### **Supporting information**

#### for

# Comparison of the Reactivity of $\beta$ -Thiolactones and $\beta$ -Lactones Toward Ring-opening by Thiols and Amines.

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Compound	Expt	Spectra
Figure 2	<b>S3</b>	/
Figure 3	<b>S3</b>	/
3-Ethyl-3-(hydroxymethyl)oxetan-2-one (2)	<b>S3</b>	S8-9
S-((3-Ethyl-2-oxooxetan-3-yl)methyl) ethanethioate (3)	S4	S10-11
3-Ethyl-3-(mercaptomethyl)oxetan-2-one (4)	S4	S12-13
2-(Hydroxymethyl)-2-(mercaptomethyl)butanoic acid (5)	S4	S14-15
3-Ethyl-3-(hydroxymethyl)thietan-2-one (7)	S4	S16-17
2-(Mercaptomethyl)-2-((2,2,2-trifluoroacetoxy)methyl)butanoic acid (9)	S5	S18-19
Methyl 2-(mercaptomethyl)-2-(hydroxymethyl)butanoate (10)	S5	S20-21
(3-ethyl-2-oxothietan-3-yl)methyl 4-nitrobenzoate (11)	S5	S22-23
3-Ethylthietane-3-carboxylic acid (13)	S6	S24-25
2-Benzyl-3-(butylthio)propanoic acid (16)	S6	S26-27
2-Benzyl-3-(butylthio)propanethioic S-acid (17)	S6	S28-29
2-Benzyl-3-(isobutylamino)propanoic acid (18)	S6	S30-31
2-Benzyl-3-hydroxy-N-isobutylpropanamide (19)	<b>S6</b>	S32-33
2-Benzyl-N-isobutyl-3-mercaptopropanamide (20)	S7	S34-35
3,3'-Disulfanediylbis(2-benzyl-N-isobutylpropanamide) (21)	<b>S7</b>	S36-37

Reactions were performed using oven dried glasswares under an atmosphere of argon. All separations were carried out under flash-chromatographic conditions on silica gel (Redi Sep prepacked column, 230–400 mesh) at medium pressure (20 psi) with use of a CombiFlash Companion. Reactions were monitored by thin-layer chromatography on Merck silica gel plates (60 F<sub>254</sub> aluminum sheets) which were rendered visible by ultraviolet light and/or spraying with KMnO<sub>4</sub> (1 g), Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2 g) in H<sub>2</sub>O (100 mL) followed by heating. THF, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, MeOH and CH<sub>3</sub>CN were purchased from Acros Organics at the highest commercial quality and used without further purification. Reagent-grade chemicals were obtained from diverse commercial suppliers (Sigma-Aldrich, Acros Organics, TCI and Alfa-Aesar) and were used as received.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 or 300 MHz) and <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (125 or 75 MHz) **spectra** were recorded on Bruker Avance spectrometers at 298 K unless otherwise stated. Chemical shifts are given in ppm ( $\delta$ ) and are referenced to the internal solvent signal or to TMS used as an internal standard. Multiplicities are declared as follow: *s* (singlet), *brs* (broad singlet), *d* (doublet), *t* (triplet), *q* (quadruplet), *dd* (doublet of doublet), *ddd* (doublet of doublet of doublet), *dt* (doublet of triplet), *m* (multiplet). Coupling constants *J* are given in Hz. Carbon multiplicities were determined by DEPT135 experiment. Diagnostic correlations were obtained by two-dimensional COSY, HSQC and HMBC experiments.

**Infrared spectra** (IR) were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer FT-IR system using diamond window Dura SamplIR II and the data are reported in reciprocal centimeters (cm<sup>-1</sup>). **Melting points** were recorded in open capillary tubes on a Büchi B-540 apparatus and are uncorrected.

**High resolution mass spectra (HRMS)** were recorded using a Micromass LCT Premier XE instrument (Waters) and were determined by electrospray ionization (ESI) or atmospheric pressure chemical ionization (APCI).



