

Supporting Information for
Nucleophilic Ring Opening of Aziridines with Amines under
Catalyst- and Solvent-free Conditions

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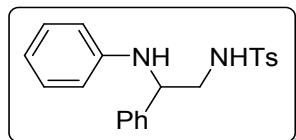
General methods

All reactions and manipulations involving air-sensitive compounds were performed using standard Schlenk techniques. All reactions were monitored by TLC. TLC analysis was performed by illumination with a UV lamp (254 nm). All flash chromatography was packed with silica-gel as the stationary phase. ¹H NMR (500 MHz) spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance 500 instrument, and chemical shifts were reported in ppm downfield from internal TMS with the solvent resonance as the internal standard (CDCl₃, δ = 7.26 ppm). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz) spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance 500 instrument, and chemical shifts were reported in ppm downfield from TMS with the solvent resonance as the internal standard (CDCl₃, δ = 77.2 ppm). High resolution MS (P-ESI HRMS) were obtained on Thermo Fisher Q Exactive Mass Spectrometer.

General procedure for the ring opening reactions

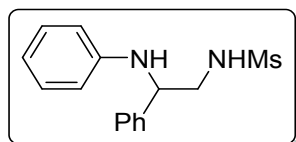
Amine (1.1 equiv) and aziridine¹ (1.0 equiv) were added to a 1 mL test tube, followed by stirring at 50 °C. The reaction process was monitored by TLC. After the reaction completed, the residue was directly subjected to the preparative thin layer chromatography to afford the title product.

Characterization data of the ring opening adducts



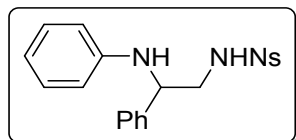
4-methyl-N-(2-phenyl-2-(phenylamino)ethyl)benzenesulfonamide (3aa):

Aniline **2a** (10.3 mg, 0.11 mmol) and aziridine **1a** (27.4 mg, 0.1 mmol) were added to a 1 mL test tube. The mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 6 h, then passed through a plug of silica gel (PE:EA = 4:1) to afford the title compound (30.4 mg, 83%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.72 (d, 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.34 - 7.26 (m, 7H), 7.07 (t, 7.0 Hz, 2H), 6.67 (t, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 6.47 (d, 7.4 Hz, 2H), 4.92 (s, 1H), 4.44 (d, 24.3 Hz, 2H), 3.34 (d, 13.2 Hz, 1H), 3.25 - 3.14 (m, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.73, 143.75, 140.09, 136.80, 129.88, 129.07 (d, 18.9 Hz), 127.88, 127.09, 126.55, 117.98, 113.75, 57.44, 49.08, 21.53.



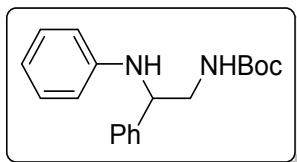
N-(2-phenyl-2-(phenylamino)ethyl)methanesulfonamide (3ba):

Aniline **2a** (10.3 mg, 0.11 mmol) and aziridine **1b** (19.7 mg, 0.1 mmol) were added to a 1 mL test tube. The mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 6 h, then passed through a plug of silica gel (PE:EA = 4:1) to afford the title compound (20.0 mg, 69%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.41 - 7.33 (m, 4H), 7.32 - 7.27 (m, 1H), 7.10 (t, 6.9 Hz, 2H), 6.69 (t, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 6.57 (d, 7.4 Hz, 2H), 4.77 (s, 1H), 4.53 (s, 2H), 3.48 (s, 1H), 3.41 (d, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 2.87 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.72, 140.08, 129.25, 129.07, 127.99, 126.64, 118.10, 113.77, 57.97, 49.16, 40.61.



