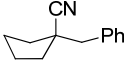
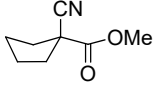
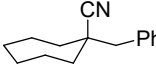
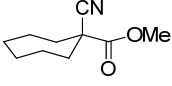
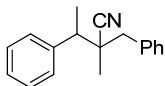
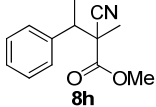
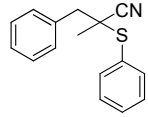
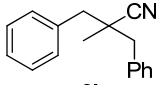
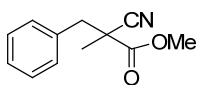
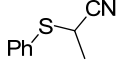


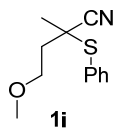
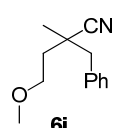
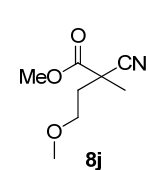
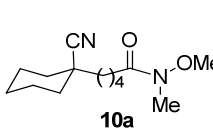
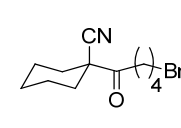
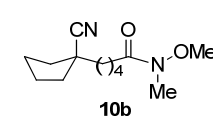
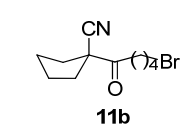
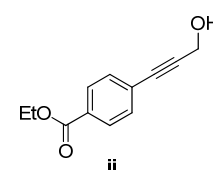
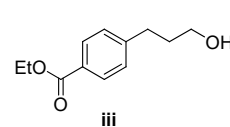
Chemoselective Alkylations with *N*- and *C*-Metalated Nitriles

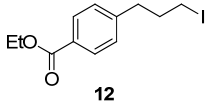
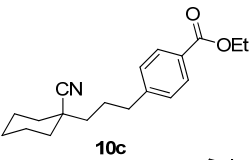
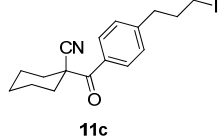
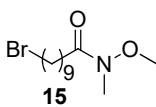
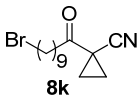
*Xun Yang, Dinesh Nath, Fraser F. Fleming,**

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15282-1530
flemingf@duq.edu

	Compound	Procedure	¹ H NMR	¹³ C NMR
1		S5	S27	S27
2		S6	S28	S28
3		S7	S29	S29
4		S8	S30	S30
5		S8	S31	S31
6		S8	S32	S32
7		S9	S33	S33
8		S9	S34	S34
9		S10	S35	S35

10	 6e	S10	S36	S36
11	 8f	S11	S37	S37
12	 6f	S11	S38	S38
13	 8g	S12	S39	S39
14	 6g	S13	S40	S40
15	 8h	S13	S41	S41
16	 1h	S14	S42	S42
17	 6h	S14	S43	S43
18	 8i	S15	S44	S44
19	 i	S15	S45	S45

20	 1i	S16	S46	S46
21	 6i	S16	S47	S47
22	 8j	S17	S48	S48
23	 10a	S17	S49	S49
24	 11a	S18	S50	S50
25	 10b	S19	S51	S51
26	 11b	S19	S52	S52
27	 ii	S20	S53	S53
28	 iii	S20	S54	S54

29		S21	S55	S55
30		S21	S56	S56
31		S22	S57	S57
32		S23	S58	S58
33		S23	S59	S59

General Procedure for Preparing *N*-Lithiated Nitriles: (A) LDA Deprotonation Method: A

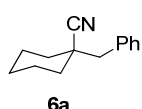
THF solution of the nitrile (1 equiv.) was added to a -78 °C, THF solution of LDA (1.05 equiv.). After 45 min, the reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature for 15 min. The resulting *N*-lithiated nitrile solution was then cooled to -78 °C and used in the subsequent alkylation.

General Procedure for Preparing *C*-Magnesiated Nitriles: (A) Transmetalation with MgBr₂:

A freshly prepared THF solution of anhydrous MgBr₂ (1.05 equiv) was added to a THF solution of the lithiated nitrile. After 15 min, the solution of *C*-magnesiated nitrile was used in the alkylation.

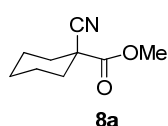
(B) Transmetalation with RMgX: A THF solution of *i*-PrMgCl (1.05 equiv) was added to a THF, -78 °C solution of the lithiated nitrile. After 15 min, the *C*-magnesiated nitrile solution was used in the subsequent alkylation.

General Chemoselective-Alkylation Procedure: A THF solution containing two electrophiles (1.0 equiv each) was added to a -78 °C THF solution of the metalated nitrile. In the case of bis-electrophiles, the neat electrophile (1.0 equiv) was added to the metalated nitrile, and then the reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature. After 2 h, saturated, aqueous NH₄Cl was added, the crude reaction mixture was then extracted with EtOAc, dried (MgSO₄), concentrated, and was then purified by radial chromatography to afford analytically pure material.



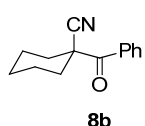
1-Benzylcyclohexanecarbonitrile (6a): (A) LDA Deprotonation Method: A THF solution of lithiated cyclohexanecarbonitrile (0.20 mmol, 1 equiv.) was allowed to react with a THF solution (2 mL) containing methyl cyanoformate (19 mg, 0.22 mmol) and benzyl bromide (38 mg, 0.22 mmol). The reaction mixture was allowed to warm slowly to room temperature. After 2 h saturated, aqueous NH₄Cl was added, the crude reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc, dried (MgSO₄), concentrated, and then purified by radial chromatography (1:10 EtOAc/hexanes) to afford 43 mg (98%) of analytically pure nitrile **6a** as an oil exhibiting spectra data identical to that previously reported.^[1] (B) Sulfinyl-Lithium Exchange: A hexanes solution of BuLi (0.21 mmol, 1.05 equiv) was added to a stirred, -78 °C, THF solution of the sulfinylnitrile (0.20 mmol, 1 equiv). After 5 min, a THF solution (2 mL) of methyl cyanoformate (19 mg, 0.22 mmol) and benzyl bromide (38 mg, 0.22 mmol) was added to the reaction mixture and the reaction mixture was then allowed to warm slowly to room temperature. After 2 h saturated, aqueous NH₄Cl was added, the crude reaction mixture was then extracted with EtOAc, dried (MgSO₄), concentrated, and purified by radial chromatography (1:10 EtOAc/hexanes), to afford 39 mg (92%) of analytically pure **6a** isolated as an oil exhibiting spectra data identical to that previously reported.^[1] (C) Sulfinyl-Lithium Exchange: A hexanes solution of BuLi (0.55 mmol, 1.1 equiv) was added to a -78 °C, THF solution of the sulfinylnitrile (0.50 mmol, 1 equiv). A THF

solution (5 mL) of diphenyl disulfide (120 mg, 0.55 mmol) and benzyl bromide (94 mg, 0.55 mmol) was added to the reaction mixture and then the reaction mixture was allowed to warm slowly to room temperature. After 2 h saturated, aqueous NH_4Cl was added, the crude reaction mixture was then extracted with EtOAc, dried (MgSO_4), concentrated, and purified by radial chromatography (1:10 EtOAc/hexanes), to afford 54 mg (54%) of analytically pure **6a**^[2] and 20 mg (18%) of **8c**^[2] both exhibiting spectra data identical to that previously reported.

