

Supporting Information

Radical Cascade Cyanomethylation of Activated Alkenes to Construct Cyano Substituted Oxindoles

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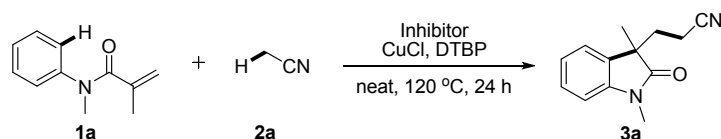
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I. General remarks

Unless otherwise noted, all reagents were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. CH₃CN was dried over CaH₂ and stored under N₂ over activated 4Å molecular sieves. Unless otherwise indicated, all reactions were carried out under N₂ atmosphere. All starting materials were prepared according to the literatures and were identified by comparison of their spectral data with those reported in the literatures.¹

NMR spectra were obtained on a Bruker AV II-400 MHz spectrometer (¹H NMR at 400 MHz and ¹³C NMR at 100 MHz). The ¹H NMR chemical shifts were measured relative to CDCl₃ or DMSO-*d*₆ as the internal reference (CDCl₃: δ = 7.26 ppm; DMSO-*d*₆: δ = 2.50 ppm). The ¹³C NMR chemical shifts were given using CDCl₃ or DMSO-*d*₆ as the internal standard (CDCl₃: δ = 77.16 ppm; DMSO-*d*₆: δ = 39.52 ppm). High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained with a Waters-Q-TOF-Premier (ESI). Melting points were determined with XRC-1 and are uncorrected.

II. Radical trapping experiment



Entry	Inhibitor	Equivalent	Yield (%) ^{a,b}
1	TEMPO	1.0 eq.	63
2	TEMPO	2.0 eq.	15
3	TEMPO	3.0 eq.	N. R.
4	BHT	0.3 eq.	73
5	BHT	0.5 eq.	19
6	BHT	1.0 eq.	N. R.

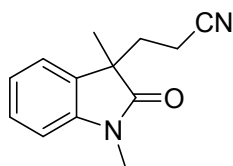
^a Reactions conditions: **1a** (0.25 mmol), CuCl (10 mol%), DTBP (3.0 equiv), inhibitors and CH₃CN (2.0 mL) at 120 °C under nitrogen atmosphere for 24 h. ^b Isolated yield. N. R. = no reaction.

III. General procedure for the reaction

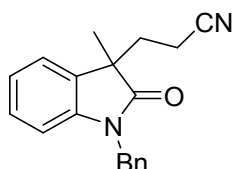
To a Schlenk tube were added *N*-arylacrylamide **1** (0.25 mmol), CuCl (10 mol%), DTBP (3.0 equiv) and dry CH₃CN (2.0 mL). The reaction was stirred at 120 °C under

nitrogen for 24 h. After the reaction was cooled down to ambient temperature, the solvent was removed using rotarvapor and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5/1, v/v) to provide the desired product.

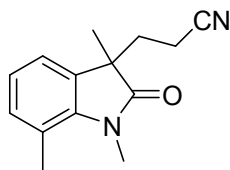
IV. Characterization data for products



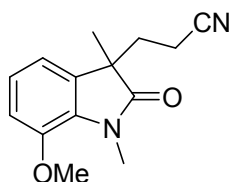
3-(1,3-Dimethyl-2-oxoindolin-3-yl) propanenitrile (3a): A white solid (44 mg, 82% yield). M.p.: 70-71 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.38 (s, 3H), 1.96-2.10 (m, 3H), 2.26-2.32 (m, 1H), 3.21 (s, 3H), 6.87 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (td, J = 7.6 Hz, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (dd, J = 7.6 Hz, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (td, J = 7.6 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 13.0, 23.6, 26.4, 33.6, 47.5, 108.6, 118.9, 122.7, 123.2, 128.8, 131.8, 143.3, 179.0 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₃H₁₄N₂ONa [M+Na]⁺ 237.1004, found 237.1007.



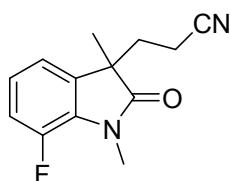
3-(1-Benzyl-3-methyl-2-oxoindolin-3-yl)propanenitrile (3c): Colorless oil (58 mg, 80% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.46 (s, 3H), 1.95-2.16 (m, 3H), 2.34-2.42 (m, 1H), 4.91 (dd, J = 22.4 Hz, 15.6 Hz, 2H), 6.79 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (td, J = 7.6 Hz, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.19-7.23 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.35 (m, 5H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 13.0, 23.9, 33.6, 43.9, 47.4, 109.6, 119.0, 122.8, 123.2, 127.4, 127.9, 128.7, 129.0, 131.8, 135.8, 142.3, 179.1 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₉H₁₈N₂ONa [M+Na]⁺ 313.1317, found 313.1321.



