# Supplementary Material

Synthesis and Biological Evaluation of Functionalised Tetrahydro-β-carboline Analogues as Inhibitors of *Toxoplasma gondii* Invasion.

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- Page S1 Contents
- Page S2 Numbering scheme used for the  $\beta$ -carboline ring system
- Page S2-3 NOSEY spectrum of *cis*-6b and *trans*-7a
- Page S4 Bioinformatic analysis of *T.gondii* kinesins
- Page S5 The yeast-3-hybrid approach
- Page S6-8 Synthesis of C9-substituted analogues 7e-7j
- Page S8-10 Synthesis and biological activity of analogues 9ii, 9iv, 9x-xvii
- Page S11-12 NMR characterisation of CID 23
- Page S13 NMR characterisation of CID 15
- Page S13 References

## Numbering scheme used for the $\beta$ -carboline ring system

The following numbering scheme was used throughout the experimental section of the paper.



## NOSEY spectrum of *cis*-6b and *trans*-7a



Figure S1. NOESY spectrum of *cis*-6b.

Whilst not conclusive, the observed lack of an nOe correlation between the C11a and C5-hydrogens in 7a was also consistent with these two hydrogens being *trans*-oriented.



Figure S2. NOESY spectrum of *trans*-7a.

#### Bioinformatic analysis of T.gondii kinesins

	Inhibitor binding (Y125-E145)	Inhibitor Binding (I202-L227)
SpoCut7	SDGILSEGAGLIPRALYQLFSS 129	ESYIKNAGDGLRLLREGSHRRQVAATKCN 209
AnBimC	TIGILSDNAGIIPRVLYSLFAK 81	ETYIDSATAGIKLLQQGSHKRQVAATKCN 160
ScKip1	NI-LLGEHAGIIPRVLVDLFKE 91	EIFINSAHEGLNLLMQGSLKRKVAATKCN 179
ScCin8	YNGELSDAAGIIPRVLLKLFDT 87	EFHITNAMEGLNLLQKGLKHRQVASTKMN 270
NtKRP125	KSGPNGELPQEAGVIPRAVKQVFDT 85	EEIVTSANEIFTLLERGSAKRRTAETILN 171
XlEg5	EEFTWEQDPLAGIIPRTLHQIFEK 85	EISVHNKDEVYHILERGAAKRKTASTIMN 166
XlEg52	EEFTWEQDPLAGIIPRTLHQIFEK 85	EISVHNKDEVYQILERGAAKRKTASTIMN 166
HsKSP	EEYTWEEDPLAGIIPRTLHQIFEK 85	EITVHNKDEVYQILEKGAAKRTTAATIMN 166
CeF23B12	KSSTDDPTTGIIPRAVEDIFEQ 75	EVPVRNRSDVFKLLQLGAEKRRTAATIMN 157
DmKlp61F	LKSSWEDDSDIGIIPRALSHLFDE 82	EIPVHSKDDVYKLLEKGKERRKTATTIMN 161
BmKRP	-ETTWQKDPLAGIIPRALSQLFDE 81	EITVYNKKEVFRIMAQGQERKKVASTIMN 161
113.m00758	GESIYSANDEISENADCGLVGRSVQRIFST 316	EKEVKSEREVLALLRAAAPRRSFAASSAN 482
20.m05941	QEKVDEERGDRKLRECDGLLPRMINGIFTW 370	DKLVREPHEAFSVLEKAIKARRAAATRMN 453
42.m03387	LISGEQSRDYVVYKQAKALRVQTINRLIQH 398	IFEVKSTDELIHLLMEGTFNRAFRATKQN 462
641.m01532	RERREERGVLPRALNYLFSK 175	RLPVFDEAQALQIFAQGVKNRRTAETRLN 329

**Figure S3** Alignments comparing the two regions of human Eg5 shown to interact with 1 with other family 5 kinesins and the four candidate family 5 kinesins identified in *T. gondii*. The sequences of known family 5 kinesins used in the alignment are; *S. pombe* Cut7, *A. nidulans* BimC, *S. cerevisiae* Kip1 and Cin8, *N. tabacum* KRP125, *X. laevis* Eg5 and Eg52, *H. sapiens* KSP (Eg5), *C. elegans* F23B12, *D. melanogaster* Klp61F, and *B. mori* KRP. The *T. gondii* proteins that were aligned are; 113.m00758, 20.m05941, 42.m03387, and 641.m01532. The regions of human Eg5 that have been shown to interact with 5118793, Tyr125-Glu145 (left) and Ile202-Leu227 (right), and the corresponding regions of the other proteins are shown.

**The yeast-3-hybrid approach:** Y3H is based on the more familiar yeast two-hybrid (Y2H) assay that allows the detection of protein-protein interactions. In the Y2H assay the two functional domains of a transcriptional activator, the DNA-binding domain (DBD) and the activation domain (AD), are independently fused to 1) a protein of interest, the "bait" and 2) a cDNA library encoding potential interacting proteins, the "prey". A transcriptional read-out is obtained when the bait protein interacts with a prey protein reconstituting the transcriptional activator by bringing the DBD and AD into close proximity. The analogous Y3H assay allows the detection of small molecule-protein interactions by making the transcriptional read-out dependent on the interaction of the bait and prey proteins through a "dimerizing" hybrid small molecule, also known as a chemical inducer of dimerization (CID) (i.e. the bait and prey proteins themselves do not interact) (Fig. S4).

The Y3H system used in this study was developed by the laboratory of Virginia Cornish<sup>S1</sup>. The Cornish Y3H system utilizes two transcriptional reporters of interaction, LEU2 and *lacZ*, each preceded by an array of LexA operator sites. (Figure S4, modified from reference S1). The system is composed of a DHFR-LexA DBD fusion protein and a B42 AD fusion with a cDNA library of putative targets of interest. It relies on DHFR's high affinity interaction with methotrexate (MTX) to anchor a MTX-small molecule CID to the DHFR-LexA DBD fusion (Fig. S4). In this system transcriptional activation is dependent upon binding of the portion of the CID containing the small molecule of interest (the bait), to its putative target-B42 AD fusion.



**Figure S4.** Schematic representation of the yeast-3-hybrid approach adapted from figure in Reference S1.

# > Literature compounds with improved characterisation.

## General procedure for the Pictet-Spengler reaction

**D**-(**5a**) or **L**-Tryptophan (**5b**) (29 mmol) was suspended in 0.05 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (42 mL) and the desired aldehyde (2.0 equiv, 59 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at reflux for 4-6 hours and the solid product collected by filtration and thoroughly rinsed with diethyl ether. Whilst **2a** and **2b** are known compounds,<sup>12</sup> optical rotations and melting points have not been previously reported. Previous reports of the synthesis of **2d**<sup>25</sup> described the formation of a diastereomeric mixture only and provided no spectroscopic data.

## (1*R*,3*R*)-1-(3-Hydroxy-phenyl)-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-β-carboline-3-carboxylic

acid (2a)<sup>12</sup> Yield 70%, yellow solid. m.p. 265-266 °C;  $v_{max}$  (KBr) 3450, 1636, 1560, 1394, 1298 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  7.44 (1H, d, *J* 8.0, H5), 7.15-7.26 (2H, m, H5', H8), 7.03-7.01 (1H, m, H6), 7.01-6.90 (1H, m, H7), 6.86 (1H, d, *J* 7.6, H6'), 6.81-6.73 (2H, m, H4', H2'), 5.29 (1H, s, H1), 3.75 (1H, dd, *J* 11.4, 4.2, H3), 3.10 (1H, dd, *J* 13.6, 4.2, H4<sub>syn</sub>), 2.84 (1H, dd, *J* 13.6, 12.5, H4<sub>anti</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$  172.2 (C=O), 157.3 (C), 140.9 (C), 136.5 (C), 133.4 (C), 129.3 (CH), 126.3 (C), 120.8 (CH), 119.7 (CH), 118.4 (CH), 117.6 (CH), 115.9 (CH), 115.3 (CH), 111.3 (CH), 107.6 (C), 57.6 (CH), 56.8 (CH) 24.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>); LRMS (ES<sup>-</sup>) *m/z*: 307.20 [M-H]<sup>-</sup>; [*a*]<sup>20</sup><sub>D</sub> = +147.2 (*c* = 0.0075, MeOH).

