

Supplementary Information

Access to Polyfunctionalized Carbazoles through π -extension of 2-Methyl-3-oxoacetate Indoles

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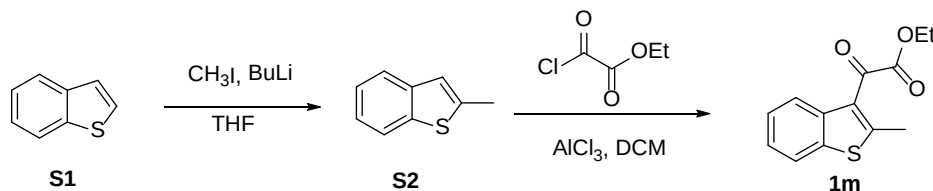
I: General Information

Commercially available materials were purchased from Alfa Aesar and Sigma-Aldrich. Toluene and DCM was dried over Pure Solv solvent purification system. THF was distilled over sodium. Other solvents were dried over 4Å molecular sieve prior use. Proton nuclear magnetic resonance (^1H NMR) spectra were recorded on a Bruker (400 MHz) spectrometer. Chemical shifts were recorded in parts per million (ppm, δ) relative to tetramethylsilane (δ 0.00) or chloroform (δ = 7.26, singlet). ^1H NMR splitting patterns are designated as singlet (s), doublet (d), triplet (t), quartet (q), dd (doublet of doublets), m (multiplets), and etc. All first-order splitting patterns were assigned on the basis of the appearance of the multiplet. Splitting patterns that could not be easily interpreted are designated as multiplet (m) or broad (br). Carbon nuclear magnetic resonance (^{13}C NMR) spectra were recorded on a Bruker (400 MHz) (100 MHz) spectrometer. High resolution mass spectral analysis (HRMS) was performed on a Waters Q-TOF Premier Spectrometer. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was carried out on Merck 60 F254 pre-coated silica gel plate (0.2 mm thickness).

II. General procedure

a) General procedure for the Synthesis of Indoles 1 and Naphthoquinone 2

Indoles **1a-1l**, **1o** were synthesized according to the literature.^[1] **2p**, **2q**, **2r** and **4c** were synthesized according to the literatures.^[2-5]

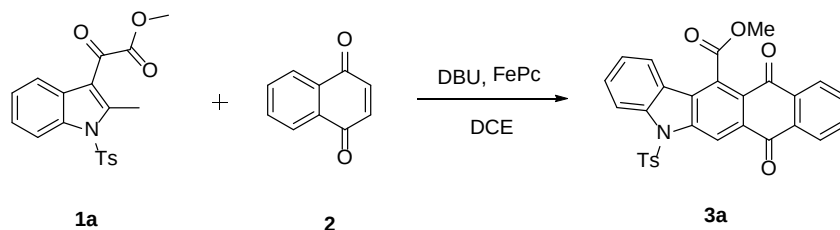


To a solution of benzothiophene **S1** (1.17 mL, 10.0 mmol) in dry THF, was added dropwise *n*-BuLi (6.56 mL, 10.5 mmol.) at $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ under N_2 . The mixture was stirred at $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for 1 h and then CH_3I (0.65 mL, 10.5 mmol.) was added. Afterwards it was allowed to reach room temperature and it was stirred for 1 h. The mixture was poured into water and extracted with Et_2O . The organic layer was then dried over MgSO_4 and it was concentrated under reduced Pressure. Further purifications were not necessary, obtaining 1.33 g of compound 2-methyl-benzothiophene **S2** as white crystals with 90% yield.

To a cooled ($0\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$) and well stirred mixture of AlCl_3 (4.80 g, 36.0 mmol) and CH_2Cl_2 (20 ml) were added methyl-chloroacetate (1.66 mL, 18.0 mmol) and a solution of 2-methyl-benzothiophene **S2** (1.33 g, 9.0 mmol) in the minimum amount of CH_2Cl_2 . The mixture were stirred at room temperature for 2 h and quenched in a mixture of water. The crude mixture was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 and the organic phase was washed with a saturated solution of NaHCO_3 aq. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate and taken to drieness under vacuo to give 1.90 g (90%) of methyl 2-(2-methylbenzo[*b*]thiophen-3-yl)-2-oxoacetate **1m** as a white solid.

1n was synthesized according to the above procedure.

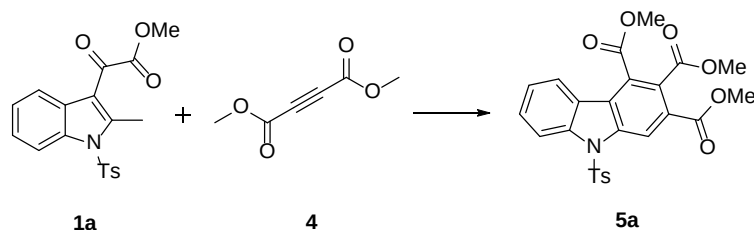
b) General procedure for the reactions of 1 with 2 to synthesize product 3 (3a as an example):



To a dried 10 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a tiny magnetic stir bar was added **1a** (37.1 mg, 0.10 mmol), **2** (24.2 mg, 0.15 mmol), FePc (6.2 mg, 0.01 mmol). To this mixture was added dry DCE (1.0 mL) and DBU (30 μL , 0.20 mmol) via a micro syringe, then the reaction mixture was stirred at $30\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ until **1a** disappeared (detected by TLC), the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (DCM) to afford 42.3 mg **3a** as a white solid in 83% yield.

c) **Condition optimization and general procedure for the synthesis products 5 (5a as an example):**

Table S1. Screening of various reaction conditions for the reaction of **5a**

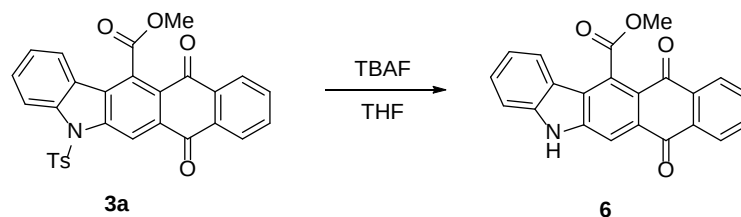


Entry ^a	Base	Solvent	Yield (%) ^b
1	DBU	THF	10
2	Et ₃ N	THF	15
3	K ₂ CO ₃	THF	nd
4	Cs ₂ CO ₃	THF	35
5	NaOAc	THF	nd
6	Cs ₂ CO ₃	CH ₃ CN	40
7	Cs ₂ CO ₃	DCM	nd
8	Cs ₂ CO ₃	1,4-dioxane	trace
9	Cs ₂ CO ₃	DCE	nd
10	Cs ₂ CO ₃	DMF	63
11 ^c	Cs ₂ CO ₃	DMF	54
12 ^d	Cs ₂ CO ₃	DMF	53
13 ^e	Cs ₂ CO ₃	DMF	59
14 ^f	Cs ₂ CO ₃	DMF	66

