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MEMORY OF CHIRALITY IN THE ELECTROCHEMICAL OXIDATION OF THIAZOLIDINE-4-CARBOXYLIC ACID DERIVATIVES[†]

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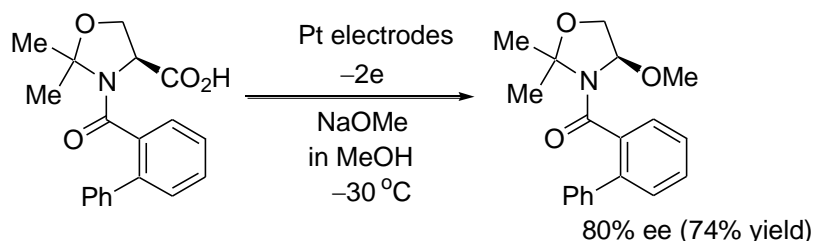
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[†]Dedicated to Professor Emeritus Akira Suzuki, Hokkaido University, on his 80th birthday.

Abstract – Memory of chirality in the electrochemical oxidation of thiazolidine-4-carboxylic acid derivatives was observed. The relatively larger size of sulphur atom than the oxygen atom for oxazolidine-4-carboxylic acid derivative may slightly improved the enantioselectivities of the oxidized products. The bulkier penicillamine derivative **1c** furnished **2c** with much better enantioselectivity (91% ee) than that of the cysteine derivative **2b** (85% ee). The presence of two extra dimethyl groups, for the penicillamine derivative improved the enantioselectivities of the thiazolidine derivatives from 85% ee to 91% ee.

INTRODUCTION

The synthesis of optically active compounds on the basis of ‘memory of chirality’ continues to attract much attention in asymmetric synthesis.¹ In our previous studies on asymmetric synthesis via memory of chirality, we reported that the non-Kolbe electrolysis² of the oxazolidines afforded optically active *N,O*-acetals with up to 80% ee (Scheme 1).³ This highly enhanced enantiomeric excess was attributed to the bulkiness of the ring system as well as the *N*-protecting group. We report herein that the non-Kolbe

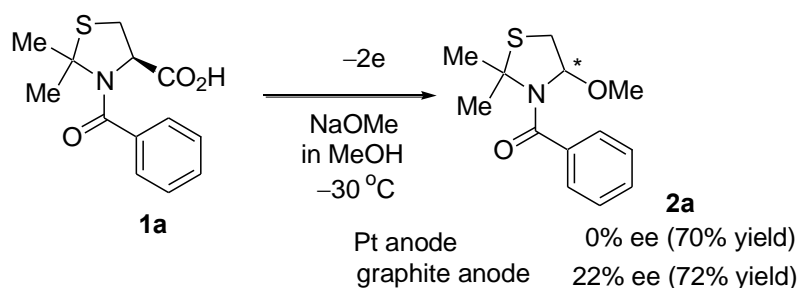


Scheme 1. Electrochemical oxidation of oxazolidine derivative

reaction of thiazolidine-4-carboxylic acid derivatives proceeds more efficiently than that of the corresponding oxazolidines.

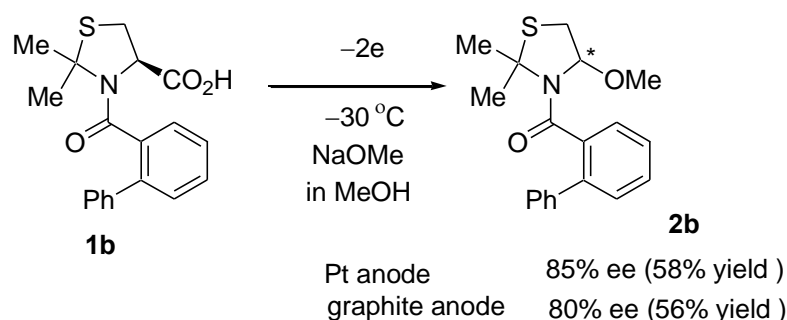
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Several thiazolidine compounds were synthesized and electrochemically oxidized in methanol. The *N*-benzoylthiazolidine compound **1a**, derived from cysteine afforded a racemic *N,O*-acetal **2a** when electrochemically oxidized using platinum electrodes in methanol at $-30\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. The use of graphite anode in the electrochemical oxidation of **1a** afforded **2a** with 22% ee in 72% yield (Scheme 2). These stereochemical results, albeit low, correlated well to those of the oxazolidine derivatives, 0% and 39% ee, for the platinum and graphite anode, respectively.⁴



