# Tridentate P,N,N-ligand promoted copper-catalyzed [3+2] cycloaddition of propargylic esters with $\beta$ -enamino esters: synthesis of highly functionalized pyrroles

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#### **General Information**

All reactions were carried out under a nitrogen atmosphere. Solvents were purified by standard procedure before use. Commercial reagents were used without further purification. Flash chromatography was performed on silica gel 60 (40-63µm, 60Å). Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on glass plates coated with silica gel 60 with F254 indicator. Proton nuclear magnetic resonance (<sup>1</sup>H NMR) spectra were recorded on a Bruker 400 MHz spectrometer. Chemical shifts for protons are reported in parts per million downfield from tetramethylsilane and are referenced to residual protium in the NMR solvent (CHCl<sub>3</sub> =  $\delta$  7.28). Carbon nuclear magnetic resonance (<sup>13</sup>C NMR) spectra were recorded on a Bruker 100 MHz spectrometer. Chemical shifts for carbon are reported in parts per million downfield from tetramethylsilane and are referenced to the carbon resonances of the solvent ( $CDCl_3 =$  $\delta$  77.07). Phosphorus nuclear magnetic resonance (<sup>31</sup>P NMR) spectra were recorded on a Bruker 162 MHz spectrometer. Chemical shifts for phosphorus are reported in parts per million downfield from the external 85% H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> signal at 0.0 ppm as a standard. Data are represented as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (br = broad, s =singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet), coupling constants in Hertz **1**<sup>[1]</sup>,  $2^{[2]}$ integration. propargylic esters β-enamino esters and (Hz), (2-(diphenylphosphino)phenyl)methanamine (5)<sup>[3]</sup> were prepared following the method from the literature.

# General Procedure for the Synthesis of P,N,N-Ligand L<sub>6</sub>



To a solution of benzylamine 4 (1.07g, 10.0 mmol) in dry ether (10 mL) at  $-35^{\circ}$ C was added dropwise *n*-BuLi (4.0 mL, 2.5 M in hexane, 10.0 mmol). The resulting solution was stirred at -35°C for 15 minutes, and the TMSCl (1.39 mL, 11.0 mmol) was added slowly at the same temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 hour and then n-BuLi (12 mL, 2.5 M in hexane, 30.0 mmol) was added dropwise. After the addition was completed, the reaction mixture was stirred at -35°C for 3h. The reaction mixture was slowly warm to room temperature and stirred overnight. The reaction mixture was cooled at -35°C again, and a solution of chlorodiphenylphosphine (1.8 mL, 10.0 mmol) in ether (10 mL) was added dropwise with 1 hour. The reaction mixture was stirred for another 3 hours at the same temperature, and then warmed to room temperature. After stirring for another 4 hours, a solution of 1M HCl was added slowly until the reaction mixture became clear in both phases. The aqueous phase was extracted with ether. The combined organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography to give compound 5 as white solid.

#### (2-(diphenylphosphino)phenyl)methanamine



Mp: 105-106°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.46-7.42 (m, 1H), 7.37-7.31 (m, 7H), 7.29-7.24 (m, 4H), 7.16 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.91-6.84 (m, 1H), 4.02 (s, 2H), 1.76 (br, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz,

CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 147.3, 136.4, 135.1, 134.0, 133.8, 133.5, 129.3, 128.8, 128.6, 128.5, 127.9, 127.1, 45.2; <sup>31</sup>P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -15.90; HRMS calcd. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NP ([M+H]+): 292.1225, found: 291.1259.

To a solution of amine 5 (291mg, 1.0 mmol) in 8 mL of EtOH was added picolinaldehyde (107 mg, 1.0 mmol) and anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub> (200 mg). The reaction mixture was refluxed for 4 h, and then cooled to room temperature. MgSO<sub>4</sub> were removed by the filtration. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure, and the residue was purified by column chromatography to give the corresponding ligand  $L_6$  as a light yellow liquid.

