ = 365.1148$, mass found = 365.1144.

Perfluorophenyl 2-((1-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-2-yl)methyl)benzoate, 8

To a mixture of **37** (600 mg, 2.25 mmol), *N*-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-*N*'-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride (648 mg, 3.38 mmol, 1.5 eq.), and 4-(dimethylamino)pyridine (14 mg, 0.12 mmol, 0.05 eq.) in a flame-dried round-bottom flask was added dichloromethane (3.0 mL) and the mixture was stirred for 30 minutes. A solution of pentafluorophenol (415 mg, 2.25 mmol, 1.0 eq.) in dichloromethane (3.0 mL) was added to the mixture and stirred for 14 hours. The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and then poured onto brine (15 mL) and extracted with dichloromethane (10 mL \times 3). The combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash chromatography, eluting with 1:19 to 1:9 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60, to afford title compound **7** as a colourless oil that solidified on standing to a white solid (748 mg, 77%).

m.p. 83-85 °C (ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60);

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ = 8.23 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.3 Hz, 1H, H₁₅), 7.76 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H, H₇), 7.61 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.4 Hz, 1H, H₁₃), 7.57 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.1 Hz, 1H, H₅), 7.46 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H, H₁₄), 7.43 (td, *J* = 7.4, 1.0 Hz, 1H, H₁₂), 7.41 (dt, *J* = 7.5, 0.8 Hz, 1H, H₄), 7.36 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 7.2, 0.6 Hz, 1H, H₆), 3.76 (dd, *J* = 13.2, 5.0 Hz, 1H, H_{10A}), 3.23-3.0.6 (m, 3H, H₂, H_{3A}, H_{10B}), 2.89 (dd, *J* = 16.9, 4.1 Hz, 1H, H_{3B});

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C}$ = 206.2, 161.8, 152.2, 142.7, 140.3 (ddq, *J* = 247.9, 12.1, 3.9 Hz), 138.5 (dtt, *J* = 253.4, 13.5, 3.8 Hz), 136.9 (dddd, *J* = 251.6, 14.1, 4.3, 3.8 Hz), 135.4, 133.8, 133.0, 131.2, 131.1, 126.4, 125.9, 125.5, 125.1, 124.2 (tt, *J* = 14.3, 2.4 Hz), 123.0, 47.5, 34.0, 31.3;

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_F = -152.4, -157.9, -162.3;

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 2928, 1759, 1712, 1602, 1519, 1488, 1466, 1320, 1288, 1273, 1227, 1145, 1115, 1030;

HRMS (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{23}H_{13}O_3F_5Na^+ = 455.0677$, mass found = 455.0675.



5-Methyl-2-((6-methyl-1-oxo-1,3-dihydro-2H-inden-2-ylidene)methyl)benzoic acid, 38

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure A.

Aldol condensation with 6-methyl-1-indanone (89 mg, 0.61 mmol), 2-formyl-5-methylbenzoic acid (100 mg, 0.609 mmol), ethanol (1.46 mL), aqueous sodium hydroxide (1 M, 1.10 mL, 1.10 mmol). Crude unsaturated acid **38** was obtained as a pale yellow solid (95 mg).

Perfluorophenyl 5-methyl-2-((6-methyl-1-oxo-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-inden-2-ylidene)methyl) benzoate, 39

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure B.

Esterification with crude unsaturated acid **38** (88 mg, 0.32 mmol), oxalyl chloride (41 μ L, 0.48 mmol), *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide (1 drop), dichloromethane (1 mL) then pentafluorophenol (55 mg, 0.32 mmol), triethylamine (78 μ L, 0.96 mmol), dichloromethane (1 mL). Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:9 to 3:7 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60, afforded title compound **39** as a yellow solid (113 mg, 42% for 2 steps).

m.p. 168-170 °C (ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60);

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H} = 8.11$ (t, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H, H₁₁), 8.00 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H, H₁₆), 7.63 (dt, J = 1.6, 0.8 Hz, 1H, H₇), 7.55 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H, H₁₄), 7.46 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.8 Hz, 1H, H₁₃), 7.34 (dd, J = 7.9, 1.7 Hz, 1H, H₅), 7.30 (dd, J = 7.8, 0.9 Hz, 1H, H₄), 3.77 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 2H, H₃), 2.43 (s, 3H. H₁₈), 2.35 (s, 3H, H₁₀);

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_C = 193.6, 162.4, 147.1, 139.3, 138.3, 137.7, 137.4, 135.9, 135.8, 134.5, 132.5, 131.9, 130.1, 126.9, 125.8, 124.6, 31.0, 21.2, 21.2;

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_F = -152.1, -157.8, -162.3;

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 2925, 2361, 1756, 1699, 1629, 1520, 1493, 1428, 1319, 1284, 1251, 1178, 1138, 1118, 1138, 1096, 1032;

HRMS (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{25}H_{16}O_3F_5^+ = 459.1014$, mass found = 459.1013.

Perfluorophenyl 5-methyl-2-((6-methyl-1-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-inden-2-yl)methyl)benzoate, 40

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure C.

Hydrogenation with unsaturated ester **39** (56 mg, 0.11 mmol), palladium on carbon (6 mg), ethyl acetate (1.2 mL). Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:19 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60, afforded title compound **40** as a colourless oil (45 mg, 84%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H} = 8.02$ (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H, H₁₆), 7.55 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H, H₇), 7.41 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.9 Hz, 1H, H₁₄), 7.38 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H, H₄), 7.33 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H, H₁₃), 7.28 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H, H₅), 4.14–3.37 (m, 1H, H₁₁), 3.30–2.99 (m, 3H, H₂, H₃, H₁₁), 2.88–2.69 (m, 1H, H₃), 2.43 (s, 3H, H₁₈), 2.39 (s, 3H, H₁₀);

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_{C} = 207.4, 163.0, 150.7, 140.7, 137.4, 136.7, 136.6, 136.0, 134.8, 132.4, 132.12, 126.2, 125.9, 123.9, 48.9, 34.8, 32.0, 21.1, 20.9;

¹⁹F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_F = -152.4, -158.1, -162.2;

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 3020, 2925, 2358, 1759, 1711, 1520, 1282, 1255, 1215, 1176, 1032;

HRMS (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{25}H_{18}O_3F_5^+ = 461.1171$, mass found = 461.1170.



2-((1-Oxo-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-inden-2-ylidene)methyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzoic acid, 41

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure A.

Aldol condensation with 6-(trifluoromethyl)-1-indanone (144 mg, 0.719 mmol), 2-formyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzoic acid (157 mg, 0.719 mmol), ethanol (1.7 mL), aqueous sodium hydroxide (1 M, 1.29 mL, 1.29 mmol). Crude unsaturated acid **41** was obtained as a pale yellow solid (271 mg).

Perfluorophenyl 2-((1-oxo-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-inden-2-ylidene)methyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzoate, 42

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure B.

Esterification with crude unsaturated acid **41** (271 mg, 0.677 mmol), oxalyl chloride (86.3 μ L, 1.02 mmol), *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide (1 drop), dichloromethane (2.0 mL) then pentafluorophenol (125 mg, 0.677 mmol), triethylamine (283 μ L, 2.03 mmol), dichloromethane (2.0 mL). Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 3:97 to 5:95 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60, afforded title compound **42** as a yellow solid (160 mg, 39% for 2 steps).

m.p. 115-117 °C (ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60);

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H} = 8.42$ (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H, H₁₅), 8.24 (t, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H, H₁₁), 8.00 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H, H₇), 7.96 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H, H₁₃), 7.85 (dd, J = 8.3, 1.7 Hz, 1H, H₁₆), 7.81 (s, 1H, H₄), 7.70 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H, H₆), 3.97 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 2H, H₃); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C}$ = 191.9, 161.3, 149.5, 140.4, 139.1, 137.8, 136.2 (q, J = 32.4 Hz), 135.6 (q, J = 33.3 Hz), 132.7, 131.9, 130.1, 126.7 (q, J = 4.0 Hz), 125.9 (q, J = 3.4 Hz), 125.2, 125.0 (d, J = 3.8 Hz), 123.6 (q, J = 4.0 Hz), 123.5 (d, J = 272.8 Hz), 123.0 (d, J = 273.4 Hz), 30.9;

¹⁹F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_F = -63.0, -63.4, -152.2, -156.8 -161.6;

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 2361, 2341, 1767, 1713, 1522, 1434, 1329, 1238, 1174, 1134, 1082, 1059, 1038;

HRMS (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{25}H_9O_3F_{11}Na^+ = 589.0268$, mass found = 589.0264.

Perfluorophenyl 2-((1-oxo-5-(trifluoromethyl)-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-inden-2-yl)methyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzoate, 43

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure C.

Hydrogenation with unsaturated ester **42** (160 mg, 0.11 mmol), palladium on carbon (16 mg), ethyl acetate (2.9 mL). Purification *via* recrystallization from ethyl acetate/petrol 60-80 afforded title compound **43** as a yellow crystalline solid (123 mg, 77%).

m.p. 98-100 °C (ethyl acetate/petrol 60-80);

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H} = 8.35$ (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H, H₁₆), 7.87 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H, H₇), 7.73 (s, 1H, H₁₃), 7.72 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H, H₁₅), 7.71 (s, 1H, H₄), 7.64 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H, H₆) 3.78 (dd, J = 13.6, 5.7 Hz, 1H, H_{11A}), 3.32 (dd, J = 17.2, 7.9 Hz, 1H, H_{3A}), 3.23 (dd, J = 13.6, 9.0 Hz, 1H, H_{11B}), 3.16 (dddd, J = 9.0, 8.0, 5.7, 4.5 Hz, 1H, H₂), 2.96 (dd, J = 17.2, 4.5 Hz, 1H, H_{3B});

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C}$ = 205.5, 162.0, 152.9, 144.1, 138.9, 136.3 (q, *J* = 32.1 Hz), 135.4 (q, *J* = 33.0 Hz), 132.5, 129.5, 128.9 (q, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 124.8 (q, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 124.7, 124.1 (q, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 123.8 (q, *J* = 3.9 Hz), 123.6 (d, *J* = 273.3 Hz), 123.2 (d, *J* = 272.6 Hz), 48.6, 35.0, 32.4;

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_F = -62.9, -63.4, -152.4, -156.9, -161.7;

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 2981, 1766, 1722, 1521, 1433, 1328, 1231, 1171, 1133, 1084, 1059, 1035; HRMS (ACI⁺) calculated for $C_{25}H_{12}O_3F_{11}^+$ = 569.0605, mass found = 569.0607.



2-((5-Bromo-1-oxo-1,3-dihydro-2H-inden-2-ylidene)methyl)benzoic acid, 44

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure A.

Aldol condensation with 5-bromo-1-indanone (445 mg, 2.11 mmol), *o*-carboxybenzaldehyde (318 mg, 2.11 mmol), ethanol (5.09 mL), aqueous sodium hydroxide (1 M, 3.81 mL, 3.81 mmol). Crude unsaturated acid **43** was obtained as a pale yellow solid (504 mg).

Perfluorophenyl 2-((5-bromo-1-oxo-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-inden-2-ylidene)methyl)benzoate, 45

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure B.

Esterification with crude unsaturated acid **44** (504 mg, 1.46 mmol), oxalyl chloride (187 μ L, 1.46 mmol), *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide (1 drop), dichloromethane (6 mL) then pentafluorophenol (271 mg, 1.46 mmol), triethylamine (620 μ L, 4.40 mmol), dichloromethane (6 mL). Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:9 to 1:3 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60, afforded title compound **45** as a brown solid (717 mg, 67% for 2 steps).

m.p. 188-190 °C (ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60);

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H} = 8.30$ (dd, J = 7.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H, H₁₅), 8.24 (t, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H, H₁₀), 7.80–7.72 (m, 2H, H₇, H₁₃), 7.68 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H, H₁₂), 7.65 (d, J = 1.0 Hz, 1H, H₄), 7.60–7.54 (m, 2H, H₆, H₁₄), 3.87 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 2H, H₃);

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_{C} = 192.2, 162.1, 151.2, 138.5, 137.0, 136.7, 134.0, 133.1, 132.2, 131.4, 130.0, 129.9, 129.5, 129.1, 126.8, 125.9, 30.9;

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_F = -152.2, -157.5, -162.1;

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 2362, 1756, 1697, 1619, 1598, 1575, 1518, 1417, 1319, 1263, 1234, 1298, 1093, 1034;

HRMS (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{23}H_{11}O_3BrF_5^+ = 508.9806$, mass found = 508.9808.

Perfluorophenyl 2-((5-bromo-1-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-2-yl)methyl)benzoate, 46

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure C.

