# Amide-Phosphonium Salt as Bifunctional Phase Transfer Catalyst for Asymmetric 1,6-Addition of Malonate Esters to para-Quinone Methides

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**S** Supporting Information

[AB](#page-9-0)STRACT: [Asymmetric 1](#page-9-0),6-addition of malonates to paraquinone methides has been developed by using amidephosphonium salts derived from easily available chiral  $\alpha$ -amino acids as bifunctional phase transfer catalysts. Stabilized paraquinone methides with various substituents on the phenyl ring were reacted with diphenyl malonates to give functionalized diaryl methines in excellent yields and high to excellent ee's. Furthermore, to show the utility of this methodology, a gram scale synthesis of an 1,6-addition adduct and its further elaboration into the key intermediate for synthesis of GPR40 agonists were also described.



### **ENTRODUCTION**

para-Quino methides (p-QMs), structurally featuring a cyclohexadiene with the carbonyl group in para-conjugation with an exo methylene group, exist in a variety of natural products and pharmaceuticals, $1$  and have been known as reactive intermediates in many chemical, medicinal, and biological proc[e](#page-9-0)sses.<sup>2</sup> When suitable substituents, typically electrondonating groups, are introduced onto the cyclohexadiene core, typi[ca](#page-9-0)lly at  $\alpha$ -positions, this type of compounds become stable enough for isolation, and can be handled in further operations, e.g., as a reaction component in organic synthesis. $3^{-8}$ 

Since 2002, Mayr et al. have published a series of reports, where[in](#page-9-0) these readily available  $p$ -QMs were employed as reference electrophiles for establishing the reactivity scale of a variety of nucleophiles including electron rich  $\pi$ -nucleophiles and carbanions generated from active methylene and methine compounds.<sup>4</sup> Despite successful application of  $p$ -QMs to physical organic chemistry in Mayr's works, the involvement of p-QMs [in](#page-9-0) organic synthesis, particularly in asymmetric synthesis, has never been reported until recently. In 2013, Fan et al. reported pioneering studies about asymmetric catalytic 1,6-conjugate addition of diphenyl malonate to  $p$ -QMs with binaphthyl-modified ammonium bromide as phase transfer catalyst.<sup>5</sup> Soon afterward, Jørgenson and co-workers described chiral secondary amine catalyzed asymmetric 1,6-conjuagate additio[n](#page-9-0) of  $p$ -QMs with aldehyde through enamine catalysis.<sup>6</sup> Following these two pioneering works, several other research groups reported asymmetric 1,6-addition of various nucle[o-](#page-9-0) philes to p-QMs via the activation modes of either organocatalysis or metal-based catalysis, enantioselectively leading to diaryl methine derivatives.<sup>7</sup> Notably, the diaryl methine motif is found in quite a number of notable pharmaceuticals (e.g., Sertral[in](#page-9-0)e<sup>9</sup> and Tolerodine<sup>10</sup>) and natural products (e.g.,  $\text{Podophyllotoxin}^{\{1\}}$ ).

Very r[e](#page-10-0)cently, in searchi[ng](#page-10-0) for new catalytic system for asymmetric addi[tio](#page-10-0)n of nucleophiles to  $p$ -QMs, Enders et al.,<sup>7b</sup> Yao et al.,<sup>7c</sup> and Fan et al.<sup>7d</sup> independently reported a dual activation strategy for this type of reaction by using bifunctio[nal](#page-9-0) organocat[aly](#page-9-0)sts (Scheme 1[\). A](#page-9-0)s claimed by the authors, the nucleophiles were activated by tertiary amine or phosphine moiety of the [catalysts,](#page-1-0) while  $p$ -QMs were activated by hydrogen bonding between carbonyl groups of p-QMs and squaramide or thiourea moiety of the catalysts.

In light of the success of bifunctional catalysts in the chemistry of  $p$ -QMs,<sup>7b-d</sup> and inspired by Fan and co-workers' pioneering work of asymmetric 1,6-addition of p-QMs through phase transfer cataly[sis,](#page-9-0)  $5.7f$  we envisaged that the merging of the dual activation concept with phase transfer catalysis would lead to the development of [a ne](#page-9-0)w catalytic system for 1,6-addition of p-QMs. To our knowledge, this type of bifunctional phase transfer catalysts have not yet been employed in 1,6-addition of  $p$ -QMs. $^{12,13}$ 

We have recently developed amide-phosphonium salt based bifunct[ional](#page-10-0) phase transfer catalysts from easily available chiral

Received: August 6, 2016 Published: September 15, 2016

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amino acids, for asymmetric 1,4-addition of 3-monosubstituted oxindoles to acrolein and methyl vinyl ketone, affording 3,3-<br>disubstituted oxindoles enantioselectively in high yields.<sup>13a</sup> In disubstituted oxindoles enantioselectively in high yields.<sup>1</sup> our efforts to further apply this type of catalyst to asymmetric synthesis, we surmised that 1,6-addition of active met[hyle](#page-10-0)ne nucleophiles to  $p$ -QMs might be feasible through dual activation of reaction components (Figure 1). Thus, similar



Figure 1. Concept of bifunctional phase transfer catalyst promoted 1,6-addition of p-QMs.

to the activation modes of bifunctional tertiary amine or phosphine catalysts,<sup>7b−d</sup> p-QMs are activated through hydrogen-bonding, while the active methylene compounds are activated through t[he fo](#page-9-0)rmation of ionic pair with phosphonium-moiety of 1. Hopefully, in this model, the chiral environment and steric encumbrance around the activated reaction components would ensure the stereoselectivity. Herein, we report the successful implementation of this catalytic system for asymmetric 1,6-addition of active malonate esters to p-QMs, leading to products bearing diarylmethine stereogenic centers in excellent yields and moderate to excellent stereoselevtivity.

#### ■ RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

We began our study with the reaction of  $p$ -QM 2a with diphenyl malonate 3a, and tested various amide-phosphonium salts (1a−1i) and thiourea-phosphonium salt 1j, and the results were listed in Table 1. Initially, the influence of the R group on the performance of the catalysts 1a−1f derived from commercially available chiral  $\alpha$ -amino acids, was probed at  $-40$  °C with K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> as the base and toluene as the solvent (entries 1−6). The reactions proceeded smoothly to afford the 1,6-addition products 4aa in high yields for all catalysts. As far as enantioselectivity was concerned, catalyst 1a  $(R = Bn)$ , and catalyst 1b-1e  $(R = alkyl)$  with substituents of different steric hindrance gave rather modest ee's. While catalyst 1f  $(R = Ph)$ 

Table 1. Screening of Reaction Conditions Concerning the Structure of Catalysts



a General conditions: 2a (0.24 mmol), 3a (0.20 mmol), bifunctional catalyst 1 or 5 (2 to 10 mol %), and  $K_2CO_3$  (3 equiv) in toluene (1 mL) at indicated temperature. <sup>b</sup>Yield referred to isolated pure 4aa.<br><sup>c</sup>The ee of 422 was determined by chiral HPIC analysis. <sup>*a*</sup>Reaction</sub> The ee of 4aa was determined by chiral HPLC analysis. <sup>d</sup>Reaction quenched after 48 h. <sup>e</sup>Triethyl amine (3 equiv) was employed instead of  $K_2CO_3$ .

derived from phenylglycine delivered 4aa with excellent enantioselectivity (entry 6). Next, the effect of the substituents on the phosphonium center on the performance of the catalysts was surveyed (entries 7, 8). When catalyst 1g with a benzyl group replacing one of three phenyl groups on phosphonium moiety of  $1f$  and catalyst  $1h$  with p-tolyl groups replacing phenyl groups on phosphonium moiety of 1f were employed, the desired 4aa was obtained in yields and enantioselectivities comparable to those of 1f, albeit slightly lower and requiring longer reaction time. The presence of 3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl) benzamide moiety on catalyst 1f is essential to achieve a high level of enantioselectivity, and replacement of this amide moiety with trifluoroacetamide moiety (1i) or with thiourea

Scheme 2. Scope of Asymmetric 1,6-Addition of p-QMs with Diphenyl Malonate 2a Catalyzed by Amide-Phosphonium Salt 1f



<sup>a</sup>General conditions: 2 (0.24 mmol), 3a (0.20 mmol), bifunctional catalyst 1 (5 mol %), and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (3 equiv) in toluene (1 mL) at −40 °C.<br><sup>b</sup>Reaction performed at 0 °C  $b$ Reaction performed at 0  $\degree$ C.

moiety (1j), both resulting in lower ee's (entries 9,10). When the loading of the catalyst was reduced to 5 mol %, the reaction performed almost equally well as that of 10 mol % (entry 11). While further reducing to 2 mol % led to slightly lower yield and prolonged reaction time (entry 12). Subsequently, the effect of the temperature on the outcome of the reaction was investigated, and obvious drop in enantioselectivity was observed when the reaction was carried out at elevated temperature of  $-20$  or 20 °C (entries 13, 14). By comparison with Yao's method using thiourea-phosphine organocatlaysts (Scheme  $1$ ),<sup>7c</sup> we carried out comparison experiments employing corresponding chiral phosphine catalysts (entries 15−[18\). Ho](#page-1-0)[we](#page-9-0)ver, thiourea-phosphine 5a and amide-phosphine 5b both led to low yields and ee's with either  $K_2CO_3$  or TEA as the base. Further attempts to improve the performance of this reaction by screening of the solvents, and the bases were unsuccessful (not shown; see Supporting Information (SI) for details), as no better results were obtained.

