Concise Asymmetric Synthesis of (–)-Bilobalide

Meghan A. Baker,^{1‡} Robert M. Demoret,^{1‡} Masaki Ohtawa^{*} and Ryan A. Shenvi^{1*}

¹Department of Chemistry, Scripps Research, 10550 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, California, 92037, United States.

†Present Address: Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Kitasato University, 5-9-1, Shirokane, Minatoku, Tokyo 108-8641, Japan

*Correspondence to: rshenvi@scripps.edu, ohtawam@pharm.kitasato-u.ac.jp

‡These authors contributed equally to this work.

Supplementary Information

1. General Methods

All reactions were carried out under positive pressure of nitrogen/argon unless otherwise noted. Glassware was oven-dried at 120 °C for a minimum of 12 hours, or flame-dried with a propane torch under high vacuum. Anhydrous dichloromethane (DCM) was distilled from calcium hydride (5% w/v) under positive pressure of nitrogen. Anhydrous tetrahydrofuran (THF) was distilled over sodium/benzophenone ketyl under positive pressure of nitrogen. Anhydrous toluene was was obtained by passing the previously degassed solvent through an activated alumina column. Authentic (–)-bilobalide was purchased from Selleck Chemicals LLC MS. Other commercially available solvents or reagents were used without further purification unless otherwise noted. Reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) using precoated silica gel plates from EMD Chemicals (TLC Silica gel 60 F₂₅₄, 250 µm thickness). Flash column chromatography was performed over Silica gel 60 (particle size 0.04-0.063 mm) from EMD Chemicals and activated neutral alumina (Brockmann I, 150 mesh) from Sigma-Aldrich.

NMR spectra were recorded on Varian-400, Bruker DPX-400, DRX-500, and DRX-600 (cryoprobe) spectrometers using residual solvent peaks as an internal standard (CDCl₃ ω 7.26 ppm ¹H NMR, 77.16 ppm ¹³C NMR). The following abbreviations (or combinations thereof) were used to explain the multiplicities: $s = singlet$, $d = doublet$, $t = triplet$, $q = quartet$, $m = multiplet$, $br = multiplet$ broad. HRMS were aquired using a Waters Xero G-2-XS Tof. Optical rotations were measured on an MC-100 Modular Circular Polarimeter from Anton Parr. Enantiomeric excess of chiral samples was determined using a Waters UPC2 SFC with a Daicel IC Column (3mm, 4.6x250 mm). Some crude samples were separated and analyzed using heart-cutting 2D LC-SFC in which the LC dimension consisted of a Waters I-Class LC with a Waters BEH C18 column (1.7 mm, 2.1x100 mm) and the SFC dimension consisted of the Waters UPC2 SFC with a Daicel IC Column (3mm, 4.6x250 mm).

The following reagents were prepared according to their corresponding literature procedure:

Abbreviations:

THF = Tetrahydrofuran acac = Acetylacetonate $dpm = 2,2,6,6$ -tetramethyl-3,5-heptanedionato BnOAc = Benzyl acetate LDA = Lithium diisopropylamide AIBN = Azobisisobutyronitrile IBX = 2-iodoxybenzoic acid TMS-EBX = 1-[(Trimethylsilyl)ethynyl]-1,2-benziodoxol-3(1H)-one TBAF = tetrabutylammonium fluoride LHMDS = Lithium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide NaHMDS = Sodium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide KHMDS = Potassium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide $DMAP = 4-(Dimethylamino)$ pyridine *m*CPBA = *meta*-Chloroperoxybenzoic acid NBS = N-Bromosuccinimide **Scheme S1: Carbon Numbering**

(-)-bilobalide

Numbering System: The carbon numbering system as outlined by Nakanishi³ is utilized throughout the Supplementary Information as well as in the text of the paper.

2. Syntheses of Bilobalide

bilobalide

Scheme S3: Corey's synthesis of (–)-bilobalide⁷

Scheme S4: Crimmins' synthesis of (±)-bilobalide8

Scheme S5: This synthesis of (-)-bilobalide

3. Experimental Procedures and Characterizations

(±)-6a: Wittig Olefination (two-step) procedure

To a flame-dried 2-liter round bottom equipped with a magnetic stirbar was added **SI-1** (164 g, 400 mmol, 1.0 equiv) followed by the addition of 800 mL of anhydrous DCM. The solution was cooled to 0 $^{\circ}$ C, then a solution of Br₂ (20.6 mL, 400 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in 50 mL of anhydrous DCM was added and the reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature and stir for 5 hours. The reaction was then transferred to a 1-liter separatory funnel and washed sequentially with H₂O, *sat.* NaHCO₃ 2 times, and then dried with Na₂SO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude material was recrystallized from hot DCM/Et₂O/Hex (1:2:10) to afford bromo ylide **SI-2** as a yellow solid (152 g, 76.3% yield). *Note: The product is a strong lachcrymtor and should be weighed out in a well-ventilated fume hood*.

To a flame-dried 250 mL round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stirbar was added **SI-2** (54.73 g, 111.8 mmol, 1.1 equiv) followed by **SI-3** (25.65 g, 101.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv). Anhydrous DCM was added until both of the reagents were completely dissolved (approx. 70 mL) and then the reaction was allowed to stir overnight. The reaction was concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by silica gel flash column chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc = 9:1) afforded **(±)-6a** as a colorless oil (37.0 g, 79.4 mmol, 78.5%) and as a mixture of E/Z isomers.

