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General experimental methods

All reactions were carried out in oven-dried glassware with magnetic stirring. Diphenylacetylene 98%, reagent grade *p*-toluenesulfonamide, ACS reagent copper(II) acetate monohydrate and 98% silver(I) hexafluoroantimonate were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich Co. and used without further purification. 1,4-dioxane was distilled from sodium–benzophenone. When necessary, organic solvents were routinely dried and/or distilled prior to use.

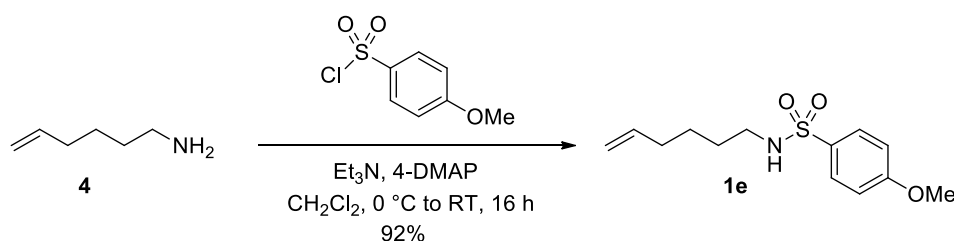
Column chromatography was performed on Silicycle® SilicaFlash® P60 (230-400 mesh). Thin layer chromatography was performed on Silicycle® 250µm silica gel 60A plates. Visualization was accomplished with UV light (254 nm), potassium permanganate or *p*-anisaldehyde stain.

¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were collected at ambient temperature in CDCl₃ on a Varian 400 MHz. Chemical shifts are expressed as parts per million (δ, ppm) and are referenced to 7.26 (CHCl₃) for ¹H NMR and 77.16 (CDCl₃) for ¹³C NMR. Proton signal data uses the following abbreviations: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet and *J* = coupling constant. Mass spectra were obtained on a Agilent Technologies 6130 Quadrupole Mass Spec (LRMS). Infrared spectra were collected on a Bruker Tensor 27 FT-IR spectrometer.

1. Preparation of *N*-sulfonamides

N-sulfonamides **1a**,¹ **1b**,¹ **1c**,² and **1d**³ were synthesized following described procedures and the NMR spectra matches with the data reported in the literature.

- Preparation of substrate **1e**



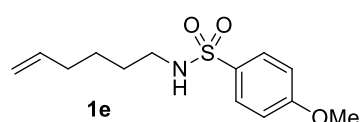
***N*-(Hex-5-en-1-yl)-4-methoxybenzene-1-sulfonamide (**1e**)**. To a solution of amine **4**⁴ (99.1 mg, 1.00 mmol) and 4-methoxybenzenesulfonamide (227.3 mg, 1.10 mmol, 1.1 equiv) in CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) at 0 °C were added Et₃N (181 µL, 1.30 mmol, 1.3 equiv) and 4-DMAP (12.2 mg, 0.100 mmol, 0.1 equiv). After 16 h stirring at RT, a saturated aqueous solution of NH₄Cl was added. The layers were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexanes/EtOAc: 90:10 to 60:40) to afford 248 mg (92%) of sulfonamide **1e** as a colorless oil.

¹ M. Marhold, C. Stillig, R. Froelich, H. Guenter, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2014**, 5777-5785.

² T. Cochet, V. Bellosta, D. Roche, J.-Y. Ortholand, A. Greiner, J. Cossy, *Chem. Commun.* **2012**, 48, 10745-10747.

³ T. H. Jespen, L. Mogens, M. B. Nielsen, *Tetrahedron*, **2010**, 66, 6133-6137.

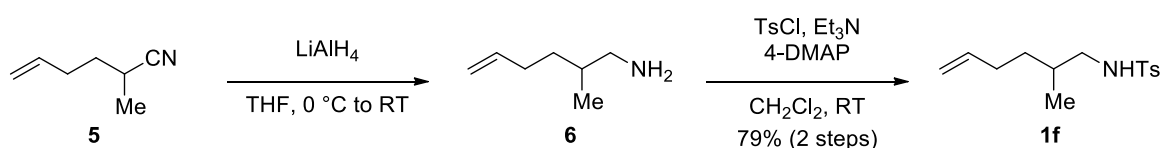
⁴ F. E. Michael, B. M. Cochran, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2006**, 128, 4246-4247.



$C_{13}H_{19}NO_3S$
M = 269.36 g/mol

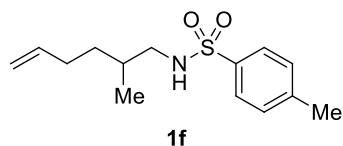
Rf (Hex/EA: 80:20) = 0.20. **IR** (neat, cm^{-1}) 3279, 1596, 1498, 1322, 1301, 1257, 1150, 1094, 1024, 910, 833, 667. **1H NMR** (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.80 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 5.78 – 5.65 (m, 1H), 5.00 – 4.89 (m, 2H), 4.36 (br s, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 2.98 – 2.89 (m, 2H), 1.99 (dd, app q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.52 – 1.42 (m, 2H), 1.41 – 1.31 (m, 2H). **^{13}C NMR** (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 162.8, 138.0, 131.5, 129.2, 114.9, 114.2, 55.6, 43.0, 33.0, 28.9, 25.7. **LRMS** m/z (ESI+APCI) calcd for $C_{13}H_{20}NO_3S$ [M+H] 270.1. Found 270.1. **HRMS** calculated for $[C_{13}H_{19}NO_3S+H]^+$ 270.1158. Found 270.1166.

- Preparation of substrate **1f**



4-Methyl-N-(2-methylhex-5-en-1-yl)benzene-1-sulfonamide (1f). To a suspension of $LiAlH_4$ (228 mg, 6.00 mmol, 1.2 equiv) in THF (40 mL) at 0 °C was slowly added a solution of nitrile **5**⁵ (546 mg, 5.00 mmol) in THF (10 mL). After 16 h stirring at RT, water (228 μ L), NaOH 10% (228 μ L) and water (684 μ L) were successively added. After 1 h stirring at RT, the white suspension was filtered through Celite (EtOAc) and concentrated to afford crude amine **6**.

To a solution of crude amine **6** in CH_2Cl_2 (25 mL) was successively added TsCl (1.43 g, 7.50 mmol, 1.5 equiv), Et_3N (976 μ L, 7.00 mmol, 1.4 equiv) and 4-DMAP (611 mg, 0.50 mmol, 0.1 equiv). After 16 h stirring at RT, a saturated aqueous solution of NH_4Cl was added. The layers were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 . The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over Na_2SO_4 , filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexanes/ Et_2O : 90:10 to 70:30) to afford 1.05 g (79%, 2 steps) of sulfonamide **1f** as a colorless oil.



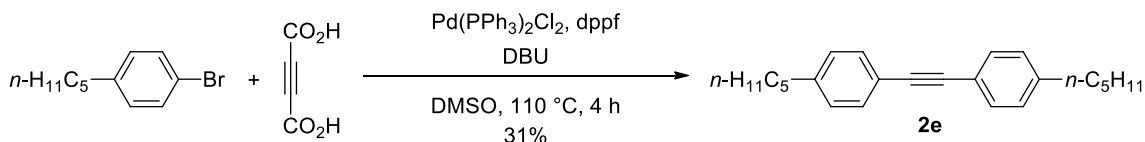
$C_{14}H_{21}NO_2S$
M = 267.39 g/mol

Rf (Hex/EA: 85:15) = 0.40. **IR** (neat, cm^{-1}) 3283, 1640, 1598, 1428, 1323, 1168, 1093, 1068, 909, 706, 661. **1H NMR** (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.74 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 5.78 – 5.63 (m, 1H), 5.01 – 4.87 (m, 2H), 4.51 (s, 1H), 2.79 (dd, J = 41.2, 11.8 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.11 – 1.88 (m, 2H), 1.58 (td, J = 13.2, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 1.46 – 1.35 (m, 1H), 1.22 – 1.09 (m, 1H), 0.86 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H). **^{13}C NMR** (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 143.3, 138.3, 137.0, 129.6, 127.0, 114.6, 48.9, 33.0, 32.6, 30.8, 21.5, 17.2. **LRMS** m/z (ESI+APCI) calcd for $C_{14}H_{22}NO_2S$ [M+H] 268.1. Found 268.1. **HRMS** calculated for $[C_{14}H_{21}NO_2S+H]^+$ 268.1366. Found 268.1373.

