## Supporting Information

## **Phosphine-Mediated Iterative Arene Homologation Using Allenes**

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#### **1. General Information**

All reactions were performed in dry solvents under an Ar atmosphere and anhydrous conditions. DCM, THF, and MeCN were freshly distilled over CaH<sub>2</sub> prior to use. All other reagents were used as received from commercial sources. Reactions were monitored through thin layer chromatography (TLC) on 0.25-mm SiliCycle silica gel plates and visualized under UV light. Flash column chromatography (FCC) was performed using SiliCycle Silica-P Flash silica gel (60-Å pore size, 40–63 µm). IR spectra were recorded using a Jasco FT-IR 4100 spectrometer. NMR spectra of the naphthalenes 4 and 6 were recorded using Bruker Avance-300, Bruker Avance-400 and Bruker Avance-500 instruments, calibrated to CD(H)Cl<sub>3</sub> as the internal reference (7.26 and 77.0 ppm for <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra, respectively). <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectral data are reported in terms of chemical shift ( $\delta$ , ppm), multiplicity, coupling constant (Hz), and integration. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectral data are reported in terms of chemical shift ( $\delta$ , ppm) and multiplicity, with the coupling constant (Hz) in the case of  $J_{CF}$  and  $J_{CP}$  coupling. Data for <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra are reported in terms of chemical shift. The following abbreviations indicate the multiplicities: s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; m, multiplet. High-resolution mass spectra were recorded using a Waters LCT Premier XE time-of-flight instrument controlled by MassLynx 4.1 software. Samples were infused using direct loop injection from a Waters Acquity UPLC into the multi-mode ionization source. The lock mass standard for accurate mass determination was leucine enkephalin (Sigma L9133). X-ray crystallographic data were collected using a Bruker SMART CCD-based diffractometer equipped with a low-temperature apparatus operated at 100 K. UV-Vis spectra were recorded using an Ocean Optics USB2000 spectrophotometer equipped with a DT-MINI-2-GS light source. The spectra were recorded using a 1-mm quartz cuvette, with spectra-grade DCM as the solvent. The conversions of the reactions were determined through chiral HPLC using a Shimadzu CBM Lite system and a REGIS (R,R)-DACH DNB analytical (diameter: 4.5 mm) column, with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/hexane (9:1) as the eluent.

## 2. Substrate Preparation

## 2.1 Allenoate Preparation

Ethyl 2,3-butadienoate,<sup>1</sup> benzyl 2,3-butadienoate,<sup>2</sup> 2-trimethylsilylethyl 2,3-butadienoate,<sup>3</sup> 2,6-dimethylphenyl buta-2,3-dienoate,<sup>4</sup> penta-3,4-dien-2-one,<sup>5</sup> ethyl penta-2,3-dienoate,<sup>6</sup> ethyl hepta-2,3-dienoate,<sup>7</sup> ethyl 5-cyclopentylpenta-2,3-dienoate,<sup>7</sup> benzyl penta-2,3-dienoate,<sup>8</sup> and *tert*-butyl penta-2,3-dienoate<sup>9</sup> were prepared using reported methods.

### 2.2 Dialdehyde Preparation

Naphthalene-2,3-dicarbaldehyde,<sup>10</sup> 4,5-dichlorophthalaldehyde,<sup>10</sup> 4-methylphthalaldehyde,<sup>11</sup> 4-nitrophthalaldehyde<sup>11</sup>, and benzene-1,2,4,5-tetracarbaldehyde<sup>12</sup> were prepared using reported methods.

