

## Supporting Information

### **B(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>-catalyzed Wolff rearrangement/[2 + 2] cascade cyclization of $\alpha$ - diazoketones with diazenes to access aza- $\beta$ -lactams**

Weihong Song,<sup>a,b</sup> YuXiao Ye,<sup>a</sup> Jingdong Wu,<sup>a</sup> Junjie Li,<sup>a</sup> Xiaomei Jiang,<sup>a</sup> Rongbin Zhao,<sup>a</sup> Weiguo Yu<sup>\*a</sup>, ZiWei Xiang,<sup>\*a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Pharmaceutical Engineering and Biotechnology, Zhejiang Pharmaceutical University, No. 888, Yinxian Avenue, Ningbo 315100, China.

<sup>b</sup>Institute of Drug Discovery Technology, Ningbo University, Zhejiang, China.

*\*Corresponding Author:*

Professor Weiguo Yu

Email: [yuwg@zjpu.edu.cn](mailto:yuwg@zjpu.edu.cn)

Dr. Ziwei Xiang

Email: [xiangzw@zjpu.edu.cn](mailto:xiangzw@zjpu.edu.cn)

## Table of Contents

1. General Information.....	1
2. General Procedure for the Synthesis of Substrates $\alpha$ -aryldiazoketones 1a-1i .....	2
3. Preparation of aryldiazenes 2a-2w.....	5
4. Preparation of 2x.....	12
4. Preparation of 1a' .....	14
5. General procedure for the for [2+2] cycloadditions of $\alpha$ -aryldiazoketones with aryldiazenes. .....	14
6. General procedure for [2+2] cycloadditions of $\alpha$ -aryldiazoketones with dialkyl azodicarboxylate 2y. ....	14
7. Gram-scale version of Wolff rearrangement/[2+2] cascade cyclization and synthetic transformations .....	15
7.1 Gram-scale synthesis of 3a. ....	15
7.2 Gram-scale synthesis of 3ag. ....	15
7.3 Transformations of 3x.....	16
8. Plausible reaction mechanism.....	16
8. Single crystal X-ray crystallography .....	17
9. Characterization data of products 3a-3al .....	20
10. References.....	36
11. NMR spectra of isolated compounds.....	37



## 1. General Information

**Solvents:** Unless otherwise indicated, solvents were obtained from commercial suppliers. Ether (Et<sub>2</sub>O), Dibutyl ether (DBE), Dichloromethane (DCM), N,N-dimethylformamide (DMF), Acetonitrile (CH<sub>3</sub>CN), and Toluene were stored over activated 4Å molecular sieves following drying procedures.

**Reagents:** All reagents were used as purchased from commercial suppliers. Unless noted otherwise, commercially available chemicals were used without further purification.

**Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy:** All NMR spectra were collected at 298 K on Bruker 400 MHz spectrometer in 5 mm diameter NMR tubes. <sup>1</sup>H chemical shifts are reported relative to proteo-solvent signals (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ = 7.26 ppm). Data are reported as: chemical shift (δ ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, dd = doublet of doublets, td = triplet of doublets, dt = doublet of triplets, ddd = doublet of doublet of doublets), coupling constants (Hz), integration and assignment. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} chemical shifts are reported relative to proteo-solvent signals (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ = 77.00 ppm). <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectra were measured at 376 MHz and CFC<sub>3</sub> (-63.2 ppm) was used as an external standard.

**Mass Spectrometry:** High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded with an Thermo Scientific™ Q Exactive™ Plus Orbitrap LC-MS/MS System by ESI on a quadrupole mass analyzer.

**X-ray Crystallography:** Single crystal X-ray crystallographic data were collected on a Bruker D8 QUEST diffractometer using Cu (60W, Diamond, μKα = 12.894 mm<sup>-1</sup>) micro-focus X-ray sources at 161 K. The structure was solved and refined using Full-matrix least-squares based on *F*<sup>2</sup> with program SHELXS and SHELXL<sup>4</sup> within OLEX2.

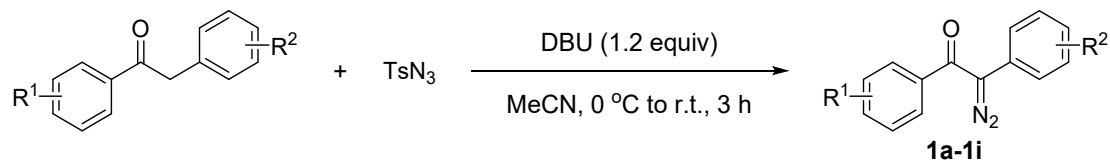
**Thin Layer Chromatography:** Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on aluminum-backed pre-coated plates with silica gel 60 F254 with suitable solvent system and was visualized using UV fluorescence.

**Column Chromatography:** Flash column chromatography was performed using Tsingdao silica gel (60, particle size 0.040-0.063 mm).

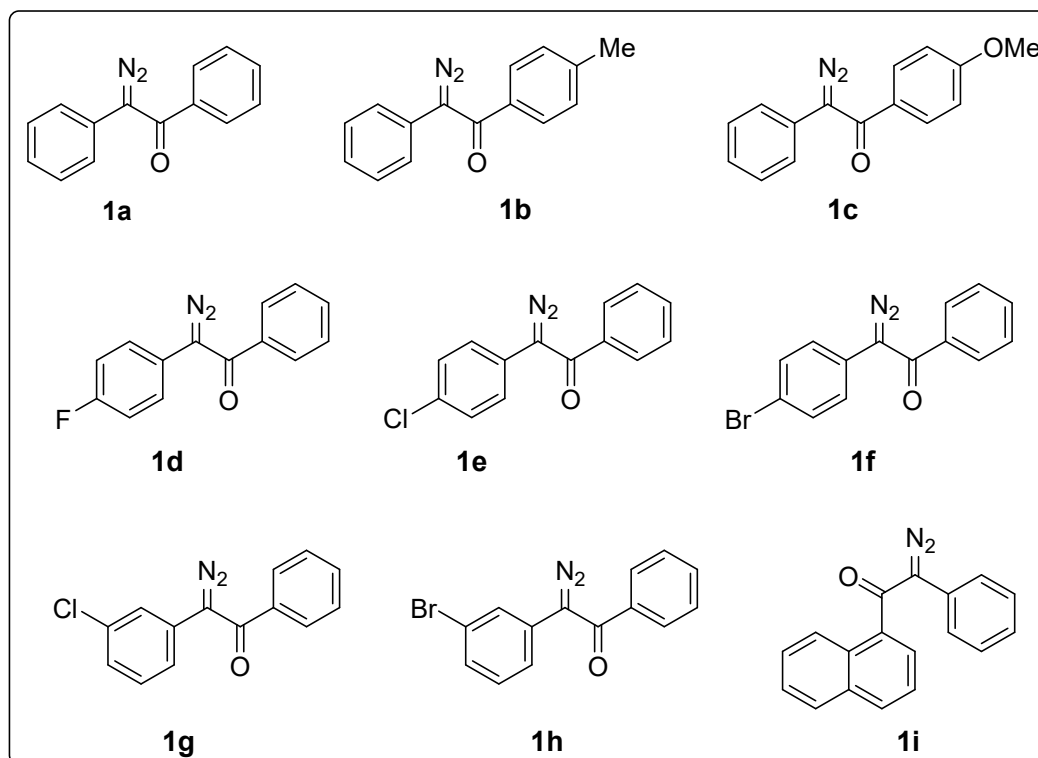
**Heating:** Oil bath served as the heat source for all conventionally heating reactions.

## 2. General Procedure for the Synthesis of Substrates $\alpha$ -aryldiazoketones **1a-1i**

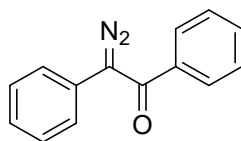
**1a-1i** are known compounds and were synthesized according to procedures reported in the relevant literatures.<sup>[1-4]</sup>



To a solution of  $\beta$ -ketone (10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and 4-methylbenzenesulfonyl azide (12 mmol, 2.37 g, 3.0 mL, 1.2 equiv) in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  at 0 °C was added DBU (12 mmol, 1.83 g, 1.8 mL, 1.2 equiv) dropwise under nitrogen. The resulting solution was stirred at 0 °C for 3 h and slowly brought to room temperature. Upon completion as indicated by thin layer chromatography (TLC), the reaction was quenched with water, extracted with ethyl acetate, and dried over anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ . The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure, and the crude material was purified by column chromatography to give pure products **1a-1i**.



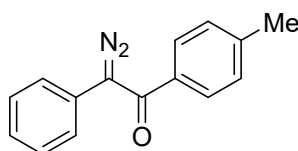
2-diazo-1,2-diphenylethan-1-one (**1a**)



**1a**

Following the general procedure, **1a** was obtained as orange solid in (8.6 mmol, 1.9 g) 87% yield.  $R_f = 0.32$  (silica gel, PE:EA = 25:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.71-7.59 (m, 2H), 7.57-7.47 (m, 3H), 7.47-7.40 (m, 4H), 7.32-7.27 (m, 1H). The  $^1\text{H NMR}$  data are consistent with those previously reported.

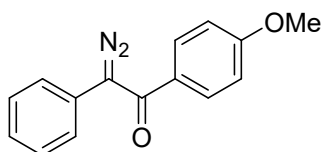
2-diazo-2-phenyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)ethan-1-one (**1b**)



**1b**

Following the general procedure, **1b** was obtained as orange solid in (8.2 mmol, 1.9 g) 82% yield.  $R_f = 0.32$  (silica gel, PE:EA = 20:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.52 (d,  $J = 1.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.41-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.21 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H). The  $^1\text{H NMR}$  data are consistent with those previously reported.

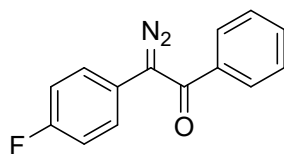
2-diazo-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-phenylethan-1-one (**1c**)



**1c**

Following the general procedure, **1c** was obtained as orange solid in (7.9 mmol, 2.0 g) 79% yield.  $R_f = 0.32$  (silica gel, PE:EA = 15:1). **1b** was obtained in 81% yield as orange solid.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.68-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.46-7.36 (m, 4H), 7.28-7.21 (m, 1H), 6.91-6.87 (m, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H). The  $^1\text{H NMR}$  data are consistent with those previously reported.

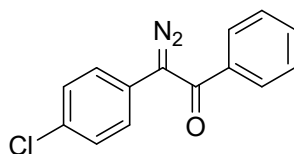
2-diazo-2-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-phenylethan-1-one (**1d**)



**1d**

Following the general procedure, **1d** was obtained as orange solid in (8.5 mmol, 2.0 g) 85% yield.  $R_f = 0.32$  (silica gel, PE:EA = 20:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.57-7.51 (m, 2H), 7.48-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.43-7.38 (m, 4H), 7.30-7.24 (m, 1H). The  $^1\text{H NMR}$  data are consistent with those previously reported.