^a Standard condition: **1a** (0.1 mmol), **4** (3.0 equiv.), base (2.0 equiv.), solvent (1.0 mL), 30 °C, 12 h. ^b Isolated yields after column chromatography. ^c 1.5 equiv base was used. ^d 2.5 equiv. base was used. ^e 0 °C. ^f 1.5 equiv. **4** was used

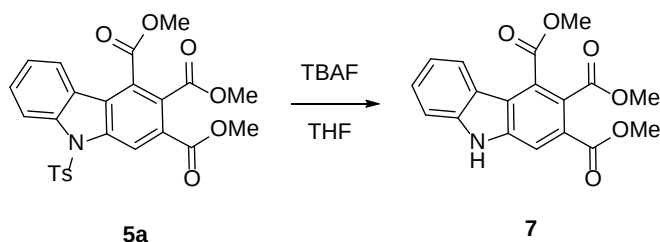
To a dried 10 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a tiny magnetic stir bar was added **1a** (37.1 mg, 0.10 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (65.2 mg, 0.20 mmol). To this mixture was added dry DMF (1.0 mL) and **4** (19 μL, 0.15 mmol) via a micro syringe, then the reaction mixture was stirred at 30 °C until **1a** disappeared (detected by TLC), the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (30% v/v EtOAc in hexane) to afford 31.2 mg **5a** as a white solid in 66% yield.

d) **Synthetic transformation of 3a, 5a and 5g.**

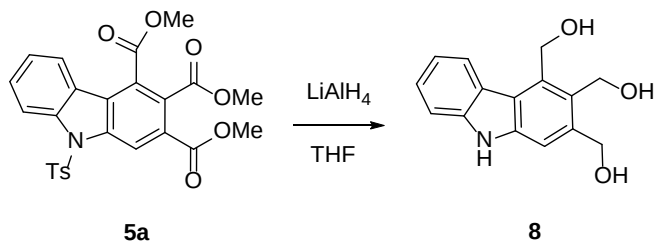


Synthesis of methyl 7,12-dioxo-7,12-dihydro-5H-naphtho[2,3-b]carbazole-13-carboxylate (6): To a solution of **3a** (0.20 mmol, 101.8 mg) in THF (1.0 mL) was

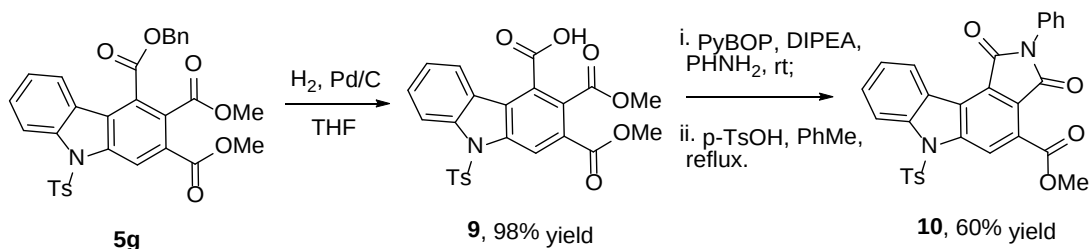
added 1.0 mL TBAF (1.0 M in THF). The mixture was stirred at refluxing temperature for 2 h. Then the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography to afford **6** as a yellow solid in 96% yield.



Synthesis of trimethyl 9H-carbazole-2,3,4-tricarboxylate (7): To a solution of **5a** (0.20 mmol, 99.0 mg) in THF (1.0 mL) was added 1.0 mL TBAF (1.0 M in THF). The mixture was stirred at refluxing temperature for 2 h. Then the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography to afford **7** as a yellow solid in 95% yield.



Synthesis of (9H-carbazole-2,3,4-triyl)trimethanol (8): To a suspension of lithium aluminium hydride (237.0 mg, 1.0 mmol) in anhydrous THF (5.0 mL) was added at 0 °C a solution of **5a** (99.0 mg, 0.2 mmol) in THF (5.0 mL). When the addition was completed the mixture was heated to reflux for 12 h. After addition of water (10.0 mL), the reaction mixture was thoroughly extracted with ethyl acetate; the organic fractions were combined, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, and the solvent was removed by rotary evaporation. The residue was purified by column chromatography to give **8** (66.5 mg, 79%).

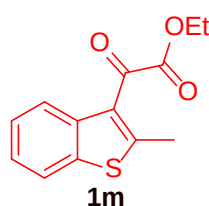


Synthesis of 2,3-bis(methoxycarbonyl)-9-tosyl-9H-carbazole-4-carboxylic acid (9): A solution of **5g** (114.2 mg, 0.20 mmol) in THF (2.0 mL) with Pd/C (41.4 mg, 10% mol), was stirred 12 h under H₂. The catalyst was filtered through celite and washed with dichloromethane. The residue was purified by column chromatography to give **9** (94.3 mg, 98%).

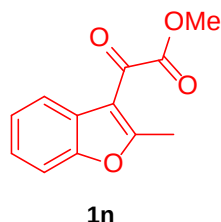
Synthesis of methyl 1,3-dioxo-2-phenyl-6-tosyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyrrolo[3,4-c]

carbazole-4-carboxylate (10): To a suspension of PyBOP (116.8 mg, 0.22 mmol) in THF (1.0 mL) were sequentially added a solution of **9** (99.0 mg, 0.20 mmol) in THF (1.0 mL) and DIPEA (0.05 mL, 0.30 mmol) and the resulting mixture was stirred for 40 min at rt. Subsequently, PhNH₂ (0.02 mL, 0.22 mmol) was added and the mixture stirred at r.t. for 30 min. After **9** disappeared by TLC detection, spin the mixture and add toluene (2.0 mL), p-TsOH (4.0 mg). The mixture was refluxed for 12 h. After cooling to rt, the mixture was successively washed with sat. aq NaHCO₃ solution (10.0 mL), brine (2 × 10 mL) and dried (Na₂SO₄). The residue was purified by column chromatography to give **10** (62.9 mg, 60%).

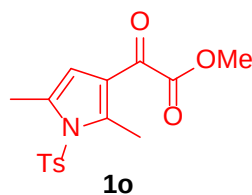
III. Characterizations of substrates and products, references.



Ethyl 2-(2-methylbenzo[b]thiophen-3-yl)-2-oxoacetate (1m): 90% yield, white solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.41 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 2.73 (s, 3H), 4.44 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (ddd, J = 8.4, 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (ddd, J = 8.4, 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.68 – 7.76 (m, 1H), 8.28 (dt, J = 8.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.1, 16.1, 62.6, 121.7, 123.8, 125.2, 126.0, 136.9, 138.2, 155.8, 164.9, 182.5; HRMS(ESI) calcd for C₁₃H₁₂NaO₃S⁺ (M+Na)⁺: 271.0399, Found: 271.0405.