Hydrogenation with unsaturated ester **45** (717 mg, 1.41 mmol), platinum(IV) oxide (72 mg), ethyl acetate (14.3 mL). Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:9 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60 afforded title compound **46** as a white solid (491 mg, 68%).

m.p. 88-90 °C (ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60);

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H} = 8.24$ (dd, J = 8.2, 1.5 Hz, 1H, H₁₅), 7.70–7.59 (m, 2H, H₇, H₁₃), 7.59–7.55 (m, 1H, H₄), 7.50 (ddt, J = 8.0, 1.5, 0.7 Hz, 1H, H₆), 7.47–7.40 (m, 2H, H₁₂, H₁₄), 3.74 (dd, J = 13.2, 5.0 Hz, 1H, H_{10A}), 3.57–3.04 (m, 3H, H₂, H_{3A}, H_{10B}), 2.88 (dd, J = 17.1, 4.0 Hz, 1H, H_{3B});

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_C = 205.9, 162.8, 154.9, 143.4, 135.2, 134.1, 132.2, 132.1, 131.1, 130.2, 129.8, 127.1, 126.1, 125.3, 48.5, 35.0, 32.0;

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_F = -152.5, -157.8, -162.2;

FTIR (neat) $v/cm^{-1} = 2980, 1760, 1715, 1597, 1520, 1228, 1031;$

HRMS (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{23}H_{13}O_3BrF_5^+ = 532.9782$, mass found = 532.9783.



2-((5-Fluoro-1-oxo-1,3-dihydro-2H-inden-2-ylidene)methyl)benzoic acid, 47

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure A.

Aldol condensation with 5-fluoro-1-indanone (100 mg, 0.666 mmol), *o*-carboxybenzaldehyde (100 mg, 0.666 mmol), ethanol (1.60 mL), aqueous sodium hydroxide (1 M, 1.20 mL, 1.20 mmol). Crude unsaturated acid **47** was obtained as a pink solid (132 mg).

Perfluorophenyl 2-((5-fluoro-1-oxo-1,3-dihydro-2H-inden-2-ylidene)methyl)benzoate, 48

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure B.

Esterification with crude unsaturated acid **47** (132 mg, 0.468 mmol), oxalyl chloride (59.4 μ L, 0.702 mmol), *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide (1 drop), dichloromethane (1.5 mL) then pentafluorophenol (86 mg, 0.47 mmol), triethylamine (192 μ L, 1.41 mmol), dichloromethane (1.5 mL). Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:9 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60 afforded title compound **48** as a white solid (157 mg, 53% for 2 steps).

m.p. 148-150 °C (ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60);

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H} = 8.29$ (dd, J = 7.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H, H₁₅), 8.20 (t, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H, H₁₀), 7.91 (dd, J = 8.4, 5.3 Hz, 1H, H₇), 7.75 (td, J = 7.6, 1.4 Hz, 1H, H₁₃), 7.69 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.4 Hz, 1H, H₁₂), 7.58 (td, J = 7.6, 1.5 Hz, 1H, H₁₄), 7.20–7.06 (m, 2H, H₄, H₆), 3.87 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 2H, H₃);

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C}$ = 191.6, 167.0 (d, *J* = 255.6 Hz), 162.2, 152.5 (d, *J* = 10.3 Hz), 138.6, 137.0, 134.5, 133.9, 132.5, 132.1, 130.0, 129.0, 127.0 (d, *J* = 10.4 Hz), 126.8, 116.0 (d, *J* = 23.8 Hz), 112.9 (d, *J* = 22.6 Hz), 31.1;

¹⁹F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_F = -102.1, -152.2, -157.6, -162.1;

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 1758, 1702, 1618, 1593, 1518, 1481, 1332, 1264, 1233, 1145, 1127, 1086, 1030;

HRMS (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{23}H_{11}O_3F_6^+ = 449.0607$, mass found = 449.0608.

Perfluorophenyl 2-((5-fluoro-1-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-2-yl)methyl)benzoate, 49

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure C.

Hydrogenation with unsaturated ester **48** (100 mg, 0.223 mmol), palladium on carbon (10 mg), ethyl acetate (2.2 mL). Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:19 to 1:9 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60 afforded title compound **49** as a white solid (86 mg, 86%).

m.p. 74-76 °C (ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60);

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ = 8.24 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H, H₁₅), 7.76 (dd, *J* = 9.1, 5.3 Hz, 1H, H₇), 7.61 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.4 Hz, 1H, H₁₃), 7.52–7.38 (m, 2H, H₁₂, H₁₄), 7.15–6.95 (m, 2H, H₄, H₆), 3.74 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 4.3 Hz, 1H, H_{10A}), 3.54–3.02 (m, 3H, H₂, H_{3A}, H_{10B}), 2.88 (dd, *J* = 17.2, 3.5 Hz, 1H, H_{3B});

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{C} = 205.2$, 167.3 (d, J = 256.1 Hz), 162.8, 156.1 (d, J = 10.0 Hz), 143.5, 134.1, 132.8 (d, J = 1.8 Hz), 132.2, 132.1, 127.1, 126.3 (d, J = 10.6 Hz), 126.1, 115.8 (d, J = 23.8 Hz), 113.1 (d, J = 22.2 Hz), 48.7, 35.0, 32.2 (d, J = 2.1 Hz);

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_F = -102.8, -152.5, -157.8, -162.2;

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 3066, 1760, 1714, 1617, 1594, 1520, 1483, 1248, 1229, 1144, 1085, 1031;

HRMS (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{23}H_{13}O_3F_6^+ = 451.0763$, mass found = 451.0762.



2-((4-Methoxy-1-oxo-1,3-dihydro-2H-inden-2-ylidene)methyl)benzoic acid, 50

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure A.

Aldol condensation with 4-methoxy-1-indanone (150 mg, 0.925 mmol), *o*-carboxybenzaldehyde (139 mg, 0.925 mmol), ethanol (2.2 mL), aqueous sodium hydroxide (1 M, 1.67 mL, 1.67 mmol). Crude unsaturated acid **50** was obtained as a white solid (226 mg).

Perfluorophenyl 2-((4-methoxy-1-oxo-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-inden-2-ylidene)methyl)benzoate, 51

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure B.

Esterification with crude unsaturated acid **50** (226 mg, 0.768 mmol), oxalyl chloride (98.0 μ L, 1.15 mmol), *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide (1 drop), dichloromethane (2.5 mL) then

pentafluorophenol (142 mg, 0.768 mmol), triethylamine (321 μ L, 2.30 mmol), dichloromethane (2.5 mL). Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:4 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60 afforded title compound **51** as a white solid (300 mg, 71% for 2 steps).

m.p. 110-112 °C (ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60);

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ = 8.28 (dt, *J* = 7.7, 1.0 Hz, 1H, H₁₆), 8.23 (t, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H, H₁₁), 7.93–7.70 (m, 2H, H₁₃, H₁₄), 7.68–7.53 (m, 1H, H₁₅), 7.50 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 0.8 Hz, 1H, H₇), 7.39 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H, H₆), 7.07 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H, H₅), 3.91 (s, 3H, H₁₀), 3.78 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 2H, H₁₁);

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_{C} = 193.8, 162.2, 156.6, 139.4, 138.7, 138.6, 137.3, 134.0, 132.6, 132.0, 130.2, 129.2, 128.9, 126.8, 116.3, 115.2, 55.5, 28.1;

¹⁹F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_F = -152.2, -157.7, -162.2;

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 2981, 2359, 1760, 1704, 1635, 1604, 1520, 1489, 1279, 1234, 1146, 1077, 1032;

HRMS (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{24}H_{13}O_4F_5Na^+ = 483.0626$, mass found = 483.0625.

Perfluorophenyl 2-((4-methoxy-1-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-inden-2-yl)methyl)benzoate, 52

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure C.

Hydrogenation with unsaturated ester **51** (284 mg, 0.617 mmol), platinum(IV) oxide (28 mg), ethyl acetate (6.2 mL). Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:9 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60 afforded title compound **52** as a colourless oil (73 mg, 26%) and recovered starting material **51** (163 mg, 53%).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ = 8.23 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.5 Hz, 1H, H₁₆), 7.61 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.5 Hz, 1H, H₁₄), 7.46 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H, H₁₃), 7.42 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.3 Hz, 1H, H₁₅), 7.39–7.31 (m, 2H, H₆, H₇), 7.02 (dd, *J* = 7.1, 1.9 Hz, 1H, H₅), 3.87 (s, 3H, H₁₀), 3.80–3.56 (m, 1H, H_{11A}), 3.53–2.95 (m, 3H, H₂, H_{3A}, H_{11B}), 2.88–2.53 (m, 1H, H_{3B});

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_{C} = 207.3, 162.8, 156.9, 143.8, 142.1, 137.9, 134.0, 132.1, 132.1, 129.0, 126.9, 126.1, 115.6, 114.9, 55.4, 48.2, 35.3, 29.0;

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_F = -152.4, -158.1, -162.4;

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 3659, 2981, 1759, 1715, 1601, 1520, 1488, 1382, 1264, 1232, 1146, 1071, 1030;

HRMS (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{24}H_{16}O_4F_5^+ = 463.0963$, mass found = 463.0962.



2-((4-Bromo-1-oxo-1,3-dihydro-2H-inden-2-ylidene)methyl)benzoic acid, 53

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure A.

Aldol condensation with 4-bromo-1-indanone (100 mg, 0.473 mmol), *o*-carboxybenzaldehyde (71 mg, 0.47 mmol), ethanol (1.15 mL), aqueous sodium hydroxide (1 M, 0.85 mL, 0.85 mmol). Crude unsaturated acid **53** was obtained as a white solid (154 mg).

Perfluorophenyl 2-((4-bromo-1-oxo-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-inden-2-ylidene)methyl)benzoate, 54

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure B.

Esterification with crude unsaturated acid **53** (154 mg, 0.449 mmol), oxalyl chloride (56.9 μ L, 0.673 mmol), *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide (1 drop), dichloromethane (1.3 mL) then pentafluorophenol (83 mg, 0.45 mmol), triethylamine (188 μ L, 1.35 mmol), dichloromethane (1.3 mL). Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:19 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60 followed by recrystallization with ethyl acetate/petrol 60-80 afforded title compound **54** as a yellow solid (132 mg, 41% for 2 steps).

m.p. 108-110 °C (ethyl acetate/petrol 60-80);

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H} = 8.31$ (dd, J = 7.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H, H₁₅), 8.27 (t, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H, H₁₀), 7.86 (dd, J = 7.6, 0.9 Hz, 1H, H₇), 7.83–7.71 (m, 3H, H₅, H₁₂, H₁₃), 7.60 (td, J = 7.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H, H₁₄), 7.34 (tt, J = 7.6, 0.8 Hz, 1H, H₆), 3.81 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 2H, H₃);

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_{C} = 191.6, 161.1, 148.6, 139.1, 137.4, 136.4, 135.3, 133.1, 132.6, 131.1, 129.0, 128.5, 128.2, 125.8, 122.4, 120.7, 31.3;

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_F = -152.2, -157.6, -162.1;

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 1759, 1707, 1639, 1598, 1520, 1459, 1325, 1266, 1235, 1124, 1098, 1032;

HRMS (ACI⁺) calculated for $C_{23}H_{10}O_3BrF_5^+ = 508.9806$, mass found = 508.9807.

Perfluorophenyl 2-((4-bromo-1-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-2-yl)methyl)benzoate, 55

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure C.

Hydrogenation with unsaturated ester **54** (124 mg, 0.244 mmol), platinum(IV) oxide (12 mg), ethyl acetate (2.4 mL). Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:19 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60 afforded title compound **55** as a colourless oil (79 mg, 68%).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ = 8.27 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H, H₁₅), 7.75 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.0 Hz, 1H, H₇), 7.71 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 0.9 Hz, 1H, H₅), 7.64 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.5 Hz, 1H, H₁₃), 7.49–7.43 (m, 2H, H₁₂, H₁₄), 7.28 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H, H₆), 3.91–3.71 (m, 1H, H_{10A}), 3.30–3.07 (m, 3H, H₂, H_{3A}, H_{10B}), 2.91–2.76 (m, 1H, H_{3B});

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_{C} = 206.3, 162.8, 152.9, 143.4, 138.4, 137.6, 134.2, 132.3, 132.2, 129.3, 127.2, 126.0, 122.9, 122.2, 48.4, 35.2, 33.5;

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_F = -152.4, -157.9, -162.2;

FTIR (neat) $\nu/cm^{-1} = 2981, 1759, 1719, 1599, 1520, 1457, 1326, 121, 1229, 1145, 1120, 1030;$

HRMS (ACI⁺) calculated for $C_{23}H_{12}O_3BrF_5^+ = 510.9963$, mass found = 510.9967.



2-((5-Fluoro-1-oxo-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-inden-2-ylidene)methyl)-5-methylbenzoic acid, 56 This compound was prepared according to General Procedure A. Aldol condensation with 5-fluoro-1-indanone (100 mg, 0.666 mmol), 2-formyl-5methylbenzoic acid (110 mg, 0.666 mmol), ethanol (1.60 mL), aqueous sodium hydroxide (1 M, 1.20 mL, 1.20 mmol). Crude unsaturated acid **56** was obtained as a white solid (120 mg).

