

Supporting Information

Consecutive visible-light photoredox decarboxylative couplings of adipic acid active esters with alkynyl sulfones leading to cyclic compounds

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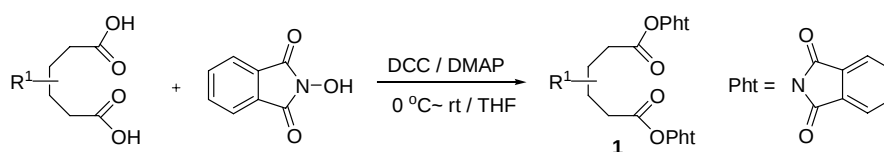
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General Procedures

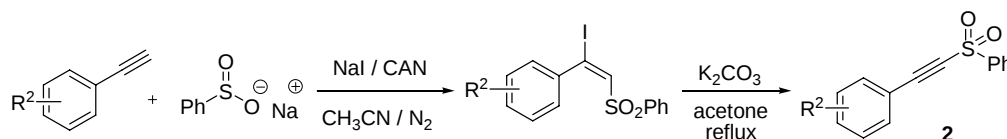
All reactions were carried out in dry solvents and under an atmosphere of argon unless otherwise indicated. Dichloromethane, dichloroethane and MeCN were dried over calcium hydride. Reagents were purchased from commercial sources and used directly without further purification. Substrates adipic acid active esters and alkynyl sulfones were prepared according to the previously reported procedures.^{1,2} Reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) and products were obtained by column chromatography on silica gel. ¹H NMR (400 MHz) and ¹³C NMR (100 MHz) spectra were recorded in CDCl₃ using TMS as an internal standard (¹H NMR: TMS at 0.00 ppm, CHCl₃ at 7.26 ppm; ¹³C NMR: CDCl₃ at 77.16 ppm. Signal patterns are indicated as s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; and m, multiplet.)

General procedure for synthesis of adipic acid active esters



DCC (24 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of adipic acid (10 mmol), *N*-hydroxyphthalimide (24 mmol) and DMAP (2 mmol) in THF (100 mL) at 0 °C under N₂ during 15 min, and stirred overnight at room temperature. After the completion of the reaction, the precipitate was filtered and washed with CH₂Cl₂. The filtrate was evaporated by rotary evaporator, and the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (CH₂Cl₂ or CH₂Cl₂/EtOAc) to provide the adipic acid active ester (**1**) as a white solid.

General procedure for synthesis of alkynyl sulfones



To a mixture of arylacetylene (1 mmol), sodium benzenesulfinate (1.2 mmol) and NaI (1.2 mmol) in anhydrous CH₃CN (5 mL) was added a solution of CAN (2.5 mmol) in the same solvent (10 mL) under an argon atmosphere and the reaction was stirred at

room temperature overnight. After the completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was diluted with H₂O (20 mL), extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 20 mL). The combined organic phase was washed with sat. Na₂S₂O₃ (20 mL), brine (20 mL) and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄.

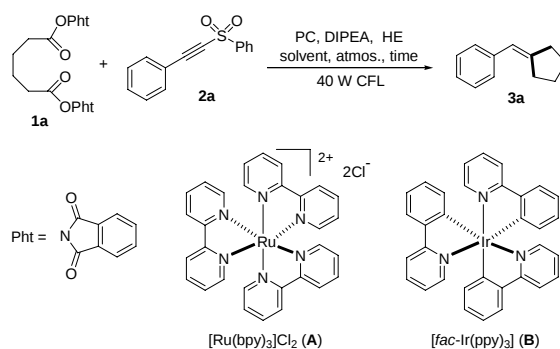
The residue after removing the solvent was refluxed with K₂CO₃ (2 mmol) in anhydrous acetone (5 mL) for about 5 hours. After the completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture after removing the solvent was washed with H₂O (20 mL) and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 20 mL). The combined organic phase was washed with brine (20 mL) and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The solvent was removed in vacuo using a rotary evaporator, and the residue was chromatographed to afford the target product (**2**).

Optimization of conditions

Consecutive photoredox decarboxylative couplings of bis(1,3-dioxoisindolin-2-yl)hexanedioate (**1a**) with 1-(2-phenylethynylsulfonyl)benzene (**2a**) was selected as the model reaction to optimize conditions including photocatalysts, solvents, atmosphere and time. As shown in Table S1, five solvents were screened using 1.0 mol% [Ru(bpy)₃]Cl₂ as the photoredox catalyst, 4.4 equiv of diisopropylethylamine (DIPEA) and 3.0 equiv of Hantzsch ester (HE) (relative to amount of **2a**) as the radical initiators and reductants at room temperature under argon atmosphere for 12 h (entries 1-5), and dichloromethane (DCM) gave the highest yield (entry 1). Yields were changed when time was shortened (entries 6-8), and the reaction provided 90% yield within 4 h. When air replaced argon atmosphere, a 68% yield was afforded (entry 9). No reaction occurred in the absence of photocatalyst (entry 10). When [*fac*-Ir(ppy)₃] was used as the photoredox catalyst, only trace amount of product was observed (entry 11). Yield dramatically decreased (only 39% yield) without addition of DIPEA (entry 12). The reaction did not work in the absence of HE (entry 13) or light (entry 14). When diethylamine (entry 15) or K₂CO₃ (entry 16) replaced DIPEA, the poor results were observed. Therefore, the optimal photoredox conditions are as follows: 1.0 mol%

[Ru(bpy)₃]Cl₂ as the photocatalyst, 4.4 equiv of DIPEA and 3.0 equiv of HE as the radical initiators and reductants at room temperature under argon atmosphere.

