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Heterocycles. XV.¹⁾ Enantioselective Synthesis of Chiral Flavanonols and Flavan-3,4-diols

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Chiral flavanonols and flavan-3,4-diols have been enantioselectively synthesized from the chiral epoxychalcones (–)-**2a** and (+)-**2b**, which are obtained by the asymmetric epoxidation of the chalcone **1** under phase-transfer conditions. The absolute configurations of all the compounds obtained are deduced on the basis of the results obtained by circular dichroic spectroscopy on the dibenzoates (–)-**5a**, (+)-**5b**, (+)-**8a** and (–)-**8b**.

Keywords—flavonoid; phase-transfer asymmetric epoxidation; enantioselective synthesis; CD; absolute configuration

The majority of naturally occurring flavanonols exist in the 2*R*,3*R*-configuration, but a few compounds with the 2*S*,3*S*-configuration are known. On the other hand, a variety of configurations at the 2-, 3- and 4-positions are observed for flavan-3,4-diols. We have recently reported the efficient stereocontrolled synthesis of racemic flavonoids using 2'-hydroxychalcone as the starting materials.¹⁾ This paper is concerned with the enantioselective synthesis of chiral flavanonols and flavan-3,4-diols by the application of this synthetic method.

The induction of chirality was accomplished at the α - and β -positions in the chalcone **1**¹⁾ by asymmetric epoxidation.²⁾ The chalcone **1** was epoxidized with hydrogen peroxide in the presence of 1-benzylquininium chloride (BQC) and sodium hydroxide in toluene. Work-up of the reaction mixture, followed by preparative thin-layer chromatography (prep. TLC) of the product, gave the (–)-epoxychalcone **2a** in 38% yield. Its enantiomeric excess (ee) (26%) was determined by proton nuclear magnetic resonance (¹H-NMR) spectroscopy using tris[3-(heptafluoropropylhydroxymethylene)-(+)-camphorato]europium(III). Recrystallization from methanol raised the optical purity to 31% ee. The 2,3-*trans*-configuration of (–)-**2a** was deduced from the coupling (2 Hz) observed between the 2- and 3-protons in the ¹H-NMR spectrum.

Treatment of (–)-**2a** (31% ee) with hydrochloric acid (purification by recrystallization) afforded (–)-flavanonol **3a** with $[\alpha]_{589}^{22} - 7.5^\circ$ in 61% yield [2,3-*trans* (2,3-diequatorial substituents), $J_{2,3} = 12.5$ Hz]. Reduction of (–)-**3a** ($[\alpha]_{589}^{20} - 6.5^\circ$) with sodium borohydride (purification by prep. TLC) gave (+)-3,4-*trans*-flavan-3,4-diol **4a** with $[\alpha]_{589}^{18} + 2.3^\circ$ in 94% yield [2,3- and 3,4-*trans* (2,3,4-triequatorial substituents), $J_{2,3} = 10$ and $J_{3,4} = 8.5$ Hz]. The optical purity was raised to $[\alpha]_{589}^{25} + 3.0^\circ$ and 31% ee on recrystallization from ethanol. Benzoylation of (+)-**4a** (31% ee) with benzoyl chloride (purification by prep. TLC and recrystallization) provided the (–)-*trans*-dibenzoate **5a** with 43% ee in 80% yield.

Reduction of (–)-**2a** (30% ee) with sodium borohydride (purification by prep. TLC) gave the (+)-epoxypropanol **6a** with 30% ee in 62% yield. The 1,2-*erythro*-configuration of (+)-**6a** was deduced on the basis of the stereochemistry of the compound obtained in the next reaction. Treatment of (+)-**6a** (30% ee) with hydrochloric acid (purification by recrystalli-

