

# Three-component reaction of azulene, aryl glyoxal and 1,3-dicarbonyl compound for the synthesis of various azulene derivatives

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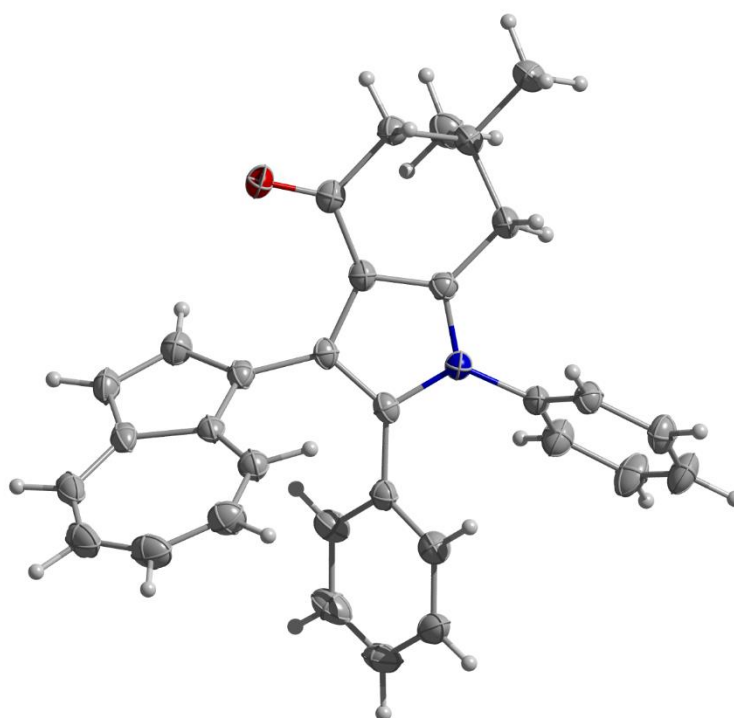
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## X-ray crystallographic analysis

### General details

Single crystals of **7b** were obtained by slow evaporation from dimethylformamide. The images were interpreted and integrated with the program Diamond v.4.0 (Crystal Impact).<sup>1</sup> Using Olex2,<sup>2</sup> the structures were solved with the ShelXS<sup>3</sup> structure solution program using direct methods and refined by full-matrix least-squares on  $F^2$  with the ShelXL<sup>4</sup> refinement package.

### Crystal data for **7b**



Molecular structure of **7b**, showing thermal displacement ellipsoids at the 50% probability level; the dimethyl formamide (DMF) molecule acquired during the crystallization process and present in the crystal packing is not shown

**Crystal data for 7b·DMF.**  $C_{32}H_{27}NO \cdot C_3H_7NO$ ,  $M = 514.64$  g/mol, triclinic, space group P-1 (no. 2),  $a =$

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<sup>1</sup> Diamond - Crystal and Molecular Structure Visualization Crystal Impact - Dr. H. Putz & Dr. K. Brandenburg GbR, Kreuzherrenstr. 102, 53227 Bonn, Germany <http://www.crystalimpact.com/diamond>.

<sup>2</sup> O. V. Dolomanov, L. J. Bourhis, R. J. Gildea, J. A. K. Howard and H. Puschmann, *J. Appl. Cryst.*, 2009, **42**, 339.

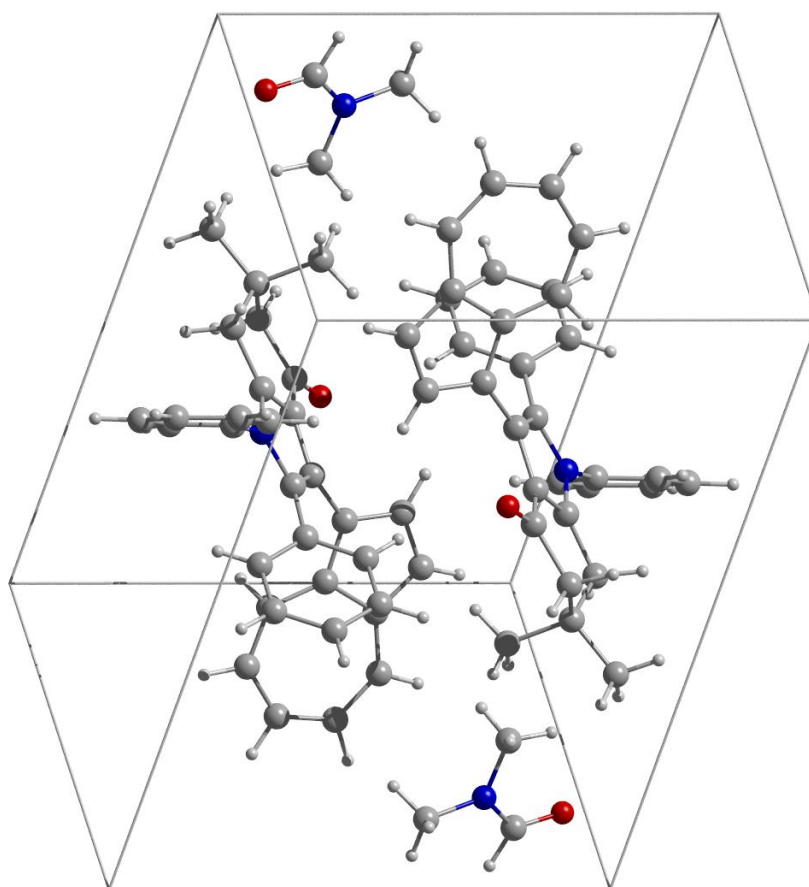
<sup>3</sup> G. M. Sheldrick, *Acta Cryst. A*, 2008, **64**, 112.

<sup>4</sup> G. M. Sheldrick, *Acta Cryst. C*, 2015, **71**, 3.

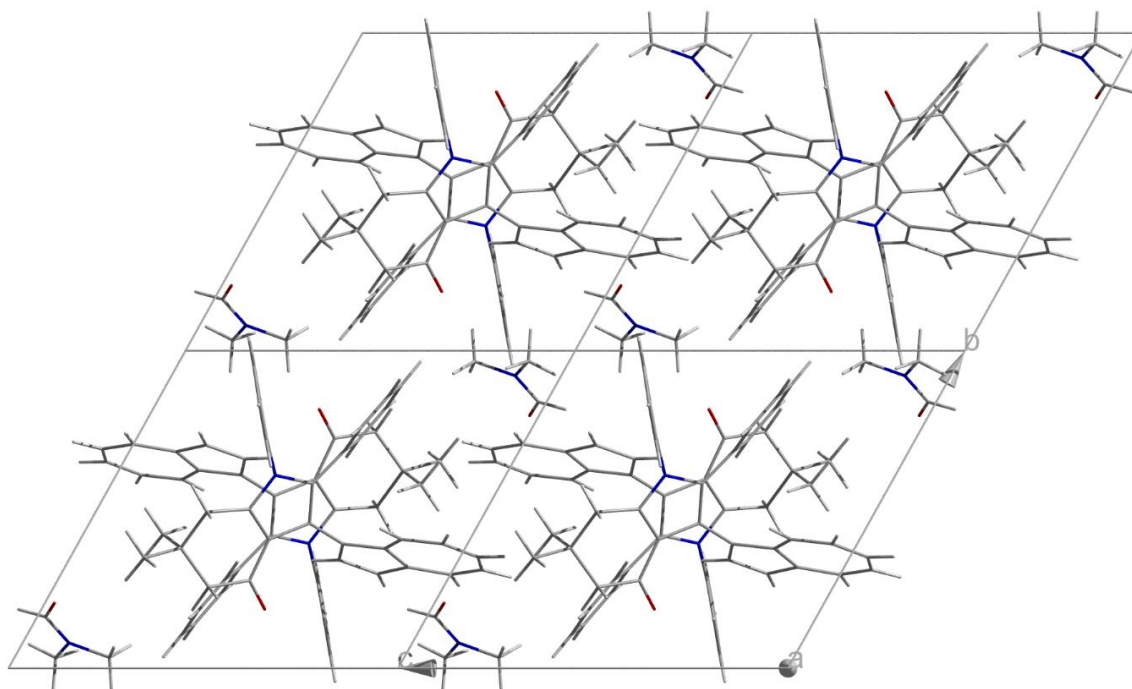
10.9118(6) Å,  $b = 11.6167(6)$  Å,  $c = 13.1533(7)$  Å,  $V = 1363.93(13)$  Å<sup>3</sup>,  $Z = 27$ ,  $T = 296.15$  K,  $\mu(\text{MoK}\alpha) = 0.077$  mm<sup>-1</sup>,  $D_{\text{calc}} = 1.253$  g/cm<sup>3</sup>, 64042 reflections measured ( $4.878^\circ \leq 2\theta \leq 55.058^\circ$ ), 6259 unique ( $R_{\text{int}} = 0.0882$ ,  $R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0494$ ) which were used in all calculations. The final  $R_1$  was 0.0450 ( $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ) and  $wR_2$  was 0.1000 (all data).

