

Supporting Information

Functionalized Heterocyclic Scaffolds Derived from Morita-Baylis-Hillman Acetates

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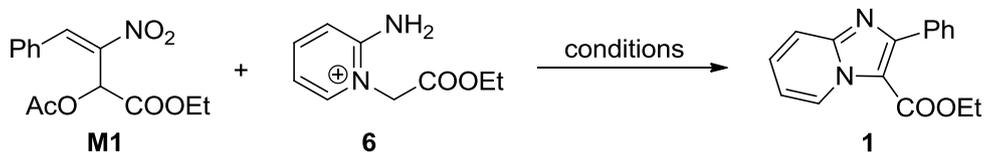
I. General Remarks

DMF was distilled from calcium hydride. Purifications of reaction products were carried out by chromatography using silica gel (200–300 mesh). Melting points were measured on a Perkin-Taike X-4 apparatus and have been corrected. High resolution MS data were recorded on a Agilent 6200 Series TOF spectrometer. NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AVIII for ^1H NMR at 500 MHz and for ^{13}C NMR at 125 MHz. For ^1H NMR, tetramethylsilane (TMS) served as internal standard (δ). The spectra data presented here are reported as follows: chemical shift, integration, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet), and coupling constant(s) in Hertz. For ^{13}C NMR TMS ($\delta = 0$) or CDCl_3 ($\delta = 77.26$) was used as internal standard and spectra were obtained with complete proton decoupling. The starting materials MBHAs were prepared according to literature methods.¹ Compounds **6–10** are commercially available.

II. Optimization of Reaction Conditions

Initially we optimized the reaction of MBHAs with bifunctional nucleophiles. Ethyl-2-acetoxy-3-nitro-4-phenylbut-3(E)-enoate (**M1**) was used as the model reactant of MBHAs. Different solvents, bases and temperature were examined and the results were shown in Table 1–5. The most successful entry is highlighted in bold and used as the reaction system to form the heterocycles.

Table 1: Optimization of reaction conditions for imidazo[1,2-a]pyridines.^[a]



Entry	Solvent	Base	T (°C)	Yield (%) ^[b]
1	DMF	K_2CO_3	25	0
2	DMF	K_2CO_3	80	30
3	DMF	K_2CO_3	115	81
4	MeCN	K_2CO_3	80	18
5	MeOH	K_2CO_3	65	0
6	toluene	K_2CO_3	110	trace
7	DMF	DABCO	115	24
8	DMF	Na_2CO_3	115	72
9	DMF	DBU	115	42
10	DMF	Et_3N	115	15

[a] Reaction conditions: **M1** (0.2 mmol), **6** (0.2 mmol), K_2CO_3 (0.2 mmol), solvent (2 mL) were stirred at rt for 30 min, then heated to corresponding temperature. [b] Determined by high-performance liquid chromatography based on the disappearance of the starting **M1**.

Table 2: Optimization of reaction conditions for indolizines.^[a]

Entry	Solvent	Base	T (°C)	Yield (%) ^[b]
1	DMF	K ₂ CO ₃	25	62
2	DMF	K ₂ CO ₃	80	21
3	MeCN	K ₂ CO ₃	25	70
4	MeOH	K ₂ CO ₃	25	0
5	toluene	K ₂ CO ₃	25	56
6	MeCN	DABCO	25	66
7	MeCN	Na ₂ CO ₃	25	60
8	MeCN	DBU	25	34
9	MeCN	Et₃N	25	88

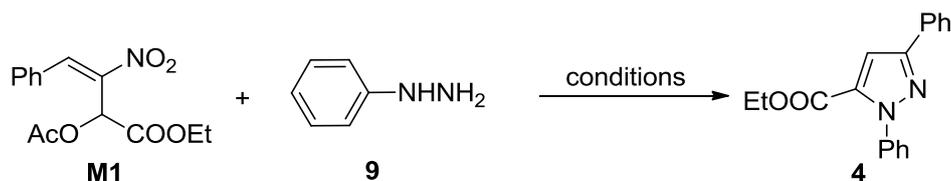
[a] Reaction conditions: **M1** (0.2 mmol), **7a** (0.2 mmol), base (0.3 mmol), solvent (2 mL) were stirred overnight. [b] Determined by high-performance liquid chromatography based on the disappearance of the starting **M1**.

Table 3: Optimization of reaction conditions for pyrroles.^[a]

Entry	Solvent	Base	T (°C)	Yield (%) ^[b]
1	MeCN	DBU	25	44
2	MeCN	DBU	80	<10
3	DMF	DBU	25	0
4	MeOH	DBU	25	0
5	toluene	DBU	25	70
6	toluene	Na ₂ CO ₃	25	0
7	toluene	K ₂ CO ₃	25	0
8	toluene	DABCO	25	0
9	toluene	Et ₃ N	25	0

[a] Reaction conditions: **M1** (0.2 mmol), **8** (0.2 mmol), base (0.2 mmol), solvent (2 mL) were stirred for 2h. [b] Determined by high-performance liquid chromatography based on the disappearance of the starting **M1**.

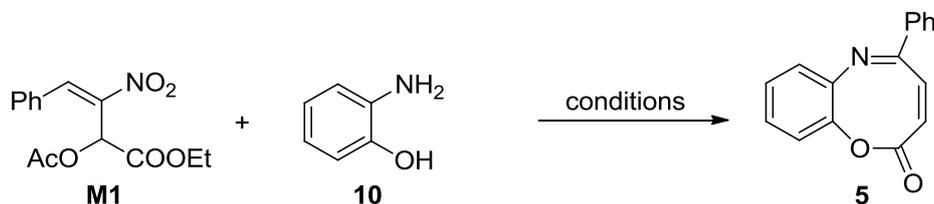
Table 4: Optimization of reaction conditions for pyrazoles.^[a]



Entry	Solvent	Base	T (°C)	Yield (%) ^[b]
1	MeOH	-	25	39
2	MeOH	-	50	85
3	MeOH	-	65	90
4	MeOH	Na ₂ CO ₃	65	80
5	MeOH	K ₂ CO ₃	65	79
6	MeOH	DABCO	65	83
7	MeOH	DBU	65	41
8	MeOH	Et ₃ N	65	76
9	MeCN	-	65	25
10	DMF	-	65	<15
11	toluene	-	65	trace

[a] Reaction conditions: **M1** (0.2 mmol), **9** (0.2 mmol), base (0.2 mmol) or absence, solvent (2 mL) were stirred overnight. [b] Determined by high-performance liquid chromatography based on the disappearance of the starting **M1**.

Table 5: Optimization of reaction conditions for benzo[b][1,6]oxazocin-2-ones.^[a]



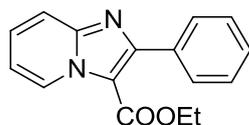
Entry	Solvent	Base	T (°C)	Yield (%) ^[b]
1	MeOH	-	40	0
2	MeOH	Na₂CO₃	40	78
3	MeOH	K ₂ CO ₃	40	31
4	MeOH	DABCO	40	29
5	MeOH	DBU	40	trace
6	MeOH	Et ₃ N	40	33
7	MeOH	Na ₂ CO ₃	25	0
8	MeCN	Na ₂ CO ₃	40	<15
9	DMF	Na ₂ CO ₃	40	0
10	toluene	Na ₂ CO ₃	40	trace

[a] Reaction conditions: **M1** (0.2 mmol), **10** (0.2 mmol), solvent (2 mL) were stirred at rt for 15 min. Then base (0.2 mmol) was added and the mixture was heated to corresponding temperature for 2h. [b] Determined by high-performance liquid chromatography based on the disappearance of the starting **M1**.

III. General Procedure for the Synthesis of Imidazo[1,2-a]pyridines

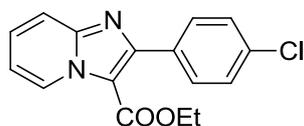
A mixture of MBHAs (0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv), 2-amino-1-ethoxycarbonylmethyl-pyridium (**6**, 0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and K_2CO_3 (0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was stirred in DMF (2.0 mL) at room temperature for 30 min, then the mixture was heated to 115 °C for 1h. Water (5 mL) was added to it and the mixture was extracted three times with EtOAc (10 mL \times 3). The combined organic layers were washed with water (10 mL \times 3) and brine (10 mL), dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and concentrated in vacuum. Purification of the residue by chromatography (silica gel) affords the product.