With the optimized reacti[on conditions in hand \(](#page-9-0)Table 1, entry 11), the 1,6-addition reaction catalyzed by amidephosphonium 1f was extended to a series of differentl[y arylated](#page-1-0) p-QMs and diphenyl malonate 2a, and the results are shown in Scheme 2. We first examined p-QMs bearing various substituents on the phenyl ring, and it was found that the reactivity and enantioselectivity heavily depend on the position and electronic nature of the substituents. p-QMs 2b-2l with either electron-withdrawing or electron-donating substituents on the para-position of the phenyl ring all performed well to deliver  $\alpha$ -diarylmethine-substituted diphenyl malonates in excellent yields and ee's, albeit prolonged reaction time was required for substrates 2i−2l with electron-donating substituents. p-QMs 2m−2q with substituents on the metaposition of the phenyl ring seemed to be more reactive than corresponding  $p$ -QMs with para-substituted phenyl rings  $(2n \text{ vs } 2n)$ 2i, 2o vs 2l, 2p vs 2c, and 2q vs 2d), providing the desired products 4am−4aq in excellent yields and ee's. While in the cases of substrates 2r−2t bearing ortho-substituted phenyl groups, obvious attenuation of reactivity was observed even for 2r with an electron-withdrawing chloro group. When methoxysubstituted 2t was employed, the reaction was sluggish at −40 °C, nevertheless 97% yield and 67% ee could be attained at 0 °C for 12 h. Presumably, the repulsion between vicinal substituents on the phenyl ring in 2r−2t would force the phenyl ring out of the plane of the conjugated alkene, therefore prevent the approach of nucleophile to the reaction site of p-QMs. Next, p-QMs derived from heterocyclic and bulky aromatic aldehydes (2u−2w) were tested, and also found to be suitable substrates in this study, providing the desired products in excellent yields and ee's. However, replacing the bulky tertbutyl (tBu) with smaller iso-propyl (iPr) groups led to a decrease in enantioselectivity, despite in a short reaction time of 6 h. p-QMs 2y, 2z, and 2a′, whose substitution patterns are different to those of 2a−2x, only gave low to modest enantioselectities.

Next, the scope of malonate esters was investigated briefly. We first examine the reaction between dimethyl malonate 3b and p-QM 2a using the optimal reaction conditions mentioned above. As expected, the reaction proceeded smoothly to afford the desired product 4ab in 95% yield after 8 h, albeit in a modest ee of 70% (Table 2, entry 1). Fortunately, when the temperature was lowered from −40 °C to −60 °C, the enantioselectivity wa[s increas](#page-3-0)ed substantially from 70% to 85%

<span id="page-3-0"></span>Table 2. Expansion of the Substrate Scope of the Reaction to Dialkyl Malonates



<sup>a</sup>General conditions: 2 (0.20 mmol), 3 (0.24 mmol), bifunctional catalyst 1 (5 mol %), and  $K_2CO_3$  (3 equiv) in toluene (1 mL) at indicated temperature for 6 to 48 h.  $\frac{b}{c}$  Yield referred to isolated pure 4aa. <sup>c</sup> The ee of 4aa was determined by chiral HPLC analysis.

ee (entry 2). Using more sterically crowded diethyl malonate 3c or dibenzyl malonate 3d provided results slightly better than those of 3b (entries 3−4). The malonate ester scope was further expanded to the brominated p-QM 2d and methoxylated p-QM 2n. In all cases, the reactions proceeded smoothly, affording diaryl methine products in excellent yields and high ee's (entries 5−10).

The absolute configuration of 4aa, 4ha, 4wa, and 4xa was determined to be S by comparison of specific optical rotation as well as HPLC spectra with those reported in literature.<sup>5</sup> The absolute configuration of other 1,6-addition products could be assigned by analogy. To prove the practicality of our ca[ta](#page-9-0)lytic system, the 1,6-addition between 2a and 3a was carried out on a relatively larger scale. To our delight, the catalyst loading could be reduced down to 1 mol % after reoptimization of reaction parameters. Thus, the reaction performed on a 4.0 mmol scale  $(3a, 1.04 g)$  with 0.04 mmol of catalyst  $(1f, 28 mg)$ in 10 mL of toluene at −40 °C for 72 h led to 4aa in a yield of 93% with 95% ee (Scheme 3). Notably, 4aa is useful in elaborating into a key intermediate 6a for preparation of GPR40 agonists.<sup>14</sup> In Fan and co-workers' report, de-tertbutylated phenol 6a was obtained by a three-step protocol consisting of the [tr](#page-10-0)ansesterification, Krapcho dealkoxycarbonylation, and AlCl<sub>3</sub>-mediated trans-tert-butylation.<sup>5,15</sup> To avoid the involvement of high temperature  $(160 °C)$  in the Krapcho dealkoxycarbonylation procedure, as well as to [f](#page-9-0)[ac](#page-10-0)ilitate easy separation of the reaction mixture, we developed an improved synthetic route for conversion of 4aa to 6a. Thus, hydrolysis of 4aa with LiOH in a solvent mixture of THF and  $H_2O(4:1)$  at rt for 30 min, led to malonic acid 7a after acidification with diluted HCl solution. The crude 7a was then taken up in a solvent mixture of DMF and H<sub>2</sub>O (9:1), and heated at 100 °C for 1 h to afford acid 8a in 93% yield over two steps.<sup>16</sup> Esterificaiton of 8a in methanol with catalytic amount of  $H_2SO_4$ at reflux for 12 h gave a crude ester, which after treating wi[th](#page-10-0) AlCl<sub>3</sub> in toluene at 60  $\mathrm{^{\circ}C}$  to remove *tert*-butyl groups delivered 6a in 86% yield over 2 steps without loss of ee. It was notable that only one chromatographic purification process was

Scheme 3. Gram Scale Preparation of 4aa and Further Elaboration



a<br>Reagents and conditions: (i) 2a (4.2 mmol), 3a (4 mmol), catalyst 1f (1 mol %), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (3 equiv), toluene (10 mL), – 40 °C, 72 h; (ii) LiOH, THF/H<sub>2</sub>O, rt, 2 h; (iii) DMF/H<sub>2</sub>O, 100 °C, 1 h; (iv) H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>OH, reflux, 12 h; and (v) AlCl<sub>3</sub>, toluene, 60 °C, 1 h.

required in this four-step protocol to provide sufficiently pure target 6a. Similarly, brominated diaryl methine 4qa was elaborated into 6b in an overall yield of 71%.

As mentioned above in Figure 1, it was believed that the secondary amide moiety in the bifunctional amide-phosphonium salts was crucial for th[e asymme](#page-1-0)tric induction. To confirm this assumption, we prepared N-methylated phosphonium salt 9, and compared its catalytic performance with that of 1g. As shown in Scheme 4, with N-methylated 9 as a catalyst, the



reaction proceeded much more slowly as compared with 1g, delivering 4aa after 144 h in 87% yield with 19% ee. In comparison, with 1g as a catalyst, 4aa was obtained in 90% yield with 89% ee after 70 h. Thus, the hydrogen bonding interaction between amide NH and the carbonyl group of p-QM seemed to be crucial for both reactivity and enantioselectivity of this reaction.<sup>17</sup> On the basis of these observations, we proposed a plausible trasnsition-state model to interpret the high level of chiral indu[cti](#page-10-0)on in this reaction (Figure 2).

#### ■ **CONCLUSIONS**

In summary, we have developed an asymmetri[c](#page-4-0) [1,6-add](#page-4-0)ition of malonate esters to  $p$ -QMs catalyzed by amide-phosphonium

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Figure 2. Proposed transition-state model.

salt-based bifunctional PTC. A series of functionalized chiral diaryl methines were obtained in excellent yields and ee's in most cases. The utility of this method was demonstrated by a relatively large scale synthesis of 4aa with as low as 1 mol % catalyst 1f, and further transformation of 4aa into  $(R)$ -methyl 3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-3-phenylpropanoate 6a, which is a key intermediate for preparation of GPR40 agonists. Furthermore, a transition-state model was proposed to interpret the high level of chiral induction in this reaction.

#### **EXPERIMENTAL SECTION**

General Information. Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was carried out on 0.25 mm silica gel plates visualized with UV light and/ or by staining with ethanolic phosphomolybdic acid (PMA) or iodine. Flash column chromatography was performed on silica gel H (10−40  $\mu$ ). <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectras were recorded at 500 MHz, and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectras were recorded at 125 MHz. Chemical shifts  $(\delta)$  are given in ppm relative to TMS, coupling constants  $(J)$  in Hz. High-resolution mass spectra were recorded by FTMS. Enantiomeric excesses were determined by HPLC analysis on a chiral stationary phase.

Preparation of Phosphonium Salts 1a-1j, 9, and Phosphine 5a−5b. Amide phosphonium salts 1a−1f, 1h, and 1i were synthesized by a known literature procedure,  $13a$  among them 1b, 1e, 1h, and 1i are new compounds. Phosphine catalysts 5a and 5b are known compounds and were prepared [acco](#page-10-0)rding to the literature procedure.<sup>18</sup> Phosphonium salts 1g and 1j were prepared from corresponding phosphine-based compounds 5b and 5a according to the literatu[re](#page-10-0) procedure.<sup>13b</sup> Phosphonium slat 9 was prepared from corresponding N-methylated phosphine.<sup>13b</sup>

 $(S)-(2-(3,5-Bis(trifluoromethyl)benzamido)propyl) (S)-(2-(3,5-Bis(trifluoromethyl)benzamido)propyl) (S)-(2-(3,5-Bis(trifluoromethyl)benzamido)propyl)-$ triphenylphosphonium [Bro](#page-10-0)mide (1b). The chromatographic purification (dichloromethane/methanol  $=20/1$ ) afforded 1b, white solid, mp 130−132 °C, 1.2 g, 55% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.59 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.30 (s, 2H), 7.84−7.79 (m, 7H), 7.57−7.45  $(m, 9H)$ , 5.12–4.90  $(m, 2H)$ , 3.42  $(t, J = 13.4 \text{ Hz}, 1H)$ , 1.61  $(d, J = 3.0 \text{ Hz})$ Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  163.2, 134.8, 134.7 (d, J<sub>CP</sub> = 2.9 Hz), 134.1 (d,  $J_{CP} = 10.3$  Hz), 131.1 (q,  $J_{CF} = 33.7$  Hz), 130.1 (d,  $J_{\rm CP}$  = 12.5 Hz), 128.5 (d,  $J_{\rm CP}$  = 2.6 Hz), 124.5 (q,  $J_{\rm CF}$  = 3.6 Hz), 124.1  $(q, J_{CF} = 272.8 \text{ Hz})$ , 117.7  $(d, J_{CP} = 86.4 \text{ Hz})$ , 41.0  $(d, J_{CP} = 5.3 \text{ Hz})$ , 28.8 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 50.3 Hz), 24.2 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 15.5 Hz); HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C_{30}H_{25}F_6NOP)^+$  560.1572, found 560.1580;  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$  + 60 (c 0.72,  $CHCl<sub>3</sub>$ ).