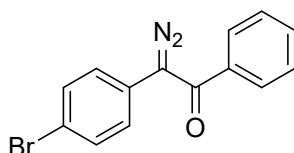
2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-diazo-1-phenylethan-1-one (**1e**)



**1e**

Following the general procedure, **1e** was obtained as orange solid in (8.5 mmol, 2.1 g) 85% yield.  $R_f = 0.32$  (silica gel, PE:EA = 20:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.68-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.55-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.35 (m, 6H). The  $^1\text{H NMR}$  data are consistent with those previously reported.

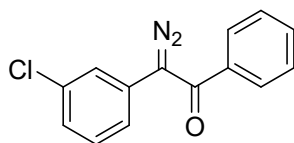
2-(4-bromophenyl)-2-diazo-1-phenylethan-1-one (**1f**)



**1f**

Following the general procedure, **1f** was obtained as orange solid in (8.0 mmol, 2.4 g) 80% yield.  $R_f = 0.32$  (silica gel, PE:EA = 20:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.64-7.59 (m, 2H), 7.55-7.50 (m, 3H), 7.46-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.40-7.36 (m, 2H). The  $^1\text{H NMR}$  data are consistent with those previously reported.

2-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-diazo-1-phenylethan-1-one (**1g**)

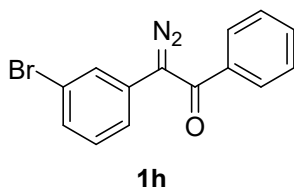


**1g**

Following the general procedure, **1g** was obtained as yellow solid in (7.8 mmol, 2.0 g)

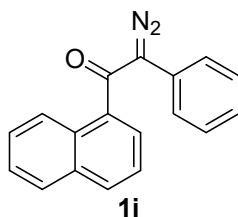
78% yield.  $R_f = 0.32$  (silica gel, PE:EA = 20:1). The  $^1\text{H NMR}$  data are consistent with those previously reported.

2-(3-bromophenyl)-2-diazo-1-phenylethan-1-one (**1h**)



Following the general procedure, **1h** was obtained as yellow solid in (7.3 mmol, 2.2 g) 73% yield.  $R_f = 0.32$  (silica gel, PE:EA = 20:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.71 (t,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.64-7.61 (m, 2H), 7.55-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.47-7.37 (m, 5H). The  $^1\text{H NMR}$  data are consistent with those previously reported.

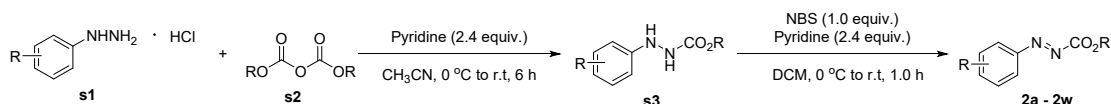
2-diazo-1-(naphthalen-1-yl)-2-phenylethan-1-one (**1i**)



Following the general procedure, **1i** was obtained as orange solid in (6.9 mmol, 1.9 g) 69% yield.  $R_f = 0.32$  (silica gel, PE:EA = 20:1).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz, Chloroform-d)  $\delta$  8.30-8.10 (m, 1H), 7.98-7.91 (m, 2H), 7.66-7.55 (m, 5H), 7.52-7.43 (m, 3H), 7.29 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H). The  $^1\text{H NMR}$  data are consistent with those previously reported.

### 3. Preparation of aryldiazenes 2a-2w

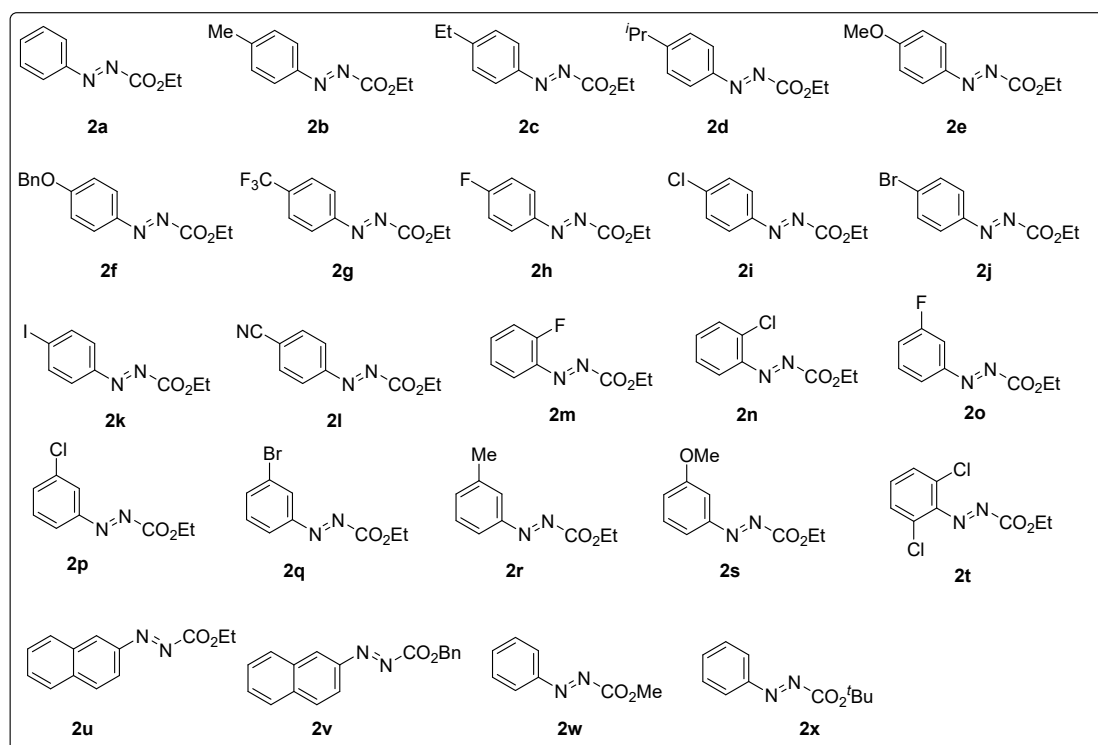
**2a-2w** are known compounds and were synthesized according to procedures reported in the relevant literatures.<sup>[5-8]</sup>



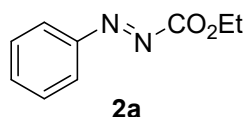
To a 10 mL round-bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar, substituted phenylhydrazine hydrochloride **s1** (5.0 mmol), pyridine (0.97 mL, 12.0 mmol, 2.4 equiv.), and  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  (5.0 mL) were added. The solution was cooled to 0 °C, and dialkyl pyrocarbonate **s2** (1.1 equiv, 5.5 mmol) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at room temperature. The reaction was diluted by adding  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and

washed with 4 M HCl aqueous solution. Two layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The combined organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated on rotary evaporator. The residue was purified by recrystallization using CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and hexane to give alkyl 2-phenylhydrazinecarboxylates **s3**.

A round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with above 2-phenylhydrazinecarboxylates **s3** (4.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in DCM (5 mL), pyridine (0.65 mL, 8 mmol, 2.0 equiv.) was added. The solution was cooled to 0 °C and NBS (0.71 g, 4.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was added under stirring. The reaction mixture was stirred for 25 min at 0 °C, and then for 30 min at room temperature. The reaction mixture was then concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel eluted with petroleum ether/EtOAc to afford the corresponding aryldiazenes **2a-2w**.

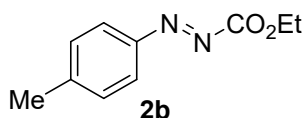


ethyl (*E*)-2-phenyldiazen-1-carboxylate (**2a**)



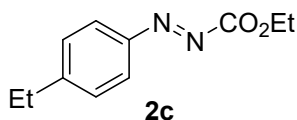
Following the general procedure, **2a** was obtained as wine-red liquid in 97% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.98-7.87 (m, 2H), 7.59-7.48 (m, 3H), 4.51 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 1.46 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H). The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR data are consistent with those previously reported.

ethyl (*E*)-2-(*p*-tolyl)diazene-1-carboxylate (**2b**)



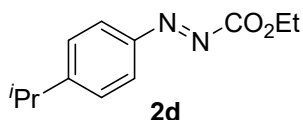
Following the general procedure, **2b** was obtained as wine-red liquid in 95% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.86-7.82 (m, 2H), 7.31 (dd,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 4.50 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 1.46 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H). The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR data are consistent with those previously reported.

ethyl (*E*)-2-(4-ethylphenyl)diazene-1-carboxylate (**2c**)



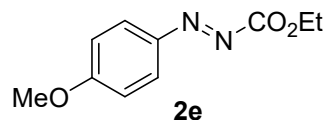
Following the general procedure, **2c** was obtained as wine-red liquid in 96% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.89-7.85 (m, 2H), 7.36 - 7.32 (m, 2H), 4.51 (q,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 2H), 2.73 (q,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 1.46 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 1.27 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 3H). The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR data are consistent with those previously reported.

ethyl (*E*)-2-(4-isopropylphenyl)diazene-1-carboxylate (**2d**)



Following the general procedure, **2d** was obtained as wine-red liquid in 94% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.89-7.86 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.35 (m, 2H), 4.50 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 2.98 (p,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 1.45 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 1.27 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 6H).

ethyl (*E*)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)diazene-1-carboxylate (**2e**)



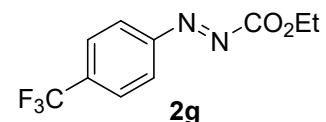
Following the general procedure, **2e** was obtained as wine-red liquid in 90% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.23-8.19 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.23 (m, 2H), 4.75 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 4.14 (s, 3H), 1.71 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H). The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR data are consistent with those previously reported.

ethyl (*E*)-2-(4-(benzyloxy)phenyl)diazene-1-carboxylate (**2f**)



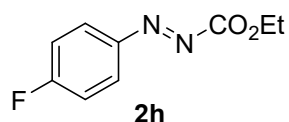
Following the general procedure, **2f** was obtained as orange solid in 89% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.00-7.92 (m, 2H), 7.46-7.34 (m, 5H), 7.10-7.06 (m, 2H), 5.17 (s, 2H), 4.51 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 1.47 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H). The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR data are consistent with those previously reported.

ethyl (*E*)-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)diazene-1-carboxylate (**2g**)



Following the general procedure, **2g** was obtained as wine-red liquid in 83% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.06-7.96 (m, 2H), 7.82-7.77 (m, 2H), 4.53 (q,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 2H), 1.47 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 3H). The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR data are consistent with those previously reported.

ethyl (*E*)-2-(4-fluorophenyl)diazene-1-carboxylate (**2h**)



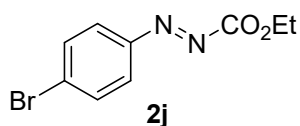
Following the general procedure, **2h** was obtained as wine-red liquid in 85% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.02-7.91 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.16 (m, 2H), 4.50 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 1.45 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H). The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR data are consistent with those previously reported.

ethyl (*E*)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)diazene-1-carboxylate (**2i**)



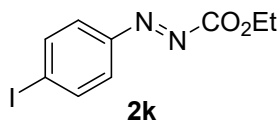
Following the general procedure, **2i** was obtained as dark brown solid in 87% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.90-7.84 (m, 2H), 7.52-7.47 (m, 2H), 4.51 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.46 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). The <sup>1</sup>H NMR data are consistent with those previously reported.

