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# **Supporting Information**

# Radicals-Carbenes Coupling Reactions: Mn-Catalyzed Syn-thesis of Indoles from Tertiary Amines and Diazo Compounds

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## **General Information**

All were carried out under air atmosphere. Column manipulations chromatography was generally performed on basic aluminum oxide (200-300 mesh) and reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) using UV light to visualize the course of the reactions. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100MHz) data were recorded with CDCl<sub>3</sub> as solvent at room temperature unless specified otherwise. The chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are reported in ppm and coupling constants (J) in Hz.  $^{1}H$ NMR spectra was recorded with tetramethylsilane ( $\delta$ = 0.00 ppm) as internal reference; <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra was recorded with CDCl<sub>3</sub> ( $\delta$  = 77.00 ppm) or DMSO ( $\delta$  = 40.00 ppm) as internal reference. IR, MS and HRMS were performed by the State-authorized Analytical Center in Soochow University.

## General procedures for reactions

Mn(OAc)<sub>2</sub>•4H<sub>2</sub>O (0.025 mmol), 4,4'-Azobis(4-cyanovaleric acid) (ACVA) (0.63 mmol) were added to a 20 mL test tube with a stirring bar. DMF/EtOH=3:1 (2.0 mL), N,N-Diethylaniline (**1a**) (0.25 mmol, 1.0 eq), diazoacetic ester (0.75 mmol) were added via syringe. The reaction mixture was heated in an oil bath at 65 °C for 24 h under air. The reaction mixture was then poured in brine solution (15 mL) and extracted with diethyl ether (3x20 mL), then dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by basic aluminum oxide column chromatography using petroleum ether/ ethylacetate to give the desired products.

## **Optimization of the Reaction Conditions**

**Table S1**. Optimization of the Reaction Conditions.<sup>a</sup>



<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.25 mmol), **2a** (0.75 mmol), catalyst (10 mol%) and initiator (2.5 equiv.) in 2.0 mL of solvent was stirred at 65 °C for 24 h under air. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yields. <sup>c</sup> ACVA = cis-4,4'-azobis(4-cyanovaleric acid). <sup>d</sup> AIBN = 2,2'-dicyano-2,2'-azopropane. <sup>e</sup> AMBN = 2,2'-azodi-(2-methylbutyronitrile). <sup>f</sup> AMVN = 2,2'-azobis(2,4-dimethyl)valeronitrile. <sup>g</sup> MAIB= dimethyl 2,2'azobis(isobutyrate). <sup>h</sup> AAPH = 2,2'-azobis(2-methylpropionamidine) dihydrochloride. <sup>f</sup> argon atmosphere.

## **Mechanistic studies**

## (a) Radical scavengers



(b) Trapping of radical intermediates by BHT<sup>a</sup>.



<sup>a</sup> BHT was added after the standard system being stirred for 15 minutes, the reaction was stopped after another 30 minutes.

# Adduct Detected by HRMS



Exact Mass: 368.2948





Exact Mass: 234.1489





## (d) Kinetic isotope study

Mn(OAc)<sub>2</sub>•4H<sub>2</sub>O (0.025 mmol), 4,4'-Azobis(4-cyanovaleric acid) (ACVA) (0.63mmol) were added to a 20mL test tube with a stirring bar. DMF/EtOH=3:1 (2.0 mL), N,N-Diethylaniline (**1a**) (0.25mmol, 1.0eq), **1a**-*d*<sub>5</sub> or **1a**-*d*<sub>8</sub> (0.25mmol, 1.0eq) diazoacetic ester (0.75 mmol) were added via syringe. The reaction mixture was heated in an oil bath at 65 °C for 5 h under air. The reaction mixture was then poured in brine solution (15 mL) and extracted with diethyl ether (3x20 mL), then dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by basic aluminum oxide column chromatography using petroleum ether/ ethylacetate to give the desired product. The KIE value was estimated to be 1.1 or 3.3 by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis.

Scheme S1. Kinetic Isotope Effect Study.