(R)-(2-(3,5-Bis(tri fl uoromethyl)benzamido)butyl) triphenylphosphonium Bromide (1e). The chromatographic purification (dichloromethane/methanol =20/1) afforded 1e, white solid, mp 124−126 °C, 0.9 g, 61% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.50−9.47 (m, 1H), 8.35 (s, 2H), 7.95−7.74 (m, 7H), 7.63−7.42 (m, 9H), 5.21−4.91 (m, 1H), 4.78−4.76 (m, 1H), 3.43 (t, J = 14.2 Hz, 1H), 2.17−2.13 (m, 1H), 1.98−1.91 (m, 1H), 0.89−0.83 (m, 3H); 13C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  163.8, 134.7 (d, J<sub>CP</sub> = 2.9 Hz), 134.1(d,  $J_{CP} = 10.2$  Hz), 131.2 (q,  $J_{CF} = 33.8$  Hz), 130.1 (d,  $J_{CP} = 12.6$  Hz), 128.6 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 2.9 Hz), 124.5 (q,  $J_{CF}$  = 3.7 Hz), 123.1 (q,  $J_{CF}$  = 273.9 Hz), 118.0 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 86.3 Hz), 46.3 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 5.7 Hz), 31.0 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 14.8 Hz), 27.7 (d,  $J_{CP} = 50.4$  Hz), 10.6 (d,  $J_{CP} = 1.51$  Hz); HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C_{31}H_{27}F_6NOP)^+$  574.1729, found 574.1735;  $[\alpha]_D^2$  + 72 ( $c$  0.85, CHCl<sub>3</sub>).

(S)-(2-(3,5-Bis(trifluoromethyl)benzamido)-2-phenylethyl)trip-tolylphosphonium Bromide  $(1h)$ . The chromatographic purification (dichloromethane/methanol =25/1) afforded 1h, white solid, mp 138−140 °C, 0.6 g, 50% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 10.20  $(d, J = 8.3 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}), 8.43 \text{ (s, 2H)}, 7.81 \text{ (s, 1H)}, 7.76-7.66 \text{ (m, 8H)},$ 7.34 (dd, J = 8.0, 2.8 Hz, 6H), 7.28−7.24 (m, 2H), 7.18 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 5.97−7.89 (m, 1H), 5.81−5.60 (m, 1H), 3.09 (dd, J = 15.2, 12.7 Hz, 1H), 2.29 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  163.4, 146.4 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 3.1 Hz), 141.8 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 13.6 Hz), 134.9, 133.8 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 10.7 Hz), 131.3 (q,  $J_{CF}$  = 33.6 Hz), 131.0 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 13.4 Hz), 129.1, 128.7 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 2.6 Hz), 128.2, 127.2, 124.6 (q,  $J_{CF}$  = 3.7 Hz), 123.1 (q,  $J_{CF}$  = 273.6 Hz), 114.3 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 88.9 Hz), 48.8 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 3.3 Hz), 28.4(d,  $J_{CP}$  $= 49.5$  Hz), 21.6 (d,  $J_{CP} = 1.3$  Hz); HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C_{38}H_{33}F_6NOP)^+$  664.2198, 664.2210;  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$  – 7 (c 0.8, CHCl<sub>3</sub>).

(S)-Triphenyl(2-phenyl-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroacetamido)ethyl) phosphonium Bromide (1i). The crude product was recrystallized from diethyl ether to give pure 1i, white solid, mp 213−215 °C, 1.4 g, 65% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  10.30 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.84−7.70 (m, 9H), 7.64−7.60 (m, 6H), 7.55 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.23−7.15 (m, 3H), 5.98 (dt, J = 15.9, 10.9 Hz, 1H), 5.48−5.41 (m, 1H), 3.22 (t, J = 14.3 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  156.5  $(q, J_{CF} = 38.4 \text{ Hz})$ , 140.4 (d,  $J_{CP} = 12.3 \text{ Hz}$ ), 135.5 (d,  $J_{CP} = 2.9 \text{ Hz}$ ), 133.8 (d,  $J_{CP} = 10.1$  Hz), 130.5 (d,  $J_{CP} = 12.6$  Hz), 129.3, 128.6, 127.1, 117.0 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 86.1 Hz), 115.3 (q,  $J_{CF}$  = 287.8 Hz), 48.5 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 2.9 Hz), 28.3 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 48.5 Hz); HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C_{28}H_{24}F_3NOP)^+$ 478.1542, found 478.1536;  $[\alpha]_D^{25} - 15$  (c 0.7, CHCl<sub>3</sub>).

(S)-Benzyl(2-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzamido)-2-phenylethyl) diphenylphosphonium Bromide (1g). The chromatographic purification (dichloromethane/methanol  $=25/1$ ) afforded 1g, white solid, mp 140−142 °C, 1.1 g, 55% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.86 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.36 (s, 2H), 7.82−7.86 (m, 3H), 7.71 (dd, J = 12.1, 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.64−7.59 (m, 3H), 7.51 (td, J = 7.6, 3.2 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 3H), 7.29−7.24 (m, 3H), 7.22−7.13 (m, 2H), 7.08  $(t, J = 7.6 \text{ Hz}, 2H)$ , 6.93 (d,  $J = 7.3 \text{ Hz}, 2H$ ), 5.67–5.52 (m, 2H), 4.89  $(t, J = 14.9 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H})$ , 4.32  $(t, J = 14.4 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H})$ , 2.90  $(t, J = 13.9 \text{ Hz},$ 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  163.4, 141.1 (d, J<sub>CP</sub> = 13.6 Hz), 135.0 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 2.9 Hz), 134.7 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 2.8 Hz), 134.4, 133.8 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 9.7 Hz), 133.6 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 9.1 Hz), 131.3 (q,  $J_{CF}$  = 33.9 Hz), 130.4 (d,  $J_{CP}$  $= 5.5$  Hz), 130.1 (d,  $J_{CP} = 12.4$  Hz), 129.9 (d,  $J_{CP} = 12.5$  Hz), 129.2 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 3.0 Hz), 129.1, 128.7 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 3.7 Hz), 128.6 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 2.8 Hz), 128.4, 127.1, 126.5 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 8.4 Hz), 124.8 (q,  $J_{CF}$  = 3.6 Hz), 123.0 (q,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 272.1 \text{ Hz}$ , 117.5 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}} = 82.0 \text{ Hz}$ ), 116.6 (d,  $J_{\text{CP}} = 82.3 \text{ Hz}$ ), 48.6 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 3.3 Hz), 30.2 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 46.6 Hz), 25.3 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 47.9 Hz); HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C_{36}H_{29}F_6NOP)^+$  636.1885, found 636.1892;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25}$  – 4 (c 0.56, CHCl<sub>3</sub>).

(S)-Benzyl(2-(N-methyl-3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzamido)-2 phenylethyl)diphenylphosphonium Bromide (9). The chromatographic purification (dichloromethane/methanol  $=20/1$ ) afforded 9, white solid; mp 128−130 °C, 0.3 g, 45% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.13 (dd, J = 12.2, 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.88–7.83 (m, 3H), 7.71 (dd, J = 7.4 Hz, 6.7 Hz, 2H), 7.63−7.56 (m, 6H), 7.32 (s, 2H), 7.26 (s, 3H), 7.17−7.14 (m, 1H), 7.07 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.01 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 6.37−6.32 (m, 1H), 5.11 (td, J = 15.6, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 4.96−4.77  $(m, 2H)$ , 4.20 (td, J = 15.4, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 2.78 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125) MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  168.5, 137.1, 135.9 (d, J<sub>CP</sub> = 9.2 Hz), 134.9, 134.8 (d,  $J_{\rm CP}$  = 7.3 Hz), 134.2 (d,  $J_{\rm CP}$  = 9.5 Hz), 133.8 (d,  $J_{\rm CP}$  = 9.3 Hz), 131.7  $(q, J_{CF} = 33.8 \text{ Hz})$ , 130.6 (d,  $J_{CP} = 5.6 \text{ Hz}$ ), 130.0 (d,  $J_{CP} = 12.4 \text{ Hz}$ ), 129.2, 129.1, 129.0 (d,  $J_{CP} = 3.5$  Hz), 128.9, 128.4 (d,  $J_{CP} = 3.7$  Hz), 127.4, 127.3 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 8.3 Hz), 123.7 (q,  $J_{CF}$  = 3.7 Hz), 122.7 (q,  $J_{CF}$  = 273.1 Hz), 117.3 (d,  $J_{CP} = 83.1$  Hz), 116.5(d,  $J_{CP} = 82.5$  Hz), 52.1, 33.5, 31.6 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 47.0 Hz), 29.7, 22.4 (d,  $J_{CP}$  = 48.5 Hz); HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C37H31 \ F_6NOP)^+$  650.2042, found 650.2033;  $[\alpha]_D^2$  $+$  41 (c 0.66, CHCl<sub>3</sub>).

Preparation of para-Quinone Methides 2 and Malonates 3. para-Quinone methides 2a−2w were synthesized by a known literature procedure,  $4b$  among them 2k, 2l, and 20 are new compounds.  $2x$ ,  $8a$   $2z$ ,  $8b$   $2a'$  were prepared using the corresponding literature procedures. [M](#page-9-0)alonate 3a was prepared according a known literature proce[du](#page-9-0)re.<sup>5</sup> [M](#page-9-0)al[on](#page-9-0)ates 3b, 3c and 3d are commercially available.

4-((3,5-Ditert-but[y](#page-9-0)l-4-oxocyclohexa-2,5-dien-1-ylidene)methyl) phenyl Acetate  $(2k)$ . The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate =100/1) afforded 2k, yellow solid, mp 141−143  $^{\circ}$ C, 1.6 g, 45% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.49–7.46 (m, 3H), 7.19 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.14 (s, 1H), 7.00 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 1.33 (s, 9H), 1.30 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 186.6, 169.2, 151.1, 149.6, 147.9, 141.2, 135.1, 133.6, 132.0, 131.5, 127.5, 122.1, 35.5, 35.0, 29.6, 29.5, 21.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C_{23}H_{29}O_3)^+$  353.2111, found 353.2117.

4-(4-(Benzyloxy)benzylidene)-2,6-ditert-butylcyclohexa-2,5-dien-1-one (2l). The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate =80/1) afforded 2l, yellow solid, mp 98–100 °C, 2.8 g, 70% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.58 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.51– 7.40 (m, 6H), 7.38−7.35 (m, 1H), 7.14 (s, 1H), 7.07 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 5.14 (s, 2H), 1.36 (s, 9H), 1.34 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 186.5, 159.8, 149.0, 147.2, 142.6, 136.4, 135.4, 132.3, 130.6, 128.9, 128.7, 128.2, 127.8, 127.5, 115.3, 70.2, 35.5, 35.0, 29.6, 29.6; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C_{28}H_{33}O_2)^+$ 401.2475, found 401.2486.

