Electronic Supplementary Information

Photo-induced Preparation of Unnatural α-Amino Acids:

Synthesis and Characterization of Novel Leu⁵-Enkephalin

Analogues

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Contents

1. General information	S2
2. Synthesis of substrates	S2
3. General procedure of C(sp ³)-H alkylation	S 3
4. Characterization of products	S10
5. Synthetic applications	S23
6. The mechanistic study	S24
7. Metabolic stability	S30
8. References	S31
9. NMR spectra of products	S33

1. General information

All commercially available reagents were used without further purification unless otherwise stated. All solvents were purified and dried according to standard methods prior to use. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker 300 and a Bruker 400 instrument spectrometer in CDCl₃ using tetramethylsilane (TMS) as internal standard unless otherwise stated. Data for ¹H NMR are recorded as follows: chemical shift (δ , ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet, q = quartet, dd = doublet of doublets, dt = doublet of triplets, td = triplet of doublets, and br = broad signal, coupling constant (s) in Hz, integration). Data for ¹³C NMR and ¹⁹F NMR are reported in terms of chemical shift (δ , ppm). Reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) and column chromatography purifications were carried out using silica gel GF254. Melting points were measured on a SCW X-4 and values are uncorrected. UV-Vis absorption spectra were recorded by using BIOMATE 3S UV-Visible Spectrophotometer. All new compounds were further characterized by high resolution mass spectra (HRMS, ESI source).

Animals

Male Kunming strain mice (Experimental Animal Centre of Lanzhou University, Lanzhou, China) weighing approximately 22 g were housed in groups (4–6 per cage) in an environment with a controlled temperature ($22 \pm 1^{\circ}$ C) and a 12 h light/dark cycle. All the animals had access to food and water ad libitum. All the experimental protocols were approved by the Ethics Committee of Lanzhou University (No.: SYXK Gan 2009-0005) and followed the guidelines formulated by the European Community (2010/63/EU). Animal studies are reported in compliance with the ARRIVE guidelines (Kilkenny et al., 2010). The mice were divided randomly into groups on the day of the experiment. The studies were blinded to treatment assignment and outcome assessment.

Tail-flick test

Nociceptive responses in mice were confirmed using the tail-flick test as previously described (Li et al., 2016a). Briefly, the tail of the mouse was positioned in a groove underneath a radiant heat source. The intensity of the heat source was adjusted to the baseline of naïve mice between 3-5 s, and a cut-off time of 10 s was set in this study. The latency was recorded before and at 15, 30, 45, 60, 90, 120, and 240 min post-injection. Maximal possible effect (MPE) was used to quantify the antinociceptive effects as follows: MPE(%) = $100 \times [(\text{post-drug response-baseline response})/(\text{cut-off response-baseline response})].$

2. Synthesis of substrates

Preparation of alkyl chlorides

Esters, amides of *N*-aryl-substituted glycine,¹ dipeptides,² tripeptides² and *N*-aryl tetrahydroisoquinoline³ were all prepared according to previous reports. Other peptides were synthesized via solid phase synthesis. Alkyl chlorides and alkyl iodides were prepared according to the previous reported literatures.⁴ **2h**, **2k** and **2m** were purchased from Energy and Innochem.

Preparation of **21**: PCl₃ (0.42 equiv) was added dropwise to a solution of 2-methyl-1-phenyl-2propanol and pyridine (0.42 equiv) in anhydrous hexanes (0.5 M in alcohol) at 0 °C. After stirring at 0 °C for 2 h, the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature, and it was stirred for an additional 3 h. Next, the reaction mixture was diluted with Et_2O , washed (water, saturated NaHCO₃, and brine), dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated on a rotary evaporator. The residue was purified by column chromatography (hexane) and the title compound **2k** was obtained. The NMR data are consistent with a previous report.⁵

3. General procedures of C(sp³)-H alkylation

3.1 Optimization of reaction conditions

3.1.1 Optimization for the coupling of 1a and cyclohexyl chloride

F	H O N O	+	hv (254 CI <u>catalyst (</u> NaHCO ₃ CH ₃ CN	nm) <u>50 mol%)</u> (2.0 eq) , rt, 4 h	
	1a	2a , 3.0 ec	luiv	3aa 📏	
Entry	Catalyst	Yield $(\%)^b$	Entry	Catalyst	Yield $(\%)^b$
1	LiI	0	4	TBAI	25
2	NaI	0	5	TBAB	0
3	KI	0	6		0

Table S1. Catalyst screening for the coupling of 1a and 2a^{*a*}

^a 0.1 mmol scale. ^b Yield was determined by ¹H NMR using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard.

Table S2. Cyclohexyl alcohol and cyclohexyl esters screening for the coupling of 1a and 2a^a

F	H O N O	+	0 R <u>TBAI (5</u> <u>78 TBAI (5</u> NaHCC CH ₃ C	$ \frac{0 \text{ mol}\%}{D_3 (2.0 \text{ eq})} $ N, rt, 4 h F H N	
	1a	3.0 equi	v	3aa 📏	
Entry	R	Yield $(\%)^b$	Entry	R	Yield $(\%)^b$
1	Н	0	3	Ts	0
2	Ac	0	4	Boc	0

F	H O N O 1a	+ 2a , 3.0 equi	hv (25 TBAI (5 Additive CH ₃ CN	54 nm) 50 mol%) e (2.0 eq) J, rt, 4 h 3aa	0
Entry	Additive	Yield $(\%)^b$	Entry	Additive	Yield $(\%)^b$
1	NaHCO ₃	25	9	CsF	16
2	Cs_2CO_3	9	10	KF	17
3	K_2CO_3	12	11	Et ₃ N	17
4	Na ₂ CO ₃	21	12	<i>i</i> -Pr ₂ NH	21
5	KOAc	18	13	Et_2NH	16
6	KHCO3	28	14	DABCO	31
7	K_2HPO_4	17	15 ^c	DABCO/KHCO3	40
8	K_3PO_4	20			

Table S3. Base screening for the coupling of 1a and 2a^a

^{*a*} 0.1 mmol scale. ^{*b*} Yield was determined by ¹H NMR using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard. ^{*c*} 2.0 equiv DABCO and 2.0 equiv KHCO₃ were added.

