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Supporting Information

Diastereoselective construction of bridged piperidines through an

interrupted dearomative reduction

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1. General methods

NMR spectra were recorded with tetramethylsilane as the internal standard. For compound 4, ¹H NMR spectra were recorded at 400 MHz (Bruker Avance) and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded at 125 MHz (Bruker Avance). For compound 10, ¹H NMR spectra were recorded at 300 MHz (Bruker Avance) and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded at 100 MHz (Bruker Avance). For compound 11, ¹H NMR spectra were recorded at 300 MHz (Bruker Avance), and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded at 75 MHz (Bruker Avance). For other products, ¹H NMR spectra were recorded at 400 MHz, and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded at 100 MHz (Bruker Avance). For compounds **2f**, **2l**, **2m** and **2n**, ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded at 376 MHz (Bruker Avance). ¹H NMR chemical shifts (δ) are reported in ppm relative to tetramethylsilane (TMS) with the solvent signal as the internal standard (CDCl₃ at 7.26 ppm, (CD₃)₂SO at 2.50 ppm). ¹³C NMR chemical shifts are reported in ppm from tetramethylsilane (TMS) with the solvent resonance as the internal standard (CDCl₃ at 77.00 ppm, (CD₃)₂SO at 39.52 ppm). Data are given as: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), dd (double of doublet), br (broad) or m (multiplets), coupling constants (Hz) and integration. Flash column chromatography was carried out using silica gel eluting with ethyl acetate and petroleum ether. High resolution mass spectra were obtained with the Q-TOF-Premier mass spectrometer. Reactions were monitored by TLC and visualized with ultraviolet light. IR spectra were recorded on a Thermo Fisher Nicolet Avatar 360 FTIR spectrometer on a KBr beam splitter. All the solvents were used directly without any purification.

2. Experimental data for the formation of 2-7



General procedure: A solution of pyridinium salts 1 (0.2 mmol) in 1.0 mL of MeOH was cooled to 0 $^{\circ}$ C, and then NaBH₄ (18.9 mg, 0.50 mmol) was added successively. The reaction mixture was warmed to 30 $^{\circ}$ C until the complete consumption of 1 as monitored by thin layer chromatography. Then, saturated aq. NH₄Cl solution was added. The mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic phase was dried over MgSO₄, filtered, concentrated and purified with silica gel column chromatography to obtain 2. It was of note that when R¹ was 3,4-dimethoxyl group, **2h** was produced in 57% yield together with the formation of un-cyclized product **3** in 16% yield.

2-(6-nitro-1,3,6,7-tetrahydro-2,6-methanobenzo[*c*]azonin-7-yl)-1-phenylethan-1-one (2a)

Yellow solid obtained by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1 to 3:1); 54.8 mg, 79% yield; dr > 20:1; reaction time = 12 h; mp 136.4-137.2 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 3H), 5.97 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 5.62 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.52 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.31 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 4.10 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.58 (d, *J* = 20.0 Hz, 1H), 3.51 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 3.39 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.98 (d, *J* = 20.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.0, 138.3, 136.6, 133.2, 132.4, 131.6, 131.0, 128.6, 127.9, 127.7, 127.0, 126.4, 85.2, 61.0, 53.7, 49.8, 48.5, 39.0, one carbon missing in the aromatic region. IR (KBr) v 3426, 2920, 1689, 1534, 759 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₂₁N₂O₃ [M+H]⁺: 349.1547, found: 349.1546.



1-(2-bromophenyl)-2-(6-nitro-1,3,6,7-tetrahydro-2,6-methanobenzo[*c*]azonin-7-yl)ethan-1-one (**2b**)

Yellow oil obtained by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 10:1 to 3:1); 40.4 mg, 47% yield; dr > 20:1; reaction time = 24 h; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.20 (m, 3H), 7.17-7.11 (m, 2H), 7.08-7.04 (m, 2H), 5.97 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 5.62 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.47 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.23 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 4.00-3.88 (m, 2H), 3.72 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.63-3.53 (m, 2H), 3.26 (dd, *J*₁ = 8.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.96 (d, *J* = 20.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 199.9, 141.1, 138.5, 137.8, 133.4, 132.3, 131.6, 131.6, 130.8, 128.2, 127.7, 127.3, 127.1, 126.1, 118.2, 84.9, 60.8, 53.6, 49.7, 48.4, 42.8. IR (KBr) v 3415, 2921, 1703, 762 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₂₀BrN₂O₃ [M+H]⁺: 427.0652, found: 427.0659.



1-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-(6-nitro-1,3,6,7-tetrahydro-2,6-methanobenzo[*c*]azonin-7-yl)ethan-1-one
(2c)
White solid obtained by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1 to 3:1); 47.1

mg, 62% yield; dr > 20:1; reaction time = 12 h; mp 151.8-152.6 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.78 (s, 1H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (s, 1H), 7.34 (s, 1H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 3H), 5.96 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.63 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.50 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.30 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 4.09 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 3.61-3.36 (m, 3H), 2.98 (d, *J* = 20.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.8, 138.3, 138.2, 138.0, 134.9, 133.1, 132.3, 131.7, 131.1, 129.9, 128.0, 127.7, 127.1, 126.2, 126.0, 85.1, 61.0, 53.8, 49.5, 48.5, 39.1. IR (KBr) v 3420, 2867, 1692, 1638, 801 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₂₀ClN₂O₃ [M+H]⁺: 383.1157, found: 383.1156.