(E)-1-(2-(diphenylphosphino)phenyl)-N-(pyridin-2-ylmethylene)methanamine



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.62-8.55 (m, 1H), 8.34 (s, 1H), 7.75-7.68 (m, 1H), 7.66-7.57 (m, 1H), 7.47-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.37-7.33 (m, 1H), 7.32-7.28 (m, 8H), 7.27-7.22 (m,

3H), 7.21-7.16 (m, 1H), 6.98-6.88 (m, 1H), 5.12 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  163.1, 154.6, 149.2, 143.5, 143.3, 136.7, 136.6, 136.3, 135.6, 134.1, 133.9, 133.8, 129.2, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 127.4, 124.6, 121.3, 63.0; <sup>31</sup>P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -15.51; HRMS calc. for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>2</sub>P ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 381.1521, found: 381.1527.

#### **General Procedure for the Synthesis of Highly Functionalized Pyrroles**



A solution of Cu(OTf)<sub>2</sub> (5.4 mg, 0.015 mmol) and L<sub>6</sub> (6.3 mg, 0.0165 mmol) in 1 mL of anhydrous methanol placed in an oven-dried Schlenk flask was stirred at room temperature under a nitrogen atmosphere for 1 h. A solution of propargylic esters **1** (0.36 mmol),  $\beta$ -enamino esters **2** (0.3 mmol) and Et<sub>3</sub>N (50 uL, 0.36 mmol) in 2 mL of anhydrous methanol was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h. The reaction mixture was quenched with 1M HCl and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by silica gel chromatography to afford the corresponding pyrroles products **3** as white solid..

### Methyl 5-methyl-2,4-diphenyl-1-tosyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylate



Mp: 114-116°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.41-7.27 (m, 8H), 7.23-7.19 (m, 6H), 3.29 (s, 3H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  164.7, 145.1, 138.1, 136.5, 134.0, 131.6, 131.1, 130.1, 130.0, 129.7, 128.6, 127.9, 127.1, 127.0, 126.9, 126.0, 119.2, 51.1, 21.6, 13.6; HRMS calc. for  $C_{26}H_{24}NO_4S$  ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 446.1426, found: 446.1425.

# Methyl 4-(2-chlorophenyl)-5-methyl-2-phenyl-1-tosyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylate



Mp: 90-92 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.44-7.42 (m, 1H), 7.38-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.35-7.26 (m, 6H), 7.25-7.16 (m, 5H), 3.27 (s, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  164.0, 145.0, 139.1, 136.7, 134.8, 133.5, 132.0, 131.6, 131.0, 129.7, 129.2, 128.8, 128.6, 126.9, 126.8, 126.3, 123.6, 51.0,

21.6, 13.7; HRMS calc. for  $C_{26}H_{23}NO_4SCl$  ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 480.1036, found: 480.1040.

#### Methyl 4-(3-chlorophenyl)-5-methyl-2-phenyl-1-tosyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylate



Mp: 121-123°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.40-7.28 (m, 8H), 7.23-7.17 (m, 4H), 7.12-7.10 (m, 1H), 3.30 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 164.4, 145.2, 138.4, 136.4, 136.0, 133.7, 131.6, 130.9, 130.2, 129.8, 129.1, 128.7, 128.5, 127.3, 127.1, 127.0,

124.7, 118.7, 51.1, 21.7, 13.6; HRMS calc. for  $C_{26}H_{23}NO_4SC1$  ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 480.1036, found: 480.1044.

# Methyl 4-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-methyl-2-phenyl-1-tosyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylate



Mp: 142-144°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.38-7.26 (m, 7H), 7.21-7.15 (m, 6H), 3.30 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  164.5, 145.2, 138.4, 136.4, 133.1, 132.5, 131.5, 131.0, 130.1, 129.7, 128.7, 128.1, 127.1, 127.0, 124.8, 118.7, 51.1, 21.7, 13.6; HRMS calc. for

 $C_{26}H_{23}NO_4SCl ([M+H]^+): 480.1036$ , found: 480.1036.