ethyl (*E*)-2-(4-bromophenyl)diazene-1-carboxylate (**2j**)



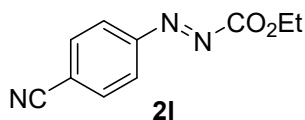
Following the general procedure, **2j** was obtained as dark brown solid in 88% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.79 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 2H), 4.51 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.46 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). The <sup>1</sup>H NMR data are consistent with those previously reported. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR data are consistent with those previously reported.

ethyl (*E*)-2-(4-iodophenyl)diazene-1-carboxylate (**2k**)



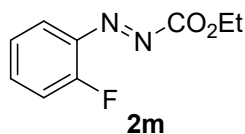
Following the general procedure, **2k** was obtained as dark brown solid in 90% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.93-7.84 (m, 2H), 7.68-7.59 (m, 2H), 4.51 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.46 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). The <sup>1</sup>H NMR data are consistent with those previously reported.

ethyl (*E*)-2-(4-cyanophenyl)diazene-1-carboxylate (**2l**)



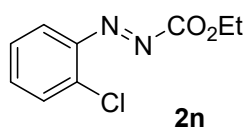
Following the general procedure, **2l** was obtained as wine-red solid in 77% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.99 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.86-7.81 (m, 2H), 4.53 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.47 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H).

ethyl (*E*)-2-(2-fluorophenyl)diazene-1-carboxylate (**2m**)



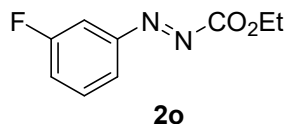
Following the general procedure, **2m** was obtained as wine-red liquid in 79% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.71-7.64 (m, 1H), 7.60-7.54 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.21 (ddt,  $J = 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 4.50 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 1.45 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H). The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR data are consistent with those previously reported.

ethyl (*E*)-2-(2-chlorophenyl)diazene-1-carboxylate (**2n**)



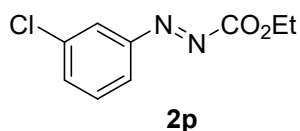
Following the general procedure, **2n** was obtained as wine-red liquid in 78% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.58 (ddd,  $J = 1.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.51-7.46 (m, 1H), 7.32 (ddd,  $J = 0.8$  Hz, 1H), 4.51 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 1.46 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H). The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR data are consistent with those previously reported.

ethyl (*E*)-2-(3-fluorophenyl)diazene-1-carboxylate (**2o**)



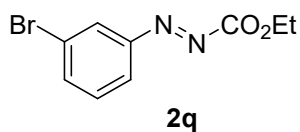
Following the general procedure, **2o** was obtained as wine-red liquid in 89% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.79 (ddd,  $J = 5.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.26 (m, 1H), 4.52 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 1.46 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H).

ethyl (*E*)-2-(3-chlorophenyl)diazene-1-carboxylate (**2p**)



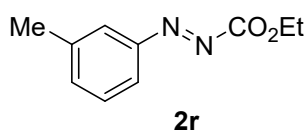
Following the general procedure, **2p** was obtained as wine-red liquid in 91% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.88-7.83 (m, 2H), 7.54 (ddd,  $J = 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.48 (dd,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 4.51 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 1.46 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H). The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR data are consistent with those previously reported.

ethyl (*E*)-2-(3-bromophenyl)diazene-1-carboxylate (**2q**)



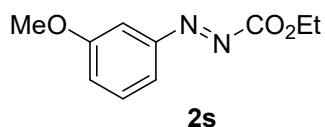
Following the general procedure, **2q** was obtained as wine-red liquid in 92% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.03 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (ddd, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (ddd, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.51 (q, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.46 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). The <sup>1</sup>H NMR data are consistent with those previously reported.

ethyl (*E*)-2-(*m*-tolyl)diazene-1-carboxylate (**2r**)



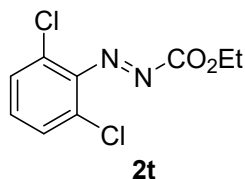
Following the general procedure, **2r** was obtained as wine-red liquid in 94% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.77-7.72 (m, 2H), 7.40 (dd, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 4.51 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.46 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). The <sup>1</sup>H NMR data are consistent with those previously reported.

ethyl (*E*)-2-(3-methoxyphenyl)diazene-1-carboxylate (**2s**)



Following the general procedure, **2s** was obtained as wine-red liquid in 92% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.60 (ddd, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.46-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.14 (ddd, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 4.51 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 1.46 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). The <sup>1</sup>H NMR data are consistent with those previously reported.

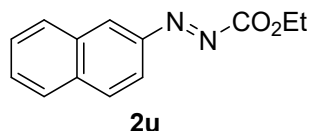
ethyl (*E*)-2-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)diazene-1-carboxylate (**2t**)



Following the general procedure, **2t** was obtained as wine-red liquid in 51% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.47-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.28 (m, 1H), 4.57 (q, *J* = 6.8 Hz,

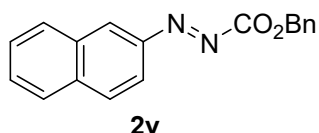
2H), 1.50 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H). The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR data are consistent with those previously reported.

benzyl (*E*)-2-(naphthalen-2-yl)diazene-1-carboxylate (**2u**)



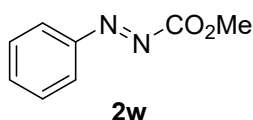
Following the general procedure, **2u** was obtained as orange solid in 93% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.67-8.55 (m, 1H), 8.04 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.96-7.85 (m, 3H), 7.61 (dddd,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 4.55 (q,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 2H), 1.50 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H). The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR data are consistent with those previously reported.

benzyl (*E*)-2-(naphthalen-2-yl)diazene-1-carboxylate (**2v**)



Following the general procedure, **2v** was obtained as orange solid in 91% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.60 (s, 1H), 8.03 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 1.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.93-7.87 (m, 3H), 7.65-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.52 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 1.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.45-7.37 (m, 3H), 5.50 (s, 2H). The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR data are consistent with those previously reported.

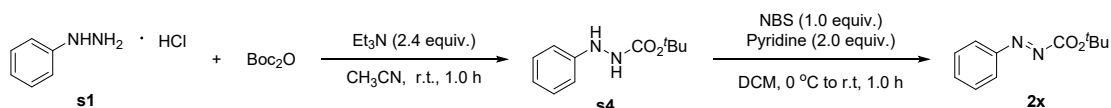
methyl (*E*)-2-phenyldiazene-1-carboxylate (**2w**)



Following the general procedure, **2w** was obtained as wine-red liquid in 94% yield.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.95-7.91 (m, 2H), 7.61-7.50 (m, 3H), 4.07 (s, 3H). The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR data are consistent with those previously reported.

#### 4. Preparation of **2x**

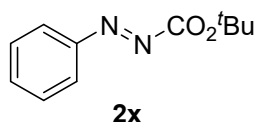
**2x** is known compound and was synthesized according to procedures reported in the relevant literatures.<sup>[8]</sup>



A 10 mL round-bottom flask, which was equipped with a magnetic stir bar and charged with phenylhydrazine hydrochloride (0.72 g, 5.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv.). After 5.0 mL of CH<sub>3</sub>CN was added, Et<sub>3</sub>N (1.6 mL, 12.0 mmol, 2.4 equiv.), di-tert-butyl dicarbonate (1.32 g, 6.0 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) were added in sequence. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at room temperature. The reaction was diluted by adding CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and washed with a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub>. Two layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The combined organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated on rotary evaporator. The residue was purified by recrystallization using CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and hexane to give tert-butyl 2-phenylhydrazine-1-carboxylate **s4** as a white solid (1.02 g, 98% yield).

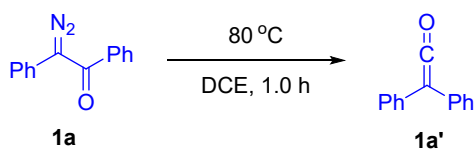
To a stirred solution of compound **s4** (1.02 g, 4.9 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in DCM (10 mL), pyridine (0.8 mL, 9.8 mmol, 2.0 equiv.) was added. The solution was cooled to 0 °C and NBS (0.87 g, 4.9 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was added under stirring. The reaction mixture was stirred for 25 min at 0 °C, and then for 30 min at room temperature. The reaction mixture was then concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 50/1 to afford the compound **2x** as a wine-red oil (0.99 g, 98% yield).

tert-butyl (*E*)-2-phenyldiazene-1-carboxylate (**2x**)



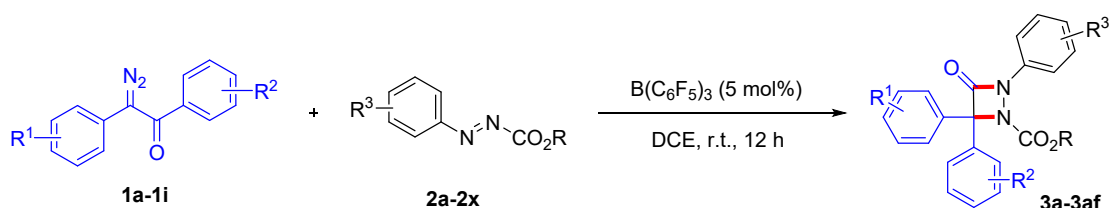
Following the general procedure, **2x** was obtained as wine-red liquid in 98% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.66 (dt, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.32-7.24 (m, 3H), 1.41 (s, 9H). The <sup>1</sup>H NMR data are consistent with those previously reported.

#### 4. Preparation of 1a'



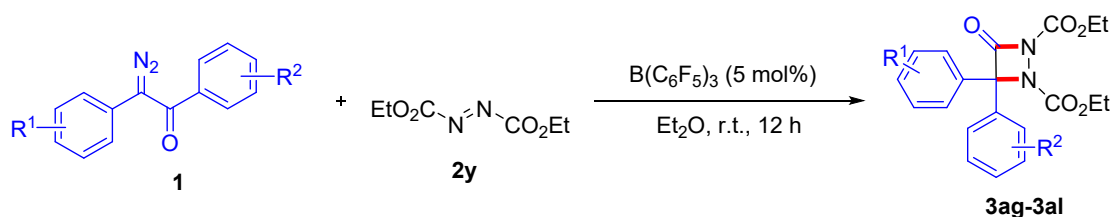
In an inert atmosphere glovebox, a solution of **1a** (0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in 1,2-dichloroethane (DCE, 2 mL) was stirred at 80 °C for 1 h. The reaction mixture was then concentrated in vacuo to afford the desired product **1a'**.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.42-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.14 (m, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 Hz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  201.07, 130.76, 129.22, 127.67, 126.18.

#### 5. General procedure for the for [2+2] cycloadditions of $\alpha$ -aryldiazoketones with aryldiazenes.



In an inert atmosphere glovebox, to a solution of aryldiazenes **2** (0.15 mmol, 1.0 equiv.),  $\alpha$ -aryldiazoketones **1** (0.18 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) in DCE (0.5 mL) were added a solution of  $\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_3$  (5 mol%) in DCE (0.5 mL). Finally, the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h. Afterwards, the reaction mixture was then concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel eluted with petroleum ether/EtOAc to give the desired products aza- $\beta$ -lactams **3a-3af**.