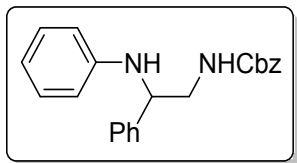
4-nitro-N-(2-phenyl-2-(phenylamino)ethyl)benzenesulfonamide (3ca):

Aniline **2a** (10.3 mg, 0.11 mmol) and aziridine **1c** (30.4 mg, 0.1 mmol) were added to a 1 mL test tube. The mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 6 h, then passed through a plug of silica gel (PE:EA = 4:1) to afford the title compound (15.9 mg, 40%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.30 (d, 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.99 (d, 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.36 - 7.26 (m, 5H), 7.09 (t, 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.70 (t, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.50 (d, 7.8 Hz, 2H), 4.95 (s, 1H), 4.59 - 4.30 (m, 2H), 3.50 - 3.40 (m, 1H), 3.29 (dt, 13.0 Hz, 6.4 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.08, 146.26, 145.69, 139.48, 129.22 (d, 14.1 Hz), 128.19, 126.46, 124.47, 118.54, 113.76, 60.43, 57.44, 48.97, 21.06, 14.20. HRMS calcd. for [M+H]⁺: 398.1175, found: 398.1162.



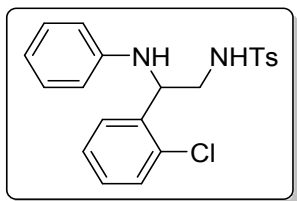
tert-butyl (2-phenyl-2-(phenylamino)ethyl)carbamate (3da):

Aniline **2a** (10.3 mg, 0.11 mmol) and aziridine **1d** (21.9 mg, 0.1 mmol) were added to a 1 mL test tube. The mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 6 h, then passed through a plug of silica gel (PE:EA = 5:1) to afford the title compound (4.4 mg, 14%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.36 (dd, 14.7 Hz, 7.7 Hz, 4H), 7.31 - 7.22 (m, 1H), 7.09 (t, 6.4 Hz, 2H), 6.65 (s, 1H), 6.51 (d, 6.9 Hz, 2H), 4.90 (d, 48.6 Hz, 2H), 4.44 (d, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 3.47 (d, 15.0 Hz, 2H), 1.48 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.15, 147.50, 141.20, 129.12, 128.83, 127.51, 126.56, 117.26, 113.28, 79.96, 60.04, 47.31, 28.39. HRMS calcd. for [M+H]⁺: 313.1916, found: 313.1903.



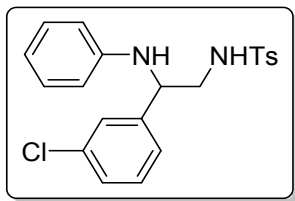
benzyl (2-phenyl-2-(phenylamino)ethyl)carbamate (3ea):

Aniline **2a** (10.3 mg, 0.11 mmol) and aziridine **1e** (25.3 mg, 0.1 mmol) were added to a 1 mL test tube. The mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 6 h, then passed through a plug of silica gel (PE:EA = 5:1) to afford the title compound (20.1 mg, 58%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.46 - 7.29 (m, 9H), 7.16 (t, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (t, 7.0 Hz, 2H), 6.73 - 6.61 (m, 2H), 6.51 (d, 7.1 Hz, 2H), 5.14 (s, 2H), 5.02 (s, 1H), 4.48 (s, 1H), 3.55 (t, 5.6 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.45, 147.18, 140.84, 136.31, 129.31, 129.13, 128.90, 128.60, 128.21 (d, 12.4 Hz), 127.65, 126.57, 118.58, 117.52, 115.13, 113.40, 67.10, 59.41, 47.61. HRMS calcd. for [M+H]⁺: 347.1760, found: 347.1749.



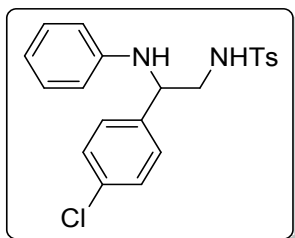
N-(2-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-(phenylamino)ethyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (3fa):

Aniline **2a** (10.3 mg, 0.11 mmol) and aziridine **1f** (30.8 mg, 0.1 mmol) were added to a 1 mL test tube. The mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 6 h, then passed through a plug of silica gel (PE:EA = 5:1) to afford the title compound (31.7 mg, 79%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.74 (d, 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (s, 1H), 7.34 (d, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.31 - 7.25 (m, 2H), 7.19 (s, 2H), 7.07 (t, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.67 (t, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.42 (d, 7.8 Hz, 2H), 4.83 (s, 3H), 3.48 - 3.35 (m, 1H), 3.25 - 3.10 (m, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.27, 143.81, 136.86 (d, 15.2 Hz), 132.73, 129.88, 129.09 (d, 15.9 Hz), 128.22, 127.52, 127.09, 118.04, 113.51, 54.30, 46.82, 21.53.



