

Supporting Information

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1,3-Diethynylallenes (DEAs): Enantioselective Synthesis, Absolute Configuration, and Chiral Induction in 1,1,4,4-Tetracyanobuta-1,3dienes (TCBDs)

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Experimental section:

Materials and general methods:

Reagents and solvents were purchased at reagent grade from Acros, Aldrich, and Fluka, and used as received. THF was freshly distilled from Na/benzophenone under N₂. Toluene was freshly distilled from Na under N₂. Flash chromatography (FC) was carried out with SiO₂ 60 (particle size 0.040–0.063 mm, 230-400 mesh; Fluka) and distilled technical solvents. Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was conducted on aluminum sheets coated with SiO₂ 60 F254 obtained from Macherey-Nagel; visualization with a UV lamp (254 or 366 nm) and with a 10% solution of phosphomolybdic acid in ethanol. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were measured with a Varian Gemini 300, a Varian Mercury 300, or a Bruker ARX300 at 300 and 75 MHz, respectively. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm relative to the signal of Me₄Si. Residual solvent signals in the 1 H and 13 C NMR spectra were used as an internal reference. Coupling constants (J) are given in Hz. The apparent resonance multiplicity is described as s (singlet) or d (doublet). UV/Vis spectra were recorded with a Varian Cary-500 Scan spectrophotometer. The absorption wavelengths are reported in nm with the molar extinction coefficient ε (M⁻¹cm⁻¹) in brackets. High-resolution (HR) EI-MS spectra were measured with a Hitachi-Perkin-Elmer VG-Tribrid spectrometer. HR FT-MALDI spectra were measured with an IonSpec Ultima Fourier transform (FT) instrument with 3-hydroxypicolinic acid (3-HPA) as matrix. The most important signals are reported in m/z units with M^+ as the molecular ion. Elemental analyses were performed at the Laboratorium für Organische Chemie, ETH Zürich, with a LECO CHN/900 instrument.

Preparation and characterization of (*M*)-3,5-di-*tert*-butyl-1-(triisopropylsilyl)hepta-3,4-diene-1,6-diyne ((*M*)-4a)



To a solution of (*M*)-1a (73 mg, 0.17 mmol; e.r. 95:5) in THF (1.5 mL) and MeOH (1.5 mL), K₂CO₃ (26 mg, 0.19 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred at 25°C for 2 h. The mixture was partitioned between saturated aq. NH₄Cl solution and hexane. The aqueous phase was extracted with hexane, and the combined organic phases were dried (MgSO₄), followed by removal of the solvent under reduce pressure. (*M*)-4a (48 mg, 0.13 mmol, 79%; e.r. 95:5) was obtained as a pale yellow oil. $[\alpha]_D$: -125° (c = 1, CHCl₃). The spectroscopic data were identical to the reported ones.^[1]

Derivatization of (*P*)-4a with (*R*)-Mosher acid chloride: (2*R*,*P*)-6,8-di*tert*-butyl-1,1,1-trifluoro-10-triisopropylsilyl-2-methoxy-2-phenyldeca-6,7-dien-4,9-diyn-3-one



Allene (*P*)-4a (44 mg, 0.12 mmol, 1.0 equiv., $[\alpha]_D = +125^\circ$; e.r. 95:5) was dissolved in dry THF (1.5 mL) and hexane (1.5 mL) and cooled to -60 °C. *n*-BuLi (81 µL of a 1.6 M solution in hexane, 0.13 mmol, 1.05 equiv.) was added, followed by (*R*)-Mosher acid

chloride (44 μ L, 0.24 mmol, 1.9 equiv.) after a few minutes. The solution was slowly warmed to 0 °C then to 20 °C. Cyclohexane was added and the solution washed twice with H₂O. The organic layer was dried with Na₂SO₄ and evaporated under reduced pressure. The resulting oil was purified by flash-chromatography (SiO₂; cyclohexane/10% CH₂Cl₂). The ketone was obtained as colorless oil (22 mg, 37 μ mol, 31%; d.r. = 95:5). The ¹H NMR spectrum in C₆D₆ showed two distinct signals for the methoxy-groups of the 2 diastereoisomers.^[2]

¹H NMR spectrum for determination of the e.r.