4-(3-(Benzyloxy)benzylidene)-2,6-ditert-butylcyclohexa-2,5-dien-1-one (20). The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate =100/1) afforded 2o, yellow solid, mp 104−106 °C, 2.6 g, 66% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.58 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.49– 7.33 (m, 6H), 7.16 (s, 1H), 7.12−6.99 (m, 4H), 5.12 (s, 2H), 1.36 (s, 9H), 1.33 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  186.6, 159.0, 149.4, 147.9, 142.3, 137.3, 136.6, 135.2, 132.2, 129.9, 128.7, 128.2, 127.9, 127.5, 123.2, 116.3, 116.0, 70.2, 35.5, 35.1, 29.6, 29.5; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C_{28}H_{33}O_2)^+$  401.2475, found 401.2483.

General Procedure for 1,6-Addition of Malonate Esters 3 to **para-Quinone Methides 2.** A mixture of para-quinone methides 2a (71 mg, 0.24 mmol), malonate 3a (52 mg, 0.2 mmol) and catalyst 1f (7 mg, 0.01 mmol) in toluene (1 mL) was cooled to  $-40$  °C, and then  $K_2CO_3$  (83 mg, 0.6 mmol) was added. The resulting mixture was stirred vigorously at the same temperature, and monitored by TLC. Upon the complete consumption of 2a, the reaction mixture was loaded directly onto a column packed with silica gel, and eluted with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate to afford the addition products 4aa (108 mg, 0.196 mmol) as a white solid in 98% yield with 95% ee.

Diphenyl (R)-2-((3,5-Ditert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl) (phenyl) methyl)malonate  $(4aa)$ :<sup>5</sup> The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate =20/1) afforded 4aa, white solid, mp 210− 212 °C, 108 mg, 98% yi[eld](#page-9-0), 95% ee; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 7.52 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.33−7.24 (m, 7H), 7.21−7.15 (m, 2H), 6.75 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.58 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 5.18 (s, 1H), 4.90 (d,  $J = 12.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.80 (d,  $J = 12.0$  Hz, 1H), 1.42 (s, 18H);  $[\alpha]_D^{23}$  + 20 (c 0.5, EtOAc), lit.<sup>5</sup> data for 4aa of 98% ee:  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25}$  + 20.9 (c 1, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK IA, Hexane/ Isopropanol =98:2, Flow rate =1 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 235 nm):  $t_R$  = 6.51 min (major enantiomer),  $t<sub>R</sub> = 7.74$  min (minor enantiomer).

Diphenyl (R)-2-((3,5-Ditert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)(4 fluorophenyl)methyl)malonate (4ba). The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate  $=15/1$ ) afforded 4ba, white solid, mp 163–165 °C, 108 mg, 95% yield, 91% ee; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.52 (dd, J = 8.5, 5.3 Hz, 2H), 7.37–7.33 (m, 2H), 7.32−7.27 (m, 4H), 7.25−7.19 (m, 2H), 7.11−7.08 (m, 2H), 6.84 (d, J  $= 7.7$  Hz, 2H), 6.62 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 5.24 (s, 1H), 4.94 (d, J = 11.9 Hz, 1H), 4.79 (d, J = 11.9 Hz, 1H), 1.46 (s, 18H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.3, 166.2, 161.0 (d, J = 245.8 Hz), 153.1, 150.4 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz), 137.5 (d,  $J = 3.5$  Hz), 136.3, 131.0, 129.6, 129.5, 129.5, 129.4, 126.3, 126.2, 124.8, 121.2, 121.2, 115.8, 115.7 (d, J = 21.5 Hz), 58.3, 51.3, 34.5, 30.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C_{36}H_{37}FNaO_5)$ 591.2517, found 591.2521;  $[\alpha]_{D}^{23}$  + 23 (c 0.4, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK IA, Hexane/Isopropanol =98:2, Flow rate =1 mL/min,  $\lambda = 220$  nm):  $t_R = 7.47$  min (major enantiomer),  $t_R = 9.26$ min (minor enantiomer).

Diphenyl (R)-2-((4-Chlorophenyl)(3,5-ditert-butyl-4 hydroxyphenyl)methyl)malonate (4ca). The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate =20/1) afforded 4ca, white solid, mp 124–126 °C, 110 mg, 94% yield, 90% ee; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.45 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.36–7.32 (m, 4H), 7.30– 7.16 (m, 6H), 6.83 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.58 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.21  $(s, 1H)$ , 4.88 (d, J = 11.9 Hz, 1H), 4.75 (d, J = 11.9 Hz, 1H), 1.43 (s,

18H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 166.2, 166.1, 153.2, 150.3, 150.3, 140.2, 136.3, 132.9, 130.6, 129.5, 129.4, 129.2, 129.0, 126.3, 126.2, 124.8, 121.1, 57.9, 51.3, 34.4, 30.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C_{36}H_{37}CINaO_5)^+$  607.2222, found 607.2229;  $[\alpha]_D^{23}$  + 15 (c 0.7, EtOAc); HPLC (Phenomenex cellulose-1, Hexane/Isopropanol =98:2, Flow rate =1 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 220 nm):  $t_R$  = 8.29 min (major enantiomer),  $t_R = 9.82$  min (minor enantiomer).

Diphenyl (R)-2-((4-Bromophenyl)(3,5-ditert-butyl-4 hydroxyphenyl)methyl)malonate  $(4da)$ :<sup>5</sup> The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate  $=25/1$ ) afforded 4da, white solid, mp 132−134 °C, 122 mg, 97[%](#page-9-0) yield, 94% ee; <sup>1</sup> H NMR  $(500 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3)$   $\delta$  7.51 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.42–7.13 (m, 10H), 6.83 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.58 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.21 (s, 1H), 4.87  $(d, J = 12.0 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}), 4.75 \text{ (d, } J = 12.0 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}), 1.43 \text{ (s, } 18\text{H}); [\alpha]_{D}^{23}$ + 23.5 (c 0.4, EtOAc), lit.<sup>5</sup> data for 4da of 98% ee:  $[a]_D^2$ <sup>25</sup> + 23.4 (c 1, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK OD-H, Hexane/Isopropanol =98:2, Flow rate =1 mL[/](#page-9-0)min,  $\lambda$  = 220 nm):  $t<sub>R</sub>$  = 8.04 min (major enantiomer),  $t<sub>R</sub> = 9.15$  min (minor enantiomer).

Dibenzyl (R)-2-((3,5-Ditert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)(4- (trifluoromethyl)phenyl)methyl)malonate (4ea). The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate =20/1) afforded 4ea, white solid, mp 130−132 °C, 121 mg, 98% yield, 94% ee; <sup>1</sup> H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.68 (s, 4H), 7.40−7.28 (m, 6H), 7.27− 7.16 (m, 2H), 6.84 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 6.63 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.28  $(s, 1H)$ , 5.01 (d, J = 11.9 Hz, 1H), 4.87 (d, J = 11.9 Hz, 1H), 1.47 (s, 18H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 166.1, 166.0, 153.4, 150.4, 150.2, 145.8, 136.5, 130.2, 129.6, 129.4 (q, J = 32.6 Hz), 128.3, 126.4, 126.3, 125.9 (q,  $J = 3.5$  Hz), 124.9, 124.2 (q,  $J = 271.7$  Hz), 121.1, 121.0, 120.9, 57.8, 51.7, 34.5, 30.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C_{37}H_{37}F_3NaO_5)^+$  641.2485, found 641.2481;  $[\alpha]_D^{23}$  + 16.4 (c 0.4, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK IA, Hexane/Isopropanol =98:2, Flow rate =1 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 220 nm):  $t_R$  = 6.92 min (major enantiomer),  $t_R = 8.08$  min (minor enantiomer).

Diphenyl (R)-2-((3,5-Ditert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)(4- (methoxycarbonyl)phenyl)methyl)malonate (4fa). The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate  $=20/1$ ) afforded 4fa, white solid, mp 118−120 °C, 121 mg, 99% yield, 90% ee; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.08 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.36−7.24 (m, 6H), 7.20 (q, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.60 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 5.24 (s, 1H), 4.98 (d,  $J = 12.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.84 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 1.43 (s, 18H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.8, 166.2, 166.0, 153.3, 150.3, 150.3, 146.9, 136.4, 130.3, 130.2, 129.5, 129.4, 129.0, 127.9, 126.3, 126.2, 124.9, 121.1, 121.0, 507.7, 52.2, 51.8, 34.5, 34.5, 30.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C_{38}H_{40}NaO_7)^+$  631.2666, found 631.2672;  $[\alpha]_D^{23}$  + 21 (c 0.68, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK IA, Hexane/Isopropanol =90:10, Flow rate =1 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 220 nm):  $t_R$  = 6.90 min (major enantiomer),  $t<sub>R</sub> = 15.00$  min (minor enantiomer).

Diphenyl (R)-2-((4-Cyanophenyl)(3,5-ditert-butyl-4 hydroxyphenyl)methyl)malonate (4ga). The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate  $=15/1$ ) afforded 4ga, white solid, mp 178–180 °C, 107 mg, 93% yield, 90% ee; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.69 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.26−7.15 (m, 4H), 6.86 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.60 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 5.28 (s, 1H), 4.97  $(d, J = 11.9 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}), 4.82 (d, J = 11.9 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}), 1.44 (s, 18\text{H});$ <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 166.0, 165.9, 153.4, 150.3, 150.2, 147.2, 136.6, 132.7, 129.7, 129.6, 129.5, 128.7, 126.5, 126.4, 124.9, 121.1, 121.0, 118.7, 111.0, 57.4, 51.7, 34.5, 30.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C_{37}H_{37}NNaO_5)^+$  598.2564, found 598.2560;  $[\alpha]_D^{23}$  + 19.5 (c 0.62, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK IA, Hexane/Isopropanol =90:10, Flow rate =1 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 220 nm):  $t_R$  = 9.01 min (major enantiomer),  $t<sub>R</sub> = 12.58$  min (minor enantiomer).

