

# **Formal [3+2] Cycloaddition of $\alpha$ -Unsubstituted Isocyanacetates and Methyleneindolinones: Enantioselective Synthesis of Spirooxindoles**

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## Electronic Supplementary Information

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Table of Contents	Page
I. General information	S3
II. Synthesis of methyleneindolinones	S4
III. Cycloaddition of methyleneindolinone <b>1</b> with methyl isocyanoacetate <b>2a</b>	S5
IV. Enantioselective formal [3+2] cycloaddition of <b>2</b> and <b>4</b>	S7
V. Characterization of compounds <b>5a-j</b>	S8
VI. Transformation of cycloadduct	S17
VII. [3+2] Cycloaddition of monosubstituted- <b>4</b> and methyl isocyanoacetate <b>2a</b>	S18
VIII. [3+2] Cycloaddition of methyleneindolinones and $\alpha$ -methyl isocyanoacetates	S24
IX. X-ray crystallographic analysis and determination of configurations of the products	S28
X. References	S31
XI. NMR spectra of the products	S32

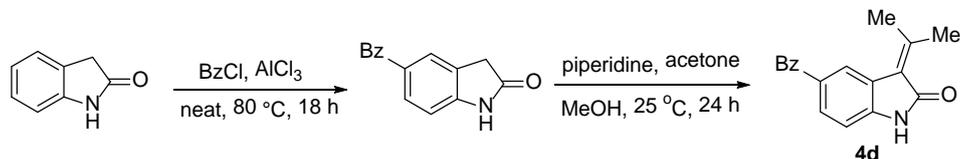
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**I. General information.**  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AMX500 (500 MHz), Agilent 400MR (400 MHz) and 600MR (600 MHz) spectrometers. Chemical shifts were reported in parts per million (ppm), and the residual solvent peak was used as an internal reference:  $^1\text{H}$  (chloroform  $\delta$  7.26; acetone  $\delta$  2.05; DMSO  $\delta$  2.50),  $^{13}\text{C}$  (chloroform  $\delta$  77.16; acetone  $\delta$  29.84, 206.26; DMSO  $\delta$  39.52). Data are reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, br = broad), coupling constants (Hz) and integration. For thin layer chromatography (TLC), Merck pre-coated TLC plates (Merck 60 F254) were used, and compounds were visualized with a UV light at 254nm. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained on a Finnigan/MAT 95XL-T spectrometer. **Optical rotations** were recorded on an mrc AP81 automatic polarimeter or a Jasco DIP-1000 polarimeter. Enantiomeric excesses (ee) were determined by HPLC analysis on Agilent HPLC units, including the following instruments: pump, LC-20AD; detector, SPD-20A; column, Chiralpak AD-H, IA-H, ID-H, and OJ-H.

Tetrahydrofuran (THF) and dichloromethane (DCM) were dried over a Pure Solv solvent purification system. Other solvents used such as acetone, acetonitrile, ethyl acetate (AcOEt) and methanol were of analytical grade and used as received. All chemicals were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. Methyl isocyanoacetate (**2a**) were purchased from Alfa Aesar Company. Other isocyanoacetates, ligands and catalysts were prepared according to literature procedures.<sup>1,2</sup> Other chemicals were purchased from commercial suppliers and used as received without further purification.

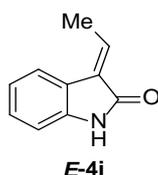
## II. Synthesis of methyleneindolinones

### 5-Benzoyl-3-Methylideneoxindole (**4d**)



To a flask with oxindole (1 equiv) and AlCl<sub>3</sub> solid (4 equiv), acyl chloride (10 equiv) was added and heated to 80 °C for 18 h. The reaction mixture was poured into ice water and rapidly stirred while solid NaCl was added until the aqueous phase is saturated with observation of undissolved NaCl solid. The aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic layers were combined, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated. The solid obtained was then dissolved in a solution of acetone and MeOH (v/v = 1:1). Piperidine (4 equiv) was then added and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 24 h at ambient temperature. The precipitates were collected *via* suction filtration and recrystallized to afford **4d** as a brown solid, 95% yield. mp: 245-246 °C, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 10.91 (s, 1H), 7.96 (s, 1H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 7.66-7.61 (m, 2H), 7.55 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 2.54 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 194.8, 168.6, 156.7, 144.5, 137.9, 131.9, 131.3, 129.7, 129.2, 128.4, 124.9, 123.6, 121.7, 108.6, 24.8, 22.5. HRMS (ESI), *m/z* calcd. for [C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>Na, M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 300.0995; found: 300.1004.

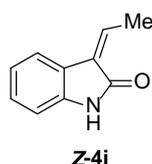
### (*E*)-3-Ethylideneindolin-2-one (*E*-**4i**)



*E*-**4i** was synthesized according to literature procedures.<sup>3</sup> Yellow solid. mp: 142-143 °C, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 10.42 (s, 1H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.89-6.83 (m, 2H), 2.22 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz,

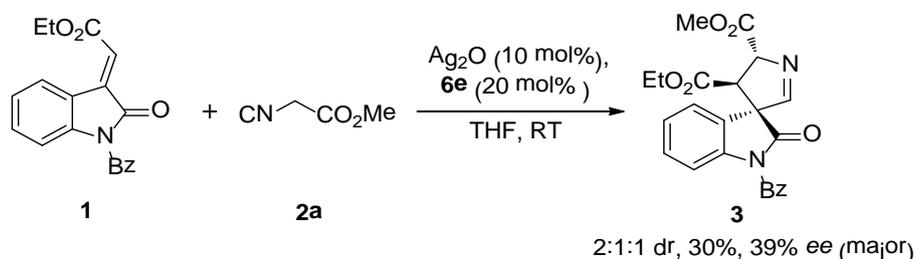
3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  167.9, 142.0, 135.8, 129.0, 128.9, 123.6, 122.3, 121.3, 109.7, 14.9. HRMS (ESI),  $m/z$  calcd. for  $[\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_8\text{NO}, \text{M-H}]^-$ : 158.0611; found: 158.0606.

### (Z)-3-Ethylideneindolin-2-one (Z-4i)



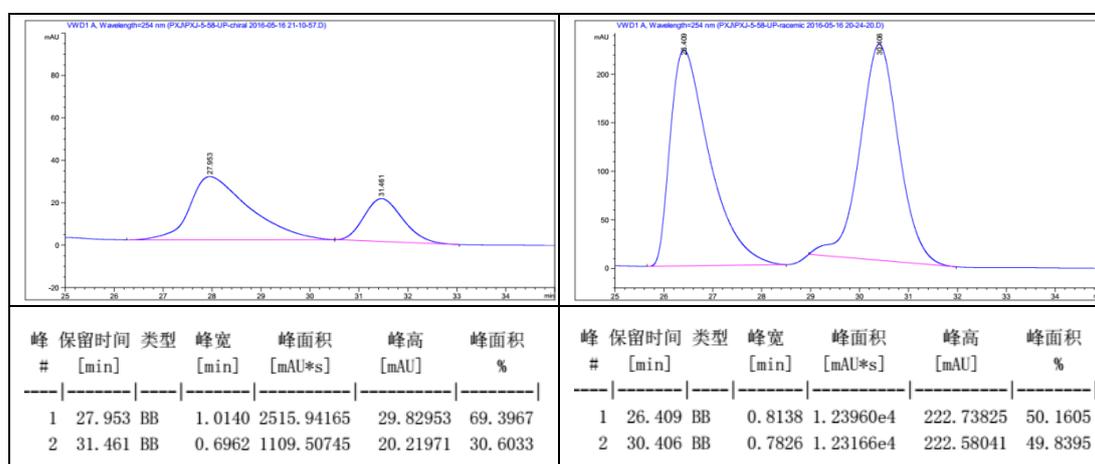
**Z-4i** was synthesized according to literature procedures.<sup>3</sup> Yellow solid. mp: 168-169 °C,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.70 (s, 1H), 7.37 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.19 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 6.99 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 6.82 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 2.46 (dd,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1.8 Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  169.3, 139.2, 137.9, 128.4, 127.9, 123.8, 121.7, 119.1, 109.5, 14.3. HRMS (ESI),  $m/z$  calcd. for  $[\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_9\text{NONa}, \text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ : 182.05777; found: 182.05764.

### III. Cycloaddition of methyleneindolinone **1** with methyl isocyanoacetate **2a**

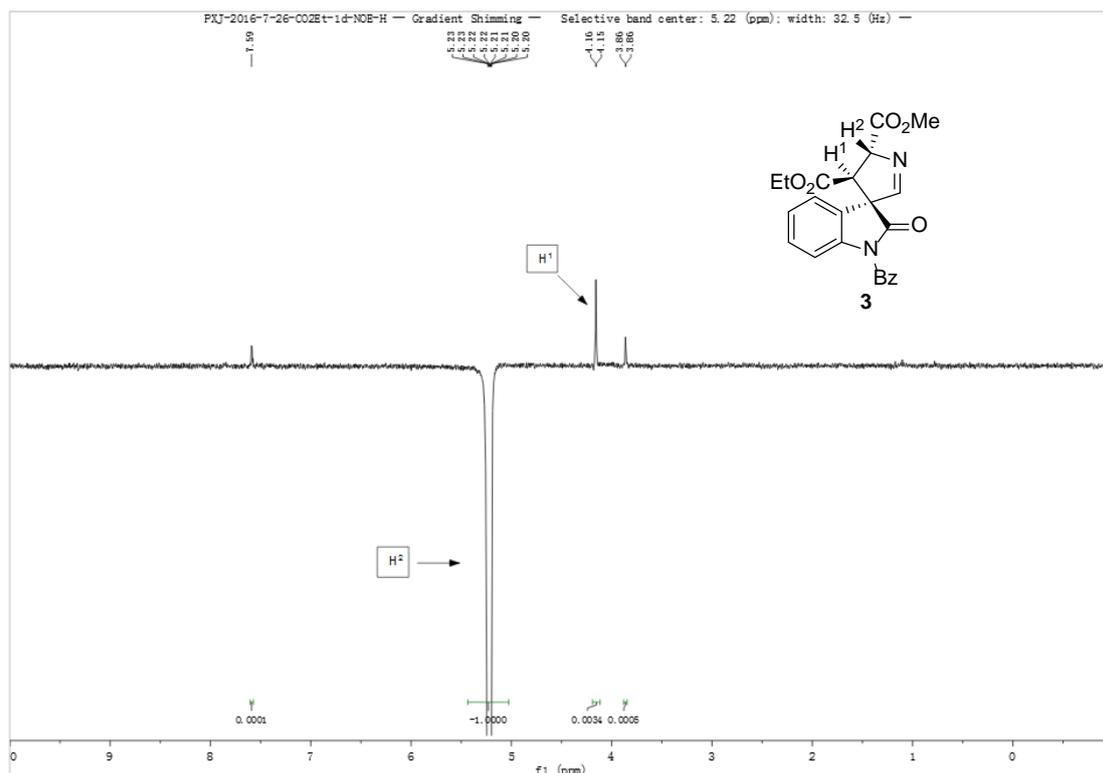


To a 10 mL vial charged with chiral ligand **6e** (48.9 mg, 0.08 mmol) and  $\text{Ag}_2\text{O}$  (9.3 mg, 0.04 mmol) was added THF (2 mL). The mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 0.5 h. Methyleneindolinone **1**<sup>4</sup> (0.4 mmol) was added in one portion, followed by isocyanoacetate **2a** (0.4 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature until the starting material was consumed, and then concentrated, purified by flash chromatography (hexanes/ethyl acetate) over pre-treated silica gel (treated with 5% v/v  $\text{NEt}_3$  in hexanes/ $\text{AcOEt}$  eluent) to give chiral product **3** as a colorless wax, 30% yield (dr: 2:1:1).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, Acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  7.85 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 3H), 7.66-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.58 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.48 (m, 3H), 7.44 (d,  $J$