#### (e) Competition experiment

Mn(OAc)<sub>2</sub>•4H<sub>2</sub>O (0.025 mmol), 4,4'-Azobis(4-cyanovaleric acid) (ACVA) (0.63mmol) were added to a 20mL test tube with a stirring bar. DMF/EtOH=3:1 (2.0 mL), **1b** (0.25mmol, 1.0eq), **1f** (0.25mmol, 1.0eq) diazoacetic ester (0.75 mmol) were added via syringe. The reaction mixture was heated in an oil bath at 65 °C for 10 h under air. The reaction mixture was then poured in brine solution (15 mL) and extracted with diethyl ether (3x20 mL), then dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by basic aluminum oxide column chromatography using petroleum ether/ ethylacetate to give the desired product. The KIE value was estimated to be 2.4 by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis.



## **Compound Characterizations**



#### ethyl 1-ethyl-2-methyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (3a)

petroleum ether/ ethylacetate = 20:1, yellow oil, 81% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.13 (m, 1H), 7.26 (m, 1H), 7.20 (m, 2H), 4.39 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.10 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.73 (s, 3H), 1.44 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 1.31 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.1, 144.3, 135.3, 126.7, 121.8, 121.4, 121.4, 59.2, 37.7, 14.6, 11.4. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>+H<sup>+</sup>: 232.1332, Found: 232.1340; IR (neat, cm-1): v 2984, 1673, 1538, 1412, 1210, 1158, 1105, 783, 752, 737.



ethyl 1-ethyl-2,5-dimethyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (3b)

petroleum ether/ ethylacetate = 20:1, yellow oil, 63% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.93 (s, 1H), 7.16 (m, 1H), 7.03 (m, 1H), 4.39 (q, J = 8.0Hz, 2H), 4.10 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.73 (s, 3H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 1.44 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 1.31 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.2, 144.2, 133.7, 130.8,127.0, 123.3, 121.3, 108.7, 103.5, 59.2, 37.8, 21.7, 14.7, 14.6, 11.6. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>+H<sup>+</sup>: 246.1489, Found: 246.1494; IR (neat, cm-1):  $\upsilon$  2978, 1685, 1537, 1416, 1256, 1152, 1106, 1054, 782, 703.



#### ethyl 5-(tert-butyl)-1-ethyl-2-methyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (3c)

petroleum ether/ ethylacetate = 20:1, yellow oil, 67% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.21 (m, 1H), 7.30 (m, 1H), 7.21 (m, 1H), 4.39 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.10 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.73 (s, 3H), 1.46 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 1.41 (s, 9H), 1.32 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.2, 144.4, 144.3, 133.5, 126.6, 119.9, 117.5, 108.5, 103.79, 59.1, 37.7, 34.6, 31.8, 14.8, 14.5, 11.5. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>25</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>+H<sup>+</sup>: 288.1958, Found: 288.1969; IR (neat, cm-1): v 2690, 1681, 1538, 1415, 1168, 1153, 1118, 1097, 827, 800.



#### ethyl 1-ethyl-5-isopropyl-2-methyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (3d)

petroleum ether/ ethylacetate = 20:1, yellow oil, 67% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.02 (m, 1H), 7.21 (m, 1H), 7.11 (m, 1H), 4.40 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.11 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.04 (m, 1H), 2.73 (s, 3H), 1.45 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 1.40 – 1.20 (m, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.2, 144.2, 142.2, 133.9, 126.9, 120.8, 118.6, 108.8, 103.6, 59.2, 37.7, 34.3, 24.5, 14.7, 14.5, 11.5. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>+H<sup>+</sup>: 274.1802, Found: 274.1808; IR (neat, cm-1): v 2958, 1686, 1537, 1416, 1156, 1107, 1052, 890, 784, 752.



#### ethyl 1-ethyl-2-methyl-5-phenyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (3e)

petroleum ether/ ethylacetate = 20:1, yellow solid, 36% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.38 (m, 1H), 7.68 (m, 2H), 7.45 (m, 3H), 7.33 (m, 2H), 4.41 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.19 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.79 (s, 3H), 1.45 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 1.38 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.1, 145.0, 142.4, 135.0, 134.9, 128.6, 127.4, 127.3, 126.4, 121.6, 120.2, 109.3 104.4, 59.4, 38.0, 149, 14.6, 11.7. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>+H<sup>+</sup>: 308.1645, Found: 308.1665; IR (neat, cm-1):  $\upsilon$  2978, 1686, 1467, 1438, 1377, 1155, 1108, 893, 761, 699.



