Supplementary Information

Synthesis of β - and γ -carbolines via ruthenium and rhodium catalysed [2+2+2] cycloadditions of yne-ynamides with methylcyanoformate

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- III. Synthesis of the marine alkaloid Eudistomin U (22)
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General: All reactions were performed under an atmosphere of dry nitrogen. Commercially available reagents were used without further purification. Solvents (THF, toluene, diethyl ether, CH_2Cl_2) were purified by an Innovative Technology Pure Solvent Device (activated alumina column containing a copper catalyst and molecular sieves) and were degassed. Reactions were magnetically stirred and monitored by thin layer chromatography on Merck silica gel 60-F54 coated 0.25 mm plates. Flash chromatography was performed with Merck silica gel 60 (particle size 40-60 μ m). Yields reported refer to isolated and purified compounds. IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin Elmer spectrometer with an ATR set-up. NMR spectra were recorded using a 400 or 500 MHz Bruker Avance III spectrometer, or a Bruker AC300, ARX400, or AMX400 spectrometer. Mass spectra were obtained on a Q-TOF Micro WATERS under electron spray ionisation (ESI) and a Varian MAT 311 spectrometer. Microanalyses were recorded using a Vario Micro Cube from Elementar. Melting points are uncorrected. Cp^{*}RuCl(cod)¹ and 3-iodo-1-[(4-methylphenyl)sulphonyl]-1H-indole² were prepared according to literature procedures.

¹ N. Oshima, H. Suzuki, Y. Moro-oka, Chem. Lett. 1984, 1161-1164.

² B. Witulski, N. Buschmann, U. Bergsträßer, *Tetrahedron* 2000, 56, 8473-8480.

I. Synthesis of substituted yne-ynamides:

The following yne-ynamides were synthesized as described previously,³



Ia via methylation (compounds 2, 3, and 4)

4-Methyl-N-prop-1-ynyl-N-(2-trimethylsilanylethynyl-phenyl)-benzenesulfonamide (2)



To a solution of **1** (463 mg, 1.26 mmol) in dry THF (16 mL) was added LiHMDS (3.8 mL of a 0.5 *M* solution in THF) under N₂ at -78 °C. The reaction mixture was gradually taken to -40 °C and kept at this temperature for 1 h. Then a solution of MeI (314 µL, 5 mmol) in dry THF (6.5 mL) was added at -40 °C. The temperature was slowly raised to -5 °C and then the cold bath was replaced by an ice bath and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm up to room temperature overnight. The reaction mixture was worked up by the addition of diethyl ether and brine, separation of the layers and extraction of the aqueous layer with diethyl ether. The combined organic layers were dried with MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The obtained residue was purified by flash chromatography (9:1 pentane/diethyl ether) to afford **2** (466 mg, 97% yield) as a white solid, mp 81 °C.

¹H NMR (300 MHz; CDCl₃): $\delta_{\rm H}$ 0.17 (9 H, s), 1.89 (3 H, s), 2.44 (3 H, s), 7.23–7.30 (5 H, m), 7.45–7.48 (1 H, m), 7.69 (2 H, d, J = 8.4 Hz). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz; CDCl₃): $\delta_{\rm C}$ –0.3 (q), 3.3 (q), 21.6 (q), 65.4 (s), 72.1 (s), 100.2 (s), 100.9 (s), 122.3 (d), 128.4 (d), 128.8 (d), 129.0 (d), 129.4 (d, 2 peaks), 133.9 (d), 134.9 (s), 139.8 (d), 144.3 (s); IR (KBr): $\tilde{V}_{\rm max}$ /cm⁻¹ = 3060, 2963, 2916, 2362, 2259, 2159, 1597, 1481, 1446, 1365, 1247, 1166, 1091, 926. MS [ESI (+)]: m/z (%) = 382 ([M+H]⁺, 36), 102 (100); HRMS [ESI (+)]: Mass calcd for C₂₁H₂₃NO₂SSiNa [M+Na]⁺, 404.1111; found, 404.1139.

N-(2-Ethynyl-phenyl)-4-methyl-N-prop-1-ynyl-benzenesulfonamide (3)



A solution of **2** (226 mg, 0.59 mmol) in THF (15 mL) was purged by bubbling N_2 through it for 15 min then cooled down to 0 °C. A 1 *M* solution of TBAF in THF (0.77 mL, 0.77 mmol) was added dropwise. After 15 min

³ B. Witulski, C. Alayrac, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2002, 41, 3281-3284.

the reaction mixture was worked up by addition of Et_2O and brine, separation of the layers and extraction of the aqueous layer with Et_2O . The combined organic layers were drying with MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification of the obtained residue by flash chromatography (pentane/Et₂O) afforded **3** (164 mg, 90% yield) as white solid, mp 111 °C, $R_f 0.8$ (1:2 pentane/Et₂O).

¹H NMR (400 MHz; CDCl₃): $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.88 (3 H, s), 2.45 (3 H, s), 3.08 (1 H, s), 7.13–7.15 (1 H, m), 7.29–7.32 (4 H, m), 7.49–7.52 (1 H, m), 7.70 (2 H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz; CDCl₃): $\delta_{\rm C}$ 3.2 (q), 21.6 (q), 65.3 (s), 72.1 (s), 79.4 (s), 82.7 (s), 122.4 (s), 128.4 (d), 128.7 (d), 129.4 (d), 129.4 (d), 129.5 (d), 134.0 (d), 134.3 (s), 140.3 (s), 144.6 (s); IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}_{\rm max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ = 3256, 2255, 2109, 1595, 1483, 1444, 1366, 1297, 1172, 1090, 930. MS (EI): *m/z* (%) = 309 (M⁺, 7%), 271 (15), 245 (7), 213 (4), 198 (3), 154 (100), 128 (44), 101 (33), 91 (32), 57 (16). Anal calcd for C₁₈H₁₅NO₂S (309.38 g mol⁻¹); C, 69.88; H, 4.89; N, 4.5; Found: C, 69.76; H, 4.68; N, 4.36.

4-Methyl-N-prop-1-ynyl-N-(2-prop-1-ynyl-phenyl)-benzenesulfonamide (4)



To a solution of **3** (103 mg, 0.33 mmol) in dry THF (4.2 mL) at -78 °C was added dropwise a 0.5 M solution of LiHMDS in THF (1.0 mL, 0.5 mmol). The reaction mixture was gradually taken to -40 °C and kept at this temperature for 1 h. Then a solution of MeI (83 µL, 1.33 mmol) in dry THF (1.7 mL) was added dropwise at -40 °C. The temperature was slowly raised to -5 °C and then the reaction mixture was allowed to warm up to rt overnight. The reaction mixture was worked up by addition of diethyl ether and brine, separation of the layers and extraction of the aqueous layer with diethyl ether and then drying of the combined organic layers with MgSO₄. Purification by flash chromatography (7:3 pentane/diethyl ether) afforded **4** as a colourless solid (98 mg, 0.30 mmol, 92% yield); mp 90-91 °C (Et₂O/hexane); R_f 0.35 (7:3 pentane/Et₂O).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.72 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2 H), 7.39-7.37 (m, 1 H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2 H), 7.27-7.19 (m, 3 H), 2.46 (s, 3 H), 1.91 (s, 3 H), 1.84 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.4 (s), 139.7 (s), 135.0 (s), 133.5 (d), 129.5 (d), 129.3 (d), 128.8 (d), 128.6 (d), 128.3 (d), 123.9 (s), 92.3 (s), 75.6 (s), 72.4 (s), 65.3 (s), 21.8 (q), 4.6 (q), 3.5 (q); IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}_{max}/cm^{-1} = 2916$, 2256, 1596, 1488, 1443, 1364, 1169, 1085, 910, 666; MS [ESI (+)]: m/z = 324 (100, M+1), 169 (50), 155 (80); HRMS [ESI (+)]: Mass calcd for C₁₉H₁₈NO₂S (MH⁺) 324.1058; found 324.1051.

