Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) for

Visible-light-driven reductive dearomatization of N-arylformyl indoles in EDA complexes with a thiophenol via a HAT pathway

Yi-Ping Cai, Meng-Yue Ma, Xiao Xu and Qin-Hua Song*

Department of Chemistry, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei 230026, P. R. China. E-mail: qhsong@ustc.edu.cn

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1. Materials and general methods

All aryl thiols and solvents were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification unless otherwise stated. Anhydrous DMSO was purchased from Energy Chemical, and added to molecular sieves during use and stored at room temperature. The ¹H and ¹³C {¹H} NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Ascend 400MHz spectrometer (400 MHz for ¹H NMR, 100 MHz for ¹³C NMR) or on a Bruker Ascend 500MHz spectrometer (500 MHz for ¹H NMR, 125 MHz for ¹³C NMR). The chemical shifts (δ) for ¹H and ¹³C are reported in ppm and are referenced to Me₄Si (TMS) and the residual undeuterated solvent resonances (TMS at 0.00 ppm; CHCl₃ at 7.26 ppm ¹H NMR and 77.16 ppm ¹³C NMR respectively; DMSO at 2.50 ppm ¹H NMR and 39.52 ppm ¹³C NMR respectively). All UV/Vis absorption spectra were recorded in 1 cm path quartz cuvettes on a Shimadzu UV-2450 UV-VIS spectrophotometer. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were acquired using a Q-Exactive plus hybrid quadrupole-orbitrap mass spectrometer (Q-Orbitrap MS) (Thermo Scientific, San Jose, USA) with electrospray ionization (ESI) source. A 40 W Kessil PR160L-456 nm LED photoreaction lighting (max frequency, max intensity) was employed as a visible light source without the use of filters.



Figure S1. The photo reaction setup with a 40 W Kessil PR160L-456 nm LED photoreaction lighting and a fan.

2. Condition optimization and all substrates of the dearomatization reaction

	ArSH, Base DMSO, N ₂ COOEt blue LEDs, 10 h	N COOEt	/
Entry	ArSH (equiv)	Base (equiv)	Yield % ^a
1	S1 (1.5)	Cs ₂ CO ₃ (1.5)	54
2	S1 (1.5)	K ₂ CO ₃ (1.5)	60
3	S1 (1.5)	Na ₂ CO ₃ (1.5)	54
4	S1 (1.5)	DBU (1.5)	22
5	S1 (1.5)	DBU (0.5)	45
6	S1 (1.5)	DBU (0.2)	25
7	S1 (1.5)	NEt ₃ (1.5)	96
8	S1 (1.5)	DIPEA (1.5)	96
9	S1 (1.5)	DIPEA (1.0)	83
10	S1 (1.5)	DIPEA (0.8)	80
11	S1 (1.0)	DIPEA (1.5)	79
12	S1 (0.8)	DIPEA (1.5)	77
13	S1 (0.4)	DIPEA (1.5)	68
14	1.5 eq <i>p</i> -Me-	1.5 eq DIPEA	97
15	1.5 eq <i>p</i> -MeO-	1.5 eq DIPEA	85
16	1.5 eq <i>p</i> -H-	1.5 eq DIPEA	97
17	1.5 eq <i>p</i> -F-	1.5 eq DIPEA	94
18	1.5 eq <i>p</i> -CF ₃ -	1.5 eq DIPEA	92
19	None	DIPEA (1.5)	ND
20	S1 (1.5)	None	ND
21 ^b	S1 (1.5)	DIPEA (1.5)	ND

Table S1. Optimization of the conditions

^{*a*} Reaction conditions: 0.1 mmol **R1a** in 1.0 mL of DMSO (0.1M), irradiation with a blue LED (456 nm, 40W, Kessil[®] lighting) for 10 h at room temperature, and yields were determined by ¹H NMR analysis using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as internal standards. ^{*b*} In dark. ND, not detected.





3. Mechanistic investigations

3.1 Cyclic voltammetry (CV) measurements

CV measurements were carried out under nitrogen atmosphere in DMSO solutions with 0.1 M of tetrabutylammonium tetrafluoroborate (Bu_4NBF_4) as a supporting electrolyte. Measurements were made with a glassy carbon electrode, saturated calomel electrode (SCE) as reference electrode, and a Pt wire counter electrode. The concentration of the sample solution was fixed at 10 mM and the sweep rates were set to 100 mV/s. The redox potential of ferrocenium/ferrocene (Fc⁺/Fc) was measured under same experimental conditions.



Figure S2. Cyclic voltammograms of ferrocene, R1a, R1b, R1c, R5a, R5b, R19, R20 and R21. $E_{1/2}$ (Fc⁺/Fc) (V vs. SCE) = 0.45 V.



3.2 UV-vis absorption spectra as evidence of the EDA complex

Figure S3. UV/Vis absorption spectra of **R1a**, **S1** (1.5 equiv) and DIPEA (**B1**, 1.5 equiv) in DMSO (0.1M). Inset: photos of above solutions.



Figure S4. UV/Vis absorption spectra of **R6a**, **S1** (1.5 equiv) and DIPEA (**B1**, 1.5 equiv) in DMSO (0.1M). Inset: photos of above solutions.

3.3 NMR measurements

Mixture of a certain amount of substrate **R32** with increasing amount of thiophenol and the corresponding concentration of DIPEA is analyzed in DMSO- d_6 by ¹⁹F-NMR. The chemical shift δ (Ar-F) of the F atom of substrate **R32** gradually moved downfield with the increase of ArS- concentration, indicating that there was an interaction between **R32** and thiophenol anion.^{S1}

Entry	R32 /mmol	S1 /mmol	DIPEA /mmol	R32 : S1 : DIPEA	δ (Ar-F)/ppm
1	0.01	0	0	1:0:0	-113.5027
2	0.01	0.02	0.02	1:2:2	-113.4923
3	0.01	0.04	0.04	1:4:4	-113.4888
4	0.01	0.06	0.06	1:6:6	-113.4849
5	0.01	0.08	0.08	1:8:8	-113.4808
6	0.01	0.10	0.10	1:10:10	-113.4779

Table S3. ¹⁹F-NMR measurements of R32 with S1 and DIPEA.

Mixture of a certain amount of substrate **R38** with increasing amount of thiophenol and the corresponding concentration of DIPEA is analyzed in DMSO-d₆ by ¹H-NMR. The chemical shift δ (MeO-) of the H atom of substrate **R38** gradually moved upfield with the increase of ArS- concentration, indicating that there was an interaction between **R38** and thiophenol anion, which further supported the formation of EDA in this system.^{S2}

Entry	R38 /mmol	S1 /mmol	DIPEA /mmol	R38 : S1 : DIPEA	δ (MeO-)/ppm
1	0.01	0	0	1:0:0	3.7720
2	0.01	0.02	0.02	1:2:2	3.7692
3	0.01	0.04	0.04	1:4:4	3.7663
4	0.01	0.06	0.06	1:6:6	3.7642
5	0.01	0.08	0.08	1:8:8	3.7618
6	0.01	0.10	0.10	1:10:10	3.7597
7	0.01	0.12	0.12	1:12:12	3.7575



Figure S5. The plot of the chemical shift of H atom in CH_3O group of the concentration ratio of R38 and S1[-H]⁻.

3.4 Free radical-trapping experiments

The substrate R1a (0.2 mmol, 1.0 eq.) and TEMPO (3.0 eq.) were added to a 10 mL transparent Schlenk tube equipped with a stirring bar. The tube was evacuated and refilled with nitrogen (N_2) three times. Then DMSO (2 mL), DIPEA (1.5 eq.), and S2 (1.5 eq.) were added via a gastight syringe under nitrogen atmosphere. Afterwards, the tube was sealed, and the reaction mixture was stirred under irradiation with blue LED (456 nm, distance approximately 3.0 cm from the bulb) with a fan at room temperature for 10 h. The reaction mixture was analyzed by HRMS with ESI source, no desired product 1 was detected, indicating that the reaction was completely inhibited by TEMPO. Meanwhile, free radical-trapping adduct of benzyl radical intermediate with TEMPO was observed with HRMS analysis of the reaction solution at m/z 449.2433 (Figure S6). The reaction mixture was extracted with DCM (3×10 mL) and washed with water to remove DMSO. The organic layers were combined and concentrated under vacuum. The free radical-trapping adduct 43^{S3} of benzyl radical intermediate with TEMPO was purified by flash column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v = 20:1) yielding a colorless oil in 11%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (td, J = 7.5 Hz, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (td, J = 7.6 Hz, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (td, J = 7.7 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 5.73 (s, 1H), 4.12 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.47 (s, 3H), 1.40-1.37 (m, 2H), 1.25 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 1H), 1.20 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 1.15 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.09-1.07 (m, 2H), 1.00 (s, 3H), 0.19 (s, 3H), -0.29 (s, 3H). HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₂₇H₃₃N₂O₄: 449.2435 [M+H⁺], found: 449.2433.

The free radical-trapping adduct 44^{S4} of ArS[•] with TEMPO was purified by flash column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =50:1) yielding a yellow oil in 75%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.55 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 1.66-1.49 (m, 15H), 0.92 (s, 3H). Above data are consistent with the reported literature. ^{S3, S4}



Figure S6. HRMS analysis of free radical-trapping adducts with TEMPO.



Figure S7. ¹H NMR Spectra of the free radical-trapping adduct 43 of benzyl radical intermediate with TEMPO.



Figure S8. ¹H NMR Spectra of the free radical-trapping adduct 44 of ArS[•] with TEMPO.

3.5 Benzyl anion-trapping experiments



The substrate **R1a** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 eq.) was added to a 10 mL transparent Schlenk tube equipped with a stirring bar. The tube was evacuated and refilled with CO₂ three times. Then DMSO (0.1 M), DIPEA (1.5 eq.) and **S1** (1.5 eq.) were added via a gastight syring. Afterwards, the tube was sealed, and the reaction mixture was stirred under irradiation with blue LED (456 nm, distance approximately 3.0 cm from the bulb) with a fan at room temperature for 3 h. Then, the mixture was quenched with 1 mL of H₂O and 2 mL of HCl (2 N), extracted with DCM (3×10 mL) and washed with water to remove DMSO. The organic layers were combined and concentrated under vacuum, and the yields were determined by ¹H NMR analysis using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as internal standards.



The substrate **R1a** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 eq.) was added to a 10 mL transparent Schlenk tube equipped with a stirring bar. The tube was evacuated and refilled with nitrogen (N₂) three times. Then DMSO (0.1 M), DIPEA (1.5 equiv), **S1** (1.5 equiv), DBU (1.5 equiv) and 4-F-PhCHO (2 equiv) were added via a gastight syringe under nitrogen atmosphere. Afterwards, the tube was sealed, and the reaction mixture was stirred under irradiation with blue LED (456 nm, distance approximately 3.0 cm from the bulb) with a fan at room temperature for 10 h. The reaction mixture was analyzed by HRMS with ESI source, the m/z peaks of adduct product **M2** of the benzyl anion with the aldehyde was found at 440.1272, and the mass spectrum shown in Fig. S9. Meanwhile, the coupling products **25A** and **M1** of benzyl radical with ArS• and DIPEA[-H]• were observed at m/z 452.1290 and 421.2485, respectively.



Figure S9. HRMS analysis of the reaction with aldehyde.

3.6 Deuterium labeling experiments



In a glovebox, to a Schlenk tube with a stirring bar was added **R1a** (0.1 mmol, 1.0 eq.), NaS3 (sodium benzenethiolate) (1.5 eq.), DMSO (1 mL), D₂O (10 eq.) with or without DIPEA (1.5 eq.). Afterwards, the tube was sealed, and the reaction mixture was stirred under irradiation with blue LED (456 nm, distance approximately 3.0 cm from the bulb) with a fan at room temperature for 10 h. The reaction mixture was extracted with DCM (3×10 mL) and washed with water to remove DMSO. The yields were determined by ¹H NMR analysis using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as internal standards. The desired product was purified by flash column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) to give **1**. As shown in Fig. S10, the deuterium incorporation of the isolated product was determined by integration of the peak areas of ¹H NMR spectroscopy. The deuterium incorporation of the other deuterium labeling experiments were analyzed by analogy.