Scheme 2. Electrochemical oxidation of thiazolidine derivative **1a**

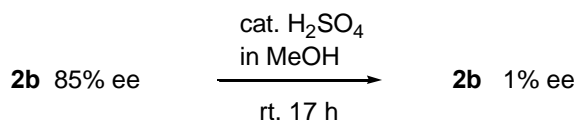
Electrochemical oxidation of a more bulky *N*-*o*-phenylbenzoylcysteine derivative **1b** under the previously optimized reaction conditions using platinum and graphite anode,³ furnished α -methoxylated product **2b** with 85% ee and 80% ee for the platinum and graphite anode, respectively (Scheme 3). On the other hand, use of graphite material as the cathode instead of platinum material did not affect the results.



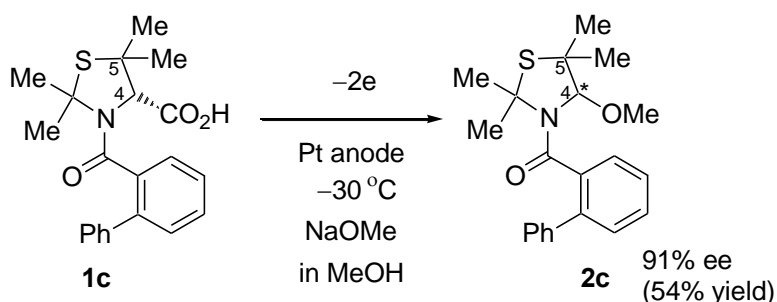
Scheme 3. Electrochemical oxidation of thiazolidine derivative **1b**

This result shows that there was a slightly better enantioselectivity in the case of using platinum anode, 85% ee in the thiazolidine derivatives than that in the oxazolidine derivatives, 80% ee.

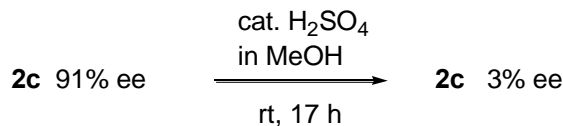
Treatment of **2b** with acidic methanol at room temperature furnished almost racemic product, 1% ee after stirring for 17 h (Scheme 4).

**Scheme 4.** Racemization of **2b** under acidic condition

To improve the enantioselectivity, it was envisaged that the use of more bulky ring system could restrict the rotation of the amide CO-N bond and thus promote the memory of chirality. On this basis, *N*-acyl thiazolidine derived from optically active penicillamine was synthesized. Electrochemical oxidation of the penicillamine derivative **1c** in methanol at -30°C , using 10 equiv of NaOMe with platinum electrodes furnished *N*-acyl-*N,O*-acetal **2c** with 91% ee in 54% yield (Scheme 5).

**Scheme 5.** Electrochemical oxidation of penicillamine derivative **1c**.

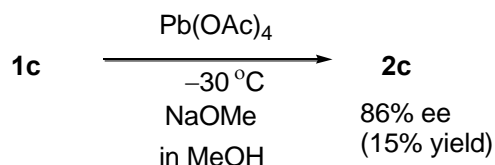
This was a great enhancement in the enantiomeric excess, from 85% ee in the cysteine derivative **2b** to 91% ee in **2c**. This improvement was ascribed to the presence of dimethyl groups at C5 in **1c**. The racemization of **2c** in acidic methanol afforded **2c** in 3% ee (Scheme 6).

**Scheme 6.** Racemization of **2c** under acidic condition

The bulkier compound may have had a greater restriction of rotation of the *o*-phenyl group prompting an increased attack by the nucleophile, (MeO^-), from the less hindered side hence the larger enantiomeric excess.