Ib) via Negishi reactions (compounds **5a-d** and **6a-d**)

General procedure for Negishi reactions with yne-ynamide 1:



Freshly prepared LiHMDS (0.8 mL of a 0.5 M solution in THF, 0.40 mmol) was added to a solution of **1** (98 mg, 0.27 mmol) in dry THF (3.4 mL) at -78 °C and stirred for 40 min at -40 °C. Thereafter, a solution of ZnBr₂ (66 mg, 0.29 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) in THF (0.2 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred without cooling for

20 min and then transferred via canula to a solution of $[Pd_2(dba)_3]$ (11.4 mg, 0.012 mmol, 5 mol%), PPh₃ (13.7 mg, 0.052 mmol, 20 mol%) and 2-iodopyridine (66 mg, 0.32 mmol) in dry THF (2.5 mL). After stirring for 12 h at room temperature, brine was added and the aqueous phase extracted with Et₂O. The combined organic layers were dried with MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification of the obtained residue by flash chromatography (7:3 to 6:4 pentane/ethyl acetate) afforded yne-ynamide **5c** (104 mg, 0.23 mmol, 87% yield) as a viscous yellow oil; R_f 0.3 (7:3 pentane/ethyl acetate).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.49 (ddd, J = 4.9 Hz, J = 1.7 Hz, J = 0.9 Hz, 1 H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.58 (ddd, J = 7.8 Hz, J = 7.7 Hz, J = 1.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.51-7.47 (m, 1 H), 7.34-7.30 (m, 6 H), 7.12 (ddd, J = 7.6 Hz, J = 4.9 Hz, J = 1.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.44 (s, 3 H), 0.06 (s, 9 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.9 (d), 145.0 (s), 143.9 (s), 138.9 (s), 135.9 (d), 134.7 (s), 134.2 (d), 129.9 (d), 129.27 (d), 129.25 (d), 129.1 (d), 128.7 (d), 126.2 (d), 123.2 (s), 121.9 (d), 101.7 (s), 99.8 (s), 83.0 (s), 71.3 (s), 21.9 (q), -0.3 (q); IR (neat) \tilde{V}_{max} /cm⁻¹ = 3064, 2960, 2237, 2163, 1583, 1483, 1469, 1445, 1373, 1171, 1083, 842; MS [ESI (+)]: m/z = 445 (50, M+1), 306 (100); HRMS [ESI (+)]: Mass calcd for C₂₅H₂₅N₂O₂SSi (M+H) 445.1406; found 445.1395.



5a

Yne-ynamide **5a** (110 mg, 0.25 mmol, 91% yield) was obtained after flash chromatography (97:3 cyclohexane /ethyle acetate) as an oil; Rf 0.1 (95:5 cyclohexane/ethyle acetate).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.77 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (m, 1H), 7.38 – 7.25 (m, 9H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 0.10 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.8 (s), 139.4 (s), 134.7 (s), 134.2 (d), 131.2 (d), 129.8 (d), 129.3 (2 d), 129.3 (d), 128.9 (d), 128.7 (d), 128.2 (d), 127.6 (d), 123.2 (s), 122.9 (s), 101.5 (s), 99.9 (s), 82.6 (s), 70.7 (s), 21.9 (q), -0.3 (q); IR (neat) \tilde{V}_{max}/cm^{-1} = 3064, 3034, 2960, 2899, 2240, 2163, 1598, 1483, 1444, 1374, 1249, 1171, 1091; MS [ESI (+)]: m/z (%) = 444 (100%, M+H⁺), 289 (30), 288 (10), 216 (70); HRMS [ESI (+)]:Mass calcd for C₂₆H₂₆NO₂SSi (M+H), 444.1454; found 444.1437.



Yne-ynamide **5b** (100 mg, 0.25 mmol, 92% yield) was obtained after flash chromatography (9:1 cyclohexane /ethyle acetate) as an oil; Rf: 0.15 (9:1 cyclohexane /ethyle acetate).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.75 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (m, 1H), 7.33 – 7.29 (m, 8H),3.79 (s, 3H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 0.12 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.4 (s), 144.7 (s), 139.7 (s), 134.9 (s), 134.3 (s), 133.3 (d), 129.7 (d), 129.3 (d), 129.2 (d), 128.8 (s), 128.7 (d), 123.1 (d), 115.2 (d), 113.9 (d), 101.4 (s), 100.2 (s), 81.2 (s), 70.2 (s), 55.4 (q), 21.9 (q), -0.1 (q); MS [ESI (+)]: m/z (%) = 474 (100, [M+H]⁺) 319 (61), 146 (85); HRMS [ESI (+)]: Mass Calcd for C₂₇H₂₇NO₃SSi (M+H) 474.1559; found 474.1542.



5d (96 mg, 0.22 mmol, 81% yield) was obtained after flash chromatography (1:1 pentane/ethyl acetate) as a pale yellow solid (mp 77-79 °C), R_f 0.4 (1:1 pentane/ethyl acetate).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.56 (dd, J = 2.1 Hz, J = 0.8 Hz, 1 H), 8.45 (dd, J = 4.9 Hz, J = 1.7 Hz, 1 H), 7.73 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.62 (ddd, J = 8.2 Hz, J = 2.0 Hz, J = 1.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.52-7.50 (m, 1 H), 7.39-7.30 (m, 5 H), 7.19 (ddd, J = 7.9 Hz, J = 4.9 Hz, J = 0.9 Hz, 1 H), 2.45 (s, 3 H), 0.06 (s, 9 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.8 (d), 148.0 (d), 145.1 (s), 138.9 (s), 137.9 (d), 134.6 (s), 134.3 (d), 129.9 (d), 129.4 (d), 129.3 (d), 129.1 (d), 128.7 (d), 123.0 (d), 122.9 (s), 120.6 (s), 101.7 (s), 99.8 (s), 85.7 (s), 67.8 (s), 21.9 (q), -0.2 (q); IR (neat): \tilde{V}_{max}/cm^{-1} = 3031, 2960, 2238, 2165, 1595, 1481, 1444, 1405, 1365, 1171, 1079, 843; MS [ESI (+)]: m/z = 445 (90, M+H), 231 (100); HRMS [ESI (+)]: MS calcd for C₂₅H₂₅N₂O₂SSi (M+H) 445.1406; found 445.1423.

