## Paper IV

# Mechanistic study of asymmetric Co-catalyzed hydrogenation of enamides 

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(In preparation)

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#### Abstract

We investigated the asymmetric cobalt-diphosphine-catalyzed hydrogenation of enamides using density functional theory. The reactivity of two enamides with significantly different molecular structure was evaluated: dehydro-levetiracetam and methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate. Our results indicate that both substrates prefer a non-redox Co(II) mechanism, featuring four and five-membered metallacycle intermediates for dehydro-levetiracetam and 6-membered metallacycles for methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate. However, for each substrate, a redox $\mathrm{Co}(0) / \mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{II})$ mechanism appears to be only slightly higher in energy, indicating that for the $\mathrm{Co}^{-\mathrm{Ph}}$ BPE-catalyzed hydrogenation of enamides, both redox and non-redox pathways compete under reaction conditions. Explicit solvent is found to be crucial for stabilization of transition states and for the proper estimation of the enantiomeric excess of Co- ${ }^{\text {Ph }}$ BPE-catalyzed hydrogenation.


## INTRODUCTION

In homogeneous hydrogenation catalysis, increasing attention is devoted towards the use of earth-abundant $3 d$ metals instead of their precious counterparts. ${ }^{1,2}$ The motivation to use non-noble metals lies in their abundance, lower toxicity and reasonable cost. ${ }^{3}$ However, the $3 d$ transition metals may have different properties than precious metal systems. Whereas the latter typically react via two electron processes, including elementary steps such oxidative addition and reductive elimination, ${ }^{4-7} 3 d$ metals have more accessible oxidation states, allowing for additional one-electron processes. ${ }^{8}$ They may also simultaneously display redox and non-redox pathways, ${ }^{9}$ making the search for their reaction mechanisms more unpredictable and challenging.

In a recent perspective, Arevalo and Chirik have given an overview of strategies that can be used to enable two electron redox chemistry with first row transition metals. ${ }^{10}$ However, although many experimental ${ }^{11-22}$ and computational hydrogenation studies ${ }^{9,23-28}$ have been reported with $3 d$ transition metal catalysts, the use of such systems in enantioselective hydrogenation remains less explored. ${ }^{29-38}$ Examples include Fe-based asymmetric hydrogenation of ketones ${ }^{35,38}$ and imines, ${ }^{37}$ and Co-based protocols for asymmetric hydrogenation of alkenes. ${ }^{2,29,30,33,39}$

Recently, Chirik and co-workers reported the Co-catalyzed asymmetric hydrogenation of enamides ${ }^{33}$ and showed that chiral bidentate phosphine ligands, known to give good enantioselectivities in Rh and Ru-based hydrogenations, ${ }^{40,41}$ also provide excellent results with cobalt. The optimal reaction conditions were found with $\mathrm{CoCl}_{2}$ and Zn dust as an activator, in MeOH at $50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. More than two hundred chiral ligands were tested, and among others, $(R, R)-{ }^{\mathrm{Ph}} \mathrm{BPE}$ and $(R, R){ }_{-}{ }^{\mathrm{iPr}}$ DuPhos displayed high activity and enantioselectivity with enamides (Table 1).

We have previously shown that achiral cobalt-diphosphine
complexes may access different mechanisms for hydrogenation of hydroxylated and non-hydroxylated alkenes. ${ }^{9}$ Whereas non-hydroxylated alkenes appear to be hydrogenated through a redox pathway cycling between $\operatorname{Co}(0)$ and $\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{II})$ states, hydroxylated alkenes prefer a non-redox $\operatorname{Co}($ II ) metallacyle pathway. The hydroxyl group in the studied substrates was placed minimum one atom from the double bond, with the computational results indicating that its primary function was to form a stable metallacycle intermediate. ${ }^{9}$ It is unclear at this stage which mechanism is preferred in the Co-mediated hydrogenation of enamides, which have a functional group (NR) directly at the double bond. We envision that several putative mechanistic alternatives arise for cobalt-catalyzed enamide hydrogenation, in particular in presence of substituents that have the potential to be deprotonated (e.g $\mathrm{NH}_{2}$, Scheme 1, AD). The possible $\operatorname{Co}(0)-\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{II})$ redox mechanism $\mathbf{A}$ has been proposed for different Co-diphosphine systems. ${ }^{9,22,29,33,42}$

Table 1. Selected examples of $(R, R)-{ }^{\text {Ph }} \mathrm{BPE}-\mathrm{Co}$-mediated enamide hydrogenation. ${ }^{33}$



Scheme 1. Possible mechanisms for the Co-catalyzed hydrogenation of enamides (for discussion and references, see main text). Mechanism $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}$ are shown with initial hydride transfer to C 1 , but C 2 is also possible. For $\mathbf{D}$, initial transfer to N is also possible.

Mechanism B is a $\sigma$-bond metathesis pathway related to proposals for alkene hydrogenation with $\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{I})$-diminopyridine complexes. ${ }^{24,32}$ Mechanism $\mathbf{C}$ was proposed by us for the cobalt-di-phosphine-catalyzed hydrogenation of hydroxylated alkenes. ${ }^{9}$ Due to the possibility that enamides may tautomerize to imines, additional mechanistic possibilities arise. Mechanism $\mathbf{D}$ is related to the mechanisms studied for Ir-catalyzed imine hydrogenation ${ }^{43,44}$ and was also recently considered in Co-mediated imine reduction. ${ }^{45}$

In this study, we have computationally evaluated the $\operatorname{Co}-(R, R)-$
 molecular structures to establish their preferred mechanistic routes and to obtain insights into the factors controlling their enantioselective conversion.

## METHODS

Computational models: Full molecular systems, consisting of the $\mathrm{Co}-(R, R)-{ }^{\text {Ph }} \mathrm{BPE}$ catalyst and the substrates, was computed (Fig. 1), without truncations or symmetry constrains. A low-spin $\mathrm{S}=1 / 2$ spin state was employed in the computations, as determined experimentally for the $(R, R)-{ }^{\mathrm{Ph}} \mathrm{BPE}-\mathrm{Co}$ complex. ${ }^{33}$ Computational evaluation of the quartet state confirmed that it is higher in energy. Zn was not included in the model, as the experimental studies have shown that it is not needed if the hydrogenation sets out from the $\mathrm{Co}(0)$ species. ${ }^{33}$

Metal complex
Enamides


methyl 2acetamidoacrylate

dehydro-levetiracetam

Figure 1. Metal complex and substrates studied here.

Computational methods: All geometry optimization and frequency calculations were performed with the Gaussian09 package, Rev. D01. ${ }^{46}$ The DFT hybrid functional B3LYP was employed with the Grimme empirical dispersion correction. ${ }^{47}$ The IEFPCM model was used in order to include solvent effect (methanol solvent). ${ }^{48,49}$ For the geometry optimizations, the small $6-311 \mathrm{G}(\mathrm{d}, \mathrm{p})(\mathrm{BS} 1)$ basis set was used on all nonmetals, whereas the basis set and the pseudopotential LANL2TZ was used on Co. The optimized structures displayed only real vibrational frequencies, with the exception of all transition states structures, which exhibited one imaginary frequency. In order to obtain more accurate energies, single point calculations were performed with 6$311++\mathrm{G}(2 \mathrm{df}, 2 \mathrm{pd})$ on all non-metals, whereas the basis set and the pseudopotential LANL2TZ was used on Co (BS2). Counter poise corrections computed at the BS2 level ( $\mathrm{CP}_{\mathrm{BS} 2}$ ) were included in order to correct for the artificial lowering of the electronic energy, caused by the borrowing of basis functions when molecular fragments are joined into one model. The computed free energies ( $\Delta \mathrm{G}^{\circ} 1 \mathrm{~atm}, \mathrm{BS} 1$ ) in the gas phase were converted into the corresponding 1 M standard state energies, employing a standard state (SS) conversion term. ${ }^{50}$ Only reactions where the number of moles are changed are affected. For the reaction $\mathrm{A}+\mathrm{B}=\mathrm{C}$ at $323.15 \mathrm{~K}, \mathrm{SS}=-2.1$ $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$. For reactions involving explicit solvent, the standard state of the solvent is employed, which is $4.2 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ (based on the concentration of the pure solvent of 24.7 M for MeOH , derived from the density of $0.792 \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{mL}$ ). Temperature corrections were included in all free energies to match the experimental temperature $\left(50{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$. The standard state Gibbs free energies ( $\Delta \mathrm{G}^{\circ}{ }_{1 \mathrm{I}, 323 \mathrm{~K}}$ ) reported in the main text corresponds to:
(eq.1) $\quad \Delta \mathrm{G}^{\circ}{ }_{1 \mathrm{M}, 323 \mathrm{~K}}=\Delta \mathrm{G}_{\text {latm, } 323 \mathrm{~K}, \mathrm{BS} 1}-\Delta \mathrm{E}_{\text {latm, } \mathrm{BS} 1}+\Delta \mathrm{E}_{\text {latm, } \mathrm{BS} 2}+$ $\mathrm{CP}_{\mathrm{BS} 2}+\mathrm{SS}_{323 \mathrm{~K}}$

Enantioselectivities were evaluated from the computed barriers for the rate limiting steps using the following fomula: ${ }^{51}$

$$
\begin{equation*}
e e_{\text {theo }}=\frac{1-e\left(-\frac{\Delta \Delta G H}{R T}\right)}{1+e\left(-\frac{\Delta \Delta G H}{R T}\right)} * 100 \tag{eq.2}
\end{equation*}
$$

## Experimental details: [to be filled by collaborators]

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Several possible mechanistic pathways for Co- $(R, R)-{ }_{-}^{\text {Ph }}$ BPEcatalyzed hydrogenation of enamides (Scheme 1) were studied using DFT methods on the full molecular systems (Figure 1). Detailed schematic drawings and energies for all pathways are found in the Supporting Information (SI).
Hydrogenation of dehydro-levetiracetam: The Co-mediated hydrogenation of dehydro-levetiracetam (Table 1) leads to the chiral epilepsy drug Keppra. ${ }^{33}$ This substrate is interesting, because in addition to the enamide functional group, it possesses an ionizable primary amide, making mechanisms $\mathbf{A}$ to $\mathbf{C}$ possible options (Scheme 1). Tautomerization of dehy$d r o-$ levetiracetam to a neutral imine is not possible, excluding mechanism D.

Hydrogenation of dehydro-levetiracetam via a redox-type mechanism A sets out from a substrate-coordinated species, where the enamide coordinates to cobalt through both the double bond and the oxygen atom of the amide motif (Fig. 2). A similar coordination mode has been observed in the X-ray structure of the enamide methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate with a cationic Co-DuPhos complex, ${ }^{2}$ however, the orientation of dehydro-levetiracetam is different. ${ }^{52}$

Our computations show a very high dissociation energy of almost $50 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for the substrate (SI, Fig. S1), indicating that the enamide-coordinated complex is rather stable. It is thus unlikely that cobalt will be uncoordinated when $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ binds, as has been assumed in other studies on Co-catalyzed alkene or imine hydrogenation via a redox mechanism..$^{2,42}$ Coordination of $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ to the substrate-coordinated complex leads to formation of a $\mathrm{Co}(0)-\mathrm{H}_{2}$-Sub species, where $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ prefers to form a $\sigma$-bonded complex and is not oxidatively added to Co. In the next step of Mechanism A, an oxidative hydride transfer to the C2 atom (TS_Hyd) gives an alkyl intermediate, which
has a computed barrier of $26.5 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ with the $\operatorname{pro-}(S)$ coordinated substrate (SI, Fig. S2). TS_Hyd is the rate- and se-lectivity-determining step of mechanism $\mathbf{A}$. At the intermediate, the substrate behaves as a chelate and interacts with cobalt through both the nucleophilic carbon and the amide oxygen. Finally, reductive elimination liberates the product and regenerates the Co(0) species (SI, Fig. S2). An overall barrier of $26.5 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ would be feasible at the experimental temperature of 323 K (based on the discussion by Baik and coworkers, a reasonable conversion at 323 K requires a barrier below $27.1 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ ). ${ }^{53}$

Mechanism B starts similar as Mechanism A with a hydride transfer to the substrate (SI, Fig. S3). Then an additional $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ molecule binds, which transfers a proton to the substrate. This $\sigma$-bond methathesis pathway has a computed barrier of $37.7 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$, making it non-feasible.

The non-redox metallacycle mechanism $\mathbf{C}$ starts from a Co (II)-monohydride species (Scheme 2), which is 10.0 $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ above the reference structure $\mathrm{Co}(0)-\mathrm{Sub}$. Hydride transfer to the C 2 atom of the enamide has a barrier of only $18.0 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ and forms an interesting four-membered metallacycle intermediate (Fig. 2). The conformer formed right after hydride transfer does not have the substrate carbonyl coordinated to Co (Co-metallacycle, conformer 1, Fig. 2), however, upon recoordination of the carbonyl, the metallacycle intermediate exhibits a low relative energy of $-3.5 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ (Co-metallacycle, conformer 2, Fig. 2). In the next step, $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ coordination takes place, followed by proton transfer to the C 3 atom to form the hydrogenated $\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{II})-\mathrm{Int}-\mathrm{H}$ intermediate, with a barrier of $23.7 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$. This step is thus rate- and se-lectivity-determining. ${ }^{54}$ In the final step, coordination of another substrate occurs, which transfers its proton to the nitrogen atom (barrier of $15.7 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ relative to the lowest-lying intermediate), resulting in the final product and the regeneration of the active $\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{II})$-monohydride species.

