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Supporting Information for:

## Bi(OTf)<sub>3</sub>-Catalysed Synthesis of Substituted Indanes by a Double Hydroarylation of Unactivated 1,3-Dienes

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#### **General remarks:**

Reactions were carried out under an anhydrous atmosphere of Nitrogen. Glassware was oven-dried prior to use. Anhydrous Anhydrous MeNO2 was obtained by drying over CaCl2. Other commercially available reagents were used as received unless stated otherwise. Column chromatography was carried out on silica gel (spherical. neutral. 63-200 μm. Geduran Si 60. Merck KGaA). GC/MS analyses were performed with a Shimadzu QP2010S-MS chromatograph (EI. 70 eV) equipped with a SLB-5ms capillary column (thickness: 0.25 mm. length: 30 m. inside diameter: 0.25 mm). Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on 0.2 mm precoated plate Kieselgel 60 F254 (Merck). NMR spectra (<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C, DEPT, COSY <sup>1</sup>H–<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>1</sup>H–<sup>13</sup>C, nOe) were recorded on a BRUKER AC 200 spectrometer. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra are referenced at 7.26 ppm for CDCl<sub>3</sub>. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra are referenced at 77.00 ppm for CDCl<sub>3</sub>. Chemical shifts are given in ppm.

High resolution mass spectroscopy (HRMS) were performed on a LTQ/Orbitrap Thermo Fisher.

## 1-methoxy-4-(3-methylbut-2-enyl)benzene p-3a and 1-methoxy-2-(3-methylbut-2-enyl)benzene o-3a

Bi(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (7 mg, 0.01 mmol) was added to a mixture of anisole 1a (2.2 mL, 20 mmol) and isoprene 2a (320 μL, 2 mmol). The solution was stirred at room temperature for 1h. After complete consumption of the diene (GC monitoring), the reaction mixture was quenched with a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, extracted thrice with diethyl ether, washed with a saturated aqueous solution of NaCl dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography (pentane) to afford the o-3a (63 mg), o-3a and p-3a (204 mg, o:p = 25:75) and p-3a (63 mg) as colorless oil (overall yield: 94%).

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.17-7.08 (m, 2H), 6.90-6.80 (m, 2H), 5.33 (bt, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.31 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.31 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.81 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (d, J = 7.7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.77 (bs, 3H), 1.74 (bs, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 158.1, 133.9, 132.1, 129.2, 123.6, 113.8, 55.3, 33.4, 25.8, 17.7.

**MS** (m/z) 176(52) [M<sup>±</sup>], 161(100), 146(17), 121(38), 115(25), 108 (16), 91(95), 77(72), 65(50), 51 (44), Spectral data were in accordance with those reported in literature<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.25-7.09 (m, 2H), 6.98-6.78 (m, 2H), 5.33 (bt, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.34 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H) 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.76 (bs, 3H), 1.73 (bs, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 157.7, 133.9, 131.4, 129.0, 127.7, 123.5, 120.3, 110.1, 55.3, 33.3, 25.6, 17.6. **MS** (m/z) 176(22) [M<sup>+</sup>], 161 (27), 121 (17), 107(10), 91 (100), 77 (39), 65 (35).

Spectral data were in accordance with those reported in literature <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Y. Yang and S. L. Buchwald, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2013, 135, 10642-10645.

## General procedure for the formation of indanes from 1,3-dienes:

To a solution of 1,2-dimethoxybenzene **1b** (127  $\mu$ L, 1.0 mmol) and Bi(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (33 mg, 0.05 mmol) in nitromethane (1 mL) was slowly added isoprene **2a** (150  $\mu$ L, 1.5 mmol) in nitromethane (1 mL) over 1 hour at room temperature using a syringe pump. After the addition, the solution was stirred for 1h. After complete consumption of the aromatic compound (GC monitoring), the reaction mixture was quenched with a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, extracted thrice with diethyl ether, washed with a saturated aqueous solution of NaCl dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography (pentane/Et2O: 100/0 to 90/10) to afford the indane compound **4a** (163 mg, 79 %) as a colorless oil.

### 5,6-dimethoxy-1,1-dimethyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-indene 4a

Indane **4a** was obtained as a colorless oil (163 mg, 79%) following the General Procedure from 1,2-dimethoxybenzene **1b** (127  $\mu$ L, 1.0 mmol), isoprene **2a** (150  $\mu$ L, 1.5 mmol) and Bi(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (33 mg, 0.05 mmol).

