

Supporting Information for
Ring-Opening Cyclization of Cyclohexane-1,3-dione-2-spirocyclopropanes with Amines: Rapid Access to 2-Substituted 4-Hydroxyindole

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Experimental Section

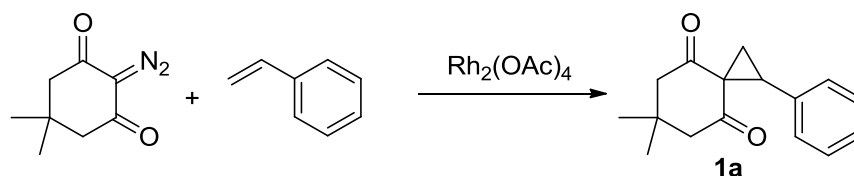
General. Melting points are uncorrected. IR spectra were recorded on a JASCO FT/IR-460 Plus spectrophotometer and absorbance bands are reported in wavenumber (cm^{-1}). All NMR spectra were recorded using a JEOL JNM-ECX400P spectrometer. ^1H NMR spectra were recorded at 400 MHz. Chemical shifts are reported relative to internal standard (tetramethylsilane at δ_{H} 0.00 or CDCl_3 at δ_{H} 7.26). Data are presented as follows: chemical shift (δ , ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet, br = broad), coupling constant and integration. ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded at 100 MHz. The following internal reference was used (CDCl_3 at δ 77.0). All ^{13}C NMR spectra were determined with complete proton decoupling. ^{19}F NMR spectra were recorded at 376 MHz. The following internal reference was used (CFCl_3 at δ 0.00). High-resolution mass spectra were determined with JEOL JMS-GCmate II instrument. Column chromatography was performed on Silica Gel 60 PF_{254} (Nacalai Tesque) and Kanto silica gel 60 N (63–210 mesh) under pressure. Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was carried out on Merck Kieselgel 60 F_{254} plates. Visualization was accomplished with UV light and phosphomolybdic acid stain solution followed by heating.

All reagents such as dimedone, 1,3-cyclohexanedione, styrene and its derivatives, and amines **2** are commercially available and were purchased from suppliers such as Sigma-Aldrich Co.; Wako Pure Chemical Industries, Ltd.; Tokyo Chemical Industry Co., Ltd.; Nacalai Tesque, INC. Dehydrated CH_2Cl_2 , toluene, THF and CH_3CN were purchased from Wako Pure Chemical Industries, Ltd. 2-Diazo-6,6-dimethylcyclohexane-1,3-dione,¹ 2-diazocyclohexane-1,3-dione² and 6,6-dimethylspiro[2.5]octane-4,8-dione (**1g**)³ were prepared according to literature procedures.

I. Preparation of spirocyclopropanes

Typical procedure for Rh^{II}-catalyzed cyclopropanation of diazodiones with olefins:

6,6-Dimethyl-1-phenylspiro[2.5]octane-4,8-dione (**1a**).¹

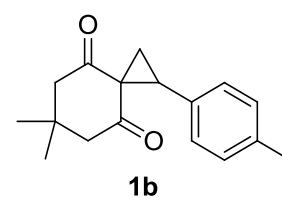


According to the Müller's procedure,¹ **1a** was prepared from 2-diazo-6,6-dimethylcyclohexane-1,3-dione and styrene.

Rh₂(OAc)₄ (22 mg, 0.049 mmol, 1 mol %) was added to a solution of 2-diazo-6,6-dimethylcyclohexane-1,3-dione (817 mg, 4.92 mmol) and styrene (5.1 g, 49 mmol). After stirring at room temperature for 1 h, the reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 20% EtOAc in hexane) to provide **1a** (564 mg, 47%) as a white solid: mp 126–127.5 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) ν 2952, 2871, 1700, 1676, 1456, 1426, 1382, 1337, 1276, 1219, 1079, 787, 693, 501; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.31–7.21 (m, 5H), 3.26 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 2.64 (d, *J* = 16.9 Hz, 1H), 2.57 (dd, *J* = 16.9, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 2.53 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 2.34 (dd, *J* = 16.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 2.31 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 2.22 (d, *J* = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 1.13 (s, 3H), 1.04 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 206.7, 201.6, 133.1, 129.5, 128.0, 127.9, 54.0, 53.2, 48.6, 48.4, 30.5, 29.3, 27.8, 22.1.

6,6-Dimethyl-1-(4-methylphenyl)spiro[2.5]octane-4,8-dione (**1b**) (Table 3, entry 1).

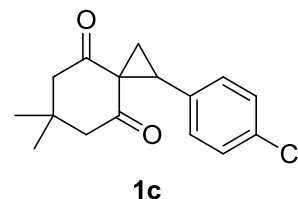
According to the typical procedure for Rh^{II}-catalyzed cyclopropanation, **1b** was prepared from 2-diazo-6,6-dimethylcyclohexane-1,3-dione (166 mg, 1.0 mmol), 4-methylstyrene (1.18 g, 10 mmol) and Rh₂(OAc)₄ (4.5 mg, 0.01 mmol, 1 mol %). The



crude product was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 40% EtOAc in hexane) to provide **1b** (106 mg, 41%) as a white solid: mp 85.5–87.5 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) ν 2954, 1702, 1676, 1637, 1334, 1274, 823; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.23–7.07 (m, 4H), 3.24 (t, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 2.63 (d, *J* = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 2.56 (dd, *J* = 16.5, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 2.51 (dd, *J* = 9.1, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 2.34 (dd, *J* = 16.5, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 2.301 (s, 3H), 2.298 (dd, *J* = 9.1, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 2.21 (d, *J* = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 1.12 (s, 3H), 1.04 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 137.7, 130.1, 129.4, 128.7, 125.9, 54.0, 53.2, 48.9, 48.8, 30.5, 29.3, 27.9, 22.1, 21.2; HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₇H₂₀O₂ (M⁺) 256.1463, found 256.1468.