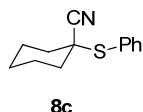


Methyl 1-cyanocyclohexanecarboxylate (8a): (A) Prepared by Transmetalation with MgBr_2 : A THF solution of bromo magnesiated cyclohexanecarbonitrile (0.20 mmol, 1 equiv.) was prepared by the MgBr_2 transmetallation method. A THF solution (2 mL) of methyl cyanoformate (19 mg, 0.22 mmol) and benzyl bromide (38 mg, 0.22 mmol) was added and then the reaction mixture was allowed to warm slowly to room temperature. After 2 h saturated, aqueous NH_4Cl was added, the crude reaction mixture was then extracted with EtOAc, dried (MgSO_4), concentrated, and purified by radial chromatography (1:10 EtOAc/hexanes) to afford 40 mg (96%) of analytically pure **8a** as an oil exhibiting spectra data identical to that previously reported.^[1] (B) Prepared by Transmetalation with RMgX : A THF solution of chloromagnesium cyclohexanecarbonitrile (0.20 mmol, 1 equiv.) was prepared from *i*- PrMgCl (1.05 equiv) following the general method. A THF solution (2 mL) of methyl cyanoformate (19 mg, 0.22 mmol) and benzyl bromide (38 mg, 0.22 mmol) was then added and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm slowly to room temperature. After 2 h saturated, aqueous NH_4Cl was added, the crude reaction mixture was then extracted with EtOAc, dried (MgSO_4), concentrated, and purified by radial chromatography (1:10 EtOAc/hexanes) to afford 39 mg (94%) of analytically pure **8a** as an oil exhibiting spectra data identical to that previously reported.^[1] (C) Sulfinyl-Magnesium Exchange: A THF solution of *i*- PrMgCl (0.21 mmol, 1.05 equiv) was added to a $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, THF solution of the

sulfinylnitrile (0.20 mmol, 1 equiv). After 5 min, a THF solution (2 mL) of methyl cyanoformate (19 mg, 0.22 mmol) and benzyl bromide (38 mg, 0.22 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was then allowed to warm slowly to room temperature. After 2 h saturated, aqueous NH_4Cl was added, the crude reaction mixture was then extracted with EtOAc, dried (MgSO_4), concentrated, and purified by radial chromatography (1:10 EtOAc/hexanes) to afford 40 mg (96%) of analytically pure **8a** isolated as an oil exhibiting spectra data identical to that previously reported.^[1]

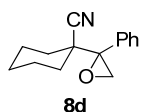


1- benzoylcyclohexanecarbonitrile (8b): Prepared by sulfinyl-magnesium exchange and alkylation with BzCl : A THF solution of *i*-PrMgCl (1.05 equiv.) was added to a $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, THF solution (10 mL) of the sulfinylnitrile (0.50 mmol, 1equiv.). After 5 min, a THF solution (5 mL) of benzoyl chloride (78 mg, 0.55 mmol) and benzyl bromide (94 mg, 0.55 mmol) was added, and then the reaction mixture was allowed to warm slowly to rt. After 2 h, saturated aqueous NH_4Cl was added, the crude reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc, dried (Na_2SO_4), concentrated, and was then purified by radial chromatography (1:10 EtOAc/hexanes), to afford 77 mg (72%) of **8b** as an oil exhibiting spectra data identical to that previously reported.^[3] (B) Prepared by sulfinyl-magnesium exchange and alkylation with PhCO_2Et : A THF solution of *i*-PrMgCl (1.05 equiv.) was added to a $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, THF solution (10mL) of the sulfinylnitrile (0.50 mmol, 1equiv.). After 5 min, a THF solution (5 mL) of ethyl benzoate (83 mg, 0.55 mmol) and 1-iodohexane (117 mg, 0.55 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm slowly to rt. After 12 h, aqueous NH_4Cl was added, the crude reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc, dried (Na_2SO_4), concentrated, and then purified by radial chromatography (1:10 EtOAc/hexanes), to afford 79 mg (74%) of **8b** as an oil exhibiting spectra data identical to that previously reported.^[3]



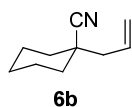
1-(phenylthio)cyclohexanecarbonitrile (8c): Prepared by Sulfinyl-Magnesium

Exchange: A THF solution of diphenyl disulfide (120 mg, 0.55 mmol) and benzyl bromide (94 mg, 0.55 mmol) was added to a THF solution of chloromagnesi-ated cyclohexanecarbonitrile (0.5 mmol, 1 equiv.) prepared at -78 °C with *i*-PrMgCl (1.05 equiv.). The reaction mixture was allowed to warm slowly to room temperature. After 2 h, saturated aqueous NH₄Cl was added, the crude reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc, dried (Na₂SO₄), concentrated, and then purified by radial chromatography (1:10 EtOAc/hexanes), to afford 87 mg (80%) of **8c**^[2] and 8 mg (4%) of **8a**^[1] as an oil both exhibiting spectra data identical to that previously reported.



