### 1. General

All reactions were carried out in oven- or flame-dried glassware. Anhydrous CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (DCM) was distilled from CaH<sub>2</sub> under argon atmosphere and andydrous THF was distilled from Na and benzophenone under argon atmosphere. Other anhydrous solvents (Et<sub>2</sub>O, DMF, CH<sub>3</sub>CN, toluene, methanol, ethanol) were obtained by filtration through drying columns on a Glass-Contour system. Reactions were magnetically stirred and monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) with silica gel 60-F254 plates. Flash column chromatography was performed with silica gel 60 Å from Acros. Preparative thin layer chromatography was performed with silica gel 60-F254 aluminum plates from Merck. Yields refer to chromatographically and spectroscopically pure compounds unless stated otherwise. NMR spectra were recorded on a 400 MHz spectrometer or a 600 MHz spectrometer with cryoplattform (Avance III 600) from Bruker. All NMR spectra were measured in CDCl<sub>3</sub> solution and referenced to the residual CHCl<sub>3</sub> signal (<sup>1</sup>H,  $\delta$  = 7.26 ppm, <sup>13</sup>C,  $\delta$  = 77.16 ppm). All <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C shifts are given in ppm (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, g = guadruplet, m = multiplet, b = broad signal). Assignments of proton resonance were confirmed, when possible, by correlated spectroscopy. High resolution mass spectra were measured on a Micromass LCT spectrometer via loop-mode injection from a Waters (Alliance 2695) HPLC system. Alternatively, a Micromass Q-TOF in combination with a Waters Aquity Ultraperformance LC system was employed. Ionization was achieved by ESI. Modes of ionization, calculated and found mass are given. IR spectra were measured with a Bruker Vector 22 FT-IR spectrometer or a PerkinElmer Spectrum 100 FT-IR spectrometer. Commercially available reagents were used as supplied unless stated otherwise. Eluents used for flash chromatography were distilled prior to use.

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## 2. Experimental Procedures

## Graphical overview:





#### Ethyl 2-cyano-2-(2-nitrophenyl)acetate (11)



Sodium hydride (33.4 g, 834 mmol, 2.2 eq, 60% dispersion in mineral oil) was put in a 4 L two necked flask and 500 mL anhydrous THF were added. The mixture was cooled to 0 °C. A dropping funnel was connected to the flask and loaded with ethyl cyanoacetate (94.3 g, 89.0 mL, 834 mmol, 2.2 eq) dissolved in 300 mL anhydrous THF. The ethyl cyano acetate solution was added dropwise at 0 °C. After complete addition the mixture was allowed to warm up to 23 °C and stirred until no more gas evolution was observed. 2-Fluoro nitrobenzene (53.5 g, 40.0 mL, 379 mmol, 1 eq) dissolved in 300 mL anhydrous THF was put into the dropping funnel and added dropwise to the reaction mixture at 23 °C. After complete addition 1 L anhydrous THF was added and the mixture was heated to reflux for 7 h. During the reaction an intensive red colour appeared. After cooling to room temperature the mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and poured onto water (5 L). The aqueous phase was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (2 x 1 L). The ether phase was disposed. The aqueous phase was acidified to pH=6 with 1 M HCl and extracted with DCM (3 x 1 L). The combined organic phases were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure. Ethyl 2-cyano-2-(2-nitrophenyl)acetate (11, 65.7 g, 280 mmol, 74%) was obtained as a yellow viscous fluid. NMR data were in agreement with literature values and required no further characterization of **11**.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>)**: δ = 8.23 - 8.21 (m, 1H), 7.79 - 7.74 (m, 2H), 7.66 - 7.62 (m, 1H), 5.66 (s, 1H), 4.30 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.32 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>**C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>)**: δ = 163.6, 147.5, 134.7, 131.7, 130.9, 126.3, 125.4, 114.6, 64.0, 41.5, 13.9 ppm.

### Ethyl 4-bromo-2-cyano-2-(2-nitrophenyl)butanoate (A)



Ethyl 2-cyano-2-(2-nitrophenyl)acetate (**11**, 65.0 g, 278 mmol, 1 eq) dissolved in 300 mL anhydrous DMF was put in a 1 L flask.  $K_2CO_3$  (46.0 g, 333 mmol, 1.2 eq) and 1,2-dibromoethane (120 mL, 261 g, 1.39 mol, 5 eq) were sequentially added. The solution was heated to 90 °C for 5 h. After cooling to room temperature the mixture was poured onto water (3 L). The aqueous phase was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 x 1 L). The combined organic phases were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtrated und concentrated under reduced pressure. MeOH was added until crystallization of the product was observed. After storage in the frigde over night the precipitate was collected and washed with MeOH (200 mL). Ethyl 4-bromo-2-cyano-2-(2-nitrophenyl)butanoate (**A**, 67.3 g, 197 mmol, 71%) was obtained as colourless crystals.

**MP**: 85 °C

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>)**:  $\delta = 8.17$  (dd, J<sub>1</sub> = 7.9 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (dd, J<sub>1</sub> = 8.0 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.80 - 7.76 (m, 1H), 7.65 (ddd, J<sub>1</sub> = 8.1 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 7.5 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 4.30 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.56 (ddd, J<sub>1</sub> = 11.0 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 10.2 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 3.34 (ddd, J<sub>1</sub> = 11.0 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 10.2 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 3.16 (ddd, J<sub>1</sub> = 14.2 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 11.1 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (ddd, J<sub>1</sub> = 14.2 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 11.1 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 1.29 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>)**:  $\delta$  = 165.1, 147.8, 134.3, 130.7, 130.4, 128.4, 126.9, 116.8, 64.2, 52.8, 39.1, 25.7, 13.9 ppm.

**IR** (neat): 3001, 2987, 2941, 2364, 1735, 1604, 1577, 1527, 1479, 1442, 1396, 1354, 1300, 1278, 1251, 1226, 1176, 1153, 1112, 1085, 1070, 1051, 1029, 1008, 931, 850, 808, 788, 775, 759, 738, 705, 694, 669, 644, 590, 561, 536, 474, 437, 416 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **CHN**: Anal. calc. for  $C_{13}H_{13}BrN_2O_4$ : C, 45.77; H, 3.84; N, 8.21; found: C, 45.91; H, 3.88; N, 8.09.

### Ethyl 4-bromo-2-carbamoyl-2-(2-nitrophenyl)butanoate (12)



Ethyl 4-bromo-2-cyano-2-(2-nitrophenyl)butanoate (**A**, 67.0 g, 196 mmol, 1 eq) was milled by a mortar and dissolved in concentrated sulfuric acid (2 L). After complete dissolution the mixture was transferred to a dropping funnel. A 5 L Erlenmeyer flask was packed with ice and water (2 L) and positioned in an ice bath. The reaction mixture was added dropwise under stirring so that the inner temperature did not rise above 10 °C. After complete addition the precipitate was collected and washed with water (1 L). The precipitate was dissolved in DCM (1 L), transferred to a seperation funnel and washed with saturated NaCl solution (1 L). The organic phase was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure. Ethyl 4-bromo-2-carbamoyl-2-(2-nitrophenyl)butanoate (**12**, 67.6 g, 188 mmol, 96%) was obtained as a slightly brown amorphous solid.

**MP**: 115 °C

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>)**:  $\delta = 8.11$  (dd, J<sub>1</sub> = 8.5 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 8.02 (bs, 1H), 7.73 - 7.69 (m, 1H), 7.55 - 7.50 (m, 2H), 5.81 (bs, 1H), 4.12 (dq, J<sub>1</sub> = 10.8 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.08 (dq, J<sub>1</sub> = 10.8, J<sub>2</sub> = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.43 - 3.30 (m, 2H), 3.02 (ddd, J<sub>1</sub> = 14.0 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 11.5 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 2.93 (ddd, J<sub>1</sub> = 14.1 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 11.7 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 5.9 Hz, 1H), 1.10 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 171.8, 170.2, 148.5, 133.7, 132.6, 129.5, 129.0, 126.1, 62.8, 61.8, 39.8, 26.7, 13.7 ppm.

**IR** (neat): 3390, 3263, 3170, 2987, 2358, 1737, 1714, 1681, 1577, 1523, 1477, 1460, 1442, 1354, 1340, 1301, 1251, 1213, 1178, 1153, 1112, 1082, 1062, 1031, 1012, 977, 960, 914, 854, 808, 788, 738, 705, 690, 669, 655, 623, 590, 536, 516, 472, 433, 416 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**HRMS (ESI)**: calc. for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Br<sup>+</sup>: 359.0243, found: 359.0248

### Ethyl 3-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-oxopyrroldine-3-carboxylate (B)



Ethyl 4-bromo-2-carbamoyl-2-(2-nitrophenyl)butanoate (**12**, 67.0 g, 187 mmol, 1 eq) was dissolved in anhydrous THF (9 L) and cooled to -78°C. Sodium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide (94.2 mL, 188 mmol, 1.01 eq, 2 M solution in THF) dissolved in anhydrous THF (1 L) was put to a dropping funnel and added dropwise to the mixture at -78°C. After complete addition the mixture was poured onto saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution (10 L) and afterwards allowed to warm to 23 °C. The organic phase was separated and the aqueous phase extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (2 x 2 L). The combined organic phases were washed with saturated NaCl solution (5 L), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure. An analytical sample was purified by flash column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, PE/EtOAc = 2:1 to 1:1) to obtain lactam **B** as a colourless solid.

### **MP**: 116 °C

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>)**:  $\delta = 8.08$  (dd, J<sub>1</sub> = 8.2 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.67 - 7.62 (m, 2H), 7.53 (dd, J<sub>1</sub> = 7.9 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.51 - 7.47 (m, 1H), 4.21 (dq, J<sub>1</sub> = 10.6 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.15 (dq, J<sub>1</sub> = 10.8 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.64 - 3.51(m, 2H), 3.35 - 3.30 (m, 1H), 2.40 - 2.33 (m, 1H), 1.20 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>)**:  $\delta$  = 174.6, 169.2, 148.5, 134.4, 134.0, 130.1, 128.8, 126.0, 62.6, 61.5, 39.9, 35.4, 13.9 ppm.

**IR** (neat): 3196, 3111, 3072, 2989, 2885, 2360, 1734, 1672, 1610, 1577, 1521, 1458, 1350, 1317, 1284, 1226, 1089, 1051, 1014, 954, 850, 769, 752, 707, 661, 653, 603, 569, 536, 507, 416 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

HRMS (ESI): calc. for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Na<sup>+</sup>: 301.0800, found: 301.0801

### 1-(*tert*-Butyl) 3-ethyl 3-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-oxopyrrolidine-1,3-dicarboxylate (C)



Crude material from lactam **B** was dissolved in anhydrous THF (1 L). 4-Dimethylaminopyridin (1.14 g, 9.33 mmol, 0.05 eq) and di-*tert*-butyl dicarbonate (48.9 g, 224 mmol, 1.2 eq) were sequentially added and the resulting mixture was stirred at 23 °C for 24 h. The solvent was concentrated under reduced pressure and the crude material was purified by flash column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, PE/EtOAc = 3:1 to 2:1) to obtain 1-(*tert*-butyl) 3-ethyl 3-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-oxopyrrolidine-1,3dicarboxylate (**C**, 53.0 g, 140 mmol, 75%) as a colourless solid.

**MP**: 102 °C.

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>)**:  $\delta = 8.09$  (dd, J<sub>1</sub> = 8.0 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (ddd, J<sub>1</sub> = 7.7 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 7.7 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (ddd, J<sub>1</sub> = 8.1 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 7.6 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (dd, J<sub>1</sub> = 7.9 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 4.17 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.00 (ddd, J<sub>1</sub> = 10.6 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 8.5 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 3.64 (ddd, J<sub>1</sub> = 10.6 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 8.4 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 3.39 (ddd, J<sub>1</sub> = 13.7 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 8.5 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 2.27 (ddd, J<sub>1</sub> = 13.6 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 8.1 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 1.57 (s, 9H), 1.19 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>)**:  $\delta$  = 170.0, 168.2, 149.8, 148.4, 134.0, 133.9, 130.0, 129.0, 126.2, 84.1, 63.8, 62.9, 44.0, 31.6, 28.1, 13.9 ppm.

