# **Electronic Supplementary Information**

# Highly selective AlCl<sub>3</sub> initiated intramolecular α-alkylation of α,β-unsaturated lactams and lactones

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Experimental Section	S2
NMR Spectra	S18
References	S43

#### **Experimental Section**

#### **General experimental methods**

<sup>1</sup>H (400 MHz) and <sup>13</sup>C (100 MHz) NMR spectra were acquired on a Bruker Avance Ultrashield 400 MHz and a Bruker DPX 400 MHz spectrometer. Mass Spectroscopy (MS) and High Resolution Mass Spectroscopy (HR-MS) was performed on a Thermo Scientific LTQ-FT Ultra (ESI). IR spectra were recorded on a Varian FTIR-670 spectrometer using a GladiATR accessory with a diamond ATR element. Melting points were determined on a MPM-H2 apparatus. Anhydrous  $CH_2Cl_2$ , THF was obtained from a M. Braun SPS purification system. The following compounds were synthesized according to literature procedures. Pent-4-en-1-ylzinc(II) bromide,<sup>1</sup> 1-methyl-2-oxo-1,2-dihydroquinolin-4-yl trifluoromethane sulfonate,<sup>1</sup> (*E*)-5-bromopent-2-ene,<sup>2</sup> 5,7-dimethoxy-4-methylquinolin-2(1*H*)-one,<sup>3</sup> **1a**,<sup>4</sup> **3a**,<sup>1</sup> **5a**,<sup>5</sup> **6a**,<sup>5</sup> **10a**,<sup>5</sup> **11a**.<sup>5</sup>

#### Crystal structure determination details:

A clear, colorless fragment-like specimen of  $C_{15}H_{17}NO$ , approximate dimensions 0.186 mm x 0.209 mm x 0.317 mm, was used for the X-ray crystallographic analysis. The crystal was mounted on a microsampler with perfluorinated ether and transferred to the diffractometer. The X-ray intensity data were measured on a Bruker D8 Kappa Apex II system equipped with a Triumph monochromator and a Mo fine-focus sealed tube ( $\lambda =$ 0.71073 Å). A total of 1199 frames were collected. The total exposure time was 19.98 hours. The frames were integrated with the Bruker SAINT software package using a narrow-frame algorithm. The integration of the data using an orthorhombic unit cell yielded a total of 14663 reflections to a maximum  $\theta$  angle of 25.02° (0.84 Å resolution), of which 2068 were independent (average redundancy 7.090, completeness = 99.9%, Rint = 4.52%, Rsig = 2.82%) and 2002 (96.81%) were greater than  $2\sigma(F2)$ . The final cell constants of a = 7.1064(12) Å, b = 10.3163(18) Å, c = 15.973(2) Å, volume = 1171.0(3) Å3, are based upon the refinement of the XYZ-centroids of 122 reflections above 20  $\sigma$ (I) with 13.10° < 2 $\theta$  < 50.61°. Data were corrected for absorption effects using the multi-scan method (SADABS). The calculated minimum and maximum transmission coefficients (based on crystal size) are 0.9750 and 0.9850. The final anisotropic full-matrix least-squares refinement on F2 with 205 variables converged at R1 = 2.79%, for the observed data and wR2 = 7.36% for all data. The goodness-of-fit was 1.083. The largest peak in the final difference electron density synthesis was 0.120 e-/Å3 and the largest hole was -0.157 e<sup>-</sup>/Å<sup>3</sup> with an RMS deviation of 0.032 e<sup>-</sup>

/Å<sup>3</sup>. On the basis of the final model, the calculated density was 1.289 g/cm<sup>3</sup> and F(000), 488 e<sup>-</sup>.

