A metal-, oxidant-, and fluorous solvent-free synthesis of α -indolylketones enabled by umpolung strategy

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Contents	
1. General Experimental	S2
2. Experimental Procedure	S2-18
3. Supplementary References	S18
4. Copies of ¹ H and ¹³ C NMR spectra	S19-

Experimental Section

1. General Experimental

Mass-spectrometry

High-resolution mass spectra were recorded with a JEOL JMS-T100LP mass spectrometers.

NMR spectroscopy

NMR experiments were performed with a JEOL JNM-ECA500 spectrometer operating at 500 MHz and 125 MHz for 1 H and 13 C acquisitions, respectively. Chemical shifts are expressed in ppm (δ) using residual solvent as the internal reference. For 1 H NMR: CDCl₃, δ 7.25; DMSO- d_6 , δ 2.50; acetone- d_6 , δ 2.02; For 13 C NMR: CDCl₃, δ 77.1; DMSO- d_6 , δ 39.5; acetone- d_6 , δ 29.1. NMR peak are reported as follows: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, dd = doublet of doublets, dd = doublet of doublets, t = triplet of doublets.

Chromatography

Reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) carried out on a silica gel plates (60F-254) and visualized under UV illumination at 254 or 366 nm depending on the compounds. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (Silica Gel 63–210 mesh, Kanto Chemical Co., Ltd.).

Starting materials

The ROBIN (2-RO-3-bromoindoline, **1a**), and 3-methoxyindole (3-MeOIN, **5**) were prepared by reported methods. S1 3-bromo-2-hydroxyindoline **1b**, 3-bromoindole **2**, and HITABs (2-hydroxyindoline-3-triethylammonium bromides, **3**) were prepared by reported methods. S2 DiMeOIN (2,3-dimethoxyindoline, **4**) was prepared by reported methods. Enamines **6** were prepared by reported methods. S4

All substrates were used as received from commercial suppliers (Sigma-Aldrich, TCI, and Wako) and all reagents were weighed and handled in air at room temperature.

2. Experimental Procedure

Synthesis of 2-hydroxyindoline-3-triethylammonium bromides (3)

trans-2-Hydroxy-5-bromo-1-tosylindoline-3-ammonium bromide (3d)

To a solution of 5-bromo-1-tosylindole (701 mg, 2 mmol) and H_2O (0.36 mL, 20 mmol) in acetone (20 mL) was added NBS (392 mg, 2.2 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature until the complete disappearance of starting material as indicated by TLC. Et_3N (0.31 mL, 2.2 mmol) was added to the mixture and stirred further 1 h. The resulting precipitate was separated by filtration, washed with acetone, and dried *in vacuo* to give **3d** (746.1 mg, 68% yield).

746.1 mg, 68% yield. colorless solid; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 8.01 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.93 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.66 (dd, J = 8.6, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.41(d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 6.35 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.83 (s, 1H), 3.33–3.46 (m, 6H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 1.02 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 9H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 145.6, 142.2, 135.9, 135.7, 133.0, 128.2, 122.9, 115.7, 115.6, 85.1, 74.9, 53.4, 21.6, 8.9; HRMS (ESI) m/z: 467.1004, 469.0984 (Calcd for $C_{21}H_{28}BrN_2O_3S$ [M]⁺: 467.1004, 469.0984).

trans-2-Hydroxy-4-chloro-1-tosylindoline-3-ammonium bromide (3e)

To a solution of 4-chloro-1-tosylindole (612 mg, 2 mmol) and H_2O (0.36 mL, 20 mmol) in acetone (20 mL) was added NBS (392 mg, 2.2 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. Then, Et_3N (0.31 mL, 2.2 mmol) was added to the mixture and stirred further 1 h. The mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*. and dried *in vacuo* to give 3e (942 mg, 94% yield) without further purification.

