The Asymmetric Cu(II)-Indolinylmethanol Complex Catalyzed Diels-Alder Reaction of 2-Vinylindoles with β,γ-Unsaturated α-Ketoesters: An Efficient Route to Functionalized Tetrahydrocarbazoles

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Supporting Information

- 1. General information
- 2. Preparation of ligands
- 3. Synthesis of β , γ -unsaturated α -ketoesters 1a-f, 1h, 1j-k, 1m-n and 1p
- 4. Synthesis of β,γ-unsaturated α-ketoesters 1g, 1i, 1l and 1o
- 5. Preparation of 2-vinylindoles 2
- 6. General procedure for the asymmetric Diels–Alder reaction
- 7. References
- 8. HPLC spectra
- 9. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra

1. General information

All reactions were carried out under an atmosphere of nitrogen in flame dried glassware with magnetic stirring. The solvents were distilled from standard drying agents. Unless otherwise stated, commercial reagents purchased from Alfa Aesar, Acros and Aldrich chemical companies were used without further purification. Purification of reaction products was carried out by flash chromatography using Qing Dao Sea Chemical Reagent silica gel (200-300 mesh).

¹H NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Advance III spectrometer (400 MHz). Chemical shifts were reported as parts per million (ppm) in the δ scale downfield from TMS. Peaks were labeled as singlet (s), doublet (d), triplet (t), quartet (q) and multiplet (m). ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker spectrometer with complete proton decoupling, and chemical shifts were reported in ppm from TMS with the solvent as the internal reference (CDCl₃, δ = 77.0 ppm). HPLC analyses were conducted on an Agilent 1200 instrument using Daicel columns (0.46 cm diameter × 25 cm length). Optical rotations were recorded on a Perkin Elmer polarimeter (Model 341). MS spectra were recorded on an ESI-ion trap Mass spectrometer (Shimadzu LCMS-IT-TOF). Analytical TLC was performed using EM separations percolated silica gel 0.2 mm layer UV 254 fluorescent sheets.

2. Preparation of ligands

The ligands were prepared following the literature methods.

(S)-Indolin-2-yldiphenylmethanol (L1)¹

 $[a]_D^{20} = -105.0 \text{ (c} = 1.0, \text{CHCl}_3)$. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl}3) δ : 7.62 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.40-7.15 (m, 6H), 6.99 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.71 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.56 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 5.12 (t, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 1H), 3.56 (s, 1H), 3.07 (dd, J = 16.1, 10.5 Hz, 1H), 2.76 (dd, J = 16.1, 8.9 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl}3) δ : 150.09, 146.95, 144.08, 129.22, 128.67, 128.21, 127.24, 127.04, 126.77, 125.82, 125.50, 124.75, 119.67, 109.79, 77.18, 66.86, 31.18.

(S)-2-(Indolin-2-yl)-1,3-diphenylpropan-2-ol (L2)

 $[a]_D^{20} = -18.4$ (c = 1.0, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.33-7.19 (m, 9H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (dd, *J* = 14.0, 6.4 Hz, 2H), 6.69 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.49 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.49 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.49 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.49 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.49 (d

J = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 3.57 (s, 1H), 3.21-3.00 (m, 3H), 2.79 (s, 2H), 2.71 (d, *J* = 13.8 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 150.58, 137.52, 137.16, 130.82, 130.27, 128.48, 128.41, 128.26, 127.30, 126.67, 126.52, 124.52, 119.00, 109.52, 75.31, 65.83, 44.09, 42.21, 31.52.

(S)-2-(Indolin-2-yl)-1,3-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)propan-2-ol (L3)

$$\begin{array}{c} CH_2Ar \\ -CH_2Ar \\ -CH_2Ar \\ OH \\ Ar = p-OCH_3-Ph \end{array}$$

 $[a]_D^{20} = -10.5$ (c = 0.9, CH₂Cl₂). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.21 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (dd, *J* = 10.9, 8.6 Hz, 4H), 6.68 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.51 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (t, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.07 (ddd, *J* = 27.5, 18.4, 11.9 Hz, 3H), 2.72 (s, 2H), 2.63 (d, *J* = 14.0 Hz, 1H), 2.34 (s, 1H), 1.61 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 158.45, 158.33, 150.64, 131.72, 131.17, 129.39, 129.07, 128.48, 127.27, 124.52, 118.93, 113.91, 113.70, 109.47, 75.25, 65.73, 55.27, 55.24, 43.01, 41.08, 31.47.

(S)-1,3-bis(2-Fluorophenyl)-2-(indolin-2-yl)propan-2-ol (L4)



 $[a]_D^{20} = +5.6$ (c = 1.0, CH₂Cl₂). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.39 (td, J = 7.6, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.14 (m, 3H), 7.13-6.92 (m, 6H), 6.70 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.60 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (t, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 3.13 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 2H), 3.02 (dd, J = 17.5, 14.4 Hz, 2H), 2.83 (dd, J = 14.0, 9.9 Hz, 2H), 2.37 (s, 1H), 1.67 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 161.70 ($^{1}J_{CF} = 243.5$ Hz), 161.60 ($^{1}J_{CF} = 243.5$ Hz), 150.67, 133.12 (d, $^{2}J_{CF} = 20.8$ Hz), 133.08 (d, $^{2}J_{CF} = 20.8$ Hz), 128.67, 128.50, 128.42, 128.33, 127.36, 124.61, 124.12, 124.04, 123.98, 119.03, 115.34 (d, $^{2}J_{CF} = 23.4$ Hz), 115.27 (d, $^{2}J_{CF} = 23.4$ Hz), 109.63, 76.15, 64.95, 35.33, 33.92, 31.43.

(S)-3-(Indolin-2-yl)-1,5-diphenylpentan-3-ol (L5)



 $[a]_D^{20} = -44.8$ (c = 0.65, CH₂Cl₂). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.39-7.29 (m, 4H), 7.29-7.19 (m, 6H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (td, *J* = 7.4, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 4.08 (dd, *J* = 10.6, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 1H), 3.19 (dd, *J* = 15.5, 10.7 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (dd, *J* = 15.6, 9.1 Hz, 1H), 2.93-2.61 (m, 4H), 2.46 (s, 1H), 2.11-1.74 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 150.33, 142.25, 142.09, 129.25, 128.59, 128.54, 128.31, 128.29, 127.28, 126.05, 126.03, 124.76, 119.70, 110.09, 73.64, 66.17, 39.73, 36.18, 30.27, 30.14, 30.00.