(±)-6a: Wittig Olefination (one-step) procedure

To a flame-dried, 25 mL round bottom flask with a magnetic stirbar were added ylide **SI-1** (225.8 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and 1.0 mL of DCM (0.5 M). NBS (107 mg, 0.6 mmol, 1.2 equiv) was added and the reaction was stirred for 12 hours followed by addition of diketone **SI-3** (126.1 mg equiv, 0.5 mmol) as a solution in DCM. Once the diketone was consumed (monitored by TLC, approx. 12 hours), the reaction was concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by silica gel flash column chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc = 9:1) afforded **(±)-6a** as a colorless oil 204 mg, 0.44 mmol, 88%) and a mixture of E/Z isomers.

Characterization data for major isomer:

Note: Both **SI-1** and **SI-3** are commercially available however **SI-3** can be prepared according to the procedure shown below.

Claisen Reaction for Formation of SI-3

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\begin{array}{ccc}\n0 & \text{LDA} : \text{Meo} \xrightarrow{\text{LDA} : \text{Meo} \xrightarrow{\text{LPA} : \text{MeO} \xrightarrow{\text{LHA} : \text{MeO} \
$$

To a flame-dried, 1L round bottom flask with a magnetic stirbar were added diisopropylamine (30.8 mL, 220 mmol, 1.15 equiv) and 400 mL of THF. This solution was cooled to -78 °C followed by addition of *n*-BuLi (2.6 M in hexanes, 81.0 mL, 210 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and the solution was warmed to 0 °C and stirred for 1 hr to ensure formation of LDA. After cooling again to -78 °C, BnOAc (27.2 mL, 190.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added and the reaction was stirred for 30 minutes. Finally, methyl dimethoxyacetate (24.4 mL, 200 mmol, 1.05 equiv) was added and the reaction was slowly warmed to room temperature over 1.5 hours before being quenched with saturated NH4Cl (aq.). The aqueous phase was then extracted 3 times with EtOAc, and the combined organic layers were dried with Na2SO⁴ and concentrated *in vacuo* to provide **SI-3** as a light orange oil. **SI-3** was then used directly without purification.

6b: α,-unsaturated aldehyde

A flame-dried 500 mL flask was equipped with a magnetic stir bar, charged with 120 mL of anhydrous DCM, and then cooled to 0 \degree C. DMF (37.1 mL, 480 mmol, 4 equiv.) was added to the flask followed by the slow addition of PBr₃ (27.8 mL, 240 mmol, 2 equiv.). The mixture was stirred for 30 minutes followed by the addition of pinacolone (17.6 mL, 120 mmol, 1 equiv). The reaction was then allowed to warm to room temperature and then stirred overnight (12hrs). To quench the reaction, the mixture is poured into a 2L beaker filled with 800 mL of ice (*Caution: If the reaction mixture is not poured slowly, a large exotherm will occur*). The solution is then brought to pH 7 by the addition of KOH pellets and then extracted 3 times with DCM, dried with Na2SO4, and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford **6b** as a yellow oil which is used without purification (16.08 g, 84.2 mmol, 70.2%).

Note: If DMF remains after concentration, dissolve the oil in Et₂O and extract 3 times with H₂O, dry with MgSO₄, and concentrate *in vacuo* to affod pure **6b**.

Note: This product is volatile and should not be left under vacuum for prolonged periods of time.

(–)-7: Reformatsky (asymmetric)

Note: The results of the catalytic asymmetric Reformatsky reaction vary depending on reaction scale. On small scale (1 mmol or less) the *ee* is consistently 94%, the dr is 2.3:1, and the yield of the combination of diastereomers is 64%. On large scale, if the rate of addition or temperature is not carefully controlled, the *ee* can erode to as low as 85% with a concommitant loss of stereoselectivity (2.0:1.0 *dr*).

To a flame dried reaction flask containing a magnetic stirbar were added α -bromo ester 6a (36 g, 77.8 mmol, 1.0 equiv), aldehyde **6b**³⁸ (16.9 g, 88.5 mmol, 1.14 equiv), and bisoxazoline ligand **A** (2.79 g, 7.8 mmol, 10 mol%), followed by 972 mL of THF (0.08M). The solution was cooled to -78 $^{\circ}$ C in a dry ice/acetone bath and diethyl zinc (1 M in hexanes, 233.3 mL, 233.3 mmol, 3.0 equiv) was added dropwise *via* additional funnel. Upon completion of the addition, the mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 4 hrs (time necessary for full consumption of starting material at 10 mol% ligand). The reaction was then carefully quenched at -78 °C with a 3M methanolic HCl solution (6 equiv) and warmed to room temperature. The mixture was then diluted with EtOAc and sat. aq. NH4Cl and the aqueous layer extracted 3 times with EtOAc. The combined organic layers were then washed with a 10% CuSO⁴ solution to remove ligand, followed by a 2M HCl wash to remove any residual zinc or copper salts. Finally, the organic layer was washed with saturated NaHCO₃ (aq.), brine, and then dried over Na₂SO₄ before being filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude reaction mixture (2.3:1 *dr*, 92% *ee*) was used in the subsequent reaction. The yield of the mixture of diastereomers was calculated to be 64% from an internal standard (1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene) added to the crude NMR; the yield of the desired *anti*diastereomer was calculated to be 44% and the yield of the *syn*-diastereomer was calculated to be 20%.