We also tested another variant of the metallacycle mechanism C (SI, Figure S4), where the initial hydride transfer occurs to the C3 atom of the substrate. The formed intermediate is now a five-membered metallacycle species. The following steps are the same as for the four-membered metallacycle, with the only difference that subsequent proton transfer occurs to the C 2 atom.


Scheme 2. Non-redox metallacycle mechanism $\mathbf{C}$ for the $\mathrm{Co}_{-}{ }^{\mathrm{Ph}}$ BPE-catalyzed hydrogenation of dehydro-levetiracetam. Free energies of the 4-membered metallacycle intermediates and rate-limiting proton transfer TSs are given in $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}, 323 \mathrm{~K}$, relative to $\mathrm{Co}(0)-\mathrm{Sub}$.


Figure 2. Computed energy profiles profile ( $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}, 323 \mathrm{~K}, \mathrm{~B} 3 \mathrm{LYP}-\mathrm{D} 3 / \mathrm{BS} 2[I E F P C M] /$ B3LYP-D3//BS1[IEFPCM] level of theory)
 Energies are given relative to $\operatorname{Co}(0)-\mathrm{Sub}$.

Interestingly, the rate-determining step for the formation of the predominant $(S)$-product is the hydride transfer step with a barrier of $23.8 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$, yet the rate-limiting step for the formation of the $(R)$-product is the proton transfer step with a barrier of $24.0 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$.
The computed energies indicate that for $\mathrm{Co}^{-}{ }^{\text {Ph }}$ BPE-catalyzed hydrogenation of dehydro-levetiracetam, both fourmembered and five-membered metallacycle mechanisms are energetically feasible at the reaction temperature of 323 K . However, a relevant question is how the active monohydride species initially is formed in Mechanism C. In the Co(II)-dialkyl-mediated hydrogenation of hydroxylated alkenes, we proposed that a $\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{II})$-monohydride species can be formed from the Co (II) precatalyst through protonation and loss of the alkyl ligands. ${ }^{9}$ However, for the current system, the starting complex is a $\mathrm{Co}(0)$ species with a neutral ligand, ${ }^{33}$ making it less obvious how a $\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{II})$-monohydride can be formed. A direct oxidative addition of the ionizable group of the substrate to $\operatorname{Co}(0)$ is too costly with a barrier of $42.2 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ (SI, Fig. S5). Instead, we propose that the reaction starts from the $\mathrm{Co}(0)$-enamide species, which binds $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ and undergoes a hydride transfer to the enamide (Scheme 3). The formed hydride may then abstract a proton from the ionizable group of the substrate (here $\mathrm{XH}=\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ ), resulting in formation of the metallacycle that is part of Mechanism $\mathbf{C}$. The barrier from $\mathrm{Co}(0)$-Sub to the metallacycle is $26.5 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$, making it feasible to occur once at the reaction temperature. After the metallacycle is formed, mechanism $\mathbf{C}$ can operate in subsequent reaction cycles (overall barrier $23.7 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ ).
In conclusion, it appears that the metallcycle mechanism $\mathbf{C}$ is preferred for $\mathrm{Co}^{-{ }^{\mathrm{Ph}}} \mathrm{BPE}$-catalyzed hydrogenation of dehy-dro-levetiracetam (barriers of 23.7 to $24.0 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for the ( $S$ ) and $(R)$ pathways, Scheme 2 and Fig. S4), however, it needs to be emphasized that of the other tested mechanisms, in particular mechanism $\mathbf{A}$ appears to be within reach for formation of the (S)-product (barrier of $26.5 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$, Figure S2).


Scheme 3. Proposed route for the initial transformation of the stable $\operatorname{Co}(0)$-Sub species to an intermediate in Mechanism C. Numbers obtained with dehydro-levetiracetam.

Hydrogenation of methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate: Initially we evaluated the hydrogenation of methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate via redox mechanism $\mathbf{A}$ (Figure 3). The steps are the same as discussed for dehydro-levetiracetam, with hydride transfer to C 1 and an overall barrier of $24.3 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for formation of the ( $S$ )-product, which is feasible at the experimental temperature of 323 K . If hydride transfer occurs to C 2 of the enamide instead, the barrier raises to $38.7 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ (SI, Fig. S6), excluding this pathway. The alternative Mechanism B has a barrier of $28.6 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ (SI, Figure S7) and thus not feasible at reaction temperature. Interestingly, mechanism $\mathbf{C}$, which proceeds via a 6 -membered metallacycle, has a similar barrier as the redox mechanism A of $24.0 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ (SI, Fig. S8). The redox imine mechanism $\mathbf{D}$ has a minimum barrier of 28.3 $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ (SI, Fig. S9). An alternative imine hydrogenation mechanism proceeding via heterolytic $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ cleavage is not accessible (SI, Fig. S10). Thus, of all tested mechanisms, redox mechanism $\mathbf{A}$ and non-redox metallcycle mechanism $\mathbf{C}$ appear most feasible for the hydrogenation of the enamide methyl 2-acetamidacrylate. However, the inclusion of explicit solvent in the calculations has a significant impact on the computed barriers, as discussed further below.


Figure 3. Computed energy profile ( $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}, 323 \mathrm{~K}$, B3LYP-D3/BS2[IEFPCM]//B3LYP-D3//BS1[IEFPCM]) for the Co- ${ }^{\mathrm{Ph}} \mathrm{BPE}-\mathrm{cata}-$ lyzed hydrogenation of methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate via redox mechanism $\mathbf{A}$.

Effect of explicit solvent: Hydrogenation of methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate appears to be possible via both mechanism A and C (vide supra), however, for both pathways, the computed barriers for formation of the $(R)$-product are high, respectively, $31.1 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ (A, Figure 3) and $28.3 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ (C, Figure S 8 ). Based on the experimental results, the $(R)$-product should be formed in minor amounts ( $\sim 7.5 \%$ of the product), ${ }^{33}$ which appears incompatible with the high barriers.

An analysis of the involved hydride transfer TSs of Mechanism $\mathbf{A}$ indicates that the $(R)$-TS experiences less charge stabilization than the preferred ( $S$ )-TS. At the pro-(S) TS, the interactions of the amido group with the Co center helps to stabilize the emerging negative chanrge on the substrate, whereas at the pro- $(R) \mathrm{TS}$, such a stabilization is not possible. This observation led us to explore how explicit solvent, which has the potential to stabilize the evolving charges, would affect the computed barriers for mechanism $\mathbf{A}$. To this end, a MeOH molecule was hydrogen-bonded to the NH group of the substrate, which was motivated by the X-ray structure of a Co (DuPhos)-methyl 2 -acetamidoacrylate complex, where a solvent molecule (dimethyl ether) is bound to this $\mathrm{NH} .{ }^{2}$

The DFT models used here cannot provide a reliable prediction of the energy of forming a hydrogen bond between a MeOH molecule from the bulk and the coordinated substrate, as the interactions of MeOH with the bulk cannot be computed, and the entropy of a free MeOH likely is overestimated. Therefore, for calculations of the free energy barriers in presence of an explicit MeOH , we have computed these relative to the $\mathrm{Co}(0)$-Sub-species that has a hydrogen-bonded MeOH molecule. Interestingly, the hydrogen-bonded MeOH decreases the barriers for Mechanism A (Fig. 4 and S11). The decrease is slight for the ( $S$ )-pathway ( $1.4 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ ), but significant for the $(R)$-pathway ( $7.1 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ ), which we ascribe to improved charge stabilization. We emphasize that the inclusion of a solvent molecule brings with it computational complications, because many different conformations are possible, which would require dynamics to evaluate. Thus, the barriers obtained in presence of MeOH are to be viewed as approximate, however, they indicate that formation of the $(R)$-product via mechanism $\mathbf{A}$ is feasible under experimental conditions.

Also for mechanism $\mathbf{C}$, a barrier reduction of up to 5 $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ is observed, when explicit MeOH is added (SI, Figure S8). The proton transfer step is found to be rate limiting for both $(S)$ and $(R)$ pathways of mechanism $\mathbf{C}$, with barriers of 20.9 and $23.4 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$, respectively. This implies that in presence of explicit solvent, the computed overall barrier for hydrogenation of methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate to the ( $S$ )-product via the metallacycle mechanism C ( $20.9 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$, Fig. S8) is two $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ lower than via the redox mechanism $\mathbf{A}$ ( $22.9 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$, Figure 4), however, the difference is too small to definitely identify one of these mechanisms as preferred. It must be expected that the error of DFT on absolute barriers (e.g. the overall barrier for a mechanism) is larger than the error on relative barriers (e.g. the difference between two diastereomeric TSs from the same pathway). With a $2 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ difference between Mechanisms $\mathbf{A}$ and $\mathbf{C}$, we conclude that both may possible and may be competing for hydrogenation of methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate. Importantly, both mechanisms appear viable at the reaction temperature of 323 K and in presence of explicit solvent, both mechanisms provide feasible barriers for formation of both the $(R)$ and the $(S)$ product.

pro-(S) TS $\Delta G^{\ddagger}=24.3$
pro-(S) TS_MeOH $\Delta G^{\ddagger}=22.9$

pro-(R) TS $\Delta G^{\ddagger}=31.1$
pro-(R) TS_MeOH $\Delta G^{\ddagger}=24.0$

Figure 4. Optimized pro-( $S$ ) and $-(R)$ hydride transfer TSs for Co- ${ }^{\mathrm{Ph}}$ BPE-catalyzed hydrogenation of methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate via in Mechanism A, with and without a hydrogen-bonded MeOH (barriers relative to reactant with or without MeOH , respectively, kcal/mol, 323 K ).

For mechanism D, the explicit solvent interactions do not change the barriers significantly (SI, Fig. S9). We also tested if MeOH could open other reaction patwhays, for example, coordinate to Co , while serving as a hydrogen bond donor, However, this raises the barriers significantly (SI, Fig. S12), making this possibility unfavorable. Coordinated MeOH could instead potentially function as a proton source. In this process, a Co-methoxy species is formed, whose regeneration has a barrier of $44.5 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ (SI, Fig. S13), excluding this pathway. This is in agreement with deuterium labelling studies that indicate that MeOH remains intact during hydrogenation [experimental result may be added].

We conclude that the solvent may play a vital role in hy-drogen-bond stabilization during Co- ${ }^{\text {Ph }}$ BPE-catalyzed conversion of methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate via redox mechanism A and metallacycle mechanism C. A similar but much smaller effect of the explicit solvent is also observed for hydrogenation of dehydro-levetiracetam (Fig. S4, S14a and S14b). For this substrate, the barriers for formation of the ( $S$ )-product in presence of explicit solvent remain similar for Mechansim A and $\mathbf{C}$, and thus also for this enamide, both mechanisms may contribute to the formation of the major product.

Enantioselectivity of Co- ${ }^{P h}$ BPE-catalyzed hydrogenation of methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate and dehydro-levetiracetam: We evaluated the computed enantioselectivity of Co- ${ }^{\text {PhBPE-cata- }}$ lyzed hydrogenation of methyl 2 -acetamidoacrylate by using all TSs that correspond to the rate-limiting steps in the energetically close lying redox mechanism $\mathbf{A}$ (Figure 4) and the metallacylce mechanism C (SI, Fig. S8). In absence of explicit solvent, the barriers for the $(R)$ product are high,

Table 2. Computed free energy barriers ( $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ ) and comparison of computed and experimental e.e.'s at 323 K for $\mathrm{Co}^{-{ }^{\mathrm{Ph}} \mathrm{BPE}}$-catalyzed hydrogenation of two enamides.

| Substrate | Barrierscomp $^{\mathrm{a}}$ | e.e.comp | e.e.exp ${ }^{\mathrm{b}}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Methyl 2-acet- | Mech. $\boldsymbol{A}^{c}$ | $94.7 \%(S)$ | $85.0 \%(S)$ |
| amidoacrylate | (S) 22.9 |  |  |
|  | $(R) 24.0$ |  |  |
|  | Mech. $\boldsymbol{C}(6 m)^{d}$ |  |  |
|  | (S) 20.9 |  |  |
|  | $(R) 23.4$ |  |  |
| Dehydro- | Mech. $\boldsymbol{A}^{e}$ | $76.6 \%(S)$ | $98.3 \%(S)$ |
| levetiracetam | (S) 25.2 |  |  |
|  | (R) 30.0 |  |  |
|  | Mech. $\boldsymbol{C}(5 m)^{f}$ |  |  |
|  | (S) 22.8 |  |  |
|  | (R) 24.1 |  |  |
|  | Mech. $\boldsymbol{C}(4 m)^{g}$ |  |  |
|  | (S) 25.4 |  |  |
|  | (R) 26.1 |  |  |

${ }^{a}$ With explicit $\mathrm{MeOH},{ }^{\mathrm{b}}$ From ref. ${ }^{33}$, ${ }^{\mathrm{c}}$ Redox mechanism A, Fig. 4, ${ }^{\text {d }}$ Non-redox metallacycle mechansism C via 6-membered metallcycle, Fig. S8, SI, ${ }^{\text {eRedox mechanism A, Fig. }}$ S14a, SI, ${ }^{\text {N }}$ Non-redox Mechanism C via 5 -membered metallacyle, Fig. S4, SI, ${ }^{9}$ Non-redox mechansism C via 4-membered metallacyle, Fig. S14b, SI.
implying an enatioselectivity of $99.8 \%(S)$ should be observed (Table S2, SI). With explicit solvent, the barriers become more reasonable and the computed e.e. drops to $94.7 \%$ $(S)$, which is a slight overestimation compared to the experimentally reported e.e. of $85 \%(S)^{33}$ (323 K, Table 2). The results indicate that the two mechanisms can explain the enantioselectivity observed with this substrate. We note, however, that the computed values should be considered as approximate, because the precise location of the hydrogen bonded MeOH molecule is not possible to determine, and it is likely that multiple MeOHs are bound, whose computations, however, is beyond the possibilities of the static DFT methods employed here.

