

Supporting Information for

Catalyst-controlled divergence in cycloisomerization reactions of *N*-propargyl-*N*-vinyl sulfonamides: Gold-catalyzed synthesis of 2-sulfonylmethyl pyrroles and dihydropyridines

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1. General Information

All ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl_3 solvent on Varian Bruker 300 MHz, a Varian Unity 400 MHz and Avance 500 MHz spectrometer at ambient temperature, chemical shift δ are given in ppm on a scale downfield from TMS, and the coupling constant J are in Hz. The signal patterns are indicated as follows: s, Singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; dd, doublet of doublet; m, multiplet. FTIR spectra were recorded as neat. Mass spectra were obtained on a Finnegan Mat1020B, a micromass VG 70-70H or an Agilent technologies LC/MSD treapSL spectrometer operating at 70eV using the direct inlet system and high resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on a QSTAR XL Hybrid MS/MS mass spectrometer. Melting points were recorded on an electrothermal apparatus and are uncorrected. All the reagents and solvents were used without further purification unless specified otherwise. Technical grade ethyl acetate and petroleum ether used for column chromatography were distilled prior to use. Anhydrous solvents were prepared from locally purchased LR grade solvents by standard methods. Column chromatography was carried out using silica gel (60-120 mesh and 100-200 mesh) packed in glass columns. All reactions were performed in oven-dried glassware with magnetic stirring. The catalysts were purchased from Sigma Aldrich and were used as received. 2-Bromoallylsulfones **5a**,¹ N-(3-phenylprop-2-ynyl)methanesulfonamide **4d**,² allenyl sulfone **6**,³ propargyl sulfone **11**⁴ and 2-tosylmethylpyridine **10**⁵ are previously described and were characterized by comparison of their spectroscopic data with reported values.

¹ S. Ma, Q. Wei, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1999, **64**, 1026.

² C. Zheng, Y. Wang, R. Fan, *Org. Lett.*, 2015, **17**, 916.

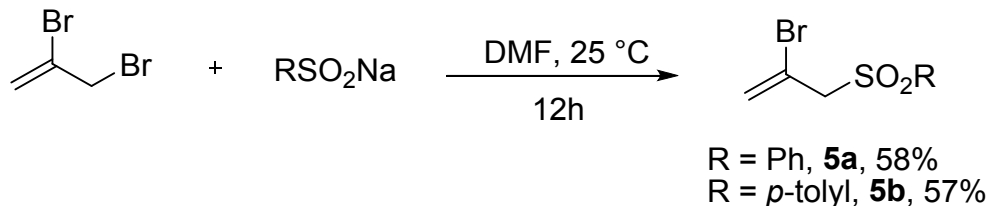
³ S. H. Watterson, Z. Ni, S. S. Murphree, A. Padwa, *Org. Synth.*, 1997, **74**, 115.

⁴ T. Achard, A. Lepronier, Y. Gimbert, H. Clavier, L. Giordano, A. Tenaglia, G. Buono, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 2011, **50**, 3552.

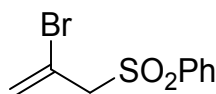
⁵ H. Richter, S. Beckendorf, O. G. Mancheño, *Adv. Synth. Catal.*, 2011, **353**, 295.

2. Substrate Preparation

2.1. Preparation of 1-(2-bromoallyl)sulfonylbenzene or 1-(2-bromoallyl)sulfonyl-4-methylbenzene



Sodium benzene sulfinate or sodium-*p*-toluene sulfinate (10 mmol) was added to DMF (10 mL) in a round bottom flask and left to stir for 20 minute. To this suspension, 2,3-dibromopropene (10 mmol) was added and stirred at room temperature under nitrogen for 12 hrs. After the completion of the reaction, ice and ethylacetate (20 mL) were added and stirred for 15 minutes. Water (20 mL) was added and the organic layer was separated in a separatory funnel. The aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (2 X 10 mL), the organic layers were combined and the solvent was removed on a rotavapor. The residue obtained was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate and hexane mixtures as eluent to obtain pure samples of **5a** or **5b**.



5a, (2-Bromoallylsulfonyl)benzene¹

White solid, 1.51 g, 58%

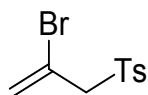
$R_f = 0.6$ (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

Melting point: 77-79 °C (CH_2Cl_2 -hexanes)

IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 3423, 2981, 2919, 1622, 1584, 1447, 1393, 1307, 1256, 1141, 907 cm^{-1}

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.94 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.71-7.68 (m, 1H), 7.60-7.57 (m, 2H), 5.84 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 5.77 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.16 (s, 2H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 137.7, 134.1, 129.1, 128.7, 126.5, 117.1, 66.2.



White solid, 1.56 g, 57%

$R_f = 0.6$ (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

Melting point: 89-91 °C (CH_2Cl_2 -hexanes)

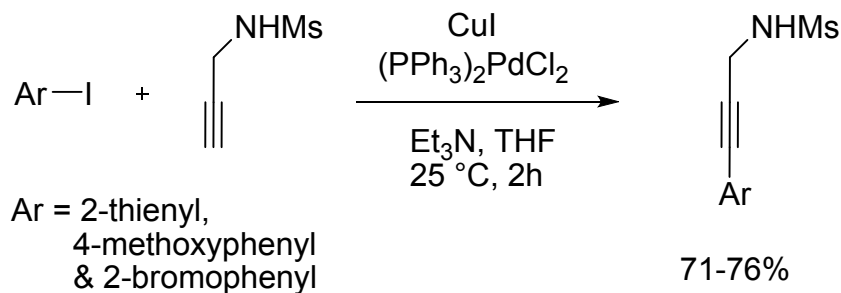
IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 2920, 1623, 1467, 1393, 1308, 1256, 1141, 1084, 908 cm^{-1}

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.60-7.57 (m, 2H), 5.83 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 5.77 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 4.14 (s, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H).

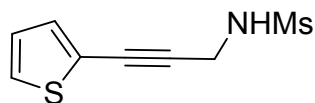
¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.2, 134.8, 129.7, 128.7, 126.3, 117.3, 66.3, 21.6.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₀H₁₁BrO₂SNa (M+Na) 296.9561; found 296.9568.

2.2. Sonogashira coupling



To a solution of the *N*-methanesulfinyl propargyl amine (2 mmol) and aryl iodide (2.4 mmol) in THF (10mL) kept under argon, Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ (28 mg, 0.04 mmol), CuI (15 mg, 0.08 mmol) and triethylamine (0.85 mL, 6 mmol) were sequentially added at 25 °C and stirred for 2h. The solvent was removed on a rotavapor and water (20 mL) was added. The aqueous solution was extracted with ethyl acetate (3X15 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated on a rotavapor. The residue on column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether-ethyl acetate as eluent afforded analytically pure samples of the products.



4e, N-(3-(thiophen-2-yl)prop-2-ynyl)methanesulfonamide

Brown solid, 305 mg, 71%

R_f = 0.3 (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

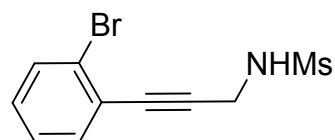
Melting point: 82-84 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) ν_{max}: 3255, 2362, 1437, 1425, 1308, 1157, 1135, 1051, 1041, 998, 725, 521 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.29 (dd, *J* = 1.1, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (dd, *J* = 1.1, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (dd, *J* = 3.7, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 4.66 (brs, 1H), 4.22 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 3.12 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 132.5, 127.6, 127.0, 121.6, 87.8, 78.3, 41.4, 33.6.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₈H₉NO₂S₂Na (M+Na) 237.9972; found 237.9969.



4f, N-(3-(2-bromophenyl)prop-2-ynyl)methanesulfonamide

Brown solid, 436 mg, 76%

R_f = 0.5 (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

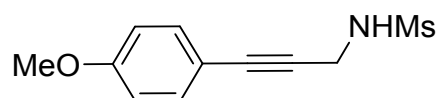
Melting point: 98-100 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 3280, 3062, 3009, 2955, 2926, 2853, 1469, 1435, 1312, 1151, 1064, 970, 760, 521 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.59 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 1H), 7.22-7.19 (m, 1H), 4.27 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 3.18 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 133.5, 132.4, 130.0, 127.1, 125.3, 124.0, 88.6, 83.3, 41.6, 33.5.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₀H₁₀BrNNaO₂S(M+Na) 309.9513; found 309.9509



4g, N-(3-(4-methoxyphenyl)prop-2-ynyl)methanesulfonamide

Brown solid, 359 mg, 75%

R_f = 0.3 (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

Melting point: 96-98 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

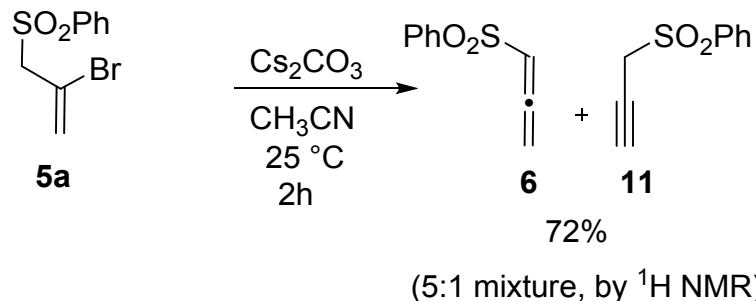
IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 3292, 3014, 2966, 2930, 2840, 1606, 1511, 1439, 1318, 1149, 1138, 836 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.72 (brs, 1H), 4.18 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.13 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.9, 133.0, 114.0, 113.8, 84.9, 82.5, 55.2, 41.3, 33.5.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₁H₁₃NO₃SNa (M+Na) 262.0514; found 262.0507.