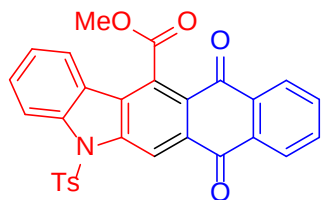


Methyl 2-(2-methylbenzofuran-3-yl)-2-oxoacetate (1n): 90% yield, yellow oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.71 (s, 3H), 4.00 (s, 3H), 7.32 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.44 – 7.48 (m, 1H), 7.90 – 7.94 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 15.1, 53.0, 111.1, 113.9, 121.5, 124.7, 125.2, 125.3, 153.67, 164.6, 166.3, 181.8; HRMS(ESI) calcd for C₁₂H₁₀NaO₄⁺ (M+Na)⁺: 241.0471, Found: 241.0475.



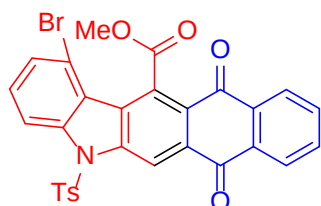
Methyl 2-(2,5-dimethyl-1-tosyl-1H-pyrrol-3-yl)-2-oxoacetate (1o): 60% yield, yellow solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.43 (d, J = 3.9 Hz, 6H), 2.76 (s, 3H),

3.88 (s, 3H), 6.42 (s, 1H), 7.33 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.0, 15.6, 21.8, 52.8, 112.6, 118.9, 126.9, 130.4, 132.4, 136.2, 142.0, 145.9, 163.8, 181.4; HRMS(ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{17}\text{NNaO}_5\text{S}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 358.0720, Found: 358.0723.



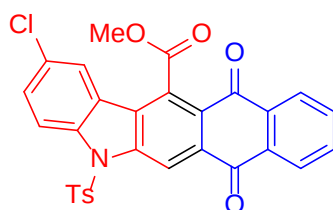
3a

Methyl 7,12-dioxo-5-tosyl-7,12-dihydro-5H-naphtho[2,3-b]carbazole-13-carboxylate (3a): 83% yield (42.3 mg), yellow solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.28 (s, 3H), 4.23 (s, 3H), 7.16 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.43 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.65 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.76 – 7.90 (m, 5H), 8.26 – 8.31 (m, 1H), 8.33 – 8.39 (m, 1H), 8.44 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 9.33 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 21.6, 53.4, 114.6, 115.1, 122.3, 123.1, 124.9, 125.8, 126.7, 126.8, 127.4, 127.5, 130.1, 132.4, 133.4, 134.4, 140.2, 141.2, 146.0, 169.2, 182.1; HRMS(ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{19}\text{NNaO}_6\text{S}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 532.0825, Found: 532.0830.



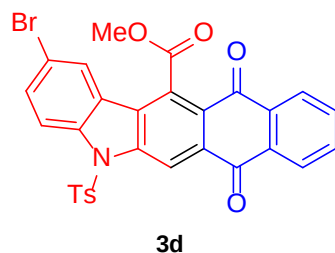
3b

Methyl 1-bromo-7,12-dioxo-5-tosyl-7,12-dihydro-5H-naphtho[2,3-b]carbazole-13-carboxylate (3b): 40% yield (23.5 mg), yellow solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.30 (s, 3H), 4.14 (s, 3H), 7.17 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.46 (t, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.73 (dd, $J = 11.2, 8.0$ Hz, 3H), 7.81 (dd, $J = 5.6, 3.4$ Hz, 2H), 8.26 – 8.34 (m, 2H), 8.58 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 9.49 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 21.6, 53.5, 113.9, 114.6, 117.3, 124.0, 125.8, 126.8, 127.0, 127.1, 127.7, 130.1, 130.2, 130.4, 131.6, 132.9, 134.1, 134.5, 134.6, 141.8, 142.0, 146.4, 168.9, 181.9, 182.4; HRMS(ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{18}\text{BrNNaO}_6\text{S}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 609.9930, Found: 609.9932.

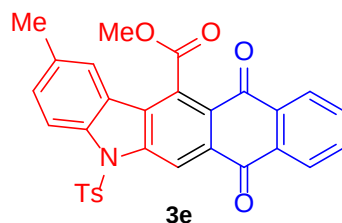


3c

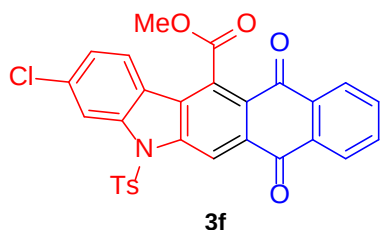
Methyl 2-chloro-7,12-dioxo-5-tosyl-7,12-dihydro-5H-naphtho[2,3-b]carbazole-13-carboxylate (3c): 79% yield (43.0 mg), yellow solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.30 (s, 3H), 4.23 (s, 3H), 7.18 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.62 (dd, $J = 9.2, 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.75–7.88 (m, 5H), 8.31 (m, 1H), 8.36–8.42 (m, 2H), 9.33 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 21.6, 29.7, 53.6, 114.8, 116.3, 122.1, 124.5, 125.7, 126.0, 126.7, 127.5, 127.6, 128.6, 130.3, 130.8, 132.9, 133.4, 134.2, 134.5, 138.5, 141.5, 146.3, 168.9, 182.0, 182.0; HRMS(ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{18}\text{ClNNaO}_6\text{S}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 566.0436, Found: 566.0443.



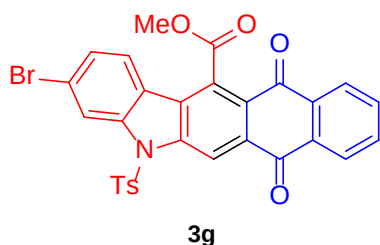
Methyl 2-bromo-7,12-dioxo-5-tosyl-7,12-dihydro-5H-naphtho[2,3-b]carbazole-13-carboxylate (3d): 61% yield (35.9 mg), yellow solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.30 (s, 3H), 4.23 (s, 3H), 7.18 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.80 (m, 5H), 7.94 (s, 1H), 8.27–8.42 (m, 3H), 9.32 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 21.6, 53.6, 114.7, 116.5, 118.3, 124.9, 125.1, 125.6, 126.7, 127.5, 127.6, 128.6, 130.2, 133.0, 133.4, 134.1, 134.5, 138.9, 141.3, 146.3, 168.9, 181.9, 182.0; HRMS(ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{18}\text{BrNNaO}_6\text{S}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 609.9930, Found: 609.9935.