Figure 2: Plot with 1/[compound] = f(t) for reactions of compounds **14** and **15** with butanethiol in acetonitrile at 75 °C.



Figure 3: Plot with 1/[compound] = f (t) for reactions of compounds 14 and 15 with isobutylamine in dichloromethane at RT

**3-Ethyl-3-(hydroxymethyl)oxetan-2-one (2)**. Triethylamine (0.38 mL, 2.7 mmol) was added to a solution of 2,2-bis(hydroxymethyl)butanoic acid (200 mg, 1.35 mmol) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (6.75 mL). After stirring for 5 min, the mixture was cooled down to -10 °C and benzenesulfonyl chloride (0.19 mL, 1.5 mmol) was added dropwise. The mixture was allowed stirred for 2 h at -10 °C. The product was extracted with water. The organic layer was dried over  $Na_2SO_4$  and the solvent was removed under vacuum. After purification on a silica cartridge (ether/MeOH, 99.8:0.2), the desired product was

obtained as a colorless oil (60.6 mg, 34%). IR  $u_{max}$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3395 (OH), 1818 (C(O)O); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  4.43 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 1 H), 4.15 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 1 H), 3.93 (d J = 11.5 Hz, 1 H), 3.72 (d, J = 11.5 Hz, 1 H), 1.95 (br s, 1H), 1.84-1.68 (m, 2 H), 1.05 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  173.5 (C), 66.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 64.6 (C), 61.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 8.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>); MS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) m/z (%) 153.1 ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100); ESIHRMS calcd for C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>10</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub> (M+Na) 153.0528, found 153.0527.

**S-((3-Ethyl-2-oxooxetan-3-yl)methyl) ethanethioate (3)**. DEAD (40% in toluene) (1.7 mL, 3.73 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of diphenyl-[4-(1H,1H,2H,2H-perfluorodecyl)phenyl] phosphine (2.6 g, 3.68 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (8.8 mL) at 0 °C and the mixture was stirred at this temperature for 1 h. Compound **2** (320 mg, 2.45 mmol) was solubilized in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (4.0 mL) and the solution was added to the previous mixture, followed by AcSH (0.18 mL, 2.45 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. The mixture was acidified and the organic layer was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. After purification on a silica cartridge (Heptane/AcOEt 70:30), the product was obtained as a colorless oil (274.3 mg, 59%). IR υ<sub>max</sub> (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1818 (C(O)O), 1694 (SC(O)); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 4.01 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 1 H), 3.23 (d, *J* = 14.5 Hz, 1 H), 3.20 (d, *J* = 14.5 Hz, 1 H), 2.34 (s, 3 H), 1.75-1.82 (m, 2 H), 1.01 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 194.2 (C), 171.8 (C), 67.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 62.0 (C), 30.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 30.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 8.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>); MS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) *m/z* (%) 211.1 ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100); ESIHRMS calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>12</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub>S (M+Na) 211.0405, found 211.0399.

**3-Ethyl-3-(mercaptomethyl)oxetan-2-one** (**4**). A solution of compound **3** (35 mg, 0.19 mmol) in acetonitrile (1.1 mL) was added to hydrazine acetate (19.9 mg, 0.22 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. The mixture was acidified with 1 M HCl and the organic layer was extracted with AcOEt. The solvent was removed under vacuum to give the desired product as a colorless oil without further purification (to avoid oxidation) (23.6 mg, 87%). IR  $u_{max}$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2569 (SH), 1817 (C(O)O); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  4.34 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1 H), 4.15 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1 H), 2.92 (dd, *J* = 14.3, 8.5 Hz, 1 H), 2.73 (dd, *J* = 14.3, 8.5 Hz, 1 H), 1.84-1.91 (m, 2 H), 1.55 (t, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1 H), 1.07 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  172.3 (C), 67.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 63.8 (C), 26.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 25.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 8.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>); MS (NCI NH<sub>3</sub>) *m/z* (%) 145.0 ([M-H]<sup>-</sup>, 100).