#### ethyl 1-ethyl-5-methoxy-2-methyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (3f)

petroleum ether/ ethylacetate = 20:1, yellow solid, 41% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.67 (m, 1H), 7.18 (m, 1H), 6.86 (m, 1H), 4.39 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.13 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 2.74 (s, 3H), 1.45 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 1.34 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.2, 155.5, 144.4, 130.4, 127.6, 111.6, 109.7, 103.7, 59.2, 55.7, 38.0, 14.9, 14.6, 11.7. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>+H<sup>+</sup>: 262.1438, Found: 262.1448; IR (neat, cm-1):  $\upsilon$  2985, 1684, 1527, 1483, 1417, 1199, 1169, 1107, 849, 783.



#### ethyl 1-ethyl-5-fluoro-2-methyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (3g)

petroleum ether/ ethylacetate = 20:1, yellow oil, 76% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.78 (m, 1H), 7.19 (m, 1H), 6.94 (m, 1H), 4.39 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.13 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.75 (s, 3H), 1.45 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 1.34 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  165.7, 160.2, 157.8, 145.7, 131.8, 127.4, 127.3, 110.0, 109.7, 109.6, 109.5, 107.0, 106.7, 104.1, 104.0, 59.4, 38.0, 14.7, 14.5, 11.6. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>16</sub>FNO<sub>2</sub>+H<sup>+</sup>: 250.1238, Found: 250.1248; IR (neat, cm-1):  $\upsilon$  2981, 1686, 1536, 1462, 1418, 1168, 1104, 1053, 866, 778.



#### ethyl 5-chloro-1-ethyl-2-methyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (3h)

petroleum ether/ ethylacetate = 20:1, yellow solid, 55% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.08 (m, 1H), 7.15 (m, 2H), 4.39 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.11 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.73 (s, 3H), 1.45 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 1.32 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  165.6, 145.5, 133.7, 127.8, 127.3, 122.1, 121.0, 101.0, 103.8, 59.5, 38.0, 14.7, 14.6, 11.6. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>16</sub>ClNO<sub>2</sub>+H<sup>+</sup>: 266.0942, Found: 266.0953; IR (neat, cm-1): v 2924, 1688, 1538, 1416, 1210, 1155, 1108, 1068, 779, 690.



#### ethyl 5-bromo-1-ethyl-2-methyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (3i)

petroleum ether/ ethylacetate = 20:1, yellow solid, 48% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.24 (m, 1H), 7.27 (m, 1H), 7.11 (m, 1H), 4.39 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.09 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.73 (s, 3H), 1.44 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 1.32 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  165.6, 145.3, 134.0, 128.3, 124.7, 124.0, 115.0, 110.4, 103.7, 59.5, 38.0, 14.7, 14.6, 11.6. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>16</sub>BrNO<sub>2</sub>+H<sup>+</sup>: 310.0437, Found: 310.0446; IR (neat, cm-1): v 2977, 1689, 1561, 1449, 1122, 1156, 1109,1063, 779, 745.



#### ethyl 5-((tert-butoxycarbonyl)oxy)-1-ethyl-2-methyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (3j)

petroleum ether/ ethylacetate = 15:1, yellow solid, 58% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.89 (m, 1H), 7.22 (m, 1H), 7.02 (m, 1H), 4.38 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.09 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.73 (s, 3H), 1.57 (s, 9H), 1.43 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 1.30 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  165.7, 152.7, 146.2, 145.4, 133.0, 127.1, 115.7, 113.7, 109.3, 104.2, 83.0, 59.3, 37.9, 27.6, 14.7, 14.5, 11.6. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>25</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>+H<sup>+</sup>: 348.1805, Found: 348.1811; IR (neat, cm-1): v 2980, 1753, 1691, 1619, 1370, 1278, 1244, 1141, 1107, 803.