Figure S10. ¹H NMR Spectra of compound 1 with 37% deuterium incorporation.

Control experiments with D₂O

The reactant **R1a** was stirred with deuterated water under the reaction condition in dark, there were no deuterated trace in **R1a**. Therefore, we could rule out the possibility that the direct H/D exchange of **R1a** with D_2O .



The dearomatization product 1 was stirred with deuterated water under the reaction condition in dark, there were no deuterated trace in 1. Therefore, we could rule out the possibility that the direct H/D exchange of 1 with D_2O .



3.7 NOE analysis of the major isomer of 24

The stereochemistry of the major isomer of **24** was analyzed by NOESY spectroscopy. The methyl (δ =1.52 ppm) at C2 of indole was determined to be *syn* to C3-substituent group based on a cross signal between the methyl hydrogen and methylene hydrogen of -CH₂CO₂Me at C3 of indole at 2.96 ppm, while there is no cross signal between the methyl and benzylic hydrogen at 3.73 ppm. The both evidences indicated the *syn*-relationship between the newly generated C–C bond and C-H bond. The *syn*-form stereochemistry of the other disubstituted products was surmised by analogy while **25A** could be opposite as a nucleophilic substitution product of **25**.



Figure S11. NOESY spectra of compound 24.

4. Experimental procedure

4.1 Synthesis of substrates

General Procedure 1



The solution of indole derivative (1.0 eq.), dimethylaminopyridine (DMAP) (1.0 eq.), carboxylic acid (2.0 eq.) and DCM (0.1 M) were stirred at 0 $^{\circ}$ under a nitrogen atmosphere for 30 mins. After that, N, N'-diisopropylcarbodiimide (DIC) (2.0 eq.) was added dropwise via syringe and the solution was warmed to room temperature until the indole derivative was consumed (monitored by TLC). After the reaction was completed, then the precipitate was filtered off and the solution was concentrated under vacuum. Corresponding substrates were further purified by column chromatography.

General Procedure 2



1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid (1.0 eq.), hydroxyl compound R⁴-OH (1.2 eq.), DMAP (0.2 eq.) and dichloromethane (0.1 M) were placed in a 100 mL round-bottomed flask equipped with a stirring bar. After that, DIC (1.2 eq.) was added dropwise via syringe and the mixture was stirred at room temperature until the acid was consumed. After the reaction was completed, the precipitate was filtered off and the solution was concentrated under vacuum. Corresponding 2-formiate indole derivatives were purified by short column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v = 5:1) and used for the following step which is the same as **General Procedure 1**.

Synthesis of Substrates R13 and R14



1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid (1.0 eq.), 1-(3-Dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride (EDC), (1.2 eq.), DMAP (0.2 eq.) and dichloromethane 0.1 M) were stirred at 0 $\,^{\circ}$ C under a nitrogen atmosphere for 10 mins. After that, secondary amines (R⁴)₂NH (1.2 eq.) was added dropwise via syringe and the mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. Upon completion the reaction was extracted with DCM and washed with saturated NaHCO₃ solution. The combined organic phases was concentrated under vacuum. Corresponding 2-amide indole derivatives were further purified by short column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =2:1) and used for the following step which is the same as **General Procedure 1**.

Synthesis of Substrates R39



To a 100 mL oven-dried flask added 2-bromo-6-chlorobenzoic acid (1 eq.) and solvent DCM (0.5 M) with 5 mol% DMF. Then oxalyl chloride (1.2 eq.) was slowly added to the solution. After 2 h, the solvent was removed in vacuo. The obtained product 2-bromo-6-chlorobenzoyl chloride used for next step without further purification. In a separate flame dried flask, to a solution of ethyl 1H-indole-2-carboxylate and DMAP (0.06 eq.) in DCM (0.1 M) was added NEt₃ (2.6 eq.) at 0 °C under a nitrogen atmosphere for 30 mins. Later, the acyl chloride was diluted by DCM and added dropwise to the reaction mixture. The reaction was warmed to room temperature and stirred overnight. Upon completion the reaction was quenched with saturated NH₄Cl solution and extracted with DCM. The organic layers were combined and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified via silica gel column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v = 5:1) to give the corresponding substrates.

Synthesis of substrates R5a and R5b



Indole derivative (1 eq.) and SnCl₂-2H₂O (5 eq.) were placed in a 100 mL round-bottomed flask equipped with a stirring bar under a nitrogen atmosphere. Then anhydrous ethanol (0.3 M) was added and the mixture was heated to reflux overnight. Upon completion the reaction mixture was poured into ice 2 M NaOH. Later, the mixture was extracted with DCM, washed with brine. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and purified with flash

column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v = 10:3) to obtain the reduction product.

To a mixture of the above reduction product (1 eq.) and K_2CO_3 (6 eq.) in DMF (0.3 M) under a nitrogen atmosphere, iodoethane (4 eq.) was added in drop wise manner. The reaction was stirred at reflux for 16 hours. After cooling down to room temperature, the mixture was treated with water and extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic solvent was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After removal of the solvent in vacuum, the residue was purified via column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1).

4.2 Photomediated dearomatization reaction

General Procedure 3



The substrate (1.0 eq.) was added to a 10 mL transparent Schlenk tube equipped with a stirring bar. The tube was evacuated and refilled with nitrogen (N₂) three times. Then DMSO (0.1 M), DIPEA (1.5 eq.), and aryl thiol (1.5 eq.) were added via a gastight syringe under nitrogen atmosphere. Afterwards, the tube was sealed, and the reaction mixture was stirred under irradiation with blue LED (456 nm, distance approximately 3.0 cm from the bulb) with a fan at room temperature for 10 h. The reaction mixture was extracted with DCM (3×10 mL) and washed with water to remove DMSO. The organic layers were combined and concentrated under vacuum. The desired product was purified by flash column chromatography.

General Procedure 4



The substrate (1.0 eq.) was added to a 10 mL transparent Schlenk tube equipped with a stirring bar. The tube was evacuated and refilled with nitrogen (N_2) three times. Then DMSO (0.033 M), DIPEA (1.5 eq.), and aryl thiol (1.5 eq.) were added via a gastight syringe under nitrogen atmosphere. Afterwards, the tube was sealed, and the reaction mixture was stirred under irradiation with blue LED (456 nm, distance approximately 3.0 cm from the bulb) with a fan at room temperature for 24 h. The reaction mixture was extracted with DCM (3×10 mL) and washed with water to remove DMSO. The organic layers were combined and concentrated under vacuum. The desired product was purified by flash column chromatography.

Gram-scale experiment

The substrate **R1a** (1.0 g, 2.69 mmol) was added to a 100 mL transparent Schlenk tube equipped with a stirring bar. The tube was evacuated and refilled with nitrogen (N₂) three times. Then DMSO (27 mL), DIPEA (4.03 mmol, 702 μ L, 1.5 eq.), and **S1** (4.03 mmol, 533 μ L, 1.5 eq.) were added via a gastight syringe under nitrogen atmosphere. Afterwards, the tube was sealed, and the reaction mixture was stirred under irradiation with blue LED (456 nm, distance approximately 3.0 cm from the bulb) with a fan at room temperature for 24 h. The reaction mixture was extracted with DCM (3×50 mL) and washed with water to remove DMSO. The organic layers were combined and concentrated under vacuum. The desired product was purified by flash column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) to obtain a white solid in 81% yield (639 mg).

4.3 Product derivatization



The brominated reaction was conducted according to a reported procedure.^{S5} To a suspension of **1** (58.6 mg, 0.2 mmol) in AcOH (2 mL) was added liquid Br₂ (103 μ L, 2 mmol) at room temperature. The mixture was stirred for 0.5 h and then CH₂Cl₂ (2 mL) was added to the mixture. After stirring overnight at room temperature, the reaction was quenched with saturated Na₂S₂O₃ solution and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL x 3). The organic layers were washed with brine and then concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) to obtain **3** as a white solid in 95% yield (70.2 mg).



The ester hydrolysis was conducted according to a reported procedure.^{S5} **1** (58.6 mg, 0.2 mmol) were dissolved in 2 mL of THF and 1 M LiOH (0.5 mL, 0.5 mmol) was added at room temperature. After 2 h, THF was evaporated and 2 mL of water was added to the mixture. The pH was adjusted to 3 with 1 M HCl and extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic layers were combined and evaporated under reduced pressure to obtain **45** as a white solid in 90% yield (47.7 mg). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.34 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 175.4, 168.6, 143.8, 139.7, 133.9, 133.5, 133.0, 130.1, 128.4, 125.3, 125.2, 125.1, 123.4, 116.9, 76.5, 38.1. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for

C₁₆H₁₁NO₃+H⁺ 266.0812 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 266.0817.



The reduction was conducted according to a reported procedure.^{S6} A dry 50 mL round bottomed flask under nitrogen was charged with 1 (58.6 mg, 0.2 mmol), NaBH₄ (45.6 mg, 6.00 mmol, 1.2 equiv), methanol (2 mL) and THF (8 mL). The reaction was stirred under a nitrogen atmosphere for 12 hours after which it was quenched with NH₄Cl (sat. aq.) (2 mL) The reaction was diluted with ethyl acetate and the phases were separated. The aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic layers were rinsed with water and then dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After filtration and concentration under vacuum, the residue was purified by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =5:2) to obtain **46** as a white solid in 88% yield (44.1 mg). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (dd, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (dd, *J* = 11.4 Hz, 5.1 Hz, 1H) , 3.27-3.20 (m, 2H), 2.08 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.6, 148.2, 140.0, 135.3, 133.6, 133.1, 129.1, 128.1, 125.6, 125.1, 124.7, 122.4, 117.0, 75.1, 67.3, 35.6. HRMS (ESI): *m*/z calcd for C₁₆H₁₃NO₂+H⁺ 252.1019 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 252.1023.



The reduction was conducted according to a reported procedure.^{S7} BH₃ Me₂S (200 µL, 0.48 mol, 2.4 equiv., 2.0 M in THF) was added dropwisely to a solution of **1** (58.6 mg, 0.2 mmol) in anhydrous THF (2 mL). The solution was refluxed overnight. Then the mixture was cooled to 0 °C and MeOH (4 mL) was added. After stirred for 30 min, organic solvent were removed under vacuum, and the residue was purified by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =5:1) to obtain **47** as a white solid in 90% yield (42.7 mg). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.18-7.16 (m, 3H), 7.13-7.12 (m, 1H), 7.04 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.75-6.72 (m, 2H), 4.58 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 4.37 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 3.58 (d, *J* = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 3.52 (d, *J* = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 3.47 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 3.29(d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 154.3, 143.7, 139.8, 130.1, 128.2, 127.7, 127.6, 124.8, 122.9, 122.2, 121.1, 112.5, 81.6, 67.5, 58.5, 37.3. HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₆H₁₅NO+H⁺ 238.1226 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 238.1222.

5. Synthesis and characterization of starting materials



Ethyl 1-(2-bromobenzoyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R1a)

R1a was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 10 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =5:1) yielding a white solid (3350.0 mg, 90% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.00-7.98 (dd, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.68-7.66 (m, 2H), 7.46-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.35-7.34 (m, 4H), 7.31 (s, 1H), 4.00 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.15 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.2, 160.9, 138.8, 137.1, 134.0, 132.4, 130.9, 130.6, 127.8, 127.6, 127.1, 124.2, 122.5, 121.7, 117.4, 115.0, 61.5, 14.1. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₈H₁₄BrNO₃+Na⁺: 394.0049 [*M*+Na⁺]; found: 394.0036.



Ethyl 1-(2-chlorobenzoyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R1b)

R1b was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =1:1) yielding a white solid (297.6 mg, 91% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.01 (dd, J = 8.5 Hz, 0.5 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.35-7.28 (m, 4H), 7.23(s, 1H), 3.98 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.14 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.5, 160.9, 138.8, 135.3. 133.3, 132.4, 130.9, 130.7, 130.3, 127.8, 127.5, 126.6, 124.2, 122.5, 117.3, 115.0, 61.5, 14.0. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C₁₈H₁₄ClNO₃+H⁺: 328.0735 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 328.0743.



