

## Electronic Supporting Information

### One-pot Synthesis of Indolizine via 1,3-Dipolar Cycloaddition Using Sub-equivalent Amount of $K_2Cr_2O_7$ as an Efficient Oxidant under Base Free Conditions

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### General methods and materials:

Unless otherwise noted, all commercial reagents and solvents were obtained from the commercial provider and used without further purification.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker 400 MHz spectrometers. Chemical shifts were reported relative to internal tetramethylsilane ( $\delta$  0.00 ppm) or  $\text{CDCl}_3$  ( $\delta$  7.26 ppm) for  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $\text{CDCl}_3$  ( $\delta$  77.0 ppm) for  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR. Flash column chromatography was performed on 300-400 mesh silica gels. Analytical thin layer chromatography was performed with pre-coated glass baked plates (250 $\mu$ ) and visualized by fluorescence. HRMS were recorded on Bruker micrOTOF-Q spectrometer. IR spectra were recorded by Nicolet iS50 spectrometer.

### General procedure for synthesis of indolizines:

Pyridine derivative (**1**, 0.21 mmol) and  $\alpha$ -halide carbonyl compound (**2**, 0.20 mmol) in 0.20 mL of DMF were heated at 60  $^\circ\text{C}$  in a test tube with a stopper for 2 h to form **3** in situ. Then alkene (**4**, 0.30 mmol), potassium dichromate (0.15 mmol) and another 1.80 mL of DMF were added to the tube. Then the mixture was heated at 80  $^\circ\text{C}$  for another 8h (the reaction course was monitored by TLC). Then the mixture was cooled to r.t., passed through a layer of silica gel and washed with ethyl acetate to remove the inorganic by-products. Then solvent was removed by reduce pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatogram on silica gel using petroleum ether/ ethyl acetate as eluate to give the corresponding indolizine.

### Characteristic data of new compounds

*Compound 5k* {3-benzoyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)indolizine-1-carbonitrile}: 46.5 mg (69%, PE/ EA = 8/1); yellow solid; m. p. 65-67  $^\circ\text{C}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.65 (d,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d,  $J$  = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.09 – 7.03 (m, 5H), 6.89 (d,  $J$  = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 2.21 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  187.4, 140.3, 138.6, 138.2, 131.6, 130.2, 129.5, 128.7, 128.6, 127.6, 127.4, 117.3, 115.4, 31.9, 31.0, 30.9, 29.7, 29.4, 22.7; IR (KBr): 2917, 2849, 2214, 1614, 1563, 1507, 1463, 1433; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ : 336.1263  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ ; found: 359.1155.

*Compound 5l* {1-(3-benzoylindolizin-1-yl)propan-1-one}: 46.8 mg (85%, PE/ EA = 6/ 1); white solid; m. p. 133-135  $^\circ\text{C}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.95 (d,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 8.65 (d,  $J$  = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.61 – 7.56 (m, 1H), 7.55 – 7.45 (m, 3H), 7.12 (t,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.87 (q,  $J$  = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.21 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  196.2, 185.5, 140.0, 139.6, 131.5, 129.0, 128.9, 128.8, 128.5, 128.2, 122.3, 120.5, 116.1, 114.3, 32.9, 29.7; IR (KBr): 2974, 2935, 1652, 1623, 1574, 1512, 1478, 1458, 1439, 1411; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_2$ : 277.1103  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ ; found: 300.0995.