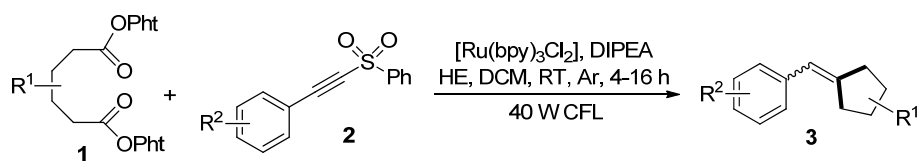
Table S1 Optimization of conditions on consecutive photoredox decarboxylative couplings of bis(1,3-dioxoisindolin-2-yl)hexanedioate (**1a**) with 1-(2-phenylethynylsulfonyl)benzene (**2a**)^a



Entry	PC	Solvent	Atmos.	Time (h)	Yield (%) ^b
1	A	DCM	Ar	12	86
2	A	DCE	Ar	12	71
3	A	DMF	Ar	12	76
4	A	DMSO	Ar	12	67
5	A	MeCN	Ar	12	42
6	A	DCM	Ar	8	90
7	A	DCM	Ar	4	90
8	A	DCM	Ar	2	47
9	A	DCM	air	4	68
10	-	DCM	Ar	4	NR ^c
11	B	DCM	Ar	4	trace
12	A	DCM	Ar	4	39 ^d
13	A	DCM	Ar	4	NR ^e
14	A	DCM	Ar	4	NR ^f
15	A	DCM	Ar	4	0 ^g
16	A	DCM	Ar	8	21 ^h

^a Reaction conditions: under irradiation of visible light, bis(1,3-dioxoisindolin-2-yl)hexanedioate (**1a**) (0.3 mmol), 1-(2-phenylethynylsulfonyl)benzene (**2a**) (0.2 mmol), photocatalyst (PC) (2 μmol), diisopropylethylamine (DIPEA) (0.88 mmol), Hantzsch ester (HE) (0.6 mmol), solvent (1.5 mL), temperature (rt, ~25 °C), time (2-12 h) in a sealed Schlenk tube. ^b Isolated yield. ^c No addition of photocatalyst. ^d No addition of DIPEA. ^e No addition of HE. ^f No light. ^g using 0.88 mmol of diethylamine instead of DIPEA. ^h Using 0.88 mmol of K₂CO₃ instead of DIPEA. DCM = dichloromethane. DCE = 1,2-dichloroethane. DMF = *N,N*-dimethylformamide. DMSO = dimethyl sulfoxide. CFL = compact fluorescent light.

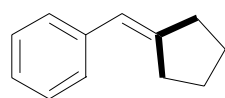
General procedure for synthesis of compound 3a-ac.



[Ru(bpy)₃]₂Cl₂ (2.0 μmol, 1.5 mg), bis(1,3-dioxoisindolin-2-yl)-substituted adipate (**1**) (0.3 mmol), substituted 1-(2-phenylethynylsulfonyl)benzene (**2**) (0.2 mmol), diisopropylethylamine amine (DIPEA) (0.88 mmol, 145 μL), Hantzsch ester (HE) (0.6 mmol, 152 mg), CH₂Cl₂ (1.5 mL) were added to a 25-mL Schlenk tube. The tube was filled with argon and then sealed, and irradiated with a 40 W fluorescent lamp (approximately 2 cm away from the light source). After the complete conversion of the substrates (monitored by TLC), the reaction mixture was concentrated and purified directly by silica gel column chromatography to give the desired product (**3a-ac**).

Characterization data of compounds 3a-ac

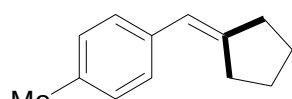
(Cyclopentylidenemethyl)benzene (**3a**)³



3a

Purified by silica gel column chromatography (*n*-hexane) to give compound **3a** as a colourless oil (28.4 mg, 90%); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.35 - 7.34 (m, 4H), 7.22 - 7.17 (m, 1H), 6.41 - 6.39 (m, 1H), 2.61 - 2.57 (m, 2H), 2.55 - 2.51 (m, 2H), 1.86 - 1.79 (m, 2H), 1.74 - 1.67 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 147.3, 139.0, 128.3, 128.1, 125.7, 120.9, 36.1, 31.3, 27.4, 25.8; IR (cm⁻¹): 2956 (s), 2869 (m), 1654 (w), 1600 (w), 1489 (w), 1447 (m), 1260 (m), 1075 (m), 1027 (m), 802 (m), 692 (s); EI-MS: [M⁺] m/z 158.3.

1-Cyclopentylidenemethyl-4-methylbenzene (**3b**)³

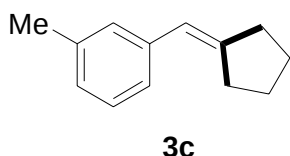


3b

Purified by silica gel column chromatography (*n*-hexane) to give compound **3b** as a colourless oil (25.1 mg, 73%); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.19 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.32 - 6.31 (m, 1H), 2.54 - 2.50 (m, 2H), 2.48 - 2.44 (m, 2H), 2.32 (s,

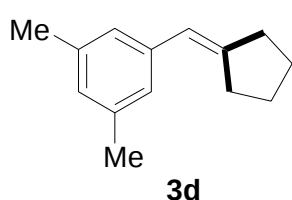
3H), 1.80 - 1.73 (m, 2H), 1.68 - 1.61 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 146.2, 136.2, 135.3, 129.0, 128.0, 120.7, 36.0, 31.3, 27.4, 25.8, 21.2; IR (cm^{-1}): 2955 (s), 2870 (s), 1704 (s), 1607 (m), 1514 (m), 1449 (w), 1036 (m), 808 (s), 755 (m); EI-MS: $[\text{M}^+]$ m/z 172.4.