Ethyl 1-(2-iodobenzoyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R1c) S8

R1c was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =5:1) yielding a white solid (406.6 mg, 97% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.96 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.45-7.41 ((td, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.28 (m, 4H), 7.16 (td, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.14 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H).



Ethyl 1-(2-bromobenzoyl)-5-chloro-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R2a)

R2a was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =1:1) yielding a white solid (366.0 mg, 90% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95 (d, *J*

= 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.68-7.66 (m, 1H), 7.65 (d, J = 2.0 Hz,, 1H), 7.40 (dd, J = 8.9 Hz, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.35 (m, 3H), 7.23(s, 1H), 3.98 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.14 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.1, 160.6, 137.0, 136.8, 134.0, 132.6, 132.1, 130.7, 129.8, 128.6, 128.0, 127.2, 121.8, 121.6, 116.2, 116.1, 61.7, 14.0. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C₁₈H₁₄ClBrNO₃: 405.9840 [M+H⁺]; found: 405.9845.



Ethyl 5-chloro-1-(2-chlorobenzoyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R2b)

R2b was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =1:1) yielding a white solid (279.9 mg, 77% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.98 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.98 (dd, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 0.6 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.14 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.4, 160.6, 137.0, 134.9, 133.3, 132.6, 132.0, 130.7, 130.4, 129.8, 128.6, 128.0, 126.6, 121.8, 116.1, 116.0, 61.7, 14.0. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₈H₁₄Cl₂NO₃: 362.0345 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 362.0375.



Ethyl 5-chloro-1-(2-iodobenzoyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R2c)

R2c was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =5:1) yielding a white solid (340.2 mg, 75% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.97 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (dd, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (dd, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (s, 1H), 7.18 (td, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 3.99 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.15 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.2, 160.5, 140.8, 140.1, 137.5, 132.6, 132.0, 130.6, 130.4, 129.2, 127.8, 125.0, 117.4, 116.6, 116.0, 94.3, 61.7, 14.1. HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₈H₁₄ClINO₃: 453.9701 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 453.9708.



Ethyl 5-bromo-1-(2-bromobenzoyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R3a)

R3a was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =15:1) yielding a white solid (297.7 mg, 66% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.90 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (m, 1H), 7.67-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.55-7.52 (m, 1H), 7.37-7.35 (m, 3H), 7.22(s, 1H), 3.98 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.14 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.0, 159.4, 136.3, 135.7, 132.9, 131.6, 130.8, 129.6, 129.5, 128.1, 126.1, 123.9, 120.5, 116.3, 115.3, 114.9, 60.6, 13.0. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C₁₈H₁₄Br₂NO₃: 449.9335 [M+H⁺]; found: 449.9336.



Ethyl 5-bromo-1-(2-chlorobenzoyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R3b)

R3b was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =4:1) yielding a white solid (300.9 mg, 74% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.90 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (dd, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (s, 1H), 3.97 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.13 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.3, 160.5, 137.3, 134.9, 133.2, 132.7, 131.8, 130.7, 130.6, 130.4, 129.1, 126.7, 125.0, 117.4, 116.4, 115.8, 61.7, 14.0. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₈H₁₄ClBrNO₃: 405.9840 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 405.9839.



Ethyl 5-bromo-1-(2-iodobenzoyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R3c)

R3c was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =5:1) yielding a white solid (448.3 mg, 90% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.90 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.34-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.21 (dd, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (s, 1H), 7.11 (td, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.07 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.2, 160.5, 140.8, 140.1, 137.2, 132.6, 132.1, 130.4, 129.8, 128.7, 128.0, 127.8, 121.8, 116.2, 116.1, 94.3, 61.7, 14.1. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₈H₁₃BrINO₃+Na⁺: 519.9016 [*M*+Na⁺]; found: 519.9010.



Ethyl 1-(2-bromobenzoyl)-5-methoxy-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R4a)

R4a was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =5:1) yielding a white solid (341.9 mg, 85% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.00 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.67-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.35-7.34 (m, 3H), 7.23 (s, 1H), 7.08-7.05 (m, 2H), 3.96 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 1.14 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.0, 160.9, 156.8, 137.2, 133.9, 133.7, 132.3, 131.4, 130.5, 128.4, 127.1, 121.6, 117.3, 117.2, 116.1, 104.0, 61.4, 55.7, 14.0. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₉H₁₆BrNO₄+H⁺: 402.0335 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 402.0340.

Ethyl 1-(2-chlorobenzoyl)-5-methoxy-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R4b)

R4b was synthesized by General Procedure 1 on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum

ether/ethyl acetate v/v =5:1) yielding a white solid (196.8 mg, 55% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.94 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.23 (s, 1H), 7.08-7.06 (m, 2H), 3.96 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 1.13 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.3, 160.9, 156.9, 135.4, 133.6, 133.2, 132.3, 131.3, 130.6, 130.3, 128.3, 126.5, 117.2, 117.1, 116.0, 104.0, 61.4, 55.7, 14.0. HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₉H₁₆ClNO₄+H⁺: 358.0841 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 358.0838.



Ethyl 1-(2-iodobenzoyl)-5-methoxy-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R4c)

R4c was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =5:1) yielding a white solid (377.4 mg, 84% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.96 (dd, J = 8.0 Hz, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (td, J = 7.0 Hz, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (dd, J = 7.6 Hz, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (s, 1H), 7.16 (td, J = 7.6 Hz, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (dd, J = 9.0 Hz, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 1.14 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.2, 160.9, 156.8, 140.6, 140.5, 133.8, 132.3, 131.4, 130.2, 128.4, 127.7, 117.3, 117.3, 117.2, 116.2, 104.0, 94.4, 61.5, 55.7, 14.1. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C₁₉H₁₆INO₄+H⁺: 450.0197 [M+H⁺]; found: 450.0195.



Ethyl 1-(2-bromobenzoyl)-5-(diethylamino)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R5a)

R5a was isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding bright yellow oil (226.1 mg, 51 % yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.84 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.66-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.34-7.32 (m, 3H), 7.17(s, 1H), 6.91 (dd, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 3.38 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 4H), 1.18 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 6H), 1.13 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.7, 160.1, 144.6, 136.5, 132.7, 131.0, 130.3, 129.9, 129.3, 128.0, 126.0, 120.6, 116.9, 114.9, 114.2, 102.5, 60.2, 43.9, 13.0, 11.5. HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* calcd for C₂₂H₂₃BrN₂O₃+H⁺: 443.0965 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 443.0969.



Ethyl 1-(2-chlorobenzoyl)-5-(diethylamino)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R5b)

R5b was isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding bright yellow oil (172.9 mg, 43 % yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.81 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (dd, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (td, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (dd, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (dd, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 6.85 (dd, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 3.32 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 4H), 1.11 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 6H), 1.06 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.1, 161.1, 145.6, 135.7, 133.2, 132.0,

131.3, 130.8, 130.5, 130.1, 129.0, 126.5, 117.8, 115.9, 115.3, 103.5, 61.3, 45.0, 14.0, 12.5. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₂₂H₂₃ClN₂O₃+H⁺: 399.1470 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 399.1471.



Ethyl 1-(2-bromonicotinoyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R6a)

R6a was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =5:1) yielding a white solid (369.5 mg, 99% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.48 (dd, J = 4.7 Hz, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.15 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (dd, J = 7.6 Hz, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (dd, J = 7.3 Hz, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.36 (m, 3H), 4.03 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.17 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.3, 160.7, 151.6, 139.6, 139.1, 134.9, 130.3, 128.3, 128.3, 127.5, 124.7, 122.7, 122.1, 118.7, 115.2, 61.6, 14.1. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C₁₇H₁₃BrN₂O₃+H⁺: 373.0182 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 373.0189.



Ethyl 1-(2-chloronicotinoyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R6b)

R6b was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding a white solid (263.0 mg, 80% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.51 (dd, J = 4.8 Hz, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (dd, J = 7.6 Hz, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (td, J = 7.8 Hz, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.31(m, 3H), 4.01 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.15 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.7, 160.7, 151.5, 148.8, 139.2, 138.9, 132.3, 130.2, 128.3, 127.5, 124.6, 122.7, 122.0, 118.5, 115.1. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C₁₇H₁₃ClN₂O₃+Na⁺: 351.0507 [M+Na⁺]; found: 351.0494.



Methyl 1-(2-bromobenzoyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R7)^{S9}

R7 was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =5:1) yielding a white solid (293.7 mg, 82% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.00 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.68-7.66 (m, 2H), 7.45 (ddd, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 7.2 Hz, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.28 (m, 5H), 3.52 (s, 3H).



Cyclohexyl 1-(2-bromobenzoyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R8)

R8 was synthesized by General Procedure 2 on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum

ether/ethyl acetate v/v =5:1) yielding a white solid (359.5 mg, 84% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95 (dd, J = 8.4 Hz, 0.5 Hz, 1H), 7.67-7.65 (m, 2H), 7.43 (ddd, J = 8.4 Hz, 7.2 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.31 (m, 4H), 7.28 (d, J = 0.3 Hz, 1H), 4.66-4.61 (m, 1H), 1.68-1.61 (m, 4H), 1.51-1.48 (m, 1H), 1.34-1.23 (m, 5H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.3, 160.3, 138.8, 137.3, 133.9, 133.0, 132.3, 131.4, 130.7, 127.6, 127.1, 124.2, 122.4, 121.7, 73.9, 31.2, 25.3, 23.5. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C₂₂H₂₀BrNO₃+H⁺: 426.0699 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 426.0709.



Allyl 1-(2-bromobenzoyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R9)

R9 was synthesized by **General Procedure 2** on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =5:1) yielding a white solid (315.1 mg, 82% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.97 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.69-7.65 (m, 2H), 7.45 (td, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.32 (m, 5H), 5.80-5.72 (m, 1H), 5.27-5.17 (m, 2H), 4.43 (d, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.5, 138.9, 137.1, 134.0, 132.4, 131.4, 130.6, 130.5, 127.9, 127.5, 127.1, 124.2, 122.5, 121.6, 118.9, 117.8, 115.0, 65.9. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₉H₁₄BrNO₃+H⁺: 384.0230 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 384.0226.



Benzyl 1-(2-bromobenzoyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R10)

R10 was synthesized by **General Procedure 2** on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =5:1) yielding a white solid (373.5 mg, 86% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.97 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.62-7.60 (m, 1H), 7.45 (ddd, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 7.4 Hz, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.31 (m, 6H), 7.30-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.24 (m, 2H), 4.99 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.3, 160.6, 138.9, 137.1, 135.3, 133.9, 132.4, 130.6, 130.4, 128.6, 128.4, 128.3, 128.0, 127.5, 127.1, 124.3, 122.6, 121.6, 117.9, 115.0, 66.9. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₂₃H₁₆BrNO₃+Na⁺: 456.0206 [*M*+Na⁺]; found: 456.0226.



Ethynyl 1-(2-bromobenzoyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R11)

R11 was synthesized by **General Procedure 2** on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =5:1) yielding a white solid (267.5 mg, 70% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.70-7.66 (m, 2H), 7.46 (ddd, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 7.3 Hz, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (s, 1H), 7.38-7.33 (m, 4H), 4.53 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (t, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.1, 159.9, 139.0, 137.0, 134.0, 132.5, 130.7, 129.6, 128.2, 127.4, 127.2, 124.3, 122.7, 121.6, 118.6, 115.0, 76.9, 75.4, 52.7. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₉H₁₂BrNO₃+H⁺: 382.0073 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 382.0070.



