Supporting Information for

Ylide Mediated Carbonyl Homologations for the Preparation of Isatin Derivatives

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General Methods: All reactions were carried out in dried glassware under an atmosphere of N₂, N.N-Diisopropylethylamine was distilled from KOH before use. All other reagents were used without further purification. N-Phenyl anthranilic acid was prepared according to a literature procedure.¹ All other reagents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO), Alfa Aesar (Ward Hill, MA), or Matrix Scientific (Columbia, SC). Column chromatography was performed on Silica gel P60 (SiliCycle). ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR were measured on a JEOL 500 MHz spectrometer in the Department of Chemistry at Southern Methodist University. Chemical shift units are reported using parts per million (ppm) with the peaks from residual proton signals serving as an internal reference. Coupling constant units are in Hertz (Hz) and splitting patterns are abbreviated as follows: s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; g, guartet; m, multiplet; dd, doublet of doublets, td, triplet of doublets; br, broad. High-resolution mass spectroscopy was performed on a Shimadzu IT-TOF (ESI source) at the Shimadzu Center for Advanced Analytical Chemistry at the University of Texas, Arlington. Melting points were measured using a Mel-Temp II (Laboratory Devices, USA) equipped with a Fluke 51 K/J Thermometer. Chemical abbreviations are used as follows: CH₂Cl₂, dichloromethane; EtOAc. Acetate: THF, tetrahydrofuran; ethyl DMF. dimethylformamide; H₂O, water; HBTU, O-benzotriazole-N,N,N',N'-tetramethyluronium-hexafluoro-phosphate; DIPEA, *N*,*N*-diisopropylethylamine; KOH. potassium hydroxide; K_2CO_3 , potassium carbonate; N_2 , nitrogen.

¹ C. Pal, M. K. Kundu, U. Bandyopadhyay, S. Adhikari, *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* 2011, **21**, 3563.



Sulfonium Salt (1):

Bromoacetonitrile (7.5 mL, 100 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was added to dimethyl sulfide (7.2 mL, 100 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and stirred in a round bottom flask overnight. The solids were carefully broken apart with a spatula and minimal exposure to the atmosphere. Residual reagent was removed *in vacuo* to yield the sulfonium salt **1** as a white solid (17 g, 93%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 4.85 (s, 2H), δ 3.09 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 112.04, δ 29.48, δ 25.89.



3-(2-aminophenyl)-2-(dimethyl-l⁴-sulfanylidene)-3-oxopropanenitrile (2a):

2-aminobenzoic acid (135.0 mg, 0.9915 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was dissolved in 5 mL CH₂Cl₂. HBTU (458.2 mg, 1.208 mmol, 1.2 equiv), sulfonium salt **1** (546.7 mg, 3.003 mmol, 3.0 equiv), and DIPEA (0.52 mL, 3.0 mmol, 3.0 equiv) were added, in that respective order. The solution was stirred vigorously for 75 minutes. The reaction mixture was poured into a separatory funnel containing 10 mL CH₂Cl₂ and 10 mL 1 M K₂CO₃, extracted four times with 10 mL CH₂Cl₂, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, washed with extra CH₂Cl₂, and concentrated. The crude sulfur ylide **2a** was used in the next step without further purification. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.65–7.63 (d, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz), δ 7.11–7.08 (t, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz), δ 6.61–6.58 (m, 2H), δ 5.23–5.18 (br s, 2H, NH₂ peak), δ 2.73 (s, 6H); HRMS calcd for C₁₁H₁₂N₂OS [M+H]+ 221.0743, found 221.0740.