#### 3. Multicomponent Reaction

## 3.1. Optimization of Conditions of Multicomponent Reaction

To determine the optimal reaction conditions, several reaction variables were tested, including S3

solvents, phosphines, ratios of starting materials, and reaction temperatures. The conditions were established for the reaction of o-phthalaldehyde (1a), p-toluenesulfonamide (2a), and ethyl buta-2,3-dienoate (3a) (Table S1). First, several nucleophilic phosphines were screened, with triphenylphosphine giving the best yield (33%) (Table 1, Entry 1). Tris(4-chlorophenyl)phosphine, tris(3-fluorophenyl)phosphine, and tris(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phosphine also gave the desired product (entries 2–4), but with yields lower than that obtained using triphenylphosphine. Tributylphosphine, ethyldiphenylphosphine, and tri-(o-tolyl)phosphine failed to facilitate this reaction (entries 5-7). Having selected triphenylphosphine as the optimal phosphine, solvents were screened. Toluene, benzene, THF, DCM, and dioxane failed to improve the yield of the reaction (entries 8-12).

	CHO + TsNH <sub>2</sub> +	OEt phosphine solvent	OEt NHTs
	1 2a 3a	a 4a	
entry	solvent	catalyst	yield $(\%)^a$
1	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	PPh <sub>3</sub>	33
2	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	$P(p-ClC_6H_4)_3$	26
3	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	P( <i>m</i> -FC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	22
4	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	$P[m,m-(CF_3)_2C_6H_3]_3$	14
5	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	$P(n-Bu)_3$	NR
6	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	PEtPh <sub>2</sub>	NR
7	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	P(o-CH <sub>3</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	NR

	8		benzene				PPh <sub>3</sub>			26	
	9		toluene				PPh <sub>3</sub>			25	
	10			T	HF		PPh <sub>3</sub>			6	
	11		$CH_2Cl_2$		PPh <sub>3</sub>			28			
	12			1,4 <b>-d</b> i	ioxane		PPh <sub>3</sub>			_	
а	Based	on	$^{1}\mathrm{H}$	NMR	spectroscopic	analysis	of	the	crude	product	(using
2,	2,4-dinitro-1-chlorobenzene as the internal standard).										

After screening the phosphines and solvents, the reaction was still producing low yields. It was suspected that the yields could be improved by changing the concentration of the reaction mixture and the ratio of the substrates, as well as by slowing the addition of the allenoate **3a**. First, different ratios of the substrates were tested: the yield increased to 54% when the **1:2a:3a**:PPh<sub>3</sub> ratio was 1:2:3:1 (Table S2, entries 1–4). Running the reaction in more-dilute solutions improved the yield to 62% (Table 2, entry 5). Using a syringe pump to add the allenoate, as a solution in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (8 mL) at a rate of 2 mL/h, to the reaction mixture improved the yield to 73% (Table S2, entry 6). Varying the reaction temperature, the naphthalene **4a** was obtained in 84% yield when the reaction was run at 0 °C (Table 2, entries 7 and 8). The yield did not improve, however, when the reaction system was either more dilute or more concentrated (Table 2, entries 9 and 10). Thus, the optimized reaction conditions were established with a **1:2a:3a**:PPh<sub>3</sub> ratio of 1:2:3:1, triphenylphosphine as the mediator, in CH<sub>3</sub>CN at 0 °C.

CH	10 + TsNH <sub>2</sub> + Of 10	Et PPh <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> CN	OEt	
1a	2a 3a	4a		
entry	ratio (1:2a:3a:PPh <sub>3</sub> )	concentration (M) <sup>a</sup>	temp. (°C)	yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	1:1:1:1	0.080	rt	33
2	1:2:2:2	0.080	rt	50
3	1:2:2:1	0.080	rt	52
4	1:2:3:1	0.080	rt	54
5	1:2:3:1	0.042	rt	62
6	1:2:3:1	0.042	rt	73
7	1:2:3:1	0.042	50	53
8	1:2:3:1	0.042	0	84
9	1:2:3:1	0.036	0	78
10	1:2:3:1	0.050	0	65

**Table S2.** Optimization of the ratio of the substrates, the concentration, and the temperature of the multicomponent reaction.

<sup>*a*</sup>Concentration of *o*-phthalaldehyde. <sup>*b*</sup>Based on <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic analysis of the crude product (using 2,6-dinitro-1-chlorobenzene as the internal standard).

