# Chemo and Enantioselective Routes to Chiral Fluorinated Hydroxyketones Using Ketoreductases

## Brendan T. Grau\*, Paul N. Devine, Lisa N. DiMichele, and Birgit Kosjek

Department of Process Research, Merck Research Laboratories, Merck and Co. Inc., PO Box 2000, Rahway, NJ, O7065, USA

brendan\_grau@merck.com

#### **Supplemental Information**

#### Sections:

- 1. Analytical methods
- 2. Synthesis of methyl/trifluoromethyl diketone substrates (1, 2, 3)
- 3. Analysis of *para*-diketone **1**
- 4. Analysis of *meta*-diketone 2
- 5. Analysis of *ortho*-diketone **3a**
- 6. Synthesis of racemic trifluoromethyl hydroxyketones (4, 5)
- 7. Analysis of *para*-trifluoromethyl hydroxyketone **4**
- 8. Analysis of *meta*-trifluoromethyl hydroxyketone **5**
- 9. Synthesis of racemic methyl hydroxyketones (7, 8)
- 10. Analysis of *para*-methyl hydroxyketone 7
- 11. Analysis of *meta*-methyl hydroxyketone **8**
- 12. Synthesis of bis-alcohols (10, 11)
- 13. Analysis of para bis-alcohol 10
- 14. Analysis of meta bis-alcohol 11

#### Section 1: Analytical Methods

#### RP-HPLC method:

All chemical reactions for synthesis of diketone and product standards were monitored by reverse phase HPLC using a Zorbax Rx-C8 (4.6mm X 25cm, 5um) column at 25C and a detection wavelength of 210nm. The mobile phase was 50% acetonitrile and 50% 0.1%H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> H<sub>2</sub>O. Samples were prepared using acetonitrile or acetonitrile:H<sub>2</sub>O (1:1) as diluent.

#### Achiral GC method:

All screening reactions of the catalysts were monitored by GC using a Restek Rtx-1701 (30m X 320um, 1um film thickness) column with a split injector (10:1) and a linear velocity of 45cm/sec using helium as the makeup gas. The inlet and detector temperatures were set to 275C using a FID detector. The compounds were eluted with the following temperature gradient, 200C hold for 2 minutes, ramp temperature to 275C at 25C/min and hold for 1 min.

#### Chiral HPLC method:

Reaction samples were extracted with 2 volumes MTBE, dried under  $N_2$  purge and resuspended in isopropanol. Chiral separation of the enantiomers of trifluoromethyl hydroxyketones **4** and **5** was achieved on normal phase HPLC using a Chiralcel OJ-H column with 10% MeOH in heptane at 1mL/min and a detection wavelength of 210nm.

#### Chiral GC method:

Reaction samples were extracted with 2 volumes MTBE, dried under  $N_2$  purge and resuspended in isopropanol. Chiral separation of the enantiomers of methyl hydroxyketones 7 and 8 was achieved on chiral GC using a Chiralsil-dex CB (25m X 320um, 0.25um film thickness) column with a split injector (10:1) and a linear velocity of 60cm/sec using helium as the makeup gas. The inlet and detector temperatures were set to 200C using a FID detector. Compound 7 was eluted with an isothermal method at 130C. Compound 8 was eluted with an isothermal method at 100C.

Section 2: Synthesis of methyl/trifluoromethyl diketone substrates

To a solution of bromo-acetophenone (10g) in toluene (70mL) at 25C was added ethylene glycol (1.5 equivalents) and a catalytic amount of *p*-toluene sulfonic acid. The solution was refluxed overnight with a Dean-Stark trap. Due to the observed distillation of ethylene glycol, an additional 2 equivalents of the reagent was added in order to form the ketal. The toluene solution was cooled to 25C, washed with brine (1/2 volume), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated on a rotary evaporator. The *p*-bromo-ketal (99% conversion, 96% yield) was isolated as a fine white solid while the *m*-bromo-ketal (97% conversion, 93% yield) and o-bromo-ketal (98%conversion, 94% yield) were yellow oils.

The reaction from the ketal to the diketone was modified from the method in the literature reference<sup>2</sup>. 1.1 equivalents n-hexyl lithium (2.3M in hexanes) was added to a solution of bromo-ketal (10g) in THF (100mL) at -78C and aged to completion. Methyl trifluoroacetate (1.2 equivalents) was added to quench and the solution was aged. Upon completion, the solution was warmed to 25C and the ketal was deprotected by addition of 1N HCl. The deprotection of the *meta* and *ortho* compounds required reflux overnight. The THF solution was extracted into t-butyl methyl ether (MTBE, 2 vol.) and the organic layer was washed with brine (1 vol.), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated to a crude waxy solid on the rotary evaporator. The crude solids were dissolved in ethyl acetate (EtOAc) and the *p*-diketone 1 (65% yield), *m*-diketone 2 (58% yield), and *o*-diketone 3 (80% yield) crystallized as a fine white solid upon addition of heptane.

