# Supporting Information

# Intramolecular 1,5-H transfer reaction of aryl iodides through visible-light photoredox catalysis: a concise method for the synthesis of the natural product scaffolds

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# 1. General information

All glassware was thoroughly oven-dried. Chemicals and solvents were either purchased from commercial suppliers or purified by standard techniques. Thin-layer chromatography plates were visualized by exposure to ultraviolet light and/or staining with phosphomolybdic acid followed by heating on a hot plate. Flash chromatography was carried out using silica gel (200–300 mesh). <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AM-400 (400 MHz). The spectra were recorded in deuterochloroform (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) as solvent at room temperature, <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR chemical shifts are reported in ppm relative to the residual solvent peak. The residual solvent signals were used as references and the chemical shifts were converted to the TMS scale (CDCl<sub>3</sub>:  $\delta_{\rm H} = 7.26$  ppm,  $\delta_{\rm C} = 77.0$  ppm). Data for <sup>1</sup>H NMR are reported as follows: chemical shift ( $\delta$  ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet, dd = doublet, br = broad), integration, coupling constant (Hz) and assignment. Data for <sup>13</sup>C NMR are reported as chemical shift. IR spectra were recorded using Nicolet NEXUS 670 FT-IR instrument and are reported in wave numbers (cm<sup>-1</sup>). HRMS were performed on a Bruker Apex II mass instrument (ESI).

# 2. General preparation of substrates<sup>1</sup>



To a stirred, cooled  $(0-5^{\circ}C)$  solution of 2-iodoaniline (2.190 g, 10 mmol) and Et<sub>3</sub>N (1.113 g, 1.55 ml, 11 mmol) in 20 ml of dry THF a solution of an appropriate acyl chloride (10 mmol) in 5 ml of dry THF was added dropwise within 10 min. Then the ice bath was removed and the mixture was stirred vigorously for 30 min at room temperature. After solid Et<sub>3</sub>N·HCl was filtered off and washed with THF (3 x 5 ml), the resulting organic fractions were combined and THF was removed under reduced pressure to yield crude amides. Recrystallization from hexane/CHCl<sub>3</sub> and drying in vacuum afforded analytically pure compounds.



To a stirred suspension of NaH (0.132 g; 5.5 mmol) in 5 ml of dry THF at 0°C, the respective amide (5 mmol) dissolved in 10 ml of THF was added dropwise within 10 min. The reaction mixture was stirred until the solution became clear (30 min, hydrogen gas evolved), and the solution of MeI (0.9226 g; 0.405 ml; 6.5 mmol) in 5 ml of THF was added dropwise within 10 min. The solution was warmed up to room temperature and stirred for 3 h. Then the reaction mixture was quenched with water (30 ml). The resulting solution was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 20 ml). Combined organic layers were washed with brine (1 x 20 ml) and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Ethyl acetate was removed under reduced pressure to give crude products. Recrystallization from hexane or hexane/CHCl<sub>3</sub> and drying in vacuum afforded analytically pure compounds.

# 3. General procedure for intramolecular 1,5-HAT reaction



*o*-anilide aryl iodide 1 (0.2 mmol) and DIPEA (1.0 mmol) were added to a solution of photocatalyst *fac*-Ir(ppy)<sub>3</sub> (1 mol%) in dry THF/acetone (1:1) (4mL) at room temperature. The heterogenous mixture was degassed by three cycles of freeze-pump-thaw and then placed in the irradiation apparatus equipped with a 25 W blue light-emitting diode (LED) strip. The resulting mixture was stirred at 20°C until the starting material was completely consumed as monitored by TLC. Upon completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure, and the resulting crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel, which furnished the title compounds as described. (Attention: THF should be purified by standard techniques before using)