3-(1,3,7-Trimethyl-2-oxoindolin-3-yl)propanenitrile (3e): A white solid (51 mg, 89% yield). M.p.: 72-73 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 1.37 (s, 3H), 1.95-2.12 (m, 3H), 2.28-2.34 (m, 1H), 2.58 (s, 3H), 3.50 (s, 3H), 6.97-7.05 (m, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 13.0, 19.2, 24.0, 29.8, 33.8, 46.8, 119.0, 120.3, 120.6, 123.1, 132.4, 132.5, 141.0, 179.7 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{ONa}$ [$\text{M}+\text{Na}$]⁺ 251.1160, found 251.1161.

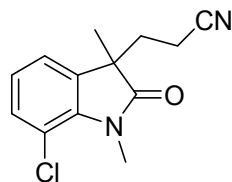


3-(7-Methoxy-1,3-dimethyl-2-oxoindolin-3-yl)propanenitrile (3f): Pale yellow oil (47 mg, 77% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 1.37 (s, 3H), 1.93-2.12 (m, 3H), 2.26-2.34 (m, 1H), 3.48 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 6.79 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 12.9, 23.8, 29.7, 33.8, 47.5, 56.0, 112.4, 115.2, 119.0, 123.8, 131.0, 133.4, 145.7, 179.2 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{Na}$ [$\text{M}+\text{Na}$]⁺ 267.1109, found 267.1110.

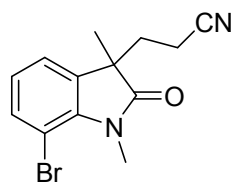


3-(7-Fluoro-1,3-dimethyl-2-oxoindolin-3-yl)propanenitrile (3g): A white solid (30 mg, 52% yield). M.p.: 59-61 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 1.40 (s, 3H), 1.99-2.15 (m, 3H), 2.28-2.36 (m, 1H), 3.43 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 3H), 6.96-7.00 (m, 1H), 7.01-7.06 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 13.0, 23.9, 28.9 (d, J = 5.0 Hz), 33.6, 47.8 (d, J = 2.0 Hz), 116.8 (d, J = 19.0 Hz), 118.6 (d, J = 4.0 Hz), 118.7, 123.8 (d, J = 6.0 Hz), 129.9 (d, J = 8.0 Hz), 134.8 (d, J = 3.0 Hz), 148.0 (d, J = 243.0 Hz),

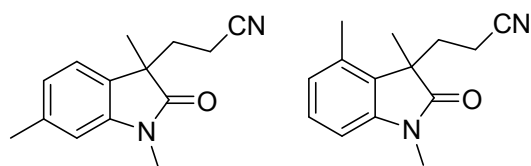
178.6 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₃H₁₃FN₂ONa [M+Na]⁺ 255.0910, found 255.0906.



3-(7-Chloro-1,3-dimethyl-2-oxoindolin-3-yl)propanenitrile (3h): Pale yellow oil (50 mg, 85% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.39 (s, 3H), 1.97-2.14 (m, 3H), 2.29-2.36 (m, 1H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 7.00-7.08 (m, 2H), 7.24 (dd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 13.0, 24.0, 29.8, 33.7, 47.2, 116.2, 118.7, 121.2, 124.0, 131.2, 134.6, 139.2, 179.2 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₃H₁₃ClN₂ONa [M+Na]⁺ 271.0614, found 271.0619.



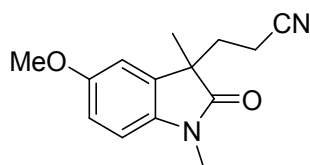
3-(7-Bromo-1,3-dimethyl-2-oxoindolin-3-yl)propanenitrile (3i): A pale yellow solid (47 mg, 64% yield). M.p.: 63-66 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.39 (s, 3H), 1.97-2.17 (m, 3H), 2.29-2.36 (m, 1H), 3.60 (s, 3H), 6.96 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (dd, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (dd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 0.8 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 13.0, 24.0, 30.0, 33.8, 47.2, 103.1, 118.7, 121.8, 124.4, 134.5, 135.0, 140.7, 179.4 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₃H₁₃BrN₂ONa [M+Na]⁺ 315.0109, found 315.0107.



