# Synthesis of DIBAC analogues with excellent SPAAC rate constants

Marjoke F. Debets, Jasper S. Prins, Donny Merkx, Sander S. van Berkel, Floris L. van Delft, Jan C. M. van Hest, and Floris P. J. T. Rutjes\*

Supporting Information Experimental Section

# General experimental

Unless stated otherwise all chemicals were obtained from commercial sources and used without further purification. The 1M KO'Bu in THF solution was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and not prepared by solubilizing solid KO'Bu in dry THF. If no further details are given the reaction was performed under ambient atmosphere and temperature. Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on silica gel-coated plates (*Merck* 60 F254) with the indicated solvent mixture, visualization was done using ultraviolet (UV) irradiation ( $\lambda = 254$  nm) and/or staining with KMnO<sub>4</sub>. Purification by column chromatography was carried out using *Silicycle* silica gel (0.040-0.063 mm, and ca. 6 nm pore diameter). THF and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> were dried over an activated alumina column using an MBraun SPS800 solvent purification system. NEt<sub>3</sub> was distilled under N<sub>2</sub>-atmosphere from CaH<sub>2</sub>.

**Infrared (IR) Spectroscopy**: IR spectra were recorded on an ATI Matson Genesis Series FTIR spectrometer fitted with an ATR cell. The vibrations (v) are given in cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Spectroscopy**: <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra were recorded on a *Varian Inova 400* (400 MHz) for room temperature measurements and a *Varian Inova 500* (500 MHz) for low temperature measurements. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectra were recorded on a *Bruker DMX300* (75 MHz) spectrometer. Unless stated otherwise all spectra were taken at ambient temperature. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are reported in parts per million (ppm) relative to a residual proton peak of the solvent,  $\delta$  = 3.31 for CD<sub>3</sub>OD and  $\delta$  = 7.26 for CDCl<sub>3</sub>. Broad peaks are indicated by the addition of br. Coupling constants are reported as a *J*-value in Hertz (Hz). In case of rotamers the spectrum was taken at lower temperature to freeze the compound in its two rotamer states, causing separate peaks for each rotamer. In these cases shifts, coupling constants and integrals are given of each separate peak. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are reported in ppm relative to CD<sub>3</sub>OD ( $\delta$  = 49.0) or CDCl<sub>3</sub> ( $\delta$  = 77.0). If rotamers are observed in the spectrum, the minor rotamer peaks are labeled with \*.

**Mass Spectrometry (MS)**: High Resolution Mass Analyses were performed using Electrospray Ionization on a JEOL AccuToF.

# Synthesis

# (4-chloro-2-iodophenyl)methanol (6a)



2-amino-4-chlorobenzoic acid (10.0 g, 58.2 mmol) was dissolved in DMSO (100 mL), and 30% H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> was added (100 mL). The solution was cooled to 0 °C, whereupon NaNO<sub>2</sub> (8.8 g, 129 mmol) was added. The reaction was stirred for two hours at room temperature, after which a colution of KL (10.2 g, 106 mmol) in H O (50 mL) was added. After one

solution of KI (19.3 g, 106 mmol) in H<sub>2</sub>O (50 mL) was added. After one hour, an additional portion of KI (9.7 g, 58.2 mmol) in H<sub>2</sub>O (25 mL) was added. In addition, DMSO (50 mL) was added to keep the reaction mixture solubilized. After one additional hour, EtOAc (300 mL) was added, and the organic layer was washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (3 × 200 mL) and brine (200 mL), and subsequently dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvents were removed in vacuo to obtain crude **9a** as white solid. **9a** was not further purified and used as a crude in the following reaction. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ : 8.01 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.1 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C-

NMR (75 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ : 168.9, 141.7, 138.6, 136.0, 132.7, 129.3, 95.0. HRMS (EI+) m/z calcd for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>CII [M]<sup>+</sup> 281.8945, found 281.8936.

4-chloro-2-iodobenzoic acid **9a** (15 g, 53 mmol) was dissolved in dry THF (250 mL) and the solution was cooled to 0 °C. Hereupon, NEt<sub>3</sub> (11 mL, 80 mmol) and ethyl chloroformate (7.6 mL, 80 mmol) were added. The reaction was stirred for 1.5 hour and subsequently NaBH<sub>4</sub> (8.0 g, 210 mmol) was added in four portions. After 1.5 hour, additional NaBH<sub>4</sub> (4.0 g, 105 mmol) was added and the reaction was stirred for another hour. Hereupon, the reaction was quenched with H<sub>2</sub>O (100 mL) and EtOAc (200 mL) was added. The organic layer was washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (3 × 150 mL), brine (100 mL) and subsequently dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvents were removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was obtained by gradient column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:9 to 1:6). Compound **6a** was obtained as white solid (8.4 g, 75% over 2 steps). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.45–7.33 (m, 2H), 4.65 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 1.94 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 141.1, 138.3, 133.8, 128.8, 128.6, 96.9, 68.6. HRMS (EI+) *m*/*z* calcd for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>6</sub>OCII [M]<sup>++</sup> 267.9152, found 267.9160.

# (4-bromo-5-chloro-2-iodophenyl)methanol (6b)



2-amino-4-chlorobenzoic acid (**8a**, 1.1 g, 6.4 mmol) was dissolved in acetic acid (8 mL) and  $Br_2$  (0.33 mL, 6.4 mmol) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 4 hours and subsequently poured into saturated aqueous NaHSO<sub>3</sub> (50 mL). The H<sub>2</sub>O-layer was extracted with EtOAc (2 × 50 mL), and the combined organic layers were washed

with water (2 × 50 mL), brine (50 mL), and subsequently dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvents were evaporated under reduced pressure to obtain **8b** as a mixture of two products. **8b** was not further purified and used as a crude in the following reaction. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ : 8.00 (s, 1H), 6.92 (s, 1H).

Crude 2-amino-5-bromo-4-chlorobenzoic acid **8b** (6.0 g, 24 mmol) was dissolved in DMSO (100 mL) and 30% H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (100 mL) and the resulting mixture was cooled to 0 °C. NaNO<sub>2</sub> (3.6 g, 53 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred for 2 hours at room temperature. Hereupon, a solution of KI (8.0 g, 48 mmol) in H<sub>2</sub>O (40 mL) was added. After one hour an additional portion of KI (4.0 g, 24 mmol) in H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL) was added. After one more hour, EtOAc (200 mL) was added, and the organic layer was washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (2 × 200 mL) and brine (200 mL), and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvents were removed in vacuo to obtain **9b** as a mixture of two products. **S2** was used as a crude in the following reaction. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ : 8.16 (s, 1H), 8.07 (s, 1H).

Crude 5-bromo-4-chloro-2-iodobenzoic acid (**9b**, 11 g, 30 mmol) was dissolved in dry THF (100 mL) and the solution was cooled to 0 °C. Next, NEt<sub>3</sub> (6.2 mL, 44 mmol) and ethyl chloroformate (4.3 mL, 44 mmol) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 hour and subsequently a solution of NaBH<sub>4</sub> (2.24 g, 59 mmol) in H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL) was added. The mixture was stirred another hour, prior to quenching with H<sub>2</sub>O (100 mL). The H<sub>2</sub>O-layer was extracted with EtOAc (2 × 100 mL), and the combined organic layers were washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (2 × 150 mL) and brine (150 mL). The organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and the solvents were removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified using column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:6) to obtain **6b** as a white solid (3.84 g, 38% over 3 steps). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.88 (s, 1H), 7.72 (s, 1H), 4.62 (dd, *J* = 6.0, 0.7 Hz, 2H), 1.96 (t, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 142.8, 139.5, 139.2, 135.7, 132.4, 122.9, 94.3, 68.0, 52.4.

# (5-bromo-2-iodophenyl)methanol (6c)



2-amino-5-bromobenzoic acid (2.0 g, 9.2 mmol) was dissolved in DMSO (50 mL) and 30%  $H_2SO_4$  (50 mL) and NaNO<sub>2</sub> (0.89 g, 13 mmol) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 hour at room temperature, whereupon a solution of KI (3.1 g, 19 mmol) in  $H_2O$  (20

mL) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for another hour. Next, another portion of KI (3.1 g, 19 mmol) in H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for an additional hour. The reaction mixture was quenched with a saturated aqueous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>-solution (75 mL), EtOAc (100 mL) was added and the layers were separated. Hereupon, the H<sub>2</sub>O-layer was extracted with EtOAc (100 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (2 × 100 mL) and brine (100 mL). The organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford compound **9c** as a yellow solid. **S3** was not further purified further and used as a crude in the following reaction.  $R_F = 0.05$  (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:4). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 8.13 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H).

5-bromo-2-iodobenzoic acid (**9c**) (750 mg, 2.3 mmol) was dissolved in dry THF (25 mL) and the reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C. NEt<sub>3</sub> (0.48 mL, 3.4 mmol) and ethyl chloroformate (0.33 mL, 3.4 mmol) were added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 1 hour. Next a solution of NaBH<sub>4</sub> (130 mg, 3.4 mmol) in H<sub>2</sub>O (2 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred for 1.5 hour. The reaction was quenched with H<sub>2</sub>O (15 mL), whereupon CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 mL) was added and the layers were separated. Hereupon, the H<sub>2</sub>O-layer was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 mL). Subsequently, the combined organic layers were washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (25 mL) and brine (25 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by gradient column chromatography (*n*-heptane/EtOAc, 19:1 to 9:1) to obtain compound **6c** as a white solid (410 mg, 54% over 2 steps). Analysis was in accordance with literature.<sup>1</sup> *R*<sub>F</sub> = 0.40 (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:4). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.65 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 4.64 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 1.96 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 1H).

# (2-iodo-5-nitrophenyl)methanol (6d)



2-amino-5-nitrobenzoic acid (1.82 g, 10 mmol) was dissolved in DMSO (50 mL) and 30%  $H_2SO_4$  (50 mL) was added. The resulting mixture was heated for two hours at 50 °C. The reaction was cooled to 0 °C and a solution of NaNO<sub>2</sub> (970 mg, 14 mmol) in water (25 mL) was added. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for one hour, whereupon a solution of KI (5.0

g, 30 mmol) in H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred for 1 hour at room temperature. Next, another portion of KI (5 g, 30 mmol) in H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred for an additional hour. EtOAc (100 mL) was added and the reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous NaHSO<sub>3</sub> (100 mL). The organic layer was washed with water (2 × 100 mL) and brine (100 mL) and subsequently dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvents were evaporated under reduced pressure and the crude product was obtained as yellow solid (12.0 g, 120%). **9d** was not further purified and used as a crude in the following reaction. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ : 8.54 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 8.29 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 2.7 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ : 168.0, 149.2, 144.1, 139.2, 127.1, 125.8, 103.0, 49.6, 49.3, 49.1, 48.8, 48.5. FT-IR v<sub>max</sub> (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2932, 1722, 1588, 151, 1342, 1295, 1022, 1234, 728. HRMS (EI+) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>I [M]<sup>\*+</sup> 292.9185, found 292.9184.

2-iodo-5-nitrobenzoic acid (**9d**) (3.0 g, 10.2 mmol) was dissolved in dry THF (100 mL) and the reaction was cooled to 0 °C. NEt<sub>3</sub> (2.1 mL, 15.4 mmol) and ethyl chloroformate

(1.5 mL, 15.4 mmol) were added and the reaction was stirred for 1 hour. Next, a solution of NaBH<sub>4</sub> (0.78 g, 20.5 mmol) in H<sub>2</sub>O (5 mL) was added and the reaction was stirred for 1.5 hour. Hereupon, an additional portion of NaBH<sub>4</sub> (0.78 g, 20.5 mmol) in H<sub>2</sub>O (5 mL) was added and the reaction was stirred for an additional 30 minutes. The reaction was then quenched by the addition of H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL). The reaction was diluted with EtOAc (150 mL) and the organic layer was washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (2 × 100 mL) and brine (100 mL) and subsequently dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvents were removed *in vacuo* and the crude product was purified by gradient column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:9 to 1:3). Compound **6d** was obtained as an orange solid (1.32 g, 55% over 2 steps). Analysis was in accordance with literature.<sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 8.36 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 4.75 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 2H), 2.10 (t, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H). HRMS (EI+) *m*/*z* calcd for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>6</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>I [M]<sup>++</sup> 278.9393, found 278.9396.