Perfluorophenyl 2-((5-fluoro-1-oxo-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-inden-2-ylidene)methyl)-5-methyl benzoate, 57

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure B.

Esterification with crude unsaturated acid **56** (120 mg, 0.405 mmol), oxalyl chloride (51.5 μ L, 0.608 mmol), *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide (1 drop), dichloromethane (1.5 mL) then pentafluorophenol (75 mg, 0.40 mmol), triethylamine (170 μ L, 1.22 mmol), dichloromethane (1.5 mL). Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:9 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60 afforded title compound **57** as a yellow solid (130 mg, 44% for 2 steps).

m.p. 136-138 °C (ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60);

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H} = 8.19$ (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H, H₁₀), 8.08 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H, H₁₅), 7.90 (dd, J = 8.4, 5.3 Hz, 1H, H₇), 7.60 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H, H₁₂), 7.54 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.8 Hz, 1H, H₁₃), 7.14 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.1 Hz, 1H, H₄), 7.11 (td, J = 8.7, 2.3 Hz, 1H, H₆), 3.88 (br s, 2H, H₃), 2.50 (s, 3H, H₁₇);

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C}$ = 191.7, 167.0 (d, *J* = 256.1 Hz), 162.3, 152.5 (d, *J* = 10.1 Hz), 139.5, 136.5, 135.5, 134.6, 134.6 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz), 132.6, 132.4, 130.0, 126.9 (d, *J* = 10.2 Hz), 126.9, 116.0 (d, *J* = 23.6 Hz), 112.9 (d, *J* = 22.6 Hz), 31.3 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz), 21.2;

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_F = -102.3, -152.2, -157.7, -162.2.;

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 3658, 2981, 2924, 2358, 1759, 1699, 1618, 1520, 1462, 1382, 1251, 1150, 1085, 1034;

HRMS (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{24}H_{13}O_3F_6^+ = 463.0763$, mass found = 463.0761.

Perfluorophenyl2-((5-fluoro-1-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-inden-2-yl)methyl)-5-methylbenzoate, 58

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure C.

Hydrogenation with unsaturated ester **57** (120 mg, 0.260 mmol), palladium on carbon (12 mg), ethyl acetate (2.6 mL). Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 3:37 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60 afforded title compound **58** as a white solid (112 mg, 93%).

m.p. 62-66 °C (ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60);

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H} = 8.03$ (d, J = 1.3 Hz, 1H, H₁₅), 7.75 (dd, J = 9.2, 5.3 Hz, 1H, H₇), 7.41 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.9 Hz, 1H, H₁₃), 7.32 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H, H₁₂), 7.13–6.99 (m, 2H, H₄, H₆), 3.95–3.59 (m, 1H, H_{10A}), 3.21–3.06 (m, 3H, H₂, H_{3A}, H_{10B}), 2.86 (dd, J = 17.1, 3.1 Hz, 1H, H_{3B}), 2.43 (s, 3H, H₁₇);

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{C} = 205.4$, 167.2 (d, J = 256.1 Hz), 163.0, 156.2 (d, J = 10.0 Hz), 140.4, 136.9, 134.9, 132.8 (d, J = 1.8 Hz), 132.5, 132.1, 126.3 (d, J = 10.5 Hz), 125.9, 115.8 (d, J = 23.8 Hz), 113.1 (d, J = 22.0 Hz), 48.8, 34.6, 32.2 (d, J = 2.2 Hz), 20.9;

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_F = -102.9, -152.5, -157.9, -162.2;

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 2930, 1759, 1715, 1617, 1594, 1520, 1482, 1434, 1333, 1248, 1208, 1176, 1144, 1084, 1032;

HRMS (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{24}H_{14}O_3F_6Na^+ = 487.0739$, mass found = 487.0740.



2-((1-Oxo-7-(trifluoromethyl)-1,3-dihydro-2H-inden-2-ylidene)methyl)benzoic acid, 59

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure A.

Aldol condensation with 7-(trifluoromethyl)-1-indanone (100 mg, 0.500 mmol), *o*-carboxybenzaldehyde (75 mg, 0.50 mmol), ethanol (1.20 mL), aqueous sodium hydroxide (1 M, 0.90 mL, 0.90 mmol). Crude unsaturated acid **59** was obtained as a white solid (155 mg).

Perfluorophenyl 2-((1-oxo-7-(trifluoromethyl)-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-inden-2-ylidene)methyl) benzoate, 60

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure B.

Esterification with crude unsaturated acid **59** (155 mg, 0.466 mmol), oxalyl chloride (60 μ L, 0.70 mmol), *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide (1 drop), dichloromethane (1.1 mL) then pentafluorophenol (86 mg, 0.47 mmol), triethylamine (194 μ L, 1.40 mmol), dichloromethane (1.1 mL). Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:4 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60 afforded title compound **60** as a yellow solid (131 mg, 53% for 2 steps).

m.p. 154-156 °C (ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60);

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H} = 8.30$ (dd, J = 7.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H, H₁₆), 8.24 (t, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H, H₁₁), 7.75 (td, J = 7.7, 1.4 Hz, 1H, H₁₄), 7.73–7.67 (m, 4H, H4, H5, H6, H₁₃), 7.59 (td, J = 7.7, 1.4 Hz, 1H, H₁₅), 3.93 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 2H, H₃);

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C} = 189.6$, 162.1, 151.8, 138.6, 136.1, 134.9, 134.0 (d, J = 1.5 Hz), 133.8 (q, J = 6.1 Hz), 133.7, 132.1, 130.1, 130.0, 129.1, 127.8 (q, J = 34.7 Hz), 126.9, 125.5 (q, J = 6.0 Hz), 122.7 (d, J = 273.8 Hz), 31.1;

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_F = -61.5, -152.3, -157.5, -162.1;

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 2360, 1758, 1708, 1636, 1599, 1521, 1484, 1414, 1322, 1251, 1234, 1203, 1160, 1142, 1101, 1034;

HRMS (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{24}H_{11}O_3F_8^+ = 499.0575$, mass found = 499.0576.

Perfluorophenyl2-((1-oxo-7-(trifluoromethyl)-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-inden-2-yl)methyl)benzoate, 61

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure C.

Hydrogenation with unsaturated ester **60** (100 mg, 0.201 mmol), palladium on carbon (10 mg), ethyl acetate (2.0 mL). Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:9 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60 afforded title compound **61** as a colourless oil (56 mg, 56%).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ = 8.24 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H, H₁₆), 7.81–7.57 (m, 4H, H₄, H₅, H₁₃, H₁₄), 7.48 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H, H₆), 7.43 (td, *J* = 7.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H, H₁₅), 3.73 (dd, *J* = 13.4, 5.5 Hz, 1H, H_{11A}), 3.25 (dd, *J* = 17.0, 7.9 Hz, 1H, H_{3A}), 3.23 (dd, *J* = 13.6, 8.7 Hz, 1H, H_{11B}), 3.19–3.11 (m, 1H, H₂), 2.94 (dd, *J* = 17.0, 4.7 Hz, 1H, H_{3B});

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C}$ = 203.1, 162.9, 155.2, 143.5, 134.1, 134.0, 133.2, 132.4, 132.1, 130.4, 127.1 (q, *J* = 34.5 Hz), 127.1, 126.1, 125.2 (q, *J* = 6.0 Hz), 122.7 (d, *J* = 273.7 Hz), 49.1, 34.8, 32.4;

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_F = -61.6, -152.5, -157.8, -162.2;

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 2928, 2360, 2121, 1759, 1724, 1601, 1521, 1487, 1454, 1433, 1325, 1229. 1144, 1112, 1031;

HRMS (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{24}H_{12}O_3F_8Na^+ = 523.0551$, mass found = 523.0552.



2-((1-Oxo-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1,3-dihydro-2H-inden-2-ylidene)methyl)benzoic acid, 62

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure A.

Aldol condensation with 5-(trifluoromethyl)-1-indanone (70 mg, 0.35 mmol), *o*-carboxybenzaldehyde (53 mg, 0.35 mmol), ethanol (0.84 mL), aqueous sodium hydroxide (1 M, 0.63 mL, 0.63 mmol). Crude unsaturated acid **62** was obtained as a yellow powder (121 mg).

Perfluorophenyl 2-((1-oxo-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-inden-2-ylidene)methyl) benzoate, 63

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure B.

Esterification with crude unsaturated acid **62** (120 mg, 0.361 mmol), oxalyl chloride (45.8 μ L, 0.542 mmol), *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide (1 drop), dichloromethane (1.5 mL) then pentafluorophenol (66 mg, 0.36 mmol), triethylamine (151 μ L, 1.08 mmol), dichloromethane (1.5 mL). Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:19 to 1:20 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60 afforded title compound **63** as a yellow solid (88 mg, 50% for 2 steps).

m.p. 108-110 °C (ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60);

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H} = 8.25$ (dd, J = 7.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H, H₁₆), 8.22 (t, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H, H₁₁), 7.95 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H, H₇), 7.74–7.60 (m, 4H, H₄, H₆, H₁₃, H₁₄), 7.54 (td, J = 7.6, 1.3 Hz, 1H, H₁₅), 3.88 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 2H, H₃);

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C} = 192.3$, 162.1, 149.7, 140.7, 138.4, 136.5, 135.9 (q, J = 32.3 Hz), 134.0, 133.9, 132.2, 130.0, 129.3, 126.9, 125.2, 124.9 (q, J = 3.6 Hz), 123.6 (d, J = 273.1 Hz), 123.4 (q, J = 3.9 Hz), 31.2;

¹⁹F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_F = -62.8, -152.2, -157.4, -162.0;

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 2981, 1761, 1707, 1638, 1521, 1483, 1434, 1382, 1327, 1264, 1236, 1206, 1169, 1131, 1060, 1033;

HRMS (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{24}H_{10}O_3F_8Na^+ = 521.0394$, mass found = 521.0393.

Perfluorophenyl2-((1-oxo-5-(trifluoromethyl)-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-2-yl)methyl)benzoate, 64

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure C.

Hydrogenation with unsaturated ester **63** (88 mg, 0.18 mmol), palladium on carbon (9 mg), ethyl acetate (1.8 mL). Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:19 to 1:9 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60 afforded title compound **64** as a colourless oil (25 mg, 39%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ = 8.18 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.5 Hz, 1H, H₁₆), 7.78 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H, H₇), 7.61 (s, 1H, H₄), 7.59–7.52 (m, 2H, H₆, H₁₄), 7.42–7.31 (m, 2H, H₁₃, H₁₅), 3.76–3.61 (m, 1H, H_{11A}), 3.19 (dd, *J* = 17.0, 6.9 Hz, 1H, H_{3A}), 3.14–3.03 (m, 2H, H₂, H_{11B}), 2.89 (dd, *J* = 17.0, 3.4 Hz, 1H, H_{3B});

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C} = 206.1$, 162.8, 153.3, 143.3, 139.1, 136.1 (q, J = 32.1 Hz), 134.2, 132.2, 132.2, 127.2, 126.1, 124.6 (q, J = 3.6 Hz), 124.6, 123.7 (q, J = 3.9 Hz), 123.6 (d, J = 273.3 Hz), 48.8, 35.0, 32.3;

¹⁹F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_F = -62.9, -152.5, -157.7, -162.1;

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 2920, 1760, 1721, 1600, 1520, 1490, 1432, 1326, 1228, 1169, 1131, 1059, 1031;

HRMS (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{24}H_{12}O_3F_8Na^+ = 523.0551$, mass found = 523.0550.



2-((1-Oxo-1,3-dihydro-2H-inden-2-ylidene)methyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzoic acid, 65

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure A.

Aldol condensation with 1-indanone (85 mg, 0.64 mmol), 2-formyl-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzoic acid (140 mg, 0.643 mmol), ethanol (1.55 mL), aqueous sodium hydroxide (1 M, 1.16 mL, 1.16 mmol). Crude unsaturated acid **65** was obtained as a yellow powder (120 mg).

Perfluorophenyl 2-((1-oxo-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-inden-2-ylidene)methyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl) benzoate, 66

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure B.

Esterification with crude unsaturated acid **65** (120 mg, 0.361 mmol), oxalyl chloride (45.8 μ L, 0.542 mmol), *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide (1 drop), dichloromethane (1.5 mL) then pentafluorophenol (67 mg, 0.36 mmol), triethylamine (151 μ L, 1.08 mmol), dichloromethane (1.5 mL). Crude unsaturated ester **66** was obtained as a yellow solid (126 mg).

Perfluorophenyl2-((1-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-inden-2-yl)methyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzoate, 67

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure C.