The enantioselectivity of the $\mathrm{Co}^{-}{ }^{\text {Ph }}$ BPE catalyzed asymmetric hydrogenation of dehydro-levetiracetam is also computed using all energetically close-lying TSs, including mechanism $\mathbf{A}$ (Figure S14a) and the 4 and 5-membered metallacycle mechanisms C (Figure S14b and S4, respectively). The obtained e.e. in absence of explicit solvent is $43.3 \%$ (Table S1) which is much smaller than experiment, $98.3 \%(S) .{ }^{33}$ If MeOH is hydrogen-bonded to the substrate, the computed e.e. increases to $76.6 \%(S)$ (Table 2). Interestingly, the experimental screening of solvents indicated a significant effect of the solvent on the observed enantioselectivity, with e.e. values varying from 76 to $94 \%(S)$ at RT in different solvents (MeOH, EtOH, iPrOH, TFE). ${ }^{33}$ This supports a role of explicit solvent interactions in determining the final enantiomeric excess. Such effects cannot be expected to be fully captured through including of a single explicit solvent molecule in the DFT calculations. However, our results indicate that if explicit solvent forms hydrogen bonds with the coordinated substrate, then this affects both the hydrogenation barriers and the resulting enantiomeric excesses.

## CONCLUSIONS

We have investigated the intimate details of $\mathrm{Co}(0)-{ }^{\text {Ph }}$ BPE-catalyzed hydrogenation of enamides. Two enamides were studied computationally, of which one contains an ionizable $\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ group and the other an ionizable secondary amide (Table 1). Despite the large differences in the molecular structure of the two substrates and the plethora of putative hydrogenation mechanisms that are conceivable for these enamides (Scheme 1), our results suggest that both follow the same trend: For both, the computed barriers indicate that the preferred mechanism is a non-redox Co (II) metallacycle pathway (Mechanism C), but for both, the $\operatorname{Co}(0) / \mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{II})$ redox pathway $\mathbf{A}$ is only slightly higher in energy and may be competing. A significant difference between the two substrates is the type of metallacycle intermediate that they form, with four- and fivemembered metallacycles for dehydro-levetiracetam and sixmembered metallacycles for methyl 2 -acetamidoacrylate.
Our computationl work further shows that inclusion of an explicit MeOH solvent molecule in the computational models lowers critical barriers and is essential to obtain computed e.e.'s in line with experimental results. This result is supported by the experimentallly observed solvent-dependence of the enantiomeric excess. ${ }^{33}$

The overall results obtained for Co-catalyzed hydrogenation of enamides highlight the fact that non-precious metals may show highly complex mechanistic scenarios with competing redox and non-redox reaction pathways, which in addition may be significantly influenced by the solvent.

## ASSOCIATED CONTENT

## Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website:

- Optimized coordinates, which can be conveniently visualized with the Mercury program from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (XYZ file)
- Additional computational results as described in the text and experimental details (PDF)


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54. This is based on the assumption that $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ coordination is not rate-limiting. Our attempts to find the $\mathrm{TS}-\mathrm{H}_{2}$ for this pathway were unsuccessful. However, calculations of the redox pathways for methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate show low barriers of 10.0 $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ and $11.3 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ coordination (Figure 3)

## Supporting Information (Draft)

# Mechanistic study of asymmetric Co-catalyzed hydrogenation of enamides 

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## 1. Evaluation of the Co-Substrate interaction strength



$\Delta \mathrm{G}(323)=-49.6$
$(R, R)-{ }^{\text {Ph }}$ BPE-Co-methyl $2-$ acetamidoacrylate

$\Delta G(323)=-48.0$

| $(R, R)$ - $^{\text {Ph }} \mathrm{BPE}$-Co-methyl 2- |
| :---: | :---: |
| acetamidoacrylate |$\quad$| $(R, R)-\mathrm{P}^{\mathrm{Ph}} \mathrm{BPE}$-Co-dehydro- |
| :---: |
| levetiracetam |

Figure S1. Computation of Co-Substrate interaction strength. Both enamides bind strongly to the cobalt-BPE complex. Free energies are given in $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$.

## 2. Alternative mechanisms for the hydrogenation of dehydrolevetiracetam

### 2.1 Redox $\mathbf{C o ( 0 ) - C o ( I I ) ~ m e c h a n i s m ~} A$ for the hydrogenation of dehydrolevetiracetam





Oxidative hydride transfer to C2
pro-(S) 26.5 pro-(R) 32.7


Co(0)-Prod

pro-(S) 22.6
pro-(R) 20.8


Chelate
pro-(S) -0.6
pro-(R) -1.7

Figure S2. Mechanism and computed free energies ( $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}, 323 \mathrm{~K}$, relative to Co-Sub) for Co- ${ }^{\text {Ph }}$ BPE-catalyzed hydrogenation of dehydro-levetiracetam via redox mechanism $\mathbf{A}$, where oxidative hydride transfer occurs to the C2 atom via TS-Hyd. This step is rate-limiting for this mechanism, with a barrier of $26.5 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for the formation of the $(S)$-product. In the final step, reductive elimination occurs in order to liberate the product and regenerate the catalyst. This step has a barrier of $23.2 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for the $(S)$-pathway, assuming that the $(R)$ and $(S)$ intermediates are not in equilibrium (due to the high backwards barrier), and $24.3 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ if they are assumed to be in equilibrium.

### 2.2 Alternative non-redox $\sigma$-bond metathesis mechanism B for the hydrogenation of dehydro-levetiracetam



Figure S3. Mechanism and computed free energies ( $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}, 323 \mathrm{~K}$, relative to Co-Sub) for Co- ${ }^{\text {Ph }}$ BPE-catalyzed hydrogenation of dehydro-levetiracetam via the non-redox $\sigma$-metathesis mechanism B. After formation of chelate intermediate, coordination of $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ occurs, followed by a proton transfer step, which is found to be the rate- and selectivity-determining step. The overall barrier for the formation of the ( $S$ )-product is $37.7 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$.

### 2.3 Alternative metallacycle mechanism C for the hydrogenation of dehydrolevetiracetam with hydride transfer to C3 (5-membered metallacycle)









Figure S4. Mechanism and computed free energies ( $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}, 323 \mathrm{~K}$, relative to Co-Sub) for Co- ${ }^{\text {Ph }}$ BPE-catalyzed hydrogenation of dehydro-levetiracetam via an alternative 5-membered metallacycle mechanism $\mathbf{C}$ where hydride transfer to the C 3 atom occurs first. The barriers for this step are $20.3 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ and $23.8 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$, for pro- $(R)$ and pro- $(S)$ TSs, respectively. Then, $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ coordination takes place, followed by proton transfer to the C 2 atom in order to form the Metallacycle $-\mathrm{H}_{2}$ intermediate. The computed barriers for this step are $22.4 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ and 24.0 $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for $\operatorname{pro-}(S)$ and pro- $(R)$ TS structures. Finally, coordination of another substrate occurs, which transfers its proton to the nitrogen atom, resulting in the final product and the regeneration of the active $\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{II})$-monohydride species. The rate-limiting step for the formation of $(S)$-product is hydride transfer $(23.8 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol})$, whereas for the formation of $(R)$-product it is proton transfer step ( $24.0 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ ). Energies in parenthesis with green colour are from computational models including an explicit solvent molecule hydrogen-bonded to the substrate.

## 3. A direct oxidative addition of the ionizable group of the substrate to $\mathrm{Co}(0)$



Figure S5. Direct oxidative addition of the substrate (dehydro-levetiracetam) to convert $\operatorname{Co}(0)$ Sub to a Co (II)-monohydride intermediate via transition state TSoA. The free energy barrier of $42.2 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ is given relative to $\mathrm{Co}(0)-\mathrm{Sub}$ and is not feasible at the experimental temperature ( 323 K ), indicating that the $\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{II})$-monohydride intermediate cannot be formed through direct oxidative addition. An alternative pathway is described in the main text.

## 4. Alternative mechanisms for the hydrogenation of methyl <br> 2acetamidoacrylate

### 4.1 Alternative redox $\mathbf{C o ( 0 ) - C o ( I I )}$ mechanism A of methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate with hydride transfer to the $\mathbf{C 2}$ atom



11.3
$\mathrm{Co}(0)-\mathrm{Sub}-\mathrm{H}_{2}$ 10.4

5.7


TS_RE
35.4


15.1

Figure S6. Mechanism and computed free energies ( $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}, 323 \mathrm{~K}$, relative to Co-Sub) for Co- ${ }^{\text {Ph }}$ BPE-catalyzed hydrogenation of methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate via an alternative redox mechanism A where oxidative hydride transfer occurs to the C2 atom via TS-Hyd (compared to C 1 in the main text). This step is found to be rate-limiting with a barrier of $38.7 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$. Evaluated is only the reaction pathway that will give ( $S$ )-product.

### 4.2 Alternative non-redox $\sigma$-bond metathesis mechanism $B$ for methyl 2acetamidoacrylate; hydride transfer to C1



Figure S7. Mechanism and computed free energies ( $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}, 323 \mathrm{~K}$, relative to Co-Sub) for Co- ${ }^{\text {Ph }}$ BPE-catalyzed hydrogenation of methyl 2 -acetamidoacrylate via a non-redox $\sigma$ metathesis mechanism B, in which after formation of chelate intermediate, coordination of $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ occurs, followed by proton transfer step, which is found to be the rate- and selectivity determining step. The overall barrier for the formation of the $(R)$-product is $32.7 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ and $28.6 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ for the ( $S$ )-product (for the latter assuming the chelate intermediates are not in equilibrium, if they are, the ( $S$ )-barrier increases to $29.9 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ ).

### 4.3 Alternative non-redox mechanism C for methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate, hydride transfer to C2



Figure S8. Mechanism and computed free energies ( $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}, 323 \mathrm{~K}$, relative to Co-Sub) for Co- ${ }^{\text {Ph }}$ BPE-catalyzed hydrogenation of methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate via mechanism $\mathbf{C}$ where hydride transfer occurs to the $\mathbf{C 2}$ atom. Note that the $\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{II})$-metallacycle and $\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{II})$ -metallacycle- $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ intermediate can adopt two conformations, where either the oxygen of the amido group or nitrogen of the amido group interacts with Cobalt. The barriers are 18.9 $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ and $20.0 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$, for the pro- $(S)$ and pro- $(R)$ TSs. In the next step, either proton transfer to N or to C 1 might occur. The barriers are $35 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ and $24.0 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$, respectively.

We also tested if addition of an explicit MeOH molecule that hydrogen bonds to the substrate changes the barriers of mechanism $\mathbf{C}$ (Energies in parenthesis with green colour are from computational models including an explicit solvent molecule hydrogen-bonded to the substrate). A significant effect of the explicit solvent on the barriers is observed. In presence of explicit MeOH , the rate-limiting step is the proton transfer, with barriers of $20.9 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ and $23.4 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$, for the pro- $(S)$ and pro- $(R) \mathrm{TSs}$, respectively.

### 4.4 Alternative imine mechanism D for methyl 2-acetoamidacrylate





Figure S9. Mechanism and computed free energies ( $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}, 323 \mathrm{~K}$, relative to Co-Sub) for Co- ${ }^{\text {Ph }}$ BPE-catalyzed hydrogenation of methyl 2 -acetamidoacrylate via an alternative imine mechanism D in which enamine-imine tautomerization is expected to occur. (Hydride transfer to C 1 has a barrier of $27.0 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$, with the explicit MeOH -Substrate interaction, this is reduced to $22.4 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ ). Then, $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ attack is followed by hydride transfer from $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ to C 2 atom to form the $\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{II})-\mathrm{Int}-\mathrm{H}$. The overall barrier is $28.3 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ ( $S$-product), with MeOH hydrogen bonded to the substrate it is $26.4 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$. Energies in parenthesis with green colour are from computational models including an explicit solvent molecule hydrogen-bonded to the substrate

There is an alternative mechanism where after formation of the $\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{II})$-monohydride- H species direct reductive elimination might occur. However, the overall barrier is $32.7 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$. With MeOH hydrogen bonded to the MAA, a similar barrier of $32.9 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ is obtained. Only the reaction path that lead to the ( $S$ )-product was evaluated.

