Supporting Information

Tandem electrocatalytic aziridination – ring expansion of simple aromatic olefins using ammonia and carbon dioxide

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1) General information

All reactions were carried out with commercially available chemicals and materials, unless otherwise noted. Chemicals were used without any further purification. Ring expansions of the N-H aziridines with CO₂ were performed in home-made pressure reactors. Ring expansions of the N-H aziridines with CS₂ were performed in glass vials. ¹H-NMR analyses of the reaction mixtures were conducted with a Bruker Avance 400 spectrometer using a zg30 pulse program (1D ¹H experiment using 30 degree flip angle).

2) General procedures

- 1) Electrocatalytic N-H aziridination: See Reference 1.
- 2) Ring expansion with CO₂: After the completion of the electrocatalytic N-H aziridination (see 1), the reaction mixture was scrubbed with N₂. 160 mg of sodium thiosulphate (2 equiv., optional) was added and the reaction mixture was transferred to a home-made stainless steel pressure reactor. The reactor was purged with nitrogen, after which 15 bar of CO₂ pressure was applied. The reactor was transferred to a heating block at 70°C and was stirred overnight. The resulting mixture was analyzed with ¹H NMR. Pyridine was added as an external standard from a 0.045M solution in CDCl₃ (200 µl of reaction mixture + 300 µl of pyridine solution in CDCl₃).
- 3) **Ring expansion with CS₂:** After the completion of the electrocatalytic N-H aziridination (see 2), the reaction mixture was scrubbed with N_2 and 160 mg of sodium thiosulphate (2)

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equiv., optional) were added. The solution was transferred to a glass vial and 15 equivalents of CS_2 was added. The reaction vial was transferred to a heating block at 40°C and was stirred for 10 minutes. The resulting mixture was analyzed with ¹H-NMR. Pyridine was added as an external standard from a 0.045M solution in $CDCl_3$ (200 µl of reaction mixture + 300 µl of pyridine solution in $CDCl_3$).

- 4) Optional adaption: We demonstrated in our previous research that using commercial NH₃ solutions in dioxane or in water also results in good N-H aziridine yields around 80%, preventing the need for a homemade NH₃ solution in dioxane.^[1] We used both commercial solutions in the protocol described herein with the model compound styrene. When performing the ring expansion with CO₂, an overall yield of 74% and 75% was obtained when using the NH₃ commercial solution in dioxane and in water, respectively. Performing the ring expansion with CS₂ resulted in an overall yield of 58% and 56% when using the NH₃ commercial solution in dioxane and in water, respectively.
- 5) Purification: Isolated yields are provided for model compounds 2a and 4a according to the following procedure: After work-up (see Reference 1.), the mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel, eluting with 8:2 heptane/ethyl acetate for compound 2a (white solid, R_F = 0.21, 81% overall yield) and 6:4 heptane/ethyl acetate for compound 4a (white solid, R_F = 0.45, 58% overall yield). Copies of the ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR spectra are included.
- 6) **Scale-up**: After performing a gram scale electrocatalytic N-H aziridination reaction (see Reference 1.), the reaction mixture was transferred to a glass-lined Parr reactor (600ml)

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together with additional solvent (45 ml dioxane and 5 ml water) in order for optimal mechanical stirring (300 rpm). Then, the reactor is sealed, purged and pressurized with CO₂ until a constant pressure of 15 bar. Afterwards, the reactor is cooled down in an ice bath and the pressure is released. The reaction mixture is analyzed with ¹H-NMR (see 2). Similarly for 5-phenyl-2-thiazolidinethione **4a**, 1.03 ml of CS₂ is added to the reaction mixture after performing the gram-scale electrocatalytic N-H aziridination. The reaction is stirred for 30 minutes at 40 °C. The reaction mixture is analyzed with ¹H-NMR (see 3).