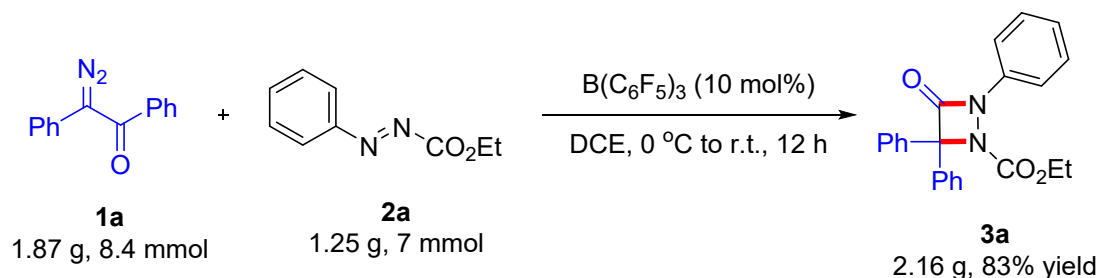
## 6. General procedure for [2+2] cycloadditions of $\alpha$ -aryldiazoketones with dialkyl azodicarboxylate **2y**.



In an inert atmosphere glovebox, to a solution of dialkyl azodicarboxylate **2y** (0.15 mmol, 1.0 equiv.),  $\alpha$ -aryldiazoketones **1** (0.18 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) in  $Et_2O$  (0.5 mL) were added a solution of  $B(C_6F_5)_3$  (5 mol%) in  $Et_2O$  (0.5 mL). Afterwards, the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h. Then a white solid precipitated, which was then filtered and washed three times with *n*-hexane to afford the desired products aza- $\beta$ -lactams **3ag-3al**.

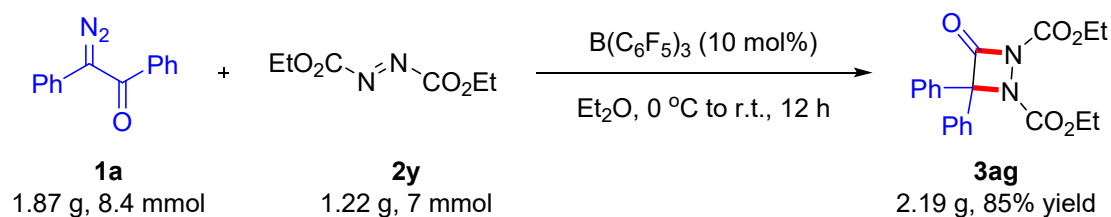
## 7. Gram-scale version of Wolff rearrangement/[2+2] cascade cyclization and synthetic transformations

### 7.1 Gram-scale synthesis of **3a**.



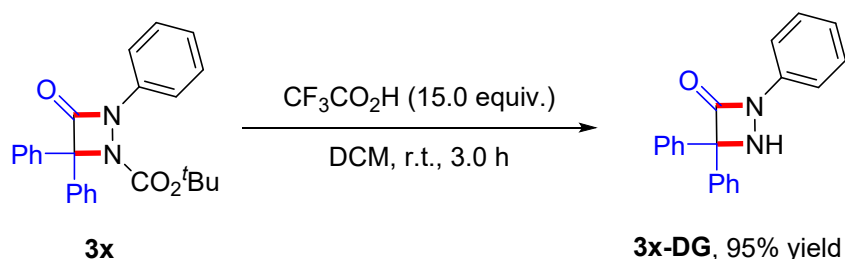
In an inert atmosphere glovebox, a Schlenk flask (100 mL) was charged with **1a** (1.87 g, 8.4 mmol) and **2a** (1.25 g, 7.0 mmol) and DCE (7 mL) was added. The resulting mixture was cooled to 0 °C. Finally, a solution of  $B(C_6F_5)_3$  (0.35 g, 0.7 mmol) in DCE (7 mL) was added slowly to the mixture under stirring at 0 °C. Then, the reaction was warmed to room temperature slowly and stirred for 12 hours. Afterwards, the reaction mixture was then concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by flash chromatography (eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 30/1) on silica gel to afford the product **3a** as a white solid (2.16 g, 83% yield).

## 7.2 Gram-scale synthesis of **3ag**.



In an inert atmosphere glovebox, a Schlenk flask (100 mL) was charged with **1a** (1.87 g, 8.4 mmol) and **2y** (1.22 g, 7.0 mmol) and Et<sub>2</sub>O (7 mL) was added. The resulting mixture was cooled to 0 °C. Finally, a solution of B(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub> (0.35 g, 0.7 mmol) in Et<sub>2</sub>O (7 mL) was added slowly to the mixture under stirring at 0 °C. Then, the reaction was warmed to room temperature slowly and stirred for 12 hours. Afterwards, a white solid precipitated, which was then filtered and washed three times with n-hexane to afford the desired products aza-β-lactams **3ag** as a white solid (2.19 g, 85% yield).

## 7.3 Transformations of **3x**.

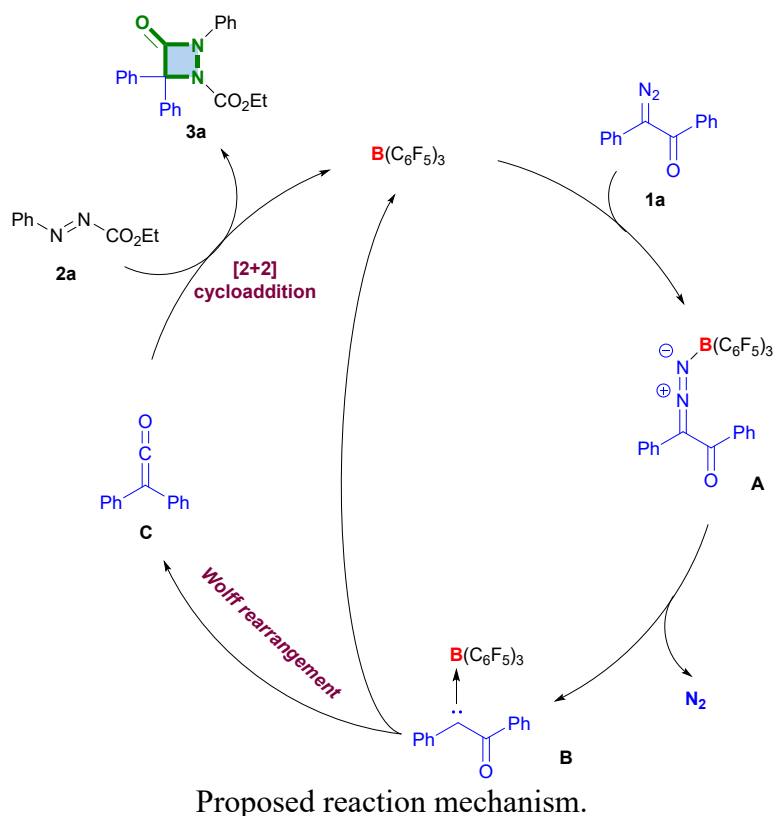


To the vials containing **3x** (0.15 mmol, 60.0 mg, 1.0 equiv) and charged with a stir bar was added DCM (1.0 mL) followed by TFA (0.17 mL, 15.0 equiv) and the reactions was stirred at room temperature for 3 hours, then aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution was added and extracted with DCM (3 × 1.5 mL) and the phases were separated. The combined organic layers were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/EtOAc = 30:1 to 10:1) to give **3x-DG** (42.8 mg, 95%) as a white solid.

## 8. Plausible reaction mechanism

On the basis of previous work<sup>[9,10]</sup>, a plausible mechanism for the current transformation is proposed. First, the reaction is initiated by the coordination of

$B(C_6F_5)_3$  with **1a** led to the  $N \rightarrow B$  adduct **A**. This Lewis acid activation facilitates the extrusion of  $N_2$ , generating intermediate **B**. Subsequently, **B** undergoes a Wolff rearrangement, leading to intermediate **C** with concurrent release of  $B(C_6F_5)_3$  for further catalysis. Finally, the electrophilic center in intermediate **C** is attacked by the nucleophilic **2a**, subsequent cyclization delivers the final product **3a**.



## 8. Single crystal X-ray crystallography

X-ray crystallographic data were collected on a Bruker D8 QUEST diffractometer using Cu ( $60W$ , Diamond,  $\mu K\alpha = 12.894 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ ) micro-focus X-ray sources at  $161 \text{ K}$ . The structure was solved and refined using Full-matrix least-squares based on  $F^2$  with program SHELXS and SHELXL<sup>6</sup> within OLEX2. Products **3a** and **3aa** were crystallized by slow vapor diffusion of DCM and hexane layered on top at room temperature. CCDC 2494209 and CCDC 2528549 contain the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC).

Table S1 Crystal data and structure refinement details for compound **3a**

Identification code	TT2
Empirical formula	C <sub>23</sub> H <sub>20</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>
Formula weight	372.41
Temperature/K	150.0
Crystal system	triclinic
Space group	P-1
a/Å	8.3482(6)
b/Å	9.8084(7)
c/Å	13.6240(10)
α/°	98.448(4)
β/°	107.812(4)
γ/°	107.751(4)
Volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	975.40(13)
Z	2
ρ <sub>calc</sub> /cm <sup>3</sup>	1.268
μ/mm <sup>-1</sup>	0.685
F(000)	392.0
Crystal size/mm <sup>3</sup>	0.014 × 0.01 × 0.008
Radiation	CuKα (λ = 1.54178)
2θ range for data collection/°	7.068 to 136.762
Index ranges	-10 ≤ h ≤ 10, -11 ≤ k ≤ 11, -16 ≤ l ≤ 16
Reflections collected	11454
Independent reflections	3519 [R <sub>int</sub> = 0.0543, R <sub>sigma</sub> = 0.0482]
Data/restraints/parameters	3519/0/254
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.066
Final R indexes [I ≥ 2σ (I)]	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0391, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.0928
Final R indexes [all data]	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0502, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.0995
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å <sup>-3</sup>	0.22/-0.26

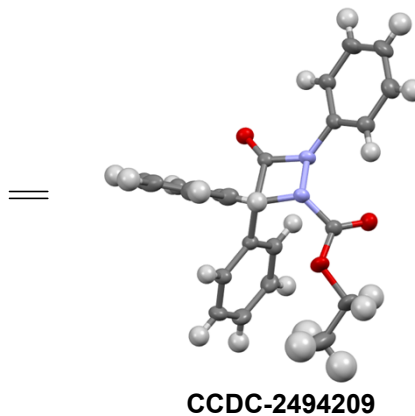
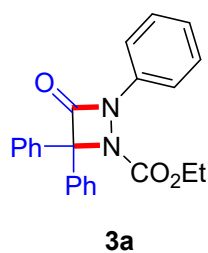
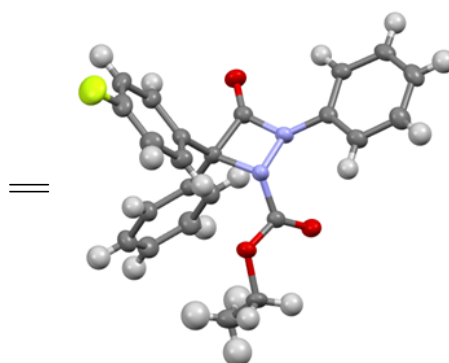
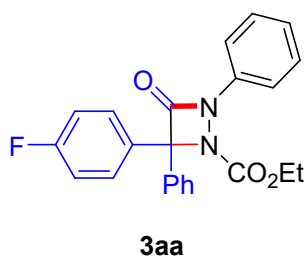