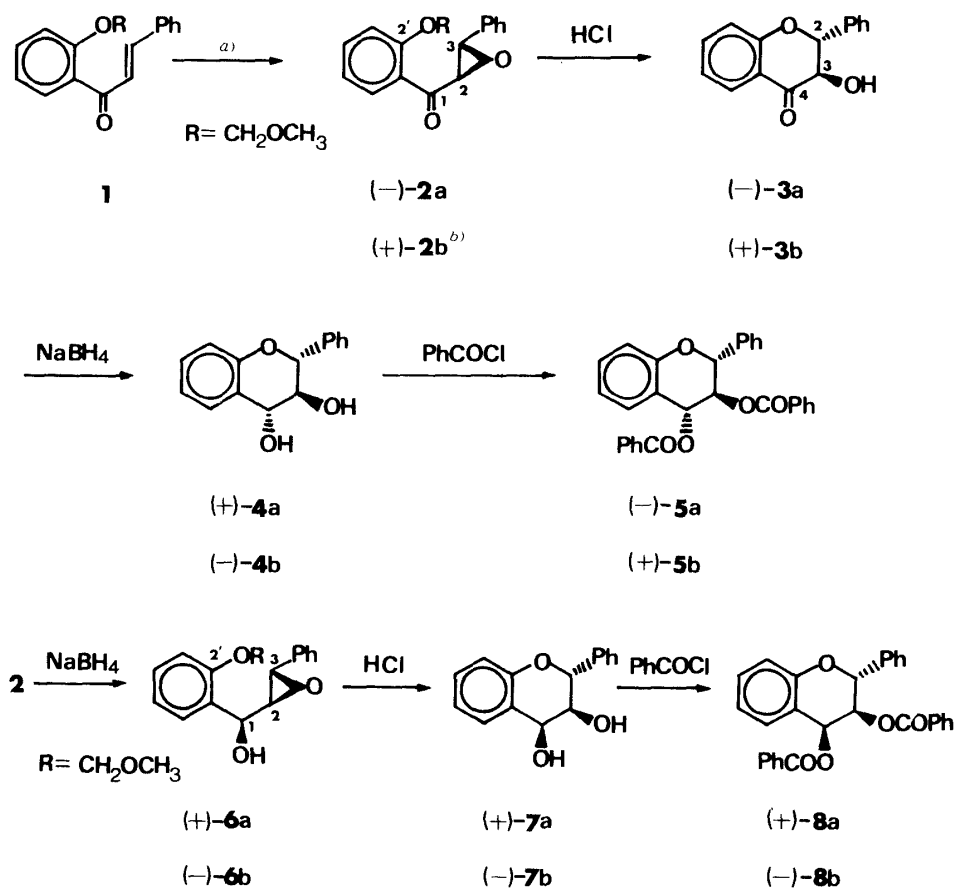
zation) afforded (+)-3,4-*cis*-flavan-3,4-diol **7a** with $[\alpha]_{589}^{19} + 6.2^\circ$ in 49% yield [2,3-*trans* and 3,4-*cis* (2,3-diequatorial and 4-axial substituents), $J_{2,3} = 9$ and $J_{3,4} = 3.5$ Hz]. Further recrystallization from chloroform raised the optical purity to $[\alpha]_{589}^{19} + 7.8^\circ$ and 31% ee. Benzoylation of (+)-**7a** (31% ee) with benzoyl chloride (purification by prep. TLC and recrystallization) gave the (+)-*cis*-dibenzoate **8a** with 34% ee in 77% yield.

The asymmetric epoxidation of **1** using 1-benzylquinidinium chloride (BQdC) instead of BQC yielded the (+)-epoxychalcone **2b** with 25% ee in 41% yield. The optical purity was raised to 52% ee on recrystallization from methanol. The enantiomers of the compounds **3a**—**8a** were derived from (+)-**2b** by following the procedures mentioned above.

Stereochemistry

The absolute configurations of the four flavan-3,4-diol dibenzoates were assigned by the application of the dibenzoate chirality rule.³⁾