3) Control experiments

The influence of iodide on the product formation and product distribution was investigated (Figure 1 of main text). After performing 2 standard N-H aziridination reactions with styrene, both mixtures were combined and the salts and solvents were removed following our work-up procedure (see section 2). The concentrated 2-phenylaziridine in some leftover dioxane was diluted again with the dioxane/water mixture. This homogeneous mixture was equally divided over three pressure reactors to which 0, 0.2 or 2 equivalents of Lil were added. Standard conditions for the CO₂ ring expansion were applied and all three mixtures were compared using ¹H-NMR. Since all three mixtures originate from the same starting mixture, the relative ratios of the areas assigned to 2-phenylaziridine and 5-phenyl-2-oxazolidinone can be compared. Note that for these reactions, full conversion of the aziridine (characteristic signals at δ = 1.79 (d, 1H), 2.18 (d, 1H), 3.00 (dd, 1H)) was observed, most likely due to parasitic side reactions (see main text); so for simplicity we also integrated the signal from the leftover styrene for comparison. For each spectrum, the integral of the styrene signal at δ = 5.78 (d, 1H) was calibrated to 1 and the signal for 5-phenyl-2-oxazolidinone at δ = 5.66 (t, 1H) was integrated. It is observed that with increasing amounts of Lil, the amount of 5-phenyl-2-oxazolidinone also increased. Similar experiments with CS₂ (signal at δ = 5.18 (dd, 1H) was used) and LiBr were also performed.

Control experiments with CO₂ and Lil

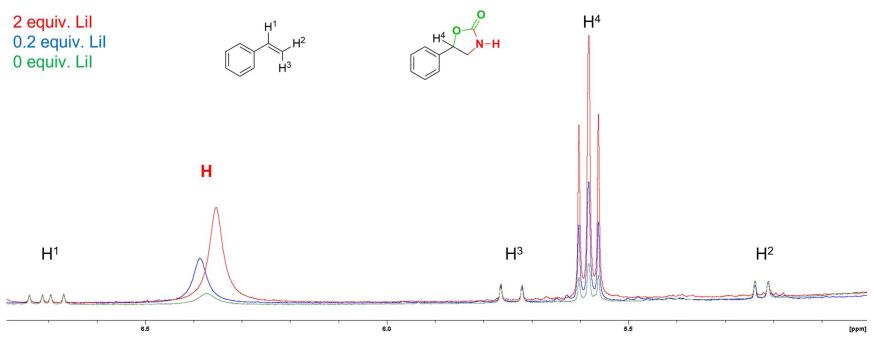


Figure S1: Control experiments with different amounts of LiI for the CO₂ insertion reaction.

Control experiments with $\rm CO_2$ and LiBr

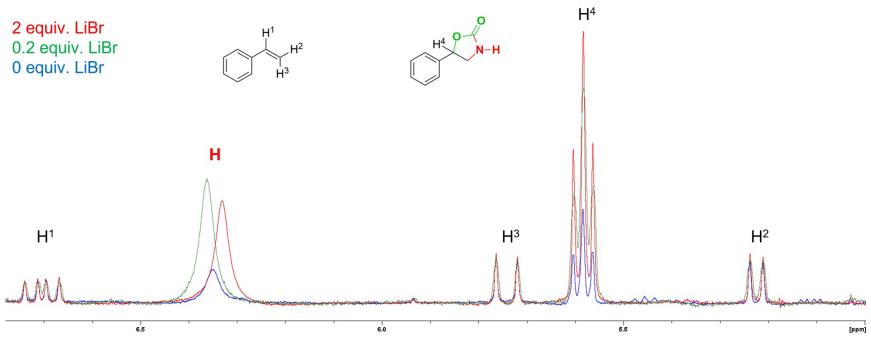


Figure S2: Control experiments with different amounts of LiBr for the CO₂ insertion reaction.

Control experiments with CS₂ and Lil

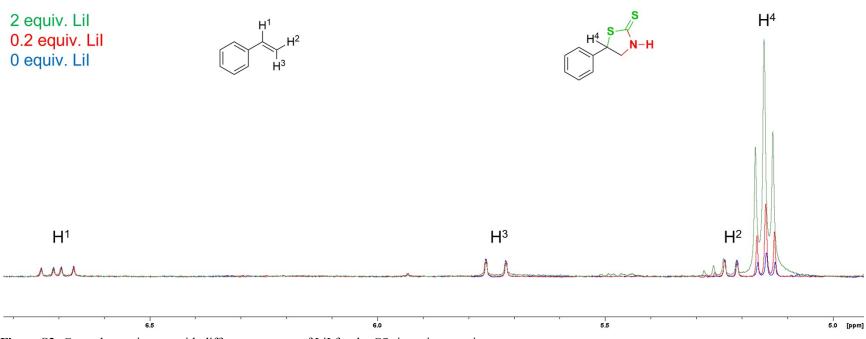


Figure S3: Control experiments with different amounts of LiI for the CS₂ insertion reaction.