# (2-iodo-4-methoxyphenyl)methanol (6e)

2-amino-4-methoxybenzoic acid (2.0 g, 12 mmol) was dissolved in MeO. DMSO (75 mL) whereupon 30% H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (75 mL) and NaNO<sub>2</sub> (1.156 g, ΟН 16.75 mmol) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 hour at room temperature, before addition of KI (4.0 g, 24 mmol) in H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL) and the reaction mixture was stirred for another hour. Next, another portion of KI (4.0 g, 24 mmol) in  $H_2O$  (10 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for an additional hour. The reaction mixture was guenched with a saturated agueous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>-solution (50 mL), EtOAc (100 mL) was added, and the layers were separated. Hereupon, the  $H_2O$ layer was extracted with EtOAc (100 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with  $H_2O$  (2 × 100 mL) and brine (100 mL). Next, the organic layers were dried over MqSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford compound **9e** as an orange solid. **9e** was not further purified and used as a crude in the following reaction.  $R_F = 0.20$  (EtOAc/nheptane, 1:1). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 8.02 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, J = 2.5 Hz. 1H), 6.94 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H).

2-iodo-4-methoxybenzoic acid (9e) (3.7 g, 13.4 mmol) was dissolved in dry THF (75 mL) and the reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C. NEt<sub>3</sub> (2.8 mL, 20 mmol) and ethyl chloroformate (1.9 mL, 20 mmol) were added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 1 hour. Next, NaBH<sub>4</sub> (760 mg, 20 mmol) in H<sub>2</sub>O (0.1 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred for 1.5 hour. The reaction was guenched with H<sub>2</sub>O (50 mL). CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (50 mL) was added, the layers were separated and hereupon the water layer was extracted with  $CH_2CI_2$  (50 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with  $H_2O$  (50 mL) and brine (50 mL). Next, the organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (EtOAc/n-heptane, 1:9) to obtain compound **6e** as colorless oil (2.3 g, 54% over 2 steps).  $R_F = 0.40$  (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:2). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.38 (d, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (dd, J = 8.5, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 4.64 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 1.91 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 159.4, 135.0, 129.4, 124.6, 114.2, 98.1, 68.8, 55.3. FT-IR v<sub>max</sub> film (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3395, 2833, 2362, 2336, 1700, 1593, 1554, 1480, 1282, 1234, 1022, 914, 845, 811, 746, 616. HRMS (EI+) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>9</sub>O<sub>2</sub>I [M]<sup>++</sup> 263.9648, found 263.9650.

# (2-((2-aminophenyl)ethynyl)-5-chlorophenyl)methanol (10a)



Compound **6a** (8.5 g, 29.9 mmol),  $Pd(PPh_3)_2Cl_2$  (430 mg, 0.60 mmol), and Cul (57 mg, 0.30 mmol) were added to a flame-dried flask. The flask was evacuated and refilled with an  $N_2/H_2$ -mixture

(3:2) three times. THF (150 mL) and NEt<sub>3</sub> (12.4 mL, 89 mmol) were bubbled through with an N<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>-mixture (3/2) for 10 minutes and subsequently added to the reaction mixture. Hereupon, 2-ethynylaniline (3.75 mL, 33 mmol) was added, and the mixture was stirred overnight under N<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>-atmosphere.The reaction mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (250 mL) and the organic layer was washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (3 × 250 mL). The H<sub>2</sub>O-layers were combined and back-extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (150 mL). The organic layers were combined and washed with brine (150 mL). The solvents were removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by gradient column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:4 to 1:1) to obtain **10a** as a yellow solid (7.3 g, 95%). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.52 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.19-7.14 (m, 1H), 6.74-6.70 (m, 2H), 4.83 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 4.41 (br s, 2H), 2.06 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 148.34, 140.24, 133.36, 132.08, 131.58, 130.35, 128.92, 128.47, 123.70, 117.92, 114.53, 107.03, 92.26, 90.84, 63.69. HRMS (ESI+) *m*/z calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>CINO [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 258.0686, found 258.0677.

# (2-((2-aminophenyl)ethynyl)-5-bromo-4-chlorophenyl)methanol (10b)



Compound **6b** (3 g, 8.6 mmol), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.121 g, 0.17 mmol) and Cul (0.016 g, 0.086 mmol) were added to a flame-dried Schlenk flask. The flask was subsequently evacuated and refilled with an N<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>-mixture (3:2) three times. At the same time, dry THF (150 mL) and dry NEt<sub>3</sub> (3.6 mL, 25.9 mmol) were bubbled with a N<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>-mixture for 10 minutes. The bubbled solutions were subsequently added to the Schlenk flask. Next, 2-ethynylaniline

(1.08 mL, 9.5 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred for 4 hours under N<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>atmosphere. Hereupon, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (150 mL) was added and the organic layer was washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (3 × 100 mL). The H<sub>2</sub>O-layers were combined and back-extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (150 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvents were removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by gradient column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:4 to 1:2). Compound **10b** was obtained as a white solid (2.74 g, 94%). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.78-7.69 (m, 1H), 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.33 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 7.4, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.80-6.57 (m, 2H), 4.83 (d, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 2H), 4.37 (br s, 2H), 2.01 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ : 150.7, 144.3, 133.7 (2C), 133.2, 133.0, 131.4, 123.7, 122.9, 118.2, 115.7, 107.8, 94.5, 90.5, 62.7. HRMS (ESI+) *m*/*z* calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>BrCINO [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 335.9791, found 335.9781.

#### (2-((2-aminophenyl)ethynyl-5-bromophenyl)methanol (10c)



(5-bromo-2-iodophenyl)methanol (**6c**) (106 mg, 0.34 mmol), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (7.0 mg, 0.01 mmol) and Cul (1.2 mg, 6.3 µmol) were added to a flame-dried Schlenk flask. The flask was evacuated and refilled with an N<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>-mixture (3:2) three times. Dry THF (3 mL) and dry NEt<sub>3</sub> (71 µL, 0.51 mmol) were bubbled through with an N<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub> mixture (3:2) for 10 minutes and

subsequently added to the mixture. Hereupon, 2-ethynylaniline (0.060 mL, 0.58 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred for 16 hours under an N<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>-atmosphere. The reaction mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5 mL) and the organic layer was washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (5 mL). The water layer was then back-extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 × 5 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (15 mL) and brine (20 mL). Next, the organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was

purified by gradient column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:6 to 1:2) to obtain **10c** as a yellow solid (102 mg, 100%).  $R_F = 0.40$  (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:2). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ : 7.68-7,67 (m, 1H), 7.43-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.28 (ddd, J = 7.7, 1.5, 0.4 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (ddd, J = 7.3, 6.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H) 6.79-6.76 (m, 1H) 6.64 (td, J = 7.7, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 4.80 (d, J = 0.6 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ : 148.6, 144.2, 132.4, 131.0, 129.4, 129.2, 129.1, 121.4, 120.0, 116.5, 113.8, 106.5, 91.6, 89.8, 61.3. FT-IR v<sub>max</sub> film (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3360, 2923, 2850, 2362, 2202, 1610, 1489, 1450, 815, 750. HRMS (ESI+) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>BrNO [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 302.0181, found 302.0169.

#### (2-((2-aminophenyl)ethynyl)-5-nitrophenyl)methanol (10d)



(2-iodo-5-nitrophenyl)methanol (**6d**) (1.32 g, 4.73 mmol), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (66 mg, 0.095 mmol) and Cul (5 mg, 0.047 mmol) were added to a flame-dried flask. The flask was evacuated and refilled with an N<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>-mixture (3/2). Dry THF (70 mL) and dry NEt<sub>3</sub> (2.0 mL, 14 mmol) were bubbled through with an N<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub> mixture (3:2) for 10 minutes and subsequently added to the mixture. Hereupon, 2-ethynylaniline (0.81 mL, 7.1 mmol) was

added, and the mixture was stirred for 3 hours. The reaction mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (100 mL) and washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (3 × 100 mL). The H<sub>2</sub>O-layers were combined and back-extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (100 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvents were removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by gradient column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:4 to 2:1). Compound **10d** was obtained as a red solid (1.13 g, 89 % yield). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 8.38 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.16 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.32 (m, 1H), 7.24-7.16 (m, 1H), 6.87-6.53 (m, 2H), 4.98 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 4.44 (br s, 2H), 2.10 (t, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 177.2, 165.2, 143.4, 132.5, 132.3, 131.1, 128.5, 127.9, 122.6, 122.3, 118.1, 114.7, 96.7, 96.2, 63.4. HRMS (ESI+) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 269.0926, found 269.0916.

#### (2-((2-aminophenyl)ethynyl)-4-methoxyphenyl)methanol (10e)



Compound **6e** (100 mg, 0.40 mmol),  $Pd(PPh_3)_2Cl_2$  (5.3 mg, 7.6 µmol) and Cul (0,7 mg, 4 µmol) were added to a flame-dried Schlenk flask. The flask was evacuated and refilled with an N<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub> mixture (3:2) three times. Dry THF (7 mL) and dry NEt<sub>3</sub> (84 µL, 0.61 mmol) were bubbled through with an N<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub> mixture (3:2) for 10 minutes and subsequently added to the mixture.

Hereupon 2-ethynylaniline (47 µL, 0.42 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred for 3 hours under an N<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>-atmosphere. The reaction mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) and washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (5 mL). The H<sub>2</sub>O-layer was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL) and brine (15 mL). Next, the organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by gradient column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:4 to 1:2) to obtain compound **10e** as a yellow solid (92 mg, 91%).  $R_F$  = 0.20 (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:2). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.36 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.9 Hz), 6.74 (s, 1H), 6.72 (s, 1H), 4.81 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 4.47 (s br., 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 1.86 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 159.0, 148.4, 134.4, 132.0, 130.1, 129.6, 123.6, 117.8, 116.8, 114.6, 114.4, 107.4, 92.2, 90.8, 64.1, 55.5. FT-IR v<sub>max</sub> film (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3339, 2924, 2837, 2202, 1601, 1576, 1489, 1450, 1303, 1225, 1087, 1040, 910, 745, 733. HRMS (ESI+) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 254.1181, found 254.1183.

# *tert*-butyl (2-((5-chloro-2-(hydroxymethyl)phenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)carbamate (11a)



Compound **10a** (7.3 g, 28.4 mmol) was dissolved in THF (34 mL) and Boc<sub>2</sub>O (7.4 g, 33.9 mmol) was added. The mixture was heated to 70 °C and stirred for three days. The mixture was diluted with EtOAc (300 mL) and the organic layer was washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (3 × 200 mL), and brine (200 mL) and subsequently dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvents were removed under reduced pressure and the thus obtained crude product was purified by

gradient column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:7 to 1:4) yielding **11a** as a white solid (8.24 g, 81%). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 8.13 (br d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (s, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.31 (m, 3H), 7.01 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.88 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 2H), 2.38 (br s, 1H), 1.57 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 152.6, 140.2, 139.8, 133.6, 131.8, 131.5, 130.2, 129.5, 128.8, 123.6, 122.3, 118.1, 111.0, 92.6, 90.5, 81.3, 63.7, 28.3 (3C). HRMS (ESI+) *m/z* calcd [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>20</sub>CINNaO<sub>3</sub> 380.1029, found 380.1019.

