

**Supporting Information  
For  
Formates Plus Triazabicyclodecene(TBD): An  
Efficient Platform for Non-Gaseous Carbonylation  
and Unexepcted Hydrogenation**

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## **1. General information**

All reactions were carried out in oven-dried glassware sealed with rubber septa. All solvents were distilled under nitrogen atmosphere prior to use. THF was dried over sodium; toluene and acetonitrile was dried over CaH<sub>2</sub>. Purification of products was conducted by flash chromatography on silica gel (200-300 mesh). NMR spectra were measured on a Varian 400 (<sup>1</sup>H at 400 MHz, <sup>13</sup>C at 100 MHz) magnetic resonance spectrometer. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm using tetramethylsilane as internal standard (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, dd = doublet of doublets, m = multiplet). Infrared spectra were recorded on a Nicolet Avatar 330 Fourier transform spectrometer (FT-IR) and are reported in wave numbers (cm<sup>-1</sup>). MS data were obtained on an Agilent 5975C inert 350 EI mass spectrometer (GC-MS). HRMS data were obtained on a VG ZAB-HS mass spectrometer, Brucker Apex IV FTMS spectrometer. Compounds described in the literature were characterized by comparison of their <sup>1</sup>H, and/or <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra to the previously reported data.

## **2. General procedure of the reaction**

### **Typical procedure for the synthesis of 3.**

A solution of aryl halides **1** (0.5 mmol, 1.0 eq), Pd<sub>2</sub>(dba)<sub>3</sub> (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%), TBD (0.0125 mmol, 2.5 mol%), DBU (0.6 mmol, 1.2 eq) and formate **2** (1.5 mmol, 3.0 eq) in toluene (5 mL) was charged in a tube. The tube was sealed with a cap, placed in an oil bath and stirred for 12 hours at 80 °C. Then the reaction was quenched with water (20 mL), extracted with DCM (3×10 mL), dried with anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After evaporation, chromatography on silica gel of the reaction mixture afforded desired product **3**.

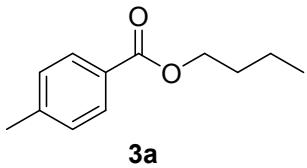
### **Typical procedure for the synthesis of 5.**

A solution of aryl halides **1** (0.5 mmol, 1.0 eq), Pd<sub>2</sub>(dba)<sub>3</sub> (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%), TBD (0.0125 mmol, 2.5 mol%), DBU (0.6 mmol, 1.2 eq), formate **2a** (1.5 mmol, 3.0 eq) and **4** (0.5 mmol, 1.5 eq.) in toluene (5 mL) was charged in a tube. The tube was sealed with a cap, placed in an oil bath and stirred for 12 hours at 80 °C. Then the reaction was quenched with water (20 mL), extracted with DCM (3×10 mL), dried with anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After evaporation, chromatography on silica gel of the reaction mixture afforded desired product **5**.

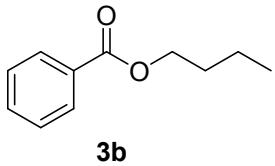
### **Typical procedure for the synthesis of 7.**

A solution of 2-iodoanilines **6** (0.5 mmol, 1.0 eq), Pd<sub>2</sub>(dba)<sub>3</sub> (0.025 mmol, 5 mol%), TBD (0.0125 mmol, 2.5 mol%), DBU (0.6 mmol, 1.2 eq) and formate **2a** (1.5 mmol, 3.0 eq) in aqueous toluene (5 mL) was charged in a tube. The tube was sealed with a cap, placed in an oil bath and stirred for 12 hours at 80 °C. Then the reaction was quenched with water (20 mL), extracted with DCM (3×10 mL), dried with anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After evaporation, chromatography on silica gel of the reaction mixture afforded desired product **7**.

