Supplementary Information

1. General Experimental

All ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Jeol JNM-EX 270 MHz or Jeol JNM-EX 400 MHz as indicated. Samples were dissolved in deuterated chloroform (CDCl₃) with the residual solvent peak used as an internal reference (CDCl₃– δ H 7.26 ppm). Proton spectra are reported as follows: chemical shift δ (ppm), (integral, multiplicity (s = singlet, br s = broad singlet, d = doublet, dd = doublet of doublets, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet), coupling constant J (Hz), assignment).

Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC) was performed using aluminium-backed Merck TLC Silica gel 60 F254 plates, and samples were visualised using 254 nm ultraviolet (UV) light, and potassium permanganate/potassium carbonate oxidising dip (1:1:100 KMnO₄:K₂CO₃:H₂O w/w).

Column Chromatography was performed using silica gel 60 (70–230 mesh). All solvents used were AR grade. Specialist reagents were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich Chemical Company and used without further purification. Petroleum spirits refers to the fraction boiling between 40–60 °C.

Chiral HPLC was performed with a 1200 series Agilent. Separation of stereoisomers was carried out with a DiacelChiralpak AD-H chiral column (0.46 cm \times 25 cm). Retention times were reported at ambient temp (24 °C) with an injection volume of 20 µL at a flow rate of 1 mL/min. A mobile phase of 10% isopropanol/90% hexane was used.

HRMS was found via a 6210 MSD TOF mass spectrometer under the conditions: gas temperature (350 °C), vaporizer (28 °C), capillary voltage (3.0 kV), cone voltage (40 V), nitrogen flow rate (7.0L/min), nebuliser (15 psi). Samples were dissolved in MeOH.

Specific rotation [α_D] was obtained using a JASCO DIPP Digital Polarimeter. Compounds were dissolved in CHCl₃ where indicated. Rotation was measured at $\lambda = 584$ nm and reported with the units 10^{-1} °C cm² g⁻¹.

Melting points were found on a Stuart Scientific Melting Point Apparatus SMP3, v.5 and are uncorrected.

The Annual Drinking water quality report for the region where this work was undertaken can be found at: http://www.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/image_get.cfm?id=A3102268

2. Synthesis of Bis-diprolinamide

2.1. trans-4-Hydroxy-N-Boc-L-proline 1

Trans-4-hydroxy-*L*-proline (3 g, 22.9 mmol) was solvated in 45 mL of THF/H₂O in a 2:1 ratio. NaOH (1.83 g, 45.8 mmol) was added to the solution and allowed to stir for 4 min. BocAnnhydride (6.5 g, 2.977 mmol) was added to the mixture and the solution was stirred for 24 h under a N₂ atmosphere. The resulting mixture was acidified with 2M HCl (50 mL) and the protected compound was extracted into Et₂O (3×60 mL). The solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give the protected species as a hygroscopic white foam (3.728 g, 70%). ¹H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl3): δ (ppm): 4.43 (br. m, 2H, NH-CH₂-CH), 3.51 (br. m, 2H, NH-CH₂), 2.26 (br. m, 1H, CH-CH₂-CH), 2.09 (br. m, 1H, CH-CH₂-CH), 1.41 (d, 9H, *J* = 13 Hz, *t*-butyl). The compound was identified by ¹H NMR and used without further purification.

2.2. trans-4-Hydroxy-N-Boc-L-proline Benzyl Ester

Benzyl bromide (1.43 mL, 11.8 mmol) was added to a solution of 4-OH-Boc-Proline **1** (2.483 g, 10.7 mmol) in THF and cooled to 0 °C. Triethylamine (1.65 mL, 11.8 mmol) was added and the resulting mixture was stirred for 18 h, gradually reaching room temperature. The solvent was subsequently removed *in vacuo* and the crude mixture was redissolved in DCM. The solution was washed with 1M HCl (2 × 30 mL), brine (2 × 30 mL), Na₂CO₃ (2 × 30 mL) and an additional wash of brine (1 × 30 mL). The washed organic phase was dried over MgSO₄ which was filtered. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give the crude product as a viscous, pale yellow oil. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using gradient elution (2:1 pet. spirits: EtOAc \rightarrow 100% EtOAc) to give the benzyl protected species as a pale yellow oil (2.17 g, 67%), R_f : 0.21 (2 pet. spitis:1 EtOAc); ¹H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.72 (br s, 5H, aryl), 5.04–5.17 (m, 2H, CH₂Ph), 4.42–4.30 (m, 2H, αH), 3.68–3.49(m, 2H, CH-CH₂-CH), 2.20–1.97 (m, 2H, N-CH₂-CH), 1.39–1.27 (m, 9H, *-t*-butyl); [α] $_{D}^{20.7} = -61.1^{\circ}$ (c = 0.118, CHCl₃). The spectra was consistent with data previously reported.[1].

