Supporting Information for:

Discovery of a multi-bond forming, four-step tandem process: construction of drug-like polycyclic scaffolds

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1. General Experimental

All reagents and starting materials were obtained from commercial sources and used as received. All dry solvents were purified using a PureSolv 500 MD solvent purification system. All reactions were performed under an atmosphere of argon unless otherwise mentioned. Brine refers to a saturated solution of sodium chloride. Flash column chromatography was carried out using Fisher matrix silica 60. Macherey-Nagel aluminium-backed plates pre-coated with silica gel 60 (UV₂₅₄) were used for thin layer chromatography and were visualised by staining with KMnO₄. 1 H NMR and 13 C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker DPX 400 spectrometer with chemical shift values in ppm relative to TMS ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 0.00 and $\delta_{\rm C}$ 0.0) or residual chloroform ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.28 and $\delta_{\rm C}$ 77.2) as standard. Proton and carbon assignments are based on two-dimensional COSY and DEPT experiments, respectively. Mass spectra were obtained using a JEOL JMS-700 spectrometer. Infrared spectra were obtained neat using a Shimadzu IRPrestige-21 spectrometer. Melting points were determined on a Reichert platform melting point apparatus.

2. Experimental Procedures and Spectroscopic Data for All Compounds

Ethyl (2E)-hept-2-en-6-ynoate (7)¹

Dimethyl sulfoxide (3.60 mL, 50.8 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of oxalyl chloride (2.49 mL, 28.4 mmol) in dichloromethane (100 mL) at -78 °C. The mixture was stirred for 0.3 h before 4-pentyn-1-ol (5) (1.70 g, 20.3 mmol) in dichloromethane (25 mL) was slowly added. The mixture was stirred for a further 0.3 h before triethylamine (14.1 mL, 102 mmol) was added. This reaction mixture was stirred for 0.5 h at -78 °C and then allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for a further 3 h. A solution of lithium chloride (1.55 g, 36.5 mmol), triethyl phosphonoacetate (7.24 mL, 36.5 mmol) and 1,8-diazabicyclo[5,4,0]undec-7-ene (5.14 mL, 36.5 mmol) in acetonitrile (70 mL) was then prepared and stirred for 1 h. The Swern solution was concentrated *in vacuo*, then the Horner Wadsworth Emmons solution was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. The reaction was quenched with a saturated solution of ammonium chloride (50 mL) and concentrated to give an orange residue, which was then extracted with diethyl ether (4 × 75 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated to give an orange oil. Purification by flash column chromatography (diethyl ether/petroleum ether, 1:9) gave ethyl

(2*E*)-hept-2-en-6-ynoate (7) (2.93 g, 95%) as a yellow oil. Spectroscopic data consistent with literature. 1 R_f (25% diethyl ether/petroleum ether) 0.63; $v_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ (neat) 3302 (C=C-H), 2984 (CH), 1715 (CO), 1657 (C=C), 1445, 1368, 1267, 1155, 1038, 756; δ_{H} (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.30 (3H, t, *J* 7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 2.01 (1H, t, *J* 2.5 Hz, 7-H), 2.34–2.39 (2H, m, 5-H₂), 2.41–2.48 (2H, m, 4-H₂), 4.20 (2H, q, *J* 7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 5.90 (1H, dt, *J* 15.7, 1.5 Hz, 2-H), 6.97 (1H, dt, *J* 15.7, 6.7 Hz, 3-H); δ_{C} (126 MHz, CDCl₃) 14.3 (CH₃), 17.4 (CH₂), 31.0 (CH₂), 60.3 (CH₂), 69.4 (CH), 82.7 (C), 122.6 (CH), 146.3 (CH), 166.4 (C); m/z (CI) 153 (MH⁺, 100%), 139 (5), 113 (10), 97 (5), 81 (15), 69 (15).

Ethyl (2E)-octa-2-en-7-ynoate (8)²

Dimethyl sulfoxide (5.42 mL, 76.5 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of oxalyl chloride (29.5 mL, 42.8 mmol) in dichloromethane (150 mL) at -78 °C. The mixture was stirred for 0.3 h before 5-hexyn-1-ol (6) (3.00 g, 30.6 mmol) in dichloromethane (25 mL) was slowly added. The mixture was stirred for a further 0.3 h before triethylamine (21.3 mL, 153 mmol) was added. This reaction mixture was stirred for 0.5 h at -78 °C and then allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for a further 2 h. A solution of lithium chloride (2.34 g, 55.1 mmol), triethyl phosphonoacetate (10.9 mL, 55.1 mmol) and 1,8-diazabicyclo[5,4,0]undec-7-ene (7.75 g, 55.1 mmol) in acetonitrile (150 mL) was then prepared and stirred for 1 h. The Swern solution was concentrated in vacuo, then the Horner Wadsworth Emmons solution was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. The reaction was quenched with a saturated solution of ammonium chloride (50 mL) and concentrated to give an orange residue, which was then extracted with diethyl ether (4 × 75 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated to give an orange oil. Purification by flash column chromatography (diethyl ether/petroleum ether, 1:9) gave ethyl (2E)-octa-2-en-7-ynoate (8) (4.99 g, 99%) as a yellow oil. Spectroscopic data consistent with literature. R_f (50% diethyl ether/petroleum ether) 0.74; $v_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ (neat) 3295 (C=C-H), 2940 (CH), 1713 (CO), 1651 (C=C), 1265, 1188, 1150, 1042, 979, 756, 633; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.29 (3H, t, J 7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 1.70 (2H, quin, J 6.9 Hz, 5-H₂), 1.98 (1H, s, 8-H), 2.23 (2H, t, J 6.9 Hz, 6-H₂), 2.33 (2H, q, J 6.9 Hz, 4-H₂), 4.18 (2H, q, J 7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 5.86 (1H, d, J 15.6 Hz, 2-H), 6.94 (1H, dt, J 15.6, 6.9 Hz, 3-H); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (101 MHz, CDCl₃) 14.3 (CH₃), 17.9 (CH₂), 26.7 (CH₂), 30.9 (CH₂), 60.2 (CH₂), 69.0 (CH), 83.5 (C), 122.1 (CH), 147.8 (CH), 166.6 (C); m/z (CI) 167 (MH⁺, 100%), 139 (42), 113 (10), 97 (12), 81 (25), 71 (30).

