

## Experimental Section

### 1 Reagents and general methods

All reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers and were dried and purified when necessary, and  $\beta$ -caroline-3-carboxylic acids **1-13** were synthesized according to our previously published methods<sup>23, 24, 28</sup>.

Melting points were determined in capillary tubes on an electrothermal PIF YRT-3 apparatus and without correction. MS spectra were obtained from VG ZAB-HS spectrometer.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded on a Mercury-Plus 300 spectrometer at 300 MHz and 75 MHz, respectively, using TMS as internal standard and  $\text{CDCl}_3$  as solvent and chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) were expressed in ppm. HRMS were obtained from ESI-Q-TOF maxis 4G spectrometer. Silica gel F254 were used in analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) and silica gel were used in column chromatography respectively.

### 2 General procedure for the preparation of bivalent $\beta$ -carbolines **14-44**.

A mixture of  $\beta$ -caroline-3-carboxylic acids **1-13** (2.1mmol), anhydrous  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  (3.0mmol), anhydrous DMF (50ml) and appropriate dibromoalkane (1.0mmol) was stirred at 80 °C for 6-10 h. After completion of the reaction as indicated by TLC, the solution was poured into ice-water and extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . The combined organic layer was washed with water and brine, dried over anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , filtered and evaporated in vacuum. The residue was purified by column chromatography with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$  (50:1) to successfully afford the desirable target products.

#### 2.1 *1,3-Bis(1,9-dimethyl- $\beta$ -caroline-3-carboxylic acid)propanediyl ester* (**14**)

Starting from 1,9-dimethyl- $\beta$ -caroline-3-carboxyl acid (0.51g, 2.1mmol) and 1,3-dibromopropane (1.0mmol). White solid was obtained (0.36g, 69%), mp 186-188°C. ESI-MS m/z: 521.3 (100)  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.36 (2H, s, ArH), 7.83 (2H, d,  $J=7.8\text{Hz}$ , , ArH), 7.52-7.57 (2H, m, , ArH), 7.20-7.29 (4H, m, ArH), 4.71 (4H, t,  $J=5.7\text{Hz}$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ), 3.80 (6H, s,  $\text{NCH}_3$ ), 2.98 (6H, s,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 2.40-2.47 (2H, m,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  165.8, 141.7, 136.7, 136.1, 128.2, 127.7, 121.3, 120.8, 120.1, 116.2, 109.8, 63.7, 32.0, 28.7, 24.1. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{29}\text{N}_4\text{O}_4$  521.2183  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ , found 521.2185.

#### 2.2 *1,6-Bis(1,9-dimethyl- $\beta$ -caroline-3-carboxyl)hexanediylyl ester* (**15**)

Starting from 1,9-dimethyl- $\beta$ -caroline-3-carboxyl acid (0.51g, 2.1mmol) and 1,6-dibromohexane (1.0mmol). White solid was obtained (0.42g, 75%), mp 161-163°C. ESI-MS m/z: 563.4 (100)

$[M+H]^+$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.60 (2H, s, ArH), 8.08-8.11 (2H, m, ArH), 7.58-7.65 (2H, m, ArH), 7.44 (2H, d,  $J=8.4\text{Hz}$ , ArH), 7.28-7.34 (2H, m, ArH), 4.48 (4H, t,  $J=6.6\text{Hz}$ ,  $\text{CH}_2[\text{CH}_2]_4\text{CH}_2$ ), 4.12 (6H, s,  $\text{NCH}_3$ ), 3.14 (6H, s,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.90-1.97 (4H, m,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2[\text{CH}_2]_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.62-1.67 (4H, m,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2[\text{CH}_2]_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  166.2, 142.4, 141.9, 137.3, 136.9, 128.6, 121.7, 121.5, 120.7, 116.2, 110.0, 109.9, 65.7, 32.6, 29.1, 26.3, 24.4. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{35}\text{N}_4\text{O}_4$  563.2653  $[M+H]^+$ , found 563.2668.

### 2.3 1,10-*Bis(1,9-dimethyl-β-carboline-3-carboxyl) decanediyi ester (16)*

Starting from 1,9-dimethyl-β-carboline-3-carboxyl acid (0.51g, 2.1mmol) and 1,10-dibromodecane (1.0mmol). Yellow solid was obtained (0.47g, 76%), mp 152-154°C. ESI-MS m/z: 619.4 (100)  $[M+H]^+$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.68 (2H, s, ArH), 8.14 (2H, d,  $J=7.5\text{Hz}$ , ArH), 7.59-7.64 (2H, m, ArH), 7.45-7.50 (2H, m, ArH), 7.30-7.35 (2H, m, ArH), 4.43 (4H, t,  $J=6.9\text{Hz}$ ,  $\text{CH}_2[\text{CH}_2]_8\text{CH}_2$ ), 4.18 (6H, s,  $\text{NCH}_3$ ), 3.17 (6H, s,  $\text{NCH}_3$ ), 1.83-1.92 (4H, m,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2[\text{CH}_2]_6\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.32-1.51 (8H, m,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2[\text{CH}_2]_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ), 0.84-0.91 (4H, m,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2[\text{CH}_2]_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  166.2, 142.5, 142.0, 137.4, 137.0, 128.7, 121.7, 121.6, 120.7, 116.3, 110.0, 65.9, 32.6, 29.8, 29.7, 29.2, 26.4, 24.4. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{38}\text{H}_{43}\text{N}_4\text{O}_4$  619.3279  $[M+H]^+$ , found 619.3293.