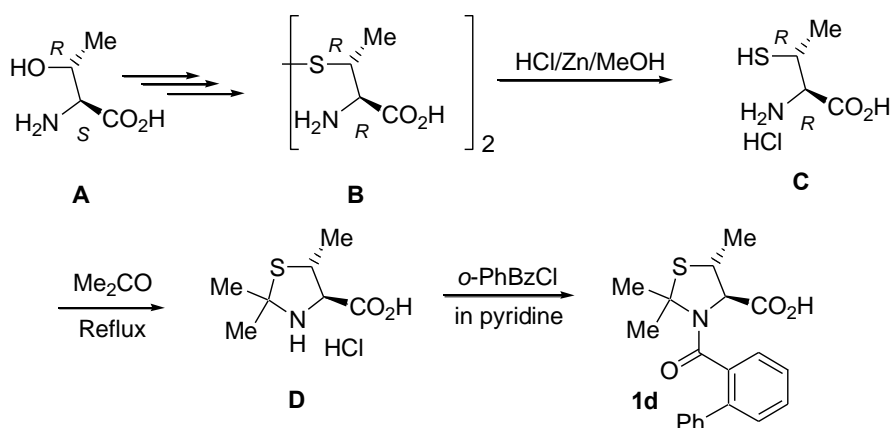
In order to compare the electrochemical result with the chemical method, **1c** was oxidized using $\text{Pb}(\text{OAc})_4$ in methanol at -30°C . The chemical reaction proceeded slowly to afford 15% of α -methoxylated product **2c** in 86% ee after 6 days (Scheme 7). The major isomer in the chemical oxidation process had a similar configuration to that of electrochemical product as shown by the chiral

HPLC analyses.



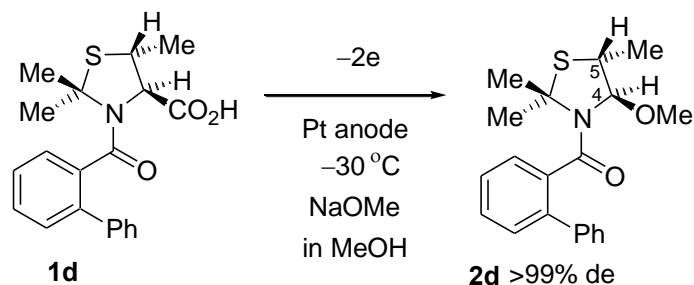
Scheme 7. Chemical oxidation of **1c**

Direct assignment of the absolute configuration for compounds **2b,c** was not applicable, but the absolute configuration could be inferred on the basis of the following reactions. In order to deduce the absolute configuration of the methoxylated products and hence the plausible reaction mechanism for the thiazolidine derivatives, 2,2,5*R*-trimethyl-3-*o*-phenylbenzoylthiazolidine-4*R*-carboxylic acid (**1d**) was prepared from L-threonine (**A**)⁵ (Scheme 8).



Scheme 8. Preparation of cysteine derivative **1d**

Electrochemical oxidation of 4*R*,5*R*-**1d** in methanol afforded α -methoxylated compound **2d** as a single diastereomer (>99% de) (Scheme 9).



Scheme 9. Electrochemical oxidation of **1d**

Cross peaks of the NOESY spectrum for **1d** were observed between H-4 and 5-methyl, H-4 and 2*a*-methyl group, 2*a*-methyl group and 5-methyl, 2*b*-methyl group and H-5. With this result, the structure of **1d** was deduced as shown in Figure 1. In addition, NOESY analysis of **2d** showed strong NOE

between the methoxyl protons and H-5, H-4 and 5-methyl protons. These were the main diagnostic peaks for the assignment of the configuration although other cross peaks were also observed as shown in Figure 1.

NOESY for **2d** suggested that the methoxyl group and the 5-methyl had a *trans*-configuration and hence α -methoxylation process proceeded mainly by introduction of the nucleophile, (MeO^-), from the same side (*syn*) as the carboxylate group to afford a retention product *4R,5R-2d* predominantly. Thus, the mechanism for the oxidative decarboxylation of the thiazolidine compounds is plausibly similar to that of the oxazolidine derivatives,³ albeit the enantioselectivities for methoxylated products for the thiazolidines were better (Scheme 10).

