# HMPA Promotes Retro-Aldol Reaction, Resulting in Syn-Selective Addition of Lithiated 1-Naphthylacetonitrile to Aromatic Aldehydes

Paul R. Carlier\*, Cedric W.-S. Lo, Michael M.-C. Lo, Nan Chi Wan, Ian D. Williams
Department of Chemistry
Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Clear Water Bay, Kowloon, Hong Kong
chpaul@ust.hk

### General

All reactions were performed in oven-dried (120 °C, overnight) glassware under a nitrogen atmosphere. THF was distilled from Na/benzophenone immediately prior to use. HMPA was distilled from CaH<sub>2</sub> under reduced pressure and stored over molecular sieves. Lithium diisopropylamide (2.0 M in THF), nitriles **1**, **3**, **4**, and aldehydes **5a-j** were purchased from Aldrich. Mesitylacetonitrile **2** was prepared according to the literature method,<sup>1</sup> substituting mono(bromomethyl)mesitylene<sup>2</sup> for the chloro derivative. Full characterization data for aldols *anti*-**6a**,<sup>3</sup> *syn*-**6a**,<sup>3</sup> *anti*-**8a**,<sup>4</sup> *anti*-**9a**,<sup>4</sup> and *anti*-**9h**<sup>4</sup> have been published previously. Selected coupling constant and chemical shift data for the corresponding *syn*-aldols has also been reported.<sup>4</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (400 or 300 MHz) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra (100.75 or 75.48 MHz) were internally referenced and recorded in CDCl<sub>3</sub>, unless otherwise noted. Elemental analysis was performed at the Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry (Chinese Academy of Sciences, P. R. C.)

#### **Aldol Reaction Procedures**

Aldol reactions were typically performed with 1-3 mmol of nitrile, 1.0 equivalents of LDA, and 1.0 - 1.1 equivalents of aldehyde, at a lithium concentration of 0.025 M, as described

previously.<sup>4</sup> For aldol reactions in the presence of HMPA the following modification was made. After deprotonation of the nitrile with LDA at -78 °C, HMPA was added and the temperature maintained at -78 °C for 30 minutes, after which the aldehyde was added. After an additional 30 minutes at -78 °C the reaction was quenched with saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (aq.) and worked up as described previously. For most reactions in the absence of HMPA, anti:syn ratios and yield were determined on the crude products by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis. For HMPA-mediated reactions, the anti:syn ratio and yields of the pure aldols after chromatography are reported. The two diastereomers generally have very similar R<sub>f</sub> values, and for these experiments care was taken not to cause fractionation; in this way the anti:syn selectivities reported accurately reflect the reaction selectivity. A summary of the salient <sup>1</sup>H NMR data for the aldols is provided in Table S1.

aldol	Ar	R	vicinal coupling constant		<u>a-CN proton</u>	
			J(anti)	J(syn)	δ(anti)	δ(syn)
6a	Ph	Ph	5.8	6.8	4.06	4.14
7a	Mesityl	Ph	9.3 <sup>b</sup>	8.8	4.32	4.41
8a	2-Naphth	Ph	5.4	6.8	4.19	4.26
9a	1-Naphth	Ph	4.2	6.1	4.84	5.06
9b	"	1-Naphth	3.9	5.6	5.81	6.09
9 c	"	2-Naphth	3.9	6.0	5.28	5.38
9d	"	2-Me-Ph	5.1	6.1	5.35	5.52
9 e	"	4-Me-Ph	3.9	6.2	5.12	5.17
9 f	"	4-Cl-Ph	4.1	5.9	5.13	5.21
9 g	"	4-MeO-Ph	4.1	6.0	5.12	5.18
9 h	"	<i>t</i> -Bu	<1	na <sup>c</sup>	4.90	na <sup>c</sup>
9 i	"	с-С <sub>6</sub> Н <sub>11</sub>	2.6	8.8	4.97	4.66
9 j	"	<i>i</i> -Pr	3.0	8.8	4.93	4.59

 Table S1.
 Summary of Vicinal Coupling Constants and Chemical Shift Data for Aldols<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>NMR data measured in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at room temperature. <sup>b</sup>*anti*-**7a** coupling constant anomalously high; stereochemistry confirmed by x-ray crystallography. <sup>c</sup>Not available (syn-**9h** not detected).

