# Reaction of $\alpha$-carbanion of imines with $N$-tosylimines: a facile route to $\boldsymbol{\beta}$-aminoaldehydes and $\mathbf{1 , 3}$-diamines 

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Deprotonation of aldimines by LDA, followed by trapping of the resulting carbanion with $N$-tosylimines and hydrolysis or reduction provides a convenient access to $\beta$-aminoaldehydes or 1,3-diamines.

## Introduction

Recently, the use of imines as starting materials in the synthesis of nitrogen-containing compounds has attracted a lot of interest from synthetic chemists. ${ }^{1}$ A number of reactions of imines, such as aziridination, ${ }^{2}$ alkylation, aldol reaction, hetero-Diels-Alder reaction, have been well documented. ${ }^{2}$ All of these reactions utilize the carbon of the $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{N}$ double bond as an electrophile or the $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{N}$ double bond as dienophile. There are only a few examples of the use of $\alpha$-carbanions derived from imines, ${ }^{3}$ although the reactions of $\alpha$-carbanions of carbonyl compounds, an imine analog, are important in organic synthesis. ${ }^{4}$ As a program aimed at the applications of imines, ${ }^{2 a, g, 5}$ we have studied the formation of carbanions from imines and their subsequent reactions. Now we report the deprotonation of imines and the reaction of the thus formed $\alpha$-carbanion with $N$-tosylimines to provide $\beta$-aminoaldehydes and 1,3-diamines. ${ }^{6}$

## Results and discussion

In the presence of LDA, deprotonation of imines 1 gave rise to $\alpha$-carbanions of imines $\mathbf{2}$, which reacted with $N$-tosylimines 3 to afford $\beta$-amino imines 4. Direct hydrolysis of amino imines 4 with oxalic acid delivered $\beta$-aminoaldehydes 5 (Scheme 1 ). The results are showed in Table 1.

This is a one-pot reaction. All aldimines 1 reacted with $N$-tosylimines 3 to give rise to the intermediates, $\beta$-aminoaldimines $\mathbf{4}$, which allowed direct hydrolysis. The $\beta$-aminoaldehydes were provided in good yield after three-step reactions. The substituent $\mathrm{R}^{1}$ can be H and Me and $\mathrm{R}^{2}$ can be

Table 1 Synthesis of $\beta$-aminoaldehydes from aldimines 1 and $\mathbf{3}^{a}$

| Entry | $\mathrm{R}^{1}$ | $\mathrm{R}^{2}$ | $\mathrm{R}^{3}$ | Product (yield \%) ${ }^{\text {b }}$ | syn: anti ${ }^{\text {c }}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | H | Me | $4-\mathrm{ClC}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}$ | 5a (61) | 40: 60 |
| 2 | Me | Me | $4-\mathrm{ClC}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}$ | 5b (72) |  |
| 3 | H | Et | Ph | 5c (81) | 23:77 |
| 4 | H | Et | $4-\mathrm{MeOC}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}$ | $5 d$ (79) | 26:74 |
| 5 | H | Et | 4- $\mathrm{ClC}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}$ | 5e (80) | 25:75 |
| 6 | H | Pr | Ph | 5 f (63) | 25:75 |
| 7 | H | ${ }^{i} \mathrm{Pr}$ | Ph | 5g (82) | 8:92 |
| 8 | H | ${ }^{i} \mathrm{Pr}$ | $4-\mathrm{MeOC}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}$ | 5h (73) | 22:78 |
| 9 | H | ${ }^{i} \mathrm{Pr}$ | $4-\mathrm{ClC}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}$ | $5 \mathbf{i}$ (83) | 8:92 |

${ }^{a}$ All reactions were carried out with the ratio of LDA : imine : $N$ tosylimine $=1.6: 1.5: 0.75 .{ }^{b}$ Isolated yields based on the $N$-tosylimine ${ }^{c}$ Determined by $300 \mathrm{MHz}{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}$.

