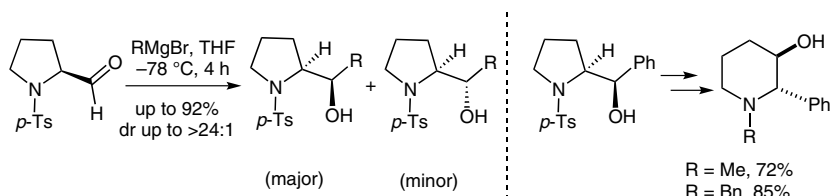


Highly Stereoselective Syntheses of Proline-Derived Vicinal Amino Alcohols through Grignard Addition onto *N*-Tosylprolinal

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Abstract A highly diastereoselective Grignard addition to *N*-tosyl-L-prolinal has been developed to deliver a variety of proline-derived vicinal amino alcohols in good to excellent yields with high diastereoselectivities. A similar selectivity was also obtained by using *N*-tosyl-D-prolinal. The methodology has been applied to the synthesis of medicinally important 3-hydroxy-2-phenylpiperidines.

Key words prolinol, Grignard addition, diastereoselectivity, aziridinium ion, natural products

L-Proline-derived vicinal amino alcohols constitute a large class of enantioenriched scaffolds that are widely used in organic synthesis and catalysis.¹ These 1,2-amino alcohols have received considerable interest because of their efficiency as ligands in organometallic chemistry.² They are also structural targets in several natural products with important biological properties such as dolastatin 10,³ which is a highly cytotoxic antineoplastic agent for cancer chemotherapy, symprostins 1 and 3,⁴ which have tumor-selective cytotoxic properties, and maleamide D⁵ and isodolastatin H,⁵ which have highly cytotoxic properties. Various

auristatins⁶ derived from L-prolinol that are synthetic analogues of the antineoplastic natural product dolastatin 10,³ are also important in the field of antibody drug conjugates.^{7,8} The pseudotetrapeptide protioenol lactone **1a** (Figure 1) is reported to be a potential alternate substrate for the inhibition of human leukocyte elastase.⁹ Quinoline-based L-prolinol derivative **1b** is reported to be a new class of disruptors of biofilm formation in *V. cholerae*.¹⁰ They are also common structural motifs of pyrrolizidine alkaloids¹¹ and phenanthroindolizidine alkaloids such as tylophoridicine E (**1c**) (Figure 1).¹²

Functionalized chiral piperidines are found in wide range of alkaloids and synthetic compounds showing a diverse range of biological activities (Scheme 1). Among these, 2-phenylpiperidin-3-ol derivatives **3a** and **3b** are vital for high-affinity binding to the human NK-1 receptor because they act as precursors of non-peptidic NK-1 receptor antagonists such as (+)-L-733,060 (**5a**),¹³ (+)-GR-205,171 (**5b**),¹⁴ and (+)-CP-99,994 (**5c**)¹⁵ possessing a *cis*-relationship between the phenyl and the ether or amine group on the piperidine ring (Scheme 1). Furthermore, 3-hydroxy pipecolic acids **4a** and **4b**¹⁶ are also significant chiral building blocks for the synthesis of biologically active natural products such as tetrazomine (**8**), which exhibits