2-Ethoxyethyl 1-(2-bromobenzoyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R12)

R12 was synthesized by **General Procedure 2** on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =5:1) yielding a white solid (279.7 mg, 64% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.92 (dd, J = 8.4 Hz, 0.5 Hz, 1H), 7.68-7.64 (m, 2H), 7.44 (ddd, J = 8.5 Hz, 7.2 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.32 (m, 5H), 4.09 (t, J = 5.0, 2H), 3.52 (t, J = 5.0, 2H), 3.48 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.19 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.4, 160.9, 138.8, 137.1, 133.9, 132.4, 130.7, 130.5, 127.9, 127.6, 127.1, 124.2, 122.6, 121.6, 117.8, 114.9, 67.9, 66.6, 64.5, 15.1. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C₂₀H₁₈BrNO₄+H⁺: 416.0492 [M+H⁺]; found: 416.0496



(1-(2-Bromobenzoyl)-1H-indol-2-yl)(piperidin-1-yl) methanone (R13)

R13 was synthesized on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =5:2) yielding a white solid (226.2 mg, 55% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.63-7.61 (dd, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.49 (br, 1H), 7.43 (td, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (td, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.25 (m, 2H), 3.52 (t, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 3.39 (t, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 1.64-1.48 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.8, 161.5, 137.1, 136.5, 133.2, 132.9, 132.1, 130.8, 128.8, 127.4, 126.0, 124.1, 121.6, 120.4, 114.9, 111.1, 48.4, 42.6, 25.9, 25.2, 24.5. HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* calcd for C₂₁H₁₉BrN₂O₂+H⁺: 411.0703 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 411.0703.



(1-(2-Bromobenzoyl)-1H-indol-2-yl)(morpholino)methanone (R14)

R14 was synthesized on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =2:1) yielding a white solid (272.8 mg, 66% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.63 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (q, *J* = 3.6, 1H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 2.0, 1H) 7.47-7.40 (m, 3H), 7.30-7.27 (m, 2H), 6.76 (s, 1H), 3.64 (s, 4H), 3.64 (s, 2H), 3.64 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.8, 161.9, 137.1, 136.6, 133.1, 132.3, 132.2, 130.9, 128.6, 127.6, 126.4, 124.2, 121.8, 120.3, 114.8, 111.9, 66.4, 66.2, 47.8, 42.1. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₂₀H₁₇BrN₂O₃+H⁺: 413.0495 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 413.0494.



2-Isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 1-(2-bromobenzoyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R15)

R15 was synthesized by **General Procedure 2** on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding a white solid (207.4 mg, 43% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.06 (d, J =8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, J =7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.65-7.63 (m, 1H), 7.46 (td, J =7.8 Hz, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.30 (m, 4H), 7.29 (s, 1H), 1.77 (quintd, J =7.8 Hz, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 1.66-1.57 (m, 3H), 1.46-1.38 (m, 2H), 0.97 (qd, J =12.6 Hz, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 0.87-0.77 (m, 8H), 0.63 (d, J =7.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.5, 160.3, 139.1, 137.4, 133.9, 132.3, 131.2, 130.6, 127.8, 127.5, 127.1, 124.2, 122.5, 121.7, 117.2, 115.0, 75.5, 46.8, 40.3, 34.1, 31.2, 26.3, 23.4, 22.0, 20.7, 16.4. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₂₆H₂₈BrNO₃+H⁺: 482.1325 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 482.13192.



(3S,8S,9S,10R,13S,14S,17S)-17-Acetyl-10,13-dimethyl-2,3,4,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17-tetradecahydro-1H-c yclopenta[a]phenanthren-3-yl 1-(2-bromobenzoyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (**R16**)

R16 was synthesized by **General Procedure 2** on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =5:1) yielding a white solid (289.2 mg, 45% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.68-7.66 (m, 2H), 7.43 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.31 (m, 5H), 5.30-5.29 (m, 1H), 4.53-4.45 (m, 1H), 2.53 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 2.24-2.17 (m, 2H), 2.12 (s, 3H), 2.08-1.97 (m, 3H), 1.82 (dt, *J* = 13.4 Hz, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 1.68-1.43 (m, 10H), 1.26-1.06 (m, 3H), 1.01 (s, 3H), 0.63 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 209.6, 167.2, 160.3, 139.4, 138.9, 137.2, 134.0, 132.4, 131.2, 130.8, 127.7, 127.6, 127.2, 124.2, 122.6, 122.5, 121.8, 117.3, 114.9, 75.2, 63.7, 56.8, 49.8, 44.0, 38.8, 37.6, 36.9, 36.6, 31.8, 31.7, 31.6, 27.3, 24.5, 22.8, 21.0, 19.3, 13.2. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₃₇H₄₀BrNO₄+H⁺: 642.2213 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 642.22106.



9H-Fluoren-9-yl 1-(2-bromobenzoyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R17)

R17 was synthesized by **General Procedure 2** on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding a white solid (320.3 mg, 63% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.98 (d, *J* =8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, *J* =7.5 Hz, 3H), 7.55 (d, *J* =7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, *J* =7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.34 (m, 3H), 7.30-7.23 (m, 4H), 7.21-7.15 (m, 4H), 6.59 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.4, 161.4, 141.4, 141.1, 139.4, 137.3, 134.0, 132.4, 130.5, 130.0, 129.6, 128.2, 127.9, 127.4, 127.1, 126.1, 124.3, 122.7, 121.9, 120.0, 118.8, 114.9, 76.0. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₂₉H₁₈BrNO₃+H⁺: 508.0543 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 508.05361.



1-(1-(2-Bromobenzoyl)-1H-indol-2-yl)ethan-1-one (R18)

R18 was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =5:1) yielding a white solid (147.1 mg, 43% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.41 (ddd, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 7.3 Hz, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.26 (m, 5H), 2.30 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 188.4, 167.0, 138.4, 137.5, 136.4, 132.8, 131.3, 129.5, 127.5, 126.3, 126.0, 123.1, 121.9, 120.2, 116.6, 113.6, 26.1. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₇H₁₂BrNO₂+H⁺: 342.0124 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 342.0123.



(2-Bromophenyl)(1H-indol-1-yl)methanone (R19)^{S10}

R19 was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =5:1) yielding a colorless oil (249.1 mg, 83% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.45 (s, 1H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.33 (td, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (s (br), 1H), 6.61 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H).



(2-Bromo-5-fluorophenyl)(1H-indol-1-yl)methanone (R20)

R20was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =40:1) yielding a white solid (286.3 mg, 90% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.49 (s (br), 1H), 7.64 (dd, J = 8.8 Hz, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.20 (m, 1H), 7.13 (td, J = 8.5 Hz, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (s (br), 1H), 6.62 (d, J = 3.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.19, 161.68 (d, J = 249.4 Hz), 138.40 (d, J = 27.4 Hz), 135.40, 134.93 (d, J = 32.2 Hz), 131.09, 126.33, 125.51, 124.66, 121.24, 119.18 (d, J = 89.4 Hz), 116.58, 116.33 (d, J = 96.7 Hz), 114.07 (d, J = 14.3 Hz), 110.35. ¹⁹F NMR (375 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -112.5. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C₁₅H₉BrFNO+H⁺: 317.9924 [M+H⁺]; found: 317.9926.



(2-Bromo-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)(1H-indol-1-yl)methanone (**R21**)

R21 was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 2 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =50:1) yielding colorless oil (221.4 mg, 60% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.48 (s, 1H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (dd, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (s, 1H), 7.27 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (s, 1H), 6.57 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.3, 137.9, 135.5, 134.1, 131.2, 130.6 (q, *J* = 3.4 Hz), 128.4 (q, *J* = 3.4 Hz), 126.2, 126.0 (q, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 125.7, 124.9, 123.9, 123.1 (q, *J* = 270.8 Hz), 121.3, 116.8, 110.7. ¹⁹F NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.8. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₆H₉BrF₃NO+H⁺: 367.9892 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 367.9894.



(2-Bromophenyl)(2-methyl-1H-indol-1-yl) methanone R22^{S9}

R22 was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =40:1) yielding colorless oil (94.3 mg, 30% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.66 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.40 (m, 4H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (td, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (td, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.41 (s, 1H), 3.39 (d, *J* = 0.9 Hz, 3H).



(2-Bromophenyl)(2,3-dimethyl-1H-indol-1-yl) methanone (R23) S10

R23 was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =100:1) yielding colorless oil (98.5 mg, 30% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.66 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.46 – 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.43 – 7.38 (m, 2H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (ddd, *J* = 7.8, 7.2, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 7.2, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 2.20 (s, 6H).



Methyl 2-(1-(2-bromobenzoyl)-5-methoxy-2-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl)acetate (R24)

R24 was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding a yellow oil (149.8 mg, 36% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.65 (d, *J* =7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.46-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.41-7.38 (m, 1H), 7.21 (d, *J* =9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (d, *J* =2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (dd, *J* =9.0 Hz, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.64 (s, 2H), 2.22 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.2, 167.2, 156.6, 138.5, 135.4, 133.5, 132.0, 131.3, 130.4, 129.3, 127.9, 120.2, 115.7, 113.8, 112.0, 101.5, 55.7, 52.2, 30.2, 13.7. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₂₀H₁₈BrNO₄+H⁺: 416.0492 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 416.0492.



Ethyl 3-bromo-1-(2-bromobenzoyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R25)

R25 was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 0.9 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =5:1) yielding a colorless oil (337.0 mg, 83% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.73 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.70-7.66 (m, 2H), 7.45 (td, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.38 (m, 4H), 4.04 (q, *J* = 7.1

Hz, 2H), 1.22 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.1, 160.3, 136.4, 136.3, 134.0, 132.8, 130.7, 128.6, 128.3, 128.2, 127.4, 124.8, 121.6, 121.4, 114.8, 107.1, 62.0, 14.0. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C₁₈H₁₃Br₂NO₃+Na⁺: 471.9154 [M+Na⁺]; found: 471.9162



Ethyl 1-(2-bromobenzoyl)-5-fluoro-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R26)

R26 was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 0.6 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =5:1) yielding a white solid (215.4 mg, 92% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.01 (dd, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 7.67-7.66 (m, 1H), 7.37-7.34 (m, 3H), 7.32 (dd, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 7.19 (td, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.14 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.1, 160.6, 159.9 (d, *J* = 240.0 Hz), 136.9, 135.1, 134.0, 132.5, 132.3, 130.6, 128.3 (d, *J* = 10.1 Hz), 127.1, 121.6, 116.6 (d, *J* = 4.1 Hz), 116.4 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz), 116.0 (d, *J* = 25.0 Hz), 107.6 (d, *J* = 23.7 Hz), 61.6, 14.0. ¹⁹F NMR (375 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -118.3. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₈H₁₃FBrNO₃+H⁺: 390.0136 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 390.0131.



Ethyl 1-(2-bromobenzoyl)-5-methyl-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R27)

R27 was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 0.6 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding a white solid (171.5 mg, 74% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.67-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.44 (s, 1H), 7.34-7.32 (m, 3H), 7.26 (dd, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (s, 1H), 3.97 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 1.14 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.1, 161.0, 137.2, 137.1, 133.9, 133.9, 132.3, 130.9, 130.5, 129.4, 127.8, 127.1, 122.1, 121.6, 117.3, 114.7, 61.4, 21.3, 14.1. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₉H₁₆BrNO₃+H⁺: 386.0386 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 386.0388.



Ethyl 5-(benzyloxy)-1-(2-bromobenzoyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R28)

R28 was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 0.8 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =5:1) yielding a white solid (306.2 mg, 80% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95 (d, *J* = 9.9 Hz, 1H), 7.67-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.36-7.33 (m, 4H), 7.22 (s, 1H), 7.16-7.15 (m, 2H), 5.13 (s, 2H), 3.96 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.14 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.0, 160.9, 156.0, 137.2, 136.9, 133.9, 133.8, 132.3, 131.4, 130.5, 128.7, 128.4, 128.1, 127.5, 127.1, 121.6, 117.9, 117.3, 116.2, 105.4, 70.6, 61.5, 14.0. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₂₅H₂₀BrNO₄+H⁺: 478.0648 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 478.0645



Ethyl 1-(2-bromobenzoyl)-5-ethoxy-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R29)

R29 was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 0.7 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =5:1) yielding a white solid (273.9 mg, 94% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.93 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 7.67-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.22 (s, 1H), 7.07-7.05 (m, 2H), 4.08 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.96 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.45 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.13 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.0, 160.9, 156.2, 137.2, 133.9, 133.6, 132.3, 131.3, 130.5, 128.4, 127.1, 121.6, 117.6, 117.3, 116.1, 104.8, 64.0, 61.4, 14.9, 14.0. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₂₀H₁₈BrNO₄+H⁺: 416.0492 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 416.0499.