1-(2-Phenyloxiran-2-yl)cyclohexanecarbonitrile (8d): Prepared by Sulfinyl-

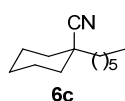
Magnesium Exchange: A THF solution of *i*-PrMgCl (1.05 equiv.) was added to a -78 °C, THF solution (10 mL) of the sulfinylnitrile (0.50 mmol, 1equiv.). After 5min, a THF solution (5 mL) of allyl bromide (67 mg, 0.55 mmol) and 2-bromoacetophenone (109 mg, 0.55 mmol) was added to the resulting solution and then the reaction mixture was allowed to warm slowly to rt. After 2 h, saturated aqueous NH₄Cl was added, the crude reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc, dried (Na₂SO₄), concentrated, and was then purified by radial chromatography (1:10 EtOAc/hexanes), to afford 92 mg (81%) of **8d** as an oil exhibiting spectra data identical to that previously reported.^[2]



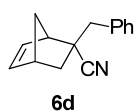
1-Allylcyclohexanecarbonitrile (6b): A hexanes solution of BuLi (1.05 equiv.) was

added to a -78 °C, THF solution (10 mL) of the sulfinylnitrile (0.50 mmol, 1equiv.). After 5 min, a THF solution (5 mL) of allyl bromide (67 mg, 0.55 mmol) and 2-

bromoacetophenone (109 mg, 0.55 mmol) was added, and then the reaction mixture was allowed to warm slowly to room temperature. After 2 h, aqueous NH_4Cl was added, the crude reaction mixture was then extracted with EtOAc, dried (Na_2SO_4), concentrated, and purified by radial chromatography (1:10 EtOAc/hexanes), to afford 50 mg (67%) of **6b**^[2] and 12mg (11%) of **8d**^[2] as an oil both exhibiting spectra data identical to that previously reported.

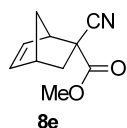


1-Hexylcyclohexanecarbonitrile (6c): A hexanes solution of BuLi (1.05 equiv.) was added to a $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, THF solution (10 mL) of the sulfinylnitrile (0.50 mmol, 1equiv.). After 5 min, a THF solution (5 mL) of ethyl benzoate (83 mg, 0.55 mmol) and 1-iodohexane (117 mg, 0.55 mmol) was added to the resulting solution and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm slowly to rt. After 12 h, aqueous NH_4Cl was added, the crude reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc, dried (Na_2SO_4), concentrated, and was then purified by radial chromatography (1:10 EtOAc/hexanes), to afford 53 mg (55%) of **6c** as an oil: IR (film) 2931, 2859, 2230 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 1.92 (d, $J = 13.0$ Hz, 2H), 1.69-1.66 (m, 3H), 1.63 – 1.51 (m, 2H), 1.45-1.44 (m, 4H), 1.28-1.24 (m, 6H), 1.18-1.15 (m, 3H), 0.86 – 0.83 (m, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 123.82, 40.61, 39.02, 35.73, 31.61, 29.38, 25.49, 24.34, 23.10, 22.56, 14.03. HRMS (ESI) calcd for ($\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$), $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}+\text{Na}^+$ 216.1723, found 216.1723.

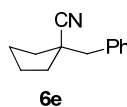


2-benzylbicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene-2-carbonitrile (6d): A hexanes solution of BuLi (0.53 mmol, 1.05 equiv) was added to a $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, THF solution (10 mL) of the sulfinylnitrile (0.50 mmol, 1 equiv). After 5 min, a THF solution (5 mL) of methyl cyanofomate (47 mg, 0.55 mmol) and benzyl bromide (94 mg, 0.55 mmol) was added to the reaction mixture and then the reaction mixture was allowed to warm slowly to rt. After 2 h, saturated, aqueous NH_4Cl was added, the crude reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc, dried (Na_2SO_4),

concentrated, and was then purified by radial chromatography (1:10 EtOAc/hexanes), to afford 73 mg (70%) of analytically pure **6d** isolated as an oil exhibiting spectra data identical to that previously reported.^[2]

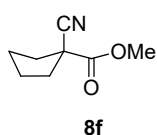


Methyl (1R,2R,4R)-2-cyanobicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene-2-carboxylate (8e): A THF solution of *i*-PrMgCl (1.05 equiv.) was added to a -78 °C, THF solution (10 mL) of the sulfinylnitrile (0.50 mmol, 1 equiv.). After 5 min, a THF solution (5 mL) of methyl cyanoformate (47 mg, 0.55 mmol) and benzyl bromide (94 mg, 0.55 mmol) was added to the reaction mixture and then the reaction mixture was allowed to warm slowly to rt. After 2 h, saturated aqueous NH₄Cl was added, the crude reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc, dried (Na₂SO₄), concentrated, and then purified by radial chromatography (1:10 EtOAc/hexanes), to afford 71 mg (82%) of analytically pure **8e** isolated as an oil: IR (film) 2987, 2957, 2238, 1741 cm⁻¹; Endo isomer: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 6.45 – 6.43 (m, 1H), 6.33 – 6.31 (m, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.39 – 3.37 (m, 1H), 3.10 – 3.08 (m, 1H), 2.55 (dd, *J* = 12.3, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 1.81 – 1.49 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.84, 141.08, 134.17, 121.01, 53.85, 52.45, 47.04, 46.83, 42.75, 39.26. Exo isomer: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) 6.20 – 6.18 (m, 1H), 5.87 – 5.85 (m, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.57 – 3.55 (m, 1H), 3.23 (s, 1H), 3.03 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 2.25 (dd, *J* = 12.5, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 2.05 (dd, *J* = 12.5, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 1.81 – 1.49 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) 169.84, 140.33, 131.09, 121.01, 53.70, 53.55, 49.23, 42.98, 37.36. HRMS (ESI) calcd for (M+Na⁺), C₁₀H₁₁NO₂+Na⁺ 200.0682, found 200.0674.

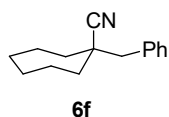


Benzylcyclopentane-1-carbonitrile (6e): Prepared by the LDA deprotonation method: A THF solution (5 mL) of methyl cyanoformate (94 mg, 1.1 mmol) and benzyl bromide (188 mg, 1.1 mmol) was added to a -78 °C THF solution of lithiated

cyclopentanecarbonitrile (1.0 mmol) prepared by the LDA deporation method. After the addition, the reaction mixture was allowed to warm slowly to rt. After 2 h, saturated aqueous NH_4Cl was added, the crude reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc, dried (Na_2SO_4), concentrated, and was then purified by radial chromatography (1:10 EtOAc/hexanes) to afford 111 mg (60%) of **6e**, which exhibited spectral data identical to that previously reported,^[2] and 18 mg (12%) of **8f** as oil. For **8f**: IR (film) 2959, 2879, 2242, 1742 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 3.82 (s, 3H), 2.29 – 2.25 (m, 4H), 1.89 – 1.86 (m, 4H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.36, 121.11, 53.71, 47.54, 37.94, 25.27. HRMS (ESI) calcd for ($\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$), $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{11}\text{NO}_2+\text{Na}^+$ 176.0682, found 176.0677.