942.0 mg, 94% yield. colorless oil; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, acetone- d_6) δ : 7.86 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.05 (s, 1H), 5.13 (s, 1H), 2.58–2.60 (m, 6H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 1.03 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 9H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, acetone- d_6) δ : 144.9, 142.1, 136.1, 132.4, 131.8, 129.8, 128.1, 127.7, 124.3, 113.2, 93.5, 48.5, 46.1, 20.6, 10.7; HRMS (ESI) m/z: 423.1508, 425.1480 (Calcd for $C_{21}H_{28}CIN_2O_3S$ [M]+: 423.1509, 425.1480).

trans-2-Hydroxy-6-chloro-1-tosylindoline-3-ammonium bromide (3f)

To a solution of 6-chloro-1-tosylindole (1.53 g, 5 mmol) and H_2O (0.90 mL, 50 mmol) in acetone (50 mL) was added NBS (979 mg, 5.5 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature until the complete disappearance of starting material as indicated by TLC. Et_3N (0.77 mL, 5.5 mmol) was added to the mixture and stirred further 1 h. The resulting precipitate was separated by filtration, washed with acetone, and dried *in vacuo* to give **3f** (1.58 g, 63% yield).

1.58 g, 63% yield. colorless solid; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 8.04 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.98 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (dd, J = 2.3, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.39 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 4.84 (s, 1H), 3.31–3.46 (m, 6H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 1.03 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 9H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 145.8, 144.1, 137.5, 135.8, 132.1, 130.7, 128.2, 124.0, 119.6, 113.3, 85.5, 74.8, 53.3, 21.6, 8.9; HRMS (ESI) m/z: 423.1511, 425.1480 (Calcd for $C_{21}H_{28}CIN_2O_3S$ [M]⁺: 423.1509, 425.1480).

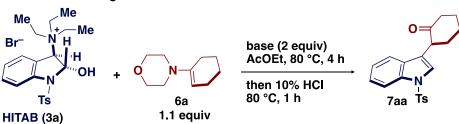
trans-2-Hydroxy-1-benzenesulfonylindoline-3-ammonium bromide (3g)

To a solution of 1-benzenesulfonylindole (5.15 g, 20 mmol) and H_2O (3.60 mL, 200 mmol) in acetone (200 mL) was added NBS (3.74 g, 21 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 6 h. Et₃N (2.94 mL, 21 mmol) was added to the mixture and stirred further 1 h. The resulting precipitate was separated by filtration, washed with acetone, and dried *in vacuo* to give 3g (7.47 g, 82% yield).

7.47 g, 82% yield. colorless solid; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 8.15 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.90 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.38 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 4.85 (s, 1H), 3.33–3.47 (m, 6H), 1.01 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 9H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ : 142.7, 139.0, 134.7, 133.0, 130.5, 130.1, 128.1, 124.1, 120.5, 113.8, 84.8, 75.4, 53.3, 8.8; HRMS (ESI) m/z: 375.1742 (Calcd for $C_{20}H_{27}N_2O_3S$ [M]⁺: 375.1742).

Optimization of Reaction Conditions

Table S1. Screening of bases



entry	base	% yield
1	Et ₃ N	86
2	TMEDA	43
3	<i>i</i> Pr ₂ NEt	65
4	pyridine	67
5	DMAP	13
6	DABCO	46
7	DBU	8
8	K₂CO₃ Cs₂CO₃	0
9	Cs ₂ CO ₃	0
10	NaOH	0
11	КОН	0

A mixture of 3a (469.4 mg, 1.0 mmol), 6a (183.5 mg, 1.1 mmol) and base (2.0 mmol) in AcOEt (10 mL) was heated at 80 °C with stirring for 4 h. After cooling to room temperature, 10% aq. HCl (10 mL) was added to the mixture. Then the mixture was heated at 80 °C for 1 h. After cooling to room temperature, the whole was extracted with AcOEt (3 x 20 mL), washed with brine (20 mL). The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (AcOEt:hexane = 1:5–1:2 or CHCl₃:hexane = 1:1) to give 7aa.

Table S2. Screening of solvents

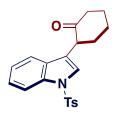
entry	solvent	temp.	% yield
1	AcOEt	80	86
2	AcOEt	50	47
3	AcOEt	rt	4
4	benzene	80	80
5	toluene	80	83
6	hexane	80	64
7	1,4-dioxane	80	0
8	THF	80	0
9	MeCN	80	52
10	DMSO	80	0
11	DMF	80	13
12	CHCI ₃	80	24

A mixture of **3a** (469.4 mg, 1.0 mmol), **6a** (183.5 mg, 1.1 mmol) and Et₃N (0.28 mL, 2.0 mmol) in solvent (10 mL) was heated at indicated temperature with stirring for 4 h. After cooling to room temperature, 10% aq. HCl (10 mL) was added to the mixture. Then the mixture was heated at 80 °C for 1 h. After cooling to room temperature, the whole was extracted with AcOEt (3 x 20 mL), washed with brine (20 mL). The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (AcOEt:hexane = 1:5–1:2 or CHCl₃:hexane = 1:1) to give **7aa**.

