

# Transition Metal-Free Aerobic Oxidative Cleavage of C–N Bonds of $\alpha$ -Amino Esters

Shenpeng Tan, Feng Li, Soojun Park, and Sanghee Kim\*

College of Pharmacy, Seoul National University, 1 Gwanak-ro, Gwanak-gu, Seoul, 08826, Korea

E-mail: pennkim@snu.ac.kr

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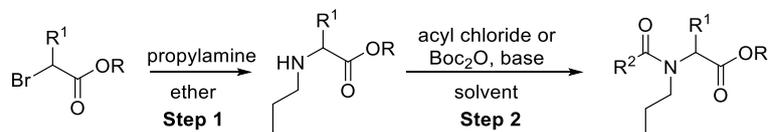
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## 1. General

All of the chemicals were reagent grade and used as purchased. All of the reactions were performed under an inert atmosphere of dry nitrogen using distilled dry solvents. The reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) analysis using silica gel 60 F-254 TLC plates. The compound spots were visualized using UV light. The melting points were measured using a Buchi B-540 melting point apparatus without correction. Flash column chromatography was carried out on silica gel (230–400 mesh).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (800, 600, 500, or 400 MHz) and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (200, 150, 125, or 100 MHz) spectra were referenced to  $\text{Me}_4\text{Si}$  (0 ppm), residual  $\text{CDCl}_3$  ( $^1\text{H}$  NMR  $\delta = 7.24$  ppm,  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR  $\delta = 77.16$  ppm), and  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$  ( $^1\text{H}$  NMR  $\delta = 3.30$  ppm,  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR  $\delta = 49.00$  ppm). The splitting patterns are indicated as s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplet) and brs (broad singlet) for the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data. The IR spectra were measured on a Fourier-transform infrared spectrometer. Time-resolved IR monitoring was performed with Mettler Toledo ReactIR<sup>TM</sup> 45m equipped with DS AgX SiComp<sup>TM</sup> probe. The high-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded using FAB or ESI/Q-TOF.

## 2. Preparation of the Starting Materials

### General procedure A: synthesis of substrates (7a-g)



**Step 1:** To a stirred solution of propylamine (19.1 mmol, 8.00 equiv) in ether (15 mL) was added  $\alpha$ -bromoester (2.39 mmol, 1.00 equiv) dropwise via a syringe. The reaction mixture stirred at room temperature for 12 h. The reaction mixture was then filtered to remove the precipitate. The organic layer was washed with a saturated solution of sodium bicarbonate and brine and dried over  $MgSO_4$ . Removal of the solvent in vacuo gave the secondary amine as colorless oil, which was used directly without further purification.

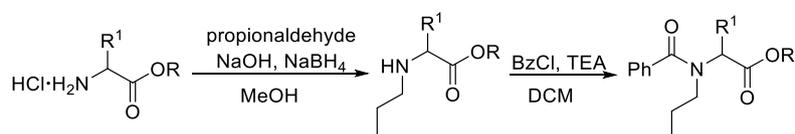
**Step 2: For the synthesis of benzoyl amide or 1-naphthoyl amide (7a-d and 7g):** TEA (2.00 mmol, 2.00 equiv) and benzoyl chloride (1.50 mmol, 1.50 equiv) or 1-naphthoyl chloride (1.50 mmol, 1.50 equiv) were added to the above secondary amine (1.00 mmol, 1.00 equiv) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (10 mL) at 0 °C. After 10 min, the reaction was quenched with  $H_2O$  and extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$ . The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over  $MgSO_4$ , filtered, and concentrated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using hexane/EtOAc as the eluent.

**Step 2: For the synthesis of Boc amide (7e):** DIPEA (1.07 mmol, 2.00 equiv) and  $Boc_2O$  (0.80 mmol, 1.50 equiv) were added to the above secondary amine (0.53 mmol, 1 equiv) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (5 mL) at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred for 12 h before the addition of  $H_2O$  (10 mL), and extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$ . The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over  $MgSO_4$ , filtered, and concentrated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using hexane/EtOAc as the eluent.

**Step 2: For the synthesis of Cbz amide (7f):**  $NaHCO_3$  (1.17 mmol, 2.00 equiv) and benzyl chloroformate (0.65 mmol, 1.10 equiv) were added to the above secondary amine (0.59 mmol, 1.00 equiv) in  $H_2O$ /acetone (1:1, 6 mL) at 0 °C. After 2 h, the reaction was quenched with  $H_2O$  and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over  $MgSO_4$ ,

filtered, and concentrated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using hexane/EtOAc as the eluent.

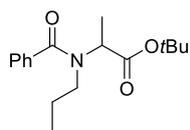
### General procedure B: synthesis of substrates (7h-k)



Propionaldehyde (1.54 mmol, 1.40 equiv) was added to a solution of amino acid ester hydrochloride (1.10 mmol, 1.00 equiv) in MeOH (5 mL) neutralized with NaOH (1.16 mmol, 1.05 equiv). After 10 min at room temperature, the reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C, and NaBH<sub>4</sub> (0.88 mmol, 0.80 equiv) was added. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h. The resulting mixture was washed with water and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated to yield the crude secondary amine as a light yellow oil. TEA (2.20 mmol, 2.00 equiv) and benzoyl chloride (1.65 mmol, 1.50 equiv) were added to the above secondary amine in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5 mL) at 0 °C. After 10 min, the reaction was quenched with H<sub>2</sub>O and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using hexane/EtOAc as the eluent.

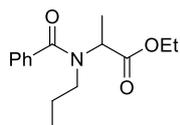
### General procedure C: synthesis of substrates (11a-f)

Substrates **11a-f** are known compounds. Compound **11c** was purchased and used as such; other substrates were obtained following reference<sup>1</sup> and those spectral data are in agreement with the corresponding literature values. To a solution of amino acid ester hydrochloride (1.00 mmol, 1.00 equiv) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL), TEA (2.00 mmol, 2.00 equiv) and benzoyl chloride (2.00 mmol, 2.00 equiv) were added successively at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min at 0 °C. The reaction was quenched with H<sub>2</sub>O and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using hexane/EtOAc as the eluent.



