

Synthesis and deuterium labeling of some 4-phenyl, 3-substituted isochromanes

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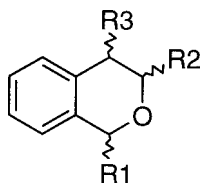
Summary

The preparation of a number of 4-phenyl isochromanes as well as the deuterated analogs is described using a simple strategy starting from easily obtained acetals. The diastereoselectivity and the enantioselectivity of the adopted approach are both good. The deuterated analogs are prepared using tributyltin deuteride or triethyl deuteriosilane. Copyright © 2001 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

Key Words: acetal; deuterium; isochromanes; tributyltin deuteride; triethyl deuteriosilane

Introduction

Unlike their natural analogues the coumarins, isochromanes (Scheme 1) have received little attention. Nevertheless recently, isochromanes



Scheme 1.

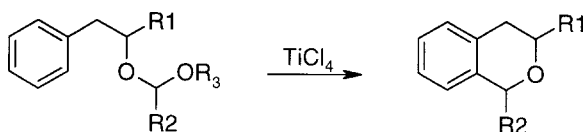
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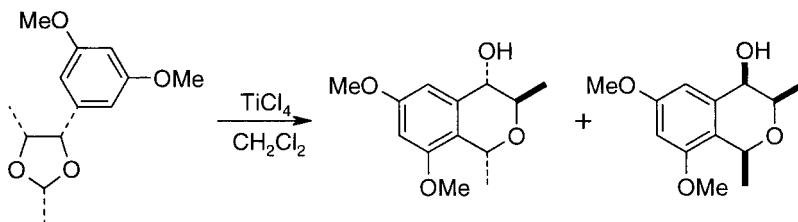
bearing functionalities have been used either as fragrances (musk)¹ or as herbicides.² This class of compound has also shown therapeutic activity as potential ligands for the D1 or D4 receptor of dopamine.³

The ease of accessing isochromanes is related to their complexity. In fact, the synthesis of the unsubstituted isochromane (3,4-dihydro-1H-2-benzopyrane) is easily achieved starting from 2-(2-hydroxymethylphenyl)ethanol.^{4,5} In a related manner, Thibault *et al.* have gained monosubstituted isochromanes starting from α -chloro ethers.⁶ Now the most commonly used approach arises from the work of Mohler and Thompson.⁷ Their approach deals with the Lewis acid catalyzed cyclization of acyclic acetals derived from phenethylalcohols (Scheme 2). Using this route, enantio-enriched 1,3-substituted isochromanes can be obtained but the starting enantiopure alcohols are usually difficult to obtain.



Scheme 2.

To obtain the corresponding isochromanes labeled on the pyranyl ring following the previous sequences necessitates the introduction of a deuterium or tritium atom at a very early stage of the synthesis. We were intrigued as to whether we could apply the labeling approach designed by Giles⁸ who started from cyclic acetals bearing nucleophilic arylrings (Scheme 3):

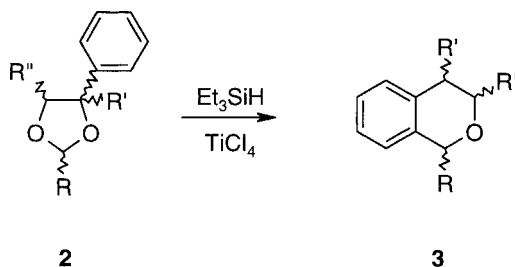


Scheme 3.

Initially, we report our results on the preparation of some isochromanes before reporting the extension of the method to deuterium labeling.

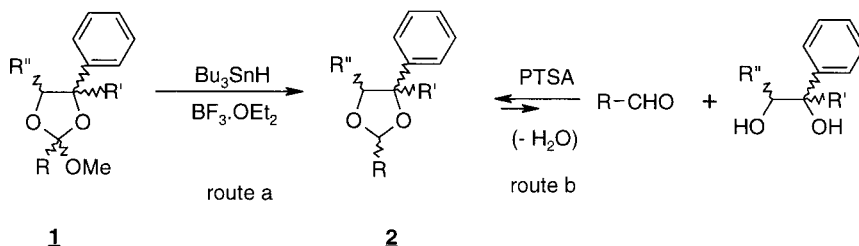
Results and discussion

As in the Giles approach, our key step is the conversion of an acetal to the isochromane skeleton (Scheme 4):



Scheme 4.