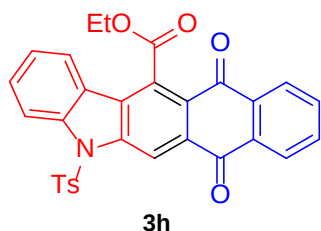
Methyl 2-methyl-7,12-dioxo-5-tosyl-7,12-dihydro-5H-naphtho[2,3-b]carbazole-13-carboxylate (3e): 78% yield (40.8 mg), yellow solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.49 (s, 3H), 4.23 (s, 3H), 7.14 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.59 (s, 1H), 7.77 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.80–7.84 (m, 2H), 8.27–8.32 (m, 2H), 8.35–8.37 (m, 1H), 9.30 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 21.6, 53.4, 114.6, 114.9, 122.1, 123.3, 125.8, 126.7, 126.8, 127.4, 127.5, 128.2, 130.1, 131.5, 132.2, 133.4, 134.4, 134.8, 138.4, 141.4, 145.9, 169.3, 182.1; HRMS(ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{21}\text{NNaO}_6\text{S}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 546.0982, Found: 546.0986.



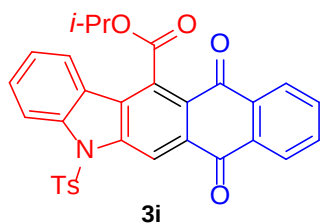
Methyl 3-chloro-7,12-dioxo-5-tosyl-7,12-dihydro-5H-naphtho[2,3-b]carbazole-13-carboxylate (3f): 75% yield (40.8 mg), yellow solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.32 (s, 3H), 4.21 (s, 3H), 7.21 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.42 (dd, $J = 8.6, 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.82 (m, 5H), 8.27 – 8.32 (m, 1H), 8.36 – 8.40 (m, 1H), 8.48 (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 9.30 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 21.6, 53.5, 114.6, 115.4, 121.7, 123.0, 125.6, 126.1, 126.8, 127.5, 127.6, 130.3, 132.6, 133.4, 134.2, 134.5, 136.3, 140.7, 141.3, 146.4, 169.0, 181.9, 182.0; HRMS(ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{18}\text{ClNNaO}_6\text{S}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 566.0436, Found: 566.0441.



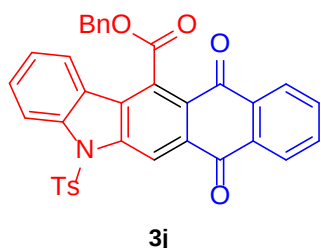
Methyl 3-bromo-7,12-dioxo-5-tosyl-7,12-dihydro-5H-naphtho[2,3-b]carbazole-13-carboxylate (3g): 75% yield (44.1 mg), yellow solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.32 (s, 3H), 4.21 (s, 3H), 7.21 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.56 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.83 (m, 4H), 8.30 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 8.38 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.65 (s, 1H), 9.30 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 21.6, 53.5, 114.6, 118.3, 122.1, 123.2, 124.3, 126.1, 126.8, 127.5, 127.6, 128.3, 128.4, 130.3, 132.7, 133.4, 133.4, 134.2, 134.5, 140.8, 141.1, 146.4, 169.0, 181.9, 182.0. HRMS(ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{18}\text{BrNNaO}_6\text{S}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 609.9930, Found: 609.9936.



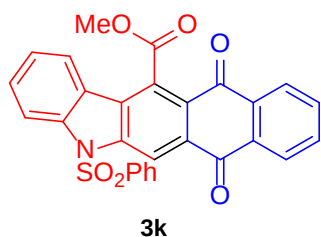
Ethyl 7,12-dioxo-5-tosyl-7,12-dihydro-5H-naphtho[2,3-b]carbazole-13-carboxylate (3h): 88% yield (46.1 mg), yellow solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.50 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 4.74 (s, 2H), 7.16 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.42 – 7.46 (m, 1H), 7.63 – 7.68 (m, 1H), 7.78 – 7.84 (m, 4H), 7.92 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 8.28 – 8.37 (m, 2H), 8.45 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 9.33 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.0, 21.6, 62.6, 114.5, 115.1, 122.4, 123.3, 124.9, 125.8, 126.8, 126.8, 127.4, 127.5, 128.8, 130.1, 132.4, 133.4, 133.5, 134.3, 134.4, 140.2, 141.2, 146.0, 168.7, 182.1, 182.2. HRMS(ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{21}\text{NNaO}_6\text{S}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 546.0982, Found: 546.0985.



Isopropyl 7,12-dioxo-5-tosyl-7,12-dihydro-5H-naphtho[2,3-b]carbazole-13-carboxylate (3i): 68% yield (36.6 mg), yellow solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.53 (s, 6H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 5.70 (dt, $J = 12.4, 6.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.66 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.80 – 7.82 (m, 4H), 7.99 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 8.29 – 8.37 (m, 2H), 8.46 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 9.33 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 21.6, 70.2, 114.4, 115.1, 122.5, 123.3, 124.8, 125.8, 126.8, 127.3, 127.5, 129.3, 130.0, 130.1, 132.5, 133.4, 133.6, 134.3, 134.5, 140.2, 141.2, 146.0, 168.1, 182.0, 182.2; HRMS(ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{23}\text{NNaO}_6\text{S}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 560.1138, Found: 560.1142.

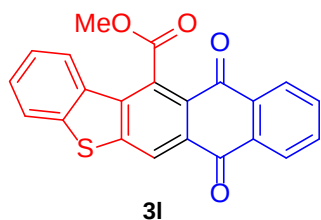


Benzyl 7,12-dioxo-5-tosyl-7,12-dihydro-5H-naphtho[2,3-b]carbazole-13-carboxylate (3j): 70% yield (41.0 mg), yellow solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.28 (s, 3H), 5.76 (s, 2H), 7.15 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.21 – 7.26 (m, 1H), 7.36 – 7.39 (m, 3H), 7.52 – 7.54 (m, 2H), 7.58 – 7.63 (m, 1H), 7.65 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.81 – 7.84 (m, 2H), 8.30 – 8.38 (m, 2H), 8.42 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 9.33 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 21.6, 68.7, 114.5, 115.0, 122.6, 123.1, 124.8, 125.9, 126.7, 126.9, 127.4, 127.5, 128.3, 128.7, 129.4, 130.0, 130.1, 132.4, 133.4, 133.5, 134.4, 134.9, 140.1, 141.2, 146.0, 168.6, 182.1; HRMS(ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{35}\text{H}_{23}\text{NNaO}_6\text{S}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 608.1138, Found: 608.1140.

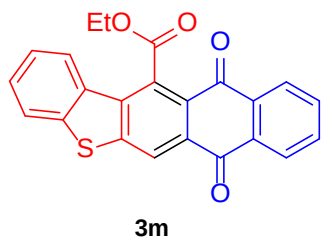


Methyl 7,12-dioxo-5-(phenylsulfonyl)-7,12-dihydro-5H-naphtho[2,3-b]carbazole-13-carboxylate (3k): 82% yield (40.6 mg), white solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 4.23 (s, 3H), 7.42 (dt, $J = 15.8, 7.8$ Hz, 3H), 7.53 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.67 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.79 – 7.90 (m, 3H), 7.93 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 8.30 (m, 1H), 8.35 – 8.41 (m, 1H), 8.46 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 9.35 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 53.5, 114.5,

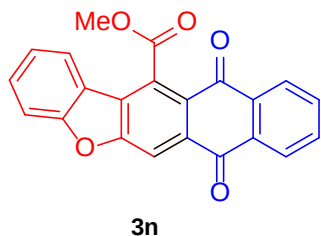
115.1, 122.3, 123.2, 125.1, 126.7, 127.4, 127.6, 129.6, 130.2, 132.5, 133.4, 134.4, 134.7, 137.4, 140.1, 141.2, 169.2, 182.1, 182.2; HRMS(ESI) calcd for $C_{28}H_{17}NNaO_6S^+$ (M+Na) $^+$: 518.4942, Found: 518.4946.



