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Supporting Information

Sequencing palladium-catalyzed cycloisomerization cascades in a synthesis of

the gelsemine core

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1. General experimental

Regents, solvents and reaction conditions: All reactions were performed in oven-dried glassware under an N_2 atmosphere unless stated otherwise. Tetrahydrofuran, dichloromethane, dimethylformamide, dioxane, toluene and triethylamine were obtained anhydrous from solvent dispenser units having been passed through an activated alumina column under nitrogen. Anhydrous methanol and dimethylsulfoxide were obtained commercially and used without further purification. Brine refers to a saturated aqueous solution of NaCl. Heated reactions used an oil bath as the heat source.

NMR Spectra: Proton (¹H) and carbon (¹³C) NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVII500 (500/125 MHz), Bruker DPX400 (400/100 MHz) or Bruker AVF400 (400/100 MHz). Proton and carbon chemical shifts (δ_H , δ_C) are quoted in ppm. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded using an internal deuterium lock for the residual protons in CDCl₃ (δ 7.26) and C₆D₆ (δ 7.16). ¹³C NMR Spectra were recorded using an internal deuterium lock using solvents CDCl₃ (δ 77.0) and C₆D₆ (δ 128.06). Assignments were made on the basis of chemical shifts, coupling constants, COSY, HSQC, HMBC, nOe, NOESY data and comparison with spectra of related compounds. Resonances are described using the following abbreviations: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplet), br. (broad). Coupling constants (*J*) are given in Hz and are rounded to the nearest 0.1 Hz.

Mass Spectra: Low resolution mass spectra were recorded on a Micromass LCT Premier spectrometer (ESI). High resolution mass spectra were recorded by the Mass Spectrometry service of the Chemistry Research laboratory, University of Oxford, using a Bruker Daltronics microTOF spectrometer (ESI). m/z values are reported in Daltons with their percentage abundances and relevant fragment ions in parentheses. High resolution values are calculated to four decimal places from the molecular formula, all found values being within a tolerance of 5 ppm.

Infrared Spectra: Infrared spectra were recorded on a Bruker Tensor 27 Fourier transform spectrometer, as a thin film on NaCl plates or a diamond ATR module. Absorption maxima

Melting Points: Melting points were recorded on a Leica Galen III Compound Microscope and are uncorrected.

Chromatography: TLC was performed on Merck Keiselgel 60 F254 0.2 mm precoated plates and visualized using basic potassium permanganate dip, acidic vanillin dip or ultraviolet light. Retention factors are reported with the solvent system in parentheses. Column chromatography was performed

on Merck Keiselgel 60 SiO₂ (40-63 µm) and the solvent system used is recorded in parentheses.

2. Additional experimental results

2.1 Cyclization for model spiro synthesis with different catalyst systems



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2.2 Optimization of synthesis of the dichloroenamide

	Ĉ	NHCO ₂ Me	CI CI base MeO ₂ C	
Entry	Base	Temperature	equivalents of HClC=CCl ₂	Conversion (%) ^[c]
1	1.5 equiv. Cs ₂ CO ₃	50 °C	1	<3
2	1.5 equiv. Cs ₂ CO ₃	50 °C	3	6
3	1.5 equiv. Cs ₂ CO ₃	60 °C	3	6
4 ^[a]	1.5 equiv. NaH	0 °C to rt	1	~50
5 ^[a]	2 equiv. NaH	0 °C to rt	1	~50
6 ^[b]	2 equiv. NaH	0 °C to rt	1.2	100

^[a] Deprotonation of carbamate for 30 min before addition of trichloroethylene. ^[b] Deprotonation of carbamate for 1 h before addition of trichloroethylene. ^[c] Conversion based on ¹H NMR spectrum of the crude reaction mixture.

2.3 Kinetic studies

Procedure: NMR timecourse experiments¹

Spectrometer set-up: To an NMR tube was added a solution of ynamide (0.067 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene (internal standard) in deuterated solvent (0.4 mL, 0.167 M). This 'dummy' sample was placed in the NMR spectrometer, with a probe temperature of 308K, for the purposes of preoptimizing the lock and shim of the reaction sample.

Timecourse experiment: To a nitrogen flushed NMR tube containing ynamide (0.067 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), bbeda (1.6 mg, 6.7 μ mol, 0.1 equiv.), Pd(OAc)₂ (1.5 mg, 6.7 μ mol, 0.1 equiv.) and 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene (internal standard), was added d₈-toluene (0.4 mL, 0.167 M). The reaction mixture was briefly mixed on a vortex agitator, then rapidly placed in the NMR machine (probe temperature 308 K). Timecourse experiment spectra were collected at 34 s intervals (DS = 0, NS = 1, d1 = 20 s; at this relaxation time, the protons in the substrate and product had been independently confirmed to relax fully); 6s of delay time was added before the initiation of the next acquisition to allow for automated spectrometer processes. This equates to 34 seconds between each acquisition. The spectra were automatically phased, baseline corrected, and integrated (cross-checked against the internal standard peak) using the TOPSPIN multi_integ3 command. The integration values were plotted using Microsoft Excel as a percentage of the total starting material originally present (proportional to concentration).

3. Characterization of compounds

N-(2-Bromophenyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide, 12



2-Bromoaniline (5.00 g, 29.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL). To this stirred solution at room temperature was added *p*-tosylsulfonyl chloride (6.69 g, 35.1 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) and pyridine (7.42 mL, 87.7 mmol, 3.0 equiv.). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h, then it was diluted with H₂O (5 mL) and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 x 25 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with 1 M HCl, brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated. Silica gel flash

chromatography (pentane/EtOAc 5:1) afforded the title compound **12** (8.96 g, 27.5 mmol, 94%) as a yellow oil; **R**_f 0.23 (pentane/EtOAc 15:1); ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.58 (1H, d, J = 1.5 Hz), 7.57-7.52 (2H, m), 7.31 (1H, dd, J = 8.0, 1.4 Hz), 7.20-7.14 (1H, m), 7.11 (2H, d, J = 8.0 Hz), 6.88-6.83 (2H, m), 2.27 (3H, s); ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C}$ 144.4, 136.0, 134.9, 132.7, 129.8, 128.7, 127.5, 126.4, 122.7, 115.8, 21.7. Data identical to literature values.⁶

N-(2-(1-Hydroxycyclohexyl)phenyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide, 13 4-Methyl-*N*-(2',3',4',5'-tetrahydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)benzenesulfonamide, 14



To a stirred solution of **12** (1.00 g, 3.08 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in THF (8 mL) at -78 °C was added *n*-BuLi (2.5 M in hexane, 3.1 mL, 7.7 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) dropwise. The mixture was stirred for 15 min, then cyclohexanone (0.956 mL, 9.24 mmol, 3 equiv.) was added, and the resulting mixture was allowed to warm to 0 °C and stirred for 1 h. The reaction was then quenched by addition of saturated NH4Cl solution (2 mL) and diluted with water. The phases were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. A sample of **13** could be obtained for characterisation through purification by flash chromatography (pentane/EtOAc 10:1), as a white solid; **R**_f 0.25 (pentane/EtOAc 10:1); **IR** (thin film, v_{max} / cm⁻¹) 3478, 2927, 2854, 2361, 2340, 1495, 1451, 1333, 1158, 1091, 961, 939, 849, 755, 659; **mp** 140-142 °C; ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 9.71 (1H, s, N*H*), 7.74 (2H, d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, Ts*H*), 7.56 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.5, 1.3 Hz, Ar*H*), 7.24-7.20 (2H, m, Ts*H*), 7.18-7.14 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 7.03-6.91 (1H, m, Ar*H*), 2.36 (3H, s, TsC*H*₃), 1.83-1.76 (2H, m, Cy*H*), 1.73-1.70 (1H, m, Cy*H*), 1.68-1.55 (6H, m, Cy*H*), 1.21 (1H, d, *J* = 4.6 Hz, Cy*H*); ¹³C **NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm c}$ 143.6, 137.6, 136.8, 135.3, 129.7, 128.3, 127.3, 125.8, 123.5, 120.2, 75.8, 37.1, 25.3, 21.7, 21.6; **HRMS** (ES⁺) cale. for C₁₉H₂₃NNaO₃S [M+Na]⁺ 368.1291, found 368.1289.

To a stirred solution of crude 13 (1.63 g, 4.72 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in toluene (10 mL) was added p-toluenesulfonic acid monohydrate (179 mg, 0.94 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), then the mixture was heated

to 70 °C for 2 h. After total conversion, the mixture was cooled to room temperature and quenched with saturated NH₄Cl solution (2 mL). The mixture was diluted with water, the phases were separated and the aqueous layer extracted with EtOAc (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. Silica gel flash chromatography (pentane/EtOAc 20:1) afforded the title compound **14** (636 mg, 1.945 mmol, 63%) as a white solid; **R**_f 0.12 (pentane/EtOAc 30:1); **IR** (thin film, v_{max} / cm⁻¹) 3277, 2856, 2361, 1598, 1490, 1393, 1336, 1166, 1092, 905, 814, 757, 668, 629; **mp** 108-110 °C; ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.64 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.2 Hz, Ar*H*), 7.60-7.56 (2H, m, Ts*H*), 7.21-7.17 (3H, m, 2×Ts*H*, Ar*H*), 7.04 (1H, td, *J* = 7.5, 1.2 Hz, Ar*H*), 6.95 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, Ar*H*), 5.35 (1H, tt, *J* = 3.7, 1.7 Hz, H1), 2.36 (3H, s, TsC*H*₃), 2.12-2.08 (2H, m, H2), 1.72-1.66 (2H, m, H5), 1.61 (4H, t, *J* = 3.2 Hz, H3, H4); ¹³C **NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C}$ 143.9, 136.5, 136.0, 135.3, 133.2, 129.7, 128.8, 128.6, 127.8, 127.3, 124.6, 121.1, 30.2, 25.4, 22.9, 21.8, 21.6; **HRMS** (ES⁺) calc. for C₁₉H₂₁NNaO₂S [M+Na]⁺ 350.1185, found 350.1183.