Control experiments with CS₂ and LiBr

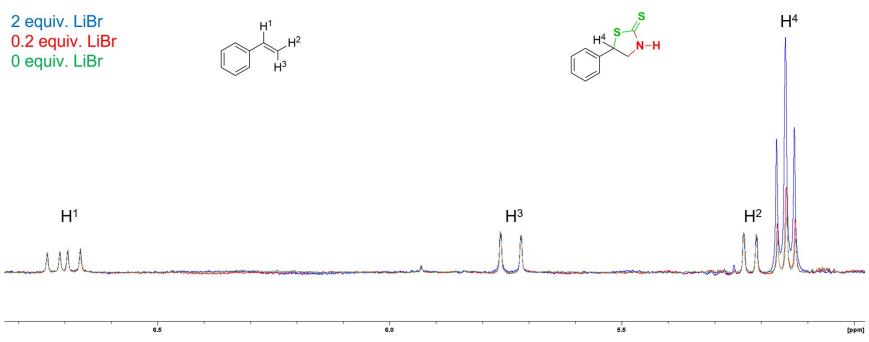


Figure S4: Control experiments with different amounts of LiBr for the CS₂ insertion reaction.

Control experiments with CO₂ and Lil with focus on product distribution

The amount of 5-phenyl-2-oxazolidinone increases to a much larger extent with increasing amount of Lil compared to the 4-phenyl-2-oxazolidinone (signals for H⁴ and **H** compared with signals for H⁵, H⁶ and **H⁸**). Experiments with LiBr and CO₂ gave similar trends but to a lesser extent.

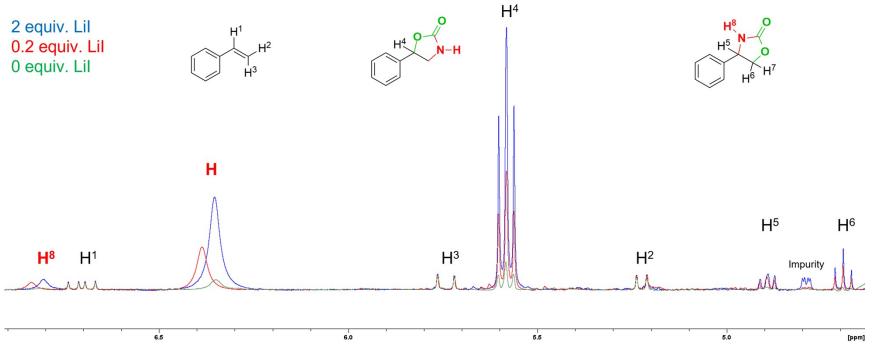
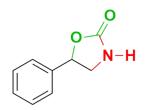


Figure S5: Control experiments with different amounts of LiI for the CO₂ insertion reaction with focus on product distribution of the 5-phenyl-2-oxazolidinone and 4-phenyl-2-oxazolidinone isomers.

4) Spectroscopic data

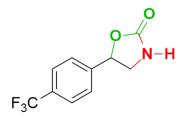
Quantification was performed by mixing 200 μ l of crude reaction mixture with 300 μ l 0.0454 M solution of pyridine in CDCl₃. Characteristic signals of both starting materials and products, together with the signal for pyridine at δ = 8.58 (d, 2H), are used. For the model reaction with styrene, quantification was based on the styrene signal at δ = 5.78 (d, 1H) and the 2-oxazolidinone signal at δ = 5.66 (t, 1H). For 2-thiazolidinethiones, the characteristic signal at δ = 5.30 (t, 1H) was used. Similar strategies were used for the other substrates. For 2- and 4-vinylpyridine, a 0.0214 M solution of methyl 3,5-dinitrobenzoate in CDCl₃ was used with a characteristic signal at δ = 9.11 (s, 2H).