All the starting acetals **2** have been prepared either from the corresponding cyclic orthoesters **1** by substitution of the methoxy substituent using tributyltin hydride in the presence of boron trifluoride etherate (Scheme 5, route a) or *via* acetalization of an aldehyde (Scheme 5, route b).



Scheme 5.

The results are summarized in Table 1.

The acetals **2** were obtained in fairly good yields, ranging from 65 to 95%. Each was synthesized as a racemic mixture or in an enantiopure form (entries 1–2, 4, 8–9). We were able to obtain acetals bearing an alkyl substituent on C5 (entries 1, 7), a benzyl group (entry 6) or no substituents (entry 3). Most of these acetals bear a phenyl group at C5 (entries 2, 4–5, 8–9). Using either route a or b (Scheme 5), 2-substituted acetals have been synthesized (entries 8 and 9), but using route b gives a diastereomeric mixture of *trans* and *cis* acetals (entry 9).

With these acetals in hand the next step was to convert the dioxolane rings into isochromanes. This was achieved using a combination of

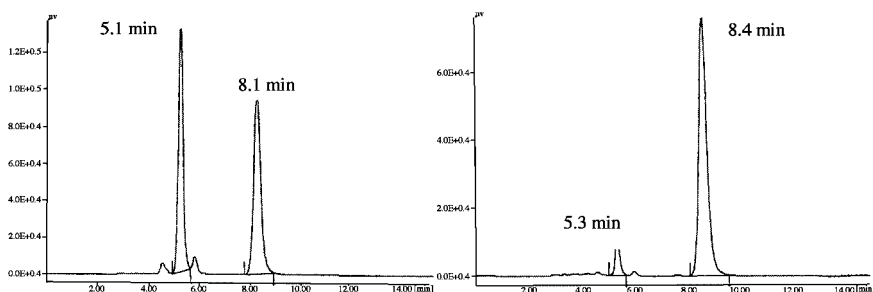
Table 1. Synthesis of acetals^a

Entry	R	R'	R''	Acetal	Yield (%)	Isochromane	Yield (%)
1	H	Ph	CH ₃	(5 <i>S</i>)- 2a	95	(3 <i>R</i> , 4 <i>R</i>)- 3a	30% ^b
2	H	Ph	Ph	(±)-and (5 <i>S</i>)- 2b	95	(±)-and (3 <i>R</i> , 4 <i>S</i>)- 3b	30% ^c
3	H	H	H	(±)- 2c	90	—	—
4	H	H	Ph	Meso and (4 <i>S</i> , 5 <i>S</i>)- 2d	89	—	—
5	H	Ph	<i>p</i> -CF ₃ Ph	(±)- 2e	80	(±)- 3e	25% ^c
6	H	Ph	Benzyl	(±)- 2f	65	—	—
7	H	Ph	Isopropyl	(±)- 2g	95	(±)- 3g	5% ^c
8	CH ₃	Ph	Ph	(2 <i>R</i> , 5 <i>S</i>)- 2h	91	—	—
9	Ph	Ph	Ph	(5 <i>S</i>)- 2i	93 ^a	—	—

^aThis is the sole acetal synthesized via route b giving a mixture of *trans/cis* compounds (*trans/cis* = 85/15).

^b*Trans/cis*: 80/20.