3. Formation of allenyl sulfone 6 and propargyl sulfone 11 from the bromoallyl sulfone 5a



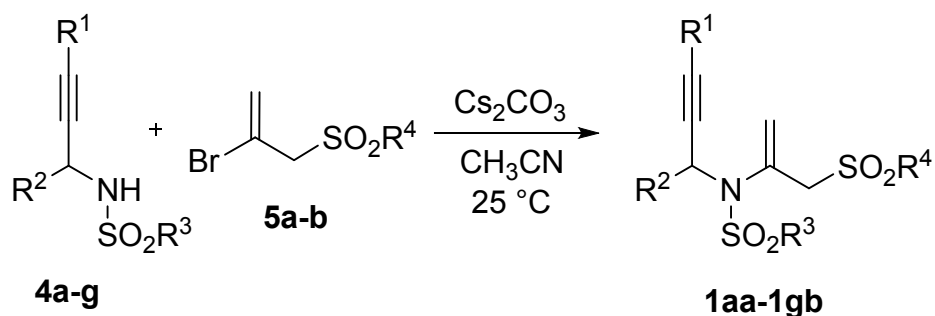
Cesium carbonate (391 mg, 1.2 mmol) was added to a solution of the bromoallyl sulfone **5a** (260 mg, 1.0 mmol) in acetonitrile (2 mL) at room temperature and stirred for 2h. The solvent was removed on a rotavapor, deionized water (10 mL) was added and the aqueous solution was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 X 10 mL). The combined organic extracts was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated on a rotavapor. The residue on column

chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether-ethyl acetate as eluent afforded 130 mg of a oil which was identified as a 5:1 mixture of the allenyl sulfone **6**³ and the propargyl sulfone **11**.⁴

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.00-7.98 (m, 0.4H), 7.93-7.91(m, 2H), 7.72-7.69 (m, 0.2H), 7.66-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.61-7.59 (m, 0.4H), 7.58-7.54 (m, 2H), 6.26 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 5.45 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.97 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 0.4H), 2.39 (t, *J* = 0.2H).

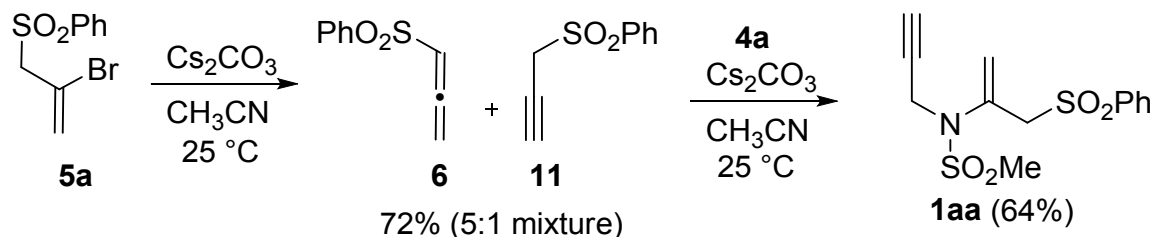
¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 209.3, 141.1, 134.3, 133.5, 129.1 (2), 128.8, 128.7, 127.5, 127.3, 100.9, 84.1, 76.2, 71.5, 48.3.

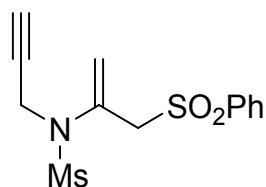
4. CS₂CO₃-mediated reaction of 2-bromoallyl sulfones **5a-b** with sulfonamides **4a-g**



Typical procedure: Cesium carbonate (717 mg, 2.2 mmol) was added to a solution of the propargyl sulfonamide **4** (1 mmol) and the bromoallyl sulfone **5** (1.2 mmol) in acetonitrile (5 mL) at room temperature and stirred for 4 hours. The solvent was removed on a rotavapor, deionized water (10 mL) was added and the aqueous solution was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 X 10 mL). The combined organic extracts was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated on a rotavapor. The residue on column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether-ethyl acetate as eluent afforded analytically pure samples of the products. (Cesium carbonate-mediated reaction of **4a** with the mixture of allenyl sulfone **6** and propargyl sulfone **7** was also carried out in the above-described manner to afford **1aa**)

Similarly, treatment of the pre-formed mixture of the allenyl sulfone **5a** and propargyl sulfone **11** with **4aa** under the above-described conditions afforded the product **1aa** in 64% yield.





1aa, N-(3-(phenylsulfonyl)prop-1-en-2-yl)-N-(prop-2-ynyl)methanesulfonamide

White solid, 294 mg, 94%

R_f = 0.3 (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

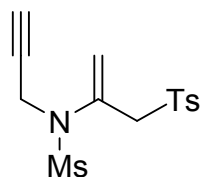
Melting point: 110-112 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) $\nu_{\max}$: 3288, 3261, 2990, 2933, 2119, 1637, 1448, 1333, 1263, 1147, 1081, 939, 689, 533 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.93-7.91 (m, 2H), 7.71-7.66 (m, 1H), 7.61-7.57 (m, 2H), 5.98 (s, 1H), 5.45 (s, 1H), 4.22 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 2H), 4.19 (s, 2H), 3.07 (s, 3H), 2.46 (t, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 138.7, 136.9, 133.9, 129.2, 128.1, 121.1, 78.8, 74.4, 63.4, 40.9, 38.1.

HRMS calcd for C₁₃H₁₆NO₄S₂(M+H) 314.0521; found 314.0514.



1ab, N-(prop-2-ynyl)-N-(3-tosylprop-1-en-2-yl)methanesulfonamide

White solid, 291 mg, 89%

R_f = 0.3 (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

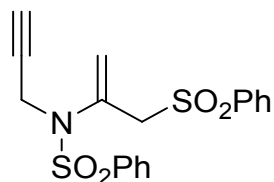
Melting point: 120-122 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) $\nu_{\max}$: 3282, 2946, 1633, 1594, 1402, 1337, 1315, 1302, 1153, 1135, 1085, 1052, 963, 522 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.79 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 5.96 (s, 1H), 5.42 (s, 1H), 4.24 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 2H), 4.16 (s, 2H), 3.07 (s, 3H), 2.46-2.45 (m, 4H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.1, 136.9, 135.8, 129.8, 128.1, 121.1, 78.9, 74.5, 63.4, 40.8, 38.1, 21.6.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₄H₂₁N₂O₄S₂(M+NH₄) 345.0943; found 345.0932.



1ba, N-(3-(phenylsulfonyl)prop-1-en-2-yl)-N-(prop-2-ynyl)benzenesulfonamide

White solid, 360 mg, 96%

R_f = 0.4 (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

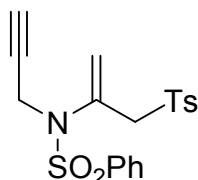
Melting point: 179-181 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) $\nu_{\max}$: 3445, 3249, 3062, 2939, 1733, 1657, 1491, 1447, 1350, 1307, 1142, 1085, 743, 685, 536 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.94 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.81 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.72-7.67 (m, 1H), 7.62-7.56 (m, 3H), 7.50-7.45 (m, 2H), 5.42 (s, 1H), 5.37 (s, 1H), 4.28 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 2H), 4.25 (s, 2H), 2.05 (t, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 138.8, 137.5, 135.6, 134.0, 133.2, 129.2, 128.5, 128.3, 128.2, 123.2, 77.9, 74.0, 63.6, 40.6.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₈H₁₇O₄NNaS₂(M+Na) 398.0497; found 398.0489.



1bb N-(prop-2-ynyl)-N-(3-tosylprop-1-en-2-yl)benzenesulfonamide

White solid, 358 mg, 92%

R_f = 0.4 (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

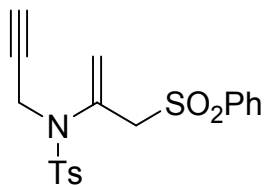
Melting point: 128-130 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) $\nu_{\max}$: 3270, 3060, 3003, 2949, 2117, 1631, 1595, 1446, 1417, 1339, 1265, 1169, 1085, 819, 677, 517 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.83-7.79 (m, 4H), 7.61-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.50-7.45 (m, 2H), 7.38 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 5.41 (s, 1H), 5.36 (s, 1H), 4.30 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 2H), 4.21 (s, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 2.05 (t, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.0, 137.5, 135.8, 135.6, 133.2, 129.8, 128.5, 128.3, 128.2, 123.3, 78.0, 73.9, 63.7, 40.6, 21.6.

HRMS calcd for C₁₉H₁₉NO₄S₂(M+Na) 412.0653; found 412.0638.



1ca, 4-methyl-N-(3-(phenylsulfonyl)prop-1-en-2-yl)-N-(prop-2-ynyl)benzenesulfonamide

White solid, 361 mg, 93%

R_f = 0.4 (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

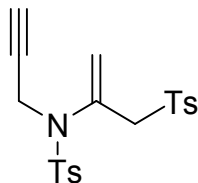
Melting point: 140-142 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 3427, 3267, 2999, 2924, 2360, 1637, 1447, 1339, 1299, 1269, 1156, 1095, 1082, 645, 549 cm^{-1}

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.95-7.93 (m, 2H), 7.70-7.67 (m, 3H), 7.61-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.25 (m, 2H), 5.41 (d, $J = 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 5.38 (d, $J = 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.25 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 2H), 4.24 (s, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 2.06 (t, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 144.1, 138.8, 135.6, 134.5, 133.9, 129.2, 129.1, 128.4, 128.3, 123.1, 78.0, 73.9, 63.6, 40.5, 21.5.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_4\text{S}_2(\text{M}+\text{H})$ 390.0834; found 390.0830.



1cb, 4-methyl-N-(prop-2-ynyl)-N-(3-tosylprop-1-en-2-yl)benzenesulfonamide

White solid, 363 mg, 90%

$R_f = 0.4$ (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

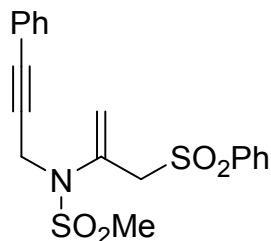
Melting point: 133-135 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ (CH_2Cl_2 -hexanes)

IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 3303, 2997, 2974, 2939, 1633, 1596, 1495, 1343, 1302, 1270, 1159, 1083, 811, 615, 514 cm^{-1}

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.80 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.37 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.26 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 5.40 (s, 1H), 5.35 (s, 1H), 4.27 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 2H), 4.20 (s, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 2.07 (t, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H).

^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 145.0, 144.1, 135.8, 135.7, 134.5, 129.8, 129.1, 128.4, 128.3, 123.2, 78.1, 73.9, 63.7, 40.5, 21.6(2).

HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{21}\text{NNaO}_4\text{S}_2(\text{M}+\text{Na})$ 426.0810; found 426.0788.



