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Supporting Information

Facile Construction of Hydrogenated Azepino[3,2,1-hi]indoles by

Rh(III)-catalyzed C-H Activation/[5 + 2] Annulation of

N-Cyanoacetylindolines with Sulfoxonium Ylides

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Experimental Section

General Considerations: All the reactions were carried out under argon atmosphere using standard Schlenk technique. The ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on a 400 MHz or 600 MHz NMR spectrometer. The ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded at 100 MHz or 150 MHz. The ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded at 565 MHz. The residual solvent signals were used as references and the chemical shifts were converted to the TMS scale. The coupling constants were given in Hz. HRMS data were obtained using a TOF mode. The conversion of starting materials was monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) using silica gel plates (silica gel 60 F254 0.25 mm), and components were visualized under UV light (254 and 365 nm). Column chromatography was performed on silica gel 200-300 mesh. Unless otherwise noted below, all other compounds have been reported in the literature or are commercially available. Commercial reagents were used without further purification.

General Procedure: Preparation of the Substrates

The substrates 1a-1m, ¹ 2a-2v, ² were prepared according to the literature reports.

General Procedure of Rh(III)-Catalyzed C-H Activation and Annulation with Sulfoxonium Ylides



General procedure A for synthesis of 3 and 4:

A mixture of **1** (0.2 mmol), **2** (0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv), $Cp*Rh(OAc)_2H_2O$ (6.0 mg, 0.016 mmol, 8.0 mol%), and LiOAc (3.3 mg, 0.25 equiv) were added to a Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar. Dry *t*-AmOH (2.0 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 12 h under Ar atmosphere. Afterwards, it was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was adsorbed onto small amounts of silica. The purification was performed by flash column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: **3**: DCM , **4** : DCM:EA = 4:1).

Gram-scale synthesis of 3aa

A mixture of **1** (4 mmol), **2** (6 mmol, 1.5 equiv), Cp*Rh(OAc)₂:H₂O (120.0 mg, 0.32 mmol, 8.0 mol%), and LiOAc (66 mg, 0.25 equiv) were added to a Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar. Dry *t*-AmOH (40 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 12 h under Ar atmosphere. Afterwards, it was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was adsorbed onto small amounts of silica. The purification was performed by flash column chromatography on silica gel and moderate yield of **3aa** 60% (0.68 g) was still attained (eluent: DCM), The purification was performed by flash column chromatography on silica gel and moderate yield of **4aa** 21% (0.25 g) was still attained (eluent: DCM : EA = 4:1)

Preparation and Characterization of Product 3

4-oxo-2-phenyl-3,4,6,7-tetrahydroazepino[3,2,1-hi]indole-3-carbonitrile(3 aa)



The title compound was isolated as a pale-yellow solid (eluent: DCM, 43.6 mg, 70%). M.p.: 165 - 166. °C.¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.51 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.31 - 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.15 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 4.89 (s, 1H), 4.47 - 4.44 (m, 1H), 4.12 - 4.07 (m, 1H), 3.38 - 3.26 (m, 1H), 3.16 - 3.07 (m, 1H).¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl3) δ 158.9, 138.7, 137.9, 134.1, 129.3, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 126.3, 125.3, 124.5, 123.3, 114.0, 50.1, 42.8,

27.8.HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₁₉H₁₄N₂O [M+Na] ⁺ 309.0098, Found: 309.0098.



2-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-oxo-3,4,6,7-tetrahydroazepino[3,2,1-hi]indole-3-car **bonitrile(3ab)**

The title compound was isolated as a white solid (eluent: DCM, 34.9 mg, 57%). M.p.: 166 - 167 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.53 - 7.47 (m, 2H), 7.33 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (s, 1H), 4.81 (s, 1H), 4.47 - 4.44 (m, 1H),

4.20 - 4.10 (m, 1H), 3.37 - 3.27 (m, 1H), 3.20 - 3.10 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.1 (d, J = 248.5 Hz), 159.1, 138.1, 134.3, 131.9 (d, J = 2.0 Hz), 130.7 (d, J = 8.4 Hz), 130.0 (d, J = 2.8 Hz), 128.7, 127.1 (d, J = 13.5 Hz), 125.7, 124.9, 124.6 (d, J = 3.6 Hz), 124.5, 122.9, 116.2 (d, J = 21.7 Hz), 113.9, 50.2, 42.9, 42.9, 27.8. ¹⁹F NMR (565 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -112.2, -112.2, -112.2, -112.2. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₁₉H₁₃FN₂O [M+Na] ⁺ 327.0904, Found: 327.0902.

2-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-oxo-3,4,6,7-tetrahydroazepino[3,2,1-hi]indole-3-c arbonitrile(3ac)



4.17 - 4.12 (m, 1H), 3.35 - 3.29 (m, 1H), 3.18 - 3.11 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.8, 138.1, 137.2, 134.8, 134.3, 129.1, 129.1, 128.6, 128.2, 127.8, 125.6, 124.7, 123.2, 113.9, 50.2, 42.3, 27.9. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₁₉H₁₃ClN₂O [M+Na] ⁺ 343.0609, Found: 343.0610.

2-(4-bromophenyl)-4-oxo-3,4,6,7-tetrahydroazepino[3,2,1-hi]indole-3-ca rbonitrile(3ad)



The title compound was isolated as a white solid (eluent: DCM, 39.6 mg, 54%). M.P.: 159 - 160 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.58 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (s, 1H), 4.81 (s, 1H), 4.51 – 4.42 (m, 1H),

4.20 - 4.15 (m, 1H), 3.40 - 3.28 (m, 1H), 3.22 - 3.14 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.8, 138.1, 137.6, 134.3, 132.1, 129.2, 128.6, 128.3, 128.0, 125.6, 124.7, 123.2, 123.0, 113.9, 50.2, 42.2, 27.9. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₁₉H₁₃BrN₂O [M+Na]⁺ 387.0104, Found: 387.0104.

4-oxo-2-(p-tolyl)-3,4,6,7-tetrahydroazepino[3,2,1-hi]indole-3-carbonitrile (**3ae**)



B

The title compound was isolated as a pale-yellow solid (eluent: DCM, 36.0 mg, 60%). M.p.: 122 - 123 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.43 – 7.39 (m, 2H), 7.32 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.23 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H),

7.04 (s, 1H), 4.89 (s, 1H), 4.50 - 4.46 (m, 1H), 4.13 - 4.08 (m, 1H), 3.36 - 3.30 (m, 1H), 3.15 -3.10 (m, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.0, 138.9, 137.9, 136.0, 134.2, 129.6, 129.4, 128.5, 128.0, 126.4, 125.2, 124.5, 123.6, 114.2, 50.2, 42.4, 27.9, 21.2. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for $C_{20}H_{16}N_2O[M+H]^+$ 301.1135 Found: 301.1136.