The crude spectra for quantification were compared with literature data to prove the 2oxazolidinones and 2-thiazolidithiones had formed²⁻⁸. The signal of the N-H proton proved difficult to discriminate from other signals, most likely because it is an exchangeable proton and due to H-bonding with both dioxane and especially water, broadening and displacing the peak. According to literature, this proton gives a broad signal at values ranging from δ = 5.75 to δ = 6.68 for the model compound **2a** (5-phenyl-2-oxazolidinone)²⁻⁴. After work-up, the N-H proton signal was found here at δ = 6.34 . However, H-bonding with leftover dioxane can still be responsible for broadening and displacing the signal. For the thiazolidinethiones, a value of the N-H signal at δ = 10.53 is reported for the model compound **4a** (5-phenyl-2-thiazolidinethione, in DMSO-d6)⁴. GC-MS measurements further confirmed the formation of the desired products where the obtained mass corresponded excellently to the calculated mass.



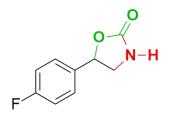
5-Phenyl-2-oxazolidinone (2a)

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.57 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 4.01 (t, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 5.66 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.34 (s br, 1H), 7.35-7.50 (m, 5H); ¹³C-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 47.9, 76.8, 126.4, 129.2, 140.1, 159.2; GC-MS (EI, 70eV): m/z (rel. int. %): 163 (30), 133 (57), 105 (64), 104 (100), 91 (31), 78 (12), 77 (32), 65 (13), 51 (25), 50 (13).



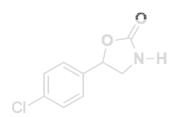
5-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-2-oxazolidinone (2b)

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.43 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 5.67 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.47 (s br, 1H), 7.32-7.64 (m, 4H).



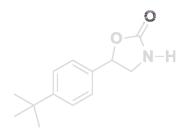
5-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-oxazolidinone (2c)

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.50 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 5.59 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.54 (s br, 1H), 7.03-7.13 (m, 2H), 7.28-7.41 (m, 2H).



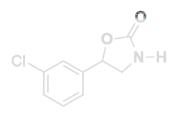
5-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-oxazolidinone (2d)

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.41 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 5.56 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.42 (s br, 1H), 7.24-7.43 (m, 4H).



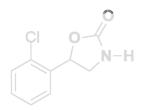
5-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-2-oxazolidinone (2e)

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.34 (s, 9H), 3.55 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 5.69 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.35 (s br, 1H), 7.24-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.39-7.48 (m, 2H).



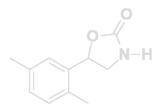
5-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-oxazolidinone (2f)

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.43 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 5.56 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.42 (s br, 1H), 7.19-7.43 (m, 4H).



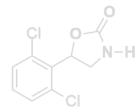
5-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-oxazolidinone (2g)

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.36 (dd, J = 8.9, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 4.12 (t, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 5.90 (dd, J = 8.9, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 6.43 (s br, 1H), 7.26-7.44 (m, 3H), 7.54-7.62 (m, 1H).



5-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)-2-oxazolidinone (2h)

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.24 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 3.35 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (t, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 5.76 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.38 (s br, 1H), 7.00-7.09 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.29 (m, 1H).

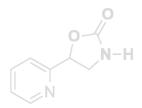


5-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-2-oxazolidinone (2i)

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.75 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (t, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (t, J = 9.4 Hz, 1H) 6.49 (s br, 1H), 7.28-7.38 (m, 3H).

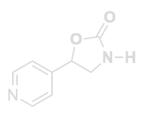
5-(2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)-2-oxazolidinone (2j)

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.24 (s, 3H), 2.25 (s, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 3.47 (t, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (t, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 6.00 (t, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 6.41 (s br, 1H), 7.81-7.88 (m, 2H).



5-(2-pyridinyl)-2-oxazolidinone (2k)

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.79 (t, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.09 (t, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 5.70 (dd, J = 9.2, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 5.98 (s br, 1H), 7.28 (m, 1H), 7.55 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 8.60 (d, J = 4.5 Hz, 1H).



