

Organocatalytic Transfer Hydrogenation of Cyclic Enones

Jamison B. Tuttle, Stéphane G. Ouellet and David W. C. MacMillan*

Division of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena,
California 91125

Supporting Information

General Information. Commercial reagents were purified prior to use following the guidelines of Perrin and Armarego.¹ Non-aqueous reagents were transferred under nitrogen via syringe or cannula and purified according to the method of Grubbs.² Organic solutions were concentrated under reduced pressure on a Büchi rotary evaporator. Chromatographic purification of products was accomplished using forced-flow chromatography on ICN 60 32-64 mesh silica gel and Iatrobeads[®] according to the method of Still.³ Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on EM Reagents 0.25 mm silica gel 60-F plates. Chromatograms were visualized by fluorescence quenching or by staining using either potassium permanganate or *p*-anisaldehyde stain.

¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Mercury 300 Spectrometer, and are internally referenced to residual solvent signals. Data for ¹H NMR are reported as follows: chemical shift (δ ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet), integration, coupling constant (Hz) and assignment. Data for ¹³C NMR are reported in terms of chemical shift. IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin Elmer Paragon 1000 spectrometer and are reported in terms of frequency of absorption (cm⁻¹). Mass spectra were obtained from the Caltech Mass Spectrometry facility by electron ionization, chemical ionization, or fast atom/ion bombardment techniques. Gas liquid chromatography (GLC) was performed on Hewlett-Packard 6850 and 6890 Series gas chromatographs equipped with a split-mode capillary injection system and flame ionization detectors using a Bodman Chiraldex β -DM (30 m \times 0.25 mm), a Bodman Chiraldex Γ -TA (30 m \times 0.25 mm) or a Hydrodex-B-TBDAC (50

¹ Perrin, D. D.; Armarego, W. L. F. *Purification of Laboratory Chemicals*; 3rd ed., Pergamon Press, Oxford, 1988.

² Pangborn, A. B.; Giardello, M. A.; Grubbs, R. H.; Rosen, R. K.; Timmers, F. J. *Organometallics* **1996**, *15*, 1518.

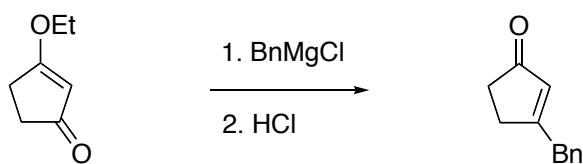
³ Still, W. C.; Kahn, M.; Mitra, A. J. *J. Org. Chem.* **1978**, *43*, 2923.

m × 0.25 mm) column as noted. Optical rotations were measured on a Jasco P-1010 polarimeter, and $[\alpha]_D$ values are reported in $10^{-1} \text{ dg cm}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$; concentration (c) is in g/100 ml.

Preparation of the starting materials

These α,β -unsaturated cyclic enones are commercially available from Aldrich: 3-methyl-2-cyclopenten-1-one and isophorone (3,5,5-trimethylcyclohex-2-enone). The following α,β -unsaturated cyclic enones have already been described in the literature: 3-hexylcyclopent-2-enone, 3-cyclohexylcyclopent-2-enone,⁴ 3-*tert*-butylcyclopent-2-enone,⁵ 3-phenylcyclopent-2-enone,⁶ 3-benzylcyclopent-2-enone,⁷ 3-(benzyloxymethyl)cyclopent-2-enone,⁸ methyl 3-oxocyclopent-1-enecarboxylate¹⁶, 3-acetylcyclopent-2-enone,⁹ 3-butylcyclohex-2-enone¹⁰, 3-cyclohexylcyclohex-2-one¹¹

General procedure for the preparation of starting materials:



3-benzylcyclopent-2-enone: To a -78°C solution of benzyl magnesium chloride (14.3 mL, 28.5 mmol, 1.2 eq., 2 M solution in THF) in ether (50 mL) was slowly added 3-ethoxycyclopent-2-enone (2.84 mL, 23.8 mmol, 1 eq.). The reaction mixture was warmed up to -30°C over 1 hour followed by addition of a 1 M solution of HCl until the pH was adjusted to 1 as indicated by litmus paper. The solution was warmed up to room temperature and the layers were separated. The aqueous phase was extracted with 40 mL of Et_2O (3×) and the combined organic layers were washed with 100 mL of brine (1×), dried over anhydrous MgSO_4 and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residual oil was purified by flash chromatography (25% EtOAc/hexanes) to afford the title compound as a colorless oil (3.1 g, 76% yield).

⁴ Collins, S.; Hong, Y.; Mataoka, M.; Nguyen, T. *J. Org. Chem.* **1990**, *55*, 3395.

⁵ Ponaras, A. A.; Zaim, O.; Pazo, Y.; Ohannesian, L. *J. Org. Chem.* **1988**, *53*, 1110. and Garbisch, E. W., Jr.; Sprecher, R. F. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1969**, *91*, 6785.

⁶ Jurkauskas, V.; Sadigni, J. P.; Buchwald, S. L. *Org. Lett.* **2003**, *5*, 2417.

⁷ Moritani, Y.; Appella, D. H.; Jurkauskas, V.; Buchwald, S. L. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2000**, *122*, 6797.

⁸ Dauben, W. G.; Warshawsky, A. M. *J. Org. Chem.* **1990**, *55*, 3075.

⁹ Yu, J.-Q.; Corey, E. J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2003**, *125*, 3232. And Catino, A. J.; Forslund, R. E.; Doyle, M. P. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2004**, *126*, 13622.

¹⁰ Mudryk, B.; Cohen, T. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1993**, *115*, 3854.

(Z)-1-butylcyclohept-2-enol: To a clear solution of 2-cyclohepten-1-one (5 g, 45.5 mmol) in ether (50 mL), cooled to 0 °C, was added *n*-BuLi (2.0 M in hexanes, 25 mL, 50.0 mmol) dropwise to produce an opaque yellow solution. The reaction stirred for 2 h at 0 °C and then warmed to room temperature. After 1h, the reaction was complete as determined by TLC, and quenched in 50 mL NH₄Cl. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with 50 mL of Et₂O (3×). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was purified by flash chromatography (10% Et₂O/pentane) to afford the title compound as a light yellow oil (2 g, 26% yield). IR (film) 3377, 3015, 2930, 2860, 1456, 1378, 1335, 1223, 1121, 1103, 1043, 997 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.69 (dt, 1H, J = 11.9, 5.6 Hz, CCH=CH), 5.59 (d, 1H, J = 11.9 Hz, CCH=CH), 2.17 – 2.09 (m, 2H), 1.84 – 1.45 (m, 9H), 1.38 – 1.27 (m, 4H), 0.93 – 0.88 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 139.1, 130.0, 76.1, 41.1, 38.5, 27.6, 27.5, 25.6, 24.1, 23.2, 14.1; HRMS (EI⁺) exact mass calculated for [M]⁺ (C₁₁H₂₀O) requires *m/z* 168.1514, found *m/z* 168.1516.