#### **Aldolate Equilibration Experiment Procedures**

Aldolate equilibration experiments were performed by treating a 0.025M solution of the desired aldol in THF at -78 °C with 1.0 equivalents of LDA, in the presence or absence of HMPA. After 30 minutes, the reaction was quenched and worked up as for the aldol reaction, and samples were directly analyzed by <sup>1</sup>H NMR. The highly enriched samples of *syn-***7a**, *syn-***8a**, *syn-***9c** used in the aldolate equilibration experiments were obtained by careful chromatographic separation of anti- and syn-diastereomers. Pure *anti-***7a**, *anti-***8a** and *anti-***9c** were obtained by crystallization of anti:syn mixtures obtained from HMPA-free aldol reactions.

# (2RS, 3RS)-3-Hydroxy-3-phenyl-2-(2',4',6'-trimethylphenyl)-propionitrile (*anti*-7a) and (2RS, 3SR)-3-Hydroxy-3-2-(2',4',6'-trimethylphenyl)phenylpropanenitrile (*syn*-7a)

Mesitylacetonitrile **2** (336 mg, 2.1 mmol) and benzaldehyde **5a** (206 mg, 1.94 mmol) were combined as above *without addition of HMPA*, to yield after workup and chromatography 289 mg (56%) of predominantly *anti*-**7a** (anti:syn = 88:12). Careful column chromatography (85/15 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/hexanes) allowed the pure anti- and syn-diastereomers to be isolated. *anti*-**7a** 

<sup>1</sup>H NMR: δ 2.20 (s, v br baseline, 9H), 3.154 (s, br, 1H), 4.322 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 5.179

(d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (br, 2H), 7.0-7.25 (m, 5H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 °C): δ 20.61, 20.76, 41.35, 73.39, 119.31, 125.80, 126.11, 128.20, 128.49,

130.25, 137.10, 138.04, 139.99;

IR (KBr): 3452 (s, br), 2244 (w) cm<sup>-1</sup>;

MS (CI+(NH<sub>3</sub>)): 283.2 (m+NH<sub>4</sub>+);

mp: 100.3-100.9 °C;

Analysis: Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO: C, 81.48; H, 7.22; N, 5.28. Found: C, 81.27; H, 7.14; N, 5.34.

The relative stereochemistry of anti-7a was confirmed by single crystal X-ray crystallography

### Ortep of (±)-anti-7a



Crystallographic information for this structure has been submitted to *Organic Letters* in CIF format. Tables of the relevant structure factors may be obtained from the author.

### syn-7a

<sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta$  2.167 (s, 1H), 2.264 (s, 3H), 2.440 (br, 6H), 4.408 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 5.070

(d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.902 (s, 2H), 7.35-7.50 (m, 5H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR: δ 20.76 (br), 40.85, 73.91, 118.19, 125.65, 126.38, 128.72, 128.96, 130 (v br),

137 (v br), 138.36, 140.08;

IR (KBr): 3456 (s, br), 2246 (w) cm<sup>-1</sup>;

MS (CI+(NH<sub>3</sub>)): 283.2 (m+NH<sub>4</sub>+);

mp: 103.7-105.5 °C;

Analysis: Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO: C, 81.48; H, 7.22; N, 5.28. Found: C, 81.19; H, 7.16; N, 5.20.

