Electronic Supplementary Information

REVEALING THE DIPOLAROPHILIC CHARACTER OF PHTHALIC ANHYDRIDES: 1,3-DIPOLAR CYCLOADDITIONS WITH AN AZOMETHINE YLIDE

Hugo Santos,^{*a*} Amy Distiller,^{*a*} Asha M. D'Souza,^{*a*} Quentin Arnoux,^{*a*} Jonathan M. White,^{*b*} Adam G. Meyer^{**a*} and John H. Ryan^{**a*}

 ^a CSIRO Manufacturing Flagship, Bag 10, Clayton South, Victoria 3169, Australia.; Tel: +61 3 9545 2476; +61 3 9545 2541; E-mail: adam.meyer@csiro.au; jack.ryan@csiro.au
^b School of Chemistry, Bio21 Institute, University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria 3010, Australia

Table of Contents

1. General experimental

2. Spiro(isobenzofuran-1,5'-oxazolidin)-3-ones (6)

3. Isobenzofuran-1(3H)-ones (8)

4. X-ray crystallography of 8b and CCDC searches

5. References

6. ¹H, ¹³C and ¹⁹F NMR spectra for new compounds

1. General experimental

Unless otherwise noted, all reactions were performed under an argon atmosphere in oven-dried glassware with magnetic stirring. Dry dichloromethane, methanol and tetrahydrofuran were obtained from a J. C. Meyer Solvent Dispensing System (two packed columns of neutral alumina). Petroleum ether (or petroleum spirit) refers to the fraction of liquid hydrocarbons with boiling point 40-60 °C. Trifluoroacetic acid was freshly distilled under nitrogen prior to use. All starting materials, reagents and solvents were of analytical grade, obtained from commercial sources and used as supplied unless otherwise noted. Commercial 4-methylphthalic anhydride 5e had partially hydrolysed to the corresponding diacid, and was dehydrated by refluxing in acetic anhydride (4.0 equivalents) for approximately 4 hours, filtered and dried in vacuo. 3,6-Dimethylphthalic anhydride 5b was prepared via a Diels-Alder reaction between 2,5dimethylfuran and maleic anhydride;¹ 3,6-dimethoxyphthalic anhydride 5c was prepared from 2,3dicyanohydroquinone;² 3-methoxyphthalic anhydride **5f** was prepared from 2,3-dimethylphenol.³ 4Å molecular sieves (1.6 mm pellets, from Sigma-Aldrich) were activated by several 20-30 s microwave cycles interspersed with shaking to remove any absorbed moisture, followed by placement of the microwaved sieves under high vacuum to ensure complete drying before use. Reaction products were purified by dry column vacuum chromatography (DCVC)⁴ or flash column chromatography⁵ using silica gel (15-40 μ m and 40–63 μ m, respectively). Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on Merck precoated silica gel 60 F_{254} (5-40 μ m thickness) plates, and were visualized using a 254 nm ultraviolet lamp and/or by dipping in ethanolic phosphomolybdic acid followed by heating. ¹H, ¹³C and ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AV400 instrument in CDCl₃ solutions at 25 °C, unless noted otherwise. Hydrogen, protondecoupled carbon-13 and fluorine-19 spectra were recorded at 400, 100 and 376 MHz, respectively. Chemical shifts (δ) are reported in parts per million (ppm). For ¹H NMR spectra, the peak due to residual solvent (δ 7.24 for CDCl₃) was used as the internal reference. The reference for proton-decoupled ¹³C NMR spectra, when recorded in CDCl₃, was the central peak (δ 77.23) of the CDCl₃ triplet. Data are reported as follows: chemical shift (δ), multiplicity, coupling constant (*J*) in Hz and integrated intensity. Abbreviations to denote the multiplicity of a particular signal are: s (singlet), bs (broad singlet), d (doublet), bd (broad doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), dd (double doublet), dt (double triplet) and m (multiplet). Electrospray lonisation (ESI) mass spectra were acquired with a VG Platform mass spectrometer using a cone voltage of 50 V and the source was maintained at 80 °C. The solvent system used was acetonitrile with a flow rate of 0.04 mL min⁻¹. Positive and negative ion atmospheric pressure on chemical ionization (APCI) mass spectra were acquired with a VG Platform mass spectrometer using a cone voltage of 50 V, and the source was maintained at 100 °C. Nitrogen was used as the nebuliser and sheath gas, and the probe temperature was 400 °C. The solvent system used was acetonitrile with a flow rate of 0.3 mL min⁻¹. High-resolution mass spectrometer is analyses (HRMS) were performed on a Thermo Scientific Q Exactive mass spectrometer fitted with a HESI-II ion source, an APCI ion source or an ASAP ion source⁶ according to the sample.