**IR** (neat): 2981, 2081, 1783, 1726, 1608, 1575, 1529, 1479, 1451, 1365, 1293, 1258, 1229, 1147, 1101, 1069, 1009, 922, 850, 780, 738, 704, 674 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**HRMS (ESI)**: calc. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>Na<sup>+</sup>: 401.1325, found: 401.1322

## 1-(*tert*-Butyl) 3-ethyl 2-hydroxy-3-(2-nitrophenyl)pyrrolidine-1,3-dicarboxylate (13)



1-(*tert*-Butyl) 3-ethyl 3-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-oxopyrrolidine-1,3-dicarboxylate (**C**, 49.6 g, 131 mmol, 1 eq) was dissolved in anhydrous THF (1.5 L) and cooled to -78 °C. Boron trifluoride diethyl etherate (3.50 mL, 13.1 mmol, 0.1 eq, 48% solution) and lithium triethylborohydride (80.8 mL, 137 mmol, 1.05 eq, 1.7 M solution in THF) were rapidly added. The resulting mixture was stirred at -78°C for 30 min, then poured onto saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution (1 L) and allowed to warm to 23 °C. The aqueous phase was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (2 x 500 mL) and the combined organic phases were washed with saturated NaCl solution (1 L), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure. The resulting colourless solid was collected and washed with EtOAc (31.4 g, 82.5 mmol, 0.63 eq). The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, PE/EtOAc = 3:1 to 2:1) to obtain the title compound (13.0 g, 34.1 mmol, 0.26 eq). In total, 1-(*tert*-butyl) 3-ethyl 2-hydroxy-3-(2-nitrophenyl)pyrrolidine-1,3-dicarboxylate (**13**, 44.4 g, 117 mmol, 89%) was obtained as a colourless solid.

### **MP**: 148 °C

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>)**:  $\delta$  = 7.99 - 7.89 (m, 1H), 7.60 (dd, J<sub>1</sub> = 7.9 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.50 - 7.30 (m, 2H), 5.85 - 5.66 (m, 1H), 4.35 - 3.71 (m, 4H), 3.28 - 3.09 (m, 2H), 2.40 - 2.15 (m, 1H), 1.48 (s, 9H), 1.19 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, rotamers):  $\delta$  = 170.3, 169.6, 154.8, 153.2, 149.0, 148.7, 134.4, 134.0, 133.5, 133.2, 128.8, 128.6, 128.4, 127.9, 126.1, 125.8, 86.3, 86.1, 81.5, 81.3, 62.1, 61.9, 60.6, 60.0, 44.3, 43.7, 31.7, 31.3, 28.5, 14.0 ppm.

**IR** (neat): 3435 (bs), 2980, 2362, 1679, 1530, 1479, 1390, 1363, 1298, 1246, 1168, 1134, 1068, 893, 854, 781, 742, 668 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**HRMS (ESI)**: calc. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>Na<sup>+</sup>: 403.1481, found: 403.1477

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1-(*tert*-Butyl) 3-ethyl 2-methoxy-3-(2-nitrophenyl)pyrrolidine-1,3-dicarboxylate (D)



1-(*tert*-Butyl) 3-ethyl 2-hydroxy-3-(2-nitrophenyl)pyrrolidine-1,3-dicarboxylate (**13**, 44.0 g, 116 mmol, 1 eq) was dissolved in MeOH (500 mL) and *p*-toluenesulfonic acid monohydrate (1.10 g, 5.80 mmol, 0.05 eq) was added. The mixture was stirred at 23 °C for 14 h, then poured onto saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution (500 mL) and extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 x 500 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with saturated NaCl solution (500 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure. An analytical sample was purified by flash column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, PE/EtOAc = 3:1 to 2:1) to obtain 1-(*tert*-butyl) 3-ethyl 2-methoxy-3-(2-nitrophenyl)pyrrolidine-1,3-dicarboxylate (**D**) as a colourless viscous fluid.

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**:  $\delta$  = 7.75 - 7.73 (m, 1H), 7.59 - 7.48 (m, 2H), 7.41 - 7.37 (m, 1H), 5.59 - 5.48 (m, 1H), 4.18 - 4.11 (m, 2H), 3.54 - 3.37 (m, 2H), 3.17 - 3.12 (m, 3H), 2.72 - 2.56 (m, 2H), 1.51 - 1.48 (m, 9H), 1.19 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, rotamers): δ = 171.5, 171.3, 155.6, 155.3, 149.5, 149.3, 133.5, 132.6, 132.4, 131.3, 131.1, 128.1, 124.2, 89.6, 89.6, 80.8, 80.1, 61.8, 60.7, 60.0, 56.3, 55.9, 44.2, 43.6, 33.9, 33.4, 28.4, 14.1, 14.0 ppm.

**IR** (neat): 2978, 2933, 2900, 2835, 1732, 1697, 1608, 1577, 1525, 1477, 1456, 1363, 1309, 1247, 1228, 1168, 1153, 1128, 1093, 1072, 1022, 991, 979, 925, 896, 852, 781, 769, 731, 717, 690, 636, 599, 538, 511, 487, 459 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**HRMS (ESI)**: calc. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>Na<sup>+</sup>: 417.1638, found: 417.1643

1-(*tert*-Butyl) 3-ethyl 2-allyl-3-(2-nitrophenyl)pyrrolidine-1,3-dicarboxylate (14)



Crude material from **D** was dissolved in anhydrous DCM (600 mL) and cooled to -78 °C. Allyltributylstannane (53.4 mL, 57.6 g, 174 mmol, 1.5 eq) and boron trifluoride diethyl etherate (33.8 mL, 128 mmol, 1.1 eq, 48% solution) were added. The resulting mixture was allowed to warm to -40 °C over a period of 4 h, then poured onto saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution (1 L) and allowed to warm to 23 °C. After seperation of the organic phase the aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (2 x 500 mL) and the combined organic phases were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, PE/EtOAc = 5:1 to 3:1 to 2:1 to 1:1) to obtain 1-(*tert*-butyl) 3-ethyl 2-allyl-3-(2-nitrophenyl)pyrrolidine-1,3-dicarboxylate (**14**, 42.5 g, 105 mmol, 80%) as a colourless foam.

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**: δ = 7.92 - 7.90 (m, 1H), 7.65 - 7.57 (m, 2H), 7.51 - 7.46 (m, 1H), 5.57 - 5.46 (m, 1H), 4.86 - 4.68 (m, 2H), 4.51 - 4.38 (m, 1H), 4.18 - 4.10 (m, 2H), 3.55 - 3.49 (m, 1H), 3.45 - 3.33 (m, 1H), 2.83 - 2.75 (m, 1H), 2.42 - 2.32 (m, 1H), 2.22 - 1.96 (m, 1H), 1.79 - 1.69 (m, 1H), 1.50 - 1.48 (m, 9H), 1.19 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, rotamers): δ = 173.0, 172.8, 155.3, 154.6, 149.7, 149.5, 134.3, 134.2, 133.1, 132.9, 132.9, 130.7, 130.6, 128.9, 128.9, 125.4, 117.0, 116.8, 80.0, 79.4, 61.8, 61.7, 60.2, 60.1, 59.4, 58.7, 43.9, 43.4, 37.8, 37.2, 33.6, 33.0, 28.6, 14.1, 14.1 ppm.

**IR** (neat): 2977, 2926, 1785, 1731, 1693, 1530, 1455, 1389, 1364, 1300, 1234, 1174, 1024, 917, 855, 780 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**HRMS (ESI)**: calc. for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>Na<sup>+</sup>: 427.1845, found: 427.1848

1-(*tert*-Butyl) 3-ethyl 3-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-((*E*)-prop-1-en-1-yl)pyrrolidine-1,3dicarboxylate (E)



1-(*tert*-Butyl) 3-ethyl 2-allyl-3-(2-nitrophenyl)pyrrolidine-1,3-dicarboxylate (**14**, 33.6 g, 83.1 mmol, 1 eq) was dissolved in anhydrous MeOH (800 mL). Hoveyda-Grubbs catalyst 2nd generation (521 mg, 830  $\mu$ mol, 0.01 eq) was added and the mixture was heated to reflux for 4 h. Additional Hoveyda-Grubbs catalyst 2nd generation (521 mg, 830  $\mu$ mol, 0.01 eq) was added and the mixture was heated to reflux for 8 h. Additional Hoveyda-Grubbs catalyst 2nd generation (521 mg, 830  $\mu$ mol, 0.01 eq) was added and the mixture was heated to reflux for 8 h. After cooling to 23 °C, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. An analytical sample was purified by flash column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, PE/EtOAc = 3:1 to 2:1) to obtain 1-(*tert*-butyl) 3-ethyl 3-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-((*E*)-prop-1-en-1-yl)pyrrolidine-1,3-dicarboxylate (**E**) as a colourless viscous fluid.

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**:  $\delta$  = 7.88 (dd, J<sub>1</sub> = 8.3 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.64 - 7.58 (m, 1H), 7.55 - 7.50 (m, 1H), 7.44 (dd, J<sub>1</sub> = 7.7 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 5.56 - 5.38 (m, 1H), 5.09 - 4.91 (m, 1H), 4.75 - 4.56 (m, 1H), 4.20 . 4.14 (m, 2H), 3.62 - 3.52 (m, 1H), 3.41 - 3.34 (m, 1H), 2.68 - 2.60 (m, 1H), 2.52 - 2.43 (m, 1H), 1.46 - 1.44 (m, 9H), 1.39 (dd, J<sub>1</sub> = 6.5 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 1.0 Hz, 3H), 1.20 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, rotamers): δ = 172.9, 172.8, 155.0, 154.3, 149.5, 149.3, 133.9, 133.8, 133.3, 133.0, 130.6, 130.6, 130.1, 129.9, 128.6, 127.0, 126.9, 125.3, 79.7, 79.4, 63.0, 62.8, 61.8, 61.7, 59.5, 58.8, 44.0, 43.3, 33.8, 33.4, 28.7, 28.6, 17.7, 17.5, 14.1 ppm.

**IR** (film): 2976, 2933, 2893, 1732, 1689, 1608, 1575, 1527, 1477, 1454, 1388, 1363, 1352, 1303, 1259, 1217, 1176, 1122, 1082, 1024, 962, 921, 896, 852, 785, 767, 731, 709, 692, 636 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**HRMS (ESI)**: calc. for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>Na<sup>+</sup>: 427.1845, found: 427.1845

*tert*-Butyl 3-(hydroxymethyl)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-((*E*)-prop-1-en-1-yl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate (F)



Crude ethyl ester **E** was dissolved in anhydrous DCM (1 L) and cooled to -78 °C. Diisobutylaluminium hydride (498 mL, 498 mmol, 6 eq, 1 M solution in hexane) was transferred to a dropping funnel and added dropwise over a period of 2 h. The mixture was poured onto a saturated Na/K-tartrate solution (2 L) and was allowed to warm to 23 °C. Et<sub>2</sub>O (2 L) was added and the resulting mixture was vigourously stirred for 48 h at 23 °C. The organic phase was separated and the aqueous phase extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (2 x 500 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure. An analytical sample was purified by flash column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, PE/EtOAc = 2:1 to 1:1) to obtain *tert*-butyl 3-(hydroxymethyl)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-((*E*)-prop-1-en-1-yl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate (**F**) as a colourless viscous fluid.

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**:  $\delta$  = 7.65 - 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.43 - 7.35 (m, 2H), 5.65 - 5.48 (m, 1H), 4.92 - 4.81 (m, 1H), 4.69 - 4.47 (m, 1H), 4.23 - 4.07 (m, 1H), 3.68 (d, J = 10.9 Hz, 1H), 3.53 - 3.38 (m, 2H), 2.70 - 2.54 (m, 1H), 2.17 - 2.08 (m, 1H), 1.95 - 1.70 (m, 1H), 1.49 (dd, J<sub>1</sub> = 6.7 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 1.5 Hz, 3H), 1.45 - 1.43 (m, 9H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, rotamers)**: δ = 154.7, 154.2, 151.6, 151.3, 134.7, 134.1, 133.6, 133.4, 131.7, 131.3, 131.2, 130.6, 128.1, 128.0, 126.1, 126.1, 125.3, 124.8, 79.9, 79.7, 66.1, 65.5, 62.8, 62.5, 56.0, 55.2, 43.2, 42.5, 29.2, 28.7, 24.0, 18.0, 17.8 ppm.

