Supporting Information

for

Anodic coupling of carboxylic acids to electron-rich double bonds: A surprising non-Kolbe pathway to lactones

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Procedures for electrolysis and cyclic voltammetry experiments, characterization of electrolysis products, procedures for synthesis and characterization of electrolysis starting materials

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1 Electrolysis Experiments

Lithium methoxide (1.0 M in methanol, 0 to 1.0 equivalents, see text) was added to either a methanol or 30% methanol / tetrahydrofuran solution of substrate (0.03 M, 1 equivalent) and the electrolyte tetraethylammonium *p*-toluenesulfonate in a three-neck round bottom flask at room temperature under argon atmosphere. Two of the three septa were replaced by a reticulated vitreous carbon anode (100 PPI) and a platinum wire cathode. The electrolysis was performed at a constant current of 6 mA.

When complete, the reaction was concentrated *in vacuo*, then water and diethyl ether were added. The water layer was separated and extracted three times with ether and the organic washes combined, dried over sodium sulfate, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was then chromatographed through a silica gel column (slurry packed with 1% triethylamine using in ether/hexane eluent) to give the desired product.

Alternatively, once the reaction is complete, the solvent may be removed in vacuo to give a crude residue deposited onto the electrolyte tetraethylammonium *p*-toluenesulfonate. This may then be chromatographed in the same manner as described above.

2 Cyclic Voltammetry Experiments

A solution of the substrate (0.025 M) and tetraethylammonium tosylate (0.1 M) in the necessary solvent (noted in the text) was prepared. Cyclic voltammetry was performed with a sweep rate of 50 mV/s, with the sweep beginning in the positive direction. The half-wave oxidation potentials ($E_{p/2}$) were measured from the resulting oxidation curve.

3 Characterization of Electrolysis Products



5-(2-methoxy-1,3-dithian-2-yl)-5-methyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one, 15a

Spectral data for the title compound matched that which has been previously reported (Liu, B.; Duan, S.; Sutterer, A. C.; Moeller, K. D. J. Am. Chem. Soc., **2002**, 124, 10101-10111).



methyl 5-hydroxy-5-(2-methoxy-1,3-dithian-2-yl)hexanoate, 16b IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 3499, 1736, 1087.

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.54 (s, 3H), 2.96-2.80 (m, 4H), 2.34-2.29 (m, 3H), 1.97-1.70 (m, 6H), 1.35 (s, 3H).

¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.3, 104.2, 81.4, 53.1, 51.7, 35.7, 34.6, 27.9, 27.9, 22.4, 21.6, 19.6. ESI HRMS m/z (M+Na)⁺ calculated 317.0852, observed 317.0860.



$6-(2-methoxy-1, 3-dithian-2-yl)-6-methyltetrahydro-2H-pyran-2-one,\ 15b$

IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 1738, 1255, 1089.

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.58 (s, 3H), 3.05-2.84 (m, 4H), 2.63-2.54 (m, 1H), 2.45-2.37 (m, 1H), 2.27-2.16 (m, 1H), 2.00-1.73 (m, 5H), 1.58 (m, 3H).

 $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.9, 102.8, 90.9, 53.1, 30.4, 29.4, 27.9, 22.7, 22.6, 17.4.

ESI HRMS m/z (M+H)⁺ calculated 263.0770, observed 263.0771.

methyl 6-hydroxy-6-(2-methoxy-1,3-dithian-2-yl)heptanoate, 16c

IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 3480, 1735, 1680, 1173.

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 3.02-2.84 (m, 4H), 2.36 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.21 (s, 1H), 2.04-1.40 (m, 8H), 1.37 (s, 3H).

¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.4, 104.4, 81.5, 53.1, 51.7, 36.0, 34.4, 28.0, 25.7, 23.6, 22.4, 21.6. ESI HRMS m/z (M-OCH₃)⁺ calculated 277.0932, observed 277.0897.

5-(methoxy(methylthio)methyl)-5-methyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one, 18a IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 1772, 1190, 1094.

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.21 (s, 0.5 H), 4.12 (s, 0.5 H), 3.47 (s, 1.5 H), 3.45 (s, 1.5 H), 2.78-2.21 (m, 3H), 2.17, 2.13 (2s, 3H), 1.51, 1.50 (2s, 3H).

 $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 77.2, 177.1, 95.2, 94.9, 88.9, 88.6, 59.1, 57.5, 30.8, 29.9, 29.7, 29.6, 25.0, 14.7, 14.0.

ESI HRMS m/z (M+H)⁺ calculated 191.0731, observed 191.0736.