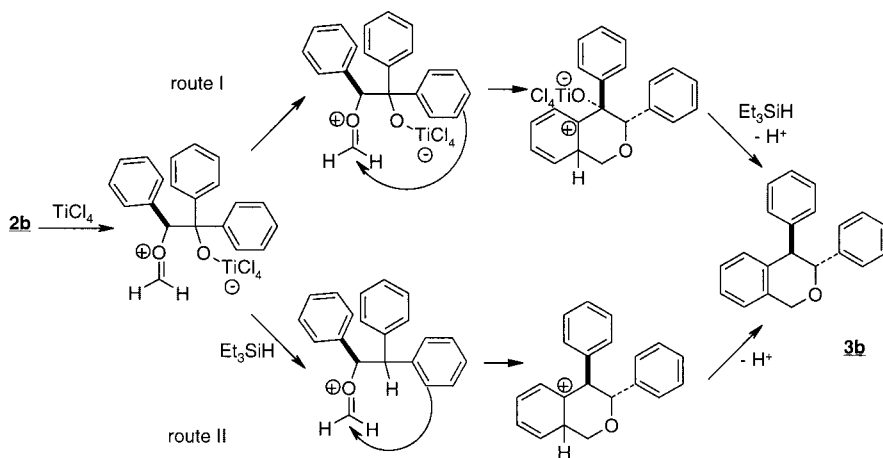
^c*Trans/cis* > 95/5 > (based on ¹H NMR).

**Figure 1. Chiral HPLC analysis of (±)-**3b** and (3*R*, 4*S*)-**3b****

triethylsilane and titanium tetrachloride, according to Scheme 4. The first obvious comment to make is that only acetals with two aryl rings at C4 are converted into isochromanes (entries 1–2, 5, 7). When R'' is an aromatic group as well, the diastereoselectivity of the cyclization is excellent since only one single diastereomer was observed in the crude ¹H NMR spectrum (entries 2, 5, 7). The *trans* configuration was assigned on the basis of the H3/H4 coupling constant, estimated at about 9 Hz.¹⁰ The enantioselectivity of the reaction, starting from the enantiopure acetal **2b** has also been checked. A chiral HPLC analysis showed no loss of the optical integrity of the starting material (Figure 1).

If R'' is a smaller group, however, the diastereoselectivity decreases and 20% of the *cis* compound is obtained along with the *trans* isomer (entry 1). It is noteworthy that for the bulky isopropyl group a low yield was obtained (entry 7).

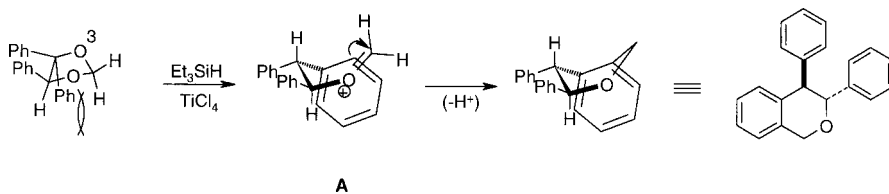
In order to rationalize the use of Et_3SiH , we have run the experiments with acetal **2b** in the absence of the silane. To our great surprise and in contrast with previously described work,⁸ no isochromane formation was detectable in the crude NMR spectrum. Thus, we postulate the following mechanism (Scheme 6) for the conversion of the acetals into the isochromanes:



Scheme 6.

Indeed if the reaction would proceed *via* route I, we should have obtained the 4-hydroxy isochromane after hydrolysis of the reaction mixture but this compound was not detected in the crude ^1H NMR spectrum when we omitted triethylsilane. Thus, since the presence of Et_3SiH is necessary, route I may be ruled out.

The stereochemical outcome of this reaction can also be rationalized by the following transition state (Scheme 7):

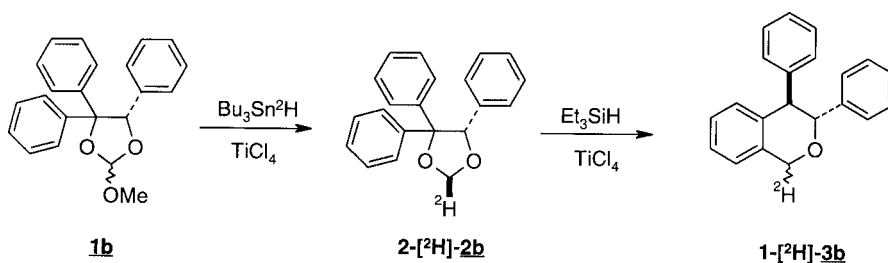


Scheme 7.