(2E)-Hept-2-en-6-yn-1-ol $(9)^3$

Ethyl (2*E*)-hept-2-en-6-ynoate (7) (1.50 g, 9.87 mmol) was dissolved in diethyl ether (50 mL) and cooled to -78 °C. DIBAL-H (1 M in hexane) (21.7 mL, 21.7 mmol) was added dropwise and the reaction mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 3 h, before warming to room temperature overnight. The solution was cooled to 0 °C and quenched by the addition of a saturated solution of ammonium chloride (10 mL) and warmed to room temperature with vigorous stirring over 1 h, producing a white precipitate. The precipitate was filtered through a pad of Celite® and washed with diethyl ether (3 × 50 mL). The filtrate was then dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by flash column chromatography (diethyl ether/petroleum ether, 1:1) gave (2*E*)-hept-2-en-6-yn-1-ol (9) (1.01 g, 93%) as a yellow oil. Spectroscopic data consistent with literature.³ R_f (50% diethyl ether/petroleum ether) 0.33; v_{max} /cm⁻¹ (neat) 3360 (OH), 3295 (C \equiv C \rightarrow H), 2915 (CH), 1670 (C \rightarrow C), 1433, 1084, 997, 968; δ_{H} (500 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.42 (1H, br s, OH), 1.99 (1H, t, *J* 2.5 Hz, 7-H), 2.28–2.33 (4H, m, 4-H₂ and 5-H₂), 4.14 (2H, d, *J* 4.0 Hz, 1-H₂), 5.70–5.81 (2H, m, 2-H and 3-H); δ_{C} (126 MHz, CDCl₃) 18.5 (CH₂), 31.1 (CH₂), 63.5 (CH₂), 68.8 (CH), 83.7 (C), 130.5 (CH), 130.6 (CH); m/z (CI) 111 (MH⁺, 3%), 107 (15), 93 (100), 81 (10), 69 (10).

(2E)-Octa-2-en-7-yn-1-ol $(10)^4$

Ethyl (2*E*)-octa-2-en-7-ynoate (8) (4.10 g, 24.7 mmol) was dissolved in diethyl ether (50 mL) and cooled to -78 °C. DIBAL-H (1 M in hexane) (54.3 mL, 54.3 mmol) was added dropwise and the reaction mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 3 h, before warming to room temperature overnight. The solution was cooled to 0 °C and quenched by the addition of a saturated solution of ammonium chloride (10 mL) and warmed to room temperature with vigorous stirring over 1 h, producing a white precipitate. The precipitate was filtered through a pad of Celite® and washed with diethyl ether (3 × 50 mL). The filtrate was then dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by flash column chromatography (diethyl ether/petroleum ether, 1:1) gave (2*E*)-octa-2-en-7-yn-1-ol (10) (2.95 g, 97% yield) as a yellow oil. Spectroscopic data consistent with literature.⁴ R_f (50% petroleum ether/diethyl ether) 0.29; v_{max}/cm^{-1} (neat) 3361 (OH), 3302 (C=C-H), 2932 (CH), 1674

(C=C), 1435, 1219, 1088, 972; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.29 (1H, br s, OH), 1.63 (2H, quin, *J* 6.9 Hz, 5-H₂), 1.96 (1H, t, *J* 2.6 Hz, 8-H), 2.15–2.25 (4H, m, 4-H₂ and 6-H₂), 4.09–4.15 (2H, m, 1-H₂), 5.63–5.74 (2H, m, 2-H and 3-H); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (101 MHz, CDCl₃) 17.8 (CH₂), 27.8 (CH₂), 31.1 (CH₂), 63.7 (CH₂), 68.5 (CH), 84.2 (C), 129.9 (CH), 131.9 (CH); m/z (CI) 125 (MH⁺, 20%), 107 (95), 97 (40), 81 (80), 71 (100).

(3a*S**,9*R**,9a*R**,9b*R**)-9-(2',2',2'-Trichloromethylcarbonylamino)-3a,4,6,7,8,9,9a,9b-octahydro-2-phenyl-1*H*-benz[*e*]isoindole-1,3(2*H*)-dione (14)