# *tert*-butyl (2-((4-bromo-5-chloro-2-(hydroxymethyl)phenyl)ethynyl)phenyl) carbamate (11b)



Compound **10b** (1.8 g, 5.35 mmol) was dissolved in THF (5.4 mL) and Boc<sub>2</sub>O (1.17 g, 5.35 mmol) was added. The mixture was heated to 70 °C and stirred overnight. The reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc (100 mL) and the organic layer was washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (3 × 100 mL), and brine (100 mL), and was subsequently dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvents were removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by

gradient column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:8 to 1:2). Compound **11b** was obtained as a white solid (1.34 g, 57%), also starting material **10b** was re-obtained (540 mg, 30%). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 8.12 (d, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (br s, 1H), 7.72 (s, 1H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.44 (ddd, *J* = 7.7, 1.6, 0.5 Hz, 1H), 7.40 – 7.31 (m, 1H), 7.02 (dt, *J* = 7.6, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 4.85 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (br s, 1H), 1.57 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCI)  $\delta$ : 151.7, 141.2, 140.2, 133.8, 133.2, 133.1, 131.5, 130.4, 122.9, 122.3, 118.2, 118.0, 110.7, 91.8, 91.3, 81.4, 63.1, 28.3 (3C). HRMS (ESI+) *m/z* calcd [M+H]<sup>+</sup> for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>20</sub>BrCINO<sub>3</sub> 436.0301, found 436.0315.

#### tert-butyl 2-((4-bromo-2-hydroxymethyl)phenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)carbamate (11c)



Compound **10c** (381 mg, 1.26 mmol) was dissolved in THF (1.2 mL) and Boc<sub>2</sub>O (275 mg, 1.26 mmol) was added. The reaction was stirred for two days at 70 °C in a sealed tube. The reaction mixture was diluted with  $CH_2CI_2$  (10 mL) and the organic layer was washed with  $H_2O$  (15 mL). The  $H_2O$ -layer was extracted with  $CH_2CI_2$  (10 mL). The combined organic layers were

washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (2 × 10 mL) and brine (10 mL). Next, the organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:4) to obtain compound **11c** as yellow oil (444 mg, 87%).  $R_F$  = 0.55 (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:2). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ : 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (m, 1H), 7.50-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.46-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.32 (m, 1H), 7.08 (td, *J* = 8.7, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 4.85 (s, 2H), 1.54 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ : 154.9, 146.8, 140.8, 134.4, 132.9, 131.3, 131.0, 130.7, 124.4, 124.1, 121.7, 121.0, 115.0, 92.9, 91.9, 81.8, 63.2, 28.7 (3C). FT-IR v<sub>max</sub> film (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3395, 2976, 2928, 2366, 1735, 1519,

1498, 1455, 1394, 1243, 1161, 1044, 746. HRMS (ESI+) m/z calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>20</sub>BrNNaO<sub>3</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 424.0524, found 424.0513.

# *tert*-butyl (2-((2-(hydroxymethyl)-4-nitrophenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)carbamate (11d)



Compound **10d** (100 mg, 0.37 mmol) was dissolved in THF (370  $\mu$ L) and Boc<sub>2</sub>O (81 mg, 0.37 mmol) was added. The reaction was stirred in a sealed tube at 70 °C overnight. The reaction mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) and the organic layer was washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (3 × 10 mL) and brine (10 mL) and subsequently dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvents were removed *in vacuo* and the crude product was purified by

gradient column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:6 to 1:4). Compound **11d** was obtained as red solid (70 mg, 51%). In addition **10d** was reobtained (40 mg, 40%). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 8.36 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.20 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 8.15 (br s, 1H), 7.80 (s, 1H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.00 (d, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 2H), 2.59 (br s, 1H), 1.58 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 152.5, 147.1, 142.9, 140.5, 132.7, 131.8, 130.9, 123.1, 122.9, 122.4, 118.3, 114.6, 110.4, 94.6, 92.3, 81.6, 63.5, 28.3 (3C). HRMS (ESI+) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>NaO<sub>5</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 391.1270, found 391.1265.

#### *tert*-butyl 2-((2-(hydroxymethyl)-5-methoxyphenyl)ethynyl)phenylcarbamate (11e)



Compound **10e** (1.75 g, 6.9 mmol) was dissolved in THF (5 mL) and Boc<sub>2</sub>O (1.5 g, 6.9 mmol) was added. The reaction was stirred for two days at 70 °C in a sealed tube. The reaction mixture was diluted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (30 mL) and washed with  $H_2O$  (15 mL). The  $H_2O$ -layer was extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (15 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with  $H_2O$ 

 $(2 \times 15 \text{ mL})$  and brine (20 mL). Next, the organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:9) to obtain compound **11e** as orange oil (1.94 g, 80%).  $R_F = 0.50$  (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:2). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 8.15 (br s, 1H), 7.94 (br s, 1H), 7.46 (dd, J = 7.7, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.11 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (td, J = 7.6, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 4.85 (d, J = 4.3 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 1.56 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 159.1, 152.6, 140.2, 133.9, 131.4, 130.0, 129.8, 123.3, 122.2, 118.1, 117.0, 115.0, 111.3, 93.9, 89.1, 81.1, 63.9, 55.5, 28.3 (3C). Ft-IR v<sub>max</sub> film (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3404, 2980, 2933, 2353, 1727, 1601, 1588, 1519, 1450, 1368, 1303, 1230, 1152, 1053, 1022, 754. HRMS (ESI+) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>24</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 354.1705, found 354.1715.

#### (Z)-*tert*-butyl (2-(5-chloro-2-(hydroxymethyl)styryl)phenyl)carbamate (5a)



NHBoc Compound **11a** (8.24 g, 23.1 mmol) was dissolved in methanol (100 mL). After addition of quinoline (273 µl, 2.31 mmol) and 10% Pd/BaSO<sub>4</sub> (492 mg, 0.231 mmol), the reaction was stirred under H<sub>2</sub>-atmosphere for 2 hours. The reaction mixture was then filtered over celite and diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (150 mL). The

organic layer was washed with 2M aqueous HCl (2 × 100 mL), H<sub>2</sub>O (100 mL), and brine (100 mL). The organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure to obtain compound **5a** (7.91 g, 95%). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.26-7.18 (m, 2H), 7.14 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (s, 1H), 6.99 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (s, 1H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 6.62 (br s,

1H), 4.67 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 1.43 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 150.3, 137.2, 137.0, 134.9, 133.3, 130.0, 129.8, 129.5, 129.3, 128.8, 128.4, 127.8 (2C), 125.8, 123.1, 120.4, 81.0, 63.2, 28.2. HRMS (ESI+) m/z calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>23</sub>CINO<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 360.1367, found 360.1387.

# (Z)-tert-butyl (2-(4-bromo-5-chloro-2-(hydroxymethyl)styryl)phenyl)carbamate (5b)



NHBoc Compound **11b** (470 mg, 1.1 mmol) was dissolved in methanol (20 mL) and 10% Pd/BaSO<sub>4</sub> (15 mg, 14  $\mu$ mol) and quinoline (13  $\mu$ l, 0.11 mmol) were added. The reaction was stirred under H<sub>2</sub>-atmosphere for two hours. Additional 10% Pd/BaSO<sub>4</sub> (15 mg, 14  $\mu$ mol) was added, and after 1 hour again 10%

Pd/BaSO<sub>4</sub> (15 mg, 14 μmol) was added. After 1 additional hour the reaction was completed and filtered over celite. The celite was washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (50 mL), and the thus obtained organic layer was washed with 2M aqueous HCl (2 × 50 mL), H<sub>2</sub>O (50 mL), and brine (50 mL) and subsequently dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvents were removed under reduced pressure to obtain **5b** as a single product (470 mg, 100%). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 8.12 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (br s, 1H), 7.72 (m, 1H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.44 (ddd, *J* = 7.7, 1.6, 0.5 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (dddd, *J* = 7.5, 1.6, 0.5 Hz, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (dt, *J* = 7.5, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 4.85 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 2.45 (br s, 1H), 1.57 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 152.8, 138.7, 135.9, 134.8, 133.3, 130.3, 129.2, 129.0, 128.6, 128.3 (2C), 125.7, 123.4, 121.4, 120.8, 81.2, 62.5, 28.2 (3C). HRMS (ESI+) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>22</sub>BrCINO<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 438.0472, found 438.0495.

#### (Z)-tert-butyl 2-(4-bromo-2-(hydroxymethyl)styryl)phenylcarbamate (5c)



NHBoc Compound **11c** (720 mg, 1.8 mmol) was dissolved in methanol (12 mL) and 10% Pd/BaSO<sub>4</sub> (35 mg, 33  $\mu$ mol) and quinoline (21  $\mu$ L, 0.18 mmol) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred under H<sub>2</sub>-atmosphere for 1.5 hour. Next, the mixture was filtered over celite and the solvents were removed under

reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:9) to obtain compound **5c** as orange oil (650 mg, 90%).  $R_F = 0.40$  (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:2). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.48 (s, 1H), 7.21 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.14-7.12 (m, 2H), 6.99 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, J = 12.1 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (d, J = 11.9 Hz, 1H), 6.62 (s, 1H), 4.70 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 1.43 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 152.6, 140.5, 134.8, 134.3, 131.3, 130.7, 130.5, 130.2, 129.4, 128.3, 128.0, 127.3, 123.0, 121.7, 120.2, 81.2, 63.3, 28.2 (3C). FT-IR v<sub>max</sub> film (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3421, 2976, 2933, 2362, 2327, 1705, 1576, 1519, 1472, 1446, 1398, 1364, 1308, 1230, 1156, 1053, 1022, 767, 763. HRMS (ESI+) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>23</sub>BrNO<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 404.0861, found 404.0865.

#### (Z)-tert-butyl(2-(2-(hydroxymethyl)-4-nitrostyryl)phenyl)carbamate (5d)



NHBoc Compound **11d** (70 mg, 0.19 mmol) was dissolved in methanol (10 mL) and quinoline (11  $\mu$ L, 95  $\mu$ mol) and 10% Pd/BaSO<sub>4</sub> (2.66 mg, 2  $\mu$ mol) were added. The reaction was stirred under H<sub>2</sub>- atmosphere for 3 hours after which the mixture was filtered over celite. The celite was washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 mL) and the

organic layer was washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (2 × 20 mL) and brine (20 mL) and subsequently dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvents were removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:4) to obtain **5d** as red solid (55 mg, 78%). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 8.24 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (dd,

J = 8.5, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (br s, 1H), 7.26-7.18 (m, 1H), 7.10 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H)), 7.06 (s, 1H), 6.98 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 6.56 (s, 1H), 4.79 (s, 2H), 1.40 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 152.6, 147.0, 142.2, 140.3, 135.0, 129.9, 129.7, 129.3 (2C), 128.8, 125.7, 123.4, 123.1, 122.4, 120.8, 81.3, 62.9, 28.13 (3C). HRMS (ESI+) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>NaO<sub>5</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 393.14264, found 393.14315.

#### (Z)-tert-butyl 2-(2-(hydroxymethyl)-5-methoxystyryl)phenylcarbamate (5e)



NHBoc Compound **11e** (1.72 g, 4.87 mmol) was dissolved in methanol (75 mL) and 10% Pd/BaSO<sub>4</sub> (84 mg, 79 µmol) and quinoline (2.88 mL, 24.3 mmol) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred under H<sub>2</sub>-atmosphere for 1.5 hour. Next, the mixture was filtered over celite and washed with 2M aqueous HCI (50

mL), saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub>-solution (50 mL) and brine (50 mL). The organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by gradient column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:9 to 1:4) to obtain compound **5e** as yellow oil (1.66 g, 96%).  $R_{\rm F}$  = 0.15 (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:4). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.85 (br s, 1H), 7.22-7.18 (m, 3H), 7.03-6.98 (m, 2H), 6.74-6.66 (m, 3H), 6.48 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 4.68 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 1.41 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 158.9, 136.7, 135.0, 131.4, 130.9, 130.2, 129.3, 128.0, 126.8, 126.2, 122.8, 119.8, 119.7, 114.6, 113.5, 80.8, 63.5, 54.9, 28.2 (3C). FT-IR v<sub>max</sub> film (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3417, 2976, 2928, 1722, 1576, 1524, 1442, 1372, 1225, 1152, 1044, 1018, 754, 741, 573. HRMS (ESI+) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 356.1862, found 356.1860.

