#### **Supporting Information for:**

## 4-Halogeno-Sydnones for Fast Strain Promoted Cycloaddition with Bicyclo-[6.1.0]nonyne.

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## • General

Organic solvents (Aldrich) were used without further purification. Purifications of reactions products were carried out by flash chromatography using Merck silica gel (40–63  $\mu$ m). Infrared spectra (IR) were obtained on a Perkin Elmer system 2000 FTIR spectrophotometer and are reported as wavelength numbers (cm<sup>-1</sup>). Infrared spectra were collected by preparing a KBr pellet containing the title compound. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz), <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz) were measured on a Brucker Avance 400 MHz spectrometer. Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm,  $\delta$ ) downfield from residual solvents peaks and coupling constants are reported as Hertz (Hz). Splitting patterns are designated as singlet (s), doublet (d), triplet (t), .... Splitting patterns that could not be interpreted or easily visualized are designated as multiplet (m). Electrospray mass spectra were obtained using an ESI/TOF Mariner Mass Spectrometer. Unless otherwise noted, all other commercially available reagents and solvents were used without further purification.

## • Synthesis and analytical data of sydnones

Sydnones were prepared by nitrosylation/cyclodehydration of arylglycines (scheme S1) with some modifications of the original method.<sup>1</sup>



Scheme S1. General route to sydnones from aryl-glycines

 $\overline{3}$ -methyl-1,2,3-oxadiazol-3-ium-5-olate  $(4a)^2$ 

 $C_{3}H_{4}N_{2}O_{2}$ **MW:** 100.08 g.mol<sup>-1</sup> Yellow oil **Yield:** 31%

To a stirred solution of sarcosine (8.90 g, 100 mmol) in 17 mL of concentrated hydrochloric acid, and 25 mL of water at 0 °C was added dropwise a solution of sodium nitrite (13.8 g, 200 mmol) in water (50 mL) over a period of 40 min. The solution was warmed gradually to ambient temperature. The aqueous solution was then extracted continuously with ether (75 mL) for 48 h and the ethereal extract was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> before evaporation of the ether to obtain 3.90 g (33.0 mmol, mixture of syn/anti-isomers : 1/1) of the nitroso intermediate compound. A solution of the later in acetic anhydride (30 mL) was heated to reflux for 5 min: color changes from colorless to green and eventually yellow were observed during this period. The reaction mixture was cooled and the excess of acetic anhydride was removed under *vacuum*. 3.08 g (31.0 mmol, 31%) of compound **4a** were isolated.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ ppm):** 6.34 (s, 1H), 4.04 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ ppm): 169.4, 95.9, 39.5.

**IR** (NaCl, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3488, 3138, 3030, 2953, 2096, 1852, 1726, 1418, 1388, 1198, 1156, 1088, 1062, 948, 870, 728, 616.

LCMS (ESI) *m/z*: 145 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

3-(carboxymethyl)-1,2,3-oxadiazol-3-ium-5-olate (4b)

C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>4</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> **MW:** 144.09 g.mol<sup>-1</sup> Brown solid **Yield:** 59%

To a stirred solution of iminodiacetic acid (6.70 g, 50.0 mmol) in 8.4 mL of concentrated hydrochloric acid, and 12.5 mL of water at 0 °C was added dropwise a solution of sodium nitrite (6.90 g, 100 mmol) in water (25.0 mL) over a period of 40 min. The solution was warmed gradually to ambient temperature. The aqueous solution was then extracted continuously with ether (40 mL) for 48 h and the ethereal extract was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> before evaporation of the ether to obtain 3.80 g (23.5 mmol) of the intermediate nitroso compound. A solution of the later in acetic anhydride (21.0 mL) was heated to reflux for 20 min. The reaction mixture was cooled and the excess of acetic anhydride were removed under *vacuum*. 30 mL of water were added to the residue and the solution was washed twice with  $CH_2Cl_2$ . The aqueous layer was then evaporated. 2.00 g (13.8 mmol, 59%) of compound **4b** were isolated.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ ppm):** 6.90 (s, 1H), 5.34 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ ppm): 172.1, 167.1, 98.8, 54.5.

LCMS (ESI) *m/z*: 145 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**HRMS (ESI):** m/z calcd for C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (M-H<sup>+</sup>): 143.0093; found: 143.0092.

2-[(4-methoxyphenyl)amino]acetic acid (6c)

MeO N H O OH C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>11</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> **MW:** 181.19 g.mol<sup>-1</sup> Beige solid **Yield:** 57%

To a suspension of *p*-anisidine (18.5 g, 150 mmol) and sodium acetate (14.8 g, 180 mmol) in ethanol (50 mL) was added ethyl chloroacetate (22.1 g, 180 mmol). The mixture was refluxed for 7 h, left overnight at room temperature and poured into crushed ice. The formed precipitate was filtrated and dried. To the intermediate ester in water (75 mL) was added sodium hydroxide (6.58 g, 165 mmol) and the mixture was refluxed for 30 min. After cooling, the reaction mixture was acidified to pH 2 by dropwise addition of a 4 M solution of HCl. The resulting precipitate was filtered and washed with water. The crude product was purified by recrystallization from a mixture of ethanol/water 8/2. 15.4 g (85.1 mmol, 57%) of compound **6c** were isolated.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, δ ppm):** 6.71 (m, 2H), 6.51 (m, 2H), 3.73 (s, 2H), 3.63 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, δ ppm): 173.3, 151.4, 142.8, 114.9 (2C), 113.5 (2C), 55.7, 45.8.

**IR** (**KBr**, **cm**<sup>-1</sup>): 2957, 1561, 1394, 1314, 1259, 1234, 1194, 1181, 1169, 1104, 1032, 1005, 989, 885, 869, 835, 8917, 803.