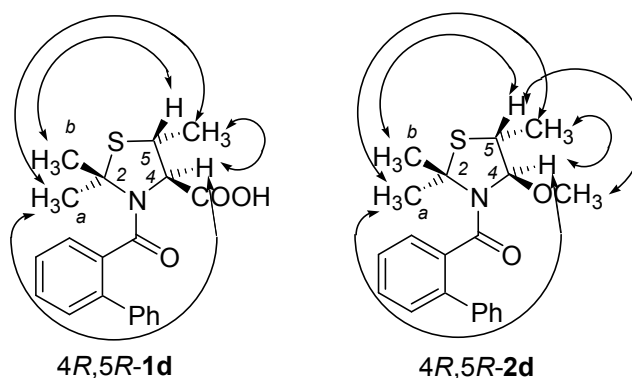
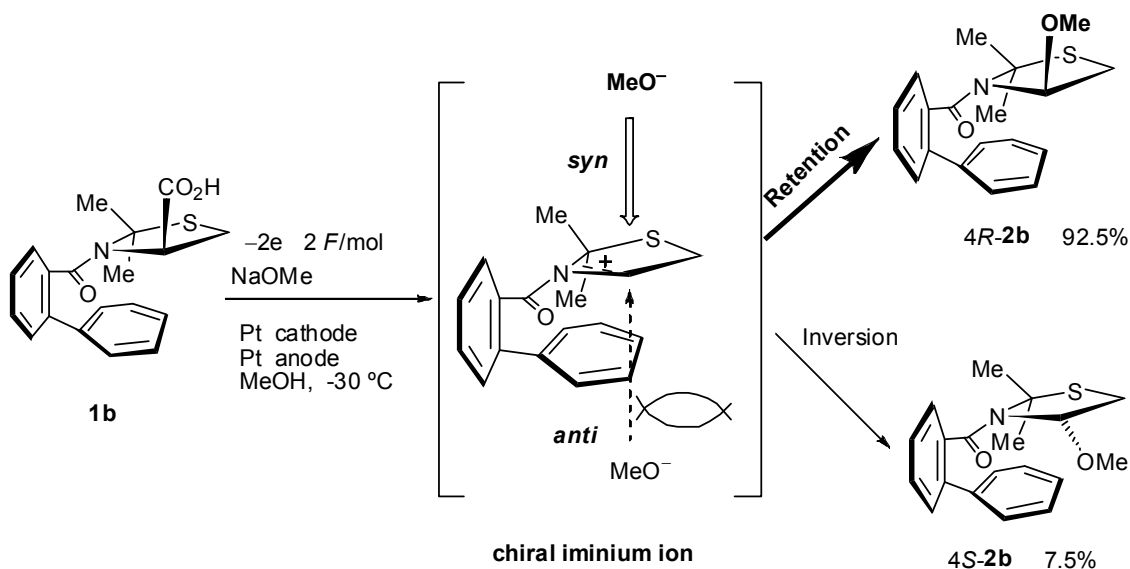


Figure 1. NOESY for **1d** and **2d**



Scheme 10. Reaction mechanism for electrochemical oxidation of **1b**

CONCLUSION

In summary, the thiazolidine compound **1b** afforded *N,O*-acetal **2b** with better enantioselectivity than that

of previously reported oxazolidine.³ The relatively larger size of sulphur atom than the oxygen atom may be responsible for the difference in the enantioselectivities. The bulkier penicillamine derivative **1c** furnished **2c** with much better enantioselectivity than that of the cysteine derivative **2b**. Interestingly, both the electrochemically obtained product and the chemical product had high enantiomeric excess, 91% ee and 86% ee, respectively. It was, therefore deduced that the bulkiness of the ring as well as the *N*-protecting group exclusively favored the formation of one stereoisomer by memory of chirality. The methoxyl group was introduced through retention mechanism and this enantiomeric excess, 91% ee, represents the highest ever-reported memory of chirality via carbenium ion intermediate.

EXPERIMENTAL

All commercial materials were used without further purification unless otherwise stated. Analytical thin layer chromatography was performed on Merck silica gel 60 F₂₅₄ plates (0.25mm). Compounds were visualized by deeping in anisaldehyde followed by heating. Liquid chromatography was performed using indicated solvent on silica gel 60 (200-300 mesh). IR spectra were obtained on a shimadzu FTIR-8100A. ¹H NMR spectra were obtained on Varian Gemini 300, 400 and 500 MHz spectrometer and are reported in parts per million (δ) with tetramethylsilane (TMS) as the internal standard. The coupling constants are recorded in hertz.