**IR** (film): 3419 (bs), 2976, 2933, 2891, 1666, 1604, 1573, 1527, 1477, 1454, 1398, 1365, 1354, 1292, 1257, 1172, 1153, 1126, 1072, 1043, 962, 902, 848, 781, 734, 711, 682, 644 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**HRMS (ESI)**: calc. C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub><sup>+</sup>: 363.1920, found: 363.1920

## 1-*tert*-Butyl 3-((methoxymethoxy)methyl)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-((*E*)-prop-1-en-1yl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate (15)



Crude alcohol **F** was dissolved in anhydrous DCM (500 mL) and cooled to 0 °C. *N*,*N*-Diisopropylethylamine (174 mL, 128 g, 997 mmol, 12 eq) and chloromethyl methyl ether (63.1 mL, 66.9 g, 830 mmol, 10 eq) were sequentially added. The mixture was stirred for 20 h and allowed to warm to 23 °C during this time. Additional *N*,*N*-diisopropylethylamine (58.1 mL, 43.0 g, 332 mmol, 4 eq) and chloromethyl methyl ether (18.9 mL, 20.0 g, 249 mmol, 3 eq) were added at 23 °C and the mixture was stirred for 18 h. Water (1 L) was added and the organic phase was seperated. The aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (2 x 300 mL), the combined organic phases were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, PE/EtOAc = 3:1 to 2:1 to 1:1) to obtain *tert*-butyl 3-((methoxymethoxy)methyl)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-((*E*)-prop-1-en-1-yl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate (**15**, 27.4 g, 67.4 mmol, 81%) as a colourless foam.

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**:  $\delta$  = 7.65 - 7.54 (m, 1H), 7.52 - 7.41 (m, 2H), 7.39 - 7.33 (m, 1H), 5.65 - 5.48 (m, 1H), 4.94 - 4.82 (m, 1H), 4.80 - 4.53 (m, 1H), 4.49 - 4.42 (m, 2H), 4.13 - 3.97 (m, 1H), 3.65 - 3.62 (m, 1H), 3.55 - 3.40 (m, 2H), 3.15 - 3.14 (m, 3H), 2.70 - 2.49 (m, 1H), 2.23 - 2.13 (m, 1H), 1.49 (dd, J<sub>1</sub> = 6.6 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 1.5 Hz, 3H), 1.46 - 1.44 (m, 9H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, rotamers): δ = 154.6, 153.9, 151.3, 151.0, 135.2, 134.4, 133.8, 133.5, 131.4, 130.9, 130.9, 130.2, 127.9, 127.8, 126.3, 126.1, 125.1, 124.5, 96.5, 79.7, 79.5, 70.1, 69.8, 63.0, 62.5, 55.3, 55.2, 54.4, 53.5, 43.2, 42.5, 29.7, 28.7, 18.0, 17.8 ppm.

**IR** (film): 2974, 2931, 2887, 2823, 1691, 1529, 1477, 1454, 1394, 1363, 1292, 1255, 1174, 1149, 1111, 1045, 960, 918, 848, 781, 732, 711, 684 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**HRMS (ESI)**: calc. for  $C_{21}H_{30}N_2O_6Na^+$ : 429.2002, found: 429.2002

## *tert*-Butyl 2-formyl-3-((methoxymethoxy)methyl)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)pyrrolidine-1carboxylate (G)



*tert*-Butyl 3-((methoxymethoxy)methyl)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-((*E*)-prop-1-en-1yl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate (**15**, 24.0 g, 59.0 mmol, 1 eq) was dissolved in DCM/MeOH = 4:1 (500 mL) and cooled to -78 °C. Ozone was passed through the solution until its colour stayed blue. Afterwards oxygen was passed through the solution until its colour turned to slightly yellow. Thiourea (4.50 g, 59.0 mmol, 1 eq) was added and the mixture was allowed to warm up to 23 °C and stirred for 1 h. The resulting mixture was poured onto water (1 L). After seperation of the phases the aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (2 x 300 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with saturated NaCl solution (500 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure. An analytical sample was purified by flash column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, PE/EtOAc = 3:1 to 2:1) to obtain aldehyde **G** as a colourless foam.

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**: δ = 9.58 - 9.48 (m, 1H), 7.61 - 7.38 (m, 4H), 5.11 - 4.90 (m, 1H), 4.47 - 4.45 (m, 2H), 3.82 - 3.77 (m, 1H), 3.74 - 3.58 (m, 2H), 3.52 - 3.41 (m, 1H), 3.15 - 3.14 (m, 3H), 2.45 - 2.31 (m, 2H), 1.46 - 1.42 (m, 9H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>, rotamers)**: δ = 199.2, 198.3, 154.4, 154.0, 151.2, 151.1, 132.0, 131.9, 131.8, 131.7, 131.6, 128.8, 128.7, 125.0, 124.8, 96.4, 80.8, 80.6, 70.0, 58.3, 67.8, 55.4, 55.4, 52.9, 52.0, 43.8, 43.3, 30.1, 29.7, 28.5, 28.4 ppm.

**IR** (film): 2976, 2935, 2889, 2825, 1732, 1691, 1604, 1573, 1529, 1477, 1456, 1390, 1365, 1257, 1149, 1136, 1109, 1043, 918, 848, 773, 734, 680, 636, 542, 416, 403 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**HRMS (ESI)**: calc. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub><sup>+</sup>: 395.1818, found: 395.1818

1-(*tert*-Butoxycarbonyl)-3-((methoxymethoxy)methyl)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid (H)



Crude aldehyde **G** was dissolved in *t*BuOH (200 mL) and 2-methyl 2-butene (50 mL) was added. NaO<sub>2</sub>Cl (66.7 g, 590 mmol, 10 eq, 80%) and NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (66.7 g) were dissolved in water (200 mL) and the resulting solution was added to the first mixture under cooling with an ice bath. The reaction mixture was vigourously stirred for 15 h and allowed to warm to 23 °C during this time. The mixture was poured onto water (1 L) and extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (500 mL). 1 M HCl solution (200 mL) was added and the aqoueous phase was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (2 x 200 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure. An analytical sample was purified by acid/base wash (1 M NaOH/Et<sub>2</sub>O and 1 M HCl/Et<sub>2</sub>O) to obtain carboxylic acid **H** as a colourless solid.

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>)**: δ = 8.68 (bs, 1H), 7.62 - 7.53 (m, 1H), 7.51 - 7.43 (m, 2H), 7.39 - 7.34 (m, 1H), 5.00 - 4.84 (m, 1H), 4.45 (s, 2H), 3.90 - 3.73 (s, 1H), 3.72 - 3.54 (m, 2H), 3.50 - 3.40 (m, 1H), 3.14 - 3.13 (m, 3H), 2.66 - 2.46 (m, 1H), 2.39 - 2.33 (m, 1H), 1.45 - 1.36 (m, 9H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, rotamers): δ = 175.4, 173.1, 155.5, 154.1, 150.6, 150.5, 133.0, 132.7, 132.6, 132.3, 131.3, 131.2, 128.5, 128.2, 124.9, 124.6, 96.5, 96.4, 81.6, 81.1, 70.0, 69.9, 64.1, 64.0, 55.4, 55.3, 54.7, 53.1, 44.3, 44.0, 29.9, 28.9, 28.5, 28.4 ppm.

**IR** (film): 3062 (bs), 2976, 2935, 2893, 1735, 1697, 1647, 1575, 1531, 1477, 1415, 1392, 1367, 1350, 1244, 1170, 1151, 1111, 1043, 916, 850, 777, 756, 731, 680, 559, 416, 405 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

HRMS (ESI): calc. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub><sup>+</sup>: 411.1767, found: 411.1773

## 1-(*tert*-Butyl) 2-methyl 3-((methoxymethoxy)methyl)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)pyrrolidine-1,2-dicarboxylate (16)



Crude carboxylic acid **H** was dissolved in PhMe/MeOH = 3:1 (400 mL). A freshly prepared ethereal diazomethane solution<sup>2</sup> starting from *N*-methyl-*N*-nitrotoluene-*p*-sulfonamide (37.9 g, 177 mmol, 3 eq) was transferred to the solution. The resulting mixture was stirred at 23 °C for 12 h in an opened flask. The solvent was concentrated under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, PE/EtOAc = 3:1 to 2:1) to obtain 1-(*tert*-butyl) 2-methyl 3-((methoxymethoxy)methyl)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)pyrrolidine-1,2-dicarboxylate (**16**, 20.8 g, 49.0 mmol, 83%) as a colourless viscous fluid.

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**: δ = 7.69 - 7.58 (m, 1H), 7.54 - 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.41 - 7.34 (m, 1H), 5.05 - 4.87 (m, 1H), 4.50 - 4.45 (m, 2H), 4.05 - 3.89 (m, 1H), 3.76 - 3.60 (m, 2H), 3.54 - 3.45 (m, 1H), 3.38 - 3.37 (m, 3H), 3.16 - 3.15 (m, 3H), 2.67 - 2.53 (m, 1H), 2.50 - 2.36 (m, 1H), 1.45 - 1.41 (m, 9H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, rotamers): δ = 171.8, 171.5, 154.4, 154.0, 150.8, 150.5, 133.3, 133.0, 132.8, 132.7, 131.4, 130.9, 128.4, 128.3, 125.1, 124.7, 96.5, 96.5, 80.7, 80.5, 70.0, 69.9, 63.9, 63.8, 55.4, 55.3, 54.8, 53.9, 51.9, 51.8, 44.4, 44.0, 29.6, 29.3, 28.5, 28.4 ppm.

IR (film): 2976, 2951, 2891, 1741, 1697, 1531, 1477, 1456, 1435, 1392, 1365, 1244, 1172, 1151, 1134, 1109, 1043, 981, 918, 850, 777, 725, 561, 462, 408 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI): calc. for  $C_{20}H_{29}N_2O_8^+$ : 425.1924, found: 425.1925

17

# Methyl 3-((methoxymethoxy)methyl)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)pyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (J)



1-(*tert*-Butyl) 2-methyl 3-((methoxymethoxy)methyl)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)pyrrolidine-1,2dicarboxylate (**16**, 20.8 g, 49.0 mmol, 1 eq) was dissolved in DCM (300 mL) and cooled to 0 °C. Trifluoroacetic acid (70 mL) was added and the resulting mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 5 h. The organic phase was washed with 8 M NH<sub>4</sub>OH solution (1 L) and after seperation of the phases the aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (2 x 200 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure. An analytical sample was purified by acid/base wash (1 M HCI/Et<sub>2</sub>O and 8 M NH<sub>4</sub>OH/Et<sub>2</sub>O) followed by flash column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, DCM/MeOH = 50:1 to 40:1 to 30:1 to 20:1) to obtain secondary amine **J** as a colourless viscous fluid.

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>)**:  $\delta$  = 7.55 - 7.53 (m, 1H), 7.45 - 7.41 (m, 2H), 7.36 - 7.30 (m, 1H), 4.52 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 4.49 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 4.46 (s, 1H), 3.82 (s, 2H), 3.44 (s, 3H), 3.28 (ddd, J<sub>1</sub> = 10.3 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 10.3 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 3.22 - 3.16 (m, 1H), 3.19 (s, 3H), 2.47 (ddd, J<sub>1</sub> = 12.4 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 10.3 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.21 (ddd, J<sub>1</sub> = 12.3 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 8.5 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 2.12 (bs, 1H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 173.0, 151.0, 135.7, 132.3, 130.8, 127.7, 124.4, 96.6, 71.7, 66.2, 55.4, 55.1, 51.7, 44.8, 31.2 ppm.

**IR** (film): 2949, 2885, 1735, 1653, 1527, 1436, 1365, 1244, 1193, 1170, 1149, 1109, 1041, 952, 916, 852, 781, 759, 723, 696, 542 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**HRMS (ESI)**: calc. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub><sup>+</sup>: 325.1400, found: 325.1396

Methyl 1-allyl-3-((methoxymethoxy)methyl)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)pyrrolidine-2carboxylate (17)



Crude amine **J** was dissolved in anhydrous MeCN (50 mL) and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (13.5 g, 98.0 mmol, 2 eq) was added followed by allyl bromide (21.2 mL, 29.6 g, 245 mmol, 5 eq). The resulting mixture was stirred at 23 °C for 18 h. The reaction mixture was poured onto H<sub>2</sub>O (500 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 x 200 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, PE/EtOAc = 10:1 to 5:1 to 3:1) to obtain methyl 1-allyl-3-((methoxymethoxy)methyl)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)pyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (17, 13.4 g, 36.8 mmol, 75%) as a yellow viscous fluid.