Methyl 4-(4-fluorophenyl)-5-methyl-2-phenyl-1-tosyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylate



Mp: 66-68°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.40-7.28 (m, 5H), 7.19 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 6H), 7.06 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 3.29 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  164.6, 162.1(d, J = 245.0 Hz), 145.1, 138.3, 1365, 131.8 (d, J = 8.0 Hz), 131.5, 131.1, 130.1, 129.9, 129.7, 128.6, 127.1, 127.0, 125.0, 118.9, 114.9 (d, J = 21.0 Hz), 51.1, 21.7, 13.6;

HRMS calc. for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>SF ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 464.1332, found: 464.1334.

#### Methyl 4-(4-bromophenyl)-5-methyl-2-phenyl-1-tosyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylate



Mp: 166-168°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.49 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.38-7.28 (m, 5H), 7.21-7.16 (m, 4H), 7.10 (dd, J = 8.3, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 3.30 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  164.5, 145.2, 138.4, 136.4, 133.0, 131.9, 131.5, 131.1, 131.0, 130.1, 129.8, 128.7, 127.1,

127.0, 124.8, 121.4, 118.7, 51.1, 21.7, 13.6; HRMS calc. for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>SBr ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 524.0531, found: 524.0524.

## Methyl 4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-methyl-2-phenyl-1-tosyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxyl-

ate



Mp: 94-96°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.40-7.26 (m, 5H), 7.24-7.13 (m, 6H), 6.91 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.30 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  164.9, 158.7, 145.0, 137.9, 136.6, 131.5, 131.2, 129.9, 129.7, 128.6, 127.1, 127.0, 126.1, 125.7,

119.4, 113.4, 55.2, 51.1, 21.6, 13.7; HRMS calc. for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>S ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 476.1532, found: 476.1534.

# Methyl 5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-(p-tolyl)-1-tosyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylate



Mp: 110-112°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.38-7.27 (m, 5H), 7.23-7.16 (m, 6H), 7.14-7.08 (m, 2H), 3.29 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 164.8, 145.0, 137.9, 136.7, 136.6, 131.6, 131.2, 130.8, 130.0, 129.9, 129.7, 128.7, 128.6, 127.1, 127.0, 126.01, 119.4, 51.1,

21.7, 21.3, 13.7; HRMS calc. for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 460.1583, found: 460.1577.

#### Methyl 5-methyl-4-(naphthalen-2-yl)-2-phenyl-1-tosyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylate



Mp: 128-130°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.87-7.79 (m, 3H), 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.48-7.45 (m, 2H), 7.40-7.28 (m, 6H), 7.21 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 4H), 3.26 (s, 3H), 2.49 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  164.7, 145.2, 138.3, 136.6, 133.2, 132.5, 131.6, 131.2, 130.3, 129.8,

128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 128.0, 127.7, 127.4, 127.2, 127.1, 126.1, 126.0, 125.9, 119.3, 51.1, 21.7, 13.8; HRMS calc. for  $C_{30}H_{26}NO_4S$  ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 496.1583, found: 496.1578.

#### Methyl 5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-(thiophen-2-yl)-1-tosyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylate



Mp: 114-116°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.38-7.26 (m, 6H), 7.23-7.14 (m, 4H), 7.07-7.01 (m, 1H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.34 (s, 3H), 2.52 (s, 3H), 2.39 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  164.4, 145.3, 137.8, 136.3, 134.4, 131.7, 131.6,

130.9, 129.8, 128.7, 128.1, 127.2, 127.0, 126.8, 126.0, 119.7, 118.3, 51.2, 21.7, 13.8; HRMS calc. for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S<sub>2</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 452.0990, found: 452.0983.

