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## **Supporting Information**

# Synthesis of highly substituted 2-spiropiperidines

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# ContentsExperimental Procedures for the preparation of 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7kp2Copies of spectroscopic data for new compoundsp4

#### 3-Oxo-5-phenyl-5-(toluene-4-sulfonylamino)-pentanoic acid methyl ester (2)

To a solution of diisopropylamine (824  $\mu$ L, 5.89 mmol) in THF (10 mL) at -78 °C was added *n*-BuLi (2.41 mL, 5.79 mmol) dropwise. The mixture was warmed to 0 °C for 15 mins, then re-cooled to -78 °C. A solution of methyl acetoacetate (312  $\mu$ L, 2.90 mmol) in THF (2 mL) was added *via* syringe pump over 20 mins. The mixture was warmed to -50 °C, and a solution of *N*-Benzylidene-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (250 mg, 0.965 mmol) in THF (2 mL) was added fast. The reaction was stirred for 40 mins, then quenched with sat. aq. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (4 mL). The mixture was warmed to rt, and layers were separated. The aqueous was extracted with EtOAc (2 x 20 mL). Organics were combined, washed with water (10 mL), and brine (10 mL), dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (10-30% EtOAc/hexane) to afford the title compound (225 mg, 0.600 mmol, 62% yield) as a colourless oil. Spectroscopic data was identical to that previously reported.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.59-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.20-7.11 (m, 5H), 7.09-7.04 (m, 2H), 5.69 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.73 (dt, *J* = 7.2, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 3.36 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 3.31 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 3.17 (dd, *J* = 17.4, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 3.01 (dd, *J* = 17.4, 6.3 Hz, 1H-4), 2.36 (s, 3H) ppm.

#### 2-Isopropylidene-3-oxo-5-phenyl-5-(toluene-4-sulfonylamino)-pentanoic acid methyl ester (3)

To a 0.5 M solution of TiCl<sub>4</sub> in THF (2 mL, 1.07 mmol) at 0 °C was added a solution of **2** (400 mg, 1.07 mmol), acetone (156  $\mu$ L, 2.13 mmol), and pyridine (345  $\mu$ L, 4.26 mmol) in THF (2 mL). The reaction was stirred overnight at rt. The reaction mixture was partitioned between water (10 mL) and EtOAc (30 mL). The aqueous was extracted with EtOAc (2 x 15 mL). Organics were combined, washed with NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (30 mL), water (30 mL), and brine (30 mL), dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (15% EtOAc/hexane) to afford the title compound (115 mg, 0.277 mmol, 26% yield) as a yellow oil.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.59-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.19-7.12 (m, 5H), 7.11-7.05 (m, 2H), 5.71 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 4.74 (dt, *J* = 7.0, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 3.60 (s, 3H), 3.12 (dd, *J* = 17.5, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 2.96 (dd, *J* = 17.5, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.05 (s, 3H), 1.65 (s, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  201.1, 165.5, 156.1, 143.3, 139.8, 137.4, 130.9, 129.5, 128.5, 127.7, 127.3, 126.8, 54.3, 51.9, 49.4, 23.5, 23.1, 21.6 ppm; IR (ATR): v<sub>max</sub> 3278, 2952, 1726, 1694, 1156 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) 438.1338 (M + Na<sup>+</sup>. C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>25</sub>NNaO<sub>5</sub>S requires 438.1346).

#### 2-Isopropylidene-3-oxo-5-phenyl-pent-4-enoic acid methyl ester (4)

To a 0.5 M solution of TiCl<sub>4</sub> in THF (1.5 mL, 0.735 mmol) at 0  $^{\circ}$ C was added a solution of **5** (150 mg, 0.735 mmol), acetone (108 µL, 1.47 mmol), and pyridine (240 µL, 2.94 mmol) in THF (1 mL). The reaction was stirred overnight at rt. The reaction mixture was partitioned between water (5 mL) and EtOAc (30 mL). The aqueous was extracted with EtOAc (2 x 15 mL). Organics were combined, washed with NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (30 mL), water (30 mL), and brine (30 mL), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (5% EtOAc/hexane) to afford the title compound (23 mg, 0.0942 mmol, 13% yield) as a yellow oil.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> P. A. Clarke, A. V. Zaytsev, T. W. Morgan, A. C. Whitwood and C. Wilson, *Org. Lett.* 2008, **10**, 2877-2880.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.58 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.42 – 7.35 (m, 3H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 1.87 (s, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  195.5, 165.5, 154.8, 145.6, 134.5, 130.9, 129.5, 129.1, 128.6, 127.6, 51.9, 24.2, 22.5 ppm; IR (ATR): v<sub>max</sub> 3063, 2912, 1708, 1641, 1620, 1596, 1435, 1301, 1238, 1217, 1201, 1097, 1033 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) 267.0992 (M + Na<sup>+</sup>. C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub> requires 267.0992).

### 3-Hydroxy-5-phenyl-penta-2,4-dienoic acid methyl ester (5)

To a solution of  $6^2$  (500 mg, 2.25 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 mL) was added acetic anhydride (223 µL, 2.36 mmol), Et<sub>3</sub>N (470 µL, 3.38 mmol) and DMAP (cat.). The reaction was stirred for 2h at rt. MeOH (400 µL) was added, and the mixture stirred for 15 mins. The mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (8 mL) and partitioned with 0.1 M HCl (10 mL). Organics were combined, washed with water (10 mL), CuSO<sub>4</sub> (10 mL), and brine (10 mL), dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (5% EtOAc/hexane) to afford title compound (201 mg, 0.905 mmol, 44% yield) as a white solid.

mp 93-96 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 11.9 (s, 1H), 7.51-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.44 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.31 (m, 3H), 6.44 (dd, J = 16.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 5.18 (s, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 173.4, 169.4, 137.1, 135.4, 129.5, 128.9, 127.7, 121.9, 91.7, 51.5 ppm; IR (ATR): v<sub>max</sub> 3027, 2953, 1634, 1590, 1445, 1202 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) 227.0695 (M + Na<sup>+</sup>. C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NNaO<sub>5</sub> requires 227.0679).

## [Benzenesulfonyl-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-methyl]-carbamic acid tert-butyl ester (7k)

Following the general procedure: 4-(Trifluoromethyl)benzaldehye (6.00 g, 34.5 mmol), *tert*-butyl carbamate (2.69 g, 23.0 mmol) and benzenesulfinic acid sodium salt (7.54 g, 46.0 mmol). The white precipitate was triturated by stirring in diethyl ether (50 mL) for 1h at rt. Filtration gave the title compound, (6.87 g, 16.6 mmol, 72% yield) as a white solid. Spectroscopic data was identical to that previously reported.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.94 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.70-7.65 (m, 3H), 7.63-7.53 (m, 4H), 6.02 (d, *J* = 10.5 Hz, 1H), 5.93 (d, *J* = 10.5 Hz, 1H), 1.23 (s, 9H) ppm.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> P. A. Clarke, W. H. C. Martin, J. M. Hargreaves, C. Wilson and A. J. Blake, *Org. Biomol. Chem.* 2005, *3*, 3551-3563.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> L. Huang and W. D. Wulff, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2011, **133**, 8892-8895.









































































































































































