#### (2RS,3SR)-3-hydroxy-2-(2'-naphthyl)-3-phenylpropionitrile (syn-8a)

2-naphthylacetonitrile **3** (505.9 mg, 3.03 mmol) and **5a** (321 mg, 3.03 mmol) were combined as above *with addition of* HMPA to yield after workup and chromatography 677 mg (82%) of predominantly *syn*-aldol (*anti:syn* = 36:64). A second reaction was performed and allowed to proceed for 24 hours (instead of 30 minutes) before addition of the quench. This modification improved the anti:syn ratio to 29:71, with an NMR yield of 93%. A syn-enriched sample (anti:syn = 4:96) was prepared by careful chromatography, and was used for the aldolate equilibration experiments, melting point determination, and elemental analysis.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  2.33 (d, J = 3.3Hz, 1H), 4.31 (d, J = 6.6Hz, 1H), 5.10 (dd, J = 3.3,

6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.35 (m, 6H), 7.49-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.78-7.86 (m, 3H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 46.83, 76.12, 118.62, 125.69, 126.51, 126.61, 126.63, 127.60,

127.84, 128.15, 128.40, 128.64, 128.85, 129.14, 132.89, 132.93, 138.68;

MS (CI+(NH<sub>3</sub>): 273 (m);

mp: 106.2-108.6 °C (anti:syn = 4:96)

Analysis: Calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO·0.2H<sub>2</sub>O: C 82.40%, H 5.61%, N 5.06% : Found: C 82.12%, H 5.34%, N 4.94%

#### (2RS,3SR)-3-hydroxy-2-(1'-naphthyl)-3-phenylpropionitrile (syn-9a)

1-naphthylacetonitrile **4** (170 mg, 1.02 mmol) and **5a** (110 mg, 1.02 mmol) were combined as above for *syn*-**8a** to yield after workup and chromatography 210 mg (76%) of predominantly *syn*-aldol **9a** (*anti:syn* = 8:92).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  2.38 (broad s, 1H), 5.06 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 5.23 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 1H),

7.17-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.42 (m, 5H), 7.53-7.63 (m, 2H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):δ 43.3, 75.3, 118.8, 122.1, 125.3, 125.8, 126.2, 126.7, 127.1, 127.5,
127.8, 128.3, 128.9, 129.3, 129.4, 130.7, 133.8, 138.7;
MS (CI<sup>+</sup>(NH<sub>3</sub>)): 291 (m+NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>);

mp: semi-solid

Anal. (as acetate) Calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>: C 79.98%, H 5.43%, N 4.44% : Found: C 79.77%, H 5.34%, N 4.42%

(2RS,3SR)-3-hydroxy-2-(1'-naphthyl)-3-(1"-naphthyl)-propionitrile (syn-9b) 4 (333 mg, 1.99 mmol) and 1-naphthaldehyde **5b** (311 mg, 1.99 mmol) were combined as above for syn-**8a** to yield after workup and chromatography 514 mg (80%) of predominantly syn-aldol **9b** (anti:syn = 8:92).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  2.53(d, J = 3.5 Hz, 1H), 5.28 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 6.09 (dd, J = 3.5,

5.6 Hz, 1H), 7.15-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.47 (m, 6H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.72-7.86 (m, 5H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 42.0, 71.3, 119.3, 121.9, 122.0, 124.8, 125.1, 125.1, 125.5, 126.0,

126.1, 126.8, 127.6, 127.7, 128.9, 129.1, 129.3, 129.3, 130.6, 131.0, 133.3, 133.6, 134.7;

MS (CI+(NH<sub>3</sub>)): 341 (m+NH<sub>4</sub>+);

mp: semi solid

Anal. Calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>: C 82.17%, H 5.24%, N 3.83% : Found: : C 82.19%, H 5.24%, N 3.85%

(2RS,3SR)-3-hydroxy-2-(1'-naphthyl)-3-(2"-naphthyl)-propionitrile (syn-9c)

**4** (172 mg, 1.03 mmol) and 2-naphthaldehyde **5c** (162 mg, 1.07 mmol) were combined as above for *syn*-**8a** to yield after workup and chromatography 245 mg (73%) of predominantly *syn*-aldol **9c** (*anti:syn* = 5:95).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  2.53 (s, broad, 1H), 5.14 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 5.38 (d, J = 6.0 Hz,