1da, N-(3-phenylprop-2-ynyl)-N-(3-(phenylsulfonyl)prop-1-en-2-yl)methanesulfonamide

Pale yellow solid, 370 mg, 95%

$R_f = 0.4$ (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

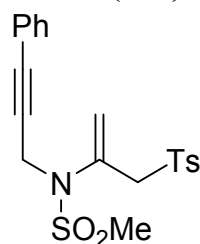
Melting point: 104-106 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ (CH_2Cl_2 -hexanes)

IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 3439, 3023, 2986, 2925, 2242, 1629, 1597, 1584, 1490, 1446, 1336, 1242, 1155, 1127, 685, 526 cm^{-1}

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.72-7.67 (m, 1H), 7.62-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.43-7.31 (m, 5H), 6.04 (s, 1H), 5.49 (s, 1H), 4.42 (s, 2H), 4.23 (s, 2H), 3.10 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 138.8, 137.1, 134.0, 131.5, 129.3, 129.0, 128.5, 128.2, 121.7, 121.0, 86.1, 83.9, 63.5, 41.8, 38.1.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₉H₂₀NO₄S₂(M+H) 390.0834; found 390.0834.



1db, N-(3-phenylprop-2-ynyl)-N-(3-tosylprop-1-en-2-yl)methanesulfonamide

Brown solid, 364 mg, 90%

R_f = 0.4 (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

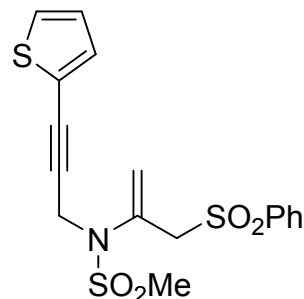
Melting point: 135-137 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) ν_{max}: 3432, 3012, 2929, 2362, 1718, 1631, 1595, 1490, 1442, 1342, 1314, 1153, 1082, 689, 528 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.38-7.32 (m, 5H), 6.03 (s, 1H), 5.47 (s, 1H), 4.44 (s, 2H), 4.20 (s, 2H), 3.10 (s, 3H), 2.46 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.0, 137.1, 135.8, 131.5, 129.8, 128.9, 128.4, 128.1, 121.7, 120.9, 86.0, 83.9, 63.5, 41.7, 38.1, 21.6.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₀H₂₂NO₄S₂(M+H) 404.0990; found 404.0989



1ea, N-(3-(phenylsulfonyl)prop-1-en-2-yl)-N-(3-(thiophen-2-yl)prop-2-ynyl)methanesulfonamide

White solid, 324 mg, 82%

R_f = 0.3 (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

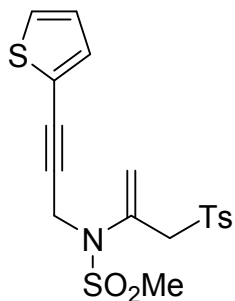
Melting point: 162-164 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) ν_{max}: 3448, 3086, 3025, 2997, 2948, 2926, 2221, 1624, 1448, 1415, 1339, 1317, 1307, 1153, 1133, 1082, 965, 621 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.94 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.70-7.67 (m, 1H), 7.61-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 7.00-6.99 (m, 1H), 5.99 (s, 1H), 5.49 (s, 1H), 4.44 (s, 2H), 4.22 (s, 2H), 3.07 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 138.9, 137.0, 134.0, 132.7, 129.3, 128.2, 127.9, 127.2, 121.5, 121.2, 87.9, 79.5, 63.6, 42.0, 38.1.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₇H₁₈NO₄S₃(M+H) 396.0398; found 396.0397.



1eb, N-(3-(thiophen-2-yl)prop-2-ynyl)-N-(3-tosylprop-1-en-2-yl)methanesulfonamide

White solid, 385 mg, 94%

R_f = 0.3 (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

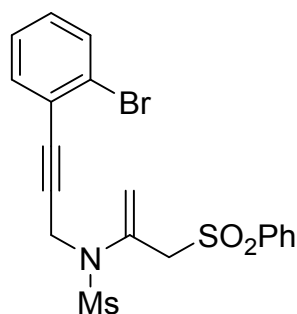
Melting point: 117-119 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) ν_{max}: 3101, 3019, 2933, 2223, 1631, 1594, 1427, 1313, 1266, 1154, 1082, 1055, 677, 524 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 7.00-6.99 (m, 1H), 5.97 (s, 1H), 5.47 (s, 1H), 4.46 (s, 2H), 4.19 (s, 2H), 3.08 (s, 3H), 2.46 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.0, 137.0, 135.8, 132.6, 129.8, 128.1, 127.8, 127.1, 121.4, 121.2, 87.9, 79.4, 63.5, 41.9, 38.1, 21.6.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₈H₂₀NO₄S₃(M+H) 410.0554; found 410.0551.



1fa, N-(3-(2-bromophenyl)prop-2-ynyl)-N-(3-(phenylsulfonyl)prop-1-en-2-yl)methanesulfonamide

White solid, 434 mg, 93%

R_f = 0.5 (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

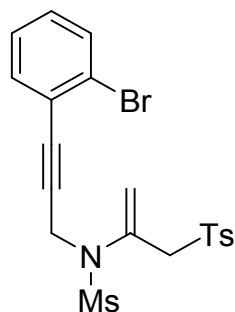
Melting point: 121-123 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 3410, 2931, 2345, 1636, 1585, 1469, 1446, 1345, 1319, 1152, 1083, 1050, 755, 519 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.71-7.66 (m, 1H), 7.62-7.57 (m, 3H), 7.47 (dd, J = 1.7, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.32-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.19 (m, 1H), 6.21 (d, J = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 5.50 (d, J = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 4.49 (s, 2H), 4.24 (s, 2H), 3.13 (s, 3H),

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 138.8, 136.8, 133.9, 133.7, 132.4, 130.1, 129.2, 128.1, 127.2, 125.2, 123.9, 121.6, 88.3, 84.4, 63.5, 41.8, 38.3.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₉H₁₉BrNO₄S₂(M+H) 469.9918; found 469.9914.



1fb, N-(3-(2-bromophenyl)prop-2-ynyl)-N-(3-tosylprop-1-en-2-yl)methanesulfonamide

White solid, 428 mg, 89%

R_f = 0.5 (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

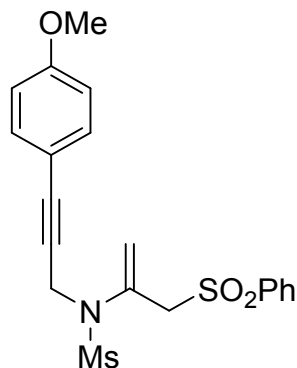
Melting point: 110-112 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 3069, 3028, 2931, 1637, 1595, 1467, 1417, 1336, 1253, 1152, 1084, 955, 763, 687, 526 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.82 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (dd, J = 1.1, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (dd, J = 1.7, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (dt, J = 1.2, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (dt, J = 1.7, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.19 (d, J = 1.1 Hz, 1H), 5.49 (d, J = 1.1 Hz, 1H), 4.51 (s, 2H), 4.21 (s, 2H), 3.13 (s, 3H), 2.46 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.0, 136.9, 135.9, 133.7, 132.4, 130.1, 129.8, 128.1, 127.2, 125.2, 123.9, 121.6, 88.4, 84.3, 63.6, 41.7, 38.3, 21.6.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₀H₂₄BrN₂O₄S₂(M+NH₄) 499.0361; found 499.0360.



1ga, N-(3-(4-methoxyphenyl)prop-2-ynyl)-N-(3-(phenylsulfonyl)prop-1-en-2-yl)methanesulfonamide

White solid, 369 mg, 88%

R_f = 0.3 (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

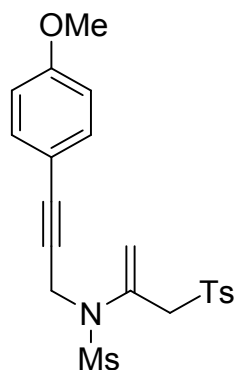
Melting point: 134-136 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) $\nu_{\max}$: 3448, 2992, 2925, 2853, 1744, 1637, 1448, 1338, 1304, 1159, 1141, 956, 752, 543 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95-7.93 (m, 2H), 7.70-7.67 (m, 1H), 7.61-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.35 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.04 (s, 1H), 5.47 (s, 1H), 4.39 (s, 2H), 4.23 (s, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.08 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.0, 138.8, 137.0, 133.9, 133.0, 129.2, 128.1, 120.8, 114.0, 113.6, 86.0, 82.4, 63.4, 55.2, 41.9, 38.0.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₀H₂₁NNaO₅S₂(M+Na) 442.0759; found 442.0739.



1gb, N-(3-(4-methoxyphenyl)prop-2-ynyl)-N-(3-tosylprop-1-en-2-yl)methanesulfonamide

Light yellow solid, 365 mg, 84%

R_f = 0.3 (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

Melting point: 145-147 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) $\nu_{\max}$: 3416, 2930, 2358, 1605, 1509, 1345, 1318, 1292, 1249, 1152, 1084, 1029, 519 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.81 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.39-7.34 (m, 4H), 6.85 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.03 (s, 1H), 5.46 (s, 1H), 4.40 (s, 2H), 4.20 (s, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.09 (s, 3H), 2.46 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.0, 144.9, 137.1, 135.9, 133.0, 129.8, 128.1, 120.7, 114.0, 113.6, 86.0, 82.5, 63.5, 55.2, 41.9, 38.0, 21.5.

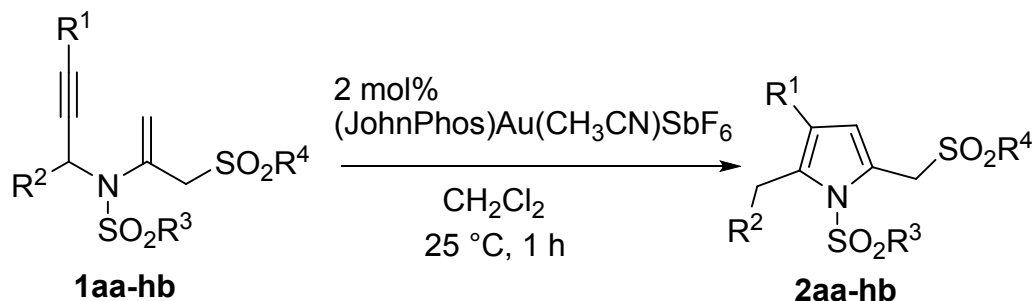
HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₂₄NO₅S₂(M+H) 434.1096; found 434.1093.