#### Section 3: para-diketone 1

#### 1: p-diketone

$$F_3C$$
 $HO$ 
 $OH$ 

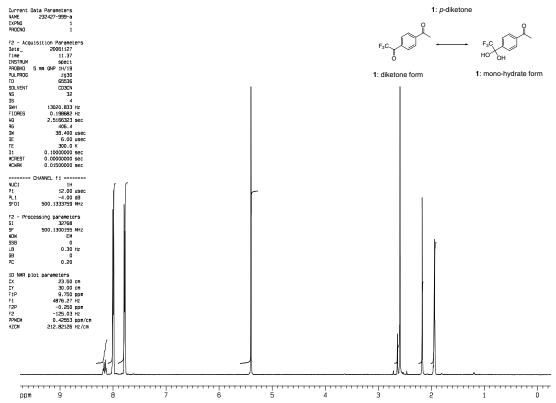
#### 1: diketone form

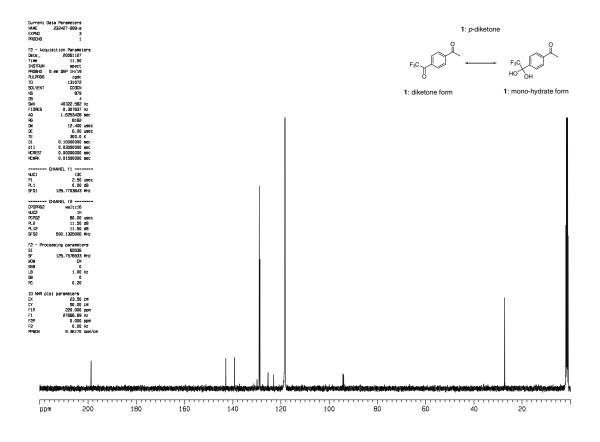
#### 1: mono-hydrate form

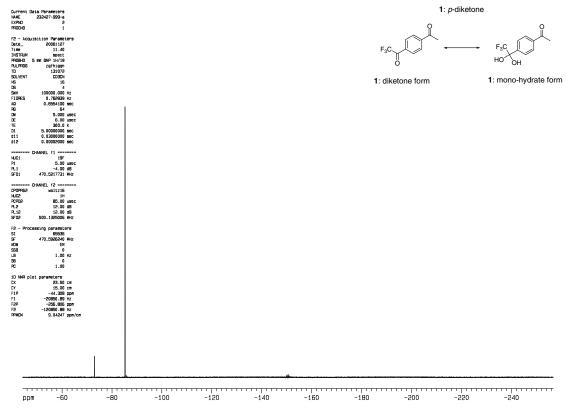
#### Para-diketone 1

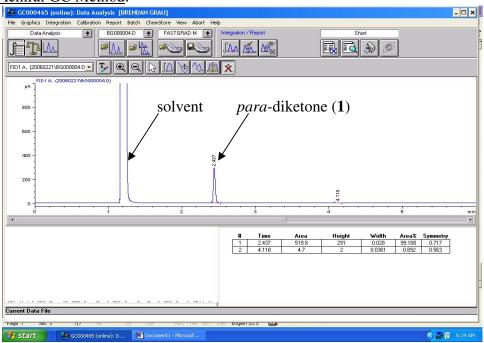
(mono-hydrate form):  $^{1}$ H NMR (500.13 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  = 8.00 (m, 2H), 7.78 (m, 2H), 5.40 (s, 2H), 2.59 (s, 3H) ppm.  $^{13}$ C NMR (500.13 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  = 198.78, 142.83, 139.20, 128.92, 128.68, 124.19 (q, J<sub>CF</sub> = 287.3 Hz), 94.13 (q, J<sub>CF</sub> = 32.0 Hz), 27.24 ppm.  $^{19}$ F NMR (500.13 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  = -85.29 ppm.

(diketone form):  $^{1}$ H NMR (500.13 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  = 8.18 (m, 2H), 8.13 (m, 2H), 2.64 (s, 3H) ppm.  $^{19}$ F NMR (500.13 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  = -73.40 ppm.