(*E*)-*N*-(1,2-Dichlorovinyl)-4-methyl-*N*-(2',3',4',5'-tetrahydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)benzenesulfo namide, 15



To a solution of **14** (580 mg, 1.77 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and powdered Cs₂CO₃ (867 mg, 2.66 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) in DMF (4 mL) was added dropwise trichloroethylene (0.48 mL, 5.31 mmol, 3.0 equiv.), and the resulting mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 2 h. The mixture was then cooled to room temperature and ethyl acetate and water (~2:1, 15 mL) were added. The layers were separated and the aqueous layer extracted with EtOAc (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. Silica gel flash chromatography (pentane/EtOAc 30:1) afforded the title compound **15** (723 mg, 1.717 mmol, 97%) as a white solid; **R**_f 0.22 (pentane/EtOAc 50:1); **IR** (thin film, v_{max} / cm^{-1}) 2929, 2361, 1597, 1485, 1438, 1368, 1289, 1168, 1083, 922, 814, 760, 659; **mp** 78-80 °C; ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.73 (2H, d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, Ts*H*), 7.33-7.28 (3H, m, 2×Ts*H*, Ar*H*), 7.24 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.7, 1.4 Hz, Ar*H*), 7.15 (2H, ddd, *J* = 7.6, 6.9, 1.7 Hz, Ar*H*), 6.32 (1H, s, H6), 5.30 (1H, dt, *J* = 3.8, 1.9 Hz, H1), 2.45 (3H, s, TsC*H*₃), 2.19-2.10 (2H, m, H2), 2.05 (2H, dt, *J*

= 6.2, 3.1 Hz, H5), 1.74-1.65 (2H, m, H3), 1.65-1.58 (2H, m, H4); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_C 146.3, 144.9, 136.3, 135.6, 134.5, 131.6, 131.1, 129.6, 129.21, 129.19, 127.8, 126.5, 118.2, 30.2, 29.9, 25.6, 22.9, 21.8, 21.7; HRMS (ES⁺) calc. for C₂₁H₂₁Cl₂NNaO₂S [M+Na]⁺ 444.0562, found 444.0562.

4-Methyl-*N*-(prop-1-yn-1-yl)-*N*-(2',3',4',5'-tetrahydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)benzenesulfonamid e, 10



To a stirred solution of dichloroenamide 15 (482 mg, 1.14 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in anhydrous THF (5 mL) at -78 °C was added PhLi (1.9 M in dibutyl ether, 1.68 mL, 3.20 mmol, 2.8 equiv.) dropwise, and the mixture was stirred for 1 h. After total conversion to the intermediate alkynyllithium (as confirmed by TLC), MeI (0.21 mL, 3.42 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) was added, then the mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred overnight. The reaction was quenched by addition of saturated NH₄Cl solution (2 mL), then diluted with water, the layers separated, and the aqueous phase extracted with EtOAc (3×10 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. Silica gel flash chromatography (pentane/EtOAc 15:1) afforded the title compound 10 (376 mg, 1.03 mmol, 90%) as a yellow solid; Rf 0.27 (pentane/EtOAc 30:1); IR (thin film, v_{max} / cm⁻¹) 2926, 2257, 1597, 1484, 1442, 1368, 1306, 1296, 1167, 939, 924, 848, 813, 759, 687, 657; mp 129-131 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_H 7.73 (2H, d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, Ts*H*), 7.36-7.31 (2H, m, Ts*H*), 7.28 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.0, 1.3 Hz, Ar*H*), 7.25 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.9 Hz, Ar*H*), 7.14 (1H, dd, J = 1.9, 0.9 Hz, ArH), 6.91 (1H, dd, J = 8.0, 1.3 Hz, ArH), 5.74 (1H, dt, J = 3.8, 2.0 Hz, H1), 2.47 (3H, s, TsCH₃), 2.42-2.31 (2H, m, H5), 2.22-2.13 (2H, m, H2), 1.88 (3H, s, H6), 1.81-1.73 (2H, m, H4), 1.71-1.60 (2H, m, H3); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_C 144.7, 144.5, 136.6, 135.6, 135.0, 130.0, 129.5, 129.0, 128.5, 128.3, 128.0, 127.2, 74.1, 64.6, 29.4, 25.8, 23.2, 22.1, 21.8, 3.5; HRMS (ES⁺) calc. for C₂₂H₂₃NNaO₂S [M+Na]⁺ 388.1342, found 388.1337.

(Z)-2'-Ethylidene-1'-tosylspiro[cyclohexane-1,3'-indolin]-2-ene, 16



To a solution of ynamide **10** (36.5 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in toluene (2 mL) was added Pd(OAc)₂ (2.3 mg, 10 µmol, 0.1 equiv.) and bbeda (2.4 mg, 10 µmol, 0.1 equiv.) and stirred overnight (12 h). The mixture was then concentrated and the product purified by column chromatography (pentane/EtOAc 15:1) to afford **16** (29.2 mg, 0.08 mmol, 80%) as a white solid; **R**_f 0.22 (pentane/EtOAc 50:1); **IR** (thin film, v_{max} / cm⁻¹) 2919, 2361, 1459, 1362, 1168, 1090, 1032, 1013, 931, 919, 813, 755, 706, 660; **mp** 116-118 °C; ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.74 (1H, ddd, J = 8.1, 1.0, 0.5 Hz, Ar*H*), 7.52 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz, Ts*H*), 7.25-7.22 (1H, m, Ar*H*), 7.16-7.12 (2H, m, Ts*H*), 7.08 (1H, td, J = 7.5, 1.1 Hz, Ar*H*), 6.96 (1H, ddd, J = 7.5, 1.4, 0.5 Hz, Ar*H*), 5.92 (1H, dt, J = 9.9, 3.7 Hz, H1), 5.38 (1H, q, J = 7.2 Hz, H6), 5.30-5.22 (1H, m, H2), 2.33 (3H, s, TsC*H*₃), 2.02 (3H, d, J = 7.2 Hz, H7), 2.00-1.96 (2H, m, H3), 1.44 (1H, dddt, J = 13.7, 10.5, 7.2, 3.3 Hz, H4), 1.33 (1H, ddd, J = 10.3, 4.6, 2.1 Hz, H4), 0.71 (1H, ddd, J = 13.3, 10.2, 3.0 Hz, H5), 0.51 (1H, ddd, J = 13.2, 7.5, 2.3 Hz, H5); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C}$ 145.7, 144.3, 141.8, 140.9, 135.4, 131.1, 129.6, 129.3, 128.1, 127.8, 125.6, 123.9, 119.9, 118.6, 50.5, 35.8, 24.5, 21.6, 18.0, 15.6; **HRMS** (ES⁺) calc. for C₂₂H₂₃NNaO₂S [M+Na]⁺ 388.1342, found 388.1338.

2-(4,4,5,5-Tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)aniline, 17



To a stirred mixture of 2-bromoaniline (1.00 g, 5.81 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), Et₃N (3.23 mL, 23.2 mmol, 4.0 equiv.), Pd(dppf)Cl₂ (213 mg, 0.29 mmol, 0.05 equiv.) in 1,4-dioxane (25 mL) was added dropwise 4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolane (2.53 mL, 17.4 mmol, 3.0 equiv.). The resultant mixture was heated to 100 °C. After 12 h, the reaction was cooled to room temperature, then quenched with saturated NH₄Cl solution (2 mL). The mixture was diluted with water, then the phases were separated and the aqueous phases extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2 × 20 mL). The combined

organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. Silica gel flash chromatography (pentane/EtOAc 15:1) afforded the title compound **17** (1.07 g, 4.88 mmol, 84%) as a yellow solid; **R**_f 0.23 (pentane/EtOAc 30:1); ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.63 (1H, dd, J = 7.4, 1.7 Hz), 7.22 (1H, ddd, J = 8.1, 7.2, 1.7 Hz), 6.68 (1H, td, J = 7.3, 1.0 Hz), 6.63-6.56 (1H, m), 4.74 (2H, s), 1.35 (12H, s); ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C}$ 153.7, 136.8, 132.8, 116.9, 114.8, 83.5, 24.9. Data identical to literature values.⁷

Cyclohex-1-en-1-yl trifluoromethanesulfonate, 18



To a stirred solution of cyclohexanone (1.00 g, 10.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in CH₂Cl₂ (30 mL) at 0 °C was added 2,6-di-tert-butyl-4-methylpyridine (2.14 g, 11.2 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) and trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride (2.56 g, 12.2 mmol, 1.2 equiv.). The reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature, stirred overnight, and then concentrated. Pentane was added, and the solid pyridinium triflate was filtered off (washed with pentane). The combined pentane solutions were washed subsequently with cold HCl (1 M), saturated brine, and then dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. Silica gel flash chromatography (pentane) afforded the title compound **17** (1.41 g, 6.13 mmol, 60%) as a purple oil; **R**_f 0.17 (pentane); ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.76 (1H, td, *J* = 4.0, 2.0 Hz), 2.31 (2H, tq, *J* = 5.2, 2.1 Hz), 2.18 (2H, dtt, *J* = 6.1, 3.8, 2.0 Hz), 1.84-1.72 (2H, m), 1.66-1.51 (2H, m); ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ c 149.5, 118.6 (q, *J* = 320 Hz), 117.1, 27.7, 24.0, 22.8, 21.1. Data identical to literature values.^{8,9}

2',3',4',5'-Tetrahydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-amine, 19



To a degassed solution of **17** (916 mg, 4.18 mmol, 1.1 equiv.), K_2CO_3 (2.10 g, 15.2 mmol, 4.0 equiv.) and Pd(PPh₃)₄ (440 mg, 0.38 mmol, 0.1 equiv.) in PhMe/EtOH/H₂O (5:2:1, ~0.05 M, 76 mL) under an argon atmosphere was added triflate **18** (875 mg, 3.8 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), and the resulting mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 10 h. The reaction was cooled to room temperature, then H₂O and

CH₂Cl₂ were added and the phases were separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 x 40 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. Silica gel flash chromatography (pentane/EtOAc 50:1) afforded the title compound **19** (478 mg, 2.76 mmol, 73%) as a yellow oil; **R**_f 0.23 (pentane/EtOAc 30:1); ¹H **NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.05 (1H, td, *J* = 7.7, 1.6 Hz), 6.99 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.5 Hz), 6.81-6.62 (2H, m), 5.77 (1H, tt, *J* = 3.6, 1.7 Hz), 3.77 (2H, s), 2.32-2.23 (2H, m), 2.19 (2H, ddt, *J* = 9.8, 6.2, 3.1 Hz), 1.81-1.76 (2H, m), 1.73-1.67 (2H, m); ¹³C **NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C}$ 143.2, 136.6, 130.6, 128.7, 127.6, 126.9, 118.4, 115.5, 29.5, 25.6, 23.3, 22.3. Data identical to literature values.⁹

Methyl (2',3',4',5'-tetrahydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)carbamate, 20



