# Copper-Catalyzed Diastereoselective O-Transfer Reaction of N-Vinyl- $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -Unsaturated Nitrones with Ketenes into $\gamma$ -Lactones through [5+2] Cycloaddition and N-O bond Cleavage

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### **1. General Experimental Information:**

<sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded at ambient temperature using 400 or 500 MHz spectrometers. The data are reported as follows: chemical shift in ppm from internal tetramethylsilane on the  $\delta$  scale, multiplicity (br = broad, s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet), coupling constants (Hz), and integration. High resolution mass spectra were acquired on an LTQ FT spectrometer, and were obtained by peak matching. Melting points are reported uncorrected. Analytical thin layer chromatography was performed on 0.25 mm extra hard silica gel plates with UV254 fluorescent indicator. Chromatography was performed using with 300-400 mesh silica gel (SiO<sub>2</sub>). Unless otherwise noted, all reactions were performed under air atmosphere. All reagents and solvents were obtained from commercial sources and, where appropriate, purified prior to use. Acetyl chlorides **2** were all purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. *N*-Substituted  $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated nitrones **1a-1r**<sup>[1]</sup>, epoxypyridine **5a**<sup>[2]</sup>, and allenoate **6a**<sup>[3]</sup> was prepared according to literature method and their spectral data matched literature values.

#### 2. More detailed optimization conditions

# Table S1. Optimization of the Reaction Conditions.

Me Me Ph 1a	_0 <sup>⊖</sup> + 0 + CI → Ph 2a	∠Ph <u>cat. (20 mol</u> base, solv 0 °C to rt in	Me went air Ph	Ph Ph Ph O O 3aa
entry	cat.	solvent	base	<b>3aa</b> , yield % <sup>b</sup>
1	CuCl	THF	NEt <sub>3</sub>	5
2	CuI	THF	NEt <sub>3</sub>	8
3	CuOTf	THF	NEt <sub>3</sub>	12
4	Cu(OTf) <sub>2</sub>	THF	NEt <sub>3</sub>	67
5	Cu(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	THF	NEt <sub>3</sub>	64
6	$Cu(OAc)_2$	THF	NEt <sub>3</sub>	82
7	FeCl <sub>3</sub>	THF	NEt <sub>3</sub>	49

8	Fe(OTf) <sub>3</sub>	THF	NEt <sub>3</sub>	51
9	Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	MeCN	NEt <sub>3</sub>	<5
10	Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	toluene	NEt <sub>3</sub>	23
11	$Cu(OAc)_2$	DCM	NEt <sub>3</sub>	32
12	Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	Et <sub>2</sub> O	NEt <sub>3</sub>	50
13	Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	THF	NEt <sub>3</sub>	56 <sup>c</sup>
14	Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	THF	NEt <sub>3</sub>	79 <sup>d</sup>
15	Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	THF	pyridine	<5
16	Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	THF	TMEDA	41
17	Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	THF	NMMP	72
18	Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	THF	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	12
19	Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub> /L1	THF	NEt <sub>3</sub>	62
20	$Cu(OAc)_2/L2$	THF	NEt <sub>3</sub>	75
21	$Cu(OAc)_2/L3$	THF	NEt <sub>3</sub>	68 (2) <sup>e</sup>
22	$Cu(OAc)_2/L4$	THF	NEt <sub>3</sub>	78 (5) <sup>e</sup>
23	Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub> /L5	THF	NEt <sub>3</sub>	$45(0)^{e}$
24	$Cu(OAc)_2/L6$	THF	NEt <sub>3</sub>	$34(0)^{e}$
25	Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub> /L7	THF	NEt <sub>3</sub>	<10
26	$Cu(OAc)_2/L8$	THF	NEt <sub>3</sub>	$23(0)^{e}$



[a] Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.2 mmol), **2a** (0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv.), Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%), base (2.0 equiv.), solvent (3.0 mL), 0 °C to 25 °C, 24–48 h; [b] isolated yield; [c] **2a** (1.5 equiv.); [d] **2a** (3.0 equiv.); [e] ee value.

### 3. Studies of *E*/*Z* isomerization of N-vinyl nitrone 1m



N-Vinyl nitrone **1m** (1:1.3 E/Z) was prepared as follows: In a 25 mL flask was charged with chalcone oxime (0.3 mmol), alkenyl boronic acids (0.6 mmol, 2.0 equiv), Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (0.03 mmol, 10 mol%) and anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (6.0 equiv) in air atmosphere. Then, DCE (3.0 mL) and pyridine (3.0 mmol, 10.0 equiv) was added *via* syringe. The reaction flask was then capped with a septum pierced with a ventilation needle and stirred vigorously at 25 °C for 14 h until the oxime disappeared (monitored by TLC). At this time, the reaction was quenched by H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL) and extracted with DCM (3 × 10 mL). Then, dried over with Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by a short column chromatography with 1/4, ethyl acetate/petroleum ether to provide *N*-vinyl nitrone **1m** (62 mg, 75% yield, 1:1.3 E/Z).

