Total Synthesis of Aristolactams via One-Pot Suzuki-Miyaura Coupling/Aldol Condensation Cascade Reaction

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Experimental details and spectroscopic data for compounds **1-5**, **9-16**, **24-30**, and **34-35**. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org

General

All microwave reactions were conducted in oven-dried microwave glassware by using Biotage Initiator EXPTM microwave reactor under an atmosphere of dry nitrogen. All solvents were purified before use unless otherwise indicated. Toluene was distilled from CaH₂. 2-Formylphenylboronic acids (8 and 17-23) were purchased from Aldrich and Frontier Scientific, Inc. and used without further purification.

Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on Kieselgel 60 F₂₅₄ glass plates precoated with a 0.2 mm thickness of silica gel. The TLC plates were visualized by shortwave (254 nm) or longwave (360 nm) UV light, potassium permanganate or ceric ammonium molybdate stain. Flash chromatography on Kieselgel 60 (230400 mesh) silica gel was performed using a CombiFlash Companion system. Preparative HPLC normal phase separations were performed using a Shimadzu HPLC system composed of two LC-8A pumps, a CTO-10A column oven and injector, a SPD-10A detector, and a SCL-10A system controller.

FT-IR spectra were recorded as neat samples using a Travel IR Portable spectrometer. Melting points were determined on a Uni-Melt capillary melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. GC/MS spectra were measured on a Shimadzu spectrometer. ¹H NMR and spectra were obtained at 300 MHz on a Varian Gemini 300 instrument using CDCl₃ as solvent. ¹H NMR assignment abbreviations are the following: singlet (s), doublet (d), triplet (t), quartet (q), broad singlet (bs), doublet of doublets (dd), doublet of triplets (dt), and multiplet (m). ¹³C NMR spectra were measured at 75.5 MHz or 125 MHz using CDCl₃ as an internal reference.

2-(2-Methyl-1-oxoisoindolin-4-yl)benzaldehyde (9). To a thick-well borosilicate glass vial (3 mL) was added isoindolinone **7**¹ (60 mg, 0.26 mmol), boronic acid **8** (48 mg, 0.32 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂(7.7 mg, 4 mol %), and Cs₂CO₃ (259 mg, 0.79 mmol) sequentially. The mixture was suspended in dioxane (3 mL). Then, the reaction vial was sealed and placed into a microwave reactor and irradiated at 150 °C

¹ Curtin, M. L.; Davidsen, S. K.; Frey, R. R.; Heyman, H. R.; Holms, J. H.; Michaelides, M.; Steinman, D. H. PCT Int. Appl. (2004), WO 2004108672.

for 10 min. After being cooled to room temperature, the mixture was diluted with EtOAc and filtered through a short Celite pad. The solution was concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (20% EtOAc/hexanes) to afford biphenyl **9** (62 mg) in 90% yield as a gray solid: mp 152 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.84 (s, 1H), 8.08 (dd, 1H, J = 7.6, 1.0 Hz), 7.93 (dd, 1H, J = 7.5, 0.8 Hz), 7.73-7.67 (m, 1H), 7.59 (t, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.46-7.39 (m, 2H), 4.16 (s, 2H), 3.16 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 191.5, 168.3, 142.1, 140.2, 134.2, 133.8, 133.4, 133.3, 132.8, 130.5, 129.0, 128.6, 128.4, 123.8, 51.7, 29.6; IR (neat) 3305, 1691, 1644, 1254 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) m/z 250 (M⁺, 43), 233 (34), 222 (17), 204 (23), 193 (100), 178 (10), 164 (73), 151 (71); HRMS (EI) calcd for C₁₆H₁₃NO₂ [M⁺] 251.0946, found 251.0955.

5-Methyldibenzo[*cd*, *f*|indol-4(5*H*)-one (10). To a thick-well borosilicate glass vial (3 mL) was added isoindolinone $\mathbf{7}^1$ (60 mg, 0.26 mmol), boronic acid $\mathbf{8}$ (48 mg, 0.32 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (12 mg, 4 mol %), and Cs₂CO₃ (259 mg, 0.79 mmol) sequentially. The mixture was suspended in toluene/EtOH (2 mL/1 mL). Then, the reaction vial was sealed and placed into a microwave reactor and irradiated at 150 °C for 10 min (Usually, an average microwave power ranged from 60W to 80W and an internal pressure was 6-8 bars). After being cooled to room temperature, the mixture was diluted with EtOAc and filtered through a short Celite pad. The solution was concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (20% EtOAc/hexanes) to afford phenanthrene lactam $\mathbf{10}$ (60 mg) in 99% yield as a yellowish green solid: mp 176 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.60 (d, 1H, J = 7.9 Hz), 8.55-8.52 (m, 1H), 8.10 (d, 1H, J = 6.8 Hz), 7.89-7.81 (m, 2H), 7.62-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.11 (s, 1H), 3.52 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.2, 137.1, 134.0, 129.4, 129.0, 127.8, 126.9, 126.8, 126.5, 126.3, 125.8, 125.5, 123.6, 123.4, 105.0, 26.2; IR (neat) 3272, 1631, 1548, 1320 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) m/z 233 (M⁺, 62), 215 (16), 203 (60), 187 (5), 175 (32), 162 (14), 150 (38); HRMS (EI) calcd for C₁₆H₁₁NO [M⁺] 233.0841, found 233.0843.

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{MeO} \\ \text{MeO} \\ \text{CH}_3 \\ \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{LiCIO}_4 \\ \text{Ac}_2 \text{O} \\ \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{MeO} \\ \text{MeO} \\ \text{CH}_3 \\ \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}_3 \\ \text{CH}_3 \\ \end{array}$$

1-(4,5-Dimethoxy-2-methylphenyl)ethanone (**11).** To a suspension of LiClO₄ (34.5 g, 328 mmol) in Ac₂O (18.2 mL, 197 mmol) at 60 °C was added 3,4-dimethoxytoluene **6** (23.7 mL, 164 mmol) dropwise. After being stirred for 1 h, the mixture was cooled to rt, quenched with saturated aq. NaHCO₃ solution, and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 100 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (20% EtOAc/hexanes) to give acetophenone **11** (26.1 g) in 82% yield: ¹H NMR (300MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.26 (s, 1H), 6.71 (s, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 2.57 (s, 3H), 2.53 (s, 3H).

Methyl 4,5-dimethoxy-2-methylbenzoate (12). A solution of sodium hypobromite was prepared *in situ* by mixing of NaOH (32.4 g, 816 mmol) and Br₂ (11.1 mL, 218 mmol) in H₂O (154 mL) at 0 °C. To the above solution was added a solution of acetophenone 11 (10.0 g, 52 mmol) in dioxane (100 mL) over 30 min and reaction temperature was allowed to increase to rt. After 1 h, the mixture was treated with saturated aq. NaHSO₃ (1.2 L) and stirred for 18 h at rt. A half of solvents were removed under reduced pressure. The resulting solution was acidified to pH = 1~2 with conc. HCl to give a crystalline precipitate. Then solid was collected by filtration while rinsing with H₂O and dried *in vacuo* to give the corresponding benzoic acid: 1 H NMR (300MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.59 (s, 1H), 6.72 (s, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 1H).

The resulting benzoic acid was dissolved in MeOH (100 mL) and p-TsOH (15.2 g, 800 mmol) added. The mixture was refluxed for 16 h and solvents were removed under reduced pressure. The residue was diluted with diethyl ether, washed with saturated aq. NaHCO₃ solution and brine, dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (30% EtOAc/hexanes) to give benzoate 12^2 (10.6 g) in 98% yield as a white solid: ¹H NMR (300MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.48 (s, 1H), 6.70 (s, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 2.58 (s, 3H).

² Grethe, G.; Lee, H. L.; Uskokovic, M.; Brossi, A. J. Org. Chem. **1968**, 33, 494–503.

