Diastereoselective synthesis of atropisomers containing two non-biaryl stereogenic axes: stereochemical relay through stereogenic centres in dihydrostilbene-2,2'-dicarboxamides

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Addition of laterally lithiated tertiary aromatic amides to benzaldimines controls the formation of a new stereogenic centre adjacent to the benzaldimine aromatic ring. Drawing on the fact that such amino-substituted stereogenic centres may themselves control the conformation of amides, with amido-substituted benzaldimines we found it becomes possible to relay stereochemistry from one amide to another *via* this intervening stereogenic centre. A group of dihydrostilbene-2,2'-dicarboxamide derivatives bearing one or two stereogenic axes are made by this method, which demonstrates the use of combined kinetic and thermodynamic control for the relay of stereochemical information.

Introduction

A stereogenic amide axis can both control¹⁻⁵ and be controlled by⁶⁻⁸ a nearby stereogenic centre,⁹ and in an accompanying publication⁸ we reported the details of how relayed stereocontrol may result from combining these two features of amide stereochemistry: a stereogenic axis controls the conformation of the amide, which in turn controls the formation of a new stereogenic centre. In this paper we show that it is also possible to combine these two aspects of stereochemical control in reverse order, *i.e.* to allow an amide axis to control a new centre and then to allow that centre to control a new amide axis.[†] This strategy allows axial stereochemistry to be relayed, *via* a stereogenic centre, to a new stereochemically defined axis, and allows the diastereoselective synthesis of atropisomers bearing more than one non-biaryl stereogenic axis.^{‡13}

The addition of laterally lithiated amides 1 and 2 to imines (*e.g.*, Scheme 1) generates, highly stereoselectively, amines 3 and 4 with a new stereogenic centre adjacent to an aromatic ring, a necessary requirement for using the stereochemistry of that centre to control a new amide axis.^{5,14} That centre bears an NHMe group, which we know to be at least moderately effective in governing the conformation of an adjacent atropisomeric amide.⁸ We therefore chose to use the addition of laterally lithiated amides 1 and 2 to 2-amidobenzaldimines 9–12 to investigate the potential of an axis-to-axis stereochemical relay.

Four imines 9-12 were made by condensing the corresponding aldehydes^{3,7} with aqueous methylamine (Scheme 2)³ Aldehydes 7 and 8 were made in moderate yield from aldehyde 5⁷ by ortholithi-

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Scheme 1 Diastereoselective lateral lithiation-imine addition.^{5,14}



Scheme 2 Synthesis of 2-imino benzamides.

ation, protecting the formyl group as its trimethylethylenediamine adduct $6.\S^{18}$

Lithiation of 1^{19} and of 2^1 and additions to the imine 9 proceeded stereoselectively and gave, as expected,⁵ a single diastereoisomer of 13 and of 14 with respect to the atropisomeric Ar–CO axis (marked "axis *a*" in Scheme 3) and the new stereogenic centre(s).¶ The ¹H

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[†] Preliminary communication: ref. 10.

[‡] The stereoselective synthesis of atropisomers containing several biaryl axes have been reported recently: see ref. 11. For diastereoisomeric naphthamides with two atropisomeric axes, see ref. 12.

[§] We have previously published (ref. 7) an approach to similar compounds by formylation of an alkylated benzamide, a method which required silyl protection of the alkyl group from lateral lithiation (ref. 15 and 16) and which suffers equally from poor yields. Our currently favoured method for similar syntheses involves protection of the aldehyde as its ephedrinederived oxazolidine (see accompanying paper, ref. 17).

[¶] Short reaction times gave the best results: after 3 h the product consists mainly of the corresponding lactam formed by attack of the lithioamine on the amide carbonyl group (see ref. 3).

NMR spectrum of the products clearly showed that they exist as mixtures of conformers about the non-stereogenic benzamide Ar-CO axis marked "axis *b*", though one conformer was preferred to the extent of 91 : 9 for **13** and 92 : 8 for **14**.



Scheme 3 Relaying stereochemistry form a naphthamide axis to a benzamide axis.

Comparable imines 15⁸ have showed an apparently hydrogenbond directed conformational preference for the isomer shown here as conformer A.⁸ However, in compounds 13 and 14 the alkyl substituent at the NHMe-bearing stereogenic centre is significantly larger than the R = methyl or *n*-butyl group of 15. In the X-ray crystal structure of 14 (Fig. 1) axis *b* adopts the orientation shown in conformer B, and on the basis of this evidence, in conjunction with further results presented below, we propose that 13 and 14 exist as >90% conformer B, with steric factors and not hydrogenbonding governing the preferred orientation of axis *b* (Fig. 2). The



Fig. 1 X-ray crystal structure of 14.

Fig. 2 Conformational preference at axis b of 13, 14, 17, 18 and 19.

X-ray crystal structure of 14 also confirms that the new stereogenic centre is governed by axis a in the same sense as 4.⁵

These results indicate that an amide Ar–CO axis is indeed, as hoped, able to govern the preferred orientation of another axis 5 bond lengths away. In order to use convert this conformational preference into a "relayed" diastereoselective reaction, and to allow the formation of a new stereogenic axis, rotation about the benzamide axis (axis b) needs to be prevented by the presence of a 6-substituent (we have employed a similar strategy in our asymmetric synthesis of atropisomers under thermodynamic control^{6,8}). We attempted functionalisation of **13**, first protecting the amine nitrogen as its N-benzyl derivative (Scheme 14). Tertiary amine **16** was formed as an 80 : 20 mixture of conformers (presumably the NMeBn group now comes closer to rivalling the substituted benzyl group on steric grounds⁸), but attempted ortholithiation (Scheme 4) of **16** failed.



Scheme 4 Attempted ortholithiation.

We therefore proceeded to carry out additions of laterally lithiated derivatives of amides 1 and 2 to imines 10–12, which already bear *ortho* substituents. Diastereoisomeric pairs of products of the diamides 17–19 were formed, as shown in Scheme 5.