(1) In a 25 mL flask was charged with prepared nitrone **1m** (55 mg, 0.2 mmol) and THF (2.0 mL). Then, Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (7.2 mg, 20 mol%) was added. The reaction vessel was stirred vigorously at room temperature (about 25 °C) for 2 h. At this time, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by a filtration with short pat of silica gel (1/4, ethyl acetate/petroleum ether) to provide nitrone **1m** (50 mg, 90% yield) with 5:1 *E/Z* ratio.

(2) In a 25 mL flask was charged with prepared nitrone **1m** (55 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1:1.3 E/Z) and THF (2.0 mL). Then, Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (7.2 mg, 20 mol%) and NEt<sub>3</sub> (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was added. The reaction vessel was stirred vigorously at room temperature (about 25 °C) for 2 h. At this time, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by a filtration with short pat of silica gel (1/4, ethyl acetate/petroleum ether) to provide nitrone **1m** (46 mg, 83% yield) with 7:1 E/Z ratio.

(3) In a 25 mL flask was charged with prepared nitrone **1m** (55 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1:1.3 E/Z) and THF (2.0 mL). Then, Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (7.2 mg, 20 mol%) and NEt<sub>3</sub> (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was added. The reaction vessel was stirred vigorously at room temperature (about 25 °C) for 4 h. At this time, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by a filtration with short pat of silica gel (1/4, ethyl acetate/petroleum ether) to provide nitrone **1m** (31 mg, 56% yield) with 16:1 E/Z ratio.

(4) In a 25 mL flask was charged with prepared nitrone **1m** (55 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1:1.3 E/Z) and THF (2.0 mL). Then, Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (7.2 mg, 20 mol%) and NEt<sub>3</sub> (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was added. The reaction vessel was stirred vigorously at room temperature (about 25 °C) for 6 h. At this time, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by a filtration with short pat of silica gel (1/4, ethyl acetate/petroleum ether) to provide nitrone **1m** (19 mg, 35% yield) with 9.4:1 E/Z ratio.

(5) In a 25 mL flask was charged with prepared nitrone **1m** (55 mg, 0.2 mmol, 16:1 E/Z) and THF (2.0 mL). Then, Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (7.2 mg, 20 mol%) and NEt<sub>3</sub> (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was added. The reaction vessel was stirred vigorously at room temperature

(about 25 °C) for 4 h. At this time, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by a filtration with short pat of silica gel (1/4, ethyl acetate/petroleum ether) to provide nitrone **1m** (38 mg, 69% yield) with 5.2:1 E/Z ratio.



#### 4. Possible [3+2]/[3,3]-rearrangement mechanism to form 3 and 4

#### 5. Synthesis of compounds 3 and 4



**General procedure A**: In a 25 mL flask was charged with acyl chloride **2** (0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv.) and THF (3.0 mL). The flask was cooled to 0 °C and NEt<sub>3</sub> (55  $\mu$ L, 0.2 mol, 2.0 equiv.) was added under air. The reaction was stirring at 0 °C for 0.5-2 h. Then, *N*-vinyl nitrones **1** (0.2 mmol) and Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (7.2 mg, 20 mol%) was added. The reaction vessel was stirred vigorously at room temperature (about 25 °C) for 24-48 h until the substrate **1** disappeared (monitored by TLC). At this time, the reaction was

quenched by H<sub>2</sub>O (5 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (10 mL  $\times$  3). The combined organic layers were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (the crude residue was dry loaded with silica gel, 1/50 to 1/10, ethyl acetate/petroleum ether) to provide  $\gamma$ -lactones **3** or **4**.



5-(5,6-Dimethyl-4-phenylpyridin-2-yl)-3,4-diphenyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one

(3aa), yellow solid, 0.069 g, 82% yield. Mp: 87–88 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.41–7.37 (m, 3H), 7.27–7.21 (m, 10H), 7.19 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (s, 1H), 5.53 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 4.39–4.34 (m, 1H), 4.20 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.56 (s, 3H), 2.15 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  175.3, 158.1, 150.9, 149.9, 139.3, 136.7, 135.4, 129.4, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.2, 127.8, 127.7, 127.6, 121.6, 85.0, 55.4, 54.4, 23.3, 16.0; IR (neat): 2925, 1783, 1710, 1603, 1454, 1385, 1148, 699 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup>: 420.1958; found: 420.1953.



4-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-5-(4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5,6-dimethylpyridin-2-yl)-3-phenyl dihydrofuran-2(3H)-one (3ba), white solid, 0.057 g, 59% yield. Mp: 83–84 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.32–7.30 (m, 2H), 7.26 (brs, 3H), 7.20 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 2H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 6.97 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 2H), 6.81 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 2H), 5.47 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.31–4.25 (m, 1H), 4.16 (d, J = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 2.55 (s, 3H), 2.19 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ 

175.4, 159.4, 159.0, 158.1, 151.1, 149.7, 135.6, 131.8, 130.0, 129.4, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 127.7, 121.7, 114.2, 113.8, 85.4, 55.4, 55.2, 54.8, 54.7, 23.6, 16.2; IR (neat): 2963, 1712, 1611, 1291, 1178, 1031, 803 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for  $C_{31}H_{30}NO_4 [M + H]^+$ : 480.2169; found: 480.2165.