2-(4-ethylphenyl)-4-oxo-3,4,6,7-tetrahydroazepino[3,2,1-hi]indole-3-car **bonitrile**(3af)

The title compound was isolated as a pale-yelow solid (eluent: DCM, 38.4 mg, 61%). M.p.: 122 - 123 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.44 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.33 – 7.23 (m, 4H), 7.16 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (s, 1H), 4.91 (s, 1H), 4.50 - 4.47 (m, 1H), 4.12 - 4.07 (m, 1H), 3.39 - 3.27 (m, 1H), 3.14 -

3.10 (m, 1H), 2.68 (q, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.26 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.9, 145.2, 137.8, 136.2, 134.1, 129.4, 128.5, 128.4, 128.0, 126.4, 125.2, 124.5, 123.6, 114.2, 50.2, 42.3, 28.5, 27.9, 15.4. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₁H₁₈N₂O [M+Na] ⁺ 337.1311, Found: 337.1307.



(m, 1H), 1.34 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.9, 152.1, 137.9, 136.0, 134.2, 129.3, 128.6, 128.1, 126.2, 125.9, 125.2, 124.5, 123.6, 114.2, 50.2, 42.3, 34.7, 31.2, 27.9. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₃H₂₂N₂O [M+Na]⁺ 365.1624, Found: 365.1628.

2-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-4-oxo-3,4,6,7-tetrahydroazepino[3,2,1-hi]indole -3-carbonitrile(3ah)

4.52 - 4.48 (m, 1H), 4.12 - 4.07 (m, 1H), 3.39 - 3.30 (m, 1H), 3.16 - 3.08



4.85 (s, 1H), 4.41 - 4.37 (m, 1H), 4.07 – 3.99 (m, 1H), 3.29 – 3.19 (m, 1H), 3.06 - 3.02 (m, 1H). 13 C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.9, 141.5, 140.0, 137.9, 137.6, 134.2, 128.9, 128.8, 128.6, 128.6, 127.7, 127.5, 127.0, 126.8, 125.4, 124.6, 123.4, 114.1, 50.2, 42.2, 27.8. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₅H₁₈N₂O [M+Na] ⁺ 385.1311, Found: 385.1309.



Ph

2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxo-3,4,6,7-tetrahydroazepino[3,2,1-hi]indole-3-c arbonitrile (3ai)

The title compound was isolated as a white solid (eluent: DCM, 29.4 mg, 46%). M.p.: 145 - 146 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.46 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.31 - 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.16 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (s, 1H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 4.88 (s, 1H), 4.49 - 4.46 (m, 1H), 4.13 - 4.08 (m, 1H), 3.84 (s, 1H), 3.84 (s, 1H), 4.13 - 4.08 (m, 1H), 3.84 (s, 1H), 3.84 (s, 1H), 4.13 - 4.08 (m, 1H), 3.84 (s, 1H), 3.84 (s, 1H), 4.13 - 4.08 (m, 1H), 3.84 (s, 1H), 3.84 (s, 1H), 4.13 - 4.08 (m, 1H), 3.84 (s, 1H), 3.84 (s, 1H), 3.84 (s, 1H), 4.13 - 4.08 (m, 1H), 3.84 (s, 1H

3H), 3.39 - 3.26 (m, 1H), 3.15 - 3.11 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.1, 158.9, 137.8, 134.1, 131.3, 129.0, 128.4, 127.9, 127.2, 125.1, 124.5, 123.7, 114.3, 114.2, 55.4, 50.2, 42.4, 27.9. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₀H₁₆N₂O₂ [M+Na] ⁺ 339.1104, Found: 339.1100.

4-oxo-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-3,4,6,7-tetrahydroazepino[3,2,1-hi]indole-3-carbonitrile (3aj)



The title compound was isolated as a pale-yellow solid (eluent: DCM, 37.1 mg, 52%). M.p.: 160 - 161 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.70 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.37 - 7.35 (m, 1H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (s, 1H), 4.81 (s, 1H), 4.47 - 4.43 (m,

1H), 4.21 - 4.16 (m, 1H), 3.36 - 3.31 (m, 1H), 3.22 - 3.13 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) 158.8, 142.2, 138.3, 134.4, 130.7 (q, J = 33.0 Hz), 130.5, 128.7, 128.0, 126.8, 126.0, 125.9 (q, J = 3.2 Hz), 124.8, 123.0, 122.2 (q, J = 272.5 Hz), 113.8, 50.3, 42.3, 27.9. ¹⁹F NMR (565 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.68. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₀H₁₃F₃N₂O [M+Na] ⁺ 377.0872, Found: 377.0879.

2-(3-fluorophenyl)-4-oxo-3,4,6,7-tetrahydroazepino[3,2,1-hi]indole-3-car bonitrile(3ak)



The title compound was isolated as a pale-yellow solid (eluent: DCM, 37.4 mg, 61%). M.p.: 149 - 150 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.45 - 7.41 (m, 1H), 7.37 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, J = 9.7 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.15 - 7.07 (m, 2H), 4.87 (s, 1H), 4.52 - 4.48 (m, 1H), 7.21 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.15 - 7.07 (m, 2H), 4.87 (s, 1H), 4.52 - 4.48 (m, 1H), 7.21 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.15 - 7.07 (m, 2H), 4.87 (s, 1H), 4.52 - 4.48 (m, 1H), 7.21 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.15 - 7.07 (m, 2H), 4.87 (s, 1H), 4.52 - 4.48 (m, 1H), 7.21 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.15 - 7.07 (m, 2H), 4.87 (s, 1H), 4.52 - 4.48 (m, 1H), 7.21 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.15 - 7.07 (m, 2H), 4.87 (s, 1H), 4.52 - 4.48 (m, 1H), 7.21 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.15 - 7.07 (m, 2H), 4.87 (s, 1H), 4.52 - 4.48 (m, 1H), 7.21 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.15 - 7.07 (m, 2H), 4.87 (s, 1H), 4.52 - 4.48 (m, 1H), 7.21 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.15 - 7.07 (m, 2H), 4.87 (s, 1H), 4.52 - 4.48 (m, 1H), 7.21 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.15 - 7.07 (m, 2H), 4.87 (s, 1H), 4.52 - 4.48 (m, 1H), 7.21 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.15 - 7.07 (m, 2H), 4.87 (s, 1H), 7.15 - 7.07 (m, 2H), 4.87 (s, 1H), 7.15 - 7.07 (m, 2H), 7.15 - 7.15

1H), 4.18 - 4.13 (m, 1H), 3.42 - 3.31 (m, 1H), 3.22 - 3.13 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.9 (d, *J* = 247.6 Hz), 158.7, 140.9 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz), 138.1, 134.3, 130.5 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 129.7, 128.7, 128.1, 125.7, 124.7, 123.1, 122.1 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz), 115.7 (d, *J* = 21.2 Hz), 113.8, 113.6 (d, *J* = 22.6 Hz), 50.2, 42.3, 27.9. ¹⁹F NMR (565 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -111.73, -111.75, -111.76, -111.77. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₁₉H₁₃FN₂O [M+Na]⁺ 327.0904, Found: 327.0903.