## (1*S*,3*S*)-1-(3-Hydroxy-phenyl)-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-β-carboline-3-carboxylic

acid (2b)<sup>12</sup> Yield 50%, yellow solid. m.p. 262-263°C °C;  $v_{max}$  (KBr) 3327 (m), 1638 (s), 1606 (m), 1465 (m) 1396 (m), 1298 cm<sup>-1</sup> (w); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  10.45 (1H, s, NH), 7.46 (1H, d, *J* 8.0, H5), 7.25-7.15 (2H, m, H5', H8), 7.05-7.02 (1H, m, H6), 7.00-6.96 (1H, m, H7), 6.88 (1H, d, *J* 7.5, H6'), 6.80-6.77 (2H, m, H4', H2'), 5.31 (1H, s, H1), 3.77 (1H, dd, *J* 11.5, 4.5, H3), 3.14-3.10 (1H, m, H4<sub>syn</sub>), 2.89-2.83 (1H, m, H4<sub>anti</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$  172.2 (C=O), 157.3 (C), 141.0 (C), 136.5 (C), 133.4 (C), 129.3 (CH), 126.3 (C), 120.9 (CH), 119.8 (CH), 118.5 (CH), 117.7 (CH), 115.9 (CH), 115.3 (CH), 111.3 (CH), 107.6 (C), 57.6 (CH), 56.8 (CH) 24.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>); LRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*: 331.02 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> m/z expected for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na 331.1059 found 331.1059; [ $\alpha$ ]<sup>20</sup><sub>D</sub> = -139.5 (*c* = 0.005, MeOH).

## (1*R*,3*R*)-1-(4-Hydroxy-phenyl)-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-β-carboline-3-carboxylic

acid (2c)<sup>25</sup> Yield 34%, yellow solid. m.p. 263-264°C;  $v_{max}$  (KBr) 3417 (m), 1652 (s), 1600 (m), 1400 (m), 1278 cm<sup>-1</sup> (m); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  10.52 (1H, s, NH), 7.47 (1H, d, *J* 8.0, H5), 7.26-7.23 (3H, m, H8, H2'), 7.07-7.04 (1H, m, H7), 7.01-6.98 (1H, m, H6), 6.84-6.81 (2H, AA'BB', H3'), 5.45 (1H, s, H1), 3.80 (1H, dd, *J* 12.0, 4.5, H3), 3.19 (1H, dd, *J* 15.5, 4.5, H4<sub>syn</sub>), 2.96-2.91 (1H, m, H4<sub>anti</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  171.1 (C=O), 158.1 (C), 136.6 (C), 132.2 (C), 131.0 (CH), 127.4 (C), 126.2 (C), 121.1 (CH), 118.6 (CH), 117.9 (CH), 115.1 (CH), 111.4 (CH), 108.0 (C), 57.5 (CH), 57.2 (CH), 23.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>); LRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*: 309.06 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) [M+H]<sup>+</sup> m/z expected for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> 309.1239 found 309.1239;  $[\alpha]_{D}^{20} = +141$  (*c* = 0.1, MeOH).

### (1*S*,3*S*)-1-(4-Hydroxy-phenyl)-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-β-carboline-3-carboxylic

acid  $(2d)^{25}$  Yield 52%, off white solid. m.p. 263-264°C;  $v_{max}$  (KBr) 3417 (m), 1653 (s), 1617 (m), 1401 (s), 1278 cm<sup>-1</sup> (m); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  10.52 (1H, s, NH), 7.54 (1H, d, *J* 7.2, H5), 7.31-7.26 (3H, m, H2' & H8), 7.13-7.02 (2H, m, H6 & H7), 6.87-6.84 (2H, AA'BB', H3'), 5.44 (1H, s, H1), 3.82 (1H, dd, *J* 11.5, 4.0, H3), 3.22 (1H, dd, *J* 15.6, 4.0, H4<sub>syn</sub>), 3.00-2.91 (1H, m, H4<sub>anti</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  171.1 (C=O), 158.0 (C), 136.5 (C), 132.4 (C), 130.9 (CH), 127.8 (C), 126.2 (C), 121.1 (CH), 118.6 (CH), 117.8 (CH), 115.1 (CH), 111.3 (CH), 108.0 (C), 57.4 (CH), 57.1 (CH), 23.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>); LRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*: 309.06 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) [M+H]<sup>+</sup> m/z expected for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> 309.1239 found 309.1239;  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -141$  (*c* = 0.1, MeOH).

### General procedure for the synthesis of the *cis*-hydantoins (6a-6d)

To a solution of the desired carboxylic acid 2 (13 mmol) in a mixture of anhydrous acetone (60 mL) and anhydrous DMSO (24 mL) was added the corresponding isocyanate (1.0 eq, 13 mmol). The solution was stirred at reflux for 4 hrs then poured onto H<sub>2</sub>O (200 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (3 x 100 mL) and the combined organic layers washed with brine (200 mL), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and reduced *in vacuo*. Purification of the residue by chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc:Hex 20:80) afforded the desired product. **6a** and **6b** have been reported,

however, the melting points previously associated with these compounds are confusing.<sup>12</sup>

# (5R,11aR)-2-Butyl-5-(3-hydroxyphenyl)-6H-1,2,3,5,11,11a-hexahydro-

imidazo[1,5-*b*]-β-carboline-1,3-dione (6a)<sup>12</sup> Yield 65%, yellow solid. m.p. 186-187 <sup>o</sup>C (lit. 134° C)<sup>12</sup>;  $v_{max}$  (KBr) 3433, 2956, 1765, 1701 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ 10.74 (1H, s, NH), 9.28 (1H, s, OH), 7.53 (1H, d, *J* 7.9, H10), 7.30 (1H, d, *J* 7.9, H7), 7.17-7.15 (1H, m, H5"), 7.10-7.08 (1H, m, H9), 7.02-7.01 (1H, m, H8), 6.77 (1H, d, *J* 7.7 H6"), 6.70 (1H, s, H2"), 6.62 (1H, d, *J* 8.0, H4"), 6.13 (1H, s, H5), 4.53 (1H, dd, *J* 11.7, 4.3, H11a), 3.41-3.30 (3H, m, 2 x H1', H11<sub>syn</sub>), 2.90-2.80 (1H, m, H11<sub>anti</sub>), 1.50-1.45 (2H, m, H2'), 1.20-1.10 (2H, m, H3'), 0.86 (3H, t, H4'); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ 173.3 (C=O), 158.9 (C), 154.9 (C=O), 142.0 (C), 137.4 (C), 132.0 (C), 130.4 (CH), 126.5 (C), 122.3 (CH), 119.5 (CH), 118.9 (CH), 118.7 (CH), 115.9 (CH), 115.6 (CH), 112.1 (CH), 106.6 (C), 53.5 (CH), 52.1 (CH), 38.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 23.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 20.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 14.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>); LRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*: 390.40 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; [α]<sup>20</sup><sub>P</sub> = +58.7 (*c* = 0.002, EtOAc).

### (5S,11aS)-2-Butyl-5-(3-hydroxyphenyl)-6H-1,2,3,5,11,11a-hexahydro-

**imidazo**[1,5-*b*]-β-carboline-1,3-dione (6b)<sup>12</sup> Yield 92%, yellow solid. m.p. 191-192 <sup>o</sup>C (lit. 225° C)<sup>12</sup> v<sub>max</sub> (KBr) 3340 (m), 2952 (w), 1763 (m), 1694 (s), 1457 cm<sup>-1</sup> (m); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ 10.75 (1H, s, NH), 9.31 (1H, s, OH), 7.54 (1H, d, *J* 7.5, H10), 7.24 (1H, d, *J* 7.5, H7), 7.09-7.03 (2H, m, H5' & H8), 7.01-6.98 (1H, m, H9), 6.78 (1H, d, *J* 7.5 H6''), 6.70-6.69 (1H, m, H2''), 6.63 (1H, ddd, *J* 8.0, 2.5, 1.0, H4''), 5.76 (1H, s, H5), 4.54 (1H, dd, *J* 11.5, 4.5, H11a), 3.41-3.31 (3H, m, H11<sub>syn</sub> & H1'), 2.98-2.92 (1H, m, H11<sub>anti</sub>), 1.51-1.45 (2H, m, H2'), 1.30-1.22 (2H, m, H3'), 0.87 (3H, t, *J* 7.5, H4'); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ 171.7 (C=O), 157.2 (C), 154.1 (C=O), 142.1 (C), 136.6 (C), 134.8 (C), 129.1 (CH), 125.8 (C), 121.3 (CH), 118.8 (CH), 118.1 (CH), 118.08 (CH), 114.4 (CH), 114.1 (CH), 111.3 (CH), 104.8 (C), 57.5 (CH), 55.6 (CH), 37.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 21.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 19.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 13.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>); LRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*: 412.10 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> m/z expected for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na 412.1637 found 412.1637; [*α*]<sup>20</sup><sub>D</sub> = -55.9 (*c* = 0.0054, EtOAc).

