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## Copper-catalyzed [4+1]-annulation of 2-alkenylindoles with diazoacetates: a facile access to dihydrocyclopenta[b]indoles

Kuiyong Dong,<sup>ab</sup> Chao Pei,<sup>b</sup> Qian Zeng,<sup>b</sup> Lihua Qiu,<sup>b</sup> Wenhao Hu,<sup>a</sup> Yu Qian\*<sup>a</sup> and Xinfang Xu\*<sup>ab</sup>

<sup>*a*</sup> Guangdong Key Laboratory of Chiral Molecule and Drug Discovery, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510006, China

<sup>b</sup> College of Chemistry, Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, Soochow University, Suzhou 215123, China

E-mail: qianyu5@mail.sysu.edu.cn

xinfangxu@suda.edu.cn

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#### **General Information**

All reactions were performed in 10 ml oven-dried glassware under atmosphere of argon. Solvents were dried and distilled by following the standard methods before using. Analytical thin-layer chromatography was performed using glass plates pre-coated with 200-300 mesh silica gel impregnated with a fluorescent indicator (254 nm). Flash column chromatography was performed using silica gel (300-400 mesh). <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl<sub>3</sub> on a 400 MHz spectrometer; chemical shifts are reported in ppm with the solvent signals as reference and coupling constants (*J*) are given in Hertz. The peak information is described as: br = broad, s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, comp = composite. Enantioselectivity was determined on HPLC using Chiralpak IC-3. High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on a commercial apparatus (ESI Source) and (CI Source). Starting materials 1<sup>1</sup> and 2<sup>2</sup> were prepared according to the reported reference.

#### **Condition Optimization**

The initial exploration was carried out with 2-alkenylindole **1a** and methyl phenyldiazoacetate **2a** as model substrates in dichloromethane (DCM) at 25 °C (Table S1). Instead of giving the annulation product **3a**, only decomposition of **2a** was observed when the reaction was catalyzed by Rh-, Pd-, or Ag-catalysts (entries 1-4), and most of the material **1a** remained intact. The desired product **3a** was obtained in moderate to high yields contaminated with C-H insertion product **4a** when the copper-catalysts were explored (entries 5-14), and Cu(CH<sub>3</sub>CN)<sub>4</sub>PF<sub>6</sub> gave the superior results in terms of both the yield and selectivity (entry 12, 85% yield, **3a**:**4a** = 91:9). Control experiment in the presence of Lewis acid, such as Sc(OTf)<sub>3</sub>, was conducted and no reaction occurred (entry 15).<sup>17</sup> Further optimization of solvents, reaction temperature, and the concentration of reaction mixture showed that only trace amount of **3a** was formed when the reaction was conducted in tetrahydrofuran (entry 18) or acetonitrile (entry 19), and the best results were obtained by conducting the reaction

### Table S1 Condition optimization<sup>a</sup>



E a tara	Cat ( x mol %)	Solvent	Yield <sup>b</sup> (%)	Ratio <sup>c</sup>
Entry			(3a+4a)	3a : 4a
1 <sup><i>d</i></sup>	Rh <sub>2</sub> (OAc) <sub>4</sub> (1.0)	DCM	-	-
2 <sup><i>d</i></sup>	Rh <sub>2</sub> (esp) <sub>2</sub> (1.0)	DCM	-	-
3 <sup><i>d</i></sup>	$[PdCl(\eta^{3}-C_{3}H_{5})]_{2}(5.0)$	DCM	-	-
4 <sup><i>d</i></sup>	AgOTf (5.0)	DCM	-	-
5	Cu(OTf) <sub>2</sub> (5.0)	DCM	61	83:17
6	$Cu(hfacac)_2(5.0)$	DCM	48	67:33
7	CuBr <sub>2</sub> (5.0)	DCM	37	71:29
8	$Cu(CH_{3}CN)_{4}BF_{4}(5.0)$	DCM	78	85:15
9	Cu(TFA) <sub>2</sub> (5.0)	DCM	57	66:34
10	Copper(II)acrylate (5.0)	DCM	61	54:46
11	CuTC (5.0)	DCM	55	73:27
12	$Cu(CH_3CN)_4PF_6(5.0)$	DCM	85	91:9
13	[CuOTf] <sub>2</sub> .benzene (5.0)	DCM	60	63:37
14	$Cu(acac)_2(5.0)$	DCM	49	77:23
15	Sc(OTf)₃ (5.0)	DCM	NR	-
16	$Cu(CH_3CN)_4PF_6$ (5.0)	DCE	88	81:13
17	$Cu(CH_3CN)_4PF_6(5.0)$	toluene	84	71:29
18 <sup>d</sup>	$Cu(CH_3CN)_4PF_6(5.0)$	THF	<5	-
19 <sup><i>d</i></sup>	$Cu(CH_3CN)_4PF_6(5.0)$	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	<5	-
20	$Cu(CH_3CN)_4PF_6$ (5.0)	TBME	43	55:45
21 <sup>e</sup>	$Cu(CH_3CN)_4PF_6(5.0)$	DCM	86	>95:5

<sup>*a*</sup> Reaction conditions: to the catalyst and **1a** (30.0 mg, 0.1 mmol) in 1.0 mL of solvent, was added **2a** (35.0 mg, 0.2 mmol) in 1.0 mL of the same solvent *via* syringe pump over 2 h under argon atmosphere at 25 °C. <sup>*b*</sup> Isolated yields, <sup>*c*</sup> The ratio was determined by proton NMR of the crude reaction mixture. <sup>*d*</sup> Most of material **1a** was recovered and **2a** was decomposed. <sup>*e*</sup> The reaction was carried at 35 °C in 3.0 mL DCM. CuTC = Copper(I) thiophene-2-carboxylate.

#### **General Procedure for the Preparation of 2-Alkenylindoles 1**

2-Alkenylindoles 1 were prepared according to the reported reference.<sup>1</sup>



#### Diethyl 2-[(1-methyl-1*H*-indol-2-yl)methylene]malonate (1a)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.61 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.32 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.14– 7.10 (m, 1H), 6.96 (s, 1H), 4.43 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.34 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 1.36 (comp, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) 166.8, 164.2, 138.8, 131.9, 129.4, 127.6, 124.8, 124.4, 121.9, 120.6, 109.8, 106.5, 61.9, 61.7, 29.9, 14.3, 14.0; HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NNaO<sub>4</sub> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 324.1206; found, 324.1201.