2-(3-chlorophenyl)-4-oxo-3,4,6,7-tetrahydroazepino[3,2,1-hi]indole-3-car bonitrile (3al)



The title compound was isolated as a pale-yellow solid (eluent: DCM, 38.3 mg, 60%). M.p.: 154 - 155 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.51 - 7.50 (m, 1H), 7.43 - 7.32 (m, 4H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H),

7.08 (s, 1H), 4.82 (s, 1H), 4.47 - 4.44 (m, 1H), 4.15 - 4.10 (m, 1H), 3.35 - 3.30 (m, 1H), 3.17 - 3.12 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.7, 140.5, 138.0, 134.9, 134.3, 130.1, 129.8,

128.8, 128.6, 127.9, 126.7, 125.7, 124.7, 124.6, 123.0, 113.8, 50.2, 42.2, 27.8. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₁₉H₁₃ClN₂O [M+Na] ⁺343.0609, Found: 343.0606.

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4-oxo-2-(m-tolyl)-3,4,6,7-tetrahydroazepino[3,2,1-hi]indole-3-carbonitrile (3am)

The title compound was isolated as a white solid (eluent: DCM, 36.1mg, 60%). M.p.: 133 - 134 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39 - 7.34 (m, 4H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.22 - 719 (m, 2H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 4.94 (s, 1H), 4.54 -

4.51 (m, 1H), 4.15 - 4.10 (m, 1H), 3.43 - 3.31 (m, 1H), 3.18 - 3.14 (m, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.0, 138.9, 138.7, 137.9, 134.2, 129.6, 129.5, 128.8, 128.6, 128.6, 127.1, 125.3, 124.6, 123.6, 123.5, 114.1, 50.2, 42.4, 27.9, 21.4. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₀H₁₆N₂O [M+Na] ⁺ 323.1155, Found: 323.1154.

2-(3-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxo-3,4,6,7-tetrahydroazepino[3,2,1-hi]indole-3-ca rbonitrile (3an)

The title compound was isolated as a pale-yelow solid (eluent: DCM, 29.7 mg, =0 47%). M.p.: 117 - 118 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.35 - 7.28 (m, 3H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.12 - 7.06 (m, 2H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 4.89 (s, 1H), 4.50 - 4.46 (m, 1H), 4.13 - 7.08 (m, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.39 -

3.28 (m, 1H), 3.15 - 3.11 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.9, 158.9, 140.3, 137.9, 134.2, 129.9, 129.3, 128.9, 128.6, 125.4, 124.6, 123.3, 118.8, 114.3, 114.0, 112.1, 55.4, 50.2, 42.4, 27.8. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₀H₁₆N₂O₂ [M+Na] ⁺ 339.1104, Found: 339.1102.



2-(2-fluorophenyl)-4-oxo-3,4,6,7-tetrahydroazepino[3,2,1-hi]indole-3-car bonitrile (3ao)

The title compound was isolated as a pale-yellow solid (eluent: DCM, 42.2mg, 69%). M.p.: 142 - 143 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39 - 7.36

(m, 2H), 7.33 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.20 - 7.14 (m, 3H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 4.75 (s, 1H), 4.51 - 4.42 (m, 1H), 4.18 - 4.13 (m, 1H), 3.38 - 3.25 (m, 1H), 3.19 - 3.10 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.9 (d, J = 249.4 Hz), 158.9, 138.0, 134.9 (d, J = 3.4 Hz), 134.3, 128.7, 128.5, 128.4, 128.4 (d, J = 8.3 Hz), 125.5, 124.6, 123.3, 115.9 (d, J = 21.9 Hz), 114.0, 50.2, 42.5, 27.9. ¹⁹F NMR (565 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -112.92, -112.93, -112.94. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₁₉H₁₃FN₂O [M+Na]⁺ 327.0904, Found: 327.096.



2-(2-chlorophenyl)-4-oxo-3,4,6,7-tetrahydroazepino[3,2,1-hi]indole-3-car bonitrile (3ap)

The title compound was isolated as a pale-yellow solid (eluent: DCM, 24.8 mg, 39%). M.P.: 132 - 133 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.48 (d, *J* = 7.6

Hz, 1H), 7.36 - 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.30 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (s, 1H), 4.67 (s, 1H), 4.50 - 4.46 (m, 1H), 4.21 - 4.16 (m, 1H), 3.37 - 3.30 (m, 1H), 3.19 - 3.12 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.3, 138.5, 138.2, 134.3, 133.2, 132.0, 131.2, 130.2, 130.0, 128.6, 128.6, 127.1, 125.7, 124.5, 122.7, 114.0, 50.3, 43.4, 27.8. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₁₉H₁₃ClN₂O [M+Na] ⁺ 343.0609, Found: 343.0611.



4-oxo-2-(o-tolyl)-3,4,6,7-tetrahydroazepino[3,2,1-hi]indole-3-carbonitrile (3aq)

The title compound was isolated as a pale-yellow solid (eluent: DCM, 21.6 mg, 36%). M.p.: 68 - 69 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.34 - 7.31 (m, 1H), 7.30 - 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.26 - 7.20 (m, 3H), 7.20 - 7.15 (m, 1H), 6.84 (s,

1H), 4.50 (s, 1H), 4.46 - 4.40 (m, 1H), 4.28 - 4.21 (m, 1H), 3.36 - 3.27 (m, 1H), 3.23 - 3.14 (m, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.4, 139.7, 138.1, 135.8, 134.3, 130.8, 130.7, 130.5, 129.3, 128.8, 128.4, 126.1, 125.4, 124.5, 123.2, 114.1, 50.3, 44.0, 27.9, 20.5. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₀H₁₆N₂O [M+Na]⁺ 323.1155, Found: 323.1157.