### General procedure for epimerisation to the *trans*-hydantoins (7a-7m)

A mixture of the desired *cis*-hydantoin **6** (8.00 mmol) and  $K_2CO_3$  (1.3 equiv, 10.4 mmol) in anhydrous MeCN (120 mL) was stirred at reflux for 4 hrs. The solids were removed *via* filtration and the solvent reduced *in vacuo*. Purification of the residue by chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc:Hex 20:80) afforded the desired product. **7a** and **7b** have been reported, however, the m.p. previously associated with these compounds are confusing.<sup>12</sup> For spectroscopic details associated with **7e-7j** see supplementary material.<sup>10</sup>

### (5R,11aS)-2-Butyl-5-(3-hydroxyphenyl)-6H-1,2,3,5,11,11a-hexahydro-

imidazo[1,5-*b*]-β-carboline-1,3-dione (7a)<sup>12</sup> Yield 80%, yellow solid. m.p. 187-189 °C (lit. 107 °C)<sup>12</sup>;  $v_{max}$  (KBr) 3433, 2956, 1765, 1701 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ 10.93 (1H, s, NH), 9.46 (1H, s, OH), 7.54 (1H, d, *J* 7.8, H10), 7.30 (1H, d, *J* 8.0, H7), 7.20-6.95 (3H, m, H5", H9, H8), 6.77 (1H, d, *J* 7.7 H6"), 6.72-6.70 (2H, m, H4", H2"), 6.13 (1H, s, H5), 4.49 (1H, dd, *J* 10.9, 5.7, H11a), 3.40 (2H, t, *J* 7.8, H1'), 3.39-3.30 (1H, m, H11<sub>syn</sub>), 2.80 (1H, dd, *J* 15.1, 10.9, H11<sub>anti</sub>), 1.45-1.31 (2H, m, H2'), 1.29-1.10 (2H, m, H3'), 0.86 (3H, t, *J* 7.3, H4'); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ 173.4 (C=O), 158.9 (C), 155.0 (C=O), 142.06 (C), 137.40 (C), 132.0 (C), 130.4 (CH), 126.5 (C), 122.4 (CH), 119.5 (CH), 118.8 (CH), 118.7 (CH), 116.0 (CH), 115.6 (CH), 112.1 (CH), 106.7 (C), 53.5 (CH), 52.1 (CH), 38.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 23.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 20.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 14.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>); LRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m*/*z*: 412.2 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>; [*a*]<sup>20</sup><sub>D</sub> = -215.5 (*c* = 0.006, EtOAc).

### (5S,11aR)-2-Butyl-5-(3-hydroxyphenyl)-6H-1,2,3,5,11,11a-hexahydro-

**imidazo**[1,5-*b*]-β-carboline-1,3-dione (7b)<sup>12</sup> Yield 99%, yellow solid. m.p 185-186°C (lit. 118 °C)<sup>12</sup>;  $v_{max}$  (KBr) 3338 (m), 2958 (w), 1763 (m), 1700 (s), 1457 cm<sup>-1</sup> (s); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  11.00 (1H, s, NH), 7.59 (1H, d, *J* 8.0, H10), 7.36 (1H, d, *J* 8.0, H7), 7.20 (1H, dd, *J* 8.0, 8.0, H5''), 7.17-7.13 (1H, m, H8), 7.09-7.06 (1H, m, H9), 6.81-6.76 (3H, m, H2'', H4'' & H6''), 6.18 (1H, s, H5), 4.56 (1H, dd, *J* 10.5, 5.5, H11a), 3.48-3.41 (3H, m, H1' & H11<sub>syn</sub>), 2.88-2.85 (1H, m, H11<sub>antt</sub>), 1.59-1.53 (2H, m, H2'), 1.34-1.27 (2H, m, H3'), 0.92 (3H, t, *J* 7.3, H4'); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  172.6 (C=O), 158.0 (C), 154.3 (C=O), 141.3 (C), 136.7 (C), 131.3 (C), 129.7 (CH), 125.8 (C), 121.6 (CH), 118.8 (CH), 118.2 (CH), 118.0 (CH), 115.1 (CH), 114.8 (CH), 111.4 (CH), 105.9 (C), 52.7 (CH), 51.4 (CH), 37.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>),

29.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 19.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 13.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>); LRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) m/z: 412.11 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> m/z expected for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na 412.1637 found 412.1637;  $[\alpha]_{p}^{20} = +204.8$  (c = 0.007, EtOAc).

#### General procedure for the synthesis of the *trans*-3-thioxohydantoins (8a & 8b)

To a solution of the desired carboxylic acid **2a** or **2b** (1.0 mmol) in a mixture of anhydrous acetone (3.5 mL) and anhydrous DMSO (1.5 mL) was added the *n*-butylisothiocyante (1.0 eq, 1.0 mmol). The solution was stirred at reflux for 2 hrs, then poured onto H<sub>2</sub>O (200 mL). Extracted with DCM (3 x 100 mL) and the combined organic layers washed with brine (200 mL), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and reduced *in vacuo*. Purification of the residue by chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc:Hex 20:80) afforded the desired product.

(*SR*,11a*S*)-2-Butyl-5-(3-hydroxyphenyl)-3-thioxo-6*H*-1,2,3,5,11,11a-hexahydroimidazo[1,5-*b*]-β-carboline-1-on *trans* (8a) Yield 56%, orange glass. m.p. 54-55°C;  $v_{max}$  (KBr) 3338 (m), 1742 (m), 1599(w), 1458 cm<sup>-1</sup> (s); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSOd<sub>6</sub>) δ 11.05 (1H, s, NH), 9.51 (1H, s, OH), 7.56 (1H, d, *J* 8.0, H10), 7.31 (1H, d, *J* 8.0, H7), 7.17 (1H, dd, *J* 8.0, 8.0, H5''), 7.13-7.10 (1H, m, H8), 7.06-7.03 (1H, m, H9), 6.92-6.90 (1H, m, H6''), 6.88-6.87 (1H, m, H2''), 6.82 (1H, s, H5), 6.74 (1H, ddd, *J* 8.0, 2.5, 0.5, H4''), 4.79 (1H, dd, *J* 10.5, 6.0, H11a), 3.77-3.71 (2H, m, H1'), 3.47 (1H, dd, *J* 15.0, 6.0, H11<sub>syn</sub>), 2.94-2.91 (1H, m, H11<sub>anti</sub>), 1.61-1.55 (2H, m, H2'), 1.32-1.25 (2H, m, H3'), 0.89 (3H, t, *J* 7.5, H4'); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 180.5 (C=S), 173.5 (C=O), 156.9 (C), 139.7 (C), 136.7 (C), 131.0 (C), 130.2 (CH), 125.9 (C), 122.8 (CH), 120.2 (CH), 120.1 (CH), 118.3 (CH), 116.2 (CH), 115.5 (CH), 111.3 (CH), 107.0 (C), 55.8 (CH), 55.1 (CH), 41.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 23.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 20.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 13.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>); LRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m*/*z* 406 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; [*a*]<sup>20</sup><sub>D</sub> = -216 (*c* = 0.1, DCM).

(5*S*,11*aR*)-2-Butyl-5-(3-hydroxyphenyl)-3-thioxo-6*H*-1,2,3,5,11,11a-hexahydroimidazo[1,5-*b*]-β-carboline-1-on *trans* (8b) Yield 50%, yellow solid. m.p. 57-59°C; v<sub>max</sub> (KBr) 3398 (m), 1726 (m), 1599(w), 1459 cm<sup>-1</sup> (s); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSOd<sub>6</sub>) δ 11.04 (1H, s, NH), 9.51 (1H, s, OH), 7.56 (1H, d, *J* 8.0, H10), 7.31 (1H, d, *J* 8.0, H7), 7.17 (1H, dd, *J* 8.0, 8.0, H5<sup>\*\*</sup>), 7.13-7.10 (1H, m, H8), 7.06-7.03 (1H, m, H9), 6.92-6.90 (1H, m, H6<sup>\*\*</sup>), 6.87-6.86 (1H, m, H2<sup>\*\*</sup>), 6.81 (1H, s, H5), 6.74-6.72 (1H, m, H4<sup>\*\*</sup>), 4.79 (1H, dd, *J* 10.5, 6.0, H11a), 3.79-3.69 (2H, m, H1<sup>\*</sup>), 3.47 (1H, dd, *J* 15.0, 6.0, H11<sub>syn</sub>), 2.94-2.89 (1H, m, H11<sub>anti</sub>), 1.62-1.54 (2H, m, H2'), 1.32-1.25 (2H, m, H3'), 0.89 (3H, t, *J* 7.5, H4'); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  180.6 (C=S), 173.4 (C=O), 156.1 (C), 139.8 (C), 136.7 (C), 130.6 (C), 130.4 (CH), 125.9 (C), 123.0 (CH), 121.0 (CH), 120.3 (CH), 118.5 (CH), 116.2 (CH), 115.5 (CH), 111.3 (CH), 107.5 (C), 55.7 (CH), 55.0 (CH), 41.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 23.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 20.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 13.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>); LRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z* 406 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>;  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +216$  (*c* = 0.1, DCM).

