N-Heterocyclic Carbene (NHC) Catalyzed Atom Economical Construction of 2,3-Disubstituted Indoles

Battu Harish,^{*a,b*} Manyam Subbireddy,^{*a*} and Surisetti Suresh^{*a,b*}

^aOrganic and Biomolecular Chemistry Division, CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-IICT), Hyderabad 500 007, India

^bAcademy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR), CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-IICT), Hyderabad 500 007, India

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1. General information

Unless otherwise noted, all the reactions were performed in oven dried glassware with magnetic stirring and under an atmosphere of argon using Schlenk line technique. Reported temperatures are the oil bath surrounding temperature of the Schlenk tube or reaction vessel.

All the solvents which are used in the reactions were dried and freshly distilled solvents according to their standard procedures and transferred under argon. Dry DMF, DMSO, CH₃CN, *t*-BuOH, DME and 1,4-dioxane were purchased from Finar scientifics, India. Which were stored over activated 4 Å molecular sieves.

All the reagents, aldehydes, anilines, acrylates and catalysts (NHCs) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, Alfa Aesar, and TCI, used without further purification. DBU was used under argon atmosphere.

Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on Merck silica gel 60 F_{254} plates. Eluted plates were visualised by ultraviolet light (254 nm) lamp, iodine; 2,4-DNP, *p*-anisaldehyde were used as a developing agents followed by heating. Purification of products was carried out by column chromatography using 60-120 mesh silica and hexane, ethyl acetate were used as eluents, concentration under reduced pressure was performed by rotary evaporator at 40-45 °C, under reduced pressure. The yields were mentioned to the purified products.

¹HNMR spectra were recorded at room temperature on a Bruker A V 300, A V 400 and 500 MHz instruments. Chemical shifts (δ) are reported in ppm relative to TMS. The residual solvent signals were used as references like (CDCl₃ δ H 7.26 ppm, DMSO-d₆ δ H 2.54 ppm). Multiplicity of the compounds in the data reported as (s = singlet, d = doublet, dd = doublet of doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet). Coupling constants (*J*) are represented in *Hz*.¹³CNMR spectra were recorded on 75, 100, and 125 MHz spectrometers. Mass spectra was analysed by Electro spray Ionization (ESI) method was obtained on a Shimadzu LCMS-2020 mass spectrometer. High Resolution Mass Spectra data were obtained on a Thermo scientific ExactiveTM Orbitrap mass spectrometer or Q STAR XL Hybrid MS/MS. Infrared spectroscopy was performed neat on a BRUKER FT-IR spectrophotometer in chloroform, and IR [KBr] spectra were recorded on a THERMO NICOLER NEXUS 670 FT-IR instrument

Melting points (MP) were determined using a Cintex – programmable melting point apparatus. MPs are uncorrected.

Synthesis of substituted ortho-amino cinnamates / cinnamides / cinnamonitiles (3a-h)

ortho-Amino cinnamates **3a-f** were synthesized by following literature reports.¹



ortho-Amino cinnamide **3g** was synthesized by following literature reports.²



ortho-Aminocinnamonitrile **3g** was synthesized by following literature reports.¹



2. General experimental procedure for the optimization study

Experimental procedure for the synthesis of 1a via sequential aldimine formation—NHC catalysed reaction



A clean and dry round bottom flask was charged with methyl (*E*)-3-(2-aminophenyl)acrylate **3a** (0.5 mmol, 88 mg), benzaldehyde **4a** (0.5 mmol, 53 mg) and added dry toluene (4 mL), 4 Å molecular sieves (1.5 g) (CAUTION: activated molecular sieves should be used, otherwise conversion to aldimine is not effective). The reaction mixture was stirred at reflux for 18 h. After completion of the reaction molecular sieves were filtered and solvent was removed and evacuated to obtain the crude aldimine **2a**, which was used in the NHC catalysed transformation.

The crude aldimine 2a and NHC were taken in a clean and dry Schlenk tube, it was evacuated and back filled with argon gas (3-5 cycles). Then added dry solvent (4 mL) followed by base (1.2 equiv) under positive pressure of argon. Then reaction mixture was stirred at the temperature and time as mentioned in optimisation tables S1-S4. Then the mixture was diluted with EtOAc (10 mL) and filtered of through a short pad of silica gel, by eluting with EtOAc (20 mL) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The resulting residue was purified by column chromatography to afford methyl 2-(2-phenyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl) acetate 1a as a pure product.

Note: please see tables S1-S4, for various NHCs, bases, solvents and their ratios/quantities

3. Optimisation survey

Table S1: Screening of various NHC precatalysts



Entry	NHC precatalyst (30 mol %)	Structure of the NHC precatalyst	% Yield of 1a
1.	5-(2-Hydroxyethyl)-3,4-dimethylthiazolium iodide	I⁻ N⁺- S OH	
2.	3-Benzyl-5-(2-hydroxyethyl)-4- methylthiazolium chloride	Ct N ⁺ S OH	_
3.	3-Ethylbenzothiazolium bromide	N ⁺ Br	
4.	3-Methylbenzothiazolium iodide		_
5.	1,3-Bis-(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)imidazolinium chloride		_
6.	1,3-Bis(2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)imidazolinium chloride		_

7.	1,3-Bis(2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)imidazolium chloride		
8.	1,3-Di-tert-butylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate		_
9.	1,3-Diisopropylimidazolium chloride		
10.	1,3-Bis(1-adamantyl)imidazolium tetrafluoroborate	N ⁺ ¬¬ F−B−F N F−B−F	
11.	1,3-Dicyclohexylimidazolium chloride		_
12.	1,3-Bis(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)imidazolium chloride		
13	1,4-Dimethyl-1,2,4-triazolium iodide (C)	Γ ~N [~] N ⁺ √=N	85
14.	2-Mesityl-2,5,6,7-tetrahydropyrrolo[2,1- c][1,2,4]triazol-4-ium chloride		82
15.	6,7-Dihydro-2-pentafluorophenyl-5H- pyrrolo[2,1-c]-1,2,4-triazolium tetrafluoroborate	$ \begin{array}{c c} & F & F \\ & & & F & F \\ & & & & & & F \\ & & & & & & & F \\ & & & & & & & & F \\ & & & & & & & & & F \\ & & & & & & & & & & F \\ & & & & & & & & & & & F \\ & & & & & & & & & & & & F \\ & & & & & & & & & & & & & & F \\ & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & $	