Lewis Acid NHO Ia 1a 1b								
Entry	Initiator	Solvent	Equiv.	T (h)	Yield <sup>b</sup>			
1	CuCl <sub>2</sub>	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	2	2	0 (98) <sup>c</sup>			
2	ZnCl <sub>2</sub>	$CH_2Cl_2$	2	2	0 (99) <sup>c</sup>			
3	FeCl <sub>3</sub>	$CH_2Cl_2$	2	2	0 (93) <sup>c</sup>			
4	Cu(OTf) <sub>2</sub>	$CH_2Cl_2$	2	2	0 (98) <sup>c</sup>			
5	Nd(OTf) <sub>3</sub>	$CH_2Cl_2$	2	2	0 (98) <sup>c</sup>			
6	Sc(OTf) <sub>3</sub>	$CH_2Cl_2$	2	2	0 (98) <sup>c</sup>			
7	BF <sub>3</sub> •OEt <sub>2</sub>	$CH_2Cl_2$	2	2	0 (93) <sup>c</sup>			
8	BCl <sub>3</sub>	$CH_2Cl_2$	2	2	0 (99) <sup>c</sup>			
9	BBr <sub>3</sub>	$CH_2Cl_2$	2	2	0 (99) <sup>c</sup>			
10	AlMe <sub>3</sub>	$CH_2Cl_2$	2	2	0 (99) <sup>c</sup>			
11	AlMe <sub>2</sub> Cl	$CH_2Cl_2$	2	2	0 (99) <sup>c</sup>			
12	AlEtCl <sub>2</sub>	$CH_2Cl_2$	2	2	15			
13	AlCl <sub>3</sub>	$CH_2Cl_2$	2	2	99			
14	AlBr <sub>3</sub>	$CH_2Cl_2$	2	2	86			
15	HCl (aq)	$CH_2Cl_2$	2	2	0 (99) <sup>c</sup>			
16	AlCl <sub>3</sub>	$CH_2Cl_2$	1.5	4	96			
17	AlCl <sub>3</sub>	$CH_2Cl_2$	1.3	8	97			
18	AlCl <sub>3</sub>	$CH_2Cl_2$	1.1	24	96			
19	AlCl <sub>3</sub>	$CH_2Cl_2$	≦1	24	0 (99) <sup>c</sup>			
20	AlCl <sub>3</sub>	MeCN	2	24	0 (98) <sup>c</sup>			
21	AlCl <sub>3</sub>	MeOH	2	2	0 (99) <sup>c</sup>			
22	AlCl <sub>3</sub>	THF	2	2	0 (98) <sup>c</sup>			
23	AlCl <sub>3</sub>	Et <sub>2</sub> O	2	2	0 (98) <sup>c</sup>			
24	AlCl <sub>3</sub>	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	2	2	95			

Table S1 Optimization of reaction conditions<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> All reactions were carried out using **1a** (0.2 mmol) and a Lewis acid (0.4 mmol) in anhydrous solvents (10 mL) at room temperature under an argon atmosphere. <sup>b</sup> Isolated

yields were reported. <sup>c</sup> Recovered yield of 1a.

Commonly used Lewis acids, such as CuCl<sub>2</sub>, ZnCl<sub>2</sub> and FeCl<sub>3</sub>, did not afford any product (Table S1, entries 1-3). The same results were obtained when using  $Cu(OTf)_2$ , Nd(OTf)<sub>3</sub>, and Sc(OTf)<sub>3</sub> bearing OTf as a counter anion (Table S1, entries 4-6). Applying the boron-based Lewis acids, BF<sub>3</sub>•OEt, BCl<sub>3</sub>, and BBr<sub>3</sub>, the reaction did not afford any product either, despite of their strong Lewis acidity (Table S1, entries 7-9). Subsequently, a series of aluminum-centered Lewis acids were examined (Table S1, entries 10-14). While AlMe<sub>3</sub> and AlMe<sub>2</sub>Cl did not give any desired products (Table S1, entries 10-11), mono ethyl substituted aluminum chloride AlEtCl<sub>2</sub> performed the targeted transformation, however with very low yield (Table S1, entry 12). In contrast, full conversion was achieved with the aluminum halides AlCl<sub>3</sub> and AlBr<sub>3</sub> (Table S1, entries 13-14). However, due to the excessive Lewis acidity of AlBr<sub>3</sub>,<sup>6</sup> substrate 1a underwent partial decomposition, thus lowering the yield. Protic acid HCl was also checked for this reaction and no reaction product was detected (Table S1, entry 15). Therefore, AlCl<sub>3</sub> was chosen as the best available Lewis acid for this reaction. The results of a screening with different loadings of AlCl<sub>3</sub> demonstrated that a lower loading did not significantly affect reaction yields and the reaction did not take place with less than one equivalent of AlCl<sub>3</sub> (Table S1, entries 16-19). Although, understandably, the reactions proceeded faster with more equivalents of AlCl<sub>3</sub>. As the reaction was completed within 24 h with a loading of 1.1 equivalent of AlCl<sub>3</sub>, it thus indicated that the first equivalent of AlCl<sub>3</sub> acted as the reaction initiator, while the following portion of AlCl<sub>3</sub> served as the actual catalyst (vide infra). Considering that AlCl<sub>3</sub> was cheap and the reaction was completed within two hours when two equivalents of AlCl<sub>3</sub> were applied, this amount was chosen as the standard loading for all following reactions. In a next step, different solvents were evaluated for their applicability in the transformation. The reaction did not work in coordinating solvents like MeCN, MeOH, THF or Et<sub>2</sub>O, with most of the starting material being recycled (Table S1, entries 20-23). It was assumed that this behavior was a result of solvent coordination to AlCl<sub>3</sub> and hence a weakened activity of the adduct. Chloroform was proven to be an effective solvent, affording the desired product in an excellent yield (Table S1, entry 24). Nonetheless, due to its comparatively high toxicity, chemically similar but less toxic dichloromethane was selected as the optimal solvent for this  $\alpha$ -alkylation.

