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# Breaking the $C_3$ -Symmetry of Chiral Tripodal Oxazolines: Enantio-Discrimination of Chiral Organoammonium Ions

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A phenylglycinol-derived tripodal oxazoline with  $C_1$ -symmetry ( $C_1$ -PhBTO) was synthesized, and its enantioselective recognition behavior toward  $\alpha$ -chiral primary organoammonium ions was studied. The  $C_1$ -PhBTO receptor showed higher selectivity with an opposite sense of enantiodiscrimination compared to other  $C_1$ -symmetric analogues examined but lower selectivity with the same sense of enantioselection compared to its  $C_3$ -symmetric analogue. Binding studies indicated that the  $C_1$ -symmetric receptors, particularly  $C_1$ -PhBTO, interact with the guests in a 2:1 hostguest complex mode in stark contrast to its  $C_3$ -symmetric analogues.

## Introduction

Chiral molecular recognition has attracted a continuing research interest for a better understanding of the recognition phenomena as well as for potential applications to separation processes, catalysis, and sensing.<sup>1</sup> The selective recognition of one enantiomer out of its racemic mixture requires an artificial receptor that provides an effective chiral environment toward one enantiomeric guest over another. Among a variety of chiral molecular receptors with different molecular symmetries,  $C_2$ -symmetric receptors have been widely used.<sup>2</sup> Recently, we introduced  $C_3$ -symmetric, benzene-based tripodal oxazolines ( $C_3$ -BTOs) as efficient and unique receptors for organoammonium ions.<sup>3,4</sup> Our tripodal oxazoline receptors, particularly  $C_3$ -PhBTOs, provide a  $C_3$ -symmetric "screw-sense" chiral environment toward α-chiral primary organoammonium ions. We have shown that this unique chiral discrimination in a  $C_3$ -symmetric environment actually occurs contrary to the previous perception.<sup>3c</sup> Although we proposed a plausible origin for the chiral discrimination, only a subtle structural difference exists between the diastereomeric inclusion complexes, and thus need for a further mechanistic study remained. In

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<sup>(2)</sup> For examples of chiral  $C_2$  symmetric receptors, see: (a) Newcomb, M.; Toner, J. L.; Helgeson, R. C.; Cram, D. J. J. Am. Chem. Soc. **1979**, 101, 4941-4947. (b) Lingenfelter, D. S.; Helgeson, R. C.; Cram, D. J. J. Org. Chem. **1981**, 46, 393-406. (c) Davidson, R. B.; Bradshaw, J. S.; Jones, B. A.; Dalley, N. K.; Christensen, J. J.; Izatt, R. M. J. Org. Chem. **1984**, 49, 353-357. (d) Iimori, T.; Erickson, S. D.; Rheingold, A. L.; Still, W. C. Tetrahedron Lett. **1989**, 30, 6947-6950. (e) Tsukuba, H.; Sohmiya, H. J. Org. Chem. **1991**, 56, 875-878. (f) Wang, X.; Erickson, S. D.; Iimori, T.; Still, W. C. J. Am. Chem. Soc. **1992**, 114, 4128-4137. (g) Miyake, H.; Yamashita, T.; Kojima, Y.; Tsukube, H. Tetrahedron Lett. **1995**, 36, 7669-7672. (h) You, J.-S.; Yu, X.-Q.; Zhang, G.-L.; Xing, Q.-X. Lan, J.-B.; Xie, R.-G. Chem. Commun. **2001**, 1816-1817.

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**FIGURE 1.** Schematic diagrams for supposed inclusion complexes of  $C_3$ - and  $C_1$ -BTOs with  $\alpha$ -chiral organoammonium ions.

this context, we were interested in changing the symmetry of the chiral environment from  $C_3$  to  $C_1$  (no symmetry) to see its consequences on the enantiodiscrimination ability and binding mode. Herein, we report a new approach to the benzene-based tripodal oxazoline receptor with  $C_1$ -symmetry,  $C_1$ -PhBTO, and evaluation of chiral discrimination ability of the new receptor and its analogues toward  $\alpha$ -chiral primary organoammonium ions.