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>)**:  $\delta$  = 7.50 (dd, J<sub>1</sub> = 7.7 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.43 - 7.37 (m, 2H), 7.30 (ddd, J<sub>1</sub> = 8.0 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 6.7 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 5.85 (ddt, J<sub>1</sub> = 16.9 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 10.4 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 5.19 (ddd, J<sub>1</sub> = 17.2 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 3.2 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 5.11 (ddd, J<sub>1</sub> = 10.1 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 2.7 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 4.52 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 4.46 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 4.34 (s, 1H), 3.99 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 3.44 (s, 3H), 3.26 (dddd, J<sub>1</sub> = 13.7 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 6.0 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 1.3 Hz, J<sub>4</sub> = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 3.17 (s, 3H), 3.11 - 3.04 (m, 2H), 2.79 (ddd, J<sub>1</sub> = 10.6 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 8.9 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (ddd, J<sub>1</sub> = 12.6 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 10.6 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 2.09 (ddd, J<sub>1</sub> = 12.5 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 8.4 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 4.1 Hz, 1H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 171.7, 150.8, 136.0, 135.4, 132.4, 130.4, 127.5, 124.3, 117.1, 96.5, 71.7, 70.0, 55.2, 54.8, 54.4, 51.0, 49.5, 30.3 ppm.

**IR** (film): 2949, 2885, 2843, 1732, 1527, 1436, 1363, 1193, 1151, 1109, 1045, 918, 854, 781, 759, 723, 684, 561, 418 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**HRMS (ESI)**: calc. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>25</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub><sup>+</sup>: 365.1713, found: 365.1709

## Methyl 1,2-diallyl-3-((methoxymethoxy)methyl)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)pyrrolidine-2carboxylate (18)



Silver trifluoromethanesulfonate (46.9 g, 183 mmol, 5 eq) was put in a Schlenk tube under argon. Anhydrous DCM (120 mL) was added and the suspension was subjected to ultrasonic for 30 min. The mixture was cooled to 0 °C and freshly prepared allyl iodide (16.7 mL, 30.7 g, 183 mmol, 5 eg) was added. After stirring for 5 min 1-allyl-3-((methoxymethoxy)methyl)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)pyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (**17**, 13.3 g, 36.5 mmol, 1 eq) and 1,8-*bis*(*N*,*N*-dimethylamino)naphthalene (23.5 g, 110 mmol, 3 eq) dissolved in anhydrous DCM (200 mL) were added and the resulting mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h. After warming up to 23 °C the suspension was filtrated over Celite into a flask containing K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (50.4 g, 365 mmol, 10 eq). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude ammonium salt was dissolved in anhydrous THF (600 mL) and cooled to 0 °C. Potassium tert-butoxide (110 mL, 110 mmol, 3 eq, 1 M solution in *t*BuOH) was added and the mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 15 min. The mixture was poured onto water (2 L) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 x 500 mL). The aqueous phase was adjusted to pH=12 with KOH and extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (2 x 500 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with saturated NaCl solution (500 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, PE/EtOAc = 10:1 to 5:1 to 3:1) to obtain methyl 1,2-diallyl-3-((methoxymethoxy)methyl)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)pyrrolidine-2carboxylate (**18**, 7.82 g, 19.3 mmol, 53%, dr > 99:1) as a colourless crystalline solid. An analytical sample for X-ray spectroscopy was crystallized from Et<sub>2</sub>O/pentane. 1-Allyl-3-((methoxymethoxy)methyl)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)pyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (17, 2.79 g, 7.66 mmol, 0.21 eq) could be recovered and used in a second cycle.

MP: 67.6 °C

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>)**:  $\delta = 7.57$  (dd, J<sub>1</sub> = 8.2 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.42 - 7.38 (m, 1H), 7.35 - 7.27 (m, 2H), 6.07 (dddd, J<sub>1</sub> = 17.1 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 10.4 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 6.7 Hz, J<sub>4</sub> = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 5.77 (dddd, J<sub>1</sub> = 17.2 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 10.0 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 7.4 Hz, J<sub>4</sub> = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 5.20 - 5.18 (m, 1H), 5.16 - 5.13 (m, 1H), 5.06 - 5.02 (m, 2H), 4.43 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 4.40 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 4.06 (d, J = 9.9 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (d, J = 10.2 Hz, 1H), 3.43 - 3.37 (m, 1H), 3.32 (s, 3H), 3.24 (ddd, J<sub>1</sub> = 8.7 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 8.7 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (s, 3H), 2.69 - 2.58 (m, 2H), 2.53 - 2.46 (m, 1H), 2.09 (ddd, J<sub>1</sub> = 12.5 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 8.7 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 3.8 Hz, 1H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>)**: δ = 172.9, 151.6, 136.0, 135.5, 135.3, 130.7, 129.8, 127.5, 124.3, 116.4, 116.3, 96.5, 77.5, 71.5, 57.7, 55.3, 53.6, 51.2, 49.9, 36.5, 31.6 ppm.

**IR** (film): 3076, 2978, 2949, 2885, 2843, 1720, 1635, 1529, 1485, 1435, 1365, 1276, 1217, 1151, 1107, 1041, 916, 846, 777, 740, 688, 561 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

HRMS (ESI): calc. for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub><sup>+</sup>: 405.2026, found: 405.2026

Single crystal diffraction data (see Spectroscopic Data)

Methyl 2-allyl-3-((methoxymethoxy)methyl)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)pyrrolidine-2carboxylate (K)



Tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0) (1.13 g, 979  $\mu$ mol, 0.05 eq) and 1,3dimethylbarbituric acid (6.11 g, 39.2 mmol, 2 eq) were put in a Schlenk tube under argon. 1,2-Diallyl-3-((methoxymethoxy)methyl)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)pyrrolidine-2carboxylate (**18**, 7.92 g, 19.6 mmol, 1 eq) was dissolved in degassed anhydrous DCM (200 mL) and added to the Schlenk tube. The resulting mixture was heated to reflux for 1 h. After cooling to 23 °C the reaction mixture was poured onto 8 M NH<sub>4</sub>OH solution (500 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (2 x 200 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtrated and concentrated under redued pressure. An analytical sample was purified by acid/base wash (1 M HCl/Et<sub>2</sub>O, saturated Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>/Et<sub>2</sub>O) followed by flash column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, PE/EtOAc = 1:1 to 0:1).

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**:  $\delta$  = 7.62 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.48 - 7.43 (m, 1H), 7.35 - 7.31 (m, 2H), 5.78 (dddd, J<sub>1</sub> = 17.1 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 10.1 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 8.1 Hz, J<sub>4</sub> = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 5.16 - 5.07 (m, 2H), 4.54 (s, 2H), 4.10 (d, J = 9.9 Hz, 1H), 3.8 (d, J = 9.9 Hz, 1H), 3.31 (s, 3H), 3.30 - 3.24 (m, 1H), 3.24 (s, 3H), 3.16 - 3.10 (m, 2H), 2.52 - 2.44 (m, 2H), 2.37 (ddd, J<sub>1</sub> = 12.9 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 8.1 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 2.10 (bs, 1H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 173.8, 151.9, 134.1, 133.4, 131.1, 130.0, 127.9, 124.2, 118.8, 96.8, 76.0, 71.3, 56.8, 55.7, 52.0, 43.8, 38.9, 34.1 ppm.

**IR** (film): 3367, 3076, 2949, 2885, 1728, 1639, 1529, 1485, 1435, 1371, 1296, 1217, 1151, 1107, 1041, 999, 918, 848, 773, 678 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**HRMS (ESI)**: calc. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>25</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub><sup>+</sup>: 365.1713, found: 365.1711

1-((9*H*-Fluoren-9-yl)methyl) 2-methyl 2-allyl-3-((methoxymethoxy)methyl)-3-(2nitrophenyl)pyrrolidine-1,2-dicarboxylate (19)



19

Crude secondary amine **K** was dissolved in 1,4-dioxane (120 mL) and water (30 mL). NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (3.46 g, 41.1 mmol, 2.1 eq) and fluorenylmethyloxycarbonyl chloride (5.32 g, 20.6 mmol, 1.05 eq) were sequentially added and the resulting mixture was stirred at 23 °C for 7 h. The mixture was poured onto water (1 L) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 x 500 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, PE/EtOAc = 5:1 to 3:1 to 2:1 to 1:1) to obtain 1-((9*H*-fluoren-9-yl)methyl) 2-methyl 2-allyl-3-((methoxymethoxy)methyl)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)pyrrolidine-1,2-dicarboxylate (**19**, 9.31 g, 15.9 mmol, 81%) as a colourless foam.

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**: δ = 7.79 - 7.71 (m, 3H), 7.63 - 7.58 (m, 2H), 7.50 - 7.26 (m, 7H), 5.86 - 5.46 (m, 1H), 5.27 - 4.98 (m, 2H), 4.60 - 4.23 (m, 5H), 4.10 - 3.83 (m, 3H), 3.71 - 3.52 (m, 1H), 3.52 - 3.39 (m, 1H), 3.27 - 2.76 (m, 7H), 2.72 - 2.50 (m, 1H), 2.41 - 2.28 (m, 1H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, rotamers): δ = 171.9, 171.4, 154.4, 154.1, 151.6, 151.5, 144.2, 143.9, 143.7, 141.5, 141.4, 134.0, 133.8, 131.4, 130.9, 130.6, 130.4, 129.9, 129.9, 127.9, 127.8, 127.8, 127.7, 127.3, 127.2, 127.2, 127.1, 125.2, 125.1, 124.6, 124.4, 123.9, 120.2, 120.1, 118.2, 117.7, 96.6, 96.5, 74.4, 73.3, 70.5, 67.5, 67.3, 60.2, 59.1, 55.6, 55.5, 52.4, 52.2, 47.4, 47.3, 46.7, 46.0, 36.3, 36.0, 29.0 ppm.
IR (film): 3072, 2949, 2889, 2357, 2341, 1741, 1699, 1529, 1450, 1408, 1355, 1346, 1244, 1213, 1192, 1149, 1109, 1074, 1039, 979, 918, 850, 759, 740, 669, 621, 584,

570, 545 cm⁻¹.

**HRMS (ESI)**: calc. for C<sub>33</sub>H<sub>34</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub>Na<sup>+</sup>: 609.2213, found: 609.2212

1-((9*H*-Fluoren-9-yl)methyl) 2-methyl 3-((methoxymethoxy)methyl)-3-(2nitrophenyl)-2-(2-oxoethyl)pyrrolidine-1,2-dicarboxylate (L)



1-((9*H*-Fluoren-9-yl)methyl) 2-methyl 2-allyl-3-((methoxymethoxy)methyl)-3-(2nitrophenyl)pyrrolidine-1,2-dicarboxylate (**19**, 2.09 g, 3.56 mmol, 1 eq) was dissolved in anhydrous DCM (200 mL) and anhydrous MeOH (50 mL) and cooled to -78 °C. Ozone was passed through the solution until a blue color appeared followed by oxygen until the blue color disappeared. Thiourea (271 mg, 3.56 mmol, 1 eq) was added and the mixture was allowed to warm to 23 °C. The reaction mixture was poured onto water (500 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 x 300 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with saturated NaCl solution (300 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, PE/EtOAc = 3:1 to 2:1 to 1:1) to obtain aldehyde **L** (1.57 g, 2.67 mmol, 75%) as a colourless foam.

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**:  $\delta$  = 9.64 - 8.91 (m, 1H), 7.78 - 7.76 (m, 2H), 7.66 - 7.30 (m, 10H), 4.93 - 4.21 (m, 5H), 4.12 - 3.73 (m, 4H), 3.66 - 3.46 (m, 1H), 3.29 - 2.85 (m, 7H), 2.78 - 2.54 (m, 1H), 2.42 - 2.22 (m, 1H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, rotamers): δ = 198.7, 198.4, 171.2, 154.7, 151.2, 143.9, 143.7, 141.5, 130.8, 130.3, 130.2, 130.1, 129.0, 128.8, 127.9, 127.2, 125.2, 125.0, 124.3, 124.2, 124.0, 120.5, 120.2, 120.2, 120.1, 96.5, 82.7, 73.2, 70.9, 70.7, 67.7, 66.5, 58.3, 55.9, 55.8, 52.7, 52.4, 47.4, 47.3, 46.5, 46.3, 45.0, 30.3 ppm.