# (5*R*,11a*S*)-2-Butyl-5-(3-methoxyphenyl)-6*H*-1,2,3,5,11,11a-hexahydroimidazo[1,5-*b*]-β-carboline-1,3-dione (9i)

Diethyl azidocarboxylate (60.16 µL, 0.38 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of triphenylphosphine (101 mg, 0.38 mmol) in anhydrous THF (10 mL) and stirred for 30 minutes. A solution of 7a (100 mg, 0.25 mmol) and anhydrous MeOH (104.1 µL, 2.5 mmol) in anhydrous THF (10 mL) was added, and the mixture stirred for 48 hrs. The solvent was reduced, and the residue partitioned between EtOAc (20 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (2 x 10 mL) and the combined organics were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and reduced. Purification of the residue by chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc:Hex 1:9) afforded 9i as a white solid (85 mg, 0.21 mmol, 85 %). m.p. 115.1-115.5 °C; v<sub>max</sub> (KBr) 2960, 1713, 1490, 1222 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.49 (1H, d, J 7.8, H10), 7.25-7.07 (4H, 4H, H8, 9, 5", 7), 6.87-6.78 (3H, m, H4", 2", 6"), 6.19 (1H, s, H5), 4.25 (1H, dd, J 11.0, 5.58, H11a), 3.69 (3H, s, H8"), 3.52-3.38 (3H, m, H1', H11<sub>svn</sub>), 2.81 (1H, dd, J 15.4, 11.0, H11<sub>anti</sub>), 1.56-1.49 (2H, m, H2'), 1.29-1.21 (2H, m, H3'), 0.88 (3H, t, J 7.6, H4'); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 172.8 (C=O), 160.2 (C), 155.0 (C=O), 140.7 (C), 136.6 (C), 130.2 (CH), 130.4 (C), 126.2 (C), 122.9 (CH), 120.3 (CH), 120.2 (CH), 118.4 (CH), 114.1 (CH), 114.0 (CH), 111.2 (CH), 108.1 (C), 55.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 53.4 (CH), 51.9 (CH), 38.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 30.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 23.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 20.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 13.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>); LRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*: 404.31  $[M+H]^+$ ; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>)  $[M+H]^+$  m/z expected for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub> 404.1896 obtained 404.1906;  $[\alpha]_{D}^{20} = -207.5$  (*c* = 0.00342, DCM).

### **Diamino PEG Linker (16)**

To a solution of **18** (1.17 g, 3.07 mmol) in anhydrous DCM (15 mL) at 0  $^{\circ}$ C was added DIPEA (1.10 mL, 6.13 mmol) and methane sulfonyl chloride (0.31 mL, 3.98 mmol). After stirring at 0  $^{\circ}$ C for 20 minutes, the reaction mixture was allowed to

warm to room temperature and stirred overnight. The mixture was washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (30 mL), sat NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (30 mL), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and reduced *in vacuo*. Purification of the residue by chromatography on silica gel (DCM:MeOH 97:3) afforded the mesylate as a yellow oil (1.18g, 2.30 mmol, 75%).  $v_{max}$  (Nujol) 2873, 1700, 1517, 1391, 1170 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  4.18 (2H, t, *J* 4.6, CH<sub>2</sub>-OH), 3.76-3.59 (20H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>-O), 3.48-3.33 range (2H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>-NH), 2.93 (3H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>-S), 1.45 (9H, s, (CH<sub>3</sub>)C); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$  157.5 (C=O), 70.6 (C), 71.5-62.2 (CH<sub>2</sub> x10), 45.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 33.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 28.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>); LRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*: 460.35 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

The above mesylate (1.12 g, 2.18 mmol) and sodium azide (0.24 g, 3.27 mmol) were dissolved in anhydrous DMF (20 mL) and heated at 110°C for 4 h. Upon cooling the solvent was reduced *in vacuo*. Purification of the residue by chromatography on silica gel (DCM: MeOH 97: 3) afforded the azide as a yellow oil (0.76 g, 1.94 mmol, 89%).  $v_{max}$  (Nujol) 2922, 2113, 1720, 1301, 1151 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  3.79-3.61 (20H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>-O), 3.42 (2H, t, *J* 7.3, CH<sub>2</sub>-N<sub>3</sub>), 3.45-3.33 (2H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>-NH), 1.45 (9H, s, (CH<sub>3</sub>)C); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  157.5 (C=O), 71.4-70.0 (CH<sub>2</sub> x10), 70.5 (C), 50.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 40.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>); LRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*: 429.32 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>.

The azide (0.70 g 1.7 mmol) was dissolved in anhydrous THF (5 mL) and cooled to 0°C, PS-PPh<sub>3</sub> (2g, 1.83 mmol/g) was added and mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature overnight. H<sub>2</sub>O (0.5 mL) was added into mixture stirred for 4 hours. The reaction was filtered and the solvent was reduced *in vacuo* to afford the desired product without the need for purification (0.64 g, 1.6 mmol, 99%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  3.72-3.50 (20H, m, (CH<sub>2</sub>)x10), 3.43 (2H, t, *J* 8.0, CH<sub>2</sub>-OH), 2.82 (2H, t, *J* 7.5, CH<sub>2</sub>-NH), 1.45 (9H, s, (CH<sub>3</sub>)C) <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  157.5 (C=O), 71.4-70.0 (CH<sub>2</sub> x10), 70.5 (C) 41.78 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 40.33 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.41 (CH<sub>3</sub>); LRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*: 381.29 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

> Unknown enantiomers synthesised using well established literature route.

#### (5*R*,11a*R*)-2-Butyl-5-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-6*H*-1,2,3,5,11,11a-hexahydro-

**imidazo**[1,5-*b*]-β-carboline-1,3-dione (6c) Yield 74%, white solid. m.p. 272-273°C;  $v_{max}$  (KBr) 3401 (m), 2960 (w), 1765 (m), 1699 (s), 1454 cm<sup>-1</sup> (m); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ 10.67 (1H, s, NH), 9.33 (1H, s, OH), 7.53 (1H, d, *J* 7.1, H10), 7.22 (1H, d, *J* 7.3, H7), 7.11-6.96 (4H, m, H8, H9, H2"), 6.67-6.64 (2H, AA'BB', H3"), 5.76 (1H, s, H5), 4.52 (1H, dd, *J* 11.4, 4.3, H11a), 3.33-3.27 (3H, m, H11<sub>syn</sub> &

H1'), 3.00-2.91 (1H, m, H11<sup>*anti*</sup>), 1.52-1.42 (2H, m, H2'), 1.31-1.18 (2H, m, H3'), 0.86 (3H, t, *J* 7.2, H4'); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  171.7 (C=O), 156.7 (C), 154.0 (C=O), 136.6 (C), 135.2 (C), 130.9 (C), 128.6 (CH), 125.9 (C), 121.2 (CH), 118.7 (CH), 118.1 (CH), 114.9 (CH), 111.2 (CH), 104.8 (C), 57.6 (CH), 55.3 (CH), 37.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 21.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 19.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 13.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>); LRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z* 390 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>;  $[\alpha]_{p}^{20} = +54$  (*c* = 0.1, MeOH).

### (5S,11aS)-2-Butyl-5-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-6H-1,2,3,5,11,11a-hexahydro-

**imidazo**[1,5-*b*]-β-carboline-1,3-dione (6d) Yield 64%, white solid. m.p. 274-275°C;  $v_{max}$  (KBr) 3324 (m), 2957 (w), 1760 (m), 1694 (s), 1458 cm<sup>-1</sup> (m); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ 10.68 (1H, s, NH), 9.34 (1H, s, OH), 7.53 (1H, d, *J* 7.5, H10), 7.23 (1H, d, *J* 8.0, H7), 7.11-7.09 (2H, AA'BB', H2''), 7.06-7.03 (1H, m, H8), 7.01-6.98 (1H, m, H9), 6.68-6.65 (2H, AA'BB', H3''), 5.77 (1H, s, H5), 4.53 (1H, dd, *J* 11.5, 4.5, H11a), 3.38-3.29 (3H, m, H11<sub>*syn*</sub> & H1'), 2.99-2.93 (1H, m, H11<sub>*anti*</sub>), 1.50-1.44 (2H, m, H2'), 1.29-1.21 (2H, m, H3'), 0.87 (3H, t, *J* 7.0, H4'); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ 171.8 (C=O), 156.8 (C), 154.1 (C=O), 136.7 (C), 135.3 (C), 130.9 (C), 128.7 (CH), 126.0 (C), 121.3 (CH), 118.8 (CH), 118.2 (CH), 115.0 (CH), 111.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 13.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>); LRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m*/*z* 296 (10) [M-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>O]<sup>+</sup>, 390 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; [*a*]<sup>20</sup><sub>D</sub> = -54 (*c* = 0.1, MeOH).