2-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)-4-oxo-3,4,6,7-tetrahydroazepino[3,2,1-hi]indo le-3-carbonitrile (3ar)

The title compound was isolated a white solid (eluent: DCM, 40.1 mg, 64%). M.p.: 166 - 167 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.31 - 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.16 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (s, 2H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 7.02 (s, 1H), 4.92

(s, 1H), 4.54 - 4.46 (m, 1H), 4.11 - 4.06 (m, J = 20.9, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 3.37 - 3.31 (m, 1H), 3.14 - 3.09 (m, 1H), 2.36 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.0, 138.9, 138.5, 137.8, 134.1, 130.4, 129.7, 128.5, 128.3, 125.2, 124.5, 124.3, 123.5, 114.2, 50.2, 42.4, 27.8, 21.3. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₁H₁₈N₂O [M+Na]⁺ 337.1311, Found: 337.1313.



2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-4-oxo-3,4,6,7-tetrahydroazepino[3,2,1-hi]indole-3carbonitrile (3as)

The title compound was isolated a white solid (eluent: DCM, 43.2 mg, 61%). M.p.: 180 - 181 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.61 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.36 - 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.30 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (t,

J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (s, 1H), 4.75 (s, 1H), 4.45 - 4.42 (m, 1H), 4.18 - 4.13 (m, 1H), 3.37 - 3.29 (m, 1H), 3.20 - 3.12 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.6, 138.6, 138.1, 134.4, 133.2, 133.0, 130.8, 130.0, 128.6, 128.4, 126.9, 125.9, 125.7, 124.7, 122.9, 113.7, 50.3, 42.1, 27.9. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₁₉H₁₂ClN₂O₂ [M+Na]⁺ 377.0219, Found: 377.0216.



2-(naphthalen-1-yl)-4-oxo-3,4,6,7-tetrahydroazepino[3,2,1-hi]indole-3-ca rbonitrile (3at)

The title compound was isolated as a pale-yellow solid (eluent: DCM, 39.3 mg, 58%). M.P.: 83 - 84 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.88 - 7.79 (m, 3H), 7.53 - 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.40 (m, 2H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, *J* =

7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (s, 1H), 4.65 (s, 1H), 4.45 (t, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (dd, J = 19.5, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 3.34 – 3.25 (m, 1H), 3.15 – 3.07 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl3) δ 159.2, 138.2, 137.8, 134.3, 133.9, 131.7, 130.8, 129.4, 129.4, 128.8, 128.5, 127.1, 127.1, 126.4, 125.5, 125.3, 125.0, 124.6, 123.2, 114.2, 50.4, 44.3, 27.9. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₃H₁₆N₂O [M+Na]⁺ 359.1155, Found: 359.1157.

2-(naphthalen-2-yl)-4-oxo-3,4,6,7-tetrahydroazepino[3,2,1-hi]indole-3-ca rbonitrile (3au)



The title compound was isolated as a pale-yellow solid (eluent: DCM, 45.8 mg, 68%). M.P.: 185 - 186 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.97 (s, 1H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H),

7.55 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.33 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.21 - 7.18 (m, 2H), 5.06 (s, 1H), 4.53 - 4.50 (m, 1H), 4.15 - 4.10 (m, 1H), 3.42 – 3.30 (m, 1H), 3.17 - 3.13 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.0, 138.0, 136.1, 134.2, 133.2, 133.1, 129.3, 129.2, 128.8, 128.6, 128.3, 127.7, 126.8, 126.8, 125.7, 125.4, 124.6, 124.0, 123.5, 114.1, 50.2, 42.4, 27.9. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₃H₁₆N₂O [M+Na]⁺ 359.1155, Found: 359.1159.



2-(furan-2-yl)-4-oxo-3,4,6,7-tetrahydroazepino[3,2,1-hi]indole-3-carboni trile (3av)

The title compound was isolated a pale-yellow solid (eluent: DCM, 31.5 mg, 57%). M.p.: 167 - 168 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.50 (s, 1H), 7.41 – 7.30 (m, 3H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (s, 1H), 6.52 (s, 1H), 4.97 (s,

1H), 4.60 - 4.56 (m, 1H), 4.04 - 3.99 (m, 1H), 3.46 – 3.32 (m, 1H), 3.13 - 3.09 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.2, 151.3, 143.8, 137.6, 134.2, 128.8, 125.4, 124.6, 124.6, 123.2, 118.2, 113.7, 112.2, 108.7, 50.3, 39.5, 27.8. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₁₇H₁₂N₂O₂ [M+Na] ⁺ 299.0791, Found: 299.0792.

8-fluoro-4-oxo-2-phenyl-3,4,6,7-tetrahydroazepino[3,2,1-hi]indole-3-carbo nitrile(3ba)

The title compound was isolated a white solid (eluent: DCM, 19.9 mg, 33%). M.p.: 157 - 158 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.43 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 5.2 Hz, 1H),

6.97 (s, 1H), 6.85 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.85 (s, 1H), 4.50 – 4.44 (m, 1H), 4.08 (dd, J = 21.0, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 3.29 – 3.20 (m, 1H), 3.16 – 3.12 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.0 (d, J = 250.1 Hz), 158.8, 140.2 (d, J = 9.2 Hz), 138.8 (d, J = 8.2 Hz), 130.8, 129.0, 128.8, 128.1, 126.4, 119.8 (d, J = 3.0 Hz), 119.8 (d, J = 22.7 Hz), 113.9, 112.6 (d, J = 1.8 Hz), 50.7, 42.4, 24.2. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -116.09, -116.11, -116.13. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₁₉H₁₃N₂O [M+Na]⁺ 327.0904, Found: 327.0905.



8-chloro-4-oxo-2-phenyl-3,4,6,7-tetrahydroazepino[3,2,1-hi]indole-3-carb onitrile(3ca)

The title compound was isolated as a white solid (eluent: DCM, 39.7 mg, 62%). M.p.: 130 - 131 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.50 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 4.93 (s, 1H), 4.55 - 4.48 (m, 1H),

4.13 (dd, J = 20.9, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 3.35 – 3.29 (m, 1H), 3.22 – 3.17 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.8, 138.9, 138.7, 132.4, 131.3, 130.0., 129.7, 129.0, 129.0, 128.0, 126.4, 124.8, 121.8, 113.8, 49.9, 42.4, 27.3. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₁₉H₁₃ClN₂O [M+Na]⁺ 343.0609, Found: 343.0608.



8-bromo-4-oxo-2-phenyl-3,4,6,7-tetrahydroazepino[3,2,1-hi]indole-3-ca rbonitrile (3da)

The title compound was isolated as a white solid (eluent: DCM, 45.7 mg, 63%). M.p.: 149 - 150 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.53 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.44 - 7.40 (m, 1H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (s, 1H), 4.95 (s, 1H), 4.55 - 4.51 (m, 1H),

4.18 - 4.13 (m, 1H), 3.38 - 3.28 (m, 1H), 3.24 - 3.16 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.9, 138.6, 138.5, 134.7, 130.0, 129.7, 129.0, 129.0, 128.1, 127.6, 126.4, 122.2, 120.1, 113.8, 49.5, 42.3, 29.3. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₁₉H₁₃BrN₂O [M+Na]⁺ 387.0104, Found: 387.0104.