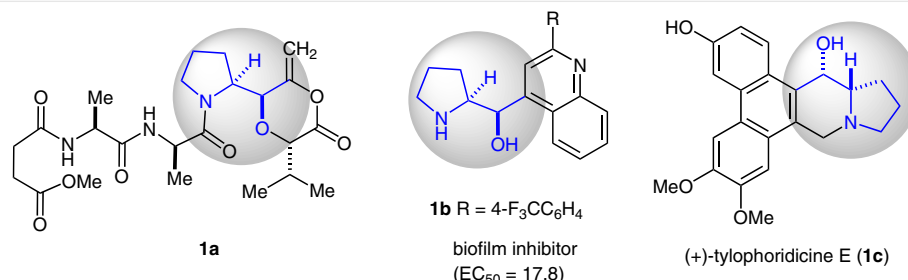
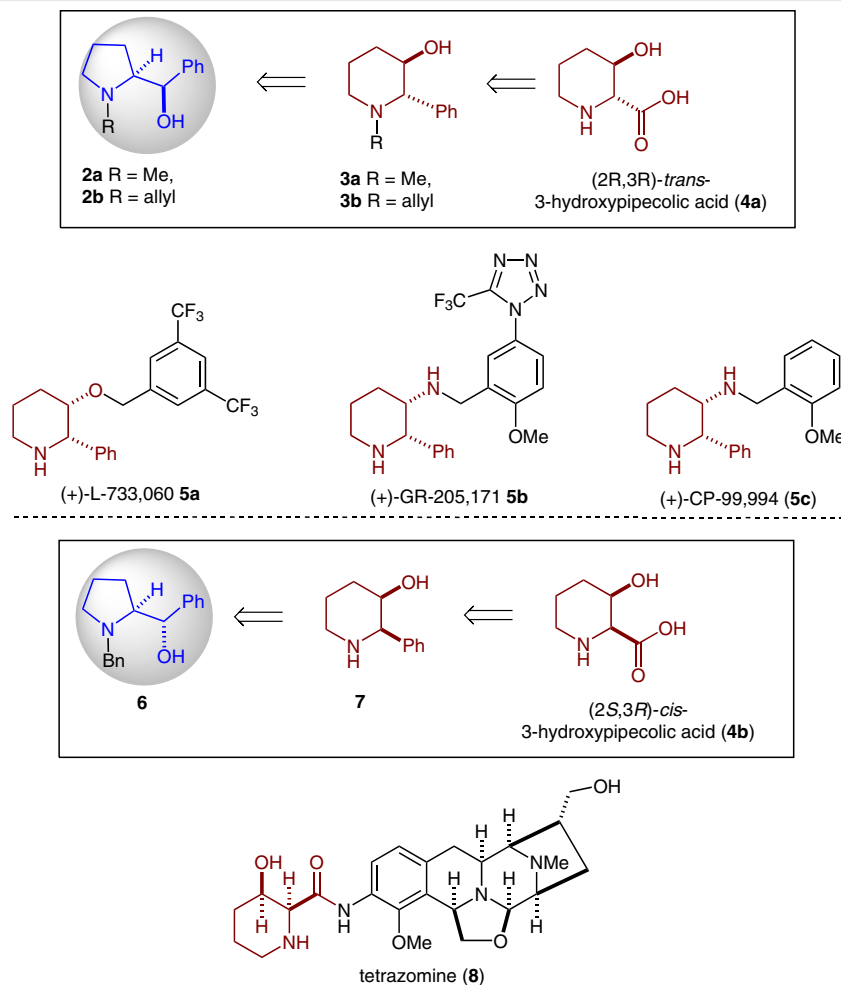


Figure 1 L-Prolinol derived enol lactone (**1a**), biofilm inhibitor (**1b**), and naturally occurring **1c**



Scheme 1 L-Prolinol 2a and 2b, and 2,3-disubstituted piperidines

antitumor and antibiotic properties.¹⁷ Numerous synthetic strategies have been reported for the synthesis of compounds of type 3 and 4.^{16,18} One of the ways to synthesize 2-phenylpiperidin-3-ols 3a, 3b, and 7 is ring expansion of L-prolinol derivatives 2a, 2b, and 6, respectively, via aziridinium ion intermediates,¹⁹ which has been developed extensively by Lee,^{19a} Cossy,^{19b-f} and O'Brien^{19g} (Scheme 1). Nevertheless, a highly stereoselective synthesis of L-prolinol derivatives 2a, 2b, and 6 remains a challenge to the synthetic community.

A survey of previous reports reveals that these prolinol derivatives are generally prepared by nucleophilic addition to N-protected prolinals such as 9a and 9d, bearing a benzyl or a carbalkoxy protecting group on the nitrogen atom (Figure 2). However, the addition of organometallic nucleophiles to aldehyde 9a²⁰ usually results in lower diastereoselectivities. The same behavior is observed with aldehydes 9b,²¹ 9c,²² and 9d.²³ However, good stereoselectivities can

be achieved by means of double diastereoselection.²⁴ L-Prolinol 9e, having an acid-sensitive N-trityl group, is reported to be good substrate for 1,2-addition of organometallic reagents.^{25,10} Herein, we report the use of L-prolinol (10) and D-prolinol (*ent*-10), having an N-tosyl group²⁶ as a stable protecting group, in a highly diastereoselective Grignard addition, and we demonstrate the use of such an approach in organic synthesis.