(2E)-Octa-2-en-7-yn-1-ol (10) (0.050 g, 0.40 mmol) was dissolved in dichloromethane (15 ml) and cooled to 0 °C. To the solution, 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene (0.011 mL, 0.08 mmol) and trichloroacetonitrile (0.060 mL, 0.60 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature before stirring for 3 h. The reaction mixture was filtered through a short pad of silica gel and the filtrate concentrated in vacuo to give the allylic trichloroacetimidate, which was used without further purification. The allylic trichloroacetimidate was dissolved in toluene (10 mL) and transferred to a Schlenk tube containing potassium carbonate (0.050 g) and purged with Ar and sealed. The reaction mixture was then heated to 140 °C and stirred for 24 h. Grubbs 1st generation catalyst (0.025 g, 0.030 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was heated for 24 h at 75 °C. A further portion of Grubbs 1st generation catalyst (0.0082 g, 0.010 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at 75 °C for 24 h. N-Phenyl maleimide (0.10 g, 0.60 mmol) was added with hydroquinone⁵ (0.013 g, 0.12 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 48 h at 111 °C. Flash column chromatography (petroleum ether/diethyl ether, 2:3) gave (3aS*,9R*,9aR*,9bR*)-9-(2',2',2'-trichloromethylcarbonylamino)-3a,4,6,7,8,9,9a,9b-octahydro-2-phenyl-1*H*benz[e]isoindole-1,3(2H)-dione (14) (0.13 g, 72%) as a white solid. $R_f(70\% \text{ diethyl ether/petroleum})$ ether) 0.33; Mp 152–154 °C; $v_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ (neat) 3567 (NH), 3056 (ArH), 2944 (CH), 1712 (CO), 1501, 1385, 1265, 1188; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (500 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.57–1.62 (1H, m, 7-HH), 1.68–1.73 (1H, m, 7-HH), 1.86 (2H, q, J 7.6 Hz, 8-H₂), 2.24–2.47 (3H, m, 6-H₂ and 4-HH), 2.75 (1H, dt, J 16.5, 4.4 Hz, 4-HH), 3.08 (1H, t, J 7.6 Hz, 9a-H), 3.29 (1H, ddd, J 9.4, 8.1, 4.4 Hz, 3a-H), 3.47 (1H, dd, J 9.4, 7.6 Hz, 9b-H), 4.72 (1H, dq, J 9.3, 7.6 Hz, 9-H), 5.84–5.89 (1H, m, 5-H), 7.20–7.24 (2H, m, 2 ×

ArH), 7.40 (1H, t, J 7.5 Hz, ArH), 7.46 (2H, t, J 7.5 Hz, 2 × ArH), 7.63 (1H, d, J 9.3 Hz, NH); δ_C (126 MHz, CDCl₃) 22.7 (CH₂), 23.4 (CH₂), 29.5 (CH₂), 32.4 (CH₂), 38.1 (CH), 38.9 (CH), 40.3 (CH), 48.8 (CH), 91.8 (C), 121.1 (CH), 126.4 (2 × CH), 128.8 (CH), 129.2 (2 × CH), 131.5 (C), 138.1 (C), 161.1 (C), 178.1 (C), 178.3 (C); m/z (EI) 440.0450 (M⁺. C₂₀H₁₉³⁵Cl₃N₂O₃ requires 440.0461), 403 (5%), 323 (5), 279 (100), 241 (10), 132 (65), 91 (32), 77 (11).

(10*R**,10a*S**)-5,7,8,9,10,10a-Hexahydro-10-(2',2',2'-trichloromethylcarbonylamino)-1*H*-[1,2,4]-triazolo[1,2-*a*]cinnoline-1,3(2*H*)-dione (15)

(10R*,10aS*)-5,7,8,9,10,10a-Hexahydro-10-(2',2',2'-trichloromethylcarbonylamino)-1H-[1,2,4]triazolo[1,2-a]cinnoline-1,3(2H)-dione (15) was synthesised according to above procedure using (2E)-octa-2-en-7-yn-1-ol (10) (0.050 g, 0.40 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred with Grubbs 1st generation catalyst (0.033 g, 0.040 mmol) for 48 h at 75 °C before 4-phenyl-1,2,4-triazole-3,5dione (0.11 g, 0.60 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 24 h at 111 °C. Flash column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate, 1:3) gave (10R*,10aS*)-5,7,8,9,10,10ahexahydro-10-(2',2',2'-trichloromethylcarbonylamino)-1*H*-[1,2,4]-triazolo[1,2-a]cinnoline-1,3(2H)-dione (15) (0.13 g, 75%) as a black oil. R_f (75% ethyl acetate/petroleum ether) 0.46; v_{max} /cm⁻¹ (neat) 3418 (NH), 3055 (ArH), 2940 (CH), 2361, 1775, 1705 (CO), 1505, 1420, 819, 733; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (500 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.45–1.55 (1H, m, 8-HH), 1.89–1.99 (2H, m, 9-HH and 8-HH), 2.04–2.11 (1H, m, 9-HH), 2.22–2.31 (1H, m, 7-HH), 2.59 (1H, dtd, J 13.5, 4.2, 2.1 Hz, 7-HH), 3.96 (1H, ddd, J 16.3, 5.6, 2.7 Hz, 5-HH), 4.30 (1H, dd, J 16.3, 4.9 Hz, 5-HH), 4.59–4.63 (1H, m, 10a-H), 5.04 (1H, dg, J 8.5, 3.3 Hz, 10-H), 5.93–5.97 (1H, m, 6-H), 6.85 (1H, d, J 8.5 Hz, NH), 7.36–7.41 (1H, m, ArH), 7.45–7.53 (4H, m, 4 × ArH); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (126 MHz, CDCl₃) 22.4 (CH₂), 28.7 (CH₂), 33.8 (CH₂), 43.0 (CH₂), 49.4 (CH), 56.3 (CH), 92.7 (C), 116.6 (CH), 126.2 (CH), 128.4 (2 × CH), 129.2 (2 × CH), 131.0 (C), 132.0 (C), 150.8 (C), 152.5 (C), 161.3 (C); m/z (EI) 442.0358 (M⁺. $C_{18}H_{17}^{35}Cl_3N_4O_3$ requires 442.0366), 408 (10%), 325 (5), 281 (100), 253 (10), 162 (5), 119 (20), 91 (20).

