K₂CO₃-Catalyzed Synthesis of 2,5-Dialkyl-4,6,7-tricyano-Decorated Indoles via Carbon-Carbon Bond Cleavage

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1. General Information

All the glassware including the 4-dram borosilicate scintillation (Wheaton), 1-dram borosilicate (Kimble-Chase) vials, and 15 mL pressure tubes were properly cleaned and dried in an oven before use. All glassware was cleaned with soap before being rinsed with acetone and dried in the oven at 150 °C. All chemicals (solvents, starting materials, and reagents) used for both diketone and indole synthesis were obtained from commercial sources and used as received. Fumaronitrile (TCI), K₂CO₃ (Fisher Scientific), and dioxane (TCI and Sigma Aldrich) were used as reagents to synthesize indoles. The following diketones were ordered and used as received from their respective vendor to synthesize indoles: 2, 4-pentanedione (99%) (Alfa Aesar), 3, 5heptanedione (95%) (OxChem), 2, 2-dimethyl-3, 5-hexanedione (97%) (Sigma Aldrich), 6methyl-2, 4-heptanedione (98%) (Alfa Aesar), 2, 4-octandione (98%) (Alfa Aesar), 2, 2, 6, 6tetramethyl-3, 5-heptanedione (98%) (Sigma Aldrich). The following diketones were synthesized for indole synthesis: undeca-1, 10-diene-5,7-dione, 2, 8-dimethylnonane-4, 6-dione, 2, 2, 8trimethylnonane-4, 6-dione, 2, 2, 6-trimethylheptane-3, 5-dione, 2, 2, 8-trimethyloctane-4, 6dione, and 2, 8-dimethyloctane-4, 6-dione. The following reagents were purchased and used as received from their respective vendor in order to synthesize diketones: 3-Methyl-2-Butanone (Beantown Chemical), 2-Methyl-4-pentanone (TCI), ethyl isovalerate (TCI), Ethyl 3,3dimethylbutanoate (TCI), ethyl trimethylacetate (Sigma Aldrich), 2, 4- pentanedione 99% (Alfa Aesar), sodium hydride (Alfa Aesar), tetramethylethylenediamine (Sigma Aldrich), secbutyllitium (Sigma Aldrich), and allyl bromide (Sigma Aldrich). High resolution mass and NMR spectra for new compounds were recorded at the Mass Spectrometry and NMR Facilities in the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at the University of New Mexico. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker instrument spectrometer (300MHz for ¹H, 75MHz for ¹³C) at room temperature. Chemical shifts are recorded in parts per million. ¹H NMR shifts are referenced to chloroform-d (d = 7.26) or acetone-d₆ (d = 2.05). ¹³C shifts are referenced to acetone-d₆ (d = 29.84 and 206.26) or DMSO-d₆ (39.52). NMR splitting patterns were represented by the following: s for singlet; d for doublet; t for triplet; q for quartet, and m for multiplet. Mass spectroscopy samples were ran using Atmospheric Pressure Photoionization (APPI) in Positive Mode and Electrospray Ionization (ESI) in Positive Mode. 2, 5-Di-tert-butyl-4, 6, 7-tricyano-1H-indole was the only sample analyzed by ESI method for mass spectroscopy. Infrared (IR) spectra were

recorded on a Bruker Alpha-P ATR-IR and v_{max} is reported in cm⁻¹. The GC-MS was recorded in Agilent 7820 GC-system with Agilent J&W advanced capillary GC column with 20 mL/min of the helium flow. X-ray diffraction was performed on Bruker Kappa APEX II CCD diffractometer at the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, UNM.

2. Procedures for the preparation of diketones substrates

a. Synthesis of undeca-1, 10-diene-5, 7-dione



The synthesis procedure of undeca-1, 10-diene-5, 7-dione was utilized from the described procedure by Hubbard and Harris.¹ For the synthesis procedure of undeca-1, 10-diene-5, 7-dione, 1.1 g of 2,4-pentanedione (10 mmol) and 240 mg (1 equiv) of NaH was added to 100 mL of cyclohexane. The mixture was stirred for 30 minutes at room temperature (20 °C). 2.324 g (2 equiv) of TMEDA was added to the mixture followed with a slow addition of 14.3 mL (2 equiv) of *sec*-butyllithium at 0 °C on an ice bath. The mixture was stirred for 24 hours at 20 °C. The reaction was then cooled to -78 °C for 30 minutes. Once cooled, 2.418 g (2 equiv) of allyl bromide was slowly added dropwise to the solution while stirring. This solution was mixed over night at room temperature. After mixing the reaction overnight, the reaction mixture was slowly neutralized dropwise with 20% HCl solution. The product 1, 10-undecene-5, 7-dione was obtained as a yellow oil (631.0 mg, 31% isolated yield) after purification by silica gel column chromatography with EtOAc as the solvent system. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 15.41 (s, 1H), 5.77 (m, 2H), 5.49 (s, 1H), 5.01 (t, *J* = 14.85 Hz, 4H), 2.38 (s, 8H).

b. Synthesis of 2, 8-dimethylnonane-4, 6-dione



The synthesis procedure of 2, 8-dimethylnonane-4, 6-dione was utilized from the described procedure by Nandurkar et al.² For the synthesis of 2, 8-dimethylnonane-4,6-dione, a mixture of 25 mL of DMF and 5.6 g of KO*t*Bu (2.5 equiv) was heated in an oil bath to 50 °C under nitrogen conditions. 3.485 g of ethyl isovalerate (30 mmol) was added dropwise to the DMF and KO*t*Bu

solution, followed by a solution of 2.036 g of 2-methyl-4-pentanone (20 mmol) in 2.5 mL DMF. After the completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was allowed to cool and slowly neutralized with 20% HCl solution. 25 mL of water was added to separate two layers. The product 2, 8-dimethylnonane-4, 6-dione was obtained as a yellow oil (2.524 g, 70% isolated yield) after purification by silica gel column chromatography with EtOAc as the solvent system. ¹H NMR (**300 MHz, CDCl₃**): δ 15.65 (s, 1H), 5.45 (s, 1H), 2.14 (m, 6H), 0.95 (m. 12H).