Diastereomers were inseparable *via* silica gel chromatography and were ultimately separated by preparative HPLC for characterization purposes. However, for material throughput purposes, they were carried into the subsequent reaction together, after which they were easily separable by column chromatography or recrystallization.

Note: A major byproduct of the reaction is the proto-debrominated starting material.

(±)-7: Reformatsky (racemic)

 A solution of **6a** (23.8 g, 51.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in 25 mL of THF was added to a flame-dried 2-liter round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stirbar and backfilled with argon. The solution was treated with SmI₂ (0.1 M THF sol. 1-liter, 100) mmol, 1.95 equiv) via a cannula at – 78 ˚C. After addition of the SmI² solution, **6b** (11.8 g, 61.6 mmol, 1.2 equiv) was added slowly at -78 °C and stirred for 10 min at -78 °C. The reaction was quenched with AcOH (3.52 mL, 61.6 mmol, 1.2 equiv) at $-$ 78 ˚C, followed by the addition of *sat.* NH4Cl *aq.* (150 ml) and subsequent warming to room temperature*.* Saturated Na2S2O³ (*aq.)* (150 mL) was added and the solution was stirred for 10 minutes before the mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* until aprroximately 200 mL of THF remained. The resulting mixture was diluted with 800 mL of EtOAc and the organic layer was washed with 1 M HCl, *sat.* Na₂S₂O₃ *aq.* and H₂O (2 times), dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was semi-purified by flash column chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc = 5:1) to provide a semi-pure **7**.

Note: We found that the addition of *sat*. Na₂S₂O₃ *aq*_{*.*} was crucial after the Reformatsky reaction was quenched to reduce any iodine that is generated *in situ*. The solution turns from a dark brown color to a light yellow color after addition of *sat*. Na₂S₂O₃ aq. Concentration of the crude mixture after work-up without the addition of *sat*. Na₂S₂O₃ *ag*. lead to complete decomposition of the product on scales larger than 25 mmol.

*Anti***-(–)-7**

(–)-8: Giese Reaction

Scheme S6: Diastereoselectivity model for the Giese reaction

A 1-liter oven dried 3-neck flask was equipped with a reflux condenser, a 250 mL oven-dried addition funnel, a magnetic stirbar, and a septum. The flask was then charged with crude **(–)-7** followed by 390 mL of anhydrous toluene. The mixture was then heated to 85 °C and then a solution of Bu₃SnH (31.5 mL, 116.7 mmol, 1.5 equiv) and AIBN (1.3g, 7.8 mmol, 0.1 equiv) in toluene (100 mL) was slowly added dropwise via the addition funnel over 1 hour. Once the solution had finished adding to the reaction, the addition funnel was rinsed with one portion of toluene (10 ml) and then stirred for an additional 30 min at 85 ˚C. Once TLC had indicated that the SM was consumed, the mixture was removed from the oil bath and allowed to cool to room temperature. The resulting mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* in a **well-ventilated** fume hood. The Bu₃SnH and its byproducts were removed by passing the material through a plug of 10% KF impregnated silica (hexanes/EtOAc = 8:1 \rightarrow 1:1). After concentrating the filtered material *in vacuo*, the yield of the desired cyclopentene diastereomer was calculated to be 60% *via* addition of an internal standard (1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene) to the crude NMR. Recrystallization of the crude mixture from hot $Et_2O/$ pentane (1:4) provided (–)-**8** as a white crystalline solid in excellent *ee* (8.050 g, 16.23 mmol, 2 steps, 21 %, >99% *ee*).

Note: When we performed this two-step sequence using the racemic procedure, we obtained an isolated yield of 12.3 g of **8** after the radical conjugate addition (54% yield over 2 steps after column chromatography). However, **8** can be purified without chromatography *via* recrystallization from hot Et₂O/pentanes 1:4 to afford a white powder in 39% yield over 2 steps. Recovery and concentration of the mother liquor shows a complex mixture of **8** and uncharacterized byproducts from which **8** could not be recovered.

(+)-9: Mukaiyama Hydration

 A one liter oven-dried round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with **8** (8.050g, 16.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv). To the flask was then added 320 mL of methyl-cyclohexane, $Mn(dpm)$ (980 mg, 1.62 mmol, 0.1 equiv), triphenylphosphine (6.34 g, 24.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv), and the solution was placed under an O_2 atmosphere (balloon). The reaction was heated to 50 °C followed by the dropwise addition of monoisopropoxy(phenyl)silane (8.9 mL, 48.3 mmol, 3 equiv). The mixture was then stirred under an oxygen atmosphere for 1.5 hrs. After completion, the reaction was cooled to 0 °C and quenched with a freshly prepared 10% (aq.) solution of KF (150 mL), extracted 3 times with EtOAc and dried over Na₂S₂O₄. The crude mixture was filtered through a celite plug and eluted with EtOAc to remove any remaining Mn salts and then concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified *via* flash column chromatography (Et₂O/Hexanes 2:3) to provide 9 as a colorless oil (5.58 g, 10.9 mmol, 67 %) (*d.r.* = 3:1).