1
LDA $\downarrow$ THF,$-78^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$


2


syn-5


4
Scheme 1
linear and branched alkyl group. The stereoselectivity of the reaction is usually low, but in some cases it is high (Entries 7 and 9). A change of solvent from THF to toluene had little influence on the stereochemistry outcome. The presence of additives, such as molecular sieves, $\mathrm{LiClO}_{4}$, also did not change the syn-anti ratio of products. The stereochemistry of products was determined from the $J$ value of the aldehyde proton from ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}$ and confirmed further by X-ray diffraction analysis of 5 g (Fig. 1). ${ }^{7}$

In order to trap the carbanion intermediate 2, the use of activated imine is crucial. The imines with phenyl and diphenylphosphinoyl groups as substituent on nitrogen failed to react with carbanions 2 to give any product. $N$-Tosylimines, with either electron-donating or electron-withdrawing substituents on the phenyl ring give the desired products. Enamines have been used widely as a synthon of $\alpha$-carbanions of carbonyl compounds, ${ }^{8}$ however, the reaction of enamines derived from cyclohexanone and piperidine with $\mathrm{PhCH}=\mathrm{NT}$ s or $\mathrm{PhCH}=$ $\mathrm{NPh}-\mathrm{TMSCl}$ did not provide the desired products. The choice of base is also important. ${ }^{3 e}$ In the presence of LDA, aldimines

Table 2 Synthesis of 1,3-diamines from aldimines 1 and $3^{a}$

| Entry | $\mathrm{R}^{1}$ | $\mathrm{R}^{2}$ | $\mathrm{R}^{3}$ | Product (yield \%) ${ }^{b}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | H | $\mathrm{C}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{5}$ | $4-\mathrm{ClC}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}$ | $\mathbf{6 a}(79)$ |
| 2 | H | $\mathrm{CH}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{2}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{5}$ | $\mathbf{6 b}(82)$ |
| 3 | H | $\mathrm{CH}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{2}$ | $4-\mathrm{ClC}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}$ | $\mathbf{6 c ~ ( 8 5 )}$ |

${ }^{a}$ All reactions were carried out with the ratio of LDA : imine : $N$ tosylimine $=1.6: 1.5: 0.75 .{ }^{b}$ Isolated yields based on the $N$-tosylimine.


Fig. 1 ORTEP drawing of $\mathbf{5 g}$
with hydrogen at the $\alpha$-position afforded the carbanion, however, no carbanion formed if sodium hydride was used as base. Butyllithium reacted with the $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{N}$ double bond. ${ }^{2 e}$ With lithium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide as base, the product is complex. ${ }^{9}$

If $\mathrm{NaBH}_{4}-\mathrm{MeOH}$ instead of oxalic acid was used, $\beta$-amino aldimines $\mathbf{4}$ can also be reduced smoothly to give 1,3-diamines in good yield (Scheme 2, Table 2). The NMR of $\mathbf{6}$ showed that


1



$$
\xrightarrow[\mathrm{MeOH}]{\mathrm{NaBH}_{4}}
$$



6
Scheme 2
there were two $-\mathrm{N} H$ Ts peaks with a ratio of around $1: 1$. Thus the epimerization should take place during the reduction reaction because both reactions have the same intermediate 4 and hydrolysis of $\mathbf{4}$ gave the products with $s y n$ : anti ratio of $40: 60$ to 8:92.

In conclusion, new and one-pot procedures have been developed to prepare $\beta$-aminoaldehydes and 1,3-diamines from $\alpha$-carbanions of imines in a convenient way. The usefulness of $\alpha$-carbanions of imines in organic synthesis is also demon-
strated. The investigation on the reactions of $\alpha$-carbanions of imines with other kinds of nucleophiles and the asymmetric version of them are in progress.

## Experimental

## General

All the reactions were performed under a dry argon atmosphere. The commercially available reagents were used without further purification. THF was freshly distilled under nitrogen from a purple solution of sodium and benzophenone. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}$ spectra were recorded on a Bruker AMX-300 ( 300 MHz ) spectrometer and the chemical shifts were referenced to $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ ( $\delta 7.27$ ) in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$, IR spectra were recorded in neat solutions, and measured in $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$, using a Shimadzu IR-440 infrared spectrophotometer. Mass spectra were taken using HP5989A. Elemental analyses were performed on a Foss-Heraeus Vario EL instrument.