Methyl 7,12-dioxo-7,12-dihydroanthra[2,3-b]benzo[d]thiophene-13-carboxylate (3l): 88% yield (32.8 mg), yellow solid; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 4.29 (s, 3H), 7.50 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.79 – 7.82 (m, 2H), 7.91 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.11 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.30 – 8.33 (m, 2H), 8.87 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 53.4, 123.2, 123.3, 124.4, 125.7, 126.5, 127.3, 127.6, 128.9, 130.6, 132.8, 133.1, 133.7, 134.3, 134.4, 135.2, 141.5, 146.1, 169.7, 182.0, 182.4; HRMS(ESI) calcd for $C_{22}H_{12}NaO_4S^+$ (M+Na) $^+$: 395.0349, Found: 395.0345.

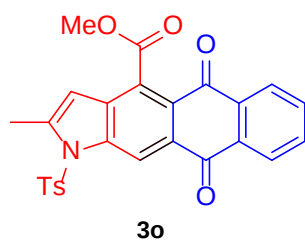


Ethyl 7,12-dioxo-7,12-dihydroanthra[2,3-b]benzo[d]thiophene-13-carboxylate (3m): 90% yield (34.8 mg), yellow solid; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 1.54 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 4.83 (s, 2H), 7.51 – 7.62 (m, 2H), 7.81 – 7.84 (m, 2H), 7.92 – 7.94 (m, 1H), 8.18 – 8.21 (m, 1H), 8.33 – 8.35 (m, 2H), 8.89 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 14.0, 62.5, 123.2, 123.2, 124.6, 125.7, 126.5, 127.3, 127.7, 128.8, 130.3, 130.7, 133.0, 133.2, 133.8, 134.3, 134.4, 135.3, 141.5, 146.1, 169.2, 182.2; HRMS(ESI) calcd for $C_{23}H_{14}NaO_4S^+$ (M+Na) $^+$: 409.0505, Found: 409.0508.

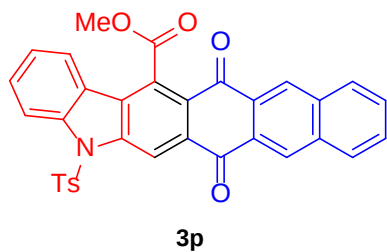


Methyl 7,12-dioxo-7,12-dihydroanthra[2,3-b]benzofuran-13-carboxylate (3n): 73% yield (26.0 mg), yellow solid; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 4.23 (s, 3H), 7.38 – 7.42 (m, 1H), 7.56 – 7.65 (m, 2H), 7.77 – 7.80 (m, 2H), 7.86 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.27 – 8.31 (m, 2H), 8.50 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 53.5, 111.6, 112.4, 121.4, 122.6, 124.4, 125.9, 126.6, 127.5, 127.6, 128.8, 130.3, 133.2, 133.4, 133.5, 134.4, 134.5, 158.1, 158.6, 168.9, 182.1; HRMS(ESI) calcd for $C_{22}H_{12}NaO_5^+$ (M+Na) $^+$:

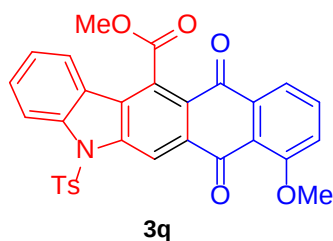
379.0577, Found: 379.0579.



Methyl 2-methyl-5,10-dioxo-1-tosyl-5,10-dihydro-1H-naphtho[2,3-f]indole-4-carboxylate (3o): 80% yield (37.9 mg), yellow solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.37 (s, 3H), 2.70 (s, 3H), 4.09 (s, 3H), 6.47 (s, 1H), 7.27 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.76 – 7.81 (m, 4H), 8.25 – 8.27 (m, 1H), 8.34 – 8.36 (m, 1H), 9.17 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 16.1, 21.7, 53.3, 108.1, 114.7, 125.9, 126.5, 126.9, 127.4, 127.5, 129.6, 130.4, 131.6, 133.6, 133.7, 134.2, 134.3, 135.4, 139.2, 144.1, 146.1, 169.2, 182.5; HRMS(ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{19}\text{NNaO}_6\text{S}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 496.0825, Found: 496.0830.

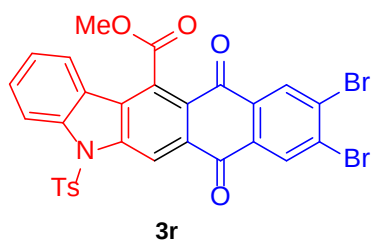


Methyl 7,14-dioxo-5-tosyl-7,14-dihydro-5H-anthra[2,3-b]carbazole-15-carboxylate (3p): 81% yield (45.3 mg), yellow solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.29 (s, 3H), 4.26 (s, 3H), 7.17 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.47 – 7.43 (m, 1H), 7.73– 7.65 (m, 3H), 7.82 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.89 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.15 – 8.08 (m, 2H), 8.46 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.85 (s, 1H), 8.92 (s, 1H), 9.41 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 21.7, 53.6, 114.8, 115.2, 122.4, 123.2, 125.0, 126.8, 126.9, 129.5, 129.5, 129.8, 129.8, 130.0, 130.2, 130.3, 133.5, 134.5, 135.4, 140.3, 146.1, 169.5, 182.0, 182.1; HRMS(ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{21}\text{NNaO}_6\text{S}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 582.0982, Found: 582.0987.

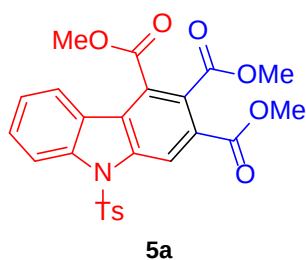


Methyl 8-methoxy-7,12-dioxo-5-tosyl-7,12-dihydro-5H-naphtho[2,3-b]carbazole-13-carboxylate (3q): 83% yield (44.8 mg), yellow solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.28 (s, 3H), 4.11 (s, 3H), 4.21 (s, 3H), 7.15 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.35 – 7.46 (m, 2H), 7.65 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.74 (t, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.85 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 8.47 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 9.30 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 21.6, 53.4, 56.6, 114.6, 115.1, 118.1, 120.1, 121.3, 122.2, 123.2,

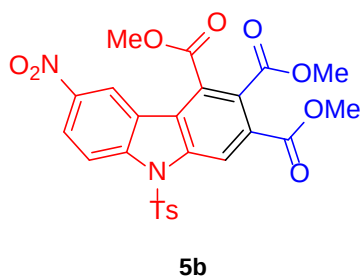
124.8, 124.9, 126.3, 126.8, 127.5, 130.0, 130.1, 134.0, 134.5, 135.4, 135.7, 140.2, 141.4, 145.9, 160.6, 169.3, 181.3, 182.4; HRMS(ESI) calcd for $C_{30}H_{21}NNaO_7S^+$ ($M+Na$) $^+$: 562.0931, Found: 562.0938.



