Electronic Supplementary Information

# Iron-Catalysed Radical Cyclization/C<sub>(sp3)</sub>–H Alkylation Cascade between γ,δ-Unsaturated Oxime Esters and Glycine Derivatives: Access to Pyrroline-Containing Amino Acids

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# I. General Information

**General procedures**. All reactions were performed in oven-dried or flame-dried round-bottom flasks and vials. Solvents were dried and freshly distilled before use. Reactions were monitored with thin layer chromatography (TLC) using silica gel 60 F-254 plates. TLC plates were normally visualized by UV irradiation (254 nm or 365 nm), stained with basic KMnO<sub>4</sub> or phosphomolybdic acid. Flash chromatography was performed using silica gel 60 (200–300 mesh).

**Instrumentation**. Proton nuclear magnetic resonance (<sup>1</sup>H NMR) spectra and carbon nuclear magnetic resonance (<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR) spectra were recorded on Bruker Ascend 400 MHz and 600 MHz. Chemical shifts for protons are reported in parts per million downfield from tetramethylsilane and are referenced to the NMR solvent residual peak (CHCl<sub>3</sub>:  $\delta$  7.26). Chemical shifts for carbons are reported in parts per million downfield from tetramethylsilane and are referenced to the NMR solvent residual peak (CHCl<sub>3</sub>:  $\delta$  7.26). Chemical shifts for carbons are reported in parts per million downfield from tetramethylsilane and are referenced to the carbon resonances of the NMR solvent (*Chloroform-d*:  $\delta$  77.0). Data are represented as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, br = broad), coupling constants in Hertz (Hz), and integration. IR spectra were recorded on a Bruker FT-IR spectrometer. HRMS was measured on a TOF-Q mass spectrometer equipped with an ESI source. Crystallographic data were collected on a Rigaku MM007 HF rotating anode. Electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) signal was recorded on a Bruker EMXmicro-6/1/P/L spectrometer.

### Abbreviations:

TLC-thin layer chromatography; PE-Petroleum Ethers (60–90 °C); THF-tetrahydrofuran; DMSOdimethyl sulfoxide; DMF-*N*,*N*-dimethylformamide; DMA-*N*,*N*-dimethylacetamide; DCE-1,2dichloroethane; TEMPO-(2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidin-1-yl)oxyl; DMPO-5,5-Dimethyl-1-pyrroline Noxide; CAN-ceric ammonium nitrate; LED-light-emitting diode

# **II.** The Preparation of Substrates

#### a) General procedure for the synthesis of $\gamma$ , $\delta$ -unsaturated oxime esters

 $\gamma$ , $\delta$ -Unsaturated oxime esters were prepared through a slightly modified 4-step procedure based on literature reports.<sup>[1-6]</sup>



i) A solution of  $\beta$ -keto ester S1 (20 mmol) in DMF (40 mL) was treated with NaH (22 mmol, 60 % in mineral oil) at 0 °C and stirred for 1 h, followed by the addition of an allylic bromide (30 mmol). The resulted mixture was warmed up to 75 °C and stirred for 6 h before it was cooled to room temperature and quenched with H<sub>2</sub>O (100 mL). The aqueous phase was acidified with HCl (1 M, to pH = 3 to 4) and then extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 × 50 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (2 × 25 mL), brine (2 × 25 mL), and then dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After the removal of solvent, the residue was purified through a silica gel flash column with PE/ EtOAc (50:1) as the eluent to give compound S2.

ii) S2 (1.0 equiv) was dissoved in H<sub>2</sub>O/THF/MeOH (40 mL, 2:1:1) with NaOH (4.0 equiv), and the mixture was heated under reflux for 2 to 4 h. Upon the consumption of S2 (as indicated by TLC), the mixture was cooled down and the volatiles were removed *in vaco*. The aqueous layer was then extracted with EtOAc ( $3 \times 20$  mL) and the combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After the removal of solvent, the crude product was purified through a silica gel flash column with PE/EtOAc (100:1) as the eluent to give  $\gamma$ , $\delta$ -unsaturated ketone S3.

iii) To a stirred solution of unsaturated ketone S3 (1.0 equiv) in EtOH (30 mL) were added NH<sub>2</sub>OH•HCl (1.2 equiv) and NaOAc (1.5 equiv). The mixture was then heated under reflux and monitored with TLC. Upon consumption of S3 (usually 4 h), the reaction was cooled down, quenched by NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (saturated aqueous solution, 80 mL) and extracted with EtOAc ( $3 \times 30$  mL). The combined organic layers were then washed with H<sub>2</sub>O ( $2 \times 25$  mL) and brine (25 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified through a silica gel flash column with PE/EtOAc (10:1 to 4:1) to afford a corresponding  $\gamma$ , $\delta$ -unsaturated oxime S4.

**iv)** Oxime **S4** (1.0 equiv) and a stir bar were placed in a flame-dried round bottom flask, which was then sealed under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere, and cooled in an ice-salt bath. After dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (25 mL) and NEt<sub>3</sub> (1.5 equiv) were added, a solution of *p*-trifluoromethylbenzoyl chloride (1.1 equiv, dissolved in 10 to 15 mL CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) was then added dropwise into the flask. The mixture was stirred at the same temperature for 10 min and then gradually warmed up to room temperature before it was quenched by NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (saturated aqueous solution). After the organic layer was separated, the aqueous phase was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> ( $3 \times 20$  mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford crude product **1**, which was then purified through a silica gel flash column with PE/EtOAc (50:1 to 20:1).



Compounds **1a**, **1d-1g**, **1n-1q** are known compounds and their characterization data are in agreement with the literatures. The rest of them are reported for the first time and fully characterized.

compound	1a, 1d, 1o	1e, 1f, 1g, 1n, 1q	1p
reference	[1]	[2]	[3]



7-*Methyloct-6-en-3-one O-(4-(trifluoromethyl)benzoyl) oxime* (1b): According to the general procedure, compound 1b was purified through a silica gel flash column (PE/EtOAc from 50:1 to 20:1) as colorless oil (2.0 g, 31% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  8.19 – 8.07 (m, 2H), 7.74 – 7.64 (m, 2H), 5.10 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.57 – 2.37 (m, 4H), 2.32 – 2.18 (m, 2H), 1.63 (s, 3H), 1.56 (s, 3H), 1.19 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  171.9, 162.7, 134.5 (q, *J* = 32.7 Hz), 133.4, 132.6, 129.8, 125.4 (q, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 123.4 (q, *J* = 272.7 Hz), 122.1, 29.4, 27.8, 25.5, 24.6, 17.5, 10.7; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  -63.23 (s, 3F); IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 1746, 1635, 1410, 1322, 1255, 1166, 1127, 1073, 1015, 910, 859, 768, 698; MS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>20</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 350.13, found 350.13.



2,7-Dimethyloct-6-en-3-one O-(4-(trifluoromethyl)benzoyl) oxime (1c): According to the general procedure, compound 1c was purified through a silica gel flash column (PE/EtOAc from 50:1 to 20:1) as colorless oil (2.1 g, 31% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  8.18 – 8.05 (m, 2H), 7.73 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 5.10 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 2.82 – 2.68 (m, 1H), 2.47 – 2.35 (m, 2H), 2.32 – 2.20 (m, 2H), 1.61 (s, 3H), 1.53 (s, 3H), 1.17 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  174.5, 162.6, 134.4 (q, J = 32.8 Hz), 133.0, 132.7, 129.7, 125.3 (q, J = 3.8 Hz), 123.4 (q, J = 272.7 Hz), 122.4, 34.1, 28.1, 25.4, 25.2, 19.6, 17.4; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  -63.26 (s, 3F); IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 1746, 1630, 1410, 1322, 1255, 1166, 1128, 1065, 1015, 898, 859, 768, 698; MS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>22</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 364.15, found 364.15.



*3-(3-Methylbut-2-en-1-yl)tetrahydro-4H-pyran-4-one O-(4-(trifluoromethyl)benzoyl)* oxime (1h): According to the general procedure, compound 1h was purified through a silica gel flash column (PE/EtOAc from 50:1 to 20:1) as colorless oil (2.2 g, 31% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  8.22 – 8.11 (m, 2H), 7.78 – 7.68 (m, 2H), 5.14 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.07 – 3.93 (m, 1H), 3.86 – 3.73 (m, 2H), 3.72 – 3.63 (m, 1H), 2.97 – 2.84 (m, 1H), 2.80 – 2.60 (m, 2H), 2.55 – 2.33 (m, 2H), 1.72 (s, 3H),

1.65 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  168.1, 162.8, 134.8 (q, J = 18.7 Hz), 134.7, 132.5, 130.0, 125.6 (q, J = 3.8 Hz), 123.5 (q, J = 272.7 Hz), 120.5, 71.1, 66.8, 42.4, 28.1, 26.4, 25.8, 17.9; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  -63.17 (s, 3F); IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 1741, 1637, 1412, 1328, 1262, 1240, 1125, 1077, 1014, 906, 866, 777, 698; MS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 378.13, found 378.13



*Hex-5-en-2-one O-(4-(trifluoromethyl)benzoyl)* oxime (1i): According to the general procedure, compound 1i was purified through a silica gel flash column (PE/EtOAc from 50:1 to 20:1) as colorless oil (1.5 g, 27% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  8.17 – 8.03 (m, 2H), 7.70 – 7.58 (m, 2H), 5.77 (ddt, J = 16.8, 10.0, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 5.03 (d, J = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 4.96 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 2.52 – 2.43 (m, 2H), 2.39 – 2.27 (m, 2H), 2.07 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  167.3, 162.4, 136.2, 134.3 (q, J = 32.8 Hz), 132.4, 129.7, 125.3 (q, J = 3.7 Hz), 123.3 (q, J = 272.7 Hz), 115.7, 34.9, 30.0, 15.4; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  -63.27 (s, 3F); IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 1745, 1641, 1410, 1320, 1253, 1241, 1179, 1122, 1079, 1014, 905, 862, 769, 698; MS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>14</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 308.09, found 308.09.



5-Methylhex-5-en-2-one O-(4-(trifluoromethyl)benzoyl) oxime (1j): According to the general procedure, compound 1j was purified through a silica gel flash column (PE/EtOAc from 50:1 to 20:1) as colorless oil (1.6 g, 27% yield).<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*) δ 8.17 – 8.05 (m, 2H), 7.73 – 7.59 (m, 2H), 4.71 (s, 1H), 4.70 (s, 1H), 2.59 – 2.47 (m, 2H), 2.33 – 2.22 (m, 2H), 2.08 (s, 3H), 1.71 (s, 3H);  $^{13}C{^1H}NMR$  (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*) δ 167.6, 162.5, 143.6, 134.4 (q, *J* = 32.6 Hz), 132.5, 129.7, 125.3 (q, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 123.4 (q, *J* = 272.7 Hz), 110.9, 34.0, 33.9, 22.0, 15.3; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, *Chloroform-d*) δ -63.26 (s, 3F); IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 1745, 1641, 1410, 1320, 1253, 1179, 1122, 1078, 1014, 905, 862, 769, 698; MS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>16</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 322.10, found 322.10.



*Hept-6-en-3-one O-(4-(trifluoromethyl)benzoyl) oxime* (1k): According to the general procedure, compound 1k was purified through a silica gel flash column (PE/EtOAc from 50:1 to 20:1) as colorless oil (1.7 g, 28% yield).<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  8.21 – 8.11 (m, 2H), 7.78 – 7.69 (m, 2H), 5.86 (ddt, *J* = 16.7, 10.2, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 5.15 – 5.06 (m, 1H), 5.06 – 5.00 (m, 1H), 2.59 – 2.48 (m, 4H), 2.45 – 2.34 (m, 2H), 1.21 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  171.8, 162.8, 136.6, 134.6 (q, *J* = 32.9 Hz), 132.6, 129.9, 125.6 (q, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 123.5 (q, *J* = 272.9 Hz), 115.8, 33.3, 30.2, 23.1, 10.4; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  -63.18 (s, 3F); IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 1746, 1640, 1410, 1322, 1257, 1166, 1127, 1059, 1015, 904, 858, 768, 698; MS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>16</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 322.10, found 322.10.