Ethyl 2-phenylimidazo[1,2-a]pyridine-3-carboxylate (**1a**):



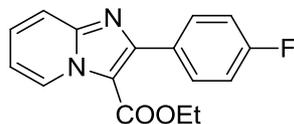
Yellow solid. m.p.: 70 – 72 °C; 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 9.41 (1H, d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 7.75 (3H, m), 7.43 (4H, m), 7.03 (1H, td, $J = 7.0, 1.5$ Hz), 4.30 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.22 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 161.2, 153.6, 147.1, 134.5, 130.2, 128.7, 128.3, 127.9, 127.5, 117.5, 114.1, 111.9, 60.5, 13.9. HRMS Calcd. For $C_{16}H_{14}N_2O_2 + H^+$: 267.1134, found: 267.1146.

Ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)imidazo[1,2-a]pyridine-3-carboxylate (**1b**):



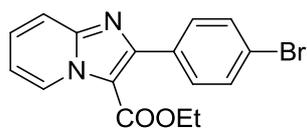
Yellow solid. m.p.: 110 – 112 °C; 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 9.41 (1H, d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 7.73 (3H, m), 7.45 (1H, t, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 7.41 (2H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 7.05 (1H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 4.32 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.25 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 160.9, 152.3, 147.1, 134.8, 132.9, 131.6, 128.4, 128.2, 127.8, 117.5, 114.3, 112.0, 60.6, 14.1. HRMS Calcd. For $C_{16}H_{13}ClN_2O_2 + H^+$: 301.0744, found: 301.0738.

Ethyl 2-(4-fluorophenyl)imidazo[1,2-a]pyridine-3-carboxylate (**1c**):



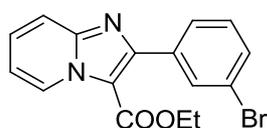
Yellow solid. m.p.: 95 – 97 °C; 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 9.41(1H, d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 7.74 (3H, m), 7.44(1H, m), 7.12 (2H, t, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 7.05 (1H, td, $J = 7.0, 1.0$ Hz), 4.32 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.24 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 163.2 (d, $J = 247$ Hz), 161.0, 152.6, 147.1, 132.1 (d, $J = 8$ Hz), 130.5 (d, $J = 4$ Hz), 128.4, 128.1, 117.5, 114.6 (d, $J = 21$ Hz), 114.2, 111.9, 60.6, 14.1. HRMS Calcd. For $C_{16}H_{13}FN_2O_2 + H^+$: 285.1039, found: 285.1035.

Ethyl 2-(4-bromophenyl)imidazo[1,2-a]pyridine-3-carboxylate (1d):



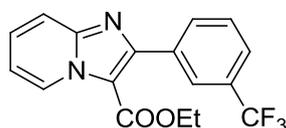
Yellow solid. m.p.: 120 – 122 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.40 (1H, dt, *J* = 7.0, 1.0 Hz), 7.30 (1H, dt, *J* = 9.0, 1.0 Hz), 7.66 (2H, dt, *J* = 7.5, 2.0 Hz), 7.56 (1H, dt, *J* = 8.5, 2.0 Hz), 7.45 (1H, m), 7.05 (1H, td, *J* = 7.0, 1.5 Hz), 4.32 (2H, q, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 1.25 (3H, t, *J* = 7.0 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 160.9, 152.3, 147.1, 133.4, 131.9, 130.8, 128.4, 128.2, 123.1, 117.5, 114.3, 112.0, 60.6, 14.1. HRMS Calcd. For C₁₆H₁₃BrN₂O₂ + H⁺: 345.0239, found: 345.0229.

Ethyl 2-(3-bromophenyl)imidazo[1,2-a]pyridine-3-carboxylate (1e):



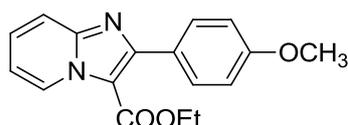
Yellow solid. m.p.: 107 – 109 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.43 (1H, dt, *J* = 7.0, 2.0 Hz), 7.93 (1H, t, *J* = 7.0), 7.74 (1H, d, *J* = 9.0), 7.71 (1H, dt, *J* = 7.0, 2.0 Hz), 7.55 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.0, 2.0, 1.0 Hz), 7.46 (1H, ddd, *J* = 9.0, 7.0, 1.5 Hz), 7.31 (1H, d, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.06 (1H, td, *J* = 7.0, 1.0 Hz), 4.33 (2H, q, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 1.27 (3H, t, *J* = 7.0 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 160.9, 151.7, 147.1, 136.5, 133.3, 129.2, 128.8, 128.4, 128.2, 121.5, 117.6, 114.4, 112.1, 60.7, 14.0. HRMS Calcd. For C₁₆H₁₃BrN₂O₂ + H⁺: 345.0239, found: 345.0229.

Ethyl 2-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)imidazo[1,2-a]pyridine-3-carboxylate (1f):



Yellow solid. m.p.: 108 – 110 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.45 (1H, d, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 8.05 (1H, s), 7.97 (1H, d, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.76 (1H, d, *J* = 9.0 Hz), 7.68 (1H, d, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.57 (1H, t, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.47 (1H, t, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.07 (1H, t, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 4.31 (2H, q, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 1.21 (3H, t, *J* = 7.0 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 160.8, 151.8, 147.2, 135.3, 133.5, 129.9 (d, *J* = 33 Hz), 128.4, 128.3, 128.2, 127.3 (q, *J* = 4 Hz), 125.4 (q, *J* = 4 Hz), 125.3 (q, *J* = 271 Hz), 117.6, 114.5, 112.2, 60.7, 13.8. HRMS Calcd. For C₁₇H₁₃F₃N₂O₂ + H⁺: 335.1007, found: 335.1004.

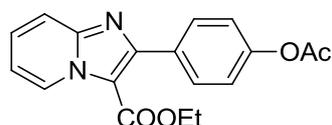
Ethyl 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)imidazo[1,2-a]pyridine-3-carboxylate (1g):



Yellow oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.39 (1H, d, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 7.75 (2H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 7.71 (1H, d, *J* = 9.5 Hz), 7.39 (1H, t, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.00 (1H, t, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 6.96 (2H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 4.32 (2H, q, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 3.85 (3H, s), 1.26 (3H, t, *J* = 7.0 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 161.2, 160.1, 153.4, 147.1, 131.6, 128.4, 127.9, 126.7, 117.3, 113.9, 113.0, 111.6, 60.4, 55.3, 14.1.

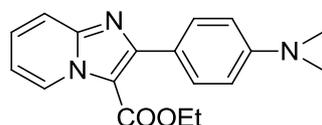
HRMS Calcd. For $C_{17}H_{16}N_2O_3 + H^+$: 297.1239, found: 297.1230.

Ethyl 2-(4-acetoxyphenyl)imidazo[1,2-a]pyridine-3-carboxylate (1h):



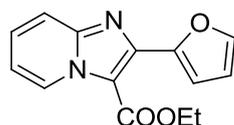
Yellow solid. m.p.: 112 – 114 °C; 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 9.42 (1H, d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 7.80 (2H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 7.74 (1H, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 7.45 (1H, m), 7.18 (2H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 7.05 (1H, td, $J = 7.0, 1.0$ Hz), 4.32 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 2.33 (3H, s), 1.24 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 169.3, 161.1, 152.6, 151.1, 147.1, 132.0, 131.4, 128.4, 128.1, 120.7, 117.5, 114.2, 95.9, 60.6, 21.3, 14.0. HRMS Calcd. For $C_{18}H_{16}N_2O_4 + H^+$: 325.1188, found: 325.1182.

Ethyl 2-(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)imidazo[1,2-a]pyridine-3-carboxylate (1i):



Yellow oil. 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 9.39 (1H, d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 7.75 (2H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 7.71 (1H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 7.39 (1H, m), 6.98 (1H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 6.76 (1H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 4.35 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.32 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 163.5, 154.1, 150.8, 147.1, 131.3, 128.4, 127.7, 121.7, 117.1, 113.6, 111.2, 111.1, 60.4, 40.4, 14.3. HRMS Calcd. For $C_{18}H_{19}N_3O_2 + H^+$: 310.1556, found: 310.1555.

Ethyl 2-(furan-2-yl)imidazo[1,2-a]pyridine-3-carboxylate (1j):

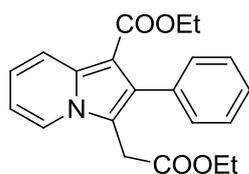


Yellow oil. 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 9.36 (1H, d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 7.74 (1H, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 7.62 (1H, d, $J = 1.5$ Hz), 7.41 (2H, m), 7.01 (1H, td, $J = 7.0, 1.0$ Hz), 6.56 (1H, dd, $J = 3.5, 2.0$ Hz), 4.50 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.47 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 160.6, 147.6, 147.2, 143.7, 143.1, 128.5, 128.3, 117.6, 114.2, 113.9, 111.6, 110.9, 60.9, 14.5. HRMS Calcd. For $C_{14}H_{12}N_2O_3 + H^+$: 257.0926, found: 257.0917.

