Supplementary information

Indolizine Synthesis via Radical Cyclization and Demethylation

of Sulfoxonium Ylides and 2-(Pyridin-2-yl)acetate Derivatives

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General information

Unless otherwise indicated, all commercial regents and solvents were used without additional purification. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on Mercury 300 M and Bruker 400M in CDCl₃. All ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR chemical shifts were given as δ value(ppm) with reference to tetramethylsilane (TMS) as an internal standard. All compounds were further characterized by MS; copies of their ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were provided. Products were purified by flash chromatography on 200–300 mesh silica gels. All melting points were determined without correction. All reagents were purchased commercially and used as received, unless otherwise noted.

General procedure for the synthesis of sulfoxonium ylides



Sulfoxonium ylides **2a** were prepared according to a literature procedure. Trimethylsulfoxonium iodide (5.0 g, 20.6 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of potassium tert-butoxide (3.0 g, 27.2 mmol) in THF (30 mL) at room temperature. The resulting mixture was refluxed for 2 h, then cooled to 0 °C, followed by addition of acyl chlorides (7 mmol) in THF (5 mL) and stirred for another 3 h at room temperature. Next, the solvent was evaporated under vacuum, afterwards water (15 mL) and ethyl acetate (20 mL) were added to the resulting slurry. The aqueous layer was separated and washed with ethyl acetate (2×30 mL), and combined with the organic layers. The organic solution was dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate (Na₂SO₄), filtered over a sintered funnel and evaporated to dryness. The crude product was finally purified by flash chromatography over silica gel with EtOAc/MeOH (95:5) to afford the corresponding sulfoxonium ylides.

General procedure for the

3-(methylthio)-2-phenylindolizine-1-carboxylate



The substrate sulfoxonium ylides (2a, 0.2 mmol) and NIS (0.4 mmol) were added to a 10 mL Schlenk tube, followed by addition of DCM (1.5 mL), then a certain amount of ethyl pyridin-2-ylacetates (1a, 0.2 mmol) were added into the liquor. The mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 12 h under air. After cooled down, the solvent was removed, filtered and evaporated under vacuum. Then the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography using ethylacetate/petroleum ether (15:1) to afford product 3aa as white solid (36.8 mg, 62% yield).

X-ray single data

An amount of 25 mg **3aa** were dissolved in petroleum ether / DCM (5:1) on the brown small reagent bottle (5 mL) and the cap is covered with a thin film. The crystal was obtained by slow evaporation of the solution at low temperature.

The data were collected at 296.15 K using a Bruker APEX II area detectordiffractometer equipped with a graphite monochromated Mo K α radiation source ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å) operation at 50 kV and 0.8 mA. Using Olex2, the structure was solved with the ShelXS-1997 structure solution program using Direct Methods and refined with the olex2.refine refinement package using Gauss-Newton minimisation. Nonhydrogen atoms were refined with anisotropic displacement parameters during the final cycles. All hydrogen atoms were placed by geometrical considerations and were added to the structure factor calculations.

The crystal structure has been deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC 2067793).



Figure 2. X-ray structure of 3aa

Table 1 Crystal data and structure refinement for 3aa.

Identification code	sukexin_0116
Empirical formula	$C_{17}H_{15}NO_2S$
Formula weight	297.36
Temperature/K	293.78(10)
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	P2 ₁ /c
a/Å	10.0441(4)
b/Å	18.6223(6)
c/Å	8.2831(4)
α/°	90
β/°	110.227(5)
γ/°	90
Volume/Å ³	1453.76(11)
Z	4
ρ _{calc} g/cm ³	1.359