First O3 of the acetal can be complexed by the Lewis acid, due to the higher basicity of this oxygen and to a decomplexation of the axial H2 and Ph4 substituents. Then the postulated oxocarbenium intermediate

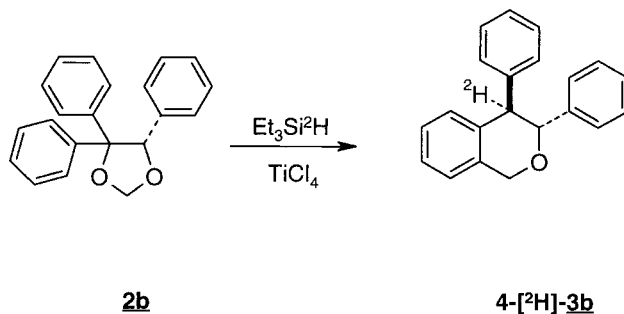
A adopts a 6-membered transition state (boat like) with all the bulky substituents in a pseudo-equatorial position. Finally, the phenyl ring attacks the oxocarbenium yielding the *trans* isochromane.

The use of metallic hydrides in our synthetic route to isochromanes allowed us to consider the preparation of deuterated (or tritiated) isochromanes. Therefore, the synthesis was done again with commercially available tributyltin deuteride in the first step to give [**2-²H**]-**2b** as a single diastereomer (i.e. >95% based on MS and ¹H NMR). Then reaction of this 2-deutero acetal in the presence of Et₃SiH and TiCl₄ gives the corresponding 1-deutero isochromane but with complete epimerization at C1. (Scheme 8)



Scheme 8.

In a similar vein, reaction of acetal **2b** in the presence of Et₃Si²H (freshly prepared from Et₃SiCl and LiAl²H₄)¹¹ and TiCl₄ gives the corresponding 4-deutero isochromane [**4-²H**]-**3b** (i.e. >95% based on MS and ¹H NMR) with excellent diastereoselectivity since only one of the two expected diastereomers (the *trans* isomer) was detectable on the ¹H NMR spectrum of the crude reaction mixture (Scheme 9).



Scheme 9.

Conclusion

Starting from easily obtainable acetals, we have been able to synthesize a number of 4-phenyl isochromanes. The diastereoselectivity favours the *trans* isomer. The use of tributyltin deuteride or deuterated triethylsilane yields the corresponding 1- or 4-deuterated analogs with excellent isotopic enrichments. Since the introduction of the isotope mainly in the 4 position is achieved in the very last step of the synthesis of the isochromane skeleton, this route would be of interest for the preparation of tritiated isochromane.

Experimental

General methods

Non commercially available diols were prepared according to literature procedures.¹² CDCl₃ was from Eurisotop. All other chemicals were commercially available.

¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Brüker AC300 spectrometer operating, respectively, at 300.125 and 75.47 MHz. Deuterium incorporation was measured by integration of the respective ¹H NMR signals and by referring to the signal of another proton or group of protons within the molecule as internal standard or *via* MS.

A typical procedure for the preparation of acetals **1** is as follows:

In a Schlenk tube, 127 μ L (1.2 mmol) of BF₃ · OEt₂ is added to a solution of 1 mmol of C2 epimeric **1** in 20 mL of anhydrous CH₂Cl₂, at -78°C. The resulting solution was stirred for 15 min at -78°C and 295 μ L (1.1 mmol) of Bu₃SnH are then added dropwise. The reaction was monitored by TLC, and when no more starting material could be detected (typically after 7/8 h), the reaction mixture was diluted by 20 mL of CH₂Cl₂, quenched with 10 mL of a saturated aqueous solution of NH₄Cl, the aqueous layer was extracted with 2 × 50 mL of CH₂Cl₂ and the organic phases were combined and dried over Na₂SO₄. After filtration and evaporation of the organic phase, the residue was purified on silica gel (eluent hexane/Et₃N:100/1 then hexane/Et₂O/Et₃N:75/25/1, R_f = 0.3) giving compound **2**.

(5S)-5-methyl-4,4-diphenyl-[1,3]-dioxolane **2a**

¹H NMR: 1.07 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H, CH₃); 5.21 (q, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H, H₅); 4.93 (s, 1H, H₂ or H_{2'}); 5.43 (s, 1H, H₂ or H_{2'}); 7.22–7.46 (m, 10H, H_{ar}).