IV. General Procedure for the Synthesis of Indolizines

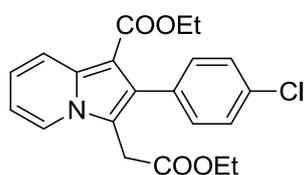
A mixture of MBHAs (0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv), ethyl 2-pyridylacetate (**7a**, 0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and Et_3N (0.45 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was stirred in MeCN (2 mL) at room temperature overnight. Once starting material was consumed (monitored by TLC), the organic solvent was removed and the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel) to give the product. The same method can also be used to prepare indolizines with cyano group from 2-pyridylacetonitrile (**7b**).

Ethyl 3-(2-ethoxy-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenylindolizine-1-carboxylate (2a):



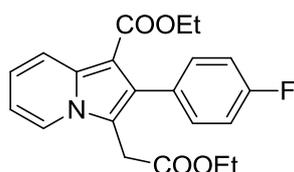
Brown oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.32 (1H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 7.97 (1H, d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 7.38 (5H, m), 7.12 (1H, ddd, $J = 9.5, 7.0, 1.0$ Hz), 6.82 (1H, td, $J = 7.0, 1.0$ Hz), 4.1 (4H, m), 3.75 (2H, s), 1.23 (3H, t, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 1.10 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 169.7, 164.9, 136.2, 134.8, 131.8, 130.5, 127.5, 127.1, 123.1, 122.3, 120.2, 116.5, 112.8, 102.2, 61.4, 59.2, 30.9, 14.1. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_4 + \text{H}^+$: 352.1549, found: 352.1537.

Ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(2-ethoxy-2-oxoethyl)indolizine-1-carboxylate (2b):



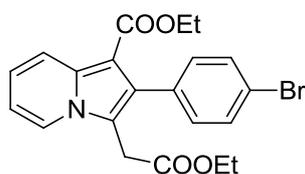
Brown oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.31 (1H, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 7.98 (1H, d, d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 7.38 (2H, m), 7.32 (2H, m), 7.13 (1H, ddd, d, $J = 9.5, 7.0, 1.0$ Hz), 6.83 (1H, td, d, $J = 7.0, 1.0$ Hz), 4.17 (4H, m), 3.73 (2H, s), 1.24 (3H, t, d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.16 (3H, t, d, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 169.6, 164.8, 136.3, 133.4, 133.3, 132.0, 130.4, 127.9, 123.3, 122.6, 120.4, 116.7, 113.1, 102.2, 61.6, 59.4, 30.9, 14.3, 14.2. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{20}\text{ClNO}_4 + \text{H}^+$: 386.1159, found: 386.1155.

Ethyl 3-(2-ethoxy-2-oxoethyl)-2-(4-fluorophenyl)indolizine-1-carboxylate (2c):



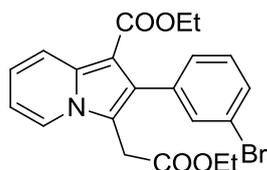
Brown oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.31 (1H, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 7.98 (1H, d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 7.35 (2H, m), 7.12 (3H, m), 6.82 (1H, td, $J = 6.5, 1.0$ Hz), 4.17 (4H, m), 3.73 (2H, s), 1.23 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.15 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 169.5, 164.8, 162.3 (d, $J = 244$ Hz), 136.2, 132.1 (d, $J = 8$ Hz), 130.7, 130.6 (d, $J = 4$ Hz), 123.1, 122.5, 120.2, 116.6, 114.4 (d, $J = 21$ Hz), 112.9, 102.2, 61.4, 59.2, 30.8, 14.2, 14.1. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{20}\text{FNO}_4 + \text{H}^+$: 370.1455, found: 370.1449.

Ethyl 2-(4-bromophenyl)-3-(2-ethoxy-2-oxoethyl)indolizine-1-carboxylate (2d):



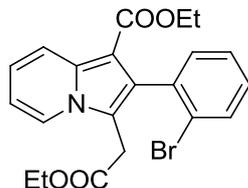
Brown oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.31 (1H, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 7.98 (1H, d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 7.53 (2H, d, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 7.27 (2H, d, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 7.13 (1H, ddd, $J = 8.0, 7.0, 1.0$ Hz), 6.83 (1H, td, $J = 7.0, 1.0$ Hz), 4.19 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 4.15 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.24 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.16 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 169.6, 164.8, 136.3, 133.8, 132.4, 130.8, 130.6, 123.3, 122.7, 121.6, 120.4, 116.6, 113.1, 102.2, 61.6, 59.4, 30.9, 14.3, 14.2. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{20}\text{BrNO}_4 + \text{H}^+$: 430.0654, found: 430.0652.

Ethyl 2-(3-bromophenyl)-3-(2-ethoxy-2-oxoethyl)indolizine-1-carboxylate (2e):



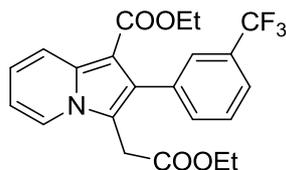
Brown oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.32 (1H, d, $J = 9.5$ Hz), 8.00 (1H, d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 7.56 (1H, t, $J = 1.5$ Hz), 7.49 (1H, dt, $J = 8.0, 1.0$ Hz), 7.33 (1H, d, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 7.27 (1H, t, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 7.13 (1H, dd, $J = 8.0, 7.0$ Hz), 6.83 (1H, td, $J = 7.0, 1.0$ Hz), 4.16 (4H, m), 3.74 (2H, s), 1.25 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.13 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 169.5, 164.8, 137.1, 136.4, 133.7, 130.3, 130.1, 129.4, 129.1, 123.3, 122.7, 121.6, 120.3, 116.7, 113.2, 102.2, 61.6, 59.4, 31.0, 14.3, 14.2. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{20}\text{BrNO}_4 + \text{H}^+$: 430.0654, found: 430.0652.

Ethyl 2-(2-bromophenyl)-3-(2-ethoxy-2-oxoethyl)indolizine-1-carboxylate (2f):



Brown oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.32 (1H, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 8.00 (1H, d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 7.65 (1H, dd, $J = 8.0, 1.0$ Hz), 7.33 (2H, m), 7.23 (1H, td, $J = 8.0, 2.0$ Hz), 7.12 (1H, ddd, $J = 8.0, 7.0, 1.0$ Hz), 6.82 (1H, td, $J = 7.0, 1.0$ Hz), 4.11 (4H, m), 3.70 (1H, d, $J = 16.5$ Hz), 3.66 (1H, d, $J = 16.5$ Hz), 1.19 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.03 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 169.3, 164.7, 136.5, 136.1, 132.2, 131.9, 130.3, 129.0, 126.8, 125.2, 123.4, 122.5, 120.3, 116.5, 112.9, 102.8, 61.4, 59.2, 30.8, 14.2, 14.0. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{20}\text{BrNO}_4 + \text{H}^+$: 430.0654, found: 430.0652.

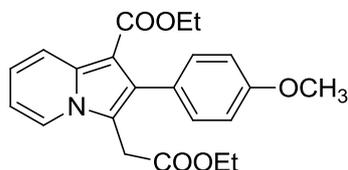
Ethyl 3-(2-ethoxy-2-oxoethyl)-2-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)indolizine-1-carboxylate (2g):



Brown oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.38 (1H, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 8.03 (1H, d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 7.69 (1H, s), 7.63 (1H, d, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 7.60 (1H, d, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 7.53 (1H, t, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 7.16 (1H, m), 6.86 (1H, td, $J = 7.0, 1.0$ Hz), 4.16 (4H, m), 3.72 (2H, s), 1.24 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.06 (3H, t, $J =$

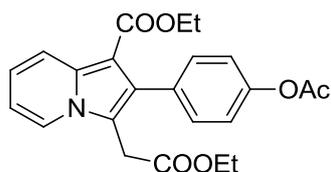
7.0 Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 169.3, 164.6, 136.4, 135.7, 134.0, 130.0, 129.9 (d, $J = 32$ Hz), 127.9, 127.5 (q, $J = 4$ Hz), 125.4, 123.9 (q, $J = 4$ Hz), 123.2, 122.7, 120.3, 116.6, 113.2, 102.2, 61.5, 59.3, 30.9, 14.0, 13.9. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{20}\text{F}_3\text{NO}_4 + \text{H}^+$: 420.1423, found: 420.1416.