Methyl 9,10-dibromo-7,12-dioxo-5-tosyl-7,12-dihydro-5H-naphtho[2,3-b]carbazole-13-carboxylate (3r): 63% yield (42.0 mg), yellow solid; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 2.30 (s, 3H), 4.21 (s, 3H), 7.18 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.86 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.45 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.51 (s, 1H), 8.57 (s, 1H), 9.32 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 21.7, 53.6, 114.8, 115.2, 122.4, 123.0, 125.2, 125.3, 126.8, 128.6, 130.3, 130.5, 131.9, 132.6, 132.7, 132.8, 134.4, 140.3, 141.4, 146.3, 168.9, 180.6, 180.7; HRMS(ESI) calcd for $C_{29}H_{17}Br_2NNaO_6S^+$ ($M+Na$) $^+$: 687.9036, Found: 687.9045.

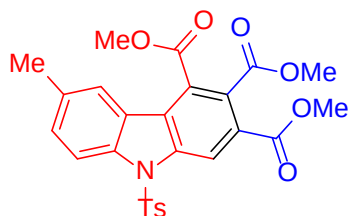


Trimethyl 9-tosyl-9H-carbazole-2,3,4-tricarboxylate (5a): 66% yield (32.7 mg), white solid; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 2.28 (s, 3H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 4.01 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 6H), 7.13 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.95 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.39 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 9.01 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 21.6, 53.1, 115.1, 118.0, 123.0, 123.3, 124.6, 125.8, 126.4, 126.5, 128.6, 129.0, 129.6, 130.1, 134.3, 138.7, 140.0, 145.8, 166.2, 167.1, 167.8; HRMS(ESI) calcd for $C_{25}H_{21}NNaO_8S^+$ ($M+Na$) $^+$: 518.0880, Found: 518.0889.



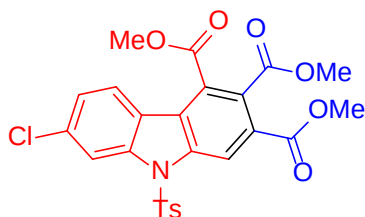
Trimethyl 6-nitro-9-tosyl-9H-carbazole-2,3,4-tricarboxylate (5b): 50% yield (27.0 mg), white solid; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 2.32 (s, 3H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 4.02 (s,

3H), 4.09 (s, 3H), 7.19 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.70 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 8.46 – 8.50 (m, 2H), 8.92 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 9.03 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 21.6, 53.2, 53.3, 53.5, 115.2, 118.4, 119.7, 123.6, 124.4, 124.7, 126.6, 126.8, 130.1, 130.4, 133.8, 139.6, 143.0, 144.5, 146.8, 165.7, 166.3, 167.3; HRMS(ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{NaO}_{10}\text{S}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 563.0731, Found: 563.0740.



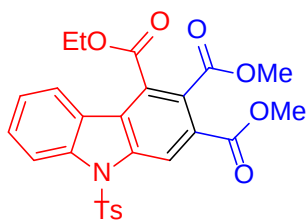
5c

Trimethyl 6-methyl-9-tosyl-9H-carbazole-2,3,4-tricarboxylate (5c): 63% yield (32.1 mg), white solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 4.01 (d, $J = 12.0$ Hz, 6H), 7.12 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.40 (dd, $J = 8.8, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.68 (s, 1H), 8.25 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.98 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 21.5, 53.0, 53.1, 114.8, 118.0, 122.9, 123.5, 125.8, 126.4, 126.5, 128.4, 128.8, 130.0, 131.0, 134.2, 134.4, 138.2, 138.9, 145.7, 166.3, 167.1, 167.8; HRMS(ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{23}\text{NNaO}_8\text{S}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 532.1037, Found: 532.1039.



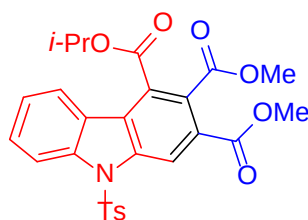
5d

Trimethyl 7-chloro-9-tosyl-9H-carbazole-2,3,4-tricarboxylate (5d): 50% yield (26.5 mg), white solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.31 (s, 3H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 4.00 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 6H), 7.17 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.34 (dd, $J = 8.6, 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.90 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.41 (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 8.97 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 21.6, 53.1, 53.2, 115.2, 118.1, 121.8, 124.1, 125.2, 126.1, 126.6, 128.7, 129.6, 130.2, 134.0, 135.7, 138.8, 140.6, 146.2, 166.0, 166.8, 167.7; HRMS(ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{20}\text{ClNNaO}_8\text{S}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 552.0490, Found: 552.0495.



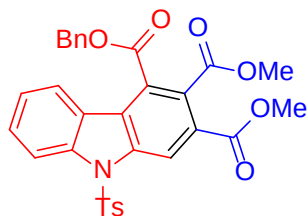
5e

4-Ethyl 2,3-dimethyl 9-tosyl-9H-carbazole-2,3,4-tricarboxylate (5e): 65% yield (33.1 mg), white solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.41 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 4.00 (s, 3H), 4.50 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.14 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.36 – 7.40 (m, 1H), 7.58 – 7.62 (m, 1H), 7.68 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.99 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.39 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 9.01 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.0, 21.6, 52.9, 53.1, 62.5, 115.1, 117.9, 123.1, 123.4, 124.5, 125.8, 126.6, 126.8, 128.6, 128.9, 129.6, 130.1, 134.3, 138.7, 140.0, 145.8, 166.2, 166.6, 167.7; HRMS(ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{23}\text{NNaO}_8\text{S}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 532.1037, Found: 532.1040.



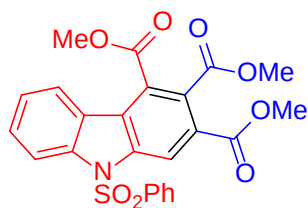
5f

4-Isopropyl 2,3-dimethyl 9-tosyl-9H-carbazole-2,3,4-tricarboxylate (5f): 52% yield (27.2 mg), white solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.40 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 6H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.99 (s, 3H), 5.41 (dt, $J = 12.8, 6.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.14 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.36 – 7.40 (m, 1H), 7.57 – 7.62 (m, 1H), 7.68 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 8.02 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.39 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 9.00 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 21.6, 21.7, 52.9, 53.0, 70.6, 115.0, 117.7, 123.1, 123.4, 124.5, 125.6, 126.6, 127.1, 128.5, 128.7, 129.5, 130.1, 134.3, 138.6, 140.0, 145.8, 166.2, 166.3, 167.6; HRMS(ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{25}\text{NNaO}_8\text{S}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 546.1193, Found: 546.1197.