**5-(5,6-Dimethyl-4-(p-tolyl)pyridin-2-yl)-3-phenyl-4-(p-tolyl)dihydrofuran-2(3H)one (3ca)**, yellow oil, 0.060 g, 67% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.33–7.24 (m, 7H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.06 (s, 5H), 5.49 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.34 (dd, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 9.6 Hz, 1H) , 4.18 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.55 (s, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.18 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  175.5, 158.1, 151.1, 149.9, 137.7, 137.3, 136.5, 135.6, 133.6, 129.5, 129.4, 129.0, 128.7, 128.6, 127.7, 127.6, 121.7, 85.3, 55.1, 54.6, 23.5, 21.2, 21.0, 16.2; IR (neat): 3022, 2958, 1710, 1515, 1325, 1129, 1023, 808 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>30</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup>: 448.2271; found: 448.2265.



4-(4-Bromophenyl)-5-(4-(4-bromophenyl)-5,6-dimethylpyridin-2-yl)-3-phenyldih ydrofuran-2(3H)-one (3da), yellow oil, 0.042 g, 57% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.58 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.35–7.28 (m, 3H), 7.25–7.23 (m, 2H), 7.14 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 3H), 5.48 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.34–4.29 (m, 1H), 4.16 (d, J = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 2.55 (s, 3H), 2.16 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  174.8, 158.4, 151.0, 148.9, 138.2, 135.8, 135.0, 131.9, 131.6, 130.3, 129.6, 129.3, 128.8, 128.5, 127.8, 122.2, 121.6, 121.2, 84.5, 54.9, 54.5, 23.5, 16.1; IR (neat): 3030, 2922, 2852, 1714, 1491, 1153, 1009, 828, 698 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>24</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup>: 576.0168; found: 576.0162.



3ea

**5-(5,6-Dimethyl-4-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)pyridin-2-yl)-3-phenyl-4-(4-(trifluo romethyl)phenyl)dihydrofuran-2(3H)-one (3ea)**, white solid, 0.086 g, 78% yield. Mp: 74–75 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.72 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.39–7.29 (m, 7H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 5.55 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (dd, *J* = 12.4 Hz, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.22 (d, *J* = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 2.56 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  174.7, 158.6, 151.0, 148.8, 142.9, 141.0, 134.9, 130.3 (q, *J* = 31.8 Hz), 129.5, 129.1, 128.9, 128.8, 128.6, 128.3, 128.0, 125.8 (q, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 125.4 (q, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 125.0 (q, *J* = 247 Hz), 121.2, 84.3, 55.1, 54.5, 23.5, 16.1; IR (neat): 2962, 1716, 1620, 1326, 1126, 847, 699 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>24</sub>F<sub>6</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup>: 556.1706; found: 556.1698.



**4-(3-Bromophenyl)-5-(4-(3-bromophenyl)-5,6-dimethylpyridin-2-yl)-3-phenyldih ydrofuran-2(3H)-one (3fa)**, yellow solid, 0.057 g, 49% yield. Mp: 70–71 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.54 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (s, 1H), 7.37–7.25 (m, 8H), 7.19 –7.15 (m, 3H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 5.48 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.34–4.29 (m, 1H), 4.19 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.56 (s, 3H), 2.18 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  174.8, 158.5, 151.1, 148.6, 141.4, 139.3, 135.1, 131.6, 131.2, 131.0, 130.9, 130.4, 129.9, 129.4, 128.9, 128.6, 127.9, 127.4, 126.5, 122.8, 122.5, 121.2, 84.5, 55.0, 54.4, 23.5, 16.1; IR (neat): 2923, 1775, 1598, 1491, 1154, 1010, 828, 699 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>24</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup>: 576.0168; found: 576.0163.



**4-(2-Bromophenyl)-5-(4-(2-bromophenyl)-5,6-dimethylpyridin-2-yl)-3-phenyldih ydrofuran-2(3H)-one (3ga)**, white solid, 0.046 g, 40% yield. Mp: 190–191 °C; *one isomer*: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.68 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.39–7.35 (m, 2H), 7.29–7.28 (m, 6H), 7.14–7.11 (m, 2H), 7.00 (s, 1H), 5.60 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.84 (dd, J = 11.2 Hz, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.32 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 2.52 (s, 3H), 2.02 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  175.1, 157.9, 151.9, 149.3, 140.4, 136.6, 135.1, 133.5, 132.7, 130.2, 129.9, 129.4, 129.1, 128.7, 128.5, 128.1, 127.8, 127.4, 125.5, 122.5, 122.6, 120.1, 85.0, 55.1, 54.6, 23.2, 15.8; *the other isomer*: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.64 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.39–7.35 (m, 2H), 7.29–7.28 (m, 6H), 7.14–7.11 (m, 2H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 5.58 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.76 (dd, J = 11.2 Hz, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 2.03 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  175.1, 157.6, 151.4, 149.0, 140.3, 136.3, 134.9, 133.5, 132.7, 130.1, 129.8, 129.5, 129.0, 128.7, 128.5, 128.1, 127.7, 127.4, 125.3, 122.5, 119.5, 84.7, 54.6, 54.5, 23.1, 15.7; IR (neat): 2963, 1716, 1606, 1262, 1023, 802, 698 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>24</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup>: 576.0168; found: 576.0159.