## (5*R*,11a*S*)-2-Butyl-5-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-6*H*-1,2,3,5,11,11a-hexahydro-

**imidazo**[1,5-*b*]-β-carboline-1,3-dione (7c) Yield 53%, off-white solid. m.p. 145-146°C;  $v_{max}$  (KBr) 3399 (m), 2958 (w), 1762 (m), 1700 (s), 1457 cm<sup>-1</sup> (s); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ 10.90 (1H, s, NH), 9.52 (1H, s, OH), 7.54 (1H, d, *J* 8.0, H10), 7.29 (1H, d, *J* 8.0, H7), 7.15-7.13 (2H, AA'BB', H2''), 7.11-7.08 (1H, m, H8), 7.04-7.01 (1H, m, H9), 6.76-6.74 (2H, AA'BB', H3''), 6.12 (1H, s, H5), 4.53 (1H, dd, *J* 11.0, 5.5, H11a), 3.44-3.38 (3H, m, H11<sub>*syn*</sub> & H1'), 2.81-2.76 (1H, m, H11<sub>*anti*</sub>), 1.53-1.48 (2H, m, H2'), 1.29-1.21 (2H, m, H3), 0.87 (3H, t, *J* 7.3, H4); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-d6) δ 172.7 (C=O), 157.3 (C), 154.1 (C=O), 136.6 (C), 131.7 (C), 130.5 (C), 129.1 (CH), 125.8 (C), 121.6 (CH), 118.7 (CH), 118.1 (CH), 115.3 (CH), 111.3 (CH), 105.8 (C), 52.6 (CH), 51.0 (CH), 37.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 19.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 13.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>); LRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*: 412.11 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> m/z expected for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na 412.1637 found 412.1637; [*a*]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> = -207 (*c* = 0.2, DCM).

## (5S,11aR)-2-Butyl-5-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-6H-1,2,3,5,11,11a-hexahydro-

**imidazo**[1,5-*b*]-β-carboline-1,3-dione (7d) Yield 77%, white solid. m.p. 142-143°C;  $v_{max}$  (KBr) 3344 (m), 2959 (w), 1761 (m), 1699 (s), 1457 cm<sup>-1</sup> (s); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ 10.89 (1H, s, NH), 9.52 (1H, s, OH), 7.54 (1H, d, *J* 8.0, H10), 7.29 (1H, d, *J* 8.0, H7), 7.15-7.13 (2H, AA'BB', H2''), 7.11-7.08 (1H, m, H8), 7.04-7.01 (1H, m, H9), 6.76-6.73 (2H, AA'BB', H3''), 6.13 (1H, s, H5), 4.53 (1H, dd, *J* 11.0, 5.5, H11a), 3.44-3.38 (3H, m, H11<sub>*syn*</sub> & H1'), 2.81-2.76 (1H, m, H11<sub>*anti*</sub>), 1.54-1.48 (2H, m, H2'), 1.29-1.21 (2H, m, H3'), 0.89 (3H, t, *J* 7.0, H4'); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 173.5 (C=O), 156.5 (C), 155.1 (C=O), 136.7 (C), 131.0 (C), 130.7 (C), 129.6 (CH), 126.0 (C), 122.7 (CH), 120.0 (CH), 118.4 (CH), 116.0 (CH), 111.3 (CH), 107.6 (C), 53.2 (CH), 51.6 (CH), 38.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 30.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 23.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 20.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 13.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>); LRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*: 412.11 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> m/z expected for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na 412.1637 found 412.1637; [*α*]<sup>20</sup><sub>D</sub> = +207 (*c* = 0.2, DCM).

### (5R,11aS)-2-Octyl-5-(3-hydroxyphenyl)-6H-1,2,3,5,11,11a-hexahydro-

imidazo[1,5-*b*]-β-carboline-1,3-dione (7k) Yield 87%, yellow solid. m.p. 93.5-95 °C;  $v_{max}$  (KBr) 3344 (m), 2927 (m), 1764 (m), 1699 (s), 1457 cm<sup>-1</sup> (s); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ 11.0 (1H, s, NH), 9.52 (1H, s, OH), 7.60 (1H, d, *J* 7.7, H10), 7.36 (1H, d, *J* 7.9, H7), 7.24-7.05 (3H, m, H8, H9, H5''), 6.84-6.77 (3H, m, H2', H4', H6'), 6.19 (1H, s, H4), 4.54 (1H, dd, *J* 10.8, 5.7, H11a), 3.47-3.40 (3H, m, H11<sub>*syn*</sub> & H1'), 2.89-2.81 (1H, m, H11<sub>*anti*</sub>), 1.62-1.53 (2H, m, H2'), 1.32-1.24 (10H, m, H3'-H7'), 0.88 (3H, t, *J* 6.7, H8'); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ 172.5 (C=O), 157.6 (C), 154.2 (C=O), 141.3 (C), 136.6 (C), 131.1 (C), 129.7 (CH), 125.7 (C), 121.6 (CH), 118.8 (CH), 118.4 (CH), 118.1 (CH), 115.0 (CH), 114.7 (CH), 111.3 (CH), 105.9 (C), 52.7 (CH), 51.3 (CH), 37.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 31.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 13.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>); LRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z* 446 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; [*a*]<sup>20</sup><sub>p</sub> = -244 (*c* = 0.05, DCM).

(5*R*,11a*S*)-2-(3-Propionic acid ethyl ester)-5-(3-hydroxyphenyl)-6*H*-1,2,3,5,11,11a-hexahydro-imidazo[1,5-*b*]-β-carboline-1,3-dione (7l) Yield 82%, yellow solid. m.p. 128-130 °C;  $v_{max}$  (KBr) 3398 (m), 1707 (s), 1458 cm<sup>-1</sup> (m); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*6) δ 11.06 (1H, s, NH), 9.59 (1H, s, OH), 7.66 (1H, d, *J*  7.5, H10), 7.41 (1H, d, *J* 8.0, H7), 7.29-7.26 (1H, m, H5''), 7.22-7.19 (1H, m, H8), 7.15-7.12 (1H, m, H9), 6.69-6.82 (3H, m, H2'', H4'' & H6''), 6.23 (1H, s, H5), 4.59 (1H, dd, *J* 11, 5.5, H11a), 4.13-4.08 (2H, m, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.79-3.76 (2H, m, H1'), 3.5-3.48 (1H, m, H11<sub>*syn*</sub>), 2.93 (1H, dd, *J* 14, 11, H11<sub>*anti*</sub>), 2.73-2.70 (2H, m, H2'), 1.21 (3H, t, *J* 7.0, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  172.7 (C=O), 171.2 (C=O), 156.6 (C), 154.6 (C=O), 140.5 (C), 136.6 (C), 130.3 (CH), 130.2 (C), 126.0 (C), 122.8 (CH), 120.0 (CH), 119.6 (CH), 118.4 (CH), 116.1 (CH), 115.3 (CH), 111.2 (CH), 107.6 (C), 61.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 53.4 (CH), 52.0 (CH), 34.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 23.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 14.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>); LRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*: 456.06 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>; HRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> m/z expected for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Na 456.1535 found 456.1535; [ $\alpha$ ]<sup>20</sup><sub>D</sub> = -94 (*c* = 0.1, DCM).

### Synthesis of C9-substituted analogues 7e-7j

Synthesis of 7e via S1 and S2



To a suspension of DL-5-bromotryptophan (**5c**) (1.02 g, 3.60 mmol) in 0.1 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (10 ml ) was added 3-hydroxybenzaldehyde (0.88 g, 7.20 mmol). The mixture was heated at reflux for 6 hours, cooled to ambient temperature at which point a solid crashed out. The solid was collected by filtration and then washed with water (3 x 25ml) and ether (4 x 50 ml) to give the carboxylic acid **S1** as a white solid (1.08 g, 77%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO)  $\delta$  7.68 (s, 1H, H7), 7.12-7.33 (m, 3H, H5, H4, H15), 6.89 (d, 1H, H16, <sup>3</sup>*J*= 7.5) 6.72-6.85 (m, 2H, H14, H12), 5.32 (s, 1H, H2), 3.80 (dd, 1H, H9, <sup>3</sup>*J*= 4.0, 12.5), 3.11 (dd, 1H, H8*syn*, <sup>3</sup>*J*= 13.5, 4.0), 2.86 (dd, 1H, H8*anti*, <sup>3</sup>*J*= 13.5, 12.5). 13C NMR (100 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO),  $\delta$  172.4(C10), 157.4(C13), 140.9(C11), 135.5(C2a), 135.1(C3a), 129.3(C15), 128.1(C7a), 120.1(C7), 119.7(C16), 115.8(C12), 115.5(C4), 115.3(C14), 113.2(C5), 111.1(C6), 107.5(C7b), 57.5(C2), 56.6(C9), 24.4(C8); LRMS *m/z*, ES- 385.15 (100%) [M-H]<sup>-</sup>. To a suspension of **s1** (1.05 g, 2.70 mmol) in anhydrous DMSO (4 ml) was added *n*-