(Z)-3-butylcyclohept-2-enone: To a solution of (Z)-1-butylcyclohept-2-enol (2 g, 11.9 mmol) dissolved in dichloromethane (60 mL) was added pyridine chlorochromate on basic alumina (20 wt.%, 25.7 g, 23.8 mmol). The resulting reddish solution was stirred at room temperature for 2 h until determined to be complete by TLC. The mixture was diluted in 100 mL Et₂O and stirred for 1 h after which it was poured over filter paper that was subsequently washed with the Et₂O. The filtrate was partially concentrated (30 mL) and passed through a Florisil column with Et₂O (100 mL). The resulting colorless solution was concentrated and purified by flash chromatography (5% Et₂O/Pentane) to provide a colorless oil (920 mg, 47% yield). IR (film) 2933, 2864, 1662, 1458, 1421, 1375, 1344, 1322, 1267, 1201, 1124, 1103, 1048, 937, 875, 855 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.89 (s, 1H, COCH), 2.58 – 2.53 (m, 2H, COCH₂), 2.41 – 2.38 (m, 2H, HC=CCH₂), 2.18 (t, 2H, J = 6.91 Hz, HC=CCH₂(CH₂)₂CH₃), 1.80 – 1.74 (m, 2H, COCH₂CH₂), 1.50 – 1.40 (m, 2H, HC=CCH₂CH₂), 1.38 – 1.25 (m, 2H, HC=C(CH₂)₂CH₂CH₃), 0.90 (t, 3H, J = 7.18 Hz, CH₂CH₃); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 204.4, 162.4, 128.2, 42.1, 40.8, 32.5, 29.7, 25.1, 22.4, 21.2, 13.9; HRMS (EI⁺) exact mass calculated for [M]⁺ (C₁₁H₁₈O) requires *m/z* 166.1358, found *m/z* 166.1359.

¹¹ Snider, B. B.; Rodini, D. J.; van Straten, J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1980**, *102*, 5872.

General Procedure for the enantioselective hydrogenation of cyclic enones:

To a solution of 3-substituted-cyclopent-2-enone (1 mmol) dissolved in 0.5 mL of Et₂O (0.5 M), cooled to 4 °C using an ice bath, was added (2*S*,5*S*)-5-benzyl-3-methyl-2-(5-methylfuran-2-yl)imidazolidin-4-one (54 mg, 0.2 mmol, 0.2 eq.), followed by *t*-Butyl Hantzsch ester (340 mg, 1.1 mmol, 1.1 eq.), then trichloroacetic acid (33 mg, 0.2 mmol, 0.2 eq.). The resulting yellow suspension was stirred at 4 °C until the reaction was judged to be complete by TLC. The reaction mixture was passed through a short pad of silica gel and eluted with Et₂O. The resulting solution was concentrated *in vacuo* and purified by flash chromatography (solvent noted) to provide the title compound. Where noted, the pyridine by-product was removed by washing the final compound with 5 mL 6 M HCl (3×), 5 ml H₂O (1×) and 5 ml sat. NaHCO₃ (1×) to provide the title compound. These conditions were used as an alternative to repeating the column chromatography.

(*R*)-3-methylcyclopentanone: Prepared according to the general procedure from 3-methylcyclopent-2-enone (100 mg, 1.04 mmol) for 8.5 h to provide the title compound (72% conversion, 95% ee). Conversion was determined via GLC analysis by comparison with an internal standard (BnOMe). The physical data were identical in all respects to those of the commercially available (*R*)-3-methylcyclopentanone. The enantiomeric ratio was determined by GLC using a Bodman Chiraldex Γ-TA (30 m × 0.25 mm) column (100 °C isotherm, 1 mL/min.); (*S*) isomer $t_r = 25.1$ min. and (*R*) isomer $t_r = 25.8$ min.

(*R*)-3-cyclohexylcyclopentanone: Prepared according to the general procedure from 3-cyclohexylcyclopent-2-enone (200 mg, 1.31 mmol) for 11 h to provide the title compound as a yellow oil (165 mg, 82% yield, 93% ee) after purification by flash chromatography on Iatrobeds[®] (15 – 20% Et₂O/pentane) and a final acid wash. The physical data were identical in all respects to those previously reported.¹² The enantiomeric ratio was determined by GLC using a Hydrodex-B-TBDAC (50 m × 0.25 mm) column (105 °C isotherm, 1 mL/min.); (*S*) isomer $t_r = 127.7$ min. and (*R*) isomer $t_r = 127.9$ min. $[\alpha]_D^{22} = +8.6^\circ$ (c = 1.00, CHCl₃).