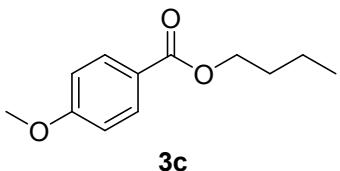
### 3. Characterization data



**butyl 4-methylbenzoate (3a):** Colorless oil, 75mg, 78% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.92 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.21 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 4.29 (t,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 1.73 (dd,  $J = 1.0, 5.0$  Hz, 2H), 1.50–1.43 (m, 2H), 0.96 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  166.8, 143.4, 129.5, 129.0, 127.8, 64.6, 30.8, 21.6, 19.3, 13.8; IR (neat) 3480, 1641, 740 $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_2$  192.1150, found 192.1152.

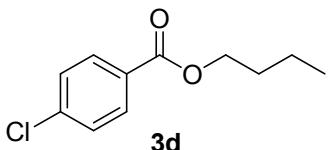


**butyl benzoate (3b):** Colorless oil, 71mg, 80% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.08–7.97 (m, 2H), 7.57–7.50 (m, 1H), 7.42 (dd,  $J = 10.0, 5.0$  Hz, 2H), 4.31 (t,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, 2H), 1.78–1.71 (m, 2H), 1.47 (dd,  $J = 15.0, 7.0$  Hz, 2H), 0.97 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  166.7, 132.8, 130.5, 129.5, 128.3, 64.8, 30.7, 19.3, 13.8; IR (neat) 3477, 1640, 740 $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_2$  178.0994, found 178.0995.

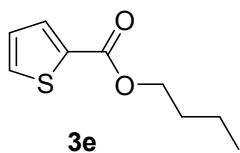


**butyl 4-methoxybenzoate (3c):** Colorless oil, 88mg, 85% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.98 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 2H), 6.90 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 2H), 4.27 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 1.72 (dd,  $J = 10.0, 5.0$  Hz, 2H), 1.49–1.42 (m, 2H), 0.96 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  166.4, 163.2, 131.5, 122.9, 113.5, 64.5, 55.4, 30.8, 19.3, 13.8; IR (neat) 3465, 1639, 1264 $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for

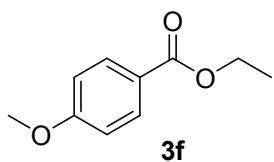
$C_{12}H_{16}O_3$  208.1099, found 208.1099.



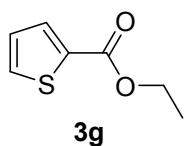
**butyl 4-chlorobenzoate (3d):** Colorless oil, 78mg, 74% yield;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.96 (d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 4.30 (t,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.73 (dd,  $J$  = 10.0, 5.0 Hz, 2H), 1.48–1.42 (m, 2H), 0.96 (t,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  165.8, 139.2, 130.9, 128.9, 128.6, 65.1, 30.7, 19.3, 13.7; IR (neat) 3465, 1640, 741  $cm^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $C_{11}H_{13}ClO_2$  212.0604, found 212.0607.



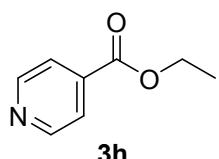
**butyl thiophene-2-carboxylate (3e):** Colorless oil, 75mg, 81% yield;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.78 (dd,  $J$  = 4.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (dd,  $J$  = 5.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (dd,  $J$  = 5.0, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (d,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.71 (dd,  $J$  = 5.0, 3.0 Hz, 2H), 1.44 (m, 2H), 0.95 (t,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  162.3, 134.1, 133.2, 132.1, 127.7, 65.0, 30.7, 19.2, 13.7; IR (neat) 3478, 1641, 740  $cm^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $C_9H_{12}O_2S$  184.0558, found 184.0554.



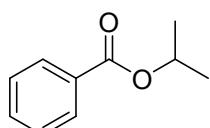
**ethyl 4-methoxybenzoate (3f):** Colorless oil, 69mg, 77% yield;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.98 (d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.89 (d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 4.32 (q,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 1.36 (t,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  166.4, 163.2, 131.5, 122.9, 113.5, 60.6, 55.4, 14.4; IR (neat) 3466, 1611, 740  $cm^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $C_{10}H_{12}O_3$  180.0786, found 180.0788.