# 4. Initial studies and reaction optimization

		þ	photocatalyst (1 mol%)		X	
			ase (5 equiv), solvent (0.05M)	) → 〔 〕	∑ )⇒o	
	1a 20°C, N <sub>2</sub> , blue LED strip N 2a					
Entry	Photocatalyst	Base	Solvent	Light	Time	Yield(%) <sup>a</sup>
1	Ru(bpy) <sub>3</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	iPr <sub>2</sub> NEt	MeCN	blue LED	24h	0
2	<i>fac</i> -Ir(ppy) <sub>3</sub>	iPr <sub>2</sub> NEt	MeCN	blue LED	24h	37
3	[Ir(ppy) <sub>2</sub> (dtbbpy)]PF <sub>6</sub>	iPr <sub>2</sub> NEt	MeCN	blue LED	24h	10
4	<i>fac</i> -Ir(ppy) <sub>3</sub>	Et <sub>3</sub> N	MeCN/CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> (1:1)	blue LED	24h	46
5	<i>fac</i> -Ir(ppy) <sub>3</sub>	iPr <sub>2</sub> NEt	MeCN/CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> (1:1)	blue LED	24h	57
6	<i>fac</i> -Ir(ppy) <sub>3</sub>	Bu <sub>3</sub> N	MeCN/CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> (1:1)	blue LED	24h	49
7	<i>fac</i> -Ir(ppy) <sub>3</sub>	iBu <sub>3</sub> N	MeCN/CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> (1:1)	blue LED	24h	52
8	<i>fac</i> -Ir(ppy) <sub>3</sub>	K <sub>2</sub> HPO <sub>4</sub>	DMSO	blue LED	24h	0
9	<i>fac</i> -Ir(ppy) <sub>3</sub>	iPr <sub>2</sub> NEt	$CH_2Cl_2$	blue LED	24h	51
10	<i>fac</i> -Ir(ppy) <sub>3</sub>	iPr <sub>2</sub> NEt	DCE	blue LED	36h	36
11	<i>fac</i> -Ir(ppy) <sub>3</sub>	iPr <sub>2</sub> NEt	DMA	blue LED	36h	34
12	<i>fac</i> -Ir(ppy) <sub>3</sub>	iPr <sub>2</sub> NEt	THF	blue LED	7d	78
13	<i>fac</i> -Ir(ppy) <sub>3</sub>	iPr <sub>2</sub> NEt	Toluene	blue LED	7d	61
14	<i>fac</i> -Ir(ppy) <sub>3</sub>	iPr <sub>2</sub> NEt	DMSO	blue LED	12h	44
15	<i>fac</i> -Ir(ppy) <sub>3</sub>	iPr <sub>2</sub> NEt	Acetone	blue LED	36h	67
16	<i>fac</i> -Ir(ppy) <sub>3</sub>	iPr <sub>2</sub> NEt	МеОН	blue LED	36h	46
17	<i>fac</i> -Ir(ppy) <sub>3</sub>	iPr <sub>2</sub> NEt	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	blue LED	36h	0
18	<i>fac</i> -Ir(ppy) <sub>3</sub>	iPr <sub>2</sub> NEt	DMF	blue LED	12h	51
19	<i>fac</i> -Ir(ppy) <sub>3</sub>	iPr <sub>2</sub> NEt	EA	blue LED	5d	46
20	<i>fac</i> -Ir(ppy) <sub>3</sub>	iPr <sub>2</sub> NEt	THF/H <sub>2</sub> O(7:1)	blue LED	60h	82
21	<i>fac</i> -Ir(ppy) <sub>3</sub>	iPr <sub>2</sub> NEt	THF/Acetone(1:1)	blue LED	60h	87
22	<i>fac</i> -Ir(ppy) <sub>3</sub>	Et <sub>3</sub> N	THF/Acetone(1:1)	blue LED	60h	75
23	<i>fac</i> -Ir(ppy) <sub>3</sub>	Bu <sub>3</sub> N	THF/Acetone(1:1)	blue LED	60h	77
24	<i>fac</i> -Ir(ppy) <sub>3</sub>	2,6-lutidine	THF/Acetone(1:1)	blue LED	60h	0
25	<i>fac</i> -Ir(ppy) <sub>3</sub>	$K_2HPO_4$	THF/Acetone(1:1)	blue LED	60h	0
26	<i>fac</i> -Ir(ppy) <sub>3</sub>	-	THF/Acetone(1:1)	blue LED	60h	0
27	<i>fac</i> -Ir(ppy) <sub>3</sub>	iPr <sub>2</sub> NEt	THF/Acetone(1:1)	-	60h	0
28	-	iPr <sub>2</sub> NEt	THF/Acetone(1:1)	blue LED	60h	0

Table 1 Screening of catalysts, bases, and solvents for 1,5-HAT reaction of 1a

<sup>*a*</sup> Isolated yield.



when  $[Ir(ppy)_2(dtbbpy)]PF_6$  was used instead of *fac*-Ir(ppy)<sub>3</sub>, the yield of the product was decreased to 10%.

5. Devices for the photocatalytic reactions



Figure 1.Devices for the photocatalytic reactions

# 6. Characterization of products

# 1,3,3-trimethylindolin-2-one (2a)

Colorless oil; 87% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 1.37 (s, 6H), 3.22 (s, 3H), 6.85 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (m, 1H), 7.21 (dd, J = 7.4, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.24–7.28 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup> C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 

(ppm) = 24.3, 26.2, 44.2, 108.0, 122.2, 122.4, 127.6, 135.8, 142.6, 181.4; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3504, 2967, 2927, 1710, 1613, 1493, 1472, 1382, 1348, 1247, 1125,757, 562. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NO [M+H]+calcd.176.1070, found 176.1067.

# 1'-methylspiro[cyclobutane-1,3'-indolin]-2'-one (2b)



1H); <sup>13</sup> C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 16.7, 26.1,31.3, 48.1, 107.6, 122.2,

122.5, 127.8, 134.4, 143.0, 180.2; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3401, 2936, 1705, 1639, 1614, 1469, 1375, 1349, 1267, 1101, 1006,740, 543. HRMS (ESI) for  $C_{12}H_{13}NO$  [M+H] <sup>+</sup> calcd.188.1070, found 188.1067.

# 1'-methylspiro[cyclopentane-1,3'-indolin]-2'-one (2c)

Colorless oil; 93% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 1.80–1.86 (m, 2H), 1.86–2.18 (m, 6H), 3.21 (s, 3H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.02–7.06 (m, 1H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.22–7.26 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup> C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 26.2, 26.6, 38.3, 53.9, 107.7, 122.2, 122.5, 127.3, 136.9, 142.9, 181.9; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3405, 2954, 2867, 1709, 1656, 1612, 1468, 1375, 1347, 1264, 1124, 1077, 968, 745, 543. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO [M+H] <sup>+</sup> calcd.202.1226, found 202.1224.

# 1'-methylspiro[cyclohexane-1,3'-indolin]-2'-one (2d)

Colorless oil; 90% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm) = 1.56-1.59 (m, 2H), 1.61-1.79 (m, 4H), 1.81-1.88 (m, 2H), 1.92-1.98 (m, 2H), 3.20 (s,3H), 6.84 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.02-7.06 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.25 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup> C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm) = 21.2, 25.2,26.1,33.0, 47.4, 107.8, 121.9, 123.8, 127.4, 135.4, 142.8, 180.7; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3399, 3053, 2931, 2851, 1709, 1612, 1492, 1470, 1377, 1350, 1252, 1081, 1006,744, 543. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd.216.1383, found 216.1379.

### 3,3-diethyl-1-methylindolin-2-one (2e)

Colorless oil; 87% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 0.56 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 6H), 1.74–1.83 (m, 2H), 1.88–1.97 (m, 2H), 3.20 (s, 3H), 6.84 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.05–7.09 (m, 1H), 7.12–7.14 (m, 1H),

7.24–7.29 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup> C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 8.6, 25.9, 30.6, 54.3, 107.6, 122.3, 122.7, 127.6, 132.0, 144.4, 180.0; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3407, 3054, 2966, 2929, 1709, 1612, 1493, 1468, 1377, 1338, 1254, 1124, 1079, 1021, 749, 546. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO [M+H] <sup>+</sup> calcd.204.1383, found 204.1380.