c. Synthesis of 2, 2, 8-trimethylnonane-4, 6-dione



The synthesis procedure of 2, 2, 8-trimethylnonane-4, 6-dione was utilized from the described procedure by Nandurkar et al.² For the synthesis of 2, 2, 8-trimethylnonane-4, 6-dione, a mixture of 25 mL of DMF and 5.6 g of KO*t*Bu (50 mmol) was heated in an oil bath to 50 °C under nitrogen conditions. 4.320 g of ethyl-3,3-dimethylbutanoate (30 mmol) was added dropwise to the DMF KO*t*Bu solution, followed by a solution of 2.036 g of 2-methyl-4-pentanone (20 mmol) in 2.5 mL DMF. After the completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was allowed to cool and slowly neutralized with 20% HCl solution. 25 mL of water was further added to separate two layers. The product 2, 2, 8-trimethylnonane-4, 6-dione was obtained as an orange oil (1.135 g, 30% isolated yield) after purification by silica gel column chromatography with EtOAc as the solvent system. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 15.73 (s, 1H), 5.40 (s, 1H), 2.08 (m, 5H), 0.99 (s, 9H), 0.93 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 6H).

d. Synthesis of 2, 2, 6-trimethylheptane-3, 5-dione



The synthesis procedure of 2, 2, 6-trimethylheptane-3, 5-dione was utilized from the described procedure by Nandurkar et al.² For the synthesis of 2, 2, 6-trimethylheptane-3, 5-dione, a mixture of 25 mL of DMF and 5.6 g of KO*t*Bu (50 mmol) was heated in an oil bath to 50 °C under nitrogen conditions. 4.320 g of ethyl trimethylacetate (30 mmol) was added dropwise to the DMF KO*t*BU solution, followed by a solution of 1.722 g of 2-methyl-3-butanone (20 mmol) in 2.5 mL DMF. After the completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was allowed to cool and slowly neutralized with 20% HCl solution. 25 mL of water was further added to separate two layers. The

product 2, 2, 6-trimethylheptane-3, 5-dione was obtained as a red oil (2.109 g, 62% isolated yield) after purification by silica gel column chromatography with EtOAc as the solvent system. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 15.90 (s, 1H), 5.96 (s, 1H), 2.48 (m, 1H), 1.14 (m, 15H).

e. Synthesis of 2, 2, 7-trimethyloctane-3, 5-dione



The synthesis of 2, 2, 7-trimethyloctane-3, 5-dione was utilized from the described procedure by Nandurkar et al.² For the synthesis of 2, 7, 7-trimethyloctane-3, 5-dione, a mixture of 25 mL of DMF and 5.6 g of KOtBu (50 mmol) was heated in an oil bath to 50 °C under nitrogen conditions. 4.320 g of Ethyl 3, 3-dimethylbutanoate (30 mmol) was added dropwise to the DMF KOtBu solution, followed by a solution of 1.722 g of 2-methyl-3-butanone (20 mmol) in 2.5 mL DMF. After the completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was allowed to cool and slowly neutralized with 20% HCl solution. 25 mL of water was further added to separate two layers. The product 2, 2, 7-trimethyloctane-3, 5-dione was obtained as an orange colored oil (577.2 mg, 15% isolated yield) after purification by silica gel column chromatography with EtOAc as the solvent system. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 15.67 (s, 1H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 2.45 (m, 1H), 2.12 (s, 2H), 1.13 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 6H), 0.99 (s, 9H).

f. Synthesis of 2, 7-Dimethyloctane-3, 5-dione



The synthesis of 2, 7-Dimethyloctane-3, 5-dione was utilized from the described procedure by Nandurkar et al.² For the synthesis of 22, 7-dimethyloctane-3, 5-dione, a mixture of 25 mL of DMF and 5.6 g of KOtBu (50 mmol) was heated in an oil bath to 50 °C under nitrogen conditions. 3.485 g of ethyl isovalerate (30 mmol) was added dropwise to the DMF KOtBu solution, followed by a solution of 1.722 g of 2-methyl-3-butanone (20 mmol) in 2.5 mL DMF. After the completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was allowed to cool and slowly neutralized with 20% HCl solution. 25 mL of water was further added to separate two layers. The product 2, 7-dimethyloctane-4, 5-dione was obtained as a yellow oil (594.2 g, 16% isolated yield) after purification by silica gel column chromatography with EtOAc as the solvent system. ¹H NMR

(**300 MHz, CDCl**₃): δ 15.61 (s, 1H), 5.47 (s, 1H), 2.44 (m, 1H), 2.12 (m, 3H), 1.13 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 6H), 0.94 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 6H).

3. General procedure for the synthesis of Indole



For a 1 mmol scale reaction, mix 100.1 mg of 2, 4-pentanedione, 156.1 mg fumaronitrile (2 equivalents), and 13.8 mg K_2CO_3 (10 mol %) into 5 mL of dioxane in a 15mL sealed tube under normal atmospheric conditions. Cap the 15 mL sealed tube and heat in an oil bath at 40 °C for 48 hours while rapidly stirring the mixture. The reaction mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite, the solvent was removed by rotary evaporator and the product was purified by silica gel column chromatography.

