## **Supplementary Information**

# Zinc Iodide: a mild and efficient catalyst for one-pot synthesis of aminoindolizines *via* sequential A<sup>3</sup> coupling/cycloisomerization

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## I. General information:

<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were determined on a Bruker 400 (400 MHz) spectrometer as solutions in  $C_6D_6$ . Chemical shifts are expressed in parts per million ( $\delta$ ) and the signals were reported as s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), m (multiplet) and coupling constants *J* were given in Hz.. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded at 100 MHz in  $C_6D_6$  solution. Chemical shifts are expressed in parts per million ( $\delta$ ) and are referenced to  $C_6D_6$  ( $\delta = 128.06$ ) as internal standard. TLC was done on silica gel coated glass slide (Merck, Silica gel G for TLC). Silica gel (60-120 mesh, SRL, India) was used for column chromatography. Petroleum ether refers to the fraction boiling in the range of 60-80 °C unless otherwise mentioned. All solvents were dried and distilled before use. Commercially available substrates were freshly distilled before the reaction. Solvents, reagents and chemicals were purchased from Aldrich and Merck Chemicals. All reactions involving moisture sensitive reactants were executed using oven dried glassware.

## II. General experimental procedure for the synthesis of aminoindolizines(4):

To a solution of  $ZnI_2$  (32mg, 10 mol%) in toluene (3 mL) taken in a reaction tube, pyridine-2carboxaldehyde/ quinoline-2 carboxaldehyde (1.0 mmol), amine (1.1 mmol), and alkyne (1.2 mmol) were added sequentially. The resulting reaction mixture was then stirred at 100 °C in oil bath for 1 h. After completion of the reaction (TLC) the reaction mixture was cooled to RT and concentrated under vacuum to get a crude residue which was purified by column chromatography on silica gel column (60–120 mesh) using ethyl acetate-petroleum ether as an eluent to afford the pure aminoindolizine product (4) as yellow oil / gummy mass.

## **III.** Characterization data for the products:



**1-Morpholin-4-yl-3-phenyl-indolizine** (4aaa):<sup>*a*</sup> 255 mg, 92% yield; Yellow oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  : 7.90 (s, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.20-7.14 (m, 2H), 7.09-7.04 (m, 1H), 6.64 (s, 7H), 6.34 (s, 1H), 6.03 (s, 1H), 3.74 (s, 4H), 2.86 (s, 4H) ; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  :133.1, 130.6, 129.1, 128.9, 127.0, 126.5, 122.8, 121.8, 118.2, 114.9, 111.1, 106.4.



**1-Morpholin-4-yl-3***-p***-tolyl-indolizine** (4aab):<sup>*b*</sup> 248 mg, 85% yield; Yellow oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  : 7.94 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.33-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.02 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 6.36-6.32 (m, 1H), 6.05 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.74 (t, J = 4.8 Hz, 4H), 2.87 (t, J = 4.8 Hz, 4H), 2.15 (s, 3H) ; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  :136.6, 130.4, 130.2, 129.8, 129.0, 125.9, 122.8, 121.9, 118.2, 114.7, 110.9, 106.2, 67.5, 54.7, 21.2.



**3-(4-Methoxy-phenyl)-1-morpholin-4-yl-indolizine(4aac):**<sup>*b*</sup> 267 mg, 87% yield; Yellow oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  : 7.89 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.83-6.79 (m, 2H), 6.64 (s, 1H), 6.35 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.07 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 4H), 3.35 (s, 3H), 2.89 (s, 4H) ; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  : 159.3, 130.2, 129.8, 125.5, 125.4, 122.9, 121.8, 118.2, 114.7, 114.5, 110.9, 106.0, 67.5, 54.9, 54.7.



**3-Hexyl-1-morpholin-4-yl-indolizine** (4aad):<sup>*c*</sup> 211 mg, 74% yield; Yellow oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  : 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.43 (s, 1H), 6.37-6.33 (m, 1H), 6.17 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 4H), 2.90 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 4H), 2.44 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.55-1.50 (m, 2H), 1.27-1.16 (m, 6H), 0.90-0.85 (m, 3H) ; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  : 129.1, 127.8, 121.9, 121.2, 118.1, 113.1, 110.2, 104.2, 67.6, 54.9, 32.0, 29.5, 27.6, 26.2, 23.0, 14.3.



**3-(3-Fluoro-phenyl)-1-morpholin-4-yl-indolizine (4aae):** 222 mg, 75% yield; Yellow oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  : 7.77 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.07-6.90 (m, 3H), 6.77-6.72 (m, 1H), 6.54 (s, 1H), 6.35-6.31 (m, 1H), 6.02-5.98 (m, 1H), 3.75 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 4H), 2.83 (t, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 4H), 2.15 (s, 3H) ; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  : 163.7 (d, <sup>*1*</sup>*J*<sub>*C*-*F*</sub> = 244 Hz), 135.1 (d, <sup>*3*</sup>*J*<sub>*C*-*F*</sub> = 8 Hz), 130.7 (d, <sup>*3*</sup>*J*<sub>*C*-*F*</sub> = 8 Hz), 127.9, 126.6, 123.3, 121.8, 121.6, 118.2, 115.4, 114.7 (d, <sup>*2*</sup>*J*<sub>*C*-*F*</sub> = 22 Hz), 113.6 (d, <sup>*2*</sup>*J*<sub>*C*-*F*</sub> = 21 Hz), 111.4, 106.8, 67.4, 54.6; Anal. Calcd. For (%) C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>FN<sub>2</sub>O: C, 72.95; H, 5.78; N, 9.45. Found C, 72.90; H, 5.75; N, 9.40.