#### (Z)-tert-butyl (2-(5-chloro-2-formylstyryl)phenyl)carbamate (12a)



Compound **5a** (7.91 g, 22 mmol) was dissolved in dry  $CH_2CI_2$  (150 mL) under Ar-atmosphere in a flame-dried flask. Dess-Martin periodinane (11.2 g, 26.4 mmol) and NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (5.54 g, 66 mmol) were added and the mixture was stirred for 45 minutes. The reaction was quenched by the addition of saturated aqueous NaHSO<sub>3</sub> (100 mL). The layers were separated and the

H<sub>2</sub>O-layer was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (100 mL). The organic layers were combined and washed with saturated aqueous NaHSO<sub>3</sub> (200 mL), H<sub>2</sub>O (2 × 200 mL) and brine (200 mL) and then dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The organic solvents were evaporated and the crude product was purified by column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:9). Compound **12a** was obtained as a yellow solid (7.36 g, 95%). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 10.13 (s, 1H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.25-7.18 (m, 1H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.00-6.87 (m, 2H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 11.9 Hz, 1H), 6.44 (br s, 1H), 1.46 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 190.6, 152.4, 140.4, 140.0, 135.6, 132.3, 131.7, 130.3, 129.7, 129.5, 129.0, 128.9, 128.3, 125.1, 123.1, 120.3, 80.5, 28.3 (3C). HRMS (ESI+) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>20</sub>CINNaO<sub>3</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 380.1029, found 380.1032.

# (Z)-tert-butyl (2-(4-bromo-5-chloro-2-formylstyryl)phenyl)carbamate (12b)



Compound **5b** (1.17 g, 2.67 mmol) was dissolved in dry  $CH_2CI_2$  (40 mL) under Ar-atmosphere in a flame-dried flask. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (670 mg, 8.0 mmol) and Dess-Martin periodinane (1.47 g, 3.47 mmol) were added and the reaction was stirred for 1 hour. Hereupon, the reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous NaHSO<sub>3</sub> and diluted with  $CH_2CI_2$  (20 mL). The organic layer was

washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (3 × 50 mL) and brine (50 mL) and subsequently dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvents were removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:9). Compound **12b** was obtained as a yellow solid (1.02 g, 89%). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 10.07 (s, 1H), 8.02 (s, 1H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.21 (s, 1H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 11.9 Hz, 1H), 6.98-6.90 (m, 2H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 11.9 Hz, 1H), 6.39 (s, 1H), 1.47 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 189.3, 152.4, 140.1, 138.8, 135.6 (2C), 132.7, 131.9, 130.5, 129.5, 129.1, 127.6, 125.1, 123.4, 122.2, 120.7, 80.7, 28.3 (3C). HRMS (ESI+) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>19</sub>BrCINNaO<sub>3</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 458.0135, found 458.0123.

# (Z)-tert-butyl 2-(4-bromo-2-formylstyryl)phenylcarbamate (12c)



Compound **5c** (651 mg, 1.62 mmol) was dissolved in dry  $CH_2CI_2$  (15 mL) and placed under an Ar-atmosphere in a flame-dried flask. Subsequently, Dess-Martin periodinane (888 mg, 2.09 mmol) and NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (406 mg, 4.83 mmol) were added and the mixture was stirred for 40 minutes. The reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub> (15 mL). The mixture was

diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (25 mL), washed with saturated aqueous NaHSO<sub>3</sub> (15 mL), H<sub>2</sub>O (15 mL) and brine (15 mL). Next, the organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:9) to obtain compound **12c** as a yellow oil which solidified upon storage at -20 °C (560 mg, 86%).  $R_F$  = 0.40 (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:4). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 10.16 (s, 1H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.23-7.19 (m, 1H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 6.99-6.96 (m, 2H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 11.9 Hz, 1H), 6.42, (br s, 1H), 1.45 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 190.4, 152.4, 137.5, 136.4, 135.5, 134.7, 133.8, 131.9, 129.6, 129.3, 129.2, 128.7, 125.5, 123.1, 122.0, 120.3, 80.6, 28.2 (3C). FT-IR v<sub>max</sub> film (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2982, 1729, 1695, 1584, 1515, 1445, 1238, 1369, 1148, 1051, 1016, 780, 746. HRMS (ESI+) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>20</sub>BrNNaO<sub>3</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 424.0524, found 424.0516.

# (Z)-tert-butyl (2-(2-formyl-4-nitrostyryl)phenyl)carbamate (12d)



Compound **5d** (170 mg, 0.46 mmol) was dissolved in dry  $CH_2CI_2$  (5 mL) under Ar-atmosphere in a flame-dried flask. Dess-Martin periodinane (234 mg, 0.55 mmol) and NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (116 mg, 1.38 mmol) were added. The reaction was stirred for 30 minutes whereupon saturated aqueous NaHSO<sub>3</sub> (10 mL) was added. The mixture was diluted with  $CH_2CI_2$  (15 mL) and the organic layer

was washed with saturated aqueous NaHSO<sub>3</sub> (30 mL), water (2 × 30 mL) and brine (30 mL) before drying over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvents were removed *in vacuo* and the crude product was purified by gradient column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:19 to 1:6) to obtain **12d** as a red solid (145 mg, 86%). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 10.27 (s, 1H), 8.66 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 11.8 Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.21 (m, 1H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 11.9 Hz, 1H), 6.93-6.88 (m, 2H), 6.44-6.35 (br s, 1H), 1.45 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 189.7, 152.4, 144.8, 135.7, 134.1, 133.0, 131.9, 131.6, 129.6, 129.3, 128.4, 127.4, 126.0, 125.4, 123.5, 121.0, 80.8, 28.3 (3C). HRMS (ESI+) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>NaO<sub>5</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 391.1270, found 391.1259.

# (Z)-tert-butyl 2-(2-formyl-5-methoxystyryl)phenylcarbamate (12e)



Compound **5e** (1.66 g, 4.67 mmol) was dissolved in dry  $CH_2CI_2$  (75 mL) and placed under Ar-atmosphere in a flame-dried flask. Subsequently, Dess-Martin periodinane (2.57 g, 6.06 mmol) and NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (1.18 g, 14.0 mmol) were added and the mixture was stirred for two hours. The reaction was quenched with a saturated aqueous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>-solution (50 mL). The mixture was

diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (50 mL), washed with saturated aqueous NaHSO<sub>3</sub> (50 mL), H<sub>2</sub>O (50 mL), and brine (50 mL). Next, the organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:9) to obtain compound **12e** as a yellow oil which solidified upon storage at -20 °C (1.29 g, 78%).  $R_F = 0.30$  (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:4). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 10.09 (s, 1H), 7.89 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, J = 11.9 Hz, 1H), 7.21-7.17 (m, 1H), 7.05 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (td, J = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (dd, J = 8.6, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (d, J = 11.9 Hz, 1H), 6.54 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.52 (s, 1H), 3.52 (s, 3H), 1.43 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 190.5, 163.2, 152.4, 140.6, 135.4, 134.0, 130.8, 129.3, 128.3, 128.1, 126.9, 125.8, 122.8, 119.8, 114.4 (2C), 80.1, 55.1, 28.1 (3C). FT-IR v<sub>max</sub> film (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3356, 2971, 2933, 2855, 1722, 1684, 1588, 1515, 1446, 1234, 1156, 1022, 754. HRMS (ESI+) *m*/*z* calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>24</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>Na [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 354.1705, found 354.1698.

#### (Z)-9-chloro-5,6-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]azocine (4a)



Compound **12a** (7.34 g, 20.6 mmol) was dissolved in 2M HCl in EtOAc (100 ml, 200.00 mmol) and the reaction was stirred for 1 hour. Then, NaBH<sub>4</sub> (3.11 g, 82.4 mmol) in H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL) was added and the reaction was stirred overnight. As reduction of the imine

was not completed yet, another portion of NaBH<sub>4</sub> (2.25 g, 60 mmol) was added and the reaction was stirred for 1.5 hour. Hereupon, the reaction was quenched by the addition of H<sub>2</sub>O (50 mL) and the product was extracted with EtOAc (100 mL). The organic layer was washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (3 × 100 mL) and brine (100 mL) and subsequently dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvents were removed under reduced pressure to obtain **4a** as a yellow solid (4.7 g, 95%). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.18-7.09 (m, 3H), 7.06-6.84 (m, 2H), 6.69-6.60 (m, 1H), 6.58 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 6.46 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 6.27 (d, *J* = 13.1 Hz, 1H), 4.55 (s, 2H), 4.22 (br s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 146.8, 141.1, 136.6, 134.7, 134.0, 133.3, 130.3, 129.7, 128.3, 127.3, 126.1, 121.3, 118.0, 117.9, 48.8. HRMS (ESI+) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>CIN [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 242.0737, found 242.0726.

#### (Z)-8-bromo-9-chloro-5,6-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]azocine (4b)



Compound **12b** (920 mg, 2.1 mmol) was dissolved in 2M HCl in EtOAc (40 mL, 80 mmol). After 30 minutes, NaBH<sub>4</sub> (240 mg, 6.3 mmol) in H<sub>2</sub>O (2 mL) was added. After two hours another portion of NaBH<sub>4</sub> (240 mg, 6.3 mmol) in H<sub>2</sub>O (2 mL) was added, followed

by another portion of NaBH<sub>4</sub> (80 mg, 2.1 mmol) in H<sub>2</sub>O (1 mL) after 1 hour. After an extra 30 minutes, the reaction was quenched by the addition of H<sub>2</sub>O (40 mL). The layers were separated, and the H<sub>2</sub>O-layer was extracted with EtOAc (50 mL). The organic layers were combined and washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (2 × 100 mL), and brine (100 mL), and subsequently dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The volatiles were removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:6). Compound **4b** was obtained as yellow solid (340 mg, 50%). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.44 (s, 1H), 7.24 (s, 1H), 6.99-6.87 (m, 2H), 6.63 (dt, *J* = 7.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 6.59 (d, *J* = 13.0 Hz, 1H), 6.47 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.20 (d, *J* = 13.1 Hz, 1H), 4.52 (s), 4.24

(s).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 146.6, 140.1, 138.4, 134.7, 134.4, 134.0, 133.4, 131.5, 128.5, 125.1, 121.3, 120.1, 118.1, 118.0, 48.6. HRMS (ESI+) m/z calcd for C $_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{BrCIN}$  [M+H]\* 319.9842, found 319.9825.

# (Z)-8-bromo-5,6-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]azocine (4c)



Compound **12c** (560 mg, 1.4 mmol) was dissolved in 2M HCl in EtOAc (20 mL, 40 mmol) and stirred for 1.5 hour. Next, NaBH<sub>4</sub> (196 mg, 5.2 mmol) and a few drops of water were added. The reaction was stirred overnight whereupon an additional portion of NaBH<sub>4</sub> (196 mg, 5.2 mmol) was added and, after an additional 90

minutes, the reaction was quenched with H<sub>2</sub>O (15 mL). The H<sub>2</sub>O-layer was extracted with EtOAc (2 × 15 mL). The organic layers were combined and washed with 2M aqueous NaOH (2 × 20 mL), H<sub>2</sub>O (2 × 20 mL) and brine (20 mL). Next, the organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo* to obtain compound **4c** as a yellow solid (360 mg, 91%).  $R_F$  = 0.55 (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:2). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.36 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (ddd, *J* = 7.2, 6.5, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.62 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.55 (d, *J* = 13.1 Hz, 1H), 6.47 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.26 (d, *J* = 13.1 Hz, 1H), 4.54 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 146.3, 139.8, 137.7, 134.3, 132.9, 131.3 (2C), 130.2, 127.7, 126.9, 125.8, 121.1, 119.8, 117.5, 48.7. FT-IR v<sub>max</sub> film (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3391, 3002, 2924, 2850, 2362, 2098, 1593, 1485, 1325, 1269, 901, 828, 776, 750. HRMS (ESI+) *m*/*z* calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>BrN [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 286.02314 found 286.0219.