Ethyl 3-(2-ethoxy-2-oxoethyl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)indolizine-1-carboxylate (2h):



Brown oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.30 (1H, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 7.96 (1H, d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 7.32 (2H, dt, $J = 8.5, 2.0$ Hz), 7.11 (1H, dd, $J = 9.0, 6.5$ Hz), 6.95 (2H, dt, $J = 8.5, 2.0$ Hz), 6.81 (1H, td, $J = 8.5, 2.0$ Hz), 4.20 (2H, q, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 4.15 (2H, q, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 3.86 (3H, s), 3.76 (2H, s), 1.23 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.18 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 169.7, 164.9, 158.8, 136.1, 131.7, 131.5, 126.9, 122.2, 120.2, 116.6, 113.0, 112.7, 102.2, 61.3, 59.2, 55.3, 30.9, 14.3, 14.2. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO}_5 + \text{H}^+$: 382.1654, found: 382.1645.

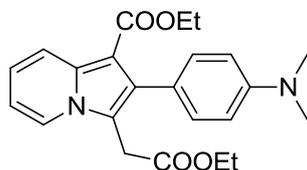
Ethyl 2-(4-acetoxyphenyl)-3-(2-ethoxy-2-oxoethyl)indolizine-1-carboxylate (2i):



Brown oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.32 (1H, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 7.96 (1H, d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 7.40 (2H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 7.13 (3H, m), 6.82 (1H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 4.16 (4H, m), 3.76 (2H, s), 2.33 (3H, s), 1.24 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.12 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 169.7, 169.6, 165.0, 150.1, 136.4, 132.4, 131.7, 130.8, 123.2, 122.6, 120.7, 120.3, 116.7, 113.1, 102.3, 61.5, 59.4, 30.9, 21.4, 14.2, 14.2. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO}_6 + \text{H}^+$: 410.1604, found: 410.1600.

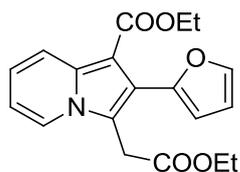
Ethyl 2-(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)-3-(2-ethoxy-2-oxoethyl)indolizine-1-carboxylate (2j):

Late (2j):



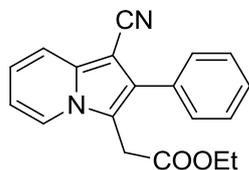
Brown oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.29 (1H, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 7.95 (1H, d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 7.28 (2H, dt, $J = 8.5, 3.0$ Hz), 7.09 (1H, m), 6.79 (3H, m), 4.23 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 4.16 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 3.80 (2H, s), 2.99 (6H, s), 1.23 (6H, m); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 170.1, 165.2, 149.9, 136.3, 132.4, 131.5, 123.2, 122.5, 122.0, 120.3, 116.6, 112.7, 111.9, 102.3, 61.4, 59.2, 10.8, 31.2, 14.5, 14.3. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4 + \text{H}^+$: 395.1971, found: 395.1970.

Ethyl 3-(2-ethoxy-2-oxoethyl)-2-(furan-2-yl)indolizine-1-carboxylate (2k):



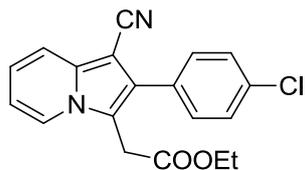
Brown oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.28 (1H, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 7.98 (1H, d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 7.56 (1H, m), 7.10 (1H, ddd, $J = 9.0, 7.0, 1.0$ Hz), 6.80 (1H, td, $J = 7.0, 1.0$ Hz), 6.68 (1H, d, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 6.52 (1H, m), 4.29 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 4.15 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 3.96 (2H, s), 1.28 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.23 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 169.4, 164.5, 147.4, 142.4, 136.4, 123.2, 122.5, 120.4, 120.3, 117.7, 113.0, 110.8, 110.8, 102.1, 61.4, 59.4, 31.2, 14.4, 14.1. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_5 + \text{H}^+$: 342.1341, found: 342.1333.

Ethyl 2-(1-cyano-2-phenylindolizin-3-yl)acetate (2l):



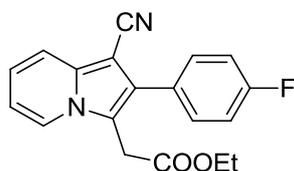
Brown solid. m.p.: 134 – 136 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.04 (1H, d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 7.70 (1H, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 7.58 (2H, d, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 7.50 (2H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 7.42 (1H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 7.14 (1H, t, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 6.86 (1H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 4.22 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 3.92 (2H, s), 1.28 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 169.3, 138.1, 132.0, 131.8, 129.6, 128.9, 128.2, 123.8, 122.5, 117.9, 116.7, 115.3, 113.4, 81.9, 61.7, 31.1, 14.2. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2 + \text{H}^+$: 305.1290, found: 305.1278.

Ethyl 2-(2-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-cyanoindolizin-3-yl)acetate (2m):



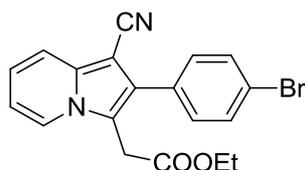
Brown solid. m.p.: 139 – 141 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.05 (1H, d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 7.69 (1H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 7.53 (2H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 7.47 (2H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 7.15 (1H, dd, $J = 8.5, 7.0$ Hz), 6.87 (1H, td, $J = 7.0, 1.0$ Hz), 4.23 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 3.88 (2H, s), 1.28 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 169.1, 138.2, 134.4, 130.9, 130.6, 130.5, 129.1, 123.8, 122.8, 117.9, 116.5, 115.4, 113.5, 81.9, 61.8, 31.0, 14.2. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{15}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}_2 + \text{H}^+$: 339.0900, found: 339.0898.

Ethyl 2-(1-cyano-2-(4-fluorophenyl)indolizin-3-yl)acetate (2n):



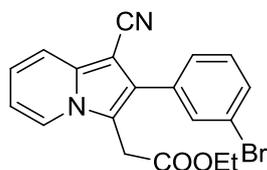
Brown solid. m.p.: 109 – 111 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.05 (1H, d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 7.69 (1H, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 7.56 (2H, m), 7.16 (3H, m), 6.87 (1H, td, $J = 7.0, 1.0$ Hz), 4.22 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 3.88 (2H, s), 1.28 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 169.2, 162.77 (d, $J = 247$ Hz), 138.1, 131.4 (d, $J = 8$ Hz), 130.4, 128.0 (d, $J = 4$ Hz), 123.8, 122.7, 117.8, 116.6, 115.9 (d, $J = 21$ Hz), 115.3, 113.5, 81.9, 61.8, 31.0, 14.2. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{15}\text{FN}_2\text{O}_2 + \text{H}^+$: 323.1196, found: 323.1191.

Ethyl 2-(2-(4-bromophenyl)-1-cyanoindolizin-3-yl)acetate (2o):



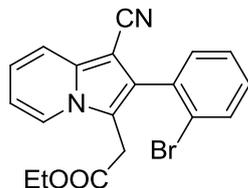
Brown solid. m.p.: 128 – 130 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.05 (1H, d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 7.69 (1H, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 7.63 (2H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 7.46 (2H, d, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 7.15 (1H, dd, $J = 8.5, 7.0$ Hz), 6.87 (1H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 4.22 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 3.88 (2H, s), 1.28 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 169.1, 138.2, 132.1, 131.2, 130.9, 130.6, 123.9, 122.8, 122.7, 117.9, 116.5, 115.3, 113.6, 81.8, 61.9, 31.0, 14.2. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{15}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}_2 + \text{H}^+$: 383.0395, found: 383.0386.

Ethyl 2-(2-(3-bromophenyl)-1-cyanoindolizin-3-yl)acetate (2p):



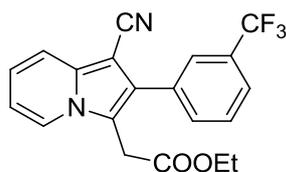
Brown solid. m.p.: 107 – 109 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.09 (1H, d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 7.60 (1H, t, $J = 2.0$ Hz), 7.70 (1H, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 7.55 (2H, m), 7.37 (1H, t, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 7.16 (1H, dd, $J = 8.5, 7.0$ Hz), 6.88 (1H, td, $J = 7.0, 1.0$ Hz), 4.23 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 3.89 (2H, s), 1.31 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 169.0, 138.2, 134.1, 132.5, 131.3, 130.4, 130.1, 128.4, 123.9, 122.9, 122.8, 117.9, 116.3, 115.6, 113.6, 81.9, 61.9, 31.1, 14.2. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{15}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}_2 + \text{H}^+$: 383.0395, found: 383.0386.