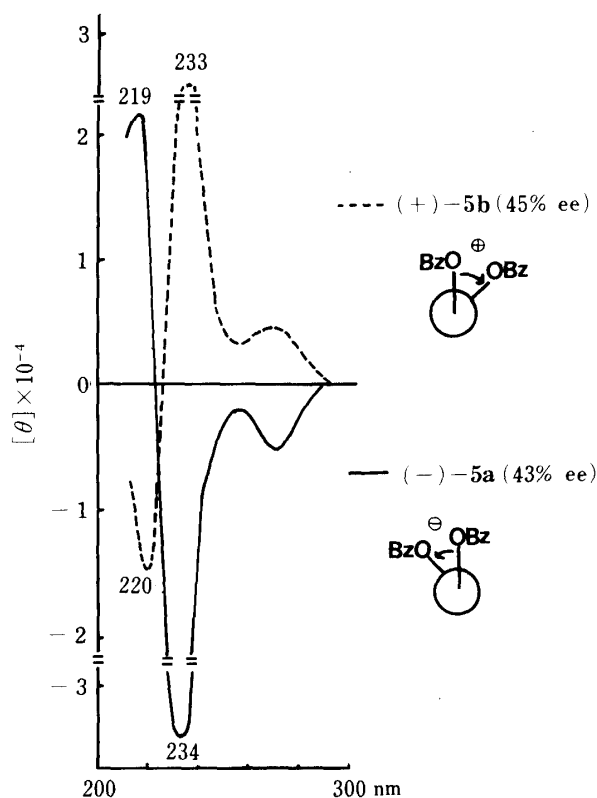
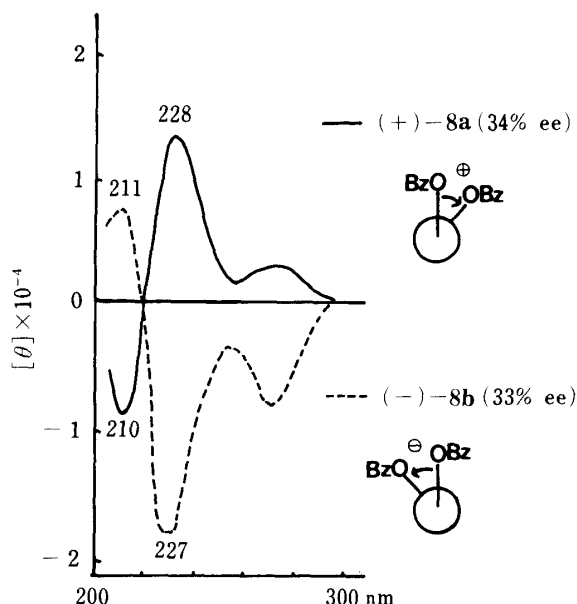
The (–)-*trans*-dibenzoate **5a** showed a negative Cotton effect at 234 nm and a positive Cotton effect at 219 nm in the circular dichroism (CD) spectrum (Fig. 1). These data correspond to the 3*S*,4*R*-configuration, and furthermore, the 2*R*-configuration is indicated by the coupling (7.5 Hz) observed between the 2- and 3-protons (diaxial) in the ¹H-NMR spectrum. Positive and negative Cotton effects were observed at 228 and 210 nm, respectively, in the CD spectrum of the (+)-*cis*-dibenzoate **8a**, corresponding to the 2*R*,3*S*,4*S*-configuration (Fig. 2).



a) $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2/\text{NaOH}/\text{BQC}$ for **2a**. $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2/\text{NaOH}/\text{BQdC}$ for **2b**.

b) The drawings of b-series compounds refer to the mirror images of those depicted for a-series compounds.

Chart 1

Fig. 1. The CD Spectra of (-)-**5a** and (+)-**5b**Fig. 2. The CD Spectra of (+)-**8a** and (-)-**8b**

The CD spectra of the (+)-*trans*-dibenzoate **5b** and the (-)-*cis*-dibenzoate **8b**, derived from (-)-**4b** and (-)-**7b**, were mirror images of those observed for (-)-**5a** and (+)-**8a**, respectively.

On the basis of these observations, the stereochemistry of the other compounds can be assigned as follows: (-)-**2a**, 2*R*,3*S*; (+)-**2b**, 2*S*,3*R*; (-)-**3a**, 2*R*,3*R*; (+)-**3b**, 2*S*,3*S*; (+)-**4a**, 2*R*,3*S*,4*R*; (-)-**4b**, 2*S*,3*R*,4*S*; (+)-**6a**, 1*S*,2*S*,3*S*; (-)-**6b**, 1*R*,2*R*,3*R*; (+)-**7a**, 2*R*,3*S*,4*S*; (-)-**7b**, 2*S*,3*R*,4*R*.

