

Supporting Information

Metal-free Syntheses of Oxindole Derivatives via a Benzoylation/Substitution/Desulfonylation/Cyclization Cascade

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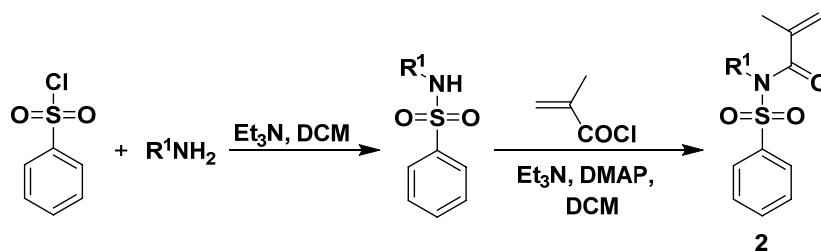
List of contents

General experimental Methods.....	1
General procedure for the syntheses of compounds 2a , 3a-3m	2-7
¹ H and ¹³ C NMR spectra of compounds 3a-3m	8-33

Experimental section

General: All reactions were carried out under an atmosphere of nitrogen; stirring was achieved with an oven-dried magnetic stirring bar. Solvents were purified by standard methods unless otherwise noted. Commercially available reagents were purchased from Aladdin Company in China and used throughout without further purification other than those detailed below. Flash column chromatography was performed on silica gel (200-300 mesh). All reactions were monitored by TLC analysis. Deuterated solvents were purchased from Cambridge Isotope laboratories. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker DRX-400 spectrometer operating at 400 MHz and 100 MHz respectively. Mass spectrometry (LC-MS) was recorded on a LXQ Spectrometer (Thermo Scientific) operating on ESI (MeOH as a solvent)

General procedure for the syntheses of compounds **2**



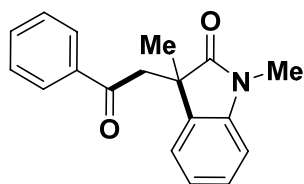
Primary amine (1.2 equiv) and Et₃N (2 equiv) were added to a dried flask, then benzenesulfonyl chloride (1 equiv) in dichloromethane was injected into it. The mixture was stirred at 0°C until TLC showed that benzenesulfonyl chloride was totally consumed. Water was added to the reaction mixture and extracted with dichloromethane. The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄, concentrated under reduced pressure. Without further purification, the residue was used for the next step.

Methacryloyl chloride (2 equiv) in dichloromethane was added to the mixture of the above residue, triethylamine (2 equiv) and DMAP (0.1 equiv) in dichloromethane. The mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. Then the reaction mixture was washed with saturated aqueous Na₂CO₃ (5 mL) and extracted with dichloromethane. The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate =12:1) on silica gel to afford the corresponding product **2** in a total yield of 62~74%.

General procedure for the syntheses of compounds **3a-m**

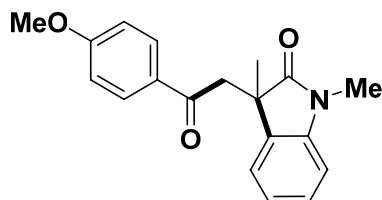
N-Methyl-*N*-(phenylsulfonyl)methacrylamide (2.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added to a dried flask, followed by the addition of NaHCO₃ (2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), Methoxyaldehyde (10.0 mmol, 5 equiv), then aqueous TBHP (2.5 equiv, 70 wt% in water) was injected into the flask under N₂. The reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 18 h. After the reaction was completed, the reaction mixture was washed with saturated aqueous Na₂CO₃ (5 mL) and extracted with dichloromethane. The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (Petroleum ether : EtOAc =10:1) to provide the title compound **3a** as a sticky solid in a 70% yield. The same procedure was applied for producing other compounds **3b-m**.