#### (Z)-8-nitro-5,6-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]azocine (4d)



Compound **12d** (200 mg, 0.54 mmol) was dissolved in HCl in EtOAc (10 mL, 20 mmol). After 30 minutes NaBH<sub>4</sub> (470 mg, 12.4 mmol) in water (1 mL) was added and after stirring overnight the reaction was quenched with  $H_2O$  (10 mL). The  $H_2O$ -layer was

extracted with EtOAc (20 mL), and the combined organic layers were washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (3 × 20 mL), brine (20 mL) and subsequently dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvents were removed *in vacuo* to obtain **4d** as a red solid (140 mg, 100%) <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 8.11 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.97-6.91 (m, 1H), 6.71-6.62 (m, 2H), 6.51 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.36 (d, *J* = 13.4 Hz, 1H), 4.69 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 147.3, 146.7, 145.9, 139.5, 135.9, 135.4, 131.3, 128.8, 125.0, 124.1, 122.8, 121.2, 118.4, 118.0, 49.6. HRMS (ESI+) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 253.0977 found 253.0965.

#### (Z)-9-methoxy-5,6-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]azocine (4e)

Compound **12e** (122 mg, 0.35 mmol) was dissolved in 2M HCl in EtOAc (3 mL, 6 mmol) and the solution was stirred for 75 minutes. Next, NaBH<sub>4</sub> (39 mg, 1.0 mmol) and a drop of water were added. MeOH (2 mL) was added to keep the reactants in solution. After 75 minutes an additional portion of NaBH<sub>4</sub> (39 mg, 1.04 mmol) was added and after another hour, the reaction was quenched with H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL). The H<sub>2</sub>O-layer was extracted with EtOAc (2 × 15 mL). The organic layers were combined and washed with 2M aqueous NaOH (2 × 20 mL), H<sub>2</sub>O (2 × 20 mL) and brine (20 mL). Next, the organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo* to obtain compound **4e** as an orange solid (72 mg, 87%).  $R_F$  = 0.55 (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:2). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.12 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (td, *J* = 6.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 6.61-6.59 (m, 1H), 6.55 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 6.45 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.32 (d, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 1H), 4.53 (s, 2H),



3.78 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 158.9, 146.8, 140.5, 134.4, 133.0, 130.6, 130.0, 127.9, 127.4, 121.3, 117.9, 117.4, 114.3, 113.4, 55.2, 48.5. FT-IR v<sub>max</sub> film (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3399, 2997, 2924, 2855, 1722, 1601, 1571, 1498, 1455, 1325, 1260, 1217, 1165, 1109, 1035, 862, 746, 573. HRMS (ESI+) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 238.1232, found 238.1229.

# (Z)-methyl 5- (9-chlorodibenzo [b,f] azocin-5(6H)-yl)-5-oxopentanoate (13a)



Compound **4a** (3 g, 12.4 mmol) was dissolved in dry  $CH_2CI_2$  (100 mL) and NEt<sub>3</sub> (3.46 mL, 24.8 mmol) was added. After cooling the mixture to 0 °C, methyl 5-chloro-5-oxopentanoate (2.13 mL, 15 mmol) was added and the reaction was stirred overnight. Hereupon, the reaction was quenched with H<sub>2</sub>O (100 mL) and the layers were separated. The organic layer was washed with 2M aqueous NaOH (2 × 70 mL), water (2 × 70 mL) and brine (70 mL)

and subsequently dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvents were removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:2) to obtain **13a** as a yellow solid (2.11 g, 46%). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.31-7.27 (m, 3H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.19-7.10 (m, 3H), 6.69 (d, *J* = 13.1 Hz, 1H), 6.62 (d, *J* = 13.1 Hz, 1H), 5.43 (d, *J* = 14.9 Hz, 1H), 4.17 (d, *J* = 14.9 Hz, 1H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 2.25-2.03 (m, 3H), 1.94-1.76 (m, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 173.5, 171.8, 140.8, 137.6, 135.8, 133.3, 132.7, 131.7, 131.5, 131.4, 131.1, 128.7, 128.5, 128.1, 128.1, 127.3, 53.9, 51.4, 33.5, 33.0, 20.4. HRMS (ESI+) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>21</sub>CINO<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 370.1210, found 370.1203.

# (Z)-methyl 5-(8-bromo-9-chlorodibenzo[b,f]azocin-5(6H)-yl)-5-oxopentanoate (13b)



Compound **4b** (200 mg, 0.62 mmol) was dissolved in dry  $CH_2CI_2$  (15 mL) and the solution was cooled to 0 °C. Subsequently, NEt<sub>3</sub> (174 µL, 1.25 mmol) and methyl 5-chloro-5-oxopentanoate (133 µl, 0.94 mmol) were added. The reaction was stirred overnight and then quenched with H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL). The layers were separated, and the H<sub>2</sub>O-layer was extracted with  $CH_2CI_2$  (20 mL). The organic layers were combined and washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (2 × 30 mL), and

brine (30 mL) and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvents were removed *in vacuo* and the crude product was purified by column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:2). Compound **13b** was obtained as yellow solid (230 mg, 82%). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.53 (s, 1H), 7.34-7.29 (m, 3H), 7.22 (s, 1H), 7.18 (dd, *J* = 6.4, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (d, *J* = 13.3 Hz, 1H), 6.60 (d, *J* = 13.3 Hz, 1H), 5.45 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 4.12 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 2.62-2.29 (m, 1H), 2.26-1.96 (m, 2H), 1.93-1.76 (m, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 173.4, 171.8, 140.5, 136.2, 135.5, 135.0, 134.9, 133.2, 132.7, 131.4, 130.0, 129.0, 128.7, 128.2, 128.1, 120.8, 53.4, 51.3, 33.3, 32.9, 20.3. HRMS (ESI+) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>20</sub>BrCINO<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 448.0321, found 448.0315.

# (Z)-methyl 5-(8-bromodibenzo[b,f]azocin-5(6H)-yl)-5-oxopentano-ate (13c)



Compound **4c** (360 mg, 1.26 mmol) was dissolved in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (8 mL) and NEt<sub>3</sub> (351  $\mu$ L, 2.52 mmol) was added. The mixture was cooled to 0 °C, whereupon methyl 5-chloro-5-oxopentanoate (221  $\mu$ L, 1.89 mmol) was added. The reaction was stirred for 90 minutes, after which it was quenched with H<sub>2</sub>O (5 mL). The mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) and washed with 2M aqueous NaOH (2 × 10 mL), 2M aqueous HCl (2 × 10 mL), H<sub>2</sub>O (2 × 10 mL)

and brine (10 mL). Next, the organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:2) to obtain compound **13c** as a yellow solid (466 mg, 90%).  $R_F = 0.30$  (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:2). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.42 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.31-7.27 (m, 4H), 7.19-7.15 (m, 1H), 7.00 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (d, J = 13.1 Hz, 1H), 6.59 (d, J = 13.1 Hz, 1H), 5.49 (d, J = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (d, J = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 2.22-2.17 (m, 2H), 2.13-2.04 (m, 2H), 1.85-1.79 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 173.5, 171.8, 140.7, 136.9, 136.1, 134.5, 133.7, 132.9, 131.4, 131.1, 130.1, 128.8, 128.1 (2C), 127.6, 121.2, 54.0, 51.4, 33.3, 33.1, 20.4. FT-IR v<sub>max</sub> film (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3473, 2947, 2868, 2150, 1874, 1731, 1653, 1498, 1437, 1403, 1195, 1169, 1018, 832, 776. HRMS (ESI+) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>21</sub>BrNO<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 414.0705, found 414.0699.

# (Z)-methyl 5-(8-nitrodibenzo[b,f]azocin-5(6H)-yl)-5-oxopentanoate (13d)



(Z)-methyl

MeO

MeO

Compound **4d** (45 mg, 0.18 mmol) was dissolved in dry  $CH_2Cl_2$  (5 ml) and the solution was cooled to 0 °C. Subsequently, NEt<sub>3</sub> (50  $\mu$ L, 0.36 mmol) and methyl 5-chloro-5-oxopentanoate (37  $\mu$ l, 0.27 mmol) were added. The reaction was stirred overnight and quenched by the addition of 0.1 M aqueous NaOH (5 mL). The reaction was diluted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (10 mL) and the organic layer was washed with 2M aqueous NaOH (2 × 20 mL), H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL)

and brine (20 mL), and subsequently dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvents were removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by gradient column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:6 to 2:3). Compound **13d** was obtained as a red solid (25 mg, 37%). Residual 5-chloro-5-oxopentanoate was not completely removed after column chromatography, and the crude product was used without further purification. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 8.20 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.02 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (dt, *J* = 11.5, 4.1 Hz, 5H), 7.24-7.17 (m, 1H), 6.81 (d, *J* = 13.4 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (d, *J* = 13.3 Hz, 1H), 5.55 (d, *J* = 15.1 Hz, 1H), 4.23 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 3.58 (s, 3H), 2.25-2.08 (m, 2H), 2.06-1.91 (m, 2H), 1.86-1.66 (m, 2H). HRMS (ESI+) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 381.1451, found 381.1446.

5-(9-methoxydibenzo[b,f]azocin-5(6*H*)-yl)-5-oxopentanoate (13e) Compound 4e (75 mg, 0.46 mmol) was dissolved in dry  $CH_2Cl_2$ (4 mL) and NEt<sub>3</sub> (85 µL, 0.61 mmol) was added. The mixture was cooled to 0 °C, whereupon methyl 5-chloro-5-oxopentanoate (53 µL, 0.46 mmol) was added. The reaction was stirred for 90 minutes and another portion of methyl 5-chloro-5-oxopentanoate (23 µL, 0.2 mmol) was added. After 45 minutes the reaction was quenched with H<sub>2</sub>O (5 mL). The mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>

(10 mL) and washed with 2M aqueous NaOH (2 × 10 mL), 2M aqueous HCI (2 × 10 mL),  $H_2O$  (2 × 10 mL) and brine (10 mL). Next, the organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by gradient column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:4 to 1:2) to obtain compound **13e** as a yellow solid (84 mg, 76%).  $R_F$  = 0.20 (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:2). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.25-7.21 (m, 3H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.14-7.11 (m, 1H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 6.64-6.58 (m, 1H), 5.38 (d, *J* = 14.7 Hz, 1H), 4.19 (d, *J* = 14.7 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.57 (s, 3H), 2.41 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.17 (q, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.84-1.79 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 173.5, 171.8, 158.2, 140.7, 137.3, 136.2, 132.5, 131.4, 130.9, 128.3, 128.1, 127.9, 127.7, 126.7, 116.5, 112.7, 55.1, 53.8, 51.3, 33.5, 33.0, 20.4. FT-IR v<sub>max</sub> film (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2950, 2920, 2850, 1731, 1658, 1606, 1576,

1493, 1442, 1403, 1521, 1204, 1169, 1040, 767. HRMS (ESI+) m/z calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 366.1705, found 366.1701.

