Supporting Information

Novel Multi-Action of Zr-Catalyst: One-Pot Synthesis of β -Cyanohydrins from Olefins

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General: NMR spectra were recorded on a JEOL JNM-LA500 spectrometer, operating at 500 MHz for ¹H NMR, 125.65 MHz for ¹³C NMR, and 202 MHz for ³¹P NMR. Chemical shifts were reported downfield from TMS (= 0) for ¹H NMR. For ¹³C NMR, chemical shifts were reported in the scale relative to the solvent used as internal reference. ³¹P NMR were carried out with phosphoric acid (85%) as external standard. Optical rotations were measured on a JASCO P-1010 polarimeter. Column chromatography was performed with silica gel Merck 60 (230-400 mesh ASTM). The enantiomeric excess (ee) was determined by HPLC analysis. HPLC analysis was performed on JASCO HPLC systems: pump, 880-PU or PU-980; detector, 875-UV or UV-970, measured at 254 nm; column, DAICEL CHIRALPAK AS; mobile phase, hexane-2-propanol. In general, reactions were carried out in dry solvents under an argon atmosphere, unless otherwise noted. Tetrahydrofuran (THF) and toluene were distilled from sodium benzophenone ketyl. Dichloromethane (CH₂Cl₂) and dichloroethane (ClCH₂CH₂Cl) were distilled from calcium hydride. Other reagents were purified by usual methods.

Materials: The diol ligand of 3 was synthesized according to the known procedure using Grignard reagent.¹ The starting olefins $1e^2$ and $1f^3$ were synthesized according to the reported procedures. β -Cyanohydrins 1a, $1b^4$ and $2o^5$ are known componds.

Synthesis of the protected enamide 1k: 1k was synthesized following the procedure reported by Somfai⁶ as shown in the scheme below.

1-(4'-nitrobenzenesulfonyl)-piperidin-2-ol: n-Butyllithium (31.3 mL of a 1.6 M solution in hexane) was added to 2-piperidone (4.96 g, 50 mmol) in THF (150 mL) at 0 °C. After 35 min, 4-nitrobenzenesulfonyl chloride (12.2 g, 55 mmol) was added, and the mixture was stirred for further 50 min. Concentration under reduced pressure, and trituration with ether followed by filtraion gave the crude product (12.67 g). To a solution of the crude product in CH_2CH_2 (180 mL), DIBAL (45 mL, 45 mmol, 1.0 M in hexane) was added at -78 °C and the mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 30 min. The reaction was quenched by the addition of methanol, and then the whole was poured into a saturated aqueous solution of Rochelle salt. The aqueous phase was extracted once with methylene chloride, and the combined organic phases were dried over Na_2SO_4 . Evaporation followed by recrystallization $(CH_2CH_2 / hexane)$ yielded sulfonamide as an orange powder (7.16 g, 50 % (2 steps)). ¹H NMR $(CDCl_3)$ δ 1.49-1.88 (m, 6H), 2.29 (d, J = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 3.11 (dt, J = 2.8, 12.2 Hz, 1H), 2.58-3.64 (m, 1H), 5.61-5.64 (m, 1H), 8.04 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 8.34 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR $(CDCl_3)$ δ 17.0, 24.8, 31.7, 40.6, 100.6, 124.2, 128.7, 142.1, 145.8; IR (KBr) 3510, 1525, 1346, 1165 cm⁻¹; MS m/z 286 (M^+) , 268 (M^+-OH_2) , 186 (Ns); HRMS Calcd for $C_{11}H_{14}N_2O_{25}S$ (M^+) 286.0623. Found 286.0622. 1-(4'-nitrobenzenesulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyridine 1k: To a solution of the sulfonamide (1.69 g,

5.9 mmol) in CH_2CH_2 (35 mL) was added $TsOH ext{-}H_2O$ (337 mg, 17.7 mg). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 h and the treated with K_2CO_3 . The mixture was stirred for further 30 min. After filtration, purification by SiO_2 column chromatography and recrystallization gave the enamide 1k as yellow crystals (1.24 g, 78 %). H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.04-1.09 (m, 2H), 1.36-1.39 (m, 2H), 2.98-3.00 (m, 2H), 4.64 (dt, J = 3.7, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.58 (dt, J = 2.2, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H),

7.55 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 20.8, 20.9, 44.0, 109.1, 124.1, 124.8, 127.9, 143.6, 146.9; IR (KBr) 1525, 1344, 1171 cm⁻¹; MS m/z 269 (M⁺+1), 268 (M⁺), 222 (M⁺-NO₂), 186 (Ns); HRMS Calcd for C₁₁H₁₄N₂O ₅S (M⁺) 268.0518. Found 286.0517.

