

**Carboxylic Acids as a Traceless Activation Group for Conjugate Additions: A  
Three-Step Synthesis of (±)-Lyrica**

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Supporting Information

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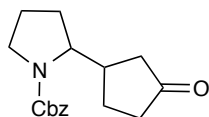
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## 1. General Information

Commercial reagents were purchased from Sigma Aldrich and purified prior to use following the guidelines of Perrin and Armarego (*I*). All solvents were purified by passage through columns of activated alumina. Organic solutions were concentrated under reduced pressure on a Büchi rotary evaporator using an acetone-dry ice bath for volatile compounds. Chromatographic purification of products was accomplished by flash chromatography on silica gel (Fluka, 230-400 mesh). Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on Analtech Uniplate 250 m silica gel plates. Visualization of the developed chromatogram was performed by fluorescence quenching, *p*-anisaldehyde, potassium permanganate, or ceric ammonium molybdate stain.  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker 500 (500 and 125 MHz) instrument, and are internally referenced to residual protio solvent signals (note:  $\text{CDCl}_3$  referenced at 7.26 and 77.0 ppm respectively). Data for  $^1\text{H}$  NMR are reported as follows: chemical shift ( $\delta$  ppm), integration, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, br = broad), coupling constant (Hz) and assignment. Data for  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR are reported in terms of chemical shift and no special nomenclature is used for equivalent carbons. High resolution mass spectra were obtained at Princeton University mass spectrometry facilities. All amino acids were used from commercial suppliers or prepared using standard literature procedures. All olefins were used from commercial suppliers or prepared using standard literature procedures.

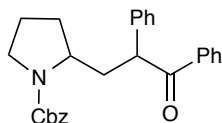
## 2. Experimental Procedures and Characterization of the Decarboxylative Michael Products

**General Procedure for the Decarboxylative Michael:** An oven-dried 8 mL vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with Ir[dF(CF<sub>3</sub>)ppy]<sub>2</sub>(dtbbpy)PF<sub>6</sub> (2 μmol, 0.01 equiv), Cbz-Pro-OH (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), diethyl ethylidenemalonate (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> (0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and 0.5 mL of DMF. The reaction mixture was degassed by bubbling nitrogen stream for 15 min, then irradiated with a 26 W fluorescent lamp (at approximately 2 cm away from the light source). After 36h, the reaction mixture was diluted with saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution, extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 × 50 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with water and brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification of the crude product by flash chromatography on silica gel using the indicated solvent system afforded the desired product.



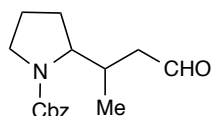
**(±)-Benzyl 2-(3-oxocyclopentyl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate:** According to the general procedure, Ir[dF(CF<sub>3</sub>)ppy]<sub>2</sub>(dtbbpy)PF<sub>6</sub> (2.2 mg, 2 μmol, 0.01 equiv.), Cbz-Pro-OH (50.0 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), 2-cyclopenten-1-one (16.4 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> (42.0 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and 0.5 mL of DMF were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (20% ethyl acetate/hexane) as a pale yellow oil (51 mg, 88%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers: δ 7.37-7.30 (m, 5H), 5.16-5.10 (m, 2H), 4.06-3.96 (m, 1H), 3.62-3.52 (m, 1H), 3.38 (br, 1H), 2.35-1.79 (m, 10H), 1.69-1.64 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers: δ 218.79, 218.42, 155.93, 155.85, 155.62, 155.45, 136.97,

136.55, 128.57, 128.41, 128.25, 128.02, 127.84, 67.22, 66.82, 60.90, 60.76, 60.27, 60.18, 46.75, 46.66, 42.84, 42.08, 41.65, 41.46, 41.35, 38.70, 38.52, 38.34, 29.49, 28.88, 28.54, 28.13, 26.82, 26.12, 24.04, 23.96, 23.12, 23.04; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $C_{17}H_{22}NO_3$   $[(M+H)^+]$  288.1600, found 288.1609. IR (film) 2961, 1738, 1693, 1405, 1102, 698  $cm^{-1}$ ;

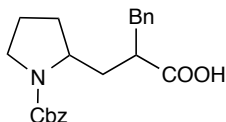


**(±)-Benzyl 2-(3-oxo-2,3-diphenylpropyl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate:** According to the general procedure,  $Ir[dF(CF_3)ppy]_2(dtbbpy)PF_6$  (2.2 mg, 2  $\mu$ mol, 0.01 equiv.), Cbz-Pro-OH (49.9 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), CsF (36.5 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv.), 1,2-diphenylprop-2-en-1-one (41.7 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and DMF (0.5 mL) were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes) as a colourless powder (67 mg, 81%).  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers :  $\delta$  8.06-7.84 (m, 2H), 7.50-7.14 (m, 13H), 5.20-5.03 (m, 1.2H), 5.03-4.90 (m, 0.6H), 4.82-4.75 (m, 0.2H), 4.74-4.67 (m, 0.2H), 4.67-4.58 (m, 0.6H), 4.41 (d,  $J$  = 12.5 Hz, 0.2H), 4.26-4.18 (m, 0.4H), 4.05-3.94 (m, 0.35H), 3.94-3.85 (m, 0.25H), 3.55-3.20 (m, 2H), 2.79-2.67 (m, 0.5H), 2.41-2.32 (m, 0.15H), 2.30-2.21 (m, 0.2H), 2.21-1.71 (m, 4.5H), 1.55-1.44 (m, 0.65H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (125 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers:  $\delta$  199.40, 199.15, 198.95, 198.57, 155.43, 155.28, 154.93, 139.86, 139.70, 139.52, 139.31, 137.28, 136.87, 136.79, 136.60, 136.46, 136.40, 132.87, 132.73, 132.60, 129.05, 128.96, 128.88, 128.77, 128.63, 128.52, 128.47, 128.38, 128.24, 128.14, 128.06, 127.86, 127.81, 127.69, 127.11, 126.99, 66.86, 66.53, 66.48, 56.49, 56.20, 55.64, 51.09, 50.89, 50.39, 46.45, 46.25, 45.76, 40.15, 39.58, 39.05, 31.77, 31.41, 31.26, 30.99, 23.83,

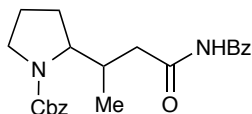
23.55, 22.90; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $C_{27}H_{28}NO_3$   $[(M+H)^+]$  414.20637, found 414.20623. IR (film) 2958, 1686, 1407, 1353, 1206, 1177, 1096, 953, 747, 694  $cm^{-1}$ ;



**(±)-Benzyl 2-(4-oxobutan-2-yl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate:** According to the general procedure,  $Ir[dF(CF_3)ppy]_2(dtbbpy)PF_6$  (11 mg, 10.0  $\mu$ mol, 0.01 equiv), Cbz-Pro-OH (250.0 mg, 1.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), crotonaldehyde (70.9 mg, 1.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv),  $K_2HPO_4$  (210.0 mg, 1.2 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and 2.5 mL of DMF were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (20% ethyl acetate/hexane) as a pale yellow oil (253 mg, 92%).  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers:  $\delta$  9.70 (br, 0.3H), 9.59-9.57 (m, 0.5H), 9.50 (br, 0.2H), 7.37-7.30 (m, 5H), 5.16-5.09 (m, 2H), 3.90 (br, 0.55H), 3.81 (br, 0.45H), 3.65-3.48 (m, 1H), 3.31-3.26 (m, 0.45H), 3.22-3.17 (m, 0.55H), 2.95 (br, 0.3H), 2.69 (br, 0.2H), 2.59-2.49 (m, 0.6H), 2.39-2.34 (m, 0.6H), 2.26-2.11 (m, 0.9H), 1.93-1.63 (m, 4.4H), 0.96-0.86 (m, 3H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (125 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers:  $\delta$  202.10, 201.83, 201.61, 201.42, 155.43, 155.38, 155.16, 136.78, 136.52, 128.32, 127.93, 127.76, 127.60, 66.87, 66.54, 61.91, 61.66, 61.00, 47.93, 47.66, 47.20, 47.08, 46.61, 46.16, 45.77, 31.06, 30.98, 30.96, 30.37, 27.19, 26.82, 25.79, 24.18, 23.85, 23.55, 23.24, 16.91, 15.68, 15.25; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $C_{16}H_{21}NNaO_3$   $[(M+Na)^+]$  298.1419, found 298.1422. IR (film) 2962, 1692, 1404, 1097, 697  $cm^{-1}$ ;

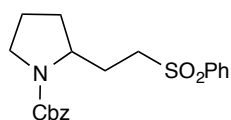


**(±)-2-Benzyl-3-(1-((benzyloxy)carbonyl)pyrrolidin-2-yl)propanoic acid:** According to the general procedure, Ir[dF(CF<sub>3</sub>)ppy]<sub>2</sub>(dtbbpy)PF<sub>6</sub> (2.2 mg, 2 μmol, 0.01 equiv.), Cbz-Pro-OH (50.0 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), 2-benzylacrylic acid (32.4 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> (42.0 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and 0.5 mL of DMF were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (50% ethyl acetate/hexane) as a pale yellow solid (42 mg, 57%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers: δ 7.41-7.08 (m, 10H), 5.23-5.01 (m, 2H), 4.16-4.12 (m, 0.6H), 3.98-3.92 (m, 0.4H), 3.46-3.42 (m, 1H), 3.32-3.27 (m, 1H), 3.12-2.60 (m, 3H), 2.20-1.53 (m, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers: δ 179.80, 179.56, 177.13, 157.21, 155.39, 155.22, 139.26, 139.05, 138.75, 138.70, 136.90, 136.36, 129.37, 129.16, 129.04, 128.96, 128.71, 128.57, 128.53, 128.42, 128.34, 128.17, 128.04, 127.97, 126.62, 126.53, 126.45, 67.82, 67.11, 66.97, 56.24, 55.93, 55.63, 46.66, 46.45, 46.28, 44.89, 44.58, 44.43, 38.85, 38.56, 38.42, 36.75, 36.37, 36.04, 31.53, 31.24, 30.82, 30.40, 29.83, 23.71, 23.47, 23.16, 22.93; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> [(M+H)<sup>+</sup>] 368.1862, found 368.1868. IR (film) 2957, 1700, 1419, 1105, 698 cm<sup>-1</sup>;



**(±)-Benzyl 2-(4-benzamido-4-oxobutan-2-yl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate:** According to the general procedure, Ir[dF(CF<sub>3</sub>)ppy]<sub>2</sub>(dtbbpy)PF<sub>6</sub> (2.2 mg, 2 μmol, 0.01 equiv.), Cbz-