## General procedure for the preparation of $\boldsymbol{\beta}$-aminoaldehydes 5

To a solution of aldimine $\mathbf{1}(1.5 \mathrm{mmol})$ in THF $(5 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added LDA ( $1 \mathrm{~mL}, 1.6 \mathrm{M}$ in THF) at $0{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ under argon, the resulting mixture was stirred for 2 h , then was cooled to $-78^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and $N$-tosylimine $2(0.75 \mathrm{mmol})$ was added. The mixture was stirred at this temperature for 7 h . A solution of oxalic acid $(144 \mathrm{mg}, 1.6 \mathrm{mmol})$ in water $(2 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added dropwise and the mixture was stirred for 12 h . The mixture was extracted with $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}(10 \mathrm{~mL} \times 3)$. The organic layer was combined, washed with brine $(10 \mathrm{~mL} \times 2)$ and dried over $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$. The solvent was removed in vacuum and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography by using petroleum ether $\left(60-90^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ and ethyl acetate $(3: 1)$ as the eluent to obtain the corresponding $\beta$-aminoaldehydes 5 as a syn-anti mixture.

3-( $N$-Tosylamino)-3-(4'-chlorophenyl)-2-methylpropanal 5a. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}: \delta\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}-\mathrm{Me}_{4} \mathrm{Si}\right) \operatorname{syn}-5 \mathrm{a}: 1.09(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H})$, $2.37(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.76(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.69(\mathrm{dd}, J=6.1$ and $9.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$, $6.05(\mathrm{~d}, J=9.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.94(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.09(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 7.46(\mathrm{~m}$, $2 \mathrm{H}), 9.53(\mathrm{~d}, J=1.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$; anti-5a: $0.96(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H})$, $2.35(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.76(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.52(\mathrm{dd}, J=8.4$ and $9.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$, $6.16(\mathrm{~d}, J=9.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.94(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.09(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 7.46(\mathrm{~m}$, 2H), $9.62(\mathrm{~d}, J=2.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$; MS: $m / z(\%) 351\left(\mathrm{M}^{+}, 1.98\right), 260$ (90), 91 (100); IR ( $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3273, 2977, 2925, 2720, 1721, 1598, 1495, 1455; Anal. Calcd $\mathrm{C}_{17} \mathrm{H}_{18} \mathrm{ClNO}_{3} \mathrm{~S}: \mathrm{C}, 58.03$; H, 5.16; N, 3.98. Found: C, 57.76 ; H, 5.43 ; N, $3.96 \%$.

3-( N -Tosylamino)-3-(4'-chlorophenyl)-2,2-dimethylpropanal
5b. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}: \delta\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}-\mathrm{Me}_{4} \mathrm{Si}\right) 1.01(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.05(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.33$ ( $\mathrm{s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 4.46(\mathrm{~d}, J=9.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.21(\mathrm{~d}, J=9.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.85$ $(\mathrm{d}, J=8.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.02(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 7.41(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.3 \mathrm{~Hz}$, 2H), $9.49(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}) ; \mathrm{MS}: m / z(\%) 365\left(\mathrm{M}^{+}, 0.25\right), 293$ (100); IR ( $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3263, 2928, 2843, 2710, 1735, 1598, 1461, 1437; Anal. Calcd. $\mathrm{C}_{18} \mathrm{H}_{20} \mathrm{ClNO}_{3} \mathrm{~S}: \mathrm{C}, 59.09 ; \mathrm{H}, 5.51 ; \mathrm{N}, 3.83$. Found: C, 59.04; H, 5.78 ; N, $3.57 \%$.