#### Diethyl 2-((4-chloro-1-methyl-1H-indol-2-yl)methylene)malonate (1n)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) δ 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.22 – 7.13 (m, 2H), 7.12 – 7.07 (m, 1H), 6.98 (s, 1H), 4.44 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.33 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 1.37 (dt, J = 16.7, 7.1 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) δ 166.5, 164.0, 139.3, 132.5, 128.7, 127.1, 126.6, 126.1, 124.7, 120.3, 108.5, 104.7, 62.2, 61.9, 30.4, 14.3, 14.1; HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>18</sub>ClNNaO<sub>4</sub> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 358.0817; found, 358.0825.



#### Diethyl 2-[(5-chloro-1-methyl-1H-indol-2-yl)methylene]malonate (10)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) δ 7.75 (s, 1H), 7.54 (t, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (s, 1H), 4.41 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.32 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 1.34 (td, J = 7.1, 1.8 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) δ 166.6, 164.0, 137.1, 133.1, 128.9, 128.4, 126.3, 125.9, 124.7, 121.0, 110.9, 105.6, 62.1, 61.9, 30.2, 14.3, 14.1; HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>18</sub>ClNNaO<sub>4</sub> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 358.0817; found, 358.0813.



#### Diethyl 2-[(6-chloro-1-methyl-1H-indol-2-yl)methylene]malonate (1p)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) δ 7.74 (s, 1H), 7.48 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, J = 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.08 – 7.03 (m, 1H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 4.41 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.32 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 1.34 (td, J = 7.1, 2.8 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) δ 166.7, 164.0, 139.1, 132.7, 130.4, 128.8, 126.1, 125.4, 122.8, 121.5, 109.8, 106.4, 62.0, 61.8, 30.0, 14.2, 14.1; HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>18</sub>ClNNaO<sub>4</sub> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 358.0817; found, 358.0809.



#### Diethyl 2-[(1-benzyl-1*H*-indol-2-yl)methylene]malonate (1q)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) δ 7.78 (s, 1H), 7.69 – 7.64 (m, 1H), 7.33 – 7.23 (comp, 5H), 7.18 – 7.12 (m, 1H), 7.08 – 7.01 (comp, 3H), 5.45 (s, 2H), 4.44 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.29 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.37 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.32 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  166.6, 164.0, 138.6, 137.1, 131.9, 129.5, 129.0, 127.84, 127.77, 126.2, 125.3, 124.7, 122.0, 120.9, 110.2, 107.0, 61.9, 61.6, 46.9, 14.2, 14.0; HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NNaO<sub>4</sub> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 400.1519; found, 400.1528.



#### Diethyl 2-[(1-allyl-1*H*-indol-2-yl)methylene]malonate (1r)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) δ 7.75 (s, 1H), 7.62 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.30 – 7.25 (m, 2H), 7.15 – 7.09 (m, 1H), 6.98 (s, 1H), 6.02 – 5.90 (m, 1H), 5.17 (dd, J = 10.4, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 4.90 (dd, J = 17.1, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 4.85 – 4.79 (m, 2H), 4.42 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.32 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.35 (td, J = 7.1, 4.0 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) δ 166.8, 164.1, 138.3, 132.8, 131.7, 129.5, 127.8, 125.1, 124.5, 122.0, 120.8, 117.1, 110.0, 106.8, 62.0, 61.7, 45.5, 14.3, 14.1; HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NNaO<sub>4</sub> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 350.1363; found, 350.1347.



#### 3-[(1-Methyl-1H-indol-2-yl)methylene]pentane-2,4-dione (1s)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) δ 7.60 – 7.55 (comp, 2H), 7.31 – 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.14 – 7.11 (m, 1H), 6.79 (s, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) δ205.8, 195.0, 141.1, 139.2, 131.6, 127.6, 126.7, 124.8, 122.0, 120.9, 109.8, 107.9, 77.5, 77.2, 76.8, 31.1, 29.9, 26.7; HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NNaO<sub>2</sub> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 264.0995; found, 264.1007.



### Diethyl 2-{[1-(tert-butoxycarbonyl)-1*H*-indol-2-yl]methylene}malonate (1t)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  8.26 – 8.16 (comp, 2H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.43 – 7.35 (m, 1H), 7.29 – 7.22 (m, 1H), 6.96 (s, 1H), 4.33 (qd, *J* = 7.1, 5.8 Hz, 4H), 1.71 (s, 9H), 1.36 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.28 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  166.5, 163.9, 150.0, 137.4, 134.1, 132.9, 128.8, 126.2, 125.7, 123.5, 121.6, 115.8, 113.1, 85.2, 61.8, 61.7, 28.3, 14.3, 14.0; HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C21H25NO6 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 387.1682; found, 387.1689.



Ethyl (Z)-2-[(1-methyl-1H-indol-2-yl)methylene]-3-oxobutanoate (Z-1u)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) δ 7.74 (s, 1H), 7.48 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, J = 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.08 – 7.03 (m, 1H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 4.41 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.32 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 1.35 (td, J = 7.1, 0.5 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) δ 166.7, 164.0, 139.1, 132.7, 130.4, 128.8, 126.1, 125.4, 122.8, 121.5, 109.8, 106.4, 62.0, 61.8, 30.0, 14.2, 14.1; HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for  $C_{16}H_{17}NNaO_3 [M + Na]^+$ , 294.1101; found, 294.1092.



#### Ethyl (E)-2[(1-methyl-1H-indol-2-yl)methylene]-3-oxobutanoate (E-1u)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) δ 7.67 (s, 1H), 7.60 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.32 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.15 – 7.08 (m, 1H), 6.96 (s, 1H), 4.44 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 1.37 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) δ 193.4,

168.3, 139.1, 132.4, 131.9, 128.2, 127.6, 124.7, 122.0, 120.7, 109.8, 107.0, 62.0, 29.8, 26.9, 14.0; HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for  $C_{16}H_{17}NNaO_3 [M + Na]^+$ , 294.1101; found, 294.1110.