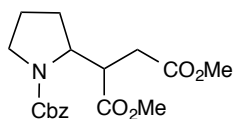
Pro-OH (50.0 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), (*E*)-*N*-(but-2-enoyl)benzamide (37.8 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> (42.0 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and 0.5 mL of DMF were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (30% ethyl acetate/hexane) as a pale yellow solid (67 mg, 85%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers: δ 9.41 (s, 0.2H), 9.03 (s, 0.4H), 8.45 (s, 0.14H), 8.39 (m, 0.26H), 7.91-7.78 (m, 2H), 7.62-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.51-7.45 (m, 2H), 7.37-7.22 (m, 5H), 5.16-5.00 (m, 2H), 4.04 (br, 0.2H), 3.92-3.91 (m, 0.8H), 3.68-3.59 (m, 0.6H), 3.55-3.50 (m, 0.4H), 3.36-3.29 (m, 1H), 3.09-2.88 (m, 1H), 2.81-2.68 (m, 1H), 2.61-2.49 (m, 1H), 2.00-1.73 (m, 4H), 1.02-0.93 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers: δ 175.46, 175.21, 174.58, 174.23, 165.63, 165.57, 156.11, 155.93, 155.76, 155.57, 136.98, 136.89, 133.25, 133.03, 129.02, 128.86, 128.57, 128.52, 128.46, 128.12, 127.96, 127.84, 127.77, 67.00, 66.91, 66.81, 62.15, 61.37, 61.32, 47.83, 47.32, 46.80, 41.74, 41.40, 40.01, 34.02, 32.73, 32.50, 27.82, 27.71, 27.45, 24.42, 24.02, 23.77, 23.51, 17.00, 16.59, 15.84, 15.60; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> [(M+H)<sup>+</sup>] 395.1971, found 395.1961. IR (film) 2964, 1686, 1411, 1242, 1102, 705 cm<sup>-1</sup>;



**(±)-Benzyl 2-(2-(phenylsulfonyl)ethyl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate:** According to the general procedure, Ir[dF(CF<sub>3</sub>)ppy]<sub>2</sub>(dtbbpy)PF<sub>6</sub> (2.2 mg, 2 μmol, 0.01 equiv.), Cbz-Pro-OH (50.0 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), phenyl vinylsulfone (33.6 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> (42.0 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and 0.5 mL of DMF were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (50% ethyl acetate/hexane) as a pale yellow solid

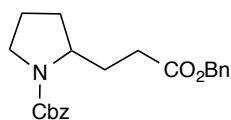


(52 mg, 69%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers:  $\delta$  7.90 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.65 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.57-7.52 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.30 (m, 4H), 7.26-7.22 (m, 1H), 5.09-5.04 (m, 2H), 3.96-3.89 (m, 1H), 3.49-3.35 (m, 2H), 3.20 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.03-3.02 (m, 1H), 2.09-1.94 (m, 2H), 1.90-1.82 (m, 3H), 1.65-1.62 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers:  $\delta$  155.47, 155.00, 139.20, 139.02, 136.81, 136.39, 133.78, 129.37, 128.64, 128.57, 128.22, 128.10, 128.06, 127.87, 67.20, 66.85, 56.49, 55.87, 53.93, 53.60, 46.87, 46.48, 31.14, 30.68, 27.90, 27.83, 23.75, 23.02; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_4\text{S}$   $[(\text{M}+\text{H})^+]$  374.1426, found 374.1431. IR (film) 2956, 1691, 1408, 1304, 1143, 1086, 742  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;

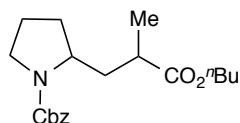


**(±)-Diethyl 2-(1-(1-benzoylpyrrolidin-2-yl)ethyl)malonate:** According to the general procedure,  $\text{Ir}[\text{dF}(\text{CF}_3)\text{ppy}]_2(\text{dtbbpy})\text{PF}_6$  (2.2 mg, 2  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 0.01 equiv.), Cbz-Pro-OH (50.0 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), dimethyl maleate (28.8 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv),  $\text{K}_2\text{HPO}_4$  (42.0 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and 0.5 mL of DMF were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (25% ethyl acetate/hexane) as a pale yellow oil (65 mg, 93%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers:  $\delta$  7.41-7.29 (m, 5H), 5.21-5.08 (m, 2H), 4.31-4.28 (m, 0.55H), 4.17-4.09 (m, 0.45H), 3.69-3.64 (m, 6.8H), 3.56-3.47 (m, 0.8H), 3.37-3.33 (m, 0.8H), 3.28-3.22 (m, 0.6H), 2.81-2.70 (m, 1H), 2.54-2.29 (m, 1H), 1.95-1.72 (m, 4H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers:  $\delta$  173.60, 173.27, 173.03, 172.37, 172.30, 172.14, 155.40,

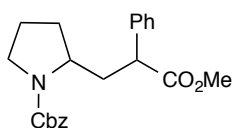
155.03, 136.89, 136.77, 136.56, 128.52, 128.22, 128.08, 128.03, 127.99, 127.86, 67.22, 66.86, 59.02, 58.35, 58.24, 57.42, 52.13, 52.11, 51.92, 51.86, 47.79, 47.19, 46.96, 46.60, 44.57, 44.31, 44.13, 43.65, 33.60, 31.15, 30.54, 28.14, 28.10, 27.42, 24.17, 23.64, 23.57, 22.85; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $C_{18}H_{24}NO_6$   $[(M+H)^+]$  350.1604, found 350.1600. IR (film) 2953, 1697, 1732, 1408, 1165, 1110, 699  $cm^{-1}$ ;



**(±)-Benzyl 2-(3-(benzyloxy)-3-oxopropyl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate:** According to the general procedure,  $Ir[dF(CF_3)ppy]_2(dtbbpy)PF_6$  (2.2 mg, 2  $\mu$ mol, 0.01 equiv.), Cbz-Pro-OH (49.9 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), benzyl acrylate (32.4 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.),  $K_2HPO_4$  (41.8 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) and DMF (0.5 mL) were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes) as a colorless oil (55 mg, 75%).  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) mixture of rotamers:  $\delta$  7.31-7.19 (m, 10H), 5.08-4.94 (m, 4H), 3.89-3.80 (m, 1H), 3.46-3.26 (m, 2 H), 2.40-2.22 (m, 2H), 2.05-1.95 (m, 0.5H), 1.95-1.62 (m, 4.5H), 1.60-1.50 (m, 1H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (125 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) mixture of rotamers:  $\delta$  173.25, 173.03, 155.14, 137.03, 136.84, 136.01, 135.94, 128.54, 128.46, 128.26, 128.20, 127.97, 127.88, 127.85, 66.84, 66.59, 66.28, 57.25, 56.54, 46.65, 46.32, 31.36, 31.17, 30.75, 30.05, 29.80, 29.44, 23.77, 23.00; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $C_{22}H_{26}NO_4$   $[(M+H)^+]$  368.18563, found 368.18568. IR (film) 2957, 1733, 1695, 1455, 1409, 1355, 1165, 1151, 1098, 743, 697  $cm^{-1}$ ;

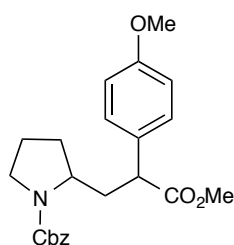


**(±)-Benzyl 2-(3-butoxy-2-methyl-3-oxopropyl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate:** According to the general procedure, Ir[dF(CF<sub>3</sub>)ppy]<sub>2</sub>(dtbbpy)PF<sub>6</sub> (2.2 mg, 2 μmol, 0.01 equiv.), Cbz-Pro-OH (50.0 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), butyl methacrylate (28.4 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> (42.0 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and 0.5 mL of DMF were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (20% ethyl acetate/hexane) as a pale yellow oil (48 mg, 69%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers: δ 7.39-7.26 (m, 5H), 5.18-5.07 (m, 2H), 4.06-3.91 (m, 3H), 3.49-3.33 (m, 2H), 2.56-2.38 (m, 1H), 2.18-1.60 (m, 6H), 1.39-1.31 (m, 3H), 1.24-1.20 (m, 1.4H), 1.10-1.09 (m, 2H), 0.95-0.90 (m, 3.6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers: δ 176.76, 176.38, 155.28, 155.02, 154.69, 137.25, 137.17, 136.94, 128.55, 128.53, 128.29, 128.07, 128.01, 127.96, 127.94, 127.93, 127.83, 66.95, 66.91, 66.90, 66.65, 66.61, 64.65, 64.33, 64.31, 55.92, 55.45, 46.57, 46.45, 46.28, 46.26, 46.20, 38.98, 38.52, 37.49, 37.17, 30.73, 30.71, 30.69, 30.57, 23.89, 23.81, 22.99, 19.37, 19.25, 19.24, 17.95, 17.80, 13.89, 13.86, 13.85; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>30</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> [(M+H)<sup>+</sup>] 348.2175, found 348.2183. IR (film) 2959, 1698, 1408, 1110, 697 cm<sup>-1</sup>;



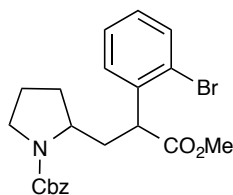
**(±)-Benzyl 2-(3-methoxy-3-oxo-2-phenylpropyl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate:** According to the general procedure, Ir[dF(CF<sub>3</sub>)ppy]<sub>2</sub>(dtbbpy)PF<sub>6</sub> (2.2 mg, 10.0 μmol, 0.01 equiv), Cbz-Pro-OH (50.0 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), methyl 2-phenylacrylate (32.4

mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> (42.0 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and 0.5 mL of DMF were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (20% ethyl acetate/hexane) as a pale yellow oil (65 mg, 89%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers: δ 7.46-7.15 (m, 10H), 5.15-5.03 (m, 2H), 3.99-3.31 (s, 7H), 2.59-2.55 (br, 0.7H), 2.34-2.22 (m, 0.3H), 2.10-2.05 (m, 0.3H), 1.91-1.70 (m, 3.7H), 1.57-1.48 (m, 0.8H), 1.27-1.20 (m, 0.2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers: δ 174.25, 174.00, 173.91, 155.26, 155.12, 155.01, 139.40, 139.12, 138.57, 138.14, 137.04, 136.90, 136.82, 128.71, 128.53, 128.43, 128.38, 128.36, 128.06, 127.94, 127.84, 127.39, 127.31, 126.67, 67.04, 66.96, 66.65, 66.59, 56.52, 56.06, 55.97, 55.24, 56.52, 56.06, 55.97, 55.24, 52.14, 52.09, 48.97, 48.75, 46.60, 46.35, 46.05, 38.68, 38.60, 37.62, 37.24, 31.15, 30.80, 30.70, 30.15, 23.88, 23.72, 23.07, 22.90; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> [(M+H)<sup>+</sup>] 368.1862, found 368.1869. IR (film) 2952, 2693, 1408, 1097, 697 cm<sup>-1</sup>;