#### 3-ethyl-1-methyl-3-propylindolin-2-one (2f)

Colorless oil; 89% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 0.55 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 0.72–0.84 (m, 4H), 0.89–0.97 (m, 1H),1.14–1.21 (m, 2H), 1.70–1.82 (m, 2H), 1.84–1.94 (m, 2H), 3.21 (s, 3H), 6.83 (d, J =7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.05–7.09 (m, 1H), 7.12–7.14 (m, 1H), 7.24–7.28 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup> C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 8.5, 13.8, 22.9, 25.9, 26.4, 31.0, 37.5, 53.7, 107.6, 122.3, 122.6, 127.5, 132.4, 144.2, 180.2; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3409, 3055, 2960, 2933, 2875, 1716, 1613, 1493, 1469, 1377, 1350, 1252, 1123, 1075, 1021, 750, 542. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO [M+H]<sup>+</sup>calcd.232.1696, found 232.1693.

### 3-ethyl-1,3-dimethylindolin-2-one (2g)

Colorless oil; 83% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 0.59 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 1.35 (s, 3H), 1.73–1.82 (m, 1H), 1.89–1.97 (m, 1H), 3.21 (s, 3H), 6.84 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.05–7.09 (m, 1H), 7.16–7.18 (m, 1H), 7.24–7.28 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup> C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 8.8, 23.3, 26.0, 31.4, 48.9, 107.8, 122.4, 122.5, 127.6, 133.9, 143.5, 180.7; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3409, 3055, 2966, 2928, 2877, 1713, 1613, 1493, 1471, 1378, 1349, 1258, 1124, 1078, 1017, 751, 549. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd.190.1226, found 190.1223.

### 1-methyl-3,3-dipropylindolin-2-one (2h)



Colorless oil; 67% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 0.76 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 0.79–0.85 (m, 2H), 0.94–1.03 (m, 2H), 1.67–1.74 (m, 2H), 1.82–1.90 (m, 2H), 3.20 (s, 3H), 6.82 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H),

7.04–7.08 (m, 1H), 7.13–7.15(m, 1H), 7.23–7.27 (m,1H); <sup>13</sup> C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 14.1, 17.5, 25.9, 40.3, 53.3, 107.6, 122.3, 122.6, 127.4, 132.8, 144.0, 180.3; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3409, 3054, 2958, 2933, 2873, 1711, 1613, 1493, 1467, 1378, 1347, 1248, 1126, 1076, 1019, 747, 543. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NO [M+H] +calcd. 232.1696, found 232.1692.

#### 1'-methylspiro[cyclopent[3]ene-1,3'-indolin]-2'-one (2i)

Yellow oil; 65% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 2.59 (d, J = 14.6 Hz, 2H), 3.00 (d, J = 14.7 Hz, 2H), 3.22 (s, 3H), 5.84 (s, 1H), 6.82 (dd, J = 7.9, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.00–7.04 (m, 1H), 7.23–7.27 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup> C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 26.3, 44.9, 52.1, 107.7, 121.6, 122.8, 127.6, 128.9, 137.4, 142.6, 181.4; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3398, 2918, 2839, 1708, 1611, 1494, 1470, 1378, 1346, 1266, 1185, 1085, 1029, 756, 689, 542, 470. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NO [M+H] <sup>+</sup>calcd. 200.1070, found 200.1067.

# 1-methyl-2',3',5',6'-tetrahydrospiro[indoline-3,4'-pyran]-2-one (2j)

White solid; 70% yield; mp 85–86°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ (ppm) = 1.86 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 4H), 3.21 (s, 3H), 3.90–3.95 (m, 2H) , 4.23–4.29 (m, 2H), 6.86 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.06–7.10 (m, 1H), 7.28–7.32(m, 1H), 7.38 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 26.0, 32.9, 44.2, 62.9, 108.0, 122.4, 123.0, 127.9, 134.0, 142.7, 179.6; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3398, 2946, 2861, 1703, 1611, 1477, 1458, 1371, 1348, 1245, 1103, 1076, 1023, 1006, 836, 760, 751, 695, 538, 490. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M+H] +calcd. 218.1176, found 218.1172.

#### 5-fluoro-1,3,3-trimethylindolin-2-one (2k)

Figure 6 White solid; 87% yield; mp 81–83°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ (ppm) = 1.37 (s, 6H), 3.20 (s, 3H), 6.76 (dd, J = 9.2, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 6.93-6.98 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup> C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 24.3, 26.3, 44.6 (d, J = 1.8 Hz), 108.3 (d, J = 8.1 Hz), 110.5 (d, J = 24.3 Hz), 113.7 (d, J = 23.3 Hz), 137.5 (d, J= 7.8 Hz), 138.5 (d, J = 1.8 Hz), 159.4 (d, J = 239 Hz), 180.9; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3387, 3067, 2968, 2925, 2866, 1700, 1620, 1501, 1485, 1460, 1353, 1275, 1187, 1114, 1045, 886, 818, 696, 616, 559, 467. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>13</sub>FNO [M+H] +calcd. 194.0976, found 194.0973.

#### 5-chloro-1,3,3-trimethylindolin-2-one (21)

CI  $\downarrow$  White solid; 82% yield; mp 86–87°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 1.37 (s, 6H), 3.20 (s, 3H), 6.76 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.23(dd, J = 8.2 2.0 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup> C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 24.3, 26.3, 44.4, 108.9, 122.9, 127.6, 127.9, 137.5, 141.2, 180.8; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3395, 2976, 2930, 2866, 1706, 1610, 1490, 1467, 1426, 1345, 1266, 1242, 1125, 1087, 813, 587, 543, 468. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>13</sub>CINO [M+H] <sup>+</sup> calcd. 210.0680, found 210.0677.

