

***[3+2] Annulations between Indoles and  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -Unsaturated Ketones:  
Access to Pyrrolo[1,2-a]indoles and Model Reactions Toward the  
Originally Assigned Structure of Yuremamine***

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Supporting Information – Table of Contents

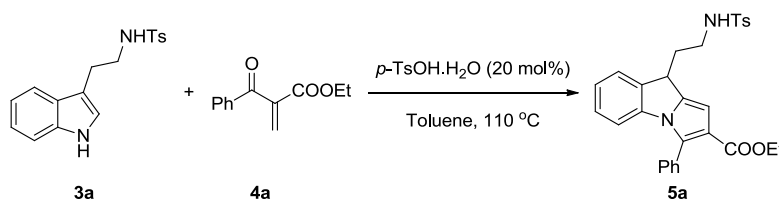
<b>Materials and Methods</b> .....	<b>S2</b>
<b>Experimental Procedures</b>	
<b>A. General procedure for the [3+2] annulations</b> .....	<b>S2</b>
<b>B. Model reactions via Curtius rearrangement</b> .....	<b>S10</b>
<b>C. Model reactions via Baeyer-Villiger oxidation</b> .....	<b>S12</b>
<b>NMR Spectra</b> .....	<b>S17</b>

## Materials and methods

Unless stated otherwise, reactions were conducted in dry glassware using anhydrous solvents (passed through activated alumina columns) and commercially available reagents were used as received without further purification. Reaction temperatures were controlled using an IKA Mag temperature modulator, and unless stated otherwise, reactions were performed at room temperature (rt, approximately 23 °C). Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was conducted with plates (GF254) supplied by Yantai Chemicals (China) and visualized using a combination of UV, anisaldehyde, iodine, and potassium permanganate staining. Silica gel (200-300 mesh) supplied by Tsingtao Haiyang Chemicals (China) was used for flash column chromatography.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker spectrometers (at 400 MHz) and are reported relative to residual solvent signals. Data for  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra are reported as follows: chemical shift ( $\delta$  ppm), multiplicity, coupling constant (Hz) and integration. Data for  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra are reported in terms of chemical shift. High resolution mass spectra were obtained from the Tsinghua University Mass Spectrometry Facilities.

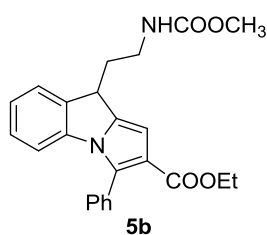
## Experimental Procedures

### A. General procedure for the [3+2] annulations between indoles and $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated ketones

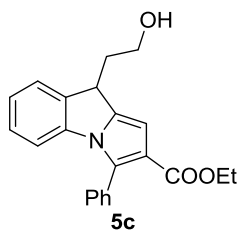


To a solution of **3a** (62.8 mg, 0.2 mmol) and **4a** (49.0 mg, 0.24 mmol) in toluene (1.0 mL) in a sealed tube at room temperature was added  $p$ -toluenesulfonic acid monohydrate (7.6 mg, 0.04 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at 110 °C for 2 h and then cooled to room temperature. The reaction was concentrated under reduced pressure to afford the crude residue, which was purified directly. Purification by silica gel chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:5) afforded the desired product **5a** (87.1 mg, 87% yield) as a yellow solid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 7.78 (d,  $J =$

8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.469 (s, 5H), 7.32 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.06 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.01 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d,  $J = 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 5.12 (d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz, 1H), 4.15-4.06 (m, 3H), 3.24-3.10 (m, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.27-2.18 (m, 1H), 1.87-1.78 (m, 1H), 1.13 (t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 164.8, 143.6, 140.0, 138.9, 137.9, 136.8, 131.5, 131.4, 130.7, 129.8, 128.8, 128.0, 127.7, 127.2, 125.1, 124.6, 117.7, 112.4, 104.2, 59.6, 40.6, 37.5, 33.8, 21.6, 14.1; HRMS-ESI ( $m/z$ )  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{29}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4\text{S}$ , 501.1848; found, 501.1835.