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		Lewis Acid $2 \text{ eq. H}_2\text{O}$ $CH_2Cl_2, \text{ rt}$ H 1b		
Entry	Initiator	T (h)	Yield <sup>b</sup>	
1	CuCl <sub>2</sub>	2	0 (99)°	
2	ZnCl <sub>2</sub>	2	0 (99)°	
3	FeCl <sub>3</sub>	2	0 (90)°	
4	Cu(OTf) <sub>2</sub>	2	0 (98)°	
5	Nd(OTf) <sub>3</sub>	2	0 (98)°	
6	Sc(OTf) <sub>3</sub>	2	0 (98)°	
7	BF <sub>3</sub> •OEt <sub>2</sub>	2	0 (85)°	
8	BCl <sub>3</sub>	2	0 (80)°	
9	BBr <sub>3</sub>	2	0 (82)°	
10	AlMe <sub>3</sub>	2	0 (62)°	
11	AlMe <sub>2</sub> Cl	2	0 (50)°	
12	AlEtCl <sub>2</sub>	2	17	
13	AlCl <sub>3</sub>	2	95	

<sup>a</sup> All reactions were carried out using **1a** (0.2 mmol), Lewis acid (0.8 mmol) and  $H_2O$  (0.04 mmol) in anhydrous  $CH_2Cl_2$  (10 mL) at room temperature under an argon atmosphere. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yields were reported. <sup>c</sup> Recovered yield of **1a**.

The effect of water on the reaction was investigated by adding 0.2 equiv. of water to the reaction medium (Table S2). Lewis acids other than AlCl<sub>3</sub> and AlEtCl<sub>2</sub> do not give any product (entries 1-11), while AlCl<sub>3</sub> still produces the product in excellent yield (entry 13). In this way, the significance of AlCl<sub>3</sub> is supported.

## General Procedure I for the synthesis of substrates

Synthesis of 5,7-dimethoxy-4-(pent-4-en-1-yl)quinolin-2(1H)-one (8a)



To a 100 mL Schlenk flask is added 5,7-dimethoxy-4-methylquinolin-2(1H)-one<sup>3</sup> (765 mg, 3.5 mmol), and dry THF (20 mL). The reaction mixture is cooled to 0 °C under

argon atmosphere and treated dropwise with *n*-butyl lithium (2.5 M in *n*-hexane, 2.8 mL, 7.0 mmol). The dark red solution is stirred at room temperature for 3 h, cooled to -78 °C and treated with tetrabutylammonium iodide (*n*Bu<sub>4</sub>NI) (970 mg, 2.6 mmol) and 4-bromobut-1-ene (0.7 mL, 7.0 mmol) is added subsequently. The yellow solution is stirred at room temperature overnight and then cooled to 0 °C, treated with 10 mL 1 N HCl. The solvent is evaporated and the residue is extracted with ethyl acetate  $(3 \times 30)$ mL). The combined organic layers are washed with brine (15 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and evaporated. The crude product is purified by column chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate = 1:1) to give the product 8a as a solid (191 mg, 20%); mp 156.1-156.8 °C (hexane/ethyl acetate); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  11.89 (s, 1 H), 6.44 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1 H), 6.28 (s, 1 H), 6.24 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 5.95-5.75 (m, 1 H), 5.10-4.90 (m, 1 H), 3.90 (s, 3 H), 3.87 (s, 3 H), 2.98 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3 H), 2.22-2.10 (m, 2 H), 1.80-1.60 (m, 2 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) δ 164.1, 161.8, 158.9, 154.7, 142.3, 138.6, 117.4, 114.8, 105.6, 94.6, 91.4, 55.7, 55.5, 36.6, 33.8, 29.8; IR (neat) 1591, 1500, 1477, 1463, 1452, 1442, 1428 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>: 274.1438, found: 274.1437.

# The following compounds were prepared according to General Procedure I (1) 6-((*tert*-Butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)-4-(pent-4-en-1-yl)quinolin-2(1*H*)-one (7a)



The reaction of 6-((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)-4-methylquinolin-2(1*H*)-one (1.096 g, 3.8 mmol), *n*-butyl lithium (2.5 M in *n*-hexane, 3 mL, 7.6 mmol), *n*Bu<sub>4</sub>NI (1.054 g, 2.9 mmol), and 4-bromobut-1-ene (1 mL, 7.6 mmol) in THF (20 mL) affords **7a** as a solid (182 mg, 21%); mp 238.8-239.3 °C (methanol); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  11.40 (s, 1 H), 9.37 (s, 1 H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.06-6.94 (m, 2 H), 6.30 (s, 1 H), 5.93-5.80 (m, 1 H), 5.11-4.95 (m, 2 H), 2.70 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2 H), 2.18-2.08 (m, 2 H), 1.75-1.63 (m, 2 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, MeOD)  $\delta$  164.5, 154.6, 154.4, 139.1, 133.2, 122.0, 121.4, 119.9, 118.6, 115.9, 109.3, 34.5, 32.7, 29.3; IR (neat) 2942, 1638, 1624, 1576, 1502, 1453 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS m/z (ESI): m/z calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>: 230.1176, found: 230.1175.