Ethyl 6-bromo-1-(2-bromobenzoyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R30)

R30 was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 0.9 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =5:1) yielding a white solid (373.5 mg, 92% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.30 (s, 1H), 7.67-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (dd, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.32 (m, 3H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 3.95 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.13 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.1, 160.5, 139.3, 136.8, 134.0, 132.6, 131.3, 130.6, 127.8, 127.1, 126.3, 123.5, 121.8, 121.7, 118.3, 116.8, 61.6, 14.0. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₈H₁₃Br₂NO₃+H⁺: 449.9335 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 449.9327.



Ethyl 7-bromo-1-(2-bromobenzoyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R31)

R31 was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 2 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =5:1) yielding a white solid (117.3 mg, 13% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.78 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (dd, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (s, 1H), 7.38 (td, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.23 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.23 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.6, 160.6, 136.2, 135.6, 135.1, 134.0, 133.4, 131.0, 130.6, 129.4, 127.4, 124.2, 123.2, 122.0, 112.6, 105.2, 61.6, 14.1. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₈H₁₃Br₂NO₃+Na⁺: 471.9154 [*M*+Na⁺]; found: 471.9156.



Ethyl 1-(2-bromo-5-fluorobenzoyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R32)

R32 was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =5:1) yielding a white solid (296.6 mg, 76% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.01 (dd, J = 8.5 Hz, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (dd, J = 8.8 Hz, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (ddd, J = 8.4 Hz, 7.3 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.11 (dd, J = 8.2 Hz, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (dd, J = 8.7 Hz, 7.7 Hz, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.05 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.17 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ166.10 (d, J = 1.0 Hz), 162.45, 161.21 (d, J = 249 Hz), 160.73, 138.79, 138.67 (d, J = 6.8 Hz), 135.28 (d, J = 7.7 Hz), 130.58, 128.07, 127.57, 124.48, 122.62, 119.64 (d, J = 22.1 Hz), 118.04 (d, J = 2.8 Hz), 117.78, 115.86 (d, J = 3.4 Hz), 115.04, 61.55, 14.06. ¹⁹F NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -113.48. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C₁₈H₁₃FBrNO₃+H⁺: 390.0136 [M+H⁺]; found: 390.0136.



Ethyl 1-(2-bromo-5-chlorobenzoyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R33)

R33 was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =2:1) yielding a white solid (394.5 mg, 97% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.04 (dd, J = 8.5 Hz, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (ddd, J = 8.5 Hz, 7.3 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.30 (m, 4H), 4.05 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.18 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.0, 160.8, 138.8, 138.6, 135.0, 133.4, 132.2, 130.6, 130.4, 128.1, 127.6, 124.5, 122.6, 119.5, 118.0, 115.1, 61.6, 14.0. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C₁₈H₁₃ClBrNO₃+Na⁺: 427.9660 [*M*+Na⁺]; found: 427.9669.



Ethyl 1-(2,5-dibromobenzoyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R34)

R34 was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 0.5 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =5:1) yielding a white solid (176.0 mg, 78% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.98 (dd, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.37 (m, 3H), 7.29 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (s, 1H), 3.96 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.11 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.85, 160.78, 138.80, 138.77, 135.21, 135.18, 133.12, 130.61, 128.10, 127.59, 124.54, 122.62, 120.89, 120.32, 118.04, 115.14, 61.62, 14.06. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₈H₁₃Br₂NO₃+Na⁺: 471.9154 [*M*+Na⁺]; found: 471.9160.



Ethyl 1-(2-bromo-5-iodobenzoyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R35)

R35 was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =5:1) yielding a white solid (433.4 mg, 87% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.05 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.65-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.47 (ddd, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 7.3 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.34 (m, 2H), 7.33 (s, 1H), 4.03 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.19 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.7, 160.8, 141.1, 138.9, 138.8, 138.8, 135.4, 130.7, 128.1, 127.6, 124.5, 122.6, 121.5, 118.0, 115.2, 91.4, 61.6, 14.1. HRMS

(ESI): *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₈H₁₃BrINO₃+Na⁺: 519.9016 [*M*+Na⁺]; found: 519.9017.



Ethyl 1-(2-bromo-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzoyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R36)

R36 was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding a white solid (220.1 mg, 50% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.13 (dd, J = 8.4 Hz, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.50 (ddd, J = 8.5 Hz, 7.3 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, J = 0.5 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.12 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ166.0, 160.7, 138.9, 138.1, 134.5, 130.4, 129.5, 128.5 (q, J = 3.2 Hz), 128.3, 127.6, 127.1 (q, J = 3.7 Hz), 125.9 (q, J = 270.7 Hz), 125.7, 124.7, 122.7, 118.4, 115.3. ¹⁹F NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.9. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C₁₉H₁₃F₃BrNO₃+H⁺: 440.0104 [M+H⁺]; found: 440.0110.



Ethyl 1-(2-bromo-5-methylbenzoyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R37)

R37 was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =5:1) yielding a white solid (297.4 mg, 77% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (s, 1H), 7.16-7.15 (m, 2H), 4.00 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 1.16 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.3, 161.0, 138.7, 137.4, 136.7, 133.8, 133.3, 131.1, 131.0, 127.7, 127.6, 124.2, 122.5, 118.4, 117.1, 115.0, 61.5, 20.7, 14.0. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₉H₁₆BrNO₃+H⁺: 386.0386 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 386.0379.



Ethyl 1-(2-bromo-5-methoxybenzoyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R38)

R38 was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =5:1) yielding a white solid (360.0 mg, 90% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (s, 1H), 6.89-6.87(m, 2H), 4.01 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 1.15 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.9, 160.9, 158.6, 138.6, 137.6, 134.7, 131.1, 127.7, 127.6, 124.3, 122.5, 118.8, 117.2, 115.9, 111.9, 61.5, 55.7, 14.1. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₉H₁₆BrNO₄+H⁺: 402.0335 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 402.0330.



Ethyl 1-(2-bromo-6-chlorobenzoyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R39)

R39 was synthesized on a 1 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =5:1) yielding a white solid (370.1 mg, 91% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.04 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (ddd, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 7.3 Hz, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.30 (m, 4H), 4.04 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.18 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.0, 160.8, 138.8, 138.5, 135.0, 133.4, 132.3, 130.6, 130.3, 128.1, 127.6, 124.5, 122.6, 119.5, 118.1, 115.1, 61.6, 14.0. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₈H₁₃ClBrNO₃+H⁺: 405.9840 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 405.9829.



Ethyl 1-(1-bromo-2-naphthoyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R40)

R40 was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 0.5 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =4:1) yielding a white solid (204.8 mg, 97% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.37 (d, *J* =8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.02 (d, *J* =8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.89-7.86 (m, 2H), 7.69-7.62 (m, 3H), 7.56 (d, *J* =8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (t, *J* =7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, *J* =7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (s, 1H), 3.80 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 0.90 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.3, 161.0, 138.6, 135.3, 135.0, 131.8, 131.1, 128.5, 128.3, 128.2, 127.9, 127.9, 127.8, 126.6, 124.3, 122.5, 117.6, 115.3, 61.4, 13.8. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₂₂H₁₇BrNO₃⁺: 422.0386; found: 422.0394.



Ethyl 1-(3-bromopicolinoyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R41)

R41 was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 0.5 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =4:1) yielding a white solid (108.2 mg, 58% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.41 (d, *J* =3.5 Hz, 1H), 8.35 (d, *J* =8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (d, *J* =7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* =7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, *J* =7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.25 (m, 1H), 3.94 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.14 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.5, 161.1, 152.0, 146.4, 142.1, 139.3, 131.1, 128.1, 127.6, 126.1, 124.5, 122.5, 120.9, 117.4, 115.8, 61.3, 14.1.HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₇H₁₃BrN₂O₃+H⁺: 373.0182 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 373.0188.



Ethyl 1-(3-bromoisonicotinoyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylate (R42)

R42 was synthesized by **General Procedure 1** on a 0.5 mmol scale and isolated by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =4:1) yielding a white solid (76.5 mg, 41% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.83 (s, 1H), 8.59 (d, *J* =4.9 Hz, 1H), 8.16 (d, *J* =8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, *J* =8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (ddd, *J* =8.5 Hz, 7.3 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.25 (d, *J* =4.9 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.14 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.6, 160.6, 153.1, 148.2, 144.0, 138.9, 130.2, 128.5, 127.6, 124.8, 123.5, 122.7, 118.8, 118.7, 115.3, 61.7, 14.0. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₇H₁₃BrN₂O₃+H⁺: 373.0182 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 373.0178.

6. Synthesis and characterization of dearomative products



Ethyl 6-oxo-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indole-10b(11H)-carboxylate (1)^{S11}

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding a white solid (X = Br, 56.9 mg, 97%; X = Cl, 77%; X = I, 86%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.67-7.60 (m, 2H), 7.56-7.52 (td, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.23-7.21 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (td, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 4.13 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.96 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.32 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 1.15 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H).



Ethyl 2-chloro-6-oxo-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indole-10b(11H)-carboxylate (2)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding yellow oil (X = Br, 64.9 mg, 99%; X = Cl, 75%; X = I, 84%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.84 (d, *J* = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.61-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.13 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.94 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.30 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 1.16 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.8, 166.8, 142.6, 139.7, 136.2, 135.2, 134.0, 133.2, 128.4, 125.3, 125.1, 125.1, 124.3, 116.7, 76.5, 62.8, 38.0, 13.9. HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₈H₁₄ClNO₃+H⁺: 328.0735 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 328.0745.



Ethyl 2-bromo-6-oxo-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indole-10b(11H)-carboxylate (3)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding colorless oil (X = Br, 68.5 mg, 92%; X = Cl, 80%; X = I, 99%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.65-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (ddd, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 6.0 Hz, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (s, 1H), 4.15 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.96 (d, *J* = 16 Hz, 1H), 3.32 (d, *J* = 16 Hz, 1H), 1.16 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.9, 168.2, 144.3, 139.1, 136.4, 133.4, 133.0, 131.2, 129.9, 128.3, 125.2, 123.1, 118.0, 117.7, 76.8, 62.8, 37.8, 13.9. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₈H₁₄BrNO₃+H⁺: 372.0230 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 372.0235.



Ethyl 2-methoxy-6-oxo-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indole-10b(11H)-carboxylate (4)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding yellow oil (X = Br, 59.5 mg, 92%; X = Cl, 71%; X = I, 94%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.64-7.58 (m, 3H), 7.52 (td, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.83-6.80 (m, 2H), 4.14 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.92 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.29 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 1.15 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.3, 168.3, 157.3, 144.4, 135.8, 133.6,

133.4, 132.9, 129.7, 124.9, 122.9, 117.2, 112.7, 111.8, 77.2, 62.5, 55.7, 38.2, 13.9. HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₉H₁₇NO₄+H⁺: 324.1230 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 324.1238.



Ethyl 2-(diethylamino)-6-oxo-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indole-10b(11H)-carboxylate (5)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding yellow oil (51.0 mg, 70% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.85 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.51 (td, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.60-6.57 (m, 2H), 4.11 (qd, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 3.88 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 3.31 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 4H), 3.25 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 1.12-1.16 (m, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.6, 168.2, 146.0, 144.4, 135.8, 133.8, 132.6, 129.6, 124.7, 122.7, 117.4, 111.4, 109.3, 77.1, 62.5, 44.8, 38.4, 13.9, 12.5. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₂₂H₂₄N₂O₃+H⁺: 365.1860 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 365.1856.



Ethyl 5-oxo-5H-pyrido[2',3':3,4]pyrrolo[1,2-a]indole-11a(11H)-carboxylate (6)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding a white solid (X = Br, 50.4 mg, 86%; X = Cl, 70%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.79 (dd, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (dd, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (dd, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 7.32-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.12 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.19-4.12 (m, 3H), 3.38 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 1.13 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.3, 166.9, 164.2, 153.8, 139.5, 134.3, 133.3, 128.2, 127.6, 125.5, 125.3, 124.5, 116.9, 77.6, 62.9, 35.4, 13.9. HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₇H₁₄N₂O₃+H⁺: 295.1077 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 295.10779.