# (E)-methyl 5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-styryl-1-tosyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylate



Mp: 110-112°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.47 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.39-7.24 (m, 8H), 7.21-7.12 (m, 5H), 6.61 (d, J = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 3.48 (s, 3H), 2.68 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  165.0, 145.1, 138.8, 137.5, 136.4,

132.7, 131.4, 131.1, 130.1, 129.7, 128.6, 128.5, 127.5, 127.0, 126.9, 126.3, 122.5,

120.5, 118.1, 51.3, 21.6, 14.2; HRMS calc. for  $C_{28}H_{26}NO_4S$  ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 472.1583, found: 472.1572.

## Methyl 4,5-dimethyl-2-phenyl-1-tosyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylate



Mp: 84-86°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.36 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.25 m, 4H), 7.17 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 3.46 (s, 3H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 2.15 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  165.1, 144.8, 138.8, 136.6, 131.6, 131.4,

129.6, 128.9, 128.3, 126.8, 126.7, 119.8, 118.9, 50.9, 21.6, 12.7, 10.7; HRMS calc. for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 384.1270, found: 384.1274.

#### Methyl 5-methyl-4-phenyl-2-(p-tolyl)-1-tosyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylate



Mp: 138-140°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.37-7.33 (m, 4H), 7.31-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.22-7.19 (m, 4H), 7.13-7.09 (m, 4H), 3.30 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.39 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 164.8, 145.0, 138.4, 138.3, 136.6, 134.1, 131.4,

130.1, 129.8, 129.7, 128.1, 127.9, 127.8, 127.1, 126.0, 119.2, 51.1, 30.9, 21.6, 13.7; HRMS calc. for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 460.1583, found: 460.1587.

#### Methyl 2-(4-fluorophenyl)-5-methyl-4-phenyl-1-tosyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylate



Mp: 108-110°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.40-7.29 (m, 5H), 7.24-7.19 (m, 4H), 7.19-7.12 (m, 2H), 6.99 (t, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 3.31 (s, 3H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  164.6, 163.0 (d, *J* = 247.0 Hz), 145.3, 136.8,

136.5, 133.9, 133. 5 (d, J = 8.3 Hz), 130.2, 130.1, 129.8, 127.9, 127.2, 127.0, 126.0, 119.4, 114.1(d, J = 22.0 Hz), 51.1, 21.7, 13.6; HRMS calc. for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>SF ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 464.1332, found: 464.1332.

# Methyl 2-(4-bromophenyl)-5-methyl-4-phenyl-1-tosyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylate



Mp: 164-166°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.44 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.40-7.28 (m, 5H), 7.25-7.17 (m, 4H), 7.07 (d, J

= 8.2 Hz, 2H), 3.32 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 164.5, 145.3, 136.6, 136.4, 133.8, 133.1, 130.4, 130.3, 130.1, 129.8, 127.9, 127.2, 127.0, 126.2, 123.2, 119.4, 51.2, 21.7, 13.6; HRMS calc. for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>SBr ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 524.0531, found:524.0525.

#### Methyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-methyl-4-phenyl-1-tosyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylate



Mp: 134-136°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.40-7.32 (m, 4H), 7.30-7.19 (m, 7H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 3.31 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  164.5, 145.3, 136.7, 136.4, 134.8, 133.8, 132.9, 130.4, 130.1,

129.8, 129.6, 127.9, 127.3, 127.2, 127.0, 126.2, 119.4, 51.2, 21.7, 13.6; HRMS calc. for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>SCl ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 480.1036, found: 480.1032.

#### Methyl 2-(3-chlorophenyl)-5-methyl-4-phenyl-1-tosyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylate



Mp: 90-92°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.40-7.31 (m, 6H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.18 (m, 5H), 6.95 (s, 1H), 3.31 (s, 3H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  164.3, 145.4, 136.4, 136.2, 133.8, 132.8, 131.4,

130.5, 130.1, 130.0, 129.83, 128.7, 128.3, 127.9, 127.2, 127.1, 126.0, 119.3, 51.1, 21.7, 13.6; HRMS calc. for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>SCl ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 480.1036, found: 480.1037.