5. NaH-mediated reaction of 4h with 5b to afford the aza-enyne 1hb

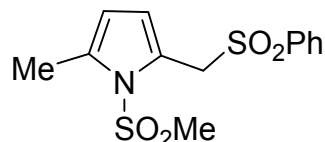
To a suspension of sodium hydride (88mg, 2.2 mmol) in THF (4 mL) kept at 0 °C, propargyl sulfonamide **4h** (403 mg, 1 mmol) and the bromoallyl sulfone **5b** (323 mg, 1.2 mmol) were added in succession and the reaction mixture was stirred for 30 minutes at the same temperature. Then, ice was added to the reaction mixture and the solution was extracted with ethyl acetate (3

X 10 mL). The combined organic extracts was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated on a rotavapor. The residue on column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether-ethyl acetate as eluent afforded a sample of *N*-(1-phenylprop-2-ynyl)-*N*-(3-tosylprop-1-en-2-yl)methanesulfonamide **1hb** contaminated with unidentified impurities. This sample was directly used in the gold-catalyzed cycloisomerization and a clean reaction ensued to afford the pyrrole **2hb**.

6. Gold-catalyzed pyrrole synthesis



To a solution of the *N*-propargyl-*N*-vinyl sulphonamide **1aa-hb** (0.3 mmol) in dichloromethane (2mL) maintained under an atmosphere of nitrogen, (acetonitrile)[(2-biphenyl)di-*tert*-butylphosphine]gold(I) hexafluoroantimonate (5mg, 0.006 mmol) was added and the reaction was stirred for 1 h at 25 °C. The solvent was evaporated on a rotavapor and the residue was chromatographed on silica gel using petroleum ether-ethyl acetate as eluent to afford analytically pure samples of the products.



2aa, 2-Methyl-1-(methylsulfonyl)-5-(phenylsulfonylmethyl)-1H-pyrrole

White solid, 84 mg, 89%

R_f = 0.7 (40% ethyl acetate in hexane)

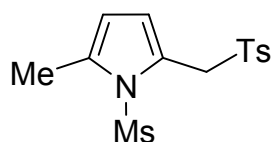
Melting point: 133-134 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) ν_{max}: 3447, 3009, 2951, 2925, 2360, 1586, 1522, 1450, 1414, 1175, 1109, 973, 775, 654, 516 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.90-7.88 (m, 2H), 7.69-7.66 (m, 1H), 7.59-7.56 (m, 2H), 6.08 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 6.01 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 4.84 (s, 2H), 3.45 (s, 3H), 2.47 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 138.8, 134.5, 133.9, 129.2, 128.4, 120.9, 117.6, 112.3, 55.0, 42.9, 15.4.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₃H₁₅O₄NNaS₂ (M+Na) 336.0340; found 336.0349.



2ab, 2-Methyl-1-(methanesulfonyl)-5-(tosylmethyl)-1H-pyrrole

White solid, 94 mg, 96%

R_f = 0.7 (40% ethyl acetate in hexane)

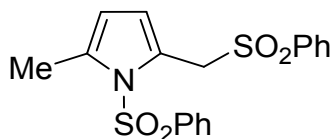
Melting point: 136-138 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) $\nu_{\max}$: 3434, 3019, 3000, 2923, 2360, 1596, 1523, 1495, 1313, 1231, 812, 767 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.76 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.07 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.01 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.82 (s, 2H), 3.47 (s, 3H), 2.47 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.9, 135.8, 134.3, 129.8, 128.4, 121.1, 117.5, 112.2, 55.0, 42.9, 21.6, 15.5.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₄H₁₇O₄NNaS₂ (M+Na) 350.0497; found 350.0506.



2ba, 2-Methyl-1-(phenylsulfonyl)-5-(phenylsulfonylmethyl)-1H-pyrrole

White solid, 110 mg, 98%

R_f = 0.7 (40% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

Melting point: 142-144 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) $\nu_{\max}$: 3430, 3113, 3093, 3070, 3014, 2929, 2360, 2340, 1913, 1708, 1637, 1584, 1396, 1087, 769, 727, 656, 526 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.80 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.68-7.64 (m, 3H), 7.60-7.57 (m, 1H), 7.54-7.47 (m, 4H), 6.37 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 5.97 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 4.92 (s, 2H), 2.19 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 139.4, 138.5, 135.0, 133.8, 133.7, 129.3, 128.9, 128.7, 126.4, 122.6, 118.3, 113.0, 55.3, 15.2.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₈H₂₁O₄N₂S₂ (M+NH₄) 393.0943; found 393.0925.



2bb, 2-Methyl-1-(phenylsulfonyl)-5-(tosylmethyl)-1H-pyrrole

White solid, 112 mg, 96%

R_f = 0.7 (40% ethyl acetate in hexane)

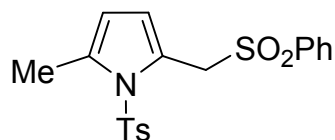
Melting point: 152-154 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) $\nu_{\max}$: 3420, 3083, 3000, 2951, 2935, 2365, 2360, 1905, 1712, 1595, 1522, 1451, 1403, 1366, 1313, 1296, 1087, 800, 650, 516 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.69-7.67 (m, 4H), 7.60-7.57 (m, 1H), 7.49-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.34 (s, 1H), 5.96 (s, 1H), 4.89 (s, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 2.20 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.7, 139.4, 135.6, 134.9, 133.8, 129.5, 129.3, 128.6, 126.3, 122.8, 118.1, 112.9, 55.3, 21.6, 15.2.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₉H₂₃O₄N₂S₂ (M+NH₄) 407.1099; found 407.1078.



2ca, 2-Methyl-5-(phenylsulfonylmethyl)-1-tosyl-1H-pyrrole

White solid, 113 mg, 97%

R_f = 0.7 (40% ethyl acetate in hexane)

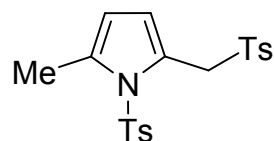
Melting point: 140-142 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) ν_{max}: 3441, 3113, 3095, 3074, 3032, 3014, 2955, 2927, 2860, 2360, 1931, 1910, 1818, 1708, 1594, 1494, 1399, 1221, 1116, 1007, 865, 704 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.67-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.57-7.49 (m, 4H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.36 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 5.95 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 4.91 (s, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 2.19 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.9, 138.5, 136.5, 135.0, 133.7, 129.9, 128.8, 128.7, 126.4, 122.4, 118.2, 112.8, 55.3, 21.5, 15.2.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₉H₂₃O₄N₂S₂ (M+NH₄) 407.1099; found 407.1077.



2cb, 2-Methyl-1-tosyl-5-(tosylmethyl)-1H—pyrrole

White solid, 120 mg, 99%

R_f = 0.7 (40% ethyl acetate in hexane)

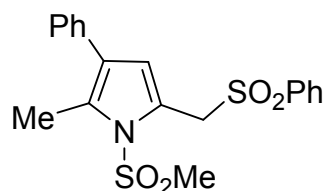
Melting point: 110-113 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) ν_{max}: 3433, 3110, 3045, 3013, 2950, 2922, 1927, 1739, 1595, 1524, 1493, 1439, 1318, 1249, 1177, 636 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.68 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.35 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 5.95 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 4.89 (s, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 2.20 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.9, 144.6, 136.5, 135.7, 134.9, 129.9, 129.5, 128.7, 126.5, 122.7, 118.0, 112.8, 55.3, 21.6, 21.5, 15.2.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₀H₂₅O₄N₂S₂ (M+NH₄) 421.1256; found 421.1252.



2da, 2-Methyl-1-(methanesulfonyl)-3-phenyl-5-(phenylsulfonylmethyl)-1H-pyrrole

White solid, 112 mg, 96%

R_f = 0.7 (40% ethyl acetate in hexane)

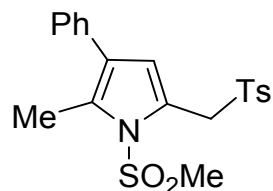
Melting point: 163-165 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) $\nu_{\max}$: 3438, 3025, 3007, 2926, 2853, 2361, 1593, 1398, 1359, 1312, 1206, 1173, 1084, 835 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.92 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.73-7.67 (m, 1H), 7.62-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.42-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.24 (m, 3H), 6.22 (s, 1H), 4.90 (s, 2H), 3.55 (s, 3H), 2.54 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 138.6, 134.2, 133.9, 129.9, 129.1, 128.7, 128.4, 126.9, 126.2, 120.4, 118.9, 54.9, 43.0, 13.5.

HRMS (ESI) calcd C₁₉H₁₉O₄NNaS₂ (M+Na) 412.0653; found 412.0656.



2db, 2-Methyl-1-(methanesulfonyl)-3-phenyl-5-(tosylmethyl)-1H-pyrrole

White solid, 115 mg, 95%

R_f = 0.7 (40% ethyl acetate in hexane)

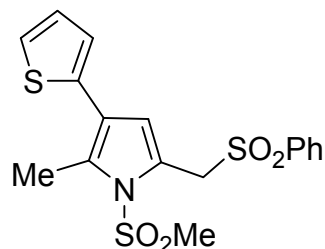
Melting point: 167-169 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) $\nu_{\max}$: 3438, 3025, 3007, 2853, 2361, 1593, 1432, 1359, 1312, 1243, 1173, 1147, 1084, 772, 631, 540 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.79 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.42-7.36 (m, 4H), 7.33-7.25 (m, 3H), 6.22 (s, 1H), 4.87 (s, 2H), 3.55 (s, 3H), 2.54 (s, 3H), 2.48 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.9, 135.8, 134.3, 129.9, 129.8, 128.7, 128.4, 126.9, 126.2, 120.6, 118.8, 55.0, 43.0, 21.6, 13.5.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₀H₂₁O₄NNaS₂ (M+Na) 426.0810; found 426.0808.



2ea, 2-Methyl-1-(methylsulfonyl)-5-(phenylsulfonylmethyl)-3-(thiophen-2-yl)-1H-pyrrole

White solid, 113 mg, 95%

R_f = 0.7 (40% ethyl acetate in hexane)

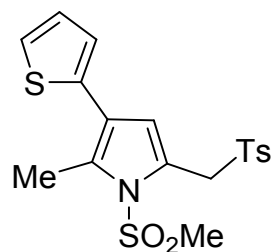
Melting point: 170-172 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) $\nu_{\max}$: 3444, 3100, 3020, 3006, 2960, 2926, 2362, 1969, 1902, 1817, 1584, 1545, 1449, 1081, 1003, 774, 517 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.90 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.71-7.68 (m, 1H), 7.60-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.28 (dd, J = 1.1, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (dd, J = 3.5, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (dd, J = 1.1, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 6.22 (s, 1H), 4.87 (s, 2H), 3.54 (s, 3H), 2.63 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 138.5, 135.8, 134.0, 130.2, 129.2, 128.4, 127.3, 125.3, 124.7, 120.7, 119.6, 118.7, 54.9, 43.1, 13.7.