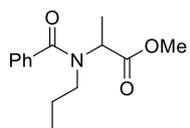
***tert*-Butyl *N*-benzoyl-*N*-propylalaninate (**7a**)**

Following the general procedure A, the crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc, 5:1) to yield product **7a** (543 mg, 78%) as a colorless oil; Rotamers were observed, and the ratio was 1:1 from  $^1\text{H}$  NMR.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)  $\delta$  7.36–7.33 (m, 5H), 4.26 (s, 1H), 3.58 (s, 0.41H), 3.19–3.08 (m, 1H), 2.89 (s, 0.47H), 2.00–1.33 (m, 14H), 0.91–0.70 (m, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100 MHz)  $\delta$  172.6/171.5, 170.8, 137.0, 129.5, 129.4, 128.7, 128.6, 126.4, 82.2/81.3, 58.4/55.6, 51.2/45.6, 28.1 (3C), 23.1/22.3, 16.0/14.9, 11.8/11.3; IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 2975, 2936, 2877, 1732, 1636, 1368, 1155, 1104; HRMS (FAB) calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}_3$  292.1913 ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ), found 292.1913.



**Ethyl *N*-benzoyl-*N*-propylalaninate (**7b**).**

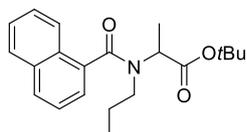
Following the general procedure A, the crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc, 5:1) to yield product **7b** (236 mg, 81%) as a colorless oil; Rotamers were observed, and the ratio was 2:1 from  $^1\text{H}$  NMR.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)  $\delta$  7.34–7.32 (m, 5H), 4.35 (s, 1H), 4.14 (s, 2H), 3.54 (s, 0.40H), 3.19–3.13 (m, 1.23H), 2.95 (s, 0.40H), 1.75–1.37 (m, 5H), 1.24–1.23 (m, 3H), 0.90–0.69 (m, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100 MHz)  $\delta$  172.4, 171.6, 136.8, 129.5, 128.5, 126.5 (3C), 61.6/61.2, 57.6/54.8, 51.2/45.7, 23.0/22.1, 16.0/14.9, 14.3, 11.8/11.2; IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 2967, 2935, 2874, 1735, 1632, 1430, 1208, 1100, 700; HRMS (FAB) calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_3$  264.1600 ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ), found 264.1604.



**Methyl *N*-benzoyl-*N*-propylalaninate (**7c**).**

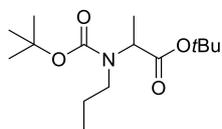
Following the general procedure A, the crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc, 5:1) to yield product **7c** (205 mg, 80%) as a colorless oil; Rotamers were observed, and the ratio was 1.6:1 from  $^1\text{H}$  NMR.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 500 MHz)  $\delta$  7.36–7.34 (m, 5H), 4.40 (s, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.54 (s, 0.33H), 3.20–3.14 (m, 1.19H), 2.96 (s, 0.32H), 1.82–1.39 (m, 5H), 0.91–0.71 (m, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 125 MHz)  $\delta$  172.0, 171.6, 136.5, 129.4,

128.5, 128.3, 126.3 (2C), 57.4/54.5, 52.2, 50.9/45.5, 22.8/21.9, 16.0/14.8, 11.5/11.0; IR  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 2953, 2874, 2868, 1739, 1631, 1430, 1211, 1103, 701; HRMS (FAB) calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_3$  250.1443 ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ), found 250.1446.



***tert*-Butyl *N*-(1-naphthoyl)-*N*-propylalaninate (**7d**).**

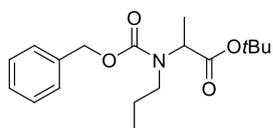
Following the general procedure A, the crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc, 8:1) to yield product **7d** (120 mg, 70%) as a colorless oil; Rotamers were observed, and the ratio was 1:1 from  $^1\text{H}$  NMR.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 800 MHz)  $\delta$  8.04–7.78 (m, 3H), 7.51–7.31 (m, 4H), 4.61–4.60 (m, 0.29H), 4.28 (s, 0.25H), 4.16 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 0.19H), 4.02 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 0.23H), 3.85–3.79 (m, 0.43H), 3.15 (s, 0.26H), 3.06–2.94 (m, 1.34H), 2.09–1.96 (m, 0.48H), 1.78–1.69 (m, 0.51H), 1.62 (d,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 1.79H), 1.56–1.55 (m, 5.16H), 1.43 (s, 2.2H), 1.34 (s, 1.61), 1.32 (d,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 0.63H), 1.25 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 0.73H), 1.03–0.99 (m, 1.28H), 0.56–0.55 (m, 1.73H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 200 MHz)  $\delta$  171.5/171.2, 170.6/170.4, 134.8, 134.6, 134.5, 133.6, 133.4, 133.3, 129.9, 129.8, 129.6, 129.4, 129.1, 128.89, 128.87, 128.4, 128.2, 128.0, 126.9, 126.8, 126.6, 126.5, 126.4, 126.3, 126.0, 125.3, 125.1, 124.94, 124.85, 124.3, 124.0, 123.5, 123.0, 82.02/81.95, 81.4, 58.4/57.9, 55.7/54.8, 51.5/50.3, 46.0/45.5, 28.1, 27.9/27.8, 23.2/22.6, 22.4/22.1, 16.2/16.1, 15.0, 11.8/11.7, 11.1; IR  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 2972, 2933, 2874, 1730, 1633, 1367, 1155, 1110, 779; HRMS (FAB) calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{28}\text{NO}_3$  342.2069 ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ), found 342.2072.