1-(3-bromophenyl)-2-(6-nitro-1,3,6,7-tetrahydro-2,6-methanobenzo[*c*]azonin-7-yl)ethan-1-one (2d)

Red solid obtained by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4:1 to 2:1); 43.4 mg, 51% yield; dr > 20:1; reaction time = 16 h; mp 144.5-145.1 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.94 (s, 1H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.31-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 7.07 (s, 1H), 5.97 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.63 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.50 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.30 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 4.09 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.61-3.36 (m, 3H), 2.99 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.7, 138.3, 138.2, 138.2, 136.1, 132.4, 131.7, 131.1, 131.0, 130.2, 127.8, 127.2, 126.5, 126.3, 123.0, 85.1, 61.0, 53.8, 49.5, 48.5, 39.1. IR (KBr) v 3427, 2922, 1632, 796 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₂₀BrN₂O₃ [M+H]⁺: 427.0652, found: 427.0651.



2-(6-nitro-1,3,6,7-tetrahydro-2,6-methanobenzo[*c*]azonin-7-yl)-1-(*m*-tolyl)ethan-1-one (**2e**) Yellow solid obtained by column chromatography (dichloromethane as the eluent); 46.8 mg, 65% yield; dr > 20:1; reaction time = 7 h; mp 154.9-155.7 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.61 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.34-7.24 (m, 3H), 7.11-7.06 (m, 3H), 5.97 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 5.62 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.51 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.31 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 4.10 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 3.60-3.48 (m, 2H), 3.38 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 2.98 (d, *J* = 20.0 Hz, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.2, 138.4, 138.4, 136.6, 134.0, 132.4, 131.6, 131.0, 128.5, 128.4, 127.7, 127.0, 126.4, 125.1, 85.2, 61.0, 53.7, 49.8, 48.5, 39.0, 21.3, one carbon missing in the aromatic region. IR (KBr) v 3425, 2917, 1685, 1527, 772 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₂H₂₃N₂O₃ [M+H]⁺: 363.1703, found: 363.1703.



1-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(6-nitro-1,3,6,7-tetrahydro-2,6-methanobenzo[c]azonin-7-yl) ethan-1-one (c) azonin-7-yl (c) azonin-7-yl) ethan-1-one (c) azonin-7-yl (c

(2f)

Yellow solid obtained by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1 to 3:1); 32.9 mg, 45% yield; dr > 20:1; reaction time = 7 h; mp 156.3-157.4 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86 (q, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 7.24-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.15-7.05 (m, 5H), 5.97 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 5.64 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.49 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.30 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 4.09 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.63-3.57 (m, 1H), 3.49 (dd, *J*₁ = 20.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 3.37 (dd, *J*₁ = 12.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (d, *J* = 20.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.5, 165.7 (d, *J* = 254.0 Hz, 1C), 138.3, 138.2, 132.9 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1C), 132.4, 131.7, 131.1, 130.7 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1C), 127.8, 127.1, 126.3, 115.7 (d, *J* = 22.0 Hz, 1C), 85.2, 61.0, 53.7, 49.8, 48.5, 38.9; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -104.6. IR (KBr) v 3575, 3064, 1686, 1537, 1230, 762 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₂₀FN₂O₃ [M+H]⁺: 367.1458, found: 367.1461.



1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(6-nitro-1,3,6,7-tetrahydro-2,6-methanobenzo[c]azonin-7-yl)ethan-1-one

(2g)

Yellow solid obtained by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1 to 3:1); 41.2 mg, 48% yield; dr > 20:1; reaction time = 12 h; mp 147.4-147.9 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.67 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.13-7.05 (m, 3H), 5.97 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 5.63 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 4.08 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.58 (d, *J* = 20.0 Hz, 1H), 3.48 (dd, *J*₁ = 16.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.37 (dd, *J*₁ = 8.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.98 (d, *J* = 20.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.1, 138.4, 138.1, 135.2, 132.3, 131.9, 131.7, 131.1, 129.5, 128.4, 127.8, 127.2, 126.3, 85.2, 61.0, 53.7, 49.8, 48.5, 39.0. IR (KBr) v 3422, 2971, 1685, 1533, 765 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₂₀BrN₂O₃ [M+H]⁺: 427.0652, found: 427.0649.

MeQ



1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(6-nitro-1,3,6,7-tetrahydro-2,6-methanobenzo[*c*]azonin-7-yl)ethan-1-one (**2h**)

Yellow solid obtained by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1 to 3:1); 62.3 mg, 82% yield; dr > 20:1; reaction time = 12 h; mp 122.4-123.9 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.24-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.12-7.04 (m, 3H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 5.98 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.63 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.50 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.31 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 4.10 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.79 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 3.59 (d, *J* = 20.0 Hz, 1H), 3.48 (dd, *J*₁ = 16.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 3.34 (dd, *J*₁ = 8.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (d, *J* = 20.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.4, 163.5, 138.4, 138.3, 132.3, 131.6, 160.9, 130.2, 129.5, 127.6, 126.9, 126.4, 113.6, 85.2, 60.9, 55.3, 53.6, 49.9, 48.5, 38.5. IR (KBr) v 3417, 2923, 1674, 1602, 1532, 1255, 764 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $C_{22}H_{23}N_2O_4$ [M+H]⁺: 379.1652, found: 379.1653.



1-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-(6-nitro-1,3,6,7-tetrahydro-2,6-methanobenzo[*c*]azonin-7-yl)ethan-1-o ne (**2i**)

Yellow solid obtained by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 2:1); 45.7 mg, 57% yield; dr > 20:1; reaction time = 21 h; mp 128.6-129.9 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (s, 1H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 3H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.95 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 5.61 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.46 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.31 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 4.09 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (s, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.77 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.57 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.46 (dd, *J_I* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.33 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.98 (d, *J* = 20.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.7, 153.3, 149.0, 138.3, 138.2, 132.3, 131.7, 131.0, 129.7, 127.6, 127.0, 126.4, 122.5, 110.1, 109.9, 85.3, 61.0, 56.0, 55.9, 53.5, 50.3, 48.5, 38.4. IR (KBr) v 3419, 2923, 1673, 1525, 765 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₃H₂₅N₂O₅ [M+H]⁺: 409.1758, found: 409.1758.