2. Spiro(isobenzofuran-1,5'-oxazolidin)-3-ones (6)

Initially, phthalic anhydride **5a** was reacted with azomethine ylide precursor **2** (1.80 mole equivalent) and lithium fluoride (1.25 mole equivalent) at 35 °C in acetonitrile, with sonication in the presence of 4Å molecular sieves over 3 h, to give 3'-benzyl-3H-spiro(isobenzofuran-1,5'-oxazolidin)-3-one **6a**. Repeating the cycloaddition reaction using TFA (0.05 mole equivalent) in CH_2Cl_2 (in place of LiF/sonication) also gave cycloadduct **6a**. The latter conditions involved milder reaction conditions, easier operations and work-up. These advantages, led us to complete the rest of the studies using the latter conditions

The spiro(isobenzofuran-1,5'-oxazolidin)-3-ones **6** were then prepared from phthalic anhydrides **5** according to the reaction conditions described in Table 1 of the manuscript.

3'-benzyl-3H-spiro(isobenzofuran-1,5'-oxazolidin)-3-one 6a

General procedure 1. To a solution of phthalic anhydride (**5a**) (150 mg, 1.01 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (7.5 mL) over 4Å molecular sieves at 0 °C under an atmosphere of nitrogen gas, was added *N*-(methoxymethyl)-*N*-trimethylsilylmethyl)benzylamine (**2**) (0.29 mL, 1.11 mmol). To the resulting mixture was added a solution of trifluoroacetic acid (1 M in CH₂Cl₂, 50 μ L, 0.05 mmol) dropwise with stirring. The resulting mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature, and allowed to stir until TLC analysis indicated consumption of starting material (18 h). The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*, and the residue was filtered through a plug of FlorisilTM using EtOAc as eluent to furnish the *title compound* **6a** (255 mg, 90% crude yield) as a viscous pale yellow oil.



R_f 0.41 (1:1 EtOAc/heptane). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (m, 1H), 4.92 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 4.85 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 4.13 (m, 2H), 3.60 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 3.45 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.1 (C=O), 146.5 (C_q), 138.5 (C_q), 134.8 (CH), 130.9 (CH), 129.1 (CH), 128.8 (CH), 127.8 (CH), 127.6 (C_q), 125.7 (CH), 122.7 (CH), 110.6 (C_q), 90.4 (CH₂), 63.0 (CH₂), 59.3 (CH₂). HRMS (ASAP) *m/z* [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₇H₁₆NO₃ 282.1125, found 282.1125.

3'-benzyl-4,7-dimethyl-3H-spiro(isobenzofuran-1,5'-oxazolidin)-3-one 6b



The *title compound* **6b** was prepared from 3,6-dimethylphthalic anhydride **5b** (128 mg, 0.73 mmol), *N*-(methoxymethyl)-*N*-trimethylsilylmethyl)benzylamine (**2a**) (0.37 mL, 1.45 mmol) and TFA (73 μ L, 0.07 mmol) using **General Procedure 1** to afford the *title compound* **6b** (299 mg, ~100% crude yield) as a pale yellow oil.

 R_f 0.35 (1:4 EtOAc/heptane). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.27 (m, 4H), 7.23 (d, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.96 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 4.91 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 4.21 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 3.60 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1H),

3.40 (d, J = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 2.65 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.3, 143.6, 138.8, 137.2, 136.4, 132.8, 131.3, 129.0, 128.8, 127.7, 125.2, 110.3, 90.1, 61.0, 59.3, 17.7, 17.4. HRMS (ASAP) m/z [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₉H₂₀NO₃ 310.1438, found 310.1436.

3'-benzyl-4,7-dimethoxy-3H-spiro(isobenzofuran-1,5'-oxazolidin)-3-one 6c



The *title compound* **6c** was prepared from 3,6-dimethoxyphthalic anhydride **5c** (694 mg, 3.33 mmol) using **General Procedure 1** to afford the *title compound* **6c** (1.03 g, 90% crude yield) as an amorphous yellow oil.