5-(dimethoxymethyl)-5-methyldihydrofuran-2(3H)-one, 18b

IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 1776, 1104, 1078.

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.13 (s, 1H), 3.50 (s, 3H), 3.48 (s, 3H), 2.71-2.51 (m, 1H), 2.50-2.38 (m, 2H), 1.82-1.71 (m, 1H), 1.37 (s, 3H).

¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 177.6, 109.5, 86.9, 58.7, 57.5, 29.7, 28.3, 23.3. ESI HRMS m/z (M+H)⁺ calculated 175.0965, observed 175.0966.



5-[methoxy(4-methoxyphenyl)methyl]dihydrofuran-2(3H)-one, 20c Isolated as a 2:1 mixture of diastereomers IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 2937, 1778, 1611, 1584, 1513.

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.30-7.21 (m, 2H), 6.96-6.87 (m, 2H), 4.65 (dt, Jd = 5.7, Jt = 7.0 Hz, 0.7H), 4.57 (ddd, J = 8.4, 4.8, 3.6 Hz, 0.3H), 4.41 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 0.3H), 4.20 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 0.7H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.30 (s, 1H), 3.28 (s, 2H), 2.59-2.19 (m, 2H), 2.12-1.92 (m, 2H)

 $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 177.7, 177.3, 160.0, 159.7, 128.9, 128.4, 128.3, 114.3, 114.2, 84.7, 83.9, 82.9, 82.2, 57.6, 57.0, 55.4, 28.5, 28.3, 24.2, 21.7.

ESI HRMS m/z (M+H)⁺ calculated 237.1121, observed 237.1122.



5-[methoxy(3-methoxyphenyl)methyl]dihydrofuran-2(3H)-one, 20g

Isolated as two separate diastereomers in a 2:1 ratio.

Major diastereomer:

 $\overline{\text{IR (neat, cm}^{-1})}$ 2938, 2360, 2341, 1775, 1600, 1585.

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.34-7.25 (m, 1H), 6.96-6.83 (m, 3H), 4.66 (dt, Jd = 6.0 Hz, Jt = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 4.22 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.31 (s, 3H), 2.46-2.15 (m, 2H), 2.07-1.93 (m, 2H).

 $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 177.0, 159.9, 138.0, 129.7, 119.9, 114.0, 113.0, 85.0, 81.9, 57.2, 55.3, 28.2, 24.1.

ESI HRMS m/z (M+H)⁺ calculated 237.1121, observed 237.1122.

Minor diastereomer:

 $\overline{\text{IR (neat, cm}^{-1})}$ 2938, 2360, 2341, 1777, 1601, 1586.

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.34-7.27 (m, 1H), 6.97-6.81 (m, 3H), 4.60 (ddd, J = 8.1, 4.8, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.46 (d, J = 3.3 Hz), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.34 (s, 3H), 2.64-2.21 (m, 3H), 2.12-1.94 (m, 1H).

 $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 177.6, 160.0, 138.4, 129.8, 119.2, 113.5, 112.4, 84.0, 82.6, 55.8, 55.3, 28.4, 21.4.

ESI HRMS m/z (M+H)⁺ calculated 237.1121, observed 237.1122.



5-[methoxy(2-methoxyphenyl)methyl]dihydrofuran-2(3H)-one, 20e Isolated as two separate diastereomers in a 2:1 ratio.

Major diastereomer

 $\overline{\text{IR (neat, cm}^{-1})}$ 2938, 1776, 1600, 1588.

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39 (dd, J = 7.4, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (ddd, J = 8.4, 7.4, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (dd, J = 7.5 Hz, Jd = 0.6 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.75-4.62 (m, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.28 (s, 3H), 2.65-2.50 (m, 1H), 2.48-2.34 (m, 1H), 2.18-1.97 (m, 2H).

 $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 177.7, 157.4, 129.4, 128.2, 125.2, 121.2, 110.6, 82.4, 78.9, 57.5, 55.6, 28.7, 24.3.

ESI HRMS m/z (M+H)⁺ calculated 237.1121, observed 237.1122.

Minor diastereomer

IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 2939, 2360, 2342, 1776, 1601, 1588.

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.38 (dd, J = 7.5, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.34-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.01 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 4.94 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.71 (ddd, J = 8.4, 4.5, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.33 (s, 3H), 2.63 (ddd, J = 17.7, 9.6, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.43-2.16 (m, 2H), 1.96-1.80 (m, 1H).

 $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 178.1, 156.8, 129.0, 126.8, 124.6, 120.7, 110.2, 80.8, 78.6, 57.9, 55.2, 28.6, 20.8.

