# **Supporting Information for**

## A Proposal for the Mechanism-of-Action of Diazoparaquinone Natural Products.

Ken S. Feldman\* and Kyle J. Eastman

Department of Chemistry, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania 16802 USA

General Experimental	<b>S</b> 3
General Procedure 1. Phenylation of <b>10(a-c)</b>	S3
General Procedure 2. Aromatic Solvent Competition Experiments	<b>S</b> 3
General Procedure 3. Aromatic Solvent Competition Experiments	S4
General Procedure 4. Varying Tin Eq Competition Experiments	S5
Trihydroxy-phenyl-benzo[b]fluorenone (10a)	S5
Diacetoxy-phenyl-benzo[b]fluorenone (10b)	S5
Dimethoxy-phenyl-benzo[b]fluorenone (10c)	S5
Triacetoxy-phenyl-benzo[b]fluorenone (10d)	<b>S</b> 6
Trimethoxy-phenyl-benzo[b]fluorenone (10e)	<b>S</b> 7
Dimethoxy-tolyl-benzo[b]fluorenone (11a)	<b>S</b> 7
Dimethoxy-chlorophenyl-benzo[b]fluorenone (11b)	<b>S</b> 8
Dimethoxy-cyanophenyl-benzo[b]fluorenone (11c)	S9
Dimethoxy-methoxyphenyl-benzo[b]fluorenone (11d)	<b>S</b> 9
Dimethoxy-dimethylphenyl-benzo[b]fluorenone (11e)	S10
Dimethoxy-dimethoxylphenyl-benzo[b]fluorenone (11f)	S11
Dimethoxy-dicyanophenyl-benzo[b]fluorenone (11g)	S11
<sup>1</sup> H NMR <b>10b</b>	S13
<sup>13</sup> C NMR <b>10b</b>	S14
<sup>1</sup> H NMR <b>10c</b>	S15
<sup>13</sup> C NMR <b>10c</b>	S16
<sup>1</sup> H NMR <b>10d</b>	S17
<sup>13</sup> C NMR <b>10d</b>	S18
<sup>1</sup> H NMR <b>10e</b>	S19
<sup>13</sup> C NMR <b>10e</b>	S20
<sup>1</sup> H NMR <b>11a</b> ( <i>ortho</i> )	S21
<sup>1</sup> H NMR <b>11a</b> ( <i>o</i> , <i>m</i> , <i>p</i> )	S22
<sup>13</sup> C NMR <b>11a</b> ( <i>o</i> , <i>m</i> , <i>p</i> )	S23
<sup>1</sup> H NMR <b>11b</b> ( <i>ortho</i> )	S24

<sup>1</sup> H NMR <b>11b</b> ( <i>meta</i> )	S25
<sup>1</sup> H NMR <b>11b</b> ( <i>para</i> )	S26
$^{13}$ C NMR <b>11b</b> ( <i>o</i> , <i>m</i> , <i>p</i> )	S27
<sup>1</sup> H NMR <b>11c</b> ( <i>ortho</i> )	S28
<sup>1</sup> H NMR <b>11c</b> ( <i>meta</i> )	S29
<sup>1</sup> H NMR <b>11c</b> ( <i>para</i> )	S30
$^{13}$ C NMR <b>11c</b> ( <i>o</i> , <i>m</i> , <i>p</i> )	S31
<sup>1</sup> H NMR <b>11d</b> ( <i>ortho</i> )	S32
<sup>13</sup> C NMR <b>11d</b> ( <i>ortho</i> )	S33
<sup>1</sup> H NMR <b>11d</b> $(m,p)$	S34
$^{13}$ C NMR <b>11d</b> ( <i>m</i> , <i>p</i> )	S35
<sup>1</sup> H NMR <b>11e</b> (4-isomer)	S36
<sup>13</sup> C NMR <b>11e</b> (4-isomer)	S37
<sup>1</sup> H NMR <b>11e</b> (2-isomer)	S38
<sup>13</sup> C NMR <b>11e</b> (2-isomer)	S39
<sup>1</sup> H NMR <b>11f</b> (4-isomer)	S40
<sup>13</sup> C NMR <b>11f</b> (4-isomer)	S41
<sup>1</sup> H NMR <b>11f</b> (2-isomer)	S42
<sup>13</sup> C NMR <b>11f</b> (2-isomer)	S43
<sup>1</sup> H NMR <b>11g</b> (4-isomer)	S44
$^{13}$ C NMR <b>11g</b> (4-isomer)	S45
<sup>1</sup> H NMR <b>11g</b> (2-isomer)	S46
$^{13}$ C NMR <b>11g</b> (2-isomer)	S47
References	S48