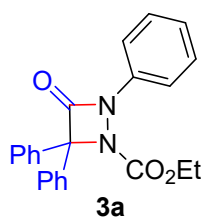
Table S2 Crystal data and structure refinement details for compound **3aa**

Identification code	T1
Empirical formula	C <sub>23</sub> H <sub>19</sub> FN <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>
Formula weight	390.40
Temperature/K	149.0
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	P2 <sub>1</sub> /c
a/Å	15.864(5)
b/Å	11.530(3)
c/Å	10.602(3)
α/°	90
β/°	95.905(10)
γ/°	90
Volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	1928.9(9)
Z	4
ρ <sub>calc</sub> /cm <sup>3</sup>	1.344
μ/mm <sup>-1</sup>	0.795
F(000)	816.0
Radiation	CuKα (λ = 1.54178)
2θ range for data collection/°	5.6 to 132.984
Index ranges	-18 ≤ h ≤ 18, -13 ≤ k ≤ 13, -12 ≤ l ≤ 12
Reflections collected	16717
Independent reflections	3371 [R <sub>int</sub> = 0.0729, R <sub>sigma</sub> = 0.0495]
Data/restraints/parameters	3371/0/263
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.062
Final R indexes [I ≥ 2σ (I)]	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0475, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.1239
Final R indexes [all data]	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0619, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.1355
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å <sup>-3</sup>	0.87/-0.30



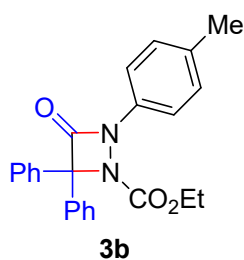
**CCDC-2528549**

## 9. Characterization data of products 3a-3al



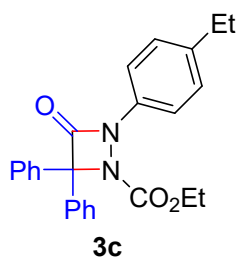
ethyl 3-oxo-2,4,4-triphenyl-1,2-diazetidone-1-carboxylate (**3a**)

The compound **3a** as obtained as a white solid in 94% yield (53.1 mg).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.57-7.52 (m, 4H), 7.47-7.36 (m, 10H), 7.19-7.13 (m, 1H), 3.84 (q,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.82 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 Hz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  165.49, 158.32, 135.02, 129.16, 128.75 (two peaks were incorporated), 128.53 (two peaks were incorporated), 128.52 (two peaks were incorporated), 128.22 (two peaks were incorporated), 124.81, 116.50, 91.66, 62.89, 13.57. **HRMS (ESI, m/z)**: Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3^+$ , ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 373.1547, Found: 373.1549.



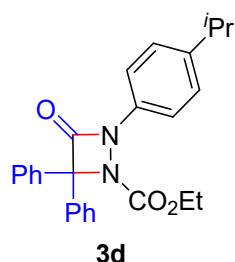
ethyl 3-oxo-4,4-diphenyl-2-(p-tolyl)-1,2-diazetidone-1-carboxylate (**3b**)

The compound **3b** as obtained as a white solid in 95% yield (55.1 mg).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.54-7.49 (m, 4H), 7.40 (dd,  $J$  = 6.0, 4.0 Hz, 6H), 7.35-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.17 (dd,  $J$  = 8.4, 0.8 Hz, 2H), 3.82 (q,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 0.80 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 Hz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  165.44, 158.41, 135.70, 135.08, 134.65, 129.11, 128.50, 128.24, 116.79, 116.67, 91.59, 62.84, 20.92, 13.60. **HRMS (ESI, m/z)**: Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3^+$ , ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 387.1703, Found: 387.1700.



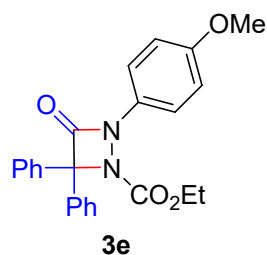
ethyl 2-(4-ethylphenyl)-3-oxo-4,4-diphenyl-1,2-diazetidone-1-carboxylate (**3c**)

The compound **3c** as obtained as a white solid in 92% yield (55.3 mg).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.53-7.49 (m, 4H), 7.43-7.33 (m, 6H), 7.37-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.22-7.16 (m, 2H), 3.82 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 2.62 (q,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 1.20 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 3H), 0.80 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 Hz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  165.45, 158.43, 141.08, 135.86, 135.09, 129.13, 128.53, 128.25, 128.15, 116.78, 91.60, 62.85, 28.35, 15.67, 13.61. HRMS (ESI,  $m/z$ ): Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3^+$ , ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 401.1860, Found: 401.1863.



ethyl 2-(4-isopropylphenyl)-3-oxo-4,4-diphenyl-1,2-diazetidone-1-carboxylate (**3d**)

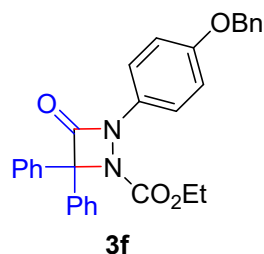
The compound **3d** as obtained as a white solid in 93% yield (57.8 mg).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.53-7.49 (m, 4H), 7.42-7.38 (m, 6H), 7.36 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.22 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 3.82 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 2.88 (s,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 1.22 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 6H), 0.79 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 Hz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  165.44, 158.45, 145.66, 135.91, 135.08, 129.13, 128.53, 128.24, 126.74, 116.71, 91.60, 62.86, 33.65, 23.96, 13.60. HRMS (ESI,  $m/z$ ): Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{27}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3^+$ , ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 415.2016, Found: 415.2018.



ethyl 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-oxo-4,4-diphenyl-1,2-diazetidone-1-carboxylate (**3e**)

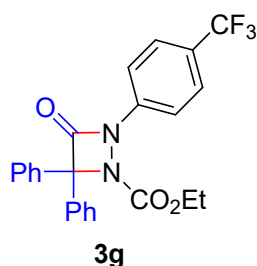
The compound **3e** as obtained as a white solid in 93% yield (56.1 mg).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.52-7.50 (m, 4H), 7.44-7.35 (m, 8H), 6.89 (d,  $J = 9.2$  Hz, 2H), 3.81 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 0.79 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 Hz,

CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  165.64, 157.18, 135.09, 131.51, 129.12, 128.53, 128.52, 128.23, 119.21, 114.09, 91.60, 62.82, 55.50, 13.59. **HRMS (ESI, m/z)**: Calcd. for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>, ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 403.1652, Found: 403.1656.



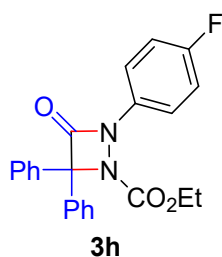
ethyl 2-(4-(benzyloxy)phenyl)-3-oxo-4,4-diphenyl-1,2-diazetidone-1-carboxylate (**3f**)

The compound **3f** as obtained as a white solid in 86% yield (61.7 mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.54-7.49 (m, 4H), 7.41-7.33 (m, 11H), 6.97 (dd,  $J$  = 9.2, 2.0 Hz, 2H), 5.05 (s, 2H), 3.82 (q,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.80 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 Hz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  165.59, 158.55, 156.29, 136.75, 135.09, 131.74, 129.12, 128.56, 128.53, 128.23, 127.96, 127.38, 119.06, 115.13, 91.62, 70.27, 62.82, 13.59. **HRMS (ESI, m/z)**: Calcd. for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>, ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 479.1965, Found: 479.1967.



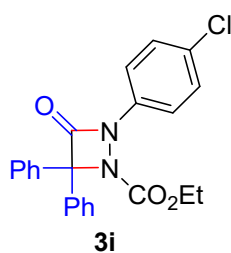
ethyl 3-oxo-4,4-diphenyl-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1,2-diazetidone-1-carboxylate (**3g**)

The compound **3g** as obtained as a white solid in 88% yield (58.1 mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.74-7.57 (m, 3H), 7.56-7.46 (m, 6H), 7.45-7.38 (m, 5H), 3.84 (q,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.81 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 Hz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  165.56, 158.17, 140.56 (q,  $J_{C-F}$  = 1.4 Hz), 134.67, 129.41, 128.67, 128.17, 126.77, 126.44, 126.16 (q,  $J_{C-F}$  = 3.8 Hz), 124.68 (q,  $J_{C-F}$  = 273.1 Hz), 116.20, 92.24, 63.24, 13.57. <sup>19</sup>F{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (471 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$ : -62.05. **HRMS (ESI, m/z)**: Calcd. for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>20</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>, ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 441.1421, Found: 441.1425.



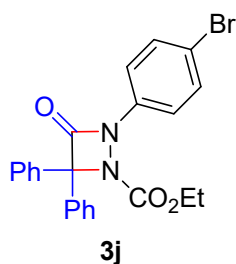
ethyl 2-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-oxo-4,4-diphenyl-1,2-diazetidone-1-carboxylate (**3h**)

The compound **3h** was obtained as a white solid in 90% yield (52.7 mg). **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.53-7.48 (m, 4H), 7.44-7.39 (m, 8H), 7.09-7.03 (m, 2H), 3.82 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.79 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). **<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (100 Hz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 165.53, 159.85 (d, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 245.3 Hz), 158.41, 134.89, 134.24 (d, <sup>4</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 2.7 Hz), 129.26, 128.60, 128.19, 118.52 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 8.3 Hz), 115.64 (d, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 23.2 Hz), 91.92, 63.01, 13.57. **<sup>19</sup>F{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (471 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>), δ: -116.92. **HRMS (ESI, *m/z*)**: Calcd. for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>20</sub>FN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>, ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 391.1452, Found: 391.1450.



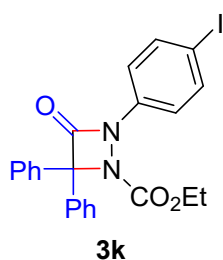
ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-oxo-4,4-diphenyl-1,2-diazetidone-1-carboxylate (**3i**)

The compound **3i** was obtained as a white solid in 91% yield (55.5 mg). **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.50-7.47 (m, 4H), 7.43-7.31 (m, 10H), 3.82 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.80 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). **<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (100 Hz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 165.43, 158.28, 136.59, 134.82, 130.06, 129.31, 128.86, 128.62 (three peaks were incorporated), 128.19 (three peaks were incorporated), 117.79, 92.03, 63.09, 13.58. **HRMS (ESI, *m/z*)**: Calcd. for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>20</sub>Cl<sup>34.9689</sup>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>, ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 407.1157, Found: 407.1155; C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>20</sub>Cl<sup>35.4500</sup>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>, ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 409.1128, Found: 409.1126.