**Structural features:**

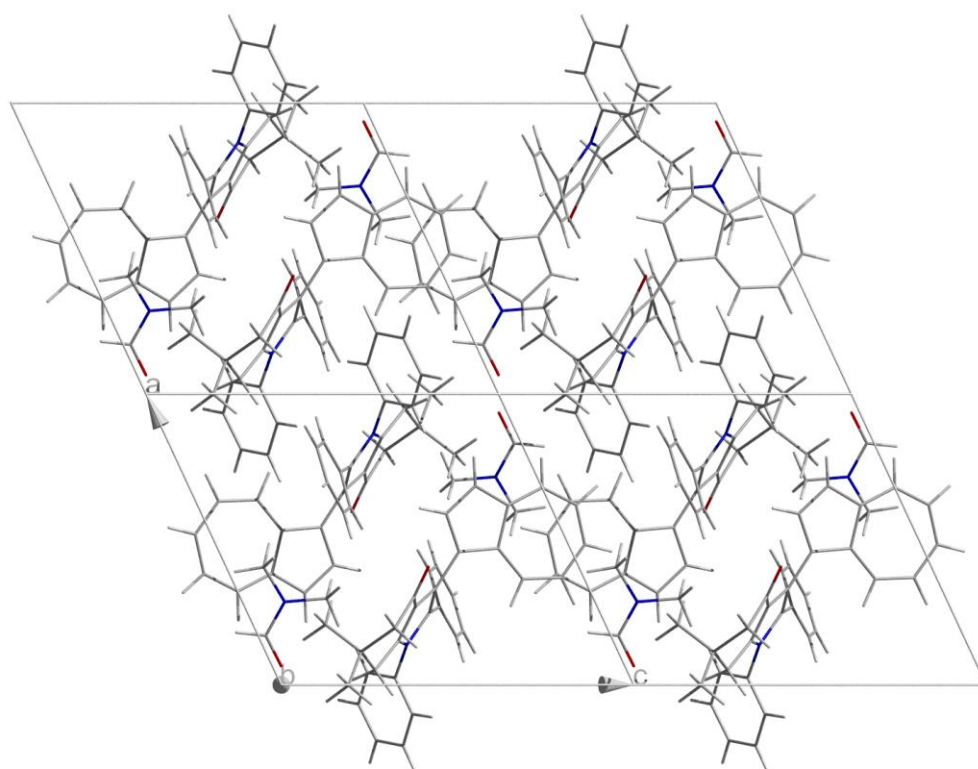
- the unit cell contains two molecules of the compound ( $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{27}\text{NO}$ ) along with two molecules of solvent ( $\text{C}_3\text{H}_7\text{NO}$ , dimethylformamide (DMF))



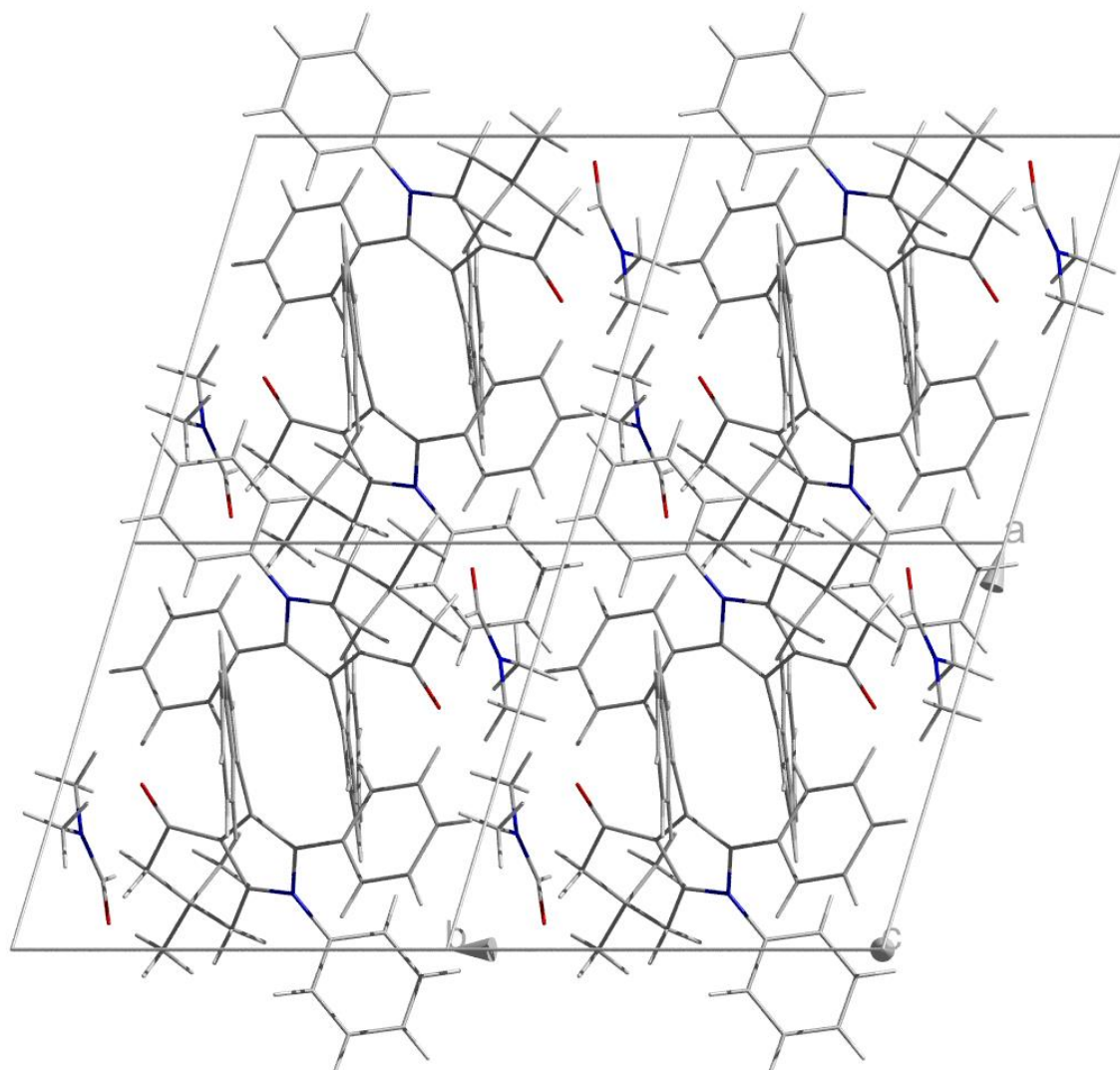
Composition of the unit cell of **7b**



Packing diagram of the crystal structure of **7b**, viewed down the crystallographic a-axis.



Packing diagram of the crystal structure of **7b**, viewed down the crystallographic b-axis.