#### Methyl 2-(2-chlorophenyl)-5-methyl-4-phenyl-1-tosyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylate



Mp: 88-90°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.50 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.38-7.34 (m, 4H), 7.32-7.28 (m, 3H), 7.26-7.22 (m, 4H), 3.32 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  164.1, 145.3, 136.3, 135.9, 135.1, 134.0, 133.3, 131.2,

130.3, 130.1, 129.9, 129.8, 128.7, 127.8, 127.40, 127.1, 126.1, 125.5, 118.7, 51.1, 21.7, 13.3; HRMS calc. for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>SCl ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 480.1036, found: 480.1039.



#### carboxylate



Mp: 120-122°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.68 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.35 (m, 4H), 7.33-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.28-7.21 (m, 4H), 7.15-7.12 (m, 2H), 7.08 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.23 (s,

3H), 2.50 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  164.8, 158.3, 145.1, 138.1, 136.6, 134.5, 134.0, 130.6, 130.2, 130.1, 129.9, 129.7, 129.6, 127.9, 127.8, 127.1, 126.2, 126.1, 125.3, 119.5, 118.9, 105.8, 55.4, 51.1, 21.6, 13.8; HRMS calc. for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>28</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>S ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 526.1688, found: 526.1689.

## Methyl 2,5-dimethyl-4-phenyl-1-tosyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylate



Mp: 80-82°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.67 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.37-7.24 (m, 5H), 7.18-7.08 (m, 2H), 3.52 (s, 3H), 2.73 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.28 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  165.5, 145.2, 137.0, 136.9, 134.7, 130.2, 130.1, 128.9, 127.7,

126.8, 126.6, 125.7, 116.7, 51.0, 21.6, 13.5, 13.2; HRMS calc. for  $C_{21}H_{22}NO_4S$  ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 384.1270, found: 384.1263.

# Ethyl 5-methyl-2,4-diphenyl-1-tosyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylate



Mp: 116-118°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.39-7.32 (m, 5H), 7.32-7.27 (m, 3H), 7.24-7.18 (m, 6H), 3.77 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 0.67 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  164.2, 145.1, 138.0, 136.6, 134.1, 131.7, 131.3,

130.2, 129.9, 129.7, 128.6, 127.9, 127.1, 127.0, 126.1, 119.5, 60.0, 21.7, 13.6, 13.3; HRMS calc. for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 460.1583, found: 460.1590.

## Ethyl 2,5-dimethyl-4-phenyl-1-tosyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylate



Mp: 112-114°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.59 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.29-7.17 (m, 5H), 7.04 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 3.89 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.66 (s, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 0.80 (t, J = 7.0 Hz,

3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 165.0, 145.2, 137.0, 136.9, 135.0, 130.2, 130.1, 128.7, 127.7, 126.8, 126.7, 125.8, 116.9, 59.9, 21.6, 13.6, 13.4, 13.2; HRMS calc. for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>24</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 398.1426, found: 398.1428.

#### Synthesis of Compound I



A solution of Cu(OTf)<sub>2</sub> (5.4 mg, 0.015 mmol) and L<sub>6</sub> (6.3 mg, 0.0165 mmol) in 1 mL of anhydrous methanol placed in an oven-dried Schlenk flask was stirred at room temperature under a nitrogen atmosphere for 1 h. A solution of propargylic esters **1a** (63 mg, 0.36 mmol),  $\beta$ -enamino esters **2a** (99 mg, 0.3 mmol) and Et<sub>3</sub>N (50 uL, 0.36 mmol) in 2 mL of anhydrous methanol was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give the crude product which was purified by silica gel chromatography to afford the corresponding pyrroles product **I** as white solid.