1,3-Dimethyl-3-(2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)indolin-2-one (3a)



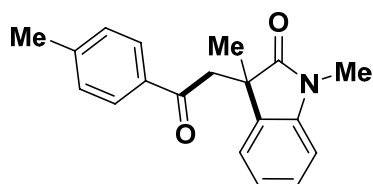
¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 400MHz): δ (ppm) 7.86-6.91 (aromatic H, 9H), 3.72 (d, *J*=17.6 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (d, *J*=17.2 Hz, 1H), 3.33 (s, 3H), 1.46 (s, 3H); **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl₃, 100 Hz): 24.9, 26.5, 45.3, 46.0, 108.2, 121.8, 122.2, 127.9, 128.0, 128.5, 128.6, 133.0, 133.2, 133.8, 136.4, 143.9, 180.6, 196.1; **IR**: 2962, 2926, 2853, 1713, 1637, 737, 700 cm⁻¹; **MS** (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₁₈H₁₇NNaO₂ 302.12, found 302.36

3-(2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2-oxoethyl)-1,3-Dimethylindolin-2-one (3b)



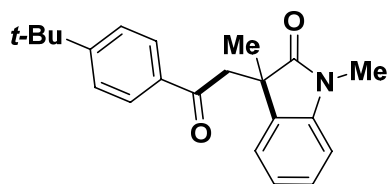
¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 400MHz): δ (ppm) 7.84-6.85 (aromatic H, 8H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.69 (d, *J*=17.6 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (d, *J*=18.0 Hz, 1H), 3.32 (s, 3H), 1.44 (s, 3H); **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl₃, 100 Hz): 25.0, 26.5, 45.4, 45.7, 55.4, 108.4, 113.6, 121.8, 122.1, 127.8, 129.3, 130.3, 134.0, 143.9, 163.5, 180.8, 194.6; **IR**: 2965, 2926, 2852, 1709, 1601, 734, 700 cm⁻¹; **MS** (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₁₉H₁₉NNaO₃ 332.13, found 332.30.

1,3-dimethyl-3-(2-oxo-2-(p-tolyl)ethyl)indolin-2-one (3c)



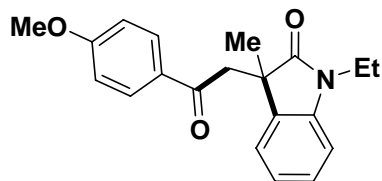
¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 400MHz): δ (ppm) 7.77-6.90 (aromatic H, 8H), 3.70 (d, *J*=18.0 Hz, 1H), 3.66 (d, *J*=17.6 Hz, 1H), 3.33 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 1.46 (s, 3H); **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl₃, 100Hz): 21.6, 24.9, 26.5, 45.4, 45.9, 108.2, 121.8, 122.2, 127.8, 128.1, 129.2, 133.9, 134.0, 143.9, 144.0, 180.8, 195.8; **IR**: 2962, 2924, 2851, 1712, 1674, 735, 701 cm⁻¹; **MS** (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₁₉H₁₉NNaO₂ 316.13, found 316.36.

3-(2-(4-(*tert*-Butyl)phenyl)-2-oxoethyl)-1,3-Dimethylindolin-2-one (3d)



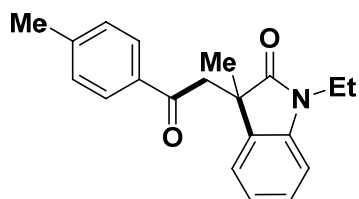
¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 400MHz): δ (ppm) 7.82-6.90 (aromatic H, 8H), 3.75 (d, *J*=17.6 Hz, 1H), 3.66 (d, *J*=18.0 Hz, 1H), 3.33 (s, 3H), 1.46 (s, 3H), 1.32 (s, 9H); **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl₃,100Hz): 24.9, 26.5, 31.1, 35.1, 45.4, 46.0, 108.2, 121.8, 122.2, 125.4, 125.5, 127.8, 128.0, 129.3, 133.9, 143.9, 156.9, 180.8, 195.8; **IR**: 2964, 2928, 2869, 1715, 1614, 734, 700 cm⁻¹; **MS** (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₂₂H₂₅NNaO₂ 358.18, found 358.28.

1-Ethyl-3-(2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-oxoethyl)-3-methylindolin-2-one (3e)



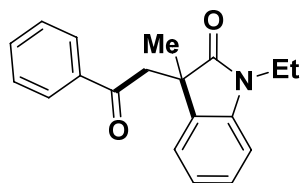
¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 400MHz): δ (ppm) 7.85-6.86 (aromatic H, 8H), 3.84 (m, 3H) 3.65 (m, 2H), 1.44 (s, 3H), 1.36 (t, *J*=8.0 Hz, 3H); **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl₃,100 Hz): 12.4, 25.1, 34.7, 45.4, 45.6, 55.4, 108.3, 113.6, 121.9, 122.0, 127.7, 129.6, 130.3, 134.2, 142.9, 163.5, 180.2, 195.6; **IR**: 2969, 2928, 2854, 1711, 1602, 736, 700 cm⁻¹; **MS** (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₂₀H₂₁NNaO₃ 346.14, found 346.26.