### 4.5 Alternative imine mechanism D-2 for methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate with heterolytic $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ cleavage



Figure S10. Mechanism and computed free energies ( $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}, 323 \mathrm{~K}$, relative to Co-Sub) for Co- ${ }^{\text {Ph }}$ BPE-catalyzed hydrogenation of methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate via an alternative imine mechanism, where after $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ coordination, proton transfer from $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ on N atom takes place to form an iminium intermediated. This step is found to be rate-limiting with an overall barrier of 34.0 $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ (computed relative to the imine). After proton transfer on N , hydride transfer on C 2 atom occurs in order to liberate the product. The overall barrier with the explicit $\mathrm{MeOH}-$ Substrate interaction is $33.2 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$. Energies in parenthesis with green colour are from computational models including an explicit solvent molecule hydrogen-bonded to the substrate

### 4.6 Alternative mechanism A for methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate with MeOH as hydrogen bond donor to the substrate



Figure S11. Mechanism and computed free energies ( $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}, 323 \mathrm{~K}$, relative to Co-Sub) for Co- ${ }^{\text {Ph }}$ BPE-catalyzed hydrogenation of methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate via an alternative redox mechanism A, with MeOH as a hydrogen bond donor to the substrate. Evaluated are both pro$(S)$ and pro- $(R)$ reaction pathways. In the first step, oxidative hydride transfer occurs to the C1 atom via pro- $(S)$ and pro- $(R)$ TS-Hyd structures to from the corresponding chelate intermediates. In the presence of MeOH (Energies are given with green colour), the barrier for the pro- $(S)$ TS-Hyd is $22.9 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$, whereas the barrier for the pro- $(R)$ TS-Hyd is 24.0 $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$. This step is found to be rate-limiting. In the next step, the reductive elimination occurs through pro- $(S)$ and pro- $(R)$ TS_Pr structures with barriers of $19.4 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ and $20.6 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$, respectively.

### 4.7 Alternative mechanism A for methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate with one MeOH molecule coordinated to Co



Figure S12. Mechanism and computed free energies ( $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}, 323 \mathrm{~K}$, relative to Co-Sub) for $\mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{Ph}}$ BPE-catalyzed hydrogenation of methyl 2 -acetamidoacrylate via an alternative MeOH mechanism in which after formation of chelate intermediate, coordination of MeOH occurs. In the next step, reductive elimination takes place, while MeOH is coordinated to the metal centre. The overall barrier for the formation of ( $S$ )-product is $31.4 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ and for the $(R)$-product $38.2 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$, which is not feasible. The barriers were computed assuming that the $(R)$ and $(S)$ intermediates are not in equilibrium (due to the high backwards barrier).

### 4.8 Alternative mechanism for methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate with MeOH as proton donor



Figure S13. Mechanism and computed free energies ( $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}, 323 \mathrm{~K}$, relative to Co-Sub) for $\mathrm{Co}-{ }^{\mathrm{Ph}}$ BPE-catalyzed hydrogenation of methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate via an alternative MeOH mechanism, in which after formation of the chelate intermediate, coordination of MeOH occurs. In the next step, methanol transfers its proton on C 2 atom with reasonable barrier of 18.1 $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ via pro- $(S)$ TS_Pr (assuming that the $(R)$ and $(S)$ intermediates are not in equilibrium ,due to the high backwards barrier). In order to regenerate the catalyst, coordination of one more $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ molecule must occur, followed by proton transfer from $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ to the methoxy group. The overall barrier is $44.5 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$, which is not feasible.

### 4.9 Mechanism A and C for dehydro-levetiracetam with one MeOH hydrogenbonded to the substrate



Figure S14a. The optimized pro- $(S)$ and $-(R)$ TSs for the hydride transfer step and free energies ( $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}, 323 \mathrm{~K}$, relative to Co-Sub) for the Co- ${ }^{\mathrm{Ph}}$ BPE-catalyzed hydrogenation of dehydrolevetiracetam Mechanism A, with and without an explicit MeOH-Substrate interaction. The barriers are given relative to the reactant with or without explicit $\mathrm{MeOH}-\mathrm{Substrate}$ interaction.
 Co(0)-Sub $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{~N}$ Co(II)-monohydride




Figure S14b. Proposed non-redox metallacycle mechanism C (via a four-membered metallacycle intermediate) and free energies ( $\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}, 323 \mathrm{~K}$, relative to Co-Sub) for the Co${ }^{\text {Ph }}$ BPE-catalyzed hydrogenation of dehydro-levetiracetam, with computed energies in presence of explicit solvent given in green.

### 4.10 The computed barriers and enantioselectivities for dehydro-levetiracetam and methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate

Table S1. The overall barriers for the $\mathrm{Co}^{-}{ }^{\mathrm{Ph}}$ BPE-catalyzed hydrogenation of dehydrolevetiracetam, without (left) and with (right) explicit MeOH-Substrate interactions, via Mechanism A (Figure S2) and C (Figure 2 and Figure S4).

| Rate-limiting TS | 4-mem. metallacycle | 4-mem. metallacycle <br> $(\mathrm{MeOH})$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Pro- $(S)$ (Proton transfer to C3) | 23.7 | 25.4 |
| Pro- $(R)$ (Proton transfer to C3) | 25.1 | 26.1 |
| TS | 5-mem. metallacycle | 5-mem. metallacycle |
| (MeOH) |  |  |

Table S2.The overall barriers for the $\mathrm{Co}_{-}{ }^{\mathrm{Ph}}$ BPE-catalyzed hydrogenation of methyl 2acetamidoacrylate, without (left) and with (right) explicit MeOH-Substrate interactions, via Mechanisms A (Figure 4) and C (Figure S8).

| Rate-limiting TS | Mechanism A | Mechanism A <br> $(\mathrm{MeOH})$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Pro- $(S)$ (Hydride transfer to C1) | 24.3 | 22.9 |
| Pro- $(R)$ (Hydride transfer to C1) | 31.1 | 24.0 |
| TS | Mechanism C (6m) | Mechanism C (6m) <br> (MeOH) |
| Pro- $(S)$ (Proton transfer to C1) | 24.0 | 20.9 |
| Pro- $(R)$ (Proton transfer to C1) | 28.3 | 23.4 |
| e.e. | $99.8 \%(S)$ | $94.7 \%(S)$ |

### 4.11 Proposed mechanism I for the formation of the active $\mathbf{C o}(\mathrm{II})$-monohydride species via an imine intermediate, for methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate substrate



Figure S15. An investigated mechanism for the formation of the active catalyst via imine intermediate. In the next step $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ binds, followed by hydride transfer to C 2 atom. After formation of hydrogenate Co (II) intermediate, a hydride may abstract a proton of the methyl group. This mechanism is excluded due to very high barrier of $37.2 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$. Energies in parenthesis with green colour are from computational models including an explicit solvent molecule hydrogen-bonded to the substrate

### 4.12 Proposed mechanism for the formation of the active $\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{II})$-monohydride species from $\mathbf{C o C l}_{2}$ for methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate substrate



Figure S16. A possible mechanism for the formation of the active catalyst via two $\sigma$-bond metathesis steps starting from $\mathrm{CoCl}_{2}(\mathrm{~S}=3 / 2)$. First, the $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ binds, after which chloride abstracts a proton from $\mathrm{H}_{2}$. In the next step, HCl is liberated and the $\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{II}) \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{Cl}$ intermediate is formed. Then, the substrate binds and the other chloride abstracts a proton from substrate nitrogen. In this manner, one more molecule of HCl is liberated and the active $\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{II})$-monohydride is formed. [This mechanism is still ongoing work].

## 5 Selected coordinates

## Methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate (MAA)

Redox $\mathrm{Co}(0)-\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{II})$ mechanism $\mathbf{A}$ with the explicit Solvent-MAA interaction

Pro-(S) TS_Hyd with the explicit Solvent-Substrate interaction
G298K=-2776.537463
Img. Freq. $=-1222.9488$
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { C } & -4 \\ \text { C } & -4\end{array}$

$\begin{array}{llll}-4.296943000 & -2.232616000 & -0.2104800 \\ -4.081843000 & -0.98085000 & -2.29051000\end{array}$ $-4.081843000-0.980855000$ $-4.081590000-0.902448000$ $-4.277024000-2.035295000$ $-4.478098000-3.277991000$ $\begin{array}{cc}-4.491383000 & -3.369496000 \\ -3.791976000 & 0.26091600\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{ll}-3.791976000 & 0.260916000\end{array}$ $-4.5732380000 .427810000$ $\begin{array}{ll}-3.830369000 & -0.238279000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{ll}-2.331003000 & -0.467470000 \\ -1.284553000 & -0.037217000\end{array}$ $-0.012580000-0.630541000$ 1.027617000 0.819555000 $-0.442554000$ $-1.482017000$ $-1.758129000$ $-0.286493000$ $\begin{array}{rrr}-0.286493000 & 2.454000000 & 1.170179000 \\ 0.868047000 & 1.628085000 & -0.046949000\end{array}$ $-0.191339000-0.093070000-1.021996000$ $\begin{array}{rrr}0.419128000 & -2.099827000 & -1.040654000 \\ 1.746315000 & -2.21539000 & -1.58728000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{rrr}1.746315000 & -2.215390000 & -1.587280000 \\ 2.319478000 & -1.224102000 & -2.284342000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{lll}2.319478000 & -1.224102000 & -2.284342000 \\ 3.708101000 & -1.471942000 & -2.817501000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{rrr}3.708101000 & -1.471942000 & -2.817501000 \\ 2.476509000 & 1.755101000 & 0.951399000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{lll}2.882558000 & 3.227029000 & 0.746033000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{llll}2.722513000 & 3.573632000 & -0.744967000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{lll}1.393776000 & 2.979544000 & -1.282933000 \\ 0.272898000 & 3.948680000 & -1.563114000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{rrr}1.272898000 & 3.948680000 & -1.563114000 \\ -0.653308000 & 3.664340000 & -2.577187000\end{array}$ | -1.739940000 | 4.664340000 | -2.577187000 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | | -1.921557000 | 5.653297000 | -2.817401000 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | $\begin{array}{llll}-0.999098000 & 5.959929000 & -1.051077000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{llll}0.085303000 & 5.117360000 & -0.811823000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{ll}0.085303000 & 5 \\ 3.528343000 & 0.7\end{array}$ 4.807835000 $-0.799998000$ -2.199316000 $-2.984874000$ -2.383752000 $-0.993034000$ 0.011666000 1.336409000 2.525074000 2.193674000

3.195365000 3.141764000 3.951061000 3.951061000
4.844952000 4.844952000
4.923308000 4.923308000 4.107513000 0.502208000 0.887661000 -1.587280000
-2.284342000 $-1.282933000$ $-2.577187000$ -2.050777000
-1.051077000 -0.811823000
0.621484000 0.621484000 0.154752000
-0.036277000 $-0.036277000$ 0.234978000 0.682765000 0.867956000 $-1.964869000$ 0.185479000 0.910750000 0.503310000 1.608191000 $-2.485795000$ $-0.472209000$ 1.184332000 2.151176000 1.724813000 $-0.004074000$ 1.237079000 1.531156000 1.531756000
3.417665000 2.764877000 2.764877000
-2.675500000 $-2.675500000$ $-4.065747000$ $-2.992058000$ $-0.512807000$ 0.867305000 2.442923000 3.874548000 5.472653000 5.615261000 4.173551000 $-1.311052000$ $-0.908272000$ 1.345749000 1.102027000 -3.176890000 $-3.607079000$ $-2.235885000$ $-0.454238000$ $-0.029496000$ 1.188230000 0.868270000 0.085627000 0.085627000
-0.396431000 $-0.3964369000$ $-0.051069000$ 1.989272000 $-2.187928000$ 1.993633000 -0.629010000

|  |  |  |  |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| H | -1.058487000 | -0.333806000 | -2.238574000 |
| H | -0.930913000 | 0.812496000 | -2.021371000 |
| H | 2.293027000 | -3.047980000 | -1.376165000 |
| H | 4.366482000 | -0.699050000 | -2.417530000 |
| H | 4.100995000 | -2.449713000 | -2.538198000 |
| H | 3.694877000 | -1.381755000 | -3.905965000 |
| H | -1.645406000 | -2.238135000 | -1.698296000 |
| H | -0.428148000 | -1.966531000 | -3.014682000 |
| H | -0.937406000 | -3.528842000 | 2.543339000 |
| H | -2.394622000 | -4.058621000 | 1.653809000 |
| H | -0.840359000 | -4.914572000 | 1.434443000 |
| H | 2.448304000 | -4.221036000 | 0.188592000 |
| C | 2.517870000 | -5.850171000 | -0.906495000 |
| H | 1.519290000 | -5.732130000 | -1.345349000 |
| H | 3.185319000 | -6.252579000 | -1.669971000 |
| H | 2.455896000 | -6.572058000 | -0.083923000 |

