

1,4-Di-*O*-*tert*-alkyl-L-threitols as Chiral Auxiliaries in the Asymmetric Nucleophilic Addition of Alkylolithiums to Hydrazones[†]

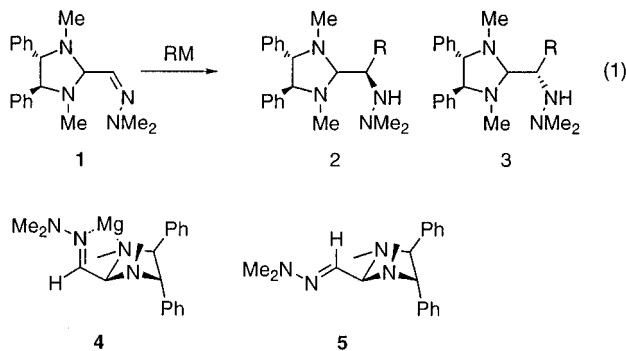
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The applications of 1,4-di-*O*-*tert*-alkyl-L-threitols as chiral auxiliaries in the asymmetric nucleophilic addition of alkylolithiums to hydrazones are investigated. Chiral acetal-hydrazones **9**, obtained from the chiral acetals **8** by ozonolysis followed by treatment with dimethylhydrazine, are allowed to react with organolithium reagents in toluene at $-78\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ to give **15** with excellent diastereoselectivity. The stereochemical assignments were based on the X-ray crystal structure of **17a**. The absolute configuration at C_2 of the major isomer of the adducts **15** was thereby determined to be *S*. The nucleophile thus attacked from the *si* face of the $C=N$ moiety. The effect of solvent on the diastereoselectivity of the reactions of **9** with organolithium reagents is reported. Polar aprotic solvent shows poor diastereoselectivity, and the diastereoselectivity is reversed when the reaction is carried out in THF. Reaction of *dl*-**14** with methylolithium has been studied for comparison purposes and the reaction shows the opposite selectivity. Chelation intermediates **18** and **26** are proposed for these reactions to account for the observed stereoselectivities.

Chiral amines, as a class of compounds, exhibit a variety of biological activities and have served as useful reactive intermediates in organic synthesis.¹ The reductions of ketimines and nucleophilic additions to aldimines in a chiral environment provide a useful entry to the corresponding asymmetric amines.³ To this end, there has been increasing use of chiral hydrazones as precursors of chiral amines.^{4–6} For example, reactions of **1** with Grignard reagents lead to **2** as the major product (eq 1).⁵ The chelation intermediate **4** has been suggested to be responsible for the selectivity. In contrast, **3** is obtained predominantly when an organolithium reagent is employed as the alkylating agent. Presumably, the latter reaction proceeds by nucleophilic attack from the *si* face of the nonchelative imine **5**.



We have recently reported a convenient synthesis of tunable chiral C_2 -diols **7** derived from L-threitols **6** (eq

[†] Dedicated to Professor N. C. Yang on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

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2).^{11–13} Excellent diastereoselectivities have been found in the Simmons–Smith cyclopropanation¹³ and in ring openings of acetals^{11a} using these tunable chiral auxiliaries. The alkoxy side chain in **7** may serve either as a

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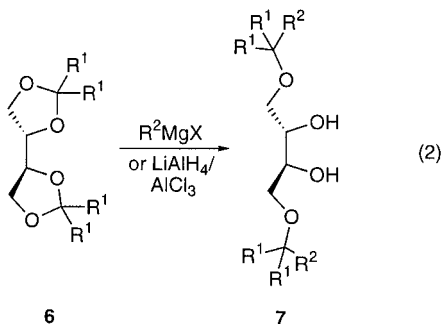
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Table 1. Synthesis of Hydrazone **9**