Table S4. Catalyst and additive loading screening for the coupling of 1a and 2a^a

F 1a	0 + 2a, 3	CI CI TBAI DABCO, KI CH ₃ CN, rt, 3.0 equiv	H H H H H H H H	
Entry	TBAI (eq)	DABCO (eq)	KHCO ₃ (eq)	Yield $(\%)^b$
1	0.5	2.0	2.0	40
2	0.4	2.0	2.0	31
3	0.5	2.0	3.0	40
4	0.5	3.0	2.0	40
5	0.5	1.0	2.0	34
6	0.5	2.0	1.0	35
7		2.0	2.0	<5
8	0.5		2.0	28
9	0.5	2.0		31
10			2.0	0
11		2.0		trace
12	0.5			0

F	H 0 	+ 2a , 3.0 equ	hv (2 TBAI (DABC KHCC	$\begin{array}{c} 54 \text{ nm}) \\ 50 \text{ mol}\%) \\ \hline 50 (2.0 \text{ eq}) \\ \hline D_3 (2.0 \text{ eq}) \\ \hline \text{ent, rt, 4 h} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} H \\ F \\ \mathbf{3aa} \end{array}$	0
Entry	Solvent	Yield $(\%)^b$	Entry	Solvent	Yield $(\%)^b$
1	DMF	19	6	MeOH	trace
2	DCM	trace	7	THF	29
3	acetone	trace	8	CH ₃ CN	40
4	DMSO	28	9	1,4-dioxane	27
5	toluene	trace			

Table S5. Solvent screening for the coupling of 1a and 2a^{*a*}

^a 0.1 mmol scale. ^b Yield was determined by ¹H NMR using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard.

hv (254 nm) TBAI (50 mol%) DABCO (2.0 eq) KHCO₃ (2.0 eq) **4 AMS** CH₃CN, rt, 4 h 3aa 1a 2a, 3.0 equiv 4ÅMS dosage $Yield(\%)^b$ Entry 1 20.0 mg 42 2 40.0 mg **4**5 3 60.0 mg 45

Table S6. 4 ÅMS loading screening for the coupling of 1a and 2a^a

^a 0.1 mmol scale. ^b Yield was determined by ¹H NMR using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard.

Table S7. Reaction time screening for the coupling of 1a and 2a^a

H O N O	CI TBAI (50 mol%) DABCO (2.0 ec	
F 1a	KHCO ₃ (2.0 eq) 4 AMS (40.0 m 2a, 3.0 equiv CH ₃ CN, rt, x h	g) F 3aa
Entry	X	$\text{Yield}(\%)^b$
1	4	45
2	12	58
3	18	72
4	24	71

Table S8. Other alkyl halides screening for the coupling of 1a and 2a^a

F H O O O O Ia	+ X 3.0 equiv	<i>hv</i> (254 nm) TBAI (50 mol%) DABCO (2.0 eq) KHCO ₃ (2.0 eq) 4 AMS (40.0 mg) CH ₃ CN, rt, 18 h	F 3aa
Entry		Х	Yield(%) ^b
1		X = Br	35
2		X = I	48

^a 0.1 mmol scale. ^b Yield was determined by ¹H NMR using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard.

F 1a	+ CI + TBAI (50 mol%) DABCO (2.0 eq) KHCO ₃ (2.0 eq) 4 AMS (40.0 mg) CH ₃ CN, rt, 18 h	F 3aa
Entry	Light sources	Yield(%) ^b
1	100 W UVC compact fluorescent light bulbs	72
2	50 W UVC compact fluorescent light bulbs	37
3	80 W low-pressure mercury lamp (365 nm)	0
4	80 W UVB CFL (280-320 nm)	0
5	30 W blue LED	0
6	30 W white LED	0

0

Table S9. Light sources screening for the coupling of 1a and 2a^a

3.1.2 Optimization for the coupling of 1b and cyclohexyl iodide

	1 0 0 0 0	+ J 3.0 equiv	<i>hv</i> (254 nm) Additive (3.0 eq) CH ₃ CN, rt, 4 h	- H O 3ba	0
Entry	Additive	Yield $(\%)^b$	Entry	Additive	Yield $(\%)^b$
1	NaHCO ₃	0	9	DABCO	40
2	$\mathrm{KH}_{2}\mathrm{PO}_{4}$	0	10	DBU	trace
3	NaOH	0	11	2,6-lutidine	trace
4	Na ₂ CO ₃	0	12	TMEDA	trace
5	NaOAc	0	13	HMPA	trace
6	LiO'Bu	0	14	DIPEA	trace
7	K ₂ HPO ₄	0	15	Et ₃ N	trace
8	K_3PO_4	0	16	DMAP	trace

Table S10. Base screening for the coupling of 1b and cyclohexyl iodide^{*a*}

^{*a*} 0.1 mmol scale. ^{*b*} Yield was determined by ¹H NMR using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard.

		+ J.0 equiv	<i>hv</i> (254 nm) DABCO (3.0 eq) Solvent , rt, 4 h	B Ba	
Entry	Solvent	Yield $(\%)^b$	Entry	Solvent	Yield $(\%)^b$
1	DMF	0	6	MeOH	0
2	DCM	0	7	THF	0
3	acetone	0	8	CH ₃ CN	40
4	DMSO	trace	9	1,4-dioxane	0
5	toluene	0			

Table S11.	Solvent	screening	for the	coupling	of 1b	and c	vclohexy	vl iodide ^a
								/

Table S12. Light source screening for the coupling of 1b and cyclohexyl iodide^{*a*}



Entry	Light sources	$\text{Yield}(\%)^b$
1	100 W UVC compact fluorescent light bulbs	40
2	50 W UVC compact fluorescent light bulbs	46
3	25 W UVC compact fluorescent light bulbs	42
4	80 W low-pressure mercury lamp (365 nm)	0
5	80 W UVB CFL (280-320 nm)	0
6	30 W blue LED	0
7	30 W white LED	0

^a 0.1 mmol scale. ^b Yield was determined by ¹H NMR using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard.

H N O 1b	+ + 3.0 equiv H (254 nm) DABCO (3.0 eq) CH ₃ CN (1.0 mL), rt, x h	H O 3ba
Entry	x	Yield(%) ^b
1	4	40
2	8	44
3	12	47
4	18	53
5	24	48

Table S13. Reaction time screening for the coupling of 1b and cyclohexyl iodide^{*a*}

	+ $hv (254 \text{ nm})$ DABCO (5.0 eq) CH ₃ CN (1.0 mL), rt, x h slow injection	H O 3ba
Entry	Conditions	$Yield(\%)^b$
1	UVC CFL 50-W, 12 h	65
2	UVC CFL 50-W, 18 h	70
3	UVC CFL 25-W, 12 h	45
4	UVC CFL 25-W, 18 h	80
5	UVC CFL 25-W, 24 h	67

Table S14. Slow injection for the coupling of 1b and cyclohexyl iodide^a

^a 0.1 mmol scale. ^b Yield was determined by ¹H NMR using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard.

3.2 General procedure for the synthesis of 3

General procedure of Method A: To an oven-dried 10 mL quartz test tube with a stirring bar was added derivatives of glycine or peptide (0.2 mmol), TBAI (0.1 mmol, 37 mg), KHCO₃ (0.4 mmol, 40 mg), DABCO (0.4 mmol, 44.8 mg) and 4ÅMS (80.0 mg). Then, air was withdrawn and backfilled with Ar (three times). CH₃CN (1.0 mL) and alkyl chloride (0.6 mmol) were added in turn by syringe. Thereafter, the test tube was transferred to a UV photoreactor (4×25 W, see Scheme S1 for details), where it was irradiated at 254 nm for 18 h. Eighteen hours later, the reaction was quenched with water (2.0 mL), extracted with ethyl acetate, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, concentrated in *vacuo* and purified by column chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate) to afford the product **3**.