### 2.4 1,6-*Bis(9-ethyl-1-methyl-β-carboline-3-carboxylic acid)hexanediyi ester (17)*

Starting from 9-ethyl-1-methyl-β-carboline-3-carboxyl acid (0.53g, 2.1mmol) and 1,6-dibromohexane (1.0mmol). White solid was obtained (0.38g, 64%), mp 142-144°C. ESI-MS m/z: 591.3 (100)  $[M+H]^+$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.68 (2H, s, ArH), 8.14 (2H, d,  $J=7.8\text{Hz}$ , ArH), 7.57-7.62 (2H, m, ArH), 7.47 (2H, d,  $J=8.1\text{Hz}$ , ArH), 7.28-7.33 (2H, m, ArH), 4.62 (4H, q,  $J=7.2\text{Hz}$ ,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 4.47 (4H, t,  $J=6.9\text{Hz}$ ,  $\text{CH}_2[\text{CH}_2]_4\text{CH}_2$ ), 3.11 (6H, s,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.89-1.98 (4H, m,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2[\text{CH}_2]_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.60-1.64 (4H, m,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2[\text{CH}_2]_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.47 (6H, t,  $J=7.2\text{Hz}$ ,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  166.3, 141.5, 141.4, 136.8, 136.5, 128.9, 128.7, 121.8, 120.7, 116.4, 110.0, 65.7, 40.0, 29.1, 26.3, 24.2, 16.1. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{39}\text{N}_4\text{O}_4$  591.2966  $[M+H]^+$ , found 591.2980.

### 2.5 1,8-*Bis(9-ethyl-1-methyl-β-carboline-3-carboxyl)octanediyi ester (18)*

Starting from 9-ethyl-1-methyl-β-carboline-3-carboxyl acid (0.53g, 2.1mmol) and 1,8-dibromoocetane (1.0mmol). Yellow oil was obtained (0.44g, 72%). ESI-MS m/z: 619.3 (100)  $[M+H]^+$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.69 (2H, s, ArH), 8.15 (2H, d,  $J=7.8\text{Hz}$ , ArH), 7.57-7.62

(2H, m, ArH), 4.47(2H, d,  $J=8.4$ Hz, ArH), 7.29-7.34 (2H, m, ArH), 4.63 (4H, q,  $J=7.2$ Hz,  $\text{CH}_2[\text{CH}_2]_6\text{CH}_2$ ), 4.45 (4H, t,  $J=6.9$ Hz,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 3.12 (6H, s,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.87-1.93 (4H, m,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2[\text{CH}_2]_4\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.45-1.59 (14H, m,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2[\text{CH}_2]_4\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  166.2, 141.4, 141.3, 136.7, 136.3, 128.8, 128.6, 121.7, 120.6, 116.2, 109.9, 65.8, 39.9, 29.6, 29.2, 26.3, 24.1, 16.2. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{38}\text{H}_{43}\text{N}_4\text{O}_4$  619.3279  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ , found 619.3307.

### **2.6 1,9-Bis(9-ethyl-1-methyl- $\beta$ -carboline-3-carboxylic acid)nonanediyI ester (19)**

Starting from 9-ethyl-1-methyl- $\beta$ -carboline-3-carboxyl acid (0.53g, 2.1mmol) and 1,9-dibromononane (1.0mmol). Yellow oil was obtained (0.4g, 63%). ESI-MS m/z: 633.5 (100)  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.69 (2H, s, ArH), 8.14-8.16 (2H, m, ArH), 7.56-7.62 (2H, m, ArH), 7.47 (2H, d,  $J=8.4$ Hz, ArH), 7.28-7.33 (2H, m, ArH), 4.59-4.66 (4H, m,  $\text{CH}_2[\text{CH}_2]_7\text{CH}_2$ ), 4.44 (4H, t,  $J=6.9$ Hz,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 3.12 (6H, s,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.83-1.92 (4H, m,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2[\text{CH}_2]_5\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.34-1.50 (16H, m,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2[\text{CH}_2]_5\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_3$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  166.1, 141.4(2C), 136.7, 136.3, 128.8, 128.6, 121.6(2C), 120.6, 116.1, 109.9, 65.7, 39.8, 29.8, 29.6, 29.2, 26.3, 24.0, 16.1. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{39}\text{H}_{45}\text{N}_4\text{O}_4$  633.3435  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ , found 633.3479.

### **2.7 1,4-Bis(9-butyl- $\beta$ -carboline-3-carboxylic acid)butanediyl ester (20)**

Starting from 9-butyl- $\beta$ -carboline-3-carboxyl acid (0.56g, 2.1mmol) and 1,4-dibromobutane (1.0mmol). White solid was obtained (0.32g, 54%), mp 168-169°C. FAB-MS m/z 591 (100)  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ;  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR (300MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.95 (2H, s, ArH); 8.86 (2H, s, ArH); 8.20 (2H, d,  $J=7.8$ Hz, ArH); 7.60-7.65 (2H, m, ArH); 7.50 (2H, d,  $J=8.4$ Hz, ArH); 7.32-7.36 (2H, m, ArH); 4.59 (4H, t,  $J=5.4$ Hz,  $\text{CH}_2[\text{CH}_2]_2\text{CH}_2$ ); 4.42 (4H, t,  $J=6.9$ Hz,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ); 2.11-2.15 (4H, m,  $\text{CH}_2[\text{CH}_2]_2\text{CH}_2$ ); 1.85-1.95 (4H, m,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ); 1.32-1.45 (4H, m,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ); 0.94 (6H, t,  $J=7.5$ Hz,  $\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  166.3, 141.7, 138.0, 137.5, 131.9, 128.9, 128.4, 122.3, 121.6, 120.7, 117.9, 110.0, 65.4, 43.7, 31.6, 26.1, 20.8, 14.1. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{39}\text{N}_4\text{O}_4$  591.2966  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ , found 591.2982.