#### ethyl 1-ethyl-2-methyl-5-(trifluoromethoxy)-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (3k)

petroleum ether/ ethylacetate = 20:1, yellow oil, 45% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.00 (m, 1H),  $\delta$  7.24 (m, 1H)., 7.08 (m, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 4.39 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.14 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.75 (s, 3H), 1.45 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 1.34 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  165.6, 146.0, 144.4, 133.6, 127.2, 122.1, 119.5, 115.6, 114.1, 109.6, 104.4, 59.6, 38.1, 14.7, 14.5, 11.6. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>16</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>+H<sup>+</sup>: 316.1155, Found: 316.1157; IR (neat, cm-1): v 2983, 1692, 1418, 1247, 1212, 1148, 1107, 1054, 780, 746.



#### ethyl 1-ethyl-2,7-dimethyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (3l)

petroleum ether/ ethylacetate = 20:1, yellow solid, 54% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.05 (m, 1H), 7.08 (m, 1H), 6.93 (m, 1H), 4.38 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.33 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.75 (s, 3H), 2.71 (s, 3H), 1.44 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 1.33 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.2, 144.8, 134.2, 127.6, 125.5, 121.3, 120.0, 119.5, 104.34, 59.3, 39.3, 20.1, 16.7, 14.6, 11.5. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>+H<sup>+</sup>: 246.1489, Found: 246.1497; IR (neat, cm-1):  $\upsilon$  2923, 1674, 1539, 1414, 1231, 1112, 1074, 917, 792, 746.



#### ethyl 1-ethyl-7-fluoro-2-methyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (3m)

petroleum ether/ ethylacetate = 20:1, yellow solid, 33% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.89 (m, 1H), 7.08 (m, 1H), 6.88 (m, 1H), 4.39 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.32 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.75 (s, 3H), 1.44 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 1.38 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  165.8, 150.5, 148.1, 145.4, 130.4, 123.2, 123.2, 121.5, 121.5, 117.2, 117.2 107.9, 107.7, 104.9, 59.5, 40.3, 40.3, 16.0, 15.9, 14.5, 11.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>16</sub>FNO<sub>2</sub>+H<sup>+</sup>: 250.1238, Found: 250.1263; IR (neat, cm-1): v 2925, 1685, 1444, 1375, 1251, 1229, 1024, 929, 795, 731.



ethyl 1-ethyl-2,6-dimethyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (3na) ethyl 1-ethyl-2,4-dimethyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (3nb) petroleum ether/ ethylacetate = 20:1, yellow oil, 56% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.99 (d, J=8.0, 1H), 7.16–7.01 (m, 6H), 6.96 (m, 2H), 4.45–4.31 (m, 6H), 4.19–4.04 (m, 6H), 2.74 (s, 3H), 2.66 (s, 6H), 2.63 (s, 6H), 2.48 (s, 3H), 1.48–1.38 (m, 9H), 1.33 (m, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.5, 166.3, 143.9, 141.7, 135.7, 135.7, 131.6, 131.1, 124.9, 124.5, 123.5, 123.1, 121.9, 121.2, 109.1, 106.8, 106.0, 103.8, 59.9, 59.2, 37.9, 37.7, 22.1, 21.7, 14.8, 14.7, 14.6, 14.4, 11.6, 11.5; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>+H<sup>+</sup>: 246.1489, Found: 246.1488; IR (neat, cm-1):  $\upsilon$  2978, 1687, 1415, 1207, 1150, 1101, 1066, 811, 762, 739.



#### ethyl 2-ethyl-1-propyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (3n)

petroleum ether/ ethylacetate = 20:1, yellow oil, 55% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.15 (m, 1H), 7.29 (m, 1H), 7.21 (m, 2H), 4.40 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.06 (m, 2H), 3.20 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 1.81 (m, 2H), 1.44 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 1.28 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 0.98 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  165.7, 150.5, 135.7, 126.8, 121.8, 121.5, 121.5, 109.5, 102.96, 59.2, 44.6, 23.3, 18.9, 14.5, 13.2, 11.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>+H<sup>+</sup>: 260.1645, Found: 260.1643; IR (neat, cm-1): v 2977, 1681, 1530, 1461, 1210, 1160, 1136, 1108, 788, 742.