(+)-10 and (+)-11: Oxetane-acetal Formation

 To a 14.7 mL solution of THF/H2O (2:1) in a 50 mL round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stirbar was added **9** (5.34 g, 10.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and **(–)-B**³⁶ (730 mg, 1.04 mmol, 0.1 equiv.) and the reaction was stirred for 12 hours at room temperature. The reaction was monitored by TLC and upon completion was diluted with EtOAc and the layers were separated. The aqueous phase was extracted 3 times with EtOAc and then the combined organic layers were dried with Na2SO4, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (Hexanes/EtOAc 2:1) to provide **10** as a colorless viscous oil (3.55 g, 7.4 mmol, 71% yield).

Re-isolation of the chiral phosphoric acid (XcPA):

 After the endo product **10** had finished eluting off the column, the eluent was increased to (Hexanes/EtOAc 1:1) in order to isolate **11** as a colorless viscous oil. The column was subsequently flushed with two column volumes of DCM and then 1:19 MeOH/DCM was used to elute the XcPA **B** as a pale yellow solid. The XcPA should be dissolved in DCM and washed with 6M HCl prior to use.

endo (+)-10

Scheme S7: Diastereoselectivity model for the alkynylation

IBX oxidation

A solution of **10** (172 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and freshly prepared IBX (301 mg, 1.074 mmol, 3 equiv) in 3.0 mL of DMSO was stirred for 2.5 h at 22 °C in a 10 mL round bottom equipped with a magnetic stirbar. The solution was then cooled to 0 °C followed by the slow addition of *sat.* Na2S2O³ *aq.* (3.0 mL) and EtOAc (15.0 mL). The organic layer was subsequently washed with H2O 4 times and then dried over Na2SO4, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to give crude **SI-4**.

TMS-EBX alkynylation

A flame-dried 25 mL round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stirbar was charged with TMS-EBX (370 mg, 1.074 mmol, equiv) followed by a solution of crude **SI-4** in 7.16 mL of THF. The solution was cooled to –78 ˚C followed by addition of TBAF (1.0 M in THF, 1.07 mL, 1.074 mmol, 3 equiv), and then the solution was warmed slowly to –20 °C over 1hr. *Note: The reaction precipitates a brown solid which can cause the reaction to stop stirring, so a mechanical stirring apparatus is recommended*. Once the solution had reached -20 °C the reaction was monitored by TLC and once SM was consumed the reaction was quenched with *sat.* NH₄Cl *ag.* and warmed to room temperature. The layers were separated, and the aqueous phase was extracted 3 times with EtOAc. The organic layers were combined, and then washed with *sat*. NaHCO₃ *aq.* (1x) and H₂O (2x), dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to give afford **SI-5**. The crude mixture was dissolved in Et₂O and then filtered through a fritted funnel to remove insoluble salts that affect the next reaction.

Note: Filtration of the crude material through a silica, florisil, or celite plug led to decomposition of **SI-5** via elimination of the oxetane acetal. The insoluble salts *do not* have to be removed; *however*, if they are not, a large excess of SmI² must be used in the subsequent reaction.

Note: This alkynylated intermediate is highly unstable and cannot be purified. The ketone should be immediately reduced using the procedure that follows to provide a stable secondary alcohol that can be purified.

SmI2-mediated ketone reduction

A solution of crude **SI-5** in 1.0 mL of THF and 1.0 mL of degassed H2O were added to a 100 mL round bottom flask under an argon atmosphere. The solution was then cooled to 0° C, treated with SmI₂ (0.1 M in THF, 30 mL, 3.0 mmol, 8.4 equiv), and stirred for 30 mins at 0 ˚C. EtOAc (120 mL) was then added and the reaction was transferred to a separatory funnel. The organic layer was washed sequentially with 1 M HCl and H₂O, followed by Na₂S₂O₃ and H₂O again, before being dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc = 5:1 \rightarrow 4:1) to provide **12** as a colorless oil (111 mg, 0.22 mmol, 3 steps, 61%).

Note: When this three-step sequence was performed on a scale of 5.16 mmol, the alkynylation reaction did not go to completion do to the formation of an unstirrable slurry as the reaction warmed from -78 °C to -20 °C. As a consequence of this, only 1.0g of pure **12** was isolated after flash column chromatography (1.0g, 1.96 mmol, 3 steps, 38%).

Note: On larger scales (e.g. greater than 1 mmol), the pure material is contaminated with benzyl alcohol, likely from ester hydrolysis. The benzyl alcohol can be azeotroped away from the pure product by concentrating the oil with a 2:1 mixture of H2O:MeCN at least 3 times.

 $[\alpha]_{D}^{20}$ +26.9 (*c* = 1.0, CHCl₃)

Scheme S8: A possible reaction mechanism for alkyne oxidation.

