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Tetrahedron:
Asymmetry

Tetrahedron: *Asymmetry* Vol. 16, No. 9, 2005

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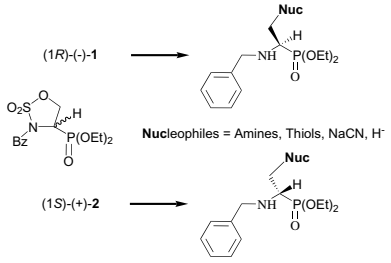
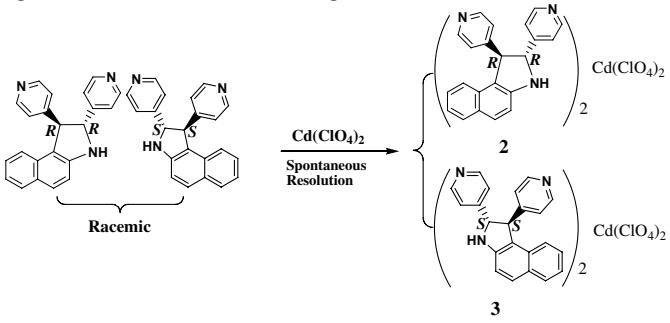
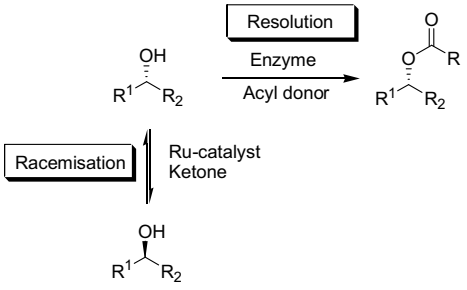
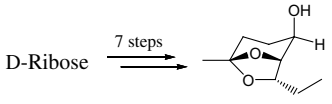
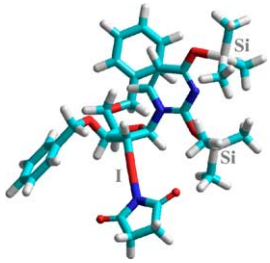
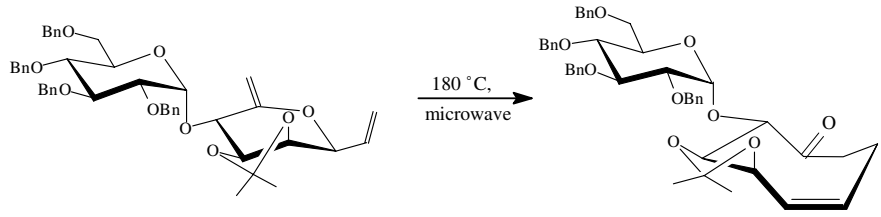


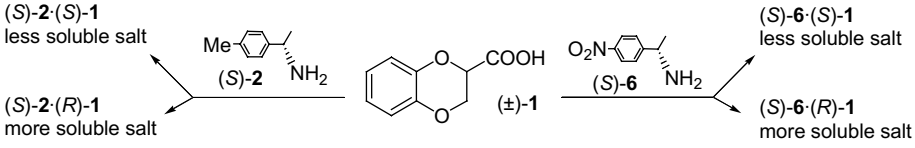


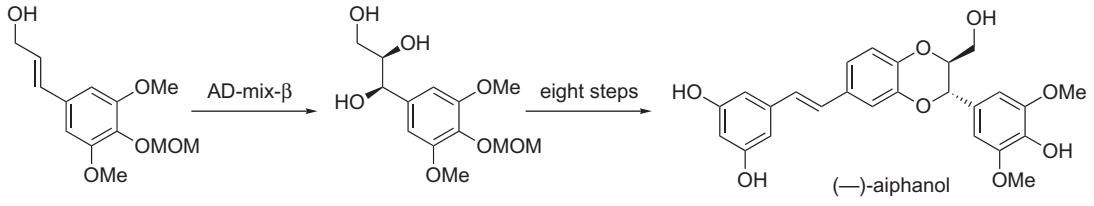


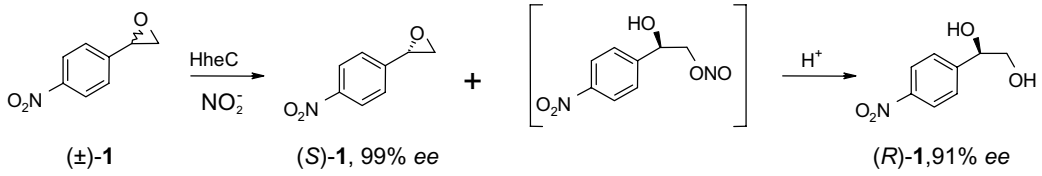


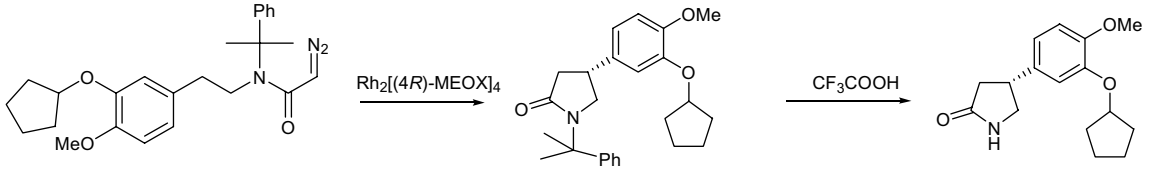


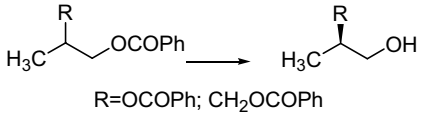




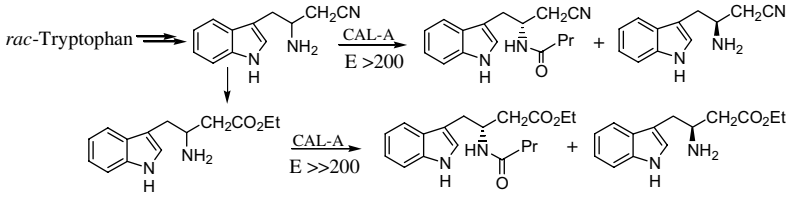




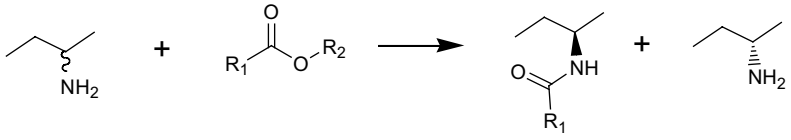




Debenzoylation of 1,2-propanediol dibenzoate with 1-octanol in organic solvent has been studied in the presence of lipases from different sources. The best result was obtained with *Pseudomonas cepacia* lipase absorbed onto celite that allowed the preparation of the 2-benzoyl ester of (*R*)-1,2-propanediol (82% ee) and (*R*)-1-*O*-benzoyl-2-methylpropane-1,3-diol (>98% ee).



The enantiomers of β-tryptophan ethyl ester were prepared via a nitrile intermediate using *Candida antarctica* lipase A-catalyzed acylation for enantiodiscrimination.



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