R ¹	R ²	8 (%yield)	9 (%yield)
H	H	a (90)	a (88)
Me	H	b (86)	b (92)
<i>i</i> -Pr	H	c (83)	c (90)
H	Me	d (81)	d (75)
Me	Me	e (85)	e (70)
<i>i</i> -Pr	Me	f (85)	f (88)

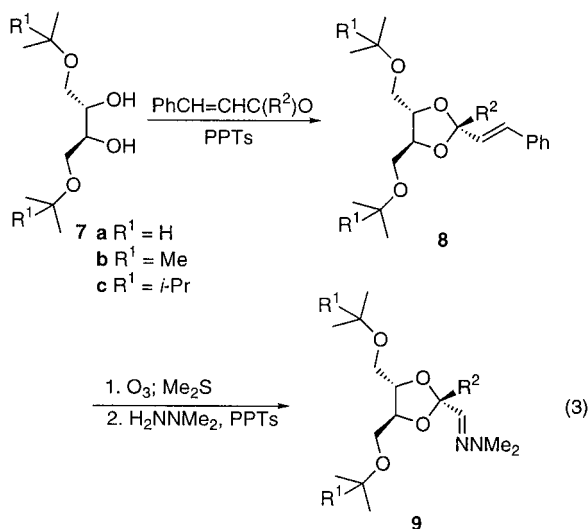
bulky substituent or as an additional auxiliary ligand



during the formation of a chelating complex with a metal catalyst in such a way that the stereoselectivity of these reactions is enhanced. In this paper, we wish to report the details of the use of these chiral diol auxiliaries in the asymmetric nucleophilic addition of organolithium reagents to hydrazones.

Results

Synthesis of 9. Acid-catalyzed reaction of chiral diol **7** with an α,β -unsaturated carbonyl compound ($R^2 = H$ or Me) gave the corresponding acetal **8a** or ketal **8b**.¹³ Ozonolysis¹⁵ of **8** followed by treatment with dimethylhydrazine afforded acetal-hydrazones **9** in good yield (eq 3). The results are tabulated in Table 1. Reference



compounds **12**^{4,16} and **14** were prepared following similar

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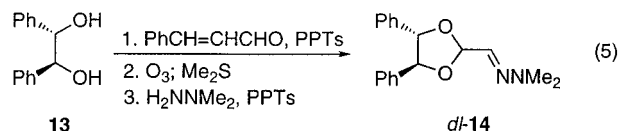
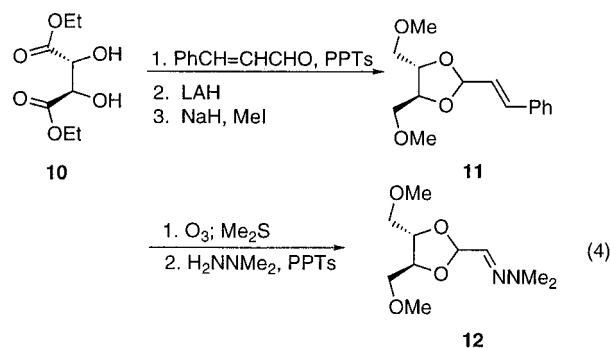
Table 2. Reactions of **9b** ($R^1 = Me$, $R^2 = H$) with R^3Li under Different Conditions

R ³	temp (reaction time)	2 <i>S</i> /2 <i>R</i>
Me	25 °C (12 h)	55/45
	-25 °C (12 h)	76/24
	-78 °C (4 h) then 25 °C (8 h)	88/12
<i>n</i> -Bu	-78 °C (10 h)	95/5
	-15 °C (10 h)	71/29
	-78 °C (10 h)	92/8