(*E*)-1-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-3-(2-((3-nitropiperidin-1-yl)methyl)phenyl)prop-2-en-1-one (**3**) Yellow solid obtained by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3:1); 13.4 mg, 16% yield; reaction time = 21 h; mp 136.4-137.2 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.24 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (s, 1H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.31 (m, 3H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.44-4.39 (m, 1H), 3.98 (s, 6H), 3.69 (q, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 2H), 3.12 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.74-2.63 (m, 2H), 2.28-2.17 (m, 2H), 1.97-1.89 (m, 1H), 1.86-1.81 (m, 1H), 1.65-1.56 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 188.8, 153.2, 149.3, 141.9, 137.2, 135.2, 131.3, 130.7, 129.7, 128.0, 126.9, 123.1, 123.0, 110.8, 109.9, 81.2, 60.4, 56.1, 56.0, 55.3, 52.8, 28.5, 23.1. IR (KBr) v 3422, 2924, 2381, 1597, 1265, 763 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₃H₂₇N₂O₅ [M+H]⁺: 411.1914, found: 411.1914.



1-(naphthalen-1-yl)-2-(6-nitro-1,3,6,7-tetrahydro-2,6-methanobenzo[c]azonin-7-yl)ethan-1-one (2j)

Yellow solid obtained by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1 to 3:1); 16.7 mg, 21% yield; dr > 20:1; reaction time = 24 h; mp 55.8-56.4 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.16-8.13 (m, 1H), 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.84-7.83 (m, 1H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.51-7.41 (m, 3H), 7.21-7.19 (m, 1H), 7.16-7.08 (m, 3H), 6.00 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.64 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.55 (t, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.30 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 4.07 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.62-3.55 (m, 2H), 3.47 (dd, *J*₁ = 16.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (d, *J* = 20.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 200.5, 138.2, 138.2, 135.8, 133.8, 132.6, 132.3, 131.6, 131.1, 129.9, 128.3, 127.9, 127.8, 127.2, 126.9, 126.5, 126.3, 125.5, 124.3, 85.2, 61.0, 53.6, 50.4, 48.5, 42.5. IR (KBr) v 3409, 2924, 1684, 1535, 769 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₅H₂₃N₂O₃ [M+H]⁺: 399.1709, found: 399.1714.



2-(6-nitro-1,3,6,7-tetrahydro-2,6-methanobenzo[*c*]azonin-7-yl)-1-(thiophen-2-yl)ethan-1-one (**2k**) Yellow solid obtained by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4:1 to 2:1); 37.9 mg, 54% yield; dr > 20:1; reaction time = 15 h; mp 160.6-161.4 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.58 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.22-7.19 (m, 1H), 7.14-7.05 (m, 4H), 5.96 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.64-5.61 (m, 1H), 4.45 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.31 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 4.07 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.62-3.56 (m, 1H), 3.47 (dd, *J*₁ = 16.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.30 (dd, *J*₁ = 16.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 188.9, 143.6, 138.2, 137.9, 133.9, 132.4, 131.8, 131.7, 131.0, 128.1, 127.8, 127.1, 126.3, 85.2, 61.0, 53.5, 50.2, 48.5, 39.6. IR (KBr) v 3093, 3021, 1661, 1535, 1301, 764 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₉H₁₉N₂O₃S [M+H]⁺: 355.1116, found: 355.1122.

2-(11-fluoro-6-nitro-1,3,6,7-tetrahydro-2,6-methanobenzo[c]azonin-7-yl)-1-phenylethan-1-one

(**2l**)

Yellow solid obtained by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 10:1 to 8:1); 34.7 mg, 47% yield; dr > 20:1; reaction time = 7 h; mp 166.6-167.1 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.83 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.07 (s, 2H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 5.98 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 5.67 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.59 (t, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 4.08 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (dd, *J*₁ = 20.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 16.0 Hz, 2H), 3.63-3.50 (m, 2H), 3.41 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 2.96 (d, *J* = 20.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.8, 161.3 (d, *J* = 243.0 Hz, 1C), 141.0, 136.4, 133.3, 131.7, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 127.9, 126.0, 125.2 (d, *J* = 13.0 Hz, 1C), 114.3 (d, *J* = 24.0 Hz, 1C), 84.8, 53.8, 49.6, 49.5, 48.8, 38.8; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -118.4. IR (KBr) v 3423, 2926, 1689, 1535, 765 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₂₀FN₂O₃ [M+H]⁺: 367.1452, found: 367.1445.



2-(9-fluoro-6-nitro-1,3,6,7-tetrahydro-2,6-methanobenzo[*c*]azonin-7-yl)-1-phenylethan-1-one (**2m**)

Yellow solid obtained by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 10:1 to 6:1); 35.3 mg, 48% yield; dr > 20:1; reaction time = 24 h; mp 151.9-152.2 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.84 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.06-6.99 (m, 2H), 6.81-6.76 (m, 1H), 5.97 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 5.65 (dd, *J*₁ = 8.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.24 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 4.07 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), $3.77 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 3.62-3.50 (m, 2H), 3.40 (dd, J_1 = 8.0 Hz, J_2 = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (d, J = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (d, J = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (d, J = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (d, J = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 3.91$ 20.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.6, 161.7 (d, J = 248.0 Hz, 1C), 140.5 (d, J = 7.0Hz, 1C), 136.4, 134.2 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1C), 133.4, 132.4 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1C), 131.9, 128.7, 127.9, 126.2, 119.6 (d, *J* = 22.0 Hz, 1C), 113.4 (d, *J* = 20.0 Hz, 1C), 85.0, 60.2, 53.7, 49.3, 48.5, 38.7; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -114.8. IR (KBr) v 3425, 2925, 1688, 1536, 775 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₂₀FN₂O₃ [M+H]⁺: 367.1452, found: 367.1451.