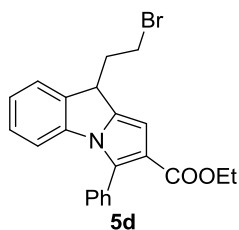


Purification by silica gel chromatography (dichloromethane/ethyl acetate = 50:1) afforded the above compound **5b** (65.4 mg, 81% yield) as a yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 7.51 (s, 1H), 7.48 (s, 4H), 7.38 (d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.08 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.02 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.70 (s, 1H), 6.52 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 5.04 (s, 1H), 4.13 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 4.09-4.03 (m, 1H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.45-3.35 (m, 2H), 2.29-2.24 (m, 1H), 1.92-1.86 (m, 1H), 1.15 (t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 164.8, 157.2, 140.0, 139.2, 138.3, 131.6, 131.4, 130.7, 128.8, 127.6, 125.1, 124.6, 117.8, 112.4, 104.2, 59.6, 52.1, 38.6, 37.9, 34.0, 14.2; HRMS-ESI ( $m/z$ )  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$ , 405.1814; found, 405.1796.

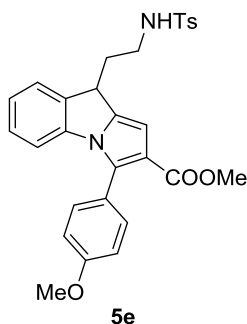


Purification by silica gel chromatography (dichloromethane/ethyl acetate = 25:1) afforded the above compound **5c** (37.2 mg, 54% yield) as a light yellow solid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 7.54-7.48 (m, 5H), 7.41 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.10 (t,  $J = 7.6$

Hz, 1H), 7.03 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.68 (s, 1H), 6.53 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 4.21 (dd,  $J = 4.8, 9.2$  Hz, 2H), 4.13 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 4.01-3.90 (m, 2H), 2.37-2.29 (m, 1H), 1.94-1.86 (m, 1H), 1.13 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 165.0, 140.0, 139.8, 138.7, 131.6, 131.3, 130.7, 128.7, 127.5, 125.1, 124.5, 117.7, 112.4, 104.1, 60.2, 59.6, 37.1, 36.6, 14.1; HRMS-ESI ( $m/z$ )  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_3$ , 348.16; found, 348.1588.

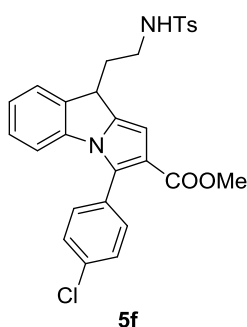


Purification by silica gel chromatography (dichloromethane/petroleum ether = 1:2) afforded the above compound **5d** (65.6 mg, 80% yield) as a white solid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 7.55-7.50 (m, 5H), 7.39 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.12 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.05 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.72 (s, 1H), 6.55 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.27 (dd,  $J = 4.8, 9.2$  Hz, 1H), 4.16 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 3.72-3.60 (m, 2H), 2.59-2.51 (m, 1H), 2.22-2.13 (m, 1H), 1.16 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 164.7, 140.1, 138.7, 137.3, 131.6, 131.3, 130.7, 130.7, 128.8, 128.1, 127.8, 125.1, 117.9, 112.1, 104.4, 59.6, 39.0, 36.8, 30.4, 14.2; HRMS-ESI ( $m/z$ )  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_2\text{Br}$ , 410.0756; found, 410.0748.

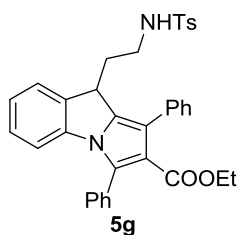


Purification by silica gel chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:5) afforded the above compound **5e** (61.3 mg, 59% yield) as a light yellow solid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 7.77 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d,  $J$

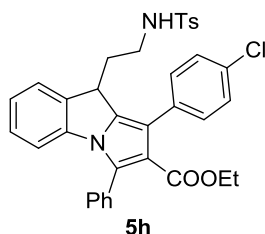
= 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.09-7.00 (m, 4H), 6.57 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.50 (d,  $J$  = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 4.83 (t,  $J$  = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.07 (dd,  $J$  = 4.4, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.23-3.09 (m, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.26-2.18 (m, 1H), 1.88-1.79 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 165.2, 160.0, 143.6, 140.0, 138.8, 137.6, 136.8, 131.9, 131.7, 129.8, 127.7, 127.1, 125.0, 124.6, 123.2, 117.1, 113.6, 112.5, 104.1, 55.3, 50.9, 40.6, 37.5, 33.8, 21.6; HRMS-ESI ( $m/z$ )  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{29}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5\text{S}$ , 517.1797; found, 517.1777.