1-(4-Chlorophenyl)-6,6-dimethylspiro[2.5]octane-4,8-dione (1c) (Table 3, entry 2).

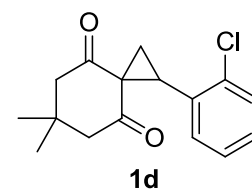
According to the typical procedure for Rh^{II}-catalyzed cyclopropanation, **1c** was prepared from 2-diazo-6,6-dimethylcyclohexane-1,3-dione (200 mg, 1.2 mmol), 4-chlorostyrene (333 mg, 2.4 mmol) and Rh₂(OAc)₄ (5.3 mg, 0.012 mmol, 1 mol %)



in toluene (2.4 mL). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 30% EtOAc in hexane) to provide **1c** (88 mg, 27%) as a white solid: mp 117–118 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) ν 2969, 2957, 1703, 1678, 1497, 1374, 1335, 1274, 1216, 1098, 1077, 1016, 1006, 833, 796, 740, 512; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.25 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 3.22 (t, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 2.61, 2.58 (ABq, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 2H), 2.47 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 2.37 (d, *J* = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 2.31 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 2.22 (d, *J* = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 1.12 (s, 3H), 1.05 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 205.5, 201.7, 133.8, 131.7, 130.8, 128.2, 54.0, 53.2, 48.4, 47.3, 30.5, 29.2, 27.9, 22.6; HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₆H₁₇ClO₂ (M⁺) 276.0917, found 276.0916.

1-(2-Chlorophenyl)-6,6-dimethylspiro[2.5]octane-4,8-dione (1d) (Table 3, entry 3).

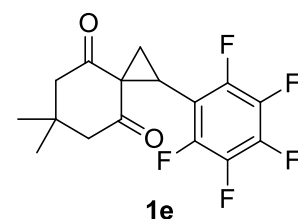
According to the typical procedure for Rh^{II}-catalyzed cyclopropanation, **1d** was prepared from 2-diazo-6,6-dimethylcyclohexane-1,3-dione (166 mg, 1.0 mmol), 4-chlorostyrene (693 mg, 5.0 mmol) and Rh₂(OAc)₄ (4.4 mg, 0.01 mmol, 1 mol %).



The crude product was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 20% EtOAc in hexane) to provide **1d** (134 mg, 48%) as a white solid: mp 73–74 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) ν 2956, 1704, 1681, 1445, 1369, 1332, 1316, 1278, 1268, 1078, 1048, 996, 801, 770, 740; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.32–7.19 (m, 4H), 3.19 (t, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 2.81 (d, *J* = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 2.61 (dd, *J* = 16.5, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 2.54 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 2.34 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 2.30 (dd, *J* = 6.4, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 1.16 (s, 3H), 1.02 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 206.1, 202.3, 135.7, 132.0, 131.3, 129.2, 128.9, 126.5, 53.5, 53.1, 47.0, 45.5, 30.6, 30.4, 26.6, 21.9; HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₆H₁₇ClO₂ (M⁺) 276.0917, found 276.0908.

6,6-Dimethyl-1-(2,3,4,5,6-pentafluorophenyl)spiro[2.5]octane-4,8-dione (1e) (Table 3, entry 4).

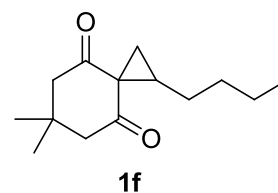
According to the typical procedure for Rh^{II}-catalyzed cyclopropanation, **1e** was prepared from 2-diazo-6,6-



dimethylcyclohexane-1,3-dione (166 mg, 1.0 mmol), 2,3,4,5,6-pentafluorostyrene (970 mg, 5.0 mmol) and $\text{Rh}_2(\text{OAc})_4$ (4.4 mg, 0.01 mmol, 1 mol %). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 20% EtOAc in hexane) to provide **1e** (114 mg, 34%) as a white solid: mp 93–94 °C; IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) ν 2965, 1704, 1678, 1521, 1394, 1450, 1376, 1335, 1317, 1279, 1193, 1084, 1011, 970, 884; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.95 (t, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 2.69 (d, J = 16.9 Hz, 1H), 2.64 (dd, J = 16.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 2.56 (d, J = 16.9 Hz, 1H), 2.48 (dd, J = 16.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 2.32 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 1.19 (s, 3H), 1.09 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 205.4, 203.5, 146.2 (d, J = 248 Hz), 140.7 (d, J = 249 Hz), 137.4 (d, J = 252 Hz), 109.3 (td, J = 16.3, 3.8 Hz), 53.3, 53.1, 43.3, 31.8, 30.3, 29.4, 27.4, 26.7 (t, J = 3.8 Hz); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -141.4 (d, J = 23.1 Hz, 2F), -154.9 (t, J = 23.1 Hz, 1F), -162.9 (t, J = 23.1 Hz, 2F); HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{F}_5\text{O}_2$ (M^+) 332.0836, found 332.0827.