Necessarily, in these reactions, at least two diastereosiomers of 17-19 arise because both 10-12 and lithiated 1 and 2 are chiral, racemic compounds, at least on the timescale of their addition.^{20,21} Two forms of diastereoselectivity are now operative, because both axis a and axis b can exert kinetic control over the face-selectivity of the addition to the imino group.³ However, it is evident that the stereoselectivity of the electrophilic attack on lithiated 1 and 2^5 wins out over the stereoselectivity of nucleophilic attack on 10-12³ because the products are formed as single diastereoisomers with respect to axis a and the stereogenic centre(s) but as mixtures of diastereoisomers at axis b with respect to the same centre. The kinetic products of the reaction are ca. 1:1 mixtures of diastereoisomers. However, from the precedent of 13 and 14, it seemed likely that one of each pair of diastereosiomers would be favoured at equilibrium. The atropisomeric mixtures were therefore heated in CDCl₃ at 60 °C for 2 d. In all three cases rotation about axis b resulted in a single diastereoisomer of the



Scheme 5 Atropisomeric stilbene-2,2'-dicarboxamides.

products. An X-ray crystal structure (Fig. 3) confirmed the relative orientation of the amides in **17B**, whose stereochemistry is in accordance with the proposed dominance of steric over hydrogenbonding effects (Fig. 2) in these systems.



Fig. 3 X-ray crystal structure of 17B.

Kinetically, axis a is also presented with the possibility of epimerisation under these conditions. However, it finds itself adjacent to a stereogenic centre bearing H, Me and a bulky group, which, in accordance with precedent,⁸ presumably exerts a thermodynamic control over axis a which as a result maintains its relative orientation.

These syntheses represent the first diastereoselective syntheses of compounds bearing two non-biaryl stereogenic axes. Diastereoisomeric atropisomers in which stereochemistry is defined by the configuration of more than one stereogenic axis are known in the biaryl series, for example the michellamine alkaloids²² and the octinaphthalenes synthesised by Fuji *et al.*²³

This paper has shown that stereochemistry may be relayed from one axis to another, *via* intervening centres (though one of the centres is inessential to the method, as the synthesis of **19B** shows). Further iterative extension of the relay method was hampered by our inability to lithiate **18** or **19**, even after protection of the amino group as a tertiary amine **20** or a tertiary amine– borane complex **21** (Scheme 6).²⁴ Attempted hydrogenolysis of the C–N bond to remove altogether the amino group led to the tetralin **22**. However, the strategy shows how a combination of kinetic and therodyamic control may be used to relay stereochemistry through simple molecules, and future publications will describe full details of how this strategy can be harnessed more effectively.*



Scheme 6 Further functionalisation.

X-Ray crystallography^{††}

14. Crystal data $C_{33}H_{45}N_3O_3$; M = 515.74; monoclinic P21/n; a = 7.626(4) Å; b = 20.455(4) Å; c = 19.100(6) Å; $\beta = 93.27(4)^\circ$; V = 2974(1) Å³; T = 296.2 K; Z = 4; $\mu = 0.555$ mm⁻¹; 6639 reflections; $R_{int} = 0.02020$; CCDC reference number 286019

17B. Crystal data $C_{38}H_{51}N_3O_2$; M = 581.82; orthorhombic Pna21; a = 15.179(3) Å; b = 7.728(2) Å; c = 28.337(6) Å; V = 3324.3(12) Å³; T = 123(1) K; Z = 4; $\mu = 0.071$ mm⁻¹; 32058 reflections; $R_{int} = 0.0335$; R(F) 0.0442; CCDC reference number 286020

^{*} This work has been published in preliminary form: ref. 25.

^{††} CCDC reference numbers 286019 and 286020. For crystallographic data in CIF or other electronic format see DOI: 10.1039/b514561a

Experimental

General methods have been published previously⁷

N,N-Diisopropyl-2-ethyl-6-formylbenzamide (7). A solution of N,N,N-trimethylethylenediamine (2.43 ml, 19.15 mmol) in THF (90 ml) at -78 °C under an atmosphere of nitrogen was treated with n-butyllithium (11.3 ml, 18.04 mmol; 1.6 M solution in hexanes) and stirred for a further 10 min. To the reaction vessel was added a solution of aldehyde 57 (4.056 g, 17.41 mmol) in THF (30 ml) and stirred for a further 35 min to give a pale vellow coloured solution. To the reaction mixture was added tertbutyllithium (12.3 ml, 20.89 mmol; 1.7 M solution in pentane) to give a red-brown coloured solution, and stirred for a further 3 h. The reaction mixture was treated with ethyl iodide (2 ml, 25 mmol) to give a yellow solution and stirred for a further 10 min and allowed to warm to ambient temperature. Water (30 ml) was added to the solution and allowed to stir overnight. The THF was removed under reduced pressure and the aqueous was extracted with diethylether $(3 \times 30 \text{ ml})$. The combined organic extracts were washed successively with aqueous 2 M hydrochloric acid (3 \times 20 ml), saturated aqueous sodium hydrogen carbonate $(2 \times 20 \text{ ml})$, water (20 ml), dried (MgSO₄), filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to give the crude product as an oil. Purification by flash chromatography on silica gel [2 : 1 petrol (bp 40-60 °C)-EtOAc] and recrystallisation from ethyl acetate afforded benzamide 11 (1.545 g, 34%) as colourless oil that crystallised on standing, *R*_f 0.48 [1 : 1 petrol (bp 40–60 °C)–EtOAc], mp 89–90 °C, $v_{\rm max}$ (film)/cm⁻¹ 3067, 2971, 2936, 2876, 2822, 2749, 1702, 1631, 1591; δ_H(300 MHz, CDCl₃) 10.07 (1H, s, CHO), 7.77 (1H, d, J 7.6, ArH), 7.54 (1H, d, J 7.1, ArH), 7.44 (1H, t, J 7.6, ArH), 3.54 (2H, m, 2 × NCH), 2.77 (1H, m, CHHCH₃), 2.63 (1H, m, CHHCH₃), 1.66 (3H, d, J 6.9, NCHCH₃), 1.62 (3H, d, J 6.9, NCHCH₃), 1.29 (3H, t, J 7.6, CH₂CH₃), 1.13 (3H, d, J 6.7, NCHCH₃), 1.04 (3H, d, J 6.7, NCHCH₃); δ_c(75 MHz, CDCl₃) 190.8, 167.5, 140.7, 139.9, 134.3, 131.9, 128.3, 126.7, 51.0, 46.2, 25.0, 20.7, 20.4, 20.4, 20.1 and 14.8; m/z (CI) 262 (100%, M + H⁺); m/z (EI) 261 (1%, M⁺), 161 (4%, M-NⁱPr₂) and 49 (100%) (found: C, 73.41; H, 8.69; N, 5.31%; M + H⁺, 262.1809. C₁₆H₂₃NO₂ requires C, 73.6; H, 8.8; N, 5.4%; M + H, 262.1807). Also obtained was recovered benzamide **5** (2.555 g, 63%).