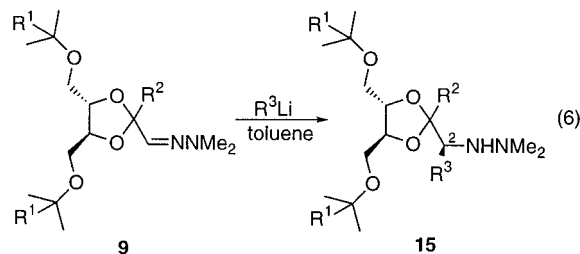
Table 3. Reaction of Organolithium Reagents with **9** in Toluene at -78 °C

entry	9	R ¹	R ²	R ³	15 (%yield)	2 <i>S</i> /2 <i>R</i>
1	a	H	H	Me	a (88)	91:9
2	a	H	H	<i>n</i> -Bu	b (75)	89:11
3	a	H	H	Ph	c (71)	98:2
4	b	Me	H	Me	d (90)	95:5
5	b	Me	H	<i>n</i> -Bu	e (83)	92:8
6	b	Me	H	Ph	f (85)	98:2
7	c	<i>i</i> -Pr	H	Me	g (86)	91:9
8	c	<i>i</i> -Pr	H	<i>n</i> -Bu	h (73)	92:8
9	c	<i>i</i> -Pr	H	Ph	i (70)	98:2
10	d	H	Me	Me	j (84)	>99:1
11	d	H	Me	<i>n</i> -Bu	k (68)	98:2
12	e	Me	Me	Me	l (82)	>99:1
13	e	Me	Me	<i>n</i> -Bu	m (70)	98:2

procedures (eqs 4 and 5).



Nucleophilic Addition to 9. In the beginning of this investigation, we screened the conditions for the nucleophilic addition of alkylolithium to **9** to form **15** (eq 6).



Reaction at low temperature was essential to achieve

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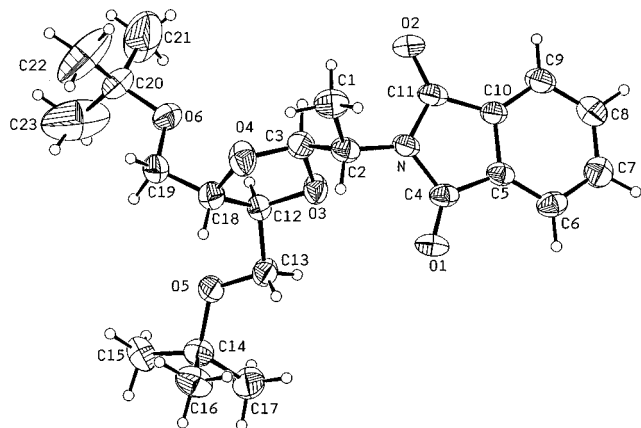
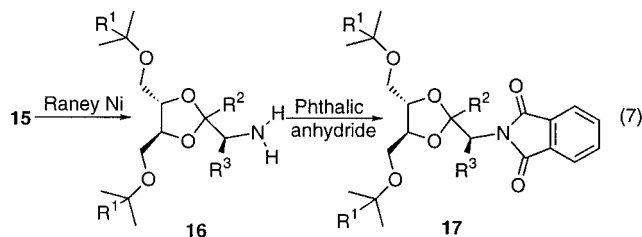


Figure 1. ORTEP of (2*S*)-17a. Thermal ellipsoids are shown in 30% probability.

Table 4. Conversion of 15 to Phthalimide 17

16	R ¹	R ²	R ³	17 (%yield)
d	Me	H	Me	a (91)
e	Me	H	<i>n</i> -Bu	b (85)
k	H	Me	<i>n</i> -Bu	c (93)
l	Me	Me	Me	d (82)
m	Me	Me	<i>n</i> -Bu	e (85)

high diastereoselectivity (Table 2). Table 3 summarizes representative examples of the nucleophilic addition of organolithium reagents to **9**. The diastereomeric ratio was determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy of **15**. The signal for the proton at C₂ of the 2*S*-isomer appeared at a slightly higher field ($\Delta\delta \sim 0.02$ – 0.04) than that of the corresponding 2*R*-isomer.¹⁷ Treatment of the major stereoisomers (2*S*)-**15** with Raney nickel followed by phthalic anhydride yielded the corresponding phthalimides (2*S*)-**17** (eq 7). The results are outlined in Table 4.



