Article

Cyclopropanation of 5-(1-Bromo-2-phenyl-vinyl)-3-methyl-4-nitro-isoxazoles under Phase Transfer Catalysis (PTC) Conditions

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Abstract: Heavily substituted cyclopropane esters were prepared in high yields, complete
diastereoselection and average (up to 58%) enantioselectivity. The reaction described
herein entailed reacting 4-nitro-5-bromostyrylisoxazoles, a class of powerful Michael
acceptors with malonate esters under the catalysis of 5 mol% of a chincona derived
phase-transfer catalyst.

Keywords: phase transfer catalysis; styrylisoxazoles; Michael initiated ring closing reactions

1. Introduction

3-Methyl-4-Nitro-5-styrylisoxazoles 1 [1–9] and 2 [3] (Scheme 1) represent two types of
dpolyfunctional scaffold which hold excellent potential for the generation of diversity (Figure 1) [1–9].
Scheme 1. Preparation of cyclopropanes 7 via Michael-initiated ring closure (MIRC) processes of 1 and 2.

Figure 1. Polyfunctional scaffolds 1 and 2.

Compounds 1 and 2 can be readily prepared from commercially available 3,5-dimethyl-4-nitroisoxazole 3 and aromatic aldehydes 4 (Figure 1) [10]. It has been shown that compounds 1 and 2 can be considered as cinnamate equivalents where the 4-nitro-isoxazole core can be hydrolyzed to give a carboxylate [11].

It is also noteworthy that compounds 1 and 2 have enhanced reactivity compared to cinnamates due to conjugation of the nitro group at position C-4 of the isoxazole core. Furthermore, compounds 1 have two electrophilic centers that can be selectively reacted. Enolates, which are stabilized soft nucleophiles, react at the soft electrophilic center E2, whereas hard nucleophiles such as hydroxide react exclusively at the hard electrophilic center E1 (Figure 1) [1–9,12–14].

Interestingly, isoxazoles 2 (Figure 1), in which a halide is introduced on the exocyclic alkene, hold an additional electrophilic center E3 that increases the number of their possible synthetic applications [3].

For instance, the alkenyl halide moiety in scaffold 2 could be employed in various transition metal-mediated C-C bond forming reactions including Heck, Sonogashira and related reactions to access dienes or enynes. Cyclopropanes are found in many biologically active molecules [15,16] and hold a unique combination of reactivity and structural properties. It is not surprising, therefore, that stereoselective cyclopropanation has been intensively investigated and enantioselective procedures for the Simmons-Smith reaction and other organometallic-based catalyses reported [17]. Pioneered by Aggarwal and Dai, [18–22] the affirmation of organocatalysis [23,24] delivered a number of high enantioselective cyclopropanation protocols, for example those reported by Gaunt [25–29] and MacMillan [30]. Recently, Michael Initiated Ring Closing (MIRC) processes appeared in the literature [31–40], particularly by W. Wang, [33] Cordova, [34] Y. Wang, [38] Yan, [39] and Tiecco. [40] These methodologies gave densely substituted cyclopropanes in good yields and good to excellent diastereo- and enantio-selectivity. Cyclopropanation has been scarcely studied under phase transfer catalysis [41] with Shiori’s [42] and our group [43] providing the only two known examples of high enantioselective procedures. Cyclopropanation reactions which involves a conjugate addition to an electrophilic alkene to produce an enolate, which then subsequently undergoes an intramolecular ring
catalysts, are defined as Michael-initiated ring closure (MIRC) reactions. Two types of substrates/reactants can give rise to MIRC reactions.

The first type involves formation of cyclopropanes such as 7 (Scheme 1) via Michael addition of a nucleophile containing a leaving group to an activated alkene. For example, our group has recently reported a highly enantioselective cyclopropanation of 3-methyl-4-nitro-5-styrylisoxazoles 1 that reacted with bromomalonate 6 under the catalysis of Cinchona based phase transfer catalysts [43]. The second type of MIRC processes involves the formation of cyclopropanes by nucleophilic addition to electrophilic substrates containing a leaving group, for example a bromide as in compound 2. Herein we report the results of our studies on the reaction of bromostyreneisoxazoles 2 and malonate 5 under the catalysis of Cinchona based phase transfer catalysts.