5-(4-pyridinyl)-2-oxazolidinone (2l)

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.42 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.01 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.63 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.44 (s br, 1H), 7.27-7.34 (m, 2H), 8.60-8.67 (m, 2H).

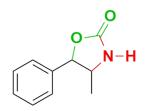
5-(2-naphthyl)-2-oxazolidinone (2m)

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.53 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (t, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 5.73 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 5.93 (s br, 1H), 7.38-7.53 (m, 3H), 7-78-7.91 (m, 4H).

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5-methyl-5-phenyl-2-oxazolidinone (2n)

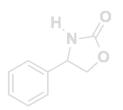
¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.77 (s, 3H), 3.41 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.63 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.22 (s



br, 1H), 7.23-7.42 (m, 5H).

4-methyl-5-phenyl-2-oxazolidinone (2o)

- *Cis*: ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.84 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H), 4.23 (m, 1H), 5.74 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.79 (s br, 1H), 7.29-7.37 (m, 5H).
- *Trans*: ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.42 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 3H), 3.86 (m, 1H), 5.06 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 5.88 (s br, 1H), 7.35-7.48 (m, 5H).

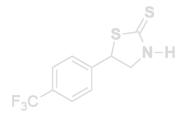


4-phenyl-2-oxazolidinone (3a)

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.23 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.78 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 4.98 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (s br, 1H), 7.34-7.49 (m, 5H)

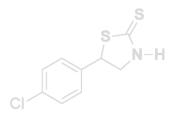
5-phenyl-2-thiazolidinethione (4a)

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6) δ 3.96 (dd, J = 11.3, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.27 (dd, J = 11.3, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 5.30 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.46 (m, 5H), 10.27 (s br, 1H); ¹³C-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 53.0, 58.6, 127.7, 128.7, 129.4, 140.1, 198.3



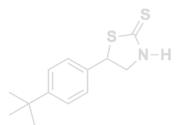
5-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-2-thiazolidinethione (4b)

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6) δ 3.99 (dd, J = 11.4, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 4.32 (dd, J = 11.4, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 5.18 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.57-7.66 (m, 2H), 7.71-7.81 (m, 2H), 10.34 (s br, 1H).



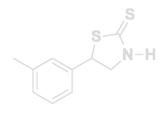
5-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-thiazolidinethione (4c)

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6) δ 3.89 (dd, 11.3, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 4.23 (dd, 11.3, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 5.12 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.27-7.38 (m, 4H), 10.27 (s br, 1H).



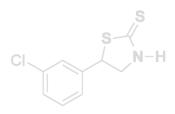
5-(4-*tert*-butylphenyl)-2-thiazolidinethione (4d)

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6) δ 1.26 (s, 9H), 3.93 (dd, J = 11.3, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.19 (dd, J = 11.3, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 5.14 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.31-7.42 (m, 4H), 10.34 (s br, 1H).



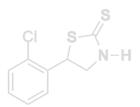
5-(3-methylphenyl)-2-thiazolidinethione (4e)

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6) δ 2.31 (s, 3H), 3.94 (dd, J = 11.6, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.20 (dd, J = 11.6, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 5.12 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.09-7.31 (m, 4H), 10.23 (s br, 1H).



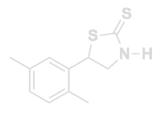
5-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-thiazolidinethione (4f)

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6) δ 3.96 (dd, J = 11.6, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 4.24 (dd, J = 11.6, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 5.29 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.27-7.48 (m, 4H), 10.27 (s br, 1H).



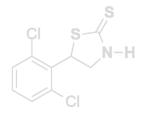
5-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-thiazolidinethione (4g)

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6) δ 3.99 (dd, J = 11.6, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 4.38 (dd, J = 11.9, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 5.54 (dd, J = 8.3, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 7.23-7.44 (m, 3H), 7.60-7.70 (m, 1H), 10.31 (s br, 1H).