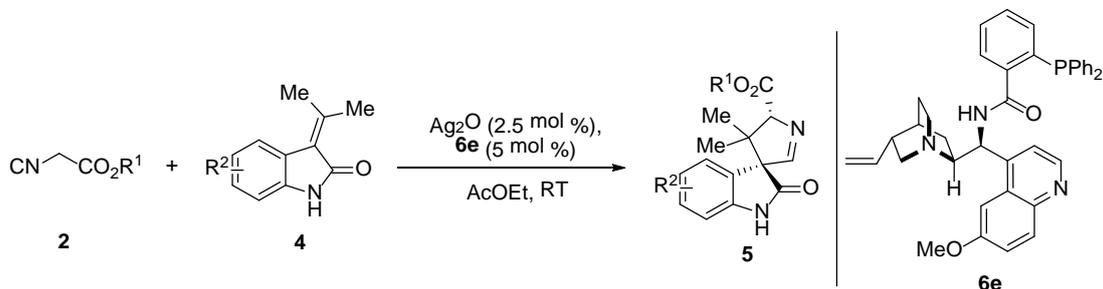
= 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 5.21 (dd,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 4.09-4.01 (m, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 1.10 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, Acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  172.6, 170.7, 168.6, 168.5, 164.3, 141.2, 134.2, 132.9, 129.6, 129.5, 128.1, 127.7, 125.4, 123.6, 115.0, 76.6, 68.8, 61.4, 56.1, 52.2, 13.2. **HRMS** (ESI),  $m/z$  calcd. for  $[\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6\text{Na}, \text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ : 443.12136; found: 443.12150. **Optical Rotation**: The absolute configuration of **3** was assigned by analogy to **5e**. 39% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralpak AD-H column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 80:20, flow rate = 1 mL/min, wavelength = 254 nm,  $t_{\text{R}} = 28.0$  min for major isomer,  $t_{\text{R}} = 31.5$  min for minor isomer).



The *trans*-configuration of **3** was assigned by its NOE analysis. As the value of integration at  $\delta$  5.22 ( $\text{H}^2$ ) is 1, the value of integration at  $\delta$  4.16 ( $\text{H}^1$ ) is 0.0034 and the value of integration at  $\delta$  3.86 (Me) is 0.0005.



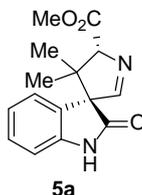
#### IV. Enantioselective formal [3+2] cycloaddition of **2** and **4**



**General procedure.** To a 10 mL vial charged with chiral ligand **6e** (12.2 mg, 0.02 mmol) and  $\text{Ag}_2\text{O}$  (2.3 mg, 0.01 mmol) was added AcOEt (0.25 mL). The mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 0.5 h. Methyleneindolinones **4** (0.4 mmol) was added in one portion. Isocynoacetate **2** (0.4 mmol) in AcOEt (0.4 mL) was added via syringe pump over 5 h. The reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature until the starting material was consumed, and then concentrated, purified by flash chromatography (hexanes/ethyl acetate) over pre-treated silica gel (treated with 5% v/v  $\text{NEt}_3$  in hexanes/AcOEt eluent) to give chiral product **5**.

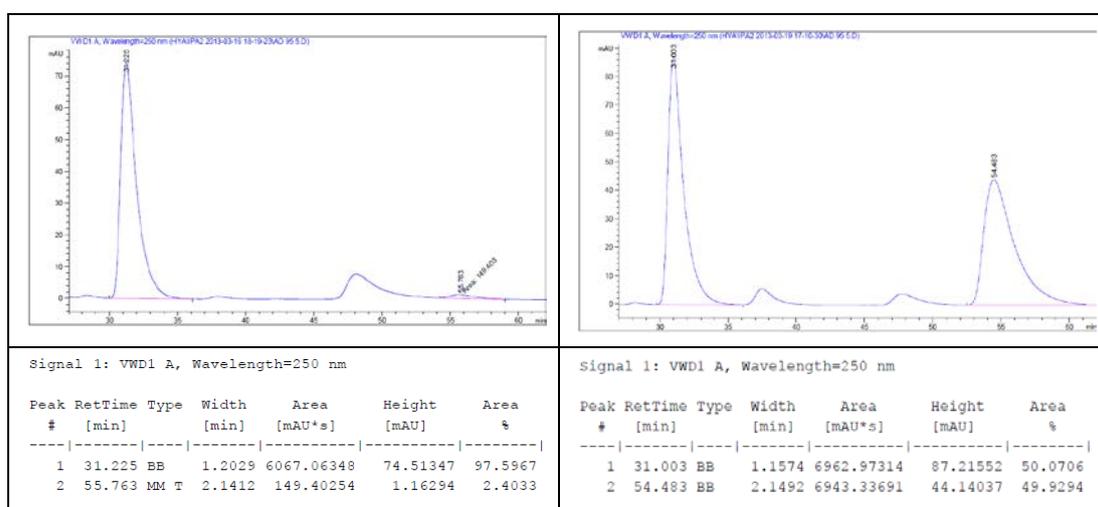
## V. Characterization of compounds 5a-j

### (3*R*,5'*R*)-Methyl 4',4'-Dimethyl-2-oxo-4',5'-dihydrospiro[indoline-3,3'-pyrrole]-5'-carboxylate (**5a**):

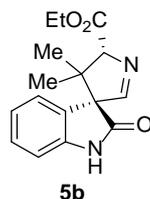


The general procedure outlined above was followed. White solid, mp: 220-222 °C, 99% yield (dr: >20:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz, Acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  9.60 (s, 1H), 7.45 (d,  $J = 3.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.33-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.05 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1 H), 6.99 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 4.98 (d,  $J = 3.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 1.23 (s, 3H), 0.97 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (125 MHz, Acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  175.2, 171.4, 167.7, 144.1, 130.2, 127.9, 125.9, 122.5, 110.7, 81.1, 73.8, 52.3, 51.7, 22.7, 21.2; **HRMS** (ESI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $[\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3, \text{M-H}]^-$ : 271.1088; found: 271.1084.

**Optical Rotation:**  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{22} = -86.3$  ( $c = 0.4$ , Acetone). The absolute configuration of **5a** was assigned by analogy to **5e**. 95% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralpak AD-H column,  $n$ -hexane/ $i$ -PrOH = 95:5, flow rate = 1 mL/min, wavelength = 254 nm,  $t_{\text{R}} = 31.2$  min for major isomer,  $t_{\text{R}} = 55.8$  min for minor isomer).

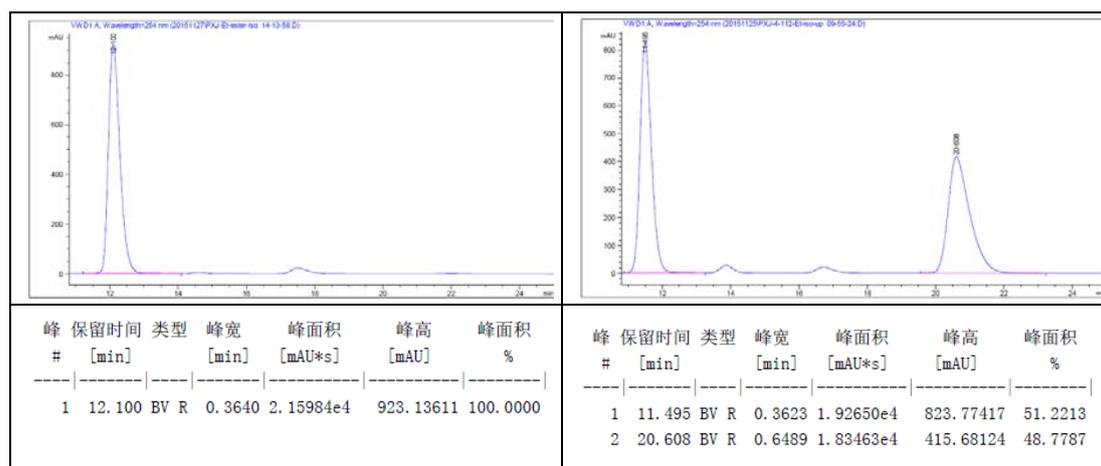


**(3*R*,5'*R*)-Ethyl 4',4'-dimethyl-2-oxo-4',5'-dihydrospiro[indoline-3,3'-pyrrole]-5'-carboxylate (5b):**

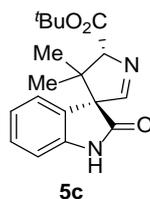


The general procedure outlined above was followed. White solid, mp: 211-213 °C, 99% yield (dr: >20:1). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 9.85 (s, 1H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.33-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.05 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.96 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 4.24 (qd, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3.5 Hz, 2H), 1.30 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3 H), 1.24 (s, 3H), 0.98 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 174.8, 170.4, 168.2, 143.6, 129.7, 127.4, 125.1, 121.8, 110.3, 79.9, 73.1, 60.7, 51.5, 22.4, 21.0, 14.6; HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd. for [C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na, M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 309.12096; found: 309.12118.

**Optical Rotation:** [α]<sup>29</sup><sub>D</sub> = -10.0 (*c* = 0.3, Acetone). The absolute configuration of **5b** was assigned by analogy to **5e**. > 99% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralpak AD-H column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90:10, flow rate = 1 mL/min, wavelength = 254 nm, *t*<sub>R</sub> = 12.1 min for major isomer, *t*<sub>R</sub> = 20.6 min for minor isomer).