3-( $N$-Tosylamino)-3-phenyl-2-ethylpropanal 5c. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$-NMR: $\delta$ $\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}-\mathrm{Me}_{4} \mathrm{Si}\right) \operatorname{syn}-5 \mathrm{c}: 0.92(\mathrm{t}, J=7.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.37-1.60(\mathrm{~m}$, $2 \mathrm{H}), 2.32(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.58(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.59(\mathrm{dd}, J=8.0$ and 8.9 Hz , $1 \mathrm{H}), 5.55(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.95-7.11(\mathrm{~m}, 7 \mathrm{H}), 7.45(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H})$, $9.46(\mathrm{~d}, J=2.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$; anti-5c: $0.89(\mathrm{t}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.37-$ $1.60(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.30(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.58(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.59(\mathrm{dd}, J=8.0$ and $8.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 5.72(\mathrm{~d}, J=9.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.95-7.11(\mathrm{~m}, 7 \mathrm{H}), 7.45$ (m, 2H), $9.56(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}) ; \mathrm{MS}: m / z(\%) 314\left(\mathrm{M}^{+}-17\right.$, 6.23), 260 (100); IR( $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3240, 3028, 2968, 2697, 1726, 1598, 1494, 1455, 1385, 1324; Anal. Calcd. $\mathrm{C}_{18} \mathrm{H}_{21} \mathrm{NO}_{3} \mathrm{~S}$ : C, 65.23; H, 6.38; N, 4.22. Found: C, 65.03; H, 6.29; N, 4.35\%.

3-(N-Tosylamino)-3-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-2-ethylpropanal 5d. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}: \delta\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}-\mathrm{Me}_{4} \mathrm{Si}\right) \operatorname{syn}-5 \mathrm{~d}: 0.90(\mathrm{t}, J=7.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H})$,
$1.33(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 1.51(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.33(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.54(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.71(\mathrm{~s}$, $3 \mathrm{H}), 4.54(\mathrm{dd}, J=9.1$ and $8.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 5.77(\mathrm{~d}, J=9.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$, $6.63(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 6.88(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.06(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.46(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 9.44(\mathrm{~d}$, $J=2.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$; anti-5d: $0.84(\mathrm{t}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.33(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H})$, $1.51(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.31(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.54(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.72(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 4.54(\mathrm{dd}$, $J=9.1$ and $8.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 5.90(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.63(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H})$, $6.88(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.06(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.46(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 9.58(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.9 \mathrm{~Hz}$, 1 H ); MS: $m / z(\%) 290\left(\mathrm{M}^{+}-71,100\right)$; IR $\left(\mathrm{cm}^{-1}\right) 3261,2960$, 2923, 2710, 1726, 1613, 1515, 1461; Anal. Calcd. $\mathrm{C}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{23} \mathrm{NO}_{4} \mathrm{~S}$ : C, 63.14; H, 6.41; N, 3.88. Found: C, 62.81; H, 6.50; N, 3.57\%.

3-( N -Tosylamino)-3-(4'-chlorophenyl)-2-ethylpropanal 5 e. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-$ NMR: $\delta\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}-\mathrm{Me}_{4} \mathrm{Si}\right) \operatorname{syn}-5 \mathrm{e}: 0.89(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.36-1.67(\mathrm{~m}$, $2 \mathrm{H}), 2.34(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.55(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.57(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 5.85-6.06(\mathrm{~m}$, $1 \mathrm{H}), 6.91-7.06(\mathrm{~m}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 7.43(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 9.44(\mathrm{~d}, J=2.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$; anti-5e: $\delta 0.89(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.36-1.67(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.33(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.55(\mathrm{~m}$, $1 \mathrm{H}), 4.57(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 5.85-6.06(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.91-7.06(\mathrm{~m}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 7.43$ $(\mathrm{m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 9.56(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$; MS: $m / z(\%) 294\left(\mathrm{M}^{+}-71\right.$, 43), 155 (30), 91 (100); $\operatorname{IR}\left(\mathrm{cm}^{-1}\right) 3261,2960,2923,2710,1726$, 1613, 1515, 1461, 1323; Anal. Calcd. $\mathrm{C}_{18} \mathrm{H}_{20} \mathrm{ClNO}_{3} \mathrm{~S}: \mathrm{C}, 59.08$; H, 5.50; N, 3.82. Found: C, 59.12; H, 5.43; N, 3.67\%.