Moisture and oxygen sensitive reactions were carried out in flame-dried glassware under an argon or nitrogen atmosphere. Benzene was distilled from sodium benzophenone ketyl under an argon atmosphere, or passed through an activated alumina column immediately before use. Toluene was distilled from sodium 9-fluorenone ketyl under argon atmosphere, or passed through an activated alumina column immediately before use. Chlorobenzene, benzonitrile, anisole, m-xylene, 1,3-dimethoxybenzene, and 1,3cyanobenzene were purged with nitrogen for 30 min prior to use (where applicable) and otherwise used as purchased. AIBN was recrystallized from ethyl alcohol. Bu<sub>3</sub>SnH was distilled neat and stored under nitrogen. Purification of products via flash chromatography was performed with 32-63 µm silica gel or Analtech Uniplate 1000 micron preparative thin layer chromatography plates, with the solvent systems indicated. CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, EtOAc and acetone used in flash chromatography were of HPLC grade or passed through an activated alumina column prior to use. Melting points are uncorrected. Lowand high-resolution mass spectra were obtained according to the specified technique and were performed at The Huck Institute of the Life Sciences – Proteomics and Mass Spectrometry Core Facility at The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA. Copies of <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra are supplied as criteria of purity.

**General Procedure 1.** Phenylation of Prekinamycin and Derivatives. AIBN (1.1 equiv) in benzene (0.06 M) was added via syringe pump addition over a period of 1 h to a stirring solution of diazoquinones **10a**, **10b** or **10c** (1 equiv) and Bu<sub>3</sub>SnH (1.1 equiv) in benzene (0.06 M) at 80 °C. When the addition was complete, the reaction solution was allowed to cool to room temperature. After reaching room temperature the reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo. The resulting residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using the specified eluent.

**General Procedure 2.** Aromatic Solvent Competition Experiments. AIBN (1.1 equiv) in an equimolar solution of benzene and the appropriate aromatic solvent (0.06 M) was added via syringe pump addition over a period of 1 h to a stirring solution of diazoquinone **10c** (1 equiv) and Bu<sub>3</sub>SnH (1.1 equiv) also in an equimolar solution of benzene and the appropriate aromatic solvent (0.06 M) at 80 °C. When the addition was

complete, the reaction solution was allowed to cool to room temperature. After reaching room temperature the reaction mixture was diluted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  and poured onto a silica gel column and purified eluting with  $CH_2Cl_2$  with an increasing percentage of EtOAc from 0 % to 10 %. Purification furnished the clean benzene trapped product and in most cases a mixture of *o*,*m*,*p* or the 2,4,5 isomers of the given substituted aromatic trapped product. Relative rates were quantified by product mass comparison of the substituted aromatic adducts vs. the benzene addition product. Isolation of analytical samples of pure *o*, *m* or *p* (or the 2, 4 or 5 isomers) from chromatography permitted <sup>1</sup>H NMR identification. In cases where isomer separation was not achieved, the ratios were determined by inspection of <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of the mixtures.

General Procedure 3. Aromatic Solvent Competition Eeperiments. AIBN (1.1 equiv) in an equimolar solution of benzene and the appropriate aromatic solvent (0.06 M) was added via syringe pump addition over a period of 1 h to a stirring solution of diazoquinone 10c (1 equiv) and Bu<sub>3</sub>SnH (1.1 equiv) also in an equimolar solution of benzene and the appropriate solvent (0.06 M) at 80 °C. When the addition was complete, the reaction solution was allowed to cool to room temperature. After reaching room temperature the reaction mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and poured onto a silica gel column. Purification eluting with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> to remove tin residues, followed by an increase in polarity to 10% acetone in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> afforded a mixture of the benzene and substituted aromatic trapped products. Relative rates were quantified by <sup>1</sup>H NMR integration of the substituted aromatic adducts vs. the benzene addition product. Ratio determination was made through similar comparison of the pure *o*,*m*,*p* (or the 2,4,5) isomer(s) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra to that of the mixture.