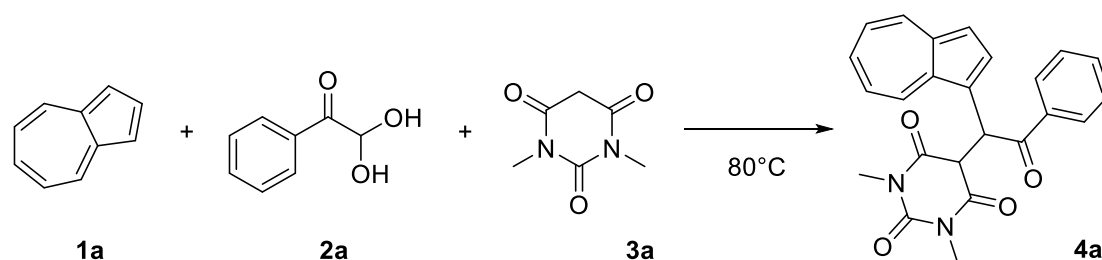
Packing diagram of the crystal structure of **7b**, viewed down the crystallographic c-axis.

## Synthesis and characterization

### General information

Unless otherwise specified, the starting materials and solvents were purchased from commercial sources and used as received. Azulene-1-carbaldehyde<sup>5</sup> and ethyl azulene-1-carboxylate<sup>6</sup> were synthesized following previously described protocols. Aryl glyoxal hydrates **2** were purchased or synthesized following previously described protocol.<sup>7</sup> Melting points were measured using INESA WRR apparatus. NMR spectra were recorded using 400 MHz Bruker Avance instruments. The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C chemical shifts are reported relative to TMS using the residual CDCl<sub>3</sub> or [D<sub>6</sub>]DMSO signal as internal reference. HRMS were performed on a Bruker microTOF-Q III. UV-visible absorption spectra were recorded using Agilent Technologies Cary Series UV-VIS-NIR Spectrophotometer.

### Screening of the reaction conditions for the synthesis of azulene derivative 4a



Entry	<b>1a:2a:3a</b> ratio	Solvent	Time (h)	Isolated yield (%)
1	1:1:1	MeOH	1	63
2	1:1:1	<i>i</i> PrOH	1	74
3	1:1.2:1.2	<i>i</i> PrOH	1	78
4	1:1.2:1.2	<i>i</i> PrOH	0.5	84
5	1:1:1	DMF	0.5	58
6	1:1:1	<i>t</i> BuOH	0.5	76
7	1:1:1	CF <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> OH	0.5	-

<sup>5</sup> A. Székely, Á. Péter, K. Aradi, G. L. Tolnai and Z. Novák, *Org. Lett.*, 2017, **19**, 954.

<sup>6</sup> J. Dubovik and A. Bredihhin, *Synthesis*, 2015, **47**, 538.

<sup>7</sup> (a) P. Wang, W.-J. Tao, X.-L. Sun, S. Liao and Y. Tang, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2013, **135**, 16849; (b) H. Batchu and S. Batra, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.*, 2012, 2935; (c) G.-X. He, J.-M. Yuan, H.-M. Zhu, K. Wei, L.-Y. Wang, S.-L. Kong, D.-L. Mo, C.-X. Pan and G.-F. Su, *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.*, 2017, **27**, 1660; (d) G. Fodor and Ö. Kovacs, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1949, **71**, 1045.

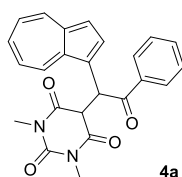
## Synthesis of azulene derivatives **4** via three-component reaction of azulene **1**, aryl glyoxal **2** and 1,3-dicarbonyl compound **3**

### General procedure A

Arylglyoxal monohydrate **2** (0.48 mmol, 1.2 equiv) was placed in a screw-capped vial and dissolved in *i*PrOH (2 mL) followed by addition of azulene **1** (0.4 mmol, 1 equiv) and 1,3-dicarbonyl compound **3** (0.48 mmol, 1.2 equiv). The resulting mixture was sealed, placed in an oil bath preheated at 80 °C and stirred for 30 min. After completion of reaction, the resulting mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate. Then silica gel was added and the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. Column chromatography with petroleum ether/EtOAc (the ratio was adjusted according to TLC) as eluent delivered azulene derivative **4**.

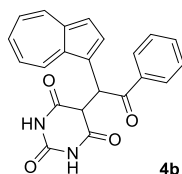
### General procedure B

Arylglyoxal monohydrate **2** (0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was placed in a screw-capped vial and dissolved in *i*PrOH (1 mL) followed by addition of azulene **1** (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) and 1,3-dicarbonyl compound **3** (0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The resulting mixture was sealed, placed in an oil bath preheated at 80 °C and stirred for 1h. Upon completion, the mixture was diluted with EtOAc and evaporated with silica gel under reduced pressure. Column chromatography with petroleum ether/EtOAc (the ratio was adjusted according to TLC) as eluent delivered azulene derivative **4**.



### **5-(1-(Azulen-1-yl)-2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)-1,3-dimethylpyrimidine-2,4,6(1H,3H,5H)-trione (4a).**

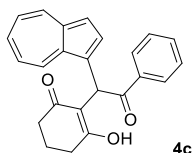
Yield: 67 mg, 84% (Procedure A, 0.2 mmol scale); purple solid; mp: 151-152°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.54 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 8.32 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.80 – 7.55 (m, 4H), 7.47 – 7.15 (m, 6H), 6.46 (s, 1H), 3.84 (s, 1H), 3.33 (s, 3H), 3.32 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 198.5, 168.1, 167.6, 151.7, 141.5, 140.7, 137.9, 137.2, 135.1, 134.9, 133.5, 131.8, 129.4, 128.6, 124.1, 123.7, 123.1, 117.5, 51.0, 50.4, 29.0, 28.7; HRMS (ESI, [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>) for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> calcd. 423.1315, found 423.1287.



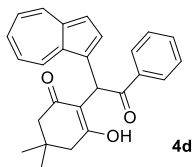
### **5-(1-(Azulen-1-yl)-2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)pyrimidine-2,4,6(1H,3H,5H)-trione (4b).**

Yield: 134 mg, 90% (Procedure A, 0.4 mmol scale, column chromatography was conducted using CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH (9:1) as eluent); dark grey-blue solid; mp: 151-153°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, [D<sub>6</sub>]DMSO) δ 8.98 (s, 2H), 8.47 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 8.11 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 7.98 – 7.90 (m, 2H), 7.58 – 7.43 (m,

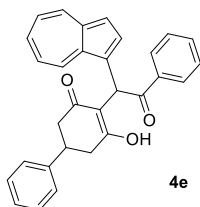
2H), 7.41 – 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.29 (d,  $J = 3.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.11 – 6.99 (m, 2H), 6.15 (s, 1H), 3.35 (s, 1H, tentatively overlapped with signal of water);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $[\text{D}_6]\text{DMSO}$ )  $\delta$  200.4, 163.6, 151.8, 140.4, 140.3, 138.4, 136.6, 135.2, 133.5, 131.4, 131.3, 127.7, 121.6, 121.0, 116.2, 89.3, 42.0, one signal is tentatively overlapped with the signal of  $[\text{D}_6]\text{DMSO}$ ; HRMS (ESI,  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ ) for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4\text{Na}^+$  calcd. 395.1002, found 395.1002.



**2-(1-(Azulen-1-yl)-2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)-3-hydroxycyclohex-2-en-1-one (4c).** Yield: 46 mg, 65% (Procedure B, 0.2 mmol scale); dark blue solid; mp: 80-82°C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  11.13 (bs, 1H), 8.45 (d,  $J = 9.6$  Hz, 1H), 8.32 – 3.22 (m, 3H), 7.92 (d,  $J = 3.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.64 – 7.54 (m, 2H), 7.52 – 7.44 (m, 2H), 7.41 (s, 1H), 7.30 (d,  $J = 3.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.21 – 7.08 (m, 2H), 2.60 – 2.30 (m, 4H), 1.99 – 1.77 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  205.6, 197.2, 177.1, 141.2, 138.1, 137.2, 136.7, 136.4, 136.0, 134.6, 134.3, 129.7, 129.1, 124.6, 123.3, 123.1, 117.0, 113.7, 39.7, 36.8, 30.6, 20.4; HRMS (EI,  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ ) for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_3\text{Na}^+$  calcd. 379.1305, found 379.1306.