Methyl 6-oxo-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indole-10b(11H)-carboxylate (7)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding a yellow solid (38.5 mg, 69% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.66-7.60 (m, 2H), 7.54 (td, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (td, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.32 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.0, 168.3, 144.5, 140.0, 134.1, 133.3, 133.2, 129.8, 128.3, 125.2, 125.1, 124.9, 123.1, 116.8, 76.7, 53.5, 38.0. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₇H₁₃NO₃+H⁺: 280.0968 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 280.0969.



Cyclohexyl 6-oxo-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indole-10b(11H)-carboxylate (8)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding a white solid (64.6 mg, 93% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (td, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (td, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (td, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 4.77-4.74 (m, 1H), 3.93 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.33 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 1.66-1.63 (m, 2H), 1.54-1.48 (m, 2H), 1.43-1.36 (m, 2H), 1.35-1.24 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.4, 168.2, 144.7, 140.1, 134.2, 133.4, 133.0, 129.6, 128.2, 125.1, 125.0, 124.7, 123.0, 116.7, 74.7, 37.9, 30.9, 25.2, 23.0. HRMS (ESI): *m*/z calcd for C₂₂H₂₁NO₃+H⁺: 348.1594 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 348.1594.



Allyl 6-oxo-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indole-10b(11H)-carboxylate (9)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding colorless oil (52.0 mg, 85% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (td, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (td, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (td, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 5.79-5.71 (m, 1H), 5.13-5.06 (m, 2H), 4.57 (dt, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.34 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.0, 168.3, 144.4, 140.0, 134.1, 133.3, 133.2, 131.0, 129.8, 128.3, 125.2, 125.1, 124.9, 123.1, 118.4, 116.8, 76.8, 66.6, 38.0. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₉H₁₅NO₃+H⁺: 306.1125 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 306.1130.



Benzyl 6-oxo-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indole-10b(11H)-carboxylate (10)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding yellow oil (59.0 mg, 83% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 2H), 7.55-7.52 (m, 1H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.23 (m, 3H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.11-7.06 (m, 3H), 5.11 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 2H), 3.96 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.34 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.1, 168.2, 144.2, 140.0, 135.0, 134.1, 133.4, 133.1, 129.8, 128.5, 128.3, 128.3, 127.5, 125.2, 125.1, 124.9, 123.1, 116.8, 76.9, 67.8, 37.9. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₂₃H₁₇NO₃+H⁺: 356.1281 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 356.1273.



Prop-2-yn-1-yl 6-oxo-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indole-10b(11H)-carboxylate (11)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding a white solid (34.6 mg, 57% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (td, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (td, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (td, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 4.72-4.62 (m, 2H), 3.98 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 3.35 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (t, *J*
= 2.4 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.6, 168.3, 144.0, 140.0, 133.9, 133.3, 133.2, 130.0, 128.4, 125.2, 125.2, 124.9, 123.2, 116.9, 76.7, 76.5, 75.8, 53.8, 38.0. HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₉H₁₃NO₃+H⁺: 304.0968 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 304.0962.



2-Ethoxyethyl 6-oxo-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indole-10b(11H)-carboxylate (12)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding a white solid (60.0 mg, 89% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (td, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (td, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (td, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 4.29-4.20 (m, 2H), 3.98 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.56-3.47 (m, 2H), 3.36-3.29 (m, 3H), 1.05 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.1, 168.3, 144.4, 140.0, 134.2, 133.3, 133.1, 129.8, 128.3, 125.2, 125.0, 124.8, 123.3, 116.8, 76.9, 67.8, 66.6, 65.6, 38.1, 15.1. HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* calcd for C₂₀H₁₉NO₄+H⁺: 338.1387 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 338.1387.



10b-(Piperidine-1-carbonyl)-10b,11-dihydro-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indol-6-one (13)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding yellow oil (50.5 mg, 76% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.90 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.67-7.62 (m, 3H), 7.54 (td, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.55 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 3.44 (br, 2H), 3.34 (br, 2H), 3.03 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 1.45-1.43 (quint, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 2H), 1.32-1.26 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.0, 167.2, 146.8, 139.9, 136.8, 133.7, 132.0, 129.5, 127.7, 125.4, 125.2, 125.1, 123.1, 117.5, 79.7, 46.6, 41.0, 26.0, 24.4. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₂₁H₂₀N₂O₂+H⁺: 333.1598 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 333.1603.



10b-(Morpholine-4-carbonyl)-10b,11-dihydro-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indol-6-one (14)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding a white solid (60.2 mg, 90% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.90 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, J = 4.0, 2H), 7.63 (d, J = 7.8, 1H) 7.58-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.31 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, J = 7.7, 1H), 7.14 (t, J = 7.4, 1H), 4.50 (d, J = 15.5, 1H), 3.62-3.58 (m, 2H), 3.41 (m, 6H), 3.07 (d, J = 15.5, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.9, 168.0, 146.4, 139.7, 136.6, 134.0, 131.8, 129.8, 127.9, 125.6, 125.3, 125.2, 123.2, 117.5, 79.5, 66.7, 45.9, 41.0. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₂₀H₁₈N₂O₃+H⁺: 335.1390 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 335.1397.



2-Isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 6-oxo-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indole-10b(11H)-carboxylate (**15**)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding a white solid (37.1mg, 46% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (dd, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (td, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.57 (td, *J* = 10.9 Hz, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 3.30 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 1.77 (d, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 1H), 1.62-1.55 (m, 3H), 1.41-1.37 (m, 1H), 1.31-1.24 (m, 2H), 0.98-0.87 (m, 1H), 0.84-0.79 (m, 4H), 0.66 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 0.45 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.1, 167.8, 144.1, 140.0, 134.3, 133.5, 132.9, 129.6, 128.2, 125.1, 124.9, 124.7, 123.2, 116.7, 76.9, 46.8, 40.0, 38.7, 34.0, 31.3, 25.8, 23.2, 21.9, 20.5, 15.8. HRMS (ESI): *m*/z calcd for C₂₆H₂₉NO₃+H⁺: 404.2220 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 404.2223.



(3S,8S,9S,10R,13S,14S,17S)-17-Acetyl-10,13-dimethyl-2,3,4,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17-tetradecahydro-1H-c yclopenta[a]phenanthren-3-yl 6-oxo-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indole-10b (11H)- carboxylate (**16**)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding a white solid (99.2 mg, 88% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.65-7.60 (m, 2H), 7.53 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 5.30 (s, 1H), 7.60-7.56 (m, 1H), 3.94 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.32 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 2.51 (t, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 2.25-2.16 (m, 3H), 2.11 (s, 3H), 2.03-1.94 (m, 2H), 1.82-1.79 (m, 1H), 1.71-1.60 (m, 5H), 1.58-1.53 (m, 2H), 1.50-1.41 (m, 3H), 1.26-1.18 (m, 1H), 1.15-1.07 (m, 2H), 0.97 (s, 3H), 0.61 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 209.6, 170.5, 168.3, 144.6, 140.0, 139.1, 134.2, 133.4, 133.1, 129.7, 128.2, 125.1, 125.0, 124.8, 122.9, 122.7, 116.7, 76.9, 76.1, 63.6, 56.8, 49.8, 44.0, 38.7, 37.9, 37.6, 37.5, 36.8, 36.5, 31.7, 31.6, 27.3, 24.5, 22.8, 21.0, 19.3, 13.2. HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* calcd for C₃₇H₄₁NO₄+H⁺: 564.3108 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 564.31049.



9H-Fluoren-9-yl 6-oxo-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indole-10b(11H)-carboxylate (17)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding a yellow solid (43.8 mg, 51% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.87 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (dd, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (dd, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (dd, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 100 Hz, 1

3.0 Hz, 2H), 7.61-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.53 (td, J = 7.0 Hz, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.33 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.25-7.15 (m, 5H), 7.11 (td, J = 7.5 Hz, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (s, 1H), 3.93 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.34 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.8, 168.1, 144.0, 141.2, 141.0, 141.0, 140.9, 140.0, 133.9, 133.4, 133.1, 129.9, 129.8, 129.7, 128.4, 128.0, 127.9, 125.6, 125.5, 125.2, 124.9, 123.3, 120.2, 116.9, 77.3, 76.9, 38.2. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C₂₉H₁₉NO₃+H⁺: 430.1438 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 430.1442.



10b-Acetyl-10b,11-dihydro-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indol-6-one (18)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding a white solid (37.9mg, 75% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.92 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (td, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (td, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.07 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 3.05 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 2.04 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 207.3, 169.4, 143.8, 139.5, 135.0, 133.6, 133.3, 129.9, 128.2, 125.4, 125.3, 125.2, 123.2, 116.8, 82.1, 36.0, 24.5. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₇H₁₃NO₂+H⁺ 264.1019 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 264.1015.



8-Fluoro-10b,11-dihydro-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indol-6-one (20)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding a yellow solid (47.4 mg, 99% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.66 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (dd, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (dd, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.33-7.25 (m, 3H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 5.59 (t, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 3.45 (dd, *J* = 15.1Hz, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 3.03 (dd, *J* = 15.1Hz, 10.3 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.41, 140.38, 136.50, 136.41, 135.90, 128.12, 125.46, 124.75, 124.41, 124.32, 120.16, 119.93, 116.52, 111.66, 111.43, 65.11, 33.85. ¹⁹F NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -112.07. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₅H₁₀FNO+H⁺ 240.0819 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 240.0824.



8-(Trifluoromethyl)-10b,11-dihydro-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indol-6-one (21)^{S12}

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =20:1) yielding a yellow solid (23.7 mg, 41% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.16 (s, 1H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 5.67 (t, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 3.51 (dd, *J* = 15.1 Hz, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (dd, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 10.4 Hz, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.4. HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₆H₁₀F₃NO+H⁺ 290.0787 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 290.0797.



8-(Trifluoromethyl)-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indol-6-one (21A).

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =20:1) yielding a yellow solid (18.4 mg, 32% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.98 (s, 1H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (td, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (td, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.1, 137.5, 137.3, 134.3, 134.2, 133.8, 131.0 (q, *J* = 33.0 Hz), 130.7 (q, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 127.2, 124.4, 123.5 (q, *J* = 270.6 Hz), 122.8, 122.4 (q, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 121.4, 113.6, 105.6. ¹⁹F NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.7. HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₆H₈F₃NO+H⁺ 288.0631 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 288.0638.



10b-Methyl-10b,11-dihydro-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indol-6-one (22) ^{S9}

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =20:1) yielding a yellow solid (25.4 mg, 54% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.87-7.86 (m, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (td, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (td, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 3.10 (d, *J* = 15.1 Hz, 1H), 3.18 (d, *J* = 15.1 Hz, 1H), 1.64 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.2, 151.3, 139.5, 135.8, 132.8, 132.7, 128.6, 128.0, 125.7, 125.0, 124.5, 121.9, 117.3, 71.9, 40.4, 27.2.



5-Methyl-7H-pyrrolo[3,2,1-de]phenanthridin-7-one (22A)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =20:1) yielding a yellow solid (17.6 mg, 38% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.53 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.19 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.39 (td, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 6.51 (s, 1H), 2.88 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.5, 139.2, 132.9, 132.2, 129.3, 127.9, 127.6, 123.8, 122.3, 121.1, 117.1, 116.2, 109.5, 16.0. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₆H₁₁NO+H⁺ 234.0913 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 234.0920.



10b, 11-Dimethyl-10b,11-dihydro-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indol-6-one (23)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =20:1) yielding yellow oil (21.9 mg, 44% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.90-7.88 (m, 1H), 7.63-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 2H), 7.32-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.16-7.10 (m, 2H), 3.31 (q, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.56 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 3H), 1.49 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.4, 151.1, 141.1, 138.9, 132.6, 128.7, 128.0, 125.1, 124.7, 123.6, 121.5, 117.2, 75.4, 44.3, 20.8, 11.6. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₇H₁₅NO+H⁺ 250.1226 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 250.1234.



Methyl 2-(2-methoxy-10b-methyl-6-oxo-10b,11-dihydro-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indol-11-yl)acetate (24)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =20:1) yielding a white solid (19.5 mg, 0.15 mmol, 29% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.86 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.53 (m, 2H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (dd, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (s, 1H), 3.79-3.78 (m, 6H), 3.75-3.70 (m, 1H), 3.00-2.87 (m, 2H), 1.52 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.4, 167.3, 157.4, 150.0, 140.2, 132.7, 132.5, 132.2, 128.9, 124.9, 122.1, 117.9, 112.2, 111.3, 75.2, 55.7, 52.2, 46.4, 33.0, 21.3. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₂₀H₁₉NO₄+H⁺ 338.1387 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 338.1388.