#### **General Procedure for [4 + 1]-Annulation Reaction**

To a 10-mL oven-dried vial containing a magnetic stirring bar,  $Cu(CH_3CN)_4PF_6$  (1.9 mg, 5.0 mol %), compound 1 (0.1 mmol) in DCM (2.0 mL), diazo compound 1 (0.2 mmol) in DCM (1.0 mL) was added as a solution *via* a syringe pump over 2 h under argon atmosphere at 35 °C. After addition, the reaction mixture was stirred overnight under these conditions until consumption of the material (monitored by TLC). Then the reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel without any additional treatment (Hexanes : EtOAc = 15:1 to 10:1) to give the pure products **3**.



# 2,2-Diethyl 1-methyl 4-methyl-1-phenyl-3,4-dihydrocyclopenta[*b*]indole-1,2,2 (1*H*)-tricarboxylate (3a)

White solid, 38.6 mg, 86% yield, mp: 134.5-135.9 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  7.66 (d, J = 3.4 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 4H), 7.20 – 7.12 (m, 2H), 7.02 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.40 – 4.28 (m, 2H), 3.82 (d, J = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.65 (d, J = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 3.62 – 3.56 (m, 1H), 3.55 (s, 3H), 3.32 – 3.18 (m, 1H), 1.37 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.73 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  173.4, 170.4, 169.6, 145.6, 141.4, 136.7, 130.8, 127.7, 127.3, 123.7, 120.9, 119.9, 119.2, 114.6, 109.8, 74.1, 66.2, 61.8, 61.7, 52.3, 34.3, 31.1, 14.2, 13.4; HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>27</sub>NNaO<sub>6</sub> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 472.1731; found, 472.1743.





White solid, 41.7 mg, 90% yield, mp: 111.2-113.0 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  7.53 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.32 – 7.27 (m, 1H), 7.19 – 7.13 (m, 2H), 7.09 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.04 – 6.97 (m, 1H), 4.40 – 4.26 (m, 2H), 3.80 (d, J = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.63 (d, J = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 3.61 – 3.56 (m, 1H), 3.54 (s, 3H), 3.38 – 3.24 (m, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 1.36 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.74 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  173.5, 170.4, 169.7, 145.6, 141.4, 137.3, 133.7, 130.7, 128.0, 123.8, 120.8, 119.8, 119.2, 114.8, 109.8, 74.2, 67.0, 61.8, 61.6, 52.3, 34.3, 31.1, 21.2, 14.2, 13.3; HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>29</sub>NNaO<sub>6</sub> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 486.1887; found, 486.1893.



2,2-Diethyl 1-methyl 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-3,4-dihydrocyclopenta[b] indole-1,2,2(1*H*)-tricarboxylate (3c)

White solid, 35.0 mg, 73% yield, mp: 159.2-161.3 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  7.56 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.20 – 7.11 (m, 2H), 7.01 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 4.38 – 4.26 (m, 2H), 3.84 – 3.77 (comp, 4H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.65 – 3.57 (m, 2H), 3.53 (s, 3H), 3.39 – 3.28 (m, 1H), 1.36 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.77 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  173.6, 170.5, 169.8, 159.2, 145.5, 141.4, 132.1, 128.8, 123.8, 120.8, 119.9, 119.2, 114.9,

112.6, 109.8, 74.2, 65.7, 61.8, 61.7, 55.4, 52.4, 34.3, 31.1, 14.2, 13.5; HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for  $C_{27}H_{29}NNaO_7 [M + Na]^+$ , 502.1836; found, 502.1831.



2,2-Diethyl 1-methyl 1-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-methyl-3,4-dihydrocyclopenta[b] indole-1,2,2(1*H*)-tricarboxylate (3d)

White solid, 40.2 mg, 86% yield, mp: 116.2-117.5 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  7.70 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.21 – 7.15 (m, 1H), 7.13 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.07 – 6.93 (m, 3H), 4.40 – 4.25 (m, 2H), 3.81 (d, J = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.67 – 3.58 (m, 2H), 3.54 (s, 3H), 3.40 – 3.25 (m, 1H), 1.36 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.79 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  173.2, 170.3, 169.6, 162.5 (d, J = 246.5 Hz), 145.6, 141.4, 132.8 (d, J = 8.0 Hz), 132.5 (d, J = 3.2 Hz), 123.5, 121.0, 120.0, 119.0, 114.5, 114.1 (d, J = 21.1 Hz), 110.0, 74.1, 65.5, 61.9, 61.8, 52.4, 34.3, 31.1, 14.2, 13.5; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  -115.2; HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>26</sub>FNNaO<sub>6</sub> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 490.1636; found, 490.1641.



## 2,2-Diethyl 1-methyl 1-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-methyl-3,4-dihydrocyclopenta[b] indole-1,2,2(1*H*)-tricarboxylate (3e)

White solid, 39.2 mg, 81% yield, mp: 171.6-172.9 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  7.61 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.28 – 7.25 (m, 2H), 7.21 –

7.15 (m, 1H), 7.11 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.39 – 4.26 (m, 2H), 3.80 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.67 – 3.58 (m, 2H), 3.54 (s, 3H), 3.40 – 3.30 (m, 1H), 1.36 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.78 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  173.0, 170.2, 169.5, 145.7, 141.4, 135.4, 133.7, 132.4, 127.4, 123.5, 121.0, 120.1, 119.0, 114.2, 109.9, 77.5, 77.2, 76.8, 74.1, 65.6, 62.0, 61.8, 52.4, 34.3, 31.2, 14.2, 13.4; HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>26</sub>ClNNaO<sub>6</sub> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 506.1341; found, 506.1333.



