## **Electronic Supplementary Information**

## Visible light-induced aerobic oxidative cross-coupling of glycine

## derivatives with indoles: a facile access to 3,3' bisindolylmethanes

Yuan Zhang,\*a Xiaorong Yang, Huang Zhou, Shilin Li, Yin Zhu and Ying Li

State Key Laboratory of Applied Organic Chemistry, College of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Lanzhou University, 222 Tianshui South Road, Lanzhou 730000, P. R. China. E-mail: zhangyuan@lzu.edu.cn.

## **Table of Contents**

- 1. Optimization of Reaction Conditions (S2)
- 2. EPR Spectra (S4)
- 3. Luminescence Quenching Experiments (S5)
- 4. Experiment Information and Characterization Data (S5)
- 5. Copies of <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra (S15)

## 1. Optimization of Reaction Conditions

#### 

Table S1. Screening of Acida

Entry	Acid	x (eq)	Time (h)	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>	
1	-	-	36	trace	
2	CF <sub>3</sub> COOH	0.2	36	42	
3	CF <sub>3</sub> COOH	1.0	36	63	
4	CF <sub>3</sub> COOH	2.5	36	83	
5	TfOH	2.5	36	22	
6	НСООН	2.5	36	31	
7	CH <sub>3</sub> COOH	2.5	36	55	
8	citric acid	2.5	32	95	
9	adipic acid	2.5	36	49	
10	oxalic acid	2.5	36	<5	
11	TsOH	2.5	36	14	
12	benzoic acid	2.5	36	22	
13	$H_3PO_4$	2.5	36	71	
14	citric acid	2.0	32	95	
15	citric acid	1.5	36	95	
16	citric acid	1.0	36	76	
<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: <b>1a</b> (0.1 mmol), <b>2a</b> (0.21 mmol), Rh-6G (5 mol%), acid (x eq),					

CH<sub>3</sub>CN (1.0 mL), 5 W blue LED light irradiation under air at r.t. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yields.

## Table S2. Screening of Photocatalysts<sup>a</sup>



Entry	Photocatalyst	y (mol%)	Time (h)	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	-	-	36	trace
2	Eosin Y	5	36	87
3	Eosin B	5	36	82
4	Rose Bengal	5	27	89
5	Acr <sup>+</sup> MesClO <sub>4</sub> -	5	36	71
6	Rhodamine 6G	5	36	95
7	methylene blue	5	36	trace
8	Rhodamine 6G	2	40	92
9	Rhodamine 6G	1	41	88
10	Rhodamine 6G <sup>c</sup>	1	38	95
11	Rhodamine 6G <sup>d</sup>	1	35	87
11	Rhodamine 6G <sup>c,e</sup>	1	38	trace
12	Rhodamine 6G <sup>c,f</sup>	1	38	trace
			_	

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol), **2a** (0.21 mmol), photocatalyst (y mol%), citric acid (1.5 eq), CH<sub>3</sub>CN (1.0 mL), 5 W blue LED light irradiation under air at r.t. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yields. <sup>c</sup> 2.0 mL of CH<sub>3</sub>CN was used. <sup>d</sup> 3.0 mL of CH<sub>3</sub>CN was used. <sup>e</sup> In dark. <sup>f</sup> Ar atmosphere.

### Table S3. Screening of Solvents<sup>a</sup>

MeO N H 1a	$\gamma_{0}^{0}$ + $\gamma_{H}^{0}$ -	Rh-6G (1 mol%), citric acid (1.5 eq) solvent, 5W blue LEDs air, r.t.		
Entry	Solvent	Time (h)	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>	
1	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	38	95	
2	DCE	12	95	
3	DCM	38	70	
4	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	38	68	
5	toluene	38	61	
6	EtOH	38	89	
7	DMSO	38	trace	
8	DMF	38	trace	
<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: <b>1a</b> (0.1 mmol), <b>2a</b> (0.21 mmol), Rh-6G (1 mol%), citric acid				

(1.5 eq), solvent (2.0 mL), 5 W blue LED light irradiation under air at r.t. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yields.