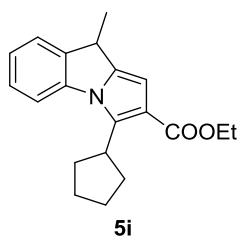
Purification by silica gel chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:5) afforded the above compound **5f** (64.4 mg, 62% yield) as a yellow solid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 7.77 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.47-7.42 (m, 4H), 7.33-7.29 (m, 3H), 7.12-7.04 (m, 2H), 6.55 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.53 (s, 1H), 4.79 (t,  $J$  = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.09 (dd,  $J$  = 4.4, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.23-3.09 (m, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.27-2.17 (m, 1H), 1.89-1.79 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 164.9, 143.7, 139.8, 138.8, 138.2, 136.7, 135.0, 132.1, 130.2, 129.9, 129.6, 128.4, 127.8, 127.2, 125.2, 124.8, 117.6, 112.3, 104.3, 51.0, 40.6, 37.5, 33.8, 21.6; HRMS-ESI ( $m/z$ )  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4\text{SCl}$ , 521.1302; found, 521.1279.



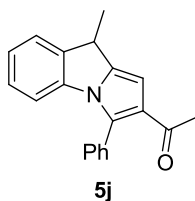
Purification by silica gel chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:5) afforded the above compound **5g** (84.3 mg, 73% yield) as a light yellow solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 7.66-7.20 (m, 15H), 7.13-6.99 (m, 2H), 6.48 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.38 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.04-3.86 (m, 3H), 2.73-2.63 (m, 1H), 2.59-2.49 (m, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 1.99-1.89 (m, 1H), 1.85-1.75 (m, 1H), 0.84 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 164.7, 143.3, 139.9, 138.5, 136.8, 235.6, 135.0, 131.72, 131.68, 130.7, 129.6, 129.5, 128.8, 128.12, 128.07, 127.9, 127.0, 126.9, 125.2, 124.7, 120.0, 116.5, 112.6, 59.5, 40.2, 37.7, 32.6, 21.5, 13.6; HRMS-ESI (*m/z*) [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>35</sub>H<sub>33</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S, 577.2161; found, 577.2159.



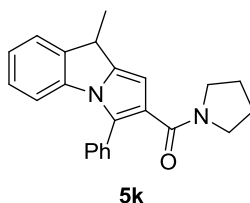
Purification by silica gel chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:5) afforded the above compound **5h** (77.0 mg, 63% yield) as a light yellow solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 7.63-7.41 (m, 7H), 7.39-7.24 (m, 7H), 7.10 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.46 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.37 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 4.08 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 1H), 4.10-3.86 (m, 2H), 2.72-2.62 (m, 1H), 2.62-2.46 (m, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 1.96-1.81 (m, 2H), 0.86 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 164.6, 143.4, 139.8, 138.2, 136.7, 135.6, 133.4, 132.7, 131.9, 131.6, 130.8, 129.7, 128.9, 128.2, 128.1, 128.0, 127.0, 125.2, 124.9, 118.8, 116.3, 112.6, 59.6, 40.1, 37.8, 32.2, 21.5, 13.6; HRMS-ESI (*m/z*) [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>35</sub>H<sub>32</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>SCl, 611.1771; found, 611.1759.