# **3.2 Experimental Procedures**

# General Procedure for the Synthesis of the Naphthalene Derivatives 4a-t.

The dialdehyde 1 (0.5 mmol), the nucleophilic reagent 2 (2 equiv), Ph<sub>3</sub>P (1 equiv, 131 mg),

and MeCN (4 mL) were added sequentially to a flame-dried flask (25 mL) and then the mixture was cooled to 0 °C. A solution of the allenoate **3** (3 equiv) in MeCN (8 mL) was added dropwise over 4 h, and then the reaction mixture was stirred under Ar at 0 °C. After completion of the reaction (TLC), the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the product was purified through silica gel FCC to yield the desired naphthalene products 4a-u.

Characterization Data for Naphthalene Derivativies 4a-u.



Ethyl 3-((4-Methylphenylsulfonamido)methyl)-2-naphthoate (4a). Pale yellow solid (160 mg, 84% yield); m.p. 146 °C;  $R_{\rm f} = 0.52$  (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1); IR (film)  $v_{\rm max}$  3252, 2927, 1710, 1321, 1282, 1157, 1044 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.43 (s, 1H), 7.85 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (s, 1H), 7.61–7.58 (m, 3H), 7.54–7.50 (m, 1H), 7.01 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.00 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.51 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 4.40 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.21 (s, 3H), 1.44 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  167.5, 142.7, 138.0, 134.8, 133.2, 132.9, 131.8, 130.9, 129.2, 128.8, 128.7, 127.6, 127.0, 126.9, 126.3, 61.5, 47.4, 21.3, 14.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S [M + H]<sup>+</sup> m/z 384.1270, found 384.1256.



Ethyl 3-(Phenylsulfonamidomethyl)-2-naphthoate (4b). White solid (163 mg, 88% yield);

m.p. 154 °C;  $R_{\rm f} = 0.52$  (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1); IR (film)  $v_{\rm max}$  3271, 3058, 2980, 1705, 1283, 1160, 1031 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.43 (s, 1H), 7.84 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.72–7.70 (m, 3H), 7.60–7.57 (m, 1H), 7.54–7.51 (m, 1H), 7.33–7.30 (m, 1H), 7.27–7.23 (m, 2H), 6.08 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.53 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.38 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 1.42 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  167.5, 141.0, 134.8, 133.2, 133.0, 132.0, 131.9, 130.9, 128.8, 128.7 (2C), 127.7, 127.1, 126.8, 126.3, 61.5, 47.4, 14.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S [M – H]<sup>+</sup> *m/z* 368.0956, found 368.0971.



Ethyl 3-((4-Fluorophenylsulfonamido)methyl)-2-naphthoate (4c). Pale yellow oil (150 mg, 78% yield);  $R_{\rm f} = 0.61$  (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1); IR (film)  $v_{\rm max}$  3206, 3067, 2982, 1708, 1281, 1134, 1091 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.45 (s, 1H), 7.88–7.86 (m, 1H), 7.78–7.77 (m, 1H), 7.70–7.67 (m, 3H), 7.63–7.59 (m, 1H), 7.56–7.53 (m, 1H), 6.89–6.86 (m, 2H) , 6.09 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 4.53 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 4.39 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.44 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.5, 164.5 (d,  $J_{\rm CF} = 252.5$  Hz), 137.1 (d,  $J_{\rm CF} = 3.3$  Hz), 134.7, 133.1, 132.9, 131.9, 131.0, 129.5 (d,  $J_{\rm CF} = 9.1$  Hz), 129.0, 128.8, 127.6, 127.2, 126.1, 115.7 (d,  $J_{\rm CF} = 22.5$  Hz), 61.6, 47.5, 14.3; <sup>19</sup>F (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ –106.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>17</sub>FNO<sub>4</sub>S [M – H]<sup>+</sup> *m/z* 386.0862, found 386.0872.