**LCMS (ESI):** *m*/*z*: 182 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 136 [M-CO<sub>2</sub>+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**Mp.:** 151–153 °C.

 $3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1,2,3\lambda^5-oxadiazol-3-ylium-5-olate$  (4c)



To a mixture of compound **6c** (7.25 g, 40.0 mmol) in anhydrous THF (80 mL) was added *t*-butyl nitrite (4.54 g, 44.0 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min and CDI (7.13 g, 44.0 mmol) was added. After 1 h stirring at room temperature, EtOAc was added and the reaction was quenched with an aqueous solution of HCl 1M and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc. The organic layers were combined and washed with a saturated solution of NaCl before being dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated. The crude product was purified by recrystallization from EtOAc and hexane. 3.87 g (20.1 mmol, 50%) of compound **4c** were isolated.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ ppm):** 7.64 (m, 2H), 7.06 (m, 2H), 6.68 (s, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ ppm): 169.0, 162.4, 127.7, 122.62 (2C), 115.1 (2C), 93.4, 55.8.

**IR** (NaCl, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3114, 1761, 1609, 1514, 1452, 1310, 1269, 1179, 1086, 1026, 947, 857, 828.

LCMS (ESI): *m/z*: 193 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**Mp.:** 123–125 °C.

**HRMS (ESI):** m/z calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>9</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (M+H<sup>+</sup>): 193.0613; found: 193.0605.

2-[(4-methylphenyl)amino]acetic acid (6d)

Me 🔍

N OH

C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>11</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> **MW:** 165.19 g.mol<sup>-1</sup> Beige solid **Yield:** 42% To a suspension of *p*-toluidine (16.1 g, 150 mmol) and sodium acetate (14.8 g, 180 mmol) in ethanol (50 mL) was added ethyl chloroacetate (22.1 g, 180 mmol). The mixture was refluxed for 7 h, left overnight at room temperature and poured into crushed ice. The formed precipitate was filtrated and dried. To the intermediate ester in water (75 mL) was added sodium hydroxide (6.58 g, 165 mmol) and the mixture was refluxed for 30 min. After cooling, the reaction mixture was acidified to pH 2 by dropwise addition of a 4 M solution of HCl. The resulting precipitate was filtered and washed with water. The crude product was purified by recrystallization from a mixture ethanol/water 8/2. 10.5 g of compound **6d** (63.6 mmol, 42%) were isolated.

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, δ ppm): 6.87 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.44 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.72 (s, 2H), 2.12 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, δ ppm): 173.2, 146.3, 129.7 (2C), 124.9, 112.6 (2C), 45.3, 20.5.

**IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>):** 2968, 2076, 2021, 1906, 1202, 1321, 1273, 1240, 1191, 1173, 1108, 1035, 1022, 1000, 981, 944, 903, 877, 864, 820.

**LCMS (ESI):** *m/z*: 166 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 120 [M-CO<sub>2</sub>+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**Mp.:** 119–121 °C.

3-(4-methylphenyl)-1,2,3 $\lambda^5$ -oxadiazol-3-ylium-5-olate (4d)



To a mixture of compound **4a** (4.96 g, 30.0 mmol) in anhydrous THF (60 mL) was added *t*-butyl nitrite (3.40 g, 33.0 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min and CDI (5.35 g, 33.0 mmol) was added. After 1 h stirring at room temperature, EtOAc was added and the reaction was quenched with an aqueous solution of HCl 1M. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc and the organic layers were combined, washed with a saturated solution of NaCl, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated. The crude product was purified by recrystallization from EtOAc and hexane. 3.67 g of compound **4d** (14.1 mmol, 69%) were isolated.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ ppm):** 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.71 (s, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ ppm): 169.0, 143.2, 132.4, 130.7 (2C), 121.0 (2C), 93.4, 21.3.

**IR** (NaCl, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3139, 1878, 1752, 1602, 1509, 1447, 1351, 1311, 1292, 1227, 1175, 1083, 1010, 970, 947, 857, 817.

LCMS (ESI): *m/z*: 177 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**Mp.:** 146–148 °C.

**HRMS (ESI):** m/z calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>9</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M+H<sup>+</sup>): 177.0664; found: 177.0659.

 $\overline{3\text{-}phenyl\text{-}1,2,3\lambda^5\text{-}oxadiazol\text{-}3\text{-}ylium\text{-}5\text{-}olate}$  (4e)

 $C_8H_6N_2O_2$ **MW:** 162.15 g.mol<sup>-1</sup> White solid **Yield:** 49%

To a vigorously stirred suspension of *N*-phenyl glycine (21.5 g, 142 mmol) in 10% aqueous HCl (142 mL) at 0 °C was added dropwise a solution of NaNO<sub>2</sub> (9.80 g, 142 mmol) in water (142 mL) over a period of 40 min. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature under argon for 14 h. The product was collected by filtration, washed with a small amount of methanol and dried to obtain 22.8 g (127 mmol) of the intermediate nitroso compound. The later was stirred at 100 °C for 3 h in acetic anhydride (150 mL) and the resulting solution was concentrated under *vacuum*. The residue was triturated with water (100 mL) and the precipitate was collected by filtration. The crude product was purified by recrystallization from methanol. 11.3 g (70.0 mmol, 49%) of compound **4e** were isolated.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, δ ppm):** 7.94 (dd, *J* = 8.1 Hz, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 2H), 7.78 (s, 1H), 7.77–7.67 (m, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, δ ppm): 168.5, 132.4, 130.2 (2C), 126.6, 121.6 (2C), 94.9.