Wynberg *et al.* showed that (-)-epoxychalcone has the 2*R*,3*S*-configuration on the basis of chemical correlation.⁴⁾ This finding is in accord with the result obtained for (-)-**2a** in this work. The CD spectrum of (-)-**3a** exhibited a positive Cotton effect at 336 nm ($n \rightarrow \pi^*$) and a negative Cotton effect at 306 nm ($\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$), being in consistent with those of naturally occurring (2*R*,3*R*)-flavanonols reported by Gaffield.⁵⁾

Experimental

Melting points were determined on a micro hot-stage apparatus and are uncorrected. Optical rotations were taken on a JASCO DPI-181 polarimeter. Enantiomeric excess (ee) was estimated by ¹H-NMR spectroscopy using Eu(hfc)₃. Spectra were recorded on the following spectrometers: infrared (IR), Hitachi 260-30; ultraviolet (UV), Hitachi EPS-2U; CD, JASCO J-20; ¹H-NMR, Varian EM-390 (90 MHz) (reference, Me₄Si); mass spectra (MS), JEOL JMS DX-300. The IR and ¹H-NMR spectra obtained were superimposable on those of the corresponding racemic compounds.¹⁾ The b-series compounds were prepared by following the same procedures as employed for the preparations of the a-series compounds.

(2*R*,3*S*)-(-)-2,3-Epoxy-1-2'-methoxymethoxyphenyl-3-phenylpropanone 2a and the (2*S*,3*R*)-(+)-Enantiomer 2b—a) A solution of 2'-methoxymethoxychalcone **1** (301.7 mg) in toluene (15 ml) was added to a mixture of BQC⁶⁾ (103.3 mg), 2*N* aqueous NaOH (1 ml) and 30% aqueous H₂O₂ (0.8 ml), and the whole was stirred at room temperature for 22 h. The organic phase was washed with 10% aqueous KI, 10% aqueous Na₂S₂O₃ and H₂O, then

dried over Na_2SO_4 . Removal of the solvent *in vacuo*, followed by prep. TLC (Al_2O_3 ; acetone/ $\text{C}_6\text{H}_6 = 1/5$, v/v) of the residue, gave (–)-**2a** (26% ee) (120.3 mg, 38%), *R_f* 0.28, as colorless needles of mp 74–77 °C. Optical rotation $[\alpha]^{20}_{\text{D}}$ (nm): –28.4° (589), –31.2° (577), –38.3° (546), –102.6° (435) ($c = 0.51$, CH_2Cl_2). Recrystallization from MeOH yielded (–)-**2a** (31% ee) as colorless needles of mp 72–73 °C. Optical rotation $[\alpha]^{17}_{\text{D}}$ (nm): –37.2° (589), –41.2° (577), –49.6° (546), –140.0° (435) ($c = 0.50$, CH_2Cl_2). UV $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{MeOH}}$ nm (log ϵ): 306.5 (3.74), 254 (4.12), 206 (4.44). CD ($c = 0.001$, MeOH) $[\theta]^{19}_{\text{D}}$ (nm): –4885 (300) (neg. max.),⁷⁾ –1988 (272) (pos. max.),⁸⁾ –3010 (258) (neg. max.), 0 (248), +9088 (230) (pos. max.), 0 (218). ¹H-NMR (C_6D_6) δ : 7.94 (1H, dd, $J = 7.5$ and 2 Hz, 6'-H),⁹⁾ 4.10, 3.96 (1H each, d, $J = 2$ Hz, 2- and 3-H's). MS Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_4$: M, 284.105. Found m/z : M^+ , 284.106. Unreacted **1** (134.3 mg, 45%) was recovered from the zone with *R_f* 0.79.

b) A solution of **1** (503.3 mg) in toluene (5 ml) was added to a mixture of BQdC¹⁰⁾ (100.1 mg), 2N aqueous NaOH (1 ml) and 30% aqueous H_2O_2 (1 ml), and the whole was stirred at room temperature for 3 d. Work-up of the reaction mixture gave (+)-**2b** (25% ee) (219.4 mg, 41%) as colorless needles of mp 74–77 °C. Optical rotation $[\alpha]^{16}_{\text{D}}$ (nm): +35.0° (589), +39.4° (577), +45.2° (546), +125.4° (435) ($c = 0.18$, CH_2Cl_2). Recrystallization from MeOH yielded (+)-**2b** (52% ee) as colorless needles of mp 74–76 °C. Optical rotation $[\alpha]^{19}_{\text{D}}$ (nm): +50.0° (589), +53.0° (557), +63.9° (546), +172.2° (435) ($c = 0.46$, CH_2Cl_2). CD ($c = 0.001$, MeOH) $[\theta]^{20}_{\text{D}}$ (nm): +9811 (295) (pos. max.), +5422 (274) (neg. max.), +6713 (260) (pos. max.), 0 (248), –13942 (235) (neg. max.), 0 (221). MS Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_4$: M, 284.105. Found m/z : M^+ , 284.104. Unreacted **1** (146.1 mg, 29%) was recovered.