Ethyl 3-((3-Methylphenylsulfonamido)methyl)-2-naphthoate (4d). Pale yellow oil (134 mg, 70% yield);  $R_{\rm f} = 0.55$  (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1); IR (film)  $v_{\rm max}$  3284, 2981, 1708, 1218, 1154, 1035 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.39 (s, 1H), 7.83 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.59–7.53 (m, 2H), 7.52–7.48 (m, 1H), 7.37 (s, 1H), 7.12–7.06 (m, 2H), 6.07 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 4.54 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 4.38 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.06 (s, 3H), 1.42 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  167.4, 140.9, 138.8, 134.7, 133.1, 132.9, 132.6, 131.9, 131.0, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 127.7, 127.2, 127.1, 126.1, 123.8, 61.5, 47.6, 20.9, 14.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S [M – H]<sup>+</sup> *m*/*z* 382.1113, found 382.1111.



Ethyl 3-((4-Methoxyphenylsulfonamido)methyl)-2-naphthoate (4e). Colorless oil (120 mg, 60% yield);  $R_{\rm f} = 0.44$  (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1); IR (film)  $v_{\rm max}$  3144,1715, 1490, 1275, 1185, 1026 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.41 (s, 1H), 7.83 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (s, 1H), 7.60 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H); 7.51 (t, J = 7.5Hz, 1H), 6.64 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.00 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 4.49 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 4.38 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 1.42 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  167.4, 162.3, 134.7, 133.2, 133.0, 132.6, 131.8, 130.8, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 127.6, 127.0, 126.2, 113.8, 61.5, 55.4, 47.4, 14.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>S [M + H]<sup>+</sup> m/z400.1219, found 400.1210.



Ethyl 3-((2,6-Dichlorophenylsulfonamido)methyl)-2-naphthoate (4f). White solid (186 mg, 85% yield); m.p. 154 °C;  $R_f = 0.62$  (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1); IR (film)  $v_{max}$  3092, 2927, 1711, 1489, 1219, 1187, 1033 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.37 (s, 1H), 7.75 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.57–7.54 (m, 1H), 7.50–7.48 (m, 1H), 6.98 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.57 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 4.78 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 4.44 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.47 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  167.2, 136.7, 134.3, 134.0, 133.2, 132.0, 131.8, 130.8, 130.7, 130.5, 128.9, 128.6, 127.7, 127.1, 125.4, 61.6, 48.1, 14.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>18</sub>C<sub>12</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S [M + H]<sup>+</sup> *m/z* 438.0334, found 438.0335.



Ethyl 3-(Acetoxymethyl)-2-naphthoate (4g). White solid (125 mg, 92% yield); m.p. 76 °C;  $R_{\rm f} = 0.73$  (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1); IR (film)  $v_{\rm max}$  3178, 1715, 1489, 1268, 1184, 1031 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.56 (s, 1H), 7.92 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (s, 1H), 7.86 (d, J =8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.61–7.58 (m, 1H), 7.56–7.53 (m, 1H), 5.64 (s, 2H), 4.43 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.16 (s, 3H), 1.42 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  170.7, 170.0, 134.7, 132.9, 132.5, 131.9, 128.8, 128.5, 128.2, 127.7, 127.0, 65.2, 61.3, 21.1, 14.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> *m/z* 295.0946, found 295.0955.



Ethyl 3-((Benzoyloxy)methyl)-2-naphthoate (4h). Pale yellow solid (117 mg, 70% yield); m.p. 78 °C;  $R_f = 0.80$  (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1); IR (film)  $v_{max}$  2981, 1717, 1451, 1274, 1167, 1061 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.58 (s, 1H), 8.13–8.10 (m, 2H), 7.98 (s, 1H), 7.95–7.92 (m, 1H), 7.88–7.85 (m, 1H), 7.62–7.54 (m, 3H), 7.49–7.43 (m, 2H), 5.90 (s, 2H), 4.41 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.41 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  167.2, 166.3, 134.7, 133.0, 132.5, 132.0, 130.3, 130.1, 129.8, 128.8, 128.5 (2C), 128.2, 127.8, 127.2, 127.0, 65.7, 61.4, 14.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>19</sub>O<sub>4</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> *m/z* 335.1283, found 335.1268.