**2-(Hydroxymethyl)-2-(mercaptomethyl)butanoic acid** (5). Compound **3** (206 mg, 1.09 mmol) in HBF<sub>4</sub> (48% in water) (5.4 mL) was heated at 60 °C for 4 h. Saturated aqueous Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> was added and the organic compound was extracted with AcOEt. The aqueous layer was acidified with oxalic acid and extracted with AcOEt, the organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and the solvent was removed under vacuum. The desired product was obtained as a colorless oil after purification on a silica cartridge (Heptane/ AcOEt 90:10) (127.8 mg, 71%). IR  $\nu_{max}$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3100 (OH), 2572 (SH), 1699 (C(O)OH); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  7.61 (br s, 1 H), 3.97 (d, *J* = 11.3 Hz, 1 H), 3.84 (d, *J* = 11.3 Hz, 1 H), 2.93 (d, *J* = 14.1 Hz, 1 H), 2.81 (d, *J* = 14.1 Hz, 1 H), 1.73 (q, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2 H), 1.32 (s, 2 H), 0.91 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  179.9 (C), 63.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 52.7 (C), 26.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 25.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 8.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>); MS (ESI<sup>-</sup>) *m/z* (%) 163.0 ([M-H]<sup>-</sup>, 100), 327.1 ([2M-H]<sup>-</sup>, 25); ESIHRMS calcd for C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>11</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S (M-H) 163.0429, found 163.0435.

**3-Ethyl-3-(hydroxymethyl)thietan-2-one (7)**. To a solution of compound **5** (100 mg, 0.61 mmol) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (1.1 mL) was added triethylamine (0.17 mL, 1.22 mmol) and TFAA (81.2  $\mu$ L, 0.57 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. The mixture was quenched with saturated  $Na_2CO_3$  and the organic layer was extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$ . The solvent was removed under vacuum to give the desired product as a colorless oil after filtration on a silice pad with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (9 mg, 10%). IR

 $u_{max}$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3376 (OH), 1735 (C(O)S); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  3.88 (d, J = 11.4 Hz, 1 H), 3.71 (d, J = 11.4 Hz, 1 H), 3.07 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1 H), 2.84 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1 H), 1.66-1.90 (m, 3 H), 1.07 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  192.7 (C), 81.5 (C), 64.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 25.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 23.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 8.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>); MS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) m/z (%) no answer.

**2-(Mercaptomethyl)-2-((2,2,2-trifluoroacetoxy)methyl)butanoic acid** (9). To a solution of compound **5** (200 mg, 1.22 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2.2 mL) was added triethylamine (0.34 mL, 2.45 mmol) and TFAA (0.16 mL, 1.13 mmol). The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 3.5 h. The solvent was removed under vacuum. The crude product was purified on a silica cartridge (Heptane/AcOEt 70:30) to give the compound **9** as a colorless oil, in a mixture with compound **7** (8:2) (196.8 mg, 67%). IR u<sub>max</sub> (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3466 (COOH), 2965 (SH), 1725 (C(O)S); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  10.58 (br s, 1 H), 4.68 (d, *J* = 11.3 Hz, 1 H), 4.58 (d, *J* = 11.3 Hz, 1 H), 2.93 (dd, *J* = 14.2, 9.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.77 (dd, *J* = 14.1, 9.2 Hz, 1 H), 1.74 (q, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2 H), 1.40 (t, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1 H), 0.92 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  178.7 (C), 156.9 (q, *J*<sub>CF</sub> = 42.8 Hz, C), 114.35 (q, *J*<sub>CF</sub> = 285.5 Hz, C), 66.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 51.7 (C), 26.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 26.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 8.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>); MS (ESI<sup>-</sup>) *m/z* (%) 519.1 (100, [2M-H]<sup>-</sup>); ESIHRMS calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>21</sub>F<sub>6</sub>O<sub>8</sub>S<sub>2</sub> (2M-H) 519.0577, found 519.0588.