A solution of **12** (100.0 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in 2.0 mL of THF was added to a flame dried reaction vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar. The solution was cooled to -78 °C followed by addition of LHMDS (1.0M in THF, 600 µL, 0.6 mmol, 3 equiv), and the solution was stirred for 1 hr at 0 °C. B(OMe)₃ (111 μ L, 1.0 mmol, 5 equiv) was added and the resulting solution was warmed to room temperature and stirred for 1.5 hrs. The solution was cooled to 0 °C and then *m*-CPBA (100%, 172 mg, 1.0 mmol, 5 equiv) was added portionwise (*Note: The reaction exotherms violently if mCPBA is added in a single portion),* and the reaction was stirred for 30 min. The reaction was quenched with *sat.* NH4Cl *aq.* and extracted 3 times with EtOAc. The organic layer was then washed 1 time with *sat.* Na₂S₂O₃ *aq.*, 1 time with *sat.* NaHCO₃ *aq.*, 1 time with 3 M HCl, and then dried with Na₂SO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc = 5:1 \rightarrow 4:1) to provide **13** as a colorless oil (57 mg, 0.11 mmol, 55 %)

(–)-5: Global Deprotection to 10-Des-hydroxybilobalide

 A reaction vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with a solution of **13** (50.0 mg, 0.0957 mmol) in 1.1 mL of MeOH and Pd/C (10%, 6.0 mg). The vial was evacuated under vacuum, backfilled with H₂, and then stirred under a H₂ atmosphere for 2h at 22 °C. After the starting material had been completely consumed, the flask was placed under vacuum to remove the H₂ atmosphere and backfilled with N₂. This process was repeated three times to ensure all the H₂ had been removed. 2.0 mL of 3M HCl was then added to the mixture and the reaction was heated to 80 ˚C overnight open to air. The resulting mixture was filtered off through a Celite pad and washed with MeOH. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* and azeotroped two times with toluene to provide **5** as a light brown solid (26.5 mg, 0.0861 mmol, 90% yield).

Note: Compound **5** does not stain under any traditional staining methods. In order to develop TLC's with **5** the compound must be run up the plate in Hexanes/Acetone (3:2) followed by direct heating of the TLC plate on a hot plate at 350 °C for 10 minutes, after which a brown spot will appear on the plate, which indicates **5** (This new band is also UV active and stains with KMnO4, or anisaldehyde). This method is used to locate **5** when running a preparative TLC plate. A thin portion of the plate is cut off with a TLC cutter and then heated as mentioned above to locate 5. The R_f is marked and then the appropriate band is cut from the remainder of the undeveloped preparative TLC plate. Due to the unique solubility profile of **5**, column chromatography was unsuccessful to purify the product. However, on larger scales triturating the crude mixture 3 times with Et₂O afforded the pure product. The Et2O was then concentrated *in vacuo* and **5** was then purified from the mixture *via* pTLC.

 To a flame dried reaction vial containing a magnetic stirbar was transferred *des-*hydroxybilobalide **5** (3 mg, 0.00967 mmol). To remove any trace water, the starting material was azeotroped with toluene at least three times by heating to 80 °C under a strong positive pressure of dry N_2 until all solvent was evaporated and only a white solid remained in the flask. The reaction was then placed back under high vacuum. DMAP (1.8 mg, 0.0145 mmol, 1.5 equiv) and benzoic anhydride (3.3 mg, 0.0145 mmol, 1.5 equiv) were added, and the vial was evacuated and backfilled three times with dry argon gas followed by addition of 0.38 mL of THF. The reaction was then heated to 60 °C until the starting material was fully consumed, resulting in the formation of a new spot representing the benzoyl-iso-deshydroxy-bilobalide (intermediate **16c)**. The same staining procedure for **5** had to be applied for **1** as well, since both **16c** and **1** do not stain under any traditional methods. At this point, the reaction was cooled to room temperature, and then to -78 °C followed by the addition of a KHMDS solution (0.1 ml, 0.029mmol, 3 equiv). After stirring for 1 hour at -78 °C, Davis reagent was added dropwise from a stock solution in THF (7.6 mg/50 µL THF, 0.029 mmol, 3 equiv) and the resulting mixture was stirred for additional 2 hours (the conversion was lower after 1 hour, but did not increase after 2 hours) at -78 °C. At this point, the reaction was quenched with 3.0M methanolic HCl (33 µL, 0.0967 mmol, 10 equiv) and warmed to room temperature. Aqueous 3M HCl (0.3 mL) was then added and the reaction was heated to 85 °C for 24 hours to deprotect and isomerize all material in the *iso*-bilobalide form, back to the bilobalide scaffold. The reaction was then concentrated and the yield of **1** (49%, 0.00474 mmol, 73% *brsm*) was obtained *via* NMR with dibromomethane as an internal standard made as a stock solution in acetone-d₆ in a 1 mL volumetric flask.

Note: Formation of *neo*-bilobalide (15) often arises as a regiochemical byproduct of this reaction when enough care is not taken to effectively purify all reagents and remove any trace of water from the reaction. This is likely due to hydrolysis of the benzoate and re-formation of *des*-OH-bilobalide from which *neo-*bilobalide is known to form under these reaction conditions from our own experiments. Further study of this process and of the intracacies of this reaction are underway.