General procedure for the desilylation reaction of silylated ynamides:

N-(2-Ethynyl-phenyl)-4-methyl-N-pyridin-2-ylethynyl-benzenesulfonamide (6c)



A 1 M solution of TBAF in THF (0.2 mL, 0.20 mmol) was added to a solution of **5c** (67 mg, 0.15 mmol) in THF (3 mL) at 0 °C. After 15 min, the reaction mixture was worked up by addition of diethyl ether and brine. Separation of the layers and extraction of the aqueous layer with diethyl ether was followed by drying the combined organic layers with MgSO₄. After removal of the solvants under reduced pressure the obtained crude product was purified by flash chromatography (1:1 silica gel, pentane/ethyl acetate) to afford **6c** (51 mg, 0.14 mmol, 90% yield) as a white solid; $R_f 0.4$ (1:1 pentane/ethyl acetate); mp 113-114 °C (CHCl₃/pentane).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.50 (ddd, J = 4.9 Hz, J = 1.7 Hz, J = 0.9 Hz, 1 H), 7.77 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2 H), 7.59 (td, J = 7.8 Hz, J = 1.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.54-7.51 (m, 1 H), 7.37-7.31 (m, 5 H), 7.27-7.24 (m, 1 H), 7.14 (ddd, J = 7.6 Hz, J = 4.9 Hz, J = 1.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.06 (s, 1 H), 2.45 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.9 (d), 145.3 (s), 143.6 (s), 139.4 (s), 136.0 (d), 134.3 (d), 134.2 (s), 129.83 (d), 129.76 (d), 129.4 (d), 129.2 (d), 128.7 (d), 126.6 (d), 122.6 (s), 122.2 (d), 83.3 (d), 82.9 (s), 78.8 (s), 70.7 (s), 21.8 (q); IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}_{max}/cm^{-1}$ 3255, 2242, 1588, 1482, 1469, 1443, 1376, 1173, 1114, 1080, 921; MS [ESI (+)]: m/z (%) = 373 (100, M+H), 347 (20), 234 (45), 218 (75); HRMS [ESI (+)]: Mass calcd for C₂₂H₁₇N₂O₂S (M+H), 373.1011; found, 373.1015.

N-(2-Ethynyl-phenyl)-4-methyl-N-phenylethynyl-benzenesulfonamide (6a)



Yne-ynamide **6a** (270 mg, 0.73 mmol, 87%) was obtained after flash chromatography (6:1 pentane/diethyl ether) as a solid, R_f 0.51 (1:1 pentane/diethyl ether); mp 132-133 °C (pentane/CHCl₃).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.75 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.53-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.38-7.24 (m, 10H), 3.04 (s, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 145.1 (s), 140.0 (s), 134.4 (d), 134.2 (s), 131.6 (d), 129.7 (d), 129.3 (d), 129.1 (d), 128.8 (d), 128.3 (d), 128.0 (d), 127.4 (d), 123.0 (s), 122.3 (s), 83.2 (d), 82.7 (s), 79.0 (s), 70.4 (s), 21.9 (q); IR (KBr): \tilde{V}_{max} /cm⁻¹ = 3265, 2236, 1596, 1486, 1441, 1369, 117; MS [ESI (+)]: m/z = 371 (100, M⁺); HRMS [ESI (+)]: Mass calcd for C₂₃H₁₈NO₂S (M+H), 372.1058; found, 372.1049.

N-(2-Ethynyl-phenyl)-*N*-(4-methoxy-phenylethynyl)-4-methyl-benzenesulfonamide (6b)



Yne-ynamide **6b** (100 mg, 0.25 mmol, 80% yield) was obtained after flash chromatography (8:2 cyclohexane /ethyl acetate) as a solid; $R_f 0.27$ (8:2 cyclohexane /ethyl acetate), mp 106 °C (pentane/CHCl₃).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.75 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.54 – 7.51 (m, 1H), 7.39 – 7.27 (m, 7H), 6.81 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.05 (s, 1H), 2.47 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.7 (s), 145.0 (s), 140.3 (s), 134.4 (d), 134.3 (d), 133.7 (d), 129.7 (d), 129.6 (d) , 129.3 (d), 129.0 (d), 128.8 (d), 122.4 (s), 114.9 (s), 114.0 (d), 83.1 (s), 81.3 (s), 79.1 (s), 70.1 (s), 55.4 (q), 21.9 (q); IR (neat): $\tilde{V}_{max}/cm^{-1} = 3263$, 2235, 2114, 1602, 1509, 1478, 1362, 1246, 1163, 1087, 1031, 916; MS [ESI (+)] m/z (%) = 402 (100, M+H⁺), 247 (50); HRMS [ESI (+)]: Mass calcd for C₂₄H₂₀NO₃S (M+H), 402.1164; found 402.1167.

N-(2-Ethynyl-phenyl)-4-methyl-*N*-pyridin-3-ylethynyl-benzenesulfonamide (6d)





6d (41 mg, 0.11 mmol, 92% yield) was obtained after flash chromatography (1:1 pentane/ethyl acetate) as a white solid; $R_f 0.3$ (1:1 pentane/ethyl acetate), mp 111-112 °C (CHCl₃/pentane).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.57 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 1 H), 8.47 (dd, J = 4.8 Hz, J = 1.5 Hz, 1 H) 7.74 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2 H), 7.65 (ddd, J = 7.9 Hz, J = 2.0 Hz, J = 1.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.54-7.52 (m, 1 H), 7.40-7.31 (m, 5 H), 7.20 (ddd, J = 7.9 Hz, J = 4.9 Hz, J = 0.8 Hz, 1 H), 3.02 (s, 1 H), 2.46 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.3 (d), 148.3 (d), 145.4 (s), 139.5 (s), 138.4 (d), 134.4 (d), 134.1 (s), 129.84 (d), 129.83 (d), 129.4 (d), 129.3 (d), 128.7 (d), 122.2 (s), 120.3 (s), 85.7 (s), 83.3 (d), 78.8 (s), 67.5 (s), 21.9 (q); IR (neat): $\tilde{V}_{max}/cm^{-1} = 3261$,

2233, 1595, 1485, 1442, 1371, 1173, 1109, 1087, 1069, 911, 803; MS [ESI (+)]: m/z (%) = 373 (100, M+H), 234 (20), 218 (60); HRMS [ESI (+)]: Mass calcd for $C_{22}H_{17}N_2O_2S$ (M+H), 373.1011; found, 373.1007.

Ic) Synthesis of yne-ynamide 14



2-Hept-1-ynyl-phenylamine (S14a)



S14a

1-heptyne (1.392 g, 14.50 mmol) was added to a solution of 2-iodoaniline **18** (2.65 g, 12.10 mmol), $PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$ (410 mg, 0.61 mmol) and CuI (224 mg, 1.210 mmol) in DMF (14 mL) and NEt₃ (25 mL) and was stirred at room temperature over night. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and H₂O and CH₂Cl₂ were added to the obtained residue. The product was extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic layers were dried with MgSO₄, filtered and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. Flash chromatography (10:1 pentane/diethyl ether) afforded **S14a** (1.930 g, 10.30 mmol, 85%) as a colourless oil, *R_f* 0.19 (10:1 pentane/diethyl ether).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.01 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 1.46 (m, 2H), 1.53 (m, 2H), 1.73 (m, 2H), 2.54 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.23 (s, 2H), 6.72-6.77 (m, 2H), 7.15 (m, 1H), 7.33 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 147.6 (s), 131.9 (d), 128.7 (d), 117.7 (d), 114.1 (d), 108.9 (s), 95.7 (s), 77.0 (s), 31.1 (t), 28.6 (t), 22.2 (t), 19.5 (t), 13.9 (q). IR (neat): \tilde{V}_{max}/cm^{-1} = 3475, 3380, 3029, 2931, 2859, 1614, 1493, 1456, 1306, 748. MS [ESI (+)]: m/z = 188 [M+H]⁺.