**ethyl thiophene-2-carboxylate (3g):** Colorless oil, 59mg, 75% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.78 (dd, *J* = 4.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 4.33 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.36 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 162.3, 134.1, 133.2, 132.2, 127.7, 61.1, 14.3; IR (neat) 3474, 1642, 742cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>8</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S 156.0245, found 156.0251.

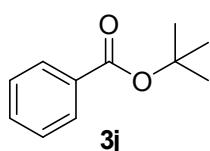


**ethyl isonicotinate (3h):** Colorless oil, 52mg, 69% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.75 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 4.39 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.38 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 165.1, 150.5, 137.6, 122.8, 61.8, 14.2; IR (neat) 3476, 1642, 741cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>9</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> 151.0633, found 151.0635.

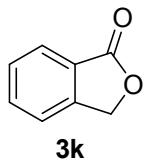


**3i**

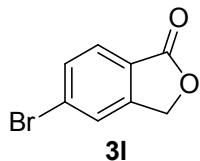
**isopropyl benzoate (3i):** Colorless oil, 51mg, 62% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.03 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.55–7.49 (m, 1H), 7.41 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.24 (m, 1H), 1.36–1.34 (m, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 166.1, 132.6, 130.9, 129.5, 128.2, 68.3, 21.9; IR (neat) 3459, 1638, 712cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 164.0837, found 164.0836.



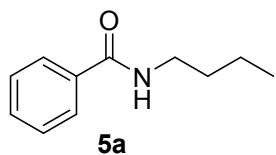
**tert-butyl benzoate (3j):** Colorless oil, 41mg, 46% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.00–7.95 (m, 2H), 7.53–7.48 (m, 1H), 7.42–7.38 (m, 2H), 1.58 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 165.8, 132.4, 132.0, 129.4, 128.1, 80.9, 28.2; IR (neat) 3476, 1643, 740cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 178.0994, found 178.0996.



**isobenzofuran-1(3H)-one (3k):** White powder, 51mg, 76% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.90 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (dd, *J* = 17.0, 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.31 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 171.1, 146.5, 134.0, 129.0, 125.7, 125.6, 122.1, 69.6; IR (neat) 3475, 1636, 737cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 134.0368, found 134.0366.

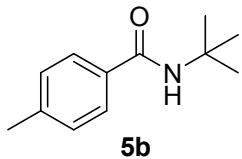


**5-bromoisobenzofuran-1(3H)-one (3l):** White powder, 74mg, 70% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.75 (dd, *J* = 7.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (s, 2H), 5.28 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 170.0, 148.2, 132.7, 129.3, 127.0, 125.6, 124.7, 68.9; IR (neat) 3463, 1640, 763cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>5</sub>BrO<sub>2</sub> 211.9473, found 211.9474.

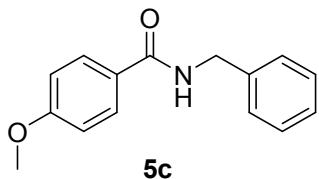


**N-butylbenzamide (5a):** White powder, 76mg, 86% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.75–7.71 (m, 2H), 7.49–7.43 (m, 1H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 6.27 (br, 1H), 3.46–3.40 (m, 2H), 1.60–1.55 (m, 2H), 1.38 (dd, *J* = 15.0, 7.0 Hz, 2H), 0.93 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.6, 134.7, 131.3, 128.5, 126.8, 39.8,

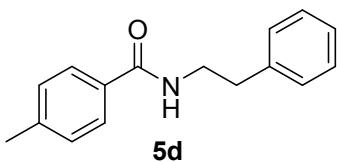
31.7, 20.1, 13.8; IR (neat) 3462, 1640, 701cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO 177.1154, found 177.1152.



**N-tert-butyl-4-methylbenzamide (5b):** White powder, 74mg, 78% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.60 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.91 (br, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 1.45 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 166.8, 141.4, 132.9, 129.1, 126.7, 51.5, 28.9, 21.4; IR (neat) 3460, 1639, 691cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO 191.1310, found 191.1312.