Diphenyl (R)-2-((3,5-Ditert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)(4 nitrophenyl)methyl)malonate  $(4ha)$ :<sup>5</sup> The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate  $=15/1$ ) afforded 4ha, white solid, mp 170−172 °C, 106 mg, 89[% y](#page-9-0)ield, 95% ee; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.28 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.71 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.33−7.20 (m, 6H), 6.91 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.62 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 5.30 (s, 1H), 5.05 (d,  $J = 11.9$  Hz, 1H), 4.88

 $(d, J = 11.9 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}), 1.46 \text{ (s, 18H)}; [\alpha]_{D}^{23} + 29.5 \text{ (c 0.7, EtOAc)}, \text{lit.}^{5}$ data for 4ha of 98% ee:  $\left[\alpha\right]_{\text{D}}^{25}$  + 35.4 (c 1, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK IA, Hexane/Isopropanol =90:10, Flow rate =1 mL/mi[n,](#page-9-0)  $\lambda = 220$  nm):  $t_R = 11.76$  min (major enantiomer),  $t_R = 15.53$  min (minor enantiomer).

Diphenyl (R)-2-((3,5-Ditert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)(4- methoxyphenyl)methyl)malonate (4ia):<sup>5</sup> The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate =30/1) afforded 4ia, white solid, mp 112−114 °C, 112 mg, 96[%](#page-9-0) yield, 88% ee; <sup>1</sup> H NMR  $(500 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3)$   $\delta$  7.47 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.37–7.25 (m, 6H), 7.25−7.16 (m, 2H), 6.94 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.60 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 5.20 (s, 1H), 4.89 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.78  $(d, J = 12.0 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}), 3.81 \text{ (s, 3H)}, 1.45 \text{ (s, 18H)}; [\alpha]_{D}^{23} + 21.5 \text{ (c 0.4,}$ EtOAc), lit.<sup>5</sup> data for 4ia of 98% ee:  $\left[\alpha\right]_D^{25} + 13.5$  (c 1, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK IA, Hexane/Isopropanol =95:5, Flow rate =1 mL[/m](#page-9-0)in,  $\lambda$  = 240 nm):  $t_R$  = 6.82 min (major enantiomer),  $t_R$  = 9.53 min (minor enantiomer).

Diphenyl (R)-2-([1,1′-Biphenyl]-4-yl(3,5-ditert-butyl-4 hydroxyphenyl)methyl)malonate (4ja). The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate  $=25/1$ ) afforded 4ja, white solid, mp 176–178 °C, 124 mg, 99% yield, 90% ee; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.68–7.60 (m, 6H), 7.50 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.41–7.39 (m, 3H), 7.36−7.31 (m, 4H), 7.25−7.22 (m, 2H), 6.85 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 6.66 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 5.26 (s, 1H), 5.02 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.91 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 1.50 (s, 18H); 13C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl3) δ 166.4, 166.3, 153.2, 150.5, 150.4, 140.8, 140.7, 140.1, 136.3, 131.1, 129.5, 129.4, 128.9, 128.4, 127.7, 127.4, 127.1, 126.3, 126.2, 124.9, 121.3, 121.2, 58.2, 51.9, 34.5, 30.4; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C_{42}H_{42}NaO_5)^+$  649.2924, found 649.2930;  $[\alpha]_D^{23}$  – 8 (c 0.75, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK IA, Hexane/Isopropanol =98:2, Flow rate =1 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 215 nm):  $t_R$  = 7.97 min (major enantiomer),  $t_{\rm R}$  = 10.10 min (minor enantiomer).

Diphenyl (R)-2-((4-Acetoxyphenyl)(3,5-ditert-butyl-4 hydroxyphenyl)methyl)malonate (4ka). The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate =20/1) afforded 4ka, white solid, mp 168−170 °C, 110 mg, 90% yield, 91% ee; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.53 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.35–7.32 (m, 2H), 7.30– 7.16 (m, 6H), 7.11 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 6.78 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 6.60  $(d, J = 8.0 \text{ Hz}, 2\text{H}), 5.21 \text{ (s, 1H)}, 4.92 \text{ (d, } J = 11.9 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}), 4.78 \text{ (d, } J$  $= 11.9$  Hz, 1H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 1.44 (s, 18H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl3) δ 169.4, 166.3, 153.1, 150.4, 150.3, 149.7, 139.1, 136.2, 130.8, 129.5, 129.4, 129.0, 126.3, 126.2, 124.8, 122.0, 121.3, 121.2, 58.2, 51.6, 34.4, 30.3, 21.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C_{38}H_{40}NaO_7)^+$  631.2666, found 631.2660;  $[a]_D^{23}$  – 10 (c 0.8, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK OD-H, Hexane/Isopropanol =98:2, Flow rate =1 mL/ min,  $\lambda = 220$  nm):  $t_R = 14.05$  min (major enantiomer),  $t_R = 23.04$  min (minor enantiomer).

Diphenyl (R)-2-((4-(Benzyloxy)phenyl)(3,5-ditert-butyl-4 hydroxyphenyl)methyl)malonate (4la). The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate  $=20/1$ ) afforded 4la, white solid, mp 92−94 °C, 130 mg, 99% yield, 90% ee; <sup>1</sup> H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.51–7.47 (m, 4H), 7.45 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.42–7.30 (m, 7H), 7.29−7.18 (m, 2H), 7.06 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.87 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.65 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 5.24 (s, 1H), 5.12 (s, 2H), 4.94 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.83 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 1.49 (s, 18H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.5, 166.4, 158.0, 153.0, 150.5, 150.4, 137.1, 136.2, 134.1, 131.5, 129.5, 129.4, 129.0, 128.7, 128.1, 127.5, 126.2, 126.1, 124.8, 121.3, 121.2, 115.2, 70.1, 58.5, 51.5, 34.5, 30.4; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C_{43}H_{44}NaO_6)^+$  679.3030, found 679.3034;  $[\alpha]_D^2$ <sup>23</sup> + 2 (c 1, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK IA, Hexane/Isopropanol =95:5, Flow rate =1 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 220 nm):  $t_R$  = 8.92 min (major enantiomer),  $t<sub>R</sub> = 13.89$  min (minor enantiomer).

Diphenyl (R)-2-((3,5-Ditert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)(m-tolyl) methyl)malonate (4ma). The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate =20/1) afforded 4ma, White solid, mp 101− 103 °C, 108 mg, 96% yield, 96% ee; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 7.38−7.27 (m, 9H), 7.24−7.20 (m, 2H), 7.12 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.82  $(d, J = 8.2 \text{ Hz}, 2\text{H}), 6.62 (d, J = 8.2 \text{ Hz}, 2\text{H}), 5.22 (s, 1\text{H}), 4.90 (d, J =$ 12.1 Hz, 1H), 4.84 (d, J = 12.1 Hz, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 1.47 (s, 18H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.5, 166.3, 153.1, 150.4, 141.5, 138.4, 136.1, 131.2, 129.5, 129.4, 129.0, 128.8, 128.0, 126.2, 126.2, 125.0, 124.6, 121.3, 121.2, 58.3, 52.2, 34.5, 30.3, 21.6; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C_{37}H_{40}NaO_5)^+$  587.2768, found 587.2777;  $[\alpha]_D^{23}$  + 17.3 (c 0.4, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK OD-H, Hexane/Isopropanol =98:2, Flow rate =1 mL/min,  $\lambda = 220$  nm):  $t<sub>R</sub> = 7.96$  min (major enantiomer),  $t_R = 10.18$  min (minor enantiomer).

Diphenyl (S)-2-((3,5-Ditert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)(3 methoxyphenyl)methyl)malonate (4na). The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate =20/1) afforded 4na, white solid, mp 129−131 °C, 115 mg, 99% yield, 97% ee; <sup>1</sup> H NMR  $(500 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3)$   $\delta$  7.35–7.27 (m, 7H), 7.24–7.18 (m, 2H), 7.08 (s, 1H), 6.84 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 3H), 6.60 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 5.22 (s, 1H), 4.90 (d,  $J = 12.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.82 (d,  $J = 12.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 1.45  $(s, 18H)$ ; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.4, 166.3, 159.9, 153.1, 150.4, 143.1, 136.1, 131.0, 129.9, 129.5, 129.4, 126.2, 126.1, 124.9, 121.3, 121.2, 120.0, 114.0, 112.4, 58.2, 55.2, 52.1, 34.4, 30.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C_{37}H_{40}NaO_6)^+$  603.2717, found 603.2723;  $[\alpha]_D^{23}$  + 10 (c 0.65, EtOAc); HPLC (Phenomenex cellulose-1, Hexane/ Isopropanol =98:2, Flow rate =1 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 220 nm):  $t_R$  = 9.78 min (major enantiomer),  $t<sub>R</sub> = 10.87$  min (minor enantiomer).

Diphenyl (S)-2-((3-(Benzyloxy)phenyl)(3,5-ditert-butyl-4 hydroxyphenyl)methyl)malonate (40a). The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate  $=25/1$ ) afforded 40a, white solid, mp 74−76 °C, 126 mg, 96% yield, 95% ee; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.47 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.38–7.28 (m, 8H), 7.26−7.17 (m, 4H), 6.95−6.90 (m, 1H), 6.86 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.62 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.23 (s, 1H), 5.10 (s, 2H), 4.92 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.83 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 1.47 (s, 18H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR  $(125 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3)$  δ 166.4, 166.3, 159.1, 153.1, 150.4, 143.2, 137.0, 136.2, 131.0, 129.9, 129.5, 129.4, 128.7, 128.1, 127.6, 126.2, 126.2, 124.9, 121.3, 121.2, 120.3, 115.0, 113.4, 70.0, 58.1, 52.1, 34.5, 30.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C_{43}H_{44}NaO_6)^+$  679.3030, found 679.3036;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{23}$  + 12.7 (c 0.8, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK IA, Hexane/Isopropanol =98:2, Flow rate =1 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 220 nm):  $t_R$  = 10.02 min (major enantiomer),  $t<sub>R</sub> = 11.52$  min (minor enantiomer).