### **2.8 1,5-Bis(9-butyl- $\beta$ -carboline-3-carboxylic acid)pentanediyl ester (21)**

Starting from 9-butyl- $\beta$ -carboline-3-carboxyl acid (0.56g, 2.1mmol) and 1,5-dibromopentane (1.0mmol). White solid was obtained (0.46g, 77%), mp 149-151°C. ESI-MS m/z: 605.4 (100)  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.90 (2H, s, ArH), 8.82 (2H, s, ArH), 8.13 (2H, d,

*J*=7.8Hz, ArH), 7.57-7.62 (2H, m, ArH), 7.46 (2H, d, *J*=7.8Hz, ArH), 7.27-7.32 (2H, m, ArH), 4.51(4H, t, *J*=6.9Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.36(4H, t, *J*=7.2Hz, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.95-2.05 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.81-1.91 (4H, m, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.68-1.75 (2H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.29-1.41 (4H, m, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.92 (6H, t, *J*=7.2Hz, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 165.9, 141.1, 137.4, 137.1, 131.6, 128.6, 127.8, 121.8, 121.0, 120.4, 117.5, 109.8, 65.3, 43.2, 31.2, 28.8, 22.8, 20.5, 13.9. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>37</sub>H<sub>41</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub> 605.3122 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found 605.3146.

### 2.9 1,6-Bis(9-butyl-β-carboline-3-carboxylic acid)hexanediyI ester (22)

Starting from 9-butyl-β-carboline-3-carboxyl acid (0.56g, 2.1mmol) and 1,6-dibromohexane (1.0mmol). White solid was obtained (0.48g, 78%), mp 156-157°C; FAB-MS m/z 619 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.93 (2H, s, ArH); 8.84 (2H, s, ArH); 8.18 (2H, d, *J*=7.8Hz, ArH); 7.59-7.64 (2H, m, ArH); 7.48 (2H, d, *J*=8.1Hz, ArH); 7.31-7.36 (2H, m, ArH); 4.49 (4H, t, *J*=6.9Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>4</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>); 4.40 (4H, t, *J*=6.9Hz, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 1.84-1.97 (8H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 1.60-1.64 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>); 1.31-1.44 (4H, m, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 0.94 (6H, t, *J*=7.5Hz, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 166.3, 141.7, 137.9, 137.7, 131.9, 128.9, 128.4, 122.3, 121.5, 120.7, 117.8, 110.1, 65.8, 43.7, 31.6, 29.2, 26.2, 20.8, 14.1. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>38</sub>H<sub>43</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub> 619.3279 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found 619.3302.

### 2.10 1,8-Bis(9-butyl-β-carboline-3-carboxylic acid)octanediyI ester (23)

Starting from 9-butyl-β-carboline-3-carboxyl acid (0.56g, 2.1mmol) and 1,8-dibromoocetane (1.0mmol). White solid was obtained (0.36g, 56%), mp 142-144°C. FAB-MS m/z 647 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.94 (2H, s, ArH); 8.85 (2H, s, ArH); 8.20 (2H, d, *J*=7.8Hz, ArH); 7.60-7.65 (2H, m, ArH); 7.50 (2H, d, *J*=8.1Hz, ArH); 7.31-7.36 (2H, m, ArH); 4.47 (4H, t, *J*=6.9Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>6</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>); 4.42 (4H, t, *J*=7.2Hz, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 1.85-1.92 (8H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>4</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 1.34-1.51 (12H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>4</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 0.94 (6H, t, *J*=7.2Hz, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 166.3, 141.7, 137.9, 137.7, 131.9, 128.9, 128.4, 122.3, 121.5, 120.7, 117.8, 110.1, 65.9, 43.7, 31.6, 29.6, 29.2, 26.3, 20.8, 14.1. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>40</sub>H<sub>47</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub> 647.3592 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found 647.3627.

### 2.11 1,9-Bis(9-butyl-β-carboline-3-carboxylic acid)nonanediyI ester (24)

Starting from 9-butyl- $\beta$ -carboline-3-carboxyl acid (0.56g, 2.1mmol) and 1,9-dibromononane (1.0mmol). Yellow oil was obtained (0.52g, 79%). ESI-MS m/z: 661.3 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.93 (2H, s, ArH), 8.85 (2H, s, ArH); 8.19 (2H, d, *J*=7.8Hz, ArH); 7.58-7.64 (2H, m, ArH); 7.49 (2H, d, *J*=8.4Hz, ArH); 7.30-7.36 (2H, m, ArH); 4.39-4.48 (8H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>7</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 1.84-2.04 (8H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>5</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 1.31-1.51 (14H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>5</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 0.93 (6H, t, *J*=7.2Hz, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  166.1, 141.3, 137.5, 137.4, 131.6, 128.7, 128.0, 121.9, 121.2, 120.5, 117.5, 109.9, 65.8, 43.3, 31.4, 29.7, 29.5, 29.1, 26.3, 20.6, 14.0. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>41</sub>H<sub>49</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub> 661.3748 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found 661.3789.