2-(10-fluoro-6-nitro-1,3,6,7-tetrahydro-2,6-methanobenzo[c]azonin-7-yl)-1-phenylethan-1-one

(2n)

Yellow solid obtained by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 8:1 to 6:1); 38.1 mg, 52% yield; dr > 20:1; reaction time = 24 h; mp 134.6-135.3 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.82 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (s, 1H), 7.42 (s, 2H), 7.24 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (s, 2H), 5.96 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.66 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.51 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.28 (d, J = 16.0 Hz,1H), 4.08 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (dd, $J_1 = 16.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 12.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.54 (dd, $J_1 = 20.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.36 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.9, 161.3 (d, *J* = 246.0 Hz, 1C), 141.0 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1C), 136.4, 134.2 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1C), 134.0 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1C), 133.4, 131.7, 128.6, 127.9, 126.3, 117.8 (d, J = 21.0 Hz, 1C), 114.0 (d, J = 20.0 Hz, 1C), 85.1, 60.6, 53.6, 48.9, 48.6, 38.9; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -115.9. IR (KBr) v 3424, 3010, 1655, 1608, 768 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $C_{21}H_{20}FN_2O_3$ [M+H]⁺: 367.1452, found: 367.1453.



2-(10-chloro-6-nitro-1,3,6,7-tetrahydro-2,6-methanobenzo[c]azonin-7-yl)-1-phenylethan-1-one (20)

Yellow solid obtained by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 8:1 to 6:1); S10

38.5 mg, 50% yield; dr > 20:1; reaction time = 24 h; mp 129.1-130.1 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.83 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 5.96 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.67 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.51 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.26 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 4.07 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.59 (d, *J* = 20.0 Hz, 1H), 3.51 (dd, *J_I* = 8.0 Hz, *J₂* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 3.37 (dd, *J_I* = *J₂* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (d, *J* = 20.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.8, 140.5, 136.9, 136.4, 133.9, 133.4, 132.7, 131.8, 130.7, 128.7, 127.9, 127.5, 126.3, 85.0, 60.5, 53.6, 49.0, 48.6, 38.8. IR (KBr) v 3422, 2927, 1683, 1537, 773 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₂₀ClN₂O₃ [M+H]⁺: 383.1157, found: 383.1159.



2-(10-methoxy-6-nitro-1,3,6,7-tetrahydro-2,6-methanobenzo[*c*]azonin-7-yl)-1-phenylethan-1-one (**2p**)

Yellow solid obtained by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1 to 3:1); 36.7 mg, 49% yield; dr > 20:1; reaction time = 14 h; mp 146.1-146.9 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.64-6.61 (m, 2H), 5.98 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 5.65 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.45 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 4.09 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.62-3.48 (m, 2H), 3.34 (dd, *J*₁ = 16.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 3.02 (d, *J* = 20.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.3, 158.2, 139.7, 136.6, 133.6, 133.2, 131.6, 130.2, 128.6, 128.0, 126.4, 117.6, 111.4, 85.5, 61.1, 55.1, 53.6, 49.1, 48.5, 39.2. IR (KBr) v 3647, 3055, 2926, 1686, 1535, 1244, 765 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₂H₂₃N₂O₄ [M+H]⁺: 379.1658, found: 379.1663.



2-(5-methyl-6-nitro-1,3,6,7-tetrahydro-2,6-methanobenzo[c]azonin-7-yl)-1-phenylethan-1-one

Yellow solid obtained by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 10:1 to 6:1); 33.7 mg, 47% yield; dr > 20:1; reaction time = 24 h; mp 135.9-136.6 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.92 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 7.54-7.43 (m, 4H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 20.0 Hz, 3H), 5.32 (s, 1H), 4.88 (s, 1H), 4.32 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.02-3.89 (m, 3H), 3.72 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.53 (s, 2H), 2.97 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 1.45 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.2, 138.3, 138.2, 136.8, 133.2, 131.6, 130.8, 128.6, 128.4, 128.0, 128.0, 127.7, 127.0, 89.9, 60.7, 56.3, 49.2, 45.1, 39.8, 17.3. IR (KBr) v 3422, 2927, 1687, 1530, 758 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₂H₂₃N₂O₃ [M+H]⁺: 363.1703, found: 363.1701.



2-(3-methyl-6-nitro-1,3,6,7-tetrahydro-2,6-methanobenzo[*c*]azonin-7-yl)-1-phenylethan-1-one (2**r**)

Red oil obtained by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 15:1 to 3:1); 26.0 mg, 36% yield; dr > 20:1; reaction time = 7 h; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.73 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (s, 2H), 6.96 (s, 1H), 5.85 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 5.53 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.41 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.22 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.91-3.75 (m, 3H), 3.44 (dd, *J*₁ = 16.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.30 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (s, 1H), 1.08 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.1, 138.2, 138.1, 136.7, 136.5, 133.2, 132.3, 131.0, 128.6, 127.9, 127.6, 127.0, 125.7, 85.2, 61.1, 52.2, 49.7, 49.5, 39.0, 19.3. IR (KBr) v 3427, 2922, 1689, 1530, 768 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₂H₂₃N₂O₃ [M+H]⁺: 363.1703, found: 363.1702.



ethyl

(E)-1-(2-(3-hydroxy-3-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)benzyl)-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridine-3-carboxylate (4)

Yellow oil obtained by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 10:1 to 3:1); 11.0 mg, 15% yield; reaction time = 72 h; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.49-7.47 (m, 1H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 3H), 7.24-7.18 (m, 2H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.00-6.98 (m, 1H), 6.28 (dd, *J*₁ = 16.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.39 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 4.19 (q, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.67 (s, 2H), 3.22 (s, 2H), 2.51 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.27 (s, 2H), 1.28 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.9, 142.8, 137.6, 136.8, 133.3, 130.5, 129.9, 129.1, 128.6, 128.6, 128.5, 127.6, 127.4, 126.4, 126.3, 75.2, 60.4, 60.0, 51.5, 48.1, 26.4, 14.3. IR (KBr) v 3449, 1704, 1627, 1266, 755 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₄H₂₈NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 378.2069, found: 378.2075.