**1-Morpholin-4-yl-3-thiophen-3-yl-indolizine (4aaf):** 201 mg, 71% yield; Yellow oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  : 7.99 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (t, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (s, 1H), 6.85 (s, 1H), 6.55 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.28 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (t, J = 4.8 Hz, 4H), 3.06 (s, 4H) ; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  : 133.6, 130.6, 128.1, 126.3, 126.0, 123.1, 122.6, 120.9, 118.4, 115.0, 111.4, 106.6, 67.8, 55.0; Anal. Calcd. For (%) C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>OS: C, 67.58; H, 5.67; N, 9.85. Found C, 67.53; H, 5.70; N, 9.79.



**3-Hexyl-1-piperidin-1-yl-indolizine** (4abd):<sup>*a*</sup> 190 mg, 67% yield; Yellow oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  : 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 6.50 (s, 1H), 6.37-6.33 (m, 1H), 6.16 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 4H), 2.45 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.70 (t, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 4H), 1.59-1.51 (m, 2H), 1.45-1.39 (m, 2H), 1.28-1.19 (m, 6H), 0.87 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H) ; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  : 128.1, 124.3, 121.7, 121.1, 118.4, 112.9, 110.1, 104.3, 56.1, 32.0, 29.6, 27.6, 26.9, 26.2, 24.7, 23.0, 20.8, 2

14.3.



**Methyl-phenyl-(3-phenyl-indolizin-1-yl)-amine (4aca):**<sup>*a*</sup> 202 mg, 68% yield; Yellow oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  : 7.93 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.21-7.05 (m, 7H), 6.84-6.77 (m, 3H), 6.68 (s, 1H), 6.27 (s, 1H), 6.01 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 3.12 (s, 1H) ; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  : 150.7, 132.6, 129.2, 129.2, 128.9, 128.1, 127.2, 124.1, 123.7, 122.3, 117.9, 117.5, 116.7, 113.7, 112.5, 111.1, 40.6.



**Dibenzyl-(3-phenyl-indolizin-1-yl)-amine (4ada):**<sup>*a*</sup> 349 mg, 90% yield; Yellow oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  : 7.80 (d, J = 7.2Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 7.23 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.15-7.10 (m, 7H), 7.04-7.02 (m, 3H), 6.70 (s, 1H), 6.33-6.29 (m, 2H), 5.95 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (s, 4H) ; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  :139.5, 132.5, 128.6, 127.6, 127.3, 127.0, 126.7, 126.4, 122.6, 121.4, 117.7, 114.7, 110.5, 108.3.



**3-Phenyl-1-thiomorpholin-4-yl-indolizine** (4aea): 258 mg, 88% yield; Yellow oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  : 7.89 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.20-7.14 (m, 2H), 7.09-7.05 (m, 1H), 6.64 (s, 1H), 6.36-6.32 (m, 1H), 6.02 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 3.11 (t, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 4H), 2.58 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 4H) ; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  : 133.0, 131.4, 129.1, 128.2, 127.0, 126.3, 123.0, 121.8, 118.0, 115.1, 111.1, 107.2, 56.5, 28.8; Anal. Calcd. For (%) C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>S: C, 73.43; H, 6.16; N, 9.51. Found C, 73.39; H, 6.10; N, 9.46.



**1-Thiomorpholin-4-yl-3***-p***-tolyl-indolizine** (4aeb): 255 mg, 83% yield; Yellow oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  : 8.14 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 6.55 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 6.25 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.34 (s, 4H), 2.80 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 4H), 2.36 (s, 3H) ; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  : 136.9, 132.4, 131.5, 130.5, 130.2, 126.4, 123.4, 122.2, 118.3, 115.2, 111.3, 107.3, 56.9, 29.1, 21.5; Anal. Calcd. For (%) C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>S: C, 73.99; H, 6.54; N, 9.08. Found C, 73.95; H, 6.50; N, 9.02.



**3-Morpholin-4-yl-1***-p***-tolyl-pyrrolo**[**1**,**2**-**a**]**quinoline** (4bab):<sup>*c*</sup> 290 mg, 85% yield; Yellow gummy mass; <sup>1</sup>H NMR ( $C_6D_6$ , 400 MHz)  $\delta$  : 7.65 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.99-6.91 (m, 3H), 6.82-6.78 (m, 1H), 6.71 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 6.51 (s, 1H), 3.74 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 4H), 2.87 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 4H), 2.12 (s, 3H) ; <sup>13</sup>C NMR ( $C_6D_6$ , 100 MHz)  $\delta$  : 137.4, 137.0, 134.8, 133.4, 132.8, 129.6, 129.5, 128.6, 126.5, 126.3, 124.7, 123.5, 118.1, 117.8, 117.0, 108.8, 67.5, 54.7, 21.2.