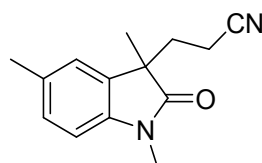
3j : 3j' = 1:4

3-(1,3,6-Trimethyl-2-oxoindolin-3-yl)propanenitrile (3j) and 3-(1,3,4-Trimethyl-

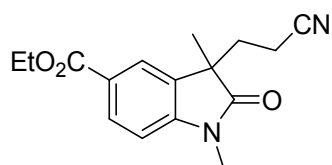
2-oxoindolin-3-yl)propanenitrile (3j'): A mixture of **3j** and **3j'** as colorless oil (47 mg, 82% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.37 (s, 0.75H), 1.47 (s, 3H), 1.86-2.03 (m, 2.75H), 2.24-2.31 (m, 1.25H), 2.36-2.42 (m, 4.75H), 3.196 (s, 0.75H), 3.205 (s, 3H), 6.70-6.73 (m, 1.25H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 0.25H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 0.25H), 7.21 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 13.0, 13.2, 18.3, 21.9, 22.0, 23.7, 26.4, 26.5, 31.6, 33.6, 47.3, 48.5, 106.4, 109.6, 118.8, 119.0, 122.4, 123.6, 125.7, 128.2, 128.6, 128.8, 134.5, 139.0, 143.3, 143.6, 179.0, 179.3 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₄H₁₆N₂O₂Na [M+Na]⁺ 251.1160, found 251.1166.



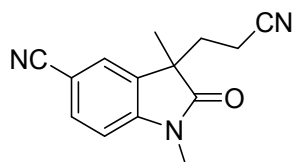
3-(5-Methoxy-1,3-dimethyl-2-oxoindolin-3-yl)propanenitrile (3k): A white solid (47 mg, 77% yield). M.p.: 83-85 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.38 (s, 3H), 1.96-2.13 (m, 3H), 2.28-2.35 (m, 1H), 3.19 (s, 3H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 6.76-6.84 (m, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 13.0, 23.7, 26.5, 33.6, 47.9, 56.0, 109.0, 110.4, 112.7, 118.9, 133.2, 136.7, 156.5, 178.6 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₄H₁₆N₂O₂Na [M+Na]⁺ 267.1109, found 267.1111.



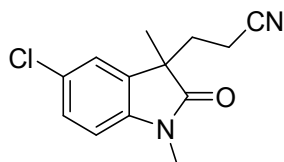
3-(1,3,5-Trimethyl-2-oxoindolin-3-yl)propanenitrile (3l): A white solid (46 mg, 81% yield). M.p.: 90-92 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.38 (s, 3H), 1.95-2.10 (m, 3H), 2.29-2.34 (m, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 3.20 (s, 3H), 6.76 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (s, 1H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 13.0, 21.3, 23.7, 26.5, 33.6, 47.6, 108.4, 119.0, 123.6, 129.0, 131.8, 132.8, 140.9, 178.9 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₄H₁₆N₂O₂Na [M+Na]⁺ 251.1160, found 251.1158.



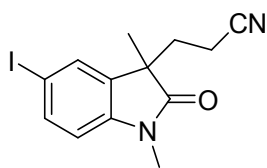
Ethyl 3-(2-cyanoethyl)-1,3-dimethyl-2-oxindoline-5-carboxylate (3m): A white solid (36 mg, 50% yield). M.p.: 125 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.40-1.43 (m, 6H), 2.02-2.16 (m, 3H), 2.32-2.39 (m, 1H), 3.26 (s, 3H), 4.39 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (dd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 13.0, 14.5, 23.6, 26.7, 33.4, 47.3, 61.2, 108.2, 118.6, 124.0, 125.6, 131.5, 131.8, 147.3, 166.3, 179.4 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₆H₁₈N₂O₃Na [M+Na]⁺ 309.1215, found 309.1217.



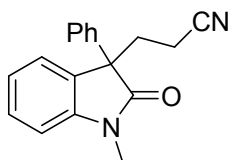
3-(2-Cyanoethyl)-1,3-dimethyl-2-oxindoline-5-carbonitrile (3n): A pale yellow solid (38 mg, 63% yield). M.p.: 153-156 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.42 (s, 3H), 2.03-2.15 (m, 3H), 2.31-2.37 (m, 1H), 3.26 (s, 3H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (dd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 12.9, 23.5, 26.7, 33.1, 47.2, 106.4, 109.1, 118.2, 118.9, 126.2, 133.0, 134.2, 147.1, 178.7 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₄H₁₃N₃O₂Na [M+Na]⁺ 262.0956, found 262.0955.