2.3. trans-4-tert-Butyldiphenylsiloxy-N-Boc-L-proline Benzyl Ester (Analysis of Analytically Pure Sample Obtained for Characterisation)

Benzyl protected proline (0.6726 g, 2.1 mmol) was dissolved in DMF (15 mL). Imidazole (0.57 g, 8.38 mmol), DMAP (0.102 g, 0.838 mmol) and tert-butyldiphenylsilyl chloride (0.928 mL, 2.31 mmol) were added to the solution and the mixture was stirred for 24 h. The reaction was quenched with cold H₂O (100 mL) and acidified with 2 M HCl (50 mL). The final product was extracted into EtOAc $(3 \times 30 \text{ mL})$, the combined organic phase was washed with 2 M HCl ($3 \times 30 \text{ mL}$) and saturated NaHCO₃(3×30 mL). The washed organic phase was dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent was removed in vacuo to give the silvlated species as a thick resin which was used without further purification. An analytically pure sample was obtained for characteriation purposes via flash chromatography (1:5 EtOAc, Pet Spirits) to give **3** as a colourless oil (0.673 g, 57%). $R_f = 0.52$; ¹H NMR (Figure S1, 270 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.61 (m, 4H, aryl), 7.37 (m, 10H, aryl), 5.11 (m, 2H, Bn), 4.423 (m, 2H, N-CH-CH₂-CH), 3.48 (m, 2H, N-CH₂), 2.26 (m, 1H, CH-CH₂-CH), 1.88 (m, 1H, CH-CH₂-CH), 1.42 $(d, J = 23 \text{ Hz}, 9\text{H}, \text{Si-C(CH_3)_3}), 1.05 (s, 9\text{H}, \text{Si-C(CH_3)_3}); {}^{13}\text{C} \text{ NMR}$ (Figure S2, 100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) = 172.86, 154.59, 135.57, 133.89, 129.87, 128.55, 128.43, 127.76, 80.03, 71.41, 70.65, 66.64, 58.27, 57.83, 54.70, 54.37, 39.51, 38.67, 28.37, 28.18, 26.77, 19.02; $[\alpha]_D^{20.7} = -37.2^\circ$ (c = 0.123, CHCl₃); $\lambda_{max} = 1747$ (s), 1427 (s), 1175 (s), 1105 (s); HRMS calculated for $[C_{33}H_{41}NO_5SiNa]^+$ M = 582.26462 found m/z = 582.26402.



Figure S1. ¹H NMR spectrum for *Trans-4-tert-butyldiphenylsiloxy-N-Boc-L-proline benzyl ester*.

Jd-2-68 TBDPS col 2 12+13 13C-3.jdf



Figure S2. ¹³C NMR for *Trans-4-tert-butyldiphenylsiloxy-N-Boc-L-proline benzyl ester*.

2.4. trans-4-tertButyldiphenylsiloxy-N-Boc-L-proline Carboxylate 2

Silylatedproline(8.9 g) was dissolved in MeOH (20 mL) and Pd/C (0.89 g, 10% w/w) was added. The mixture was stirred under H₂ (balloon) for 18 h and the resulting solution was vacuum filtered through celite and the filtrate evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (1:9 EtOAc/pet. Spirits) to give the deprotected acid **2** as a viscous, pale brown oil (1.217 g, 72% over two steps). R_f : 0.22 (1/3; EtOAc/Pet. Spirits); ¹H NMR (Figure S3, 270 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.6 (m, 4H, aryl), 7.39 (m, 6H aryl), 4.52 (t, 1H, *J* = 5.18 Hz, CH-CO), 4.4 (m, 1H, CH₂-CH-CH₂), 3.52 (m, 1H, N-CH₂), 3.44 (m, 1H, N-CH₂), 2.25 (m, 1H, CH-CH₂-CH), 2.06 (br m, 1H, CH-CH₂-CH), 1.42 (d, 9H, *J* = 12.6 Hz, Si-C(CH₃)₃), 1.05 (s, 9H, Si-C(CH₃)₃); ¹³C NMR (Figure S4, 100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) = 157.5, 135.6, 133.8, 130, 127.8, 82.1, 70.8, 55.0, 54.5, 39.5,