*R*_f 0.24 (1:1 EtOAc/heptane). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.42-7.26 (m, 5H), 7.08 (d, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.90 (d, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 4.82 (d, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 4.17 (d, *J* = 13.1 Hz, 1H), 4.10 (d, *J* = 13.1 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.76 (d, *J* = 13.0 Hz, 1H), 3.40 (d, *J* = 13.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.0, 152.2, 148.3, 139.1, 135.0, 129.2, 129.0, 128.7, 127.6, 118.5, 114.2, 108.9, 90.0, 60.6, 59.3, 56.6, 56.3. HRMS (ASAP) *m/z* [M + H]⁺

calcd for C₁₉H₂₀NO₅ 342.1336, found 342.1338.

3'-benzyl-7-methyl-3H-spiro(isobenzofuran-1,5'-oxazolidin)-3-one **6da** and 3'-benzyl-4-methyl-3H-spiro(isobenzofuran-1,5'-oxazolidin)-3-one **6db** (mixture of regioisomers)



The *title compounds* **6da** and **6db** were prepared from 3-methylphthalic anhydride **5d** (658 mg, 4.06 mmol) using **General Procedure 1** to afford the *title compounds* **6da** and **6db** in a ratio of 48:52, respectively (as determined by ¹H NMR) (1.23 g, >100% crude yield) as a viscous brown oil.

 R_f 0.65 and 0.49 (1:1 EtOAc/heptane). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.70 (d, J = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (t, J = 7.5 Hz,

1H), 7.48-7.40 (m, 6H), 7.35-7.27 (m, 8H), 4.95 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 4.89 (d, J = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 4.82 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 4.17 (d, J = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 4.15 (d, J = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 4.12 (m, 2H), 3.60 (d, J = 12.6 Hz, 1H), 3.57 (d, J = 12.6 Hz, 1H), 3.41 (d, J = 13.1 Hz, 2H), 2.67 (s, 3H, **6db**), 2.43 (s, 3H, **6da**). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.3, 168.2, 147.0, 143.3, 139.8, 138.7, 138.6, 136.6, 134.5, 134.3, 132.6, 131.1, 129.1, 129.0, 128.8, 128.0, 127.8, 127.7, 124.9, 123.2, 120.0, 111.4, 109.5, 90.3, 90.1, 63.1, 61.0, 59.3, 59.2, 18.0, 17.7. HRMS (ASAP) m/z [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₈H₁₈NO₃ 296.1281, found 296.1281.

3'-benzyl-6-methyl-3H-spiro(isobenzofuran-1,5'-oxazolidin)-3-one **6ea** and 3'-benzyl-5-methyl-3Hspiro(isobenzofuran-1,5'-oxazolidin)-3-one **6eb** (mixture of regioisomers)



The *title compounds* **6ea** and **6eb** were prepared from 4-methylphthalic anhydride **5e** (350 mg, 2.16 mmol), *N*-(methoxymethyl)-*N*-

trimethylsilylmethyl)benzylamine (**2a**) (0.83 mL, 3.24 mmol) and TFA (162 μ L, 0.16 mmol) using **General Procedure 1** to afford the *title compounds* **6ea** and **6eb** in a ratio of 63:37, respectively (as determined by ¹H NMR) (675 mg, ~100% crude yield) as a yellow oil.

 R_f 0.42 (**6ea**) and 0.35 (**6eb**) (1:1 EtOAc/heptane). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (mixture of regioisomers) δ 7.73 (d, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (s, 1H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.23 (m, 13H), 4.90 (d, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 1H), 4.89 (d, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 1H), 4.83 (d, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 1H), 4.82 (d, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 1H), 4.12 (s, 2H), 4.11 (s, 2H), 3.59 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 3.58 (d, *J* = 13.3 Hz, 1H), 3.43 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 3.41 (d, *J* = 13.3 Hz, 1H), 2.49 (s, 3H, **6ea**), 2.45 (s, 3H, **6eb**). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) (mixture of regioisomers) δ 168.2 (C=O_{min}), 168.1 (C=O_{maj}), 146.9,

146.2, 143.8, 141.5, 138.6, 135.9, 132.0, 129.1, 128.8, 127.8, 125.8, 125.7, 125.5, 125.0, 123.0, 110.6 ($C_{q,min}$), 110.3 ($C_{q,maj}$), 90.3 ($CH_{2,maj}$), 90.2 ($CH_{2,min}$), 63.0 ($CH_{2,maj}$), 62.9 ($CH_{2,min}$), 59.3 ($CH_{2,maj} + CH_{2,min}$), 22.3 ($CH_{3,maj}$), 21.6 ($CH_{3,min}$). HRMS (APCI) m/z [M + H]⁺ calcd for $C_{18}H_{18}NO_3$ 296.1281, found 296.1282.