1-Butyl-6,6-dimethylspiro[2.5]octane-4,8-dione (**1f**)¹ (Table 3, entry 5).

According to the typical procedure for Rh^{II} -catalyzed cyclopropanation, **1f** was prepared from 2-diazo-6,6-dimethylcyclohexane-1,3-dione (166 mg, 1.0 mmol), 1-hexene (841 mg, 10 mmol) and $\text{Rh}_2(\text{OAc})_4$ (4.4 mg, 0.01 mmol, 1 mol %). The

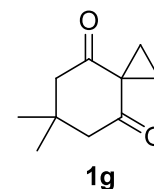


crude product was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 10% EtOAc in hexane) to provide **1f**¹ (81 mg, 36%) as a colorless oil: IR (film, cm^{-1}) ν 3003, 2957, 2871, 1705, 1682, 1467, 1335, 1276, 1190, 1083, 925, 871, 754; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 2.58–2.48 (m, 4H), 2.09–1.99 (m, 2H), 1.84 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 1.62–1.44 (m, 2H), 1.33–1.25 (m, 4H), 1.16 (s, 3H), 1.06 (s, 3H), 0.86 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 206.8, 204.8, 54.3, 53.1, 46.7, 45.5, 31.4, 30.4, 29.3, 27.6, 27.2, 26.1, 22.2, 13.9.

6,6-Dimethylspiro[2.5]octane-4,8-dione (**1g**)³ (Table 3, entry 6).

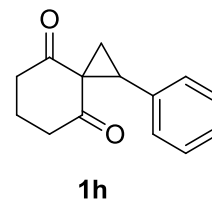
1g was prepared according to the literature procedure.³

IR (film, cm^{-1}) ν 2957, 2871, 1710, 1683, 1469, 1404, 1371, 1335, 1320, 1291, 1181, 1145, 1123, 1082, 987, 918; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 2.56 (s, 4H), 1.76 (s, 4H), 1.31 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 206.8, 53.2, 39.6, 30.3, 28.5, 27.3.



1-Phenylspiro[2.5]octane-4,8-dione (**1h**) (Scheme 3).

According to the typical procedure for Rh^{II}-catalyzed cyclopropanation, **1h** was prepared from 2-diazocyclohexane-1,3-dione (311 mg, 2.25 mmol), styrene (2.35 g, 22.5 mmol) and Rh₂(OAc)₄ (10 mg, 0.023 mmol, 1 mol %).



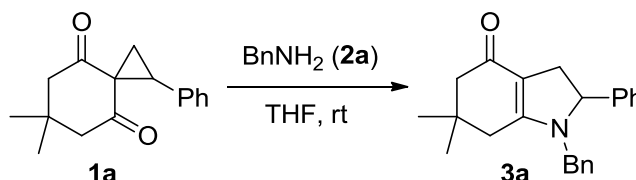
The crude product was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 40%

EtOAc in hexane) to provide **1h** (208 mg, 43%) as a white solid: mp 93–95 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) ν 3063, 2946, 2897, 1704, 1679, 1455, 1374, 1330, 1275, 1216, 1154, 1086, 1025, 782, 732, 696; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.32–7.19 (m, 5H), 3.27 (t, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 2.76 (dddd, J = 17.4, 7.8, 5.0, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 2.63 (ddd, J = 17.4, 8.2, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 2.53 (dd, J = 9.2, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (ddd, J = 17.4, 8.2, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 2.32, (dd, J = 9.2, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 2.23 (dddd, J = 17.0, 7.8, 4.6, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 2.16–2.00 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 205.9, 201.9, 133.2, 129.4, 128.1, 127.9, 50.1, 48.9, 39.9, 39.4, 21.2, 17.9; HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C₁₄H₁₄O₂ (M⁺) 214.0994, found 214.0992.

II. Ring-opening cyclization of spirocyclopropanes with amines

Typical procedure for ring-opening cyclization (Table 1, entry 9):

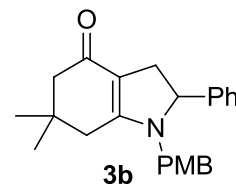
1-Benzyl-6,6-dimethyl-2-phenyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1*H*-indol-4(5*H*)-one (**3a**).



Benzylamine (**2a**) (32 mg, 0.30 mmol) was added to a solution of spirocyclopropane **1a** (48 mg, 0.20 mmol) in THF (0.4 mL). After stirring at room temperature for 3 h, the reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo, and the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 4% Et₃N in EtOAc) to provide **3a** (64 mg, 97%) as a pale yellow amorphous: IR (film, cm⁻¹) ν 2955, 2962, 2867, 1614, 1567, 1480, 1453, 1435, 1356, 1236, 1147, 762, 732, 701; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39–7.29 (m, 6H), 7.18 (dd, J = 7.7, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 7.05 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 4.69 (dd, J = 11.9, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.51 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.29 (dd, J = 15.1, 11.9 Hz, 1H), 2.80 (dd, J = 15.1, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 2.37, 2.34 (ABq, J = 16.9 Hz, 2H), 2.29 (s, 2H), 1.173 (s, 3H), 1.168 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 190.4, 166.4, 141.5, 136.2, 128.9, 128.1, 127.7, 127.03, 126.96, 106.4, 66.2, 50.3, 47.5, 36.8, 34.5, 34.2, 29.0, 28.9; HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C₂₃H₂₅NO (M⁺) 331.1936, found 331.1932.