4. Characterization data for new compounds



2, 5-Dimethyl-1H-indole-4, 6, 7-tricarbonitrile 1: The title compound 1 was obtained as a yellow solid (183 mg, 83% isolated yield) after purification by silica gel column chromatography with a solvent system of 20% EtOAc in hexane. Rf; 0.3 (EtOAc:Hexanes; 1:4); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, Acetone- d₆): δ 11.76 (s, 1H) 6.60 (s, 1H), 2.77 (s, 3H), 2.64 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO): δ 14.1, 19.5, 100.3, 100.7, 105.9, 116.2, 134.5, 134.7, 137.0, 149.1; IR (Neat): 3298, 2925, 2466, 2227, 1548, 1309, 1263, 797; HRMS (APPI) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd C₁₃H₉N₄ 221.0827; found 221.0833.



2, 5-Diethyl-1H-indole-4, 6, 7-tricarbonitrile **2**: The title compound **2** was isolated by silica gel column chromatography with a solvent system of 20% EtOAc in hexane. The title compound was obtained as a yellow solid (183 mg, 74% isolated yield) after purification by silica gel column chromatography with a solvent system of 20% EtOAc in hexane. Rf; 0.3 (EtOAc:Hexanes; 1:4); ¹H NMR (**300 MHz, Acetone- d**₆) δ 11.73 (s, 1H), 6.54 (s, 1H), 3.02 (q, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.90 (q, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 1.29 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 1.24 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, Acetone-**d**₆): δ 13.0, 15.5, 22.1, 27.9, 100.1, 101.8, 106.3, 107.2, 114.1, 115.7, 116.0, 135.4, 135.7, 143.7, 154.7; **IR (neat):** 3297, 2917, 2228, 1544, 1304, 827, 711, 691; **HRMS (APPI)** m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₁₅H₁₃N₄ 249.1140; found 249.1140.



2, 5-Di-tert-butyl-1H-indole-4, 6, 7-tricarbonitrile **3**: The title compound was obtained as an orange solid (103 mg, 34% isolated yield) after purification by silica gel column chromatography with a solvent system of 25% EtOAc in hexane. Rf; 0.4 (EtOAc:Hexanes; 1:4); ¹H NMR (**300 MHz, Acetone- d_6**): δ 11.75 (s, 1H), 6.62 (s, 1H), 1.78 (s, 9 H), 1.50 (s 9H); ¹³C NMR (**75** MHz, **Acetone-d_6**): δ 31.9, 33.6, 38.6, 99.5, 105.2, 105.9, 107.4, 114.5, 117.9, 118.7, 135.1, 137.1, 148.2, 161.1; **IR (neat)**: 3284, 3236, 2968, 2229, 1532, 1466, 1370, 1269, 1029, 828, 717; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₁₉H₂₁N₄ 305.1766; found 305.1768.



2, 5-Diisobutyl-1H-indole-4, 6, 7-tricarbonitrile **4**: The title compound was obtained as a yellow solid (159 mg, 52% isolated yield) after purification by silica gel column chromatography with a solvent system of 30% EtOAc in hexane. Rf; 0.4 (EtOAc:Hexanes; 1:4); ¹H NMR (**300 MHz**, **Acetone- d**₆): 11.84 (s, 1H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 2.975 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 2.85 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.24-2.06 (m, 2H), 0.99 (q, J = 4.0 Hz, 12H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, Acetone- d₆): δ 22.3, 22.6, 31.5, 37.8, 42.8, 101.6, 101.9, 107.2, 108.0, 114.2, 116.1, 116.4, 135.3, 135.6, 141.2, 152.1; IR (neat):

3275, 2960, 2225, 1545, 1472, 1304, 991, 830, 694; **HRMS** (**APPI**) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for C₁₉H₂₁N₄ 305.1766; found 305.1773.



2, 5-Di(but-3-en-1-yl)-1H-indole-4, 6, 7-tricarbonitrile **5**: The title compound was obtained as a yellow solid (183 mg, 61% isolated yield) after purification by silica gel column chromatography with a solvent system of 25% EtOAc in hexane. Rf; 0.4 (EtOAc:Hexanes; 1:4); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, Acetone- d₆): δ 11.82, (s, 1H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 5.84-6.00 (m, 2H), 5.05-5.14 (m, 2H), 4.98-5.02 (m, 2H), 3.205 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.093 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.60 (q, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 2H), 2.50 (q, *J* = 11.1 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, Acetone- d₆): δ 27.3, 32.3, 32.9, 34.5, 100.9, 100.1, 106.1, 106.9, 113.2, 114.9, 115.2, 115.9, 134.3, 134.7, 136.1, 136.8, 140.4, 151.4; IR (neat): 3239, 2919, 2409, 2227, 1643, 1543, 1307, 995, 921, 819, 705; HRMS (APPI) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₁₉H₁₇N₄ 301.1453; found 301.1452.