Condition A: NaBH₄ (2.5 equiv), 11 h, 31% (5a), 41% (5b) Condition B: NaBH₄ (4.0 equiv), 1.5 h, 0% (5a), 76% (5b)

General procedure: A solution of pyridinium salts 1t (0.2 mmol) in 1.0 mL of MeOH was cooled to 0 $^{\circ}$ C, and then NaBH₄ (18.9 mg, 0.50 mmol) was added successively. The reaction mixture was warmed to 30 $^{\circ}$ C until the complete consumption of 1t as monitored by thin layer chromatography. Then, saturated aq. NH₄Cl solution was added. The mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic phase was dried over MgSO₄, filtered, concentrated and purified with silica gel column chromatography to obtain 5a and 5b in 31% and 41% yields, respectively. When 4.0 equivalents of NaBH₄ were used, 5b was afforded in 76% yield without the formation of 5a.



(*E*)-3-(2-((5-methyl-3,6-dihydropyridin-1(2*H*)-yl)methyl)phenyl)-1-phenylprop-2-en-1-one (**5a**) Yellow solid obtained by column chromatography (dichloromethane as the eluent); 19.7 mg, 31% yield; reaction time = 11 h; mp 127.4-128.0 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.17 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 4H), 5.33 (s, 1H), 3.57 (s, 2H), 2.73 (s, 2H), 2.42 (s, 2H), 1.98 (s, 2H), 1.51 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 191.6, 143.3, 138.3, 138.2, 134.9, 132.5, 132.0, 130.8, 129.7, 128.6, 128.4, 127.5, 126.9, 124.0, 119.5, 60.3, 56.8, 49.3, 25.9, 20.9. IR (KBr) v 3424, 2919, 1637, 805 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₂H₂₄NO [M+H]⁺: 318.1852, found: 318.1855.



(*E*)-3-(2-((5-methyl-3,6-dihydropyridin-1(2*H*)-yl)methyl)phenyl)-1-phenylprop-2-en-1-ol (**5b**) White solid obtained by column chromatography (dichloromethane as the eluent); 26.4 mg, 41% yield; reaction time = 11 h; mp 142.1-142.9 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 7.22-7.17 (m, 4H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 6.16 (dd, *J_I* = 8.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 5.28 (d, *J* = 32.0 Hz, 2H), 3.47 (s, 2H), 3.33 (br, 1H), 2.69 (s, 2H), 2.37 (s, 2H), 1.97 (s, 2H), 1.48 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.0, 136.7, 135.4, 133.3, 132.1, 130.4, 128.3, 128.2, 127.4, 127.3, 127.1, 126.3, 126.1, 119.3, 74.9, 60.2, 56.7, 49.4, 25.7, 20.9. IR (KBr) v 3418, 2919, 1261, 753 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₂H₂₆NO [M+H]⁺: 320.2009, found: 320.2015.



General procedure: A solution of pyridinium salts **1u** (0.2 mmol) in 1.0 mL of MeOH was cooled to 0 $^{\circ}$ C, and then NaBH₄ (18.9 mg, 0.50 mmol) was added successively. The reaction mixture was warmed to 30 $^{\circ}$ C until the complete consumption of **1u** as monitored by thin layer chromatography. Then, saturated aq. NH₄Cl solution was added. The mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic phase was dried over MgSO₄, filtered, concentrated and purified with silica gel column chromatography to obtain **6** in 67% yield.



(E)-1-phenyl-3-(2-(quinolin-1(2H)-ylmethyl)phenyl)prop-2-en-1-one (6)

Yellow solid obtained by filtration of the precipitate; 46.8 mg, 67% yield; reaction time = 10 min; mp 162.1-162.7 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.12 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.57-7.44 (m, 4H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.35 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.66-5.64 (m, 1H), 4.50 (s, 2H), 4.18 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 190.6, 144.9, 141.2, 137.9, 136.4, 134.0, 132.7, 130.3, 129.1, 128.6, 128.5, 127.9, 127.5, 127.5, 127.0, 126.4, 124.4, 121.9, 121.9, 117.2, 110.0, 51.7, 50.3. IR (KBr) v 3418, 2922, 1689, 1530, 768 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₅H₂₂NO [M+H]⁺: 352.1696, found: 352.1692.



General procedure: A solution of pyridinium salts 1v (0.2 mmol) in 1.0 mL of MeOH was cooled to 0 °C, and then NaBH₄ (18.9 mg, 0.50 mmol) was added successively. The reaction mixture was warmed to 30 °C until the complete consumption of 1v as monitored by thin layer chromatography. Then, saturated aq. NH₄Cl solution was added. The mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic phase was dried over MgSO₄, filtered, concentrated and purified with silica gel column chromatography to obtain **6** in 43% yield.