5-(5,6-Dimethyl-4-(thiophen-2-yl)pyridin-2-yl)-3-phenyl-4-(thiophen-2-yl)dihydr ofuran-2(3H)-one (3ha), yellow oil, 0.065 g, 81% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.43–7.42 (m, 1H), 7.39–7.31 (m, 5H), 7.27–7.26 (m, 1H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 7.13–7.12 (m, 2H), 6.89–6.87 (m, 1H), 6.79–6.78 (m, 1H), 5.47 (d, *J* = 12.5 Hz, 1H), 4.74 (dd, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 12.5 Hz, 1H), 4.18 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 2.61 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  174.7, 158.4, 150.5, 142.5, 140.1, 139.8, 135.0, 129.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.0, 127.9, 127.4, 127.0, 126.7, 125.7, 124.5, 122.5, 84.9, 55.3, 50.3, 23.7, 16.4; IR (neat): 2976, 1712, 1663, 1600, 1507, 1244, 1188, 799 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup>: 432.1086; found: 432.1088.



**5-(5-Ethyl-4,6-diphenylpyridin-2-yl)-3,4-diphenyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one** (3ia), yellow oil, 0.063 g, 63% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.10 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.43–7.42 (m, 10H), 7.35–7.28 (m, 6H), 7.24–7.22 (m,

5H), 5.66 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.34–4.29 (m, 1H), 4.22 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.69–2.65 (m, 2H), 0.74 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  175.4, 159.5, 151.7, 151.6, 140.8, 139.6, 136.8, 135.4, 135.3, 133.6, 130.1, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.4, 128.3, 128.0, 127.9, 127.8, 127.7, 122.7, 85.0, 55.7, 54.6, 22.2, 14.6; IR (neat): 2935, 1714, 1602, 1497, 1152, 1009, 825, 699 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>35</sub>H<sub>30</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup>: 496.2271; found: 496.2267



**3,4-Diphenyl-5-(4-phenyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydroquinolin-2-yl)dihydrofuran-2(3H)-on e (3ja)**, white solid, 0.080 g, 90% yield. Mp: 112–113 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.44–7.38 (m, 3H), 7.33–7.30 (m, 2H), 7.28–7.21 (m, 8H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 5.6, 2H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 5.54 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.34–4.30 (m, 1H), 4.21 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 2.98 (t, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 2.62–2.61 (m, 2H), 1.90–1.86 (m, 2H), 1.72–1.70 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  175.4, 158.1, 151.8, 150.2, 139.0, 136.9, 135.5, 130.5, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 127.9, 127.7, 127.6, 121.0, 85.2, 55.5, 54.6, 33.0, 29.7, 27.3, 22.8; IR (neat): 3455, 2958, 1708, 1608, 1469, 1283, 1152, 1021, 803, 747 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>28</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup>: 446.2115; found: 446.2115.



3ka

**3,4-Diphenyl-5-(4-phenyl-6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-5H-cyclohepta[b]pyridin-2-yl)dihyd rofuran-2(3H)-one (3ka)**, yellow oil, 0.064 g, 71% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.44–7.38 (m, 3H), 7.34–7.18 (m, 12H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 5.52 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.42–4.36 (m, 1H), 4.22 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 3.11–3.09 (m, 2H), 2.73–2.71 (m, 2H), 1.87–1.86 (m, 2H), 1.75–1.73 (m, 2H), 1.61–1.60 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 175.4, 164.5, 150.6, 149.4, 139.7, 137.0, 136.0, 135.5, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.3, 127.9, 127.8, 127.7, 127.6, 121.8, 85.2, 55.2, 54.5, 39.4, 32.3, 29.5, 27.7, 26.4; IR (neat): 2963, 1717, 1624, 1518, 1250, 1176, 1031, 803, 695 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for  $C_{32}H_{30}NO_2$  [M + H]<sup>+</sup>: 460.2271; found:460.2254.



3la

**3,4-Diphenyl-5-(4'-phenyl-7',8'-dihydro-5'H-spiro[[1,3]dioxolane-2,6'-quinolin]-2 '-yl)dihydrofuran-2(3H)-one (3la)**, yellow solid, 0.068 g, 68% yield. Mp: 123–124 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.44–7.38 (m, 3H), 7.32–7.23 (m, 10H), 7.19–7.18 (m, 2H), 7.09 (s, 1H), 5.56 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.30–4.26 (m, 1H), 4.21 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 3.98–3.89 (m, 4H), 3.18 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 2.91–2.82 (m, 2H), 2.07 (t, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  175.3, 156.5, 152.6, 150.6, 138.4, 136.8, 135.5, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 128.1, 127.9, 127.7, 127.6, 127.5, 121.1, 107.7, 85.0, 64.5, 55.6, 54.7, 37.1, 31.3, 31.2; IR (neat): 2926, 1716, 1606, 1497, 1263, 1151, 1023, 804, 700 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>33</sub>H<sub>30</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup>: 504.2169; found: 504.2164.



