## **Supporting Information**

## Palladium-catalysed synthesis of 1-isoindolecarboxylic acid esters and sequential Diels-Alder reactions: access to bridgedand fused-ring heterocycles

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**General Methods.** All commercially available reagents were used without further purification. Unless otherwise noted <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl<sub>3</sub> solution, using Me<sub>4</sub>Si as the internal standard, with a Varian Gemini 300 or a Varian Mercury 400 instrument. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm downfield ( $\delta$ ) from Me<sub>4</sub>Si. TLC was carried out on SiO<sub>2</sub> (silica gel 60 F<sub>254</sub>), and the spots were located with UV light, iodoplatinate reagent or 1% aqueous KMnO<sub>4</sub>. Flash chromatography was carried out on SiO<sub>2</sub> (silica gel 60, 230-400 mesh ASTM). Drying of organic extracts during workup of reactions was performed over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>. Evaporation of solvents was accomplished with a rotatory evaporator.

## Experimental procedure and characterization data for new compounds of Schemes 1-3 and Table 1

**General Procedure:** A mixture of ester **1b** (75 mg, 0.18 mmol),  $K_3PO_4$  (115 mg, 0.54 mmol), phenol (6 mg, 0.06 mmol), and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (21 mg, 0.018 mmol) in DMF (3 mL) was stirred at 90 °C for 24 h. The reaction mixture was poured into water and extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O. The organic extracts were washed with brine and 1N NaOH solution, dried, and concentrated.

The crude reaction mixture was dissolved in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (10 mL) and DMAD (0.05 mL, 0.38 mmol) was added. The mixture was stirred at reflux for 12 h. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue was purified by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, from hexanes to 1:1 hexanes-EtOAc) to give cycloadduct **3b** (40 mg, 51%).



**Methyl 2-benzylisoindole-1-carboxylate** (**2a**). Flash chromatography of the α-arylation reaction mixture (SiO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) gave isoindole **2a** (39 mg, 76%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 3.53 (s, 3H), 5.55 (s, 2H), 6.75 (s, 1H), 6.91-7.10 (m, 6H), 7.25 (ddd, J = 8.7, 6.6, and 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (dt, J = 8.7 and 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.40 (dm, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 75.5 MHz) δ 50.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 53.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 111.6 (C), 120.5 (CH), 122.0 (CH), 122.2 (CH), 122.4 (CH), 124.6 (C), 125.6 (CH), 127.4 (CH), 127.7 (CH), 128.8 (CH), 129.9 (C), 138.0 (C), 162.0 (C). HRMS (ESI-TOF) cald for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>: 266.1176 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; found: 266.1172.



**Diels-Alder adduct 3a.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz, 50 °C)  $\delta$  3.50 (broad, 1H), 3.67 (broad d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 4.84 (broad s, 1H), 7.10 (m, 2H), 7.21-7.33 (m, 6H), 7.63 (broad, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100.5 MHz, 50 °C)  $\delta$  52.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 52.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 52.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 52.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 71.3 (CH), 84.1 (broad C), 122.8 (broad CH), 124.0 (broad CH), 126.0 (CH), 126.2 (CH), 127.4 (CH), 128.3 (CH), 129.3 (CH), 136.9 (C), 144.7 (broad C), 146.2 (C), 148.5 (broad C), 151.2 (broad C), 162.9 (C), 163.9 (broad C), 166.8 (C). IR (neat) v 1743, 1717, 1640, 1454, 1435, 1309, 1257, 1198, 1148, 1110 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI-TOF) cald for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NO<sub>6</sub>: 408.1442 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; found: 408.1447.



**Diels-Alder adduct 3b.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz, 50 °C)  $\delta$  1.32 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 3.50 (broad, 1H), 3.68 (d, J = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 4.18-4.33 (m, 2H), 4.83 (s, 1H), 7.07 (td, J = 7.6 and 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.21-7.32 (m, 6H), 7.63 (broad, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100.5 MHz, 50 °C)  $\delta$  14.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 51.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 52.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 52.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 61.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 71.1 (CH), 84.1 (C), 122.7 (broad CH), 124.3 (CH), 126.0 (CH), 126.2 (CH), 127.4 (CH), 128.3 (CH), 129.3 (CH), 137.0 (C), 144.9 (broad C), 146.3 (C), 151.5 (broad C), 162.9 (broad C), 164.3 (C), 164.1 (broad C), 166.2 (C). IR (neat) v 1719, 1632, 1435, 1308, 1254, 1255, 1107, 747 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI-TOF) cald for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>24</sub>NO<sub>6</sub>: 422.1598 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; found: 422.1599.