Methyl 3-bromo-4,5-dimethoxy-2-methylbenzoate (**13**). To a solution of methyl 4,5-dimethoxy-2-methylbenzoate **12** (11.3 g, 53.8 mmol) in 150 mL of CHCl₃ at 0 $^{\circ}$ C was added bromine (2.8 mL, 53.8 mmol) dropwise over 30 min. The mixture was stirred at 0 $^{\circ}$ C for 4 h and quenched with saturated aqueous Na₂S₂O₃ solution (100 mL). The resulting two phases were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (2 × 50 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (10% EtOAc/hexanes) to provide benzoate **13** (14.3 g) in 92% yield as a white solid: mp 66 $^{\circ}$ C; 1 H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.36 (s, 1H), 3.90 (s, 6H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 2.61 (s, 3H); 13 C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.5, 150.6, 149.3, 132.7, 126.8, 122.8, 113.3, 60.4, 56.1, 52.2, 20.3; IR (neat) 2952, 1719, 1485, 1427, 1321, 1249, 1205, 1162, 1012, 987.8, 775.3 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) *m/z* 288 (M⁺, 93). 273 (16), 258 (51), 243 (19), 230 (66), 213 (44); HRMS (EI) calcd for C₁₁H₁₃BrO₄ [M⁺] 287.9997, found 287.9991.

Methyl 3-bromo-2-bromomethyl-4,5-dimethoxybenzoate (14). To a solution of benzoate 13 (24.0 g, 86 mmol) in 200 mL of benzene was added *N*-bromosuccinimide (18.0 g, 103 mmol) and AIBN (1.4 g, 8.6 mmol). The mixture was stirred at reflux temperature for 6 h and cooled to 0 °C. The precipitate was filtered off and the resulting solution was washed with saturated aqueous Na₂S₂O₃ solution (100 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with Et₂O (2 × 50 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (10% EtOAc/hexanes) to provide 2-(bromomethyl)benzoate 14 (30.3 g) in 96% yield as a white solid: mp 126 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.49 (s, 1H), 5.16 (s, 2H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.92 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.1, 152.6, 149.8, 131.6, 126.4, 123.1, 114.0, 60.5, 56.2, 52.6, 31.1; IR (neat) 2947, 2843, 1716, 1585, 1485, 1423, 1321, 1256, 1203, 1161, 986, 876 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) m/z 365 (M⁺, 47), 288 (100), 272 (4), 256 (21), 244 (8); HRMS (EI) calcd for C₁₁H₁₂Br₂O₄ [M⁺] 365.9102, found 365.9108.

4-Bromo-5,6-dimethoxyisoindolin-1-one (**15**). To a solution of 2-(bromomethyl)benzoate **14** (368 mg, 1.0 mmol) in 5 mL of THF was added ammonium hydroxide (0.4 mL of 48 wt% in H₂O, 5.0 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 d and THF was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was diluted with H₂O (10 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by recrystallization (EtOAc/hexanes) to provide isoindolin-1-one **15** (248 mg) in 92% yield as a white solid: mp 205 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO– d_6) δ 8.67 (s, 1H), 7.29 (s, 1H), 4.19 (s, 2H), 3.89 (s, 1H), 3.79 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO– d_6) δ 169.1, 153.8, 148.7, 136.8, 129.3, 112.2, 106.0, 60.3, 56.4, 45.1; IR (neat) 3212, 1717, 1670, 1478, 1318, 1081, 1029, 966, 855 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) m/z 270 (M⁺, 47); HRMS (EI) calcd for C₁₀H₁₀BrNO₃ [M⁺] 270.9844, found 270.9848.

4-Bromo-5,6-dimethoxy-2-methylisoindolin-1-one (16). To a solution of 2-(bromomethyl)benzoate **14** (15.6 g, 40.5 mmol) in 100 mL of THF was added methylamine (17.5 mL of 40 wt% in H₂O, 202.5 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h and THF was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was diluted with H₂O (50 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3 × 50 mL). The combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by recrystallization (EtOAc/hexanes) to provide isoindolin-1-one **16** (10.9 g) in 94% yield as a white solid: mp 165 °C; ¹H NMR (300MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.31 (s, 1H), 4.21 (s, 2H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.20 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.9, 154.2, 149.3, 134.4, 129.3, 112.3, 105.9, 60.8, 56.4, 52.2, 29.5, 14.1; IR (neat) 2840, 1673, 1473, 1414, 1394, 1310, 1045, 1022, 984, 929, 757 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) m/z 284 (M⁺, 95), 255 (100), 206 (42); HRMS (EI) calcd for C₁₁H₁₂BrNO₃ [M⁺] 285.0001, found 284.9997.

Typical procedure for direct "one-pot" synthesis of phenanthrene lactams

To a thick-well borosilicate glass vial (3 mL) was added isoindolin-1-one **15** or **16** (0.5 mmol), boronic acid (0.6 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (4 mol %), and Cs₂CO₃ (1.5 mmol) sequentially. The mixture was suspended in toluene/EtOH (2 mL/1 mL). Then, the reaction vial was sealed and placed into a microwave reactor and irradiated at 150 °C for 10 min (Usually, the average microwave power ranged from 60 to 80 W and the internal pressure was 6–8 bars). After being cooled to room temperature, the mixture was diluted with EtOAc and filtered through a short Celite pad. The solution was concentrated *in vacuo*, and the residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (EtOAc/hexanes) to afford a phenanthrene lactam product.

Aristolactam BII (1)

³ Castedo, L.; Guitian, E.; Saa, J. M.; Suau, R. Heterocycles 1982, 19, 279–280.

Aristolactam BIII (2)

Aristolactam BIII (2). Yield 83%, yellow solid, mp 227 °C (lit.⁴ 225 °C); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO– d_6) δ 10.75 (s, 1H), 8.64 (d, 1H, J = 2.1 Hz), 7.87 (d, 1H, J = 8.8 Hz), 7.83 (s, 1H), 7.24 (dd, 1H, J = 8.7, 2,5 Hz), 7.08 (s, 1H), 4.04 (s, 3H), 4.03 (s, 3H), 3.90 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO– d_6) δ 168.1, 157.0, 153.9, 150.3, 133.1, 130.0, 128.7, 127.0, 123.4, 121.6, 119.6, 116.1, 110.0, 109.4, 104.5, 59.9, 56.9, 55.1; IR (neat) 2359, 1697, 1503, 1374, 1267, 783, 759 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) m/z 309 (M⁺, 100), 294 (22), 279 (5), 266 (18), 251 (17), 238 (12), 223 (10), 195 (7), 180 (13); HRMS (EI) calcd for $C_{18}H_{15}NO_4$ [M⁺] 309.1001, found 309.0998.

1,2-Dimethoxy-5-methyldibenzo[cd,f]indol-4-(5H)-one (**24**). Yield 86%, yellowish green solid, mp 189 °C (lit. 193–194 °C); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.24-9.21 (m, 1H), 7.85-7.82 (m, 1H), 7.79 (s, 1H), 7.58-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.00 (s, 1H), 4.11 (s, 3H), 4.07 (s, 3H), 3.49 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.9, 154.3, 151.0, 137.1, 134.7, 128.9, 127.5, 127.4, 127.1, 125.7, 122.9, 121.2, 120.5, 109.4, 103.9, 60.2, 56.8, 26.2; IR (neat) 1697, 1647, 1456, 1399, 1315, 1232, 1117, 1017, 752 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) m/z 293.0 (M⁺, 100) 278.0 (12), 250.0 (27), 235.0 (11), 222.0 (9); HRMS (EI) calcd for C₁₈H₁₅NO₄ [M⁺] 293.1052, found 293.1046.

⁴ Crohare, R.; Priestap, H. A.; Farina, M.; Cedola, M.; Ruveda, E. A. *Phytochemistry* **1974**, *13*, 1957–1962.

⁵ Rao, K. V.; Reddy, G. C. S. J. Nat. Prod. **1990**, 53, 309–312.

1,2,8,9-Tetramethoxy-5-methyldibenzo[cd,f]indol-4-(5H)-one (25). Yield 86%, yellow solid, mp 218 °C (lit. 216–217 °C); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.70 (s, 1m), 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.15 (s, 1H), 6.81 (s, 1H), 4.09 (s, 3H), 4.07 (s, 3H), 4.03 (s, 3H), 4.02 (s, 3H), 3.41 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.7, 153.8, 149.9, 149.0, 147.6, 135.9, 129.6, 121.8, 121.4, 120.8, 120.1, 109.3, 108.8, 108.6, 103.4, 60.2, 56.8, 55.8, 26.2; IR (neat) 2360, 2341, 1690, 1504, 1401, 1250, 1107, 1024, 668 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) m/z 353 (M⁺, 100), 338 (24), 309 (6), 294 (8), 279 (11), 251 (3); HRMS (EI) calcd for $C_{20}H_{19}NO_5$ [M⁺] 353.1263, found 353.1275.