(S)-5-(Indolin-2-yl)nonan-5-ol (L6)

 $[a]_D^{20} = -52.9$ (c = 1.0, CH₂Cl₂). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.08 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (td, J = 7.4, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 6.66 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (dd, J = 10.8, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 3.10 (dd, J = 15.6, 10.9 Hz, 1H), 2.90 (dd, J = 15.6, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 2.24 (s, 1H), 1.62-1.14 (m, 12H), 0.94 (td, J = 7.1, 4.6 Hz, 7H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 150.53, 129.51, 127.13, 124.70, 119.42, 109.88, 73.62, 66.43, 37.46, 34.04, 30.12, 25.82, 25.55, 23.43, 14.11, 14.03.

(S)-2-(1-Methylindolin-2-yl)-1,3-diphenylpropan-2-ol (L7)

 $[a]_D^{20} = -2.6$ (c = 1.0, CH₂Cl₂). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.33-7.14 (m, 9H), 7.06 (dd, J = 16.2, 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.95 (dd, J = 18.3, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.47 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.41 (dd, J = 10.2, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 3.29 (dd, J = 16.1, 10.3 Hz, 1H), 3.16 (d, J = 13.7 Hz, 1H), 2.96 (dd, J = 16.1, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 2.90 (s, 3H), 2.82 (d, J = 14.2 Hz, 1H), 2.73 (dd, J = 14.0, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.66 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 154.32, 136.99, 136.72, 131.09, 130.43, 128.25, 128.23, 127.88, 127.60, 126.56, 126.48, 123.92, 117.59, 107.83, 77.76, 71.67, 43.63, 40.53, 38.64, 32.19.

2-((2S)-octaHydro-1H-indol-2-yl)-1,3-diphenylpropan-2-ol (L8)



 $[a]_D^{20} = -1.3$ (c = 0.62, CH₂Cl₂). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.40-7.09 (m, 10H), 3.82-3.54 (m, 1H), 3.24 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 3.05-2.91 (m, 2H), 2.64 (t, J = 10.7 Hz, 3H), 2.03-1.88 (m, 2H), 1.78-1.10 (m, 10H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 138.69, 138.30, 130.75, 130.28, 128.55, 128.11, 128.02, 126.11, 73.99, 63.61, 55.95, 45.33, 43.10, 37.61, 31.06, 31.00, 27.91, 22.92, 22.82.

4-Nitro-N-(((2S)-octahydro-1H-indol-2-yl)methyl)benzenesulfonamide (L9)²



 $[a]_D^{20} = +7.0$ (c = 1.3, CH₂Cl₂). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 8.36 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 8.06 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.60-3.32 (m, 3H), 3.18-3.07 (m, 2H), 2.92 (dd, J = 12.4, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.04 (dt, J = 13.0, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 1.99-1.87 (m, 1H), 1.66-1.36 (m, 6H), 1.35-1.16 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz,

CDCl₃) δ: 149.91, 146.42, 128.22, 124.30, 57.41, 56.57, 48.43, 38.17, 33.57, 29.65, 27.98, 23.10, 22.24.

(S)-diPhenyl(pyrrolidin-2-yl)methanol (L10)³

 $[a]_D^{20} = -68.6$ (c = 1.0, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.66-7.35 (m, 4H), 7.32-6.92 (m, 6H), 4.56 (s, 1H), 4.25 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.09-2.68 (m, 2H), 1.80-1.41 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 148.17, 145.41, 128.22, 127.96, 126.45, 126.34, 125.86, 125.53, 77.11, 64.49, 46.76, 26.28, 25.51.

(4S,4'S)-2,2'-(Propane-2,2-diyl)bis(4-isopropyl-4,5-dihydrooxazole) (L11)⁴

 $[a]_D^{20} = -82.3$ (c = 0.8, CH₂Cl₂). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 4.24-4.16 (m, 2H), 4.03-3.94 (m, 4H), 1.84-1.75 (m, 2H), 1.52 (s, 6H), 0.92 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H), 0.86 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 168.81, 71.52, 69.94, 38.59, 32.20, 24.45, 18.52, 17.36.

3. Synthesis of β , γ -unsaturated α -ketoesters 1a-f, 1h, 1j-k, 1m-1n and 1p.

The β , γ -unsaturated α -ketoesters **1a-1f**, **1h**, **1j-k**, **1m-n** and **1p** were prepared following the literature methods.⁵

(E)-Methyl 2-oxo-4-phenylbut-3-enoate (1a)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.89 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (dd, *J* = 7.4, 1.1 Hz, 2H), 7.49-7.33 (m, 4H), 3.94 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 182.43, 162.56, 148.66, 133.99, 131.70, 129.10, 129.07, 120.48, 53.03.

(E)-Ethyl 2-oxo-4-phenylbut-3-enoate (1b)



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.85 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 7.68-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.31 (m, 4H),

4.38 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.40 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 182.92, 162.22, 148.47, 134.01, 131.63, 129.08, 129.03, 120.58, 62.50, 14.05.

(E)-isoPropyl 2-oxo-4-phenylbut-3-enoate (1c)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.84 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 7.49-7.37 (m, 3H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 5.23 (dt, *J* = 16.3, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 1.39 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 183.32, 161.92, 148.21, 134.11, 131.53, 129.06, 128.97, 120.79, 70.65, 21.64.

(E)-Methyl 4-(2-fluorophenyl)-2-oxobut-3-enoate (1d)



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 8.01 (d, J = 16.3 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (td, J = 7.7, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.17 (m, 1H), 7.14 (m, J = 10.5, 8.3, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 182.48, 162.40, 161.97 (d, J = 256.2 Hz), 140.91 (d, J = 3.1 Hz), 133.15 (d, J = 8.9 Hz), 129.55 (d, J = 2.4 Hz), 124.65 (d, J = 3.7 Hz), 122.64 (d, J = 6.6 Hz), 122.21 (d, J = 11.3 Hz), 116.42 (d, J = 21.8 Hz), 53.04.