1*H*-indole-2,3-dione (3a):

The sulfur ylide **2a** was dissolved in 2:1 THF:H₂O (2 mL:1 mL) before Oxone (461.4 mg, 0.7501 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was added. The stirring reaction was allowed to proceed for 10 minutes. The reaction mixture was then poured into a separatory funnel containing 10 mL CH_2Cl_2 and 10 mL H_2O , extracted three times with 10 mL CH_2Cl_2 , washed with 10 mL brine, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, washed with extra CH_2Cl_2 , and concentrated. Purification of the crude product was accomplished by silica gel column chromatography (2:1

Hexane:EtOAc) to yield 1*H*-indole-2,3-dione **3a** (59.5 mg, 81%). The two-step sequence was reproduced on the same scale to yield **3a** in 88% yield. mp 198–199 °C (lit.² 200–202 °C); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.99 (s, 1H), δ 7.63–7.61 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.45 Hz), δ 7.58–7.57 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.45 Hz), δ 7.14–7.11 (t, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz), δ 6.92–6.91 (d, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, d6 acetone) δ 183.98, δ 159.98, δ 150.77, δ 138.42, δ 124.65, δ 123.11, δ 118.27, δ 112.35; HRMS calcd for C₈H₅NO₂ [M+Na]+ 170.0213, found 170.0211.



2-(dimethyl-l⁴-sulfanylidene)-3-[2-(methylamino)phenyl]–3oxopropanenitrile (2b):

2-(methylamino)benzoic acid (151.17 mg, 0.9380 mmol, 0.94 equiv) was dissolved in 10 mL CH₂Cl₂. HBTU (455.1 mg, 0.9999 mmol, 1.1 equiv), sulfonium salt **1** (546.2 mg, 3.000 mmol, 3.2 equiv), and DIPEA (0.52 mL, 3.0 mmol, 3.2 equiv) were added, in that respective order. The solution was stirred vigorously for 75 minutes. The reaction mixture was poured into a separatory funnel containing 10 mL CH₂Cl₂ and 10 mL 1M K₂·CO₃, extracted four times with 10 mL CH₂Cl₂, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, washed with extra CH₂Cl₂, and concentrated. The crude sulfur ylide **2b** was used in the next step without further purification. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.78 (br s, 1H), δ 7.27 (m, 2H), δ 6.61–6.58 (m, 2H), δ 2.80 (s, 3H), δ 2.78 (s, 6H); HRMS calcd for C₁₂H₁₄N₂OS [M+H]+235.0900, found 235.0894.



1-methyl-1*H*-indole-2,3-dione (3b):

The sulfur ylide **2b** was dissolved in 2:1 THF:H₂O (12.8 mL:6.4 mL) before Oxone (615.1 mg, 0.9999 mmol, 1.1 equiv) was added. The stirring reaction was allowed to proceed for 10 minutes. The reaction mixture was then poured into a separatory funnel containing 10 mL CH_2CI_2 and 10 mL H_2O , extracted three times with 10 mL CH_2CI_2 , washed with 10 mL brine, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, washed with extra CH_2CI_2 , and concentrated. The crude sulfur ylide was used in the next step without further purification. Purification of the crude product was accomplished by silica gel column chromatography (3:1 Hexane:EtOAc) to yield 1-methyl-1*H*-indole-2,3-dione **3b** (97.3 mg, 65%). The two-step sequence

² C. S. Marvel, G. S. Hiers, Org. Synth., Coll. Vol. 1925, 1, 327.

was reproduced on the same scale to yield **3b** in 55% yield. mp 126–129 °C (lit.³ 131–133 °C); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, (CD₃)₂CO) δ 7.65 (td, 1H, *J* = 8, 1.2 Hz), δ 7.49 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.45), δ 7.12 (td, 1H, *J* = 7.5, 1.2 Hz), δ 7.08 (d, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz), 3.19 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 183.44, δ 158.34, δ 151.55, δ 138.49, δ 125.40, δ 123.94, δ 117.55, δ 110.01, δ 26.33; HRMS calcd for C₉H₇NO₂ [M+Na]+ 184.0369, found 184.0376.