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 6.75 (s, 1H), 6.68 (s,1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.84 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.93 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.25 (s, 6H)

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 148.0, 147.8, 144.2, 134.0, 107.7, 105.4, 56.0, 55.9, 44.0, 29.8, 28.6 (2C) MS (m/z) 206 (21) [M<sup>+</sup>], 192 (15), 191 (100), 161 (8), 160 (27), 115 (12), 103 (9), 91 (12), 77 (14), 51 (8) HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>13</sub> H<sub>19</sub>O<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 207.1380; Found: 207.1377. Spectral data were in accordance with those reported in literature <sup>3</sup>

#### 5,6-dimethoxy-1,1,2-trimethyl-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-indene 4b

Indane **4b** was obtained as a colorless oil (209 mg, 95%) following the General Procedure from 1,2-dimethoxybenzene **1b** (127  $\mu$ L, 1.0 mmol), 2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene **2b** (170  $\mu$ L, 1.5 mmol) and Bi(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (33 mg, 0.05 mmol).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 6.73 (s, 1H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.86 (dd,  ${}^{3}J = 7.5 \text{ Hz}$ ,  ${}^{2}J = 15.1 \text{ Hz}$ , 1H), 2.48 (dd,  ${}^{3}J = 7.5 \text{ Hz}$ ,  ${}^{2}J = 15.1 \text{ Hz}$ , 1H), 2.13 (m, 1H), 1.25 (s, 3H), 1.04 (d, 3J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 0.94 (s, 3H) (s) NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 148.0, 147.7, 145.1, 133.2, 107.7, 105.8, 56.1, 56.0, 45.9, 45.4, 38.3, 26.8, 23.1, 14.0 MS (m/z) 220 (25) [M<sup>+-</sup>], 206 (19), 205 (100), 145 (14), 105 (14), 81 (18), 57 (69), 55 (13), 44 (17), 41 (35) HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>14</sub> H<sub>21</sub>O<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 221.1536; Found: 221.1535.

### 3-isopropyl-5,6-dimethoxy-1,1-dimethyl-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-indene 4c

Indane **4c** was obtained as a colorless oil (176 mg, 71%) following the General Procedure from 1,2-dimethoxybenzene **1b** (127  $\mu$ L, 1.0 mmol), 2,5-dimethyl-2,4-hexadiene **2c** (213  $\mu$ L, 1.5 mmol) and Bi(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (33 mg, 0.05 mmol).

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 6.67 (s, 1H), 6.64 (s,1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.16 (m, 1H), 2.21 (m, 1H), 1.87 (m, 1H), 1.65 (m, 1H), 1.32 (s, 3H), 1.15 (s, 3H), 1.03 (d, J = 7Hz, 3H), 0.75 (d, J = 7Hz, 3H)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> J. L. Farmer, H. N. Hunter and M. G. Organ, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2012, **134**, 17470-17473.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> H. Lebel, C. Ladjel and L. Bréthous, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2007, **129**, 13321-13326.

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 184.1, 147.9, 144.8, 136.3, 107.0, 105.2, 56.0, 55.9, 47.8, 42.3, 42.1, 29.9, 29.2, 21.4, 17.0

**MS** (m/z) 248 (14) [M<sup>+</sup>·], 233 (7), 206 (14), 205 (100), 190 (7), 175 (7), 174 (20), 115 (6), 91 (7), 41 (7) **HRMS** (**ESI**<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for  $[C_{16}H_{25}O_2]^+$ : 249.1849; Found: 249.1847.

#### 5,5-dimethyl-6,7-dihydro-5H-indeno[5,6-d][1,3]dioxole 4d

Indane **4d** was obtained as a colorless oil (173 mg, 91%) following the General Procedure from 1,3-benzodioxole **1c** (115  $\mu$ L, 1.0 mmol), isoprene **2a** (150  $\mu$ L, 1.5 mmol) and Bi(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (33 mg, 0.05 mmol).