2,2-Diethyl 1-methyl 4-methyl-1-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-

3,4-dihydrocyclopenta[b]indole-1,2,2(1H)-tricarboxylate (3f)

Yellow oil, 41.4 mg, 80% yield, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  7.84 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.24 – 7.19 (m, 1H), 7.14 – 7.02 (m, 2H), 4.41 – 4.29 (m, 2H), 3.85 (d, J = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.68 (d, J = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 3.65 – 3.58 (m, 1H), 3.58 (s, 3H), 3.34 – 3.21 (m, 1H), 1.38 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.72 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  172.8, 170.1, 169.4, 145.8, 141.5, 141.0, 131.4, 129.9 (q, J = 32.3 Hz), 124.2 (q, J = 241.6 Hz), 124.2 (q, J = 3.7 Hz), 123.4, 121.1, 120.2, 118.9, 113.9, 110.0, 74.1, 65.8, 62.0, 61.9, 52.5, 34.4, 31.2, 14.2, 13.2; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  -62.6; HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>26</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NNaO<sub>6</sub> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 540.1604; found, 540.1618.





White solid, 43.9 mg, 83% yield, mp: 199.2-200.3 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  7.55 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.40 – 4.26 (m, 2H), 3.80 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.67 – 3.58 (m, 2H), 3.54 (s, 3H), 3.41 – 3.30 (m, 1H), 1.35 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.78 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  172.9, 170.2, 169.5, 145.7, 141.4, 135.9, 132.8, 130.4, 123.5, 122.1, 121.0, 120.1, 119.0, 114.1, 109.9, 74.0, 65.6, 62.0, 61.8, 52.4, 34.3, 31.2, 14.2, 13.4; HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>26</sub>BrNNaO<sub>6</sub> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 550.0836; found, 550.0829.



2,2-Diethyl 1-methyl 1-(3-fluorophenyl)-4-methyl-3,4-dihydrocyclopenta[b] indole-1,2,2(1*H*)-tricarboxylate (3h)

White solid, 37.0 mg, 79% yield, mp: 184.1-185.9 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  7.54 – 7.36 (m, 2H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.26 – 7.10 (m, 3H), 7.07 – 6.93 (m, 2H), 4.40 – 4.26 (m, 2H), 3.85 – 3.75 (comp, 4H), 3.68 – 3.59 (m, 2H), 3.54 (s, 3H), 3.39 – 3.27 (m, 1H), 1.37 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.78 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H) ; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  172.9, 169.8 (d, J = 71.5 Hz), 162.2 (d, J = 243.6 Hz), 145.7, 141.4, 139.5 (d, J = 7.5 Hz), 128.6 (d, J = 8.0 Hz), 126.4, 123.5, 121.0, 120.1,

119.0, 118.3 (d, J = 23.1 Hz), 114.8, 114.6, 114.2, 109.9, 74.1, 65.8 (d, J = 1.8 Hz), 62.0, 61.9, 52.5, 34.4, 31.2, 14.2, 13.4; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  -114.4; HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>267</sub>FNO<sub>6</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup>, 468.1817; found, 468.1797.





White solid, 34.6 mg, 74% yield, mp: 170.4-171.8 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  7.35 – 7.29 (m, 2H), 7.24 – 7.09 (comp, 3H), 7.05 – 6.93 (comp, 3H), 4.39 – 4.22 (m, 2H), 3.85 – 3.78 (comp, 4H), 3.75 – 3.64 (comp, 2H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 3.41 – 3.30 (m, 1H), 1.33 (td, *J* = 7.1, 0.5 Hz, 3H), 0.81 – 0.68 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  171.6, 169.5 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz), 161.5 (d, *J* = 252.4 Hz), 145.7, 141.4, 131.8 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz), 129.9 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 124.9 (d, *J* = 12.3 Hz), 123.5, 123.1 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz), 120.8, 119.9, 119.0, 116.4, 116.1, 114.0, 109.9, 74.3, 62.8, 61.9, 61.5, 52.4, 33.6, 31.1, 14.0, 13.4; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  -104.8; HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>26</sub>FNNaO<sub>6</sub> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 490.1636; found, 490.1646.



4-methyl-1-phenyl-3,4-dihydrocyclopenta[b]indole-1,2,2(1H)

#### -tricarboxylate (3j)

Triethyl

Yellow oil, 40.8 mg, 88% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) 7.70 – 7.59 (m, 2H), 7.32 – 7.26 (comp, 4H), 7.18 – 7.11 (m, 2H), 7.03 – 6.97 (m, 1H), 4.38 – 4.27 (m,

2H), 4.01 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.81 (d, J = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.64 (d, J = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 3.61 – 3.53 (m, 1H), 3.30 – 3.17 (m, 1H), 1.36 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.03 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.72 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  172.7, 170.4, 169.7, 145.6, 141.4, 136.8, 130.9, 127.6, 127.2, 123.8, 120.8, 119.8, 119.3, 114.8, 109.8, 74.1, 66.3, 61.8, 61.6, 61.3, 34.4, 31.1, 14.2, 14.1, 13.4; HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>29</sub>NNaO<sub>6</sub> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 486.1887; found, 486.1878.



2,2-Diethyl 1-[2-(tosyloxy)ethyl] 4-methyl-1-phenyl-3,4-dihydrocyclopenta[b] indole-1,2,2(1*H*)-tricarboxylate (3k)

White solid, 52.6 mg, 83% yield, mp: 161.3-162.8 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 7.69 – 7.62 (m, 2H), 7.59 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.37 – 7.30 (comp, 4H), 7.26 (s, 2H), 7.21 – 7.15 (m, 1H), 6.99 – 6.92 (m, 2H), 4.40 – 4.31 (m, 2H), 4.17 – 4.09 (m, 1H), 4.05 – 3.98 (m, 1H), 3.95 (t, J = 4.6 Hz, 2H), 3.84 – 3.75 (m, 4H), 3.68 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 3.65 – 3.57 (m, 1H), 3.29 – 3.18 (m, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 1.37 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.75 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  172.2, 170.2, 169.5, 146.0, 145.0, 141.4, 136.3, 132.6, 130.9, 130.0, 128.0, 127.8, 127.3, 123.5, 120.9, 119.9, 119.0, 114.1, 109.9, 74.2, 67.5, 65.8, 62.2, 61.9, 61.8, 34.3, 31.1, 21.8, 14.2, 13.4; HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>35</sub>NNaO<sub>9</sub>S [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 656.1925; found, 656.1929.