µ/mm ⁻¹	2.006	
F(000)	624.0	
Crystal size/mm ³	0.17 × 0.14 × 0.12	
Radiation	Cu Kα (λ = 1.54184)	
20 range for data collection/° 9.384 to 133.152		
Index ranges	$-9 \le h \le 11, -22 \le k \le 18, -9 \le l \le 9$	
Reflections collected	5264	
Independent reflections	2562 [$R_{int} = 0.0265$, $R_{sigma} = 0.0344$]	
Data/restraints/parameters	2562/0/192	
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.038	
Final R indexes $[I>=2\sigma$ (I)]	$R_1 = 0.0419, wR_2 = 0.1087$	
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0530, wR_2 = 0.1164$	
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å-3	0.23/-0.27	

Characterization data for the products



methyl 3-(methylthio)-2-phenylindolizine-1-carboxylate (3aa)

White solid, mp: 118-121 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.59 (s, 1H), 8.32 (s, 1H), 7.42 (d, J = 11.9 Hz, 5H), 7.21 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 2.08 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 165.03, 138.60, 137.77, 134.96, 130.49, 127.39, 127.33, 124.48, 123.98, 120.23, 115.65, 113.19, 102.89, 50.69, 18.58. ESI calcd for C₁₇H₁₅NO₂S [M+H]⁺ 297.0823; found: 297.1258.



ethyl 3-(methylthio)-2-phenylindolizine-1-carboxylate (3ba)

White solid, mp: 116-119 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.58 (d, *J* = 9.9 Hz, 1H), 8.32 (d, *J* = 9.7 Hz, 1H), 7.43 – 7.37 (m, 5H), 7.19 (s, 1H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.19 – 4.13 (m, 2H), 2.08 (s, 3H), 1.10 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 164.63, 138.59, 137.78, 135.19, 130.51, 127.32, 127.25, 124.43, 123.88, 120.17, 113.15, 103.23, 59.37, 18.63, 14.15. ESI calcd for C₁₈H₁₇NO₂S [M+H]⁺ 311.0980; found: 311.1959.



3-(methylthio)-2-phenylindolizine-1-carbonitrile (3ca)

Yellow solid, mp: 132-134 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.59 (dt, J = 7.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.75 – 7.69 (m, 3H), 7.54 – 7.48 (m, 2H), 7.44 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.25 – 7.19 (m, 1H), 6.95 (td, J = 6.9, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 2.17 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 139.61, 137.67, 132.05, 129.83, 128.59, 128.44, 124.99, 124.12, 117.87, 116.46, 113.69, 18.39. ESI calcd for C₁₆H₁₂N₂S [M+H]⁺ 264.0721; found: 264.1318.



methyl 3-(methylthio)-2-(o-tolyl)indolizine-1-carboxylate (3ab)

White solid, mp: 104-105 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.59 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 8.31 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.30 – 7.23 (m, 3H), 7.18 (dd, *J* = 20.1, 4.6 Hz, 2H), 6.94 – 6.88 (m, 1H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 2.09 (s, 3H), 2.07 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 165.06, 137.86, 137.10, 135.32, 130.06, 129.49, 127.79, 125.11, 124.63, 124.05, 120.27, 115.45, 113.24, 103.36, 50.91, 20.45, 18.57. ESI calcd for C₁₈H₁₇NO₂S [M+H]⁺ 311.0980; found: 311.1427.



methyl 3-(methylthio)-2-(m-tolyl)indolizine-1-carboxylate (3ac)

White solid, mp: 109-111 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.59 (dt, *J* = 7.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.30 (dt, *J* = 9.1, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (dt, *J* = 7.2, 2.1 Hz, 4H), 6.90 (td, *J* = 6.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 2.10 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.18, 138.93, 137.85, 136.89, 134.95, 131.28, 128.30, 127.68, 127.39, 124.60, 124.08, 120.34, 113.29, 50.86, 21.84, 18.80. ESI calcd for C₁₈H₁₇NO₂S [M+H]⁺ 311.0980; found: 311.1419.



methyl 3-(methylthio)-2-(p-tolyl)indolizine-1-carboxylate (3ad)