^{13}C NMR: 17.37 (CH_3); 79.51 (C_5); 86.86 (C_4); 93.30 (C_2); 126.55; 126.94; 127.36; 127.55; 128.14 (CH_{ar}); 141.95; 143.18 ($\text{C}_{\text{quat. ar}}$).

M.S.: 258 [$\text{M} + \text{NH}_4$] $^+$.

I.R.: 3087; 2981; 2934; 2872; 1599–1584–1493–1448; 1386; 1200–960; 755; 700.

(\pm)- and (5*S*)-4,4,5-triphenyl-[1,3]-dioxolane 2b

^1H NMR: 5.12 (s, 1H, H_2); 5.68 (s, 1H, H_2); 5.76 (s, 1H, H_5); 7.02–7.68(m, 15H, H_{ar}).

^{13}C NMR: 85.18 (C_5); 88.67 (C_4); 93.88 (C_2); 126.52; 126.87; 127.00; 127.20; 127.42; 127.59; 128.17 (CH_{ar}); 127.78; 140.30; 140.66; 142.72 ($\text{C}_{\text{quat. ar}}$).

M.S.: 320 [$\text{M} + \text{NH}_4$] $^+$.

I.R.: 3087; 2981; 1599–1492–1448; 1200 to 960; 752; 695

(\pm)-4-phenyl-[1,3]-dioxolane 2c

^1H NMR: 3.69 (dd, $J=7.3$ Hz, $J=7.9$ Hz, 1H, H_5 or H_5); 4.25 (dd, $J=6.7$ Hz, $J=7.9$ Hz, 1H, H_5 or H_5); 5.00 (dd, $J=6.7$, 7.3 Hz, 1H, H_4); 5.09 (s, 1H, H_2 or H_2); 5.27 (s, 1H, H_2 or H_2); 7.25–7.36 (m, 5H, H_{ar}).

^{13}C NMR: 71.65 (C_5); 77.41 (C_4); 95.82 (C_2); 125.87; 127.91; 128.39 (CH_{ar}); 139.17 ($\text{C}_{\text{quat. ar}}$).

Meso and (4*S*, 5*S*)-4,5-diphenyl-[1,3]-dioxolane 2d

meso- 2d

^1H NMR: 5.21 (s, 1H, H_2 or H_2); 5.29 (s, 2H, H_4 or H_5); 5.68 (s, 1H, H_2 or H_2); 6.93–7.25 (m, 10H, H_{ar}).

^{13}C NMR: 81.59 (C_4 and C_5); 95.40 (C_2); 126.52, 127.20, 127.36 (CH_{ar}); 136.64 ($\text{C}_{\text{quat. ar}}$).

(4*S*, 5*S*)-4,5-diphenyl-[1,3]- dioxolane 2d

^1H NMR: 4.72 (s, 2H, H_2); 5.48 (s, 2H, H_4 and H_5); 7.25–7.40 (m, 10H, H_{ar}).

(\pm)-4,4-diphenyl-5-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-[1,3]-dioxolane 2e

^1H NMR: 5.07 (s, 1H, H_5); 5.67 (s, 1H, H_2 or H_2); 5.81 (s, 1H, H_2 or H_2); 7.00–7.58 (m, 14H, H_{ar}).

^{13}C NMR: 83.88 (C_5); 89.09 (C_4); 93.97 (C_2); 124.18 (q, $J_{3\text{F}} = 258$ Hz); 124.22; 126.62, 126.94, 127.65, 127.84, 128.33, 128.52, 128.69, 128.85, 129.04, 129.95, 130.76 (CH_{ar}); 139.04 (q, $^3J_{3\text{F}} = 34.3$ Hz); 141.95, 142.27 ($\text{C}_{\text{quat. ar}}$).