2. Results and Discussion

We first investigated the addition of dimethyl malonate 5a to 2a in the presence of K₃PO₄ 50% w/w as inorganic base, toluene as organic solvent and quaternary ammonium salts derived from Cinchona alkaloids as catalysts (Table 1). The choice of toluene and phosphate arose from a preliminary screening which identified these as the most suitable condition to obtain desired cyclopropane 7 in high yields.

These experiments afforded cyclopropane 7a with in high conversion even with only 0.05 equiv. of catalyst loading, but with enantioselectivity up to a maximum of 42%. Importantly, cyclopropane 7a was always obtained as a single diastereoisomer. The higher enantiomeric excess was obtained with catalyst N-benzylquininium chloride (Table 1, entry 1). The second generation catalyst O-Allyl-N-9-anthracenylmethylcinchonidinium bromide, provided high yields of desired 7a, but in an almost racemic form (Table 2, entry 5). The reason for this may lay in the peculiar mode of action of these catalytic species (see Figure 2) in which a free OH is required to provide a key H-bond with the enolate. [43] Based on the results collected on N-benzylquininium catalyst series, a series of N-benzylquininium salts was prepared containing various functional groups at the benzyl ortho-position and employed as catalysts to promote the Michael addition. These catalysts provided cyclopropane 7a in similar enantioselectivity as commercially available N-benzylquininium chloride (Table 1, entries 6-9).

In order to increase the enantioselectivity of this reaction, compound 2a was reacted with malonates bearing alkyl groups of increasing steric hindrance (Table 2); diethyl malonate 5b furnished cyclopropane 9 in 40% ee (Table 2, entry 2); the use of bulkier nucleophiles, such as diisopropyl malonate, dibenzyl malonate and diphenyl malonate provided compounds 11–13 in lower enantioselectivity (Table 2, entries 3–5).

Table 1. Representative results from the screening of Cinchona derived catalysts
Table 1. Cont.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry [a]</th>
<th>Catalyst</th>
<th>Time/h</th>
<th>Conv. % of 2a [b]</th>
<th>ee% of 7a [c]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Catalyst" /></td>
<td>48</td>
<td>&gt;90%</td>
<td>−42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Catalyst" /></td>
<td>48</td>
<td>&lt;60%</td>
<td>−20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Catalyst" /></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>&gt;95%</td>
<td>+36</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td><img src="image4" alt="Catalyst" /></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>&gt;90%</td>
<td>+10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><img src="image5" alt="Catalyst" /></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>&gt;90%</td>
<td>+4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td><img src="image6" alt="Catalyst" /></td>
<td>48</td>
<td>&gt;95%</td>
<td>−40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td><img src="image7" alt="Catalyst" /></td>
<td>48</td>
<td>&gt;95%</td>
<td>−26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td><img src="image8" alt="Catalyst" /></td>
<td>48</td>
<td>&gt;95%</td>
<td>−24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td><img src="image9" alt="Catalyst" /></td>
<td>48</td>
<td>&gt;95%</td>
<td>−29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[a] Conditions: Bromostyrylisoxazole 2a (0.1 mmol), malonate 5a (0.2 mmol), cat. (0.005 mmol), K₃PO₄ 50% w/w (1 mmol), toluene (1 mL), r.t.  [b] Conversions were determined by NMR analysis.  [c] The enantiomeric excess (ee) of the products was determined by chiral stationary phase HPLC.
Table 2. Catalytic (MIRC) reaction of 2a with dialkyl malonates \[a\].

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Time/h</th>
<th>Conv. of 2a [b]</th>
<th>ee% [c]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Me</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>&gt;95%</td>
<td>−42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Et</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>&gt;95%</td>
<td>−40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>iPr</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>&lt;70%</td>
<td>−26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Bn</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>&gt;95%</td>
<td>−30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ph</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>&gt;95%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[a\] Conditions: Bromostyrylisoxazole 2a (0.1 mmol), malonate 5a-e (0.2 mmol), cat. (0.005 mmol), K\(_3\)PO\(_4\) 50% w/w (1 mmol), toluene (1 mL), r.t.  
\[b\] Conversions were determined by NMR analysis.  
\[c\] The enantiomeric excess (ee) of the products was determined by chiral stationary phase HPLC.