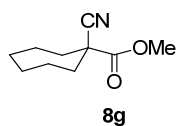


Methyl 1-cyanocyclohexanecarboxylate (8f): A THF solution of chloromagnesium cyclopentanecarbonitrile (1 mmol) was prepared by the transmetallation method with a THF solution of *i*-PrMgCl (1.05 equiv). After 15 min, a THF solution (5 mL) of methyl cyanoformate (94 mg, 1.1 mmol) and benzyl bromide (188 mg, 1.1 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm slowly to rt. After 2 h saturated, aqueous NH_4Cl was added, the crude reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc, dried (Na_2SO_4), concentrated, and was then purified by radial chromatography (1:10 EtOAc/hexanes) to afford 88 mg (57%) of analytically pure **8f** and 8 mg (5%) of **6e**^[2] as oils both exhibiting spectra data identical to that previously reported.



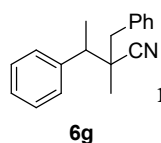
1-Benzylcycloheptane-1-carbonitrile (6f): A THF solution (5 mL) containing methyl cyanoformate (94 mg, 1.1 mmol) and benzyl bromide (188 mg, 1.1 mmol) was added to a THF solution of lithiated cycloheptanecarbonitrile (1.0 mmol) prepared by the

LDA deprotonation method. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm slowly to rt. After 2 h saturated, aqueous NH_4Cl was added, the crude reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc, dried (Na_2SO_4), concentrated, and was then purified by radial chromatography (1:10 EtOAc/hexanes) to afford 87 mg (41%) of **6f** and 62 mg (34%) of **8g** as oils. For **6f**: IR: 2927, 2858, 2230 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 7.35 – 7.25 (m, 5H), 2.82 (s, 2H), 1.95 (ddd, J = 14.3, 5.4, 2.9 Hz, 2H), 1.70 – 1.51 (m, 10H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 135.90, 130.53, 128.38, 127.29, 124.45, 46.64, 42.73, 37.99, 27.94, 23.30. HRMS (ESI) calcd for ($\text{M}+\text{K}^+$), $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}+\text{K}^+$ 252.1149, found 252.1151. For **8g**: IR (film) 2932, 2862, 2240, 1741 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 3.78 (s, 3H), 2.17 – 2.09 (m, 2H), 2.03 (ddd, J = 14.5, 9.7, 3.0 Hz, 2H), 1.75 – 1.64 (m, 6H), 1.57 – 1.54 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.60, 120.38, 53.51, 47.94, 36.05, 27.95, 23.57. HRMS (ESI) calcd for ($\text{M}+\text{K}^+$), $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_2+\text{K}^+$ 220.0734, found 220.0732.

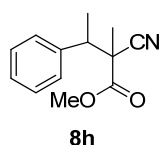


Methyl 1-cyanocyclohexanecarboxylate (8g): Prepared by Transmetalation with

i-PrMgCl: A THF solution of chloromagnesium cycloheptanecarbonitrile (1.0 mmol) was prepared from a THF solution of *i*-PrMgCl (1.05 equiv) following the transmetalation method. After 15 min, a THF solution (5 mL) of methyl cyanoformate (94 mg, 1.1 mmol) and benzyl bromide (188 mg, 1.1 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm slowly to rt. After 2 h saturated, aqueous NH_4Cl was added, the crude reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc, dried (Na_2SO_4), concentrated, and was then purified by radial chromatography (1:10 EtOAc/hexanes) to afford 162 mg (76%) of analytically pure **8g** and 4 mg (2%) of **6f** as oils that both exhibited spectra identical to that of material previously isolated.

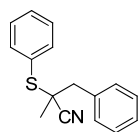


2-Benzyl-2-methyl-3-phenylbutanenitrile (6g): A THF solution (5 mL) containing methyl cyanoformate (47 mg, 0.55 mmol) and benzyl bromide (94 mg, 0.55 mmol) was added to a THF solution of lithiated 2-methyl-3-phenylbutanenitrile ^[6] (0.5 mmol, 1 equiv.), prepared by the LDA (0.55 mmol) deprotonation method. The reaction was then allowed to warm slowly to rt. After 2 h saturated, aqueous NH₄Cl was added, the crude reaction mixture was separated, the aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc, and the combined organic phase was dried (Na₂SO₄), concentrated, and then purified by radial chromatography (1:10 EtOAc/hexanes) to afford 44 mg (35 %) of **6g** as a white crystalline solid (mp 71- 72 °C) and 38 mg (35 %) of **8h**^[6] as an oil exhibiting spectra data identical to that previously reported. For **6g**: IR (film): 3030, 2979, 2231 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 7.37 – 7.24 (m, 10H), 3.18 (d, *J* = 13.4 Hz, 1H), 2.84 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 2.59 (d, *J* = 13.4 Hz, 1H), 1.61 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.99 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.40, 135.61, 130.54, 128.72, 128.47, 128.41, 127.44, 127.35, 123.37, 47.43, 44.13, 42.67, 21.66, 17.56. HRMS (ESI) calcd for (M+Na⁺), C₁₈H₁₉N+Na⁺ 272.1410, found 272.1410.

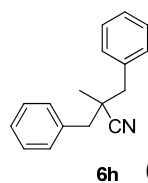


Methyl 2-cyano-2-methyl-3-phenylbutanoate (8h): A THF solution (5 mL) containing methyl cyanoformate (47 mg, 0.55 mmol) and benzyl bromide (94 mg, 0.55 mmol) was added to a THF solution of chloromagnesium 2-methyl-3-phenylbutanenitrile^[6] (0.50 mmol) prepared from LDA (0.55 mmol) and *i*-PrMgCl (0.55 mmol) by the transmetallation method. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm slowly to rt. After 2 h, saturated, aqueous NH₄Cl was added, the phases were separated, the aqueous phase extracted with EtOAc, and the combined extract was dried (Na₂SO₄), concentrated, and

purified by radial chromatography (1:10 EtOAc/hexanes) to afford, 60 mg (55 %) of analytically pure **8h** as an oil exhibiting spectra data identical to that previously reported.^[6]

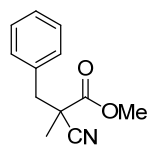


2-Methyl-3-phenyl-2-(phenylthio)propanenitrile (1h): A THF solution (10 mL) of lithiated 3-phenyl-2-(phenylthio)propanenitrile² (300mg, 1.26 mmol) was prepared by the LDA (1.4 mmol) method. Neat iodomethane (1.4 mmol) was added to the reaction mixture, that was then allowed to warm slowly to rt. After 12 h, saturated, aqueous NH₄Cl was added. The mixture was extracted with EtOAc, the combined extracts were washed with brine and water, dried (Na₂SO₄), and then concentrated. The residue was purified by radial chromatography to afford 350 mg (83%) of **1h** as a white crystalline solid (mp 63-64 °C): IR (film) 3062, 3028, 2235 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 7.74 – 7.71 (m, 2H), 7.50 – 7.41 (m, 3H), 7.37-7.28 (m, 5H), 3.17 (d, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 2.96 (d, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 1.47 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 137.23, 134.43, 130.53, 129.53, 129.46, 128.67, 127.94, 121.50, 45.83, 45.10, 25.00; HRMS (ESI) calcd for (M+Na⁺), C₁₆H₁₅NS+Na⁺ 276.0817, found 276.0818.