General Procedure for Synthesis of α-Indolylketones (Scheme 3)

A mixture of **3** (1.0 mmol), **6** (1.1 mmol) and Et_3N (0.28 mL, 2.0 mmol) in AcOEt (10 mL) was heated at 80 °C with stirring for 2–16 h. After cooling to room temperature, 10% aq. HCl (10 mL) was added to the mixture. Then the mixture was heated at 80 °C for 1 h. After cooling to room temperature, the whole was extracted with AcOEt (3 x 20 mL), washed with brine (20 mL). The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (AcOEt:hexane = 1:5–1:2 or CHCl₃:hexane = 1:1) to give **7**.

2-(1-Tosyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)cyclohexan-1-one (7aa)



315.3 mg, 86% yield. colorless solid; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.95 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (s, 1H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (t, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (dd, J = 11.5, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 2.45–2.55 (m, 2H), 2.33–2.39 (m, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.12–2.19 (m, 1H), 2.00–2.08 (m, 2H), 1.80–1.90 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 209.1, 144.9, 135.4, 135.1, 130.5, 130.0, 126.9, 124.7, 123.8, 123.1, 120.5, 120.0, 113.8, 48.5, 42.1, 34.3, 28.1, 25.3, 21.6; HRMS (ESI) m/z: 390.1139 (Calcd for $C_{21}H_{21}NNaO_{3}S$ [M+Na]⁺: 390.1140).

2-(5-Methoxy-1-tosyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)cyclohexan-1-one (7ba)

306.9 mg, 77% yield. colorless oil; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.83 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (s, 1H), 7.19 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.88 (dd, J = 9.2, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (d, J = 2.9Hz, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.73 (dd, J = 11.4, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 2.44–2.54 (m, 2H), 2.32–2.37 (m, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.11–2.19 (m, 1H), 2.00–2.08 (m, 2H), 1.81–1.90 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 209.0, 156.3, 144.8, 135.3, 131.6, 129.9, 126.8, 124.6, 120.6, 114.6, 113.4, 102.8, 55.8, 48.4, 42.0, 34.1, 28.0, 25.2, 21.6; HRMS (ESI) m/z: 420.1246 (Calcd for $C_{22}H_{23}NNaO_4S$ [M+Na]⁺: 420.1246).

2-(5-Chloro-1-tosyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)cyclohexan-1-one (7ca)

340.4 mg, 85% yield. colorless solid; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.86 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (s, 1H), 7.26 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.21–7.23 (m, 1H), 7.21 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.73 (dd, J = 12.1, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 2.45–2.54 (m, 2H), 2.29–2.41 (m, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.16–2.20 (m, 1H), 1.95–2.03 (m, 2H), 1.79–1.88 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 208.7, 145.2, 135.1, 133.5, 131.8, 130.1, 129.0, 126.9, 125.1, 124.9, 120.0, 119.8, 114.8, 48.3, 42.2, 34.3, 28.0, 25.4, 21.7; HRMS (ESI) m/z: 424.0750, 426.0721 (Calcd for C₂₁H₂₀ClNNaO₃S [M+Na]⁺: 424.0750, 426.0721).

2-(5-Bromo-1-tosyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)cyclohexan-1-one (7da)

325.0 mg, 73% yield. colorless solid; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.82 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (s, 1H), 7.42 (s, 1H), 7.36 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.73 (dd, J = 11.5, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 2.46–2.55 (m, 2H), 2.33–2.36 (m, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.17 (m, 1H), 1.95–2.04 (m, 2H), 1.84–1.88 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 208.6, 145.3, 135.1, 133.9, 132.3, 130.1, 127.6, 126.9, 125.0, 122.8, 119.9, 116.7, 115.2, 48.3, 42.2, 34.4, 28.0, 25.4, 21.7; HRMS (ESI) m/z: 468.0245, 470.0224 (Calcd for $C_{21}H_{20}BrNNaO_3S$ [M+Na]+: 468.0245, 470.0224).