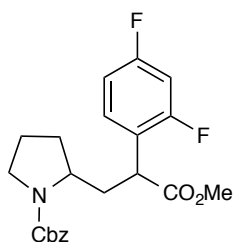
**(±)-Benzyl 2-(3-methoxy-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-oxopropyl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate:** According to the general procedure, Ir[dF(CF<sub>3</sub>)ppy]<sub>2</sub>(dtbbpy)PF<sub>6</sub> (2.2 mg, 2 μmol, 0.01 equiv.), Cbz-Pro-OH (49.9 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), CsF (36.5 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv.), methyl 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)acrylate (38.4 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and DMF (0.5 mL) were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes) as a colorless oil (60 mg, 76%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

mixture of diastereomers and rotamers:  $\delta$  7.50-7.28 (m, 6H), 7.16 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 0.8H), 7.08 (d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 0.2H), 6.90-6.81 (m, 1.8H), 6.71 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 0.2H), 5.21-5.05 (m, 2H), 4.04-3.89 (m, 0.8H), 3.85-3.75 (m, 3.5H), 3.75-3.52 (m, 3.5H), 3.52-3.30 (m, 2.2H), 2.62-2.49 (m, 0.8H), 2.43-2.33 (m, 0.1H), 2.29-2.20 (m, 0.1H), 2.10-1.42 (m, 5H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers:  $\delta$  174.48, 174.22, 174.15, 158.79, 155.20, 155.04, 154.99, 136.99, 136.86, 136.77, 131.36, 131.09, 129.03, 128.80, 128.00, 127.88, 127.78, 114.00, 66.97, 66.60, 56.43, 55.93, 55.26, 55.23, 55.10, 52.07, 52.00, 48.06, 47.81, 46.55, 46.29, 46.02, 38.69, 38.58, 37.36, 36.96, 31.20, 30.79, 30.53, 29.99, 23.84, 23.69, 23.03, 22.86; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{28}\text{NO}_5$   $[(\text{M}+\text{H})^+]$  398.1962, found 398.19642. IR (film) 2952, 1731, 1694, 1511, 1409, 1351, 1248, 1178, 1161, 1097, 1032,  $698\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;



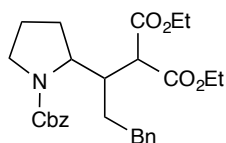
(±)- **Benzyl 2-(2-(2-bromophenyl)-3-methoxy-3-oxopropyl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate:** According to the general procedure,  $\text{Ir}[\text{dF}(\text{CF}_3)\text{ppy}]_2(\text{dtbbpy})\text{PF}_6$  (2.2 mg, 2  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 0.01 equiv.), Cbz-Pro-OH (49.9 mg, 0.20 mmol, 1.0 equiv.),  $\text{K}_2\text{HPO}_4$  (41.8 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv.), methyl 2-(2-bromophenyl)acrylate (48.2 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and DMF (0.5 mL) were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes) as a colorless oil (77 mg, 87%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers:  $\delta$  7.60-7.53 (m, 1H), 7.52-7.25 (m, 6.5H), 7.18-6.98 (m, 1.5H), 5.23-5.03 (m, 2H), 4.37-4.20 (m, 1H), 4.12-4.03 (m, 0.65H), 3.90-

3.83 (m, 0.16H), 3.77-3.75 (m, 0.19H), 3.74-3.55 (m, 3H), 3.54-3.33 (m, 2H), 2.71-2.62 (m, 0.3H), 2.57-2.47 (m, 0.3H), 2.37-2.28 (m, 0.2H), 2.23-2.16 (m, 0.2H), 2.12-1.60 (m, 5H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers :  $\delta$  173.61, 173.45, 173.30, 173.18, 155.13, 154.99, 154.94, 138.94, 138.67, 138.05, 137.74, 137.04, 136.85, 136.78, 133.07, 132.95, 128.97, 128.93, 128.77, 128.72, 128.66, 128.49, 128.44, 128.32, 128.29, 128.00, 127.81, 124.82, 124.79, 124.34, 66.95, 66.53, 56.61, 55.96, 55.73, 55.08, 55.22, 47.73, 47.55, 47.23, 47.06, 46.57, 46.33, 46.27, 46.11, 38.20, 37.51, 37.34, 36.89, 30.94, 30.71, 30.27, 30.12, 23.81, 23.76, 22.98, 22.88; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{25}\text{BrNO}_4$  [(M+H) $^+$ ] 446.09615, found 446.09693. IR (film) 2951, 1734, 1694, 1408, 1350, 1187, 1166, 1096, 1022, 748, 697  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;



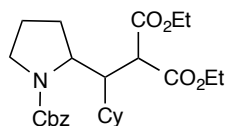
**(±)-Benzyl 2-(2-(2,4-difluorophenyl)-3-methoxy-3-oxopropyl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate:** According to the general procedure,  $\text{Ir}[\text{dF}(\text{CF}_3)\text{ppy}]_2(\text{dtbbpy})\text{PF}_6$  (2.2 mg, 2  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 0.01 equiv.), Cbz-Pro-OH (74.8 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.5 equiv.),  $\text{K}_2\text{HPO}_4$  (52.3 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), methyl 2-(2,4-difluorophenyl)acrylate (39.6 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and DMF (0.5 mL) were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes) as a colorless oil (73 mg, 90%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers :  $\delta$  7.55-7.23 (m, 5.9H), 7.11-7.03 (m, 0.3H), 6.89-6.70 (m, 1.6H), 6.54 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 0.2H), 5.22-5.03 (m, 2H), 4.14-4.06 (m,

0.3H), 4.06-3.93 (m, 1H), 3.93-3.86 (m, 0.2H), 3.82-3.74 (m, 0.2H), 3.70-3.57 (m, 3H), 3.54-3.31 (m, 2H), 2.69-2.61 (m, 0.3H), 2.58-2.50 (m, 0.3H), 2.45-2.35 (m, 0.2H), 2.28-2.19 (m, 0.2H), 2.11-1.52 (m, 5H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers:  $\delta$  173.32, 173.22, 173.12, 173.04, 163.06, 162.95, 162.87, 161.53, 161.44, 161.35, 161.20, 160.97, 159.56, 159.46, 159.37, 159.27, 155.13, 155.01, 154.91, 136.92, 136.76, 136.59, 130.37, 130.12, 129.82, 129.66, 128.46, 128.27, 128.13, 127.93, 127.83, 127.80, 127.70, 122.56, 122.44, 122.27, 122.15, 121.32, 121.20, 120.95, 120.82, 111.85, 111.66, 111.50, 111.36, 104.08, 103.95, 103.87, 103.75, 103.67, 103.54, 67.06, 66.61, 56.32, 55.76, 54.96, 52.30, 52.24, 46.58, 46.31, 46.14, 41.06, 40.48, 40.23, 40.09, 37.76, 37.19, 36.45, 35.89, 31.00, 30.36, 29.82, 23.82, 23.75, 23.01, 22.87; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{24}\text{F}_2\text{NO}_4$   $[(\text{M}+\text{H})^+]$  404.16679, found 404.16672. IR (film) 2954, 2883, 1736, 1694, 1503, 1409, 1352, 1279, 1196, 1156, 1140, 1098, 964, 850,  $698\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ;



**(±)-Diethyl 2-(1-(1-benzoylpyrrolidin-2-yl)ethyl)malonate:** According to the general procedure,  $\text{Ir}[\text{dF}(\text{CF}_3)\text{ppy}]_2(\text{dtbbpy})\text{PF}_6$  (2.2 mg, 20.0  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 0.01 equiv), Cbz-Pro-OH (50.0 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), diethyl 2-(3-phenylpropylidene)malonate (55.5 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv),  $\text{K}_2\text{HPO}_4$  (42.0 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and 0.5 mL of DMF were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (25% ethyl acetate/hexane) as a pale yellow oil (89 mg, 92%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers:  $\delta$  7.45-7.29 (m, 5H), 7.27-7.23 (m, 2H), 7.18-7.04 (m, 3H), 5.20-5.05 (m, 2H), 4.22-3.99 (m, 5H), 3.76-3.57 (m, 1H), 3.50-3.47 (m, 0.5H), 3.40-3.36 (m, 0.5H), 3.25-

3.14 (m, 1H), 3.07 (br, 0.6H), 2.72-2.38 (m, 2.4H), 2.00-1.95 (m, 1H), 1.91-1.84 (m, 1H), 1.82-1.58 (m, 4H), 1.27-1.19 (m, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers:  $\delta$  169.02, 168.93, 168.76, 168.61, 155.67, 155.35, 142.35, 142.23, 142.00, 141.92, 136.83, 136.76, 136.64, 136.40, 128.52, 128.46, 128.40, 128.37, 128.29, 128.22, 128.15, 128.00, 127.92, 127.79, 125.89, 67.43, 67.31, 66.93, 66.80, 61.63, 61.42, 61.36, 60.50, 59.79, 59.56, 58.88, 54.13, 53.73, 53.37, 52.86, 48.16, 47.74, 47.49, 47.01, 42.22, 41.93, 40.58, 34.53, 34.25, 33.04, 32.75, 31.87, 31.75, 31.25, 29.77, 29.49, 27.47, 27.24, 24.32, 23.75, 23.65, 23.00, 14.13, 14.09, 14.02; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{36}\text{NO}_6$  [(M+H) $^+$ ] 482.2543, found 482.2557. IR (film) 2947, 1697, 1405, 1096, 749, 698  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;

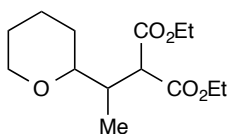


**(±)-Diethyl 2-((1-((benzyloxy)carbonyl)pyrrolidin-2-yl)(cyclohexyl)methyl)malonate:**

According to the general procedure,  $\text{Ir}[\text{dF}(\text{CF}_3)\text{ppy}]_2(\text{dtbbpy})\text{PF}_6$  (2.2 mg, 10.0  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 0.01 equiv), Cbz-Pro-OH (50.0 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), diethyl 2-(cyclohexylmethylene)malonate (50.8 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv),  $\text{K}_2\text{HPO}_4$  (42.0 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and 0.5 mL of DMF were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (25% ethyl acetate/hexane) as a pale yellow oil (80 mg, 87%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers:  $\delta$  7.47-7.29 (m, 5H), 5.22-5.01 (m, 2H), 4.21-4.06 (m, 4H), 3.96-3.87 (m, 0.25H), 3.70-3.53 (m, 1.75H), 3.29-3.17 (m, 1H), 3.07-3.00 (m, 1H), 1.97-1.56 (m, 11H), 1.27 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H), 1.20 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H), 1.13-0.96 (m, 5H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers and