2,2-Diethyl 1-[(1*R*, 2*R*, 5*S*)-2-Isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl] (*S*)-4-methyl-1phenyl-3,4-dihydrocyclopenta[*b*]indole-1,2,2(1*H*)-tricarboxylate (31)

White oil, 39.0 mg, 68% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 7.64 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 2H), 7.27 – 7.30 (comp, 3H), 7.22 – 7.26 (m, 1H), 7.14 – 7.07 (m, 2H), 7.00 – 6.93 (m, 1H), 4.58 – 4.51 (m, 1H), 4.36 – 4.26 (m, 2H), 3.81 (d, J = 15.4 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.68 – 3.55 (m, 3H), 3.21 – 3.51 (m, 1H), 1.76 (d, J = 11.4 Hz, 1H), 1.51 – 1.44 (m, 1H), 1.36 – 1.31 (m, 3H), 1.12 – 1.05 (m, 1H), 0.94 – 0.83 (m, 2H), 0.80 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 4H), 0.77 – 0.67 (m, 5H), 0.46 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 0.27 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  172.8, 170.4, 169.8, 145.6, 141.4, 136.9, 131.0, 127.5, 127.1, 123.8, 120.7, 119.6, 119.5, 115.0, 109.6, 75.7, 74.2, 66.7, 61.7, 61.5, 46.9, 40.4, 34.3, 34.2, 31.4, 31.1, 25.0, 22.6, 22.1, 20.8, 15.3, 14.2, 13.4; HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>35</sub>H<sub>43</sub>NNaO<sub>6</sub> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 596.2983; found, 596.2989.



 1-[(3R, 9R, 10S, 13S, 14R)-10,13-Dimethyl-17-((S)-6

 -methylheptan-2-yl)-2,3,4,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17-tetradecahydro-1H-cyclop

 enta[a]phenanthren-3-yl]
 2,2-diethyl

 (1S)-4-methyl-1-phenyl 

#### 3,4-dihydrocyclopenta[b]indole-1,2,2(1H)-tricarboxylate (3m)

White oil, 34.5 mg, 43% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of the two isomers ( $\delta$ , ppm) 7.68-7.51 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.31 (comp, 3H), 7.30 – 7.24 (m, 2H), 7.20 (m, 1H), 7.04 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 5.44 – 5.17 (m, 1H), 4.48-4.74 (m, 1H), 4.43 – 4.15 (m, 2H), 3.89 - 3.74 (m, 4H), 3.68 - 3.51 (m, 2H), 3.31 - 3.25 (m, 1H), 2.45 - 2.13 (m, 2H), 2.06 - 1.94 (m, 2H), 1.73 - 1.52 (m, 6H), 1.48 - 1.36 (m, 8H), 1.33 - 1.25 (m, 4H), 1.18 - 1.09 (m, 6H), 1.06 - 1.01 (m, 3H), 0.96 - 0.85 (m, 11H), 0.81 - 0.74 (m, 2H), 0.73 - 0.64 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of the two isomers ( $\delta$ , ppm) 172.4, 172.1, 171.4, 170.4, 169.8, 168.7, 145.6, 141.4, 139.8, 139.6, 139.6, 138.9, 137.0, 136.9, 134.7, 130.9, 128.39, 128.37, 128.3, 127.6, 127.2, 126.7, 126.6, 123.8, 123.77, 122.7, 122.66, 122.6, 121.6, 121.5, 121.4, 120.8, 120.75, 119.7, 119.68, 119.5, 119.4, 115.0, 109.8, 109.1, 75.2, 75.1, 74.9, 74.02, 74.00, 66.59, 66.55, 62.0, 61.9, 61.8, 61.6, 56.81, 56.78, 56.75, 56.3, 52.4, 50.1, 50.06, 50.03, 48.8, 48.7, 42.44, 42.41, 39.9, 39.8, 39.7, 38.0, 37.8, 37.1, 37.06, 37.00, 36.9, 36.7, 36.6, 36.3, 35.9, 34.4, 34.3, 32.0, 31.9, 31.1, 30.1, 28.4, 28.2, 24.4, 24.0, 23.7, 23.0, 22.7, 21.2, 21.14, 21.12, 21.1, 19.5, 19.4, 18.9, 18.8, 14.2, 14.1, 14.0, 13.4, 11.99, 11.97; HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for  $C_{52}H_{69}NNaO_6[M + Na]^+$ , 826.5017; found, 826.5029.



## 2,2-Diethyl 1-methyl 8-chloro-4-methyl-1-phenyl-3,4-dihydrocyclopenta[b] indole-1,2,2(1*H*)-tricarboxylate (3n)

White solid, 34.4 mg, 71% yield, mp: 121.4-122.8 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  7.58-7.69 (m, 2H), 7.25 – 7.15 (m, 4H), 7.08 – 6.96 (m, 2H), 4.35 – 4.25 (m, 2H), 3.85 – 3.73 (m, 4H), 3.68 – 3.53 (m, 5H), 3.17 – 3.07 (m, 1H), 1.35 (td, *J* = 7.1, 1.6 Hz, 3H), 0.75 (td, *J* = 7.1, 1.5 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  173.6, 170.4, 169.8, 147.2, 142.3, 138.1, 131.3, 127.5, 126.7, 125.1, 122.5, 121.6, 121.2, 114.6, 108.2, 75.1, 66.3, 62.0, 61.8, 52.4, 34.1, 31.4, 14.2, 13.4; HRMS (TOF

MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for  $C_{26}H_{26}CINNaO_6 [M + Na]^+$ , 506.1341, found, 506.1334.



2,2-Diethyl 1-methyl 7-chloro-4-methyl-1-phenyl- 3,4-dihydrocyclopenta[*b*]indole -1,2,2(1*H*)-tricarboxylate (30)

White solid, 38.2 mg, 79% yield, mp: 144.1-142.2 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  7.62 – 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.33 – 7.27 (m, 3H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 7.12 – 7.08 (m, 2H), 4.37 – 4.27 (m, 2H), 3.78 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.64 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.61 – 3.57 (m, 1H), 3.56 (s, 3H), 3.28 – 3.17 (m, 1H), 1.35 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.72 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  173.2, 170.2, 169.6, 147.1, 139.8, 136.3, 130.7, 127.9, 127.5, 125.9, 124.6, 121.2, 118.5, 114.4, 110.8, 74.0, 66.1, 61.9, 61.7, 52.5, 34.3, 31.3, 14.2, 13.4; HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>26</sub>CINNaO<sub>6</sub> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 506.1341, found, 506.1347.