**3qa** (ratio = 1.5:1)

γ-Lactone 3qa, ratio = 1.5:1, yellow solid, 0.039 g, 43% yield. Mp: 145–146 °C; major isomer. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.41–7.40 (m, 2H), 7.33–7.23 (m, 6H), 7.19–7.17 (m, 3H), 7.08–7.06 (m, 2H), 6.96 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.52 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.38–4.33 (m, 1H), 4.21 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.55 (s, 3H), 2.19 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 175.4, 159.3, 158.2, 151.0, 149.6, 136.9, 135.5, 130.0, 129.4, 128.9, 128.7, 128.6, 128.3, 127.9, 127.7, 121.7, 121.6, 113.7, 85.1, 55.3, 55.1, 54.5, 23.5, 16.2; minor isomer. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.41–7.40 (m, 2H), 7.33–7.23 (m, 6H), 7.19–7.17 (m, 3H), 7.08–7.06 (m, 2H), 6.96 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.47 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.31–4.26 (m, 1H), 4.18 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 2.56 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  175.4, 158.9, 158.2, 151.1, 150.0, 139.5, 135.5, 131.7, 129.4, 128.9, 128.8, 128.6, 128.3, 127.8, 127.7, 121.7, 121.6, 114.2, 85.3, 55.4, 54.8, 54.6, 23.5, 16.1; IR (neat): 3432, 2927, 1714, 1608, 1457, 1254, 1028, 727 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>28</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup>: 450.2064; found: 450.2057.



**5-(5,6-Dimethyl-4-phenylpyridin-2-yl)-3-phenyl-4-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)dih ydrofuran-2(3H)-one (3ra)**, yellow solid, 0.073 g, 75% yield. Mp: 83–84 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.55 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 2H), 7.46–7.40 (m, 3H), 7.34–7.32 (m, 5H), 7.26–7.24 (m, 4H), 7.12 (s, 1H), 5.54 (d, J = 11.5 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (dd, J = 15.0Hz, 11.5 Hz, 1H), 4.22 (d, J = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 2.55 (s, 3H), 2.19 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  174.8, 158.3, 150.7, 150.3, 141.1, 139.4, 135.0, 130.1 (q, J = 26.2Hz), 129.7, 129.0, 128.7, 128.6, 128.4, 128.3, 128.0, 127.9, 125.8 (q, J = 3.0 Hz), 124.9 (q, J = 247 Hz), 121.6, 84.6, 55.1, 54.6, 23.5, 16.2; IR (neat): 2960, 1713, 1621, 1327, 1123, 1018, 803, 702 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>25</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup>: 488.1832; found: 488.1827.



**5-(5,6-Dimethyl-4-phenylpyridin-2-yl)-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-phenyldihydrofur an-2(3H)-one (3ab)**, yellow liquid, 0.055 g, 61% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.44–7.40 (m, 3H), 7.28–7.23 (m, 5H), 7.21–7.17 (m, 4H), 7.08 (s, 1H), 6.87 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 2H), 5.51 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.32 (dd, J = 15.0 Hz, 11.5 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (d, J = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 2.56 (s, 3H), 2.18 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 175.7, 159.1, 158.2, 151.2, 150.1, 139.5, 137.0, 129.7, 129.4, 128.8, 128.7, 128.4, 127.9, 127.6, 127.5, 121.6, 114.3, 85.1, 55.5, 55.2, 53.9, 23.5, 16.1; IR (neat): 2963, 1712, 1611, 1515, 1291, 1178, 1031, 695 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>28</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup>: 450.2064; found: 450.2057.



**3-(4-Chlorophenyl)-5-(5,6-dimethyl-4-phenylpyridin-2-yl)-4-phenyldihydrofuran -2(3H)-one (3ac)**, white solid, 0.087 g, 97% yield. Mp: 120–121 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.44–7.38 (m, 3H), 7.30–7.21 (m, 9H), 7.18–7.16 (m, 2H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 5.52 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.35 (dd, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.19 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 2.56 (s, 3H), 2.18 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  174.9, 158.3, 150.7, 150.0, 139.4, 136.6, 134.0, 133.7, 130.0, 129.6, 129.0, 128.9, 128.7, 128.4, 127.9, 127.8, 121.8, 85.2, 55.3, 54.0, 23.5, 16.1; IR (neat): 2962, 1715, 1607, 1407, 1282, 1020, 803, 750 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>25</sub>ClNO<sub>2</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup>: 454.1568; found: 454.1566.



