Supporting Information

Synthesis and Characterization of a Cyclobutane Duocarmycin Derivative Incorporating the CbBI (1,2,10,11-tetrahydro-9*H*-cyclobuta[*c*]benzo[*e*]indol-4-one) Alkylation Subunit

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A solution of **5** (370 mg, 0.864 mmol) and tetrabutylammonium iodide (16 mg, 0.043 mmol) in DMF (3 mL) at 0 °C was treated with NaH (60% dispersion in mineral oil, 86 mg, 2.16 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min at 0 °C before ethyl 4-bromocrotonate (**6**, 0.36 mL, 2.59 mmol) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and was stirred for 2 h. Saturated aqueous NH₄Cl was added, and the mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate, washed with H₂O and saturated aqueous NaCl, and dried (MgSO₄). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by flash chromatography (20% EtOAc/hexane) to provide **7** as a clear oil (387 mg, 83%): ¹H NMR (acetone- d_6 , 400 MHz) δ 8.34 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.27 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.64–7.58 (m, 3H), 7.43 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (s, 1H), 5.93 (d, J = 19 Hz, 1H), 5.38 (s, 2H), 4.58 (dd, J = 16 Hz, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (dd, J = 16 Hz, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.13 (q, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.30 (s, 9H), 1.22 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (acetone- d_6 , 150 MHz) δ 167.1, 156.2, 155.3, 145.3, 141.0, 138.6, 134.5, 130.4, 130.3, 129.9, 129.4, 129.0, 128.3, 127.7, 124.8, 124.2, 115.7, 109.8, 81.8, 72.2, 61.7, 52.0, 29.3, 15.5; IR (film) v_{max} 2976, 2926, 1701, 1659, 1619, 1589 cm⁻¹; ESI-TOF HRMS m/z 562.1196 (M+Na⁺, C₂₈H₃₀BrNO₅ requires 562.1199).

A mixture of **7** (387 mg, 0.716 mmol), tributyltin hydride (0.212 mL, 0.788 mmol), and AIBN (35.2 mg, 0.215 mmol) in benzene (10 mL) was degassed by freeze-pump-thaw three times. The solution was warmed at reflux for 14 h before the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and the solvent removed. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (100% CH₂Cl₂) with 10% KF doped silica to obtain **8** as a clear oil that crystallized upon standing (298 mg, 90%): ¹H NMR (acetone- d_6 , 400 MHz) δ 8.24 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (br s, 1H), 7.74 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.30 (s, 2H), 4.18 (m, 1H), 4.13 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.06 (m, 2H),

2.90 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 2.51 (dd, J = 8.0, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 1.59 (s, 9H), 1.21 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (acetone- d_6 , 150 MHz) δ 173.3, 157.0, 154.0, 142.9, 139.1, 132.1, 130.3, 129.7, 129.5, 129.2, 124.9, 124.7, 124.1, 119.0, 98.5, 82.0, 71.8, 61.9, 56.5, 40.8, 36.8, 29.6, 24.0, 15.5; IR (film) v_{max} 2979, 2905, 1726, 1692, 1624, 1581 cm⁻¹; ESI-TOF HRMS m/z 462.2266 (M+H⁺, $C_{28}H_{31}NO_{5}$ requires 462.2275).

A solution of **8** (298 mg, 0.646 mmol) in THF (3 mL) at 0 °C was treated with lithium borohydride (28.1 mg, 1.29 mmol). The mixture was warmed at 40 °C and stirred for 6 h, after which it was cooled to room temperature, quenched with the addition of saturated aqueous NH₄Cl, diluted with ethyl acetate, washed with H₂O and saturated aqueous NaCl, and dried (MgSO₄). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to yield **9** as a white foam (271 mg, 100%): ¹H NMR (acetone- d_6 , 400 MHz) δ 8.24 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (br s, 1H), 7.80 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 5.30 (s, 2H), 4.09 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (m, 1H), 3.75–3.71 (m, 3H), 2.09 (m, 1H), 1.71 (m, 1H), 1.59 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (acetone- d_6 , 150 MHz) δ 178.5, 156.6, 154.2, 142.4, 139.2, 132.2, 130.3, 129.7, 129.5, 128.8, 124.8, 124.6, 124.2, 121.3, 98.6, 81.8, 71.8, 61.4, 56.3, 39.9, 37.0, 29.6; IR (film) v_{max} 3418, 2929, 1691, 1624, 1581 cm⁻¹; ESI-TOF HRMS m/z 420.2155 (M+H⁺, C₂₆H₂₉NO₄ requires 420.2169).

