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Synthesis of γ -Alkylidene Lactones via Molecular Stitching of **Carboxylic Acids and Olefins**

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1. General Information

Solvents, Reagents and Techniques

All reactions were conducted in oven-dried glassware (100 °C). Reaction temperatures refer to the temperature of the aluminum-block or oil bath surrounding the reaction vessel. Commercially available chemicals were obtained from ABCR, Acros Organics, BLD-pharm, Alfa Aesar, Deutero, Eurisotop, Fluorochem, Sigma Aldrich, or TCI Europe and used as received. HFIP was purchased from Fluorochem and used as received. Solvents used for column chromatography were distilled prior to use.

Chromatography

Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on silica gel ALUGRAM Xtra SIL G/UV254 plates (Macherey-Nagel) or aluminum oxide 150 F254, neutral plates (Merck). Compounds were visualized by ultraviolet light (254 nm or 366 nm) or by staining with KMnO₄ (1 g KMnO₄, 6 g K₂CO₃ and 0.1 g KOH in 100 mL of H₂O) or bromocresol green (40 mg bromocresol green in 100 mL EtOH; addition of $0.1M_{(aq.)}$ NaOH until the blue color appears in the solution) and developed with a heat gun if necessary. Flash chromatography was performed on silica gel 60M (0.04-0.063 mm) or aluminum oxide (aluminum oxide 90, neutral, activity level 1) with a positive nitrogen overpressure.

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Spectroscopy

¹H, ¹³C, and ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded at 25 °C on a Bruker AvanceNeo 500 or a Bruker Avance 600 device. Chemical shifts (δ) are given relative to tetramethylsilane (TMS) and using the residual solvent peaks for calibration. ¹⁹F-NMR spectra are externally referenced with CCl₃F. Chemical shifts are reported with two decimal numbers (¹H) or one decimal number (¹³C, ¹⁹F). Data is reported in the following order: Chemical shift (multiplicity [s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, quint = quintet, hept = septet, m = multiplet, br = broad signal], coupling constant (*J*, Hz) and integration). All NMR-spectra were processed using MestReNova.

Infrared spectroscopy (IR)

IR-spectroscopy was performed on a Perkin Elmer ATR spectrometer. Samples were measured neat. The wave numbers (v) of recorded IR-signals are reported in cm^{-1} .

Mass Spectrometry (MS)

High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on a Jeol AccuTOF (EI) or a ThermoFisher Orbitrap (ESI) device.

2. Preparation of Ligands

General Procedure A:

DMAP (2.0 equiv.) and EDC·HCl (1.5 equiv.) were dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (3 mL/mmol) and stirred at room temperature until all the solids were dissolved. After cooling to 0 °C, the corresponding acid (1.0 equiv.) was added, followed by the corresponding sulfonamide (1.1 equiv.) and the mixture was stirred at rt for 21 h. The aqueous phase was acidified with 2M HCl to reach a pH value of 1 and extracted with EtOAc (3 × 60 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified via flash column chromatography using CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/HCO₂H (97:2.5:0.5)

2-acetamido-N-((2,4,6-triethylphenyl)sulfonyl)acetamide



Following the general procedure **A** using DMAP (623 mg, 5.12 mmol, 2.0 equiv.), EDC·HCl (737 mg, 3.84 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), N-Ac-Gly-OH (300 mg, 2.56 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), and 2,4,6-triethylbenzenesulfonamide (680 mg, 2.82 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) the target compound **L9** was obtained as a colorless solid (457 mg, 1.34 mmol, 52 %).

¹**H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d₆):** $\delta = 12.27$ (s, 1H), 8.05 (t, J = 5.9 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (s, 2H), 3.75 (d, J = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 3.04 (q, J = 7.4 Hz, 4H), 2.60 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.79 (s, 3H), 1.21 – 1.17 (m, 9H) ppm.

¹³**C-NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-d₆):** $\delta = 169.6$, 168.5, 148.8, 145.7, 132.9, 129.1, 41.8, 27.6, 27.0, 22.2, 16.6, 14.8 ppm.

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₁₆H₂₄N₂O₄SNa 363.1349, Found 363.1344.

IR (cm⁻¹): 3331, 2965, 1722, 1611, 1561, 1345, 1148.

2-acetamido-N-((2,4,6-triisopropylphenyl)sulfonyl)acetamide



Following the general procedure **A** using DMAP (853 mg, 6.99 mmol, 2.0 equiv.), EDC·HCl (1.00 g, 5.24 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), N-Ac-Gly-OH (409 mg, 3.49 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), and 2,4,6-triisopropylbenzenesulfonamide (1.00 g, 3.84 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) the target compound **L10** was obtained as a colorless solid (750 mg, 1.96 mmol, 62 %).

¹**H-NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d₆):** $\delta = 12.35$ (s, 1H), 8.08 (t, J = 5.8 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (s, 2H), 4.20 (hept, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 3.75 (d, J = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 2.91 (hept, J = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 1.79 (s, 3H), 1.27 – 1.11 (m, 18H) ppm.

¹³**C-NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-d₆):** δ = 169.6, 168.6, 153.0, 150.3, 123.7, 41.8, 33.4, 28.4, 24.4, 23.4, 22.3 ppm.

HRMS (**ESIpos**) m/z: Calcd for C₁₉H₃₁N₂O₄S 383.1999, Found 383.1991.

IR (**cm**⁻¹): 3303, 2958, 1703, 1627, 1493, 1374, 1160.

(S)-2-acetamido-3-methyl-N-((2,4,6-triisopropylphenyl)sulfonyl)butanamide



Following the general procedure **A** using DMAP (768 mg, 6.28 mmol, 2.0 equiv.), EDC·HCl (903 mg, 4.71 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), N-Ac-Val-OH (500 mg, 3.14 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), and 2,4,6-triisopropylbenzenesulfonamide (979 mg, 3.46 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) the target compound L was obtained as a colorless solid (770 mg, 1.81 mmol, 58 %).

¹**H-NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-***d*₆): $\delta = 12.3$ (s, 1H), 7.91 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (s, 2H), 4.27 (dd, J = 8.8, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 4.18 (hept, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.91 (hept, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.03 – 1.95 (m, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 1.81 (s, 3H), 1.22 – 1.19 (m, 12H), 1.16 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 6H), 0.84 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 0.77 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H) ppm.

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO- *d*₆): δ = 171.2, 169.4, 153.1, 150.5, 132.4, 123.6, 57.3, 33.4, 30.2, 28.5, 24.7, 24.1, 23.4, 23.3, 22.3, 19.1, 17.5 ppm.

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₂₂H₃₇N₂O₄S 425.2468 Found 425.2462.

IR (cm⁻¹): 3383, 3006, 1725, 1648, 1457, 1275, 1032.

(S)-2-acetamido-4-methyl-N-((2,4,6-triisopropylphenyl)sulfonyl)pentanamide



Following the general procedure **A** using DMAP (705 mg, 5.77 mmol, 2.0 equiv.), EDC·HCl (830 mg, 4.33 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), N-Ac-Leu-OH (500 mg, 2.89 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), and 2,4,6-triisopropylbenzenesulfonamide (900 mg, 3.18 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) the target compound **L12** was obtained as a colorless solid (710 mg, 1.62 mmol, 56 %).

¹**H-NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-***d*₆): δ = 12.38 (s, 1H), 8.01 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (s, 2H), 4.38 – 4.41 (m, 1H), 4.18 (hept, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 2.91 (hept, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 1.78 (s, 3H), 1.62 – 1.53 (m, 1H), 1.40 – 1.35 (m, 2H), 1.22 – 1.15 (m, 18H), 0.86 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 0.83 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H) ppm.

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO- *d*₆): δ = 172.2, 169.2, 153.1, 150.6, 132.3, 123.7, 50.9, 33.4, 28.5, 24.5, 24.3, 24.3, 23.4, 23.3, 23.1, 22.3, 20.9 ppm.

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₂₃H₃₉N₂O₄S 439.2625, Found 439.2619. **IR (cm⁻¹):** 3323, 2969, 1704, 1467, 1275, 1144, 1034.

(S)-2-acetamido-3-phenyl-N-((2,4,6-triisopropylphenyl)sulfonyl)propanamide



Following the general procedure **A** using DMAP (590 mg, 4.83 mmol, 2.0 equiv.), EDC·HCl (694 mg, 3.62 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), N-Ac-Phe-OH (500 mg, 2.41 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), and 2,4,6-triisopropylbenzenesulfonamide (750 mg, 2.65 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) the target compound **L14** was obtained as a colorless solid (475 mg, 1.00 mmol, 42 %).

¹**H-NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-***d*₆**):** $\delta = 12.57$ (s, 1H), 8.14 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.28 – 7.24 (m, 6H), 7.19 (m, 1H), 4.53 (m, 1H), 4.23 (hept, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 2.99 (dd, J = 13.6, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 2.93 (hept, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.64 (dd, J = 13.6, 11.0 Hz, 1H), 1.68 (s, 3H), 1.23 – 1.18 (m, 18H) ppm.

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO- *d*₆): δ = 171.1, 169.2, 153.2, 150.6, 137.3, 132.2, 129.1, 128.1, 126.5, 123.8, 54.0, 36.8, 33.4, 28.5, 24.5, 24.3, 23.4, 23.3, 22.3 ppm.

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₂₆H₃₆N₂O₄SNa 495.2288, Found 495.2287.

IR (cm⁻¹): 3344, 2956, 1697, 1658, 1453, 1363, 1180.

2-acetamido-N-((2,3,5,6-tetramethylphenyl)sulfonyl)acetamide



Following the general procedure A using DMAP (313 mg, 2.56 mmol, 2.0 equiv.), EDC·HCl (368 mg, 1.92 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), N-Ac-Gly-OH (150 mg, 1.28 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), and 2,3,5,6-tetramethylbenzenesulfonamide (301 mg, 1.41 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) the target compound L17 was obtained as a colorless solid (92 mg, 0.3 mmol, 23 %).

¹**H** NMR (600 MHz, Methanol-*d*₄) δ = 7.23 (s, 1H), 3.85 (s, 2H), 2.58 (s, 6H), 2.28 (s, 6H), 1.93 (s, 3H) ppm.

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, Methanol-*d*₄) δ = 173.8, 170.1, 137.4, 137.3, 137.2, 128.8, 43.4, 22.2, 21.0, 17.8 ppm.

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₁₄H₂₁N₂O₄S 313.1216 Found 313.1209.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2958, 1730, 1635, 1525, 1448, 1275, 1033.

2-acetamido-N-((2,4,6-triisopropylphenyl)sulfonyl)propanamide



Following the general procedure **A** using DMAP (556 mg, 4.55 mmol, 2.0 equiv.), EDC·HCl (658 mg, 3.43 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), N-Ac-Ala-OH (300 mg, 2.29 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), and 2,4,6-triisopropylbenzenesulfonamide (713 mg, 2.52 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) the target compound **L18** was obtained as a colorless solid (570 mg, 1.44 mmol, 63 %).

¹H-NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 12.29 (s, 1H), 8.10 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (s, 2H),
4.28 (p, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.19 (hept, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.91 (hept, *J* = 7.5, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 1.78 (s, 3H), 1.27 - 1.13 (m, 18H), 1.18 (s, 3H) ppm.

¹**H-NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-***d*₆): δ = 172.1, 169.0, 153.1, 150.5, 123.7, 48.2, 33.4, 28.5, 24.5, 24.3, 23.4, 22.3, 17.5 ppm.

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₂₀H₃₃N₂O₄S 397.2155, Found 397.2149.

IR (cm⁻¹): 3408, 3200, 3957, 1730, 1635, 1448, 1365, 1144.

2-acetamido-N-(mesitylsulfonyl)propanamide



Following the general procedure **A** using DMAP (932 mg, 7.63 mmol, 2.0 equiv.), EDC·HCl (1.1 g, 5.72 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), N-Ac-Ala-OH (500 mg, 3.81 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), and 2,4,6-trimethylbenzenesulfonamide (836 mg, 4.19 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) the target compound **L19** was obtained as a colorless solid (500 mg, 1.60 mmol, 42 %).

¹**H NMR** (**600 MHz**, **DMSO-***d*₆): δ 12.18 (s, 1H), 7.03 (s, 2H), 4.22 (p, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 2.59 (s, 6H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 1.77 (s, 3H), 1.14 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm.