Aristolactam (**26**). Yield 80%, yellow solid, mp 261 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.69 (s, 1H), 7.78 (s, 1H), 7.22 (s, 1H), 6.91 (s, 1H), 6.12 (s, 2H), 4.09 (s, 3H), 4.06 (s, 3H), 3.47 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.8, 153.9, 150.4, 147.6, 146.7, 136.2, 131.1, 122.2, 121.9, 121.4, 120.5, 109.3, 106.9, 106.2, 104.1, 101.4, 60.3, 56.9, 26.3; IR (neat) 3453, 2359, 1700, 1476, 1236, 1075, 772, 431 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) *m/z* 337 (M⁺, 47), 288 (100), 272 (4), 256 (21), 244 (8); HRMS (EI) calcd for C₁₉H₁₅NO₅ [M⁺] 337.0950, found 337.0941.

⁶ Castedo, L.; Suau, R.; Mouriño, A. Tetrahedron Lett. 1976, 6, 501–502.

1,2,8-Trimethoxy-5-methyldibenzo[cd_sf]indol-4-(5H)-one (**27**). Yield 87%, yellow solid, mp 216 $^{\circ}$ C; 1 H NMR (300MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.12 (d, 1H, J = 9.0 Hz), 7.73 (s, 1H), 7.26 (d, 1H, J = 2.8 Hz), 7.15 (dd, 1H, J = 9.0, 2.7 Hz), 6.94 (s, 1H), 4.09 (s, 3H), 4.06 (s, 3H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.48 (s, 3H); 13 C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.9, 158.5, 154.2, 150.0, 137.5, 136.4, 128.7, 122.0, 121.1, 120.8, 120.5, 114.2, 110.8, 108.3, 103.5, 60.1, 56.7, 55.6, 26.1; IR (neat) 2937, 2838, 1698, 1401, 1228, 1110, 1016, 867, 830 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) m/z 323 (M⁺, 100), 309 (12), 308 (68), 279 (51), 265 (65), 252 (17), 249 (16), 237 (17), 208 (22), 193 (12); HRMS (EI) calcd for C₁₉H₁₇NO₄ [M⁺] 323.1158, found 323.1158.

8-Chloro-1,2-dimethoxy-5-methyldibenzo[cd,f]indol-4-(5H)-one (**28**). Yield 86%, light yellow solid, mp 210 °C; ¹H NMR (300MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.14 (d, 1H, J = 8.8 Hz), 7.80 (s, 2H), 7.50 (dd, 1H, J = 8.8, 2.1 Hz), 6.90 (s, 1H), 4.10 (s, 3H), 4.07 (s, 3H), 3.48 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.9, 154.5, 150.8, 138.2, 136.2, 133.2, 128.9, 127.9, 125.9, 125.3, 122.8, 121.2, 120.1, 109.7, 102.5, 60.4, 56.9, 26.4; IR (neat) 2935, 1685, 1646, 1446, 1316, 1232, 1017, 823, 758 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) m/z 327 (M⁺, 100), 311 (28), 283 (14), 277 (35), 268 (13), 249 (81), 215 (10), 212 (27), 178 (14); HRMS (EI) calcd for C₁₈H₁₄ClNO₃ [M⁺] 327.0662, found 327.0660.

1,2-Dimethoxy-5,9-dimethyldibenzo[cd_s f]indol-4-(5H)-one (**29**). Yield 81%, yellow solid, mp 200 °C; ¹H NMR (300MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.03 (s, 1H), 7.79 (s, 1H), 7.73 (d, 1H, J = 8.1 Hz), 7.41 (dd, 1H, J = 8.1, 1.2 Hz), 6.98 (s, 1H), 4.11 (s, 3H), 4.06 (s, 3H), 3.48 (s, 3H), 2.59 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.9, 154.2, 151.0, 136.4, 135.5, 132.4, 128.9, 128.8, 127.6, 127.2, 123.0, 121.3, 120.4, 109.4, 104.1, 60.3, 56.9, 26.3, 22.1; IR (neat) 2935, 1693, 1645, 1395, 1114, 1025, 956, 844 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) m/z 307 (M⁺, 100), 292 (12), 277 (10), 264 (37), 249 (51), 236 (10) 193 (19), 192 (15); HRMS (EI)

calcd for C₁₉H₁₇NO₃ [M⁺] 307.1208, found 307.1202.

1,2-Dimethoxy-5-methylbenzo[cd]thieno[3,4-f]indol-4(5H)-one (30). Yield 35%, brown solid, mp 188 °C; ¹H NMR (300MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.45 (dd, 1H, J = 3.1, 0.7 Hz), 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.51 (d, 1H, J = 3.1 Hz), 6.80 (s, 1H), 4.13 (s, 3H), 4.03 (s, 3H), 3.43 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.0, 154.2, 149.0, 138.3, 136.6, 129.9, 124.3, 121.9, 121.3, 118.5, 117.6, 107.4, 98.5, 60.2, 56.7, 26.3; IR (neat) 3100, 2994, 2931, 1689, 1386, 1311, 1131, 1017, 955, 815, 755 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) m/z 299 (M⁺, 100), 284 (26), 256 (42), 241 (36), 239 (14), 186 (14), 185 (35), 183 (12); HRMS (EI) calcd for C₁₆H₁₃NO₃S [M⁺] 299.0616, found 299.0613.

Aristolactam FI (**Piperolactam A, 3**). To a solution of cepharanone B **1** (279 mg, 1.0 mmol) in 3 mL of DMF was added lithium chloride (420 mg, 10.0 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 150 $^{\circ}$ C for 4 d and cooled to room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with H₂O (5 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with H₂O and brine, dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (50% EtOAc/hexanes) to provide piperolactam **3** (175 mg) in 66% yield as a yellow solid: mp 234-235 $^{\circ}$ C (lit. ⁷ 303–306 $^{\circ}$ C); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO– d_6) δ 10.65 (s, 1H), 9.26-9.23 (m, 1H), 7.93-7.90 (m, 1H), 7.75 (s, 1H), 7.55-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.11 (s, 1H), 4.03 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO– d_6) δ 168.8, 149.3, 148.2, 135.1, 134.1, 128.6, 127.4, 126.6, 126.5, 124.9, 124.3, 115.9, 114.4, 108.5, 104.3, 57.1; IR (neat) 3482, 2361, 1684, 1375, 1241, 772, 443 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) m/z 265.1 (M⁺, 100), 250 (54),

⁷ Desai, S. J.; Prabhu, B. R.; Mulchandani, N. B. *Phytochemistry* **1988**, 27, 1511–1515.

222 (35), 193 (4), 166 (37), 150 (6), 139 (25), 132 (8); HRMS (EI) calcd for $C_{16}H_{11}NO_3$ [M⁺] 265.0739, found 265.0737.

N-Methyl piperolactam A (4). To a solution of aristolactam 24 (293 mg, 1.0 mmol) in 3 mL of DMF was added lithium chloride (420 mg, 10.0 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 150 $^{\circ}$ C for 4 d and cooled to room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with H₂O (5 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with H₂O and brine, dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (50% EtOAc/hexanes) to provide aristolactam 4 (196 mg) in 70% yield as a gray solid: mp 201 $^{\circ}$ C (lit. 205– 207 $^{\circ}$ C); H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO–*d*₆) δ 10.69 (s, 1H), 9.26-9.21 (m, 1H), 7.94-7.91 (m, 1H), 7.78 (s, 1H) 7.56-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.29 (s, 1H), 4.02 (s, 3H), 3.38 (s, 3H); H C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO–*d*₆) 167.2, 149.4, 148.2, 136.7, 133.9, 128.8, 127.5, 126.9, 126.8, 125.2, 122.9, 115.1, 114.2, 108.7, 103.9, 57.2, 26.1; IR (neat) 2991, 2927, 1694, 1642, 1445, 1396, 1314, 1117, 1012, 822.9 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) *m/z* 279 (M⁺, 100) 264 (48), 236 (18), 180 (10); HRMS (EI) calcd for C₁₇H₁₃NO₃ [M⁺] 279.0895, found 279.0891.