*Notes on the oxidation of des-hydroxy-bilobalide to bilobalide***:** Both the regioselectivity and yield of this reaction were sensitive to reagent quality, as well as thorough exclusion of water from the reaction. DMAP was recrystallized from hot toluene and then cooling to -20 \degree C overnight. Bz₂O was purified by dissolving the commercial material in Et₂O and then washing 3 times with NaHCO₃. The organic layer was then dried with MgSO₄ and concentrated to afford a solid white powder free of any detectable benzoic acid. The reaction never exceeded 50% conversion by crude NMR, and yields and selectivities were best on small scale. *Notes on the purification of bilobalide from the reaction***:** Due to the high solubility of **1** in water, the crude reactions were directly concentrated and then semi-purified by pTLC (3:1 DCM/Acetone) to remove some of the oxaziridine byproducts. The semi-pure material was then purified by preparative HPLC, followed by 3 additional purifications *via* pTLC to afford pure bilobalide (0.7 mg, 0.00215 mmol, 22.2% isolated yield). The low isolated yield is attributed to material loss from iterative purifications. Mass-directed preparative HPLC conditions: Waters Autopurification LC with a Waters BEH C13 Column (5 mm, 19x160 mm) using a 0.1% aqueous formic acid:acetonitrile gradient (30 mL/min, main segment of gradient at 10-25% acetonitrile over 8 minutes) at ambient temperature. Fractionation was triggered by a Waters QDa single quadrupole mass spec (ESI+).

Table S1: Comparison of ¹H and ¹³C NMR data for Authentic vs. Synthetic (–)-bilobalide

 $(-)$ -bilobalide

Comparison of 13C NMR data for Authentic vs. Synthetic (–)-bilobalide

 To a flame dried reaction vial containing a magnetic stirbar was added *des*hydroxybilobalide **5** (3 mg, 0.0097 mmol, 1.0 equiv)**,** EDCI (4.51 mg, 0.029 mmol, 3.0 equiv), benzoic acid (3.54 mg, 0.029 mmol, 3.0 equiv), and DMAP (3 mg, 0.00967 mmol), followed by addition of DCM (0.1M) at room temperature. The reaction was stirred at room temperature until the starting material was consumed, after which the reaction was concentrated and loaded directly onto a preparative TLC plate for purification (40% acetone/hexanes) to afford **16c** as a white solid and in quantitative conversion.

Similar to the procedure shown on S18 for the hydroxylation of $(-)$ -5, 16c can be isolated and subsequently hydroxylated using KHMDS and Davis oxaziridine to provide the same ratio of bilobalide to *neo*-bilobalide (91:9), as shown in Figure 3 of the manuscript.

16b: TBS protection of 5

 To a flame dried reaction vial containing a magnetic stirbar was added *des*hydroxybilobalide **5** (3 mg, 0.0097 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and DCM (0.1M). 2,6-lutidine (2.25 μ L, 0.019 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and TBSOTf (4.37 μ L, 0.019 mmol, 2.0 equiv) were then added at room temperature and the reaction was stirred until starting material was fully consumed, after which the reaction was concentrated and loaded directly onto a preparative TLC plate for purification (40% acetone/hexanes) to afford **16b** as a colorless oil and in quantitative conversion.

Rf ¹H NMR 0.50 (hexanes: acetone $= 2:1$, UV detection after heating over 15 min. on TLC plate) (600 MHz, acetone-*d*6) δ 6.11 (s, 1H), 4.68 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 3.28 (d, *J* = 18.2 Hz, 1H), 3.07 (d, *J* = 18.2 Hz, 1H), 2.84 (d, *J* = 18.6 Hz, 1H), 2.78 (dd, *J* = 15.2, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 2.76 (d, *J* = 18.2 Hz, 1H), 2.72 (dd, *J* = 15.1, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 1.14 (s, 9H), 0.93 (s, 9H), 0.19 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 6H).

15: alpha-hydroxylation to *neo***-bilobalide**

To a flame dried reaction vial containing a magnetic stirbar was transferred *des*hydroxybilobalide **5** (3 mg, 0.0097 mmol). To remove any trace water, the starting material was azeotroped with toluene at least three times by heating to 80 °C under a strong positive pressure of dry N_2 until all solvent was evaporated and only a white solid remained in the flask. The reaction vial was placed under an argon atmosphere and then THF (300 μ L) was added. The reaction was cooled to -78 °C followed by the addition of a KHMDS solution (0.19M in THF, 0.1 ml, 0.019mmol, 2 equiv). After stirring for 1 hour at -78 °C, Davis reagent was added dropwise from a stock solution in THF (7.6 mg/50 µL THF, 0.019 mmol, 2 equiv) and the resulting mixture was stirred for additional 2 hours at -78 °C. At this point, the reaction was quenched with 3.0M methanolic HCl (33 μ L, 0.0967 mmol, 10 equiv) and warmed to room temperature. Aqueous 3M HCl (0.3 mL) was then added and the reaction was heated to 85 °C for 24 hours to deprotect and isomerize all material in the *iso*-bilobalide form, back to the bilobalide scaffold. The reaction was then concentrated, and the crude NMR showed the ratio of **15** to **1** to be 100:1.

To a flame dried reaction vial containing a magnetic stirbar was transferred *des*hydroxybilobalide **5** (4.1 mg, 0.00967 mmol). To remove any trace water, the starting material was azeotroped with toluene at least three times by heating to 80 °C under a strong positive pressure of dry N_2 until all solvent was evaporated and only a white solid remained in the flask. The reaction vial was placed under an argon atmosphere and then THF (300 µL) was added. The reaction was cooled to -78 °C followed by the addition of a KHMDS solution (0.15M in THF, 0.1 ml, 0.015 mmol, 1.5 equiv). After stirring for 1 hour at -78 °C, Davis reagent was added dropwise from a stock solution in THF $(3.8 \text{ mg}/50 \mu L)$ THF, 0.015 mmol, 1.5 equiv) and the resulting mixture was stirred for additional 2 hours at -78 °C. At this point, the reaction was quenched with 3.0M methanolic HCl (33 µL, 0.0967 mmol, 10 equiv) and warmed to room temperature. Aqueous 3M HCl (0.3 mL) was then added and the reaction was heated to 85 °C for 24 hours to deprotect and isomerize all material in the *iso*-bilobalide form, back to the bilobalide scaffold. The reaction was then concentrated, and the crude NMR showed the ratio of **15** to **1** to be 94:6.