3'-benzyl-7-methoxy-3H-spiro(isobenzofuran-1,5'-oxazolidin)-3-one **6fa** and 3'-benzyl-4-methoxy-3H-spiro(isobenzofuran-1,5'-oxazolidin)-3-one **6fb** (mixture of regioisomers)



The *title compounds* **6fa** and **6fb** were prepared from 3-methoxyphthalic anhydride **5f** (360 mg, 2.02 mmol) using **General Procedure 1** to afford the *title compounds* **6fa** and **6fb** in a ratio of 30:70, respectively (as determined by ¹H NMR) (376 mg, 60% crude yield) as a clear pale yellow oil.

 R_f 0.39 (**6fa**) and 0.28 (**6fb**) (1:1 EtOAc/heptane). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (mixture of regioisomers) δ 7.64 (dd, *J* = 7.6 and 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz,

1H), 7.46 (m, 1H), 7.40 (m, 4H), 7.35-7.26 (m, 6H), 7.12 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 4.92 (dd, J = 6.0 and 1.1 Hz, 1H), 4.88 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.87 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.85 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.17 (m, 2H), 4.10 (s, 2H), 3.98 (s, 3H, **6fb**), 3.91 (s, 3H, **6fa**), 3.76 (d, J = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 3.57 (d, J = 13.3 Hz, 1H), 3.42 (dd, J = 13.2 and 1.1 Hz, 1H), 3.41 (d, J = 13.3 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) (mixture of regioisomers) δ 168.1 (C=O_{min}), 166.1 (C=O_{maj}), 158.4, 154.9, 149.3, 139.0, 138.6, 137.1, 133.1, 132.9, 129.5, 129.2, 129.1, 128.8, 128.7, 127.7, 127.6, 117.3 (CH_{min}), 116.2 (CH_{min}), 114.6 (C_{q,min}), 114.3 (CH_{maj}), 112.7 (CH_{maj}), 110.3 (C_{q,min}), 109.2 (C_{q,maj}), 90.2 (CH_{2,maj}), 90.0 (CH_{2,min}), 63.2 (CH_{2,maj}), 60.5 (CH_{2,min}), 59.4 (CH_{2,min}), 59.2 (CH_{2,maj}), 56.0 (CH_{3,min}). HRMS (ASAP) m/z [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₈H₁₈NO₄ 312.1230, found 312.1230.

3'-benzyl-4,7-difluoro-3H-spiro(isobenzofuran-1,5'-oxazolidin)-3-one 6g



The *title compound* **6g** was prepared from 3,6-difluorophthalic anhydride **5g** (185 mg, 1.0 mmol) using **General Procedure 1** to afford the *title compound* **6g** (449 mg, ~100% crude yield) as a viscous yellow oil.

*R*_f 0.09 (1:9 MeOH/CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.41 (m, 2H), 7.37-7.26 (m, 4H), 7.24-7.17 (m, 1H), 4.95 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 4.85 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 4.13 (m, 2H), 3.63 (d, *J* = 13.4 Hz, 1H), 3.56 (d, *J* = 13.4 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.9, 155.3 (dd, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 260.5 Hz and ⁴*J*_{C-F} = 2.9 Hz), 152.9 (dd, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 249.6 Hz and ⁴*J*_{C-F} = 3.1 Hz), 138.4, 133.7 (d, ²*J*_{C-F} = 17.4 Hz), 129.2, 128.8, 127.8, 124.1 (dd, ²*J*_{C-F} = 22.6 Hz and ³*J*_{C-F} = 7.7 Hz), 120.3 (dd, ²*J*_{C-F} =

21.9Hz and ${}^{3}J_{C-F} = 6.8$ Hz), 116.8 (dd, ${}^{2}J_{C-F} = 15.8$ Hz and ${}^{3}J_{C-F} = 3.0$ Hz), 108.5 (d, $J_{C-F} = 2.5$ Hz), 90.5, 61.5, 59.1. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -119.4 (d, ${}^{5}J_{F-F} = 23.9$ Hz, 1F), -124.1 (d, ${}^{5}J_{F-F} = 23.9$ Hz, 1F). HRMS (ESI) m/z [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₇H₁₄NO₃F₂ 318.0936, found 318.0937.