3-( $\mathbf{N}$-Tosylamino)-3-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-2-propylpropanal 5f. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}: \delta\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}-\mathrm{Me}_{4} \mathrm{Si}\right) \operatorname{syn}-5 \mathrm{ff}: 0.85(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.31-1.53(\mathrm{~m}$, $4 \mathrm{H}), 2.33(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.69(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.58(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 5.49(\mathrm{~d}, J=$ $8.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.94-7.14(\mathrm{~m}, 7 \mathrm{H}), 7.47(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 9.47(\mathrm{~d}, J=$ $2.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$; anti-5f: $0.85(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.31-1.53(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 2.32(\mathrm{~s}$, $3 \mathrm{H}), 2.69(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.58(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 5.67(\mathrm{~d}, J=9.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.94$ $7.14(\mathrm{~m}, 7 \mathrm{H}), 7.47(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 9.54(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$; MS: $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z}(\%) 328\left(\mathrm{M}^{+}-17,1.48\right), 260(32), 155$ (34), 91 (100), 77 (10); IR $\left(\mathrm{cm}^{-1}\right): 3269,2959,2870,2710,1729,1457,1381,1322$, 1289; Anal. Calcd. $\mathrm{C}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{23} \mathrm{NO}_{3} \mathrm{~S}: \mathrm{C}, 66.06$; $\mathrm{H}, 6.71$; $\mathrm{N}, 4.05$. Found: C, 65.86; H, 6.80; N, 3.94\%.

3-( $\mathbf{N}$-Tosylamino)-3-phenyl-2-isopropylpropanal 5g. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}$ : $\delta\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}-\mathrm{Me}_{4} \mathrm{Si}\right)$ syn-5g: $1.01(\mathrm{~m}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 1.80(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.32(\mathrm{~s}$, $3 \mathrm{H}), 2.54(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.71(\mathrm{dd}, J=9.1$ and $8.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 5.58(\mathrm{~d}, J=$ $8.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.01(\mathrm{~m}, 7 \mathrm{H}), 7.42(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 9.45(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.4 \mathrm{~Hz}$, 1 H ); anti-5g: $1.01(\mathrm{~m}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 1.80(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.29(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.54(\mathrm{~m}$, $1 \mathrm{H}), 4.82(\mathrm{dd}, J=8.9$ and $8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 5.96(\mathrm{~d}, J=9.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$, $7.01(\mathrm{~m}, 7 \mathrm{H}), 7.42(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 9.74(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$; MS $m / z(\%) 314\left(\mathrm{M}^{+}-31,2.23\right), 260(70), 91(100) ;$ IR $\left(\mathrm{cm}^{-1}\right) 3247$, 2966, 2770, 1708, 1600, 1490, 1456, 1329; Anal. Calcd. $\mathrm{C}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{23} \mathrm{NO}_{3} \mathrm{~S}: \mathrm{C}, 66.06 ; \mathrm{H}, 6.71 ; \mathrm{N}, 4.05$. Found: C, 65.80; H, 6.66; N, 3.76\%.

3-( $\mathbf{N}$-Tosylamino)-3-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-2-isopropylpropanal 5h. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}: \delta\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}-\mathrm{Me}_{4} \mathrm{Si}\right)$ syn-5h: $1.00(\mathrm{~m}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 1.75(\mathrm{~m}$, $1 \mathrm{H}), 2.33(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.53(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.70(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 4.69(\mathrm{dd}, J=$ 8.7 and $9.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.00(\mathrm{~d}, J=9.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.60(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 6.89$ $(\mathrm{m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.03(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.41(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 9.44(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$; anti-5h: 0.97 (d, $J=7.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 0.99(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.75$ $(\mathrm{m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.31(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.53(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.72(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 4.78(\mathrm{dd}, J=$ 8.9 and $9.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.00(\mathrm{~d}, J=9.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.60(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 6.89$ $(\mathrm{m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.03(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.41(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 9.76(\mathrm{~d}, J=4.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$; MS: $m / z(\%) 314\left(\mathrm{M}^{+}-31,2.23\right), 260(70), 155(43), 91$ (100); $\operatorname{IR}\left(\mathrm{cm}^{-1}\right) 3247,2966,2770,1708,1600,1490,1456,1329$; Anal. Calcd. $\mathrm{C}_{20} \mathrm{H}_{25} \mathrm{NO}_{4} \mathrm{~S}: \mathrm{C}, 63.97 ; \mathrm{H}, 6.71$; $\mathrm{N}, 3.73$. Found: C, 64.14; H, 7.03; N, 3.50\%.