Hydrogenation with crude unsaturated ester **66** (89 mg, 0.18 mmol), palladium on carbon (9 mg), ethyl acetate (1.8 mL). Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:19 to 1:9 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60 afforded title compound **67** as a colourless oil (31 mg, 14% for 3 steps) and recovered starting material **66** (30 mg, 33%).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H} = 8.32$ (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H, H₁₅), 7.77 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H, H₇), 7.75 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H, H₁₂), 7.69 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.8 Hz, 1H, H₁₄), 7.59 (td, J = 7.5, 1.3 Hz, 1H, H₅), 7.43 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H, H₄), 7.38 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H, H₆), 3.80 (dd, J = 13.8, 5.6 Hz, 1H, H_{10A}), 3.25 (dd, J = 17.2, 8.1 Hz, 1H, H_{3A}), 3.20 (dd, J = 13.6, 9.2 Hz, 1H, H_{10B}), 3.13–3.02 (m, 1H, H₂), 2.89 (dd, J = 17.0, 4.4 Hz, 1H, H_{3B});

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C} = 206.5$, 162.1, 152.9, 144.6, 136.2, 135.2 (q, J = 33.0 Hz), 135.0, 132.4, 129.6, 128.8 (q, J = 3.7 Hz), 127.6, 126.5, 124.1, 123.8 (q, J = 3.7 Hz), 123.2 (d, J = 273.1 Hz), 48.2, 35.1, 32.5;

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_F = -63.4, -152.3, -157.2, -161.8;

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 3563, 2981, 2925, 2358, 1767 1716, 1521, 1463, 1382, 1332, 1237, 1138, 1084, 1035;

HRMS (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{24}H_{13}O_3F_8^+ = 501.0732$, mass found = 501.0731.



2-((6-Methyl-1-oxo-1,3-dihydro-2H-inden-2-ylidene)methyl)benzoic acid, 68

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure A.

Aldol condensation with 6-methyl-1-indanone (100 mg, 0.684 mmol), *o*-carboxybenzaldehyde (103 mg, 0.684 mmol), ethanol (1.6 mL), aqueous sodium hydroxide (1 M, 1.23 mL, 1.23 mmol). Crude unsaturated acid **68** was obtained as a white solid (146 mg).

Perfluorophenyl 2-((6-methyl-1-oxo-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-inden-2-ylidene)methyl)benzoate, 69

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure B.

Esterification with crude unsaturated acid **68** (146 mg, 0.525 mmol), oxalyl chloride (66.6 μ L, 0.787 mmol), *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide (1 drop), dichloromethane (1.5 mL) then pentafluorophenol (96 mg, 0.53 mmol), triethylamine (218 μ L, 1.56 mmol), dichloromethane (1.5 mL). Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:9 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60 afforded title compound **69** as a white solid (88 mg, 29% for 2 steps).

m.p. 152-154 °C (ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60);

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ = 8.28 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.4 Hz, 1H, H₁₆), 8.20 (t, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H, H₁₁), 7.76–7.69 (m, 3H, H₇, H₁₄, H₁₃), 7.56 (td, *J* = 7.9, 6.9, 1.7 Hz, 1H, H₁₅), 7.42 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.7 Hz, 1H, H₅), 7.37 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 0.9 Hz, 1H, H₄), 3.84 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 2H, H₃), 2.43 (s, 3H, H₁₀);

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_{C} = 193.5, 162.2, 147.1, 138.9, 138.2, 138.0, 137.7, 136.0, 133.8, 132.0, 132.0, 130.1, 128.8, 126.9, 125.8, 124.6, 30.8, 21.2;

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_F = -152.1, -157.7, -162.2;

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 2926, 2361, 1760, 1701, 1637, 1520, 1284, 1234, 1160, 1116, 1093, 1031;

HRMS (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{24}H_{14}O_3F_5^+ = 445.0858$, mass found = 445.0859.

Perfluorophenyl 2-((6-methyl-1-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-2-yl)methyl)benzoate, 70

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure C.

Hydrogenation with unsaturated ester **69** (85 mg, 0.19 mmol), palladium on carbon (8 mg), ethyl acetate (1.9 mL). Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:19 to 1:9 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60 afforded title compound **70** as a colourless oil (78 mg, 91%).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ = 8.22 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H, H₁₆), 7.60 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.4 Hz, 1H, H₁₄), 7.56 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H, H₇), 7.42 (m, 3H, H₅, H₁₃, H₁₅), 7.29 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H, H₄), 3.75 (dd, *J* = 13.1, 4.9 Hz, 1H, H_{11A}), 3.22–3.04 (m, 3H, H₂, H_{3A}, H_{11B}), 2.83 (dd, *J* = 16.6, 3.6 Hz, 1H, H_{3B}), 2.39 (s, 3H, H₁₀);

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_{C} = 207.3, 162.9, 150.6, 143.9, 137.4, 136.6, 136.0, 134.0, 132.2, 132.0, 126.9, 126.2, 126.2, 124.0, 48.8, 35.1, 32.0, 21.1;

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_F = -152.5, -158.0, -162.3;

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 2927, 1760, 1711, 1618, 1520, 1492, 1282, 1228, 1146, 1113, 1030;

HRMS (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{24}H_{16}O_3F_5^+ = 447.1014$, mass found = 447.1014.



5-Methyl-2-((1-oxo-1,3-dihydro-2H-inden-2-ylidene)methyl)benzoic acid, 71

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure A.

Aldol condensation with 1-indanone (100 mg, 0.757 mmol), 2-formyl-5-methylbenzoic acid (124 mg, 0.757 mmol), ethanol (1.8 mL), aqueous sodium hydroxide (1 M, 1.36 mL, 1.36 mmol). Crude unsaturated acid **71** was obtained as a white solid (140 mg).

Perfluorophenyl 5-methyl-2-((1-oxo-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-inden-2-ylidene)methyl)benzoate, 72

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure B.

Esterification with crude unsaturated acid **71** (140 mg, 0.500 mmol), oxalyl chloride (63.5 μ L, 0.750 mmol), *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide (1 drop), dichloromethane (1.5 mL) then pentafluorophenol (93 mg, 0.50 mmol), triethylamine (211 μ L, 1.50 mmol), dichloromethane (1.5 mL). Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:9 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60 afforded title compound **72** as a white solid (170 mg, 50% for 2 steps).

m.p. 110-112 °C (ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60);

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H} = 8.21$ (t, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H, H₁₀), 8.08 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H, H₁₅), 7.90 (dt, J = 7.7, 0.9 Hz, 1H, H₇), 7.63 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H, H₁₂), 7.60 (td, J = 7.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H, H₅), 7.54 (dd, J = 7.9, 1.9 Hz, 1H, H₁₃), 7.49 (dt, J = 7.7, 1.0 Hz, 1H, H₄), 7.42 (td, J = 7.4, 1.0 Hz, 1H, H₆), 3.89 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 2H, H₃), 2.51 (s, 3H, H₁₇); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_C = 193.5, 162.4, 149.7, 139.4, 138.2, 136.9, 135.7, 134.7, 134.6, 132.6, 132.2, 130.1, 127.7, 126.9, 126.1, 124.6, 31.3, 21.2;

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_F = -152.1, -157.7, -162.2;

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 1758, 1701, 1634, 1609, 1519, 1494, 1468, 1325, 1296, 1253, 1176, 1142, 1092, 1033;

HRMS (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{24}H_{14}O_3F_5^+ = 445.0858$, mass found = 445.0857.

Perfluorophenyl 5-methyl-2-((1-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-2-yl)methyl)benzoate, 73

This compound was prepared according to General Procedure C.

Hydrogenation with unsaturated ester **72** (140 mg, 0.315 mmol), palladium on carbon (14 mg), ethyl acetate (3.2 mL). Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:19 to 1:9 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60 afforded title compound **73** as a colourless oil (64 mg, 46%).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ = 8.03 (dd, *J* = 1.8, 0.8 Hz, 1H, H₁₅), 7.76 (dt, *J* = 7.7, 1.0 Hz, 1H, H₇), 7.56 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H, H₅), 7.43–7.38 (m, 2H, H₄, H₁₃), 7.38–7.32 (m, 2H, H₆, H₁₂), 3.70 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 4.5 Hz, 1H, H_{10A}), 3.19 (dd, *J* = 17.0, 7.3 Hz, 1H, H_{3A}), 3.15–3.02 (m, 2H, H₂, H_{10B}), 2.87 (dd, *J* = 17.0, 3.9 Hz, 1H, H_{3B}), 2.43 (s, 3H, H₁₇);

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_C = 207.3, 163.0, 153.3, 140.7, 136.8, 136.5, 134.8, 134.7, 132.4, 132.1, 127.4, 126.5, 125.9, 124.0, 48.5, 34.7, 32.3, 20.9;

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_F = -152.5, -158.0, -162.3;

FTIR (neat) v/cm⁻¹ = 2980, 1759, 1714, 1610, 1520, 1465, 1254, 1208, 1176, 1145, 1031;

HRMS (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{24}H_{16}O_3F_5^+ = 447.1014$, mass found = 447.1015.

1.5.2 Enantioselective C-acylation

The enantioselective C-acylation was carried out according to the general schemes shown below.

Racemic reaction conditions according to General Procedure E

Asymmetric reaction conditions according to General Procedure D



(S)-2,2'-Spirobiindane-1,1'-dione, 9



Asymmetric: Prepared according to General Procedure D with 8 (50 mg, 0.12 mmol), 17 (6.4 mg, 12 μ mol), 50% w/w aqueous potassium phosphate (245 μ L, 1.15 mmol), toluene (1.1 mL). Reaction conditions: 48 h. Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:5 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60 afforded the title compound 9 as a white solid (27 mg, 93%, 97:3 e.r.). The spectral data for 9 matched that previously reported in the literature.^[8]

Asymmetric (gram scale): Prepared according to General Procedure D with 8 (1.42 g, 3.28 mmol), 17 (181 mg, 0.328 mmol), 50% w/w aqueous potassium phosphate (6.97 mL, 32.8 mmol), toluene (32.8 mL). Reaction conditions: 48 h. Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:5 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60 afforded the title compound 9 as a white solid (750 mg, 92%, 97:3 e.r.). The spectral data for 9 matched those obtained previously. **Racemic:** Prepared according to **General Procedure E** with 7 (300 mg, 694 µmol), tetrabutylammonium bromide (23 mg, 69 µmol), potassium hydroxide (77.9 mg, 1.39 mmol,), toluene (7.0 mL). Reaction conditions: 16 h. Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:5 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60 afforded the title compound (*rac*)-9 as a white solid (155 mg, 90%). The spectral data for (*rac*)-9 matched those obtained previously.

m.p. 170-172 °C (ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60), [lit. 173-176 °C]^[8];

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ = 7.76 (d, *J* = 7.7Hz, 2H, H₇), 7.66 (ddd, *J* = 7.9, 7.0, 0.8 Hz, 2H, H₅), 7.56 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H, H₄), 7.41 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 7.5 Hz, 2H, H₆), 3.73 (d, *J* = 16.9 Hz, 2H, H_{3A}), 3.20 (d, *J* = 16.9 Hz, 2H, H_{3B});

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C} = 202.7, 153.8, 135.5, 135.3, 127.8, 126.4, 124.9, 65.4, 38.1;$

FTIR (film) $\nu_{max}/cm^{-1} = 2917$, 1720, 1696, 1605, 1586, 1463, 1429, 1325, 1273, 1209, 1186, 1154, 1137, 1088, 1027;

LRMS (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{17}H_{12}O_2^+ = 249$, mass found = 249;

 $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +123.5 (c = 0.65, CHCl_3).$

(S)-6,6'-Dimethyl-2,2'-spirobiindane-1,1'-dione, 18



Asymmetric: Prepared according to General Procedure D with 40 (45 mg, 0.098 mmol), 17 (5.4 mg, 9.8 μ mol), 50% w/w aqueous potassium phosphate (208 μ L, 0.977 mmol), toluene (0.98 mL). Reaction conditions: 120 h. Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:9 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60 afforded the title compound 18 as a white solid (23 mg, 84%, 92:8 e.r.).

Racemic: Prepared according to **General Procedure E** with **40** (4 mg, 9 μ mol), tetrabutylammonium bromide (0.3 mg, 1 μ mol), potassium hydroxide (1.0 mg, 18 μ mol), toluene (0.1 mL). Reaction conditions: 24 h. An analytical HPLC sample of (*rac*)-**18** was prepared by small-scale preparative TLC (1:9 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60).

m.p. 186-188 °C (ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60);

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ = 7.55 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 2H, H₇), 7.47 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.7 Hz, 2H, H₅), 7.44 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 0.9 Hz, 2H, H₄), 3.66 (d, *J* = 16.7 Hz, 2H, H_{3A}), 3.13 (d, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 2H, H_{3B}), 2.41 (s, 6H, H₁₀);

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C}$ = 202.9, 151.3, 137.8, 136.5, 135.7, 126.0, 124.8, 66.1, 37.8, 21.1;

FTIR (film) $v_{max}/cm^{-1} = 2923$, 1709, 1689, 1613, 1581, 1494, 1420, 1279, 1220, 1157, 1034;

HRMS (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{19}H_{16}O_2Na^+ = 299.1043$, mass found = 299.1043;

 $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +104.7 (c = 0.5, CHCl_3).$

(S)-6,6'-Bis(trifluoromethyl)-2,2'-spirobiindane-1,1'-dione, 19



Asymmetric: Prepared according to General Procedure D with 43 (50 mg, 0.088 mmol), 17 (4.9 mg, 8.8 μ mol), 50% w/w aqueous potassium phosphate (187 μ L, 0.880 mmol), toluene (0.88 mL). Reaction conditions: 48 h. Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:9 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60 afforded the title compound 19 as a white solid (32 mg, 95%, 95:5 e.r.).