General procedure of Method B: To an oven-dried 10 mL quartz test tube with a stirring bar was added derivatives of glycine or peptide (0.2 mmol), DABCO (1.0 mmol, 112.0 mg). Then, air was withdrawn and backfilled with Ar (three times). CH₃CN (0.8 mL) was added by syringe. Thereafter, the test tube was transferred to a UV photoreactor (25 W, see Scheme S1 for details), alkyl iodide (0.6 mmol) was dissolved in CH₃CN (1.2 mL) and slowly added 18 h by syringe pump. Eighteen hours later, the reaction was quenched with water (2.0 mL), extracted with ethyl acetate, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, concentrated in *vacuo* and purified by column chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate) to afford the product.

Scheme S1. Placement of CFL around quartz test tube



Instructions on placement of CFL: Four 25 W UVC compact fluorescent light bulbs were placed around the quartz test tube and the distance was about 7 cm. A cardboard box lined with tin foil was placed over the lamps and stir plate. In one side of the cardboard box, part of the side was cut out, and a high-speed fan was setup into for dissipating heat.

4. Characterization of products



ethyl 2-cyclohexyl-2-((4-fluorophenyl)amino)acetate (3aa): 38.0 mg, yield: 68%. Yellow solid. M. p. 52 – 53 °C. Known compound.² ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.93 – 6.80 (m, 2H), 6.62 – 6.51 (m, 2H), 4.16 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.00 (d, *J* = 9.7 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (dd, *J* = 9.7, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 1.89 – 1.64 (m, 6H), 1.36 – 1.06 (m, 8H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.68, 156.15 (d, *J* = 235.7 Hz), 143.80, 115.65 (d, *J* = 22.3 Hz), 114.60 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 62.92, 60.81, 41.21, 29.61, 29.15, 26.14, 26.04, 26.01, 14.27. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -127.12. HRMS (ESI) C₁₆H₂₂FNNaO₂ [M + Na]⁺calcd: 302.1527, found: 302.1524.



ethyl 2-cyclohexyl-2-(phenylamino)acetate (3ba): 36.0 mg, yield: 69%. Yellow solid. M. p. 48 – 49 °C. Known compound.² ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.16 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 6.72 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.62 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.16 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 3.86 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 1.89 – 1.65 (m, 6H), 1.35 – 1.06 (m, 8H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.63, 147.39, 129.22, 118.03, 113.47, 61.98, 60.76, 41.25, 29.56, 29.15, 26.15, 26.06, 26.01, 14.26. HRMS (ESI) C₁₆H₂₃NNaO₂ [M + Na]⁺calcd: 284.1621, found: 284.1629.



ethyl 2-cyclohexyl-2-(p-tolylamino)acetate (3ca): 39.0 mg, yield: 71%. Yellow oil. Known compound.² ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.96 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.54 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.15 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.02 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (dd, J = 9.3, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 2.22 (s, 3H), 1.89 – 1.64 (m, 6H), 1.27 – 1.05 (m, 8H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.76, 145.12, 129.65, 127.17, 113.62, 62.34, 60.62, 41.21, 29.54, 29.11, 26.13, 26.02, 25.98, 20.28, 14.22. HRMS (ESI) C₁₇H₂₅NNaO₂ [M + Na]⁺calcd: 298.1778, found: 298.1781.



ethyl 2-cyclohexyl-2-((4-methoxyphenyl)amino)acetate (3da):38.0 mg, yield: 65%. Yellow solid. M. p. 55 –56 °C. Known compound.² ¹**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.79 – 6.72 (m, 2H), 6.64 – 6.57 (m, 2H), 4.15 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (br, 1H), 3.79 – 3.71 (m, 4H), 1.90 – 1.64 (m, 6H), 1.32 – 1.06 (m, 8H). ¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.00, 152.55, 141.61, 115.14, 114.79, 63.34, 60.68, 55.69, 41.26, 29.64, 29.18, 26.18, 26.07, 26.05, 14.28. HRMS (ESI) C₁₇H₂₅NNaO₃ [M + Na]⁺calcd: 314.1727, found: 314.1731.



tert-butyl 2-cyclohexyl-2-(phenylamino)acetate (3ea): 36.0 mg, yield: 62%. Yellow solid. M. p. 73 – 74 °C. Known compound.² ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.15 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.70 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.62 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 4.14 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 3.80 – 3.71 (m, 1H), 1.87 – 1.63 (m, 6H), 1.42 (s, 9H), 1.35 – 1.10 (m, 5H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.76, 147.62, 129.11, 117.77, 113.49, 81.33, 62.38, 41.25, 29.46, 29.10, 28.03, 26.22, 26.12, 26.06. HRMS (ESI) C₁₈H₂₇NNaO₂ [M + Na]⁺calcd: 312.1934, found: 312.1937.



N-butyl-2-cyclohexyl-2-((4-methoxyphenyl)amino)acetamide (3fa): 32.0 mg, yield: 50%. Yellow oil. Known compound.⁶ ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3) δ 6.90 (br, 1H), 6.78 (d, J = 8.8 Hz,

2H), 6.56 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.69 (br, 1H),3.46 (d, J = 3.3 Hz, 1H), 3.36 - 3.13 (m, 2H), 2.07 - 1.96 (m, 1H), 1.80 - 1.65 (m, 5H), 1.49 - 1.07 (m, 9H), 0.87 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.65, 152.85, 141.48, 114.71, 114.64, 65.73, 55.67, 41.04, 38.73, 31.61, 30.33, 27.93, 26.12, 19.96, 13.66. HRMS (ESI) C₁₉H₃₀N₂NaO₂ [M + Na]⁺calcd: 341.2199, found: 341.2201.



N-butyl-2-cyclohexyl-2-((4-fluorophenyl)amino)acetamide (3ga): 33.0 mg, yield: 54%. Yellow oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.95 – 6.86 (m, 3H), 6.64 – 6.59 (m, 2H), 3.51 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 3.29 – 3.19 (m, 2H), 2.02 (t,*J* = 10.3 Hz, 1H), 1.82 – 1.69 (m, 5H), 1.48 – 1.06 (m, 10H), 0.86 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.86, 156.93 (d, *J* = 237.8 Hz), 142.92, 115.83 (d, *J* = 22.5 Hz), 115.23, 65.98, 40.88, 38.88, 31.60, 30.17, 28.28, 26.17, 26.16, 26.07, 19.97, 13.63. HRMS (ESI) C₁₈H₂₇FN₂NaO [M + Na]⁺calcd: 329.2000, found: 329.2002.