1-(4-Methoxy-phenyl)-3-morpholin-4-yl-pyrrolo[1,2-

a]quinoline (4bac): 315 mg, 88% yield; Yellow gummy mass; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  : 7.65 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.85-6.70 (m, 4H), 6.51 (s, 1H), 3.75 (t, J = 4.4 Hz, 4H), 3.29 (s, 3H), 2.89 (t, J = 4.8 Hz, 4H) ; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  :159.8, 134.9, 132.7, 131.0, 128.7, 128.6, 128.2, 126.5, 126.4, 124.5, 123.5, 117.9, 117.8, 116.9, 114.3, 108.7, 67.5, 54.8, 54.7 ; Anal. Calcd. For (%) C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: C, 77.07; H, 6.19; N, 7.82. Found C, 77.03; H, 6.12; N, 7.75.

## **IV. NMR Spectra:**





























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## V. Photophysical studies:

## Spectroscopic apparatus:

The steady state electronic absorption spectra of all the samples were recorded at the ambient temperature (300 K) using 1 cm pathlength rectangular quartz cuvette by Kozima, by means of JASCO V-650 absorption spectrophotometer. Steady state fluorescence spectra of all the samples were recorded by JASCO FP-6500 fluorescence spectrometer at 300 K. Emission was detected at right angles to the direction of excitation light in order to avoid stray light.

### **Quantum Yield Determination:**

To calculate Fluorescence quantum yield ( $\phi_f$ ), we used the following formula<sup>d</sup>,

$$\varphi_f = \frac{l_f}{l_f^R} \frac{A^R}{A} \left(\frac{n}{n^R}\right)^2 \varphi_f^R$$

Here,  $\varphi_f^R$  is the known fluorescence quantum yield of the reference sample (referred by the superscript '*R*');  $I_f$  and  $I_f^R$  are the integrated fluorescence intensities of the unknown sample and reference sample, respectively; *A* and *A*<sup>*R*</sup> are the absorbances of the unknown sample and reference sample, respectively; *n* and *n*<sup>*R*</sup> are the refractive indices of the solvents for the unknown sample and reference sample, respectively. The unknown sample and reference sample are excited at the same wavelength for measuring  $I_f$  and  $I_f^R$ , respectively. The fluorescence quantum yield of the samples are measured at 300 K relative to that of ZnTPhP in benzene solution ( $\varphi_f^R = 0.033$  at 30° C)<sup>e</sup>.



Photophysical study of **4bac** in various solvents:

**Fig 2** Absorbance and fluorescence emission spectra of **4bac** in various solvents (Concentration  $\sim 10^{-4}$  mol L<sup>-1</sup>). Hex= Hexane, Ben= Benzene, CB= Chlorobenzene, ACN= Acetonitrile.

Solvent	λ <sub>max</sub> (nm)	λ <sub>emi</sub> (nm) <sup>*</sup>	φf	ε at λ <sub>max</sub> (cm <sup>-1</sup> M <sup>-1</sup> )	$\overline{v}_{a} - \overline{v}_{f}$ (cm <sup>-1</sup> )
Acetonitrile	384	541	0.40	4675	7557
Tetrahydrofuran	382	531	0.34	6005	7277
Chlorobenzene	385	529	0.47	4943	7070
Benzene	382	526	0.44	4733	7166
Hexane	379	514	0.34	3899	7070

 $^*$  Excitation wavelength was chosen corresponding to their  $\lambda_{max}$  value. (Concentration  ${\sim}10^{-4}$  mol  $L^{-1})$ 

### Absorbance and fluorescence emission spectra of 4aaa.



Solvent	λ <sub>max</sub> (nm)	λ <sub>emi</sub> (nm) <sup>*</sup>	φ <sub>f</sub>	$\epsilon$ at $\lambda_{max}$ (cm <sup>-1</sup> M <sup>-1</sup> )	$\overline{v}_{a} - \overline{v}_{f}$ (cm <sup>-1</sup> )
Acetonitrile	344	562	0.006	6423	11329
Hexane	345	529	0.035	9653	10082

 $^*$  Excitation wavelength was chosen corresponding to their  $\lambda_{max}$  value. (Concentration  ${\sim}10^{-4}$  mol  $L^{-1})$ 



Absorbance and fluorescence emission spectra of 4bab.

Solvent	λ <sub>max</sub> (nm)	λ <sub>emi</sub> (nm) <sup>*</sup>	φ <sub>f</sub>	ε at λ <sub>max</sub> (cm <sup>-1</sup> M <sup>-1</sup> )	$\overline{\nu}_{a} - \overline{\nu}_{f}$ (cm <sup>-1</sup> )
Acetonitrile	381	543	0.50	5567	7831
Hexane	378	515	0.75	3914	7038

 $^*$  Excitation wavelength was chosen corresponding to their  $\lambda_{max}$  value. (Concentration  ${\sim}10^{-4}$  mol  $L^{-1})$ 

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