2-Isopropyl-5-(tert-butyl)-1H-indole-4, 6, 7-tricarbonitrile and 5-(tert-butyl)-2-Isopropyl-1Hindole-4, 6, 7-tricarbonitrile **6**: The title compound was obtained as a yellow solid (145 mg, 50% yield) after purification by silica gel column chromatography with a solvent system of 25% EtOAc in hexane. The regiomeric ratio (9:1) was determined by integrating the peaks at 6.68 and 6.66 ppm in ¹H NMR in crude reaction mixture. Rf; 0.4 (EtOAc:Hexanes; 1:4); Only the single regioisomer was able to isolate from column chromatography and the minor isomer was only observed in crude NMR. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone- d₆): δ 11.77 (s, 1H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 3.79-3.70 (m, 1H), 1.59 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 6H), 1.52 (s, 9H); ¹³C (100 MHz, Acetone-d₆): δ 20.7,, 29.0,, 32.8,, 33.6,, 98.0, , 102.1, 105.1, , 106.4,, 113.5, 115.5, 115.8, 135.0, 135.2, 146.4, 160.7; IR

(**neat**): 3282, 3234, 2970, 2229, 1536, 1371, 1297, 1271, 1072, 824, 717; **HRMS** (**APPI**) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₁₈H₁₉N₄ 291.1610; found 291.1609.



2-(*tert-butyl*)-5-*methyl-1H-indole-4*, 6, 7-*tricarbonitrile and* 5-(*tert-butyl*)-2-*methyl-1H-indole-4*, 6, 7-*tricarbonitrile* **7**: The title compound was obtained as a yellow solid (178 mg, 68% isolated yield rr 9:1) after purification by silica gel column chromatography with a solvent system of 20% EtOAc in hexane. The regiomeric ratio (5:1) was determined by integrating the peaks at 6.54 and 6.84 ppm in ¹H NMR in crude reaction mixture. Rf; 0.4 (EtOAc:Hexanes; 1:4); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, Acetone-d₆): δ 11.67 (s, 1H), δ .84(s, 0.17x1,1H), 6.54 (s, 0.83x1, 1H), 2.94 (s,0.13x3,3H), 2.80 (s, 0.83x3, 3H), 1.96(s,0.17x9,9H) 1.52 (s, 0.83x9, 9H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, Acetone-d₆): δ 19.5, 31.9, 33.7, 98.5, 101.7, 107.5, 108.6, 114.2, 115.9, 116.2, 134.9, 135.7, 137.7, 161.4; IR (neat): 3256, 2966, 2927, 2414, 2228, 1531, 1308, 1273, 821, 720; HRMS (APPI) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd C₁₆H₁₅N₄ 263.1297; found 263.1294. The major compound in the mixture of this reaction product had t-butyl group. Therefore, we performed the NOE experiment and was observed correlation between the proton at 1.40 ppm and 6.54 which suggest that major product had t-butyl group. Therefore, we performed the NOE experiment and was observed correlation between the proton at 1.40 ppm and 6.54 which suggest that major product had t-butyl group. Therefore, we performed the NOE experiment and was observed correlation between the proton at 1.40 ppm and 6.54 which suggest that major product had t-butyl group in the second position. There was no-correlation between the methyl proton and aromatic proton. It suggests that the bulkier the substituent in the 1,3-diketone, preferentially it takes the position two of the substituted indole.



2-Isopropyl-5-neopentyl-1H-indole-4, 6, 7-tricarbonitrile and 5-Isopropyl-2-neopentyl-1Hindole-4, 6, 7-tricarbonitrile 8: The title compound was obtained as a yellow solid (94 mg, 31% yield) after purification by silica gel column chromatography with a solvent system of 25% EtOAc in hexane. The regiomeric ratio (3:2) was determined by integrating the peaks at 6.65 and 6.61

ppm in ¹H NMR in crude reaction mixture. Rf; 0.4 (EtOAc:Hexanes; 1:4); ¹H NMR (**300 MHz**, **Acetone-d₆**): δ 11.84 (s,1H), 6.67 (s, 0.60x1, 1H), 6.65 (s, 0.40x1, 1H), 3.79-3.70 (m, 0.6x1,1H), 3.38-3.28(m, 0.4x1,1H), 2.90 (s, 0.60x4, 4H), 2.88 (s, 0.0x4, 4H), 2.26-2.11 (m, 0.6x1, 1H), 2.10-2.05(m,0.4x1, 1H)1.60 (d, J = 6 Hz, 0.6x6, 6H), 1.44(d, J = 6 Hz, 0.4x6, 6H) 1.04 (s, 0.6x9, 9H), 1.00 (s, J =0.40x9, 9H), ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, Acetone-d₆): δ 14.5, 20.7, 21.4, 21.5, 21.7, 28.9, 32.0, 33.6, 35.8, 37.0, 37.9, 46.5, 60.5,101.0, 102.1, 113.5, 115.5, 115.8, 120.4, 126.5, 127.0, 134.4,134.7, 146.4, 205.0,205.3; **IR (neat):** 3241, 2957, 2236, 1538, 1463, 1368, 1304, 1075, 993, 797, 766, 693; **HRMS (APP)** m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₁₉H₂₁N₄ 305.1766: found 305.1774.



5-Butyl-2-methyl-1H-indole-4, 6, 7-tricarbonitrile and 2-Butyl-5-methyl-1H-indole-4, 6, 7*tricarbonitrile* **9**: The title compound was obtained as an orange solid (141 mg, 61% isolated yield) after purification by silica gel column chromatography with a solvent system of 20% EtOAc in hexane. The regiomeric ratio (2:1) was determined by integrating the peaks at 6.65 and 6.63 ppm in ¹H NMR in crude reaction mixture. Rf; 0.4 (EtOAc:Hexanes; 1:4); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, Acetone-d₆): δ 11.80 (s,1H), 6.65 (s, 0.66x1, 1H), 6.63 (s, 0.33x1, 1H), 3.13 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 0.33x2, 2H), 3.00 (t, J = 7.5Hz, 0.66x2, 2H), 2.84 (s, 0.33x3, 3H), 2.79(s, 0.66x3, 3H), 2.66 (s, 0.33x3, 3H), 2.65(s,0.66x3, 3H), 1.88-1.68(m, 0.33x2,2H), 1.54-1.38(m, 0.66x2, 2H), (m, 0.5x2H), 1.01-0.93 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, Acetone): δ 13.9, 19.4, 19.5, 23.0, 31.4, 91.5, 100.6, 101.4, 107.0, 107.9, 114.1, 115.9, 116.1, 128.5, 129.5, 135.1, 135.5, 137.6, 148.7, 149.7, 153.3; IR (neat): 3249, 2931, 2871, 2418, 2230, 1541, 1307, 821; **HRMS (APPI)** m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₁₆H₁₅N₄ 263.1297: found 263.1302. The major component in the mixture of this reaction product had nbutyl group. Therefore, we performed the NOE experiment and was observed correlation between the proton at 2.85 ppm and 6.5 which suggest that major product had n-butyl group in the second position. There was no-correlation between the methyl proton and aromatic proton. It suggests that the bulkier the substituent in the 1,3-diketone, preferentially it takes the position 2 of the substituted indole.