N-butyl-2-cyclohexyl-2-(phenylamino)acetamide (3ha): 33.0 mg, yield: 57%. Colorless oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.12 (dd, J = 8.3, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.72 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 6.54 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (d, J = 2.9 Hz, 1H), 3.48 (t, J = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 3.28 – 3.05 (m, 2H), 2.02 – 1.91 (m, 1H), 1.85 – 1.59 (m, 5H), 1.41 – 1.28 (m, 2H), 1.26 – 1.00 (m, 7H), 0.79 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.39, 147.40, 129.30, 118.86, 113.64, 64.92, 40.99, 38.80, 31.61, 30.31, 28.00, 26.15, 19.96, 13.64. HRMS (ESI) C₁₈H₂₈N₂NaO [M + Na]⁺calcd: 311.2094, found: 311.2097.



2-cyclohexyl-2-((4-methoxyphenyl)amino)-*N*-propylacetamide (3ia): 34.0 mg, yield: 56%. Colorless oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.87 (s, 1H), 6.70 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.50 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 3.57 (br, 1H), 3.40 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 3.14 (qt, J = 13.6, 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.99 – 1.89 (m, 1H), 1.75 – 1.58 (m, 5H), 1.39 (dq, J = 14.6, 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.29 – 1.00 (m, 5H), 0.77 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.71, 152.99, 141.38, 114.76, 65.84, 55.75, 41.00, 40.75, 30.34, 28.00, 26.13, 22.84, 11.30. HRMS (ESI) C₁₈H₂₈N₂NaO₂ [M + Na]⁺calcd: 327.2043, found: 327.2048.



2-cyclohexyl-*N*,*N***-dimethyl-2-**(*p***-tolylamino)acetamide (3ja):** 34.0 mg, yield: 62%. White solid. M. p. 138–139°C. Known compound.² ¹**H** NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.88 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.49 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 4.28 (br, 1H), 4.02 (br, 1H), 3.01 (s, 3H), 2.87 (s, 3H), 2.14 (s, 3H), 1.85 – 1.77 (m, 1H), 1.69 – 1.58 (m, 5H), 1.23 – 0.94 (m, 5H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.38, 146.09, 129.70, 127.02, 114.02, 58.95, 41.95, 37.27, 35.61, 30.20, 28.71, 26.21, 20.28. HRMS (ESI) C₁₇H₂₆N₂NaO [M + Na]⁺calcd: 297.1937, found: 297.1942.



2-cyclohexyl-N-phenyl-2-(phenylamino)acetamide (3ka): 36.0 mg, yield: 58%. Yellow solid. M. p. 176 – 1 77 °C. Known compound.² ¹**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.69 (br, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 4.03 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 3.68 – 3.61 (m, 1H), 2.15 – 2.07 (m, 1H), 1.80 – 1.67 (m, 5H), 1.38 – 1.12 (m, 5H). ¹³C **NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.17, 147.24, 137.34, 129.51, 128.93, 124.35, 119.84, 119.60, 114.03, 65.90, 41.45, 30.30, 28.22, 26.23, 26.20, 26.05. HRMS (ESI) C₂₀H₂₄N₂NaO [M + Na]⁺calcd: 331.1781, found: 331.1783.



3la

2-cyclohexyl-1-phenyl-2-(phenylamino)ethanone (3la): 24.2 mg, yield: 41%. Yellow solid. M. p. 83 – 84 °C. Known compound.² ¹**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.01 – 7.94 (m, 2H), 7.61 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (dd, J = 8.7, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.69 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 3H), 4.90 (dd, J = 8.3, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 4.66 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 1.89 – 1.57 (m, 6H), 1.44 – 1.04 (m, 5H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 201.21, 148.19, 136.06, 133.46, 129.27, 128.82, 128.33, 117.89, 113.85, 63.02, 41.97, 30.85, 27.71, 26.36, 26.13, 25.99. HRMS (ESI) C₂₀H₂₃NNaO [M + Na]⁺calcd: 316.1672, found: 316.1676.



2-cyclohexyl-1-phenyl-2-(*p*-tolylamino)ethanone (3ma): 28.0 mg, yield: 46%. Yellow solid. M. p.78–79 °C. Known compound.⁷ ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.56 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.77 (br, 1H), 4.43 (br, 1H), 2.13 (s, 3H), 1.78 – 1.61 (m, 4H), 1.53 (br, 2H), 1.36 – 1.24 (m, 1H), 1.24 – 0.99 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 201.46, 145.91, 136.07, 133.35, 129.71, 128.75, 128.22, 127.12, 114.02, 63.49, 41.90, 30.84, 27.71, 26.00, 20.37. HRMS (ESI) C₂₁H₂₆NO [M + H]⁺calcd: 308.2009, found: 308.2013.



1-cyclohexyl-2-phenyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (3na): 26.1 mg, yield: 45%. Yellow solid. M. p. 63 – 64 °C. Known compound.⁸ ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.27 – 7.04 (m, 6H),, 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.67 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.42 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (dt, *J* = 12.0, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.52 – 3.39 (m, 1H), 3.11 – 2.91 (m, 2H), 2.01 – 1.93 (m, 1H), 1.75 – 1.60 (m, 5H), 1.22 – 1.00 (m, 5H).¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.85, 137.74, 135.21, 129.04, 128.27, 128.09, 126.49, 125.10, 116.16, 112.78, 63.65, 44.07, 42.91, 30.89, 30.62, 27.30, 26.62, 26.41, 26.30.



3oa

1-cyclohexyl-2-(2,3-dihydrobenzo[b][1,4]dioxin-6-yl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (3oa): 34.0 mg, yield: 48%. Colorless oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.11 – 6.94 (m, 4H), 6.69 – 6.61 (m, 1H), 6.33 – 6.27 (m, 2H), 4.12 (dt, J = 13.6, 6.7 Hz, 5H), 3.58 (dt, J = 12.6, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 3.38 – 3.26 (m, 1H), 2.96 – 2.76 (m, 2H), 1.91 (d, J = 10.4 Hz, 1H), 1.66 – 1.53 (m, 5H), 1.15 – 0.90 (m, 5H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.54, 143.64, 137.68, 135.21, 134.91, 128.42, 128.27, 126.40, 125.00, 117.29, 107.11, 102.60, 64.75, 64.41, 64.21, 43.92, 43.22, 30.78, 26.92, 26.64, 26.42. HRMS (ESI) C₂₃H₂₈NO₂ [M + H]⁺calcd: 350.2115, found: 350.2118.



ethyl 2-(phenylamino)undecanoate (3bb): Method A: 33.0 mg, yield: 54%. Method B: 36.5 mg, yield: 60%. Yellow oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.17 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 6.73 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.62 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 4.23 – 3.98 (m, 4H), 1.91 – 1.66 (m, 2H), 1.46 – 1.37 (m, 2H), 1.29 – 1.20 (m, 15H), 0.88 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.29, 146.95, 129.28, 118.15, 113.40, 60.95, 56.65, 33.08, 31.85, 29.47, 29.41, 29.32, 29.26, 25.53, 22.66, 14.24, 14.10. HRMS (ESI) C₁₉H₃₁NNaO₂ [M + Na]⁺calcd: 328.2247, found: 328.2246.