**IR** (film): 3064, 2951, 2891, 1741, 1695, 1529, 1477, 1450, 1408, 1357, 1336, 1265, 1247, 1217, 1193, 1149, 1107, 1037, 977, 918, 848, 759, 738, 702, 621, 582, 547, 426 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**HRMS (ESI)**: calc. for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>33</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>9</sub><sup>+</sup>: 589.2186; found: 589.2183

## 1-((9*H*-Fluoren-9-yl)methyl) 2-methyl 2-(2-hydroxyethyl)-3-((methoxymethoxy)methyl)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)pyrrolidine-1,2-dicarboxylate (20)



Aldehyde L (1.57 g, 2.67 mmol, 0.75 eq) was dissolved in anhydrous MeOH (150 mL) and anhydrous DCM (30 mL). Sodium borohydride (112 mg, 2.95 mmol, 0.83 eq) was added and the mixture was stirred at 23 °C for 30 min. Water (50 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred for 5 min at 23 °C. The resulting mixture was poured onto water (500 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 x 300 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude alcohol was purified by flash column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, PE/EtOAc = 1:1 to 0:1) to obtain 1-((9*H*-fluoren-9-yl)methyl) 2-methyl 2-(2-hydroxyethyl)-3-((methoxymethoxy)-methyl)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)pyrrolidine-1,2-dicarboxylate (**20**, 1.48 g, 2.51 mmol, 71%) as a colourless foam.

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>)**: δ = 7.83 - 7.77 (m, 2H), 7.66 - 7.15 (m, 10H), 4.90 - 4.39 (m, 4H), 4.26 - 4.10 (m, 1H), 4.00 - 3.68 (m, 5H), 3.55 - 3.31 (m, 1H), 3.22 - 2.82 (m, 7H), 2.69 - 1.81 (m, 4H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, rotamers): δ = 171.6, 171.1, 155.4, 154.5, 151.3, 151.2, 143.9, 143.9, 143.8, 142.1, 141.5, 141.4, 131.2, 130.6, 130.4, 130.0, 129.8, 128.6, 128.5, 127.9, 127.9, 127.8, 127.4, 127.2, 127.2, 127.0, 125.1, 125.0, 124.2, 124.0, 123.9, 123.8, 120.4, 120.2, 120.2, 96.7, 96.6, 74.4, 72.5, 71.1, 70.2, 67.7, 66.4, 59.8, 59.6, 59.4, 59.2, 55.7, 55.6, 52.3, 52.2, 47.3, 46.9, 46.4, 36.6, 35.2, 29.8, 27.8 ppm.
IR (film): 3466 (bs), 3064, 2949, 2891, 1739, 1697, 1529, 1450, 1406, 1371, 1344, 1265, 1244, 1213, 1192, 1149, 1105, 1035, 916, 848, 758, 731, 702, 669, 621, 584, 563, 545, 426 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**HRMS (ESI)**: calc. for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>34</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>9</sub>Na<sup>+</sup>: 613.2162; found: 613.2163

## 1-((9*H*-fluoren-9-yl)methyl) 2-methyl 3-((methoxymethoxy)methyl)-3-(2nitrophenyl)-2-(2-phenylselanyl)ethyl)pyrrolidine-1,2-dicarboxylate (M)



1-((9*H*-Fluoren-9-yl)methyl) 2-methyl 2-(2-hydroxyethyl)-3-((methoxymethoxy)methyl)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)pyrrolidine-1,2-dicarboxylate (**20**, 1.48 g, 2.51 mmol, 1 eg) was dissolved in anhydrous DCM (50 mL) and cooled to 0 °C. 2,6-Di-tertbutylpyridine (1.35 mL, 1.15 g, 6.01 mmol, 2.4 eq) and trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride (505 µL, 848 mg, 3.01 mmol, 1.2 eg) were sequentially added. The mixture was allowed to warm to 23 °C and was stirred for 1 h. The organic phase was washed with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution (100 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure. Diphenyldiselenid (430 mg, 1.38 mmol, 0.55 eq) was dissolved in anhydrous EtOH (10 mL) and cooled to 0 °C. Sodium borohydride (114 mg, 3.01 mmol, 1.2 eg) was added and the resulting mixture was stirred for 10 min at 0 °C under gas evolution. The crude triflate was dissolved in anhydrous EtOH (15 mL) and added to the colourless selenid solution. After being allowed to warm to 23 °C, the resulting mixture was stirred for 45 min and was then poured onto saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution (300 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 x 300 mL) and the combined organic phases were dried over MqSO<sub>4</sub>, filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure. The material was purified by flash column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, PE/EtOAc = 5:1 to 2:1) to obtain seleno ether **M** (1.54 g, 2.10 mmol, 84%) as a colourless foam.

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>)**: δ = 7.79 - 7.75 (m, 2H), 7.63 - 7.20 (m, 15H), 4.53 - 4.21 (m, 5H), 4.02 - 3.64 (m, 3H), 3.53 - 3.38 (m, 1H), 3.20 - 2.40 (m, 11H), 2.34 - 2.22 (m, 1H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, rotamers): δ = 171.4, 154.9, 151.1, 143.9, 143.9, 141.5, 133.9, 132.9, 131.2, 130.4, 130.2, 129.9, 129.3, 129.2, 128.5, 127.9, 127.7, 127.5, 127.3, 127.2, 127.0, 125.1, 125.0, 125.0, 124.5, 124.5, 123.9, 120.3, 120.2, 96.7,

96.5, 75.2, 70.8, 69.9, 67.5, 67.4, 59.1, 55.8, 55.7, 52.3, 52.3, 47.3, 46.5, 35.1, 30.3, 29.6, 23.4 ppm.

**IR** (film): 3068, 2949, 2891, 1741, 1699, 1577, 1531, 1477, 1450, 1436, 1404, 1371, 1338, 1244, 1213, 1149, 1109, 1041, 1022, 918, 848, 759, 740, 692 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**HRMS (ESI)**: calc. for C<sub>38</sub>H<sub>39</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub>Se<sup>+</sup>: 731.1872; found: 731.1866

1-((9*H*-Fluoren-9-yl)methyl) 2-methyl 3-((methoxymethoxy)methyl)-3-(2nitrophenyl)-2-vinylpyrrolidine-1,2-dicarboxylate (21)



Seleno ether **M** was dissolved in THF/H<sub>2</sub>O = 4:1 (40 mL) and sodium periodate (4.50 g, 21.1 mmol, 8.4 eq) was added. After stirring at 23 °C for 3 h the colourless suspension was transferred to a refluxing mixture of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (354 mg, 4.21 mmol, 1.68 eq) in toluene (100 mL) and stirred for 10 min. After cooling down to 23 °C the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. H<sub>2</sub>O (300 mL) and Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> solution (50 mL) were added and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 x 300 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, PE/EtOAc = 3:1 to 2:1 to 1:1) to obtain 1-((9*H*-fluoren-9-yl)methyl) 2-methyl 3-((methoxymethoxy)methyl)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-vinylpyrrolidine-1,2-dicarboxylate (**21**, 861 mg, 1.50 mmol, 60%) as a colourless foam.

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**: δ = 7.79 - 7.71 (m, 2H), 7.62 - 7.58 (m, 2H), 7.54 - 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.44 - 7.21 (m, 6H), 6.68 - 6.39 (m, 1H), 5.44 - 5.15 (m, 2H), 4.52 - 3.94 (m, 6H), 3.76 - 3.56 (m, 3H), 3.32 - 3.17 (m, 3H), 3.10 - 3.06 (m, 3H), 2.79 - 2.62 (m, 1H), 2.52 - 2.44 (m, 1H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>, rotamers)**: δ = 170.5, 170.2, 154.7, 151.6, 144.0, 143.9, 143.9, 141.5, 141.5, 141.4, 141.4, 132.3, 131.8, 131.1, 130.7, 130.3, 130.0, 129.9, 128.7, 128.6, 127.9, 127.9, 127.7, 127.2, 127.2, 127.1, 127.0, 125.1, 125.1, 125.0, 124.9, 123.8, 123.7, 120.2, 120.0, 120.0, 117.2, 117.0, 96.5, 96.4, 76.0, 75.3, 71.6, 71.3, 67.7, 67.5, 58.8, 57.9, 55.5, 55.4, 52.6, 52.5, 47.4, 47.3, 46.6, 45.9, 28.2 ppm. IR (film): 3066, 2951, 2891, 1741, 1705, 1531, 1450, 1408, 1373, 1354, 1340, 1246, 1213, 1193, 1151, 1107, 1087, 1043, 918, 850, 759, 740 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **HRMS (ESI)**: calc. for  $C_{32}H_{33}N_2O_8^+$ : 573.2237; found: 573.2237

1-((9*H*-Fluoren-9-yl)methyl) 2-methyl 3-(hydroxymethyl)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)-2vinylpyrrolidine-1,2-dicarboxylate (N)



1-((9*H*-Fluoren-9-yl)methyl) 2-methyl 3-((methoxymethoxy)methyl)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-vinylpyrrolidine-1,2-dicarboxylate (**21**, 861 mg, 1.50 mmol, 1 eq) was dissolved in anhydrous DCM (30 mL) and cooled to 0 °C. Thiophenol (184  $\mu$ L, 199 mg, 1.80 mmol, 1.2 eq) and boron trifluoride diethyl etherate (476  $\mu$ L, 1.80 mmol, 1.2 eq, 48% solution) were sequentially added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 13 h and was thereby allowed to warm to 23 °C. Saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution (100 mL) was added and the aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (2 x 100 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, PE/EtOAc = 2:1 to 1:1) to obtain alcohol **N** (715 mg, 1.35 mmol, 90%) as a colourless foam.

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**: δ = 7.79 - 7.23 (m, 12H), 6.74 - 6.42 (m, 1H), 5.48 - 5.10 (m, 2H), 4.48 - 3.44 (m, 7H), 3.29 - 3.12 (m, 3H), 2.74 - 2.58 (m, 1H), 2.53 - 2.30 (m, 1H), 1.70 - 1.59 (m, 1H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, rotamers): δ = 170.9, 170.7, 154.2, 152.1, 144.0, 143.9, 141.5, 141.5, 132.8, 132.8, 132.5, 131.5, 130.5, 130.4, 129.0, 128.9, 127.9, 127.7, 127.3, 127.1, 127.0, 125.1, 125.1, 125.0, 124.9, 124.0, 124.0, 120.2, 120.0, 117.0, 116.8, 116.7, 76.2, 75.5, 67.6, 67.5, 67.4, 67.1, 59.7, 57.9, 52.5, 52.4, 47.4, 47.3, 46.6, 46.0, 28.3 ppm.

**IR** (film): 3458 (bs), 2951, 2893, 1741, 1701, 1529, 1450, 1409, 1373, 1354, 1340, 1255, 1246, 1209, 1157, 1082, 1066, 1043, 929, 848, 761, 740, 667, 420 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **HRMS (ESI)**: calc. for  $C_{30}H_{29}N_2O_7^+$ : 529.1975; found: 529.1975

3-formyl-3-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-vinyl-

1-((9*H*-Fluoren-9-yl)methyl) 2-methyl pyrrolidine-1,2-dicarboxylate (22)



Alcohol **N** was dissolved in anhydrous DCM (15 mL). NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (682 mg, 8.12 mmol, 5.4 eq) and Dess-Martin periodinane (1.72 g, 4.06 mmol, 2.7 eq) were added at 23 °C and the resulting mixture was stirred for 3 h. After that the mixture was poured onto saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution (100 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (2 x 100 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, PE/EtOAc = 3:1 to 2:1 to 1:1) to obtain 1- ((9*H*-fluoren-9-yl)methyl) 2-methyl 3-formyl-3-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-vinylpyrrolidine-1,2-dicarboxylate (**22**, 594 mg, 1.13 mmol, 75%) as a colourless foam.