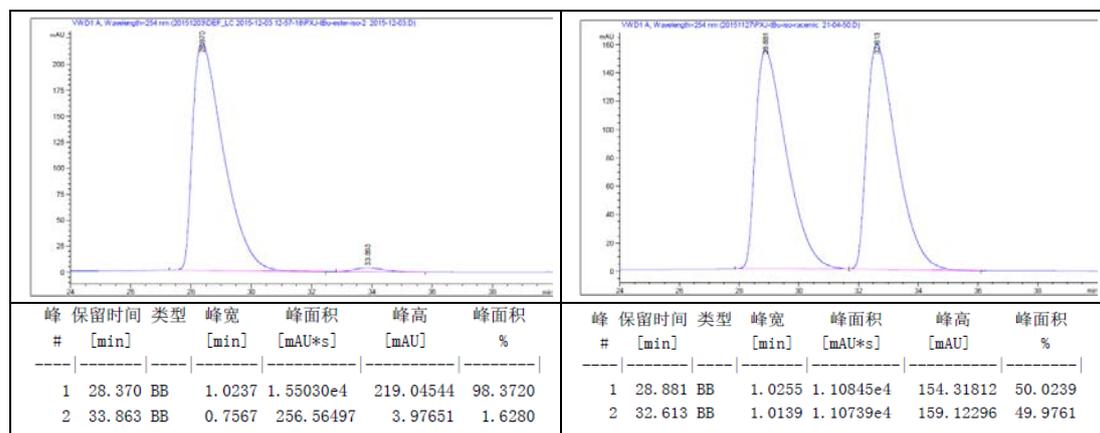


**(3*R*,5'*R*)-tert-butyl 4',4'-dimethyl-2-oxo-4',5'-dihydrospiro[indoline-3,3'-pyrrole]-5'-carboxylate (5c):**

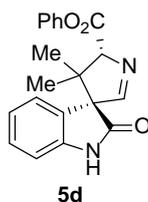


The general procedure outlined above was followed. White solid, mp: 225-226 °C, 99% yield (dr: 85:15).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz, Acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  9.60 (s, 1H), 7.42 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.23 (m, 2H), 7.05 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1 H), 6.99 (d,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, 1H), 4.87 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz, 1H), 1.53 (s, 9H), 1.24 (s, 3H), 1.02 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  174.9, 169.5, 167.8, 143.7, 129.7, 127.4, 125.2, 121.8, 110.3, 81.1, 80.2, 73.2, 58.7, 51.6, 28.2, 22.2, 21.1, 8.5; **HRMS** (ESI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $[\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{Na}, \text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ : 337.15226; found: 337.15220.

**Optical Rotation:**  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{28} = -5.5$  ( $c = 0.4$ , Acetone). The absolute configuration of **5c** was assigned by analogy to **5e**. 97% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralpak AD-H column,  $n$ -hexane/ $i$ -PrOH = 95:5, flow rate = 1 mL/min, wavelength = 254 nm,  $t_{\text{R}} = 28.4$  min for major isomer,  $t_{\text{R}} = 33.9$  min for minor isomer).

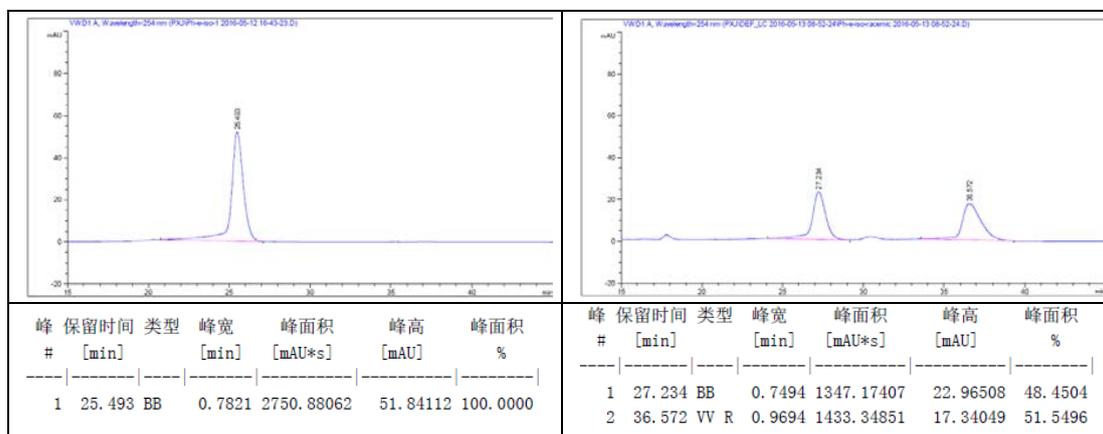


**(3*R*,5'*R*)-Phenyl 4',4'-dimethyl-2-oxo-4',5'-dihydrospiro[indoline-3,3'-pyrrole]-5'-carboxylate (**5d**):**

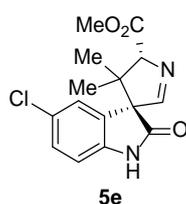


The general procedure outlined above was followed. White solid, mp: 251-253 °C, 99% yield (dr: >20:1). **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 10.77 (s, 1H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.32-7.25 (m, 3H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2 H), 7.01 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 5.15 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 1.24 (s, 3H), 1.07 (s, 3H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 174.8, 169.3, 168.8, 150.5, 143.7, 130.1, 129.8, 127.5, 125.6, 125.0, 122.2, 121.9, 110.4, 79.9, 73.2, 58.5, 51.9, 22.6, 21.1, 8.33; **HRMS** (ESI): *m/z* calcd. for [C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na, M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 357.12096; found: 357.12012.

**Optical Rotation:** [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>27</sup> = -67.3 (c = 0.3, Acetone). The absolute configuration of **5d** was assigned by analogy to **5e**. > 99% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralpak AD-H column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90:10, flow rate = 1 mL/min, wavelength = 254 nm, *t<sub>R</sub>* = 27.2 min for major isomer, *t<sub>R</sub>* = 36.6 min for minor isomer).

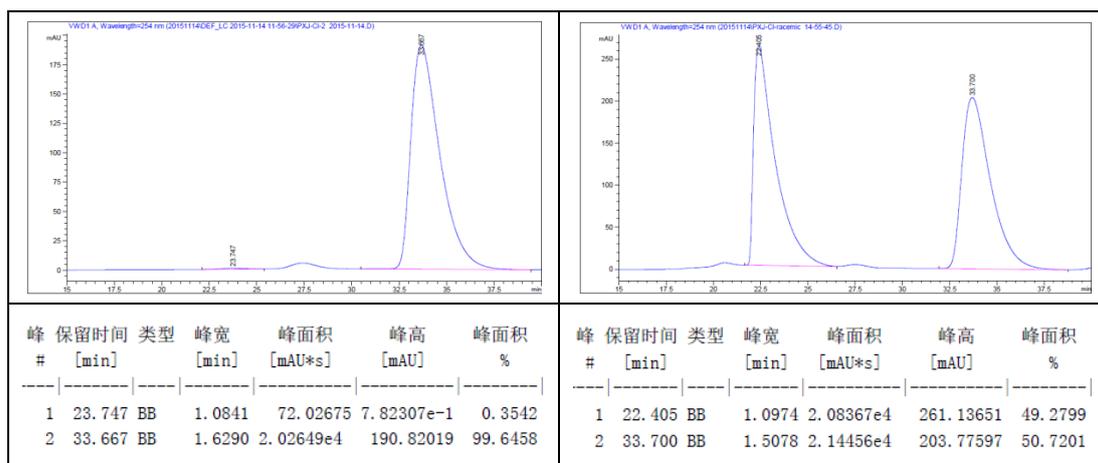


**(3R,5'R)-Methyl 5-chloro-4',4'-dimethyl-2-oxo-4',5'-dihydrospiro[indoline-3,3'-pyrrole]-5'-carboxylate (5e):**

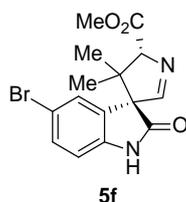


The general procedure outlined above was followed. White solid, mp: 197-199 °C, 99% yield (dr: >20:1). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Acetone-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 9.76 (s, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 10.7 Hz, 2H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 4.97 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 1.24 (s, 3H), 0.98 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, Acetone-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 174.0, 170.4, 166.1, 142.2, 129.2, 127.1, 126.4, 111.0, 111.0, 80.3, 73.0, 51.7, 50.9, 21.7, 20.4; HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd. for [C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>15</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na, M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 329.0663; found: 329.0677.

**Optical Rotation:** [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>23</sup> = -43.9 (*c* = 0.3, Acetone). The absolute configuration of **5e** was assigned by conversion to **7** followed by x-ray analysis. 99% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralpak OD-H column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 93:7, flow rate = 1 mL/min, wavelength = 254 nm, *t*<sub>R</sub> = 23.7 min for minor isomer, *t*<sub>R</sub> = 33.7 min for major isomer).



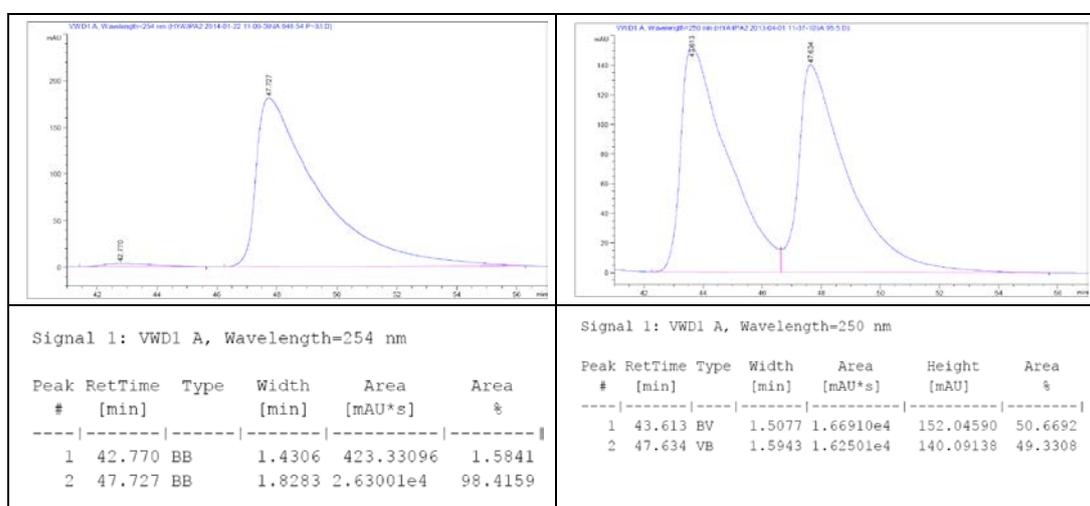
**(3*R*,5'*R*)-Methyl 5-bromo-4',4'-dimethyl-2-oxo-4',5'-dihydrospiro[indoline-3,3'-pyrrole]-5'-carboxylate (**5f**):**



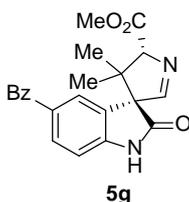
The general procedure outlined above was followed. White solid, mp: 76-77 °C, 99% yield (dr: >20:1). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Acetone-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 9.73 (s, 1H), 7.50-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 4.97 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s,

3H), 1.24 (s, 3H), 0.98 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz, Acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  174.8, 171.2, 167.0, 143.5, 133.0, 130.7, 128.4, 114.5, 112.5, 81.1, 73.9, 52.6, 51.8, 22.6, 21.3; HRMS (ESI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $[\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}_3\text{Na}, \text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ : 349.0193; found: 340.0186.

**Optical Rotation:**  $[\alpha]_D^{22} = -59.8$  ( $c = 0.2$ , Acetone). The absolute configuration of **5f** was assigned by analogy to **5e**. 97% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralpak IA-H column,  $n$ -hexane/ $i$ -PrOH = 95:5, flow rate = 1 mL/min, wavelength = 254 nm,  $t_R = 42.8$  min for minor isomer,  $t_R = 47.7$  min for major isomer).