The scope of reaction was shown by reacting styrylisoxazoles 2a-i with methyl malonate 5a under the catalysis of 14 (Table 3). The results collected pointed out the following facts: (i) compounds containing either electron withdrawing or electron donating groups were equally good substrates; (ii) substrates containing aromatic heterocycles were also good substrates giving products 7e in excellent yields and similar enantiomeric excess (Table 3, entries 7); (iii) alkyl substituted isoxazole 1i reacted equally well giving aliphatic cyclopropane 7i in comparable yield and ee.

Table 3. Catalytic Asymmetric cyclopropanation of bromostyrylisoxazoles 2a–i with dimethyl malonate \[a\].

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>Prod.</th>
<th>Time/h</th>
<th>Yield [%] [b]</th>
<th>ee [%] [c]</th>
<th>Isomer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>C(_6)H(_5)</td>
<td>7a</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>(−)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4-OCH(_3)-C(_6)H(_5)</td>
<td>7b</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>(−)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2,3-Cl(_2)-C(_6)H(_3)</td>
<td>7c</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>(−)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2-Cl- C(_6)H(_4)</td>
<td>7d</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>(−)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2-thienyl</td>
<td>7e</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>(−)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2-OMe- C(_6)H(_4)</td>
<td>7f</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>(−)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>2-Br- C(_6)H(_4)</td>
<td>7g</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>(−)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>2,4-OMe- C(_6)H(_3)</td>
<td>7h</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>(−)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>n-heptyl</td>
<td>7i</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>(−)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[a\] Reaction Conditions: bromostyrylisoxazole 2a-i (0.1 mmol), toluene (5.0 mL), cat. 14 (0.005mmol), dimethyl malonate 5a (0.2 mmol), K\(_3\)PO\(_4\) 50% w/w (1 mmol).  
\[b\] Isolated yields after flash column chromatography.  
\[c\] The enantiomeric excess (ee) of the product was determined by chiral stationary phase HPLC.
We have compared the data collected for the reaction of 1 and 6 [14] with those for the reaction of 2 and malonate 5 and explained the observed difference in enantioselectivity as follows (Figure 2). Firstly, the requirement for a free -OH on the phase transfer catalyst indicates the interaction of this group with one of the two reagents involved, presumably the enolate. It is well known that 1-N-C₆H behaves as strong hydrogen bond donors. [44] Therefore, it is possible that in apolar media such as toluene an interaction could take place between the catalyst 1-N-C₆H and the nitro group of the styrylisoxazole. According to this rationale, the bromine in compounds 2 shielded the NO₂, limiting its interaction with the PTC as it may occur for compounds 1, hence justifying the lower enantioselectivity observed.

![Figure 2. Proposed transition states for the cyclopropanation of 1 and 2.](image)

### 3. Experimental Section

**General procedure for the preparation of compounds 7a–i:** To a test tube equipped with a magnetic stirring bar were sequentially added the bromostyrylisoxazole 2a–1 (0.1 mmol), toluene (1.0 mL), catalyst 14 (5 mol%) and malonate 5a–e (0.2 mmol). The test tube was placed at the stated temperature, then K₃PO₄ 50% w/w was added in one portion (0.28 mL, 1.0 mmol). The mixture was then vigorously stirred at the same temperature, with no precautions to exclude moisture or air. After the stated reaction time, the reaction was then quenched with sat. NH₄Cl (4 mL) and the product extracted with toluene (3 × 1 mL). The combined organic phases were evaporated and the product was then purified by chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc mixtures).