2-(4-Chloro-1-tosyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)cyclohexan-1-one (7ea)

225.1 mg, 56% yield. colorless solid; 1 H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.87 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.73(d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (s, 1H), 7.23 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 4.41 (d, J = 11.5 Hz, 1H), 2.51–2.57 (m, 2H), 2.45–2.48 (m, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.19–2.23 (m, 1H), 2.03–2.06 (m, 1H), 1.79–1.97 (m, 3H); 13 C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ :209.7, 145.3, 136.4, 135.0, 130.1, 127.5, 126.9, 126.5, 125.1, 124.8, 124.6, 120.5, 112.5, 49.2, 42.4, 34.5, 25.9, 21.7; HRMS (ESI) m/z: 424.0751, 426.0721 (Calcd for $C_{21}H_{20}$ ClNNaO₃S [M+Na]⁺: 424.0750, 426.0721).

2-(6-Chloro-1-tosyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)cyclohexan-1-one (7fa)



274.1 mg, 68% yield. colorless solid; 1 H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.96 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (d, J = 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (dd, J = 8.6, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (dd, J = 12.1, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 2.44–2.55 (m, 2H), 2.33–2.38 (m, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.14–2.19 (m, 1H), 1.98–2.05 (m, 2H), 2.35 (

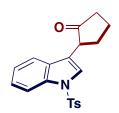
2H), 1.78-1.89 (m, 2H); 13 C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 208.8, 145.3, 135.5, 135.1, 130.7, 130.1, 129.0, 126.9, 124.2, 123.8, 121.0, 120.4, 113.9, 48.3, 42.1, 34.2, 28.0, 25.3, 21.7; HRMS (ESI) m/z: 424.0750, 426.0721 (Calcd for $C_{21}H_{20}$ CINNaO₃S [M+Na]⁺: 424.0750, 426.0721).

2-(1-(Phenylsulfonyl)-1*H*-indol-3-yl)cyclohexan-1-one (7ga)



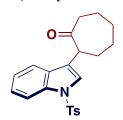
325.9 mg, 92% yield. colorless oil; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.96 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.51–7.53 (m, 2H), 7.43 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (dd, J = 11.5, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 2.46–2.56 (m, 2H), 2.33–2.41 (m, 1H), 2.14–2.20 (m, 1H), 2.00–2.08 (m, 2H), 1.81–1.90 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 209.0, 138.3, 135.2, 133.9, 130.5, 129.4, 126.8, 124.8, 123.7, 123.2, 120.8, 120.1, 113.8, 48.4, 42.1, 34.3, 28.1, 25.3; HRMS (ESI) m/z: 376.0983 (Calcd for $C_{20}H_{19}NNaO_{3}S$ [M+Na]⁺: 376.0983).

2-(1-Tosyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)cyclopentan-1-one (7ab)



229.0 mg, 65% yield. colorless oil; 1 H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.96 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (s, 1H), 7.30 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.51 (t, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 2.45–2.55 (m, 2H), 2.27–2.38 (m, 1H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 2.13–2.19 (m, 1H), 2.05–2.10 (m, 1H), 1.97–2.02 (m, 1H); 13 C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 216.9, 145.0, 135.3, 135.3, 130.3, 130.0, 126.9, 124.9, 123.2, 123.2, 120.4, 119.7, 113.7, 46.6, 38.1, 30.7, 21.6, 21.1; HRMS (ESI) m/z: 376.0984 (Calcd for $C_{20}H_{19}NNaO_{3}S$ [M+Na]+: 376.0983).

2-(1-Tosyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)cycloheptan-1-one (7ac)



 2H), 3.92 (dd, J = 11.5, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.68 (td, J = 13.2, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 2.42–2.47 (m, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.19–2.24 (m, 1H), 1.89–2.06 (m, 4H), 1.61–1.69 (m, 1H), 1.43–1.52 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 211.9, 145.0, 135.3, 135.2, 130.2, 130.0, 126.9, 124.9, 123.5, 123.3, 121.6, 120.3, 113.7, 50.0, 41.6, 30.9, 29.9, 28.4, 25.4, 21.6; HRMS (ESI) m/z: 404.1296 (Calcd for $C_{22}H_{23}NNaO_3S$ [M+Na]+: 404.1296).