Synthesis of the chiral ligand 14: To a THF solution of *o*-ethylphenylmagnesium bromide (1M in THF) (40.6 mmol), the known diester⁷ (2.0 g, 8.1 mmol) was added under ice bath, and the whole was stirred at reflux temperature for 2 h. After cooling to r.t., the reaction was further stirred for 12 h. Adding saturated aqueous solution of NH₄Cl, usual workup and purification by SiO₂ column chromatography gave **14** (2.38 g, 48% yield) as a white powder.

{5-[Bis-(2-ethyl-phenyl)-hydroxy-methyl]-2,2-diethyl-[1,3]dioxolan-4-yl}-bis-(2-ethyl-phenyl)-methanol (14): 1 H NMR (DMSO, 140 $^{\circ}$ C) δ 0.53 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 6H), 0.64 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 6H), 0.88-0.98 (m, 2H), 1.33-1.21(m, 2H), 2.26-2.34 (m, 4H), 2.40-2.44 (m, 2H), 2.47-2.55 (m, 2H), 4.80 (s, 2H), 7.11-7.23 (m, 12H), 7.65 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.74 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H); 13 C NMR (DMSO, 140 $^{\circ}$ C) δ 6.8, 13.4, 13.4, 24.6, 25.7, 28.2, 78.1, 80.5, 111.2, 123.2, 123.9, 125.5, 126.2, 126.3, 128.4, 128.9, 129.2, 140.3, 143.1, 143.2, 144.2; IR (KBr) 3561, 3241 cm⁻¹.

General procedure for the catalytic one-pot β-cyanohydrin synthesis (Table 2, entry 2): To a mixture of the diol (0.025 mmol) and Ph₃PO (0.025 mmol) in dichloroethane (0.43 mL), $Zr(O'Bu)_4$ (0.025 mmol) was added at 0 °C and the whole was stirred for 10 min. To the resulting clear solution, BTSP (213 μL, 1 mmol), TMSCN (133 μL, 1 mmol) and 1 (0.5 mmol) were added to start the reaction. The reaction was traced by ¹H NMR. After the specific period at the temperature described in Table 2, the reaction was quenched by addition of sat. NaHCO₃. The products were extracted with CHCl₃ and the combined organic layers were washed with H₂O and sat. NaCl. Drying over Na₂SO₄, filtration and evaporation gave the crude silylated β-cyanohydrin. Desilylation was performed with KF in MeOH in the case of 1a-1d, 1f-1k and 1m-1o, with TsOH•H₂O in MeOH in the case of 11 and with AcOH-THF-H₂O (2:4:1) in the case of 1e.

(2S*,3R*)-2-Hydroxy-cycloheptanecarbonitrile (2c): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.40-1.59 (m, 4H), 1.62-1.75 (m, 4H), 1.88-1.99 (m, 2H), 2.68 (bt, J = 3.4, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 3.06 (bs, 1H), 3.94 (dt, J = 3.4, 8.2 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 21.7, 25.4, 26.9, 27.3, 35.5, 39.7, 73.1, 122.4; IR (neat) 3424, 2241 cm⁻¹; MS m/z 140 (M⁺+1), 139 (M⁺), 122 (M⁺-OH), 111 (M⁺-OH-HCN); HRMS (M⁺+1) Calcd for C₈H₁₄NO 140.1075. Found 140.1073.

(2S*,3R*)-2-Hydroxy-cyclooctanecarbonitrile (2d): 1 H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.37-1.81 (m, 10H), 1.86 (ddt, J = 3.0, 8.5, 15.3 Hz, 1H), 1.95-2.01 (m, 1H), 2.75 (ddd, J = 3.0, 7.3, 10.1 Hz, 1H), 3.01 (bs, 1H), 3.98 (ddd, J = 2.5, 7.3, 9.8 Hz, 1H); 13 C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 23.8, 25.1, 25.2, 26.0, 26.2, 33.8, 38.2, 72.1, 122.7; IR (neat) 3434, 2241 cm⁻¹; MS m/z 154 (M⁺+1), 153 (M⁺), 136 (M⁺-OH); HRMS (M⁺+1) Calcd for $C_9H_{16}NO$ 154.1232. Found 154.1233.