2,2-Diethyl 1-methyl 6-chloro-4-methyl-1-phenyl-3,4-dihydrocyclopenta[*b*]indole -1,2,2(1*H*)-tricarboxylate (3p)

White solid, 36.3 mg, 75% yield, mp: 163.3-164.5 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  7.63 – 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.33 – 7.26 (m, 4H), 7.07 – 6.95 (m, 2H), 4.39 – 4.25 (m, 2H), 3.78 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.63 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 3.60 – 3.55 (m, 1H), 3.54 (s, 3H), 3.29 – 3.17 (m, 1H), 1.35 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.72 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  173.2, 170.2, 169.5, 146.4, 141.8, 136.4, 130.7, 127.9, 127.4, 127.0, 122.2, 120.6, 119.9, 115.0, 110.1, 74.1, 66.1, 61.9, 61.8, 52.4, 34.3, 31.3, 14.2, 13.4; HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>26</sub>ClNNaO<sub>6</sub>

 $[M + Na]^+$ , 506.1341, found, 506.1344.



2,2-Diethyl 1-methyl 4-benzyl-1-phenyl-3,4-dihydrocyclopenta[*b*]indole -1,2,2(1*H*)-tricarboxylate (3q)

White solid, 43.6 mg, 83% yield, mp: 163.3-164.5 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  7.73 – 7.63 (m, 2H), 7.36 – 7.28 (comp, 5H), 7.26 – 7.21 (m, 2H), 7.18 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 7.10 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 5.40 – 5.26 (m, 2H), 4.31 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.77 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 3.62 – 3.55 (comp, 4H), 3.54 – 3.47 (m, 1H), 3.35 – 3.23 (m, 1H), 1.34 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.74 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  173.3, 170.4, 169.6, 145.6, 140.8, 137.3, 136.6, 130.9, 129.0, 127.8, 127.7, 127.3, 126.7, 124.0, 121.1, 120.2, 119.4, 115.5, 110.5, 74.3, 66.1, 61.8, 61.7, 52.4, 48.6, 34.6, 14.2, 13.5; HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>31</sub>NO<sub>6</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup>, 525.2151; found, 525.2147.



2,2-Diethyl 1-methyl 4-allyl-1-phenyl-3,4-dihydrocyclopenta[*b*]indole-1,2,2(1*H*) -tricarboxylate (3r)

White oil, 40.0 mg, 89% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  7.70 – 7.62 (m, 2H), 7.34 – 7.27 (comp, 4H), 7.15 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.13 – 5.97 (m, 1H), 5.22 (dd, J = 10.3, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 5.07 (dd, J = 17.1, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.84 – 4.66 (m, 2H), 4.33 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.79 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 3.61 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 3.58 – 3.49 (comp, 4H), 3.33 – 3.23 (m, 1H), 1.36 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.74 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  173.3, 170.4, 169.6, 145.5,

140.7, 136.6, 133.1, 130.9, 127.8, 127.3, 123.8, 121.0, 120.0, 119.3, 117.1, 115.3, 110.2, 74.3, 66.0, 61.8, 61.7, 52.3, 47.1, 34.5, 14.2, 13.4; HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for  $C_{28}H_{29}NNaO_6 [M + Na]^+$ , 498.1887, found, 498.1892.



Methyl 2,2-diacetyl-4-methyl-1-phenyl-1,2,3,4- tetrahydrocyclopenta[b]indole-1carboxylate (3s)

White solid, 32.3 mg, 83% yield, mp: 163.3-164.5 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  7.54 – 7.47 (m, 2H), 7.34 – 7.26 (m, 4H), 7.22 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 7.02 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.83 – 3.73 (comp, 4H), 3.64 – 3.52 (comp, 4H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 1.51 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  206.2, 203.9, 174.0, 144.4, 141.6, 136.8, 130.6, 128.1, 128.0, 123.6, 121.2, 120.1, 119.6, 115.5, 109.9, 85.2, 66.5, 52.5, 32.3, 31.2, 29.3, 27.9; HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NNaO<sub>4</sub> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 412.1519, found, 412.1523.



**Diethyl** 1-cyano-4-methyl-1-phenyl-3,4-dihydrocyclopenta[*b*]indole-2,2(1*H*)dicarboxylate (3ao). 36.0 mg, 87% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 7.71 – 7.54 (m, 2H), 7.43 – 7.30 (comp, 4H), 7.21 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.51 – 4.25 (m, 2H), 3.88 – 3.67 (comp, 5H), 3.57 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.36 – 3.33 (m, 1H), 1.36 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.79 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl3) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 168.4, 167.6, 144.0, 141.7, 134.9, 128.9, 128.7, 128.3, 122.6, 121.8, 120.5, 120.3, 118.8, 113.2, 110.1, 74.7, 62.5, 62.3, 53.7, 32.8, 31.2, 14.108, 13.4. HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>25</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup>,



## Diethyl 2-{[3-(2-methoxy-2-oxo-1-phenylethyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-indol-2-yl] methylene}malonate 4a

Yellow solid, mp: 121.1-122.4 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  7.79 (s, 1H), 7.51 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.30 – 7.21 (comp, 7H), 7.10 – 7.02 (m, 1H), 5.31 (s, 1H), 4.39 – 4.26 (m, 2H), 3.93 – 3.84 (m, 1H), 3.74 (t, J = 3.5 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 1.35 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.93 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  173.0, 164.8, 163.6, 138.8, 138.0, 134.1, 132.0, 131.9, 128.6, 128.4, 127.1, 126.8, 123.5, 121.7, 120.3, 113.1, 109.7, 62.1, 61.6, 52.4, 48.6, 31.5, 14.2, 13.8; HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>27</sub>NNaO<sub>6</sub> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 472.1731; found, 472.1743.