6,6-Dimethyl-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)methyl-2-phenyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-indol-4(5H)-one (3b) (Table 2, entry 1).

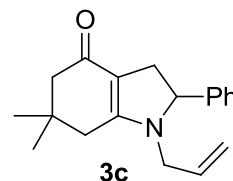
According to the typical procedure for ring-opening cyclization, **3b** was prepared from **1a** (48 mg, 0.20 mmol) and 4-methoxybenzylamine (**2b**) (41 mg, 0.30 mmol) in THF (0.4 mL) at room temperature for 3 h. The



crude product was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 3% Et₃N in EtOAc) to provide **3b** (66 mg, 92%) as a pale yellow amorphous: IR (film, cm⁻¹) ν 2955, 2928, 2866, 1611, 1567, 1478, 1246; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.38–7.16 (m, 5H), 6.98–6.85 (m, 4H), 4.66 (dd, J = 11.6, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.45 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.26 (dd, J = 15.2, 11.6 Hz, 1H), 2.77 (dd, J = 15.2, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.41–2.24 (m, 4H), 1.18 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 190.3, 166.4, 159.1, 141.5, 128.9, 128.4, 128.0, 127.9, 127.0, 114.2, 106.3, 65.9, 55.3, 50.2, 46.9, 36.9, 34.4, 34.2, 29.0, 28.9; HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C₂₄H₂₇NO₂ (M⁺) 361.2042, found 361.2037.

1-Allyl-6,6-dimethyl-2-phenyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-indol-4(5H)-one (3c) (Table 2, entry 2).

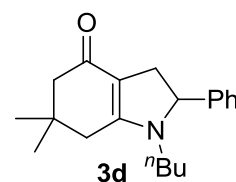
According to the typical procedure for ring-opening cyclization, **3c** was prepared from **1a** (48 mg, 0.20 mmol) and allylamine (**2c**) (17 mg, 0.30 mmol) in THF (0.4 mL) at room temperature for 5 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 3% Et₃N in EtOAc)



to provide **3c** (55 mg, 98%) as a pale yellow oil: IR (film, cm⁻¹) ν 2955, 2927, 2866, 1606, 1566, 1481, 1240, 702; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.38–7.22 (m, 5H), 5.64 (m, 1H), 5.19 (m, 1H), 5.08 (m, 1H), 4.81 (dd, J = 12.0, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (m, 1H), 3.40 (m, 1H), 3.29 (dd, J = 15.2, 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.76 (dd, J = 15.2, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.32–2.21 (m, 4H), 1.15 (s, 3H), 1.13 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 190.3, 166.8, 141.6, 132.4, 128.8, 128.0, 127.0, 117.5, 106.5, 66.7, 50.2, 46.4, 36.5, 34.5, 34.0, 28.9, 28.8; HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C₁₉H₂₃NO (M⁺) 281.1780, found 281.1773.

1-Butyl-6,6-dimethyl-2-phenyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-indol-4(5H)-one (3d) (Table 2, entry 3).

According to the typical procedure for ring-opening cyclization, **3d** was prepared from **1a** (48 mg, 0.20 mmol) and *n*-butylamine (**2d**) (22 mg, 0.30 mmol) in THF (0.4 mL) at room temperature for 2.5 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 3% Et₃N in

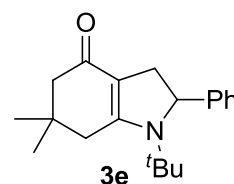


EtOAc) to provide **3d** (56 mg, 95%) as a pale yellow oil: IR (film, cm⁻¹) ν 2956, 2929, 2868,

1610, 1566, 1486, 1439, 1234, 701; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.37–7.21 (m, 5H), 4.81 (dd, J = 11.6, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.28 (dd, J = 15.0, 11.6 Hz, 1H), 3.16 (m, 1H), 2.85 (m, 1H), 2.75 (dd, J = 15.0, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.29–2.20 (m, 4H), 1.49–1.16 (m, 4H), 1.15 (s, 3H), 1.14 (s, 3H), 0.87 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 189.7, 166.8, 141.9, 128.8, 127.9, 126.8, 105.7, 66.6, 50.2, 43.8, 36.8, 34.5, 34.0, 30.1, 29.1, 28.7, 19.9, 13.7; HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{27}\text{NO}$ (M^+) 297.2093, found 297.2093.

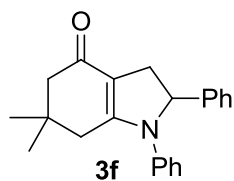
1-*tert*-Butyl-6,6-dimethyl-2-phenyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1*H*-indol-4(5*H*)-one (3e) (Table 2, entry 4).