$(1R^*, 8aR^*)$ -1-(2',2',2'-Trichloromethylcarbonylamino)-1,2,3,4,6,7,8,8a-octahydro-7,7,8,8-tetracyanonaphthalene (16)

(1R*,8aR*)-1-(2',2',2'-Trichloromethylcarbonylamino)-1,2,3,4,6,7,8,8a-octahydro-7,7,8,8tetracyanonaphthalene (16) was synthesised according to above procedure using (2E)-octa-2-en-7yn-1-ol (10) (0.060 g, 0.48 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred with Grubbs 1st generation catalyst (0.040 g, 0.048 mmol) for 48 h at 75 °C before tetracyanoethylene (0.37 g, 2.88 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 24 h at 111 °C. Flash column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate, 3:1) gave (1R*,8aR*)-1-(2',2',2'-trichloromethylcarbonylamino)-1,2,3,4,6,7,8,8a-octahydro-7,7,8,8-tetracyanonaphthalene (16) (0.13 g, 66%) as an orange oil. R_f $(50\% \text{ ethyl acetate/petroleum ether}) 0.56; v_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1} \text{ (neat) } 3313 \text{ (NH), } 2945 \text{ (CH), } 2359 \text{ (CN), } 2342 \text{ (NH), } 2945 \text{ (CH), } 2359 \text{ (CN), } 2342 \text{ (NH), } 2945 \text{ (NH)$ (CN), 1699 (CO), 1514, 1275, 910, 733; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (500 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.53 (1H, qt, J 12.7, 3.9 Hz, 3-HH), 1.82 (1H, qd, J 12.7, 3.9 Hz, 2-HH), 1.92–1.99 (1H, m, 3-HH), 2.13–2.25 (2H, m, 2-HH and 4-HH), 2.49–2.56 (1H, m, 4-HH), 3.06 (1H, ddt, J 18.1, 6.2, 2.1 Hz, 6-HH), 3.15 (1-H, ddd, J 18.1, 5.3, 2.1 Hz, 6-HH), 3.37 (1H, dd, J 11.5, 1.3 Hz, 8a-H), 4.11–4.20 (1H, m, 1-H), 5.70–5.74 (1H, m, 5-H), 7.11 (1H, d, J 9.6 Hz, NH); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (125 MHz, CDCl₃) 23.4 (CH₂), 31.4 (CH₂), 32.3 (CH₂), 34.1 (CH₂), 39.7 (C), 42.6 (C), 47.1 (CH), 54.4 (CH), 91.9 (C), 108.5 (C), 110.3 (C), 110.9 (C), 112.1 (C), 115.8 (CH), 135.0 (C), 161.9 (C); m/z (CI) 396.0197 (MH⁺. $C_{16}H_{13}^{35}Cl_3N_5O$ requires 396.0186), 362 (100%), 328 (20), 292 (25), 264 (30), 237 (25), 183 (42), 167 (50), 147 (25), 107 (65), 69 (74).

Methyl (1*R**,8*S**,8a*S**)-1-(2',2',2'-trichloromethylcarbonylamino)-1,2,3,4,6,7,8,8a-octahydronaphthalene-8-carboxylate (17)

Methyl (1R*,8S*,8aS*)-1-(2',2',2'-trichloromethylcarbonylamino)-1,2,3,4,6,7,8,8a-octahydronaphthalene-8-carboxylate (17) was synthesised according to above procedure using (2<math>E)-octa-2-en-7-yn-1-ol (10) (0.050 g, 0.40 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred with Grubbs 1st

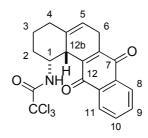
generation catalyst (0.033 g, 0.040 mmol) for 48 h at 75 °C before methyl acrylate (0.22 mL, 2.41 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 6 days at 111 °C. Flash column chromatography (petroleum ether/diethyl ether, 5:2) gave methyl (1R*,8S*,8aS*)-1-(2',2',2'-trichloromethylcarbonylamino)-1,2,3,4,6,7,8,8a-octahydronaphthalene-8-carboxylate (17) (0.068 g, 48%) as a colourless oil. v_{max} /cm⁻¹ (neat) 3416 (NH), 2938 (CH), 1713 (CO), 1501, 1435, 1265, 1152, 1020, 952, 816; δ_{H} (500 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.35 (1H, qt, J 13.3, 4.4 Hz, 3-JHH), 1.59 (1H, tdd, J 13.3, 4.4, 3.0 Hz, 2-JHH), 1.65–1.72 (1H, m, 3-JHH), 1.74–1.88 (3H, m, 2-JHH and 7-JHz), 1.93–2.04 (2H, m, 4-JHH and 6-JHH), 2.05–2.13 (1H, m, 6-JHH), 2.24 (1H, ddt, J 13.3, 4.4, 2.2 Hz, 4-JHH), 2.63–2.67 (1H, m, 8a-JH), 2.72 (1H, ddd, J 12.8, 7.1, 4.4 Hz, 8-JH), 3.66 (3H, s, OCH₃), 4.11 (1H, dq, J 9.2, 3.0 Hz, 1-JH), 5.69–5.72 (1H, m, 5-JH), 6.76 (1H, br d, J 9.2 Hz, NH); δ_{C} (126 MHz, CDCl₃) 20.7 (CH₂), 22.9 (CH₂), 23.5 (CH₂), 31.5 (CH₂), 35.5 (CH₂), 40.9 (CH), 42.8 (CH), 50.2 (CH), 52.1 (CH₃), 93.0 (C), 123.8 (CH), 134.4 (C), 160.1 (C), 173.7 (C); m/z (CI) 354.0431 (MH⁺. C₁₄H₁₉³⁵Cl₃NO₃ requires 354.0431), 320 (60%), 291 (20), 257 (15), 193 (15), 107 (23), 69 (53).