3'-benzyl-4,5,6,7-tetrabromo-3H-spiro(isobenzofuran-1,5'-oxazolidin)-3-one 6h



The *title compound* **6h** was prepared from 3,4,5,6-tetrabromophthalic anhydride **5h** (1.81 g, 3.90 mmol) using **General Procedure 1** to afford the *title compound* **6g** (1.56 g, 67% crude yield) as a yellow amorphous solid.

*R*_f 0.68 (1:1 EtOAc/heptane). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.42-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.28 (m, 1H), 5.06 (s, 2H), 4.20 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 4.13 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 3.37 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.8, 145.7, 138.4, 137.7, 134.3, 129.2, 128.8, 127.9,

127.8, 123.7, 120.2, 108.8, 92.1, 60.2, 59.7. HRMS (ASAP) m/z [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₇H₁₂Br₄NO₃ 593.7545, found 593.7548.

3. Isobenzofuran-1(3H)-ones (8)

The isobenzofuran-1(3H)-ones **8** were prepared from spiro(isobenzofuran-1,5'-oxazolidin)-3-ones **6** according to the reaction conditions described in Table 2 of the manuscript.

3-((benzyl(methyl)amino)methyl)-3-hydroxyisobenzofuran-1(3H)-one 8a

General procedure 2. To a solution of 3'-benzyl-3*H*-spiro(isobenzofuran-1,5'-oxazolidin)-3-one **6a** (260 mg, 0.92 mmol) in methanol (6.0 mL) under an atmosphere of nitrogen gas, sodium borohydride (52 mg, 1.39 mmol) was added. The resulting solution was stirred until TLC indicated consumption of starting material (18 h). The reaction was quenched with the addition of aqueous saturated NH₄Cl (15 mL) and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3x15 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by dry column vacuum chromatography (i.d. 2-4 cm; 10-25 mL fractions; 0-15% MeOH in CHCl₃; 1% increments) to furnish the *title compound* **8a** (196 mg, 76% yield) as a yellow amorphous solid.



*R*_f 0.43 (8:92 MeOH/CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.84 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.29 (m, 5H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 2H), 2.93 (s, 2H), 2.55 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.5, 147.7, 137.4, 134.5, 130.9, 129.6, 128.9, 128.2, 128.1, 125.7, 122.9, 107.6, 63.3, 62.8, 43.5. HRMS (ASAP) *m*/*z* [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₇H₁₈NO₃ 284.1281, found 282.1283.

3-((benzyl(methyl)amino)methyl)-3-hydroxy-4,7-dimethylisobenzofuran-1(3H)-one 8b



The *title compound* **8b** was prepared from 3'-benzyl-4,7-dimethyl-3*H*-spiro(isobenzofuran-1,5'-oxazolidin)-3-one **6b** (283 mg, 0.91 mmol) using **General Procedure 2** to afford the *title compound* **8b** (132 mg, 69% yield) as a white crystalline solid.

R_f 0.4 (1:9 MeOH/CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.37-7.27 (m, 5H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (bs, 1H), 4.00 (d, *J* = 12.6 Hz, 1H), 3.54 (d, *J* = 12.6 Hz, 1H), 3.18 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 2.64 (s, 3H), 2.58 (s, 3H), 2.52 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 1.84 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.7,

145.5, 137.8, 136.8, 136.2, 132.6, 131.5, 129.8, 128.9, 128.1, 125.6, 103.9, 63.1, 61.1, 44.4, 17.4, 16.2. HRMS (ESI) m/z [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₉H₂₂NO₃ 312.1594, found 312.1594; m/z [M - H]⁻ calcd for C₁₉H₂₀NO₅ 310.1449, found 310.1450.