**3-(4-Bromophenyl)-5-(5,6-dimethyl-4-phenylpyridin-2-yl)-4-phenyldihydrofuran** -2(3H)-one (3ad), white solid, 0.096 g, 99% yield. Mp: 157–158 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.46–7.36 (m, 5H), 7.29–7.22 (m, 5H), 7.18–7.15 (m, 4H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 5.52 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.36–4.31 (m, 1H), 4.18 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.56 (s, 3H), 2.18 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 175.3, 158.0, 151.8, 150.2, 139.0, 136.9, 135.5, 130.4, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.3, 127.9, 127.7, 127.6, 120.9, 85.2, 55.5, 54.6, 27.4, 22.8; IR (neat): 2922, 1715, 1607, 1494, 1384, 1015, 804 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>25</sub>BrNO<sub>2</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup>: 498.1063; found: 498.1061.



**5-(5,6-Dimethyl-4-phenylpyridin-2-yl)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-phenyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one (3ae)**, yellow oil, 0.072 g, 82% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ 7.44–7.36 (m, 3H), 7.28–7.23 (m, 7H), 7.18–7.16 (m, 2H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 7.02 (t, J =8.8 Hz, 2H), 5.52 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.35–4.29 (m, 1H), 4.20 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.56 (s, 3H), 2.18 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  175.2, 163.4 (d, J = 245 Hz), 158.3, 150.8, 150.0, 139.4, 136.6, 131.2 (d, J = 2.9 Hz), 130.3 (d, J = 8.0 Hz), 129.5, 128.9, 128.7, 128.3, 127.9, 127.8, 127.7, 121.7, 115.8 (d, J = 21.1 Hz), 85.1, 55.5, 53.9, 23.5, 16.1; IR (neat): 2967, 1715, 1608, 1467, 1282, 1019, 727 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>25</sub>FNO<sub>2</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup>: 438.1864; found: 438.1862.



3af

**5-(5,6-Dimethyl-4-phenylpyridin-2-yl)-3-(3-fluorophenyl)-4-phenyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one (3af)**, yellow oil, 0.086 g, 99% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ 7.43–7.38 (m, 3H), 7.29–7.24 (m, 6H), 7.19–7.18 (m, 2H), 7.06 (s, 3H), 6.99 (t, J =5.6 Hz, 1H), 5.52 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.40–4.35 (m, 1H), 4.22 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 2.57 (s, 3H), 2.19 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  174.7, 164.1 (d, J = 245 Hz), 158.4, 150.8, 150.1, 139.4, 137.9 (d, J = 7.3 Hz), 136.7, 130.3 (d, J = 8.8 Hz), 129.5, 128.9, 128.7, 128.4, 127.9, 127.8, 127.7, 124.5 (d, J = 2.9 H), 121.8, 115.8 (d, J = 21.8 Hz), 114.9 (d, J = 21.2 Hz), 85.2, 55.1, 54.2, 23.5, 16.1; IR (neat): 3062, 2962, 1717, 1608, 1454, 1260, 1023, 804, 699 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for  $C_{29}H_{25}FNO_2 [M + H]^+$ : 438.1864; found: 438.1860.



**3-(2-Bromophenyl)-5-(5,6-dimethyl-4-phenylpyridin-2-yl)-4-phenyldihydrofuran** -2(3H)-one (3ag), yellow solid, 0.082 g, 82% yield. Mp: 199–200 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.45–7.43 (m, 3H), 7.41– 7.38 (m, 1H), 7.30–7.29 (m, 2H), 7.15 (s, 1H), 7.13–7.10 (m, 3H), 7.05–7.04 (m, 2H), 6.94–6.92 (m, 2H), 6.76–6.74 (m, 1H), 5.82 (s, 1H), 5.49 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 4.60 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.64 (s, 3H), 2.23 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  176.3, 158.6, 153.1, 150.2, 139.5, 138.7, 133.9, 132.0, 131.4, 129.2, 128.7, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 127.9, 127.6, 127.2, 126.9, 125.5, 120.2, 84.4, 51.4, 50.4, 23.7, 16.1; IR (neat): 2924, 1712, 1607, 1459, 1130, 1022, 728 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>25</sub>BrNO<sub>2</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup>: 498.1063; found: 498.1070.



**5-(5,6-Dimethyl-4-phenylpyridin-2-yl)-4-phenyl-3-(thiophen-2-yl)dihydrofuran-2** (**3H)-one (3ah)**, yellow solid, 0.035 g, 41% yield. Mp: 147–148 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.44–7.37 (m, 3H), 7.31–7.22 (m, 8H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 7.01–7.00 (m, 1H), 6.96–6.94 (m, 1H), 5.50 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 4.53 (d, J = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 4.44 (dd, J = 12.0 Hz, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 2.55 (s, 3H), 2.18 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  173.9, 158.2, 150.6, 150.0, 139.4, 136.8, 136.4, 129.5, 128.9, 128.7, 128.3, 127.9, 127.8, 126.8, 126.4, 125.1, 121.7, 85.4, 55.2, 49.1, 23.5, 16.1; IR (neat): 3446, 2978, 1710, 1508, 1469, 1283, 1021, 728 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>24</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S [M + H]<sup>+</sup>: 426.1522; found: 426.1522.