General Procedure 4. Aromatic Solvent Competition Experiments with Varying Equivalents of Tin. General Proceeures 2 and 3 were both used varying only in the equivalents of Bu<sub>3</sub>SnH as indicated in Figure 1.

**4,5,9-Trihydroxy-2-Methyl-11-Phenyl-Benzo[b]fluoren-10-one** (10a). Following General Proceedure 1, prekinamycin **1a** (18 mg, 0.057 mmol) was converted into benzo[b]fluorenone **10a** (12.3 mg, 59%). mp 260 °C (dec); IR (neat): 3409, 1585 cm<sup>-1</sup>; Presumably, due to the partial free radical nature of **10a** analogous to kinobscurinone,<sup>1</sup> **10a** appears to be "NMR silent" exhibiting neither a <sup>1</sup>H- nor a <sup>13</sup>C NMR signature; ESI m/z relative intensity 391(MNa<sup>+</sup> 100); TOFHRMS (+ESI) Calcd for  $C_{24}H_{16}O_4Na$ : 391.0946, Found 391.0947.

Acetic Acid 9-Acetoxy-5-Hydroxy-2-Methyl-10-oxo-11-Phenyl-10H-Benzo[b]fluoren-4-yl Ester (10b). Following General Proceedure 1, diazoquinone 1b (17.5 mg, 0.044 mmol) was converted into benzo[b]fluorenone 10b (9.8 mg, 50%). mp 200 °C (dec); IR (neat): 3330, 1789, 1766 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  9.39 (s, 1H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.50 (m, 3H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 7.05 (s, 1H), 2.51 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H), <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  180.2, 170.2, 166.9, 151.3, 149.9, 147.9, 144.4, 143.3, 138.5, 135.7, 133.9, 133.8, 129.7, 128.8, 128.7, 128.2, 126.5, 125.4, 123.3, 123.2, 123.0, 122.6, 114.6, 21.7, 21.6, 21.3; ESI m/z relative intensity 475 (MNa<sup>+</sup> 100); TOFHRMS (+ESI) Calcd for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>6</sub>Na: 475.1158, Found 475.1142.

**5-Hydroxy-4,9-dimethoxy-2-methyl-11-phenyl-benzo[b]fluoren-10-one (10c).** Following General Proceedure 1, diazoquinone **1c** (10.5 mg, 0.032 mmol) was converted into benzo[b]fluorenone **10c** (10.0 mg, 79%). mp 220 °C (dec); IR (neat): 3181, 1633 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  10.76 (s, 1H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (s, 1H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 4.09 (s, 3H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  182.0, 161.8, 151.9, 151.1, 146.6, 144.3, 138.7, 136.9, 135.0, 134.6, 130.0, 129.4, 128.4, 128.2, 128.1, 120.0, 119.2, 117.8, 115.0, 114.9, 115.2, 56.9, 56.6, 22.2; ESI m/z relative intensity 497 (MH<sup>+</sup> 50); TOFHRMS (+ESI) Calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>21</sub>O<sub>4</sub>: 397.1440, Found 397.1443.

Acetic Acid 4,5-Diacetoxy-2-Methyl-10-oxo-11-Phenyl-10H-benzo[b]fluoren-9-yl Ester (10d). From 10a: Pyridine (0.26 mL, 3.1 mmol) and Ac<sub>2</sub>O (0.31 mL, 3.1 mmol) were sequentially added to a mixture of 10a (11.0 mg, 0.031 mmol) and DMAP (1.0 mg, 0.008 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1.0 mL) at room temperature. The dark purple mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min, turning to a dark red/orange color. At this time, the reaction solution was diluted with saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (10 mL) and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL). The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3x 10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with water and brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated. The resulting dark red solid was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) to yield the tri-acetate as a bright orange solid (8.1 mg, 52%).