Purification by silica gel chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:20) afforded the above compound **5i** (44.5 mg, 72% yield) as a brown oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 7.49 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.39 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.51 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.96 (q, *J* = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 2.17-2.03 (m, 7H), 2.02-1.81 (m, 2H), 1.50 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.38 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 165.6, 141.7, 140.7, 140.5, 137.2, 127.4, 125.0, 124.1, 116.2, 113.5, 102.9, 59.5, 36.8, 34.6, 30.9, 26.2, 26.2, 19.4, 14.6; HRMS-ESI (*m/z*) [*M*+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>24</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>, 310.1807; found, 310.1799.

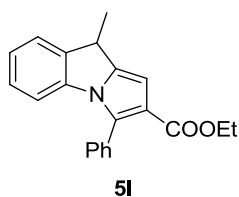


Purification by silica gel chromatography (dichloromethane/petroleum ether = 1: 1) afforded the above compound **5j** (41.8 mg, 72% yield) as a yellow solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 7.84 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 7.41-7.20 (m, 5H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.28 (s, 1H), 4.01 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.91 (s, 3H), 1.49 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 192.8, 141.6, 140.8, 140.1, 139.7, 131.1, 129.9, 129.2, 128.0, 127.8, 125.1, 124.6, 124.5, 112.3, 104.5, 35.0, 19.4, 12.7; HRMS-ESI (*m/z*) [*M*+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO, 288.1388; found, 288.1381.

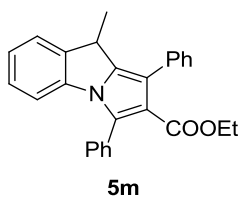


Purification by silica gel chromatography (dichloromethane/ethyl acetate = 4:1) afforded the above compound **5k** (55.0 mg, 73% yield) as a light yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 7.54 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.50-7.30 (m, 4H), 7.15-7.02 (m, 2H),

6.94 (t,  $J = 4.8$  Hz, 1H), 6.32 (s, 1H), 4.04 (q,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.60-3.40 (m, 2H), 3.15-3.00 (m, 1H), 3.00-2.85 (m, 1H), 1.83-1.55 (m, 4H), 1.54 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 166.7, 142.2, 141.2, 140.5, 131.7, 129.9, 128.4, 128.1, 127.2, 125.6, 124.7, 123.8, 123.7, 111.9, 101.6, 48.2, 45.6, 35.1, 25.9, 24.3, 19.1; HRMS-ESI ( $m/z$ ) [ $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ] $^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ , 343.181; found, 343.1801.



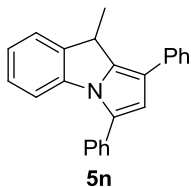
Purification by silica gel chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:20) afforded the above compound **5l** (54.2 mg, 85% yield) as a yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 7.60-7.47 (m, 5H), 7.38 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.11 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.03 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.67 (d,  $J = 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 6.56 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.16 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 4.08 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 1.57 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 1.17 (t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 164.9, 141.3, 141.0, 139.9, 131.7, 131.1, 130.8, 128.7, 128.0, 127.4, 124.8, 124.4, 117.7, 112.3, 102.9, 59.5, 35.0, 19.2, 14.2; HRMS-ESI ( $m/z$ ) [ $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ] $^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_2$ , 318.1494; found, 318.1486.



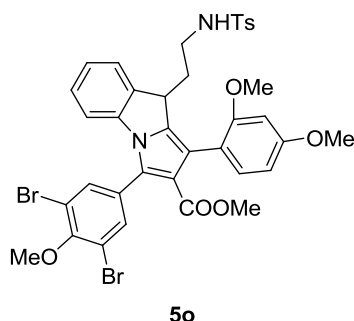
Purification by silica gel chromatography (dichloromethane/petroleum ether = 1:3) afforded the above compound **5m** (69.7 mg, 89% yield) as a white solid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 7.66-7.44(m, 7H), 7.43 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.36 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.12 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.05 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.56 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.31 (q,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 4.09-3.91 (m, 2H), 1.37 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 0.90 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 165.0, 141.2, 139.7, 138.3, 134.9, 132.0, 131.1,



130.9, 129.6, 128.7, 128.1, 127.8, 127.4, 126.5, 124.8, 124.5, 119.5, 116.5, 112.4, 59.5, 35.5, 17.8, 13.7; HRMS-ESI ( $m/z$ ) [ $M+H$ ] $^+$  calcd for  $C_{27}H_{24}NO_2$ , 394.1807; found, 394.1796.