Figure S1: ¹H NMR spectrum of Mosher ketone in C_6D_6 from entry 6, Table 1. E.r. 95:5.

Preparation and characterization of (*M*)-5,7-di-*tert*-butyl-2-methylnona-5,6-diene-3,8-diyn-2-ol ((*M*)-4b)



To a solution of (*M*)-1b (62 mg, 0.15 mmol; e.r. 96:4) in THF (2 mL), *n*-Bu₄NF (150 µL, 1M, 0.15 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred at 25°C for 2 h. Removal of the solvent under reduced pressure and purification by FC on SiO₂ (hexane/10% AcOEt) gave (*M*)-4b (31 mg, 0.12 mmol, 79%; e.r. 96:4) as a pale yellow oil. $[\alpha]_D = -98^\circ$ (c = 1, CHCl₃). HPLC on the chiral stationary phase (CSP) WHELK-O1 (hexane/0.25% *i*PrOH) showed an e.r. of 96:4. The spectroscopic data were identical to the reported ones.^[3]

Optical resolution of (±)-4b by HPLC on a CSP



Figure S2. Recycling HPLC of (±)-4b on the CSP WHELK-O1 (hexane/0.25% *i*PrOH).



Figure S3. CD spectrum of (P)-4b (e.r. 100:0, gray line) and (M)-4b (e.r. 100:0, black line) in hexane.



Figure S4. Recycling HPLC of (*M*)-4b on the CSP WHELK-O1 (hexane/0.25% *i*PrOH) from entry 3, Table 1.

Preparation and characterization of (*M*,*M*)-3,5,10,12-tetra-*tert*-butyl-1,14-bis(triisopropylsilyl)tetradeca-3,4,10,11-tetraene-1,6,8,13-tetrayne ((*M*,*M*)-5)



The compound was prepared from (M)-4a ($[\alpha]_{D} = -125^{\circ}$ (c = 1, CHCl₃); e.r. 95:5) as reported in the literature.^[2] (*M*,*M*)-5: M.p. 124°C, $[\alpha]_{D} = -234^{\circ}$, (*c* = 1, CHCl₃), d.r. = 90.25 ((M,M)-5) : 9.5 ((M,P)-5) : 0.25 ((P,P)-5) is expected for an unselective homocoupling reaction. X-ray analysis of (M,M)-5: the structure was solved by direct methods (SIR-97)^[4] and refined by full-matrix least-squares analysis (SHELXL-97),^[5] using an isotropic extinction correction. All heavy atoms were refined anisotropically; H atoms were refined isotropically, whereby H-positions are based on stereochemical considerations. Crystal data at 160(2) K for $C_{48}H_{78}Si_2$, $M_r = 711.28$ monoclinic, space group P2₁ (no. 4), $\rho_{\text{calcd}} = 0.963$ g cm⁻³, Z = 2, $a \Box = 9.1043(14)$, b = 10.8512(15), c =24.843(2) Å, V = 2453.5(5) Å³. Bruker-Nonius Kappa-CCD diffractometer, Mo_{Ka} radiation, $\lambda = 0.7107$ Å, $\mu = 0.100$ mm⁻¹. A colourless crystal (linear dimensions ca. 0.31 x 0.28 x 0.02 mm) was obtained by slow diffusion of MeOH into a solution of (M,M)-5 in hexane at 20°C. Number of measured and unique reflections are 6167. Final R(F) = 0.062, $wR(F^2) = 0.148$ for 476 parameters, 1 restraint and 5277 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$ and $2.24 < \theta < 23.52^{\circ}$ (corresponding *R* values based on all 6167 reflections are 0.077 and 0.157, respectively). CCDC-691335 contains the supplementary crystallographic data of (M,M)-5. This data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Center via www.ccdc.cam.a-c.uk/data/cif.