2-(1-Tosyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)cyclododecan-1-one (7ad)



406.0 mg, 90% yield. colorless solid; 1 H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.95 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (s, 1H), 7.46 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (td, J = 6.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.96 (dd, J = 12.0, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 2.52 (ddd, J = 17.2, 11.5, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 2.25–2.38 (m, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 1.99–2.04 (m, 1H), 1.84–1.93 (m, 1H), 1.71–1.77 (m, 1H), 1.25–1.50 (m, 15H); 13 C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ :211.3, 145.1, 135.3, 135.2, 130.1, 130.0, 126.9, 125.1, 123.6, 123.5, 121.3, 119.7, 113.9, 49.0, 36.7, 29.4, 25.7, 25.4, 24.2, 24.1, 23.9, 23.5, 22.4, 22.3, 21.7; HRMS (ESI) m/z: 474.2080 (Calcd for $C_{27}H_{33}$ NNaO₃S [M+Na]+: 474.2079).

Rel-(2S,4S)-4-(tert-butyl)-2-(1-tosyl-1H-indol-3-yl)cyclohexan-1-one (7ae)

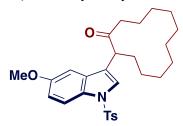
295.7 mg, 70% yield. colorless oil; 1 H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.95 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (s, 1H), 7.29 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.17–7.22 (m, 1H), 3.82 (dd, J = 12.1, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 2.53–2.58 (m, 2H), 2.35–2.41 (m, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.18–2.25 (m, 1H), 1.74–1.82 (m, 2H), 1.57–1.67 (m, 1H), 0.96 (s, 9H); 13 C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 209.2, 144.9, 135.5, 135.1, 130.5, 130.0, 126.9, 124.6, 123.9, 123.1, 120.6, 119.9, 113.8, 47.8, 47.6, 41.7, 35.8, 32.7, 31.6, 28.8, 27.8, 27.6, 21.6; HRMS (ESI) m/z: 446.1766 (Calcd for $C_{25}H_{29}NNaO_3S$ [M+Na]+: 446.1766).

2-(5-Methoxy-1-tosyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)cyclopentan-1-one (7bb)

236.6 mg, 62% yield. colorless oil; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.83 (d, J = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H),

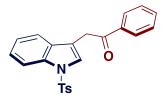
7.37 (s, 1H), 7.20 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.90–6.92 (m, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.46 (dd, J = 9.2, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.44–2.57 (m, 2H), 2.30–2.38 (m, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.14–2.20 (m, 1H), 2.04–2.13 (m, 1H), 1.95–2.03 (m, 1H); 13 C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 216.8, 156.4, 145.0, 135.2, 131.5, 130.0, 129.9, 126.8, 123.9, 119.9, 114.6, 113.7, 55.8, 46.6, 38.1, 30.5, 21.6, 21.1; HRMS (ESI) m/z: 406.1090 (Calcd for $C_{21}H_{21}NNaO_4S$ [M+Na]+: 406.1089).

2-(5-Methoxy-1-tosyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)cyclododecan-1-one (7bd)



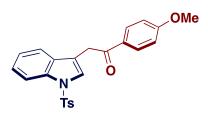
380.0 mg, 79% yield. colorless solid; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.84 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (s, 1H), 7.19 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.90 (dd, J = 9.2, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.86 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (dd, J = 12.0, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.52 (ddd, J = 16.6, 11.5, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.24–2.32 (m, 1H), 1.85–1.97 (m, 2H), 1.24–1.50 (m, 16H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 211.2, 156.7, 145.0, 135.1, 131.1, 130.0, 129.9, 126.8, 124.4, 121.4, 114.8, 114.1, 102.1, 55.7, 49.4, 36.2, 29.2, 25.8, 25.5, 24.1, 24.0, 23.8, 23.5, 22.4, 22.2, 21.6; HRMS (ESI) m/z: 504.2185 (Calcd for $C_{28}H_{35}NNaO_4S$ [M+Na]⁺: 504.2185).

1-phenyl-2-(1-tosyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)ethan-1-one (7af)



315.5 mg, 81% yield. colorless oil; 1 H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 8.01 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 7.96 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (s, 1H), 7.45–7.49 (m, 3H), 7.31 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.32 (s, 2H), 2.31 (s, 3H); 13 C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 196.3, 144.9, 136.3, 135.3, 135.2, 133.5, 130.8, 129.9, 128.8, 128.6, 126.9, 125.1, 125.0, 123.4, 119.7, 115.9, 113.8, 35.3, 21.6; HRMS (ESI) m/z: 412.0984 (Calcd for $C_{23}H_{19}NNaO_3S$ [M+Na]+: 412.0983).