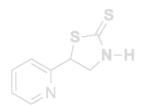
5-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)-2-thiazolidinethione (4h)

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6) δ 2.23 (s, 3H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 3.93 (dd, J = 11.3, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.19 (dd, J = 11.3, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 5.41 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.00-7.09 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.30 (m, 1H), 10.26 (s br, 1H).



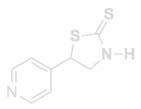
5-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-2-thiazolidinethione (4i)

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6) δ 3.82 (dd, J = 12.5, 4.7 Hz, 1H), 4.14 (dd, J = 12.5, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 6.19 (dd, J = 11.1, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.54 (m, 3H), 10.33 (s br, 1H).



5-(2-pyridinyl)-2-thiazolidinethione (4j)

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6) δ 4.25 (dd, J = 11.8, 8.1, 1H), 4.29 (dd, J = 11.8, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 5.33 (dd, J = 8.1, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (m, 1H), 7.42 (m, 1H), 7.81 (m, 1H), 8.56 (m, 1H), 10.24 (s br, 1H).

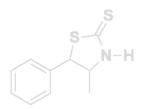


5-(4-pyridinyl)-2-thiazolidinethione (4k)

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6) δ 3.82 (dd, J = 10.2, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 3.99 (dd, J = 12.6, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 5.27 (dd, J = 8.2, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 7.34-7.49 (m, 2H), 8.49-8.65 (m, 2H), 10.34 (s br, 1H).

5-methyl-5-phenyl-2-thiazolidinethione (4I)

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6) δ 1.97 (s, 3H), 3.98 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 4.20 (d, J = 11.3 Hz, 1H), 7.23-7.50 (m, 5H), 10.28 (s br, 1H).



4-methyl-5-phenyl-2-thiazolidinethione (4m)

- *Cis*: ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.03 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 4.66 (m, 1H), 4.99 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.23-7.42 (m, 5H), 8.01 (s br, 1H).
- *Trans*: ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.42 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 3H), 4.36 (m, 1H), 4.74 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.23-7.42 (m, 5H), 8.01 (s br, 1H).

4-phenyl-2-thiazolidinethione (5a)

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6) δ 3.04 (dd, J = 11.1, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (dd, J = 11.1, 8.0 HZ, 1H), 4.54 (t, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 7.18-7.32 (m, 5H), 10.45 (s br, 1H).

¹H-NMR spectrum of purified compound 2a

White solid, $R_F = 0.23$, 81% overall yield. The N-H signal at $\delta = 4.99$ does not fully integrate for 1 proton, most likely due to H-bonding with impurity water ($\delta = 1.57$) which is present in the CDCl₃ bottle which might also displace the signal.

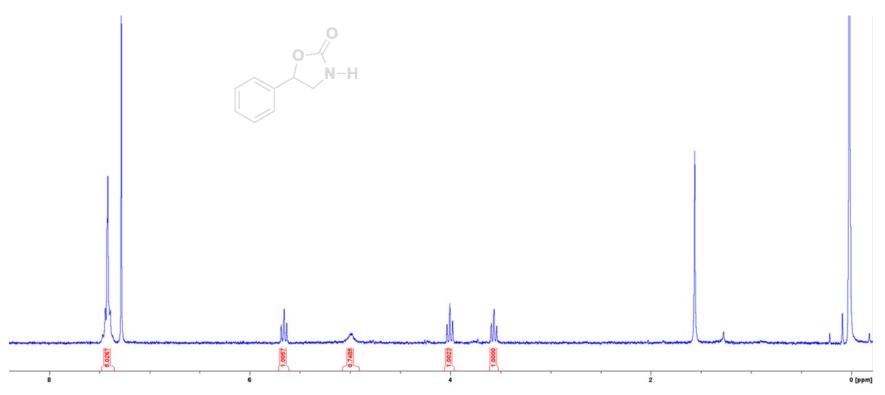
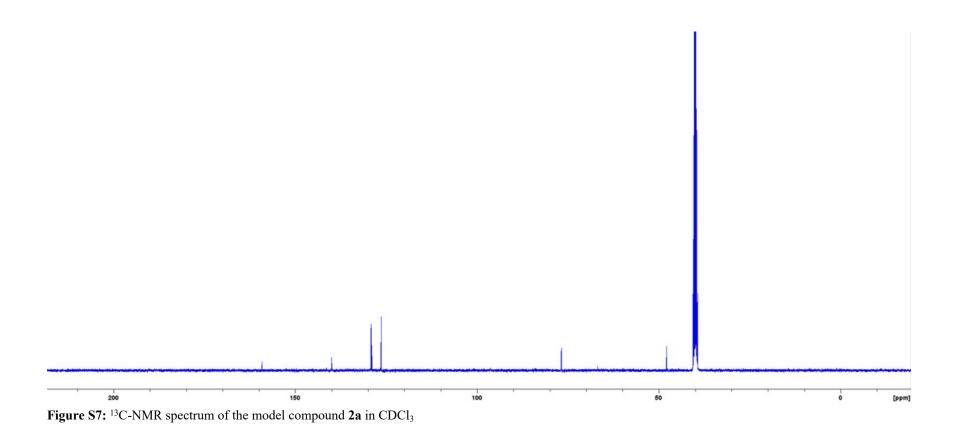


