Supporting Information for

Intercepting Wacker Intermediates With Arenes: C–H Functionalization and Dearomatization

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General Information

Chemicals were either used as received or purified according to Purification of Common Laboratory Chemicals.¹ Glassware was dried in an oven at 150°C or flame dried and cooled under a dry atmosphere prior to use. All reactions were performed using common dry, inert atmosphere techniques. Reactions were monitored by TLC and visualized by a dual short wave/long wave UV lamp and stained with an ethanolic solution of potassium permanganate or p-anisaldehyde. Column flash chromatography was performed using 230-400 mesh silica gel. NMR spectra were recorded on Varian Mercury 300, Varian Unity Plus 400, and Varian Mercury 400 spectrometers. Chemical shifts for ^{1 H} NMR were reported as δ , parts per million, relative to the signal of CHCl₃ at 7.26 ppm. Chemical shifts for ¹³C NMR were reported as δ , parts per million, relative to the center line signal of the CDCl₃ triplet at 77.0 ppm. Proton and carbon assignments were established using spectral data of similar compounds. The abbreviations s, br. s, d, dd, br. d, ddd, t, q, br. q, m, and br. m stand for the resonance multiplicity singlet, broad singlet, doublet, doublet of doublets, broad doublet, doublet of doublet of doublets, triplet, quartet, broad quartet, multiplet and broad multiplet, respectively. IR spectra were recorded on an Avatar 360 FT-IR spectrometer. Mass spectra were recorded at the Mass Spectrometry Facility at the Department of Chemistry of the Boston University in Boston, MA on a Waters O-Tof API-US with ESI high resolution mass spectrometer. Concentration refers to removal of solvent under reduced pressure (house vacuum at ca. 20 mmHg)

¹ Armarego, W. L. F.; Perrin, D. D. *Purification of Laboratory Chemicals* 4th *Edition*; Butterworth-Heinemann: Oxford, 1996.



OMe ⊢.OMe

OMe

MeO₂C

HO₂C

General Procedure for Preparation of Starting materials

General Procedure for Preparation of Starting Materials for Substrates 1a-6a

ċ⊢

Formation of AllylicArene

2) Cul, THF 0°C

To an argon-purged, flame dried round bottom flask equipped with a rubber septum and magnetic stirbar, aryl bromide (1 equiv) was added as a solution in dry THF under argon (50mL/g of substrate). The flask was cooled to -78 °C and a solution of *t*-butyl lithium (2.2 equiv, 1.7M solution in hexanes) was added dropwise and stirred for 5 minutes. In a separate, argon-purged, flame dried flask, copper(I) iodide (15 mol %) and vinyl oxirane(1.5 equiv) were dissolved in THF and cooled to 0°C. To this, the aryl lithium solution was transferred dropwise via cannula over a span of 10 minutes. The solution stirred for 45 minutes and was quenched with a saturated solution of ammonium chloride. The THF was evaporated in vacuo and the organic layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (3X). The aqueous layer was discarded and the organic layer was purified by column chromatography on SiO₂.

Johnson Claisen Rearrangement

To a sealed tube, allylic arene (1 equiv) was added to a solution of toluene and of trimethyl orthoacetate (10 equiv). To this, propionic acid (0.1 equiv) was added and the reaction was refluxed at 150 °C for 12 hours. The reaction was diluted with ethyl acetate and washed with water (2 X), brine (1 X), and dried over $Mg(SO_4)_2$. The residue was concentrated in vacuo and purified by column chromatography.

Saponification

To a round bottom flask, the Claisen product (1 equiv) and LiOH (4 equiv) were dissolved in 4:1 mixture of THF and water. To this, enough methanol was added to make the mixture a homogenous solution. Remaining solution was then diluted with ethyl acetate. The aqueous layer was washed with 1M aqueous solution of NaOH, and then extracted with ethyl acetate (3 X). The aqueous layer was acidified to a ~pH 3, using an aqueous 3M HCl solution, which was then extracted with ethyl acetate (3 X). The acidified ethyl acetate was then washed with water (3X), with brine (1X), and dried over Mg(SO₄)₂ and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was then purified using column chromatography to afford the starting material.



General Procedure for Preparation of Starting Materials for Compounds 9a-16a

Formation of the α , β unsaturated ester

To a slurry of DBU (3.6 equiv) and LiCl (3.6 equiv) in THF (0.6M with respect to benzaldehyde), 1.2 equivalents of phosphonate was added under nitrogen. The reaction was stirred for 1 hour upon which benzaldehyde (1 equiv) was added dropwise as a solution in THF. The reaction after 12 hours, the reaction was quenched with a saturated solution of NH₄Cl. The aqueous layer was extracted with ether (3X), washed with brine (1X) and dried over Mg(SO₄)₂. The filtrate was concentrated in vacuo and purified by column chromatography

Reduction of the α , β unsaturated ester

A solution of α,β unsaturated ester in dichloromethane (15 mL per mmol of substrate) was cooled to -78 °C under argon. To this, DIBAL-H (2.25 equiv) was added dropwise. After 1 hour the reaction was quenched with a saturated solution of Rochelle's salt and warmed to room temperature over a period of 2 hours. The aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (3X) and the organic layers were combined and washed with brine (1X) and dried over Mg(SO₄)₂. The organic layer was then concentrated in vacuo and purified by column chromatography.

Johnson Claisen Rearrangement

To a sealed tube, allylic arene (1 equiv) was added to a solution of toluene and of trimethyl orthoacetate (10 equiv). To this, propionic acid (0.1 equiv) was added and the reaction was refluxed at 150 °C for 12 hours. The reaction was diluted with ethyl acetate and washed with water (2 X), one time with brine, and dried over $Mg(SO_4)_2$. The residue was concentrated in vacuo and purified by column chromatography.