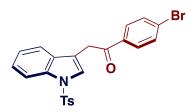
1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2-(1-tosyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)ethan-1-one (7ag)



328.1 mg, 78% yield. colorless oil; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.98 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 7.96 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, H), 7.69 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (s, 1H), 7.48 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 4.26 (s, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ :

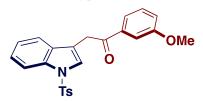
195.0, 163.8, 144.9, 135.3, 135.2, 130.9, 130.8, 129.9, 129.4, 126.9, 124.9, 123.4, 119.7, 116.4, 114.0, 113.8, 55.6, 35.0, 21.6; HRMS (ESI) m/z: 442.1088 (Calcd for $C_{24}H_{21}NNaO_4S$ [M+Na]⁺: 442.1089).

1-(4-Bromophenyl)-2-(1-tosyl-1H-indol-3-yl)ethan-1-one (7ah)



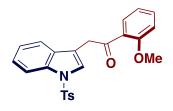
352.2 mg, 75% yield. colorless oil; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.96 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (s, 1H), 7.45 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 4.27 (s, 2H), 2.32 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ :195.4, 145.0, 135.2, 135.1, 132.1, 130.6, 130.1, 129.9, 128.7, 126.8, 125.1, 125.0, 123.5, 119.6, 115.6, 113.9, 35.4, 21.7; HRMS (ESI) m/z: 490.0089, 492.0067 (Calcd for C_3H_{18} BrNNaO₃S [M+Na]⁺: 490.0088, 492.0068).

1-(3-Methoxyphenyl)-2-(1-tosyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)ethan-1-one (7ai)



184.6 mg, 44% yield. colorless oil; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.96 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (dd, J = 8.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (s, 1H), 7.51 (dd, J = 2.9, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (td, J = 7.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.12 (dd, J = 8.0, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 4.30 (s, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 196.2, 160.0, 144.9, 137.7, 135.3, 135.2, 130.8, 129.9, 129.8, 126.9, 125.1, 125.0, 123.4, 121.2, 120.0, 119.6, 115.9, 113.8, 112.7, 55.5, 35.4, 21.6; HRMS (ESI) m/z: 442.1089 (Calcd for $C_{24}H_{21}NNaO_{4}S$ [M+Na]⁺: 442.1089).

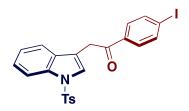
1-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-2-(1-tosyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)ethan-1-one (7aj)



288.2 mg, 69% yield. colorless oil; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.94 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (s, 1H), 7.45 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.98 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 4.34 (s, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 198.7, 158.5, 144.8, 135.4, 135.1, 133.9, 131.2, 130.8, 129.9, 127.7, 126.8, 124.8, 124.7, 123.3, 120.9, 119.8, 116.6, 113.7, 111.6, 55.6, 40.0, 21.6; HRMS (ESI) m/z: 442.1089 (Calcd for $C_{24}H_{21}NNaO_{4}S$

 $[M+Na]^+$: 442.1089).

1-(4-Iodophenyl)-2-(1-tosyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)ethan-1-one (7ak)



313.3 mg, 61% yield. colorless oil; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.96 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (s, 1H), 7.45 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.26 (s, 2H), 2.32 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 195.7, 145.0, 138.1, 138.0, 135.5, 135.2, 135.1, 130.6, 129.9, 126.8, 125.1, 125.0, 123.5, 119.6, 115.6, 113.9, 101.5, 35.3, 21.7; HRMS (ESI) m/z: 537.9950 (Calcd for $C_{23}H_{18}INNaO_{3}S$ [M+Na]+: 537.9950).

Procedure for Gram-Scale Synthesis of 7aa (Scheme 4)

A mixture of **3a** (4.69 g, 10 mmol), **6a** (1.84 g, 11 mmol) and Et₃N (2.8 mL, 20 mmol) in AcOEt (100 mL) was heated at 80 °C with stirring for 4 h. After cooling to room temperature, 10% aq. HCl (50 mL) was added to the mixture. Then the mixture was heated at 80 °C for 1 h. After cooling to room temperature, the whole was extracted with AcOEt (3 x 100 mL), washed with brine (50 mL). The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (AcOEt:hexane = 1:5–1:2 then CHCl₃:hexane = 1:1) to give **7aa** (3.30 g, 90%).