To a stirred solution of **19** (300 mg, 1.73 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and pyridine (0.35 mL, 4.33 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) in CH₂Cl₂ (3 mL) at 0 °C was added dropwise methyl chloroformate (197 mg, 2.08 mmol, 1.2 equiv.). The mixture was stirred for 1 h, during which time the mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature. The reaction was quenched by addition of water and diluted with CH₂Cl₂. The organic phase was separated and washed with 1 N HCl, saturated NaHCO₃, brine, dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. Silica gel flash chromatography (pentane/EtOAc 50:1) afforded the title compound **19** (328 mg, 1.42 mmol, 82%) as a yellow oil; **R**_f 0.22 (pentane/EtOAc 50:1); **IR** (thin film, v_{max} / cm⁻¹) 3410, 2931, 2360,1741, 1584, 1519, 1448, 1304, 1221, 1202, 1067, 1044, 954, 920, 766, 756; ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 8.04 (1H, d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, N*H*), 7.23 (1H, td, *J* = 7.9, 1.7 Hz, Ar*H*), 7.08-6.99 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 6.94 (1H, s, Ar*H*), 5.77-5.70 (1H, m, H1), 3.77 (3H, s, CO₂C*H*₃), 2.21 (2H, s, H5), 2.19 (2H, dd, *J* = 6.4, 2.3 Hz, H2), 1.82-1.75 (2H, m, H4), 1.74-1.66 (2H, m, H3); ¹³C **NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C}$ 154.1, 135.8, 134.5, 133.8, 128.6, 128.4, 127.7, 123.0, 119.0, 52.3, 30.1, 25.5, 23.1, 22.1; **HRMS** (ES⁺) calc. for C₁₂H₁₇NO₂ [M+Na]⁺ 232.1332, found 232.1334.

Methyl (E)-(1,2-dichlorovinyl)(2',3',4',5'-tetrahydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)carbamate, 21



To a stirred suspension of NaH (60 % dispersion in mineral oil, 93 mg, 2.31 mmol, 2.2 equiv.) in anhydrous DMF (2 mL) at 0 °C was added a solution of 20 (242 mg, 1.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in anhydrous DMF (1.5 mL) dropwise. The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for a further 1 h. Trichloroethylene (0.104 mL, 1.16 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) was then added dropwise at room temperature, then the mixture become black and was stirred at room temperature for additional 1 h. The reaction was quenched by addition of saturated NH₄Cl solution (1 mL), then the mixture was diluted with water. The layers were separated and the aqueous layer extracted with EtOAc (3×10 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. Silica gel flash chromatography (pentane/EtOAc 50:1) afforded the title compound 21 (255 mg, 0.78 mmol, 75%) as a yellow oil; \mathbf{R}_{f} 0.23 (pentane/EtOAc 50:1); \mathbf{IR} (thin film, v_{max} / cm^{-1}) 3090, 2929, 1737, 1615, 1520, 1488, 1437, 1309, 1263, 1239, 1195, 1138, 1020, 827, 758; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.32-7.28 (1H, m, Ar*H*), 7.26 (1H, dd, J = 5.5, 1.9 Hz, Ar*H*), 7.23-7.21 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 6.27 (1H, s, H6), 5.82 (1H, dt, J = 3.6, 2.0 Hz, H1), 3.79 (3H, s, CO₂CH₃), 2.28 (2H, br, H5), 2.16-2.08 (2H, m, H2), 1.74 (2H, dt, J = 10.1, 5.1 Hz, H4), 1.64 (2H, p, J = 6.0 Hz, H3); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_C 142.7, 135.2, 135.1, 131.6, 129.8, 128.7, 128.4, 128.2, 127.7, 127.3, 114.2, 54.0, 29.2, 25.6, 23.2, 22.0; HRMS (ES⁺) calc. for C₁₆H₁₈Cl₂NO₂ [M+H]⁺ 326.0709, found 326.0710.

Methyl prop-1-yn-1-yl(2',3',4',5'-tetrahydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)carbamate, 11



Synthesized according to a literature procedure.¹⁰ To a stirred solution of **21** (205 mg, 0.631 mmol,

1.0 equiv.) in anhydrous TBME (6.3 mL) at 0 °C was added LiHMDS (1.0 M in toluene, 0.76 mL, 0.757 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) dropwise. The reaction stirred at 0 °C for 1 hour until elimination was complete as analysed by TLC. The cooling bath was then removed and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature. To the mixture was added CuCN·2LiCl (32 µL of a 1.0 M solution in THF, 32 µmol, 5 mol%), followed by Me₂Zn solution (1.2 M in toluene, 1.58 mL, 1.89 mmol, 3 equiv.) dropwise, and the reaction was stirred for 30 minutes at room temperature, until complete as judged by TLC. The reaction was then quenched by addition of aqueous saturated NH₄Cl (2 mL), the mixture was diluted with water, the layers were separated and the aqueous layer extracted with EtOAc (3 \times 10 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. Silica gel flash chromatography (pentane/EtOAc 50:1) afforded the title compound 11 (82 mg, 0.305 mmol, 48%) as a yellow oil; \mathbf{R}_{f} 0.21 (pentane/EtOAc 30:1); \mathbf{IR} (thin film, v_{max} / cm^{-1}) 2927, 2856, 1737, 1520, 1487, 1313, 1210, 1064, 1039, 927, 844, 757; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_H 7.32-7.27 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 7.27-7.25 (1H, m, Ar*H*), 7.24-7.21 (1H, m, Ar*H*), 5.74 (1H, dt, *J* = 3.8, 2.0 Hz, H1), 3.77 (3H, s, CO_2CH_3), 2.28 (2H, br, H5), 2.16 (2H, app. q, J = 4.5 Hz, H2), 1.91 (3H, s, H6), 1.80-1.71 (2H, m, H4), 1.72-1.63 (2H, m, H3); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_C 155.8, 142.2, 137.1, 135.3, 129.4, 128.3, 127.6, 127.5, 127.3, 74.0, 64.4, 54.1, 29.0, 25.7, 23.3, 22.1, 3.5; HRMS (ES+) calc. for $C_{17}H_{20}NO_2 [M+H]^+ 270.1489$, found 270.1487.

Methyl (*Z*)-2'-ethylidenespiro[cyclohexane-1,3'-indolin]-2-ene-1'-carboxylate, 22a Methyl (*E*)-2'-ethylidenespiro[cyclohexane-1,3'-indolin]-2-ene-1'-carboxylate, 22b



To a solution of ynamide **11** (27 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in toluene (1 mL) was added Pd(OAc)₂ (2.3 mg, 0.01 mmol, 0.1 equiv.) and bbeda (2.4 mg, 0.01 mmol, 0.1 equiv.). and stirred overnight (12 h). The mixture concentrated and the residue was purified by column chromatography (pentane/EtOAc 50:1) to afford **22a and 22b** (19 mg, 0.07 mmol, 70 %) as a white solid; **R**_f 0.17 (pentane/EtOAc 50:1); **IR** (thin film, v_{max} / cm⁻¹) 3022, 2932, 1711, 1599, 1476, 1463, 1439, 1349,

1314, 1281, 1230, 1199, 1105, 1088, 750, 688, 641; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.69 (1H, dt, *J* = 8.1, 0.8 Hz, 1H, Ar*H*'), 7.64 (2.5H, dt, *J* = 8.1, 0.8 Hz, Ar*H*), 7.24-7.19 (4H, m, Ar*H* + Ar*H*'), 7.15 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.4, 1.4 Hz, Ar*H*'), 7.11-7.01 (6H, m, Ar*H*+ Ar*H*'), 6.28 (1H, d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, H7'), 6.09 (2.5H, dt, *J* = 10.0, 3.7 Hz, H1), 6.01-5.93 (1H, m, H1'), 5.65 (1H, ddt, *J* = 10.1, 2.8, 1.5 Hz, H2'), 5.46 (2.5H, dtd, *J* = 10.0, 2.1, 0.9 Hz, H2), 5.13 (2.5H, q, H7), 3.91 (3H, s, H8'), 3.88 (7.5H, s, H8), 2.24-2.17 (2H, m, H3'), 2.15-2.10 (5H, m, H3), 2.07-1.98 (1H, m, H5'), 1.94-1.88 (1H, m, H4'), 1.86 (3H, d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, H6'), 1.81-1.68 (9.5H, m, 2 × H4, H5, H5', H4'), 1.66 (7.5H, d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, H6), 1.60-1.54 (2.5H, m, H5); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C}$ 153.9, 153.4, 145.8, 145.7, 142.1, 139.4, 137.2, 130.8, 130.6, 129.5, 127.8, 127.7, 127.5, 124.9, 124.1, 123.3, 123.1, 116.7, 116.0, 111.8, 108.5, 53.1, 52.8, 49.7, 48.2, 36.2, 34.9, 24.9, 24.3, 18.5, 18.3, 14.5, 12.3; HRMS (ES⁺) calc. for C₁₇H₂₀NO₂ [M+Na]⁺ 270.1789, found 270.1788.

3-Cyano-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl acetate, 25



2-Phenyl-but-2-enaldehyde **24** (5.00 g, 34.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), acetic anhydride (6.47 mL, 68.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv.), acrylonitrile (18 mL, 273.6 mmol, 8.0 equiv.) and *p*-TsOH.H₂O (195 mg, 1.02 mmol, 0.03 equiv.) were combined in a pressure tube, and toluene (30 mL) was added. The reaction mixture was heated to 110 °C for 1.5 days. The mixture was then cooled, and concentrated. Silica gel flash chromatography (pentane/EtOAc 6:1) afforded the title compound **25** (4.95 g, 20.5 mmol, 60%) as a yellow solid; **R**_f 0.2 (pentane/EtOAc 6:1); **IR** (thin film, v_{max} / cm^{-1}) 2941, 2244, 1743, 1497, 1447, 1371, 1223, 1100, 1014, 926, 760, 699; **mp** 90-92 °C; ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.30-7.26 (3H, m, Ar*H*), 7.25-7.20 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 6.21 (1H, t, *J* = 4.1 Hz, H1), 6.19 (1H, d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, H2), 3.11 (1H, dt, *J* = 9.9, 4.0 Hz, H3), 2.52-2.42 (1H, m, H5), 2.33-2.24 (1H, m, H5), 2.11-2.03 (2H, m, H4), 1.96 (3H, s, COC*H*₃); ¹³C **NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C}$ 170.3, 138.2, 134.9, 129.8, 128.6, 127.9, 126.1, 119.2, 64.7, 32.0, 24.2, 22.0, 20.8; **HRMS** (ES⁺) calc. for C₁₅H₁₅NNaO₂ [M+Na]⁺ 264.0995, found 264.0995. The stereochemistry of the product was assigned by analogy to the literature².