**IR** (**NaCl, cm<sup>-1</sup>**): 3110, 1760, 941, 735.

LCMS (ESI) *m/z*: 163 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**Mp.:** 131–133 °C. `

**HRMS (ESI):** m/z calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>7</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M+H<sup>+</sup>): 163.0508; found: 163.0501.

4-[(carboxymethyl)amino]benzoic acid (6f)<sup>3</sup>



To a solution of sodium chloroacetate (2.33 g, 20.0 mmol) in water (20 mL) was added 4aminobenzoic acid (2.74 g, 20.0 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at reflux for 10 h. After cooling at room temperature the precipitate was filtered and washed with water. Purification was performed by recrystallization from ethanol. 2.50 g (12.8 mmol, 64%) of compound **6f** were isolated. <sup>1</sup>**H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, δ ppm):** 7.67 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.66 (br. s., 1H), 6.57 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (s, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, δ ppm): 172.1, 167.5, 152.1, 131.0, 117.6 (2C), 111.2 (2C), 44.1.

LCMS (ESI) m/z: 196 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. 3-(4-carboxyphenyl)-1,2,3 $\lambda^5$ -oxadiazol-3-ylium-5-olate (4f)<sup>3</sup>



To a vigorously stirred suspension of *N*-aryl amino acid **6f** (1.58 g, 8.10 mmol) in 10% aqueous HCl (8.1 mL) at 0 °C was added dropwise a solution of NaNO<sub>2</sub> (0.56 g, 8.10 mmol) in water (8.10 mL) over a period of 40 min. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature under argon for 14 h. The precipitate was collected by filtration, washed with a small amount of methanol and dried to obtain 1.54 g (6.90 mmol, 85%) of the intermediate nitroso compound. The later (1.30 g, 5.80 mmol) was stirred at 100 °C for 3 h in acetic anhydride (6.7 mL). The resulting solution was concentrated under *vacuum*. The residue was triturated with water (10 mL) and the precipitate was collected by filtration. The crude product was purified by recrystallization from methanol. 622 mg (3.00 mmol, 52%) of compound **4f** were isolated.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (400 MHz, DMF-d<sub>7</sub>, δ ppm):** 8.32 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 8.19 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.88 (s, 1H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMF-d<sub>7</sub>, δ ppm): 169.7, 167.1, 138.9, 135.7, 132.3 (2C), 123.1 (2C), 96.1.

LCMS (ESI) *m/z*: 207 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**Mp.:** 232–234 °C.

2-{[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]amino}acetic acid (6g)



 $\begin{array}{c} C_9H_8F_3NO_2\\ \textbf{MW: } 219.16 \text{ g.mol}^{-1}\\ \text{Beige solid}\\ \textbf{Yield: } 30\% \end{array}$ 

To a solution of *p*-trifluoromethylaniline (322 mg, 2.00 mmol) in Methanol (25 mL) at 0 °C were added NaOAc (328 mg, 4.00 mmol), glacial acetic acid (0.460 mL, 8.00 mmol), glyoxylic acid monohydrate (276 mg, 3.00 mmol) and NaCNBH<sub>3</sub> (126 mg, 2.00 mmol). The solution was warmed slowly to rt over 2 h. The mixture was filtered through a plug of SiO<sub>2</sub> and washed with a solution of acetic acid 1% in EtOAc. Brine was added and the aqueous layer was extracted twice with EtOAc. The organic layers were combined, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>

and concentrated under *vacuum*. Purification was performed by recrystallization from a mixture ethanol/water 8/2. 130 mg (0.59 mmol, 30%) of compound **6g** were isolated.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, δ ppm):** 7.38 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.72–6.57 (m, 3H), 3.87 (s, 2H), 3.59–3.14 (br. s, 1H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, δ ppm): 172.1, 151.3, 126.2 (2C), 125.3 (q, *J* = 267 Hz), 115.8 (q, *J* = 32 Hz), 111.6 (2C), 44.1.

**IR** (**KBr**, **cm**<sup>-1</sup>): 3421, 2899, 1901, 1731, 1616, 1585, 1538, 1491, 1441, 1412, 1319, 1281, 1242, 1188, 1164, 1151, 1110, 1062, 1005, 926, 825.

LCMS (ESI) m/z: 220 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**Mp.:** 141–143 °C.

 $3-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1,2,3\lambda^5-oxadiazol-3-ylium-5-olate (4g)$ 



 $C_9H_5F_3N_2O_2$ **MW:** 230.15 g.mol<sup>-1</sup> Orange solid **Yield:** 70%

To a mixture of compound **6g** (50.0 mg, 0.228 mmol) in anhydrous THF (0.5 mL) was added *t*Butyl nitrite (0.030 mL, 0.251 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min and TFAA (0.030 mL, 0.251 mmol) was added. After 1 h stirring at room temperature, EtOAc was added and the reaction was quenched with a saturated solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub>. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc and the organic layers were combined, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated. 37.0 mg (0.161 mg, 70%) of compound **4g** were obtained.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ ppm):** 7.92 (m, 4H), 6.84 (s, 1H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ ppm): 168.8, 137.3, 134.7 (q, *J* = 34 Hz), 127.7 (2C), 123.0 (q, *J* = 273 Hz), 122.1 (2C), 94.0.

**IR** (NaCl, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3131, 2921, 2351, 1900, 1785, 1732, 1715, 1682, 1651, 1645, 1634, 1615, 1520, 1463, 1429, 1354, 1328, 1244, 1181, 1162, 1117, 1070, 1023, 1012, 951, 862, 850.

LCMS (ESI) *m/z*: 231 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**Mp.:** 131–133 °C.