Pro-(R) TS_Hyd with the explicit Solvent-Substrate interaction

| C | -4.633704000 | -0.039049000 | -0.254705000 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| C | -4.022058000 | 1.216081000 | -0.135095000 |
| C | -4.119631000 | 2.100769000 | -1.217147000 |
| C | -4.800236000 | 1.746807000 | -2.379945000 |
| C | -5.402324000 | 0.493462000 | -2.484738000 |
| C | -5.317046000 | -0.396125000 | -1.415436000 |
| C | -3.209977000 | 1.622568000 | 1.074018000 |
| C | -3.790049000 | 1.280455000 | 2.466135000 |
| C | -3.385930000 | -0.146578000 | 2.893843000 |
| C | -2.002674000 | -0.538119000 | 2.299242000 |
| C | -0.881528000 | -0.818023000 | 3.271522000 |
| C | 0.110240000 | -1.749321000 | 2.932142000 |
| C | 1.210330000 | -1.957625000 | 3.761944000 |
| C | 1.342781000 | -1.239770000 | 4.950118000 |
| C | 0.353268000 | -0.323940000 | 5.307291000 |
| C | -0.748281000 | -0.118601000 | 4.478411000 |
| P | -1.514125000 | 0.808021000 | 1.047868000 |
| C | -0.503129000 | 2.054206000 | 1.997102000 |
| C | 0.981311000 | 1.669042000 | 2.018862000 |
| P | 1.590958000 | 0.969703000 | 0.384625000 |
| Co | -0.207507000 | 0.509385000 | -0.862496000 |
| C | -0.778611000 | -1.286885000 | -1.706327000 |
| N | -1.544941000 | -2.188398000 | -0.895111000 |
| C | -2.601091000 | -2.905234000 | -1.372015000 |
| C | -3.251728000 | -3.828618000 | -0.357658000 |
| C | 3.076832000 | 0.001237000 | 1.037398000 |
| C | 4.023843000 | 1.108036000 | 1.567939000 |
| C | 3.917874000 | 2.403963000 | 0.710208000 |
| C | 2.750614000 | 2.287449000 | -0.299286000 |
| C | 2.054331000 | 3.556423000 | -0.716402000 |
| C | 1.694553000 | 3.734393000 | -2.058766000 |
| C | 0.985193000 | 4.858785000 | -2.474182000 |
| C | 0.612180000 | 5.832214000 | -1.548183000 |
| C | 0.965176000 | 5.671143000 | -0.208770000 |
| C | 1.681377000 | 4.547676000 | 0.200849000 |
| C | 3.694540000 | -0.946409000 | 0.034276000 |
| C | 4.742795000 | -0.571675000 | -0.817858000 |
| C | 5.339367000 | -1.501316000 | -1.669791000 |
| C | 4.896564000 | -2.823238000 | -1.689994000 |
| C | 3.838482000 | -3.200785000 | -0.864438000 |
| C | 3.245579000 | -2.271917000 | -0.014739000 |
| C | -1.467146000 | -0.159758000 | -2.312082000 |
| C | 0.378215000 | -1.880217000 | -2.364284000 |
| O | 0.835449000 | -3.000742000 | -2.141268000 |
| O | 0.956430000 | -1.048704000 | -3.265302000 |
| C | 2.202396000 | -1.486897000 | -3.838362000 |
| O | -3.048035000 | -2.786348000 | $-2.508568000$ |
| O | 0.465705000 | -3.925110000 | 0.427500000 |
| C | 0.146521000 | -5.312208000 | 0.482632000 |
| H | 1.591956000 | 2.522625000 | 2.314512000 |
| H | 1.152367000 | 0.887467000 | 2.760202000 |
| H | -0.874551000 | 2.206777000 | 3.012188000 |
| H | -0.638523000 | 2.988513000 | 1.445860000 |
| H | -4.876676000 | 1.402449000 | 2.476525000 |
| H | -3.383332000 | 1.999629000 | 3.182716000 |
| H | -3.382083000 | -0.227484000 | 3.982083000 |
| H | -4.127592000 | -0.867160000 | 2.545412000 |
| H | -3.646316000 | 3.074714000 | -1.149693000 |
| H | -4.858007000 | 2.449210000 | -3.204033000 |
| H | -5.927321000 | 0.211743000 | -3.390172000 |
| H | -5.767592000 | -1.378837000 | -1.489543000 |
| H | -4.567990000 | -0.756534000 | 0.551987000 |
| H | 0.036477000 | $-2.316614000$ | 2.011398000 |
| H | 1.965608000 | -2.681139000 | 3.474812000 |
| H | 2.201396000 | -1.396217000 | 5.592921000 |
| H | 0.439579000 | 0.236060000 | 6.231773000 |
| H | -1.498991000 | 0.605963000 | 4.771962000 |
| H | 4.844707000 | 2.593080000 | 0.163000000 |
| H | 3.772892000 | 3.264213000 | 1.364616000 |
| H | 3.742963000 | 1.332574000 | 2.598472000 |
| H | 5.051037000 | 0.739062000 | 1.601479000 |
| H | 1.967790000 | 2.975207000 | -2.783918000 |
| H | 0.721311000 | 4.972104000 | -3.519849000 |
| H | 0.057966000 | 6.707808000 | -1.866508000 |
| H | 0.685332000 | 6.422646000 | 0.521155000 |


| H | 1.946124000 | 4.450515000 | 1.246442000 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| H | 2.424588000 | -2.585393000 | 0.618413000 |
| H | 3.466420000 | -4.218511000 | -0.883368000 |
| H | 5.363199000 | -3.546178000 | -2.349465000 |
| H | 6.154514000 | -1.190721000 | -2.314020000 |
| H | 5.121056000 | 0.443314000 | -0.807102000 |
| H | 2.698908000 | -0.596013000 | 1.868490000 |
| H | 3.125964000 | 1.801755000 | -1.205151000 |
| H | -2.129612000 | -1.422580000 | 1.674547000 |
| H | -3.031724000 | 2.697936000 | 1.007185000 |
| H | -1.060511000 | 1.290897000 | -1.828631000 |
| H | -0.341628000 | 1.996372000 | -1.176016000 |
| H | -1.105870000 | -2.531110000 | -0.052548000 |
| H | -3.482964000 | -4.778671000 | -0.840398000 |
| H | -2.636594000 | -4.006429000 | 0.525538000 |
| H | -4.194734000 | -3.376482000 | -0.038350000 |
| H | -2.531073000 | -0.102287000 | -2.122328000 |
| H | -1.198320000 | 0.071998000 | -3.338419000 |
| H | 2.081626000 | -2.449727000 | -4.336762000 |
| H | 2.475261000 | -0.719259000 | -4.559501000 |
| H | 2.963755000 | -1.571595000 | -3.064437000 |
| H | 0.647910000 | -3.683376000 | -0.504097000 |
| H | -0.702364000 | -5.563506000 | -0.164936000 |
| H | 1.001330000 | -5.937159000 | 0.197105000 |
| H | -0.124580000 | -5.549276000 | 1.512964000 |

Non-redox metallacycle mechanism $\mathbf{C}$ with the explicit Solvent-MAA interaction
Pro-(S) TS_Pr (C1) with the explicit Solvent-Substrate interaction

|  | $\mathrm{G} 298 \mathrm{~K}=-2776.537452$ |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Freq. $=-1012.293$ |  |
| P | 1.477355000 | 0.451198000 | 1.446652000 |
| P | 1.169279000 | -1.030208000 | -1.345591000 |
| C | 2.621271000 | -1.449463000 | -0.245254000 |
| C | 2.997434000 | -0.278777000 | 0.678667000 |
| H | 3.481590000 | -1.768158000 | -0.837551000 |
| H | 2.298331000 | -2.307512000 | 0.349543000 |
| H | 3.703763000 | -0.597878000 | 1.448614000 |
| H | 3.464920000 | 0.528125000 | 0.108648000 |
| C | 0.793390000 | -2.715090000 | -2.136162000 |
| C | 1.956267000 | -0.341796000 | -2.930333000 |
| C | 2.037619000 | 2.038224000 | 2.296027000 |
| C | 1.164539000 | -0.476727000 | 3.051033000 |
| C | 1.681564000 | 1.823606000 | 3.787815000 |
| C | 1.453476000 | 3.263065000 | 1.635801000 |
| H | 0.631977000 | 2.077171000 | 3.963057000 |
| H | 2.282538000 | 2.483815000 | 4.417551000 |
| C | 1.912728000 | 0.343860000 | 4.117920000 |
| C | 1.446441000 | -1.956106000 | 2.947882000 |
| H | 2.985946000 | 0.133279000 | 4.089261000 |
| H | 1.559074000 | 0.089216000 | 5.120685000 |
| C | 2.269644000 | 4.129552000 | 0.903927000 |
| C | 1.727732000 | 5.218792000 | 0.220286000 |
| C | 0.355615000 | 5.457656000 | 0.258092000 |
| C | -0.470646000 | 4.600030000 | 0.986848000 |
| C | 0.074029000 | 3.515273000 | 1.666671000 |
| H | 3.336449000 | 3.940717000 | 0.852151000 |
| H | 2.379230000 | 5.876670000 | -0.344140000 |
| H | -0.067694000 | 6.300878000 | -0.275636000 |
| H | -1.541557000 | 4.768164000 | 1.014858000 |
| H | -0.586144000 | 2.840211000 | 2.200109000 |
| C | 0.453940000 | -2.800707000 | 2.428415000 |
| C | 0.690991000 | -4.162025000 | 2.262536000 |
| C | 1.929160000 | -4.708104000 | 2.603450000 |
| C | 2.922864000 | -3.878246000 | 3.118959000 |
| C | 2.682694000 | $-2.514776000$ | 3.293304000 |
| H | -0.490048000 | -2.364759000 | 2.122571000 |
| H | -0.090806000 | -4.793795000 | 1.858247000 |
| H | 2.116202000 | -5.767597000 | 2.469870000 |
| H | 3.888772000 | -4.290153000 | 3.389685000 |
| H | 3.470810000 | -1.891918000 | 3.698170000 |
| C | 2.258505000 | -1.578772000 | -3.794287000 |
| C | 3.077210000 | 0.633236000 | -2.670199000 |
| H | 2.430601000 | -1.292326000 | -4.835686000 |
| H | 3.162423000 | -2.086031000 | -3.444521000 |
| C | 1.060992000 | $-2.521026000$ | -3.648302000 |
| C | -0.563850000 | -3.278495000 | -1.791907000 |
| H | 1.235732000 | -3.488235000 | -4.126541000 |
| H | 0.185326000 | -2.076387000 | -4.130679000 |
| C | 2.783648000 | 1.993351000 | -2.496558000 |
| C | 3.776119000 | 2.909499000 | -2.160198000 |
| C | 5.095090000 | 2.485808000 | -2.000004000 |
| C | 5.408380000 | 1.141944000 | -2.196910000 |
| C | 4.411131000 | 0.226634000 | -2.531544000 |
| H | 1.762693000 | 2.335280000 | -2.618219000 |
| H | 3.516155000 | 3.951889000 | -2.019289000 |
| H | 5.869876000 | 3.195724000 | -1.734165000 |
| H | 6.432042000 | 0.801101000 | -2.089054000 |
| H | 4.682774000 | -0.811226000 | -2.677207000 |
| C | -0.670114000 | -4.438668000 | -1.018073000 |
| C | -1.916444000 | -4.976069000 | -0.695848000 |
|  | -3.081954000 | -4.357395000 | -1.143086000 |
| C | -2.990432000 | -3.196183000 | -1.911208000 |
| C | -1.744612000 | -2.666830000 | -2.233243000 |
| H | 0.232013000 | -4.924260000 | -0.662935000 |
| H | -1.974207000 | -5.877038000 | -0.095046000 |
| H | -4.052138000 | -4.768449000 | -0.888786000 |
| H | -3.889955000 | -2.696507000 | -2.252000000 |
| H | -1.691907000 | -1.764480000 | -2.830834000 |
| H | 1.557691000 | -3.390615000 | $-1.742203000$ |


| H | 1.131002000 | 0.203747000 | -3.399388000 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| H | 0.088372000 | -0.343752000 | 3.193663000 |
| H | 3.126648000 | 2.064061000 | 2.199878000 |
| Co | -0.156494000 | 0.529888000 | -0.083333000 |
| C | -2.672158000 | -0.612563000 | 0.827875000 |
| C | -3.319974000 | -1.815980000 | 1.473941000 |
| H | -4.392561000 | -1.838773000 | 1.283851000 |
| H | -2.861869000 | -2.726053000 | 1.081081000 |
| H | -3.138880000 | -1.789105000 | 2.552074000 |
| O | -1.398958000 | -0.498430000 | 1.035643000 |
| C | -2.821501000 | 1.391698000 | -0.432498000 |
| N | -3.434639000 | 0.198203000 | 0.156932000 |
| C | -1.682145000 | 1.085812000 | -1.407427000 |
| H | -1.625122000 | 1.867550000 | -2.170573000 |
| H | -1.860934000 | 0.149268000 | -1.932136000 |
| C | -3.991049000 | 2.095542000 | -1.116883000 |
| C | -5.981809000 | 3.301389000 | -0.695229000 |
| H | -6.636300000 | 2.454028000 | -0.904673000 |
| H | -6.380185000 | 3.898836000 | 0.121178000 |
| H | -5.854362000 | 3.909691000 | -1.590857000 |
| O | -4.281689000 | 2.002612000 | -2.287873000 |
| O | -4.709250000 | 2.803644000 | -0.228806000 |
| H | -2.463748000 | 2.066303000 | 0.359310000 |
| H | 0.637845000 | 1.695530000 | -0.696080000 |
| H | -0.284193000 | 1.632519000 | -1.125574000 |
| C | -6.457619000 | 0.536269000 | 1.542320000 |
| H | -6.074745000 | 1.558314000 | 1.662028000 |
| H | -7.543825000 | 0.561250000 | 1.667534000 |
| H | -6.039458000 | -0.077352000 | 2.354224000 |
| H | -5.175451000 | 0.038302000 | 0.164957000 |
|  | -6.164531000 | 0.004277000 | 0.2606370 |