8-methyl-4-oxo-2-phenyl-3,4,6,7-tetrahydroazepino[3,2,1-hi]indole-3-car bonitrile (3ea)



The title compound was isolated a white solid (eluent: DCM, 35.8 mg, 60%). M.p.: 151 - 152 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.54 – 7.48 (m, 2H), 7.44 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (s, 1H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.90 (s, 1H), 4.50 - 4.46 (m, 1H), 4.13 - 4.06 (m, 1H), 3.25 - 3.17 (m, 1H),

3.11 – 2.99 (m, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.9, 139.0, 137.6, 135.4, 132.5, 128.9, 128.6, 128.5, 128.2, 126.4, 126.0, 121.1, 114.2, 49.9, 42.3, 26.6, 18.7. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₀H₁₆N₂O [M+Na]⁺ 323.1155, Found: 323.1153.



8-methoxy-4-oxo-2-phenyl-3,4,6,7-tetrahydroazepino[3,2,1-hi]indole-3-ca rbonitrile (3fa)

The title compound was isolated as a pale-yellow solid (eluent: DCM, 26.3 mg, 42%). M.p.: 156 - 157 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.50 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz,

1H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 6.78 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 4.91 (s, 1H), 4.51 - 4.48 (m, 1H), 4.12 - 4.07 (m, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.23 - 3.15 (m, 1H), 3.11 - 3.07 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.0, 156.4, 139.4, 139.2, 130.6, 128.9, 128.8, 128.4, 126.9, 126.4, 120.5, 117.0, 114.4, 107.9, 55.7, 50.6, 42.4, 24.8. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₀H₁₆N₂O₂ [M+Na]⁺ 339.1104, Found: 339.1103.



Methyl 3-cyano-4-oxo-2-phenyl-3,4,6,7-tetrahydroazepino[3,2,1-hi]indol e-8-carboxylate (3ga)

The title compound was isolated as a white solid (eluent: DCM, 46.3 mg, 67%). M.p.: 175 - 176 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.85 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.49 – 7.42 (m, 3H), 7.40 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (s, 1H), 4.97 (s, 1H), 4.59 - 4.51 (m, 1H), 4.13 (dd, J = 20.8, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (s, 3H), 3.68 - 3.60 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.0, 158.8, 138.7, 138.5, 137.7, 131.9, 129.2, 129.1, 128.7, 128.1, 126.9, 126.7, 126.5, 125.6, 113.7, 52.2, 50.2, 42.4, 29.2. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₁H₁₆N₂O₃ [M+Na]⁺ 367.1053, Found: 367.1058.



9-fluoro-4-oxo-2-phenyl-3,4,6,7-tetrahydroazepino[3,2,1-hi]indole-3-c arbonitrile (3ha)

The title compound was isolated as a white solid (eluent: DCM, 42.6 mg, 70%). M.p.: 163 - 164 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.54 (d, J = 7.2Hz, 2H), 7.47 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.45 – 7.40 (m, 1H), 7.09 (d, J = 7.4 Hz,

1H), 7.02 (d, J = 13.2 Hz, 2H), 4.93 (s, 1H), 4.56 - 4.53 (m, 1H), 4.19 - 4.14 (m, 1H), 3.42 - 10.23.32 (m, 1H), 3.18 - 3.14 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.4 (d, J = 242.9 Hz), 158.6, 138.5, 136.6 (d, J = 9.2 Hz), 134.3, 130.8, 129.1, 129.0, 127.7 (d, J = 1.9 Hz), 126.4, 124.2 (d, J = 9.0 Hz), 113.9 (d, J = 2.9 Hz), 113.7, 113.6 (d, J = 25.0 Hz), 50.5, 42.2, 28.0. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl3) δ -117.73, -117.76, -117.78. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₁₉H₁₃N₂OF [M+Na]⁺ 327.0904, Found: 327.0903.



9-chloro-4-oxo-2-phenyl-3,4,6,7-tetrahydroazepino[3,2,1-hi]indole-3carbonitrile (3ia)

The title compound was isolated as a pale-yellow solid (eluent: DCM, 47.7 mg, 74%). M.p.: 204 - 205 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.51 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.42 - 7.38 (m, 1H), 7.31 -7.28 (m, 2H), 7.00 (s, 1H), 4.92 (s, 1H), 4.53 - 4.49 (m, 1H), 4.15 - 4.10

(m, 1H), 3.40 - 3.29 (m, 1H), 3.18 - 3.08 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.6, 138.5, 136.6, 136.2, 130.8, 129.8, 129.1, 129.0, 127.9, 127.6, 126.5, 125.7, 124.3, 113.8, 50.4, 42.4, 27.8. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₁₉H₁₃N₂OCl [M+Na]⁺343.0609, Found: 343.0611.



9-bromo-4-oxo-2-phenyl-3,4,6,7-tetrahydroazepino[3,2,1-hi]indole-3carbonitrile (3ja)

The title compound was isolated as a white solid (eluent: DCM, 41.5 mg, 57%). M.p.: 201 - 202 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.53 (d, *J* = 7.3

Hz, 2H), 7.48 - 7.46 (m, 4H), 7.45 – 7.41 (m, 1H), 7.02 (s, 1H), 4.95 (s, 1H), 4.54 - 4.51 (m, 1H), 4.17 - 4.12 (m, 1H), 3.43 - 3.33 (m, 1H), 3.20 - 3.11 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.6, 138.5, 137.0, 136.4, 130.8, 130.7, 129.1, 129.0, 128.4, 127.5, 126.4, 124.7, 117.3, 113.7, 50.4, 42.3, 27.7. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₁₉H₁₃BrN₂O [M+Na] ⁺ 387.0104, Found: 387.0100.

9-m bon CN The 58% 7.46

9-methyl-4-oxo-2-phenyl-3,4,6,7-tetrahydroazepino[3,2,1-hi]indole-3-car bonitrile (3ka)

The title compound was isolated as a white solid (eluent: DCM, 34.7 mg, 58%). M.p.: 179 - 180 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.52 - 750 (m, 2H), 7.46 - 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.14 (s, 1H), 7.09 (s, 1H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 4.89 (s, 1H),

4.49 - 4.44 (m, 1H), 4.12 - 4.05 (m, 1H), 3.37 - 3.23 (m, 1H), 3.12 - 3.05 (m, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.7, 139.0, 135.8, 134.4, 134.3, 129.2, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 126.5, 126.4, 123.1, 114.2, 50.3, 42.4, 27.8, 21.0. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₀H₁₆N₂O [M+Na]⁺ 323.1155, Found: 323.1155.