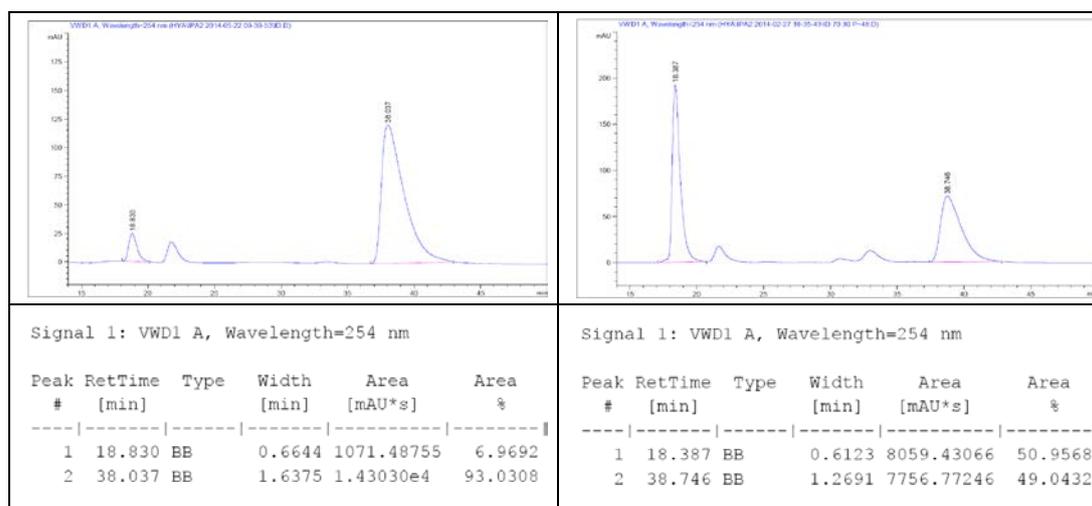
**(3*R*,5'*R*)-Methyl 5-benzoyl-4',4'-dimethyl-2-oxo-4',5'-dihydrospiro[indoline-3,3'-pyrrole]-5'-carboxylate (5g):**



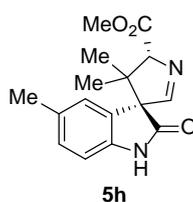
The general procedure outlined above was followed. White solid, mp: 48-50 °C, 99% yield, (dr: >20:1).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  11.14 (s, 1H), 7.77 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.65 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.60-7.59 (m, 2H), 7.54 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.06 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 4.87 (d,  $J = 3.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 1.18 (s, 3H), 0.89 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  194.4, 174.7, 170.3, 167.1, 147.7, 137.6, 132.7, 132.1, 130.3, 129.2, 128.4, 128.3, 124.8, 109.7, 79.8, 72.3, 51.6,

51.3, 22.0, 20.6; **HRMS** (ESI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $[C_{22}H_{19}N_2O_4, M-H]^-$ : 375.1350; found: 375.1347.

**Optical Rotation:**  $[\alpha]_D^{22} = -68.8$  ( $c = 0.2$ , Acetone). The absolute configuration of **5g** was assigned by analogy to **5e**. 86% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralpak ID-H column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 70:30, flow rate = 1 mL/min, wavelength = 254 nm,  $t_R = 18.8$  min for minor isomer,  $t_R = 38.0$  min for major isomer).

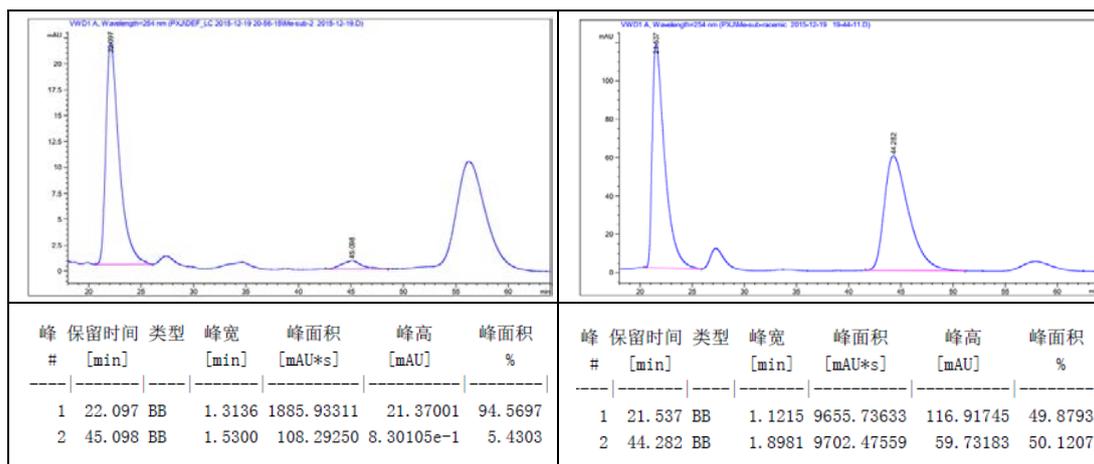


**(3*R*,5'*R*)-Methyl 4',4',5-trimethyl-2-oxo-4',5'-dihydrospiro[indoline-3,3'-pyrrole]-5'-carboxylate (5h):**

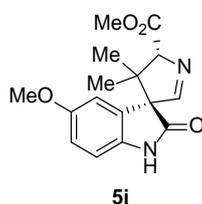


The general procedure outlined above was followed. White solid, mp: 221-223 °C, 95% yield (dr: 87:13). **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, Acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  9.51 (s, 1H), 7.44 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.13 (d,  $J = 9.8$  Hz, 2H), 6.88 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 4.97 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 1.22 (s, 3H), 0.96 (s, 3H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  174.8, 171.0, 168.3, 141.1, 130.8, 130.0, 128.0, 125.1, 110.0, 80.0, 73.1, 52.0, 51.4, 22.5, 21.1, 20.9; **HRMS** (ESI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $[C_{16}H_{17}N_2O_4Na, M+Na]^+$ : 309.12096; found: 309.12098.

**Optical Rotation:**  $[\alpha]_D^{30} = -8.1$  ( $c = 0.2$ , Acetone). The absolute configuration of **5h** was assigned by analogy to **5e**. 89% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralpak OJ-H column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95:5, flow rate = 1 mL/min, wavelength = 254 nm,  $t_R = 22.1$  min for major isomer,  $t_R = 45.1$  min for minor isomer).



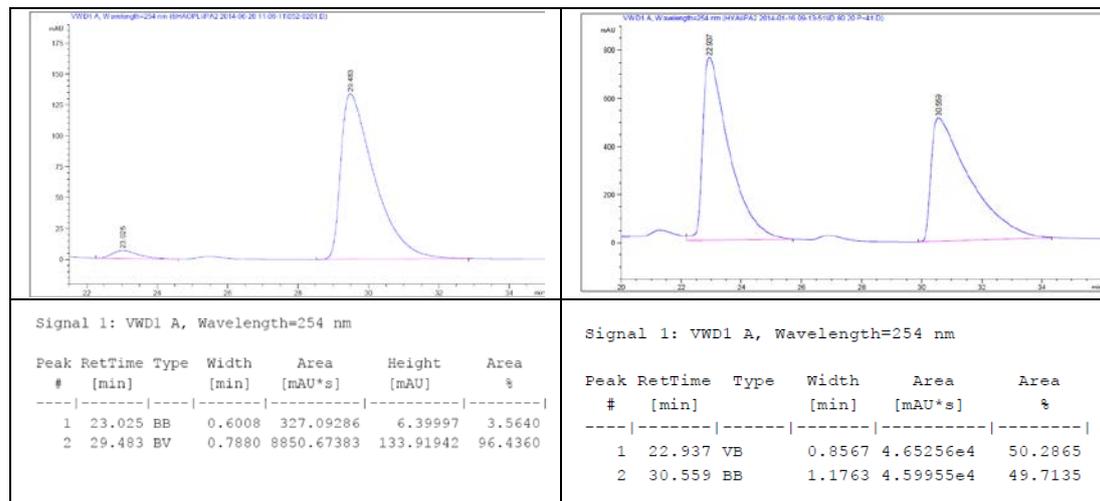
**(3*R*,5'*R*)-Methyl 5-methoxy-4',4'-dimethyl-2-oxo-4',5'-dihydrospiro[indoline-3,3'-pyrrole]-5'-carboxylate (**5i**):**



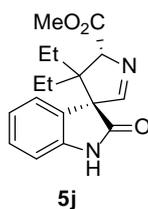
The general procedure outlined above was followed (10% Ag<sub>2</sub>O, 20% Pre-cat). White solid, mp: 203-204 °C, 99% yield (dr: 88:12). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Acetone-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 9.42 (s, 1H), 7.44 (d,  $J = 2.5$  Hz, 1H), 6.92-6.87 (m, 3H), 4.98 (d,  $J = 3.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 1.23 (s, 3H), 0.98 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, Acetone-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 175.1, 171.4, 167.7, 156.2, 137.3, 127.2, 115.0, 114.9, 111.0, 81.1, 74.2, 56.1, 52.3, 51.7, 22.6, 21.3; HRMS (ESI):  $m/z$  calcd. for [C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, M-H]<sup>-</sup>: 301.1194; found: 301.1186.

**Optical Rotation:**  $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -49.3$  ( $c = 0.2$ , Acetone). The absolute configuration of **5i** was assigned by analogy to **5e**. 93% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralpak ID-H column,

*n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 80:20, flow rate = 1 mL/min, wavelength = 254 nm,  $t_R$  = 23.0 min for minor isomer,  $t_R$  = 29.5 min for major isomer).

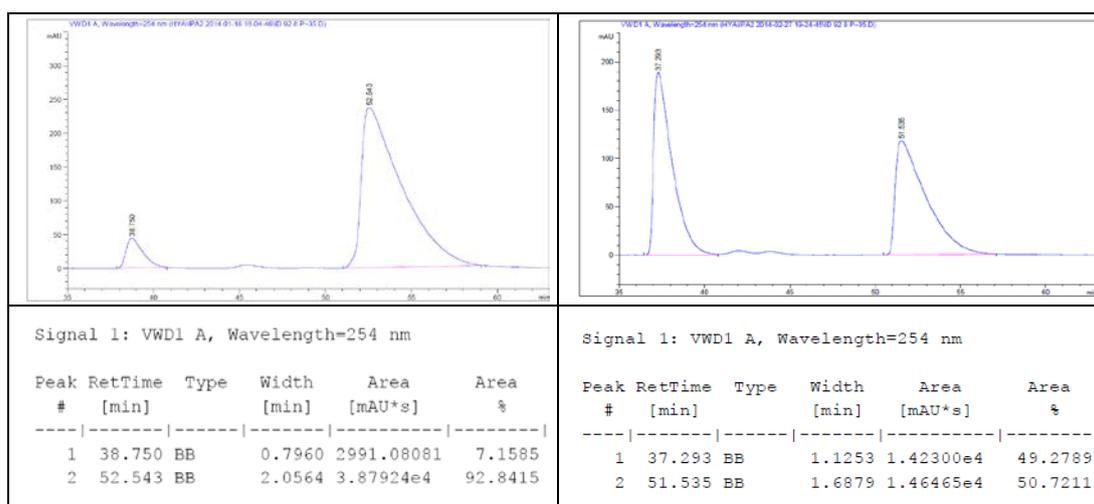


**(3*R*,5'*R*)-Methyl 4',4'-diethyl-2-oxo-4',5'-dihydrospiro[indoline-3,3'-pyrrole]-5'-carboxylate (5j):**

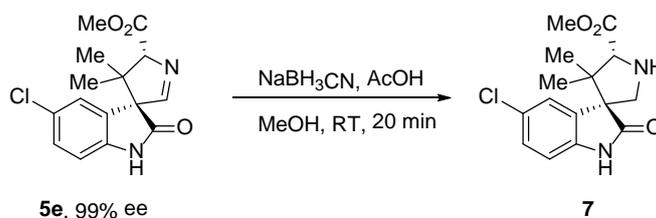


The general procedure outlined above was followed. White solid, mp: 200-202 °C, 99% yield (dr: 88:12). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Acetone-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 9.68 (s, 1H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.02 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.88 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 2.03-1.97 (m, 1H), 1.95-1.89 (m, 1H), 1.72-1.65 (m, 1H), 1.58-1.48 (m, 1H), 0.77 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 0.51 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, Acetone-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 175.4, 172.3, 167.3, 143.4, 129.9, 128.1, 127.6, 122.4, 110.5, 82.0, 73.3, 57.7, 52.0, 27.2, 23.5, 9.2, 8.9; HRMS (ESD): *m/z* calcd. for [C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, M-H]<sup>-</sup>: 299.1401; found: 299.1399.