Dimethyl $(1R^*,7R^*,8S^*,8aS^*)$ -1-(2',2',2'-trichloromethylcarbonylamino)-1,2,3,4,6,7,8,8a-octohydronaphthalenene-7,8-dicarboxylate (18)

(1R*,7R*,8S*,8aS*)-1-(2',2',2'-trichloromethylcarbonylamino)-1,2,3,4,6,7,8,8a-Dimethyl octohydronaphthalenene-7,8-dicarboxylate (18) was synthesised according to above procedure using (2E)-octa-2-en-7-yn-1-ol (10) (0.050 g, 0.40 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred with Grubbs 1st generation catalyst (0.033 g, 0.040 mmol) for 48 h at 75 °C before dimethyl maleate (0.15 mL, 1.20 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 120 h at 111 °C. Flash ether/diethyl column chromatography (petroleum ether, 1:1) afforded dimethyl (1R*,7R*,8S*,8aS*)-1-(2',2',2'-trichloromethylcarbonylamino)-1,2,3,4,6,7,8,8aoctohydronaphthalenene-7,8-dicarboxylate (18) (0.065 g, 39%) as a colourless oil. R_f (50% diethyl ether/petroleum ether) 0.37; $v_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ (neat) 3395 (NH), 2951 (CH), 2939 (CH), 1730 (CO), 1710 (CO), 1502, 1436, 1201, 1173, 1162, 819, 734; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (500 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.46–1.57 (2H, m, 2-HH and 3-HH), 1.60–1.67 (1H, m, 3-HH), 2.05–2.17 (2H, m, 2-HH and 4-HH), 2.33–2.42 (2H, m, 4-HH) and 6-HH), 2.65 (1H, dt, J 11.3, 4.6 Hz, 7-H), 2.85–2.95 (2H, m, 6-HH and 8a-H), 3.43 (1H, dd, J 8.6, 4.6 Hz, 8-H), 3.64 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.68 (3H, s, OCH₃), 4.41–4.47 (1H, m, 1-H), 5.80–5.85 (1H,

m, 5-H), 6.88 (1H, d, J 7.5 Hz, NH); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (126 MHz, CDCl₃) 20.3 (CH₂), 23.9 (CH₂), 29.5 (CH₂), 33.5 (CH₂), 41.3 (CH), 41.6 (CH), 41.8 (CH), 50.1 (CH), 52.0 (CH₃), 52.1 (CH₃), 92.5 (C), 124.2 (CH), 132.8 (C), 160.7 (C), 173.3 (C), 173.5 (C); m/z (CI) 412.0475 (MH⁺. C₁₆H₂₁³⁵Cl₃NO₅ requires 412.0485), 378 (100%), 344 (40), 310 (10), 235 (55), 193 (10), 113 (12), 69 (42).

$(1R^*,12bR^*)$ -1-(2',2',2'-Trichloromethylcarbonylamino)-1,2,3,4,6,12b-hexahydrobenz[a]anthracene-7,12-dione (19)



(1R*,12bR*)-1-(2',2',2'-Trichloromethylcarbonylamino)-1,2,3,4,6,12b-

hexahydrobenz[a]anthracene-7,12-dione (19) was synthesised according to above procedure using (2E)-octa-2-en-7-yn-1-ol (10) (0.060 g, 0.48 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred with Grubbs 1st generation catalyst (0.040 g, 0.048 mmol) for 48 h at 75 °C, before 1,4-naphthoquinone (0.15 g, 1.0 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 48 h at 111 °C. Flash column chromatography (petroleum ether/diethyl ether 7:3) gave (1R*,12bR*)-1-(2',2',2'trichloromethylcarbonylamino)-1,2,3,4,6,12b-hexahydrobenz[a]anthracene-7,12-dione (19) (0.12 g. 61%) as a yellow solid. R_f (50% diethyl ether/petroleum ether) 0.51; Mp 176–178 °C; v_{max} /cm⁻¹ (neat) 3418, 3333 (NH), 3073 (ArH), 2935 (CH), 1705 (CO), 1661 (CO), 1591, 1506, 1330, 1293, 821; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (500 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.43 (1H, qt, J 13.6, 3.6 Hz, 3-HH), 1.84–1.94 (2H, m, 2-HH and 3-HH), 1.99 (1H, gt, J 13.6, 3.6 Hz, 2-HH), 2.12 (1H, m, 4-HH), 2.34–2.40 (1H, m, 4-HH), 3.15 (1H, dddd, J 24.9, 6.4, 2.6, 1.9 Hz, 6-HH), 3.24 (1H, dddd, J 24.9, 6.4, 3.6, 2.6 Hz, 6-HH), 3.78 (1H, td, J 6.4, 3.6 Hz, 12b-H), 4.62 (1H, dq, J 9.3, 3.6 Hz, 1-H), 5.78–5.82 (1H, m, 5-H), 6.83 (1H, br d, J 9.3 Hz, NH), 7.62 (1H, td, J 7.4, 1.3 Hz, ArH), 7.66 (1H, td, J 7.4, 1.3 Hz, ArH), 7.96 (1H, dd, J 7.4, 1.3 Hz, ArH), 8.07 (1H, dd, J 7.4, 1.3 Hz, ArH); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (126 MHz, CDCl₃) 23.6 (CH₂), 25.3 (CH₂), 30.3 (CH₂), 34.7 (CH₂), 41.5 (CH), 51.1 (CH), 92.6 (C), 118.5 (CH), 126.1 (CH), 126.7 (CH), 131.7 (C), 132.2 (C), 133.5 (CH and C), 133.9 (CH), 140.4 (C), 142.7 (C), 161.4 (C), 183.7 (C), 184.3 (C); m/z (Cl) 426.0245 (MH⁺, C₂₀H₁₇³⁵Cl₂³⁷ClNO₃ requires 426.0247), 390 (85%), 356 (30), 279 (35), 261 (30), 162 (10), 130 (7), 85 (33), 69 (48).