(2) (E)-4-(Hex-4-en-1-yl)quinolin-2(1H)-one (9a)



The reaction of 4-methylquinolin-2(1*H*)-one (2.387 g, 15.0 mmol), *n*-butyl lithium (2.5 M in *n*-hexane, 12.0 mL, 12 mmol), *n*Bu<sub>4</sub>NI (4.155 g, 11.3 mmol), and (*E*)-5-bromopent-2-ene<sup>2</sup> (4.478 g, 30 mmol) in THF (50 mL) affords **9a** as a solid (2.351 g, 69%); mp 145.7-146.4 °C (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  12.43 (s, 1 H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.55-7.39 (m, 2 H), 7.23 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.60 (s, 1 H), 5.59-5.38 (m, 2 H), 2.86 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 2.20-2.07 (m, 2 H), 1.87-1.74 (m, 2 H), 1.68 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 3 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  164.4, 153.2, 138.6, 130.31, 130.26, 126.0, 124.2, 122.4, 119.8, 119.5, 116.8, 32.2, 31.6, 28.6, 17.9; IR (neat) 1647, 1611, 1554, 1508, 1439 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sup>+</sup>: 228.1383, found: 228.1382.

(3) 4-(*but*-3-En-1-yl)quinolin-2(1*H*)-one (12a)



The reaction of 4-methylquinolin-2(1*H*)-one (2.441 g, 15.0 mmol), *n*-butyl lithium (2.5 M in *n*-hexane, 12 mL, 30.0 mmol), *n*Bu<sub>4</sub>NI (4.15 g, 11.3 mmol), and 3-bromobut-1ene (2.8 mL, 32.3 mmol) in THF (50 mL) affords **12a** as a solid (2.259 g, 74%); mp 118.3-118.9 °C (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  12.58 (s, 1 H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.56-7.44 (m, 2 H), 7.29-7.19 (m, 1 H), 6.61 (s, 1 H), 6.01-5.80 (m, 1 H), 5.18-5.01 (m, 2 H), 2.97 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 2.57-2.40 (m, 2 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  164.4, 152.4, 138.5, 136.9, 130.4, 124.0, 122.5, 119.7, 119.4, 117.0, 115.9, 32.7, 31.5; IR (neat) 1645, 1555, 1508, 1433, 1398 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NO<sup>+</sup>: 200.1070, found: 200.1070.

(4) 4-(Hex-4-en-1-yl)quinolin-2(1*H*)-one (13a)



The reaction of 4-methylquinolin-2(1*H*)-one (1.592 g, 10.0 mmol), *n*-butyl lithium (2.5 M in hexane, 8.0 mL, 20.0 mmol), *n*Bu<sub>4</sub>NI (2.772 g, 7.5 mmol), and 1-bromobut-2-ene (2.700 g, 20.0 mmol) in THF (60 mL) affords **13a** as a solid (1.408 g, 66%); mp 167.9-170.3 °C (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  12.76 (s, 1 H), 7.71 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.53-7.46 (m, 2 H), 7.26-7.19 (m, 1 H), 6.60 (s, 1 H), 5.60-5.44 (m, 2 H), 2.92 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 2.46-2.33 (m, 2 H), 1.72-1.60 (m, 3 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  164.5, 152.6, 138.6, 130.3, 129.5, 126.4, 124.1, 122.4, 119.8, 119.5, 116.9, 32.3, 31.6, 17.9; IR (neat) 1648, 1611, 1557, 1506, 1438, 1401 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sup>+</sup>: 214.1226, found: 214.1226.

(5) 4-(Hex-5-en-1-yl)quinolin-2(1*H*)-one (14a)



The reaction of 4-methylquinolin-2(1*H*)-one (1.593 g, 10.0 mmol), *n*-butyl lithium (2.5 M in *n*-hexane, 8 mL, 20 mmol), *n*Bu<sub>4</sub>NI (2.775 g, 7.5 mmol), and 5-bromobut-1-ene (2.4 mL, 20.0 mmol) in THF (40 mL) affords **14a** as a solid (1.800 g, 74%); mp 115.7-116.3 °C (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  12.91 (s, 1 H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.55-7.44 (m, 2 H), 7.29-7.15 (m, 1 H), 6.60 (s, 1 H), 5.90-5.70 (m, 1 H), 5.10-4.90 (m, 2 H), 2.86 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 2.20-2.05 (m, 2 H), 1.85-1.65 (m, 2 H), 1.61-1.45 (m, 2 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  164.6, 153.2, 138.6, 138.3, 130.3, 124.0, 122.4, 119.8, 119.3, 116.9, 114.8, 33.5, 32.0, 28.7, 28.2; IR (neat) 1651, 1555, 1466, 1434, 1396 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sup>+</sup>: 228.1383, found: 228.1382.