37.3, 28.3, 26.8, 19.0; $[\alpha]_D^{20.3} = -41.9^\circ$ (0.126, CHCl₃). $\lambda_{max} = 1748$ (s), 1472 (s), 1105 (s); HRMS calculated for $[C_{26}H_{35}NO_5SiNa]^+ M = 492.21767$ found m/z = 492.21804.





mf•/

dan uri

3

20



Figure S4. ¹³C NMR for *trans-4-tertbutyldiphenylsiloxy-N-Boc-L-proline carboxylate* **2**.

2.5. 1,6-di(trans-N-Boc-4-tertbutlydiphenylsiloxy-L-prolinamide) Hexane 3

TBDPSO proline **2** (0.714 g, 2.34 mmol) was dissolved in 15 mL DCM and cooled to 0 °C. HOBt (0.072 g, 0.533 mmol) was added to the mixture and stirred for 4 min before the addition of EDCI (0.269, 1.41 mmol).To this mixture 1,6-diaminohexane (0.139 g, 1.16 mmol) was added and theresulting solution was allowed stirred for 16 h,allowing to reach room temperature. The final mixture was diluted with addition DCM (50 mL) and washed with 2M HCl (2 × 30 mL), Na₂CO₃ (2 × 30 mL) and brine (2 × 30 mL). The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the crude product was purified by column chromatography (2:1 Pet. Spirits: EtOAc) to afford the *N*-boc diprolinamide as a white amorphous solid (0.484 g, 80%). m.p. = 67–68 °C. R_f : 0.14; ¹H NMR (Figure S5, 270 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) = 7.59–7.25 (m, 20H aryl), 4.39 (m, 4H, chiral H), 3.69–3.42 (m, 4H, CH-CH₂-CH), 3.17 (br s, 4 H, CH₂-HN), 2.39–1.97 (br m, 4H, N-CH₂), 1.43 (s, 18H, *Boc*), 1.40 (br, 4H, alkyl), 1.24

(br, 4H, alkyl), 1.02 (s, 18H, Si-C(CH₃)₃); ¹³C NMR (Figure S6, 100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) = 172.58, 156.26, 135.72, 135.66, 129.94, 127.86, 80.52, 71.62, 71.12, 58.9, 55.18, 40.24, 39.21, 27.23, 28.42, 26.89, 26.31, 19.15. [α] $_{\rm D}^{20.7}$ = -49° (c = 0.051, CHCl₃); $\lambda_{\rm max}$ = 1662 (s), 1472 (s); HRMS calculated for [C₅₂H₈₂N₄O₈Si₂Na]⁺ M = 1041.55634 found *m*/*z* = 1041.55572.

Figure S5. ¹H NMR for *1,6-di(trans-N-Boc-4-tertbutlydiphenylsiloxy-L-prolinamide) hexane* **3**.





Figure S6. ¹³C for 1,6-di(trans-N-Boc-4-tertbutlydiphenylsiloxy-L-prolinamide) hexane 3.

2.6. 1,6-di(trans-4-tertButlydiphenylsiloxy-L-prolinamide) Hexane

Boc protected dimer **3** (0.318 g, 0.312 mmol) was stirred in a solution of 10% trifluoroacetic acid (0.5 mL) in DCM (4.5 mL) for 4 hours under a N₂ atmosphere. The resulting solution was dissolved in additional DCM (20 mL) and basified with saturated NaHCO₃ (30 mL). The deprotected compound was extracted into DCM (3×30 mL) and the combined organic phase was washed with NaHCO₃ (3×30 mL). The solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give **4** as a pale brown solid. (0.252 g, 99%). R_f : 0.25 (100%, EtOAc); M.p. = 60–61 °C; ¹H NMR (Figure S7, 270 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) = 7.608 (br m, 8H, aryl), 7.38 (br m, 12H, aryl), 4.35 (br, 2H, CH₁-O), 3.99 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, CH₁-N), 3.14 (sept, 4H, CH₂-N), 2.89 (d, J = 12.1 Hz, 2H, N-CH₂-CH), 2.56 (dd, J = 4.45, 7.7 Hz, 2H, N-CH₂-CH), 2.24 (m, 2H, CH-CH₂-CH), 1.7 (m, 2H, CH-CH₂-CH), 1.41 (m, 4H, alkyl), 1.27 (m, 4H, alkyl), 1.03 (br s, 18H, C(CH₃)₃); ¹³C NMR (Figure S8, 100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) = 174.6, 135.7, 134.1, 129.9, 127.8, 75.1,