### **2.12 1,10-Bis(9-butyl- $\beta$ -carboline-3-carboxylic acid)decanediyl ester (25)**

Starting from 9-butyl- $\beta$ -carboline-3-carboxyl acid (0.56g, 2.1mmol) and 1,10-dibromodecane (1.0mmol). White solid was obtained (0.50g, 75%), mp 156-157°C. FAB-MS m/z 675 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.92 (2H, s, ArH); 8.83 (2H, s, ArH); 8.17 (2H, d, *J*=7.8Hz, ArH); 7.57-7.63 (2H, m, ArH); 7.47 (2H, d, *J*=8.4Hz, ArH); 7.30-7.35 (2H, m, ArH); 4.45 (4H, t, *J*=6.9Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>8</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>); 4.39 (4H, t, *J*=6.9Hz, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 1.83-1.93 (8H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>6</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 1.31-1.50 (16H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>6</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 0.93 (6H, t, *J*=7.2Hz, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  166.3, 141.6, 137.8, 137.7, 131.8, 128.9, 128.3, 122.2, 121.5, 120.7, 117.7, 110.1, 65.9, 43.6, 31.6, 29.8, 29.7, 29.2, 26.3, 20.8, 14.1. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>42</sub>H<sub>51</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub> 675.3905 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found 675.3946.

### **2.13 1,6-Bis(9-butyl-1-methyl- $\beta$ -carboline-3-carboxyl)hexanediylyl ester (26)**

Starting from 9-butyl-1-methyl- $\beta$ -carboline-3-carboxyl acid (0.57g, 2.1mmol) and 1,6-dibromohexane (1.0mmol). White solid was obtained (0.41g, 63%), mp 146-148°C. ESI-MS m/z: 647.4 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.67 (2H, s, ArH), 8.12 (2H, d, *J*=7.8Hz, ArH), 7.55-7.60 (2H, m, ArH), 7.44 (2H, d, *J*=8.4Hz, ArH), 7.26-7.32 (2H, m, ArH), 4.45-4.51 (8H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>4</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.09 (6H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.89-1.97 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.79-1.84 (4H, m, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.59-1.64 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.37-1.51 (4H, m, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.97 (6H, t, *J*=7.2Hz, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  166.0, 141.5, 141.2, 136.5, 136.2, 128.4, 121.4, 121.3, 120.3, 116.0, 115.9, 110.0, 65.4, 44.7, 33.0, 29.0, 26.1, 24.1, 20.2, 14.0. HRMS (ESI)

calcd for  $C_{40}H_{47}N_4O_4$  647.3592 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found 647.3635.

#### **2.14 1,7-Bis(9-butyl-1-methyl- $\beta$ -carboline-3-carboxylic acid)heptanediyI ester (27)**

Starting from 9-butyl-1-methyl- $\beta$ -carboline-3-carboxyl acid (0.57g, 2.1mmol) and 1,7-dibromoheptane (1.0mmol). Yellow oil was obtained (0.38g, 58%). ESI-MS m/z: 661.3 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.69 (2H, s, ArH), 8.11 (2H, d,  $J$ =7.8Hz, ArH), 7.53-7.58 (2H, m, ArH), 7.43 (2H, d,  $J$ =8.1Hz, ArH), 7.27-7.32 (2H, m, ArH), 4.42-4.56 (8H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>5</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.10 (6H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.78-1.92 (8H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.36-1.53 (10H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.96 (6H, t,  $J$ =7.5Hz, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  166.2, 141.8, 141.4, 136.7, 136.6, 128.8, 128.5, 121.6, 120.6, 116.2, 116.1, 110.2, 65.7, 45.0, 33.2, 29.4, 29.1, 26.3, 24.2, 20.4, 14.2. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>41</sub>H<sub>49</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub> 661.3748 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found 661.3802.

#### **2.15 1,10-Bis(9-butyl-1-methyl- $\beta$ -carboline-3-carboxylic acid)decanediyI ester (28)**

Starting from 9-butyl-1-methyl- $\beta$ -carboline-3-carboxyl acid (0.57g, 2.1mmol) and 1,10-dibromodecane (1.0mmol). Yellow oil was obtained (0.42g, 60%). ESI-MS m/z: 703.4 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.69 (2H, s, ArH), 8.14 (2H, d,  $J$ =7.8Hz, ArH), 7.55-7.61 (2H, m, ArH), 7.45 (2H, d,  $J$ =8.4Hz, ArH), 7.28-7.33 (2H, m, ArH), 4.54 (4H, t,  $J$ =7.2Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>8</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.43 (4H, t,  $J$ =6.9Hz, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.10 (6H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.77-1.91 (8H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>6</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.31-1.53 (16H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>6</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.97 (6H, t,  $J$ =7.2Hz, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  166.2, 141.9, 141.5, 136.9, 136.7, 128.9, 128.6, 121.7, 120.6, 116.3, 116.2, 110.3, 65.8, 45.2, 33.3, 30.1, 29.9, 29.2, 26.4, 24.2, 20.5, 14.3. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>44</sub>H<sub>55</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub> 703.4218 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found 703.4225.