¹² Jones, P.; Reddy, C. K.; Knochel, P. *Tetrahedron* **1998**, *54*, 1471. (racemic product, no optical rotation)

(R)-3-tert-butylcyclopentanone: Prepared according to the general procedure from 3-tert-butylcyclopent-2-enone (100 mg, 0.723 mmol) for 5.5 h to provide the title compound as a colorless oil (81% conversion, 96% ee). Conversion was determined via GLC analysis by comparison with an internal standard (BnOMe). The physical data were identical in all respects to those previously reported.¹³ The enantiomeric ratio was determined by GLC using a Bodman Chiraldex Γ-TA (30 m × 0.25 mm) column (90 °C isotherm, 1 mL/min.); (S) isomer t_r = 14.4 min. and (R) isomer t_r = 15.0 min. $[\alpha]_D^{22} = +150.3^\circ$ (c = 1.00, CHCl₃).

General procedure B provided the title compound (81% conversion, 96% ee) after 5.5 hours.

(R)-3-benzylcyclopentanone: Prepared according to the general procedure from 3-benzylcyclopent-2-enone (200 mg, 1.16 mmol) for 11 h. After the reaction mixture was passed through a short pad of silica gel, the resulting mixture was poured into 5 mL of a 10% HCl solution and diluted with 5 mL of Et₂O. The layers were separated, then the organic layer was washed with 5 mL of a 10% HCl solution (4×) and with 5 mL of water (1×). The resulting solution was dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo* to provide the title compound as a colorless oil (157 mg, 78% yield, 90% ee) after purification by flash chromatography on Iatrobeds[®] (2% Et₂O/benzene) and a final acid wash. The physical data were identical in all respects to those previously reported.¹⁴ The enantiomeric ratio was determined by GLC using a Hydrodex-B-TBDAC (50 m × 0.25 mm) column (145 °C isotherm, 1 mL/min.); (S) isomer t_r = 91.5 min. and (R) isomer t_r = 90.1 min. $[\alpha]_D^{22} = +83.9^\circ$ (c = 1.00, CHCl₃).

(R)-3-(benzyloxymethyl)cyclopentanone: Prepared according to the general procedure from 3-(benzyloxymethyl)cyclopent-2-enone (200 mg, 1.06 mmol) for 13 h. After the reaction mixture was passed through a short pad of silica gel, the resulting solution was poured into 5 mL of a 10% HCl solution and diluted with 5 mL of Et₂O. The layers were separated, then the organic layer was washed with 5 mL of a 10% HCl solution (4×) and with 5 mL of water (1×). The resulting solution was dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo* to provide the title compound as a colorless oil (180 mg, 89% yield, 91% ee) after purification by flash chromatography on silica

¹³ Ahlbrecht, H.; Weber, P. *Synthesis* **1992**, 1019. (racemic product, no optical rotation)

gel (10% Et₂O/pentane). The enantiomeric ratio was determined by GLC using a Hydrodex-B-TBDAC (50 m × 0.25 mm) column (150 °C isotherm, 1 mL/min.); (*S*) isomer $t_r = 151.2$ min. and (*R*) isomer $t_r = 153.2$ min. IR (film) 3030, 2860, 1740, 1404, 1100 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.42 – 7.28 (m, 5H, ArH₅), 4.55 (s, 2H, CH₂Ph), 3.51 (d, 2H, $J = 6.3$ Hz, CHCH₂O), 2.61 – 2.49 (m, 1H), 2.44 – 2.25 (m, 2H), 2.23 – 2.01 (m, 3H), 1.84 – 1.71 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 219.2, 138.1, 128.3, 127.4, 126.8, 73.2, 73.0, 41.9, 37.8, 36.7, 26.0; HRMS (EI⁺) exact mass calculated for [M]⁺ (C₁₃H₁₆O₂) requires m/z 204.1150, found m/z 204.1144; $[\alpha]_D^{22} = +31.2^\circ$ (c = 1.0, CHCl₃).