Pro-(R) TS_Pr (C1) with the explicit Solvent-Substrate interaction
$\mathrm{G} 298 \mathrm{~K}=-2776.534086$
Img Freq $=-1003.0208$

$\begin{array}{lllll}\text { P } & 1.880771000 & -0.586130000 & 1.113207000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{llll} & 1.880771000 & -0.586130000 & 1.113207000\end{array}$ | 0.238297000 | -0.424938000 | -1.637175000 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | C $\quad 1.485197000 \quad-1.792304000 \quad-1.372772000$ $\begin{array}{llll}\mathrm{C} & 2.599219000 & -1.385068000 & -0.394459000 \\ \mathrm{H} & 1.907221000 & -2.124730000 & -2.323422000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{llll}\mathrm{H} & 1.907221000 & -2.124730000 & -2.323422000 \\ 0.914445000 & -2.628446000 & -0.958400000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{llll}\mathrm{H} & 0.914445000 & -2.628446000 & -0.958400000 \\ 3.215182000 & -2.245097000 & -0.124520000\end{array}$ H $\quad 3.215182000 \quad-2.245097000 \quad-0.124520000$ $\begin{array}{rrrr}\mathrm{H} & -1.251196000 & -1.290097000 & -0.845444000 \\ -2.751789000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{rrrr}-1.041196000 & -1.290097000 & -2.751789000 \\ 0.925843000 & 0.618349000 & -3.071593000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{lrrr}\text { C } & 3.346313000 & 0.125057000 & 2.057143000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{rrr}1.514937000 & -1.920743000 & 2.057143000 \\ 3.392385000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{rrr}3.158368000 & -0.423126000 & 3.491287000 \\ 3.485518000 & 1.622420000 & 1.946550000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{lll}3.485518000 & 1.622420000 & 1.946550000 \\ 2.395150000 & 0.158666000 & 4.017456000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{rrr}2.395150000 & 0.158666000 & 4.017456000 \\ 4.087857000 & -0.324792000 & 4.05737900\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{llll}\text { C } & 2.087857000 & -0.324792000 & 4.057379000 \\ 2.709649000 & -1.882475000 & 3.36801600\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{llll}\text { C } & 1.136819000 & -3.259995000 & 1.808622000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{llll}\text { H } & 3.542708000 & -2.479216000 & 2.987010000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{rrrr}2.424412000 & -2.305855000 & 4.334765000 \\ 4.602531000 & 2.185174000 & 1.323223000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{llll}\text { C } & 4.733896000 & 3.568881000 & 1.199598000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{llll}\text { C } & 3.744393000 & 4.413155000 & 1.697944000 \\ & 2.622776000 & 3.863301000 & 2.321991000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{llll}\text { C } & 2.622776000 & 3.863301000 & 2.321991000 \\ 2.496123000 & 2.483210000 & 2.443260000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{llll}\mathrm{H} & 5.472123000 & 2.483210000 & 2.443260000 \\ & 5.372188000 & 1.535270000 & 0.920978000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{llll}\text { H } & 5.608416000 & 3.983975000 & 0.711014000\end{array}$ H $\quad 3.843109000 \quad 5.488341000 \quad 1.601084000$ H $\quad 1.842681000 \quad 4.510132000 \quad 2.707667000$ $\begin{array}{llll}\text { H } & 1.607342000 & 2.069708000 & 2.907191000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{llll}\text { C } & -0.215111000 & -3.551151000 & 1.580277000 \\ -0.598971000 & -4.773347000 & 1.033955000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{llll}\text { C } & -0.598971000 & -4.773347000 & 1.033955000 \\ 0.360618000 & -5.723078000 & 0.685038000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{llrr}\text { C } & 1.709064000 & -5.439403000 & 0.894399000 \\ & 2.092334000 & -4.221966000 & 1.455167000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{lrrr}\text { C } & 2.092334000 & -4.221966000 & 1.455167000 \\ \text { H } & -0.956699000 & -2.795187000 & 1.812105000\end{array}$ H $\quad-0.956699000 \quad-2.795187000 \quad 1.812105000$ $\begin{array}{lrrr}\text { H } & 0.060757000 & -6.672526000 & 0.256458000\end{array}$ H $\quad 2.466283000 \quad-6.167924000 \quad 0.626777000$ $\begin{array}{lrrr}\text { H } & 3.145950000 & -4.029637000 & 1.616559000 \\ \text { C } & 0.318120000 & 0.01173000 & \\ \text { C } & 2.421285035200\end{array}$ | C | 2.421285000 | 0.011730000 | -4.350352000 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | $\begin{array}{llll}\text { H } & 0.421285000 & 0.807474000 & -3.028963000 \\ & 0.352939000 & 0.732882000 & -5.171525000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{rrrr}\text { H } & 0.881362000 & -0.869669000 & -4.1715250657000\end{array}$ C $\quad$| -1.115323000 | -0.869669000 | -4.669657000 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | $\begin{array}{llll}\text { C } & -1.115323000 & -0.402447000 & -4.008230000 \\ \text { H } & -2.341109000 & -1.633298000 & -2.062294000\end{array}$ H $-1.598292000 \quad-0.940033000 \quad-4.828477000$ H $\quad-1.709832000 \quad 0.495405000 \quad-3.814718000$ C $\quad 4.338599000 \quad 2.062546000 \quad-2.207029000$ C $\quad 5.210119000 \quad 1.1314120000-2.770474000$ $\begin{array}{llrr}4.688589000 & 0.049527000 & -3.478223000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{llrr}\mathrm{C} & 3.309835000 & -0.108343000 & -3.609110000 \\ \mathrm{H} & 2.295323000 & 2.629955000 & -1.892090000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{lllr}\text { H } & 4.726859000 & 2.910726000 & -1.656755000 \\ \text { H } & 6.282256000 & 1.251422000 & -2.665037000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{lrrr}\text { H } & 5.355107000 & -0.676453000 & -2.665037000 \\ & -3.930335000\end{array}$ H $\quad 2.931876000 \quad-0.959046000 \quad-4.162126000$ $\begin{array}{llll}\text { C } & -2.409933000 & -2.791002000 & -1.274618000 \\ \text { C } & -3.572607000 & -3.125721000 & -0.586744000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{llll}\text { C } & -4.701035000 & -2.310807000 & -0.679957000 \\ \text { C } & -4.649742000 & -1.164874000 & -1.468640000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{llll}-4.649742000 & -1.164874000 & -1.468640000 \\ -3.483088000 & -0.830329000 & -2.154337000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{llll}-1.539060000 & -3.431432000 & -1.193091000\end{array}$


|  |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| H | -3.602512000 | -4.024004000 | 0.019371000 |
| H | -5.607127000 | -2.566023000 | -0.142567000 |
| H | -5.513016000 | -0.515115000 | -1.541130000 |
| H | -3.473056000 | 0.078275000 | -2.741693000 |
| H | -0.556717000 | -2.228852000 | -3.039778000 |
| H | 0.456093000 | 1.592985000 | -2.906856000 |
| H | 0.634763000 | -1.511508000 | 2.894457000 |
| H | 4.234399000 | -0.347556000 | 1.626489000 |
| Co | 0.158419000 | 0.734411000 | 0.493904000 |
| C | -2.347043000 | 0.072712000 | 1.793372000 |
| C | -3.017017000 | -0.691618000 | 2.915330000 |
| H | -4.007503000 | -0.291537000 | 3.129697000 |
| H | -3.111356000 | -1.741459000 | 2.621535000 |
| H | -2.397078000 | -0.657332000 | 3.814748000 |
| O | -1.126593000 | -0.287775000 | 1.549060000 |
| C | -2.493034000 | 1.676673000 | 0.031181000 |
| N | -3.053633000 | 0.975288000 | 1.184757000 |
| C | -1.144752000 | 2.373328000 | 0.265991000 |
| H | -1.018653000 | 3.156675000 | -0.489300000 |
| H | -1.138638000 | 2.869640000 | 1.241719000 |
| C | -3.585825000 | 2.665161000 | -0.371004000 |
| C | -4.816307000 | 4.558163000 | 0.343132000 |
| H | -5.705369000 | 4.007689000 | 0.654884000 |
| H | -4.636543000 | 5.398136000 | 1.010219000 |
| H | -4.923260000 | 4.900637000 | -0.686225000 |
| O | -4.320727000 | 2.527340000 | -1.325703000 |
| O | -3.667774000 | 3.696612000 | 0.483303000 |
| H | -2.405944000 | 0.995230000 | -0.815696000 |
| H | 1.237264000 | 1.689809000 | -0.018756000 |
| H | 0.304851000 | 2.138319000 | -0.051270000 |
| C | -6.440737000 | 0.886140000 | 1.077120000 |
| H | -6.215291000 | -0.189326000 | 1.090213000 |
| H | -7.480450000 | 1.017576000 | 1.390285000 |
| H | -6.348580000 | 1.235498000 | 0.039572000 |
| H | -4.669272000 | 1.416433000 | 1.711906000 |
| O | -5.609908000 | 1.621508000 | 1.961681000 |
|  |  |  |  |

Dehydro-levetiracetam
Non-redox 4-membered metallacycle mechanism $\mathbf{C}$ with the explicit Solvent-
Dehydro-levetiracetam interaction

Pro-(S) TS_Pr (C3) with the explicit Solvent-Substrate interaction
G298K $=-2834.076875$
Img. Freq. $=-1256.251 \mathrm{~cm}-$

|  | Img. Freq. $=-1256.251 \mathrm{~cm}-1$ |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | :---: |
| C | -4.027730000 | -0.982694000 | -1.190271000 |  |
| C | -2.987984000 | -0.768699000 | -2.100703000 |  |
| C | -2.927589000 | 0.462985000 | -2.763260000 |  |
| C | -3.883595000 | 1.446640000 | -2.528802000 |  |
| C | -4.914559000 | 1.222186000 | -1.616911000 |  |
| C | -4.981319000 | 0.003464000 | -0.944706000 |  |
| C | -1.936203000 | -1.832053000 | -2.302734000 |  |
| C | -1.580175000 | -2.168338000 | -3.772776000 |  |
| C | -0.169919000 | -2.768841000 | -3.806475000 |  |
| C | 0.728534000 | -1.815782000 | -2.998708000 |  |
| C | 2.141160000 | -2.244805000 | -2.699325000 |  |
| C | 3.155212000 | -1.278438000 | -2.634913000 |  |
| C | 4.464149000 | -1.632057000 | -2.316563000 |  |
| C | 4.786759000 | -2.961355000 | -2.046688000 |  |
| C | 3.790162000 | -3.933525000 | -2.115242000 |  |
| C | 2.482683000 | -3.579460000 | -2.443921000 |  |
| P | -0.290276000 | -1.414009000 | -1.463759000 |  |
| C | -0.038488000 | -2.849352000 | -0.306096000 |  |
| C | 1.072656000 | -2.564094000 | 0.714890000 |  |
| P | 0.828483000 | -0.888605000 | 1.493168000 |  |
| Co | 0.088218000 | 0.457466000 | -0.317451000 |  |
| N | -1.661049000 | 1.093515000 | 0.272913000 |  |
| C | -1.100559000 | 2.048514000 | 1.007263000 |  |
| O | -1.455766000 | 2.522898000 | 2.111063000 |  |
| C | 2.369332000 | -0.680920000 | 2.583323000 |  |
| C | 1.803825000 | -0.432768000 | 3.994824000 |  |
| C | 0.603584000 | -1.363151000 | 4.182060000 |  |
| C | -0.329837000 | -1.147118000 | 2.975152000 |  |
| C | -1.416704000 | -2.171999000 | 2.760142000 |  |
| C | -2.691765000 | -1.757183000 | 2.352707000 |  |
| C | -3.694271000 | -2.685352000 | 2.078756000 |  |
| C | -3.445778000 | -4.050961000 | 2.208466000 |  |
| C | -2.189619000 | -4.476236000 | 2.639690000 |  |
| C | -1.189664000 | -3.546857000 | 2.918683000 |  |
| C | 3.362818000 | 0.337004000 | 2.060180000 |  |
| C | 3.881475000 | 0.199574000 | 0.764588000 |  |
| C | 4.778957000 | 1.126505000 | 0.245703000 |  |
| C | 5.189491000 | 2.214427000 | 1.017085000 |  |
| C | 4.698910000 | 2.353115000 | 2.312228000 |  |
| C | 3.796059000 | 1.422459000 | 2.828390000 |  |
| C | 0.208326000 | 2.477259000 | 0.310902000 |  |
| C | 1.224310000 | 3.125987000 | 1.254853000 |  |
| H | 1.238234000 | 2.525693000 | 2.165671000 |  |
| N | -0.079355000 | 3.261822000 | -0.886643000 |  |
| C | 0.887727000 | 3.589003000 | -1.787665000 |  |
| C | 0.273342000 | 4.502836000 | -2.837528000 |  |
| C | -1.237184000 | 4.322726000 | -2.642321000 |  |
| O | -1.368360000 | 3.914117000 | -1.166345000 |  |
| C | 0.057682000 | 3.218323000 | -1.736566000 |  |
| H | 0.1611250000 | -3.587045000 | 1.586291000 |  |
| H | -0.994388000 | -2.766830000 | -0.862624000 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |


| 1.125239000 | -3.355247000 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2.044385000 | -2.524291000 | 0.215145000 |
| 1.467189000 | 0.605468000 | 4.086357000 |
| 2.570083000 | -0.593806000 | 4.757576000 |
| 0.950639000 | -2.399581000 | 4.222952000 |
| 0.072846000 | -1.162405000 | 5.116845000 |
| 3.426752000 | 1.561380000 | 3.836346000 |
| 5.012137000 | 3.190413000 | 2.926115000 |
| 5.883536000 | 2.942245000 | 0.612326000 |
| 5.150923000 | 1.005645000 | -0.764973000 |
| 3.572291000 | -0.632825000 | 0.144239000 |
| -2.916295000 | -0.700489000 | 2.269565000 |
| -4.673074000 | -2.336942000 | 1.768192000 |
| -4.223335000 | -4.773911000 | 1.989576000 |
| -1.985796000 | $-5.534289000$ | 2.761345000 |
| -0.224622000 | -3.904538000 | 3.255254000 |
| 0.201607000 | -2.878317000 | -4.828902000 |
| -0.183035000 | -3.767153000 | -3.359096000 |
| -2.325495000 | -2.847934000 | -4.192779000 |
| -1.596625000 | -1.259645000 | -4.380234000 |
| 2.911293000 | -0.240092000 | -2.830013000 |
| 5.233331000 | -0.869413000 | -2.280005000 |
| 5.804119000 | -3.236920000 | -1.793977000 |
| 4.029550000 | -4.972349000 | -1.917460000 |
| 1.729131000 | -4.354917000 | -2.501523000 |
| -4.080822000 | -1.925581000 | -0.657935000 |
| -5.772343000 | -0.179448000 | -0.226113000 |
| -5.653782000 | 1.991758000 | -1.427409000 |
| -3.818800000 | 2.394358000 | -3.051340000 |
| -2.116495000 | 0.668190000 | -3.453157000 |
| -2.271210000 | -2.749443000 | -1.812201000 |
| 0.766959000 | -0.859185000 | -3.529259000 |
| -0.802468000 | -0.165291000 | 3.079241000 |
| 2.854477000 | -1.663817000 | 2.579890000 |
| 2.220816000 | 3.058647000 | 0.819176000 |
| -2.508895000 | 0.682905000 | 0.646282000 |
| -1.498044000 | 4.779678000 | -0.507251000 |
| -2.185182000 | 3.214892000 | -0.999281000 |
| -1.595204000 | 3.506862000 | -3.274895000 |
| -1.818801000 | 5.214570000 | -2.875408000 |
| 0.598382000 | 5.526197000 | -2.620015000 |
| 0.637894000 | 4.242888000 | -3.831655000 |
| 1.490234000 | 0.555681000 | -0.894936000 |
| 1.187916000 | 1.509025000 | -0.342467000 |
| 1.638369000 | 4.986112000 | 2.290922000 |
| 0.933346000 | 5.210143000 | 0.687875000 |
| -0.088452000 | 4.672024000 | 2.032172000 |
| -4.763405000 | 2.287179000 | 1.917129000 |
| -4.887866000 | 3.243720000 | 2.443086000 |
| -4.427368000 | 2.493434000 | 0.893777000 |
| -5.739992000 | 1.801234000 | 1.856964000 |
| -3.874969000 | 1.412333000 | 2.602440000 |
| 2.980047000 | . 8186790 | 2.549599000 |

Pro-(R) TS_Pr (C3) with the explicit Solvent-Substrate interaction
G298K=-2834.075684
Img. Freq. $=-1207.331 \mathrm{~cm}-1$

$\begin{array}{llll}\text { C } & -4.782618000 & -0.162206000 & 0.741285000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{llrr}\text { C } & -3.887412000 & 0.509301000 & 1.581109000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{llll}\text { C } & -3.521709000 & -0.101838000 & 2.786708000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{llll}\text { C } & -4.040121000 & -1.342275000 & 3.145384000\end{array}$ C $-4.931260000 \quad-2.003206000 \quad 2.299533000$ C $-5.299511000-1.408494000 \quad 1.094062000$ C $-5.28951000-1.408494000-1.094062000$ C $-3.240029000-2.956872000-2.185878000$ C $\quad-2.189593000 \quad 3.976951000 \quad 1.727820000$ $\begin{array}{llll}\text { C } & -0.1891837000 & 3.183553000 & 1.446017000 \\ \mathrm{C} & 0.923827000 & 3.872038000 & 0.738725000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{llll}\text { C } & 0.238227000 & 3.872038000 & 0.738725000 \\ \text { C } & 1.552759000 & 3.447051000 & 0.983188000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{llll}\text { C } & 1.552759000 & 3.447051000 & 0.983188000 \\ \text { C } & 2.620737000 & 3.992466000 & 0.274504000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{lllr}\mathrm{C} & 2.620737000 & 3.992466000 & 0.274504000 \\ \mathrm{C} & 2.400170000 & 4.979879000 & -0.685294000\end{array}$ C $\quad 1.100325000 \quad 5.425190000 \quad-0.920998000$ $\begin{array}{llll}\text { C } & 0.030220000 & 4.877114000 & -0.214961000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{lrrr}\mathrm{P} & -1.494038000 & 1.636591000 & 0.540739000 \\ \mathrm{C} & -1.613849000 & 2.104715000 & -1.251836000\end{array}$ C $\quad-0.328962000 \begin{array}{llll} & 1.756993000 & -2.011188000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{lllll}\text { P } & 0.312727000 & 0.046714000 & -1.608224000\end{array}$ Co $\quad-0.337101000 \quad-0.256481000 \quad 0.705314000$ $\begin{array}{llll}-1.644853000 & -1.648992000 & 0.597532000 \\ \text { C } & -0.846534000 & -2.690000000 & 0.789334000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{llll}\text { C } & -0.846534000 & -2.690000000 & 0.789334000 \\ \text { O } & -1.052458000 & -3.900706000 & 0.611155000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{lrrr}\text { C } & 1.939933000 & 0.096208000 & -2.608762000 \\ \text { C } & 1.796275000 & -0.981492000 & -3.705543000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{llll}\text { C } & 1.796275000 & -0.981492000 & -3.705543000 \\ \text { C } & 0.328523000 & -1.029118000 & -4.131011000\end{array}$ C $-0.511874000-1.130302000 \quad-2846362000$ C $\quad-2.005689000 \quad-0.999078000 \quad-3.012125000$ | C | -4.238661000 | -1.808776000 | -2.380526000 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | C $-4.807161000 \quad-0.779007000 \quad-3.232182000$ $\begin{array}{llll}-3.975219000 & 0.125531000 & -3.890643000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{rrr}-2.589739000 & 0.011759000 & -3.787320000 \\ 3.237731000 & 0.06650900 & -1.822609000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{lll}3.237731000 & 0.066509000 & -1.822609000 \\ 3.315702000 & 0.603155000 & -0.533445000\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{llll}4.527412000 & 0.673434000 & 0.149411000\end{array}$ $5.6965380000 .208231000-0.447762000$ $\begin{array}{llll}5.635950000 & -0.338473000 & -1.729827000 \\ 4.419784000 & -0.411740000 & -2.407998000\end{array}$ C $\quad 0.472480000 \quad-2.117989000 \quad 1.391586000$ $\begin{array}{llll}\text { C } & 0.371799000 & -2.256383000 & 2.933949000\end{array}$


| H | 1.119158000 | -1.621127000 | 3.408 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| N | 1.678400000 | -2.703612000 | 0.839843000 |
| C | 2.921245000 | -2.349443000 | 1.255436000 |
| C | 3.950033000 | -3.005434000 | 0.358179000 |
| C | 3.143412000 | -4.018510000 | -0.461318000 |
| C | 1.717959000 | -3.449238000 | -0.430233000 |
| O | 3.173854000 | $-1.584490000$ | 2.190880000 |
| C | 0.529651000 | -3.695038000 | 3.436812000 |
| H | -1.858537000 | 3.163954000 | -1.358543000 |
| H | -2.456460000 | 1.533784000 | -1.647619000 |
| H | -0.465892000 | 1.879515000 | -3.087646000 |
| H | 0.476544000 | 2.434111000 | -1.712363000 |
| H | 2.102570000 | -1.956232000 | -3.311569000 |
| H | 2.446470000 | -0.762457000 | -4.555670000 |
| H | 0.076697000 | -0.119557000 | -4.684968000 |
| H | 0.122777000 | -1.875852000 | -4.791944000 |
| H | 4.401313000 | -0.836950000 | -3.403790000 |
| H | 6.535952000 | -0.714104000 | -2.204166000 |
| H | 6.641228000 | 0.258744000 | 0.081647000 |
| H | 4.537968000 | . 078116000 | 1.153270000 |
| H | 2.418382000 | 0.959536000 | -0.047401000 |
| H | -2.420863000 | -2.719859000 | -1.794689000 |
| H | -4.871898000 | -2.526567000 | -1.975026000 |
| H | -5.884587000 | -0.688113000 | -3.309176000 |
| H | -4.403470000 | 0.922587000 | -4.488158000 |
| H | -1.965725000 | .723541000 | -4.313369000 |
| H | -2.012249000 | 4.748410000 | 2.481978000 |
| H | -2.543317000 | . 482395000 | . 824195000 |
| H | -4.230471000 | . 405964000 | 292593000 |
| H | -2.956363000 | 2.563466000 | 3.166016000 |
| H | 1.744703000 | . 673849000 | 1.719637000 |
| H | 3.625995000 | . 636179000 | 0.467938000 |
| H | 3.231575000 | . 401553000 | -1.238697000 |
| H | . 915420000 | 199851000 | -1.656946000 |
| H | -0.970683000 | . 237419000 | -0.417946000 |
| H | -5.061092000 | 0.281575000 | -0.208669000 |
| H | -5.985537000 | -1.914190000 | 00 |
| H | -5.329344000 | -2.973113000 | 2.575079000 |
| H | -3.734479000 | -1.802012000 | 4.078530000 |
| H | -2.802110000 | 0.378842000 | 439500000 |
| H | -3.833661000 | 2.180345000 | 0.269129000 |
| H | -0.531141000 | 2.791463000 | 2.397776000 |
| H | -0.321396000 | -2.110126000 | -2.398400000 |
| H | 1.899773000 | . 071456000 | -3.107953000 |
| H | -0.609428000 | -1.860892000 | 3.210211000 |
| H | -2.595292000 | -1.820817000 | 0.298977000 |
| H | 1.543407000 | -2.756132000 | -1.259149000 |
| H | 0.940598000 | -4.206664000 | -0.442828000 |
| H | 3.156129000 | -4.996178000 | 0.025686000 |
| H | 3.510699000 | -4.139736000 | -1.480634000 |
| H | 4.379458000 | $-2.217400000$ | -0.265673000 |
| H | 4.757608000 | -3.434800000 | 0.952117000 |
| H | 0.854402000 | 0.469789000 | 1.322764000 |
| H | 0.927417000 | -0.649016000 | 1.434839000 |
| H | 0.406248000 | -3.732126000 | 4.522740000 |
| H | -0.207258000 | -4.354893000 | 2.976714000 |
| H | 1.523563000 | -4.081619000 | 3.197451000 |
| C | 3.851119000 | 1.103001000 | 4.021117000 |
| H | 3.801283000 | 2.093658000 | 4.477524000 |
| H | 3.748288000 | 0.352388000 | 4.814925000 |
| H | 4.843063000 | 0.986783000 | 3.563887000 |
| O | 2.804553000 | 1.014186000 | 3.061073000 |
| H | 2.8 | 0.1 |  |

Non-redox 5-membered metallacycle mechanism $\mathbf{C}$ with the explicit Solvent-Dehydro-levetiracetam interaction