Ethyl 2-(2-(2-bromophenyl)-1-cyanoindolizin-3-yl)acetate (2q):



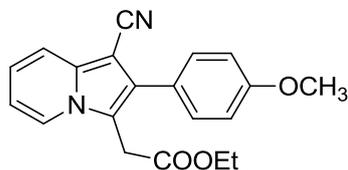
Brown oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.01 (1H, d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 7.70 (2H, m), 7.39 (2H, m), 7.29 (1H, td, $J = 7.0, 2.5$ Hz), 7.14 (1H, ddd, $J = 9.0, 7.0, 0.5$ Hz), 6.86 (1H, td, $J = 7.0, 1.0$ Hz), 4.12 (2H, m), 3.76 (2H, s), 1.21 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 168.8, 137.7, 133.1, 133.0, 132.6, 130.7, 130.2, 127.5, 124.4, 124.0, 122.6, 117.9, 116.5, 116.2, 113.3, 81.2, 61.6, 30.9, 14.1. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{15}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}_2 + \text{H}^+$: 383.0395, found: 383.0386.

Ethyl 2-(1-cyano-2-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)indolizin-3-yl)acetate (2r):



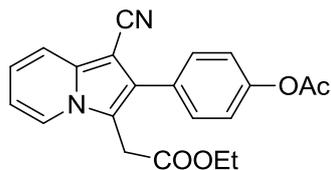
Brown oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.14 (1H, d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 7.89 (1H, s), 7.82 (1H, d, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 7.70 (2H, m), 7.64 (1H, t, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 7.18 (1H, ddd, $J = 9.0, 7.0, 0.5$ Hz), 6.90 (1H, td, $J = 7.0, 1.0$ Hz), 4.24 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 3.88 (2H, s), 1.29 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 168.9, 138.2, 133.1, 132.9, 131.2 (q, $J = 33$ Hz), 130.1, 129.5, 126.4 (q, $J = 4$ Hz), 125.1 (q, $J = 271$ Hz), 124.9 (q, $J = 4$ Hz), 124.0, 123.0, 117.9, 116.3, 115.6, 113.7, 81.9, 62.0, 31.2, 14.0. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{15}\text{F}_3\text{N}_2\text{O}_2 + \text{H}^+$: 373.1164, found: 373.1154.

Ethyl 2-(1-cyano-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)indolizin-3-yl)acetate (2s):



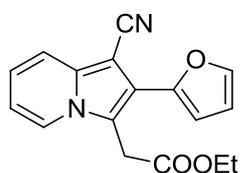
Brown solid. m.p.: 132 – 134 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.03 (1H, d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 7.67 (1H, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 7.52 (2H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 7.11 (1H, ddd, $J = 9.0, 7.0, 0.5$ Hz), 7.02 (2H, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 6.84 (1H, td, $J = 7.0, 1.0$ Hz), 4.22 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 3.90 (2H, s), 3.86 (3H, s), 1.28 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 169.4, 159.6, 138.0, 131.6, 130.8, 124.3, 123.8, 122.4, 117.7, 116.9, 115.0, 114.4, 113.2, 81.8, 61.7, 55.4, 31.1, 14.2. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{H}^+$: 335.1396, found: 335.1394.

Ethyl 2-(2-(4-acetoxyphenyl)-1-cyanoindolizin-3-yl)acetate (2t):



Brown oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.04 (1H, d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 7.70 (1H, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 7.62 (2H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 7.23 (2H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 7.15 (1H, m), 6.87 (1H, td, $J = 7.0, 1.0$ Hz), 4.22 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 3.92 (2H, s), 2.34 (3H, s), 1.28 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 169.5, 169.2, 150.6, 138.2, 130.7, 129.6, 123.8, 122.7, 122.1, 117.9, 116.6, 115.4, 114.0, 113.5, 81.9, 61.8, 29.7, 21.2, 14.2. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4 + \text{H}^+$: 363.1345, found: 363.1338.

Ethyl 2-(1-cyano-2-(furan-2-yl)indolizin-3-yl)acetate (2u):

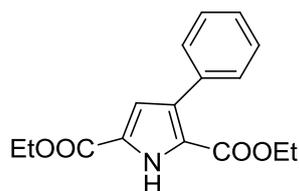


Brown solid. m.p.: 130 – 132 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.98 (1H, d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 7.64 (1H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 7.55 (1H, dd, $J = 2.0, 0.5$ Hz), 7.11 (1H, ddd, $J = 8.5, 7.0, 1.0$ Hz), 7.04 (1H, dd, $J = 3.5, 0.5$ Hz), 6.83 (1H, td, $J = 7.0, 1.0$ Hz), 6.54 (1H, dd, $J = 3.5, 2.0$ Hz), 4.24 (2H, s), 4.18 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.24 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 169.1, 147.2, 142.5, 138.5, 123.5, 122.8, 120.5, 117.7, 116.7, 114.6, 113.5, 111.7, 119.3, 79.2, 61.6, 31.2, 14.1. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{H}^+$: 295.1083, found: 295.1077.

V. General Procedure for the Synthesis of Pyrroles

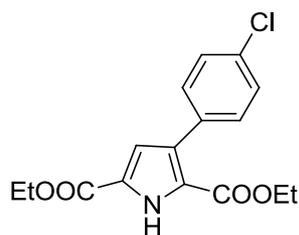
To a solution of 2-isocyanoacetate (**8**, 0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and DBU (0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in toluene (1 mL) was added MBHAs (0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in toluene (1 mL) dropwise and then the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2h. Water (5 mL) was added to it and the mixture was extracted three times with EtOAc (10 mL \times 3). The combined organic layers were washed with water (10 mL \times 3) and brine (10 mL), dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and concentrated in vacuum. Purification of the residue by chromatography (silica gel) affords the product.

Diethyl 3-phenyl-1H-pyrrole-2,5-dicarboxylate (**3a**):



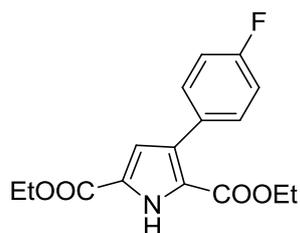
Yellow oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 9.50 (1H, s), 7.59 (1H, d, $J = 3.5$ Hz), 7.32 (5H, m), 4.12 (4H, m), 1.10 (3H, t, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 1.07 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 163.8, 160.9, 133.7, 132.3, 130.1, 127.1, 126.9, 126.7, 121.0, 117.3, 60.5, 59.8, 13.9, 13.8. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_4 + \text{H}^+$: 288.1236, found: 288.1239.

Diethyl 3-(4-chlorophenyl)-1H-pyrrole-2,5-dicarboxylate (**3b**):



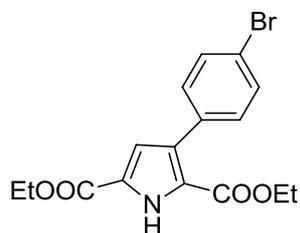
Yellow oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 9.64 (1H, s), 7.58 (1H, d, $J = 3.0$ Hz), 7.32 (2H, d, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 7.26 (2H, d, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 4.14 (4H, m), 1.15 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.11 (3H, t, $J = 7.5$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 163.7, 160.8, 133.1, 132.2, 131.6, 131.0, 127.2, 126.9, 121.0, 117.1, 60.7, 59.9, 14.1, 13.9. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{ClNO}_4 + \text{H}^+$: 322.0846, found: 322.0840.

Diethyl 3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1H-pyrrole-2,5-dicarboxylate (3c):



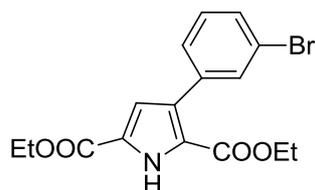
Yellow oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 9.66 (1H, s), 7.58 (1H, d, $J = 3.5$ Hz), 7.29 (2H, m), 7.04 (2H, t, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 4.14 (4H, m), 1.42 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.09 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 163.8, 162.3 (d, $J = 244$ Hz), 160.9, 131.9 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 131.2, 129.5 (d, $J = 4.0$ Hz), 126.9, 121.1, 117.2, 113.9 (d, $J = 21$ Hz), 60.7, 59.9, 14.1, 13.9. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{FNO}_4 + \text{H}^+$: 306.1142, found: 306.1136.