¹³C-NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-d₆): $\delta = 172.1$, 169.1, 142.8, 139.6, 133.1, 131.5, 48.3, 22.2, 22.0, 20.5, 17.1 ppm.

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₁₄H₂₁N₂O₄S 313.1216, Found 313.1208.

IR (cm⁻¹): 3339, 2982, 1708, 1645, 1542, 1172, 1145.

3-acetamido-N-(mesitylsulfonyl)propenamide



Following the general procedure **A** using DMAP (969 mg, 7.93 mmol, 2.0 equiv.), EDC·HCl (1.14 g, 5.95 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), N-Ac-β-Ala-OH (520 mg, 3.97 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), and 2,4,6-triisopropylbenzenesulfonamide (1.24 g, 4.36 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) the target compound **L20** was obtained as a colorless solid (1.10 g, 2.77 mmol, 70 %).

¹**H-NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-***d*₆): δ = 12.2 (s, 1H), 7.9 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 4.2 (p, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.1 (td, *J* = 6.8, 5.6 Hz, 2H), 2.9 (p, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.4 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.7 (s, 3H), 1.2 (dd, *J* = 11.3, 6.8 Hz, 18H) ppm.

¹³**C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-***d*₆): δ =170.2, 169.3, 153.0, 150.3, 132.4, 123.7, 35.3, 33.9, 33.4, 28.4, 24.3, 23.4, 22.4 ppm.

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₂₀H₃₂N₂O₄SNa 419.1975, Found 419.1970.

IR (cm⁻¹): 3307, 2964, 1697, 1649, 1569, 1262, 1050.

3. Optimization of the Reaction Conditions

General Procedure for the Optimization Reactions:

An oven dried 10 mL Schlenk tube was charged with $Pd(OAc)_2$, ligand, base, silver salt, 2,2dimethylbutanoic acid (0.1 mmol), styrene, and HFIP. The Schlenk tube was transferred to a preheated aluminum block and the reaction mixture was stirred while heating at the indicated temperature. After the indicated time, the reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature. Formic acid (0.1 mL) was added to the reaction mixture and it was filtered over a pad of Celite® using CH₂Cl₂ (30 mL) to complete the elution. All volatiles were removed under reduced pressure followed by the addition of CH₂Br₂ (17.4 mg, 0.100 mmol) as internal standard. CDCl₃ (0.8 mL) was used to prepare a sample for NMR analysis. All yields during the optimization studies were determined by ¹H-NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture using CH₂Br₂ as internal standard.



Scheme S1: Preliminary screening of different ligand classes with Ag₂CO₃



Base	NMR-Yield (%)	Entry	Base	NMR-Yield (%)
Na ₂ HPO ₄ ·7H ₂ O	< 3	12.	K ₂ CO ₃ (0.75 equiv.)	26
Na ₂ HPO ₄	7	13.	K ₂ CO ₃ (1.0 equiv.)	24
Na ₂ CO ₃	16	14.	KHCO ₃ (1.0 equiv.)	19
NaHCO ₃ (1.0 equiv	v.) 16	15.	KO ^t Bu (0.75 equiv.)	24
NaOAc·3H₂O (1.0 eq	luiv.) 16	16.	KO ^t Bu (1.0 equiv.)	23
NaOAc (1.0 equiv	.) 11	17.	KO ^t Bu (1.5 equiv.)	26
NaO ^t Bu (1.0 equiv	v.) 16	18.	KO ^t Bu (2.0 equiv.)	17
NaHFIP (0.75 equ	iv.) 19	19.	KOAc (1.0 equiv.)	15
NaHFIP (1.0 equiv	r.) 23	20.	KHFIP (1.0 equiv.)	15
NaHFIP (1.5 equiv	r.) 17	21.	Cs_2CO_3	17
K ₂ CO ₃	27	22.	CsOAc	10
	Base I Na2HPO4:7H2O Na2HPO4 Na2CO3 Na4CO3 (1.0 equiv NaOAc:3H2O (1.0 equiv NaOAc (1.0 equiv NaOAc (1.0 equiv NaHFIP (0.75 equiv NaHFIP (1.0 equiv NaHFIP (1.5 equiv NaHFIP (1.5 equiv K2CO3	Base NMR-VU(K) Na2HPO4·7H2O <3	Base NMR-Yield (%) Entry Na2HPO4·7H2O < 3	Base NMR-Yield (%) Entry Base $Na_2HPO_4:7H_2O$ < 3

Scheme S2: Screening of different bases with L16



Scheme S3: Screening of different Pd-sources with L16

V ^{CO} 2 ^H		Pd(OAc) ₂ (10 mol%) L16 (10 mol%)	
Et β 1b (0.1 mmol) 2a (1.0 equiv.) (2 equ	iv.) HFIP (x mL)	K ₂ CO ₃ (0.5 equiv.) AgOAc (2 equiv.) + Co-solvent (y mL), 60 °C	EtPh
Entry	x (mL)	Co-solvent (y mL)	NMR-Yield (%)
1.	1.0	None	27
2.	0.95	TFE (0.05)	19
3.	0.95	CH ₃ CN (0.05)	14
4.	0.95	THF(0.05)	22
5.	0.95	<i>tert</i> -Amyl alcohol (0.05)	21
6.	0.95	DCE (0.05)	23
7.	0.95	Toluene (0.05)	11
8.	0.95	DMF(0.05)	21
9.	0.95	DMSO (0.05)	18
10.	0.95	1,4-Dioxane (0.05)	22

Scheme S4: Screening of co-solvents with L16



Scheme S5: Screening of different ligand classes with AgOAc



Scheme S6: Screening of amino acid and N-acylsulfonamide derivatives with AgOAc



Scheme S7: Screening of time and temperature with L8 and L10



Scheme S8: Screening of solvent amount with L10

Note: The experiments shown in **Scheme S8** were performed using a stock solution of **1b**, Pd(OAc)₂, and **L10** in HFIP. As the stock solution slightly improved the yield (Entry 1, **Scheme S8**), the following experiments (scheme **S9** - **S15**) have been performed using stock solution.

CO ₂ H	~	Pd(0 L	OAc) ₂ (10 mol%) 10 (10 mol%)		
Et β H + Ph β (0.1 mmol) 2a (1.0 equiv.) (2 equiv.)		K ₂ CO ₃ (0.5 equiv.) AgOAc (2 equiv.) HFIP (1.0 mL), T °C , t h		Et O 3b Ph	
	Entry	T (°C)	t (h)	NMR-Yield (%)	
	1.	70	18	45	
	2.	70	21	49	
	3.	70	24	44	
	4.	70	30	41	
	5.	80	15	31	
	6.	80	18	35	

Scheme S9: Re-screening of temperature and time with L10 using a stock solution



Scheme S10: Screening of equivalents of styrene with L10







Scheme S12: Screening of equivalents of AgOAc with L10

V ^{CO₂H}	Pd	Pd(OAc) ₂ (10 mol%) L10 (x mol%)		
Et $β$ + Ph β 1b (0.1 mmol) 2a (1.0 equiv.) (2.5 equiv.)	Ph K ₂ K ₂ At HFIP (*	K₂CO₃ (0.5 equiv.) AgOAc (2 equiv.) HFIP (1.0 mL), 70 °C , 21 h		
En	try x (m	ol%) NM	R-Yield (%)	
1		5	35	
2	. 1	0	58	
3	· 1	5	53	
4	. 2	0	48	

Scheme S13: Screening of ligand (L10) loading



Scheme S14: Screening of temperature and time with L10



Scheme S15: Re-evaluation of the ligand structure under the newly optimized conditions

VCO ₂ H	~	Pd(OAc) ₂ (10 mo L10 (10 mol%), K ₂ CO ₃ ((1%) 0.5 equiv.)	`o
Et β 1b (0.1 mmol) (1.0 equiv.)	✓ Ph 2a (2.5 equiv.)	Additive (20 mol AgOAc (2 equiv HFIP (1.0 mL), 70 °C	%) Et) , 21 h 31	Ph
	Entry	Additive	NMR-Yield	
	1.	no additive	58%	
	2.	CuO	53%	
	3.	CuCl ₂	40%	
	4.	CeCl ₃	43%	
	5.	FeCl ₃	33%	
	6.	MnO ₂	66%	
	7.	MnO ₂ (35 mol%)	66%	
	8.	MnO ₂ (50 mol%)	63%	
	9.	KMnO ₄	56%	
	10.	Fe(NO ₃)·9H₂O	44%	

Scheme S16: Screening of additives with L10



Entry	Olefin	NMR-Yield ^a
1.	∕∕CO₂Et	$Et + CO_{2}Et + Et + CO_{2}Et + CO_{2}Et + CO_{2}Et$
2.	≪ SO ₂ Ph	$Et \xrightarrow{O} + Et \xrightarrow{O} SO_2Ph + SO_2Ph + 1b (40\%)$
3.		O Et O <i>n</i> Bu + 1b (> 65%)
4.		1b (> 95%)
5.	CO ₂ Et	1b (> 95%)

 $^{\rm a}{\rm Yields}$ were determined by $^{\rm 1}{\rm H}$ NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture using ${\rm CH_2Br_2}$ as an internal standard

Scheme S17: Screening of varios olefinic partner.



 $^a Yields$ and conversions were determined by $^1 H$ NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture using CH_2Br_2 as an internal standard

Scheme S18: Screening of α-non-quaternary acids.

4. Synthesis of Carboxylic Acids and Styrenes



Carboxylic acids were obtained from either commercially available sources or synthesized using literature protocol.^[1]

5. Scope Studies

General Procedure B: Carboxylic Acid Scope

An oven dried 10 mL Schlenk tube was charged with $Pd(OAc)_2$ (4.5 mg, 20 µmol, 10 mol%), L10 (7.6 mg, 20 µmol, 10 mol%), K₂CO₃ (13.8 mg, 0.100 mmol, 0.5 equiv.), AgOAc (66.8 mg, 0.400 mmol, 2 equiv.), MnO₂ (3.5 mg, 40 µmol, 20 mol%), styrene **2a** (58 µL, 0.500 mmol, 2.5 equiv.), carboxylic acid **1** (0.200 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), and HFIP (2.0 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 70 °C for 21 h in a preheated metal block. After the mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, formic acid (0.1 mL) was added to the reaction mixture and it was filtered over a pad of Celite® using CH₂Cl₂ (30 mL) to complete the elution. All volatiles were removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography.

General Procedure C: Olefin Scope

An oven dried 10 mL Schlenk tube was charged with $Pd(OAc)_2$ (4.5 mg, 20 µmol, 10 mol%), L10 (7.6 mg, 20 µmol, 10 mol%), K₂CO₃ (13.8 mg, 0.100 mmol, 0.5 equiv.), AgOAc (66.8 mg, 0.400 mmol, 2 equiv.), MnO₂ (3.5 mg, 40 µmol, 20 mol%), styrene **2** (0.500 mmol, 2.5 equiv.), carboxylic acid **1b** (23.2 mg, 0.200 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), and HFIP (2.0 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 70 °C for 21 h in a preheated metal block. The mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature and formic acid (0.1 mL) was added to the reaction mixture. The mixture was filtered over a pad of Celite® using CH₂Cl₂ (30 mL) to complete the elution. All volatiles were removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography.

(Z)-5-Benzylidene-3,3-dimethyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one



 $3a \longrightarrow Bn$ $3a' \longrightarrow Bn$ Following the general procedure **B**, using **1a** (20.4 mg) and pentane/Et₂O (98:2 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound was obtained as a colorless oil (18.2 mg, 0.899 mmol, 45%, **3a** : **3a**' = 11:1).

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 7.58 - 7.54$ (m, $2H^{3a} + 2H^{3a'}$), 7.34 - 7.31 (m, $2H^{3a} + 2H^{3a'}$), 7.22 - 7.19 (m, $1H^{3a} + 1H^{3a'}$), 5.55 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, $1H^{3a}$), 5.07 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, $1H^{3a'}$), 2.60 (d, J = 1.1 Hz, $2H^{3a'}$), 2.85 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, $2H^{3a}$), 1.36 (s, $6H^{3a}$), 1.28 (s, $6H^{3a'}$) ppm.