Sauristolactam (5). To a solution of aristolactam 24 (124 mg, 0.42 mmol) in 3 mL of glacial acetic acid was added hydrobromic acid (47 μ L, 0.42 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 100 $^{\circ}$ C for 6 h and cooled to room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with H₂O (5 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution and brine, dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by preparative HPLC (20%

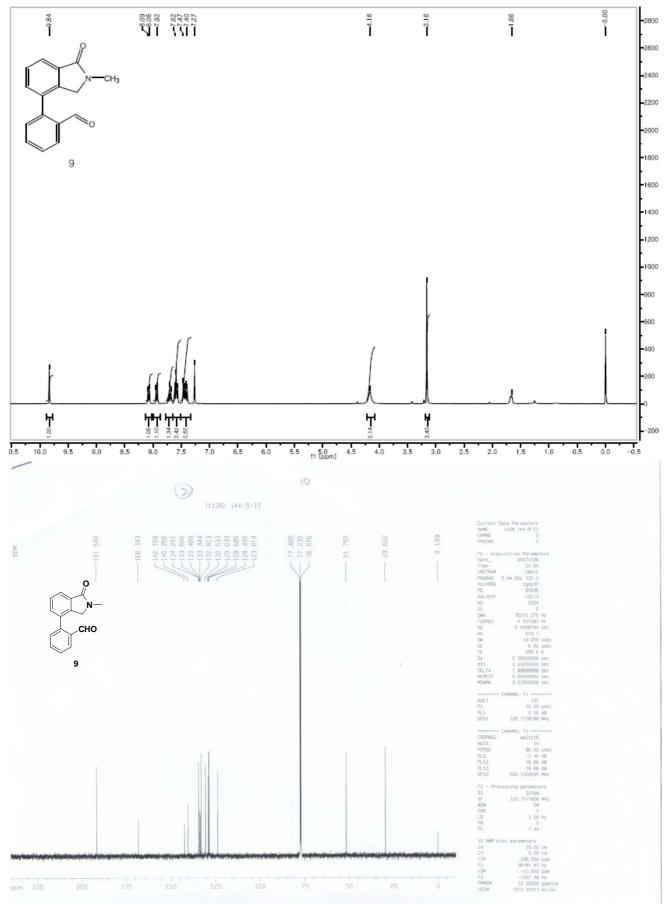
⁸ Ruangrungsi, N.; Prathanturarug, S.; Lange, G. L.; Organ, M. G. *Phytochemistry* **1992**, *31*, 2397–2400.

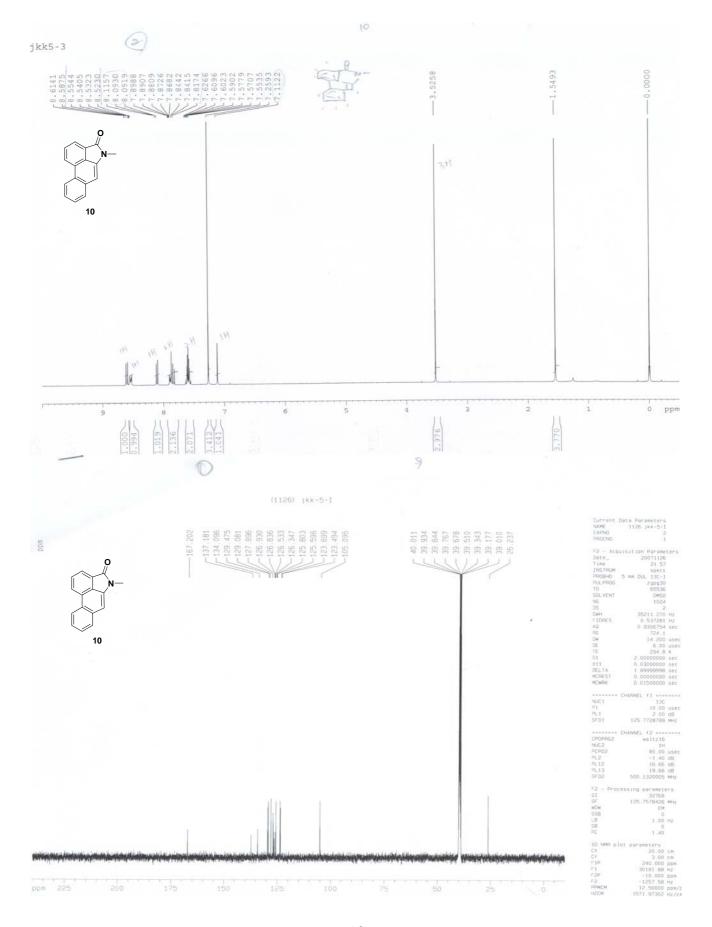
H₂O/CH₃CN, C18 column, 30 × 150 mm, 20 mL/min) to provide aristolactam **4** (22 mg, 19% yield, retention time = 6.09 min) and sauristolactam **5** (13 mg, 11% yield, retention time = 7.28 min) as a yellow solid: mp 276 °C (lit.⁵ >290 °C); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO– d_6) δ 10.36 (s, 1H), 9.11 (dd, 1H, J = 7.5, 1.8 Hz), 7.94 (dd, 1H, J = 8.1, 1.7 Hz), 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.60-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.30 (s, 1H), 4.01 (s, 3H), 3.38 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO– d_6) δ 167.2, 149.7, 148.2, 136.7, 133.9, 128.7, 127.5, 127.0, 126.7, 125.2, 123.0, 114.8, 114.3, 108.7, 103.8, 57.2, 26.0; IR (neat) 2359, 1645, 1219, 772, 432 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) m/z 279 (M⁺, 100), 264 (35), 236 (15), 180 (6); HRMS (EI) calcd for C₁₇H₁₃NO₃ [M⁺] 279.0895, found 279.0895.

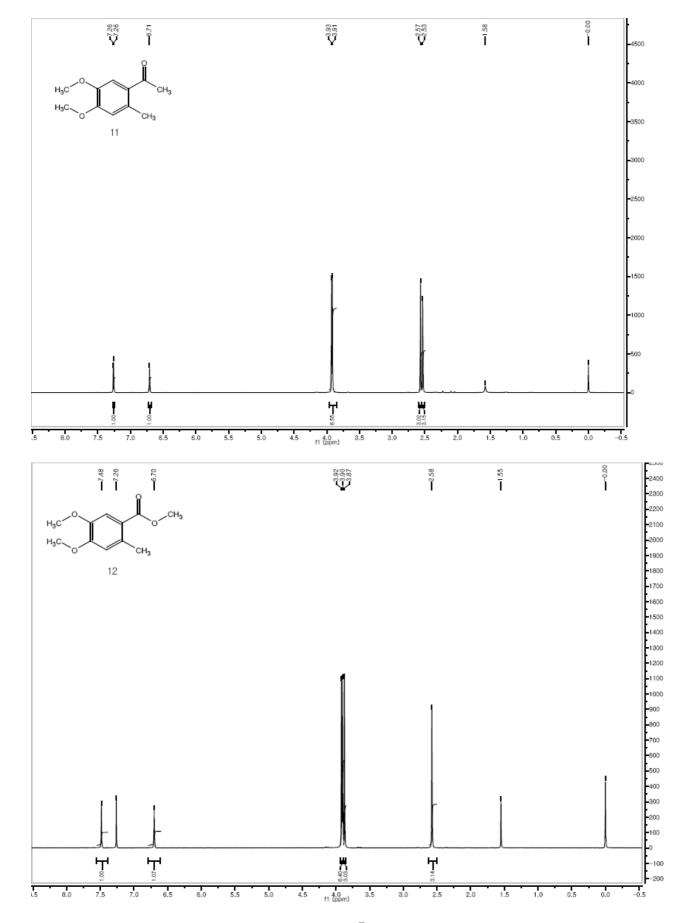
N-((2'-Formylbiphenyl-2-yl)methyl)-*N*-methylacetamide (35). To a thick-well borosilicate glass vial (3 mL) was added acetamide 34 (64 mg, 0.27 mmol), boronic acid 8 (48 mg, 0.34 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (12 mg, 4 mol %), and Cs₂CO₃ (259 mg, 0.79 mmol) sequentially. The mixture was suspended in toluene/EtOH (2 mL/1 mL). Then, the reaction vial was sealed and placed into a microwave reactor and irradiated at 150 °C for 10 min (the average microwave power ranged from 60 to 80 W and the internal pressure was 6–8 bars). After being cooled to room temperature, the mixture was diluted with EtOAc and filtered through a short Celite pad. The solution was concentrated *in vacuo*, and the residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (50% EtOAc/hexanes) to afford biphenyl 35 (55 mg) in 78% yield as a white solid: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.79 (s, 0.6H), 9.77 (s, 0.4H), 8.04-8.01 (m, 1H), 7.71-7.62 (m, 1H) 7.61-7.49 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.35-7.22 (m, 4H), 4.40 (ABq, 1.2H, J = 15.3 Hz), 4.21 (ABq, 0.8H, J = 17.1 Hz), 2.82 (s, 1.2H), 2.74 (s, 1.8H), 2.01 (s, 1.8H), 1.88 (s, 1.2H).