5-Isobutyl-2-isopropyl-1H-indole-4, 6, 7-tricarbonitrile and 2-Isobutyl-5-isopropyl-1H-indole-4, 6, 7-tricarbonitrile **10**: The title compound was obtained as a yellow solid (102 mg, 35% isolated yield) after purification by silica gel column chromatography with a solvent system of 25% EtOAc in hexane. The regiomeric ratio (6:1) was determined by integrating the peaks at 6.67 and 6.85 ppm in ¹H NMR in crude reaction mixture. Rf; 0.4 (EtOAc:Hexanes; 1:4); ¹H NMR (**300 MHz**, **Acetone-d₆**): δ 11.81 (s, 1H), 6.85(s,0.14x1, 1H), 6.67 (s, 0.86x1, 1H)), 3.78-3.69 (m, 0.86x1, 1H), 3.38-3.29 (m, 0.14x1, 1H),

2.98 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 0.14x2, 2H), 2.86 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 0.86x2, 2H), 2.22-2.09 (m, 1H), 1.58 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 0.86x6, 6H), 1.45 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 0.14x6, 6H), 1.00 (app. t, J = 6.2 Hz, 6H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, Acetone-d₆): δ 21.5, 22.2, 22.3, 22.5, 31.5, 34.4, 37.8, 42.5, 42.8, 98.1, 98.8, 101.8, 102.8, 105.4, 106.6, 114.3, 116.3, 116.6, 135.3, 135.6. 136.3, 136.6, 141.2, 147.2, 152.2; IR (neat): 3248, 2959, 2871, 2228, 1756, 1538, 1464, 1305, 1079, 798, 719; HRMS (APPI) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₁₈H₁₉N₄ 291.1610: found 291.1610.



2-Isobutyl-5-methyl-1H-indole-4, 6, 7-tricarbonitrile and 5-Isobutyl-2-methyl-1H-indole-4, 6, 7tricarbonitrile **11:** The title compound was obtained as a yellow solid (176 mg, 67% isolated yield) after purification by silica gel column chromatography with a solvent system of 20% EtOAc in hexane. The regiomeric ratio (4:1) was determined by integrating the peaks at 6.67 and 6.65 ppm in ¹H NMR in crude reaction mixture. Rf; 0.4 (EtOAc:Hexanes; 1:4); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, Acetone-d₆): δ 11.83 (s, 1H), 6.67(s, 0.8x1, 1H), 6.65 (s, 0.2x1, 1H), 3.02 (d, *J* = 6 Hz, 0.2x2, 2H), 2.87 (d, *J* = 6 Hz, 0.8x2, 2H),2.83 (s, 0.2x3, 3H), 2.80 (s, 0.8x3, 3H), 2.26-2.13 (m, 1H), 1.02 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 0.2x6, 6H), 0.99 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 0.8x6, 6H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, Acetone-d₆): δ 19.4, 22.6, 37.9, 101.5, 107.1, 108.0, 114.2, 116.0, 116.2, 135.2, 135.5, 137.7, 152.2; IR (neat): 3259, 2955, 2425, 2228, 1542, 1306, 830, 692; HRMS (APPI) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₁₆H₁₅N₄ 263.1297; found 263.1299.



5-*Isobutyl-2-neopentyl-1H-indole-4*, 6, 7-*tricarbonitrile and 2-Isobutyl-5-neopentyl-1H-indole-4*, 6, 7-*tricarbonitrile* **12**: The title compound was obtained as a yellow solid (114 mg, 36% isolated yield) after purification by silica gel column chromatography with a solvent system of 30% EtOAc in hexane. The regiomeric ratio (3:2) was determined by integrating the peaks at 6.67 and 6.76 ppm in ¹H NMR in crude reaction mixture. Rf; 0.4 (EtOAc:Hexanes; 1:4); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, Acetone-d₆): δ 11.85 (s, 1H), 6.68 (s 0.4x1, 1H), 6.66 (s, 0.6x1, 1H), 3.12 (s, 0.4x1, 1H), 3.02 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 0.6x2, 2H), 2.90 (s, 0.6x2, 2H), 2.85 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 0.4x2, 2H), 2.18-2.07 (m, 1H), 1.06(d, *J* = 9 Hz, 0.6x6, 6H) 1.03(s, 9H), 1.00(d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 0.4x6, 6H); ¹³CNMR (75 MHz, Acetone-d₆): δ 22.4, 29.7, 31.5, 32.8, 42.6, 42.9, 102.0, 107.3, 108.2, 114.3, 116.2, 116.5, 135.2, 135.4, 141.3, 149.4, 150.5, 151.6 ; IR (neat): 3246, 2958, 2872, 2227, 1539, 1466, 1307, 1228, 990, 804, 751, 681; HRMS (APPI) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₀H₂₃N₄ 319.1923, found 319.1930.