1-Cyclopentylidenemethyl-3-methylbenzene (3c)



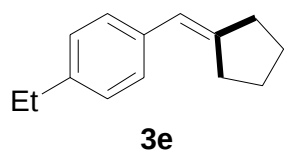
Purified by silica gel column chromatography (*n*-hexane) to give compound **3c** as a colourless oil (26 mg, 76%); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.23 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.15 - 7.13 (m, 2H), 7.00 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.36 - 6.34 (m, 1H), 2.59 - 2.55 (m, 2H), 2.52 - 2.49 (m, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 1.83 - 1.76 (m, 2H), 1.72 - 1.65 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 147.1, 139.0, 137.7, 128.9, 128.2, 126.5, 125.1, 120.9, 36.1, 31.3, 27.4, 25.8, 21.7; IR (cm^{-1}): 2954 (s), 2952 (s), 2867 (w), 1603 (w), 1457 (m), 1377 (w), 1260 (m), 1091 (m), 1024 (s), 902 (w), 801 (s), 694 (m); EI-MS: $[\text{M}^+]$ m/z 172.0.

1-Cyclopentylidenemethyl-3,5-dimethylbenzene (3d)



Purified by silica gel column chromatography (*n*-hexane) to give compound **3d** as a colourless oil (26.5 mg, 71%); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 6.98 (s, 2H), 6.86 (s, 1H), 6.36 - 6.34 (m, 1H), 2.62 - 2.58 (m, 2H), 2.54 - 2.50 (m, 2H), 2.36 (s, 6H), 1.86 - 1.79 (m, 2H), 1.74 - 1.68 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 146.9, 139.0, 137.6, 127.5, 126.0, 121.0, 36.0, 31.3, 27.3, 25.8, 21.5; IR (cm^{-1}): 2954 (s), 2869 (w), 1700 (w), 1599 (m), 1451 (s), 1295 (w), 1037 (w), 851 (m), 702 (m); EI-MS: $[\text{M}^+]$ m/z 186.3.

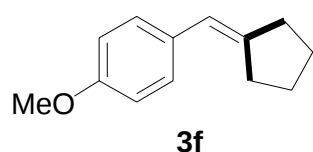
1-Cyclopentylidenemethyl-4-ethylbenzene (3e)



Purified by silica gel column chromatography (*n*-hexane) to give compound **3e** as a colourless oil (25 mg, 67%); ^1H

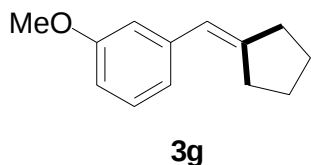
NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.26 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.37 - 6.36 (m, 1H), 2.66 (q, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.57 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.50 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 1.82 - 1.78 (m, 2H), 1.70 - 1.67 (m, 2H), 1.26 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz)** δ 146.3, 141.7, 136.5, 128.0, 127.8, 120.7, 36.0, 31.3, 28.7, 27.4, 25.8, 15.7; **IR (cm⁻¹):** 2959 (s), 2931 (m), 2870 (w), 1704 (w), 1607 (w), 1512 (m), 1453 (m), 1171 (w), 1017 (w), 871 (m), 826 (s); **EI-MS: [M⁺] m/z** 186.4.

1-Cyclopentylidenemethyl-4-methoxybenzene (3f)³



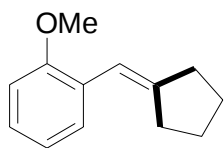
Purified by silica gel column chromatography (*n*-hexane/dichloromethane = 3/1) to give compound **3f** as a colourless oil (36.4 mg, 97%); **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)** δ 7.26 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.88 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.32 - 6.31 (m, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.55 - 2.46 (m, 4H), 1.81 - 1.77 (m, 2H), 1.68 - 1.65 (m, 2H); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz)** δ 157.6, 144.9, 131.9, 129.1, 120.2, 113.7, 55.4, 35.9, 31.1, 27.4, 25.8; **IR (cm⁻¹):** 2953 (s), 2835 (w), 1607 (m), 1509 (m), 1462 (w), 1245 (s), 1176 (w), 1035 (s), 867 (w), 824 (m); **EI-MS: [M⁺] m/z** 188.0.

1-Cyclopentylidenemethyl-3-methoxybenzene (3g)



Purified by silica gel column chromatography (*n*-hexane/dichloromethane = 3/1) to give compound **3g** as a colourless oil (25 mg, 66%); **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)** δ 7.22(t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.86 (s, 1H), 6.71(dd, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.33(m, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.54 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.48 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.79 - 1.74 (m, 2H), 1.69 - 1.64 (m, 2H); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz)** δ 159.6, 147.7, 140.4, 129.2, 120.8, 120.8, 113.6, 111.3, 55.2, 36.1, 31.4, 27.3, 25.8; **IR (cm⁻¹):** 2953 (s), 2872 (w), 1597 (s), 1575 (s), 1489 (m), 1452 (m), 1429 (m), 1257 (s), 1160 (s), 1043 (s), 885 (w), 780 (m), 690 (s); **EI-MS: [M⁺] m/z** 188.3.

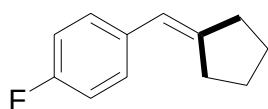
1-Cyclopentylidenemethyl-2-methoxybenzene (3h)



3h

Purified by silica gel column chromatography (*n*-hexane/dichloromethane = 3/1) to give compound **3h** as a colourless oil (30.0 mg, 80%); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.38 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (m, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.56 - 2.50 (m, 4H), 1.78 - 1.68 (m, 4H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 156.5, 147.2, 128.8, 127.9, 127.1, 120.2, 115.0, 110.4, 55.5, 35.5, 31.2, 27.1, 25.7; **IR** (cm^{-1}): 2950 (s), 2868 (w), 1597 (w), 1486 (m), 1461 (m), 1434 (w), 1239 (s), 1104 (w), 1030 (m), 747 (s); **EI-MS**: [M^+] m/z 188.3.