3-Benzoyl-2,2-dimethylthiazolidine-4R-carboxylic acid (1a)

L-cysteine hydrochloride monohydrate was converted into 2,2-dimethyl thiazolidine-4*R*-carboxylic acid hydrochloride by condensation with acetone. The resultant compound was then treated with benzoyl chloride in 200 mole equivalent of pyridine to afford 3-benzoyl-2,2-dimethylthiazolidine-4*R*-carboxylic acid **1a** (86% yield) as white needles.⁶ Mp 176-178 °C (uncorrected); $[\alpha]^{27.1}_{\text{D}} -162.1$ (c 1.0, CHCl₃), IR (neat) 3200, 2980, 2930, 1748, 1595, 1400, 1220, 1180, 1130, 891, 700 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.50-7.30 (m, 5H), 4.83 (br s, 1H), 3.38-3.18 (m, 2H), 2.00 (s, 3H), 1.96 (s, 3H).

Electrochemical oxidation: Typical procedure

A solution of cysteine derivative **1a** (132.5 mg, 0.5 mmol) and NaOMe (270 mg, 5 mmol) in MeOH (10 mL) was put into an undivided cell, stirred continuously and cooled to -30 °C. The cell was then equipped with platinum plate electrodes (1 cm x 2 cm). Electrolysis of the solution with 2 *F*/mol at a constant current (50 mA) afforded 3-benzoyl-4-methoxy-2,2-dimethylthiazolidine (**2a**) (79.1 mg, 63% yield).⁷ HPLC analysis of **2a** was carried out using Daicel Chiralpak AD (0.46 cm ϕ x 25 cm); *n*-hexane:EtOH=15:1; wavelength, 210 nm; flow rate 0.5 mL/min; retention time, 18.3 min (minor), 23.7 min (major) 23% ee; ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.48-7.40 (m, 5H), 5.10 (d, 1H, *J*=3.6 Hz), 3.96 (dd,

1H, $J=0.9$, 12.0 Hz), 3.19 (dd, 1H, $J=3.60$, 12.0 Hz), 3.00 (s, 3H), 2.01 (s, 3H), 1.97 (s, 3H); ^{13}C -NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.38 (1C), 138.05 (1C), 129.77 (1C), 128.31 (2C), 126.65 (2C), 94.02 (1C), 72.03 (1C), 54.62 (1C), 33.23 (1C), 29.51 (2C); IR (neat) 3050, 2977, 2932, 2828, 1651, 1464, 1362, 1230, 1196, 1071, 897, 793, 772, 906, 602 cm^{-1} . HR-MS[FAB(+)]: m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_2\text{S}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 252.1058, found: 252.1070.

2,2-Dimethyl-3-*o*-phenylbenzoylthiazolidine-4*R*-carboxylic acid (1b)

This procedure is similar to that for the preparation of **1a**. 2,2-Dimethyl thiazolidine-4*R*-carboxylic acid hydrochloride (1.97 g, 10 mmol) was reacted with *o*-phenylbenzoyl chloride (2.16 g, 10 mmol) in 200 equivalent of pyridine to afford 3-*o*-phenylbenzoyl-2,2-dimethylthiazolidine-4*R*-carboxylic acid **1b** (2.83 g, 83% yield). White solid, Mp 151-153 °C (uncorrected); $[\alpha]^{27.4}_{\text{D}} -195.7$ (c 1.0, CHCl_3); ^1H -NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.57-7.28 (m, 9H), 4.26 (d, 1H, $J=5.4$ Hz), 2.87 (d, 1H, $J=11.4$ Hz), 2.20 (d, 1H, $J=5.7$ Hz), 1.95(s, 3H), 1.59 (s, 3H); ^{13}C -NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 173.46 (1C), 169.47 (1C), 139.14 (1C), 137.21 (1C), 136.70 (1C), 129.43 (1C), 129.13 (1C), 128.91 (2C), 128.62 (2C), 127.99 (1C), 127.89 (1C), 127.63 (1C), 73.02 (1C), 66.89 (1C), 30.49 (1C), 28.53 (1C), 27.97 (1C); IR (neat) 3200 (br), 2970, 2934, 1748, 1684, 1595, 1411, 1208, 897, 746, 702 cm^{-1} . HR-MS [FAB(+)]: m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_3\text{S}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 342.1164, found: 342.1198.