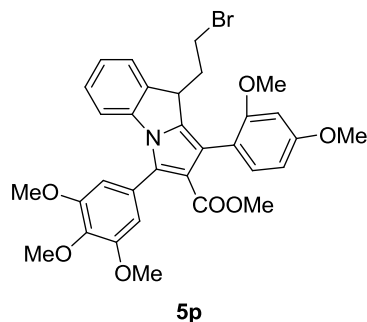


Purification by silica gel chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:20) afforded the above compound **5n** (49.4 mg, 90% yield) as a yellow solid.  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ): 7.73-7.64(m, 4H), 7.60-7.40 (m, 6H), 7.29 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.25-7.05 (m, 3H), 6.66 (s, 1H), 4.52 (q,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 1.61 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ): 141.2, 140.4, 138.7, 135.5, 132.9, 129.1, 128.7, 128.7, 128.4, 127.6, 127.3, 126.1, 125.6, 124.7, 123.4, 118.3, 112.9, 111.9, 36.2, 17.3; HRMS-ESI ( $m/z$ ) [ $M+H$ ] $^+$  calcd for  $C_{24}H_{20}N$ , 322.1596; found, 322.1587.



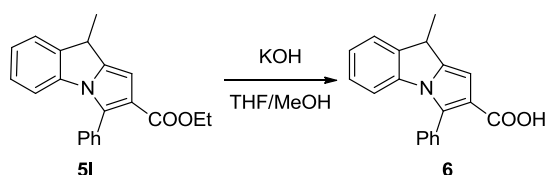
Purification by silica gel chromatography (dichloromethane/ethyl acetate =20:1) afforded the above compound **5o** (92.1 mg, 57% yield) as a light yellow solid.  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ): 7.85 (s, 1H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.51 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.45-7.05 (m, 7H), 6.65-6.45 (m, 3H), 4.27 (t,  $J$  = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 4.01 (t,  $J$  = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 4.01 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.49 (s, 3H), 2.85-2.65 (m, 1H), 2.60-2.45 (m, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 2.05-1.90 (m, 1H), 1.85-1.70 (m, 1H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ): 165.0, 160.5, 158.1, 154.4, 143.2, 139.8, 137.0, 137.0, 134.8, 131.1, 130.1, 129.6, 127.9, 127.4, 126.9, 125.2, 124.8, 118.0, 117.5, 116.1, 115.7, 112.2,

104.3, 98.9, 60.9, 55.6, 55.4, 50.8, 40.1, 37.9, 32.3, 21.5; HRMS-ESI ( $m/z$ )  $[M+H]^+$  calcd for  $C_{37}H_{35}N_2O_7SBr_2$ , 809.0532; found, 809.0516.



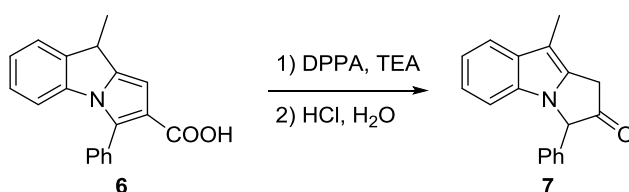
Camphorsulfonic acid (20 mol%) was used as the catalyst. Purification by silica gel chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 8:1) afforded the above compound **5p** (52.4 mg, 42% yield) as a yellow oil.  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ): 7.41-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.29-7.24 (m, 1H), 7.15-7.05 (m, 2H), 7.92 (s, 1H), 7.68 (s, 1H), 6.64-6.50 (m, 3H), 4.38 (t,  $J$  = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.50 (s, 3H), 3.11 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.35-2.15 (m, 2H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ): 165.5, 160.2, 157.9, 152.8, 140.1, 138.4, 138.2, 135.8, 131.3, 130.7, 127.9, 126.8, 125.1, 124.5, 117.3, 115.9, 115.3, 112.6, 108.1, 107.8, 104.1, 98.5, 61.1, 56.3, 55.6, 55.4, 50.8, 39.7, 35.9, 30.4; HRMS-ESI ( $m/z$ )  $[M+H]^+$  calcd for  $C_{32}H_{33}NO_7Br$ , 622.144; found, 622.1433.