5. X-ray of the compound 1



Table 1. Sample and crystal data for rgrp1_28a.Identification codergrp1_28a

Chemical formula	$C_{13}H_8N_4$			
Formula weight	220.23 g/mol			
Temperature	100(2) K			
Wavelength	0.71073 Å			
Crystal size	0.066 x 0.138 x 0.601 mm			
Crystal habit	colorless needle			
Crystal system	monoclinic			
Space group	P 2 ₁ /n			
Unit cell dimensions	a = 10.4869(14) Å	$\alpha = 90^{\circ}$		
	b = 5.4668(7) Å	$\beta = 100.989(5)^{\circ}$		
	c = 18.984(3) Å	$\gamma = 90^{\circ}$		
Volume	1068.4(2) Å ³			
Z	4			
Density (calculated)	1.369 g/cm^3			
Absorption coefficient	0.087 mm^{-1}			
F(000)	456			

Table 2. Data collection and structure refinement for rgrp1_283

Diffractometer	Bruker APEXII CCD
Radiation source	fine-focus sealed tube (Mo K_{α} , $\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ Å}$)
Theta range for data collection	2.07 to 25.75°
Index ranges	-11<=h<=12, -6<=k<=6, -23<=l<=23
Reflections collected	18501
Independent reflections	2047 [R(int) = 0.0989]
Coverage of independent reflections	99.7%
Absorption correction	Multi-Scan
Max. and min. transmission	0.9940 and 0.9490
Structure solution technique	direct methods
Structure solution program	SHELXT 2014/5 (Sheldrick, 2014)
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²
Refinement program	SHELXL-2017/1 (Sheldrick, 2017)
Function minimized	$\Sigma w (F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2$
Data / restraints / parameters	2047 / 0 / 160
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.023

Final R indices	1293 data; I>2σ(I)	R1 = 0.0517, wR2 = 0.1201
	all data	R1 = 0.0971, wR2 = 0.1444
Weighting scheme	$w=1/[\sigma^{2}(F_{o}^{2})+(0.0767P)^{2}]$ where P=(F_{o}^{2}+2F_{c}^{2})/3	
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.236 and -0.247 eÅ ⁻³	
R.M.S. deviation from mean	0.064 eÅ ⁻³	

Table 3. Atomic coordinates and equivalent isotropic atomic displacement parameters (\AA^2) for rgrp1_28a.

U(eq) is defined as one third of the trace of the orthogonalized U_{ij} tensor.

	x/a	y/b	z/c	U(eq)
N1	0.9296(2)	0.8580(4)	0.41623(11) 0.0	259(5)
N2	0.6338(2)	0.8342(4)	0.24154(12) 0.0	261(5)
N3	0.3606(2)	0.8472(4)	0.37038(11) 0.0	278(5)
N4	0.8246(2)	0.3910(4)	0.51325(11) 0.0	205(5)
C1	0.8528(2)	0.6747(5)	0.61711(13) 0.0	247(6)
C2	0.7807(2)	0.5912(4)	0.54660(13) 0.0	193(6)
C3	0.6683(2)	0.6758(4)	0.50518(13) 0.0	196(6)
C4	0.6398(2)	0.5246(4)	0.44377(13) 0.0	187(6)
C5	0.5407(2)	0.5176(4)	0.38249(12) 0.0	182(6)
C6	0.5390(2)	0.3420(4)	0.32910(12) 0.0	187(6)
C7	0.6393(2)	0.1684(4)	0.33817(12) 0.0	178(6)
C8	0.7407(2)	0.1696(4)	0.39838(12) 0.0	173(5)
C9	0.7394(2)	0.3460(4)	0.45033(12) 0.0	169(5)
C10	0.8442(2)	0.9933(4)	0.40685(13) 0.0	202(6)
C11	0.6381(2)	0.9827(5)	0.28417(14) 0.0	208(6)
C12	0.4337(2)	0.3359(4)	0.26355(13) 0.0	234(6)
C13	0.4398(2)	0.6996(4)	0.37538(13) 0.0	198(6)

Table 4. Bond lengths (Å) for rgrp1_28a.

N1-C10	1.149(3)	N2-C11	1.141(3)
N3-C13	1.149(3)	N4-C9	1.371(3)

N4-C2	1.386(3)	N4-H4	0.98(3)
C1-C2	1.479(3)	C1-H1A	0.98
C1-H1B	0.98	C1-H1C	0.98
C2-C3	1.366(3)	C3-C4	1.414(3)
C3-H3	0.95	C4-C5	1.405(3)
C4-C9	1.417(3)	C5-C6	1.394(3)
C5-C13	1.440(3)	C6-C7	1.402(3)
C6-C12	1.499(3)	C7-C8	1.405(3)
C7-C11	1.441(3)	C8-C9	1.381(3)
C8-C10	1.437(3)	C12-H12A	0.98
C12-H12B	0.98	C12-H12C	0.98

Table 5. Bond angles (°) for rgrp1_28a.