2-Cyano-6-phenylcyclohexyl acetate, S1



To a solution of **25** (1.00 g, 4.15 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in THF (10 mL) was added 10% Pd/C (1.73 g, 1.62 mmol, 0.39 equiv.). The mixture was purged with hydrogen using a hydrogen balloon and then stirred under hydrogen atmosphere at room temperature for 1 h, then it was filtered through a short plug of Celite, and the filtrate was concentrated to give **S1** (987 mg, 4.06 mmol, 98%) as yellow oil that required no further purification; **R**_f 0.2 (pentane/EtOAc 6:1); **IR** (thin film, v_{max} / cm^{-1}) 2942, 2868, 2359, 2242, 1747, 1449, 1374, 1223, 1132, 1017, 762,701; ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.32-7.22 (3H, m, Ar*H*), 7.20-7.16 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 5.59 (1H, s, H1), 2.88 (1H, ddd, *J* = 12.6, 4.4, 2.5 Hz, H2), 2.77 (1H, dt, *J* = 12.9, 3.0 Hz, H6), 2.10-2.01 (4H, m, 2×H2, 1×H4, 1×H5), 1.98 (3H, s, COC*H*₃), 1.77 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.9, 3.1 Hz, H5), 1.48 (1H, dt, *J* = 12.8, 3.4 Hz, H4); ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) 169.0, 140.9, 128.5, 127.7, 127.3, 119.7, 69.6, 45.9, 33.7, 24.8 (2C), 24.4, 20.6; **HRMS** (ES⁺) calc. for C₁₅H₁₇NNaO₂ [M+Na]⁺ 266.1152, found 266.1150. The stereochemistry at H6 could not be assigned, but is lost in a subsequent step.

N-((2-Hydroxy-3-phenylcyclohexyl)methyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide, 26



To a solution of **S1** (560 mg, 2.30 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in anhydrous THF (7 mL) at 0 °C was added lithium aluminium hydride powder (524 mg, 13.8 mmol, 6.0 equiv.) cautiously in three portions, and the reaction was allowed to stir at room temperature overnight. The mixture was then cooled to 0 °C and carefully quenched by the dropwise addition of water (0.53 mL), 15% NaOH (0.53 mL), and water (1.06 mL) under vigorous stirring. The resulting suspension was filtered, and the filtrate was concentrated to furnish the crude amine (479 mg) which was used directly in the next step without further purification.

To a stirred solution of this crude residue (479 mg, 2.33 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in CH₂Cl₂ (6 mL) at 0 °C

was added Et₃N (0.98 mL, 7.00 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) and p-toluenesulfonyl chloride (1.33 g, 7.00 mmol, 3.0 equiv.), and the mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature. After stirring for an additional 1 hour, the reaction was quenched by addition of saturated aqueous NH₄Cl (1 mL). The mixture was diluted with water (3 mL), the organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (3×10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (pentane/EtOAc $10:1\rightarrow 5:1$) to give the title compound 26 (457 mg, 1.27 mmol, 54%) as a yellow oil; $\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{f}}$ 0.23 (pentane/EtOAc 5:1); IR (thin film, v_{max} / cm⁻¹) 3540, 3284, 2928, 2859, 1599, 1496, 1448, 1322, 1157, 1094, 976, 814, 701, 663; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_H 7.74-7.69 (2H, m, TsH), 7.29 (4H, 7.34-7.27, m, 2×TsH, 2×ArH), 7.25-7.18 (3H, m, ArH), 5.15-5.01 (1H, m, NH), 3.92 (1H, s, H1), 3.05 (1H, dt, J = 12.9, 7.9 Hz, H7), 2.90 (1H, dt, J = 12.9, 5.0 Hz, H7), 2.64 (1H, dt, J = 13.0, 2.8 Hz, H6), 2.41 (3H, s, H8), 1.98 (1H, td, J = 12.7, 3.6 Hz, H5), 1.92-1.85 (1H, m, H4), 1.79 (1H, ddt, J = 11.4, 7.7, 3.7 Hz, H2), 1.61 (1H, dd, J = 13.1, 3.2 Hz, H5), 1.49-1.40 (2H, m, H3), 1.39-1.32 (1H, m, H4); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_C 143.33, 143.27, 137.3, 129.8, 128.7, 127.9, 127.2, 126.8, 71.7, 48.4, 46.4, 42.0, 25.5, 24.0, 23.4, 21.6; HRMS (ES⁺) calc. for C₂₀H₂₅NNaO₃S [M+Na]⁺ 382.1447, found 382.1441.

4-Methyl-*N*-((3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-3-yl)methyl)benzenesulfonamide, S2a³ 4-Methyl-*N*-((1,4,5,6-tetrahydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-3-yl)methyl)benzenesulfonamide, S2b



To a solution of **26** (230 mg, 0.64 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in toluene (5 mL) was added Burgess reagent (183 mg, 0.77 mmol, 1.2 equiv.), then the mixture was heated for 1 h at 70 °C. After cooling to room temperature, the resultant mixture was directly purified using flash column chromatography (pentane/EtOAc 5:1) to give **S2a** and **S2b** (196 mg, 0.57 mmol, 90%) as a yellow oil; **R**_f 0.2 (pentane/EtOAc 10:1); **IR** (thin film, v_{max} / cm⁻¹) 3282, 2925, 2859, 2360, 2342, 1599, 1494, 1446, 1429, 1324, 1158, 1094, 814, 754, 699, 666; ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.83-7.67 (5.2H, m, 2

x Ts*H*+2 x Ts*H'*), 7.32-7.27 (14H, m, 2 x Ts*H*+2 x Ts*H'* +4 x Ar*H'*+3 x Ar*H*), 7.25-7.18 (2.6H, m, Ar*H*+Ar*H'*), 7.11-7.09 (1.6H, m, Ar*H*), 5.81 (1.6H, dd, J = 2.2, 1.2 Hz, H1), 5.59 (1H, dd, J = 2.9, 1.6 Hz, H1'), 4.60-4.52 (1.6H m, N*H*), 4.51 (1H, d, J = 5.9 Hz, N*H'*), 3.53 (2H, dt, J = 6.4, 1.4 Hz, H6'), 3.30 (1H, br, H2'), 3.07-2.86 (3.2H, m, H6), 2.48-2.43 (1.6H, m, H2), 2.425 (3H, s, H7), 2.419 (4.8H, s, H7'), 2.37 (3.2H, tdt, J = 4.7, 2.8, 1.8 Hz, H5), 2.02-1.96 (2H, m, H5'), 1.94 (1H, td, J = 6.4, 4.3 Hz, H3'), 1.91-1.86 (1.6H, m, H4), 1.82-1.77 (1.6H, m, H3), 1.77-1.71 (1H, m, H4'), 1.67-1.59 (1.6H, m, H4), 1.56-1.50 (1H, m, H4'), 1.49-1.42 (1H, m, H3'), 1.37-1.30 (1.6H, m, H3); 1³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_{C} 146.0, 143.5, 141.9, 139.8, 137.2, 137.1, 134.5, 129.9, 129.8, 128.5, 128.4, 128.4, 128.3, 127.7, 127.3, 127.2, 126.3, 125.3, 125.1, 124.7, 49.7, 48.2, 42.0, 36.3, 34.5, 32.1, 27.6, 26.3, 26.1, 21.7, 21.5, 21.3; HRMS (ES⁺) calc. for C₂₀H₂₄NO₂S [M+H]⁺ 342.1522, found 342.1525.

4-Methyl-N-((3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-3-yl)methyl)benzenesulfonamide, 27



Synthesized according to a literature procedure.⁴ To a solution of **S2a** and **S2b** (276 mg, 0.81 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in anhydrous DMF (3 mL) was added KO*t*-Bu (1.0 M in THF, 2.43 mL, 2.43 mmol, 3.0 equiv.), then the mixture was heated for 1 h at 60 °C. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction was quenched by addition of saturated NH₄Cl solution (1 mL). Then H₂O (2 mL) was added to this mixture, the phases were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. Silica gel flash chromatography (pentane/EtOAc (10:1)) afforded the title compound **27** (196 mg, 0.575 mmol, 71%) as yellow oil; **R**_f 0.2 (pentane/EtOAc (10:1); **IR** (thin film, v_{max} / cm^{-1}) 3282, 2925, 2859, 2360, 2342, 1598, 1494, 1445, 1429, 1323, 1094, 1070, 840, 753, 696, 665; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.76 (2H, d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, Ts*H*), 7.34-7.27 (6H, m, 2×Ts*H*, 4×Ar*H*), 7.25-7.19 (1H, m, Ar*H*), 5.82-5.81 (m, 1H, H1), 4.64 (1H, s, N*H*), 3.04-2.89 (2H, m, H6), 2.45 (1H, dd, *J* = 6.4, 3.1 Hz, H2), 2.42 (3H, s, Ts*CH*₃), 2.40-2.35 (2H, m, H5), 1.91-1.84 (1H, m, H4), 1.80 (1H, dtd, *J* = 12.3, 5.8, 2.6 Hz, H3), 1.68-1.58 (1H, m, H4), 1.40-1.23 (1H, m, H3); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)

δc 143.5, 141.9, 139.7, 137.1, 129.8, 128.4, 127.2 (2C), 125.3, 124.7, 48.2, 36.3, 27.6, 26.1, 21.7, 21.5; **HRMS** (ES⁺) calc. for C₂₀H₂₃NNaO₂S [M+Na]⁺ 364.1342, found 364.1336.

((3-Bromoprop-2-yn-1-yl)oxy)(tert-butyl)diphenylsilane, 28

OTBDPS

To a stirred solution of propynol (1.00 g, 17.8 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and imidazole (2.43 g, 35.6 mmol, 2.0 equiv.) in CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL) at 0 °C was added TBDPSCl (6.94 mL, 26.7 mmol, 1.5 equiv.). The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature, and stirred for 4 h. Water (20 mL) was added to the mixture, which was then extracted with EtOAc (20 mL x 3). The combined organic phases were washed with brine (20 mL) and dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The light-yellow oily product was directly used for the next step without further purification.