## B. Model reactions via Curtius rearrangement

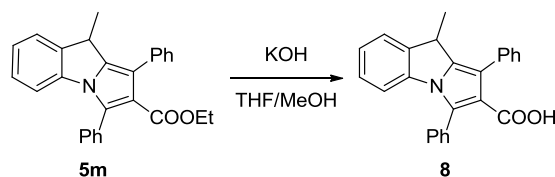


To a solution of **5l** (317 mg, 1.0 mmol) in THF/methanol (5.0 mL/5.0 mL) was added KOH (280 mg, 5.0 mmol). After stirring at reflux for overnight, the reaction was concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 30 mL) in the presence of brine (20 mL). The combined organic layers were dried

over anhydrous sodium sulfate, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude residue was purified by silica gel chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:5) to afford the product **6** (202 mg, 70% yield) as a yellow solid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 7.65-7.40 (m, 5H), 7.37 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.11 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.02 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.66 (s, 1H), 6.48 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.06 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 1.55 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 170.1, 141.4, 141.2, 139.8, 132.0, 131.3, 130.8, 130.7, 128.8, 128.2, 127.4, 124.8, 124.6, 116.7, 112.4, 103.6, 34.9, 19.1; HRMS-ESI ( $m/z$ ) [ $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ] $^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_2$ , 290.1181; found, 290.1174.

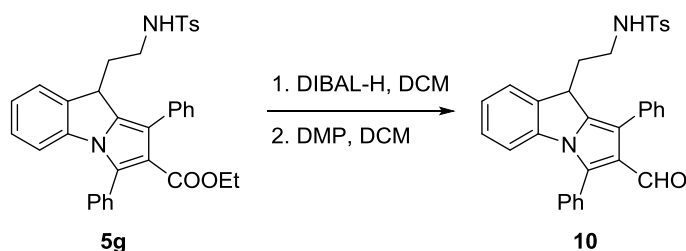


To a stirred solution of **6** (86.7 mg, 0.3 mmol) and  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (0.125 mL, 0.9 mmol) in THF (2.5 mL) at room temperature was added diphenylphosphoryl azide (0.097 mL, 0.45 mmol) dropwise. The resulting mixture was stirred for 3 h at room temperature. HCl (2 M, 1 mL) was added to the reaction and the resulting mixture was heated to reflux for 2 h (Caution!  $\text{N}_2$  was generated!). The solution was cooled to room temperature, quenched with saturated  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  solution and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 20 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 10:1) to afford the product **7** (70 mg, 89% yield) as light pink solid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 7.63 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 2H), 7.31-7.38 (m, 3H), 7.22-7.02 (m, 4H), 6.90 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 5.48 (s, 1H), 3.74 (s, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 207.9, 134.9, 133.5, 132.4, 131.3, 129.1, 128.6, 126.4, 121.5, 119.9, 118.9, 110.5, 104.3, 67.1, 35.2, 9.1; HRMS-ESI ( $m/z$ ) [ $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ] $^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}$ , 262.1232; found, 262.1230.



The compound **8** was prepared by following the same procedure as that for the synthesis of **6**. Purification by silica gel chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:5) afforded **8** (370 mg, 90% yield) as a brown oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 10.45 (s, 1H), 7.70-7.20 (m, 11H), 7.12 (t,  $J = 6.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.08 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.41 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.27 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 1.29 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 168.9, 141.2, 139.5, 138.6, 134.5, 132.1, 131.6, 130.7, 129.5, 128.8, 128.2, 127.9, 127.4, 126.5, 124.7, 124.7, 119.8, 114.9, 112.5, 35.4, 17.5; HRMS-ESI ( $m/z$ ) [ $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ] $^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_2$ , 366.1494; found, 366.1485.