Figure S6: ¹H-NMR spectrum of the model compound **2a** in CDCl₃ (δ = 7.29)

¹³C-NMR spectrum of purified compound 2a



¹H-NMR spectrum of purified compound 4a

White solid, $R_F = 0.45$, 58% overall yield. The N-H signal at $\delta = 10.27$ does not fully integrate for 1 proton, most likely due to H-bonding with water ($\delta = 3.33$) which is present in the DMSO-d6 bottle.

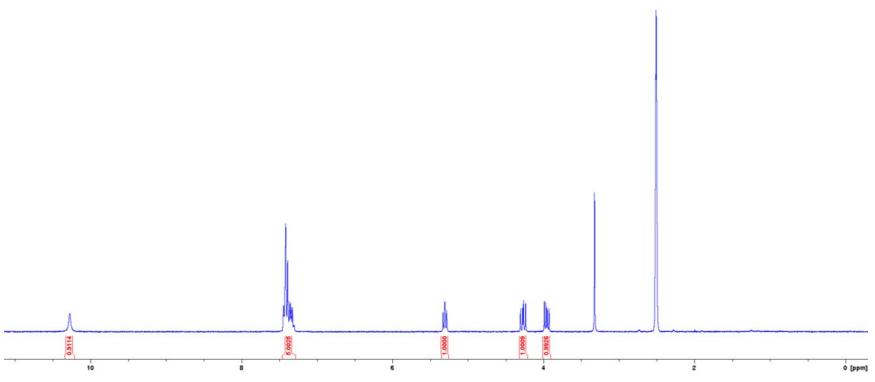
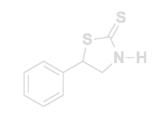
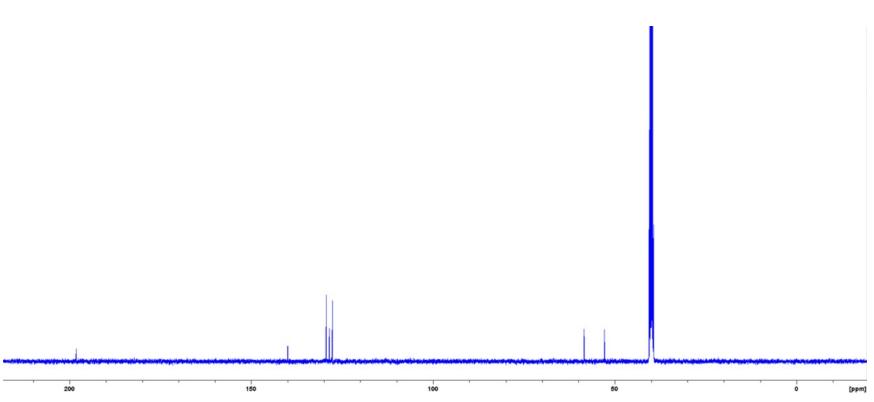
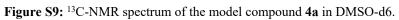


Figure S8: ¹H-NMR spectrum of the model compound **4a** in DMSO-d6 (δ = 2.51).



¹³C-NMR spectrum of purified compound 4a





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