 $(3aS^*,8R^*,8aR^*,8bR^*)$ -8-(2',2',2'-Trichloromethylcarbonylamino)-4,6,7,8,8a,8b-hexahydro-2-phenylcyclopent[e] isoindole-1,3(2H,3aH)-dione (20)

(3aS*,8R*,8aR*,8bR*)-8-(2',2',2'-Trichloromethylcarbonylamino)-4,6,7,8,8a,8b-hexahydro-2phenylcyclopent[e]isoindole-1,3(2H,3aH)-dione (20) was synthesised according to above procedure using (2E)-hept-2-en-6-yn-1-ol (9) (0.050 g, 0.48 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred with Grubbs 1st generation catalyst (0.040 g, 0.048 mmol) for 48 h at 75 °C before N-phenyl maleimide (0.13 g, 0.73 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 72 h at 75 °C. Flash column chromatography (petroleum ether/diethyl ether, 3:7) gave (3aS*,8R*,8aR*,8bR*)-8-(2',2',2'trichloromethylcarbonylamino)-4,6,7,8,8a,8b-hexahydro-2-phenylcyclopent[e]isoindole-1,3(2H,3aH)-dione (20) (0.13 g, 62%) as white solid. R_f (70% diethyl ether/petroleum ether) 0.44; Mp 174–176 °C; $v_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ (neat) 3304 (NH), 2955 (CH), 2924 (CH), 1695 (CO), 1516, 1388, 1288, 1202, 1182, 822, 750; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (500 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.81 (1H, qd, J 12.5, 7.6 Hz, 7-HH), 2.10–2.18 (1H, m, 7-HH), 2.19–2.38 (2H, m, 6-HH and 4-HH), 2.47 (1H, dd, J 16.2, 7.6 Hz, 6-HH), 2.85 (1H, ddd, J 15.1, 7.2, 1.1 Hz, 4-HH), 2.89–2.96 (1H, m, 8a-H), 3.33 (1H, ddd, J 8.7, 7.2, 1.1 Hz, 3a-H), 3.43 (1H, dd, J 8.7, 6.4 Hz, 8b-H), 4.80–4.91 (1H, m, 8-H), 5.75–5.81 (1H, m, 5-H), 7.15–7.20 (2H, m, 2 \times ArH), 7.39–7.51 (3H, m, 3 \times ArH), 8.95 (1H, d, J 9.2 Hz, NH); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (126 MHz, CDCl₃) 26.1 (CH₂), 28.6 (CH₂), 31.7 (CH₂), 39.4 (CH), 41.2 (CH), 41.5 (CH), 52.9 (CH), 92.9 (C), 117.1 (CH), 126.5 $(2 \times CH)$, 129.2 (CH), 129.3 $(2 \times CH)$, 131.5 (C), 145.8 (C), 162.3 (C), 178.6 (C), 179.7 (C); m/z(CI) 427.0373 (MH⁺. C₁₉H₁₈³⁵Cl₃N₂O₃ requires 427.0383), 393 (65%), 359 (100), 325 (65), 311 (20), 266 (25), 174 (25), 113 (25), 71 (73).

$(1R^*,5aS^*,11aR^*,11bS^*)-1-(2',2',2'-Trichloromethylcarbonylamino)-1,2,3,5,11a,11b-hexahydrocyclopent[a]anthracene-6,11(5aH)-dione (21)$

(1R*,5aS*,11aR*,11bS*)-1-(2',2',2'-Trichloromethylcarbonylamino)-1,2,3,5,11a,11b-