Ethyl 3-(Phenoxymethyl)-2-naphthoate (4i). White solid (190 mg, 99% yield); m.p. 80 °C;  $R_{\rm f} = 0.85$  (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1); IR (film)  $v_{\rm max}$  3020, 2978, 1700, 1279, 1173, 1014 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.61 (s, 1H), 8.16 (s, 1H), 7.94 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, J =8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.62–7.51 (m, 2H), 7.37–7.32 (m, 2H), 7.11–7.08 (m, 2H), 7.03–6.98 (m, 1H), 5.62 (d, J = 0.9 Hz, 2H), 4.43 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.43 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  167.1, 157.9, 134.9, 134.0, 132.5, 132.3, 131.7, 128.8, 128.6, 127.8, 126.9, 126.8, 126.2, 116.8, 113.1, 68.9, 61.3, 14.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>19</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> m/z307.1334, found 307.1342.



**Ethyl 3-((4-Bromophenoxy)methyl)-2-naphthoate (4j)**. Brown oil (182 mg, 95% yield); *R*<sub>f</sub> S11

= 0.86 (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1); IR (film)  $v_{\text{max}}$  3057, 2979, 1707, 1486, 1278, 1199, 1028 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.60 (s, 1H), 8.08 (s, 1H), 7.94 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.61–7.53 (m, 2H), 7.40 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 5.57 (s, 2H), 4.41 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.42 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.2, 158.9, 134.9, 134.6, 132.4, 131.7, 129.6, 128.8, 128.7, 127.9, 126.9, 126.7, 126.4, 121.0, 115.0, 68.7, 61.3, 14.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>18</sub>BrO<sub>3</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> m/z 387.0421, found 387.0406.



Ethyl 6,7-Dichloro-3-(phenoxymethyl)-2-naphthoate (4k). White solid (142 mg, 76% yield); m.p. 152 °C;  $R_f = 0.85$  (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1); IR (film)  $v_{max}$  3041, 2930, 1737, 1417, 1268, 1133, 1105 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.48 (s, 1H), 8.07 (s, 1H), 8.04 (s, 1H), 7.99 (s, 1H), 7.33–7.30 (m, 2H), 7.05–7.03 (m, 2H), 7.00–6.97 (m, 1H), 5.58 (s, 2H), 4.41 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.42 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.5, 158.6, 136.3, 133.7, 133.0, 131.1, 130.5, 129.60 (2C), 128.9, 127.5, 125.5, 121.2, 114.9, 68.2, 61.5, 14.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>17</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> m/z 375.0555, found 375.0557.



Ethyl 6,7-Dichloro-3-((4-methylphenylsulfonamido)methyl)-2-naphthoate (4l). White solid (169 mg, 75% yield); m.p. 152 °C;  $R_f = 0.62$  (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1); IR (film)  $v_{\text{max}}$  3282, 1716, 1488, 1216, 1185, 957 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.35 (s, 1H), 7.98 (s, 1H), S12

7.84 (s, 1H), 7.60–7.59 (m, 2H), 7.56 (s, 1H), 7.08 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.91 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 4.40 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 1.43 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.8, 143.0, 137.9, 134.9, 133.4, 133.3, 131.7, 131.6, 130.7, 129.6, 129.5, 129.4, 128.6, 127.6, 126.9, 61.8, 47.0, 21.3, 14.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>20</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S [M + H]<sup>+</sup> *m*/*z* 452.0409, found 452.0482.