#### ethyl 1-butyl-2-propyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (30)

petroleum ether/ ethylacetate = 20:1, yellow oil, 47% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.15 (m, 1H), 7.29 (m, 1H), 7.22 (m, 2H), 4.39 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.09 (m, 2H), 3.15 (m, 2H), 1.71 (m, 4H), 1.44 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 1.06 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 0.96 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  165.8, 149.1, 135.7, 126.9, 121.8, 121.6, 121.5, 109.5, 103.42, 59.2, 43.0, 32.1, 27.5, 23.1, 20.2, 14.5, 14.4, 13.7. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>25</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>+H<sup>+</sup>: 288.1958, Found: 288.1965; IR (neat, cm-1):  $\upsilon$  2960, 1687,1531, 1461, 1421, 1220, 1136, 1106, 789, 739.



#### isopropyl 1-ethyl-2-methyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (4a)

petroleum ether/ ethylacetate = 20:1, yellow oil, 64% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.14 (m, 1H), 7.29 (m, 1H), 7.22 (m, 2H), 5.30 (m, 1H), 4.15 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.77 (s, 3H), 1.42 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 6H), 1.34 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  165.8, 144.3, 135.3, 126.8, 121.8, 121.6, 121.4, 109.0, 104.3, 66.5, 37.8, 22.3, 14.8, 11.5. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>+H<sup>+</sup>:

246.1489, Found: 246.1491; IR (neat, cm-1): v 2977, 1683, 1538, 1414, 1157, 1136, 1097, 995, 832, 751.



#### tert-butyl 1-ethyl-2-methyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (4b)

petroleum ether/ ethylacetate = 20:1, yellow oil, 60% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.11 (m, 1H), 7.27 (m, 1H), 7.20 (m, 2H), 4.13 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.74 (s, 3H), 1.66 (s, 9H), 1.32 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  165.6, 144.0, 135.2, 126.8, 121.7, 121.4, 121.3, 108.9, 105.24, 79.6, 37.7, 28.7, 14.8, 11.5. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>+H<sup>+</sup>: 260.1645, Found: 260.1657; IR (neat, cm-1): v 2975, 1683, 1538, 1413, 1218, 1146, 1105, 994, 765, 752.



#### 2-(trimethylsilyl)ethyl 1-ethyl-2-methyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (4c)

petroleum ether/ ethylacetate = 20:1, yellow oil, 64% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.15 (m, 1H), 7.30 (m, 1H), 7.22 (m, 2H), 2.77 (s, 3H), 1.35 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 1.22 (m, 2H), 0.09 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.5, 144.4, 135.4, 126.8, 121.8, 121.6, 121.4, 109.0, 104.14, 61.5, 37.8, 17.8, 14.8, 11.6, -1.5. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>25</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>Si+H<sup>+</sup>: 304.1727, Found: 304.1730; IR (neat, cm-1): v 2952, 1686, 1538, 1415, 1212, 1154, 1103, 1054, 835, 751.



#### but-2-yn-1-yl 1-ethyl-2-methyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (4d)

petroleum ether/ ethylacetate = 20:1, yellow solid, 45% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.17 (m, 1H), 7.30 (m, 1H), 7.24 (m, 2H), 4.92 (q, J = 2.4 Hz, 2H), 4.17 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.78 (s, 3H), 1.88 (t, J = 2.4 Hz, 3H), 1.36 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  165.4, 145.0, 135.4, 126.7, 122.0, 121.7, 121.7, 109.0, 103.40, 82.3, 76.7, 74.2, 51.6, 37.9, 14.8, 11.7, 3.7. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>+H<sup>+</sup>: 256.1332, Found: 256.1347; IR (neat, cm-1):  $\upsilon$  2953, 1688, 1428, 1379, 1343, 1146, 1102, 1003, 784, 753.