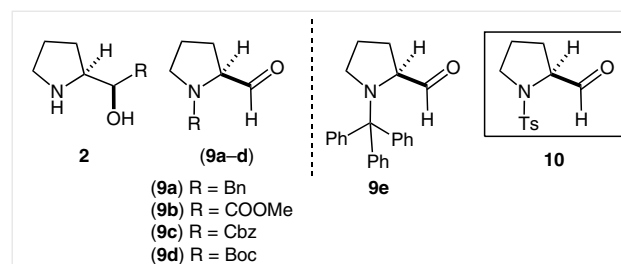
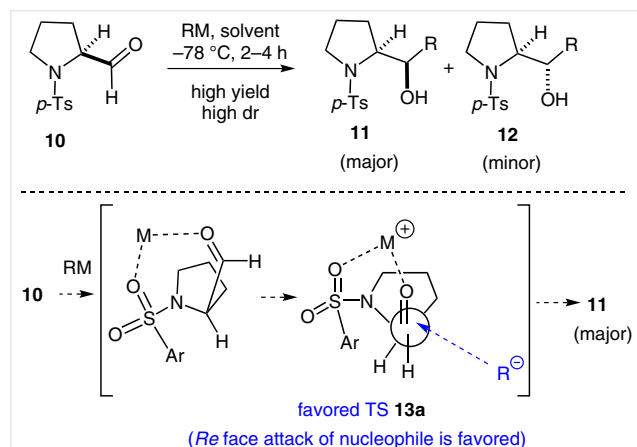


Figure 2 L-Prolinol (2) and N-protected L-prolinals 9a-e and 10

The proposed transition state of Grignard addition is shown in Scheme 2. We envisioned that the *p*-tolyl group of sulfonamide **10** adopts a position *trans* to the carbonyl moiety, thereby allowing metal coordination of the carbonyl oxygen and sulfonyl oxygen atoms (Scheme 2). In this situation, Grignard addition onto *N*-tosyl-L-prolinal (**10**) would follow a favored *Re*-face approach of nucleophile to afford L-prolinol **11** as the major product via **13a** as an organized transition state (TS) (Scheme 2).



Scheme 2 Proposed rationale for the observed diastereoselectivity

As proposed, at the outset, we carried out a large-scale synthesis of *N*-tosyl-L-prolinal (**10**) from L-proline in 87% overall yield starting from L-proline, as shown in Scheme 3. We found that direct reduction of **14c** afforded only 69% yield of *N*-tosyl-L-prolinal (**10**). Thus, we adopted a two-step synthesis of **10** from ester **14c** involving reduction of the ester using LiAlH₄ followed by Swern oxidation (Scheme 3).

With *N*-tosyl-L-prolinal **10** in hand, we then carried out PhMgBr addition to **10** in different solvents and at different temperatures (Table 1). After optimization (entries 1–8), we found that the reaction afforded **15a** as the major diastereomer in up to 92% yield with ca. 24:1 dr, when it was carried out in THF at –78 °C (entry 8). The X-ray crystal structure of **15a** unambiguously proved the formation of the major diastereoisomer (Figure 3).