SI-6: Skeleton rearrangement to form *iso***-bilobalide**

To an oven-dried NMR-tube was added (-)-1 (2.0mg, 0.0061 mmol) followed by CDCl₃ (500µL) and was subsequently capped with an NMR tube septum. DBU (0.84µL, 0.0061 mmol) was added as a stock solution in 100µL of CDCl₃ to the NMR tube and the spectrum was taken within 5 minutes of preparing the sample. The product observed in non-isolable, and decomposes back to starting material immediately upon acidification. Structure assignment was determined by homology to the known *iso*bilobalide scaffold as well as 2D NMR (see pages S45-S49). All attemps to recrystallize the product resulted in the isolation of an amorphous solid.

Gamma-lactones lacking an inductively withdrawn group Average = 1.460 Average = 1.350

Gamma-lactones containing an inductively withdrawn group

Average = 1.422 Average = 1.361

Table S2: Bond lengths of a representative example of gamma-lactones lacking an inductively withdrawn group vs those containing an inductively withdrawn group.

The .cif files for compounds **SI-7** 39 , **SI-8** 40 , **SI-9** 41 , **SI-10**⁴² , **SI-11** 43 , **SI-12** 44 , **SI-13** 45 , **SI-14** 46 , were obtained from the Crystallography Open Database which can be accessed at<http://www.crystallography.net/cod/>

4. NMR Spectra

(±)-6, ¹H NMR, 600MHz, CDCl3, major isomer's peaks are integrated

$(-)$ -8, ¹H NMR, 600MHz, CDCl₃

(+)-14, 1 H NMR, 600MHz, CDCl₃

S38

$(+)$ -10, ¹H NMR, 600MHz, CDCl₃

16b, 1 H NMR, 600MHz, acetone-d₆

$\mathbf{SI\text{-}6},\,{}^{1}\mathrm{H}$ NMR, 600MHz, CDCl3

S58

S59

5. X-Ray Data for bilobalide intermediates

(–)-8 Giese Reaction

Table S3. Crystal data and structure refinement for Shenvi164.

Report date 2019-02-22 Identification code shenvil 64 Empirical formula C29 H36 O7 Molecular formula C29 H36 O7 Formula weight 496.58
Temperature 100.0 K Temperature 100.0 K
Wavelength 1.54178 Å Wavelength Crystal system Monoclinic

Space group P 1 21 1 Space group

Volume $1288.20(4)$ \AA^3 $Z \hspace{2.5cm} 2$ Density (calculated) 1.280 Mg/m³
Absorption coefficient 0.739 mm⁻¹ Absorption coefficient F(000) 532 Crystal size $0.215 \times 0.125 \times 0.1$ mm³ Crystal color, habit colorless block Theta range for data collection 3.983 to 71.019°. Reflections collected 11031 Independent reflections 4674 [R(int) = 0.0197] Completeness to theta = 67.500° 99.7 %
Absorption correction Semi-e Max. and min. transmission 0.7534 and 0.6507 Refinement method Full-matrix least-squares on $F²$ Data / restraints / parameters 4674 / 1 / 331 Goodness-of-fit on F^2

Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)] $R1 = 0.0245$, wR2 = 0.0633 Final R indices $[I>2$ sigma $(I)]$ R indices (all data) $R1 = 0.0248$, $wR2 = 0.0635$ Absolute structure parameter $-0.01(3)$ Largest diff. peak and hole 0.259 and -0.159 e. \AA^{-3}

Unit cell dimensions $a = 10.5436(2)$ Å $\alpha = 90^\circ$. $b = 11.0100(2)$ Å $\beta = 109.0470(10)^\circ$. $c = 11.7398(2)$ Å $\gamma = 90^{\circ}$. Index ranges $-10 \leq h \leq 12$, $-13 \leq k \leq 13$, $-14 \leq k \leq 13$ Semi-empirical from equivalents

Table S4. Crystal data and structure refinement for shenvi158_0m_a. Identification code

Empirical formula

C30 H34 O7 Empirical formula Formula weight 506.57 Temperature 100.0 K
Wavelength 0.71073 Å Wavelength Crystal system Monoclinic Space group P 21/c [racemic] Unit cell dimensions $a = 8.7120(4)$ Å $\alpha = 90^{\circ}$.