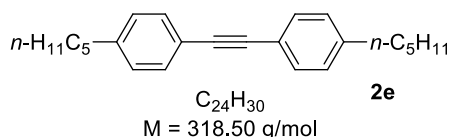
⁵ G. A. Molander, S. K. Pack, *J. Org. Chem.* **2003**, 68, 9214-6220.

2. Preparation of alkynes

Alkynes **2b**,⁶ **2c**,⁷ **2d**,⁶ **2f**,⁶ **2g**,⁸ **2h**,⁹ **2i**⁶ and **2j**¹⁰ were synthesized following described procedures and the NMR spectra matches with the data reported in the literature.



1-Pentyl-4-[2-(4-pentylphenyl)ethynyl]benzene (2e). Following a described procedure.⁶ Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ (105 mg, 0.150 mmol, 0.05 equiv), 1,4-bis(diphenylphosphino)butane (128 mg, 0.300 mmol, 0.1 equiv), 4-pentylbromobenzene (1.36 g, 6.00 mmol, 2 equiv), and 2-butynedioic acid (342 mg, 3.00 mmol) were combined with DBU (913 mg, 6.0 mmol, 2 equiv) in a small round-bottomed flask. DMSO (15.0 mL) was added, and the flask was sealed with a septum. The resulting mixture was placed in an oil bath at 110 °C for 4 h. The reaction was warmed up to room temperature and poured into 25 mL of saturated aqueous ammonium chloride and extracted with Et₂O. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexanes to hexanes/Et₂O: 98:2) to afford 296 mg (61%) of alkyne **2e** as a white solid.



R_f (Hexanes) = 0.60. **M_p** = 54 °C. **IR** (neat, cm⁻¹) 1516, 1465, 1456, 1372, 1179, 1116, 1019, 828, 813, 784, 726. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 4H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 4H), 2.65 – 2.58 (m, 4H), 1.69 – 1.57 (m, 4H), 1.41 – 1.24 (m, 8H), 0.91 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 6H). **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.2, 131.4, 128.4, 120.6, 88.9, 35.8, 31.4, 30.9, 22.5, 14.0. **LRMS *m/z*** (ESI+APCI) calcd for C₂₅H₃₅O [M+MeOH+H] 351.3. Found 351.3. **HRMS** calculated for [C₂₄H₃₀+H]⁺ 319.2420. Found 319.2430.

3. Reactions of *N*-sulfonamides with alkynes

⁶ K. Park, G. Bae, J. Moon, J. Choe, K. H. Song, S. Lee, *J. Org. Chem.* **2010**, *75*, 6244-6251.

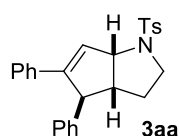
⁷ R. J. Perner, Y.-G. Gu, C.-H. Lee, E. K. Bayburt, J. McKie, K. M. Alexander, K. L. Kohlhaas, C. T. Wismer, J. Mikusa, M. F. Jarvis, E. A. Kowaluk, S. S. Bhagwat, *J. Med. Chem.* **2003**, *46*, 5249-5257.

⁸ M. Endou, Y. Ie, Y. Aso, *Heterocycles* **2008**, *76*, 1043-1048.

⁹ M. J. Mayoral, M. Rest, V. Stepanenko, J. Schellheimer, R. Q. Albuquerque, G. Fernandez, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2013**, *135*, 2148-2151.

¹⁰ P. S. Pinkney, G. A. Nest, D. E. Pearson, C. S. Marvel, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1937**, *59*, 2666-2668.

General procedure: (3aR*,4S*,6aR*)-1-(4-Methylbenzenesulfonyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1H,2H,3H,3aH,4H,6aH-cyclopenta-[b]-pyrrole (3aa). A 1.5 dram vial was charged with *N*-tosylamide **1a** (47.9 mg, 0.200 mmol), diphenylacetylene **2a** (44.6 mg, 0.250 mmol, 1.25 equiv), Cu(OAc)₂•H₂O (83.9 mg, 0.420 mmol, 2.1 equiv), AgSbF₆ (17.2 mg, 0.050 mmol, 25 mol %) and [RhCp*Cl₂]₂ (12.3 mg, 0.020 mmol, 10 mol %). After addition of 1,4-dioxane (2 mL, 0.1M), the vial was sealed and heated at 120 °C for 16 h. The resulting blue mixture was filtrated through a short plug of silica and Celite (hexanes/EtOAc: 30:70) and concentrated under reduced pressure. Analysis of the crude material by ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR revealed the presence of a single diastereomer (d. r. > 96:4). Purification by flash chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc: 95:5 to 80:20) gave 58.3 mg (70%) of **3aa** as a colorless oil. The residue was taken up in Et₂O which have been slowly evaporated to afford suitable crystals for X-ray analysis.

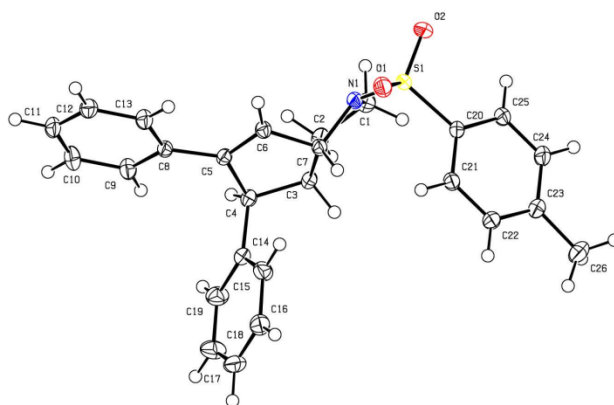


C₂₆H₂₅NO₂S
M = 415.55 g/mol

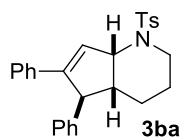
Rf (Hex/EA: 85:15) = 0.45. **Mp** = 140 °C. **IR** (neat, cm⁻¹) 1598, 1494, 1446, 1331, 1156, 1091, 1057, 756, 701, 661. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.38 – 7.09 (m, 12H), 6.54 (br s, 1H), 4.83 (br d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.06 (s, 1H), 3.56 – 3.49 (m, 1H), 3.06 (td,

J = 9.6 Hz and *J* = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 2.59 – 2.51 (m, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.12 – 2.03 (m, 1H), 1.92 – 1.80 (m, 1H). **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.3, 143.5, 143.4, 134.6, 134.5, 129.7, 128.8, 128.3, 128.1, 127.8, 127.5, 127.0, 126.8, 126.6, 68.8, 57.3, 51.8, 48.2, 32.0, 21.5. **LRMS** *m/z* (ESI+APCI) calcd for C₂₆H₂₆NO₂S [M+H] 416.2. Found 416.2. **HRMS** calculated for [C₂₆H₂₅NO₂S+H]⁺ 416.1679. Found 416.1691.

Single crystal X-ray analysis of this compound revealed that the phenyl group is located on the *exo* face of the molecule.