#### 2. EPR Spectra



**Figure S1.** EPR spectra of a solution of a) **1a** (0.1 molL<sup>-1</sup>), Rh-6 ( $1 \times 10^{-3}$  molL<sup>-1</sup>), and DMPO (0.05 molL<sup>-1</sup>) in airsaturated CH<sub>3</sub>CN upon irradiation with blue LED for 100 s; b) **1a** (0.1 molL<sup>-1</sup>), Rh-6 ( $1 \times 10^{-3}$  molL<sup>-1</sup>), and TEMP (0.5 molL<sup>-1</sup>) in air-saturated CH<sub>3</sub>CN upon irradiation with blue LED for 100 s; c) **1a** (0.1 molL<sup>-1</sup>), methylene blue ( $1 \times 10^{-3}$  molL<sup>-1</sup>), and DMPO (0.05 molL<sup>-1</sup>) in air-saturated CH<sub>3</sub>CN upon irradiation with blue LED for 100 s; d) **1a** (0.1 molL<sup>-1</sup>), methylene blue ( $1 \times 10^{-3}$  molL<sup>-1</sup>), and TEMP (0.5 molL<sup>-1</sup>) in air-saturated CH<sub>3</sub>CN upon irradiation with blue LED for 100 s.

#### 3. Luminescence Quenching Experiments



**Figure S2.** a) Changes in the fluorescence spectra of Rh-6G ( $1.0 \times 10^{-6}$  M) upon the progressive addition of **1a** ( $1.5 \times 10^{-3}$  M) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN; b) Stern–Volmer quenching plot of Rh-6G in the presence of **1a**.

#### 4. Experiment Information and Characterization Data

#### 4.1 General information.

Unless otherwise noted, all reagents were purchased from commercial sources and used as received without further purification. N-arylglycine derivatives<sup>6,7</sup> and  $\alpha$ -amino ketone<sup>8</sup> were prepared according to literature procedures. Unless otherwise indicated, all experiments were carried out under air atmosphere. Irradiation of photochemical reactions was carried out using a 5 W blue LED bulb. The silica gel (200–300 meshes) was used for column chromatography and TLC inspections were taken on silica gel GF254 plates. Liquid <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance III 400 MHz spectrometer. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained on a mass spectrometer by using electrospray ionization (ESI) analyzed by quadrupole time-of-flight (QTof). Luminescence spectra were surveyed on a PerkinElmer LS 55 spectrophotometer. EPR spectra were recorded at room temperature using an EPR spectrometer at 9.448 GHz. Typical spectrometer parameters are shown as follows, sweep width: 100.0 G; center field set: 3362.0 G; time constant: 81.92 ms; sweep time: 75.0 s; modulation amplitude: 0.8 G; modulation frequency: 100.0 kHz; receiver gain: 2.00 × 10<sup>3</sup>; microwave power: 7.51 mW.

# 4.2 General procedure for the visible-light-induced oxidative cross-coupling reaction of glycine derivatives with indoles.

To a solution of *N*-arylglycine derivatives **1** (0.2 mmol, 1 eq), Rh-6G (1 mol%) and indoles **2** (0.42 mmol, 2.1 eq) in dry DCE (4.0 mL) was added citric acid (1.5 eq). The mixed solution was irradiated with a 5 W blue LED bulb under air atmosphere at room temperature. After completion of the reaction as monitored by TLC, the mixture was diluted with EtOAc, washed with water and brine respectivey, and then dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was separated by silica gel column chromatography (with petroleum ether/EtOAc = 4:1 as eluent) to afford the product **3**.