3-( $\mathbf{N}$-Tosylamino)-3-(4'-chlorophenyl)-2-isopropylpropanal 5i. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}: \delta\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}-\mathrm{Me}_{4} \mathrm{Si}\right)$ syn-5i: $1.00(\mathrm{~m}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 1.76(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H})$, $2.35(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.51(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.67(\mathrm{dd}, J=9.5 \mathrm{and} 8.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$, $5.90(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.91(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.03(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 7.39(\mathrm{~m}$, $2 \mathrm{H}), 9.45(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$; anti-5i: $1.00(\mathrm{~m}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 1.76(\mathrm{~m}$, $1 \mathrm{H}), 2.34(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.51(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.80(\mathrm{dd}, J=9.2$ and 8.4 Hz , $1 \mathrm{H}), 6.21(\mathrm{~d}, J=9.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.91(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.03(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 7.39$ (m, 2H), 9.74 (d, $J=3.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}) ;$ MS: $m / z(\%) 290\left(\mathrm{M}^{+}-85\right.$, 2.23), $155(22), 92(22), 91(100) ; \operatorname{IR}\left(\mathrm{cm}^{-1}\right) 3249,2961,2710$, 1720, 1612, 1597, 1561; Anal. Calcd. $\mathrm{C}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{22} \mathrm{ClNO}_{3} \mathrm{~S}: \mathrm{C}, 60.07$; H, 5.83; N, 3.69. Found: C, 59.82 ; H, 5.82 ; N, 3.59\%.

## General procedure for the preparation of 1,3-diamines 6

To a solution of aldimine $\mathbf{1}(1.5 \mathrm{mmol})$ in THF ( 5 mL ) was added LDA ( $1 \mathrm{~mL}, 1.6 \mathrm{M}$ in THF) at $0{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ under argon, the resulting mixture was stirred for 2 h , then was cooled to $-78^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, and $N$-tosylimine ( $\mathbf{2}, 0.75 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) was added, the mixture was stirred at this temperature for 7 h . Then $\mathrm{NaBH}_{4}(10 \mathrm{mmol})$ in $\mathrm{MeOH}(4 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added and the temperature was allowed to rise to room temperature. After stirring for 3 h at room temperature, $\mathrm{HCl}(15 \mathrm{~mL}, 2 \mathrm{M})$ was added and the mixture was extracted with $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}(3 \times 20 \mathrm{~mL})$. Subsequently, the aqueous phase was basified by the addition of $\mathrm{NH}_{3}$, and the 1,3 -diamines 6 were extracted with $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(3 \times 20 \mathrm{~mL})$. The combined organic phase was dried over $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$. The solvent was removed in vacuum and the residue was purified by preparative TLC with a mixture of light petroleum $\left(60-90^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ and ethyl acetate ( $3: 1$ ) as the eluent to give pure product $\mathbf{6}$ as a syn-anti mixture.

3-( $N$-Tosylamino)-3-(4'-chlorophenyl)-2-ethyl- $N$-(tert-butyl)propylamine 6a. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$-NMR: $\delta\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}-\mathrm{Me}_{4} \mathrm{Si}\right)$ syn-6a: $0.89(\mathrm{t}, J=$ $7.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.13(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}), 0.90-1.68(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 2.36(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.42$ (d, $J=10.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.56(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.61(\mathrm{~d}, J=4.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.05$ $(\mathrm{m}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 7.45(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H})$; anti-6a: $0.79(\mathrm{t}, J=7.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.15(\mathrm{~s}$, $9 \mathrm{H}), 0.90-1.68(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 2.35(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.56(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.74(\mathrm{dd}, J=$ 1.8 and $12.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.36(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.05(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m})$, $7.45(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m})$; MS: $m / z(\%) 423\left(\mathrm{M}^{+}+1,11.85\right), 407(32.24), 91$ (27.28), 86 (100); IR ( $\left.\mathrm{cm}^{-1}\right) 3302,2967,2876,1599,1492$, 1323, 1290, 1215; Anal. Calcd. $\mathrm{C}_{22} \mathrm{H}_{31} \mathrm{ClN}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2} \mathrm{~S}: \mathrm{C}, 62.46$; H, 7.39; N, 6.62. Found: C, 62.43; H, 7.52; N, $6.43 \%$.