***R*)-3-phenylcyclopentanone:** Prepared according to the general procedure from 3-phenylcyclopent-2-enone (200 mg, 1.26 mmol) for 8.5 h to provide the title compound as a light yellow oil (147 mg, 73% yield, 91% ee) after purification by flash chromatography on Iatrobeds[®] (10% Et₂O/benzene) and a final acid wash. The physical data were identical in all respects to those previously reported.¹⁵ The enantiomeric ratio was determined by GLC using a Hydrodex-B-TBDAC (50 m × 0.25 mm) column (145 °C isotherm, 1 mL/min.); (*S*) isomer $t_r = 56.3$ min. and (*R*) isomer $t_r = 61.3$ min. $[\alpha]_D^{22} = +83.5^\circ$ (c = 1.00, CHCl₃).

***R*)-methyl 3-oxocyclopentanecarboxylate:** Prepared according to the general procedure from methyl 3-oxocyclopent-1-enecarboxylate (200 mg, 1.43 mmol) for 1 h at –10 °C to provide the title compound as a colorless oil (168 mg, 83% yield, 90% ee) after purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (30% EtOAc/hexane). The physical data were identical in all respects to those previously reported.¹⁶ The enantiomeric ratio was determined by GLC using a Hydrodex-B-TBDAC (50 m × 0.25 mm) column (130 °C isotherm, 1 mL/min.); (*S*) isomer $t_r = 41.9$ min. and (*R*) isomer $t_r = 43.5$ min. $[\alpha]_D^{22} = +28.0^\circ$ (c = 1.00, CHCl₃).

¹⁴ Yanagisawa, A.; Habaue, S.; Yasue, K.; Yamamoto, H. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1994**, *116*, 6130. and Moritani, Y.; Appella, D. H.; Jurkauskas, V.; Buchwald, S. L. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2000**, *122*, 6797. (reported an optical rotation of –96 ° for the (*S*) isomer that is 96% ee)

¹⁵ Gadwood, R. C.; Mallick, I. M.; DeWinter, A. J. *J. Org. Chem.* **1987**, *52*, 774. Gomez-Bengoa, E.; Heron, N. M.; Didiuk, M. T.; Luchaco, C. A.; Hoveyda, A. H. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1998**, *120*, 7649. and Hashimoto, S.-I.; Watanabe, N.; Ikegami, S. *Synlett.* **1994**, 353.

¹⁶ Ranu, B. C.; Dutta, J. Guchhait, S. K. *Org. Lett.* **2001**, *3*, 2603. The absolute stereochemistry was assigned by analogy.

(R)-3-acetylcyclopentanone: Prepared according to the general procedure from 3-acetylcyclopent-2-enone (200 mg, 1.61 mmol) for 1 h at $-10\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ to provide the title compound as a colorless oil (158 mg, 78% yield, 91% ee) after purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (50% EtOAc/hexane). The physical data were identical in all respects to those previously reported.¹⁷ The enantiomeric ratio was determined by GLC using a Hydrodex-B-TBDAC (50 m \times 0.25 mm) column (145 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ isotherm, 1 mL/min.); (*S*) isomer $t_r = 52.0$ min. and (*R*) isomer $t_r = 53.3$ min. $[\alpha]_D^{22} = +56.3\text{ }^{\circ}$ ($c = 1.0$, CHCl_3).

(R)-3-butylcyclohexanone: Prepared according to the general procedure from 3-butylcyclohexen-2-one (200 mg, 1.31 mmol) for 25 h to provide the title compound as a colorless oil (165 mg, 82% yield, 90% ee) after purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (5% Et₂O/pentane). The physical data were identical in all respects to those previously reported.¹⁸ The enantiomeric ratio was determined by GLC using a Hydrodex-B-TBDAC (50 m \times 0.25 mm) column (150 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ isotherm, 1 mL/min.); (*S*) isomer $t_r = 37.0$ min. and (*R*) isomer $t_r = 36.0$ min. $[\alpha]_D^{22} = +12.2\text{ }^{\circ}$ ($c = 1.00$, CHCl_3).