2-(dimethyl-l⁴-sulfanylidene)-3-oxo-3-[2-(phenylamino)phenyl]propanenitrile (2c):

N-phenylanthranlic acid (47.0 mg, 0.220 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was dissolved in 3 mL CH₂Cl₂. HBTU (100.0 mg, 0.264 mmol, 1.2 equiv), sulfonium salt **1** (120 mg, 0.661 mmol, 3.0 equiv), and DIPEA (0.115 mL, 0.662 mmol, 3.0 equiv) were added, in that respective order. The solution was stirred vigorously for 75 minutes. The reaction mixture was poured into a separatory funnel containing 10 mL CH₂Cl₂ and 10 mL 1M K₂CO₃, extracted four times with 10 mL CH₂Cl₂, washed with 20 mL brine, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, washed with extra CH₂Cl₂, and concentrated. The crude sulfur ylide **2c** was used in the next step without further purification. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.89 (br s, 1H), δ 7.77–7.76 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), δ 7.33–7.32 (d, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz), δ 7.26–7.20 (m, 5H), δ 6.94–6.91 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), δ 6.80–6.77 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), δ 2.79 (s, 6H); HRMS calcd for C₁₇H₁₆N₂OS [M+CI]- 331.0677, found 331.0678.



1-phenyl-1*H*-indole-2,3-dione (3c):

The sulfur ylide **2c** was dissolved in 2:1 THF:H₂O (12.8 mL:6.4 mL) before Oxone (199.3 mg, 0.3519 mmol, 1.6 equiv) was added. The stirring reaction was allowed to proceed for 10 minutes. The reaction mixture was then poured into a separatory funnel containing 20 mL EtOAc and 20 mL H₂O, extracted three times with 10 mL EtOAc, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, washed with extra CH₂Cl₂, and concentrated. Purification of the crude product was accomplished by silica column chromatography (6:1 Hexane:EtOAc) to yield 1-phenyl-1*H*-indole-2,3-dione **3c** (49 mg, 65%). The two-step sequence was reproduced on the same

³ P. G. Gassman, B. W. Cue, Jr., T.-Y. Luh, J. Org. Chem. 1977, 42, 1344.

scale to yield **3c** in 87% yield. mp 134–136 °C (lit.⁴ 138–139 °C); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.69 (dd, 1H, *J* = 7.5, 1.2 Hz), δ 7.57–7.52 (m, 3H), δ 7.47–7.41 (m, 3H), δ 7.17 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.4), δ 6.89 (d, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 183.01, δ 157.42, δ 151.76, δ 138.44, δ 132.96, δ 130.06, δ 128.94, δ 126.09, δ 125.72, δ 124.41, δ 117.59, δ 111.39; HRMS calcd for C₁₄H₉NO₂ [M+H]+ 224.0706, found 224.0701.



3-(2-amino-5-bromophenyl)-2-(dimethyl-l⁴-sulfanylidene)-3oxopropanenitrile (2d):

2-amino-5-bromobenzoic acid (137.14 mg, 0.6067 mmol, 0.61 equiv) was dissolved in 10 mL CH₂Cl₂. HBTU (455.16 mg, 1.2 mmol, 1.2 equiv), sulfonium salt **1** (546.24 mg, 3.0 mmol, 3.0 equiv), and DIPEA (0.52 mL, 3.0 mmol, 4.9 equiv) were added, in that respective order. The solution was stirred vigorously for 75 minutes. The reaction mixture was poured into a separatory funnel containing 10 mL CH₂Cl₂ and 10 mL 1M K₂CO₃, extracted four times with 10 mL CH₂Cl₂, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, washed with extra CH₂Cl₂, and concentrated. The crude sulfur ylide **2d** was used in the next step without further purification. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.76–7.75 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.3), δ 7.21–7.19 (dd, 1H, *J* = 2.3, 8.6), δ 6.53–6.52 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.6), δ 5.27 (br s, 2H), δ 2.76 (s, 6H); HRMS calcd for C₁₁H₁₁N₂OSBr [M+H]+ 298.9848, found 298.9851.