Methyl 2-(2-methoxy-5-methyl-7-oxo-7H-pyrrolo[3,2,1-de]phenanthridin-4-yl)acetate (24A)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =20:1) yielding a yellow solid (20.8 mg, 31% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.53 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (s, 1H), 7.15 (s, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 5H), 2.84 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.2, 160.0, 157.4, 137.0, 133.9, 132.8, 129.5, 128.6, 128.1, 128.0, 126.4, 122.4, 116.5, 113.8, 105.0, 104.4, 56.2, 52.3, 30.0, 13.3. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₂₀H₁₇NO₄+H⁺ 336.1230 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 336.1232.



Ethyl 11-((2,6-dimethylphenyl)thio)-6-oxo-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indole-10b(11H)-carboxylate (25A)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =20:1) yielding a white solid (29.2 mg, 34% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.94 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.60-7.58 (m, 3H), 7.33 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.81 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.18 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 5.22 (s, 1H), 4.12 (q, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 2.11 (s, 6H), 1.13 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.1, 167.6, 144.2, 140.2, 138.9, 134.7, 134.5, 132.4, 130.2, 129.4, 129.0, 128.1, 125.2, 124.7, 124.6, 124.0, 116.7, 80.4, 62.8, 50.8, 21.6, 13.8. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₂₆H₂₃NO₃S+H⁺ 430.1471 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 430.1475.



Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding yellow oil (61.6 mg, 99% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.81 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.53 (m, 3H), 7.81 (ddd, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 6.0 Hz, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (td, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 4.08 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.88 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.24 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 1.09 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.0, 168.4, 160.3 (d, *J* = 241.6 Hz), 144.4, 136.2, 136.1, 133.3, 133.0, 129.9, 125.1, 123.0, 117.5 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 114.7 (d, *J* = 23.4 Hz), 112.8 (d, *J* = 24.6 Hz), 77.2, 62.7, 38.1(d, *J* = 1.5 Hz), 13.9. ¹⁹F NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -117.8. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₈H₁₄FNO₃+H⁺: 312.1030 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 312.1030.



Ethyl 2-methyl-6-oxo-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indole-10b(11H)-carboxylate (27)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding a white solid (52.8 mg, 86% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.64-7.58 (m, 3H), 7.52 (td, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 4.12 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.92 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.28 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 2.31(s, 3H), 1.14 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.4, 168.3, 144.5, 137.6, 134.6, 134.3, 133.4, 133.0, 129.7, 128.6, 125.9, 125.0, 122.9, 116.4, 77.0, 62.5, 38.0, 21.1, 13.9. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₉H₁₇NO₃+H⁺: 308.1281 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 308.1291.



Ethyl 2-(benzyloxy)-6-oxo-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indole-10b(11H)-carboxylate (28)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding yellow oil (69.5 mg, 87% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.87 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.63-7.58 (m, 3H), 7.53 (td, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.37 (m, 4H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.91-6.87 (m, 2H), 5.03(s, 2H), 4.13 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.92 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.29 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 1.15 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.3, 168.4, 156.5, 144.5, 136.9, 135.8, 133.8, 133.4, 133.0, 129.7, 128.6, 128.0, 127.4, 125.0, 122.9, 117.2, 113.8, 112.8, 77.2, 70.6, 62.6, 38.2, 13.9. HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* calcd for C₂₅H₂₁NO₄+H⁺: 400.1543 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 400.1541.



Ethyl 2-ethoxy-6-oxo-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indole-10b(11H)-carboxylate (29)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding yellow oil (58.7 mg, 87% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.85 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.62-7.57 (m, 3H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.81-6.78 (m, 2H), 4.12 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.98 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.90 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.27 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 1.38 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.14 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.3, 168.3, 156.7, 144.4, 135.8, 133.4, 133.4, 132.9, 129.7, 124.9, 122.9, 117.2, 113.4, 112.4, 77.2, 64.0, 62.5, 38.2, 14.9, 13.9. HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* calcd for C₂₀H₁₉NO₄+H⁺: 338.1387 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 338.1386.



Ethyl 3-bromo-6-oxo-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indole-10b(11H)-carboxylate (30)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding a white solid (70.7 mg, 95% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.69-7.86 (m, 2H), 7.65-7.63 (m, 2H), 7.57-7.53 (m, 1H), 7.20 (dd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.13 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.91 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.24 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 1.16 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.9, 168.2, 144.4, 141.2, 133.4, 133.2, 132.8, 129.9, 127.7, 126.3, 125.2, 123.1, 121.6, 120.0, 77.0, 62.8, 37.6, 13.9. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₈H₁₄BrNO₃+H⁺: 372.0230 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 372.0221.



Ethyl 4-bromo-6-oxo-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indole-10b(11H)-carboxylate (31)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding a white solid (35.0 mg, 0.15 mmol, 47% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.81 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.60-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 4.09-4.04 (m, 2H), 3.81 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 3.22 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 1.10 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.7, 168.0, 143.7, 140.5, 138.2, 133.3, 132.7, 132.7, 129.9, 126.9, 125.3, 123.9, 122.9, 112.2, 77.8, 62.6, 39.5, 13.9. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₈H₁₄BrNO₃+H⁺: 372.0230 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 372.0233.



Ethyl 8-fluoro-6-oxo-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indole-10b(11H)-carboxylate (32)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding colorless oil (61.6 mg, 99% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.70 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (dd, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (dd, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (td, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2.2 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (td, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 4.15 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.94 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.31 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 1.16 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.96, 166.92, 163.74 (d, *J* =248.8 Hz), 140.02 (d, *J* =2.4 Hz), 139.76, 135.70 (d, *J* =8.4 Hz), 134.10, 128.33, 125.15 (d, *J* =23.8 Hz), 124.74, 124.67, 120.53 (d, *J* =23.8 Hz), 116.73, 111.79 (d, *J* =23.8 Hz), 76.44, 62.69, 38.03, 13.89. ¹⁹F NMR (375 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 110.38. HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₈H₁₄FNO₃+H⁺: 312.1030 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 312.1035.



Ethyl 8-chloro-6-oxo-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indole-10b(11H)-carboxylate (33)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding colorless oil (60.9 mg, 93% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.84-7.83 (m, 1H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.61-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (td, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 0.4 Hz, 1H), 4.14 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.94 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.30 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 1.16 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.8, 166.7, 142.6, 136.2, 139.7, 135.2, 134.0, 133.2, 128.3, 125.3, 125.1, 125.0, 124.3, 116.7, 76.5, 62.8, 38.0, 13.9. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for



Ethyl 8-bromo-6-oxo-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indole-10b(11H)-carboxylate (34)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding yellow oil (72.2 mg, 97% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.0 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (dd, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (td, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 4.14 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.94 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.31 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 1.16 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.7, 165.6, 142.1, 138.6, 135.0, 134.3, 133.0, 127.3, 127.1, 124.2, 124.1, 123.5, 123.0, 114.7, 75.6, 61.8, 36.9, 12.9. HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₈H₁₄BrNO₃+H⁺: 372.0230 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 372.0222.



Ethyl 8-iodo-6-oxo-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indole-10b(11H)-carboxylate (35)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =20:1) yielding a white solid (29.3 mg, 35% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.14 (m, 1H), 7.86 (dd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.06 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.86 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 3.23 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 1.09 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.7, 166.5, 143.8, 141.8, 139.6, 135.3, 134.1, 134.0, 128.4, 125.3, 125.1, 124.8, 116.8, 95.2, 76.7, 62.8, 37.9, 13.9. HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₈H₁₄INO₃+H⁺: 420.0091 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 420.0092.



Ethyl 6-oxo-8-(trifluoromethyl)-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indole-10b(11H)-carboxylate (36)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding a white solid (52.0 mg, 72% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.15 (s, 1H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.98 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.35 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 1.17 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.48, 166.60, 147.57, 139.59, 134.33, 133.80, 132.55 (q, *J* = 33.5 Hz, 1H), 129.97 (q, *J* = 3.5 Hz), 128.48, 125.29, 125.25, 123.83, 123.49 (q, *J* = 271.0 Hz), 122.29 (q, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 116.84, 76.84, 62.98, 37.95, 13.88. ¹⁹F NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.5. HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₉H₁₄F₃NO₃+H⁺: 362.0999 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 290.0797.



Ethyl 8-methyl-6-oxo-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indole-10b(11H)-carboxylate (37)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding a white solid (60.8 mg, 99% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.72-7.68 (m, 2H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.30

(t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.12 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.94 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.28 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 1.15 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.4, 168.5, 141.9, 140.1, 140.0, 134.3, 134.1, 133.4, 128.2, 125.2, 125.1, 124.7, 122.7, 116.7, 76.6, 62.5, 38.0, 21.4, 13.9. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C₁₉H₁₇NO₃+H⁺: 308.1281 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 308.1278.



Ethyl 8-methoxy-6-oxo-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indole-10b(11H)-carboxylate (38)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding colorless oil (50.4 mg, 78% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.71 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (dd, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (td, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.12 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.92 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.28 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 1.16 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.4, 168.2, 161.2, 140.0, 136.8, 134.9, 134.4, 128.2, 125.2, 124.8, 123.9, 121.1, 116.7, 107.7, 76.4, 62.5, 55.8, 38.0, 13.9. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₉H₁₇NO₄+H⁺: 324.1230 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 324.1235.



Ethyl 7-chloro-6-oxo-6H-isoindolo[2,1-a]indole-10b(11H)-carboxylate (39)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding colorless oil (56.3 mg, 86% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.84 (d, *J* = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.61-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.13 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.94 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.30 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 1.16 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.8, 166.8, 142.6, 139.7, 136.2, 135.2, 134.0, 133.2, 128.4, 125.3, 125.1, 125.1, 124.3, 116.7, 76.5, 62.8, 38.0, 13.9. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₈H₁₄ClNO₃+H⁺: 328.0735 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 328.07343.



Ethyl 7-oxo-7H-benzo[6,7]isoindolo[2,1-a]indole-13a(13H)-carboxylate (40)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding yellow oil (58.4 mg, 85% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.16-8.14 (m, 1H), 8.01-7.99 (m, 2H), 7.90 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.68-7.65 (m, 2H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (td, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 4.46 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 4.08-4.00 (m, 2H), 3.41 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 0.99 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.1, 169.4, 144.1, 139.4, 136.0, 134.0, 131.4, 130.7, 129.3, 128.4, 128.2, 127.9, 127.3, 125.4, 124.8, 124.4, 62.7, 36.4, 13.8. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₂₂H₁₇NO₃+H⁺: 344.1281 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 344.1290.



Ethyl 11-oxo-5H-pyrido[3',2':3,4]pyrrolo[1,2-a]indole-4b(11H)-carboxylate (**41**)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding a white solid (31.1 mg, 53% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.87 (d, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (dd, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (dd, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.14 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.97 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 3.34 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 1.15 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.4, 165.8, 152.4, 151.2, 139.6, 139.0, 133.5, 131.5, 128.5, 126.4, 125.3, 125.2, 117.1, 74.5, 63.0, 38.1, 13.9. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₇H₁₄N₂O₃+H⁺ 295.1077 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 295.1076.



Ethyl 5-oxo-5H-pyrido[3',4':3,4]pyrrolo[1,2-a]indole-11a(11H)-carboxylate (42)

Purification by flash chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate v/v =10:1) yielding a white solid (34.6 mg, 59% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.03 (s, 1H), 8.87 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.14 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.18 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.97 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.39 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 1.19 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.1, 165.9, 151.0, 145.3, 141.4, 139.2, 138.6, 134.0, 128.5, 125.5, 125.4, 118.5, 116.9, 76.4, 63.1, 37.9, 13.9. HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₇H₁₄N₂O₃+H⁺ 295.1077 [*M*+H⁺]; found: 295.1078.