(**2R,3R**)-(–)-Flavanonol **3a** and the (**2S,3S**)-(+)-Enantiomer **3b**—a) 10% HCl/MeOH (0.3 ml) was added to a solution of (–)-**2a** (31% ee) (72.0 mg) in MeOH (1 ml), and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*, and the residue was recrystallized from EtOH to yield (–)-**3a** (36.5 mg, 61%) as colorless needles of mp 170–173 °C. Optical rotation $[\alpha]^{22}_{\text{D}}$ (nm): –7.5° (589), –11.3° (577), –12.2° (546), –24.4° (435) ($c = 0.40$, CH_2Cl_2). UV $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{MeOH}}$ nm (log ϵ): 317.5 (3.66), 252 (4.00), 212.5 (4.65). CD ($c = 0.001$, MeOH) $[\theta]^{20}_{\text{D}}$ (nm): +3032 (336) (pos. max.), 0 (324), –4446 (306) (neg. max.), –960 (269) (pos. max.), –2577 (252) (neg. max.), 0 (239), +3284 (228) (shoulder), +15663 (208) (pos. max.). ¹H-NMR (CDCl_3) δ : 5.13 (1H, d, $J = 12.5$ Hz, 2-H), 4.56 (1H, dd, $J = 12.5$ and 2 Hz, 3-H),¹¹⁾ 3.64 (1H, d, $J = 2$ Hz, 3-OH).¹²⁾ MS Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_3$: M, 240.079. Found m/z : M^+ , 240.079.

Acetate: A colorless oil (30% ee) (from (–)-**3a**, $[\alpha]^{22}_{589} - 7.5^\circ$). IR (KBr): 1745 (OC=O), 1705 cm^{-1} (C=O). Optical rotation $[\alpha]^{20}_{\text{D}}$ (nm): +5.1° (589), +6.0° (577), +6.8° (546), +22.6° (435) ($c = 0.47$, CH_2Cl_2). UV $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{MeOH}}$ nm (log ϵ): 318 (3.47), 252 (3.96), 211.5 (4.52). CD ($c = 0.001$, MeOH) $[\theta]^{19}_{\text{D}}$ (nm): +3384 (335) (pos. max.), 0 (324), –4512 (304) (neg. max.), –537 (270) (pos. max.), –2256 (250) (neg. max.), 0 (239), +11280 (208) (pos. max.). ¹H-NMR (CDCl_3) δ : 7.91 (1H, dd, $J = 9$ and 1.5 Hz, 5-H), 7.65–7.35 (5H, m, aromatic H's), 7.21–7.00 (3H, m, aromatic H's), 5.80 (1H, d, $J = 12$ Hz, 3-H), 5.40 (1H, d, $J = 12$ Hz, 2-H), 1.97 (3H, s, 3-OCOCH₃).⁹⁾ MS Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_4$: M, 282.089. Found m/z : M^+ , 282.089.

b) The (+)-epoxychalcone **2b** (52% ee) gave (+)-**3b** as colorless needles of mp 167–168 °C (from EtOH) in 51% yield. Optical rotation $[\alpha]^{19}_{\text{D}}$ (nm): +12.9° (589), +15.3° (577), +18.8° (546), +42.4° (435) ($c = 0.17$, CH_2Cl_2). CD ($c = 0.001$, MeOH) $[\theta]^{20}_{\text{D}}$ (nm): –9024 (338) (neg. max.), 0 (323), +12720 (304) (pos. max.), +600 (263) (neg. max.), +3480 (247) (pos. max.), 0 (238), –11280 (225) (shoulder), –19200 (208) (neg. max.). MS Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_3$: M, 240.079. Found m/z : M^+ , 240.079.