Diethyl 3-(4-bromophenyl)-1H-pyrrole-2,5-dicarboxylate (3d):



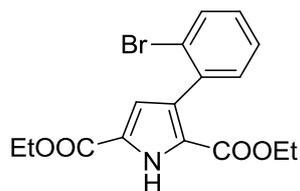
Yellow oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 9.59 (1H, s), 7.58 (1H, d, $J = 3.5$ Hz), 7.47 (2H, d, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 7.21 (2H, d, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 4.15 (4H, m), 1.52 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.11 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 163.7, 160.8, 132.7, 131.9, 131.0, 130.1, 126.9, 121.4, 121.0, 117.1, 60.7, 59.9, 14.1, 13.9. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{BrNO}_4 + \text{H}^+$: 366.0341, found: 366.0338.

Diethyl 3-(3-bromophenyl)-1H-pyrrole-2,5-dicarboxylate (3e):



Yellow solid. m.p.: 91 – 93 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 9.52 (1H, s), 7.62 (1H, d, $J = 3.5$ Hz), 7.50 (1H, s), 7.47 (1H, d, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 7.28 (1H, d, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 7.23 (1H, t, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 4.15 (4H, m), 1.13 (6H, m); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 163.6, 160.8, 135.8, 133.2, 130.2, 130.1, 129.0, 128.4, 126.9, 121.2, 120.8, 117.3, 60.8, 60.3, 14.0, 13.8. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{BrNO}_4 + \text{H}^+$: 366.0341, found: 366.0338.

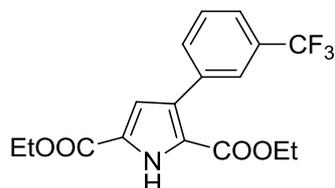
Diethyl 3-(2-bromophenyl)-1H-pyrrole-2,5-dicarboxylate (3f):



Yellow oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 9.75 (1H, s), 7.62 (1H, d, $J = 3.0$ Hz), 7.59 (1H, dd, $J =$

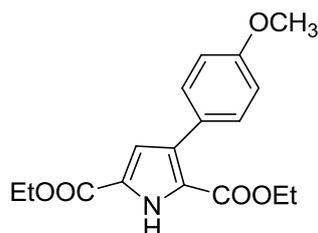
8.0, 1.0 Hz), 7.30 (1H, td, $J = 7.5, 1.0$ Hz), 7.25 (1H, dd, $J = 7.5, 2.0$ Hz), 7.18 (1H, m), 4.09 (4H, m), 1.06 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.00 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 163.6, 160.8, 136.0, 131.7, 131.2, 130.5, 128.6, 126.7, 126.3, 124.2, 121.4, 117.5, 60.6, 59.8, 13.9, 13.7. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{BrNO}_4 + \text{H}^+$: 366.0341, found: 366.0338.

Diethyl 3-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1H-pyrrole-2,5-dicarboxylate (3g):



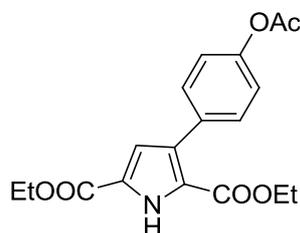
Yellow solid. m.p.: 49 – 51 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 9.83 (1H, s), 7.63 (1H, d, $J = 3.5$ Hz), 7.59 (2H, m), 7.52 (1H, d, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 7.46 (1H, t, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 4.11 (4H, m), 1.08 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.02 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 163.7, 161.0, 134.7, 133.7, 130.3, 129.4 (q, $J = 32$ Hz), 127.3, 127.2, 124.4 (q, $J = 271$ Hz), 123.8 (q, $J = 4$ Hz), 122.3, 121.3, 117.2, 60.9, 60.0, 13.9, 13.6. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{F}_3\text{NO}_4 + \text{H}^+$: 356.1110, found: 356.1104.

Diethyl 3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1H-pyrrole-2,5-dicarboxylate (3h):



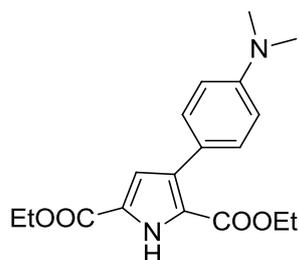
Yellow oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 9.67 (1H, s), 7.58 (1H, d, $J = 3.5$ Hz), 7.29 (2H, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 6.91 (2H, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 4.16 (4H, m), 3.84 (3H, s), 1.18 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.13 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 163.9, 161.0, 158.8, 132.3, 131.4, 126.9, 125.6, 120.8, 117.0, 112.5, 60.5, 59.8, 55.2, 14.2, 14.0. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_5 + \text{H}^+$: 318.1341, found: 318.1340.

Diethyl 3-(4-acetoxyphenyl)-1H-pyrrole-2,5-dicarboxylate (3i):



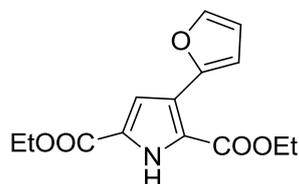
Yellow oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 9.73 (1H, s), 7.59 (1H, d, $J = 3.5$ Hz), 7.32 (2H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 7.07 (2H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 4.12 (4H, m), 2.30 (3H, s), 1.12 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.07 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 169.4, 163.9, 161.1, 149.9, 131.5, 131.2, 131.1, 127.0, 121.2, 120.1, 117.3, 60.7, 59.9, 21.2, 13.9, 13.7. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_6 + \text{H}^+$: 346.1291, found: 346.1287.

Diethyl 3-(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)-1H-pyrrole-2,5-dicarboxylate (3j):



Yellow oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 9.45 (1H, s), 7.57 (1H, d, $J = 3.5$ Hz), 7.27 (2H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 6.75 (2H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 4.19 (4H, m), 2.98 (6H, s), 1.20 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.18 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 163.9, 160.9, 149.9, 133.1, 131.2, 126.9, 120.9, 120.5, 116.9, 111.3, 60.4, 59.7, 40.7, 14.2, 14.1. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4 + \text{H}^+$: 331.1658, found: 331.1652.

Diethyl 3-(furan-2-yl)-1H-pyrrole-2,5-dicarboxylate (3k):

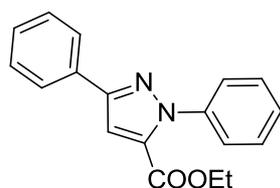


Yellow oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 9.78 (1H, s), 7.56 (1H, d, $J = 3.5$ Hz), 7.50 (1H, dd, $J = 2.0, 1.0$ Hz), 6.54 (1H, dd, $J = 3.0, 1.0$ Hz), 6.48 (1H, dd, $J = 3.0, 2.0$ Hz), 4.24 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 4.20 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.22 (6H, m); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 163.5, 160.6, 145.4, 141.8, 126.9, 122.3, 120.3, 117.8, 110.9, 110.7, 60.9, 60.1, 14.2, 14.1. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_5 + \text{H}^+$: 278.1028, found: 278.1020.

VI. General Procedure for the Synthesis of Pyrazoles

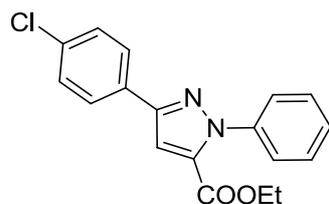
A mixture of MBHAs (0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and phenylhydrazine (**9**, 0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was stirred in MeOH (2 mL) at 65 °C overnight. Once starting material was consumed (monitored by TLC), the organic solvent was removed and the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel) to give the target compound.

Ethyl 1,3-diphenyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylate (4a):²



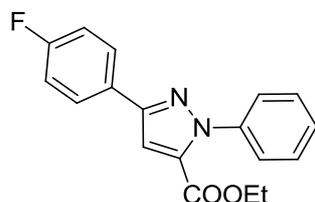
Yellow oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.89 (2H, m), 7.45 (7H, m), 7.36 (1H, tt, $J = 7.0, 1.5$ Hz), 7.34 (1H, s), 4.27 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.27 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 159.1, 151.5, 140.4, 134.7, 132.2, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.4, 126.1, 125.8, 109.4, 61.2, 14.1. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2 + \text{H}^+$: 293.1290, found: 293.1282.