Table S2: Screening of various bases



Entry	Base (1.2 equiv)	% Yield of 1a
1.	K ₂ CO ₃	60
2.	K ₃ PO ₄	62
3.	Et ₃ N	—
4.	1,4-Diazabicyclo[2.2.2]octane (DABCO)	_
5.	NaH	_
6.	1,5,7-Triazabicyclo[4.4.0]dec-5-ene (TBD)	65
7.	PPh ₃	—
8.	КОН	70
9.	K ^t OBu	56
10.	Cs ₂ CO ₃	68





Entry	NHC precatalyst C	DBU	Temp.	Time	% Yield of 1a
	(1,4-dimethyl-1,2,4-triazolium iodide)	(yy mol %)	(°C)	(h)	
	(xx mol %)				
1.	30	120	60	6	85
2.	20	120	60	6	76
3.	10	120	60	6	64
4.	30	30	60	6	42
5.	30	60	60	6	62
6.	30	100	60	6	80
7.	30	120	rt	6	40
8.	30	120	rt	24	65
9.	30	120	40	6	68
10.	30	120	80	4	90

 Table S4: Screening of various solvents



Entry	Solvent	% Yield of 1a
1.	CH ₃ CN	72
2.	1,4-Dioxane	78
3.	Dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO)	82
4.	<i>N</i> , <i>N</i> -Dimethylformamide (DMF)	70
5.	1,2-Dimethoxyethane (DME)	64
6.	t-BuOH	68

Table S5: Reaction without using NHC precatalyst (or) base

(Optimized conditions mentioned entry 10, Table S3 were used)

Entry	NHC precatalyst	Base	Solvent	% Yield of 1a
1.	1,4-dimethyl-1,2,4-triazolium iodide	No base	THF	
2.	No catalyst	DBU	THF	

4. General procedure for NHC catalysed synthesis of 2-subsituted indole-3-acetic acid derivatives



A clean and dry round bottom flask was charged with *o*rtho-amino cinnamate / *o*rtho-amino cinnamide /*o*rtho-amino cinnamonitrile (1 equiv, 0.5 mmol) and aromatic/heteroaromatic/vinyl aldehyde (1 equiv, 0.5 mmol) (solid aldehydes were weighed in atmospheric conditions and liquid aldehydes were transferred via syringe under the positive pressure of argon) and added dry toluene (4 mL) and activated 4 Å molecular sieves (1.5 g). The reaction mixture was stirred at reflux temperature for 18-24 h to obtain for complete conversion of amine (reaction was monitored by TLC). After completion of the reaction molecular sieves were filtered off and solvent was removed and evacuated to obtain the crude aldimine, which was used in the NHC catalysed transformations.

The crude aldimine and NHC precatalyst C (30 mol%) were taken into a clean and dry Schlenk tube, and it was evacuated and back filled with argon gas (3-5 cycles). Then added dry freshly distilled THF (4 mL) via syringe followed by the addition of DBU (1.2 equiv) via syringe under positive pressure of argon. Then reaction mixture was stirred in a pre-heated oil bath at 80 $^{\circ}$ C for 4 h. The reaction mixture was brought to room temperature and diluted with EtOAc (10 mL) and filtered of through a short pad of silica gel by eluting with EtOAc (20 mL) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The resulting residue was purified by column chromatography to afford 2-subsituted indole-3-acetic acid derivatives.

5. Experimental procedure for the NHC catalysed gram-scale synthesis of 1q



A clean and oven dried two necked round bottom flask was charged with methyl (*E*)-3-(2-aminophenyl) acrylate **3a**, (20 mmol, 3.54 g), 2-bromobenzaldehyde (20 mmol, 2.32 mL) and dry toluene (160 mL). To this added activated 4 Å molecular sieves (10 g). The reaction mixture was stirred at reflux temperature for 18 h. Then molecular sieves were filtered off, solvent was removed and evacuated to obtain the crude aldimine **2q**. Which was used in the NHC catalysed transformation.

The crude aldiimine 2q and 1,4-dimethyl-1,2,4-triazolium iodide C (30 mol%, 4.48 g) were taken into a clean and dry round bottom flask and it was evacuated and back filled with argon gas (3-5 cycles). Then dry freshly distilled THF (160 mL) was added *via* cannula under the positive pressure of argon gas followed by the addition of DBU (1.2 equiv, 3 mL, from a freshly opened bottle) under positive pressure of argon. Then reaction mixture was stirred in a pre-heated oil bath at 80 °C for 4 h. After completion of the reaction, it was brought to room temperature and diluted with EtOAc (100 mL) and filtered of through a short pad of silica gel, by eluting with EtOAc (200 mL) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The resulting residue was purified by column chromatography to afford methyl 2-(2-(2-bromophenyl)-1*H*-indol-3-yl) acetate **1q** (5.71 g) as a yellow solid, with 83% yield.

6. Experimental procedure for copper catalysed tandem-*N*-arylation followed by amide bond formation (Paullone synthesis)



Copper iodide (10 mol%, 0.2 mmol, 38 mg), L-proline (20 mol%, 0.4 mmol 46 mg), potassium carbonate (2 equiv, 4 mmol, 552 mg) and methyl 2-(2-(2-bromophenyl)-1*H*-indol-3-yl) acetate **1q**, (1 equiv, 2 mmol, 688 mg) were taken in a pressure tube under argon atmosphere. Then dry DMSO (8 mL), ammonium (2 mL, NH₃ in 25% aq.solution) were added under argon atmosphere. The tube was sealed and the reaction mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 6 h.

The reaction mixture was brought to room temperature and diluted with ethyl acetate (20 mL) and washed with ice cold water (3 x 20 mL). The organic phase was further diluted with ethyl acetate (50 mL) and washed with water (100 mL). Then it was dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate, filtered and concentrated. The crude was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to obtain paullone **5**.