The crude silyl ether was dissolved in acetone (80 mL) at room temperature. Then NBS (3.81 g, 21.4 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) and AgNO₃ (605 mg, 3.56 mmol, 0.2 equiv.) were added. The mixture was stirred, shielded from light, for 6 h. The mixture was then concentrated and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography (pentane) to afford the title compound **28** (5.83 g, 15.7 mmol, 88%); **R**_f 0.3 (pentane); ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.71-7.69 (4H, m, Ar*H*), 7.47-7.38 (6H, m, Ar*H*), 4.33 (2H, s, C*H*₂), 1.06 (9H, s, C(C*H*₃)₃); ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C}$ 135.8, 133.0, 130.0, 127.9, 78.5, 53.6, 45.1, 26.8, 19.3. Data identical to literature values.⁵

N-(3-((*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy)prop-1-yn-1-yl)-4-methyl-*N*-((3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-[1,1'-biphe nyl]-3-yl)methyl)benzenesulfonamide, 29



To a stirred solution of **27** (182 mg, 0.53 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and bromoalkyne **28** (238 mg, 0.64 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) in dry toluene (3 mL) was added CuSO₄·5H₂O (27.5 mg, 0.11 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), 1,10-phenanthroline (39.6 mg, 0.22 mmol, 0.4 equiv.) and K₃PO₄ (337 mg, 1.59 mmol, 3.0 equiv.). The mixture was shielded from light, and heated to 75 °C for 12 h (overnight). The reaction was

cooled to room temperature, and filtered through a Celite pad (washed with EtOAc). The filtrate was concentrated and the residue purified by flash column chromatography (pentane/EtOAc, 30:1) to afford **29** (291 mg, 0.46 mmol, 86%); **R**_f 0.27 (pentane/EtOAc 30:1); **IR** (thin film, v_{max} / cm^{-1}) 2929, 2857, 2241, 1597, 1428, 1362, 1168, 1110, 1070, 998, 822, 701, 610; ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.79 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz, Ar*H*), 7.75-7.67 (4H, m, Ar*H*), 7.45-7.35 (9H, m, Ar*H*), 7.34-7.27 (4H, m, Ar*H*), 5.92-5.77 (1H, m, H1), 4.50 (2H, s, H8), 3.33-3.08 (2H, m, H7), 2.65 (1H, app. s, H6), 2.58-2.35 (2H, m, H3), 2.43 (3H, s, TsC*H*₃), 1.94-1.85 (1H, m, H4), 1.81 (1H, dq, J = 12.0, 3.3 Hz, H5), 1.69 (1H, ddd, J = 12.5, 6.0, 2.6 Hz, H4), 1.38 (1H, ddd, J = 8.1, 6.4, 3.9 Hz, H5), 1.06 (9H, s, C(C*H*₃)₃); ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm c}$ 144.6, 142.1, 139.2, 135.7, 134.9, 134.8, 133.39, 133.37, 129.9, 129.8, 128.3, 127.83, 127.81, 127.7, 127.1, 125.3, 125.2, 124.4, 78.8, 70.0, 56.0, 53.1, 34.8, 27.7, 26.8, 25.8, 21.8, 21.2, 19.3; **HRMS** (ES⁺) calc. for C₃₉H₄₃NNaO₃SSi [M+Na]⁺ 656.2625, found 656.2619.

(3a*S*,7a*S*,*Z*)-1-(2-((*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy)ethylidene)-7-phenyl-2-tosyl-2,3,3a,4,5,7a-hexah ydro-1*H*-isoindole, 23



To a solution of **29** (41 mg, 65 µmol, 1.0 equiv.) in dry toluene (1 mL) was added Pd(OAc)₂ (1.5 mg, 6.5 µmol, 0.1 equiv.) and stirred overnight (12h). The mixture was concentrated, and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography (pentane/EtOAc 10:1) to afford **1** (22 mg, 35 µmol, 54%); **R**_f 0.17 (pentane/EtOAc 15:1); **IR** (thin film, v_{max} / cm^{-1}) 2929, 2857, 2359, 1685, 1597, 1494, 1428, 1356, 1166, 1108, 1057, 909, 821, 736, 702, 668; ¹H **NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_H 7.57 (6H, app. dtd, J = 7.5, 3.8, 1.8 Hz, Ar*H*), 7.43-7.37 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 7.35-7.28 (9H, m, Ar*H*), 7.09-7.03 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 6.15 (1H, dd, J = 4.9, 2.8 Hz, H2), 4.97 (1H, dt, J = 8.5, 2.5 Hz, H8), 4.72 (1H, ddd, J = 14.4, 8.6, 1.3 Hz, H9), 4.43 (1H, dt, J = 14.4, 3.1 Hz, H9), 3.67 (1H, dd, J = 11.2, 7.1 Hz, H6), 3.21 (1H, d, J = 11.2 Hz, H6), 2.50-2.47 (1H, m, H7), 2.47 (3H, s, TsC*H*₃), 2.25-2.05 (2H, m, H3), 2.11-2.03 (1H, m, H5), 1.51-1.45 (1H, m, H4), 1.34 (1H, dd, J = 11.2, 6.2 Hz, H4), 1.00

(9H, s, C(CH₃)₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_c 144.0, 140.7, 138.6, 135.7, 135.69, 135.67, 135.6, 134.4, 134.33, 134.31, 133.7, 129.7, 129.52, 129.51, 128.5, 128.1, 128.0, 127.7, 127.6, 127.2, 125.4, 123.5, 62.2, 54.7, 43.0, 33.4, 27.0, 26.0, 24.0, 21.8, 19.4; **HRMS** (ES⁺) calc. for C₃₉H₄₃NNaO₃SSi [M+Na]⁺ 656.2625, found 656.2618.

2'-Amino-5,6-dihydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-3(4H)-one, S3



To a mixture of 2-iodoaniline (8.76 g, 40.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), tri-*o*-tolyl phosphine (731 mg, 2.4 mmol, 0.06 equiv.) and Pd(OAc)₂ (270 mg, 1.2 mmol, 0.03 equiv.) under an N₂ atmosphere was added CH₃CN (60 mL), cyclohex-2-en-1-one (4.26 mL, 44 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) and Et₃N (11.2 mL, 80 mmol, 2.0 equiv.). The reaction was heated to reflux for 60 h, then the solution was cooled to rt, diluted with water (30 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3 x 50 mL). The organic extracts were washed with brine (100 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, concentrated and purified by silica gel chromatography (pentane/diethyl ether 1:2) to give **S3** as a green oil (2.37 g, 12.67 mmol, 31%); **R**_f 0.27 (pentane/diethyl ether 1:3); ¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.13 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.1, 7.3, 1.6 Hz), 7.05 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.6 Hz), 6.76 (1H, td, *J* = 7.5, 1.1 Hz), 6.71 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.2 Hz), 6.24 (1H, t, *J* = 1.6 Hz), 3.87 (2H, s), 2.66 (2H, td, *J* = 6.0, 1.6 Hz), 2.49 (2H, dd, *J* = 7.4, 6.0 Hz), 2.14 (2H, dq, *J* = 7.8, 6.2 Hz); ¹³**C** NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C}$ 199.7, 161.4, 143.0, 129.9, 128.0, 127.9, 125.7, 118.5, 116.4, 37.4, 30.4, 23.2. Data identical to literature values.¹¹

Methyl (5'-methylene-2',3',4',5'-tetrahydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)carbamate, 31



To a stirred solution of **S3** (1.14 g, 6.09 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and pyridine (1.23 mL, 15.23 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) in CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) at 0 °C was added dropwise methyl chloroformate (0.57 mL, 7.31 mmol, 1.2 equiv.). The mixture was stirred for 1 h, during which time the reaction was allowed to warm to

ambient temperature. The reaction was then quenched by addition of water and diluted with CH₂Cl₂. The organic layer was separated and washed with 1 N HCl, saturated NaHCO₃, saturated brine, dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. Silica gel flash chromatography (pentane/diethyl ether 1:2) afforded **S4** (1.27 g, 5.18 mmol, 86%) as a green oil; **R**_f 0.27 (pentane/diethyl ether 1:3); **IR** (thin film, v_{max} / cm^{-1}) 3294, 2950, 1728, 1714, 1661, 1612, 1581, 1523, 1447, 1232, 1044, 959, 852, 767, 755; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_{H} 7.91 (1H, d, J = 8.2 Hz, Ar*H*), 7.45-7.31 (1H, m, Ar*H*), 7.21-7.08 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 6.61 (1H, s, N*H*), 6.09 (1H, t, J = 1.6 Hz, H1), 3.75 (3H, s, CO₂CH₃), 2.62 (2H, td, J = 6.0, 1.6 Hz, H2), 2.51 (2H, dd, J = 7.4, 6.0 Hz, H4), 2.20-2.14 (2H, m, H3); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_{C} 199.1, 160.2, 154.2, 133.7, 129.7, 129.4, 127.5, 124.3, 121.8, 52.7, 37.4, 30.9, 23.2; **HRMS** (ES⁺) calc. for C₁4H₁₆NO₃ [M+H]⁺ 246.1125, found 246.1126.

To a suspension of methyltriphenylphosphonium bromide (3.06 g, 8.58 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) in THF (15 mL) at 0 °C was added KO*t*Bu (963 mg, 8.58 mmol, 3.0 equiv.); a bright yellow color was observed. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 30 min. Then compound **S4** (700 mg, 2.86 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was added and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature over 1 h (the solution turned green and then dark brown). Water was added to the mixture and the product was extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The organic phase was dried with Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (pentane/diethyl ether 20:1) to give the title compound **31** (486 mg, 2.00 mmol, 70%) as a yellow oil; **R**_f 0.18 (pentane/Diethyl Ether 30:1); **IR** (thin film, v_{max} / cm⁻¹) 3414, 2937, 2362, 2338, 1740, 1582, 1519, 1302, 1222, 1206, 1068, 901, 882,755; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 8.04 (1H, d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, Ar*H*), 7.27 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.5, 6.9, 1.8 Hz, Ar*H*), 7.11 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.8 Hz, Ar*H*), 7.05 (1H, td, *J* = 7.4, 1.2 Hz, Ar*H*), 6.80 (1H, br, N*H*), 6.21 (1H, t, *J* = 1.7 Hz, H1), 4.95-4.88 (2H, m, H5), 3.77 (3H, s, CO₂C*H*₃), 2.45 (2H, ddt, *J* = 7.9, 4.7, 1.5 Hz, H4), 2.37-2.31 (2H, m, H2), 1.92-1.85 (2H, m, H3); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C}$ 154.2, 142.7, 138.5, 134.4, 133.1, 130.6, 128.3, 128.1, 123.3, 119.7, 112.6, 52.4, 30.4, 30.2, 23.4; **HRMS** (ES⁺) cale. for C₁₅H₁₈NO₂ [M+H]⁺ 244.1332, found 244.1334.