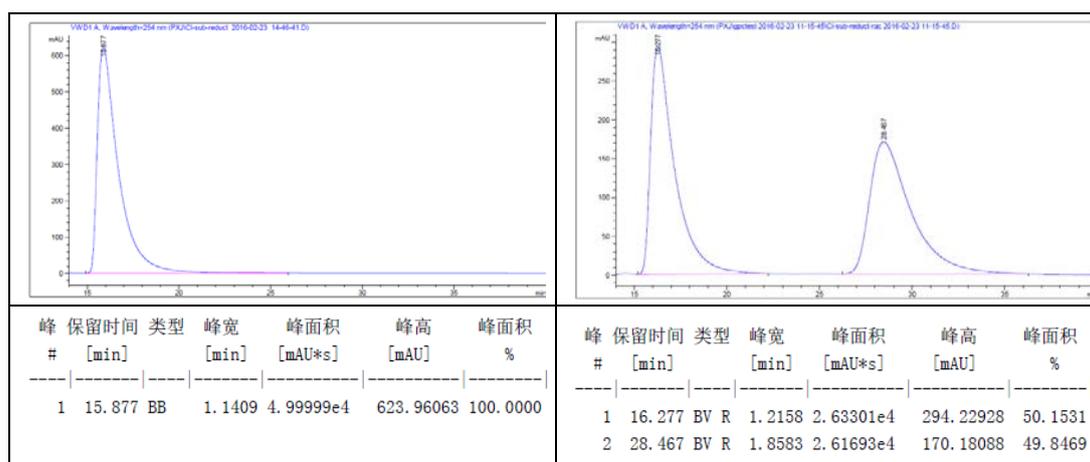
**Optical Rotation:**  $[\alpha]_D^{22} = -13.7$  (*c* = 0.4, Acetone). The absolute configuration of **5j** was assigned by analogy to **5e**. 86% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralpak ID-H column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 92:8, flow rate = 1 mL/min, wavelength = 254 nm,  $t_R$  = 38.8 min for minor isomer,  $t_R$  = 52.5 min for major isomer).



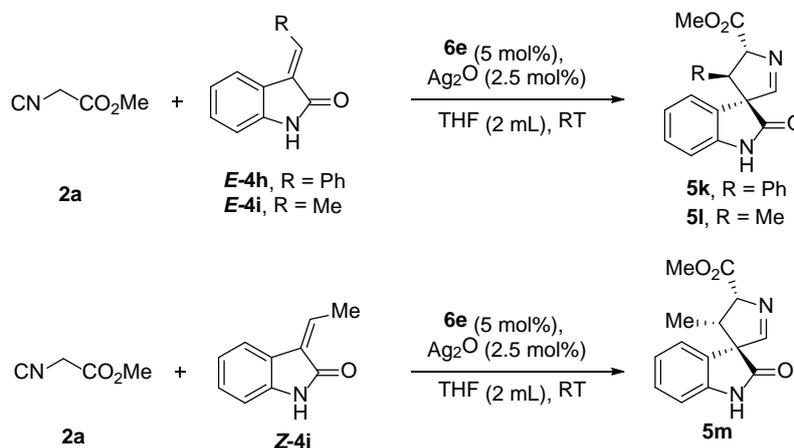
## VI. Transformation of cycloadduct



To **5e** (99% ee, 30.7 mg, 0.1 mmol) in MeOH, was added NaBH<sub>3</sub>CN (12.6 mg, 0.2 mmol) and then AcOH (11.4 μl, 0.2 mmol) at the ambient temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred for 20 min, and then concentrated, purified by flash chromatography over pre-treated silica gel (treated with 5% v/v NEt<sub>3</sub> in hexanes/AcOEt eluent) to give product **7** as a white solid, mp: 213-214 °C, 99% yield (dr: >20:1). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 9.49 (s, 1H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (dd, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 4.37 (s, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.50 (d, *J* = 11.4 Hz, 1H), 3.21 (d, *J* = 11.4 Hz, 1H), 1.01 (s, 3H), 0.99 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 181.2, 173.0, 142.1, 130.5, 128.5, 126.5, 125.4, 126.2, 111.0, 68.5, 62.4, 52.1, 48.5, 21.4, 20.9; HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd. for [C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>18</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 309.10005; found: 309.09945. **Optical Rotation**: [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>29</sup> = -101.6 (c = 0.3, Acetone). > 99% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralpak OD-H column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95:5, flow rate = 1 mL/min, wavelength = 254 nm, t<sub>R</sub> = 15.9 min for major isomer, t<sub>R</sub> = 28.5 min for minor isomer).



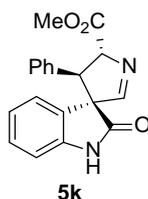
## VII. [3+2] Cycloaddition of monosubstituted-4 and methyl isocyanoacetate 2a



**General procedure.** To a 10 mL vial charged with chiral ligand **6e** (12.2 mg, 0.02 mmol) and Ag<sub>2</sub>O (2.3 mg, 0.01 mmol) was added THF (2 mL). The mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 0.5 h. Methyleneindolinones **4** (0.4 mmol) was added in one portion, followed by isocyanoacetate **2a** (0.4 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature until the starting material was consumed, and then concentrated, purified by flash chromatography (hexanes/ethyl acetate) over pre-treated silica gel (treated with 5% v/v NEt<sub>3</sub> in hexanes/AcOEt eluent) to give chiral product **5**.

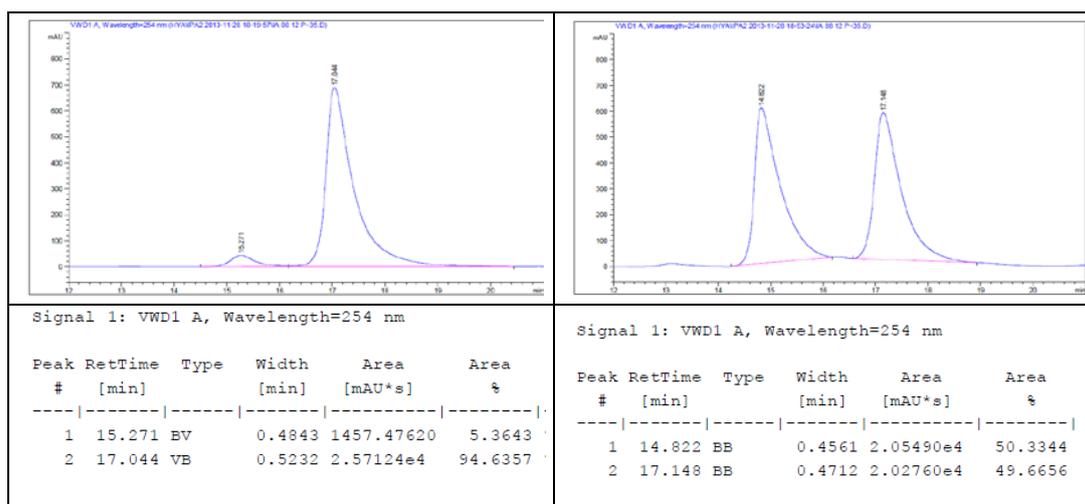
**(3R,4'S,5'R)-Methyl 2-oxo-4'-phenyl-4',5'-dihydrospiro[indoline-3,3'-pyrrole]-5'-**

**carboxylate (5k):**



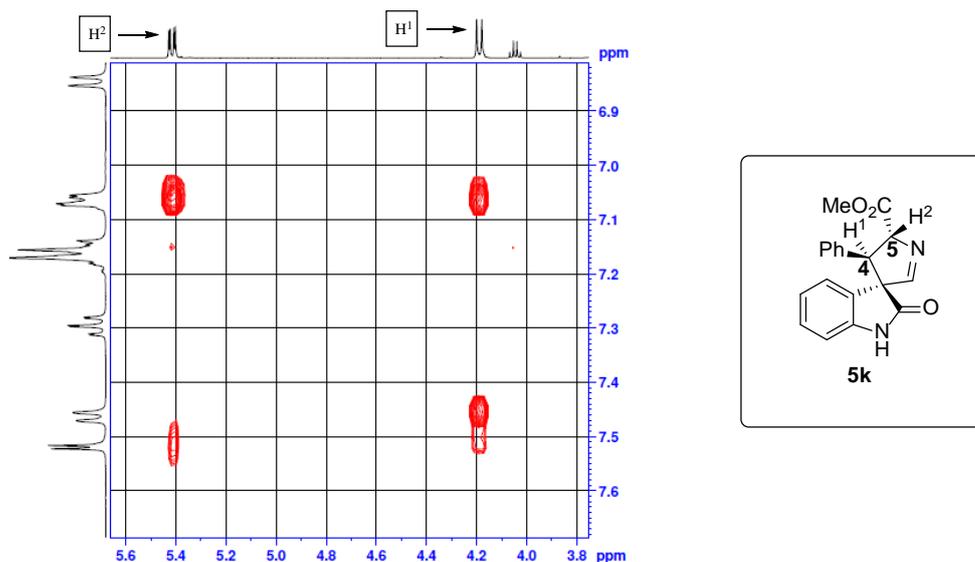
The general procedure outlined above was followed. White solid, mp: 129-130 °C, 99% yield (dr: 69:14:17). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Acetone-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 9.30 (s, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.32-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.19-7.15 (m, 4H), 7.08-7.06 (m, 2H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.42 (dd, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 4.20 (d, *J* = 10.1 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, Acetone-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 173.7, 172.2, 167.0, 143.7, 135.2, 130.2, 129.1, 129.0, 128.4, 124.6, 123.4, 110.6, 77.2, 72.2, 58.6, 52.6; HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd. for [C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na, M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 343.1053; found: 343.1068.

**Optical Rotation:** [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>24</sup> = -4.8 (*c* = 0.3, Acetone). The absolute configuration of **5k** was assigned by analogy to **5e**. 89% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralpak IA-H column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 88:12, flow rate = 1 mL/min, wavelength = 254 nm, *t*<sub>R</sub> = 17.0 min for major isomer, *t*<sub>R</sub> = 15.3 min for minor isomer).