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**:  $\delta$  = 9.75 (s, 1H), 7.93 (dd, J<sub>1</sub> = 8.2 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.79 - 7.28 (m, 11H), 6.80 - 6.55 (m, 1H), 5.53 - 5.32 (m, 1H), 5.19 - 5.08 (m, 1H), 4.59 - 4.47 (m, 1H), 4.40 - 4.31 (m, 1H), 4.25 - 4.11 (m, 1H), 4.03 - 3.96 (m, 1H), 3.88 - 3.68 (m, 1H), 3.36 - 3.09 (m, 3H), 2.62 - 2.55 (m, 1H), 2.46 - 2.36 (m, 1H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**: δ = 196.0, 169.5, 153.7, 144.0, 143.9, 141.6, 141.5, 136.8, 133.6, 133.3, 133.0, 132.0, 131.9, 130.6, 129.5, 127.9, 127.9, 127.3, 127.2, 127.0, 125.8, 125.1, 125.0, 120.2, 117.5, 67.8, 67.4, 65.4, 52.8, 47.5, 46.5, 31.3 ppm.

**IR** (film): 3064, 2949, 2897, 1741, 1705, 1606, 1575, 1527, 1477, 1450, 1404, 1340, 1265, 1211, 1155, 1114, 1093, 1058, 1006, 937, 854, 786, 758, 738, 725, 700, 621, 542 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**HRMS (ESI)**: calc. for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>Na<sup>+</sup>: 549.1638; found: 549.1638

1-(((9*H*-Fluoren-9-yl)carbonyl)-2-(methoxycarbonyl)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)-2vinylpyrrolidine-3-carboxylic acid (O)



1-((9*H*-Fluoren-9-yl)methyl) 2-methyl 3-formyl-3-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-vinyl-pyrrolidine-1,2-dicarboxylate (**22**, 448 mg, 851  $\mu$ mol, 1 eq) was dissolved in *t*BuOH (10 mL) and 2-methyl-2-butene (2 mL) was added. NaO<sub>2</sub>Cl (960 mg, 8.51 mmol, 10 eq, 80%) and NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>\*H<sub>2</sub>O (939 mg, 6.81 mmol, 8 eq) were dissolved in H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL). The aqueous solution was added to the aldehyde and the mixture was vigorously stirred at 23 °C for 22 h. The reaction mixture was poured onto H<sub>2</sub>O (100 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (200 mL). 1 M HCl (50 mL) was addded and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (2 x 100 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure.

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**:  $\delta$  = 7.75 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 7.63 - 7.49 (m, 4H), 7.43 - 7.37 (m, 3H), 7.30 (dd, J<sub>1</sub> = 7.5 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.73 - 6.42 (m, 1H), 5.43 - 5.10 (m, 2H), 4.47 - 4.22 (m, 3H), 4.04 - 3.98 (m, 1H), 3.89 - 3.83 (m, 1H), 3.48 - 3.16 (m, 3H), 2.78 - 2.62 (m, 2H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>)**:  $\delta$  = 175.2, 170.8, 154.4, 150.2, 144.1, 143.8, 141.5, 141.5, 132.6, 131.7, 131.3, 131.1, 128.9, 127.8, 127.2, 125.2, 125.1, 124.8, 120.1, 117.2, 67.6, 66.9, 52.9, 47.6, 47.3, 31.5, 29.8 ppm.

**IR** (film): 3064, 2953, 2926, 1735, 1707, 1575, 1529, 1477, 1450, 1408, 1357, 1338, 1247, 1220, 1197, 1157, 1095, 1053, 977, 910, 848, 758, 731, 648, 621, 543 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **HRMS (ESI)**: calc. for  $C_{30}H_{26}N_2O_8Na^+$ : 565.1587; found: 565.1583

1-((9*H*-Fluoren-9-yl)methyl) 2-methyl 3-(chlorocarbonyl)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)-2vinylpyrrolidine-1,2-dicarboxylate (23)



Crude carboxylic acid **O** was dissolved in anhydrous DCM (10 mL) and was cooled to 0 °C. Ghosez reagent (560  $\mu$ L, 568 mg, 4.25 mmol, 5 eq) was added and the mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 30 min. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude material was purified by flash column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, PE/EtOAc = 3:1 to 2:1 to 1:1) to obtain 1-((9*H*-fluoren-9-yl)methyl) 2-methyl 3-(chlorocarbonyl)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-vinylpyrrolidine-1,2-dicarboxylate (**23**, 382 mg, 681  $\mu$ mol, 80%) as a colourless foam.

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**: δ = 7.96 - 7.29 (m, 12H), 6.74 - 5.99 (m, 1H), 5.45 - 5.02 (m, 2H), 4.48 - 3.73 (m, 5H), 3.47 - 2.57 (m, 5H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 179.9, 169.8, 154.0, 149.2, 144.1, 143.9, 143.8, 141.5, 133.2, 131.1, 130.4, 130.1, 129.9, 129.0, 127.9, 127.2, 126.0, 125.2, 125.0, 120.1, 119.4, 72.4, 67.6, 52.9, 47.3, 45.4, 32.5, 31.7 ppm.

**IR** (film): 3064, 2951, 2902, 1797, 1741, 1707, 1606, 1577, 1531, 1450, 1408, 1355, 1342, 1298, 1246, 1219, 1195, 1157, 1095, 1051, 1002, 908, 854, 758, 736, 646, 420 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**HRMS (ESI)**: calc. for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>25</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>CINa<sup>+</sup>: 583.1248; found: 583.1248

3-(2-diazoacetyl)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-

1-((9*H*-Fluoren-9-yl)methyl) 2-methyl vinylpyrrolidine-1,2-dicarboxylate (24)



CaO (76.4 mg, 1.36 mmol, 2 eg) was put in a sealed tube and freshly prepared diazomethane<sup>2</sup> in anhydrous Et<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL, solution prepared starting from 5.00 g Nmethyl-N-(p-tolylsulfonyl)nitrosamide) was added. 1-((9H-Fluoren-9-yl)methyl) 2methyl 3-(chlorocarbonyl)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-vinylpyrrolidine-1,2-dicarboxylate (23, 382 mg, 681 µmol, 1 eq) was dissolved in anhydrous Et<sub>2</sub>O (5 mL) and added to the sealed tube. The tube was sealed and the mixture was stirred at 23 °C for 2 d. After complete reaction the solids were removed by filtration over celite and the solvent was concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, PE/EtOAc = 2:1 to 1:1 to 0:1) to obtain 1-((9Hfluoren-9-yl)methyl) 2-methyl 3-(2-diazoacetyl)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-vinylpyrrolidine-1,2-dicarboxylate (24, 251 mg, 443 μmol, 65%) as a slightly yellow foam.

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**: δ = 7.77 - 7.70 (m, 3H), 7.61 - 7.46 (m, 5H), 7.41 - 7.38 (m, 2H), 7.34 - 7.29 (m, 2H), 6.66 - 6.31 (m, 1H), 5.46 - 5.07 (m, 2H), 4.90 (s, 1H), 4.47 - 4.43 (m, 1H), 4.29 - 4.08 (m, 3H), 3.93 - 3.85 (m, 1H), 3.41 - 3.15 (m, 3H), 2.65 - 2.58 (m, 2H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 191.8, 171.2, 154.5, 151.1, 144.1, 143.9, 141.5, 141.4, 131.9, 131.3, 131.2, 131.0, 127.8, 127.2, 125.3, 125.1, 120.1, 118.7, 68.9, 67.6, 57.3, 52.9, 48.0, 47.4, 47.3, 31.9 ppm.

IR (film): 2953, 2108, 1739, 1706, 1636, 1531, 1449, 1405, 1338, 1244, 1155, 1099, 1051, 911, 853, 739, 649 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**HRMS (ESI)**: calc. for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>7</sub><sup>+</sup>: 567.1880; found: 567.1878

Methyl 4-(2-nitrophenyl)-3-oxo-7-vinyl-1-azabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-7-carboxylate (7)



3-(2-Diazoacetyl)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)-2-vinylpyrrolidine-1,2-dicarboxylate (**24**, 55.0 mg, 97.1  $\mu$ mol, 1 eq) was dissolved in DCM/MeOH = 1:1 (6 mL). 1,8-Diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene (29.0  $\mu$ L, 29.6 mg, 194  $\mu$ mol, 2 eq) was added and the mixture was stirred at 23 °C for 4.5 h. The reaction mixture was poured onto 1 M NaHSO<sub>4</sub> solution (50 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with PE (2 x 50 mL). Solid Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> was added to the aqueous phase until no more gas evolution occured followed by solid NaCl until saturation. The aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 100 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure to obtain the secondary amine as a colourless foam.

The crude secondary amine was dissolved in anhydrous DCM (6 mL) and cooled to -30 °C. Trifluoroacetic acid (73.8 μL, 110 mg, 971 μmol, 10 eq) was added and the mixture was stirred for 23 h and was thereby allowed to warm to 23 °C. Saturated K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> solution (50 mL) was added and the aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 100 mL). The combined organic phases were concentrated under reduced pressure and poured onto 1 M HCl solution (100 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc (2 x 50 mL). 8 M NH<sub>4</sub>OH solution was added to the aqueous phase until pH = 10 followed by extraction with EtOAc (3 x 100 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure obtain methyl 4-(2-nitrophenyl)-3-oxo-7-vinyl-1to azabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-7-carboxylate (7, 16.6 mg, 52.4  $\mu$ mol, 54%) as a colourless foam.

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>)**:  $\delta$  = 7.88 (dd, J<sub>1</sub> = 8.0 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.63 - 7.56 (m, 2H), 7.48 (ddd, J<sub>1</sub> = 8.2 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 7.0 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.01 (dd, J<sub>1</sub> = 17.4 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 10.9 Hz, 1H), 5.55 (d, J = 17.4 Hz, 1H), 5.46 (d, J = 11.3 Hz, 1H), 3.80 - 3.75 (m, J<sub>2</sub> = 10.9 Hz, 1H), 5.55 (d, J = 17.4 Hz, 1H), 5.46 (d, J = 11.3 Hz, 1H), 3.80 - 3.75 (m, J<sub>2</sub> = 10.9 Hz, 1H), 5.55 (d, J = 17.4 Hz, 1H), 5.46 (d, J = 11.3 Hz, 1H), 3.80 - 3.75 (m, J<sub>2</sub> = 10.9 Hz, 1H), 5.55 (m, J<sub>2</sub> = 10.9 Hz, 1H), 5

1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.51 - 3.43 (m, 1H), 3.15 (d, J = 17.4 Hz, 1H), 2.91 - 2.80 (m, 2H), 2.39 - 2.32 (m, 1H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 212.0, 169.7, 151.3, 133.3, 131.7, 131.6, 129.0, 127.2, 125.8, 121.2, 84.6, 65.0, 63.3, 53.0, 51.5, 33.1 ppm.

**IR** (film): 2954, 2924, 2852, 1739, 1573, 1529, 1481, 1458, 1436, 1357, 1273, 1255, 1207, 1163, 1139, 1078, 1066, 950, 852, 802, 786, 769, 740, 698 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**HRMS (ESI)**: calc. for  $C_{16}H_{17}N_2O_5^+$ : 317.1137; found: 317.1147

Methyl (*Z*)-2-(2-iodobut-2-en-1-yl)-5-(2-nitrophenyl)-9-oxo-2-azabicyclo[3.3.1]non-6-ene-6-carboxylate (6)



(*Z*)-2-iodobut-2-en-1-ol (500 mg, 2.53 mmol, 1 eq) was dissolved in DCM (10 mL). Triphenylphosphine (629 mg, 2.40 mmol, 0.95 eq) and imidazole (172 mg, 2.53 mmol, 1 eq) were added and the mixture was cooled to 0 °C. lodine (641 mg, 2.53 mmol, 1 eq) was added and the resulting mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 2 h. Aqueous thiosulfate solution (50 mL) was added and the aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (50 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude iodide was purified by flash column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, pentane/Et<sub>2</sub>O = 10:1) to afford (*Z*)-1,2-diiodobut-2-ene (**8**, 360 mg, 971  $\mu$ mol, 38%) as a slightly yellow fluid.