N,N-Diisopropyl-2-formyl-6-methylbenzamide (8). In a similar way, N,N,N-trimethylethylenediamine (2.29 ml, 18.04 mmol) in THF (90 ml), n-butyllithium (11.3 ml, 18.04 mmol; 1.6 M solution in hexanes), aldehyde 526 (3.821 g, 16.40 mmol) in THF (30 ml), tert-butyllithium (11.6 ml, 19.68 mmol; 1.7 M solution in pentane) and methyl iodide (2 ml, 32 mmol) gave the crude product as an oil. Purification by flash chromatography on silica gel [2 : 1 petrol (bp 40-60 °C)-EtOAc] afforded nearly pure product. Further purification was achieved by recrystallisation from ethyl acetate to afford pure benzamide 12 (154 mg, 31%) as a colourless blades, $R_{\rm f}$ 0.41 [1 : 1 petrol (bp 40–60 °C)–EtOAc], mp 107–109 °C, λ_{max} , nm (ε_{max}) (CH₂Cl₂) 246 (32150) 302 (7900), ν_{max} (film)/cm⁻¹ 2978, 2934, 1707, 1623; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (300 MHz, CDCl₃) 10.07 (1H s, CHO), 7.76 (1H, d, J 7.6, ArH), 7.47 (1H, d, J 7.0, ArH), 7.40 (1H, t, J 7.6, ArH), 3.65–3.45 (2H, m, 2 × NCH), 2.39 (3H, s, ArCH₃), 1.67 (3H, d, J 6.9, NCHCH₃), 1.63 (3H, d, J 6.7, NCHCH₃), 1.16 (3H, d, J 6.6, NCHCH₃), 1.05 (3H, d, J 6.6, NCHCH₃); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (75 MHz, CDCl₃) 190.8, 167.7, 140.3, 136.2, 134.7, 132.0, 128.1, 126.9, 51.1, 46.2, 20.8, 20.5, 20.4, 20.1 and 18.3; *m/z* (CI) 248 (100%, M + H⁺); *m/z* (EI) 248 (0.004%, M⁺) and 49 (100%) (found: C, 72.75; H, 8.78; N, 5.55%; M⁺, 248.1650. C₁₅H₂₁NO₂ requires C, 72.9; H, 8.5; N, 5.7%; M, 248.1650). Also obtained was recovered benzamide **5** (252 mg, 53%).

N,*N*-Diisopropyl-2-[(methylimino)methyl]benzamide (9). 2-Formyl-*N*,*N*-diisopropyl-1-benzamide (5)^{7,21} (4.831 g, 20.73 mmol) was treated with 40% aqueous methylamine (60g, 770 mmol). The usual work-up gave imine 9 (4.454 g, 87%) as a white solid that required no further purification, mp 73–75 °C (EtOAc); v_{max} (film)/cm⁻¹ 2988, 2972, 2939, 2905, 2869, 1649, 1621, 1596; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (300 MHz, CDCl₃) 8.37 (1H, bq, *J* 1.7, CH=NCH₃), 7.95 (1H, m, ArH), 7.40 (2H, m, ArH), 7.21 (1H, m, ArH), 3.64 (1H, septet, *J* 6.6, NCH), 3.54 (1H, m, NCH), 3.51 (3H, d, *J* 1.7, CH=NCH₃), 1.61 (3H, d, *J* 6.7, NCHCH₃), 1.59 (3H, d, *J* 1.7, CH=NCH₃), 1.08 (6H, m, 2 × NCHCH₃); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (75 MHz, CDCl₃) 169.4, 159.7, 139.2, 132.1, 130.3, 128.3, 126.9, 125.2, 50.9, 48.3, 45.9, 20.6, 20.5, 20.3 and 20.2; *m*/*z* (CI) 247 (100%, M + H⁺); *m*/*z* (EI) 246 (2%, M⁺) and 203 (11%, M–CHCH₃) 49 (100%) (found: M⁺, 246.1735. C₁₅H₂₂N₂O requires M, 246.1732).

6-Ethyl-2-[(methylimino)methyl]-N,N-diisopropyl-1-benzamide (11). In the same way, aldehyde 7 (910 mg, 3.49 mmol) was refluxed with 40% aqueous methylamine (12 g, 150 mmol). Work up in the usual manner afforded imine 11 (919 mg, 96%) which required no further purification, mp 84–86 °C, λ_{max} , nm (*e*_{max}) (CH₂Cl₂) 234 (11200) 252 (11790) 288 (1582), *v*_{max} (film)/cm⁻¹ 2967, 2936, 2903, 2876, 2836, 2768, 1650, 1623, 1589; $\delta_{\rm H}(300 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3) 8.38 (1\text{H}, \text{bq}, J 1.5, \text{CHNCH}_3), 7.83 (1\text{H},$ m, ArH), 7.34 (2H, m, ArH), 3.52 (2H, m, 2 × NCH), 2.74 (1H, m, CHHCH₃), 2.60 (1H, m, CHHCH₃), 1.65 (6H, m, 2 × NCHCH₃), 1.30 (3H, 3H, t, J 7.4, CH₂CH₃), 1.11 (3H, d, J 6.7, NCHCH₃), 1.02 (3H, d, J 6.6, NCHCH₃); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (75 MHz, CDCl₃) 168.6, 160.5, 139.7, 138.2, 131.8, 130.2, 128.7, 123.8, 50.8, 48.3, 46.0, 25.3, 20.8, 20.4, 20.2 and 14.9; m/z (CI) 275 (100%, M + H⁺) and 174 (4%, M–NⁱPr₂); m/z (EI) 174 (39%, M–NⁱPr₂) and 49 (100%) (found: M + H⁺, 275.2032. C₁₇H₁₇₂₆N₂O requires M + H, 275.2023).