N-(2-Hept-1-ynyl-phenyl)-4-methyl-benzenesulfonamide (S14b)



Tosylchloride (2.150 g, 11.30 mmol) was added to a solution of **S14a** (1.760 g, 9.40 mmol) in dry THF (40 mL) and dry pyridine (20 mL) and the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature over night. Thereafter, H₂O (200 mL) and CH₂Cl₂ (30 mL) were added and the product was extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried with MgSO₄, filtered and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. Flash chromatography (4:1 pentane/diethyl ether) afforded **S14b** (2.420 g, 7.10 mmol, 75 % yield) as a solid, R_f 0.55 (6:1 pentane/diethyl ether), mp 66-67 °C (pentane/CH₂Cl₂).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 0.94 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 1.36-1.45 (m, 4H), 1.55-1.64 (m, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.40 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.16 (m, 5H), 7.56 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 143.9 (s), 137.7 (s), 136.3 (s), 131.9 (d), 129.6 (d), 128.8 (d), 127.3 (d), 124.2 (d), 119.3 (d), 114.9 (s), 98.0 (s), 75.4 (s), 31.2 (t), 28.4 (t), 22.2 (q), 21.5 (t), 19.6 (t), 14.0 (q). IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}_{max}/cm^{-1}$ = 3264, 2957, 2937, 2870, 1496, 1399, 1340, 1165, 918. MS [ESI (+)]: m/z = 364 [M+Na]⁺. HRMS [ESI (+)]: Mass calcd for C₂₀H₂₃NO₂SNa [M+Na]⁺, 364.1347, found, 364.1358.

N-(2-Hept-1-ynyl-phenyl)-4-methyl-N-trimethylsilanylethynyl-benzenesulfonamide (S14c)



KHMDS (3.5 mL of 0.5 M solution in toluene) was added dropwise to a solution of **S14b** (500 mg, 1.50 mmol) in dry toluene (150 mL) at 0 °C. After 15 min a solution of (trimethylsilyl)ethynyl phenyliodonium triflate (878 mg, 1.95 mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (60 mL) was added and the resulting reaction mixture was stirred over night at room temperature. After completion of reaction the solvents were removed under reduced pressure and H₂O and CH₂Cl₂ were added to the obtained residue. The product was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ and the combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried with MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The obtained crude product was purified by flash chromatography (4:1 pentane/diethyl ether) to afford **S14c** (320 mg, 0.7 mmol, 50% yield) as colourless oil, R_f 0.3 (15:1 pentane/diethyl ether).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 0.14 (s, 9H), 0.91 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 1.25-1.37 (m, 4H), 1.45-1.53 (m, 2H), 2.15 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 7.23-7.28 (m, 5H), 7.28-7.40 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 144.4, 138.6, 134.7, 133.4, 129.2, 128.9, 128.7, 128.6, 128.0, 123.8, 96.9, 94.7, 76.0, 72.5, 31.2, 28.2, 22.1, 21.5, 19.5, 13.9, 0.03; HRMS [ESI (+)]: Mass calcd for C₂₅H₃₁NO₂SSiNa [M+Na]⁺, 460.1742; found, 460.1742.

N-Ethynyl-N-(2-hept-1-ynyl-phenyl)-4-methyl-benzenesulfonamide (14)



To a solution of **S14c** (2.210 g, 5.00 mmol) in THF (20 mL) was added TBAF (6.6 mL of 1 M solution in THF) at 0 °C. After 15 min stirring at 0 °C diethyl ether and brine were added. The product was extracted with diethyl ether, the combined organic layers dried with MgSO₄, filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure. The obtained crude product was purified with flash chromatography (13:1 pentane/diethyl ether) to afford yne-ynamide **14** (1.530 g, 4.20 mmol, 83% yield) as a colourless oil, R_f 0.18 (15:1 pentane/diethyl ether).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 0.91 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.25-1.37 (m, 4H), 1.40-1.51 (m, 2H), 2.17 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 2.81 (s, 1H), 7.16-7.33 (m, 5H), 7.40 (m, 1H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 144.6, 138.3, 134.8, 133.4, 129.4, 129.1, 128.9, 128.4, 128.1, 123.9, 97.2, 75.9, 75.9, 58.4, 31.0, 28.0, 22.1, 21.5, 19.5, 13.9; HRMS [ESI (+)]: Mass calcd for C₂₂H₂₃NO₂SNa [M+Na]⁺, 388.1347; found, 388.1320.

<u>General procedures for the [2+2+2] cycloaddition reactions of yne-ynamides with</u> <u>methylcyanoformate to afford β - or γ -carbolines (compounds 7, **8a-e**, 10, 11, 13, 15, and 17)</u>

Method A:



To a solution of Cp*RuCl(cod) (9.8 mg, 0.026 mmol, 10 mol%) in dry with nitrogen purged CH₂Cl₂ (1 mL) was added methylcyanoformate (0.4 μ L, 0.05 mmol, 2 equiv.). To the resulting mixture was added a solution of diyne **3** (80 mg, 0.26 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) during 1-2 h via syringe-pump at 35 °C. After completion of the addition the reaction mixture was stirred additional 30 min (monitored by TLC). Thereafter the solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the resulting residue was purified by flash chromatography (2:1 diethyl ether/pentane) to afford β-carboline 7 (94 mg, 0.24 mmol, 92% yield) as a colourless solid.

Method B:



In a Schlenk tube were introduced Cp*RuCl(cod) (9.8 mg, 0.026 mmol, 10 mol%), methylcyanoformate (200 μ L, 2.50 mmol) and dry dichloroethane (20 mL) and the resulting solution was purged with nitrogen. A solution of diyne **12** (80 mg, 0.26 mmol) in dichloroethane (4 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was heated at 120 °C for 1.5 h (monitored by TLC). Thereafter, the solvent was removed by evaporation under reduced pressure and the resulting residue was purified by flash chromatography (1:1 petroleum ether/ethyl acetate) to afford γ -carboline **13** (46 mg, 0.12 mmol, 46% yield) as a colourless solid.

Method C:



In a Schlenk tube were dissolved $[Rh(cod)_2]BF_4$ (2.6 mg, 3 mol%) and BINAP (4.2 mg, 3 mol%) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (1.0 mL) and the mixture was stirred for 5 min. Hydrogen gas was introduced to the resulting solution under ambient pressure and the reaction mixture was stirred for 20 min at room temperature. Thereafter, the solution was concentrated to dryness in vacuum. The residue was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (1.2 mL) and methylcyanoformate (175 µL, 2.2 mmol) and a solution of diyne **12** (68 mg, 0.22 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (1.0 mL) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h (monitored by TLC). Thereafter, the solvent was removed by evaporation under reduced pressure and the resulting residue was purified by flash chromatography (4:1 petroleum

ether/ethyl acetate) to furnish β -carboline S13 (29 mg, 0.07 mmol, 33% yield) and γ -carboline 13 (43 mg, 0.11 mmol, 50% yield) as colourless solids.

1-Methyl-9-(toluene-4-sulfonyl)-9H-β-carboline-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester (7)



Following **Method A** β -carboline 7 (94 mg, 0.24 mmol, 92% yield) was obtained after flash chromatography (1:1 petroleum ether/ethyl acetate) as a colourless solid; R_f 0.27 (1:2 petroleum ether/diethyl ether), mp 183-184 °C (pentane/CH₂Cl₂).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.21 (s, 3H), 3.14 (s, 3H), 4.05 (s, 3H), 6.91 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.30 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.36 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 165.6 (s), 150.7 (s), 145.0 (s), 143.0 (s), 142.2 (s), 138.0 (s), 137.8 (s), 132.6 (s), 130.1 (d), 129.1 (d), 126.6 (d), 126.5 (s), 125.9 (d), 121.2 (d), 119.2 (d), 114.1 (d), 53.0 (q), 26.0 (q), 21.4 (q); IR (KBr): \tilde{V}_{max} /cm⁻¹ = 2948, 1746, 1614, 1594, 1573, 1171, 686. MS [ESI (+)]: m/z = 417 [M+Na]⁺; HRMS [ESI (+)]: Mass calcd for C₂₁H₁₉N₂O₄S [M+H]⁺, 395.1065; found, 395.1072. Anal calcd for C₂₁H₁₈N₂O₄S (394.44 g mol⁻¹): C, 63.94; H, 4.60; N, 7.10; Found C, 63.89; H, 4.59; N, 7.05.

1-Methyl-5-(toluene-4-sulfonyl)-5*H*-pyrido[4,3-*b*]indole-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester (13)



Following **Method B** γ -carboline **13** (46 mg, 0.11 mmol, 46% yield) was obtained after flash chromatography (4:1 petroleum ether/ethyl acetate) as a colourless solid; R_f 0.06 (4:1 petroleum ether/ethyl acetate), mp 246-247 °C (pentane/CH₂Cl₂).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.29 (s, 3H), 3.06 (s, 3H), 4.08 (s, 3H), 7.17 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 8.10 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.41 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.97 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.1 (s), 153.9 (s), 145.9 (s), 144.5 (s), 143.8 (s), 139.1 (s), 134.7 (s), 130.2 (d), 128.8 (s), 126.8 (d), 124.9 (d), 124.1 (s), 123.2 (d), 122.8 (d), 114.9 (d), 109.9 (d), 53.2 (q), 24.5 (q), 21.7 (q); IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ /cm⁻¹ = 1735, 1574, 1428, 1370, 1328, 1219, 1171, 939. MS [ESI (+)]: m/z = 417 [M+Na]⁺. Anal calcd for C₂₁H₁₈N₂O₄S (394.10 g mol⁻¹): C, 63.94; H, 4.60; N, 7.10; Found: C, 63.85; H, 4.49; N, 7.09.

4-Methyl-9-(toluene-4-sulfonyl)-9H-β-carboline-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester (S13)



Following **Method C** the carbolines **13** and **S13** were obtained in a ratio of 40:60 (83% yield). The regioisomers were separated by flash chromatography (4:1 petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). β -carboline **S13** was obtained as a solid, R_f 0.12 (SiO₂, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4:1 (v/v)), mp 195-197 °C (petroleum ether/CH₂Cl₂). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.59 (s, 1H), 8.46 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 8.20 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.66-7.70 (m, 1H), 7.45-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.04 (s, 3H), 3.02 (s, 3H), 2.28 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 167.0 (s), 145.9 (s), 142.2 (s), 139.2 (s), 135.3 (s), 134.4 (s), 134.2 (s), 132.3 (s), 130.4 (s), 130.1 (d), 129.7 (d), 126.7 (d), 125.0 (s), 124.7 (d), 124.3 (d), 115.2 (d), 52.9 (q), 21.7 (q), 16.4 (q); IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ /cm⁻¹ = 2950, 1716, 1594, 1436, 1370, 1308, 1296, 1251, 1228, 1172, 1071, 936. FD-MS: m/z (%) = 394 (100) [M⁺]. HRMS [ESI (+)]: Mass calcd for C₂₁H₁₈N₂NaO₄S [M+Na]⁺, 417.0879; found 417.0858.

1-Phenyl-9-(toluene-4-sulfonyl)-9H-β-carboline-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester (8a)



Following **Method A** β -carboline **8a** (59 mg, 0.13 mmol, 61% yield) was obtained after flash chromatography (3:1 petroleum ether/ethyl acetate) as a colourless solid; R_f 0.29 (1:2 petroleum ether/diethyl ether), mp 212-213 °C (pentane/CH₂Cl₂). **Method C** provided a mixture of β -(**8a**) and γ -carboline in a ratio of 92:8 (95% yield) from which isomeric pure β -carboline **8a** was obtained after flash chromatography.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.18 (s, 3H), 4.04 (s, 3H), 6.84 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.37-7.56 (m, 4H), 7.61 (dt, J = 7.9 Hz, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 8.08-8.15 (m, 2H), 8.28 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 8.42 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 165.8 (s), 151.2 (s), 144.8 (s), 143.8 (s), 142.4 (s), 140.3 (s), 139.2 (s), 136.6 (s), 132.0 (s), 130.2 (d), 128.9 (d), 128.7 (d), 128.3 (d), 126.8 (s), 126.7 (d), 126.0 (d), 121.4 (d), 119.4 (d), 114.5 (d), 53.0 (q), 21.4 (q); IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ /cm⁻¹ = 2952, 2925, 1714, 1614, 1593, 1564, 1378, 1359, 1275, 1240, 1173, 1149, 933. MS: m/z (%) = 456 (100) [M⁺]. HRMS: Mass calcd for C₂₆H₂₁N₂O₄S [(M+H)]⁺, 457.1222; found 457.1222.



Following **Method B** β -carboline **8b** (60 mg, 0.12 mmol, 60% yield) was obtained after flash chromatography (8:2 pentane/ethyl acetate) as a colourless solid; $R_f 0.16$ (8:2 pentane/diethyl ether).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.34 (S, 1H), 8.27 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 8.12 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (dd, *J* = 7.3 Hz, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (dd, *J* = 7.3 Hz, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.36 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 8.20 Hz, 2H), 4.04 (s, 3H), 3,89 (s, 3H), 2,18 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.9 (s), 160.5 (s), 151.1 (s), 144.9 (s), 143.9 (s), 142.5 (s), 139.4 (s), 136.4 (s), 132.9 (s), 131.9 (s), 130.1 (d), 130.2 (s), 129.0 (d), 127.1 (s), 126.8 (d), 126.1 (d), 121.4 (d), 119.6 (d), 114.0 (d), 113.8 (d), 55.3 (q), 53.0 (q), 21.5 (q); HRMS [ESI (+)]: Mass clacd for C₂₇H₂₃N₂O₅S (M+H), 487.1328; found, 487.1311.

1-Pyridin-3-yl-9-(toluene-4-sulfonyl)-9H-β-carboline-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester (8d)



Following **Method A** β-carboline **8d** (37 mg, 0.08 mmol, 70% yield) was obtained after flash chromatography (1:2 petroleum ether/ethyl acetate) as a solid; R_f 0.39 (ethyl acetate), mp 210-215 °C (pentane/CH₂Cl₂). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.20 (s, 3H), 4.06 (s, 3H), 6.86 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.43-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.66 (dt, J = 7.8 Hz, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 8.31 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.41 (dt, J= 7.9 Hz, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 8.48 (s, 1H), 8.66 (dd, J = 4.9 Hz, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 9.27 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.5 (s), 149.7 (d), 149.6 (d), 148.2 (s), 145.2 (s), 144.0 (s), 142.3 (s), 139.5 (s), 136.8 (s), 136.3 (s), 135.9 (d), 131.7 (s), 130.6 (d), 129.1 (d), 126.7 (d), 126.6 (d), 126.3 (d), 123.2 (s), 121.5 (d), 119.5 (d), 115.2 (d), 53.1 (q), 21.5 (q); IR (neat): \tilde{V} /cm⁻¹ = 2957, 2899, 2836, 2232, 2161, 1620, 1595, 1482, 1373, 1229, 1172, 1081, 1028, 920. FD-MS: m/z (%) = 457 (100) [M⁺]; Anal calcd for C₂₅H₁₉N₃O₄S (457.50 g mol⁻¹): C, 65.63; H, 4.19; N, 9.18; Found: C, 65.59; H, 4.22; N, 9.06.

9-(Toluene-4-sulfonyl)-9*H*-β-carboline-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester (10) and 5-(Toluene-4-sulfonyl)-5*H*-γ-carboline-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester (S10)



Following **Method A** the carbolines **10** and **S10** were obtained in a ratio of 30:70 (72 mg, 0.19 mmol, 70% yield). The regioisomers **10** and **S10** were separated by flash chromatography (1:1 petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). Following **Method C** the carbolines **10** and **S10** were obtained in a ratio of 40:60 (38 mg, 0.10 mmol, 40% yield).

β-carboline **10** was obtained as a solid, R_f 0.29 (1:1 petroleum ether/ethyl acetate), mp 166-167 °C (pentane/CH₂Cl₂).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.71 (s, 1H), 8.71 (s, 1H), 8.40 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.06 (d, J = 8.06 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.67-7.72 (m, 1H), 7.45-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.15 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 4.06 (s, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.9 (s), 146.0 (s), 142.3 (s), 139.6 (s), 137.0 (d), 136.5 (s), 134.6 (s), 133.3 (s), 130.8 (d), 130.2 (d), 126.8 (d), 124.9 (d), 124.1 (s), 122.0 (d), 117.1 (d), 115.4 (d), 53.1 (q), 21.7 (q); IR (neat): \tilde{V} /cm⁻¹ = 3066, 3013, 2946, 1716, 1622, 1595, 1437, 1289, 1173. FD-MS: m/z (%) = 380 (100) [M⁺].

 γ -carboline **S10** was obtained as a solid, R_f 0.12 (1:1 petroleum ether/ethyl acetate), mp 206-207 °C (pentane/CH₂Cl₂).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.28 (s, 1H), 9.04 (s, 1H), 8.34 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 8.07 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (m, 1H), 7.46 (m, 1H), 7.17 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.08 (s, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.9 (s), 146.0 (s), 145.6 (s), 143.8 (s), 142.6 (d), 139.3 (s), 134.7 (s), 130.2 (d), 129.6 (d), 126.8 (d), 125.0 (d), 124.7 (s), 123.2 (s), 121.3 (d), 115.1 (d), 111.7 (d), 53.2 (q), 21.7 (q); IR (neat): \tilde{V} /cm⁻¹ = 2948, 1719, 1589, 1457, 1433, 1294, 1170, 971. MS: m/z (%) = 380 (100) [M⁺]. Anal calcd for C₂₀H₁₆N₂O₄S (380.08 g mol⁻¹): C, 63.14; H, 4.24; N, 7.36; Found, C, 63.08; H, 4.30; N, 7.22.

1,4-Dimethyl-9-(toluene-4-sulfonyl)-9*H*-β-carboline-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester (11) and 1,4-Dimethyl-5-(toluene-4-sulfonyl)-5*H*-γ-carboline-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester (S11)



Following **Method B** the carbolines **11** and **S11** were obtained in a ratio of 50:50 (69 mg, 0.17 mmol, 87% yield). The regioisomers **11** and **S11** were separated by flash chromatography (2:1 petroleum ether/ethyl acetate). β -carboline **11** was obtained as a solid, R_f 0.26 (2:1 petroleum ether/ethyl acetate), mp 166-167 °C (pentane/CH₂Cl₂).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.30 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, J = 8,0 Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.61 (m, 1H), 7.36-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.09 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.03 (s, 3H), 3.07 (s, 3H), 2.81 (s, 3H), 2.22 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.2 (s), 147.9 (s), 145.0 (s), 142.2 (s), 137.1 (s), 137.0 (s), 132.6 (s), 129.3 (d), 129.2 (d), 127.9 (s), 126.9 (d), 126.1 (s), 125.9 (d), 123.8 (d), 119.4 (d), 53.0 (q), 25.7 (q), 21.6 (q), 15.8 (q); IR (neat): \tilde{V} /cm⁻¹ = 2950, 2930, 1727, 1596, 1573, 1439, 1422, 1372, 1172, 1140. MS: m/z (%) = 409 (100) [M+H]⁺. Anal calcd for C₂₂H₂₀N₂O₄S (408.11 g mol⁻¹): C, 64.69; H, 4.94; N, 6.86; Found, C, 64.54; H, 4.93; N, 6.84.

γ-carboline **S11** was obtained as a solid, R_f 0.10 (1:2 pentane/diethyl ether), mp 167-168 °C (pentane/CH₂Cl₂). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.25 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.54 (m, 1H), 7.36-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.07 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.90 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 4.04 (s, 3H), 2.91 (s, 3H), 2.87 (s, 3H), 2.22 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.2 (s), 150.1 (s), 147.7 (s), 147.1 (s), 145.0 (s), 142.1 (s), 132.6 (s), 129.1 (d), 128.2 (d), 127.2 (s), 126.9 (d), 126.4 (s), 126.1 (d), 124.6 (s), 122.7 (d), 119.3 (d), 53.0 (q), 23.7 (q), 21.6 (q), 18.9 (q); IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ /cm⁻¹ = 2949, 2925, 1739, 1721, 1597, 1565, 1438, 1366, 1323, 1173, 1059. MS: m/z (%) = 409 (100) [M+H]⁺. Anal calcd for C₂₂H₂₀N₂O₄S (408.11 g mol⁻¹): C, 64.69; H, 4.94; N, 6.86; Found, C, 64.63; H, 5.02; N, 6.75.

1-Pentyl-5-(toluene-4-sulfonyl)-5*H*-γ-carboline-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester (15)



Following **Method B** γ -carboline **15** (32 mg, 0.07 mmol, 52% yield) was obtained after flash chromatography (3:1 petroleum ether/ethyl acetate) as a solid; R_f 0.13 (2:1 pentane/diethyl ether), mp 167-169 °C (pentane/CH₂Cl₂).

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.96 (s, 1H), 8.43 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (dt, J = 7.9 Hz, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (dt, J = 7.5 Hz, J = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 4.08 (s, 3H), 3.35 (m, 2H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 1.80-1.86 (m, 2H), 1.51 (m, 2H), 1.39 (m, 2H), 0.91 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.1 (s), 158.1 (s), 145.8 (s), 144.6 (s), 144.1 (s), 139.0 (s), 134.6 (s), 130.0 (d), 128.6 (d), 126.7 (d), 124.8 (d), 123.6 (s), 123.0 (d), 122.0 (s), 114.8 (d), 109.7 (d), 53.08 (q), 37.4 (t), 32.1 (t), 28.1 (t), 22.6 (t), 21.6 (q), 14.0 (q); IR (KBr): \tilde{V} /cm⁻¹ = 2951, 2924, 1714, 1372, 1333, 1176. MS [ESI (+)]: m/z = 473 [M+Na]⁺, 923 [2 M+Na]⁺. HRMS (ESI (+)]: Mass calcd for C₂₅H₂₆N₂O₄SNa [M+Na]⁺, 473.1511; found, 473.1507.