*Compound 5o* {phenyl(1-(phenylsulfonyl)indolizin-3-yl)methanone}: 30.9 mg (43%, PE/ EA = 8/ 1); white solid; m. p. 193-194  $^\circ\text{C}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.96 (d,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 8.25 (d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.89 – 7.78 (m, 3H), 7.65 (t,  $J$  = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.59 – 7.53 (m, 3H), 7.53 – 7.48 (m, 3H), 7.17 (t,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  185.6,

143.2, 139.2, 137.1, 132.8, 132.0, 129.4, 129.2, 129.0, 128.6, 128.3, 127.5, 126.5, 122.7, 117.7, 115.9, 113.9; IR (KBr): 2918, 2849, 1621, 1563, 1500, 1479, 1447; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>S: 361.0773 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>; found: 384.0665

**Compound 6a** {butyl 3-benzoyl-5-methylindolizine-1-carboxylate}: 31.3 mg (47%, PE/ EA = 8/1); yellow sticky oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 8.39 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.07 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.75 (s, 1H), 7.65 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.48 – 7.42 (m, 1H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 4.33 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 2.62 (s, 3H), 1.80 – 1.73 (m, 2H), 1.52 – 1.44 (m, 2H), 0.98 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 182.9, 164.2, 141.8, 139.8, 138.6, 132.6, 130.3, 129.6, 128.4, 127.4, 125.4, 117.1, 116.7, 105.5, 63.9, 31.0, 29.7, 23.2, 19.3; IR (KBr): 2959, 1670, 1632, 1561, 1522, 1480, 1421; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>: 335.1521 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>; found: 358.1414.

**Compound 6b** {butyl 3-benzoyl-5,7-dimethylindolizine-1-carboxylate}: 25.9 mg (37%, PE/ EA = 8/1); yellow solid; m. p. 56-59 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.19 (s, 1H), 8.05 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.64 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.79 (s, 1H), 4.32 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.50 (s, 3H), 1.79 – 1.72 (m, 2H), 1.51 – 1.42 (m, 2H), 0.98 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 182.6, 164.4, 142.5, 139.3, 139.0, 138.8, 132.4, 130.2, 128.4, 125.0, 119.2, 116.1, 104.3, 63.8, 31.0, 30.9, 29.7, 23.0, 21.3, 19.3; IR (KBr): 2957, 2917, 2849, 1687, 1626, 1538, 1514, 1482, 1465; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>: 349.1678 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>; found: 372.1570.

**Compound 6d** {butyl 3-benzoylpyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1-carboxylate}: 52.5 mg (71%, PE/ EA = 10/1); yellow solid; m. p. 109-111 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.84 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 9.66 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.84 (s, 1H), 7.79 – 7.74 (m, 1H), 7.68 – 7.66 (m, 2H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.37 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.80 – 1.76 (m, 2H), 1.53 – 1.43 (m, 2H), 1.00 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 185.9, 164.7, 139.8, 136.9, 131.8, 130.5, 130.1, 129.3, 129.3, 128.4, 128.1, 127.8, 126.7, 125.1, 124.6, 123.3, 115.5, 110.3, 64.6, 30.9, 19.4, 13.9; IR (KBr): 2961, 1710, 1622, 1524, 1459, 1424, 1362; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>: 371.1521 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>; found: 394.1414.

**Compound 6f** {1-butyl 7-methyl 3-benzoylindolizine-1,7-dicarboxylate}: 43.2 mg (57%, PE/ EA = 8/ 1); yellow solid; m. p. 112-113 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.92 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 9.12 – 8.97 (m, 1H), 7.87 (s, 1H), 7.86 – 7.81 (m, 2H), 7.61 (dd, *J* = 7.3, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 4.37 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 4.00 (s, 3H), 1.87 – 1.73 (m, 2H), 1.58 – 1.45 (m, 2H), 1.01 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 185.9, 165.2, 163.7, 139.4, 138.2, 131.9, 129.1, 129.1, 128.5, 128.5, 128.0, 123.7, 121.9, 114.1, 109.2, 64.4, 52.7, 30.9, 19.4, 13.8; IR (KBr): 2957, 1725, 1702, 1618, 1529, 1473, 1433; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>: 379.1420 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>; found: 402.1312.