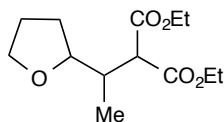


rotamers:  $\delta$  169.69, 169.63, 169.53, 169.03, 168.73, 156.83, 155.73, 155.68, 155.47, 137.04, 136.74, 136.64, 136.06, 129.35, 128.53, 128.46, 128.31, 127.98, 127.90, 127.75, 67.87, 67.36, 67.00, 66.66, 61.60, 61.43, 61.31, 61.05, 58.35, 57.85, 57.55, 57.06, 52.98, 52.71, 51.20, 50.80, 49.67, 49.26, 47.83, 47.72, 47.33, 47.22, 45.83, 45.19, 40.27, 40.21, 38.96, 38.70, 33.85, 33.27, 32.02, 31.49, 30.86, 28.28, 27.68, 27.63, 27.43, 27.37, 27.05, 26.86, 26.71, 26.59, 26.48, 24.40, 23.82, 23.33, 22.42, 14.22, 14.12, 14.00; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $C_{26}H_{38}NO_6$   $[(M+H)^+]$  460.2699, found 460.2697. IR (film) 2926, 1698, 1404, 1097, 698  $cm^{-1}$ ;

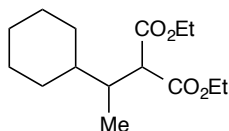


**(±)-Diethyl 2-(1-(tetrahydro-2H-pyran-2-yl)ethyl)malonate:** According to the general procedure,  $Ir[dF(CF_3)ppy]_2(dtbbpy)PF_6$  (2.2 mg, 2  $\mu$ mol, 0.01 equiv.), tetrahydro-2H-pyran-4-carboxylic acid (26 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), diethyl ethylidenemalonate (37.3 mg, 0.20 mmol, 1.0 equiv),  $K_2HPO_4$  (42.0 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and 0.5 mL of DMF were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (10% ethyl acetate/hexane) as a pale yellow oil (50 mg, 90%).  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers:  $\delta$  4.23-4.15 (m, 4H), 3.94 (d,  $J = 10.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.73 (d,  $J = 5.5$  Hz, 0.4H), 3.51 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 0.6H), 3.37-3.26 (m, 1.6H), 3.16 (t,  $J = 9.5$  Hz, 0.4H), 2.33-2.27 (m, 1H), 1.87-1.84 (m, 1H), 1.74 and 1.72 (2 brs, 0.4H), 1.53-1.42 (m, 4H), 1.28-1.17 (m, 6.6H), 1.00-0.97 (m, 3H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (125 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers:  $\delta$  169.66, 169.11, 169.05, 168.88, 79.27, 78.47, 68.69, 68.54, 61.13, 61.08, 60.98, 60.79, 54.94, 52.92, 39.03, 38.14, 29.16, 28.65, 26.02, 26.00, 23.71, 23.46, 14.16,

14.11, 14.08, 12.88, 11.70; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $C_{14}H_{25}O_5$   $[(M+H)^+]$  273.1702, found 273.1703. IR (film) 2939, 1749, 1729, 1088, 1029, 895  $cm^{-1}$ ;

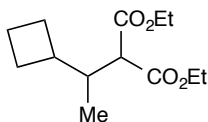


**(±)-Diethyl 2-(1-(tetrahydrofuran-2-yl)ethyl)malonate:** According to the general procedure,  $Ir[dF(CF_3)ppy]_2(dtbbpy)PF_6$  (2.2 mg, 2  $\mu$ mol, 0.01 equiv.), tetrahydro-2-furoic acid (24 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), diethyl ethylidenemalonate (37.3 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv),  $K_2HPO_4$  (42.0 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and 0.5 mL of DMF were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (10% ethyl acetate/hexane) as a pale yellow oil (47.5 mg, 92%).  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers:  $\delta$  4.24-4.16 (m, 4H), 3.86-3.68 (m, 3H), 3.61 (d,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, 0.55H), 3.42 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 0.45H), 2.52-2.45 (m, 0.45H), 2.33-2.26 (m, 0.55H), 2.03-1.82 (m, 3H), 1.64-1.57 (m, 1H), 1.28-1.25 (m, 6H), 0.98 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (125 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers:  $\delta$  169.31, 168.86, 168.83, 168.77, 81.25, 80.35, 68.32, 67.75, 61.22, 61.17, 61.09, 61.00, 54.93, 54.42, 39.09, 37.36, 30.00, 28.46, 25.98, 25.86, 14.13, 14.09, 14.06, 14.05, 13.49, 12.31; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $C_{13}H_{23}O_5$   $[(M+H)^+]$  259.1545, found 259.1525. IR (film) 2978, 1748, 1728, 1153, 1065, 1030  $cm^{-1}$ ;



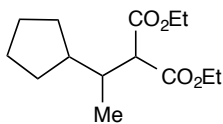
**(±)-Diethyl 2-(1-cyclohexylethyl)malonate** [known compound (2)]: According to the general procedure,  $Ir[dF(CF_3)ppy]_2(dtbbpy)PF_6$  (2.2 mg, 2  $\mu$ mol, 0.01 equiv.),

cyclohexanecarboxylic acid (26 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), diethyl ethylidenemalonate (37.3 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv),  $K_2HPO_4$  (42.0 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), 0.5 mL of DMF and 34 W Blue LED (instead of 26 W fluorescent light bulb) were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (10% ethyl acetate/hexane) as a pale yellow oil (41 mg, 75%).  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  4.23-4.16 (m, 4H), 3.39 (d,  $J = 9.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.21-2.14 (m, 1H), 1.76-1.71 (m, 2H), 1.67-1.57 (m, 3H), 1.30-1.08 (m, 11H), 0.98-0.92 (m, 1H), 0.90 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (125 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  169.30, 169.05, 61.14, 61.06, 55.81, 40.24, 38.56, 31.52, 27.37, 26.73, 26.53, 26.46, 14.13, 12.89; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $C_{15}H_{26}NaO_4 [(M+Na)^+]$  293.1729, found 293.1727. IR (film) 2925, 1753, 1729, 1147, 1031  $cm^{-1}$ ;

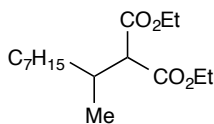


**(±)-Diethyl 2-(1-cyclobutylethyl)malonate:** According to the general procedure,  $Ir[dF(CF_3)ppy]_2(dtbbpy)PF_6$  (2.2 mg, 2  $\mu$ mol, 0.01 equiv.), cyclobutanecarboxylic acid (20 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), diethyl ethylidenemalonate (54 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv),  $K_2HPO_4$  (42.0 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1.2 equiv), 0.5 mL of DMF and 34 W Blue LED (instead of 26 W fluorescent light bulb) were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (10% ethyl acetate/hexane) as a pale yellow oil (33 mg, 68%).  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  4.20-4.14 (m, 4H), 3.22 (d,  $J = 6.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.27-2.13 (m, 2H), 2.01-1.89 (m, 2H), 1.83-1.74 (m, 1H), 1.72-1.62 (m, 3H), 1.27 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 6H), 0.91 (d,  $J = 6.5$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (125 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  169.26, 168.71, 61.16, 60.96, 55.03, 40.10, 39.95, 27.28, 27.05, 17.50, 14.14, 14.06, 13.96; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for

$C_{13}H_{22}NaO_4$  [(M+Na)<sup>+</sup>] 265.1416, found 265.1400. IR (film) 2970, 1750, 1729, 1148, 1032  $cm^{-1}$ .

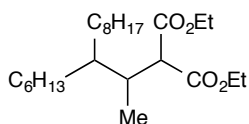


**(±)-Diethyl 2-(1-cyclopentylethyl)malonate:** According to the general procedure,  $Ir[dF(CF_3)ppy]_2(dtbbpy)PF_6$  (2.2 mg, 2  $\mu$ mol, 0.01 equiv.), cyclopentanecarboxylic acid (24 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), diethyl ethylidenemalonate (37.3 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv),  $K_2HPO_4$  (42.0 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and 0.5 mL of 1,4-dioxane were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (10% ethyl acetate/hexane) as a pale yellow oil (30 mg, 58%).  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  4.19 (q,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 4H), 3.41 (d,  $J = 6.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.17-2.10 (m, 1H), 1.79-1.71 (m, 3H), 1.64-1.58 (m, 2H), 1.53-1.50 (m, 2H), 1.27 (td,  $J = 7.5$  Hz,  $J = 2.5$  Hz, 6H), 1.19-1.13 (m, 2H), 1.02 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (125 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  169.48, 168.86, 61.15, 60.91, 56.32, 43.82, 38.48, 30.96, 29.66, 25.32, 25.28, 14.61, 14.16, 14.10; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $C_{14}H_{25}O_4$  [(M+H)<sup>+</sup>] 257.1753, found 257.1770. IR (film) 2952, 1750, 1728, 1124, 1150, 1030  $cm^{-1}$ ;

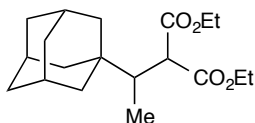


**(±)-Diethyl 2-(nonan-2-yl)malonate:** According to the general procedure,  $Ir[dF(CF_3)ppy]_2(dtbbpy)PF_6$  (2.2 mg, 2  $\mu$ mol, 0.01 equiv.), octanoic acid (29 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), diethyl ethylidenemalonate (37.3 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv),  $K_2HPO_4$  (42.0 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), 0.5 mL of DMF and 34 W Blue LED (instead of 26 W

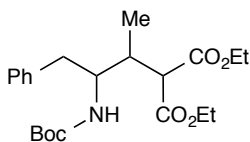
fluorescent light bulb) were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (10% ethyl acetate/hexane) as a colorless oil (22 mg, 38%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  4.19 (q,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 4H), 3.22 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.27-2.19 (m, 1H), 1.42-1.18 (m, 18H), 0.98 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H), 0.87 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  169.05, 168.89, 61.12, 61.06, 57.84, 34.34, 33.39, 31.83, 29.59, 29.24, 26.81, 22.66, 16.96, 14.14, 14.12, 14.11; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{30}\text{NaO}_4$  [(M+Na) $^+$ ] 309.2036, found 309.2026. IR (film) 2927, 1753, 1731, 1148, 1031  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .



**(±)-Diethyl 2-(3-hexylundecan-2-yl)malonate:** According to the general procedure,  $\text{Ir}[\text{dF}(\text{CF}_3)\text{ppy}]_2(\text{dtbbpy})\text{PF}_6$  (2.2 mg, 2  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 0.01 equiv.), 2-hexyldecanoic acid (52 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), diethyl ethylidenemalonate (37.3 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv),  $\text{K}_2\text{HPO}_4$  (42.0 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), 0.5 mL of DMF and 34 W Blue LED (instead of 26 W fluorescent light bulb) were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (10% ethyl acetate/hexane) as a pale yellow oil (42 mg, 53%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  4.21-4.16 (m, 4H), 3.34 (d,  $J = 10.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.46-2.38 (m, 1H), 1.36-1.17 (m, 30H), 1.00-0.94 (m, 1H), 0.88 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 6H), 0.81 (t,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  169.12, 168.97, 61.16, 56.63, 39.69, 35.09, 31.93, 31.89, 31.79, 30.32, 30.09, 29.96, 29.75, 29.64, 29.59, 29.38, 29.31, 28.06, 28.02, 27.42, 27.39, 22.70, 14.13, 11.61; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{46}\text{NaO}_4$  [(M+Na) $^+$ ] 421.3294, found 421.3293. IR (film) 2924, 2855, 1757, 1733, 1175, 1032  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;

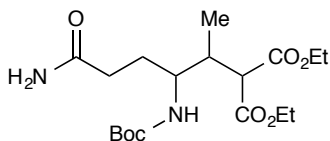


**(±)-Diethyl 2-(1-((3*r*,5*r*,7*r*)-adamantan-1-yl)ethyl)malonate:** According to the general procedure, Ir[dF(CF<sub>3</sub>)ppy]<sub>2</sub>(dtbbpy)PF<sub>6</sub> (2.2 mg, 2 μmol, 0.01 equiv.), 1-adamantanecarboxylic acid (36 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), diethyl ethylidenemalonate (37.7 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> (42.0 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), 0.5 mL of DMF and 34 W Blue LED (instead of 26 W fluorescent light bulb) were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (10% ethyl acetate/hexane) as a pale yellow oil (60 mg, 93%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 4.21-4.14 (m, 4H), 3.57 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 2.09-2.04 (m, 1H), 1.98-1.95 (m, 3H), 1.69-1.67 (m, 3H), 1.61-1.59 (m, 3H), 1.53-1.47 (m, 6H), 1.27 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 6H), 0.98 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 170.38, 169.79, 61.32, 60.89, 51.83, 43.08, 39.36, 37.02, 35.23, 28.61, 14.09, 14.05, 10.40; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>30</sub>NaO<sub>4</sub> [(M+Na)<sup>+</sup>] 345.2042, found 345.2024. IR (film) 2901, 2848, 1728, 1218, 1148, 1137, 1031 cm<sup>-1</sup>;



**(±)-Diethyl 2-(3-((*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)amino)-4-phenylbutan-2-yl)malonate:** According to the general procedure, Ir[dF(CF<sub>3</sub>)ppy]<sub>2</sub>(dtbbpy)PF<sub>6</sub> (2.2 mg, 2 μmol, 0.01 equiv.), Boc-Phe-OH (53.0 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), diethyl ethylidenemalonate (37.3 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> (42.0 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and 0.5 mL of DMF were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (15% ethyl acetate/hexane)

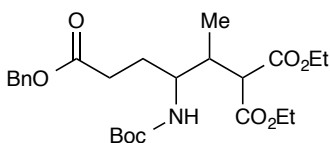
as a pale yellow oil (77 mg, 94%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers:  $\delta$  7.29-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.21-7.15 (m, 3H), 4.49 (d,  $J = 9.5$  Hz, 0.43H), 4.32-3.98 (m, 5H), 3.86-3.72 (m, 0.57H), 3.51-3.46 (m, 0.55H), 3.39-3.33 (m, 0.45H), 2.99-2.95 (m, 0.6H), 2.81-2.73 (m, 0.8H), 2.66-2.61 (m, 0.6H), 2.50-2.39 (m, 1H), 1.32-1.19 (m, 15H), 1.15 (d,  $J = 6.5$  Hz, 1.7H), 0.95 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1.3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers:  $\delta$  169.67, 169.01, 168.43, 155.56, 155.34, 138.03, 137.97, 129.41, 129.17, 128.51, 128.48, 126.48, 79.30, 79.21, 61.60, 61.48, 61.46, 61.43, 55.65, 55.26, 54.28, 52.81, 39.93, 39.08, 37.18, 35.76, 28.36, 15.12, 14.20, 14.18, 14.12, 11.15; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{34}\text{NO}_6$   $[(\text{M}+\text{H})^+]$  408.2386, found 408.2388. IR (film) 2978, 1704, 1365, 1165, 1026, 699  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;



**(±)-Diethyl 2-(6-amino-3-((*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)amino)-6-oxohexan-2-yl)malonate:**

According to the general procedure,  $\text{Ir}[\text{dF}(\text{CF}_3)\text{ppy}]_2(\text{dtbbpy})$  (2.2 mg, 2  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 0.01 equiv.), Boc-Gln-OH (49 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), diethyl ethylidenemalonate (37.3 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv),  $\text{K}_2\text{HPO}_4$  (42.0 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and 0.5 mL of DMF were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (60% ethyl acetate/hexane) as a pale yellow solid (65 mg, 84%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers:  $\delta$  6.35 (s, 0.5H), 6.14 (s, 0.5H), 5.40 (s, 1H), 4.76 (d,  $J = 10.0$  Hz, 0.5H), 4.46 (d,  $J = 10.5$  Hz, 0.5H), 4.23-4.17 (m, 4H), 3.87-3.81 (m, 0.5H), 3.64-3.59 (m, 0.5H), 3.44 (d,  $J = 6.5$  Hz, 0.5H), 3.20 (d,  $J = 10.0$  Hz, 0.5H), 2.46-2.34 (m, 1H), 2.29-2.24 (m, 2H), 2.02-1.96 (m, 0.5H), 1.83-1.77 (m, 2H), 1.63-1.55 (m, 0.5H), 1.42 (s, 9H), 1.29-1.24

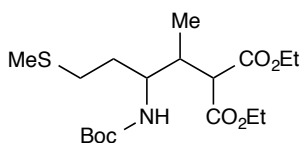
(m, 6H), 1.06 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1.5H), 0.91 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1.5H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers:  $\delta$  175.61, 175.55, 169.42, 168.91, 168.81, 168.52, 156.35, 156.30, 79.56, 79.49, 61.64, 61.53, 61.48, 61.47, 55.53, 54.25, 53.49, 51.50, 37.90, 36.96, 32.96, 32.65, 29.75, 29.28, 28.39, 28.36, 14.73, 14.13, 14.09, 14.03, 11.14; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{33}\text{N}_2\text{O}_7$  [(M+H) $^+$ ] 389.2288, found 389.2296. IR (film) 3347, 2978, 1670, 1165, 1026, 735  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;



**(±)-5-Benzyl 1,1-diethyl 3-((tert-butoxycarbonyl)amino)-2-methylpentane-1,1,5-tricarboxylate:** According to the general procedure,  $\text{Ir}[\text{dF}(\text{CF}_3)\text{ppy}]_2(\text{dtbbpy})\text{PF}_6$  (2.2 mg, 2  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 0.01 equiv.), Boc-Glu(OBzl)-OH (67 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), diethyl ethylidenemalonate (37.3 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv),  $\text{K}_2\text{HPO}_4$  (42.0 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and 0.5 mL of DMF were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (20% ethyl acetate/hexane) as a pale yellow oil (89 mg, 93%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers:  $\delta$  7.38-7.31 (m, 5H), 5.15-5.08 (m, 2H), 4.52 (d,  $J = 10.0$  Hz, 0.4H), 4.31 (d,  $J = 10.5$  Hz, 0.4H), 4.22-4.16 (m, 4.2H), 3.86-3.74 (m, 0.5H), 3.62-3.49 (m, 0.5H), 3.42 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 0.5H), 3.28 (d,  $J = 10.0$  Hz, 0.5H), 2.50-2.34 (m, 3H), 2.03-1.96 (m, 0.5H), 1.85-1.74 (m, 1H), 1.65-1.60 (m, 0.5H), 1.41 (m, 5H), 1.40 (s, 4H), 1.27 (qd,  $J = 7.0$  Hz,  $J = 3.0$  Hz, 6H), 1.05 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1.6H), 0.89 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1.4H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers:  $\delta$  173.23, 173.20, 169.45, 168.82, 168.78, 168.38, 155.70, 155.51, 135.90, 135.89, 128.56, 128.24, 128.21, 128.20, 79.37, 79.26, 66.37, 66.34, 61.56, 61.43, 61.37, 55.41, 54.26, 53.59,

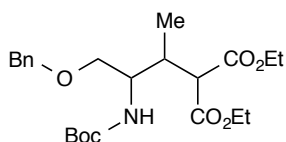


51.52, 37.87, 36.83, 31.47, 31.02, 28.70, 28.35, 28.32, 28.14, 14.69, 14.10, 14.06, 14.01, 11.12; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $C_{25}H_{38}NO_8$   $[(M+H)^+]$  480.2597, found 480.2604. IR (film) 2978, 1727, 1710, 1161, 1026, 698  $cm^{-1}$ ;



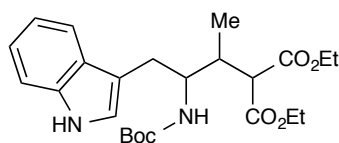
**(±)-Diethyl 2-(3-((*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)amino)-5-(methylthio)pentan-2-yl)malonate:**