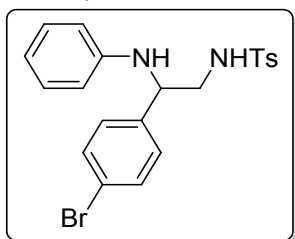
N-(2-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-(phenylamino)ethyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (3ga):

Aniline **2a** (10.3 mg, 0.11 mmol) and aziridine **1g** (30.8 mg, 0.1 mmol) were added to a 1 mL test tube. The mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 6 h, then passed through a plug of silica gel (PE:EA = 5:1) to afford the title compound (36.5 mg, 91%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.72 (d, 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, 9.1 Hz, 3H), 7.22 (s, 2H), 7.18 (d, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (t, 7.4 Hz, 2H), 6.69 (t, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.45 (d, 7.7 Hz, 2H), 4.98 (s, 1H), 4.80 - 4.44 (m, 1H), 4.36 (s, 1H), 3.34 - 3.28 (m, 1H), 3.20 - 3.12 (m, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.44, 143.91, 142.54, 136.65, 134.92, 130.28, 129.94, 129.19, 128.12, 127.05, 126.66, 124.80, 118.23, 113.72, 57.25, 48.99, 21.55. HRMS calcd. for [M+H]⁺: 401.1091, found: 401.1080.



N-(2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(phenylamino)ethyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (3ha):

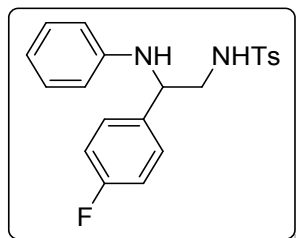
Aniline **2a** (10.3 mg, 0.11 mmol) and aziridine **1h** (30.8 mg, 0.1 mmol) were added to a 1 mL test tube. The mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 6 h, then passed through a plug of silica gel (PE:EA = 5:1) to afford the title compound (34.9 mg, 87%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.70 (d, 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (dd, 19.5 Hz, 7.7 Hz, 6H), 7.07 (t, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.68 (t, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.44 (d, 7.6 Hz, 2H), 5.06 (s, 1H), 4.85 - 4.42 (m, 1H), 4.37 (s, 1H), 3.38 - 3.23 (m, 1H), 3.15 (dd, 13.2 Hz, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.47, 143.88, 138.73, 136.64, 133.55, 129.92, 129.14 (d, 6.6 Hz), 127.96, 127.03, 118.17, 113.74, 57.00, 49.00, 21.54.



N-(2-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(phenylamino)ethyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (3ia):

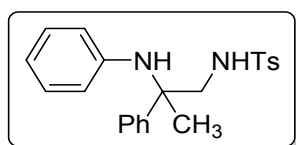
Aniline **2a** (10.3 mg, 0.11 mmol) and aziridine **1i** (35.2 mg, 0.1 mmol) were added to a 1 mL test tube. The mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 24 h, then passed through a plug of silica gel (PE:EA = 5:1) to afford the title compound (42.3 mg, 95%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.70 (d, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.07 (t, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.68 (t, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.43 (d, 7.7 Hz, 2H), 5.07 (s, 1H), 4.57 (s, 1H), 4.35 (s, 1H), 3.37 - 3.21 (m, 1H), 3.15 (dd, 13.3 Hz, 6.9 Hz,

1H), 2.41 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.45, 143.89, 139.29, 136.62, 132.06, 129.93, 129.17, 128.32, 127.03, 121.65, 118.18, 113.74, 57.07, 48.94, 21.55. HRMS calcd. for [M+H]⁺: 445.0585, found: 445.0572.