(6) 4-(Hept-6-en-1-yl)quinolin-2(1*H*)-one (15a)



The reaction of 4-methylquinolin-2(1*H*)-one (955 mg, 6.0 mmol), *n*-butyl lithium (2.5 M in *n*-hexane, 4.8 mL, 12.0 mmol), *n*Bu<sub>4</sub>NI (1.848 g, 5.0 mmol), and 6-bromobut-1ene (1.5 mL, 11.0 mmol) in THF (30 mL) affords **15a** as a solid (738 mg, 51%); mp 105.1-105.9 °C (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  12.80 (s, 1 H), 7.71 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.52-7.46 (m, 2 H), 7.25-7.18 (m, 1 H), 6.60 (s, 1 H), 5.89-5.71 (m, 1 H), 5.07-4.87 (m, 2 H), 2.86 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2 H), 2.13-2.00 (m, 2 H), 1.80-1.66 (m, 2 H), 1.53-1.40 (m, 4 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  164.4, 153.4, 138.7, 138.5, 130.3, 124.1, 122.5, 119.9, 119.3, 116.9, 114.5, 33.6, 32.2, 29.0, 28.7; IR (neat) 1650, 1553 1471, 1431, 1394 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NO<sup>+</sup>: 242.1539, found: 242.1539.

Synthesis of 1-methyl-4-(pent-4-en-1-yl)quinolin-2(1H)-one (2a)



Under argon atmosphere, pent-4-en-1-ylzinc(II) bromide<sup>1</sup> (8.6 mL, 13 mmol, 1.5 M in DMAC), 1-methyl-2-oxo-1,2-dihydroquinolin-4-yl trifluoromethanesulfonate<sup>1</sup> (2.000 g, 6.51 mmol), and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (690 mg, 0.65 mmol) are added to dry THF (10 mL) at rt. The resulting mixture is stirred at 50 °C under argon atmosphere. The coupling reaction is completed after 4 h as monitored by TLC (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 5:1). The reaction is quenched with 1 N HCl (10 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (20 mL x 4). The combined organic layers are washed with brine (30 mL x 3), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and evaporated. The residue is purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: *n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to afford product **2a** as a solid (991 mg, 67%); mp 44.8-45.4 °C (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.71 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.53 (td, *J* = 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.57 (s, 1 H), 5.90-5.75 (m, 1 H), 5.10-4.95 (m, 2 H), 3.68 (s, 3 H), 2.79 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2 H), 2.25-2.10 (m, 2 H), 1.85-1.73 (m, 2 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR

(CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  162.0, 149.9, 140.0, 137.7, 130.2, 124.8, 121.7, 120.5, 120.0, 115.4, 114.5, 33.3, 31.2, 29.1, 27.8; IR (neat) 1655, 1643, 1588, 1453, 1417 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sup>+</sup>: 228.1383, found: 228.1382.

Synthesis of 6-acetoxy -4-(pent-4-en-1-yl)quinolin-2(1H)-one (4a)



To a three necked bottle **7a** (138 mg, 0.6 mmol), acetic anhydride (1 mL), and acetic acid (4 mL) are added. The mixture is then refluxed overnight. The mixture is diluted with 10 mL water and extracted with ethyl acetate (10 mL x 3). The combined organic layers are washed with brine and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, evaporated. The residue is purified by column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 1:1) to give the product **4a** as a solid (150 mg, 92%); mp 154.2-155.0 °C (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  12.51 (s, 1 H), 7.49-7.40 (m, 2 H), 7.28-7.23 (m, 1 H), 6.62 (s, 1 H), 5.92-5.76 (m, 1 H), 5.16-5.00 (m, 2 H), 2.82 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2 H), 2.34 (s, 3 H), 2.26-2.16 (m, 2 H), 1.89-1.78 (m, 2 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  169.7, 164.1, 152.5, 145.6, 137.6, 136.3, 124.5, 120.3, 120.1, 117.7, 116.4, 115.6, 33.2, 31.4, 27.5, 21.1; IR (neat) 1760, 1663, 1504, 1426 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>: 272.1281, found: 272.1282.

#### Synthesis of 6-((tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)-4-methylquinolin-2(1H)-one



To a 10 mL Schlenk flask 6-hydroxy-4-methylquinolin-2(1*H*)-one (175 mg, 1.0 mmol), *tert*-butylchlorodimethylsilane (TBDMSCl) (181 mg, 1.2 mmol), imidazole (171 mg, 2.5 mmol), and DMF (2 ml) are added. The mixture is stirred at 35 °C for 24 h. The mixture is washed with 15 mL water and extracted with ethyl acetate (10 mL x 3). The combined organic layers are washed with brine and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, evaporated. The residue is purified by column chromatography (ethyl acetate) to give the product 6-((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)-4-methylquinolin-2(1*H*)-one as a solid (266 mg, 92%); mp 173.7-175.0 °C (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  12.57 (s, 1 H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.10-7.01 (m, 2 H), 6.58 (s, 1 H),

2.46 (s, 3 H), 1.00 (s, 9 H), 0.21 (s, 6 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  163.9, 150.8, 148.4, 133.2, 124.0, 121.3, 120.7, 117.6, 113.7, 25.7, 19.2, 18.2, -4.4; IR (neat) 1656, 1619, 1473, 1424 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>Si<sup>+</sup>: 289.1498, found: 289.1498.