ESI HRMS m/z (M+H)⁺ calculated 237.1121, observed 237.1122.



5-[(2,4-dimethoxyphenyl)(methoxy)methyl]dihydrofuran-2(3H)-one, 20i Isolated as two separate diastereomers in a 2:1 ratio. Major diasteriomer IR (most em =1) 020 2250 1776 1611 1588 1506

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.28 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.53 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.47 (d, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.72-4.57 (m, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 2.64-2.32 (m, 2H), 2.14-1.96 (m, 2H).

 $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 177.6, 160.9, 158.5, 128.9, 117.4, 104.5, 98.4, 82.7, 78.8, 57.1, 55.53, 55.51, 28.6, 24.2.

ESI HRMS m/z (M+Na)⁺ calculated 289.1046, observed 289.1045.

Minor diasteriomer

IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 2939, 1775, 1612, 1588, 1505.

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.27 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.53 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.46 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.85, (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 4.71-4.62 (m, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.31 (s, 3H), 2.60 (ddd, J = 17.7, 10.2, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 2.43-2.16 (m, 2H), 1.99-1.82 (m, 1H).

 $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 178.3, 160.9, 158.1, 127.9, 117.0, 104.5, 98.6, 81.3, 78.6, 57.9, 55.6, 55.5, 28.8, 21.1.

ESI HRMS m/z (M+Na)⁺ calculated 289.1046, observed 289.1046.



5-[methoxy(phenyl)methyl]dihydrofuran-2(3H)-one, 20a

Isolated as two separate diastereomers in a 1:1 ratio.

First diastereomer

IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 2933, 2360, 2341, 1777.

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.45-7.28 (m, 5H), 4.59 (ddd, J = 7.8, 4.8, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (d, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 3.33 (s, 3H), 2.64-2.46 (m, 1H), 2.45-2.21 (m, 2H), 2.09-1.93 (m, 1H).

¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 177.6, 136.7, 128.7, 128.3, 126.9, 84.1, 82.7, 57.7, 28.4, 21.4. ESI HRMS m/z (M+H)⁺ calculated 207.1016, observed 207.1016.

Second diastereomer

IR (neat, cm^{-1})

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.49-7.28 (m, 5H), 4.67 (dt, Jd = 5.7 Hz, Jt = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (d, J = 5.7 Hz), 3.31 (s, 3H), 2.46-2.15 (m, 2H), 2.05-1.94 (m, 2H).

¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 177.0, 136.4, 128.7, 128.6, 127.6, 85.0, 81.9, 57.2, 28.2, 24.0. ESI HRMS m/z (M+H)⁺ calculated 207.1016, observed 207.1016.

4 Substrate Synthesis and Characterization



6-(1,3-dithian-2-ylidene)heptanoic acid, 14c

2-(Trimethylsilyl)-1,3-dithiane (1.467g, 7.629 mmol, 2 equivalents) was dissolved in tetrahydrofuran (10 mL) under inert atmosphere, cooled to -78 °C, and treated with *n*-butyllithium (1.6 M in hexanes, 4.77 mL, 7.629 mmol, 2 equivalents). The resulting solution was stirred at -78 °C for 30 minutes, then at room temperature for 30 minutes. The solution was then cooled back to -78 °C and treated with 6-oxoheptanoic acid (0.6070g, 3.789 mmol, 1 equivalent, dissolved in 10 mL of tetrahydrofuran). After 15 minutes, cold bath was removed and the reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature as it stirred overnight. The reaction was added, and the layers were separated. The aqueous hydrochloric acid to a pH of approximately 6. Ether was added, and the layers were dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The crude residue was chromatographed through silica gel with hexanes and ethyl acetate to give the desired product (67%) as a colorless oil.

IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 1706, 1420, 1276.

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.97-2.91 (m, 4H), 2.50-2.44 (m, 4H), 2.24-2.16 (m, 2H), 1.99 (s, 3H), 1.77-1.67 (m, 2H), 1.57-1.51 (m, 2H).

¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 180.6, 140.3, 120.0, 35.6, 34.3, 30.6, 30.5, 27.6, 25.3, 24.6, 20.5. ESI HRMS m/z (M+H)⁺ calculated 247.0821, observed 247.0821.



ethyl 5-(1,3-dithian-2-ylidene) hexanoate, S-1

The title compound was prepared according to the same procedure for the synthesis of S-2, using ethyl 5-oxohexanoate instead of ethyl levulinate. Following that procedure, the title compound was prepared in a 75% yield.

IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 1732, 1244, 1147.