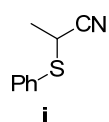


2-Benzyl-2-methyl-3-phenylpropanenitrile (6h): A hexanes solution of BuLi (0.55 mmol) was added to a -78 °C, THF solution (10 mL) of 2-methyl-3-phenyl-2-(phenylthio)propanenitrile (0.5 mmol). After 5 min, a THF solution (5 mL) of methyl cyanoformate (47 mg, 0.55 mmol) and benzyl bromide (94 mg, 0.55 mmol) was added to the reaction mixture, and the reaction was allowed to warm slowly to rt. After 2 h, saturated, aqueous NH₄Cl was added. The phases were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic phase was sequentially washed with brine and water, dried

(Na₂SO₄), and was then concentrated. The residue was purified by radial chromatography to afford, after purification by radial chromatography (1:10 EtOAc/hexanes), 25 mg (25 %) of **8i** and 59 mg (50 %) of **6h**^[5] both exhibiting spectral data identical to that previously reported.

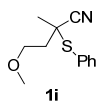


Methyl 2-cyano-2-methyl-3-phenylpropanoate (8i): A THF solution (5 mL) of methyl cyanoformate (47 mg, 0.55 mmol) and benzyl bromide (94 mg, 0.55 mmol) was added to chloromagnesium 2-methyl-3-phenylpropanenitrile (0.50 mmol) prepared by transmetallation with *i*-PrMgCl (0.55 mmol). The reaction mixture was allowed to warm slowly to rt. After 2 h, saturated, aqueous NH₄Cl was added. The phases were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic phase was sequentially washed with brine and water, dried (Na₂SO₄), and was then concentrated. The residue was purified by radial chromatography to afford, after purification by radial chromatography (1:10 EtOAc/hexanes), 11 mg (9%) of **6g** that exhibited spectral data identical to that of material previously isolated^[7] and 64 mg (63 %) of **8i** as an oil. For **8i**: IR (film) 3033, 2956, 2245, 1743 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 7.35 – 7.25 (m, 5H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.23 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 3.04 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 1.62 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.56, 134.17, 130.00, 128.67, 128.00, 119.67, 53.53, 45.44, 43.79, 23.24; HRMS (ESI) calcd for (M+Na⁺), C₁₂H₁₃NO₂+Na⁺ 226.0839, found 226.0839.

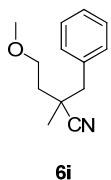


2-(Phenylthio)propanenitrile (i): A THF solution (5 mL) of diphenyl disulfide (5.5 mmol) was added to a THF solution (40 mL) of lithiated propionitrile (5.0 mmol), prepared by LDA deprotonation. The solution was allowed to warm slowly to rt. After 2h, saturated aqueous NH₄Cl was added, the crude reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc, dried (Na₂SO₄),

concentrated, and was then purified by radial chromatography (1:10 EtOAc/hexanes) to afford 525 mg (64%) of **i** as an oil exhibiting spectra data identical to that previously reported.^[4]

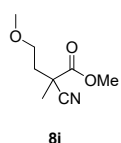


4-Methoxy-2-methyl-2-(phenylthio)butanenitrile (1i): Neat 2-bromoethyl methyl ether (2.0 mmol) was added to THF solution (10 mL) of lithiated 2-(phenylthio)propanenitrile (1.8 mmol) prepared by LDA deprotonation. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm slowly to rt. After 12 h, saturated aqueous NH₄Cl was added, the crude reaction extracted with EtOAc, washed with brine and water, dried (Na₂SO₄), concentrated, and then the residue was purified by radial chromatography (1:10 EtOAc/hexanes) to afford 350 mg (89%) of **1i** as an oil: IR (film) 2929, 2232 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 7.70 – 7.67 (m, 2H), 7.49 – 7.39 (m, 3H), 3.64 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 3.35 (s, 3H), 2.13 – 2.01 (m, 2H), 1.60 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 137.20, 130.52, 129.43, 121.60, 69.01, 58.97, 43.06, 39.14, 25.97; HRMS (ESI) calcd for (M+Na⁺), C₁₂H₁₅NOS+Na⁺ 244.0767, found 244.0767.

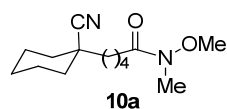


2-Benzyl-4-methoxy-2-methylbutanenitrile (6i): A hexanes solution of BuLi (0.55 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) was added to a -78 °C, THF solution (10 mL) of 4-methoxy-2-methyl-2-(phenylthio)butanenitrile (111 mg, 0.5 mmol). After 5 min, a THF solution (5 mL) of methyl cyanoformate (47 mg, 0.55 mmol) and benzyl bromide (94 mg, 0.55 mmol) was added, and the reaction was allowed to warm slowly to rt. After 2 h, saturated aqueous NH₄Cl was added, the mixture was extracted with EtOAc, washed with brine and water, dried (Na₂SO₄), and concentrated. The residue was then purified by radial chromatography (1:10 EtOAc/hexanes) to afford, 61 mg (60%) of **6i** and 14 mg (15%) of **8j** as oils. For **6i**: IR (film) 3032, 2875, 2928, 2233 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 7.34 – 7.26 (m, 5H), 3.62

(t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.36 (s, 3H), 2.95 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.80 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 1H), 1.95-1.90 (m, 1H), 1.81-1.76 (m, 1H), 1.33 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 135.37, 130.54, 128.51, 127.49, 123.76, 69.38, 58.95, 45.96, 38.52, 36.70, 24.48; HRMS (ESI) calcd for ($\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$), $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}+\text{Na}^+$ 226.1202, found 226.1203. For **8j**: IR (film) 2934, 2241, 1746 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.56 – 3.53 (m, 2H), 3.27 (s, 3H), 2.32-2.25 (m, 1H), 1.97-1.91 (m, 1H), 1.60 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.92, 119.68, 68.60, 58.95, 53.46, 42.17, 38.03, 24.13. HRMS (ESI) calcd for ($\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$), $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}_3+\text{Na}^+$ 194.0788, found 194.0788.