White solid, mp: 129-130 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.58 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 8.28 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 4H), 7.19 (dd, *J* = 9.1, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.09 (s, 3H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 165.05, 138.72, 137.73, 136.95, 131.83, 130.34, 128.23, 124.49, 124.44, 123.89, 120.24, 120.20, 113.11, 102.89, 50.76, 21.52, 18.60. ESI calcd for C₁₈H₁₇NO₂S [M+H]⁺ 311.0980; found:311.1700.



methyl 2-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)-3-(methylthio)indolizine-1-carboxylate (3ae)

White solid, mp: 121-123 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.60 – 8.56 (m, 1H), 8.28 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (s, 1H), 7.02 (s, 1H), 6.99 (s, 2H), 6.89 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 6H), 2.10 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 165.03, 138.97, 137.68, 136.54, 134.71, 129.14, 128.25, 124.44, 123.84, 120.19, 113.08, 102.96, 50.69, 21.55, 18.70. ESI calcd for C₁₉H₁₉NO₂S [M+H]⁺ 325.1136; found: 325.1754.



methyl 2-(2-methoxyphenyl)-3-(methylthio)indolizine-1-carboxylate (3af)

Yellow solid, mp: 135-136 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.56 (s, 1H), 8.28 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (t, J = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 7.19 – 7.14 (m, 1H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 7.00 (d, J = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 2.10 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 165.01, 157.52, 137.69, 134.82, 131.71, 129.03, 124.44, 124.40, 123.55, 120.18, 120.04, 115.70, 112.89, 110.65, 103.64, 55.65, 50.65, 18.20. ESI calcd for C₁₈H₁₇NO₃S [M+H]⁺ 327.0929; found: 327.1910.



methyl 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-(methylthio)indolizine-1-carboxylate (3ag)

Yellow solid, mp: 116-118 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.52 (dd, J = 7.1, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.22 (dd, J = 8.8, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.15 – 7.09 (m, 1H), 6.91 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (td, J = 6.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 2.02 (s, 3H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 162.56, 156.42, 135.77, 129.13, 124.47, 121.93, 121.36, 117.66, 113.05, 110.57, 110.41, 100.29, 52.71, 48.18, 15.99. ESI calcd for C₁₈H₁₇NO₃S [M+H]⁺ 327.0929; found: 327.1640.



methyl 2-(4-ethylphenyl)-3-(methylthio)indolizine-1-carboxylate (3ah)

Yellow solid, mp: 84-87 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.59 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.28 (dd, *J* = 9.1, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.33 – 7.26 (m, 4H), 7.21 – 7.17 (m, 1H), 6.89 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.74 (q, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 2.09 (s, 3H), 1.31 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)

δ 165.07, 143.11, 138.74, 137.74, 131.97, 130.40, 126.92, 124.47, 123.89, 120.23, 113.10, 102.86, 50.73, 28.75, 18.59, 15.31. ESI calcd for C₁₉H₁₉NO₂S [M+H]⁺ 325.1136; found: 325.1673.



methyl 2-(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)-3-(methylthio)indolizine-1-carboxylate (3ai)

White solid, mp: 92-95 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.59 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 8.28 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (s, 2H), 7.36 (s, 2H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.10 (s, 3H), 1.39 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 165.10, 149.96, 138.64, 137.77, 131.59, 130.18, 124.31, 123.88, 120.25, 115.59, 113.09, 102.82, 50.70, 34.69, 18.59. ESI calcd for C₂₁H₂₃NO₂S [M+H]⁺ 353.1449; found: 353.1527.



methyl 3-(methylthio)-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)indolizine-1-carboxylate (3aj)

Yellow solid, mp: 114-117 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 8.60 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 8.31 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (q, J = 2.8, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (s, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.09 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 194.50, 138.38, 137.43, 135.81, 130.39, 128.18, 127.96, 125.46, 124.19, 121.00, 114.15, 113.82, 30.60, 18.68. ESI calcd for C₁₈H₁₄F₃NO₂S [M+H]⁺ 365.0697; found: 365.1475.