A solution of **9** (890 mg, 2.12 mmol) in pyridine (15 mL) at 0 °C was treated with methanesulfonyl chloride (0.821 mL, 10.6 mmol) dropwise. The solution was allowed to warm to room temperature. After 1 h, LiCl (450 mg, 10.6 mmol) was added. The mixture was stirred for 20 h, and then diluted with ethyl acetate, washed with H_2O and saturated aqueous NaCl, and dried (MgSO₄). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue purified by flash chromatography (30% EtOAc/hexane) to yield **10** as a white solid (607 mg, 65%): ^{1}H NMR (acetone- d_6 , 600 MHz) δ 8.25 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (br s, 1H), 7.78 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 5.31 (s, 2H), 4.09 (t, J = 11 Hz, 2H), 3.89 (m, 1H), 3.81–3.73 (m, 2H), 2.28 (m, 1H), 2.04 (m, 1H), 1.59 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (acetone- d_6 , 150 MHz) δ 178.5, 157.0, 154.1, 142.7, 139.1, 132.1, 130.3, 129.7, 129.5, 129.1, 124.9, 124.8, 124.2, 119.8, 98.5, 82.0, 71.8, 55.8, 44.7, 39.6, 37.7, 29.6; IR (film) v_{max} 2974, 1695, 1624, 1579 cm⁻¹; ESI-TOF HRMS m/z 438.1813 (M+H⁺, $C_{26}H_{28}CINO_3$ requires 438.1830).

A solution of **10** (607 mg, 1.39 mmol) and ammonium formate (876 mg, 13.9 mmol) in 9:1 THF:MeOH (30 mL) was treated with 10% Pd/C (600 mg). The mixture was stirred vigorously for 1 h before being filtered through Celite to provide **11** as a white foam (480 mg, 100%): 1 H NMR (acetone- d_6 , 400 MHz) δ 9.09 (br s, 1H), 8.19 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (br s, 1H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.09–4.04 (m, 2H), 3.86 (m, 1H), 3.78–3.71 (m, 2H), 2.27 (m, 1H), 2.02 (m, 1H), 1.57 (s, 9H); 13 C NMR (acetone- d_6 , 150 MHz) δ 178.5, 155.7, 154.0, 142.5, 132.3, 128.9, 125.1, 124.1, 123.5, 119.0, 100.8, 81.9, 55.7, 44.7, 39.7, 37.8, 29.6; IR (film) ν_{max} 3367, 2976, 1699, 1628, 1581 cm $^{-1}$; ESI-TOF HRMS m/z 348.1346 (M+H $^+$, C₁₉H₂₂ClNO₃ requires 348.1361).

A solution of **11** (57.6 mg, 0.166 mmol) in 2-butanone (1 mL) was treated with NaI (124 mg, 0.828) and the reaction mixture was warmed at 75 °C for 3 h. The solution was diluted with ethyl acetate, washed with H₂O and saturated aqueous NaCl, and dried (MgSO₄). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to provide **12** as a white solid (72 mg, 98%): ¹H NMR (acetone- d_6 , 400 MHz) δ 9.08 (br s, 1H), 8.19 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (br s, 1H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.07–4.00 (m, 2H), 3.76 (m, 1H), 3.40–3.36 (m, 2H), 2.37 (m, 1H), 2.08 (m, 1H), 1.57 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (acetone- d_6 , 150 MHz) δ 178.5, 155.7, 154.0, 142.7, 132.3, 128.8, 125.1, 124.1, 123.4, 118.5, 100.7, 81.9, 55.3, 41.1, 41.0, 29.6, 5.3; IR (film) ν_{max} 3297, 2974, 1666, 1627, 1582 cm⁻¹; ESI-TOF HRMS m/z 440.0718 (M+H⁺, C₁₉H₂₂INO₃ requires 440.0717).

A solution of **12** (14 mg, 0.032 mmol) in 1:1 THF:saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (1 mL) was warmed at 130 °C in an oil bath for 1 h. The solution was cooled, diluted with ethyl acetate, washed with H₂O and saturated aqueous NaCl, and dried (MgSO₄). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue purified by PTLC (5% MeOH/CH₂Cl₂) to obtain **13** as a white solid (5.5 mg, 55%): ¹H NMR (acetone- d_6 , 600 MHz) δ 7.99 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.52 (s, 1H), 4.32 (t, J = 10 Hz, 1H), 4.14 (dd, J = 11, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.31 (m, 1H), 2.83 (m, 2H), 2.14 (m, 1H), 2.00 (m, 1H), 1.58 (s,

9H); 13 C NMR (acetone- d_6 , 150 MHz) δ 186.5, 166.4, 153.4, 145.8, 133.8, 132.5, 128.7, 127.9, 125.4, 106.2, 84.0, 61.0, 54.0, 41.2, 36.9, 29.3, 25.8; IR (film) v_{max} 2974, 1711, 1616, 1597 cm⁻¹; ESI-TOF HRMS m/z 312.1589 (M+H⁺, $C_{19}H_{21}NO_3$ requires 312.1594).