From 10b: Pyridine (0.070 mL, 0.90 mmol) and Ac<sub>2</sub>O (0.85 mL, 0.90 mmol) were sequentially added to a mixture of 10b (4.0 mg, 0.90 mmol) and DMAP (1.0 mg, 0.008 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1.0 mL) at room temperature. The dark red mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min, changing to a dark red/orange color. At this time, the reaction solution was diluted with saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (10 mL) and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL). The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (3X 10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with water and brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated. The resulting dark red solid was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). The tri-acetate was obtained as a orange solid (4.4 mg, 99%). mp 195 °C (dec); IR (neat): 1769, 1635 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.59 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.52 (m, 4H), 7.39 (d, J= 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (s, 1H), 6.80 (s, 1H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 1H), 2.53 (s, 2H), 2.43 (s, 2H), 2.44 (s, 2H) 3H), 2.31 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 179.4, 169.6, 168.7, 167.6, 154.6, 151.4, 145.9, 145.2, 142.0, 141.1, 136.5, 133.8, 132.8, 129.4, 129.3, 129.3, 128.9, 128.0, 125.9, 125.3, 124.8, 124.2, 123.7, 121.8, 21.3, 21.2, 21.1, 20.9; ESI m/z relative intensity 517 (MNa<sup>+</sup> 100); TOFHRMS (+ESI) Calcd for  $C_{30}H_{22}O_7Na$ : 517.1263, Found 517.1245.

**4,5,9-Trimethoxy-2-Methyl-11-Phenyl-Benzo[b]fluoren-10-one (10e).** From **10a**: Methyl iodide (0.042 mL, 0.68 mmol) was added to a mixture of **10a** (25.0 mg, 0.068 mmol) and  $K_2CO_3$  (93.0 mg, 0.068 mmol) in DMF (2.0 mL) at room temperature. The dark purple mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h, turning to a dark red color. The reaction solution was then diluted with saturated aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (10 mL) and Et<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL). The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3X 10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with water and brine, dried over  $Na_2SO_4$ , filtered and concentrated. The resulting light red solid was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). The tri-methylether was obtained as a bright red solid (11.5 mg, 41%).

From **10b**: Methyl iodide (0.031 mL, 0.50 mmol) was added to a mixture of **10b** (20.0 mg, 0.050 mmol) and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (69.0 mg, 0.050 mmol) in DMF (1.0 mL) at room temperature. The dark red mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h, turning to a light red color. The reaction was then diluted with saturated aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (10 mL) and Et<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL). The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3X 10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with water and brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated. The resulting light red solid was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). The tri-methylether was obtained as a bright red solid (12.0 mg, 59%). mp 210 °C (dec); IR (neat): 1643 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.50-7.60 (m, 2H), 7.40-7.50 (m, 5H), 6.96 (dd, *J* = 6.7, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (s, 1H), 6.59 (s, 1H), 4.02 (s, 3H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  181.5, 161.6, 155.2, 153.0, 151.7, 145.3, 140.3, 138.7, 134.3, 134.2, 130.1, 129.2, 128.3, 127.8, 126.8, 121.4, 118.3, 118.2, 117.4, 113.9, 113.6, 63.9, 56.1, 55.9, 21.7; ESI m/z relative intensity 411 (MH<sup>+</sup> 100); TOFHRMS (+ESI) Calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>4</sub>: 411.1596, Found 411.1596.

## 5-Hydroxy-4,9-Dimethoxy-2-Methyl-11-p-Tolyl-Benzo[b]fluoren-10-one

(11a). Following General Proceedure 2, diazoquinone 1c (20.0 mg, 0.060 mmol) was converted into a 2.2:1 mixture of benzo[b]fluorenone 11a (o,m,p = 62:23:15) (7.4 mg, 30%) and benzo[b]fluorenone 10c (3.6 mg, 15%). (o,m,p mixture) IR (neat): 3190, 1633 cm<sup>-1</sup>; (o-isomer) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  10.64 (s, 1H), 7.60 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.22-7.36 (m, 3H), 7.19 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (s, 1H), 6.54 (s, 1H), 4.11 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 2.16 (s, 3H); (o,m,p mixture) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  10.76 (s, 0.4H, m,p), 10.68 (s, 0.6H, o) 7.60 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 0.5H), 7.59 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 0.5H), 7.47-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.33-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.22-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.19 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (s, 0.25H), 6.79 (s, 0.25H), 6.69 (s, 1H), 6.54 (s, 5H), 4.11 (s, 1.8H, o), 4.10 (s, 1.2H, m,p),