The X-ray structure of (2*S*)-**17a** is shown in Figure 1 and the absolute configuration at C₂ of the major isomer of the adducts **15** was thereby determined.

Discussion

As can be seen from Table 3, good to excellent diastereoselectivities were obtained from the reaction of **9** with organolithium reagents in toluene at -78 °C. Nucleophilic addition occurred preferentially from the *si* face of the hydrazone moiety in **9**. Two possible conformers **18** and **19** are proposed to rationalize the observed stereoselectivity. In **18**, lithium can coordinate to the imino nitrogen atom as well as to the two oxygen atoms to form a chelation complex. Then direct transfer of R³ anion

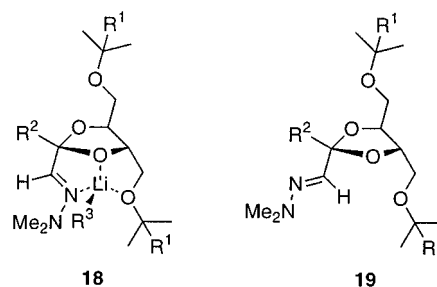
(17) For the purpose of simplification, the numbering used throughout text is based on the numbering for the corresponding unprotected 2-aminoalkanes. Hence, the position of attachment the amino or the hydrazino group in **15** is considered as C₂. The nomenclature for **15** should be 4,5-Bis(alkoxymethyl)-2-[1-(*N,N'*-dimethylhydrazino)alkyl]-dioxolane.

Table 5. Solvent Effect on the Diastereoselectivity of the Addition of RLi to **9** at -78 °C

entry	substrate	RLi	solvent	product (2 <i>S</i> /2 <i>R</i>)
14	9a	<i>n</i> -BuLi	ether	15b (76/24)
15		<i>n</i> -BuLi	THF	15b (31/69)
16		PhLi	THF	15c (33/67)
17	9b	<i>n</i> -BuLi	ether	15e (83/17)
18		<i>n</i> -BuLi	THF	15e (35/65)
19		PhLi	THF	15f (67/33)
20	9c	<i>n</i> -BuLi	ether	15h (37/63)
21		<i>n</i> -BuLi	THF	15h (32/68)
22	20a	MeLi	ether	21a (80/20) ^a
23		<i>n</i> -BuLi	ether	21b (55/45) ^a
24	20b	<i>n</i> -BuLi	toluene	21c (78/22)
25		<i>n</i> -BuLi	THF	21d (36/64)

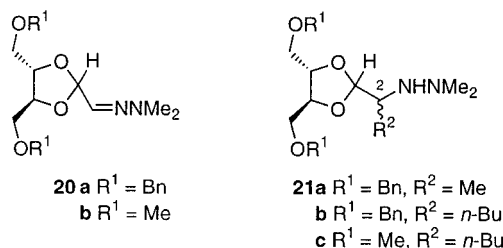
^a Reference 4.

from lithium may occur stereoselectively from the *si* face of the C=N moiety. Similar intermediate has been suggested in the CeCl₃-mediated nucleophilic addition of chiral oximes.¹⁴ Alternatively, conformers **19** and **5**³ are similar and the nucleophilic attack may thus occur from the less hindered *si* face of the imine moiety. To differentiate these two possibilities, an investigation of the solvent effect on the reaction of **9** with organolithium reagents have been carried out.



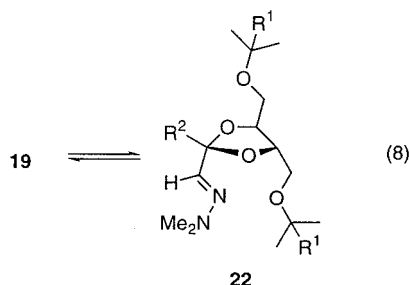
Solvent Effect. Organolithium compounds are known to form complexes with the oxygen donor solvents. Accordingly, the stability of the chelation complex **18** in a nonpolar hydrocarbon solvent and in a polar aprotic solvent would be quite different. In other words, if intermediate **18** is responsible for the formation of **15**, the selectivity might be changed when the reaction is carried out in a polar solvent. Thus, the effect of solvent on the diastereoselectivity of the reactions of **9** with organolithium reagents is summarized in Table 5.