According to the typical procedure for ring-opening cyclization, **3e** was prepared from **1a** (48 mg, 0.20 mmol) and *tert*-butylamine (**2e**) (22 mg, 0.30 mmol) in THF (0.4 mL) at room temperature for 60 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 3% Et_3N in EtOAc) to provide **3e** (50 mg, 85%) as a white solid: mp 173–175 °C; IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) ν 2951, 1597, 1515, 1377; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.41–7.25 (m, 5H), 3.93 (d, J = 10.4 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (dd, J = 14.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 2.67 (dd, J = 14.8, 10.4 Hz, 1H), 2.26 (s, 4H), 1.12 (s, 9H), 1.06 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 189.5, 142.7, 129.0, 127.8, 126.0, 110.0, 60.8, 54.5, 48.7, 32.7, 31.6, 28.6, 28.1; HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{27}\text{NO}$ (M^+) 297.2093, found 297.2094.



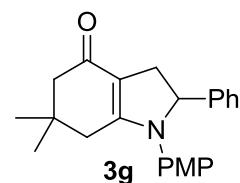
6,6-Dimethyl-1,2-diphenyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1*H*-indol-4(5*H*)-one (3f) (Table 2, entry 6).

According to the typical procedure for ring-opening cyclization, **3f** was prepared from **1a** (48 mg, 0.20 mmol) and aniline (**2f**) (28 mg, 0.30 mmol) in toluene (0.4 mL) at 70 °C for 2 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 3% Et_3N in EtOAc) to provide **3f** (48 mg, 76%) as a pale yellow amorphous: IR (film, cm^{-1}) ν 2956, 2928, 2867, 1615, 1573, 1494, 1406, 1268, 699; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.30–6.90 (m, 10H), 5.25 (dd, J = 11.4, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 3.43 (dd, J = 15.2, 11.4 Hz, 1H), 2.84 (dd, J = 15.2, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 2.42–2.26 (m, 4H), 1.14 (s, 3H), 1.09 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 192.0, 164.5, 142.1, 139.9, 129.1, 128.7, 127.7, 126.6, 125.7, 124.6, 109.7, 70.0, 50.5, 38.4, 35.1, 34.7, 28.8, 28.5; HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO}$ (M^+) 317.1780, found 317.1795.



6,6-Dimethyl-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-phenyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-indol-4(5H)-one (3g) (Table 2, entry 8).

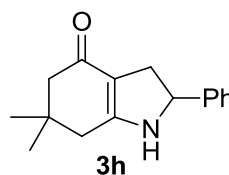
According to the typical procedure for ring-opening cyclization, **3g** was prepared from **1a** (48 mg, 0.20 mmol) and *p*-anisidine (**2g**) (37 mg, 0.30 mmol) in toluene (0.4 mL) at 70 °C for 1 h. The crude product was



purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 3% Et₃N in EtOAc) to provide **3g** (59 mg, 86%) as a brown solid: mp 88–92 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) ν 2955, 2867, 1613, 1572, 1510, 1442, 1407, 1245; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.30–7.20 (m, 5H), 6.84–6.74 (m, 4H), 5.11 (dd, *J* = 11.4, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.42 (dd, *J* = 14.8, 11.4 Hz, 1H), 2.88 (dd, *J* = 14.8, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.33–2.13 (m, 4H), 1.12 (s, 3H), 1.08 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 191.5, 165.7, 157.9, 142.1, 132.5, 128.7, 127.8, 127.0, 126.9, 114.3, 108.6, 70.8, 55.3, 50.5, 38.0, 34.9, 34.4, 28.8, 28.6; HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₃H₂₅NO₂ (M⁺) 347.1885, found 347.1890.

6,6-Dimethyl-2-phenyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-indol-4(5H)-one (3h) (Table 2, entry 9).

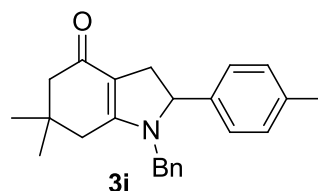
According to the typical procedure for ring-opening cyclization, **3h** was prepared from **1a** (48 mg, 0.20 mmol) and ammonia solution (**2h**) (136 mg, 2.00 mmol, 25% in H₂O) in THF (0.4 mL) at room temperature for 2 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (silica gel,



3% Et₃N in EtOAc) to provide **3h** (15 mg, 31%) as a white solid: mp 208–211 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) ν 3167, 2953, 2867, 1567, 1507, 1250, 1149, 768, 705, 530; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.35–7.15 (m, 5H), 5.31 (s, 1H), 4.94 (dd, *J* = 11.6, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.23 (dd, *J* = 15.2, 11.6 Hz, 1H), 2.72 (dd, *J* = 15.2, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.27–2.14 (m, 4H), 1.11 (s, 3H), 1.10 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 191.4, 166.8, 143.6, 128.8, 127.7, 126.0, 106.7, 62.5, 50.4, 37.6, 35.0, 34.3, 28.9, 28.6; HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₆H₁₉NO (M⁺) 241.1467, found 241.1466.

1-Benzyl-6,6-dimethyl-2-(4-methylphenyl)-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-indol-4(5H)-one (3i) (Table 3, entry 1).