3.90 (s, 1.2H, *m,p*) 3.89 (s, 1.8H, *o*), 2.35 (s, 1.8H, *m*,p), 2.31 (s, 1.8H, *o*), 2.16 (s, 3H); (*o,m,p* mixture) <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  181.5, 161.3, 151.5, 150.6, 145.9, 144.2, 138.5, 136.7, 136.5, 135.1, 134.0, 129.9, 129.5, 128.5, 127.6, 126.6, 125.4, 121.3, 119.4, 118.9, 118.6, 117.4, 114.6, 114.4, 111.1, 56.53, 56.5, 56.5, 21.8, 21.7, 19.9; ESI m/z relative intensity 411 (MH<sup>+</sup> 30); TOFHRMS (+ESI) Calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>4</sub>: 411.1596, Found 411.1611.

11-(4-Chloro-Phenyl)-5-Hydroxy-4,9-Dimethoxy-2-Methyl-Benzo[b]fluoren-**10-one (11b).** Following General Proceedure 2, diazoquinone **1c** (20.0 mg, 0.060 mmol) was converted into a 1.5:1 mixture of benzo[b]fluorenone **11b** (o,m,p = 48:32:20) (9.5) mg, 37%) and benzo[b]fluorenone 10c (5.0 mg, 21%). 11b isomers were separated via preparative TLC (20% EtOAc in benzene). (o-isomer) mp 280 °C (dec); (o-isomer) IR (neat): 3178, 1630 cm<sup>-1</sup>; (*o*-isomer) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 10.76 (s, 1H), 7.60 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (m, 2H), 7.33 (m, 3H), 7.02 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (s, 1H), 6.58 (s, 1H), 4.11 (s, 3H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 2.33 (s, 3H); (*m*-isomer) mp 260 °C (dec); (*m*-isomer) IR (neat): 3378, 1630 cm<sup>-1</sup>; (*m*-isomer) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 10.82 (s, 1H), 7.60 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (m, 2H), 7.44 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.37(s, 1H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (s, 1H), 6.71 (s, 1H), 4.12 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H); (p-isomer) mp 240 °C (dec); (p-isomer) IR (neat): 3166, 1631 cm<sup>-1</sup>; (pisomer) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  10.81 (s, 1H), 7.60 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (s, 1H), 6.71 (s, 1H), 4.12 (s, 3H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H);  $(o,m,p-mixture)^{-13}C$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 181.6, 181.5, 181.3, 161.3, 151.5, 151.4, 151.3, 151.1, 144.5, 143.5, 143.3, 142.3, 138.5, 136.6, 136.5, 136.4, 134.1, 133.8, 133.7, 133.2, 131.1, 130.7, 130.3, 129.5, 129.2, 129.1, 128.9, 128.3, 128.1, 127.9, 126.5, 121.1, 119.6, 119.5, 119.3, 118.5, 118.4, 118.3, 117.5, 114.7, 114.4, 114.2, 111.2, 111.1, 56.6, 56.5, 56.2, 56.1, 21.8, 21.7; ESI m/z relative intensity 431 (MH<sup>+</sup> 100); TOFHRMS (+ESI) Calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Cl: 431.1050, Found 431.1060.