HRMS (ESI) calcd C₁₇H₁₇O₄NNaS₃ (M+Na) 418.0217; found 418.0225.



2eb, 2-Methyl-1-(methylsulfonyl)-3-(thiophen-2-yl)-5-(tosylmethyl)-1H-pyrrole

White solid, 118 mg, 96%

R_f = 0.7 (40% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

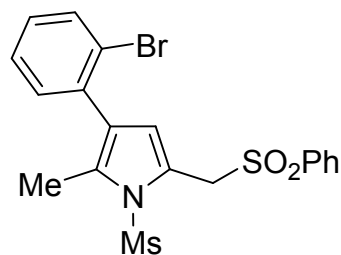
Melting point: 152-154 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexane)

IR (KBr) $\nu_{\max}$: 3434, 3102, 3069, 3020, 3006, 2928, 2360, 1596, 1391, 1360, 1325, 1311, 1224, 1243, 1160, 1084, 972, 723 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.77 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (dd, J = 3.6, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 6.22 (s, 1H), 4.85 (s, 2H), 3.55 (s, 3H), 2.63 (s, 3H), 2.48 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.0, 135.9, 135.5, 130.1, 129.8, 128.4, 127.3, 125.3, 124.7, 120.8, 119.5, 118.6, 54.9, 43.1, 21.7, 13.7.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₈H₂₀O₄NS₃ (M+H) 410.0554; found 410.0552.



2fa, 3-(2-Bromophenyl)-2-methyl-1-(methylsulfonyl)-5-(phenylsulfonylmethyl)-1H-pyrrole

White solid, 125 mg, 89%

R_f = 0.7 (40% ethyl acetate in hexane)

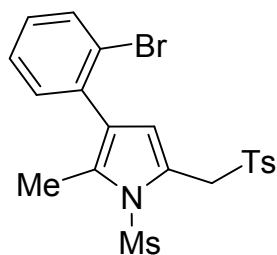
Melting point: 136-138 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) $\nu_{\max}$: 3448, 3114, 3052, 3026, 2958, 2939, 2858, 2329, 1905, 1819, 1712, 1603, 1584, 1523, 1469, 1445, 1429, 1397, 1243, 1003, 730, 547 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.91-7.88 (m, 2H), 7.69-7.63 (m, 2H), 7.59-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.31 (m, 1H), 7.22-7.18 (m, 2H), 6.09 (s, 1H), 4.91 (s, 2H), 3.52 (s, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 138.4, 135.1, 133.9, 132.8, 131.9, 131.3, 129.1, 128.5, 127.2, 125.4, 124.3, 120.2, 119.2, 54.8, 43.0, 13.6.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₉H₂₂O₄N₂BrS₂ (M+NH₄) 485.0204; found 485.0196.



2fb, 3-(2-Bromophenyl)-2-methyl-1-(methylsulfonyl)-5-(tosylmethyl)-1H-pyrrole

White solid, 126 mg, 87%

R_f = 0.7 (40 % ethyl acetate in hexane)

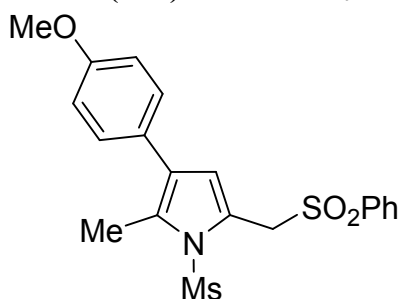
Melting point: 177-179 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) $\nu_{\max}$: 3448, 3029, 2927, 2854, 2363, 2363, 1637, 1596, 1525, 1472, 1399, 1359, 1314, 1244, 1203, 1172, 1116, 964, 681, 514 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.77 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.31 (m, 3H), 7.22-7.18 (m, 2H), 6.10 (s, 1H), 4.89 (s, 2H), 3.53 (s, 3H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.9, 135.6, 135.2, 132.8, 131.9, 131.3, 129.8, 129.1, 128.6, 127.2, 125.5, 124.4, 120.5, 119.2, 55.0, 43.0, 21.6, 13.7.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₀H₂₄Br N₂O₄S₂ (M+NH₄) 501.0340; found 501.0342.



2ga, 3-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2-methyl-1-(methylsulfonyl)-5-(phenylsulfonylmethyl)-1H-pyrrole

White solid, 114 mg, 91%

R_f = 0.7 (40% ethyl acetate in hexane)

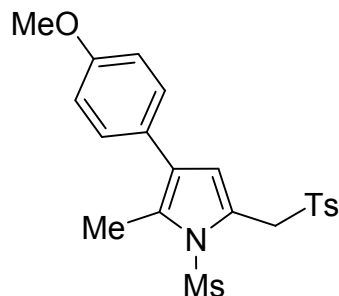
Melting point: 139-141 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 3429, 3036, 2960, 2932, 2838, 2359, 2341, 1612, 1595, 1531, 1504, 1463, 1301, 1171, 813, 724, 517 cm^{-1}

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.92 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.71-7.68 (m, 1H), 7.61-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.18 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.20 (s, 1H), 4.89 (s, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.53 (s, 3H), 2.52 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.6, 138.7, 133.9, 129.8, 129.5, 129.2, 128.4, 126.6, 125.9, 120.1, 119.1, 113.9, 55.3, 54.9, 43.0, 13.6.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_5\text{NS}_2$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) 420.0939; found 420.0939.



2gb, 3-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2-methyl-1-(methylsulfonyl)-5-(tosylmethyl)-1H-pyrrole

White solid, 127 mg, 98%

R_f = 0.7 (40% ethyl acetate in hexane)

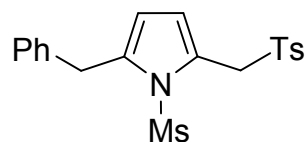
Melting point: 78-80 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ (CH_2Cl_2 -hexanes)

IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 3430, 3037, 2957, 2930, 2836, 2302, 1611, 1341, 1247, 1161, 725, 629, 515 cm^{-1}

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.79 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.20 (s, 1H), 4.86 (s, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.53 (s, 3H), 2.52 (s, 3H), 2.48 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.6, 144.9, 135.9, 129.8(2), 129.4, 128.4, 126.7, 125.9, 120.4, 119.0, 113.9, 55.3, 55.0, 43.0, 21.6, 13.5.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_5\text{NS}_2$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) 434.1096; found 434.1102.



2hb, 2-Benzyl-1-(methylsulfonyl)-5-(tosylmethyl)-1H-pyrrole

White solid, 105 mg, 87%

R_f = 0.7 (40% ethyl acetate in hexane)

Melting point: 151-153 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ (CH_2Cl_2 -hexanes)

IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 3432, 3013, 2924, 2852, 2362, 1735, 1595, 1496, 1455, 1356, 1317, 1169, 782, 750, 693 cm^{-1}

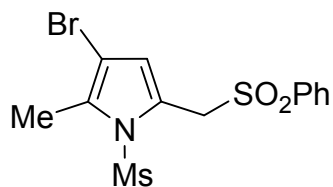
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.73 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.35-7.32 (m, 4H), 7.27-7.23 (m, 3H), 6.12 (d, *J* = 3.5 Hz, 1H), 5.96 (d, *J* = 3.5 Hz, 1H), 4.82 (s, 2H), 4.22 (s, 2H), 3.02 (s, 3H), 2.46 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.9, 138.0, 137.8, 135.7, 129.8, 129.2, 128.6, 128.4, 126.8, 121.9, 117.6, 113.6, 55.1, 42.7, 34.9, 21.6.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₀H₂₅O₄N₂S₂ (M+NH₄) 421.1256; found 421.1231.

7. Bromination of pyrrole 2aa

Freshly re-crystallised *N*-bromosuccinimide (85 mg, 0.48 mmol) was added to a solution of 2-methyl-1-(methylsulfonyl)-5-(phenylsulfonylmethyl)-1H-pyrrole **2aa** (50 mg, 0.16 mmol) in anhydrous THF (3 mL) at 25 °C and the resulting solution was stirred overnight. THF was removed on a rotavapor, deionized water (10 mL) was added and the aqueous solution was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 X 10 mL). The combined organic extracts was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated on a rotavapor. The residue on column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether-ethyl acetate as eluent afforded the 3-bromopyrrole derivative **8** as a white solid (43 mg, 69%).



8, 3-Bromo-2-methyl-1-(methylsulfonyl)-5-(phenylsulfonylmethyl)-1H-pyrrole

White solid, 69%

*R*_f = 0.7 (40% ethyl acetate in hexane)

Melting point: 106-108 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

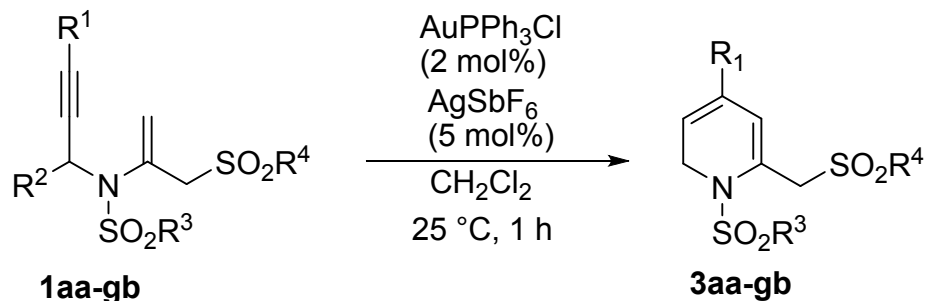
IR (KBr) *v*_{max}: 3441, 3105, 3068, 3039, 3023, 2924, 2853, 1680, 1576, 1515, 1477, 1446, 1396, 1354, 1315, 1227, 1100, 612 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.90 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.71-7.68 (m, 1H), 7.61-7.58 (m, 2H), 6.18 (s, 1H), 4.81 (s, 2H), 3.50 (s, 3H), 2.49 (s, 3H).

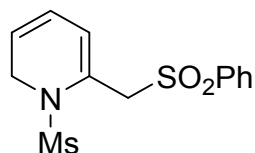
¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 138.5, 134.1, 131.6, 129.3, 128.4, 120.9, 119.8, 102.0, 54.5, 43.0, 13.7.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₃H₁₄O₄NBrNaS₂ (M+Na) 413.9445; found 413.9446.