3-((benzyl(methyl)amino)methyl)-3-hydroxy-4,7-dimethoxyisobenzofuran-1(3H)-one 8c



The *title compound* **8c** was prepared from 3'-benzyl-4,7-dimethoxy-3*H*-spiro(isobenzofuran-1,5'-oxazolidin)-3-one **6c** (450 mg, 1.32 mmol) using **General Procedure 2** to afford the *title compound* **8c** (146 mg, 39%) as a viscous yellow oil.

*R*_f 0.4 (5:95 MeOH/CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.36-7.26 (m, 5H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.78 (bs, 2H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 3.21 (bs, 1H), 2.82 (bs, 1H), 2.53 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.2, 152.1, 148.5, 137.7, 136.1, 129.6, 128.7, 127.7, 118.7, 116.6, 114.2,

103.3, 63.0, 60.8, 56.5, 56.3, 43.8. HRMS (ESI) m/z [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₉H₂₂NO₅ 344.1492, found 344.1493; m/z [M - H]⁻ calcd for C₁₉H₂₀NO₃ 342.1347, found 342.1350.

3-((benzyl(methyl)amino)methyl)-3-hydroxy-4-methylisobenzofuran-1(3H)-one 8da



The *title compound* **8da** was prepared from the regioisomeric mixture of 3'benzyl-7-methyl-3*H*-spiro(isobenzofuran-1,5'-oxazolidin)-3-one **6da** and 3'benzyl-4-methyl-3*H*-spiro(isobenzofuran-1,5'-oxazolidin)-3-one **6db** (299 mg, 1.01 mmol) using **General Procedure 2** to afford the *title compound* **8da** (81 mg, 31% yield) as a white amorphous solid.

*R*_f 0.69 (1:9 MeOH/CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.65 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.27 (m, 7H), 6.77 (bs, 1H), 3.97 (bs, 1H), 3.59 (bs, 1H), 3.17 (bs, 1H), 2.65 (s, 3H), 2.60 (bs, 1H), 1.88 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.6, 145.1, 137.7, 136.4, 134.5, 130.8, 129.8, 129.0, 128.4, 128.1,

123.0, 105.3, 63.1, 60.9, 44.4, 16.5. HRMS (ASAP) m/z [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₈H₂₀NO₃ 298.1438, found 298.1432.

3-((benzyl(methyl)amino)methyl)-3-hydroxy-7-methylisobenzofuran-1(3H)-one 8db



The *title compound* **8db** was prepared from the regioisomeric mixture of 3'benzyl-7-methyl-3*H*-spiro(isobenzofuran-1,5'-oxazolidin)-3-one **6da** and 3'benzyl-4-methyl-3*H*-spiro(isobenzofuran-1,5'-oxazolidin)-3-one **6db** (299 mg, 1.01 mmol) using **General Procedure 2** to afford the *title compound* **8db** (79 mg, 31% yield) as a viscous colourless oil.

*R*_f 0.62 (1:9 MeOH/CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.27 (m, 6H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (bs, 2H), 2.87 (bs, 2H), 2.65 (s, 3H), 2.53 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.6, 148.5, 139.7, 137.7, 134.2, 132.5, 129.5, 128.8, 127.9, 125.4, 120.1, 103.7, 63.6, 63.0, 43.6, 17.7.

HRMS (ASAP) m/z [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₈H₂₀NO₃ 298.1438, found 298.1437.

3-((benzyl(methyl)amino)methyl)-3-hydroxy-5-methylisobenzofuran-1(3H)-one 8ea



The *title compound* **8ea** was prepared from the regioisomeric mixture of 3'-benzyl-6-methyl-3H-spiro(isobenzofuran-1,5'-oxazolidin)-3-one **6ea** and 3'-benzyl-5-methyl-3H-spiro(isobenzofuran-1,5'-oxazolidin)-3-one **6eb** (596 mg, 1.01 mmol) using **General Procedure 2** to afford the *title compound* **8ea** (143 mg, 29%yield) as a pale yellow amorphous solid.

 R_f 0.40 (1:9 MeOH/CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.72 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.28 (m, 6H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 4.99 (bs, 1H), 3.82 (s, 2H), 2.96 (s, 2H), 2.52 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.6, 148.2, 145.7, 137.6, 131.9, 129.5, 128.8, 127.9, 125.7, 125.5, 123.2, 108.0, 63.6, 62.9,

43.4, 22.2. HRMS (ASAP) m/z [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₈H₂₀NO₃ 298.1438, found 298.1444.