***tert*-Butyl *N*-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)-*N*-propylalaninate (**7e**).**

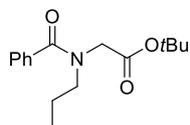
Following the general procedure A, the crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc, 20:1) to yield product **7e** (126 mg, 81%) as a colorless oil; Rotamers were observed, and the ratio was 1:1 from  $^1\text{H}$  NMR.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)  $\delta$  4.19–4.17 (m, 0.45H), 3.91–3.89 (m, 0.45H), 3.26–3.19 (m, 1H), 3.01 (s, 0.51H), 2.87–2.85 (m, 0.50H), 1.55–1.32 (m, 23H), 0.84 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100 MHz)  $\delta$  171.8/171.6, 155.5/155.2, 81.02/80.95, 80.1/79.6, 56.6/55.9, 49.1/48.4, 28.6 (4C), 28.2, 28.1, 23.2/22.5, 16.1/15.4,

11.6/11.5; IR  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 2975, 2934, 2876, 1736, 1695, 1367, 1159; HRMS (FAB) calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{30}\text{NO}_4$  288.2175 ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ), found 288.2177.



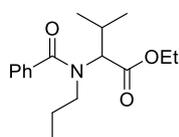
***tert*-Butyl *N*-((benzyloxy)carbonyl)-*N*-propylalaninate (**7f**).**

Following the general procedure A, the crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc, 20:1) to yield product **7f** (146 mg, 77%) as a colorless oil; Rotamers were observed, and the ratio was 1:1 from  $^1\text{H}$  NMR.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)  $\delta$  7.33–7.27 (m, 5H), 5.21–4.99 (m, 2H), 4.34–4.29 (m, 0.55H), 4.16–4.14 (m, 0.50H), 3.35–3.33 (m, 1H), 3.09–2.98 (m, 1H), 1.64–1.49 (m, 2H), 1.39–1.34 (m, 12H), 0.91–0.82 (m, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100 MHz)  $\delta$  171.4/171.3, 156.2/156.0, 137.1/136.7, 128.6 (2C), 128.0 (2C), 127.9, 81.4/81.3, 67.2/67.1, 56.4/56.2, 49.2/48.2, 28.1 (3C), 23.1/22.4, 16.1/15.5, 11.5; IR  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 2972, 2935, 2875, 1734, 1698, 1248, 1160, 1148, 849; HRMS (FAB) calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{28}\text{NO}_4$  322.2018 ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ), found 322.2022.



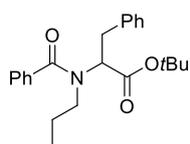
***tert*-Butyl *N*-benzoyl-*N*-propylglycinate (**7g**).**

Following the general procedure A, the crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc, 5:1) to yield product **7g** (245 mg, 86%) as a colorless oil; Rotamers were observed, and the ratio was 1.6:1 from  $^1\text{H}$  NMR.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)  $\delta$  7.35–7.32 (m, 5H), 4.07 (s, 1.16H), 3.79 (s, 0.76H), 3.44 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 0.76H), 3.18 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1.24H), 1.65–1.48 (m, 2H), 1.45–1.38 (m, 9H), 0.92 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1.15H), 0.71 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1.86H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100 MHz)  $\delta$  172.3, 168.8/168.3, 136.6/136.3, 129.5, 128.5 (2C), 126.7/126.5 (2C), 82.3/81.8, 52.0/51.9, 48.5/47.5, 28.2/28.0 (3C), 21.8/20.5, 11.5/11.1; IR  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 2973, 2875, 1738, 1636, 1223, 1149, 1101; HRMS (FAB) calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_3$  278.1756 ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ), found 278.1763.



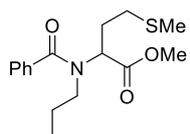
**Ethyl *N*-benzoyl-*N*-propylvalinate (**7h**).**

Following the general procedure B, the crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc, 5:1) to yield product **7h** (240 mg, 75%) as a colorless oil; Rotamers were observed, and the ratio was 2:1 from <sup>1</sup>H NMR. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 7.39–7.35 (m, 5H), 4.20–4.14 (m, 2.43H), 3.86–3.83 (m, 0.70H), 3.61 (s, 0.63H), 3.11–3.10 (m, 1.27H), 2.50 (s, 0.32H), 2.23 (s, 0.71H), 1.95–1.73 (m, 0.67H), 1.46 (s, 1.35H), 1.30–1.26 (m, 3.26H), 1.07–0.60 (m, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) δ 172.9/172.1, 171.1/170.6, 136.7, 129.5, 128.5 (3C), 127.4/126.4, 67.5/63.7, 61.2/61.0, 50.7/44.7, 28.1/22.8, 21.2/19.3, 19.6/19.0, 14.2 (2C), 11.7/11.4; IR ν<sub>max</sub> (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 2965, 2875, 1736, 1638, 1196, 1094, 1026; HRMS (FAB) calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> 292.1913 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>), found 292.1906.



***tert*-Butyl *N*-benzoyl-*N*-propylphenylalaninate (**7i**).**

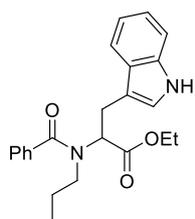
Following the general procedure B, the crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc, 10:1) to yield product **7i** (167 mg, 58%) as a light yellow oil; Rotamers were observed, and the ratio was 2:1 from <sup>1</sup>H NMR. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 800 MHz) δ 7.34–6.91 (m, 10H), 4.41–3.97 (m, 1H), 3.50–3.40 (m, 1.66H), 3.29 (s, 0.35H), 3.10–3.08 (m, 0.32H), 2.97–2.91 (m, 0.96H), 2.49–2.46 (m, 0.64H), 1.86 (s, 0.43H), 1.71 (s, 0.36H), 1.50–1.46 (m, 8.94H), 1.22–1.18 (m, 1.32H), 0.97 (s, 0.90H), 0.52–0.51 (m, 1.87H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 200 MHz) δ 172.7/171.2, 169.5, 138.8, 136.7/136.2, 129.4/129.3 (2C), 129.2/129.1, 128.5/128.4 (2C), 128.3/128.0 (2C), 126.7/126.6, 126.5/126.2 (2C), 82.4/81.4, 64.1/62.5, 53.1/45.4, 35.4/34.5, 28.0/27.9 (3C), 21.6/21.4, 11.7/11.0; IR ν<sub>max</sub> (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 2975, 2934, 2876, 1730, 1635, 1250, 1149, 850; HRMS (FAB) calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>30</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> 368.2226 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>), found 368.2227.