#### Methyl 5-methyl-2,4-diphenyl-1-tosyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylate



Mp: 112-114°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  7.55-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.48-7.41 (m, 5H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.17-7.12 (m, 1H), 7.08 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 5.56 (t, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.76 (t, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 4.69 (t, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 3.23 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  163.3, 151.9, 148.8, 145.6,

142.2, 133.6, 131.6, 130.4, 130.2, 129.9, 128.8, 128.0, 127.7, 127.3, 127.1, 117.3, 101.6, 52.3, 51.6, 21.6; HRMS calc. for  $C_{26}H_{24}NO_4S$  ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 446.1426, found: 446.1445.

# Reference

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Wang, Z.-C. Duan, Z. Zheng, *J. Mol. Catal. A: Chem.* 2007, 270, 127.







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PROTON CDC13 {D:\NMR400\02T2} nmr 18











P31CPD CDC13 {D:\NMR400\02T2} nmr 18



PROTON CDC13 {D:\NMR400\02T2} nmr 3





C13CPD CDC13 {D:\NMR400\02T2} nmr 3





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HCJ-1999(CDC13) PROTON CDC13 {D:\NMR400\02T2} nmr 17



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HCJ-1999(CDC13) C13CPD CDC13 {D:\NMR400\02T2} nmr 17



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HCJ-2000-3(CDC13) PROTON CDC13 {D:\NMR400\02T2} nmr 14









HCJ-2001(CDC13) PROTON CDC13 {D:\NMR400\02T2} nmr 18



-3.30

 $< \frac{2.43}{2.41}$ 







HCJ-2002(CDC13) PROTON CDC13 {D:\NMR400\02T2} nmr 19

2.7



 $\underset{2.41}{\overset{2.42}{\phantom{2.41}}}$ 





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HCJ-2003(CDC13) PROTON CDC13 {D:\NMR400\02T2} nmr 26





HCJ-2003(CDC13) C13CPD CDC13 {D:\NMR400\02T2} nmr 26





HCJ-2004(CDC13) PROTON CDC13 {D:\NMR400\02T2} nmr 27





HCJ-2004(CDC13) C13CPD CDC13 {D:\NMR400\02T2} nmr 27





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HCJ-2005(CDC13) PROTON CDC13 {D:\NMR400\02T2} nmr 28





HCJ-2005 (CDC13) C13CPD CDC13 {D:\NMR400\02T2} nmr 28





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HCJ-2007(CDC13) PROTON CDC13 {D:\NMR400\02T2} nmr 20







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HCJ-2033(CDC13) PROTON CDC13 {D:\NMR400\02T2} nmr 8





HCJ-2033(CDC13) C13CPD CDC13 {D:\NMR400\02T2} nmr 8









HCJ-2185 PROTON CDC13 {D:\NMR400\02T2} nmr 23





S39

- 3.4761

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HCJ-2193-1 PROTON CDC13 {D:\NMR400\02T2} nmr 54





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555



HCJ-2193-1 C13CPD CDC13 {D:\NMR400\02T2} nmr 54



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HCJ-2028(CDC13) PROTON CDC13 {D:\NMR400\02T2} nmr 25















S48



















S56

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HCJ-2038(CDC13) PROTON CDC13 {D:\NMR400\02T2} nmr 12





HCJ-2038 (CDC13) C13CPD CDC13 {D:\NMR400\02T2} nmr 12





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HCJ-2037-2(CDC13) PROTON CDC13 {D:\NMR400\02T2} nmr 11





HCJ-2037-2(CDC13) C13CPD CDC13 {D:\NMR400\02T2} nmr 11



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HCJ-2036(CDC13) PROTON CDC13 {D:\NMR400\02T2} nmr 9





HCJ-2036(CDC13) C13CPD CDC13 {D:\NMR400\02T2} nmr 9











HCJ-2188 PROTON DMSO {D:\NMR400\02T2} nmr 22





HCJ-2188 PROTON CDC13 {D:\NMR400\02T2} nmr 51



3.2943

- 2.4544 - 2.4121