According to the typical procedure for ring-opening cyclization, **3i** was prepared from **1b** (51 mg, 0.20 mmol) and benzylamine (**2a**) (32 mg, 0.30 mmol) in THF (0.4 mL) at room temperature



for 2.5 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 3% Et₃N in EtOAc) to provide **3i** (59 mg, 86%) as a colorless amorphous: IR (film, cm⁻¹) ν 3671, 2925, 2868, 2359, 1566, 1479, 1236, 700; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.36–7.14 (m, 5H),

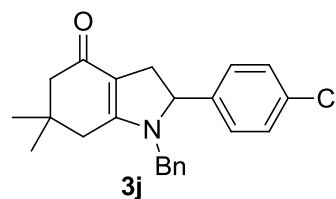
7.08–7.04 (m, 4H), 4.66 (dd, $J = 12.0, 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.48 (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.90 (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.27 (dd, $J = 14.8, 12.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.79 (dd, $J = 14.8, 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.35–2.33 (m, 4H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 1.16 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 190.4, 166.4, 138.4, 137.8, 136.2, 129.6, 128.9, 127.7, 127.0, 126.9, 106.4, 66.0, 50.3, 47.3, 36.9, 34.4, 34.2, 29.0, 28.9, 21.1; HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{27}\text{NO}$ (M^+) 345.2093, found 345.2089.

1-Benzyl-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-6,6-dimethyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-indol-4(5H)-one (3j)

(Table 3, entry 2).

According to the typical procedure for ring-opening cyclization,

3j was prepared from **1c** (55 mg, 0.20 mmol) and benzylamine (**2a**) (32 mg, 0.30 mmol) in THF (0.4 mL) at room temperature

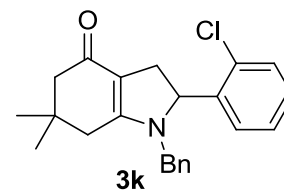


for 4.5 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 4% Et_3N in EtOAc) to provide **3j** (71 mg, 97%) as a colorless amorphous: IR (film, cm^{-1}) ν 2955, 2868, 1612, 1571, 1477, 1451, 1434, 1409, 1356, 1236, 1146, 1089, 1013, 828, 701; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.37–7.31 (m, 5H), 7.11 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 2H), 4.66 (dd, $J = 11.9, 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.51 (d, $J = 16.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.87 (d, $J = 16.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.28 (dd, $J = 14.7, 11.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.74 (dd, $J = 15.1, 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.40–2.24 (m, 4H), 1.17 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 190.6, 166.3, 140.0, 135.9, 133.8, 129.1, 128.9, 128.4, 127.8, 126.9, 106.4, 65.4, 50.3, 47.5, 36.8, 34.5, 34.2, 28.9; HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{24}\text{ClNO}$ (M^+) 365.1546, found 365.1546.

1-Benzyl-2-(2-chlorophenyl)-6,6-dimethyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-indol-4(5H)-one (3k)

(Table 3, entry 3).

According to the typical procedure for ring-opening cyclization, **3k** was prepared from **1d** (55 mg, 0.20 mmol) and benzylamine (**2a**) (32 mg, 0.30 mmol) in THF (0.4 mL) at room temperature for 20 h. The

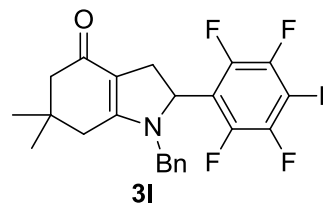


crude product was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 4% Et_3N in EtOAc) to provide **3k** (71 mg, 97%) as a white solid: mp 147–149 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) ν 2956, 2867, 1614, 1575, 1477, 1452, 1435, 1236, 1147, 1036, 757, 699; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.37–7.22 (m, 7H), 7.06 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 2H), 5.12 (m, 1H), 4.58 (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.98 (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.36 (t, $J = 12.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.66 (m, 1H), 2.39, 2.36 (ABq, $J = 16.9$ Hz, 2H), 2.29, 2.26 (ABq, $J = 16.5$ Hz, 2H), 1.17 (s, 3H), 1.16 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 190.8, 166.7, 136.1, 133.0, 130.1, 128.94, 128.92, 127.8, 127.4, 127.0, 106.6, 50.2, 48.0, 36.8, 34.2, 33.5,

29.0, 28.8; HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $C_{23}H_{24}ClNO$ (M^+) 365.1546, found 365.1544.

1-Benzyl-6,6-dimethyl-2-(2,3,4,5,6-pentafluorophenyl)-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-indol-4(5H)-one (3l) (Table 3, entry 4).

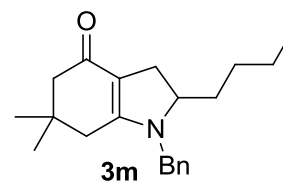
According to the typical procedure for ring-opening cyclization, **3l** was prepared from **1e** (66 mg, 0.20 mmol) and benzylamine (**2a**) (32 mg, 0.30 mmol) in THF (0.4 mL) at room temperature for 48 h. The crude product was purified by column



chromatography (silica gel, 4% Et_3N in $EtOAc$) to provide **3l** (74mg, 90%) as a white solid: mp 180–181 °C; IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) ν 2954, 2871, 2362, 1615, 1594, 1523, 1505, 1446, 1373, 1231, 1154, 1126, 1014, 977, 951, 708, 611; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.33–7.25 (m, 3H), 7.05 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H), 5.11 (dd, $J = 12.4, 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.38 (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.10 (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.29 (t, $J = 14.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.81 (dd, $J = 15.1, 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.39–2.24 (m, 4H), 1.18 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 191.1, 165.6, 145.0 (d, $J = 258$ Hz), 140.7 (d, $J = 256$ Hz), 137.4 (d, $J = 254$ Hz), 135.5, 128.9, 128.1, 127.0, 114.6 (t, $J = 14.4$ Hz), 107.4, 56.2, 50.2, 49.1, 37.0, 34.4, 32.4, 29.5, 28.1; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ –143.2 (br s, 2F), –154.4 (d, $J = 23.1$ Hz, 1F), –161.9 (s, 2F); HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $C_{23}H_{20}F_5NO$ (M^+) 421.1465, found 421.1464.