AgOTf (29.2 mg, 114  $\mu$ mol, 6 eq) was put in a Schlenk tube under argon. Anhydrous DCM (200  $\mu$ L) was added and the resulting suspension was cooled to 0 °C. Freshly prepared (*Z*)-1,2-diiodobut-2-ene (**8**, 35.0 mg, 114  $\mu$ mol, 6 eq) dissolved in anhydrous DCM (100  $\mu$ L) was added and the mixture was stirred for 1 min at 0 °C. Methyl 4-(2-nitrophenyl)-3-oxo-7-vinyl-1-azabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-7-carboxylate (**7**, 6.00 mg, 19.0  $\mu$ mol, 1 eq) and 1,8-bis(*N*,*N*-dimethylamino)naphtalene (24.4 mg, 114  $\mu$ mol, 6 eq) dissolved in anhydrous DCM (500  $\mu$ L) were added to the Schlenk tube and the resulting suspension was stirred at 0 °C for 4 h. During this time the mixture was allowed to warm to 23 °C slowly. The mixture was directly submitted to flash column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, PE/EtOAc = 5:1 to 2:1) to obtain methyl (*Z*)-2-(2-iodobut-2-en-1-yl)-5-(2-nitrophenyl)-9-oxo-2-azabicyclo[3.3.1]-non-6-ene-6-carboxylate (**6**, 4.00 mg, 8.06  $\mu$ mol, 42%) as a colourless foam.

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>)**:  $\delta$  = 7.93 (dd, J<sub>1</sub> = 8.0 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.68 - 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.45 (ddd, J<sub>1</sub> = 8.3 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 6.9 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (dd, J<sub>1</sub> = 4.6 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 2.9 Hz, 1H), 5.88 (q, J = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 3.50 (s, 3H), 3.41 - 3.26 (m, 4H), 2.97 (ddd,
J<sub>1</sub> = 20.5 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 5.5 Hz, J<sub>3</sub> = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 2.92 - 2.81 (m, 2H), 2.76 - 2.67 (m, 2H), 1.78 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 205.6, 165.1, 149.2, 139.8, 134.6, 133.9, 132.7, 130.8, 130.2, 128.3, 125.6, 107.8, 65.4, 61.4, 55.7, 51.9, 44.3, 38.4, 29.9, 21.9 ppm. IR (film): 2954, 2924, 2854, 1716, 1643, 1527, 1462, 1438, 1354, 1284, 1238, 1176, 1118, 1095, 1060, 1014, 964, 852, 783, 732, 574, 474 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**HRMS (ESI)**: calc. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>I<sup>+</sup>: 497.0573; found: 497.0568

(*Z*)-12-(2-iodobut-2-en-1-yl)-4-(methoxycarbonyl)-1,2-dihydro-1,4a-(epiminoethano)carbazole 9-oxide (25)



Methyl (*Z*)-2-(2-iodobut-2-en-1-yl)-5-(2-nitrophenyl)-9-oxo-2-azabicyclo[3.3.1]-non-6ene-6-carboxylate (**6**, 4.00 mg, 8.06  $\mu$ mol, 1 eq) was dissolved in anhydrous DMF (1 mL). Tin(II) chloride dihydrate (54.6 mg, 242  $\mu$ mol, 30 eq) was added and the mixture was stirred at 23 °C for 29 h. The reaction mixture was poured onto saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution (15 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (4 x 5 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with saturated NaCl solution (5 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude material was purified by preparative thin layer chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, DCM/Et<sub>2</sub>O = 5:1) to obtain (*Z*)-12-(2-iodobut-2-en-1-yl)-4-(methoxycarbonyl)-1,2dihydro-1,4a-(epimino-ethano)carbazole 9-oxide (**25**, 2.30 mg, 4.95  $\mu$ mol, 61%) as a yellow foam.

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR (600 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>)**:  $\delta = 8.06$  (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.56 - 7.51 (m, 1H), 7.47 - 7.42 (m, 1H), 7.10 (t, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 6.01 (q, J = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 4.58 (m, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.41 (d, J = 13.9 Hz, 1H), 3.21 (d, J = 14.0 Hz, 1H), 3.12 - 3.05 (m, 1H), 2.87 - 2.83 (m, 2H), 2.78 - 2.72 (m, 1H), 2.68 - 2.62 (m, 1H), 1.81 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 3H), 1.74 - 1.66 (m, 1H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 165.9, 149.1, 148.2, 142.4, 136.3, 134.6, 129.4, 129.1, 128.7, 126.9, 115.3, 107.4, 65.6, 52.1, 48.7, 47.7, 43.9, 35.6, 33.1, 22.1 ppm. IR (neat): 2922, 2851, 1715, 1626, 1592, 1436, 1377, 1300, 1258, 1204, 1112, 1088, 1057, 1040, 997, 904, 768, 750 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**HRMS (ESI)**: calc. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>I<sup>+</sup>: 465.0675; found: 465.0673

Methyl (*Z*)-12-(2-iodobut-2-en-1-yl)-1,2-dihydro-1,4a-(epiminoethano)carbazole-4-carboxylate (26)



(*Z*)-12-(2-iodobut-2-en-1-yl)-4-(methoxycarbonyl)-1,2-dihydro-1,4a-(epimino-ethano)carbazole 9-oxide (**25**, 2.50 mg, 5.38 µmol, 1 eq) was dissolved in anhydrous THF (1 mL) and the resulting mixture was cooled to 0 °C. Freshly distilled phosphorus tribromide (1.52 µL, 16.2 µmol, 3 eq) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 40 min. H<sub>2</sub>O (6 mL) was added and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 x 5 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude material was purified by preparative thin layer chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, DCM/Et<sub>2</sub>O = 15:1) to yield methyl (*Z*)-12-(2-iodobut-2-en-1-yl)-1,2-dihydro-1,4a-(epiminoethano)carbazole-4-carboxylate (**26**, 1.40 mg, 3.12 µmol, 58%) as a colorless oil. <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR data are in almost full agreement with data published by Zhu and co-workers<sup>3</sup> and provide even better resolution for some proton signals. Data obtained from HRMS and IR are also highly comparable and further confirm successful preparation of compound **26**.

<sup>1</sup>**H-NMR (600 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>)**:  $\delta = 7.91$  (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (dt, J<sub>1</sub> = 1.3 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (dt, J<sub>1</sub> = 1.1 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (t, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 5.89 (q, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.39 (d, J = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 3.23 (d, J = 14.0 Hz, 1H), 3.06 (dt, J<sub>1</sub> = 2.9 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 13.8 Hz, 1H), 2.93 (dd, J<sub>1</sub> = 4.2 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 20.5 Hz, 1H), 2.82 - 2.75 (m, 1H), 2.72 - 2.62 (m, 2H), 1.79 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H), 1.57 (dt, J<sub>1</sub> = 4.2 Hz, J<sub>2</sub> = 12.8 Hz, 1H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 183.2, 166.0, 156.1, 141.3, 140.3, 133.1, 129.9, 128.5, 126.4, 125.6, 120.9, 108.6, 65.2, 55.4, 54.8, 51.8, 43.3, 36.0, 34.1, 21.9 ppm. IR (neat): 2922, 2852, 1717, 1631, 1464, 1376, 1261, 1231, 1092, 1062, 1019, 912, 804, 775, 749 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**HRMS (ESI)**: calc. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>I<sup>+</sup>: 449.0726; found: 449.0725

# 3. Spectroscopic Data

Methyl 1,2-diallyl-3-((methoxymethoxy)methyl)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)pyrrolidine-2carboxylate (18)





Computing details

Data collection: Bruker *APEX2*; cell refinement: Bruker *SAINT*; data reduction: Bruker *SAINT*; program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXS97* (Sheldrick, 2008); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL2014*/7 (Sheldrick, 2014).

Compound **18** submitted for X-ray structure analysis CCDC number 1474384

## Crystal data

C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>28</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	$V = 2161.0 (5) Å^3$
<i>M<sub>r</sub></i> = 404.45	Z = 4
Monoclinic, <i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> / <i>n</i>	<i>F</i> (000) = 864
a = 12.5404 (19) Å	$D_{\rm x}$ = 1.243 Mg m <sup>-3</sup>
<i>b</i> = 9.1067 (11) Å	$\mu = 0.09 \text{ mm}^{-1}$
c = 19.609 (3) Å	Т = 200 К
β = 105.204 (5)°	0.50 × 0.30 × 0.20 mm

### Data collection

23305 measured reflections	$\theta_{max} = 25.1^\circ, \ \theta_{min} = 2.5^\circ$
3820 independent reflections	<i>h</i> = −14→14
2627 reflections with $l > 2\sigma(l)$	<i>k</i> = −10→8

$R_{\rm int} = 0.069$	/ = −23→23

#### Refinement

Refinement on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup>	Primary atom site location: structure-invariant direct methods
Least-squares matrix: full	Secondary atom site location: difference Fourier map
$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.046$	Hydrogen site location: inferred from neighbouring sites
$wR(F^2) = 0.157$	H-atom parameters constrained
S = 1.01	$w = 1/[\sigma^{2}(F_{o}^{2}) + (0.0986P)^{2} + 0.0386P]$ where $P = (F_{o}^{2} + 2F_{c}^{2})/3$
3820 reflections	$(\Delta/\sigma)_{max} = 0.011$
264 parameters	$\Delta \rho_{\text{max}} = 0.32 \text{ e} \text{ Å}^{-3}$
0 restraints	$\Delta \rho_{\min} = -0.25 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$

#### Special details

#### Refinement

Refinement of  $F^2$  against ALL reflections. The weighted *R*-factor *wR* and goodness of fit *S* are based on  $F^2$ , conventional *R*-factors *R* are based on *F*, with *F* set to zero for negative  $F^2$ . The threshold expression of  $F^2 > \sigma(F^2)$  is used only for calculating *R*-factors(gt) *etc.* and is not relevant to the choice of reflections for refinement. *R*-factors based on  $F^2$  are statistically about twice as large as those based on *F*, and *R*-factors based on ALL data will be even larger.

Fractional atomic coordinates and isotropic or equivalent isotropic displacement parameters  $(Å^2)$ 

	x	У	Ζ	$U_{\rm iso}^*/U_{\rm eq}$
01	0.62440 (16)	0.0340 (2)	0.24763 (10)	0.0758 (5)
02	0.45543 (13)	0.01682 (14)	0.16261 (7)	0.0482 (4)
O3	0.22066 (14)	0.38788 (16)	0.00065 (8)	0.0549 (4)
04	0.15943 (15)	0.17662 (17)	-0.05191 (7)	0.0637 (5)
O5	0.5314 (2)	0.60103 (18)	0.16361 (10)	0.0877 (7)
O6	0.54433 (15)	0.40870 (18)	0.22669 (8)	0.0663 (5)