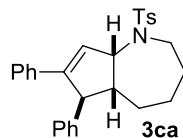
(4aR*,5S*,7aR*)-1-(4-Methylbenzenesulfonyl)-5,6-diphenyl-1H,2H,3H,4H,4aH,5H,7aH-cyclopenta-[b]-pyridine (3ba). This compound was prepared by treatment of *N*-tosylamide **1b** (50.7 mg, 0.200 mmol) and diphenylacetylene (44.6 mg, 0.250 mmol, 1.25 equiv) by [RhCp*Cl₂]₂ (12.3 mg, 0.020 mmol, 10 mol %), AgSbF₆ (17.2 mg, 0.050 mmol, 25 mol %) and Cu(OAc)₂•H₂O (83.9 mg, 0.420 mmol, 2.1 equiv) in 1,4-dioxane (2 mL) (120 °C, 16 h, d.r. > 96:4). Purification by flash chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc: 95:5 to 80:20) gave 61.0 mg (72%) of **3ba** as a colorless oil.



$C_{27}H_{27}NO_2S$
M = 429.57 g/mol

Rf (Hex/EA: 85:15) = 0.45. **IR** (neat, cm^{-1}) 1718, 1598, 1494, 1445, 1337, 1303, 1161, 1096, 1038, 969, 935, 815, 751, 700, 659. **1H NMR** (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.73 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.34 – 7.13 (m, 12H), 6.13 (s, 1H), 5.22 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 1H), 3.76 (br d, J = 12.7 Hz, 1H), 2.92 (app td, J = 12.1 Hz and J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.33 – 2.23 (m, 1H), 1.93 – 1.83 (m, 1H), 1.62 – 1.31 (m, 3H). **^{13}C NMR** (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 145.3, 143.1, 141.0, 137.7, 134.7, 129.7, 128.8, 128.3, 127.9, 127.2, 127.1, 126.6, 126.4, 126.2, 60.0, 57.3, 46.4, 42.1, 27.6, 23.1, 21.5. **LRMS** m/z (ESI+APCI) calcd for $C_{27}H_{28}NO_2S$ [M+H]⁺ 430.2. Found 430.2. **HRMS** calculated for $[C_{27}H_{27}NO_2S+H]^+$ 430.1835. Found 430.1841.

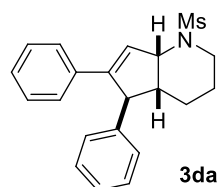
(5aR*,6S*,8aR*)-1-(4-Methylbenzenesulfonyl)-6,7-diphenyl-1H,2H,3H,4H,5H,5aH,6H,8aH-cyclopenta[b]azepine (3ca). This compound was prepared by treatment of *N*-tosylamide **1c** (53.5 mg, 0.200 mmol) and diphenylacetylene (44.6 mg, 0.250 mmol, 1.25 equiv) by $[RhCp^*Cl_2]_2$ (12.3 mg, 0.020 mmol, 10 mol %), $AgSbF_6$ (17.2 mg, 0.050 mmol, 25 mol %) and $Cu(OAc)_2 \cdot H_2O$ (83.9 mg, 0.420 mmol, 2.1 equiv) in 1,4-dioxane (2 mL) (120 °C, 16 h, d.r. > 96:4). Purification by flash chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc: 95:5 to 80:20) gave 58.4 mg (66%) of **3ca** as a yellow oil.



$C_{28}H_{29}NO_2S$
M = 443.60 g/mol

Rf (Hex/EA: 90:10) = 0.20. **IR** (neat, cm^{-1}) 1598, 1494, 1445, 1331, 1157, 1111, 1090, 910, 815, 752, 700, 659. **1H NMR** (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.77 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.26 – 7.07 (m, 10H), 5.78 (br s, 1H), 5.36 (br d, J = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 4.21 – 4.16 (m, 1H), 3.78 (br d, J = 14.9 Hz, 1H), 2.82 – 2.71 (m, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 1.94 – 1.51 (m, 6H). **^{13}C NMR** (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 147.2, 144.5, 142.8, 138.7, 134.4, 129.7, 128.7, 128.2, 127.8, 127.1, 126.8, 126.7, 126.4, 126.3, 65.1, 55.1, 51.9, 44.9, 31.0, 29.0, 23.5, 21.5. **LRMS** m/z (ESI+APCI) calcd for $C_{28}H_{30}NO_2S$ [M+H]⁺ 444.2. Found 444.2. **HRMS** calculated for $[C_{28}H_{29}NO_2S+H]^+$ 444.1992. Found 444.2007.

(4aR*,5S*,7aR*)-1-Methanesulfonyl-5,6-diphenyl-1H,2H,3H,4H,4aH,5H,7aH-cyclopenta[b]pyridine (3da). This compound was prepared by treatment of *N*-methanesulfonylamide **1d** (32.6 mg, 0.200 mmol) and diphenylacetylene **2a** (44.6 mg, 0.250 mmol, 1.25 equiv) by $[RhCp^*Cl_2]_2$ (12.3 mg, 0.020 mmol, 10 mol %), $AgSbF_6$ (17.2 mg, 0.050 mmol, 25 mol %) and $Cu(OAc)_2 \cdot H_2O$ (83.9 mg, 0.420 mmol, 2.1 equiv) in 1,4-dioxane (2 mL) (120 °C, 16 h, d.r. > 96:4). Purification by flash chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc: 95:5 to 65:35) gave 49.5 mg (70%) of **3da** as a yellow oil.

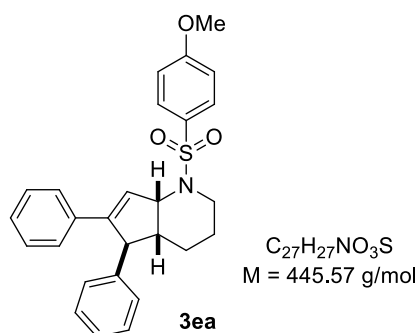


$C_{21}H_{23}NO_2S$
M = 353.48 g/mol

Rf (Hex/EA: 90:10) = 0.12. **IR** (neat, cm^{-1}) 1600, 1493, 1445, 1323, 1157, 1139, 1039, 936, 910, 891, 780, 726, 729, 700. **1H NMR** (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.40 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.31 – 7.15 (m, 8H), 6.41 (br s, 1H), 5.13 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (s, 1H), 3.77 (br d, J = 13.4 Hz, 1H), 3.06 – 2.97 (m, 1H), 2.91 (s, 3H), 2.41 – 2.33 (m, 1H), 2.07 – 1.98 (m, 1H), 1.72 – 1.63 (m, 1H), 1.62 – 1.47 (m, 2H). **^{13}C NMR** (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ

145.6, 140.9, 134.6, 128.8, 128.4, 128.0, 127.2, 126.7, 126.7, 126.2, 59.8, 57.5, 46.5, 42.0, 39.9, 27.7, 23.7. **LRMS** m/z (ESI+APCI) calcd for $C_{21}H_{24}NO_2S$ [M+H] 354.2. Found 354.2. **HRMS** calculated for $[C_{21}H_{23}NO_2S+H]^+$ 354.1522. Found 354.1536.

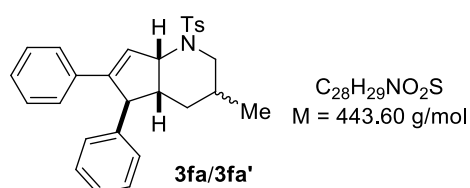
(4aR*,5S*,7aR*)-1-(4-Methoxybenzenesulfonyl)-5,6-diphenyl-1H,2H,3H,4H,4aH,5H,7aH-cyclopenta[b]-pyridine (3ea). This compound was prepared by treatment of *N*-paramethoxybenzenesulfonamide **1e** (53.9 mg, 0.200 mmol) and diphenylacetylene **2a** (44.6 mg, 0.250 mmol, 1.25 equiv) by $[RhCp^*Cl_2]_2$ (12.3 mg, 0.020 mmol, 10 mol %), $AgSbF_6$ (17.2 mg, 0.050 mmol, 25 mol %) and $Cu(OAc)_2 \cdot H_2O$ (83.9 mg, 0.420 mmol, 2.1 equiv) in 1,4-dioxane (2 mL) (120 °C, 16 h, d.r. > 96:4). Purification by flash chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc: 90:10 to 60:40) gave 62.3 mg (70%) of **3ea** as a colorless oil.