Acetate: A colorless oil (60% ee) (from (+)-**3b**, $[\alpha]^{19}_{589} + 12.9^\circ$). Optical rotation $[\alpha]^{19}_{\text{D}}$ (nm): –12.5° (589), –12.4° (577), –14.1° (546), –40.9° (435) ($c = 0.48$, CH_2Cl_2). CD ($c = 0.001$, MeOH) $[\theta]^{20}_{\text{D}}$ (nm): –2051 (337) (neg. max.), 0 (324), +2871 (304) (pos. max.), +205 (262) (neg. max.), +1333 (246) (pos. max.), 0 (240), –5384 (208) (neg. max.). MS Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_4$: M, 282.089. Found m/z : M^+ , 282.090.

(**2R,3S,4R**)-(+)-Flavan-3,4-diol **4a** and the (**2S,3R,4S**)-Enantiomer **4b**—a) NaBH_4 (62 mg) was added to a solution of (–)-**3a** ($[\alpha]^{20}_{589} - 6.5^\circ$) (92.4 mg) in MeOH (30 ml), and the mixture was stirred at –30 °C for 2 h. After addition of AcOH (5 drops), the reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*, and the residue was extracted with CHCl_3 . Removal of the solvent *in vacuo*, followed by prep. TLC (silica gel; acetone/ $\text{C}_6\text{H}_6 = 1/3$, v/v) of the residue, gave (+)-**4a** (87.9 mg, 94%), *R_f* 0.40, as colorless needles of mp 136–138 °C. $[\alpha]^{18}_{589} + 2.3^\circ$ ($c = 1.11$, CH_2Cl_2). Recrystallization from EtOH gave (+)-**4a** (31% ee) as colorless needles of mp 134–136 °C. $[\alpha]^{25}_{589} + 3.0^\circ$ ($c = 0.81$, CH_2Cl_2). UV $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{MeOH}}$ nm (log ϵ): 283 (3.31), 275 (3.32), 200.5 (4.43). CD ($c = 0.001$, MeOH) $[\theta]^{20}_{\text{D}}$ (nm): –774 (270) (neg. max.), 0 (265), +1404 (243) (pos. max.), 0 (231), –4598 (225) (neg. max.). ¹H-NMR (CDCl_3) δ : 4.80 (1H, dd, $J = 8.5$ and 5.5 Hz, 4-H),¹¹⁾ 4.76 (1H, d, $J = 10$ Hz, 2-H),⁹⁾ 3.80 (1H, ddd, $J = 10$, 8.5 and 3 Hz, 3-H),¹¹⁾ 3.03 (1H, d, $J = 5.5$ Hz, 4-OH),¹²⁾ 2.45 (1H, d, $J = 3$ Hz, 3-OH).¹²⁾ MS Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_3$: M, 242.094. Found m/z : M^+ , 242.093.

b) (+)-Flavanonol **3b** ($[\alpha]^{19}_{589} + 12.9^\circ$) gave (–)-**4b** as colorless needles of mp 129–131 °C in 97% yield. $[\alpha]^{18}_{589} - 3.5^\circ$ ($c = 0.52$, CH_2Cl_2). Recrystallization from EtOH gave (–)-**4b** as colorless needles of mp 130–131 °C. $[\alpha]^{25}_{589} - 6.0^\circ$ ($c = 0.10$, CH_2Cl_2). CD ($c = 0.001$, MeOH) $[\theta]^{19}_{\text{D}}$ (nm): +1681 (275) (pos. max.), +713 (245) (neg. max.), +2751 (228) (pos. max.), +1427 (218) (neg. max.). MS Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_3$: M, 242.094. Found m/z : M^+ , 242.094.

The (–)-*trans*-Dibenzoate **5a** and the (+)-*trans*-Enantiomer **5b**—a) A mixture of (+)-**4a** (31% ee) (12.9 mg) and benzoyl chloride (0.04 ml) in anhydrous pyridine (0.2 ml) was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with H_2O and then extracted with C_6H_6 . Removal of the solvent *in vacuo*, followed by prep. TLC (silica gel; $\text{AcOEt}/\text{C}_6\text{H}_6 = 1/20$, v/v) of the residue, gave (–)-**5a** (43% ee) (19.1 mg, 80%), *R_f* 0.70, as colorless needles