**Compound 6g** {butyl 3-(4-nitrobenzoyl)indolizine-1-carboxylate}: 65.2mg (89%, PE/ EA = 6/ 1); yellow solid; m. p. 87-89 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.99 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 8.44 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz 1H), 8.38 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.75 (s, 1H), 7.55 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 4.34 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 1.81 – 1.74 (m, 2H), 1.52 – 1.42 (m, 2H),

0.99 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  182.9, 163.8, 149.4, 145.4, 140.4, 129.7, 129.3, 129.2, 128.6, 123.7, 121.9, 119.7, 116.0, 107.3, 64.3, 30.9, 19.3, 13.8; IR (KBr): 2959, 2873, 1702, 1634, 1619, 1598, 1562, 1522, 1484; HRMS (ESI):  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ : 366.1216  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ ; found: 389.1108

*Compound 6h* {butyl 3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)indolizine-1-carboxylate}: 43.8 mg (62%, PE/ EA = 6/ 1); white solid; m. p. 72-73 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.88 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.35 (d,  $J = 8.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.87 – 7.78 (m, 3H), 7.40 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.03 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 2H), 4.32 (t,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 1.79 – 1.72 (m, 2H), 1.51 – 1.41 (m, 2H), 0.97 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  184.5, 164.3, 162.5, 139.6, 132.3, 131.2, 129.1, 128.3, 127.3, 122.7, 119.5, 115.0, 113.7, 106.0, 64.0, 55.5, 31.0, 29.7, 19.4; IR (KBr): 2952, 2918, 1711, 1616, 1600, 1523, 1485; HRMS (ESI):  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_4$ : 351.1471  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ ; found: 374.1363.

*Compound 6i* {1-butyl 3-ethyl indolizine-1,3-dicarboxylate}: 33.0 mg (57%, PE/ EA = 8/ 1); yellow solid; m. p. 53-55 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.53 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.34 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.99 (s, 1H), 7.34 – 7.30 (m, 1H), 6.98 (t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 4.40 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 4.35 (t,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, 2H), 1.83 – 1.76 (m, 2H), 1.57 – 1.49 (m, 2H), 1.43 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H), 1.01 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  164.3, 161.2, 139.0, 127.9, 125.6, 124.2, 119.6, 114.7, 114.3, 105.2, 63.8, 60.3, 31.0, 19.4, 14.5, 13.8; IR ((KBr): 2961, 1692, 1525, 1492, 1433; HRMS (ESI):  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_4$ : 289.1314  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ ; found: 312.1206.

*Compound 6j* {1-butyl 3-phenyl indolizine-1,3-dicarboxylate}: 25.6 mg (38%, PE/ EA = 8/ 1); white solid; m. p. 91-93 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.53 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.42 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.25 (s, 1H), 7.47 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.43 – 7.38 (m, 1H), 7.32 (d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.29 – 7.25 (m, 2H), 7.05 (t,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 1H), 4.38 (t,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 2H), 1.85 – 1.78 (m, 2H), 1.59 – 1.50 (m, 2H), 1.03 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  164.1, 159.5, 150.5, 139.7, 129.5, 128.1, 126.3, 125.9, 125.4, 121.9, 119.7, 114.8, 113.6, 105.9, 77.3, 64.0, 31.0, 19.4, 13.8; IR (KBr): 2958, 1711, 1687, 1633, 1526, 1488, 1445, 1434; HRMS (ESI):  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_4$ : 337.1314  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ ; found: 360.1206.

*Compound 6k* {butyl 3-cyanoindolizine-1-carboxylate}: 44.6 mg (92%, PE/ EA = 8/ 1); yellow solid; m. p. 71-73 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.32 (t,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.78 (s, 1H), 7.38 – 7.29 (m, 1H), 7.03 (t,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 1H), 4.32 (t,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 2H), 1.81 – 1.71 (m, 2H), 1.53 – 1.43 (m, 2H), 0.98 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  163.4, 137.8, 126.0, 125.7, 125.2, 120.4, 115.0, 112.7, 106.1, 96.6, 64.2, 30.9, 29.7, 19.4; IR (KBr): 2963, 2930, 2212, 1702, 1521, 1488, 1448, 1435; HRMS (ESI):  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ : 242.1055  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ ; found: 265.0947.

# Copies of compounds' NMR spectra

