Rf (Hex/EA: 90:10) = 0.12. **IR** (neat, cm^{-1}) 1593, 1577, 1494, 1455, 1446, 1342, 1331, 1296, 1257, 1154, 1139, 1097, 1021, 935, 836, 826, 662. **1H NMR** (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.78 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.31 – 7.13 (m, 10H), 6.98 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.16 (s, 1H), 5.21 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.87 (br s, 1H), 3.74 (br d, J = 12.6 Hz, 1H), 2.97 – 2.88 (m, 1H), 2.33 – 2.24 (m, 1H), 1.94 – 1.84 (m, 1H), 1.60 – 1.31 (m, 3H). **^{13}C NMR** (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 162.7, 145.3, 141.1, 134.8, 132.4, 129.2, 128.8, 128.6, 127.9, 127.2, 126.6, 126.4, 126.2, 114.2, 60.0, 57.3, 55.6, 46.4, 42.1,

27.6, 23.1. **LRMS** m/z (ESI+APCI) calcd for $C_{27}H_{28}NO_3S$ [M+H] 446.2. Found 446.2. **HRMS** calculated for $[C_{27}H_{27}NO_3S+H]^+$ 446.1784. Found 446.1788.

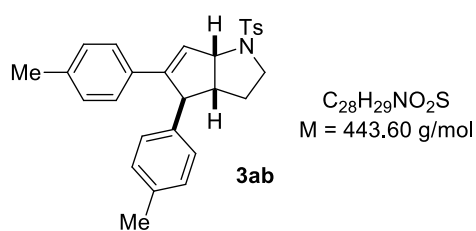
(4aR*,5S*,7aR*)-3-Methyl-1-(4-methylbenzenesulfonyl)-5,6-diphenyl-1H,2H,3H,4H,4aH,5H,7aH-cyclopenta[b]pyridine (3fa/3fa'). In a 1.5 dram vial were added *N*-tosylamide **1f** (53.5 mg, 0.200 mmol), diphenylacetylene **2a** (44.6 mg, 0.250 mmol, 1.25 equiv), $Cu(OAc)_2 \cdot H_2O$ (83.9 mg, 0.420 mmol, 2.1 equiv), $AgSbF_6$ (17.2 mg, 0.050 mmol, 25 mol %) and $[RhCp^*Cl_2]_2$ (12.3 mg, 0.020 mmol, 10 mol %). After addition of 1,4-dioxane, the vial was sealed and heated at 120 °C for 16 h. The resulting blue mixture was filtrated through a short plug of silica and Celite (EtOAc) and concentrated under reduced pressure. 1H NMR spectra of the crude material showed a 1:1 mixture of diastereomers **3fa** and **3fa'** (determination with the vinylic proton signal). Purification by flash chromatography (hexanes/Et₂O: 95:5 to 80:20) gave 37.2 mg (42%) of a 1:1 mixture of regioisomers **3fa** and **3fa'** as a yellow solid.



Rf (Hex/EA: 85:15) = 0.40. **1H NMR** (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.77-7.70 (m, 2H), 7.34 – 7.11 (m, 12H), 6.11 (s, 0.5*1H), 6.06 (s,

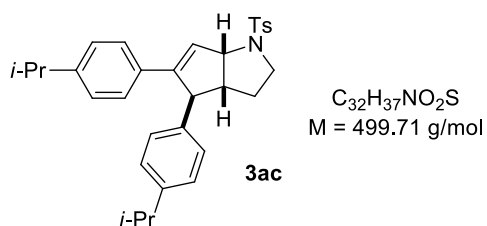
0.5*1H), 5.22 (d, $J = 6.2$ Hz, 0.5*1H), 5.04 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 0.5*1H), 3.87 (s, 0.5*1H), 3.82 (s, 0.5*1H), 3.71 (d, $J = 12.6$ Hz, 0.5*1H), 3.23 (dd, $J = 12.2$ Hz and $J = 4.8$ Hz, 0.5*1H), 3.18 (dd, $J = 12.2$ Hz and $J = 4.1$ Hz, 0.5*1H), 2.52 – 2.48 (m, 0.5*1H), 2.48 – 2.42 (m, 1H), 2.45 (s, 0.5*3H), 2.44 (s, 0.5*3H), 2.35 – 2.27 (m, 0.5*1H), 1.99 – 1.85 (m, 0.5*1H), 1.69 – 1.60 (m, 0.5*1H) 1.55 – 1.48 (m, 0.5*1H), 0.92 – 0.84 (m, 1H), 0.92 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 0.5*3H), 0.81 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 0.5*3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 146.0, 145.0, 143.1, 143.1, 141.9, 140.7, 137.8, 137.1, 134.7, 134.7, 129.7, 129.6, 128.8, 128.8, 128.4, 128.3, 127.9, 127.8, 127.3, 127.2, 127.1, 126.6, 126.6, 126.5, 126.3, 126.1, 126.0, 60.1, 59.3, 57.4, 57.0, 48.5, 47.8, 46.9, 44.4, 37.1, 33.5, 29.3, 26.4, 21.5, 18.9, 17.6.

(3aR*,4S*,6aR*)-1-(4-Methylbenzenesulfonyl)-4,5-bis(4-methylphenyl)-1H,2H,3H,3aH,4H,6aH-cyclo-penta[b]pyrrole (3ab). This compound was prepared by treatment of *N*-tosylamide **1a** (47.9 mg, 0.200 mmol) and 1,2-di-*p*-tolylethyne **2b**⁶ (51.6 mg, 0.250 mmol, 1.25 equiv) by $[\text{RhCp}^*\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (12.3 mg, 0.020 mmol, 10 mol %), AgSbF_6 (17.2 mg, 0.050 mmol, 25 mol %) and $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (83.9 mg, 0.420 mmol, 2.1 equiv) in 1,4-dioxane (2 mL) (120 °C, 16 h, d.r. > 96:4). Purification by flash chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc: 95:5 to 80:20) gave 61.4 mg (69%) of **3ab** as a white solid.



Rf (Hex/EA: 90:10) = 0.16. **Mp** = 150 °C. **IR** (neat, cm^{-1}) 1597, 1512, 1448, 1339, 1157, 1091, 1031, 885, 808, 729, 715, 663. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.73 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.08 – 6.95 (m, 6H), 6.46 (s, 1H), 4.81 (br d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.00 (s, 1H), 3.55 – 3.46 (m, 1H), 3.04 (td, $J = 9.6$ Hz and $J = 6.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.54 – 2.44 (m, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.26 (s, 6H), 2.09 – 1.99 (m, 1H), 1.89 – 1.77 (m, 1H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 144.2, 143.3, 140.6, 137.7, 136.1, 134.6, 131.8, 129.7, 129.5, 129.0, 127.5, 127.0, 126.9, 126.7, 68.8, 56.8, 51.9, 48.2, 32.0, 21.5, 21.1, 21.0. **LRMS** m/z (ESI+APCI) calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{30}\text{NO}_2\text{S}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]$ 444.2. Found 444.2. **HRMS** calculated for $[\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{29}\text{NO}_2\text{S}+\text{H}]^+$ 444.1992. Found 444.2008.

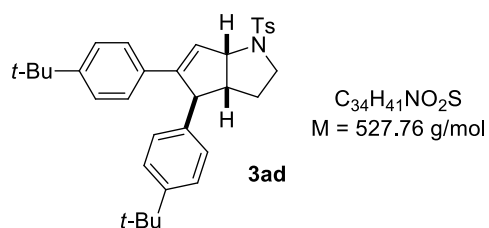
(3aR*,4S*,6aR*)-1-(4-Methylbenzenesulfonyl)-4,5-bis[4-(propan-2-yl)phenyl]-1H,2H,3H,3aH,4H,6aH-cyclopenta[b]pyrrole (3ac). This compound was prepared by treatment of *N*-tosylamide **1a** (47.9 mg, 0.200 mmol) and 1,2-bis(4-isopropylphenyl)ethyne **2c** (65.6 mg, 0.250 mmol, 1.25 equiv) by $[\text{RhCp}^*\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (12.3 mg, 0.020 mmol, 10 mol %), AgSbF_6 (17.2 mg, 0.050 mmol, 25 mol %) and $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (83.9 mg, 0.420 mmol, 2.1 equiv) in 1,4-dioxane (2 mL) (120 °C, 16 h, d.r. > 96:4). Purification by flash chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc: 95:5 to 80:20) gave 60.7 mg (61%) of **3ac** as a colorless oil.