# 5-bromo-1,3,3-trimethylindolin-2-one (2m)

<sup>Br</sup>  $\downarrow$  White solid; 80% yield; mp 102–104°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 1.29 (s, 6H), 3.12 (s, 3H), 6.65 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, J = 1.9Hz, 1H), 7.23(dd, J = 8.2, 1.9 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 24.3, 26.3, 44.4, 109.5, 115.2, 125.7, 130.5, 137.9, 141.7, 180.7; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3398, 2966, 2925, 2863, 1716, 1606, 1488, 1468, 1415, 1361, 1342, 1264, 1242, 1126, 1077, 814, 560, 532, 463. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>13</sub>BrNO [M+H] <sup>+</sup>calcd. 254.0175, found 254.0171.

# 1,3,3-trimethyl-2-oxoindoline-5-carbonitrile (2n)

Light yellow solid; 89% yield; mp  $131-132^{\circ}C$ ; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, **CDCl**<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 1.40 (s, 6H), 3.26 (s, 3H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, J = 1.4Hz, 1H), 7.61(dd, J = 8.1, 1.4Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup> C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 24.2, 26.4, 44.0, 105.6, 108.5, 119.3, 125.7, 133.2, 136.7, 146.6, 180.9; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3414, 2973, 2947, 2217, 1712, 1615, 1492, 1462, 1365, 1343, 1283, 1241, 1177, 1118, 1060, 1040, 826, 610, 559, 492. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O [M+H]<sup>+</sup>calcd. 201.1022, found 201.1018.

# 1,3,3-trimethyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)indolin-2-one (20)

<sup>F<sub>3</sub>C</sup> Light yellow solid; 92% yield; mp 37–39°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, **CDCl<sub>3</sub>**)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 1.40 (s, 6H), 3.25 (s, 3H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.55(dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.0 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 24.1, 26.4, 44.2, 107.7, 119.3 (q, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 124.5 (q, *J* = 270 Hz), 124.7 (q, *J* = 32.3 Hz), 125.5 (q, *J* = 3.9 Hz), 136.3, 145.7, 181.2; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3424, 2973,2930,1721, 1624, 1503, 1467, 1384, 1327, 1261, 1158, 1116, 1076, 1053, 890, 835, 707, 653, 562, 536, 474. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>13</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO [M+H]<sup>+</sup>calcd. 244.0944, found 244.0940.

# methyl 1,3,3-trimethyl-2-oxoindoline-5-carboxylate (2p)

White solid; 90% yield; mp 96–97°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 1.40 (s, 6H), 3.26 (s, 3H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.02(dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup> C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 24.2, 26.3, 43.9, 51.9, 107.5, 123.5, 124.3, 130.4, 135.6, 146.8, 166.9, 181.5; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3409, 2978, 2947, 1709, 1616, 1496, 1456, 1363, 1290,1242, 1192, 1106, 1062, 938, 834, 773, 710, 561, 544, 472. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>calcd. 234.1125, found 234.1119.

# 3,3-diethyl-1-methyl-2-oxoindoline-5-carbonitrile (2q)

Light yellow solid; 88% yield; mp 60–62°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 0.57 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 6H), 1.75–1.85 (m, 2H), 1.91–2.00 (m, 2H), 3.25 (s, 3H), 6.92 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.62(dd, J = 8.1, 1.4 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ (ppm)= 8.5, 26.2, 30.5, 54.3, 105.5, 108.1, 119.4, 126.0, 133.1, 133.2, 148.2, 179.7; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3416, 2963, 2928, 2878, 2218, 1719, 1612, 1495, 1460, 1359, 1262, 1122, 1069, 940, 836, 539, 513. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O [M+H]<sup>+</sup>calcd. 229.1335, found 229.1331.

# 5'-chloro-1'-methylspiro[cyclopentane-1,3'-indolin]-2'-one (2r)

White solid; 82% yield; mp 70–71°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ (ppm) = 1.80–1.85 (m, 2H), 1.93–1.99 (m, 2H), 2.04–2.18 (m, 4H), 3.19 (s, 3H), 6.73 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.21(dd, J = 8.2, 2.1Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 26.3, 26.6, 38.3, 54.1, 108.5, 122.8, 127.1, 127.7, 138.5, 141.4, 181.4; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3405, 2947, 2872, 1705, 1610, 1490, 1469, 1429, 1365, 1346, 1274, 1246, 1039, 1067, 971, 879, 844, 806, 545, 460. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>15</sub>CINO [M+H]<sup>+</sup>calcd. 236.0837, found 236.0832.

# 5-bromo-3,3-diethyl-1-methylindolin-2-one (2s)

<sup>Br</sup> (+++) White solid; 86% yield; mp 74–75°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 0.57 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 6H), 1.71–1.80 (m, 2H), 1.88–1.97 (m, 2H), 3.20(s, 3H), 6.72 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.39(dd, J = 8.2, 1.9 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup> C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 8.6, 26.0, 30.6, 54.6, 109.3, 115.1, 125.9, 130.4, 134.2, 143.4, 179.4; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3401, 3057, 3042, 2960, 2932, 2874, 1706, 1604, 1481, 1457, 1429, 1365, 1331, 1269, 1253, 1125, 1084, 905, 806, 774, 540, 489. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>17</sub>BrNO [M+H]<sup>+</sup>calcd. 282.0488, found 282.0482.