The structure of **13** was confirmed with a single-crystal X-ray analysis of a parallelepiped-shaped crystal grown from 1:4 CH₂Cl₂:hexanes (CCDC787358).

A vial containing **11** (10.2 mg, 0.0293 mmol) was treated with 4 N HCl in EtOAc (1 mL) for 30 min before the solvent was removed under a stream of N₂. The residue was taken up in DMF (0.5 mL) and EDCI (14.3 mg, 0.0880 mmol) and 5,6,7-trimethoxyindole-2-carboxylic acid¹³ (8.1 mg, 0.032 mmol) were added. The mixture was stirred for 16 h, diluted with ethyl acetate, washed with 1 N HCl, saturated aqueous NaHCO₃, and saturated aqueous NaCl, and dried (MgSO₄). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue purified by flash chromatography (3% MeOH/CH₂Cl₂) to provide **14** as a pale yellow solid (9.1 mg, 65%): ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 400 MHz) δ 11.40 (s, 1H), 10.33 (s, 1H), 8.12 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (s, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (s, 1H), 6.94 (s, 1H), 4.63 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.38 (dd, J = 9.6 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.88–3.73 (m, 3H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.15 (m, 1H), 1.99 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 150 MHz) δ 176.1, 160.3, 153.5, 149.1, 140.9, 139.7, 139.0, 131.0, 129.6, 127.1, 125.3, 123.2, 122.9, 122.5, 122.1, 118.3, 106.2, 100.2, 97.9, 61.1, 60.9, 56.1, 55.9, 43.4, 37.1, 36.6; IR (film) v_{max} 3112, 2936, 1607, 1579 cm⁻¹; ESI-TOF HRMS m/z 481.1519 (M+H⁺, C₂₆H₂₅CIN₂O₅ requires 481.1525).

A solution of **14** (24.4 mg, 0.0507 mmol) in 2-butanone (0.8 mL) was treated with NaI (24 mg, 0.16 mmol) and the reaction mixture was warmed at 75 °C for 3 h. The solution was diluted with ethyl acetate, washed with H₂O and saturated aqueous NaCl, and dried (MgSO₄). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue filtered through a plug of silica gel to yield **15** as a pale yellow solid (23.6 mg, 82%): ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 600 MHz) δ 11.41 (s, 1H), 10.36 (s, 1H), 8.13 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (s, 1H), 7.79 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 6.94 (s, 1H), 4.60 (t, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 4.36 (dd, J = 11, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.90–3.73 (m, 3H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.25 (m, 1H), 2.02 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 150 MHz) δ 176.1, 160.2, 153.5, 149.0, 140.9, 139.7, 139.0, 131.0, 129.6, 127.0, 125.3, 123.2, 122.9, 122.5, 122.1, 118.1, 106.3, 100.1, 97.9, 61.0, 60.9, 55.9, 55.7, 34.3, 30.3, 5.6; IR (film) ν_{max} 3117, 2931, 1612, 1580 cm⁻¹; ESI-TOF HRMS m/z 573.0885 (M+H⁺, C₂₆H₂₅IN₂O₅ requires 573.0881).

A solution of **15** (20 mg, 0.035 mmol) in 1:1 THF:saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (4 mL) was warmed at 110 °C in an oil bath for 5 h. The solution was diluted with ethyl acetate, washed with H₂O and saturated aqueous NaCl, and dried (MgSO₄). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue purified by PTLC (5% MeOH/CH₂Cl₂) to provide **16** as a white solid (2.3 mg, 15%): ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 400 MHz) δ 11.65 (s, 1H), 7.94 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (s, 1H), 6.56 (s, 1H), 4.65 (t, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 4.49 (dd, J = 9.2, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.38 (m, 1H), 2.89 (m, 1H), 2.79 (m, 1H), 2.15 (m, 1H), 2.04 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 150 MHz) δ 184.9, 165.3, 161.8, 149.3, 143.8, 140.4, 139.0, 132.5, 129.9, 129.7, 127.0, 126.1, 125.6, 124.3, 123.0, 107.9, 106.8, 98.0, 63.4, 61.1, 60.9, 60.0, 55.9, 50.9, 34.9, 23.2; IR (film) v_{max} 2925, 2855, 1710, 1607 cm⁻¹; ESI-TOF HRMS m/z 445.1766 (M+H⁺, C₂₆H₂₄N₂O₅ requires 445.1758).