Racemic: Prepared according to **General Procedure E** with **43** (5 mg, 9 μ mol), tetrabutylammonium bromide (0.3 mg, 0.9 μ mol), potassium hydroxide (1.0 mg, 18 μ mol), toluene (0.1 mL). Reaction conditions: 24 h. An analytical HPLC sample of (*rac*)-19 was prepared by small-scale preparative TLC (1:9 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60).

m.p. 174-176 °C (ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60);

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H} = 7.81$ (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H, H₇), 7.80 (s, 2H, H₄), 7.63 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.3 Hz, 2H, H₆), 3.74 (d, J = 17.3 Hz, 2H, H_{3A}), 3.23 (d, J = 17.5 Hz, 2H, H_{3B});

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C}$ = 200.9, 153.8, 137.8, 136.9 (q, *J* = 32.4 Hz), 125.8, 125.3 (q, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 123.8 (q, *J* = 3.9 Hz), 123.6 (q, *J* = 273.3 Hz), 66.2, 37.7;

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_F = -63.0;

FTIR (film) $v_{max}/cm^{-1} = 3650, 2981, 2361, 1733, 1699, 1433, 1382, 1336, 1299, 1269, 1205, 1169, 1135, 1109, 1057, 1027;$

HRMS (EI⁺) calculated for $C_{19}H_{10}F_6O_2^+ = 384.0585$, mass found = 384.0587;

 $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +79.4 \ (c = 0.5, CHCl_3).$

(S)-5-Bromo-2,2'-spirobiindane-1,1'-dione, 20



Asymmetric: Prepared according to General Procedure D with 46 (46 mg, 0.090 mmol),

17 (5.0 mg, 9.0 μ mol), 50% w/w aqueous potassium phosphate (191 μ L, 0.900 mmol), toluene (0.90 mL). Reaction conditions: 48 h. Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:9 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60 afforded the title compound **20** as a white solid (27 mg, 91%, 96:4 e.r.).

Asymmetric (2): Prepared according to General Procedure D with 46 (260 mg, 0.509 mmol), 17 (28 mg, 51 μmol), 50% w/w aqueous potassium phosphate (1.08 mL, 5.09 mmol), toluene (5.1 mL). Reaction conditions: 48 h. Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:9 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60 afforded the title compound 20 as a white solid (151 mg, 91%, 95:5 e.r.). The spectral data for 20 matched those obtained previously.

Racemic: Prepared according to **General Procedure E** with **46** (2.0 mg, 3.9 μ mol), tetrabutylammonium bromide (0.1 mg, 0.4 μ mol), potassium hydroxide (0.4 mg, 8 μ mol), toluene (0.1 mL). Reaction conditions: 24 h. An analytical HPLC sample of (*rac*)-**20** was prepared by small-scale preparative TLC (1:9 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60).

m.p. 52-54 °C (ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60);

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H} = 7.77 - 7.73$ (m, 2H, H₇, H₇'), 7.66 (td, J = 7.4, 1.2 Hz, 1H, H₅'), 7.60 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H, H₆), 7.56 (s, 1H, H₄), 7.55 (ddt, J = 8.1, 2.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H, H₄'), 7.41 (td, J = 8.4, 7.2, 0.8 Hz, 1H, H₆'), 3.72 (d, J = 12.6 Hz, 1H, H_{3A}), 3.68 (d, J = 12.7 Hz, 1H, H_{3A}'), 3.20 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 1H, H_{3B}), 3.16 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H, H_{3B}');

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_{C} = 202.1, 201.4, 155.3, 153.7, 135.5, 135.2, 134.3, 131.5, 130.9, 129.7, 127.9, 126.4, 126.0, 125.0, 65.4, 37.8, 37.6;

FTIR (film) $v_{max}/cm^{-1} = 2197$, 1722, 1694, 1595, 1463, 1421, 1315, 1290, 1264, 1207, 1135, 1058, 1027;

HRMS (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{17}H_{11}O_2BrNa^+= 348.9835$, mass found = 384.9837;

 $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +163.0 \ (c = 0.5, CHCl_3).$

(S)-5-Fluoro-2,2'-spirobiindane-1,1'-dione, 21



Asymmetric: Prepared according to General Procedure D with 49 (45 mg, 0.11 mmol), 17 (5.5 mg, 10 μ mol), 50% w/w aqueous potassium phosphate (212 μ L, 1.00 mmol), toluene (1.0 mL). Reaction conditions: 48 h. Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with

3:17 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60 afforded the title compound **21** as a white solid (26 mg, 98%, 96:4 e.r.).

Racemic: Prepared according to **General Procedure E** with **49** (5.0 mg, 11 μ mol), tetrabutylammonium bromide (0.3 mg, 1 μ mol), potassium hydroxide (1.2 mg, 22 μ mol), toluene (0.1 mL). Reaction conditions: 24 h. An analytical HPLC sample of (*rac*)-**21** was prepared by small-scale preparative TLC (3:17 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60).

m.p. 180-182 °C (ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60);

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H} = 7.75$ (dd, J = 8.6, 5.3 Hz, 1H, H₇), 7.75 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H, H₇), 7.65 (td, J = 7.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H, H₅), 7.56 (dt, J = 7.7, 1.0 Hz, 1H, H₄), 7.41 (td, J = 7.7, 7.1, 0.6 Hz, 1H, H₆), 7.22 (dt, J = 8.4, 1.9, 1.1 Hz, 1H, H₄), 7.11 (td, J = 8.7, 2.3 Hz, 1H, H₆), 3.72 (d, J = 16.9 Hz, 1H, H_{3A}), 3.67 (d, J = 17.2 Hz, 1H, H_{3A}), 3.19 (d, J = 17.0 Hz, 1H, H_{3B});

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C}$ = 202.4, 200.7, 167.5 (d, *J* = 257.5 Hz), 156.7 (d, *J* = 10.4 Hz), 153.7, 135.4, 135.2, 131.8, 127.9, 127.2 (d, *J* = 10.5 Hz), 126.4, 125.0, 116.2 (d, *J* = 23.9 Hz), 113.1 (d, *J* = 22.9 Hz), 65.6, 37.9, 37.8 (d, *J* = 2.9 Hz);

¹⁹F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_F = -101.7;

FTIR (film) $v_{max}/cm^{-1} = 2923$, 1713, 1688, 1605, 1590, 1475, 1464, 1427, 1328, 1295, 1275, 1252, 1211, 1187, 1132, 1088, 1039;

HRMS (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{17}H_{12}O_2F^+ = 267.0816$, mass found = 267.0817;

 $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +134.6 \text{ (c} = 0.5, \text{CHCl}_3).$

(S)-4-Methoxy-2,2'-spirobiindane-1,1'-dione, 22



Asymmetric: Prepared according to General Procedure D with 52 (50 mg, 0.11 mmol), 17 (6.0 mg, 11 μ mol), 50% w/w aqueous potassium phosphate (230 μ L, 1.08 mmol), toluene (1.1 mL). Reaction conditions: 120 h. Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:4 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60 afforded the title compound 22 as a white solid (30 mg, 99%, 94:6 e.r.).
Racemic: Prepared according to **General Procedure E** with **52** (5.0 mg, 11 μ mol), tetrabutylammonium bromide (0.4 mg, 1 μ mol), potassium hydroxide (1.2 mg, 22 μ mol), toluene (0.1 mL). Reaction conditions: 24 h. An analytical HPLC sample of (*rac*)-**22** was prepared by small-scale preparative TLC (1:4 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60).

m.p. 188-190 °C (ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60);

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H} = 7.76$ (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H, H₇'), 7.65 (td, J = 7.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H, H₅'), 7.56 (dd, J = 7.7, 1.5 Hz, 1H, H₄'), 7.41 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H, H₆'), 7.39 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H, H₇), 7.35 (dd, J = 7.8, 6.7 Hz, 1H, H₆), 7.09 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.1 Hz, 1H, H₅), 3.93 (s, 3H, H₁₀), 3.71 (d, J = 17.0 Hz, 1H, H_{3A}), 3.66 (d, J = 17.4 Hz, 1H, H_{3A}'), 3.20 (d, J = 16.9 Hz, 1H, H_{3B}), 3.06 (d, J = 17.4 Hz, 1H, H_{3B}');

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_{C} = 203.0, 202.8, 156.9, 154.0, 142.9, 137.0, 135.6, 135.4, 129.5, 127.9, 126.5, 125.0, 116.5, 115.6, 65.3, 55.7, 38.3, 35.1;

FTIR (film) $v_{max}/cm^{-1} = 2922, 2852, 1687, 1603, 1488, 1463, 1441, 1422, 1286, 1263, 1212, 1152, 1130, 1080, 1031;$

HRMS (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{18}H_{15}O_3^+ = 279.1016$, mass found = 279.1017;

 $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +87.8 (c = 0.5, CHCl_3).$

(S)-4-Bromo-2,2'-spirobiindane-1,1'-dione, 23



Asymmetric: Prepared according to General Procedure D with 55 (50 mg, 0.098 mmol), 17 (5.4 mg, 9.8 μ mol), 50% w/w aqueous potassium phosphate (208 μ L, 0.978 mmol), toluene (0.98 mL). Reaction conditions: 48 h. Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:9 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60 afforded the title compound 23 as a white solid (32 mg, 99%, 93:7 e.r.).

Racemic: Prepared according to **General Procedure E** with **55** (2 mg, 4 μ mol), tetrabutylammonium bromide (0.1 mg, 0.4 μ mol), potassium hydroxide (0.4 mg, 8 μ mol), toluene (0.1 mL). Reaction conditions: 24 h. An analytical HPLC sample of (*rac*)-23 was prepared by small-scale preparative TLC (1:9 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60).

m.p. 250-252 °C (ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60);

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H} = 7.83$ (dd, J = 7.8, 1.0 Hz, 1H, H₇), 7.77 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H, H₇), 7.72 (dd, J = 7.6, 0.9 Hz, 1H, H₅), 7.67 (td, J = 7.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H, H₅), 7.57 (dt, J = 7.8, 1.0 Hz, 1H, H₄), 7.43 (td, J = 7.5, 0.7 Hz, 1H, H₆), 7.33 (tt, J = 7.7, 0.9 Hz, 1H, H₆), 3.73 (d, J = 17.0 Hz, 1H, H_{3A}), 3.68 (d, J = 17.6 Hz, 1H, H_{3A}), 3.24 (d, J = 17.0 Hz, 1H, H_{3B});

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_{C} = 202.1, 202.1, 153.7, 153.5, 138.0, 137.4, 135.5, 135.2, 129.6, 128.0, 126.4, 125.1, 123.7, 121.8, 65.2, 39.1, 38.1;

FTIR (film) $v_{max}/cm^{-1} = 3655, 2981, 1718, 1692, 1597, 1462, 1382, 1257, 1151, 1073;$

HRMS (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{17}H_{11}O_2BrNa^+ = 348.9835$, mass found = 348.9836;

 $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +112.9 (c = 0.5, CHCl_3).$

(S)-5-Fluoro-6'-methyl-2,2'-spirobiindane-1,1'-dione, 24



Asymmetric: Prepared according to General Procedure D with 58 (50 mg, 0.11 mmol), 17 (5.9 mg, 11 μ mol), 50% w/w aqueous potassium phosphate (229 μ L, 1.08 mmol), toluene (1.1 mL). Reaction conditions: 48 h. Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 3:17 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60 afforded the title compound 24 as a white solid (30 mg, 99%, 95:5 e.r.).