Saponification

To a round bottom flask, the Claisen product (1 equiv) and LiOH (4 equiv) were dissolved in 4:1 mixture of THF and water. To this, enough methanol was added to make the mixture a homogenous solution. Remaining solution was then diluted with ethyl acetate. The aqueous layer was washed with 1M aqueous solution of NaOH, and then extracted with ethyl acetate (3 X). The aqueous layer was acidified to a ~pH 3, using an aqueous 3M HCl solution, which was then extracted with ethyl acetate (3 X). The acidified ethyl acetate was then washed with water (3 X), with brine (1 X), and dried over Mg(SO₄)₂ and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was then purified using column chromatography to afford the starting material.

Data for Starting Materials



4-(2-(2-hydroxyethyl)-3-methylbut-3-en-1-yl)phenol (1)

R_f(Hexane/EtOAc 4:1): 0.23

IR (Neat): 3343, 2936, 2360, 2342, 1645, 1614, 1598, 1514, 1449, 1375, 1240, 1047, 893, 828 cm⁻¹;

¹ H NMR (CDCl₃, 500MHz) δ: 6.99 (d, J = 8.5Hz, 2 H), 6.73 (d, J = 8.5, 2 H), 3.92 (br. s., 1 H), 4.74 (m, 1 H), 4.69 (m, 1 H), 3.59 (m, 2 H), 2.69 (dd, J = 13.7, 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 2.57 (dd, J = 13.4, 7.0 Hz, 1 H), 2.47 (dtd, J = 9.5, 7.5, 7.5, 5.2 Hz, 1 H), 1.68 (m, 3 H), 1.64 (m, 2 H);

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125MHz) δ: 154.0, 147.2, 132.2, 130.0, 115.1, 112.2, 61.5, 46.2, 39.7, 34.7, 18.6;

HRMS (ESI) not found.

LRMS (ESI) m/z for C₁₃ H₁₃O₂Na⁺([M+Na]⁺) found 229.15



3-(4-hydroxybenzyl)-4-methylpent-4-enoic acid (starting material for compound 3)

 R_f (Hexane/EtOAc 7:3): 0.36;

IR (Neat): 3251, 1706, 1648, 1613, 1514, 1442, 1229, 896, 829, 611cm⁻¹;

¹ H NMR (CDCl₃, 500MHz) δ: 7.01 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.73 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.74 (m, 2H), 2.8 (qint, *J* = 7.5 X4 Hz, 1H), 2.7, (m, 1H), 2.56 (m, 1H), 2.13 (m, 2H), 1.71 (s, 3H);

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125MHz) δ: 178.1, 153.9, 145.9, 131.8, 130.2, 115.1, 112.0, 45.0, 39.1, 37.7, 20.0;

HRMS (ESI) not found.

LRMS (ESI) m/z for C₁₄H₁₇O₂⁺([M+H]⁺) found 220.10.



2-hydroxy-4-(4-hydroxybenzyl)-5-methylhex-5-enenitrile (isolated as a 1:1 mixture of diastereomers) (starting material for compound 4)

R_f(DCM/Acetone 9:1): 0.56;

IR (Neat): 2402, 2927, 2248, 1708, 1645, 1613, 1598, 1515, 1447, 1378, 1227, 1173, 1081, 905, 830, 734 cm⁻¹;

¹ H NMR (CDCl₃, 500MHz) δ : 7.00 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 6.74 (d, J = 8.4Hz 2 H), 4.86 (t, J = 1.5 Hz, 1 H, diastereomer 1), 4.81 (t, J = 1.5 Hz, 1 H. diastereomer 1), 4.80 (s, 1 H, diastereomer 2), ;4.78 (s, 1 H, diastereomer 2), 4.41 (dd, J = 7.0, 5.8 Hz, 1 H, diastereomer 1), 4.36 (dd, J = 9.3, 6.3 Hz, 1 H, diastereomer 2), 2.70 (m, 2H), 2.58 (m, 2H), 1.89 (m, 2H, overlap);

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125MHz) δ: 154.0, 145.9, 145.2, 131.5, 130.0, 115.3, 114.22, 113.7, 60.8, 59.7, 45.5, 44.9, 39.4, 39.3, 37.6, 37.4, 30.9, 18.6, 18.6;

HRMS (ESI) not found.

LRMS (ESI) m/z for C₁₄ H₁₈NO₂([M+H]⁺) found 232.12.



4-methyl-3-(3,5-dimethoxybenzyl)pent-4-enoic acid (5)

 R_f (Hexane/EtOAc 1:1): 0.44;

IR (Neat): 29378, 2838, 1704, 1594, 1459, 1428, 1292, 1204, 1146, 1057, 830, 753 cm⁻¹;

¹ H NMR (CDCl₃, 300MHz) δ : 6.32 (m, 3 H), 4.79 (t,*J* = 2 X 2.2 Hz,1 H), 4.74 (s, 1 H), 3.77 (s, 6 H), 2.85 (ddd, *J* = 14.9, 7.9, 7.1 Hz, 1 H), 2.72 (dd, *J* = 13.5, 6.9 Hz, 1 H), 2.56 (dd, *J* = 13.5, 8.1 Hz, 1 H), 2.44-2.41 (m, 2 H), 1.73 (s, 3 H);

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100MHz) δ: 178.9, 160.6, 145.9, 142.0, 112.0, 107.1, 98.1, 55.2, 44.5, 40.2, 37.9, 20.0;

HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₅H₂₁O₄⁺([M+H]⁺) 265.1440, found 265.1443.