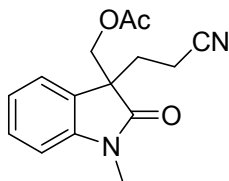
3-(5-Chloro-1,3-dimethyl-2-oxindolin-3-yl)propanenitrile (3o): Pale yellow oil (58 mg, 92% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.40 (s, 3H), 2.01-2.13 (m, 3H), 2.28-2.36 (m, 1H), 3.21 (s, 3H), 6.81 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (dd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2.0 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 13.0, 23.6, 26.6, 33.4, 47.7, 109.6, 118.6, 123.4, 128.6, 128.8, 133.6, 141.9, 178.5 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₃H₁₃ClN₂O₂Na [M+Na]⁺ 271.0614, found 271.0613.



3-(5-Iodo-1,3-dimethyl-2-oxoindolin-3-yl)propanenitrile (3p): A pale yellow solid (55 mg, 65% yield). M.p.: 84-86 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.39 (s, 3H), 2.00-2.11 (m, 3H), 2.28-2.35 (m, 1H), 3.19 (s, 3H), 6.66 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (dd, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1.6 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 13.0, 23.6, 26.5, 33.4, 47.5, 85.7, 110.7, 118.6, 131.6, 134.3, 137.7, 143.0, 178.2 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₃H₁₃IN₂O₂Na [M+Na]⁺ 362.9970, found 362.9976.

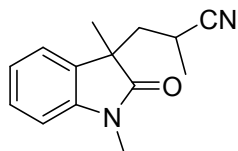


3-(1-Methyl-2-oxo-3-phenylindolin-3-yl)propanenitrile (4b): A pale yellow solid (33 mg, 48% yield). M.p.: 152-154 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.08-2.22 (m, 2H), 2.46-2.53 (m, 1H), 2.79-2.87 (m, 1H), 3.25 (s, 3H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.41 (m, 7H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 13.3, 26.7, 33.4, 55.5, 109.0, 118.8, 123.3, 124.9, 126.8, 128.0, 129.0, 129.3, 130.1, 138.5, 143.8, 177.2 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₈H₁₆N₂O₂Na [M+Na]⁺ 299.1160, found 299.1163.

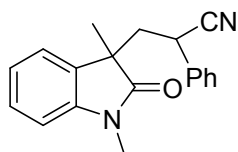


(3-(2-Cyanoethyl)-1-methyl-2-oxoindolin-3-yl)methyl acetate (4c): Colorless oil (38 mg, 54% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.94 (s, 3H), 1.98-2.21 (m, 3H), 2.36-2.43 (m, 1H), 3.24 (s, 3H), 4.13 (d, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 1H), 4.46 (d, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (td, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (td, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 12.6, 20.7,

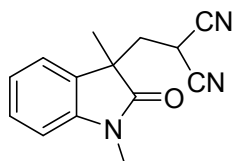
26.6, 29.1, 51.4, 66.7, 108.8, 118.5, 123.3, 123.8, 127.5, 129.6, 144.0, 170.2, 175.8 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₅H₁₆N₂O₃Na [M+Na]⁺ 295.1059, found 295.1057.



3-(1,3-Dimethyl-2-oxoindolin-3-yl)-2-methylpropanenitrile (4d): Colorless oil (54 mg, 94% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.18 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 3H), 1.42 (s, 3H), 1.84 (q, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 2.35-2.42 (m, 2H), 3.23 (s, 3H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (td, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 0.8 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 19.3, 21.8, 24.6, 26.5, 41.7, 47.2, 108.8, 121.9, 122.6, 122.8, 128.7, 132.3, 143.6, 179.3 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₄H₁₆N₂ONa [M+Na]⁺ 251.1160, found 251.1162.