4-(5-Hydroxy-4,9-Dimethoxy-2-Methyl-10-oxo-10H-Benzo[b]fluoren-11-yl)-Benzonitrile (11c). Following General Proceedure 2, diazoquinone 1c (20.0 mg, 0.060

mmol) was converted into a 2.2:1 mixture of benzo[b]fluorenone **11c** (o,m,p = 43:25:32) (13.0 mg, 51%) and benzo[b]fluorenone 10c (5.6 mg, 23%). 11c isomers were separated via preparative TLC (20% EtOAc in benzene). (o-isomer) mp 265 °C (dec); (o-isomer) IR (neat): 3394, 2232, 1631 cm<sup>-1</sup>; (*o*-isomer) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  10.87 (s, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, J= 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (s, 1H), 6.58 (s, 1H), 4.13 (s, 3H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H); (*m*-isomer) mp 265 °C (dec); (*m*-isomer) IR (neat): 3412, 2216, 1633 cm<sup>-1</sup>; (*m*-isomer) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  10.88 (s, 1H), 7.82 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (s, 1H), 7.67 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H) 7.47 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d, J = 7.7Hz, 1H), 6.72 (s, 1H), 6.70 (s, 1H), 4.13 (s, 3H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H); (*p*-isomer) mp 265 °C (dec); (p-isomer) IR (neat): 3412, 2223, 1631 cm<sup>-1</sup>; (p-isomer) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  10.92 (s, 1H), 7.73 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (s, 1H), 6.71 (s, 1H), 4.13 (s, 3H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H);  $(o,m,p-\text{mixture})^{-13}$ C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) & 181.7, 181.6, 181.4, 161.5, 161.4, 152.4, 152.1, 151.6, 151.5, 143.1, 143.0, 142.9, 139.9, 139.6, 138.7, 138.6, 138.5, 136.4, 136.3, 136.2, 134.4, 133.0, 132.9, 132.3, 131.7, 131.5, 130.8, 130.4, 130.0, 129.7, 128.8, 127.9, 121.0, 119.5, 118.3, 118.1, 118.0, 117.9, 117.8, 115.2, 114.4, 114.3, 114.2, 113.1, 112.1, 111.4, 111.3, 111.3, 56.6, 56.5, 56.3, 56.3, 56.2, 21.8; ESI m/z relative intensity 444 (MNa<sup>+</sup> 100); TOFHRMS (+ESI) Calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>Na: 444.1212, Found 444.1215.

#### 5-Hydroxy-4,9-Dimethoxy-11-(4-Methoxy-Phenyl)-2-Methyl-

**Benzo[b]fluoren-10-one (11d).** Following General Proceedure 2, diazoquinone **1c** (20.0 mg, 0.060 mmol) was converted into a 3.2:1 mixture of benzo[b]fluorenone **11d** (*o*,*m*,*p* = 76:16:12) (14.5 mg, 57%) and benzo[b]fluorenone **10c** (4.3 mg, 18%). (*o*-isomer) mp 210 °C (dec); (*o*-isomer) IR (neat): 3182, 1632 cm<sup>-1</sup>; (*o*-isomer) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  10.70 (s, 1H), 7.58, (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.0 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.66 (s, 1H), 6.65 (s, 1H), 4.10 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H); (*o*-isomer) <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  181.3, 161.2, 157.4, 151.4, 150.4,

144.0, 142.8, 138.1, 136.5, 133.8, 130.7, 130.0, 129.2, 124.3, 121.6, 120.4, 119.4, 118.7, 117.3, 114.7, 114.6, 111.3, 110.9, 56.5, 56.1, 55.7, 21.8; (*m*,*p*-isomer) IR (neat): 3178, 2216, 1622 cm<sup>-1</sup>; (*m*,*p*-isomer) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  10.78 (s, 0.43H, *p*), 10.76 (s, 0.57H, *m*), 7.59 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 0.5H), 6.98-7.06 (m, 2H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 0.5H), 6.88 (s, 0.5H), 6.82 (s, 0.5H), 6.69 (s, 1H), 4.10 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.88 (s, 1.5H), 3.88 (s, 1.5H), 2.35 (s, 1.5H), 2.34 (s, 1.5H); (*p*-isomer) IR (neat): 3412, 2223, 1631 cm<sup>-1</sup>; (*m*,*p*-isomer) <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  181.6, 181.3, 161.4, 161.2, 159.6, 159.2, 157.4, 151.4, 150.8, 150.4, 150.2, 149.4, 146.2, 145.8, 144.0, 142.8, 138.6, 138.2, 136.5, 136.4, 136.2, 136.1, 134.0, 133.8, 133.7, 131.2, 130.7, 130.0, 129.2, 128.9, 128.7, 128.3, 126.6, 124.3, 122.1, 122.0, 121.7, 121.6, 120.4, 119.8, 119.4, 118.9, 118.8, 118.7, 117.4, 117.3, 114.8, 114.7, 114.6, 114.4, 113.7, 113.6, 113.2, 111.3, 111.1, 110.9, 110.5, 56.5, 56.4, 56.1, 56.0, 55.7, 55.3, 55.2, 21.8, 21.7; ESI m/z relative intensity 449 (MNa<sup>+</sup> 85); TOFHRMS (+ESI) Calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Na: 449.1365, Found 449.1346.