2-Methylhept-6-en-3-one *O*-(4-(trifluoromethyl)benzoyl) oxime (11): According to the general procedure, compound 11 was purified through a silica gel flash column (PE/EtOAc from 50:1 to 20:1) as colorless oil (1.8 g, 29% yield, E/Z isomers, major:minor = 8:1). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  8.13 – 7.02 (m, 2H), 7.67 – 7.57 (m, 2H), 5.77 (ddt, *J* = 17.0, 10.2, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 5.00 (d, *J* = 17.0 Hz, 1H), 4.94 (d, *J* = 10.2 Hz, 1H), 3.33 (hept, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H, minor), 2.71 (hept, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H, major), 2.51 – 2.42 (m, 2H, major), 2.41 – 2.34 (m, 4H, minor), 2.34 – 2.24 (m, 2H, major), 1.13 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 6H, major), 1.11 (d, *J* = 7.0, 6H, minor); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  174.0 (major), 173.7 (minor), 162.34 (minor), 162.25 (major), 136.8 (minor), 136.4 (major), 134.2 (q, *J* = 32.7 Hz, major + minor), 132.5 (major + minor), 115.4 (major), 115.1 (minor), 33.9 (major), 30.5 (major), 29.99 (minor), 29.96 (minor), 28.86 (minor), 27.2 (major), 19.4 (major), 18.7 (minor); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  -63.32 (s, 3F); IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 1746, 1641, 1410, 1322, 1254, 1166, 1127, 1055, 1015, 909, 859, 768, 698; MS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>18</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 336.12, found 336.12.



*1-Cyclopropylpent-4-en-1-one O-(4-(trifluoromethyl)benzoyl) oxime* (1m): According to the general procedure, compound 1m was purified through a silica gel flash column (PE/EtOAc from 50:1 to 20:1) as colorless oil (1.8 g, 29% yield).<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  8.19 – 8.08 (m, 2H), 7.76 – 7.67 (m, 2H), 5.83 (ddt, *J* = 16.8, 10.2, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 5.09 (d, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 5.04 (d, *J* = 10.2 Hz, 1H), 2.48 – 2.30 (m, 4H), 1.83 – 1.69 (m, 1H), 0.98 – 0.86 (m, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$ 

171.8, 162.5, 136.4, 134.5 (q, J = 32.7 Hz), 132.6, 129.8, 125.5 (q, J = 3.7 Hz), 123.5 (q, J = 272.9 Hz), 115.9, 30.6, 28.1, 14.4, 6.5; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  -63.16 (s, 3F); IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 1746, 1620, 1411, 1322, 1256, 1166, 1128, 1065, 1015, 903, 859, 768, 699; MS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 334.10, found 334.10.

# b) α-Amino carbonyl compounds



 $\alpha$ -Amino carbonyl compounds **2** were prepared through nucleophilic substitution of corresponding anilines and  $\alpha$ -bromo carbonyls according to literature procedures. All the compounds are known and their charachaterization data are in accordance with literatures.<sup>[7-12]</sup>



Compounds	2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e, 2f	2g	2h	2i	2ј
references	[7-8]	[9]	[10]	[11]	[12]

# III. The Evaluation of Catalysts and Ligands

General procedures for iron salts screening: To a flame-dried reaction tube charged with a stir bar were added oxime ester 1a (63 mg, 0.2 mmol), glycinate 2a (51.6 mg, 0.24 mmol), and a corresponding Fe(II) salt (0.01 mmol). The tube was sealed with a septum, evacuated, and backfilled with N<sub>2</sub> three times. After anhydrous DCE (2 mL) was added, the reaction was stirred for 5 h in an 80 °C oil bath. The mixture was then quenched with NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (saturated aqueous solution, 2 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 × 1 mL) and the combined organic layers were dried with anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was then filtered through a short silica gel pad, and washed with PE/EtOAc (1:1, 15 mL). After the volatiles were removed *in vacuo*, the crude product was dissolved in CDCl<sub>3</sub> with a specific amount of 1,3,5-trimethoxyl benzene and submitted for <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis.

General procedures for ligands screening: In a N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere glove box, Fe(NTf<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (6.2 mg, 0.01 mmol) <u>or</u> Fe(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (1.7 mg, 0.01 mmol), and a ligand (0.02 mmol) were added into a 2-dram vial, which was then sealed with a septum. After the vial was then taken out of the glove box, freshly distilled DCE <u>or</u> EtOAc (0.7 mL) and dry DMA (0.3 mL) were added. The mixture was sonicated for 2 min to afford a clear <u>catalyst solution</u>. To a flame-dried reaction tube charged with a stir bar were added oxime ester **1a** (63 mg, 0.2 mmol) and glycinate **2a** (51.6 mg, 0.24 mmol). The tube was sealed with a septum, evacuated, and backfilled with N<sub>2</sub> three times. DCE or EtOAc (1 mL for 5 mol%, or 1.7 mL for 1.5 mol% catalyst loading) was then added through a syringe, followed by the addition of the above <u>catalyst solution</u> (1 mL for 5 mol%, or 0.3 mL for 1.5 mol% catalyst loading). The reaction mixture stirred for 5 h in an 80 °C oil bath before it was quenched with NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (saturated aqueous solution, 2 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 × 1 mL) and the combined organic layers were dried with anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was then filtered through a short silica gel pad, and washed with PE/EtOAc (1:1, 15 mL). After the volatiles were removed *in vacuo*, the crude product was dissolved in CDCl<sub>3</sub> with a specific amount of 1,3,5-trimethoxyl benzene and submitted for <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis.

The results obtained with different Fe(II) salts, solvents and ligands are summarized in Table S1.



L1

<b>Table S1</b>	. The Discove	rv of Catalysts	s and Ligands <sup>a</sup>
I HOIC OI	• I HC D 1500 · 0	i j oi Cataljot	, wind Linganias

~	bipyridiı	ne L2	Me	L3	Me	L4	~	L5	Ň	∕le ne	eocup
	entry	metal salt (mol%)			ligand (mol%)		solvent (0.1 M)	yi∈ 3aa	ld (	%) <sup>b</sup> 4aa	
	1	none			none		DCE	n.d	.c /	n.d.	
	2	FeCl <sub>2</sub> (5)			none		DCE	5	/	63	
	3	CuCl (5)			none		DCE	<5	/	<5 <sup>d</sup>	
	4	CoCl <sub>2</sub> (5)			none		DCE	<5	/	34 <sup>e</sup>	
	5	Fe(OAc) <sub>2</sub> (5)			none		DCE	10	/	67	
	6	Fe(OTf) <sub>2</sub> (5)			none		DCE	<5	/	68	
	7	$Fe(NTf_2)_2(5)$			none		DCE	12	/	54	
	8	$Fe(NTf_2)_2$ (5)			<b>L1</b> (10)		DCE/DMA <sup>f</sup>	45	1	22	
	9	Fe(OAc) <sub>2</sub> (5)			<b>L1</b> (10)		DCE/DMA	58	/	11	
	10	Fe(OAc) <sub>2</sub> (5)			<b>L1</b> (10)		DMA	64	1	10	
	11	Fe(OAc) <sub>2</sub> (5)			<b>L1</b> (10)		EtOAc/DMA	73	/	8	
	12	Fe(OAc) <sub>2</sub> (1.5	)		<b>L1</b> (3)		EtOAc/DMA	72	/	10	
	13	Fe(OAc) <sub>2</sub> (1.5	)	bip	oyridine	(3)	EtOAc/DMA	30	1	34	
	14	Fe(OAc) <sub>2</sub> (1.5	)		<b>L2</b> (3)		EtOAc/DMA	49	/	28	
	15	Fe(OAc) <sub>2</sub> (1.5	)		<b>L3</b> (3)		EtOAc/DMA	7	/	66	
	16	Fe(OAc) <sub>2</sub> (1.5	)		<b>L4</b> (3)		EtOAc/DMA	84	/	8	
	17	Fe(OAc) <sub>2</sub> (1.5	)		<b>L5</b> (3)		EtOAc/DMA	85	/	<5	
	18	Fe(OAc) <sub>2</sub> (1.5	)	neo	cuporine	9 (3)	EtOAc/DMA	30	/	35	
	19 <sup>g</sup>	Fe(OAc) <sub>2</sub> (1.5 <b>1a</b> (1.3 equiv),	) <b>2a</b> (1.0 equ	iv)	<b>L5</b> (3)		EtOAc/DMA	91	(88)	) <sup>h</sup>	

<sup>*a*</sup>Unless otherwise stated, the reaction was performed under N<sub>2</sub> with **1a** (0.20 mmol) and **2a** (0.24 mmol) in the presence of a corresponding catalyst in indicated solvent (2 mL) at 80°C for 5 h. DCE = 1,2-dichloroethane; DMA = N,N-dimethyl acetamide. <sup>*b*</sup>Yields were determined through <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis with an internal standard; the *d.r.* of **3aa** was determined to be ~1.4:1. <sup>*c*</sup>Not Determined. <sup>*d*</sup>A cyclization-elimination product **S5** was detected. <sup>*e*</sup>45% of **1a** was recovered. <sup>*f*</sup>A small amount of DMA was added to dissolve the iron/ligand complex. <sup>*g*</sup>Reaction was performed on 0.4 mmol scale. <sup>*h*</sup>Isolated yield.



Ethyl2-((4-methoxyphenyl)amino)-3-methyl-3-(5-methyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)butanoate(3aa): Compound 3aa was isolated from the 0.4 mmol scale reaction (entry 17) through a silica gel flashcolumn (PE/EtOAc from 5:1 to 2:1) as a pair of diastereomers.

**Isomer 1** (less polar, light yellow oil, 67.8 mg, 51%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  6.78 – 6.69 (m, 2H), 6.68 – 6.61 (m, 2H), 5.41 (brd, J = 6.2 Hz, 1H), 4.20 – 4.07 (m, 4H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.52 – 2.26 (m, 2H), 2.04 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 3H), 1.89 (dddd, J = 12.9, 9.1, 7.7, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 1.59 (dq, J = 12.9, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 1.21 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.00 (s, 3H), 0.89 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  174.0, 173.8, 152.1, 142.3, 114.8, 114.7, 77.1, 66.2, 60.3, 55.7, 39.7, 38.6, 24.5, 21.7, 19.9, 19.7, 14.3; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3291, 2965, 1723, 1652, 1510, 1234, 1034, 818; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 333.2173, found 333.2154.

**Isomer 2** (more polar, light yellow oil, 49.2 mg, 37%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  6.78 – 6.69 (m, 2H), 6.68 – 6.59 (m, 2H), 4.46 (brd, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.14 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.08 – 4.01 (m, 1H), 3.91 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.52 – 2.33 (m, 2H), 2.04 (s, 3H), 1.97 – 1.83 (m, 1H), 1.77 – 1.62 (m, 1H), 1.21 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.16 (s, 3H), 0.90 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  174.6, 173.4, 152.7, 141.7, 115.5, 114.7, 79.3, 65.0, 60.6, 55.7, 40.0, 39.0, 24.5, 20.7, 20.0, 19.8, 14.3; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3290, 2968, 1724, 1648, 1509, 1233, 1034, 820; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 333.2173, found 333.2154.



2-(5-Methyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)propan-2-yl 4-(trifluoromethyl)benzoate (4aa): Compound 4aa was isolated from the Fe(OTf)<sub>2</sub> catalyzed reaction (entry 4 ) through a silica gel flash column (PE/EtOAc = 3:1) as a yellow oil (42.6 mg, 68%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*) δ 8.10 – 7.96 (m, 2H), 7.71 – 7.61 (m, 2H), 4.46 – 4.35 (m, 1H), 2.66 – 2.45 (m, 2H), 2.08 (s, 3H), 2.06 – 1.93 (m, 1H), 1.90 – 1.79 (m, 1H), 1.74 (s, 3H), 1.57 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*) δ 176.0, 164.4, 135.2, 134.0 (q, *J* = 32.5 Hz), 129.7, 125.2 (q, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 123.7 (q, *J* = 272.6 Hz), 85.3, 80.4, 39.3, 24.0, 23.9, 22.1, 19.8; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, *Chloroform-d*) δ -63.07 (s, 3F); IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 2981, 1715, 1650, 1410, 1324, 1309, 1288, 1164, 1117, 1099, 1064, 1016, 862, 774, 703; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>19</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 314.1362, found 314.1333.



When CuCl was used as the catalyst, the oxime ester was quickly decomposed with the amino ester almost intact. A cyclization-eliminization product **S5** was detected on crude NMR, which is in accordance with Zaid's previous report.<sup>[13]</sup> However, this compound was volatile and difficult to purify.



In order to confirm the distinct selectivity exhibited by CuCl, a similar oxime exster with higher molecular weight (**1f**) was subjected into the same condition. A corresponding Hofmann elimination product **S6** was also isolated as the major product. **S6** is a known compound and its characterization data are in agreement with the literature.<sup>[4]</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.79 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 4.94 (s, 1H), 4.82 (s, 1H), 4.71 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.02 (dddd, *J* = 17.0, 9.9, 5.3, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 2.92 (dddd, *J* = 17.0, 9.3, 7.2, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 2.26 (dddd, *J* = 13.6, 9.9, 8.4, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 1.87 – 1.75 (m, 1H), 1.77 (s, 3H).

# **IV.** Substrate Scope and Products Characterization



General procedure for synthesis of pyrroline-containing amino acids derivatives:

In a N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere glove box, Fe(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (8.7 mg, 0.05 mmol), and L5 (23.6 mg, 0.10 mmol) were added into a 2-dram vial, which was then sealed with a septum. After the vial was then taken out of the glove box, freshly distilled EtOAc (3.5 mL) and dry DMA (1.5 mL) were added. The mixture was sonicated until fully dissolved to afford a **catalyst stock solution**.

To a flame-dried reaction tube charged with a stir bar were added an oxime ester 1 (0.26 mmol) and an glycinate 2 (0.20 mmol). The tube was sealed with a septum, evacuated, and backfilled with N<sub>2</sub> three times. EtOAc (1.7 mL) was then added through a syringe, followed by the addition of the <u>catalyst</u> <u>solution</u> (0.3 mL). The reaction mixture stirred for 5-7 h in an 80 °C oil bath before it was quenched with NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (saturated aqueous solution, 2 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 × 1 mL) and the combined organic layers were dried with anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was then purified through a silica gel flash column with PE and EtOAc as eluent.

The substrate exploration was performed under optimized reaction conditions following the general procedure, and the obtained pyrroline-containing amino esters and peptides are fully characterized with <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C, <sup>19</sup>F NMR, FT-IR and HRMS.



*Ethyl 2-((4-chlorophenyl)amino)-3-methyl-3-(5-methyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)butanoate* (3ab): Following the general procedure, compound **3ab** was prepared by reacting **1a** with **2b** and the product was isolated through a silica gel flash column (PE/EtOAc, from 5:1 to 2:1) as a pair of diastereomers: **Isomer 1** (less polar, yellow oil, 18.9 mg, 28%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  7.11 – 7.02 (m, 2H), 6.61 – 6.53 (m, 2H), 6.36 (brd, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 4.24 – 4.09 (m, 3H), 4.04 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 2.52 – 2.28 (m, 2H), 2.05 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 3H), 1.88 (dddd, J = 12.6, 9.1, 7.6, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 1.57 (dq, J = 12.6, 9.4 Hz, 1H), 1.23 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.01 (s, 3H), 0.89 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  174.1, 173.5, 146.8, 128.9, 121.6, 114.2, 76.8, 66.0, 60.6, 39.5, 38.3, 24.8, 22.6, 20.0, 19.7, 14.3; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3302, 2968, 1730, 1652, 1596, 1507, 1369, 1314, 1261, 1200, 1173, 1154, 1027; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C18H25ClN2O2Na<sup>+</sup> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 359.1497, found 359.1470. **Isomer 2** (more polar, yellow oil, 18.2 mg, 27%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  7.13 – 7.05 (m, 2H), 6.60 – 6.53 (m, 2H), 5.07 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.03 – 3.91 (m, 2H), 2.54 – 2.31 (m, 2H), 2.04 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 3H), 1.90 – 1.82 (m, 1H), 1.74 – 1.58 (m, 1H), 1.23 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.09 (s, 3H), 0.93 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  174.9, 172.9, 146.3, 129.0, 122.7, 114.8, 79.3, 64.4, 60.8, 40.0, 38.8, 24.6, 21.2, 19.8, 19.3, 14.3; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3377, 2972, 1717, 1647, 1599, 1521, 1490, 1367, 1248, 1192, 1139, 1092, 1015; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>25</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 359.1497, found 359.1470.



*Ethyl 2-((4-fluorophenyl)amino)-3-methyl-3-(5-methyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)butanoate* (3ac): Following the general procedure, compound **3ac** was prepared by reacting **1a** with **2c**, and the product was isolated through a silica gel flash column (PE/EtOAc, from 5:1 to 2:1) as a pair of diastereomers: **Isomer 1** (less polar, yellow oil, 12.8 mg, 20%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  6.90 – 6.76 (m, 2H), 6.65 – 6.54 (m, 2H), 5.91 (brd, J = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 4.21 – 411 (m, 3H), 4.07 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 2.51 – 2.28 (m, 2H), 2.05 (s, 3H), 1.94 – 1.83 (m, 1H), 1.65 – 1.51 (m, 1H), 1.22 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.01 (s, 3H), 0.89 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  174.0, 173.8, 155.8 (d, J = 234.5 Hz), 144.6 (d, J = 2.0 Hz), 115.5 (d, J = 22.2 Hz), 114.2 (d, J = 7.4 Hz), 77.0, 66.4, 60.5, 39.6, 38.5, 24.7, 22.3, 19.9, 19.7, 14.3; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  -128.26 – -128.36 (m, 1F); IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3284, 2970, 1724, 1650, 1613, 1508, 1368, 1314, 1218, 1189, 1023; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>25</sub>FN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 343.1792, found 343.1764.

**Isomer 2** (more polar, yellow oil, 12.2 mg, 19%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*) δ 6.90 – 6.80 (m, 2H), 6.64 – 6.53 (m, 2H), 4.83 (brd, J = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 4.15 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.05 – 3.96 (m, 1H), 3.92 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.54 – 2.32 (m, 2H), 2.03 (s, 3H), 1.89 (dtd, J = 12.5, 8.3, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 1.74 – 1.60 (m, 1H), 1.22 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.12 (s, 3H), 0.92 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*) δ 175.0, 173.2, 156.3 (d, J = 235.9 Hz), 144.0 (d, J = 1.8 Hz), 115.6 (d, J = 22.3 Hz), 114.9 (d, J = 7.5 Hz), 79.3, 65.0, 60.7, 40.0, 38.9, 24.6, 21.0, 19.8, 19.6, 14.3; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, *Chloroform-d*) δ -128.05 – -128.51 (m, 1F); IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3284, 2970, 1724, 1650, 1613, 1508, 1368, 1314, 1218, 1189, 1023; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>25</sub>FN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 343.1792, found 343.1764.



*Ethyl 3-methyl-3-(5-methyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)-2-(phenylamino)butanoate* (3ad): Following the general procedure, compound 3ad was prepared by reacting 1a with 2d, and the product was isolated

through a silica gel flash column (PE/EtOAc, from 5:1 to 2:1) as a pair of diastereomers.

**Isomer 1** (less polar, yellow oil, 25.4 mg, 42%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  7.19 – 7.09 (m, 2H), 6.72 – 6.61 (m, 3H), 6.02 (d, J = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 4.21 – 4.10 (m, 4H), 2.52 – 2.29 (m, 2H), 2.05 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 3H), 1.95 – 1.86 (m, 1H), 1.59 (dq, J = 12.7, 9.3 Hz, 1H), 1.23 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.02 (s, 3H), 0.91 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  174.0, 173.8, 148.1, 129.1, 117.2, 113.2, 77.0, 65.4, 60.4, 39.6, 38.4, 24.7, 22.2, 19.9, 19.8, 14.3; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3281, 2968, 1729, 1654, 1601, 1520, 1326, 1290, 1200, 1154, 1012; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 325.1886, found 325.1878.

**Isomer 2** (more polar, yellow oil, 15.7 mg, 26%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  7.20 – 7.10 (m, 2H), 6.77 – 6.68 (m, 1H), 6.68 – 6.59 (m, 2H), 4.81 (brd, J = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.07 – 3.97 (m, 2H), 2.54 – 2.32 (m, 2H), 2.04 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 3H), 1.94 – 1.82 (m, 1H), 1.77 – 1.62 (m, 1H), 1.23 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.15 (s, 3H), 0.92 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  174.7, 173.2, 147.6, 129.2, 118.2, 113.8, 79.2, 63.7, 60.6, 40.0, 38.9, 24.6, 20.8, 19.8, 14.3; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3284, 2967, 1728, 1652, 1601, 1498, 1314, 1251, 1181, 1152, 1026; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 325.1886, found 325.1878.



*Ethyl 3-methyl-3-(5-methyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)-2-(p-tolylamino)butanoate* (3ae): Following the general procedure, compound **3ae** was prepared by reacting **1a** with **2e**, and the product was isolated through a silica gel flash column (PE/EtOAc, from 5:1 to 2:1) as a pair of diastereomers.

**Isomer 1** (less polar, yellow oil, 17.1 mg, 27%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  7.01 – 6.89 (m, 2H), 6.64 – 6.55 (m, 2H), 5.68 (brd, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 4.23 – 4.07 (m, 4H), 2.53 – 2.30 (m, 2H), 2.21 (s, 3H), 2.05 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 3H), 1.95 – 1.82 (m, 1H), 1.59 (dq, J = 12.6, 9.3 Hz, 1H), 1.24 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.01 (s, 3H), 0.91 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  173.9, 173.8, 145.8, 129.6, 126.4, 113.3, 77.1, 65.5, 60.4, 39.7, 38.5, 24.6, 21.9, 20.3, 19.9, 19.8, 14.3; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3291, 2967, 1724, 1652, 1616, 1520, 1367, 1302, 1196, 1147, 1024; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 339.2043, found 339.2040.

**Isomer 2** (more polar, yellow oil, 15.8 mg, 25%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  7.01 – 6.91 (m, 2H), 6.62 – 6.53 (m, 2H), 4.56 (brs, 1H), 4.14 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.08 – 4.00 (m, 1H), 3.98 (s, 1H), 2.52 – 2.31 (m, 2H), 2.22 (s, 3H), 2.04 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 1.95 – 1.82 (m, 1H), 1.76 – 1.63 (m, 1H), 1.22 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.16 (s, 3H), 0.91 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  174.8, 173.3, 145.3, 129.7, 127.5, 114.0, 79.2, 64.0, 60.6, 40.0, 39.0, 24.5, 20.7, 20.4, 20.1, 19.8, 14.3; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3368, 2970, 1719, 1648, 1616, 1518, 1368, 1297, 1248, 1183, 1022; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 339.2043, found 339.2040.



*Ethyl 3-methyl-3-(5-methyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)-2-(o-tolylamino)butanoate* (3af): Following the general procedure, compound **3af** was prepared by reacting **1a** with **2f**, and the product was isolated through a silica gel flash column (PE/EtOAc, from 5:1 to 2:1) as a pair of diastereomers.

**Isomer 1** (less polar, yellow oil, 13.3 mg, 21%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  7.09 – 6.99 (m, 2H), 6.74 (brs, 1H), 6.58 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.54 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.28 – 4.12 (m, 3H), 4.05 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 2.52 – 2.31 (m, 2H), 2.23 (s, 3H), 2.05 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 3H), 1.91 (dtd, *J* = 12.2, 8.3, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 1.69 – 1.53 (m, 1H), 1.24 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.05 (s, 3H), 0.94 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  173.9, 146.4, 130.0, 126.8, 122.7, 116.3, 109.0, 76.6, 66.4, 60.4, 39.4, 38.1, 25.0, 23.4, 19.9, 19.8, 18.1, 14.3; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3236, 2961, 1735, 1653, 1603, 1584, 1507, 1457, 1374, 1314, 1263, 1202, 1148, 1094, 1024; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 317.2224, found. 317.2196.

**Isomer 2** (more polar, yellow oil, 12.0 mg, 19%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  7.10 – 7.00 (m, 2H), 6.65 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.55 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.91 (brd, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 4.23 – 4.09 (m, 2H), 4.09 – 3.99 (m, 2H), 2.56 – 2.30 (m, 2H), 2.23 (s, 3H), 2.05 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 3H), 1.94 – 1.83 (m, 1H), 1.75 – 1.62 (m, 1H), 1.23 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.19 (s, 3H), 0.96 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  173.3, 145.7, 130.2, 127.0, 123.2, 117.5, 110.2, 79.3, 63.7, 60.6, 40.0, 38.9, 24.7, 21.2, 19.8, 19.7, 17.6, 14.3; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3291, 2970, 1725, 1651, 1605, 1587, 1512, 1446, 1368, 1314, 1189, 1144, 1095, 1024; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 317. 2224, found 317.2196.