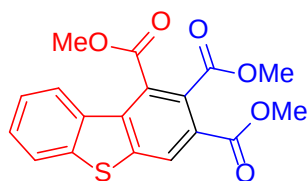
5g

4-Benzyl 2,3-dimethyl 9-tosyl-9H-carbazole-2,3,4-tricarboxylate (5g): 50% yield (28.6 mg), white solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.28 (s, 3H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.98 (s, 3H), 5.47 (s, 2H), 7.13 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.26 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.35 – 7.40 (m, 3H), 7.46 (dd, $J = 7.6, 1.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.55 – 7.59 (m, 1H), 7.67 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.83 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.37 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 9.00 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 21.6, 52.8, 53.1, 68.4, 115.0, 117.9, 123.2, 123.3, 124.5, 125.8, 126.5, 126.6, 128.7, 128.8, 129.0, 129.5, 130.1, 134.3, 134.6, 138.7, 140.0, 145.8, 166.3, 166.5, 167.6; HRMS(ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{25}\text{NNaO}_8\text{S}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 594.1193, Found: 594.1195.



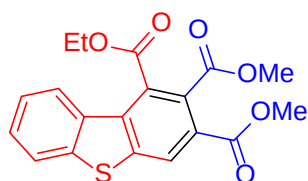
5h

Trimethyl 9-(phenylsulfonyl)-9H-carbazole-2,3,4-tricarboxylate (5h): 66% yield (31.8 mg), white solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.94 (s, 3H), 4.00 (s, 3H), 4.02 (s, 3H), 7.38 (dd, $J = 14.0, 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 7.51 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.60 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.95 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.39 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 9.02 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 53.1, 53.2, 115.0, 118.0, 123.1, 123.3, 124.7, 125.9, 126.5, 128.7, 129.1, 129.5, 129.7, 134.6, 137.3, 138.7, 139.9, 166.2, 167.0, 167.7; HRMS(ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{19}\text{NNaO}_8\text{S}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 504.0724, Found: 504.0729.



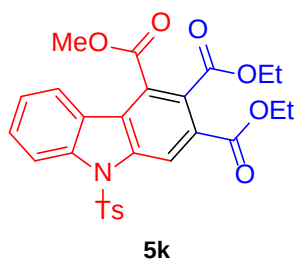
5i

Trimethyl dibenzo[b,d]thiophene-1,2,3-tricarboxylate (5i): 50% yield (17.9 mg), white solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 3.95 (s, 6H), 4.09 (s, 3H), 7.47 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.52 – 7.56 (m, 1H), 7.89 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.02 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.44 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 52.9, 53.1, 53.2, 123.1, 124.3, 125.3, 127.6, 125.8, 128.4, 128.7, 128.9, 132.7, 133.6, 141.3, 141.9, 166.1, 167.7, 167.9; HRMS(ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{14}\text{NaO}_6\text{S}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 381.0403, Found: 381.0406.

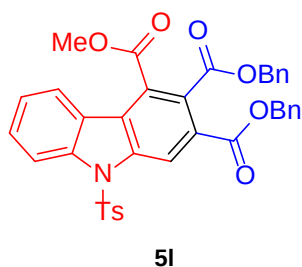


5j

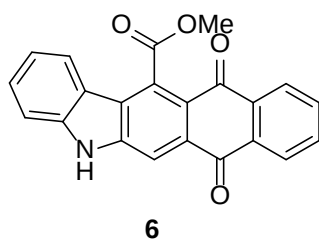
1-Ethyl 2,3-dimethyl dibenzo[b,d]thiophene-1,2,3-tricarboxylate (5j): 45% yield (16.8 mg), white solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.45 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 3.95 (d, $J = 0.4$ Hz, 6H), 4.57 (q, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.45 – 7.49 (m, 1H), 7.52 – 7.56 (m, 1H), 7.89 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 8.09 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 8.45 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.0, 52.9, 53.0, 62.5, 123.1, 124.5, 125.2, 125.7, 127.4, 128.3, 128.9, 132.8, 133.6, 141.3, 141.8, 166.1, 167.5; HRMS(ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{16}\text{NaO}_6\text{S}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 395.0560, Found: 395.0565.



2,3-Diethyl 4-methyl 9-tosyl-9H-carbazole-2,3,4-tricarboxylate (5k): 67% yield (35.1 mg), white solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.41 (dt, $J = 14.4, 7.2$ Hz, 6H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 4.02 (s, 3H), 4.36 – 4.48 (m, 4H), 7.14 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.35 – 7.41 (m, 1H), 7.57 – 7.62 (m, 1H), 7.67 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.93 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.39 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.97 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.0, 14.2, 21.5, 53.0, 62.1, 62.2, 76.70, 77.0, 77.3, 115.1, 117.8, 122.9, 123.4, 124.6, 125.5, 126.5, 126.6, 128.8, 129.4, 129.5, 130.0, 134.35, 138.7, 140.0, 145.8, 166.0, 167.2; HRMS(ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{25}\text{NNaO}_8\text{S}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 546.1193, Found: 546.1198.

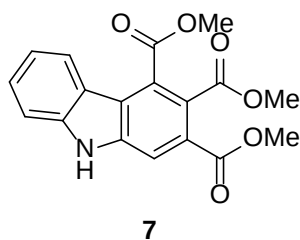


2,3-Dibenzyl 4-methyl 9-tosyl-9H-carbazole-2,3,4-tricarboxylate (5l): 52% yield (33.7 mg), white solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.27 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 5.15 (s, 2H), 5.35 (s, 2H), 7.09 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.36 – 7.32 (m, 6H), 7.42 – 7.40 (m, 3H), 7.46 (dd, $J = 8.0, 4.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.61 – 7.56 (m, 1H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.65 (s, 1H), 7.91 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.39 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 9.00 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 21.7, 53.0, 67.9, 68.0, 115.1, 118.1, 123.1, 123.3, 124.7, 125.8, 126.7, 128.5, 128.6, 128.7, 128.8, 128.9, 129.7, 130.1, 134.3, 135.2, 135.4, 138.7, 140.1, 146.0, 165.8, 167.1; HRMS(ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{37}\text{H}_{29}\text{NNaO}_8\text{S}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 670.1506, Found: 670.1510.