7. Experimental procedure for base mediated ester hydrolysis



To a solution of methyl 2-(2-(2-bromophenyl)-1*H*-indol-3-yl) acetate 1q (1 equiv, 1 mmol, 343 mg) in THF/H₂O (6 mL/2 mL) was added LiOH (4 equiv, 1 mmol, 96 mg) and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude was diluted in ethyl acetate (30 mL) and neutralised using 1N HCl. The contents were extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 50 mL). The organic phase was separated, dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate, filtered and concentrated. The crude was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to obtain the product 2-(2-(2-bromophenyl)-1*H*-indol-3-yl) acetic acid **6** in 96% yield.

8. Spectral data of products



methyl 2-(2-phenyl-1*H***-indol-3-yl)acetate (1a):-** white solid, 120 mg (0.45 mmol), 90%, $R_f = 0.5$ (EtOAc/Hexane, 10:90); **MP** 118-120 °C; **IR** 742, 1009, 1171, 1435, 1723, 2922, 3369 cm⁻¹; ¹**H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 3.71$ (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 2H), 7.21-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.46-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.63-7.70 (m, 3H), 8.16 (s, 1H); ¹³**C-NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 31.0$, 51.8, 105.6, 110.9, 119.3 120.1, 122.6, 128.1, 128.2, 129.0, 132.4, 135.7, 136.2, 172.7; **MS** (ESI) m/z 266 [M+H]⁺ **HRMS** (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₁₇H₁₆NO₂ [M+H]⁺ 266.11756, found 266.11773. The spectroscopic data were in good agreement with the reported data.¹



ethyl 2-(2-phenyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)acetate (1b):- pale yellow solid, 110 mg (0.395 mmol), 79%, $R_f = 0.5$ (EtOAc/Hexane, 10:90); MP 102-104 °C; IR 740, 1026, 1156, 1453, 1712, 3363 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 1.24$ (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 3.82 (s, 2H), 4.15 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.12-7.16 (m, 1H), 7.17-7.21 (m, 1H), 7.32 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.39 (m, 1H), 7.45 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.62-7.65 (m, 2H), 7.67 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (br, 1H); ¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 14.3$, 31.3, 61.0, 105.6, 111.1, 119.3, 120.0, 122.5, 128.0, 128.3, 129.0, 129.1, 132.5, 136.0, 136.3, 172.6; MS (ESI) m/z 280 [M+H]⁺ HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₁₈H₁₈NO₂ [M+H]⁺ 280.13321, found 280.13403. The spectroscopic data were in good agreement with the reported data.²



tert-butyl 2-(2-phenyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)acetate (1c):- cream solid, 113 mg (0.366 mmol), 73%, $R_f = 0.46$ (EtOAc/Hexane, 10:90); MP 107-109 °C; IR 726, 906, 1138, 1454, 1714, 2927, 3393 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 1.44 (s, 9H), 3.74 (s, 2H), 7.13-7.17 (m, 1H), 7.18-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.33-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.66-7.72 (m, 3H), 8.15 (s, 1H); ¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 28.3, 32.6, 80.9, 106.2, 110.9, 119.5, 119.9, 122.4, 127.9, 128.3, 128.9, 129.2, 132.6, 135.8, 136.1, 171.7; MS (ESI) m/z 308 [M+H]⁺ HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₂₀H₂₂NO₂ [M+H]⁺ 308.16451, found 308.16452.



2-(2-phenyl-1*H***-indol-3-yl)-1-(piperidin-1-yl)ethan-1-one (1d):-** pale yellow solid, 105 mg (0.33 mmol), 66%, $R_f = 0.5$ (EtOAc/Hexane, 30:70); **MP** 190-192°C; **IR** 697, 1224, 1455, 1627, 2933, 3251 cm⁻¹; ¹**H-NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 1.14$ (m,2H), 1.40 (m,2H), 1.43-1.51 (m,2H), 3.13-3.19 (m, 2H), 3.46-3.53 (m,2H), 3.92 (s, 2H),7.13 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.73 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 8.16 (br, 1H); ¹³**C-NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 24.4$, 25.6, 26.0, 31.3, 43.1, 46.9, 106.9, 110.7, 119.8, 120.0, 122.4, 128.0, 128.3, 128.9, 132.7, 135.2, 135.9, 169.4 ; **MS** (ESI) m/z 319 [M+H]⁺. The spectroscopic data were in good agreement with the reported data.²



2-(2-phenyl-1*H***-indol-3-yl)acetonitrile (1e):-** pale yellow solid, 43 mg (0.13 mmol), 26%, (74%, 122 mg with isolated imine) $R_f = 0.5$ (EtOAc/Hexane, 10:90); **MP** 96-98 °C; 740, 1212, 1453, 2249, 2922, 3396 cm⁻¹; ¹**H-NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 3.90$ (s, 2H), 7.21-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.41-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.44-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.51-7.56 (m, 4H), 7.72 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.27 (s, 1H); ¹³**C-NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 13.8$, 101.1, 111.2, 118.2, 118.4, 120.7, 123.1, 127.8, 128.2, 128.7, 129.3, 131.5, 135.6, 136.3; **MS** (ESI) m/z 231 [M-H]⁺ **HRMS** (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₁₆H₁₃N₂ [M+H]⁺ 233.10732, found 233.10684. The spectroscopic data were in good agreement with the literature report.¹



methyl 2-(5-fluoro-2-phenyl-1*H***-indol-3-yl)acetate (1f)**:- Yellow solid, 115 mg (0.405 mmol), 81%, $R_f = 0.5$ (EtOAc/Hexane, 10:90); **MP** 112-114 °C; **IR** 771, 1174, 1454, 1724, 2923, 3358 cm⁻¹; ¹**H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.81 (s, 2H), 6.95 (td, J = 9.1 Hz, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (dd, J = 8.8 Hz, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (dd, J = 9.6 Hz, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.46-7.52 (m, 2H), 7.58-7.65 (m, 2H), 8.27 (s, 1H); ¹³**C-NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 30.8, 52.1, 104.2, 105.6, 110.8, 111.6, 128.2, 129.0, 129.4, 132.1, 137.9, 157.1, 159.0, 172.6; **MS** (ESI) m/z 284 [M+H]⁺ **HRMS** (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₁₇H₁₅FNO₂ [M+H]⁺ 284.10813, found 284.10833.