**HRMS (ESI):** m/z calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M+H<sup>+</sup>): 231.0381; found: 231.0374.

2-[(4-nitrophenyl)amino]acetic acid (6h)

O<sub>2</sub>N N H O OH

 $\begin{array}{c} C_8H_8N_2O_4\\ \textbf{MW: }196.16 \text{ g.mol}^{-1}\\ \text{Yellow solid}\\ \textbf{Yield: }61\% \end{array}$ 

To a suspension of 4-nitroaniline (13.8 g, 100 mmol) in water (100 mL) was added chloroacetic acid (18.9 g, 200 mmol). The mixture was refluxed overnight and the resulting precipitate was filtered and successively washed with water and with a mixture of hexane/diethyl ether. The solid was dissolved in an aqueous solution of NaOH 6 M and the resulting solution was washed with EtOAc. The organic layer was extracted with a solution of NaOH 6 M and the combined aqueous extracts were acidified at 0 °C to pH 2 with an HCl solution. The resulting precipitate was filtered, washed with water and dried. 11.9 g (60.7 mmol, 61%) of compound **8a** were obtained.

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, δ ppm): 12.80 (br. s, 1H), 8.00 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t, J = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 6.66 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 3.98 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, δ ppm): 171.5, 154.3, 136.4, 126.1 (2C), 111.3 (2C), 44.1.

**IR** (**KBr**, **cm**<sup>-1</sup>): 3364, 3099, 1737, 1601, 1532, 1495, 1466, 1438, 1407, 1362, 1291, 1180, 1143, 1111, 993, 916, 843.

LCMS (ESI): *m/z*: 197 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**Mp.:** 224–226 °C.

3-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,2,3 $\lambda$ <sup>5</sup>-oxadiazol-3-ylium-5-olate (4h)



To a mixture of compound **6h** (0.981 g, 5.00 mmol) in anhydrous THF (10 mL) was added *t*-butyl nitrite (0.567 g, 5.50 mmol. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min and TFAA (1.16 g, 5.50 mmol) was added. After 1 h stirring at room temperature, EtOAc was added and the reaction was quenched with a saturated solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub>. The resultant precipitate was filtered and washed with EtOAc. 15.4 g (85.1 mmol, 57%) of compound **4h** were obtained.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, δ ppm): 8.53 (m, 2H), 8.23 (m, 2H), 7.97 (s, 1H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, δ ppm): 166.3, 149.4, 136.5, 125.5 (2C), 123.2 (2C), 95.8.

**IR** (**KBr**, **cm**<sup>-1</sup>): 3120, 1903, 1780, 1621, 1595, 1537, 1459, 1434, 1346, 1316, 1294, 1243, 1180, 1122, 1109, 1094, 1019, 1011, 952, 862, 847.

LCMS (ESI): *m/z*: 208 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**Mp.:** 188–190 °C.

2-(phenylamino)propanoic acid (6i)<sup>3</sup>



<sup>+</sup> "→\_0<sup>-</sup>  $C_9H_{11}NO_2$ **MW:** 165.19 g.mol<sup>-1</sup> White solid **Yield:** 65%

A mixture of bromobenzene (3.15 g, 20.0 mmol), CuI (380 mg, 2 mmol), DL-alanine (2.70 g, 30.0 mmol), potassium phosphate monohydrate (13.8 g, 60.0 mmol), deanol (6.00 mL) and water (20.0 mL) was vigorously stirred at 90 °C for 40 h. The mixture was cooled to room temperature and poured into crushed ice. A 6M solution of HCl was added dropwise to pH 4-5 and th mixure was extracted with EtOAc. The organic layers were combined, washed with brine and water, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated. The crude product was purified by recrystallization from H<sub>2</sub>O/Methanol. 2.15 g (13.0 mmol, 65%) of compound **6i** were isolated.

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, δ ppm): 7.10–7.04 (m, 2H), 6.57–6.53 (m, 3H), 3.93 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 3.44 (s, br, 1H), 1.37 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, δ ppm): 175.9, 147.8, 128.8 (2C), 116.2, 112.4 (2C), 50.9, 18.1.

**IR** (NaCl, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3061, 2980, 2932, 2774, 2725, 2670, 2357, 1559, 1491, 1452, 1414, 1390, 1357, 1334, 1304, 1288, 1259, 1125, 1089, 1058, 1024, 958, 907, 846, 775.

4-methyl-3-phenyl-1,2,3 $\lambda^5$ -oxadiazol-3-ylium-5-olate (4i)<sup>3</sup>

 $C_9H_8N_2O_2$ **MW:** 176.17 g.mol<sup>-1</sup> White solid **Yield:** 58%

To a vigorously stirred suspension of *N*-phenylalanine **6i** (1.64 g, 9.90 mmol) in 10% aqueous HCl (10 mL) at 0 °C was added dropwise a solution of NaNO<sub>2</sub> (824 mg, 11.9 mmol) in water (10 mL) over a period of 40 min. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature under argon for 14 h. The product was collected by filtration, washed with a small amount of methanol and dried to obtain 1.10 g (5.70 mmol) of the nitroso intermediate compound. The later was stirred at 100 °C for 3 h in acetic anhydride (10 mL) and the resulting solution was concentrated under *vacuum*. The residue was triturated with water (100 mL) and the precipitate was collected by filtration. The crude product was purified by recrystallization from methanol. 604 mg (5.70 mmol, 58%) of compound **4i** were isolated.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ ppm):** 7.76–7.63 (m, 3H), 7.55 (dd, *J* = 7.5 Hz, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 2H), 2.18 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ ppm): 168.8, 134.0, 132.2, 130.2 (2C), 124.5 (2C), 105.2, 8.0.

**IR** (NaCl, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3436, 3067, 3021, 2930, 2363, 1964, 1903, 1803, 1770, 1743, 1593, 1485, 1456, 1371, 1295, 1244, 1063, 1015, 882, 768, 719, 689, 637.