### 11-(3,5-Dimethyl-phenyl)-5-Hydroxy-4,9-Dimethoxy-2-Methyl-

**BenzolbJfluoren-10-one (11e).** Following General Proceedure 2, diazoquinone 1c (20.0 mg, 0.060 mmol) was converted into a 3.14:1 mixture of benzo[b]fluorenone 11e (2:4:5 = 50:50:0) (11.5 mg, 44%) and benzo[b]fluorenone 10c (3.4 mg, 14%). 11e isomers were separated via preparative TLC (1% EtOAc in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). (4-isomer) mp 220 °C (dec); (4-isomer) IR (neat): 3195, 1633 cm<sup>-1</sup>; (4-isomer) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  10.67 (s, 1H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (s, 1H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (s, 1H), 6.58 (s, 1H), 4.11 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 2.13 (s, 3H); (4-isomer) <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  181.5, 161.3, 151.4, 150.4, 146.1, 144.3, 138.4, 137.1, 136.5, 136.5, 133.9, 131.9, 130.8, 129.9, 128.4, 126.1, 121.4, 119.4, 118.6, 117.3, 114.5, 114.4, 111.1, 56.5, 56.1, 21.7, 21.3, 19.8; (2-isomer) mp 250 °C (dec); (2-isomer) IR (neat): 3194, 1633 cm<sup>-1</sup>; (2-isomer) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  10.64 (s, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.01 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (s, 1H), 6.45 (s, 1H), 4.12 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 2.04 (s, 6H); (2-isomer) <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  181.5, 161.3, 151.5, 150.3, 145.9, 143.3,

138.6, 136.6, 135.9, 134.8, 134.0, 130.8, 130.0, 127.1, 127.0, 121.1, 119.5, 118.0, 117.3, 114.5, 111.2, 56.4, 56.1, 20.7 20.1; ESI m/z relative intensity 425 (MH<sup>+</sup> 50); TOFHRMS (+ESI) Calcd for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>25</sub>O<sub>4</sub>: 425.1753, Found 425.1740.

#### 11-(3,5-Dimethoxy-Phenyl)-5-Hydroxy-4,9-Dimethoxy-2-Methyl-

Benzolblfluoren-10-one (11f). Following General Proceedure 2, diazoguinone 1c (20.0 mg, 0.060 mmol) was converted into a 4.2:1 mixture of benzo[b]fluorenone 11f(2:4:5 =31:69:0) (16.2 mg, 59%) and benzo[b]fluorenone **10c** (3.4 mg, 14%). (4-isomer) mp 190 <sup>o</sup>C (dec); (4-isomer) IR (neat): 3195, 1633 cm<sup>-1</sup>; (4-isomer) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  10.68 (s, 1H), 7.57 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H) 1H), 6.99 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (s, 1H), 6.65 (s, 1H), 6.59 (m, 2H), 4.08 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H); (4-isomer) <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 181.3, 161.2, 160.9, 158.9, 151.4, 150.0, 144.1, 142.8, 138.0, 136.5, 133.6, 131.5, 128.3, 121.8, 119.5, 118.8, 117.2, 116.8, 114.7, 114.5, 110.9, 104.5, 99.0, 56.5, 56.1, 55.6, 55.4, 21.8; (2-isomer) mp 180 °C (dec); (2-isomer) IR (neat): 3190, 1633 cm<sup>-1</sup>; (2isomer) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  10.80 (s, 1H), 7.58 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H) 6.64 (s, 1H), 6.57 (s, 1H), 4.08 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.68 (s, 6H), 2.30 (s, 3H); (2-isomer) <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 181.1, 161.1, 158.5, 151.5, 150.0, 144.0, 130.4, 138.1, 136.7, 136.3, 133.6, 129.1, 121.6, 119.5, 118.5, 117.2, 114.9, 114.5, 113.7, 113.3, 110.9, 110.6, 104.3, 56.2, 56.1, 56.0, 21.8; ESI m/z relative intensity 457 (MH<sup>+</sup> 30); TOFHRMS (+ESI) Calcd for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>25</sub>O<sub>6</sub>: 457.1651, Found 457.1653.