#### 4.3 Procedures for the synthesis of streptindole and arsindoline B.

*Step 1.* A solution of **3a** (636 mg, 2 mmol) in anhydrous  $Et_2O$  (22 mL) was added dropwise to a suspension of LiAlH<sub>4</sub> (182 mg, 4.8 mmol) in anhydrous  $Et_2O$  (18 mL) under argon atmosphere at 0 °C. The resulting mixture was vigorously stirred at r.t. for 1 h, then quenched by addition of a 10% aq solution of potassium and sodium tartrate. The reaction mixture was extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$ , the combined organic layers were washed with  $H_2O$  and brine, respectively, and dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (with petroleum ether/EtOAc = 2:1 as eluent) to afford **4** (510 mg, 92%) as a colorless solid.

*Step 2.* A mixture of alcohol (4) (80 mg, 0.29 mmol), potassium acetate (100 mg, 1.02 mmol), and anhydride (5.36 mmol, 18.5 eq) was stirred at r.t. for 17 h. Then ethyl acetate (2 mL) and ethanol (0.3 mL) were added and the mixture was stirred overnight. The majority of the solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$ . The combined organic layer was successively washed with  $H_2O$  and brine, and dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (with petroleum ether/EtOAc = 2:1 as eluent) to afford the natural product.

#### 4.4 Characterization data.

Ethyl 2,2-di(1H-indol-3-yl)acetate (3a).<sup>1</sup>



Pale red powder, mp 57–59 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.97 (brs, 2H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.22–7.16 (m, 2H), 7.15–7.08 (m, 2H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 2H), 5.51 (s, 1H), 4.23 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.27 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 173.7, 136.2, 126.5, 123.4, 122.0, 119.4, 119.2, 113.3, 111.3, 61.2, 40.6, 14.2.

Methyl 2,2-di(1H-indol-3-yl)acetate (3b).<sup>2</sup>



Pale red powder, mp 63–65 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.96 (brs, 2H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.12 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 2H), 5.53 (s, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 174.1, 136.2, 126.5, 123.4, 122.1, 119.5, 119.1, 113.2, 111.3, 52.3, 40.4.

Isopropyl 2,2-di(1H-indol-3-yl)acetate (3c).



Pale yellow powder, mp 153–155 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  10.10 (brs, 2H), 7.66 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 2H), 7.13–7.08 (m, 2H), 7.03–6.98 (m, 2H), 5.49 (s, 1H), 5.09–5.00 (m, 1H), 1.21 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  173.2, 137.6, 127.7, 124.4, 122.1, 119.9, 119.5, 114.1, 112.1, 68.4, 41.8, 21.9. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Na (M+Na<sup>+</sup>) 355.1417; found 355.1410.

Tert-butyl 2,2-di(1H-indol-3-yl)acetate (3d).<sup>2</sup>



Pale yellow powder, mp 69–71 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.87 (brs, 2H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.07 (m, 2H), 7.03–6.97 (m, 2H), 6.76 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 2H), 5.30 (s, 1H), 1.37 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  173.1, 136.2, 126.6, 123.3, 121.9, 119.2, 119.2, 113.7, 111.2, 81.2, 41.5, 28.0.

Allyl 2,2-di(1H-indol-3-yl)acetate (3e).<sup>2</sup>



Pale red powder, mp 41–43 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.97 (brs, 2H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.22–7.17 (m, 2H), 7.13–7.09 (m, 2H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 2H), 5.97–5.87 (m, 1H), 5.56 (s, 1H), 5.30–5.17 (m, 2H), 4.69–4.67 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 173.3, 136.2, 131.9, 126.5, 123.4, 122.0, 119.5, 119.2, 118.4, 113.2, 111.3, 65.7, 40.4.

Benzyl 2,2-di(1H-indol-3-yl)acetate (3f).<sup>2</sup>



Pale red powder, mp 167–168 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  10.12 (brs, 2H), 7.65 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.37–7.21 (m, 7H), 7.15–7.09 (m, 2H), 7.03–6.97 (m, 2H), 5.64 (s, 1H), 5.22 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  173.5, 137.6, 137.3, 129.0, 128.7, 128.6, 127.7, 124.5, 122.1, 119.9, 119.5, 113.8, 112.1, 66.8, 41.5.