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 182.7 (3a^{\circ}), 180.3 (3a), 153.1 (3a^{\circ}), 146.2 (3a), 135.4 (3a^{\circ}), 134.1 (3a), 129.2 (3a^{\circ}), 128.8 (3a^{\circ}), 128.6 (3a), 128.5 (3a), 127.2 (3a^{\circ}), 126.9 (3a), 112.1 (3a^{\circ}), 105.4 (3a), 44.6 (3a^{\circ}), 42.4 (3a), 39.4 (3a), 34.8 (3a^{\circ}), 24.8 (3a), 24.5 (3a^{\circ}) ppm.$

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₁₃H₁₅O₂ 203.1066, Found 203.1064.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2971, 1794, 1689, 1449, 1275, 1260, 1059, 936, 750, 693.

(Z)-5-Benzylidene-3-ethyl-3-methyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one



^{3b} Following the general procedure **B**, using **1b** (23.2 mg) and pentane/Et₂O (98:2 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound was obtained as a colorless oil (28.9 mg, 0.134 mmol, 67%, **3b** : **3b**' = 10:1).

¹**H** NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 7.57 - 7.54$ (m, $2H^{3b} + 2H^{3b'}$), 7.34 - 7.31 (m, $2H^{3b} + 2H^{3b'}$), 7.22 - 7.18 (m, $1H^{3b} + 1H^{3b'}$), 5.54 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, $1H^{3b}$), 4.98 (t, J = 1.5 Hz, $1H^{3b'}$), 3.62 (d, J = 1.1 Hz, $1H^{3b'}$), 2.93 (dd, J = 16.2, 1.7 Hz, $1H^{3b}$), 2.76 (dd, J = 16.2, 1.8 Hz, $1H^{3b}$), 1.76 - 1.64 (m, $2H^{3b} + 2H^{3b'}$), 1.33 (s, $3H^{3b}$), 1.26 (s, $3H^{3b'}$), 0.97 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, $3H^{3b}$), 0.82 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, $3H^{3b'}$) ppm.

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 182.3 (3b[^]), 179.9 (3b), 153.7 (3b[^]), 146.5 (3b), 135.5 (3b[^]), 134.2 (3b), 129.2 (3b[^]), 128.8 (3b[^]), 127.1 (3b[^]), 128.6 (3b), 128.5 (3b), 126.8 (3b), 109.9 (3b[^]), 105.1 (3b), 49.6 (3b[^]), 43.4 (3b), 39.6 (3b), 34.8 (3b[^]), 31.1 (3b[^]), 30.9 (3b), 23.1 (3b[^]), 23.0 (3b), 9.4 (3b[^]), 8.9 (3b) ppm.

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₁₄H₁₇O₂ 217.1223, Found 217.1220.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2969, 1792, 1690, 1450, 1226, 1180 1071, 936, 750.

(Z)-5-Benzylidene-3-methyl-3-propyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one



^{3c} ^{3c'} Following the general procedure **B**, using **1c** (28.8 mg) and pentane/Et₂O (98:2 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound was obtained as a colorless oil (23.0 mg, 94.1 μ mol, 47%, **3c : 3c**' = 6:1).

¹**H-NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃):** $\delta = 7.58 - 7.52$ (m, $2H^{3c} + 2H^{3c'}$), 7.34 - 7.30 (m, $2H^{3c} + 2H^{3c'}$), 7.22 - 7.18 (m, $1H^{3c} + 1H^{3c'}$), 5.53 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, $1H^{3c}$), 5.00 (t, J = 1.4 Hz, $1H^{3c'}$), 3.62 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, $1H^{3c'}$), 2.94 (dd, J = 16.2, 1.7 Hz, $1H^{3c}$), 2.77 (dd, J = 16.2, 1.8 Hz, $1H^{3c}$), 1.68 - 1.60 (m, $2H^{3c} + 2H^{3c'}$), 1.44 - 1.35 (m, $1H^{3c} + 1H^{3c'}$), 1.28 - 1.21 (m, $3H^{3c} + 3H^{3c'}$), 1.33 (s, $3H^{3c}$), 0.91 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, $3H^{3c}$), 0.86 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, $1H^{3c'}$) ppm.

¹³C-NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 182.4 (3c[´]), 180.0 (3c), 153.4 (3c[´]), 146.5 (3c), 135.6 (3c[´]), 134.2 (3c), 129.2 (3c[´]), 128.8 (3c[´]), 128.6 (3c), 128.5 (3c), 127.1 (3c[´]), 126.8 (3c), 110.3 (3c[´]), 105.1 (3c), 49.0 (3c[´]), 42.9 (3c), 40.0 (3c), 37.9 (3c[´]), 37.8 (3c), 34.8 (3c[´]), 27.3 (3c[´]), 26.6 (3c), 23.6 (3c[´]), 23.5 (3c), 23.0 (3c), 22.9 (3c[´]), 13.9 (3c), 14.0 (3c[´]) ppm.

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₁₆H₂₁O₂ 245.1536, Found 245.1533.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2931, 1797, 1687, 1449, 1224, 1177, 1038, 929, 831.

$(Z) \hbox{-} 5 \hbox{-} Benzylidene \hbox{-} 3 \hbox{-} is obutyl \hbox{-} 3 \hbox{-} methyl dihydrofur an \hbox{-} 2(3H) \hbox{-} one$



^{3d} Following the general procedure **B**, using **1d** (28.8 mg) and pentane/Et₂O (97:3 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound **3d** was obtained as a colorless oil (24.2 mg, 99.0 μ mol, 50%).

¹**H-NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃):** $\delta = 7.58 - 7.55$ (m, 2H), 7.34 - 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.22 - 7.18 (m, 1H) 5.55 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 3.03 (dd, J = 16.2, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 2.76 (dd, J = 16.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 1.84 - 1.76 (m, 1H), 1.69 (dd, J = 14.3, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 1.58 (dd, J = 14.3, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 1.33 (s, 3H), 0.97 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 0.92 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H) ppm.

¹³**C-NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 180.4, 146.5, 134.2, 128.6, 128.5, 126.8, 105.1, 46.1, 42.6, 40.1, 25.1, 24.8, 24.5, 23.1 ppm.

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₁₆H₂₁O₂ 245.1536, Found 245.1533.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2959, 1789, 1687, 1449, 1227, 1176, 1088, 1039, 940, 831.

(Z)-5-Benzylidene-3-(cyclopentylmethyl)-3-methyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one



Following the general procedure **B**, using **1e** (34.1

mg) and pentane/Et₂O (98:2 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound was obtained as a colorless oil (25.2 mg, 93.2 μ mol, 47%, **3e : 3e**['] = 7:1).

¹**H-NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃):** $\delta = 7.57 - 7.55$ (m, $2H^{3e} + 2H^{3e'}$), 7.34 - 7.31 (m, $2H^{3e} + 2H^{3e'}$), 7.22 - 7.18 (m, $1H^{3e} + 1H^{3e'}$), 5.54 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, $1H^{3e}$), 5.05 (t, J = 1.4 Hz, $1H^{3e'}$), 3.62 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, $1H^{3e'}$), 3.02 (dd, J = 16.2, 1.7 Hz, $1H^{3e}$), 2.77 (dd, J = 16.2, 1.7 Hz, $1H^{3e}$), 1.89 - 1.76 (m, $4H^{3e} + 4H^{3e'}$), 1.72 (dd, J = 14.0, 7.5 Hz, $1H^{3e} + 1H^{3e'}$), 1.65 - 1.59 (m, $2H^{3e} + 2H^{3e'}$), 1.53 - 1.45 (m, $2H^{3e} + 2H^{3e'}$), 1.34 (s, 3H), 1.26 (s, $3H^{3e'}$), 1.17 - 1.07 (m, $2H^{3e} + 2H^{3e'}$) ppm.

¹³C-NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 182.8 (3e^{-}), 180.4 (3e), 152.9 (3e^{-}), 146.6 (3e), 135.6 (3e^{-}), 134.2 (3e), 129.1 (3e^{-}), 128.7 (3e^{-}), 127.1 (3e^{-}), 128.6 (3e), 128.5 (3e), 126.8 (3e), 110.1 (3e^{-}), 105.0 (3e), 49.0 (3e^{-}), 44.4 (3e^{-}), 43.9 (3e), 43.1 (3e), 40.3 (3e), 37.7 (3e^{-}), 36.9 (3e), 34.9 (3e^{-}), 34.6 (3e), 34.2 (3e^{-}), 33.5 (3e), 33.0 (3e^{-}), 25.4 (3e), 25.3 (3e^{-}), 24.9 (3e), 24.8 (3e^{-}), 24.4 (3e) ppm.$

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₁₈H₂₃O₂ 271.1692, Found 271.1689.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2927, 1794, 1691, 1450, 1227, 1053, 951, 755.

(Z)-5-Benzylidene-3-(cyclohexylmethyl)-3-methyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one



^{3f} Following the general procedure **B**, using **1f** (36.9 mg) and pentane/Et₂O (98:2 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound **3f** was obtained as a colorless oil (29.5 mg, 0.103 mmol, 52%).

¹**H-NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃):** $\delta = 7.58 - 7.53$ (m, 2H), 7.34 - 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.22 - 7.18 (m, 1H), 5.55 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 3.01 (dd, J = 16.1, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 2.74 (dd, J = 16.1, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 1.70 - 1.65 (m, 4H), 1.63 - 1.56 (m, 4H), 1.32 (s, 3H), 1.26 - 1.11 (m, 3H), 1.06 - 0.92 (m, 2H) ppm.

¹³**C-NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 180.5, 146.6, 134.2, 128.6, 128.5, 126.8, 105.1, 44.6, 42.5, 40.1, 35.1, 34.5, 33.8, 26.4, 26.3, 26.2, 24.5 ppm.

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C19H25O2 285.1849, Found 285.1845.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2917, 2846, 1790, 1682, 1447, 1223, 1147, 1068, 946, 844.

(Z)-5-Benzylidene-3-cyclohexyl-3-methyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one



^{3g} Following the general procedure **B**, using **1g** (34.1 mg) and pentane/Et₂O (98:2 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound **3g** was obtained as a colorless oil (37.8 mg, 0.139 mmol, 70%).

¹**H-NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃):** $\delta = 7.57 - 7.54$ (m, 2H), 7.34 - 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.21 - 7.16 (m, 1H), 5.51 (t, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 3.02 (dd, J = 16.7, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.63 (dd, J = 16.6, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 1.68 - 1.59 (m, 3H), 1.31 (s, 3H), 1.29 - 1.21 (m, 3H), 1.15 - 1.04 (m, 3H), 0.98 - 0.87 (m, 2H) ppm.

¹³**C-NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 180.0, 146.9, 134.3, 128.6, 128.4, 126.7, 104.5, 46.6, 44.1, 37.2, 28.1, 27.1, 26.3(4), 26.3(0), 26.4, 22.4 ppm.

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₁₈H₂₃O₂ 271.1692, Found 271.1690.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2926, 2853, 1731, 1450, 1275, 1260, 1182, 1062, 933, 755.

(Z)-5-Benzylidene-3-(4-fluorobutyl)-3-methyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one



^{3h} Following the general procedure **B**, using **1h** (32.4 mg) and pentane/Et₂O (98:2 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound **3h** was obtained as a colorless oil (29.2 mg, 0.111 mmol, 56%).

¹**H NMR** (**600 MHz**, **CDCl**₃): $\delta = 7.57 - 7.54$ (m, 2H), 7.34 - 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.22 - 7.19 (m, 1H), 5.55 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 4.50 - 4.46 (m, 1H), 4.42 - 4.39 (m, 1H), 2.95 (dd, J = 16.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.78 (dd, J = 16.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 1.75 - 1.66 (m, 4H), 1.61 - 1.54 (m, 1H), 1.43 - 1.37 (m, 1H), 1.35 (s, 3H) ppm.

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 179.7$, 146.2, 134.1, 128.6, 128.5, 126.9, 105.3, 83.7 (d, *J* = 165.0 Hz), 42.9, 39.9, 37.5, 30.6 (d, *J* = 19.8 Hz), 23.4, 20.5 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz) ppm.

¹⁹**F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃)**: δ = -219.25 (s) ppm.

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₁₆H₂₀O₂F 263.1441, Found 263.1438.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2937, 1835, 1750, 1630, 1487, 1238, 1147, 1052, 913, 815.

(Z)-5-benzylidene-3-(4-chlorobutyl)-3-methyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one



³ⁱ \searrow Ph Following the general procedure **B**, using **1i** (35.7 mg) and pentane/Et₂O (98:2 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound **3i** was obtained as a colorless oil (24.5 mg, 87.8 µmol, 44%).