**Diels-Alder adduct 5.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz, 50 °C)  $\delta$  1.69 (s, 3H), 3.40 (s, 3H), 3.47 (broad d, J = 14 Hz, 1H), 3.60 (broad d, J = 14 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 7.09-7.33 (m, 8H), 7.69 (broad, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100.5 MHz, 50 °C)  $\delta$  12.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 50.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 51.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 52.0 (2 CH<sub>3</sub>), 78.8 (C), 81.8 (C), 121.2 (broad CH), 124.2 (broad CH), 126.0 (CH), 126.1 (CH), 126.9 (CH), 128.0 (CH), 129.0 (CH), 138.3 (C), 145.5 (C), 149.0 (C), 149.4 (C), 153.4

(broad C), 163.4 (broad C), 164.3 (C), 167.1 (C). IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) v 1743, 1721, 1634, 1451, 1305, 1257, 1197, 1157, 1128, 1028, 757 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI-TOF) cald for  $C_{24}H_{24}NO_6$ : 422.1598 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; found: 422.1599.



**Diels-Alder adduct 6.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz, only the most significant resonances from a mixture with 20% of the retro products are reported)  $\delta$  2.26 (s, 3H), 3.15 (d, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 1H), 3.54 (d, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (dd, *J* = 8.1 and 5.4 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 4.12 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 4.55 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (dd, *J* = 6 Hz and 1.8 Hz, 1H).



**Diels-Alder adduct 8a.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  3.71 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 5.62 (s, 1H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (m, 2H), 7.18-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.39 (dd, *J* = 5.6 and 2 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (dd, *J* = 5.6 and 2 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100.5 MHz)  $\delta$  52.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 52.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 53.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 74.2 (CH), 82.6 (C), 121.0 (CH), 122.1 (CH), 122.4 (CH), 123.6 (CH), 126.1 (CH), 126.6 (CH), 129.0 (CH), 144.4 (C), 145.3 (C), 145.6 (C), 146.1 (C), 151.7 (C), 162.5 (C), 164.3 (C), 167.2 (C). IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) v 1743, 1720, 1639, 1596, 1493, 1435, 1252, 1200, 1146, 1113, 757 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI-TOF) cald for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NO<sub>6</sub>: 394.1285 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; found: 394.1291.



**Diels-Alder adduct 8b.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  3.73 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 5.54 (s, 1H), 6.84-6.94 (m, 4H), 7.11 (m, 2H), 7.40 (m, 1H), 7.57 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100.5 MHz)  $\delta$  52.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 52.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 53.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 74.5 (CH), 82.9 (C), 115.8 (d, *J* = 22.5 Hz, CH), 122.2 (CH), 122.5 (CH), 122.6 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, CH), 126.2 (CH), 126.7 (CH), 140.5 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, C), 145.0 (C), 145.5 (C), 146.2 (C), 151.5 (C), 159.4 (d, *J* = 242.7 Hz, C), 162.4 (C),

164.2 (C), 167.0 (C). IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) v 1743, 1720, 1639, 1596, 1493, 1435, 1252, 1200, 1146, 1113, 757 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI-TOF) cald for  $C_{22}H_{19}FNO_6$ : 412.1191 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; found: 412.1186.



**Diels-Alder adduct 8c.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  3.74 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 5.70 (s, 1H), 6.90 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (m, 2H), 7.40 (m, 1H), 7.62 (m, 1H), 7.89 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75.5 MHz)  $\delta$  51.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 52.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 52.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 53.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 73.8 (CH), 82.1 (C), 120.2 (CH), 122.2 (CH), 122.7 (CH), 125.1 (C), 126.3 (CH), 126.7 (CH), 130.7 (CH), 144.6 (C), 145.1 (C), 146.4 (C), 148.5 (C), 151.8 (C), 162.2 (C), 163.9 (C), 166.5 (C), 166.9 (C). IR (neat) v 1719, 1606, 1436, 1281, 1191, 1145, 1112, 1014, 771 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI-TOF) cald for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NO<sub>8</sub>: 452.1340 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; found: 452.1335.



**Diels-Alder adduct 8d.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  3.72 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 5.53 (s, 1H), 6.76 (m, 2H), 6.85 (m, 2H), 7.10 (m, 2H), 7.40 (m, 1H), 7.54 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100.5 MHz, from a mixture with small amounts of aziridine **9d**)  $\delta$  52.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 52.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 53.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 55.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 74.5 (CH), 83.2 (C), 114.3 (CH), 122.1 (CH), 122.3 (CH), 122.4 (CH), 126.1 (CH), 126.5 (CH), 137.6 (C), 145.4 (C), 145.8 (C), 146.2 (C), 151.5 (C), 156.1 (C), 162.6 (C), 164.5 (C), 167.2 (C). IR (neat) v 1719, 1606, 1436, 1281, 1191, 1145, 1112, 1014, 771 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI-TOF) cald for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>7</sub>: 424.1391 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; found: 424.1389.



**Diels-Alder adduct 8e.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 1.84 (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 6.73 (m, 2H), 6.90 (m, 2H), 7.11 (m, 2H), 7.23 (m, 1H), 7.68 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75.5 MHz) δ 12.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 52.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 52.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 52.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 55.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 79.3 (C), 80.9 (C), 113.7 (CH), 120.8 (CH), 122.3 (CH), 126.0 (2 CH), 126.3 (CH), 134.9 (C),

146.3 (C), 148.8 (C), 150.5 (C), 151.4 (broad C), 157.3 (C), 163.6 (C), 163.8 (C), 167.2 (C). IR (neat) v 1736, 1717, 1508, 1435, 1303, 1228, 1197, 1154, 1032, 729 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI-TOF) cald for  $C_{24}H_{24}NO_7$ : 438.1547 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; found: 438.1542.