According to the general procedure,  $Ir[dF(CF_3)ppy]_2(dtbbpy)PF_6$  (2.2 mg, 2  $\mu$ mol, 0.01 equiv.), Boc-Met-OH (50.0 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), diethyl ethylidenemalonate (37.3 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv),  $K_2HPO_4$  (42.0 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and 0.5 mL of DMF were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (20% ethyl acetate/hexane) as a pale yellow oil (74 mg, 94%).  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers:  $\delta$  4.56 (d,  $J = 9.5$  Hz, 0.5H), 4.31 (d,  $J = 10.5$  Hz, 0.3H), 4.23-4.17 (m, 4.2H), 3.92-3.87 (m, 0.4H), 3.68-3.63 (m, 0.6H), 3.42 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 0.6H), 3.29 (d,  $J = 10.0$  Hz, 0.4H), 2.59-1.67 (m, 8H), 1.43 (s, 5H), 1.42 (s, 4H), 1.29-1.25 (m, 6H), 1.05 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1.7H), 0.89 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1.3H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (125 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers:  $\delta$  169.53, 168.90, 168.45, 155.74, 155.58, 79.46, 79.32, 61.64, 61.53, 61.46, 55.49, 54.33, 53.58, 51.41, 37.66, 36.80, 34.02, 33.02, 31.16, 30.85, 28.42, 28.39, 15.76, 15.74, 14.81, 14.17, 14.14, 14.08, 11.20; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $C_{18}H_{33}NNaO_6S$   $[(M+Na)^+]$  414.1926, found 414.1940. IR (film) 2978, 1715, 1366, 1168, 1031  $cm^{-1}$ ;



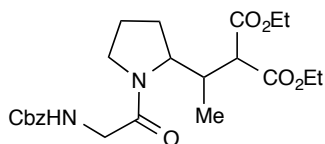
**(±)-Diethyl 2-(4-(benzyloxy)-3-((*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)amino)butan-2-yl)malonate:**

According to the general procedure, Ir[dF(CF<sub>3</sub>)ppy]<sub>2</sub>(dtbbpy)PF<sub>6</sub> (2.2 mg, 2 μmol, 0.01 equiv.), Boc-Ser(Bzl)-OH (59 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), diethyl ethylidenemalonate (37.3 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> (42.0 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and 0.5 mL of DMF were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (25% ethyl acetate/hexane) as a pale yellow oil (83 mg, 94%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) mixture of diastereomers: δ 7.36-7.27 (m, 5H), 4.94 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 0.5H), 4.68 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 0.5H), 4.53-4.46 (m, 2H), 4.23-4.14 (m, 4H), 4.04-3.92 (m, 0.5H), 3.78-3.75 (m, 0.5H), 3.63-3.55 (m, 1.5H), 3.50-3.46 (m, 1H), 3.41 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 0.5H), 2.61-2.56 (m, 1H), 1.43 (s, 4.3H), 1.42 (s, 4.7H), 1.26 (td, *J* = 7.0 Hz, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 6H), 1.05 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1.6H), 0.96 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1.4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) mixture of diastereomers: δ 169.76, 168.99, 168.88, 168.76, 155.80, 155.61, 138.11, 128.50, 128.49, 127.81, 127.76, 127.69, 79.45, 79.35, 73.29, 73.06, 70.96, 70.20, 61.48, 61.38, 61.26, 55.12, 53.89, 53.50, 51.23, 34.94, 34.91, 28.46, 14.41, 14.21, 14.18, 14.14, 12.31; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>36</sub>NO<sub>7</sub> [(M+H)<sup>+</sup>] 438.2492, found 438.2496. IR (film) 2978, 1715, 1164, 1028, 698 cm<sup>-1</sup>;



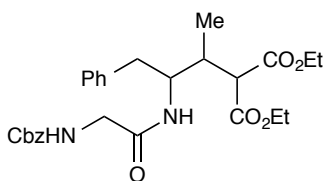
**(±)-Diethyl 2-(3-((*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)amino)-4-(1*H*-indol-3-yl)butan-2-yl)malonate:**

According to the general procedure, Ir[dF(CF<sub>3</sub>)ppy]<sub>2</sub>(dtbbpy)PF<sub>6</sub> (2.2 mg, 2 μmol, 0.01 equiv.), Boc-Trp-OH (61 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), diethyl ethylidenemalonate (37.3 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> (42.0 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and 0.5 mL of DMF were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (20% ethyl acetate/hexane) as a pale yellow solid (51 mg, 57%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) mixture of diastereomers: δ 8.02 (br, 1H), 7.60 (dd, *J* = 17.5 Hz, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (dd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, *J* = 3.5 Hz, 1H), 7.20-7.16 (m, 1H), 7.13-7.05 (m, 2H), 4.59 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 0.3H), 4.41 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 0.3H), 4.30-4.28 (m, 0.4H), 4.22-4.15 (m, 4.5H), 3.95 (br, 0.5H), 3.54 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 0.5H), 3.39 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 0.5H), 3.10-3.06 (m, 0.5H), 2.95-2.78 (m, 1.5H), 2.62-2.56 (m, 0.5H), 2.48 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 0.5H), 1.35-1.33 (m, 6H), 1.29-1.17 (m, 9H), 1.10-1.03 (m, 1.5H), 0.97 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1.5H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) mixture of diastereomers: δ 169.80, 169.20, 169.12, 168.65, 155.85, 155.63, 136.57, 136.27, 128.07, 127.82, 127.54, 122.78, 122.63, 122.46, 121.97, 121.88, 119.40, 119.30, 118.86, 118.69, 111.98, 111.47, 111.25, 79.31, 79.11, 61.57, 61.51, 61.45, 55.77, 54.56, 54.16, 52.07, 36.86, 36.42, 35.76, 28.36, 27.73, 15.15, 14.18, 14.14, 14.05, 11.09; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>35</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub> [(M+H)<sup>+</sup>] 447.2495, found 447.2498. IR (film) 3387, 2978, 1721, 1169, 1027, 741 cm<sup>-1</sup>;



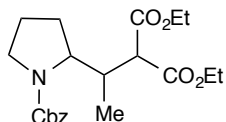
**(±)-Diethyl 2-(1-(1-(((benzyloxy)carbonyl)glycyl)pyrrolidin-2-yl)ethyl)malonate:**

According to the general procedure, Ir[dF(CF<sub>3</sub>)ppy]<sub>2</sub>(dtbbpy)PF<sub>6</sub> (2.2 mg, 2 μmol, 0.01 equiv.), Z-Gly-Pro (61.1 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), diethyl ethylidenemalonate (37.3 mg, 0.20 mmol, 1.0 equiv), K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> (42.0 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and 0.5 mL of DMF were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (20% ethyl acetate/hexane) as a pale yellow solid (79 mg, 88%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers: δ 7.36-7.229 (m, 5H), 5.80-5.59 (m, 1H), 5.14-5.09 (m, 2H), 4.31-4.28 (m, 0.4H), 4.23-4.13 (m, 4H), 4.09-4.00 (m, 0.6H), 4.00 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 0.15H), 3.96 (dd, *J* = 7.0 Hz, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 0.55H), 3.91 (q, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 0.6H), 3.87 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 0.3H), 3.81 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 0.2H), 3.78 (q, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 0.2H), 3.64 (q, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 0.4H), 3.50-3.47 (m, 0.6H), 3.46-3.44 (m, 0.4H), 3.32-3.18 (m, 1.6H), 2.70-2.65 (m, 1H), 2.10-1.76 (m, 4H), 1.29-1.19 (m, 6H), 1.01 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 0.2H), 0.95 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 1.3H), 0.92 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 0.2H), 0.88 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1.3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers: δ 169.01, 168.84, 168.67, 168.46, 168.37, 168.11, 168.05, 167.92, 167.70, 167.58, 156.25, 156.21, 136.56, 136.54, 128.55, 128.12, 128.03, 66.86, 62.04, 62.00, 61.81, 61.79, 61.51, 61.38, 61.36, 61.07, 60.26, 60.05, 59.05, 55.70, 55.09, 53.30, 46.93, 46.82, 46.39, 46.06, 43.78, 43.48, 43.37, 37.25, 36.78, 36.35, 36.16, 29.14, 27.60, 24.47, 23.84, 22.73, 22.32, 14.26, 14.17, 14.11, 14.05, 13.38; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>33</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> [(M+H)<sup>+</sup>] 449.2288, found 449.2278. IR (film) 2976, 1721, 1647, 1243, 1028, 698 cm<sup>-1</sup>;

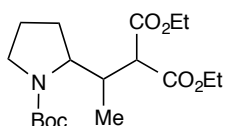


**(±)-Diethyl 2-(3-(2-(((benzyloxy)carbonyl)amino)acetamido)-4-phenylbutan-2-**

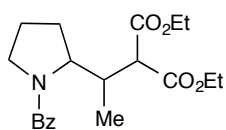
**yl)malonate:** According to the general procedure, Ir[dF(CF<sub>3</sub>)ppy]<sub>2</sub>(dtbbpy)PF<sub>6</sub> (2.2 mg, 2 μmol, 0.01 equiv.), Z-Gly-Phe (71.3 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), diethyl ethylenemalonate (37.3 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> (42.0 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and 1.0 mL of DMF were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (20% ethyl acetate/hexane) as a pale yellow solid (90 mg, 90%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers: δ 7.37-7.30 (m, 5H), 7.27-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.21-7.17 (m, 1H), 7.16-7.12 (m, 2H), 6.44 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 0.6H), 5.92 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 0.4H), 5.21 (br, 1H), 5.13 (s, 2H), 4.47 (q, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 0.4H), 4.24-4.14 (m, 4.6H), 3.76-3.67 (m, 2H), 3.50 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 0.6H), 3.29 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 0.4H), 2.93-2.89 (m, 0.6H), 2.84-2.80 (m, 0.4H), 2.75-2.71 (m, 1H), 2.53-2.41 (m, 1H), 1.27-1.22 (m, 6H), 1.14 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 1.7H), 0.94 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1.3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers: δ 169.24, 168.99, 168.82, 168.48, 168.38, 156.73, 156.51, 137.73, 137.57, 136.27, 136.21, 129.24, 128.97, 128.60, 128.57, 128.50, 128.48, 128.29, 128.24, 128.03, 126.62, 126.58, 67.12, 67.07, 61.72, 61.64, 61.53, 61.43, 55.59, 53.95, 53.59, 51.67, 44.62, 44.47, 39.32, 38.14, 36.23, 35.91, 15.01, 14.12, 14.07, 14.06, 11.14; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>35</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> [(M+H)<sup>+</sup>] 449.2444, found 449.2420. IR (film) 3321, 2980, 1722, 1230, 1027, 733, 697 cm<sup>-1</sup>;