LCMS (ESI) m/z: 177 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 178 [M+2H]<sup>+</sup>.

**Mp.:** 91–93 °C.

**HRMS (ESI):** m/z calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>9</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M+H<sup>+</sup>): 177.0664; found: 177.0658.

Diphenyl-1,2,  $3\lambda^5$ -oxadiazol-3-ylium-5-olate  $(4j)^4$ 



A mixture of phenylsydnone (200 mg, 1.23 mmol), phenylboronic acid (301 mg, 2.47 mmol),  $Pd(OAc)_2$  (2.61 mg, 0.03 mmol) and  $K_2CO_3$  (341 mg, 2.47 mmol) in DMF (4.0 mL) was stirred at 90 °C in the dark overnight. After cooling at room temperature, water was added and the reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc. The organic layers were combined before being dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, heptane/ethyl acetate 9/1). 64.0 mg (0.27 mmol, 22%) of compound **4j** were isolated.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ ppm):** 7.64–7.70 (m, 1H), 7.55–7.61 (m, 2H), 7.47–7.51 (m, 2H), 7.29 (s, 5H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ ppm): 167.1, 134.7, 132.2, 130.2 (2C), 128.7 (2C), 127.4 (2C), 125.0 (2C), 124.4, 107.9. *It should be noted that the* <sup>13</sup>C signal of C4 is not visible.

**LCMS (ESI):** *m*/*z*: 239 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**Mp.:** 175–177 °C.

5-hydroxy-3-phenyl-4-(trifluoromethyl)-1,2, $3\lambda^5$ -oxadiazol-3-ylium (4k)<sup>5</sup> C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> MW: 230.15 g.mol<sup>-1</sup> Light yellow solid Yield: 59%

To a stirring suspension of phenyliodosydnone 4p (60.4 mg, 0.20 mmol) and copper iodide (38.1 mg, 0.2 mmol) in DMF (1.0 mL) was added methyl fluorosulfonyldifluoroacetate (0.13 mL, 1.0 mmol) under a nitrogen atmosphere and the reaction was heated at 80 °C for 20 h. The reaction was filtered, brine was added and the solution was extracted with EtOAc, the organic layers were combined and washed with brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, heptane/ethyl acetate 8.5/1.5). 27.0 mg (0.12 mmol, 59%) of compound **4k** were isolated.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ ppm): 7.76 (m, 1H), 7.67 (m, 2H), 7.62–7.57 (m, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ ppm): 163.2, 133.8, 133.4, 130.3 (2C), 124.7 (2C), 119.5 (q, J = 267 Hz). It should be noted that the <sup>13</sup>C signal of C4 is not visible.

LCMS (ESI): *m*/*z*: 231 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**Mp.:** 107–109 °C.

**HRMS (ESI):** m/z calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>9</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M+CH<sub>3</sub>CN+H<sup>+</sup>): 272.0647; found: 272.0650.

4-cyano-3-phenyl-1,2, $3\lambda^5$ -oxadiazol-3-ylium-5-olate (4l)



To a mixture of phenylsydnone **4e** (100 mg, 0.62 mmol) in anhydrous THF (1 mL) was added dropwise a solution of *n*BuLi (1.6 M in hexanes, 587  $\mu$ L, 0.94 mmol) at -78 °C. After 30 min at -78 °C, a solution of toluenesulfonyl cyanide (225 mg, 0.50 mmol) in THF (240  $\mu$ L) was added. The temperature was slowly increased to room temperature over 1 h and the mixture was stirred overnight. The reaction was quenched with a saturated solution of NH<sub>4</sub>Cl and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc. The organic layers were combined before being dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, Heptane/Ethyl acetate 9/1). 33.0 mg (0.28 mmol, 45%) of compound **4l** were isolated.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ ppm): 7.83–7.78 (m, 3H), 7.76–7.69 (m, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ ppm): 164.6, 134.0, 133.3, 130.8 (2C), 123.0 (2C), 107.8. *It should be noted that the* <sup>13</sup>C signal of C4 is not visible.

**LCMS (ESI):** *m*/*z*: 189 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**Mp.:** 142–144 °C.

**HRMS (ESI):** m/z calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>9</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M+CH<sub>3</sub>CN+H<sup>+</sup>): 229.0726; found: 229.0723.

#### General procedure A1 for chlorination of sydnones

To a stirred solution of sydnone (0.50 mmol, 1 eq) in acetic acid (1.2 mL) was added *N*-chlorosuccinimide (2 eq). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 6 h. EtOAc was added and the mixture was evaporated. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography to afford the chlorinated compound.

#### General procedure A2 for chlorination of sydnones

To a stirred solution of sydnone (206.2 mg, 1 mmol) in a mixture dioxane/HCl 1M 2/1 (12 mL) was added dropwise a solution of sodium hypochlorite 10% (1.23 mL, 1 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 4 h. The mixture was poured in a solution of Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> 20%. EtOAc was added and the aqueous layer was extracted 3 times with EtOAc.

The organic layers were combined, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated. The crude product was purified by silica gel column to afford the chlorinated compound.

#### General procedure **B** for bromination of sydnones

To a stirred solution of sydnone (0.50 mmol, 1 eq) in acetic acid (1.2 mL) was added *N*-bromosuccinimide (1.1 eq). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2h and 5 mL of water was added. The resulting precipitate was isolated by filtration to afford the brominated compound.

#### <u>General procedure C for iodination of sydnones<sup>6</sup></u>

To a stirred solution of sydnone (0.50 mmol, 1 eq) in acetic acid (1.2 mL) was added *N*-iodosuccinimide (1.1 eq). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min and 5 mL of water was added. The resulting precipitate was isolated by filtration to afford the iodinated compound.