Rf (Hex/EA: 90:10) = 0.18. **IR** (neat, cm^{-1}) 1598, 1512, 1459, 1340, 1158, 1092, 1056, 908, 815, 729, 661. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.75 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.33 – 7.26 (m, 4H), 7.12 – 7.03 (m, 6H), 6.48 (s, 1H), 4.83 (br d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H),

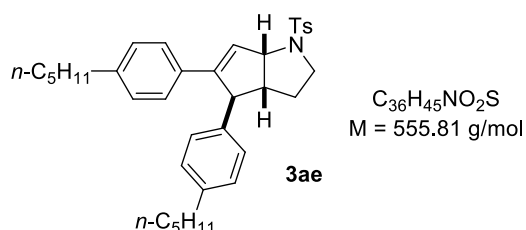
4.00 (s, 1H), 3.53 – 3.48 (m, 1H), 3.03 (td, $J = 9.6$ and $J = 6.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.90 – 2.77 (m, 2H), 2.52 (app dd, $J = 16.4$ Hz and $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.10 – 2.01 (m, 1H), 1.87 – 1.76 (m, 1H), 1.20 (br s, 6H), 1.19 (br s, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 148.6, 147.0, 144.2, 143.3, 140.9, 134.6, 132.3, 129.7, 127.6, 127.1, 126.9, 126.8, 126.8, 126.4, 68.8, 56.8, 51.9, 48.2, 33.8, 33.6, 32.0, 23.9, 23.9, 23.8, 23.8, 21.5. LRMS m/z (ESI+APCI) calcd for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{38}\text{NO}_2\text{S}$ [M+H] $^+$ 500.2. Found 500.2. HRMS calculated for $[\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{37}\text{NO}_2\text{S}+\text{H}]^+$ 500.2618. Found 500.2631.

(3aR*,4S*,6aR*)-4,5-bis(4-*tert*-Butylphenyl)-1-(4-methylbenzenesulfonyl)-1H,2H,3H,3aH,4H,6aH-cyclopenta[b]pyrrole (3ad). This compound was prepared by treatment of *N*-tosylamide **1a** (47.9 mg, 0.200 mmol) and 1,2-bis(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenyl)ethyne **2d**⁶ (72.6 mg, 0.250 mmol, 1.25 equiv) by $[\text{RhCp}^*\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (12.3 mg, 0.020 mmol, 10 mol %), AgSbF_6 (17.2 mg, 0.050 mmol, 25 mol %) and $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (83.9 mg, 0.420 mmol, 2.1 equiv) in 1,4-dioxane (2 mL) (120 °C, 16 h, d.r. > 96:4). Purification by flash chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc: 95:5 to 80:20) gave 63.2 mg (60%) of **3ad** as a white solid.



Rf (Hex/Ea: 90:10) = 0.18. **Mp** = 98 °C. IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 1597, 1512, 1448, 1339, 1157, 1091, 1031, 885, 808, 729, 662. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.75 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.32 – 7.28 (m, 4H), 7.27 – 7.22 (m, 4H), 7.06 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 6.49 (s, 1H), 4.83 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 4.00 (s, 1H), 3.53 – 3.46 (m, 1H), 3.02 (td, $J = 9.6$ Hz and $J = 6.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.56 – 2.48 (m, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 2.10 – 2.00 (m, 1H), 1.87 – 1.75 (m, 1H), 1.27 (s, 9H), 1.26 (s, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 150.8, 149.3, 144.0, 143.3, 140.5, 134.6, 131.9, 129.7, 127.5, 127.2, 126.6, 126.5, 125.7, 125.2, 68.8, 56.7, 51.9, 48.2, 34.5, 34.3, 32.0, 31.3, 31.2, 21.5. LRMS m/z (ESI+APCI) calcd for $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{42}\text{NO}_2\text{S}$ [M+H] $^+$ 528.3. Found 528.3. HRMS calculated for $[\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{41}\text{NO}_2\text{S}+\text{H}]^+$ 528.2931. Found 528.2942.

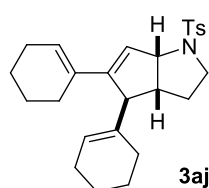
(3aR*,4S*,6aR*)-1-(4-Methylbenzenesulfonyl)-4,5-bis(4-pentylphenyl)-1H,2H,3H,3aH,4H,6aH-cyclopenta[b]pyrrole (3ae). This compound was prepared by treatment of *N*-tosylamide **1a** (47.9 mg, 0.200 mmol) and 1,2-bis(4-pentylphenyl)ethyne **2e** (79.6 mg, 0.250 mmol, 1.25 equiv) by $[\text{RhCp}^*\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (12.3 mg, 0.020 mmol, 10 mol %), AgSbF_6 (17.2 mg, 0.050 mmol, 25 mol %) and $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (83.9 mg, 0.420 mmol, 2.1 equiv) in 1,4-dioxane (2 mL) (120 °C, 16 h, d.r. > 96:4). Purification by flash chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc: 95:5 to 80:20) gave 65.9 mg (59%) of **3ae** as a white waxy solid.



Rf (Hex/Ea: 90:10) = 0.20. IR (neat, cm^{-1}) 1597, 1494, 1456, 1446, 1341, 1159, 1140, 1110, 1052, 934, 893, 816, 761, 751, 660. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.75 (d,

(br s, 1H), 6.47 (br s, 1H), 6.17 (br s, 1H), 4.79 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 1H), 3.51 – 3.43 (m, 1H), 3.04 (td, $J = 9.5$ Hz and $J = 6.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.56 – 2.48 (m, 1H), 2.42 (s, 6H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 2.04 – 1.96 (m, 1H), 1.81 – 1.70 (m, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 144.2, 143.3, 140.6, 140.3, 139.7, 136.7, 134.7, 129.7, 127.5, 126.3, 124.8, 124.5, 120.9, 118.1, 68.8, 52.9, 50.8, 48.2, 31.7, 21.5, 15.4, 15.2. **LRMS** m/z (ESI+APCI) calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}_2\text{S}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 456.1. Found 456.1. **HRMS** calculated for $[\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_2\text{S}_3+\text{H}]^+$ 456.1120. Found 456.1128.

(3aR*,4S*,6aR*)-4,5-bis(Cyclohex-1-en-1-yl)-1-(4-methylbenzenesulfonyl)-1H,2H,3H,3aH,4H,6aH-cyclo-penta[b]pyrrole (3aj). This compound was prepared by treatment of *N*-tosylamide **1a** (47.9 mg, 0.200 mmol) and alkyne **2j** (44.6 mg, 0.250 mmol, 1.25 equiv) by $[\text{RhCp}^*\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (12.3 mg, 0.020 mmol, 10 mol %), AgSbF_6 (17.2 mg, 0.050 mmol, 25 mol %) and $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (83.9 mg, 0.420 mmol, 2.1 equiv) in 1,4-dioxane (2 mL) (120 °C, 16 h, d.r. > 96:4). Purification by flash chromatography (hexanes/ Et_2O : 98:2 to 90:10) gave 48.3 mg (55%) of **3aj** as a colorless oil.