¹**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃):** $\delta = 7.56 - 7.53$ (m, 2H), 7.34 - 7.31 (m, 2H), 7.22 - 7.19 (m, 1H), 5.55 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 3.55 - 3.52 (m, 2H), 2.96 (dd, J = 16.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.78 (dd, J = 16.1, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 1.82 - 1.77 (m, 2H), 1.68 - 1.61 (m, 3H), 1.46 - 1.38 (m, 1H), 1.35 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 179.7, 146.2, 134.0, 128.6, 128.5, 126.9, 105.4, 44.6, 42.9, 39.9, 37.0, 32.6, 23.4, 21.9 ppm.

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₁₆H₂₀O₂Cl³⁵ 279.1146, Found 279.1143.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2929, 1796, 1687, 1449, 1276, 1260, 1063, 944, 751.

(Z)-5-benzylidene-3-methyl-3-(4,4,4-trifluorobutyl)dihydrofuran-2(3H)-one



3j Ph Following the general procedure **B**, using 1j (39.6 mg) and pentane/Et₂O (99:1 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound 3j was obtained as a colorless oil (24.9 mg, 83.4 μ mol, 42%).

¹**H** NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 7.57 - 7.54$ (m, 2H), 7.35 - 7.31 (m, 2H), 7.23 - 7.20 (m, 1H), 5.57 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.94 (dd, J = 16.1, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.80 (dd, J = 16.1, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.15 - 2.06 (m, 2H), 1.74 - 1.71 (m, 3H), 1.56 - 1.51 (m, 1H) 1.36 (s, 3H).

¹³**C-NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 179.2, 145.8, 133.9, 128.6, 128.5, 127.0, 126.8 (q, *J* = 274.5 Hz), 105.7, 42.8, 40.0, 36.7, 33.9 (q, *J* = 28.9 Hz), 23.2, 17.4 ppm.

¹⁹**F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = -66.7 (s) ppm.

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₁₆H₁₈O₂F₃ 299.1253, Found 299.1248. **IR (cm⁻¹):** 2963, 1794, 1691, 1460, 1363, 1074, 935, 825.

(Z)-(5-benzylidene-3-methyl-2-oxotetrahydrofuran-3-yl)methyl acetate



^{3k} Following the general procedure **B**, using **1k** (32.0 mg) and pentane/Et₂O (85:15 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound **3k** was obtained as a colorless oil (17.9 mg, 68.7 μ mol, 35%).

¹**H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃):** $\delta = 7.57 - 7.53$ (m, 2H), 7.35 - 7.31 (m, 2H), 7.24 - 7.20 (m, 1H), 5.57 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 4.24 (d, J = 11.1 Hz, 1H), 4.19 (d, J = 11.1 Hz, 1H), 3.15 (dd, J = 16.3, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 2.79 (dd, J = 16.3, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 2.03 (s, 3H), 1.36 (s, 3H) ppm.

¹³**C-NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 177.4, 170.7, 145.5, 133.8, 128.6, 128.5, 127.0, 105.6, 67.2, 43.5, 37.4, 20.8, 20.6 ppm.

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C15H17O4 261.1121, Found 261.1116

IR (cm⁻¹): 2927, 1741, 1456, 1375, 1228, 1040, 752, 699.

(Z)-5-benzylidene-3-methyl-3-phenethyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one



Following the general procedure **B**, using **1**

(38.4 mg) and pentane/Et₂O (98:2 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound was obtained as a colorless oil (26.7 mg, 91.3 μ mol, 46%, **3l** : **3l**['] = 10:1).

¹**H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃):** $\delta = \delta$ 7.59 – 7.56 (m, 2H³¹ + 2H^{31'}), 7.36 – 7.31 (m, 2H³¹ + 2H^{31'}), 7.30 – 7.26 (m, 2H³¹ + 2H^{31'}), 7.24 – 7.17 (m, 4H³¹ + 4H^{31'}), 5.57 (t, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H³¹), 5.04 (t, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H^{31'}), 3.64 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 2H^{31'}), 3.01 (dd, *J* = 16.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H³¹), 2.83 (dd, *J* = 16.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H³¹), 2.80 – 2.72 (m, 1H³¹), 2.65 – 2.54 (m, 1H³¹ + 1H^{31'}), 2.47 – 2.39 (m, 1H^{31'}), 2.06 – 1.91 (m, 2H³¹ + 1H^{31'}), 1.87 – 1.81 (m, 1H^{31'}), 1.41 (s, 3H³¹), 1.32 (s, 3H^{31'}) ppm.

¹³**C-NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃):** $\delta = 181.9 (31^{\circ}), 179.5(31), 153.9 (31^{\circ}), 146.2 (31), 141.2 (31^{\circ}), 141.0 (31), 135.4 (31^{\circ}), 134.0 (31), 129.2 (31^{\circ}), 128.8 (31^{\circ}), 128.7 (31), 128.6 (31), 128.5 (31), 128.4 (31), 127.2 (31^{\circ}), 126.9 (31), 126.4 (31), 126.2 (31^{\circ}), 110.0 (31^{\circ}), 105.4 (31), 49.0 (31^{\circ}), 43.0 (31), 40.1 (31), 39.9 (31), 34.9 (31^{\circ}), 31.5 (31^{\circ}), 31.0 (31), 29.8 (31^{\circ}), 23.6 (31^{\circ}), 23.4 (31) ppm.$

HRMS (EI) m/z: Calcd for C₂₀H₂₀O₂ 292.1463, Found 292.1463.

IR (cm⁻¹): 3025, 1794, 1689, 1494, 1453, 1275, 1260, 1055, 940, 750.

(Z)-5-benzylidene-3-(4-fluorophenethyl)-3-methyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one



3m Ph 3m' Ph Following the general procedure **B**, using **1m** (42.0 mg) and pentane/Et₂O (98:2 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound was obtained as a colorless oil (37.5 mg, 0.120 mmol, 60%, **3m : 3m**' = 20:1).

¹**H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃):** $\delta = 7.58 - 7.55$ (m, $2H^{3m} + 2H^{3m'}$), 7.36 - 7.31 (m, $2H^{3m} + 2H^{3m'}$), 7.24 - 7.19 (m, $1H^{3m} + 1H^{3m'}$), 7.15 - 7.10 (m, $2H^{3m} + 2H^{3m'}$), 6.99 - 6.94 (m, $2H^{3m} + 2H^{3m'}$), 5.57 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, $1H^{3m}$), 5.02 (t, J = 1.5 Hz, $1H^{3m'}$), 3.63 (d, J = 1.3 Hz, $1H^{3m'}$), 3.00 (dd, J = 16.2, 1.7 Hz, $1H^{3m}$), 2.83 (dd, J = 16.2, 1.7 Hz, $1H^{3m}$), 2.77 - 2.69 (m, $1H^{3m} + 1H^{3m'}$), 2.61 - 2.53 (m, $1H^{3m} + 1H^{3m'}$), 1.97 - 1.91 (m, $2H^{3m} + 2H^{3m'}$), 1.40 (s, $3H^{3m}$), 1.31 (s, $3H^{3m'}$) ppm.

¹³C-NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 181.8 (3m^{\circ}), 179.4 (3m), 161.6 (d, <math>J = 244.1 \text{ Hz}, 3m), 161.4 (d, <math>J = 244.1 \text{ Hz}, 3m^{\circ}), 154.0 (3m^{\circ}), 146.1 (3m), 136.8 (d, <math>J = 26.2 \text{ Hz}, 3m^{\circ}), 136.7 (d, J = 26.2 \text{ Hz}, 3m), 135.3 (3m^{\circ}), 134.0 (3m), 129.8 (d, <math>J = 7.8 \text{ Hz}, 3m), 129.2 (3m^{\circ}), 128.8 (3m^{\circ}), 128.6 (3m), 128.5 (3m), 127.3 (3m^{\circ}), 126.9 (3m), 115.5 (d, <math>J = 21.2 \text{ Hz}, 3m), 115.3 (d, J = 21.2 \text{ Hz}, 3m^{\circ}), 109.8 (3m^{\circ}), 105.5 (3m), 48.9 (3m^{\circ}), 43.0 (3m), 40.1 (3m), 40.0 (3m), 39.9 (3m^{\circ}), 34.9 (3m^{\circ}), 30.7 (3m^{\circ}), 30.2 (3m), 23.7 (3m^{\circ}), 23.5 (3m) ppm.$

¹⁹**F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = -117.5 (s, 3k), -117.7 (s, 3k') ppm.

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₁₂H₂₀O₂F 311.1441, Found 313.1437.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2924, 1795, 1690, 1509, 1275, 1260, 1220, 1056, 941, 825, 750.

(Z)-3-benzyl-5-benzylidene-3-methyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one



³ⁿ Following the general procedure **B**, using **1n** (35.6 mg) and pentane/Et₂O (98:2 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound **3n** was obtained as a colorless oil (22.5 mg, 80.8 μ mol, 40%).

¹**H-NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃):** $\delta = 7.49 - 7.47$ (m, 2H), 7.32 - 7.27 (m, 4H), 7.26 - 7.23 (m, 1H), 7.20 - 7.17 (m, 3H), 5.44 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 3.10 (d, J = 13.7 Hz, 1H), 3.03 (dd, J = 16.0, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.83 (d, J = 13.7 Hz, 1H), 2.61 (dd, J = 16.0, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 1.37 (s, 3H) ppm.

¹³C-NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 179.5$, 146.1, 136.1, 134.0, 130.3, 128.7, 128.5, 127.4, 126.8, 105.3, 44.5, 43.0, 38.8, 23.9 ppm.

HRMS (EI) m/z: Calcd for C₁₉H₁₈O₂ 278.1306, Found 278.1305.

IR (cm⁻¹): 3026, 1794, 1687, 1495, 1450,1225, 1180, 1046, 955, 753.

(Z)-methyl 4-((5-benzylidene-3-methyl-2-oxotetrahydrofuran-3-yl)methyl)benzoate



Following the general procedure **B**, using **1o** (47.2 mg) and pentane/Et₂O (88:12 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound **3o** was obtained as a colorless oil (27.4 mg, 81.5 μ mol, 41%).

¹**H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃):** $\delta = \delta = 7.98 - 7.94$ (m, 2H), 7.48 - 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.30 - 7.25 (m, 4H), 7.21 - 7.17 (m, 1H), 5.44 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.14 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (dd, J = 16.0, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 2.89 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 2.63 (dd, J = 16.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 1.37 (s, 3H) ppm.

¹³C-NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 179.1$, 166.9, 145.7, 141.4, 133.8, 130.3, 129.9, 129.4, 128.5, 128.5, 126.9, 105.7, 52.2, 44.5, 42.9, 38.9, 23.9 ppm.

HRMS (EI) m/z: Calcd for C₂₁H₂₀O₄ 336.1361, Found 336.1362.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2962, 1796, 1598, 1362, 1248, 1055, 931, 878.

(Z)-5-benzylidene-3-methyl-3-(4-nitrobenzyl)dihydrofuran-2(3H)-one



^{3p} Following the general procedure **B**, using **1p** (44.6 mg) and pentane/Et₂O (88:12 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound **3p** was obtained as a colorless oil (27.8 mg, 85.9 μ mol, 43%).

¹**H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃):** $\delta = 8.16 - 8.12$ (m, 2H), 7.48 - 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.39 - 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.31 - 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.22 - 7.17 (m, 1H), 5.46 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 3.20 (d, J = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 2.99 - 2.91 (m, 2H), 2.70 (dd, J = 15.9, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 1.40 (s, 3H) ppm.

¹³**C-NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 178.6, 147.4, 145.2, 143.7, 133.6, 131.1, 128.6, 128.4, 127.1, 123.8, 106.0, 44.5, 42.8, 38.9, 24.0 ppm.

HRMS (EI) m/z: Calcd for C₁₉H₁₇NO₄ 323.1157, Found 323.1157.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2929, 1793, 1687, 1517, 1344, 1226, 1052, 852.

(Z)-5-benzylidene-3-methyl-3-(4-((trifluoromethyl)thio)benzyl)dihydrofuran-2(3H)-one



^{F₃CS **3q** ^{Super-Ph} Following the general procedure **B**, using **1q** (35.6 mg) and pentane/Et₂O (98:2 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound **3q** was obtained as a colorless oil (33.4 mg, 88.2 μ mol, 44%).}

¹**H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃):** $\delta = \delta$ 7.60 – 7.56 (m, 2H), 7.48 – 7.44 (m, 2H), 7.32 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.27 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 7.21 – 7.17 (m, 1H), 5.45 (t, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 3.12 (d, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 2.98 (dd, *J* = 16.0, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 2.86 (d, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 2.66 (dd, *J* = 16.0, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 1.38 (s, 3H) ppm.