5-(5-Hydroxy-4,9-Dimethoxy-2-Methyl-10-oxo-10H-Benzo[b]fluoren-11-yl)-Isophthalonitrile (11g). Due to the insolubility of 1,3-dicyanobenzene in benzene at 80 °C, the following experiment was run at a 13:1 ratio of benzene : 1,3-dicyanobenzene. Solid AIBN (11.0 mg, 0.066 mmol) was added portionwise over a period of 1 h to a stirring solution of diazoquinone 10c (20.0 mg, 0.060 mmol), 1,3-dicyanobenzene (0.11g, .86 mmol) and Bu<sub>3</sub>SnH (0.018 mL, 0.066 mmol) in benzene (1.0 mL, 11 mmol) at 80 °C. When the addition was complete, the reaction solution was allowed to cool to room temperature. After reaching room temperature the reaction mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and purified with flash column chromatography, eluting with an increasing percentage of EtOAc from 0 % to 10 % in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. Purification furnished a 1:2.2 mixture of benzo[b]fluorenone 11g (2:4:5 = 24:76:0) (6.5 mg, 24%) and benzo[b]fluorenone 10c(12.4 mg, 52%). The ratio of 11g : 10c, ratioed up to equimolar amounts of benzene and 1,3-dicyanobenzene, is calculated to be 6.0:1. 11g isomers were separated via preparative TLC (20% EtOAc in benzene). (4-isomer) mp 270 °C (dec); (4-isomer) IR (neat): 3213, 2526, 1633 cm<sup>-1</sup>; (4-isomer) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) & 10.97 (s, 1H), 8.04 (s, 1H), 7.91 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (s, 1H), 6.54 (s, 1H), 4.13 (s, 3H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H); (4-isomer) <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 181.4, 161.5, 153.7, 151.7, 144.6, 141.8, 138.9, 137.4, 136.2, 136.2, 135.3, 134.8, 131.4, 131.3, 120.58, 119.6, 118.1, 117.2, 117.1, 116.2, 115.6, 115.0, 114.0, 112.3, 111.5, 56.6, 56.3, 21.8; (2isomer) mp 290 °C (dec); (2-isomer) IR (neat): 3213, 2238, 1631 cm<sup>-1</sup>; (2-isomer) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  10.99 (s, 1H), 7.96 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H) 6.72 (s, 1H), 6.48 (s, 1H), 4.13 (s, 3H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H); (2-isomer) <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125) MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 161.5, 153.9, 151.7, 144.4, 141.5, 138.8, 136.5, 136.3, 135.0, 134.8, 132.2, 131.9, 128.4, 120.5, 119.6, 118.2, 117.1, 116.4, 115.5, 115.0, 114.1, 111.6, 56.6, 56.4, 21.9; ESI m/z relative intensity 469 (MNa<sup>+</sup> 100); TOFHRMS (+ESI) Calcd for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na: 469.1164, Found 469.1156.





![](_page_14_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_15_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_16_Figure_0.jpeg)

10

mad

isngerni

![](_page_16_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_17_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Figure_0.jpeg)

bpm

[engadn1

-5425.08

ZH

![](_page_19_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_19_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_20_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_22_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_23_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_24_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_30_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_31_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_32_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_35_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_35_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_36_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_37_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_38_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_39_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_40_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_41_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_43_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_44_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_45_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_46_Figure_0.jpeg)

# References

(1) Gould, S. J.; Melville, C. R. Tetrahedron Lett. 1997, 38, 1473-1476