#### **2.16 1,4-Bis(9-benzyl- $\beta$ -carboline-3-carboxylic acid)butanediyI ester (29)**

Starting from 9-benzyl- $\beta$ -carboline-3-carboxyl acid (0.66g, 2.1mmol) and 1,4-dibromobutane (1.0mmol). White solid was obtained (0.58g, 88%), mp 210-212°C. ESI-MS m/z: 659.3 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.89 (2H, s, ArH), 8.88 (2H, s, ArH), 8.22 (2H, d,  $J$ =7.8Hz, ArH), 7.57-7.63 (2H, m, ArH), 7.48 (2H, d,  $J$ =8.4Hz, ArH), 7.33-7.38 (2H, m, ArH), 7.24-7.27 (6H, m, ArH), 7.12-7.15 (4H, m, ArH), 5.61 (4H, s, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.56 (4H, t,  $J$ =5.4Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.08-2.12 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  165.9, 141.9,

138.0, 137.7, 135.8, 132.0, 129.2, 129.1, 128.1, 126.6, 122.3, 121.6, 121.0, 117.8, 110.2, 65.2, 47.3, 25.7. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>42</sub>H<sub>35</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub> 659.2653 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found 659.2664.

### **2.17 1,6-Bis(9-benzyl-β-carboline-3-carboxylic acid)hexanediyI ester (30)**

Starting from 9-benzyl-β-carboline-3-carboxyl acid (0.66g, 2.1mmol) and 1,6-dibromohexane (1.0mmol). White solid was obtained (0.54g, 79%), mp 194-196°C. ESI-MS m/z: 687.3 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.89 (2H, s, ArH), 8.87 (2H, s, ArH), 8.22 (2H, d, J=7.8Hz, ArH), 7.57-7.62 (2H, m, ArH), 7.47 (2H, d, J=8.4Hz, ArH), 7.33-7.38 (2H, m, ArH), 7.23-7.28 (6H, m, ArH), 7.12-7.15 (4H, m, ArH), 5.60 (4H, s, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.48 (4H, t, J=6.9Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>4</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.88-1.97 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.58-1.62 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 166.3, 141.9, 138.2, 138.1, 136.0, 132.3, 129.2, 128.9, 128.3, 126.7, 122.4, 121.8, 121.1, 117.9, 110.4, 65.9, 47.6, 29.2, 26.2. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>44</sub>H<sub>39</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub> 687.2966 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found 687.2976.

### **2.18 1,8-Bis(9-benzyl-β-carboline-3-carboxylic acid)octanediyI ester (31)**

Starting from 9-benzyl-β-carboline-3-carboxyl acid (0.66g, 2.1mmol) and 1,8-dibromoocetane (1.0mmol). White solid was obtained (0.52g, 70%), mp 176-178°C. ESI-MS m/z: 715.3 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.90 (2H, s, ArH), 8.88 (2H, s, ArH), 8.22 (2H, d, J=7.8Hz, ArH), 7.57-7.62 (2H, m, ArH), 7.48 (2H, d, J=8.4Hz, ArH), 7.33-7.38 (2H, m, ArH), 7.24-7.28 (6H, m, ArH), 7.12-7.15 (4H, m, ArH), 5.61 (2H, s, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.45 (4H, t, J=6.9Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>6</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.84-1.93 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>4</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.45-1.52 (8H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>4</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 166.3, 141.9, 138.2, 138.0, 136.0, 132.3, 129.2, 128.8, 128.2, 126.7, 122.3, 121.7, 121.1, 117.9, 110.4, 66.0, 47.5, 29.6, 29.2, 26.3. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>46</sub>H<sub>43</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub> 715.3279 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found 715.3318.

### **2.19 1,5-Bis(9-benzyl-1-methyl-β-carboline-3-carboxylic acid)pentanediyI ester (32)**

Starting from 9-benzyl-1-methyl-β-carboline-3-carboxyl acid (0.67g, 2.1mmol) and 1,5-dibromopentane (1.0mmol). White solid was obtained (0.48g, 68%), mp 175-177°C. ESI-MS m/z: 701.3 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.73 (2H, s, ArH), 8.13 (2H, d, J=7.5Hz, ArH), 7.50-7.55 (2H, m, ArH), 7.21-7.37 (10H, m, ArH), 6.90-6.93 (4H, m, ArH), 5.76 (4H, s, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.51 (4H, t, J=6.9Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.92 (6H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.95-2.02 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.67-1.77 (2H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 166.1, 142.2, 142.0, 137.6, 137.3, 137.1, 129.2, 129.0, 128.9, 127.8, 125.5, 121.8, 121.7, 121.1,

116.3, 110.4, 65.5, 48.5, 28.9, 23.8, 23.1. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>45</sub>H<sub>41</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub> 701.3122 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found 701.3114.