**Methyl *N*-benzoyl-*N*-propylmethioninate (**7j**).**

Following the general procedure B, the crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc, 5:1) to yield product **7j** (236 mg, 51%) as a colorless oil; Rotamers were observed, and the ratio was 2:1 from <sup>1</sup>H NMR. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 7.35 (s, 5H), 4.51–4.29 (m, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.29–3.11 (m, 2H), 2.63–2.23 (m, 4H), 2.09–1.95 (m, 3H),

1.70–1.54 (m, 2H), 0.90–0.68 (m, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100 MHz)  $\delta$  173.0/172.2, 171.5, 136.4, 129.7 (3C), 128.5, 126.6, 60.6/58.1, 52.8, 52.4/45.9, 31.4/30.4, 29.2/28.5, 22.6/21.7, 15.4, 11.8/11.2; IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 2961, 2875, 1741, 1638, 1431, 1233, 1105, 702; HRMS (FAB) calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_3\text{S}$  310.1477 ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ), found 310.1476.

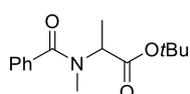


**Ethyl  $N^\alpha$ -benzoyl- $N^\alpha$ -propyltryptophanate (7k).**

Following the general procedure B, the crude product was purified by column

chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc, 5:1) to yield product **7k** (138 mg,

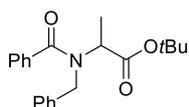
49%) as a colorless oil; Rotamers were observed, and the ratio was 1:1 from  $^1\text{H}$  NMR.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 500 MHz)  $\delta$  8.46–8.37 (m, 1H), 7.68–6.80 (m, 10H), 4.66 (s, 0.38H), 4.39 (s, 0.57H), 4.30–4.16 (m, 2H), 3.70–3.56 (m, 1.60H), 3.36–2.99 (m, 1.78H), 2.62 (s, 0.56H), 1.85–1.71 (m, 1H), 1.31 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H), 1.26–1.20 (m, 1H), 0.97 (s, 1.20H), 0.49–0.47 (m, 1.74H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 125 MHz)  $\delta$  173.1/171.7, 170.9, 136.6/135.8, 136.2, 129.3/129.0, 128.3/128.0, 127.5/127.0, 126.4 (2C), 123.4/123.1, 121.9 (2C), 119.4, 118.5/117.8, 112.2/111.3, 109.9, 62.0/61.2, 61.5/60.4, 52.6/45.3, 25.4/24.4, 21.8/21.4, 14.2/14.1, 11.7/10.9; IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3298, 2975, 2875, 1733, 1616, 1434, 1229, 1101, 739; HRMS (FAB) calcd for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{27}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$  379.2022 ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ), found 379.2021.



***tert*-Butyl  $N$ -benzoyl- $N$ -methylalaninate (7l).**

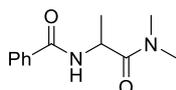
To a suspension of NaH (60% suspension in mineral oil, 72.2 mg, 1.81 mmol) in THF (5 mL) at 0 °C was added dropwise a solution of *tert*-butyl benzoylalaninate<sup>1</sup> (150 mg, 0.60 mmol) in THF (1 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at that temperature for 5 min and then  $\text{CH}_3\text{I}$  (0.30 mL, 4.81 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was allowed to reach room temperature and stirred for 1 h. The reaction mixture was quenched slowly quenched with saturated  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  solution and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and concentrated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc, 5:1) to yield product **7l** (124 mg, 78%) as a colorless oil; Rotamers were observed, and the ratio was 1:1 from  $^1\text{H}$  NMR.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 500 MHz)  $\delta$  7.38 (s, 5H), 5.20 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz,

0.45H), 4.34 (d,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, 0.43H), 2.91 (d,  $J = 45.7$  Hz, 3H), 1.47–1.32 (m, 12H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 125 MHz)  $\delta$  172.3/171.8, 170.8/170.3, 136.3, 129.5, 128.6, 128.4, 126.9, 126.5, 82.1/81.5, 57.8/52.9, 33.7/28.7, 28.03 (3C), 15.1/14.3; IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 2978, 2934, 1731, 1638, 1394, 1233, 1155, 1083; HRMS (FAB) calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_3$  264.1600 ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ), found 264.1605.



***tert*-Butyl *N*-benzoyl-*N*-benzylalaninate (**7m**).**

Benzaldehyde (0.17 mL, 1.65 mmol) was added to a solution of L-alanine *t*-butyl ester hydrochloride (200 mg, 1.10 mmol) and TEA (0.15 mL, 1.10 mmol) in MeOH (5 mL) at room temperature and the mixture was stirred for 1 h.  $\text{NaBH}(\text{OAc})_3$  (350 mg, 1.65 mmol) was added in portions and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. The resulting mixture was washed with water and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and concentrated to yield crude secondary amine as a yellow oil. TEA (0.31 mL, 2.20 mmol) and benzoyl chloride (0.19 mL, 1.65 mmol) were added to the above secondary amine in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (5 mL) at 0 °C. After 10 min, the reaction was quenched with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , filtered, and concentrated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc, 10:1) to yield product **7m** (260 mg, 70%) as a colorless oil; Rotamers were observed, and the ratio was 2:1 from  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 600 MHz)  $\delta$  7.45–7.24 (m, 10H), 5.15 (s, 0.33H), 4.62–4.47 (m, 1.6H), 4.19 (s, 0.36H), 4.04 (s, 0.62H), 1.49–1.27 (m, 12H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 150 MHz)  $\delta$  171.8, 170.2, 138.6/137.1, 136.4/136.1, 129.6 (2C), 128.6, 128.4, 127.4, 127.2, 127.0, 126.4 (3C), 82.1/81.1, 58.4/55.9, 53.3/46.4, 27.9 (3C), 16.1/14.3; IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 2976, 2934, 1730, 1639, 1240, 1149, 727, 697; HRMS (FAB) calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}_3$  340.1913 ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ), found 340.1917.