of mp 143–145 °C (from EtOH). $[\alpha]_{589}^{18} - 57.3$ ($c=0.51$, CH_2Cl_2). IR (CHCl_3): 1720 cm^{-1} ($\text{OC}=\text{O}$). UV $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{MeOH}}$ nm (log ϵ): 280 (3.43), 274 (3.48), 227 (4.39). CD ($c=0.001$, MeOH) $[\theta]^{19}$ (nm): -4800 (269) (neg. max.), -1700 (251) (pos. max.), -36500 (234) (neg. max.), 0 (223), $+22000$ (219) (pos. max.). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ : 7.90–6.85 (19H, m, aromatic H's), 6.63 (1H, d, $J=6.5$ Hz, 4-H), 5.96 (1H, dd, $J=7.5$ and 6.5 Hz, 3-H), 5.50 (1H, d, $J=7.5$ Hz, 2-H).⁹⁾ MS Calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_5$: M, 450.147. Found m/z : M^+ , 450.149.

b) The (+)-*trans*-enantiomer **5b** (45% ee) was prepared from (–)-**4b** ($[\alpha]_{589}^{22} - 6.0$) as colorless needles of mp 143–145 °C (from EtOH) in 66% yield. $[\alpha]_{589}^{15} + 58.6$ ($c=0.43$, CH_2Cl_2). CD ($c=0.001$, MeOH) $[\theta]^{17}$ (nm): $+5040$ (271) (pos. max.), $+2520$ (253) (neg. max.), $+25920$ (233) (pos. max.), 0 (226), -15218 (220) (neg. max.). MS Calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_5$: M, 450.147. Found m/z : M^+ , 450.145.

(1S,2S,3S)-(+)-2,3-Epoxy-1-2'-methoxymethoxyphenyl-3-phenylpropanol 6a and the (1R,2R,3R)-(–)-Enantiomer 6b—a) NaBH_4 (50 mg) was added to a solution of (–)-**2a** (30% ee) (87.4 mg) in MeOH (7 ml), and the mixture was stirred at -20 °C for 2 h. After addition of AcOH (5 drops), the reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*, and the residue was dissolved in CHCl_3 . Work-up gave an oil, which was purified by prep. TLC (Al_2O_3 ; $\text{CHCl}_3/\text{hexane}=4/1$, v/v) to yield (+)-**6a** (30% ee) (54.6 mg, 62%), R_f 0.30, as a colorless oil. Optical rotation $[\alpha]^{19}$ (nm): $+7.5$ (589), $+7.7$ (577), $+8.3$ (546), $+16.3$ (435) ($c=0.44$, CH_2Cl_2). UV $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{MeOH}}$ nm (log ϵ): 300 (2.89), 267 (3.45), 214.5 (4.13). CD ($c=0.001$, MeOH) $[\theta]^{18}$ (nm): $+686$ (265) (pos. max.), 0 (248), $+1258$ (224) (pos. max.), 0 (220), -1298 (216) (neg. max.). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (C_6D_6) δ : 3.06 (3H, s, 2'- OCH_2OCH_3).⁹⁾ MS Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_4$: M, 286.121. Found m/z : M^+ , 286.122.

b) The (+)-epoxychalcone **2b** (35% ee) gave (–)-**6b** (36% ee) as a colorless oil in 69% yield. Optical rotation $[\alpha]^{20}$ (nm): -8.4 (589), -8.2 (577), -10.6 (546), -21.2 (435) ($c=0.47$, CH_2Cl_2). CD ($c=0.001$, MeOH) $[\theta]^{18}$ (nm): -646 (264) (neg. max.), 0 (243), -2288 (224) (neg. max.), 0 (217), $+1740$ (214), (pos. max.). MS Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_4$: M, 286.121. Found m/z : M^+ , 286.123.

(2R,3S,4S)-(+)-Flavan-3,4-diol 7a and the (2S,3R,4R)-(–)-Enantiomer 7b—a) 10% HCl/MeOH (2 ml) was added to a solution of (+)-**6a** (30% ee) (50.0 mg) in MeOH (0.2 ml), and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 40 min. Removal of the solvent *in vacuo* and recrystallization of the residue from CHCl_3 gave (+)-**7a** (20.6 mg, 49%) as colorless needles of mp 158.5–164 °C. $[\alpha]_{589}^{19} + 6.2$ ($c=0.40$, CH_2Cl_2). Recrystallization from CHCl_3 yielded (+)-**7a** (31% ee) as colorless needles of mp 160–163 °C. Optical rotation $[\alpha]^{19}$ (nm): $+7.8$ (589), $+7.7$ (577), $+8.2$ (546), $+8.5$ (435) ($c=0.56$, CH_2Cl_2). UV $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{MeOH}}$ nm (log ϵ): 282 (3.34), 274.5 (3.40), 213.5 (4.39). CD ($c=0.001$, MeOH) $[\theta]^{19}$ (nm): $+229$ (270) (pos. max.), 0 (255), -185 (242) (neg. max.), 0 (232), $+13640$ (222) (pos. max.). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ : 5.04 (1H, d, $J=9$ Hz, 2-H),⁹⁾ 4.72 (1H, d, $J=3.5$ Hz, 4-H), 4.04 (1H, dd, $J=9$ and 3.5 Hz, 3-H). MS Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_3$: M, 242.094. Found m/z : M^+ , 242.094.