# 5'-fluoro-1'-methylspiro[cyclohexane-1,3'-indolin]-2'-one (2t)

Light yellow oil; 80% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 1.51–1.57 (m, 2H), 1.61–1.75 (m, 4H), 1.82–1.88 (m, 2H), 1.92–1.98 (m, 2H), 3.19 (s, 3H), 6.75 (dd, J = 8.5, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 6.95–7.00 (m, 1H), 7.20 (dd, J = 8.5, 2.5 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 21.1, 25.0, 26.2, 32.8, 47.9 (d, J = 1.3 Hz), 108.1 (d, J = 8.1 Hz), 112.1 (d, J = 24.8 Hz), 113.4 (d, J = 23.2 Hz), 136.9 (d, J = 7.6 Hz), 138.7 (d, J = 1.4 Hz), 158.8 (d, J = 238 Hz), 180.3; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3403, 3060, 2933, 2856, 1709, 1620, 1495, 1470, 1446, 1352, 1276, 1137, 1097, 1006, 932, 869, 809, 760, 702, 643, 560, 483. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>17</sub>FNO [M+H]<sup>+</sup>calcd. 234.1289, found 234.1282.

#### 1'-methyl-5'-(trifluoromethyl)spiro[cyclohexane-1,3'-indolin]-2'-one (2u)

White solid; 92% yield; mp 37–39°C; **H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**  $\delta$  (ppm) = 1.56–1.62 (m, 2H), 1.67–1.75 (m, 4H), 1.82–1.88 (m, 2H), 1.97–2.01 (m, 2H), 3.23(s, 3H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.64(s, 1H); <sup>13</sup> **C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**  $\delta$  (ppm) = 21.0, 25.0, 26.3, 32.9, 47.3, 107.5, 120.5 (q, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 124.1 (q, *J* = 32.1 Hz), 124.5 (q, *J* = 270 Hz), 125.2 (q, *J* = 4.1 Hz), 135.8, 145.8, 180.5; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3424, 3083, 2972, 2930, 1721, 1624, 1503, 1467, 1384, 1327, 1297, 1261, 1116, 1076, 1054, 890, 835, 707, 653, 562, 536, 474. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>13</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO [M+H]<sup>+</sup>calcd. 244.0944, found 244.0940.

# 3-butyl-3-ethyl-1-methyl-2-oxoindoline-5-carbonitrile (2v)

Light yellow oil; 86% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = NC  $\longrightarrow$  0.55 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 0.72–0.84 (m, 4H), 0.89–0.97 (m, 1H), 1.14–1.21 (m, 2H), 1.70–1.82 (m, 2H), 1.84–1.94 (m, 2H), 3.21 (s, 3H), 6.83 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.05–7.09 (m, 1H), 7.12–7.14 (m, 1H), 7.24–7.28 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup> C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 8.5, 13.8, 22.9, 25.9, 26.4, 31.0, 37.5, 53.7, 107.6, 122.3, 122.6, 127.5, 132.4, 144.2, 180,2; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3513, 3432, 2962, 2934, 2875, 2223, 1721, 1614, 1592, 1493, 1460, 1371, 1348, 1254, 1173, 1123, 1068, 822, 737, 569, 521, 508. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NO [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>calcd. 279.1468, found 279.1462.

# 1,3,3,5-tetramethylindolin-2-one (2w)

White solid; 70% yield; mp 54–56°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 1.35 (s, 6H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 3.19 (s, 3H), 6.73 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.02–7.06 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup> C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 21.1, 24.4, 26.2, 44.2, 107.7, 123.1, 127.8, 132.0, 135.9, 140.3, 181.3; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3400, 2961, 2925, 2863, 1710, 1620, 1603, 1505, 1458, 1380, 1349, 1348, 1244, 1133, 1117, 1066, 1045, 882, 800, 617, 555, 465. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO [M+H]<sup>+</sup>calcd. 190.1226, found 190.1223.

#### 5-methoxy-1,3,3-trimethylindolin-2-one (2x)

Colorless oil; 77% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 1.36 (s, 6H), 3.19 (s, 3H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 6.73–6.80 (m, 2H), 6.83 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 24.4, 26.2,

44.6, 55.8, 108.2, 110.0, 111.5, 136.1, 137.2, 156.0, 181.0; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3487, 2966, 2929, 2867, 1708, 1662, 1602, 1500, 1472, 1436, 1383, 1356, 1289, 1220, 1120, 1048, 1028, 882, 805, 697, 558, 463. HRMS (ESI) for  $C_{12}H_{16}NO_2$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup>calcd. 206.1176, found 206.1171.

# 3-(2-((tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)ethyl)-1,3-dimethylindolin-2-one (2y)

Colorless oil; 64% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ (ppm)= -0.13 (s, 6H), 0.77 (s, 9H), 1.36(s, 3H), 1.94–2.00(m, 1H), 2.20–2.27 (m, 1H), 3.19 (s, 3H), 3.36 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 6.82 (d, J= 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ (ppm)= -5.7, -5.6, 18.1, 24.8, 25.8, 26.2, 40.3, 46.5, 59.5, 107.8, 122.2, 122.7, 127.6, 133.7, 143.3, 180.4; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3426, 2954, 2928, 2856, 1719, 1614, 1494, 1471, 1377, 1348, 1253, 1110, 835, 752. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>30</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>Si [M+H]<sup>+</sup>calcd. 320.2040, found 320.2033.

#### 1,3,3-trimethyl-1,3-dihydro-2H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-2-one (2z)

Yellow oil; 65% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 1.40 (s, 6H), 3.31 (s, 3H), 6.96 (dd, J = 7.2, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (dd, J = 7.2, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (dd, J = 5.3, 1.5 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup> C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 23.8, 25.3, 118.0, 129.5, 130.0, 146.5, 156.2, 180.8; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3425, 2971, 2932, 2870, 1720, 1608, 1595, 1471, 1360, 1258, 1143, 1046, 939, 803, 782, 559, 497. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O [M+H]<sup>+</sup>calcd.177.1022, found 177.1025.