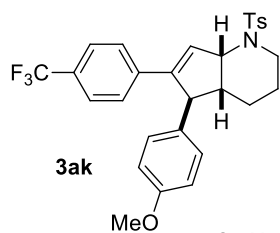


$\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{33}\text{NO}_2\text{S}$
M = 423.61 g/mol

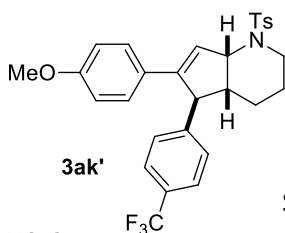
Rf (Hex/EA: 90:10) = 0.30. **IR** (neat, cm^{-1}) 1597, 1494, 1456, 1445, 1361, 1341, 1331, 1256, 1159, 1140, 1110, 1095, 1051, 934, 893, 837, 761, 751, 701, 659. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.73 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 5.77 (br s, 1H), 5.75 (s, 1H), 5.37 (br s, 1H), 4.57 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.40 – 3.33

(m, 1H), 3.13 (s, 1H), 3.00 (td, $J = 9.4$ Hz and $J = 6.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.32 – 2.24 (m, 1H), 2.24 – 2.01 (m, 4H), 1.97 – 1.83 (m, 3H), 1.74 – 1.40 (m, 11H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 145.6, 143.1, 139.6, 135.0, 132.4, 129.6, 127.6, 127.3, 125.0, 121.8, 68.9, 58.7, 48.5, 48.0, 32.1, 26.3, 25.8, 25.4, 25.2, 22.9, 22.7, 22.5, 22.1, 21.5. **LRMS** m/z (ESI+APCI) calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{34}\text{NO}_2\text{S}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 424.2. Found 424.2. **HRMS** calculated for $[\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{33}\text{NO}_2\text{S}+\text{H}]^+$ 424.2305. Found 424.2309.

(4aR*,5S*,7aR*)-5-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1-(4-methylbenzenesulfonyl)-6-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1H,2H,3H,4H,4aH,5H,7aH-cyclopenta[b]pyridine (3ak) and (4aR*,5S*,7aR*)-6-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1-(4-methylbenzenesulfonyl)-5-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1H,2H,3H,4H,4aH,5H,7aH-cyclopenta[b]-pyridine (3ak'). In a 1.5 dram vial were added *N*-tosylamide **1b** (50.7 mg, 0.200 mmol), 1-methoxy-4-((4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethynyl)benzene **2k** (69.1 mg, 0.250 mmol, 1.25 equiv), $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (83.9 mg, 0.420 mmol, 2.1 equiv), AgSbF_6 (17.2 mg, 0.050 mmol, 25 mol %) and $[\text{RhCp}^*\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (12.3 mg, 0.020 mmol, 10 mol %). After addition of 1,4-dioxane, the vial was sealed and heated at 120 °C for 16 h. The resulting blue mixture was filtrated through a short plug of silica and Celite (EtOAc) and concentrated under reduced pressure. ^1H NMR spectra of the crude material showed a 1:1 mixture of regioisomers **3ak** and **3ak'** (determination with the vinylic proton signal). Purification by flash chromatography (hexanes/ EtOAc : 95:5 to 70:30) gave 61.0 mg (62%) of a 1:1 mixture of regioisomers **3ak** and **3ak'** as a yellow solid.



$\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{28}\text{F}_3\text{NO}_3\text{S}$
M = 527.60 g/mol



S-11

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.72 – 7.67 (m, 2H), 7.49 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 0.5*2H), 7.44 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 0.5*2H), 7.37 – 7.21 (m, 4H), 7.14 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 0.5*2H), 7.02 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 0.5*2H), 6.79 (d,

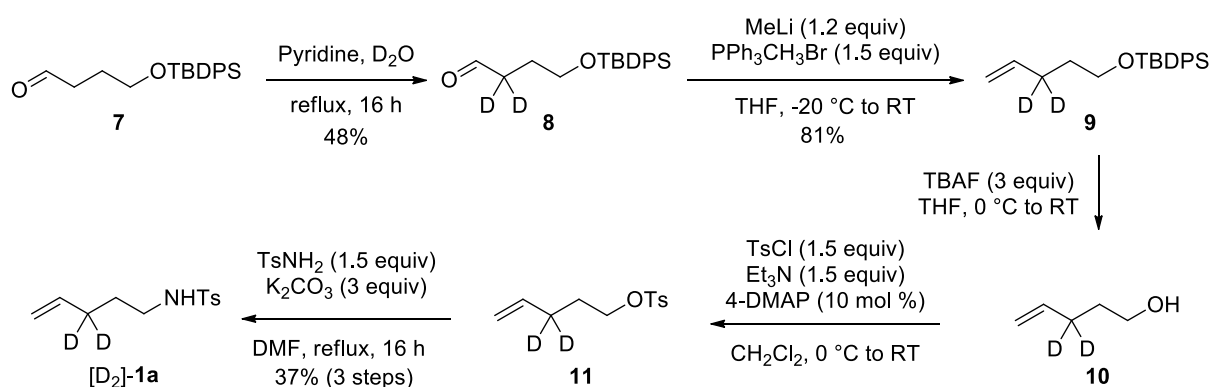
$J = 8.7$ Hz, $0.5 \times 2H$), 6.79 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, $0.5 \times 2H$), 6.73 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, $0.5 \times 2H$), 6.23 (s, $0.5 \times 1H$), 6.00 (s, $0.5 \times 1H$), 5.17 (d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, $0.5 \times 1H$), 5.13 (d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, $0.5 \times 1H$), 3.84 (s, $0.5 \times 1H$), 3.78 (s, $0.5 \times 1H$), 3.75 (s, $0.5 \times 3H$), 3.72 (s, $0.5 \times 3H$), 3.77 – 3.65 (m, 1H), 2.95 – 2.85 (m, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.27 – 2.18 (m, 1H), 1.91 – 1.80 (m, 1H), 1.56 – 1.21 (m, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 159.5, 158.5, 145.4, 145.4, 144.5, 144.1, 143.3, 143.2, 138.2, 138.2, 137.7, 137.6, 132.4, 129.7, 129.7, 129.1, 128.1, 127.6, 127.4, 127.1, 127.1, 127.0, 126.4, 125.8 (q, $J = 3.8$ Hz), 125.3 (q, $J = 3.8$ Hz), 124.6, 114.3, 113.9, 60.0, 59.9, 57.1, 56.5, 55.2, 46.4, 46.2, 42.3, 42.0, 27.6, 27.4, 23.1, 23.0, 21.5.

4. Deuteration experiments

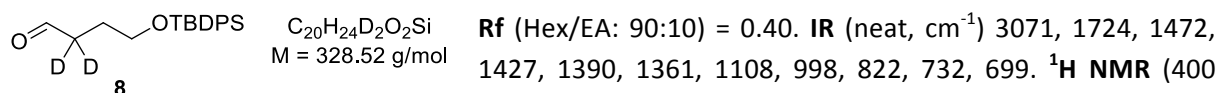
a. Preparation of deuterated *N*-tosylamides

$[D_2]$ -**1a**¹¹ and $[D_E]$ -**1a**¹¹ were synthesized following described procedures and the NMR spectra matches with the data reported in the literature.

- Preparation of sulfonamide $[D_2]$ -**1a**



4-[(*tert*-Butyldiphenylsilyloxy)](2,2- 2H_2)butanal (8**). Aldehyde **7**¹² (3.92 g, 12.00 mmol) was dissolved in freshly distilled pyridine (6 mL) and D_2O (6 mL) and the resulting solution was refluxed for 16 h. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to RT and extracted with CH_2Cl_2 . The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over Na_2SO_4 , filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexanes/ Et_2O : 99:1 to 97:3) to afford 1.49 g (48%) of dideuterated aldehyde **8** as a colorless oil contaminated with an unknown impurity.**



¹¹ G. Zhang, L. Cui, Y. Wang, L. Zhang, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2010**, *132*, 1474-1475.