## **Results and Discussion**

What would be the chiral discrimination mode if we break the chiral environment of our BTOs from  $C_3$ - to non- $C_3$ -symmetry, that is,  $C_1$ -symmetry? The inclusion complex between a  $C_3$ -BTO receptor and an enantiomeric  $\alpha$ -chiral primary organoammonium ion, complex I in Figure 1, viewed from the top can be depicted in such a way that each of the oxazoline rings is almost perpendicular to the bottom benzene frame and its substituent R is pointing upward. In a top view, the  $\alpha$ -substituents of the ammonium guest are in a screw-sense chiral environment,<sup>3c</sup> which can be simplified as diagram I' or I''; the latter shows three "chiral sectors" with equal space. We assumed that  $C_1$ -symmetric receptors,  $C_1$ -BTOs, would also show tripodal binding modes toward the ammonium ions similarly as that of the  $C_3$ -symmetric receptors. In this case, the  $\alpha$ -substituents of an ammonium guest reside in different sectors; hence, we would expect different steric interactions between  $C_1$ -symmetric receptors and enantiomeric guests (IIa vs IIb) compared to the case of  $C_3$ -BTOs. This scenario, however, has found to be not true from the binding studies in the followings.

Synthesis of  $C_1$ -Symmetric Tripodal Oxazoline Receptors. To change the  $C_3$ -symmetry of our oxazoline receptors into  $C_1$ -symmetry (asymmetry), several approaches are possible. One is to introduce three oxazoline rings with different substituents ( $\mathbb{R}^1$ ,  $\mathbb{R}^2$ ,  $\mathbb{R}^3$ ) but with the same sense of chirality, as the type I in Figure 2. This approach, however, poses a severe synthetic challenge of stepwise introduction of the three different oxazolines. Another approach to synthesize  $C_1$ -BTOs is to introduce one of the three oxazoline rings with a substituent of opposite stereochemistry to those of the other two. In this approach, we can use either different R-substituents (such as type IIa) or the same ones (type IIb).



**FIGURE 2.** Schematic diagrams of different types of  $C_1$ -symmetric tripodal oxazolines.

#### SCHEME 1



Recently, we disclosed a novel method for the synthesis of the type IIa oxazolines through an oxazoline exchange reaction with amino alcohols mediated by ZnCl<sub>2</sub>.<sup>5</sup> Using this novel method we were able to synthesize various  $C_1$ -BTOs. However, we found that the oxazoline exchange method was not effective for the synthesis of type IIb oxazolines, particularly  $C_1$ -PhBTO (R = Ph) which is the most required  $C_1$ -BTO analogue considering that its counterpart  $C_3$ -PhBTO is the most efficient receptor in the chiral discrimination among several  $C_3$ -BTOs examined.<sup>3c</sup> Experiments suggested that significant decomposition of phenylglycinol during the oxazoline exchange reaction might be the problem. Therefore, we envisaged that a Lewis acid milder than ZnCl<sub>2</sub> might solve this problem, under which condition phenylglycinol could survive. Thus, we reinvestigated the oxazoline formation starting from cyano-bis(oxazoline) 5 using Cd- $(OAc)_2$  that is known to be a milder Lewis acid compared to  $\text{ZnCl}_2$  (Scheme 1).<sup>6</sup>

The (S,S)-bis(oxazoline) **5** was prepared from tris-(cyanomethyl)mesitylene by treatment with (S)-phenylglycinol in the presence of 5 mol % of Cd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> in refluxing chlorobenzene for 4 days in 24% isolated yield. Then, treatment of cyano-bis(oxazoline) **5** with (R)-phenylglycinol under otherwise identical conditions, to our delight, afforded  $C_1$ -PhBTO (S,S,R)-**2** in 28% isolated yield. Thus, using the milder Lewis acid in a catalytic amount, we were able to synthesize the most desired  $C_1$ -PhBTO **2**.

 $C_1$ -PhBTO thus synthesized, that is (S,S,R)-2, interestingly exhibited very simple <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra,

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<sup>(6)</sup> Gerisch, M.; Krumper, J. R.; Bergman, R. G.; Tilley, T. D. J. Am. Chem. Soc. **2001**, 123, 5818–5819.  $Cd(OAc)_2$  is a harmful and dangerous chemical for human and the environment, and thus, it should be handled with proper caution.