(2S*,3R*)-4-Cyano-5-hydroxy-cyclohexane-1,2-dicarboxylic acid dimethyl ester (2e): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.65 (ddd, J = 4.9, 10.7, 14.1 Hz, 1H), 2.24 (dt, J = 11.6, 14.4 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (ddt, J = 1.2, 4.0, 14.4 Hz, 1H), 2.47 (dt J = 4.0, 14.1 Hz, 1H), 2.51 (ddd, J = 4.0, 9.5, 11.6 Hz, 1H), 2.56 (ddd, J = 4.0, 4.3, 11.6 Hz, 1H), 2.78 (s, 1H), 3.31 (ddd, J = 4.0, 4.6, 4.9 Hz, 1H) 3.87-3.91 (m, 1H), 3.64 (s x 2, 6H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 26.0, 34.3, 36.4, 40.4, 41.5, 52.2, 67.2, 120.1, 171.9, 172.7; IR (neat) 3471, 2245, 1731 cm⁻¹; MS m/z 242 (M*+1), 241 (M*), 223 (M*-OH), 209 (M*-MeO), 181 (M*-CO₂Me); HRMS (M*) Calcd for C₁₁H₁₅NO₅ 241.0950. Found 241.0958.

(2S*,3R*)-3-Hydroxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-naphthalene-2-carbonitrile (2f): 1 H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.39 (m, 1H), 2.85 (dd, J = 9.2, 16.5 Hz, 1H), 2.96 (ddd, J = 5.5, 9.2, 10.4 Hz, 1H), 3.15 (dd, J = 10.4, 16.5 Hz, 1H), 3.28 (dt, J = 5.5, 16.5 Hz, 1H), 4.22-4.27 (m, 1H), 7.09-7.20 (m, 4H); 13 C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 31.2, 34.7, 36.7, 67.8, 120.5, 126.7, 127.0, 128.3, 129.4, 132.6; IR (KBr) 3456, 2250 cm $^{-1}$; MS m/z 174 (M*+1), 173 (M*), 155 (M*-H₂O); HRMS (M*+1) Calcd for $C_{11}H_{12}NO$ 174.0919. Found 174.0919.

(2*S**,3*R**)-4-Hydroxy-1-(2,4,6-triisopropyl-benzenesulfonyl)-pyrrolidine-3-carbonitrile (2*g*): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.26 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz 12H), 1.27 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 6H), 2.86 (bs, 1H), 2.91 (heptet, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 3.14 (m, 1H), 3.44 (dd, *J* = 6.7, 10.7 Hz, 1H), 3.47 (dd, *J* = 3.1, 11.9 Hz, 1H), 3.56 (dd, *J* = 5.2, 11.9 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 10.7 Hz, 1H), 4.66 (m, 1H), 7.19 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 23.5, 24.8, 24.8, 29.5, 34.2, 37.4, 53.3, 74.0, 118.2, 129.9, 151.6, 154.0; IR (KBr) 3434, 2253, 1362, 1149 cm ¹; MS m/z 378 (M*), 267 (ArSO₂), 202 (Ar); HRMS (M*) Calcd for C₂₀H₃₀N₂O₃S 378.1982. Found 378.1977.

 $(2R^*,3S^*)$ -2-Butyl-3-hydroxy-heptanenitrile (2h): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.90 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 0.91 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.30-1.84 (m, 12H), 2.56 (ddd, J = 4.0, 5.2, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 3.62-3.65 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 13.8, 13.9, 22.2, 22.4, 27.7, 28.7, 29.5, 35.2, 39.3, 71.2, 120.3; IR (neat) 3460, 2242 cm⁻¹; MS m/z 184 (M⁺+1), 183 (M⁺); HRMS (M⁺+1) Calcd for $C_{11}H_{22}NO$ (M⁺+1) 184.1701. Found 184.1702.