6-Methyl-2-[(methylimino)methyl]-1-benzamide (12). In the same way as for compound **9**, benzamide **8** (700 mg, 2.83 mmol) was treated with 40% aqueous methylamine (10 g, 130 mmol). Work-up in the usual manner afforded imine **12** (565 mg, 77%) as a white solid that required no further purification, mp 81–83 °C, ν_{max} (film)/cm⁻¹ 2968, 2934, 2878, 1629, 1592; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (300 MHz, CDCl₃) 8.37 (1H, bq, *J* 1.7, CHNCH₃), 7.82 (2H, m, ArH), 7.28 (1H, m, ArH), 3.57 (2H, m, 2 × NCH), 3.51 (3H, d, *J* 1.7, CHNCH₃), 2.35 (3H, s, ArCH₃), 1.65 (6H, m, 2 × NCHCH₃), 1.13 (3H, d, *J* 6.7, NCHCH₃), 1.03 (3H, d, *J* 6.7, NCHCH₃); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (75 MHz, CDCl₃) 168.8, 160.3, 138.7, 133.6, 132.1, 131.9, 127.9, 123.8, 50.9, 48.3, 46.1, 20.9, 20.5, 20.4, 20.3 and 18.5; *m/z* (CI) 261 (100%, M + H⁺) and 160 (4%, M–NⁱPr₂); *m/z* (EI) 160 (92%, M–NⁱPr₂) and 49 (100%) (found: M⁺, 261.1969. C₁₆H₂₄N₂O requires M, 261.1967).

(aR')-N,N-Diisopropyl-2-[(1S',2S')-2- $\{2$ -[diisopropylamino)carbonyl]phenyl $\}$ -1-methyl-2-(methylamino]ethyl-1-naphthamide (13). A solution of naphthamide 1⁴ (190 mg, 0.67 mmol) in THF (10 ml) at -78 °C under an atmosphere of nitrogen

was treated with sec-butyllithium (0.60 ml, 0.67 mmol; 1.12 M solution in hexanes) to give a dark green-blue solution and stirred for a further 60 min. The lithiated intermediate was treated with a solution of imine 9 (165 mg, 0.67 mmol) in THF (5 ml) to give a red-brown solution and stirred for a further 15 min, quenched with saturated aqueous ammonium chloride (5 ml) and warmed to ambient temperature. The THF was removed at ambient temperature and the aqueous was extracted with dichloromethane (5 \times 10 ml). The combined organic extracts were dried (MgSO₄), filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure to the crude product as a solid. Purification by flash chromatography on silica gel [3 : 1 petrol (bp 40-60 °C)-EtOAc + 1% triethylamine] afforded naphthamide 13 (261 mg, 74%) as a white solid. ¹H NMR showed 13 to consist of two conformers in a ratio of 11 : 1, $R_f 0.43 [1 : 1 \text{ petrol} (bp 40-60 \degree C)-EtOAc + 1\%$ triethylamine]; v_{max} (film)/cm⁻¹ 3323, 3053, 2968, 2934, 2891, 2876, 1624; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (300 MHz, CDCl₃) 7.91–7.67 (5H, m, ArH), 7.56–7.40 (3H, m, ArH), 7.29 (1H, m, ArH), 7.18 (1H, m, ArH), 3.83 (1H, d, J 8.9, CH(NHCH₃)^{major}), 3.82 (1H, m, NCH^{major}), 3.74–3.50 (3H, m, $3 \times \text{NCH}^{\text{major}}$), 3.29 (1H, bm, CH(CH₃)CH(NCHCH₃)^{minor}), (3.07 (1H, m, CH(CH₃)CH(NCHCH₃)^{major}), 2.23 (1H, bs, NH^{major}), 1.85 (3H, d, J 6.6, CH3^{major}), 1.84 (3H, d, J 6.6, CH3^{major}), 1.73 (3H, d, J 6.9, CH₃^{major}), 1.69 (3H, d, J 6.9, CH₃^{major}), 1.17 (6H, m, $2 \times CH_3^{major}$), 1.10 (6H, m, $2 \times CH_3^{major}$), 1.04 (3H, d, J 6.6, NCHCH₃); $\delta_{C}^{\text{major}}$ (75 MHz, CDCl₃) 170.4, 170.1, 141.3, 139.4, 138.6, 134.1, 132.1, 129.2, 128.9, 128.6, 127.9, 127.4, 126.3, 125.6, 125.0, 124.7, 124.5, 67.5, 51.0, 50.6, 46.2, 45.8, 44.0, 35.5, 21.1, 20.9, 20.9, 20.8, 20.7, 20.5, 20.5 and 19.4; m/z (CI) 530 (100%, M + H⁺) (found: M + H⁺, 530.3743. $C_{34}H_{47}N_3O_2$ requires M + H, 530.3746).