Ethyl 3-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylate (4b):



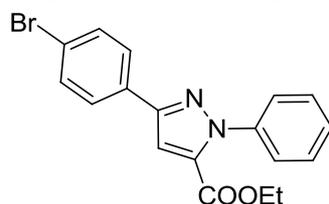
Yellow solid. m.p.: 61 – 63 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.45 (2H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 7.48 (5H, m), 7.39 (2H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 7.30 (1H, s), 4.27 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.27 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 159.0, 150.4, 140.3, 134.9, 134.2, 130.7, 128.9, 128.8, 128.6, 127.1, 126.1, 109.3, 61.3, 14.0. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}_2 + \text{H}^+$: 327.0900, found: 327.0898.

Ethyl 3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylate (4c):



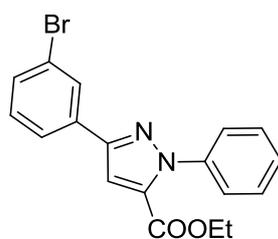
Yellow oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.85 (2H, m), 7.48 (5H, m), 7.28 (1H, s), 7.11 (2H, t, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 4.27 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.27 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 162.9 (d, $J = 245$ Hz), 159.0, 150.6, 140.3, 134.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.4 (d, $J = 4$ Hz), 127.5 (d, $J = 8$ Hz), 126.1, 115.7 (d, $J = 21$ Hz), 109.2, 61.3, 14.0. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{FN}_2\text{O}_2 + \text{H}^+$: 311.1196, found: 311.1189.

Ethyl 3-(4-bromophenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylate (4d):



Yellow oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.75 (2H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 7.55 (2H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 7.48 (5H, m), 7.30 (1H, s), 4.27 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.26 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 159.0, 150.4, 140.3, 134.9, 131.9, 131.1, 128.8, 128.5, 127.3, 126.1, 122.4, 109.3, 61.3, 14.0. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}_2 + \text{H}^+$: 371.0395, found: 371.0391.

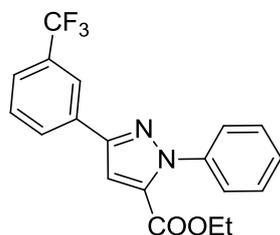
Ethyl 3-(3-bromophenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylate (4e):



Yellow oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.05 (1H, t, $J = 1.5$ Hz), 7.79 (1H, d, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 7.48 (6H, m), 7.31 (1H, s), 7.29 (1H, t, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 4.27 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.27 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 158.9, 150.0, 140.2, 134.2, 131.3, 130.3, 129.0, 128.8, 128.7,

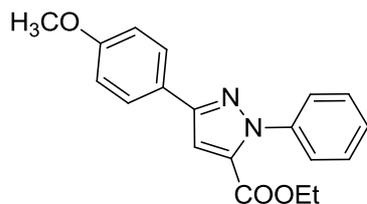
128.6, 128.2, 126.1, 124.3, 109.5, 61.3, 14.0. HRMS Calcd. For $C_{18}H_{15}BrN_2O_2 + H^+$: 371.0395, found: 371.0391.

Ethyl 1-phenyl-3-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylate (4f):



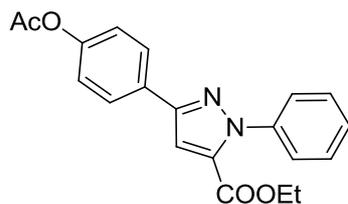
Yellow solid. m.p.: 96 – 98 °C; 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 8.15 (1H, s), 8.06 (1H, d, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 7.61 (1H, d, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 7.54 (1H, t, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 7.49 (5H, m), 7.37 (1H, s), 4.28 (2H, q, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 1.28 (3H, t, $J = 7.5$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 158.9, 150.0, 140.2, 135.0, 133.0, 131.2 (d, $J = 32$ Hz), 129.2, 128.9, 128.6, 128.2, 126.1, 124.9 (q, $J = 4$ Hz), 124.1 (q, $J = 271$ Hz), 122.5 (q, $J = 4$ Hz), 109.5, 61.4, 14.0. HRMS Calcd. For $C_{19}H_{15}F_3N_2O_2 + H^+$: 361.1164, found: 361.1155.

Ethyl 3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylate (4g):



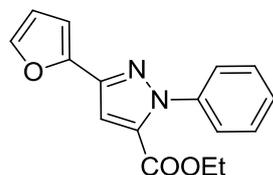
Yellow oil. 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.89 (2H, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 7.47 (5H, m), 7.26 (1H, s), 6.95 (2H, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 4.26 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 3.84 (3H, s), 1.26 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 159.8, 159.2, 151.3, 140.4, 134.6, 128.6, 128.5, 127.1, 126.1, 124.9, 114.1, 108.9, 61.2, 55.3, 14.0. HRMS Calcd. For $C_{19}H_{18}N_2O_2 + H^+$: 323.1396, found: 323.1394.

Ethyl 3-(4-acetoxyphenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylate (4h):



Yellow oil. 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.89 (2H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 7.48 (5H, m), 7.29 (1H, s), 7.16 (2H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 4.26 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 2.31 (3H, s), 1.26 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 169.4, 159.1, 150.8, 150.7, 140.3, 134.8, 129.9, 128.7, 128.6, 126.9, 126.1, 121.9, 109.3, 61.2, 21.2, 14.0. HRMS Calcd. For $C_{20}H_{18}N_2O_2 + H^+$: 351.1345, found: 351.1338.

Ethyl 3-(furan-2-yl)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylate (4i):

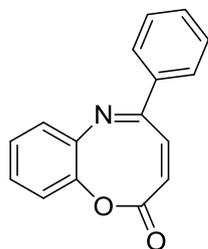


Yellow oil. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.45 (6H, m), 7.24 (1H, s), 6.78 (1H, d, $J = 3.0$ Hz), 6.49 (1H, dd, $J = 3.0, 2.0$ Hz), 4.25 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.26 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 158.9, 147.6, 144.1, 142.4, 140.1, 134.4, 128.8, 128.6, 126.2, 111.5, 109.1, 106.8, 61.3, 14.0. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{H}^+$: 283.1083, found: 283.1080.

VII. General Procedure for the Synthesis of Benzo[b][1,6]oxazocin-2-ones

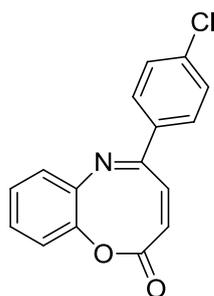
A mixture of MBHAs (0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and 2-aminophenol (**10**, 0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was stirred in MeOH (2 mL) at room temperature for 15 min. Then Na_2CO_3 (0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added and the mixture was heated to 40 °C for 2h. Once the starting MBHAs disappeared, the organic solvent was removed and the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel) to give the product.

(3Z,5E)-5-Phenyl-2H-benzo[b][1,6]oxazocin-2-one (**5a**):



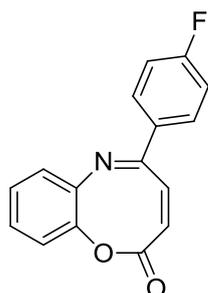
Yellow solid. m.p.: 151 – 153 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.14 (1H, d, $J = 16.5$ Hz), 7.77 (1H, d, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 7.67 (2H, d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 7.53 (1H, d, $J = 16.5$ Hz), 7.47 (1H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 7.40 (4H, m), 7.30 (1H, d, $J = 8.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 153.1, 149.6, 146.0, 140.4, 135.8, 131.9, 130.6, 129.9, 129.0, 128.9, 128.1, 125.7, 121.2, 116.3. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{11}\text{NO}_2 + \text{H}^+$: 250.0868, found: 250.0867.

(3Z,5E)-5-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2H-benzo[b][1,6]oxazocin-2-one (**5b**):



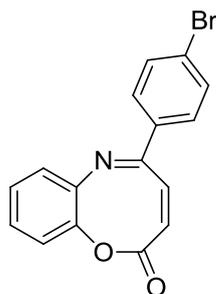
Yellow solid. m.p.: 148 – 150 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.09 (1H, d, $J = 16.5$ Hz), 7.77 (1H, dd, $J = 8.0, 1.5$ Hz), 7.59 (2H, dt, $J = 9.0, 2.0$ Hz), 7.48 (2H, m), 7.37 (3H, m), 7.31 (1H, dd, $J = 8.5, 1.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 153.0, 149.4, 146.1, 138.9, 135.8, 134.4, 131.9, 130.7, 129.2, 129.0, 125.7, 121.8, 116.3. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{10}\text{ClNO}_2 + \text{H}^+$: 284.0478, found: 284.0468.