 $(2R^*,3R^*)$ -2-Butyl-3-hydroxy-heptanenitrile (2i): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.92 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 0.93 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 0.39-1.71 (m, 12H), 1.89 (brs, 1H), 2.65 (dt, J = 5.5, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (ddd, J = 2.8, 5.8, 9.5 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 13.8, 13.9, 22.2, 22.4, 27.6, 27.6, 29.4, 34.0, 39.4, 71.5, 120.7; IR (neat) 3443, 2243 cm⁻¹; MS m/z 184 (M⁺+1), 166 (M⁺-OH); HRMS (M⁺+1) Calcd for C₁₁H₂₂NO (M⁺+1) 184.1701. Found 184.1695.

(2S*,3R*)-3-Hydroxy-tetrahydro-pyran-2-carbonitrile (2j): 1 H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.59-1.68 (m, 2H), 1.80-1.87 (m, 1H), 2.12-2.18 (m, 1H), 2.71 (bs, 1H), 3.55 (ddd, J = 3.1, 8.3, 11.6 Hz, 1H), 3.83-3.86 (m, 1H), 3.92 (ddd, J = 3.4, 4.9, 11.6 Hz, 1H), 4.17 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 1H); 13 C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 22.2, 29.4, 66.8, 67.2, 70.7, 116.9; IR (neat) 3439, 2254 cm⁻¹; MS m/z 128 (M⁺+1), 127 (M⁺), 101 (M⁺-OH); HRMS Calcd for $C_6H_9NO_2$ (M⁺) 127.0633. Found 127.0634. The trans stereochemistry was determined by nOe experiments.

Observed nOe of 2j

(2S*,3R*)-1-(4'-Nitrobenzenesulfonyl)-3-hydroxy-piperidine-2-carbonitrile

(2k): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.65-1.70 (m, 1H), 1.85 (ddt, J = 2.8, 4.3, 13.2 Hz, 1H), 1.90-1.96 (m, 1H), 2.00 (tq, J = 4.3, 13.2 Hz, 1H), 2.85 (dt, J = 2.8, 13.2 Hz, 1H), 3.87-3.92 (m, 1H), 4.19-4.21 (m, 1H), 4.93 (bs, 1H), 8.04 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 8.41 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 18.5, 26.4, 38.8, 51.0, 65.8, 113.5, 124.6, 129.0, 142.6, 150.7.

(2*R**,3*R**)-1-(4'-Nitrobenzenesulfonyl)-3-hydroxy-piperidine-2-carbonitrile (2k'): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.56 (dq, J = 4.0,13.1 Hz, 1H), 1.75 (tq, J = 4.0, 13.1 Hz, 1H), 1.87-1.91 (m, 1H), 2.09-2.14 (m, 1H), 2.64 (dt, J = 2.7, 12.5 Hz, 1H), 3.84-3.87 (m, 1H), 3.94 (dt, J = 5.5, 13.1 Hz, 1H), 5.10 (d, J = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 8.44 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 23.0, 29.3, 42.3, 52.2, 67.7, 113.1, 124.7, 129.1, 142.0, 143.8.

(1S*,2R*)-2-Hydroxy-2-methyl-cyclohexanecarbonitrile (2l): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.39-1.54 (m, 3H), 1.41 (s, 3H), 1.62-1.84 (m, 5H), 1.98-2.04 (m, 1H), 2.64 (dd, J = 4.0, 8.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 22.0, 23.0, 25.9, 26.4, 37.6, 40.5, 70.3, 120.8; IR (neat) 3437, 2243 cm⁻¹; MS m/z 140 (M⁺+1), 139 (M⁺); HRMS Calcd for $C_8H_{14}NO$ (M⁺+1) 140.1075. Found 140.1076.

(1S*,2R*)-2-Hydroxy-1-methyl-cyclohexanecarbonitrile (2l'): 1 H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.37 (s, 3H), 1.43-1.81 (m, 11H), 1.87-1.94 (m, 1H), 3.90 (dd, J = 3.4, 6.4 Hz, 1H); 13 C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 20.5, 21.4, 23.3, 29.7, 32.3, 38.4, 71.3, 124.3; IR (neat) 3453, 2237 cm $^{-1}$; MS m/z 140 (M $^{+}$ +1), 139 (M $^{+}$), 109 (M $^{+}$ +1-CN); HRMS Calcd for C₈H₁₄NO (M $^{+}$ +1) 140.1075. Found 140.1075.