Racemic: Prepared according to **General Procedure E** with **58** (5 mg, 10 μ mol), tetrabutylammonium bromide (0.4 mg, 1 μ mol), potassium hydroxide (1.2 mg, 22 μ mol), toluene (0.1 mL). Reaction conditions: 24 h. An analytical HPLC sample of (*rac*)-**24** was prepared by small-scale preparative TLC (3:17 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60).

m.p. 170-180 °C (ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60);

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H} = 7.75$ (dd, J = 8.5, 5.3 Hz, 1H, H₇), 7.55 (s, 1H, H₇), 7.48 (dd, J = 7.9, 1.6 Hz, 1H, H₅), 7.44 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H, H₄), 7.22 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.1 Hz, 1H, H₄), 7.11 (td, J = 8.6, 2.3 Hz, 1H, H₆), 3.69 (d, J = 17.2 Hz, 1H, H_{3A}), 3.66 (d, J = 16.8 Hz, 1H, H_{3A}), 3.16 (d, J = 17.2 Hz, 1H, H_{3B}), 3.13 (d, J = 16.8 Hz, 1H, H_{3B}), 2.41 (s, 3H, H₁₀);

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C}$ = 202.4, 200.8, 167.5 (d, *J* = 257.4 Hz), 156.7 (d, *J* = 10.3 Hz), 151.1, 137.9, 136.7, 135.4, 131.8, 127.1 (d, *J* = 11.0 Hz), 126.0, 124.9, 116.2 (d, *J* = 23.9 Hz), 113.1 (d, *J* = 22.9 Hz), 65.9, 37.7 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz), 37.6, 21.1;

¹⁹F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_F = -101.8;

FTIR (film) $v_{max}/cm^{-1} = 2923$, 2852, 1718, 1692, 113, 1592, 1493, 1483, 1427, 1336, 1297, 1281, 1254, 1225, 1156, 1131, 1086, 1032;

HRMS (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{18}H_{14}O_2F^+ = 281.0972$, mass found = 281.0972;

 $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +116.6 \text{ (c} = 0.5, \text{CHCl}_3).$

(S)-7-(Trifluoromethyl)-2,2'-spirobiindane-1,1'-dione, 25



Asymmetric: Prepared according to General Procedure D with 61 (50 mg, 0.10 mmol), 17 (5.5 mg, 10 μ mol), 50% w/w aqueous potassium phosphate (212 μ L, 1.00 mmol), toluene (1.0 mL). Reaction conditions: 48 h. Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:4 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60 afforded the title compound 25 as a white solid (28 mg, 88%, 95:5 e.r.).

Racemic: Prepared according to **General Procedure E** with **61** (5 mg, 10 μ mol), tetrabutylammonium bromide (0.3 mg, 1 μ mol), potassium hydroxide (1.2 mg, 20 μ mol), toluene (0.1 mL). Reaction conditions: 24 h. An analytical HPLC sample of (*rac*)-25 was prepared by small-scale preparative TLC (1:4 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60).

m.p. 168-170 °C (ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60);

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H} = 7.78-7.69$ (m, 4H, H₄, H₅, H₆, H_{7'}), 7.65 (td, J = 7.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H, H_{5'}), 7.56 (dt, J = 7.7, 1.0 Hz, 1H, H_{4'}), 7.41 (td, J = 7.4, 1.0 Hz, 1H, H_{6'}), 3.76 (d, J = 16.9 Hz, 1H, H_{3A'}), 3.74 (d, J = 17.1 Hz, 1H, H_{3A}), 3.24 (d, J = 17.1 Hz, 1H, H_{3B}), 3.20 (d, J = 16.8 Hz, 1H, H_{3B'});

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C}$ = 201.5, 198.6, 155.9, 153.7, 135.5, 134.9, 134.5, 132.0, 130.2, 127.9, 127.6, 126.3, 125.6 (q, *J* = 5.8 Hz), 125.1, 122.5 (q, *J* = 273.5 Hz), 65.8, 37.7, 37.4;

¹⁹F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_F = -61.7;

FTIR (film) $v_{max}/cm^{-1} = 2926$, 1730, 1699, 1602, 1509, 1465, 1424, 1324, 1294, 1275, 1250, 1206, 1138, 1113, 1028;

HRMS (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{18}H_{12}O_2F_3^+ = 317.0784$, mass found = 317.0787;

 $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +114.2 (c = 0.5, CHCl_3).$

(S)-5-(Trifluoromethyl)-2,2'-spirobiindane-1,1'-dione, 26



Asymmetric (1): Prepared according to General Procedure D with 64 (20 mg, 40 μ mol), 17 (2.2 mg, 4.0 μ mol), 50% w/w aqueous potassium phosphate (85 μ L, 0.40 mmol), toluene (0.46 mL). Reaction conditions: 48 h. Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:19 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60 afforded the title compound 26 as a white solid (11 mg, 94%, 95:5 e.r.).

Asymmetric (2): Prepared according to General Procedure D with 67 (32 mg, 64 μ mol), 17 (3.5 mg, 6.4 μ mol), 50% w/w aqueous potassium phosphate (136 μ L, 0.64 mmol), toluene (0.64 mL). Reaction conditions: 48 h. Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:9 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60 afforded the title compound 26 as a white solid (20 mg, 96%, 93:7 e.r.).

Racemic: Prepared according to **General Procedure E** with **64** (2 mg, 4 μ mol), tetrabutylammonium bromide (0.1 mg, 0.4 μ mol), potassium hydroxide (0.4 mg, 8 μ mol), toluene (0.05 mL). Reaction conditions: 24 h. An analytical HPLC sample of (*rac*)-**26** was prepared by small-scale preparative TLC (1:9 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60).

m.p. 135-137 °C (ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60);

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H} = 7.87$ (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H, H₇), 7.85 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H, H₄), 7.77 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H, H₇'), 7.70 – 7.66 (m, 2H, H₅', H₆), 7.58 (dt, J = 7.7, 0.9 Hz, 1H, H₄'), 7.44 (td, J = 7.4, 0.6 Hz, 1H, H₆'), 3.78 (d, J = 17.1 Hz, 1H, H_{3A}), 3.75 (d, J = 17.0 Hz, 1H, H_{3A}'), 3.26 (d, J = 17.2 Hz, 1H, H_{3B}), 3.23 (d, J = 16.9 Hz, 1H, H_{3B}');

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C} = 201.8$, 201.7, 153.9, 153.6, 138.1, 136.5 (q, J = 32.3 Hz), 135.6, 135.0, 128.0, 126.4, 125.4, 125.1, 125.0 (q, J = 3.6 Hz), 123.6 (q, J = 3.9 Hz), 123.6 (q, J = 273.3 Hz), 65.7, 37.9, 37.8;

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_F = -62.9;

FTIR (film) $v_{max}/cm^{-1} = 2981, 1730, 1700, 1607, 1432, 1383, 1328, 1293, 1271, 1209, 1169, 1130, 1059;$

HRMS (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{18}H_{11}O_2F_3Na^+ = 339.0603$, mass found = 339.0606;

 $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +90.8$ (95:5 e.r., c = 0.5, CHCl₃).

(S)-6-Methyl-2,2'-spirobiindane-1,1'-dione, 27



Asymmetric (1): Prepared according to General Procedure D with 70 (50 mg, 0.11 mmol), 17 (6.2 mg, 11 μ mol), 50% w/w aqueous potassium phosphate (238 μ L, 1.12 mmol), toluene (1.1 mL). Reaction conditions: 120 h. Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:9 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60 afforded the title compound 27 as a white solid (21 mg, 71%, 99:1 e.r.).

Asymmetric (2): Prepared according to General Procedure D with 73 (48 mg, 0.11 mmol), 17 (5.9 mg, 11 μ mol), 50% w/w aqueous potassium phosphate (230 μ L, 1.08 mmol), toluene (1.1 mL). Reaction conditions: 48 h. Purification *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:9 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60 afforded the title compound 27 as a white solid (28 mg, 99%, 96:4 e.r.).

Racemic: Prepared according to **General Procedure E** with **73** (4 mg, 9 μ mol), tetrabutylammonium bromide (0.3 mg, 0.9 μ mol), potassium hydroxide (1.0 mg, 18 μ mol), toluene (0.1 mL). Reaction conditions: 24 h. An analytical HPLC sample of (*rac*)-27 was prepared by small-scale preparative TLC (1:9 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60).

m.p. 176-178 °C (ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60);

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H} = 7.76$ (dt, J = 7.7, 0.9 Hz, 1H, H₇'), 7.65 (td, J = 7.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H, H₅'), 7.57–7.54 (m, 2H, H₄', H₇), 7.48 (dd, J = 7.9, 1.6 Hz, 1H, H₅), 7.44 (dd, J = 7.9, 0.9 Hz, 1H, H₄), 7.41 (dq, J = 7.6, 0.8 Hz, 1H, H₆'), 3.72 (d, J = 16.9 Hz, 1H, H_{3A}'), 3.67 (d, J = 16.7 Hz, 1H, H_{3A}), 3.19 (d, J = 17.0 Hz, 1H, H_{3B}'), 3.14 (d, J = 16.8 Hz, 1H, H_{3B}), 2.42 (s, 3H, H₁₀);

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_{C} = 202.8, 202.7, 153.9, 151.2, 137.8, 136.6, 135.6, 135.5, 135.2, 127.8, 126.4, 126.0, 124.9, 124.8, 65.7, 38.1, 37.8, 21.1;

FTIR (film) $v_{max}/cm^{-1} = 2924, 2359, 1711, 1691, 1606, 1585, 1494, 1462, 1420, 1323, 1276, 1208, 1189, 1156, 1030;$

HRMS (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{18}H_{15}O_2^+ = 263.1067$, mass found = 263.1069;

 $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +133.3$ (99:1 e.r., c = 0.5, CHCl₃).

1.5.3 Derivatization

(S)-3-Bromo-2,2'-spirobiindane-1,1'-dione, 28



Asymmetric: In a 10 mL screw-topped vial, **9** (50 mg, 0.20 mmol, 1.0 eq.), *N*-bromosuccinimide (37 mg, 0.21 mmol, 1.02 eq.) and 2,2'-azobis(2-methylpropionitrile) (1.7 mg, 10 μ mol, 0.05 eq.) were dissolved in carbon tetrachloride (3.6 mL). The reaction mixture was heated at reflux for 16 hours, after which it was allowed to cool to room temperature. The mixture was then filtered through a sintered funnel and the residue washed with carbon tetrachloride (15 mL). The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure to yield a white solid (65 mg, >20:1 d.r.) which was purified *via* flash chromatography, eluting with toluene, to afford **28** as a white solid (58 mg, 88%, 97:3 e.r., >20:1 d.r.).

Racemic: In a 7 mL screw-topped vial, (*rac*)-9 (20 mg, 81 μ mol, 1.0 eq.), *N*-bromosuccinimide (14 mg, 81 μ mol, 1.0 eq.), and 2,2'-azobis(2-methylpropionitrile) (0.5 mg, 4 μ mol, 0.05 eq.) were dissolved in carbon tetrachloride (1.4 mL). The reaction mixture was heated at reflux for 16 hours, after which it was allowed to cool to room temperature. The mixture was then filtered through a sintered funnel and the residue washed with carbon tetrachloride (10 mL). The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified *via* preparatory TLC, eluting with toluene, to afford **28** as a white solid (15 mg, 57%, >20:1 d.r.).

m.p. 80-82 °C (toluene);

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H} = 7.85-7.73$ (m, 3H, H₄, H₇, H₇'), 7.71–7.66 (m, 2H, H₅, H₅'), 7.62 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 0.8 Hz, 1H, H₄'), 7.52 (td, *J* = 7.3, 1.4 Hz, 1H, H₆), 7.42 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 7.2, 1.0 Hz, 1H, H₆'), 5.91 (s, 1H, H₃), 3.76 (d, *J* = 17.4 Hz, 1H, H_{3A}'), 3.72 (d, *J* = 17.4 Hz, 1H, H_{3B}');

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_C = 199.2, 197.9, 154.5, 153.8, 136.0, 135.9, 134.3, 133.8, 130.1, 128.0, 127.1, 126.3, 125.1, 124.9, 71.4, 50.7, 37.8;

FTIR (film) $v_{max}/cm^{-1} = 2919$, 2850, 2362, 1728, 1703, 1603, 1465, 1423, 1329, 1271, 1211, 1190, 1153;

Compound 28 was not detected by ACI, EI or ESI mass spectrometry;

 $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +173.0 \ (c = 0.5, CHCl_3).$



Figure 1.1 1D nOe data for compound 28 in $CDCl_3$ (mixing time = 0.8 s).