¹² H. Zheng, S. Ghanbari, S. Nakamura, D. G. Hall, *Angew. Chem.* **2012**, *124*, 6291–6294; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2012**, *51*, 6187-6190.

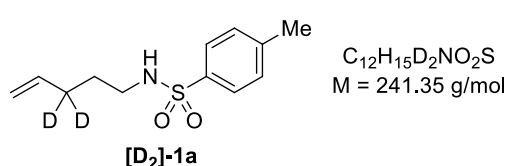
MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.80 (s, 1H), 7.70 – 7.64 (m, 4H), 7.47 – 7.36 (m, 6H), 3.71 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 1.89 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 1.07 (s, 9H). **LRMS** m/z (ESI+APCI) calcd for C₂₀H₂₅D₂O₂Si [M+H] 329.2. Found 329.2.

4-Methyl-*N*-[(3,3-²H₂)pent-4-en-1-yl]benzene-1-sulfonamide ([D₂]-1a). To a solution of PPh₃CH₃Br (2.27 g, 6.34 mmol, 1.5 equiv) in THF (30 mmol) at -20 °C was added MeLi (3.17 mL, 1.6 M in Et₂O, 5.08 mmol, 1.2 equiv). After 1 h stirring at 0 °C, the reaction mixture was cooled to -20 °C and a solution of dideuterated aldehyde **8** (1.39 g, 4.23 mmol) in THF (5 mmol) at -20 °C was added. After 5 h stirring at RT, a saturated aqueous solution of NH₄Cl was added. The layers were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexanes/ Et₂O: 99:1 to 98:2) to afford 1.12 g (81%) of dideuterated alkene **9** as a colorless oil.

To a solution of dideuterated alkene **9** (1.02 g, 3.12 mmol) in THF (15 mmol) at 0 °C was added TBAF (9.36 mL, 1M in THF, 9.36 mmol, 3 equiv). After 16 h stirring at RT, a saturated aqueous solution of NH₄Cl was added. The layers were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated at 0 °C under moderate reduced pressure to afford alcohol **10** along with Et₂O.

The residue was taken up in CH₂Cl₂ (30 mL). To the resulting mixture were successively added at 0 °C TsCl (892 mg, 4.68 mmol, 1.5 equiv), Et₃N (652 μ L, 4.68 mmol, 1.5 equiv) and 4-DMAP (37.9 mg, 0.31 mmol, 0.1 equiv). After stirring 16 h at RT, a saturated aqueous solution of NH₄Cl was added. The layers were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford the crude tosylate **11** which was used without further purification.

To a solution of crude **11** in DMF (30 mL) were added TsNH₂ (801 mg, 4.68 mmol, 1.5 equiv) and K₂CO₃ (1.29 g, 9.36 mmol, 3 equiv) and the reaction mixture was refluxed for 16 h. The resulting suspension was cooled to RT, filtrated over Celite and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexanes/AcOEt: 95:5 to 85:15) to afford 279 mg (37%, 3 steps) of dideuterated *N*-tosylamide [D₂]-1a as a colorless oil contaminated with DMF.



C₁₂H₁₅D₂NO₂S
M = 241.35 g/mol

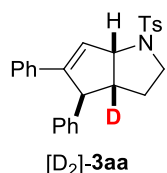
Rf (Hex/EA: 90:10) = 0.15. **IR** (neat, cm⁻¹) 3279, 1663, 1416, 1322, 1155, 1092, 913, 814, 659. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.72 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.67 (dd, J = 17.1 and J = 10.2 Hz, 1H), 4.98 – 4.89 (m, 2H), 4.51 (s, 1H), 2.94 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H),

1.52 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H). **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.3, 137.1, 137.0, 129.7, 127.1, 115.6, 42.6, 28.5, 21.5. **LRMS** m/z (ESI+APCI) calcd for C₁₂H₁₆D₂NO₂S [M+H] 242.1. Found 242.1. **HRMS** calculated for [C₁₂H₁₅D₂NO₂S +H]⁺ 242.1178. Found 242.1179.

b. Reactions of deuterated *N*-tosylamides

- *Reactivity of sulfonamide [D₂]-1a*

1-(4-Methylbenzenesulfonyl)-4,5-diphenyl(3a-²H)-1H,2H,3H,3aH,4H,6aH-cyclopenta[b]pyrrole ([D₂]-3aa). This compound was prepared by treatment of *N*-tosylamide [D₂]-1a (24.1 mg, 0.100 mmol) and diphenylacetylene 2a (17.8 mg, 0.125 mmol, 1.25 equiv) by [RhCp*Cl₂]₂ (6.2 mg, 0.005 mmol, 10 mol %), AgSbF₆ (8.6 mg, 0.025 mmol, 25 mol %) and Cu(OAc)₂ (38.1 mg, 0.240 mmol, 2.1 equiv) in 1,4-dioxane (1 mL) (120 °C, 16 h, d.r. > 96:4). Purification by flash chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc: 95:5 to 85:15) gave 16.2 mg (38%) of [D₂]-3aa as a yellow oil.