(±)-5-benzyl-4,4-diphenyl-[1,3]-dioxolane 2f

¹H NMR: 2.35 (dd, *J* = 14, 10 Hz, 1H, H₆ or H_{6'}); 2.62 (dd, *J* = 14, 2 Hz, 1H, H₆ or H_{6'}); 4.76 (dd, *J* = 2, 10 Hz, 1H, H₅); 4.88 (s, 1H, H₂ or H_{2'}); 5.47 (s, 1H, H₂ or H_{2'}); 7.17–7.33 (m, 15H, H_{ar}).

¹³C NMR: 38.46 (C₆); 84.40 (C₅), 86.93 (C₄); 93.49 (C₂); 126.23, 126.62, 127.07, 127.17, 127.46, 127.65, 128.17, 128.78 (CH_{ar}); 138.36, 141.82, 142.92 (C_{quat.ar}).

(±)-5-isopropyl-4,4-diphenyl-[1,3]-dioxolane 2g

¹H NMR: 0.77 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H, CH₃); 0.85 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz; 3H, CH₃); 1.64 (dsept, *J* = 5.5, 6.7 Hz, 1H, H₆); 4.46 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 1H, H₅); 4.83 (s, 1H, H₂ or H_{2'}); 5.37 (s, 1H, H₂ or H_{2'}); 7.19–7.29 (m, 10H, H_{ar})

¹³C NMR: 17.43; 18.18 (CH₃); 20.70 (C₆); 87.02 (C₅); 87.12 (C₄); 93.13 (C₂); 126.91, 127.13, 127.33, 127.39, 128.07 (CH_{ar}); 141.53, 143.66 (C_{quat.ar}).

(2*R*,5*S*)-2-methyl-4,4,5-triphenyl-[1,3]-dioxolane (100% *trans*) 2h

¹H NMR: 1.82 (d, *J* = 5 Hz, 3H, CH₃); 5.38 (q, *J* = 5 Hz, 1H, H₂); 5.86 (s, 1H, H₅); 7.04–7.75 (m, 15H, H_{ar}).

(5*S*)-2,4,4,5-tetraphenyl-[1,3]-dioxolane 2i

¹H NMR: Major diastereomer (85%): 6.01 (s, 1H, H₅); 6.07 (s, 1H, H₂); 6.74–7.80 (m, 15H, H_{ar}).

Minor diastereomer (15%): 5.65 (s, 1H, H₅); 6.74 (s, 1H, H₂); 6.74–7.80 (m, 15H, H_{ar}).

A typical procedure for the conversion of acetals 1 into isochromanes 3 is as follows:

In a flame dried Schlenk tube, 150 μL (1.2 mmol) of TiCl₄ is first added to a solution of 1 mmol of acetal 2 in 20 mL of anhydrous CH₂Cl₂, at –78°C under nitrogen immediately followed by the addition of 290 μL of Et₃SiH (1.1 mmol). The reaction was monitored by TLC, and when no more starting material could be detected (typically after 7/8 h), the reaction mixture was diluted with 20 mL of CH₂Cl₂, quenched with 10 mL of a saturated aqueous solution of NH₄Cl, the aqueous layer was extracted with 2 × 50 mL of CH₂Cl₂ and the organic phases were combined and dried over Na₂SO₄. After filtration and evaporation of the organic phase, the residue was purified on silica gel (eluent hexane: 100% then hexane/Et₂O: 95/5, R_f = 0.3) then repurified using semi-preparative HPLC (Zorbax C8 column, 4 mL/min, CH₃CN/H₂O 60/40) giving pure compound 3.

3-methyl-4-phenyl-isochromane (*trans/cis* 80/20) **3a**

$^1\text{H NMR}$: *Trans* isomer: 1.19 (d, $J = 3.7$ Hz, 3H, CH_3); 3.84 (dq, $J = 3.7$ and 6.1 Hz, 1H, H_3); 3.85 (d, $J = 6.1$ Hz, 1H, H_4); 4.90 and 5.00 (AB system, $J = 15$ Hz, 2H, $\text{H}_1 \times 2$); 6.73–7.31 (m, 9H, H_{ar}).