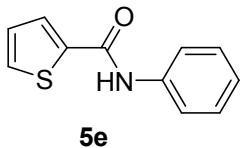


**N-benzyl-4-methoxybenzamide (5c):** White powder, 100mg, 83% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.76–7.73 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 4H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.39 (br, 1H), 4.61 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 166.9, 162.2, 138.3, 128.8, 128.7, 127.9, 127.5, 126.5, 113.7, 55.4, 44.1; IR (neat) 3468, 1632, 724cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> 241.1103, found 241.1102.

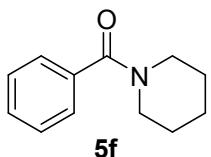


**4-methyl-N-phenethylbenzamide (5d):** White powder, 96mg, 80% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.58 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.25–7.17 (m, 5H), 6.18 (br, 1H), 3.69 (dd, *J* = 13.0, 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.91 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.4, 141.8, 138.9, 131.7, 129.2, 128.8, 128.7, 126.8, 126.5, 41.1, 35.7, 21.4; IR (neat) 3463, 1636, 742cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (EI-TOF)

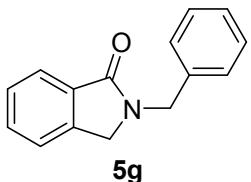
calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO 239.1310, found 239.1314.



**N-phenylthiophene-2-carboxamide (5e):** White powder, 78mg, 77% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.88 (br, 1H), 7.63 (dd, *J* = 4.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.61–7.58 (m, 2H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 160.0, 139.3, 137.6, 130.8, 129.1, 128.5, 127.8, 124.6, 120.3; IR (neat) 3475, 1637, 747cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>9</sub>NOS 203.0405, found 203.0406.

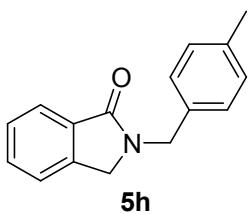


**phenyl(piperidin-1-yl)methanone (5f):** Colorless oil, 64mg, 68% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.35 (s, 5H), 3.67 (s, 2H), 3.31 (s, 2H), 1.64 (s, 4H), 1.49 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 170.3, 136.5, 129.3, 128.4, 126.7, 45.9, 26.1, 24.6; IR (neat) 3475, 1668, 766cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO 189.1154, found 189.1157.

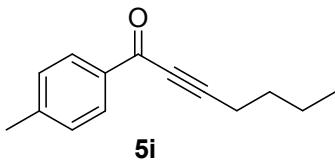


**2-benzylisoindolin-1-one (5g):** White powder, 84mg, 75% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.87 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (dd, *J* = 11.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.33–7.30 (m, 1H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 3H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 4.78 (s, 2H), 4.23 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 168.4, 141.2, 137.0, 132.6, 131.3, 128.8, 128.1, 128.0, 127.6, 123.8, 122.8, 49.4, 46.3; IR (neat) 3466, 1679, 737cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NO 223.0997, found

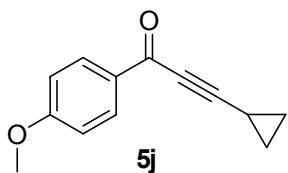
223.1000.



**2-(4-methylbenzyl)isoindolin-1-one (5h):** White powder, 92mg, 78% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.86 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (dd, *J* = 7.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.74 (s, 2H), 4.21 (s, 2H), 2.30 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 168.4, 141.2, 137.3, 134.0, 132.7, 131.3, 129.4, 128.2, 128.0, 123.8, 122.7, 49.3, 46.1, 21.1; IR (neat) 3465, 1682, 739cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO 237.1154, found 237.1156.

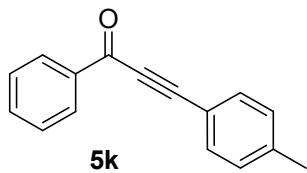


**1-p-tolylhept-2-yn-1-one (5i):** Light yellow oil, 75mg, 75% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.01 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.48 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 1.67–1.62 (m, 2H), 1.52–1.46 (m, 2H), 0.94 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 178.0, 144.9, 134.6, 129.7, 129.2, 96.3, 79.7, 29.8, 22.1, 21.8, 18.9, 13.5; IR (neat) 3466, 1642, 740cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O 200.1201, found 200.1203.