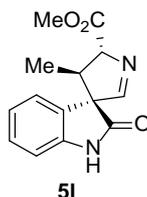


The relative configuration of **5k** (*trans*) was determined by the NOE correlation between the CH at **C-4** and the CH on the spirooxindole phenyl ring. The coupling

constant between CH of **C-4** and CH of **C-5** is  $J = 10.4$ .

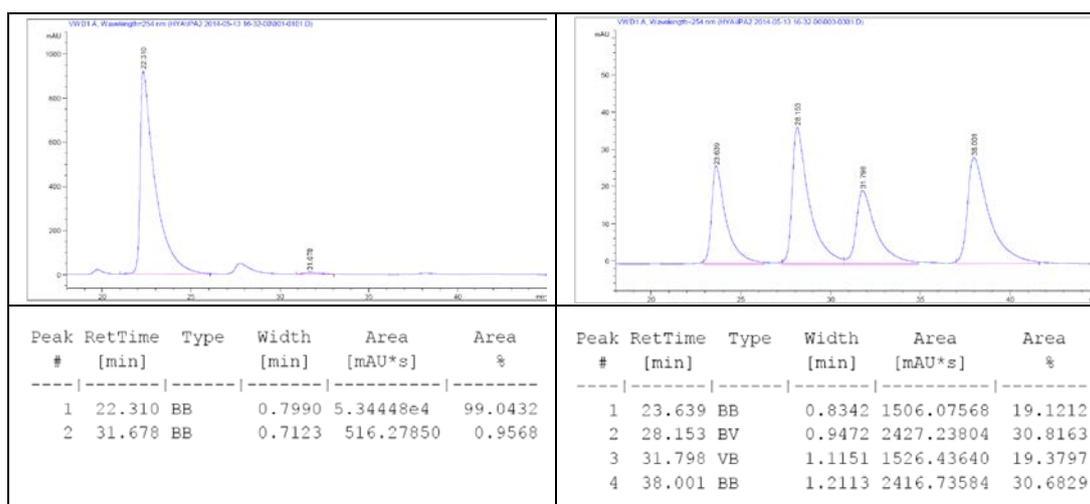


**(3*R*,4'*S*,5'*R*)-Methyl 4'-methyl-2-oxo-4',5'-dihydrospiro[indoline-3,3'-pyrrole]-5'-carboxylate (**5l**):**

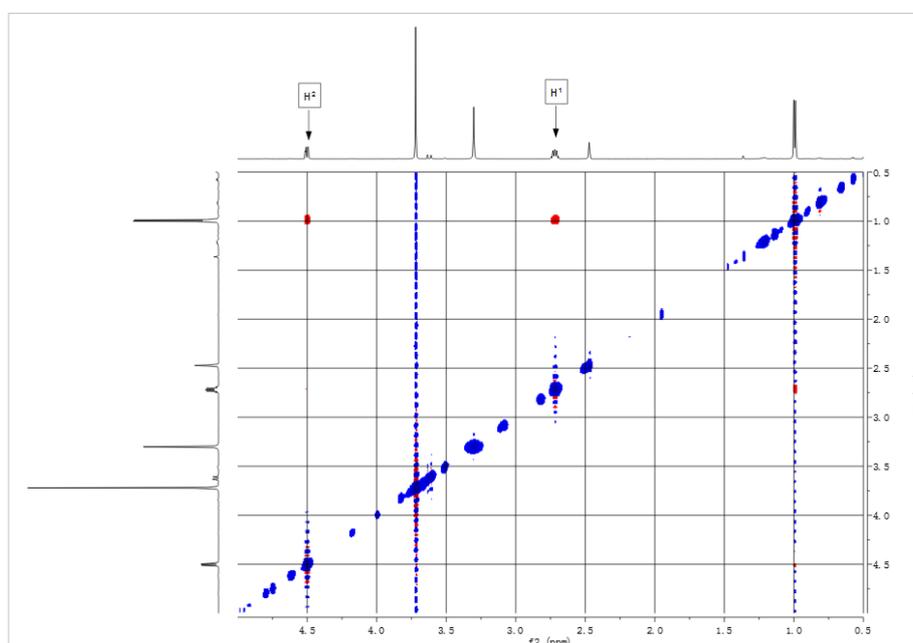
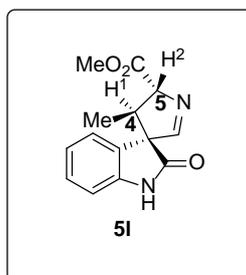


The general procedure outlined above was followed. White solid, mp: 149-150 °C, 99% yield (dr: 73:19:8). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 10.66 (s, 1H), 7.47 (d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.27-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.13 (d,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.00 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 6.87 (d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 4.50 (dd,  $J = 9.7$  Hz, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.73-2.71 (m, 1H), 0.99 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 174.0, 172.0, 167.7, 143.3, 139.6, 128.7, 124.0, 122.7, 110.2, 79.1, 69.9, 52.5, 47.4, 11.5; HRMS (ESI):  $m/z$  calcd. for [C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na, M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 281.08966; found: 281.08927.

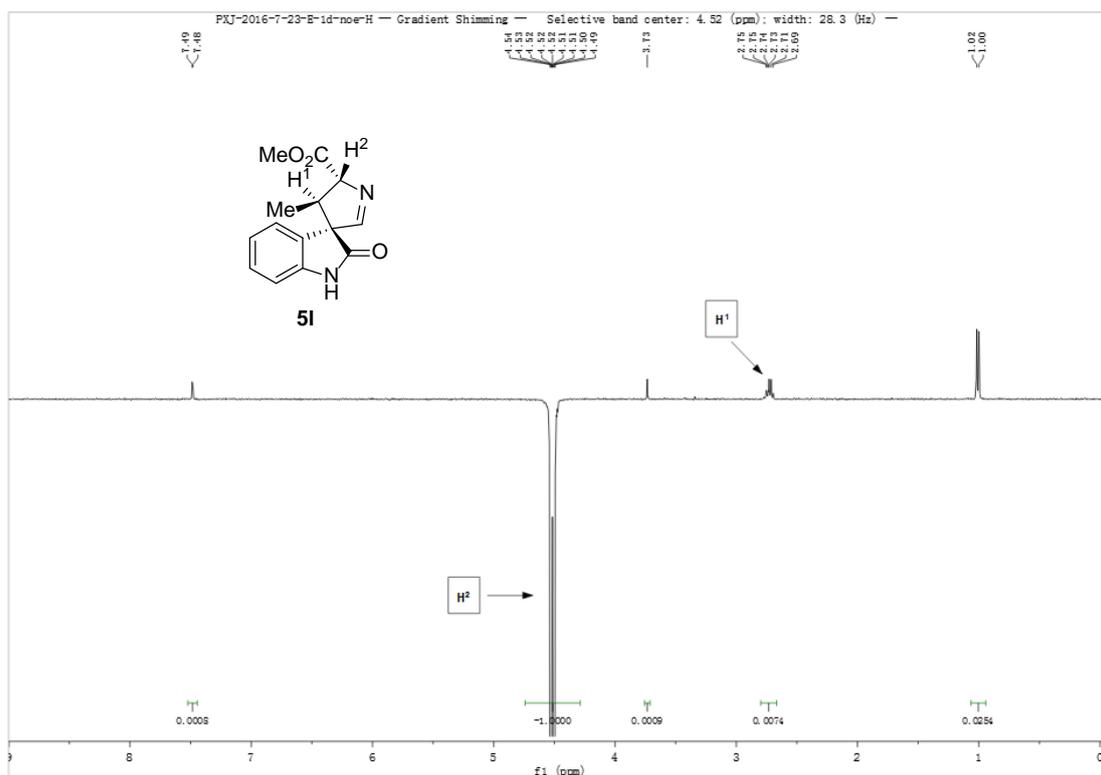
**Optical Rotation:**  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} = -95.6$  ( $c = 0.3$ , Isopropanol). The absolute configuration of **5l** was assigned by analogy to **5e**. 98% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralpak IA-H column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 93:7, flow rate = 1 mL/min, wavelength = 254 nm,  $t_{\text{R}} = 22.3$  min for major isomer,  $t_{\text{R}} = 31.7$  min for minor isomer).



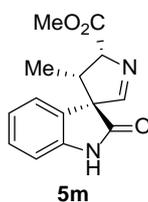
The relative configuration of **51** (*trans*) was determined by the 2D-NOE correlation between the CH at **C-4** and the CH at **C-5**.



The *trans*-configuration of **51** was also assigned by its 1D-NOE analysis. As the value of integration at  $\delta$  4.52 ( $H^2$ ) is 1, the value of integration at  $\delta$  2.75-2.69 ( $H^1$ ) is 0.0074 and the value of integration at  $\delta$  1.01 (Me) is 0.0254.



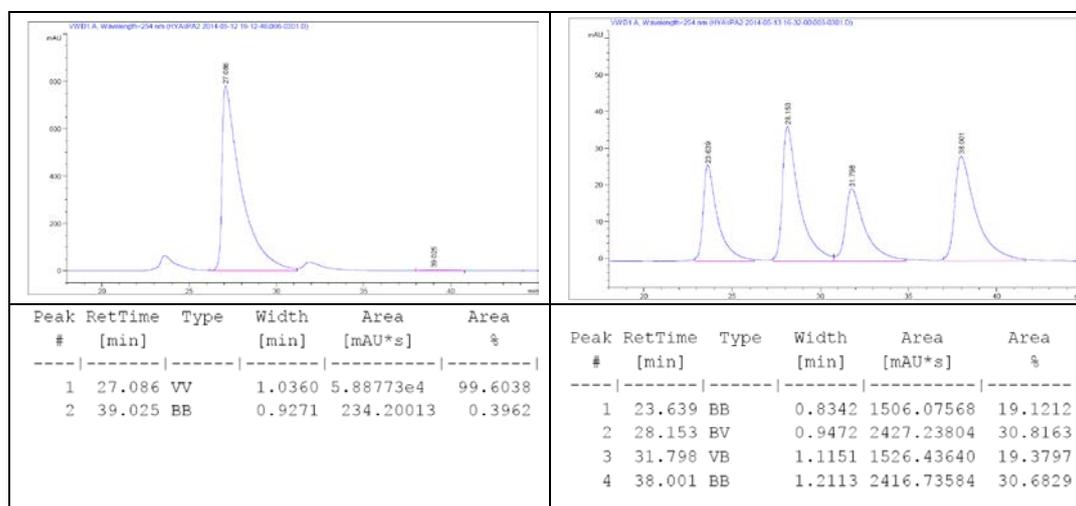
**(3*R*,4'*S*,5'*R*)-Methyl 4'-methyl-2-oxo-4',5'-dihydrospiro[indoline-3,3'-pyrrole]-5'-carboxylate (5m):**