1-Ethyl-3-methyl-3-(2-oxo-2-(*p*-tolyl)ethyl)indolin-2-one (3f)



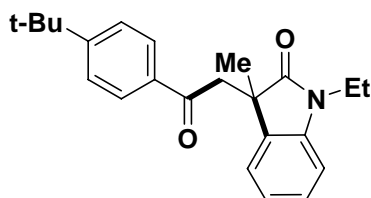
¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 400MHz): δ (ppm) 7.77-6.92 (aromatic H, 8H), 3.86 (m, 2H), 3.72 (d, *J*=17.6 Hz, 1H), 3.63 (d, *J*=17.6 Hz, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H) 1.44 (s, 3H), 1.37 (t, *J*=8.0 Hz, 3H); **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl₃,100Hz): 12.4, 21.6, 25.04, 34.8, 45.3, 45.8, 108.3, 121.9, 122.0, 127.7, 128.1, 129.1, 129.3, 134.13, 142.9, 143.9, 180.3, 195.6; **IR**: 2969, 2928, 2853, 1711, 1602, 736, 700 cm⁻¹; **MS** (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₂₀H₂₁NNaO₂ 330.15, found 330.29.

1-Ethyl-3-methyl-3-(2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)indolin-2-one (3g)



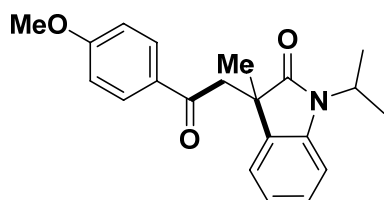
¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 400MHz): δ (ppm) 7.52-6.93 (aromatic H, 9H), 3.89 (m, 2H), 3.73 (d, *J*=18.0 Hz, 1H), 3.66 (d, *J*=18.0 Hz, 1H), 1.45 (s, 3H), 1.37 (t, *J*=7.2 Hz, 3H); **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl₃,100Hz): 12.4, 25.1, 29.7, 34.8, 45.3, 46.0, 108.3, 121.9, 122.0, 127.8, 128.0, 128.5, 133.1, 134.0, 136.49, 142.9, 180.1, 196.0; **IR**: 2970, 2918, 2849, 1709, 1613, 738, 700 cm⁻¹; **MS** (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₁₉H₁₉NNaO₂ 316.13, 316.36.

3-(2-(4-(*tert*-Butyl)phenyl)-2-oxoethyl)-1-ethyl-3-methylindolin-2-one (3h)



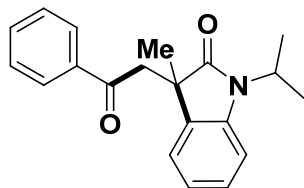
¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 400MHz): δ (ppm) 7.82-6.92 (aromatic H, 8H), 3.84 (m, 2H), 3.72 (d, *J*=17.6 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (d, *J*=17.6 Hz, 1H), 1.45 (s, 3H), 1.33 (t, *J*=7.8 Hz, 3H); **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl₃,100 Hz): 12.4, 25.1, 31.1, 34.8, 45.3, 45.9, 108.3, 121.9, 122.0, 125.4, 127.7, 128.0, 134.0, 134.1, 142.9, 156.8, 180.2, 195.7; **IR**: 2965, 2931, 2870, 1713, 1612, 742, 700 cm⁻¹; **MS** (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₂₃H₂₇NNaO₂, 372.19, found 372.34.

1-*iso*-Propyl-3-(2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-oxoethyl)-3-methylindolin-2-one (3i)



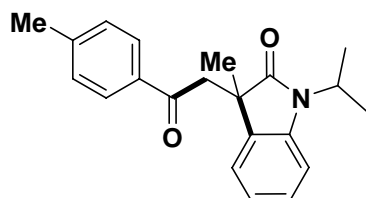
¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 400MHz): δ (ppm) 7.86-6.86 (aromatic H, 8H), 4.74 (m, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.65 (d, *J*=17.6 Hz, 1H), 3.63 (d, *J*=17.6 Hz, 1H), 1.60 (d, *J*=6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.58 (d, *J*=6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.43 (s, 3H); **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl₃,100 Hz): 19.0, 19.5, 25.3, 43.7, 45.1, 45.8, 55.4, 109.9, 113.6, 121.5, 122.0, 127.4, 129.7, 130.3, 134.5, 142.5, 163.4, 180.4, 194.4; **IR**: 2965, 2932, 2870, 1712, 1608, 739, 700 cm⁻¹; **MS** (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₂₁H₂₃NNaO₃ 360.16, found 360.36.