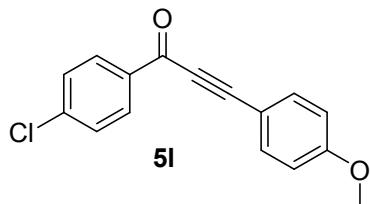


**3-cyclopropyl-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)prop-2-yn-1-one (5j):** Light yellow oil, 73mg, 73% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.05 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 1.55–1.45 (m, 1H), 1.02–0.97 (m, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz,

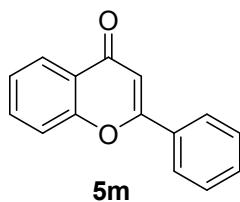
$\text{CDCl}_3$   $\delta$  176.7, 164.1, 131.8, 130.3, 113.6, 100.0, 75.4, 55.5, 9.8, 0.04; IR (neat) 3463, 1634, 755 $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_2$  200.0837, found 200.0839.



**1-phenyl-3-p-tolylprop-2-yn-1-one (5k):** White powder, 90mg, 82% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.24–8.19 (m, 2H), 7.62 (s, 2H), 7.58 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  178.1, 141.6, 136.9, 134.0, 133.1, 129.5, 129.5, 128.6, 117.0, 93.8, 86.8, 21.8; IR (neat) 3467, 1640, 740 $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}$  220.0888, found 220.0890.

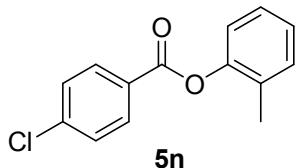


**1-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)prop-2-yn-1-one (5l):** White powder, 109mg, 81% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.13 (d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  176.7, 161.8, 140.4, 138.4, 135.2, 130.8, 128.9, 114.5, 111.6, 105.0, 86.6, 55.5; IR (neat) 3456, 1633, 739 $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{11}\text{ClO}_2$  270.0448, found 270.0446.

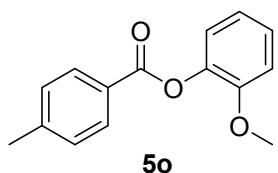


**2-phenyl-4H-chromen-4-one (5m):** White powder, 84mg, 76% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.21 (dd,  $J$  = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.92–7.89 (m, 2H), 7.68 (m, 1H),

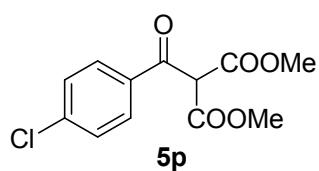
7.55 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.52–7.47 (m, 3H), 7.43–7.37 (m, 1H), 6.81 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  178.4, 163.4, 156.2, 133.8, 131.7, 131.6, 129.0, 126.3, 125.7, 125.2, 123.9, 118.1, 107.5; IR (neat) 3461, 1640, 768 $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_2$  222.0681, found 222.0684.



***o*-tolyl 4-chlorobenzoate (5n):** Colorless oil, 89mg, 72% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.18–8.12 (m, 2H), 7.51–7.46 (m, 2H), 7.28–7.23 (m, 2H), 7.19 (dd,  $J = 7.0, 1.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.14–7.09 (m, 1H), 2.21 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  164.0, 149.3, 140.1, 131.5, 131.2, 130.2, 129.0, 127.9, 127.0, 126.2, 121.9, 16.2; IR (neat) 3463, 1639, 747 $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{11}\text{ClO}_2$  246.0448, found 246.0447.

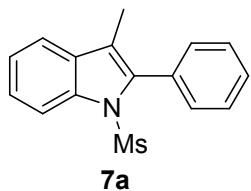


**2-methoxyphenyl 4-methylbenzoate (5o):** Colorless oil, 93mg, 77% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.10 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.24–7.20 (m, 1H), 7.14 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.01–6.96 (m, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  164.8, 151.4, 144.2, 140.0, 130.3, 129.2, 126.8, 126.7, 123.0, 120.8, 112.5, 55.9, 21.6; IR (neat) 3476, 1639, 744 $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_3$  242.0943, found 242.0946.