Diphenyl (S)-2-((3-Chlorophenyl)(3,5-ditert-butyl-4 hydroxyphenyl)methyl)malonate (4pa). The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate  $=20/1$ ) afforded 4pa, white solid, mp 150−152 °C, 114 mg, 97% yield, 97% ee; <sup>1</sup> H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.52 (s, 1H), 7.42 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.39–7.17 (m, 10H), 6.88 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.60 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 5.25 (s, 1H), 4.90 (d, J = 11.9 Hz, 1H), 4.79 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 1.45 (s, 18H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.1, 166.1, 153.3, 150.4, 150.3, 143.7, 136.4, 134.6, 130.4, 130.2, 129.6, 129.4, 128.3, 127.4, 126.4, 126.3, 125.9, 124.9, 121.2, 121.2, 57.9, 51.6, 34.5, 30.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C_{36}H_{37}CINaO_5)^+$  607.2222, found 607.2231;  $[\alpha]_D^{23}$  + 24.5 (c 0.4, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK IA, Hexane/Isopropanol =98:2, Flow rate =1 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 210 nm):  $t<sub>R</sub>$  = 6.59 min (major enantiomer),  $t_R = 7.48$  min (minor enantiomer).

Diphenyl (S)-2-((3-Bromophenyl)(3,5-ditert-butyl-4 hydroxyphenyl)methyl)malonate (4qa):<sup>5</sup> The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate =30/1) afforded 4qa, white solid, mp 143−145 °C, 120 mg, 95[%](#page-9-0) yield, 96% ee; <sup>1</sup> H NMR  $(500 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3)$   $\delta$  7.69 (s, 1H), 7.47 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, J  $= 7.7$  Hz, 1H),  $7.38 - 7.35$  (m, 2H),  $7.32 - 7.17$  (m, 7H), 6.89 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.61 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.26 (s, 1H), 4.90 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.79 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 1.46 (s, 18H);  $[\alpha]_D^{23}$  + 25.2 (c 0.4, EtOAc), lit.<sup>5</sup> data for 4qa of 98% ee:  $[\alpha]_D^{25} + 31.3$  (c 1, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK OD-H, Hexane/Isopropanol =98:2, Flow rate [=](#page-9-0)1 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 220 nm):  $t_R$  = 6.99 min (major enantiomer),  $t_R = 9.55$  min (minor enantiomer).

Diphenyl (S)-2-((2-Chlorophenyl)(3,5-ditert-butyl-4 hydroxyphenyl)methyl)malonate (4ra). The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate  $=15/1$ ) afforded 4ra, white solid, mp 100−102 °C, 109 mg, 93% yield, 73% ee; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.66 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.38−7.25 (m, 7H), 7.20 (dd, J = 14.1, 7.3 Hz, 3H), 6.84 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.61 (d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 2H), 5.54 (d,  $J = 12.3$  Hz, 1H), 5.21 (s, 1H), 4.90 (d, J = 12.2 Hz, 1H), 1.43 (s, 18H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl3) δ 166.2, 165.9, 153.1, 150.4, 139.3, 136.0, 134.4, 130.4, 129.5,

129.4, 128.1, 127.3, 127.3, 126.2, 126.1, 125.4, 121.2, 121.1, 57.6, 47.0, 34.4, 30.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C_{36}H_{37}CINaO_5)^+$  607.2222, found 607.2231;  $[\alpha]_D^{26}$  + 22 (c 0.75, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK OD-H, Hexane/Isopropanol =98:2, Flow rate =1 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 220 nm):  $t_R$  = 7.81 min (major enantiomer),  $t_R$  = 9.47 min (minor enantiomer).

Diphenyl (S)-2-((3,5-Ditert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)(o-tolyl)methyl)malonate (4sa). The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate =  $20/1$ ) afforded 4sa, white solid, mp 121-123 °C, 104 mg, 92% yield, 85% ee; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 7.68 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.33–7.29 (m, 7H), 7.23–7.20 (m, 4H), 6.78  $(d, J = 7.8 \text{ Hz}, 2H), 6.64 (d, J = 7.8 \text{ Hz}, 2H), 5.21 (s, 1H), 5.18 (d, J =$ 12.1 Hz, 1H), 4.91 (d,  $J = 12.1$  Hz, 1H), 2.55 (s, 3H), 1.46 (s, 18H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.7, 166.3, 153.0, 150.4, 150.4, 139.9, 136.7, 136.0, 131.1, 130.2, 129.5, 129.4, 126.9, 126.5, 126.2, 126.2, 125.5, 125.4, 121.3, 121.2, 58.3, 47.2, 34.4, 30.3, 20.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C_{37}H_{40}NaO_5)^+$  587.2768, found 587.2773;  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$  + 60 (c 0.4, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK IA, Hexane/ Isopropanol =98:2, Flow rate =1 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 220 nm):  $t_R$  = 5.95 min (major enantiomer),  $t_R = 6.74$  min (minor enantiomer).

Diphenyl (S)-2-((3,5-Ditert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)(2methoxyphenyl)methyl)malonate (4ta). The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate  $=10/1$ ) afforded 4ta, white solid, mp 114-116 °C, 113 mg, 97% yield, 67% ee; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.55 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (s, 2H), 7.30 (dt, J = 18.5, 9.2 Hz, 5H), 7.23–7.16 (m, 2H), 7.03 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 6.92  $(d, J = 8.2 \text{ Hz}, 1H), 6.77 (d, J = 8.2 \text{ Hz}, 2H), 6.63 (d, J = 8.2 \text{ Hz}, 2H),$ 5.30 (d, J = 12.3 Hz, 1H), 5.18 (s, 1H), 5.13 (d, J = 12.3 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 1.46 (s, 18H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.9, 166.6, 157.3, 152.8, 150.5, 135.7, 130.9, 129.9, 129.4, 129.4, 128.4, 128.2, 126.1, 125.4, 121.3, 121.3, 120.9, 111.4, 56.6, 55.5, 46.8, 34.4, 30.4; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C_{37}H_{40}NaO_6)^+$  603.2717, found 603.2725;  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$  + 10 (c 0.7, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK IA, Hexane/ Isopropanol =98:2, Flow rate =1 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 220 nm):  $t_R$  = 8.35 min (major enantiomer),  $t_R$  = 9.93 min (minor enantiomer).

Diphenyl (S)-2-((3,5-Ditert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl) (thiophen-2yl)methyl)malonate (4ua). The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate =  $30/1$ ) afforded 4ua, white solid, mp 133-135 °C, 98 mg, 88% yield, 85% ee; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 7.37-7.32 (m, 4H), 7.28-7.21 (m, 4H), 7.17 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.11  $(d, J = 3.2 \text{ Hz}, 1H), 6.98 \text{ (dd, } J = 5.0, 3.5 \text{ Hz}, 1H), 6.91 \text{ (d, } J = 8.1 \text{ Hz},$ 2H), 6.53 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 5.23 (s, 1H), 5.17 (d,  $J = 11.7$  Hz, 1H), 4.68 (d,  $J = 11.7$  Hz, 1H), 1.43 (s, 18H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz,  $CDCl<sub>3</sub>$ )  $\delta$  166.0, 165.8, 153.3, 150.4, 150.3, 145.2, 136.2, 130.5, 129.5, 129.3, 126.8, 126.2, 126.2, 125.2, 125.1, 124.7, 121.3, 121.1, 59.9, 47.5, 34.4, 30.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C_{34}H_{36}NaO_5S)^+$  579.2176, found 579.2182;  $[\alpha]_D^{23}$  + 6 (c 0.3, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK OD-H, Hexane/Isopropanol =98:2, Flow rate =1 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 220 nm):  $t_R$  = 6.39 min (major enantiomer),  $t_R$  = 7.73 min (minor enantiomer).

Diphenyl (S)-2-((3,5-Ditert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl) (furan-2-yl)methyl)malonate (4va). The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate =  $25/1$ ) afforded 4va, white solid, mp 142-144 °C, 100 mg, 92% yield, 90% ee; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 7.43 (d, J = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (s, 2H), 7.29– 7.21 (m, 3H), 7.17 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.56  $(d, J = 7.9 \text{ Hz}, 2H), 6.36 (dd, J = 3.1, 1.9 \text{ Hz}, 1H), 6.28 (d, J = 3.1 \text{ Hz},$ 1H), 5.24 (s, 1H), 4.96 (d,  $J = 11.6$  Hz, 1H), 4.68 (d,  $J = 11.6$  Hz, 1H), 1.43 (s, 18H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.1, 165.8, 154.4, 153.4, 150.5, 150.3, 142.1, 136.1, 129.5, 129.3, 128.5, 126.2, 126.2, 125.6, 121.3, 121.2, 110.4, 106.8, 57.4, 45.7, 34.4, 30.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C_{34}H_{36}NaO_6)^+$  563.2404, found 563.2398;  $\left[\alpha\right]_D^{25}$  + 38.5 (c 0.5, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK IA, Hexane/Isopropanol =98:2, Flow rate =1 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 220 nm):  $t_R$  = 7.12 min (major enantiomer),  $t_{R} = 7.86$  min (minor enantiomer).

Diphenyl (S)-2-((3,5-Ditert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl) (naphthalen-1-yl)methyl)malonate  $(4wa)$ :<sup>5</sup> The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate  $=25/1$ ) afforded 4wa, white solid, mp 160-162 °C, 114 mg, 95% yield, 93% ee; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz,  $CDCl<sub>3</sub>$ )  $\delta$  8.47 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, J

 $= 7.7$  Hz, 2H), 7.55 (dd, J = 14.2, 6.6 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (s, 2H), 7.29 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 7.12 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1H), 5.80 (d,  $J = 11.9$  Hz, 1H), 5.14 (s, 1H), 5.00 (d, J = 11.9 Hz, 1H), 1.39 (s, 18H);  $[\alpha]_D^{25} + 68$  (c 0.6, EtOAc), lit.<sup>5</sup><br>data for 4wa of 98% ee:  $[\alpha]_D^{25} + 72.9$  (c 1, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK IA, Hexane/Isopropanol =90:10, Flow rate =1 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 220 nm):  $t_R$  = 9.75 min (major enantiomer),  $t_R$  = 21.51 min (minor enantiomer).