Figure S5. CD spectrum of (M,M)-5, d.r. = 90.25 ((M,M)-5) : 9. 5 ((M,P)-5) : 0.25 ((P,P)-5) is expected for an unselective homocoupling reaction, (black line) and (P,P)-5, d.r. = 90.25 ((P,P)-5) : 9. 5 ((M,P)-5) : 0.25 ((M,M)-5) is expected for an unselective homocoupling reaction, (gray line) top and UV/Vis spectra (bottom) recorded in hexane, T = 298 K.

Preparation and characterization of 3,3'-((*M*)-2,2,6,6-tetramethylhepta-3,4-diene-3,5-diyl)bis{2-[4-(dimethylamino)phenyl]buta-1,3-diene-1,1,4,4-tetracarbonitrile} ((*M*)-6)



To a solution of (M)-9 (18 mg, 0.04 mmol) in CDCl₃ (2 mL), TCNE (15 mg, 0.12 mmol) was added and the mixture stirred at 25°C for 48 h. Removal of the solvent under reduced pressure and purification by FC on SiO₂ (CH₂Cl₂) gave (M)-6 (24 mg, 0.034 mmol, 86%) as a red solid. E.r. 91:9, determined by HPLC on the CSP WHELK-O1

(hexane/EtOH/MeOH 65:30:5)). M.p. >290°C (decomp); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 7.44$ (d, J = 9.1, 4H), 6.70 (d, J = 9.1, 4H), 3.04 (s, 12H), 0.81 (s, 18H); ¹³C NMR (75) MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 195.9, 166.4, 161.3, 154.0, 131.4, 116.8, 115.1, 113.2, 112.6, 112.2, 112.1, 109.6, 97.7, 83.6, 40.1, 38.3, 28.2; IR (neat): v = 2924, 2219, 1600, 1495, 1438, 1379, 1328, 1295, 1187 cm⁻¹; UV/Vis (CH₂Cl₂): λ (ε) = 260 (35300), 305 (16100), 392 (29100), 520 nm (15800); HR-MALDI-MS: m/z calcd. for C₄₃H₃₈N₁₀Na⁺: 717.3173; found: 717.3186 $[M+Na]^+$; X-Ray analysis of (±)-6: the structure was solved by direct methods (SIR-97)^[4] and refined by full-matrix least-squares analysis (SHELXL-97),^[5] using an isotropic extinction correction. All heavy atoms were refined anisotropically; H atoms were refined isotropically, whereby H-positions are based on stereochemical considerations. Crystal data at 170(2) K for $C_{43}H_{38}N_{10} \cdot 0.5$ (C_6H_{12}), Mr = 736.91 monoclinic, space group P2/c (no. 13), $\rho_{calcd} = 1.197$ g cm⁻³, Z = 4, $a \Box = 19.0008(16)$, b =11.5256(14), c = 19.2715(17) Å, V = 4088.7(7) Å³. Bruker-Nonius Kappa-CCD diffractometer, Mo_{Ka} radiation, $\lambda = 0.7107$ Å, $\mu = 0.074$ mm⁻¹. A red crystal (linear dimensions ca. 0.23 x 0.11 x 0.09 mm) was obtained by diffusion of cyclohexane into a solution of (\pm) -6 in CH₂Cl₂ at 20°C. Number of measured and unique reflections are 13597 and 7310, respectively ($R_{int} = 0.045$). Final R(F) = 0.064, w $R(F^2) = 0.162$ for 516 parameters and 5618 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$ and $3.22 < \theta < 25.68^{\circ}$ (corresponding R values based on all 7310 reflections are 0.086 and 0.180, respectively). CCDC-691333 contains the supplementary crystallographic data of (\pm) -6. This data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Center via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data/cif.