**Methyl 2-(mercaptomethyl)-2-(hydroxymethyl)butanoate** (**10**). To a solution of compound **9** containing 20% of **7** (50.9 mg, 0.20 mmol) in MeOH (1 mL) was added 2 M trimethylsilyl diazomethane in hexane(0.20 mL, 0.40 mmol). The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 10 min. The solvent was removed under vacuum. The crude was purified on a silica cartridge (Heptane/AcOEt 80:20) to give methylester **10** as a colorless oil, containing 10% of compound **7** (32.1 mg, 90%). IR  $\nu_{max}$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3366 (OH), 2965 (SH); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 3.86 (d, *J* = 11.3 Hz, 1 H), 3.80 (d, *J* = 11.3 Hz, 1 H), 3.74 (s, 3 H), 2.96 (dd, *J* = 14.0, 9.0 Hz, 1 H), 2.74 (dd, *J* = 14.0, 9.0 Hz, 1 H), 1.91 (br s, 1 H), 1.69 (q, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2 H), 1.41 (t, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1 H), 0.85 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 175.3 (C), 63.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 52.9 (C), 52.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 27.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 25.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 8.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>); MS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) *m/z* (%) 377.1 (90, [2M-2H+Na]<sup>+</sup>), 400.2 (100, [2M-2H+HCOOH]<sup>+</sup>); ESIHRMS calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NaO<sub>6</sub>S<sub>2</sub> (2M-2H+Na) 377.1063, found 377.1070.

(3-ethyl-2-oxothietan-3-yl)methyl 4-nitrobenzoate (11). Triethylamine (34 µL, 0.24 mmol) and trifluoroacetic anhydride (16.2 µL, 0.12 mmol) were added to a solution of compound 7 (20 mg, 0.12 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.6 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h 30. Saturated Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> was added and the organic layer was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, the aqueous phase was acidified with oxalic acid and the organic layer was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and the solvent was removed under vacuum. Pyridine ( $12.2 \,\mu$ L,  $1.15 \,\mu$ mol), 4-nitrobenzoyl chloride ( $16.8 \,\mu$ mg, 0.09 mmol) were added to a solution of crude product in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.75 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 50 min, was guenched with 1 M HCl and the organic layer was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. After purification on a silica plate (Heptane/AcOEt 70:30), the desired product was obtained as a colorless oil (3.8 mg, 11%). IR u<sub>max</sub> (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1731 (CO), 1528 (NO<sub>2</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.32 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2 H), 8.25 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2 H), 4.50 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 1 H), 4.44 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.11 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.96 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1 H), 1.93 (sext., J = 7.3 Hz, 1 H), 1.80 (sext., J = 7.3 Hz, 1 H), 1.13 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3 H);  $^{13}$ C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  195.2 (C), 164.2 (C), 150.8 (C), 134.8 (C), 130.9 (2 CH), 123.7 (2 CH), 78.7 (C), 66.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 25.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 24.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 8.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>); MS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) m/z (%) 318.0 ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 100), 608.1 ([2M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, 15); ESIHRMS calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NaO<sub>5</sub>S (M+Na) 318.0412, found 318.0415.

**3-Ethylthietane-3-carboxylic acid (13)**. To a solution of compound **4** (78 mg, 0.53 mmol) in THF (1.3 mL) was added 1 M NaOH (1.3 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. The mixture was acidified with 1 M HCl and the organic layer was extracted with CHCl<sub>3</sub>. The mixture was solubilized in warm ether and slowly cooled to room temperature to give the desired product as a white solid (3.6 mg, 5%). Mp = 269-272 °C; IR  $\nu_{max}$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3034-2850 (OH), 1708 (C(O)O); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  3.38 (d, *J* = 14.7 Hz, 2 H), 2.95 (d, *J* = 14.7 Hz, 2 H), 1.66 (q, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 0.86 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  178.6 (C), 54.4 (C), 43.9 (2 CH<sub>2</sub>), 33.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 9.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>); MS (ESI<sup>-</sup>) *m/z* (%) 145.0 ([M-H]<sup>-</sup>, 10), 247.1 ([2M-CO<sub>2</sub>-H]<sup>-</sup>, 100); ESIHRMS calcd for C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>9</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S (M-H) 145.0323, found 145.0316.