3-( N -Tosylamino)-3-phenyl-2-isopropyl- N -(tert-butyl)propylamine 6b. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$-NMR: $\delta\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}-\mathrm{Me}_{4} \mathrm{Si}\right) \operatorname{syn}-\mathbf{6 b}: 0.87(\mathrm{~d}, \quad J=$ $6.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 0.95(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.14(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}), 1.27-1.53(\mathrm{~m}$, $3 \mathrm{H}), 2.33(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 4.70(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.03-7.11(\mathrm{~m}, 7 \mathrm{H})$, $7.43(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H})$; anti-6b: $0.51(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 0.83(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.0$ $\mathrm{Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.15(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}), 1.27-1.53(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.32(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 4.59(\mathrm{~d}$, $J=7.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.03-7.11(\mathrm{~m}, 7 \mathrm{H}), 7.43(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}) ; \mathrm{MS}: m / z(\%)$ 387 ( $\mathrm{M}^{+}-15,20.82$ ), 260 (11.09), 91 (100); IR $\left(\mathrm{cm}^{-1}\right) 3298$, 2958, 2872, 1601, 1493, 1454, 1346; Anal. Calcd. $\mathrm{C}_{23} \mathrm{H}_{34} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2} \mathrm{~S}$ : C, 68.61 ; H, 8.51 ; N, 6.96. Found: C, 68.33 ; H, 8.36; N, $6.56 \%$.

3-( N -Tosylamino)-3-(4'-chlorophenyl)-2-isopropyl- N -(tertbutyl)propylamine 6 c . ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}: \delta\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}-\mathrm{Me}_{4} \mathrm{Si}\right)$ syn- $\mathbf{6 c}$ : 0.85 (d, $J=6.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 0.94(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.17(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H})$, $1.14-1.58(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 2.53(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.39-2.55(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.71(\mathrm{t}, J=$ $10.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.69(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.03(\mathrm{~m}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 7.41(\mathrm{~m}$, $2 \mathrm{H})$; anti-6c: $0.52(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 0.81(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H})$, $1.13(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}), 1.14-1.58(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 2.34(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.39-2.55(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H})$, $2.71(\mathrm{t}, J=10.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.50(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.03(\mathrm{~m}, 6 \mathrm{H})$, 7.41 (m, 2H); MS: $m / z$ (\%) 437 ( $\mathrm{M}^{+}+1,17.02$ ), 421 (23.03), 86 (100); IR ( $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3303, 2957, 2872, 1598, 1491, 1412, 1312, 1248, 1214. Anal. Calcd. $\mathrm{C}_{23} \mathrm{H}_{33} \mathrm{ClN}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2} \mathrm{~S}: \mathrm{C}, 63.21 ; \mathrm{H}, 7.61 ; \mathrm{N}, 6.40$. Found: C, 63.08; H, 7.67; N, 6.16\%.

## X-Ray diffraction analysis data of 3- N -tosylamino-3-phenyl-2isopropylpropanal $5 \mathrm{~g} \dagger$

Chemical formula: $\mathrm{C}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{23} \mathrm{NO}_{3} \mathrm{~S}$; formula weight: 345.44; crystal system: triclinic; unit-cell dimensions and volume with estimated standard deviations: cell length $a$ : 9.4619(11); cell length $b: 9.8687(12)$; cell length $c: 10.1330(12)$; cell angle alpha: 100.097(2); cell angle beta: 99.529(2); cell angle gamma: 91.423(2); cell volume: 917.26(19); data collection temperature: 293 K ; No. of formula units in unit cell ( $Z$ ): 2; linear absorption coefficient $(\mu): 0.192 \mathrm{~mm}^{-1}$; Number of reflections measured and/or number of independent reflections, 3371 (Rint) $=0.0401$; Final $R$ indices $[I>2 \operatorname{sigma}(I)]: R 1=0.0406, \mathrm{w} R 2=0.0507$.
$\dagger$ CCDC reference number 177332. See http://www.rsc.org/suppdata/ $\mathrm{p} 1 / \mathrm{b} 2 / \mathrm{b} 200198 \mathrm{e} /$ for crystallographic files in .cif or other electronic format.

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