**3-Benzyl-5-(5,6-dimethyl-4-phenylpyridin-2-yl)-4-phenyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one** (**3ai**), white solid, 0.060 g, 69% yield. Mp: 154–155 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.38–7.31 (m, 3H), 7.29–7.24 (m, 3H), 7.20–7.18 (m, 3H), 7.16–7.06 (m, 5H), 6.99 (s, 1H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 5.48 (s, 1H), 3.90 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.65–3.60 (m, 1H), 3.09 (dd, *J* = 14.8 Hz, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 2.49 (s, 3H), 2.29 (dd, *J* = 14.4 Hz, 10.4 Hz, 1H), 2.11 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  178.7, 158.4, 153.5, 150.1, 139.5, 139.3, 138.8, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.4, 128.2, 127.9, 127.6, 126.2, 119.2, 85.6, 49.9, 44.3, 31.6, 23.6, 16.1; IR (neat): 2963, 1718, 1607, 1456, 1023, 728 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>28</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup>: 434.2115; found: 434.2111.



**5-(5,6-Dimethyl-4-phenylpyridin-2-yl)-3-isopropyl-4-phenyldihydrofuran-2(3H)one (3aj)**, yellow solid, 0.056 g, 72% yield. Mp: 145–146 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.46–7.38 (m, 3H), 7.36–7.35 (m, 4H), 7.31–7.28 (m, 3H), 7.11 (s, 1H), 5.47 (s, 1H), 4.10 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 2.82 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.59 (s, 3H), 2.21 (s, 3H), 1.75–1.71 (m, 1H), 1.13 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 3H), 0.78 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  177.9, 158.2, 153.7, 150.2, 139.6, 139.5, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.4, 128.1, 127.9, 127.4, 119.1, 84.7, 50.5, 48.8, 25.8, 23.6, 21.8, 20.1, 16.1; IR (neat): 2959, 1710, 1607, 1384, 1022, 803 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>28</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup>: 386.2115; found: 386.2112.



**5-(5,6-Dimethyl-4-phenylpyridin-2-yl)-3-ethyl-3,4-diphenyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-o ne (3ak)**, yellow oil, 0.044 g, 49% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.43–7.37 (m, 3H), 7.21–7.20 (m, 3H), 7.17–7.14 (m, 3H), 7.10–7.09 (m, 3H), 6.77–6.73 (m, 4H), 5.57 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 4.27 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 2.19 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.11 (s, 3H), 1.21 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  178.1, 157.9, 151.3, 149.9, 139.6, 136.4, 134.0, 129.5, 129.3, 128.7, 128.3, 128.0, 127.9, 127.8, 127.4, 127.3, 121.2, 81.6, 59.3, 56.3, 27.9, 23.4, 16.1, 9.1; IR (neat): 2975, 1714, 1634, 1528, 1279, 1 1166, 1027, 812, 689 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>30</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup>: 448.2271; found: 448.2252.



4ma

**5-Benzoyl-3,4-diphenyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one (4ma)**, yellow solid, 0.077 g, 91% yield. Mp: 153–154 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.87 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 7.58–7.55 (m, 1H), 7.42–7.39 (m, 2H), 7.32–7.25 (m, 8H), 7.19 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 5.75 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.21 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.14–4.10 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  192.8, 174.6, 137.2, 135.0, 134.5, 134.2, 129.3, 129.2, 129.0, 128.8, 128.4, 128.2, 128.0, 127.7, 82.0, 54.1, 52.3; IR (neat): 2924, 1687, 1607, 1412, 1284, 1017, 803, 727 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>: 365.1148; found: 365.1148.



**5-Benzoyl-3-phenyl-4-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)dihydrofuran-2(3H)-one (4na)**, yellow oil, 0.074 g, 90% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.99 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.34–7.25 (m, 8H), 7.18 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 5.72 (d, J= 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.24 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H) , 4.13–4.08 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  192.1, 174.3, 137.0, 136.6, 135.7 (q, J = 32 Hz), 134.6, 129.5, 129.4, 129.0, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 127.7, 125.8 (q, J = 3.6 Hz), 124.3 (q, J = 267 Hz), 82.1, 53.9, 52.3; IR (neat): 3444, 2962,1706, 1620, 1326, 1068, 698 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>18</sub>F<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup>: 411.1203; found: 411.1199.



4oa

**5-Cinnamoyl-3,4-diphenyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one (40a)**, yellow solid, 0.092 g, 95% yield. Mp: 155–156 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.69 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 7.42 – 7.25 (m, 11H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 5.22 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (d, *J* = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 3.86–3.81 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  193.1, 174.6, 146.4, 136.7, 134.7, 133.9, 131.4, 129.3, 129.0, 128.9, 128.8, 128.3, 128.2, 128.0, 127.8, 120.7, 84.5, 54.3, 53.5; IR (neat): 2924, 1714, 1608, 1468, 1283, 1151, 1023, 803, 699 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>: 391.1305; found: 391.1305.