methyl 2-(6-chloro-2-phenyl-1*H***-indol-3-yl)acetate (1g):-** pale yellow solid, 90 mg (0.30 mmol), 60%, $R_f = 0.5$ (EtOAc/Hexane, 10:90); **MP** 104-106 °C; **IR** 769, 1456, 1722, 2922, 3352 cm⁻¹; ¹**H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 3.72$ (s, 3H), 3.82 (s, 2H), 7.10-7.15 (m, 1H), 7.33-7.37 (m, 1H), 7.38-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 8.17 (s, 1H); ¹³**C-NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 30.8$, 52.1, 105.7, 110.8, 120.1, 120.9, 127.6, 128.2, 128.4, 129.1, 131.9, 136.1, 136.9, 172.5; **MS** (ESI) m/z 298 [M-H]⁺ **HRMS** (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₁₇H₁₃ClNO₂ [M-H]⁺ 298.06293, found 298.06574.



methyl 2-(5,7-dimethyl-2-phenyl-1*H***-indol-3-yl)acetate** (**1h**):- White solid, 87 mg (0.295 mmol), 59%, $R_f = 0.5$ (EtOAc/Hexane, 10:90); **MP** 140-142 °C; **IR** 768, 1167, 1451, 1722, 2921, 3368 cm⁻¹; ¹**H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 2.46$ (s, 3H), 2.48 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.83 (s, 2H), 6.88 (s, 1H), 7.27-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.37-7.42 (m, 1H), 7.50 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.95 (s, 1H); ¹³C-NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 16.6, 21.5, 31.0, 52.1, 105.5, 116.5, 119.8, 125.0, 128.0, 128.3, 128.8, 128.9, 129.7, 132.7, 133.6, 136.1, 172.8;$ **MS**(ESI) m/z 294 [M+H]⁺. The spectroscopic data were in good agreement with the reported data.¹



methyl 2-(2-(4-nitrophenyl)-1*H***-indol-3-yl)acetate (1i):-** Yellowish orange solid, 111 mg (0.355 mmol), 71%, $R_f = 0.5$ (EtOAc/Hexane, 30:70); **MP** 164-166 °C; **IR** 772, 1017, 1451, 1859, 2944, 3318 cm⁻¹; ¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ = 3.63 (s, 3H), 3.95 (s, 2H), 7.08 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 8.38 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 11.68 (s, 1H); ¹³**C-NMR** (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ = 30.0, 52.1, 107.4, 111.6, 119.3, 119.6, 123.1, 124.1, 128.5, 128.6, 133.3, 136.5, 138.9, 146.3, 171.9; **MS** (ESI) m/z 311 [M+H]⁺ **HRMS** (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₁₇H₁₄N₂O₄Na [M+Na]⁺ 333.08458, found 333.08443.



methyl 2-(2-(4-cyanophenyl)-1*H***-indol-3-yl)acetate (1j):-** cream colour solid, 128 mg (0.44 mmol), 88%, $R_f = 0.5$ (EtOAc/Hexane, 10:90); **MP** 130-132 °C; **IR** 746, 1174, 1725, 2226, 2923, 3355 cm⁻¹; ¹**H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 3.74$ (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 2H), 7.17-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.36-7.42 (m, 1H), 7.67-7.82 (m, 5H), 8.29 (s, 1H); ¹³**C-NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 30.9$, 52.3, 107.7, 111.2, 111.3, 118.7, 119.6, 120.6, 123.7, 128.5, 128.8, 132.7, 133.9, 136.2, 136.8, 172.3; **MS** (ESI) m/z 291 [M+H]⁺ **HRMS** (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₁₈H₁₄N₂O₂Na [M+Na]⁺ 313.09475, found 313.09457. The spectroscopic data were in good agreement with the reported data.¹



methyl 2-(2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1*H***-indol-3-yl)acetate (1k):- off-white solid, 129 mg (0.385 mmol), 77%, R_f = 0.5 (EtOAc/Hexane, 10:90); MP** 122-124 °C; **IR** 743, 1120, 1323, 1724, 2923, 3361 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 3.75$ (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 2H), 7.17-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.28 (m, 1H), 7.34-7.41 (m, 1H), 7.67-7.78 (m, 5H), 8.25 (s, 1H); ¹³C-NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 16.5$, 21.5, 31.0, 52.0, 105.6, 116.5, 119.7, 125.0, 127.9, 128.2, 128.8, 128.9, 129.7, 132.7, 133.6, 136.0, 172.8; **MS** (ESI) m/z 334 [M+H] ⁺ **HRMS** (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₁₈H₁₅F₃NO₂ [M+H]⁺ 334.10494, found 334.10529.



methyl 2-(2-(2-chlorophenyl)-1*H***-indol-3-yl)acetate (11):-** pale Yellow solid, 103 mg (0.345 mmol), 69%, $R_f = 0.5$ (EtOAc/Hexane, 10:90); **MP** 102-104 °C; **IR** 723, 905, 1172, 1452, 1726, 2926, 3394 cm⁻¹; ¹**H-NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 3.67$ (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 2H), 7.16-7.21 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.28 (m, 1H), 7.35-7.40 (m, 3H), 7.52-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.57-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 7.9. Hz, 1H), 8.32 (s, 1H); ¹³**C-NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 30.4$, 52.0, 107.6, 111.1, 119.4, 120.0, 122.8, 127.0, 127.9, 130.0, 130.1, 131.0, 132.8, 133.24, 133.8, 135.6, 172.5; **MS** (ESI) m/z 300 [M+H]⁺ **HRMS** (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₁₇H₁₅ClNO₂ [M+H]⁺ 300.07858, found 300.07872.



methyl 2-(2-(3-chlorophenyl)-1*H***-indol-3-yl)acetate (1m):-** cream colour solid, 112 mg (0.37 mmol), 74%, $R_f = 0.5$ (EtOAc/Hexane, 10:90); **MP** 130-132 °C; **IR** 772, 1218, 1443, 1608, 2926, 3395 cm⁻¹; ¹**H-NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 2H), 7.18 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.34-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.39-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H) 7.64-7.69 (m, 2H), 8.16 (s, 1H); ¹³C-NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 30.8, 52.1, 106.4, 111.3, 119.4, 120.3, 123.0, 126.4, 128.1, 128.9, 130.2, 134.1, 134.6, 134.9, 135.8, 172.3; **MS** (ESI) m/z 300 [M+H]⁺ **HRMS** (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₁₇H₁₅ClNO₂ [M+H]⁺ 300.07858, found 300.07867.