Procedure for Gram-Scale Synthesis of 7ab (Scheme 4)

A mixture of 3a (4.69 g, 10 mmol), 6b (1.69 g, 11 mmol) and Et₃N (2.8 mL, 20 mmol) in AcOEt (100 mL) was

heated at 80 °C with stirring for 16 h. After cooling to room temperature, 10% aq. HCl (50 mL) was added to the mixture. Then the mixture was heated at 80 °C for 1 h. After cooling to room temperature, the whole was extracted with AcOEt (3 x 100 mL), washed with brine (50 mL). The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (AcOEt:hexane = 1:5–1:2 then CHCl₃:hexane = 1:1) to give **7ab** (2.50 g, 71%).

General Procedure for Synthesis of Bisindoles using In(OTf)₃ (Scheme 5)

To a solution of **7aa** (367.5 mg, 1.0 mmol) or **7ab** (353.4 mg, 1.0 mmol) and 2-methylindole (262.2 mg, 2.0 mmol) or indole (234.1 mg, 2.0 mmol) in MeCN (10 mL) was added $In(OTf)_3$ (56.2 mg, 0.1 mmol) at room temperature and the mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 16 h. After cooling to room temperature, the whole was extracted with AcOEt (3 x 20 mL), washed with brine (20 mL). The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (CHCl₃:hexane = 1:1) to give bisindoles.

2-Methyl-3-(2-(1-tosyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)cyclohex-1-en-1-yl)-1*H*-indole (8)

268.2 mg, 56% yield. colorless oil; 1 H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.75 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (dd, J = 1.7, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (br s, 1H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (dd, J = 1.8, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 7.02–7.09 (m, 5H), 6.87 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.72–2.76 (m, 1H), 2.56–2.65 (m, 1H), 2.37–2.50 (m, 1H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 2.20–2.33 (m, 1H), 1.86–1.98 (m, 4H), 1.79 (s, 3H); 13 C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 144.5, 135.3, 135.2, 134.7, 131.4, 130.7, 130.1, 129.8, 128.4, 128.1, 126.6, 126.2, 124.0, 123.5, 122.6, 121.1, 120.9, 119.5, 119.0, 115.9, 113.3, 110.2, 32.0, 31.9, 23.6, 23.4, 21.7, 12.4; HRMS (ESI) m/z: 503.1768 (Calcd for $C_{30}H_{28}N_{2}$ NaO₂S [M+Na]+: 503.1769).

2-Methyl-3-(2-(1-tosyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)cyclopent-1-en-1-yl)-1*H*-indole (9)

318.2 mg, 68% yield. colorless oil; 1 H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.90 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (br s, 1H), 7.57 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (s, 1H), 7.22 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.11–7.16 (m, 4H), 7.03 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.06 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.17 (quint, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.67 (s, 3H); 13 C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 144.7, 135.6, 135.1, 135.0, 134.1, 132.1, 129.8, 129.6, 129.5, 127.9, 126.8, 124.2, 124.1, 122.8, 122.2, 121.9, 121.2, 119.7, 119.6, 113.5, 111.5, 110.4, 38.8, 38.0, 23.3, 21.6, 12.7; HRMS (ESI) m/z: 489.1612 (Calcd for $C_{29}H_{26}N_{2}NaO_{2}S$ [M+Na]+: 489.1613).

3-(2-(1*H*-Indol-3-yl)cyclopent-1-en-1-yl)-1-tosyl-1*H*-indole (10)

234.0 mg, 52% yield. colorless oil; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.95 (br s, 1H), 7.88 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (s, 1H), 7.28 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.16–7.17 (m, 3H), 7.07–7.10 (m, 2H), 6.91 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 3.04–3.08 (m, 2H), 2.93–2.95 (m, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.14 (quint, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 144.7, 136.0, 135.3, 135.0, 133.6, 129.9, 129.6, 127.1, 126.9, 125.9, 124.2, 123.6, 122.8, 122.1, 121.9, 121.7, 121.1, 119.7, 114.6, 113.4, 111.1, 39.0, 38.9, 22.8, 21.7; HRMS (ESI) m/z: 475.1457 (Calcd for $C_{28}H_{24}N_{3}NaO_{2}S$ [M+Na]+: 475.1456).