Confirmation of the CT absorptions of (\pm) -6 by acidification/reneutralization.



Figure S6. UV/Vis spectra of (\pm) -6 in CH₂Cl₂ (black line). Disappearance to a large extent of the CT absorption was observed when trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) was added to the solution (red line) and the original bands were completely recovered after neutralization with Et₃N (green line).

Resolution of (±)-6 by HPLC on a CSP



Figure S7. HPL chromatogram of (\pm) -6 on a preparative WHELK-O1 CSP (hexane/EtOH/MeOH 65:30:5).

Preparation and characterization of (*M*)-4-[3,5-di-*tert*-butyl-7-(triisopropylsilyl)hepta-3,4-dien-1,6-diynyl]-*N*,*N*-dimethylaniline ((*M*)-7)



A degassed solution of (*M*)-4a (650 mg, 1.82 mmol; e.r. 95:5), 4-iododimethylaniline (450 mg, 1.82 mmol), [PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂] (38 mg, 0.055 mmol), and CuI (21 mg, 0.11 mmol) in *i*Pr₂NH (10.0 mL) and THF (20.0 mL) was stirred at 40°C under N₂ for 5 h. Removal of the solvent under reduced pressure and purification by FC on SiO₂ (hexane/CH₂Cl₂ 10% \rightarrow 25%) gave (*M*)-7 (615 mg, 1.29 mmol, 71%, e.r. ≥91:9) as a yellow oil. [α]_D = -468°, (*c* = 1, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.35 (d, *J* = 7.0, 2H), 6.63 (d, *J* = 7.0, 2H), 2.99 (s, 6H), 1.22 (s, 9H), 1.21 (s, 9H), 1.13 (s, 21H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 211.5, 149.7, 132.4, 111.7, 110.7, 103.4, 103.3, 100.8, 93.6, 93.3, 80.8, 40.3, 35.9, 35.4, 29.2, 29.1, 18.8, 11.5; IR (neat): *v* =; 2944, 2865, 2199, 2141, 1609, 1523, 1461, 1361, 1235 cm⁻¹; UV/Vis (hexane): λ (ε) = 232 (19800), 242 (16600), 305 (24500), 320 nm (23600); HR-MALDI-MS: *m/z* calcd. for C₃₂H₅₀NSi⁺: 476.3707, found 476.3699 [M+H]⁺.

Preparation and characterization of (*M*)-4-(3,5-di-*tert*-butylhepta-3,4dien-1,6-diynyl)-*N*,*N*-dimethylaniline ((*M*)-8)



To a solution of (*M*)-7 (308 mg, 0.65 mmol) in THF (13 mL), *n*-BuLi (650 μ L, 1M, 0.65 mmol) was added and the mixture stirred at 25 °C for 2 h. Removal of the solvent under reduced pressure and purification by FC on SiO₂ (hexane/25% CH₂Cl₂) gave (*M*)-8 (170 mg, 0.53 mmol, 82%) as a yellow solid. M.p. 55°C; [α]_D = -253°, (c = 1, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 7.34$ (d, J = 7.0, 2H), 6.64 (d, J = 7.0, 2H), 3.00 (s, 1H), 2.98 (s, 6H), 1.22 (s, 9H), 1.19 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 211.6, 149.9, 132.5, 111.7, 110.6, 104.4, 101.8, 94.1, 80.4, 79.9, 78.0, 40.2, 35.7, 35.2, 29.0, 28.8; IR (neat): <math>v = 2964, 2901, 2866, 2806, 2569, 2198, 1769, 1618, 1522, 1475, 1448, 1360, 12226, 1190, 1060 cm⁻¹; UV/Vis (hexane): <math>\lambda$ (ε) = 222 (20300), 230 (16200), 306 (25600), 319 nm (25000); HR-EI-MS: m/z calcd. for C₂₃H₃₀N⁺: 320.2373; found: 320.2381 [M+H]⁺.