General procedure II for the α-alkylation reaction

Synthesis of 7-methyl-7,8,9,10-tetrahydrophenanthridin-6(5H)-one (1b)



To a 25 mL Schlenk flask **1a** (43 mg, 0.2 mmol), AlCl<sub>3</sub> (53 mg, 0.4 mmol), and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) are added. The mixture is stirred at room temperature under argon atmosphere. The reaction is completed after 2 h as monitored by TLC (hexane/ethyl acetate = 1:1). The solvent is removed and the residue is purified by column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 3:1) to give the product **1b** as a solid (41 mg, 95%); mp 207.5-208.5 °C (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  11.79 (s, 1 H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.37-3.20 (m, 1 H), 3.10-2.96 (m, 1 H), 2.82-2.65 (m, 1 H), 2.05-1.73 (m, 4 H), 1.33 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 3 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  163.4, 143.6, 136.6, 133.0, 129.0, 123.2, 122.0, 120.5, 115.9, 29.1, 27.3, 25.7, 19.7, 17.1; IR (neat) 1644, 1609, 1561, 1505, 1433 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sup>+</sup>: 214.1226, found: 214.1226. The following reactions were conducted according to general procedure IV.

(1) 5,7-Dimethyl-7,8,9,10-tetrahydrophenanthridin-6(5*H*)-one (2b)



The reaction of **2a** (45 mg, 0.2 mmol), AlCl<sub>3</sub> (53 mg, 0.4 mmol), and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) affords **2b** as a solid (44 mg, 98%); mp 88.8-89.8 °C (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.71 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.49 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.34 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.22 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.73 (s, 3 H), 3.28-3.15 (m, 1 H), 3.03-2.90 (m, 1 H), 2.80-2.63 (m, 1 H), 1.96-1.83 (m, 2 H), 1.81-1.66 (m, 2 H), 1.26 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  161.7, 141.3, 138.2, 133.2, 129.0, 123.8, 121.6,

121.2, 114.0, 29.5, 29.2, 27.9, 25.5, 19.6, 17.1; IR (neat) 1626, 1592, 1571, 1453, 1411 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI): calcd for  $C_{15}H_{18}NO^+$ : 228.1383, found: 228.1382.

(2) 7-Methyl-7,8,9,10-tetrahydro-6*H*-benzo[*c*]chromen-6-one (3b)



The reaction of **3a** (43 mg, 0.2 mmol), AlCl<sub>3</sub> (53 mg, 0.4 mmol), and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) affords **3b** as a solid (38 mg, 88%); mp 89.0-91.0 °C (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.58 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.33-7.24 (m, 2 H), 3.15-3.01 (m, 1 H), 2.97-2.84 (m, 1 H), 2.73-2.60 (m, 1 H), 1.96-1.68 (m, 4 H), 1.27 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  161.2, 152.1, 146.7, 130.3, 128.5, 123.9, 123.3, 120.2, 116.7, 28.9, 27.8, 25.4, 19.4, 16.8; IR (neat) 1705, 1621, 1606, 1572, 1448 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>15</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>: 215.1067, found: 215.1067.

#### (3) 2-Acetoxy-7-methyl-7,8,9,10-tetrahydrophenanthridin-6(5H)-one (4b)



The reaction of **4a** (54 mg, 0.2 mmol), AlCl<sub>3</sub> (81 mg, 0.6 mmol), and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) affords **4b** as a solid (34 mg, 63%); mp 203.0-203.9 °C (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  12.26 (s, 1 H), 7.45-7.31 (m, 2 H), 7.17 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.31-3.18 (m, 1 H), 3.00-2.85 (m, 1 H), 2.78-2.62 (m, 1 H), 2.33 (s, 3 H), 1.99-1.68 (m, 4 H), 1.31 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  169.8, 163.5, 145.3, 143.1, 134.5, 133.8, 122.9, 121.1, 116.9, 115.6, 29.0, 27.3, 25.7, 21.1, 19.7, 17.0; IR (neat) 1753, 1643, 1624, 1501, 1428, 1415 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>: 272.1281, found: 272.1282.