5-bromo-1*H*-indole-2,3-dione (3d):

The sulfur ylide **2d** was dissolved in 2:1 THF:H₂O (12.8 mL:6.4 mL) before Oxone (922.7 mg, 1.5 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was added. The stirring reaction was allowed to proceed for 10 minutes. The reaction mixture was then poured into a separatory funnel containing 20 mL CH_2CI_2 and 20 mL H_2O , extracted three times with 20 mL CH_2CI_2 , washed with 20 mL brine, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, washed with extra CH_2CI_2 , and concentrated. Purification of the crude

⁴ Dombrowski, James E. (44 Mayer Road, Portland, Maine, 04102, US), Mattingly, Phillip Gregory (204 Seafarer Drive, Grayslake, Illinois, 60030, US) 1994, "N-arylation of isatins" ABBOTT LABORATORIES (One Abbott Park Road, Abbott Park, Illinois, 60064-3500, US) EP0369344 http://www.freepatentsonline.com/EP0369344B1.html

product was accomplished by silica gel column chromatography (2:1 Hexane:EtOAc) to yield 5-bromo-1*H*-indole-2,3-dione **3d** (79.7 mg, 54%). The two-step sequence was reproduced on the same scale to yield the **3d** in 84% yield. mp 250–254 °C (lit.⁵ 255–256 °C); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d6) δ 11.10 (s, 1H), δ 7.70–7.68 (dd, 1H, *J* = 2, 8.5 Hz), δ 7.61 (s, 1H), δ 6.84-6.82 (d, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-D6) δ 183.71, δ 159.51, δ 150.08, δ 140.55, δ 127.42, δ 120.09, δ 114.82, δ 114.79; HRMS calcd for C₈H₄NO₂Br [M+H]+ 225.9498, found 225.9488.



3-(2-amino-4-chlorophenyl)-2-(dimethyl-l⁴-sulfanylidene)-3oxopropanenitrile (2e):

4-chloroanthranilic acid (172.5 mg, 1.01 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was dissolved in 10 mL CH₂Cl₂. HBTU (454.4 mg, 1.20 mmol, 1.2 equiv), sulfonium salt **1** (545.5 mg, 3.00 mmol, 3.0 equiv), and DIPEA (0.52 mL, 3.0 mmol, 3.0 equiv) were added, in that respective order. The solution was stirred vigorously for 75 minutes. The reaction mixture was then poured into a separatory funnel containing 10 mL CH₂Cl₂ and 10 mL 1M K₂CO₃, extracted four times with 10 mL CH₂Cl₂, washed with 20 mL brine, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, washed with extra CH₂Cl₂, and concentrated. The crude sulfur ylide **2e** was used in the next step without further purification. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, (CD₃)₂CO) δ 7.62–7.60 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.5 Hz), δ 6.61–6.61 (d, 1H, *J* = 2 Hz), δ 6.58–6.56 (dd, 1H, *J* = 2, 8.5 Hz), δ 2.78 (s, 6H); HRMS calcd for C₁₁H₁₁N₂OSCI [M+H]+ 255.0353, found 255.0349.



6-chloro-1*H*-indole-2,3-dione (3e):

The sulfur ylide **2e** was dissolved in 2:1 THF:H₂O (12.8 mL:6.4 mL) before Oxone (926.3 mg, 1.51 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was added. The stirring reaction was allowed to proceed for 10 minutes. The reaction mixture was then poured into a separatory funnel containing 20 mL CH_2CI_2 and 20 mL H_2O , extracted three times with 20 mL CH_2CI_2 . The organic layer was washed with 20 mL brine, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, washed with extra CH_2CI_2 , and concentrated. The crude material was purified by silica gel column chromatography (2:1

⁵ B. Campaigne, W. Archer, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1952, 74, 5801.

hexanes:EtOAc) to yield 7-methyl-1*H*-indole-2,3-dione **3e** (115.1 mg, 63%). The two-step sequence was reproduced on the same scale to yield **3e** in 57% yield. mp 258–261 °C (lit.⁶ 263 °C); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, (CD₃)₂CO) δ 10.13 (s, 1H), δ 7.55–7.53 (d, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz), δ 7.14–7.12 (dd, 1H, *J* = 1.7, 8 Hz), δ 7.05–7.05 (d, 1H, *J* = 1.7 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, (CD₃)₂CO) δ 182.57, δ 158.95, δ 151.88, δ 143.35, δ 126.12, δ 123.18, δ 116.99, δ 112.60; HRMS calcd for C₈H₄NO₂Cl [M+H]+ 182.0003, found 182.0003.