**2-(3-Methyl-4-nitro-isoaxazol-5-yl)-3-phenyl-cyclopropane-1,1-dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester 7a:** Rt = 0.1 (petroleum ether : EtOAc, 95:5); IR (neat/cm⁻¹): 2999 w, 2955 w, 2875 w, 1749 s, 1550 s; ee determined by CSP-HPLC using a Chiralpak AD column (n-hexane/i-PrOH 90:10, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, t₁= 14.95 min, t₂ = 13.86 min. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.25 (Ar-H, m, 5H), 4.19 (Is-CH, d, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz), 3.89 (Ar-CH, d, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz), 3.67 (CO₂CH₃, s, 3H), 3.43 (CO₂CH₃, s, 3H), 2.51 (Is-CH₃, s, 3H); ¹³C-NMR (100.6 MHz): 167.57, 165.25, 163.94, 154.99, 151.03, 130.5, 127.56, 127.44, 127.25, 52.48, 52.05, 43.81, 35.28, 25.25, 10.59; HRMS: m/z found [M + Na]⁺ 383.0858, C₁₇H₁₆N₂O₇Na requires 383.0855, m/z: 383 (100%, [M + Na]⁺).
2-(4-Methoxy-phenyl)-3-(methyl-4-nitro-isoxazol-5-yl)-cyclopropane-1,1-dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester 7b: \( R_t = 0.1 \) (petroleum ether:EtOAc, 75:25); IR (neat)/cm\(^{-1}\): 2999 w, 2954 w, 1750 s, 1558 s; ee determined by CSP-HPLC using a Chiralpak AD column (n-hexane/iPrOH 80:20, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, \( t_1 = 18.06 \) min, \( t_2 = 14.31 \) min. \(^1\)H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)): 7.16 (Ar-H, d, 2H, \( J = 8.0 \) Hz), 6.78 (Ar-H, d, 2H, \( J = 8.0 \) Hz), 4.14 (Is-CH, d, 1H, \( J = 8.4 \) Hz), 3.83 (Ar-CH, d, 1H, \( J = 8.4 \) Hz), 3.72 (CO\(_2\)CH\(_3\), s, 3H), 3.66 (CO\(_2\)CH\(_3\), s, 3H), 3.46 (Ar-OCH\(_3\), s, 3H), 2.50 (Is-CH\(_3\), s, 3H); \(^13\)C-NMR (100.6 MHz): 168.8, 166.4, 165.1, 159.5, 156.0, 131.0, 129.6, 123.9, 114.0, 55.3, 53.5, 53.1, 44.9, 35.9, 26.4, 11.6; HRMS: \( m/z \) found: [M + Na]\(^+\) 413.0959, C\(_{18}\)H\(_{18}\)N\(_2\)O\(_8\)Na requires 413.0961, \( m/z \) 413 (100%, [M + Na]\(^+\)).

Dimethyl 2-(2,3-dichlorophenyl)-3-(methyl-4-nitroisoxazol-5-yl)cyclopropane-1,1-dicarboxylate 7c: \( R_t = 0.2 \) (petroleum ether:EtOAc, 80:20); IR (neat)/cm\(^{-1}\): 3005 w, 2931 w, 1740 s, 1561 s; ee was determined by CSP-HPLC using a Chiralpak AD column (n-hexane/iPrOH 80:20, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, \( t_1 = 10.98 \) min, \( t_2 = 8.98 \) min. \(^1\)H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)): 7.46–7.43 (m, 1H), 7.22–7.21 (m, 2H), 4.29 (d, \( J = 8.4 \) Hz, 1H), 4.00 (d, \( J = 8.4 \) Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.58 (s, 3H), 2.58 (s, 3H); \(^13\)C-NMR (100.6 MHz): 168.1, 165.8, 165.2, 156.2, 134.1, 133.6, 132.9, 130.6, 128.2, 127.3, 53.7, 53.5, 44.4, 35.8, 29.8, 27.2, 11.7; IR (NaCl)/cm\(^{-1}\): 1754 s, 1518 s; HRMS: \( m/z \) found [M+H]\(^+\) 429.0266, C\(_{17}\)H\(_{15}\)N\(_2\)O\(_3\)Cl requires 429.0256.