4-Methoxy-2,2-dimethyl-3-*o*-phenylbenzoylthiazolidine (2b)

Colorless oil, 58% yield.⁷ HPLC analysis was carried out using Daicel Chiralcel OD (0.46 cm ϕ x 50 cm); *n*-hexane:2-propanol=30:1; wavelength, 210 nm; flow rate 0.5 mL/min; retention time, 30.1 min (major), 44.9 min (minor), 85.5% ee⁸; $[\alpha]^{26.7}_{\text{D}} -67.7$ (c 0.5, CHCl_3); ^1H -NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.60-7.40 (m, 9H), 4.65 (d, 1H, $J=3.0$ Hz), 2.87 (s, 3H), 2.55 (d, 1H, $J=12.4$ Hz), 2.10 (dd, 1H, $J=3.60$, 12.4 Hz), 1.97 (s, 3H), 1.64 (s, 3H); ^{13}C -NMR (100Hz, CDCl_3) δ 169.41 (1C), 139.36 (1C), 137.94 (1C), 137.07 (1C), 129.50 (1C), 129.14 (1C), 128.98 (2C), 128.77 (1C), 128.61 (2C), 127.99 (1C), 127.48 (1C), 93.62 (1C), 71.75 (1C), 55.02 (1C), 33.10 (1C), 29.79 (1C), 28.44 (1C); IR (neat) 3050, 2977, 2930, 2828, 1657, 1605, 1580, 1478, 1372, 1182, 1073, 900, 891, 793, 747, 702 cm^{-1} . HR-MS [FAB(+)]: m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_2\text{S}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 328.1371, found: 328.1389.

2,2,5,5-Tetramethyl-3-*o*-phenylbenzoylthiazolidine-4*S*-carboxylic acid (1c)

This procedure is similar to that of the preparation of **1a**. 2,2,5,5-Tetramethylthiazolidine-4*S*-carboxylic acid hydrochloride was reacted with *o*-phenylbenzoyl chloride in 200 mole equivalent of pyridine to afford 3-(biphenyl-2-carbonyl)-2,2,5,5-tetramethylthiazolidine carboxylic acid **1c**, 74% yield. White solid, Mp 123-126 °C (uncorrected); $[\alpha]^{27.4}_{\text{D}} 59.9$ (c 1.0, CHCl_3); ^1H -NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.70-7.26 (m,

9H), 3.72 (s, 1H), 2.05 (s, 3H), 1.84 (s, 3H), 1.14 (s, 3H), 0.68 (s, 3H); IR (neat) 3200-2500, 2986, 2936, 1748, 1650, 1604, 1437, 1219 1165, 1129, 920, 768, 745, 702 cm^{-1} . ^{13}C -NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 174.46 (1C), 169.80 (1C), 139.12 (1C), 136.93 (1C), 136.66 (1C), 129.60 (2C), 129.20 (2C), 128.83 (2C), 128.25 (1C), 127.66 (1C), 127.08 (1C), 76.29 (1C) 73.87 (1C), 49.17 (1C), 32.25 (1C), 30.81 (1C), 28.64 (1C), 25.42 (1C); HR-MS [FAB(+)] m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_3\text{S}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 370.1477, found: 370.1518.

4-Methoxy-2,2,5,5-tetramethyl-3-*o*-phenylbenzoylthiazolidine (2c)

Electrolysis of **1c** using the general procedure described above furnished **2c**, 54% yield. HPLC analysis of **2c** was carried out using Daicel Chiralcel OD (0.46 $\text{cm}\phi$ x 25 cm); *n*-hexane:2-propanol=50:1; wavelength, 210 nm; flow rate 0.5 mL/min; retention time, 14.2 min (minor), 28.3 min (major), 91% ee; Mp 66-68 °C (uncorrected); $[\alpha]_D^{27.7}$ 44.6 (c 0.5, CHCl_3); ^1H -NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.70-7.28 (m, 9H), 4.02 (s, 1H), 2.80 (s, 3H), 1.93 (s, 3H), 1.82 (s, 3H), 1.12 (s, 3H), 0.47 (s, 3H); IR (neat) 3050, 2924, 2853, 1655, 1466, 1387, 1182, 1223, 1073, 745, 702 cm^{-1} ; Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_2\text{S}$: C, 70.95; H, 7.09; N, 3.94. Found C: 71.01; H, 6.86; N, 3.60.