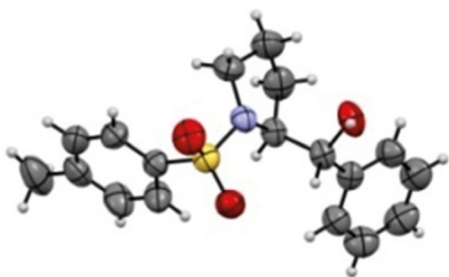
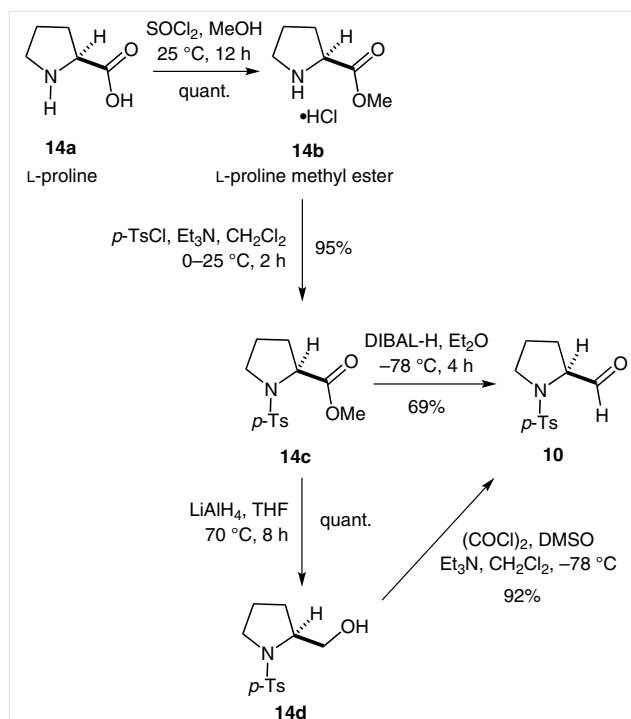
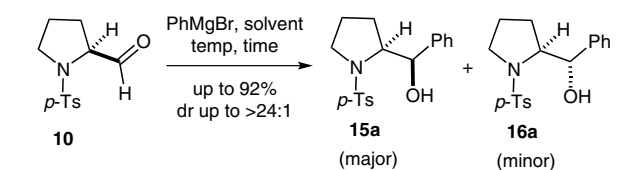


Figure 3 X-ray crystal structure of **15a** (CCDC 1405916)



Scheme 3 Synthesis of *N*-tosylprolinol **10**

Table 1 Optimization of PhMgBr Addition to **10**^a



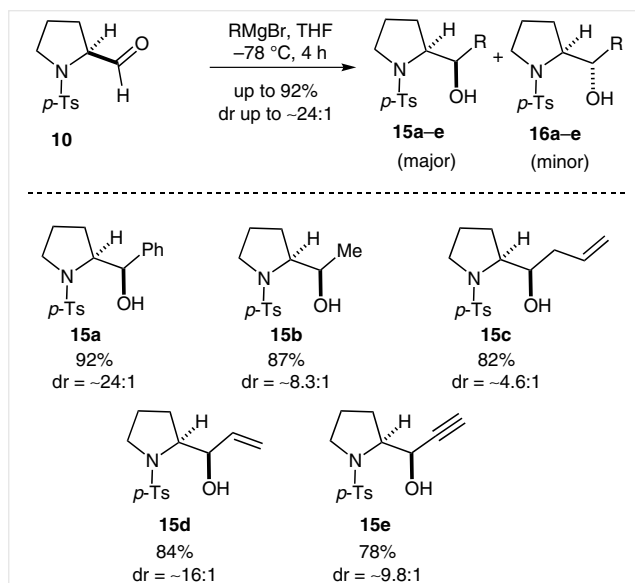
Entry	Solvent	Temp (°C)	Time (h)	Yield (%) ^b	dr
1	THF	0	1	89	ca. 10:1
2	Et ₂ O	0	1	75	ca. 9:1
3	THF	–10	2	81	ca. 12:1
4	Et ₂ O	–10	2	70	ca. 10:1
5	THF	–30	3	82	ca. 15:1
6	THF	–50	3	84	ca. 16:1
7	THF	–70	3	86	ca. 20:1
8	THF	–78	4	92	ca. 24:1

^a Reaction conditions: **10** (1.0 mmol), PhMgBr (1.3 equiv), THF (4 mL).

^b Isolated yield after column chromatography.