It is interesting to note that the reactions of **20a** with alkyl lithium in ether yield **21a** and **21b** with poor selectivity (entries 22 and 23).⁴ The reactions of related methoxy derivative **20b** with *n*-BuLi at -78 °C in toluene as well as in THF were also examined (entries 24 and 25). These reactions were much less selective than those with a bulky alkoxy substituent in the chiral auxiliary under the same conditions (entry 24, cf Table 3).

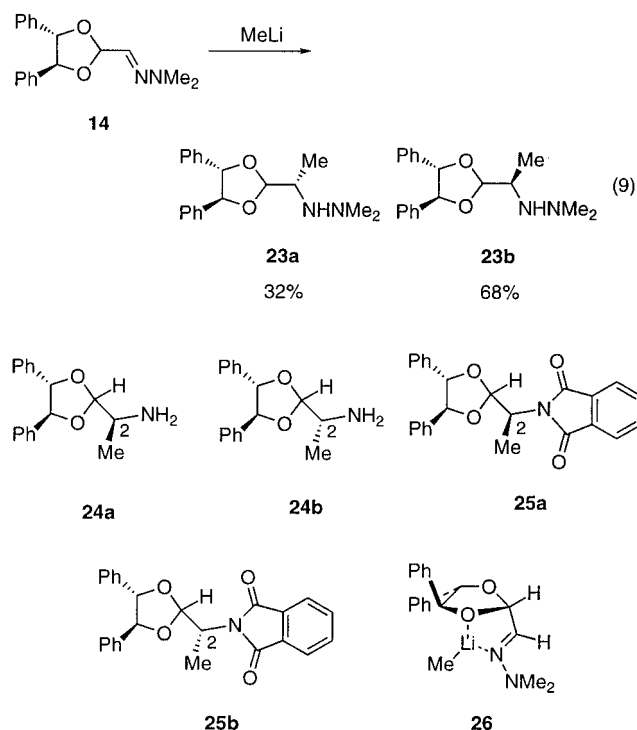


As is evident from Table 5, the diastereoselectivity was reversed when the reaction was carried out in THF as

opposed to diethyl ether. Furthermore, when **9b** was treated with MeLi in toluene in the presence of 2 equiv of TMEDA, a 33/67 (*2S*/*2R*) diastereomeric mixture of **15d** was obtained. Again, this selectivity is opposite to that obtained from the same reaction in the absence of an amine ligand (entry 4, Table 3). Both THF and TMEDA are good donor ligands for organolithium compounds. The oxygen atoms of **9** may be less competitive in the accommodation of lithium to form intermediate **18** when the reaction is carried out in THF or in the presence of such a chelating amine. There might exist a rapid conformational equilibrium between **19** and **22** (eq 8) making the nucleophilic addition less selective.



Reaction of *dl*-14 with MeLi. To show that **18** is involved in the overall asymmetric nucleophilic addition to **9**, we examined the reaction of *dl*-**14** with methyl-lithium (eq 9). The hydrazines **23** were converted to **25** in a manner similar to that described in eq 7. The X-ray structure of **25b** was determined; hence the relative configuration at C₂ of **23b** is established. The nucleophile may attack preferentially from the *re* face (or *si* face if the other enantiomeric form of **14** is considered) of the carbon–nitrogen double bond of **14**. The chelation intermediate **26** appears to prevail, and the transfer of the alkyl anion may occur from the less hindered face.