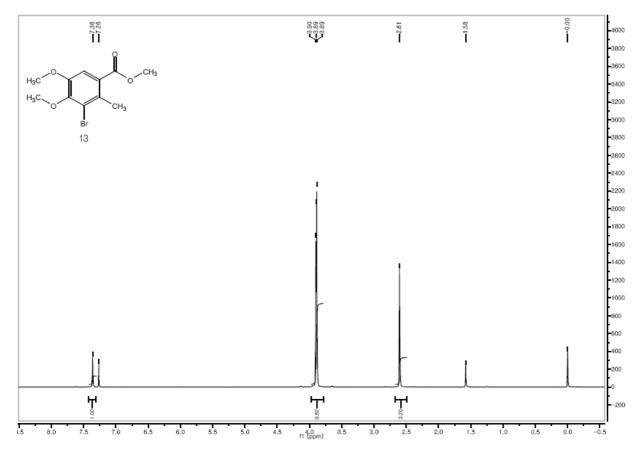
Table S1. Comparison of ¹H NMR Chemical Shifts of Aristolactams

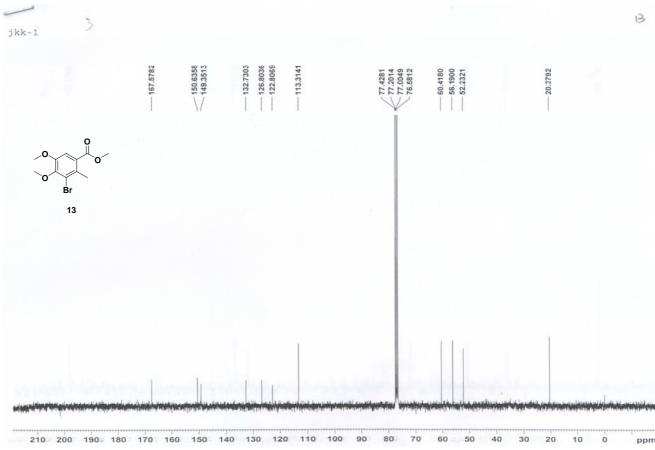
⁹ Sun, N.-J.; Antoun, M.; Chang, C.-J.; Cassady, J. M. *J. Nat. Prod.* **1987**, *50*, 843–846. ¹⁰ Priestap, H. A. *Phytochemistry* **1985**, *24*, 849–852.