**2-Benzyl-3-(butylthio)propanoic acid** (**16**). To a solution of compound **14** (18 mg, 0.11 mmol) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (0.55 mL) at 75 °C was added butanethiol (60  $\mu$ L, 0.55 mmol) and the reaction mixture was stirred at this temperature overnight. After purification on a silica cartridge (Heptane/AcOEt 80:20) the desired product was obtained as a colorless oil (2.2 mg, 8%); starting material was recovered (91%). IR  $\nu_{max}$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1709 (COOH); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.56 (br s, 1 H), 7.18-7.32 (m, 5 H), 3.00-3.08 (m, 1 H), 2.88-2.98 (m, 2 H), 2.78 (dd, *J* = 13.3, 7.5 Hz, 1 H), 2.65 (dd, *J* = 13.3, 5.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.38-2.48 (m, 2 H), 1.51 (quint., *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2 H), 1.38 (sext., *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2 H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  177.6 (C), 138.3 (C), 129.0 (2 CH), 128.6 (2 CH), 126.7 (CH), 47.5 (CH), 37.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 31.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 21.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 13.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>); MS (ESI<sup>-</sup>) *m/z* (%) 251.1 ([M-H]<sup>-</sup>, 65), 503.2 ([2M-H]<sup>-</sup>, 100); ESIHRMS calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>19</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S (M-H) 251.1106, found 251.1118.

**2-Benzyl-3-(butylthio)propanethioic S-acid (17)**. To a solution of compound **15** (20 mg, 0.11 mmol) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (0.55 mL) at 75 °C was added butanethiol (60  $\mu$ L, 0.55 mmol) and the reaction mixture was stirred at this temperature overnight. After purification on a silica cartridge (Heptane/AcOEt 80:20) the desired product was obtained as a colorless oil (15.9 mg, 54%). IR  $\nu_{max}$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2570 (SH), 1678 (CO); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.12-7.33 (m, 5 H), 2.95-3.10 (m, 2 H), 2.75-2.94 (m, 4 H), 2.61 (ddd, *J* = 13.4, 8.8, 4.6 Hz, 1 H), 1.51 (quint., *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2 H), 1.49 (s, 1 H), 1.32 (sext., *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2 H), 0.90 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  201.1 (C), 138.0 (C), 129.1 (2 CH), 128.5 (2 CH), 126.7 (CH), 58.9 (CH), 37.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 31.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 25.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 21.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 13.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>); MS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) *m/z* (%) 179.1 ([M-BuS]<sup>+</sup>, 100), 503.2 ([2M-SH]<sup>+</sup>, 50); ESIHRMS calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>24</sub>NOS<sub>2</sub> (M+CH<sub>3</sub>CN+H) 310.1299, found 310.1306.

**2-Benzyl-3-(isobutylamino)propanoic acid (18).** To a solution of compound **14** (44 mg, 0.27 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1.6 mL) was added isobutylamine (0.15 mL, 1.50 mmol) and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 6 h. The solvent was removed under vacuum and product **18** was obtained (together with compound **19**) and isolated after precipitation in AcOEt as a white solid (17 mg, 27%). Mp = 159.8-161.3 °C; IR  $\nu_{max}$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3450 (OH), 1586 (C(O)OH); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  9.88 (br s, 2 H), 7.11-7.37 (m, 5 H), 3.31 (br d, *J* = 12.4 Hz, 1 H), 2.70-2.94 (m, 5 H), 2.56 (dd, *J* = 11.4, 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.00-2.16 (m, 1 H), 1.00 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 6 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  178.3 (C), 139.3 (C), 128.9 (2 CH), 128.5 (2 CH), 126.3 (CH), 54.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 48.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 42.8 (CH), 36.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 25.7 (CH), 20.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 20.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>); MS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) *m/z* (%) 236.2 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 100); ESIHRMS calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (M+H) 236.1651, found 236.1641.