1-Benzyl-2-butyl-6,6-dimethyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-indol-4(5H)-one (3m) (Table 3, entry 5).

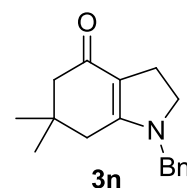
According to the typical procedure for ring-opening cyclization, **3m** was prepared from **1f** (44 mg, 0.20 mmol) and benzylamine (**2a**) (32 mg, 0.30 mmol) in THF (0.4 mL) at room temperature for 168 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 4%



Et_3N in $EtOAc$) to provide **3m** (60 mg, 97%) as a yellow oil: IR (film, cm^{-1}) ν 2954, 2928, 2866, 1608, 1568, 1448, 1451, 1357, 1263, 1147, 733, 700; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.39–7.29 (m, 3H), 7.16–7.14 (m, 2H), 4.52 (d, $J = 16.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.32 (d, $J = 16.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.75 (m, 1H), 2.94 (dd, $J = 14.7, 11.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.50 (dd, $J = 14.7, 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.24–2.22 (m, 4H), 1.65 (m, 1H), 1.45 (m, 1H), 1.32–1.19 (m, 4H), 1.10 (s, 3H), 1.09 (s, 3H), 0.86 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 190.3, 166.7, 136.7, 128.9, 127.6, 126.6, 106.8, 62.8, 50.1, 47.4, 36.7, 34.1, 32.7, 30.1, 29.0, 28.8, 26.5, 22.6, 13.9; HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $C_{21}H_{29}NO$ (M^+) 311.2249, found 311.2251.

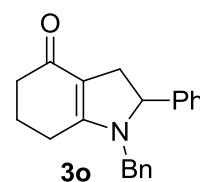
1-Benzyl-6,6-dimethyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1*H*-indol-4(5*H*)-one (**3n**) (Table 3, entry 6).

According to the typical procedure for ring-opening cyclization, **3n** was prepared from **1g**³ (33 mg, 0.20 mmol) and benzylamine (**2a**) (32 mg, 0.30 mmol) in THF (0.4 mL) at room temperature for 36 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 4% Et₃N in EtOAc) to provide **3n** (47 mg, 92%) as a white solid: mp 114–117 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) ν 2944, 2925, 2864, 1560, 1567, 1498, 1451, 1441, 1427, 1233, 1149, 747, 700; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.40–7.29 (m, 3H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 4.38 (s, 2H), 3.51 (t, *J* = 10.1 Hz, 2H), 2.79 (t, *J* = 10.1 Hz, 2H), 2.25 (s, 2H), 2.23 (s, 2H), 1.11 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 190.3, 166.9, 136.2, 128.9, 127.8, 126.9, 107.9, 51.8, 50.03, 50.05, 36.5, 34.0, 28.9, 23.8; HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₇H₂₁NO (M⁺) 255.1623, found 255.1622.



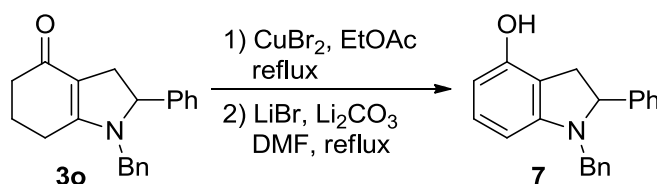
1-Benzyl-2-phenyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1*H*-indol-4(5*H*)-one (**3o**) (Scheme 3).

According to the typical procedure for ring-opening cyclization, **3o** were prepared from **1h** (64 mg, 0.30 mmol) and benzylamine (**2a**) (48 mg, 0.45 mmol) in THF (0.6 mL) at room temperature for 3 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 3% Et₃N in EtOAc) to provide **3o** (86 mg, 95%) as a white solid: mp 94–96 °C; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) ν 2937, 2874, 1610, 1575, 1461, 1448, 1433, 1353, 699; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.37–7.03 (m, 10H), 4.67 (dd, *J* = 12.0, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.49 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.29 (dd, *J* = 15.2, 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.80 (dd, *J* = 15.2, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.57–2.34 (m, 4H), 2.14–2.04 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 191.3, 167.6, 141.4, 136.1, 128.9, 128.1, 127.7, 127.1, 127.0, 108.2, 66.1, 47.6, 36.0, 34.7, 23.1, 22.5; HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₁H₂₁NO (M⁺) 303.1623, found 303.1621.



III. Synthesis of 4-*tert*-butyldimethylsilyloxyindole **8** from **3o** (Scheme 3)

1-Benzyl-4-hydroxy-2-phenyl-2,3-dihydroindole (**7**).