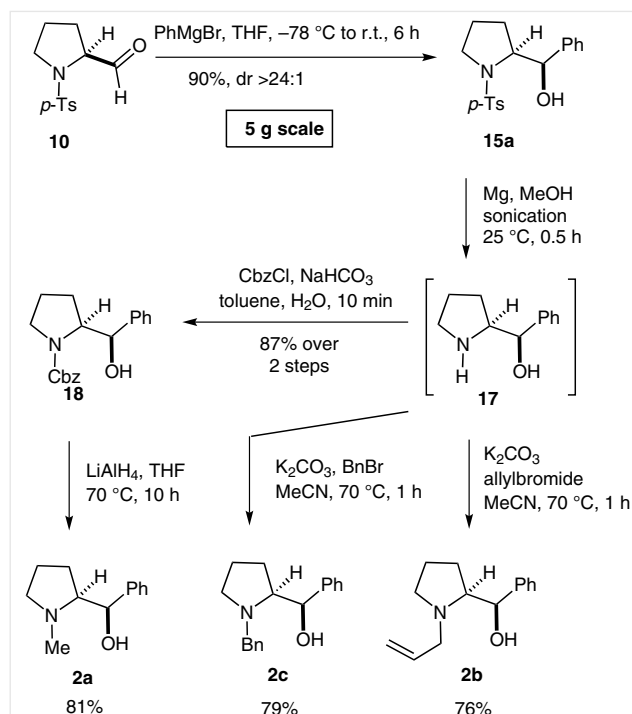
Interestingly, PhMgBr addition to *N*-tosyl-L-prolinal **10** could be carried out on a 5 g scale, which afforded major diastereomer **15a** with similar efficiency (90% yield with ca. 24:1 dr). We then tested Grignard reagent addition to *N*-tosyl-L-prolinal **10** (Scheme 4). To our delight, methyl and allylmagnesium bromide addition afforded products **15b** and **15c** in 82–87% yields with up to ca. 8.3:1 dr.^{27,28} Vinylmag-

nesium bromide addition also furnished product **15d** in 84% isolated yield with ca. 16:1 dr. Importantly, products **15c** and **15d** could be used as starting material for the synthesis of a variety of pyrrolizidine alkaloids that are of immense biological importance.^{29,30} Under the optimized conditions, ethynylmagnesium bromide also added to *N*-tosyl-L-prolinal **10** to afford product **15e** in 78% yield with ca. 9.8:1 dr. The latter can be utilized in organic synthesis by exploiting the reactivity of the acetylinic functionality.



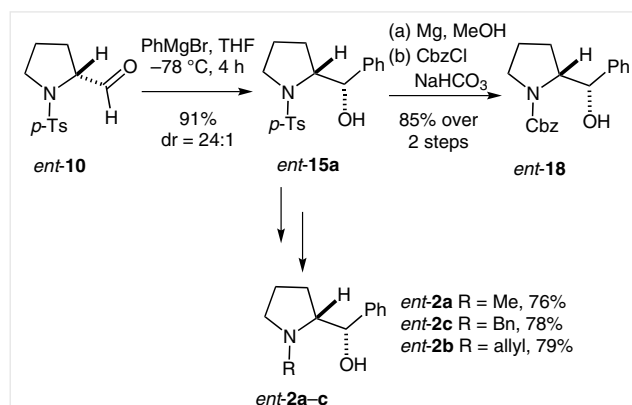
Scheme 4 Substrate scope of 1,2-addition. Reagents and conditions: **10** (1.0 mmol), Grignard reagent (1.3 equiv), THF (5 mL), -78 °C. Isolated yield after column chromatography.

To make the strategy more synthetically useful, we became interested in cleaving the *N*-tosyl protecting group of **15a**. To this end, **15a** was treated with Mg in MeOH to afford secondary aminoalcohol **17**, which was further reacted with CbzCl to afford **18** in 87% yield in two steps. Carbamate **18** was reduced in the presence of lithium aluminum hydride to afford aminoalcohol **2a** in 81% yield (Scheme 5). In another sequence, crude amino alcohol **17** was reacted directly with alkylhalides in the presence of K₂CO₃ in acetonitrile to afford aminoalcohols **2b** and **2c** in 76 and 79% yield, respectively. Interestingly, (2*S*,3*R*)-2-phenyl-3-hydroxypiperidine is known to be an intermediate for the synthesis of (2*R*,3*R*)-*trans*-3-hydroxypipercolic acid **4a** (Scheme 1) as reported by Cossy et al.^{19c}