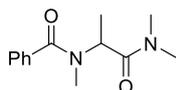


***N*-(1-(Dimethylamino)-1-oxopropan-2-yl)benzamide (**7n'**).**

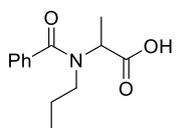
Dimethylamine hydrochloride (253.2 mg, 3.11 mmol) and DIPEA (0.54 mL, 3.11 mmol) was added to a solution of *N*-benzoyl-DL-alanine (300 mg, 1.55 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (10 mL) at 0 °C. After 10 min, HOBt (419.6 mg, 3.11 mmol) and EDCI·HCl (595.3 mg, 3.11 mmol) were added

to the above complex at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was allowed to reach room temperature and stirred for another 12 h. The resulting mixture was quenched with water and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH, 20:1) to yield product **7n'** (310 mg, 91%) as a white solid; m.p. 132–134 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz) δ 7.77 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.44–7.34 (m, 4H), 5.05–5.00 (m, 1H), 3.06 (s, 3H), 2.94 (s, 3H), 1.37 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz) δ 172.3, 166.1, 134.0, 131.4, 128.3 (2C), 126.9 (2C), 45.6, 36.8, 35.6, 18.5; IR ν<sub>max</sub> (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3296, 2979, 2933, 1626, 1484, 1107, 711; HRMS (FAB) calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 221.1290 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>), found 221.1295.

***N*-(1-(Dimethylamino)-1-oxopropan-2-yl)-*N*-methylbenzamide (7n).**



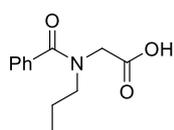
To a suspension of NaH (60% suspension in mineral oil, 109 mg, 2.72 mmol) in THF (5 mL) at 0 °C was added dropwise a solution of **7n'** (200 mg, 0.91 mmol) in THF (2 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at that temperature for 5 min and then CH<sub>3</sub>I (0.45 mL, 7.26 mmol) was added. The resulting mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h then let to stir at room temperature for 2 h. The reaction mixture was quenched slowly quenched with saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH, 30:1) to yield product **7n** (151 mg, 71%) as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 7.36–7.32 (m, 5H), 5.59 (q, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (s, 3H), 2.94 (s, 3H), 2.83 (s, 3H), 1.35 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) δ 171.2, 171.1, 136.1, 129.8, 128.6 (2C), 126.9 (2C), 49.1, 37.0, 36.0, 32.9, 14.4; IR ν<sub>max</sub> (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 2982, 2934, 1624, 1442, 1391, 1074, 796; HRMS (FAB) calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 235.1447 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>), found 235.1444.



***N*-benzoyl-*N*-propylalanine (7o).**

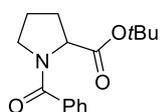
A solution of substrate **7c** (400 mg, 1.60 mmol) and anhydrous LiOH (76.9 mg, 3.20 mmol) in THF (4 mL) and water (80 μL) was refluxed for 12 h. The reaction mixture was acidified

with 1 N HCl until pH 2 and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH, 30:1) to yield product **7o** (287 mg, 76%) as a white solid; m.p. 116–118 °C; Rotamers were observed, and the ratio was 2:1 from <sup>1</sup>H NMR. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 10.58 (s, 1H), 7.37 (s, 5H), 4.37 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.56–2.89 (m, 2H), 1.80 (s, 0.38H), 1.58–1.50 (m, 3.72H), 1.34 (s, 1H), 0.89–0.70 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) δ 175.8/175.1, 172.9, 136.2/135.8, 129.9, 128.6 (2C), 126.7 (2C), 57.7/55.3, 51.6/46.3, 22.8/22.0, 16.1/14.7, 11.8/11.1; IR ν<sub>max</sub> (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3461, 2969, 2938, 2876, 2593, 1738, 1594, 1459, 1429, 1208, 1112, 926; HRMS (FAB) calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> 236.1287 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>), found 236.1292.



***N*-benzoyl-*N*-propylglycine (7p).**

To a stirred solution of substrate **7g** (300 mg, 1.08 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 mL) was added TFA (2 mL) at room temperature. After 3 h, the reaction was evaporated at reduced pressure and acidified with 1 N HCl until pH 2. The reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc, washed with brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated. The crude product was purified using column chromatography on silica gel (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH, 30:1) to yield product **7p** (145 mg, 61%) as a white solid; m.p. 90–92 °C; Rotamers were observed, and the ratio was 2:1 from <sup>1</sup>H NMR. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz) δ 10.85 (s, 1H), 7.39–7.32 (m, 5H), 4.21 (s, 1.32H), 3.88 (s, 0.61H), 3.43 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 0.62H), 3.22 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1.31H), 1.61–1.49 (m, 2H), 0.91 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 0.72 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz) δ 173.1/172.73, 172.67/172.2, 135.4/135.1, 129.8/129.7, 128.5/128.4 (2C), 126.6/126.4 (2C), 52.0/50.8, 48.3/46.8, 21.5/20.0, 11.2/10.8; IR ν<sub>max</sub> (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3460, 2967, 2936, 2876, 2599, 1736, 1597, 1467, 1216, 1107, 942; HRMS (FAB) calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> 222.1130 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>), found 222.1135.