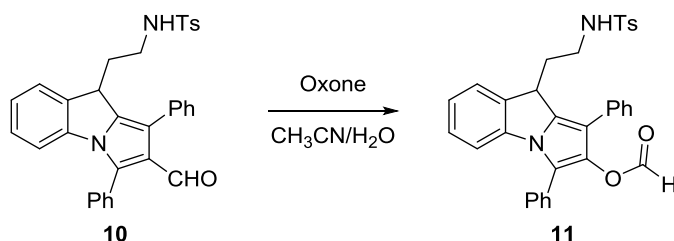
### C. Model reactions via Baeyer-Villiger oxidation



To a solution of **5g** (577 mg, 1.0 mmol) in dichloromethane (10.0 mL) at  $-50$   $^{\circ}\text{C}$  was added DIBAL-H (1.5 M in toluene, 2.3 mL) dropwise. After being stirred at  $-50$   $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 2 h, the reaction was quenched with water (2 mL). Saturated aqueous potassium sodium tetrates (20 mL) was added to the reaction, and the mixture was stirred vigorously at room temperature until the mixture became clear. The mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (3x20 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure to afford the crude residue, which was used for next step without further purification.

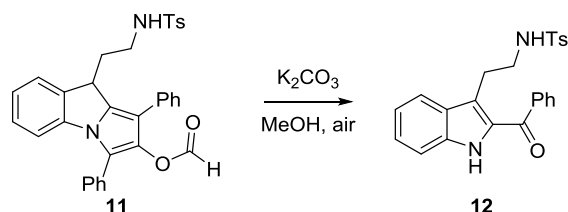
To a solution of the crude residue in dichloromethane (200 mL) was added Dess-Martin periodinane (636 mg, 1.5 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at

room temperature for 5 min under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. Upon completion, the reaction was quenched by the addition of saturated aqueous NaHSO<sub>3</sub> (15 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 300 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, brine and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography (ethyl acetate/dichloromethane = 1:50) to afford the product **10** (341 mg, 64% yield) as light yellow solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 7.80-7.45 (m, 9H), 7.45-7.30 (m, 4H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.20-7.05 (m, 2H), 6.71 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.75-2.65 (m, 1H), 2.60-2.50 (m, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 2.05-1.93 (m, 1H), 1.92-1.80 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 186.6, 143.4, 139.3, 138.8, 136.8, 136.7, 136.3, 133.4, 131.0, 130.9, 129.6, 129.5, 129.1, 128.6, 128.3, 128.0, 127.3, 127.0, 125.5, 125.4, 124.2, 119.3, 113.0, 40.2, 37.6, 32.4, 21.5; HRMS-ESI (*m/z*) [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>33</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S, 533.1899; found, 533.1888.

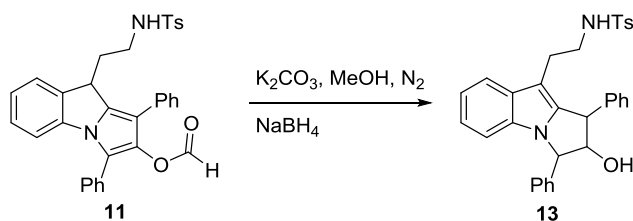


To a solution of **10** (327.6 mg, 0.6 mmol) in dry DMF (5 mL) under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere was added Oxone (738 mg, 1.2 mmol). When **10** was fully consumed by TLC, the reaction was filtered through a pad of celite<sup>®</sup> and washed with toluene (2 x 15 mL). The organic layer was separated and evaporated under reduced pressure. The resulting crude residue was purified by preparative silica gel chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1: 5) to afford **11** (250 mg, 69% yield) as a light yellow solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 8.03 (s, 1H), 7.67-7.38 (m, 11H), 7.35-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.16-7.00 (m, 2H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 4.53 (t, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 4.14 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 2.80-2.52 (m, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 2.15-1.90 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 160.0, 143.3, 140.8, 136.8, 136.6, 133.8, 132.8,

132.2, 130.0, 129.6, 129.0, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 127.9, 127.8, 127.0, 126.9, 124.9, 124.0, 118.8, 112.4, 112.0, 40.2, 39.1, 31.6, 21.5; HRMS-ESI ( $m/z$ ) [ $M+H$ ]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>33</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S, 549.1848; found, 549.1844.