# (E)-N-methyl-N,2-diphenylbut-2-enamide (2aa)

Colorless oil; 20% yield; <sup>1</sup> H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 1.63 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 3.29 (s, 3H), 6.25 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.80–6.84 (m, 4H), 7.10–7.12 (m, 6H); <sup>13</sup> C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 14.4, 37.9, 126.4, 126.7, 127.3, 127.7, 128.7, 128.7, 131.6, 135.7, 139.3, 144.1, 171.8; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3390, 3057, 2963, 2932, 1720, 1650, 1595, 1495, 1455, 1382, 1367, 1267, 1134, 1075, 766, 737, 700, 553. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO [M+H]<sup>+</sup>calcd. 252.1383, found 252.1386

# N-phenylisobutyramide (2ab)

White solid; 95% yield; mp 98–99°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 1.21 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 3H), 1.23 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 3H), 2.52 (m, 1H), 7.08 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.58–7.80 (br, 1H); <sup>13</sup> C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 19.6, 36.5, 119.9, 124.0, 128.8, 138.1, 175.6; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3302, 3263, 2969, 2931, 1662, 1600, 1549, 1490, 1442, 1386, 1310, 1252, 1204, 1099, 942, 883, 761, 734,694, 589, 510. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NO [M+H]<sup>+</sup>calcd. 164.1070, found 164.1067.

# N-methyl-N-phenylisobutyramide (2a')

White solid; 60% yield; mp 98–99°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 1.03 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 6H), 2.51 (m, 1H), 3.25 (s, 3H), 7.19 (dd, J = 8.3, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup> C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 19.6, 30.9, 37.4, 127.2, 127.6, 129.7, 144.3, 177.4; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3442, 3054, 2962, 2933, 2870, 1652, 1595, 1496, 1471, 1420, 1387, 1268, 1117, 1039, 783, 708, 572, 411. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO [M+H]<sup>+</sup>calcd. 178.1226, found 178.1222.

### 1,3,3,4-tetramethylindolin-2-one (2ag);1,3,3,6-tetramethylindolin-2-one (2ag')



White solid; 71% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm) = 1.35 (s, 3H), 1.45 (s, 6H), 2.38 (s, 1.5H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 3.20 (d, 4.7H), 6.67 (s, 0.5H), 6.69 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (dd, J = 7.5, 0.6 Hz, 0.5H), 7.08 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 0.5H), 7.16 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup> C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 18.1, 21.7, 22.4, 24.5, 26.1, 26.3, 43.9, 45.0, 105.8, 109.0, 122.0, 122.9, 125.0, 127.4, 132.6, 133.0, 134.0, 137.7, 142.7, 142.9, 181.4, 181.7; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3396, 2979, 2965, 2928, 1712, 1608, 1598, 1468, 1442, 1381, 1331, 1300, 1243, 1073, 1047, 954, 826, 786, 760, 600, 560, 474. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO [M+H]<sup>+</sup>calcd. 190.1226, found 190.1222.

#### 2-isopropyl-3,3-dimethylisoindolin-1-one (1af)

White solid; 53% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 1.28 (s, 6H), 1.56 (s, J = 6.9 Hz, 6H), 3.65 (m, 1H), 7.34 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup> C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 20.5, 25.4, 44.5, 63.2, 120.5, 123.1, 127.8, 131.2, 132.0, 151.1, 167.2; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3424, 2970, 2932, 2874, 1647, 1578, 1471, 1428, 1389, 1280, 1128, 1051, 1019, 769, 727. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NONa [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>calcd. 226.1202, found 226.1202.

# 3-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1,3-dimethylindolin-2-one (2ae)

Colorless oil; 88% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ (ppm)= 1.41 (s, 3H), 1.96–2.02 (m, 1H), 2.13–2.19 (m, 1H), 2.62 (br, 1H), 3.22 (s, 3H), 3.41–3.47 (m, 1H), 3.61–3.67 (m, 1H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 7.0Hz, 1H), 7.29 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup> C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) = 23.5, 26.3, 40.0, 46.9, 59.2, 108.3, 122.4, 122.7, 127.9, 134.0, 142.8, 181.5; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3417, 3055, 2968, 2925, 1703, 1613, 1493, 1471, 1453, 1379, 1352, 1265, 1126, 1105, 1043, 737, 701. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>Na [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>calcd. 228.0995, found 228.0995.

# 7. Synthesis of the $(\pm)$ -coerulescine scaffold



A solution of triethylaluminum in toluene (1.0 M, 2.5 ml, 2.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) was added to a solution of 2-iodoaniline (0.219 g, 1.0 mmol, 1 equiv.) in toluene (3 ml) at 0°C under inert atmosphere. The mixture was then warmed to room temperature. After stirring for 3h, a solution of benzyl 1-tert-{butyloxycarbonyl}-pyrrolidine-3-car

-boxylate (0.305 g, 1.0 mmol, 1 equiv.) in toluene (3 ml) was added, and the mixture was heated at 80°C for 12 h. On completion of the reaction, a saturated aqueous solution of ammonium chloride and a few drops of hydrochloric acid (2M) were added. The mixture was washed with a solution of sodium hydroxide (2M), and extracted with diethyl ether, and the combined organic phase was dried over sodium sulfate. The product was purified by column chromatography (70:30, hexanes-ethyl acetate) giving tert-butyl-3-((2-iodophenyl)carbamoyl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate as a white powder.<sup>2,4</sup>