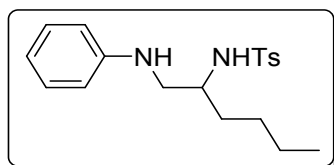
N-(2-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(phenylamino)ethyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (3ja):

Aniline **2a** (10.3 mg, 0.11 mmol) and aziridine **1j** (29.1 mg, 0.1 mmol) were added to a 1 mL test tube. The mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 24 h, then passed through a plug of silica gel (PE:EA = 5:1) to afford the title compound (36.5 mg, 95%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.72 (d, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (t, 7.2 Hz, 4H), 7.08 (t, 7.1 Hz, 2H), 6.98 (t, 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.69 (t, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.45 (d, 7.6 Hz, 2H), 5.02 (s, 1H), 4.48 (d, 91.9 Hz, 2H), 3.38 - 3.25 (m, 1H), 3.17 (dd, 13.0 Hz, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.26, 161.30, 146.55, 143.85, 136.70, 135.83 (d, 3.0 Hz), 129.91, 129.16, 128.15 (d, 8.1 Hz), 127.04, 118.12, 115.94, 115.77, 113.74, 56.91, 49.11, 21.53.



4-methyl-N-(2-phenyl-2-(phenylamino)propyl)benzenesulfonamide (3ka):

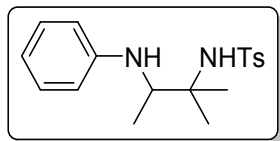
Aniline **2a** (10.3 mg, 0.11 mmol) and aziridine **1k** (28.7 mg, 0.1 mmol) were added to a 1 mL test tube. The mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 6 h, then passed through a plug of silica gel (PE:EA = 5:1) to afford the title compound (32.0 mg, 84%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.63 (d, 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d, 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (t, 6.5 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, 7.8 Hz, 3H), 6.97 (t, 6.4 Hz, 2H), 6.64 (t, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 6.29 (d, 7.4 Hz, 2H), 4.79 (s, 1H), 3.36 - 3.28 (m, 1H), 3.25 (d, 12.2 Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 1.66 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.83, 143.53 (d, 14.7 Hz), 136.50, 129.82, 128.85 (d, 7.3 Hz), 127.22, 126.95, 125.99, 117.68, 115.48, 58.08, 52.54, 25.40, 21.50. HRMS calcd. for [M+Na]⁺: 403.1456, found: 403.1444.



4-methyl-N-(1-(phenylamino)hexan-2-yl)benzenesulfonamide (4la):

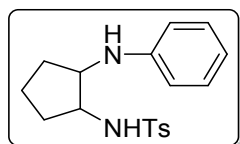
Aniline **2a** (10.3 mg, 0.11 mmol) and aziridine **1l** (25.3 mg, 0.1 mmol) were added to a 1 mL test tube. The mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 24 h, then passed through a plug of silica gel (PE:EA = 5:1) to afford the title compound (31.8 mg, 92%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.75 (d, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.12 (t, 7.1 Hz, 2H), 6.69 (t, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.46 (d, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 4.86 (d, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 3.38 (d, 5.7 Hz, 1H),

3.14 (d, 12.8 Hz, 1H), 3.03 (dd, 12.1 Hz, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 1.56 - 1.29 (m, 4H), 1.15 (d, 4.9 Hz, 2H), 0.77 (t, 5.6 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 147.76, 143.48, 137.64, 129.69, 129.18, 127.14, 117.59, 112.92, 53.50, 48.07, 33.26, 27.56, 22.37, 21.49, 13.80.



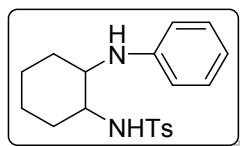
4-methyl-N-(2-methyl-3-(phenylamino)butan-2-yl)benzenesulfonamide (4ma):

Aniline **2a** (10.3 mg, 0.11 mmol) and aziridine **1m** (23.9 mg, 0.1 mmol) were added to a 1 mL test tube. The mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 24 h, then passed through a plug of silica gel (PE:EA = 5:1) to afford the title compound (21.3 mg, 64%). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.72 (d, 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, 6.1 Hz, 2H), 7.07 (t, 7.1 Hz, 2H), 6.78 (t, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 6.55 (d, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 5.09 (s, 1H), 3.40 (s, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 1.21 (s, 3H), 1.17 (s, 3H), 1.09 (d, 5.8 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 129.72, 128.92, 127.24, 119.53, 118.53, 56.99, 56.45, 24.55, 23.52, 21.54, 16.13. HRMS calcd. for $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 333.1637, found: 333.1626.