(3Z,5E)-5-(4-Fluorophenyl)-2H-benzo[b][1,6]oxazocin-2-one (5c):



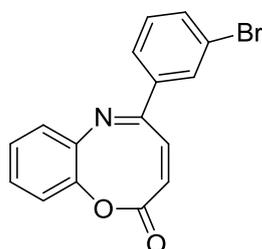
Yellow solid. m.p.: 141 – 143 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.10 (1H, d, $J = 16.5$ Hz), 7.76 (1H, dd, $J = 16.5$ Hz), 7.64 (2H, m), 7.47 (1H, td, $J = 8.5, 2.0$ Hz), 7.43 (1H, d, $J = 16.5$ Hz), 7.37 (1H, m), 7.30 (1H, dd, $J = 8.0, 1.0$ Hz), 7.10 (2H, t, $J = 8.5$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 163.7 (d, $J = 249$ Hz), 153.1, 149.4, 146.0, 139.1, 132.0 (d, $J = 3$ Hz), 131.9, 130.6, 129.9 (d, $J = 8$ Hz), 128.9, 125.7, 120.9 (d, $J = 2$ Hz), 116.3, 116.1 (d, $J = 22$ Hz). HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{10}\text{FNO}_2 + \text{H}^+$: 268.0774, found: 268.0771.

(3Z,5E)-5-(4-Bromophenyl)-2H-benzo[b][1,6]oxazocin-2-one (5d):



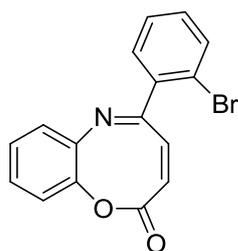
Yellow solid. m.p.: 137 – 139 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.05 (1H, d, $J = 16.5$ Hz), 7.76 (1H, dd, $J = 8.0, 1.0$ Hz), 7.50 (6H, m), 7.38 (1H, t, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 7.30 (1H, d, $J = 8.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 153.0, 149.3, 146.0, 138.9, 134.7, 132.2, 131.9, 130.8, 129.4, 129.0, 125.7, 124.1, 121.8, 116.4. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{10}\text{BrNO}_2 + \text{H}^+$: 327.9973, found: 327.9969.

(3Z,5E)-5-(3-Bromophenyl)-2H-benzo[b][1,6]oxazocin-2-one (5e):



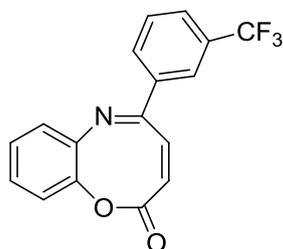
Yellow solid. m.p.: >250 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.05 (1H, d, $J = 16.5$ Hz), 7.78 (2H, m), 7.57 (1H, d, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 7.48 (3H, m), 7.39 (1H, t, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 7.28 (2H, m); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 153.0, 149.1, 146.1, 138.6, 137.8, 132.6, 131.9, 130.9, 130.7, 130.4, 129.1, 126.6, 125.7, 123.1, 122.5, 116.3. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{10}\text{BrNO}_2 + \text{H}^+$: 327.9973, found: 327.9969.

(3Z,5E)-5-(2-Bromophenyl)-2H-benzo[b][1,6]oxazocin-2-one (5f):



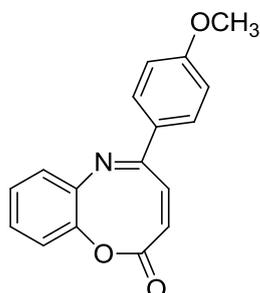
Yellow solid. m.p.: 148 – 150 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.50 (1H, d, $J = 16.0$ Hz), 7.82 (1H, dd, $J = 8.0, 1.0$ Hz), 7.79 (1H, dd, $J = 8.0, 1.0$ Hz), 7.63 (1H, dd, $J = 8.0, 1.0$ Hz), 7.48 (2H, m), 7.38 (2H, m), 7.31 (1H, dd, $J = 8.0, 1.0$ Hz), 7.23 (1H, td, $J = 8.0, 1.0$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 153.1, 149.3, 146.1, 138.6, 135.7, 133.4, 131.9, 130.9, 130.8, 129.3, 127.7, 127.6, 125.7, 125.6, 123.6, 116.3. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{10}\text{BrNO}_2 + \text{H}^+$: 327.9973, found: 327.9969.

(3Z,5E)-5-(3-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-2H-benzo[b][1,6]oxazocin-2-one (5g):



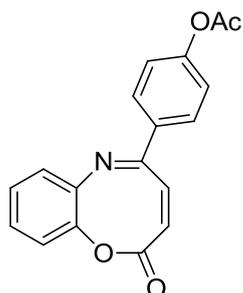
Yellow solid. m.p.: 158 – 160 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.17 (1H, d, $J = 16.0$ Hz), 7.90 (1H, s), 7.83 (1H, d, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 7.79 (1H, dd, $J = 8.0, 1.5$ Hz), 7.62 (1H, d, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 7.52 (3H, m), 7.40 (1H, td, $J = 7.5, 1.0$ Hz), 7.32 (1H, dd, $J = 8.0, 1.5$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 153.0, 149.1, 146.1, 138.6, 136.5, 131.9, 131.5 (d, $J = 32$ Hz), 131.1, 130.9, 129.4, 129.2, 126.2 (q, $J = 4$ Hz), 125.8, 124.7 (q, $J = 4$ Hz), 123.9 (q, $J = 271$ Hz), 122.9, 116.4. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{10}\text{F}_3\text{NO}_2 + \text{H}^+$: 318.0742, found: 318.0733.

(3Z,5E)-5-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2H-benzo[b][1,6]oxazocin-2-one (5h):



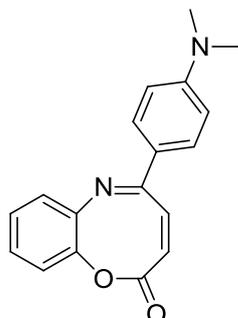
Yellow solid. m.p.: 166 – 168 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.10 (1H, d, $J = 16.0$ Hz), 7.75 (1H, dd, $J = 8.0, 1.5$ Hz), 7.62 (2H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 7.44 (1H, td, $J = 7.5, 1.5$ Hz), 7.40 (1H, d, $J = 16.0$ Hz), 7.36 (1H, td, $J = 8.0, 1.5$ Hz), 7.29 (1H, dd, $J = 8.5, 1.0$ Hz), 6.94 (2H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 3.85 (3H, s); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 161.2, 153.3, 149.8, 145.9, 140.1, 132.5, 132.1, 130.1, 129.8, 128.7, 125.6, 118.8, 116.3, 114.5, 55.4. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}_3 + \text{H}^+$: 280.0974, found: 280.0972.

4-((3Z,5E)-2-Oxo-2H-benzo[b][1,6]oxazocin-5-yl)phenyl acetate (5i):



Yellow solid. m.p.: 169 – 171 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.13 (1H, d, $J = 16.0$ Hz), 7.77 (1H, dd, $J = 8.0, 1.5$ Hz), 7.68 (2H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 7.47 (2H, m), 7.38 (1H, td, $J = 8.0, 1.0$ Hz), 7.30 (1H, dd, $J = 8.0, 1.0$ Hz), 7.15 (2H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 2.32 (3H, s); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 169.2, 153.1, 151.8, 149.5, 146.0, 139.3, 133.6, 131.9, 130.6, 129.2, 128.9, 125.7, 122.2, 121.3, 116.3, 21.2. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}_4 + \text{H}^+$: 308.0923, found: 308.0920.

(3Z,5E)-5-(4-(Dimethylamino)phenyl)-2H-benzo[b][1,6]oxazocin-2-one (5j):



Yellow solid. m.p.: 70 – 72 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.10 (1H, d, $J = 16.0$ Hz), 7.72 (1H, dd, $J = 8.0, 1.5$ Hz), 7.57 (2H, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 7.39 (1H, td, $J = 8.0, 1.5$ Hz), 7.33 (2H, m), 7.27 (1H, m), 6.70 (2H, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 3.04 (6H, s); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 153.6, 151.6, 150.0, 145.8, 141.0, 132.4, 130.0, 129.3, 128.3, 125.5, 123.9, 116.2, 115.8, 111.9, 40.2. HRMS Calcd. For $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2 + \text{H}^+$: 293.1290, found: 293.1285.

VIII. Reference

- 1 Kuan, H. H.; Reddy, R. J.; Chen, K. *Tetrahedron*, **2010**, *66*, 9875 – 9879.
- 2 Yang, X.; Shui, S.; Chen, X.; He, H.; Wu, F. *Journal of Fluorine Chemistry*, **2010**, *131*, 426 – 432.

IX. ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR Spectra.