*Ethyl 2-((3-methoxyphenyl)amino)-3-methyl-3-(5-methyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)butanoate* (3ag): Following the general procedure, compound **3ag** was prepared by reacting **1a** with **2g**, and the product was isolated through a silica gel flash column (PE/EtOAc, from 5:1 to 2:1) as a pair of diastereomers. **Isomer 1** (less polar, yellow oil, 23.3 mg, 35%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  7.03 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.31 – 6.19 (m, 3H), 6.13 (brd, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 4.24 – 4.08 (m, 4H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 2.52 – 2.28 (m, 2H), 2.05 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 3H), 1.95 – 1.80 (m, 1H), 1.58 (dq, *J* = 12.9, 9.4 Hz, 1H), 1.24 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.01 (s, 3H), 0.90 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  173.9, 173.7, 160.7, 149.5, 129.8, 106.2, 102.9, 98.7, 76.9, 65.4, 60.5, 55.0, 39.7, 38.4, 24.7, 22.2, 19.9, 19.8, 14.3; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3292, 2966, 1724, 1651, 1612, 1518, 1496, 1464, 1368, 1278, 1208, 1161, 1025; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 333.2173, found 333.2160. **Isomer 2** (more polar, yellow oil, 16.0 mg, 24%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  7.05 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.31 – 6.23 (m, 2H), 6.21 (t, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 4.89 (brd, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.06 – 3.94 (m, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 2.53 – 2.31 (m, 2H), 2.03 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 3H), 1.95 – 1.82 (m, 1H), 1.74 – 1.61 (m, 1H), 1.23 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.14 (s, 3H), 0.92 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  174.7, 173.1, 160.7, 149.1, 129.9, 106.6, 103.5, 99.7, 79.2, 63.7, 60.7, 55.0, 40.0, 38.9, 24.6, 20.9, 19.8, 19.7, 14.3; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3280, 2968, 1725, 1650, 1597, 1513, 1495, 1464, 1368, 1258, 1207, 1160, 1037; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 333.2173, found 333.2160.



# 2-((4-Methoxyphenyl)amino)-3-methyl-3-(5-methyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)-N-

phenylbutanamide (3ah): Following the general procedure, compound 3ah was prepared by reacting 1a with 2h, and the product was isolated through a silica gel flash column (PE: acetone, from 5:1 to 1:1) as a mixture of diastereomers (yellow oil, 66.8 mg, 88%, dr = 2.0). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$ 9.50 (s, 1H, major), 9.04 (s, 1H, minor), 7.57 - 7.42 (m, 2H, major + minor), 7.31 - 7.19 (m, 2H, major + minor), 7.10 - 6.98 (m, 1H, major + minor), 6.80 - 6.71 (m, 2H, major + minor), 6.61 - 6.49 (m, 2H, major), 6.60 – 6.49 (m, 2H, minor), 6.22 (brs, 1H, major), 5.98 (brs, 1H, minor), 3.97 – 3.83 (m, 1H, major + minor), 3.79 (s, 1H, major), 3.70 (s, 3H, major + minor), 3.65 (d, J = 3.8 Hz, 1H, minor), 2.57 -2.30 (m, 2H, major + minor), 2.11 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 3H, major), 2.07 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 3H, minor), 1.99 – 1.85 (m, 1H, major + minor), 1.75 – 1.52 (m, 1H, major + minor), 1.29 (s, 3H, minor), 1.08 (s, 3H, major), 0.99 (s, 3H, minor), 0.89 (s, 3H, major); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*) δ 175.8 (minor), 175.4 (major), 171.5 (minor), 171.3 (major), 152.7 (major), 152.4 (minor), 142.6 (major), 141.7 (minor), 137.9 (major), 137.7 (minor), 128.75 (major), 128.73 (minor), 123.9 (minor), 123.8 (major), 119.7 (minor), 119.5 (major), 115.6 (major), 114.8 (minor), 114.7 (major), 114.4 (minor), 79.8 (minor), 79.6 (major), 69.5 (major), 68.8 (minor), 55.60 (major), 55.58 (minor), 40.9 (major), 39.9 (minor), 38.5 (major), 38.4 (minor), 24.9 (minor), 24.8 (major), 23.9 (minor), 22.1 (minor), 22.0 (major), 20.0 (minor), 19.9 (major), 17.0 (major); IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3314, 2966, 1681, 1652, 1598, 1506, 1465, 1438, 1378, 1266, 1223, 1177, 1115, 1035; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for  $C_{23}H_{30}N_3O_2^+$  [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 380.2333, found 380.2315.



Ethyl(2-((4-methoxyphenyl)amino)-3-methyl-3-(5-methyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-<br/>yl)butanoyl)glycinate (3ai): Following the general procedure, compound 3ai was prepared by reacting 1a<br/>with 2i, and the product was isolated through a silica gel flash column (PE/EtOAc/Et<sub>3</sub>N = 2 : 1 : 0.003)

as a mixture of diastereomers (foam, 69.2 mg, 89%, dr = 1.2). When using PE/acetone as the eluent, one diastereomer could be obtained in pure form, and the NMR data of each isomer was read by comparing the spectrum.

**Isomer 1**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*) δ 7.83 (t, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 1H), 6.83 – 6.72 (m, 2H), 6.65 – 6.55 (m, 2H), 6.32 (s, 1H), 4.15 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.06 (dd, *J* = 18.0, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (dd, *J* = 18.0, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.97 – 3.86 (m, 1H), 3.79 – 3.64 (m, 4H), 2.55 – 2.29 (m, 2H), 2.07 (s, 3H), 1.99 – 1.86 (m, 1H), 1.73 – 1.58 (m, 1H), 1.23 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.05 (s, 3H), 0.90 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*) δ 174.8, 173.2, 169.8, 152.6, 142.8, 115.4, 114.7, 79.8, 69.1, 61.1, 55.7, 41.2, 40.4, 38.4, 25.1, 22.3, 19.9, 16.7, 14.1;

**Isomer 2**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*) δ 7.46 (t, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 1H), 6.73 – 6.68 (m, 2H), 6.54 – 6.45 (m, 2H), 5.97 (brs, 1H), 4.20 – 4.08 (m, 3H), 3.99 – 3.94 (m, 1H), 3.81 (dd, *J* = 18.0, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.58 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 2.42 – 2.29 (m, 2H), 2.03 (s, 3H), 1.98 – 1.85 (m, 1H), 1.62 – 1.49 (m, 1H), 1.25 (s, 3H), 1.21 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.95 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*) δ 175.0, 173.5, 169.7, 152.1, 142.0, 114.8, 114.1, 79.8, 68.1, 61.1, 55.6, 41.2, 39.6, 38.4, 25.0, 23.8, 22.2, 20.1, 14.1.

The sample was characterized by IR and HRMS as a mixture of diastereomers: IR  $v_{max}$  (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3243, 2966, 1746, 1647, 1506, 1437, 1371, 1254, 1232, 1189, 1146, 1128, 1034; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>32</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 390.2387, found 390.2379.



*Ethyl 3-(5-ethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)-2-((4-methoxyphenyl)amino)-3-methylbutanoate* (3ba): Following the general procedure, compound **3ba** was prepared by reacting **1b** with **2a**, and the product was isolated through a silica gel flash column (PE/EtOAc, from 5:1 to 2:1) as a pair of diastereomers. **Isomer 1** (less polar, yellow oil, 36.0 mg, 52%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  6.77 – 6.70 (m, 2H), 6.66 – 6.59 (m, 2H), 6.00 (brd, J = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 4.23 – 4.11 (m, 3H), 4.06 (d, J = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.52 – 2.27 (m, 4H), 1.88 (dddd, J = 12.8, 9.4, 7.7, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 1.57 (dq, J = 12.8, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 1.22 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.20 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 1.01 (s, 3H), 0.89 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  177.8, 174.1, 151.8, 142.5, 114.8, 114.4, 76.5, 66.8, 60.3, 55.8, 39.6, 36.7, 26.9, 24.3, 22.5, 19.6, 14.3, 10.7; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3283, 2968, 1723, 1649, 1510, 1463, 1367, 1283, 1234, 1146, 1035; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>31</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 347.2329, found 347.2328.

**Isomer 2** (more polar, yellow oil, 25.6 mg, 37%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*) δ 6.79 – 6.70 (m, 2H), 6.66 – 6.56 (m, 2H), 5.06 (brs, 1H), 4.17 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.02 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 2.55 – 2.26 (m, 4H), 1.96 – 1.79 (m, 1H), 1.72 – 1.51 (m, 1H), 1.23 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 1.16

(t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 1.12 (s, 3H), 0.91 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  179.0, 173.5, 152.6, 142.0, 115.3, 114.8, 79.3, 66.0, 60.6, 55.7, 39.9, 36.8, 27.1, 24.4, 21.3, 19.1, 14.3, 10.9; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3279, 2969, 1724, 1646, 1510, 1463, 1367, 1234, 1182, 1140, 1034; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>31</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 347.2329, found 347.2328.



*Ethyl* 3-(5-isopropyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)-2-((4-methoxyphenyl)amino)-3-methylbutanoate (3ca): Following the general procedure, compound 3ca was prepared by reacting 1c with 2a, and the product was isolated through a silica gel flash column (PE/EtOAc, from 5:1 to 2:1) as a pair of diastereomers.

**Isomer 1** (less polar, yellow oil, 32.4 mg, 45%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  6.78 – 6.70 (m, 2H), 6.66 – 6.57 (m, 2H), 6.14 (brs, 1H), 4.24 – 4.10 (m, 3H), 4.04 (s, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.61 (hept, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.54 – 2.42 (m, 1H), 2.42 – 2.29 (m, 1H), 1.98 – 1.81 (m, 1H), 1.63 – 1.48 (m, 1H), 1.22 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.18 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 1.17 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 1.01 (s, 3H), 0.88 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  181.2, 174.1, 151.8, 142.6, 114.8, 114.3, 76.1, 67.0, 60.3, 55.8, 39.6, 34.4, 32.6, 24.3, 22.6, 20.2, 20.0, 19.6, 14.3; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3269, 2965, 1725, 1643, 1510, 1464, 1367, 1234, 1182, 1140, 1034, 819; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>33</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 361.2486, found 2489. **Isomer 2** (more polar, yellow oil, 31.7 mg, 44%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  6.80 – 6.71 (m, 2H), 6.65 – 6.57 (m, 2H), 5.36 (brs, 1H), 4.18 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.99 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.64 (hept, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.55 – 2.42 (m, 1H), 2.35 (dtd, J = 17.2, 9.2, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 1.96 – 1.84 (m, 1H), 1.70 – 1.57 (m, 1H), 1.24 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.15 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 1.14 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 1.09 (s, 3H), 0.91 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  182.4, 173.6, 152.5, 142.2, 115.1, 114.8, 79.1, 66.6, 60.6, 55.7, 39.9, 34.2, 32.7, 24.4, 21.6, 20.3, 20.0, 18.5, 14.3; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3269, 2965, 1725, 1643, 1510, 1464, 1367, 1234, 1182, 1140, 1034, 819; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>33</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 361.2486, found 361.2489.



*Ethyl 3-(5-cyclopropyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)-2-((4-methoxyphenyl)amino)-3-methylbutanoate* (3da): Following the general procedure, compound 3da was prepared by reacting 1d with 2a, and the product was isolated through a silica gel flash column (PE/EtOAc, from 5:1 to 2:1) as a pair of diastereomers.

**Isomer 1** (less polar, yellow oil, 31.8 mg, 44%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  6.79 – 6.68 (m, 2H), 6.67 – 6.59 (m, 2H), 5.78 (brd, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 4.19 – 4.10 (m, 3H), 4.05 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.42 – 2.16 (m, 2H), 1.86 (dddd, J = 12.8, 9.0, 7.6, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 1.79 – 1.70 (m, 1H), 1.54 (dq, J = 12.8, 9.3 Hz, 1H), 1.21 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.99 (s, 3H), 0.94 – 0.79 (m, 4H), 0.87 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  178.1, 174.1, 151.9, 142.5, 114.8, 114.5, 76.3, 66.7, 60.3, 55.8, 39.7, 35.0, 24.1, 22.3, 19.7, 14.3, 13.9, 7.8, 7.6; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3289, 2965, 1722, 1639, 1510, 1464, 1367, 1283, 1234, 1195, 1146, 1096, 1023; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>30</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 381.2149, found 381.2128.

**Isomer 2** (more polar, yellow oil, 31.5 mg, 44%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  6.80 – 6.69 (m, 2H), 6.65 – 6.56 (m, 2H), 5.00 (brs, 1H), 4.16 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.01 – 3.92 (m, 1H), 3.85 (s, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.38 – 2.15 (m, 2H), 1.87 (dddd, J = 12.7, 9.2, 7.5, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 1.63 (dq, J = 12.7, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 1.69 – 1.50 (m, 1H), 1.22 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.10 (s, 3H), 0.91 (s, 3H), 0.87 – 0.70 (m, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  179.0, 173.5, 152.5, 142.0, 115.2, 114.7, 79.0, 65.9, 60.5, 55.7, 39.9, 34.6, 24.2, 21.4, 19.1, 14.3, 14.1, 7.4, 7.2; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3272, 2969, 1724, 1637, 1510, 1464, 1367, 1234, 1183, 1138, 1096, 1025; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>30</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 381.2149, found 381.2128.