3-((benzyl(methyl)amino)methyl)-3-hydroxy-6-methylisobenzofuran-1(3H)-one 8eb



The *title compound* **8eb** was prepared from the regioisomeric mixture of 3'-benzyl-6-methyl-3H-spiro(isobenzofuran-1,5'-oxazolidin)-3-one **6ea** and 3'-benzyl-5-methyl-3H-spiro(isobenzofuran-1,5'-oxazolidin)-3-one **6eb** (596 mg, 1.01 mmol) using **General Procedure 2** to afford the *title compound* **8eb** (69 mg, 14% yield) as a viscous yellow oil.

 R_f 0.32 (1:9 MeOH/CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.40 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.28 (m, 5H), 7.14 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 5.52 (bs, 1H), 3.82 (s, 2H), 2.98 (s, 2H), 2.52 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.8, 144.9, 141.3, 137.6, 135.3, 129.5, 129.2, 128.7, 128.0, 126.0, 122.7, (C_q not observed), 63.5, 62.8, 43.4, 21.5. HRMS (ASAP) m/z [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₈H₂₀NO₃ 298.1438, found 298.1432.

3-((benzyl(methyl)amino)methyl)-3-hydroxy-4-methoxyisobenzofuran-1(3H)-one 8fa



The *title compound* **8fa** was prepared from the regioisomeric mixture of 3'benzyl-7-methoxy-3H-spiro(isobenzofuran-1,5'-oxazolidin)-3-one **6fa** and 3'benzyl-4-methoxy-3H-spiro(isobenzofuran-1,5'-oxazolidin)-3-one **6fb** (314 mg, 1.01 mmol) using **General Procedure 2** to afford the *title compound* **8fa** (79 mg, 26%yield) as a yellow oil.

 R_f 0.20 (5:95 MeOH/CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.45 (bs, 2H), 7.33-7.25 (m, 5H), 7.05 (bs, 1H), 5.58 (bs, 1H), 3.80 (s, 2H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.14 (bs, 2H), 2.53 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.8, 155.2, 137.9, 133.9,

132.5, 129.7, 128.7, 128.6, 127.7, 117.7, 115.9, (C_q not observed), 62.9, 61.3, 55.9, 43.7. HRMS (ASAP) m/z [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₈H₂₀NO₄ 314.1387, found 314.1385.

3-((benzyl(methyl)amino)methyl)-3-hydroxy-7-methoxyisobenzofuran-1(3H)-one 8fb



The *title compound* **8fb** was prepared from the regioisomeric mixture of 3'benzyl-7-methoxy-3H-spiro(isobenzofuran-1,5'-oxazolidin)-3-one **6fa** and 3'benzyl-4-methoxy-3H-spiro(isobenzofuran-1,5'-oxazolidin)-3-one **6fb** (314 mg, 1.01 mmol) using **General Procedure 2** to afford the *title compound* **8fb** (100 mg, 33%yield) as a viscous light yellow oil.

*R*_f 0.47 (5:95 MeOH/CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.56 (dd, *J* = 8.3 and 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.27 (m, 5H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.71 (bs, 2H), 2.87 (bs, 2H), 2.52 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.4, 158.4, 150.8, 137.7, 136.7, 129.5, 128.8, 127.9, 115.2, 114.4,

112.6, 103.4, 63.5, 62.9, 56.3, 43.6. HRMS (ASAP) m/z [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₈H₂₀NO₄ 314.1387, found 314.1388.

3-((benzyl(methyl)amino)methyl)-4,5,6,7-tetrabromo-3-hydroxyisobenzofuran-1(3H)-one 8h



The *title compound* **8h** was prepared from 3'-*benzyl-4,5,6,7-tetrabromo-3H-spiro(isobenzofuran-1,5'-oxazolidin)-3-one* **6h** (601 mg, 1.01 mmol) using **General Procedure 2** to afford the *title compound* **8h** (107 mg, 21% yield) as an amorphous yellow solid.

*R*_f 0.80 (8:92 MeOH/CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.38-7.28 (m, 5H), 3.99 (bd, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 3.63-3.59 (m, 2H), 2.61 (s, 3H), 2.56 (bd, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.1, 147.3, 137.5, 137.3, 134.1, 130.0, 129.0, 128.2, 128.1, 123.3, 120.8, 103.4, 62.9, 59.5, 44.0. HRMS (ASAP) m/z [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₇H₁₄⁷⁹Br₄NO₃ 595.7702, found 595.7704.