hexahydrocyclopent[a]anthracene-6,11(5aH)-dione (21) was synthesised according to above procedure using (2E)-hept-2-en-6-yn-1-ol (9) (0.055 g, 0.50 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred with Grubbs 1st generation catalyst (0.041 g, 0.050 mmol) for 48 h at 75 °C, before 1,4naphthoquinone (0.12 g, 0.75 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 24 h at 75 °C. Flash column chromatography (petroleum ether/ diethyl ether, 1:1) gave (1R*,5aS*,11aR*,11bS*)-1-(2',2',2'-Trichloromethylcarbonylamino)-1,2,3,5,11a,11b-hexahydrocyclopent[a]anthracene-6,11(5aH)-dione (21) (0.097 g, 47%) as white solid. R_f (50% diethyl ether/petroleum ether) 0.40; Mp 153–155 °C; v_{max} /cm⁻¹ (neat) 3364 (NH), 2940 (CH), 2847 (CH), 2338, 1682 (CO), 1589, 1512, 1281, 1247, 810, 741; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (500 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.95–2.15 (2H, m, 2-HH and 5-HH), 2.15–2.30 (2H, m, 2-HH and 3-HH), 2.35–2.48 (2H, m, 3-HH and 5-HH), 2.91–2.97 (1H, m, 11b-H), 3.33 (1H, ddd, J 11.3, 7.2, 4.4 Hz, 5a-H), 3.51 (1H, t, J 4.4 Hz, 11a-H), 4.65 (1H, m, 1-H), 5.31–5.36 (1H, m, 4-H), 7.44 (1H, d, J 8.8 Hz, NH), 7.60–7.72 (2H, m, 2 × ArH), 7.84 (1H, dd, J 7.3, 1.6 Hz, ArH), 7.99 (1H, dd, J7.3, 1.6 Hz, ArH); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (126 MHz, CDCl₃) 26.9 (CH₂), 31.4 (CH₂), 32.0 (CH₂), 41.5 (CH), 48.6 (CH), 49.5 (CH), 52.9 (CH), 93.0 (C), 114.2 (CH), 126.4 (CH) 127.4 (CH), 132.6 (C), 134.6 (CH), 134.8 (CH), 135.0 (C), 141.7 (C), 161.8 (C), 198.2 (C), 199.9 (C); m/z (EI) 413.0159 (M⁺. C₁₉H₁₆³⁵Cl₂³⁷ClNO₃ requires 413.0169), 376 (5%), 324 (5) 294 (5), 250 (100), 232 (40), 205 (25), 165 (18), 117 (70), 91 (32), 77 (22).

(9R*,9aS*)-7,8,9,9a-Tetrahydro-9-(2',2',2'-trichloromethylcarbonylamino)-1H,5H-cyclopent[c][1,2,4]-triazolo[1,2-a]pyridazine-1,3(2H)-dione (22)

(9R*,9aS*)-7,8,9,9a-Tetrahydro-9-(2',2',2'-trichloromethylcarbonylamino)-1H,5H-

cyclopent[c][1,2,4]-triazolo[1,2-a]pyridazine-1,3(2H)-dione (22) was synthesised according to above procedure using (2E)-hept-2-en-6-yn-1-ol (9) (0.054 g, 0.48 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred with Grubbs 1st generation catalyst (0.040 g, 0.048 mmol) for 48 h at 75 °C, before 4phenyl-1,2,4-triazole-3,5-dione (0.13 g, 0.73 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 24 h at 75 °C. Flash column chromatography (dichloromethane/methanol, 19:1) gave (9R*,9aS*)-7.8.9.9a-tetrahydro-9-(2',2',2'-trichloromethylcarbonylamino)-1H,5H-cyclopent[c][1,2,4]triazolo[1,2-a]pyridazine-1,3(2H)-dione (22) (0.095 g, 46%) as a white solid. R_f (10% methanol/dichloromethane) 0.58; Mp 55–57 °C; v_{max} /cm⁻¹ (neat) 3396 (NH), 3057 (ArH), 2359, 2342, 1773 (CO), 1699 (CO), 1516, 1503, 1419, 1265, 1140, 820, 731; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (500 MHz, CDCl₃) 2.13–2.22 (1H, m, 8-HH), 2.31 (1H, dt, J 15.0, 5.6 Hz, 8-HH), 2.53–2.61 (1H, m, 7-H₂), 4.11 (1H, dquin, J 16.4, 2.8 Hz, 5-HH), 4.32–4.41 (2H, m, 5-HH and 9a-H), 4.89 (1H, q, J 5.6 Hz, 9-H), 5.93–5.98 (1H, m, 6-H), 6.75 (1H, d, J 5.6 Hz, NH), 7.38–7.53 (5H, m, 5 × ArH); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (126 MHz, $CDCl_3$) 24.9 (CH₂), 27.8 (CH₂), 42.5 (CH₂), 53.3 (CH), 59.9 (CH), 92.6 (C), 115.6 (CH), 125.4 (2 × CH), 128.4 (CH), 129.2 (2 × CH), 130.9 (C), 137.0 (C), 151.5 (C), 153.2 (C), 161.4 (C); m/z (EI) 428.0208 (M⁺, C₁₇H₁₅³⁵Cl₃N₄O₃ requires 428.0210), 393 (5%), 343 (10), 311 (20), 267 (100), 241 (5), 192 (8), 148 (23), 119 (83), 91 (70), 66 (29).

Methyl $(1R^*,7S^*,7aS^*)$ -1-(2',2',2'-trichloromethylcarbonylamino)-2,3,5,6,7,7a-hexahydroindene-7-carboxylate (23)

Methyl $(1R^*,7S^*,7aS^*)-1-(2',2',2'-trichloromethylcarbonylamino)-2,3,5,6,7,7a-hexahydroindene-7-carboxylate (23) was synthesised according to above procedure, using (2$ *E* $)-hept-2-en-6-yn-1-ol (9) (0.050 g, 0.48 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred with Grubbs <math>1^{st}$ generation catalyst