(S)-cis,cis-2,2'-Spirobiindane-1,1'-diol, 29



Asymmetric: *tert*-Butyllithium (1.7 M in pentane, 376 μ L, 0.604 mmol, 3.0 eq.) was slowly added to a solution of DIBAL-H (1.0 M in THF, 604 μ L, 0.604 mmol, 3.0 eq.) at -78 °C. The yellow solution was stirred for 5 minutes, warmed to room temperature, at which point the solution turned colourless, and then cooled to -78 °C. To this solution, a suspension of **9** (50 mg, 0.20 mmol, 1.0 eq.) in THF (1.5 mL) was added dropwise over 10 minutes (0.3 mL additional THF was used to rinse in the remaining suspension from the syringe) and the reaction mixture was stirred for 10 hours at -78 °C. Saturated aqueous ammonium chloride at -78 °C was added and the mixture allowed to warm to room temperature, after which time the mixture was poured into a beaker containing chloroform (10 mL) and saturated aqueous ammonium chloride (5 mL) and stirred for 30 minutes. The precipitated aluminium salts were removed *via* filtration through Celite[®] and the biphasic mixture extracted with chloroform (10 mL × 3). The combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated

under reduced pressure to afford a white solid (45 mg, 91%, >20:1:1 d.r.). The residue was purified *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:49 ethanol/chloroform, to afford **29** as a white solid (45 mg, 91%, 97:3 e.r., >20:1:1 d.r.). The spectral data for **29** matched that previously reported in the literature.^[8]

Asymmetric (2): tert-Butyllithium (1.7 M in pentane, 376 µL, 0.604 mmol, 3.0 eq.) was slowly added to a solution of DIBAL-H (1.0 M in hexane, 665 µL, 0.665 mmol, 3.3 eq.) at -78 °C. The colourless solution was stirred for 5 minutes, warmed to room temperature, and then cooled to -78 °C. To this solution, a suspension of 9 (50 mg, 0.20 mmol, 1.0 eq.) in THF (1.5 mL) was added dropwise over 10 minutes (0.3 mL additional THF was used to rinse in the remaining suspension from the syringe) and the reaction mixture was stirred for 10 hours at -78 °C. Saturated aqueous ammonium chloride was added at -78 °C and the mixture allowed to warm to room temperature, after which time the mixture was poured into a beaker containing chloroform (10 mL) and saturated aqueous ammonium chloride (5 mL) and stirred for 30 minutes. The precipitated aluminium salts were removed via filtration through Celite® and the biphasic mixture extracted with chloroform (10 mL \times 3). The combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford a white solid (48 mg, 95% 7:1:0 d.r.). The residue was purified via flash chromatography, eluting with 1:99 ethanol/chloroform, to afford 29 as a white solid (39 mg, 78%, 99:1 e.r., >20:1:1 d.r.). The spectral data for 29 matched those obtained previously. Racemic: Prepared according to a literature procedure.^[8]

tert-Butyllithium (1.7 M in pentane, 376 μ L, 0.604 mmol, 3.0 eq.) was slowly added to a solution of DIBAL-H (1.0 M in THF, 604 μ L, 0.604 mmol, 3.0 eq.) at -78 °C. The yellow solution was stirred for 5 minutes, warmed to room temperature, at which point the solution turned colourless, and then cooled to -78 °C. To this solution, a suspension of (*rac*)-9 (50 mg, 0.20 mmol, 1.0 eq.) in THF (1.5 mL) was added (0.3 mL additional THF was used to rinse in the remaining suspension from the syringe) and the stirred reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature overnight. Saturated aqueous ammonium chloride was added and the mixture was poured into a beaker containing chloroform (10 mL) and saturated aqueous ammonium chloride (5 mL) and stirred for 30 minutes. The precipitated aluminium salts were removed *via* filtration through Celite[®] and the biphasic mixture extracted with chloroform (10 mL × 3). The combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford a white solid (48 mg, 96%, >20:1:1 d.r.). The residue was purified *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:49 ethanol/chloroform, to

afford (*rac*)-29 as a white solid (48 mg, 96%, >20:1:1 d.r.). The spectral data for (*rac*)-29 matched those obtained previously.

m.p. 196-198 °C (ethanol/chloroform), [lit. 234-6 °C]^[8];

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ = 7.48 (dd, *J* = 6.0, 2.4 Hz, 2H, H₄), 7.34–7.27 (m, 4H, H₅, H₆), 7.23 (dd, *J* = 6.0, 2.4 Hz, 2H, H₇), 5.19 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 2H, H₁), 3.17 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 2H, H_{3A}), 2.95 (d, *J* = 3.5 Hz, 2H, H₁₀), 2.55 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz, 2H, H_{3B});

¹H NMR (500 MHz, (CD₃)₂SO) $\delta_{\rm H}$ = 7.39 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.9 Hz, 2H, H₄), 7.26–7.19 (m, 6H, H₅, H₆, H₇), 5.41 (d, *J* = 2.9 Hz, 2H, H₁₀), 4.97 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 2H, H₁), 3.02 (d, *J* = 15.3 Hz, 2H, H_{3A}), 2.39 (d, *J* = 15.3 Hz, 2H, H_{3B});

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, (CD₃)₂SO) $\delta_C = 145.2$, 143.2, 128.5, 126.9, 125.5, 80.4, 58.8, 42.2; N.B. only 8 carbon peaks in the ¹³C spectrum due to two coincidental peaks at 125.5 ppm.

FTIR (film) $\nu_{max}/cm^{-1} = 3365, 3362, 2981, 2892, 1708, 1475, 1462, 1383, 1250, 1152, 1072, 1028;$

LRMS (ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{17}H_{16}O_2Na^+ = 275$, mass found = 275;

 $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +38.0$ (97:3 e.r., c = 0.10, acetone).

(S)-5-(4-Fluorophenyl)-2,2'-spirobiindane-1,1'-dione, 30



This compound was prepared in analogy to a literature procedure.^[9]

Asymmetric: 20 (95:5 e.r., 30 mg, 0.092 mmol, 1.0 eq.) and 4-fluorophenylboronic acid (19 mg, 0.14 mmol, 1.5 eq.) were dissolved in toluene (0.64 mL) and aqueous sodium carbonate (2 M, 0.28 mL, 0.55 mmol, 6.0 eq.). The mixture was degassed by freeze-pump-thawing^[2] (x 3) and flushed with nitrogen. Under a stream of nitrogen, tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0) (5.3 mg, 4.6 µmol, 0.05 eq.) was added and the mixture heated at reflux for 7 hours. After cooling to room temperature, the phases were separated and the aqueous layer washed with ethyl acetate (5 mL × 2). The combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:4 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60, to afford **30** as a white solid (86%, 27 mg, 95:5 e.r.).

Racemic: (*rac*)-**20** (10 mg, 31 µmol, 1.0 eq.) and 4-fluorophenylboronic acid (6.4 mg, 45 µmol, 1.5 eq.) were dissolved in toluene (0.21 mL) and aqueous sodium carbonate (2 M, 90 µL, 0.18 mmol, 6.0 eq.). The mixture was degassed by freeze-pump-thawing^[2] (x 3) and flushed with nitrogen. Under a stream of nitrogen, tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0) (2 mg, 0.002 mmol, 0.05 eq.) was added and the mixture heated at reflux for 7 hours. After cooling to room temperature, the phases were separated and the aqueous layer washed with ethyl acetate (2 mL × 2). The combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified *via* preparatory TLC, eluting with 1:4 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60, to afford (*rac*)-**30** as a white solid (4 mg, 38%).

m.p. 186-188 °C (ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60);

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H} = 7.82$ (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H, H₇), 7.78 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H, H₇), 7.71 (dd, J = 1.6, 0.8 Hz, 1H, H₄), 7.67 (td, J = 7.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H, H₅), 7.63 (ddt, J = 8.8, 5.2, 3.0 Hz, 2H, H₁₁), 7.59 (dd, J = 7.3, 1.4 Hz, 1H, H₆), 7.58 (dt, J = 7.5, 0.8 Hz, 1H, H₄), 7.43 (td, J = 7.4, 0.6 Hz, 1H, H₆), 7.18 (tt, J = 8.5, 2.0 Hz, 2H, H₁₂), 3.77 (d, J = 16.9 Hz, 1H, H_{3A}), 3.76 (d, J = 16.9 Hz, 1H, H_{3A}), 3.24 (d, J = 17.0 Hz, 1H, H_{3B}), 3.22 (d, J = 16.9 Hz, 1H, H_{3B});

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C} = 201.7$, 201.0, 162.1 (d, J = 248.5 Hz), 153.5, 152.8, 146.3, 135.2 (d, J = 3.3 Hz), 134.4, 134.3, 133.3, 128.2 (d, J = 8.4 Hz), 126.8, 126.1, 125.3, 124.3, 123.9, 123.7, 115.0 (d, J = 21.7 Hz), 64.6, 37.0;

N.B. only 20 carbon peaks in the ¹³C spectrum due to two coincidental peaks at 37.0 ppm.

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_F = -113.6;

FTIR (film) $v_{max}/cm^{-1} = 2919, 2850, 1720, 1694, 1605, 1517, 1463, 1425, 1275, 1236, 1161, 1025;$

HRMS (EI⁺) calculated for $C_{23}H_{15}O_2F^+ = 342.1056$, mass found = 342.1054;

 $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +29.2 \ (c = 0.5, CHCl_3).$

(S)-5-(4,4,5,5-Tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-2,2'-spirobiindane-1,1'-dione, 31



This compound was prepared in analogy to a literature procedure.^[10]

A 3.5 mL screw-topped vial was charged with **20** (95:5 e.r., 30 mg, 0.092 mmol, 1.0 eq.), bis(pinacolato)diboron (28 mg, 0.11 mmol, 1.2 eq.), potassium acetate (27 mg, 0.27 mmol, 3.0 eq.) and [1,1'-bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene]dichloropalladium(II) (3.4 mg, 4.6 μ mol, 0.05 eq.) under an atmosphere of argon. To this was added 1,4-dioxane (0.5 mL) and the mixture heated at reflux for 24 hours. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (5 mL) and water (5 mL), and filtered through Celite[®]. The layers were separated and the aqueous layer extracted with ethyl acetate (5 mL × 2). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine (10 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:4 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60, to afford **31** as a white solid (24 mg, 70%).

m.p. 194-196 °C (ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60);

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H} = 8.02$ (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H, H₄), 7.84 (dd, J = 7.7, 1.0 Hz, 1H, H₇), 7.75 (dt, J = 7.4, 0.6 Hz, 1H, H₆), 7.74 (dd, J = 7.4, 0.5 Hz, 1H, H₇), 7.65 (td, J = 7.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H, H₅), 7.56 (dt, J = 7.7, 0.9 Hz, 1H, H₄), 7.41 (td, J = 7.4, 1.0 Hz, 1H, H₆), 3.73 (d, J = 17.0 Hz, 1H, H_{3A}), 3.72 (d, J = 16.9 Hz, 1H, H_{3A}), 3.19 (d, J = 17.1 Hz, 1H, H_{3B}), 3.18 (d, J = 16.9 Hz, 1H, H_{3B}), 1.38 (s, 12H, H₁₁);

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{C} = 203.0, 202.5, 153.8, 152.8, 137.4, 135.4, 135.3, 133.8, 132.7, 127.8, 126.4, 124.9, 123.9, 84.4, 65.6, 38.1, 38.0, 24.9;$

N.B. C₅ not observed in ¹³C NMR spectrum.

FTIR (film) $v_{max}/cm^{-1} = 2977, 2921, 1725, 1698, 1607, 1487, 1412, 1360, 1337, 1266, 1208, 1142, 1073, 1027;$

HRMS (ACI⁺) calculated for $C_{23}H_{23}BO_4^+ = 375.1775$, mass found = 375.1762;

 $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +86.3$ (c = 1.0, CHCl₃).

To calculate the e.r. of **31**, it was converted to **30** in analogy to a literature procedure, assuming no degradation in enantioenrichment in this process.^[11]

To a solution of **31** (20 mg, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 eq.) in degassed toluene (2.9 mL) and water (0.57 mL) were added 1-fluoro-4-iodobenzene (61 μ L, 0.53 mmol, 10.0 eq.), tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0) (6 mg, 5 μ mol, 0.10 eq.), and cesium carbonate (52 mg, 0.16 mmol, 3.0 eq.) at room temperature. The mixture was heated at 100 °C for

12 hours and then cooled to room temperature. The mixture was diluted with water (2 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (5 mL \times 3). The combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified *via* flash chromatography, eluting with 1:4 ethyl acetate/petrol 40-60, to afford **30** as a white solid (12 mg, 66%, 95:5 e.r.). The data matched those obtained previously.

1.6 Determination of Absolute Stereochemistry

Absolute configuration of 20: Product 20 was recrystallized via vapour diffusion by dissolving 5 mg of 20 at 96:4 e.r. in benzene (c.a. 50 µL) and using pentane as the volatile component. Low temperature^[12] single crystal X-ray diffraction studies were carried out at 150 K on 20 using CuK_α radiation on an Oxford Diffraction SuperNova diffractometer equipped with an area detector and graphite monochromator, within the University of Oxford Chemistry Department. Raw frame data were reduced using CrysAlisPro(Agilent) and the structures were solved using superflip.^[13] Full-matrix least-squares refinement of the structures were carried out using CRYSTALS.^[14] A Flack x parameter^[15] refined to -0.02(1) and Bayesian analysis of the Bijvoet pairs^[16] gave the Hooft y parameter as 0.02(5) and the probability that the structure was the correct hand of >99.99% given that the crystal was enantiopure, thus determining the absolute configuration. After completion of the data collection, the crystal used in the single crystal X-ray diffraction studies was compared to the bulk material by dissolution of the crystal in isopropanol and subsequent analysis via chiral HPLC. The observed retention time matched that of the major enantiomer of 20 (see S97), thus confirming that the crystal used in the single crystal X-ray diffraction studies comprised of the major enantiomer of 20. Crystallographic data have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC 1486386) and copies of these data can be obtained free of charge via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data request/cif.