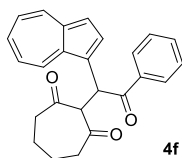
**2-(1-(Azulen-1-yl)-2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)-3-hydroxy-5,5-dimethylcyclohex-2-en-1-one (4d).** Yield: 267 mg, 69% (Procedure A, 1 mmol scale); black-blue solid; mp: 150-152°C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  10.80 (s, 1H), 8.40 (d,  $J = 9.7$  Hz, 1H), 8.30 – 8.22 (m, 3H), 7.89 (d,  $J = 3.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.64 – 7.52 (m, 2H), 7.52 – 7.44 (m, 2H), 7.35 (s, 1H), 7.30 (d,  $J = 3.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.18 – 7.08 (m, 2H), 2.43 (d,  $J = 17.7$  Hz, 1H), 2.37 – 2.23 (m, 3H), 1.03 (s, 3H), 0.91 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  205.3, 196.8, 175.3, 141.3, 138.1, 137.2, 136.7, 136.4, 136.0, 134.6, 134.3, 129.7, 129.1, 124.5, 123.3, 123.1, 117.0, 112.7, 50.6, 44.1, 39.8, 31.6, 29.4, 27.1; HRMS (EI,  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ ) for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_3\text{Na}^+$  calcd. 407.1618, found 407.1618.



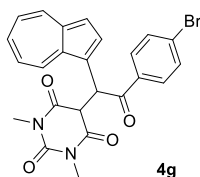
**4-(1-(Azulen-1-yl)-2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)-5-hydroxy-1,6-dihydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-3(2H)-one (4e).** Yield: 95 mg, 37% (Procedure A, 0.6 mmol scale, column chromatography was conducted using  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ /petroleum ether (1:1) as eluent, after which the product was washed with hexane); black-blue solid; mp: 70-72°C; in NMR, observed as a mixture of two interconvertible diastereomeric enol forms



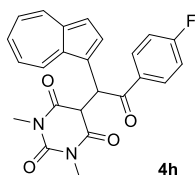
(dr = 2:1);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  11.53 (s, 0.67H), 10.92 (s, 0.33H), 8.54 (d,  $J = 9.6$  Hz, 0.67H), 8.41 (d,  $J = 9.7$  Hz, 0.33H), 8.33 – 8.20 (m, 3H), 7.95 (d,  $J = 3.3$  Hz, 0.67H), 7.87 (d,  $J = 3.4$  Hz, 0.33H), 7.66 – 6.94 (m, 13H), 3.34 – 3.29 (m, 0.33H), 3.27 – 3.09 (m, 0.67H), 2.86 – 2.50 (m, 4H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  205.8, 205.0, 196.3, 196.1, 176.3, 176.8, 142.6, 141.30, 141.28, 138.2, 138.1, 137.29, 137.26, 136.7, 136.4, 136.0, 134.7, 134.6, 134.4, 134.3, 129.8, 129.7, 129.1, 128.9, 128.7, 127.1, 127.0, 126.8, 126.7, 124.4, 124.2, 123.41, 123.38, 123.3, 117.1, 113.7, 113.5, 43.8, 43.6, 39.9, 39.7, 38.34, 38.29, 38.25, 37.5; HRMS (EI,  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ) for  $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{25}\text{O}_3^+$  calcd. 433.1798, found 433.1797.



**2-(1-(Azulen-1-yl)-2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)cycloheptane-1,3-dione (4f).** Yield: 135 mg, 91% (Procedure A, 0.4 mmol scale); purple solid; mp: 170-172°C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.82 (d,  $J = 9.8$  Hz, 1H), 8.18 (d,  $J = 9.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.98 – 7.86 (m, 2H), 7.76 (d,  $J = 3.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.65 – 7.54 (m, 1H), 7.38 – 7.29 (m, 2H), 7.28 – 7.19 (m, 3H), 7.16 – 7.07 (m, 1H), 6.24 (d,  $J = 10.5$  Hz, 1H), 5.55 (d,  $J = 10.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.02 – 2.88 (m, 1H), 2.57 – 2.45 (m, 1H), 2.37 – 2.11 (m, 4H), 1.88 – 1.67 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  204.2, 203.0, 198.9, 141.9, 138.2, 137.2, 136.8, 136.7, 136.0, 134.7, 132.8, 128.7, 128.5, 123.7, 123.4, 123.0, 117.7, 71.0, 45.4, 44.6, 24.5, 24.1; HRMS (EI,  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ ) for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_3\text{Na}^+$  calcd. 393.1461, found 393.1461.

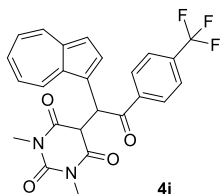


**5-(1-(Azulen-1-yl)-2-(4-bromophenyl)-2-oxoethyl)-1,3-dimethylpyrimidine-2,4,6(1H,3H,5H)-trione (4g).** Yield: 388 mg, 81% (Procedure A, 1 mmol scale); black-blue solid; mp: 171-172°C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.52 (d,  $J = 9.7$  Hz, 1H), 8.34 (d,  $J = 9.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.75 – 7.65 (m, 1H), 7.62 (d,  $J = 3.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.41 – 7.20 (m, 5H), 6.39 (d,  $J = 2.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.84 (d,  $J = 2.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.33 (s, 3H), 3.31 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  197.5, 167.9, 167.4, 151.6, 141.5, 140.6, 138.0, 137.3, 135.0, 133.87, 131.85, 131.80, 130.8, 128.7, 124.3, 123.3, 123.2, 117.6, 51.0, 50.2, 29.0, 28.7; HRMS (EI,  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ ) for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{19}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}_4\text{Na}^+$  calcd. 501.0420, found 501.0408.



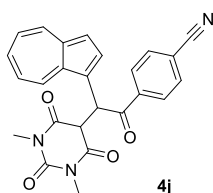
**5-(1-(Azulen-1-yl)-2-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-oxoethyl)-1,3-dimethylpyrimidine-2,4,6(1H,3H,5H)-trione (4h).** Yield: 136 mg, 81% (Procedure A, 0.4 mmol scale); purple solid; mp: 151-152°C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.52 (d,  $J = 9.7$  Hz, 1H), 8.34 (d,  $J = 9.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.76 – 7.66 (m, 3H), 7.64 (d,  $J$

= 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.37 – 7.21 (m, 3H), 6.95 – 6.83 (m, 2H), 6.41 (d,  $J = 2.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.83 (d,  $J = 2.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.34 (s, 3H), 3.31 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  196.9, 168.0, 167.5, 165.7 (d,  $J = 256.0$  Hz), 151.7, 141.4, 140.7, 138.0, 137.3, 134.9, 132.1 (d,  $J = 9.4$  Hz), 131.8, 131.4 (d,  $J = 2.7$  Hz), 124.2, 123.5, 123.2, 117.5, 115.7 (d,  $J = 21.9$  Hz), 51.0, 50.3, 29.0, 28.7; HRMS (EI,  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ) for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{20}\text{FN}_2\text{O}_4^+$  calcd. 419.1402, found 419.1402.



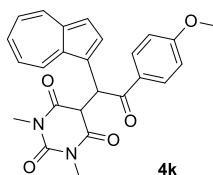
**5-(1-(Azulen-1-yl)-2-oxo-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethyl)-1,3-dimethylpyrimidine-**

**2,4,6(1H,3H,5H)-trione (4i).** Yield: 181 mg, 97% (Procedure A, 0.4 mmol scale); black-blue solid; mp: 147-148°C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.53 (d,  $J = 9.7$  Hz, 1H), 8.35 (d,  $J = 9.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.75 – 7.67 (m, 1H), 7.62 (d,  $J = 4.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.38 – 7.31 (m, 1H), 7.30 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 6.44 (d,  $J = 2.7$  Hz, 1H), 3.90 (d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.34 (s, 3H), 3.31 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  197.6, 167.8, 167.4, 151.6, 141.4, 140.5, 138.1, 137.9, 137.4, 135.1, 134.5 (q,  $J = 32.7$  Hz), 131.9, 129.6, 125.6 (q,  $J = 3.6$  Hz), 124.4, 123.5 (q,  $J = 273.0$  Hz), 123.3, 122.7, 117.6, 51.0, 50.3, 29.0, 28.7; HRMS (EI,  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ ) for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{19}\text{F}_3\text{N}_2\text{O}_4\text{Na}^+$  calcd. 491.1189, found 491.1189.