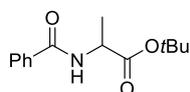


***tert*-butyl benzoylprolinate (7q).**

Substrate **7q** was obtained following a revised reported procedure<sup>2</sup>. To a solution of L-proline *t*-butyl ester hydrochloride (150 mg, 0.72 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5 mL), TEA (0.20 mL, 1.44

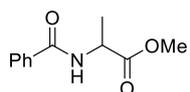
mmol) and benzoyl chloride (0.168 mL, 1.44 mmol) were added successively at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min at 0 °C. The reaction was quenched with H<sub>2</sub>O and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated. The crude product was purified using column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc, 5:1) to yield product **7q** (160 mg, 81%) as a white solid. The spectral data is in agreement with the corresponding literature values<sup>3</sup>.

***tert*-Butyl benzoylalaninate (**11a**)<sup>4</sup>.**



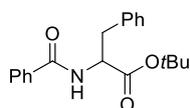
Following the general procedure C, the crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc, 5:1) to yield product **11a** (190 mg, 93%) as a white solid; m.p. 99–101 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz) δ 7.78 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 4.65 (quint, *J* = 7.1, 14.2 Hz, 1H), 1.47 (s, 9H), 1.46 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz) δ 172.5, 166.6, 134.2, 131.6, 128.5 (2C), 127.0 (2C), 82.2, 49.0, 28.0 (3C), 18.9.

**Methyl benzoylalaninate (**11b**)<sup>5</sup>.**



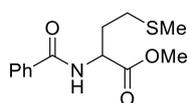
Following the general procedure C, the crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1) to yield product **11b** (205 mg, 92%) as a white solid; m.p. 80–82 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 7.73–7.71 (m, 2H), 7.39–7.35 (m, 1H), 7.29–7.26 (m, 2H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 4.68 (quint, *J* = 7.2, 14.4 Hz, 1H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 1.40 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) δ 173.6, 167.0, 133.7, 131.6, 128.4 (2C), 127.1 (2C), 52.4, 48.4, 18.1.

***tert*-Butyl benzoylphenylalaninate (**11d**)<sup>6</sup>.**



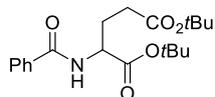
Following the general procedure C, the crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc, 5:1) to yield product **11d** (220 mg, 87%) as a white solid; m.p. 78–80 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz) δ 7.72 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H),

7.38 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.27–7.17 (m, 5H), 6.73 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 4.95 (q,  $J = 6.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.25–3.18 (m, 2H), 1.42 (s, 9H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 125 MHz)  $\delta$  170.7, 166.6, 136.1, 134.0, 131.5, 129.5 (2C), 128.4 (2C), 128.3 (2C), 126.9 (3C), 82.4, 53.8, 37.9, 27.9 (3C).



**Methyl benzoylmethioninate (11e)**<sup>7</sup>.

Following the general procedure C, the crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1) to yield product **11e** (175 mg, 87%) as a white solid; m.p. 85–87 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 500 MHz)  $\delta$  7.79 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.49 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 4.93–4.89 (m, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 2.57–2.52 (m, 2H), 2.30–2.23 (m, 1H), 2.13–2.08 (m, 1H), 2.06 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 125 MHz)  $\delta$  172.5, 167.0, 133.7, 131.8, 128.6 (2C), 127.0 (2C), 52.6, 52.0, 31.6, 30.0, 15.5.



**Di-tert-butyl benzoylglutamate (11f)**<sup>8</sup>.

Following the general procedure C, the crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc, 5:1) to yield product **11f** (206 mg, 84%) as a white solid; m.p. 100–102 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 500 MHz)  $\delta$  7.78 (d,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.45 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.01 (d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 4.66–4.62 (m, 1H), 2.42–2.36 (m, 1H), 2.32–2.25 (m, 1H), 2.23–2.16 (m, 1H), 2.05–1.97 (m, 1H), 1.45 (s, 9H), 1.37 (s, 9H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 125 MHz)  $\delta$  172.5, 171.2, 166.9, 133.8, 131.6, 128.4 (2C), 127.0 (2C), 82.3, 80.7, 52.8, 31.6, 28.0 (3C), 27.9 (3C), 27.4.

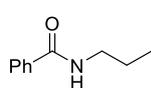
### 3. Experimental Procedures for the Cleavage Reaction

#### General Procedure A for substrates 7a-p

*t*BuOK (1.0 M in THF, 0.2 mmol, 2.00 equiv) was added to a solution of substrate (0.1 mmol, 1.00 equiv) in THF (0.5 mL, 0.2 M) under an O<sub>2</sub> atmosphere at 0 °C. The resulting mixture was stirred at 0 °C for about 0.5 h and then warmed to room temperature. After the starting material disappeared by monitoring with TLC, the reaction was quenched with saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc) to afford the desired product.

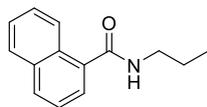
#### General Procedure B for substrates 11a-f

*t*BuOK (1.0 M in THF, 0.3 mmol, 3.00 equiv) was added to a solution of substrate (0.1 mmol, 1.00 equiv) and P(OEt)<sub>3</sub> (0.2 mmol, 2.00 equiv) in THF (0.5 mL, 0.2 M) under an O<sub>2</sub> atmosphere at 0 °C. The resulting mixture was stirred at 0 °C for about 0.5 h and then warmed to room temperature. After the starting material disappeared by monitoring with TLC, the reaction was quenched with saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc) to afford the desired product.



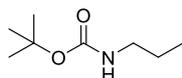
#### **N-Propylbenzamide (8a).**

Following the general procedure A, the crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1) to yield product **8a** (18.2 mg, 93%) as a white solid; m.p. 82–83 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz) δ 7.74 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.49 (brs, 1H), 3.36 (q, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 1.59 (x, *J* = 7.3, 14.6 Hz, 2H), 0.93 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz) δ 167.6, 134.8, 131.2, 128.4 (2C), 126.8 (2C), 41.7, 22.8, 11.4; IR ν<sub>max</sub> (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3301, 2956, 2930, 2870, 1632, 1546, 1312, 1150; HRMS (FAB) calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NO 164.1075 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>), found 164.1074.