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1.8 NMR Spectra and HPLC Traces







210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 f1 (ppm)





















1 1 1 1	1 K I K I			1 1 1 1 1	1. 1. 1.								
-65	-75	-85	-95	-105	-115	-125 f1 (ppm	-135)	-145	-155	-165	-175	-185	-19



S61

---152.5 ---157.8 ---162.2























S70




	1	10	1	1	-		1			1 C C				10	
-65		-75	-85	-95	-105	-115	-125	-135	-145	-155	-165	-175	-185	-195	-205
200.00						-		f1 (ppm)						C. Sold a	









-110 -120 f1 (ppm) -40 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100



























--152.1 --157.7 --162.2

















Chiral HPLC: (Chiralpak ADH, 20% isopropanol, 80% hexane, 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 250$ nm) τ_R (minor) = 9.0 min, τ_R (major) = 15.3 min.



No.	Peak Name	Retention Time	Area	Height	Relative Area
		min	mAU*min	mAU	%
1		9.030	30.275	94.499	2.59
2		15.340	1139.529	2395.900	97.41
Total:			1169.804	2490.399	100.00

Asymmetric (gram scale)

0



No.	Peak Name	Retention Time	Area	Height	Relative Area
		min	mAU*min	mAU	%
1		9.183	24.843	78.783	2.82
2		15.460	856.897	2135.931	97.18
Total:			881.741	2214.714	100.00





No.	Peak Name	Retention Time	Area	Height	Relative Area
		min	mAU*min	mAU	%
1		9.240	184.531	577.256	49.97
2		15.657	184.729	492.536	50.03
Total:			369.260	1069.792	100.00



Chiral HPLC: (Chiralpak ADH, 20% isopropanol, 80% hexane, 1.0 mL/min, λ = 299 nm) τ_R (minor) = 7.7 min, τ_R (major) = 24.8 min.



No.	Peak Name	Retention Time	Area	Height	Relative Area
		min	mAU*min	mAU	%
1		7.683	1.616	8.597	7.77
2		24.823	19.167	34.253	92.23
Total:			20.783	42.850	100.00



No.	Peak Name	Retention Time	Area	Height	Relative Area
		min	mAU*min	mAU	%
1		7.687	5.502	29.402	49.68
2		24.947	5.573	9.992	50.32
Total:			11.075	39.395	100.00

Racemic







	-	1. 3		·23 · 2								1 - 1 - 1			
-55	-65	-75	-85	-95	-105	-115	-125	-135	-145	-155	-165	-175	-185	-195	-20
							f1 (p	pm)							

Chiral HPLC: (Chiralpak ADH, 2% isopropanol, 98% hexane, 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 250$ nm) τ_R (minor) = 20.7 min, τ_R (major) = 23.0 min.



No.	Peak Name	Retention Time	Area	Height	Relative Area
		min	mAU*min	mAU	%
1		20.710	6.027	9.896	5.17
2		23.037	110.648	161.576	94.83
Total:			116.675	171.472	100.00







(*rac*)-**19**

No.	Peak Name	Retention Time	Area	Height	Relative Area
		min	mAU*min	mAU	%
1		20.660	35.159	55.880	50.00
2		23.253	35.157	50.378	50.00
Total:			70.316	106.258	100.00



Chiral HPLC: (Chiralpak ADH, 20% isopropanol, 80% hexane, 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 250$ nm) τ_R (minor) = 10.7 min, τ_R (major) = 13.0 min.



No.	Peak Name	Retention Time	Area	Height	Relative Area
		min	mAU*min	mAU	%
1		10.680	8.321	26.873	3.95
2		12.957	202.563	570.137	96.05
Total:			210.884	597.010	100.00



Asymmetric (2)

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No.	Peak Name	Retention Time	Area	Height	Relative Area
		min	mAU*min	mAU	%
1		10.660	6.985	21.777	4.53
2		12.957	147.086	419.163	95.47
Total:			154.071	440.940	100.00





No.	Peak Name	Retention Time	Area	Height	Relative Area
		min	mAU*min	mAU	%
1		10.560	70.326	194.956	49.55
2		12.897	71.592	182.035	50.45
Total:			141.919	376.991	100.00

Single Crystal used for Absolute Configuration Determination





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No.	Peak Name	Retention Time	Area	Height	Relative Area
		min	mAU*min	mAU	%
1		10.697	0.091	0.293	2.32
2		13.020	3.834	8.664	97.68
Total:			3.925	8.957	100.00







100		_			_									
-60	-70	-80	-90	-100	-110	-120	-130 f1 (ppm)	-140	-150	-160	-170	-180	-190	-200

Chiral HPLC: (Chiralpak ADH, 20% isopropanol, 80% hexane, 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 210$ nm) τ_R (minor) = 10.4 min, τ_R (major) = 14.7 min.



No.	Peak Name	Retention Time	Area	Height	Relative Area
		min	mAU*min	mAU	%
1		10.360	22.990	93.660	4.17
2		14.673	528.143	1533.846	95.83
Total:			551.133	1627.506	100.00



No. Peak Name **Retention Time** Height Relative Area Area mAU*min % min mAU 10.170 20.197 49.773 50.00 1 2 14.520 20.196 49.016 50.00 Total: 40.393 98.788 100.00

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(rac)-**21**



Chiral HPLC: (Chiralpak ADH, 20% isopropanol, 80% hexane, 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 250$ nm) τ_R (minor) = 11.6 min, τ_R (major) = 16.6 min.



No.	Peak Name	Retention Time	Area	Height	Relative Area
		min	mAU*min	mAU	%
1		11.557	5.407	19.214	5.63
2		16.647	90.682	230.148	94.37
Total:			96.089	249.362	100.00







No.	Peak Name	Retention Time	Area	Height	Relative Area
		min	mAU*min	mAU	%
1		11.690	16.893	64.696	50.06
2		16.820	16.855	43.507	49.94
Total:			33.748	108.202	100.00



Chiral HPLC: (Chiralpak ADH, 2% isopropanol, 98% hexane, 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm) τ_R (minor) = 10.1 min, τ_R (major) = 14.4 min.



No.	Peak Name	Retention Time	Area	Height	Relative Area
		min	mAU*min	mAU	%
1		10.133	1.596	4.429	7.35
2		14.397	20.125	54.021	92.65
Total:			21.721	58.450	100.00







No.	Peak Name	Retention Time	Area	Height	Relative Area
		min	mAU*min	mAU	%
1		10.323	8.361	35.914	50.07
2		14.607	8.337	26.769	49.93
Total:			16.699	62.683	100.00




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-55	-65	-75	-85	-95	-105	-115	-125	-135	-145	-155	-165	-175	-185	-195	-205
							f1 (ppm)							

Chiral HPLC: (Chiralpak ADH, 20% isopropanol, 80% hexane, 1.0 mL/min, λ = 299 nm) τ_R (minor) = 9.8 min, τ_R (major) = 15.6 min.



No.	Peak Name	Retention Time	Area	Height	Relative Area
		min	mAU*min	mAU	%
1		9.807	0.604	2.506	5.15
2		15.587	11.132	29.337	94.85
Total:			11.735	31.844	100.00







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No.	Peak Name	Retention Time	Area	Height	Relative Area
		min	mAU*min	mAU	%
1		9.640	2.725	6.663	49.82
2		15.417	2.745	6.492	50.18
Total:			5.470	13.155	100.00







-60	-70	-80	-90	-100	-110	-120	-130 f1 (ppm)	-140	-150	-160	-170	-180	-190	-200

Chiral HPLC: (Chiralpak ADH, 10% isopropanol, 90% hexane, 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 250$ nm) τ_R (minor) = 10.7 min, τ_R (major) = 26.0 min.



No.	Peak Name	Retention Time	Area	Height	Relative Area
		min	mAU*min	mAU	%
1		10.663	8.054	33.959	5.39
2		26.040	141.476	247.668	94.61
Total:			149.530	281.627	100.00







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No.	Peak Name	Retention Time	Area	Height	Relative Area
		min	mAU*min	mAU	%
1		10.543	8.852	33.798	49.99
2		25.987	8.856	15.466	50.01
Total:			17.707	49.264	100.00





-60	-70	-80	-90	-100	-110	-120 fi	-130 1 (ppm)	-140	-150	-160	-170	-180	-190	-200	
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Chiral HPLC: (Chiralpak IA, 2% isopropanol, 98% hexane, 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 250$ nm) $\tau_{\rm R}$ (minor) = 23.9 min, $\tau_{\rm R}$ (major) = 26.8 min.



No.	Peak Name	Retention Time	Area	Height	Relative Area
		min	mAU*min	mAU	%
1		23.910	5.773	7.822	4.59
2		26.840	119.920	135.818	95.41
Total:			125.692	143.639	100.00

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No.	Peak Name	Retention Time	Area	Height	Relative Area
		min	mAU*min	mAU	%
1		23.530	21.271	28.150	7.21
2		26.210	273.707	304.012	92.79
Total:			294.978	332.162	100.00



No.	Peak Name	Retention Time	Area	Height	Relative Area
		min	mAU*min	mAU	%
1		23.643	12.433	14.920	49.80
2		26.813	12.534	13.163	50.20
Total:			24.967	28.083	100.00



Chiral HPLC: (Chiralpak ADH, 20% isopropanol, 80% hexane, 1.0 mL/min, λ = 299 nm) τ_R (minor) = 8.5 min, τ_R (major) = 18.6 min.



No.	Peak Name	Retention Time	Area	Height	Relative Area
		min	mAU*min	mAU	%
1		8.527	0.372	1.337	1.00
2		18.560	36.665	76.139	99.00
Total:			37.037	77.477	100.00





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No.	Peak Name	Retention Time	Area	Height	Relative Area
		min	mAU*min	mAU	%
1		8.690	1.548	6.380	3.82
2		18.540	38.969	88.381	96.18
Total:			40.517	94.761	100.00





No.	Peak Name	Retention Time	Area	Height	Relative Area
		min	mAU*min	mAU	%
1		8.553	5.216	18.031	49.88
2		18.490	5.240	11.737	50.12
Total:			10.456	29.767	100.00



Chiral HPLC: (Chiralpak ADH, 20% isopropanol, 980% hexane, 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 250$ nm) τ_R (minor) = 8.0 min, τ_R (major) = 12.8 min.



No.	Peak Name	Retention Time	Area	Height	Relative Area
		min	mAU*min	mAU	%
1		8.023	12.792	58.001	2.80
2		12.823	443.257	1494.590	97.20
Total:			456.049	1552.591	100.00





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No. Peak Name **Retention Time** Height Relative Area Area mAU*min mAU % min 8.027 70.155 322.938 49.90 1 2 50.10 12.853 70.425 241.033 Total: 140.581 563.970 100.00





Chiral HPLC: (Chiralpak AS, 15% isopropanol, 85% hexane, 0.5 mL/min, $\lambda = 273$ nm) τ_R (minor) = 15.0 min, τ_R (major) = 19.2 min.



No.	Peak Name	Retention Time	Area	Height	Relative Area
		min	mAU*min	mAU	%
1		14.963	0.850	0.796	2.92
2		19.170	28.270	25.834	97.08
Total:			29.120	26.630	100.00



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No.	Peak Name	Retention Time	Area	Height	Relative Area
		min	mAU*min	mAU	%
1		15.080	0.237	0.204	0.78
2		19.233	30.257	29.017	99.22
Total:			30.494	29.221	100.00



No.	Peak Name	Retention Time	Area	Height	Relative Area
		min	mAU*min	mAU	%
1		14.957	7.184	11.746	49.93
2		19.607	7.205	9.464	50.07
Total:			14.389	21.210	100.00







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-55	-65	-75	-85	-95	-105	-115 -125	-135	-145	-155	-165	-175	-185	-195
						f1 (ppm)							

Chiral HPLC: (Chiralpak IA, 20% isopropanol, 80% hexane, 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 299$ nm) $\tau_{\rm R}$ (minor) = 15.5 min, $\tau_{\rm R}$ (major) = 26.8 min.



No.	Peak Name	Retention Time	Area	Height	Relative Area
		min	mAU*min	mAU	%
1		15.490	1.230	2.719	4.74
2		26.787	24.715	32.924	95.26
Total:			25.945	35.644	100.00



22.0 Time [mi No. Peak Name **Retention Time** Height Relative Area Area mAU*min mAU % min 15.347 100.821 222.331 50.10 2 100.433 49.90 26.217 128.312

201.254

350.643

100.00

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Total:



Chiral HPLC: (Chiralpak IA, 20% isopropanol, 80% hexane, 1.0 mL/min, λ = 299 nm) τ_R (minor) = 15.5 min, τ_R (major) = 26.6 min.



No.	Peak Name	Retention Time	Area	Height	Relative Area
		min	mAU*min	mAU	%
1		15.477	1.924	3.965	4.94
2		26.617	37.033	48.515	95.06
Total:			38.958	52.481	100.00



No.	Peak Name	Retention Time	Area	Height	Relative Area
		min	mAU*min	mAU	%
1		15.347	100.821	222.331	50.10
2		26.217	100.433	128.312	49.90
Total:			201.254	350.643	100.00

Racemic

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