To a solution of **11** (100.0 mg, 0.18 mmol) in methanol (5 mL) was added K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>. After stirring at room temperature for 1 h, the reaction was quenched with water. Methanol was evaporated under reduced pressure and the aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 15 mL). The combined organics were washed with brine and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether = 1:5) to afford the product **12** (42.7 mg, 57% yield) as light yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 8.63 (s, 1H), 7.73 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.70-7.50 (m, 6H), 7.37 (s, 2H), 7.20-7.10 (m, 1H), 7.06 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.65 (t,  $J$  = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 3.28 (q,  $J$  = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 3.12 (t,  $J$  = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.31 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 188.9, 142.7, 138.3, 136.8, 136.5, 132.7, 131.7, 129.3, 129.1, 128.8, 127.6, 126.8, 126.6, 121.6, 121.0, 120.7, 112.2, 43.8, 24.7, 21.4; HRMS-ESI ( $m/z$ ) [ $M+H$ ]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S, 419.1429; found, 419.1426.



To a solution of **11** (250.0 mg, 0.45 mmol) in methanol (5 mL) at room temperature under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere was added K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (61.4 mg, 0.45 mmol). After stirring at room

temperature for 1 h, NaBH<sub>4</sub> (33.8 mg, 0.89 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred for additional 30 min. The reaction was quenched with water. Methanol was evaporated under reduced pressure and the aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate (3x30 ml). The combined organics were washed with brine and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. The solvent was evaporated in vacuum and the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography (ethyl acetate/dichloromethane = 1/50) to afford the product **13** (193.2 mg, 81% yield, dr = 2:1:2) as white solid.

1<sup>st</sup> isomer: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 7.56 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.42-7.29 (m, 11H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.04 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.66 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.49 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 4.99-4.92 (m, 1H), 4.68 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 4.17 (t, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 1H), 3.14-2.97 (m, 2H), 2.75-2.65 (m, 1H), 2.61-2.50 (m, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 1.25 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 143.1, 141.6, 137.0, 135.1, 133.8, 132.9, 132.5, 130.0, 129.5, 128.8, 128.6, 128.6, 128.5, 127.9, 127.0, 121.0, 119.6, 118.5, 111.0, 103.6, 78.3, 65.8, 49.3, 42.9, 24.4, 21.5; HRMS-ESI (*m/z*) [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>31</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S, 523.2055; found, 523.2052.

2<sup>nd</sup> isomer: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 7.60 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.41-7.29 (m, 6H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.14-6.99 (m, 6H), 6.79 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.24 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 4.78-4.70 (m, 1H), 4.68 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 4.30 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.13-2.98 (m, 2H), 2.82-2.72 (m, 1H), 2.72-2.62 (m, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 1.81 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 141.1, 137.6, 137.0, 135.3, 132.5, 31.9, 129.6, 129.4, 129.1, 129.1, 128.4, 128.2, 127.0, 126.7, 121.3, 119.5, 118.7, 110.7, 103.5, 84.9, 67.2, 47.5, 43.0, 24.8, 21.5; HRMS-ESI (*m/z*) [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>31</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S, 523.2055; found, 523.2056.

3<sup>rd</sup> isomer: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 7.59 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.27 (m, 7H), 7.25-7.20 (m, 2H), 7.20-7.14 (m, 2H), 7.12-6.90 (m, 6H), 5.65 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 4.85-4.76 (m, 1H), 4.37 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 4.26 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 3.10-2.93 (m, 2H), 2.72-2.61 (m, 1H), 2.59-2.49 (m, 1H), 2.09 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 143.2, 140.5, 139.1, 137.0, 134.6, 132.4, 131.8, 129.6, 129.0, 128.9, 128.6, 128.2, 127.8, 127.6, 127.1, 121.4, 119.6, 118.8, 110.5, 103.7, 84.6, 63.0, 51.1,

43.1, 24.4, 21.6; HRMS-ESI ( $m/z$ )  $[M+H]^+$  calcd for  $C_{32}H_{31}N_2O_3S$ , 523.2055; found, 523.2056.



# NMR Spectra