4-methyl-N-(2-(phenylamino)cyclopentyl)benzenesulfonamide (3na):

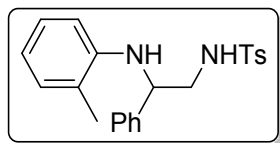
Aniline **2a** (10.3 mg, 0.11 mmol) and aziridine **1n** (23.7 mg, 0.1 mmol) were added to a 1 mL test tube. The mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 6 h, then passed through a plug of silica gel (PE:EA = 5:1) to afford the title compound (31.4 mg, 95%). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.77 (d, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.12 (t, 7.1 Hz, 2H), 6.69 (t, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.50 (d, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 5.16 (d, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 3.47 (d, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 3.44 - 3.37 (m, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.19 (td, 13.6 Hz, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 1.87 (dd, 13.0 Hz, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 1.69 (dd, 14.9 Hz, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.45 (dt, 14.1 Hz, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 1.40 - 1.33 (m, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 147.49, 143.50, 137.46, 129.77, 129.19, 127.14, 117.58, 113.32, 60.34, 59.77, 30.63, 30.40, 21.53, 20.46.



4-methyl-N-(2-(phenylamino)cyclohexyl)benzenesulfonamide (3oa):

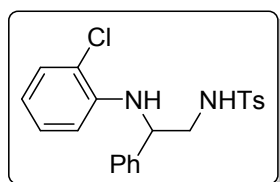
Aniline **2a** (10.3 mg, 0.11 mmol) and aziridine **1o** (25.1 mg, 0.1 mmol) were added to a 1 mL test tube. The mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 6 h, then passed through a plug of silica gel (PE:EA = 5:1) to afford the title compound (31.0 mg, 90%). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.75 (d, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.14 (t, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.70 (t, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.48 (d, 7.6 Hz, 2H), 5.06 (s, 1H), 3.47 (s, 1H), 3.06 (t, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 2.93 (s, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.17 (d, 12.9 Hz, 1H), 2.02 (d, 12.0 Hz, 1H), 1.65 (d, 11.0 Hz, 2H), 1.28 (dd, 26.1 Hz, 13.8 Hz, 3H), 1.04 (d, 11.5 Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (126

MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.07, 143.44, 137.56, 129.74, 129.32, 127.18, 117.81, 113.49, 57.08, 56.52, 33.00, 32.13, 24.41, 24.13, 21.57.



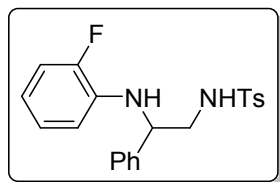
4-methyl-N-(2-phenyl-2-(o-tolylamino)ethyl)benzenesulfonamide (3ab):

o-Toluidine **2b** (11.8 mg, 0.11 mmol) and aziridine **1a** (27.3 mg, 0.1 mmol) were added to a 1 mL test tube. The mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 6 h, then passed through a plug of silica gel (PE:EA = 5:1) to afford the title compound (33.5 mg, 88%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.72 (d, 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (dd, 18.2 Hz, 8.5 Hz, 7H), 7.05 (d, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (t, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.62 (t, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.25 (d, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.78 (s, 1H), 4.56 (d, 17.5 Hz, 1H), 4.46 (s, 1H), 3.42 - 3.33 (m, 1H), 3.26 (dt, 13.5 Hz, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.25 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.68, 143.74, 140.15, 136.88, 130.14, 129.86, 129.02, 127.87, 127.03, 126.85, 126.51, 122.72, 117.51, 111.06, 57.37, 49.25, 21.53, 17.68. HRMS calcd. for [M+H]⁺: 381.1637, found: 381.1628.