4. X-ray crystallography of 8b and CCDC searches



Crystallography. Intensity data were collected on an Oxford SuperNova CCD diffractometer using Mo-K α radiation (graphite crystal monochromators) $\lambda = 0.71073$ Å, the temperature during data collection was maintained at 130.0(1). The structure was solved by direct methods (SHELXT) and difference Fourier synthesis (SHELX-2014).⁷ Thermal ellipsoid plots were generated using the program ORTEP-3⁸ integrated within the WINGX⁹ suite of programs.

Crystal data for **8b**. C₁₉H₂₁NO₃, M = 311.37, T = 130.0(2) K, $\lambda = 0.71073$ Å, Monoclinic, space group $P2_1/c$ a = 7.2941(2), b = 13.2249(3), c = 17.2264(4) Å, $\beta = 96.919(2)^{\circ}$ V = 1649.62(7) Å³, Z = 4, $D_c = 1.254$ Mg M⁻³ μ (Mo-K α) = 0.085 mm⁻¹, F(000) = 664, crystal size 0.49 x 0.38 x 0.29 mm. $\theta_{max} = 36.5^{\circ}$, 45689 reflections measured, 7831 independent reflections (R_{int} = 0.034) the final R = 0.0461 [I > 2 σ (I), 6084 data] and wR(F²) = 0.10369 (all data) GOOF = 1.073.

Anomeric Effect:



1.383(1) Å

CCDC search of the following fragments:





5. References

- 1. Kirchwehm, Y.; Damme, A.; Kupfer, T.; Braunschweig, H.; Krueger, A. Chem. Commun. 2012, 48, 1502.
- 2. Krapcho, A. P.; Petry, M. E.; Hacker M. P. J. Med. Chem. 1990, 33, 2651.

3. (a) Eskildsen, J.; Christensen, T.; Reenberg, T.; Larsen U.; Christensen, J. B. Org. Prep. Proced. Int. 2000, 32, 398. (b) US 2011/184188 A1.

- 4. Pedersen, D. S.; Rosenbohm, C. Synthesis 2001, 2431.
- 5. Still, W. C.; Kahn, M.; Mitra, A. J. Org. Chem 1978, 43, 2923.
- 6. Petucci, C.; Diffenda, J. J. Mass Spectrom. 2008, 43, 1565.
- 7. Sheldrick, G.M., Acta Cryst. 2008, A64, 112.
- 8. Farrugia, L. J.; J. Appl. Cryst. 1997, 30, 565.
- 9. Farrugia, L. J.; J. Appl. Cryst. 1999, 32, 837.

6. ¹H, ¹³C and ¹⁹F NMR spectra for new compounds (only resonance signals associated with each compound have been integrated and/or assigned chemical shift values)



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum of cycloadduct **6a**.



¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum of cycloadduct **6a**.



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum of cycloadduct **6b**.



¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum of cycloadduct **6b**.



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum of cycloadduct **6c**.



¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum of cycloadduct **6c**.



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum of cycloadducts **6da** and **6db**.



¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum of cycloadducts **6da** and **6db**.



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum of cycloadducts **6ea** and **6eb**.



¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum of cycloadducts **6ea** and **6eb**.



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum of cycloadducts **6fa** and **6fb**.



¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum of cycloadducts **6fa** and **6fb**.



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum of cycloadduct **6g**.



¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum of cycloadduct **6g**.



¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum of cycloadduct **6g**.



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum of cycloadduct **6h**.



¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum of cycloadduct **6h**.



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum of compound **8a**.



¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum of compound **8a**.



HMBC contour plot of 8a.



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum of compound **8b**.



¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum of compound **8b**.



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃,) spectrum of compound **8c**.



¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum of compound **8c**.



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃,) spectrum of compound **8da**.



¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum of compound **8da**.



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃,) spectrum of compound **8db**.



¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum of compound **8db**.



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃,) spectrum of compound **8ea**.



¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum of compound **8ea**.



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃,) spectrum of compound **8eb**.



¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum of compound **8eb**.



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃,) spectrum of compound **8fa**.



¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum of compound **8fa**.



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃,) spectrum of compound **8fb**.



¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum of compound **8fb**.



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃,) spectrum of compound **8h**.



¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum of compound **8h**.