# methyl 5-(11,12-dibromo-9-chloro-11,12-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]azocin-5(6*H*)-yl)-5oxopentanoate (14a)



Compound **13a** (1 g, 2.7 mmol) was dissolved in  $CH_2CI_2$  (50 mL) and the solution was cooled to 0 °C. A solution of  $Br_2$  (154 µl, 3 mmol) in  $CH_2CI_2$  (5 mL) was added dropwise and after 2 hours at 0 °C additional  $Br_2$  (20 µL, 0.39 mmol) in  $CH_2CI_2$  (1 mL) was added. After 1 hour the reaction was quenched by addition of saturated aqueous NaHSO<sub>3</sub> (50 mL), and layers were separated. The organic layer was washed with saturated aqueous NaHSO<sub>3</sub>-solution (50 mL), water (2 × 50 mL) and brine (50 mL) and

subsequently dried over MqSO<sub>4</sub>. The volatiles were removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by gradient column chromatography (EtOAc/nheptane, 1:4 to 1:2) to obtain compound 14a (1.02 g, 71%) as mixture of two diastereoisomers (X : Y, 1:0.8). The isomers could be separated however due to slow isomerization of X to Y, no full analysis of 14aY was performed. Analytical data for **14aX**:  $R_{\rm F}$  = 0.30 (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:2). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.72 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.15 (m, 2H), 7.12-6.94 (m, 3H), 6.83 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 5.85 (d, J = 9.9 Hz, 1H), 5.77 (d, J = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 5.12 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 4.14 (d, J = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 3.61 (s, 3H), 2.97 – 2.27 (m, 3H), 2.27 – 2.13 (m, 1H), 2.08 – 1.92 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 173.6, 172.7, 138.9, 137.8, 137.0, 134.7, 131.5, 130.9 (2C), 130.7, 130.4, 129.6, 129.0, 128.9, 59.5, 54.5, 51.8, 51.5, 34.8, 33.3, 20.3. HRMS (ESI+) m/z calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>21</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>CINO<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 527.9577, found 527.9564. **49Y**: R<sub>F</sub> = 0.35 (EtOAc/nheptane, 1:2). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCI)  $\delta$  7.65 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.25-6.98 (m, 4H), 6.88-6.78 (m, 2H), 5.71 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 5.14 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 5.13 (d, J =14.5 Hz, 1H), 4.95 (d, J = 14.0 Hz, 1H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 2.48-2.31 (m, 3H), 2.26-2.05 (m, 1H), 2.04-1.80 (m, 2H).

# methyl 5-oxo-5-(8,11,12-tribromo-9-chloro-11,12-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]azocin-5(6*H*)yl)pentanoate (14b)



Compound **13b** (100 mg, 0.22 mmol) was dissolved in  $CH_2CI_2$  (10 mL) and the solution was cooled to 0 °C. A solution of  $Br_2$  (11 µl, 0.22 mmol) in  $CH_2CI_2$  (1 mL) was added dropwise and the reaction was stirred at 0 °C. After 2 hours, the reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous NaHSO<sub>3</sub> (10 mL). The layers were separated and the  $H_2O$ -layer was extracted with  $CH_2CI_2$  (10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with saturated aqueous NaHSO<sub>3</sub> (20 mL), water (2 × 20 mL) and brine (20 mL) and dried

over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvents were removed under reduced pressure to obtain **14b** as white solid (130 mg, 96%). **50** was obtained as a mixture of two diastereoisomers (**14bX** : **14bY**, 0.32:1). For the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR signals from **14bX** are designated with \*, signals from **14bY** with °. In the <sup>13</sup>C-NMR data, only peaks are given from major isomer **14bX**. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.82\* (s, 0.3H), 7.65° (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.35° (s, 1H), 7.32-7.08\*,° (m, 3.4H), 7.02° (s, 1H), 7.00\* (s, 0.3H), 6.90° (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 5.80\* (d, J = 9.8 Hz, 0.3H), 5.79\* (d, J = 15.1 Hz, 0.3H), 5.69° (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 5.12\*,° (d, J = 9.5 Hz, 1.3H), 5.08° (d, J = 14.6 Hz, 1H), 4.92° (d, J = 14.3 Hz, 1H), 4.09\* (d, J = 15.3 Hz, 0.3H), 3.63° (d, J = 0.7 Hz, 3H), 3.62\* (s, 1H), 2.60-2.29\*,° (m, 4H), 2.21-2.02\*,° (m, 1.3H), 2.01-1.83\*,° (m, 2.6H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 173.6, 172.8, 137.9, 137.7,

136.8, 134.9, 134.2, 133.2, 131.0 (2C), 130.8, 130.5, 130.0, 122.7, 59.1, 53.9, 51.5, 51.3, 34.7, 33.2, 20.3. HRMS (ESI+) m/z calcd for  $C_{21}H_{20}Br_3CINO_3$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 605.8682, found 605.8686.

# methyl 5-oxo-5-(8,11,12-tribromo-11,12-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]azocin-5(6*H*)yl)pentanoate (14c)



Compound **13c** (100 mg, 0.24 mmol) was dissolved in dry  $CH_2CI_2$  (5 mL). The solution was cooled to 0 °C and  $Br_2$  (13 µL, 0.24 mmol) was added. After stirring for 1.5 hour, additional  $Br_2$  (13 µL, 0.24 mmol) was added and the reaction was stirred for an additional hour. Hereupon, the reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub> (5 mL). The mixture was diluted with  $CH_2CI_2$  (10 mL) and washed with saturated aqueous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub> (2 × 10 mL),  $H_2O$  (2 × 10 mL) and brine (10 mL). Next, the organic

layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by gradient column chromatography (EtOAc/n-heptane, 1:4 to 1:2) to obtain compound 14c as a white solid (111 mg, 80%). Compound 14c was obtained as mixture of diastereoisomers (14cX : 14cY, 1:0.47). The major isomer (14cX) could be obtained pure, due to slow isomerization of 14cY to 14cX, no spectrum of pure 14cY was obtained. Analytical data for **14cX**:  $R_F = 0.25$  (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:2). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.61 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.36 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.19 (td, J = 7.6, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.11 – 7.03 (m, 2H), 7.00 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 5.84 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 5.82 (d, J = 15.1 Hz, 1H), 5.12 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 4.09 (d, J = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 2.41-2.27 (m, 3H), 2.25 – 2.14 (m, 1H), 2.09 – 1.94 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 173.6, 172.8, 137.8, 136.8, 136.1, 135.0, 132.2, 131.8, 130.8 (2C), 130.5, 130.4, 129.7, 122.6, 59.4, 54.8, 51.9, 51.5, 34.7, 33.2, 20.3. FT-IR v<sub>max</sub> film (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3453, 2953, 2367, 1734, 1660, 1593, 1484, 1441, 1398, 1254, 1203, 1179, 1152, 1015, 875, 844, 801, 769. HRMS (ESI+) m/z calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>21</sub>Br<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 571.9090, found 571.9080. Analytical data for **14cY**: <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.68-7.61 (m, 1H), 7.38-7.12 (m, 4H), 6.88 (dd, J = 7.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (d, J = 8.2Hz, 1H), 5.72 (d, J = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 5.19 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 5.09 (d, J = 14.7 Hz, 2H), 4.96 (d, J = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 2.45 – 2.30 (m, 3H), 2.24-2.11 (m, 1H), 2.12-1.83 (m, 2H).

# methyl 5-(11,12-dibromo-8-nitro-11,12-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]azocin-5(6*H*)-yl)-5oxopentanoate (14d)



Crude **13d** (25 mg, 66 µmol) was dissolved in  $CH_2CI_2$  (2 mL) and the reaction was cooled to 0 °C. A solution of  $Br_2$  (4.1 µl, 79 µmol) in  $CH_2CI_2$  (2 mL) was added dropwise. The reaction was stirred at 0 °C for 1 hour, and subsequently quenched with saturated aqueous NaHSO<sub>3</sub> (10 mL) and diluted with  $CH_2CI_2$  (10 mL). The organic layer was washed with saturated aqueous NaHSO<sub>3</sub> (10 mL), water (2 × 10 mL) and brine (10 mL) and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvents were evaporated under reduced

pressure to obtain **14d** as a red solid (30 mg, 84%). **14d** was obtained as a mixture of two diastereoisomers (**14dX** : **14dY**, 0.42:1). For the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR signals from **14dX** are designated with \*, signals from **14dY** with °. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 8.04\* (dd, J = 8.6, 2.0 Hz, 0.43H), 7.99-7.90\*,° (m, 2.5H), 7.79\* (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 0.4H), 7.66° (dd, J = 7.8, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.34-7.14\*,° (m, 3.1H), 7.12\*,° (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1.2H), 7.09-6.99° (m, 1H), 6.91° (dd, J = 7.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 5.93\* (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 0.43H), 5.92\* (d, J = 13.7 Hz,

0.43H), 5.75° (d, J = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 5.28° (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 5.15\* (d, J = 9.9 Hz, 0.43H), 5.04° (d, J = 14.3 Hz, 1H), 4.28\* (d, J = 15.3 Hz, 0.43H), 3.63° (s, 3H), 3.62\* (s, 1H), 2.48-2.39\*,° (m, 1.45H), 2.39-2.32\*,° (m, 3H), 2.17-2.05\*,° (m, 1.3H), 2.04-1.89\*,° (m, 3.4H). HRMS (ESI+) m/z calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>21</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 538.9817, found 538.9822.

# methyl 5-(11,12-dibromo-9-methoxy-11,12-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]azocin-5(6*H*)-yl)-5oxopentanoate (14e)



Compound **13e** (91 mg, 0.25 mmol) was dissolved in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (8 mL). The solution was cooled to 0 °C and a solution of Br<sub>2</sub> (14  $\mu$ L, 0.27 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1 mL) was added. After stirring for 1.5 hour, another portion of Br<sub>2</sub> (20  $\mu$ L, 0.39 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1 mL) was added. After stirring for 75 minutes an extra portion of Br<sub>2</sub> (15  $\mu$ L, 0.29 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1 mL) was added. After stirring for another 75 minutes, the reaction was quenched with a saturated aqueous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>-solution (10 mL). The mixture was diluted with

CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (25 mL) and washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (2 × 15 mL) and brine (15 mL). Next, the organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product (which was still a mixture of **14eX** and **14eY**, 1:0.2) was purified by gradient column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:4 to 1:2) to obtain compound **14e** as a white solid (50 mg, 39%). After column chromatography, **14e** was obtained as a single diastereoisomer (**14eX**).  $R_F = 0.15$  (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:2). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ :  $\delta$  7.30-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.22 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.54 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 5.85 (d, *J* = 9.9 Hz, 1H), 5.71 (d, *J* = 14.7 Hz, 1H), 5.12 (d, *J* = 9.9 Hz, 1H), 4.12 (d, *J* = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 3.60 (s, 3H), 2.45-2.24 (m, 3H), 2.24-2.11 (m, 1H), 2.07-1.89 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 173.6, 172.6, 159.8, 138.3, 138.1, 137.3, 130.9, 130.8, 130.5, 130.4, 129.3, 124.8, 114.7, 113.7, 60.1, 55.7, 55.3, 51.8, 51.4, 34.9, 33.3, 20.4. FT-IR v<sub>max</sub> film (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2920, 2855, 1735, 1658, 1610, 1580, 1502, 1463, 1385, 1286, 1251, 1200, 1096, 1040, 824, 772, 715, 672, 612. HRMS (ESI+) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>24</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 524.0072, found 524.0096.