(E)-Methyl 4-(3-fluorophenyl)-2-oxobut-3-enoate (1e)



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.83 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.30 (m, 4H), 7.19-7.12 (m, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 182.14, 163.01 (d, J = 247.7 Hz), 162.27, 146.92 (d, J = 2.7 Hz), 136.18 (d, J = 7.6 Hz), 130.67 (d, J = 8.2 Hz), 125.09 (d, J = 2.8 Hz), 121.61, 118.50 (d, J = 21.5 Hz), 115.04 (d, J = 22.0 Hz), 53.09.

(E)-Methyl 4-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-oxobut-3-enoate (1f)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.84 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (dd, J = 8.6, 5.5 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (t, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 3.94 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 182.15, 164.74 (d, J = 253.9 Hz), 162.47, 147.18, 131.11 (d, J = 8.8 Hz), 130.31 (d, J = 3.4 Hz), 120.17, 116.38 (d, J = 22.1 Hz), 53.04.

(E)-Methyl 4-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-oxobut-3-enoate (1h)



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.83 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 182.13, 162.39, 146.96, 137.75, 132.49, 130.15, 129.44, 120.87, 53.06.

(E)-Methyl 2-oxo-4-(p-tolyl)but-3-enoate (1j)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.86 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 182.45, 162.70, 148.76, 142.56, 131.33, 129.86, 129.14, 119.51, 52.95, 21.63.

(E)-Methyl 4-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-2-oxobut-3-enoate (1k)



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.92 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 7.73-7.59 (m, 6H), 7.42 (m, J = 13.5, 10.5, 5.7 Hz, 4H), 3.95 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 182.32, 162.62, 148.17, 144.48, 139.84, 132.94, 129.63, 128.97, 128.16, 127.71, 127.09, 120.26, 53.02.

(E)-Methyl 4-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2-oxobut-3-enoate (1m)



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.84 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (dd, *J* = 12.0, 4.0 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (s, 1H), 7.07-6.94 (m, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 182.41, 162.56, 160.04, 148.54, 135.34, 130.06, 121.85, 120.77, 117.77, 113.57, 55.36, 52.96.

(E)-Methyl 4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-oxobut-3-enoate (1n)



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.86 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 182.26, 162.88, 162.69, 148.52, 131.09, 126.83, 118.16, 114.63, 55.47, 52.91.

(E)-Methyl 4-(furan-2-yl)-2-oxobut-3-enoate (1p)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.63 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 7.60-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.19 (m, 1H), 6.83 (d, J = 3.5 Hz, 1H), 6.55 (dd, J = 3.4, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (d, J = 0.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 181.96, 162.41, 151.06, 146.37, 133.67, 118.60, 118.04, 113.17, 52.94.

4. Synthesis of β , γ -unsaturated α -ketoesters 1g, 1i, 1l and 1o.

a) Preparation of aryl acetal derivatives^{5a}

$$\begin{array}{c} H \\ Ar \leftarrow O \end{array} \xrightarrow{p-TSA} H \\ \hline MeOH \end{array} \xrightarrow{p-MeOH} Ar \leftarrow OMe$$

A solution of aldehyde (50 mmol), *p*-toluenesulfonic acid monohydrate (2.5 mmol) and trimethyl orthoformate (0.5 mol) in dry methanol (100 mL) was heated to reflux for 24 h. Part of the solvent was evaporated *in vacuo*, then Et₂O (125 mL) was added to the residue (*ca.* 25 mL), and the mixture was washed with saturated NaHCO₃ solution (125 mL). The organic layer was separated, dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash chromatography.

b) Preparation of methyl 2-((trimethylsilyl)oxy)acrylate⁶

$$\begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \text{TMSCI} \\ \text{Et_3N} \\ \text{Me} \\ \hline \text{CO_2Me} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{OSiMe_3} \\ \text{THF} \\ \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{H_2C} \\ \text{H_2C} \\ \hline \text{CO_2Me} \end{array}$$

TEA (18.8 mL, 13.66 g, 135 mmol) was added dropwise to a mixture of methyl pyruvate (10.21 g, 100 mmol) and TMSCl (14.2 mL, 12.17 g, 112 mmol) in THF (100 mL) under N₂. After 3.5 h, pentane (150 mL) was added, and the reaction mixture was filtered. The filtrate was washed with water (50 mL) and brine (50 mL) in turn, dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated to give methyl 2-((trimethylsilyl)oxy)acrylate as a clear liquid (14.8 g, 85% yield), which was used without further purification.

c) Preparation of methyl 2-oxo-4-arylbut-3-enoate^{5a,7}



To a mixture of acetal (20 mmol) and methyl 2-((trimethylsilyl)oxy)acrylate (24 mmol) in dry dichloromethane (100 mL) was added boron trifluoridediethyl ether (22 mmol) dropwise under N_2

at -78 °C. The reaction mixture was warmed to 0 °C and srirred at the same temperature for 2 h. Saturated NaHCO₃ was added, the mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford crude γ -alkoxy- α -oxo ester, which was dissolved in toluene (100 mL). Then silica gel (30 g) was added and the mixture was heated at 110 °C with vigorous stirring for 12 h. After being cooled to room temperature, the mixture was filtered and the residue was washed with DCM for several times. The filtrate was combined, concentrated to give the crude β , γ -unsaturated α -ketoester. The purification was carried out by flash column chromatography with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate to afford yellow oil or solid.

(E)-Methyl 4-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-oxobut-3-enoate (1g)



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 8.31 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.28 (m, 4H), 3.95 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 182.25, 162.37, 144.05, 136.19, 132.26, 130.44, 127.97, 127.21, 122.73, 99.99, 53.05.

(E)-Methyl 4-(2-bromophenyl)-2-oxobut-3-enoate (1i)



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 8.28 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.34-7.31 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.28 (m, 1H), 3.96 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 182.19, 162.36, 146.70, 133.74, 132.38, 129.39, 128.10, 127.84, 126.65, 122.96, 53.08.

(E)-Methyl 4-(2-methoxyphenyl)-2-oxobut-3-enoate (11)



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 8.21 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.05-6.90 (m, 2H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 183.05, 162.95, 159.29, 144.15, 133.11, 129.53, 123.02, 120.92, 120.84, 111.35, 55.57, 52.87.

(E)-Methyl 4-(2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-oxobut-3-enoate (10)



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 8.21 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, J =

3.0 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.82 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 182.89, 162.90, 153.89, 153.53, 143.84, 123.42, 120.96, 119.30, 113.22, 112.62, 56.09, 55.84, 52.89.