3-(2-amino-4-fluorophenyl)-2-(dimethyl-l⁴-sulfanylidene)-3oxopropanenitrile (2f):

4–fluoroanthranlic acid (77.4 mg, 0.499 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was dissolved in 5 mL CH₂Cl₂. HBTU (226.7 mg, 0.5977 mmol, 1.2 equiv), sulfonium salt **1** (272.1 mg, 1.494 mmol, 3.0 equiv), and DIPEA (0.26 mL, 1.50 mmol, 3.0 equiv) were added, in that respective order. The solution was stirred vigorously for 75 minutes. The reaction mixture was poured into a separatory funnel containing 10 mL CH₂Cl₂ and 10 mL 1M K₂CO₃, extracted four times with 10 mL CH₂Cl₂, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, washed with extra CH₂Cl₂, and concentrated. The crude sulfur ylide **2f** was used in the next step without further purification. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.50 (br t, 1H, *J* = 6.9 Hz), δ 6.20–6.17 (dd, 1H, *J* = 2.3, 11.5 Hz), δ 6.11 (td, 1H, *J* = 2.3, 11.5 Hz), δ 5.50 (br s, 2H), δ 2.60 (s, 6H); HRMS calcd for C₁₁H₁₁N₂OFS [M+H]+ 239.0649, found 239.0652.



6-fluoro-1*H*-indole-2,3-dione (3f):

The sulfur ylide **2f** was dissolved in 2:1 THF:H₂O (6.4 mL: 3.2 mL) before Oxone (463.3 mg, 0.7531 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was added. The stirring reaction was allowed to proceed for 10 minutes. The reaction mixture was poured into a separatory funnel containing 20 mL CH_2CI_2 and 20 mL H_2O , extracted three times with 20 mL CH_2CI_2 , washed with 20 mL brine, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, washed with extra CH_2CI_2 , and concentrated. Purification of the crude product was accomplished by silica gel column chromatography (3:1 Hexane:EtOAc) to yield 6-fluoro-1*H*-indole-2,3-dione **3f** (61.8 mg, 80%). The two-

⁶ P. W. Sadler, R. L. Warren, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1956, 78, 1251.

step sequence was reproduced on the same scale to yield **3f** in 83% yield. mp 197–199 °C (lit.⁷ 197 °C); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.82 (br s, 1H), δ 7.66 (q, 1H), δ 6.81 (t, 1H, J = 1.7 Hz), δ 6.64 (d, 1H, J = 8.6 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 180.54, δ 170.16, δ 168.20 (d, J = 39.4 Hz), δ 159.05 (d, J = 13.1 Hz), δ 151.31 (d, J = 11.9 Hz), δ 128.70 (d, J = 11.9 Hz), δ 111.36 (d, J = 23.8 Hz), 100.83 (d, J = 27.4 Hz); HRMS calcd for C₈H₄NO₂F [M-H]- 164.0153, found 164.0159.



3-[2-amino-3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-2-(dimethyl-l⁴-sulfanylidene)-3oxopropanenitrile (2g):

6-trifluoromethylanthranlic acid (204.3 mg, 0.9959 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was dissolved in 10 mL CH₂Cl₂. HBTU (453.4 mg, 1.195 mmol, 1.2 equiv), sulfonium salt **1** (543.4 mg, 2.984 mmol, 3.0 equiv), and DIPEA (0.52 mL, 3.0 mmol, 3.0 equiv) were added, in that respective order. The solution was stirred vigorously for 75 minutes. The reaction mixture was poured into a separatory funnel containing 10 mL CH₂Cl₂ and 10 mL 1M K₂CO₃, extracted four times with 10 mL CH₂Cl₂, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, washed with extra CH₂Cl₂, and concentrated. The crude sulfur ylide **2g** was used in the next step without further purification. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, (CD₃)₂CO) δ 7.77–7.75 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), δ 7.41–7.39 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), δ 6.65–6.62 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), δ 5.70 (br s, 2H), δ 2.84 (s, 6H); HRMS calcd for C₁₂H₁₁N₂OF₃S [M+H]+ 289.0617, found 289.0614.