8. Gold-catalyzed synthesis of dihydropyridines 3aa-3gb



PPh₃AuCl (3 mg, 0.006 mmol), silver hexafluoroantimonate (5 mg, 0.015 mmol) and *N*-propargyl-*N*-vinyl sulphonamide **1aa-gb** (0.3 mmol) were weighed out in to a round bottom flask. Dichloromethane (2mL) was added and the reaction was stirred for 1 h at 25 °C under nitrogen. The solvent was evaporated on a rotavapor and the residue was chromatographed on silica gel using petroleum ether-ethyl acetate as eluent to afford analytically pure samples of the products.



3aa, 1-(Methylsulfonyl)-6-(phenylsulfonylmethyl)-1,2-dihydropyridine

White solid, 87 mg, 92%

R_f = 0.3 (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

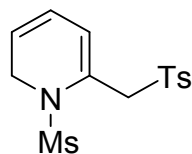
Melting point: 132-135 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 3068, 3027, 3007, 2934, 2837, 2361, 1641, 1606, 1583, 1512, 1463, 1336, 1317, 1246, 1146, 521 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.92 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.69-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.59-7.55 (m, 2H), 6.24 (d, J = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 6.13-6.10 (m, 1H), 5.81-5.77 (m, 1H), 4.38 (s, 2H), 3.98 (d, J = 3.1 Hz, 2H), 2.79 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 138.4, 133.9, 129.1, 128.5, 127.7, 124.5, 123.9, 123.5, 61.6, 45.3, 39.0.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₃H₁₆NO₄S₂(M+H) 314.0521; found 314.0504.



3ab, 1-(Methylsulfonyl)-6-(tosylmethyl)-1,2-dihydropyridine

White solid, 93 mg, 95%

R_f = 0.3 (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

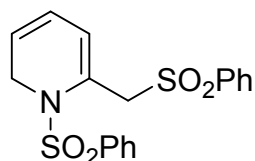
Melting point: 133-135 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 3474, 3026, 3010, 3000, 2944, 2931, 2850, 1595, 1335, 1317, 1158, 1146, 1086, 1054, 971, 722, 542 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.79 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.22 (d, J = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 6.12-6.10 (m, 1H), 5.81-5.77 (m, 1H), 4.35 (s, 2H), 4.00 (dd, J = 1.2, 4.1 Hz, 2H), 2.80 (s, 3H), 2.45 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.9, 135.5, 129.6, 128.4, 127.7, 124.2, 123.8, 123.4, 61.5, 45.3, 39.0, 21.6.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₄H₁₇NO₄S₂Na(M+Na) 350.0497; found 350.0485.



3ba, 1-(Phenylsulfonyl)-6-(phenylsulfonylmethyl)-1,2-dihydropyridine

White solid, 109 mg, 97%

R_f = 0.4 (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

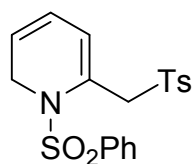
Melting point: 156-158 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 3432, 3065, 2987, 2934, 2883, 2360, 1721, 1637, 1446, 1341, 1306, 1266, 1165, 1148, 719, 580 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.94 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.70-7.64 (m, 3H), 7.60-7.52 (m, 3H), 7.41-7.38 (m, 2H), 6.08 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 5.48-5.45 (m, 1H), 5.27-5.24 (m, 1H), 4.48 (s, 2H), 3.96-3.95 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 138.8, 138.5, 133.9, 133.1, 129.0, 128.6 (2), 127.3, 127.0, 125.1, 123.0, 122.5, 61.8, 45.4.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₈H₁₇NO₄S₂Na(M+Na) 398.0497; found 398.0489.



3bb, 1-(Phenylsulfonyl)-6-(tosylmethyl)-1,2-dihydropyridine

White solid, 112 mg, 96%

R_f = 0.4 (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

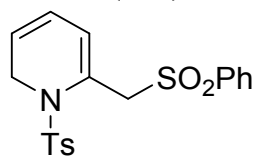
Melting point: 182-184 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 3065, 3006, 2940, 2882, 2847, 2360, 1597, 1450, 1402, 1339, 1297, 1251, 1159, 1133, 1085, 868, 815, 546 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.81 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.55-7.52 (m, 1H), 7.41-7.35 (m, 4H), 6.08 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 5.48-5.45 (m, 1H), 5.28-5.25 (m, 1H), 4.44 (s, 2H), 3.98 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.9, 138.9, 135.6, 133.1, 129.6, 128.6, 128.5, 127.3, 127.2, 125.0, 122.9, 122.6, 61.9, 45.4, 21.7.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₉H₁₉NO₄S₂Na(M+Na) 412.0653; found 412.0639.



3ca, 6-(Phenylsulfonylmethyl)-1-tosyl-1,2-dihydropyridine

White solid, 114 mg, 98%

R_f = 0.4 (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

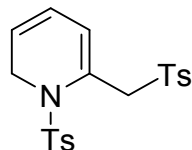
Melting point: 129-131 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) ν_{max}: 3414, 3068, 2969, 2926, 2877, 1723, 1636, 1596, 1446, 1401, 1303, 1161, 1084, 1047, 816, 681, 556 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.94 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.69-7.66 (m, 1H), 7.59-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.08 (d, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 5.49 (dd, *J* = 5.3, 9.3 Hz, 1H), 5.29-5.25 (m, 1H), 4.47 (s, 2H), 3.94 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.0, 138.5, 136.0, 133.9, 129.2, 129.0, 128.6, 127.3, 127.1, 125.0, 122.9, 122.6, 61.8, 45.3, 21.5.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₉H₁₉NO₄S₂Na(M+Na) 412.0653; found 412.0643.



3cb, 1-Tosyl-6-(tosylmethyl)-1,2-dihydropyridine

White solid, 116 mg, 96%

R_f = 0.4 (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

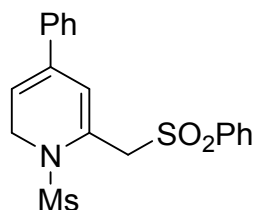
Melting point: 139-141 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) ν_{max}: 2985, 2930, 1718, 1597, 1457, 1402, 1341, 1302, 1271, 1159, 1134, 1084, 1049, 814, 759, 684, 513 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 6.07 (d, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 5.49 (dd, *J* = 5.3, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 5.30-5.25 (m, 1H), 4.44 (s, 2H), 3.97 (d, *J* = 3.5 Hz, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.9, 144.0, 136.0, 135.5, 130.0, 129.6, 129.2, 128.5, 127.3, 124.9, 122.8, 122.6, 61.8, 45.3, 21.6, 21.5.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₀H₂₁NO₄S₂Na(M+Na) 426.0810; found 426.0792.



3da, 1-(Methylsulfonyl)-4-phenyl-6-(phenylsulfonylmethyl)-1,2-dihydropyridine

White solid, 109 mg, 93%

R_f = 0.4 (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

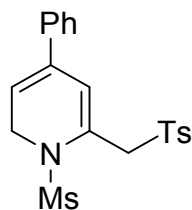
Melting point: 171-173 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 3448, 3058, 3021, 2998, 2944, 2921, 2844, 1647, 1446, 1334, 1305, 1152, 1084, 1064, 757, 554 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.96 (dd, J = 1.0, 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.70-7.67 (m, 1H), 7.60-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.33 (m, 5H), 6.65 (s, 1H), 5.99 (t, J = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 4.47 (s, 2H), 4.14 (d, J = 4.6 Hz, 2H), 2.80 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃ + (CD₃)₂SO) δ 137.9, 136.0, 135.5, 133.5, 131.0, 128.6, 128.4, 128.3, 127.9, 125.0, 124.8, 117.4, 61.1, 45.5, 38.5.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₉H₂₀NO₄S₂(M+H) 390.0834; found 390.0820.



3db, 1-(Methylsulfonyl)-4-phenyl-6-(tosylmethyl)-1,2-dihydropyridine

White solid, 108 mg, 89%

R_f = 0.4 (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

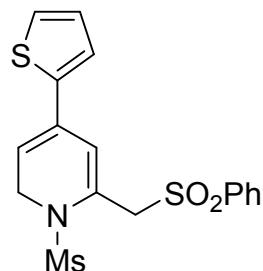
Melting point: 105-107 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 3430, 3022, 2950, 2361, 1647, 1597, 1329, 1326, 1300, 1157, 1133, 1086, 964, 758, 513 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.82 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.39-7.34 (m, 7H), 6.63 (s, 1H), 5.99 (t, J = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 4.44 (s, 2H), 4.16 (d, J = 4.6 Hz, 2H), 2.81 (s, 3H), 2.46 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.0, 136.7, 136.3, 135.7, 129.8, 129.1, 128.8, 128.5, 128.4, 125.6, 125.3, 117.8, 61.7, 46.1, 39.1, 21.7.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₀H₂₂NO₄S₂(M+H) 404.0990; found 404.0981.



3ea, 1-(Methylsulfonyl)-6-(phenylsulfonylmethyl)-4-(thiophen-2-yl)-1,2-dihydropyridine

White solid, 92 mg, 78%

R_f = 0.3 (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

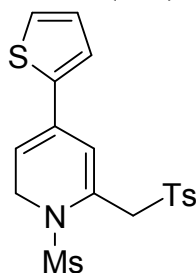
Melting point: 168-170 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) $\nu_{\max}$: 3448, 3065, 3018, 3000, 2945, 2919, 2845, 1640, 1445, 1337, 1305, 1151, 1084, 1065, 553 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.70-7.67 (m, 1H), 7.60-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.24 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 7.03-7.01 (m, 1H), 6.63 (s, 1H), 5.99 (t, J = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 4.47 (s, 2H), 4.08 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 2H), 2.80 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 140.0, 138.4, 134.0, 130.1, 129.2, 129.1, 128.5, 127.8, 125.2, 124.3, 123.9, 116.0, 61.5, 45.7, 39.1.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₇H₁₈NO₄S₃(M+H) 396.0398; found 396.0385.



3eb, 1-(Methylsulfonyl)-4-(thiophen-2-yl)-6-(tosylmethyl)-1,2-dihydropyridine

White solid, 118 mg, 96%

R_f = 0.3 (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

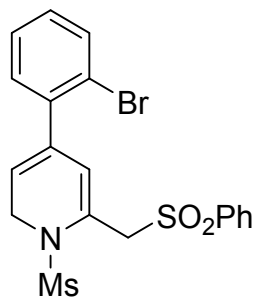
Melting point: 160-162 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

IR (KBr) $\nu_{\max}$: 3448, 2926, 1636, 1595, 1327, 1314, 1151, 1084, 1067, 971, 828, 777, 526 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.82 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (dd, J = 3.2, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 6.62 (s, 1H), 5.99 (t, J = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 4.44 (s, 2H), 4.10 (d, J = 4.6 Hz, 2H), 2.81 (s, 3H), 2.46 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.1, 140.1, 135.5, 130.1, 129.7, 129.3, 128.5, 127.8, 125.2, 124.2, 123.9, 115.9, 61.5, 45.8, 39.1, 21.6.