#### methyl 5-(9-chlorodidehydrodibenzo[b,f]azocin-5(6H)-yl)-5-oxopentanoate (3a)



Compound **14aX** (90 mg, 0.17 mmol) was dissolved in dry THF (3 mL) under Ar-atmosphere in a flame-dried flask. The solution was cooled to -40 °C and a KO'Bu-solution in THF (1M, 340  $\mu$ L, 0.34 mmol) was added dropwise. After stirring at -40 °C for 1.5 hour, additional KO'Bu-solution in THF (1M, 50  $\mu$ L, 0.05 mmol) was added. After 30 minutes, the reaction was quenched with H<sub>2</sub>O (5 mL) and diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL). The layers were separated

and the organic layer was washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (3 × 15 mL) and brine (15 mL) and subsequently dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvents were removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:3). Compound **3a** was obtained as a white solid (23 mg, 37%), with a 5% contamination of compound **13a**. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.60 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.35 (m, 3H), 7.34-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 5.11 (d, *J* = 13.8 Hz. 1H), 3.59 (d, *J* = 13.9 Hz, 1H), 3.55 (s, 3H), 2.43-2.21 (m, 1H), 2.20-1.98 (m, 2H), 1.98-1.82 (m, 1H), 1.82-1.64 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 173.4, 172.5, 151.7, 146.2, 133.5, 133.3, 129.0, 128.7, 128.2, 128.1, 127.2, 125.4, 124.6, 122.0, 113.3, 109.2, 54.7, 51.4,

33.6, 32.8, 20.5. HRMS (ESI+) m/z calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>19</sub>CINO<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 368.1054, found 368.1043.

# methyl 5-(8-bromodidehydrodibenzo[b,f]azocin-5(6*H*)-yl)-5-oxopentanoate (3c)



Compound **14cX** (75 mg, 0.13 mmol) was dissolved in dry THF in a flame-dried flask under Ar-atmosphere, and the solution was cooled to -40 °C. Next, a solution of KO'Bu in THF (1M, 260  $\mu$ L, 0.26 mmol) was added dropwise. After 2 hours, only one bromide was eliminated, whereupon additional KO'Bu (130  $\mu$ L, 0.13 mmol) was added. After each subsequent hour an additional amount of KO'Bu (30  $\mu$ L, 0.03 mmol) was added, while maintaining the

reaction at -40 °C. After 5.5 hours the reaction was completed and quenched by the addition of H<sub>2</sub>O (5 mL). The H<sub>2</sub>O-layer was extracted with EtOAc (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL), and brine (20 mL) and subsequently dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvents were removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by gradient column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:4 to 1:2) to obtain compound **3c** as a brown oil (20 mg, 37%). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.84 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 2.0, 0.4 Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.36 (m, 3H), 7.35-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.08 (d, *J* = 13.9 Hz, 1H), 3.61 (d, *J* = 13.9 Hz, 1H), 3.56 (s, 3H), 2.36-2.24 (m, 1H), 2.21-2.05 (m, 2H), 1.97-1.85 (m, 1H), 1.83-1.69 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 173.4, 172.5, 151.5, 149.6, 135.3, 131.0, 129.0, 128.6, 128.2, 127.1, 126.5, 122.5, 122.3, 122.0, 113.9, 108.8, 54.8, 51.4, 33.6, 32.8, 20.5. HRMS (ESI+) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>18</sub>BrNNaO<sub>3</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 434.0368, found 434.0366.

#### methyl 5-(9-methoxydidehydrodibenzo[b,f]azocin-5(6*H*)-yl)-5-oxopentanoate (3e)



Compound **14eX** (42 mg, 0.08 mmol) was dissolved in dry THF in a flame-dried flask under Ar-atmosphere, and the solution was cooled to -40 °C. Next, a solution of KO'Bu in THF (1M, 160  $\mu$ L, 0.16 mmol) was added dropwise. After 2 hours, only one bromide was eliminated, whereupon additional KO'Bu (80  $\mu$ L, 0.08 mmol) was added. After each subsequent hour an additional amount of KO'Bu (40  $\mu$ L, 0.04 mmol) was added, while

maintaining the reaction at -40 °C. After 5.5 hours the reaction was completed and quenched by the addition of H<sub>2</sub>O (5 mL). The H<sub>2</sub>O-layer was extracted with EtOAc (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL), and brine (20 mL) and subsequently dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvents were removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by gradient column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:4 to 1:2) to obtain compound **3e** as a brown oil (10 mg, 34%). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.45 – 7.33 (m, 3H), 7.32 – 7.28 (m, 1H), 6.90 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 5.11 (d, *J* = 13.9 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.59 (d, *J* = 13.9 Hz, 1H), 3.56 (s, 3H), 2.34 – 2.26 (m, 1H), 2.19 – 2.07 (m, 2H), 1.96 – 1.86 (m, 1H), 1.82 – 1.72 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  173.1, 172.0, 158.5, 151.4, 140.0, 132.7, 128.5, 128.0, 127.5, 126.7, 123.5, 122.0, 114.2, 113.5, 110.5, 107.5, 55.0, 54.3, 50.9, 33.3, 32.4, 20.6. HRMS (ESI+) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NNaO<sub>4</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 386.1368, found 368.1372.

# 3-methoxy-*N*-(3-methoxybenzyl)aniline (15)

OMe



To a solution of 3-methoxyaniline (615  $\mu$ L, 5.5 mmol) in dry MeOH (50 mL), 3-methoxybenzaldehyde (608  $\mu$ L, 5.0 mmol)

was added and the mixture was stirred for 1.5 hour. Next, NaBH<sub>4</sub> (567 mg, 15.0 mmol) was added. After stirring for 30 minutes, the reaction was quenched with H<sub>2</sub>O (25 mL). The H<sub>2</sub>O-layer was extracted with EtOAc (2 × 75 mL) and the organic layers were combined and washed with 2M aqueous NaOH (50 mL), H<sub>2</sub>O (2 × 50 mL) and brine (50 mL). Next, the organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-heptane 1:9) to obtain compound **15** as yellow oil (1.19 g, 98%).  $R_F$  = 0.30 (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:4). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.25 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (m, 1H), 6.81 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 6.30-6.24 (m, 2H), 6.19 (t, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (s, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 160.7, 159.8, 149.5, 141.0, 129.9, 129.5, 119.6, 112.9, 112.5, 105.9, 102.6, 98.8, 55.1, 54.9, 48.2. FT-IR v<sub>max</sub> film (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3412, 3002, 2933, 2829, 1597, 1489, 1463, 1429, 1256, 1217, 1165, 1044, 983, 828, 759, 685, 556, 452. HRMS (ESI+) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 244.1338, found 244.1341.

# Methyl 5-((3-methoxybenzyl)(3-methoxyphenyl)amino)-5-oxopentanoate (16)



Compound **15** (652 mg, 2.7 mmol) was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 mL). Then, NEt<sub>3</sub> (750  $\mu$ L, 5.4 mmol) was added. Subsequently, the mixture was cooled to 0 °C and then methyl 5-chloro-5-oxopentanoate (354  $\mu$ L, 2.56 mmol) was added. The reaction was stirred for 1.5 hour whereupon it was quenched with water (10 mL), diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) and washed with 2M NaOH (2 × 20 mL), 2M HCl (2 × 20 mL), water (2 × 20 mL) and brine (20 mL). The organic layer

was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The product was purified by gradient column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:4 to 1:2). The product was obtained as a brown oil (510 mg, 54%). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : <sup>7</sup>.22 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.85-6.82 (m, 1H), 6.80-6.76 (m, 3H), 6.57 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.50 (s br., 1H), 4.83 (s, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.60 (s, 3H), 2.32 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.16 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.97-1.90 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 173.5, 171.9, 160.3, 159.6, 143.4, 139.1, 130.1, 129.3, 121.1, 120.5, 114.1 (2C), 113.5, 113.0, 55.3, 55.2, 52.8, 51.4, 33.2 (2C), 20.7. FT-IR v<sub>max</sub> film (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2946, 2842, 1735, 1653, 1597, 1489, 1433, 1394, 1260, 1191, 1152, 1044, 862, 785, 703, 577, 556. HRMS (ESI+) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NO<sub>5</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 372.1811, found 372.1804.

# Methyl 5-(4,9-dimethoxy-1-oxo-1H-dibenzo[b,f]cyclopropa[d]azocin-6(7*H*)-yl)-5oxopentanoate (17)



A flame-dried flask under Ar-atmosphere was charged with aluminium chloride (144 mg, 1.08 mmol) in dry  $CH_2Cl_2$  (3 mL) at -78 °C. Perchlorocycloprop-1-ene (53 µL, 0.43 mmol) was added dropwise and stirred for one hour. A solution of **16** (100 mg, 0.269 mmol) in dry  $CH_2Cl_2$  (0.6 ml) was added dropwise at -78 °C. The mixture was stirred for 2.5 hours at -78 °C and then slowly warmed to room temperature and stirred for 16 hours. Subsequently, the reaction was quenched by the addition of 1M aqueous HCl

(5 mL). After stirring for 5 minutes,  $H_2O$  (5 mL) was added and the layers were separated. The  $H_2O$ -layer was extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (2 × 10 mL) and the organic layers were combined and washed with brine (20 mL). Next, the organic layer was dried over

MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by gradient column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:3 to 1:0) to obtain compound **17** as a green oil (34 mg, 81 µmol, 30%).  $R_F = 0.35$  (EtOAc). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 8.00 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (dd, J = 8.6, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (dd, J = 8.5, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 5.18 (d, J = 14.3 Hz, 1H), 4.09 (d, J = 14.3 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.56 (s, 3H), 2.37-2.29 (m, 1H), 2.18-2.10 (m, 1H), 2.04-1.89 (m, 2H), 1.82-1.66 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 173.1, 172.5, 162.9, 162.6, 152.4, 145.8, 143.1, 141.4, 138.9, 135.6, 135.1, 118.1, 115.4, 115.2, 114.9, 113.7, 113.6, 56.0, 55.8, 55.5, 51.4, 33.4, 32.5, 20.5. FT-IR v<sub>max</sub> film (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3447, 2941, 2837, 1848, 1740, 1662, 1601, 1558, 1429, 1364, 1286, 1256, 1022, 828, 733. HRMS (ESI+) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NO<sub>6</sub>Na [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 444.1423, found 444.1435.

# methyl 5-(3,8-dimethoxydidehydrodibenzo[b,f]azocin-5(6*H*)-yl)-5-oxopentanoate (3f)



Compound **17** (100 mg, 0.237 mmol) was dissolved in acetonitrile (5 mL) and irradiated with UV-light using a *Bluespot 2 Easycure* for 65 minutes. After completion of the reaction, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by gradient column chromatography (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:4 to 1:2) to obtain compound **3f** as an orange oil (33 mg, 0.084 mmol, 35%).

 $R_{\rm F}$  = 0.30 (EtOAc/*n*-heptane, 1:1). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.27 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.91-6.87 (m, 2H), 6.81 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 5.06 (d, *J* = 13.8 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 6H), 3.69 (d, *J* = 13.7 Hz, 1H), 3.57 (s, 3H), 2.22-1.92 (m, 4H), 1.81-1.71 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 173.5, 172.6, 159.3 (2C), 152.4, 149.6, 127.2, 126.1, 118.3, 115.8, 115.1, 114.9, 113.9, 113.3, 113.1, 106.5, 55.6 (2C), 55.3, 51.3, 33.6, 32.8, 20.6. FT-IR v<sub>max</sub> film (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2928, 2850, 2163, 1727, 1658, 1601, 1563, 1489, 1433, 1390, 1286, 1264, 1230, 1195, 1174, 1035, 819, 750, 590, 504. HRMS (ESI+) *m*/*z* calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>24</sub>NO<sub>5</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 394.16545, found 394.16571.



Scheme S1. Treatment of dibromide 14b with base.

Table S1. Results of elimination attempts on dibromide 14b.

Entry	Base	Equivalents	Temperature	Product
1	KO <sup>#</sup> Bu	2	-40 °C	13b + S6
2	NaH	5	r.t. to 70 °C	S6
3	KH	10	0 °C to r.t.	S6
4	NaHMDS	2	-78 °C	13b + 3b
5	DBU	10	r.t.	S6

13b



**Figure S1.** Spectrum of alkene **13b**, dibromide **14b**, and the mixture obtained after elimination. Peaks specific for **13b** are assigned with \*, peaks specific for **14b** are labelled with °.



#### Spectrum of Bluepoint 2 easycure

Figure S2. Emission Spectrum of Bluepoint 2 easycure.