**Aziridine 9a.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  3.81 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 4.42 (s, 1H), 6.61 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.78 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (td, J = 8 and 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (td, J = 8 and 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (dd, J = 8 and 1.2 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100.5 MHz)  $\delta$  46.6 (C), 50.3 (CH), 52.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 52.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 53.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 121.7 (CH), 122.5 (CH), 127.7 (CH), 127.8 (C), 127.9 (CH), 129.0 (CH), 129.3 (C), 130.6 (CH), 130.9 (CH), 139.5 (C), 142.3 (C), 165.7 (C), 167.0 (C), 168.8 (C). One C was not observed. IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) v 1728, 1591, 1487, 1437, 1229, 1206 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI-TOF) cald for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NO<sub>6</sub>: 394.1285 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; found: 394.1282.



Aziridine 9b. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  3.82 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 4.42 (s, 1H), 6.56 (m, 2H), 6.63 (m, 2H), 7.19 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (td, J = 8 and 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (td, J = 8 and 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (dd, J = 8 and 1.2 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100.5 MHz)  $\delta$  46.9 (C), 50.5 (CH), 52.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 52.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 53.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 114.8 (d, J = 22.5 Hz, CH), 122.4 (C), 122.9 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, CH), 126.4 (C), 127.8 (CH), 128.9 (C), 129.1 (CH), 130.7 (CH), 131.1 (CH), 138.2 (d, J = 3.1Hz, C), 139.4 (C), 158.3 (d, J = 241.2 Hz, C), 165.8 (C), 166.8 (C), 168.6 (C). IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) v 1732, 1615, 1505, 1436, 1212, 770 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI-TOF) cald for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>19</sub>FNO<sub>6</sub>: 412.1191 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; found: 412.1182.



**Aziridine 9d.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 3.62 (s, 3H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 4.39 (s, 1H), 6.47 (d, *J* = 9 Hz, 2H), 6.53 (d, *J* = 9 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (td, *J* = 9 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (td, *J* = 9 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (td, *J* = 9 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (td, *J* = 9 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (td, *J* = 9 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (td, *J* = 9 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H),

J = 8 and 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (td, J = 8 and 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (dd, J = 8 and 1.2 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100.5 MHz)  $\delta$  46.9 (C), 50.6 (CH), 52.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 52.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 53.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 55.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 113.3 (CH), 122.6 (C), 122.7 (CH), 127.7 (CH), 127.9 (C), 128.9 (CH), 129.4 (C), 130.6 (CH), 130.8 (CH), 135.4 (C), 139.4 (C), 154.9 (C), 165.9 (C), 167.0 (C), 168.9 (C). IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) v 1734, 1615, 1564, 1508, 1437, 1289, 1237, 753 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI-TOF) cald for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>7</sub>: 424.1391 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; found: 424.1391.



Trimethyl 1,2,3-naphthalenetricarboxylate (10). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 4.01 (s, 3H), 7.65 (ddd, J = 8, 7.2, and 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (ddd, J = 8, 7.2, and 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (dd, J = 8 and 0.9 Hz, 1H), 8.16 (dd, J = 8 and 0.9 Hz, 1H), 8.56 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100.5 MHz) δ 52.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 52.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 52.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 125.8 (C), 125.9 (CH), 128.4 (CH), 129.4 (CH), 130.0 (CH), 130.4 (C), 130.7 (C), 130.9 (C), 132.7 (C), 133.7 (CH), 166.2 (C), 167.3 (C), 168.1 (C). IR (neat) v 2946, 1722, 1608, 1521, 1444, 1306, 1276, 1210, 1135, 1013, 971 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI-TOF) cald for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>15</sub>O<sub>6</sub>: 303.0863 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; found: 303.0864.

proton	δ	HMBC correlations	
H-4	8.56	166.2 (COO)	
		130.9 (C-8a)	CO Ma
		130.4 (C-2)	$\overset{8}{\wedge} \overset{8}{\otimes} \overset{1}{\downarrow} CO_2 Me$
		129.4 (C-5)	
H-5	7.98	133.7 (C-4)	$6$ $4a$ $3$ $CO_2Me$
		130.9 (C-8a)	
		130.0 (C-7)	
Н-6	7.65	132.7 (C-4a)	
		125.9 (C-8)	<sup>130.9</sup> CO Mo
H-7	7.71	130.9 (C-8a)	125.9 $130.7$ CO <sub>2</sub> Me
		129.4 (C-5)	130.0
H-8	8.16	132.7 (C-4a)	128.4 129.4 133.7 CO <sub>2</sub> Me
		130.7 (C-1)	132.7
		128.4 (C-6)	166.2
OCH <sub>3</sub>	3.96	166.2 (COO)	

Structure determination on compound 10



S-8





































 $Ar, \\ N CO_2Me \\ CO_2Me \\ H CO_2Me \\ Ar: p-MeO_2CC_6H_4, 8c$ 





















S-26

