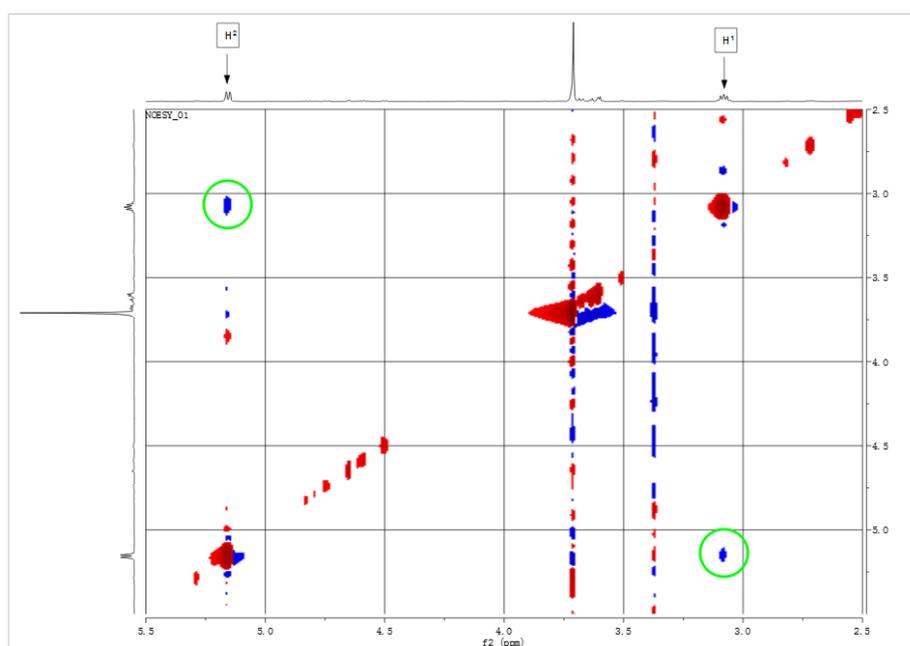
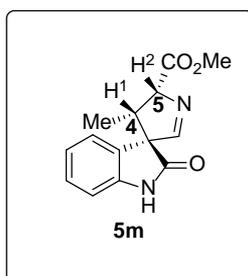
The general procedure outlined above was followed. White solid, 99% yield (dr: 6:5:89).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  10.73 (s, 1H), 7.41 (d,  $J = 2.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.19 (d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 6.97 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 5.16 (dd,  $J = 9.2$  Hz, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.13-3.01 (m, 1H), 0.66 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  177.1, 171.8, 167.2, 142.9, 129.6, 126.8, 125.5, 122.1, 110.4, 78.1, 70.0, 52.2, 42.1, 11.8; **HRMS** (ESI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $[\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{Na}, \text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ : 281.08966; found: 281.08991.

**Optical Rotation:**  $[\alpha]_D^{26} = -33.8$  ( $c = 0.4$ , Acetone). The absolute configuration of **5m** was assigned by analogy to **5e**. 99% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralpak IA-H column,

*n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 93:7, flow rate = 1 mL/min, wavelength = 254 nm,  $t_R$  = 27.1 min for major isomer,  $t_R$  = 39.0 min for minor isomer).

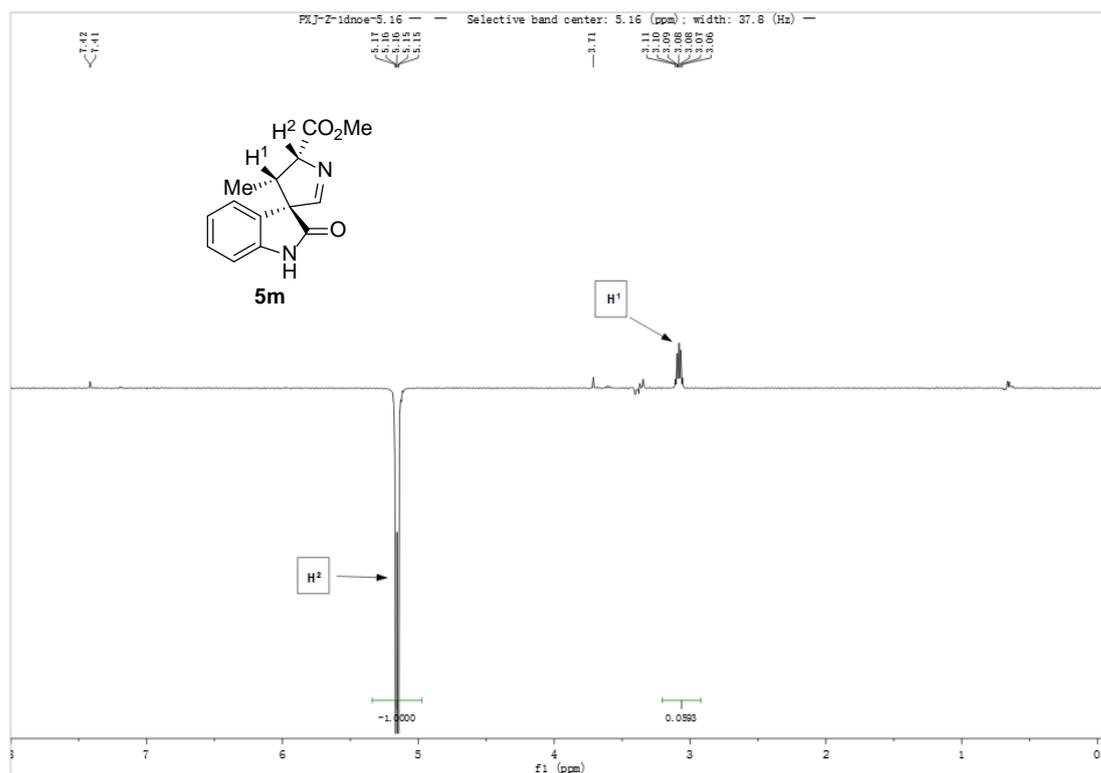


The relative configuration of **5m** (*cis*) was determined by the 2D-NOE correlation between the CH at C-4 and the CH at C-5.

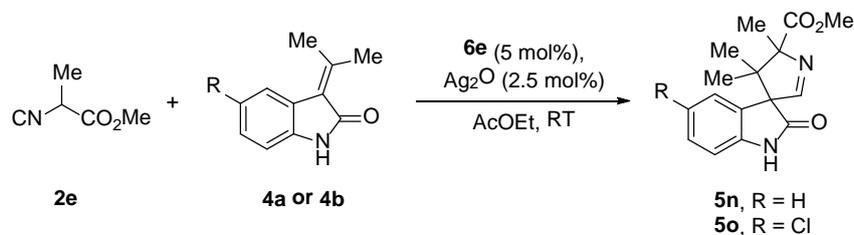


The *cis*-configuration of **5m** was also assigned by its 1D-NOE analysis. As the value

of integration at  $\delta$  5.16 ( $H^2$ ) is 1, the value of integration at  $\delta$  2.75-2.69 ( $H^1$ ) is 0.0593.

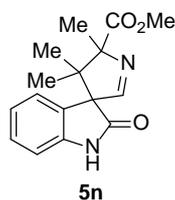


### VIII. [3+2] Cycloaddition of methyleneindolinones and $\alpha$ -methyl isocyanoacetates



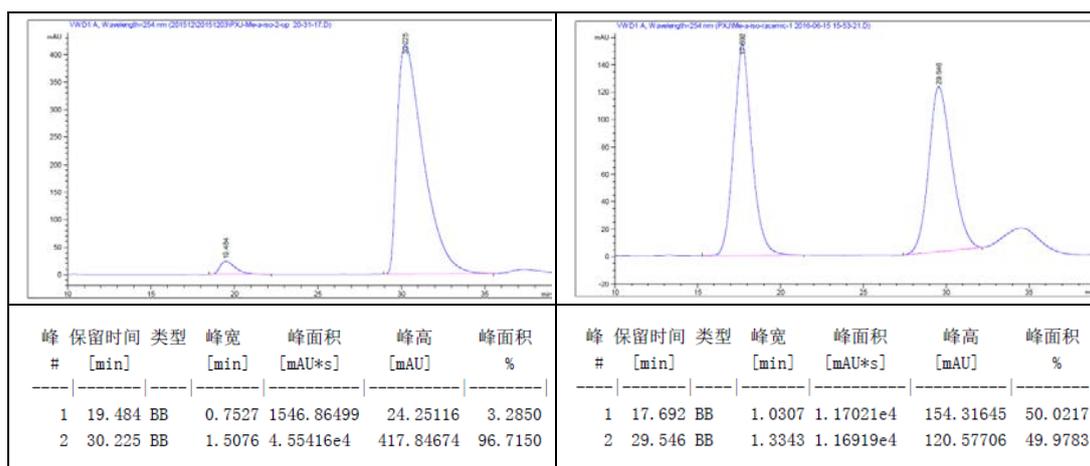
**General procedure A.** To a 10 mL vial charged with chiral ligand **6e** (12.2 mg, 0.02 mmol) and  $\text{Ag}_2\text{O}$  (2.3 mg, 0.01 mmol) was added  $\text{AcOEt}$  (0.25 mL). The mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 0.5 h. Methyleneindolinones **4a** or **4b** (0.4 mmol) was added in one portion. Isocyanoacetate **2e** (0.4 mmol) in  $\text{AcOEt}$  (0.4 mL) was added via syringe pump over 5 h. The reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature until the starting material was consumed, and then concentrated, purified by flash chromatography (hexanes/ethyl acetate) over pre-treated silica gel (treated with 5% v/v  $\text{NEt}_3$  in hexanes/ $\text{AcOEt}$  eluent) to give chiral product **5n** or **5o**.

**Methyl 4',4',5'-trimethyl-2-oxo-4',5'-dihydrospiro[indoline-3,3'-pyrrole]-5'-carboxylate (5n):**

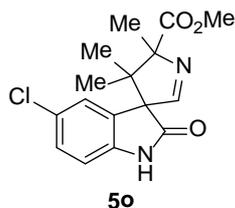


The general procedure A outlined above was followed. White solid, mp: 210-211 °C, 94% yield (dr: 5:1). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 9.60 (s, 1H), 7.29 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.14 (m, 1H), 7.07-6.98 (m, 1H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 1.74 (s, 3H), 1.20 (s, 3H), 0.95 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 175.3, 173.8, 163.7, 143.4, 129.6, 127.8, 126.0, 121.7, 110.2, 85.5, 74.2, 52.0, 48.8, 25.5, 23.8, 20.2; HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd. for [C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na, M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 309.12096; found: 309.12064.

**Optical Rotation:** [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>29</sup> = -120.5 (*c* = 0.4, Acetone). 93% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralpak OD-H column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95:5, flow rate = 1 mL/min, wavelength = 254 nm, *t<sub>R</sub>* = 19.5 min for minor isomer, *t<sub>R</sub>* = 30.2 min for major isomer).