Preparation and characterization of (M)-4,4'-(3,5-di-*tert*-butylhepta-3,4dien-1,6-diyne-1,7-diyl)bis(N,N-dimethylaniline) ((M)-9) and 4,4'-((M,M)-3,5,10,12-tetra-*tert*-butyltetradeca-3,4,10,11-tetraen-1,6,8,13tetrayne-1,14-diyl)bis(N,N-dimethylaniline) ((M,M)-10)



A degassed solution of (M)-8 (150 mg, 0.47 mmol), 4-iododimethylaniline (116 mg, 0.47 mmol), [PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂] (10 mg, 0.014 mmol), and CuI (5 mg, 0.028 mmol) in *i*Pr₂NH (3.0 mL) and THF (6.0 mL) was stirred at 50 °C under N₂ for 1 h. Removal of the solvent under reduced pressure and purification by FC on SiO₂ (hexane/CH₂Cl₂ 10% \rightarrow 35%) gave (M)-9 (141 mg, 0.32 mmol, 69 %) and (M,M)-10 (28 mg, 0.044 mmol, 19 %) as colourless oils. Experimental data for (*M*)-9: $[\alpha]_D = -1121^\circ$, (*c* = 1, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR $(300 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3) \delta = 7.35 \text{ (d}, J = 7.0, 4\text{H}), 6.64 \text{ (d}, J = 7.0, 4\text{H}), 2.97 \text{ (s}, 12\text{H}), 1.24 \text{ (s}, 12\text{H}$ 18H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 210.9, 149.9, 132.5, 111.8, 111.0, 103.5, 93.3, 81.2, 40.2, 35.7, 29.1; IR (neat): v = 2960, 2924, 2854, 2360, 2340, 1770, 1760, 1463, 1377, 1244, 1057; UV/Vis (hexane): $\lambda (\varepsilon) = 218$ (26000), 308 (42900), 327 nm (49700); HR-MALDI-MS: m/z calcd. for C₃₁H₃₉N₂: 439.3108; found: 439.3106 [M+H]⁺; elemental analysis calc. (%) for C₃₁H₃₈N₂ (438.6): C 84.88, H 8.73, N 6.39; found: C 84.72, H 8.72, N 6.27. Experimental data for (M,M)-10: $[\alpha]_{D} = -616^{\circ}$, $(c = 1, CHCl_3)$; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.33 (d, J = 7.0, 4H), 6.62 (d, J = 7.0, 4H), 2.97 (s, 12H), 1.20 (s, 18H), 1.18 (s, 18H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 213.4, 150.0, 132.5, 111.8, 110.7, 104.8, 102.5, 94.5, 80.2, 76.8, 75.6, 40.2, 35.8, 35.8, 29.1, 29.0; IR (neat): v =2962, 2926, 2855, 2360, 2340, 1770, 1760, 1467, 1378, 1244, 1057; UV/Vis (hexane): λ $(\varepsilon) = 220 (31800), 247 (29300), 307 (42500), 327 nm (49700); HR-MALDI-MS:$ *m/z*calcd. for C₄₆H₅₇N₂: 637.4516; found: 637.4525 [M+H]⁺.

Photoisomerization of 4,4'-((*P*,*P*)-3,5,10,12-tetra-*tert*-butyltetradeca-3,4,10,11-tetraen-1,6,8,13-tetrayne-1,14-diyl)bis(*N*,*N*-dimethylaniline) ((*P*,*P*)-10) followed by CD spectroscopy



Figure S8. Photoracemization of (P,P)-10 upon exposure to daylight over various periods of time, monitored by CD spectroscopy in hexane.