methyl 2-(2-(4-chlorophenyl)-1*H***-indol-3-yl)acetate (1n):-** off-white solid, 114 mg (0.38 mmol), 76%, $R_f = 0.5$ (EtOAc/Hexane, 10:90); **MP** 104-106 °C; **IR** 739, 1092, 1453, 1721, 2924, 3367 cm⁻¹; ¹**H-NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 3.73$ (s, 3H), 3.83 (s, 2H), 7.15-7.20 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.34 (d, J = 8.0. Hz 1H), 7.42-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.61 (m, 2H), 7.67 (d, J = 7.9 Hz 1H), 8.20 (s, 1H); ¹³**C-NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 30.9$, 52.1, 105.9, 111.0, 119.2, 120.2, 122.9, 128.9, 129.2, 129.4, 130.8, 134.1, 135.0, 135.8, 172.7; **MS** (ESI) m/z 300 [M+H]⁺ **HRMS** (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₁₇H₁₄NO₂Cl Na [M+Na]⁺ 322.06053, found 322.05997.



methyl 2-(2-(4-fluorophenyl)-1*H***-indol-3-yl)acetate (10):-** Yellow solid, 114 mg (0.40 mmol), 80%, $R_f = 0.5$ (EtOAc/Hexane, 10:90); MP 109-111 °C; IR 742, 1221, 1457, 1721, 2925, 3366 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 3.73$ (s, 3H), 3.82 (s, 2H), 7.15-7.21 (m, 3H), 7.21-7.26 (m, 1H), 7.34-7.40 (m, 1H), 7.60-7.71 (m, 3H), 8.16 (s, 1H); ¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 30.8$, 52.1, 105.5, 110.9, 116.0, 119.7, 122.7, 128.5, 128.8, 130.0, 135.5, 161.4, 163.8, 172.7; MS (ESI) m/z 284 [M+H] ⁺ HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₁₇H₁₅NO₂F [M+H]⁺ 284.10813, found 284.10896.



methyl 2-(2-(4-bromophenyl)-1*H***-indol-3-yl)acetate (1p):- light peach solid, 145 mg (0.42 mmol), 84%, R_f = 0.5 (EtOAc/Hexane, 10:90); MP** 120-122 °C; **IR** 744, 1172, 1436, 1726, 2923, 3387 cm⁻¹; ¹**H-NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 3.73$ (s, 3H), 3.83 (s, 2H), 7.15-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.36 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.58-7.64 (m, 2H), 7.66 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (s, 1H); ¹³C-NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 30.7$, 52.0, 106.1, 111.0, 119.3, 120.1, 122.3, 122.9, 128.9, 129.7, 131.2, 132.1, 135.0, 135.7, 172.6; **MS** (ESI) m/z 344 [M+H] ⁺ **HRMS** (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₁₇H₁₄NO₂BrNa [M+Na]⁺ 366.01001, found 366.00944. The spectroscopic data were in good agreement with the reported data.¹



methyl 2-(2-(2-bromophenyl)-1*H***-indol-3-yl)acetate (1q):-** pale yellow solid, 146 mg (0.425 mmol), 85%, $R_f = 0.5$ (EtOAc/Hexane, 10:90); **MP** 110-112 °C; **IR** 740, 1271, 1433, 1722, 3393 cm⁻¹; ¹**H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 3.63$ (s, 3H), 3.68 (s, 2H), 7.13-7.19 (m, 1H), 7.19-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.33-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.53 (dt, J = 6.3 Hz, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 7.63-7.67 (m, 1H), 7.67-7.71 (m, 1H), 8.23 (s, 1H); ¹³**C-NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 31.0$, 51.8, 107.2, 111.1, 119.4, 120.0, 122.7, 124.0, 127.4, 127.8, 130.2, 133.0, 133.2, 133.3, 134.7, 135.5, 172.4; **MS** (ESI) m/z 346 [M+2H]⁺ **HRMS** (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₁₇H₁₅BrNO₂ [M+H]⁺ 344.02807, found 344.02845.



methyl 2-(2-(2-bromo-6-fluorophenyl)-1*H***-indol-3-yl)acetate (1r):-** cream colour solid, 131 mg (0.36 mmol), 72%, R_f = 0.5 (EtOAc/Hexane, 10:90); **MP** 130-132 °C; **IR** 743, 1246, 1438, 1723, 2924, 3393 cm⁻¹; ¹**H-NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 3.56 (s, 3H), 3.64 (s, 2H), 7.12-7.18 (m, 2H), 7.21-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.27-7.31 (m, 1H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 8.23 (s, 1H); ¹³**C-NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 30.8, 51.8, 109.0, 111.2, 115.0, 119.7, 122.0, 122.8, 125.9, 127.7, 128.7, 131.5, 136.0, 160.0, 162.5, 171.8; **MS** (ESI) m/z 362 [M+H]⁺ **HRMS** (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₁₇H₁₄BrFNO₂ [M+H]⁺ 362.01865, found 362.01936.



methyl 2-(2-(2-hydroxyphenyl)-1*H***-indol-3-yl)acetate (1s):-** reddish brown colour liquid, 79 mg (0.28 mmol), 56%, $R_f = 0.4$ (EtOAc/Hexane, 10:90); **IR** 753, 1213, 1457, 1725, 2924, 3381 cm⁻¹; ¹**H-NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 3.72$ (s, 5H), 6.92-7.02 (m, 2H), 7.15 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.19-7.26 (m, 1H), 7.27-7.35 (m, 3H), 7.52 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 8.26 (s, 1H); ¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 30.7$, 52.5, 107.3, 111.1, 116.8, 118.5, 118.6, 120.1, 120.5, 122.8, 128.1, 130.5, 130.8, 131.8, 136.2, 154.4, 173.9 ; **MS** (ESI) m/z 282 [M+H]⁺.