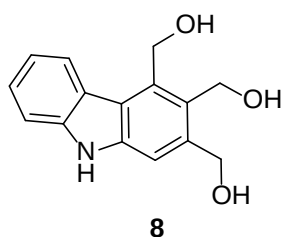


Methyl 7,12-dioxo-7,12-dihydro-5H-naphtho[2,3-b]carbazole-13-carboxylate (6): 96% yield (68.2 mg), yellow solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 4.10 (s, 3H), 7.28 – 7.33 (m, 1H), 7.56 – 7.60 (m, 1H), 7.65 – 7.69 (m, 1H), 7.83 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.88 – 7.91 (m, 2H), 8.16 – 8.22 (m, 2H), 8.34 – 8.35 (m, 1H), 12.43 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 53.5, 111.2, 113.0, 120.7, 121.1, 121.6, 122.1, 122.9,

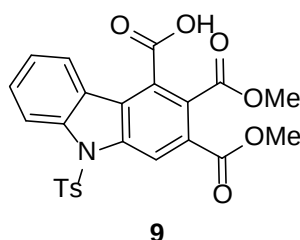
127.3, 127.4, 128.9, 129.3, 131.2, 133.7, 133.9, 134.9, 135.1, 142.5, 142.7, 169.7, 182.1, 182.8; HRMS(ESI) calcd for $C_{22}H_{13}NNaO_4S^+$ ($M+Na$) $^+$: 378.0737, Found: 378.0742.



Trimethyl 9H-carbazole-2,3,4-tricarboxylate (7): 95% yield (64.8 mg), yellow solid; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 4.07 (s, 3H), 7.20 – 7.25 (m, 1H), 7.43 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.90 (s, 1H), 8.08 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.83 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 52.8, 53.0, 53.1, 76.8, 77.1, 77.4, 111.5, 114.4, 120.7, 122.3, 124.4, 126.3, 126.9, 128.2, 139.5, 141.4, 167.1, 168.2, 169.0; HRMS(ESI) calcd for $C_{18}H_{15}NNaO_6S^+$ ($M+Na$) $^+$: 364.0792, Found: 364.0799.

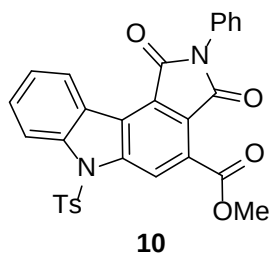


(9H-carbazole-2,3,4-triyl)trimethanol (8): 79% yield (40.7 mg), white solid; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $DMSO-D_6$) δ 4.67 – 4.91 (m, 5H), 5.02 (t, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 5.11 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 2H), 5.18 – 5.24 (m, 1H), 7.13 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 8.22 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 11.21 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $DMSO-D_6$) δ 56.5, 58.1, 62.2, 109.6, 111.2, 118.9, 120.8, 122.9, 123.6, 125.3, 128.6, 135.0, 139.9, 140.0, 140.6; HRMS(ESI) calcd for $C_{15}H_{15}NNaO_3S^+$ ($M+Na$) $^+$: 280.0944, Found: 280.0947.



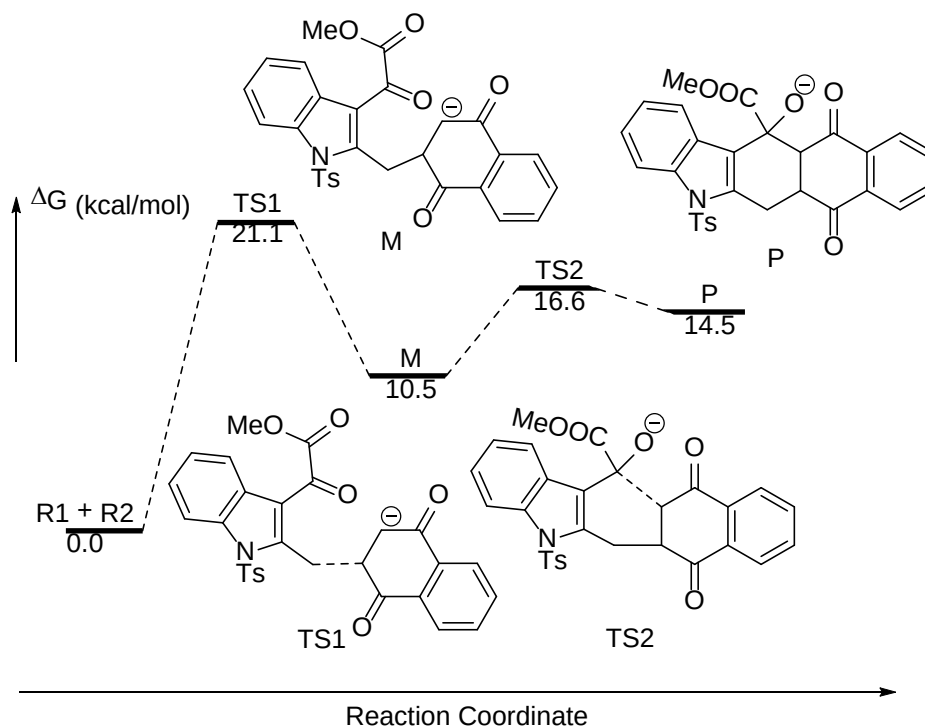
2,3-Bis(methoxycarbonyl)-9-tosyl-9H-carbazole-4-carboxylic acid (9): 98% yield (94.4 mg), white solid; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $DMSO-D_6$) δ 2.21 (s, 3H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 7.27 (s, 1H), 7.29 (s, 1H), 7.34 – 7.38 (m, 1H), 7.57 – 7.61 (m, 1H), 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.68 (s, 1H), 8.23 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.47 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.57 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $DMSO-D_6$) δ 21.5, 52.7, 53.4, 113.4, 114.6, 124.5, 124.8, 125.1, 125.3, 126.7, 127.6, 128.1, 129.3, 130.9, 133.8, 138.0, 139.2, 146.7, 167.0,

168.7,168.9; HRMS(ESI) calcd for $C_{24}H_{19}NNaO_8S^+$ ($M+Na$) $^+$: 504.0724, Found: 504.0728.



Methyl 1,3-dioxo-2-phenyl-6-tosyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyrrolo[3,4-c]carbazole-4-carboxylate (10): 60% yield (62.9 mg), white solid; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 2.30 (s, 3H), 4.09 (s, 3H), 7.17 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.39 – 7.55 (m, 6H), 7.69 (ddd, $J = 8.4, 7.2, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.73 (t, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.75 (t, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.40 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.96 (s, 1H), 9.15 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 21.7, 53.4, 100.0, 114.8, 119.7, 123.0, 125.1, 125.3, 126.4, 126.7, 126.8, 126.9, 128.3, 128.4, 129.2, 130.2, 130.8, 131.6, 134.3, 140.6, 142.1, 146.2, 165.2, 166.3, 166.6; HRMS(ESI) calcd for $C_{29}H_{20}N_2NaO_6S^+$ ($M+Na$) $^+$: 547.0934, Found: 547.0938.

c) Computational Details



The Gaussian 09 software⁶ was used for calculation in this work. All the optimizations were performed at b3lyp⁷/6-31g (d, p) level in DCE solvent

using the SMD model⁸. The energies discussed in this work were obtained by the addition of the free energy correction to the corresponding single energy at the same level.

d) References

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IV. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of substrates and products