1-Phenyl-5-(toluene-4-sulfonyl)-5*H*-γ-carboline-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester (17)



Following **Method B** γ -carboline 17 (61 mg, 0.13 mmol, 67% yield) was obtained after flash chromatography (4:1 petroleum ether/ethyl acetate) as a solid; R_f 0.14 (2:1 pentane/diethyl ether), mp 198-199 °C (pentane/CHCl₃).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.1 (s, 1H), 8.38 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.64-7.68 (m, 2H), 7.51-7.59 (m, 4H), 7.42 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.17-7.23 (m, 3H), 4.07 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.0 (s), 155.2 (s), 145.9 (s), 144.9 (s), 144.4 (s), 139.1 (s), 139.0 (s), 134.6 (s), 130.1 (s), 129.3 (d), 129.0 (d), 128.7 (d), 126.7 (s), 124.2 (s), 123.4 (s), 123.0 (d), 122.1 (s), 114.5 (d), 110.1 (d), 53.1 (q), 21.6 (q); IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ /cm⁻¹ = 2951, 1740, 1715, 1564, 1371, 1229, 1174, 752, 667. MS [ESI (+)]: m/z = 457 [M+H]⁺. Anal calcd for C₂₆H₂₀N₂O₄S (456.51 g mol⁻¹): C, 68.41; H, 4.42; N, 6.14; Found: C, 68.31; H, 4.42; N, 6.03.

II. Synthesis of the marine alkaloid eudistomin U (22)

2-Trimethylsilanylethynyl-phenylamine (S18a)



Into a flame dried Schlenk tube were introduced 2-iodoaniline (**18**) (5.90 g, 26.94 mmol), $PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$ (188 mg, 0.27 mmol), CuI (102 mg, 0.54 mmol), dry Et_3N (62.8 mL), dry DMF (27 mL), and trimethylsilylacetylene (5.20 mL, 35.02 mmol). The Schlenk tube was sealed with a screw cap and the resulting reaction mixture stirred at room temperature for 1 day. Thereafter, water and CH_2Cl_2 were added and the product extracted with CH_2Cl_2 and washed with brine. The combined organic layers were dried with MgSO₄ filtered and concentrated. Flash chromatography (9:1 cyclohexane/ethyl acetate) of the obtained residue afforded **S18a** (5.04 g, 26.67 mmol, 99% yield) as an oil, $R_f 0.43$.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.29 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (dd, J = 6.6 Hz, J = 1.2 Hz, 2H), 6.67 (dd, J = 6.6 Hz, J = 1.2 Hz, 2H), 4.23 (bs, 2H), 0.28 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.4 (s), 132.4 (d), 130.0 (d), 117.9 (d), 114.3 (d), 108.0 (s), 102.0 (s), 99.9 (s), 0.3 (q); MS [ESI (+)]: m/z (%) = 190 (100, [M+H]⁺), 168 (10), 162 (20), 91 (80).

4-Methyl-*N*-(2-trimethylsilanylethynyl-phenyl)-benzenesulfonamide (S18b):



Into a round bottom flask were introduced aniline **S18a** (5.04 g, 26.60 mmol), tosylchloride (11.14 g, 58.60 mmol), and dry pyridine (88 mL). The resulting reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature until completion. Thereafter, water and CH_2Cl_2 were added and the product was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 . The combined layers were washed with brine, dried with MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated. Flash chromatography (9:1 pentane/diethyl ether) afforded **S18b** (8.600 g, 25.07 mmol, 94% yield) as colourless solid; mp 81 °C pentane/CH₂Cl₂, R_f 0.4.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.64 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.20 (s, 1H), 7.19 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (m, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 0.27 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.1 (s), 138.2 (s), 136.2 (s), 132.1 (d), 129.9 (d), 129.7 (d), 127.4 (d), 124.4 (d), 119.8 (d), 114.3 (s), 102.4 (s), 99.6 (s), 21.6 (q), 0.0 (q); IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ /cm⁻¹ = 3258, 2959, 2158, 1488, 1450, 1400, 1339, 1246, 1170, 1095, 909; MS [ESI (+)]: m/z (%) = 366 (100, [M+Na]⁺). HRMS [ESI (+)]: Mass calcd for C₁₈H₂₁NNaO₂SSi, 366.0960, found 366.0975; Anal. calcd for C₁₈H₂₁NO₂SSi (343.52): C, 62.94; H, 6.16; N, 4.08. Found: C, 62.70, H, 6.06, N, 3.95.

N-Ethynyl-4-methyl-N-(2-trimethylsilanylethynyl-phenyl)-benzenesulfonamide (1)



To a solution of **S18b** (715 mg, 2.08 mmol) in dry toluene (100 mL) was added KHMDS (5 mL of a 0.5 M solution in toluene) at 0 °C. After 30 min of stirring at 0 °C, a solution of ethynylphenyliodonium triflate (1.18 g, 3.12 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (70 mL) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. Concentration of the solution was followed by addition of CH₂Cl₂ and water. The product was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ and the combined organic layers were dried with MgSO₄, filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification of the obtained residue by flash chromatography (9:1 petroleum ether/diethyl ether) afforded **1** (648 mg, 85% yield) as a pale yellow solid, mp 92–93 °C (pentane/CHCl₃).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.71 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2 H), 7.49 (m, 1 H), 7.33-7.26 (m, 5 H), 2.82 (s, 1 H), 2.45 (s, 3 H), 0.17 (s, 9 H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 144.8 (s), 138.7 (s), 134.7 (s), 133.9 (d), 129.6 (d), 129.1 (d), 129.0 (d), 128.9 (d), 128.5 (d), 123.0 (s), 101.5 (s), 99.8 (s), 75.6 (s), 58.9 (s), 21.7 (q), -0.3 (q).

IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}_{max}/cm^{-1} = 3269, 2961, 2894, 2163, 2125, 1596, 1480, 1366, 1252, 1212, 1174, 1120, 1077, 1037, 929. MS (EI, 70 eV): <math>m/z$ (%) = 367 (M⁺, 16), 352 (12), 302 (33), 288 (17), 212 (100), 197 (12), 184 (16), 182 (21), 91 (14). Anal calcd for C₂₀H₂₁NO₂SSi (367.53 g mol⁻¹): C, 65.36; H, 5.76; N, 3.81; Found: C, 65.21; H, 5.76; N, 3.86.



Freshly prepared LiHMDS (3.3 mL of a 0.5 *M* solution in THF) was added to a solution of **1** (400 mg, 1.09 mmol) in dry THF at 78 °C and stirred for 40 min at 40 °C. Thereafter, a solution of ZnBr₂ (270 mg, 1.20 mmol) in THF (0.8 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred without cooling for 20 min and then transferred via canula to a solution of Pd₂(dba)₃ (50 mg, 0.05 mmol), PPh₃ (55 mg, 0.21 mmol) and 3-iodo-1-tosylindole (519 mg, 1.30 mmol) in dry THF (10 mL). After stirring for 12 h at room temperature, water was added and the aqueous phase extracted with Et₂O. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried with MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification of the obtained residue with flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ ethyl acetate) afforded **S19** (635 mg, 0.99 mmol, 92% yield) as a solid, R_f 0.56 (2:1 petroleum ether/ethyl acetate), mp 61 °C.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.95 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.74 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.53 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.36 (m, 6H), 7.18-7.27 (m, 3H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 0.10 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.7 (s), 145.3 (s), 139.7 (s), 135.4 (s), 135.2 (s), 134.7 (d), 131.6 (s), 130.4 (d), 130.2 (d), 129.7 (d), 129.5 (d), 129.4 (d), 129.0 (d), 128.8 (d), 127.4 (d), 125.8 (d), 124.0 (d), 123.5 (s), 121.3 (d), 114.0 (d), 105.5 (s), 101.9 (s), 100.5 (s), 86.6 (s), 62.0 (s), 22.2 (q), 22.1 (q), 0.2 (q); IR (KBr): \tilde{V} /cm⁻¹ = 3065, 2959, 2361, 2242, 2161, 1711, 1597, 1483, 1447, 1374, 1174, 1129, 1089, 860. MS: m/z (%) = 636 (100, M⁺).