**Diethyl 2-((3-(1-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-oxopropyl)-1-methyl-1***H***-indol-2-yl)methylene) malonate (4an).** 29.2 mg, 65% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 7.79 (s, 1H), 7.39 – 7.26 (comp, 3H), 7.15 – 7.05 (comp, 3H), 6.99 – 6.91 (m, 2H), 5.24 (s, 1H), 4.37 – 4.31 (m, 2H), 3.91 – 4.83 (m, 1H), 3.74 – 3.66 (comp, 4H), 2.12 (s, 3H), 1.35 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.97 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 206.1, 164.8, 163.5, 163.1, 160.7, 139.0, 133.4, 132.4, 132.3, 130.9, 130.8, 126.5, 123.8, 121.0 (d, *J* = 32.5 Hz), 115.1 (d, *J* = 21.2 Hz), 112.4, 110.0, 62.3, 61.7, 55.8, 31.6, 29.4, 14.2, 13.9; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm) -116.10. HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for  $C_{26}H_{26}FNNaO_5 [M + Na]^+$ , 474.1687; found, 474.1670.



Ethyl (*E*)-3-(3-(2-methoxy-2-oxo-1-phenylethyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-indol-2-yl)acrylate (4ha). 30.6 mg, 81% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 7.88 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.41 – 7.20 (comp, 6H), 7.09 – 7.05 (m, 1H), 6.27 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 5.49 (s, 1H), 4.28 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H). 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 1.35 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl3) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 173.1, 166.8, 138.9, 138.3, 133.0, 132.3, 128.6, 128.5, 127.2, 126.6, 124.1, 121.6, 121.2, 120.5, 115.2, 109.7, 60.9, 52.5, 48.6, 31.5, 14.5. HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>24</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup>, 378.1700; found, 378.1717.



Methyl (*E*)-2-(2-(2-cyanovinyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-2-phenylacetate (4ia). 22.2 mg, 67% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 7.56 – 7.54 (m, 1H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 16.7 Hz, 1H), 7.35 – 7.27 (comp, 5H), 7.23 – 7.17 (m, 2H), 7.12 – 7.08 (m, 1H), 5.68 (d, *J* = 16.7 Hz, 1H), 5.40 (s, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl3) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 172.7, 138.9, 138.2, 137.7, 132.1, 128.8, 128.3, 127.5, 126.7, 124.9, 121.6, 121.0, 118.2, 115.9, 109.9, 99.1, 52.7, 48.5, 31.4. HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup>, 331.1441; found, 331.1449.



Methyl (*E*)-2-(1-methyl-2-(3-oxobut-1-en-1-yl)-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-2-phenylacetate (4ja) and Methyl 2-acetyl-4-methyl-1-phenyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrocyclopenta[*b*]indole-1-carboxylate (3ja). 27.1 mg, 4xa : 3xa = 4.8 : 1, 78% total yield; 4xa: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 7.74 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 7.66 – 7.56 (m, 1H), 7.38 – 7.26 (comp, 7H), 7.16 – 7.08 (m, 1H), 6.56 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 5.56 (s, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 2.33 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 197.6, 172.9, 139.1, 138.2, 132.8, 131.0, 128.8, 128.5, 128.3, 127.2, 126.7, 124.3, 121.0, 120.5, 116.0, 109.8, 52.4, 48.4, 31.5, 28.0. **3xa**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 7.54 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.41 – 7.28 (comp, 3H), 7.25 – 7.17 (m, 3H), 7.07 – 7.03 (m, 1H), 3.85 – 3.81 (m, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.53 (dd, *J* = 15.3, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.24 (dd, *J* = 15.3, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.22 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm) 205.9, 173.6, 144.2, 142.3, 141.3, 128.2, 128.1, 127.2, 123.6, 120.9, 119.8, 119.5, 116.9, 109.6, 69.6, 62.8, 52.1, 30.8, 29.6, 27.3. HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NNaO<sub>3</sub> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 370.1414; found, 370.1400.



## 2-Ethyl 1-methyl (1*S*\*, 2*R*\*)-2-acetyl-4-methyl-1-phenyl-1,2,3,4tetrahydrocyclopenta[*b*]indole-1,2-dicarboxylate (7)

Yellow solid, 32.3 mg, 77% yield, mp: 133.7-134.5 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  7.61 – 7.54 (m, 2H), 7.34 – 7.28 (comp, 4H), 7.20 – 7.10 (m, 2H), 7.03 – 6.98 (m, 1H), 4.40 – 4.28 (m, 2H), 3.78 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 3H), 3.70 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.58 – 3.51 (comp, 4H), 1.47 (s, 3H), 1.38 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  202.7, 173.5, 172.0, 145.8, 141.5, 136.3, 130.8, 128.1, 128.0,

123.7, 121.0, 120.0, 119.3, 114.4, 109.9, 78.9, 66.4, 61.8, 52.4, 32.9, 31.2, 27.7, 14.2; HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for  $C_{25}H_{25}NNaO_5 [M + Na]^+$ , 442.1625, found, 442.1629.



2-Ethyl 1-methyl (1*S*\*, 2*S*\*)-2-acetyl-4-methyl-1-phenyl-1,2,3,4tetrahydrocyclopenta[*b*]indole-1,2-dicarboxylate (8)

Yellow solid, 33.1 mg, 79% yield, mp: 133.7-134.5 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  7.63 – 7.54 (m, 2H), 7.32 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.26 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 2H), 7.19 – 7.12 (m, 2H), 7.04 – 6.97 (m, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.76 – 3.66 (m, 2H), 3.65 – 3.58 (m, 1H), 3.55 (s, 3H), 3.26 – 3.15 (m, 1H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 0.74 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  202.1, 173.7, 169.7, 144.4, 141.5, 137.1, 130.8, 127.6, 127.5, 123.7, 121.0, 120.0, 119.4, 115.4, 109.8, 80.3, 65.6, 62.0, 52.4, 33.7, 31.2, 28.5, 13.4; HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>25</sub>NNaO<sub>5</sub> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 442.1625, found, 442.1626.