3-(2-(Isoquinolin-2(1*H*)-ylmethyl)phenyl)-1-phenylpropan-1-one (**7**) Yellow oil obtained by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4:1); 30.1 mg, 43% yield; reaction time = 1 h; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.52-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.41-7.35 (m, 3H), 7.27 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 4H), 7.20-7.13 (m, 4H), 6.99 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 6.29 (dd, $J_1 = 16.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 5.33 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (s, 2H), 3.64 (s, 2H), 2.88 (t, J = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 2.75 (t, J = 4.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 142.8, 136.8, 135.4, 134.8, 134.4, 133.1, 130.5, 128.6, 128.4, 127.5, 127.2, 126.6, 126.3, 126.2, 126.0, 125.5, 75.0, 60.5, 55.9, 50.4, 29.1, two carbons missing in the aromatic region. IR (KBr) v 3427, 2922, 1685, 1528, 765 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₅H₂₄NO [M+H]⁺: 354.1852, found: 354.1852.

3. Synthetic application

3.1 Scalable preparation of 2a



General procedure: A solution of pyridinium salts **1a** (1.28 g, 3.0 mmol) in 15.0 mL of MeOH was cooled to 0 $^{\circ}$ C, and then NaBH₄ (0.28 mg, 7.5 mmol) was added successively. The reaction mixture was warmed to 30 $^{\circ}$ C until the complete consumption of **1a** as monitored by thin layer chromatography. Then, saturated aq. NH₄Cl solution was added. The mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic phase was dried over MgSO₄, filtered, concentrated and purified with silica gel column chromatography to obtain **2a** in 50% yield (0.50 g).

3.2 Chemical conversions of 2a



General procedure for the synthesis of 8: To a 5.0 mL vial were successively added 2a (69.7 mg, 0.20 mmol), hydroxylamine hydrochloride (27.8 mg, 0.40 mmol) and 1.0 mL MeOH and 1.0 mL of CH₂Cl₂. Then, pyridine (0.60 mmol) was added by syringe. The resulting mixture was stirred at 35 °C for 24 h until almost full consumption of 2a as monitored by thin layer chromatography, and then the reaction mixture was directly subjected to flash column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ ethyl acetate = 4:1) to afford the corresponding oxime 8 in 91% yield.



(E)-2-(6-nitro-1,3,6,7-tetrahydro-2,6-methanobenzo[c]azonin-7-yl)-1-phenylethan-1-one oxime (8)

White solid obtained by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4:1); 33.1 mg, 91% yield; dr > 20:1; reaction time = 24 h; mp 218.7-219.4 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 11.35 (s, 1H), 7.31-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.15 (m, 4H), 7.13-7.07 (m, 2H), 6.72-6.70 (m, 1H), 5.96

(d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 5.69 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.85 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 4.65 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.39 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.12-4.02 (m, 2H), 3.85 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.60 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 3.38 (d, J = 20.0 Hz, 1H), 2.90 (dd, $J_I = 12.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 4.0$ Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 153.6, 137.1, 135.7, 132.7, 131.5, 129.1, 128.5, 128.1, 127.6, 127.1, 126.9, 125.6, 125.3, 85.7, 57.2, 51.1, 48.0, 46.9, 24.8. IR (KBr) v 3416, 2922, 2378, 1543, 765 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₂₂N₃O₃ [M+H]⁺: 364.1656, found: 364.1654.

General procedure for the formation of 9a/9a': A solution of 2a (139.4 mg, 0.40 mmol) in 2.0 mL of MeOH and 2.0 mL of DCM was cooled to 0 °C, and then NaBH₄ (37.8 mg, 1.0 mmol) was added successively. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 45 min until the complete consumption of 2a as monitored by thin layer chromatography. Then, saturated aq. NH₄Cl solution was added. The mixture was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 . The combined organic phase was dried over MgSO₄, filtered, concentrated and purified with silica gel column chromatography to obtain 9a and 9a' in 31% and 47% yields, respectively.



2-(-6-nitro-1,3,6,7-tetrahydro-2,6-methanobenzo[*c*]azonin-7-yl)-1-phenylethan-1-ol (**9a**) White solid obtained by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3:1); 43.7 mg, 31% yield; dr > 20:1; reaction time = 45 min; mp 159.1-159.9 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ

7.29 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 7.25-7.22 (m, 2H), 7.21-7.18 (m, 3H), 7.11 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.96 (dd, $J_1 = 12.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 4.0$ Hz, 1H), 5.61-5.57 (m, 1H), 4.34 (dd, $J_1 = 8.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 4.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.17 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.14 (s, 1H), 3.93 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.69 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 3.57-3.51 (m, 1H), 2.95 (d, J = 20.0 Hz, 1H), 2.10-1.91 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.4, 138.7, 138.1, 132.3, 131.4, 131.3, 128.6, 127.8, 127.6, 127.2, 127.0, 125.6, 85.8, 71.1, 60.8, 52.5, 52.0, 48.6, 38.9. IR (KBr) v 3415, 2925, 1626, 1532, 767 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₂₃N₂O₃ [M+H]⁺: 351.1703, found: 351.1708.



2-(6-nitro-1,3,6,7-tetrahydro-2,6-methanobenzo[c]azonin-7-yl)-1-phenylethan-1-ol (9a')

White solid obtained by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3:1); 66.2 mg, 47% yield; dr > 20:1; reaction time = 45 min; mp 182.3-182.7 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.41 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.21-7.15 (m, 2H), 7.09-7.06 (m, 1H), 6.97-6.95 (m, 1H), 5.73 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 5.51-5.48 (m, 1H), 4.43 (dd, *J*₁ = 8.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.96 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.61 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 3.44 (d, *J* = 20.0 Hz, 1H), 3.38 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.86 (d, *J* = 20.0 Hz, 1H), 2.40 (s, 1H), 2.39-2.31 (m, 1H), 2.18-2.12 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 142.4, 138.7, 138.6, 131.6, 131.5, 131.4, 128.9, 128.4, 127.6, 127.1, 126.7, 85.4, 73.4, 60.4, 52.4, 52.3, 48.4, 37.9, one carbon missing in the aromatic region. IR (KBr) v 3415, 2925, 1624, 1536, 767 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₂₃N₂O₃ [M+H]⁺: 351.1703, found: 351.1703.