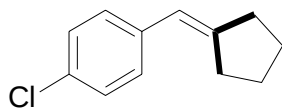
1-Cyclopentylidenemethyl-4-fluorobenzene (**3i**)³



3i

Purified by silica gel column chromatography (*n*-hexane) to give compound **3i** as a colourless oil (18 mg, 51%); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.27 - 7.23 (m, 2H), 7.01 - 6.97 (m, 2H), 6.32 - 6.30 (m, 1H), 2.51 - 2.45 (m, 4H), 1.79 - 1.74 (m, 2H), 1.68 - 1.64 (m, 2H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 161.0 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 244.4 Hz), 146.8, 135.1 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 3.8 Hz), 129.4 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 7.7 Hz), 119.8, 115.1 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 21.1 Hz), 36.0, 31.2, 27.3, 25.8; $^{19}\text{F NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 564 MHz) δ -116.9; **IR** (cm^{-1}): 2957 (s), 2869 (w), 1602 (m), 1506 (s), 1225 (s), 1158 (w), 868 (m), 822 (m); **EI-MS**: [M^+] m/z 176.3.

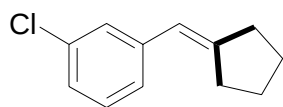
1-Chloro-4-(cyclopentylidenemethyl)benzene (**3j**)³



3j

Purified by silica gel column chromatography (*n*-hexane) to give compound **3j** as a waxy oil (28.3 mg, 74%); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.30 - 7.22 (m, 4H), 6.33 - 6.31 (m, 1H), 2.54 - 2.48 (m, 4H), 1.82 - 1.77 (m, 2H), 1.71 - 1.67 (m, 2H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 148.1, 137.4, 131.2, 129.2, 128.4, 119.8, 36.1, 31.3, 27.3, 25.8; **IR** (cm^{-1}): 2956 (s), 2872 (w), 1709 (m), 1593 (w), 1490 (s), 1089 (s), 1013 (m), 820 (s); **EI-MS**: [M^+] m/z 192.2.

1-Chloro-3-(cyclopentylidenemethyl)benzene (**3k**)

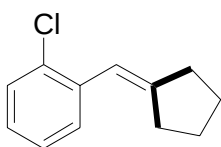


3k

Purified by silica gel column chromatography (*n*-hexane) to give compound **3k** as a colourless oil (21.5 mg, 56%); ^1H

NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.30 (s, 1H), 7.27 - 7.22 (m, 1H), 7.18 - 7.13 (m, 2H), 6.31 - 6.30 (m, 1H), 2.56 - 2.48 (m, 4H), 1.84 - 1.77 (m, 2H), 1.72 - 1.65 (m, 2H); ^{13}C **NMR** (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 149.2, 140.8, 134.2, 129.5, 127.9, 126.2, 125.7, 119.8, 36.2, 31.4, 27.3, 25.7; **IR** (cm^{-1}): 2955 (s), 2868 (w), 1652 (w), 1591 (m), 1562 (m), 1474 (m), 1424 (w), 1260 (w), 1079 (m), 1019 (w), 883 (s), 780 (s), 684 (s); **EI-MS**: [M^+] m/z 192.3.

1-Chloro-2-(cyclopentylidenemethyl)benzene (3l)

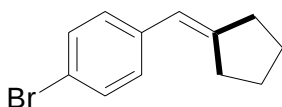


3l

Purified by silica gel column chromatography (*n*-hexane) to give compound **3l** as a colourless oil (25 mg, 65%); ^1H **NMR** (CDCl_3 ,

400 MHz) δ 7.42 (dd, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.37 (dd, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.22 (td, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.11 (td, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.60 - 6.58 (m, 1H), 2.54 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.47 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 1.78 - 1.70 (m, 4H); ^{13}C **NMR** (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 149.4, 136.9, 133.2, 129.4, 127.1, 126.4, 117.4, 35.4, 31.1, 27.0, 25.7; **IR** (cm^{-1}): 2954 (s), 2868 (w), 1650 (w), 1590 (w), 1467 (m), 1434 (m), 1051 (m), 1035 (m), 745 (s), 691 (m); **EI-MS**: [M^+] m/z 192.3.

1-Bromo-4-(cyclopentylidenemethyl)benzene (3m)³

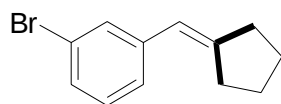


3m

Purified by silica gel column chromatography (*n*-hexane) to give compound **3m** as a waxy oil (25 mg, 53%); ^1H **NMR**

(CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.42 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 6.30 - 6.29 (m, 1H), 2.52 - 2.46 (m, 4H), 1.81 - 1.76 (m, 2H), 1.71 - 1.66 (m, 2H); ^{13}C **NMR** (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 148.4, 137.9, 131.3, 129.6, 119.9, 119.3, 36.2, 31.4, 27.3, 25.7; **IR** (cm^{-1}): 2955 (s), 2869 (w), 1705 (m), 1589 (w), 1487 (s), 1071 (m), 1008 (m), 814 (s); **EI-MS**: [M^+] m/z 236.1, 238.1.

1-Bromo-3-(cyclopentylidenemethyl)benzene (3n)

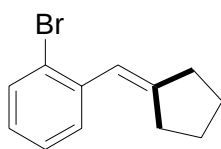


3n

Purified by silica gel column chromatography (*n*-hexane) to give compound **3n** as a colourless oil (32 mg, 68%); ^1H

NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.44 (s, 1H), 7.29 - 7.25 (m, 1H), 7.22 - 7.14 (m, 2H), 6.28 - 6.27 (m, 1H), 2.54 - 2.47 (m, 4H), 1.82 - 1.75 (m, 2H), 1.70 - 1.63 (m, 2H); ^{13}C **NMR** (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 149.2, 141.1, 130.8, 129.8, 128.6, 126.6, 122.5, 119.7, 36.2, 31.4, 27.3, 25.7; **IR** (cm^{-1}): 2954 (s), 2867 (w), 1651 (w), 1587 (m), 1556 (m), 1471 (m), 1421 (m), 1072 (m), 879 (s), 777 (s), 683 (s); **EI-MS**: [M^+] m/z 236.3, 238.2.