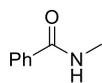
**N-Propyl-1-naphthamide (8d).**

Following the general procedure A, the crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1) to yield product **8d** (20.1 mg, 92%) as a white solid; m.p. 89–91 °C;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 500 MHz)  $\delta$  8.25 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.85 (dd,  $J = 7.9$ , 15.4 Hz, 2H), 7.53–7.47 (m, 3H), 7.39 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.09 (brs, 1H), 3.45 (q,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, 2H), 1.64 (x,  $J = 7.3$ , 14.6 Hz, 2H), 0.98 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 125 MHz)  $\delta$  169.6, 134.8, 133.6, 130.3, 130.1, 128.2, 127.0, 126.3, 125.4, 124.69, 124.67, 41.7, 22.9, 11.4; IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3274, 2961, 2930, 2872, 1635, 1535, 1305, 779; HRMS (FAB) calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}$  214.1232 ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ), found 214.1230.



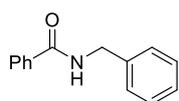
**tert-Butyl propylcarbamate (8e).**

Following the general procedure A, the crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc, 5:1) to yield product **8e** (14.0 mg, 84%) as a colorless oil;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)  $\delta$  4.66 (brs, 1H), 2.95 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 1.42–1.35 (m, 2H), 1.32 (s, 9H), 0.79 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100 MHz)  $\delta$  155.9, 78.6, 42.1, 28.2 (3C), 23.1, 11.0; IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3355, 2968, 2934, 2877, 1689, 1517, 1366, 1169. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_2$  160.1332 ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ), found 160.1332.



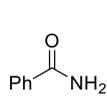
**N-Methylbenzamide (8l).**

Following the general procedure A, the crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc, 1:1) to yield product **8l** (16.0 mg, 89%) as a white solid; m.p. 79–81 °C;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 500 MHz)  $\delta$  7.74 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.40 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.32 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 2H), 6.97 (brs, 1H), 2.90 (d,  $J = 4.8$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 125 MHz)  $\delta$  168.4, 134.4, 131.1, 128.3 (2C), 126.8 (2C), 26.7; IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3323, 2938, 2899, 1634, 1547, 1307, 706; HRMS (FAB) calcd for  $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{10}\text{NO}$  136.0762 ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ), found 136.0764.



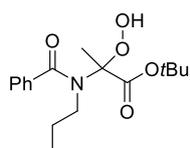
**N-Benzylbenzamide (8m).**

Following the general procedure A, the crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc, 1:1) to yield product **8m** (15.4 mg, 71%) as a white solid; m.p. 104–105 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz) δ 7.79 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.30–7.22 (m, 6H), 4.53 (d, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz) δ 167.4, 138.3, 134.2, 131.2, 128.4 (2C), 128.3 (2C), 127.5 (2C), 127.2, 126.9 (2C), 43.7; IR  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3284, 3061, 1636, 1601, 1547, 1314, 690; HRMS (FAB) calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NO 212.1075 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>), found 212.1073.



**Benzamide (12).**

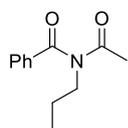
Following the general procedure B, the crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc, 1:1) to yield product **12** (12.7 mg, 87%) as a white solid; m.p. 126–128 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 500 MHz) δ 7.87 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 125 MHz) δ 173.2, 135.7, 133.7, 130.3 (2C), 129.4 (2C); IR  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3364, 3164, 1653, 1621, 1399, 683; HRMS (FAB) calcd for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>8</sub>NO 122.0606 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>), found 122.0604.



**tert-Butyl 2-hydroperoxy-2-(N-propylbenzamido)propanoate (9).**

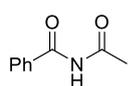
*t*BuOK (1.0 M in THF, 2.75 mL, 2.75 mmol) was added to a solution of substrate **7a** (400 mg, 1.37 mmol) in THF (7 mL, 0.2 M) under an O<sub>2</sub> balloon at 0 °C. The resulting mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 5 min and quenched with saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1) to yield product **9** (195 mg, 44%) as a colorless oil; The product **9** is unstable, and have a short life span at room temperature or –20 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz) δ 10.08 (s, 1H), 7.40–7.35 (m, 5H), 3.37–3.30 (m, 1H), 3.24–3.18 (m, 1H), 1.68 (s, 3H), 1.66–1.51 (m, 2H), 1.49 (s, 9H), 0.65 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz) δ 173.5, 169.6, 136.5, 129.6, 128.5 (2C), 126.3 (2C), 91.4, 83.0,

47.5, 27.8 (3C), 23.9, 20.9, 11.1; IR  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3235, 2976, 2875, 1738, 1635, 1395, 1298, 1146, 1118; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_5$  346.1625 ( $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ ), found 346.1634.



***N*-Acetyl-*N*-propylbenzamide (10).**

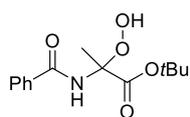
*t*BuOK (1.0 M in THF, 2.75 mL, 2.75 mmol) was added to a solution of substrate **7a** (400 mg, 1.37 mmol) in THF (7 mL, 0.2 M) under an  $\text{O}_2$  balloon at 0 °C. The resulting mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 5 min and quenched with saturated  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  solution and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and concentrated. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1) to yield product **10** (12 mg, 4%) as a colorless oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)  $\delta$  7.60–7.58 (m, 2H), 7.55–7.51 (m, 1H), 7.45–7.42 (m, 2H), 3.72–3.68 (m, 2H), 2.12 (s, 3H), 1.63–1.54 (m, 2H), 0.83 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100 MHz)  $\delta$  174.8, 173.5, 136.0, 132.6, 129.0 (2C), 128.6 (2C), 48.2, 26.4, 22.5, 11.5; IR  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 2966, 2875, 1687, 1659, 1366, 1234, 701; HRMS (FAB) calcd for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_2$  206.1181 ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ), found 206.1181.