## 4-chloro-3-phenyl-1,2,3 $\lambda^5$ -oxadiazol-3-ylium-5-olate (4m)

 $C_8H_5ClN_2O_2$  **MW:** 196.59 g.mol<sup>-1</sup> Light green solid **Yield :** 65%

The title compound **4m** was obtained in 65% yield from *N*-chlorosuccinimide (133 mg, 1.00 mmol) and phenylsydnone **4e** (81.1 mg, 0.50 mmol) according to general procedure **A1**. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, Ethyl acetate/Heptane 3/7) to afford the chlorinated compound.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ ppm): 7.76–7.62 (m, 5H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ ppm): 163.9, 133.0, 132.7, 130.1 (2C), 124.3 (2C). *It should be noted that the* <sup>13</sup>C *signal of C4 is not visible.* 

**IR** (NaCl, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3069, 1903, 1786, 1748, 1499, 1466, 1432, 1350, 1222, 1181, 1040, 1027 934, 879.

LCMS (ESI): *m/z*: 197 [M(<sup>35</sup>Cl)+H]<sup>+</sup>, 199 [M(<sup>37</sup>Cl)+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**Mp.:** 115–117 °C.

**HRMS (ESI):** m/z calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>6</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M+H<sup>+</sup>): 197.0118; found: 197.0112.

4-bromo-3-phenyl-1,2,3 $\lambda^5$ -oxadiazol-3-ylium-5-olate (4n)

Br N II D

 $C_8H_5BrN_2O_2$ **MW:** 241.04 g.mol<sup>-1</sup> Orange solid **Yield:** 71%

The title compound 4n was obtained in 71% yield from *N*-bromosuccinimide (107 mg, 0.50 mmol) and phenylsydnone 4e (81.1 mg, 0.50 mmol) according to general procedure **B**.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ ppm): 7.75–7.60 (m, 5H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ ppm): 165.7, 134.0, 132.8, 130.2 (2C), 124.8 (2C), 84.2.

**LCMS (ESI):** m/z: 241 [M(<sup>79</sup>Br)+H]<sup>+</sup>, 243 [M(<sup>81</sup>Br)+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**Mp.:** 137–139 °C.

**HRMS (ESI):** m/z calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>6</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M+H<sup>+</sup>): 240.9613; found: 240.9607.

4-iodo-3-phenyl-1,2, $3\lambda^5$ -oxadiazol-3-ylium-5-olate (40)

 $C_8H_5IN_2O_2$ **MW:** 288.04 g.mol<sup>-1</sup> Beige solid **Yield:** 65%

The title compound **40** was obtained in 65% yield from *N*-iodosuccinimide (124 mg, 0.55 mmol) and phenylsydnone (81.1 mg, 0.50 mmol) according to general procedure C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ ppm): 7.77–7.55 (m, 5H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ ppm): 168.9, 135.3, 132.7, 130.2 (2C), 125.2 (2C), 50.7.

**IR** (**KBr**, **cm**<sup>-1</sup>): 3066, 2622, 1927, 1897, 1882, 1769, 1720, 1591, 1498, 1491, 1461, 1420, 1332, 1313, 1295, 1203, 1176, 1159, 1074, 1035, 1020, 966, 927, 862, 849.

LCMS (ESI): *m*/*z*: 289 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**Mp.:** 161–163 °C.

**HRMS (ESI):** m/z calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>6</sub>IN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M+H<sup>+</sup>): 288.9474; found: 288.9476.

4-bromo-3-(4-carboxyphenyl)-1,2,  $3\lambda^5$ -oxadiazol-3-ylium-5-olate (4p)



The title compound 4p was obtained in 44% yield from *N*-bromosuccinimide (97.9 mg, 0.55 mmol) and carboxyphenylsydnone 4f (103 mg, 0.50 mmol) according to general procedure **B**.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone-d<sub>6</sub>, \delta ppm):** 8.39 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 8.03 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Acetone-d<sub>6</sub>, δ ppm): 166.1, 166.0, 138.3, 135.3, 132.1 (2C), 126.7 (2C), 85.9.

**IR** (**KBr**, **cm**<sup>-1</sup>): 2820, 2087, 1942, 1904, 1850, 1743, 1606, 1591, 1509, 1445, 1423, 1335, 1317, 1290, 1205, 1127, 1114, 1035, 1018, 974, 942, 881, 858, 820, 808.

**LCMS (ESI):** m/z: 285  $[M(^{79}Br)+H]^+$ , 287  $[M(^{81}Br)+H]^+$ .

**Mp.:** 117–119 °C (decomp.).

**HRMS (ESI):** m/z calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (M+H<sup>+</sup>): 284.9511; found: 284.9505.

 $3-(4-carboxyphenyl)-4-chloro-1,2,3\lambda^5-oxadiazol-3-ylium-5-olate (4q)$ 



The title compound **4q** was obtained in 40% yield from sodium hypochlorite 10% (1.23 mL, 2.00 mmol) and carboxyphenylsydnone **4f** (206 mg, 1.00 mmol) according to general procedure **A2**. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, DCM/Methanol 99/1, 1% AcOH) to afford the chlorinated compound.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD, δ ppm): 8.30 (m, 2H), 7.87 (m, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, MeOD, δ ppm): 169.2, 166.0, 162.5, 138.7, 132.2 (2C), 126.1 (2C).

**IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>):** 3315, 2927, 2549, 1791, 747, 1691, 1607, 1510, 1455, 1425, 1346, 1320, 1290, 1219, 1176, 1128, 1113, 1043, 1018, 182, 972, 945, 886, 859, 808.