**4-(2-(Azulen-1-yl)-2-(1,3-dimethyl-2,4,6-trioxohexahydropyrimidin-5-yl)acetyl)benzonitrile (4j).**

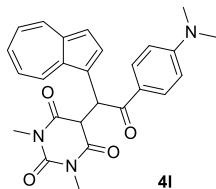
Yield: 31 mg, 58% (Procedure A, 0.125 mmol scale); black-blue solid; mp: 101-103°C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.51 (d,  $J = 9.7$  Hz, 1H), 8.33 (d,  $J = 9.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.77 – 7.66 (m, 3H), 7.59 (d,  $J = 3.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.38 – 7.22 (m, 3H), 6.40 (d,  $J = 2.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.92 (d,  $J = 2.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.32 (s, 3H), 3.29 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  197.3, 167.7, 167.3, 151.5, 141.5, 140.4, 138.4, 138.2, 137.5, 135.2, 132.3, 131.9, 129.6, 124.5, 123.4, 122.3, 117.8, 117.6, 116.4, 51.0, 50.1, 29.0, 28.7; HRMS (EI,  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ ) for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_3\text{O}_4\text{Na}^+$  calcd. 448.1268, found 448.1259.



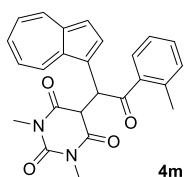
**5-(1-(Azulen-1-yl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-oxoethyl)-1,3-dimethylpyrimidine-2,4,6(1H,3H,5H)-**

**trione (4k).** Yield: 66 mg, 77% (Procedure A, 0.2 mmol scale); dark blue solid; mp: 105-107°C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.53 (d,  $J = 9.7$  Hz, 1H), 8.32 (d,  $J = 9.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.72 – 6.62 (m, 4H), 7.34

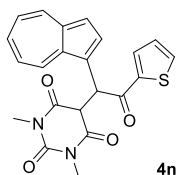
– 7.19 (m, 3H), 6.68 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 2H), 6.42 (d,  $J = 2.7$  Hz, 1H), 3.78 (d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.34 (s, 3H), 3.32 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  196.9, 168.2, 167.7, 163.7, 151.8, 141.4, 140.8, 137.8, 137.1, 134.7, 131.83, 131.76, 127.9, 124.4, 124.0, 123.0, 117.4, 113.7, 55.5, 51.0, 50.4, 29.0, 28.6; HRMS (EI,  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ) for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5^+$  calcd. 431.1601, found 431.1596.



**5-(1-(Azulen-1-yl)-2-(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)-2-oxoethyl)-1,3-dimethylpyrimidine-2,4,6(1H,3H,5H)-trione (4l).** Yield: 105 mg, 59% (Procedure A, 0.4 mmol scale); grey blue solid; mp: 191-193°C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.54 (d,  $J = 9.7$  Hz, 1H), 8.31 (d,  $J = 9.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d,  $J = 3.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.69 – 7.61 (m, 1H), 7.57 (d,  $J = 9.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.33 – 7.16 (m, 3H), 6.44 – 6.35 (m, 3H), 3.72 (d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.34 (s, 3H), 3.32 (s, 3H), 2.94 (s, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  195.9, 168.4, 167.9, 153.5, 151.9, 141.5, 141.1, 137.6, 136.9, 134.6, 131.8, 131.7, 125.5, 123.8, 122.7, 122.6, 117.4, 110.5, 51.1, 50.3, 39.9, 28.9, 28.6; HRMS (EI,  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ ) for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_3\text{O}_4\text{Na}^+$  calcd. 466.1737, found 466.1733.

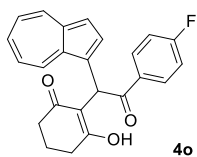


**5-(1-(Azulen-1-yl)-2-oxo-2-(o-tolyl)ethyl)-1,3-dimethylpyrimidine-2,4,6(1H,3H,5H)-trione (4m).** Yield: 141 mg, 81% (Procedure A, 0.42 mmol scale); purple solid; mp: 132-134°C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.37 (d,  $J = 9.2$  Hz, 1H), 8.16 (d,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.64 – 7.44 (m, 2H), 7.33 – 6.99 (m, 6H), 6.87 – 6.71 (m, 1H), 6.31 (s, 1H), 3.85 (s, 1H), 3.22 (s, 3H), 3.17 (s, 3H), 2.45 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  202.1, 168.0, 167.8, 151.6, 141.2, 140.2, 139.0, 137.8, 137.0, 136.0, 135.5, 132.0, 131.9, 131.6, 128.9, 125.5, 123.9, 123.4, 123.0, 117.4, 51.6, 51.1, 28.9, 28.7, 21.3; HRMS (EI,  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ ) for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4\text{Na}^+$  calcd. 437.1472, found 437.1472.

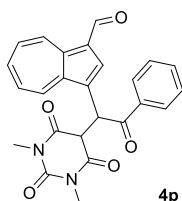


**5-(1-(Azulen-1-yl)-2-oxo-2-(thiophen-2-yl)ethyl)-1,3-dimethylpyrimidine-2,4,6(1H,3H,5H)-trione (4n).** Yield: 274 mg, 84% (Procedure A, 0.8 mmol scale); black-blue solid; mp: 99-101°C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.53 (d,  $J = 9.7$  Hz, 1H), 8.36 (d,  $J = 9.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d,  $J = 3.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.74 – 7.63 (m, 1H), 7.47 (d,  $J = 4.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.38 – 7.21 (m, 3H), 7.11 (d,  $J = 3.1$  Hz, 1H), 6.81 (t,  $J = 4.1$  Hz, 1H), 6.32 (d,  $J = 1.3$  Hz, 1H), 3.82 (d,  $J = 1.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.34 (s, 3H), 3.30 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,

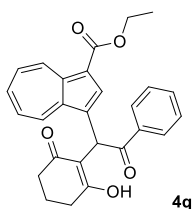
CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  191.2, 167.9, 167.5, 151.6, 141.6, 141.5, 140.8, 138.0, 137.3, 135.6, 134.6, 134.4, 132.0, 128.1, 124.2, 123.8, 123.3, 117.5, 51.1, 51.0, 29.0, 28.7; HRMS (EI, [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>) for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>SNa<sup>+</sup> calcd. 429.0829, found 429.0827.



**2-(1-(Azulen-1-yl)-2-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-oxoethyl)-3-hydroxycyclohex-2-en-1-one (4o).** Yield: 140 mg, 62% (Procedure A, 0.6 mmol scale); dark blue solid; mp: 182-184°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  10.93 (s, 1H), 8.39 (d, *J* = 9.7 Hz, 1H), 8.34 – 8.25 (m, 3H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.63 – 7.54 (m, 1H), 7.34 (m, 1H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.21 – 7.10 (m, 4H), 2.59 – 2.31 (m, 4H), 1.99 – 1.78 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  203.8, 197.2, 177.2, 166.8 (d, *J* = 257.4 Hz), 141.3, 138.2, 137.3, 136.7, 136.4, 134.2, 132.6 (d, *J* = 9.7 Hz), 132.4 (d, *J* = 2.9 Hz), 124.3, 123.4, 123.2, 117.0, 116.3 (d, *J* = 22.0 Hz), 113.5, 39.6, 36.8, 30.6, 20.4; HRMS (EI, [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>) for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>19</sub>FO<sub>3</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> calcd. 397.1210, found 397.1210.