methyl 2-(3-fluorophenyl)-3-(methylthio)indolizine-1-carboxylate (3ak)

Yellow solid, mp: 94-96 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.59 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 8.31 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.41 – 7.35 (m, 1H), 7.26 – 7.18 (m, 2H), 7.16 – 7.09 (m, 2H), 6.96 – 6.90 (m, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.10 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 164.82, 162.14 (d, J=245.4Hz), 137.75, 137.21, 128.79, 128.71, 126.35, 124.36 (d, J=28.28Hz), 120.27, 117.66, 117.45, 115.72, 114.17 (d, J=21.21Hz), 113.39, 102.82, 50.76, 18.59. ESI calcd for C₁₇H₁₄FNO₂S [M+H]⁺ 315.0729; found: 315.1426.



methyl 2-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(methylthio)indolizine-1-carboxylate (3al)

Yellow solid, mp: 117-119 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.60 (s, 1H), 8.29 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d, J = 10.1 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.08 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 164.94, 163.59, 137.77, 137.54, 132.19, 132.11, 130.73, 124.50, 124.15, 120.25, 114.54, 114.32, 113.31, 102.84, 50.74, 18.52. ESI calcd for C₁₇H₁₄FNO₂S [M+H]⁺ 315.0729; found: 315.1262.



methyl 2-(2-chlorophenyl)-3-(methylthio)indolizine-1-carboxylate (3am)

Yellow solid, mp: 107-110 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.58 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.31 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.51 – 7.47 (m, 1H), 7.37 – 7.32 (m, 2H), 7.30 – 7.27 (m, 1H), 7.24 – 7.19 (m, 1H), 6.92 (td, *J* = 6.9, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 2.12 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 164.68, 137.56, 134.80, 134.31, 131.78, 128.98, 128.90, 126.07, 124.47, 123.98, 120.28, 113.25, 103.49, 50.83, 18.21. ESI calcd for C₁₇H₁₄ClNO₂S [M+H]⁺ 331.0434; found: 331.1052.





Yellow solid, mp: 104-106 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.59 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 8.31 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.38 – 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.30 – 7.26 (m, 1H), 7.22 (dd, J = 9.0, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 2.09 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 164.79, 137.79, 137.00, 136.79, 133.17, 130.59, 128.85, 128.58, 127.45, 124.50, 124.25, 120.29, 113.42, 102.81, 50.78, 18.60. ESI calcd for C₁₇H₁₄ClNO₂S [M+H]⁺ 331.0434; found: 331.1157.



methyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(methylthio)indolizine-1-carboxylate (3ao)

Yellow solid, mp: 117-118 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.59 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 8.30 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.42 – 7.32 (m, 4H), 7.22 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.08 (s, 3H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 164.87, 137.80, 137.30, 133.40, 133.37, 124.46, 120.30, 115.69, 113.33, 102.76, 50.82, 50.72, 18.55. ESI calcd for C₁₇H₁₄ClNO₂S [M+H]⁺ 331.0434; found: 331.1142.



methyl 2-(4-bromophenyl)-3-(methylthio)indolizine-1-carboxylate (3ap)

Yellow solid, mp: 127-128 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.58 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 8.29 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.08 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 164.86, 137.81, 137.29, 133.86, 132.23, 130.62, 124.50, 124.23, 121.69, 120.27, 115.64, 113.38, 102.72, 50.77, 18.55. ESI calcd for C₁₇H₁₄BrNO₂S [M+H]⁺ 374.9929; found: 376.0459.



90 80 f1 (ppm) -10

3aa









3ca



3ab



3ac



3ad



3ae



3af



3ag





3ai



3aj



3ak



3al







3an



ao



3ap

GC-MS spectrum of formaldehyde



29