4-methyl-3-(3,4,5-trimethoxybenzyl)pent-4-enoic acid (7)

R_f(Hexane/EtOAc 4:1):0.13;

IR (Neat): 3014, 2938, 2839, 1706, 1590, 1508, 1458, 1420, 1326, 1236, 1124, 1005, 749, 666 cm⁻¹;

¹ H NMR (CDCl₃, 500MHz) δ : 6.37 (s, 2 H), 4.81 (s, 1 H), 4.75 (s, 1 H), 3.84 (s, 6 H), 3.82 (s, 3 H), 2.84 (dddd, J = 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.72 (dd, J = 13.9, 6.9 Hz, 1 H), 2.57(dd, J = 13.6, 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 2.48-2.35 (m, 2 H), 1.74 (s, 3 H);

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75MHz) δ: 160.7, 147.5, 145.6, 110.6, 106.1, 98.0, 61.2, 55.2, 49.1, 35.7, 21.1;

HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for $C_{16}H_{23}O_5^+([M+H]^+)$ 237.1491, found 237.1498.



3-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-4-methylpent-4-enoic acid(11)

 R_f (Hexane/EtOAc 3:1): 0.25;

IR (Neat):2941, 2838, 1708, 1596, 1461, 1430, 1291, 1205, 1157, 1067, 897, 835, 740, 698 cm⁻¹;

¹ H NMR (CDCl₃, 500MHz) δ: 6.39 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 2 H), 6.34 (m, 1H), 4.92 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 2 H), 3.79 (s, 6H), 3.74, (m, 1 H), 2.88 (dd, J = 15.6, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.75 (dd, J = 15.6, 8.5 Hz, 1 H), 1.66 (s, 3 H);

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75MHz) δ: 178.2, 160.8, 146.1, 144.2, 110.7, 105.8, 98.5, 55.2, 48.3, 38.9, 21.7;

HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₄H₁₉O₄⁺([M+H]⁺) 251.1295, found 251.1295.



4-methyl-3-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)pent-4-enoic acid (13)

 R_f (Hexane/EtOAc 3:1): 0.1;

IR (Neat):2640, 2839, 1709, 1648, 1591, 1509, 1461, 1422, 1330, 1239, 1127, 1010, 903, 663 cm⁻¹;

¹ H NMR (CDCl₃, 500MHz) δ: 6.43 (s, 2 H), 4.92 (s, 2 H), 3.83 (s, 6 H), 3.83 (m, 9H), 2.87 (dd, J = 15.8, 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.72 (dd, J = 15.9, 7.3 Hz, 1 H), 1.65 (s, 3 H);

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75MHz) δ: 178.1, 153.1, 146.3, 137.5, 136.7, 110.6, 104.6, 60.8, 56.1, 48.4, 39.3, 21.8;

HRMS (ESI) not found.

LRMS (ESI) m/z for C₁₅ H₂₁O₅⁺([M+H]⁺) found 281.13.



3-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)-4-methylpent-4-enoic acid (15)

 R_f (Hexane/EtOAc 9:1):0.08;

IR (Neat): 3018, 2919, 1709, 1606, 1416, 1300, 1252, 1176, 893, 849, 704 cm⁻¹;

¹ H NMR (CDCl₃, 400MHz) δ : 11.53(s, 1 H, OH), 6.87 (s, 1 H), 6.83(s, 2 H), 4.93 (s, 1 H), 4.89 (s, 1 H), 3.71 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.88 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 8.5 Hz, 1 H), 2.73 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 7.1 Hz, 1 H), 2.29 (s, 6 H), 1.63 (s, 3 H);

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75MHz) δ: 178.4, 146.5, 141.7, 137.9, 128.5, 125.4, 110.4, 48.0, 39.1, 21.7, 21.3;

HRMS (ESI) not found.

LRMS (ESI) m/z for C₁₄H₁₉O₂⁺([M+H]⁺) found 241.13.



4-methyl-3-(naphthalen-1-yl)pent-4-enoic acid (17)

R_f(Hexane/EtOAc/AcOH 81:15:4): 0.25;

IR (Neat): 3054, 2972, 2918, 1707, 1648, 1600, 1508, 1415, 1375, 1274, 1175, 945, 896, 858, 819, 746 cm⁻¹;

¹ H NMR (CDCl₃, 500MHz)δ: 7.80 (m, overlap, 3 H), 7.67 (s, 1 H), 7.45 (m, 2 H), 7.35 (dd, *J*= 8.6, 1.7 Hz, 2 H), 5.00 (s, 1 H), 4.95 (s, 1 H), 3.94 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.98 (dd, *J* = 15.9, 8.6 Hz, 1 H), 2.86 (dd, *J* = 15.9, 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 1.64 (s, 3 H);

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125MHz) δ: 176.7, 146.3, 139.2, 133.4, 132.5, 128.2, 127.6, 126.2, 126.0, 126.0, 125.6, 110.9, 106.2, 48.3, 38.7, 21.7;

HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₆H₁₇O₂⁺([M+H]⁺) 241.1229, found 241.1231.



4-methyl-3-(naphthalen-1-yl)pent-4-enoic acid (19)

 R_f (Hexane/EtOAc4:1): 0.31;

IR (Neat): 3044, 2968, 1706, 16495, 1511, 1415, 1027, 1026, 897, 798, 779 cm⁻¹;

¹ H NMR (CDCl₃, 500MHz) δ : 7.90 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.78 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.66 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.55 (ddd, J = 8.1, 6.9, 1.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.49 (ddd, J = 8.3, 7.1, 1.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1 H), 4.09 (dd, J = 9.8, 2.7 Hz, 1 H), 3.61 (d, J = 17.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.33 (d, J = 17.4 Hz, 1 H), 3.28 (dd, J = 18.1, 9.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.94 (d, J = 18.2, 2.8 Hz, 1 H), 1.75 (s, 3 H);

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125MHz) δ: 146.0, 137.6, 134.0, 131.7, 128.9, 127.5, 126.2, 125.6, 125.4, 124.2, 123.1, 111.8, 43.3, 39.0, 22.0;

HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₆H₁₇O₂⁺([M+H]⁺) 241.1229, found 241.1229.



3-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-4-methylpent-4-en-1-ol (21)

 R_f (Hexane/EtOAc4:1): 0.24;

IR (Neat): 3392, 2941, 2838, 2361, 1596, 1462, 1429, 1291, 1205, 1157, 1057, 894, 834, 698 cm⁻¹;

¹ H NMR (CDCl₃, 400MHz) δ: 6.39 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1 H), 6.32 (t, J = 2.3 Hz, 1 H), 4.94(s, 1 H), 4.86 (t, J = 1.5 Hz, 1 H), 3.77 (s, 6 H), 3.60 (m, 2 H), 3.34 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 2.09 (dq, J = 13.7, 6.9 Hz, 1 H), 1.95 (ddt, J = 13.6, 7.9, 6.4 Hz, 1 H), 3.20 (s, 3 H);

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75MHz) δ: 160.7, 147.5, 145.6, 110.6, 106.1, 98.0, 61.2, 55.2, 49.1, 35.7, 21.1;

HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₄H₂₁O₃([M+H]⁺) 237.1491, found 237.1498.

General Procedure for Palladium Mediated Cyclizations

A flame dried 100 mL round bottom flask is equipped with a rubber septum and magnetic stir bar and is charged with the aryl cyclization precursor (0.15 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and suspended in 100ml of acetonitrile. To this, iodobenzene diacetate (0.45 mmol, 3.0 equiv) and palladium diacetate (0.015 mmol, 0.10 equiv) were added and the reaction was stirred at room temperature for 12 hours. After the reaction is complete (as judged by TLC analysis), the mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*. The resultant residue was separated by column chromatography on silica gel, using the solvent system indicated, to afford the desired cyclized product.



6a'-methyl-2',3',3a',4',6',6a'-hexahydrospiro[cyclohexa[2,5]diene-1,5'-cyclopenta[b]furan]-4-one (2) According the general procedure, the aryl alcohol (100 mg, 0.49 mmol, 1.0 equiv), Selectfluor (258 mg, 0.73mmol, 3.0 equiv) and palladium diacetate (11 mg, 0.05 mmol, 0.10 equiv) in dry acetonitrile (78 mL) afforded the cyclized product 43 mg in 43% yield as a yellow oil after purification by chromatography on SiO₂ (80:20, Hexanes/EtOAc) (12 h reaction time).

R_f(DCM/Acetone 95:5): 0.72;

IR (Neat): 2963, 2930, 2863, 2360, 1662, 1451, 1408, 1376, 1259, 1179, 1141, 1110, 1018, 860 cm⁻¹;

¹ H NMR (CDCl₃, 500MHz) δ: 7.02 (m, 1 H), 6.93 (m, 1 H), 6.20 (m, 2 H), 3.97(m, 2 H), 2.64 (q, J = 8.31 Hz, 1 H), 2.17 (m, 2 H), 2.05 (dd, J = 13.3, 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 1.91 (d, J = 14.2 Hz, 1 H), 1.75 (m, 2 H), 1.4 (s, 3 H);

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ: 153.1, 151.3, 128.7, 128.1, 94.9, 49.6, 48.1, 44.8, 44.4, 35.5, 26.3;

HRMS (ESI) not found.

LRMS (ESI) m/z for C₁₃H₁₇O₂⁺([M+H]⁺) found 205.13.



6a'-methyl-2',3',3a',4',6',6a'-hexahydrospiro[cyclohexa[2,5]diene-1,5'-cyclopenta[b]furan]-4-one (3)According the general procedure, the aryl carboxylic acid (85 mg, 0.38 mmol, 1.0 equiv), phenyliodine diacetate (373 mg, 1.16 mmol, 3.0 equiv) and palladium diacetate (24 mg, 0.12 mmol, 0.30 equiv) in dry acetonitrile (85 mL) afforded 17 mgs of cyclized product **5b** after purification by chromatography on SiO₂ (65:35 EtOAc/Hex) (2 hour reaction time).

R_f(EtOAc/Hexane 65:35): 0.23;

IR (Neat): 1769, 1665, 1623, 1442, 12267, 1232, 1133, 1096, 952, 861, 740, 703 cm⁻¹;

^{1 H} NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ : 6.87 (ddd, J = 16.4, 10.0, 2.7 Hz, 2 H), 6.25 (ddd, J = 10.0, 5.7, 1.7 Hz, 2 H), 2.94 (dd, J = 17.6, 9.3 Hz, 1 H), 2.86 (ddd, J = 8.9 Hz, 1 H), 2.50 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1 H), 2.47 (d, J = 2.69 Hz, 1 H), 2.22 (dd, J = 13.7, 8.1 Hz, 1 H), 2.08 (d, J = 15.2, 1 H), 1.87 (s, 3 H);

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ: 153.1, 151.3, 128.7, 128.1, 94.9, 49.6, 48.1, 44.8, 44.4, 35.5, 26.3;

HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₃ H₁₅O₃([M+H]⁺) 219.1021, found 219.1012.