(R)-3-cyclohexylcyclohexanone: Prepared according to the general procedure from 3-cyclohexylcyclohexen-2-one (85 mg, 0.478 mmol) for 24 h to provide the title compound as a colorless oil (61 mg, 71% yield, 88% ee) after purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (5% Et₂O/pentane). The enantiomeric ratio was determined by GLC using a Hydrodex-B-TBDAC (50 m \times 0.25 mm) column (110 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ isotherm, 1 mL/min.); (*S*) isomer $t_r = 73.5$ min. and (*R*) isomer $t_r = 65.2$ min. IR (film) 2924, 2853, 1715, 1449, 14223, 1346, 1317, 1263, 1225, 1101, 1056, 982, 892, 866 cm^{-1} ; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.44 – 2.21 (m, 3H), 2.16 – 2.04 (m, 2H), 1.93 – 1.85 (m, 1H), 1.80 – 1.54 (m, 8H), 1.47 – 1.33 (m, 1H), 1.32 – 1.11 (m, 3H), 1.08 – 0.92 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 212.9, 45.6, 44.7, 42.7, 41.6, 30.0, 29.9, 28.4, 26.6, 26.59, 25.54, 25.6; HRMS (EI⁺) exact mass calculated for $[\text{M}]^+$ ($\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}$) requires m/z 180.1514, found m/z 180.1508; $[\alpha]_D^{22} = +11.9\text{ }^{\circ}$ ($c = 1.05$, CHCl_3).

¹⁷ Monte, W. T.; Baizer, M. M.; Little, R. D. *J. Org. Chem.* **1983**, *48*, 803. (racemic product, no optical rotation)

(R)-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexanone: Prepared according to the general procedure from isophorone (200 mg, 1.45 mmol) for 48 h to provide the title compound as a colorless oil (134 mg, 66% yield, 98% ee) after purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (5% Et₂O/pentane). The physical data were identical in all respects to those previously reported.¹⁹ The enantiomeric ratio was determined by GLC using a Hydrodex-B-TBDAC (50 m × 0.25 mm) column (110 °C isotherm, 1 mL/min.); (*S*) isomer $t_r = 11.8$ min. and (*R*) isomer $t_r = 12.4$ min. $[\alpha]_D^{22} = -18.7^\circ$ (c = 1.03, CHCl₃).

(R)-3-butylcycloheptanone: Prepared according to the general procedure from 3-butylcyclohept-2-enone (200 mg, 1.20 mmol) for 9h to provide the title compound as a light yellow oil (141 mg, 70% yield, 92% ee) after purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (10% Et₂O/pentane) and a final acid wash. The physical data were identical in all respects to those previously reported.²⁰ The enantiomeric ratio was determined by GLC using a Hydrodex-B-TBDAC (50 m × 0.25 mm) column (105 °C isotherm, 1 mL/min.); (*S*) isomer $t_r = 100.6$ min. and (*R*) isomer $t_r = 102.7$ min. $[\alpha]_D^{22} = +38.5^\circ$ (c = 1.05, CHCl₃).

¹⁸ Jones, P.; Reddy, C. K.; Knowche, P. *Tetrahedron* **1998**, *54*, 1471. and Moritani, Y.; Appella, D. H.; Jurkauskas, V.; Buchwald, S. L. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2000**, *122*, 6797. (reported a rotation of -17° for the (*S*)-enantiomer that is 87% ee)

¹⁹ Allinger, N. L.; Riew, C. K. *J. Org. Chem.* **1975**, *40*, 1316. (reported a rotation of $+20.3^\circ$ for the (*S*)-enantiomer that is 75% ee)

²⁰ Strangeland, E. L.; Sammakia, T. *Tetrahedron* **1997**, *53*, 16503. (reported a rotation of $+31.4^\circ$ for a product that is 92% ee)