(aR')-N,N-Diisopropyl-2-[(2S')-2-{2-[(diisopropylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}-2-(methylamino)ethyl]-1-naphthamide (14). In the same way as for compound 13, the lithiated species formed from naphthamide 2^1 (184 mg, 0.68 mmol) in THF (15 ml) at -78 °C and sec-butyllithium (0.61 ml, 0.68 mmol; 1.12 M solution in hexanes) was treated with a solution of imine 9 (168 mg, 0.68 mmol) in THF (5 ml) and stirred for a further 10 min. After work-up in the usual way, purification by flash chromatography on silica gel [3 : 1 petrol (bp 40–60 °C)–EtOAc + 1% triethylamine] afforded naphthamide 14 (258 mg, 73%) as a white solid. ¹H NMR showed 14 to be present as two conformers in a ratio of 10 : 1, mp >230 °C; v_{max} (film)/cm⁻¹ 3336, 3055, 2969, 2933, 2874, 2847, 2789, 1625; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (300 MHz, CDCl₃) 7.90–7.76 (5H, m, ArH), 7.50 (2H, m, ArH), 7.43 (1H, dd, J 7.8 and 1.2, ArH), 7.30 (1H, dt, J 8.7 and 1.2, ArH), 7.16 (1H, dd, J 7.5 and 0.9, ArH), 4.26 (1H, dd, J 8.7 and 5.7, CH(NHMe)minor), 3.92 (1H, dd, J 10.4 and 1.9, CH(NHMe)^{major}), 3.86 (1H, septet, J 6.6, NCH^{major}), 3.62 (2H, septet, J 6.9, $2 \times \text{NCH}^{\text{major}}$), 3.47 (1H, septet, J 6.6, NCH^{major}), 3.38 (1H, dd, J 13.3 and 2.2, CHHCH(NHMe)^{major}), 3.12 (1H, dd, J 13.5 and 8.7, CHHCH(NHMe)minor), 3.02 (1H, dd, J 13.5 and 5.7, CHHCH(NHMe)^{minor}), 2.73 (1H, dd, J 13.3 and 10.6, CHHCH(NHMe)^{major}), 2.11 (3H, s, NHCH₃^{major}), 2.21 (1H, bs, NH^{major}), 1.83 (3H, d, *J* 6.7, CH₃^{major}), 1.82 (3H, d, *J* 6.9, CH₃^{major}), 1.78 (3H, d, J 6.7, CH₃^{major}), 1.69 (3H, d, J 6.7, CH₃^{major}), 1.17 (6H, m, $2 \times CH_3^{major}$), 0.98 (6H, m, $2 \times CH_3^{major}$); δ_C^{major} (75 MHz, CDCl₃) 170.7, 169.9, 142.1, 137.5, 135.0, 133.5, 132.1, 129.3, 128.7, 128.1, 127.9, 127.8, 126.8, 126.5, 126.4, 125.6, 124.8, 124.4, 64.6, 51.2, 50.8, 46.1, 45.7, 42.3, 35.4, 21.3, 21.0, 21.0, 20.7, 20.6,

20.4 and 20.3; m/z (CI) 516 (100%, M + H⁺) (found M + H⁺, 516.3592. C₃₃H₄₅N₃O₂ requires M + H, 516.3590). Also obtained was recovered starting naphthamide **2** (20 mg, 11%).

(aR')-N,N-Diisopropyl-2-((1S',2S')-2-[benzyl(methyl)amino]-2-{2-[(diisopropylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}-1-methylethyl)-1-naphthamide (16). A solution of naphthamide 13 (111 mg, 0.21 mmol), benzyl bromide (0.15 ml, 1.26 mmol), potassium carbonate (116 mg, 0.84 mmol) and ethanol (12 ml) was refluxed overnight, cooled to ambient temperature and diluted with water (10 ml). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the aqueous was diluted with diethylether (20 ml). The layers were separated and the ethereal layer was washed with aqueous 0.5 M hydrochloric acid (5 \times 5 ml). The acidified aqueous layer was made alkaline (pH >10) by the addition of 15% aqueous sodium hydroxide and extracted with diethylether (5 \times 10 ml). The combined ethereal extracts were dried (MgSO₄), filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford the crude product. Purification by flash chromatography on silica gel [4 : 1 petrol (bp 40-60 °C)-EtOAc + 1% triethylamine] afforded tertiary amine 16 (103 mg, 79%) as a pale yellow oil. ¹H NMR showed 16 to exist as as two conformers in a ratio of 4.1 : 1; v_{max} (film)/cm⁻¹ 3058, 2967, 2927, 2873, 2853, 2789, 2244, 1622; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (300 MHz, CDCl₃) 7.76 (3H, m, ArH), 7.62 (1H, d, J 8.5, ArH), 7.50 (1H, d, J 7.6, ArH), 7.37 (3H, m, ArH), 7.22 (2H, m, ArH), 6.9-6.6 (3H, m, ArH), 6.45 (2H, d, J 7.0, ArH), 4.76 (1H, d, J 10.6, CHNMeBn^{major}), 4.25 (1H, d, J 10.2, CHNMeBn^{minor}), 3.99 (1H, quintet, J 6.5, CH(Me)CHNMeBn^{major}), 3.7–3.4 (5H, m, 4 \times NCH^{major}, CHHPh^{major}), 3.39 (1H, d, J 12.9, CHHPh^{major}), 1.84 (3H, s, NCH₃^{major}), 1.73 (3H, d, J 6.6, CH₃^{major}), 1.68 (3H, d, J 6.7, CH_3^{major}), 1.56 (6H, bm, 2 × CH_3^{major}), 1.18 (3H, bm, CH_3^{major}), 1.09 (3H, d, J 6.7, CH₃^{major}), 1.02 (3H, d, J 6.5, CH₃^{major}), 0.94 (3H, d, J 6.3, CH₃^{major}), 0.89 (3H, d, J 6.3, CH₃^{major}); δ_{C}^{major} (75 MHz, CDCl₃) 170.5, 169.7, 140.2, 139.8, 139.3, 137.1, 133.5, 132.0, 129.9, 128.7, 128.4, 128.1, 127.8, 127.8, 127.5, 127.3, 126.0, 125.7, 125.3, 125.3, 125.2, 69.0, 57.9, 50.9, 50.4, 46.1, 46.0, 38.7, 38.1, 30.3, 29.6, 21.3, 21.1, 20.8, 20.7, 20.6, 20.5 and 20.3; m/z (CI) 620.6 (100%, M + H⁺) (found: M⁺, 620.4208. $C_{41}H_{53}N_3O_2$ requires M, 620.4216).