### (4) 2-Fluoro-7-methyl-7,8,9,10-tetrahydro-6*H*-benzo[*c*]chromen-6-one (5b)



The reaction of **5a** (46 mg, 0.2 mmol), AlCl<sub>3</sub> (53 mg, 0.4 mmol), and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) affords **5b** as a solid (36 mg, 78%); mp 116.2-116.9 °C (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.30-7.10 (m, 3 H), 3.12-3.00 (m, 1 H), 2.89-2.75 (m, 1 H), 2.69-2.53 (m, 1 H), 1.98-1.68 (m, 4 H), 1.27 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  160.8, 160.0, 157.6, 148.2, 145.9, 129.6, 121.2, 121.1, 118.1, 118.0, 117.6, 117.4, 109.3, 109.1, 28.8, 27.9, 25.4, 19.3, 16.6; IR (neat) 1711, 1579, 1493, 1434 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>14</sub>FO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>: 233.0972, found: 233.0971.

(5) 2,7-Dimethyl-7,8,9,10-tetrahydro-6*H*-benzo[*c*]chromen-6-one (6b)



The reaction of **6a** (45 mg, 0.2 mmol), AlCl<sub>3</sub> (53 mg, 0.4 mmol), and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) affords **6b** as a solid (40 mg, 89%); mp 119.6-120.3 °C (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.34 (s, 1 H), 7.25 (dd, J = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.19 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 3.12-3.00 (m, 1 H), 2.94-2.82 (m, 1 H), 2.72-2.58 (m, 1 H), 2.41 (s, 3 H), 1.95-1.69 (m, 4 H), 1.26 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  161.4, 150.1, 146.7, 133.4, 131.2, 128.3, 123.3, 119.9, 116.4, 28.9, 27.8, 25.4, 21.1, 19.4, 16.8; IR (neat) 1705, 1618, 1577, 1457, 1431, 1413 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>17</sub>O<sub>2</sub>+: 229.1223, found: 229.1223.





The reaction of **7a** (46 mg, 0.2 mmol), AlCl<sub>3</sub> (53 mg, 0.4 mmol), and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) affords **7b** as a solid (38 mg, 83%); mp 268.0-268.9 °C (ethanol/ethyl acetate); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  11.34 (s, 1 H), 7.11 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1 H), 6.97 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1 H), 6.92 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 1 H), 3.03-2.91 (m, 1 H), 2.86-2.73 (m, 1 H), 2.63-2.52

(m, 1 H), 1.86-1.58 (m, 4 H), 1.14 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, MeOD)  $\delta$  163.6, 154.1, 145.1, 133.6, 131.3, 122.8, 119.8, 117.7, 108.6, 30.1, 28.5, 26.7, 20.1, 18.0; IR (neat) 2930, 1650, 1619, 1502, 1429, 1417 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>: 230.1176, found: 230.1175.

(7) 1,3-Dimethoxy-7-methyl-7,8,9,10-tetrahydrophenanthridin-6(5H)-one (8b)



The reaction of **8a** (55 mg, 0.2 mmol), AlCl<sub>3</sub> (53 mg, 0.4 mmol), and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) affords **8b** as a solid (52 mg, 95%); mp 214.6-215.5 °C (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  12.19 (s, 1 H), 6.47 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1 H), 6.20 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1 H), 3.86 (s, 3 H), 3.82 (s, 3 H), 3.41-3.29 (m, 1 H), 3.26-3.16 (m, 1 H), 3.04-2.89 (m, 1 H), 1.86-1.61 (m, 4 H), 1.30 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  163.6, 160.6, 159.3, 146.8, 140.1, 128.7, 106.4, 94.4, 90.9, 55.4, 30.2, 28.9, 27.7, 20.2, 18.3; IR (neat) 1653, 1602, 1551, 1460, 1439, 1407 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>: 274.1438, found: 274.1437.

#### (8) 7-Ethyl-7,8,9,10-tetrahydrophenanthridin-6(5H)-one (9b)



The reaction of **9a** (45 mg, 0.2 mmol), AlCl<sub>3</sub> (53 mg, 0.4 mmol), and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) affords **9b** as a solid (36 mg, 80%); mp 193.2-193.8 °C (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  11.79 (s, 1 H), 7.66 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.44 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.34 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.19 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.09-2.92 (m, 2 H), 2.85-2.66 (m, 1 H), 2.07-1.80 (m, 4 H), 1.70-1.56 (m, 1 H), 1.43-1.28 (m, 1 H), 1.08 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  163.4, 143.5, 136.6, 132.8, 128.9, 123.2, 122.0, 120.5, 115.8, 33.9, 25.6, 25.5, 24.1, 17.1, 12.6; IR (neat) 1644, 1610, 1561, 1433, 1397 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sup>+</sup>: 228.1383, found: 228.1382.