N-(2-((2-chlorophenyl)amino)-2-phenylethyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (3ac):

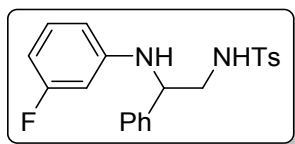
2-Chloroaniline **2c** (14.0 mg, 0.11 mmol) and aziridine **1a** (27.3 mg, 0.1 mmol) were added to a 1 mL test tube. The mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 24 h, then passed through a plug of silica gel (PE:EA = 5:1) to afford the title compound (32.9 mg, 82%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.74 (d, 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.35 - 7.29 (m, 2H), 7.29 - 7.20 (m, 6H), 6.94 (t, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (t, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.34 (d, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.96 (s, 1H), 4.82 (s, 1H), 4.49 (s, 1H), 3.51 - 3.33 (m, 1H), 3.27 (d, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.73, 142.49, 139.35, 136.84, 129.86, 129.13 (d, 5.4 Hz), 128.10, 127.61, 127.08, 126.44, 119.77, 118.09, 112.66, 57.21, 49.01, 21.53.



N-(2-((2-fluorophenyl)amino)-2-phenylethyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (3ad):

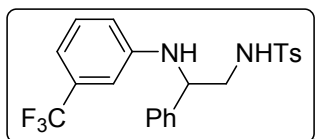
2-Fluoroaniline **2d** (12.2 mg, 0.11 mmol) and aziridine **1a** (27.3 mg, 0.1 mmol) were added to a 1 mL test tube. The mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 6 h, then passed through a plug of silica gel (PE:EA = 5:1) to afford the title compound (36.1 mg, 94%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.73 (d, 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.35 - 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.27 (d, 6.3 Hz, 5H), 6.99 - 6.89 (m, 1H), 6.80 (d, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.60 (d, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 6.38 (t, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 4.77 (s, 1H), 4.55 (s, 1H), 4.45 (s, 1H), 3.43 - 3.33 (m, 1H), 3.28 - 3.18

(m, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 143.75, 139.52, 136.80, 129.86, 129.09, 128.10, 127.09, 126.44, 124.42 (d, 3.5 Hz), 117.60 (d, 7.0 Hz), 114.52 (d, 18.6 Hz), 113.42 (d, 2.8 Hz), 57.24, 48.95, 21.53. HRMS calcd. for $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 385.1386, found: 385.1375.



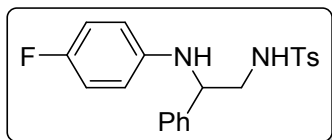
N-(2-((3-fluorophenyl)amino)-2-phenylethyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (3ae):

3-Fluoroaniline **2e** (12.2 mg, 0.11 mmol) and aziridine **1a** (27.3 mg, 0.1 mmol) were added to a 1 mL test tube. The mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 24 h, then passed through a plug of silica gel (PE:EA = 5:1) to afford the title compound (32.7 mg, 85%). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.72 (d, 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.39 - 7.14 (m, 7H), 6.99 (q, 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.34 (t, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.27 (d, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.09 (d, 11.5 Hz, 1H), 5.06 (d, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 4.36 (d, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 3.40 - 3.29 (m, 1H), 3.19 (dd, 13.6 Hz, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 143.91, 139.56, 136.70, 129.93, 129.07, 128.03, 127.04, 126.48, 109.61 (d, 2.0 Hz), 104.40, 104.23, 100.52, 100.32, 57.45, 48.99, 21.51. HRMS calcd. for $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 385.1386, found: 385.1375.



4-methyl-N-(2-((3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)amino)ethyl)benzenesulfonamide (3af):

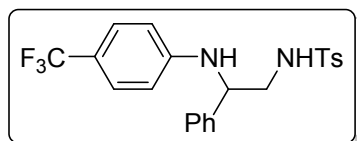
3-Aminobenzotrifluoride **2f** (17.7 mg, 0.11 mmol) and aziridine **1a** (27.3 mg, 0.1 mmol) were added to a 1 mL test tube. The mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 6 h, then passed through a plug of silica gel (PE:EA = 5:1) to afford the title compound (41.2 mg, 95%). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.73 (d, 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (dt, 18.9 Hz, 9.3 Hz, 7H), 7.14 (t, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.66 (s, 1H), 6.58 (d, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 4.76 (t, 6.2 Hz, 2H), 4.42 (s, 1H), 3.37 (dd, 12.5 Hz, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 3.23 (dd, 13.7 Hz, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 146.96, 143.98, 139.34, 136.68, 129.93, 129.52, 129.10, 128.09, 127.00, 126.46, 116.33, 114.18 (d, 3.8 Hz), 110.07 (d, 3.9 Hz), 57.36, 48.99, 21.47. HRMS calcd. for $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 435.1354, found: 435.1345.