## allyl 1-ethyl-2-methyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (4e)

petroleum ether/ ethylacetate = 20:1, yellow oil, 38% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.14 (m, 1H), 7.30 (m, 1H), 7.23 (m, 2H), 6.15 (m, 1H), 5.43 (m, 1H), 5.27 (m, 1H), 4.87 (m, 2H), 4.17 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.78 (s, 3H), 1.36 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  165.8, 144.7, 135.34, 133.2, 126.7, 122.0, 121.6, 121.6, 117.5, 109.1, 103.7, 64.1, 37.9, 14.8, 11.6. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>+H<sup>+</sup>: 244.1332, Found: 244.1336; IR (neat, cm-1):  $\upsilon$  2928, 1687, 1536, 1413, 1210, 1149, 1102, 994, 783, 751.



#### cinnamyl 1-ethyl-2-methyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (4f)

petroleum ether/ ethylacetate = 20:1, yellow oil, 37% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.17 (m, 1H), 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.27 (m, 6H), 6.75 (m, 1H), 6.47 (m, 1H), 5.01 (m, 2H), 4.13 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.76 (s, 3H), 1.33 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  165.8, 144.7, 136.5, 135.3, 133.3, 128.5, 127.8, 126.7, 126.55, 124.4, 121.9, 121.6, 121.6, 109.1, 103.7, 64.0, 37.8, 14.7, 11.6. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>+H<sup>+</sup>: 320.1645, Found: 320.1647; IR (neat, cm-1): v 2978, 1685, 1536, 1414, 1210, 1100, 1044, 965, 739, 692.



#### phenyl 1-ethyl-2-methyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (4g)

petroleum ether/ ethylacetate = 20:1, yellow solid, 54% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.23 (m, 1H), 7.43 (m, 2H), 7.35 (m, 1H), 7.26 (m, 5H), 4.21 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.82 (s, 3H), 1.39 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  164.4, 151.0, 146.0, 135.5, 129.3, 126.7, 125.4, 122.3, 122.0, 121.7, 109.3, 103.1, 38.0, 14.8, 11.7. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>+H<sup>+</sup>: 280.1332, Found: 280.1333; IR (neat, cm-1): v 2985, 1710, 1530, 1408, 1186, 1091, 985, 750, 692.



#### benzyl 1-ethyl-2-methyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (4h)

petroleum ether/ ethylacetate = 20:1, yellow solid, 73% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.13 (m, 1H), 7.48 (m, 2H), 7.37 (m, 2H), 7.31 (m, 1H), 7.27 (m, 1H), 7.19 (m, 2H), 5.40 (s, 2H), 4.12 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.75 (s, 3H), 1.32 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  165.8, 144.8, 137.0, 135.3, 128.5, 127.9, 127.8, 126.7, 121.9, 121.6, 121.5, 109.0, 103.6, 65.2, 37.8, 14.7, 11.6. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>+H<sup>+</sup>: 294.1489, Found: 294.1500; IR (neat, cm-1):  $\upsilon$  2978, 1686, 1536, 1414, 1210, 1148, 1100, 1000, 738, 697.



#### 4-methylbenzyl 1-ethyl-2-methyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (4i)

petroleum ether/ ethylacetate = 20:1, yellow oil, 75% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.11 (m, 1H), 7.37 (m, 2H), 7.25 (m, 1H), 7.18 (m, 4H), 5.36 (s, 2H), 4.09 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.73 (s, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 1.30 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  164.8, 145.0, 137.1, 135.2, 134.0, 129.0, 128.0, 126.2, 121.8, 121.3, 120.6, 109.9, 102.5, 64.4, 37.5, 20.7, 14.5, 11.3. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>+H<sup>+</sup>: 308.1645, Found: 308.1641; IR (neat, cm-1): v 2922, 1686, 1536, 1414, 1182, 1149, 1100, 997, 782, 751.



#### 4-chlorobenzyl 1-ethyl-2-methyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (4j)

petroleum ether/ ethylacetate = 20:1, yellow solid, 68% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.08 (m, 1H), 7.41 (m, 2H), 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.28 (m, 1H), 7.21 (m, 2H), 5.35 (s, 2H), 4.13 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.75 (s, 3H), 1.33 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  165.7, 145.0, 135.6, 135.4, 133.6, 129.4, 128.7, 126.6, 122.0, 121.7, 121.4, 109.1, 103.4, 64.4 37.8, 14.7, 11.6. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>18</sub>ClNO<sub>2</sub>+H<sup>+</sup>: 328.1099, Found: 328.1108; IR (neat, cm-1):  $\upsilon$  2922, 1685, 1536, 1416, 1208, 1151, 1105, 1044, 813, 737.