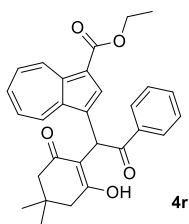


**3-(1-(1,3-Dimethyl-2,4,6-trioxohexahydropyrimidin-5-yl)-2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)azulene-1-carbaldehyde (4p).** Yield: 240 mg, 56% (Procedure A, 1 mmol scale); dark red solid; mp: 178-180°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  10.18 (s, 1H), 9.66 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 8.73 (d, *J* = 9.9 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (s, 1H), 8.01 – 7.89 (m, 1H), 7.77 – 7.62 (m, 4H), 7.50 – 7.39 (m, 1H), 7.32 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 6.40 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.37 (s, 3H), 3.34 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  197.9, 187.1, 167.9, 167.4, 151.5, 146.3, 141.0, 140.7, 140.3, 138.6, 134.7, 134.2, 133.9, 130.8, 129.3, 128.7, 128.6, 124.9, 124.8, 50.3, 49.6, 29.1, 28.7; HRMS (EI, [M+H]<sup>+</sup>) for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub><sup>+</sup> calcd. 429.1445, found 429.1445.

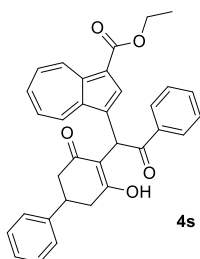


**Ethyl 3-(1-(2-hydroxy-6-oxocyclohex-1-en-1-yl)-2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)azulene-1-carboxylate (4q).** Yield: 247 mg, 96% (Procedure B, 0.6 mmol scale); dark purple solid; mp: 88-100°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  11.07 (s, 1H), 9.63 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 8.55 (d, *J* = 9.7 Hz, 1H), 8.33 (s, 1H), 8.31 – 8.24 (m, 2H), 7.83 – 7.74 (m, 1H), 7.67 – 7.59 (m, 1H), 7.55 – 7.47 (m, 3H), 7.47 – 7.39 (m, 1H), 7.34 (s, 1H), 4.40 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.59 – 2.32 (m, 4H), 1.99 – 1.76 (m, 2H), 1.43 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C

NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  205.2, 197.1, 177.6, 165.3, 141.7, 141.1, 139.7, 139.4, 138.1, 135.8, 135.7, 134.9, 129.8, 129.2, 128.1, 127.0, 124.0, 115.7, 113.2, 60.0, 39.2, 36.8, 30.6, 20.4, 14.8; HRMS (EI, [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>) for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>24</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> calcd. 451.1516, found 451.1510.



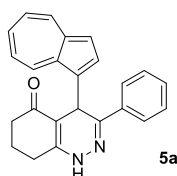
**Ethyl 3-(1-(2-hydroxy-4,4-dimethyl-6-oxocyclohex-1-en-1-yl)-2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)azulene-1-carboxylate (4r).** Yield: 165 mg, 90% (Procedure B, 0.4 mmol scale); dark purple solid; mp: 88-89°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  10.80 (bs, 1H), 9.63 (d, *J* = 9.9 Hz, 1H), 8.52 (d, *J* = 9.7 Hz, 1H), 8.32 (s, 1H), 8.30 – 8.24 (m, 2H), 7.83 – 7.74 (m, 1H), 7.67 – 7.59 (m, 1H), 7.55 – 7.47 (m, 3H), 7.45 – 7.37 (m, 1H), 7.28 (s, 1H), 4.44 – 4.35 (m, 2H), 2.43 (d, *J* = 17.8 Hz, 1H), 2.38 – 2.24 (m, 4H), 1.43 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.02 (s, 3H), 0.89 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  205.0, 196.8, 175.9, 165.3, 141.8, 141.1, 139.7, 139.4, 138.1, 135.80, 135.77, 134.9, 129.7, 129.2, 128.1, 126.9, 124.0, 115.7, 112.3, 60.0, 50.5, 44.1, 39.2, 31.6, 29.5, 26.9, 14.8; HRMS (EI, [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>) for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>28</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> calcd. 479.1829, found 479.1821.



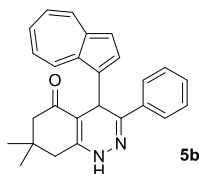
**Ethyl 3-(1-(5-hydroxy-3-oxo-1,2,3,6-tetrahydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)azulene-1-carboxylate (4s).** Yield: 33 mg, 44% (Procedure B, 0.15 mmol scale, the product was washed with pentane after column chromatography); dark purple solid; mp: 87-89°C; in NMR, observed as a mixture of two interconvertible diastereomeric enol forms (dr = 2:1); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  11.44 (bs, 0.67H), 10.93 (bs, 0.33H), 9.75 – 9.55 (m, 1H), 8.66 (d, *J* = 9.7 Hz, 0.67H), 8.49 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 0.33H), 8.39 (s, 0.67H), 8.34 (s, 0.33H), 8.32 – 8.20 (m, 2H), 7.86 – 7.71 (m, 1H), 7.68 – 7.01 (m, 11H), 4.49 – 4.33 (m, 2H), 3.44 – 3.30 (m, 0.33H), 3.27 – 3.10 (s, 0.67H), 2.90 – 2.52 (m, 4H), 1.49 – 1.37 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  205.4, 204.7, 196.3, 196.0, 176.8, 176.2, 165.3, 142.5, 142.4, 141.7, 141.2, 141.1, 139.8, 139.6, 139.4, 138.2, 138.1, 135.79, 135.76, 134.93, 134.85, 129.8, 129.7, 129.2, 128.9, 128.7, 128.2, 128.1, 127.2, 127.10, 127.07, 127.0, 126.74, 126.70, 123.9, 123.7, 115.9, 115.8, 113.2, 113.1, 60.03, 59.99, 43.8, 43.6, 39.4, 39.2, 38.3, 38.1, 37.3, 14.8; HRMS (EI, [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>) for C<sub>33</sub>H<sub>28</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> calcd. 527.1829, found 527.1816.

### General procedure for the synthesis of azulene-tetrahydrocinnolin-5-one conjugates **5a**,**5b** from azulene-containing MCR adducts **4c**,**4d**

Azulene derivative **4c,d** (0.4 mmol, 1 equiv) was placed in a screw-capped vial and dissolved in methanol (2 mL) followed by addition of hydrazine monohydrate (20 mg, 0.4 mmol, 1 equiv). The reaction mixture was stirred for 24h at room temperature. The reaction progress was monitored by TLC. After completion of reaction, the mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and evaporated with silica gel under reduced pressure. Column chromatography with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/EtOAc (19:1) as eluent delivered azulene-tetrahydrocinnolin-5-one conjugate **5a**. For the isolation of product **5b**, pure CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> was used as an eluent.

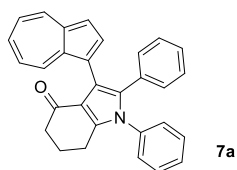


**4-(Azulen-1-yl)-3-phenyl-4,6,7,8-tetrahydrocinnolin-5(1H)-one (5a)**. Yield: 132 mg, 94%; blue solid; mp: 236-238°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, [D<sub>6</sub>]DMSO) δ 10.96 (s, 1H), 9.02 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 8.28 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 7.75 – 7.62 (m, 3H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 7.35 – 7.19 (m, 5H), 7.19 – 7.11 (m, 1H), 5.77 (s, 1H), 2.56 – 2.48 (m, 2H, overlaps with the signal of [D<sub>6</sub>]DMSO), 2.31 – 2.09 (m, 2H), 1.94 – 1.82 (m, 1H), 1.70 – 1.55 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, [D<sub>6</sub>]DMSO) δ 193.9, 150.1, 147.0, 140.5, 138.1, 136.9, 136.2, 136.1, 134.8, 133.2, 132.0, 128.9, 128.4, 125.8, 122.7, 122.6, 117.3, 104.6, 36.7, 27.7, 24.5, 20.6; HRMS (EI, [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>) for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>ONa<sup>+</sup> calcd. 375.1468, found 375.1464.