¹³**C-NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 179.0, 145.6, 139.4, 136.6, 133.7, 131.4, 130.2 (q, *J* = 308.0 Hz), 128.6, 128.5, 127.0, 123.5, 105.8, 44.5, 42.7, 38.9, 23.9 ppm.

HRMS (EI) m/z: Calcd for C₂₀H₁₇F₃O₂S 378.0901, Found 378.0900.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2923, 1793, 1690, 1514, 1450, 1178, 1057, 754.

(Z)-5-benzylidene-3-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)-3-methyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one



^{CF₃} Following the general procedure **B**, using **1r** (62.8 mg) and pentane/Et₂O (96:4 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound **3r** was obtained as a colorless oil (28.1 mg, 89.8 μ mol, 45%).

¹**H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃):** $\delta = 7.74$ (s, 1H), 7.66 (s, 2H), 7.45 – 7.41 (m, 2H), 7.31 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.21 – 7.17 (m, 1H), 5.45 (t, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 3.20 (d, J = 13.8 Hz, 1H), 2.98 (d, J = 13.8 Hz, 1H), 2.93 (dd, J = 15.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 2.74 (dd, J = 15.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 3H) ppm.

¹³**C-NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 178.3, 144.9, 138.5, 133.4, 132.0 (q, *J* = 33.2 Hz), 130.3, 128.6, 128.5, 127.1, 121.6, 106.2, 44.4, 42.8, 39.1, 23.8 ppm.

¹⁹**F** NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = -63.39 ppm.

HRMS (EI) m/z: Calcd for C₂₁H₁₆F₆O₂ 414.1054, Found 414.1054.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2928, 1796, 1692, 1376, 1275, 1169, 1126, 1054, 930, 897.

(Z)-5-benzylidene-3-methyl-3-phenyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one



^{3s} \sim Ph Following the general procedure **B**, using **1s** (32.8 mg) and pentane/Et₂O (98:2 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound **3s** was obtained as a colorless oil (18.1 mg, 68.5 μ mol, 34%).

¹**H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃):** $\delta = 7.60 - 7.56$ (m, 2H), 7.47 - 7.43 (m, 2H), 7.38 - 7.29 (m, 5H), 7.24 - 7.20 (m, 1H), 5.61 (t, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 3.41 (dd, J = 16.0, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 3.17 (dd, J = 16.0, 1.8 Hz, 2H), 1.75 (s, 3H) ppm.

¹³C-NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 178.0$, 145.8, 141.0, 133.9, 129.9, 129.1, 128.6, 127.8, 127.0, 125.8, 105.5, 47.4, 43.4, 25.4 ppm.

HRMS (EI) m/z: Calcd for C₁₈H₁₆O₂ 264.1150, Found 264.1148.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2932, 1810, 1725, 1622, 1420, 1215, 1106, 1018, 954, 837.

 $(Z) \hbox{-} 5-benzylidene{-} 3, 3-diethyldihydrofuran{-} 2(3H) \hbox{-} one$



3t 3t' Following the general procedure **B**, using **1t** (26.1 mg) and pentane/Et₂O (98:2 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound was obtained as a colorless oil (29.3 mg, 93.7 µmol, 47%, **3t** : **3t**' = 11:1).

¹**H-NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃):** $\delta = 7.57 - 7.54$ (m, $2H^{3t} + 2H^{3t'}$), 7.34 - 7.30 (m, $2H^{3t} + 2H^{3t'}$), 7.22 - 7.18 (m, $1H^{3t} + 1H^{3t'}$), 5.53 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, $1H^{3t}$), 4.89 (t, J = 1.4 Hz, $1H^{3t'}$), 3.65 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, $2H^{3t'}$), 2.86 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, $2H^{3t}$), 1.77 - 1.59 (m, $4H^{3t} + 4H^{3t'}$) 0.96 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, $6H^{3t}$), 0.81 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, $6H^{3t'}$) ppm.

¹³**C-NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃):** $\delta = 181.8 (3t^{\circ}), 179.3 (3t), 154.3 (3t^{\circ}), 146.9 (3t), 135.7 (3t^{\circ}), 134.3 (3t), 129.1 (3t^{\circ}), 128.8 (3t^{\circ}), 128.6 (3t), 128.4 (3t), 127.1 (3t^{\circ}), 126.7 (3t), 107.8 (3t^{\circ}), 104.7 (3t), 55.1 (3t^{\circ}), 47.7 (3t), 36.7 (3t), 34.9 (3t^{\circ}), 29.9 (3t^{\circ}), 29.4 (3t), 9.3 (3t^{\circ}), 8.8 (3t) ppm.$

HRMS (EI) m/z: Calcd for C₁₅H₁₈O₂ 230.1306, Found 230.1306.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2967, 1790, 1687, 1458, 1224, 1178, 1074, 946, 754, 694.

(Z)-5-benzylidene-3-ethyl-3-isobutyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one



^{3u} Following the general procedure **B**, using **1u** (31.6 mg) and pentane/Et₂O (98:2 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound **3u** was obtained as a colorless oil (25.7 mg, 99.5 μ mol, 50%).

¹**H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃):** $\delta = 7.58 - 7.54$ (m, 2H), 7.34 - 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.21 - 7.16 (m, 2H), 5.54 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (dd, J = 16.7, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 2.83 (dd, J = 16.7, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 1.81 - 1.55 (m, 5H), 0.98 - 0.88 (m, 9H) ppm.

¹³**C-NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 179.8, 146.9, 134.3, 128.6, 128.4, 126.7, 104.6, 46.7, 44.7, 37.1, 31.2, 25.0, 24.8, 23.0, 8.7 ppm.

HRMS (EI) m/z: Calcd for C₁₇H₂₂O₂ 258.1619, Found 258.1620.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2968, 1795, 1683, 1459, 1205, 1071, 935, 750.

(Z)-5-benzylidene-3-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)-3-ethyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one



 CF_3 Following the general procedure **B**, using **1v** (65.6 mg) and pentane/Et₂O (98:2 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound **3v** was obtained as a colorless oil (33.8 mg, 78.9 µmol, 40%).

¹**H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃):** $\delta = 7.72$ (s, 1H), 7.65 (s, 2H), 7.42 – 7.38 (m, 2H), 7.30 – 7.25 (m, 2H), 7.20 – 7.15 (m, 1H), 5.39 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 3.22 (d, J = 13.7 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (d, J = 13.7 Hz, 1H), 2.85 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 2H), 1.90 – 1.81 (m, 1H), 1.79 – 1.68 (m, 1H) 1.05 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H) ppm.

¹³**C-NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 177.8, 145.3, 138.6, 133.5, 132.0 (q, *J* = 33.2 Hz), 130.3, 128.5, 128.4, 127.0, 121.6, 105.6, 48.8, 41.5, 36.0, 30.5, 8.9 ppm.

¹⁹**F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = -63.4 (s) ppm.

HRMS (EI) m/z: Calcd for C₂₂H₁₈F₆O₂ 428.1211, Found 428.1208.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2973, 1794, 1692, 1377, 1275, 1126, 1070, 969.

(Z)-5-benzylidene-3-(3-(2,5-dimethylphenoxy)propyl)-3-methyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one



^{3w} Ph Following the general procedure **B**, using **1w** (65.6 mg) and pentane/Et₂O (98:2 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound **3w** was obtained as a colorless oil (37.0 mg, 0.105 mmol, 53%).

¹**H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃):** $\delta = 7.59 - 7.55$ (m, 2H), 7.37 - 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.23 - 7.19 (m, 1H), 7.01 - 6.99 (m, 1H), 6.69 - 6.64 (m, 1H), 6.60 (s, 1H), 5.57 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 3.97 - 3.94 (m, 2H), 2.99 (dd, J = 16.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.83 (dd, J = 16.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H), 1.98 - 1.91 (m, 1H), 1.90 - 1.86 (m, 2H), 1.83 - 1.76 (m, 1H), 1.39 (s, 3H) ppm.

¹³**C-NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 179.5, 156.7, 146.1, 136.5, 133.9, 130.4, 128.5, 128.4, 126.7, 123.5, 120.9, 112.0, 105.2, 67.3, 42.6, 40.0, 34.5, 24.7, 23.2, 21.4, 15.8 ppm.

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₂₃H₂₇O₃ 351.1954, Found 351.1945.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2949, 1797, 1687, 1449, 1275, 1260, 1041, 941, 751.

(Z)-3-ethyl-5-(2-fluorobenzylidene)-3-methyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one



Following the general procedure **C**, using **2b** (61.1 mg) and pentane/Et₂O (98:2 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound **3x** was obtained as a colorless oil (24.3 mg, 0.103 mmol, 52%).

¹**H** NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 7.99 - 7.92$ (m, 1H), 7.19 - 7.09 (m, 2H), 7.04 - 6.98 (m, 1H), 5.81 (t, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 2.96 (dd, J = 16.3, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.79 (dd, J = 16.4, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 1.75 - 1.65 (m, 2H), 1.33 (s, 3H), 0.98 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H) ppm.

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 179.7$, 159.3 (d, J = 248.2 Hz), 148.0, 130.2, 128.1 (d, J = 8.5 Hz), 124.3 (d, J = 3.7 Hz), 122.0 (d, J = 11.6 Hz), 115.1 (d, J = 22.1 Hz), 96.2 (d, J = 8.0 Hz), 43.4, 39.7, 30.9, 23.0, 8.9 ppm.

¹⁹**F** NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = -119.0 ppm.

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₁₄H₁₆O₂F 235.1128, Found 235.1126.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2970, 1797, 1685, 1581, 1255, 1149, 1069, 946, 876.

(Z)-5-(2-chlorobenzylidene)-3-ethyl-3-methyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one



^{3y} Following the general procedure C, using 2c (69.3 mg) and pentane/Et₂O (98:2 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound **3y** was obtained as a colorless oil (26.2 mg, 0.104 mmol, 52%).

¹**H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃):** $\delta = 7.96 \text{ (dd, } J = 7.9, 1.7 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}), 7.35 \text{ (dd, } J = 8.0, 1.4 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}), 7.26 - 7.22 \text{ (m, 1H)}, 7.15 - 7.10 \text{ (m, 1H)}, 5.97 \text{ (t, } J = 1.8 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}), 2.99 \text{ (dd, } J = 16.4, 1.7 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}), 2.82 \text{ (dd, } J = 16.4, 1.8 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}), 1.77 - 1.64 \text{ (m, 2H)}, 1.34 \text{ (s, 3H)}, 0.98 \text{ (t, } J = 7.5 \text{ Hz}, 3\text{H}) ppm.$

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 179.6, 148.2, 132.3, 131.9, 130.4, 129.4, 127.9, 127.0, 100.7, 43.4, 39.7, 30.9, 23.0, 8.9 ppm.

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₁₄H₁₆O₂Cl 251.0833, Found 251.0831.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2969, 1793, 1682, 1458, 1260, 1073, 764.
(Z)-3-ethyl-5-(3-fluorobenzylidene)-3-methyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one



Following the general procedure **C**, using **2d** (61.1 mg) and pentane/Et₂O (98:2 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound **3z** was obtained as a colorless oil (24.3 mg, 0.103 mmol, 52%).

¹**H** NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 7.33 - 7.26$ (m, 3H), 6.93 - 6.86 (m, 1H), 5.51 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.93 (dd, J = 16.4, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.76 (dd, J = 16.3, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 1.75 - 1.65 (m, 2H), 1.33 (s, 3H), 0.97 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H) ppm.

¹³**C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃):** $\delta = 179.5$, 163.0 (d, J = 244.6 Hz), 147.6, 136.3 (d, J = 8.4 Hz), 129.9 (d, J = 8.4 Hz), 124.2, 115.1 (d, J = 22.7 Hz), 113.6 (d, J = 21.2 Hz), 104.1, 43.3, 39.5, 30.9, 23.0, 8.9 ppm.

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₁₄H₁₆O₂F 235.1128, Found 235.1128.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2971, 1794, 1686, 1490, 1275, 1616, 1417, 1322, 1275, 1109, 1064, 934.

(Z)-5-(3-chlorobenzylidene)-3-ethyl-3-methyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one



^{3aa} Following the general procedure **C**, using **2e** (69.3 mg) and pentane/Et₂O (98:2 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound **3aa** was obtained as a colorless oil (24.5 mg, 97.7 μ mol, 49%).

¹**H** NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 7.53 - 7.51$ (m, 1H), 7.44 - 7.41 (m, 1H), 7.24 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.18 - 7.15 (m, 1H), 5.47 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.93 (dd, J = 16.4, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.76 (dd, J = 16.3, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 1.75 - 1.65 (m, 2H), 1.33 (s, 3H), 0.97 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H) ppm.

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 179.5, 147.8, 135.9, 134.4, 129.8, 128.2, 126.8, 126.6, 103.8, 43.3, 39.6, 30.9, 23.0, 8.9 ppm.

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₁₄H₁₆O₂Cl 251.0833, Found 251.0830.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2970, 1791, 1680, 1457, 1275, 1260, 1075, 935, 750.

(Z)-3-ethyl-5-(4-fluorobenzylidene)-3-methyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one



Following the general procedure **C**, using **2f** (61.1 mg) and pentane/Et₂O (98:2 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound **3ab** was obtained as a colorless oil (25.3 mg, 0.108 mmol, 54%).

¹**H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃):** $\delta = 7.54 - 7.49$ (m, 2H), 7.03 - 6.97 (m, 2H), 5.50 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.92 (dd, J = 16.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.75 (dd, J = 16.1, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 1.75 - 1.64 (m, 2H), 1.32 (s, 3H), 0.97 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H) ppm.

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 179.7, 161.6 (d, *J* = 246.4 Hz), 146.1, 130.3, 130.0 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 115.4 (d, *J* = 21.2 Hz), 104.0, 43.4, 39.5, 30.9, 23.0, 8.9 ppm.

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₁₄H₁₆O₂F 235.1128 , Found 235.1128.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2972, 1796, 1691, 1603, 1508, 1459, 1275, 1260, 1229, 1071, 936, 849.

(Z)-5-(4-chlorobenzylidene)-3-ethyl-3-methyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one



Following the general procedure C, using 2g (69.3

mg) and pentane/Et₂O (98:2 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound was obtained as a colorless oil (26.2 mg, 0.104 mmol, 52%, **3ac : 3ac'** = 12:1).

¹**H** NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 7.49 - 7.46$ (m, $2H^{3ac}$), 7.29 - 7.26 (m, $2H^{3ac} + 2H^{3ac'}$), 7.20 - 7.17 (m, $2H^{3ac'}$), 5.49 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, $1H^{3ac}$), 4.99 (t, J = 1.4 Hz, $1H^{3ac'}$), 3.59 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, $2H^{3ac'}$), 2.92 (dd, J = 16.3, 1.7 Hz, $1 H^{3ac}$), 2.75 (dd, J = 16.3, 1.8 Hz, $1 H^{3ac}$), 1.75 - 1.64 (m, $2H^{3ac} + 2H^{3ac'}$), 1.32 (s, $3H^{3ac}$), 1.26 (s, $3H^{3ac'}$), 0.97 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, $3H^{3ac}$), 0.81 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, $3H^{3ac'}$) ppm.

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 179.6 (3ac), 153.1 (3ac[']), 147.0 (3ac), 134.0 (3ac[']), 132.7 (3ac), 132.3 (3ac), 130.5 (3ac[']), 129.7 (3ac), 128.9 (3ac[']), 128.7 (3ac), 110.1 (3ac[']), 103.9 (3ac), 49.6 (3ac[']), 43.3 (3ac), 39.5 (3ac), 34.2 (3ac[']), 31.1 (3ac[']), 30.9 (3ac), 23.1 (3ac[']), 23.0 (3ac), 9.4 (3ac[']), 8.9 (3ac) ppm.

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for $C_{14}H_{16}O_2Cl 251.0833$, Found 251.0829.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2937, 1765, 1654, 1415, 1215, 1260, 1178, 1054, 912, 837.

(Z)-5-(4-bromobenzylidene)-3-ethyl-3-methyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one



Following the general procedure C, using 2h (91.5 mg) and pentane/Et₂O (98:2 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound 3ad was obtained as a colorless oil (18.7 mg, 63.3 μ mol, 32%).

¹**H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 7.44 – 7.40 (m, 4H), 5.47 (t, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.91 (dd, *J* = 16.3, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.74 (dd, *J* = 16.3, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 1.74 – 1.63 (m, 2H), 1.32 (s, 3H), 0.97 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H) ppm.

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 179.6, 147.2, 133.1, 131.7, 130.0, 120.5, 104.0, 43.3, 39.6, 30.9, 23.0, 8.9 ppm.

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₁₄H₁₆O₂Br 295.0328 , Found 295.0325.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2922, 1794, 1689, 1450, 1260, 1050, 801.

(Z) - 3-ethyl - 3-methyl - 5-(4-(trifluoromethyl) benzylidene) dihydrofuran - 2(3H) - one (Z) - 3-ethyl - 3-methyl - 5-(4-(trifluoromethyl) benzylidene) dihydrofuran - 2(3H) - 3-methyl - 3-methyl



Following the general procedure C, using 2i (86.1 mg) and pentane/Et₂O (96:4 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound was obtained as a colorless oil (34.5 mg, 0.121 mmol, 61%, 3ae : 3ae' = 3:1).

¹**H** NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 7.64$ (d, J = 8.2 Hz, $2H^{3ae}$), 7.59 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, $2H^{3ae'}$), 7.55 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, $2H^{3ae}$), 7.38 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, $2H^{3ae'}$), 5.57 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, $1H^{3ae}$), 5.04 (t, J = 1.4 Hz, $1H^{3ae'}$), 3.68 (s, $2H^{3ae'}$), 2.96 (dd, J = 16.5, 1.7 Hz, $1H^{3ae}$), 2.79 (dd, J = 16.5, 1.8 Hz, $1H^{3ae}$), 1.73 – 1.67 (m, $2H^{3ae}$), 1.61 – 1.54 (m, $2H^{3ae'}$), 1.34 (s, $3H^{3ae}$), 1.27 (s, $3H^{3ae'}$), 0.98 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, $3H^{3ae}$), 0.82 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, $3H^{3ae'}$) ppm.

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 181.9$ (3ae[^]), 179.4 (3ae), 152.6 (3ae[^]), 148.7 (3ae), 139.7 (3ae[^]), 137.7 (3ae), 129.5 (3ae[^]), 128.9 (q, J = 271.6 Hz, 3ae[^]), 128.7 (q, J = 271.6 Hz, 3ae), 128.5 (3ae), 125.7 (d, J = 3.9 Hz, 3ae[^]), 125.4 (d, J = 3.9 Hz, 3ae), 110.5 (3ae[^]), 103.8 (3ae), 49.6 (3ae[^]), 43.3 (3ae), 39.6 (3ae), 34.7 (3ae[^]), 31.1 (3ae[^]), 31.0 (3ae), 23.1 (3ae[^]), 23.0 (3ae), 9.4 (3ae[^]), 8.9 (3ae) ppm.

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₁₅H₁₆O₂F₃ 285.1096, Found 285.1094.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2973, 1795, 1686, 1616, 1322, 1163, 1064, 934, 749.

(Z)-methyl 4-((4-ethyl-4-methyl-5-oxodihydrofuran-2(3H)-ylidene)methyl)benzoate



3af Following the general procedure C, using 2j (81.1 mg) and pentane/Et₂O (85:15 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound 3af (26.5 mg, 94.0 µmol, 47%) and 3af' (8.5 mg, 30.0 µmol, 15%) were obtained as colorless oil.

¹**H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃):** $\delta = 7.99 - 7.96$ (m, 2H), 7.62 - 7.59 (m, 2H), 5.57 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 2.96 (dd, J = 16.5, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.78 (dd, J = 16.5, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 1.76 - 1.74 (m, 2H), 1.33 (s, 3H), 0.97 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H) ppm.

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 179.5, 167.1, 148.7, 138.8, 129.9, 128.3, 128.0, 104.3, 52.2, 43.3, 39.7, 31.0, 23.0, 8.9 ppm.

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₁₆H₁₉O₄ 275.1277, Found 275.1273.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2970, 1799, 1716, 1677, 1606, 1434, 1275, 1181, 1068, 937, 867.

methyl 4-((4-ethyl-4-methyl-5-oxo-4,5-dihydrofuran-2-yl)methyl)benzoate



¹**H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃):** $\delta = 8.02 - 7.98$ (m, 2H), 7.34 - 7.32 (m, 2H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.68 (s, 2H), 1.77 - 1.68 (m, 1H), 1.60 - 1.56 (m, 1H), 1.26 (s, 3H), 0.81 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H) ppm.

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 181.9, 167.0, 152.7, 140.9, 130.1, 129.2, 128.6, 110.4, 52.3, 49.6, 34.8, 31.1, 23.1, 9.4 ppm.

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₁₆H₁₉O₄ 275.1277, Found 275.1273.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2971, 1797, 1718, 1606, 1435, 1275, 1180, 1105, 1069, 1018, 935, 867.

(Z)-3-ethyl-3-methyl-5-(4-nitrobenzylidene)dihydrofuran-2(3H)-one



^{3ag} Following the general procedure C [using L6 (5.4 mg, 20 μ mmol, 20 mol%) instead of L10], using 2k (74.6 mg) and pentane/Et₂O (92:8 v/v) as an eluent, 3ag (26.8 mg, 0.102 mmol, 51%) and 3ag'(5.4 mg, 20.0 μ mol, 10%) were obtained as colorless oil.

¹**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃):** $\delta = 8.16 - 8.12$ (m, 2H), 7.69 - 7.66 (m, 2H), 5.61 (t, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (dd, J = 16.7, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.82 (dd, J = 16.7, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 1.78 - 1.65 (m, 2H), 1.35 (s, 3H), 0.98 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H) ppm.

¹³**C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 179.1, 150.6, 145.9, 140.9, 128.8, 123.9, 103.3, 43.2, 39.8, 31.0, 23.0, 8.9 ppm.

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₁₄H₁₆O₄N 262.1073, Found 262.1072.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2972, 1794, 1520, 1347, 1275, 1260, 1080, 749.

3-ethyl-3-methyl-5-(4-nitrobenzyl)furan-2(3H)-one



¹**H** NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 8.20$ (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 5.10 (t, J = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 3.74 (s, 2H), 1.78 – 1.69 (m, 1H), 1.62 – 1.58 (m, 1H), 1.28 (s, 3H), 0.82 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H) ppm.

¹³**C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 181.6, 151.8, 147.4, 143.2, 130.0, 124.1, 111.0, 49.7, 34.7, 31.0, 23.1, 9.4 ppm.

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₁₄H₁₆O₄N 262.1073, Found 262.1072.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2950, 1785, 1505, 1418, 1315, 1225, 1120, 934, 742.



Following the general procedure C,

using **2l** (107.6 mg) and pentane/Et₂O (85:15 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound was obtained as a colorless solid (40.1 mg, 0.123 mmol, 61%, **3ah : 3ah**^{\prime} = 4:1).

¹**H NMR (600 MHz, (CD₃)₂CO):** $\delta = 7.72 - 7.69$ (m, $2H^{3ah} + 2H^{3ah'}$), 7.60 - 7.57 (m, $2H^{3ah} + 2H^{3ah'}$), 5.65 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, $1H^{3ah}$), 5.25 (t, J = 1.3 Hz, $1H^{3ah'}$), 3.69 (s, $2H^{3ah'}$), 3.04 (dd, J = 16.4, 1.7 Hz, $1H^{3ah}$), 2.89 (dd, J = 16.4, 1.8 Hz, $1H^{3ah}$), 1.72 - 1.60 (m, $2H^{3ah} + 2H^{3ah'}$), 1.31 (s, $3H^{3ah}$), 1.23 (s, $1H^{3ah'}$), 0.95 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, $3H^{3ah}$), 0.78 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, $1H^{3ah'}$) ppm.