butylisocyanate (0.268 g, 2.70 mmol) and anhydrous acetone (10 ml). The mixture was heated to reflux for 4 hours before cooling. Solvent was removed in vacuo to give an orange that was purified by column chromatography (eluting with EtOAc: petrol ether 30-100%) to give *cis*-S2 as an off white solid (0.820 g, 65%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz,  $(CD_3)_2SO$ ) δ 10.98 (s, 1H, NH), 9.35 (s, 1H, OH), 7.79 (s, 1H, H10), 7.24 (d, 1H, H7, <sup>3</sup>J= 8.5), 7.11 (dd, 1H, H16,  ${}^{3}J=$  7.50, 8.0), 6.80 (d, 1H, H17,  ${}^{3}J=$  7.5), 6.73 (s, 1H, H13), 6.67 (d, 1H, H15,  ${}^{3}J=$  8.0), 5.80 (s, 1H, H5), 4.56 (dd, 1H, H11a,  ${}^{3}J=$  4.5, 11.5), 3.32-3.48 (m, 3H, H18, H11syn), 2,95 (m, 1H, H11anti), 1,46-1.56 (m, 2H, H19), 1.23-1.34 (m, 2H, H20), 0.90 (t, 3H, H21,  ${}^{3}J=$  7.5). 13C NMR (100 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO),  $\delta$  171.5(C1), 157.2(C14), 154.0(C3), 141.7(C12), 136.4(C6a), 135.3(C5a), 129.2(C16), 127.6(C10a), 123.8(C7), 120.6(C10), 118.0(C15), 114.5(C17), 114.1(C13), 113.2(C8), 111.4(C9), 104.8(C10b), 57.3(C11a), 55.5(C5), 37.4(C18), 29.6(C19), 29.6(C19), 21.7(C11), 19.3(C20), 13.4(C21), m/z, ES-466.44 (100%) [M-H]<sup>-</sup>. K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.117 g, 0.85 mmol) and *cis*-S2 (0.263 g, 0.56 mmol) were then suspended in anhydrous MeCN (3 ml) and refluxed under  $N_2$  for 4 hrs. The crude reaction mixture was filtered and the solvent removed *in vacuo* to give a yellow solid. This solid was purified by column chromatography (eluting with EtOAc: petrol ether 30-100%) to yield the desired product 7e as a pale yellow solid (0.261 g, 0.56 mmol, 99%). m.p: 236-237 °C (dec). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO) δ 11.20 (s, 1H, H6), 9.53 (s, 1H, OH), 7.80 (s, 1H, H10), 7.30 (d, 1H,  ${}^{3}J=8.5$ , H7), 7.24 (d, 1H,  ${}^{3}J=8.5$ , H8), 7.20 (m, 1H, H16), 6.74-6.80 (m, 3H, H15, H13, H17), 6.18 (s, 1H, H5), 4.53 (dd, 1H,  ${}^{3}J=$  5.5, 15.5, H11a), 3.40-3.47 (m, 3H, H18, H11syn), 2.80 (dd, 1H, H11anti), 1.54 (m, 2H, H19), 1.29 (m, 2H, H10), 0.90 (t, 3H,  ${}^{3}J=$  7.5, H21).  ${}^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO),  $\delta$  172.4 (C1), 157.6(C14), 154.2(C3), 141.1(C12), 135.3(C6a), 132.9(C5a), 129.8(C16), 127.5(C10a), 124.1(C15), 120.6(C10), 118.3(C17), 115.1(C13), 114.7(C7), 113.3(C8), 111.4(C9), 105.9(C10b), 52.6(C11a), 51.2(C5), 37.6(C18), 29.6(C19), 22.5(C11), 19.3(C2). 13.4(C21), m/z, ES-466.01 (100%) [M-1]<sup>-</sup>.

### Conversion of 7e to 7g-7j

**General procedure for Suzuki coupling:** sodium carbonate (0.048 g, 0.45 mmol), the required boronic acid (0.23 mmol) and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (0.012 g, 7 mol%) were added to a sealed tube under argon. Water (1ml) was added, followed by **7e** (0.070 g, 0.15mmol) as a solution in DME (3ml). The reaction mixture was then heated at 70 °C for 24 hrs. The crude reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue filtered through a silica column (eluting with 40% EtOAc/petrol ester) to yield the desired compound **7g-7j**.

**7g** (0.039 g, 55%). Mp: 150 °C (dec) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz,  $(CD_3)_2SO$ )  $\delta$  11.00 (s, 1H, H6), 9.52 (s, 1H, OH), 7.91 (s, 1H, H10), 7.76 (d, 2H, <sup>3</sup>*J*= 8.5, H24), 7.53 (d, 2H, <sup>3</sup>*J*= 8.5, H23), 7.40-7.47 (m, 2H, H7, H8), 7.19-7.24 (m, 1H, H16), 6.74-6.85 (m, 3H, H15, H13, H17), 6.19 (s, 1H, H5), 4.54 (dd, 1H, <sup>3</sup>*J*= 5.5, 11.0, H11a), 3.43-3.53 (m, 3H, H18, H11*syn*), 2.86 (dd, 1H, <sup>3</sup>*J*= 5.5, 15.5, H11*anti*), 1.54 (m, 2H, H19), 1.29 (m, 2H, H20), 0.90 (t, 3H, <sup>3</sup>*J*= 7.5, H21). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO),  $\delta$  172.5(C1), 157.6(C14), 154.2(C3), 141.2(C12), 140.5(C9), 136.4(C6a), 132.2(C5a), 131.0(C10a) 129.9(C22), 129.8(C16), 128.6(C24), 128.3(C23), 126.4(C25), 120.7(C15), 118.4(C17), 116.5(C13), 115.1(C10), 114.7(C8), 111.8(C7), 106.6(C10b), 52.6(C11a), 51.3(C5), 37.6(C18), 29.6(C19), 22.7(C11), 19.3(C20), 13.4(C21), *m/z*, ES- 498.13 (100%) [M-1]<sup>-</sup>.

**7h** (0.029 g, 41%). m.p.: 135 °C (dec). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO)  $\delta$  11.00 (s, 1H, H6), 9.52 (s, 1H, OH), 7.85 (s, 1H, H10), 7.62 (d, 2H, <sup>3</sup>*J*= 8.0, H23), 7.37-7.45 (m, 2H, H7, H8), 7.29 (d, 2H, <sup>3</sup>*J*= 8.0, H24), 7.21 (m, 1H, H16)), 6.73-6.85 (m, 3H, H13, H15, H17), 6.19 (s, 1H, H5), 4.54 (dd, 1H, <sup>3</sup>*J*= 5.5, 11.0, H11a), 3.40-3.53 (m, 3H, H18, H11*syn*), 2.86 (dd, 1H, <sup>3</sup>*J*= 5.5, 15.5, H11*anti*), 2.38 (s, 3H, H26), 1.54 (m, 2H, H19), 1.29 (m, 2H, H20), 0.90 (t, 3H, <sup>3</sup>*J*= 7.5, H21). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO),  $\delta$  172.5(C1), 157.6(C14), 154.2(C3), 141.3(C12), 138.8(C22), 136.1(C6a), 135.3(C25), 131.9(C5a), 131.3(C10a), 129.7(C24), 129.3(C16), 126.4(C23), 126.3(C9), 120.8(C15), 118.4(C17), 116.0(C10), 115.0(C13), 114.7(C8), 111.7(C7), 106.4(C10b), 52.6(C11a), 51.3(C5), 37.6(C18), 29.6(C19), 22.7(C11), 20.6(C26), 19.3(C20), 13.4(C21), *m/z*, ES- 478.18 (100%) [M-1]<sup>-</sup>.