(9) 7-Propyl-7,8,9,10-tetrahydrophenanthridin-6(5H)-one (10b)



The reaction of **10a** (48 mg, 0.2 mmol), AlCl<sub>3</sub> (53 mg, 0.4 mmol), and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) affords **10b** as a solid (25 mg, 52%); mp 180.0-180.9 °C (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  11.15 (s, 1 H), 7.67 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.43 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.29 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.20 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.14-3.06 (m, 1 H), 3.03-2.94 (m, 1 H), 2.81 -2.68 (m, 1 H), 2.00-1.77 (m, 4 H), 1.67-1.41 (m, 3 H), 1.40-1.27 (m, 1 H), 1.00 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  163.1, 143.4, 136.5, 133.0, 128.9, 123.2, 122.0, 120.6, 115.6, 35.0, 32.1, 25.5, 24.7, 21.2, 17.1, 14.3; IR (neat) 1645, 1609, 1563, 1505, 1456, 1433 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NO<sup>+</sup>: 242.1539, found: 242.1539.

(10) 7,7-Dimethyl-7,8,9,10-tetrahydrophenanthridin-6(5H)-one (11b)



The reaction of **11a** (45 mg, 0.2 mmol), AlCl<sub>3</sub> (53 mg, 0.4 mmol), and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) affords **11b** as a solid (11 mg, 24%); mp 179.2-180.0 °C (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  10.63 (s, 1 H), 7.67 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.42 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.23-7.13 (m, 2 H), 2.89 (t, J = 6.2 Hz, 2 H), 1.93-1.80 (m, 2 H), 1.72-1.62 (m, 2 H), 1.52 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  162.7, 144.5, 136.7, 135.5, 129.1, 123.8, 121.9, 120.6, 115.0, 40.9, 34.1, 27.5, 27.4, 18.5; IR (neat) 1639, 1604, 1553, 1503, 1432 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sup>+</sup>: 228.1383, found: 228.1382.

(11) 6-Methyl-5,6-dihydro-1*H*-benzo[*de*]quinolin-2(4*H*)-one (12b)



The reaction of **12a** (40 mg, 0.2 mmol), AlCl<sub>3</sub> (53 mg, 0.4 mmol), and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) affords **12b** as a solid (32 mg, 80%); mp 195.2-196.2 °C (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  12.71 (s, 1 H), 7.42 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.06 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1 H), 6.47 (s, 1 H), 3.15-2.94 (m, 2 H), 2.93-2.79 (m, 1 H), 2.14-2.00 (m, 1 H), 1.84-1.71 (m, 1 H), 1.36 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 3 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  164.4, 150.8, 142.4, 138.5, 130.4, 120.2, 116.9, 116.8, 114.1, 33.0, 30.0, 27.8, 20.9; IR (neat) 1643, 1617, 1557, 1436, 1384 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI): calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NO<sup>+</sup>: 200.1070, found: 200.1069.

#### (12) 7-Methyl-7,8,9,10-tetrahydrophenanthridin-6(5H)-one (1b)



The reaction of **13a** (43 mg, 0.2 mmol), AlCl<sub>3</sub> (53 mg, 0.4 mmol), and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) affords **1b** as a solid (28 mg, 65%); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  11.58 (s, 1 H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.20 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.37-3.20 (m, 1 H), 3.09-2.95 (m, 1 H), 2.83-2.67 (m, 1 H), 2.02-1.86 (m, 2 H), 1.84-1.74 (m, 2 H), 1.33 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3 H).

(13) 7-Ethyl-7,8,9,10-tetrahydrophenanthridin-6(5H)-one (9b)



The reaction of **14a** (45 mg, 0.2 mmol), AlCl<sub>3</sub> (53 mg, 0.4 mmol), and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) affords **9b** as a solid (22 mg, 49%); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  11.64 (s, 1 H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.05-2.91 (m, 2 H), 2.84-2.68 (m, 1 H), 2.08-1.81 (m, 4 H), 1.70-1.54 (m, 1 H), 1.43-1.28 (m, 1 H), 1.08 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3 H).

(14) 7-Propyl-7,8,9,10-tetrahydrophenanthridin-6(5H)-one (10b)



The reaction of **15a** (48 mg, 0.2 mmol), AlCl<sub>3</sub> (53 mg, 0.4 mmol), and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) affords **10b** as a solid (16 mg, 33%); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  11.07 (s, 1 H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.43 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.14-2.93 (m, 2 H), 2.83-2.68 (m, 1 H), 2.01-1.70 (m, 4 H), 1.65-1.41 (m, 3 H), 1.39-1.25 (m, 1 H), 1.00 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3 H).



Figure S1. ORTEP-style representation of the X-ray crystal structure of **2b**. Ellipsoids are depicted at 50% probability level, hydrogen atoms with an arbitrary radius. Disorder in the alkyl part of the structure (C11 – C15) omitted for clarity.



Figure S2. Deuterium labeling experiment



13.0 12.5 12.0 11.5 11.0 10.5 10.0 9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 Figure S3.Intermediate trapping experiment

# NMR Spectra





210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 f1 (ppm)















































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