ethyl 2-(phenylamino)tridec-12-enoate (3bc): Method A: 34.0 mg, yield: 51%. Method B: 35.0 mg, yield: 53%. Yellow oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.17 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 6.73 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.62 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 5.81 (ddt, J = 16.9, 10.2, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 5.04 – 4.89 (m, 2H), 4.23 – 4.01 (m, 4H), 2.03 (dd, J = 14.1, 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.91 – 1.66 (m, 2H), 1.43 – 1.20 (m, 17H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.26, 146.96, 139.21, 129.28, 118.16, 114.10, 113.42, 60.94, 56.66, 33.78, 33.08, 29.44, 29.41, 29.38, 29.31, 29.09, 28.91, 25.52, 14.24. HRMS (ESI) C₂₁H₃₃NNaO₂ [M + Na]⁺calcd: 354.2404, found: 354.2404.



ethyl 2-(phenylamino)-3-(tetrahydrofuran-2-yl)propanoate (3bd): 27 mg, yield: 51%. d.r. > 20:1. Yellow oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.17 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.77 – 6.62 (m, 3H), 4.57 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 4.30 – 4.14 (m, 3H), 4.05 – 3.98 (m, 1H), 3.91 (dd, J = 14.6, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (dd, J = 14.8, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 2.11 – 1.80 (m, 5H), 1.59 – 1.40 (m, 1H), 1.24 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.16, 147.32, 129.19, 118.12, 113.53, 75.85, 67.77, 61.01, 55.23, 38.75, 31.69, 25.54, 14.20. HRMS (ESI) C₁₅H₂₁NNaO₃ [M + Na]⁺calcd: 286.1414, found: 286.1417.



ethyl 5-acetoxy-2-(phenylamino)pentanoate (3be): Method A: 34.0 mg, yield: 61%. Method B: 36.4 mg, yield: 65%. Yellow oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.18 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 6.75 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.63 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 4.25 – 4.06 (m, 6H), 2.04 (s, 3H), 1.99 – 1.71 (m, 4H), 1.25

(t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.76, 171.06, 146.68, 129.32, 118.41, 113.49, 63.82, 61.19, 56.21, 29.49, 24.81, 20.91, 14.21. HRMS (ESI) C₁₅H₂₁NNaO₄ [M + Na]⁺calcd: 302.1363, found: 302.1372.



3bf

ethyl 5-phenoxy-2-(phenylamino)pentanoate (3bf): Method A: 34 mg, yield: 54%. Method B: 39.0 mg, yield: 62% yield. Yellow solid. M. p. 29 – 30 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.28 (t, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 6.99 – 6.85 (m, 3H), 6.74 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.63 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 4.24 – 4.07 (m, 4H), 3.99 (t, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 2H), 2.11 – 1.86 (m, 4H), 1.25 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.94, 158.78, 146.79, 129.44, 129.32, 120.71, 118.32, 114.45, 113.48, 67.01, 61.16, 56.36, 29.66, 25.48, 14.22. HRMS (ESI) C₁₉H₂₃NNaO₃ [M + Na]⁺calcd: 336.1570, found: 336.1577.



ethyl 3-methyl-2-(phenylamino)octanoate (3bg): 36 mg, yield: 65%. Yellow oil. d.r. = 1:1. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.17 (dd, J = 8.4, 7.4 Hz, 2H), 6.77 – 6.68 (m, 1H), 6.63 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 4.24 – 4.06 (m, 3H), 4.00 – 3.88 (m, 1H), 2.07 – 1.92 (m, 1H), 1.52 – 1.20 (m, 11H), 0.99 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.88 (td, J = 6.7, 3.5 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.85, 173.51, 147.49, 147.23, 129.26, 118.12, 118.06, 113.59, 113.50, 61.42, 61.02, 60.83, 60.79, 36.33, 36.22, 33.25, 32.77, 31.93, 31.89, 26.86, 26.73, 22.58, 16.00, 15.39, 14.28, 14.04. HRMS (ESI) C₁₇H₂₇NNaO₂ [M + Na]⁺calcd: 300.1934, found: 300.1937.



ethyl 2-cyclopentyl-2-(phenylamino)acetate (3bh): 34 mg, yield: 69%. Yellow solid. M. p. 76 – 77 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.16 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 6.73 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.63 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 4.22 – 4.07 (m, 3H), 3.86 (t, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.33 – 2.15 (m, 1H), 1.88 – 1.39 (m, 8H), 1.23 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.15, 147.33, 129.24, 118.17, 113.45, 60.83, 60.79, 43.17, 29.34, 29.04, 25.32, 25.09, 14.26. HRMS (ESI) C₁₅H₂₁NNaO₂ [M + Na]⁺calcd: 270.1465, found: 270.1469.



tert-butyl 4-(2-ethoxy-2-oxo-1-(phenylamino)ethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylate (3bi): 46 mg, yield: 63%. White solid. M. p. 104 – 105 °C. Known compound.² ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.17 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.74 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.62 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 4.23 – 4.12 (m, 5H), 3.96 – 3.86 (m, 1H), 2.68 (br, 2H), 1.91 – 1.77 (m, 2H), 1.63 (d, J = 13.3 Hz, 1H), 1.47 – 1.33 (m, 11H), 1.25 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.08, 154.59, 146.96, 129.27, 118.30, 113.48, 79.43, 61.27, 61.07, 43.32, 39.66, 28.40, 28.28, 14.20. HRMS (ESI) C₂₀H₃₀N₂NaO₄ [M + Na]⁺calcd: 385.2098, found: 385.2101.



ethyl 2-((*3r*,5*r*,7*r*)-adamantan-1-yl)-2-(phenylamino)acetate (3bj): Method A: 44 mg, yield: 70%. Method B: 53.4 mg, yield: 85%. Yellow solid. M. p. 72 – 73 °C. Known compound.² ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.16 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 7.4 Hz, 2H), 6.76 – 6.62 (m, 3H), 4.23 – 4.09 (m, 3H), 3.66 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 2.02 (br, 3H), 1.84 – 1.56 (m, 12H), 1.24 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.82, 147.85, 129.23, 118.08, 113.73, 66.40, 60.50, 39.01, 36.84, 36.34, 28.35, 14.34. HRMS (ESI) C₂₀H₂₇NNaO₂ [M + Na]⁺calcd: 336.1934, found: 336.1934.



3bk

ethyl 3,3-dimethyl-2-(phenylamino)butanoate (3bk): Method A: 26.0 mg, yield: 55%. Method B: 33.0 mg, yield: 70%. Yellow oil. Known compound.² ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.17 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 6.73 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.66 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 4.20 – 4.09 (m, 3H), 3.79 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 1H), 1.23 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.07 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.32, 147.68, 129.24, 118.25, 113.80, 65.47, 60.56, 34.46, 26.75, 14.27. HRMS (ESI) C₁₄H₂₁NNaO₂ [M + Na]⁺calcd: 258.1465, found: 258.1471.



ethyl 3,3-dimethyl-4-phenyl-2-(phenylamino)butanoate (3bl): Method A: 36 mg, yield: 58%.