(aR')-N,N-Diisopropyl-2- $((1R',2S')-2-\{1-(aS')-(diisopropylamino)$ carbonyl]-2-naphthyl-1-methylpropyl)-1-naphthamide and (aR')-N,N-diisopropyl-2-((1R',2S')-2-{1-[(aR')-(diisopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-naphthyl}-1-methylpropyl)-1-naphthamide (17B) and 17A). A solution of naphthamide 1⁴ (204 mg, 0.72 mmol) in THF (15 ml) at -78 °C under an atmosphere of nitrogen was treated with sec-butyllithium (0.66 ml, 0.79 mmol; 1.2 M solution in hexanes) to give a dark green-blue solution and stirred for a further 1 h. The lithiated intermediate was treated with a solution of imine 10³ (256 mg, 0.87 mmol) in THF (5 ml) to give a purple-pink solution and stirred for a further 2 h. The reaction mixture was treated with saturated aqueous ammonium chloride (5 ml), warmed to ambient temperature, the THF was removed at ambient temperature and the aqueous was extracted with dichloromethane (5 \times 10 ml). The combined organic extracts were dried (MgSO₄), filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford the crude product as a solid. ¹H NMR showed the atropisomers were present in a ratio of ca. 2.1 : 1 17B : **17A.** Trituration of the crude mixture in diethyl ether (10 ml) and heating in hot ethylacetate for 30 min gave naphthamide

17B (138 mg, 68%) as a white solid, mp >230 °C (EtOAc) contaminated with a small amount of 17A; v_{max} (film)/cm⁻¹ 2968, 1620; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (300 MHz, CDCl₃) 7.94–7.76 (8H, m, ArH), 7.58–7.46 (4H, m, ArH), 4.01 (1H, d, J 9.3, CH(NHCH₃)^A), 3.96 (1H, d, J 9.3, CH(NHCH₃)^B), 3.78–3.60 (4H, m, $4 \times \text{NCH}^{B}$), 3.09 (1H, m, CHCH₃^B), 2.08 (3H, s, NHCH₃^B), 2.02 (3H, s, NHCH₃^A), 1.91 (3H, d, J 6.7, NCHCH₃^B), 1.88–1.83 (9H, m, 3 × NCHCH₃^B), 1.15–1.00 (12H, m, 4 × NCHCH₃^B); $\delta_{\rm C}^{\rm B}$ (75 MHz, CDCl₃) 170.2, 169.4, 139.4, 138.0, 134.5, 134.1, 132.6, 132.2, 129.6, 129.3, 128.6, 128.0, 126.5, 126.1, 125.7, 125.7, 125.5, 125.0, 124.8, 124.6, 67.7, 51.0, 50.8, 46.2, 44.2, 35.7, 21.6, 21.1, 21.0, 20.8, 20.7, 20.5, 20.4 and 19.4; m/z (CI) 580.6 (100%, M + H⁺) and 297.2 (46%, M–C₁₉H₂₄NO); m/z (EI) 297.4 (2.4%, M–C₁₉H₂₄NO) and 91 (100%) (found: $M + H^+$, 580.3910. $C_{38}H_{49}N_3O_2$ requires M +H, 580.3903). Heating amine 17 in CDCl₃ for 2 d at 60 $^{\circ}$ C produces a ratio of >27 **17B** : <1 **17A** (¹H NMR).

(aR')-N,N-Diisopropyl-2-[(1S',2S')-2-{2-[(aS')-(diisopropylamino)carbonyl]-3-ethylphenyl}-1-methyl-2-(methylamino)ethyl}-1-naph- $(aR')-N,N-diisopropyl-2-[(1S',2S')-2-{2-[(aR')$ thamide and (diisopropylamino)carbonyl]-3-ethylphenyl}-1-methyl-2-(methylamino)ethyl}-1-naphthamide (18B and 18A). In the same way, the lithiated species formed from naphthamide 1 (252 mg, 0.89 mmol) THF (10 ml) and sec-butyllithium (0.75 ml, 0.98 mmol; 1.3 M solution in hexanes) was treated with a solution of imine 11 (268 mg, 0.98 mmol) in THF (6 ml). After work-up in the usual manner, ¹H NMR the crude product showed the atropisomers to be present in a ratio of ca. 1 : 1 Purification by flash chromatography on silica gel [3 : 1 petrol (bp 40–60 $^{\circ}$ C)–EtOAc + 1% triethylamine] and subsequent heating in ethyl acetate for 30 min afforded naphthamide 18B contaminated with a small amount of 18A (371 mg, 75%) as a white solid, mp >230 °C; λ_{max} , nm (ε_{max}) (CH₂Cl₂) 234 (77230) 274 (10020); v_{max} (film)/cm⁻¹ 2967, 2934, 2876, 1621; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (300 MHz, CDCl₃) 7.85 (3H, m, ArH), 7.72 (1H, d, J 8.7, ArH), 7.50 (3H, m, ArH), 7.38 (1H, t, J 7.6, ArH), 7.21 (1H, d, J 7.4, ArH), 3.80–3.55 (5H, m, 4 × NCH^B and CH(NHCH₃)^{*B*}), 2.97 (1H, quintet, *J* 7.7, CHCH₃CH(NHCH₃)^{*B*}), 2.76 (1H, m, CHHCH₃^B), 2.65 (1H, m, CHHCH₃^B), 2.22 (1H, bs, NH^B), 2.06 (3H, s, NHCH₃^A), 2.01 (3H, s, NHCH₃^B), 1.85 (3H, d, J 6.9, NCHC H_3^B), 1.80 (6H, m, 2 × NCHC H_3^B), 1.72 (3H, d, J 6.7, NCHCH₃^B), 1.30 (3H, t, J 7.6, CH₂CH₃^B), 1.16–1.00 (15H, m, 4 × NCHCH₃^B and CHCH₃CH(NHCH₃)^B); δ_{C}^{B} (75 MHz, CDCl₃) 170.3, 169.8, 139.5, 137.1, 133.9, 132.1, 129.3, 128.4, 127.9, 126.4, 125.6, 125.0, 124.8, 124.1, 67.3, 51.0, 50.3, 46.2, 45.9, 45.5, 35.5, 26.1, 21.7, 21.0, 20.8, 20.8, 20.6, 20.5, 20.2, 19.5 and 15.4; m/z (CI) 558 (100%, M + H⁺) (found: M + H⁺, 558.4055. $C_{36}H_{51}N_3O_2$ requires M + H, 558.4059). Also obtained was recovered naphthamide 1 (20 mg, 8%). Heating amine 18 in CDCl₃ for 2 d at 60 °C produced **18B** only (¹H NMR).