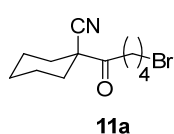


Methyl 2-cyano-4-methoxy-2-methylbutanoate (8j): A THF solution (5 mL) of methyl cyanoformate (47 mg, 0.55 mmol) and benzyl bromide (94 mg, 0.55 mmol) was added to a -78 $^{\circ}\text{C}$, THF solution (10 mL) of chloromagnesiased 4-methoxy-2-methylbutanenitrile (0.50 mmol) prepared by transmetalation with a THF solution of *i*-PrMgCl (0.55 mmol). The reaction mixture was allowed to warm slowly to rt. After 2 h, saturated, aqueous NH_4Cl was added. The mixture was extracted with EtOAc, and the combined extracts were washed with brine and water, dried (Na_2SO_4), and then concentrated. The residue was purified by radial chromatography (1:10 EtOAc/hexanes) to afford, 73 mg (85%) of **8j** and 6 mg (6%) of **6i** as oils that both exhibited spectral data identical to that of material previously isolated.

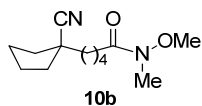


5-(1-cyanocyclohexyl)-N-methoxy-N-methylpentanamide (10a): A THF solution (5 mL) of 5-bromo-N-methoxy-N-methylpentanamide^[7] (246 mg, 1.1 mmol) was added to a THF solution of lithiated cyclohexanecarbonitrile (1.0 mmol) prepared by

the LDA (1.1 mmol) deprotonation method. The reaction was allowed to warm slowly to rt. After 12 h, saturated, aqueous NH₄Cl was added, the phases were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic extracts were dried (Na₂SO₄), concentrated, and then purified by radial chromatography (15:85 EtOAc/hexanes) to afford, 179 mg (71%) of **10** as an oil: IR (film) 2934, 2859, 2230, 1660 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.15 (s, 3H), 2.43 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.94 (d, *J* = 12.7 Hz, 2H), 1.72 – 1.50 (m, 11H), 1.23 – 1.13 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.27, 123.84, 61.31, 40.44, 39.06, 35.77, 32.23, 31.67, 25.50, 24.69, 24.37, 23.14; HRMS (ESI) calcd for (M+Na⁺), C₁₄H₂₄N₂O₂+Na⁺ 275.1730, found 275.1734.

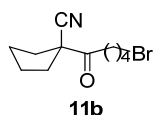


1-(5-bromopentanoyl)cyclohexane-1-carbonitrile (11a): A THF solution (5 mL) of 5-bromo-*N*-methoxy-*N*-methylpentanamide^[7] (123 mg, 0.55 mmol) was added to a -78 °C, THF solution (10 mL) of chloromagnesiated cyclohexanecarbonitrile (0.50 mmol, 1 equiv.) prepared by the magnesium exchange method with *i*-PrMgCl (0.55 mmol). The reaction was allowed to warm slowly to rt. After 12 h saturated, aqueous NH₄Cl was added, the phases were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic extracts were dried (Na₂SO₄), concentrated, and then purified by radial chromatography (15:85 EtOAc/hexanes) to afford, 110 mg (81%) of **11** as an oil: IR (film) 2937, 2861, 2232, 1720 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 3.40 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 2.82 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.97 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 1.89 – 1.75 (m, 8H), 1.68 – 1.61 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 203.95, 120.61, 51.33, 38.21, 33.12, 32.24, 31.87, 24.79, 22.46, 22.22; HRMS (ESI) calcd for (M+K⁺), C₁₂H₁₈BrNO+K⁺ 310.0203, found 310.0203.



5-(1-cyanocyclohexyl)-N-methoxy-N-methylpentanamide (10b):: A THF solution (5 mL) of 5-bromo-N-methoxy-N-methylpentanamide^[7] (246 mg,

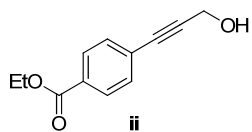
1.1 mmol) was added to a -78 °C, THF solution of the lithiated cyclopentanecarbonitrile (1.0 mmol) prepared by the LDA deprotonation method. The reaction mixture was allowed to slowly warm to room temperature over 12 h, and then saturated, aqueous NH₄Cl was added. The mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate, the phases were separated and the aqueous phase was washed sequentially with brine and water, and then dried (Na₂SO₄). The solvent was evaporated under vacuum and then the residue was purified by radial chromatography to afford, after purification by radial chromatography (15:85 EtOAc/hexanes), 179 mg (78%) of **10b** as an oil: IR (film) 2941, 2871, 2230, 1660 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 3.58 (s, 3H), 3.06 (s, 3H), 2.34 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.02-1.99 (m, 2H), 1.76 – 1.40 (m, 12H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.94, 125.18, 61.06, 42.94, 38.21, 37.95, 31.88, 31.38, 26.09, 24.35, 24.02; HRMS (ESI) calcd for (M+Na⁺), C₁₃H₂₂N₂O₂+Na⁺ 261.1573, found 261.1573.



1-(5-Bromopentanoyl)cyclopentane-1-carbonitrile (11b): A THF solution (5 mL) of 5-bromo-N-methoxy-N-methylpentanamide^[7] (246 mg, 1.1 mmol) was added to a

-78 °C, THF solution of the chloromagnesium cyclopentanecarbonitrile prepared with *i*-PrMgCl (1.1 mmol) by the RMgX transmetalation method. The reaction mixture was allowed to slowly warm to room temperature over 12 h, and then saturated, aqueous NH₄Cl was added. The mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate, the phases were separated, and the aqueous phase was washed sequentially with brine and water, and then dried (Na₂SO₄). The solvent was evaporated under vacuum and then the residue was purified by radial chromatography (1:10 EtOAc/hexanes) to afford, 167 mg (65%) of **11b** as an oil: IR (film) 2958, 2874, 2234, 1723 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz,

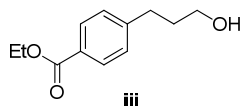
Chloroform-d) δ 3.39 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.84 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.16 – 2.12 (m, 4H), 1.91 – 1.72 (m, 8H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 202.97, 122.46, 53.14, 39.04, 36.67, 33.10, 31.79, 25.49, 22.27; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $(\text{M}+\text{Na}^+)$, $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{16}\text{BrNO}+\text{Na}^+$ 280.0307, found 280.0308.