2,2-Di(1H-indol-3-yl)-N-methylacetamide (3g).<sup>2</sup>



Pale yellow powder, mp 123–125 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ 10.10 (brs, 2H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (brs, 1H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 2H), 7.10–7.04 (m, 2H), 6.99–6.93 (m, 2H), 5.39 (s, 1H), 2.73 (d, *J* = 4.7 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ 173.8, 137.7, 128.1, 124.6, 122.1, 119.9, 119.5, 115.6, 112.2, 43.0, 26.5.

#### 2,2-Di(1H-indol-3-yl)-1-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)ethan-1-one (3h).<sup>2</sup>



Pale red powder, mp 136–138 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  10.12 (brs, 2H), 7.67 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 2H), 7.07–7.03 (m, 2H), 6.96–6.93 (m, 2H), 5.66 (s, 1H), 3.71 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.46 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.92–1.86 (m, 2H), 1.82–1.76 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  171.6, 137.6, 128.1, 124.7, 121.9, 120.0, 119.3, 115.2, 112.1, 47.4, 46.7, 40.0, 26.9, 24.9.

N-Benzyl-2,2-di(1H-indol-3-yl)acetamide (3i).<sup>2</sup>



White powder, mp 198–199 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ 10.11 (brs, 2H), 7.78 (brs, 1H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.26–7.16 (m, 7H), 7.08 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 5.50 (s, 1H), 4.44 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ 173.3, 140.6, 137.6, 129.0, 128.3, 128.0, 127.5, 124.6, 122.0, 119.9, 119.4, 115.4, 112.1, 43.6, 42.9.

Ethyl (2,2-di(1H-indol-3-yl)acetyl)glycinate (3j).<sup>2</sup>



White powder, mp 210–211 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  10.08 (brs, 2H), 7.59 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (brs, 1H), 7.38 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 2H), 7.10–7.05 (m, 2H), 6.99–6.94 (m, 2H), 5.48 (s, 1H), 4.10 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.97 (d, J = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 1.18 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  173.7, 170.8, 137.8, 128.1, 124.8, 122.1, 120.0, 119.5, 115.3, 112.2, 61.3, 42.9, 42.1, 14.5.

2,2-Di(1H-indol-3-yl)-1-phenylethan-1-one (3k).<sup>3</sup>



Pale red powder, mp 199–201 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  10.14 (brs, 2H), 8.22 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.58–7.51 (m, 1H), 7.50–7.43 (m, 2H), 7.39 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 2H), 7.12–7.05 (m, 2H), 7.03–6.95 (m, 2H), 6.71 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  198.4, 137.9, 137.6, 133.3, 129.3, 129.2, 127.7, 125.1, 122.0, 119.7, 119.4, 114.4, 112.1, 42.6.

Ethyl 2,2-bis(1-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl)acetate (31).<sup>1</sup>



White powder, mp 161–162 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ 7.62 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.19–7.13 (m, 4H), 7.04–6.98 (m, 2H), 5.47 (s, 1H), 4.16 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.77 (s, 6H), 1.22 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ 173.8, 138.3, 129.0, 128.3, 122.4, 120.2, 119.7, 113.3, 110.4, 61.4, 41.4, 32.9, 14.7.

Ethyl 2,2-bis(1-benzyl-1H-indol-3-yl)acetate (3m).



Pale yellow powder, mp 130–131 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  7.64 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 4H), 7.30–7.20 (m, 6H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 7.11–7.08 (m, 2H), 7.02–6.98 (m, 2H), 5.54 (s, 1H), 5.39 (s, 4H), 4.17 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.20 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  173.6, 139.5, 137.9, 129.5, 128.64, 128.62, 128.3, 127.9, 122.6, 120.6, 120.0, 113.9, 111.0, 61.4, 50.4, 41.7, 14.7. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>30</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Na (M+Na<sup>+</sup>) 521.2199; found 521.2200.