*Ethyl 2-((4-methoxyphenyl)amino)-3-methyl-3-(5-phenyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)butanoate* (3ea): Following the general procedure, compound **3ea** was prepared by reacting **1e** with **2a**, and the product was isolated through a silica gel flash column (PE/EtOAc, from 10:1 to 5:1) as a pair of diastereomers. **Isomer 1** (less polar, yellow oil, 33.1 mg, 42%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  7.96 – 7.86 (m, 2H), 7.49 – 7.40 (m, 3H), 6.81 – 6.74 (m, 2H), 6.74 – 6.68 (m, 2H), 5.69 (brs, 1H), 4.55 – 4.36 (m, 1H), 4.25 (s, 1H), 4.22 – 4.12 (m, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.07 – 2.92 (m, 1H), 2.81 (dtd, *J* = 16.9, 9.4, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 2.12 – 2.00 (m, 1H), 1.75 (dq, *J* = 12.8, 9.3 Hz, 1H), 1.24 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.08 (s, 3H), 0.94 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  174.1, 171.6, 152.1, 142.4, 134.6, 130.3, 128.4, 127.7, 114.8, 114.7, 77.1, 66.7, 60.4, 55.7, 40.3, 34.6, 24.2, 22.1, 19.7, 14.3; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3299, 2966, 1724, 1618, 1510, 1465, 1367, 1234, 1196, 1148, 1095, 1026; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>31</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 395.2329, found 395.2300.

**Isomer 2** (more polar, yellow oil, 30.7 mg, 39%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*) δ 7.94 – 7.82 (m, 2H), 7.53 – 7.36 (m, 3H), 6.86 – 6.72 (m, 2H), 6.71 – 6.59 (m, 2H), 4.99 (brs, 1H), 4.34 – 4.24 (m, 1H), 4.17 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.98 (s, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 2.99 (ddt, *J* = 15.8, 10.1, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 2.83 (dtd, *J* = 16.9, 9.3, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 2.15 – 2.03 (m, 1H), 1.84 (dq, *J* = 11.8, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 1.24 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.22

(s, 3H), 0.98 (s, 3H);  ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H{NMR}$  (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  173.5, 172.4, 152.6, 141.9, 134.6, 130.3, 128.4, 127.6, 115.4, 114.8, 79.6, 65.8, 60.6, 55.7, 40.4, 34.9, 24.4, 21.4, 19.5, 14.3; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3287, 2969, 1724, 1617, 1509, 1464, 1367, 1233, 1180, 1151, 1095, 1026; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 395.2329, found 395.2303.



*Ethyl* 2-((4-methoxyphenyl)amino)-3-methyl-3-(5-(p-tolyl)-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)butanoate (3fa): Following the general procedure, compound 3fa was prepared by reacting 1f with 2a, and the product was isolated through a silica gel flash column (PE/EtOAc, from 10:1 to 5:1) as a pair of diastereomers.

**Isomer 1** (less polar, yellow oil, 35.1 mg, 43%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  7.85 – 7.72 (m, 2H), 7.26 – 7.21 (m, 2H), 6.79 – 6.73 (m, 2H), 6.72 – 6.66 (m, 2H), 5.79 (brs, 1H), 4.49 – 4.39 (m, 1H), 4.21 (s, 1H), 4.20 – 4.13 (m, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 2.97 (ddt, *J* = 16.8, 10.1, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 2.78 (dtd, *J* = 16.8, 9.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.11 – 1.97 (m, 1H), 1.73 (dq, *J* = 12.7, 9.3 Hz, 1H), 1.23 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.07 (s, 3H), 0.93 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  174.1, 171.4, 152.0, 142.5, 140.5, 131.9, 129.1, 127.6, 114.8, 114.7, 77.2, 66.8, 60.4, 55.8, 40.3, 34.5, 24.3, 22.2, 21.4, 19.7, 14.3; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3307, 2933, 1729, 1614, 1510, 1447, 1337, 1235, 1180, 1154, 1034; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>33</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 409.2486, found 409.2486.

**Isomer 2** (more polar, yellow oil, 30.2 mg, 37%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*) δ 7.80 – 7.72 (m, 2H), 7.24 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 6.80 – 6.71 (m, 2H), 6.70 – 6.61 (m, 2H), 4.26 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 4.17 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.96 (s, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 2.97 (ddt, *J* = 17.0, 9.9, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 2.81 (dtd, *J* = 17.0, 9.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 2.13 – 2.02 (m, 1H), 1.89 – 1.74 (m, 1H), 1.23 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.20 (s, 3H), 0.97 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*) δ 173.5, 172.2, 152.6, 142.0, 140.5, 131.9, 129.0, 127.6, 115.3, 114.8, 79.6, 66.0, 60.6, 55.7, 40.4, 34.8, 24.4, 21.5, 21.4, 19.3, 14.3; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>33</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 409.2486, found 409.2486.



Ethyl3-(5-(4-bromophenyl)-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)-2-((4-methoxyphenyl)amino)-3-methylbutanoate (3ga): Following the general procedure, compound 3ga was prepared by reacting 1gwith 2a, and the product was isolated through a silica gel flash column (PE/EtOAc, from 10:1 to 5:1) as

a pair of diastereomers.

**Isomer 1** (less polar, yellow oil, 40.6 mg, 43%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  7.81 – 7.70 (m, 2H), 7.61 – 7.52 (m, 2H), 6.81 – 6.72 (m, 2H), 6.73 – 6.61 (m, 2H), 5.45 (brs, 1H), 4.44 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (d, *J* = 4.8, 1H), 4.21 – 4.11 (m, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.03 – 2.87 (m, 1H), 2.83 – 2.70 (m, 1H), 2.13 – 1.96 (m, 1H), 1.82 – 1.69 (m, 1H), 1.22 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.06 (s, 3H), 0.91 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  174.1, 170.7, 152.2, 142.3, 133.5, 131.6, 129.2, 124.8, 115.0, 114.9, 77.2, 66.5, 60.5, 55.8, 40.3, 34.6, 24.3, 21.9, 19.6, 14.3; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3307, 2924, 1726, 1618, 1511, 1465, 1396, 1235, 1196, 1149, 1069, 1036, 1008; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>30</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 473.1434, found 473.1449.

**Isomer 2** (more polar, yellow oil, 39.6 mg, 42%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  7.80 – 7.63 (m, 2H), 7.60 – 7.48 (m, 2H), 6.80 – 6.70 (m, 2H), 6.68 – 6.59 (m, 2H), 4.75 (brd, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 4.27 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.97 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.02 – 2.88 (m, 1H), 2.80 (dtd, J = 16.9, 9.3, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 2.16 – 2.03 (m, 1H), 1.85 (dq, J = 11.7, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 1.22 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.21 (s, 3H), 0.97 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  173.4, 171.4, 152.7, 141.8, 133.5, 131.6, 129.1, 124.8, 115.4, 114.8, 79.7, 65.5, 60.6, 55.7, 40.5, 34.9, 24.5, 21.3, 19.7, 14.3; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3307, 2968, 1725, 1617, 1509, 1484, 1464, 1396, 1234, 1181, 1152, 1069, 1033, 1007; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>30</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 473.1434, found 473.1449.



*Ethyl* 3-(2,3,3a,4,6,7-hexahydropyrano[4,3-b]pyrrol-2-yl)-2-((4-methoxyphenyl)amino)-3methylbutanoate (3ha): Following the general procedure, compound 3ha was prepared by reacting 1h with 2a, and the product was isolated through a silica gel flash column (PE/EtOAc, from 5:1 to 2:1) as a three diastereomers.

**Isomer 1** (less polar, yellow oil, 26.9 mg, 36%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  6.78 – 6.70 (m, 2H), 6.69 – 6.61 (m, 2H), 5.29 (brs, 1H), 4.34 – 4.09 (m, 6H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.34 (td, *J* = 11.3, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (t, *J* = 10.9 Hz, 1H), 2.87 – 2.74 (m, 1H), 2.67 – 2.49 (m, 2H), 1.94 (dt, *J* = 12.8, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 1.22 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.11 (dt, *J* = 12.8, 9.4 Hz, 1H), 1.03 (s, 3H), 0.93 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  173.94, 173.90, 152.3, 142.1, 115.0, 114.8, 75.9, 74.0, 68.3, 66.0, 60.5, 55.7, 47.1, 39.4, 32.9, 26.6, 21.6, 20.0, 14.3; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3305, 2965, 1731, 1661, 1511, 1466, 1371, 1234, 1198, 1156, 1091, 1037; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>31</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 375.2278, found. 375.2285 **Isomers 2+3** (more polar, yellow oil, 25.4 mg, 34%, *dr* = 2.4:1):<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  6.79 – 6.70 (m, 2H), 6.68 – 6.58 (m, 2H), 4.38 – 4.09 (m, 5H), 4.08 – 4.00 (m, 1H), 3.94 (s, 1H, major), 3.92 (s, 1H, minor), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.43 – 3.30 (m, 1H), 3.06 – 2.95 (m, 1H), 2.91 – 2.76 (m, 1H), 2.68 –

2.47 (m, 2H), 2.02 – 1.89 (m, 1H), 1.28 – 1.12 (m, 7H), 0.94 (s, 3H, major), 0.87 (s, 3H, minor);  ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H{NMR}$  (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  174.6 (major + minor), 173.3 (major + minor), 152.9 (minor), 152.8 (major), 141.49 (minor), 141.46 (major), 115.8 (minor), 115.6 (major), 114.8 (major + minor), 78.2 (minor), 77.9 (major), 74.4 (minor), 73.8 (major), 68.6 (minor), 68.2 (major), 64.7 (major), 64.3 (minor), 60.7 (minor), 60.6 (major), 55.7 (major +minor), 48.5 (minor), 47.5 (major), 40.9 (minor), 39.5 (major), 33.4 (minor), 32.9 (major), 26.8 (major), 25.8 (minor), 20.8 (major), 20.4 (minor), 20.2 (major), 20.3 (minor), 14.3 (major + minor); IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3359, 2966, 1725, 1659, 1510, 1465, 1367, 1233, 1182, 1141, 1090, 1031; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>31</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 375.2278, found. 375.2285



*Ethyl* 2-((4-methoxyphenyl)amino)-3-(5-methyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)propanoate (3ia): Following the general procedure, compound **3ia** was prepared by reacting **1i** with **2a**, and the product was isolated through a silica gel flash column (PE/EtOAc, from 2:1 to 1:1) as a pair of diastereomers. **Isomer 1** (less polar, yellow oil, 15.8 mg, 26%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  6.82 – 6.71 (m, 2H), 6.66 – 6.56 (m, 2H), 4.57 (brs, 1H), 4.25 – 4.12 (m, 2H), 4.13 – 4.05 (m, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 2.59 – 2.37 (m, 2H), 2.19 – 2.00 (m, 2H), 2.02 (s, 3H), 1.96 – 1.86 (m, 1H), 1.55 – 1.42 (m, 1H), 1.23 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  174.6, 174.5, 152.5, 141.3, 115.0, 114.8, 70.1, 61.0, 57.0, 55.7, 39.7, 38.6, 29.5, 19.8, 14.2; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3225, 2938, 1741, 1646, 1534, 1508, 1456,

1443, 1313, 1260, 1239, 1179, 1147, 1030; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for  $C_{17}H_{25}N_2O_3^+$  [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 305.1860, found 305.1850.

**Isomer 2** (more polar, yellow oil, 14.6 mg, 24%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  6.78 – 6.70 (m, 2H), 6.66 – 6.58 (m, 2H), 4.54 (brd, J = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 4.23 (q, J = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 4.15 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.09 – 4.02 (m, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.58 – 2.35 (m, 2H), 2.20 – 2.08 (m, 1H), 2.08 – 1.99 (m, 1H), 2.02 (s, 3H), 1.90 (ddd, J = 13.5, 7.3, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 1.51 – 1.39 (m, 1H), 1.21 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  174.5, 174.4, 152.5, 141.4, 115.1, 114.7, 69.5, 60.9, 56.8, 55.7, 39.8, 38.8, 29.7, 19.8, 14.2; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3351, 2934, 1728, 1646, 1510, 1441, 1376, 1235, 1179, 1156, 1033; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>17H25</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 305.1860, found 305.1850.