1-Bromo-2-(cyclopentylidenemethyl)benzene (**3o**)

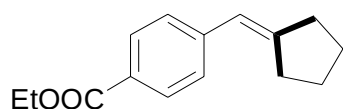


3o

Purified by silica gel column chromatography (*n*-hexane) to give compound **3o** as a colourless oil (28.2 mg, 60%); ^1H **NMR**

(CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.56 (dd, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.40 (dd, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.26 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.03 (td, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.53 - 6.52 (m, 1H), 2.54 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.46 - 2.43 (m, 2H), 1.79 - 1.70 (m, 4H); ^{13}C **NMR** (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 149.2, 138.6, 132.7, 129.6, 127.37, 127.0, 124.0, 120.0, 35.2, 31.0, 27.0, 25.7; **IR** (cm^{-1}): 2985 (s), 2868 (w), 1649 (w), 1586 (w), 1462 (m), 1431 (m), 1023 (s), 743 (s), 666 (w); **EI-MS**: [M^+] m/z 236.1, 238.2.

4-(Cyclopentylidenemethyl)benzoic acid ethyl ester (**3p**)

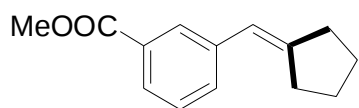


3p

Purified by silica gel column chromatography (*n*-hexane/dichloromethane = 3/1) to give compound **3p**

as a waxy oil (20.5 mg, 45%); ^1H **NMR** (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.98 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 6.40 - 6.39 (m, 1H), 4.36 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.58 - 2.50 (m, 4H), 1.84 - 1.77 (m, 2H), 1.72 - 1.65 (m, 2H), 1.39 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C **NMR** (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 166.8, 150.7, 143.5, 129.6, 127.8, 127.4, 120.5, 60.9, 36.4, 31.7, 27.3, 25.7, 14.5; **IR** (cm^{-1}): 2957 (s), 2871 (w), 1713 (s), 1605 (m), 1366 (w), 1270 (s), 1178 (w), 1101 (s), 1019 (m), 879 (w), 760 (m), 700 (w); **EI-MS**: [M^+] m/z 230.2.

3-(Cyclopentylidenemethyl)benzoic acid methyl ester (3q)

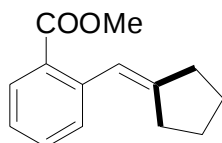


3q

Purified by silica gel column chromatography (*n*-hexane/dichloromethane = 3/1) to give compound **3q**

as a colourless oil (28 mg, 65%); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.98 (s, 1H), 7.82 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.39 - 6.38 (m, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 2.57 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.50 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.83 - 1.76 (m, 2H), 1.71 - 1.64 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 167.4, 148.8, 139.2, 132.4, 130.1, 129.1, 128.3, 126.8, 120.0, 51.2, 36.1, 31.4, 27.3, 25.7; IR (cm^{-1}): 2953 (s), 2870 (w), 1721 (s), 1603 (w), 1436 (m), 1286 (s), 1202 (m), 1106 (w), 860 (w), 803 (w), 749 (s), 688 (m); EI-MS: $[\text{M}^+]$ m/z 216.2.

2-(Cyclopentylidenemethyl)benzoic acid methyl ester (3r)

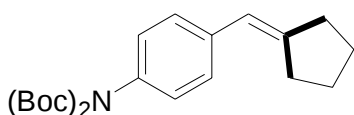


3r

Purified by silica gel column chromatography (*n*-hexane/dichloromethane = 3/1) to give compound **3r** as a

colourless oil (22.5 mg, 52%); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.85 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.44 - 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.24 - 7.20 (m, 1H), 6.89 - 6.88 (m, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 2.53 - 2.50 (m, 2H), 2.42 - 2.39 (m, 2H), 1.73 - 1.66 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 168.3, 148.0, 140.2, 131.4, 130.2, 129.7, 128.87, 125.7, 119.6, 52.0, 35.1, 31.0, 27.0, 25.6; IR (cm^{-1}): 2951 (s), 2868 (w), 1720 (s), 1598 (w), 1567 (w), 1479 (w), 1432 (m), 1292 (m), 1248 (s), 1120 (m), 1076 (s), 737 (m); EI-MS: $[\text{M}^+]$ m/z 216.3.

2-(4-Cyclopentylidenemethylphenyl)-1,3-bis(1,1-dimethylethyl)ester (3s)



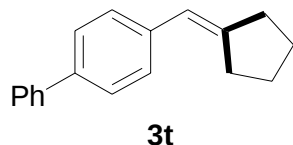
3s

Purified by silica gel column chromatography *n*-hexane to give compound **3s** as a waxy oil (33 mg, 44%); ^1H

NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.25 (d, J = 7.79 Hz, 2H), 7.04 (d, J = 8.24 Hz, 2H), 6.33 (s, 1H), 2.54 - 2.45 (m, 4H), 1.80 - 1.73 (m, 2H), 1.68 - 1.61 (m, 2H), 1.39 (s, 18H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 152.1, 147.8, 138.0, 136.7, 128.2, 127.6, 120.3, 82.6, 36.2, 31.3, 28.0, 27.3, 25.8; IR (cm^{-1}): 2958 (s), 2931 (s), 1788 (m), 1749 (s), 1716 (s), 1511 (w), 1457 (w), 1367 (w), 1313 (w), 1273

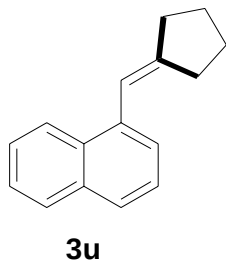
(m), 1243 (m), 1151 (s), 1112 (s), 1004 (w), 911 (m), 853 (w), 731(s); **EI-MS: [M⁺]** **m/z 373.1**.