Methyl (5'-(hydroxymethyl)-2',3',4',5'-tetrahydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)carbamate, S5 Methyl ((2'-((methoxycarbonyl)amino)-3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-3-yl)methyl)(tosyl)c arbamate, 32



To a stirred solution of **31** (884 mg, 3.64 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in THF (18 mL) at 0 °C was added a solution of BH₃•SMe₂ (2.19 mL, 2.0 M in THF, 4.37 mmol, 1.2 equiv.). The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 20 min, monitored by TLC until disappearance of the starting material. It was then cooled to 0 °C, and methanol (14 mL) was added slowly followed by addition of 3.0 M NaOH (14 mL) and 30% H₂O₂ (14 mL). The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 0.5 h, then diluted with water and ether. The organic phase was separated, and the aqueous phase extracted with ether. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The residue was used directly in the next step without further purification. A sample of S5 could be obtained through purification by flash chromatography (pentane/EtOAc 2:1) as a yellow oil; Rf 0.23 (pentane/EtOAc 2:1); IR (thin film, v_{max} / cm⁻¹) 3413, 2930, 2863, 1736, 1583, 1521, 1448, 1302, 1224, 1068, 1044, 756; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_H 8.03 (1H, s, Ar*H*), 7.24 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.5, 7.2, 1.7 Hz, Ar*H*), 7.13 (1H, br, N*H*), 7.08 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.8 Hz, Ar*H*), 7.02 (1H, td, *J* = 7.4, 1.2 Hz, Ar*H*), 5.65 (1H, d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, H1), 3.75 (3H, s, CO_2CH_3), 3.66 (2H, dd, J = 9.0, 5.5 Hz, H6), 2.49 (1H, app. dq, J = 5.7, 2.9 Hz, H2), 2.22-2.19 (2H, m, H5), 1.96-1.90 (1H, m, H4), 1.89-1.85 (1H, m, H3), 1.76-1.71 (1H, m, H4), 1.54-1.48 (1H, m, H3); **HRMS** (ES⁺) calc. for C₁₅H₁₉NaNO₃ [M+Na]⁺ 284.1257, found 284.1259.

A solution of triphenylphosphine (1.40 g, 5.33 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), DIAD (1.05 mL, 5.33 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), TsNH(CO₂Me) (976 mg, 4.26 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) in THF (12 mL) at 0 °C was stirred for 30 min, then a solution of residue **S5** (926 mg, 3.55 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in THF (6 mL) was added. The reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for an additional 1 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was then purified by flash column chromatography (100% CH₂Cl₂) to afford crude **32** as a yellow oil (this procedure can effectively remove DIAD adduct byproduct which can be witnessed by vanillin stain). A second purification by column chromatography (pentane/EtOAc 4:1) afforded clean product **32** (1.11 g, 2.35 mmol, 57%)

as a yellow oil; \mathbf{R}_{f} 0.24 (pentane/EtOAc 4:1); **IR** (thin film, v_{max} / cm^{-1}) 2953, 2361, 1734, 1583, 1520, 1447, 1358, 1230, 1167, 1088, 1068, 766, 673; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_{H} 8.06-7.94 (1H, m, Ar*H*), 7.88-7.76 (2H, m, Ts*H*), 7.31-7.27 (2H, m, Ts*H*), 7.25-7.22 (1H, m, Ar*H*), 7.08-7.00 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 6.91 (1H, br, N*H*), 5.64-5.59 (1H, m, H1), 3.91-3.85 (2H, m, H6), 3.76 (3H, s, H8), 3.68 (3H, s, H7), 2.86 (1H, ddt, *J* = 7.7, 4.8, 2.7 Hz, H2), 2.42 (3H, s, TsC*H*₃), 2.26-2.17 (2H, m, H5), 1.97-1.93 (1H, m, H4), 1.92-1.86 (1H, m, H3), 1.72 (1H, ddt, *J* = 9.9, 7.5, 5.0 Hz, H4), 1.57-1.44 (1H, m, H3); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_{c} 154.3, 153.3, 144.8, 138.3, 136.6, 134.5, 133.8, 129.5, 128.6, 128.5, 127.9, 123.3, 119.9, 54.0, 52.4, 51.8, 35.7, 30.4, 25.8, 21.8, 21.0; HRMS (ES⁺) calc. for C₂₅H₂₈N₂O₆S [M+H]⁺473.1741, found 473.1743.

Methyl (5'-(((4-methylphenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)-2',3',4',5'-tetrahydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl) carbamate, S6

Methyl (5'-(((N-(3-((*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy)prop-1-yn-1-yl)-4-methylphenyl)sulfonamido) methyl)-2',3',4',5'-tetrahydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)carbamate, 33



To a stirred suspension of K₂CO₃ (126 mg, 0.912 mmol, 2.0 equiv.) in methanol (3 mL) at 0 °C was added a solution of **32** (215 mg, 0.456 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in methanol (2 mL). The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 3 h. The reaction was quenched by addition of saturated aqueous NH₄Cl, then the mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic phases were dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated under reduced pressure to obtain the **S6** as a yellow oil (176 mg, 0.43 mmol, 93%). The residue was used directly for the next step without further purification. Alternatively, an analytical sample of **S6** could be obtained through purification by flash chromatography (pentane/EtOAc 4:1) as a yellow oil; **R**_f 0.15 (pentane/EtOAc 4:1); **IR** (thin film, v_{max} / cm^{-1}) 3284, 2927, 2360, 1733, 1716, 1582, 1520, 1448, 1325 , 1230, 1157, 1068, 814, 757, 663; ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.93 (1H, br, Ar*H*), 7.80-7.70 (2H, m, Ts*H*),

7.30-7.26 (2H, m, Ts*H*), 7.24 (1H, ddd, J = 8.6, 5.8, 3.3 Hz, Ar*H*), 7.05-7.00 (2H, m, Ar*H*), 6.80 (1H, br, N*H*), 5.49 (1H, app. q, J = 2.1 Hz, H1), 4.86 (1H, t, J = 6.4 Hz, TsN*H*), 3.76 (3H, s, CO₂C*H*₃), 3.02-2.89 (2H, m, H6), 2.45 (1H, tt, J = 6.5, 3.3 Hz, H2), 2.41 (3H, s, TsC*H*₃), 2.23-2.10 (2H, m, H5), 1.90-1.84 (1H, m, H4), 1.84-1.79 (1H, m, H3), 1.70-1.60 (1H, m, H4), 1.43-1.34 (1H, m, H3); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_{C} 154.3, 143.6, 138.8, 137.0, 134.2, 133.7, 129.8, 128.9, 128.3, 127.9, 127.2, 123.5, 120.0, 52.5, 48.0, 36.0, 30.0, 25.9, 21.6, 21.5; **HRMS** (ES⁺) calc. for C₂₂H₂₆N₂NaO₄S [M+Na]⁺ 437.1505, found 437.1703.

To a stirred solution of S6 (176 mg, 0.43 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and bromoalkyne 28 (193 mg, 0.52 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) in dry toluene (3 mL) was added CuSO₄.5H₂O (22 mg, 0.086 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), 1,10-phenanthroline (31 mg, 0.17 mmol, 0.4 equiv.) and K₃PO₄ (273 mg, 1.29 mmol, 3.0 equiv.). The mixture was shielded from light, heated at 80 °C and stirred overnight. The mixture was cooled to room temperature, and filtered through a Celite pad (washed with EtOAc). The mixture was concentrated and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography (pentane/EtOAc 10:1) to afford 33 (249 mg, 0.353 mmol, 78%) as a yellow oil; Rf 0.28 (pentane/EtOAc 6:1); IR (thin film, v_{max} / cm⁻¹) 3415, 2932, 2858, 2242, 1738, 1583, 1519, 1448, 1363, 1222, 1111, 1068, 704; ¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.99 (1H, d, J = 7.5 Hz, ArH), 7.79-7.74 (2H, m, TsH), 7.69 (4H, dq, J = 6.8, 1.4 Hz, 2 x TsH, 2 x ArH), 7.46-7.39 (2H, m, ArH), 7.36 (4H, tdd, J = 8.1, 5.1, 1.1 Hz, Ar*H*), 7.29-7.23 (3H, m, Ar*H*), 7.03 (2H, d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, Ar*H*), 6.79 (1H, br, N*H*), 5.51-5.41 (1H, m, H1), 4.48 (2H, s, H7), 3.75 (3H, s, CO₂CH₃), 3.22-3.14 (2H, m, H6), 3.20 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.16 (dd, *J* = 12.6, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.69-2.57 (1H, m, H2), 2.41 (3H, s, TsCH₃), 2.28-2.15 (2H, m, H5), 1.89-1.84 (1H, m, H4), 1.84-1.80 (1H, m, H3), 1.71-1.64 (1H, m, H4), 1.46-1.36 (1H, m, H3), 1.04 (9H, s, C(CH₃)₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_C 154.2, 144.7, 138.6, 135.7, 134.7, 134.3, 133.4, 129.90, 129.85, 128.4, 128.3, 128.0, 127.9, 127.8, 127.7, 123.3, 119.7, 78.6, 70.1, 55.8, 53.0, 52.4, 34.4, 34.3, 30.3, 26.8, 25.7, 22.5, 21.8, 21.1, 19.3, 14.2; HRMS (ES⁺) calc. for C₄₁H₄₆N₂NaO₅SSi [M+Na]⁺729.2784, found 729.2784.