56.9, 55.7, 40.1, 38.7, 29.6, 27, 26.53, 19.2; $[\alpha]_D^{20.7} = -137.5^\circ$ (c = 0.024, CHCl₃); $\lambda_{max} = 1654$ (s), 1205 (s), 699 (s); HRMS calculated for $[C_{48}H_{67}N_4O_4Si_2H]^+$ M = 819.46954 found m/z = 819.46880.



Figure S7. ¹H NMR for *1,6-di*(*trans-4-tertbutlydiphenylsiloxy-L-prolinamide*) hexane.



Figure S8. ¹³C NMR for 1,6-di(trans-4-tertbutlydiphenylsiloxy-L-prolinamide) hexane.

3. Determination of Conversion and Diastereomeric Ratio via ¹H NMR

The conversion of the initial aldehyde into the target compound was determined by the integration of key peaks within the ¹H NMR spectra (Figure S9). The diasteremeric ratio was determined by integration of the chiral proton peaks for both the *syn* and the *anti*diastereomer.

Figure S9. Worked example of determining conversion and dr.







4. Determination of Enantiomeric Excess via Chiral HPLC

The enantiomeric excess was determined through the integration of each enantiomer investigating ionic effects applied to water based organocatalysedaldol reactions.

The chiral HPLC traces for each of the reactions carried out within the manuscript and their corresponding racemate standards are given here:

Table 1, entries 3–13 please refer to Figures S10–S23.

Table 2, entries 3–5 please refer to Figures S24–S26.

Table 3, entry 3 please refer to Figure S27.

Table 4, entries 1–12 please refer to Figures S28–S42.





Racemic





Figure S11. Deionized water (Table 1. Entry 1).



Figure S12. Tap water (Table 1. Entry 2).



Figure S13. NaF (Table 1. Entry 3).



Figure S14. NaCl (Table 1. Entry 4).



Figure S15. NaBr (Table 1. Entry 5).



Figure S16. NaI (Table 1. Entry 6).



Figure S17. NaOAc (Table 1. Entry 7).



Figure S18. KF (Table 1. Entry 8).



Figure S19. KCl (Table 1 Entry 9).



Figure S20. KBr (Table 1. Entry 10).



Figure S21. KI (Table 1. Entry 11).



Figure S22. MgCl₂ (Table 1. Entry 12).



Figure S23. CaCl₂ (Table 1. Entry 13).



Figure S24. FeCl₃ (Table 2. Entry 3).







Figure S26. ZnOAc (Table 2. Entry 5).









Racemate





Figure S29. DI water (Table 4. Entry 1).



Figure S30. Tap water (Table 4. Entry 2).



Figure S31. EDTA in tap water (5% w/w) (Table 4. Entry 3)





















Figure S37. ZnOAc₂ (Table 4, Entry 8).



Signal 1: DAD1 B, Sig=210,4 Ref=360,100

Peak #	RetTime [min]	Туре	Width [min]	Area [mAU*s]	Height [mAU]	Area %
	12 200	 DD	0 2104	102 06709	22 10907	17 0510
2	13.423	BB	0.3184	2248.98193	94.33146	82.0482
Totals :				2741.04901	117.43953	





Racemate





Figure S39. DI water (Table 4. Entry 9).



Figure S40. Tap water (Table 4. Entry 10).

Figure S41. EDTA in tap water (5% w/w) (Table 4. Entry 11).





Figure S42. ZnOAc (Table 4. Entry 12).

Reference

 Giacalone, F.; Gruttadauria, M.; Meo, P.L.; Reila, S.; Noto, R. New Simple Hydrophobic Proline Derivatives as Highly Active and Stereoselective Catalysts for the Direct Asymmetric Aldol Reaction in Aqueous Medium. *Adv. Synth. Catal.* 2008, 350, 2747–2760.

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