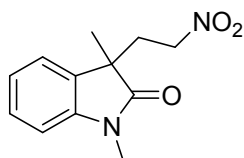


3-(1,3-Dimethyl-2-oxoindolin-3-yl)-2-phenylpropanenitrile (4e): Pale yellow oil (66 mg, 91% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.45 (s, 3H), 2.14 (dd, *J* = 14.4 Hz, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.70 (dd, *J* = 14.4 Hz, 10.8 Hz, 1H), 3.25 (s, 3H), 3.57 (dd, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (td, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 0.4 Hz, 1H), 7.14-7.16 (m, 3H), 7.24-7.33 (m, 4H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 24.8, 26.5, 33.5, 43.5, 47.3, 108.8, 120.0, 122.7, 122.9, 127.3, 128.2, 128.8, 129.2, 132.0, 136.1, 143.6, 179.1 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₉H₁₈N₂ONa [M+Na]⁺ 313.1317, found 313.1313.

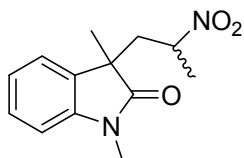


2-((1,3-Dimethyl-2-oxoindolin-3-yl)methyl)malononitrile (4f): Brown oil (43 mg, 72% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.49 (s, 3H), 2.36 (dd, *J* = 14.0 Hz, 5.2

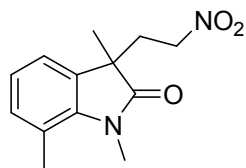
Hz, 1H), 2.76 (dd, $J = 14.0$ Hz, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.25 (s, 3H), 3.78-3.82 (m, 1H), 6.93 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.16 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 18.6, 24.1, 26.7, 37.8, 46.3, 109.3, 112.16, 112.19, 123.0, 123.5, 129.7, 130.2, 143.3, 178.0$ ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_3\text{ONa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 262.0956, found 262.0953.



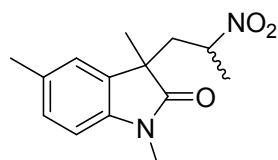
1,3-Dimethyl-3-(2-nitroethyl)indolin-2-one (5a): Pale yellow oil (40 mg, 68% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 1.43$ (s, 3H), 2.45-2.52 (m, 1H), 2.59-2.66 (m, 1H), 3.24 (s, 3H), 4.04-4.11 (m, 1H), 4.18-4.25 (m, 1H), 6.88 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.10 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.32 (td, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 0.8 Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 23.7, 26.5, 34.6, 46.3, 71.5, 108.7, 122.8, 123.3, 128.9, 131.8, 143.0, 179.0$ ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{Na}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 257.0902, found 257.0902.



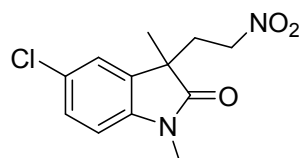
1,3-Dimethyl-3-(2-nitropropyl)indolin-2-one (5b): A mixture of isomers of *cis*-**5b** and *trans*-**5b** as yellow oil (57 mg, 92% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 1.31$ -1.39 (m, 12H), 2.02 (dd, $J = 14.8$ Hz, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 2.29 (dd, $J = 14.8$ Hz, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.73 (dd, $J = 14.8$ Hz, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.82 (dd, $J = 15.2$ Hz, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.22 (d, $J = 22.8$ Hz, 6H), 4.14-4.18 (m, 1H), 4.44-4.48 (m, 1H), 6.87 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.04-7.18 (m, 4H), 7.28-7.34 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 20.9, 21.1, 24.1, 25.2, 26.3, 26.5, 41.7, 42.1, 46.5, 47.2, 80.1, 80.7, 108.5, 108.7, 122.6, 123.0, 123.1, 123.5, 128.7, 128.8, 130.7, 132.4, 143.1, 143.3, 178.8, 179.4$ ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{Na}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 271.1059, found 271.1064.



1,3,7-Trimethyl-3-(2-nitroethyl)indolin-2-one (5c): Yellow oil (45 mg, 72% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 1.40 (s, 3H), 2.39-2.46 (m, 1H), 2.56-2.64 (m, 4H), 3.50 (s, 3H), 4.02-4.09 (m, 1H), 4.16-4.23 (m, 1H), 6.96-7.04 (m, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 19.1, 24.1, 29.8, 35.0, 45.5, 71.5, 120.4, 120.6, 123.2, 132.5, 132.6, 140.8, 179.6 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{Na}$ [M+Na]⁺ 271.1059, found 271.1060.