Dimethyl 2-(2-chlorophenyl)-3-(methyl-4-nitroisoxazol-5-yl)cyclopropane-1,1-dicarboxylate 7d: \( R_t = 0.3 \) (petroleum ether:EtOAc, 80:20); IR (neat)/cm\(^{-1}\): 3016 w, 2901 w, 1745 s, 1569 s; ee was determined by CSP-HPLC using a Chiralpak AD column (n-hexane/iPrOH 90:10, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, \( t_1 = 14.50 \) min, \( t_2 = 12.97 \) min. \(^1\)H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)): 7.41–7.39 (m, 1H), 7.31–7.27 (m, 3H), 4.31 (d, \( J = 8.0 \) Hz, 1H), 4.01 (d, \( J = 8.4 \) Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.55 (s, 3H), 2.58 (s, 3H); \(^13\)C-NMR (100.6 MHz): 168.5, 166.0, 165.3, 156.2, 135.8, 130.6, 129.9, 129.8, 129.7, 126.9, 53.6, 53.3, 44.4, 35.4, 29.8, 26.9, 11.8; IR (NaCl)/cm\(^{-1}\): 1730 s, 1533 s; HRMS: \( m/z \) found [M+H]\(^+\) 395.0636, C\(_{17}\)H\(_{15}\)N\(_2\)O\(_3\)Cl requires 395.0646.

Dimethyl 2-(3-methyl-4-nitroisoxazol-5-yl)-3-(thiophen-2-yl)cyclopropane-1,1-dicarboxylate 7e: \( R_t = 0.4 \) (petroleum ether:EtOAc, 70:30); IR (neat)/cm\(^{-1}\): 2995 w, 2915 w, 1749 s, 1559 s; ee was determined by CSP-HPLC using a Chiralcel OD column (n-hexane/iPrOH 90:10, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, \( t_1 = 16.38 \) min, \( t_2 = 14.81 \) min. \(^1\)H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)): 7.24 (d, \( J = 0.8 \) Hz, 1H), 7.01–7.00 (m, 1H), 6.97–6.95 (m, 1H), 4.18 (d, \( J = 8.0 \) Hz, 1H), 3.99 (d, \( J = 8.0 \) Hz, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.61 (s, 3H), 2.57 (s, 3H); \(^13\)C-NMR (100.6 MHz): 168.0, 166.1, 164.8, 156.1, 134.8, 127.5, 127.1, 126.3, 53.7, 53.4, 45.3, 31.3, 29.8, 28.2, 11.7; IR (NaCl)/cm\(^{-1}\): 1734 s, 1549 s; HRMS: \( m/z \) found [M+H]\(^+\) 367.0582, C\(_{15}\)H\(_{15}\)N\(_2\)O requires 367.0600.

Dimethyl 2-(2-methoxyphenyl)-3-(methyl-4-nitroisoxazol-5-yl)cyclopropane-1,1-dicarboxylate 7f: \( R_t = 0.2 \) (petroleum ether:EtOAc, 85:15); IR (neat)/cm\(^{-1}\): 2980 w, 2815 w, 1745s, 1569 s; ee was determined by CSP-HPLC using a Chiralecel OD column (n-hexane/i-PrOH 95:5, flow rate 0.50 mL/min, \( t_1 = 39.46 \) min, \( t_2 = 29.21 \) min. \(^1\)H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)): 7.31–7.27 (m, 1H), 7.18–7.16 (m, 1H), 6.94–6.90 (m, 1H), 6.87 (d, \( J = 8.4 \) Hz, 1H), 4.23 (d, \( J = 8.4 \) Hz, 1H), 3.94 (d, \( J = 8.4 \) Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.51 (s, 3H), 2.58 (s, 3H); \(^13\)C-NMR (100.6 MHz): 169.3, 166.6, 165.6, 158.7, 156.1, 129.7, 129.2, 129.0, 128.4, 120.9, 120.4, 110.5, 55.7, 53.5, 53.0, 44.4, 32.9,
29.8, 26.7, 11.8; IR (NaCl)/cm\(^{-1}\): 1734 s, 1518 s; HRMS: m/z found [M − H\(^-\)] \(389.0966, \text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2\text{O}_8\) requires 389.0985.