4-(Cyclopentylidenemethyl)biphenyl (3t)



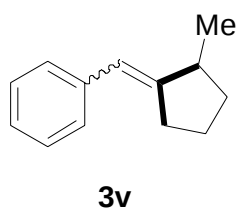
Purified by silica gel column chromatography (*n*-hexane) to give compound **3t** as a waxy oil (24.2 mg, 52%); **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)** δ 7.63 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.43 - 6.42 (m, 1H), 2.64 - 2.60 (m, 2H), 2.56 - 2.52 (m, 2H), 1.87 - 1.80 (m, 2H), 1.74 - 1.68 (m, 2H); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz)** δ 147.7, 141.1, 138.4, 138.1, 128.9, 128.4, 127.2, 127.0, 126.9, 120.5, 36.2, 31.5, 27.4, 25.8; **IR (cm⁻¹):** 2954 (m), 2926 (s), 2855 (w), 1601 (w), 1485 (m), 1461 (w), 1408 (w), 1027 (m), 758 (s), 693 (s); **EI-MS: [M⁺]** **m/z 234.2**.

1-(Cyclopentylidenemethyl)naphthalene (3u)



Purified by silica gel column chromatography (*n*-hexane) to give compound **3u** as a waxy oil (27.5 mg, 66%); **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)** δ 8.13 - 8.10 (m, 1H), 7.89 - 7.87 (m, 1H), 7.76 - 7.74 (m, 1H), 7.54 - 7.47 (m, 4H), 6.94 - 6.93 (m, 1H), 2.64 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.80 - 1.73 (m, 4H); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz)** δ 148.9, 136.2, 133.7, 131.8, 128.5, 126.6, 125.8, 125.7, 125.6, 125.5, 124.8, 117.9, 34.9, 31.0, 26.9, 25.9; **IR (cm⁻¹):** 2952 (s), 2866 (w), 1589 (w), 1507 (w), 1452 (w), 1395 (w), 1014 (m), 797 (m), 777 (s); **EI-MS: [M⁺]** **m/z 208.0**.

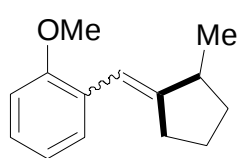
(2-Methylcyclopentylidenemethyl)benzene (3v)



Purified by silica gel column chromatography (*n*-hexane) to give compound **3v** as a colourless oil (29 mg, 84%, *Z* / *E* = 2 : 3); **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)** δ 7.40 - 7.33 (m, 6.67H), 7.22 - 7.19 (m, 1.62H), 6.36 - 6.35 (m, 1H), 6.30 - 6.29 (m, 0.65H), 3.21 - 3.20 (m, 1H), 2.68 - 2.61 (m, 3H), 2.50 - 2.48 (m, 1H), 1.98 - 1.67 (m, 5H), 1.58 - 1.56 (m, 1H), 1.33 - 1.29 (m, 1H), 1.24 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.10 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H);

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 152.13, 151.80, 139.05, 138.57, 128.33, 128.28, 128.20, 128.15, 125.82, 125.75, 120.90, 120.23, 41.06, 35.56, 35.43, 35.41, 34.72, 31.69, 24.85, 22.82, 19.51, 19.22; **IR (cm⁻¹):** 2956 (s), 2869 (w), 1713 (m), 1598 (w), 1494 (w), 1448 (m), 1376 (w), 1075 (m), 1029 (w), 751 (w), 695 (s); **EI-MS: [M⁺]** **m/z 172.3.**

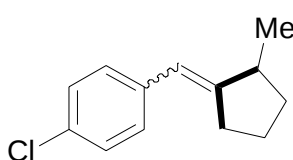
1-Methoxy-2-(2-methylcyclopentylidenemethyl)benzene (3w)



3w

Purified by silica gel column chromatography (*n*-hexane/dichloromethane = 3/1) to give compound **3w** as a colourless oil (27 mg, 67%, *Z* / *E* = 2 : 3); **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)** δ 7.43 - 7.37 (m, 1.63H), 7.22 - 7.16 (m, 1.38H), 6.97 - 6.92 (m, 1.48H), 6.89 - 6.86 (m, 1.45H), 6.53 - 6.50 (m, 1.26H), 3.86 (s, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.11 - 3.06 (m, 1H), 2.66 - 2.56 (m, 3H), 2.53 - 2.46 (m, 1H), 1.97 - 1.88 (m, 1.63H), 1.85 - 1.73 (m, 1.73H), 1.68 - 1.61 (m, 1.65H), 1.51 - 1.45 (m, 1H), 1.32 - 1.24 (m, 0.67H), 1.23 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 0.98 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz)** δ 156.65, 156.60, 152.01, 151.74, 128.88, 128.00, 127.71, 127.26, 127.09, 120.35, 120.21, 115.31, 114.35, 110.44, 110.39, 55.57, 40.73, 35.61, 35.43, 35.34, 34.80, 31.48, 24.88, 23.14, 19.85, 19.33; **IR (cm⁻¹):** 2955 (s), 2869 (w), 1715 (w), 1598 (w), 1488 (m), 1462 (m), 1437 (w), 1241 (s), 1107 (w), 1049 (w), 1028 (m), 750 (s); **EI-MS: [M⁺]** **m/z 202.3.**

1-Chloro-4-(2-methylcyclopentylidenemethyl)benzene (3x)