N-(2-((4-fluorophenyl)amino)-2-phenylethyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (3ag):

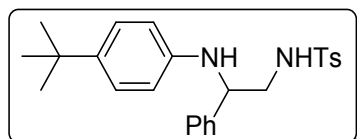
4-Fluoroaniline **2g** (12.2 mg, 0.11 mmol) and aziridine **1a** (27.3 mg, 0.1 mmol) were added to a 1 mL test tube. The mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 6 h, then passed through a plug of silica gel (PE:EA = 5:1) to afford the title compound (35.0 mg, 91%). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.72 (d, 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.36 - 7.19 (m, 7H), 6.78 (t, 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.41 (dd, 7.2 Hz, 4.4 Hz, 2H), 4.80 (s, 1H), 4.42 - 4.29 (m, 1H), 3.38 -

3.29 (m, 1H), 3.20 (dd, 13.4 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.10, 155.22, 143.81, 142.77, 139.72, 136.74, 129.88, 129.04, 128.02, 127.07, 126.55, 115.66, 115.49, 114.81 (d, 7.4 Hz), 58.26, 49.05, 21.52. HRMS calcd. for $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 385.1386, found: 385.1376.



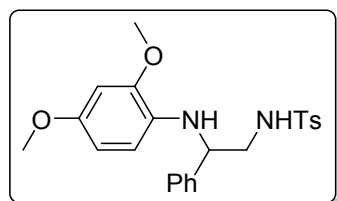
4-methyl-N-(2-phenyl-2-((4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)amino)ethyl)benzenesulfonamide (3ah):

4-Aminobenzotrifluoride **2h** (17.7 mg, 0.11 mmol) and aziridine **1a** (27.3 mg, 0.1 mmol) were added to a 1 mL test tube. The mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 6 h, then passed through a plug of silica gel (PE:EA = 5:1) to afford the title compound (32.2 mg, 74%). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.71 (d, 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.39 - 7.15 (m, 9H), 6.46 (d, 7.9 Hz, 2H), 5.01 (s, 2H), 4.43 (s, 1H), 3.44 - 3.29 (m, 1H), 3.29 - 3.10 (m, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 149.29, 143.99, 139.21, 136.62, 129.93, 129.15, 128.14, 126.99, 126.42 (d, 3.7 Hz), 112.82, 57.20, 48.97, 21.48. HRMS calcd. for $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 435.1354, found: 435.1346.



N-(2-((4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)amino)-2-phenylethyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (3ai):

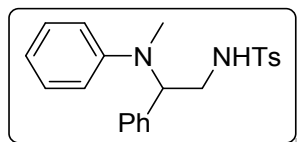
4-*tert*-Butylaniline **2i** (16.4 mg, 0.11 mmol) and aziridine **1a** (27.3 mg, 0.1 mmol) were added to a 1 mL test tube. The mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 6 h, then passed through a plug of silica gel (PE:EA = 5:1) to afford the title compound (36.8 mg, 87%). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.73 (d, 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (dt, 11.0 Hz, 5.6 Hz, 7H), 7.12 (d, 7.3 Hz, 2H), 6.44 (d, 7.4 Hz, 2H), 4.80 (s, 1H), 4.39 (s, 2H), 3.38 - 3.26 (m, 1H), 3.25 - 3.14 (m, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 1.24 (s, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 144.31, 143.70, 140.82, 140.33, 136.82, 129.87, 128.99, 127.87, 127.12, 126.57, 125.95, 113.43, 57.72, 49.10, 33.85, 31.50, 21.55. HRMS calcd. for $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 423.2106, found: 423.2095.