#### Section 4: *meta*-diketone 2

#### 2: m-diketone

$$F_3C$$
 $HO$ 
 $OH$ 
 $O$ 
 $F_3C$ 

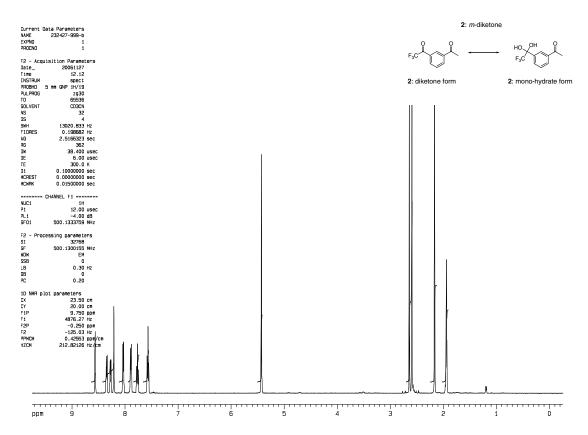
#### 2: diketone form

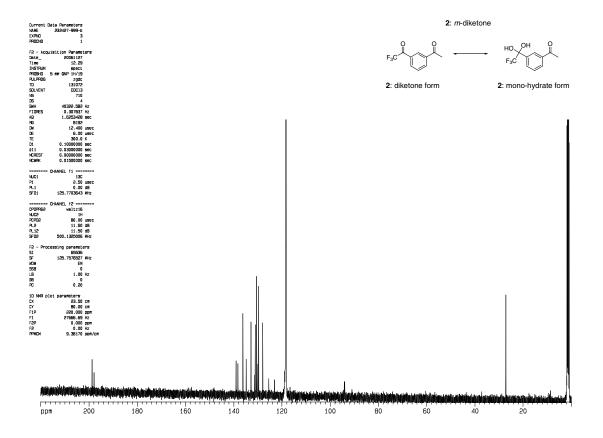
#### 2: mono-hydrate form

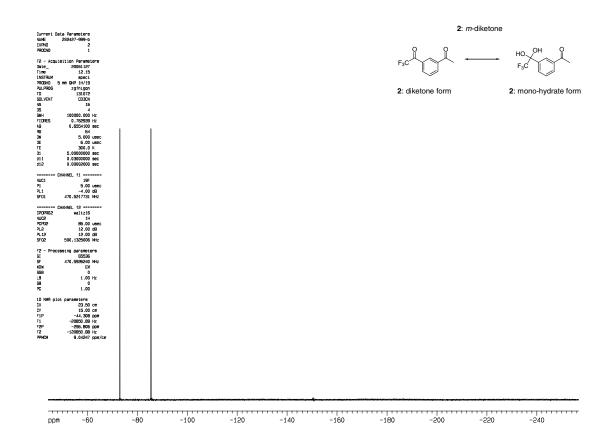
#### *Meta*-diketone 2

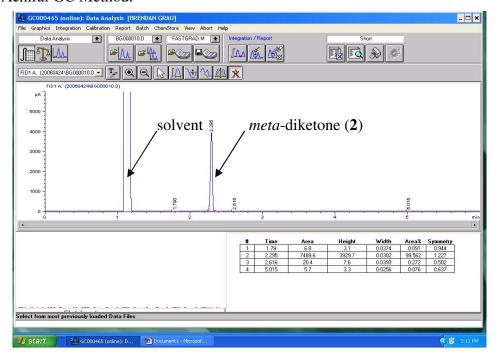
(mono-hydrate form):  $^{1}$ H NMR (500.13 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  = 8.21 (s, 1H), 8.03 (d, J = 7.95 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, J = 7.95 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (t, J = 7.95 Hz, 1H), 5.43 (s, 2H), 2.59 (s, 3H) ppm.  $^{13}$ C NMR (500.13 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  = 198.71, 139.03, 138.20, 132.82, 130.56, 129.62, 127.83, 124.26 (q, J<sub>CF</sub> = 286.7 Hz), 94.09 (q, J<sub>CF</sub> = 32.0 Hz), 27.17 ppm.  $^{19}$ F NMR (500.13 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  = -85.44 ppm.

(diketone form):  $^{1}$ H NMR (500.13 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  = 8.56 (s, 1H), 8.35 (d, J = 7.95 Hz, 1H), 8.27 (d, J = 7.95 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (t, J = 7.95 Hz, 1H), 2.64 (s, 3H) ppm.  $^{19}$ F NMR (500.13 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  = -72.97 ppm.





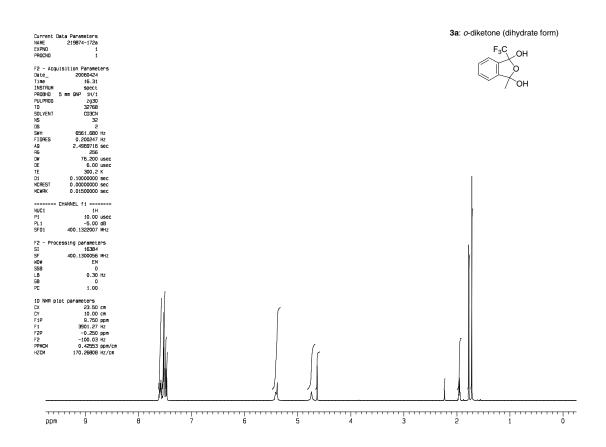


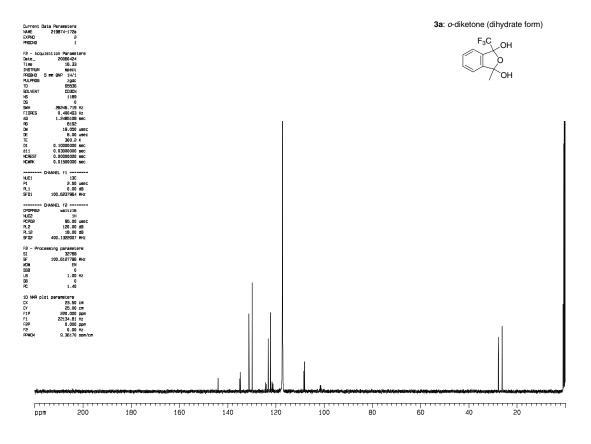


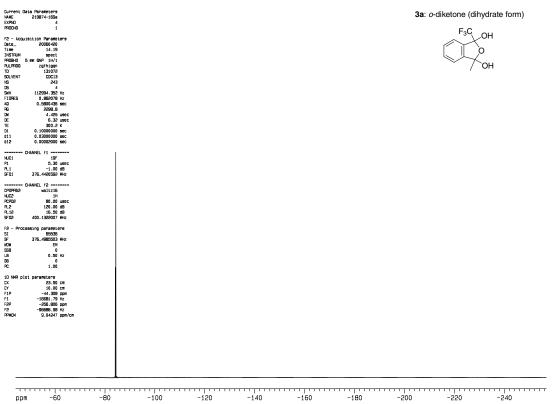
## Section 5: *ortho*-diketone **3a 3a**: *o*-diketone (dihydrate form)

#### Ortho-diketone 3a

(cyclized di-hydrate form):  $^{1}$ H NMR (400.13 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  = ):  $^{1}$ H NMR (500.13 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  = [7.60–7.56 (om, 1H), 7.53-7.50 (om, 2H), 7.47-7.60 (om, 1H), 5.37 (brs, 1H), 4.62 (s, 1H), 1.76 (s, 3H) and 7.60-7.56 (om, 1H), 7.53-7.50 (om, 2H), 7.47-7.60 (om, 1H), 5.37 (brs, 1H), 4.73 (brs, 1H), 1.70 (s, 3H) ppm.  $^{13}$ C NMR (500.13 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  = [145.17, 135.85, 132.41, 130.94, 124.10 (q, J<sub>CF</sub> = 286.0 Hz), 123.34, 109.26, 102.58 (q, J<sub>CF</sub> = 33.6 Hz), 27.31 ppm.  $^{19}$ F NMR (500.13 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  = [-84.37 and -84.15] ppm.