It is important to note that the diastereoselectivity shown in eq 9 was opposite to those summarized in

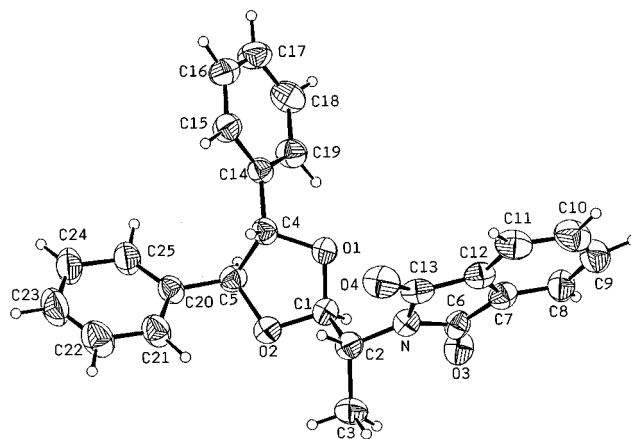


Figure 2. ORTEP of **25b**. Thermal ellipsoids are shown in 30% probability.

Tables 3 and 5. Furthermore, the reaction assisted by stilbene diol moiety **14** was much less selective than those using tunable diols **6** as the chiral auxiliary. By comparing **18** with **26**, it is clear that the alkoxy side chain in **9** plays a pivotal role in directing the diastereoselective addition of organolithium nucleophiles to the hydrazone moiety.

Conclusion

In summary, we have demonstrated another useful application of the tunable chiral auxiliary **6** in asymmetric synthesis. Our results show that the bulky alkoxy moiety in **9** may serve as an additional auxiliary ligand to form a chelating complex with the metal catalyst. The stereoselectivity of the nucleophilic addition reactions of alkylolithiums to **9** in aromatic hydrocarbon solvent is enhanced. The present results along with our earlier work^{11–13} suggest that the bulky alkoxy group of **8** has a demonstrated role as a chiral auxiliary in asymmetric synthesis. The selectivities in these reactions are higher than those in reactions employing simple methoxy or even benzyloxy auxiliaries **6**. Further applications of **8** are under study.

Experimental Section

General Procedure for the Preparation of 4,5-Bis-(alkoxymethyl)-2-(2-phenylethenyl)dioxolane (8). A benzene solution of the α,β -unsaturated aldehyde or ketone (1 equiv), **7** (1 equiv), and PPTs (1 mol %) was refluxed overnight, cooled, diluted with ether, washed with saturated NaHCO₃ and brine, and dried (MgSO₄). The organic solution was evaporated in vacuo to give the residue which was chromatographed on silica gel (5% EtOAc in hexane) to give **8**.

4,5-Bis(isopropoxymethyl)-2-(2-phenylethenyl)dioxolane (8a): 90%; $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +13.3$ (c 11.1, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 1.16 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 12 H), 3.51–3.70 (m, 6 H), 3.98 (dt, *J* = 4.9, 6.5 Hz, 1 H), 4.05 (dt, *J* = 6.4, 6.5 Hz, 1 H), 5.56 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 1 H), 6.16 (dd, *J* = 6.3, 16.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.21–7.34 (m, 3 H), 7.35–7.41 (m, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 21.9, 22.0, 68.5, 68.8, 72.3, 72.3, 77.4, 78.5, 104.2, 125.4, 126.9, 128.2, 128.5, 135.1, 135.8; HRMS calcd for C₁₉H₂₈O₄ 320.1988, found 320.1988.

4,5-Bis(*tert*-butoxymethyl)-2-(2-phenylethenyl)dioxolane (8b): 86%; mp 43–44 °C; $[\alpha]_D^{27} = +15.6$ (c 2.1, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 1.22 (s, 18 H), 3.46–3.63 (m, 4 H), 3.93 (dt, *J* = 5.1, 6.5 Hz, 1 H), 4.00 (q, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 1 H), 5.55 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 1 H), 6.16 (dd, *J* = 6.1, 16.1 Hz, 1 H), 6.73 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1 H), 7.18–7.32 (m, 3 H), 7.33–7.40 (m, 2 H);

and concentrated to give the residue which was chromatographed on silica gel (25% EtOAc in hexane) to give **17**.