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.12 (q, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.88-2.81 (m, 4H), 2.38 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.28 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.14-2.06 (m, 2H), 1.89 (s, 3H), 1.78-1.67 (m, 2H), 1.25 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H).

¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.5, 139.0, 120.7, 60.3, 31.2, 33.9, 30.4, 30.2, 25.1, 23.2, 14.4.

ESI HRMS m/z (M+H)⁺ calculated 261.0977, observed 261.0978.



5-(1,3-dithian-2-ylidene) hexanoic acid, 14b

To a solution of S-1 (1.32g, 5.07 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (30 mL) and water (10 mL) was added lithium hydroxide monohydrate (1.06 g, 25.2 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred overnight. 1 N

aqueous hydrochloric acid was added to adjust the pH of the aqueous solution to 2. Ether was then added and organic phase separated. The aqueous phase was exacted with ether twice. The organic phase was combined, dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated under vacuum to give 9.2c (0.78 g, 67%) as a white solid.

IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 3093, 2034, 2908, 2848, 2662, 1706, 1420.

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.89-2.82 (m, 4H), 2.43-2.33 (m, 4H), 2.14-2.06 (m, 2H), 1.90 (s, 3H), 1.80-1.70 (m, 2H).

 $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 179.7, 138.9, 120.9, 35.1, 30.5, 30.4, 30.2, 25.1, 22.9, 20.2.

ESI HRMS m/z (M+H)⁺ calculated 233.0664, observed 233.0665.



Ethyl 4-(1,3-dithian-2-ylidene) pentanoate, S-2

The preparation and characterization of the title compound from **S-2** was performed using according to a previously reported procedure (Liu, B.; Duan, S.; Sutterer, A. C.; Moeller, K. D. J. Am. Chem. Soc., **2002**, 124, 10101-10111).



4-(1,3-Dithian-2-ylidene)pentanoic acid, 14a

The preparation and characterization of the title compound from **S-2** was performed using according to a previously reported procedure (Liu, B.; Duan, S.; Sutterer, A. C.; Moeller, K. D. J. Am. Chem. Soc., **2002**, 124, 10101-10111).



ethyl 4-methyl-5-(methylthio)pent-4-enoate, S-3

To a suspension of (methylthiomethyl)triphenylphosphonium chloride (10.7 g, 30 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (100mL) was added an *n*-butyllithium solution (1.6 M in hexanes, 18.7 mL, 30 mmol) at 0 °C under argon atmosphere. After the addition was complete, the clear solution was stirred at 0 °C for 30 min and then treated with ethyl levulinate (4.2 mL, 30 mmol). The reaction was warmed to room temperature and then stirred overnight. The reaction was cooled to 0 °C and brine and ether were added. The organic phase was separated and the aqueous layer extracted with ether. The combined organic layers were dried over magnesium sulfate and concentrated. Chromatography on silica gel gave the desired product as a colorless oil (2.5 g, 45%).

IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 1732, 1372, 1157.

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.62 (s, 1H), 4.09 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.44-2.32 (m, 4H), 2.21 (s, 3H), 1.69 (m, 3H), 1.22 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H).

¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.2, 134.1, 121.8, 60.5, 34.4, 33.2, 17.8, 17.3, 14.4.

ESI HRMS m/z (M+H)⁺ calculated 189.0944, observed 189.0944.

4-methyl-5-(methylthio)pent-4-enoic acid, 17a

The title compound was prepared from ethyl 4-methyl-5-(methylthio)pent-4-enoate (S-3) using the same procedure for the synthesis of 4-(1,3-Dithian-2-ylidene)pentanoic acid, 14a.

IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 1710, 1436, 1301.

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 11.8 (br, 1H), 5.65 (s, with fine couplings, 1H), 2.49-2.34 (m, 4H), 2.22, 2.21 (2s, 3H), 1.75 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 1.5 H), 1.70 (s, 1.5 H).

 $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 180.0, 179.9, 134.5, 133.6, 122.5, 122.1, 34.0, 33.0, 32.0, 28.8, 22.9, 17.9, 17.5, 17.3.

ESI HRMS m/z (M+H)⁺ calculated 161.0631, observed 161.0631.