### **2.20 1,6-Bis(9-benzyl-1-methyl-β-carboline-3-carboxylic acid)hexanediyI ester (33)**

Starting from 9-1-methyl-benzyl-β-carboline-3-carboxyl acid (0.67g, 2.1mmol) and 1,6-dibromohexane (1.0mmol). White solid was obtained (0.56g, 78%), mp 143-145°C. ESI-MS m/z: 715.3 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.74 (2H, s, ArH), 8.19 (2H, d, J=7.8Hz, ArH), 7.52-7.57 (2H, m, ArH), 7.22-7.39 (10H, m, ArH), 6.92-6.95 (4H, m, ArH), 5.80 (4H, s, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.48 (4H, t, J=6.9Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>4</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.94 (6H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.89-1.96 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.60-1.64 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 166.2, 142.3, 142.0, 137.6, 137.4, 137.2, 129.2, 129.1, 129.0, 127.9, 125.4, 121.9, 121.8, 121.1, 116.3, 110.4, 65.7, 48.6, 29.2, 26.3, 23.9. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>46</sub>H<sub>43</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub> 715.3279 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found 715.3271.

### **2.21 1,6-Bis[9-(3-chlorobenzyl)-β-carboline-3-carboxylic acid]hexanediyI ester (34)**

Starting from 9-(3-chlorobenzyl)-β-carboline-3-carboxyl acid (0.71g, 2.1mmol) and 1,6-dibromohexane (1.0mmol). White solid was obtained (0.45g, 55%), mp 182-184°C. ESI-MS m/z: 755.8 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.90 (2H, s, ArH), 8.88 (2H, s, ArH), 8.22 (2H, d, J=7.8Hz, ArH), 7.59-7.65 (2H, m, ArH), 7.36-7.47 (4H, m, ArH), 7.13-7.23 (6H, m, ArH), 6.97-7.00 (2H, m, ArH), 5.58 (4H, s, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.49 (4H, t, J=6.9Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>4</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.90-1.96 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.58-1.63 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 166.1, 141.7, 138.4, 138.0, 137.9, 135.2, 132.0, 130.5, 129.4, 129.0, 128.5, 126.9, 124.8, 122.5, 121.8, 121.4, 117.9, 110.2, 65.9, 47.0, 29.2, 26.2. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>44</sub>H<sub>37</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub> 755.2186 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found 755.2194.

### **2.22 1,9-Bis[9-(3-chlorobenzyl)-β-carboline-3-carboxylic acid]nonanediyI ester (35)**

Starting from 9-(3-chlorobenzyl)-β-carboline-3-carboxyl acid (0.71g, 2.1mmol) and 1,9-dibromononane (1.0mmol). White solid was obtained (0.75g, 94%), mp 148-150°C. ESI-MS m/z: 797.4 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.89 (4H, s, , ArH), 8.22 (2H, d, J=7.8Hz, ArH), 7.59-7.64 (2H, m, ArH), 7.36-7.46 (4H, m, ArH), 7.14-7.22 (6H, m, ArH), 6.97-7.00 (2H, m, ArH), 5.59 (4H, s, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 4.46 (4H, t, J=6.9Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>7</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.83-1.93 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>5</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.39-1.51 (10H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>5</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 166.2, 141.7, 138.5, 138.1, 137.9, 135.2, 132.0, 130.5, 129.4, 129.0, 128.5, 126.9,

124.8, 122.4, 121.8, 121.3, 117.9, 110.2, 66.1, 47.0, 29.8, 29.6, 29.2, 26.3. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{47}H_{43}Cl_2N_4O_4$  797.2656 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found 7797.2647.

**2.23 1,3-Bis[9-(3-phenylpropyl)- $\beta$ -carboline-3-carboxylic acid]propanediyl ester (36)**

Starting from 9-(3-phenylpropyl)- $\beta$ -carboline-3-carboxyl acid (0.69g, 2.1mmol) and 1,3-dibromopropane (1.0mmol). White solid was obtained (0.48g, 68%), mp 187-189°C. ESI-MS m/z: 701.3 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.71 (4H, s, ArH), 8.06 (2H, d, *J*=7.8Hz, ArH), 7.54-7.59 (2H, m, ArH), 7.20-7.32 (10H, m, ArH), 7.12 (4H, d, *J*=6.9Hz, ArH), 4.73 (4H, t, *J*=6.0Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.19 (4H, t, *J*=7.2Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 2.66 (4H, t, *J*=7.5Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 2.44-2.52 (2H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.11-2.20 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Ph); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  166.0, 141.2, 140.3, 137.3, 137.2, 131.7, 128.7, 128.4, 128.0, 126.5, 122.1, 121.2, 120.6, 117.8, 109.8, 63.2, 42.7, 33.2, 30.3, 28.8. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>45</sub>H<sub>41</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub> 701.3122 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found 701.3116.

**2.24 1,6-Bis[9-(3-phenylpropyl)- $\beta$ -carboline-3-carboxylic acid]hexanediyyl ester (37)**

Starting from 9-(3-phenylpropyl)- $\beta$ -carboline-3-carboxyl acid (0.69g, 2.1mmol) and 1,6-dibromohexane (1.0mmol). White solid was obtained (0.52g, 70%), mp 179-181°C. ESI-MS m/z: 743.3 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.82 (4H, s, ArH), 8.17 (2H, d, *J*=7.5Hz, ArH), 7.56-7.61 (2H, m, ArH), 7.11-7.39 (14H, m, ArH), 4.50 (4H, t, *J*=6.9Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>4</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.38 (4H, t, *J*=7.2Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 2.70 (4H, t, *J*=7.5Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 2.19-2.29 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.89-1.96 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 1.59-1.64 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  166.3, 141.6, 140.4, 137.8, 137.6, 131.9, 129.0, 128.8, 128.5, 126.6, 122.3, 121.6, 120.8, 117.8, 110.0, 65.9, 43.2, 33.4, 30.6, 29.2, 26.2. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>48</sub>H<sub>47</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub> 743.3592 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found 743.3594.