¹³**C NMR** (**600 MHz**, (**CD**₃)₂**CO**): $\delta = 182.1 (3ah^{2}), 179.9 (3ah), 155.6 (q,$ *J* $= 37.0 Hz, 3ah^{2}), 155.5 (q,$ *J* $= 37.0 Hz, 3ah), 154.2 (3ah^{2}), 148.4 (3ah), 136.2 (3ah^{2}), 135.6 (3ah), 134.6 (3ah^{2}), 133.2 (3ah), 130.4 (3ah^{2}), 129.6 (3ah), 121.8 (3ah^{2}), 121.6 (3ah), 117.0 (q,$ *J* $= 288.0 Hz, 3ah^{2}), 117.2 (q,$ *J* $= 288.0 Hz, 3ah), 110.7 (3ah^{2}), 104.1 (3ah), 50.0 (3ah^{2}), 43.8 (3ah), 39.8 (3ah), 34.4 (3ah^{2}), 31.5 (3ah^{2}), 31.4 (3ah), 23.3 (3ah^{2}), 22.8 (3ah), 9.5 (3ah^{2}), 8.9 (3ah) ppm.$

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₁₆H₁₆F₃NO₃ 327.1082, Found 327.1083.

IR (cm⁻¹): 3312, 2971, 1788, 1723, 1541, 1514, 1418, 1245, 1150, 1075, 950, 735.

(Z) - 3 - ((4 - ethyl - 4 - methyl - 5 - oxodihydrofuran - 2(3H) - ylidene) methyl) benzaldehyde



Following the general procedure C using 2m (66

mg) and pentane/Et₂O (90:10 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound obtained as a colorless oil (25.9 mg, 0.106 mmol, 53%, **3ai : 3ai'** = 1.6:1).

¹**H** NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 10.02$ (s, 1H^{3ai}), 10.01 (s, 1H^{3ai}), 7.97 – 7.94 (m, 1H^{3ai} + 1H^{3ai'}), 7.88 – 7.85 (m, 1H^{3ai} + 1H^{3ai'}), 7.81 – 7.76 (m, 1H^{3ai} + 1H^{3ai'}), 7.73 – 7.69 (m, 1H^{3ai} + 1H^{3ai'}), 5.60 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H^{3ai}), 5.05 (t, J = 1.4 Hz, 1H^{3ai'}), 3.71 (d, J = 1.3 Hz, 1H^{3ai'}), 2.97 (dd, J = 16.4, 1.7 Hz, 1H^{3ai}), 2.80 (dd, J = 16.4, 1.7 Hz, 1H^{3ai}), 1.76 – 1.66 (m, 2H^{3ai}), 1.60 – 1.53 (m, 2H^{3ai'}), 1.34 (s, 3H^{3ai}), 1.27 (s, 3H^{3ai'}), 0.98 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H^{3ai}), 0.81 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H^{3ai'}) ppm.

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 192.7 (3ai), 192.2 (3ai[^]), 181.9 (3ai[^]), 179.5 (3ai), 152.7 (3ai), 148.1 (3ai[^]), 136.9 (3ai[^]), 136.8 (3ai[^]), 136.7 (3ai), 135.2 (3ai), 134.2 (3ai), 130.0 (3ai), 129.9 (3ai[^]), 129.5 (3ai[^]), 129.3 (3ai), 129.0 (3ai[^]), 127.5 (3ai), 110.5 (3ai[^]), 103.8 (3ai), 49.6 (3ai[^]), 43.3 (3ai), 39.6 (3ai), 34.6 (3ai[^]), 31.1 (3ai[^]), 30.9 (3ai), 23.1 (3ai[^]), 23.0 (3ai), 9.4 (3ai[^]), 8.9 (3ai) ppm.

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₁₅H₁₇O₃ 245.1172, Found 245.1170.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2969, 2931, 1792, 1693, 1603, 1457, 1385, 1192, 1073, 952, 792.

(Z)-3-ethyl-5-(3-methoxybenzylidene)-3-methyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one



 OCH_3 Following the general procedure **C** using **2n** (67.1 mg) and pentane/Et₂O (95:5 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound **3aj** was obtained as a colorless oil (21.3 mg, 86.5 μ mol, 43%).

¹**H** NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 7.25 - 7.21$ (m, 1H), 7.15 - 7.12 (m, 2H), 6.78 - 6.74 (m, 1H), 5.51 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 2.92 (dd, J = 16.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.75 (dd, J = 16.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 1.74 - 1.65 (m, 2H), 1.32 (s, 3H), 0.97 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H) ppm.

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 179.7, 159.8, 146.8, 135.5, 129.5, 121.1, 113.8, 112.6, 105.0, 55.4, 43.3, 39.6, 30.9, 23.0, 8.9 ppm.

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₁₅H₁₉O₃ 247.1328, Found 247.1325.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2967, 1793, 1683, 1598, 1455, 1256, 1155, 1071, 949, 866.

(Z)-3-ethyl-3-methyl-5-(2-methylbenzylidene)dihydrofuran-2(3H)-one



^{3ak} Following the general procedure C using 20 (59.1 mg) and pentane/Et₂O (98:2 v/v) as an eluent, the target compound **3ak** was obtained as a colorless oil (23.8 mg, 0.103 mmol, 52%).

¹**H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃):** $\delta = 7.79 - 7.75$ (m, 1H), 7.21 - 7.10 (m, 3H), 5.68 (t, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 2.96 (dd, J = 16.1, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.79 (dd, J = 16.1, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 1.75 - 1.67 (m, 2H), 1.33 (s, 3H), 0.99 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H) ppm.

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 179.9, 146.6, 135.2, 132.6, 130.1, 129.2, 126.9, 126.2, 102.3, 43.5, 39.6, 30.9, 22.9, 20.4, 8.9 ppm.

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₁₅H₁₉O₂ 231.1379, Found 231.1377.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2963, 1797, 1688, 1449, 1275, 1055, 949, 751.

6. Preparative Scale Applications and Derivatizations

Large-scale reactions

(Z)-5-Benzylidene-3-cyclohexyl-3-methyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one

Reaction on 1.0 mmol Scale



 3g $^{\frown}$ Ph An oven dried 150 mL Schlenk tube was charged with Pd(OAc)₂ (22.5 mg, 0.100 mmol, 10 mol%), L10 (38.2 mg, 0.100 mmol, 10 mol%), K₂CO₃ (69 mg, 0.50 mmol, 0.5 equiv.), AgOAc (334 mg, 2.00 mmol, 2 equiv.), MnO₂ (17.4 mg, 0.2 mmol, 20 mol%), styrene 2a (285 µL, 2.50 mmol, 2.5 equiv.), carboxylic acid 1g (170 mg, 1.00 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), and HFIP (10.0 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 70 °C (recorded by a Thermometer) for 21 h in a preheated metal block. After the mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, formic acid (0.5 mL) was added to the reaction mixture and it was filtered over a pad of Celite® using CH₂Cl₂ (40 mL) to complete the elution. All volatiles were removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography to afford the target compound 3g as a colorless oil (158 mg, 0.584 mmol, 58%).

$(Z) \hbox{-} 5-Benzylidene-3-cyclohexyl-3-methyldihydrofuran-2 (3H)-one$

Reaction on 5.0 mmol scale

 3g ^{\lambda Ph} An oven dried 150 mL Schlenk tube was charged with Pd(OAc)₂ (112 mg, 0.500 mmol, 10 mol%), L10 (191 mg, 0.500 mmol, 10 mol%), K₂CO₃ (345 mg, 2.50 mmol, 0.5 equiv.), AgOAc (1.7 g, 10 mmol, 2 equiv.), MnO₂ (87 mg, 1.0 mmol, 20 mol%), styrene 2a (1.40 mL, 12.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv.), carboxylic acid 1g (851 mg, 5.00 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), and HFIP (50.0 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 70 °C (recorded by a Thermometer) for 21 h in a preheated metal block. After the mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, formic acid (2.0 mL) was added to the reaction mixture and it was filtered over a pad of Celite® using CH₂Cl₂ (60 mL) to complete the elution. All volatiles were removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography to afford the target compound 3g as a colorless oil (610 mg, 2.26 mmol, 45%).

(Z)-5-benzylidene-3-(3-(2,5-dimethylphenoxy)propyl)-3-methyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one Reaction on 1.0 mmol



^{3w} Ph An oven dried 150 mL Schlenk tube was charged with Pd(OAc)₂ (22.5 mg, 0.100 mmol, 10 mol%), **L10** (38.2 mg, 0.100 mmol, 10 mol%), K₂CO₃ (69 mg, 0.50 mmol, 0.5 equiv.), AgOAc (334 mg, 2.00 mmol, 2 equiv.), MnO₂ (17.4 mg, 0.2 mmol, 20 mol%), styrene **2a** (285 μ L, 2.50 mmol, 2.5 equiv.), carboxylic acid **1w** (250 mg, 1.00 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), and HFIP (10.0 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 70 °C (recorded by a Thermometer) for 21 h in a preheated metal block. After the mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, formic acid (0.5 mL) was added to the reaction mixture and it was filtered over a pad of Celite® using CH₂Cl₂ (40 mL) to complete the elution. All volatiles were removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography to afford the target compound **3w** as a colorless oil (168 mg, 0.480 mmol, 48%).

Diversification of the products

2-(3-(2,5-dimethylphenoxy)propyl)-2-methyl-4-oxo-5-phenylpentanal



Following a modified literature procedure, $^{[2]}(Z)$ -5-benzylidene-3-(3-(2,5-dimethylphenoxy)propyl)-3-methyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one **3w** (35 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1 equiv.) was dissolved in dry THF (2.0 mL) and the mixture was cooled to – 50 °C. DIBAL-H (0.15 mL, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv., 1M in toluene) was added slowly to the mixture under N₂ atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at – 50 °C for 2 h. After the completion of the reaction (monitored by TLC), the cooling bath was removed and the reaction was quenched with water (5 mL). The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure. Water (15 mL) and NH₄Cl (5 mL) were added and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2× 15 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography using pentane: Et₂O (85:15) to obtain the target compound **4w** as a colorless oil (24.8 mg, 70.4 µmol, 70%).

¹**H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃):** $\delta = 9.58$ (s, 1H), 7.35 – 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.21 – 7.17 (m, 1H), 7.20 – 7.17 (m, 2H), 7.00 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.66 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.57 (s, 1H), 3.86 – 3.82 (m, 2H), 3.69 (s, 2H), 2.84 (d, J = 17.8 Hz, 1H), 2.71 (d, J = 17.8 Hz, 1H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 2.15 (s, 3H), 1.72 – 1.58 (m, 4H), 1.13 (s, 3H) ppm.

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 206.1, 205.0, 156.9, 136.7, 133.8, 130.5, 129.5, 129.0, 127.4, 123.7, 121.0, 112.0, 67.7, 50.8, 48.0, 47.1, 32.3, 24.1, 21.5, 19.4, 15.9 ppm.

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₂₃H₂₉O₃ 353.2111, Found 353.2109.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2922, 1798, 1691, 1508, 1261, 1129, 803, 750.

Methyl 2-(3-(2,5-dimethylphenoxy)propyl)-2-methyl-4-oxo-5-phenylpentanoate



^{6w} Following a literature procedure,^[3] K₂CO₃ was added (98 mg, 0.713 mmol, 5 equiv.) to **3w** (50.0 mg, 0.143 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in dry MeOH (2 mL). The solution was stirred at rt for 6 h. The reaction was quenched with H₂O (10 mL). The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure. Water (15 mL) was added and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2× 10 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography using pentane: Et₂O (85:15) to obtain the target compound **6w** as a colorless oil (43.1 mg, 0.113 mmol, 79%).

¹**H** NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 7.35 - 7.31$ (m, 2H), 7.31 - 7.26 (m, 1H), 7.21 - 7.18 (m, 2H), 7.00 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.66 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.57 (s, 1H), 3.88 - 3.83 (m, 2H), 3.67 (s, 2H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 2.96 (d, J = 17.8 Hz, 1H), 2.63 (d, J = 17.8 Hz, 1H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 2.15 (s, 3H), 1.77 - 1.62 (m, 4H), 1.22 (s, 3H) ppm.

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 206.0, 177.0, 156.9, 136.6, 134.1, 130.4, 129.5, 128.9, 127.2, 123.7, 120.9, 112.0, 67.7, 52.0, 50.7, 50.1, 43.5, 36.0, 24.5, 21.8, 21.5, 15.9 ppm.$

HRMS (ESIpos) m/z: Calcd for C₂₄H₃₁O₄ 383.2216, Found 383.2213.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2921, 1720, 1508, 1261, 1129, 1033, 803, 749.