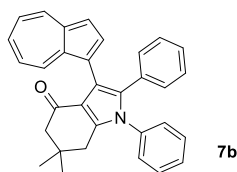


**4-(Azulen-1-yl)-8,8-dimethyl-3-phenyl-4,6,7,8-tetrahydrocinnolin-5(1H)-one (5b)**. Yield: 141 mg, 93%; blue solid; mp: 199-202°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, [D<sub>6</sub>]DMSO) δ 10.92 (s, 1H), 8.96 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 8.27 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 7.78 – 7.70 (m, 2H), 7.70 – 7.62 (m, 1H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 7.35 – 7.19 (m, 5H), 7.19 – 7.10 (m, 1H), 5.74 (s, 1H), 2.45 (d, *J* = 16.7 Hz, 1H), 2.30 (d, *J* = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 2.20 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 1.94 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 1.00 (s, 3H), 0.67 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, [D<sub>6</sub>]DMSO) δ 193.4, 148.4, 147.0, 140.5, 138.0, 136.9, 136.2, 136.1, 134.8, 133.1, 131.9, 128.9, 128.3, 125.8, 122.7, 122.6, 117.3, 103.4, 50.3, 37.7, 32.2, 29.0, 27.7, 26.1; HRMS (EI, [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>) for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>2</sub>ONa<sup>+</sup> calcd. 403.1781, found 403.1774.

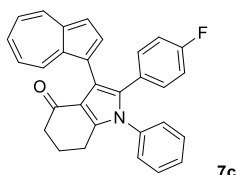
## Synthesis of azulene-dihydroindol-4-one conjugates **7** from azulene-containing MCR adducts **4**



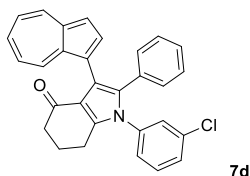
**3-(Azulen-1-yl)-1,2-diphenyl-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-4H-indol-4-one (7a).** Azulene-containing adduct **4c** (36 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1 equiv) was placed in a screw-capped vial and dissolved in *i*PrOH (1 mL) followed by addition of aniline (14 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv). The mixture was sealed, placed in an oil bath preheated at 80 °C and stirred for 6 h. The resulting mixture was diluted with EtOAc and evaporated with silica gel under reduced pressure. Column chromatography with petroleum ether/EtOAc (7:1) as eluent delivered azulene-dihydroindol-4-one conjugate **7a**. Yield: 37 mg, 89%; dark blue solid; mp: 191-192°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.21 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 7.45 – 7.31 (m, 5H), 7.25 – 7.14 (m, 2H), 7.07 – 6.98 (m, 1H), 6.96 – 6.82 (m, 4H), 6.79 – 6.72 (m, 2H), 2.88 – 2.69 (m, 2H), 2.60 – 2.47 (m, 2H), 2.26 – 2.14 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 193.7, 145.0, 141.5, 140.0, 137.9, 137.1, 136.13, 136.11, 136.07, 133.8, 131.8, 130.4, 129.2, 128.2, 128.1, 127.8, 126.6, 123.2, 122.5, 122.0, 119.7, 117.0, 116.8, 39.2, 23.8, 23.6; HRMS (EI, [M+H]<sup>+</sup>) for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>24</sub>NO<sup>+</sup> calcd. 414.1852, found 414.1843.



**3-(Azulen-1-yl)-6,6-dimethyl-1,2-diphenyl-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-4H-indol-4-one (7b).** Azulene-containing adduct **4d** (38 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1 equiv) was placed in a screw-capped vial and dissolved in *i*PrOH (1 mL) followed by addition of aniline (10 mg, 0.11 mmol, 1.1 equiv). The mixture was sealed, placed in an oil bath preheated at 80 °C and stirred for 8 h. The resulting mixture was diluted with EtOAc and evaporated with silica gel under reduced pressure. Column chromatography with petroleum ether/EtOAc (17:3) as eluent delivered azulene-dihydroindol-4-one conjugate **7b**. Yield: 21 mg, 48%; dark blue solid; mp: 238-240°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.22 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (d, *J* = 9.7 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 7.45 – 7.33 (m, 5H), 7.26 – 7.13 (m, 2H), 7.07 – 6.99 (m, 1H), 6.97 – 6.83 (m, 4H), 6.80 – 6.74 (m, 2H), 2.66 (bs, 2H), 2.44 (s, 2H), 1.20 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 193.2, 143.8, 141.5, 140.1, 137.8, 137.1, 136.1, 136.0, 133.9, 131.8, 130.3, 129.2, 128.17, 128.15, 127.7, 126.5, 123.1, 122.5, 122.0, 118.5, 117.0, 116.6, 53.2, 37.6, 35.1, 28.8; HRMS (EI, [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>) for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>27</sub>NONa<sup>+</sup> calcd. 464.1985, found 464.1985.

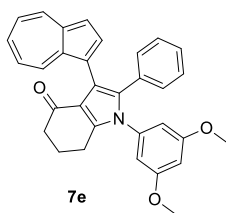


**3-(Azulen-1-yl)-2-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-phenyl-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-4H-indol-4-one (7c).** Azulene-containing adduct **4o** (150 mg, 0.4 mmol, 1 equiv) was placed in a screw-capped vial and dissolved in *i*PrOH (2 mL) followed by addition of aniline (56 mg, 0.6 mmol, 1.5 equiv). The mixture was sealed, placed in an oil bath preheated at 80 °C and stirred for 8 h. The resulting mixture was diluted with EtOAc and evaporated with silica gel under reduced pressure. Column chromatography with petroleum ether/EtOAc (9:1→17:3) as eluent followed by washing with pentane delivered azulene-dihydroindol-4-one conjugate **7c**. Yield: 108 mg, 63%; dark blue solid; mp: 180-182°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.22 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (d, *J* = 9.7 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 7.46 – 7.32 (m, 5H), 7.26 – 7.10 (m, 2H), 7.08 – 7.00 (m, 1H), 6.92 – 6.83 (m, 1H), 6.75 – 6.67 (m, 2H), 6.63 – 6.54 (m, 2H), 2.87 – 2.66 (m, 2H), 2.58 – 2.48 (m, 2H), 2.25 – 2.13 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 193.8, 161.5 (d, *J* = 246.9 Hz), 145.0, 141.6, 140.0, 137.7, 137.2, 136.2, 136.1, 136.0, 132.7, 132.0 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 129.3, 128.3, 128.1, 127.9 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz), 123.0, 122.7, 122.1, 119.7, 117.1, 117.0, 114.9 (d, *J* = 21.5 Hz), 39.2, 23.8, 23.6; HRMS (EI, [M+H]<sup>+</sup>) for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>23</sub>FNO<sup>+</sup> calcd. 432.1758, found 432.1754.



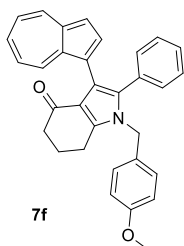
**3-(Azulen-1-yl)-1-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-phenyl-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-4H-indol-4-one (7d).** Azulene-containing adduct **4c** (71 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) was placed in a screw-capped vial and dissolved in *i*PrOH (1 mL) followed by addition of 3-chloroaniline (28 mg, 0.22 mmol, 1.1 equiv). The mixture was sealed, placed in an oil bath preheated at 80 °C and stirred for 24 h. For the next purification steps, three batches of 0.2 mmol scale were combined together. The resulting mixture was diluted with EtOAc and evaporated with silica gel under reduced pressure. Column chromatography with petroleum ether/EtOAc (9:1→17:3) as eluent followed by washing with pentane delivered azulene-dihydroindol-4-one conjugate **7d**. Yield: 94 mg, 35% (combined yield for three reactions on 0.2 mmol scale); dark blue solid; mp: 188-190°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.21 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (d, *J* = 9.7 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 7.45 – 7.37 (m, 1H), 7.36 – 7.31 (m, 2H), 7.31 – 7.25 (m, 2H), 7.08 – 6.99 (m, 2H), 6.99 – 6.82 (m, 4H), 6.78 – 6.72 (m, 2H), 2.87 – 2.71 (m, 2H), 2.58 – 2.49 (m, 2H), 2.26 – 2.16 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 193.6, 144.8, 141.5, 140.0, 139.0, 137.1, 136.18, 136.15, 136.0, 134.7, 133.7, 131.3, 130.3, 130.2, 128.5, 128.2, 127.9, 126.9, 126.5, 122.9, 122.6, 122.1, 119.9, 117.2, 117.1, 39.1, 23.8, 23.6; HRMS (EI, [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>) for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>22</sub>ClNONa<sup>+</sup> calcd. 470.1282, found 470.1282.