N-(2-((2,4-dimethoxyphenyl)amino)-2-phenylethyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (3aj):

2,4-Dimethoxyaniline **2j** (16.8 mg, 0.11 mmol) and aziridine **1a** (27.3 mg, 0.1 mmol) were added to a 1 mL test tube. The mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 6 h, then passed through a plug of silica gel (PE:EA = 4:1) to afford the title compound (37.6 mg,

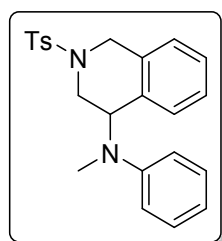
88%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.72 (d, 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.35 - 7.19 (m, 7H), 6.42 (s, 1H), 6.22 (s, 2H), 4.93 (s, 1H), 4.74 - 4.16 (m, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.34 (dd, 12.6 Hz, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.19 (dd, 12.9 Hz, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.48, 148.27, 143.51, 140.36, 136.96, 130.55, 129.76, 128.89, 127.79, 127.13, 126.50, 112.01, 103.72, 99.18, 57.97, 55.63 (d, 11.9 Hz), 49.12, 21.53. HRMS calcd. for [M+H]⁺: 427.1692, found: 427.1683.



4-methyl-N-(2-(methyl(phenyl)amino)-2-phenylethyl)benzenesulfonamide (**3ak**):

N-methylaniline **2k** (11.8 mg, 0.11 mmol) and aziridine **1a** (27.3 mg, 0.1 mmol) were added to a 1 mL test tube. The mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 6 h, then passed through a plug of silica gel (PE:EA = 4:1) to afford the title compound (35.8 mg, 94%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.78 (d, 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d, 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (dd, 16.8 Hz, 9.2 Hz, 5H), 7.05 (d, 6.6 Hz, 2H), 6.84 (t, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (d, 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.99 (dd, 9.9 Hz, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 4.75 (d, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.75 - 3.61 (m, 1H), 3.48 (t, 11.4 Hz, 1H), 2.52 (s, 3H), 2.47 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.31, 143.62, 137.07, 136.78, 129.85, 129.33, 128.67, 127.86, 127.18, 126.95, 118.64, 114.68, 61.71, 43.19, 31.82, 21.58. HRMS calcd. for [M+H]⁺: 381.1637, found: 381.1629.

Synthesis of Compound 4



N-methyl-N-phenyl-2-tosyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-4-amine (**4**):

N-methylaniline **2k** (**406.8 mg, 3.80 mmol, 1.1 equiv**) and aziridine **1a** (943.5 mg, 3.45 mmol, 1.0 equiv) were added to a 5 mL test tube, followed by stirring at 50 °C for 6 h. The reaction process was monitored by TLC. After the reaction completed, the residue was directly subjected to the preparative thin layer chromatography to afford the compound **3ak** as white solid in 91% yield (1.19 g).

To a 10 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar, **3ak** (190.3 mg, 0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and paraformaldehyde (18.0 mg, 0.6 mmol based on formaldehyde, 1.2 equiv) were added. The tube was evacuated and refilled with N₂ gas three times. Then trifluoroacetic acid (1.0 mL) was added, and the resulting mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 5 h. The reaction mixture was allowed cool to room temperature and poured into H₂O (10 mL). The organic layer was separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with CHCl₃ (3 mL × 3). Organic layers were combined, washed with sat. NaHCO₃ aq. (3 mL), and dried over Na₂SO₄. Solvent was removed under reduced

pressure, then the residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (PE:EA = 5:1), giving the title compound as white solid in 66% yield (129.6 mg).² ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.64 (d, 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, 8.3 Hz, 6H), 7.13 (d, 5.9 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (t, 8.8 Hz, 2H), 4.54 (s, 2H), 4.18 (d, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.56 (d, 14.3 Hz, 1H), 3.39 (dd, 13.9 Hz, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 2.59 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.97, 143.20, 140.09, 136.50, 129.83, 129.61 (d, 13.9 Hz), 128.56, 127.69, 127.25 (d, 7.7 Hz), 126.79, 121.79, 118.99, 66.91, 50.36, 49.88, 38.99, 21.53. HRMS calcd. for [M+H]⁺: 393.1637, found: 393.1618.

References

1. (a) N. Hsueh, G. J. Clarkson and M. Shipman, *Org. Lett.*, 2015, **17**, 3632; (b) V. V. Thakur and A. Sudalai, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 2003, **44**, 989.
2. Y. Takeda, A. Kuroda, W. M. C. Sameera, K. Morokuma and S. Minakata, *Chem. Sci.*, 2016, **7**, 6141.