7i (21 mg, 84%) m.p.: 215 °C (dec) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO)  $\delta$  11.00 (s, 1H, H6), 9.52 (s, 1H, OH), 7.81 (s, 1H, H10), 7.65 (d, 2H, <sup>3</sup>*J*= 9.0, H24), 7.40 (m, 2H, H7, H8), 7.21 (m, 1H, H16), 7.05 (d, 2H, <sup>3</sup>*J*= 9.0, H23), 6.72-6.84 (m, 3H, H15, H13, H17), 6.18 (s, 1H, H5), 4.54 (dd, 1H, <sup>3</sup>*J*= 5.5, 11.0, H11a), 3.8 (s, 3H, H26), 3.43-3.53 (m, 3H, H18, H11*syn*), 2.86 (dd, 1H, <sup>3</sup>*J*= 15.5, 5.5, H11*anti*), 1.54 (m, 2H, H19), 1.29 (m, 2H, H20), 0.90 (t, 3H, <sup>3</sup>*J*= 7.5, H21). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO),  $\delta$  172.6(C1), 158.0(C25), 157.6(C14), 154.2(C3), 141.3(C12), 135.8(C6a), 134.1(C5a), 131.8(C16), 131.1(C10a), 129.7(C15), 127.6(C24), 126.3(C9), 120.7(C10), 118.4(C17), 115.8(C13), 115.0(C7), 114.7(C8), 114.2(C23), 111.6(C22), 106.4(C10b), 55.1(C26), 52.7(C11a), 51.3(C5), 37.6(C18), 29.6(C19), 22.7(C11), 19.3(C20), 13.4(C21), *m/z*, ES- 494.18 (100%) [M-1]<sup>-</sup>.

**7j** (44mg, 63%) m.p.: 135 °C (dec) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO)  $\delta$  11.12 (s, 1H, H6), 9.52 (s, 1H, OH), 8.02 (m, 2H, H10, H23), 7.75 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup>*J*= 8.5, H27), 7.72 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup>*J*= 8.5, H26), 7.50 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup>*J*= 9.0, H7), 7.42 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup>*J*= 9.0, H8), 7.21 (m, 1H, H16), 6.74-6.85 (m, 3H, H15, H13, H17), 6.19 (s, 1H, H5), 4.54 (dd, 1H, <sup>3</sup>*J*= 5.5, 11.0, H11a), 3.40-3.53 (m, 3H, H18, H11*syn*), 2.86 (dd, 1H, <sup>3</sup>*J*= 5.5, 15.5, H11*anti*), 1.54 (m, 2H, H19), 1.29 (m, 2H, H20), 0.90 (t, 3H, <sup>3</sup>*J*= 7.5, H21). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO),  $\delta$  172.5(C1), 157.6(C14), 154.2(C3), 142.3(C12), 141.2(C9), 136.6(C6a), 132.3(C5a), 131.5(C10a), 130.8(C26), 129.8(C16), 128.7(C24), 128.4(C25), 128.1(C23), 126.6(C27), 126.4(C22), 120.7(C15), 118.4(C17), 116.9(C13), 115.1(C10), 114.7(C7), 111.9(C8), 106.8(C10b), 52.6(C11a), 51.30(C5), 37.6(C18), 29.6(C19), 22.8(C11), 19.3(C20), 13.4(C21), *m/z*, ES-532.08 (100%) [M-1]<sup>-</sup>.

### Synthesis of analogues 9ii, 9iv, 9x-xvii

During the course of this work additional analogues of 9 were prepared. The spectroscopic analysis and biological data relating to these additional are given below (see Table S1). In addition spectroscopic analysis for compounds included in Table 2 of the paper but not discussed specifically in the text of the paper are included here to reduce the size of the experimental section.

#### Representative procedure for the alkylation of 7a

To a solution of **7a** (50 mg) in anyhdrous MeCN (2 mL) was added  $K_2CO_3$  (27 mg) and alkyl bromide (1.05 eq). After stirring at 50 °C for 48 hours, the reaction mixture diluted with water (3 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (2 x 2 mL) and the combined extracts were dried and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification of the residue by filtration through a plug of silica (EtOAc:Hex 1:9) afforded the desired product.

(5*R*, 11a*S*)-2-Butyl-5-(3-ethoxyphenyl)-6*H*-1,2,3,5,11,11a-hexahydro-imidazo[1,5-*b*]-β-carboline-1,3-dione (9ii) Yield 71%, yellow oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.85 (1H, s, NH), 7.56 (1H, d, *J* 7.5, H10), 7.31-7.15 (4H, m, H8, 9, 5", 7), 6.91 (1H, d, *J* 7.7, H6"), 6.88-6.85 (2H, m, H4", 2"), 6.26 (1H, d, *J* 1.3, H5), 4.32 (1H, dd, *J* 11.0, 5.5, H11a), 3.98 (2H, q, *J* 7.0, H8"), 3.57-3.48 (3H, m, H1', 11<sub>*syn*</sub>), 2.88 (1H, ddd, *J* 15.3, 11.0, 1.8, H11<sub>*anti*</sub>), 1.65-1.57 (2H, m, H2'), 1.39-1.30 (5H, m, H9", H3'), 0.92 (3H, t, *J* 7.4 Hz, H4'); LRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) m/z: 440.20 (100%) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>.

(5*R*, 11a*S*)-2-Butyl-5-(3-butoxyphenyl)-6*H*-1,2,3,5,11,11a-hexahydro-imidazo[1,5-*b*]-β-carboline-1,3-dione (9iv) Yield 89%, yellow oil, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.76 (1H, s, NH), 7.56 (1H, d, *J* 7.5, H10), 7.31-7.16 (4H, m, H8, 9, 5", 7), 6.91-6.86 (3H, m, H4", 2", 6"), 6.27 (1H, d, *J* 1.2, H5), 4.33 (1H, dd, *J* 11.1, 5.4, H11a), 3.88 (2H, t, *J* 6.5, H8"), 3.57-3.49 (3H, m, H1', 11<sub>syn</sub>), 2.88 (1H, ddd, *J* 15.2, 11.1, 1.8, H11<sub>anti</sub>), 1.81-1.73 (2H, m, H9"), 1.65-1.58 (2H, m, H2'), 1.38-1.28 (2H, m, H3'), 1.26-1.25 (2H, m, H12"), 1.00 (3H, t, *J* 7.5, H11"), 0.93 (3H, t, *J* 7.4, H4'); LRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*: 468.18 (100%) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>.

(5*R*,11a*S*)-2-Butyl-5-(3-(4-methoxy-benzyloxy)phenyl)-6*H*-1,2,3,5,11,11a-hexahydroimidazo[1,5-*b*]-β-carboline-1,3-dione (9x) Yield 91%, yellow solid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.00 (1H, s, NH), 7.55 (1H, d, *J* 7.5, H10), 7.28-7.14 (6H, m, H8, 9, 5", 7, 10"), 6.94-6.85 (5H, m, H6", 4", 2", 11"), 6.22 (1H, s, H5), 4.88 (2H, s, H8"), 4.23 (1H, dd, *J* 11.0, 5.5, H11a), 3.80 (3H, s, H14"), 3.57-3.42 (3H, m, H1', 11<sub>syn</sub>), 2.86 (1H, ddd, *J* 15.3, 11.0, 1.8, H11<sub>anti</sub>), 1.66-1.56 (2H, m, H2'), 1.40-1.26 (2H, m, H3'), 0.92 (3H, t, *J* 7.4, H4'); LRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*: 532.22 (100%) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>.

(5*R*,11a*S*)-2-Butyl-5-(3-(3,4-Dichloro-benzyloxy)phenyl)-6*H*-1,2,3,5,11,11a-hexahydroimidazo[1,5-*b*]-β-carboline-1,3-dione (9xi) Yield 87%, yellow solid, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.88 (1H, s, NH), 7.57 (1H, d, *J* 7.5, H10), 7.48 (1H, d, *J* 2.0, H10"), 7.39 (1H, d, *J* 8.2, H12"), 7.30-7.16 (5H, m, H8, 9, 5", 7, 13"), 6.95-6.89 (3H, m, H6", 4", 2"), 6.26 (1H, d, *J* 1.0, H5), 4.94 (2H, s, H8"), 4.28 (1H, dd, *J* 11.0, 5.5, H11a), 3.58-3.46 (3H, m, H1', 11<sub>syn</sub>), 2.88 (1H, ddd, *J* 15.3, 11.0, 1.8, H11<sub>anti</sub>), 1.66-1.55 (2H, m, H2'), 1.40-1.24 (2H, m, H3'), 0.93 (3H, t, *J* 7.4, H4'); LRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) m/z: 570.13 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>.

# (5*R*,11a*S*)-2-Butyl-5-(3-carbamoylmethoxyphenyl)-6*H*-1,2,3,5,11,11a-hexahydro-

**imidazo**[1,5-*b*]-β-carboline-1,3-dione (9xii) Yield 55%, yellow oil, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.01 (1H, s, NH), 7.58 (1H, d, *J* 7.5, H10), 7.34-7.16 (4H, m, H8, 9, 5", 7), 7.01 (1H, d, *J* 7.9, H6"), 6.96-6.95 (1H, m, H2"), 6.86 (1H, dd, *J* 8.1, 2.5, H4"), 6.57-6.47 (1H, br s, NH), 6.29 (1H, d, *J* 1.4, H5), 5.72-5.59 (1H, br s, NH), 4.41 (2H, s, H8"), 4.30 (1H, dd, *J* 11.0, 5.5, H11a), 3.56-3.48 (3H, m, H1',  $11_{syn}$ ), 2.89 (1H, ddd, *J* 15.3, 11.0, 1.8, H11<sub>anti</sub>), 1.66-1.56 (2H, m, H2'), 1.39-1.25 (2H, m, H3'), 0.92 (3H, t, *J* 7.4, H4'); LRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*: 469.18 (100%) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>.