5. Preparation of 2-vinylindoles 2

The 2-vinylindoles were prepared following the literature methods.8

(E)-1-Methyl-2-styryl-1*H*-indole (2a)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.59 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.33-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.21 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (s, 2H), 7.10 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (s, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 138.42, 138.18, 137.18, 130.93, 128.78, 128.00, 127.85, 126.45, 121.78, 120.43, 119.91, 117.09, 109.14, 99.08, 29.92.

(E)-2-(4-Bromostyryl)-1-methyl-1H-indole (2b)



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.59 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (dd, *J* = 15.0, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.15-7.05 (m, 3H), 6.80 (s, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 138.25, 137.98, 136.13, 131.87, 129.44, 127.93, 127.86, 121.99, 121.51, 120.51, 120.00, 117.75, 109.17, 99.44, 29.92.

(E)-1-Methyl-2-(4-methylstyryl)-1H-indole (2c)



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.57 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.26-7.04 (m, 7H), 6.76 (s, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 138.67, 138.14, 137.85, 134.44, 130.97, 129.52, 128.08, 126.40, 121.65, 120.37, 119.87, 116.10, 109.12, 98.78, 29.90, 21.32.

6. General procedure for the asymmetric Diels-Alder reaction

To a 10 mL tube was added chiral ligand L2 (3.3 mg, 0.01 mmol), enone 1 (0.12 mmol), Cu(OTf)₂ (3.6 mg, 0.01 mmol) and 1.5 mL DCM (containing 0.1mmol H_2O) under N₂. The solution was

stirred at 30 °C for 30 min, then 2-vinylindole **2** (0.8 mmol) was added. After completion of the reaction (about 10 min), the mixture was quenched with saturated NaHCO₃ solution (1 mL) and extracted with DCM (3×3 mL). The DCM layer was combined, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After filtration, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give the crude product, which was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to provide pure **3**.

Methyl 2-((2*R*,2*R*,4*R*)-9-methyl-2,4-diphenyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-carbazol-3-yl)-2-oxoacetate (3a)



Yield: 90%, pale yellow solid. HPLC: Chiralpak AD-H (hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95/5, flow rate 0.5 mL/min, $\lambda = 220$ nm), t_{major} = 21.34 min, t_{minor} = 26.97 min, 95% ee. $[a]_D^{25} = -42.6$ (c = 0.76, CH₂Cl₂). mp 150-153 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.34-7.18 (m, 9H), 7.18-7.12 (m, 1H), 7.10 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 6.95-6.86 (m, 2H), 4.63 (d, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 4.17 (dd, J = 4.1, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.67-3.56 (m, 2H), 3.25 (q, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 193.35, 161.47, 143.56, 141.37, 137.68, 136.17, 128.67, 128.52, 128.43, 128.02, 127.04, 126.68, 126.58, 121.02, 118.96, 118.83, 108.67, 107.78, 56.22, 52.92, 39.11, 38.07, 29.33, 25.60. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₈H₂₆NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 424.1907, found: 424.1905.

Ethyl 2-((2*R*,3*R*,4*R*)-9-methyl-2,4-diphenyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-carbazol-3-yl)-2oxoacetate (3b)



Yield: 89%, pale yellow solid. HPLC: Chiralpak AD-H (hexane/*i*-PrOH = 98/2, flow rate 0.6 mL/min, $\lambda = 220$ nm), t_{major} = 25.88 min, t_{minor} = 37.77 min, 53% ee. $[a]_D^{25}$ = -32.5 (c = 0.67, CH₂Cl₂). mp 172-176 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.36-7.06 (m, 12H), 6.92 (dt, *J* = 14.5, 7.3 Hz, 2H), 4.64 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 4.31-4.07 (m, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.68-3.57 (m, 2H), 3.32-3.07 (m, 1H), 1.28 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 193.77, 161.17, 143.65, 141.51, 137.70, 136.29, 128.82, 128.64, 128.49, 128.41, 128.02, 126.98, 126.64, 121.00, 118.95, 118.78, 108.65, 107.71, 62.43, 56.11, 39.20, 37.98, 29.30, 25.53, 13.90. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₉H₂₈NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 438.2064, found: 438.2066.

*iso*Propyl 2-((2*R*,3*R*,4*R*)-9-methyl-2,4-diphenyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-carbazol-3-yl)-2-oxoacetate (3c)



Yield: 95%, pale yellow solid. HPLC: Chiralpak AD-H (hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95/5, flow rate 0.5 mL/min, $\lambda = 220$ nm), t_{major} = 12.86 min, t_{minor} = 18.88 min, 34% ee. $[a]_D^{25} = -21.5$ (c = 0.86, CH₂Cl₂). mp 115-118 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.39-7.20 (m, 9H), 7.20-7.14 (m, 3H), 7.03-6.92 (m, 2H), 5.15-5.04 (m, 1H), 4.69 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 4.21 (t, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.71 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.68-3.64 (m, 1H), 3.26 (dd, J = 14.8, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 1.31 (dd, J = 10.6, 6.3 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 194.13, 160.85, 143.73, 141.62, 137.70, 136.39, 128.65, 128.52, 128.43, 128.05, 126.98, 126.66, 121.01, 118.97, 118.76, 108.69, 107.70, 70.77, 56.01, 39.26, 37.97, 29.33, 25.53, 21.56. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₃₀H₃₀NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 452.2220, found: 452.2224.

Methyl 2-((2*R*,3*R*,4*S*)-4-(2-fluorophenyl)-9-methyl-2-phenyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-carbazol-3-yl)-2-oxoacetate (3d)



Yield: 96%, pale yellow solid. HPLC: Chiralcel OD-H (hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95/5, flow rate 0.5 mL/min, $\lambda = 220$ nm), t_{major} = 22.68 min, t_{minor} = 26.33 min, 93% ee. $[a]_D^{25} = -23.9$ (c = 0.82, CH₂Cl₂). mp 198-201 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.30 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.05 (m, 8H), 7.02-6.86 (m, 4H), 4.88 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 4.23 (dd, J = 20.4, 16.7 Hz, 1H), 3.74 (d, J = 13.2 Hz, 3H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.67-3.61 (m, 1H), 3.52 (dd, J = 16.0, 9.1 Hz, 1H), 3.23 (dt, J = 22.1, 11.1 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 194.27, 161.84, 160.72 (¹ $J_{CF} = 247.2$ Hz), 140.97, 137.69, 136.28, 130.97, 130.13 (d, ² $J_{CF} = 13.7$ Hz), 128.58, 128.53, 127.87, 127.17, 126.26, 123.99, 121.12, 119.06, 118.44, 115.6 (d, ² $J_{CF} = 21.9$ Hz), 108.76, 106.82, 53.83, 52.77, 38.45, 33.03, 29.34, 25.33. HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calcd. for C₂₈H₂₅FNO₃ [M+H]⁺: 442.1813, found: 442.1814.