Method B: 37.5mg, yield: 60%. Yellow oil. ¹**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.31 – 7.13 (m, 7H), 6.76 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.66 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 4.25 (d, *J* = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 4.12 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (d, *J* = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 2.87 (d, *J* = 13.0 Hz, 1H), 2.64 (d, *J* = 13.0 Hz, 1H), 1.20 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.06 (s, 3H), 0.99 (s, 3H). ¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.38, 147.29, 137.84, 130.87, 129.28, 127.89, 126.25, 118.55, 114.04, 63.27, 60.62, 45.53, 37.93, 24.27, 23.21, 14.27. HRMS (ESI) C₂₀H₂₅NNaO₂ [M + Na]⁺calcd: 334.1778, found: 334.1781.



(2*S*)-methyl 2-(2-cyclohexyl-2-(phenylamino)acetamido)-3-phenylpropanoate (3pa): 35 mg, yield: 44%. d.r. = 1.2:1. White solid. M. p. 126 – 127 °C. Known compound.² ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.28 – 6.99 (m, 7H), 6.87 – 6.71 (m, 2H), 6.58 (dd, J = 17.6, 7.7 Hz, 2H), 5.04 – 4.86 (m, 1H), 3.91 (d, J = 3.4 Hz, 0.53H), 3.82 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 0.41H), 3.70 (s, 1.65H), 3.62 (s, 1.23H), 3.58 (t, J = 3.8 Hz, 0.58H), 3.49 (t, J = 4.1 Hz, 0.43H), 3.21 (dd, J = 14.1, 5.3 Hz, 0.47H), 3.06 (dd, J = 13.8, 6.1 Hz, 0.55H), 2.93 (ddd, J = 13.7, 6.8, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 2.07 – 1.93 (m, 0.57H), 1.89 – 1.62 (m, 5H), 1.53 (d, J = 13.2 Hz, 0.49H), 1.37 – 0.84 (m, 5H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.64, 172.37, 171.65, 171.53, 147.28, 147.00, 136.00, 135.20, 129.27, 129.08, 128.97, 128.40, 126.84, 126.82, 118.90, 118.73, 113.86, 113.43, 64.98, 64.27, 52.68, 52.20, 52.00, 40.89, 37.86, 37.70, 30.04, 27.83, 26.07, 14.05. HRMS (ESI) C₂₄H₃₀N₂NaO₃ [M + Na]⁺calcd: 417.2149, found: 417.2149.



(2*S*)-methyl 1-(2-cyclohexyl-2-(phenylamino)acetyl)pyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (3qa): 26 mg, yield: 38%. d.r. = 2:1. Brown oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.20 – 7.09 (m, 2H), 6.74 – 6.59 (m, 3H), 4.61 – 4.31 (m, 2H), 3.99 (d, J = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 3.80 – 3.70 (m, 1.65H), 3.71 – 3.54 (m, 3.39H), 2.25 – 1.89 (m, 5H), 1.74 – 1.63 (m, 5H), 1.34 – 1.05 (m, 5H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.44, 172.37, 172.02, 171.99, 148.18, 147.88, 129.21, 129.11, 117.75, 117.65, 113.77, 113.66, 60.74, 60.43, 59.05, 58.81, 52.09, 51.99, 47.07, 46.94, 41.77, 41.69, 30.05, 29.86, 28.98, 28.88, 26.25, 26.19, 26.16, 26.11, 24.97, 24.80. HRMS (ESI) C₂₀H₂₈N₂NaO₃ [M + Na]⁺calcd: 367.1992, found: 367.1994.



(2S)-methyl-2-((2S)-2-(2-cyclohexyl-2-(phenylamino)acetamido)-4-(methylthio)butanamido)-3-phenylpropanoate (3ra): 48 mg, yield: 46%. d.r. = 1.5:1. White solid. M. p. 156–157 °C. ¹H **NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.47 – 7.36 (m, 1H), 7.32 – 7.07 and 7.00 – 6.94 (m, 7H), 6.82 – 6.70 and 6.64 – 6.55 (m, 4H), 4.85 – 4.54 (m, 2H), 4.07 – 3.98 (m, 1H), 3.71 and 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.61 (br, 1H), 3.11 – 2.99 (m, 1.58H), 2.76 (dd, *J* = 13.7, 8.0 Hz, 0.40H), 2.39 – 2.25 (m, 2H), 2.07 – 1.67 (m, 11H), 1.27 – 1.08 (m, 5H). ¹³C **NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.84, 171.44, 171.36, 170.42, 170.21, 147.19, 146.96, 135.79, 135.47, 129.56, 129.34, 129.15, 129.04, 128.60, 128.51, 127.15, 127.00, 119.01, 118.92, 113.43, 113.37, 64.42, 64.37, 53.24, 53.21, 52.25, 51.99, 51.52, 41.07, 40.99, 37.71, 30.86, 30.53, 30.13, 29.78, 29.60, 28.37, 28.27, 26.12, 25.98, 14.94, 14.74. HRMS (ESI) C₂₉H₃₉N₃NaO₄S [M + Na]⁺calcd: 548.2553, found: 548.2549.





		(min)	(mAu*s)	(min)	(min)	(mAu)	(%)	
1	N. A.	11.123	31.85033	0.169	0.101	5.201	0.206	BB
2	N. A.	13.433	13.67494	0.139	0.085	2.714	0.088	BB
3	N. A.	15.132	83.94287	0.180	0.107	12.658	0.543	BB
4	N. A.	15.920	46.37690	0.190	0.114	6.739	0.300	BB
5	N. A.	16.940	4760. 41051	0.354	0.000	757.246	30.802	BB
6	N. A.	17.065	10007. 10228	0.430	0.000	856. 483	64.751	BB
7	N. A.	17.490	511.38144	0.258	0.155	55. 208	3.309	BB





		(min)	(mAu*s)	(min)	(min)	(mAu)	(%)	
1	N. A.	11.818	134.77136	0.164	0.100	20.221	2.707	BB
2	N. A.	19.105	4842.97447	0.213	0.125	579.871	97.293	BB





		(min)	(mAu*s)	(min)	(min)	(mAu)	(%)	
1	N. A.	11.007	7753. 58767	0.184	0.108	1070.952	98.420	BB
2	N. A.	12.705	124. 47556	0.168	0.101	18.643	1.580	BB



		(min)	(mAu*s)	(min)	(min)	(mAu)	(%)	
1	N. A.	11.067	95.11904	0.171	0.100	14.562	1.426	BB
2	N. A.	12.752	120. 41519	0.167	0.101	17.955	1.805	BB
3	N. A.	15.263	6454.34114	0.201	0.118	806. 188	96. 769	BB