5-methoxy-4-methyl pent-4-enoic acid, 17b

To a suspension of (methoxymethyl)triphenylphosphonium chloride (3.693 g, 10.77 mmol, 2.5 eq) in THF (15 mL) was added sodium bis(trimethylsilyl) amide (1.0 M in tetrahydrofuran, 10.8 mL, 2.5 eq) at 0° C under argon atmosphere. The resulting solution was stirred at 0° C for 30 min. Levulinic acid (0.5 g, 4.306 mmol, 1 eq) was then added via 1 mL tetrahydrofuran. The resulting suspension was allowed to stir overnight and warm to room temperature. After 22 hours, water was added and the Aqueous layer was washed with ether three times. The aqueous layer was then acidified with hydrochloric acid (3 M, aq) to a pH of 5. The aqueous layer was then extracted three times with diethyl ether. The combined organic extracts were dried over magnesium sulfate, concentrated in vacuo, and chromatographed through silica gel with a mixture of hexanes and ethyl acetate to give the product as a colorless oil and a 2:1 mixture of isomers. (0.2434 g, 39%).

IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 2933, 2857, 2873, 2741, 2674, 1709.

¹H-NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12/03 (bs, 1H), 5.83 (s, 0.33H), 5.77 (s, 0.66H), 3.54 (s, 1H), 3.51 (s, 2H), 2.47-2.40 (m, 2H), 2.40-2.35 (m, 1.33H), 2.21 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 0.66H), 1.59 (s, 1H), 1.54 (s, 2H).

 $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 180.4, 180.0, 142.9, 142.8, 112.0, 111.8, 60.6, 59.3, 33.3, 32.5, 29.2, 24.6, 17.2, 12.5.

ESI HRMS m/z (M+H)⁺ calculated 145.0859, observed 145.0859.



(4E)-5-(4-methoxyphenyl)pent-4-enoic acid, 19c

To a solution of (3-carboxypropyl)triphenylphosphonium bromide (1.1 g, 2.5 mmol, 1.2 eq.) in tetrahydrofuran (10 ml) was added dropwise a solution of sodium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide (1.0 M in tetrahydrofuran, 5.0 ml, 5.0 mmol, 2.4 eq.) at 0 °C. The solution was stirred for 30 min, then cooled to -78 °C. P-anisaldehyde (0.25 ml, 2.0 mmol, 1 eq.) was then added dropwise. The reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature overnight. Water and ether were added. The water layer was separated and acidified with 1 M aqueous hydrochloric acid to pH = 1, then extracted twice with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was chromatographed on silica gel (1:1 to 5:1 ether:hexanes) to give 0.31 g of product (73%) as a white solid.

IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 2932, 2358, 2340, 1694, 1606.

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.27 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.84 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.39 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 6.13-6.00 (m, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.55-2.50 (m, 4H).

 $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 179.5, 159.1, 130.8, 130.3, 127.4, 126.0, 114.1, 55.5, 34.1, 28.1. ESI HRMS $m/z~(\mathrm{M+H})^+$ calculated 207.1016, observed 207.1016.



(4E)-5-(3-methoxyphenyl)pent-4-enoic acid, 19g

To a solution of (3-carboxypropyl)triphenylphosphonium bromide (2.0 g, 4.8 mmol, 1.1 eq.) in tetrahydrofuran (20 ml) was added dropwise a solution of lithium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide (1.0 M in tetrahydrofuran, 9.5 ml, 9.5 mmol, 2.2 eq.) at 0 °C. The solution was stirred for 30 min, then cooled to -78 °C. M-anisaldehyde (0.54 ml, 4.4 mmol, 1 eq.) was then added dropwise. The reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature overnight. Water and ether were added. The water layer was separated and acidified with 1 M aqueous hydrochloric acid to pH = 1, then extracted twice with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was chromatographed on silica gel (3:1 ether:hexanes) to give 0.83 g of product (91%) as a white solid.

IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 3026, 2360, 2342, 1707, 1598, 1578.

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.21 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (s, with fine couplings, 1H), 6.83-6.75 (m, 1H), 6.43 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 6.28-6.15 (m, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 2.57-2.53 (m, 4H).

¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 179.6, 159.8, 138.8, 131.1, 129.5, 128.4, 118.8, 112.9, 111.6, 55.2, 33.8, 27.9.

ESI HRMS m/z (M+Na)⁺ calculated 229.0835, observed 229.0835.



(4E)-5-(2-methoxyphenyl)pent-4-enoic acid, 19e

To a solution of (3-carboxypropyl)triphenylphosphonium bromide (2.0 g, 4.8 mmol, 1.1 eq.) in tetrahydrofuran (20 ml) was added dropwise a solution of sodium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide (1.0 M in THF, 9.5 ml, 9.5 mmol, 2.2 eq.) at 0 °C. The solution was stirred for 30 min, then cooled to -78 °C. A solution of o-anisaldehyde (0.60 g, 4.4 mmol, 1 eq.) in tetrahydrofuran (2 ml) was then added dropwise. The reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature overnight. Water and ether were added. The water layer was separated and acidified with 1 M aqueous hydrochloric acid to pH = 1, then extracted twice with ethyl accetate. The combined organic layers were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was chromatographed on silica gel (2:1 ether:hexanes) to give 0.55 g of product (60%) as a white solid.

IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 3034, 2341, 2360, 1706, 1596.

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.40 (dd, J = 7.7, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (ddd, J = 8.4, 7.7, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (t, with fine couplings, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (dd, J = 8.4, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 6.27-6.13 (m, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.59-2.54 (m, 4H).

 $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 180.0, 156.5, 128.7, 128.3, 126.7, 126.4, 126.0, 120.7, 110.9, 55.5, 34.0, 28.4.

ESI HRMS m/z (M+Na)⁺ calculated 229.0835, observed 229.0835.



(4E)-5-(2,4-dimethoxyphenyl)pent-4-enoic acid, 19i

To a solution of (3-carboxypropyl)triphenylphosphonium bromide (2.1 g, 4.9 mmol, 1.2 eq.) in tetrahydrofuran (20 ml) was added dropwise a solution of sodium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide (1.0 M in THF, 9.7 ml, 9.7 mmol, 2.4 eq.) at 0 °C. The solution was stirred for 30 min, then cooled to -78 °C. A solution of 2,4dimethoxybenzaldehyde (0.73 g, 4.0 mmol, 1 eq.) in tetrahydrofuran (3 ml) was then added dropwise. The reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature overnight. Water and ether were added. The water layer was separated and acidified with 1 M aqueous hydrochloric acid to pH = 1, then extracted twice with ethyl accetate. The combined organic layers were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was chromatographed on silica gel (3:1 ether:hexanes) to give 0.67 g of product (70%) as a white solid.

IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 2995, 2361, 1705, 1610, 1578, 1503.

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.31 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 6.49-6.41 (m, 2H), 6.15-6.02 (m, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.56-2.51 (m, 4H).

 $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 179.7, 160.1, 157.5, 127.3, 126.5, 125.5, 119.4 104.8, 98.4, 55.4, 55.3, 34.2, 28.4.

ESI HRMS m/z (M+Na)⁺ calculated 259.0941, observed 259.0941.



(4E)-5-phenylpent-4-enoic acid, 19a

To a solution of (3-carboxypropyl)triphenylphosphonium bromide (1.9 g, 4.5 mmol, 1.1 eq.) in tetrahydrofuran (20 ml) was added dropwise a solution of sodium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide (1.0 M in tetrahydrofuran, 9.0 ml, 9.0 mmol, 2.2 eq.) at 0 °C. The solution was stirred for 30 min, then cooled to -78 °C. Benzaldehyde (0.42 ml, 4.2 mmol, 1 eq.) was then added dropwise. The reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature overnight. Water and ether were added. The water layer was separated and acidified with 1 M aqueous hydrochloric acid to pH = 1, then extracted twice with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was chromatographed on silica gel (3:1 ether:hexanes) to give 0.70 g of product (95%) as a white solid.

IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 3024, 2356, 1694.

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.37-7.18 (m, 5H), 6.45 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 6.27-6.17 (m, 1H), 2.56-2.53 (m, 4H).

 $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 179.8, 137.5, 131.5, 128.8, 128.2, 127.5, 126.4, 34.1, 28.1.

ESI HRMS m/z (M+H)⁺ calculated 177.0910, observed 177.0910.



7-(3-methoxyphenyl)hept-6-enoic acid, 19h

To a solution of (5-carboxypentyl)triphenylphosphonium bromide (0.58 g, 1.3 mmol, 1.2 eq.) in tetrahydrofuran (6 ml) was added dropwise a solution of sodium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide (1.0 M in THF, 2.5 ml, 2.5 mmol, 2.3 eq.) at 0 °C. The solution was stirred for 30 min, then cooled to -78 °C. *M*-anisaldehyde (0.13 ml, 1.1 mmol, 1 eq.) was then added dropwise. The reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature overnight. Water and ether were added. The water layer was separated and acidified with 1 M hydrochloric acid to pH = 1, then extracted twice with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was chromatographed on silica gel (2:1 ether:hexanes) to give 0.23 g of product (92%) as a colorless oil.

IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 2938, 2673, 2360, 2343, 1705, 1598, 1578.