Section 6: Synthesis of racemic trifluoromethyl hydroxyketones 4 and 5.

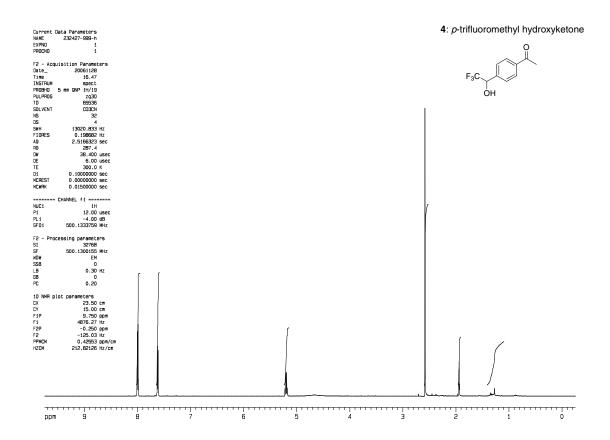
To a solution of diketone 1, 2, and 3a (1g) in toluene (20mL) was added ethylene glycol (4 equivalents) and a catalytic amount of p-toluene sulfonic acid. The solution was refluxed overnight with a Dean-Stark to afford the ketal. No reaction was observed on compound 3a. The toluene solution was cooled to 25C and washed with brine (1/2 vol.). The organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated on a rotary evaporator to a crude the crude ketal.

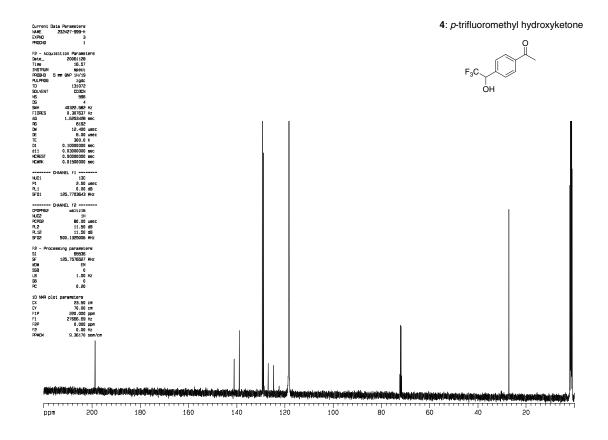
Sodium borohydride (1 equivalent) was added to a solution of ketal (1g) in THF: $H_2O$  (10:1) at 25C and aged 0.5hr. Upon completion the solution was quenched with 1N HCl and aged. The THF solution was extracted into MTBE (2 vol.). The organic layer was washed with brine (1 vol.), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated on a rotary evaporator to yield the crude racemic trifluoromethyl hydroxyketone **4** and **5**.

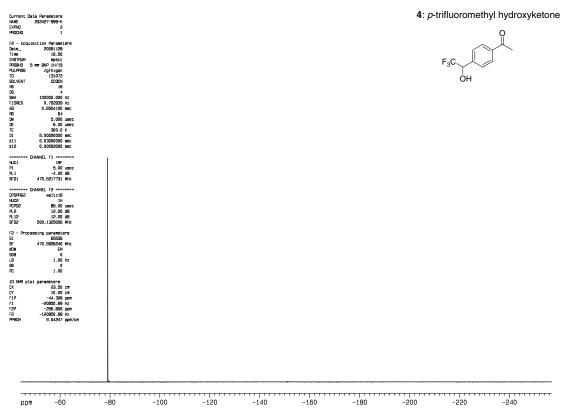
### Section 7: para-trifluoromethyl hydroxyketone 4

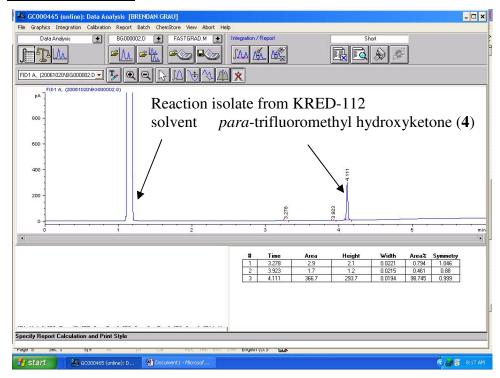
#### 4: p-trifluoromethyl hydroxyketone

**4**:  $^{1}$ H NMR (500.13 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  = 8.00 (m, 2H), 7.62 (m, 2H), 5.20 (q, J = 7.15, 1H), 2.58 (s, 3H) ppm.  $^{13}$ C NMR (500.13 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  = 198.71, 141.04, 139.88, 129.29 (2C), 128.87 (2C), 125.80 (q, J<sub>CF</sub> = 281.8 Hz), 71.98 (q, J<sub>CF</sub> = 31.4 Hz), 27.18 ppm.  $^{19}$ F NMR (500.13 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  = -79.11 ppm.