9-methoxy-4-oxo-2-phenyl-3,4,6,7-tetrahydroazepino[3,2,1-hi]indole-3-carbonitrile (3la)

The title compound was isolated as a white solid (eluent: DCM, 30.4 mg, 48%). M.p.: 171 - 172 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.54 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (s, 1H),

6.96 (s, 1H), 6.78 (s, 1H), 4.91 (s, 1H), 4.52 - 4.48 (m, 1H), 4.15 - 4.10 (m, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.38 - 3.29 (m, 1H), 3.14 - 3.10 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.4, 156.7, 138.8, 136.0, 132.0, 129.7, 128.9, 128.8, 128.5, 126.4, 123.9, 114.2, 113.5, 110.9, 55.7, 50.3, 42.3, 28.1. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₀H₁₆N₂O₂ [M+Na]⁺ 339.1104, Found: 339.1103.



(±)-2-hydroxy-5-methoxy-2,8-diphenyl-2,3-dihydrobenzo[de]chromene-9carbonitrile (3ma)

The mixtures were isolated as pale-yellow solids in 71% overall yield (DCM, 42.5 mg) dr =1:2.4. M.p.: 150 - 151 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.52 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 0.88H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2.06H), 7.38 - 7.29 (m, 4.67H),

7.26 – 7.17 (m, 3.11H), 7.11 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1.46H), 7.07 (s, 1H), 6.87 (s, 0.43H), 4.99 (s, 1H), 4.95 – 4.86 (m, 1.47H), 4.09 (s, 0.42H), 3.51 - 3.41 (M, 1.51H), 2.62 (t, J = 14.9 Hz, 1.50H), 1.22 – 1.18 (m, 4.59H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.3, 158.5, 139.2, 137.9, 137.5, 136.2, 133.3, 132.9, 130.4, 129.3, 129.0, 129.0, 128.9, 128.7, 128.7, 128.6, 128.2, 127.9, 126.9, 126.3, 125.9, 125.5, 124.6, 124.5, 123.9, 123.8, 114.8, 113.9, 58.7, 58.2, 43.0, 42.4, 36.0, 35.6, 20.3, 20.2. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₀H₁₆N₂O [M+Na] ⁺ 323.1155, Found: 323.1151.

Preparation and Characterization of Products 4



2-(5-benzoyl-1,2-dihydropyrrolo[3,2,1-hi]indol-4-yl)acetamide (4aa) The title compound was isolated as a pale-yellow solid (eluent: DCM:EA, 9.1 mg, 15%). M.p.: 245 - 246 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89 (s, 2H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.01 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H),

1H), 6.57 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.33 (s, 2H), 3.22 (s, 2H), 3.19 (s, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.6, 167.0, 156.8, 141.6, 138.7, 133.0, 130.9, 129.8, 128.6, 127.5, 126.3, 123.0, 121.9, 104.1, 48.3, 44.9, 28.7. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₁₉H₁₆N₂O₂ [M+Na]⁺ 327.1104, Found: 327.1100.



2-(5-(4-methylbenzoyl)-1,2-dihydropyrrolo[3,2,1-hi]indol-4-yl)acetam ide (4ae)

The title compound was isolated as a pale-yellow solid (eluent: DCM:EA, 11.2 mg, 18%). M.p.: 220 - 221 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.63 (s, 2H), 6.95 - 6.86 (m, 5H), 6.61 - 6.54 (m, 1H), 6.51 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.23 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 3.14 - 3.07 (m, 4H), 2.21 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151

MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.5, 167.0, 156.1, 140.2, 138.7, 138.6, 133.0, 130.9, 128.8, 128.2, 126.5, 123.1, 121.9, 104.3, 48.3, 45.1, 28.7, 21.4. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₀H₁₈N₂O₂ [M+Na]⁺ 341.1261, Found: 341.1265.



2-(5-(4-(tert-butyl)benzoyl)-1,2-dihydropyrrolo[3,2,1-hi]indol-4-yl)ace tamide (4ag)

The title compound was isolated as a pale-yellow solid (eluent: DCM:EA, 16.8 mg, 23%). M.p.: 195 - 196 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.71 (s, 2H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.96 - 6.93 (m, 3H), 6.60 - 6.49 (m, 2H), 4.23 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 3.16 - 3.06 (m, 4H), 1.18 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (151

MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.5, 167.0, 156.1, 153.3, 138.7, 138.5, 132.9, 130.9, 128.6, 126.5, 124.4, 123.0, 121.9, 104.3, 48.3, 45.0, 34.7, 31.13, 28.7. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₃H₂₄N₂O₂ [M+Na]⁺383.1730, Found: 383.1734.



2-(5-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-1,2-dihydropyrrolo[3,2,1-hi]indol-4-yl)aceta mide (4ai)

The title compound was isolated as a pale-yellow solid (eluent: DCM:EA, 22.2 mg, 33%). M.p.: 215 - 216 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.63 (s, 2H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.96 - 6.94 (m, 1H), 6.65 - 6.51 (m, 4H), 4.23 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.15 - 3.06 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (151

MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.7, 167.1, 161.0, 155.8, 138.6, 133.8, 133.0, 130.9, 130.8, 126.7, 123.2, 121.9, 112.8, 104.1, 55.2, 48.3, 44.9, 28.7. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₀H₁₈N₂O₃ [M+Na]⁺ 357.1210, Found: 357.1212.

2-(5-(3,5-dimethylbenzoyl)-1,2-dihydropyrrolo[3,2,1-hi]indol-4-yl)ace tamide (4ar)

The title compound was isolated a pale-yellow solid (eluent: DCM:EA, 10.7 mg, 17%). M.P.: 246 - 247 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.82 (s, 2H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (s, 1H), 6.60 - 6.55 (m, 3H), 6.50 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.28 - 4.16 (m, 2H), 3.17 - 3.06 (m, 4H), 2.06 (s,

6H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.9, 167.0, 156.4, 141.3, 138.6, 136.8, 132.8, 131.4, 130.9, 126.5, 122.9, 121.8, 104.3, 48.3, 44.8, 28.6, 21.1. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₁H₂₀N₂O₂ [M+Na]⁺355.1417, Found: 355.1419.