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.21 (dt, J(d) = 12.6, J(t) = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.96-6.71 (m, 3H), 6.39 (d, J = 11.4 Hz, 0.5H), 6.35 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 0.5H), 6.18 (dt, J(d) = 15.6, J(t) = 6.9 Hz, 0.5H), 5.63 (dt, J(d) = 11.4 Hz, J(t) = 7.2 Hz, 0.5H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 2.43-2.29 (m, 3H), 2.22 (q, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 1.75-1.59 (m, 2H), 1.57-1.42 (m, 2H).

 $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 180.60, 180.56, 159.9, 159.5, 139.3, 139.1, 132.7, 130.7, 130.3, 129.6, 129.3, 129.2, 121.4, 118.8, 114.5, 112.7, 112.2, 111.4, 55.3, 34.1, 34.0, 32.7, 29.4, 28.8, 28.4, 24.4, 24.3.

ESI HRMS m/z (M+H)⁺ calculated 235.1329, observed 235.1325.



7-(2-methoxyphenyl)hept-6-enoic acid, 19f

To a solution of (5-carboxypentyl)triphenylphosphonium bromide (0.57 g, 1.2 mmol, 1.2 eq.) in tetrahydrofuran (6 ml) was added dropwise a solution of sodium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide (1.0 M in tetrahydrofuran, 2.5 ml, 2.5 mmol, 2.5 eq.) at 0 °C. The solution was stirred for 30 min, then cooled to -78 °C. A solution of *o*-anisaldehyde (0.14 g, 1.0 mmol, 1 eq.) in tetrahydrofuran (3 mL) was then added dropwise. The reaction was allowed to warm to rt overnight. Water and ether were added. The water layer was separated and acidified with 1 M hydrochloric acid to pH = 1, then extracted twice with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was chromatographed on silica gel (2:1 ether:hexanes) to give 0.20 g of product (82%) as a colorless oil.

IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 2936, 2673, 1707, 1597, 1578.

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ .41 (dd, J = 7.5, 1.8 Hz, 0.4H), 7.27-7.14 (m, 1.6H), 6.96-6.82 (m, 2H), 6.71 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 0.4H), 6.53 (d, J = 11.7 Hz, 0.6H), 6.19 (dt, Jd =15.9, J(t) = 6.9 Hz, 0.4H), 5.70 (dt, J(d) = 11.7, J(t) = 7.2 Hz, 0.6H), 3.84 (s, 1.2H), 3.83 (s, 1.8 H), 2.44-2.20 (m, 4H), 1.77-1.60 (m, 2H), 1.60-1.41 (m, 2H).

 $^{13}\text{C-NMR} (75 \text{ MHz, CDCl}_3) \delta 180.63, 180.59, 157.1, 156.4, 132.3, 131.1, 130.1, 128.3, 128.1, 126.9, 126.53, 126.45, 124.9, 124.8, 120.8, 120.2, 110.9, 110.5, 55.57, 55.54, 34.14, 34.07, 33.2, 29.4, 29.0, 28.4, 24.5, 24.4.$

ESI HRMS m/z (M+Na)⁺ calculated 257.1148, observed 257.1143.





To a solution of (5-carboxypentyl)triphenylphosphonium bromide (0.57 g, 1.2 mmol, 1.1 eq.) in tetrahydrofuran (6 mL) was added dropwise a solution of sodium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide (1.0 M in tetrahydrofuran, 2.5 ml, 2.5 mmol, 2.4 eq.) at 0 °C. The solution was stirred for 30 min, then cooled to -78 °C. A solution of 2,4-dimethoxybenzaldehyde (0.175 g, 1.05 mmol, 1 eq.) in tetrahydrofuran (2 mL) was then added dropwise. The reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature overnight. Water and ether were added. The water layer was separated and acidified with 1 M hydrochloric acid to pH = 1, then extracted twice with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was chromatographed on silica gel (2:1 ether:hexanes) to give 0.220 g of product (79%) as an oily solid.

IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 2937, 2666, 2343, 2362, 1707, 1608, 1578.

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) 7.31 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 0.6H), 7.13 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 0.4H), 6.61 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 0.6H), 6.51-6.40 (m, 2.4H), 6.07 (dt, J(d) = 15.9, J(t) = 6.9 Hz, 0.6H), 5.62 (dt, J(d) = 11.4, J(t) = 7.2 Hz, 0.4H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.36 (tt, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.30-2.18 (m, 2H), 1.78-1.60 (m, 2H), 1.58-1.41 (m, 2H).

 $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 180.58, 180.53, 160.0, 158.2, 157.4, 131.1, 130.4, 129.0, 127.2, 124.6, 124.3, 120.0, 119.3, 104.8, 103.8, 98.53, 98.47, 55.6, 55.5, 34.14, 34.07, 33.2, 29.4, 29.1, 28.4, 24.5, 24.4.