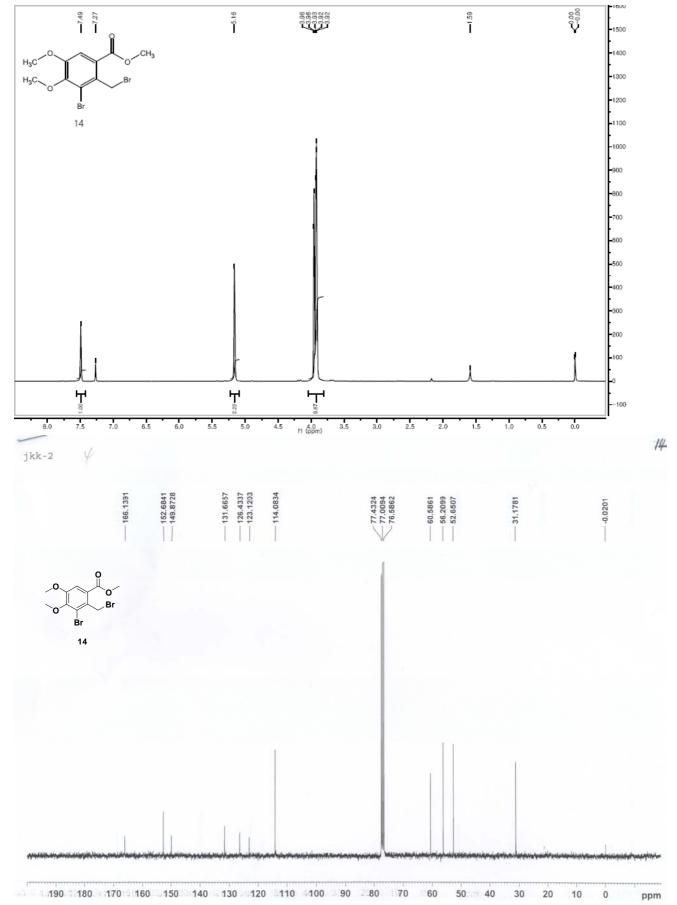


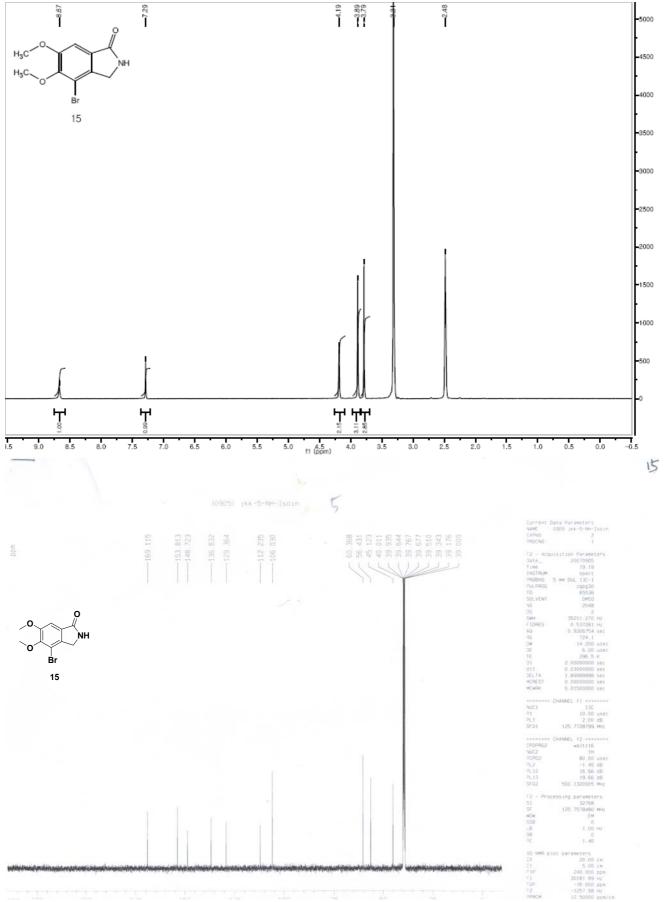


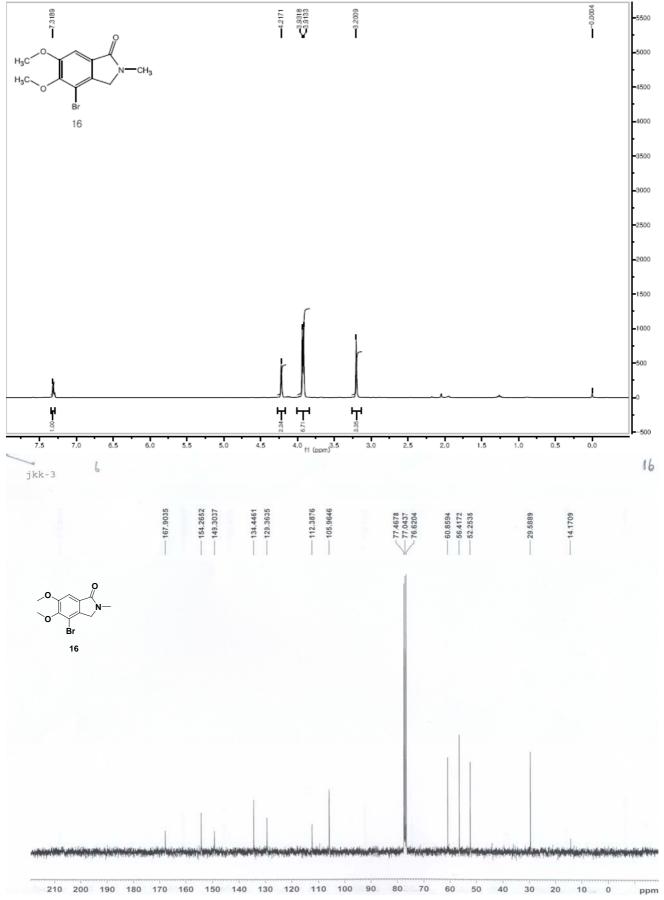


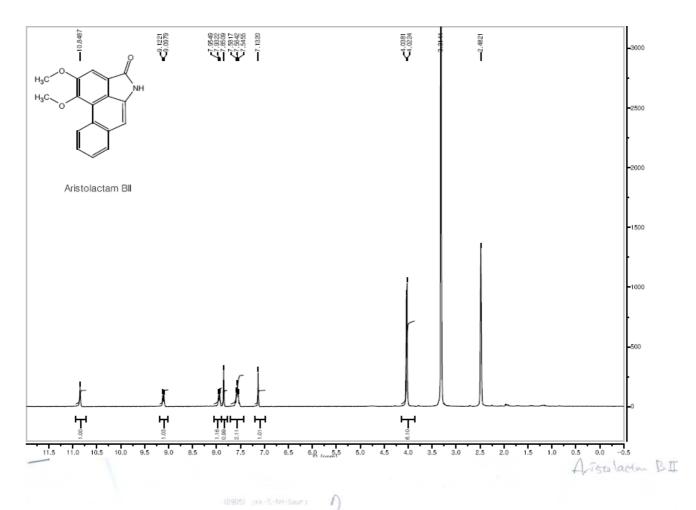


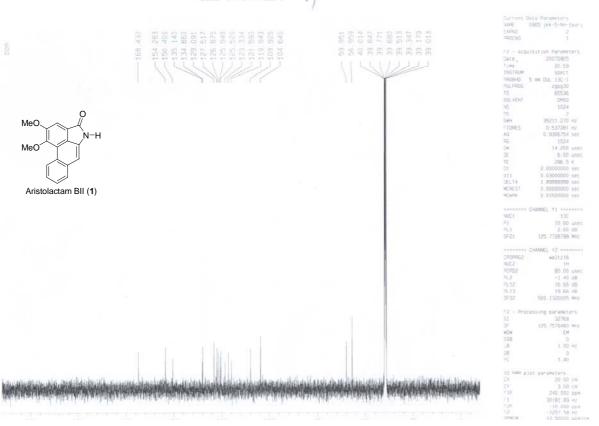


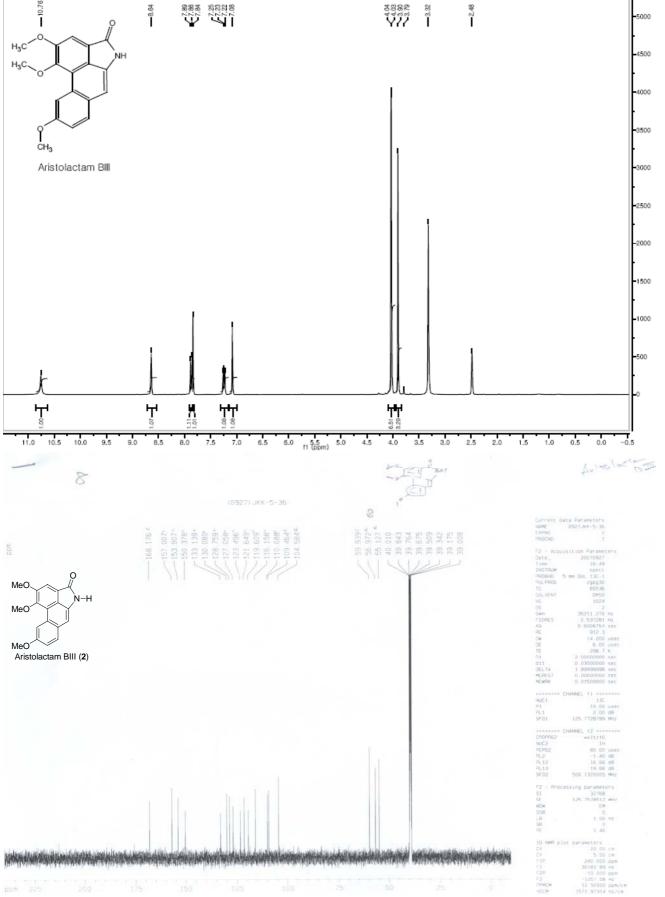