Volume $2556.0(2)$ \AA^3 $Z \qquad \qquad 4$ Density (calculated) 1.316 Mg/m³ Absorption coefficient 0.093 mm⁻¹
F(000) 1080 $F(000)$ Crystal size $0.33 \times 0.32 \times 0.30 \text{ mm}^3$ Theta range for data collection 2.749 to 27.132°. Reflections collected 17895 Independent reflections 5638 [R(int) = 0.0588] Completeness to theta = 25.242° 99.9 % Absorption correction Semi-empirical from equivalents Max. and min. transmission 0.7455 and 0.6948 Refinement method Full-matrix least-squares on $F²$ Data / restraints / parameters 5638 / 0 / 339 Goodness-of-fit on F^2 1.010 Final R indices $[I>2sigma(I)]$ R1 = 0.0480, wR2 = 0.0917 R indices (all data) $R1 = 0.0873$, $wR2 = 0.1068$ Extinction coefficient n/a

Largest diff. peak and hole 0.332 and -0.261 e. \AA^{-3} Largest diff. peak and hole

 $b = 22.5701(10)$ Å $\beta = 100.619(3)^\circ$. $c = 13.2257(6)$ Å $\gamma = 90^{\circ}$. Index ranges $-11 \leq h \leq 11$, $-28 \leq k \leq 28$, $-15 \leq k \leq 16$

Table S5. Crystal data and structure refinement for Shenvi163.

Report date 2019-02-22 Identification code shenvi 163 Empirical formula C15 H20 O8 Molecular formula C15 H18 O7, H2 O Formula weight 328.31 Temperature 100.0 K Wavelength 1.54178 Å Crystal system Monoclinic Space group P 1 21 1

Volume $749.05(4)$ \AA^3 $Z \hspace{2.5cm} 2$ Density (calculated) 1.456 Mg/m³
Absorption coefficient 1.013 mm⁻¹ Absorption coefficient F(000) 348 Crystal size $0.2 \times 0.16 \times 0.04$ mm³ Crystal color, habit colorless plate Theta range for data collection 5.346 to 68.369°. Reflections collected 7420 Independent reflections 2652 [R(int) = 0.0214]
Completeness to theta = 67.500° 99.7 % Completeness to theta = 67.500° Absorption correction

Max. and min. transmission
 0.7531 and 0.6695 Max. and min. transmission Refinement method Full-matrix least-squares on $F²$ Data / restraints / parameters 2652 / 1 / 215 Goodness-of-fit on F^2 1.051 Final R indices $[I>2sigma(I)]$ $R1 = 0.0244$, $wR2 = 0.0620$ R indices (all data) $R1 = 0.0249$, $wR2 = 0.0623$ Absolute structure parameter $0.04(5)$
Largest diff. peak and hole 0.182 and -0.152 e. Å⁻³ Largest diff. peak and hole

Unit cell dimensions $a = 6.4622(2)$ Å $\alpha = 90^{\circ}$. $b = 14.0095(4)$ Å $\beta = 109.8840(10)^\circ$. $c = 8.7984(2)$ Å $\gamma = 90^{\circ}$. Index ranges $-7 \leq h \leq 7, -16 \leq k \leq 16, -10 \leq k \leq 10$

Volume $1940.8(4)$ \AA^3 $Z \qquad \qquad 4$ Density (calculated) 1.418 Mg/m³ Absorption coefficient 0.109 mm⁻¹ F(000) 872 Crystal size $0.28 \times 0.26 \times 0.04 \text{ mm}^3$ Theta range for data collection 1.445 to 25.373°. Reflections collected 6293 Independent reflections 3473 [R(int) = 0.0385] Completeness to theta $= 25.242^{\circ}$ 98.2 % Max. and min. transmission 0.2589 and 0.2076 Refinement method Full-matrix least-squares on $F²$ Data / restraints / parameters 3473 / 0 / 274 Goodness-of-fit on F^2 1.007 Final R indices $[I>2sigma(I)]$ R1 = 0.0542, wR2 = 0.1189 R indices (all data) $R1 = 0.1041$, $wR2 = 0.1338$ Extinction coefficient n/a
Largest diff. peak and hole 0.301 and -0.250 e. \AA^{-3} Largest diff. peak and hole

 $9(16)$ Å $\beta = 105.350(3)^\circ$. $c = 8.9641(9)$ Å $\gamma = 90^{\circ}$. Index ranges $-14 \leq h \leq 17, -17 \leq k \leq 12, -10 \leq l \leq 10$ Absorption correction Semi-empirical from equivalents

Chiral SFC Traces for (–)-7

2D LC-SFC Conditions (heart-cutting method): LC Dimension: 0.1% aqueous formic acid:acetonitrile gradient (0.6 mL/min, 15-99% acetonitrile over 2.1 minutes) at 55 °C. The heart cut was performed at 2.18 minutes using a 6-port 2-position valve equipped with a 10 mL transfer loop; SFC Dimension: isocratic conditions (4 mL/min, 15% MeOH / CO2, 1600 psi backpressure) at 30 °C. The enantiomers were detected by UV light (214 nm).

Chromatogram of (±)- **7**

Area Summarized by Name						
	SampleName ent1 ent2 ee Ent1					Ent ₂
	1 SHE0110 SFC 50.22 49.78 0.43 412275 408731					

Chromatogram of enantioenriched (–)-**7** following large-scale asymmetric Reformatsky reaction

Chiral SFC Traces for (–)-8

Chiral SFC conditions: Isocratic conditions (4 mL/min, 25% MeOH / CO₂, 1600 psi backpressure) at 30 °C. The enantiomers were detected by UV light (214 nm).

Chromatogram of (±)-**8**

Chromatogram of enantipure **(–)-**8

 0.20

 0.40

 0.60

 0.80

 1.00

 0.00

Auto-Scaled Chromatogram

 1.20

Minutes

1.40

1.60

1.80

 2.00

 2.20

2.40

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