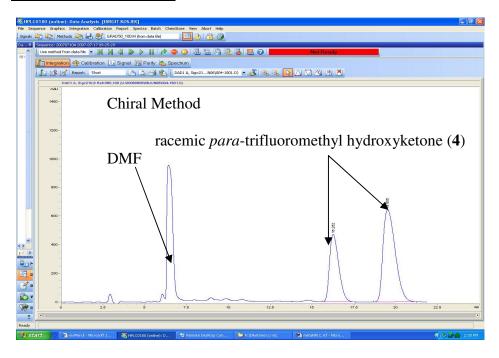




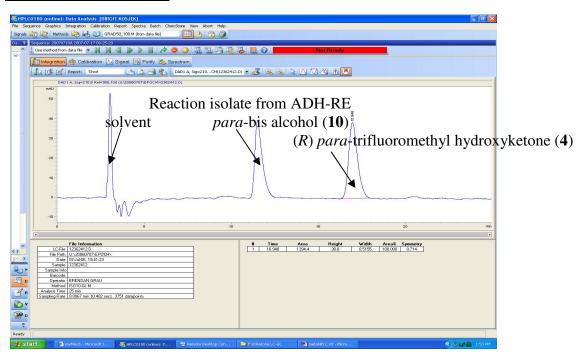




#### **Chiral NP-HPLC Method:**



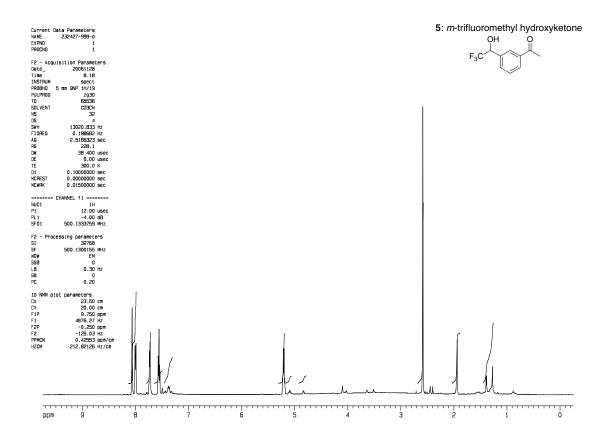
#### **Chiral NP-HPLC Method:**

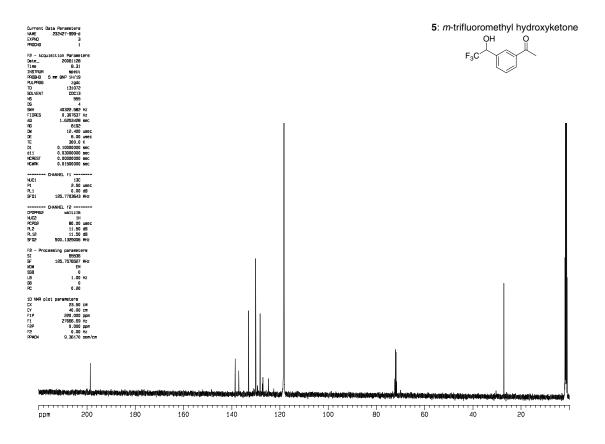


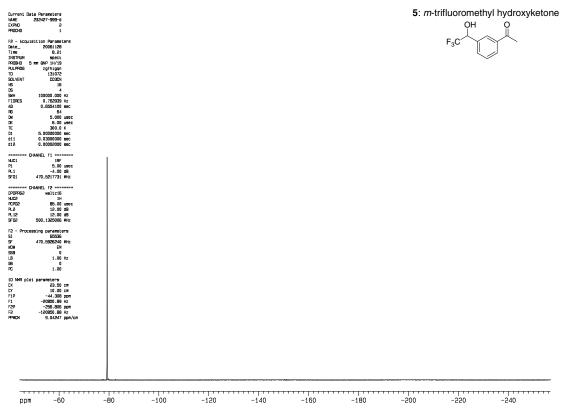
## Section 8: *meta*-trfluoromethyl hydroxyketone 5

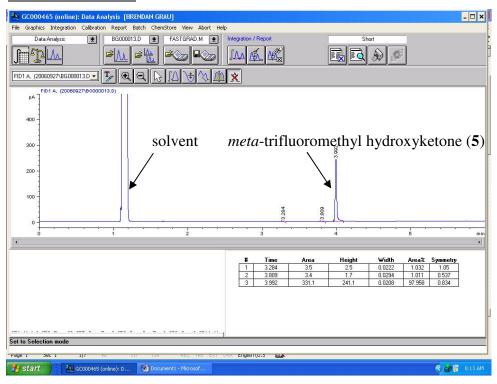
#### 5: m-trifluoromethyl hydroxyketone

5:  $^{1}$ H NMR (500.13 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  = 8.06 (s, 1H), 8.00 (d, J = 7.55, 1H), 7.73 (d, J = 7.55, 1H), 7.56 (t, J = 7.55, 1H), 5.21 (m, 1H), 2.58 (s, 3H) ppm.  $^{13}$ C NMR (500.13 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  = 198.73, 138.47, 136.98, 133.05, 130.11, 129.93, 128.15, 125.80 (q, J<sub>CF</sub> = 281.8 Hz), 72.00 (q, J<sub>CF</sub> = 31.4 Hz), 27.15 ppm.  $^{19}$ F NMR (500.13 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  = -79.34 ppm.

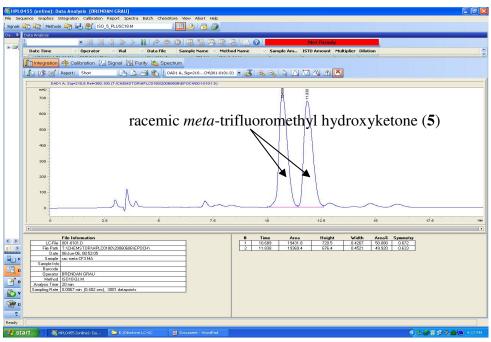




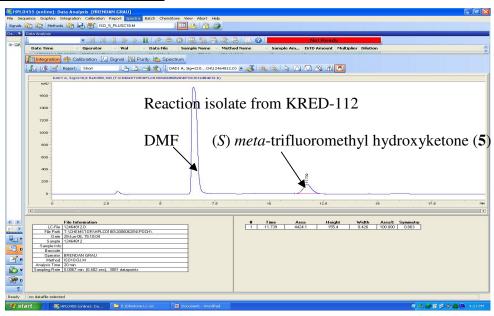




#### **Chiral NP-HPLC Method:**



#### **Chiral NP-HPLC Method:**



Section 9: Synthesis of racemic methyl hydroxyketones 7 and 8.