***N*-Acetylbenzamide (13).**

*t*BuOK (1.0 M in THF, 0.48 mL, 0.481 mmol) was added to a solution of substrate **11a** (40 mg, 0.160 mmol) in THF (0.8 mL, 0.2 M) under an  $\text{O}_2$  balloon at 0 °C. The resulting mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 0.5 h and warmed to room temperature. After 24 h, the reaction was quenched with saturated  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  solution and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and concentrated. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1) to yield product **13** (6.7 mg, 26%) as a white solid; m.p. 110–112 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)  $\delta$  8.66 (brs, 1H), 7.85–7.82 (m, 2H), 7.62–7.57 (m, 1H), 7.51–7.47 (m, 2H), 2.60 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100 MHz)  $\delta$  173.5, 165.8, 133.5, 132.9, 129.3 (2C), 127.8 (2C), 25.7; IR  $\nu_{\max}$  (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3298, 2919, 1712, 1693, 1468, 1373, 1290, 1243, 1017; HRMS (FAB) calcd for  $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{10}\text{NO}_2$  164.0712 ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ), found 164.0709.

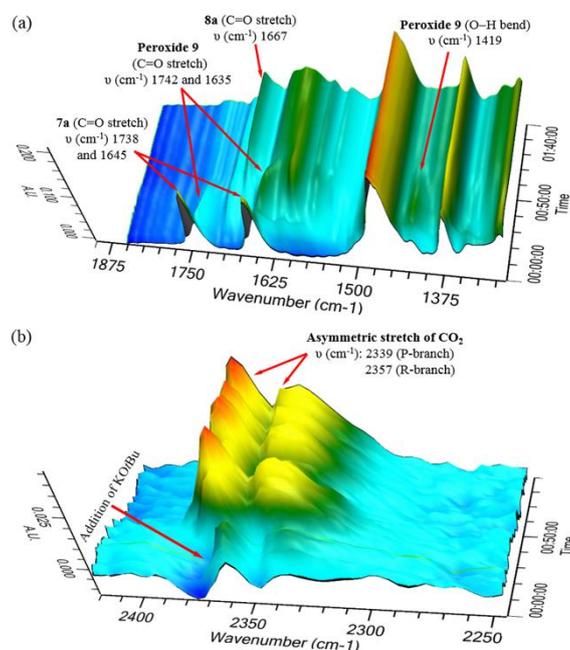
***tert*-Butyl 2-benzamido-2-hydroperoxypropanoate (14).**



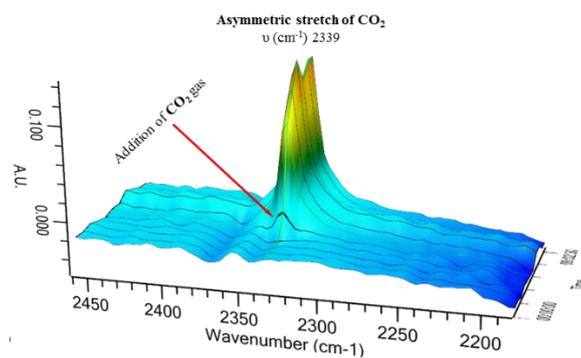
**11a** (40 mg, 0.160 mmol) in THF (0.8 mL, 0.2 M) under an O<sub>2</sub> balloon at 0 °C. The resulting mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 0.5 h and quenched with saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1) to yield product **14** (23.4 mg, 52%) as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 7.73 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (s, 1H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 1.85 (s, 3H), 1.55 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) δ 169.0, 167.3, 134.0, 132.2, 128.8 (2C), 127.3 (2C), 90.4, 84.3, 28.0 (3C), 20.6; IR ν<sub>max</sub> (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3298, 2980, 2934, 1733, 1665, 1523, 1326, 1149, 771; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>5</sub> 304.1155 ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>), found 304.1159.

## 4. ReactIR Monitoring of the Reaction of **7a**

To a three-neck 25 mL round-bottom flask were added substrate **7a** (400 mg, 1.37 mmol) and THF (7 mL, 0.2 M). IR probe (DS AgX SiComp<sup>TM</sup>) was placed on the middle neck of flask and side neck was capped with septum. Oxygen gas was bubbled through the solution for 5 minutes. Then, the reaction was stirred at 0 °C under an O<sub>2</sub> balloon. Acquisition was started with the interval of 10 seconds. After steady intensities were maintained, *t*BuOK (1.0 M in THF, 2.75 mL, 2.75 mmol) was added dropwise through side neck in 30 seconds. Figure S1 shows the reaction profile over time. The large absorption beginning at the bottom of the diagram represents the starting material **7a** C=O stretch at 1738 and 1645 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Upon addition of the *t*BuOK, the disappearance of that absorption coincides with the peroxide intermediate **9**, rapid growth of three peaks at 1742 (C=O stretch), 1635 (C=O stretch), and 1419 cm<sup>-1</sup> (O–H bend). As time goes on, the above three peaks disappear, while a new peak at 1667 cm<sup>-1</sup> was observed, which was assigned to be the C=O stretch of product **8a**. Notably, the peaks at 2339 and 2357 cm<sup>-1</sup> represent the P-branch and R-branch of the CO<sub>2</sub> absorbance respectively. The peak is matched with the major peak of CO<sub>2</sub> dissolved in THF (CO<sub>2</sub> reference) (Figure S2).



**Figure S1.** Three-dimensional plot of the ReactIR monitoring of the reaction of **7a** in the presence of KO<sup>*t*</sup>Bu in THF under an O<sub>2</sub> atmosphere at 0 °C. KO<sup>*t*</sup>Bu added at time 2 min.



**Figure S2.** ReactIR monitoring of CO<sub>2</sub> dissolved in THF (CO<sub>2</sub> reference).

## 5. Reference

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## 6. $^1\text{H}$ and $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR Spectra