Ethyl 4-(3-hydroxyprop-1-yn-1-yl)benzoate (ii): Alkynol **ii** was prepared

by a modification of the literature method developed for the corresponding methyl ester^[8]: A Et_2NH solution (75 mL) of ethyl 4-iodobenzoate (4.14 g,

15.0 mmol), propargyl alcohol (3.02g, 56.0 mmol), palladium chloride (53 mg, 0.30 mmol), copper (I) iodide (114 mg, 0.60 mmol), and triphenylphosphine (197 mg, 0.75 mmol) was stirred at room temperature. After 48 h, saturated, aqueous NH_4Cl was added, the phases were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic extracts were dried (Na_2SO_4), concentrated, and then the crude reaction mixture was purified by silica gel column chromatography (20: 80 EtOAc/Hexanes) to afford 2.86 g (93 %) of **ii** as a white crystalline solid (mp 61- 62 $^\circ\text{C}$) : IR (film) 3452, 2987, 2941, 1700, 1607 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 7.95 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.53 (s, 2H), 4.37 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.30 (s, 1H), 1.38 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 166.25, 131.51, 129.84, 129.40, 127.29, 90.53, 84.58, 61.32, 51.29, 14.25; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $(\text{M}+\text{Na}^+)$, $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_3+\text{Na}^+$ 227.0679, found 227.0679.

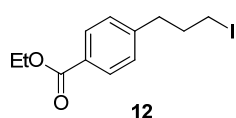


Ethyl 4-(3-hydroxypropyl)benzoate (iii): A modification of the literature

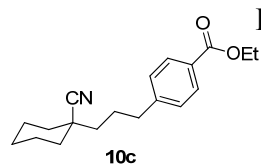
method was employed^[8]: A suspension of ethyl 4-(3-hydroxyprop-1-yn-1-

yl)benzoate (2.86 g, 14 mmol) and 10% palladium on carbon (150 mg) in MeOH (75 mL) was treated with hydrogen gas at 50 psi in a Parr shaker. After 10 h, the reaction mixture was filtered

through Celite, and then evaporated under vacuum. The crude reaction mixture was purified by silica gel column chromatography (30: 70 EtOAc/Hexanes) to afford 2.82g (97 %) of **iii** as an oil: IR (film) 3422, 2981, 2939, 1713, 1610 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 7.95 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 4.35 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.64 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.05 (s, 1H), 2.79 – 2.70 (m, 2H), 1.92 – 1.85 (m, 2H), 1.37 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 166.76, 147.50, 129.60, 128.37, 127.94, 61.60, 60.82, 33.78, 32.04, 14.25. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $(\text{M}+\text{Na}^+)$, $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_3+\text{Na}^+$ 231.0992, found 231.0992.

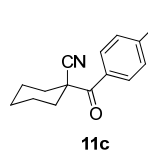


Ethyl 4-(3-iodopropyl)benzoate (12): A modification of the literature method was employed^[9]: A CH_2Cl_2 solution (50 mL) of ethyl 4-(3-hydroxypropyl)benzoate (1.04 g, 5 mmol), iodine (1.905g, 7.5 mmol), triphenylphosphine (1.965 g, 7.5 mmol) and imidazole (850 mg, 12.5 mmol) was stirred at room temperature. After 12 h, the solvent was removed under vacuum and then the crude reaction mixture was purified by silica gel column chromatography (3: 97 EtOAc/Hexanes) to afford 1.12 g (70 %) of **12** as an oil: IR (film) 2980, 2935, 1712, 1610 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 7.98 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 4.37 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.16 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.79 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.14 (p, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.39 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 166.69, 145.88, 129.95, 128.69, 61.01, 36.35, 34.56, 14.50, 6.03; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $(\text{M}+\text{Na}^+)$, $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{15}\text{IO}_3+\text{Na}^+$ 341.0009, found 341.0009.



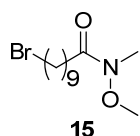
Ethyl 4-(3-(1-cyanocyclohexyl)propyl)benzoate (10c): A hexanes solution of BuLi (1.05 equiv.) was added to a $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, THF solution (10 mL) of the sulfinylnitrile (0.50 mmol, 1equiv.). After 5 min, a THF solution (5 mL) of

ethyl 4-(3-iodopropyl)benzoate (175 mg, 0.55 mmol) was added to the resulting solution and the reaction mixture was allowed to slowly warm to room temperature over 12 h, and then saturated, aqueous NH₄Cl was added. The mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate, the phases were separated and the combined organic phase was washed sequentially with brine and water, and was then dried (Na₂SO₄). The solvent was evaporated and then the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (10:90 EtOAc/hexanes) to afford, 107 mg (72%) of **10c** as an oil: IR (film) 2935, 2860, 2230, 1714, 1611 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 7.97 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 4.37 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.71 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.95 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 2H), 1.87 – 1.83 (m, 2H), 1.73 – 1.50 (m, 7H), 1.39 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.22 – 1.14 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.65, 146.97, 129.79, 128.41, 123.65, 60.88, 39.95, 38.94, 35.78, 35.72, 25.80, 25.45, 23.10, 14.42; HRMS (ESI) calcd for (M+Na⁺), C₁₉H₂₅NO₂+Na⁺ 322.1778, found 322.1776.



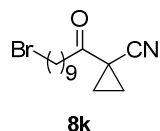
1-(4-(3-iodopropyl)benzoyl)cyclohexanecarbonitrile (11c): A THF solution (5 mL) of ethyl 4-(3-iodopropyl)benzoate (105 mg, 0.33 mmol) was added to a -78 °C, THF solution of chloromagnesium cyclohexanecarbonitrile (0.3 mmol, 1 equiv.) prepared by the magnesium exchange method with *i*-PrMgCl (0.33 mmol). The reaction mixture was allowed to slowly warm to room temperature over 12 h, and then saturated, aqueous NH₄Cl was added. The mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate, the phases were separated, and the combined organic phase was washed sequentially with brine and water, and was then dried (Na₂SO₄). The solvent was evaporated and the resulting crude nitrile was purified by silica gel column chromatography (1:10 EtOAc/hexanes) to afford 87 mg (76%) of **11c** as an oil: IR (film) 2934, 2859, 2229, 1683, 1606 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 8.09 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H),

3.17 (t, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H), 2.81 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 2.26 (d, $J = 5.9$ Hz, 2H), 2.15 (p, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H), 1.87 – 1.79 (m, 7H), 1.30 – 1.24 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 193.93, 147.03, 132.33, 129.80, 128.95, 121.11, 48.09, 36.31, 34.32, 33.82, 24.97, 22.51, 5.89; HRMS (ESI) calcd for ($\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$), $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{20}\text{INO}+\text{Na}^+$ 404.0482, found 404.0483.