6a'-methyl-4-oxo-2',3',3a',4',6',6a'-hexahydrospiro[cyclohexa[2,5]diene-1,5'-

cyclopenta[b]furan]-2'-carbonitrile (4) According the general procedure, the aryl cyanohydrin (80 mg, 0.35mmol, 1.0 equiv), Selectfluor (184 mg, 0.52 mmol, 1.5equiv) and palladium diacetate (7.7 mg, 0.035mmol, 0.10 equiv) in dry acetonitrile (40 mL) afforded the cyclized product **13b** as a mixture of diastereoisomers (13 mg and 11 mg, 30% combined) as a yellow oil after purification by chromatography on SiO₂ (80:20, Hexanes/EtOAc) (12 h reaction time).



R_f(DCM/Acetone 95:5): 0.24;

IR (Neat): 2973, 2362, 2340, 1663, 1623, 1452, 1408, 1380, 1259, 1182, 1101, 1071, 1024, 860 cm⁻¹;

¹ H NMR (CDCl₃, 500MHz) δ: 6.91 (dd, *J*=10.3, 2.93 Hz, 1 H), 6.86 (dd, *J*=10.3, 2.9 Hz, 1 H), 6.22 (dd, *J*=4.9, 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.20 (dd, *J*=4.7, 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 4.89 (t, *J*=7.5 Hz, 1 H), 2.87 (qd, *J*=8.4, 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 2.62 (dt, *J*=13.5, 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 2.35 (ddd, *J*=13.4, 7.8, 2.1 Hz, 1 H), 2.29 (d, *J*=14.7 Hz, 1 H), 2.12 (dd, *J*=13.7, 8.3 Hz, 1 H), 1.97 (d, *J*=14.9 Hz, 1 H), 1.75 (dd, *J*=13.7, 9.1 Hz, 1 H), 1.58 (s, 3 H);

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100MHz) δ:185.6, 154.3, 151.6, 128.2, 127.6, 119.8, 96.4, 65.6, 50.3, 49.2, 49.1, 43.4, 36.8, 26.7;

HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for $C_{14}H_{16}NO_2^+$ ([M+H⁺]) 230.1181, found 230.1185.



R_f(DCM/Acetone 95:5): 0.30;

IR (Neat): 2967, 2933, 2871, 1660, 1622, 1452, 1408, 1380, 1259, 1181, 1100, 1070, 1024, 859 cm⁻¹;

¹ H NMR (CDCl₃, 500MHz) δ: 7.02 (dd, *J*=9.9, 3.1 Hz, 2 H), 6.93 (dd, *J*=9.9, 3.1 Hz, 3 H), 6.26 (ddd, *J*=11.7, 10.3, 2.0 Hz, 4 H), 4.85 (dd, *J*=8.7, 2.8 Hz, 2 H), 2.81 (dtd, *J*=9.9, 8.3, 8.3, 1.3 Hz, 3 H), 2.58 (dt, *J*=13.7, 8.1 Hz, 3 H), 2.53 (d, *J*=14.7 Hz, 3 H), 2.32 (dd, *J*=14.0, 10.0 Hz, 1 H), 2.26 (ddd, *J*=13.5, 2.9, 1.2 Hz, 4 H), 2.12 (ddd, *J*=13.7, 8.3, 1.5 Hz, 3 H), 2.00 (dd, *J*=14.7, 1.5 Hz, 3 H);

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125MHz) δ:185.5, 153.9, 152.4, 127.8, 127.6, 119.5, 96.6, 65.2, 49.8, 48.9, 48.8, 43.4, 37.7, 25.8;

HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₄H₁₆NO₂⁺ ([M+H]⁺) Calculated 230.1181, found 230.1178.



5,7-dimethoxy-3,3a,8,8a-tetrahydro-2 H-indeno[2,1-b]furan-2-one (6)

According the general procedure, the aryl carboxylic acid (100 mg, 0.38 mmol, 1.0 equiv), phenyliodine diacetate (182.9 mg, 0.57 mmol, 1.5 equiv) and palladium diacetate (8.9 mg, 0.038 mmol, 0.10 equiv) in dry acetonitrile (100 m) afforded the cyclized product **2b** and **2b'** (51 mg and 39 mg, 91% combined) as a white precipitate after purification by chromatography on SiO₂ (80:20, Hexanes/EtOAc) (12 h reaction time).



 R_f (Hexane/EtOAc4:1): 0.64;

IR (Neat): 2922, 2850, 1778, 1609, 1464, 1321, 1251, 1207, 1146, 1053, 945, 832, 741 cm⁻¹;

¹ H NMR (CDCl₃,500MHz) δ : 6.33 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1 H), 6.26 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.78 (s, 3 H), 3.77 (s, 3 H), 3.11 (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1 H), 2.97 (dd, J = 16.3, 3.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.67-2.78 (m, 2 H), 2.59-2.44 (m, 3 H), 1.20 (s, 3 H);

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ: 176.1, 159.3, 157.8, 137.7, 115.3, 104.8, 96.9, 87.5, 55.5, 55.4, 39.9, 34.9, 34.9, 34.3, 32.4, 28.6;

HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₅H₁₉O₄⁺([M+H]⁺) 263.1283, Found 263.1285.