methyl 2-(2-(p-tolyl)-1*H***-indol-3-yl)acetate (1t):-** brownish yellow colour liquid, 98 mg (0.35 mmol), 70%, $R_f = 0.5$ (EtOAc/Hexane, 10:90); **IR** 772, 1171, 1436, 1728, 2923, 3394 cm⁻¹; ¹**H-NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 2.41$ (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 2H), 7.15 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (s, 1H); ¹³**C-NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 21.3$, 31.1, 52.1, 105.0, 111.0, 119.1, 120.0, 122.4, 128.2, 129.1, 129.6, 129.5, 135.8, 136.4, 138.0, 173.1; **MS** (ESI) m/z 280 [M+H] ⁺ **HRMS** (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₁₈H₁₈NO₂ [M+H]⁺ 280.13321, found 280.13310.



methyl 2-(2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1*H***-indol-3-yl)acetate (1u):-** cream colour solid, 101 mg (0.34 mmol), 68%, $R_f = 0.5$ (EtOAc/Hexane, 10:90); **MP** 102-104 °C; **IR** 728, 1248, 1459 ,1726, 2839, 3393 cm⁻¹; ¹**H-NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.83 (s, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 6.98-7.05 (m, 2H), 7.19-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.37 (m, 1H), 7.54-7.61 (m, 2H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (s, 1H); ¹³**C-NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 31.0, 52.0, 55.3, 104.7, 110.8, 114.4, 119.0, 120.0, 122.2, 124.8, 129.0, 129.5, 135.6, 136.2, 159.5, 172.9; **MS** (ESI) m/z 296 [M+H] ⁺ **HRMS** (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₁₈H₁₈NO₃ [M+H]⁺ 296.12812, found 296.12805. The spectroscopic data were in good agreement with the reported data.¹



methyl 2-(2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-1*H***-indol-3-yl)acetate (1v):-** pale Yellow solid, 114 mg (0.32 mmol), 64%, $R_f = 0.5$ (EtOAc/Hexane, 20:80); **MP** 126-128 °C; **IR** 724, 1120, 1433, 1727, 2935, 3356 cm⁻¹; ¹**H-NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 2H), 3.90 (s, 6H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 6.94 (s, 2H), 7.15-7.20 (m, 1H), 7.20-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.35 (s, 1H); ¹³**C-NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 31.1, 52.1, 56.2, 61.0, 105.3, 105.5, 110.9, 119.3, 120.1, 122.5, 127.9, 129.0, 135.7, 136.5, 137.9, 153.5, 172.8; **MS** (ESI) m/z 356 [M+H]⁺ **HRMS** (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₂₀H₂₂NO₅ [M+H]⁺ 356.14925, found 356.14956.



methyl 2-(2-(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)-1*H***-indol-3-yl)acetate (1w):-** yellow colour liquid, 20 mg (0.065 mmol), 13%, (46 mg (0.15 mmol), 30%, with isolated imine), $R_f = 0.5$ (EtOAc/Hexane, 10:90); IR 746, 1167, 1515, 1610, 1730, 2923, 3374 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 3.00$ (s, 6H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.82 (s, 2H), 6.82 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.10-7.20 (m, 2H), 7.34 (m, 1H), 7.49-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.60-7.65 (m, 1H), 8.16 (s, 1H); ¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 31.1$, 40.5, 52.0, 104.0, 110.6, 112.7, 118.8, 119.8, 121.9, 129.1, 135.5, 136.9, 150.0, 173.0; **MS** (ESI) m/z 309 [M+H]⁺ **HRMS** (ESI, m/z):calcd for C₁₉H₂₁N₂O₂ [M+H]⁺ 309.15975, found 309.15860.



methyl 2-(2-(6-bromobenzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-1*H***-indol-3-yl)acetate (1x):-** cream colour solid, 145 mg (0.375 mmol), 75%, $R_f = 0.5$ (EtOAc/Hexane, 10:90); **MP** 120-122 °C; **IR** 772, 1223, 1458, 1727, 2923, 3394 cm⁻¹; ¹**H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 3.69$ (s, 3H), 3.71 (s, 2H), 6.08 (s, 2H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 7.15-7.22 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (s, 1H); ¹³**C-NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 30.8$, 51.9, 102.2, 107.2, 111.0, 112.3, 113.1, 115.1, 119.3, 120.0, 122.7, 126.1, 127.7, 134.7, 135.3, 147.3, 149.0, 172.3; **MS** (ESI) m/z 388 [M+H]⁺ **HRMS** (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₁₈H₁₅NO₄Br [M+H]⁺ 388.01790, found 388.01878.



methyl 2-(2-(2-bromo-5-methoxyphenyl)-1*H***-indol-3-yl)acetate (1y):-** off-white solid, 129 mg (0.345 mmol), 69%, $R_f = 0.5$ (EtOAc/Hexane, 10:90); **MP** 128-130 °C; **IR** 745, 1014, 1223, 1458, 1728, 2924, 3387 cm⁻¹; ¹**H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 3.68$ (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 6.87 (dd, $J_1 = 8.8$ Hz, $J_2 = 3.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.16-7.22 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.28 (m, 1H), 7.39 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 8.28 (s, 1H); ¹³**C-NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 30.9$, 52.0, 55.6, 107.2, 111.0, 113.9, 116.7, 118.0, 119.4, 120.0, 122.8, 127.8, 133.7, 134.0, 134.7, 135.4, 158.8, 172.7; MS (ESI) m/z 374 [M+H]⁺ **HRMS** (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₁₈H₁₇O₃NBr [M+H]⁺ 374.03863, found 374.03920.



methyl 2-(2-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-1*H***-indol-3-yl)acetate (1z):-** pale yellow solid, 137 mg (0.40 mmol), 80%, $R_f = 0.5$ (EtOAc/Hexane, 10:90); **MP** 156-158 °C; **IR** 789, 1172, 1435, 1727, 2923, 3372 cm⁻¹; ¹**H-NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 2H), 7.18 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.70-7.76 (m, 4H), 8.19 (s, 1H); ¹³**C-NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 31.0, 52.1, 105.8, 110.9, 119.3, 120.2, 122.7, 127.0, 127.6, 127.7, 128.6, 128.9, 129.1, 131.3, 135.8, 140.4, 140.8, 172.7; **MS** (ESI) m/z 342 [M+H]⁺ **HRMS** (ESI, m/z): calcd C₂₃H₂₀NO₂ [M+H]⁺ 342.14886, found 342.14892.