Diphenyl (R)-2-((4-Hydroxy-3,5-diisopropylphenyl) (phenyl)methyl)malonate (4xa).<sup>5</sup> The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = $10/1$ ) afforded 4xa, white solid, mp 126-128 °C, 97 mg, 93% yield, 84% ee; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 7.51 (d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 2H), 7.38 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.34–7.25 (m, 5H), 7.22-7.18 (m, 4H), 6.76 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.69 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 4.94 (d,  $J = 12.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.86 (s, 1H), 4.83 (d,  $J = 12.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.21–3.09 (m, 2H), 1.26 (dd,  $J = 6.7$ , 3.0 Hz, 12H);  $[\alpha]_D^{25} + 7.2$  (c 0.68, EtOAc), lit.<sup>5</sup> data for **4xa** of 95% ee:  $[\alpha]_D^{25} + 7.2$  (c 1, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK IA, Hexane/Isopropanol =90:10, Flow rate =1 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 220 nm):  $t_R$  = 9.75 min (major enantiomer),  $t_R$  = 21.51 min (minor enantiomer).

Diphenyl (S)-2-((3-(tert-Butyl)-4-hydroxy-5-methylphenyl) (phenyl)methyl)malonate  $(4ya)$ : The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = $10/1$ ) afforded 4ya, white solid, mp 130–132 °C, 99 mg, 95% yield, 75% ee; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.50 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.34–7.25 (m, 6H), 7.22-7.18 (m, 2H), 7.09 (s, 1H), 6.74 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 4H), 4.90  $(d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.79 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 1.42 (s,$ 9H);  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$  + 5 (c 0.64, EtOAc), lit.<sup>5</sup> data for 4ya of 98% ee:  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$  + 10 (c 1, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK IA, Hexane/ Isopropanol =93:7, Flow rate =1 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 220 nm):  $t_R$  = 15.03 min (major enantiomer),  $t_R = 20.32$  min (minor enantiomer).

Diphenyl (S)-2-(1-(3,5-Ditert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl)-<br>malonate (4za): The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate  $=25/1$ ) afforded 4za, white solid, mp 98-100 °C, 94 mg, 96% yield, 56% ee; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.46– 7.43 (m, 2H), 7.33–7.24 (m, 3H), 7.23–7.16 (m, 5H), 6.58–6.56 (m, 2H), 5.23 (s, 1H), 4.11 (d, J = 10.7 Hz, 1H), 3.74 (dq, J = 10.7, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 1.59 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 1.47 (s, 18H);  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$  + 35.5 (c 0.4, EtOAc), lit.<sup>5</sup> data for 4za of 89% ee:  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$  + 57.9 (c 1, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK OD-H, Hexane/Isopropanol =99:1, Flow rate =1 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 220 nm):  $t_R$  = 7.44 min (major enantiomer),  $t_R = 11.12$  min (minor enantiomer).

Diphenyl (R)-2-((4-Hydroxynaphthalen-1-yl) (phenyl)methyl)malonate  $(4a'a)$ .<sup>5</sup> The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = $3/1$ ) afforded 4a'a, pale yellow solid, mp 160-162 °C, 78 mg, 80% yield, 12% ee; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 8.30 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.23 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.57–7.44 (m, 5H), 7.34–7.31 (m, 4H), 7.26–7.18 (m, 4H), 7.12 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.77  $(dd, J = 11.7, 8.1 Hz, 3H), 6.62 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 5.81 (d, J = 11.8$ Hz, 2H), 4.95 (d,  $J = 11.8$  Hz, 1H);  $[\alpha]_D^{25} + 0.5$  (c 0.4, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK IA, Hexane/Isopropanol =90:10, Flow rate =1 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 220 nm):  $t_R$  = 22.76 min (major enantiomer),  $t_R$  $= 19.22$  min (minor enantiomer).

Dimethyl (R)-2-((3,5-Ditert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl) (phenyl)methyl)malonate (4ab):<sup>3</sup> The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 25/1) afforded 4ab, white solid, mp 90-92 °C, 81 mg, 95% yield, 85% ee; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.30– 7.24 (m, 4H), 7.18-7.15 (m, 1H), 7.05 (s, 2H), 5.06 (s, 1H), 4.67 (d,  $J = 12.1$  Hz, 1H), 4.29 (d,  $J = 12.1$  Hz, 1H), 3.53 (s, 6H), 1.38 (s, 18H);  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$  + 7 (c 0.54, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK OD-H, Hexane/Isopropanol =99:1, Flow rate =1 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 220 nm):  $t_R$ = 7.34 min (major enantiomer),  $t<sub>R</sub>$  = 8.36 min (minor enantiomer).

Diethyl (R)-2-((3,5-Ditert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl) (phenyl)methyl)malonate (4ac). The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20/1) afforded 4ac, white solid, mp 110-112 °C, 87 mg, 96% yield, 87% ee; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 7.32 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (s, 2H), 5.06 (s, 1H), 4.64 (d, J = 12.2 Hz, 1H), 4.27 (d, J = 12.2 Hz, 1H), 4.03-3.89 (m, 4H), 1.38 (s, 18H), 0.99 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H), 0.94 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  167.9,

167.9, 152.6, 142.0, 135.7, 131.7, 128.5, 127.8, 126.7, 124.4, 61.4, 61.3, 58.2, 51.5, 34.3, 30.3, 13.8, 13.8; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C_{28}H_{38}NaO_5)^+$  477.2611, found 477.2617;  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$  + 8 (c 0.4, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK IA, Hexane/Isopropanol =98:2, Flow rate =1 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 220 nm):  $t_R$  = 7.33 min (major enantiomer),  $t_{\rm R}$  = 5.97 min (minor enantiomer).

Dibenzyl (R)-2-((3,5-Ditert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl) (phenyl)methyl)malonate (4ad).<sup>5</sup> The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20/1) afforded 4ad, white solid, mp 150-152 °C, 109 mg, 94% yield, 89% ee; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 7.33–7.23 (m, 10H), 7.19 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (s, 2H), 7.06 (dd, J  $= 7.4, 1.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.00 (dd, J = 6.4, 2.9 Hz, 2H), 5.11 (s, 1H), 5.03-4.88 (m, 4H), 4.76 (d,  $J = 12.2$  Hz, 1H), 4.44 (d,  $J = 12.2$  Hz, 1H), 1.38 (s, 18H);  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$  + 18.2 (c 0.4, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK OD-H, Hexane/Isopropanol =99:1, Flow rate =1 mL/ min,  $\lambda = 220$  nm):  $t_R = 9.26$  min (major enantiomer),  $t_R = 10.34$  min (minor enantiomer).

Dimethyl (R)-2-((4-Bromophenyl)(3,5-ditert-butyl-4hydroxyphenyl)methyl)malonate (4db). The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate  $=15/1$ ) afforded 4db, white solid, mp 146-148 °C, 100 mg, 99% yield, 81% ee; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.40 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.01 (s, 2H), 5.09 (d,  $J = 1.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.64 (d,  $J = 12.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.25  $(d, J = 12.0 \text{ Hz}, 1H), 3.56 \text{ (s, 3H)}, 3.53 \text{ (s, 3H)}, 1.38 \text{ (s, 18H)}; ^{13}C$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  168.1, 168.0, 152.7, 141.0, 135.9, 131.7, 130.9, 129.5, 124.2, 120.6, 57.6, 52.7, 52.5, 50.6, 34.4, 30.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C_{26}H_{33}BrNaO_5)^+$  527.1404, found 527.1409;  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$  + 12.8 (c 0.42, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK IC, Hexane/ Isopropanol =99:1, Flow rate =0.8 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 220 nm):  $t_R$  = 9.85 min (major enantiomer),  $t_R = 10.74$  min (minor enantiomer).

Diethyl (R)-2-((4-Bromophenyl)(3,5-ditert-butyl-4hydroxyphenyl)methyl)malonate (4dc). The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate  $=20/1$ ) afforded 4dc, white solid, mp 92-94 °C, 101 mg, 95% yield, 83% ee; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.40 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (s, 2H), 5.08 (s, 1H), 4.61 (d, J = 12.1 Hz, 1H), 4.22 (d, J = 12.1 Hz, 1H), 4.05–3.92 (m, 4H), 1.38 (s, 18H), 1.06 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H), 0.95 (t,  $J =$ 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  167.7, 167.6, 152.7, 141.2, 135.9, 131.6, 131.4, 129.5, 124.3, 120.5, 61.6, 61.4, 57.9, 50.8, 34.3, 30.3, 13.9, 13.8; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C_{28}H_{37}BrNaO_5)^+$ <br>555.1717, found 555.1711;  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$  + 16.0 (c 0.44, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK IA, Hexane/Isopropanol =94:6, Flow rate =1 mL/min,  $\lambda = 220$  nm):  $t_R = 6.45$  min (major enantiomer),  $t_R = 5.21$ min (minor enantiomer).

Dibenzyl (R)-2-((4-Bromophenyl)(3,5-ditert-butyl-4hydroxyphenyl)methyl)malonate (4dd). The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate  $=20/1$ ) afforded 4dd, white solid, mp 120-122 °C, 121 mg, 92% yield, 92% ee; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.33–7.21 (m, 8H), 7.14 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.08– 7.02 (m, 4H), 7.02-6.94 (m, 2H), 5.12 (s, 1H), 5.03-4.89 (m, 4H), 4.70 (d, J = 12.2 Hz, 1H), 4.36 (d, J = 12.2 Hz, 1H), 1.37 (s, 18H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>2</sub>)  $\delta$  167.5, 167.4, 152.8, 140.8, 136.0, 135.1, 135.0, 131.7, 131.0, 129.5, 128.5, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 128.2, 127.7, 124.3, 120.7, 67.4, 67.3, 58.0, 50.8, 34.4, 30.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C_{38}H_{41}BrNaO_5)^+$  679.2030, found 679.2038;  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$  + 10.5 (c 0.52, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK IA, Hexane/ Isopropanol =98:2, Flow rate =1 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 220 nm):  $t_R$  = 21.63 min (major enantiomer),  $t_R = 12.23$  min (minor enantiomer).

Dimethyl (S)-2-((3,5-Ditert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)(3methoxyphenyl)methyl)malonate (4nb). The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20/1) afforded 4nb, white solid, mp 100-102 °C, 86 mg, 96% yield, 77% ee; <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $(500 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3)$   $\delta$  7.20 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (s, 2H), 6.89 (d, J  $= 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 6.84 (s, 1H), 6.71 (dd, J = 8.2, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 5.06 (s, 1H), 4.64 (d, J = 12.1 Hz, 1H), 4.28 (d, J = 12.1 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.56 (s, 3H), 3.52 (s, 3H), 1.39 (s, 18H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz,  $CDCl<sub>3</sub>$ )  $\delta$  168.2, 168.2, 159.6, 152.6, 143.4, 135.7, 131.3, 129.5, 124.4, 119.9, 113.8, 112.0, 57.9, 55.1, 52.6, 52.4, 51.2, 34.4, 30.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C_{27}H_{36}NaO_6)^+$  479.2404, found 479.2408;  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$  + 13.9 (c 0.54, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK IC, Hexane/

Isopropanol =99:1, Flow rate =1 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 220 nm):  $t_R$  = 12.40 min (major enantiomer),  $t_R = 15.28$  min (minor enantiomer).