**(±)-Diethyl 2-(1-(1-((benzyloxy)carbonyl)pyrrolidin-2-yl)ethyl)malonate:** According to the general procedure, Ir[dF(CF<sub>3</sub>)ppy]<sub>2</sub>(dtbbpy)PF<sub>6</sub> (2.2 mg, 2 μmol, 0.01 equiv.), Z-Pro-OH (50.0 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), diethyl ethylidenemalonate (37.3 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> (42.0 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and 0.5 mL of DMF were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (20% ethyl acetate/hexane) as a pale yellow oil (72 mg, 92%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers: δ 7.42-7.29 (m, 5H), 5.21-5.03 (m, 2H), 4.20-3.84 (m, 5H), 3.69-3.36 (m, 2H), 3.24-3.17 (m, 1H), 2.80-2.73 (m, 0.6H), 2.68-2.63 (m, 0.4H), 2.02-1.72 (m, 4H), 1.28-1.18 (m, 6H), 0.96-0.87 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers: δ 169.05, 168.93, 168.87, 168.81, 168.71, 168.56, 168.47, 155.95, 155.85, 155.70, 155.27, 136.87, 136.81, 136.72, 136.65, 128.44, 128.20, 128.14, 127.92, 127.83, 127.77, 67.11, 66.79, 61.70, 61.46, 61.23, 60.56, 60.47, 59.96, 55.58, 55.13, 55.00, 54.50, 47.95, 47.66, 47.26, 46.76, 37.13, 37.05, 29.15, 28.78, 28.27, 28.16, 24.41, 23.79, 23.65, 23.19, 14.22, 14.12, 14.06, 14.02, 13.87, 13.68, 13.48; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>30</sub>NO<sub>6</sub> [(M+H)<sup>+</sup>] 392.2073, found 392.2066. IR (film) 2977, 1695, 1405, 1096, 1027, 697 cm<sup>-1</sup>;

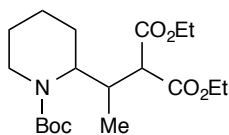


**(±)-Diethyl 2-(1-(1-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)pyrrolidin-2-yl)ethyl)malonate:** According to the general procedure, Ir[dF(CF<sub>3</sub>)ppy]<sub>2</sub>(dtbbpy)PF<sub>6</sub> (2.2 mg, 2 μmol, 0.01 equiv.), Boc-Pro-OH (43.0 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), diethyl ethylidenemalonate (37.3 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> (42.0 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and 0.5 mL of DMF were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (20% ethyl acetate/hexane) as a pale yellow oil (69 mg, 97%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers: δ 4.22-4.11 (m, 4H), 3.97-3.30 (m, 3H), 3.17-3.12 (m, 0.55H), 3.11-3.06 (m, 0.45H), 2.75-2.71 (m, 0.83H), 2.60-2.53 (m, 0.17H), 2.00-1.67 (m, 4H), 1.46 (s, 9H), 1.28-1.23 (m, 6H), 0.94-0.88 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers: δ 168.88, 168.73, 168.36, 155.43, 155.20, 154.79, 79.77, 79.07, 61.29, 61.12, 60.52, 60.26, 59.91, 55.52, 54.74, 54.00, 47.72, 47.14, 46.95, 46.81, 37.00, 36.77, 28.45, 28.42, 24.37, 23.77, 23.48, 23.26, 14.08, 14.02; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>32</sub>NO<sub>6</sub> [(M+H)<sup>+</sup>] 358.2230, found 358.2235. IR (film) 2975, 1729, 1689, 1381, 1365, 1162, 1105, 1030, 773 cm<sup>-1</sup>;



**(±)-Diethyl 2-(1-(1-benzoylpyrrolidin-2-yl)ethyl)malonate:** According to the general procedure, Ir[dF(CF<sub>3</sub>)ppy]<sub>2</sub>(dtbbpy)PF<sub>6</sub> (5.5 mg, 5 μmol, 0.01 equiv.), Benzoyl-*L*-proline (110 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> (105 mg, 0.6 mmol, 1.2 equiv.), diethyl 2-ethylidenemalonate (93 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and DMF (1.25 mL) were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes) as a pale yellow oil (150 mg, 83%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) mixture of diastereomers and

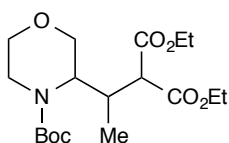
rotamers :  $\delta$  7.56-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.34 (m, 3H), 4.57 (td,  $J = 8.0, 3.0$  Hz, 0.4H), 4.48-4.42 (m, 0.6H), 4.30-4.10 (m, 4H), 3.82 (d,  $J = 10.0$  Hz, 0.4H), 3.54-3.47 (m, 1H), 3.44-3.36 (m, 1.6H), 3.02-2.93 (m, 0.6H), 2.80-2.71 (m, 0.4 H), 2.26-2.17 (m, 0.4H), 2.20-1.56 (m, 3.6 H), 1.29-1.19 (m, 6H), 1.01-0.99 (m, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers:  $\delta$  171.51, 170.63, 169.34, 169.20, 168.88, 168.68, 136.88, 136.82, 130.24, 130.14, 128.16, 128.10, 127.69, 127.61, 61.37, 61.25, 61.21, 61.17, 59.92, 59.05, 55.48, 51.99, 50.81, 37.31, 35.29, 29.42, 26.82, 25.40, 25.12, 14.12, 14.09, 14.02, 14.00, 12.97, 12.49; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{28}\text{NO}_5$   $[(\text{M}+\text{H})^+]$  362.1962, found 362.19642. IR (film) 2977, 1747, 1726, 1627, 1394, 1265, 1174, 1150, 1027, 792, 700  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .



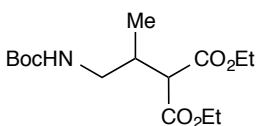
**(±)-Diethyl 2-(1-(1-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)piperidin-2-yl)ethyl)malonate:** According to the general procedure,  $\text{Ir}[\text{dF}(\text{CF}_3)\text{ppy}]_2(\text{dtbbpy})\text{PF}_6$  (2.2 mg, 2  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 0.01 equiv.), Boc-Pip-OH (45.8 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), diethyl ethylidenemalonate (37.3 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv),  $\text{K}_2\text{HPO}_4$  (42.0 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and 0.5 mL of DMF were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (20% ethyl acetate/hexane) as a pale yellow oil (70 mg, 94%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers:  $\delta$  4.26-3.95 (m, 6H), 3.43 (d,  $J = 4.5$  Hz, 1H), 2.79-2.68 (m, 2H), 1.80-1.78 (m, 0.4H), 1.71-1.69 (m, 0.6H), 1.58-1.49 (m, 5H), 1.44 (s, 9H), 1.30-1.24 (m, 6H), 1.07 (d,  $J = 6.5$  Hz, 1.3H), 0.99 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1.7H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers:  $\delta$  169.87, 169.24, 168.52, 168.24, 155.16, 155.14, 79.50, 79.39, 61.49, 61.39, 61.17, 60.91,



53.37, 53.14, 31.97, 31.70, 28.49, 28.45, 26.18, 25.39, 19.04, 18.89, 14.21, 14.14, 14.11, 13.80, 12.90; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $C_{19}H_{33}NNaO_6$   $[(M+Na)^+]$  394.2206, found 394.2192. IR (film) 2977, 2935, 1687, 1150, 1028, 866  $cm^{-1}$ ;

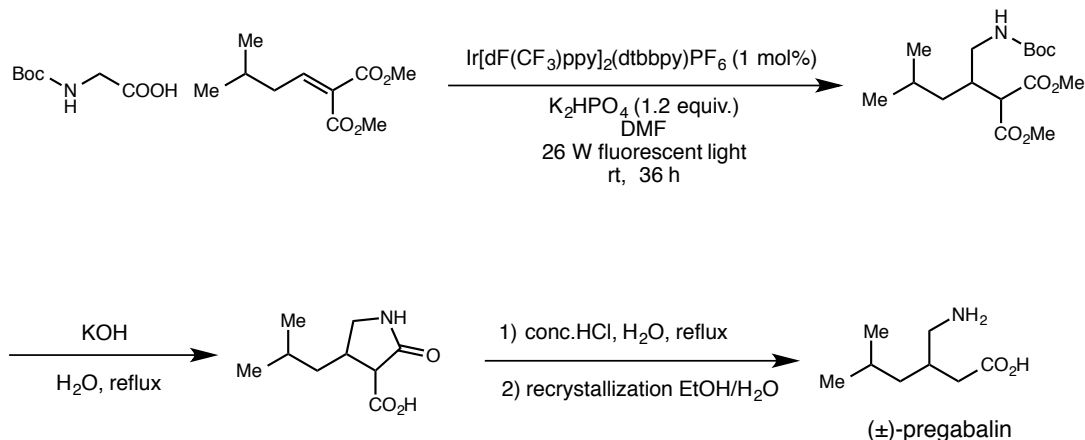


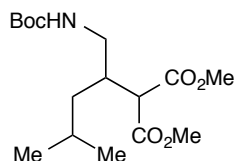
**(±)-Diethyl 2-(1-(4-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)morpholin-3-yl)ethyl)malonate:** According to the general procedure,  $Ir[dF(CF_3)ppy]_2(dtbbpy)PF_6$  (2.2 mg, 2  $\mu$ mol, 0.01 equiv.), Boc-Morph-OH (46.2 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), diethyl ethylidenemalonate (37.3 mg, 0.20 mmol, 1.0 equiv),  $K_2HPO_4$  (42.0 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and 0.5 mL of DMF were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (20% ethyl acetate/hexane) as a pale yellow oil (71 mg, 95%).  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers:  $\delta$  4.23-4.10 (m, 4H), 4.01-3.78 (m, 4H), 3.51-3.44 (m, 3H), 3.13-3.03 (m, 1H), 2.93-2.85 (m, 1H), 1.46 (s, 4.5H), 1.45 (s, 4.5H); 1.30-1.25 (m, 6H), 1.16 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1.5H), 1.05 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 1.5H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (125 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers:  $\delta$  168.83, 168.26, 168.22, 154.76, 154.59, 80.28, 67.21, 67.14, 61.48, 61.27, 60.97, 52.90, 52.66, 31.21, 28.40, 28.36, 14.21, 14.16, 14.14, 14.09, 13.67, 12.80; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $C_{18}H_{31}NNaO_7$   $[(M+Na)^+]$  396.1998, found 396.1995. IR (film) 2978, 1729, 1690, 1103, 866  $cm^{-1}$ ;



**(±)-Diethyl 2-(1-((*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)amino)propan-2-yl)malonate:** According to the general procedure, Ir[dF(CF<sub>3</sub>)ppy]<sub>2</sub>(dtbbpy)PF<sub>6</sub> (2.2 mg, 2 μmol, 0.01 equiv.), Boc-Gly-OH (35.0 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), diethyl ethylidenemalonate (37.3 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> (42.0 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and 0.5 mL of DMF were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (25% ethyl acetate/hexane) as a pale yellow oil (60 mg, 94%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) mixture of diastereomers: δ 4.71 (s, 1H), 4.20 (qd, *J* = 7.0 Hz, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 4H), 3.31 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.22-3.12 (m, 2H), 2.48-2.43 (m, 1H), 1.43 (s, 9H), 1.27 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 6H), 1.01 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) mixture of diastereomers: δ 168.78, 168.56, 155.96, 79.21, 61.41, 61.35, 55.02, 44.18, 34.08, 28.37, 15.52, 14.09, 14.06; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>27</sub>NNaO<sub>6</sub> [(M+Na)<sup>+</sup>] 340.1736, found 340.1739. IR (film) 2978, 1714, 1515, 1246, 1164, 1030 cm<sup>-1</sup>;