TABLE 1. Enantioselective Extraction Experiments Using C<sub>1</sub>-BTOs 2-4 toward α-Chiral Organoammonium Guests

			-	
entry	receptor	ammonium guest <sup><math>a</math></sup>	$enantios electivity^b$	$\% \ \mathrm{extraction}^c$
$1^d$	1	PhCH(NH <sub>3</sub> <sup>+</sup> )CH <sub>3</sub>	71 (R):29 (S)	82
$2^d$	1	PhCH(NH <sub>3</sub> <sup>+</sup> )CO <sub>2</sub> Me	78(S):22(R)	60
3	2	PhCH(NH <sub>3</sub> <sup>+</sup> )CH <sub>3</sub>	64(R):36(S)	51
4	2	PhCH(NH <sub>3</sub> <sup>+</sup> )CO <sub>2</sub> Me	70(S):30(R)	22
$5^e$	3a	PhCH(NH <sub>3</sub> <sup>+</sup> )CH <sub>3</sub>	59(S):41(R)	100
$6^e$	3a	PhCH(NH <sub>3</sub> <sup>+</sup> )CO <sub>2</sub> Me	62(S):38(R)	91
$7^e$	3b	PhCH(NH <sub>3</sub> <sup>+</sup> )CH <sub>3</sub>	58(S):42(R)	80
$8^e$	3b	PhCH(NH <sub>3</sub> <sup>+</sup> )CO <sub>2</sub> Me	69(S):31(R)	69
9	3c	PhCH(NH <sub>3</sub> <sup>+</sup> )CH <sub>3</sub>	50(S):50(R)	-
$10^e$	4	PhCH(NH <sub>3</sub> <sup>+</sup> )CH <sub>3</sub>	50(S):50(R)	70

<sup>*a*</sup> Perchlorate salts. <sup>*b*</sup> Ratio of the enantiomeric guests extracted from a racemic mixture (0.5 M in D<sub>2</sub>O) using the  $C_1$ -BTO (0.05 M in CDCl<sub>3</sub>) at 25 °C. <sup>*c*</sup> Percentage of the extracted ammonium ions with respected to the receptor used (see the Experimental Section). <sup>*d*</sup> Taken from ref 3c. <sup>*e*</sup> Taken from ref 5.

showing little difference with respect to those of  $C_3$ -PhBTO 1. To differentiate  $C_1$ -PhBTO from  $C_3$ - on NMR spectra, we compared their ammonium ion complexes. Thus, an equimolar mixture of NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>PF<sub>6</sub><sup>-</sup> and (S,S,R)-2 exhibited significant differences in their <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra, compared to those of the corresponding inclusion complex of (S,S,S)-1. For example, the inclusion complex of (S,S,R)-2 exhibited more split peaks, particularly three peaks for the 2,4,6-trimethyl groups of the central benzene, while singlet for those of the (S,S,S)-1 complex.<sup>7</sup> Surely, both PhBTOs showed much different physical properties such as their melting points and optical rotations [(S,S,R)-2 vs (S,S,S)-1: 118–120 vs 125–126 °C;  $[\alpha]_D$  –12 vs +77.8 (c = 1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>)].

Chiral Discrimination of  $C_1$ -BTOs toward  $\alpha$ -Chiral Organoammonium Ions. The chiral discrimination ability of  $C_1$ -PhBTO (S,S,R)-2 was evaluated by the extraction experiment<sup>8</sup> described previously in the case of  $C_3$ -PhBTO 1.<sup>3c</sup> Typically, the method involves extraction of a D<sub>2</sub>O solution of the racemic organoammonium salt (0.5 M) with a CDCl<sub>3</sub> solution of (S,S,R)-2 (0.05 M) in the presence of  $NaPF_6$  (0.6 M) at 25 °C. This time, a direct NMR analysis for the organic layer did not give information on the degree of enantioselection; hence, the organic layer was further derivatized to the corresponding Mosher amides as described previously<sup>3e</sup> for assessing their percent diastereomeric excess. The percent extraction and enantioselection values are listed in Table 1, together with some previously determined values using structurally different  $C_1$ -BTOs.