#### 6. Synthesis of compound 7 and 8



In a 25 mL flask was charged with  $\gamma$ -latone **3aa** (0.084 g, 0.2 mmol), m-CPBA (0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv.) and DCM (5.0 mL). The mixture was stirred vigorously at room temperature (about 25 °C) for 4 h until the substrate **3aa** disappeared (monitored by TLC). At this time, the reaction was quenched by H<sub>2</sub>O (50 mL) and extracted with

DCM (10 mL  $\times$  3). The combined organic layers were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography (the crude residue was dry loaded on silica gel, 1/30 to 1/4, ethyl acetate/petroleum ether) to provide compound 7.

#### 2,3-Dimethyl-6-(-5-oxo-3,4-diphenyltetrahydrofuran-2-yl)-4-phenylpyridine

**1-oxide (7)**, white solid, 0.087 g, 100% yield. Mp: 249–250 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.46–7.39 (m, 3H), 7.36–7.22 (m, 8H), 7.18–7.16 (m, 5H), 6.17 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.16–4.11 (m, 2H) , 2.56 (s, 3H), 2.22 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  175.8, 149.4, 144.1, 140.3, 139.6, 138.2, 135.5, 132.2, 129.3, 129.0, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 128.2, 128.1, 127.7, 127.6, 127.1, 122.1, 80.4, 54.7, 53.5, 17.3, 14.5; IR (neat): 3037, 1714, 1608, 1468, 1144, 1021, 803, 727 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup>: 436.1907; found: 436.1902.



In a 25 mL round-bottom flask was charged with  $\gamma$ -latone **3aa** (0.084 g, 0.2 mmol) and THF (5.0 mL), after stirring for 2 min, LiAlH<sub>4</sub> (8 mmol, 4.0 equiv) was added. The mixture was stirred vigorously at room temperature (about 25 °C) for 12 h until the substrate **3aa** disappeared (monitored by TLC). At this time, the reaction was quenched by H<sub>2</sub>O (50 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (20 mL × 3). The combined organic layers were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography (the crude residue was dry loaded on silica gel, 1/30 to 1/1, ethyl acetate/petroleum ether) to provide 1,4-diol **8**.

**1-(5,6-Dimethyl-4-phenylpyridin-2-yl)-2,3-diphenylbutane-1,4-diol** (8), white solid, 0.048 g, 57% yield. Mp: 77–78 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.31–7.30 (m, 3H), 7.15–7.02 (m, 9H), 6.90–6.89 (m, 2H), 6.73–6.72 (m, 2H), 6.20 (s, 1H), 5.04 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.84 (brs, 1H), 4.19 (brs, 1H), 4.07 (dd, *J* = 11.2 Hz, 8.0 Hz, 1H),

3.91 (dd, J = 11.2 Hz, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 3.73– 3.68 (m, 1H), 3.33 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.58 (s, 3H), 2.09 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  156.1, 155.9, 149.5, 141.2, 139.9, 139.5, 129.7, 128.8, 128.5, 128.0, 127.9, 127.6, 127.5, 126.2, 126.1, 121.2, 74.7, 66.1, 56.9, 50.8, 22.9, 15.8; IR (neat): 3427, 2956, 1608, 1384, 1020, 804, 703 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>29</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>K [M + K]<sup>+</sup>: 462.1830; found: 462.1828.

#### 7. Gram scale preparation of 3aa



In a 100 mL round-bottom flask was charged with 2-phenylacetyl chloride **2a** (1.0 mL, 8 mmol, 2.0 equiv.) and THF (60.0 mL). The flask was cooled to 0 °C and NEt<sub>3</sub> (1.1 mL, 8 mol, 2.0 equiv.) was added under air. The reaction was stirring for 2 h at 0 °C. Then, *N*-vinyl nitrones **1a** (1.2 g, 4.0 mmol) and Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (140 mg, 20 mol%) was added. The reaction vessel was stirred vigorously at room temperature (about 25 °C) for 72 h until the substrate **1a** disappeared (monitored by TLC). At this time, the reaction was quenched by H<sub>2</sub>O (50 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (30 mL × 3). The combined organic layers were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (the crude residue was dry loaded with silica gel, 1/50 to 1/10, ethyl acetate/petroleum ether) to provide  $\gamma$ -lactones **3aa** (1.2 g, 72% yield).

#### 8. References

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- [2] Chen, C.-H.; Wu, Q.-Y.; Wei, C.; Liang, C.; Su, G.-F.; Mo, D.-L. Green Chem.
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# 9. X-ray structure for compounds 3aa



Figure S1: ORTEP diagram of 3aa at 50% ellipsoid probability

10. NMR spectra for 3, 4, 7, 8, and isomerization of 1m





3aa







3aa













S30




























3ia











3ka









0.072 -0.000



3la









3qa (ratio = 1.5:1)











































3af













3ah











-0.000 -0.072










0.072 -0.000



3ak

















4ma













4na





















0.000



7

















9