b) The (–)-epoxypropanol **6b** (36% ee) gave (–)-**7b** (28% ee) as colorless needles of mp 159–162.5 °C (from CHCl_3) in 68% yield. Optical rotation $[\alpha]^{18}$ (nm): -6.2 (589), -6.5 (577), -8.0 (546), -8.7 (435) ($c=0.80$, CH_2Cl_2). CD ($c=0.001$, MeOH) $[\theta]^{20}$ (nm): -1211 (275) (neg. max.), -285 (245) (pos. max.), -1682 (220) (neg. max.). MS Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_3$: M, 242.094. Found m/z : M^+ , 242.093.

The (+)-*cis*-Dibenzoate 8a and the (–)-*cis*-Enantiomer 8b—a) A mixture of (+)-**7a** (31% ee) (10.0 mg) and benzoyl chloride (0.1 ml) in anhydrous pyridine (0.3 ml) was stirred at room temperature for 4 h. Work-up of the reaction mixture, followed by prep. TLC (Al_2O_3 ; C_6H_6) of the residue, gave (+)-**8a** (34% ee) (14.3 mg, 77%), R_f 0.60, as colorless needles of mp 118.5–120 °C (from EtOH). $[\alpha]_{589}^{20} + 43.3$ ($c=0.47$, CH_2Cl_2). IR (CHCl_3): 1720 cm^{-1} ($\text{OC}=\text{O}$). UV $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{MeOH}}$ nm (log ϵ): 280 (3.45), 274.5 (3.51), 217.5 (4.42). CD ($c=0.001$, MeOH) $[\theta]^{20}$ (nm): $+2895$ (273) (pos. max.), $+1120$ (252) (neg. max.), $+13500$ (228) (pos. max.), 0 (218), -9900 (210) (neg. max.). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ : 8.13–6.80 (19H, m, aromatic H's), 6.55 (1H, d, $J=3.5$ Hz, 4-H), 5.82 (1H, dd, $J=9.5$ and 3.5 Hz, 3-H), 5.58 (1H, d, $J=9.5$ Hz, 2-H).⁹⁾ MS Calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_5$: M, 450.147. Found m/z : M^+ , 450.146.

b) The (–)-*cis*-enantiomer **8b** (33% ee) was prepared from (–)-**7b** (28% ee) as colorless needles of mp 117–119.5 °C (from EtOH) in 84% yield. $[\alpha]_{589}^{19} - 40.3$ ($c=0.42$, CH_2Cl_2). CD ($c=0.001$, MeOH) $[\theta]^{20}$ (nm): -8100 (268) (neg. max.), -3375 (250) (pos. max.), -19125 (227) (neg. max.), 0 (217), $+7875$ (211) (pos. max.). MS Calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_5$: M, 450.147. Found m/z : M^+ , 450.145.

References and Notes

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 - 6) $[\alpha]_{589}^{26} - 219.6^\circ$ ($c=0.99$, H_2O), mp 183—185 °C (from EtOH).
 - 7) Negative maximum.
 - 8) Positive maximum.
 - 9) These signals appeared at two positions in the 1H -NMR spectra taken in the presence of $Eu(hfc)_3$ and were used for the estimation of ee.
 - 10) $[\alpha]_{589}^{22} + 198^\circ$ ($c=0.82$, H_2O), mp 177—179 °C (from acetone).
 - 11) On addition of D_2O , these splittings changed to those corresponding to disappearance of the hydroxyl protons.
 - 12) On addition of D_2O , these signals disappeared.