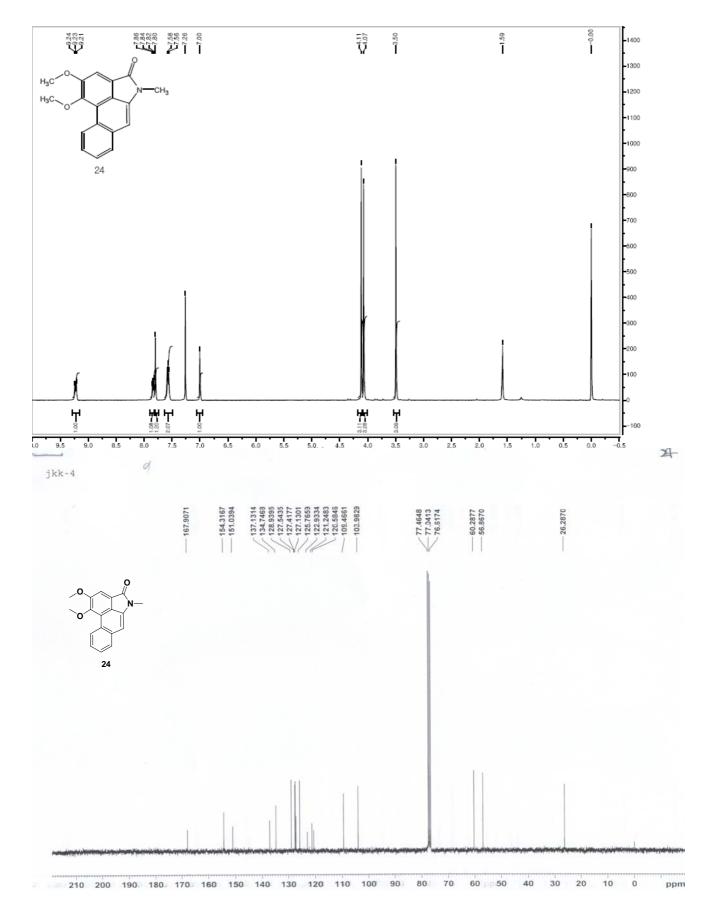


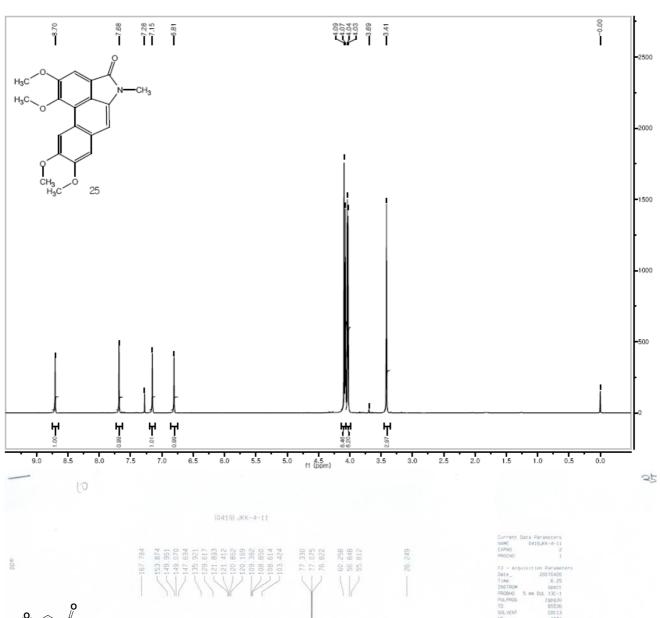


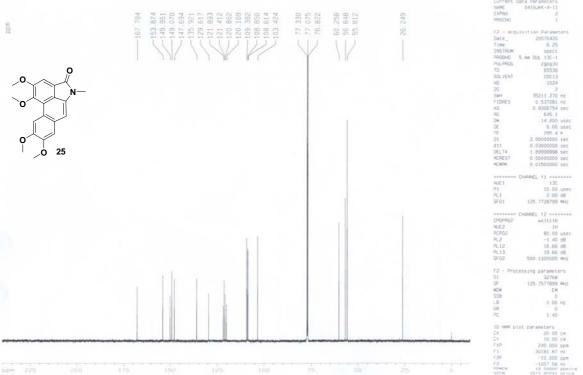




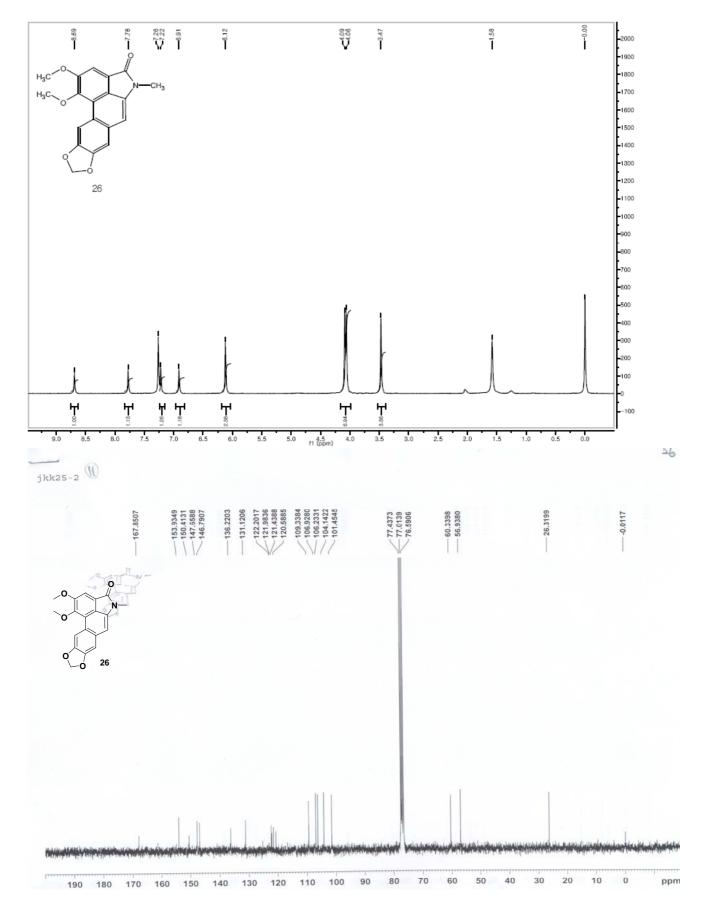
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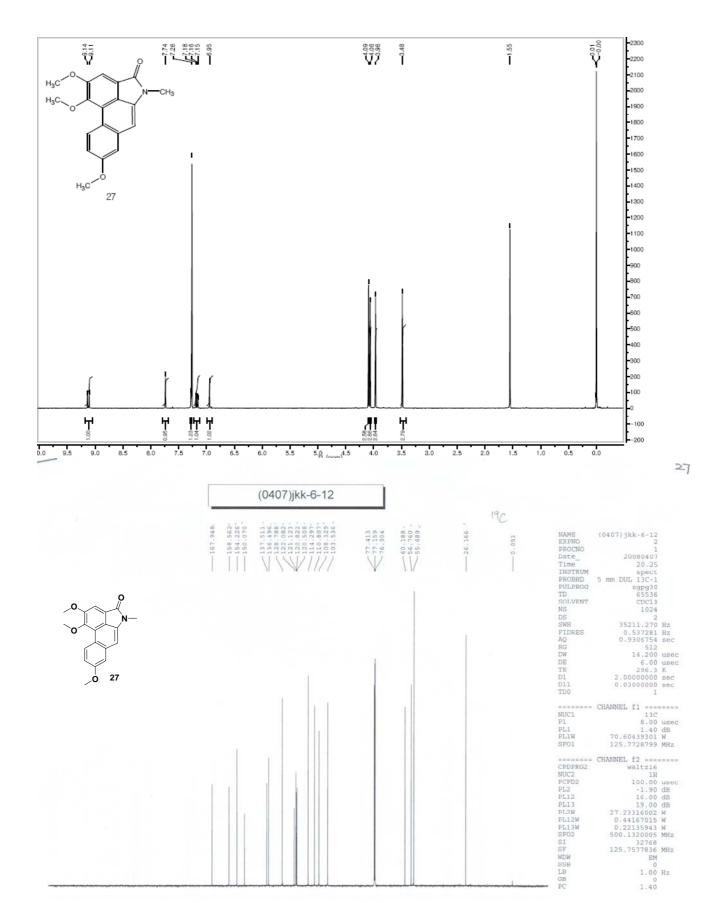