Diethyl (S)-2-((3,5-Ditert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)(3methoxyphenyl)methyl)malonate (4nc). The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate  $=25/1$ ) afforded 4nc, white solid, mp 125–127 °C, 96 mg, yield 99%, 85% ee; <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $(500 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3)$   $\delta$  7.18 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (s, 2H), 6.92 (d, J  $= 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.86 (s, 1H), 6.71 (dd, J = 8.2, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 5.05 (s, 1H), 4.61 (d, J = 12.2 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (d, J = 12.2 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.96 (qd, J = 7.1, 2.9 Hz, 2H), 1.39 (s, 18H), 1.04 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.94 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 167.9, 167.8, 159.6, 152.6, 143.6, 135.7, 131.5, 129.4, 124.4, 120.0, 113.8, 112.0, 61.4, 61.3, 58.1, 55.1, 51.5, 34.3, 30.3, 13.8, 13.8; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C_{29}H_{40}NaO_6)^+$  507.2717, found 507.2727;  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$  + 14.4 (c 0.54, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK OD-H, Hexane/ Isopropanol =98:2, Flow rate =1 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 220 nm):  $t_R$  = 5.77 min (major enantiomer),  $t_{R} = 6.46$  min (minor enantiomer).

Dibenzyl (S)-2-((3,5-Ditert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)(3methoxyphenyl)methyl)malonate (4nd). The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate  $=20/1$ ) afforded 4nd, white solid, mp 147-149 °C, 116 mg, 96% yield, 83% ee; <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $(500 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3)$   $\delta$  7.30–7.23 (m, 6H), 7.18 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.13–7.05 (m, 4H), 7.01–6.96 (m, 2H), 6.92 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.85  $(s, 1H)$ , 6.73 (dd, J = 8.2, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 5.11 (s, 1H), 5.00–4.91 (m, 4H), 4.72 (d, J = 12.2 Hz, 1H), 4.42 (d, J = 12.2 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 1.38 (s, 18H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  167.80, 167.6, 159.7, 152.7, 143.3, 135.8, 135.2, 135.2, 131.5, 129.6, 128.5, 128.5, 128.2, 128.2, 128.1, 127.7, 124.4, 120.0, 113.7, 112.3, 67.2, 67.1, 58.2, 55.1, 51.4, 34.4, 30.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C_{39}H_{44}NaO_6)^+$  631.3030, found 631.3036;  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$  + 13.2 (c 0.8, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK IA, Hexane/Isopropanol =95:5, Flow rate =1 mL/min,  $\lambda$  = 220 nm):  $t_R$  = 9.88 min (major enantiomer),  $t_R$  = 8.22 min (minor enantiomer).

Gram Scale Preparation of 4aa. A mixture of para-quinone methides  $2a$  (1.24 g, 4.2 mmol), malonate  $3a$  (1.04 g, 4 mmol), and catalyst 1f (28 mg, 0.04 mmol) in toluene (10 mL) was cooled to  $-40$ °C, and then  $K_2CO_3$  (1.65 g, 12 mmol) was added. The resulting mixture was stirred vigorously at the same temperature and monitored by TLC. Upon complete consumption of malonate 3a, the reaction was quenched with a saturated aqueous solution of NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (30 mL), extracted with ethyl acetate  $(3 \times 20 \text{ mL})$ . The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous  $\rm Na_2SO_4$  and filtered. The volatile solvent of filtrate was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the resulting residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel eluting with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate to afford the addition product 4aa (2.05 g, 3.73 mmol) in 93% yield with 95% ee.

Further Elaboration of 4aa and 4qa. To a solution of 4aa (2.05) g, 3.73 mmol) in THF (32 mL) at rt was added LiOH·H<sub>2</sub>O (0.78 g, 18.6 mmol, 5 equiv) in H<sub>2</sub>O (8 mL). Stirring was maintained for 2 h whereupon the reaction mixture was diluted with  $H_2O$  (50 mL) and washed with Et<sub>2</sub>O ( $2 \times 50$  mL). The aqueous layer was acidified to pH 2 using 1 M HCl (aq) and extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (3  $\times$  50 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (30 mL), dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and filtered. The volatile solvent of filtrate was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel eluting with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate to afford crude malonic acid 7a  $(1.45 \text{ g})$  as yellow oil, which was sufficiently pure for next step. An analytical pure sample for characterization was obtained by flash column chromatography on silica gel eluting with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate  $(1/2)$ .

(R)-2-((3,5-Ditert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl) (phenyl)methyl)*malonic Acid (7a).* Yellow oil, 1.45 g, 95% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  12.61 (br, 2H), 7.35 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (s, 2H), 6.78 (s, 1H), 4.46  $(d, J = 12.2 \text{ Hz}, 1H), 4.25 (d, J = 12.2 \text{ Hz}, 1H), 1.34 (s, 18H);$ <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO) δ 169.6, 169.4, 152.7, 143.7, 139.3, 133.5, 128.8, 128.1, 126.6, 124.3, 57.7, 51.0, 35.00, 30.9; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C_{24}H_{30}NaO_5)^+$  421.1985, found 421.1993.

A solution of 7a (1.40 g, 3.51 mmol) in DMF (18.0 mL) and  $\rm H_{2}O$  $(2.0 \text{ mL})$  was heated at 100 °C for 1 h. The mixture was cooled to <span id="page-9-0"></span>room temperature, and  $Et<sub>2</sub>O$  (50 mL) was added. The organic phase was washed with saturated with half saturated aqueous brine  $(3 \times 30)$ mL). The aqueous phase was separated and extracted with  $Et<sub>2</sub>O$  (50 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with half saturated brine (30 mL), dried over anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and filtered. The volatile solvent was removed under reduced pressure to afford mono acid 8a (1.18 g) as pale yellow oil with 93% yield over 2 steps. An analytical pure sample for characterization was obtained by flash column chromatography on silica gel eluting with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate  $(3/1)$ .

(R)-3-(3,5-Ditert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-3-phenylpropanoic Acid **(8a).** Pale yellow oil,  $1.18$  g,  $98\%$  yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ7.28−7.22 (m, 4H), 7.18−7.15 (m, 1H), 7.00 (s, 2H), 6.05 (br, 1H), 5.07 (s, 1H), 4.42 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.13–2.92 (m, 2H), 1.39 (s, 18H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 178.2, 152.3, 143.8, 135.8, 134.0, 128.5, 127.7, 126.4, 124.2, 46.7, 41.2, 34.4, 30.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C_{23}H_{30}NaO_3)^+$  377.2087, found 377.2088.

To a solution of mono acid 8a (1.10 g, 3.10 mol) in anhydrous methanol (15 mL), concentrated  $H_2SO_4$  (30  $\mu$ L) was added. The resulting solution was refluxed for 12 h and then allowed to cool to room temperature. The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was redissolved in ethyl acetate (50 mL), and washed with saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate (30 mL), brine (30 mL) and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After filtration, the volatile solvents were removed under reduced pressure to afford crude ester (1.09 g) as light yellow oil. To a solution of the crude ester in dry toluene (40 mL) was added  $AICI_3$  (1.81 g, 13.55 mol) in one portion while stirring under an atomosphere of argon. The reaction mixture was then heated in an oil bath of 60  $^{\circ}$ C for 1 h. Then H<sub>2</sub>O (30 mL) was added to quench the reaction, and the resulting mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate  $(3 \times 30 \text{ mL})$ . The combined extracts were dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent of filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue obtained was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel to afford the 6a (0.687 g, 2.68 mmol) as a pale yellow solid with 86% yield over 2 steps.

Methyl (R)-3-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-3-phenylpropanoate (6a):<sup>5</sup> The chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate =3/1) afforded 6a, pale yellow solid, mp 65−67 °C, 0.687 g, 86% yield, 95% ee; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.29–7.17 (m, 5H), 7.08 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.71 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 5.60 (s, 1H), 4.49 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 3.04 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H);  $[\alpha]_D^{25} + 0.2$  (c 0.6, EtOAc), lit.<sup>5</sup> data for 6a of 98% ee:  $[\alpha]_D^2$ <sup>25</sup> + 10 (c 1, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK IA, Hexane/Isopropanol =90:10, Flow rate =1 mL/min,  $\lambda = 220$  nm):  $t_R = 11.69$  min (major enantiomer),  $t_R = 10.48$ min (minor enantiomer).

Methyl (S)-3-(3-Bromophenyl)-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)propanoate (6b). This compound was prepared from 4qa according to the procedure for 6a; the chromatographic purification (petroleum ether/ ethyl acetate =3/1) afforded 6b, pale yellow solid, mp 56−58 °C, actual mass 237 mg, 71% overall yield;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$ 9.26 (s, 1H), 7.46 (s, 1H), 7.35−7.17 (m, 3H), 7.10 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.64 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 4.33 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.47 (s, 3H), 3.12−2.95 (m, 2H); 13C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO) δ 172.1, 156.4, 147.9, 133.9, 131.0, 130.6, 129.5, 128.9, 128.8, 127.8, 126.9, 122.2, 115.7, 51.8, 45.9; HRMS (ESI) calcd. for  $(C_{16}H_{15}BrNaO_3)^+$  357.0097, found 357.0093;  $[\alpha]_{D}^{32}$  – 3.2 (c 0.76, EtOAc); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAK IA, Hexane/Isopropanol =93:7, Flow rate =1 mL/min,  $\lambda = 220$  nm):  $t_R = 16.38$  min (major enantiomer),  $t_R = 15.16$  min (minor enantiomer).

#### ■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

#### **6** Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/acs.joc.6b01906.

Details of optimization of reaction conditions, NMR and [HPLC spectra of th](http://pubs.acs.org)e isolate[d compounds \(PDF\)](http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/acs.joc.6b01906)

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## Notes

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#### ■ ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The generous financial support from the National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 21272150 and No. 21672137) is acknowledged.

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