*Ethyl 3-(2,5-dimethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)-2-((4-methoxyphenyl) amino) propanoate* (3ja): Following the general procedure, compound 3ja was prepared by reacting 1j with 2a, and the product was isolated through a silica gel flash column (PE/EtOAc, from 2:1 to 1:1) as a mixture of diastereomers (yellow oil, 28.6 mg, 45%, dr = 1:1). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*) (mixture of 2 diastereomers)  $\delta$  6.81 – 6.69 (m, 2H, isomer 1 + isomer 2), 6.62 – 6.47 (m, 2H, isomer 1 + isomer 2), 5.37 (brs, 1H, isomer 1 + isomer 2), 4.26 – 4.08 (m, 2H, isomer 1 + isomer 2), 3.99 (dd, J = 9.7, 4.3 Hz, 1H, isomer 1), 3.91 (dd, J = 8.1, 4.6 Hz, 1H, isomer 2), 3.73 (s, 3H, isomer 1), 3.72 (s, 3H, isomer 2), 2.62 – 2.39 (m, 2H, isomer 1 + isomer 2), 2.11 – 1.88 (m, 2H, isomer 1 + isomer 2), 2.01 (s, 3H, isomer 1), 1.93 (s, 3H, isomer 2), 1.86 – 1.67 (m, 2H, isomer 1 + isomer 2), 1.25 (s, 3H, isomer 1), 1.24 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H, isomer 1), 1.18 (s, 3H, isomer 2); <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  175.0 (isomer 1), 174.7 (isomer 2), 172.7 (isomer 1 + isomer 2), 152.4 (isomer 1 + isomer 2), 141.7 (isomer 1), 141.3 (isomer 1), 61.0 (isomer 1 + isomer 2), 56.6 (isomer 1), 56.2 (isomer 1), 36.4 (isomer 1), 34.3 (isomer 2), 27.9 (isomer 1), 43.9 (isomer 1), 19.9 (isomer 1), 19.7 (isomer 2), 142.0 (isomer 1), 14.17 (isomer 2); IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3303, 2932, 1727, 1649, 1510, 1442, 1372, 1234, 1180, 1152, 1033; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>2</sub>7N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 319.2016, found 319.1994.



Ethyl 3-(5-ethyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)-2-((4-methoxyphenyl)amino)propanoate (3ka): Following the general procedure, compound 3ka was prepared by reacting 1k with 2a, and the product was isolated through a silica gel flash column (PE/EtOAc, from 2:1 to 1:1) as a mixture of diastereomers (yellow oil, 30.0 mg, 47%, dr = 1.1:1).<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  6.83 – 6.69 (m, 2H, isomer 1 + isomer 2), 6.69 - 6.54 (m, 2H, isomer 1 + isomer 2), 4.87 (br, 1H, isomer 1 + isomer 2), 4.31 - 4.01(m, 4H, isomer 1 + isomer 2), 3.73 (s, 3H, isomer 1), 3.72 (s, 3H, isomer 2), 2.56 – 2.39 (m, 2H, isomer 1 + isomer 2), 2.38 - 2.27 (m, 2H, isomer 1 + isomer 2), 2.19 - 2.07 (m, 1H, isomer 1 + isomer 2), 2.08-1.89 (m, 2H, isomer 1 + isomer 2), 1.52 - 1.39 (m, 1H, isomer 1 + isomer 2), 1.24 - 1.20 (m, 3H, isomer 1 + isomer 2), 1.16 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H, isomer 1 + isomer 2); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$ 178.7 (isomer 1 + isomer 2), 174.5 (isomer 1), 174.4 (isomer 2), 152.5 (isomer 1), 152.4 (isomer 2), 141.5 (isomer 1 + isomer 2), 114.9 (isomer 1 + isomer 2), 114.82 (isomer 1), 114.80 (isomer 2), 70.2 (isomer 1), 69.4 (isomer 2), 61.0 (isomer 1), 60.9 (isomer 2), 57.5 (isomer 1), 56.8 (isomer 2), 55.8 (isomer 1), 55.7 (isomer 2), 39.6 (isomer 1+ isomer 2), 36.9 (isomer 2), 36.8 (isomer 1), 29.4 (isomer 2), 29.3 (isomer 1), 26.97 (isomer 2), 26.95 (isomer 1), 14.3 (isomer 2), 14.2 (isomer 1), 10.7 (isomer 2), 10.6 (isomer 1); IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3342, 2933, 1728, 1643, 1510, 1461, 1370, 1236, 1179, 1156, 1096, 1031; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for  $C_{18}H_{27}N_2O_3^+$  [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 319.2016, found. 319.2022



*Ethyl 3-(5-isopropyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)-2-((4-methoxyphenyl)amino)propanoate* (3la): Following the general procedure, compound **3la** was prepared by reacting **1l** with **2a**, and the product was isolated through a silica gel flash column (PE/EtOAc, from 5:1 to 2:1) as a pair of diastereomers.

**Isomer 1** (less polar, yellow oil, 20.0 mg, 30%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  6.79 – 6.69 (m, 2H), 6.65 – 6.54 (m, 2H), 4.97 (brs, 1H), 4.28 – 4.19 (m, 1H), 4.16 (q, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 4.09 – 3.97 (m, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 2.73 – 2.48 (m, 2H), 2.41 (dtd, J = 17.2, 9.0, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 2.17 – 2.07 (m, 1H), 2.06 – 1.88 (m, 2H), 1.42 (dq, J = 12.3, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 1.22 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.15 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 1.14 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  181.9, 174.4, 152.3, 141.5, 114.8 (2C), 69.1, 60.8, 56.8, 55.7, 39.4, 34.4, 32.6, 29.4, 20.1, 20.0, 14.2; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3311, 2963, 1730, 1637, 1510, 1464, 1367, 1236, 1178, 1155, 1035, 818; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 355.1992, found 355.2002.

**Isomer 2** (more polar, yellow oil, 18.6 mg, 28%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  6.85 – 6.73 (m, 2H), 6.63 – 6.52 (m, 2H), 5.13 (brs, 1H), 4.26 – 4.14 (m, 2H), 4.12 – 4.00 (m, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 2.66 – 2.47 (m, 2H), 2.41 (dt, *J* = 17.5, 9.4 Hz, 1H), 2.18 – 2.06 (m, 1H), 2.03 – 1.88 (m, 2H), 1.56 – 1.36 (m, 1H), 1.25 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.15 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.14 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  182.3, 174.5, 152.5, 141.6, 114.8, 114.7, 70.2, 61.0, 57.8, 55.7, 39.5, 34.4, 32.6, 29.3, 20.1, 20.0, 14.2; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3311, 2963, 1730, 1637, 1510, 1464, 1367, 1236, 1178, 1155, 1035, 818; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 355.1992, found 355.2002.



*Ethyl 3-(5-cyclopropyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)-2-((4-methoxyphenyl)amino)propanoate* (3ma): Following the general procedure, compound **3ma** was prepared by reacting **1m** with **2a**, and the product was isolated through a silica gel flash column (PE/EtOAc, from 2:1 to 1:1) as a pair of diastereomers.

**Isomer 1** (less polar, yellow oil, 20.5 mg, 31%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  6.80 – 6.70 (m, 2H), 6.66 – 6.57 (m, 2H), 4.68 (brs, 1H), 4.22 (dd, J = 6.9, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 4.15 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.07 – 3.96 (m, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 2.45 – 2.22 (m, 2H), 2.17 – 2.06 (m, 1H), 2.02 (ddd, J = 13.8, 8.5, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 1.92 (ddd, J = 13.8, 7.0, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 1.79 (ddd, J = 12.8, 7.9, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (dq, J = 12.6, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 1.21 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.89 – 0.69 (m, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  179.0, 174.4, 152.4, 141.5, 115.0, 114.8, 69.0, 60.8, 56.8, 55.7, 39.6, 34.6, 29.2, 14.2, 14.1, 7.5, 7.4; IR v<sub>max</sub>

(neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3323, 2934, 1728, 1631, 1510, 1455, 1369, 1235, 1179, 1155, 1097, 1034; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for  $C_{19}H_{27}N_2O_3^+$  [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 331.2016, found 331.1999.

**Isomer 2** (more polar, yellow oil, 19.8 mg, 30%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  6.80 – 6.72 (m, 2H), 6.62 – 6.55 (m, 2H), 4.84 (brs, 1H), 4.22 – 4.13 (m, 2H), 4.10 – 4.02 (m, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 2.41 (dddd, J = 16.8, 9.9, 4.3, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 2.30 (dtd, J = 17.1, 8.9, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 2.15 – 2.05 (m, 1H), 2.02 – 1.88 (m, 2H), 1.76 (tt, J = 8.0, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 1.43 (ddt, J = 12.7, 9.8, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 1.24 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.89 – 0.80 (m, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  179.1, 174.5, 152.5, 141.5, 114.9, 114.8, 69.9, 61.0, 57.4, 55.7, 39.6, 34.6, 29.1, 14.2, 14.0, 7.5 (2C); IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3304, 2935, 1727, 1631, 1510, 1463, 1369, 1235, 1180, 1154, 1096, 1030; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 331.2016, found 331.1999.



*Ethyl* 2-((4-methoxyphenyl)amino)-3-(5-phenyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)propanoate (3na): Following the general procedure, compound **3na** was prepared by reacting **1n** with **2a**, and the product was isolated through a silica gel flash column (PE/EtOAc, from 10:1 to 5:1) as a pair of diastereomers. **Isomer 1** (less polar, yellow oil, 27.1 mg, 37%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  7.94 – 7.79 (m, 2H), 7.51 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 6.83 – 6.71 (m, 2H), 6.70 – 6.59 (m, 2H), 4.85 (brs, 1H), 4.43 – 4.27 (m, 2H), 4.19 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.12 – 2.95 (m, 1H), 2.94 – 2.75 (m, 1H), 2.37 – 2.25 (m, 1H), 2.18 – 2.01 (m, 2H), 1.69 – 1.52 (m, 1H), 1.24 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H</sup>}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  174.5, 172.2, 152.4, 141.5, 134.4, 130.4, 128.4, 127.7, 115.0, 114.8, 69.9, 60.9, 57.0, 55.7, 39.8, 34.8, 29.5, 14.2; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3350, 2931, 1728, 1614, 1510, 1447, 1323, 1236, 1178, 1155, 1034; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 367.2016, found 367.2021.

**Isomer 2** (more polar, yellow oil, 24.2 mg, 33%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  7.91 – 7.80 (m, 2H), 7.49 – 7.36 (m, 3H), 6.83 – 6.71 (m, 2H), 6.70 – 6.57 (m, 2H), 4.97 (brs, 1H), 4.41 – 4.30 (m, 1H), 4.26 – 4.10 (m, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.11 – 2.97 (m, 1H), 2.93 – 2.78 (m, 1H), 2.38 – 2.23 (m, 1H), 2.20 – 2.00 (m, 2H), 1.73 – 1.55 (m, 1H), 1.24 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  174.4, 172.4, 152.5, 141.4, 134.3, 130.5, 128.4, 127.6, 114.9, 114.8, 70.8, 61.0, 57.4, 55.7, 39.5, 34.6, 29.3, 14.2; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3307, 2933, 1729, 1614, 1510, 1447, 1337, 1235, 1180, 1154, 1034; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 367.2016, found 367.2021.



Ethyl 2-((4-methoxyphenyl)amino)-3-(5-(p-tolyl)-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)propanoate (30a): Following the general procedure, compound **30a** was prepared by reacting **10** with **2a**, and the product was isolated through a silica gel flash column (PE/EtOAc, from 10:1 to 5:1) as a pair of diastereomers. **Isomer 1** (less polar, yellow oil, 29.7 mg, 39%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*) δ 7.81 – 7.72 (m, 2H), 7.25 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 6.80 – 6.72 (m, 2H), 6.70 – 6.62 (m, 2H), 4.88 (brs, 1H), 4.39 – 4.27 (m, 2H), 4.19 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.11 - 2.94 (m, 1H), 2.91 - 2.76 (m, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 2.34 - 2.24 (m, 2H), 3.11 - 2.94 (m,(m, 1H), 2.16 - 2.03 (m, 2H), 1.73 - 1.52 (m, 1H), 1.24 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H);  ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H{NMR}$  (101 MHz, Chloroform-d) & 174.5, 172.0, 152.4, 141.5, 140.6, 131.7, 129.0, 127.6, 115.0, 114.8, 69.8, 60.8, 56.9, 55.7, 39.8, 34.7, 29.4, 21.4, 14.2; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3336, 2933, 1731, 1610, 1510, 1456, 1333, 1236, 1179, 1155, 1109, 1036; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for  $C_{23}H_{29}N_2O_3^+$  [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 381.2173, found 381.2192. **Isomer 2** (more polar, yellow oil, 22.8 mg, 30%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*) δ 7.80 – 7.68 (m, 2H), 7.25 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 6.82 – 6.72 (m, 2H), 6.70 – 6.59 (m, 2H), 5.00 (brs, 1H), 4.45 – 4.30 (m, 1H),  $4.25 - 4.09 \text{ (m, 3H)}, 3.74 \text{ (s, 3H)}, 3.02 \text{ (dddd}, J = 16.5, 10.2, 4.3, 2.1 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}), 2.84 \text{ (dt}, J = 16.5, 8.9 \text{ Hz}, 10.2 \text{ Hz$ 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 2.33 - 2.21 (m, 1H), 2.17 - 2.04 (m, 2H), 1.68 - 1.54 (m, 1H), 1.24 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (101 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)δ 174.4, 172.3, 152.5, 141.5, 140.7, 131.6, 129.1, 127.6, 114.9, 114.8, 70.7, 61.0, 57.5, 55.7, 39.6, 34.6, 29.3, 21.4, 14.2; IR  $v_{max}$  (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3306, 2932, 1730, 1611, 1510, 1456, 1333, 1235, 1179, 1153, 1109, 1034; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 381.2173, found. 381.2192.