**2.25 1,7-Bis[9-(3-phenylpropyl)- $\beta$ -carboline-3-carboxylic acid]heptanediyyl ester (38)**

Starting from 9-(3-phenylpropyl)- $\beta$ -carboline-3-carboxyl acid (0.69g, 2.1mmol) and 1,7-dibromoheptane (1.0mmol). Yellow oil was obtained (0.34g, 45%). ESI-MS m/z: 757.4 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.84 (4H, s, ArH), 8.18 (2H, d, *J*=7.8Hz, ArH), 7.57-7.62 (2H, m, ArH), 7.39 (2H, d, *J*=8.4Hz, ArH), 7.12-7.33 (12H, m, ArH), 4.48 (4H, t, *J*=6.9Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>5</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.41 (4H, t, *J*=7.2Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 2.71 (4H, t, *J*=7.5Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 2.21-2.31 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.85-1.94 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 1.51-1.56 (6H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  166.2, 141.4, 140.4,

137.6, 137.5, 131.8, 128.9, 128.7, 128.3, 126.5, 122.2, 121.4, 120.7, 117.8, 109.9, 65.9, 43.0, 33.3, 30.4, 29.4, 29.2, 26.3. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{49}H_{49}N_4O_4$  757.3748 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found 757.3751.

**2.26 1,6-Bis[9-(3-phenylpropyl)-1-methyl- $\beta$ -carboline-3-carboxylic acid] hexanediyI ester (39)**

Starting from 9-(3-phenylpropyl)-1-methyl- $\beta$ -carboline-3-carboxyl acid (0.72g, 2.1mmol) and 1,6-dibromohexane (1.0mmol). White solid was obtained (0.66g, 86%), mp 160-162°C. ESI-MS m/z: 772.0 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.67 (2H, s, ArH), 8.13 (2H, d,  $J$ =8.4Hz, ArH), 7.53-7.58 (2H, m, ArH), 7.17-7.33 (14H, m, ArH), 4.54 (4H, t,  $J$ =7.8Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>4</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.47(4H, t,  $J$ =6.9, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 2.97(6H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.76 (4H, t,  $J$ =7.5Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 2.12-2.22 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.86-1.94 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 1.60-1.64 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  166.3, 141.8, 141.6, 140.5, 137.0, 136.7, 129.0, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 126.6, 121.8, 120.8, 116.3, 110.2, 65.7, 44.6, 33.3, 32.4, 29.2, 26.3, 24.1. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{50}H_{51}N_4O_4$  771.3905 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found 771.3907.

**2.27 1,9-Bis[9-(3-phenylpropyl)-1-methyl- $\beta$ -carboline-3-carboxylic acid] nonanediyI ester (40)**

Starting from 9-(3-phenylpropyl)-1-methyl- $\beta$ -carboline-3-carboxyl acid (0.72g, 2.1mmol) and 1,9-dibromononane (1.0mmol). Yellow oil was obtained (0.4g, 49%). ESI-MS m/z: 814.0 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.69 (2H, s, ArH), 8.13 (2H, d,  $J$ =7.8Hz, ArH), 7.53-7.58 (4H, m, ArH), 7.16-7.33 (14H, m, ArH), 4.55 (4H, t,  $J$ =7.8Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>7</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.44 (4H, t,  $J$ =6.9Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 2.97 (6H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.76 (4H, t,  $J$ =7.5Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 2.12-2.22 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>5</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.83-1.92 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 1.41-1.51 (10H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>5</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  166.2, 141.9, 141.6, 140.5, 137.0, 136.7, 129.0, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 126.6, 121.8, 120.8, 116.3, 110.2, 65.9, 44.6, 33.3, 32.4, 29.8, 29.7, 29.2, 26.4, 24.0. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{53}H_{57}N_4O_4$  813.4374 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found 813.4386.

**2.28 1,6-Bis[1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-9-ethyl- $\beta$ -carboline-3-carboxylic acid] hexanediyI ester (41)**

Starting from 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-9-ethyl- $\beta$ -carboline-3-carboxylic acid (0.73g, 2.1mmol) and 1,6-dibromohexane (1.0mmol). White solid was obtained (0.56g, 73%), mp 161-163°C. ESI-MS m/z: 895.4 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.82 (2H, s, ArH), 8.23 (2H, d,  $J$ =7.8Hz, ArH), 7.54-7.63 (6H, m, ArH), 7.46 (2H, d,  $J$ =8.4Hz, ArH), 7.32-7.37 (2H, m, ArH), 7.01-7.04 (4H, m, ArH), 4.46 (4H, t,  $J$ =6.9Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>4</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.06 (4H, q,  $J$ =7.2Hz, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.89 (6H, s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.86-1.96 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.57-1.62 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.01 (6H, t,  $J$ =7.2Hz, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  166.4,

160.2, 144.2, 142.3, 137.4, 135.8, 132.2, 130.9, 130.5, 128.8, 122.2, 120.9, 116.5, 113.9, 110.7, 65.7, 55.7, 39.7, 29.1, 26.2, 14.5. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{52}H_{55}N_4O_4$  895.3913  $[M+H]^+$ , found 895.3919.