5-benzyl-3-(3-(2,5-dimethylphenoxy)propyl)-3-methyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one



^{5w} Ph Following the literature procedure,^[4] a 10 mL Schlenk tube was charged with (*Z*)-5-benzylidene-3-cyclohexyl-3-methyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one **3w** (35.0 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1 equiv.) and methanol (0.3 mL). The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C and powdered NaBH₄ (7.5 mg, 20 μ mol, 2 equiv.) was added in one portion with constant stirring. After the full consumption of the starting material (monitored by TLC), The reaction was quenched by the addition of excess methanol (5 mL). The reaction mixture was concentrated under reducted pressure. Water (15 mL) and NH₄Cl (5 mL) were added and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2×15 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography using pentane: Et₂O (80:20) to obtain the major distereomer of the target compound **5w** as a colorless oil (19.5 mg, 55.3 µmol, 55%). The minor diastereomer of **5w** was obtained as a colorless oil (3 mg, 8.8 µmol, 8%)

The analytical data of major diastereomer are given below:

¹**H** NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 7.34 - 7.29$ (m, 2H), 7.28 - 7.22 (m, 3H), 7.01 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.60 (s, 1H), 4.71 - 4.64 (m, 1H), 3.95 - 3.87 (m, 2H), 3.11 (dd, J = 14.0, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 2.93 (dd, J = 14.0, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H), 2.03 - 1.91 (m, 2H), 1.84 - 1.70 (m, 3H), 1.67 - 1.58 (m, 1H), 1.26 (s, 3H) ppm.

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 181.2, 156.9, 136.7, 136.1, 130.5, 129.6, 128.8, 127.1, 123.7, 121.0, 112.1, 77.4, 67.7, 44.0, 41.6, 39.9, 34.2, 24.7, 22.9, 21.5, 15.9 ppm.

HRMS (EI) m/z: Calcd for C₂₃H₂₈O₃ 352.2038, Found 352.2038.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2923, 1764, 1508, 1454, 1260, 1129, 1018, 804, 750.

2-cyclohexyl-2-methyl-5-phenylpentanoic acid



^{7g} Following a modified literature procedure,^[5] (*Z*)-5-benzylidene-3cyclohexyl-3-methyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one **3g** (27 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1 equiv.) was dissolved in dry THF (2.0 mL). Pd/C (10 mg, 0.01 mmol, 10 mol%) was added to the mixture. Next, an atmosphere of hydrogen was introduced by briefly evacuating the flask, then flushing with pure hydrogen (1 atm, hydrogen balloon). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 4 h under an H₂ atmosphere. The hydrogen was removed under vacuum, and the flask was refilled with nitrogen. The mixture was filtered through a pad of celite using CH₂Cl₂ (25 mL) to complete the elution and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography using pentane: Et₂O (60:40) to obtain target compound **7g** as a colorless oil (26.7 mg, 97.3 µmol, 97%).

¹**H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃):** $\delta = 7.29 - 7.24$ (m, 2H), 7.19 - 7.15 (m, 3H), 2.65 - 2.54 (m, 2H), 1.80 - 1.58 (m, 7H), 1.55 - 1.51 (m, 3H), 1.25 - 1.19 (m, 2H), 1.16 - 1.06 (m, 2H), 1.03 (s, 3H), 1.00 - 0.91 (m, 1H) ppm.

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 183.1, 142.2, 128.3, 128.3, 125.7, 49.4, 45.3, 37.0, 36.4, 28.5, 27.0, 26.8, 26.7, 26.6, 26.5, 16.5 ppm.

HRMS (ESIneg) m/z: Calcd for C₁₈H₂₅O₂ 273.1860, Found 273.1862.

IR (cm⁻¹): 2929, 1691, 1450, 1270, 1203, 939, 746.

7. Preliminary Mechanistic Investigations

Synthesis of the Proposed Reaction Intermediates

(E)-2-ethyl-2-methyl-5-phenylpent-4-enoic acid

Int-1 Following the literature procedure,^[1a] using methyl 2-methylbutanoate (1.0 g, 8.6 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), *i*Pr₂NH (1.7 mL, 9.5 mmol, 1.1 equiv.), *n*-BuLi (6.0 mL, 9.5 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) and (E)-(3-bromoprop-1-en-1-yl)benzene (2.20 g, 11.2 mmol, 1.3 equiv.), the target compound **Int-1** was obtained as a colorless solid (465 mg, 2.10 mmol, 25%).

¹**H NMR** (**600 MHz**, **CDCl**₃): $\delta = 7.36 - 7.33$ (m, 2H), 7.31 - 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.22 - 7.18 (m, 1H), 6.44 (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 6.17 (ddd, J = 15.7, 7.8, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.56 (ddd, J = 13.8, 7.2, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 2.38 (ddd, J = 13.8, 7.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 1.78 - 1.70 (m, 1H), 1.62 - 1.52 (m, 1H), 1.19 (s, 3H), 0.92 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H) ppm.

¹³**C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 183.4, 137.6, 133.4, 128.6, 127.3, 126.3, 125.8, 46.8, 41.8, 31.6, 21.1, 9.1 ppm.

HRMS (ESIneg) m/z: Calcd for C₁₄H₁₇O₂ 217.1223, Found 217.1228.

(Z)-2-ethyl-2-methyl-5-phenylpent-4-enoic acid

Et CO₂H

Int-2 $\dot{P}h$ Following the literature procedure,^[6] using 2-ethyl-2-methyl-5-phenylpent-4ynoate (0.50 g, 2.1 mmol, 1 equiv.), Ni(OAc)₂·4H₂O (0.5 g, 2.1 mmol), NaBH₄ (77 mg, 2.1 mmol, 1 equiv.), and ethylenediamine (370 mg, 6.14 mmol, 3 equiv.) the target compound **Int-2** was obtained as a colorless oil (300 mg, 1.39 mmol, 68%).

¹**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃):** $\delta = 7.35 - 7.31$ (m, 2H), 7.27 - 7.25 (m, 2H), 7.25 - 7.21 (m, 1H), 6.55 (dd, J = 11.8, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 5.65 (ddd, J = 11.8, 7.8, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.67 (ddd, J = 15.2, 6.6, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 2.56 (ddd, J = 15.2, 7.8, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 1.75 - 1.67 (m, 1H), 1.57 - 1.48 (m, 1H), 1.15 (s, 3H), 0.83 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H) ppm.

¹³**C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 182.7, 137.5, 131.5, 128.9, 128.3, 127.7, 126.8, 46.5, 36.7, 31.5, 21.0, 9.0 ppm.

HRMS (ESIneg) m/z: Calcd for C₁₄H₁₇O₂ 217.1223, Found 217.1228.



Investigation of the cyclization step leading to the product formation

Scheme S19: Control experiments with Int-1 and Int-2. ^a without Pd(OAc)₂. ^b without ligand

In order to gain detailed insights on the final cyclization step leading to product formation, several control experiments were conducted (Scheme S19). When **Int-1** was subjected to the standard olefination conditions, *Z*-**3a** (38%, Scheme S19A) was obtained as the major product, along with *E*-**3a** (18%) and **3a'** (< 2%). As expected, no product formed in the absence of Pd, indicating its essential role in the cyclization step. The omission of ligand (**L10**) led to a virtually identical reaction outcome as judged by the ¹H NMR-yield, suggesting the ligand has minimal to no influence on the cyclization step. Furthermore, treating **Int-2** under the same conditions yielded *E*-**3a** (48%, Scheme S19B) as major product, alongside *Z*-**3a** (18%) and **3a'** (< 2%). These results confirm that **Int-1** is a viable reaction intermediate in our reaction.



Scheme S20: Control experiments with Int-1 under dark

To determine whether *E* and *Z* isomers originate from a photochemical *E*/*Z* isomerization of the product, the **Int-1** was subjected to the standard olefination conditions in the dark. However, the product (*Z* and *E*) distribution remained unaltered in **3a** (Scheme S20), indicating *E*-**3a** does not result from a photochemical isomerization of the initially formed *Z*-**3a**. Another possibility considered was that the intermediate (**Int-1** or **Int-2**) may undergo *E*/*Z* isomerization to generate an equilibrium mixture of **Int-1** and **Int-2**, which would then cyclize to form *Z*-**3a** and *E*-**3a** respectively. However, crude ¹H NMR analysis of the control experiments shown in Scheme S19 provided no evidence of such isomerization occurring within the remaining **Int-1** or **Int-2**. Therefore, *E*/*Z* isomerization in **3a** likely proceeds through another mechanism.^[7]

Although the control experiments with the intermediates (Int-1 and Int-2) led to the mixture of Z- and E-3a, it is noteworthy that the E-isomer of 3 was not observed for any substrate during the scope studies presumably due to the substantial change in the effective concentration of reagent and/or pH required for E/Z isomerization in the one-pot protocol comprising two catalytic cycles, compared to the the control experiments with Intermediates comprising only the final cyclization step.

Comment on the formation of 3'



During the scope studies, it was observed that some substrates yielded a mixture of **3** and **3'**, likely due to the isomerization tendency of exocyclic double bond, as previously described in the literature.^[8] While no general trend was found with different carboxylic acid substrates, styrenes with strongly electron-withdrawing groups (such as -CF₃, -NO₂, -CHO) typically exhibited a higher **3'** to **3** ratio. To determine whether **3'** originates from **3**, we conducted a series of control experiments. First, lactone **3z** was subjected to the standard conditions with pivalic acid (**1a**) as substrate. While **1a** underwent smooth product formation to afford **3a** (50%), no formation of **3z'** was detected. Instead, more than 80% of **3z** were recovered, alongside partial decomposition to **4z** (12%, Scheme S21). This substrate yielded substantial **3z'** in the scope studies and in this case is was used as starting material in pure form. Notably, if the reaction conditions would generate a thermodynamic equilibrium, the same ratio as in the scope entry should be observed in this experiment.



Scheme S21: Evaluation of the isomerization of 3z under the standard reaction conditions. ^aYields and conversions were calculated using ¹H NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture using CH₂Br₂ as an internal standard.

Moreover, time-course analysis of the reaction bewteen **1b** and **2z** revealed that the ratio of **3z** to **3z'** remained nearly unaltered over time (Scheme S22), despite substantial accumulation of **3z**. The same trend was noted in the experiments shown in Scheme S14. Therefore, considering the results described in these experiments, it can be concluded that 3z' (or 3') does not arise from the initially formed 3z (or 3).



Scheme S22: Timely monitoring the formation of 3z and 3z'

Building upon the conclusions of the control experiments, we propose the following mechanism: **Int-1** first isomerizes to form **Int-3**,^[9] a β , γ -unsaturated acid. Due to the well-known propensity of such species to undergo Pd-catalyzed 5-*endo-trig*-type cyclization,^[10] **Int-3** undergoes a sequence of oxypalladation and β -H elimination to afford **3**'. Notably, the distribution between these intermediates will be strongly influenced by the electronic property of aryl (-Ar) group, as reflected in the scope studies.



Scheme S23: Plausible mechanism for the formation of 3'

Investigations on the role of MnO₂



Scheme S24: Control experiments under the fully optimized conditions

To investigate the role of MnO₂, we conducted a series of control experiments. In the absence of AgOAc, the reaction afforded **3b** and **3b'** with a combined yield of 18% (Entry 2, Scheme S24). Additionally, performing the reaction under N₂ atmosphere resulted in a slight decrease in the overall yield to 14% (Entry 3), indicating both air and MnO₂ contribute to the oxidation process, with MnO₂ having a more significant effect. Since the final product forms through two catalytic cycles — both requiring the re-oxidation of Pd⁰ to Pd^{II} — a total of 4-electrons need to be removed from Pd by oxidation. Therefore, either 4 equiv. of Ag(I) or a combination of silver salt, MnO₂, and air are required, with the latter showing superior efficiency in our system. Furthermore, replacing AgOAc with stoichiometric MnO₂ afforded 30-31% overall yield (Entry 4-5) whereas performing the reaction under N₂ led to drastic decrease in the yield (Entry 6). However, conducting the reaction under O₂ atmosphere did not improve the yield (Entry 7). Overall, these results indicate that all three oxidizing components are involved in at least one of the oxidation steps.

8. References

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9. NMR Data













110 100 f1 (ppm)





110 100 f1 (ppm)



110 100 f1 (ppm)


















0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -210 -220 -230 f1 (ppm)







-40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -210 -220 f1 (ppm)











20 10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -210 -220 -230 -240 -250 -260 -27C f1 (ppm)















110 100 f1 (ppm)







110 100 f1 (ppm)



-40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -210 -220 f1 (ppm)







-60 -70 -50 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 f1 (ppm) -140 -150 -210 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200








