*Ethyl* 3-(5-(4-bromophenyl)-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)-2-((4-methoxyphenyl)amino)propanoate (3pa): Following the general procedure, compound 3pa was prepared by reacting 1p with 2a, and the product was isolated through a silica gel flash column (PE/EtOAc, from 10:1 to 5:1) as a pair of diastereomers.

**Isomer 1** (less polar, yellow oil, 33.8 mg, 38%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  7.77 – 7.67 (m, 2H), 7.60 – 7.50 (m, 2H), 6.80 – 6.70 (m, 2H), 6.70 – 6.60 (m, 2H), 4.72 (brs, 1H), 4.38 – 4.28 (m, 2H), 4.18 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.06 – 2.92 (m, 1H), 2.89 – 2.76 (m, 1H), 2.38 – 2.24 (m, 1H), 2.15 – 2.01 (m, 2H), 1.70 – 1.53 (m, 1H), 1.23 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  174.4, 171.3, 152.5, 141.5, 133.3, 131.6, 129.3, 125.0, 115.1, 114.8, 70.1, 61.0, 56.9, 55.7, 39.8, 34.8, 29.5, 14.3; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3350, 2925, 1731, 1615, 1511, 1484, 1329, 1237, 1179, 1156, 1069, 1036, 1008; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>26</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 445.1121, found 445.1101.

**Isomer 2** (more polar, yellow oil, 30.2 mg, 34%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*) δ 7.77 – 7.67 (m, 2H), 7.60 – 7.50 (m, 2H), 6.83 – 6.73 (m, 2H), 6.67 – 6.58 (m, 2H), 4.85 (brs, 1H), 4.46 – 4.28 (m, 1H),

4.26 – 4.07 (m, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.01 (dddd, J = 17.0, 10.0, 4.1, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 2.84 (dddd, J = 17.0, 10.0, 8.3, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 2.42 – 2.21 (m, 1H), 2.18 – 2.05 (m, 2H), 1.70 – 1.58 (m, 1H), 1.23 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  174.3, 171.5, 152.6, 141.3, 133.2, 131.6, 129.2, 125.0, 114.9, 114.8, 70.8, 61.1, 57.3, 55.7, 39.5, 34.6, 29.3, 14.2; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3352, 2932, 1729, 1712, 1615, 1510, 1484, 1397, 1235, 1179, 1154, 1068, 1034, 1008; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>26</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 445.1121, found 445.1101.



Ethyl2-((4-methoxyphenyl)amino)-3-(5-phenyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)butanoate(3qa):Following the general procedure, compound 3qa was prepared by reacting 1q with 2a, and the productwas isolated through a silica gel flash column (PE/EtOAc, from 15:1 to 10:1) as two sets of diastereomers.

**Isomer 1 + 2** (less polar, yellow oil, 27.5 mg, 36%, dr = 1.9): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.00 – 7.82 (m, 2H), 7.53 – 7.36 (m, 3H), 6.91 – 6.82 (m, 2H, major), 6.82 – 6.71 (m, 2H), 6.64 – 6.57 (m, 2H, minor), 5.45 (brs, 1H, minor), 4.79 – 4.56 (m, 2H, major), 4.56 – 4.45 (m, 1H, minor), 4.29 – 4.07 (m, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.14 – 2.95 (m, 1H), 2.95 – 2.75 (m, 1H), 2.39 – 2.09 (m, 2H), 1.84 – 1.71 (m, 1H, minor), 1.64 (dq, J = 12.4, 9.7 Hz, 1H, major), 1.25 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H, minor), 1.24 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H, major), 1.02 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H, major), 0.99 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H, minor); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  174.5 (major), 174.4 (minor), 172.3 (minor), 171.8 (major), 152.6 (major), 152.0 (minor), 142.6 (major), 142.1 (minor), 134.7 (major), 134.4 (minor), 130.5 (minor), 130.4 (major), 128.43 (minor), 128.41 (major), 127.8 (major), 127.7 (minor), 115.9 (major), 60.9 (major), 60.8 (minor), 55.81 (minor), 55.75 (major), 42.7 (major), 40.7 (minor), 35.1 (major), 34.9 (minor), 27.7 (major), 26.9 (minor), 14.4 (minor), 14.3 (major), 12.5 (major), 12.0 (minor); IR  $\nu_{max}$  (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3384, 2966, 1727, 1616, 1511, 1447, 1338, 1236, 1152, 1023, 907, 820, 727, 692; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 381.2173, found 381.2188.

**Isomer 3** + **4** (less polar, yellow oil, 37.0 mg, 49%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.95 – 7.80 (m, 2H), 7.51 – 7.33 (m, 3H), 6.84 – 6.69 (m, 3H), 6.67 – 6.59 (m, 1H), 4.98 (brd, J = 6.7 Hz, 1H, isomer 1), 4.71 (brs, 1H, isomer 2), 4.41 – 4.29 (m, 1H), 4.29 – 4.09 (m, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H, isomer 1), 3.73 (s, 3H, isomer 2), 3.11 – 2.96 (m, 1H), 2.96 – 2.80 (m, 1H), 2.40 – 2.12 (m, 2H), 1.82 (ddt, J = 12.8, 10.2, 8.1 Hz, 1H, isomer 1), 1.68 (ddt, J = 12.8, 10.0, 8.2 Hz, 1H, isomer 2), 1.26 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H, isomer 1), 1.22 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H, isomer 2), 1.12 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H, isomer 1), 1.00 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H, isomer 2); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  173.9, 173.8, 172.8, 172.3, 152.6, 152.4, 142.0, 141.9, 134.5, 134.4, 130.5, 130.5, 128.4 (2C), 127.7, 127.7, 115.2 (2C), 114.9, 114.8, 75.9, 74.8, 61.9 (2C), 61.0, 60.9, 55.8, 55.7,

42.0, 41.2, 35.0, 34.9, 27.3, 26.6, 14.3 (2C), 13.4, 10.8; IR  $v_{max}$  (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3386, 2962, 1728, 1616, 1510, 1447, 1339, 1234, 1152, 1035, 907, 819, 726, 692; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 381.2173, found 381.2188.

# V. Mechanistic Studies

## a) Radical trapping experiment with TEMPO as the reagent



The reaction between **1a** and **2a** was set up according to the general procedure, but in the presence of TEMPO (2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidin-1-yl)oxyl) (31.3 mg, 0.2 mmol). The reaction was quenched with NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (saturated aqueous solution) after 5 h and worked-up by following the general procedure. Starting materials **1a**, **2a** and TEMPO were mostly recovered and **3aa** was not detected by TLC by comparing with the authentic sample. The reaction mixture was then submitted for HRMS analysis, and a cyclized alkyl radical trapping product **5** was detected, which is a known compound.<sup>[14]</sup> HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>33</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup>281.2587, found 281.2582 (**Figure S1**).



Figure S1. HRMS for radical trapping product

#### b) EPR study using DMPO as a trapping reagent



The reaction between **1a** and **2a** was set up according to the general procedure, and 5,5-dimethyl-1pyrroline N-oxide (DMPO, 11.3 mg, 0.1 mmol, dissolved in 0.2 mL of EtOAc) was added after 1 h. The reaction was stirred for additional 10 min, cooled down to room temperature and submitted for ERP analysis. The major radical species observed under standard conditions was identified as an adduct between a tertiary carbo radical and DMPO, which appears as a *doublet of triplets*. The g factor was calculated to be 2.0066 by using the following equation [g = 71.4484v(in GHz)/B (in mT)], and the hyperfine coupling constants are analyzed and presented in Figure S2.



Figure S2. The hyperfine coupling analysis of the EPR signal

#### c) The participation of an exogenous imine in the coupling reaction



The reaction was set up with **1a** and **2a** according to the general procedure, but in the presence of N-(4methylphenyl) imine **6** (11.5 mg, 0.06 mmol). The reaction was quenched with NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (saturated aqueous solution) after 5 h and worked-up following the general procedure. The crude product was filtered through a short silica gel column to remove the less polar starting materials, and the more polar fractions were combined, concentrated and submitted for <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis (with 1,3,5-trimethoxyl benzene as an internal standard). Beside the anticipated product **3aa** (78%), **3ea** was also formed in 21% yield.

### d) Aniline exchange test



The reaction was set up with 1a and 2a according to the general procedure, but in the presence of *p*-toluidine (6.4 mg, 0.06 mmol). The reaction was quenched with NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (saturated aqueous solution) after 5 h and worked-up following the general procedure. The crude product was filtered through a short

silica gel column to remove the less polar starting materials, and the more polar fractions were combined, concentrated and submitted for <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis (with 1,3,5-trimethoxyl benzene as an internal standard). Beside the desired anticipated product **3aa** (75%), an aniline exchanged product **3ae** was also detected in 19% yield.

To defferentiate whether **3ae** was generated through nucleophilic substitution or imine addition, a few control experiments were performed.

On one hand, when **3aa** was treated with *p*-toluidine under the reaction conditions, **3ae** was <u>NOT detected</u> by either TLC or <sup>1</sup>H NMR. Treating glycinate **2a** with *p*-toluidine under the reaction conditions <u>did NOT</u> <u>lead to</u> any substitution product **2e** either.



On the other hand, the *N*-(4-methoxylphenyl) imine **S7** underwent a rapid exchange with *p*-toluidine under the reaction conditions, affording an N-(4-methylphenyl) imine **6**, which is known to react with an alkyl radical to afford product **3ae**.



### e) HRMS analysis of the catalyst solution

In a N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere glove box,  $Fe(OAc)_2$  (8.7 mg, 0.05 mmol), and L5 (23.6 mg, 0.10 mmol) were added into a 2-dram vial, which was then sealed with a septum. After the vial was then taken out of the glove box, freshly distilled EtOAc (3.5 mL) and dry DMA (1.5 mL) were added. The mixture was sonicated until fully dissolved to afford a <u>catalyst solution</u>. The catalyst solution was then submitted for HRMS analysis and the iron-containing species and their related intensity are listed in **Figure S3**.



Figure S3. HRMS analysis of the catalyst solution

# VI. Gram Scale Synthesis & Product Derivatizations

## 1) Gram Scale Synthesis



In a N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere glove box, Fe(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (13.1 mg, 0.075 mmol), and L5 (35.4 mg, 0.15 mmol) were added into a 3-dram vial, which was then sealed with a septum. After the vial was then taken out of the glove box, freshly distilled EtOAc (5.5 mL) and dry DMA (2.5 mL) were added. The mixture was sonicated until fully dissolved to afford the <u>catalyst solution</u>. To a flame-dried round bottom flask charged with a stir bar were added oxime ester 1a (1.87 g, 6.5 mmol) and glycinate 2a (1.05 g, 5.0 mmol). The flask was sealed with a septum, evacuated, and backfilled with N<sub>2</sub> three times. EtOAc (42 mL) was then added through a syringe, followed by the addition of the <u>catalyst solution</u>. The reaction mixture was stirred in an 80 °C oil bath for 7 h before it was quenched with Saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (saturated aqueous solution, 40 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 × 30 mL) and the combined organic

layers were dried with anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was then purified through a silica gel flash column with PE and EtOAc (5:1 to 2:1) as eluent, affording compound **3aa** as a pair of diastereomers, isomer 1 (less polar, 78 mg, 47%), isomer 2 (more polar, 550 mg, 33%).