methyl 2-(2-(naphthalen-2-yl)-1*H***-indol-3-yl)acetate (1aa)**:- light yellowish liquid, 98 mg (0.31 mmol), 62%, $R_f = 0.5$ (EtOAc/Hexane, 10:90); IR 744, 1169, 1434, 1722, 2922, 3392 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 3.75$ (s, 3H), 3.93 (s, 2H), 7.17-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.42 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.71 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (dd, $J_1 = 8.5$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.86-7.99 (m, 3H), 8.14 (s, 1H), 8.29 (s, 1H); ¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 31.0$, 52.1, 106.0, 110.9, 119.3, 120.2, 122.7, 125.9, 126.5, 126.7, 127.4, 127.8, 128.2, 128.7, 129.1, 129.7, 132.8, 133.5, 135.9, 136.2, 172.7; MS (ESI) m/z 316 [M+H]⁺ HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd C₂₁H₁₈NO₂ [M+H]⁺ 316.13321, found 316.13321.



methyl 2-(2-(pyridin-4-yl)-1*H***-indol-3-yl)acetate (1ab)**:- yellow solid, 104 mg (0.39 mmol), 78%, $R_f = 0.5$ (EtOAc/Hexane, 40:60); MP 118-120 °C; IR 724, 906, 1217, 1414, 1603, 1728, 2928 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 3.73$ (s, 3H), 3.90 (s, 2H), 7.15-7.20 (m, 1H), 7.22-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.35-7.38 (m, 1H), 7.57-7.59 (m, 2H), 7.61-7.71 (m, 1H), 8.62-8.66 (m, 2H), 9.23 (s, 1H); ¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 31.3$, 52.5, 108.0, 111.4, 119.6, 120.5, 122.3, 123.7, 128.9, 133.1, 136.5, 140.1, 150.4, 172.3; MS (ESI) m/z 267 [M+H]⁺ HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₁₆H₁₅N₂O₂ [M+H]⁺ 267.11280, found 267.11210.



methyl 2-(2-(quinolin-4-yl)-1*H***-indol-3-yl)acetate (1ac):-** cream colour solid, 130 mg (0.41 mmol), 82%, $R_f = 0.5$ (EtOAc/Hexane, 30:70); **MP** 138-140 °C; **IR** 745, 1167, 1435 ,1732, 2923, 3345 cm⁻¹; ¹**H-NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 3.62 (s, 3H), 3.70 (s, 2H), 7.24 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.53 (m, 3H), 7.63-7.77 (m, 2H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.11 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.85-8.87 (m, 1H), 9.06 (s, 1H); ¹³**C-NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 30.8, 52.0, 108.8, 111.3, 119.5, 120.4, 122.8, 123.3, 125.9, 127.1, 127.2, 128.2, 129.7, 132.0, 136.4, 138.6, 148.4, 149.8, 172.0; **MS** (ESI) m/z 317 [M+H]⁺ **HRMS** (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₂₀H₁₇N₂O₂ [M+H]⁺ 317.12605, found 317.12802.



methyl 2-(2-(thiophen-2-yl)-1*H***-indol-3-yl)acetate (1ad)**:- pale yellow solid, 121 mg (0.45 mmol), 89%, $R_f = 0.5$ (EtOAc/Hexane, 10:90); **MP** 110-112°C; **IR** 696, 1191, 1433, 1716, 2950, 3365 cm⁻¹; ¹**H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 3.69$ (s, 3H), 3.92 (s, 2H), 7.10-7.15 (m, 2H), 7.15-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.33-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.64 (m, 1H), 8.21 (s, 1H); ¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 31.0, 52.1, 106.2, 110.9, 119.1, 120.3, 123.0, 125.8, 125.9, 128.0, 129.0, 130.0, 133.9, 135.7, 172.4;$ **MS**(ESI) m/z 272 [M+H]⁺**HRMS**(ESI, m/z): calcd for C₁₅H₁₄NSO₂ [M+H]⁺ 272.07398 found 272.07384.



methyl 2-(2-(1-tosyl-1*H***-pyrrol-2-yl)-1***H***-indol-3-yl)acetate (1ae):- light brown solid, 165 mg (0.405 mmol), 81%, R_f = 0.5 (EtOAc/Hexane, 10:90); MP** 118-120 °C; **IR** 745, 1170, 1451, 1731, 3399 cm⁻¹; ¹**H**-**NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 2.29$ (s, 3H), 3.15 (s, 2H), 3.61 (s, 3H), 6.38 (t, J = 3.3 Hz, 1H), 6.52-6.56 (m, 1H), 6.96 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.12-7.18 (m, 3H), 7.23-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.40 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.52-7.58 (m, 2H), 8.65 (s, 1H); ¹³**C**-**NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 21.6$, 30.6, 52.0, 109.9, 111.3, 112.0, 119.3, 119.6, 120.0, 123.2, 124.3, 124.7, 127.0, 129.5, 134.5, 135.7, 145.1, 172.2; **MS** (ESI) m/z 409 [M+H]⁺ **HRMS** (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₂₂H₂₁N₂SO₄ [M+H]⁺ 409.12165, found 409.12151.



methyl 2-(2-(4-chloro-3-methyl-1-phenyl-1*H***-pyrazol-5-yl)-1***H***-indol-3-yl)acetate (1af):- cream colour solid, 165 mg (0.437 mmol), 87%, R_f = 0.5 (EtOAc/Hexane, 20:80); MP** 166-168 °C; **IR** 745, 1157, 1452, 1732, 2923, 3358 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 2.28$ (s, 3H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 2H), 7.15-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.24-7.28 (m, 1H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.56 (m, 3H), 7.59-7.70 (m, 3H), 8.22 (s, 1H); ¹³C-NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 13.0$, 31.0, 51.9, 108.5, 111.0, 119.3, 120.0, 122.7, 124.9, 128.1, 128.4, 129.1, 136.2, 138.1, 149.9, 172.1; **MS** (ESI) m/z 380 [M+H]⁺ **HRMS** (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₂₁H₁₉N₃ClO₂ [M+H]⁺ 380.11603 found 380.11612.