2,2,5-Trimethylthiazolidine-4*R*-carboxylic acid hydrochloride (D)

Disulfide **B** (268 mg, 1.0 mmol) prepared according to the reported procedure,⁵ was dissolved in MeOH (4 mL), concentrated HCl (1.3 mL) added and zinc dust (600 mg) added in small portions with continuous vigorous shaking. After reacting for 1.5 h, the undissolved zinc was filtered off and washed with methanol. The combined filtrates were evaporated in vacuo at 30 °C. The residue was dissolved in acetone (20 mL) and refluxed for 4 h. Evaporation of the volatiles furnished 2,2,5*R*-trimethylthiazolidine-4*S*-carboxylic acid hydrochloride (**C**). ^1H -NMR (CD_3OD) 4.42 (1H, d, $J=8.7$ Hz); 4.04 (1H, dd, $J=6.6, 9.0$ Hz); 1.93 (3H, s); 1.66 (3H, d, $J=6.3\text{Hz}$).

2,2,5*R*-Trimethyl-3-*o*-phenylbenzoylthiazolidine-4*R*-carboxylic acid (1d)

A solution of the 2,2,5-trimethylthiazolidine-4*R*-carboxylic acid hydrochloride (**C**) in pyridine (37.1 mL, 464 mmol) at 0 °C was added *o*-phenylbenzoyl chloride (501 mg, 2.32 mmol) dropwise. The mixture was stirred at rt for 10 h, pyridine evaporated, residue dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 and the solution washed with 1% HCl. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous MgSO_4 , filtered, evaporated *in vacuo* to afford a white crystalline material which was purified by column chromatography to furnish 2,2,5*R*-trimethyl-3-*o*-phenylbenzoylthiazolidine-4*R*-carboxylic acid (0.4mmol, 20% yield from **B**), Mp 199-202 °C; $[\alpha]_D^{27.2}$ -171.4 (c 1.0, CH_2Cl_2); ^1H -NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.64-7.26 (m, 9H), 3.90 (d, 1H, $J=2.1\text{Hz}$), 3.39 (dq, 1H, $J=2.1, 7.2$ Hz) 1.96 (s, 3H), 1.84 (s, 3H), 0.64 (d, 3H, $J=7.2\text{Hz}$); IR (neat) 3050, 2982, 2932, 1746, 1600, 1437, 1381, 1205, 1177, 1009, 912, 799, 745, 702 cm^{-1} ; Anal. Calcd for

C₂₀H₂₁NO₃S: C, 67.58; H, 5.95; N, 3.94; S, 9.02. Found C: 67.96; H, 5.72; N, 3.98.

4-Methoxy-2,2,5R-trimethyl-3-o-phenylbenzoylthiazolidin (**2d**)

Electrolysis of **1d** using the general procedure described above furnished a mixture of **2d** as a single diastereomer and the corresponding 4,5-dimethoxylated thiazolidine as an over-oxidized product in 38% yield and 37% yield, respectively. Since it was very difficult to isolate chemically pure **2d** from the mixture, only ¹H-NMR data of **2d** is shown here. **2d**: ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.60-7.28 (m, 9H), 4.20 (s, 1H), 3.02 (q, 1H, *J*=7.5Hz), 2.77 (s, 3H), 1.78 (s, 3H), 1.62 (s, 3H), 0.51 (s, 3H).

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7. Although starting carboxylic acid **1a** was recovered 35% yield along with desired product **2a** by electricity of 2 F/mol, further electricity afforded various side-products involving the corresponding 4,5-dimethoxylated compound.
8. Change of concentration of **1b** between 0.2 M and 1.5 M did not affect the ee of **2b**.