LCMS (ESI): *m/z*: 241 [M(<sup>35</sup>Cl)+H]<sup>+</sup>, 243 [M(<sup>37</sup>Cl)+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**Mp.:** 159–161 °C.

**HRMS (ESI):** *m/z* calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>9</sub>ClN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (M+H+CH<sub>3</sub>CN<sup>+</sup>): 282.0282; found: 282.0272.

## • Stability of sydnones

#### General procedure for measuring the stability of sydnones.

To 900  $\mu$ L of phosphate buffered saline (PBS, 100 mM) was added 89  $\mu$ L of DMSO, 10  $\mu$ L of the solution of benzamide (internal standard, 100 mM in DMSO) and 1  $\mu$ L of the solution of sydnone (100mM in DMSO). The resulting mixture was immediately injected in HPLC and the ratio of benzamide versus sydnone peak areas was calculated. The second injection was carried out after 2 h of incubation at 25 °C. Stability level was evaluated by comparing the initial sydnone/benzamide peak area ratio with the peak area ratio after incubation. All sydnones showed no observable degradation.

## • Stability and reactivity of sydnones in blood plasma

#### Evaluation of the stability of sydnones **4p** and **4q** in blood plasma.

To 900  $\mu$ L of blood plasma were added 40  $\mu$ L of DMSO, 50  $\mu$ L of benzamide solution (internal standard, 100 mM in DMSO) and 10  $\mu$ L of sydnone solution (100 mM in DMSO). A 100  $\mu$ L aliquot of the resulting solution was added to 900  $\mu$ L of MeCN and centrifuged. The resulting MeCN solution was injected in HPLC and the ratio of sydnone versus benzamide peak areas was calculated. The remaining plasma solution was incubated at 25 °C for 12 h and then the second aliquot was treated in the same manner and injected in HPLC. Stability level was evaluated by comparing the initial sydnone/benzamide peak area ratio with the peak area ratio after incubation. Compounds **4p** and **4q** showed no observable degradation in blood plasma during 12 h at 25 °C (Figure S1).



#### Evaluation of the reactivity of sydnones **4p** and **4q** in blood plasma.

Reactions of sydnones **4p** and **4q** with BCN were carried out in blood plasma/DMSO (9:1) mixtures at 1 mM concentration of sydnones and 1.5 mM concentration of BCN using the following procedure:

To 900  $\mu$ L of blood plasma was added 25  $\mu$ L of DMSO, 50  $\mu$ L of the solution of benzamide (internal standard, 100 mM in DMSO) and 10  $\mu$ L of the solution of sydnone (100 mM in DMSO). A 100  $\mu$ L aliquot of the resulting solution was added to 900  $\mu$ L of MeCN and centrifuged. The resulting MeCN solution was injected in HPLC and the ratio of sydnone versus benzamide peak areas was calculated. To the remaining plasma solution was added 13.5  $\mu$ L of the solution of BCN (100 mM in DMSO). The mixture was incubated at 25 °C for 1 h and then the second aliquot was treated in the similar manner. Conversion rate was evaluated by comparing the initial normalized sydnone peak area with the peak area after incubation. Compound **4p** showed 87% conversion into the coupling product (Figure S3).



## • Kinetic Studies

Reactions of sydnones 4d, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4i, 4m, 4n, 4o, 4p and 4q with BCN were carried out in PBS/DMSO (9:1) mixtures at 100  $\mu$ M concentration of sydnones and 150  $\mu$ M concentration of BCN using the following procedure:

To 900  $\mu$ L of phosphate buffered saline (PBS, 100mM) was added 87.5  $\mu$ L of DMSO, 10  $\mu$ L of the solution of benzamide (internal standard, 100 mM in DMSO), 1  $\mu$ L of the solution of sydnone (100mM in DMSO) and 1.5  $\mu$ L of the solution of BCN (100mM in DMSO). The reaction mixture was injected in HPLC every 30 min and the conversion was followed by measuring the normalized sydnone peak area.

Reactions of sydnones **4a**, **4b**, **4c**, **4j**, **4k** and **4l** with BCN were carried out in PBS/DMSO (9:1) mixtures at 1 mM concentration of sydnones and 1.5 mM concentration of BCN using the following procedure:

To 900  $\mu$ L of phosphate buffered saline (PBS, 100mM) was added 25  $\mu$ L of DMSO, 50  $\mu$ L of the solution of benzamide (internal standard, 100 mM in DMSO), 10  $\mu$ L of the solution of sydnone (100mM in DMSO) and 15  $\mu$ L of the solution of BCN (100mM in DMSO). The reaction mixture was injected in HPLC every 30 min and the conversion was followed by measuring the normalized sydnone peak area.

Second order reaction rate was determined by plotting  $\ln([A]/[B])/([A] - [B])$  versus time and analyzing by linear regression (**Equation S1**). Second order rate constant corresponds to the determined slope.

 $\frac{\ln\left(\frac{[A]}{[B]}\right)}{[A] - [B]} = kt + const$ Equation S1. [A] – concentration of sydnomes (M); [B] – concentration of BCN (M); t – reaction time (sec); k – reaction rate (M<sup>-1</sup>·sec<sup>-1</sup>)

Linear regression curves for the reactive sydnones are illustrated in Table S1.



Table S1. Linear regression curves showing ln([A]/[B])/([A] – [B]) plotted versus time









# • Competitive reaction between chlorosydnone 4q and azide 1b with BCN followed by NMR

To a solution of sydnone **4q** (237  $\mu$ L, 90.0  $\mu$ mol, 1 eq) in CD<sub>3</sub>OD were successively added a solution of 1-(azidomethyl)-4-chlorobenzene (263  $\mu$ L, 90.0  $\mu$ mol, 1 eq) in CD<sub>3</sub>OD and a solution of (1R,8S,9s)-bicyclo[6.1.0]non-4-yn-9-ylmethanol (BCN) (100  $\mu$ L, 90.0  $\mu$ mol, 1 eq) in MeOD. The reaction was monitored by <sup>1</sup>H-NMR.