**2-Benzyl-3-hydroxy-N-isobutylpropanamide (19)**. This product was obtained after purification of the solution on a silica plate (Heptane/AcOEt 50:50) as a white solid (45.6 mg, 72%, mp = 79.8-81.0 °C). Mp = 79.8-81.0 °C; IR  $\nu_{max}$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3306 (OH), 1641 (C(O)N); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.10-7.36 (m,

5 H), 5.50 (br s, 1 H), 3.81 (dd, J = 10.9, 3.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.76 (dd, J = 10.9, 5.9 Hz, 1 H), 3.10-2.75 (m, 5 H), 2.45-2.57 (m, 1 H), 1.62 (sept., J = 6.7 Hz, 1 H), 2.25 (br s, 1 H), 0.79 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3 H), 0.78 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  174.4 (C), 139.2 (C), 128.9 (2 CH), 128.6 (2 CH), 126.6 (CH), 63.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 50.6 (CH), 46.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 35.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.3 (CH), 19.98 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 19.96 (CH<sub>3</sub>); MS (APCI) m/z (%) 236.2 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 100); APCIHRMS calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (M+H) 236.1651, found 236.1641.

**2-Benzyl-***N***-isobutyl-3-mercaptopropanamide** (**20**). To a solution of compound **15** (20 mg, 0.11 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.55mL) was added isobutylamine (66 µL, 0.66 mmol) and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 72 h. The solvent was removed under vacuum and the desired product was obtained after purification on a silica plate (Heptane/AcOEt 70:30) as a colorless oil (9.6 mg, 35%). Disulfide **21** was also obtained (11.6 mg, 42%). IR  $\nu_{max}$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3294 (NH), 2560 (SH), 1643 (C(O)N); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.15-7.32 (m, 5 H), 5.60 (br t, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.84-3.08 (m, 5 H), 2.72-2.84 (m, 2 H), 1.65 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1 H), 1.59 (sept., *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1 H), 0.738 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3 H), 0.735 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  172.8 (C), 138.9 (C), 128.9 (2 CH), 128.6 (2 CH), 126.6 (CH), 49.2 (CH), 46.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 40.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 38.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.3 (CH), 20.0 (2 CH<sub>3</sub>); MS (APCI) *m/z* (%) 501.3 ([2M-H]<sup>+</sup>, 100), 1023.5 ([4M-4H+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 90); APCIHRMS calcd for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>41</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub> (2M-H) 501.2609, found 501.2617.

**3,3'-Disulfanediylbis(2-benzyl-N-isobutylpropanamide)** (**21**). This product was obtained as a colorless oil (31.4 mg, 57%). IR  $\nu_{max}$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3297 (NH), 1644 (C(O)N); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.11-7.33 (m, 10 H), 5.89 (br t, J = 5.9 Hz, 2 H), 2.96-3.08 (m, 4 H), 2.73-2.96 (m, 8 H), 2.62-2.73 (m, 2 H), 1.59 (sept., J = 6.7 Hz, 2 H), 0.751 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 6 H), 0.745 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 6 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  173.0 (2 C), 139.0 (2 C), 128.9 (4 CH), 128.5 (4 CH), 126.5 (2 CH), 48.4 (2 CH), 47.0 (2 CH<sub>2</sub>), 39.7 (2 CH<sub>2</sub>), 38.3 (2 CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.3 (2 CH), 20.1 (4 CH<sub>3</sub>); MS (APCI) m/z (%) 501.3 ([2M-H]<sup>+</sup>, 100), 1023.5 ([4M-4H+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 90); APCIHRMS calcd for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>41</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub> (2M-H) 501.2609, found 501.2619.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound **2**.



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<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound **3**.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound **4**.













 $^{13}$ C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound **7**.



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound **9**.









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## <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound **11**.



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<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound **16**.



<sup>ppm</sup> 180



 $^{13}$ C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound **16**.

#### <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound **17**.





<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound **18**.









<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound **20**.





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<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of compound **21**.