### (5R,11aS)-2-Butyl-5-(3-cyanomethoxyphenyl)-6H-1,2,3,5,11,11a-hexahydro-

**imidazo**[1,5-*b*]-β-carboline-1,3-dione (9xiii) Yield 54%, yellow oil, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.90 (1H, s, NH), 7.57 (1H, d, *J* 7.5, H10), 7.37-7.16 (4H, m, H8, 9, 5", 7), 7.06-6.95 (3H, m, H6", 4", 2"), 6.31 (1H, d, *J* 1.4, H5), 4.74 (2H, s, H8"), 4.30 (1H, dd, *J* 11.0, 5.5, H11a), 3.58-3.46 (3H, m, H1', 11<sub>syn</sub>), 2.88 (1H, ddd, *J* 15.3, 11.0, 1.8, H11<sub>anti</sub>), 1.66-1.56 (2H, m, H2'), 1.40-1.25 (2H, m, H3'), 0.93 (3H, t, *J* 7.4, H4'); LRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*: 451.18 (100%) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>.

### (5R,11aS)-2-Butyl-5-(3-but-2-enyloxyphenyl)-6H-1,2,3,5,11,11a-hexahydro-

**imidazo**[1,5-*b*]-β-carboline-1,3-dione (9xiv) Yield 64%, yellow oil, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.83 (1H, s, NH), 7.56 (1H, d, *J* 7.5, H10), 7.31-7.14 (4H, m, H8, 9, 5", 7), 6.92 (1H, d, *J* 7.7, H6"), 6.90-6.87 (2H, m, H4", 2"), 6.27 (1H, s, H5), 5.88-5.76 (1H, m, H10"), 5.71-5.61 (1H, m, H9"), 4.40 (2H, d, *J* 6.0, H8"), 4.31 (1H, dd, *J* 11.0, 5.5, H11a), 3.56-3.47 (3H, m, H1', 11<sub>syn</sub>), 2.88 (1H, ddd, *J* 15.3, 11.0, 1.8 Hz, H11<sub>anti</sub>), 1.72 (3H, dd, *J* 6.3, 1.3, H11"), 1.68-1.59 (2H, m, H2'), 1.40-1.27 (2H, m, H3'), 0.92 (3H, t, *J* 7.4, H4'); LRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) m/z: 466.28 (100%) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>.

#### (5R,11aS,)-2-Butyl-5-(3-but-3-enyloxyphenyl)-6H-1,2,3,5,11,11a-hexahydro-

**imidazo**[1,5-*b*]-β-carboline-1,3-dione (9xv) Yield 72%, yellow oil, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.90 (1H, s, NH), 7.55 (1H, d, *J* 7.5, H10), 7.28-7.13 (4H, m, H8, 9, 5", 7), 6.90-6.79 (3H, m, H6", 4", 2"), 6.23 (1H, d, *J* 1.3, H5), 5.88-5.78 (1H, m, H10"), 5.14-5.04 (2H, m, H11"), 4.30 (1H, dd, *J* 11.0, 5.5, H11a), 3.93 (2H, pseudo t, *J* 8.7, H8"), 3.53-3.43 (3H, m, H1',  $11_{syn}$ ), 2.88 (1H, ddd, *J* 15.3, 11.0, 1.8 Hz, H11<sub>anti</sub>), 2.50-2.44 (2H, m, H9"), 1.65-1.55 (2H, m, H2'), 1.40-1.27 (2H, m, H3'), 0.92 (3H, t, *J* 7.4, H4'); LRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) *m/z*: 466.21 (100%) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>.

#### (5R,11aS)-2-Butyl-5-(3-(3-(Methyl-but-2-enyloxy)phenyl)-6H-1,2,3,5,11,11a-

hexahydro-imidazo[1,5-*b*]-β-carboline-1,3-dione (9xvi) Yield 51%, yellow oil, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.82 (1H, s, NH), 7.55 (1H, d, *J* 7.5, H10), 7.30-7.14 (4H, m, H8, 9, 5", 7), 6.95 (1H, d, *J* 7.7, H6"), 6.93-6.84 (2H, m, H4", 2"), 6.27 (1H, d, *J* 1.3, H5), 5.44-5.38 (1H, m, H9"), 4.45 (2H, d, *J* 6.8, H8"), 4.31 (1H, dd, *J* 11.0, 5.5, H11a), 3.56-3.46 (3H, m, H1', 11<sub>syn</sub>), 2.88 (1H, ddd, *J* 15.3, 11.0, 1.8, H11<sub>anti</sub>), 1.74 (3H, s, H11"), 1.67 (3H, s, H12"), 1.64-1.56 (2H, m, H2'), 1.40-1.25 (2H, m, H3'), 0.92 (3H, t, *J* 7.4, H4'); LRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) m/z: 480.23 (100%) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>.

### (5R,11aS)-2-Butyl-5-(3-cyclopentyloxyphenyl)-6H-1,2,3,5,11,11a-hexahydro-

**imidazo**[1,5-*b*]-β-carboline-1,3-dione (9xvii) Yield 72%, yellow oil, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 7.50 (1H, d, J = 7.7 Hz, H10), 7.25 (1H, d, J = 7.9 Hz, H7), 7.20 (1H, dd, J 7.9, H5'), 7.11-7.07 (1H, m, H9), 7.04-7.00 (1H, m, H8), 6.88-6.85 (1H, m, H6"), 6.82-6.78 (2H, m, H4", 2"), 6.23 (1H, s, H5), 4.74-4.70 (1H, m, H8"), 4.39 (1H, dd, J 11.1, 5.5, H11a), 3.49 (2H, t, J 7.2, H1'), 3.42 (1H, dd, J 15.1, 5.5, 11<sub>*syn*</sub>), 2.79 (1H, ddd, J 15.1, 1.1, 1.7, H11<sub>*anti*</sub>), 1.89-1.70 (6H, m, H9", H2'), 1.60-1.53 (4H, m, H10"), 1.35-1.26 (2H, m, H3"), 0.91 (3H, t, J 7.4, H4'); LRMS (ES<sup>+</sup>) m/z: 480.23 (100%) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>.

Entry	Cpd	C5	C11a	$\mathbf{R}^1$	$R^3$	$R^4$	MIC
#	#						(µM)
1	9i	R	S	OMe	<sup>n</sup> Butyl	Н	12.5
2	9ii	R	S	Oet	<sup>n</sup> Butyl	Η	6.25
3	9iii	R	S	$O^{n}Pr$	<sup>n</sup> Butyl	Н	12.5
4	9iv	R	S	O <sup>n</sup> Bu	<sup>n</sup> Butyl	Η	6.25
5	9v	R	S	Oallyl	<sup>n</sup> Butyl	Н	12.5
6	9vi	R	S	O <sup>i</sup> Pr	<sup>n</sup> Butyl	Н	1.6
7	9vii	R	S	$OCH_2C(CH_3)=CH_2$	<sup>n</sup> Butyl	Η	3.1
8	9viii	R	S	Opropargyl	<sup>n</sup> Butyl	Н	3.1
9	9ix	R	S	OBn	<sup>n</sup> Butyl	Н	12.5
10	9x	R	S	OCH <sub>2</sub> <i>p</i> -C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> -OMe	<sup>n</sup> Butyl	Н	100
11	9xi	R	S	$OCH_2m, p-C_6H_3-Cl_2$	<sup>n</sup> Butyl	Н	100
12	9xii	R	S	CH <sub>2</sub> CONH <sub>2</sub>	<sup>n</sup> Butyl	Н	25

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13	9xiii	R	S	OCH <sub>2</sub> CN	<sup>n</sup> Butyl	Н	6.25
14	9xiv	R	S	OCH <sub>2</sub> CH=CHCH <sub>3</sub>	<sup>n</sup> Butyl	Н	3.1
15	9xv	R	S	OCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH=CH <sub>2</sub>	<sup>n</sup> Butyl	Н	1.6
16	9xvi	R	S	$OCH_2CH=C(CH_3)_2$	<sup>n</sup> Butyl	Η	3.1
17	9xvii	R	S	O <sup>c</sup> Pentyl	<sup>n</sup> Butyl	Н	1.6

 Table S1. Minimum inhibitory concentrations (MIC) in the T. gondii cell invasion

assay for analogues of 1.

#### References

S1 Baker K.; Sengupta D.; Salazar-Jimenez G.; Cornish V.W. Anal Biochem. 2003, 315(1), 124-137



