5. Synthetic applications



Preparation of 4a

A mixture of **3da** (0.3 mmol, 87.4 mg) and CAN (cerium ammonium, 1.8 mmol, 986.8 mg) in 5:2 solution of H_2O/CH_3CN (3.0 mL) was stirred at 0 °C for 2 h. The mixture was modulated to alkalescence with saturated aqueous sodium carbonate. Then the mixture was extracted by DCM for three times, washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated in *vacuo*. The residue was dissolved in 3 mL DCM. Benzyloxycarbonyl chloride (0.34 mmol, 0.056 mL) was added. The

resulting solution was cooled to 0 °C and TEA (0.34 mmol, 0.052 mL) was then added dropwise. After 5 min, the ice bath was removed and the mixture was allowed to stir for 2 h at room temperature. 10 mL DCM was added and the mixture was washed with H₂O (10 mL) and brine (10 mL). The resulting solution was dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated in *vacuo*. The product **4a** was purified by silica gel column chromatography using hexane-EtOAc as eluents. Yield: 77%, 74.0 mg. Colorless oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.45 – 7.30 (m, 5H), 5.33 – 5.25 (m, 1H), 5.11 (s, 2H), 4.32 – 4.14 (m, 3H), 1.79 – 1.54 (m, 6H), 1.32 – 0.97 (m, 8H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.98, 156.13, 136.28, 128.50, 128.11, 121.96, 66.96, 61.18, 58.70, 41.08, 29.37, 27.96, 25.95, 14.20. HRMS (ESI) C₁₈H₂₅NNaO₄ [M + Na]⁺calcd: 342.1676, found: 342.1680.

Preparation of 4b

A mixture of 3da (0.3 mmol, 87.4 mg) and CAN (cerium ammonium, 1.8 mmol, 986.8 mg) in 5:2 solution of H₂O/CH₃CN (3.0 mL) was stirred at 0 °C for 2 h. The mixture was modulated to alkalescence with saturated aqueous sodium carbonate. Then the mixture was extracted by DCM for three times, washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated in vacuo. The residue and N-Boc-L-phenylalanine were dissolved in dry DCM (3 mL). The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C before addition of HOBt hydrate (0.45 mmol, 60.8 mg) and TEA (1.5 mmol, 0.21 mL). The reaction mixture was kept at 0 °C for 15 min before EDCI (0.375 mmol, 72 mg) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. An additional DCM (10 mL) was added, and the organic layer was washed successively with citric acid (1.6 M), saturated NaHCO₃ and brine. The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated in vacuo. The product 4b was purified by silica gel column chromatography using hexane-EtOAc as eluents. Yield: 79%, 102.0 mg. Yellow oil. d.r. = 1:1. ¹**H** NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.29 – 7.20 (m, 5H), 6.46 – 6.35 (m, 1H), 5.08 (d, J = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 4.47 - 4.34 (m, 2H), 4.26 - 4.09 (m, 2H), 3.08 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 1.71 - 1.61 (m, 6H), 1.41 (s, 9H), 1.32 – 0.96 (m, 8H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.47, 171.24, 170.91, 155.32, 136.54, 129.28, 129.17, 128.64, 128.53, 126.85, 80.08, 61.10, 56.88, 56.72, 56.56, 55.72, 40.89, 38.39, 37.90, 29.12, 28.22, 28.11, 25.86, 14.18, 14.11. HRMS (ESI) C₂₄H₃₆N₂NaO₅ [M + Na]⁺calcd: 455.2516, found: 455.2516.

6. The mechanistic study

6.1 Radical trapping with TEMPO



Table S15. Radical inhibition experiments

^a The yield was based on alkyl chloride 2a.

In order to gain some information on reaction mechanism, a series of alkyl radical inhibition reaction were carried out (Table S15). Under condition A, the reaction was completely suppressed and TEMPO-Cy product **5** was isolated in 42% yield, which suggested that a radical pathway was involved in this reaction. Under condition B and C, the absence of DABCO or TBAI caused an obvious yield decreasing of the product **5**, which demonstrated the importance of TBAI and DABCO for generation of alkyl radical.

Procedure of Condition A, B and C:

To an oven-dried 10 mL quartz test tube with a stirring bar was added **1a** (0.1 mmol, 19.7 mg), TBAI (0.05 mmol, 18.5 mg, A and B), DABCO (0.2 mmol, 22.4 mg, A and C), KHCO₃ (0.2 mmol, 20.0 mg), TEMPO (0.4 mmol, 62.5 mg) and 4ÅMS (40 mg). Then, air was withdrawn and backfilled with Ar (three times). CH₃CN (0.5 mL) and alkyl chloride **2a** (0.3 mmol, 35.6 mg) were added in turn by syringe. Thereafter, the test tube was transferred to a UV photoreactor (4×25 W, see Scheme S1 for details), where it was irradiated at 254 nm for 18 h. Eighteen hours later, the reaction was quenched with water (2 mL), extracted with ethyl acetate, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, concentrated in *vacuo* and purified by column chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate = 50:1) to afford the product **5** as a colorless oil (no product **3aa** was detected). Known compound.² ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.63 – 3.53 (m, 1H), 2.05 (br, 2H), 1.76 – 1.71 (m, 2H), 1.56 – 1.44 (m, 6H), 1.34 – 1.09 (m, 18H).

6.2 Radical clock experiment



When 6-chlorohex-1-ene **2m'** was applied, once an alkyl radical was formed, it undergoes a fast ring-forming coupling reaction and **3bm** was obtained.⁹

Procedure of radical clock experiment:

To an oven-dried 10 mL quartz test tube with a stirring bar was added derivatives of glycine (0.2 mmol, 35.8 mg), TBAI (0.1 mmol, 37 mg), KHCO₃ (0.4 mmol, 40 mg), DABCO (0.4 mmol, 44.8 mg) and 4ÅMS (80 mg). Then, air was withdrawn and backfilled with Ar (three times). CH₃CN (1.0 mL) and 6-chlorohex-1-ene **2m'** (0.6 mmol, 70.8 mg) were added in turn by syringe. Thereafter, the test tube was transferred to a UV photoreactor (4×25 W, see Scheme S1 for details), where it was irradiated at 254 nm for 18 h. Eighteen hours later, the reaction was quenched with water (2 mL), extracted with ethyl acetate, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, concentrated in *vacuo* and purified by column chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate) to afford the product **3bm. ethyl 3-cyclopentyl-2-(phenylamino)propanoate:** 24.0 mg, 46% yield. White solid. M. p. 52 – 53 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.17 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.73 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.62 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 4.16 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.04 (br, 2H), 2.03 – 1.77 (m, 5H), 1.71 – 1.39 (m, 4H), 1.28 – 1.09 (m, 5H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.55, 146.98, 129.25, 118.16, 113.39, 60.87, 56.34,

39.53, 36.70, 32.80, 32.59, 25.13, 24.90, 14.19. HRMS (ESI) $C_{16}H_{23}NNaO_2$ [M + Na]⁺calcd: 284.1621, found: 284.1628.