A solution of **12** (40 mg, 0.091 mmol) in 1:1 THF:saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (4 mL) was warmed at 160 °C in a microwave reactor for 30 min. The solution was diluted with ethyl acetate, washed with H₂O and saturated aqueous NaCl, and dried (MgSO₄). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue purified by PTLC (5% MeOH/CH₂Cl₂) to provide **17** as a white solid (14.3 mg, 74%): ¹H NMR (acetone- d_6 , 600 MHz) δ 8.00 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (br s, 1H), 5.25 (s, 1H), 4.08 (t, J = 10 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (dd, J = 10, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 3.35 (m, 1H), 2.81–2.78 (m, 2H), 2.13 (m, 1H), 1.97 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (acetone- d_6 , 150 MHz) δ 183.9, 176.2, 145.0, 134.1, 132.4, 128.1, 127.6, 125.0, 93.0, 58.3, 53.9, 42.3, 39.1, 26.0; IR (film) ν_{max} 3170, 3029, 2941, 2872, 1698, 1603 cm⁻¹; ESI-TOF HRMS m/z 212.1076 (M+H⁺, C₁₄H₁₃NO requires 212.1070).

A solution of 17 (35 mg, 0.17 mmol) in DMF (1.5 mL) was cooled to 0 °C and NaH (16 mg, 0.41 mmol) was added. The solution was stirred for 30 min, and then methyl chloroformate (64 μ L, 0.83 mmol) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and was stirred overnight (16 h). The solution was quenched with the addition of saturated aqueous NH₄Cl, diluted with ethyl acetate, washed with

H₂O and saturated aqueous NaCl, and dried (MgSO₄). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue purified by flash chromatography (2% MeOH/CH₂Cl₂) to provide **18** as a tan solid (43 mg, 96%): 1 H NMR (acetone- d_6 , 400 MHz) δ 8.00 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.54 (s, 1H), 4.32 (t, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (dd, J = 11, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.32 (m, 1H), 2.84 (m, 2H), 2.14 (m, 1H), 2.00 (m, 1H); 13 C NMR (acetone- d_6 , 150 MHz) δ 186.6, 166.1, 154.9, 145.7, 133.9, 132.3, 128.7, 127.9, 125.5, 106.5, 60.7, 54.6, 41.1, 37.1, 25.7; IR (film) ν_{max} 2951, 1727, 1614, 1596 cm $^{-1}$; ESI-TOF HRMS m/z 270.1127 (M+H $^{+}$, C₁₆H₁₅NO₃ requires 270.1125).

A vial containing **18** (5.0 mg, 0.0185 mmol) was treated with 4 N HCl in EtOAc (2 mL) and the solution stirred at room temperature for 2 h. The HCl and EtOAc were removed under a stream of nitrogen, leaving **19** as a solid residue (5.7 mg, quant.): 1 H NMR (acetone- d_6 , 500 MHz) δ 8.20 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (br s, 1H), 7.49 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.15–4.06 (m, 2H), 3.90 (m, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.78–3.71 (m, 2H), 2.28 (m, 1H), 2.02 (m, 1H); 13 C NMR (acetone- d_6 , 150 MHz) δ 155.7, 155.2, 142.5, 132.3, 128.9, 125.2, 124.3, 124.2, 123.6, 119.0, 100.4, 55.5, 53.8, 44.7, 39.6, 38.0; IR (film) ν_{max} 3271, 2954, 1679, 1629, 1583 cm $^{-1}$; ESI-TOF HRMS m/z 306.0895 (M+H $^+$, C_{16} H $_{16}$ ClNO $_3$ requires 306.0891).

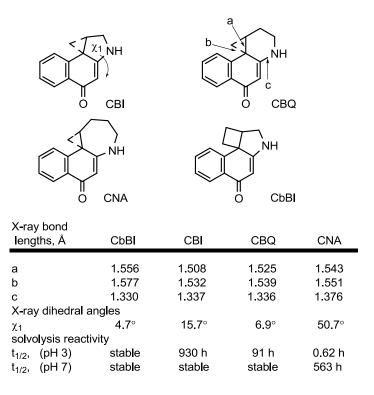


Figure S1. X-ray crystal structure comparison of CbBI (17) with CBI analogues. Data taken from refs 17–19.