(2*S*)-**17a**: 91%; mp 95–97 °C; $[\alpha]_D^{24} = +4.1$ (c 5.4, CHCl₃); IR (KBr) ν 1713, 1699 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.10 (s, 9 H), 1.17 (s, 9 H), 1.50 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3 H), 3.34 (dd, $J = 5.6, 9.3$ Hz, 1 H), 3.39–3.54 (m, 3 H), 3.85 (q, $J = 6.2$ Hz, 1 H), 3.94 (dt, $J = 5.2, 6.2$ Hz, 1 H), 4.24 (quint, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1 H), 5.58 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.63–7.83 (m, 4 H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.2, 27.3, 27.4, 50.6, 62.4, 63.1, 73.1, 73.2, 78.7, 79.1, 103.1, 123.1, 132.0, 133.7, 168.1; HRMS calcd for C₂₃H₃₅O₆N 419.2308, found 419.2294.

(2*S*)-**17b**: 85%; $[\alpha]_D^{24} = -5.6$ (c 7.8, CHCl₃); IR (neat) ν 1716 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.81 (t, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3 H), 1.09 (s, 9 H), 1.10–1.35 [(m, 13 H), embodied a singlet at δ 1.17 (s, 9 H)], 1.69–1.92 (m, 1 H), 2.01–2.30 (m, 1 H), 3.26–3.57 (m, 4 H), 3.77–3.99 (m, 2 H), 4.11 (ddd, $J = 4.1, 7.3, 11.4$ Hz, 1 H), 5.55 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1 H), 7.63–7.84 (m, 4 H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.9, 22.3, 27.2, 27.3, 27.4, 28.2, 55.6, 62.5, 63.2, 73.1, 78.5, 79.1, 102.8, 123.2, 132.0, 133.8, 168.5; HRMS calcd for C₂₆H₃₉O₆N 461.2777, found 461.2779.

(2*S*)-**17c**: 93%; $[\alpha]_D^{30} = +10.2$ (c 1.7, CHCl₃); IR (neat) ν 1777, 1718 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.81 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3 H), 1.01–1.15 [(m, 15 H), embodied a doublet at δ 1.07 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3 H), a doublet at δ 1.09 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3 H), a doublet at δ 1.12 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 6 H)], 1.20–1.35 (m, 1 H), 1.45 (s, 3 H), 1.64–1.89 (m, 1 H), 2.35–2.53 (m, 1 H), 3.40–3.65 (m, 6 H), 3.87 (dt, $J = 4.5, 8.7$ Hz, 1 H), 3.93 (ddd, $J = 4.2, 6.3, 8.7$ Hz, 1 H), 4.24 (dd, $J = 3.6, 12.3$ Hz, 1 H), 7.63–7.82 (m, 4 H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.1, 21.7, 21.8, 21.9, 22.0, 22.2, 23.2, 25.2, 28.7, 58.6, 68.3, 68.7, 72.0, 72.2, 78.3, 79.1, 110.8, 122.97, 123.1, 131.4, 132.2, 133.6, 133.8, 168.3, 169.0; HRMS calcd for C₂₅H₃₇O₆N 447.2621, found 447.2621.

(2*S*)-**17d**: 82%; $[\alpha]_D^{24} = +19.4$ (c 1.2, CHCl₃); IR (neat) ν 1775, 1717, 1699 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.13 (s, 9 H), 1.15 (s, 9 H), 1.43 (s, 3 H), 1.59 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3 H), 3.39–3.60 (m, 4 H), 3.8–3.96 (m, 2 H), 4.44 (q, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1 H), 7.61–7.82 (m, 4 H); ¹³C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.8, 22.9, 27.4, 53.5, 62.7, 62.9, 73.1, 73.2, 79.0, 79.5, 110.9, 123.1, 131.9, 133.7, 168.4; HRMS calcd for C₂₄H₃₆O₆N (M⁺ + 1) 434.2543, found 434.2538.