Methyl 2-((2*R*,3*R*,4*R*)-4-(3-fluorophenyl)-9-methyl-2-phenyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-carbazol-3-yl)-2-oxoacetate (3e)



Yield: 94%, pale yellow solid. HPLC: Chiralpak AD-H (hexane/*i*-PrOH = 96/4, flow rate 0.5 mL/min, $\lambda = 220$ nm), t_{major} = 23.38 min, t_{minor} = 27.66 min, 50% ee. $[a]_D^{25}$ = -36.3 (c = 0.81, CH₂Cl₂). mp 140-145 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.31 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.07 (m, 8H), 6.99 (d, J = 10.1 Hz, 1H), 6.96-6.88 (m, 3H), 4.62 (d, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 4.18-4.10 (m, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.65-3.56 (m, 2H), 3.26 (q, J = 10.3 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 193.04, 163.01 (d, J = 245.6 Hz), 161.36, 146.44 (d, J = 6.6 Hz), 141.10, 137.72, 136.23, 129.89 (d, J = 8.3 Hz), 128.60, 128.01, 127.18, 126.40, 124.41, 121.18, 119.14 , 118.70, 115.65 (d, J = 21.7 Hz), 113.73 (d, J = 21.2 Hz), 108.81, 107.29, 56.10, 53.01, 38.89, 38.20, 29.36, 25.62. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for C₂₈H₂₅FNO₃ [M+H]⁺: 442.1813, found: 442.1818.

Methyl 2-((2*R*,3*R*,4*R*)-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-9-methyl-2-phenyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-carbazol-3-yl)-2-oxoacetate (3f)



Yield: 86%, pale yellow solid. HPLC: Chiralpak AD-H (hexane/*i*-PrOH = 94/6, flow rate 0.5 mL/min, $\lambda = 220$ nm), t_{major} = 18.88 min, t_{minor} = 22.82 min, 52% ee. $[a]_D^{25}$ = -38.1 (c = 0.70, CH₂Cl₂). mp 179-183 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.31-7.15 (m, 6H), 7.11 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 7.02-6.87 (m, 4H), 4.62 (d, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 4.14 (dd, *J* = 4.6, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.69-3.56 (m, 2H), 3.29 (dd, *J* = 15.1, 4.6 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 193.15, 161.71 (¹*J*_{CF} = 246.5 Hz), 161.40, 141.13, 139.18, 137.69, 136.06, 130.24, 128.56, 127.99, 127.14, 126.38, 121.12, 119.05, 118.77, 108.75, 107.83, 56.38, 52.98, 38.31, 38.21, 29.33, 25.74. HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calcd. for C₂₈H₂₅FNO₃ [M+H]⁺: 442.1813, found: 442.1818.

Methyl 2-((2*R*,3*R*,4*S*)-4-(2-chlorophenyl)-9-methyl-2-phenyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-carbazol-3-yl)-2-oxoacetate (3g)



Yield: 91%, pale yellow solid. HPLC: Chiralpak AD-H (hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90/10, flow rate 0.8 mL/min, $\lambda = 220$ nm), t_{major} = 13.05 min, t_{minor} = 33.68 min, 67% ee. $[a]_D^{25}$ = -12.8 (c = 0.74, CH₂Cl₂). mp 180-184 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.46 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.11 (m, 8H), 7.07 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.02-6.89 (m, 3H), 5.00 (s, 1H), 4.15 (s, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.55 (s, 4H), 3.42 (dd, *J* = 16.0, 10.6 Hz, 1H), 3.19 (d, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ :

195.42, 162.22, 140.78, 140.57, 137.76, 136.48, 133.70, 130.67, 129.93, 128.57, 128.20, 127.77, 127.23, 126.77, 126.23, 121.18, 119.09, 118.57, 108.76, 107.19, 53.29, 52.58, 38.45, 36.64, 29.34, 24.53. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₈H₂₅ClNO₃ [M+H]⁺: 458.1517, found: 458.1518.

Methyl 2-((2*R*,3*R*,4*R*)-4-(4-chlorophenyl)-9-methyl-2-phenyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-carbazol-3-yl)-2-oxoacetate (3h)



Yield: 84%, pale yellow solid. HPLC: Chiralpak AD-H (hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95/5, flow rate 0.5 mL/min, $\lambda = 220$ nm), t_{major} = 28.32 min, t_{minor} = 31.49 min, 56% ee. $[a]_D^{25}$ = -41.7 (c = 0.70, CH₂Cl₂). mp 170-176 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.31 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.21 (m, 6H), 7.17 (ddd, J = 9.5, 8.5, 3.8 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (dd, J = 7.7, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (ddd, J = 16.3, 11.7, 4.2 Hz, 2H), 4.58 (d, J = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 4.11 (dd, J = 4.6, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.60 (dd, J = 20.7, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.27 (dd, J = 14.3, 3.7 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 193.05, 161.36, 142.11, 141.04, 137.70, 136.13, 132.46, 130.13, 128.59, 128.00, 127.19, 126.34, 121.18, 119.12, 118.76, 108.79, 107.51, 56.24, 53.02, 38.48, 38.26, 29.36, 25.73. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for C₂₈H₂₅CINO₃ [M+H]⁺: 458.1517, found: 458.1518.