Pro-(S) TS_Hyd (C3) with the explicit Solvent-substrate interaction

| G298K $=-2832.892788$ |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Img. Freq. $=-452.8544$ |  |  |  |
| C | -4.769313000 | -0.696559000 | -0.927679000 |
| C | -3.845862000 | -0.507774000 | -1.964135000 |
| C | -3.989211000 | 0.621979000 | -2.778415000 |
| C | -5.023583000 | 1.531107000 | -2.565183000 |
| C | -5.933981000 | 1.332759000 | -1.529352000 |
| C | -5.800586000 | 0.213588000 | -0.708420000 |
| C | -2.752995000 | -1.527521000 | -2.177809000 |
| C | -2.241125000 | -1.689966000 | -3.623286000 |
| C | -1.003113000 | -2.583800000 | -3.566088000 |
| C | -0.053395000 | -1.969303000 | -2.522691000 |
| C | 1.079605000 | -2.832700000 | -2.027704000 |
| C | 2.285279000 | -2.228582000 | -1.648968000 |
| C | 3.333786000 | -2.979906000 | -1.126844000 |
| C | 3.196982000 | -4.358753000 | -0.970740000 |
| C | 2.005652000 | -4.975587000 | -1.351028000 |
| C | 0.957975000 | -4.220558000 | -1.877326000 |
| P | -1.175222000 | -1.299211000 | -1.148472000 |
| C | -1.293450000 | -2.643690000 | 0.142718000 |
| C | -0.077609000 | -2.630546000 | 1.084425000 |
| P | 0.471258000 | -0.890002000 | 1.448229000 |
| Co | -0.238042000 | 0.493819000 | -0.142344000 |
| N | 1.301492000 | 1.152772000 | -1.771751000 |
| C | 1.214163000 | 2.398789000 | -1.359377000 |
| O | 1.976168000 | 3.390069000 | -1.533241000 |
| C | 2.124468000 | -1.094141000 | 2.321513000 |
| C | 1.963333000 | -0.262024000 | 3.616997000 |
| C | 0.567856000 | -0.565910000 | 4.172118000 |
| C | -0.424667000 | -0.323727000 | 3.020597000 |


|  | 0 | -0.875726000 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| C | -2.871897000 | -0.180869000 | 2.513939000 |
| C | -4.170737000 | -0.680098000 | 2.529520000 |
| C | -4.446020000 | -1.894919000 | 3.157125000 |
| C | -3.411081000 | -2.596007000 | 3.774057000 |
| C | -2.111544000 | -2.089528000 | 3.763458000 |
| C | 3.401269000 | -0.815840000 | 1.561944000 |
| C | 4.538606000 | -1.576929 | 1.860779000 |
| C | 5.746811000 | -1.345072000 | 1.206382000 |
| C | 830067000 | -0.355564000 | 0.226271000 |
| C | 4.704127000 | 0.410120000 | -0.078675000 |
| C | 3.504613000 | 0.190326000 | 0.597814000 |
| O | 1.555877000 | 2.826669000 | 1.971654000 |
| C | 0.877133000 | 3.739644000 | 1.515053000 |
| N | 008941000 | 3.644800000 | . 461749000 |
| C | -0.483332000 | 4.965734000 | 0.031695000 |
| C | -0.334394000 | 5.815442000 | 1.301492000 |
| C | 0.865777000 | 5.176824000 | 2.011324000 |
| C | -0.020154000 | 2.555579000 | -0.468057000 |
| C | -1.262333000 | 2.090760000 | -0.975827000 |
| H | 0.511111000 | 1.461068000 | 0.716314000 |
| H | -1.409060000 | -3.620654000 | -0.331921000 |
| H | -2.208558000 | -2.433520000 | 0.703560000 |
| H | -0.295576000 | -3.164309000 | 2.011518000 |
| H | 0.778859000 | -3.117511000 | 0.615089000 |
| H | 2.055220000 | 0.801618000 | . 379168000 |
| H | 2.754661000 | -0.521387000 | 4.324892000 |
| H | 0.532250000 | -1.604699000 | 4.512783000 |
| H | 0.316992000 | 0.066511000 | . 027828000 |
| H | 635496000 | . 780466000 | 0.346157000 |
| H | 4.744955000 | 1.164169000 | -0.857910000 |
| H | 6.763364000 | -0.187752000 | -0.300061000 |
| H | . 615219000 | -1.947794000 | 1.448841000 |
| H | 4.473614000 | -2.365396000 | 2.604054000 |
| H | -2.660576000 | 0.754865000 | . 009211000 |
| H | -4.963641000 | -0.121976000 | 2.047788000 |
| H | -5.455970000 | -2.288343000 | 3.167818000 |
| H | -3.613393000 | -3.539691000 | 0 |
| H | -1.324496000 | -2.650852000 | 4.252030000 |
| H | -0.504223000 | -2.657123000 | -4.536100000 |
| H | -1.302967000 | -3.595232000 | -3.279047000 |
| H | -3.027311000 | -2.106726000 | -4.257954000 |
| H | -1.961664000 | -0.720635000 | -4.045177000 |
| H | 2.386352000 | -1.154950000 | -1.730642000 |
| H | 4.247440000 | -2.482036000 | -0.828186000 |
| H | 4.009523000 | -4.94584600 | -0.557763000 |
| H | 887659000 | -6.047557000 | -1.237253000 |
| H | 0.040965000 | -4.723336000 | -2.158170000 |
| H | -4.677783000 | -1.564830000 | -0.284173000 |
| H | -6.505775000 | 0.043895000 | 0.097549000 |
| H | -6.738126000 | 2.040350000 | -1.363589000 |
| H | -5.112966000 | . 399326000 | -3.208386000 |
| H | -3.291034000 | 0.805683000 | -3.584838000 |
| H | -3.136003000 | -2.500725000 | -1.853296000 |
| , | 0.369286000 | -1.047497000 | -2.930406000 |
|  | -0.493611000 | 0.755696000 | 2.867755000 |
| H | 2.129649000 | -2.150651000 | 2.612588000 |
| H | 2.157132000 | 0.987806000 | -2.297230000 |
|  | -1.511753000 | 4.899050000 | -0.318823000 |
|  | 0.146737000 | 5.328473000 | -0.786467000 |
| H | -0.192959000 | 6.871600000 | 1.073100000 |
| H | -1.231152000 | 5.714455000 | 1.917469000 |
|  | 0.826349000 | 5.208673000 | 3.100293000 |
| H | 1.813084000 | 5.629151000 | 1.698488000 |
| C | -2.555976000 | 2.423560000 | -0.272415000 |
| H | -3.238071000 | 1.574906000 | -0.279631000 |
| H | -2.370386000 | 2.708067000 | 0.765346000 |
| H | -3.078374000 | 3.253138000 | -0.761595000 |
| H | -1.314456000 | 1.871082000 | -2.035036000 |
| C | 4.035859000 | 2.508386000 | -4.033525000 |
| H | 3.782384000 | 3.468685000 | -4.504737000 |
| , | 4.936856000 | 2.122124000 | -4.516510000 |
| H | 3.215564000 | 1.805831000 | -4.242011000 |
| H | 3.463406000 | 2.959998000 | -2.217033000 |
| O | 4.296343000 | 2.641819000 | -2.645208000 |

Pro-(R) (C2) with the explicit Solvent-substrate interaction
$\mathrm{G} 298 \mathrm{~K}=-2834.081423$
Img. Freq. $=-1030.4292$

|  | lmg. |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | :---: | :---: |
| C | 3.874177000 | 1.785128000 | 0.029198000 |  |  |
| C | 3.248678000 | 2.079020000 | 1.250087000 |  |  |
| C | 3.055035000 | 3.424529000 | 1.580595000 |  |  |
| C | 3.482460000 | 4.442666000 | 0.726448000 |  |  |
| C | 4.102449000 | 4.135405000 | -0.481526000 |  |  |
| C | 4.291824000 | 2.797023000 | -0.828674000 |  |  |
| C | 2.810446000 | 0.940338000 | 2.146551000 |  |  |
| C | 2.383015000 | 1.300407000 | 3.581659000 |  |  |
| C | 1.669843000 | 0.079290000 | 4.166065000 |  |  |
| C | 0.574618000 | -0.316508000 | 3.157838000 |  |  |
| C | -0.100553000 | -1.647013000 | 3.369499000 |  |  |
| C | -1.486821000 | -1.755055000 | 3.195560000 |  |  |
| C | -2.137721000 | -2.977892000 | 3.337843000 |  |  |
| C | -1.413767000 | -4.124630000 | 3.660523000 |  |  |
| C | -0.036302000 | -4.029457000 | 3.856162000 |  |  |
| C | 0.611529000 | -2.803424000 | 3.718527000 |  |  |
| P | 1.348089000 | -0.050483000 | 1.441306000 |  |  |
| C | 2.148071000 | -1.670187000 | 0.971570000 |  |  |
| C | 1.147858000 | -2.581908000 | 0.246599000 |  |  |
| P | 0.237393000 | -1.684398000 | -1.106898000 |  |  |


|  | -0.043476000 | 0.466771000 | -0.51 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| N | -1.750083000 | 0.336594000 | 0.419202000 |
| C | -2.412441000 | 1.455070000 | 0.612186000 |
| O | -3.478493000 | 1.615191000 | 1.271509000 |
| C | -1.132830000 | -2.922903000 | -1.535502000 |
| C | -0.922760000 | -3.242400000 | -3.032599000 |
| C | 0.588285000 | -3.302794000 | -3.280236000 |
| C | 1.179980000 | -1.999181000 | -2.714254000 |
| C | 2.676939000 | -1.903190000 | -2.573533000 |
| C | 3.318691000 | -0.679690000 | -2.812307000 |
| C | 4.694591000 | -0.544482000 | -2.641702000 |
| C | 5.460367000 | -1.630333000 | -2.220049 |
| C | 4.837450000 | -2.855804000 | -1.988073000 |
| C | 3.462247000 | -2.991261000 | -2.168224000 |
| C | -2.518657000 | -2.488993000 | -1.130986000 |
| C | -3.143797000 | -3.087522000 | -0.032104000 |
| C | -4.408823000 | -2.675321000 | 0.387051000 |
| C | -5.072332000 | -1.657000000 | -0.293050000 |
| C | -4.457054000 | -1.052495000 | -1.390068000 |
| C | -3.193148000 | -1.461402000 | -1.802308000 |
| O | -1.224244000 | 1.046804000 | -2.578333000 |
| C | -2.154429000 | 1.856500000 | -2.513894000 |
| N | -2.438934000 | . 678743000 | -1.478264000 |
| C | -3.707330000 | . 396260000 | -1.652490000 |
| C | -3.935612000 | . 346080000 | -3.172044000 |
| C | -3.200898000 | . 067371000 | -3.597075000 |
| C | -1.795081000 | . 638708000 | -0.152725000 |
| C | -0.263657000 | . 583525000 | -0.217633000 |
| H | 0.102711000 | . 694694000 | 0.804367000 |
| H | 2.583142000 | -2.177777000 | 1.834774000 |
| H | 2.970171000 | $-1.407967000$ | 0.299773000 |
| H | 1.637984000 | -3.476506000 | -0.143213000 |
| H | 0.373611000 | -2.916135000 | 0.942686000 |
| H | -1.364761000 | -2.457644000 | -3.653460000 |
| H | -1.420650000 | -4.180356000 | -3.291565000 |
| H | 1.005627000 | -4.175353000 | -2.768539000 |
| H | 0.826833000 | -3.405005000 | -4.342416000 |
| H | -2.706084000 | -0.946625000 | -2.620059000 |
| H | -4.958654000 | -0.245543000 | -1.912663000 |
| H | -6.053069000 | . 329538000 | 00 |
| H | -4.873195000 | -3.150932000 | 1.243694000 |
| H | -2.629939000 | -3.873027000 | 0.511285000 |
| H | 2.731131000 | 73916000 | -3.130555000 |
| H | 5.169568000 | 0.409226000 | -2.840852000 |
| H | 6.530463000 | -1.525126000 | -2.083298000 |
| H | 5.422549000 | -3.711385000 | -1.669804000 |
| H | 3.003995000 | -3.956192000 | -1.990596000 |
| H | 231269000 | 92355000 | 324000 |
| H | 2.387232000 | -0.735153000 | 4.303284000 |
| H | 3.245361000 | 1.605732000 | 4.180380000 |
| H | 1.682038000 | . 140977000 | 00 |
| H | -2.058241000 | -0.868441000 | 2.945833000 |
| H | -3.210188000 | -3.032464000 | . 194068000 |
| H | -1.917509000 | . 078537000 | . 766869000 |
| H | 0.537353000 | -4.911184000 | . 119496000 |
| H | 1.680856000 | -2.754846000 | 3.882497000 |
| H | 4.031502000 | . 751385000 | -0.257121000 |
| H | 4.768495000 | . 542496000 | -1.768390000 |
| H | 4.430774000 | . 925947000 | -1.146616000 |
| H | 3.324395000 | . 477695000 | 1.008647000 |
| H | 2.575091000 | . 694670000 | 2.512450000 |
| H | 3.638043000 | 225499000 | 2.210642000 |
| H | -0.200031000 | 0.455625000 | 3.183990000 |
| H | 0.840132000 | -1.174088000 | -3.347010000 |
| H | -0.875140000 | -3.822068000 | -0.968102000 |
| C | 0.286775000 | 3.743920000 | -1.060475000 |
| H | -2.212802000 | -0.477694000 | 0.807454000 |
| H | -3.617367000 | 4.412462000 | -1.264205000 |
| H | -4.498813000 | 2.886035000 | -1.093030000 |
| H | -4.994549000 | 3.344414000 | -3.429570000 |
| H | -3.471235000 | 4.215973000 | -3.641682000 |
| H | -2.733004000 | 2.115419000 | -4.580593000 |
| H | -3.858985000 | 1.191855000 | -3.587406000 |
| H | 0.028870000 | 3.627600000 | -2.116423000 |
| H | -0.128586000 | 4.701408000 | -0.721032000 |
| H | 1.373443000 | 3.805332000 | -0.981456000 |
| H | -2.096371000 | 3.564938000 | 0.346437000 |
| H | 1.221103000 | 0.862986000 | -1.331333000 |
| H | 0.732907000 | 1.685520000 | -0.979563000 |
| C | -1.722172000 | 3.163587000 | 3.526264000 |
| H | -1.297945000 | 3.925336000 | 4.184910000 |
| H | -2.020043000 | 2.304160000 | 4.142907000 |
| H | -0.927609000 | 2.828372000 | 2.844848000 |
| H | -3.199021000 | 3.026896000 | 2.270750000 |
| O | -2.820131000 | 3.739230000 | 2.831943000 |