Methyl (*E*)-(5'-(((*N*-(3-((*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy)prop-1-yn-1-yl)-4-methylphenyl) sulfonamido)methyl)-2',3',4',5'-tetrahydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)(1,2-dichlorovinyl)carbamate, 34

23



To a solution of 33 (111 mg, 0.157 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), powdered Cs₂CO₃ (769 mg, 2.36 mmol, 15 equiv.) in DMF (3 mL) was added dropwise trichloroethylene (0.042 mL, 0.471 mmol, 3 equiv.), and the resulting mixture stirred at 50 °C for 1.5 h. The mixture was then cooled to room temperature and ethyl acetate and water (2:1, 15 mL) were added. The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (3×10 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. Silica gel flash chromatography (pentane/EtOAc 15:1) afforded the title compound 34 (84 mg, 0.105 mmol, 67%) as a yellow oil; Rf 0.27 (pentane/EtOAc 10:1); IR (thin film, v_{max} / cm⁻¹) 3072, 2931, 2858, 2242, 1764, 1440, 1362, 1311, 1169, 1111, 1064, 909, 824, 704, 660; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.76 (2H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, TsH), 7.68 (4H, dt, J = 8.1, 1.5 Hz, 2 x TsH, 2 x ArH), 7.44-7.40 (2H, m, ArH), 7.36 (4H, ddd, J = 8.2, 6.5, 4.3 Hz, ArH), 7.32-7.27 (3H, m, ArH), 7.26-7.17 (3H, m, ArH), 6.27 (1H, s, H8), 5.59 (1H, s, H1), 4.46 (2H, s, H7), 3.78 (3H, s, CO₂CH₃), 3.23-3.08 (2H, m, H6), 2.58 (1H, br, H2), 2.41 (3H, s, TsCH₃), 2.29 (2H, br, H5), 1.85-1.78 (1H, m, H4), 1.77-1.72 (1H, m, H3), 1.68-1.58 (1H, m, H4), 1.42-1.32 (1H, m, H3), 1.04 (9H, s, C(CH₃)₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_C 144.6, 141.9, 138.2, 135.7, 135.0, 134.7, 133.37, 133.36, 131.7, 129.9, 129.8, 128.3, 127.84, 127.77, 127.7, 114.6, 78.5, 70.0, 55.5, 54.1, 53.1, 34.4, 29.4, 26.8, 25.3, 21.8, 21.0, 19.3; **HRMS** (ES⁺) calc. for C₄₃H₄₆Cl₂N₂NaO₅SSi [M+H]⁺ 823.2166, found 823.2161.

Methyl (*E*)-(1,2-dichlorovinyl)(5'-(((4-methylphenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)-2',3',4',5'-tetrah ydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)carbamate, S7



To an oven dried, nitrogen flushed flask equipped with a magnetic stirrer bar and a septum, was

added 34 (128 mg, 0.16 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and anhydrous TBME (1.6 mL), and the solution was cooled to 0 °C whilst stirring. To this solution was added the LiHMDS (1.0 M in toluene, 0.192 mL, 0.192 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) dropwise, and the reaction stirred at 0 °C for 1 hour, analyzed by TLC. After total conversion, the cooling bath was then removed and the reaction mixture was then allowed to warm to room temperature whilst stirring. Then the mixture was added CuCN·2LiCl (1.0 M solution in THF, 8 µL, 8 µmol, 5 mol%), followed by Me₂Zn solution (1.2 M in toluene, 0.40 mL, 0.48 mmol, 3 equiv.) dropwise, and the reaction was stirred for 30 minutes at room temperature. Reaction completion was then verified by TLC. The reaction was quenched with aqueous saturated NH₄Cl (1 mL), the mixture was dilute with water, the layers were separated and the aqueous layer extracted with EtOAc (3 \times 10 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated in vacuo. Silica gel flash chromatography (Pentane/EtOAc 10:1) afforded the tittle product S7 (24 mg, 47 µmol, 30%) as yellow oil; Rf 0.14 (Pentane/EtOAc 10:1); IR (thin film, vmax / cm-1) 3278, 2929, 2859, 2360, 2340, 1734, 1440, 1316, 1159, 1094, 1039, 910, 827, 733, 650; ¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.74 (2H, d, J = 7.9 Hz, TsH), 7.31 – 7.26 (4H, m, 2 x TsH, 2 x ArH), 7.25 – 7.16 (2H, m, ArH), 6.32 (1H, s, H7), 5.52 (1H, br, H1), 4.82 (1H, br, NH), 3.82 (3H, s, CO₂CH₃), 3.09 – 2.80 (2H, m, H6), 2.42 (1H, br, H2), 2.41 (3H, s, TsCH₃), 2.34 – 2.15 (2H, m, H5), 1.87 – 1.80 (1H, m, H4), 1.78 – 1.73 (1H, m, H3), 1.62 (1H, s, H4), 1.50 – 1.38 (1H, m, H3); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_C 153.4, 143.3, 137.2, 134.6, 131.6, 129.8, 129.7, 128.3, 127.8, 127.2, 115.1, 54.4, 48.0, 35.8, 29.0, 25.5, 21.6; **HRMS** (ES+) calc. for C₂₄H₂₆ Cl₂N₂NaO₄S [M+Na]⁺ 531.0883, found 531.0883.

Methyl (*E*)-(1,2-dichlorovinyl)(5'-(((*N*-(methoxy carbonyl)-4-methylphenyl)sulfonamido) methyl)-2',3',4',5'-tetrahydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)carbamate, S8



To a solution of **32** (118 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and powdered Cs₂CO₃ (1.22 g, 3.75 mmol, 15 equiv.) in DMF (2.5 mL) was added dropwise trichloroethylene (0.07 mL, 0.75 mmol, 3.0 equiv.),

and the resulting mixture stirred at 50 °C for 30 min. The mixture was then cooled to room temperature and ethyl acetate and water (2:1, 15 mL) were added. The layers were separated and the aqueous layer extracted with EtOAc (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. Silica gel flash chromatography (pentane/EtOAc 4:1) afforded the title compound **S8** (134 mg, 0.237 mmol, 94%) as a yellow oil; **R**_f 0.36 (pentane/EtOAc 4:1); **IR** (thin film, v_{max} / cm^{-1}) 3091, 2954, 2931, 2260, 2338, 1734, 1490, 1358, 1311, 1166, 1111, 1088, 909, 827, 761, 732; ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.84-7.78 (2H, m, Ts*H*), 7.33-7.27 (4H, m, 2 x Ts*H*, 2 x Ar*H*), 7.23 (2H, ddd, *J* = 7.7, 3.8, 1.7 Hz, Ar*H*), 6.28 (1H, s, H7), 5.71 (1H, s, H1), 3.88-3.76 (5H, m, 2 x H6, 3 x H9), 3.66 (3H, s, H8), 2.77 (1H, br, H2), 2.43 (3H, s, TsC*H*₃), 2.31 (2H, br, H5), 1.94-1.88 (1H, m, H4), 1.84 (1H, qd, *J* = 7.6, 3.3 Hz, H3), 1.72-1.63 (1H, m, H4), 1.50-1.42 (1H, m, H3); ¹³C **NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C}$ 153.3, 144.6, 142.0, 137.7, 136.7, 135.0, 131.7, 129.8, 129.5, 128.6, 128.2, 127.7, 114.6, 54.1, 53.9, 51.5, 36.1, 29.4, 25.4, 21.8, 21.2; **HRMS** (ES⁺) calc. for C₂₆H₂₉Cl₂N₂O₆S [M+H]⁺ 567.1118, found 567.1117.

Methyl (5'-(((4-methylphenyl)sulfonamido)methyl)-2',3',4',5'-tetrahydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl (prop-1-yn-1-yl)carbamate, 35



To a stirred solution of **S8** (215 mg, 0.38 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in anhydrous TBME (3.8 mL) at 0 °C was added LiHMDS (1.0 M in toluene, 1.1 mL, 1.14 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) dropwise, and the reaction stirred at 0 °C for 3 hours. After total conversion of the dichloroenamide to the intermediate chloroynamide, the mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature. CuCN·2LiCl (1.0 M solution in THF, 125 μ L, 125 μ mol, 33 mol%) was added, followed by Me₂Zn (1.2 M in toluene, 0.95 mL, 1.14 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) dropwise, and the reaction was stirred for 30 minutes at room temperature until complete as judged by TLC. The reaction was quenched by addition of aqueous saturated NH₄Cl (1 mL), then the mixture was diluted with water, the layers were separated and the

aqueous layer extracted with EtOAc (3×10 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude product was taken forward to the next step without further purification.

To a stirred mixture of K₂CO₃ (63 mg, 0.454 mmol, 2.0 equiv.) in methanol (0.2 mL) at 0 °C was added a solution of **S9** (116 mg, 0.227 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in methanol (2 mL). The reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred for 3 h. The reaction was quenched by addition of saturated aqueous NH₄Cl, and the mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. Silica gel flash chromatography (pentane/EtOAc 4:1) afforded the title compound **35** (99 mg, 0.22 mmol, 57%) as a yellow oil; **R**_f 0.14 (pentane/EtOAc 4:1); **IR** (thin film, vmax / cm-1) 3278, 2926, 2861, 2362, 2339, 1732, 1616, 1442, 1326, 1160, 1063, 1039, 912, 815, 735; ¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.77 (2H, d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, Ts*H*), 7.33-7.26 (5H, m, 2 x Ts*H*, 3 x Ar*H*), 7.22-7.16 (1H, m, Ar*H*), 5.48 (1H, br, H1), 4.95 (1H, br, N*H*), 3.76 (3H, s, CO₂C*H*₃), 2.94 (2H, s, H6), 2.49-2.43 (1H, m, H2), 2.41 (3H, s, TsC*H*₃), 2.24 (2H, s, H5), 1.90 (3H, s, H7), 1.82-1.79 (1H, m, H4), 1.78-1.73 (1H, m, H3), 1.66-1.58 (1H, m, H4), 1.41 (1H, br, H3); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C}$ 155.9, 143.2, 141.3, 137.4, 136.9, 129.7, 128.9, 128.5, 127.9, 127.7, 127.2, 74.2, 65.3, 54.4, 48.2, 35.6, 28.9, 25.6, 21.6, 21.4, 3.4; **HRMS** (ES+) calc. for C₂sH₂8N₂NaO₄S [M+Na]⁺ 475.1662, found 475.1660.