General procedure for the synthesis of 10: To a 5.0 mL vial were successively added 9a' (70.1 mg, 0.20 mmol), nicotinic acid (27.1 mg, 0.22 mmol), DCC (41.3 mg, 0.20 mmol), DMAP (34.4 mg, 0.20 mmol) and 1.0 mL of CH_2Cl_2 . The resulting mixture was stirred at 35 °C for 12 h until almost full consumption of 9a' as monitored by thin layer chromatography, and then the reaction mixture was directly subjected to flash column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ ethyl acetate = 1:1) to afford the corresponding oxime 10 in 85% yield.



2-(6-nitro-1,3,6,7-tetrahydro-2,6-methanobenzo[*c*]azonin-7-yl)-1-phenylethyl nicotinate (**10**) White solid obtained by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 1:1); 77.6 mg, 85% yield; dr > 20:1; reaction time = 12 h; mp 165.8-166.1 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.91 (s, 1H), 8.67 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.34 (m, 5H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 7.06-7.02 (m, 3H), 6.92-6.89 (m, 1H), 5.83-5.72 (m, 2H), 5.54-5.50 (m, 1H), 4.37 (d, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 1H), 4.06 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 3.55 (s, 1H), 3.49 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 2.91 (d, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 1H), 2.77-2.66 (m, 1H), 2.37-2.30 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.0, 153.3, 150.8, 138.7, 138.2, 137.8, 136.9, 131.8, 131.7, 131.5, 129.0, 128.9, 127.7, 127.3, 127.2, 126.5, 125.8, 123.0, 85.5, 76.4, 60.6, 52.7, 52.6, 48.6, 35.1. IR (KBr) v 3415, 2921, 2376, 1725, 1535, 1273, 753 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $C_{27}H_{26}N_3O_4 [M+H]^+$: 456.1918, found: 456.1919.

General procedure for the synthesis of 11: A solution of 2a (174.2 mg, 0.50 mmol) and NiCl₂·6H₂O (475.4 mg, 2.0 mmol) in the combined solvents of MeOH and THF (4.0 mL, v/v = 1:1) was cooled to 0 °C, and then NaBH₄ (151.3 mg, 4.0 mmol) was added successively. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 20 min until the complete consumption of 2a as monitored by thin layer chromatography. Then, saturated aq. NH₄Cl solution was added. The mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic phase was dried over MgSO₄, filtered, concentrated and purified with silica gel column chromatography (petroleum ether/ ethyl acetate = 5:1) to afford the corresponding product **11** in 10% yield.



2-Phenyl-2,3,5,6,8,12b-hexahydro-1*H*,4*H*-3a,7-methanobenzo[*c*]pyrrolo[3,2-*e*]azonine (**11**) White solid obtained by column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1); 14.7 mg, 10% yield; dr > 20:1; reaction time = 20 min; mp 212.6-213.7 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88 (dd, J_1 = 3.0 Hz, J_2 = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.50-7.43 (m, 4H), 7.33-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.07 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.42 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (d, J = 18.0 Hz, 1H), 3.41-3.15 (m, 3H), 3.05 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.49 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 1.97-1.78 (m, 5H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.9, 137.6, 133.7, 132.7, 131.5, 131.1, 129.5, 128.6, 127.7, 127.2, 123.3, 73.9, 60.3, 58.6, 57.7, 43.8, 35.8, 30.9, 18.7. IR (KBr) v 3413, 2376, 1397, 690 cm⁻¹. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₂₅N₂ [M+H]⁺: 305.2012, found: 305.2016.

4. Mechanistic studies



Scheme S1 Control experiment







Figure S2. HRMS spectrum of 2a-D

ok even ok even



Scheme S2 Proposed mechanism

WLL-201

To understand the reaction pathway in depth, a control experiment was conducted by using $NaBD_4$ as the reductant to reduce **1a** (Scheme S1). And the result revealed that deuterium incorporation was observed at both the C2 and C6 positions of pyridinium ring, while was not at the C4 position. This phenomenon clearly indicated that the first reduction proceeded at the C6 position with complete regioselectivity to generate bienamine intermediate **A** (Scheme S2). Followed by a nucleophilic addition to the chalcone moiety by harnessing the nucleophilicity of bienamine, intermediate **B** bearing an imine ion was produced. In the end, the second reduction occurred to deliver the desired bridged piperidine **2a**.

5. Crystal structures

5.1 Crystal structure of 2a

Preparation of the single crystals of 2a: About 10.0 mg of pure compound 2a was dissolved in the combined solvents of dichloromethane and methanol (3 mL, v/v = 1:1) at room temperature. The bottle was sealed by a piece of plastic film with several tiny holes, thus allowing slow evaporation of the solvents at room temperature. After about five days, several small particles were observed at the bottom of the bottle. The crystals were chosen and subjected to the single crystal X-ray diffraction analysis for the determination of the structure of 2a. The data were collected by a Rigaku Gemini E at 293.0 K.



Table S1. Crystal data and structure refinement for 2a.