2-(5-(2-naphthoyl)-1,2-dihydropyrrolo[3,2,1-hi]indol-4-yl)acetamide (4au)



The title compound was isolated as a pale-yellow solid (eluent: DCM:EA, 16.8 mg, 24%). M.P.: >290 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.83 (s, 2H), 7.70 – 7.60 (m, 3H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.44 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 6.99 – 6.89 (m, 2H), 6.51 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.48 – 6.42 (m, 1H), 4.28 (t,

J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 3.21 - 3.09 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.3, 167.0, 156.7, 138.9, 138.8, 133.9, 133.1, 132.5, 130.9, 129.3, 128.9, 127.5, 127.1, 126.8, 126.3, 126.1, 125.6, 123.3, 122.0, 104.4, 100.0, 48.4, 45.1, 28.7. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₃H₁₈N₂O₂ [M+Na]⁺ 377.1261, Found: 377.1257.



2-(5-benzoyl-8-fluoro-1,2-dihydropyrrolo[3,2,1-hi]indol-4-yl)acetami de (4ba)

The title compound was isolated as a pale-yellow solid (eluent: DCM:EA, 12.9 mg, 20%). M.P.: 102 - 103 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl3) δ 8.06 (s, 2H), 7.21 - 7.18 (m, 1H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H),

7.01 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.45 - 6.43 (m, 1H), 6.29 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H),

4.27 (s, 2H), 3.17 (s, 2H), 3.12 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl3) δ 194.3, 167.1, 157.7, 156.6, 156.1, 141.4, 140.6, 140.5, 132.6, 132.5, 129.8, 128.5, 127.6, 122.4, 122.4, 118.4, 118.3, 110.7, 110.5, 103.5, 48.7, 44.7, 25.1. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -121.4. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₁₉H₁₅FN₂O₂ [M+Na] ⁺ 345.1010, Found: 345.1002.



2-(5-benzoyl-8-chloro-1,2-dihydropyrrolo[3,2,1-hi]indol-4-yl)acetami de (4ca)

The title compound was isolated as a pale-yellow solid (eluent: DCM:EA, 10.6 mg, 16%). M.P.: 118 - 119 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.81 (s, 2H), 7.31 - 7.27 (m, 1H), 7.18 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.11 - 7.05 (m, 2H), 6.60 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.49 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 4.33 (t,

J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.21 - 3.16 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl3) δ 194.5, 167.0, 156.6, 141.3, 139.6, 132.2, 131.3, 130.0, 128.5, 127.7, 127.6, 124.7, 123.1, 103.5, 48.1, 44.9, 28.2. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₁₉H₁₅N₂O₂Cl [M+Na] ⁺361.0714, Found: 361.0716.

Br N O NH₂ 2-(5-benzoyl-8-bromo-1,2-dihydropyrrolo[3,2,1-hi]indol-4-yl)acetami de (4da)

The title compound was isolated as a pale-yellow solid (eluent: DCM:EA, 8.9 mg, 12%). M.P.: 190 - 191 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl3) δ 8.08 (s, 2H), 7.21 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.67 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.36 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (s, 2H), 3.16

(s, 2H), 3.09 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl3) δ 194.3, 167.2, 156.9, 141.3, 139.4, 133.5, 132.4, 129.9, 128.5, 127.7, 125.9, 125.4, 116.0, 103.4, 47.7, 44.7, 30.1. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₁₉H₁₅N₂O₂Br [M+Na]⁺405.0209, Found: 405.0209.



2-(5-benzoyl-8-methyl-1,2-dihydropyrrolo[3,2,1-hi]indol-4-yl)acetam ide (4ea)

The title compound was isolated as a pale-yellow solid (eluent: DCM:EA, 16.3 mg, 26%). M.P.: 124 - 125 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.91 (s, 2H), 7.27 - 7.23 (m, 1H), 7.14 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.11 - 7.05 (m, 2H), 6.45 (s, 2H), 4.31 - 4.29 (m, 2H), 3.19 (s, 2H), 3.07 (t, *J*

= 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.19 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.6, 167.1, 156.4, 141.7, 138.4, 131.5, 131.4, 130.9, 129.7, 128.6, 127.5, 124.3, 123.6, 104.2, 48.1, 45.0, 27.5, 18.3. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₀H₁₈N₂O₂ [M+Na]⁺ 341.1261, Found: 341.1263.



2-(5-benzoyl-8-methoxy-1,2-dihydropyrrolo[3,2,1-hi]indol-4-yl)aceta mide (4fa)

The title compound was isolated as a pale-yellow solid (eluent: DCM:EA, 26.0 mg, 39%). M.P.: 99 - 100 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.97 (s, 2H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.11 – 7.07 (m, 2H), 6.51 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.23 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 4.33 - 4.28 (m, 2H), 6.51 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.23 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 4.33 - 4.28 (m, 2H), 6.51 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.23 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 4.33 - 4.28 (m, 2H), 6.51 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.23 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 4.33 - 4.28 (m, 2H), 6.51 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.23 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 4.33 - 4.28 (m, 2H), 6.51 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.23 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 4.33 - 4.28 (m, 2H), 6.51 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.23 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.23 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, J = 8

2H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.22 (s, 2H), 3.09 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.3, 156.2, 153.9, 141.7, 140.1, 132.2, 129.6, 128.6, 127.6, 127.5, 119.3, 119.2, 106.3, 103.9, 55.5, 48.7, 44.9, 25.8. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₀H₁₈N₂O₂ [M+Na]⁺ 357.1210, Found: 357.1213.

[3,2,1-hi]indole-8-carboxylate (4ga)

Methyl 4-(2-amino-2-oxoethyl)-5-benzoyl-1,2-dihydropyrrolo

The title compound was isolated as a pale-yellow solid (eluent: DCM:EA, 11.4 mg, 16%). M.P.: 123 - 124 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.13 (s, 2H), 7.27 – 7.24 (m, 2H), 7.15 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 6.62 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.32 (s, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.53 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 3.21 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.6, 166.8,

166.5, 157.6, 141.2, 139.2, 136.6, 130.9, 130.6, 130.1, 128.5, 127.7, 124.1, 123.5, 51.9, 48.4, 44.8, 29.9. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₁H₁₈N₂O₄ [M+Na]⁺ 385.1159, Found: 385.1156.



2-(5-benzoyl-7-chloro-1,2-dihydropyrrolo[3,2,1-hi]indol-4-yl)aceta mide (4ia)

The title compound was isolated a pale-yellow solid (eluent: DCM:EA, 8.4 mg, 12%). M.P.:231 - 232 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.93 (s, 2H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.10 - 7.06 (m,

2H), 6.98 - 6.95 (m, 1H), 6.48 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 4.31 (s, 2H), 3.18 (s, 2H), 3.15 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.6, 166.6, 156.8, 141.04 1374, 134.8, 130.4, 130.1, 128.3, 128.3, 127.7, 127.4, 122.1, 103.4, 48.5, 45.0, 28.6. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₁₉H₁₅N₂O₂Cl [M+Na] ⁺ 361.0714, Found: 361.0719.