TBAF (1.3 mL of 1 *M* solution in THF) was added to a solution of **S19** (639 mg, 0.99 mmol) in THF (50 mL) at 0 °C. After 20 min, the reaction mixture was quenched by the addition of diethyl ether and water. The aqueous phase was extracted with diethyl ether. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried with MgSO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The obtained residue was purified by flash chromatography (3:1 heptane/diethyl ether) to afford yne-ynamide **19** (474 mg, 0.84 mmol, 85% yield) as a colourless solid; R_f 0.38 (2:1 heptane/ethyl acetate), mp 80-82 °C (pentane/CH₂Cl₂).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.95 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 4H), 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.50-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.41 (m, 6H), 7.18-7.27 (m, 3H), 3.06 (s, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.3 (s), 145.1 (s), 139.7 (s), 134.8 (s), 134.3 (d), 134.1 (s), 131.2 (s), 130.0 (d), 129.70 (d), 129.65 (d), 129.2 (d), 129.1 (d), 128.6 (d), 126.9 (d), 125.4 (d), 123.6 (d), 122.1 (s), 120.6 (d), 113.5 (d), 104.6 (s), 86.0 (s), 83.2 (d), 78.9 (s), 61.3 (s), 21.7 (q), 21.6 (q); IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ /cm⁻¹ = 3276, 2242, 1596, 1483, 1447, 1374, 1189, 1174, 1130, 1088, 959. MS: m/z (%) = 564.1 (100) [M⁺]; HRMS [ESI (+)]: Mass calcd for C₃₂H₂₅N₂O₄S₂ (M+H⁺), 565.1256, found, 565.1252.



To a solution of Cp*RuCl(cod) (9.8 mg, 0.026 mmol, 10 mol%) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (1 mL) was added methyl cyanoformiate (410 μ L, 0.52 mmol). Thereafter, a solution of yne-ynamide **19** (40 mg, 0.07 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) was added over a period of 1-2 h using a syringe-pump at 40 °C. The reaction was completed within 2 h (monitored by TLC). The solvent was removed by evaporation under reduced pressure and the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography (2:1 heptane/ethyl acetate) to provide β-carboline **20** (43 mg, 94%) as a solid; *R*_f 0.26, mp 224-225 °C (pentane/CH₂Cl₂).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.40 (s, 1H), 8.39 (s, 1H), 8.29-8.36 (m, 2H), 7.98-8.04 (m, 1H), 7.93 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.84 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.23 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 4.05 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 2.19 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.9 (s), 145.3 (s), 145.14 (s), 145.09 (s), 143.9 (s), 142.7 (s), 139.4 (s), 137.1 (s), 135.2 (s), 135.0 (s), 131.9 (s), 130.4 (d), 130.0 (d), 129.5 (s), 129.1 (d), 127.9 (d), 127.5 (d), 127.1 (s), 126.8 (d), 126.3 (d), 124.9 (d), 124.1 (d), 122.2 (d), 121.5 (d), 121.3 (s), 119.9 (d), 114.4 (d), 113.4 (d), 53.1 (q), 21.64 (q), 21.60 (q); IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ /cm⁻¹ = 2954, 2924, 1708, 1615, 1596, 1575, 1371, 1176, 1268. MS: m/z (%) = 649.2 (100) [M⁺], 650.2 (39) [M⁺]. HRMS [ESI (+)]: Mass calcd for C₃₅H₂₈N₃O₆S₂ (M+H⁺), 650.1420, found, 650.1415. Anal. calcd for C₃₅H₂₇N₃O₆S₂ (649.74 g mol⁻¹): C, 64.70; H, 4.19; N, 6.47; found, C, 64.39; H, 4.28; N, 6.46.



KOH (200 mg, 3.6 mmol) was added to a solution of **20** (233 mg, 0.36 mmol) in MeOH/THF (6 mL, 1:1 5 (v/v)) and the resulting mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 3 h. Thereafter the solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the obtained residue was taken up in water. The aqueous phase was washed with CH_2Cl_2 and adjusted to pH 6 with conc. HCl. The resulting precipitate was isolated by filtration and dried under reduced pressure to give **21** (113 mg, 0.35 mmol, 96% yield) as a solid, mp 299-300 °C (dec).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 11.80 (s, 1H), 11.69 (s, 1H), 8.85 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.76 (s, 1H), 8.43 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 8.38 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.63 (m, 1H), 7.53 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.35 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.15-7.21 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 167.4 , 141.3, 139.7, 136.9, 136.6, 133.3, 128.5, 128.3, 126.7, 126.3, 122.9, 122.4, 121.8, 121.6, 120.4, 120.3, 114.3, 112.9, 112.6, 111.6; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ /cm⁻¹ = 3136, 1623, 1581, 1534, 1499, 1445, 13364, 1339, 1265, 1227, 1103, 1018, 733. MS: m/z (%) = 327 (100) [M⁺]; HRMS [ESI (+)]: Mass calcd for C₂₀H₁₃N₃O₂Na (M+Na), 350.0905, found, 350.0901.



A solution of **21** (26 mg, 0.08 mmol) in quinoline (5 mL) containing copper powder (1.5 mg) was sealed under nitrogen in a reaction vial and irradiated in a microwave reactor for 10 min at 240 °C. Thereafter, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the obtained residue purified by column chromatography (Al₂O₃, 1:1 petroleum ether/ethyl acetate) to afford eudistomin U (**22**) (21 mg, 0.07 mmol, 88%) as a solid, R_f 0.29 (Al₂O₃, 1:1 petroleum ether/ethyl acetate), mp 235-236 °C.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 11.70 (s, 1H), 11.28 (s, 1H), 8.56 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.44 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 8.29 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 8.22 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 140.7 (s), 140.4 (s), 138.0 (d), 136.5 (s), 132.0 (s), 128.1 (s), 127.7 (d), 126.2 (s), 125.9 (d), 122.4 (d), 122.0 (d), 121.3 (d), 121.2 (s), 119.8 (d), 119.4 (d), 113.3 (s), 112.4 (d), 111.5 (d), 111.5 (d); ¹⁵N NMR (40.5 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 114.0 (NH), 135.7 (NH), 298.8; IR (neat): $\tilde{\nu}$ /cm⁻¹ = 3406, 3056, 2967, 2927, 1721, 1624, 1563, 1454, 1235, 1042, 739. MS: m/z (%) = 283 (100) [M⁺].

Spectroscopic and analytical data are in agreement with those reported from eudistomin U isolated from the carribean ascidian *lissoclinum fragile*.⁴

⁴ A. Badre, A. Boulanger, E. Abou-Mansour, B. Banaigs, G. Combaut, C. Francisco, J. Nat. Prod., 1994, 57, 528.

IV Selected NMR spectra

