 R_f (Hexane/EtOAc4:1): 0.53;

IR (Neat):2927, 2848, 1766, 1596, 1496, 1464, 1323, 1204, 1147, 1095, 1052, 955, 835, 737 cm⁻¹;

¹ H NMR (CDCl₃, 500MHz) δ: 6.34 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1 H), 6.26 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.79 (s, 3 H), 3.78 (s, 3 H), 3.16 (d, J = 15.4 Hz, 1 H), 2.81 (dd, J = 18.5, 8.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.63 (d, J = 15.4 Hz, 1 H), 2.52 (m, 2 H), 1.12 (dd), J = 18.5, 5.0 Hz, 1 H), 1.50 (s, 3 H);

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ:176.2, 158.9, 136.4, 115.8, 104.7, 96.5, 84.8, 55.3, 62.1, 36.0, 32.9, 31.0, 17.8;

HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₅H₁₉O₄⁺([M+H]⁺) 263.1283, Found 263.1277.



trimethoxy-9a-methyl-3a,4,9,9a-tetrahydronaphtho[2,3-b]furan-2(3 H)-one (8)

According the general procedure, the aryl carboxylic acid (100 mg, 0.34 mmol, 1.0 equiv), phenyliodine diacetate (216 mg, 0.67 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and palladium diacetate (7.0 mg, 0.03mmol, 0.10 equiv) in dry acetonitrile (100 mL) afforded the cyclized products **3b** and **3b'** in 37 mg and 28 mg respectively, for a combined yield of 65%. Crude NMR analysis revealed a 1.8:1 diastereomeric ratio in favor for product **3b**. Both diastereomers were a tan solid after purification by chromatography on SiO₂ (80:20, Hexanes) (12 h reaction time).



 R_f (Hexane/EtOAc 4:1): 0.31;

IR (Neat): 2937, 1779, 1603, 1493, 1461, 1340, 1255, 1244, 1119, 1069, 1032, 668 cm⁻¹;

¹ H NMR (CDCl₃, 500MHz) δ : 6.52 (s, 1 H), 3.86 (s, 3 H), 3.84 (s, 3 H), 3.83 (s, 3 H), 3.11 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.84 (dd, *J* = 18.6, 10.4 Hz, 1 H), 2.75 (dd, *J* = 13.9, 4.7 Hz, 1 H), 2.63 (d, *J* = 15.3, 1 H), 2.56 (m, 1 H), 2.51 (dd, *J* = 14, 5.2 Hz), 2.20 (dd, *J* = 18.5, 4.7 Hz), 1.53 (s 3 H);

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75MHz) δ: 175.9, 152.1, 152.0, 140.7, 130.0, 120.8, 107.9, 84.5, 60.8, 60.5, 55.9, 42.3, 36.3, 32.9, 30.7, 17.6;

HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₆H₂₁O₅⁺ ([M+H]⁺) 293.1389, Found 293.1386.



 R_f (Hexane/EtOAc 4:1): 0.25;

IR (Neat): 2936, 1778, 1602, 1493, 1461, 1412, 1340, 1255, 1119, 1069, 1031, 987, 668 cm⁻¹;

¹ H NMR (CDCl₃, 500MHz) δ: 6.43 (s, 1 H), 3.85 (s, 3 H), 3.84 (s, 3 H), 3.82 (s, 3 H), 3.19 (d, J = 15.5 Hz, 1 H), 2.96 (dd, J = 16.0, 3.9 Hz, 1 H), 2.8 (d, J = 15.7, 1 H), 2.68 (m, 1 H), 2.57 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 2.48 (m, 1 H), 1.21 (s, 3 H)

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75MHz) δ: 175.9, 152.2, 151.5, 141.1, 131.3, 120.5, 107.7, 87.2, 61.3, 61.0, 56.1, 39.9, 34.9, 34.2, 33.4, 28.6;

HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₆H₂₁O₅⁺([M+H]⁺) 292.1389, found 293.1376.



(3a'S,6a'S)-3,5-dimethoxy-6a'-methyl-3a',4',6',6a'-tetrahydrospiro[cyclohexa[2,5]diene-1,5'-cyclopenta[b]furan]-2',4(3'H)-dione (8a) According the general procedure, the aryl carboxylic acid (100 mg, 0.34 mmol, 1.0 equiv), phenyliodine diacetate (216 mg, 0.67 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and palladium diacetate (7.0 mg, 0.03mmol, 0.10 equiv) in dry acetonitrile (100 mL) afforded 23 mg of cyclized product 3c as a brown solid in 32% yield, after purification by chromatography on SiO₂ (80:20, Hexanes/EtOAc- \rightarrow 99:1 EtOAc/MeOH) (12 h reaction time).

R_f(EtOAc/MeOH 99:1): 0.20;

IR (Neat): 2936, 1778, 1602, 1493, 1461, 1340, 1255, 1119, 1069, 987, 668 cm⁻¹;

¹ H NMR (CDCl₃, 500MHz) δ : 5.91-5.72 (m, 2 H), 3.66 (s, 6 H), 2.96 (dd, J = 18.1, 8.8 Hz, 1), 2.87 (dd, J = 8.5 Hz, 1 H), 2.49 (dd, J = 7.8, 6.6 Hz, 2 H), 2.22 (ddd, J = 13.5, 8.0, 1.5 Hz, 1 H), 2.11 (dd, J = 14.8, 1.6 Hz, 1 H), 1.91 (dd, J = 13.5, 9.3 Hz, 1 H), 1.6 (s, 3 H);

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ: 176.0, 175.5, 150.3, 150.0, 120.9, 119.1, 94.9, 55.3, 55.2, 51.6, 46.4, 46.3, 44.8, 35.5, 26.5;

HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₅H₁₈O₅Na⁺([M+Na⁺]) 301.1052, found 301.1061.



8a-methyl-3,3a,8,8a-tetrahydro-2 H-indeno[2,1-b]furan-2-one (10)

According the general procedure, the aryl carboxylic acid (93 mg, 0.48 mmol, 1.0 equiv), phenyliodine diacetate (460 mg, 1.4 mmol, 3.0 equiv) and palladium diacetate (12 mg, 0.048 mmol, 0.10 equiv) in dry acetonitrile (100 mL) afforded the cyclized product **9b** (55 mg, 60%) as a colorless solid after purification by chromatography on SiO₂ (90:10, Hexanes/EtOAc) (12 h reaction time).