Methyl (5'-(((*N*-(3-((*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy)prop-1-yn-1-yl)-4-methylphenyl) sulfonamido)methyl)-2',3',4',5'-tetrahydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)(prop-1-yn-1-yl)carbamate, 30



To a stirred solution of **35** (99 mg, 0.22 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and bromoalkyne **28** (78 mg, 0.26 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) in dry toluene (2 mL) was added $CuSO_4 \cdot 5H_2O$ (11 mg, 0.044 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), 1,10-phenanthroline (16 mg, 0.088 mmol, 0.4 equiv.) and K₃PO₄ (140 mg, 0.66 mmol, 3.0 equiv.). The mixture was shielded from light and heated to 80 °C and stirred overnight. After cooling to

room temperature, the reaction was filtered through a Celite pad (washed with EtOAc). The solvent was evaporated and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography (pentane/EtOAc 8:1) to afford **30** (105 mg, 0.141 mmol, 68%) as a yellow oil; **R**_f 0.26 (pentane/EtOAc 6:1); **IR** (thin film, v_{max} / cm^{-1}) 3657, 2981, 2884, 2361, 2340, 1734, 1382, 1252, 1153 , 1073, 954, 818; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_{H} 7.78 (2H, d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, Ts*H*), 7.73-7.65 (4H, m, 2 x Ts*H*, 2 x Ar*H*), 7.46-7.34 (7H, m, Ar*H*), 7.32-7.27 (4H, m, Ar*H*), 7.20 (1H, dd, *J* = 6.9, 2.4 Hz, Ar*H*), 5.48 (1H, s, H1), 4.48 (2H, s, H7), 3.75 (3H, br, CO₂C*H*₃), 3.25-3.18 (1H, m, H6), 3.12-3.08 (1H, m, H6), 2.60 (1H, br, H2), 2.42 (3H, s, TsC*H*₃), 2.28 (2H, br s, H5), 1.90 (3H, s, H9), 1.85-1.81 (1H, m, H4), 1.81-1.77 (1H, m, H3), 1.68-1.61 (1H, m, H4), 1.43-1.37 (1H, m, H3), 1.05 (9H, s, C(C*H*₃)₃); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_{C} 155.7, 144.5, 141.4, 138.2, 137.0, 135.7, 135.69, 134.67, 133.34, 133.32, 129.9, 129.8, 129.3, 128.4, 127.9, 127.8, 127.7, 78.5, 73.8, 70.0, 64.6, 55.5, 54.2, 53.0, 34.3, 29.2, 26.8, 25.4, 21.7, 20.9, 19.3, 3.4; **HRMS** (ES⁺) calc. for C44H₄₈N₂NaO₅SSi [M+Na]⁺ 767.2945, found 767.2941.

Methyl (2*Z*,3*S*,3'*Z*,3a'*S*,7a'*S*)-3'-(2-((*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy)ethylidene)-2-ethylidene-2'tosyl-1',2',3',3a',7',7a'-hexahydrospiro[indoline-3,4'-isoindole]-1-carboxylate, 36



To a solution of bis-ynamide **30** (26 mg, 34.9 µmol, 1.0 equiv.) in dry toluene (1 mL) was added Pd(OAc)₂ (1.56 mg, 6.98 µmol, 0.2 equiv.) and bbeda (1.65 mg, 6.98 µmol, 0.2 equiv.). The stirred mixture was heated to 60 °C for 4 h until the starting material was consumed (as judged by TLC). Then the mixture was cooled to room temperature and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography (pentane/EtOAc 8:1) to afford **36** (7.8 mg, 10.5 µmol, 30%) as yellow oil; **R**_f 0.21 (pentane/EtOAc 10:1); **IR** (thin film, v_{max} / cm^{-1}) 3070, 2951, 2851, 1775, 1714, 1598, 1524, 1476, 1461, 1356, 1167, 1105, 1043, 821, 741, 704, 664; ¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.65 (2H, d, *J* = 5.3 Hz, Ts*H*), 7.63-7.61 (4H, m, 2 x Ts*H*, 2 x Ar*H*), 7.42-7.40 (2H, m, 2 x Ar*H*), 7.36 (5H, dd, *J* = 8.0, 6.6 Hz, 2 x Ts*H*, 1 x Ar*H*), 7.23-7.19 (4H, m, Ar*H*), 7.04-7.03 (1H, m, Ar*H*), 5.85 (1H, t, *J* =

6.7 Hz, H1), 5.33 (1H, s, H2), 5.07 (1H, q, J = 7.0 Hz, H7), 4.27-4.25 (2H, m, H10), 3.90-3.88 (1H, m, H6), 3.87 (3H, s, H9), 3.81 (2H, br s, H3), 2.36 (3H, s, TsCH₃), 2.13 (2H, t, J = 6.2 Hz, H4), 1.76-1.74 (1H, m, H5), 1.51-1.48 (1H, m, H5), 1.62 (3H, d, J = 7.0 Hz, H8), 1.00 (9H, s, C(CH₃)₃); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ_{C} 153.4, 145.2, 144.1, 142.2, 138.9, 136.9, 135.9, 135.71, 135.0, 133.5, 133.4, 130.5, 129.9, 129.86, 129.81, 128.0, 127.9, 127.7, 124.3, 123.4, 122.6, 116.6, 112.3, 108.5, 60.1, 54.9, 53.1, 52.8, 50.2, 35.8, 27.0, 26.1, 21.7, 19.3, 14.5; **HRMS** (ES⁺) calc. for C₄₄H₄₉N₂O₅SSi [M+H]⁺ 745.3106, found 745.3121.

Methyl (3*S*,3a'*S*,*Z*)-3'-(2-((*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy)ethylidene)-2-oxo-2'-tosyl-1',2',3',3a',5',6'-h exahydrospiro[indoline-3,4'-isoindole]-1-carboxylate, 37



To a stirred solution of double cyclization compound **36** (6 mg, 8.06 µmol, 1.0 equiv.) in DCM (1 mL) was added *m*-CPBA (4.2 mg, 24.2 µmol, 3.0 equiv.). The mixture was stirred 2 h, then the reaction was quenched by saturated NaHCO₃ solution. Extracted with DCM twice, the solvent was evaporated to dryness and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography (Pentane/EtOAc 4:1) to afford **37** (4 mg, 5.46 µmol, 68%) as a yellow oil; **R**_f 0.23 (Pentane/EtOAc 4:1); **IR** (thin film, v_{max} / cm^{-1}) 3657, 2981, 2884, 2361, 2340, 1734, 1382, 1252, 1153 , 1073, 954, 818; ¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.66 – 7.59 (6H, m, Ar*H*), 7.42 (2H, dd, *J* = 7.4, 2.2 Hz, Ar*H*), 7.40 – 7.35 (5H, m, Ar*H*), 7.23 – 7.18 (4H, m, Ar*H*), 7.12 (1H, td, *J* = 7.6, 1.1 Hz, Ar*H*), 5.78 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.9, 5.6 Hz, H1), 5.18 (1H, s, H2), 4.33 – 4.26 (1H, m, H8), 4.20 (1H, dd, *J* = 13.4, 5.6 Hz, H8), 4.00 (3H, s, H7), 3.97 (1H, dd, *J* = 14.2, 6.3 Hz, H3), 3.80 – 3.74 (1H, m, H6), 3.54 (1H, d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, H3), 2.34 (3H, s, TsCH₃), 2.15 – 2.07 (2H, m, H4), 1.97-1.95 (1H, m, H5), 1.93-1.91 (1H, m, H5); ¹³C **NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C}$ 167.4, 151.8, 144.2, 138.3, 137.8, 135.7, 135.7, 133.5, 133.3, 129.9, 129.7, 128.6, 128.0, 127.9, 127.89, 125.2, 125.1, 124.3, 122.6, 115.0, 60.1, 54.9, 54.0, 50.2, 33.4, 27.0, 25.5, 21.7, 19.3, 18.2; **HRMS** (ES⁺) calc. for C4₂H₄₅N₂O₆SSi [M+H]⁺ 733.2762, found 733.2747.

Methyl (2-bromophenyl)carbamate, S11



To a solution of 2-bromoaniline (2.00 g, 11.7 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and pyridine (2.36 mL, 29.25 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) in DCM (10 mL), cooled in ice water bath under Ar, was added dropwise a solution of methyl chloroformate (1.09 mL, 14.04 mmol, 1.2 equiv.). The mixture was stirred overnight, during which time the ice bath warmed up to ambient temperature. The reaction was quenched with water and diluted with DCM. The organic layer was separated and washed with 1N HCl, saturated NaHCO₃, saturated brine, dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure to give the title compound **S11** as white oil (2.67 g, 11.66 mol, 99.7%); **R**_f 0.3 (pentane/EtOAc 30:1); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 8.14 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.46 (m, 1H), 7.30 (tt, *J* = 8.3, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (s, 1H), 6.97-6.87 (m, 1H), 3.83-3.77 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C}$ 153.8, 136.0, 132.4, 128.5, 124.4, 120.4, 112.7, 52.7. Data identical to literature values.¹²

Spiro[benzo[d][1,3]oxazine-4,1'-cyclohexan]-2(1H)-one, S12



To a dry, argon flushed flask was added **S12** (126 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and anhydrous THF (3 mL) and cooled down to -78 °C whist stirring. Then *n*-BuLi (2.5 M in hexane, 0.55 mL, 1.375 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) was added dropwise and stirred for 15 min. After total conversion to organolithium compound (confirmed by TLC), cyclohexanone (162 mg, 1.65 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) was added, then the mixture was allowed to warm up to 0 °C and stirred for 1 h. Quenching with saturated NH₄Cl solution (2 mL), the mixture was dilute with water, the layers were separated and the aqueous layer extracted with EtOAc (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated in vacuo. Silica gel flash chromatography (pentane/EtOAc 5:1) afforded the title compound **S12** (96 mg, 0.442 mmol, 80%); **R**_f 0.25 (pentane/EtOAc 5:1); **IR** (thin film, v_{max} / cm⁻¹) 3243, 3099, 2933, 2861, 1760, 1598, 1502, 1375, 1342, 1263, 1247, 1047, 1021, 935, 752, 667; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 9.29 (1H, s, N*H*), 7.21 (1H, td, *J* = 7.7, 1.4 Hz, Ar*H*),

7.14 (1H, d, J = 7.2 Hz, Ar*H*), 7.04 (1H, td, J = 7.6, 1.1 Hz, Ar*H*), 6.92-6.87 (1H, m, Ar*H*), 2.19 (2H, d, J = 13.3 Hz, Cy*H*), 1.96 (2H, qt, J = 13.1, 3.3 Hz, Cy*H*), 1.82 (1H, d, J = 13.2 Hz, Cy*H*), 1.76 (2H, dd, J = 13.5, 4.1 Hz, Cy*H*), 1.68 (2H, td, J = 13.1, 3.7 Hz, Cy*H*), 1.31 (1H, qt, J = 13.1, 3.7 Hz, Cy*H*); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta_{\rm C}$ 153.2, 134.4, 128.8, 126.7, 123.5, 123.3, 114.8, 83.8, 35.9, 25.1, 21.0; **HRMS** (ES⁺) calc. for C₁₃H₁₆NO₂ [M+H]⁺ 218.1176, found 218.1175.

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5. NMR spectra of compounds

















































































































