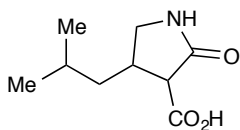
### 3. Synthetic Procedures and Characterization of (±)-Lyrica





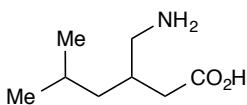
**(±)-Dimethyl 2-(1-((*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)amino)-4-methylpentan-2-yl)malonate:**

According to the general procedure of decarboxylative alkylation, Ir[dF(CF<sub>3</sub>)ppy]<sub>2</sub>(dtbbpy)PF<sub>6</sub> (2.2 mg, 2 μmol, 0.01 equiv.), Boc-Gly-OH (35 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> (41.8 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv.), dimethyl 2-(3-methylbutylidene)malonate (42.4 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and DMF (0.5 mL) were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (30% ethyl acetate in hexanes) as a pale yellow oil (64 mg, 96%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) mixture of rotamers : δ 4.80 (br, 0.8H), 4.66 (br, 0.2H), 3.66 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 6H), 3.36 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 3.23-3.18 (m, 1H), 3.22-3.19 (m, 1H), 3.11-3.01 (m, 1H), 2.40-2.33 (m, 1H), 1.65-1.54 (m, 1H), 1.45 (s, 9H), 1.19-1.13 (m, 1H), 1.06-0.99 (m, 1H), 0.82 (m, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR mixture of rotamers (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 169.29, 155.83, 79.01, 53.62, 52.36, 52.33, 41.51, 39.14, 36.96, 28.31, 25.26, 23.21, 21.85; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>29</sub>NNaO<sub>6</sub> [(M+Na)<sup>+</sup>] 354.1887, found 354.1888. IR (film) 2956, 1732, 1713, 1509, 1435, 1366, 1246, 1159, 1018 cm<sup>-1</sup>;



**(±)-4-Isobutyl-2-oxopyrrolidine-3-carboxylic acid:** A flask was charged with (±)-Dimethyl 2-(1-((*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)amino)-4-methylpentan-2-yl)malonate (450 mg, 1.36 mmol) and KOH (229 mg, 4.07 mmol, 3 equiv.) solution in water (2 mL) and the mixture

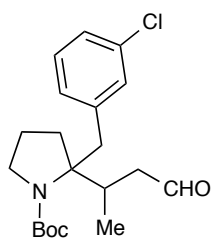
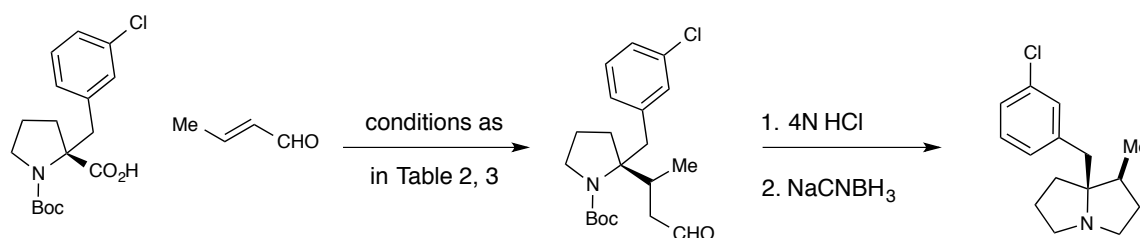
was heated to reflux for 20 h and then cooled to room temperature. The pH of the solution was adjusted to 2 with conc. HCl and diluted with ethyl acetate. The solution was extracted twice with ethyl acetate and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography (3% methanol in dichloromethane then 10% methanol in dichloromethane) to give a colorless powder (200 mg, 80%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  9.87 (br, 1H), 7.47 (s, 1H), 3.52 (t,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.02 (t,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.97 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 2.88-2.79 (m, 1H), 1.57-1.47 (m, 2H), 1.35-1.26 (m, 1H), 0.86 (d,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  175.24, 172.14, 53.81, 47.18, 43.31, 36.87, 25.94, 22.90, 22.19; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_3$   $[(\text{M}+\text{H})^+]$  186.1125, found 186.1125;



**(±)-3-(Aminomethyl)-5-methylhexanoic acid** [known compound (3)]: A flask was charged with (±)-4-isobutyl-2-oxopyrrolidine-3-carboxylic acid (200 mg, 1.08 mmol), solution of conc. HCl (240 mg, 2.37 mmol, 2.2 equiv.) in water (2 mL) and acetic acid (20 mg, 0.33 mmol, 0.31 equiv.). The mixture was heated to reflux for 48 h and then cooled to room temperature. The solution was concentrated and the residue was purified by ion-exchange chromatography on Dowex 50W-8 ( $\text{H}^+$ ) ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  until pH 7 and then 0.5 mol/L  $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$ ). Fractions containing product were concentrated and crystallized from ethanol and water to give a colorless powder (121 mg, 70%). mp 166.5-167.7 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ):  $\delta$  2.93-2.82 (m 2H), 2.24-2.05 (m, 3H), 1.58-1.53 (m, 1H), 1.12 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 0.79 (dd,  $J = 6$  Hz, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ):  $\delta$  181.18, 43.63,

40.69, 40.54, 31.66, 24.35, 21.94, 21.47; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $C_8H_{18}NO_2$   $[(M+H)^+]$  160.1332, found 160.1331;

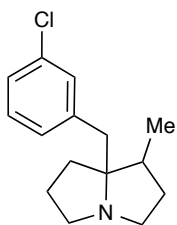
#### 4. Synthetic Procedures and Characterization of Pyrrolizidine



##### **(±)-*tert*-Butyl-2-(3-chlorobenzyl)-2-(4-oxobutan-2-yl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate:**

According to the general procedure of decarboxylative alkylation,  $Ir[dF(CF_3)ppy]_2(dtbbpy)PF_6$  (4.4 mg, 4  $\mu$ mol, 0.01 equiv.), 1-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)-2-(3-chlorobenzyl)pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid (136.0 mg, 0.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv), crotonaldehyde (28.0 mg, 0.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv),  $K_2HPO_4$  (84.0 mg, 0.48 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and 1.4 mL of DMF were used. The product was isolated by flash chromatography (20% ethyl acetate/hexane) as a pale yellow oil (135 mg, 92%).  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers:  $\delta$  9.79-9.77 (m, 0.3H), 9.74-9.73 (m, 0.3H), 9.61 (t,  $J = 2.5$  Hz, 0.4H), 7.22-7.12 (m, 3H), 7.05-7.02 (m, 0.7H),

7.00-6.98 (m, 0.3H), 3.65-3.62 (m, 0.6H), 3.49-3.45 (m, 0.4H), 3.36-3.22 (m, 1H), 3.11-2.90 (m, 2H), 2.75-2.56 (m, 1.4H), 2.42-2.05 (m, 1.6H), 1.88-1.68 (m, 2H), 1.58-1.15 (m, 8H), 1.34-1.28 (m, 1H), 1.05-1.03 (m, 1.7H), 0.91-0.86 (m, 1.3H), 0.68-0.45 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) mixture of diastereomers and rotamers:  $\delta$  202.48, 202.31, 201.37, 201.29, 153.93, 153.89, 153.81, 153.77, 140.64, 140.55, 140.38, 140.20, 134.05, 134.02, 133.98, 133.96, 130.46, 130.42, 130.32, 130.24, 129.59, 129.57, 129.22, 128.57, 128.43, 128.25, 126.76, 126.73, 126.54, 80.66, 80.42, 79.51, 79.25, 69.48, 69.02, 68.92, 68.48, 49.43, 49.39, 49.29, 49.10, 47.70, 47.33, 47.14, 46.13, 41.62, 41.28, 40.52, 40.26, 34.59, 34.51, 34.50, 34.09, 32.47, 32.07, 31.07, 30.82, 28.76, 28.69, 28.65, 28.54, 21.73, 21.51, 21.11, 20.87, 16.74, 16.58, 14.66, 14.56; HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{28}\text{ClNNaO}_3$   $[(\text{M}+\text{Na})^+]$  388.1655, found 388.1657.



**7a-(3-Chlorobenzyl)-1-methylhexahydro-1H-pyrrolizine:** To a stirring solution of ( $\pm$ )-*tert*-Butyl-2-(3-chlorobenzyl)-2-(4-oxobutan-2-yl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate (80 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (2 mL) at room temperature was added 4N HCl in dioxane (1 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 4 hours, and then evaporated in vacuo. The crude aldehyde was dissolved in THF/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (3 mL, 2:1) and added  $\text{NaCNBH}_4$  (42 mg, 0.6 mmol, 3.0 equiv.). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature until the reaction was completed (judged by TLC). Saturated aqueous

NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution was added to the reaction mixture. The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried with MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (5% MeOH/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). Two separated isomers were isolated (23 mg and 12 mg, 71% yield in total). Major isomer: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.37 (s, 1H), 7.23-7.20 (m, 1H), 7.17-7.14 (m, 2H), 3.24 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.58-2.56 (m, 1H), 2.49-2.36 (m, 4H), 1.93-1.88 (m, 1H), 1.84-1.76 (m, 1H), 1.64-1.45 (m, 4H), 1.19-1.15 (m, 1H), 1.06 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 142.00, 133.10, 131.41, 129.68, 128.53, 125.73, 56.15, 54.67, 44.60, 40.86, 35.02, 34.20, 29.85, 25.00, 14.39; Minor isomer: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.29 (br, 1H), 7.19-7.18 (m, 3H), 3.25-3.21 (m, 1H), 2.84-2.79 (m, 1H), 2.67 (s, 2H), 2.56-2.48 (m, 2H), 2.02-1.94 (m, 1H), 1.77-1.71 (m, 1H), 1.66-1.50 (m, 4H), 1.44-1.37 (m, 1H), 0.81 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 141.49, 133.58, 130.66, 129.03, 128.93, 126.24, 56.88, 53.67, 46.13, 40.79, 32.30, 31.40, 29.85, 25.42, 15.17; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>21</sub>ClN [(M+H)<sup>+</sup>] 250.1363, found 250.1359. IR (film) 2942, 1471, 1081, 780, 708 cm<sup>-1</sup>;

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