1-isopropyl-3-methyl-3-(2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)indolin-2-one (3j)



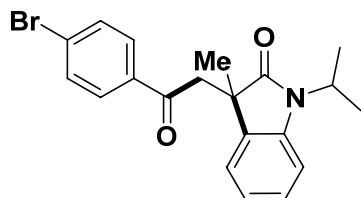
¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 400MHz): δ (ppm) 7.87-6.95 (aromatic H, 9H), 4.74 (m, 1H), 3.71 (d, *J*=17.6 Hz, 1H), 3.69 (d, *J*=17.6 Hz, 1H), 1.60 (d, *J*=6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.58 (d, *J*=6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.44 (s, 3H); **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl₃, 100 Hz): 19.0, 19.5, 25.3, 43.7, 45.1, 46.1, 110.0, 121.6, 122.0, 127.5, 128.0, 128.5, 133.1, 134.3, 136.5, 142.5, 180.3, 196.0; **IR**: 2972, 2928, 2860, 1709, 1611, 750, 690 cm⁻¹; **MS** (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₂₀H₂₁NNaO₂ 330.16, found 330.33.

1-isopropyl-3-methyl-3-(2-oxo-2-(p-tolyl)ethyl)indolin-2-one (3k)



¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 400MHz): δ (ppm) 7.77-6.96 (aromatic H, 8H), 4.74 (m, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.69(d, *J*=17.6 Hz, 1H), 3.66 (d, *J*=17.6 Hz, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 1.60 (d, *J*=6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.58 (d, *J*=6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.43 (s, 3H); **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl₃, 100 Hz): 19.0, 19.5, 21.6, 25.2, 43.7, 45.1, 46.0, 109.9, 121.6, 122.0, 127.0, 127.2, 128.1, 129.1, 134.4, 142.5, 143.8, 180.4, 195.6; **IR**: 2965, 2926, 2855, 1708, 1608, 753, 696 cm⁻¹; **MS** (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₂₁H₂₃NNaO₃ 344.16, found 344.36.

3-(2-(4-bromophenyl)-2-oxoethyl)-1-isopropyl-3-methylindolin-2-one (3l)

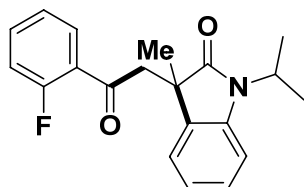


¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 400MHz): δ (ppm) 7.73-6.95 (aromatic H, 8H), 4.73 (m, 1H), 3.65 (d, *J*=17.6 Hz, 1H), 3.64 (d, *J*=17.6 Hz, 1H), 1.60 (d, *J*=6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.58 (d, *J*=6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.43 (s, 3H); **¹³C-NMR** (CDCl₃, 100 Hz): 19.0, 19.5, 25.3, 43.8, 45.0, 46.1, 110.0, 121.7, 121.9, 127.6, 128.3,

129.6, 131.8, 134.1, 135.1, 142.5, 180.1, 195.0; **IR**: 2965, 2933, 2863, 1709, 1608, 742, 696 cm^{-1} ;

MS (ESI) m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{NNaO}_2$ 408.07, found 408.22.

(S)-3-(2-(2-fluorophenyl)-2-oxoethyl)-1-isopropyl-3-methylindolin-2-one (3m)



$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 400MHz): δ (ppm) 7.47-6.95 (aromatic H, 8H), 4.75 (m, 1H), 3.71 (d, $J=3.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.70 (d, $J=3.2$ Hz, 1H), 1.62 (d, $J=7.2$ Hz, 3H), 1.57 (d, $J=7.2$ Hz, 3H), 1.40 (s, 3H);

$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 100 Hz): 19.0, 19.5, 25.3, 43.7, 45.1, 50.9, 110.00, 116.6, 121.5, 121.8, 128.1, 130.7, 134.7, 142.5, 160.7, 163.2, 180.2, 194.1; **IR**: 2961, 2919, 2877, 1709, 1618, 1497, 1378, 1235, 1056, 742, 696 cm^{-1} ; **MS** (ESI) m/z calculated for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{FNNaO}_2$ 348.14, found 348.22.