7. Supplementary References

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8. X-ray crystal structure data of compounds R1a and 1

8.1 X-ray crystallographic data of R1a (CCDC 2183419)



Bond precision:	$C-C = 0.0069 \text{\AA}$	Wavelength=1.54184		
Cell:	a=7.8811(6)	b=10.3618(5)	c=10.9560(8)	
	alpha=66.055(6)	beta=78.039(6)	gamma=88.232(5)	
Temperature:	293 K			
	Calculated	Reported		
Volume	798.52(10)	798.52(10)		
Space group	P -1	P -1		
Hall group	-P 1	-P 1		
Moiety formula	$C_{18}H_{14}BrNO_3$	$C_{18}H_{14}BrNO_3$		
Sum formula	$C_{18}H_{14}BrNO_3$	$C_{18}H_{14}BrNO_3$		
Mr	372.20	372.21		
Dx,g cm ⁻³	1.548	1.548		
Z	2	2		
Mu (mm ⁻¹)	3.635	3.635		
F000	376.0	376.0		
F000	375.61			
h, k, lmax	9, 12, 13	9, 12, 13		
Nref	3199	3096		
Tmin, Tmax	0.489, 0.559	0.460, 1.000		
Tmin'	0.444			
Correction method= # Reported T Limits: Tmin=0.460 Tmax=1.000				
AbsCorr = MULTI-SCAN				
Data completeness= 0.968		heta(max)= 73.234		
R(reflections)= 0.0673(2967)		wR2(reflections)= 0.1707(3096)		
S = 1.029		Npar= 209		
Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at 50% probability level				

8.2 X-ray crystallographic data of 1 (CCDC 2162244)



Bond precision:	C-C = 0.0078Å	Wavelength=1.54184		
Cell:	a=8.9025(3)	b=5.6087(2)	c=15.0571(5)	
	alpha=90	beta=100.429(3)	gamma=90	
Temperature:	293 K			
	Calculated	Reported		
Volume	739.40(4)	739.40(5)		
Space group	P 21	P 1 21 1		
Hall group	P 2yb	P 2yb		
Moiety formula	$C_{18}H_{15}NO_3$	$C_{18}H_{15}NO_3$		
Sum formula	$C_{18}H_{15}NO_3$	C ₁₈ H ₁₅ NO ₃		
Mr	293.31	293.31		
Dx,g cm ⁻³	1.317	1.317		
Z	2	2		
Mu (mm ⁻¹)	0.734	0.734		
F000	308.0	308.0		
F000	308.96			
h, k, lmax	11, 6, 18	10, 6, 18		
Nref	2925 [1620]	2660		
Tmin, Tmax	0.845,0.870	0.829, 1.000		
Tmin'	0.845			
Correction method= # Reported T Limits: Tmin= 0.829 Tmax=1.000				
AbsCorr = MULTI-SCAN				
Data completeness= 1.64/0.91		heta(max)= 72.752		
R(reflections)= 0.0621(2612)		wR2(reflections)= 0.1862(2660)		
S = 1.043		Npar= 200		
Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at 50% probability level				

cement empsoles are drawn at 50% probability ie

9. NMR Spectra of related compounds

¹H NMR Spectra of compound **R1a** (500 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹H NMR Spectra of compound **R1b** (500 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹H NMR Spectra of compound **R1c** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹H NMR Spectra of compound **R2a** (500 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹³C NMR Spectra of compound **R2a** (125 MHz, CDCl₃) -160.6134.0 132.1 130.7 129.8 128.6 128.0 128.0 -121.6 $\sum_{116.1}^{116.2}$ - 167.1 -14.0-61.7121.8 < 116.2</pre>< 116.1</pre> 137.0136.8 -134.0-132.6-132.1-130.7- 129.8 -128.6-128.0- 127.2 сн₃ 122 120 118 116 chemical shift(ppm) 134 132 130 chemical shift(ppm) 128 136 u titele at benefen titele det in en en det benefet benefet genege titele benefet te benefet. n televen an 110 100 90 chemical shift(ppm) 200 160 150 120 50 10 190 180 170 140 130 80 70 60 40 30 20 ¹H NMR Spectra of compound **R2b** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\bigwedge^{1.15}_{1.12}$ 7.427.427.407.367.347.337.337.337.337.337.337.337.337.337.337.99 7.96 4.00 3.98 3.96 3.94 7.47

0



¹³C NMR Spectra of compound **R2b** (100 MHz, CDCl₃)





¹³C NMR Spectra of compound **R3a** (125 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹³C NMR Spectra of compound **R3b** (100 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹³C NMR Spectra of compound R3c (125 MHz, CDCl₃) -168.2-160.5-121.8 $ag{116.2}$ $ag{116.1}$ - 127.8 — 94.3 -61.7— 14.1 ~ 140.8 ~ 140.1 - 137.2 132.6 132.1 132.1 132.4 129.8 128.7 128.0 -121.8116.2 116.1 ℃н₃ 130 125 chemical shift(ppm) . 140 135 120 115 ir tagʻi sin nift sin ta polo yogʻa fandi i sigila yi ay polo yo ta boʻrga ya 110 100 90 chemical shift(ppm) 200 10 190 180 170 150 80 60 50 30 20 0 160 140 130 120 70 40

¹H NMR Spectra of compound **R4a** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹³C NMR Spectra of compound **R4a** (100 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹³C NMR Spectra of compound **R4b** (100 MHz, CDCl₃)



6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 chemical shift(ppm)

1.00 0.98

8.0

11.0 10.5 10.0

9.5

9.0 8.5

 $1.12 \\ 1.05 \\ 0.93 \\ 1.07 \\ 1.92 \\$

7.0 6.5

7.5

2.174 2.994

4.0

3.5 3.0 2.5

3.12-[

0.5

0.0

2.0 1.5 1.0







S63

¹³C NMR Spectra of compound R6a (125 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹³C NMR Spectra of compound **R6b** (100 MHz, CDCl₃)



1.02-1 2.00H 1.13H 4.90Å 2.75 5.5 5.0 4.5 chemical shift(ppm) 10.0 3.5 2.5 0.0 9.5 . 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 4.0 3.0 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5

¹H NMR Spectra of compound **R8** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹H NMR Spectra of compound **R9** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹H NMR Spectra of compound **R10** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹H NMR Spectra of compound **R11** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹H NMR Spectra of compound **R12** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹H NMR Spectra of compound **R13** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)





¹H NMR Spectra of compound **R14** (500 MHz, CDCl₃)


¹H NMR Spectra of compound **R15** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹H NMR Spectra of compound **R16** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹³C NMR Spectra of compound **R16** (125 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹H NMR Spectra of compound **R7** (500 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹H NMR Spectra of compound **R18** (500 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹³C NMR Spectra of compound **R18** (125 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹H NMR Spectra of compound **R19** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹H NMR Spectra of compound **R20** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)







¹H NMR Spectra of compound **R21** (500 MHz, CDCl₃)





-90 -110 -120 chemical shift(ppm) 160

-180

-200

-140



-50 -60 -70 -80

10

0

-10

-20

-30 -40



¹H NMR Spectra of compound **R23** (500 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹H NMR Spectra of compound **R24** (500 MHz, CDCl₃)





S82

¹³C NMR Spectra of compound **R25** (100 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹³C NMR Spectra of compound **R26** (125 MHz, CDCl₃)





¹H NMR Spectra of compound **R27** (500 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹H NMR Spectra of compound **R28** (500 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹H NMR Spectra of compound **R29** (500 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹H NMR Spectra of compound **R30** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)





¹H NMR Spectra of compound **R32** (500 MHz, CDCl₃)







¹³C NMR Spectra of compound **R33** (125 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹H NMR Spectra of compound **R34** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹³C NMR Spectra of compound **R34** (125 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹H NMR Spectra of compound **R35** (500 MHz, CDCl₃)







¹⁹F NMR Spectra of compound **R36** (300 MHz, CDCl₃)



10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -110 -120 -140 -160 -180 -200 chemical shift(ppm) ¹H NMR Spectra of compound **R37** (500 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹H NMR Spectra of compound **R38** (500 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹³C NMR Spectra of compound **R38** (125 MHz, CDCl₃)

166.9	160.9 158.6	1386 1376 1377 1377 1277 1277 1277 1277 1275 1275 1275 1127 1125 1115 111	61.5	55.7	14.1
	17				



¹H NMR Spectra of compound **R39** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹H NMR Spectra of compound **R40** (500 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹H NMR Spectra of compound **R41** (500 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹H NMR Spectra of compound **R42** (500 MHz, CDCl₃)





¹H NMR Spectra of compound **2** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)






































¹H NMR Spectra of compound **21** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹⁹F NMR Spectra of compound **21** (300 MHz, CDCl₃)





¹H NMR Spectra of compound **21A** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹⁹F NMR Spectra of compound **21A** (300 MHz, CDCl₃)





¹³C NMR Spectra of compound **22A** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) -160.5- 139.2 $\frac{129.3}{-127.6}$ -121.1-116.2-109.5-16.0-123.8-129.3 127.9 127.6 127.6-122.3-121.1--- 117.1 -- 116.2 CH₃ 118 130 126 122 chemical shift(ppm) 134 200 110 100 90 chemical shift(ppm) 190 170 120 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 180 160 150 140 130 80 ¹H NMR Spectra of compound **23** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) -1.57 -1.55 1.49 7.90 7.89 7.89 7.88 7.88 $\begin{array}{c} 7.57\\ 7.57\\ 7.57\\ 7.47\\ 7.32\\ 7.33\\ 7.33\\ 7.28\\ 7.13\\ 7.12\\$ 3.34 3.32 3.30 3.28 7.61 СН3 сн₃ 1.01H 1.00H 2.05H 2.06H 1.06H 2.08H $^{3.18}_{3.08}$ 5.5 5.0 4.5 chemical shift(ppm) 10.0 3.5 1.5 0.0 9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 4.0 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.0 0.5









¹H NMR Spectra of compound **26** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)





¹H NMR Spectra of compound **27** (500 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹H NMR Spectra of compound **28** (500 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹H NMR Spectra of compound **29** (500 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹H NMR Spectra of compound **30** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹³C NMR Spectra of compound **30** (100 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹H NMR Spectra of compound **31** (500 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹H NMR Spectra of compound **32** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹³C NMR Spectra of compound **32** (125 MHz, CDCl₃)





¹³C NMR Spectra of compound **33** (100 MHz, CDCl₃)









¹⁹F NMR Spectra of compound **36** (300 MHz, CDCl₃)



10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -110 -120 -140 -160 -180 -200 chemical shif(ppm) ¹H NMR Spectra of compound **37** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)





¹³C NMR Spectra of compound **37** (125 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹H NMR Spectra of compound **38** (500 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹³C NMR Spectra of compound **38** (100 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹H NMR Spectra of compound **39** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)


¹H NMR Spectra of compound **40** (500 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹H NMR Spectra of compound **41** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) / 8.87 - 8.86 r 8.05 7.35 7.51 7.51 7.53 7.33 7.33 7.33 7.33 7.33 7.12 7.12 7.12 7.12 7.12 7.11 $\bigwedge^{1.16}_{1.13}$ -3.35 3.98 3.95 СН₃ 1.01H 1.01H 1.03∄ 1.03∄ 1.00∄ 1.03∬ 2.07<u>4</u> 1.05<u>4</u> 1.03-3.06] 10.0 9.5 9.0 8.0 7.5 5.5 5.0 4.5 chemical shift(ppm) 4.0 3.5 2.0 1.5 8.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 3.0 2.5 1.0 0.5 0.0 ¹³C NMR Spectra of compound **41** (125 MHz, CDCl₃) - 170.4 - 165.8 $\angle \frac{139.6}{139.0}$ 152.4151.2 $\int \frac{128.5}{126.4}$ = 125.3 = 117.1- 74.5 -63.0- 38.1 -13.9- 133.5 - 131.5 - 128.5 -126.4 $\angle \frac{125.3}{125.2}$ СН₃ 134 132 130 128 chemical shift(ppm) 126 110 100 90 chemical shift(ppm) 0 . 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10

¹H NMR Spectra of compound **42** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)







¹H NMR Spectra of compound **47** (500 MHz, CDCl₃)