(0.041 g, 0.050 mmol) for 48 h at 75 °C, before methyl acrylate (0.13 mL, 1.44 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 13 days at 75 °C. Flash column chromatography (petroleum ether/diethyl ether, 20:7) gave methyl ($1R^*$, $7S^*$, $7aS^*$)-1-(2',2',2'-trichloromethylcarbonylamino)-2,3,5,6,7,7a-hexahydroindene-7-carboxylate (23) (0.074 g, 45%) as a colourless oil. R_f (50% petroleum ether/diethyl ether) 0.66; v_{max} /cm⁻¹ 3410 (NH), 2953 (CH), 1709 (CO), 1508, 1198, 1171, 818, 735; δ_H (500 MHz, CDCl₃) 1.69–1.83 (2H, m, 2-*H*H and 3-*H*H), 1.95–2.11 (4H, m, 2-H*H*, 5-*H*H and 6-H₂), 2.15–2.25 (1H, m, 3-H*H*), 2.32 (1H, dd, *J* 15.2, 6.3 Hz, 5-H*H*), 2.79–2.89 (2H, m, 7-H and 7a-H), 3.60 (1H, s, OCH₃), 4.51 (1H, dq, *J* 8.7, 7.2 Hz, 1-H), 5.45 (1H, br s, 4-H), 7.51 (1H, d, *J* 7.2 Hz, NH); δ_c (126 MHz, CDCl₃) 22.6 (CH₂), 26.0 (CH₂), 30.2 (CH₂), 31.7 (CH₂), 39.3 (CH), 42.5 (CH), 52.0 (CH), 53.3 (CH₃), 92.9 (C), 117.7 (CH), 140.1 (C), 161.7 (C), 175.7 (C); m/z (CI) 342.0247 (MH⁺. C₁₃H₁₇³⁵Cl₂³⁷ClNO₃ requires 342.0246), 324 (60%), 306 (29), 257 (8), 230 (11), 195 (49), 179 (28), 157 (50), 141 (16), 73 (24).

3. Experimental for Molecular Modeling

All calculations were done with the program Gaussian 09⁶ using the M06-2X exchange-correlation functional, ⁷ which has been shown ^{7,8} to provide accurate results for main-group thermochemistry, including reaction barriers. For the reaction at hand, where two relatively large molecules are brought together, it is particularly important to use a method that accounts for dispersive interactions, such as the functionals of the M06 family. The def2-TZVP basis set⁹ was used, which affords results close to the basis-set limit for density-functional theory. All calculations included the effects of the toluene solvent at the level of the IEF-PCM polarizable continuum model as implemented in Gaussian 09. Default parameters for SCF and geometry convergence were used. The characters of stationary points were verified by the appropriate number of imaginary frequencies, which were obtained from analytical second derivatives. Thermochemical data were calculated within the standard rigid-rotor/harmonic-oscillator framework at 384 K (boiling point of toluene), 100 kPa; vibrational frequencies were not scaled.

Different rotamers of the diene were explored by structure optimisations starting from a series of initial structures with different exocyclic torsions θ and ϕ (Figure S1). The cyclohexene ring was maintained in a pseudo-chair conformation with (pseudo-) equatorial amide.

In the lowest-energy conformer of the diene, which was used in all subsequent calculations, the diene moiety is non-planar, with the vinyl substituent on the same side of the ring as the amide (θ =

38°). It should be noted, however, that the energy differences between different rotamers are insignificant ($\sim 0.1 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$). With respect to ϕ , only one rotamer was found, with $\phi = 139^{\circ}$.

Structures of products and pre-reaction complexes were determined by displacing the optimised TS structures slightly along the imaginary mode in either direction and optimising. Interestingly, the pre-reaction complexes are bound only on the potential-energy surfaces (irrespective of zero-point vibrational or thermal corrections), but not on the free-energy surface; see Table S1.

Figure S1.

Table S1. Thermochemical data (384 K, 100 kPa, relative to free reactants) for the formation of pre-reaction complexes, transition states, and products.

		ΔE kJ mol ⁻¹	ΔU(0 K) kJ mol ⁻¹	ΔH kJ mol ⁻¹	ΔS J mol ⁻¹ K ⁻¹	ΔG kJ mol ⁻¹
pre-reaction complex	syn	-42.5	-38.6	-36.1	-183.2	34.2
	anti	-40.0	-37.1	-37.0	-207.3	42.6
TS	syn	20.9	29.6	25.7	-231.1	114.5
	anti	23.7	31.0	24.4	-261.5	124.8
product	syn	-195.9	-174.2	-180.0	-227.3	-92.8
	anti	-188.1	-168.0	-173.4	-231.6	-84.5

Cartesian coordinates of stationary points

```
20
dienophile
C -0.249390 -1.448072
                       0.072591
C -0.708851 -0.021546
                       0.080003
  0.363658 0.740182 -0.396621
0 -1.775947
            0.399667
                       0.427923
C
  1.442683 -0.098554 -0.696485
  0.995014 -1.492629 -0.376675
C
  2.506734 0.245173 -1.128696
H -0.893878 -2.248732
                       0.399837
  1.646398 -2.340141 -0.521362
2.314181 2.395563 0.290034
Н
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  1.459431
             2.152390 -0.552801
  0.357854
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 -1.599630
             2.189658 -1.426645
             4.157295 -1.255789
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H -1.616020
             4.645046 -1.687766
 0.346570 4.906571 -0.857428
С
H 0.342164 5.981959 -0.976374
```

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1.450807 4.271379 -0.305937
H 2.310470 4.848720 0.008236
27
diene
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C -1.174359 -0.681396 -0.123911
C -0.937662 -1.994272 -0.115899
C -2.006734 -3.034313 0.073025
H -1.925778 -3.467137
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C -2.549760 -0.113268 0.130058
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Η
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Η
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H -0.799711 2.339340 1.693280
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H -2.526361
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Η
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Η
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Η
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Η
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             1.840645
                       0.056473
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            0.087484
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4. NOE Enhancements for compounds 14-23

5. References

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