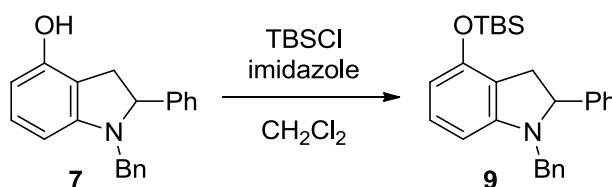


CuBr₂ (89 mg, 0.40 mmol,) was added to a solution of **3o** (61 mg, 0.20 mmol) in EtOAc (2 mL). After stirring at reflux for 1.5 h, the reaction mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite. The

filter cake was rinsed with CH_2Cl_2 and the combined filtrates was concentrated in vacuo to provide crude product (109 mg), which was used in the next step without further purification.

LiBr (19 mg, 0.22 mmol) and Li_2CO_3 (16 mg, 0.22 mmol) were added to a solution of crude product in DMF (2 mL). After stirring at reflux for 1 h, the reaction was quenched by addition of saturated aqueous NH_4Cl (10 mL), and the resulting mixture was extracted with 20% EtOAc in hexane (5 mL x 3). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (5 mL), and dried over anhydrous MgSO_4 . Filtration was concentrated in vacuo, and the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 20% EtOAc in hexane) to provide **7** (49 mg, 82%) as a gray solid: mp 127–128 °C; IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) ν 3406, 3030, 2843, 1630, 1469, 1352, 760, 698; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.41–7.20 (m, 10H), 6.93 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.18 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.07 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.66 (t, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.56 (s, 1H), 4.38 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 3.38 (dd, J = 15.6, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 2.90 (dd, J = 15.6, 9.6 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 154.2, 151.7, 142.4, 138.2, 129.1, 128.6, 128.3, 127.7, 127.6, 127.5, 126.9, 112.4, 105.8, 100.7, 68.9, 50.6, 35.7; HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}$ (M^+) 301.1467, found 301.1458.

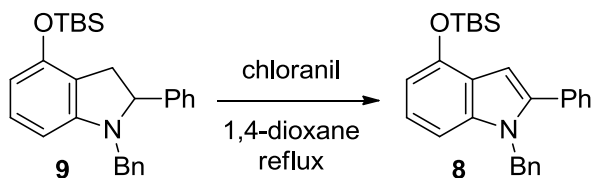
1-Benzyl-4-*tert*-butyldimethylsilyloxy-2-phenyl-2,3-dihydroindole (9).



tert-Butyldimethylchlorosilane (50 mg, 0.332 mmol) was added to a solution of **7** (40 mg, 0.133 mmol) and imidazole (18 mg, 0.266 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (0.7 mL) at 0 °C. After stirring at room temperature for 2.5 h, the reaction was quenched by addition of saturated aqueous NH_4Cl (5 mL), and the resulting mixture was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (5 mL x 2). The combined organic layers were washed with water (5 mL) and brine (5 mL), and dried over anhydrous MgSO_4 . Filtration was concentrated in vacuo, and the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 5% EtOAc in hexane) to provide **9** (51 mg, 93%) as a white solid: mp 87–88 °C; IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) ν 2956, 2856, 1601, 1465, 1266, 997, 831; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.44–7.18 (m, 10H), 6.91 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.20 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.08 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.60 (t, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.35 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 3.39 (dd, J = 15.6, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 2.87 (dd, J = 15.6, 10.4 Hz, 1H), 0.95 (s, 9H), 0.21 (s, 3H), 0.18 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 154.2, 151.7, 142.7, 138.4, 128.6, 128.3, 127.7, 127.61, 127.57, 126.8,

117.5, 109.7, 101.3, 69.2, 50.9, 36.9, 25.6, 18.1, -4.19, -4.22; HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $C_{27}H_{33}NOSi$ (M^+) 415.2331, found 415.2338.

1-Benzyl-4-*tert*-butyldimethylsilyloxy-2-phenylindole (8).



Chloranil (44 mg, 0.18 mmol) was added to a solution of indoline **9** (50 mg, 0.12 mmol) in 1,4-dioxane (1.2 mL). After stirring at reflux for 9 h, the reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature and diluted with Et_2O (10 mL). The whole was washed with saturated aqueous $NaHCO_3$ (5 mL \times 3), water (5 mL) and brine (5 mL), and dried over anhydrous $MgSO_4$. Filtration was concentrated in vacuo, and the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, 5% $EtOAc$ in hexane) to provide **8** (47 mg, 94%) as a white solid: mp 96.5–98 °C; IR (KBr, cm^{-1}) ν 2926, 2855, 1582, 1498, 1481, 1364, 1351, 1273, 839; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.44–7.19 (m, 8H), 7.02–6.81 (m, 3H), 6.80 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 6.54 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 5.33 (s, 2H), 1.07 (s, 9H), 0.27 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 148.9, 140.4, 139.9, 138.2, 132.8, 129.2, 128.6, 128.5, 127.9, 127.1, 126.0, 122.6, 121.9, 109.0, 104.2, 99.9, 47.9, 25.8, 18.3, -4.3; HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for $C_{27}H_{31}NOSi$ (M^+) 413.2175, found 413.2170.

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