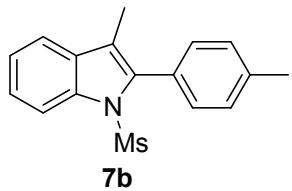


**dimethyl 2-(4-chlorobenzoyl)malonate (5p):** Light yellow oil, 84mg, 62% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.82 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 2H),

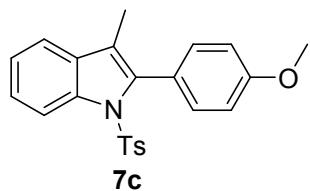
5.25 (s, 1H), 3.78 (s, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  187.5, 165.0, 140.8, 133.5, 129.6, 128.8, 61.4, 53.4; IR (neat) 3478, 1690, 740 $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{11}\text{ClO}_5$  270.0295, found 270.0298.



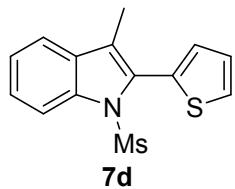
**3-methyl-1-(methylsulfonyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole (7a):** White powder, 114mg, 80% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.14–8.09 (m, 1H), 7.57–7.53 (m, 1H), 7.44 (d,  $J = 3.0$  Hz, 5H), 7.39–7.36 (m, 2H), 2.72 (s, 3H), 2.15 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  136.9, 136.6, 131.6, 131.3, 131.0, 128.6, 127.8, 125.2, 124.2, 119.5, 119.3, 115.5, 39.5, 9.5; IR (neat) 3486, 1678, 762 $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_2\text{S}$  285.0823, found 285.0827.



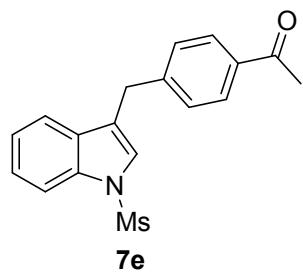
**3-methyl-1-(methylsulfonyl)-2-p-tolyl-1*H*-indole (7b):** White powder, 117mg, 78% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.13–8.08 (m, 1H), 7.56–7.51 (m, 1H), 7.38–7.34 (m, 2H), 7.32 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 2.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 2.71 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 2.14 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  138.5, 136.9, 136.7, 131.6, 130.9, 128.5, 128.2, 125.1, 124.1, 119.2, 119.2, 115.5, 39.5, 21.5, 9.5; IR (neat) 3484, 1672, 761 $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_2\text{S}$  299.0980, found 299.0981.



**2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-methyl-1-tosyl-1*H*-indole (7c):** White powder, 139mg, 71% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.30 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (s, 2H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.99–6.93 (m, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.01 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 159.6, 144.2, 143.3, 137.1, 136.5, 132.6, 131.8, 129.1, 129.0, 128.4, 126.8, 124.7, 123.8, 118.8, 116.2, 112.9, 55.2, 21.5, 9.5; IR (neat) 3481, 1676, 758cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>S 391.1242, found 391.1245.

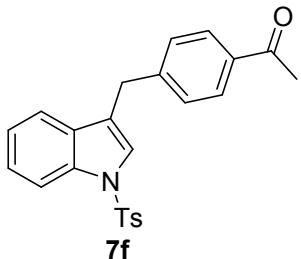


**3-methyl-1-(methylsulfonyl)-2-(thiophen-2-yl)-1*H*-indole (7d):** White powder, 105mg, 72% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.10 (dd, *J* = 7.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.56–7.53 (m, 1H), 7.51 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.20–7.16 (m, 1H), 7.15–7.12 (m, 1H), 2.85 (s, 3H), 2.19 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 136.9, 131.1, 130.8, 130.7, 129.0, 128.4, 128.1, 126.9, 125.7, 124.0, 119.4, 115.3, 40.1, 9.7; IR (neat) 3493, 1682, 759cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub> 291.0388, found 291.0386.