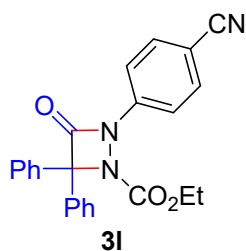
ethyl 2-(4-bromophenyl)-3-oxo-4,4-diphenyl-1,2-diazetidone-1-carboxylate (**3j**)

The compound **3j** as obtained as a white solid in 88% yield (59.6 mg).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.50-7.46 (m, 6H), 7.43-7.39 (m, 6H), 7.33-7.29 (m, 2H), 3.82 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 0.79 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 Hz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  165.42, 158.25, 137.07, 134.80, 131.78, 129.32, 128.63 (three peaks were incorporated), 128.19 (three peaks were incorporated), 118.07, 117.69, 92.06, 63.10, 13.59. HRMS (ESI,  $m/z$ ): Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{20}\text{Br}^{79,9183}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3^+$ , ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 451.0652, Found: 451.0650;  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{20}\text{Br}^{80,9163}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3^+$ , ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 453.0632, Found: 453.0634.



ethyl 2-(4-iodophenyl)-3-oxo-4,4-diphenyl-1,2-diazetidone-1-carboxylate (**3k**)

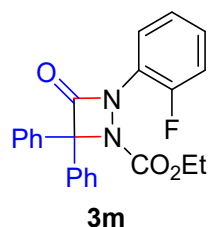
The compound **3k** as obtained as a white solid in 92% yield (68.8 mg).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.67 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.50-7.46 (m, 4H), 7.44-7.38 (m, 6H), 7.19 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 3.82 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 0.79 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 Hz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  165.39, 158.20, 137.74, 137.66 (two peaks were incorporated), 134.77, 129.31, 128.62 (two peaks were incorporated), 128.61 (two peaks were incorporated), 128.18, 118.29, 92.05, 88.30, 63.09, 13.58. HRMS (ESI,  $m/z$ ): Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{20}\text{IN}_2\text{O}_3^+$ , ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 499.0513, Found: 499.0516.



ethyl 2-(4-cyanophenyl)-3-oxo-4,4-diphenyl-1,2-diazetidone-1-carboxylate (**3l**)

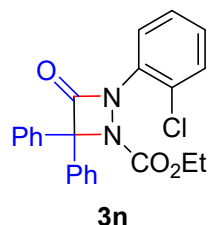
The compound **3l** as obtained as a white solid in 77% yield (45.9 mg).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.68-7.61 (m, 2H), 7.53-7.44 (m, 6H), 7.44-7.39 (m, 6H), 3.83 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 0.79 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 Hz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  165.46, 158.04,

141.11, 134.46, 133.03, 129.52, 128.70, 128.12, 118.59, 116.53, 107.83, 92.48, 63.38, 13.54. **HRMS (ESI, m/z)**: Calcd. for  $C_{24}H_{20}N_3O_3^+$ ,  $([M+H]^+)$ : 398.1499, Found: 398.1496.



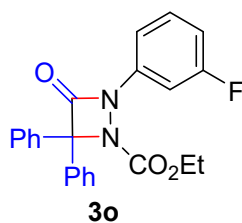
ethyl 2-(2-fluorophenyl)-3-oxo-4,4-diphenyl-1,2-diazetidone-1-carboxylate (**3m**)

The compound **3m** as obtained as a white solid in 86% yield (47.4 mg).  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.87-7.26 (m, 5H), 7.20-6.96 (m, 5H), 6.93-6.82 (m, 2H), 6.72 (ddd,  $J = 11.2, 8.0, 1.6$  Hz, 1H), 4.37 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 1.36 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}C\{^1H\}$  NMR (125 Hz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  165.18, 154.11 (d,  $^1J_{C-F} = 244.0$  Hz), 148.56, 135.66, 133.46 (d,  $^3J_{C-F} = 10.3$  Hz), 129.69, 129.26, 128.66, 128.34, 128.04, 125.60 (d,  $^3J_{C-F} = 7.3$  Hz), 125.57, 123.66 (d,  $^4J_{C-F} = 3.5$  Hz), 120.03, 115.46 (d,  $^2J_{C-F} = 18.9$  Hz), 94.43, 77.25, 77.00, 76.75, 64.00, 14.18.  $^{19}F\{^1H\}$  NMR (471 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ),  $\delta$ : -118.82. **HRMS (ESI, m/z)**: Calcd. for  $C_{23}H_{20}FN_2O_3^+$ ,  $([M+H]^+)$ : 391.1452, Found: 391.1449.



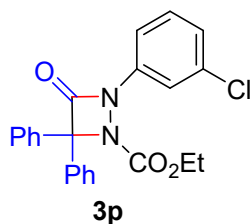
ethyl 2-(2-chlorophenyl)-3-oxo-4,4-diphenyl-1,2-diazetidone-1-carboxylate (**3n**)

The compound **3n** as obtained as a white solid in 79% yield (48.2 mg).  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.90 (dd,  $J = 8.2, 2.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.47-7.38 (m, 3H), 7.21-7.08 (m, 7H), 7.04-6.99 (m, 1H), 6.86 (td,  $J = 7.6, 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.36 (qd,  $J = 7.2, 2.8$  Hz, 2H), 1.34 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}C\{^1H\}$  NMR (100 Hz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  165.21, 148.28, 142.53, 135.77, 132.75, 129.97, 129.91, 129.35, 128.68, 128.41, 128.38, 128.01, 127.95, 126.64, 126.19, 121.35, 95.13, 63.98, 14.20. **HRMS (ESI, m/z)**: Calcd. for  $C_{23}H_{20}ClN_2O_3^+$ ,  $([M+H]^+)$ : 407.1157, Found: 407.1159.



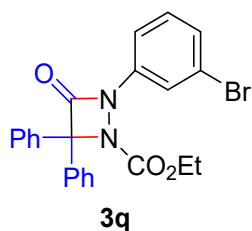
ethyl 2-(3-fluorophenyl)-3-oxo-4,4-diphenyl-1,2-diazetidone-1-carboxylate (**3o**)

The compound **3o** as obtained as a white solid in 91% yield (53.3 mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.52-7.47 (m, 4H), 7.42-7.39 (m, 6H), 7.32 (td, *J* = 8.4, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 2.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (dt, *J* = 10, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (tdd, *J* = 8.4, 2.4, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.80 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 Hz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 165.55, 162.74 (d, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 247.5 Hz), 158.24, 139.30 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 10.6 Hz), 134.78, 130.17 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 9.2 Hz), 129.32, 128.62, 128.19, 112.09 (d, <sup>4</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 3.0 Hz), 111.64 (d, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 21.3 Hz), 104.15 (d, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 27.1 Hz), 92.01, 63.12, 13.57. (d, <sup>4</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 2.7 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (471 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>), δ: -111.13. HRMS (ESI, *m/z*): Calcd. for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>20</sub>FN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>, ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 391.1452, Found: 391.1450.



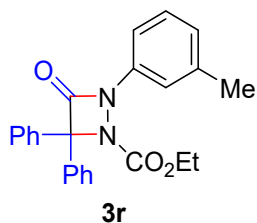
ethyl 2-(3-chlorophenyl)-3-oxo-4,4-diphenyl-1,2-diazetidone-1-carboxylate (**3p**)

The compound **3p** as obtained as a white solid in 92% yield (56.1 mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.52-7.47 (m, 4H), 7.43-7.39 (m, 7H), 7.34 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 2.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (ddd, *J* = 7.6, 2.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.80 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 Hz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 165.56, 158.21, 138.97, 134.77, 134.64, 129.88, 129.34, 128.64, 128.20, 124.91, 116.52, 114.66, 92.03, 63.14, 13.59. HRMS (ESI, *m/z*): Calcd. for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>20</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>, ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 407.1157, Found: 407.1160.



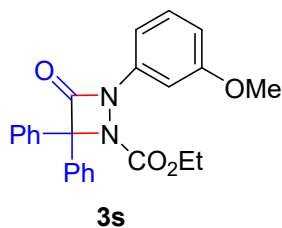
ethyl 2-(3-bromophenyl)-3-oxo-4,4-diphenyl-1,2-diazetidone-1-carboxylate (**3q**)

The compound **3q** as obtained as a white solid in 90% yield (61.0 mg). **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.55 (t, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.51-7.45 (m, 4H), 7.43-7.36 (m, 7H), 7.29-7.26 (m, 1H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.80 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). **<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (100 Hz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 165.55, 158.19, 139.05, 134.76, 130.13, 129.33, 128.64, 128.19, 127.83, 122.52, 119.29, 115.12, 92.03, 63.15, 13.58. **HRMS (ESI, *m/z*)**: Calcd. for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>20</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>, ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 451.0652, Found: 451.0654.



ethyl 3-oxo-4,4-diphenyl-2-(m-tolyl)-1,2-diazetidone-1-carboxylate (**3r**)

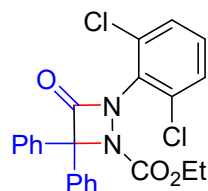
The compound **3r** as obtained as a white solid in 93% yield (53.9 mg). **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.54-7.49 (m, 4H), 7.43-7.39 (m, 6H), 7.27-7.19 (m, 3H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (q, *J* = 13.2, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 0.80 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). **<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR** (100 Hz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 165.52, 158.39, 138.84, 137.98, 135.07, 129.16, 128.62, 128.55, 128.26, 125.72, 117.11, 113.68, 91.58, 62.89, 21.50, 13.60. **HRMS (ESI, *m/z*)**: Calcd. for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>, ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 387.1703, Found: 387.1700.



ethyl 2-(3-methoxyphenyl)-3-oxo-4,4-diphenyl-1,2-diazetidone-1-carboxylate (**3s**)

The compound **3s** as obtained as a white solid in 94% yield (56.7 mg). **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.53-7.48 (m, 4H), 7.42-7.38 (m, 6H), 7.26 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (t, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 2.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 2.4, 0.8 Hz,

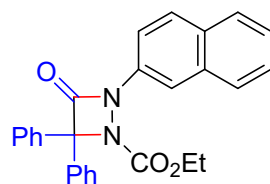
1H), 3.82 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 0.80 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 Hz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  165.59, 159.92, 158.33, 139.11, 134.98, 129.65, 129.20, 128.56, 128.24, 110.64, 108.83, 102.57, 91.69, 62.94, 55.38, 13.60. **HRMS (ESI, m/z)**: Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4^+$ , ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 403.1652, Found: 403.1654.



**3t**

ethyl 2-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-3-oxo-4,4-diphenyl-1,2-diazetidone-1-carboxylate (**3t**)

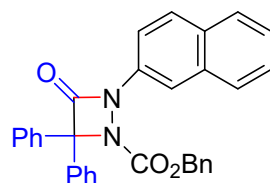
The compound **3t** as obtained as a white solid in 35% yield (43.8 mg).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.80-7.03 (m, 12H), 6.87 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 4.34 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 1.31 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 Hz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  163.29, 147.57, 137.15, 128.96, 128.94, 128.26, 128.26, 128.20, 127.47, 94.03, 63.75, 14.17. **HRMS (ESI, m/z)**: Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{19}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_3^+$ , ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 441.0767, Found: 441.0764.