R_f(Hexane/EtOAc 7:3): 0.32;

IR (Neat): 3024, 2970, 2929, 1768, 1483, 1419, 1384, 1255, 1222, 1170, 1119, 1067, 945, 914, 775, 751, 681 cm⁻¹;

¹ H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ : 7.29-7.10 (m, 4 H), 3.63 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1 H), 3.39 (d, J = 17.5 Hz, 1 H), 3.13 (d, J = 17.5 Hz, 1 H), 3.05 (dd, J = 17.9, 9.0 Hz, 1 H), 2.70 (dt, J = 17.8, 0.7 Hz, 1 H), 1.63 (s, 3 H);

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75MHz) δ: 175.7, 142.5, 140.2, 128.2, 127.6, 125.0, 124.6, 93.7, 50.5, 44.8, 35.4, 24.4;

HRMS (ESI) not found.

LRMS (ESI) m/z for C₁₂H₁₃O₂⁺([M+H]⁺) found 189.09

Note: For characterization data for the starting material (compound **10**), see: Padwa, A.; Austin, D. J.; Price, A. T.; Semones, M. A.; Doyle, M. P.; Protopopova, M. N.; Winchester, W. R.; Tran, A. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1993**, *115*, 8669.



5,7-dimethoxy-3a,8a-dimethyl-3,3a,8,8a-tetrahydro-2 H-indeno[2,1-b]furan-2-one(12) According the general procedure, the aryl carboxylic acid (120 mg, 0.48 mmol, 1.0 equiv), phenyliodine diacetate (480 mg, 1.4 mmol, 3.0 equiv) and palladium diacetate (14 mg, 0.048 mmol, 0.10 equiv) in dry acetonitrile (100 mL) afforded the cyclized product **10b** (72 mg, 60%) as a colorless solid after purification by chromatography on SiO₂ (99.5:0.5, DCM/Et₂O) (12 h reaction time).

R_f(Hexane/EtOAc/AcOH 68:30:2): 0.31;

IR (Neat): 2940, 1771, 1600, 1495, 1467, 1431, 1331, 1219, 1148, 1066, 946, 836, 737 cm⁻¹;

¹ HNMR (CDCl₃,500 MHz) δ : 6.33 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.29 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1 H), 3.79 (s, 6 H), 3.61 (d, J = 9.0Hz, 1 H), 3.33 (d, J = 17.4 Hz, 1 H), 3.04 (dd, J = 17.9, 9.3 Hz, 1 H), 2.96 (d, J = 17.1 Hz, 1 H), 2.72 (dt, J = 17.9, 0.7 Hz, 1 H), 1.64 (s, 3 H);

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75MHz) δ: 175.7, 161.4, 156.7, 144.5, 120.2, 100.1, 98.0, 94.1, 55.6, 55.2, 51.1, 41.4, 35.1, 24.7;

HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₄H₁₇O₄⁺([M+H]⁺) 249.1127, found 249.1118.



5,6,7-trimethoxy-8a-methyl-3,3a,8,8a-tetrahydro-2 H-indeno[2,1-b]furan-2-one (14) According the general procedure, the aryl carboxylic acid (100 mg, 0.35 mmol, 1.0 equiv), phenyliodine diacetate (276.5 mg, 1.25 mmol, 3.0 equiv) and palladium diacetate (9.6 mg, 0.043 mmol, 0.10 equiv) in dry acetonitrile (100 mL) afforded the cyclized product **11b** (51 mg, 52%) as a clear oil after purification by chromatography on SiO₂ (80:20 Hexanes/ Acetone) (12 h reaction time).

R_f(Hexane/EtOAc4:1): 0.25;

IR (Neat): 2967, 2842, 1590, 1484, 1416, 1345, 1264, 1235, 1171, 1067, 947, 807, 710 cm⁻¹;

¹ H NMR (CDCl₃, 500MHz) δ : 6.45 (s, 1 H), 3.89 (s, 3 H), 3.84 (s, 3 H), 3.84 (s, 3 H), 3.60 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1 H), 3.41 (d, J = 17.1 Hz, 1 H), 2.96-3.15 (m, 2 H), 2.71 (d, J = 17.5 Hz, 1 H), 1.66 (s, 3 H);

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ: 175.6, 154.2, 149.8, 141.6, 137.8, 124.7, 103.1, 94.0, 61.0, 60.4, 56.3, 50.9, 42.1, 35.3, 24.6;

HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₅H₁₉O₅⁺([M+H]⁺) 279.1232, found 279.1233.



5,7,8a-trimethyl-3,3a,8,8a-tetrahydro-2 H-indeno[2,1-b]furan-2-one (16)

According the general procedure, the aryl carboxylic acid (110 mg, 0.48 mmol, 1.0 equiv), phenyliodine diacetate (470 mg, 1.4 mmol, 3.0 equiv) and palladium diacetate (11 mg, 0.048 mmol, 0.10 equiv) in dry acetonitrile (100 mL) afforded the cyclized product **12b** (61 mg, 57%) as a colorless solid after purification by chromatography on SiO₂ (100% DCM) (12 h reaction time).