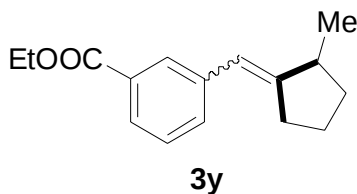


3x

Purified by silica gel column chromatography (*n*-hexane) to give compound **3x** as a waxy oil (23 mg, 56%, *Z* / *E* = 2 : 3); **¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)** δ 7.30 - 7.22 (m, 6.66H), 6.23 (m, 1H), 6.18 - 6.16 (m, 0.65H), 3.10 - 3.07 (m, 1H), 2.60 - 2.50 (m, 3H), 2.45 - 2.36 (m, 1H), 1.94 - 1.83 (m, 2H), 1.72 - 1.61 (m, 3H), 1.54 - 1.48 (m, 1H), 1.28 - 1.20 (m, 1H), 1.17 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.01 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H); **¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz)** δ 153.03, 152.67, 137.51, 137.01, 131.30, 131.24, 129.38, 128.44, 128.38, 119.75, 119.13, 41.14, 35.54, 35.52, 35.42, 34.67, 31.70, 24.81, 22.82, 19.40,

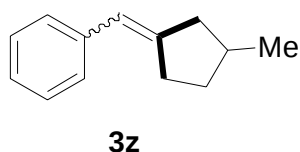
19.06; **IR** (cm⁻¹): 2957 (s), 2870 (w), 1709 (w), 1594 (w), 1490 (s), 1458 (w), 1407 (w), 1376 (w), 1090 (s), 1013 (m), 818 (s); **EI-MS: [M⁺] m/z 206.2.**

3-(2-Methylcyclopentylidenemethyl)benzoic acid ethyl ester (**3y**)



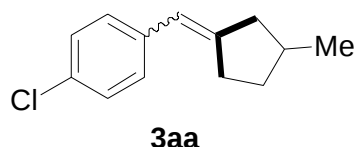
Purified by silica gel column chromatography (*n*-hexane/dichloromethane = 3/1) to give compound **3y** as a colourless oil (32 mg, 66%, *Z* / *E* = 2 : 3); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.01 (m, 1.58H), 7.85 - 7.83 (m, 1.57H), 7.50 - 7.48 (m, 1.60H), 7.39 - 7.34 (m, 1.68H), 6.33 - 6.32 (m, 1H), 6.28 - 6.26 (m, 0.60H), 4.40 - 4.35 (m, 3.34H), 3.17 - 3.14 (m, 1H), 2.67 - 2.55 (m, 3H), 2.48 - 2.39 (m, 1H), 1.96 - 1.84 (m, 2H), 1.79 - 1.72 (m, 1H), 1.68 - 1.61 (m, 1.60H), 1.55 - 1.50 (m, 1H), 1.40 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 5H), 1.30 - 1.22 (m, 1H), 1.19 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.04 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 166.90, 153.52, 153.22, 139.25, 138.76, 132.32, 130.51, 130.46, 129.26, 128.30, 128.25, 126.83, 126.74, 120.03, 119.42, 60.99, 41.12, 35.53, 35.46, 35.42, 34.64, 31.65, 24.78, 22.79, 19.38, 19.09, 14.44; **IR** (cm⁻¹): 2956 (s), 2869 (w), 1718 (s), 1600 (w), 1444 (w), 1367 (w), 1263 (s), 1200 (s), 1105 (w), 1024 (w), 916 (w), 864 (w), 749 (m), 688 (w); **EI-MS: [M⁺] m/z 244.2.**

3-Methylcyclopentylidenemethylbenzene (**3z**)



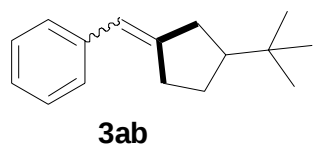
Purified by silica gel column chromatography (*n*-hexane) to give compound **3z** as a colourless oil (24.4 mg, 71%, *Z* / *E* = 1 : 1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.36 - 7.31 (m, 8H), 7.20 - 7.16 (m, 2H), 6.36 - 6.33 (m, 2H), 2.83 - 2.80 (m, 1H), 2.70 - 2.51 (m, 5H), 2.18 - 1.97 (m, 5H), 1.90 - 1.85 (m, 1H), 1.41 - 1.36 (m, 1H), 1.33 - 1.25 (m, 1H), 1.09 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 3H), 1.06 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 147.23, 139.00, 138.92, 128.30, 128.28, 128.05, 125.70, 121.11, 121.07, 44.66, 40.16, 35.68, 35.45, 35.36, 33.94, 33.78, 31.05, 20.28, 19.76; **IR** (cm⁻¹): 2951 (s), 2925 (m), 2868 (w), 1600 (w), 1489 (w), 1447 (w), 1429 (w), 1376 (w), 1260 (m), 1071 (w), 1029 (m), 803 (w), 740 (m), 692 (s); **EI-MS: [M⁺] m/z 172.0.**

1-Chloro-4-(3-methylcyclopentylidenemethyl)benzene (3aa)



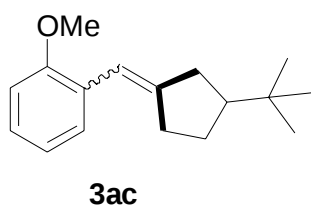
Purified by silica gel column chromatography (*n*-hexane) to give compound **3aa** as a colourless oil (25.5 mg, 62%, *Z* / *E* = 1 : 1); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.27 - 7.19 (m, 8H), 6.26 - 6.25 (m, 2H), 2.76 - 2.46 (m, 6H), 2.13 - 1.1.96 (m, 5H), 1.88 - 1.82 (m, 1H), 1.38 - 1.22 (m, 2H), 1.06 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H), 1.03 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 148.07, 137.44, 137.35, 131.18, 129.23, 128.38, 120.04, 119.98, 44.67, 40.15, 35.68, 35.49, 35.28, 33.88, 33.77, 31.07, 20.24, 19.72; IR (cm^{-1}): 2951 (s), 2868 (w), 1653 (w), 1450 (s), 1455 (w), 1406 (w), 1376 (w), 1090 (s), 1011 (m), 872 (m), 859 (m), 812 (m); EI-MS: $[\text{M}^+]$ m/z 206.2.