Figure S4. Competitive kinetic followed by <sup>1</sup>H-NMR.

*4-[12-chloro-5-(hydroxymethyl)-10,11- diazatricyclo[7.3.0.0<sup>4,6</sup>]dodeca-1(12),9-dien-11-yl]benzoic acid (5b)* 



 $C_{18}H_{19}ClN_2O_3$ **MW:** 346.11g.mol<sup>-1</sup> Light green solid **Yield:** 63%

To a solution of sydnone 4q (24.1 mg, 0.10 mmol) in methanol (1 mL) was added (1*R*,8*S*,9*s*)bicyclo[6.1.0]non-4-yn-9-ylmethanol (BCN) (15.0 mg, 0.10 mmol). The mixture was stirred 1 h at room temperature and methanol was evaporated under *vacuum*. The crude product was purified by preparative TLC (DCM/Methanol 95/5, 1% AcOH). 22.0 mg (0.06 mmol, 63%) of compound **5b** were isolated. <sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, δ ppm): 8.04 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 4.27 (br. s, 1H), 3.46 (d, J = 5.1 Hz, 2H), 2.99–2.88 (m, 1H), 2.81–2.71 (m, 1H), 2.70–2.60 (m, 1H), 2.48–2.38 (m, 2H), 2.18–2.08 (m, 2H), 1.48–1.30 (m, 2H), 1.05–0.89 (m, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6, δ ppm): 166.5, 153.9, 141.4, 130.3 (2C), 129.4, 123.9, 123.6 (2C), 118.8, 57.3, 27.6, 23.0, 22.3, 22.2, 21.4, 19.7, 19.6.

LCMS (ESI): *m/z*: 247 [M(<sup>35</sup>Cl)+H]<sup>+</sup>, 249 [M(<sup>37</sup>Cl)+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**Mp.:** 57–59 °C.



## • Hammet plot

The  $\sigma$  values used in this study were from literature.<sup>7</sup>



Figure S5. Hammet plot of the rate of the SPSAC reaction against  $\sigma$  Hammet constant.

The more electron withdrawing substituent X induces the faster cycloaddition reaction,  $\rho=1.35$ 

## • Protein labelling

#### Preparation of the activated ester of sydnone 4f and 4e:

To a solution of *N*-hydroxysuccinimide (25  $\mu$ L, 44.64  $\mu$ mol, 1 eq) in DMF was added a solution of dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (25  $\mu$ L, 44.64  $\mu$ mol, 1 eq) in DMF and a solution of sydnone (250  $\mu$ L, 44.64  $\mu$ mol) in DMF. The mixture was reacted at room temperature during 1 h and was directly used for the conjugation with BSA protein.

#### Preparation of BSA-Sydnone conjugates:

A solution of BSA (250  $\mu$ L, 72 nmol) in phosphate buffer (100 mM, pH 7.4) and 950  $\mu$ L of borax buffer (0.05 M, pH 9.2) were added to the previous solution. The resulting mixture was incubated during 1 h at 37 °C and purified by molecular sieve chromatography using a 1.6 x 20 cm column packed Sephadex® G-25 medium gel (eluted with 5 mM potassium phosphate buffer pH 7.4).

29 residues of sydnone **4f** per BSA protein were conjugated according to MALDI TOF-MS analysis.

28 residues of sydnone 4q per BSA protein were conjugated according to MALDI TOF-MS analysis.

#### Preparation of BSA-pyrazole conjugate:

A solution of BCN-POE3-NH-lissamine rhodamine B conjugate **2b** (51.2  $\mu$ L, 130 nmol, 1 eq/sydnones) purchased from SynAffix, in methanol was added to a solution of the BSA-sydnone conjugate (50  $\mu$ g/mL) in phosphate buffer (5 mM, pH 7.4) and reacted at room temperature. Sampling for electrophoresis and MALDI-TOF analysis were performed at 5 min, 15 min, 30 min, 1 h and 16 h.

#### Analysis of the coupling products:

MALDI-TOF-MS analyses were performed on a 4800 spectrometer MALDI-TOF/TOF Proteomics Analyzer (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA).

For the MALDI analysis of the chlorinated BSA-cycloadduct a pretreatment on a reversephase zip tip (OMIX® Tip C4, 10 µl, Varian) was performed to improve the signal strength.

5 min	15 min	30 min	1 h	16 h
11	16	19	20	23

 Table S2. Average number of BCN conjugates linked to one BSA-SydnoneH according to MALDI TOF-MS.

5 min	15 min	30 min	1 h	16 h
24	24	24	24	24

## Table S3. Average number of BCN conjugates linked to one BSA-SydnoneCl according to MALDI TOF-MS.

SDS-PAGE was performed on PhastGel<sup>TM</sup> GE Healthcare<sup>TM</sup> Gradient 10–15 gel using PhastGel<sup>TM</sup> GE Healthcare<sup>TM</sup> SDS buffer Strips. Fluorescence was visualized on Molecular Imager® VersaDoc<sup>TM</sup> MP 4000 system prior to staining with Coomassie Blue.

Results are indicated in figure S6 and S7.



**Figure S6.** SDS-PAGE: the upper images show staining with Coomassie blue; the lower images show the gels visualized under ultraviolet irradiation.





Figure S7. MALDI-TOF analyses of the labelling of the BSA-Sydnone conjugate.

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