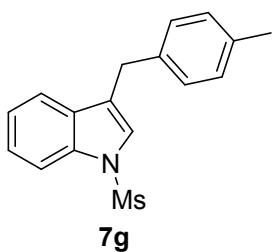


**1-((4-((1-(methylsulfonyl)-1*H*-indol-3-yl)methyl)phenyl)ethanone (7e):** White powder, 134mg, 82% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.89 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 7.28 – 7.24 (m, 1H), 7.15 (s, 1H), 4.09 (s, 2H), 3.06 (s, 3H), 2.57 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 197.7, 144.5,

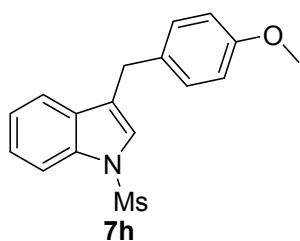
135.6, 135.4, 130.4, 128.9, 128.8, 125.2, 123.7, 123.4, 121.2, 119.9, 113.2, 40.5, 31.4, 26.6; IR (neat) 3483, 1691, 745cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>S 327.0929, found 327.0928.



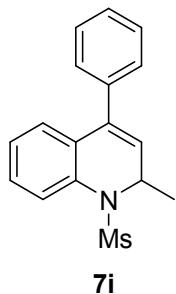
**1-(4-((1-tosyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)methyl)phenyl)ethanone (7f):** White powder, 155mg, 77% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.97 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.32–7.28 (m, 2H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (s, 1H), 4.04 (s, 2H), 2.56 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 197.8, 144.9, 144.7, 135.5, 135.4, 135.1, 130.5, 129.8, 128.8, 128.7, 126.7, 124.9, 124.1, 123.2, 121.3, 119.6, 113.8, 31.4, 26.6, 21.6; IR (neat) 3488, 1693, 741cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>S 403.1242, found 403.1246.



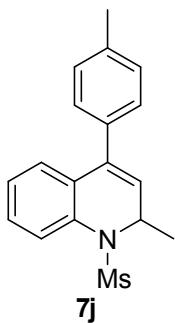
**3-(4-methylbenzyl)-1-(methylsulfonyl)-1*H*-indole (7g):** White powder, 124mg, 83% yield; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.89 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.29–7.24 (m, 1H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (dd, *J* = 6.0, 2.0 Hz, 3H), 4.00 (s, 2H), 3.03 (s, 3H), 2.33 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 136.0, 135.7, 135.5, 130.8, 129.3, 128.6, 125.0, 123.5, 123.3, 122.7, 120.0, 113.2, 40.4, 31.0, 21.0; IR (neat) 3485, 1692, 738cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S 299.0980, found 299.0981.



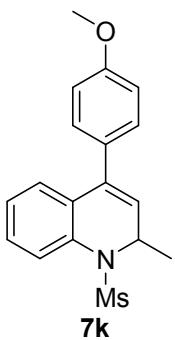
**3-(4-methoxybenzyl)-1-(methylsulfonyl)-1*H*-indole (7h):** White powder, 134mg, 85% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.89 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 6.84 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 2H), 3.98 (s, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.03 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  158.2, 135.5, 130.8, 130.7, 129.7, 125.0, 123.5, 123.3, 122.9, 120.0, 114.0, 113.2, 55.3, 40.4, 30.5; IR (neat) 3482, 1687, 765  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_3\text{S}$  315.0929, found 315.0925.



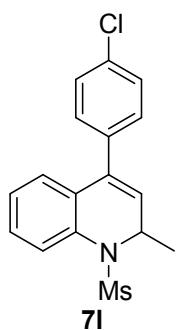
**2-methyl-1-(methylsulfonyl)-4-phenyl-1,2-dihydroquinoline (7i):** White powder, 117mg, 78% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.58–7.50 (m, 2H), 7.45–7.39 (m, 3H), 7.38 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.31–7.24 (m, 2H), 7.15 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 1.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.87 (d,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 5.45 (m, 1H), 2.83 (s, 3H), 1.51 (d,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  141.8, 138.9, 135.6, 130.8, 130.0, 128.9, 128.4, 127.5, 124.6, 120.6, 119.4, 115.8, 62.0, 36.3, 20.7; IR (neat) 3487, 1674, 768  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_2\text{S}$  299.0980, found 299.0979.