HRMS calcd for C₁₈H₂₀NO₄S₃(M+H) 410.0554; found 410.0536.



3fa, 4-(2-bromophenyl)-1-(methylsulfonyl)-6-(phenylsulfonylmethyl)-1,2-dihydropyridine

White solid, 137 mg, 98%

$R_f = 0.5$ (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

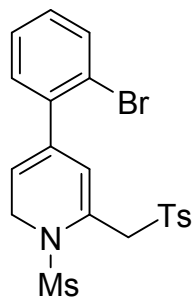
Melting point: 194-196 °C (CH_2Cl_2 -hexanes)

IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 3448, 3018, 2927, 2361, 1644, 1580, 1467, 1444, 1334, 1317, 1152, 1082, 1049, 972, 669, 548 cm^{-1}

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.95 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.69-7.66 (m, 1H), 7.60-7.56 (m, 3H), 7.34-7.31 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.18 (m, 2H), 6.40 (s, 1H), 5.82 (t, $J = 4.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.45 (s, 2H), 4.16 (d, $J = 4.3$ Hz, 2H), 2.97 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 138.7, 138.5, 137.1, 133.9, 133.1, 130.6, 129.8, 129.1, 128.5, 127.8, 126.9 (2), 122.1, 121.7, 61.7, 45.7, 40.2.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{22}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}_4\text{S}_2(\text{M}+\text{NH}_4)$ 485.0204; found 485.0204.



3fb, 4-(2-bromophenyl)-1-(methylsulfonyl)-6-(tosylmethyl)-1,2-dihydropyridine

White solid, 140 mg, 97%

$R_f = 0.5$ (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

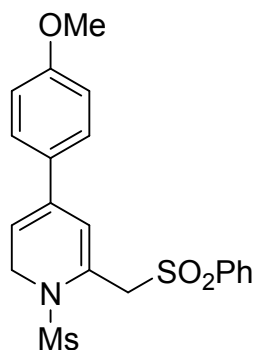
Melting point: 206-208 °C (CH_2Cl_2 -hexanes)

IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 3448, 2992, 2939, 1594, 1466, 1435, 1403, 1343, 1316, 1177, 1149, 1132, 1085, 1045, 1024, 755, 544 cm^{-1}

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.82 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.59-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.37 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.35-7.31 (m, 1H), 7.22-7.18 (m, 2H), 6.39 (s, 1H), 5.83 (t, $J = 4.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.42 (s, 2H), 4.18 (d, $J = 4.3$ Hz, 2H), 2.98 (s, 3H), 2.46 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 145.0, 138.8, 137.2, 135.7, 133.1, 130.6, 129.8, 129.7, 128.5, 127.8, 127.0, 126.8, 122.1, 121.7, 61.7, 45.8, 40.2, 21.7.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{21}\text{BrNO}_4\text{S}_2(\text{M}+\text{H})$ 484.0075; found 484.0077.



3ga, 4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-(methylsulfonyl)-6-(phenylsulfonylmethyl)-1,2-dihydropyridine

White solid, 123 mg, 98%

$R_f = 0.3$ (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

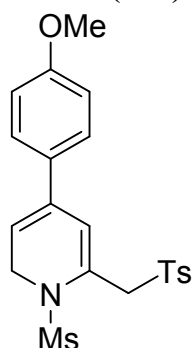
Melting point: 137-139 °C (CH_2Cl_2 -hexanes)

IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 3438, 3007, 2934, 1606, 1446, 1246, 1182, 1146, 1114, 1083, 1034, 962, 902, 804, 767, 549 cm^{-1}

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.95 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.69-7.66 (m, 1H), 7.60-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.29 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.89 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.63 (s, 1H), 5.90 (t, $J = 4.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.47 (s, 2H), 4.10 (d, $J = 4.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 2.79 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.9, 138.5, 135.6, 134.0, 133.2, 129.1, 128.8, 128.5, 126.7, 125.5, 116.0, 114.2, 61.7, 55.3, 46.1, 39.0.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_5\text{S}_2(\text{M}+\text{H})$ 420.0939; found 420.0944.



3gb, 4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-(methylsulfonyl)-6-(tosylmethyl)-1,2-dihydropyridine

White solid, 126 mg, 97%

$R_f = 0.3$ (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

Melting point: 145-147 °C (CH_2Cl_2 -hexanes)

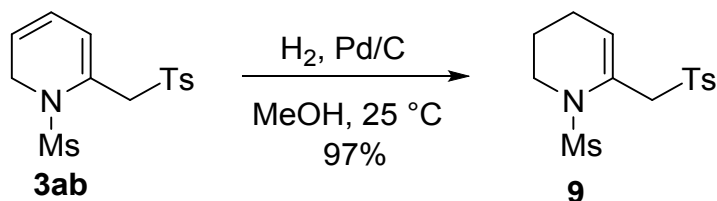
IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 3438, 2995, 2940, 1610, 1454, 1247, 1177, 1150, 1086, 1037, 956, 767, 556 cm^{-1}

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.82 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 6.89 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 6.62 (s, 1H), 5.90 (t, $J = 3.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.43 (s, 2H), 4.12 (d, $J = 3.8$ Hz, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 2.80 (s, 3H), 2.46 (s, 3H).

^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.9, 145.0, 135.7, 129.7, 129.2, 129.0, 128.5, 126.8, 125.4, 116.0, 114.2, 61.7, 55.3, 46.1, 39.0, 21.7.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_5\text{S}_2(\text{M}+\text{H})$ 434.1096; found 434.1097.

9. Catalytic hydrogenation of the dihydropyridine 3ab



A suspension of the dihydropyridine **3ab** (36 mg, 0.11 mmol) and 10 wt. % palladium on carbon (4 mg) in methanol (5 mL) was evacuated and filled with hydrogen from a balloon. The reaction was stirred for 3 h at 25 °C. It was filtered on a pad of celite and the residue obtained was

concentrated and purified by column chromatography on silica gel using using petroleum ether-ethyl acetate as eluent to afford the 1-(methylsulfonyl)-6-(tosylmethyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydropyridine **9** as a white solid (35 mg, 97%).

R_f = 0.5 (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

Melting point: 118-120 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexanes)

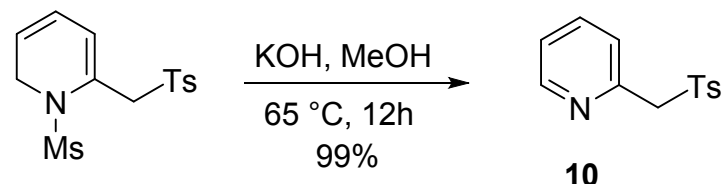
IR (KBr) $\nu_{\max}$: 3439, 3020, 2926, 2828, 2360, 1645, 1595, 1458, 1312, 1237, 1149, 1130, 1085, 1072, 970, 778, 522 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.77 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 5.37 (t, J = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 4.27 (s, 2H), 3.42-3.39 (m, 2H), 3.02 (s, 3H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.16-2.12 (m, 2H), 1.89-1.83 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.8, 136.0, 129.7, 128.3, 126.7, 124.5, 61.4, 46.5, 41.0, 22.8, 21.6, 21.5.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₄H₂₃N₂O₄S₂ (M+NH₄) 347.1099; found 347.1096.

10. Conversion of the dihydropyridine **3ab** into 2-tosylmethylpyridine **10**



To a solution of the dihydropyridine **3ab** (49 mg, 0.15 mmol) in methanol (10 mL), powdered KOH (42 mg, 0.75 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was refluxed overnight. After evaporation of the solvent on a rotavapor, water (10 mL) was added and the solution was extracted with ethyl acetate (3X10 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated on a rotavapor. The residue on column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether-ethyl acetate as eluent afforded 2-(tosylmethyl)pyridine **10** as a white solid (37 mg, 99%).

R_f = 0.7 (40% ethyl acetate in hexane)

Melting point: 153-155 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexane) (lit. mp 154-156 °C)

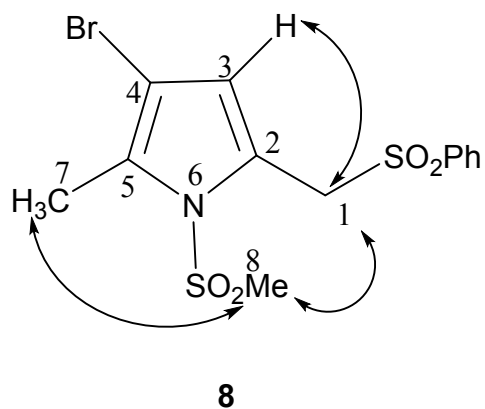
IR (KBr) $\nu_{\max}$: 3448, 3055, 2853, 2361, 1595, 1493, 1476, 1435, 1396, 1300, 1286, 1019, 993, 757, 555 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.43 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (dt, J = 1.7, 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.23 (m, 3H), 4.54 (s, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.6, 149.0, 144.7, 136.7, 135.3, 129.6, 128.4, 125.7, 123.3, 64.6, 21.6.

HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₃H₁₄NO₂S (M+H) 248.0745; found 248.0744.

11. 1D and 2D NMR experiments on **8**



The regiochemical outcome of bromination of **3aa** to afford **8** was confirmed by means of 1D and 2D NMR experiments. The presence of strong nOe correlations of H1/H3, H7/H8 and H8/H1 confirm that the bromo substituent is on C4 as drawn above.