6.3 Competitive of 3°, 2°, 1° alkyl chloride



Procedure of competing reaction:

To an oven-dried 10 mL quartz test tube with a stirring bar was added **1b** (0.2 mmol, 35.8 mg), TBAI (0.1 mmol, 37 mg), KHCO₃ (0.4 mmol, 40 mg), DABCO (0.4 mmol, 44.8 mg) and 4ÅMS (80 mg). Then, air was withdrawn and backfilled with Ar (three times). **2f** (0.4 mmol, 68.0 mg), **2a** (0.4 mmol, 47.2 mg), **2l** (0.4 mmol, 67.2 mg) and CH₃CN (1.0 mL) were added in turn by syringe. Thereafter, the test tube was transferred to a UV photoreactor (4×25 W, see Scheme S1 for details), where it was irradiated at 254 nm for 4 h. Four hours later, the reaction was quenched with water (2 mL), extracted with ethyl acetate, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, concentrated in *vacuo* and purified by column chromatography.

NOTE: We studied the relative reactivity of alkyl chlorides via competing reactions of 3° , 2° , and 1° alkyl chlorides. The results indicated that more substituted tertiary alkyl chloride **21** proceeded smoothly with the best result (26% yield) due to the greater stability of themore highly substituted radical, and the reactivity order was tertiary alkyl chloride > secondary alkyl chloride > primary alkyl chloride.

6.4 Control experiment



To an oven-dried 10 mL quartz test tube with a stirring bar was added TBAI (0.1 mmol, 37 mg), KHCO₃ (0.4 mmol, 40 mg) and DABCO (0.4 mmol, 44.8 mg). Then, air was withdrawn and backfilled with Ar (three times).**2a** (0.6 mmol, 71.0 mg) and CH₃CN (1.0 mL) were added in turn

by syringe. Thereafter, the test tube was transferred to a UV photoreactor (4×25 W, see Scheme S1 for details), where it was irradiated at 254 nm. The reaction was quenched with water (2 mL), extracted with ethyl acetate, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in *vacuo*. The recycled yield was determined by ¹H NMR using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard.

NOTE: Some control experiments were performed. When alkyl chloride **2a** was combined with TBAI under standard conditions and irradiated at 254 nm, no cyclohexyl iodide was detected (the reaction was monitored each an hour) and the cyclohexyl chloride was recycled in 46% yield after 12 h (in the absence of TBAI, cyclohexyl chloride was recovered quantitatively after 12 h). Previous report (*J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2015, **137**, 13902) and our results indicated that the alkyl iodide was not likely in situ generated and act as an intermediate, which then underwent a C-I bond homolysis upon photo irradiation.

6.5 The N-protecting group studies

When the substrates with -*N*-Boc, -*N*-Ac, and -*N*-Ts were tested, no desired product was observed. Importantly, the substrates with free NH₂, *N*-mono-aryl, and *N*-di-aryl were applied under the standard conditions, respectively, only mono-arylated substrate gave the desired alkylation product. The results indicated that the a single free hydrogen atom and aryl protection in Ar-*N*-H are both crucial for this transformation.



Discussion: In previous report (*J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1972, **94**, 7114) and our previous research (*Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2018, **57**, 15841), the radical cation of DABCO ($E_{1/2} = 0.6$ V vs. SCE) is sufficient to oxidize *N*-phenyl glycine derivative ($E_p^{0/+1}$ (**1b**) = 0.31 V versus SCE in MeCN) due to its suitable redox potential. However, the single electron oxidization of BocNH-R or AcNH-R requires relatively strong oxidants (corresponding reports including *ACS Catal.*, 2020, **10**, 4671; *Nature*, 2016, **539**, 272; *Nature*, 2016, **539**, 268; *Nat. Chem.*, 2018, **10**, 1037 et.al.). Thus, *N*-arylated

protected glycine derivatives are more easily to oxidize under our reaction conditions.



6.6 UV-Vis absorption spectra between 200 nm to 600 nm



Discussion

a): The maximum absorption peak of **1a** and **2a** were at about 330 nm. Meanwhile, **TBAI** and **DABCO** all have obvious UV absorption between 210 nm with 270 nm.

b): The blue shift of **2a** in the presence of DABCO was observed, which was possibly caused by the formation of halogen bond between alkyl chloride and tertiary amine.¹⁰

c): Furthermore, the mixture of **1a**, **DABCO** and **TBAI** or mixture of **2a**, **DABCO** and **TBAI** analogously all promoted hypochromatic shift of maximum absorption wavelength.

d): Notably, the mixture of **1a**, **2a**, **DABCO** and **TBAI** not only promoted hypochromatic shift of maximum absorption wavelength but also provided a much broader absorption region.

6.7 A possible reaction mechanism

6.7.1 Possible reaction mechanism using alkyl chlorides as alkylation reagents



Although the completely understanding of the reaction mechanism is still difficult at this stage, based on the radical inhibition experiments, radical clock experiment, and competitive experiment, we proposed a possible mechanism. Firstly, the UV-light promoted a single electron transfer (SET) between alkyl chloride and iodide (Γ), which reduced the alkyl chloride to alkyl radical and chloride along with an iodine radical. Then, the SET between tertiary amine and iodine radical was happened to give an amine radical cation and regenerated the iodide catalyst. **1** was oxidized by the tertiary amine radical cation to form the radical cation intermediate **A**, which underwent a deprotonation

and 1,2-H shift process under basic conditions to give a stable α -carbon radical **B**. The subsequent radical-radical cross coupling of alkyl radical with **B** provided the final alkylation product **3**

6.7.2 Possible reaction mechanism using alkyl iodides as alkylation reagents



When alkyl iodides were used as alkylation reagents, a single electron transfer between alkyl iodide and DABCO might possibly happen upon the irradiation. The radical cation of DABCO abstracted one electron on nitrogen atom of glycine derivative. The radical cation of glycine derivative underwent a deprotonation and HAT process under basic conditions to give the stable α -carbon radical. The subsequent radical-radical cross coupling provided the final alkylation product.

7. Metabolic stability

Degradation of Leu⁵-enkephalin and analogue **A2** in mouse brain and spinal cord homogenates. The Degradation analysis was performed as described in our previous report.¹¹ The homogenate was prepared from brain and spinal cords obtained from ten mice and homogenized in phosphate buffer (100 μ M, pH 7.4). 10 μ L Leu⁵-enkephalin (10 mM) was incubated in 190 μ L homogenate (final protein concentration of 2.3 mg/ml) for 0, 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, 45 and 60 min at 37 °C, while analogue **A2** was incubated in homogenate for 0, 10, 20, 30, 60, 120 and 180 min at 37 °C. 20 μ L of the mixture was extracted at each time, immediately 90 μ L of acetonitrile was added, and maintaining for 5 min in an ice bath. Then, 90 μ L of acetic acid solution (0.5%) was added to prevent further degradation. The mixtures were centrifuged at 15000g for 15 min, and the supernatants were collected for HPLC analysis. Linear regression was used to calculate the half-life of Leu⁵-enkephalin and analogue **A2** incubated in the mouse brain and spinal cord homogenates.



Figure S1. In vitro homogenate stability assessment of Leu5-enkephalin and analogue A2 in mouse brain and

spinal cord homogenate. Each data point represents the mean \pm SEM, n = 3 independent experiments.

8. References

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¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)







3aa ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCI₃)



S34



































3bc ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)











Ph 3bf

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)

















S59









S63







¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)