**2.29 1,6-Bis[1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-9-(3-phenylpropyl)- $\beta$ -carboline-3-carboxylic acid]hexanediyl ester (42)**

Starting from 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-9-(3-phenylpropyl)- $\beta$ -carboline-3-carboxylic acid (0.92g, 2.1mmol) and 1,6-dibromohexane (1.0mmol). Yellow oil was obtained (0.56 g, 59%). ESI-MS m/z: 1075.5 (100)  $[M+H]^+$ .  $^1H$  NMR (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.83 (2H, s, ArH), 8.23 (2H, d,  $J=7.8$ Hz, ArH), 7.57-7.60 (6H, m, ArH), 7.31-7.36 (4H, m, ArH), 7.04-7.24 (6H, m, ArH), 7.04-7.06 (4H, m, ArH), 6.92-6.95 (4H, m, ArH), 4.48 (4H, t,  $J=6.6$ Hz,  $CH_2[CH_2]_4CH_2$ ), 4.05 (4H, t,  $J=7.8$ Hz,  $CH_2CH_2CH_2Ph$ ), 3.91 (6H, s,  $OCH_3$ ), 2.17 (4H, t,  $J=7.8$ Hz,  $CH_2CH_2CH_2Ph$ ), 1.89-1.96 (4H, m,  $CH_2CH_2[CH_2]_2CH_2CH_2$ ), 1.68-1.75 (4H, m,  $CH_2CH_2CH_2Ph$ ), 1.54-1.61 (4H, m,  $CH_2CH_2[CH_2]_2CH_2CH_2$ );  $^{13}C$  NMR (75 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  166.4, 160.2, 144.2, 142.5, 140.8, 137.4, 136.0, 132.0, 131.1, 130.5, 128.9, 128.6, 128.3, 126.3, 122.0, 120.9, 116.7, 113.9, 110.7, 65.8, 55.8, 44.7, 33.3, 30.9, 29.2, 26.3. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{66}H_{67}N_4O_{10}$  1075.4852  $[M+H]^+$ , found 1075.4844.

**2.30 1,6-Bis[1-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-9-ethyl- $\beta$ -carboline-3-carboxylic acid] hexanediyl ester (43)**

Starting from 1-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-9-ethyl- $\beta$ -carboline-3-carboxyl acid (0.85g, 2.1mmol) and 1,6-dibromohexane (1.0mmol). Yellow solid was obtained (0.6g, 67%), mp 117-119°C. ESI-MS m/z: 775.3 (100)  $[M+H]^+$ .  $^1H$  NMR (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.84 (2H, s, ArH), 8.24 (2H, d,  $J=7.5$ Hz, ArH), 7.60-7.65 (2H, m, ArH), 7.48 (2H, d,  $J=8.4$ Hz, ArH), 7.33-7.38 (2H, m, ArH), 6.81 (4H, s, ArH), 4.46 (4H, t,  $J=6.9$ Hz,  $CH_2[CH_2]_4CH_2$ ), 4.05 (4H, q,  $J=6.9$ Hz,  $NCH_2CH_3$ ), 3.90 (6H, s,  $OCH_3$ ), 3.87(12H, s,  $OCH_3$ ), 1.89-1.93 (4H, m,  $CH_2CH_2[CH_2]_2CH_2CH_2$ ), 1.54-1.60 (4H, m,  $CH_2CH_2[CH_2]_2CH_2CH_2$ ), 1.08 (6H, t,  $J=7.2$ Hz,  $NCH_2CH_3$ );  $^{13}C$  NMR (75 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  166.2, 153.2, 144.0, 142.1, 138.4, 136.9, 135.5, 135.1, 130.4, 129.1, 122.1, 121.0, 117.0, 110.7, 106.8, 65.7, 61.3, 56.5, 39.7, 29.2, 26.2, 15.0. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{48}H_{47}N_4O_6$  775.3490  $[M+H]^+$ , found 775.3483.

**2.31 1,6-Bis[1-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-9-(3-phenylpropyl)- $\beta$ -carboline-3-carboxylic acid]hexanediyl ester (44)**

Starting from 1-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-9-(3-phenylpropyl)- $\beta$ -carboline-3-carboxylic acid (1.04g, 2.1mmol) and 1,6-dibromohexane (1.0mmol). Yellow oil was obtained (0.74g, 69%). ESI-MS m/z: 955.4 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.83 (2H, s, ArH), 8.23(2H, d, *J*=7.5Hz, ArH), 7.57-7.62 (2H, m, ArH), 7.32-7.37 (4H, m, ArH), 7.13-7.25 (6H, m, ArH), 6.96 (4H, d, *J*=7.5Hz, ArH), 6.84(4H, s, ArH), 4.46 (4H, t, *J*=6.9Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>4</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.03(4H, t, *J*=7.5Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 3.93 (6H, s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.85 (12H, s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.23 (4H, t, *J*=7.8Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 1.89-1.93 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.76-1.81 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 1.55-1.62 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  166.0, 153.2, 143.9, 142.3, 140.6, 138.5, 136.9, 135.5, 135.0, 130.3, 129.1, 128.6, 128.1, 126.3, 122.1, 121.7, 121.0, 117.0, 110.6, 107.1, 65.6, 61.3, 56.5, 44.7, 33.3, 31.4, 29.1, 26.1. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>62</sub>H<sub>59</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>6</sub> 955.4429 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found 955.4438.