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 6.65 (s, 1H), 6.61 (s, 1H), 5.90 (s, 2H), 2.78 (t, J = 7 Hz, 2H), 1.92 (t, J = 7 Hz, 2H), 1.21 (s, 3H)

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 146.4, 146.2, 145.6, 135.2, 105.0, 102.8, 100.8, 43.7, 41.8, 30.0, 28.7 (2C) MS (m/z) 190 (26) [M<sup>+</sup>], 176 (10), 175 (100), 146 (7), 145 (50), 117 (30), 115 (23), 91 (12), 77 (8), 51 (12) Spectral data were in accordance with those reported in literature <sup>4</sup>

## 3-isopropyl-6-methoxy-1,1-dimethyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-indene 4e

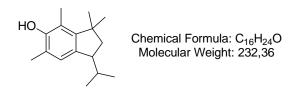
Indane **4e** was obtained as a colorless oil (172 mg, 79%) following the General Procedure from anisole **1a** (109  $\mu$ L, 1.0 mmol), 2,5-dimethyl-2,4-hexadiene **2c** (213  $\mu$ L, 1.5 mmol) and Bi(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (33 mg, 0.05 mmol). ) The temperature was increased to reflux after total consumption of the diene.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.04 - 6.66 (m, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.14 (m, 1H), 2.16 (m,1H), 1.24 (m,1H), 1.71 (m, 1H), 1.33 (s, 3H), 1.16 (s, 3H), 1.04 (d, J = 7 Hz, 3H), 0.74 (d, J = 7 Hz, 3H)

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 158.8, 154.6, 137.0, 124.36, 111.7, 107.6, 53.3, 47.3, 42.6, 42.35, 29.7, 29.2, 28.8, 21.4, 17.2

**MS** (m/z) 218 (7) [M<sup>+</sup>], 176 (13), 175 (100), 160 (13), 145 (12), 128 (13), 117 (10), 115 (20), 91 (17), 43 (25), 41 (29)

### 1-isopropyl-3,3,4,6-tetramethyl-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-inden-5-ol 4f



Indane **4f** was obtained as a colorless oil (216 mg, 93%) following the General Procedure from 2,6-dimethylphenol **1d** (122 mg, 1.0 mmol), 2,5-dimethyl-2,4-hexadiene **2c** (213  $\mu$ L, 1.5 mmol) and Bi(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (33 mg, 0.05 mmol). ) The temperature was increased to reflux after total consumption of the diene.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 6.75 (s, 1H), 4.52 (s, 1H), 3.03 (m, 1H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 2.22 (s, 3H), 1.75 (m,3H), 1.44 (s, 3H), 1.24 (s, 3H), 1.01 (d, J = 7Hz, 3H), 0.75 (d, J = 7Hz, 3H)

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 150.9, 148.6, 137.2, 123.1, 120.8, 119.1, 46.6, 44.0, 43.5, 29.2, 28.7, 27.1, 21.5, 16.7, 16.4, 11.4

**MS** (m/z) 287 (22), 286 (100) [M<sup>+</sup>·], 271 (53), 232 (23), 231 (89), 215 (78), 201 (24), 44 (27), 43 (28), 41 (42) **HRMS** (**ESI**<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for [C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>25</sub>O]<sup>+</sup>: 233.1900; Found: 233.1899.

<sup>4</sup> S. A. Bonderoff, F. G. West and M. Tremblay, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 2012, **53**, 4600-4603.

#### 1,4,6-triisopropyl-3,3-dimethyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-5-ol 4g

Indane **4g** was obtained as a colorless oil (271 mg, 94%) following the General Procedure from 2,6-diisopropylphenol **1e** (185 μL, 1.0 mmol), 2,5-dimethyl-2,4-hexadiene **2c** (213 μL, 1.5 mmol) and Bi(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (33 mg, 0.05 mmol).

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 6.78 (s, 1H), 4.60 (s, 1H), 3.42 (dt, J = 14.3, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.21 – 2.86 (m, 2H), 2.33 – 2.11 (m, 1H), 1.78 (dd, J = 12.4, 7.9 Hz, 2H), 1.48 – 1.31 (m, 10H), 1.25 (dd, J = 6.8, 4.0 Hz, 10H), 1.02 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 4H), 0.76 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H)

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 151.0, 147.3, 137.4, 132.3, 129.7, 118.3, 46.6, 44.5, 43.7, 30.3, 28.8, 28.1, 27.8, 27.0, 23.0, 22.8, 21.5, 20.8, 20.8, 16.8

**MS** (m/z) 288 ( 20) [M<sup>+</sup>], 245 (17), 231 (100), 192 (8), 147 (53), 137 (17), 128 (4), 100 (12), 43 (20), 41 (10)

#### 4,6-diisopropyl-3,3-dimethyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-5-ol 4h

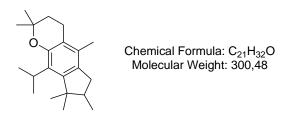
Indane **4h** was obtained as a colorless oil (202 mg, 82%) following the General Procedure from 2,6-diisopropylphenol **1e** (185  $\mu$ L, 1.0 mmol), isoprene **2a** (150  $\mu$ L, 1.5 mmol) and Bi(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (33 mg, 0.05 mmol).