White powder, mp 175–177 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  10.06 (brs, 2H), 7.26 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.02–6.97 (m, 2H), 6.95 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 2H), 6.76 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 6.12 (s, 1H), 4.23 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.64 (s, 6H), 1.25 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  174.8, 138.3, 130.5, 126.0, 125.1, 122.4, 121.6, 116.0, 110.4, 61.3, 43.8, 20.4, 14.5. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Na (M+Na<sup>+</sup>) 369.1573; found 369.1572.

#### Ethyl 2,2-bis(5-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl)acetate (30).



Brown powder, mp 190–192 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  10.01 (brs, 2H), 7.46 (s, 2H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 2H), 6.95 (dd, J = 8.3, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 5.47 (s, 1H), 4.18 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.38 (s, 6H), 1.24 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  173.9, 136.1, 128.3, 128.0, 124.6, 123.8, 119.5, 113.6, 112.0, 61.1, 41.6, 21.7, 14.6. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Na (M+Na<sup>+</sup>) 369.1573; found 369.1572.

Ethyl 2,2-bis(2,5-dimethyl-1H-indol-3-yl)acetate (3p).



Pale yellow powder, mp 209–211 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  9.81 (brs, 2H), 7.20–7.13 (m, 4H), 6.81 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 5.43 (s, 1H), 4.20 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.29 (s, 6H), 2.21 (s, 6H), 1.22 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  174.1, 134.6, 133.4, 129.7, 127.8, 122.5, 119.2, 110.8, 108.9, 61.1, 40.8, 21.8, 14.6, 12.3. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Na (M+Na<sup>+</sup>) 397.1886; found 397.1880.

Ethyl 2,2-bis(2-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl)acetate (3q).4



White powder, mp 192–194 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  9.90 (brs, 2H), 7.36 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.01–6.96 (m, 2H), 6.90–6.85 (m, 2H), 5.50 (s, 1H), 4.22 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.26 (s, 6H), 1.21 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  174.0, 136.3, 133.4, 129.4, 121.0, 119.4, 119.38, 111.2, 109.3, 61.1, 40.9, 14.6, 12.3.

Ethyl 2,2-bis(2-phenyl-1H-indol-3-yl)acetate (3r).<sup>1</sup>



Pale yellow powder, mp 207–209 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ 10.43 (brs, 2H), 7.54–7.50 (m, 4H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.39–7.33 (m, 4H), 7.31–7.27 (m, 2H), 7.11–7.05 (m, 2H), 6.89–6.83 (m, 2H), 5.69 (s, 1H), 4.00 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.05 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ 174.1, 137.3, 137.1, 134.1, 129.4, 129.3, 129.2, 128.4, 122.3, 121.5, 119.9, 112.0, 110.9, 61.2, 42.8, 14.5.

Ethyl 2,2-bis(5-bromo-1H-indol-3-yl)acetate (3s).



Yellow powder, mp 187–189 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  10.36 (brs, 2H), 7.82 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 2H), 7.40–7.36 (m, 4H), 7.21 (dd, J = 8.6, 1.9 Hz, 2H), 5.53 (s, 1H), 4.20 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.24 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  173.2, 136.4, 129.4, 126.2, 125.0, 122.6, 114.2, 113.5, 112.6, 61.4, 41.5, 14.5. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>16</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Na (M+Na<sup>+</sup>) 496.9471; found 496.9458.

Ethyl 2,2-bis(6-bromo-1H-indol-3-yl)acetate (3t).