**Dimethyl 2-(2-bromophenyl)-3-(3-methyl-4-nitroisoxazol-5-yl)cyclopropane-1,1-dicarboxylate 7g:** \(R_t = 0.3\) (petroleum ether:EtOAc, 80:20); IR (neat)/cm\(^{-1}\): 2988 w, 2810 w, 1750s, 1561 s; ee determined by CSP-HPLC using a Chiralpak AD column (n-hexane/i-PrOH 90:10, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, \(t_1= 16.78\) min, \(t_2 = 15.22\) min. \(^1\)H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)): 7.60–7.58 (m, 1H), 7.33–7.26 (m, 2H), 7.23–7.18 (m, 1H), 4.31 (d, \(J = 8.4\) Hz, 1H), 3.99 (d, \(J = 8.6\) Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.55 (s, 3H), 2.58 (s, 3H); \(^13\)C-NMR (100.6 MHz): 168.4, 165.9, 165.2, 156.2, 133.0, 132.3, 130.0, 130.0, 127.5, 53.6, 53.3, 44.6, 37.6, 27.2, 11.8; IR (NaCl)/cm\(^{-1}\): 1738 s, 1522 s; HRMS: m/z found [M − H\(^-\)] = 436.9993, \text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{O}_8\text{Br} requires 436.9984.

**Dimethyl 2-(2,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-3-(3-methyl-4-nitroisoxazol-5-yl)cyclopropane-1,1-dicarboxylate 7h:** \(R_t = 0.3\) (petroleum ether:EtOAc, 70:30); IR (neat)/cm\(^{-1}\): 2980 w, 2815 w, 1745s, 1569 s; ee was determined by CSP-HPLC using a Chiralcel OD column (n-hexane/i-PrOH 80:20, flow rate 0.75 mL/min, \(t_1 = 23.57\) min, \(t_2 = 20.01\) min. \(^1\)H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)): 7.08–7.05 (m, 1H), 6.4-6.42 (m, 2H), 4.18 (d, \(J = 8.4\) Hz, 1H), 3.87 (d, \(J = 8.4\) Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.54 (s, 3H), 2.57 (s, 3H); \(^13\)C-NMR (100.6 MHz): 169.4, 166.7, 165.6, 165.1, 156.0, 133.0, 132.3, 130.0, 113.2, 104.0, 98.6, 55.7, 55.5, 53.4, 53.1, 44.4, 32.7, 29.8, 26.7, 11.8; IR (NaCl)/cm\(^{-1}\): 1734 s, 1526 s; HRMS: m/z found [M − H\(^-\)] = 419.1109, \text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{O}_8\text{Br} requires 419.1091.

**Dimethyl 2-hexyl-3-(3-methyl-4-nitroisoxazol-5-yl)cyclopropane-1,1-dicarboxylate 7i:** \(R_t = 0.4\) (petroleum ether:EtOAc, 60:40); IR (neat)/cm\(^{-1}\): 2995 w, 2845 w, 1751s, 1560s; ee determined by CSP-HPLC using a Chiralpak AD column (n-hexane/i-PrOH 95:5, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, \(t_1 = 7.49\) min, \(t_2 = 6.26\) min. \(^1\)H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)): 3.83–3.82 (m, 4H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 3.55 (d, \(J = 7.6\) Hz, 1H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 1.64–1.58 (m, 2H), 1.49–1.40 (m, 2H), 1.34–1.24 (m, 6H), 0.89–0.85m (m, 3H); \(^13\)C-NMR (100.6 MHz): 169.4, 166.8, 166.5, 165.1, 165.0, 54.1, 53.4, 43.2, 41.7, 33.1, 31.7, 28.8, 28.1, 27.2, 22.6, 14.1, 11.7; IR (NaCl)/cm\(^{-1}\): 1750 s, 1561 s; HRMS: m/z found [M − H\(^-\)] = 367.1512, \text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2\text{O}_7\text{Br} requires 367.1505.

**4. Conclusions**

In conclusion, we have reported a new method for the preparation of heavily substituted cyclopropane esters 7a–i. These compounds were prepared in high yields, as a single diastereoisomer and in average (up to 58%) enantioselectivity. We interpreted the low enantioselectivity observed as an indirect proof for bi-functional mode of action of *Cinchona* phase transfer catalysts.

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Author Contributions

M.F.A.A. conceived and designed the experiments; L.P. M.C. and M.M. performed the experiments; M.F.A.A. analyzed the data; W.W. M.F.A.A. M.M. and M.C. wrote the paper.

References


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