Cis isomer: 1.18 (d, $J = 3.7$ Hz, 3H, CH_3); 3.85 (d, $J = 6.1$ Hz, 1H, H_4); 4.08 (dq, $J = 3.7$, 6.1 Hz, 1H, H_3); 4.95 et 5.03 (AB system, $J = 15$ Hz, 2H, $\text{H}_1 \times 2$); 6.73–7.31 (m, 9H, H_{ar}).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$: 19.50 (CH_3); 52.02 (C_4); 68.32 (C_1); 77.22 (C_2); 123.51, 125.81, 126.91, 128.01, 128.49, 129.20, 129.40 (CH_{ar}); 134.35, 137.39, 142.34 ($\text{C}_{\text{quat-ar}}$)

3,4-diphenyl-isochromane (*trans/cis* = 92/8), *trans* isomer data reported¹³
3b

$^1\text{H NMR}$: 4.24 (d, $J = 9.8$ Hz, 1H, H_3); 4.68 (d, $J = 9.8$ Hz, 1H, H_4); 5.03 and 5.14 (AB system, $J = 15$ Hz, 2H, $\text{H}_1 \times 2$); 6.81–7.21 (m, 14H, H_{ar}).

HPLC: 250 \times 4.6 mm, 5 μ RP C8 column, eluted with 60/40 $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$, UV 254 nm, 1 mL/min, *tr* = 10.7 min.

The chiral separation was carried out on a Whelk (Pirkle type) (*S,S*) column (250 \times 4.6 mm) supplied by Regis Technologies. The eluent used was a mixture of iso-octane/iso-propanol 98/2 (0.8 mL/min, 25°C, UV detection 220 nm).

3-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-4-phenyl-isochromane (*trans/cis* > 95/5) **3e**

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (*trans* isomer): 4.18 (d, $J = 9$ Hz, 1H, H_4); 4.75 (d, $J = 9$ Hz, 1H, H_3); 5.07 and 5.17 (AB system, $J = 15$ Hz, 2H, $\text{H}_1 \times 2$); 6.82–7.54 (m, 13H, H_{ar}).

3-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-4-phenyl-isochromane (*trans/cis* > 95/5) **3g**

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (*trans* isomer): 0.96 (d, $J = 7$ Hz, 3H, CH_3); 0.99 (d, $J = 7$ Hz, 3H, CH_3); 1.66 (sept, $J = 7$ Hz, 1H, H_5); 3.62 (dd, $J = 7$, 9 Hz, 1H, H_3); 4.12 (d, $J = 9$ Hz, 1H, H_4); 5.07 and 5.17 (AB system, $J = 15$ Hz 2H, $\text{H}_1 \times 2$); 7.02–7.34 (m, 9H, H_{ar}).

(2*R*,5*S*)-2-deuterio-4,4,5-triphenyl-[1,3]-dioxolane (2*R*,5*S*)-2-[^2H]-2b (i.e. = 92%)

$^1\text{H NMR}$: 5.63 (s, 1H, H_5); 5.72 (s, 1H, H_2); 7.01–7.63 (m, 15H, H_{ar}).

1-deutero-3,4-diphenyl-isochromane(±)-, epi-2, 2-[^2H]-3b (i.e. = 92%)

$^1\text{H NMR}$: 4.44 (d, $J = 9$. Hz, 1H, H_3); 4.94 (d, $J = 9$ Hz, 1H, H_4); 5.31 (s, 0.4H, H_1); 5.42 (d, 0.6H, H_1); 7.35–7.71 (m, 14H, H_{ar}).

^{13}C NMR: 52.21 (C₄); 68.65 (t, $J_{\text{D}} = 26$ Hz, C₁); 84.34 (C₃); 123.81, 126.20, 126.62, 126.75, 126.95, 127.66, 127.98, 128.18, 129.53, 129.86 (CH_{ar}); 134.58, 137.69, 140.34, 141.51 (C_{quat,ar})

4-deutero-3,4-diphenyl-isochromane (100% *trans*, i.e. >95%) (\pm)-, **4- ^2H]- **3b****

^1H NMR: 4.74 (s, 1H, H₃); 5.07 and 5.18 (AB system, $J = 15$ Hz, 2H, H₁ × 2); 6.86–7.26 (m, 14H, H_{ar}).

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