### 2) The Removal of the N-PMP group



*Ethyl 2-amino-3-methyl-3-(5-phenyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)butanoate* (7):To a solution of CAN (ceric ammonium nitrate, 0.4 mmol, dissolved in 0.7 ml H<sub>2</sub>O) stirred at 0 °C was added a solution of **3ea** (isomer 1, 0.1 mmol dissolved in 0.3 ml CH<sub>3</sub>CN). The reaction was kept stirring for 1 h at the same temperature before it was modulated to alkalescence with saturated aqueous Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>. Then the mixture was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> for three times, washed with brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified through a silica gel flash column (PE/Acetone = 1:2) to give **7** as yellow oil (17 mg, 60%); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  7.90 – 7.77 (m, 2H), 7.47 – 7.37 (m, 3H), 4.41 – 4.30 (m, 1H), 4.20 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.81 (s, 1H), 3.04 – 2.80 (m, 2H), 2.14 – 1.99 (m, 1H), 1.83 (s, 2H), 1.79 – 1.70 (m, 1H), 1.29 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.98 (s, 3H), 0.86 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  175.3, 171.9, 134.7, 130.2, 128.3, 127.6, 77.9, 60.9, 60.3, 40.9, 35.2, 23.7, 19.9, 19.3, 14.3; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3386, 2966, 1723, 1617, 1575, 1495, 1466, 1447, 1385, 1339, 1205, 1155, 1095, 1025; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>25</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 289.1911, found 289.1938.

#### 3) Hydrolysis of the ester group



Product 7 was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1 mL), and Boc<sub>2</sub>O (33 mg, 0.15 mmol) was added. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 2 h and concontrated *in vacuo*. The residue was dissolved in CH<sub>3</sub>OH (0.8 mL), following by addition of NaOH (0.4 mL, 1 M aqueous solution). The mixture was then heated under reflux for 4 h until the ester was fully hydrolyzed. After it was cooled down and concentrated under reduced pressure to remove CH<sub>3</sub>OH, the aqueous solution was acidified with HCl (2 M aqueous solution, to pH = 2). The acidic solution was then extracted with EtOAc (4 × 2 mL), dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residure was purified through a silica gen flash column (PE/acetone/AcOH = 3:1:0.02) to afford **8** (foam, 13.7 mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  7.87 – 7.75 (m, 2H), 7.58 – 7.52 (m, 1H), 7.51 – 7.42 (m, 2H), 5.99 (brs, 1H), 4.58 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.33 (t,

J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 3.23 (dd, J = 17.7, 10.0 Hz, 1H), 3.10 – 2.93 (m, 1H), 2.36 – 2.18 (m, 1H), 1.83 (dq, J = 12.8, 10.2 Hz, 1H), 1.45 (s, 9H), 1.09 (s, 3H), 0.80 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  176.3, 173.4, 156.5, 132.6, 131.1, 129.1, 128.5, 79.6, 79.5, 63.1, 40.9, 34.7, 28.3, 24.6, 23.2, 16.4; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3321, 2968, 2923, 2852, 1704, 1495, 1391, 1365, 1249, 1160, 1049, 1013, 917, 760, 730, 691; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> 383.1941, found 383.1920

## 4) The selective reduction of C=N bond



NaBH<sub>4</sub> (0.5 mmol) was added to the solution of **3na** (0.1 mmol) in MeOH (1 mL) at 0 °C. The mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred for 3 hours. After **3na** was consumed as indicated by TLC, the reaction was quenched with brine and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL  $\times$  3). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified through a silica gel flash column (PE: Acetone, from 10:1 to 5:1) to give product **9** as yellow oil (22.1mg, 60%), and product **10** as yellow solid (9.6 mg, 30%).

*Ethyl 2-((4-methoxyphenyl)amino)-3-(5-phenylpyrrolidin-2-yl)propanoate (9)*: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  7.45 – 7.37 (m, 2H), 7.36 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.26 – 7.19 (m, 1H), 6.82 – 6.69 (m, 2H), 6.70 – 6.46 (m, 2H), 4.28 – 4.13 (m, 3H), 4.12 – 4.03 (m, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.47 – 3.36 (m, 1H), 2.19 – 2.08 (m, 1H), 2.08 – 1.91 (m, 3H), 1.77 – 1.65 (m, 1H), 1.64 – 1.52 (m, 1H), 1.24 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  174.5, 152.7, 144.9, 141.0, 128.2, 126.8, 126.6, 115.1, 114.8, 62.6, 61.0, 57.4, 56.3, 55.7, 40.3, 33.7, 31.7, 14.2; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3361, 2932, 1728, 1510, 1463, 1235, 1179, 1028, 909, 819, 756, 730, 699; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 369.2173, found 369.2172.

2-((4-methoxyphenyl)amino)-5-phenylhexahydro-3H-pyrrolizin-3-one (10): m.p. 135–138 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  7.38 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.28 – 7.21 (m, 3H), 6.88 – 6.70 (m, 2H), 6.72 – 6.59 (m, 2H), 5.02 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.41 (brs, 1H), 4.30 (dd, *J* = 10.9, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.11 (td, *J* = 8.8, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.19 – 2.96 (m, 1H), 2.81 – 2.48 (m, 1H), 2.38 – 2.14 (m, 1H), 2.18 – 1.94 (m, 1H), 1.77 – 1.61 (m, 1H), 1.60 – 1.47 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  173.2, 152.6, 141.9, 141.6, 128.6, 127.1, 125.6, 114.9, 114.8, 59.3, 58.6, 57.7, 55.8, 40.0, 36.6, 33.1; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3359, 3334, 2927,1682, 1511, 1416, 1400, 1292, 1228, 1167, 1027, 827, 698; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 323.1754, found 323.1729

The <u>relative configuration</u> of compound 10 was determined by single crystal X-ray diffraction (Figure S4), and the relative configuration of 9 was assigned to be opposite on the benzylic possition. It was hypothized that compound 9 doesn't undergo similar lactamization due to the steric hindrance (the phenyl

and N-PMP group would otherwise on the same side of the bicyclic ring).



Figure S4 The crystal struction of compound 10

Bond precision:	C-C = 0.0	31 A Wavelength=1.54				
Cell:	a=13.7759(1) alpha=90	b=9.0774(1) beta=90	c=26.8337(2) gamma=90			
Temperature:	293 K Calculated		Reported			
Volume	3355.54(5)		3355.54(5)			
Space group	P c a 21		P c a 21			
Hall group	P 2c -2ac		P 2c -2ac			
Moiety formula	C20 H22 N2 O2		C20 H22 N2 O2			
Sum formula	C20 H22 N2 O2		C20 H22 N2 O2			
Mr	322.40		322.39			
Dx,g cm-3	1.276		1.276			
Ζ	8		8			
Mu (mm-1)	0.660		0.660			
F000	1376.0		1376.0			
F000'	1379.95					
h, k, 1max	1/,11,33		1/,11,33			
Nrei Main March	6850[ 3505]		6657			
Tmin, Tmax						
Correction method	- Not given					
COTTeccion mechoc	I- NOU GIVEN					
Data completeness	= 1.90/0.97	Theta(max) =	Theta(max) = 74.183			
R(reflections) = 0	0.0304( 6505)	wR2(reflect	wR2(reflections)=0.0936( 6657)			
S = 0.850		Npar= 609				

#### 5) Reduction of the ester group



2-((4-methoxyphenyl)amino)-3-(5-phenyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrrol-2-yl)propan-1-ol (11): To a flamedried reaction tube charged with a stir bar was added LiAlH<sub>4</sub> (0.6 mmol). After the tube was evacuated and backfilled with N<sub>2</sub> three times, freshly distilled THF (1 mL) was added through a syringe. Next, the tube was cooled and stirred in an ice-water bath, followed by the addition of **3na** (isomer 2, 0.1 mmol, dissolved in 1 mL THF). The mixture was kept at the same temperature and stirred for 1 hour. After **3na** was consumed as indicated by TLC, the reaction was quenched with brine and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 mL × 3). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified through a silica gel flash column (PE/Acetone = 2:1) to give the product **11** as yellow oil (27.0 mg, 83%); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  7.87 – 7.71 (m, 2H), 7.53 – 7.35 (m, 3H), 6.86 – 6.74 (m, 2H), 6.70 – 6.58 (m, 2H), 5.14 (br, 1H), 4.37 – 4.19 (m, 1H), 3.88 – 3.82 (m, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.72 – 3.62 (m, 1H), 3.15 – 3.02 (m, 1H), 2.97 – 2.78 (m, 1H), 2.38 – 2.27 (m, 1H), 2.27 – 2.17 (m, 1H), 1.76 – 1.57 (m, 1H), 1.57 – 1.42 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  172.9, 151.7, 141.5, 133.6, 130.9, 128.6, 127.8, 115.0, 114.6, 67.2, 65.0, 55.8, 53.2, 39.8, 35.0, 29.6; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3310, 2904, 1611, 1508, 1447, 1237, 1178, 1105, 1036, 814, 760, 733, 690; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>25</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 325.1911, found 325.1884.

#### 6) Pd-catalysed hydrogenation



*3-((4-Methoxyphenyl)amino)-4,4-dimethyl-5-(3-phenylpropyl)pyrrolidin-2-one* (12): To a flame-dried reaction tube charged with a stir bar were added Pd/C (10%, 5.1 mg, 0.049 mmol). The tube was sealed with a septum, evacuated, and backfilled with N<sub>2</sub> three times. After **3ea** (isomer 1, 0.1 mmol, dissolved in 2 mL CH<sub>3</sub>OH) was added, H<sub>2</sub> gas was bubbled through the reaction mixture for 10 seconds and the reaction was stirred vigorously under H<sub>2</sub> atmosphere (balloon) for 12 hours. Upon consumption of starting material (TLC) the reaction mixture was filtered through Celite and washed with CH<sub>3</sub>OH. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* and purified through a silica gel flash column (PE/Acetone = 1:1) to give product **12** as yellow oil (31.0 mg, 88%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  7.34 – 7.24 (m, 2H), 7.23 – 7.14 (m, 3H), 6.81 (s, 1H), 6.81 – 6.71 (m, 2H), 6.71 – 6.61 (m, 2H), 3.90 (br, 1H), 3.79 (s, 1H), 3.74
(s, 3H), 3.26 (dd, J = 9.9, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 2.73 – 2.52 (m, 2H), 1.87 – 1.74 (m, 1H), 1.74 – 1.61 (m, 1H), 1.62 – 1.49 (m, 1H), 1.46 – 1.25 (m, 1H), 1.22 (s, 3H), 0.81 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (100 MHz, *Chloroform-d*)  $\delta$  176.2, 152.4, 142.5, 141.5, 128.4, 128.3, 125.9, 114.8, 114.7, 66.6, 60.3, 55.7, 45.3, 35.7, 28.9, 28.6, 24.6, 15.3; IR v<sub>max</sub> (neat) cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3192, 2981, 1727, 1694, 1641, 1495, 1367, 1321, 1225, 1192, 1037, 1008, 944, 737, 694; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C<sub>22H28N2O2Na<sup>+</sup> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 375.2043, found 375.2041.</sub>

## VII. References

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## VIII. Copies of NMR spectra for New Compounds



— -63.234

													_JL							
 O	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35	-40	-45	-50	-55	-60	-65	-70	-75	-80	-85	-90	-95	-1(





(	C	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35	-40	-45	-50	-55	-60	-65	-70	-75	-80	-85	-90	-95	-10





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1m (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)







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0 -5 -10 -15 -20 -25 -30 -35 -40 -45 -50 -55 -60 -65 -70 -75 -80 -85 -90 -95 -100





















**3ac**, isomer 1 (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 376 MHz)

-88 -90 -92 -94 -96 -98 -100 -102 -104 -106 -108 -110 -112 -114 -116 -118 -120 -122 -124 -126 -128 -130 -132 -134 -136 -138 -140 -142







**3ac**, isomer 2 (more polar) (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 376 MHz)

-90 -92 -94 -96 -98 -100 -102 -104 -106 -108 -110 -112 -114 -116 -118 -120 -122 -124 -126 -128 -130 -132 -134 -136 -138 -140 -142 -14









6,972 6,972 6,569 6,569 6,569 4,170 4,170 4,063 4,063 4,063 4,063 4,063 4,063 4,073 4,073 4,073 4,073 4,073 4,073 4,073 4,073 4,073 2,470 2,470 2,470 2,470 2,2454 2,470 2,2454 2,22454 2,22454 2,22454 2,22454 2,22454 2,22456 2,2454 2,22456 2,2454 2,224 2,224 2,224 2,224 2,224 2,2224 2,224 2,224 2,2224 2,2224 2,2224 2,2224 2,2224 2,2224 2,2224 2,2224 2,2224 2,224 2,22242,





**3af**, isomer 1 (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)


















































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