10-Bromo-*N*-methoxy-*N*-methyldecanamide (15): Following a modification of the literature method,^[7] anhydrous pyridine (0.45 mL) was added dropwise to a rt, CH_2Cl_2 solution (15 mL) of 10-bromodecanoic acid (1.2 g, 5 mmol), tetrabromomethane (1.83

mg, 5.5 mmol), triphenylphosphine (1.4 g, 5.5 mmol) and *N*, *O*-dimethylhydroxylamine hydrochloride (567 mg, 5.5 mmol). After 6 h, the solvent was removed under vacuum, and then the crude reaction mixture was purified by silica gel column chromatography (15: 85 EtOAc/Hexanes) to afford 1.27 g (87%) of **15** as an oil: IR (film) 2927, 2854, 1663 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 3.56 (s, 3H), 3.27 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H), 3.05 (s, 3H), 2.28 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 1.72 (p, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H), 1.51-1.47 (m, 2H), 1.29 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 1.20-1.19 (m, 8H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 174.52, 61.03, 33.82, 32.61, 31.93, 31.63, 29.16, 29.10, 29.07, 28.50, 27.94, 24.39; HRMS (ESI) calcd for ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$), $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{24}\text{BrNO}_2+\text{H}^+$ 294.1063, found 294.1063.



1-(10-Bromodecanoyl)cyclopropane-1-carbonitrile (8k): (A): A THF solution (5 mL) of 10-bromo-*N*-methoxy-*N*-methyldecanamide (323 mg, 1.1 mmol) was added

to a THF solution of lithiated cyclopropanecarbonitrile (1.0 mmol) prepared by the LDA (1.1 mmol) deprotonation method. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm slowly to rt. After 12 h, saturated, aqueous NH_4Cl was added. The mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate, the phases were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic extract was

washed sequentially with brine and water, and was then dried (Na₂SO₄). The solvent was evaporated under vacuum, and then the residue was purified by radial chromatography to afford, after purification by radial chromatography (1:10 EtOAc/hexanes), 182 mg (61%) of **8k** as an oil.

(B) Prepared by the *i*-PrMgCl transmetalation method: A THF solution (5 mL) of 10-bromo-*N*-methoxy-*N*-methyldecanamide (323mg, 1.1mmol) was added to a -78 °C, THF solution (10 mL) of chloromagnesium cyclopropanecarbonitrile (1.0 mmol) prepared by transmetallation with *i*-PrMgCl (0.55 mmol). The reaction mixture was allowed to slowly warm to rt. After 12 h, saturated aqueous NH₄Cl was added. The mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate, the phases were separated and the aqueous phase was sequentially washed with brine and water, and was then dried (Na₂SO₄). The solvent was evaporated under vacuum and then the residue was purified by radial chromatography (1:10 EtOAc/hexanes) to afford, 213 mg (71%) of **8k** as an oil: IR (film) 2927, 2855, 2242, 1713 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 3.32 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.82 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.77 (p, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.58 – 1.49 (m, 6H), 1.35-1.32 (m, 2H), 1.24 – 1.21 (m, 8H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 201.34, 120.29, 41.63, 33.86, 32.63, 29.03, 28.69, 28.50, 27.96, 23.27, 20.86, 19.36; HRMS (ESI) calcd for (M+Na⁺), C₁₄H₂₂BrNO+Na⁺ 322.0777, found 322.0777.

Cross-Over Experiment

A THF solution (5 mL) of lithiated cyclohexanecarbonitrile (0.5 mmol) was prepared by treating sulfinylnitrile (**1c**, 0.5 mmol) with a hexanes solution of BuLi (0.55 mmol). After 5 min, a THF solution (5 mL) of chloromagnesium cyclohexanecarbonitrile (0.5 mmol) prepared by treating sulfinylnitrile with a THF solution of *i*-PrMgCl (0.55 mmol) was added. After 5 min, a THF solution (5 mL) of methyl cyanoformate (94 mg, 1.1 mmol) and benzyl bromide (188 mg, 1.1

mmol) was added and then the reaction mixture was allowed to warm slowly to room temperature. After 2 h saturated, aqueous NH_4Cl was added, the phases were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic phase was dried (Na_2SO_4), concentrated, and then purified by silica gel column chromatography (5:95 EtOAc/hexanes) to afford 10 mg (10 %) of **8a** and 109 mg (65 %) of **6a** that exhibited spectral data identical to that of material previously isolated.

Alkylations of Lithiated Cyclohexanecarbonitrile with Mixtures of BnBr and MeOC(O)CN.

A. 2:1 Ratio of MeOC(O)CN: BnBr. A THF solution (5 mL) containing methyl cyanoformate (94 mg, 1.1 mmol) and benzyl bromide (94 mg, 0.55 mmol) was added to a THF solution of lithiated cyclohexanecarbonitrile (0.50 mmol) prepared by the LDA deprotonation method. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm slowly to room temperature. After 2 h saturated, aqueous NH_4Cl was added, the phases were separated, the aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc, and the combined phase was dried (Na_2SO_4), concentrated, and then purified by silica gel column chromatography (5:95 EtOAc/hexanes) to afford 22 mg (22 %) of **8a** and 52 mg (62 %) of **6a** that exhibited spectral data identical to that of material previously isolated. B. 5:1 Ratio of MeOC(O)CN: BnBr. A THF solution (5 mL) containing methyl cyanoformate (234 mg, 2.75 mmol) and benzyl bromide (94 mg, 0.55 mmol) was added to a THF solution of lithiated cyclohexanecarbonitrile (0.50 mmol) prepared by the LDA deprotonation method. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm slowly to room temperature. After 2 h saturated, aqueous NH_4Cl was added, the phases were separated, the aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc, and the combined phase was dried (Na_2SO_4), concentrated, and then purified by silica gel column chromatography (5:95 EtOAc/hexanes) to afford 13 mg (13 %) of **8a** and 54 mg (65 %) of **6a** that

exhibited spectral data identical to that of material previously isolated. C. 10:1 Ratio of MeOC(O)CN: BnBr. A THF solution (5 mL) containing methyl cyanoformate (468 mg, 5.5 mmol) and benzyl bromide (94 mg, 0.55 mmol) was added to a THF solution of lithiated cyclohexanecarbonitrile (0.50 mmol) prepared by the LDA deprotonation method. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm slowly to room temperature. After 2 h saturated, aqueous NH₄Cl was added, the phases were separated, the aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc, and the combined phase was dried (Na₂SO₄), concentrated, and then purified by silica gel column chromatography (5:95 EtOAc/hexanes) to afford 7 mg (7 %) of **8a** and 64 mg (77 %) of **6a** that exhibited spectral data identical to that of material previously isolated.

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