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Asymmetric Hydrogenation of β -Keto Carboxylic Esters. A Practical, Purely Chemical Access to β -Hydroxy Esters in High Enantiomeric Purity

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Optically active β -hydroxy carboxylic esters are an extremely important class of compounds for natural product synthesis. Access to such compounds has so far relied mainly on biological or biochemical transformations.¹ Asymmetric hydrogenation of the keto esters is an alternative complementary methodology, and the purely chemical means should allow even easier control of the chiral outcome at will, giving both antipodes with equal ease.



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