Only those tripodal receptors that have two phenylglycinol-derived oxazolines exhibited appreciable enantioselectivity toward the racemic  $\alpha$ -chiral ammonium ions examined (entries 1–8). In the case of  $C_1$ -BTO, **3c**, which has one phenyl-substituted oxazoline ligand, showed little enantioselectivity (entry 9). Other  $C_1$ -BTOs that have no phenyl substituents on the oxazoline ligands such as 4 did not show any chiral discrimination, although they extracted the ammonium guests well (entry 10). Interestingly, when we carried out the extraction experiment separately toward each of the enantiomeric guest ions,  $C_1$ -BTO 4 gave 50% extraction toward the (*R*)-guest and 26% extraction toward the (S)-guest. We do not know the reason for the discrepancy between the "separate" and "racemic mixture" experiments, but these results clearly warn that separate extraction experiments toward each

enantiomeric guest to assess enantio-discrimination of a receptor could be misleading.



Table 1 shows that  $C_1$ -PhBTO **2** is more enantioselective than other  $C_1$ -BTOs, but less selective than  $C_3$ -PhBTO 1. Interestingly,  $C_1$ -PhBTO 2 gave significantly lower % extraction values than other receptors. Another notable result was that type IIa  $C_1$ -BTOs 3 and 4 extracted (S)- $\alpha$ -phenylethylammonium ion preferentially over the (R)-guest, a reverse sense of chiral discrimination in comparison with that of  $C_3$ -PhBTO 1, whereas  $C_1$ -PhBTO 2 showed the same sense of chiral discrimination as that of  $C_3$ -PhBTO 1. The opposite sense of chiral discrimination observed between  $C_3$ -PhBTO 1 and  $C_1$ -BTOs 3 and 4 and between  $C_1$ -PhBTO 2 and  $C_1$ -BTOs 3 and 4 suggested that different binding modes might be involved. Also, the observation that two phenyl-substituted oxazolines are necessary for the chiral discrimination demonstrates again that the phenyl-substituted oxazolines provide more efficient chiral environments than do the alkyl-substituted oxazolines.<sup>3c</sup>

Studies on the Binding Modes. To get information on the binding mode, we determined thermodynamic parameters for the binding processes in the cases of  $C_1$ -BTOs 2, 3a, and 3b toward each of the enantiomeric  $\alpha$ -phenylethylammonium ions by isothermal titration calorimetry (ITC).<sup>9</sup> The results are summarized in Table 2. Interestingly, both  $C_1$ -BTOs 3a and 3b showed slightly larger association constants than that of  $C_3$ -PhBTO 1, whereas  $C_1$ -PhBTO 2 showed smaller values than that of  $C_3$ -PhBTO 1. These relative association constants are

<sup>(7)</sup> See the Supporting Information.

<sup>(8)</sup> Lein, G. M.; Cram, D. J. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1985, 107, 448-455.

<sup>(9) (</sup>a) Christensen, J. J.; Wrathall, D. P.; Oscarson, J. O.; Izatt, R. M. Anal. Chem. 1968, 40, 1713-1717. (b) Smithrud, D. B.; Wyman, T. B.; Diederich, F. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1991, 113, 5420-5476. (c) Rekharsky, M.; Inoue, Y. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2000, 122, 4418-4435.



**FIGURE 3.** Enlarged portion of the ESI mass spectrum that shows 2:1 complexes of  $C_1$ -PhBTO **2** and (R)- $\alpha$ -PhCH(NH<sub>2</sub>)CH<sub>3</sub>· HClO<sub>4</sub> (the peaks b-d in the box): a, 719.4 [H<sub>o</sub> + G<sub>o</sub> + H<sup>+</sup>]; b, 1434.8 [2H<sub>o</sub> + G<sub>o</sub> + H<sup>+</sup> + H<sub>2</sub>O + HClO<sub>4</sub>]; c, 1452.6 [2H<sub>o</sub> + G<sub>o</sub> + H<sup>+</sup> + 2H<sub>2</sub>O + HClO<sub>4</sub>]; d, 1470.7 [2H<sub>o</sub> + G<sub>o</sub> + H<sup>+</sup> + 3H<sub>2</sub>O + HClO<sub>4</sub>]. H<sub>o</sub> and G<sub>o</sub> represent host **2** and the neutral amine guest PhCH(NH<sub>2</sub>)CH<sub>3</sub>, respectively. For a detailed analysis, see the Supporting Information.