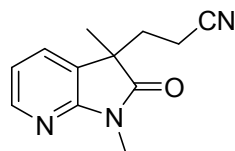


1,3,5-Trimethyl-3-(2-nitropropyl)indolin-2-one (5d): A mixture of isomers of *cis*-**5d** and *trans*-**5d** as yellow oil (62 mg, 94% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 1.31-1.38 (m, 12H), 1.98 (dd, J = 15.2 Hz, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 2.29 (dd, J = 14.8 Hz, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.69 (dd, J = 14.8 Hz, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.80 (dd, J = 15.2 Hz, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.17 (s, 3H), 3.22 (s, 3H), 4.12-4.21 (m, 1H), 4.45-4.53 (m, 1H), 6.75 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 20.8, 21.2, 21.26, 21.27, 24.1, 25.3, 26.4, 26.5, 41.8, 42.2, 46.6, 47.2, 80.1, 80.7, 108.2, 108.4, 123.4, 124.2, 128.95, 129.02, 130.9, 132.55, 132.63, 132.7, 140.8, 140.9, 178.8, 179.4 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{Na}$ [M+Na]⁺ 285.1215, found 285.1211.



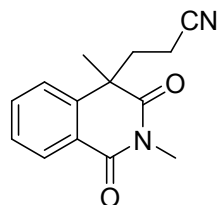
5-Chloro-1,3-dimethyl-3-(2-nitroethyl)indolin-2-one (5e): Yellow oil (54 mg, 80% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 1.42 (s, 3H), 2.40-2.48 (m, 1H), 2.58-2.65 (m, 1H), 3.21 (s, 3H), 4.09-4.16 (m, 1H), 4.20-4.27 (m, 1H), 6.80 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H),

7.19 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.30 (dd, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2.0 Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 23.6, 26.6, 34.5, 46.5, 71.3, 109.6, 123.4, 128.7, 128.9, 133.7, 141.6, 178.4$ ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{13}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}_3\text{Na}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 291.0512, found 291.0510.



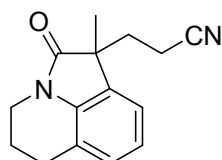
3-(1,3-Dimethyl-2-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-3-yl)propanenitrile

(3q): Orange oil (30 mg, 56% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 1.43$ (s, 3H), 2.04-2.12 (m, 2H), 2.16-2.25 (m, 1H), 2.30-2.38 (m, 1H), 3.31 (s, 3H), 7.02 (dd, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (dd, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (dd, $J = 5.6$ Hz, 1.6 Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 13.0, 23.1, 25.6, 33.1, 47.2, 118.6, 126.3, 130.4, 147.8, 156.8, 178.7$ ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_3\text{ONa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 238.0956, found 238.0959.



3-(2,4-Dimethyl-1,3-dioxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-4-yl)propanenitrile (3r):

Pale yellow oil (28 mg, 46% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 1.65$ (s, 3H), 1.89-2.08 (m, 2H), 2.23-2.30 (m, 1H), 2.73-2.81 (m, 1H), 3.40 (s, 3H), 7.42 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.53 (m, 1H), 7.71 (td, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.29 (dd, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 13.7, 27.5, 30.3, 36.9, 47.2, 118.3, 125.0, 125.2, 128.4, 129.7, 134.7, 141.2, 163.9, 175.2$ ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{Na}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 265.0953, found 265.0950.



3-(1-Methyl-2-oxo-2,4,5,6-tetrahydro-1H-pyrrolo[3,2,1-ij]quinolin-1-yl)propanenitrile (3s): Yellow oil (44 mg, 73% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.40 (s, 3H), 1.98-2.14 (m, 5H), 2.27-2.34 (m, 1H), 2.80 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 3.66-3.77 (m, 2H), 6.97-7.03 (m, 2H), 7.06 (dt, J = 6.8 Hz, 0.8 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 13.1, 21.3, 23.3, 24.7, 33.4, 39.0, 48.8, 119.0, 120.6, 120.8, 122.6, 127.6, 130.4, 139.1, 177.9 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₅H₁₆N₂ONa [M+Na]⁺ 263.1160, found 263.1165.

V. References

- [1] (a) M. P. Sibi, Z. Ma, K. Itoh, N. Prabakaran and C. P. Jasperse, *Org. Lett.*, 2005, **7**, 2349; (b) A. Pinto, Y. Jia, L. Neuville and J. Zhu, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2007, **13**, 961; (c) A. J.-L. Ayitou and J. Sivaguru, *Chem. Commun.*, 2011, **47**, 2568; (d) Q.-Q. Zhang, J.-H. Xie, X.-H. Yang, J.-B. Xie and Q.-L. Zhou, *Org. Lett.*, 2012, **14**, 6158.

VI. Copies of ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra