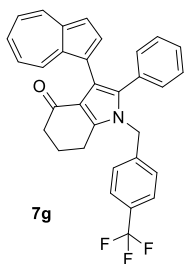
**3-(Azulen-1-yl)-1-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-phenyl-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-4H-indol-4-one (7e).**

Azulene-containing adduct **4c** (143 mg, 0.4 mmol, 1 equiv) was placed in a screw-capped vial and dissolved in *i*PrOH (2 mL) followed by addition of 3,5-dimethoxyaniline (92 mg, 0.6 mmol, 1.5 equiv). The mixture was sealed, placed in an oil bath preheated at 80 °C and stirred for 8 h. The resulting mixture was diluted with EtOAc and evaporated with silica gel under reduced pressure. Column chromatography with petroleum ether/EtOAc (9:1→4:1) as eluent delivered azulene-dihydroindol-4-one conjugate **7e**. Yield: 107 mg, 56%; dark blue solid; mp: 250-252 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.20 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d, *J* = 9.7 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 7.44 – 7.36 (m, 1H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 7.06 – 6.98 (m, 1H), 6.98 – 6.89 (m, 3H), 6.89 – 6.78 (m, 3H), 6.42 (t, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.32 (bs, 2H), 3.66 (s, 6H), 2.91 – 2.76 (m, 2H), 2.58 – 2.47 (m, 2H), 2.26 – 2.14 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 193.7, 160.9, 144.9, 141.6, 140.1, 139.4, 137.1, 136.14, 136.11, 136.09, 133.7, 132.0, 130.2, 127.8, 126.7, 123.2, 122.5, 122.0, 119.7, 117.0, 116.8, 106.6, 100.3, 55.6, 39.2, 23.9, 23.7; HRMS (EI, [M+H]<sup>+</sup>) for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>27</sub>NO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> calcd. 474.2064, found 474.2064.



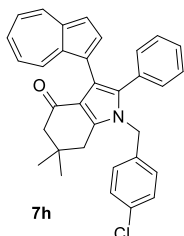
**3-(Azulen-1-yl)-1-(4-methoxybenzyl)-2-phenyl-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-4H-indol-4-one (7f).**

Azulene-containing adduct **4c** (71 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) was placed in a screw-capped vial and dissolved in *i*PrOH (1 mL) followed by addition of 4-methoxybenzylamine (41 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv). The mixture was sealed, placed in an oil bath preheated at 80 °C and stirred for 8 h. The resulting mixture was diluted with EtOAc and evaporated with silica gel under reduced pressure. Column chromatography with petroleum ether/EtOAc (9:1→17:3) as eluent delivered azulene-dihydroindol-4-one conjugate **7f**. Yield: 78 mg, 85%; blue solid; mp: 159-161 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.17 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (d, *J* = 9.7 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 7.44 – 7.35 (m, 1H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.13 – 7.03 (m, 3H), 7.03 – 6.96 (m, 3H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.91 – 6.83 (m, 3H), 5.09 (s, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 2.83 – 2.71 (m, 2H), 2.56 – 2.44 (m, 2H), 2.24 – 2.13 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 193.5, 159.1, 144.2, 141.4, 139.9, 137.0, 136.12, 136.05, 136.03, 134.1, 132.0, 130.7, 129.5, 128.3, 127.6, 127.2, 123.5, 122.4, 121.9, 119.5, 116.9, 116.5, 114.5, 55.4, 47.7, 39.1, 23.6, 23.0; HRMS (EI, [M+H]<sup>+</sup>) for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>28</sub>NO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> calcd. 458.2115, found 458.2115.



**3-(Azulen-1-yl)-2-phenyl-1-(4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-4H-indol-4-one (7g).**

Azulene-containing adduct **4c** (71 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) was placed in a screw-capped vial and dissolved in *i*PrOH (1 mL) followed by addition of (4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)methanamine (39 mg, 0.22 mmol, 1.1 equiv). The mixture was sealed, placed in an oil bath preheated at 80 °C and stirred for 5 h. The resulting mixture was diluted with EtOAc and evaporated with silica gel under reduced pressure. Column chromatography with petroleum ether/EtOAc (4:1→7:3) as eluent delivered azulene-dihydroindol-4-one conjugate **7g**. Yield: 92 mg, 93%; dark blue solid; mp: 148-150°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.18 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (d, *J* = 9.7 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.46 – 7.36 (m, 1H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.17 – 6.94 (m, 8H), 6.93 – 6.85 (m, 1H), 5.19 (s, 2H), 2.80 – 2.68 (m, 2H), 2.57 – 2.45 (m, 2H), 2.26 – 2.14 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 193.4, 143.9, 141.65, 141.64, 141.5, 139.9, 137.1, 136.2, 136.1, 135.9, 134.1, 131.6, 130.6, 130.1 (d, *J* = 32.6 Hz), 128.5, 127.8, 126.24, 126.15 (q, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 124.1 (q, *J* = 272.0 Hz), 123.1, 122.6, 122.0, 119.8, 117.0, 116.9, 47.8, 39.0, 23.5, 22.9; HRMS (EI, [M+H]<sup>+</sup>) for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>25</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO<sup>+</sup> calcd. 496.1883, found 496.1883.



**3-(Azulen-1-yl)-1-(4-chlorobenzyl)-6,6-dimethyl-2-phenyl-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-4H-indol-4-one (7h).**

Azulene-containing adduct **4d** (77 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) was placed in a screw-capped vial and dissolved in *i*PrOH (1 mL) followed by addition of (4-chlorophenyl)methanamine (31 mg, 0.22 mmol, 1.1 equiv). The mixture was sealed, placed in an oil bath preheated at 80 °C and stirred for 4.5 h. The resulting mixture was diluted with EtOAc and evaporated with silica gel under reduced pressure. Column chromatography with petroleum ether/EtOAc (17:3) as eluent followed by washing with pentane delivered azulene-dihydroindol-4-one conjugate **7h**. Yield: 71 mg, 72%; blue solid; mp: 190-192°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.17 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 9.7 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.44 – 7.36 (m, 1H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.13 – 6.90 (m, 8H), 6.90 – 6.82 (m, 1H), 5.10 (s, 2H), 2.61 (s, 2H), 2.40 (s, 2H), 1.15 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 192.9, 142.9, 141.5, 139.9, 137.1, 136.2, 136.1, 136.0, 134.2, 133.5, 131.8, 130.6, 129.3, 128.4, 127.7, 127.2, 123.1, 122.5, 122.0, 118.5, 117.0, 116.6, 53.2, 47.5, 36.8, 35.3, 28.8; HRMS (EI, [M+H]<sup>+</sup>) for C<sub>33</sub>H<sub>29</sub>ClNO<sup>+</sup> calcd. 490.1932, found 490.1932.

### One-pot synthesis of azulene-dihydroindol-4-one conjugate **7a**

Phenylglyoxal monohydrate (**2a**, 46 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was placed in a screw-capped vial and dissolved in *i*PrOH (1 mL) followed by addition of azulene (**1a**, 26 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) and cyclohexane-1,3-dione (**3c**, 45 mg, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv). The resulting mixture was sealed, placed in an oil bath preheated at 80 °C and stirred for 1h. Upon completion of this time, the aniline (**6a**, 41 mg, 0.44 mmol, 2.2 equiv) was added and the reaction was continued for another 8h. The resulting mixture was diluted with EtOAc and evaporated with silica gel under reduced pressure. Column chromatography with petroleum ether/EtOAc (17:3) as eluent delivered azulene-dihydroindol-4-one conjugate **7a**.

## UV/vis absorption spectra

The UV/Vis absorption was measured in dichloromethane and in methanol at  $c \cong 5 \cdot 10^{-6}$  M.