Preparation and characterization of $3,3'-((M,M)-5,10-di-tert-butyl-2,2,13,13-tetramethyltetradeca-3,4,10,11-tetraen-6,8-diyne-3,12-diyl)bis{2-[4-(dimethylamino)phenyl]buta-1,3-diene-1,1,4,4-tetracarbonitrile} ((M,M)-11)$



To a solution of (*M*)-10 (28 mg, 0.044 mmol) in CDCl₃ (1 mL), TCNE (17 mg, 0.132 mmol) was added and the mixture stirred at 25°C for 12 h. Removal of the solvent under reduced pressure and purification by FC on SiO₂ (CH₂Cl₂) gave (M,M)-11 (34 mg, 0.038) mmol, 86%, d.r. 78 ((M,M)-11) : 20 ((M,P)-11) : 2 ((P,P)-11) determined by recycling HPLC on the CSP WHELK-O1 (hexane/55% CH₂Cl₂)) as a red solid. M.p. 128°C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.43 (d, J = 7.0, 4H), 6.70 (d, J = 7.0, 4H), 3.13 (s, 12H), 1.20 (s, 18H), 1.06 (s, 18H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 210.5, 165.4, 165.2, 154.1, 154.1, 131.8, 116.6, 115.1, 113.5, 111.9, 111.3, 110.9, 107.0, 94.1, 80.7, 77.2, 74.2, 40.1, 38.1, 36.5, 29.9, 28.7; IR (neat): v = 2969, 2883, 1960, 1603, 1468, 1379, 1240, 1057; UV/Vis (CH₂Cl₂): λ (ϵ) = 231 (46400), 250 (43800), 294 (26600), 390 (27200), 486 nm (18500); HR-ESI-MS: m/z calcd. for C₅₈H₅₆N₁₀Na: 915.4582; found: 915.4586 [M+Na]⁺; X-Ray analysis of (M,M)-11: the structure was solved by direct methods (SIR-97)^[4] and refined by full-matrix least-squares analysis (SHELXL-97).^[5] using an isotropic extinction correction. All heavy atoms were refined anisotropically; H atoms were refined isotropically, whereby H-positions are based on stereochemical considerations. Crystal data at 220(2) K for $C_{58}H_{56}N_{10}$ Mr = 893.13 orthorhombic, space group $P2_12_12_1$ (no. 19), $\rho_{\text{calcd}} = 1.117 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$, Z = 4, $a \square = 16.1159(11)$, b = 16.9569(11), c = 19.4347(13)Å, V = 5311.0(6) Å³. Bruker-Nonius Kappa-CCD diffractometer, Mo_{Ka} radiation, $\lambda =$ 0.7107 Å, $\mu = 0.068$ mm⁻¹. A red crystal (linear dimensions *ca*. 0.10 x 0.05 x 0.02 mm) was obtained by slow diffusion of MeOH into a solution of (M,M)-11 in CH₂Cl₂ at 20°C. Numbers of measured and unique reflections are 6405 and 3586, respectively ($R_{int} = 0.083$). Final R(F) = 0.068, w $R(F^2) = 0.162$ for 630 parameters and 2128 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$ and $1.59 < \theta < 21.95^{\circ}$ (corresponding *R* values based on all 3586 reflections are 0.126 and 0.205, respectively). Note that a pseudo inversion-symmetric structure could also be solved in the space group *P* b c a (no. 61) and refined to R(F) = 0.15. CCDC-691334 contains the supplementary crystallographic data of (M,M)-11. The ORTEP plot deposited is the mirror image of (M,M)-11. This data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Center via www.ccdc.cam.a-c.uk/data/cif.



Figure S9. CD spectrum of (M,M)-11 (e.r. 100:0, black line) and (P,P)-11 (e.r. 100:0, gray line) top and UV/Vis spectra (bottom) recorded in CH₂Cl₂, T = 298 K.

Optical resolution of 11 by HPLC on a CSP



Figure S10. Chromatogram of 11 on a preparative WHELK-O1 CSP (hexane/55% CH₂Cl₂).



Figure S11. Chromatogram of (P,P)-11 (d.r. 78 ((P,P)-11) : 20 ((P,M)-11) : 2 ((M,M)-11)) on the CSP WHELK-O1 (hexane/55% CH₂Cl₂).

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