C9-N4-C2	108.8(2)	C9-N4-H4	127.7(18)
C2-N4-H4	123.5(18)	C2-C1-H1A	109.5
C2-C1-H1B	109.5	H1A-C1-H1B	109.5
C2-C1-H1C	109.5	H1A-C1-H1C	109.5
H1B-C1-H1C	109.5	C3-C2-N4	109.2(2)
C3-C2-C1	130.8(2)	N4-C2-C1	120.0(2)
C2-C3-C4	107.5(2)	С2-С3-Н3	126.3
С4-С3-Н3	126.3	C5-C4-C3	134.9(2)
C5-C4-C9	118.0(2)	C3-C4-C9	107.1(2)
C6-C5-C4	121.7(2)	C6-C5-C13	120.0(2)
C4-C5-C13	118.2(2)	C5-C6-C7	118.1(2)
C5-C6-C12	121.6(2)	C7-C6-C12	120.2(2)
C6-C7-C8	122.0(2)	C6-C7-C11	119.0(2)
C8-C7-C11	119.0(2)	C9-C8-C7	118.3(2)
C9-C8-C10	119.9(2)	C7-C8-C10	121.8(2)
N4-C9-C8	130.8(2)	N4-C9-C4	107.4(2)
C8-C9-C4	121.7(2)	N1-C10-C8	177.0(3)
N2-C11-C7	178.1(2)	C6-C12-H12A	109.5
C6-C12-H12B	109.5	H12A-C12-H12B	109.5
C6-C12-H12C	109.5	H12A-C12-H12C	109.5
H12B-C12-H12C	109.5	N3-C13-C5	178.9(3)

Table 6. Torsion angles (°) for rgrp1_28a.

C9-N4-C2-C3 -0.4(3) C9-N4-C2-C1 178.0(2)

N4-C2-C3-C4	0.1(3)	C1-C2-C3-C4	-178.1(2)
C2-C3-C4-C5	-179.6(3)	C2-C3-C4-C9	0.2(2)
C3-C4-C5-C6	179.6(2)	C9-C4-C5-C6	-0.2(3)
C3-C4-C5-C13	0.1(4)	C9-C4-C5-C13	-179.6(2)
C4-C5-C6-C7	0.5(3)	C13-C5-C6-C7	179.9(2)
C4-C5-C6-C12	-179.6(2)	C13-C5-C6-C12	-0.1(3)
C5-C6-C7-C8	-0.9(3)	C12-C6-C7-C8	179.2(2)
C5-C6-C7-C11	179.0(2)	C12-C6-C7-C11	-0.9(3)
C6-C7-C8-C9	1.0(3)	C11-C7-C8-C9	-178.9(2)
C6-C7-C8-C10	-179.1(2)	C11-C7-C8-C10	1.0(3)
C2-N4-C9-C8	179.5(2)	C2-N4-C9-C4	0.5(2)
C7-C8-C9-N4	-179.5(2)	C10-C8-C9-N4	0.6(4)
C7-C8-C9-C4	-0.7(3)	C10-C8-C9-C4	179.4(2)
C5-C4-C9-N4	179.4(2)	C3-C4-C9-N4	-0.5(2)
C5-C4-C9-C8	0.3(3)	C3-C4-C9-C8	-179.5(2)

Table 8. Anisotropic atomic displacement parameters (\AA^2) for rgrp1_28a.

The anisotropic atomic displacement factor exponent takes the form: -2 π^2 [$h^2~a^{*2}$ U_{11} + ... + 2 h k $a^*~b^*~U_{12}$]

U11 U_{22} U33 U23 **U**₁₃ **U**₁₂ N1 0.0180(12) 0.0302(12) 0.0305(13) 0.0009(10) 0.0075(10) 0.0048(10) N2 0.0179(12) 0.0301(12) 0.0307(13) - 0.0020(11) 0.0056(10) 0.0013(10)N3 0.0195(12) 0.0307(13) 0.0334(13) 0.0030(10) 0.0057(10) 0.0026(11) N4 0.0160(11) 0.0244(12) 0.0212(11) 0.0014(9) 0.0033(9) 0.0026(10) C1 $0.0197(14) 0.0284(14) 0.0253(14) \frac{1}{0.0022(11)} 0.0029(11) 0.0025(11)$ C2 0.0167(13) 0.0207(13) 0.0225(13) 0.0005(11) 0.0086(11) 0.0000(10) C3 0.0143(13) 0.0218(13) 0.0240(13) 0.0005(11) 0.0072(11) 0.0012(10) C4 0.0149(13) 0.0196(13) 0.0236(13) 0.0021(10) 0.0087(10) 0.0008(10) $C5 \quad 0.0142(13) \ 0.0197(13) \ 0.0217(13) \ 0.0026(10) \ 0.0058(10) \ 0.0016(10)$ C6 0.0139(13) 0.0210(13) 0.0221(13) 0.0028(10) 0.0057(10) 0.0024(10)C7 0.0133(12) 0.0196(13) 0.0215(13) 0.0005(10) 0.0057(10) 0.0003(10) C8 0.0129(12) 0.0183(13) 0.0216(13) 0.0032(10) 0.0058(10) 0.0026(10) C9 0.0122(12) 0.0204(13) 0.0186(13) 0.0022(10) 0.0042(10) 0.0010(10)

Table 8. Hydrogen atomic coordinates and isotropic atomic displacement parameters $(Å^2)$ for rgrp1_28a.

	x/a	y/b	z/c	U(eq)
H4	0.903(3)	0.299(5)	0.5337(17)	0.056(9)
H1A	0.8350	0.5642	0.6547	0.037
H1B	0.8251	0.8408	0.6266	0.037
H1C	0.9461	0.6745	0.6168	0.037
H3	0.6185	0.8113	0.5157	0.024
H12A	0.4726	0.3248	0.2207	0.035
H12B	0.3816	0.4856	0.2614	0.035
H12C	0.3779	0.1934	0.2658	0.035

Table 9. Hydrogen bond distances (Å) and angles (°) for rgrp1_28a.