TABLE 2.         Thermodynamic Data for the Binding
Process of C1-BTOs 2, 3a, and 3b toward Enantiomeric
α-Phenylethylammonium Ions, Determined by ITC in
Acetonitrile at 30 °C

entry	receptor	guest <sup>a</sup>	N value	$\stackrel{\Delta H^{\rm o}}{(\rm kcal\cdot mol^{-1})}$	$\begin{array}{c} -T\Delta S^{\circ} \\ (\mathrm{kcal}\boldsymbol{\cdot}\mathrm{mol}^{-1}) \end{array}$	$\stackrel{K_{ m assoc}}{({ m M}^{-1})}$
1	$1^{b}$	S	1.1	-7.3	1.7	$1.1  imes 10^4$
2	$1^{b}$	R	0.90	-9.0	2.7	$3.3 imes10^4$
3	2	S	0.53	-11.1	5.5	$1.1  imes 10^4$
4	2	R	0.49	-11.9	6.0	$1.8  imes 10^4$
5	3a	S	0.69	-12.0	5.7	$3.5 imes10^4$
6	3a	R	0.64	-10.8	4.8	$2.4 imes10^4$
7	3b	S	0.53	-12.3	5.7	$5.5 imes10^4$
8	3b	R	0.53	-13.4	6.8	$5.4 imes10^4$
$a \mathbf{P}$	hCH(NH <sub>2</sub>	+)CH <sub>2</sub> ((	$ClO_{-}$	<sup>b</sup> Taken from	n ref 3c	

correlated well with the percent extraction values listed in Table 1, which suggests that receptors with higher binding affinity toward the guests extract them better than receptors of lower binding affinity.

The results of ITC experiments confirm that both  $C_1$ and  $C_3$ -PhBTOs form thermodynamically more stable inclusion complexes with the (R)- $\alpha$ -phenylethylammonium ion than with the (S)-guest ion, whereas  $C_1$ -BTOs 3a and 3b form more stable inclusion complexes with the (S)- $\alpha$ -phenylethylammonium ion. Of particular note is that the observed N values, stoichiometry of binding obtained from the nonlinear least-squares fit process, do not show values of near 1.0 but 0.49-0.53 in the cases of  $C_1$ -BTOs 2 and 3b, and 0.64–0.69 in the case of  $C_1$ -BTO **3a**. These N values suggest that not a 1H:1G binding but a 2H:1G binding mode should be considered in these  $C_1$ -BTO cases, particularly in the cases of **2** and **3b** that show  $N \approx 0.5$ , which are in stark contrast to the 1H:1G binding mode proven in the case of  $C_3$ -PhBTO 1.<sup>3c</sup> The N value of near 0.5 in the cases of  $C_1$ -BTOs 2 and 3b argues well for the formation of 2H:1G complexes in these cases, which also provides a clue for the different sense of enantioselection and percent extraction observed depending on the receptors.



**FIGURE 4.** Modeled 2H:1G inclusion complex of  $C_1$ -PhBTO **2** and  $\alpha$ -phenylethylammonium ion (indicated by the box).

To get supporting information on the 2H:1G complex, we performed the electrospray ionization (ESI) mass spectrometry for an equimolar mixture of  $C_1$ -PhBTO **2** and  $\alpha$ -phenylethylammonium ion in a water-acetonitrile solution. The ESI mass data in Figure 3 shows several peaks responsible for the 2H:1G complexes, in addition to the large peak at m/z = 719.4 corresponding to 1H:1G inclusion complexes.

