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# **Supporting Information**

## Evaluation of *O*-Alkyl and Aryl Sulfonyl Aromatic and Heteroaromatic Amidoximes as Novel Potent DNA Photo-cleavers

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## Photochemistry

### LC-MS analysis of compound 19



MS detection



#### Time = 4-4.5 min

#### Positive spectrum



#### Negative spectrum



## LC-MS analysis of photochemical degradation of compound 19 in benzene



#### Time = 4.3-5.3 min

#### Positive spectrum



#### 122 [isonicotinimidamide+H]<sup>+</sup>, 154 [isonicotinimidamide+H+MeOH]<sup>+</sup>.

#### Negative spectrum



123 [propyl sulfonic acid-H]<sup>-</sup>.

### LC-MS analysis of compound 24

#### UV detection

MS detection



#### Time = 4.1-4.5 min

#### Positive spectrum



#### Negative spectrum



## LC-MS analysis of photochemical degradation of compound 24 in MeOH/H $_2O$



#### Time = 4.1-10.2 min

#### Positive spectrum



#### 122 [isonicotinimidamide+H]<sup>+</sup>, 154 [isonicotinimidamide+H+MeOH]<sup>+</sup>.

#### Negative spectrum



202 [*p*-nitro-phenyl sulfonic acid-H]<sup>-</sup>.

## **Molecular Biology**



Dose measurement gel electrophoresis for compounds 6, 12 and 24.

**Figure S1.** Top: Dose measurement gel electrophoresis data for the irradiation of compounds **6**, **12** and **24** (500-1000  $\mu$ M). Lane 1: DNA without UV irradiation; Lane 2: DNA with UV irradiation; Lane 3: DNA + **6** (500  $\mu$ M); Lane 4: DNA + **6** (600  $\mu$ M); Lane 5: DNA + **6** (700  $\mu$ M); Lane 6: DNA + **6** (800  $\mu$ M); Lane 7: DNA + **6** (900  $\mu$ M); Lane 8: DNA + **6** (1000  $\mu$ M); Lane 9: DNA + **12** (500  $\mu$ M); Lane 10: DNA + **12** (600  $\mu$ M); Lane 11: DNA + **12** (700  $\mu$ M); Lane 12: DNA + **12** (800  $\mu$ M); Lane 13: DNA + **12** (900  $\mu$ M); Lane 14: DNA + **12** (1000  $\mu$ M); Lane 15: DNA + **25** (500  $\mu$ M); Lane 16: DNA + **24** (600  $\mu$ M); Lane 17: DNA + **24** (700  $\mu$ M); Lane 18: DNA + **24** (800  $\mu$ M)§; Lane 19: DNA + **24** (900  $\mu$ M); Lane 20: DNA + **24** (1000  $\mu$ M)§; Bottom: Calculation of the % conversion to ss and ds. § When the compound is very active the plasmid is broken in many pieces and cannot be seen on the gel.

#### Gel electrophoresis: mechanistic studies for compound 24.



**Figure S2.** Top: Gel electrophoresis data. Mechanistic studies involved at the DNA cleavage upon irradiation by derivative **24** (500  $\mu$ M). Lane 1: DNA without UV irradiation; Lane 2: DNA with UV irradiation; Lane 3: DNA + **24**; Lane 4: DNA + **24** + argon; Lane 5: DNA + **24** + DMSO (20%); Lane 6: DNA + **24** + NaN<sub>3</sub>; Lane 7: DNA + **24** + D<sub>2</sub>O; Bottom: Calculation of the % conversion to ss and ds.

#### Gel electrophoresis for compound 16 in various pH.



**Figure S3.** Top: Gel electrophoresis data of compound **16** (800  $\mu$ M) upon irradiation in various pH. Lane 1: DNA without UV irradiation; Lane 2: DNA with UV irradiation at pH 5; Lane 3: DNA + **16** at pH 5; Lane 4: DNA with UV irradiation at pH 6; Lane 5: DNA + **16** at pH 6; Lane 6: DNA with UV irradiation at pH 7; Lane 7: DNA + **16** at pH 7; Lane 8: DNA with UV irradiation at pH 8; Lane 9: DNA + **16** at pH 8; Lane 10: DNA with UV irradiation at pH 9; Lane 11: DNA + **16** at pH 9; Bottom: Calculation of the % conversion to ss damage.

## DNA affinity calculations



Figure S4. Plot of  $\frac{[DNA]}{(\epsilon_{A} - \epsilon_{f})}$  vs [DNA] for compound (A) 6, (B) 18, (C) 19, (D) 20, (E) 21, (F) 22, (G) 23 and (H) 24.



Figure S5. Stern–Volmer quenching plot of EB bound to CT DNA for compound (A) 6, (B) 18, (C) 19, (D) 20, (E) 21, (F) 22, (G) 23 and (H) 24.