1H), 7.21-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.29-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.65 (m, 4H), 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.73-7.87 (m, 4H), 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.1 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ43.4, 75.4, 118.8, 122.1, 124.1, 125.3, 126.1, 126.2, 126.3, 126.4, 127.1, 127.6, 127.7, 127.8, 128.0, 128.2, 129.3, 129.5, 130.6, 132.8, 133.5, 133.8, 136.2;
MS (CI<sup>+</sup> (NH<sub>3</sub>)): 341 (m+NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>);

mp: 110.2-111.5 °C

Anal. Calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>: C 82.17.%, H 5.24%, N 3.83% : Found: : C 82.06.%, H 5.24%, N 3.98%

### (2RS,3SR)-3-hydroxy-3-(2'-methylphenyl)-2-(1"-naphthyl)-propionitrile (syn-9d)

**4** (173 mg, 1.03 mmol) and 2-methylbenzaldehyde **5d** (127 mg, 1.06 mmol) were combined as above for *syn*-**8a** to yield after workup and chromatography 241mg (81%) of predominantly *syn*-aldol **9d** (*anti:syn* = 7:93).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  1.73 (s, 3H), 2.25 (broad s, 1H), 5.09 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 5.52 (d, J = 6.1

6.1 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.19-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.51-7.61

(m, 2H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.84-7.91 (m, 2H), 8.03 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 18.8, 42.5, 70.9, 119.0, 121.9, 125.4, 126.2, 126.2, 126.5, 127.1,

127.4, 127.9, 128.6, 129.2, 129.5, 130.3, 131.0, 133.7, 135.8, 137.4;

MS (CI<sup>+</sup>(NH<sub>3</sub>)): 305 (m+NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>);

mp: 110.4-115.5 °C

Anal. Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO: C 83.60%, H 5.96%, N 4.87% : Found: C 83.64%, H 6.01%, N 5.04%

## (2RS,3SR)-3-hydroxy-3-(4'-methylphenyl)-2-(1"-naphthyl)-propionitrile (syn-9e)

**4** (175 mg, 1.04 mmol) and 4-methylbenzaldehyde **5e** (127 mg, 1.06 mmol) were combined as above for *syn*-**8a** to yield after workup and chromatography 215 mg (72%) of predominantly *syn*-aldol **9e** (*anti:syn* = 4:96).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 2.33 (s, 3H), 5.03 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 1H), 5.17 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 1H), 7.05-

7.11(dd, *J* = 11.4, 8.4 Hz; 4H), 7.31-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.53-7.63 (m, 2H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 21.2, 43.4, 75.3, 118.9, 122.2, 125.3, 126.1, 126.6, 127.0, 127.5,

128.0, 129.0, 129.3, 129.4, 130.7, 133.8, 135.8, 138.8;

MS (CI+(NH<sub>3</sub>)): 305 (m+NH<sub>4</sub>+);

mp: 80.6 – 82 °C

Anal. Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO: C 83.60%, H 5.96%, N 4.87% : Found C 83.61%, H 6.07%, N 5.03%

## (2RS,3SR)-3-hydroxy-3-(4'-chlorophenyl)-2-(1"-naphthyl)-propionitrile (syn-9f)

**4** (172 mg, 1.03 mmol) and 4-chlorobenzaldehyde **5f** (148 mg, 1.05 mmol) were combined as above for *syn*-**8a** to yield after workup and chromatography 237 mg (73%) of predominantly *syn*-aldol **9f** (*anti:syn* = 8:92).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  2.47 (s, broad, 1H), 5.05 (d, J = 5.9 Hz, 1H), 5.21 (d, J = 5.9 Hz,

1H), 7.07 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.24-7.3 (m, 3H), 7.35-7.4 (dd, J = 7.4, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.65 (m, 2H), 7.87 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.02 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H) <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ 43.4, 74.5, 118.5, 121.9, 125.3, 126.3, 127.2, 127.4, 127.5, 128.1, 128.4, 129.4, 129.6, 130.5, 133.8, 134.8, 137.1; MS (CI+(NH<sub>3</sub>)): 325 (m+NH<sub>4</sub>+);

mp: 123.8-125.8 °C

Anal. Calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NOCl: C 74.15%, H 4.58%, N 4.55% : Found: C 74.28%, H 4.62%, N 4.67%