To a stirred suspension of NaH (0.027 g; 1.1 mmol) in 1 ml of dry THF at 0°C, the tert-butyl-3-((2-iodophenyl)carbamoyl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate (1 mmol) dissolved in 2 ml of THF was added dropwise within 10 min. The reaction mixture was stirred until the solution became clear (30 min, hydrogen gas evolved), and the solution of MeI (0.22 g; 1.5 mmol) in 1 ml of THF was added dropwise within 10 min. The solution was warmed up to room temperature and stirred for 3 h. Then the reaction mixture was quenched with water (5 ml). The resulting solution was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 5 ml). Combined organic layers were washed with brine (1 x 4 ml) and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Ethyl acetate was removed under reduced pressure to give crude products. The product was purified by column chromatography (7:3, hexanes-ethyl acetate) giving tert-butyl-3-((2-iodophenyl)(methyl)carbamoyl)py -rrolidine-1-carboxylate **1ad** as a pale oil (0.38 g, 88% over 2 steps); **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400**  **MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>**):  $\delta$ (ppm)= 1.42 (2 x s, 9H), 1.95–2.02 (m, 1H), 2.09 (br ,1H), 2.62–2.70 (m, 1H), 3.05-3.14 (m, 1H), 3.19 (s, 3H), 3.31–3.36 (m, 1H), 3.51-3.62 (m, 2H), 7.11–7.55 (m, 1H), 7.26–7.30 (m, 1H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C **NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**  $\delta$  (ppm)= 28.4, 36.2, 36.2, 45.4, 45.5, 49.1, 79.1, 79.1, 99.7, 99.8, 128.8, 128.8, 129.0, 129.8, 130.0, 130.1, 130.1, 140.2, 140.3, 145.5, 154.1, 154.1, 172.2, 172.3; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3315, 2974, 2931, 2884, 2372, 1688, 1663, 1578, 1470, 1409, 1386, 1250, 1169, 1125, 1019, 875, 771, 728, 552. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>INa [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>calcd. 453.0646, found 453.0657.



The title compound **2ad** was prepared according to the general method described above and purified by flash column chromatography (2:1, hexanes-ethyl acetate) in 65% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ (ppm)= 1.48 (2 x s, 9H), 2.03 (br, 1H), 2.38–2.45 (m, 1H), 3.24 (s, 3H), 3.52–3.86 (m, 4H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.4 (br, 1H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ (ppm)= 26.4, 28.4, 35.4, 36.2, 45.2, 45.4, 51.9, 52.8, 53.8, 54.3, 79.7, 108.2, 122.3, 122.9, 128.3, 142.7, 154.3, 177.2; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3414, 3056, 2975, 2934, 2885, 1717, 1696, 1614, 1494, 1472, 1402, 1375, 1350, 1254, 1171, 1124, 1022, 988, 882, 752, 544,463. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>calcd. 325.1523, found 325.1531.



A solution of **2ad** (60.4 mg, 0.2 mmol) and benzoyl peroxide (96.8 mg, 0.4 mmol) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (1 mL) in a sealed tube was heated slowly to 80 °C. After stirring for 18 h, the reaction mixture was cooled to rt and the solvent was evaporated. The residue was dissolved in MeOH (1 mL), NaOH (29.2 mg, 0.8 mmol) was added and the reaction

mixture was stirred for 18 h at rt. Then the slurry was poured onto saturated aqueous  $NH_4Cl (1 \text{ mL})$  and extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2 (3 \times 2 \text{ mL})$ . The combined organic layers were dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated. The residue was dissolved in a saturated methanolic  $NH_3$  solution (0.5 mL) and stirred for 4 h at rt. The solvent was evaporated and the residue chromatographed to give **3ad** as a pale oil (25 mg, 43%);<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ (ppm)= 1.49 (2 x s, 9H), 2.04–2.14 (m, 1H), 2.39–2.46 (m, 1H), 3.55–3.91 (m, 4H), 6.97 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.16–7.26 (m, 2H), 9.19 (2 x s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ (ppm)= 28.4, 28.5, 35.5, 36.3, 45.2, 45.4, 52.4, 53.3, 53.8, 54.3, 79.8, 110.1, 122.7, 122.9, 128.4, 132.6, 133.0, 140.1, 140.2, 154.4, 180.1, 180.4; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3248, 2977, 2932, 2887, 1719, 1700, 1621, 1472, 1404, 1367, 1345, 1228, 1172, 1130, 879, 751, 737, 702, 674, 636. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>calcd. 311.1366, found 311.1357.

# 8. Synthesis of the $(\pm)$ - physovenine scaffold



A solution of triethylaluminum in toluene (1.0 M, 10 ml, 10 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) was added to a solution of 2-iodoaniline (0.876 g, 4.0 mmol, 1 equiv.) in toluene (15 ml) at 0°C under inert atmosphere. The mixture was then warmed to room temperature. After stirring for 3h, a solution of 3-methyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one (0.40 g, 4.0 mmol, 1 equiv.) in toluene (15 ml) was added, and the mixture was heated at 80°C for 12 h. On completion of the reaction, a saturated aqueous solution of ammonium chloride and a few drops of hydrochloric acid (2M) were added. The mixture was washed with a solution of sodium hydroxide (2M), and extracted with diethyl ether, and the combined organic phase was dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated. The product was purified by column chromatography (1:1,

dichloromethane-ethyl acetate) giving the product as a white powder (1.13 g, 89%).<sup>2,4</sup>



To a reaction flask containing the 4-hydroxy-N-(2-iodophenyl)-2-methylbutanam -ide (0.64 g, 2 mmol) and imidazole (0.2 g, 3 mmol) was added CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 mL). The solution was cooled to 0°C in an ice bath before adding TBSCl (0.34 g, 2.2 mmol). The reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature overnight (12 h) and a white precipitate emerged. The reaction was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 mL) and quenched with saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution. The aqueous layer was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, and the combined organic layers were washed with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution, water, and brine; dried over sodium sulfate; and concentrated. The resulting crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (4:1, hexanes-ethyl acetate) giving the product as a pale oil (0.85 g, 95%).<sup>5</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ(ppm)= 0.04 (2 x s, 6H), 0.88 (s, 9H), 1.28 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 1.64–1.72 (m, 1H), 1.95–2.03 (m, 1H), 2.65–2.73 (m, 1H), 3.70 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 6.81 (m, 1H), 7.31 (m, 1H), 7.59 (br, 1H), 7.75 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.22 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta(\text{ppm}) = -5.4, -5.3, 17.7, 18.2, 25.9, 37.0, 38.7, 60.4, 90.0, 122.0, 125.7, 129.1, 138.2, 129.1, 129.$ 138.6, 174.6; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3388, 3278, 2955, 2930, 2856, 1671, 1584, 1516, 1462, 1431, 1387, 1288, 1255, 1176, 1102, 1014, 903, 835, 776, 749, 665, 649. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>28</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>INa [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>calcd. 456.0826, found 456.0820.