Scheme 5 Stereoselective syntheses of proline-based vicinal aminoalcohols **2a-c**

Furthermore, to access enantiomeric pairs of proline-based vicinal aminoalcohols **2a-c**, we synthesized *N*-tosyl-D-prolinal *ent*-**10** from D-proline by following the route presented in Scheme 3 (see the Supporting Information for details). As expected, phenylmagnesium addition to *N*-tosyl-D-prolinal *ent*-**10** afforded *ent*-**15a** with similar efficiency (Scheme 6). Vicinal aminoalcohol *ent*-**15a** was further elaborated to access *ent*-**18** and *ent*-**2a-c** with similar efficiencies (see the Supporting Information for details).



Scheme 6 Stereoselective synthesis of *ent*-**2a-c** from D-proline

In conclusion, *N*-tosyl-L-prolinal **10**³¹ has been identified as a good substrate for 1,2-addition of Grignard reagents to afford a variety of vicinal amino alcohols **15a–c**. The *N*-tosyl group of **15a** can be removed efficiently by using Mg in MeOH at room temperature to afford *N*-alkyl aminoalcohols **2a–c**. We have also synthesized *ent*-**2a–c** with similar efficiency from *N*-tosyl-D-prolinal *ent*-**10**. These substrates are important precursors for the synthesis of 2,3-disubstituted piperidines. Further studies to extend the application of this methodology to the synthesis of naturally occurring alkaloids are currently under active investigations in our laboratory.

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Supporting Information

Supporting information for this article is available online at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1055/s-0035-1560802>.