#### **Kinetic experiments**

Kinetic experiments for **1**, **3a**, **3c**, **3e**, and **3f** were performed similar as described previously. Due to increased reaction kinetics, 2.25 µmol alkyne was mixed with 2.25 µmol benzylazide in 0.5 mL CD<sub>3</sub>OD. The exact ratio between benzyl azide and alkyne was determined by comparison of the integrals of the aromatic signals and the benzylic protons of the alkyne. As some of the alkynes could not be obtained pure, the concentration of the benzyl azide was assumed to be accurate, and the alkyne concentration was adjusted using the ratio as determined in the NMR-spectrum. For **1**, **3a**, **3c**, **3e**, and **3f**, the rate constant was determined by comparing the signal from the methyl-ester of the starting material ( $\delta$ : 3.52 ppm), to the signal from the methyl-ester of

6

the product ( $\delta$ : 3.60 ppm). Product formation was confirmed by mass spectrometry. For **3a**: HRMS (ESI+) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>26</sub>ClN<sub>4</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 501.1693, found 501.1693. For **3c**: HRMS (ESI+) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>26</sub>BrN<sub>4</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 545.1188, found 545.1189. For **3e**: HRMS (ESI+) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 497.2189, found 497.2177. For **3f**: HRMS (ESI+) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>31</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>5</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 527.2294, found 527.2280.



Table S2. Rate constants of DIBAC and analogues.

Figure S3. Logarithmic plots of (A) DIBAC (1); (B) CI-DIBAC (3a), (C) Br-DIBAC (3c); (D) MeO-DIBAC (3e); (E) (MeO)<sub>2</sub>-DIBAC (3f).

# **Modeling results**

Energy minimizations were performed using ChemBio3D Ultra version 13.0 using MOPAC interface version 13.0.

Cis-1 (Figure 4)

Mopac Job: AUX PM6 CHARGE=0 EF GNORM=0.100 SHIFT=80 Finished @ RMS Gradient = 0.06190 (< 0.10000) Heat of Formation = -89.31756 Kcal/Mol Chem3D Core 13.0.203081416183D

48 50 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0999 V2000

0.6738	2.3841	4.4576 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0.8383	1.0212	4.2115 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0.9695	0.5658	2.8998 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0.9316	1.4730	1.8280 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0.7632	2.8648	2.0637 C	Ō	Õ	Õ	Ō	Ō	Ō	Ō	Ō	Õ	Ō	Ō	Õ	
0.6350	3 2891	3 3926 C	Õ	õ	õ	Õ	õ	õ	Õ	õ	õ	Õ	Õ	õ	
1 0482	0.9498	0.4812 N	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	
2 1254	1 5214	-0.3674 C	ñ	ň	ñ	ñ	ñ	ñ	ñ	ň	ň	ñ	ñ	ñ	
1 6050	2 2577	-0.5074 C	0	ñ	ň	0	0	0	0	ñ	ñ	ñ	0	ñ	
0.5402	2.2311	-1.3027 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0.5495	3.1000	-1.5251 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
-0.1779	2.0070	-0.2001 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0.7713	3.0309	0.9103 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2.2369	2.0075	-2.8124 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
1.8239	2.6598	-3.9739 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0.7632	3.5701	-3.9201 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0.1323	3.8281	-2.7041 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0.3585	-0.2355	0.0927 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0.5093	-0.6641	-1.3522 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
-0.3431	-0.8198	0.8948 O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
-0.1878	-2.0083	-1.5857 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
-0.2683	-2.3337	-3.0802 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
-0.7692	-3.7362	-3.2880 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
-1.7776	-3.6983	-4.2291 O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
-0.4014	-4.7718	-2.7894 O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
-2.4054	-4.9613	-4.5737 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0.4230	5.7264	1.4680 Br	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
-1.4813	2.0968	0.1367 Br	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0.5657	2.7478	5.4781 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0.8595	0.3096	5.0368 H	0	0	Õ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
1 0633	-0 5058	2 7047 H	0	0	õ	Õ	Õ	0	0	Õ	Õ	0	0	0	
0 4902	4 3443	3 6352 H	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	
2 8192	0 7006	-0 6739 H	ñ	ñ	ñ	ñ	õ	õ	ñ	ñ	ñ	ñ	ñ	ñ	
2 7577	2 2174	0 2386 H	ñ	ň	ň	ň	ň	ň	ň	ň	ň	ñ	ñ	ñ	
-0.8640	4 4076	-0 4395 H	ñ	ñ	ñ	ñ	ñ	ñ	ñ	ñ	ñ	ñ	0	ñ	
1 8273	3 01/1	0.5382 H	ñ	ñ	ñ	ň	ñ	ň	ň	ň	ň	ñ	ñ	ñ	
3 0622	1 2077	2 2642 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2 3246	2 4508	-2.004011 4 0207 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2.3240	4 0772	-4.9207 II	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0.4310	4.0773	-4.0200 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
-0.0905	4.5577	-2.0702 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0.0017	0.1235	-2.0023 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
1.5/49	-0.7309	-1.6462 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0.3478	-2.8168	-1.0423 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
-1.2066	-1.9870	-1.1388 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
-0.9245	-1.6050	-3.6063 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0.7297	-2.2451	-3.5609 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
-2.9702	-4.7138	-5.4781 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
-3.0622	-5.2617	-3.7514 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
-1.6446	-5.7264	-4.7605 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Cis-2 (Figure 4)

Mopac Job: AUX PM6 CHARGE=0 EF GNORM=0.100 SHIFT=80 Finished @ RMS Gradient = 0.09107 (< 0.10000) Heat of Formation = -90.60139 Kcal/Mol

Chem3D Core 13.0.203081416183D

48 50 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0999 \	/20	000	)									
-0.0149	3.0135	4.1250 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-0.1485	1.6221	4.1164 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.1011	0.9034	2.9463 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.5038	1.5870	1.7892 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.6935	2.9858	1.7996 C	Ō	Ō	0	Ō	0	Õ	Õ	0	0	Õ	Ō	0
0.4002	3.6904	2.9754 C	0	0	0	0	0	Õ	Õ	0	0	0	0	0
0.6775	0.8401	0.5537 N	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ
-0 4552	0.9351	-0 4043 C	Õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	Õ	Õ
-0 1452	1 7490	-1 6436 C	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ
0.0756	3 1377	-1 6589 C	õ	õ	ñ	õ	ñ	õ	õ	ñ	õ	õ	õ	õ
0 1003	4 0355	-0 4524 C	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ
1,1909	3.6488	0.5513 C	0	Õ	0	Õ	0	0	Õ	0	Õ	õ	0	Õ
-0.1498	1.0481	-2.8649 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.0739	1.6961	-4.0769 C	Õ	Õ	0	Õ	0	0	Õ	0	Õ	Õ	Õ	Õ
0 3037	3 0760	-4 0911 C	Õ	Õ	Õ	Õ	õ	Õ	Õ	Õ	Õ	Õ	0	Õ
0.2995	3.7846	-2.8927 C	Õ	Õ	Õ	Õ	Õ	Õ	Õ	Õ	Õ	Õ	Õ	Õ
1.7803	-0.0271	0.4210 C	0	0	0	Ō	Ō	0	Ō	0	Õ	Ō	0	0
1.8238	-0.9733	-0.7607 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.6621	0.0009	1.2625 O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1.5510	-2.4013	-0.2711 C	Ō	Ō	0	0	0	0	0	0	Õ	0	0	0
1.1853	-3.3463	-1.4190 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-0.1937	-3.0639	-1.9453 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-0.8120	-4.2601	-2.2189 O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-0.7471	-2.0035	-2.1392 O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-2.1618	-4.2027	-2.7550 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.2892	5.2571	0.9742 Br	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-1.7091	4.1224	0.3685 Br	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-0.2306	3.5752	5.0329 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-0.4528	1.0965	5.0208 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-0.0047	-0.1800	2.9311 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.4888	4.7787	3.0048 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-0.7708	-0.1018	-0.6966 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-1.3438	1.3718	0.1159 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.2349	5.1012	-0.7847 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1.9414	2.9784	0.0454 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-0.3461	-0.0321	-2.8633 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.0650	1.1324	-5.0086 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.4796	3.5936	-5.0329 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.4706	4.8626	-2.9121 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1.1128	-0.6965	-1.5682 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.8321	-0.9054	-1.2220 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.4487	-2.7889	0.2574 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.7397	-2.4001	0.4868 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1.9148	-3.2560	-2.2545 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1.2593	-4.4062	-1.0842 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-2.3846	-5.2571	-2.9516 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-2.1733	-3.6032	-3.6705 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-2.8321	-3.7761	-2.0024 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1220														
6110														

1 28 1 0

# Trans-1 (Figure 4)

Mopac Job: AUX PM6 CHARGE=-1 EF GNORM=0.100 SHIFT=80 Finished @ RMS Gradient = 0.09647 (< 0.10000) Heat of Formation = -146.83383 Kcal/Mol

Chem3D Core 13.0.203081416173D

48 50 0 0	0000	0 0 0999 \	/20	000	)									
0.9749	-0.1280	5.3986 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1.5838	-1.2332	4.7940 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1.6614	-1.3145	3.4037 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1.1133	-0.2851	2.6215 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.4271	0.7951	3.2113 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.3953	0.8712	4.6144 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 3003	-0 2798	1 1873 N	0	0	0	Õ	0	õ	0	Õ	Õ	0	0	0
2 2763	0 7542	0 7363 C	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ
1 7149	1 8460	-0 1323 C	Õ	Õ	0	Õ	0	õ	0	õ	Õ	0	0	0
0.8759	2 8632	0.3835 C	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ
0 2954	2 9250	1 7154 C	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ	õ
-0 3370	1 8130	2 4250 C	ñ	ñ	ñ	ñ	ñ	ñ	ñ	ñ	ñ	ñ	ñ	ñ
2 1578	1 0038	-1 4650 C	ň	5	ň	ñ	ñ	ň	ň	ň	ñ	ñ	ň	ñ
1 7000	2 9576	-2 3061 C	ñ	0	ň	ñ	ñ	0	ñ	ñ	ñ	ñ	ň	0
0 0082	2.3370	-2.3001 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.5502	3 0/50	-0.4845 C	ñ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.3342	_1 2808	-0.4040 C	ñ	0	ñ	0	0	ň	0	0	0	0	ň	0
0.7091	-1.2030	-1 1254 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.0719	2 2807	0.8631.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.2404	2.2001	1 9990 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.2509	1 0021	-1.0000 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.0004	2 1006	-3.3094 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-0.3302	-3.1000	-4.1593 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-1.0029	-2.0300	4.7003 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.2275	-4.1009	-4.3209 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-2.1214	-3.0942	-0.0002 C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-1.41/3	0.0910	1.0310 BI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.0379	3.5105	3.1033 BI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.9484	-0.0468	6.4814 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.0040	-2.0200	5.4001 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.1252	-2.1/08	2.9191 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-0.0722	1./324	5.0921 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.1223	0.2373	0.2300 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.7184	1.2477	1.6498 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-0.2582	3.8650	1.8853 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-1.1/22	2.2032	3.0606 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.8080	1.1206	-1.8485 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.1449	2.9843	-3.3323 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.7272	4.8277	-2.4383 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-0.0581	4.7584	-0.0978 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1.9239	-0.9140	-1.4282 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.3403	-0.1196	-1.3695 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-0.7187	-2.51//	-1.4264 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.8939	-3.14/8	-1.///8 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1.0107	-1.4870	-3.7960 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-0.6880	-1.0817	-3.4726 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-3.1223	-3.5143	-5.8066 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-2.1588	-4.8277	-5.0088 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-1.5146	-4.0185	-6.4814 H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1220														
6110														

1 28 1 0

<sup>1</sup> D. W. Thompson, L. Wang, Y. Zhao, N. Zhou, *Org. Lett.*, 2008, **10**, 3001-3004. <sup>2</sup> Y. C. Fan, O. Kwon, *Org. Lett.*, 2012, **14**, 3264-3267.