**2-methyl-1-(methylsulfonyl)-4-p-tolyl-1,2-dihydroquinoline (7j):** White powder, 114mg, 73% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.52 (dd,  $J = 11.0, 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.27 (dd,  $J = 11.0, 4.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.19 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.13 (m, 1H), 6.84 (d,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 5.44 (m, 1H), 2.82 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 1.52 (d,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  141.6, 137.9, 137.6, 132.7, 131.0, 129.8, 129.6, 128.4, 124.6, 120.5, 119.4, 115.8, 62.1, 36.2, 21.3, 20.6; IR (neat) 3490, 1676, 769  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_2\text{S}$  313.1136, found 313.1132.

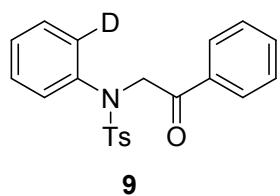


**4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-methyl-1-(methylsulfonyl)-1,2-dihydroquinoline (7k):** White powder, 117mg, 71% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.51 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.26 (dd,  $J = 9.0, 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.13 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 2H), 6.81 (d,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 5.41 (m, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 2.82 (s, 3H), 1.52 (d,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  159.0, 141.4, 136.6, 131.2, 129.9, 129.5, 128.2, 124.6, 120.3, 119.1, 115.8, 114.3, 62.0, 55.3, 36.2, 20.6; IR (neat) 3493, 1678, 775  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_3\text{S}$  329.1086, found 329.1083.



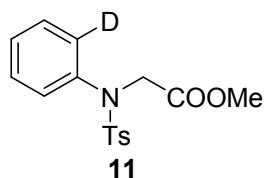
**4-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-methyl-1-(methylsulfonyl)-1,2-dihydroquinoline (7l):**

White powder, 133mg, 80% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.52 (dd,  $J = 10.0, 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.35 (s, 4H), 7.32–7.27 (m, 1H), 7.14 (m, 1H), 6.81 (d,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 5.39 (m, 1H), 2.84 (s, 3H), 1.50 (d,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  141.9, 139.6, 134.1, 133.2, 130.4, 130.3, 129.6, 129.1, 124.6, 120.7, 118.0, 115.7, 61.9, 36.5, 20.5; IR (neat) 3497, 1686, 779 $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{ClNO}_2\text{S}$  333.0590, found 333.0592.



***d*<sub>1</sub>-4-methyl-N-(2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)-N-phenylbenzenesulfonamide (9):**

White powder, 97mg, 53% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.92 (dd,  $J = 5.0, 3.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.59–7.53 (m, 2H), 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.28–7.23 (m, 5H), 7.15 (dd,  $J = 7.0, 3.0$  Hz, 2H), 5.04 (s, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  193.7, 143.7, 139.6, 135.3, 134.9, 133.7, 129.4, 129.3, 129.1, 128.7, 128.2, 128.1, 127.9, 57.6, 21.6; IR (neat) 3508, 1695, 763 $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{18}\text{DNO}_3\text{S}$  366.1148, found 366.1150.



***d*<sub>1</sub>-methyl 2-(4-methyl-N-phenylphenylsulfonamido)acetate (11):** White

powder, 82mg, 51% yield;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.52 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.27 (m, 3H), 7.24–7.21 (m, 2H), 7.20–7.14 (m, 2H), 4.39 (s, 2H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 2.39 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  169.3, 143.7, 139.8, 135.7, 129.4, 129.3, 129.2, 128.8, 128.2, 127.7, 52.5, 21.6; IR (neat) 3516, 1688, 752 $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; HRMS (EI-TOF) calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{DNO}_4\text{S}$  320.0941, found 3320.0944.

#### 4 The $^1\text{H}$ and $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra of compounds