(aS')-N,N-Diisopropyl-2-[(2S')-2-{2-[(aS')-(diisopropylamino)carbonyl]-3-methylphenyl}-2-(methylamino)ethyl]-1-naphthamide and (aS')-N,N-diisopropyl-2-[(2S')-2-{2-[(aR')-(diisopropylamino)carbonyl]-3-methylphenyl}-2-(methylamino)ethyl]-1-naphthamide (19B and 19A). In the same, the lithiated species formed from naphthamide 2¹ (197 mg, 0.73 mmol) in THF (15 ml) at -78 °C and *sec*-butyllithium (0.67 ml, 0.81 mmol; 1.2 M solution in hexanes) was treated with a solution of imine 12 (210 mg, 0.81 mmol) in THF (5 ml) and stirred for a further 10 min. After work-up in the usual manner, ¹H NMR of the crude product showed the atropisomers to be present in a ratio of *ca.* 1 : 1. Purification by flash chromatography on silica gel [1 : 1 petrol (bp 40–60 °C)–EtOAc + 1% triethylamine] afforded and subsequent heating in ethyl acetate for 30 min afforded naphthamide 19B contaminated with a small amount of 19A (243 mg, 63%) as a white solid, mp >230 °C; v_{max} (film)/cm⁻¹ 2969, 2932, 2873, 1621; δ_H(300 MHz, CDCl₃) 7.82 (4H, m, ArH), 7.67 (1H, d, J 7.8, ArH), 7.50 (2H, m, ArH), 7.31 (1H, t, J 7.6, ArH), 7.14 (1H, d, J 7.4, ArH), 4.05 (1H, m, CHNHCH₃^A), 3.91 (1H, dd, J 10.4 and 2.1, CHNHCH₃^B), 3.80 (1H, septet, J 6.6^B, NCH), 3.65 (1H, m, NCH^B), 3.60 (1H, m, NCH^B), 3.44 (1H, septet, J 6.7, NCH^B), 3.33 (1H, dd, J 13.5 and 2.2, CHHCH(NHCH₃)^B), 2.62 (1H, dd, J 13.3 and 10.6, CHHCH(NHCH₃)^B), 2.39 (3H, s, NCHCH₃^B), 2.15 (3H, s, CH₃^B), 1.89 (3H, d, J 6.9, NCHCH₃^B), 1.81 (3H, d, J 6.9, NCHCH₃^B), 1.74 (3H, d, J 6.9, NCHCH₃^B), 1.73 (3H, d, J 6.7, NCHCH₃^B), 1.19 (6H, d, J 6.6, 2 × NCHCH₃^B), 0.98 (3H, d, J 6.7, NCHCH₃^B), 0.94 (3H, d, J 6.7, NCHCH₃^B); δ_C^B(75 MHz, CDCl₃) 170.3, 170.0, 136.7, 134.9, 133.4, 133.1, 132.1, 129.4, 128.6, 128.2, 128.0, 127.9, 127.8, 126.5, 125.6, 124.8, 123.6, 64.1, 51.2, 50.7, 46.0, 46.0, 43.0, 35.2, 21.8, 21.6, 20.9, 20.7, 20.7, 20.6, 20.3, 20.1 and 19.1; m/z (CI) 530 (100%, M + H⁺) (found: M + H⁺, 530.3751. $C_{34}H_{47}N_3O_2$ requires M + H, 530.3746). Also obtained was recovered naphthamide 2 (20 mg, 11%). Heating amine 19 in CDCl₃ for 2 d at 60 °C produced 19B only $(^{1}H NMR).$

(aR')-N,N-Diisopropyl-2-[(1S',2S')-2-{(aS')-(diisopropylamino)carbonyl]-3-ethylphenyl}-1-methyl-2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]-1-naphthamide and (aR')-N,N-diisopropyl-2-[(1S',2S')-2-{(aR')-(diisopropylamino)carbonyl]-3-ethylphenyl}-1-methyl-2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]-1-naphthamide (20). To a stirred mixture of naphthamide **18B** (211 mg, 0.38 mmol), paraformaldehyde (114 mg, 3.79 mmol), sodium borohydride (72 mg, 1.89 mmol) and THF (15 ml) under an atmosphere of nitrogen at ambient temperature was added TFA over a period of 20 min and stirred for a further 25 h. The mixture was poured into a solution of 25% aqueous sodium hydroxide (10 ml) and ice, and diluted with brine (10 ml). The mixture was extracted with dichloromethane $(4 \times 20 \text{ ml})$ and the combined organic extracts were dried (MgSO₄), filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford the crude product. Purification by flash chromatography on silica gel [4 : 1 petrol (bp 40-60 °C)-EtOAc + 1% triethylamine] afforded tertiary amine 20 (160 mg, 74%) as a white solid, mp 179–182 °C; $R_{\rm f}$ 0.49 [1 : 1 petrol (bp 40-60 °C)-EtOAc + 1% triethylamine]; $v_{\rm max}$ (film)/cm⁻¹ 3057, 2975, 2935, 2876, 2840, 2797, 1622, 1614; δ_H(300 MHz, CDCl₃) 7.82 (3H, m, ArH), 7.69 (1H, d, J 8.8, ArH), 7.46 (2H, m, ArH), 7.36–7.25 (2H, m, ArH), 7.20 (1H, d, J 7.3, ArH), 4.51 (1H, d, J 10.0, CHNMe₂), 3.75–3.50 (5H, m, $4 \times \text{NCH}$ and CH(Me)CHNMe₂), 2.78 (1H, m, CHHCH₃), 2.66 (1H, m, CHHCH₃), 2.20 (6H, s, NMe₂), 1.86 (6H, m, 2 × CHCH₃), 1.75 (3H, d, J 6.9, CHCH₃), 1.71 (3H, d, J 6.9, CHCH₃), 1.30 (3H, t, J 7.6, CH₂CH₃), 1.14 (6H, m, 2 × CHCH₃), 1.07 (3H, d, J 6.5, CHCH₃), 0.99 (3H, d, J 6.5, CHCH₃), 0.94 $(3H, d, J 6.9, CHCH_3); \delta_c(75 \text{ MHz}, CDCl_3) 170.1, 169.7, 140.8,$ 139.8, 138.8, 137.5, 132.4, 132.0, 130.0, 127.9, 127.8, 126.8, 126.2, 126.0, 125.9, 125.4, 125.2, 125.0, 69.4, 51.1, 50.3, 46.2, 45.8, 41.3, 35.5, 26.0, 22.6, 21.1, 21.0, 20.8, 20.8, 20.4, 20.1 and 15.1; m/z (CI) 572 (100%, M + H⁺) (found: M + H⁺, 572.4214. $C_{37}H_{53}N_3O_2$ requires M + H, 572.4216). Also obtained was recovered naphthamide **18B** (34 mg, 16%). Heating amine **20** in CDCl₃ for 2 d at 60 °C produced a ratio of atropisomers 1.7 : 1 (¹H NMR); *epi*-**20**, $\delta_{\rm H}$ (300 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.96 (6H, s, NMe₂).