Methyl 2-((2*R*,3*R*,4*S*)-4-(2-bromophenyl)-9-methyl-2-phenyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-carbazol-3-yl)-2-oxoacetate (3i)



Yield: 80%, pale yellow solid. HPLC: Chiralpak AD-H (hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90/10, flow rate 0.8 mL/min, $\lambda = 220$ nm), t_{major} = 15.00 min, t_{minor} = 32.64 min, 71% ee. $[a]_D^{25} = -8.2$ (c = 0.80, CH₂Cl₂). mp 143-147 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) &: 7.71-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.35-7.19 (m, 4H), 7.14 (ddd, J = 16.7, 7.2, 2.6 Hz, 5H), 6.95 (dt, J = 14.5, 7.3 Hz, 3H), 4.97 (s, 1H), 4.13 (s, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.63-3.54 (m, 1H), 3.49 (s, 3H), 3.36 (dd, J = 15.8, 11.4 Hz, 1H), 3.17 (dd, J = 16.0, 5.1 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) &: 195.64, 162.18, 142.31, 140.66, 137.77, 136.43, 133.23, 130.72, 128.58, 128.53, 127.77, 127.42, 127.28, 126.22, 124.53, 121.21, 119.11, 118.69, 108.77, 107.48, 53.64, 52.57, 39.27, 38.47, 29.36, 24.25. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₈H₂₅BrNO₃ [M+H]⁺: 502.1012, found: 502.1013.

Methyl 2-((2*R*,3*R*,4*R*)-9-methyl-2-phenyl-4-(*p*-tolyl)-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-carbazol-3-yl)-2oxoacetate (3j)



Yield: 77%, pale yellow solid. HPLC: Chiralpak AD-H (hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95/5, flow rate 0.5 mL/min, $\lambda = 220$ nm), t_{major} = 21.14 min, t_{minor} = 30.94 min, 59% ee. $[a]_D^{25}$ = -48.3 (c = 0.77, CH₂Cl₂). mp 140-147 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.30 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.25-7.05 (m, 10H), 6.92 (dt, *J* = 14.1, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.60 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 4.18-4.10 (m, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.66-3.57 (m, 2H), 3.28-3.15 (m, 1H), 2.31 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 193.48, 161.51, 141.50, 140.54, 137.68, 136.15, 129.15, 128.84, 128.51, 128.05, 127.01, 126.65, 120.99, 118.95, 118.88, 108.66, 107.92, 56.31, 52.91, 38.76, 38.03, 29.33, 25.56, 21.10. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₉H₂₈NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 438.2064, found: 438.2063.

Methyl 2-((2*R*,3*R*,4*R*)-4-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-9-methyl-2-phenyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-carbazol-3-yl)-2-oxoacetate (3k)



Yield: 68%, pale yellow solid. HPLC: Chiralpak AD-H (hexane/*i*-PrOH = 93/7, flow rate 0.5 mL/min, $\lambda = 210$ nm), t_{major} = 41.16 min, t_{minor} = 23.45 min, 57% ee. $[a]_D^{25}$ = -65.0 (c = 0.65, CH₂Cl₂). mp 167-174 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.64-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.48-7.31 (m, 7H), 7.29-7.20 (m, 2H), 7.16 (dd, *J* = 9.1, 7.4 Hz, 3H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.70 (d, *J* = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 4.28-4.20 (m, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.67 (dd, *J* = 21.0, 7.3 Hz, 2H), 3.30 (dd, *J* = 14.0, 3.6 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 193.32, 161.45, 142.67, 141.35, 140.88, 139.42, 137.69, 136.18, 129.07, 128.72, 128.53, 128.02, 127.11, 127.06, 126.99, 126.58, 121.06, 119.00, 118.87, 108.70, 107.72, 56.18, 52.94, 38.82, 38.13, 29.34, 25.61. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₃₄H₃₀NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 500.2220, found: 500.2220.

Methyl 2-((2*R*,3*R*,4*S*)-4-(2-methoxyphenyl)-9-methyl-2-phenyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-carbazol-3-yl)-2-oxoacetate (31)



Yield: 80%, yellow solid. HPLC: Chiralpak AD-H (hexane/i-PrOH = 95/5, flow rate 0.6 mL/min,

 $\lambda = 220 \text{ nm}$), $t_{\text{major}} = 18.46 \text{ min}$, $t_{\text{minor}} = 21.14 \text{ min}$, 87% ee. $[a]_D^{25} = +6.7$ (c = 0.72, CH₂Cl₂). mp 167-171 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.31 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.11 (m, 6H), 7.04 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.98-6.90 (m, 2H), 6.82 (dd, J = 7.5, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (td, J = 7.4, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 4.92 (s, 1H), 4.12 (dd, J = 3.3, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 3.57-3.43 (m, 2H), 3.11 (dd, J = 15.2, 4.5 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 196.05, 162.80, 156.68, 141.75, 137.74, 137.00, 131.37, 129.93, 128.46, 127.92, 127.82, 126.89, 126.66, 120.91, 120.25, 118.82, 118.69, 110.30, 108.63, 106.93, 55.31, 52.86, 52.44, 38.30, 33.72, 29.30, 24.80. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₉H₂₈NO₄ [M+H]⁺: 454.2013, found: 454.2010.

Methyl 2-((2*R*,3*R*,4*R*)-4-(3-methoxyphenyl)-9-methyl-2-phenyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-carbazol-3-yl)-2-oxoacetate (3m)



Yield: 84%, pale yellow solid. HPLC: Chiralpak AD-H (hexane/*i*-PrOH = 98/2, flow rate 0.8 mL/min, $\lambda = 220$ nm), t_{major} = 36.73 min, t_{minor} = 27.95 min, 58% ee. $[a]_D^{25} = -38.3$ (c = 0.78, CH₂Cl₂). mp 80-82 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.30 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (ddd, J = 13.2, 7.9, 4.3 Hz, 4H), 7.12 (dd, J = 8.0, 6.6 Hz, 3H), 7.00-6.86 (m, 4H), 6.77 (dd, J = 7.9, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 4.61 (d, J = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 4.17 (dd, J = 4.8, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.66-3.58 (m, 2H), 3.23 (q, J = 10.4 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 193.35, 161.46, 159.68, 145.37, 141.41, 137.70, 136.14, 129.35, 128.50, 128.03, 127.01, 126.63, 121.11, 121.00, 118.97, 118.80, 114.90, 111.68, 108.64, 107.64, 56.09, 55.17, 52.88, 39.20, 38.09, 29.30, 25.52. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₉H₂₈NO₄ [M+H]⁺: 454.2013, found: 454.2014.