Yellow powder, mp 63–65 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  10.35 (brs, 2H), 7.61 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.33–7.30 (m, 2H), 7.12 (dd, J = 8.5, 1.8 Hz, 2H), 5.49 (s, 1H), 4.17 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.21 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  173.2, 138.5, 126.6, 125.6, 122.7, 121.7, 115.4, 115.1, 114.1, 61.4, 41.4, 14.5. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>16</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Na (M+Na<sup>+</sup>) 496.9471; found 496.9456.

Ethyl 2,2-bis(5-methoxy-1H-indol-3-yl)acetate (3u).<sup>1</sup>



Pale yellow powder, mp 157–159 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ 9.95 (brs, 2H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 2H), 6.77 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 2H), 5.45 (s, 1H), 4.20 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.75 (s, 6H), 1.25 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ 173.8, 154.7, 132.8, 128.2, 125.2, 113.8, 112.9, 112.4, 101.8, 61.1, 55.8, 41.7, 14.7.

Dimethyl 3,3'-(2-ethoxy-2-oxoethane-1,1-diyl)bis(1H-indole-5-carboxylate) (3v).



Yellow powder, mp 208–210 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  10.53 (brs, 2H), 8.47 (s, 2H), 7.82 (dd, J = 8.6, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 2H), 5.66 (s, 1H), 4.21 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 6H), 1.27 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, Acetone):  $\delta$  173.4, 168.3, 140.4, 127.3, 126.5, 123.7, 123.1, 122.1, 115.4, 112.3, 61.6, 51.9, 41.6, 14.6. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>Na (M+Na<sup>+</sup>) 457.1370; found 457.1353.

2,2-Di-1H-indol-3-ylethanol (4).5



Colorless solid, mp 49–51 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.91 (brs, 2H), 7.60 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.09 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 6.86 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 2H), 4.75 (t, J = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 1.91 (brs, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  136.4, 126.8, 122.6, 122.0, 119.31, 119.26, 115.9, 111.3, 65.6, 36.9.

Streptindole (6).5



Brown oil, 72.6 mg, 79% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.00 (brs, 2H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.23–7.15 (m, 2H), 7.13–7.04 (m, 2H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 2H), 4.96 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 4.74 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.00 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 171.5, 136.3, 126.9, 122.1, 121.9, 119.4, 119.3, 116.1, 111.1, 67.3, 33.4, 21.1.

Arsindoline B (7).5



Brown oil, 73.1 mg, 73% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.98 (brs, 2H), 7.64 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.22–7.16 (m, 2H), 7.11–7.05 (m, 2H), 6.94 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 2H), 4.96 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 4.75 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.23 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.61–1.54 (m, 2H), 0.85 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  174.0, 136.3, 126.9, 122.1, 121.9, 119.5, 119.3, 116.2, 111.1, 67.0, 36.2, 33.5, 18.3, 13.6.

#### **References:**

[1] S. D. Jadhav, D. Bakshi and A. Singh, J. Org. Chem., 2015, 80, 10187.

[2] C. Huo, C. Wang, C. Sun, X. Jia, X. Wang, W. Chang and M. Wu, Adv. Synth. Catal., 2013, 355, 1911.

[3] M. H. Mosslemin and A. E. Movahhed, E-J. Chem., 2012, 9, 301.

[4] R. Ballini, A. Palmieri, M. Petrini and E. Torregiani, Org. Lett., 2006, 8, 4093.

[5] T. Abe, S. Nakamura, R. Yanada, T. Choshi, S. Hibino and M. Ishikura, Org. Lett., 2013, 15, 3622.

[6] J. Xie and Z.-Z. Huang, Angew. Chem., Int. Ed., 2010, 49, 10181.

[7] L. Zhao, O. Basle and C.-J. Li, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A., 2009, 106, 4106.

[8] Z.-Q. Wang, M. Hu, X.-C. Huang, L.-B. Gong, Y.-X. Xie and J.-H. Li, J. Org. Chem., 2012, 77, 8705.

## 4. Copies of <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C Spectra





















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













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

 $\frac{1.22}{1.18}$ 









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



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

