**3u**

ethyl 2-(naphthalen-2-yl)-3-oxo-4,4-diphenyl-1,2-diazetidone-1-carboxylate (**3u**)

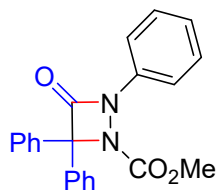
The compound **3u** as obtained as a white solid in 91% yield (57.7 mg).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.90-7.74 (m, 4H), 7.70 (dd,  $J = 8.5, 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.60-7.51 (m, 4H), 7.50-7.37 (m, 8H), 3.85 (q,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 2H), 0.82 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 Hz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  165.69, 158.43, 135.64, 135.02, 133.22, 130.93, 129.22, 128.83, 128.59, 128.28, 127.68, 126.70, 125.29, 116.54, 113.39, 91.84, 63.01, 13.63. **HRMS (ESI, m/z)**: Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4^+$ , ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 423.1703, Found: 423.1707.



**3v**

benzyl 2-(naphthalen-2-yl)-3-oxo-4,4-diphenyl-1,2-diazetidone-1-carboxylate (**3v**)

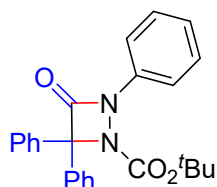
The compound **3v** was obtained as a white solid in 80% yield (58.1 mg).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.89-7.57 (m, 5H), 7.50-7.11 (m, 15H), 6.92 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 4.71 (s, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 Hz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  173.33, 165.65, 135.50, 134.74, 133.16, 130.93, 129.42, 129.20, 128.82, 128.58, 128.38, 128.35, 128.13, 127.67, 127.64, 126.68, 125.30, 116.58, 113.48, 91.99, 51.54. HRMS (ESI,  $m/z$ ): Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4^+$ , ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 485.1860, Found: 485.1864.



**3w**

methyl 3-oxo-2,4,4-triphenyl-1,2-diazetidone-1-carboxylate (**3w**)

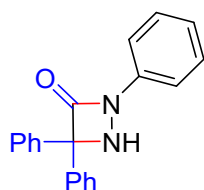
The compound **3w** was obtained as a white solid in 91% yield (48.9 mg).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.53-7.48 (m, 4H), 7.44-7.35 (m, 10H), 7.19-7.12 (m, 1H), 3.33 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 Hz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  165.33, 158.96, 137.97, 134.86, 129.22, 128.83, 128.58, 128.13, 124.90, 116.45, 91.96, 53.26. HRMS (ESI,  $m/z$ ): Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3^+$ , ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 359.1390, Found: 359.1394.



**3x**

tert-butyl 3-oxo-2,4,4-triphenyl-1,2-diazetidone-1-carboxylate (**3x**)

The compound **3x** was obtained as a white solid in 79% yield (47.5 mg).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.54-7.49 (m, 4H), 7.44-7.34 (m, 10H), 7.13 (tt,  $J = 7.2, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 1.08 (s, 9H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 Hz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  165.69, 156.86, 138.10, 135.42, 129.07, 128.74, 128.53, 128.43, 124.73, 116.54, 91.07, 83.17, 27.31. HRMS (ESI,  $m/z$ ): Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3^+$ , ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 401.1860, Found: 401.1858.



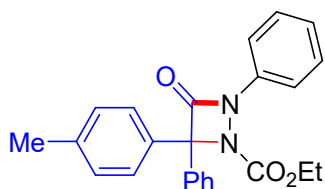
**3x-DG**

2,4,4-triphenyl-1,2-diazetid-3-one (**3x-DG**)

The compound **3x-DG** was obtained as a white solid in 77% yield (42.8 mg).

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.63 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.54-7.31 (m, 12H), 7.15-7.08 (m, 1H), 4.96 (s, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 Hz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  164.40, 137.97 (two peaks were incorporated), 129.08, 124.28, 115.34 (three peaks were incorporated), 82.90.

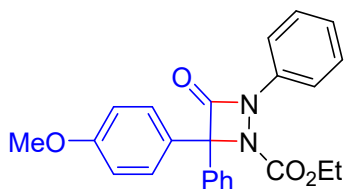
**HRMS (ESI, m/z)**: Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2\text{O}^+$ , ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 301.1336, Found: 301.1339.



**3y**

ethyl 3-oxo-2,4-diphenyl-4-(p-tolyl)-1,2-diazetid-1-carboxylate (**3y**)

The compound **3y** as obtained as a white solid in 95% yield (55.1 mg).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.56-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.43-7.33 (m, 9H), 7.23-7.18 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 0.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.14 (tt,  $J = 7.2, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.83 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 0.81 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 Hz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  165.71, 158.43, 139.24, 138.12, 132.09, 129.22, 129.06, 128.76, 128.51, 128.24, 128.17, 124.78, 116.51, 91.72, 77.32, 76.68, 62.88, 21.19, 13.62. **HRMS (ESI, m/z)**: Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3^+$ , ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 387.1703, Found: 387.1707.

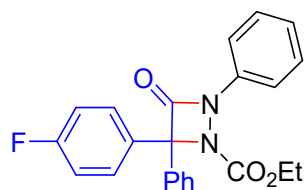


**3z**

ethyl 4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-oxo-2,4-diphenyl-1,2-diazetid-1-carboxylate (**3z**)

The compound **3z** as obtained as a white solid in 91% yield (54.9 mg).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.44 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.35-7.20 (m, 9H), 7.02 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H),

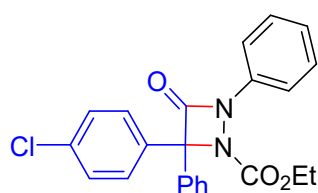
6.79 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 3.95-3.71 (q,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 0.73 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (125 Hz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  165.72, 160.24, 158.42, 138.06, 135.27, 129.80, 128.94, 128.72, 128.46, 127.96, 127.06, 124.74, 116.45, 113.86, 91.60, 62.86, 55.29, 13.65. **HRMS (ESI, m/z)**: Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4^+$ , ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 403.1652, Found: 403.1650.



**3aa**

ethyl 4-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-oxo-2,4-diphenyl-1,2-diazetidone-1-carboxylate (**3aa**)

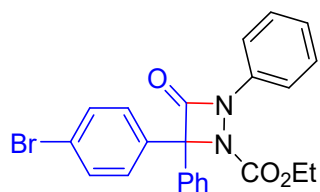
The compound **3aa** as obtained as a white solid in 90% yield (52.7 mg).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.54-7.47 (m, 4H), 7.45-7.35 (m, 7H), 7.18-7.14 (tt,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.14-7.07 (m, 2H), 3.86 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 0.85 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 Hz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  165.28, 163.1 (d,  $^1J_{\text{C-F}} = 248.3$  Hz), 158.19, 137.94, 134.87, 130.94 (d,  $^4J_{\text{C-F}} = 3.3$  Hz), 130.27, 130.18, 129.34, 128.73 (d,  $^3J_{\text{C-F}} = 15.0$  Hz), 128.13, 124.96, 116.53, 115.59 (d,  $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 21.7$  Hz), 91.02, 63.04, 13.65.  $^{19}\text{F}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (471 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $\delta$ : -111.80. **HRMS (ESI, m/z)**: Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{20}\text{FN}_2\text{O}_3^+$ , ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 391.1452, Found: 391.1455.



**3ab**

ethyl 4-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-oxo-2,4-diphenyl-1,2-diazetidone-1-carboxylate (**3ab**)

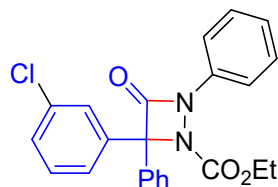
The compound **3ab** as obtained as a white solid in 89% yield (54.2 mg).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.59-7.33 (m, 13H), 7.19-7.13 (m, 1H), 4.00-3.73 (m, 2H), 0.83 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 Hz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  165.06, 158.11, 137.91, 135.28, 134.62, 133.55, 129.57, 129.46, 128.81, 128.78, 128.69, 128.22, 125.00, 116.54, 90.96, 63.08, 13.64. **HRMS (ESI, m/z)**: Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{20}\text{Cl}^{34.9689}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3^+$ , ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 407.1157, Found: 407.1153;  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{20}\text{Cl}^{35.4500}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3^+$ , ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 409.1128, Found: 409.1129



**3ac**

ethyl 4-(4-bromophenyl)-3-oxo-2,4-diphenyl-1,2-diazetidene-1-carboxylate (**3ac**)

The compound **3ac** as obtained as a white solid in 98% yield (66.3 mg).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.56 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.49-7.35 (m, 11H), 7.20-7.12 (m, 1H), 3.87 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 0.84 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 Hz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  164.96, 158.08, 137.88, 134.53, 134.05, 131.73, 129.80, 129.47, 128.80, 128.69, 128.23, 124.99, 123.48, 116.51, 90.99, 63.08, 13.62. **HRMS (ESI, m/z)**: Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{20}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}_3^+$ , ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 451.0652, Found: 451.0656.

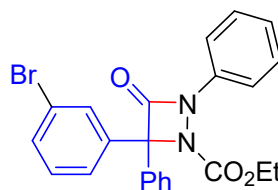


**3ad**

ethyl 4-(3-chlorophenyl)-3-oxo-2,4-diphenyl-1,2-diazetidene-1-carboxylate (**3ad**)

The compound **3ad** as obtained as a white solid in 89% yield (54.2 mg).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.56 (q,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.34 (m, 12H), 7.17 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.87 (dd,  $J = 11.2, 6.8$  Hz, 2H), 0.84 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 Hz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  164.84, 158.05, 137.87, 136.96, 134.63, 134.44, 129.86, 129.57, 129.33, 128.82, 128.74, 128.38, 128.31, 126.16, 125.02, 116.54, 90.85, 63.12, 13.62.

**HRMS (ESI, m/z)**: Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{20}\text{Cl}^{34.9689}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3^+$ , ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 407.1157, Found: 407.1153;  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{20}\text{Cl}^{35.4500}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3^+$ , ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 409.1128, Found: 409.1126.

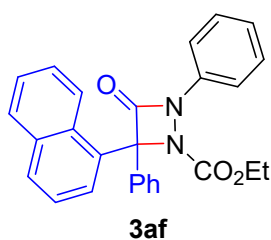


**3ae**

ethyl 4-(3-bromophenyl)-3-oxo-2,4-diphenyl-1,2-diazetidene-1-carboxylate (**3ae**)

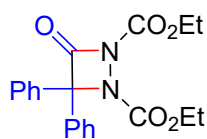
The compound **3ae** as obtained as a white solid in 84% yield (56.8 mg).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400

MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.71 (t, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.57-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.48-7.35 (m, 9H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.21- 7.12 (m, 1H), 3.87 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.84 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 Hz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 164.80, 158.03, 137.84, 137.17, 134.41, 132.27, 131.17, 130.08, 129.56, 128.80, 128.73, 128.29, 126.63, 125.01, 122.69, 116.53, 90.76, 63.12, 13.62. **HRMS (ESI, m/z)**: Calcd. for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>20</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>, ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 451.0652, Found: 451.0654.