Also, a Job plot was obtained by the continuous variations method, which excluded the 1H:1G complexation and indicated a 2H:1G binding mode between  $C_1$ -PhBTO **2** with  $\alpha$ -phenylethylammonium ion.<sup>7</sup>

A model structure of the 2H:1G inclusion complex plausible in the case of  $C_1$ -PhBTO **2** is shown in Figure 4.<sup>10</sup>

Thus, the different sense of chiral discrimination and percent extraction values observed depending on receptors 1-4 are believed to be the consequence of the unusual binding modes. Although attempts to get single

<sup>(10)</sup> Molecular mechanics computation was performed using Spartan Windows '04 from Wavefunction, Inc. The computation used the MMFF94 force field and provided an isolated, equilibrium geometry at ground state. A geometry optimization could be readily done for the guest-bound region, for which region only a limited number of configurations resulted.

crystals of 2H:1G complexes have not been successful so far, the above experimental ITC, ESI, and Job plot data support the formation of 2H:1G complexes in the case of  $C_1$ -BTOs.

### Conclusion

We have synthesized a phenylglycinol-derived tripodal oxazoline with  $C_1$ -symmetry ( $C_1$ -PhBTO) and studied its enantioselective recognition behavior toward  $\alpha$ -chiral primary organoammonium ions. This  $C_1$ -PhBTO receptor showed higher selectivity with an opposite sense of enantio-discrimination compared to other  $C_1$ -symmetric analogues examined, but lower selectivity with the same sense of enantioselection compared to its  $C_3$ -symmetric analogue. Binding studies indicated that the  $C_1$ -symmetric receptors, particularly  $C_1$ -PhBTO, could interact with the guests in a 2:1 host-guest complex mode in stark contrast to its  $C_3$ -symmetric analogue. Thus, this study shows that changing receptor's symmetry, from  $C_3$ to  $C_1$ , could lead to a dramatic modulation in the binding mode as well as the sense of enantioselection.

## **Experimental Section**

(S,S)-{2,4,6-Trimethyl-3,5-bis[(4-phenyl-4,5-dihydrooxazol-2-yl)methyl]phenyl}acetonitrile (5). A three-necked flask was charged with Cd(OAc)<sub>2</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O (150 mg, 0.055 mmol), tris(cyanomethyl)mesitylene (3 g, 11.0 mmol), L-phenylglycinol (3.3 g, 24.1 mmol), and 35 mL of chlorobenzene. The mixture was heated at reflux for 4 days under argon. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, giving an oily residue. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient elution: 30%-50% ethyl acetate/hexane) to afford the desired bis(2-oxazoline) 5 (1.26 g, 24%) as a white solid: mp 53–55 °C;  $[\alpha]^{21}_{D}$  = +17.5 (*c* = 1.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.34–7.17 (m, 10H), 5.15 (dd, 2H, *J* = 10.1, 8.4 Hz), 4.59 (dd, 2H, J = 10.1, 8.5 Hz), 4.05 (dd, 2H, J = 8.5, 8.3 Hz),3.85 (s, 4H), 3.71 (s, 2H), 2.51 (s, 6H), 2.45 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\mathrm{C}$  NMR (75 MHz, CDCl\_3)  $\delta$  167.3, 143.1, 137.8, 135.8, 132.1, 129.3, 128.2, 127.2, 126.8, 78.1, 77.7, 77.3, 75.6, 70.2, 30.7, 19.8, 18.0, 17.8; MS (EI) m/z (rel intensity) 477 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100), 447 (30), 356 (55)Anal. Calcd for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>31</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: C, 77.96; H, 6.54; N, 8.80. Found: C, 77.24; H, 6.61; N, 8.64.

(S,S,R)-2-{3,5-Bis[(4-phenyl-4,5-dihydrooxazol-2-yl)methyl]-2,4,6-trimethylphenyl}methyl-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydrooxazole (2). A three-necked flask was charged with Cd(OAc)<sub>2</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O (11 mg, 0.042 mmol), bis(2-oxazoline) **5** (400 mg, 0.84 mmol), D-phenylglycinol (170 mg, 1.26 mmol), and 5 mL of chlorobenzene. The mixture was heated at reflux for 2 days under argon. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, giving an oily residue. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient elution: 40%-60% ethyl acetate/hexane) to afford the desired tris(oxazoline) **2** (140 mg, 28%) as a white solid: mp 118–120 °C; [ $\alpha$ ]<sup>22</sup><sub>D</sub> = -12.0 (c = 1.00, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.34–7.21 (m, 15H), 5.16 (dd, 3H, J = 10.1, 8.3 Hz), 4.59 (dd, 3H, J = 10.1, 8.5 Hz), 4.05 (dd, 3H, J = 8.5, 8.3 Hz), 3.87 (s, 6H), 2.51 (s,