7-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-indole-2,3-dione (3g):

The sulfur ylide **2g** was dissolved in 2:1 THF:H₂O (12.8 mL:6.4 mL) before Oxone (930.6 mg, 1.513 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was added. The stirring reaction was allowed to proceed for 10 minutes. The reaction mixture was then poured into a separatory funnel containing 20 mL CH_2CI_2 and 20 mL H_2O , extracted three times with 10 mL CH_2CI_2 , 20 mL brine, and then dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, washed with extra CH_2CI_2 , and concentrated. Purification of the crude product was accomplished by silica gel column chromatography (4:1

⁷ P. W. Sadler, J. Org. Chem. 1957, 22, 283.

Hexane:EtOAc) to yield 7-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-indole-2,3-dione **3g** (210.4 mg, 98%). The two-step sequence was reproduced on the same scale to yield **3g** in 84% yield. mp 187–190 °C (lit.⁸ 189–190 °C); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.25 (br s, 1H), δ 7.81 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.45 Hz), δ 7.77 (d, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz), δ 7.28–7.25 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, (CD₃)₂CO) δ 182.32, δ 158.80, δ 147.48, δ 133.89 (q, *J* = 3.6), δ 128.33, δ 123.37 (q, *J* = 270.7 Hz), δ 123.12, δ 119.92, δ 113.46 (q, *J* = 32.2 Hz); HRMS calcd for C₉H₄NO₂F₃ [M-H]- 214.0121, found 214.0123.



3-(2-aminophenyl)-2-(dimethyl-l⁴-sulfanylidene)-3-oxopropanenitrile (2h):

3-methylanthranilic acid (151.17 mg, 1.01 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was dissolved in 10 mL CH₂Cl₂. HBTU (457.8 mg, 1.207 mmol, 1.2 equiv), sulfonium salt **1** (561.2 mg, 3.082 mmol, 3.1 equiv), and DIPEA (0.52 mL, 3.0 mmol, 3.0 equiv) were added, in that respective order. The product was stirred vigorously for 75 minutes. The reaction mixture was poured into a separatory funnel containing 10 mL CH₂Cl₂ and 10 mL 1M K₂CO₃, extracted four times with 10 mL CH₂Cl₂, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, washed with extra CH₂Cl₂, and concentrated. The crude sulfur ylide **2h** was used in the next step without further purification. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.63–7.61 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), δ 7.10–7.09 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), δ 6.64–6.61 (t, 1H, *J* = 8.2 Hz), δ 2.84 (s, 6H); HRMS calcd for C₁₂H₁₄N₂OS [M+H]+ 235.0900, found 235.0902.



7-methyl-1*H*-indole-2,3-dione (3h):

The sulfur ylide **2h** was dissolved in 2:1 THF:H₂O (12.8 mL:6.4 mL) before Oxone (924.1 mg, 1.502 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was added. The stirring reaction was allowed to proceed for 10 minutes. The reaction mixture was then poured into a separatory funnel containing 20 mL CH_2CI_2 and 20 mL H_2O , extracted three times with 20 mL CH_2CI_2 . The organic layer was washed with 20 mL brine, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, washed with extra CH_2CI_2 , and concentrated. The crude material was purified by silica gel column chromatography (3:1 hexanes:EtOAc) to yield 7-methyl-1*H*-indole-2,3-dione **3h** (125.8 mg, 84%). The two-step sequence was reproduced on the same scale to yield **3h** in 92% yield.