# (2RS,3SR)-3-hydroxy-3-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-2-(1"-naphthyl)-propionitrile (syn-9g)

**4** (178mg, 1.06 mmol) and 4-methoxybenzaldehyde **5**g (146mg, 1.07 mmol) were combined as above for *syn*-**8**a to yield after workup and chromatography 220mg (68%) of predominantly *syn*-aldol **9**g (*anti:syn* = 4:96).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  2.32 (s, broad, 1H), 3.8 (s, 3H), 5.04 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 5.18 (d, J =

6.0 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.31-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.53-

7.64 (m, 2H), 7.86 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H)

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 43.4, 55.3, 75.0, 113.7, 118.9, 122.1, 125.3, 126.1, 127.1, 127.5,

127.9, 129.3, 129.4, 130.6, 130.9, 133.8, 160.0;

MS ): (CI+(NH<sub>3</sub>)) : 321 (m+NH<sub>4</sub>+);

mp: semi-solid

Anal. Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>: C 79.19%, H 5.65%, N 4.62%. Found C 78.86%, H 5.76%, N 4.46

#### (2RS,3SR)-3-hydroxy-3-cyclohexyl-2-(1'-naphthyl)-propionitrile (anti-9i)

**4** (183.3 mg, 1.10 mmol) and cyclohexanecarboxaldehyde **5i** (125.0 mg, 1.11 mmol) were combined as above for *anti*-**7a** to yield after workup and chromatography 265.5 mg (87%) of predominantly *anti*-aldol (*anti*:*syn* = 95:5).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  1.00-1.10 (m, 1H), 1.15-1.45 (m, 1H), 1.70-1.95 (m, 5H), 2.05-2.20 (m, 2H), 3.62-3.67 (m, 1H), 4.97 (d, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.61 (m, 3H), 7.75-7.95 (m, 4H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 25.60, 25.94, 26.20, 29.24, 29.40, 38.97, 41.84, 76.23, 118.58, 121.36, 125.31, 126.02, 126.91, 127.15, 128.85, 129.14, 129.37, 129.60, 133.93; MS (CI+(CH<sub>4</sub>): 280.1 (m+H); mp: Semi-solid

Analysis: Calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO·0.3H<sub>2</sub>O: C 80.13%, H 7.64%, N 4.92% : Found: C 79.73%, H 7.29%, N 4.80%

### (2RS,3SR)-3-hydroxy-4-methyl-2-(1'-naphthyl)-pentanenitrile (anti-9j)

**4** (205.3 mg, 1.23 mmol) and isobutyraldehyde (91.3 mg, 1.27 mmol) were combined as above for *anti*-**7a** to yield after workup and chromatography 182.4 mg (62%) of predominantly *anti*-aldol (*anti*:*syn* = 94:6).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 1.11 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 1.23 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 1.85 (d, *J* = 4.8Hz, 1H), 2.02-2.14 (m, 1H), 3.61-3.66 (m, 1H), 4.92 (d, *J* = 3Hz, 1H), 7.51-7.62 (m, 3H), 7.80-7.90 (m, 4H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 18.80, 19.40, 32.63, 39.51, 77.23, 118.62, 121.46, 125.37, 126.09,

126.98, 127.14, 128.82, 129.27, 129.43, 129.68, 134.00;

MS (CI+(CH<sub>4</sub>): 240.0 (m+H);

mp: 72.6-74.3 °C

Analysis: Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO·0.1H<sub>2</sub>O: C 79.70%, H 7.19%, N 5.81% : Found: C 79.67%, H 6.94%, N 5.69%