#### 4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl 1-ethyl-2-methyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (4k)

petroleum ether/ ethylacetate = 20:1, yellow solid, 57% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.10 (m, 1H), 7.61 (m, 4H), 7.31 (m, 1H), 7.22 (m, 2H), 5.45 (s, 2H), 4.16 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.77 (s, 3H), 1.35 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  165.6, 145.2, 141.2, 141.2, 135.4, 127.9, 126.7, 125.5, 125.5, 125.4, 122.1, 121.8, 121.4, 109.2, 103.3, 64.2, 37.9, 14.7, 11.7. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>18</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>+H<sup>+</sup>: 362.1362, Found: 362.1356; IR (neat, cm-1): v 2923, 1681, 1529, 1326, 1281, 1151, 1103, 1065, 816, 718.



#### 2-methoxy-2-oxo-1-phenylethyl 1-ethyl-2-methyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (41)

petroleum ether/ ethylacetate = 15:1, yellow oil, 54% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.21 (m, 1H), 7.63 (m, 2H), 7.42 (m, 3H), 7.31 (m, 1H), 7.22 (m, 2H), 6.26 (s, 1H), 4.17 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 2.78 (s, 3H), 1.35 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  170.0, 164.9, 145.5, 135.5, 134.8, 129.0, 128.8, 127.8, 126.8, 122.1, 121.9, 121.7, 109.1, 103.0, 74.0, 52.5, 37.9, 14.8, 11.8. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>+H<sup>+</sup>: 352.1543, Found: 352.1548; IR (neat, cm-1): v 3359, 2919, 2850, 1670, 1415, 1209, 1147, 1097, 781, 696.



#### furan-2-ylmethyl 1-ethyl-2-methyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (4m)

petroleum ether/ ethylacetate = 20:1, yellow solid, 46% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.09 (m, 1H), 7.45 (m, 1H), 7.29 (m, 1H), 7.20 (m, 2H), 6.48 (m, 1H), 6.38 (m, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 5.34 (s, 2H), 4.16 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.76 (s, 3H), 1.34 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  165.6, 150.5, 144.9, 142.9, 135.4, 126.7, 122.0, 121.7, 121.6, 110.4, 109.9, 109.0, 103.5, 57.1, 37.9, 14.8, 11.6. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>+H<sup>+</sup>: 284.1281, Found: 284.1289; IR (neat, cm-1):  $\upsilon$  2966, 1688, 1530, 1428, 1210, 1154, 1103, 994, 782, 749.



## thiophen-2-ylmethyl 1-ethyl-2-methyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (4n)

petroleum ether/ ethylacetate = 20:1, yellow solid, 60% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.13 (m, 1H), 7.30 (m, 1H), 7.24 (m, 1H), 7.20 (m, 2H), 7.16 (m, 1H), 5.53 (s, 2H), 4.09 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.73 (s, 3H), 1.30 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  165.5, 144.9, 139.2, 135.3, 127.4, 126.7, 126.6, 126.3, 121.9, 121.6, 121.5, 109.0, 103.4, 59.7, 37.8, 14.7, 11.6. HRMS (ESI-TOF): Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S+H<sup>+</sup>: 300.1053, Found: 300.1064; IR (neat, cm-1): v 2921, 1685, 1531, 1428, 1154, 1134, 1084, 1018, 745, 726.