(2*S*)-**17e**: 85%; $[\alpha]_D^{24} = +7.6$ (c 3.0, CHCl₃); IR (neat) ν 1775, 1717, 1699 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.81 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3 H), 1.10–1.39 [(m, 22 H), embodied a singlet at δ 1.13 (s, 9 H), a singlet at δ 1.15 (s, 9 H)], 1.43 (s, 3 H), 1.73–1.89 (m, 1 H), 2.35–2.52 (m, 1 H), 3.41–3.58 (m, 4 H), 3.78–3.93 (m, 2 H), 4.25 (dd, $J = 3.6, 12.3$ Hz, 1 H), 7.63–7.84 (m, 4 H);

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.9, 22.2, 23.2, 25.1, 27.3, 28.7, 58.6, 62.7, 62.8, 73.0, 73.1, 78.9, 79.3, 110.7, 123.0, 123.1, 131.4, 132.2, 133.6, 133.8, 168.3, 169.0; HRMS calcd for C₂₇H₄₁O₆N 475.2934, found 475.2938.

Phthalimide 25. In a manner similar to that described above, a mixture of *dl*-**14** (0.59 g, 2.0 mmol) and MeLi (6 mL of a 1.6 M solution in ether, 9.6 mmol) in toluene (60 mL) was stirred at –78 °C for 16 h. After usual workup, the crude **23** (dr = 32/68) was taken up into methanol (50 mL) to which was added excess Raney nickel (W2). The mixture was refluxed for 1 h and filtered through a short column of flash silica gel to yield crude **24**. Without further purification, a mixture of crude **24**, phthalic anhydride (0.30 g, 2.0 mmol), and NaOAc (1.96 g, 20.0 mmol) in acetic anhydride (60 mL) was refluxed for 1 h. The mixture was worked up to give **25** (0.22 g, 27%). The diastereomeric mixture was separated by flash column chromatography (silica gel, 25% EtOAc in hexane): **25a**: mp 106–108 °C; IR (KBr) ν 1771, 1711 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.67 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3 H), 4.58 (quint, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1 H), 4.73 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1 H), 4.79 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1 H), 6.03 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.12–7.35 (m, 10 H); 7.65–7.70 (m, 2 H), 7.79–7.83 (m, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.9, 50.5, 84.7, 87.2, 103.6, 123.23, 126.6, 126.7, 128.2, 128.3, 128.4, 128.5, 132.0, 133.9, 136.1, 136.9, 168.3; HRMS calcd for C₂₅H₂₁O₄N 399.1471, found 399.1494. **25b**: IR (KBr) ν 1771, 1711 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.65 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3 H), 4.58 (quint, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1 H), 4.70 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1 H), 4.74 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1 H), 6.05 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1 H), 7.12–7.34 (m, 10 H), 7.65–7.70 (m, 2 H), 7.79–7.85 (m, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.4, 50.8, 85.3, 87.0, 103.7, 123.3, 126.6, 126.7, 128.3, 128.4, 128.5, 128.6, 132.0, 133.9, 135.8, 136.7, 168.3; HRMS calcd for C₂₅H₂₁O₄N 399.1471, found 399.1439.

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Supporting Information Available: The experimental procedure and data for X-ray crystallography and ¹H NMR spectra for **8a–f**, **9a–f**, (2*S*)-**15a–m**, (2*R*)-**15e**, (2*S*)-**16a,b**, (2*S*)-**17a–e**, and **25a,b** (50 pages). This material is contained in libraries on microfiche, immediately follows this article in the microfilm version of the journal, and can be ordered from the ACS; see any current masthead page for ordering information.

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