The racemic standards for the methyl hydroxyketones 7 and 8 were subjected to modified reaction conditions listed in the literature reference<sup>2</sup> by using THF/H<sub>2</sub>O as solvent. No reaction was observed on compound 3a. The THF solution was extracted with MTBE (2 vol.) and the organic layer was washed with brine (1/2 vol.). The organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated on a rotary evaporator to yield the crude racemic methyl hydroxyketones of 7 and 8.

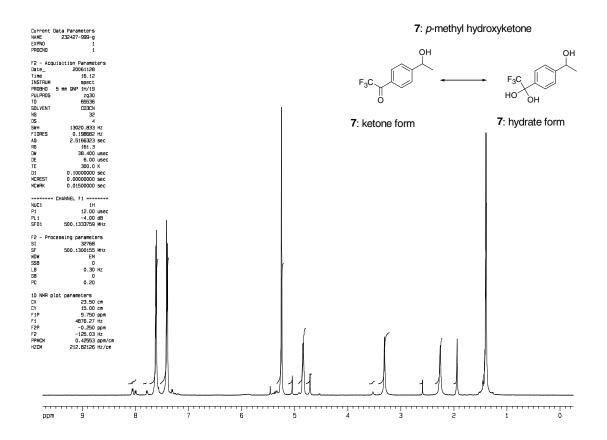
# Section 10: *para*-methyl hydroxyketone **7 7**: *p*-methyl hydroxyketone

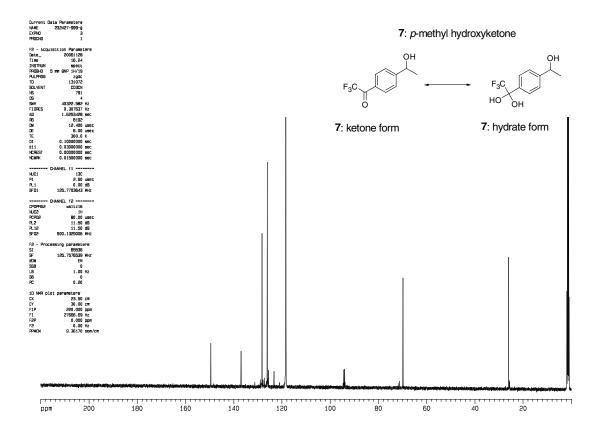
$$F_3C$$
  $OH$   $OH$   $OH$   $OH$   $OH$ 

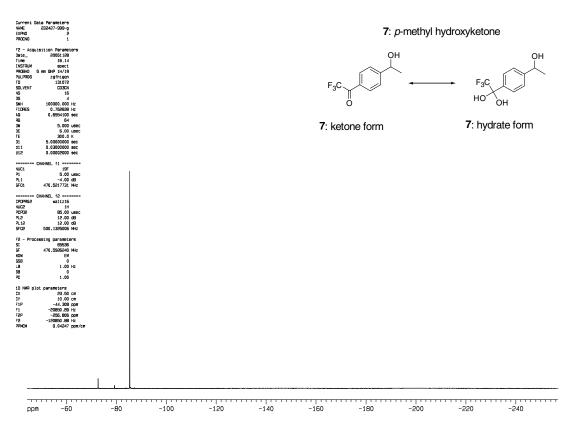
#### 7: ketone form

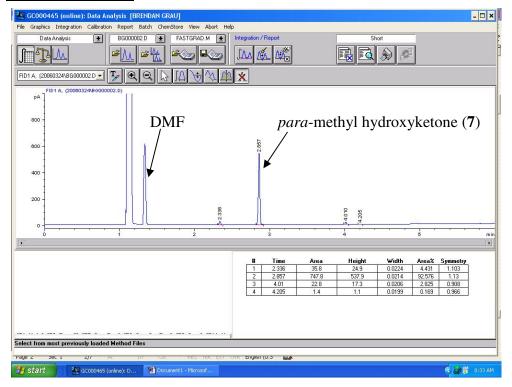
#### 7: hydrate form

(hydrate form):  $^{1}$ H NMR (500.13 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  = 7.61 (m, 2H), 7.41 (m, 2H), 5.25 (s, 2H), 4.84 (m, 1H), 3.31 (brs, 1H), 1.39 (d, J = 6.36, 3H) ppm.  $^{13}$ C NMR (500.13 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  = 149.49, 136.90, 128.22 (2C), 126.06 (2C), 124.40 (q, J<sub>CF</sub> = 287.3 Hz), 94.24 (q, J<sub>CF</sub> = 32.0 Hz), 69.86, 25.93 ppm.  $^{19}$ F NMR (500.13 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  = -85.39 ppm.