# Spectroscopic data for products

















































![](_page_44_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_45_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_46_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_47_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_48_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_49_Figure_0.jpeg)

# XRD data of the compound 4g

![](_page_50_Figure_1.jpeg)

Figure S1. ORTEP structural drawing of 4g. (CCDC: 1501144)

Table S2. Crystallography data for 4g.

complex	4g
Empirical formula	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>17</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>
Formula weight(g mol <sup>-1</sup> )	279.33
Temperature	293 (2) K
Wavelength	0.71073 Å
Crystal system	Orthorhombic
space group	P 21 21 21
Unit cell dimensions	a = 7.2650(3)  Å
	b = 8.2770(5) Å
	c = 24.8418(14)  Å
	$\alpha = 90^{\circ}$
	$\beta = 90^{\circ}$
	$\gamma = 90^{\circ}$
Volume (Å <sup>3</sup> )	1493.80(14)
Ζ	4
$\rho(g \text{ cm}^{-3})$	1.242
F(000)	592

Crystal size(mm <sup>3</sup> )	0.75 x 0.65 x 0.30	
Theta range for data collection	2.92 ° to 25.00 °	
	-7<=h<=8	
Limiting indices	-9<=k<=9	
	-29<=1<=26	
Reflections collected / unique	5363 / 2503	
Data / restraints / parameters	2503 / 0 /192	
GOF	1.048	
$D I = D 2 [I \times 2 - (I)]$	R1 = 0.0398	
$R_{1,WR_{2}}[1 \ge 26(1)]$	wR2 = 0.0870	
$D_1 \dots D_2(all data)$	R1 = 0.0516	
<i>R1,WR2</i> (all data)	wR2 = 0.0925	
Largest diff. peak and hole(e Å <sup>3</sup> )	0.130 and -0.193	

Table S3. Bond lengths [Å] and angles  $[\circ]$  for 4g.

O(2)-C(1) 1.367(2)	O(2)-C(13) 1.410(2)	N(1)-C(3) 1.363(2)	N(1)-C(12) 1.390(3)
N(1)-C(5) 1.460(2)	C(7)-C(8) 1.404(3)	C(7)-C(12) 1.407(2)	C(7)-C(2) 1.442(2)
C(2)-C(3) 1.380(3)	C(2)-C(1) 1.453(3)	C(12)-C(11) 1.381(3)	C(3)-C(4) 1.488(3)
O(1)-C(1) 1.197(2)	C(8)-C(9) 1.375(3)	C(13)-C(14) 1.361(3)	C(13)-C(18) 1.369(3)
C(5)-C(6) 1.510(3)	C(11)-C(10) 1.378(3)	C(14)-C(15) 1.373(3)	C(9)-C(10) 1.388(3)
C(18)-C(17) 1.371(3)	C(15)-C(16) 1.385(3)	C(16)-C(17) 1.371(3)	C(1)-O(2)-C(13) 116.18(14)
C(3)-N(1)-C(12) 109.34(14)	C(3)-N(1)-C(5) 126.62(17)	C(12)-N(1)-C(5) 123.48(16)	C(8)-C(7)-C(12) 118.19(17)
C(8)-C(7)-C(2) 135.74(17)	C(12)-C(7)-C(2) 106.06(16)	C(3)-C(2)-C(7) 107.51(16)	C(3)-C(2)-C(1) 124.37(17)
C(7)-C(2)-C(1) 128.05(17)	C(11)-C(12)-N(1) 129.21(18)	C(11)-C(12)-C(7) 122.84(18)	N(1)-C(12)-C(7) 107.95(15)
N(1)-C(3)-C(2) 109.12(16)	N(1)-C(3)-C(4) 121.03(17)	C(2)-C(3)-C(4) 129.82(17)	O(1)-C(1)-O(2) 121.54(17)
O(1)-C(1)-C(2) 127.13(18)	O(2)-C(1)-C(2) 111.31(16)	C(9)-C(8)-C(7) 118.98(19)	C(14)-C(13)-C(18) 121.62(19)
C(14)-C(13)-O(2) 119.20(17)	C(18)-C(13)-O(2) 119.12(18)	N(1)-C(5)-C(6) 112.18(17)	C(10)-C(11)-C(12) 117.32(19)
C(13)-C(14)-C(15) 119.28(19)	C(8)-C(9)-C(10) 121.3(2)	C(11)-C(10)-C(9) 121.3(2)	C(13)-C(18)-C(17) 119.0(2)
C(14)-C(15)-C(16) 120.0(2)	C(17)-C(16)-C(15) 119.6(2)	C(16)-C(17)-C(18) 120.5(2)	