Donor-H	Acceptor-H	Donor-Acceptor	Angle

N4-H4^{...}N1 0.98(3) 2.02(3) 2.996(3) 173.(3)

6. References:

- Hubbard, J. S., and T. M. Harris. "α, α' Dianions of Aliphatic Ketones and the1,3,5 Trianion of 2,4-Pentanedione: Strongly Nucleophilic Carbonyl Synthons." *Journal of the American Chemical Society* **1980**, 2110-112
- Nandurkar, Nitin S., Mayur J. Bhanushali, Dinkar S. Patil, and Bhalchandra M. Bhanage. "Synthesis of Sterically Hindered 1,3-Diketones." *Synthetic Communications* 39.17 (2008): 4111-115.

7. GC-MS analysis and fragmentation

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File :F:\GCMS data backup 02-12-19\RP-1-22.D
Operator :
Acquired : 13 Apr 2015 18:14 using AcqMethod Biaryl-300.M
Instrument : GCMS
Sample Name: RP-1-22
Misc Info :
Vial Number: 31
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File :F:\GCMS data backup 02-12-19\RP-1-22.D
Operator :
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Instrument : GCMS
Sample Name: RP-1-22
Misc Info :
Vial Number: 31
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File :F:\GCMS data backup 02-12-19\RP-1-22.D
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Instrument : GCMS
Sample Name: RP-1-22
Misc Info :
Vial Number: 31
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File :F:\GCMS data backup 02-12-19\RP-1-22.D
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Acquired : 13 Apr 2015 18:14 using AcqMethod Biaryl-300.M
Instrument : GCMS
Sample Name: RP-1-22
Misc Info :
Vial Number: 31
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RP-1-32-1H.3.fid RP-1-32-1H





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RP-1-90A-13C



RP-1-90B-1H.4.fid RP-1-90B-1H

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1H NMR: 300 MHz

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f1 (ppm)

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∼116.39 ∽116.14 ∽114.21	~ 108.02 ~ 107.24	~ 101.88 ~ 101.63	
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13C NMR: 75 MHz

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RP-1-128-1H.2.fid RP-1-128-1H





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1H NMR: 300 MHz

	Parameter	Value	
1	Data File Name	G:/ Thesis Data/ NMR/ Indoles/ RP-1-128-1H/ 2/ fid	-30
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3	Acquisition Time	2.0972	ŀ
4	Acquisition Date	2016-02-24T18:33:00	
5	Modification Date	2016-02-24T17:33:02	-25
6	Spectrometer Frequency	300.13	
7	Spectral Width	3906.2	
8	Lowest Frequency	-303.8	[
9	Nucleus	1H	
10	Acquired Size	8192	-20
11	Spectral Size	65536	
12	Digital Resolution	0.06	ŀ

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RP-1-128-13C.2.fid RP-1-128-13C

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RP-1-90C-1H.4.fid RP-1-90C-1H





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1⊦	I NMR: 300	MHz	
	Parameter	Value	
1 2 3	Data File Name Solvent Acquisition Time	E:/ Thesis Data/ NMR/ Indoles/ RP-1-90C-1H/ 4/ fid Acetone 2.0972	
456	Acquisition Date Modification Date	2015-12-05T15:26:00 2015-12-05T14:26:44 300_13	
7	Spectral Width Lowest Frequency	3906.2 -300.8	
10 11	Acquired Size Spectral Size	8192 65536	
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 f1 (ppm)

RP-1-90C-13C.1.fid RP-1-90C-13C



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-30000

-25000

-20000

-15000

-10000

-5000

-0

-10

0

-14000







f1 (ppm)



RP-1-174-F1-1H.1.fid



-12000



RP-1-194 TT 20-36.1.fid RP-188-C



0.70

2.0 11.5 11.0 10.5 10.0 9.5 9.0



11



<6.65 6.65



1.04 1.01 1.03 0.98 -5000

-4500

-4000



f1 (ppm)

RP-1-175-tt17.1.fid RP-1-175-tt17



0.85-



12



-3.79 -3.74 -3.74 -3.72 -3.72

H2O

2.05 2.05 2.05 2.05 2.05 2.05 2.05

2.04 2.03 2.03 2.03 2.03 2.03 2.03 2.03 0.97 0.97

-10000

-1.0

5.5 5.0 2.0 11.5 11.0 10.5 10.0 9.0 8.5 6.0 4.5 2.5 1.5 0.5 9.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.0 1.0 0.0 -0.5

<6.67 6.65

RP-1-175 re 13c 083117.1.fid RP-1-175 re

∠205.31 ∠205.03	 <134.77 134.43	<115.83 <115.55 >113.50



12

13C	NMR:	75	MHz
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✓ 102.14
✓ 101.01

	Parameter	Value
1	Data File Name	E:/ Thesis Data/ NMR/ Indoles/ RP-1-175 re 13c 083117/ 1/ fid
2	Solvent	Acetone
3	Acquisition Time	0.9437
4	Acquisition Date	2017-08-31T19:33:53
5	Modification Date	2017-08-31T17:33:54
6	Spectrometer Frequency	75.48
7	Spectral Width	17361.1
8	Lowest Frequency	-877.2
9	Nucleus	13C
10	Acquired Size	16384
11	Spectral Size	32768
12	Digital Resolution	0.53

Acetone Acetone Acetone Acetone

41.81 37.03 37.03 37.03 37.03 37.04 29.75 29.74 29.24 29.24 28.28 28.24 28.28 28.21 21.53 28.21 21.53 20.74 20.74 20.74 20.74 20.74 20.75 20.74 20.75

Acetone Acetone Acetone



-1100

-1000

-900

-800

-700

-600

-500

<u>-0</u>

--100