#### General Procedure of the Scale Up and Synthesis of 5 and 6.

General Procedure of the Scale Up:



To a 50-mL oven-dried vial containing a magnetic stirring bar,  $Cu(CH_3CN)_4PF_6$  (74.5 mg, 5.0 mol %), compound **1a** (1.20 g, 4.0 mmol) in DCM (20.0 mL), diazo

compound **2a** (1.41 g, 8.0 mmol) in DCM (10.0 mL) was added as a solution *via* a syringe pump over 2 h under argon atmosphere at 35 °C. After addition, the reaction mixture was stirred overnight under these conditions until consumption of the material (monitored by TLC). Then the reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel after evaporate most of the solvent in *vacuo* (Hexanes : EtOAc = 15:1 to 10:1) to give the pure products 1.40 g of **3** (78% yield).

Synthesis of 5.<sup>3</sup>



To a 10-mL oven-dried vial containing a magnetic stirring bar, **3q** (52.6 mg, 0.1 mmol), Pd/C (1.1 mg, 0.01 mmol, 0.1 equiv), was added MeOH (3.0 mL) under H<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. Then the reaction mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 2 h with a H<sub>2</sub> balloon. After the reaction was complete, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and concentrated under reduced pressure. The obtained residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (Hexanes: EtOAc = 15:1) to give 44.3 mg pure product **5** as white solid (84% yield). mp: 137.2-138.9 °C, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)7.49 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.30 – 7.26 (comp, 3H), 7.26 – 7.18 (comp, 6H), 7.15 – 7.09 (m, 1H), 7.06 – 6.99 (m, 1H), 6.97 – 6.91 (m, 2H), 5.45 (s, 2H), 5.42 (s, 1H), 4.21 – 4.05 (m, 2H), 4.00 – 3.84 (m, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.56 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.42 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.19 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.11 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$  173.6, 168.7, 168.6, 138.6, 137.7, 137.3, 134.8, 129.0, 128.5, 128.4, 127.5, 126.9, 126.0, 122.0, 121.1, 120.0, 110.4, 109.9, 61.9, 61.8, 52.3, 52.3, 48.2, 46.8, 29.9, 23.8, 14.07, 14.0. HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>33</sub>NNaO<sub>6</sub> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 550.2200; found, 550.2196.



To a 10-mL oven-dried vial containing a magnetic stirring bar, 3g (52.8 mg, 0.1 mmol), Phenylacetylene (15.3 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv), Et<sub>3</sub>N (30.3 mg, 0.3 mmol, 3.0 equiv), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1.4 mg, 2.0 mol%), and CuI (0.4 mg, 2.0 mol%), was added DMF (2.0 mL) under argon atmosphere. Then the reaction mixture was stirred at 80 <sup>o</sup>C for 12 h. After the reaction was complete, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and quenched with water (10 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (10 mL). The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated under reduced pressure after filtration. The obtained residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (Hexanes: EtOAc = 10:1) to give 50.6 mg pure product 6 as yellow solid (92% yield). mp: 178.8-179.3 °C, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (δ, ppm) δ 7.66 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.57 – 7.51 (m, 2H), 7.46 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.38 – 7.29 (comp, 4H), 7.21 – 7.11 (m, 2H), 7.06 – 6.99 (m, 1H), 4.42 – 4.27 (m, 2H), 3.85 - 3.73 (comp, 4H), 3.69 - 3.58 (comp, 2H), 3.55 (s, 3H), 3.40 - 3.27 (m, 1H), 1.37 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.79 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$ , ppm)  $\delta$ 173.1, 170.3, 169.5, 145.7, 141.4, 137.1, 131.7, 130.9, 130.5, 128.5, 128.3, 123.6, 123.5, 122.6, 121.0, 120.0, 119.1, 114.3, 109.9, 89.7, 89.6, 74.2, 66.0, 62.0, 61.8, 52.4, 34.3, 31.2, 14.2, 13.5; HRMS (TOF MS ESI<sup>+</sup>) calculated for  $C_{34}H_{31}NNaO_6[M + Na]^+$ , 572.2044; found, 572.2048.

1D-Noe Study of 5



1D-Noe Study of 7



#### 1D-Noe Study of 8



#### References

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- K. Zhang, X. Xu, J. Zhang, H. Zheng and A. Lin, Org. Lett., 2017, 19, 2596.
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- 4 R. Yao, G. Rong, B. Yan, L. Qiu and X. Xu, ACS Catal., 2016, 6, 1024.











Jun29-2018-f400-dk-903f







0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -110 -130 -150 -170 -190 -210 -230 -250 -270 -290 fl (ppm)





Nov12-2018-f400-pc-dk-mF.10.fid

7.5

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4.5





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S50











 $<^{3.75}_{3.74}$ 



#### -205.92 -205.92 -197.57 -197.57 -173.60 -142.28 -142.28 -142.28 -142.28 -142.28 -142.28 -142.28 -142.28 -142.28 -142.28 -128.19 -128.1











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





No syntax errors found.

CIF dictionary Interpreting this report

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a. Tomporaturo, 21	lpha=112.421(8)	beta=91.811	(11) 9	gamma=111.934(8)		
Temperacure: 2.	55 K					
	Calculated	Re	ported			
Volume	1224.6(16)	12	24.58(1	10)		
Space group	P -1	P	-1			
Hall group	-P 1	- I	21			
Moiety formula	C26 H26 F N O6	?				
Sum formula	C26 H26 F N O6	C2	26 H26 H	F N 06		
Mr	467.48	46	57.48			
Dx,g cm-3	1.268	1.	268			
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F000'	492.28					
h,k,lmax	15,18,20	15	5,18,19			
Nref	10657	90	)35			
Tmin,Tmax						
Tmin'						
Correction method= Not given						
Data completeness= 0.848		Theta(max) = 34.830				
R(reflections) = 0.0933( 6826)		wR2(reflections) = 0.2820( 9035)				
S = 1.152 Npar= 311						

The following ALERTS were generated. Each ALERT has the format test-name\_ALERT\_alert-type\_alert-level. Click on the hyperlinks for more details of the test.