methyl (*E*)-2-(2-styryl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)acetate (1ag):- off-white solid, 124 mg (0.425 mmol), 85%, $R_f = 0.5$ (EtOAc/Hexane, 10:90); **MP** 104-106 °C ; **IR** 748, 771, 1158, 1436, 1720, 2921, 3382 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 3.68$ (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 2H), 6.86 (d, J = 16.3 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.15-7.30 (m, 4H), 7.36 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 8.26 (s, 1H); ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 30.1$, 52.2, 108.7, 110.6, 116.6, 119.0, 120.0, 123.4, 126.4 (2C), 127.5, 127.9, 128.8 (2C), 133.7, 136.4, 136.9, 171.7; **MS** (ESI) m/z 292 [M+H]⁺ **HRMS** (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₁₉H₁₈NO₂ [M+H]⁺ 292.13080, found 292.13319. The spectroscopic data were in good agreement with the reported data.³



(*E*)-2-(2-styryl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)acetonitrile (1ah):- yellowish green solid, 73 mg (0.28 mmol), 56% (with isolated imine), $R_f = 0.5$ (EtOAc/Hexane, 10:90); **MP** 130-132 °C; **IR** 749, 950, 1322, 1451, 2249, 2924, 3356 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 3.93$ (s, 2H), 6.93 (d, J = 11.64 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (dd, J = 11.7, 4.6 Hz, 2H), 7.23--7.36 (m, 3H), 7.39 (dd, J = 12.7, 4.9 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 8.30 (s, 1H); ¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 13.1$, 103.5, 110.9, 115.3, 117.8, 118.2, 120.6, 123.8, 126.5, 127.7, 128.3, 128.9, 129.0, 133.5, 136.1, 136.3; **MS** (ESI) m/z 257 [M-H]⁺.



methyl (*E*)-2-(2-(4-chlorostyryl)-1*H*-indol-3-yl)acetate (1ai):- yellow solid, 108 mg (0.33 mmol), 66%, $R_f = 0.5$ (EtOAc/Hexane, 10:90); **MP** 130-132 °C; **IR** 743, 1163, 1489, 1725, 2924, 3380 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 3.68$ (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 2H), 6.77 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 7.06-7.24 (m, 3H), 7.27-7.35 (m, 3H), 7.36-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.29 (s, 1H); ¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 30.3$, 52.2, 110.7, 117.1, 119.0, 120.1, 123.5, 126.0, 127.5, 128.9, 130.0, 133.3, 135.4, 136.4, 172.1; MS (ESI) m/z 326 [M+H]⁺ HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₁₉H₁₇NClO₂ [M+H]⁺ 326.09423, found 326.09417.



methyl (*E*)-2-(2-(4-methoxystyryl)-1*H*-indol-3-yl)acetate (1aj):- pale yellow solid, 102 mg (0.315 mmol), 63%, $R_f = 0.5$ (EtOAc/Hexane, 10:90); **MP** 100-102 °C; **IR** 745, 1246, 1430, 1652, 1713, 2952, 3365 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 3.68$ (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 2H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.05-7.14 (m, 2H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.6Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.26 (s, 1H); ¹³C-NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 30.3$, 52.1, 55.4, 108.0, 110.5, 114.3, 114.6, 118.8, 120.0, 123.1, 127.2, 127.7, 127.8, 128.9, 129.6, 134.0, 136.2, 159.5, 172.1; MS (ESI) m/z 322 [M+H]⁺ HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₂₀H₂₀NO₃ [M+H]⁺ 322.14377, found 322.14362.



methyl (*E*)-2-(2-(1-phenylprop-1-en-2-yl)-1*H*-indol-3-yl)acetate (1ak):- Brown colour liquid, 86 mg (0.28 mmol), 56%, $R_f = 0.4$ (EtOAc/Hexane, 10:90); **IR** 772, 1171, 1435, 1725, 2923, 3390 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 2.33$ (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.93 (s, 2H), 6.93 (s, 1H), 7.13-7.18 (m, 1H), 7.19-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.27-7.31 (m, 1H), 7.32-7.35 (m, 1H), 7.38-7.43 (m, 4H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.10 (s, 1H); ¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 18.1$, 31.3, 52.0, 105.4, 110.7, 119.0, 120.0, 122.5, 127.0, 128.3(2C), 129.2, 131.2, 135.2, 137.3, 139.2, 172.7; **MS** (ESI) m/z 306 [M+H]⁺ **HRMS** (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₂₀H₂₀NO₂ [M+H]⁺ 306.14886, found 306.14783.



7,12-dihydrobenzo[2,3]azepino[4,5-b]indol-6(*5H*)-one (5) :- pale yellow solid, 300 mg (1.2 mmol), 60%, $R_f = 0.3$ (EtOAc/Hexane, 50:50); **MP** 280-282 °C; **IR** (KBr) 3221,1643 cm⁻¹; ¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, DMSO-d₆) $\delta = 3.50$ (s, 2H), 7.07-7.43 (m, 6H), 7.64-7.73 (m, 2H), 10.10 (s, 1H), 11.6 (s,1H); ¹³**C-NMR** (75 MHz, DMSO-d₆) $\delta = 31.6$, 107.5, 111.4, 117.9, 119.1, 122.1, 122.2, 122.8, 123.6, 126.8, 127.9, 128.7, 132.4, 135.4, 137.4, 171.5; **MS** (ESI) m/z 247 [M-H]⁺ **HRMS** (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₁₆H₁₁NO₂ [M-H]⁺ 247.08659, found 247.08905. The spectroscopic data were in good agreement with literature report.¹



2-(2-(2-bromophenyl)-1*H***-indol-3-yl)acetic acid (6)** :- white solid, 316 mg (0.96 mmol), 96%, $R_f = 0.5$ (EtOAc/Hexane, 70:30); MP 192-194 °C; IR 745, 1452, 1705, 2923, 3403 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d₆) $\delta = 3.48$ (s, 2H), 7.03 (t, *J* = 7.1Hz, 1H), 7.13 (t, *J* = 7.1Hz, 1H), 7.33-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.57 (m, 3H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 7.9Hz, 1H), 11.25 (s, 1H), 12.16 (s, 1H); ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-d₆) $\delta = 30.5$, 106.3, 111.1, 118.7, 119.0, 121.5, 123.6, 127.5, 130.4, 132.8, 133.8, 133.5, 134.6, 135.5, 172.7; MS (ESI) m/z 330 [M+H]⁺ HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₁₆H₁₃BrNO₂ [M+H]⁺ 330.01242, found 330.01260.

9. References

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10. Copies of ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of the products





S36


















































































































































S110