### (5RS,6SR)-5-(1'-naphthyl)-6-(1"-naphthyl)-tetrahydro-1,3-oxazin-2-one (cis-10b)

Aldol *syn-***9b** was converted to the corresponding carbamate by our previously published twostep procedure.<sup>4</sup> Reduction of *syn-***9b** (295 mg, 0.91 mmol) with LiAlH<sub>4</sub>/AlCl<sub>3</sub> in diethyl ether, followed by chromatographic purification (2-10% methanol in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> + 0.7% conc. NH<sub>4</sub>OH), afforded the corresponding *syn-*gamma-amino alcohol (168 mg, 56%). Reaction of the amino alcohol (73 mg, 0.22mmol) and triphosgene (40 mg, 0.60mmol) in the presence of triethylamine in methylene chloride, followed by chromatographic purification (75/25 ethyl acetate/hexane) afforded pure *cis-***10b** (69 mg, 87%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  4.03 (ddd, J = 2.4, 5.5, 11.7 Hz, 1H), 4.14 (ddd, J = 2.1, 5.6, 11.7

Hz, 1H), 4.77 (ddd, *J* = 3.7, 5.4, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 6.22 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 3.5 Hz, 1H), 7.14-7.27 (m, 6H), 7.40-7.51 (m, 4H), 7.69-7.74 (m, 2H), 7.91 (dd, *J* = 4.6, 7.9 Hz, 2H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 35.3, 44.0, 77.0, 121.3, 121.7, 124.5, 124.6, 124.7, 125.0, 125.1, 125.2, 125.9, 128.0, 128.4, 128.6, 128.7, 130.3, 131.4, 132.1, 132.3, 132.8, 133.1, 154.8;
MS (CI<sup>+</sup>(CH<sub>4</sub>)): 354 (m+H<sup>+</sup>);

mp: 228.5-230.5 °C (dec)

Anal. Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>•0.2H<sub>2</sub>O: C 80.74%, H 5.48%, N 3.92% : Found: C 80.95%, H 5.48%, N 3.80%

### (5RS,6SR)-5-(1'-naphthyl)-6-(2"-naphthyl)-tetrahydro-1,3-oxazin-2-one (cis-10c)

As described above for *cis*-**10b**, reduction of *syn*-**9c** (295 mg, 0.91 mmol) and

chromatographic purification afforded the corresponding syn-gamma-amino alcohol mg (225

mg, 75%). Reaction of the amino alcohol (72 mg, 0.22mmol) and triphosgene (37 mg,

0.58mmol) and chromatographic purification afforded pure *cis*-10c (62 mg, 81%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  3.64-3.7 (m, 1H), 3.80-3.87 (dd, J = 9.8, 10.6 Hz, 1H), 4.61 (ddd, J

= 4.1, 4.7, 9.8 Hz, 1H), 5.70 (broad s, 1H), 6.11 (d, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 6.51 (dd, J = 1.8, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (dd, J = 7.6, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (s, 1H), 7.41-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.49 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.51-7.61 (m, 2H), 7.63-7.77 (m, 2H), 7.78 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>CNMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 37.0, 41.4, 81.0, 122.2, 124.2, 125.0, 125.1, 125.4, 125.9, 126.2,

126.9, 127.1, 127.5, 128.0, 128.4, 129.3, 131.2, 131.5, 132.6, 132.8, 133.3, 133.8, 154.3 MS (CI+(CH<sub>4</sub>)):354 (m+H<sup>+</sup>);

mp: 223.1-229.5 °C (dec)

Anal. Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>: C 81.56%, H 5.42%, N 3.96% : Found C 81.48%, H 5.44%, N 3.91%

### References

- Fuson, R. C.; Rabjohn, N. In *Organic Syntheses, Collective Vol. 3*; E. C. Horning,
  Ed.; John Wiley & Sons: New York, 1955; pp 557-560.
- [2] van der Made, A. W.; van der Made, R. H. J. Org. Chem. **1993**, 58, 1262-1263.
- [3] Wade, P. A.; Bereznak, J. F. J. Org. Chem. **1987**, *52*, 2973-2977.
- [4] Carlier, P. R.; Lo, K.-M.; Lo, M. M.-C.; Williams, I. D. J. Org. Chem. 1995, 60, 7511-7517.