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Chemoenzymatic Dynamic Kinetic Resolution of Primary Amines Using a Recyclable Palladium Nanoparticle Catalyst Together with Lipases

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Abstract. A catalyst consisting of palladium nanoparticles supported on amino-functionalized siliceous mesocellular foam (Pd-AmP-MCF) was used in chemoenzymatic dynamic kinetic resolution (DKR) to convert primary amines to amides in high yields and excellent *ee*'s. The efficiency of the nanocatalyst at temperatures below 70 °C enables reaction conditions that are more suitable for enzymes. In the present study this is exemplified by subjecting 1-phenylethylamine (**1a**) and analogous benzylic amines to DKR reactions using two commercially available lipases, Novozyme-435 (*Candida antartica* Lipase B) and Amano Lipase PS-C1 (lipase from *Burkholderia cepacia*) as biocatalysts. The latter enzyme has not previously been used in the DKR of amines, due to its low stability at temperatures over 60 °C. The viability of the heterogeneous Pd-AmP-MCF was further demonstrated in a recycling study, which shows that the catalyst can be reused up to five times.

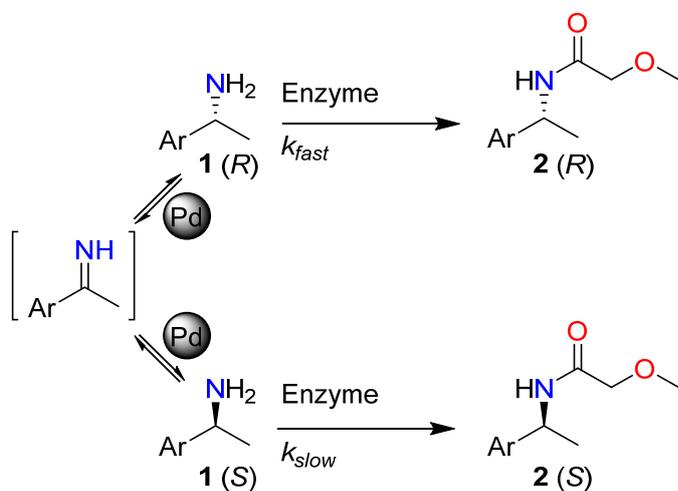
Introduction

During the past three decades, a significant part of synthetic organic chemistry has been dedicated towards the development of new and efficient methods for the preparation of enantiomerically enriched compounds. Many of these methods utilize chiral catalysts in the enantiodetermining step, thereby increasing the reaction efficiency and minimizing the amount of reagents required.¹ A common way to prepare enantiomerically enriched molecules is to

utilize the chiral environment of an enzyme in a kinetic resolution.² In this process the enzyme catalyzes the chemical transformation of one enantiomer faster than that of its mirror image, resulting in a separation of the two enantiomers. The drawback of this process is that the yield of the enantiomerically enriched product can never exceed 50%. An excellent way to circumvent this limitation is to carry out the kinetic resolution in parallel with an *in situ* racemization, thus creating a dynamic kinetic resolution (DKR), theoretically increasing the yield up to 100% of a single product enantiomer.³ The enzymes employed are usually immobilized onto a solid support to increase stability, whereas the racemization is often catalyzed by homogenous transition metal complexes. An attractive way to make the process more environmentally friendly and to enhance the recyclability is to attach the racemization catalysts to a heterogeneous support. Recently, heterogeneous metal nanoparticles have attracted considerable attention as they have been found to be highly efficient and selective catalysts for a wide range of organic transformations.⁴ It has been demonstrated that the selectivity and reactivity exhibited by the nanoparticles are dependent on the size and shape of the particles as well as the type of support to which the particles are attached.^{4^{c,d}} Many different supports have been used for catalytic applications such as metal oxides,⁵ metal organic frameworks (MOFs),⁶ carbon-based polymers⁷ and silicas.⁸ Within the last group mentioned, siliceous mesocellular foam (MCF) has shown to be an excellent material for supporting metal nanoparticles, enzymes and various heterogenous complexes.⁹ The MCF has a three dimensional morphology with large pores and a high surface area. In addition, the material possesses a high surface concentration of silanol groups that enables grafting with a variety of functional groups in a straight-forward fashion.⁹

Recently, we have reported on an amino-functionalized MCF as a support for Pd nanoparticles and demonstrated several application of this nanocatalyst.¹⁰ For instance the Pd nanocatalyst was found to efficiently racemize primary amines at low temperatures,^{10a} which

generally has been an issue with previously reported transition metal-based protocols. Elevated temperature has been required to overcome the strong coordination between the metal catalyst and the amine substrate, which has severely decreased the rate of amine racemization.¹¹ The necessity of increased temperatures in the DKR has so far limited the use of enzymes to essentially thermostable lipases such as *Candida antarctica* Lipase A and B (CALA and CALB respectively), where the latter being by far the most utilized owing to its high selectivity and activity.¹² Moreover, it has been shown that the formation of byproducts increases at elevated temperatures, mainly as a consequence of undesired side reactions with the sensitive imine intermediate that are formed during the course of the racemization (*cf.* Scheme 1). The imine intermediate can easily undergo hydrolysis to the corresponding ketone or self-condense with another molecule of amine to form the secondary amine. The secondary amine can then further react under reductive conditions, yielding the starting material and ethylbenzene.¹¹



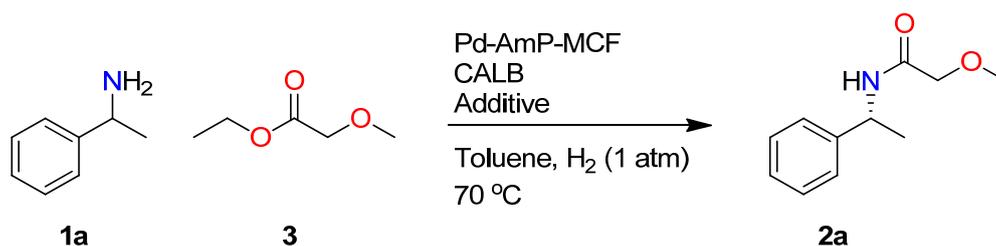
Scheme 1: Illustration of an (*R*)-selective dynamic kinetic resolution of primary benzyl amines using palladium nanoparticles as racemization catalyst and a methoxyacetate ester as acyl donor.

To date only a few enzyme-compatible metal complexes exist that are capable of racemizing amines.^{12a,13} Among these complexes a homogenous dimeric ruthenium hydride complex is

still to date the most versatile catalyst for the DKR of amines.^{12a,13a} However, the protocol required elevated temperatures (90 °C and higher), diluted reaction conditions and suffered from long reaction times (3 days).^{12a,13a} Kim and Park developed a nanostructured palladium catalyst supported on Al(O)OH that was optimized to perform the racemization at lower temperatures than the ruthenium catalyst; however, dilute reactions conditions and long reaction times were still required.^{13b,c} By applying our recently developed Pd-AmP-MCF as racemization catalyst in a chemoenzymatic DKR we envisioned to address these drawbacks and allow for the use of less thermostable enzymes.

Results and discussion

To find the optimal reaction condition 1-phenylethylamine (**1a**) was selected as model substrate, and subjected to a DKR at 70 °C using CALB as resolving agent, 2 equiv. of ethyl methoxyacetate (**3**) as acyl donor,¹⁴ 2.5 mol% of Pd-AmP-MCF as racemization catalyst and 1 equiv. of Na₂CO₃ in dry toluene under H₂ atmosphere (1 atm). The DKR was found to proceed smoothly and resulted in 63% conversion after 24 h (Table 1, entry 1). By concentrating the reaction from 0.15 M to 0.4 M, the efficiency of the DKR was significantly increased (entry 2), reaching completion already after 16 h. To our delight, we were able to isolate amide **2a** in quantitative yield with no sign of byproduct formation. The most significant improvement was observed upon addition of molecular sieves (4 Å) to the reaction as this reduced the reaction time to 5-6 h (entry 3). Moreover, it proved to be possible to reduce the loading of the Pd nanocatalyst to 1.25 mol%, and still maintain high yields and excellent enantioselectivity of the desired amide **2a** (entry 4). To the best of our knowledge this is the lowest catalyst loading (Pd and CALB) ever used for these short reaction times in the DKR of primary amines.

Table 1: Optimization of the DKR of **1a** at 70 °C^a

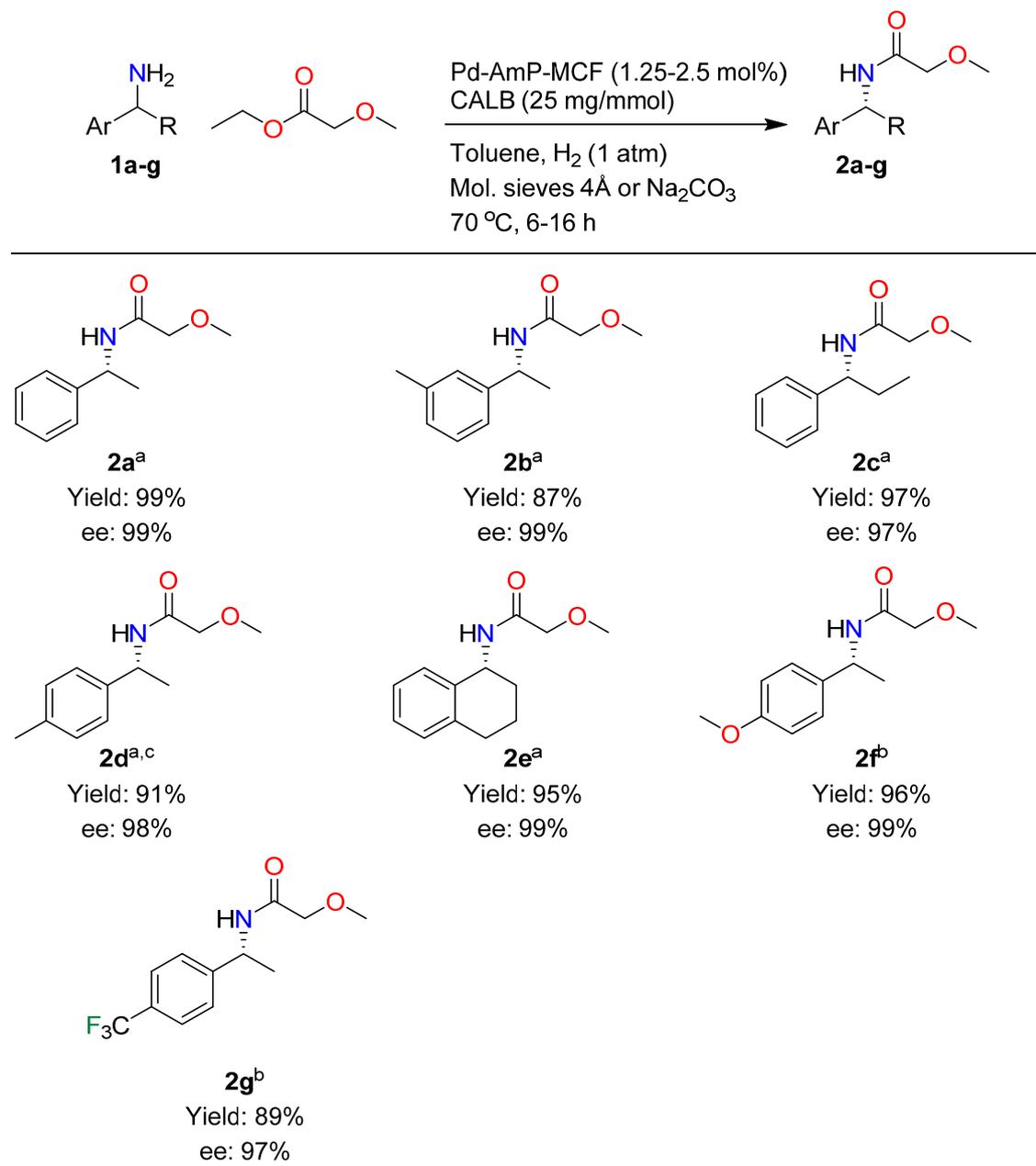
Entry	Pd-loading	Additive	Time (h)	Toluene (mL)	Conv. (%) ^b	ee (%) ^c
1	2.5 mol%	Na ₂ CO ₃ (1 equiv.)	24	4	63	99
2	2.5 mol%	Na ₂ CO ₃ (1 equiv.)	16	1.5	99	99
3	2.5 mol%	Mol. sieves 4 Å	6	1.5	99	99
4	1.25 mol%	Mol. sieves 4 Å	6	1.5	99	99

a) All reactions were carried out in dry toluene (1.5 mL) under 1 atm of hydrogen gas using **1a** (0.6 mmol), **3** (1.2 mmol), Novozyme-435 (CALB, 15 mg), molecular sieves (300 mg) or Na₂CO₃ (60 mg) and pentadecane as internal standard. b) Determined using chiral GC and pentadecane as internal standard. c) Determined using by GC (error 99 ± 0.02)

Inspired by the efficient DKR at 70 °C we set out to optimize the protocol to also provide a functioning DKR reaction at 50 °C. To maintain an efficient racemization even at this temperature 5 mol% of Pd-MCF was used. Both molecular sieves and Na₂CO₃ could be used as additives to give full conversions and excellent *ee*'s; however, the latter showed slightly higher *ee* (Table 2, entries 1-2). Control experiment on **1a**, where CALB was omitted, showed that molecular sieves caused a slow background amidation which could explain the lower *ee* obtained when the reaction time is prolonged.¹⁵ When reducing the amount of Pd nanocatalyst from 5 mol% to 2.5 mol% the reaction still gave **2a** in 99% *ee* but required a longer reaction time (36 h) to reach completion (entry 3). The possibility to run the reactions at lower temperatures also enables a broader range of enzymes to be used in the DKR, which potentially could widen the substrate scope. This novel feature was demonstrated by employing Amano Lipase PS-C1 (lipase from *Burkholderia cepacia* immobilized on ceramic beads) in a DKR with 5 mol% of Pd-AmP-MCF which afforded **2a** in a good isolated yield and excellent *ee* (entry 4).¹⁶ This enzyme has previously been used in the kinetic resolution of

for these compounds and the reactions are made at a substrate concentrations of 0.4 M, which is significantly higher than those previously reported.¹¹

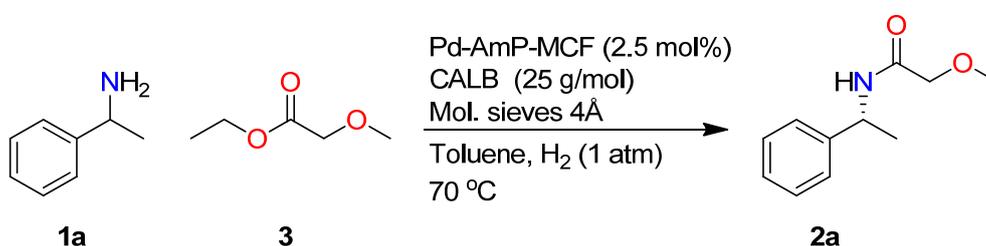
Table 3: Substrate scope of the DKR at 70 °C using Pd-AmP-MCF as racemization catalyst.



a) Method A: Reaction was performed in dry toluene (1.5 mL) under 1 atm hydrogen gas using Pd-AmP-MCF (10 mg, 1.25 mol%), corresponding amine (0.6 mmol), ethyl methoxyacetate (1.2 mmol), Novozyme-435 (15 mg) and molecular sieves (300 mg). b) Method B: Reaction was performed in dry toluene (1.5 mL) under 1 atm hydrogen gas using Pd-AmP-MCF (20 mg, 2.5 mol%), corresponding amine (0.6 mmol), ethyl methoxyacetate (1.2 mmol), Novozyme-435 (15 mg) and dry Na₂CO₃ (60 mg). c) 2.0 mol% racemization catalyst was used.

Finally, the stability of the heterogenous Pd nanocatalyst was assessed in a recycling study where the DKR of **1a** was carried out under the optimized conditions with 2.5 mol% of Pd nanocatalyst over five cycles. The DKR was allowed to continue for 15 h after which the Pd-AmP-MCF was separated, washed and used in a new DKR reaction. In this recycling, the catalytic system showed excellent conversion and *ee* until the fifth run where the conversion dropped to 90% and the *ee* was 98% (see Table 4).¹⁸

Table 4: Recycling of the catalyst in the DKR^a



Cycle	Conv. (%) ^b	ee (%) ^b
1	99	99
2	99	99
3	98	99
4	99	99
5	90	98

a) All reactions were carried out in dry toluene (1.5 mL) under 1 atm hydrogen gas at 70 °C using **1a** (0.6 mmol), **3** (1.2 mmol), Novozyme-435 (15 mg), molecular sieves 4 Å (300 mg) and pentadecane as internal standard. b) Determined using chiral GC and pentadecane as internal standard. Error in *ee* see Table 2.

In summary, we have developed a protocol for the DKR of primary benzylic amines using a recyclable catalyst consisting of palladium nanoparticles immobilized on siliceous amino-functionalized mesocellular foam. It was found that the DKR proceeds well at both 70°C and 50°C and that a range of benzylic amines can be used as substrates. The DKR reactions with these relatively short reaction times were carried out with much lower catalytic loading than previously reported. To our delight, we could also demonstrate the first successful application of lipase PS in the DKR of amines. Future efforts will aim at incorporating other lipases and proteases in the present protocol. Also work will be dedicated to further improve the

performance of the racemization part of the DKR reaction by developing related nanostructured catalysts.

Experimental procedure

General

^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded at 400 MHz and 100 MHz respectively. GC analysis was made either on a system equipped with a CP-Chirasil-DEX CB column (25 m \times 0.32 mm \times 0.25 μm) with H_2 as a carrier gas or IVADEX-I column (25 m \times 0.25 mm \times 0.25 μm) with N_2 as carrier gas. Both GCs had a gas flow of 1.8 mL/min and were equipped with FID detectors. The high resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on an ESI-TOF mass spectrometer. 1-Phenylethylamine **1a** was distilled and stored on molecular sieves before use. The remaining chemicals were purchased from commercial sources and used without further purification. Dry toluene was obtained from a VAC-solvent purifier. Flash chromatography was performed on an automated flash-machine equipped with an UV-detector using 12 g silica columns (particle size 40-63 μm irregular, mesh size 230-400, pore size 60 \AA) with a solvent flow of 30 mL/minute. Reactions were monitored by thin-layer chromatography (TLC) using aluminum backed plates (1.5 \AA ~5 cm) pre-coated (0.25 mm) with silica gel and UV light as a visualizing agent. The Pd-AmP-MCF was synthesized according to previously described methods.^{10b} CALB (Novozyme-435) and Lipase PS (Amano Lipase PS-C1) are available from commercial sources.

General procedure for the dynamic kinetic resolution

Method A: Pd-AmP-MCF (1.25 mol%-5 mol%, 10-40 mg), drying agent [**Method A**: molecular sieves 4 \AA (300 mg); **Method B**: dry Na_2CO_3 (60 mg)] and Novozyme-435 (15 mg) were added to a vial equipped with a magnetic stirring bar and sealed with teflon cap.

The vial was evacuated three times and refilled with hydrogen gas. Dry toluene (1.5 mL) was added to the vial and then the system was evacuated followed by refilling of hydrogen gas. The mixture was heated to the indicated temperature followed by addition of ethyl methoxyacetate (141 μ L, 1.2 mmol) and amine substrate (0.6 mmol) while stirred at 750 rpm. After reaching completion the reaction was diluted with ethyl acetate and washed with saturated sodium bicarbonate and brine. The organic phase was dried using Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification was carried out using column chromatography.

Procedure for dynamic kinetic resolution with lipase PS. Pd-AmP-MCF (5 mol%, 40 mg), dry Na₂CO₃ (60 mg) and Amano lipase PS-C1 (200 mg) were added to a vial and sealed. The vial was evacuated three times and refilled with hydrogen gas. Dry toluene (2.0 mL) was added to the vial and the system was evacuated followed by refilling of hydrogen gas. The mixture was heated to 50 °C followed by addition of ethyl methoxyacetate (141 μ L, 1.2 mmol) and amine **1a** (0.6 mmol) while stirred at 750 rpm. Additional ethyl methoxyacetate (70 μ L, 0.6 mmol) was added after 12 and 24 h. After 36 h the reaction was diluted with ethyl acetate and washed with saturated sodium bicarbonate and brine. The organic phase was dried using Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, pentane/EtOAc 100:0→0:100) to give 95 mg (82%) of a white solid in 99% *ee*.

Procedure for recycling of the Pd-MCF catalyst Pd-AmP-MCF (2.5 mol%, 20 mg), molecular sieves 4 Å (300 mg) and Novozyme-435 (15 mg) were added to a vial and sealed; the vial was evacuated three times and refilled with hydrogen gas. Dry toluene (1.5 mL) and internal standard pentadecane was added to the vial and then evacuated followed by refilling of hydrogen gas. The mixture was heated to 70 °C followed by addition of ethyl methoxyacetate (141 μ L, 1.2 mmol) and 1-phenylethylamine (0.6 mmol). After 15 h the reaction was analyzed using chiral GC and the catalyst was separated by using a pipette and

washed in a separate tube using 4.5 mL of toluene and centrifuged (4100 rpm for 8 min). Excess toluene was removed and the procedure was repeated again three times. The catalyst was dried under vacuum over night before use and the procedure was repeated.

(R)-2-Methoxy-*N*-(1-phenylethyl)acetamide (**2a**). The reaction was performed according to method A using 1.25 mol% of Pd-AmP-MCF. The product was isolated after column chromatography (SiO₂, pentane/EtOAc 100:0→0:100) and afforded 115 mg (99%) as a white solid in 99% *ee*. Experimental data were in accordance with those previously reported.^{13b} ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 7.38-7.23 (m, 5H), 6.75 (br s, 1H), 5.23-5.14 (m, 1H), 3.95-3.84 (m, 2H), 3.40 (s, 3H), 1.52 (d, 3H, *J* = 7.1 Hz). Chiral GC separation: CP-Chirasil-DEX CB column 125 °C-3 °C/min-160 °C, *t*_{R1} = 11.9 min (*S*), *t*_{R2} = 12.3 (*R*) min.

(R)-2-Methoxy-*N*-(1-*m*-tolylethyl)acetamide (**2b**). The reaction was performed according to method A using 1.25 mol% of Pd-AmP-MCF. The product was isolated after column chromatography (SiO₂, pentane/EtOAc 100:0→0:100) and afforded 108 mg (87%) as a white solid in 99% *ee*. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 7.26-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.15-7.06 (m, 2H), 6.73 (br s, 1H), 5.20-5.10 (m, 1H), 3.95-3.84 (m, 2H), 3.40 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 1.50 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.9 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ = 168.6, 143.1, 138.5, 128.7, 128.3, 127.1, 123.2, 72.1, 59.2, 48.2, 22.1, 21.6. Chiral GC separation: IVADEX-I column 145 °C-2 °C/min-200 °C, *t*_{R1} = 13.7 min (*S*), *t*_{R2} = 14.1 (*R*) min. HRMS (ESI): calc. for [M+Na] C₁₂H₁₇NO₂Na: 230.1151, found 230.1143 [α]_D²⁵ = +99.5 (c 0.2, CHCl₃), 99% *ee*.

(R)-2-Methoxy-*N*-(1-phenylpropyl)acetamide (**2c**). The reaction was performed according to method A using 1.25 mol% of Pd-AmP-MCF. The product was isolated after column chromatography (SiO₂, pentane/EtOAc 100:0→0:100) to give 120 mg (97%) as a white solid in 97% *ee*. Experimental data were in accordance with those previously reported.^{13b} ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 7.37-7.24 (m, 5H), 6.75 (br s, 1H), 4.96-4.89 (m, 1H), 3.96-3.83 (m,

2H), 3.41 (s, 3H), 1.90-1.81 (m, 2H), 0.90 (t, 3H, $J = 7.4$ Hz). Chiral GC separation: IVADEX-I column 140 °C-1 °C/min-200 °C, $t_{R1} = 12.8$ min (*S*), $t_{R2} = 13.0$ min (*R*).

(R)-2-Methoxy-*N*-(1-*p*-tolylethyl)acetamide (**2d**). The reaction was performed according to method A using 1.25 mol% of Pd-AmP-MCF. The product was isolated after column chromatography (SiO₂, pentane/EtOAc 100:0→0:100) in 113 mg (91%) as a white solid in 98% *ee*. Experimental data were in accordance with those previously reported.^{13b} ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): $\delta = 7.24$ -7.13 (m, 4H), 6.71 (br s, 1H), 5.20-5.10 (m, 1H), 3.95-3.83 (m, 2H), 3.39 (s, 3H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 1.50 (d, 3H, $J = 7.2$ Hz). Chiral GC separation: CP-Chirasil-DEX CB column 125 °C-3 °C/min-160 °C, $t_{R1} = 14.5$ min (*S*), $t_{R2} = 14.8$ min (*R*).

(R)-2-Methoxy-*N*-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalen-1-yl)acetamide (**2e**) The reaction was performed according to method A using 1.25 mol% of Pd-AmP-MCF. The product was isolated after column chromatography (SiO₂, pentane/EtOAc 100:0→0:100) in 125 mg (95%) as a white solid in 99% *ee*. Experimental data were in accordance with those previously reported.^{13b} ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): $\delta = 7.28$ -7.25 (m, 1H), 7.20-7.16 (m, 2H), 7.13-7.09 (m, 1H), 6.75 (br s, 1H), 5.28-5.20 (m, 1H), 3.95 (s, 2H), 3.39 (s, 3H), 2.89-2.72 (m, 2H), 2.14-2.02 (m, 1H), 1.90-1.78 (m, 3H). Chiral GC separation: CP-Chirasil-DEX CB column 125 °C-20 °C/min-150 °C-0.5 °C/min-163 °C, $t_{R1} = 18.5$ min (*S*), $t_{R2} = 18.9$ min (*R*).

(R)-2-Methoxy-*N*-(1-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethyl)acetamide (**2f**). The reaction was performed according to method B using 2.5 mol% of Pd-AmP-MCF. The product was isolated after column chromatography (SiO₂, pentane/EtOAc 100:0→0:100) in 129 mg (96%) as a white solid in 99% *ee*. Experimental data were in accordance with those previously reported.^{13b} ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): $\delta = 7.29$ -7.22 (m, 2H), 6.91-6.84 (m, 2H), 6.69 (br s, 1H), 5.19-5.09 (m, 1H), 3.94-3.83 (m, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.39 (s, 3H) 1.50 (d, 3H, $J = 6.8$ Hz). Chiral

GC separation: IVADEX-I column 140 °C-1 °C/min-200 °C, t_{R1} = 21.8 min (*S*), t_{R2} = 22.3 (*R*) min.

(R)-2-Methoxy-*N*-(1-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethyl)acetamide (**2g**). The reaction was performed according to method B using 2.5 mol% of Pd-AmP-MCF. The product was isolated after column chromatography (SiO₂, pentane/EtOAc 100:0→0:100) in 140 mg (89%) as a white solid in 97% *ee*. Experimental data were in accordance with those previously reported.^{13b} ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ = 7.59 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.3 Hz), 7.43 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.3 Hz), 6.77 (br s, 1H), 5.24-5.17 (m, 1H), 3.95-3.85 (m, 2H), 3.42 (s, 3H), 1.53 (d, 3H, *J* = 7.0 Hz) Chiral GC separation: IVADEX-I column 145 °C-2 °C/min-200 °C, t_{R1} = 10.6 min (*S*), t_{R2} = 11.4 (*R*) min.

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Supporting information

Includes an investigation of the back ground chemical amidation, ¹H-NMR of **2a-2f** and ¹³C-NMR of **2b** as well as GC chromatograms of compound **2a-2f**. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org/>.

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TOC