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 6.86 (s, 1H), 4.61 (s, 1H), 3.56 – 3.32 (m, 1H), 3.02 (m, 1H), 2.73 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.88 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.40 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 6H), 1.36 (s, 6H), 1.25 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 6H)

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 151.1, 146.8, 135.2, 132.5, 130.1, 119.1, 45.8, 43.9, 29.3, 28.6 (2C), 27.9, 26.9, 22.8 (2C), 20.8 (2C)

**MS** (m/z) 246 (29) [M<sup>+-</sup>], 232 (17), 231 (100), 189 (8), 147 (53), 129 (12), 128 (9), 100 (15), 43 (17), 41 (13) Synthesis of this compound has already been reported<sup>5</sup>

## 9-isopropyl-2,2,5,6,6,7-hexamethyl-2,3,4,6,7,8-hexahydrocyclopenta[g]chromene 4i



Indane **4i** was obtained as a colorless oil (291 mg, 97%) following the General Procedure from the corresponding chromane derivative **1f** (218 mg, 1.0 mmol), 2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene **2b** (170  $\mu$ L, 1.5 mmol) and Bi(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (33 mg, 0.05 mmol). The temperature was increased to reflux after total consumption of the diene.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 3.36 (dt, J = 13.9, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.84 (dd, J = 14.8, 7.7 Hz, 1H), 2.62 (td, J = 6.8, 2.3 Hz, 2H), 2.30 (dd, J = 14.8, 11.2 Hz, 1H), 2.08 (s, 3H), 2.05 – 1.92 (m, 1H), 1.76 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.42 – 1.29 (m, 15H), 1.03 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 3H), 1.01 (s, 3H)

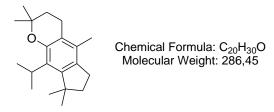
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 135.7, 133.5, 132.0, 131.3, 128.6, 128.0, 127.1, 126.4, 44.5, 33.6, 31.7, 25.9, 20.9, 19.9, 18.2

**MS** (*m*/*z*) 300 (48) [M<sup>+</sup>·], 286 (14), 140 (21), 93 (14), 77 (10), 55 (36), 51 (14), 44 (76), 43 (100), 41 (87)

4

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> T. F. Wood and G. H. Goodwin, *GE Patent 1801662*, 1977

#### 9-isopropyl-2,2,5,6,6-pentamethyl-2,3,4,6,7,8-hexahydrocyclopenta[g]chromene 4j



To a solution of thymol 1g (150 mg, 1.0 mmol) and Bi(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (33 mg, 0.05 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (1 mL) was slowly added isoprene 2a (300  $\mu$ L, 3.0 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (1 mL) over 1 hour at room temperature using a syringe pump. After the addition, the solution was stirred for 1h at 50 °C. After complete consumption of the aromatic compound (GC monitoring), the reaction mixture was quenched with a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, extracted thrice with diethyl ether, washed with a saturated aqueous solution of NaCl dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography to afford the indane compound 4j (263 mg, 92 %) as a colorless oil.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 3.32 (dt, J = 14.0, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.71 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.62 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.08 (s, 2H), 1.93 – 1.81 (m, 2H), 1.80 (s, 2H), 1.33 (m, 15H)

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 152.0, 147.7, 131.8, 129.8, 129.0, 117.6, 72.4, 46.9, 45.5, 36.6, 32.8, 28.0, 27.9, 27.1, 26.3, 21.4, 20.9, 20.8, 15.3, 13.6

**MS** (m/z) 287 (21), 286 (94) [M<sup>+-</sup>], 271 (68), 232 (18), 231 (100), 215 (70), 187 (18), 173 (19), 43 (21), 41 (30) **HRMS** (**ESI**<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for  $[C_{13}H_{19}O_2]^+$ : 287.2369; Found: 287.2368.

# **NMR SPECTRA**