R_f(DCM): 0.28;

IR (Neat):2932, 2857, 2359, 1759, 1510, 1481, 1422, 1388, 1267, 1177, 1119, 1074, 1033, 945, 923, 857, 810, 729, 653 cm⁻¹;

¹ H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ: 6.88 (d, J = 0.6 Hz, 1 H), 6.81 (s, 1 H), 3.32 (d, J = 17.3 Hz, 1 H), 3.06 (dd, J = 17.8, 9.1 Hz, 1 H), 3.00 (d, J = 17.1 Hz, 1 H), 2.71 (dq, J = 17.6, 0.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.30 (s, 3 H), 2.20 (s, 3 H), 1.66 (s, 3 H);

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75MHz)δ: 175.9, 142.5, 137.7, 136.1, 134.2, 129.9, 122.4, 93.8, 50.6, 43.4, 35.5, 24.7, 21.2, 18.9;

HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for $C_{14}H_{17}O_2^+([M+H]^+)$ 217.1229, found 217.1234.



10a-methyl-3,3a,10,10a-tetrahydro-2 H-benzo[5,6]indeno[2,1-b]furan-2-one (18)

According the general procedure, the aryl carboxylic acid (100 mg, 0.48mmol, 1.0 equiv), phenyliodine diacetate (460 mg, 1.4mmol, 3.0 equiv) and palladium diacetate (10.0 mg, 0.048mmol, 0.10 equiv) in dry acetonitrile (100 mL) afforded the cyclized product **13b**(55 mg, 52%) as a colorless solid after purification by chromatography on SiO₂ (100% DCM) (12 h reaction time).

 R_f (Hexane/EtOAc4:1): 0.42;

IR (Neat): 2922, 2857, 2360, 2342, 1763, 1608, 1510, 1255, 1169, 1117, 1069, 945, 921, 872, 755 cm⁻¹;

¹ H NMR (CDCl₃, 400MHz) δ: 7.83-7.75 (m, 2 H), 7.65 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.48-7.40 (m, 2 H), 3.81 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1 H), 3.59 (d, J = 17.5 Hz, 1 H), 3.32 (d, J = 17.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.19 (dd, J = 17.8, 8.7 Hz, 1 H), 2.86 (d, J = 17.8 Hz, 1 H), 1.72 (s, 3 H);

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75MHz) δ: 175.5, 141.9, 138.8, 133.7, 133.2, 127.7, 127.6, 125.9, 125.6, 123.6, 123.5, 94.0, 50.13, 44.3, 36.1, 24.4;

HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₆H₁₅O₂⁺ ([M+H]⁺) 239.1072, found 239.1073.



7a-methyl-10,10a-dihydro-7H-benzo[6,7]indeno[2,1-b]furan-9(7aH)-one (20)

According the general procedure, the aryl carboxylic acid (120 mg, 0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv), phenyliodine diacetate(320 mg, 0.99 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and palladium diacetate (11 mg, 0.05mmol, 0.10 equiv) in dry acetonitrile (100 mL) afforded the cyclized product **14b** (63 mg, 53%) as a colorless solid after purification by chromatography on SiO₂(90:10, Hexanes/EtOAc) (12 h reaction time).

 R_f (Hexane/EtOAc4:1): 0.13;

IR (Neat): 3057, 2979, 2931, 1773, 1517, 1384, 1267, 1241, 1178, 1072, 955, 779, 739 cm⁻¹;

¹ HNMR (CDCl₃, 500MHz) δ : 7.90 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.78 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.66 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.55 (ddd, J = 8.1, 6.9, 1.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.49 (ddd, J = 8.3, 7.1, 1.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1 H), 4.09 (dd, J = 9.8, 2.7 Hz, 1 H), 3.61 (d, J = 17.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.33 (d, J = 17.4 Hz, 1 H), 3.28 (dd, J = 18.1, 9.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.94 (d, J = 18.2, 2.8 Hz, 1 H), 1.75 (s, 3 H);

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125MHz) δ: 175.9, 137.2, 137.0, 133.4, 129.5, 129.2, 129.2, 126.8, 125.4, 123.0, 123.0, 93.3, 50.1, 46.4, 34.7, 25.9;

HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₆H₁₅O₂⁺([M+H]⁺) 239.1072, found 239.1076.



5,7-dimethoxy-8a-methyl-3,3a,8,8a-tetrahydro-2 H-indeno[2,1-b]furan(22)

According the general procedure, the aryl carboxylic acid (110 mg, 0.48 mmol, 1.0 equiv), phenyliodine diacetate (480 mg, 1.4 mmol, 3.0 equiv) and palladium diacetate (16 mg, 0.048 mmol, 0.10 equiv) in dry acetonitrile (100 mL) afforded the cyclized product **15b** (52 mg, 46%) as a colorless oil after purification by chromatography on SiO₂ (gradient of 90:10 \rightarrow 80:20 Hexanes/EtOAc) (12 h reaction time).

R_f(Hexane/EtOAc4:1): 0.43;

IR (Neat): 2940, 1660, 1596, 1462, 1429, 1344, 1205, 1157, 1059, 833, 744 cm⁻¹;

¹ H NMR (CDCl₃, 500MHz) δ : 6.32 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.29 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1 H), 3.91 (m, 2 H), 3.79 (s, 3 H), 3.78 (s, 3 H), 3.13 (td, *J* = 9.1, 9.1, 5.9 Hz, 1 H), 3.38, (dd, *J* = 8.6, 2.5 Hz, 2 H), 3.07 (d, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.88 (d, *J* = 16.8Hz, 1 H), 2.23 (m, 1 H), 2.00 (ddt*J* = 12.1, 6.0, 2.8, 2.8 Hz, 1 H), 1.46 (s, 3 H);

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃. 75MHz) δ: 160.7, 147.5, 145.6, 110.6, 106.1, 98.0, 61.3, 55.2, 49.2, 35.7, 21.1;

HRMS (ESI) not found.







































































































S78









Plotname: -- Not assigned--



COSY









S86