The title compound **1y** was prepared according to the general method described above and purified by flash column chromatography (6:1, hexanes-ethyl acetate) in 98% yield. Colorless oil; **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**:  $\delta$ (ppm)= -0.06- -0.03 (m, 6H), 0.78 (2 x s, 9H), 1.06 (4 x s, 3H), 1.44-1.58 (m, 1H), 1.79-1.05 (m, 1H), 2.25-2.40 (m, 1H), 3.17 (2 x s, 3H), 3.52-3.58 (m, 2H), 7.04-7.09 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.32 (m, 1H), 7.38–7.44 (m, 1H), 7.91–7.94 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ(ppm)= -5.5, -5.4, -5.3, 17.1, 17.2, 18.1, 18.2, 25.9, 33.4, 33.5, 36.1, 36.2, 36.3, 37.0, 60.4, 60.6, 99.5, 99.8, 128.8, 129.4, 129.6, 129.6, 129.6, 129.7, 140.1, 140.3, 146.1, 176.5, 176.7; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3413, 2930, 2857, 2372, 1647, 1578, 1468, 1429, 1388, 1280, 1252, 1112, 1051, 1020, 878, 836, 772, 726, 666, 575. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>30</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>INa [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>calcd. 470.0983, found 470.0999.



To a solution of the silyl ether (447 mg, 1 mmol) in THF (5 mL) at 0°C was added TBAF (1.0 M in THF, 1.2 mL, 1.2 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 4 h and quenched by saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc, and the combined organic layers were washed with water and brine, dried, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (EtOAc). The alcohol as a colorless oil which solidified upon standing (318 mg, 96%).



To a solution of the oxindole-3- ethanol (41 mg, 0.2 mmol) in dry THF (4 mL) at 0°C was added LAH (31 mg, 0.8 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at this temperature for 40 min and quenched by saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (5 mL) solution. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc, and the combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (EtOAc) gave **3ae** (15.1 mg, 80%) as a slightly white solid:<sup>6</sup> <sup>1</sup>H **NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**:  $\delta$ (ppm)= 1.46 (s, 3H), 2.00–2.15 (m, 2H), 2.92 (s, 3H), 3.42–3.48 (m, 1H), 3.92–3.96 (m, 1H), 5.06 (s, 1H), 6.36 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (m, 1H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.07–7.12 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C **NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**  $\delta$ (ppm)= 24.7, 30.9, 41.7, 52.3, 67.3, 104.8, 104.9, 117.3, 122.4, 128.1, 134.4,

150.4; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2959, 2926, 2866, 1608, 1494, 1448, 1388, 1301, 1216, 124, 1033, 1011, 918, 740. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NONa [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>calcd. 212.1046, found 212.1041.

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# 9. NMR spectra of compounds



















l'-methylspiro[cyclohexane-1,3'-indolin]-2'-one (2d)





# 3,3-diethyl-1-methylindolin-2-one (2e)
















1-methyl-3,3-dipropylindolin-2-one (2h)





1'-methylspiro[cyclopent[3]ene-1,3'-indolin]-2'-one (2i)





1-methyl-2',3',5',6'-tetrahydrospiro[indoline-3,4'-pyran]-2-one (2j)











5-chloro-1,3,3-trimethylindolin-2-one (21)



Hz Hz Hz Hz Hz Hz



5-bromo-1,3,3-trimethylindolin-2-one (2m)





## 1,3,3-trimethyl-2-oxoindoline-5-carbonitrile (2n)



S49



## 1,3,3-trimethyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)indolin-2-one (20)





methyl 1,3,3-trimethyl-2-oxoindoline-5-carboxylate (2p)



S53



3,3-diethyl-1-methyl-2-oxoindoline-5-carbonitrile (2q)





5'-chloro-1'-methylspiro[cyclopentane-1,3'-indolin]-2'-one (2r)





5-bromo-3,3-diethyl-1-methylindolin-2-one (2s)





5'-fluoro-1'-methylspiro[cyclohexane-1,3'-indolin]-2'-one (2t)











3-butyl-3-ethyl-1-methyl-2-oxoindoline-5-carbonitrile (2v)





## 1,3,3,5-tetramethylindolin-2-one (2w)





5-methoxy-1,3,3-trimethylindolin-2-one (2x)





3-(2-((tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)ethyl)-1,3-dimethylindolin-2-one (2y)



ANNEL fl ====== 400.1324710 MHz 10.79 usec 65536 400.1300069 MHz cDC 0.30 usec MHz Hz usec K Sec Hz


1,3,3-trimethyl-1,3-dihydro-2H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-2-one (2z)





N-methyl-N,2-diphenylbut-2-enamide (2aa)





## N-phenylisobutyramide (2ab)











1,3,3,4-tetramethylindolin-2-one (2ag) and 1,3,3,6-tetramethylindolin-2-one (2ag')



1.00

MH























tert-butyl 2-oxospiro[indoline-3,3'-pyrrolidine]-1'-carboxylate (**3ad**)



4-((tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)-N-(2-iodophenyl)-2-methylbutanamide





4-((tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)-N-(2-iodophenyl)-N,2-dimethylbutanamide (1y)





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S96

3a,8-dimethyl-3,3a,8,8a-tetrahydro-2H-furo[2,3-b]indole (3ae)