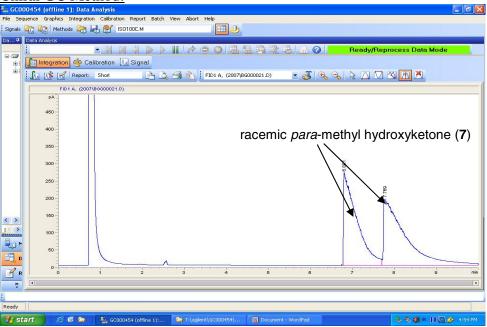


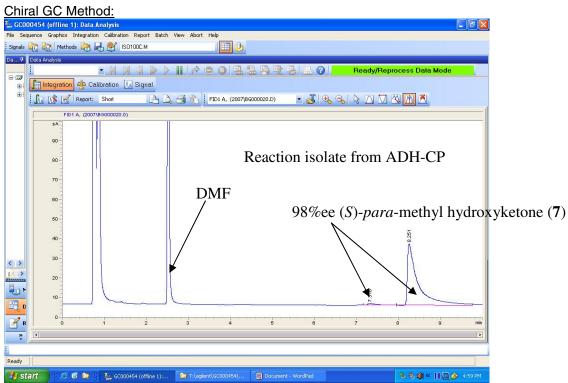






#### **Chiral GC Method:**





## Section 11: *meta*-methyl hydroxyketone **8 8**: *m*-methyl hydroxyketone

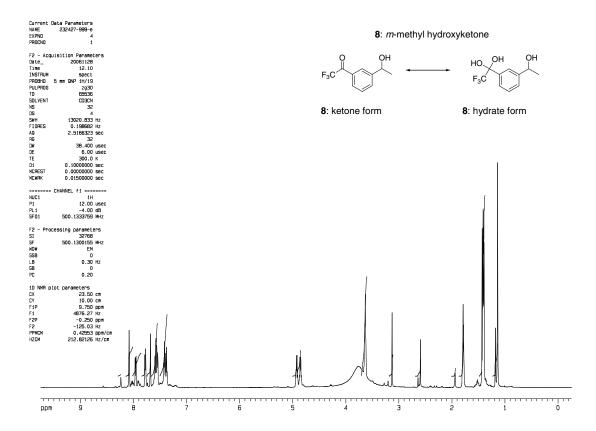
$$F_3C$$
  $O$   $OH$   $OH$   $OH$   $OH$   $F_3C$ 

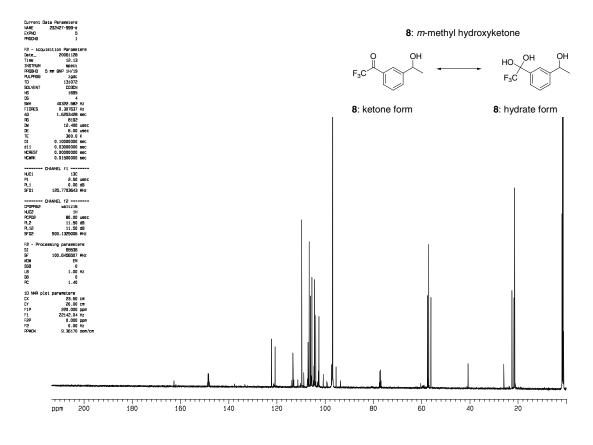
#### 8: ketone form

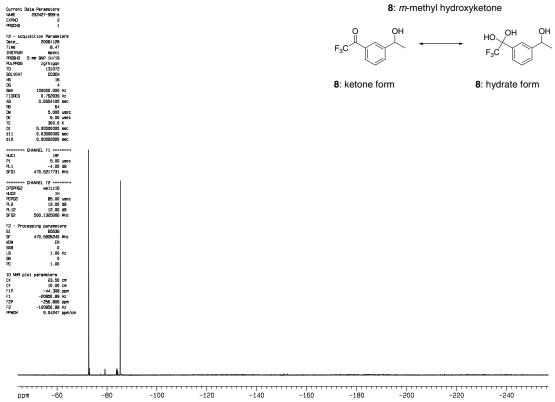
#### 8: hydrate form

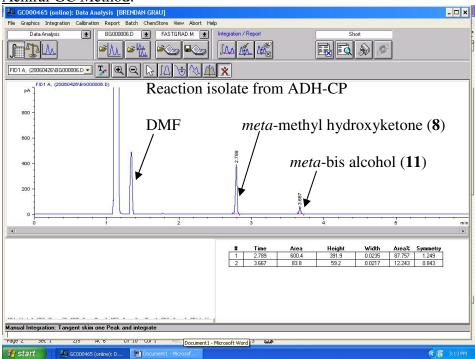
(hydrate form):  $^{1}$ H NMR (500.13 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  = 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.53 (d, J = 7.55, 1H), 7.41 (m, 1H), 7.39 (d, J = 7.55, 1H), 4.85 (q, J = 6.36, 1H), 3.64 (m, 2H), 1.39 (m, 3H) ppm.  $^{13}$ C NMR (500.13 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  = 147.92, 138.33, 130.39, 128.99, 127.84, 126.84, 125.32, 94.50 (q, J<sub>CF</sub> = 32.4 Hz), 69.5, 26.0 ppm.  $^{19}$ F NMR (500.13 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  = -85.36 ppm.

(ketone form):  $^{1}$ H NMR (500.13 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  = 8.08 (s, 1H), 7.96 (d, J = 7.55, 1H), 7.78 (d, J = 7.55, 1H), 7.59 (m, 1H), 4.92 (q, J = 6.36, 1H), 3.64 (m, 2H), 1.39 (m, 3H) ppm.  $^{19}$ F NMR (500.13 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  = -72.70 ppm.