N1	0.15283 (14)	0.21257 (18)	0.11189 (8)	0.0429 (4)
N2	0.53050 (15)	0.4686 (2)	0.16979 (9)	0.0486 (5)
C1	0.6917 (3)	0.0582 (4)	0.2010 (2)	0.1158 (13)
H1A	0.7143	-0.0364	0.1855	0.174*
H1B	0.7574	0.1141	0.2254	0.174*
H1C	0.65	0.1137	0.1598	0.174*
C2	0.5323 (2)	-0.0520 (3)	0.21860 (13)	0.0626 (7)
H2A	0.4955	-0.0769	0.256	0.075*
H2B	0.5567	-0.145	0.2013	0.075*
C3	0.39648 (18)	0.1324 (2)	0.18554 (10)	0.0420 (5)
H3A	0.4473	0.1877	0.2241	0.05*
H3B	0.337	0.0903	0.2042	0.05*
C4	0.34585 (16)	0.23720 (19)	0.12400 (9)	0.0345 (4)
C5	0.23587 (16)	0.1710 (2)	0.07423 (10)	0.0364 (5)
C6	0.03702 (18)	0.1927 (3)	0.07303 (12)	0.0548 (6)
H6A	0.0283	0.0964	0.0488	0.066*
H6B	0.0159	0.27	0.0365	0.066*
C7	-0.0385 (2)	0.1997 (3)	0.12058 (14)	0.0604 (6)
H7	-0.0247	0.1352	0.16	0.072*
C8	-0.1217 (2)	0.2887 (3)	0.11101 (16)	0.0790 (8)
H8A	-0.1374	0.3544	0.072	0.095*
H8B	-0.167	0.2883	0.143	0.095*
C9	0.30196 (18)	0.3750 (2)	0.15534 (11)	0.0433 (5)
H9A	0.3355	0.3806	0.2069	0.052*
H9B	0.3213	0.4655	0.1333	0.052*
C10	0.17770 (19)	0.3602 (2)	0.14013 (12)	0.0506 (6)
H10A	0.1535	0.3728	0.1839	0.061*
H10B	0.1402	0.4346	0.1052	0.061*
C11	0.23229 (18)	0.0010 (2)	0.06295 (10)	0.0431 (5)
H11A	0.1777	-0.0206	0.0176	0.052*
H11B	0.3055	-0.0309	0.0582	0.052*
C12	0.2038 (2)	-0.0907 (2)	0.11969 (14)	0.0606 (7)
H12	0.1479	-0.0536	0.1396	0.073*
C13	0.2468 (4)	-0.2118 (3)	0.14334 (18)	0.1024 (12)
H13A	0.3031	-0.2535	0.1251	0.123*
H13B	0.2229	-0.2612	0.1794	0.123*
C14	0.20787 (17)	0.2578 (2)	0.00396 (10)	0.0417 (5)
C15	0.1214 (3)	0.2569 (4)	-0.11801 (13)	0.1002 (12)
H15A	0.0683	0.3323	-0.1129	0.15*
H15B	0.0856	0.1888	-0.1558	0.15*
H15C	0.1845	0.3037	-0.1299	0.15*
C16	0.43532 (16)	0.27133 (19)	0.08552 (9)	0.0343 (4)
C17	0.44120 (17)	0.1926 (2)	0.02545 (10)	0.0400 (5)
H17	0.3883	0.1174	0.0088	0.048*
C18	0.51975 (18)	0.2183 (2)	-0.01103 (11)	0.0475 (5)
H18	0.5202	0.1604	-0.0512	0.057*

C19	0.59737 (19)	0.3272 (2)	0.01047 (12)	0.0526 (6)
H19	0.651	0.3459	-0.0149	0.063*
C20	0.59590 (18)	0.4086 (2)	0.06935 (12)	0.0499 (5)
H20	0.6484	0.4848	0.0849	0.06*
C21	0.51735 (17)	0.3788 (2)	0.10590 (10)	0.0395 (5)

Atomic displacement parameters ( $Å^2$ )

	<i>U</i> <sup>11</sup>	U <sup>22</sup>	U <sup>33</sup>	<i>U</i> <sup>12</sup>	$U^{13}$	$U^{23}$
01	0.0687 (12)	0.0743 (12)	0.0703 (11)	0.0030 (10)	-0.0068 (10)	-0.0001 (9)
02	0.0591 (10)	0.0395 (8)	0.0423 (8)	0.0079 (7)	0.0068 (7)	0.0017 (6)
O3	0.0658 (11)	0.0449 (9)	0.0485 (9)	0.0002 (8)	0.0056 (8)	0.0044 (7)
O4	0.0893 (13)	0.0604 (10)	0.0339 (8)	-0.0056 (9)	0.0029 (8)	-0.0071 (7)
O5	0.140 (2)	0.0410 (10)	0.0720 (12)	-0.0081 (10)	0.0105 (12)	-0.0084 (8)
O6	0.0816 (13)	0.0670 (10)	0.0416 (9)	-0.0157 (9)	0.0007 (8)	-0.0013 (8)
N1	0.0398 (10)	0.0456 (10)	0.0465 (9)	-0.0033 (8)	0.0168 (8)	-0.0122 (8)
N2	0.0484 (11)	0.0434 (10)	0.0477 (11)	-0.0075 (9)	0.0015 (9)	-0.0013 (8)
C1	0.063 (2)	0.150 (3)	0.134 (3)	0.017 (2)	0.024 (2)	0.048 (3)
C2	0.0754 (18)	0.0482 (13)	0.0587 (14)	0.0055 (13)	0.0079 (13)	0.0155 (11)
C3	0.0520 (13)	0.0407 (11)	0.0335 (10)	-0.0016 (10)	0.0117 (9)	-0.0010 (8)
C4	0.0392 (11)	0.0317 (9)	0.0329 (9)	-0.0029 (8)	0.0100 (8)	-0.0048 (8)
C5	0.0385 (11)	0.0367 (10)	0.0364 (10)	-0.0022 (9)	0.0139 (9)	-0.0060 (8)
C6	0.0413 (13)	0.0638 (14)	0.0591 (14)	-0.0061 (11)	0.0128 (11)	-0.0174 (11)
C7	0.0435 (14)	0.0684 (15)	0.0711 (16)	-0.0049 (12)	0.0184 (12)	-0.0088 (13)
C8	0.0484 (16)	0.107 (2)	0.0833 (19)	-0.0007 (16)	0.0206 (14)	-0.0230 (17)
C9	0.0479 (13)	0.0413 (11)	0.0425 (11)	-0.0017 (10)	0.0149 (10)	-0.0111 (9)
C10	0.0486 (14)	0.0516 (13)	0.0545 (12)	-0.0002 (11)	0.0185 (11)	-0.0176 (10)
C11	0.0476 (13)	0.0386 (11)	0.0429 (11)	-0.0082 (9)	0.0117 (10)	-0.0105 (9)
C12	0.0761 (18)	0.0428 (12)	0.0735 (16)	-0.0091 (13)	0.0384 (14)	-0.0047 (12)
C13	0.174 (4)	0.0508 (16)	0.110 (2)	0.0064 (19)	0.087 (3)	0.0082 (16)
C14	0.0394 (12)	0.0476 (13)	0.0379 (10)	0.0012 (10)	0.0098 (9)	-0.0068 (9)
C15	0.153 (3)	0.094 (2)	0.0357 (13)	-0.011 (2)	-0.0074 (17)	0.0022 (13)
C16	0.0360 (11)	0.0319 (9)	0.0341 (9)	0.0025 (8)	0.0076 (8)	0.0025 (8)
C17	0.0413 (12)	0.0393 (10)	0.0400 (10)	0.0013 (9)	0.0118 (9)	-0.0002 (8)
C18	0.0492 (13)	0.0539 (12)	0.0430 (11)	0.0106 (11)	0.0183 (10)	0.0044 (10)
C19	0.0429 (13)	0.0637 (14)	0.0562 (13)	0.0038 (11)	0.0219 (11)	0.0109 (12)
C20	0.0377 (12)	0.0506 (12)	0.0600 (14)	-0.0035 (10)	0.0103 (10)	0.0089 (11)
C21	0.0379 (12)	0.0378 (10)	0.0395 (10)	0.0025 (9)	0.0045 (9)	0.0052 (8)

Bond lengths (Å)

O1—C2	1.388 (3)	C7—C8	1.295 (3)
O1—C1	1.415 (4)	C7—H7	0.95
O2—C2	1.404 (3)	C8—H8A	0.95
O2—C3	1.425 (2)	C8—H8B	0.95
O3—C14	1.199 (2)	C9—C10	1.514 (3)
O4—C14	1.329 (2)	C9—H9A	0.99
O4—C15	1.456 (3)	C9—H9B	0.99
O5—N2	1.212 (2)	C10—H10A	0.99
O6—N2	1.213 (2)	C10—H10B	0.99
N1—C10	1.456 (2)	C11—C12	1.507 (3)
N1—C6	1.464 (3)	C11—H11A	0.99
N1—C5	1.475 (2)	C11—H11B	0.99
N2—C21	1.469 (3)	C12—C13	1.261 (4)
C1—H1A	0.98	C12—H12	0.95
С1—Н1В	0.98	C13—H13A	0.95
C1—H1C	0.98	C13—H13B	0.95
C2—H2A	0.99	C15—H15A	0.98
С2—Н2В	0.99	C15—H15B	0.98
C3—C4	1.539 (3)	C15—H15C	0.98
С3—НЗА	0.99	C16—C17	1.397 (3)
С3—Н3В	0.99	C16—C21	1.400 (3)
C4—C16	1.539 (3)	C17—C18	1.381 (3)
C4—C9	1.560 (3)	C17—H17	0.95
C4—C5	1.585 (3)	C18—C19	1.376 (3)
C5—C14	1.547 (3)	C18—H18	0.95
C5—C11	1.562 (3)	C19—C20	1.376 (3)
C6—C7	1.494 (3)	C19—H19	0.95
C6—H6A	0.99	C20—C21	1.389 (3)
С6—Н6В	0.99	C20—H20	0.95

# Bond angles(°)

C2—O1—C1	113.3 (2)	C10—C9—C4	107.57 (16)
C2—O2—C3	112.92 (17)	С10—С9—Н9А	110.2
C14—O4—C15	115.26 (19)	C4—C9—H9A	110.2
C10—N1—C6	113.35 (16)	С10—С9—Н9В	110.2
C10—N1—C5	108.58 (15)	С4—С9—Н9В	110.2
C6—N1—C5	116.23 (15)	Н9А—С9—Н9В	108.5
O5—N2—O6	122.45 (19)	N1—C10—C9	105.31 (16)
O5—N2—C21	118.07 (18)	N1—C10—H10A	110.7
O6—N2—C21	119.41 (17)	C9—C10—H10A	110.7
O1—C1—H1A	109.5	N1—C10—H10B	110.7
O1—C1—H1B	109.5	C9—C10—H10B	110.7

H1A—C1—H1B	109.5	H10A—C10—H10B	108.8
O1—C1—H1C	109.5	C12—C11—C5	116.61 (16)
H1A—C1—H1C	109.5	C12—C11—H11A	108.1
H1B—C1—H1C	109.5	C5—C11—H11A	108.1
O1—C2—O2	113.27 (18)	C12—C11—H11B	108.1
O1—C2—H2A	108.9	C5—C11—H11B	108.1
O2—C2—H2A	108.9	H11A—C11—H11B	107.3
O1—C2—H2B	108.9	C13—C12—C11	126.5 (3)
O2—C2—H2B	108.9	C13—C12—H12	116.8
H2A—C2—H2B	107.7	C11—C12—H12	116.8
O2—C3—C4	110.62 (15)	C12—C13—H13A	120.0
O2—C3—H3A	109.5	C12—C13—H13B	120.0
C4—C3—H3A	109.5	H13A—C13—H13B	120.0
O2—C3—H3B	109.5	O3—C14—O4	122.93 (19)
C4—C3—H3B	109.5	O3—C14—C5	123.42 (17)
H3A—C3—H3B	108.1	O4—C14—C5	113.42 (17)
C16—C4—C3	107.81 (15)	O4—C15—H15A	109.5
C16—C4—C9	114.12 (15)	O4—C15—H15B	109.5
C3—C4—C9	107.80 (15)	H15A—C15—H15B	109.5
C16—C4—C5	113.80 (14)	O4—C15—H15C	109.5
C3—C4—C5	111.11 (15)	H15A—C15—H15C	109.5
C9—C4—C5	102.05 (15)	H15B—C15—H15C	109.5
N1—C5—C14	106.82 (16)	C17—C16—C21	113.71 (17)
N1—C5—C11	109.12 (15)	C17—C16—C4	121.07 (16)
C14—C5—C11	112.89 (15)	C21—C16—C4	125.22 (16)
N1—C5—C4	102.03 (14)	C18—C17—C16	123.53 (19)
C14—C5—C4	108.14 (15)	C18—C17—H17	118.2
C11—C5—C4	116.88 (16)	C16—C17—H17	118.2
N1—C6—C7	112.00 (18)	C19—C18—C17	120.5 (2)
N1—C6—H6A	109.2	C19—C18—H18	119.8
С7—С6—Н6А	109.2	C17—C18—H18	119.8
N1—C6—H6B	109.2	C20—C19—C18	118.8 (2)
С7—С6—Н6В	109.2	C20—C19—H19	120.6
H6A—C6—H6B	107.9	C18—C19—H19	120.6
C8—C7—C6	123.7 (3)	C19—C20—C21	119.7 (2)
C8—C7—H7	118.2	C19—C20—H20	120.2
C6—C7—H7	118.2	C21—C20—H20	120.2
С7—С8—Н8А	120.0	C20—C21—C16	123.84 (19)
С7—С8—Н8В	120.0	C20—C21—N2	113.28 (18)
H8A—C8—H8B	120.0	C16—C21—N2	122.86 (18)


































































## 4. References

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