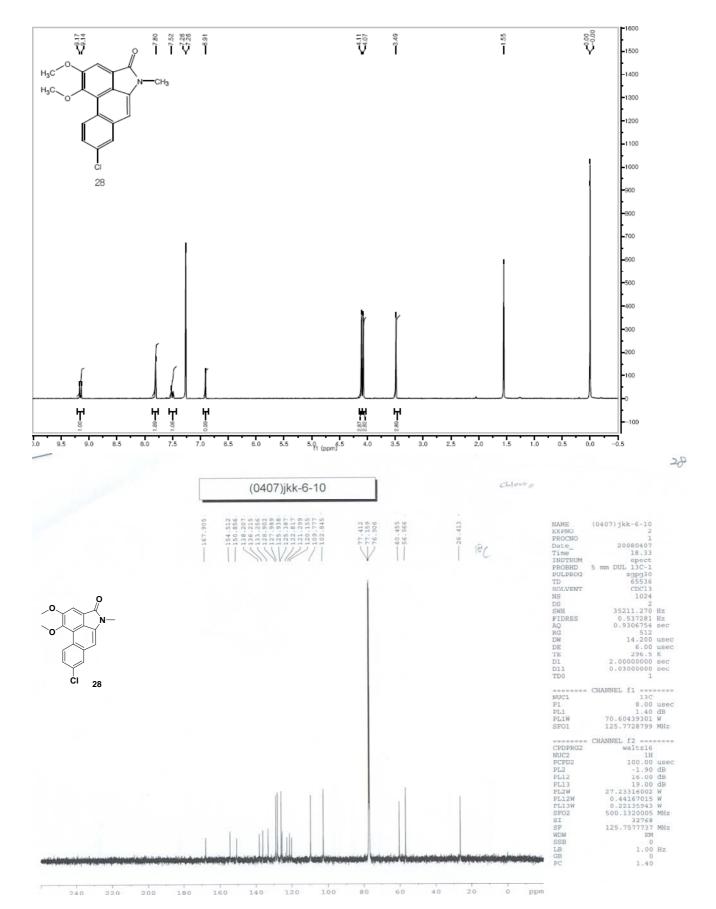


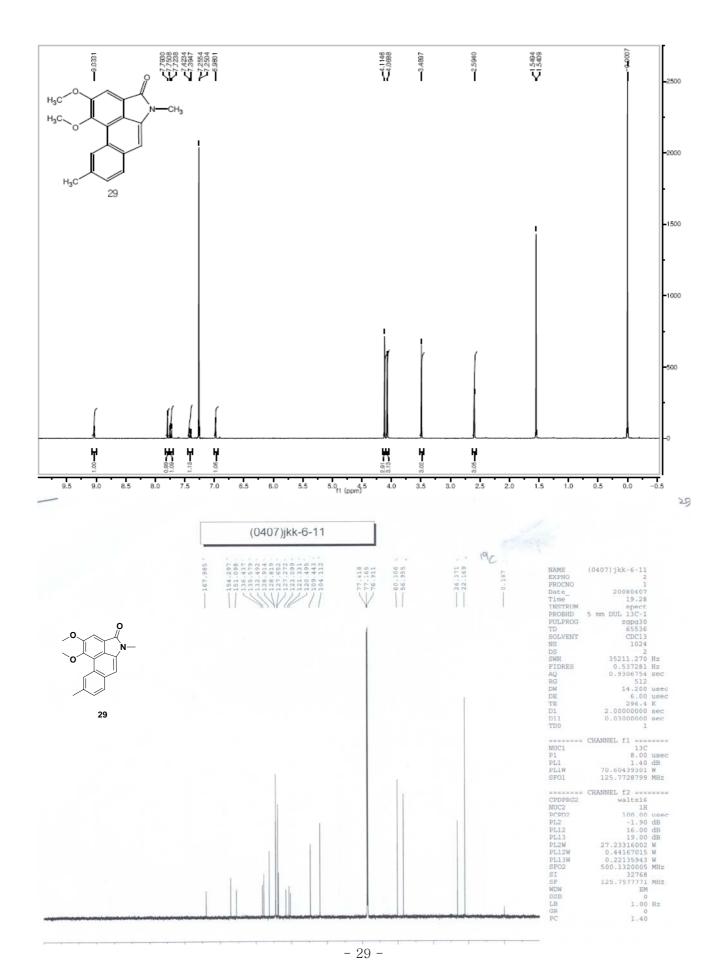


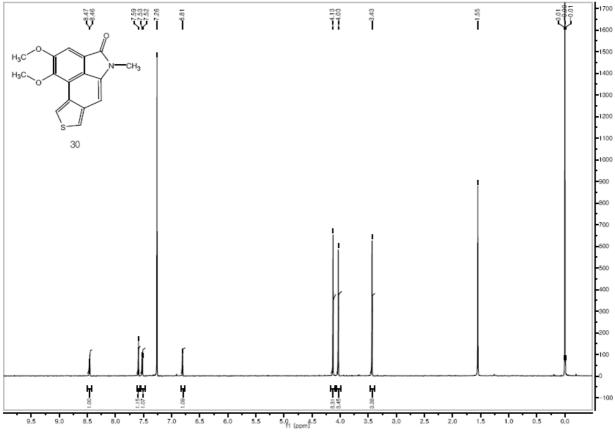
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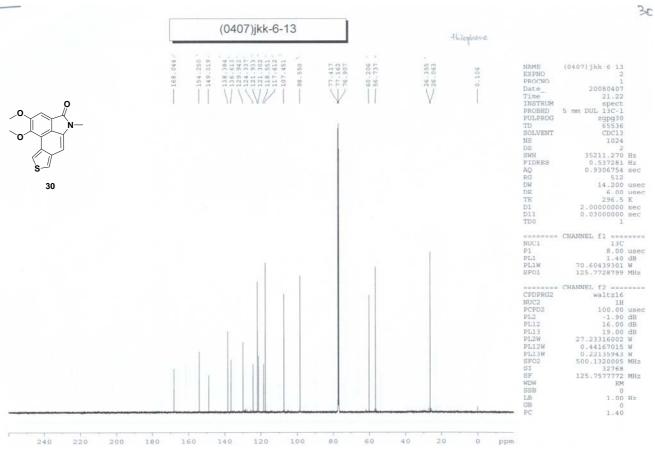




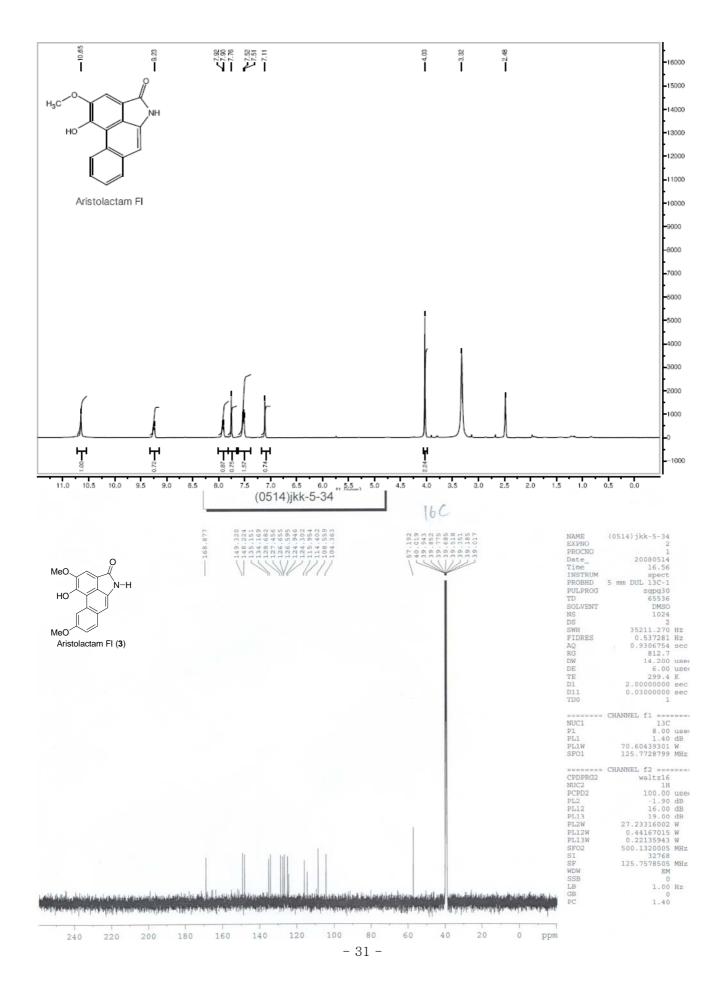


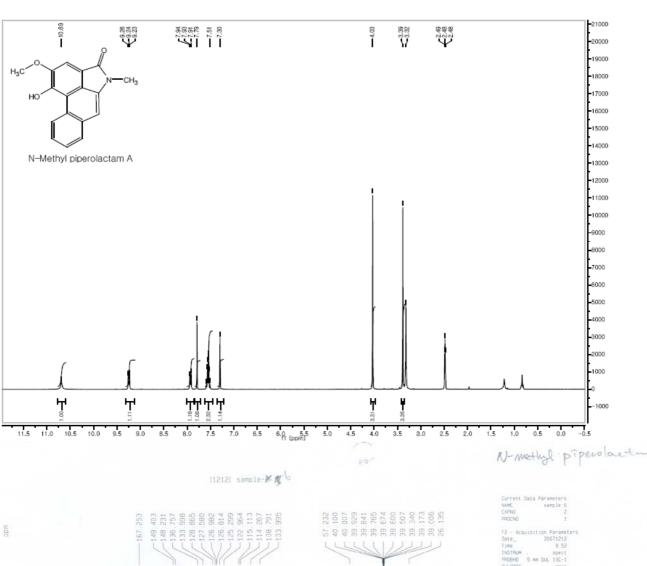


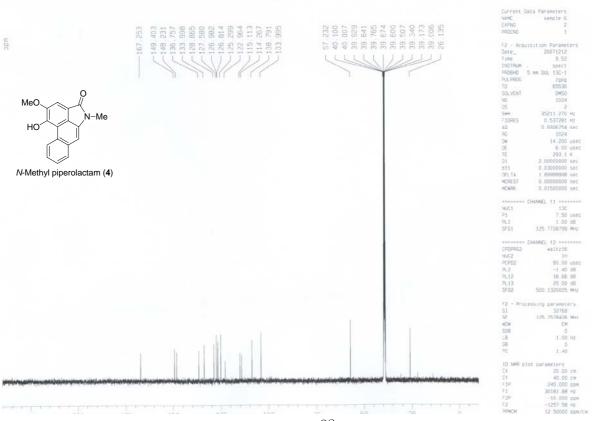


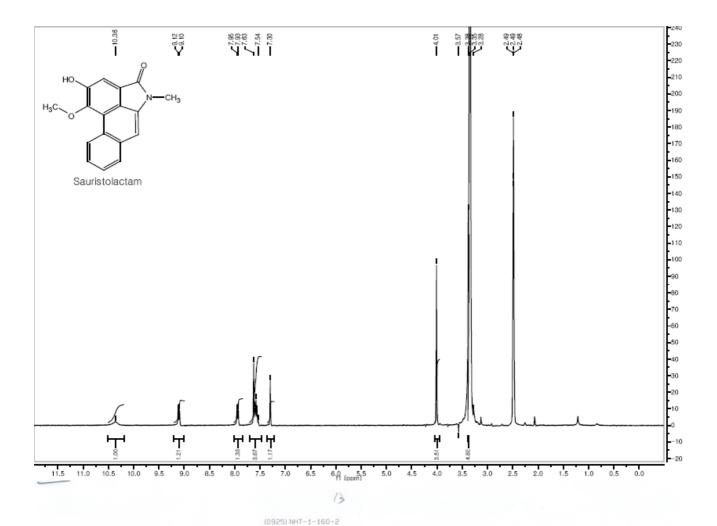


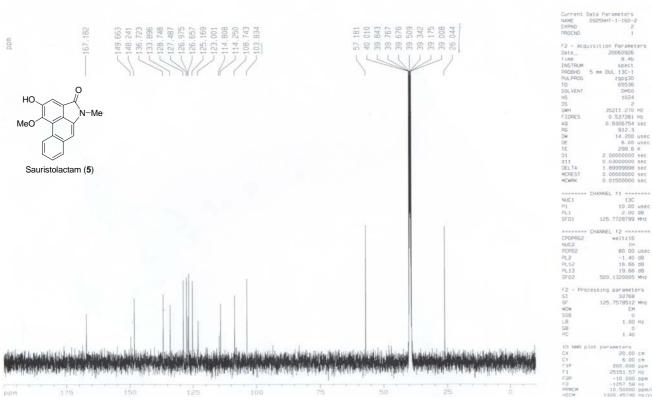
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