9H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  167.0, 142.5, 135.9, 130.7, 128.6, 127.4, 126.5, 74.8, 69.5, 30.1, 17.3; MS (EI) m/z (rel intensity) 597 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100), 576 (28). Alal. Calcd for  $C_{39}H_{39}N_3O_3$ : C, 78.36; H, 6.58; N, 7.03. Found: C, 78.13; H, 6.70; N, 7.41.

**C**<sub>3</sub>-**PhBTO** 1-**NH**<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>**PF**<sub>6</sub><sup>-</sup> **complex:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  7.35–7.26 (m, 10H), 7.06 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 5H), 4.97 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 4.86 (dd, J = 10.1, 8.3 Hz, 3H), 4.19 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 3H), 3.93 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  167.5, 144.4, 136.4, 132.0, 129.6, 128.0, 127.4, 75.4, 70.4, 30.5, 17.4.

**C<sub>3</sub>-PhBTO 2-NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>PF<sub>6</sub><sup>-</sup> complex:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  7.34–7.02 (m, 15H), 5.01–4.81 (m, 6H), 4.22–3.88 (m, 9H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  170.8, 170.6, 143.2, 143.0, 136.6, 136.4, 132.2, 132.0, 129.6, 129.2, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 127.4, 127.1, 127.0, 126.9, 76.6, 76.5, 76.4, 69.3, 69.1, 32.3, 23.3, 17.1, 17.0, 14.3.

Determination of Enantioselective Binding. Binding experiments were carried out by extracting a  $D_2O$  solution (0.5 mL) of a racemic alkylammonium chloride (0.5 M) and NaPF<sub>6</sub> (0.6 M) with a CDCl<sub>3</sub> solution (0.5 mL, 0.05 M) of the tris-(oxazoline) host. A  $D_2O$  solution of a racemic guest salt and a host solution were placed in a centrifuge tube equipped with a screw cap and equilibrated for 1 h in a thermostat at 25 °C. After 1 h, the whole mixture was extracted with a Vortex-Genie for 1 min and then centrifuged at 1500 rpm for 1 min. The organic layer was separated and treated with triethylamine (4 molar equiv) followed by (R)-(+)- $\alpha$ -methoxy- $\alpha$ -(trifluoromethyl)phenylacetyl chloride (4 molar equiv). The Mosher's amide was purified by passing through a short pad of silica gel and subjected to <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>19</sup>F NMR analysis to determine the diastereomeric ratios.

Binding Study by Isothermal Titration Calorimetry. All binding experiments were performed on an isothermal titration calorimeter. A solution of the tris(oxazoline) in CH<sub>3</sub>-CN (1.5 mL, 0.2 mM) was added to the calorimetry cell. A solution of perchlorate salt of (R)- or (S)- $\alpha$ -phenylethylamine in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (2.5 mM) was introduced by 40 5  $\mu$ L injections, a total of 200  $\mu$ L of the guest added. The solution was kept at an operating temperature of 303 K. Analysis and curve fitting using the software Origin afforded the binding affinities. The dilution of the guest solution in neat solvent was corrected.

**ESI MS Analysis.** The analysis was performed for an equimolar mixture of  $C_1$ -PhBTO **2** and (R)- $(\alpha)$ -PhCH(NH<sub>2</sub>)CH<sub>3</sub>·HClO<sub>4</sub> dissolved in water-acetonitrile (1:1 by volume; ~0.2 mM solution) using a QSTAR XL Quadrupole TOF equipped with a nanospray tip at a flow rate of 10  $\mu$ L·min<sup>-1</sup> and electrospray ionization voltage of 700 V.

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**Supporting Information Available:** NMR spectra of new compounds, ammonium complexes of  $C_1$ - and  $C_3$ -PhBTOs, the Job plot, selected ITC data, and ESI MS data. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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