General Procedure for Synthesis of Enamines (Scheme 6a)

A mixture of **3d** (548.3 mg, 1.0 mmol), **6a** (184 mg, 1.1 mmol) and Et₃N (0.28 mL, 2.0 mmol) in AcOEt (10 mL) was heated at 80 °C with stirring for 16 h. After cooling to room temperature, H₂O (10 mL) was added to the mixture. The whole was extracted with AcOEt (3 x 20 mL), washed with brine (20 mL). The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (AcOEt:hexane = 1:5–1:2 then CHCl₃:hexane = 1:1) to give **12a** (425.2 mg, 80% yield) and **12b** (86.4 mg, 16% yield).

Rel-(2S,3S)-5-bromo-3-((R)-2-morpholinocyclohex-2-en-1-yl)-1-tosylindolin-2-ol (12a)

425.2 mg, 80% yield. colorless solid; 1 H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.82 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.23–7.28 (m, 5H), 7.11 (s, 1H), 5.99 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.14 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.64–3.72 (m, 4H), 2.79–2.80 (m, 2H), 2.54–2.58 (m, 2H), 2.45 (dt, J = 7.4, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 1.40–1.52 (m, 2H), 1.10–1.17 (m, 2H), 0.94–1.00 (m, 1H), 0.40–

0.47 (m, 1H); 13 C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 144.3, 141.6, 136.2, 132.1, 131.1, 129.7, 128.9, 127.6, 115.5, 114.8, 99.0, 94.8, 67.8, 49.8, 45.7, 40.7, 27.0, 24.3, 24.2, 21.7, 21.5; HRMS (ESI) m/z: 555.0929, 557.0908 (Calcd for $C_{25}H_{29}BrN_2NaO_4S$ [M+Na]+: 555.0929, 557.0909).

Rel-(2S,3S)-5-bromo-3-(2-morpholinocyclohex-1-en-1-yl)-1-tosylindolin-2-ol (12b)

86.4 mg, 16% yield. colorless solid; 1 H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.74 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.23–7.27 (m, 4H), 7.11 (s, 1H), 6.18 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.32 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (m, 2H), 2.54 (m, 2H), 2.47 (dd, J = 11.5, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 2.12–2.16 (m, 2H), 1.89–1.96 (m, 2H), 1.58–1.64 (m, 3H), 1.32–1.42 (m, 2H), 1.05–1.08 (m, 2H); 13 C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 144.3, 141.3, 136.8, 136.2, 130.2, 129.9, 127.1, 126.0, 115.6, 115.1, 98.9, 95.3, 66.5, 53.2, 45.9, 43.6, 31.9, 24.4, 23.8, 21.8, 21.6; HRMS (ESI) m/z: 555.0928, 557.0909 (Calcd for $C_{25}H_{29}BrN_2NaO_4S$ [M+Na]+: 555.0929, 557.0909).

Conversion of 12a into 7da (Scheme 6b)

To a solution of **12a** (53.4 mg, 0.1 mmol) in AcOEt (2 mL) was added BF₃•Et₂O (0.06 mL, 0.5 mmol) and heated at 90 °C (oil bath) with stirring for 3 h. After cooling to room temperature, saturated aq. NaHCO₃ was added to the mixture. The whole was extracted with AcOEt (3 x 10 mL), washed with brine (10 mL). The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (CHCl₃:hexane = 1:1) to give **7da** (32.3 mg, 72% yield).

Conversion of 12b into 7da (Scheme 6c)

To a solution of **12a** (53.4 mg, 0.1 mmol) in AcOEt (2 mL) was added BF₃•Et₂O (0.06 mL, 0.5 mmol) and heated at 90 °C (oil bath) with stirring for 16 h. After cooling to room temperature, saturated aq. NaHCO₃ was added to the mixture. The whole was extracted with AcOEt (3 x 10 mL), washed with brine (10 mL). The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (CHCl₃:hexane = 1:1) to give **7da** (30.4 mg, 57% yield).

3. Supplementary References

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- (S3) Hirao, S.; Yamashiro, T.; Kohira, K.; Mishima, N.; Abe, T. Chem. Commun. 2020, 56, 5139–5142.
- (S4) Xing, D.; Dong, G. J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2017, 139, 13664-13667.