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- (28) **Addition of Grignard Reagents to the Aldehyde; General Procedure:** To a stirred solution of crude **10** (253 mg, 1.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in anhydrous THF at -78°C was added RMgBr (1.3 mmol, 1.3 equiv) slowly over a period of 5 min, and stirring was continued for 4 h. The reaction was quenched with sat. aq. NH_4Cl (2 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3×20 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude mixture was purified by column chromatography to afford the desired product **15**.
- (R)-Phenyl [(S)-1-Tosylpyrrolidin-2-yl] methanol [(–)-15a]:** White crystalline solid; R_f 0.51 (EtOAc–hexane, 20%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.74 (d, J = 8.25 Hz, 2 H), 7.38 (m, 2 H), 7.29–7.32 (m, 4 H), 7.20–7.24 (m, 1 H), 5.22 (m, 1 H), 3.76–3.80 (m, 1 H), 3.29–3.35 (m, 2 H), 3.21–3.27 (m, 1 H), 2.39 (s, 3 H), 1.77–1.86 (m, 1 H), 1.51–1.60 (m, 1 H), 1.14–1.32 (m, 2 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 143.9, 140.6, 134.0, 129.9, 128.2, 127.7, 127.4, 126.2, 75.0, 66.1, 50.6, 25.7, 24.4, 21.6. IR (film): 3499, 3120, 2980, 1795, 1654, 1560, 1510, 1499, 1475, 1460, 930, 750 cm^{-1} . HRMS (ESI): m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $[\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_3\text{S}]^+$: 332.1315; found: 332.1333. $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20.7}$ -156.4 (c = 0.042, MeOH).
- (R)-1-[(S)-1-Tosylpyrrolidin-2-yl]ethanol [(–)-15b]:** Colorless oil; R_f 0.40 (EtOAc–hexane, 20%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.68 (d, J = 8.12 Hz, 2 H), 7.29 (d, J = 8.01 Hz, 2 H), 4.15 (m, 1 H), 3.44–3.48 (m, 1 H), 3.27–3.37 (m, 2 H), 2.67 (br, 1 H), 2.39 (s, 3 H), 1.67–1.87 (m, 2 H), 1.50–1.62 (m, 1 H), 1.22–1.31 (m, 1 H), 1.12 (d, J = 6.45 Hz, 3 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 143.8, 134.1, 129.8, 127.6, 69.0, 65.8, 50.5, 26.1, 24.5, 21.5, 18.4. IR (film): 3503, 1654, 1561, 1402, 1331, 1159, 1059, 983, 662 cm^{-1} . HRMS (ESI): m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $[\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_3\text{S}]^+$: 270.1158; found: 270.1181. $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{22.2}$ -64.6 (c = 0.47, CH_2Cl_2).
- (R)-1-[(S)-1-Tosylpyrrolidin-2-yl]but-3-en-1-ol [(–)-15c]:** Colorless oil; R_f 0.43 (EtOAc–hexane, 20%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.67 (d, J = 8.23 Hz, 2 H), 7.29 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 5.80–5.90 (m, 1 H), 5.07–5.13 (m, 2 H), 4.05–4.09 (m, 1 H), 3.49–3.53 (m, 1 H), 3.26–3.38 (m, 2 H), 2.39 (s, 3 H), 2.14–2.26 (m, 2 H), 1.83–1.92 (m, 1 H), 1.70–1.77 (m, 1 H), 1.50–1.58 (m, 1 H), 1.22–1.31 (m, 1 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 143.7, 134.8, 134.1, 129.8, 127.7, 127.6, 117.4, 72.2, 64.4, 50.3, 37.8, 25.8, 24.6, 21.5. HRMS (ESI): m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $[\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_3\text{S}]^+$: 296.1315; found: 296.1336. $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{22.8}$ -90.3 (c = 0.43, CH_2Cl_2).
- (R)-1-[(S)-1-Tosylpyrrolidin-2-yl]prop-2-en-1-ol [(–)-15d]:** Colorless gel; R_f 0.49 (EtOAc–hexane, 20%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.69–7.71 (m, 2 H), 7.30 (d, J = 7.95 Hz, 2 H), 5.79–5.86 (m, 1 H), 5.30–5.36 (dt, J = 17.27, 1.58 Hz, 1 H), 5.17–5.21 (dt, J = 10.56, 1.55 Hz, 1 H), 4.46 (br, 1 H), 3.59–3.63 (m, 1 H), 3.26–3.39 (m, 2 H), 2.96 (d, J = 4.61 Hz, 1 H), 2.4 (s, 3 H), 1.70–1.83 (m, 2 H), 1.53–1.62 (m, 1 H), 1.22–1.30 (m, 1 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 143.9, 136.4, 134.0, 129.8, 127.6, 116.8, 74.5, 64.6, 50.6, 26.7, 24.5, 21.5. IR (film): 3584, 3099, 2981, 2059, 1870, 1655, 1544, 1474, 1154, 933 cm^{-1} . HRMS (ESI): m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $[\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_3\text{S}]^+$: 282.1158; found: 282.1178. $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{27.0}$ -102.24 (c = 0.0352, MeOH).
- (R)-1-[(S)-1-Tosylpyrrolidin-2-yl]prop-2-yn-1-ol [(–)-15e]:** White crystalline solid; R_f 0.47 (EtOAc–hexane, 20%). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.71 (d, J = 8.07 Hz, 2 H), 7.31 (d, J = 7.97 Hz, 2 H), 4.67 (br, 1 H), 3.67–3.70 (m, 1 H), 3.45–3.50 (m, 1 H), 3.42 (br s, 1 H), 3.29–3.34 (m, 1 H), 2.43 (d, J = 1.96 Hz, 1 H), 2.42 (s, 3 H), 1.96–2.0 (m, 1 H), 1.85–1.93 (m, 1 H), 1.73–1.80 (m, 1 H), 1.70 (m, 1 H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 144.0, 133.9, 129.9, 127.6, 81.8, 74.4, 65.3, 64.3, 50.9, 27.9, 24.5, 21.6. IR (film): 3500, 3110, 2270, 1460, 1420, 1339, 1158, 1094 cm^{-1} . HRMS (ESI): m/z $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ calcd for $[\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_3\text{S} + \text{Na}]^+$: 302.0821; found: 302.0845. $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20.7}$ -105 (c = 0.042, MeOH).
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