 $(aR')-N,N-Diisopropyl-2-[(1S',2S')-2-{(aR')-(diisopropylamino)$ carbonyl]-3-ethylphenyl}-1-methyl-2-(dimethylaminoborane)ethyl]-1-naphthamide (21). A solution of naphthamide 20 (132 mg, 0.23 mmol) in THF (2 ml) at 0 °C under an atmosphere of nitrogen was treated with borane (0.46 ml, 0.46 mmol; 1 M solution in THF) and stirred for a further 40 min. The solvent was removed at ambient temperature under reduced pressure, and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel [1 : 1 petrol (bp 40-60 °C)-EtOAc] to afford pure amine-borane complex **21** (97 mg, 72%) as a white solid, v_{max} (film)/cm⁻¹ 3053, 2976, 2934, 2875, 2395, 2334, 2285, 1615; *δ*_H(300 MHz, CDCl₃) 7.89 (1H, d, J 8.8, ArH), 7.78 (1H, d, J 8.8, ArH), 7.74-7.64 (2H, m, ArH), 7.36 (3H, m, ArH), 7.23 (1H, t, J 7.7, ArH), 7.13 (1H, d, J 7.4, ArH), 4.88 (1H, d, J 9.6, CHN⁺Me₂), 3.81 (1H, septet, J 6.3, NCH), 3.64–3.40 (4H, m, CH(Me)CHN⁺Me₂ and 3 × NCH), 2.86 (3H, s, *NMe), 2.74 (1H, m, CHHMe), 2.61 (1H, m, CHHMe), 2.32 (3H, s, ⁺NMe), 1.71 (9H, m, 3 \times CHCH₃), 1.62 (3H, d, J 6.7, CHCH₃), 1.50 (3H, bs, BH₃) 1.12 (3H, d, J 6.3, CHCH₃), 1.08 (3H, d, J 6.5, CHCH₃), 1.06 (3H, t, J 7.6, CH₂CH₃), 0.95 (3H, d, J 6.6, CHCH₃), 0.89 (3H, d, J 6.5, CHCH₃), 0.72 (3H, d, *J* 7.0, CHCH₃); δ_C(75 MHz, CDCl₃) 169.9, 169.9, 141.3, 141.1, 138.3, 136.6, 132.0, 130.8, 129.7, 129.0, 128.0, 127.7, 127.6, 126.5, 125.9, 125.8, 125.0, 124.6, 74.6, 55.3, 50.7, 50.3, 46.8, 46.3, 46.2, 38.0, 29.6, 27.6, 23.1, 21.7, 21.3, 21.1, 20.9, 20.8, 20.7, 20.2, 20.1 and 16.5; m/z (CI) 572 (100%, M-BH₃); *m*/*z* (EI) 572 (1%, M–BH₃) and 49 (100%).

N,N-Di(1-methylethyl)-2-[(1S',2S')-2-(dimethylamino)-2-(2-{[di(1-methylethyl)amino]carbonyl}-3-ethylphenyl)-1-methylethyl}-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-1-naphthalenecarboxamide (22). A suspension of naphthamide 20 (66 mg, 0.116 mmol), Raney Nickel (4.6 g; 50% slurry in water), and ethanol was stirred at ambient temperature for 27.5 h (TLC indicated no reaction). The reaction mixture was refluxed for 4 h (TLC indicated no starting material), cooled to ambient temperature, filtered (Celite) and washed through with ethanol then diethylether. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure at ambient temperature to afford the crude product. Purification by flash chromatography [4:1 petrol (bp 40-60 °C)-EtOAc + 1% triethylamine] afforded tetralin 22 (22 mg, 33%) as a colourless oil (*ca.* 3 : 7 mixture of atropisomers), $v_{\rm max}$ (film)/cm⁻¹ 2973, 2934, 2874, 1625; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (200 MHz, CDCl₃) 7.90-7.75 (1H, m, ArH), 7.60-7.5 (1H, m, ArH), 7.40-7.00 (3H, m, ArH), 4.06 (1H, d, J 10.9, CHNMe₂^{minor}), 3.90 (1H, d, J 10.7, CHNMe₂^{major}), 3.85–3.35 (5H, m, 4 \times NCH and CH(Me)CHNMe₂), 3.90–2.50 (4H, m, CH₂CH₃ and CH₂(CH₂)₃), 2.08 (6H, s, NMe₂), 1.90–1.60 (16H, m, 4 \times CH₃ and 2 \times CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂), 1.35–0.95 (20H, m, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂ and $6 \times CH_3$; δ_c (75 MHz, CDCl₃) 170.2, 169.9, 169.4, 169.1, 140.8, 140.7, 139.5, 138.8, 137.5, 137.0, 135.8, 134.8, 133.7, 133.0, 132.6, 131.8, 129.8, 129.5, 128.6, 128.1, 127.7, 126.9, 126.5, 126.0, 125.7, 125.2, 123.9, 123.6, 122.7, 69.9, 69.3, 50.9, 50.4, 50.0, 49.9, 49.7, 46.1, 45.9, 45.8, 45.6, 42.2, 41.8, 41.0, 38.0, 37.3, 34.2, 29.5, 29.2, 26.6, 26.4, 26.3, 25.8, 23.1, 22.9, 22.8, 22.7, 22.5, 21.8, 21.4, 21.3, 21.2, 21.0, 20.9, 20.8, 20.6, 20.6, 20.2, 20.0, 20.0, 19.9, 19.8, 15.4, 15.3 and 15.0; m/z (CI) 576 (100%, M + H⁺), 289 $(27\%, M-C_{19}H_{28}NO)$ and $286 (16\%, M-C_{18}H_{29}N_2O)$; m/z (EI) 289 (1%, M-C₁₉H₂₈NO) and 49 (100%) (found: M + H⁺, 576.4524. C₃₇H₅₇N₃O₂ requires M + H, 576.4529).

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