Methyl 2-((2*R*,3*R*,4*R*)-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-9-methyl-2-phenyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-carbazol-3-yl)-2-oxoacetate (3n)

MeO



Yield: 86%, pale yellow solid. HPLC: Chiralpak AD-H (hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90/10, flow rate 0.4mL/min, $\lambda = 220$ nm), t_{major} = 32.85 min, t_{minor} = 26.14 min, 78% ee. $[a]_D^{25} = -56.7$ (c = 0.78, CH₂Cl₂). mp 188-191 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.31 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.08 (m, 8H), 6.97-6.88 (m, 2H), 6.81 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 4.58 (d, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 4.17-4.08 (m, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.64-3.56 (m, 2H), 3.24 (q, J = 9.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 193.47, 161.49, 158.33, 141.46, 137.68, 136.05, 135.62, 129.65, 128.51, 128.04,

127.02, 126.61, 121.00, 118.95, 118.91, 113.81, 108.66, 108.14, 56.46, 55.21, 52.90, 38.32, 38.10, 29.32, 25.64. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₉H₂₈NO₄ [M+H]⁺: 454.2013, found: 454.2015.

Methyl 2-((2*R*,3*R*,4*S*)-4-(2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-9-methyl-2-phenyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-carbazol-3-yl)-2-oxoacetate (30)



Yield: 84%, yellow solid. HPLC: Chiralpak AD-H (hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95/5, flow rate 0.5 mL/min, $\lambda = 220$ nm), t_{major} = 20.40 min, t_{minor} = 15.60 min, 91% ee. $[a]_D^{25} = +1.2$ (c = 0.82, CH₂Cl₂). mp 197-203 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.32-7.23 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.10 (m, 5H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.96-6.89 (m, 1H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 6.44 (d, *J* = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 4.89 (s, 1H), 4.17-4.05 (m, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 3.53 (d, *J* = 11.1 Hz, 2H), 3.10 (q, *J* = 11.2 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 195.88, 162.75, 153.27, 151.09, 141.69, 137.77, 136.87, 133.02, 128.45, 127.81, 126.87, 126.62, 120.86, 118.81, 118.61, 117.63, 110.90, 110.77, 108.59, 106.70, 55.80, 55.55, 52.78, 52.43, 38.17, 33.81, 29.27, 24.80. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₃₀H₃₀NO₅ [M+H]⁺: 484.2118, found: 484.2115.

Methyl 2-((2*R*,3*R*,4*S*)-4-(furan-2-yl)-9-methyl-2-phenyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-carbazol-3-yl) -2-oxoacetate (3p)



Yield: 86%, pale yellow solid. HPLC: Chiralpak AD-H (hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90/10, flow rate 0.6 mL/min, $\lambda = 220$ nm), t_{major} = 15.03 min, t_{minor} = 13.58 min, 42% ee. $[a]_D^{25} = -0.4$ (c = 0.71, CH₂Cl₂). mp 140-146 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.39 (dd, J = 1.8, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.34-7.10 (m, 8H), 7.06-6.96 (m, 1H), 6.27 (dd, J = 3.1, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 6.07-5.96 (m, 1H), 4.69 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 4.45-4.35 (m, 1H), 3.78-3.72 (m, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.57-3.47 (m, 1H), 3.20 (dd, J = 16.3, 5.9 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 193.62, 161.46, 155.63, 141.84, 141.08, 137.47, 135.62, 128.58, 127.97, 127.18, 126.46, 121.11, 119.18, 118.46, 110.24, 108.79, 108.14, 106.27, 52.89, 52.35, 38.83, 33.48, 29.29, 25.29. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₆H₂₄NO₄ [M+H]⁺: 414.1700, found: 414.1704.

Methyl 2-((2*R*,3*R*,4*R*)-2-(4-bromophenyl)-9-methyl-4-phenyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-carbazol-3-yl)-2-oxoacetate (3q)



Yield: 82%, pale yellow solid. HPLC: Chiralpak AD-H (hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95/5, flow rate 0.5 mL/min, $\lambda = 220$ nm), t_{major} = 18.48 min, t_{minor} = 34.28 min, 59% ee. $[a]_D^{25} = -56.7$ (c = 0.82, CH₂Cl₂). mp 171-177 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.41-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.22 (m, 6H), 7.18 (ddd, J = 8.2, 4.6, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (d, J = 4.2 Hz, 2H), 4.65 (d, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (dd, J = 4.2, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.67-3.57 (m, 2H), 3.26 (dd, J = 19.3, 9.4 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 193.11, 161.36, 143.32, 140.42, 137.70, 135.72, 131.59, 129.83, 128.62, 128.49, 126.79, 126.47, 121.16, 120.94, 119.06, 118.85, 108.72, 107.71, 56.15, 53.02, 39.03, 37.60, 29.36, 25.54. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₈H₂₅BrNO₃ [M+H]⁺: 502.1012, found: 502.1015.

Methyl 2-((2*R*,3*R*,4*S*)-2-(4-bromophenyl)-4-(2-fluorophenyl)-9-methyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-carbazol-3-yl)-2-oxoacetate (3r)



Yield: 79%, pale yellow solid. HPLC: Chiralpak AD-H (hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95/5, flow rate 0.6 mL/min, $\lambda = 220$ nm), t_{major} = 20.00 min, t_{minor} = 24.34 min, 56% ee. $[a]_D^{25} = -28.8$ (c = 0.82, CH₂Cl₂). mp 203-208 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) & 7.36 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.19 (m, 1H), 7.15 (ddd, J = 8.2, 5.7, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.13-7.06 (m, 1H), 7.02-6.89 (m, 6H), 4.86 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (t, J = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.61 (ddd, J = 9.0, 5.7, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 3.56-3.44 (m, 1H), 3.24 (dd, J = 16.2, 5.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) &: 193.90, 161.75, 160.69 (${}^{1}J_{CF} = 247.4$ Hz), 140.04, 137.69, 135.80, 131.64, 130.97, 130.93, 129.83 (d, ${}^{2}J_{CF} = 13.3$ Hz), 129.67, 128.72, 128.64, 126.14, 124.04, 124.01, 121.24, 121.04, 119.15, 118.43, 115.63 (d, ${}^{2}J_{CF} = 20.47$ Hz), 108.79, 106.79, 53.67, 52.88, 37.97, 32.96, 29.35, 25.40. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₈H₂₄BrFNO₃ [M+H]⁺: 520.0918, found: 520.0920.