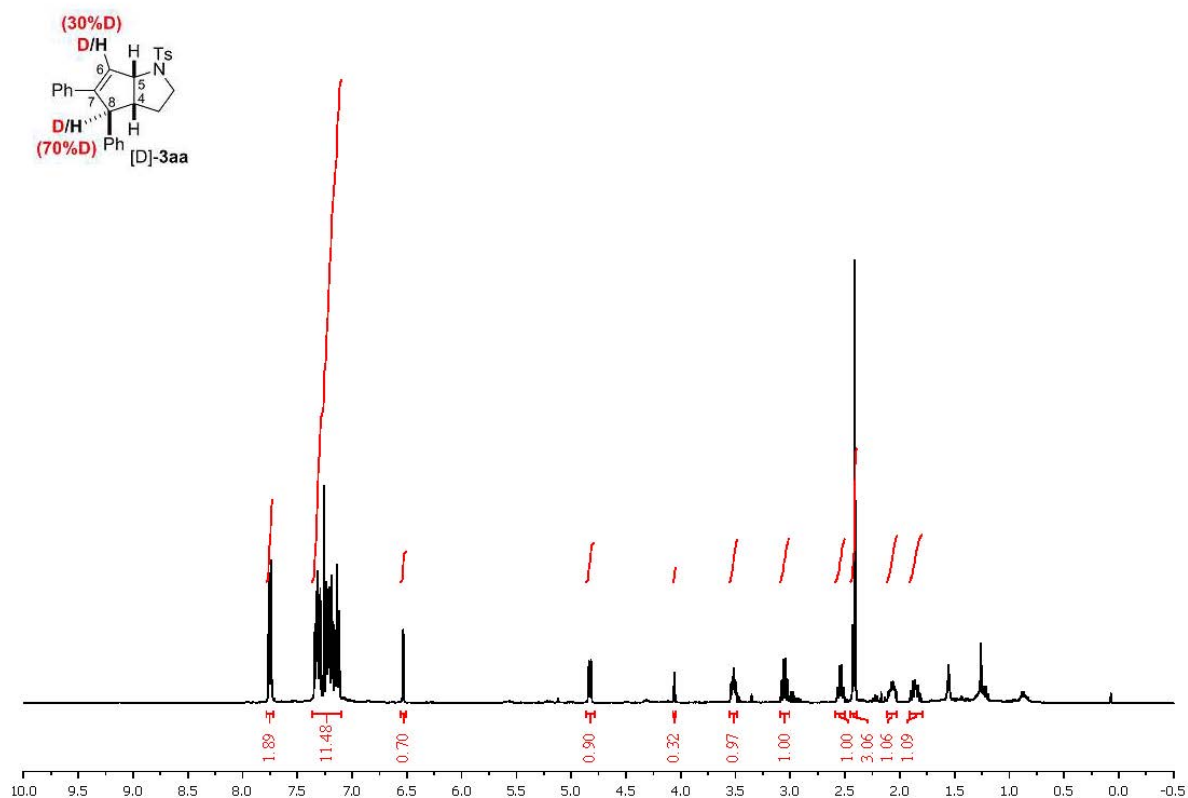
C₂₆H₂₄DNO₂S
M = 416.55 g/mol

Rf (Hex/EA: 90:10) = 0.15. **IR** (neat, cm⁻¹) 1598, 1494, 1446, 1640, 1160, 1092, 815, 756, 700, 662. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.73 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.34 – 7.07 (m, 10H), 6.51 (s, 1H), 4.80 (s, 1H), 4.03 (s, 1H), 3.53 – 3.44 (m, 1H), 3.02 (dd, *J* = 15.9 Hz and *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.08 – 1.98 (m, 1H), 1.88 – 1.78 (m, 1H). **¹³C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.3, 143.4, 143.4, 142.8, 134.5, 134.5, 129.7, 128.8, 128.3, 128.1, 127.8, 127.5, 127.0, 126.8, 126.6, 68.7, 57.1, 48.2, 31.9, 21.5. **LRMS** *m/z* (ESI+APCI) calcd for C₂₆H₂₅DNO₂S [M+H] 417.2. Found 417.2. **HRMS** calculated for [C₂₆H₂₄DNO₂S+H]⁺ 417.1742. Found 417.1753.

- **Reactivity of sulfonamide (*E*)-[D]-1a**

Treatment of *N*-tosylamide (*E*)-[D]-1a (24.0 mg, 0.100 mmol) and diphenylacetylene 2a (17.8 mg, 0.125 mmol, 1.25 equiv) by [RhCp*Cl₂]₂ (6.2 mg, 0.005 mmol, 10 mol %), AgSbF₆ (8.6 mg, 0.025 mmol, 25 mol %) and Cu(OAc)₂ (38.1 mg, 0.240 mmol, 2.1 equiv) in 1,4-dioxane (1 mL) (120 °C, 16 h, d.r. > 96:4) followed by purification by flash chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc: 95:5 to 85:15) gave 13.5 mg (32%) of [D]-3aa as a yellow oil.

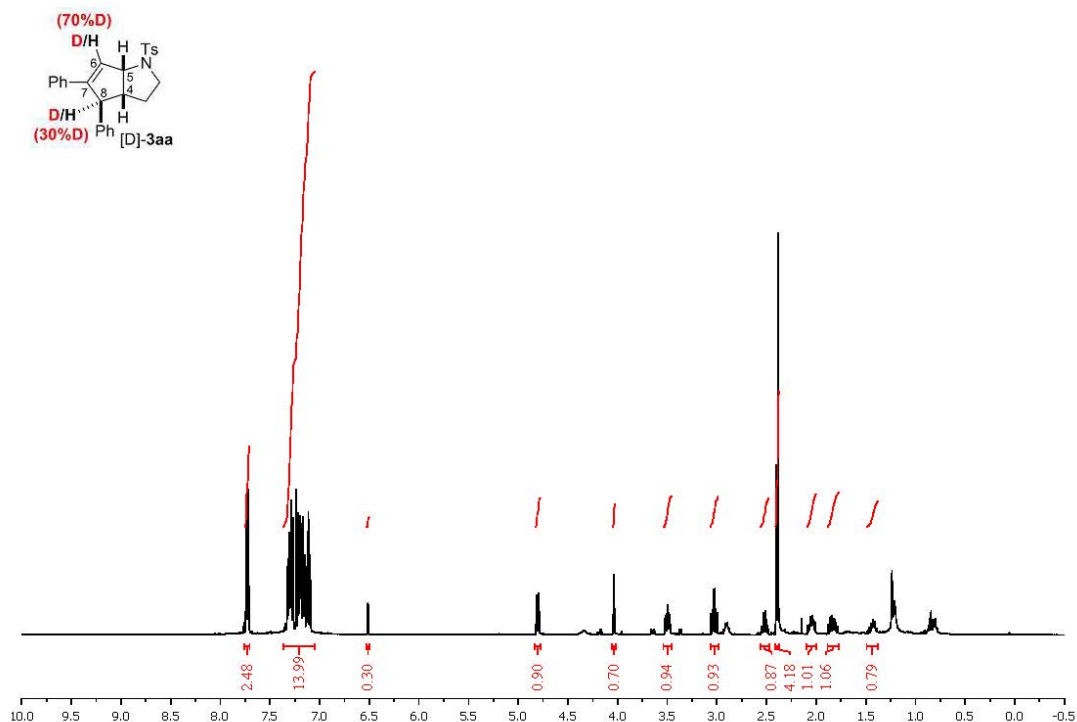
Analysis of the ¹H NMR spectra showed 30% deuteration at position 6 and 70% deuteration at position 8.



- *Reactivity of sulfonamide (Z)-[D]-1a*

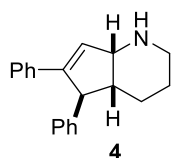
Treatment of *N*-tosylamide (Z)-[D]-**1a** (24.0 mg, 0.100 mmol) and diphenylacetylene **2a** (17.8 mg, 0.125 mmol, 1.25 equiv) by [RhCp*Cl₂]₂ (6.2 mg, 0.005 mmol, 10 mol %), AgSbF₆ (8.6 mg, 0.025 mmol, 25 mol %) and Cu(OAc)₂ (38.1 mg, 0.240 mmol, 2.1 equiv) in 1,4-dioxane (1 mL) (120 °C, 16 h, d.r. > 96:4) followed by purification by flash chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc: 95:5 to 85:15) gave 16.6 mg (40%) of [D]-**3aa** as a yellow oil.

Analysis of the ¹H NMR spectra showed 70% deuteration at position 6 and 30% deuteration at position 8.



c. Deprotection of the tosyl group

5,6-Diphenyl-1H,2H,3H,4H,4aH,5H,7aH-cyclopenta[b]pyridine (4). To a solution of *N*-tosylamide (161 mg, 375 μ mol) **3ba** in THF at -78 $^{\circ}$ C was added a freshly prepared solution of sodium naphthalenide in THF (2.50 mL, 0.2M, 500 μ mol, 1.33 equiv) until the green color persisted. After 30 min stirring at -78 $^{\circ}$ C, more sodium naphthalenide was added (2.50 mL, 0.2M, 500 μ mol, 1.33 equiv). After 1 h stirring at -78 $^{\circ}$ C, the cold reaction mixture was poured into a saturated aqueous solution of NH_4Cl , extracted with EtOAc and the combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over Na_2SO_4 , filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexanes to EtOAc/ Et_3N : 90:10) to afford 71 mg (69%) of bicyclic amine **4** as a yellow oil.



$\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}$
 $M = 275.40$ g/mol

Rf (EA/ Et_3N : 90:10) = 0.25. **IR** (neat, cm^{-1}) 1737, 1600, 1492, 1445, 1331, 1242, 1169, 1132, 1074, 1030, 908, 878, 754, 728, 697. **^1H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.31 – 7.08 (m, 9H), 6.41 (br s, 1H), 4.06 (br d, $J = 5.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.01 (br d, $J = 5.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.88 (ddd, $J = 12.9$ Hz, $J = 6.8$ Hz and $J = 3.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.69 (ddd, $J = 12.9$ Hz, $J = 7.5$ Hz and $J = 3.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.11 – 2.04 (m, 1H), 1.84 (br s, 1H), 1.82 – 1.66 (m, 2H), 1.62 – 1.51 (m, 1H), 1.50 – 1.40 (m, 1H). **^{13}C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 146.5, 142.8, 135.7, 131.4, 128.4, 128.1, 127.8, 127.2, 126.4, 126.1, 60.3, 55.4, 47.8, 43.2, 25.5, 24.2. **LRMS** m/z (ESI+APCI) calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}$ [M+H] 276.2. Found 276.2. **HRMS** calculated for $[\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}+\text{H}]^+$ 276.1747. Found 276.1753.

5. NMR Spectra