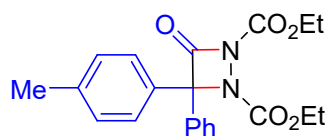
ethyl 4-(naphthalen-1-yl)-3-oxo-2,4-diphenyl-1,2-diazetidone-1-carboxylate (**3af**)

The compound **3af** as obtained as a white solid in 88% yield (55.7 mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.32 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.94 -7.82 (m, 3H), 7.59 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.27 (m, 11H), 7.17-7.11 (m, 1H), 3.88 (dq, *J* = 10.8, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.67 (dd, *J* = 10.8, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 0.78 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 Hz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 164.81, 158.49, 138.16, 135.07, 134.18, 130.69, 130.17, 129.86, 129.82, 128.81, 128.79, 128.78, 128.20, 127.68, 127.39, 125.82, 125.68, 125.08, 124.87, 116.48, 94.24, 62.97, 13.56. **HRMS (ESI, m/z)**: Calcd. for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>, ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 423.1704, Found: 423.1707.



diethyl 4-oxo-3,3-diphenyl-1,2-diazetidone-1,2-dicarboxylate (**3ag**)

The compound **3ag** was obtained as a white solid in 94% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.65-7.46 (m, 4H), 7.31-7.26 (m, 6H), 4.27-3.98 (m, 2H), 3.82-3.50 (m, 2H), 1.15 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 0.93 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 Hz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.57, 150.51, 139.02, 137.98, 128.60, 128.45, 128.42, 127.97, 126.73, 126.34, 86.38, 63.02, 61.81, 14.15, 14.04. **HRMS (ESI, m/z)**: Calcd. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub><sup>+</sup>, ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): 369.1445, Found: 369.1442.

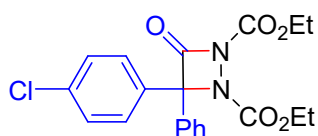


**3ah**

diethyl 4-oxo-3-phenyl-3-(p-tolyl)-1,2-diazetidone-1,2-dicarboxylate (**3ah**)

The compound **3ah** was obtained as a white solid in 91% yield (52.2 mg, 1:1 d.r.).

$^1\text{H}_{\text{mixture}}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.65 (m, 1H), 7.55-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.27 (m, 4H), 7.18-7.02 (m, 2H), 4.20-4.02 (m, 2H), 3.79-3.68 (m, 1H), 3.68-3.53 (m, 1H), 2.31 (s, 1.5 H), 2.30 (s, 1.5 H), 1.15 (m, 3H), 0.98 (q,  $J = 6.8\text{ Hz}$ , 1H), 0.90 (q,  $J = 7.2\text{ Hz}$ , 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}_{\text{mixture}}$  NMR (100 Hz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  167.73, 167.66, 150.55, 138.50, 138.49, 138.23, 138.07, 136.26, 135.15, 129.12, 129.11, 128.61, 128.49, 128.48, 128.37, 128.31, 127.91, 126.82, 126.78, 126.70, 126.67, 126.43, 126.38, 126.32, 126.27, 108.76, 108.71, 86.44, 86.42, 62.96, 61.76, 61.73, 21.10, 21.05, 14.17, 14.12, 14.09, 14.01. HRMS (ESI,  $m/z$ ): Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5^+$ , ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 383.1601, Found: 383.1603.

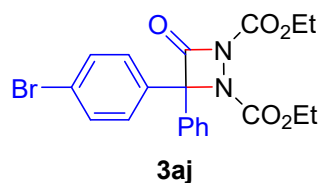


**3ai**

diethyl 3-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-oxo-3-phenyl-1,2-diazetidone-1,2-dicarboxylate (**3ai**)

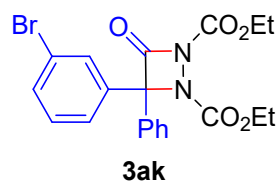
The compound **3ai** was obtained as a white solid in 87% yield (54.4 mg, 1:1 d.r.).

$^1\text{H}_{\text{mixture}}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.67-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.26 (m, 3H), 4.22-4.03 (m, 2H), 3.75-3.63 (m, 1H), 3.54 (m, 1H), 1.21-1.13 (m, 3H), 1.00-0.90 (m, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}_{\text{mixture}}$  NMR (100 Hz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  167.22, 150.42, 150.34, 138.60, 137.57, 137.47, 134.78, 134.62, 128.89, 128.73, 128.68, 128.60, 128.17, 128.12, 128.09, 127.59, 127.56, 126.55, 126.21, 126.19, 108.71, 85.81, 85.76, 63.19, 63.12, 61.89, 14.09, 14.01. HRMS (ESI,  $m/z$ ): Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{Cl}^{34.9689}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5^+$ , ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 403.1056, Found: 403.1052;  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{Cl}^{35.4500}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5^+$ , ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 405.1026, Found: 405.1025.



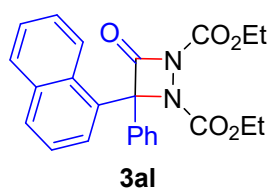
diethyl 3-(4-bromophenyl)-4-oxo-3-phenyl-1,2-diazetidone-1,2-dicarboxylate (**3aj**)

The compound **3aj** was obtained as a white solid in 98% yield (61.1 mg, 1:1 d.r.).  $^1\text{H}$  mixture NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.74-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.48-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.32 (m, 3H), 7.01 (m, 2H), 4.25-4.00 (m, 2H), 3.70 (m, 1H), 3.62-3.49 (m, 1H), 1.20-1.12 (m, 3H), 1.00-0.89 (m, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  mixture NMR (100 Hz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  167.42, 163.94, 161.47, 150.45, 150.41, 138.83, 137.72, 128.80, 128.72, 128.62, 128.56, 128.37, 128.34, 128.29, 128.26, 128.08, 126.63, 126.24, 126.22, 115.60, 115.59, 115.39, 115.37, 115.02, 114.81, 108.75, 108.72, 85.96, 85.90, 63.14, 63.11, 61.90, 61.81, 14.17, 14.14, 14.02, 14.00. HRMS (ESI,  $m/z$ ): Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{Br}^{79,9183}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5^+$ , ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 447.0551, Found: 447.0553;  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{Br}^{80,9163}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5^+$ , ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 449.0530, Found: 449.0532.



diethyl 3-(3-bromophenyl)-4-oxo-3-phenyl-1,2-diazetidone-1,2-dicarboxylate (**3ak**)

The compound **3ak** was obtained as a white solid in 81% yield (54.3 mg).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.89 (s, 1H), 7.61 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.26 (m, 6H), 7.17 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.23 (ddt,  $J = 22.5, 17.5, 10$  Hz, 2H), 3.68 (p,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 2H), 3.55 (p,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 1.23 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H), 0.90 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100 Hz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  167.07, 150.46, 140.06, 138.47, 131.60, 129.60, 129.29, 128.95, 128.66, 126.27, 125.43, 122.28, 108.88, 85.56, 63.38, 62.00, 14.21, 14.11. HRMS (ESI,  $m/z$ ): Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{Br}^{79,9183}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5^+$ , ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 447.0551, Found: 447.0550;  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{Br}^{80,9163}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5^+$ , ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 449.0530, Found: 449.0529.



diethyl 3-(naphthalen-1-yl)-4-oxo-3-phenyl-1,2-diazetidene-1,2-dicarboxylate (**3al**)

The compound **3an** was obtained as a white solid in 90% yield (56.4 mg, 5.8:1 d.r.).  $^1\text{H}$  mixture NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.89 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.08 (t,  $J = 15.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.35 (m, 5H), 7.32-7.29 (m, 2H), 6.94 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 4.37 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 4H), 1.36 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  mixture NMR (100 Hz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  163.21, 157.71, 148.22, 134.82, 134.29, 134.18, 130.51, 130.19, 130.06, 129.78, 129.09, 128.86, 128.49, 128.34, 128.22, 128.03, 128.00, 127.81, 127.27, 127.02, 126.59, 125.87, 125.76, 125.21, 112.91, 94.23, 89.25, 64.27, 63.14, 14.25, 14.16, 13.51. HRMS (ESI,  $m/z$ ): Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5^+$ , ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): 419.1602, Found: 419.1605.

## 10. References

- [1] Zhou, J.; Chen, C.; Pang, Q.; Zuo, W.-F.; Li, X.; Zhan, G.; Yang, Q.-Q.; Han, B. Cooperative photoactivation/Lewis base catalyzed [4 + 2] annulations of  $\alpha$ -diazoketones and ortho-amino MBH carbonates to access dihydroquinolinone frameworks. *Organic Chemistry Frontiers* **2023**, *10* (4), 1034–1041.
- [2] Song, W.; Guo, J.; Stephan, D. W.  $\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_3$ -catalyzed Wolff rearrangement/[2 + 2] and [4 + 2] cascade cyclization of  $\alpha$ -diazoketones with imines. *Organic Chemistry Frontiers* **2023**, *10* (7), 1754-1758.
- [3] Nguyen, T. H.; Bosse, A. T.; Ly, D.; Suarez, C. A.; Fu, J.; Shimabukuro, K.; Musaev, D. G.; Davies, H. M. L. Diaryldiazoketones as Effective Carbene Sources for Highly Selective Rh(II)-Catalyzed Intermolecular C-H Functionalization. *Journal of the American Chemical Society* **2024**, *146* (12), 8447-8455.
- [4] Ma, Q.; Tsui, G. C. Trifluoromethylation of  $\alpha$ -diazoesters and  $\alpha$ -diazoketones with fluoroform-derived  $\text{CuCF}_3$ : synergistic effects of co-solvent and pyridine as a promoter. *Organic Chemistry Frontiers* **2019**, *6* (1), 27-31.
- [5] Zhang, H. X.; Kou, L. G.; Gao, Y. R.; Jia, Q.; Wang, Y. Q. Regiospecific Alkene

Oxyamination via N-Alkylation- Hydroxylation- Transesterification Cascades. *Advanced Synthesis & Catalysis* **2024**, 367 (6).

[6] Jiménez-Aberásturi, X.; Palacios, F.; de los Santos, J. M. Sc(OTf)<sub>3</sub>-Mediated [4 + 2] Annulations of N-Carbonyl Aryldiazenes with Cyclopentadiene to Construct Cinnoline Derivatives: Azo-Povarov Reaction. *The Journal of Organic Chemistry* **2022**, 87 (17), 11583–11592.

[7] Luo, W.; Guo, H.; Qiu, X.; Ming, M.; Zhang, L.; Zhu, H.; Zhou, J. Organocatalytic Atroposelective Construction of Pentatomic Heterobiaryl Diamines through Arylation of 5-Aminoisoxazoles with Azonaphthalenes. *Organic Letters* **2024**, 26 (13), 2564–2568.

[8] Kim, M. H.; Kim, J. Aerobic Oxidation of Alkyl 2-Phenylhydrazinecarboxylates Catalyzed by CuCl and DMAP. *The Journal of Organic Chemistry* **2018**, 83 (3), 1673–1679.

[9] Song, W.; Guo, J.; Stephan, D. W. B(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>-catalyzed Wolff rearrangement/[2 + 2] and [4 + 2] cascade cyclization of  $\alpha$ -diazoketones with imines. *Org. Chem. Front.* **2023**, 10 (7), 1754-1758.

[10] Melen, R. L.; Pramanik, M. Activation of Diazo Compounds by Fluorinated Triarylborane Catalysts. *Synthesis* **2023**. DOI: 10.1055/a-2118-3046.

## 11. NMR spectra of isolated compounds