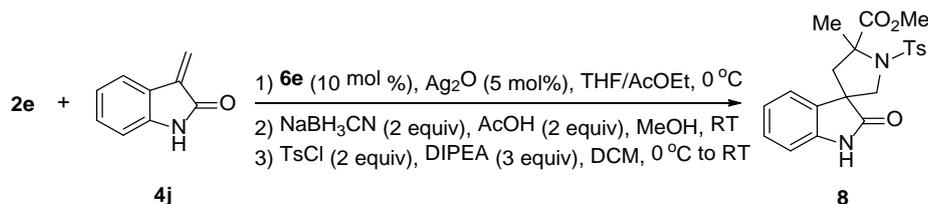
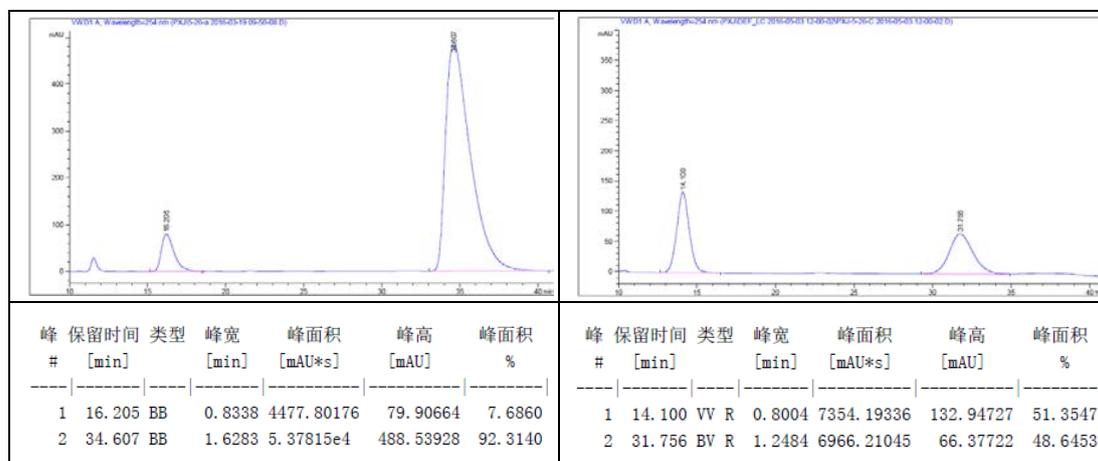


**Methyl 5-chloro-4',4',5'-trimethyl-2-oxo-4',5'-dihydrospiro[indoline-3,3'-pyrrole]-5'-carboxylate (5o):**



The general procedure A outlined above was followed. White solid, mp: 224-226 °C, 95% yield (dr: 13:1). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 9.70 (s, 1H), 7.32 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (s, 1H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 1.73 (s, 3H), 1.21 (s, 3H), 0.97 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Acetone-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 174.6, 173.3, 161.7, 141.9, 129.0, 128.0, 127.4, 126.2, 110.9, 85.7, 74.2, 50.9, 49.0, 25.8, 23.0, 19.7; HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd. for [C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>17</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na, M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 343.08199; found: 343.08196.

**Optical Rotation:** [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>28</sup> = -40.0 (*c* = 0.4, Acetone). 85% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralpak OD-H column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95:5, flow rate = 1 mL/min, wavelength = 254 nm, *t<sub>R</sub>* = 16.2 min for minor isomer, *t<sub>R</sub>* = 34.6 min for major isomer).



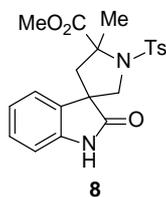
**General procedure B.** To a 10 mL vial charged with chiral ligand **6e** (12.2 mg, 0.02

mmol) and Ag<sub>2</sub>O (2.3 mg, 0.01 mmol) was added AcOEt (1 mL). The mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 0.5 h, and then cooled to 0 °C.  $\alpha$ -Methyl isocyanoacetate **2e** (22.6 mg, 0.2 mmol) was added in one portion. Methyleneoxindole **4j** (43.5 mg, 0.3 mmol) in THF (0.5 mL) was added via syringe pump over 1 h. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C until the starting material was consumed, and then concentrated to get the crude product.

The crude product was dissolved in MeOH at ambient temperature. Then NaBH<sub>3</sub>CN (2 equiv) and AcOH (2 equiv) were added successively. The mixture was stirred at ambient temperature until the starting material was consumed. The mixture was concentrated in vacuo. Purification by column chromatography on silica gel gave the reduction product.

To a solution of the reduction product in DCM, was added DIPEA (3 equiv) under nitrogen. At 0 °C, TsCl (2 equiv) was added and then stirred at ambient temperature. After stirring at ambient temperature at 24 h, the reaction mixture was diluted with DCM, then washed with H<sub>2</sub>O, NaHCO<sub>3</sub> saturated solution and brine. The organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel to afford respective compound **8**.<sup>5</sup>

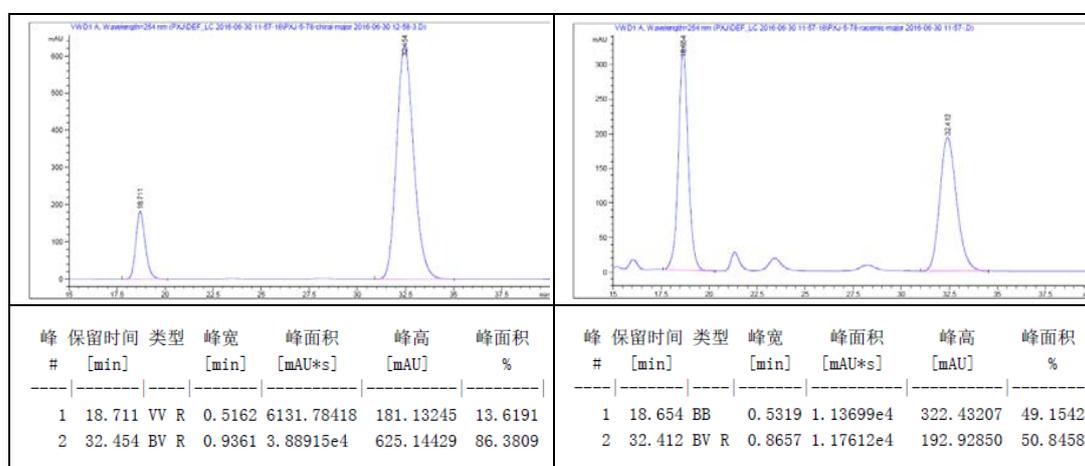
**Methyl 5'-methyl-2-oxo-1'-tosylspiro[indoline-3,3'-pyrrolidine]-5'-carboxylate (8):**



The general procedure B outlined above was followed. White solid, mp: 138-139 °C, 48% yield (dr: 2:1). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.54 (s, 1H), 7.86 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H),  $\delta$  7.34-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.19 (dd,  $J$  = 11.2 Hz, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.76 (d,  $J$  = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 3.66 (d,  $J$  = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 2.60 (d,  $J$  = 13.8 Hz, 1H), 2.49 (d,  $J$  = 13.8 Hz, 1H),

2.40 (s, 3H), 1.84 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  179.9, 174.0, 143.7, 140.0, 137.0, 132.6, 129.4, 128.6, 127.7, 123.9, 123.3, 109.9, 68.5, 57.2, 52.9, 51.6, 50.4, 23.2, 21.5; HRMS (ESI):  $m/z$  calcd. for  $[\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5\text{SNa}, \text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ : 437.11416; found: 437.11339.

**Optical Rotation:**  $[\alpha]_D^{27} = -40.0$  ( $c = 0.2$ , Isopropanol). 73% ee (HPLC condition: Chiralpak AD-H column,  $n$ -hexane/ $i$ -PrOH = 80:20, flow rate = 1 mL/min, wavelength = 254 nm,  $t_R = 18$ . min for minor isomer,  $t_R = 32.4$  min for major isomer).



## IX. X-ray crystallographic analysis and determination of configurations of the products

The absolute configuration of **7** (**3R**, **5'R**) was assigned by X-ray crystallographic analysis of a single crystal of **7** (Figure S1). The crystal was prepared from the solution of **7** in acetone/hexane at ambient temperature. The absolute configuration of **5e** (**3R**, **5'R**) was deduced. The configurations of **3**, **5a-d**, **5f-m** were assigned by analogy.

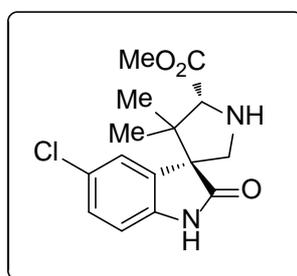
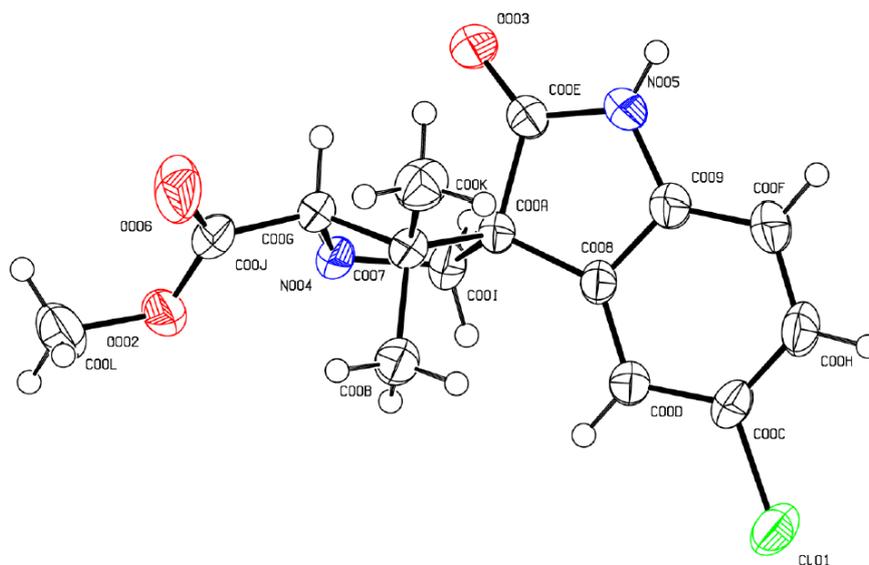


Figure S1. X-ray structure of **7**

**Table 1.** Crystal data and structure refinement for 1496241

Identification code	1496241
Empirical formula	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>17</sub> ClN <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>
Formula weight	308.75
Temperature/K	293(2)
Crystal system	Orthorhombic
Space group	P 21 21 21
a/Å	7.2915(5)
b/Å	12.7983(10)
c/Å	15.9552(9)
α/°	90
β/°	90

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$\gamma/^\circ$	90
Volume/ $\text{\AA}^3$	1488.92(17)
Z	4
$\rho_{\text{calc}}/\text{g/cm}^3$	1.377
$\mu/\text{mm}^{-1}$	0.268
F(000)	648.0
Crystal size/ $\text{mm}^3$	$0.3 \times 0.2 \times 0.2$
Radiation	MoK $\alpha$ ( $\lambda = 0.71073$ )
2 $\Theta$ range for data collection/ $^\circ$	6.86 to 61.174
Index ranges	$-10 \leq h \leq 9, -12 \leq k \leq 18, -13 \leq l \leq 21$
Reflections collected	6234
Independent reflections	3524 ( $R_{\text{int}}=0.0279, R_{\text{sigma}}=0.0544$ )
Data / restraints / parameters	3524 / 0 / 196
Goodness-of-fit on $F^2$	1.052
Final R indexes [ $I \geq 2\sigma(I)$ ]	$R_1 = 0.0481, wR_2 = 0.0950$
Final R indexes (all data)	$R_1 = 0.0710, wR_2 = 0.1103$
Largest diff. peak / hole / $e \text{\AA}^{-3}$	0.23 / -0.24
Flack parameter	-0.08 (6)

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## X. References

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