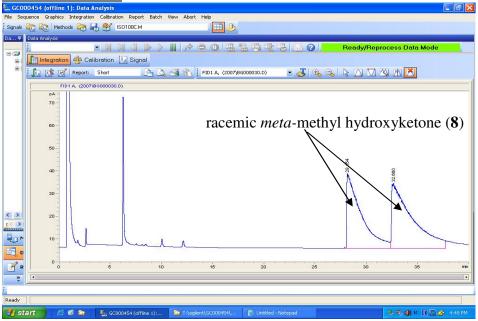


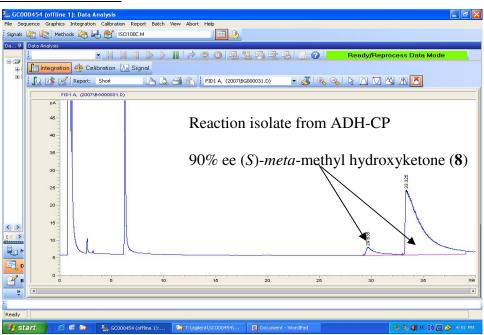






#### **Chiral GC Method:**





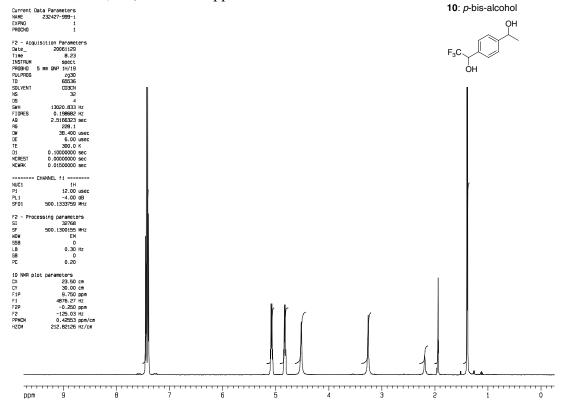
#### Section 12: Synthesis of bis alcohol 10 and 11.

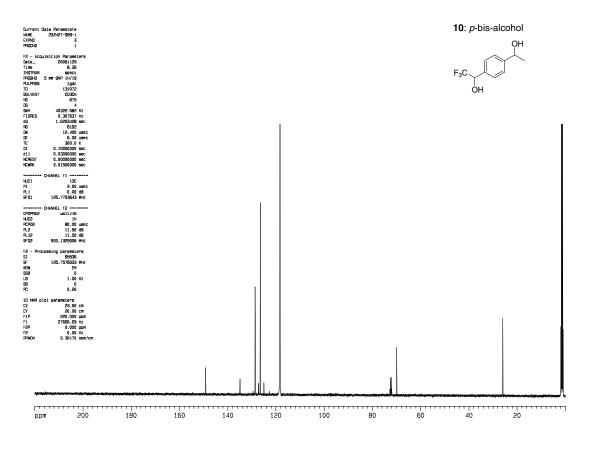
The bis alcohol standards for **10** and **11** were made by reacting the diketones with excess sodium borohydride. No reaction was observed on compound **3a**.

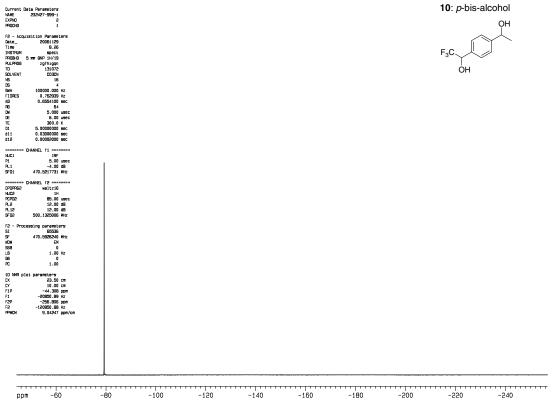
#### Section 13: para bis alcohol 10

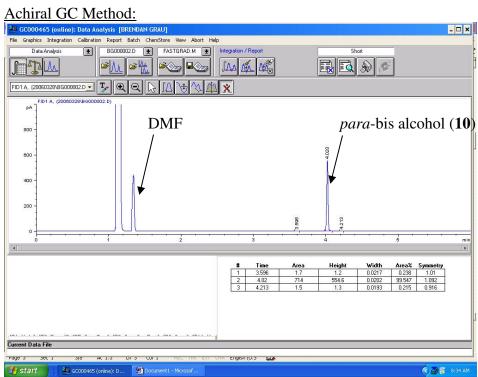
#### **10**: *p*-bis-alcohol

**10**:  $^{1}$ H NMR (500.13 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  = 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.40 (m, 2H), 5.08 (m, 1H), 4.83 (m, 1H), 4.52 (brs, 1H), 3.26 (brs, 1H), 1.39 (d, J = 6.36, 3H) ppm.  $^{13}$ C NMR (500.13 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  = 148.04 [148.04], 133.79 [133.79], 127.45 (2C) [127.45 (2C)], 125.37 (2C) [125.37 (2C)], 125.00 (q, J<sub>CF</sub> = 281.2 Hz) [125.00 (q, J<sub>CF</sub> = 281.2 Hz)], 71.22 (q, J<sub>CF</sub> = 31.4 Hz) [71.20 (q, J<sub>CF</sub> = 30.8 Hz)], 68.81 [68.78], 24.90 [24.90] ppm.  $^{19}$ F NMR (500.13 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  = -79.28 ppm.









Section 14: meta bis-alcohol 11

11: m-bis-alcohol

**11**:  $^{1}$ H NMR (500.13 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  = 7.50 (s, 1H), 7.38 (m, 3H), 5.10 (m, 1H), 4.84 (m, 1H), 4.64 (d, J = 5.56, 1H), 3.37 (d, J = 3.58, 1H), 1.39 (d, J = 6.36, 3H) ppm.  $^{13}$ C NMR (500.13 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  = 148.28 [148.28], 136.30 [136.30], 129.37 (2C) [129.37 (2C)], 127.26 [127.19], 125.67 [125.63], 126.08 (q, J<sub>CF</sub> = 281.8 Hz) [126.08 (q, J<sub>CF</sub> = 281.8 Hz)], 70.03 [70.00], 72.52 (q, J<sub>CF</sub> = 30.8 Hz) [72.52 (q, J<sub>CF</sub> = 30.8 Hz)], 26.04 [26.02] ppm.  $^{19}$ F NMR (500.13 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  = -79.20 ppm.