2-(5-benzoyl-7-bromo-1,2-dihydropyrrolo[3,2,1-hi]indol-4-yl)aceta mide (4ja)

The title compound was isolated as a pale-yellow solid (eluent: DCM:EA, 9.1 mg, 12%). M.P.: >280 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.92 (s, 2H), 7.27 - 7.23 (m, 1H), 7.14 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.04 - 7.00

(m, 3H), 6.57 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 4.23 (s, 2H), 3.12 – 3.06 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.6, 166.5, 156.9, 141.0, 137.8, 135.1, 133.4, 130.1, 128.3, 127.9, 127.7, 124.9, 115.8, 103.4, 48.5, 45.0, 28.5. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₁₉H₁₅N₂O₂Br [M+Na] ⁺ 405.0209, Found: 405.0211.



2-(5-benzoyl-7-methyl-1,2-dihydropyrrolo[3,2,1-hi]indol-4-yl)acetami de (4ka)

The title compound was isolated a pale-yellow solid (eluent: DCM:EA, 10.4 mg, 16%). M.P.:210 - 211 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.72 (s, 2H), 7.24 (s, 1H), 7.15 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.81

(s, 1H), 6.30 (s, 1H), 4.28 (s, 2H), 3.17 (s, 2H), 3.11 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.90 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.8, 166.6, 156.4, 141.6, 136.7, 133.0, 132.7, 131.4, 129.7, 128.4, 127.4, 125.8, 122.9, 104.3, 48.4, 45.2, 28.6, 20.7. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₀H₁₈N₂O₂ [M+Na] ⁺ 341.1261, Found: 341.1267.



2-(5-benzoyl-7-methoxy-1,2-dihydropyrrolo[3,2,1-hi]indol-4-yl)ac etamide (4la)

The title compound was isolated as a pale-yellow solid (eluent: DCM:EA, 15.3 mg, 23%). M.P.: 204 - 205 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.16 (s, 2H), 7.26 - 7.23 (m, 1H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H),

7.12 – 7.08 (m, 2H), 6.60 – 6.57 (m, 1H), 5.97 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.28 (s, 2H), 3.24 (s, 2H), 3.20 (s, 3H), 3.11 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.6, 166.5, 157.4, 155.4, 141.9, 134.5, 132.7, 129.6, 128.3, 127.6, 126.8, 114.1, 110.6, 104.1, 55.3, 48.5, 44.7, 28.9. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₀H₁₈N₂O₃ [M+Na]⁺ 357.1210, Found: 357.1210.

2-(5-benzoyl-2-methyl-1,2-dihydropyrrolo[3,2,1-hi]indol-4-yl)acetam ide (4ma)

The title compound was isolated as a pale-yellow solid (eluent: DCM:EA, 12.6 mg, 20%). M.P.: 216 - 217 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89 (s, 2H), 7.25 - 7.22 (m, 1H), 7.13 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.09 - 7.02 (m, 2H),

7.00 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.67 – 6.59 (m, 1H), 6.56 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 5.03 - 4.96 (m, 1H), 3.48 - 3.42 (m, 1H), 3.24 (d, J = 12.9 Hz, 1H), 3.15 (d, J = 12.9 Hz, 1H), 2.64 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 1.36 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.6, 166.3, 156.7, 141.7, 137.4, 131.9, 130.8, 129.7, 128.5, 127.5, 126.8, 123.1, 122.4, 104.2, 56.1, 45.0, 36.2, 21.0. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₀H₁₈N₂O₂ [M+Na]⁺ 341.1261, Found: 341.1262.

Derivatization of 3aa



A mixture of **3aa** (0.2 mmol) and pcc (0.4 mmol) were added to a Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar. Dry DCM (2.0 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at rt for overnight. Afterwards, it was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was adsorbed onto small amounts of silica. The purification was performed by flash column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: DCM).



6-benzoyl-4-oxo-1,2-dihydro-4H-pyrrolo[3,2,1-ij]quinoline-5-carbonitri le (5aa)

The title compound was isolated as a yellow solid (eluent: DCM, 27.6 mg, 46%). M.P.: 244 -245 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.75 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.57 - 7.55 (m, 1H), 7.50 - 7.44 (m, 3H), 7.42 - 7.40 (m, 2H), 7.23 (d,

J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 4.52 - 4.31 (m, 2H), 3.30 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 185.8, 158.3, 157.1, 138.9, 135.2, 134.4, 131.4, 130.4, 128.8, 128.6, 128.4, 125.4, 124.6, 118.3, 114.9, 50.3, 26.4. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₁₉H₁₂N₂O₂ [M+Na] ⁺ 323.0791, Found: 323.0786.

H/D exchange experiments:



Procedures for the reaction without 2a: A mixture of **1** (0.2 mmol), $Cp*Rh(OAc)_2H_2O$ (6.0 mg, 0.016 mmol, 8.0 mol%), D₂O (10 equiv), and LiOAc (3.3 mg, 0.25 equiv) were added to a Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar. Dry *t*-AmOH (2.0 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 12 h under Ar atmosphere. Afterwards, it was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was adsorbed onto small amounts of silica. The purification was performed by flash column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: DCM **4**).

Procedures for the reaction in the presence of 2a: A mixture of **1** (0.2 mmol), **2** (0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv), $Cp*Rh(OAc)_2H_2O$ (6.0 mg, 0.016 mmol, 8.0 mol%), D_2O (10 equiv), and LiOAc (3.3 mg, 0.25 equiv) were added to a Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar. Dry *t*-AmOH (2.0 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 12 h under Ar atmosphere. Afterwards, it was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was adsorbed onto small amounts of silica. The purification was performed by flash column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: PE:EA = 4:1 - 1:1).



¹H NMR of the recovered 1a of the reaction without 2a



¹H NMR of the recovered 1a of the reaction in presence of 2a



¹H NMR of the product **3aa** for the H/D exchange reaction in presence of **2a**



¹H NMR of the product **4aa** for the H/D exchange reaction in presence of **2a**.



Copies of ¹H, ¹³C, and ¹⁹F NMR spectra of the products



S27
































































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











S59



139.00 135.84 135.84 134.28 -128.89 -128.89 -114.22

-158. 67



 $\xleftarrow{77.21}{77.00}$

--50.26 --42.37 --27.80 --20.98









3ma, d. r. =1:2.4











S65






















S75













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- [2] Vaitla, J.; Bayer, A.; Hopmann, K. H. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. 2017, 56, 4277.