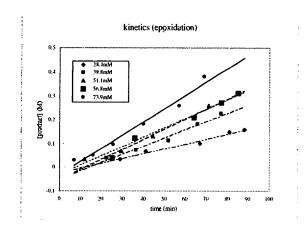
(2S*,3R*)-3-Hydroxy-2,4-dimethyl-pentanenitrile (2m): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.98 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 1.02 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 1.39 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 1.79 (bs, 1H), 1.85 (heptet, J = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 2.84 (dq, J = 4.3, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.21-3.26 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 15.3, 17.5, 19.2, 30.6, 32.2, 77.9, 120.9; IR (neat) 3459, 2245 cm⁻¹; MS m/z 128 (M*+1), 110 (M*-OH); HRMS Calcd for C₇H₁₄NO (M*+1) 128.1075. Found 128.1076.

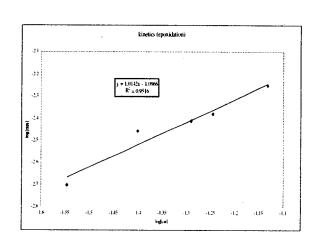
3-Hydroxy-octanenitrile (2n): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.88 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 1.24-1.37 (m, 5H), 1.39-1.48 (m, 1H), 1.52-1.62 (m, 2H), 2.32 (bs, 1H), 2.47 (dd, J = 6.5, 16.5 Hz, 1H), 2.55 (dd, J = 4.9, 16.5 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 13.9, 22.5, 25.0, 26.1, 31.4, 36.5, 67.7, 117.8; IR (neat) 3444, 2252 cm⁻¹; MS m/z 142 (M⁺+1), 141 (M⁺), 124 (M⁺-OH); HRMS Calcd for C₈H₁₅NO (M⁺) 141.1154. Found 141.1154.

Kinetic studies: The catalyst was prepared according to the general procedure (see page 2). The appropriate amount of dichloroethane was added to get a total volume of 0.48 mL. To the resulting solution, BTSP (213 μ L, 1 mmol), TMSCN (133 μ L, 1 mmol) and the starting material (cyclohexene (51 μ L 0.5 mmol) for the epoxidation step, or cycloheptene oxide (58 μ L 0.5 mmol) for the epoxide-opening step) was added to start the reaction. The reaction was monitored by ¹H NMR.

Kinetics study on the epoxidation step

rate _{obs} (M/min)
0.0284
0.0398
0.0511





	73.9
Kinetics study on	epoxide-opening step

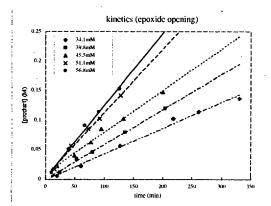
	0 1
[cataly	sts](mM)
34.1	
39.8	
45.5	
51.1	
56.8	

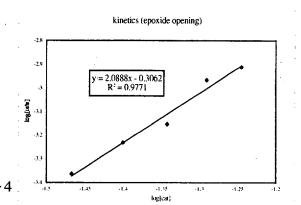
56.8

rate_{obs}(x10⁻³ M/min) 0.435 0.590

0.704 1.076 1.223

0.0568 0.0739





Catalytic enantioselective reaction: To a solution of 14 (0.10 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (0.5 mL), $Zr(O'Bu)_4$ (39 μ L, 0.10 mmol) was added under ice bath cooling. The mixture was stirred for 50 min at rt, and then H_2O (1.8 μ L, 0.10 mmol) was added. After 45 min, toluene (0.5 mL) was added and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure at rt. Co-evaporation was repeated by addition of toluene (0.5 mL) to the resulting residue. After drying the residue for 2 h in vacuo (ca. 3 mmHg), dichloroethane (0.43 mL) was added. Adding BTSP (0.21 mL, 1.0 mmol), TMSCN (133 μ L, 1.0 mmol) and 1b (51 μ L, 0.50 mmol) under ice bath cooling, the reaction was performed at 50 °C for 37 h. After workup, desilylation and purification (see general procedure), 2b was obtained as a colorless oil (67% yield). The absolute configuration of 2b was determined by the comparison of the optical rotation value.⁴ The ee was determined, after benzoylation (BzCl, pyridine and DMAP in CH_2Cl_2), by chiral HPLC analysis (DAICEL CHRALPAK AS, 2-propanol/hexane 10/90, flow 0.5 mL/min, t_R 16.7 (major) and 19.3 min (minor)).

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