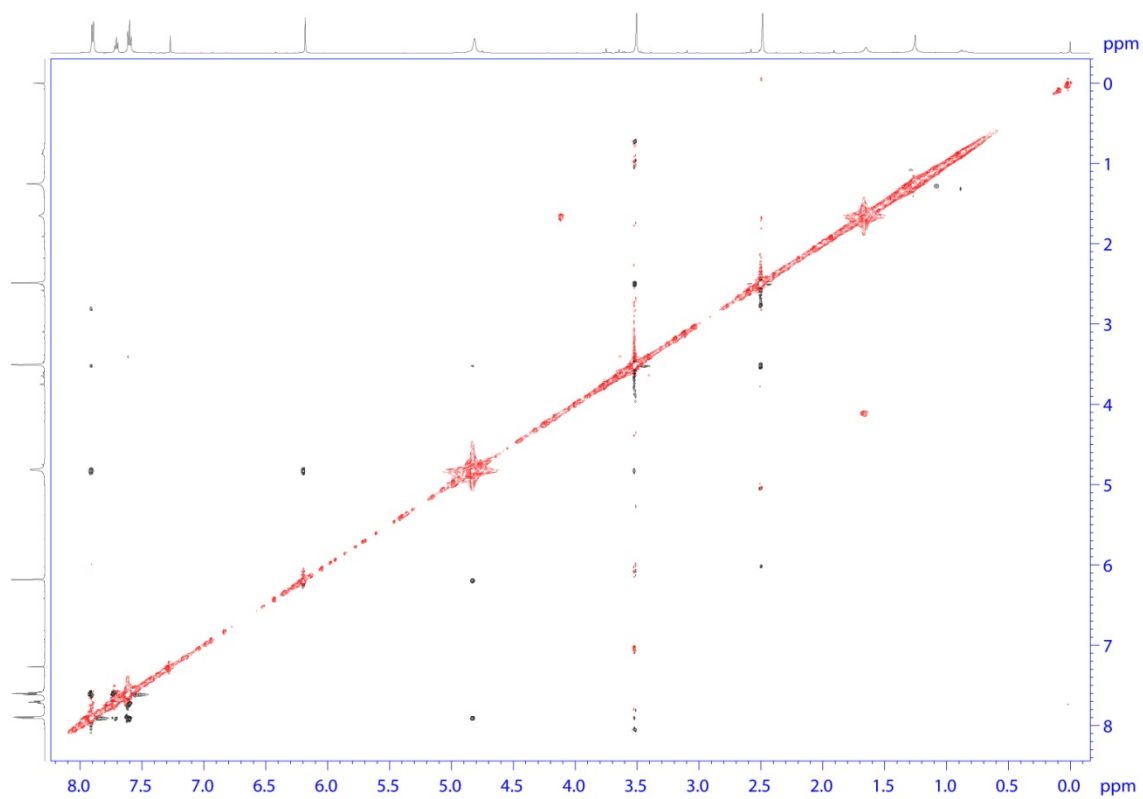


Fig. S1: 2D Nuclear Overhauser effect spectroscopy (NOESY) spectrum of compound **8** recorded at 25 °C (600 MHz)

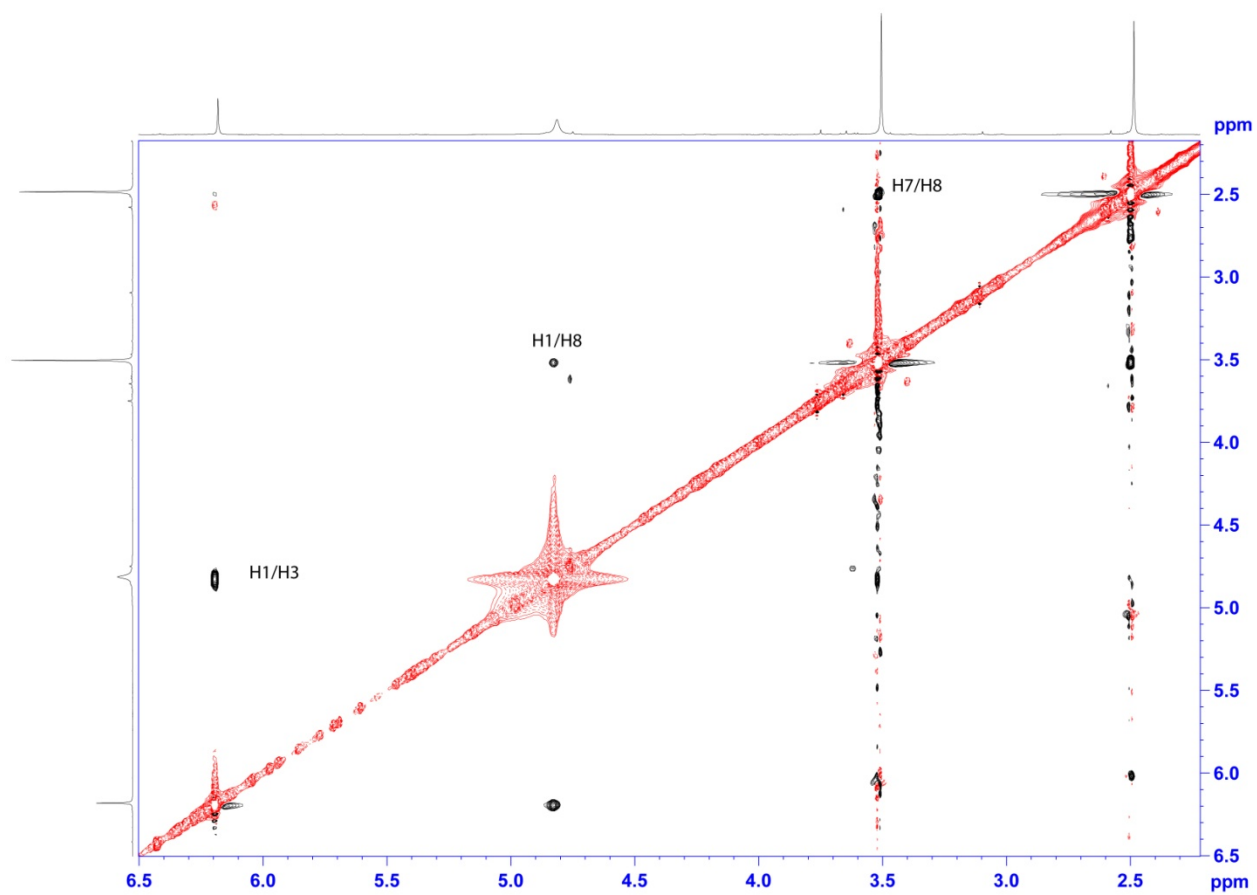


Fig. S2: Expansion of 2D Nuclear Overhauser effect spectroscopy (NOESY) spectrum of compound **8** recorded at 25 °C (600 MHz)

12. Crystallographic data for 2da

Crystallographic data for 2da: $C_{19}H_{19}NO_4S_2$, $M = 389.47$, colourless block, $0.49 \times 0.42 \times 0.33$ mm³, triclinic, space group *P*2₁ (No. 2), $a = 8.0274(5)$, $b = 8.1297(5)$, $c = 14.6961(8)$ Å, $\alpha = 76.4330(10)$, $\beta = 74.7090(10)$, $\gamma = 85.5280(10)^\circ$, $V = 899.17(9)$ Å³, $Z = 2$, $D_c = 1.439$ g/cm³, $F_{000} = 408$, CCD area detector, MoK α radiation, $\lambda = 0.71073$ Å, $T = 293(2)$ K, $2\theta_{\max} = 50.0^\circ$, 8766 reflections collected, 3160 unique ($R_{\text{int}} = 0.0188$), Final $GooF = 1.049$, $R_I = 0.0354$, $wR_2 = 0.0935$, R indices based on 2916 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$ (refinement on F^2), 237 parameters, $\mu = 0.321$ mm⁻¹. CCDC 1063242 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper which can be obtained free of charge at <https://summary.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/structure-summary-form> or from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC), 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK; fax: +44(0) 1223 336 033; email: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk.

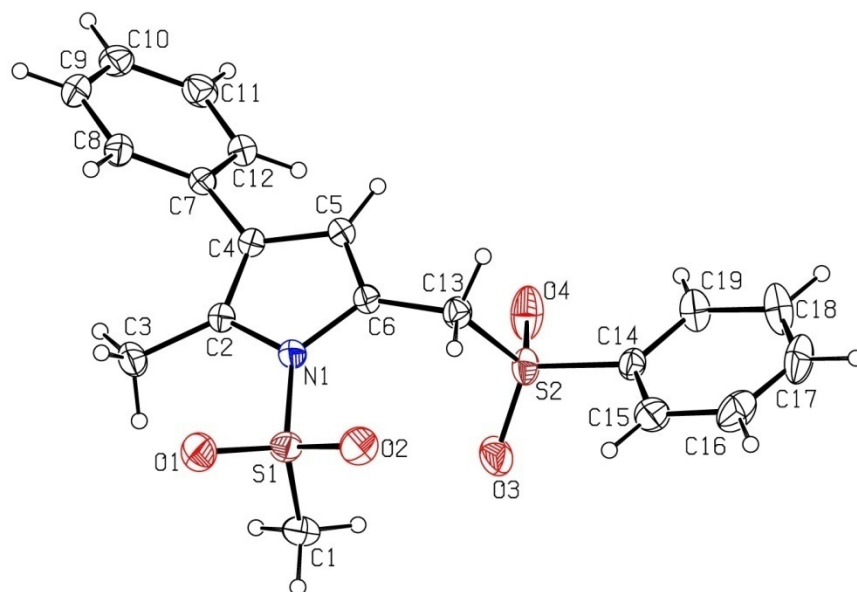


Fig. S3: The ORTEP diagram of **2da** with the atom-numbering scheme. Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 30% probability level and H atoms are shown as small spheres of arbitrary radius.

Data collection: X-ray data for the compound were collected at room temperature using a Bruker Smart Apex CCD diffractometer with graphite monochromated MoK α radiation ($\lambda=0.71073\text{\AA}$) with ω -scan method.⁶ Preliminary lattice parameters and orientation matrices were obtained from four sets of frames. Unit cell dimensions were determined using 5512 reflections for AY92 data. Integration and scaling of intensity data were accomplished using SAINT program.⁶ The structure was solved by Direct Methods using SHELXS97⁷ and refinement was carried out by full-matrix least-squares technique using SHELXL97.⁷ Anisotropic displacement parameters were included for all non-hydrogen atoms. All H atoms were positioned geometrically and treated as riding on their parent C atoms with C-H distances of 0.93--0.97 $\text{\AA}$, and with $U_{\text{iso}}(\text{H}) = 1.2U_{\text{eq}}(\text{C})$ or $1.5U_{\text{eq}}$ for methyl atoms.

6. SMART & SAINT. Software Reference manuals. Versions 6.28a & 5.625, Bruker Analytical X-ray Systems Inc., Madison, Wisconsin, U.S.A., 2001.
7. Sheldrick, G. M. SHELXS97 and SHELXL97, Programs for crystal structure solution and refinement; University of Gottingen: Germany, 1997.

Copies of NMR spectra of new compounds