⁸ P. M. Maginnity, C. A. Gaulin, J. Am .Chem. Soc. 1951, 73, 3579.

mp 260–263 °C (lit.³ mp 267–269 °C); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, (CD₃)₂CO) δ 7.99 (br s, 1H), δ 7.38 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), δ 7.04 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), δ 2.26 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 184.27, δ 159.48, δ 149.27, δ 139.52, δ 122.91, δ 122.00, δ 121.80, δ 118.02, 14.85; HRMS calcd for C₉H₇NO₂ [M+H]+ 162.0550, found 162.0547.



3-(2-amino-6-methylphenyl)-2-(dimethyl-l⁴-sulfanylidene)-3oxopropanenitrile (2i):

3-(2-amino-6-methylphenyl)-2-(dimethyl-l⁴-sulfanylidene)-3-oxopropanenitrile (154.9 mg, 0.9612 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was dissolved in 10 mL CH₂Cl₂. HBTU (478.2 mg, 1.2 mmol, 1.2 equiv), sulfonium salt **1** (576.1 mg, 3.0 mmol, 3.0 equiv), and DIPEA (0.52 mL, 3.0 mmol, 3.1 equiv) were added, in that respective order. The solution was stirred vigorously for 75 minutes. The reaction mixture was poured into a mixture of 10 mL CH₂Cl₂ and 10 mL 1M K₂CO₃, extracted four times with 10 mL CH₂Cl₂, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, washed with extra CH₂Cl₂, and concentrated. The crude sulfur ylide **2i** was used in the next step without further purification. HRMS calcd for C₁₂H₁₄N₂OS [M+H]+ 235.0900, found 235.0898.



4-methyl-1*H*-indole-2,3-dione (3i):

The crude sulfur ylide **2i** was dissolved in 2:1 THF:H₂O (12.8 mL:6.4 mL) before Oxone (970.2 mg, 1.577 mmol, 1.6 equiv) was added. The stirring reaction was allowed to proceed for 10 minutes. The reaction mixture was then poured into a separatory funnel containing 10 mL CH₂Cl₂ and 10 mL H₂O, extracted three times with 10 mL of CH₂Cl₂, washed with 20 mL brine, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, washed with extra CH₂Cl₂, and concentrated. Purification of the crude product was accomplished by silica gel column chromatography (2:1 Hexane:EtOAc) to yield 4-methyl-1*H*-indole-2,3-dione **3i** (72.6 mg, 45%). The two-step sequence was reproduced on the same scale to yield **3i** in 53% yield. mp 188–191 °C (lit.⁷ 189 °C); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.51 (s, 1H), δ 7.40–7.38 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.1), δ 6.89–6.87 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.1), δ 6.73–6.72 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.1), δ 138.07, δ 126.31, δ 116.46, δ 109.73, δ 18.23; HRMS calcd for C₉H₇NO₂

[M+H]+ 162.0550, found 162.0552.



3-(2-amino-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(dimethyl-l⁴-sulfanylidene)-3oxopropanenitrile (2j):

4-methoxyanthranilic acid (167.5 mg, 1.002 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was dissolved in 10 mL CH₂Cl₂. HBTU (452.8 mg, 1.194 mmol, 1.2 equiv), sulfonium salt **1** (452.6 mg, 2.486 mmol, 2.5 equiv), and DIPEA (0.52 mL, 3.0 mmol, 3.0 equiv) were added, in that respective order. The solution was stirred vigorously for 75 minutes. The reaction mixture was poured into a separatory funnel containing 10 mL CH₂Cl₂ and 10 mL 1M K₂CO₃, extracted four times with 10 mL of CH₂Cl₂, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, washed with extra CH₂Cl₂, and concentrated. The crude sulfur ylide **2j** was used in the next step without further purification. HRMS calcd for C₁₂H₁₄N₂O₂S [M+H]+ 251.0849, found 251.0849.