Bond precis	ion: C-C	C = 0.0048 A	Wavelength=1.54184
Cell:	a = 22.6978(5)	b = 7.32067(11)	c = 12.3466(3)
	alpha = 90	beta = 121.241(3)	gamma = 90

Temperature: 293 K

	Calculated	Reported
Volume	1754.06(8)	1754.07(8)

Space group	C c		C 1 c 1			
Hall group	C -2yc		C -2yc			
Moiety formula	$C_{21}H_{20}N_2O_3$		$C_{21}H_{20}N_2O_3$			
Sum formula	$C_{21}H_{20}N_2O_3$		$C_{21}H_{20}N_2O_3$			
Mr	348.39		348.39			
Dx,g cm-3	1.319		1.319			
Z	4		4			
Mu (mm-1)	0.720		0.720			
F000	736.0		736.0			
F000'	738.24					
h,k,lmax	26,8,14		26,8,14			
Nref	3130[1567]		2357			
Tmin,Tmax	0.925,0.965		0.851,1.000			
Tmin'	0.898					
Correction method= # Reported T Limits: Tmin=0.851 Tmax=1.000 AbsCorr =						
MULTI-SCAN						
Data completeness= 1.50/0.75 Theta(max)= 67.059						
R(reflections) = 0.0338(2272) $wR2(reflections) = 0.0911(2357)$						
S = 1.061	Npar= 235					

5.2 Crystal structure of 2q

Preparation of the single crystals of 2q: About 10.0 mg of pure compound 2q was dissolved in the combined solvents of dichloromethane and methanol (3 mL, v/v = 1:1) at room temperature. The bottle was sealed by a piece of plastic film with several tiny holes, thus allowing slow evaporation of the solvents at room temperature. After about five days, several small particles were observed at the bottom of the bottle. The crystals were chosen and subjected to the single crystal X-ray diffraction analysis for the determination of the structure of 2q. The data were collected by a Rigaku Gemini E at 293.0 K.



Table S2. Crystal data and structure refinement for $\mathbf{2q}$.

Bond precision:		C-C =	0.0025 A		Wavelength $= 1.54184$	
Cell: a = 12.3385		(5)	b = 7.6142(3)	c = 19.685	0(8)	
	alpha = 90		beta = 99.363(4)	gamma = 9	00	
Temperature	e: 293 K					
		Calculat	ed		Reported	
Volume		1824.73	(13)		1824.71(13)	
Space group)	P 21/c			P 1 21/c 1	
Hall group		-P 2ybc			-P 2ybc	
Moiety form	nula	$C_{22}H_{22}N$	¹ ₂ O ₃		$C_{22}H_{22}N_2O_3$	
Sum formul	a	$C_{22}H_{22}N$	¹ ₂ O ₃		$C_{22}H_{22}N_2O_3$	
Mr		362.42			362.41	
Dx,g cm-3		1.319			1.319	
Z		4			4	
Mu (mm-1)		0.712			0.712	
F000		768.0			768.0	
F000'		770.31				
h,k,lmax		14,9,23			14,9,23	
Nref		3259			3260	
Tmin,Tmax		0.926,0.9	945		0.880,1.000	
Tmin'		0.905				

Correction method= # Reported T Limits: Tmin=0.880 Tmax=1.000 AbsCorr =

MULTI-SCAN

Data completeness= 1.000

Theta(max) = 67.078

wR2(reflections)= 0.1198(3260)

R(reflections)= 0.0429(2641)

S = 1.017

Npar= 245

5.3 Crystal structure of 9a

Preparation of the single crystals of **9a**: About 15.0 mg of pure compound **9a** was dissolved in the combined solvents of chroloform, petroleum ether and ethyl acetate (3 mL, v/v/v = 2:1:1) at room temperature. The bottle was sealed by a piece of plastic film with several tiny holes, thus allowing slow evaporation of the solvents at 0 °C. After about four days, several small particles were observed at the bottom of the bottle. The crystals were chosen and subjected to the single crystal X-ray diffraction analysis for the determination of the structure of **9a**. The data were collected by a Bruker D8 QUEST PHOTON II diffractometer at 273.0 K.



Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 30% probability level

Table S3. Crystal data and structure refinement for 9a.

Bond precision:		C-C = 0.0025 A		V	Wavelength=1.54178
Cell:	a = 10.34840	(2)	b = 10.5112(2)	c = 16.0533	3(3)
	alpha = 90		beta = 90	gamma = 9	0
Temperature	: 100 K				
		Calculate	ed		Reported
Volume		1746.18((6)		1746.18(6)
Space group		P 21 21 2	21		P 21 21 21
Hall group		P 2ac 2al	b		P 2ac 2ab
Moiety form	ula	C ₂₁ H ₂₂ N	$_{2}O_{3}$		$C_{21}H_{22}N_2O_3$
Sum formula		C ₂₁ H ₂₂ N	₂ O ₃		$C_{21}H_{22}N_2O_3$

Mr	350.41		350.40			
Dx,g cm-3	1.333		1.333			
Z	4		4			
Mu (mm-1)	0.724		0.724			
F000	744.0		744.0			
F000'	746.24					
h,k,lmax	12,12,19		12,12,19			
Nref	3437[1971]		3392			
Tmin,Tmax	0.840,0.917		0.760,0.920			
Tmin'	0.696					
Correction method= # Reported T Limits: Tmin=0.760 Tmax=0.920 AbsCorr =						
MULTI-SCAN						
Data completeness= 1.72/0.99 Theta(max)= 72.140						
R(reflections) = 0.0312(3292) $wR2(reflections) = 0.0989(3392)$						
S = 0.862	Npar= 236					

6. NMR spectra

















S33















10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -210 f1 (ppm)



¹H NMR spectrum of **2m** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



.0 11.5 11.0 10.5 10.0 9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0 -0.5 -1.0 -1.5 -2 fl (ppm)









¹H NMR spectrum of **3** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

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¹H NMR spectrum of **9a** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

¹H NMR spectrum of **9a'** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)