ESI HRMS m/z (M+H)⁺ calculated 287.1254, observed 287.1251.



7-phenyl-6-heptenoic acid, 19b

To a suspension of (5-carboxypentyl)triphenylphosphonium bromide (4.228 g, 9.245 mmol, 1 eq.) in tetrahydrofuran (20 mL) was added dropwise a solution of sodium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide (1.0 M in tetrahydrofuran, 18.5 mL, 18.5 mmol, 2 eq.) at 0 °C. The solution was stirred for 30 min at 0 °C. A solution of benzaldehyde (0.94 mL, 9.245 mmol, 1 eq.) in tetrahydrofuran (3 mL) was then added dropwise. The reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature overnight. Water and ether were added. The water layer was separated and acidified with 3 M hydrochloric acid to pH = 1, then extracted three times with ethyl ether. The combined organic layers were dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was chromatographed on silica gel with a mixture of hexanes and ethyl acetate to give 1.242 g of product (66%) as a colorless oil and a 2:1 mixture of isomers.

The spectral data catalogued below matches that which has been previously reported for this compound (Henry-Riyad, H.; Tidwell, T. T. Can. J. Chem. **2003**, *81*, 697-704).

IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 3081, 3056, 3024, 2933, 2862, 2673, 1707, 1493, 1447, 1412.

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.41-7.14 (m, 5H), 6.43 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 0.33H), 6.39 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 0.67H, A of AB pattern), 6.19 (dt, J(d) = 15.6 Hz, J(t) = 6.6 Hz, 0.67H, B of AB pattern), 5.64 (dt, J(d) = 11.7 Hz, J(t) = 7.2 Hz), 2.44-2.30 (m, 2.67H), 2.23 (q, J = 7.5, 1.33H), 1.77-1.61 (m, 2H), 1.61-1.45 (m, 2H).

¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 180.5, 137.7, 137.6, 132.2, 130.3, 130.2, 129.3, 128.7, 128.5, 128.1, 126.9, 126.5, 125.9, 34.0, 33.9, 32.6, 29.2, 28.7, 28.2, 24.24, 24.17.



7-(4-methoxyphenyl)-6-Heptenoic acid, 19d

To a suspension of (5-carboxypentyl)triphenylphosphonium bromide (3.968 g, 8.676 mmol, 1 eq.) in tetrahydrofuran (20 mL) was added dropwise a solution of sodium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide (1.0 M in tetrahydrofuran, 17.4 mL, 17.4 mmol, 2 eq.) at 0 °C. The solution was stirred for 30 min at 0 °C. A solution of *p*-anisaldehyde (1.05 mL, 8.676 mmol, 1 eq.) in tetrahydrofuran (3 mL) was then added dropwise. The reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature overnight. Water and ether were added. The aqueous layer was washed three times with ether. The water layer was then acidified with 3 M hydrochloric acid to pH = 1 and extracted three times with ethyl ether. The combined organic layers were dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was chromatographed on silica gel with a mixture of hexanes and ethyl acetate to give 1.317 g of product (65%) as a light brown solid and a 2:1 mixture of isomers.

 $IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 3006, 2933, 2865, 2838, 2679, 1703, 1607, 1574, 1511, 1462, 1442, 1433, 1424, 1403.$

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 7.26 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1.33H), 7.19 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 0.67H), 6.7 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 0.67H), 6.82 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1.33H), 6.34 (d, J = 11.4 Hz, 0.33H), 6.32 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 0.66H, A of AB pattern), 6.06 (dt, J(d) = 15.6 Hz, J(t) = 6.9 Hz, 0.66H, B of AB pattern), 5.54 (dt, J(d) = 11.7, J(t) = 7.2, 0.33H), 3.77 (s, 1H), 3.76 (s, 2H), 2.37-2.15 (m, 4H), 1.71-1.57 (m, 2H), 1.56-1.42 (m, 2H).

 $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 180.4, 158.6, 158.2, 130.7, 130.5, 130.3, 129.9, 129.6, 128.7, 128.0, 127.0, 113.9, 113.6, 55.2, 34.0, 32.6, 29.3, 28.8, 28.2, 24.3, 24.2.

ESI HRMS m/z (M+H)⁺ calculated 235.1329, observed 235.1329.

5 NMR Spectra

All ¹H-NMR and ¹³C-NMR spectra for the compounds reported in this publication are presented in the following pages. Unless otherwise noted, all spectra were collected using a deuterated chloroform solvent.































































