3-*tert*-Butyl-cyclopentylidenemethylbenzene (3ab)



Purified by silica gel column chromatography (*n*-hexane) to give compound **3ab** as a colourless oil (24 mg, 56%, *Z* / *E* = 1 : 1); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.36 - 7.33 (m, 8H), 7.22 - 7.17 (m, 2H), 6.36 - 6.34 (m, 2H), 2.78 - 2.64 (m, 2H), 2.59 - 2.48 (m, 4H), 2.36 - 2.22 (m, 2H), 1.90 - 1.83 (m, 2H), 1.82 - 1.75 (m, 2H), 1.54 - 1.30 (m, 2H), 0.96 (s, 9H), 0.95 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 147.22, 147.08, 138.99, 138.94, 128.33, 128.29, 128.06, 125.67, 121.06, 120.94, 52.45, 50.48, 37.47, 35.96, 32.95, 31.91, 31.68, 31.49, 27.87, 26.68; IR (cm^{-1}): 2956 (s), 2867 (w), 1491 (m), 1475 (m), 1394 (w), 1364 (m), 1029 (w), 909 (w), 856 (w), 753 (m), 692 (s); EI-MS: $[\text{M}^+]$ m/z 214.4.

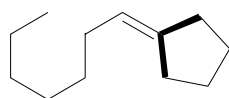
1-(3-*tert*-Butyl-cyclopentylidenemethyl)-2-methoxybenzene (3ac)



Purified by silica gel column chromatography (*n*-hexane/dichloromethane = 3/1) to give compound **3ac** as a colourless oil (32 mg, 66%, *Z* / *E* = 1 : 1); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.42 - 7.37 (m, 2H), 7.21 - 7.18 (m, 2H), 7.01 - 6.96 (m, 2H), 6.91 - 6.88 (m, 2H), 6.60 - 6.58 (m, 2H), 3.87 (s, 6H), 2.72 - 2.49 (m, 6H), 2.39 - 2.20 (m, 2H), 1.86 - 1.80 (m, 4H), 1.47 - 1.39 (m, 2H), 0.95 (s,

9H), 0.94 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 156.49, 156.45, 147.05, 146.93, 128.80, 127.88, 127.78, 127.04, 120.26, 120.20, 115.09, 114.96, 110.34, 110.31, 55.49, 52.15, 50.53, 36.97, 35.38, 32.75, 31.86, 31.71, 31.31, 27.86, 27.83, 26.62; IR (cm^{-1}): 2953 (s), 2867 (w), 1596 (w), 1468 (m), 1461 (m), 1434 (w), 1393 (w), 1364 (m), 1292 (w), 1239 (s), 1105 (w), 1031 (m), 747 (s); EI-MS: $[\text{M}^+]$ m/z 244.4.

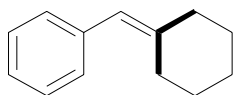
Heptylidene-cyclopentane (5)



5

Purified by silica gel column chromatography *n*-hexane to give compound **5** as a colourless oil (6 mg, 18%); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 5.24 - 5.23 (m, 1H), 2.23 - 2.15 (m, 4H), 1.98 - 1.92 (m, 2H), 1.67 - 1.57 (m, 4H), 1.34 - 1.28 (m, 8H), 0.88 (t, J = 6.87 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 143.1, 120.5, 33.7, 32.0, 29.9, 29.8, 29.2, 28.7, 26.6, 26.5, 22.8, 14.3; IR (cm^{-1}): 2923 (s), 2854 (w), 1460 (m), 1377 (w), 1081 (w), 1026 (m), 802 (m); EI-MS: $[\text{M}^+]$ m/z 166.1.

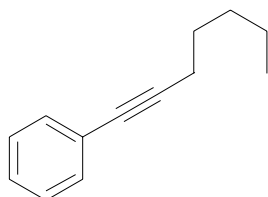
(Cyclohexylidenemethyl)benzene (7)



7

Purified by silica gel column chromatography *n*-hexane to give compound **7** as a colourless oil (10.5 mg, 31%); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.29 (t, J = 7.56 Hz, 2H), 7.20 - 7.14 (m, 3H), 6.22 (s, 1H), 2.36 (t, J = 5.95 Hz, 2H), 2.25 (t, J = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 1.66 - 1.52 (m, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 143.5, 138.5, 129.0, 128.1, 125.9, 122.1, 37.8, 29.6, 28.8, 28.0, 26.8; IR (cm^{-1}): 2925 (s), 2853 (w), 1653 (w), 1598 (w), 1489 (w), 1445 (m), 1342 (w), 1238 (w), 1073 (w), 1029 (w), 917 (w), 840 (m), 735 (s), 697 (s); EI-MS: $[\text{M}^+]$ m/z 172.1.

Hept-1-ynyl-benzene (8)



8

Purified by silica gel column chromatography *n*-hexane to give compound **8** as a colourless oil (4.5 mg, 13%); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.41 - 7.38 (m, 2H), 7.29 - 7.26 (m, 3H),

2.40 (t, J = 7.33 Hz, 2H), 1.65 - 1.55 (m, 2H), 1.47 - 1.33 (m, 4H), 0.92 (t, J = 7.33 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 131.7, 128.3, 127.6, 124.2, 90.6, 80.6, 31.3, 28.6, 22.4, 19.5, 14.2 ; IR (cm^{-1}): 2955 (m), 2925 (s), 2856 (m), 1490 (w), 1460 (m), 1377 (w), 1250 (w), 1116 (s), 754 (s), 691 (s); EI-MS: $[\text{M}^+]$ m/z 172.2.

Benzene sulfinic acid

^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 8.61 (br s, 1H), 7.69 – 7.68 (m, 2H), 7.53 – 7.50 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 146.0, 132.2, 129.2, 125.1

References

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- (3) W. Huang, S.-H. Zhao and N. Xu, *Synthesis*, 2015, 359.

The ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compounds 3a-ac, 5, 7 and 8