6-methoxy-1*H*-indole-2,3-dione (3j):

The sulfur ylide **2j** was dissolved in 2:1 THF:H₂O (12.8 mL:6.4 mL) before Oxone (920.3 mg, 1.496 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was added. The stirring reaction was allowed to proceed for 10 minutes. The reaction mixture was then poured into a mixture of 20 mL CH₂Cl₂ and 20 mL H₂O, extracted three times with 10 mL CH₂Cl₂. The organic layer was washed with 20 mL brine, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, washed with extra CH₂Cl₂, and concentrated. Purification of the crude product was accomplished by silica gel column chromatography (1:1 hexanes:EtOAc) to yield 6-methoxy-1*H*-indole-2,3-dione **3j** (129.5 mg, 73%). The two-step sequence was reproduced on the same scale to yield **3j** in 67% yield. mp 228–230 °C (lit.⁷ 230 °C); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.84 (br s, 1H), δ 7.58 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.1 Hz), δ 6.57 (dd, H, *J* = 2.5, 8.5 Hz), δ 6.40 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.3 Hz), δ 3.91 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, (CD₃)₂CO) δ 181.85, δ 169.10, δ 161.00, δ 154.10, δ 127.85, δ 112.55, δ 109.70, δ 98.60, δ 56.46; HRMS calcd for C₉H₇NO₃ [M+Na]+ 200.0318, found 200.0312.



3-(2-aminopyridin-3-yl)-2-(dimethyl-l⁴-sulfanylidene)-3-oxopropanenitrile (2k):

2-aminopyridine-3-carboxylic acid (139.8 mg, 1.066 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was dissolved in 10 mL CH₂Cl₂. HBTU (456.4 mg, 1.20 mmol, 1.1 equiv), sulfonium salt **1** (464.4 mg, 2.551 mmol, 2.4 equiv), and DIPEA (0.52 mL, 3.0 mmol, 2.8 equiv) were added, in that respective order. The solution was stirred vigorously for 75 minutes. The reaction mixture was poured into a separatory funnel containing 10 mL CH₂Cl₂ and 10 mL 1M K₂CO₃, extracted four times with 10 mL CH₂Cl₂, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, washed with extra CH₂Cl₂, and concentrated. The crude sulfur ylide **2k** was used in the next step without further purification. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.99–7.98 (dd, 1H, *J* = 2, 5 Hz), δ 7.96–7.94 (d, 1H, *J* = 8 Hz), δ 6.52–6.51 (t, 1H, *J* = 4.6 Hz), δ 6.07 (br s, 2H), δ 2.75 (s, 6H); HRMS calcd for C₁₀H₁₁N₃OS [M+H]+ 222.0696, found 222.0691.



1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine-2,3-dione (3k):

The sulfur ylide **2k** was dissolved in 2:1 THF:H₂O (12.8 mL:6.4 mL) before Oxone (933.8 mg, 1.518 mmol, 1.4 equiv) was added. The stirring reaction was allowed to proceed for 10 minutes. The reaction mixture was then poured into a mixture of 10 mL CH₂Cl₂ and 10 mL H₂O, extracted three times with 10 mL CH₂Cl₂, washed with 10 mL brine, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, washed with extra CH₂Cl₂, and concentrated. Purification of the crude product was done by a silica gel column chromatography (1:3 Hexane:EtOAc) to yield 1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine-2,3-dione **3k** (82.2 mg, 55%). The two-step sequence was reproduced on the same scale to yield **3k** in 53% yield. mp 168–172 °C (lit.⁹ 168–170 °C); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 8.63 (dd, 1H, *J* = 1.7, 4.6 Hz), δ 8.36 (dd, 1H, *J* = 1.8, 8.0 Hz), δ 7.29 (dd, 1H, *J* = 4.6, 8.0 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, (CD₃)₂CO) δ 185.58, δ 164.93, δ 160.01, δ 156.65, δ 133.34, δ 120.16, δ 113.69; HRMS calcd for C₇H₄N₂O₂ [M–H]– 147.0200, found 147.0201.

⁹ R. Sriram, C. N. S. S. P. Kumar, N. Raghunandan, V. Ramesh, M. Sarangapani, V. J. Rao, *Synth. Commun.* 1993, **42**, 3419.

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