Methyl 2-((2*R*,3*R*,4*S*)-2-(4-bromophenyl)-4-(2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-9-methyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-carbazol-3-yl)-2-oxoacetate (3s)



Yield: 82%, yellow solid. HPLC: Chiralpak AD-H (hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90/10, flow rate 0.6 mL/min, $\lambda = 220$ nm), t_{major} = 18.82 min, t_{minor} = 15.42 min, 68% ee. $[a]_D^{25} = +11.0$ (c = 0.92, CH₂Cl₂). mp 185-187 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.41-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.29 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.18-7.10 (m, 1H), 7.05 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 3H), 6.97-6.90 (m, 1H), 6.87 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (dd, J = 8.8, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 6.41 (d, J = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 4.88 (s, 1H), 4.06 (dd, J = 3.1, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 3.56-3.38 (m, 2H), 3.08 (dd, J = 15.3, 4.9 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 195.53, 162.77, 153.27, 151.04, 140.82, 137.76, 136.49, 132.73, 131.51, 129.66, 126.51, 121.00, 120.72, 118.90, 118.58, 117.64, 110.95, 110.81, 108.64, 106.59, 55.80, 55.53, 52.66, 52.56, 37.64, 33.75, 29.29, 24.83. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₃₀H₂₉BrNO₅ [M+H]⁺: 562.1224, found: 562.1225.

Methyl 2-((2*R*,3*R*,4*S*)-2-(4-bromophenyl)-4-(2-methoxyphenyl)-9-methyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-carbazol-3-yl)-2-oxoacetate (3t)



Yield: 69%, pale yellow solid. HPLC: Chiralpak AD-H (hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95/5, flow rate 0.6 mL/min, $\lambda = 220$ nm), t_{major} = 16.46 min, t_{minor} = 30.33 min, 90% ee. $[a]_D^{25} = -5.2$ (c = 0.73, CH₂Cl₂). mp 171-178 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) &: 7.39 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (dd, J = 7.7, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.21-7.14 (m, 1H), 7.07 (dd, J = 7.6, 5.5 Hz, 3H), 7.00-6.91 (m, 2H), 6.82 (dd, J = 7.5, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (td, J = 7.4, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 4.94 (s, 1H), 4.08 (dt, J = 22.1, 11.1 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.62-3.51 (m, 1H), 3.49-3.38 (m, 1H), 3.12 (dd, J = 15.8, 5.4 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) &: 195.67, 162.79, 156.62, 140.88, 137.72, 136.61, 131.51, 131.07, 129.90, 129.66, 128.03, 126.54, 121.03, 120.72, 120.28, 118.90, 118.65, 110.32, 108.65, 106.79, 55.30, 52.70, 52.57, 37.75, 33.65, 29.32, 24.83. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₉H₂₇BrNO₄ [M+H]⁺: 532.1118, found: 532.1118.

Methyl 2-((2*R*,3*R*,4*R*)-9-methyl-4-phenyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-carbazol-3-yl)-2oxoacetate (3u)



Yield: 73%, pale yellow solid. HPLC: Chiralpak AD-H (hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95/5, flow rate 0.5 mL/min, $\lambda = 220$ nm), t_{major} = 18.82 min, t_{minor} = 28.65 min, 56% ee. $[a]_D^{25} = -59.1$ (c = 0.64, CH₂Cl₂). mp 176-180 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.33-7.18 (m, 6H), 7.14 (dt, J = 8.2, 4.1

Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.98 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.90 (d, J = 3.9 Hz, 2H), 4.61 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 4.15 (dd, J = 4.4, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.66-3.51 (m, 2H), 3.24 (dd, J = 15.2, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 2.28 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 193.39, 161.46, 143.59, 138.31, 137.66, 136.63, 136.18, 129.19, 128.72, 128.40, 127.88, 126.63, 126.59, 120.96, 118.93, 118.86, 108.64, 107.92, 56.29, 52.89, 39.03, 37.81, 29.31, 25.87, 20.98. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₉H₂₈NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 438.2064, found: 438.2063.

Methyl 2-((2*R*,3*R*,4*S*)-4-(2-methoxyphenyl)-9-methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-carbazol-3-yl)-2-oxoacetate (3v)



Yield: 91%, pale yellow solid. HPLC: Chiralpak AD-H (hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95/5, flow rate 0.6 mL/min, $\lambda = 220$ nm), t_{major} = 15.60 min, t_{minor} = 25.67 min, 50% ee. $[a]_D^{25} = -2.2$ (c = 0.85, CH₂Cl₂). mp 174-178 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) &: 7.30 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.22-7.18 (m, 1H), 7.13 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.09-7.00 (m, 5H), 6.97-6.88 (m, 2H), 6.82 (dd, J = 7.5, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.91 (s, 1H), 4.10 (dt, J = 15.0, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 3.58-3.36 (m, 2H), 3.09 (dd, J = 15.3, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 2.28 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) &: 196.11, 162.78, 156.68, 138.70, 137.70, 137.09, 136.42, 131.40, 129.94, 129.11, 127.86, 127.68, 126.67, 120.85, 120.23, 118.78, 118.68, 110.26, 108.59, 106.92, 55.28, 52.88, 52.42, 37.94, 33.69, 29.28, 24.98, 20.97. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₃₀H₃₀NO₄ [M+H]⁺: 468.2169, found: 468.2167.

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8. HPLC spectra



Racemic product







Racemic product











Racemic product













峰	保留时间	类型	峰宽	峰面积	峰高	峰面积
#	[min]		[min]	[mAU*s]	[mAU]	8
1	23.378	BB	0.5009	4.69144e4	1429.38599	64.6014
2	27.662	BV	0.5466	1.51933e4	425.45050	20.9213
3	29.478	VB	0.6053	8845.65430	222.75992	12.1805
4	33.947	BB	0.6596	1667.93079	38.33458	2.2967













				1	I I	
1	13.050	BB	0.3043	5190.01270	260.61285	83.7142
2	33.678	BB	0.8117	1009.66650	19.00725	16.2858









Racemic product

































































1	15.423	BB	0.3402	1692.60779	75.88108	16.13
2	16.821	BB	0.3949	8800.48535	336.76230	83.86



Racemic product





			1 Contract			
1	17.464	BB	0.4437	6214.64893	213.46040	95.1995
2	40.751	BB	0.7414	313.37692	5.02625	4.8005













9. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra











