Ethyl 7-Methyl-3-(phenoxymethyl)-2-naphthoate (4m) Ethyl and 6-Methyl-3-(phenoxymethyl)-2-naphthoate (4m'). White solid (147 mg, 92% yield); m.p. 86 °C;  $R_{\rm f} = 0.85$  (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1); IR (film)  $v_{\rm max}$  3038, 2979, 2920, 1709, 1598, 1495, 1271, 1238, 1195, 1138, 1037 cm<sup>-1</sup>; Major isomer: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.52 (s, 1H), 8.09 (s, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.35–7.30 (m, 4H), 7.01–6.96 (m, 2H), 5.59 (s, 2H), 4.41 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 1.42 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.3, 158.9, 136.5, 135.2, 133.6, 132.2, 131.8, 129.9, 129.5, 128.6, 127.7, 126.6, 126.1, 125.4, 115.0, 68.7, 61.2, 21.7, 14.3. Minor isomer: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.57 (s, 1H), 8.05 (s, 1H), 7.83 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (s, 1H), 7.44–7.38 (m, 2H), 7.09– 7.06 (m, 4H), 5.61 (s, 2H), 4.41 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 1.42 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.3, 158.9, 138.6, 134.7, 133.2, 131.9, 130.8, 130.0, 129.5, 129.0, 127.7, 126.9, 126.4, 125.7, 120.9, 68.7, 61.1, 21.9, 14.4. HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for  $C_{21}H_{20}O_{3}Na [M + Na]^{+} m/z$  343.1310, found 343.1310.



Ethyl 6-Nitro-3-(phenoxymethyl)-2-naphthoate (4n). White solid (176 mg, 50% yield); m.p. 136 °C;  $R_{\rm f} = 0.80$  (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1); IR (film)  $v_{\rm max}$  3088, 2979, 1714, 1598, 1538, 1345, 1281, 1246, 1190, 1042 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.83 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.66 (s, 1H), 8.39 (s, 1H), 8.29 (dd, J = 2.0, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.35–7.32 (m, 2H), 7.07–7.05 (m, 2H), 7.02–6.99 (m, 1H), 5.62 (d, J = 1.0 Hz, 2H), 4.45 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.44 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.4, 158.4, 147.1, 137.2, 134.0, 133.6, 131.8, 130.5, 129.9, 129.7, 128.6, 124.4, 121.3, 120.0, 114.9, 68.0, 61.8, 14.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sub>5</sub> [M – H]<sup>+</sup> *m/z* 350.1028, found 350.1039.



Ethyl 7-Nitro-3-(phenoxymethyl)-2-naphthoate (4n'). White solid (160 mg, 46% yield); m.p. 144 °C;  $R_f = 0.85$  (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1); IR (film)  $v_{max}$  3088, 2982, 1712, 1598, 1494, 1340, 1241, 1195, 1192, 1042 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.90 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.78 (s, 1H), 8.35 (dd, J = 2.0, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.32 (s, 1H), 8.02 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.35–7.32 (m, 2H), 7.08–7.06 (m, 2H), 7.02–6.99 (m, 1H), 5.65 (d, J = 1.0 Hz, 2H), 4.46 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.46 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.2, 158.5, 146.0, 139.3, 137.2, 134.0, 130.2, 129.7, 129.6, 128.3, 126.5, 125.4, 121.8, 121.3, 114.9, 68.2, 61.7, 14.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sub>5</sub> [M – H]<sup>+</sup> *m/z* 350.1028, found 350.1025. **ORTEP** Representation of the Solid State Structure of Compound 4n'



Diethyl 3,6-Bis(acetoxymethyl)anthracene-2,7-dicarboxylate (4o) and Diethyl 3,7-Bis(acetoxymethyl)anthracene-2,6-dicarboxylate (4o'). Yellow solid (163 mg, 70% yield); m.p. 170 °C;  $R_f = 0.32$  (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1); IR (film)  $v_{max}$  3055, 2975, 2940, 1732, 1714, 1294, 1238, 1158, 1037 cm<sup>-1</sup>; 4o: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.77 (s, 2H), 8.64 (s, 1H), 8.45 (s, 1H), 8.06 (s, 2H), 5.67 (s, 4H), 4.46 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 2.19 (s, 6H), 1.47 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  170.7, 166.8, 133.5, 133.4, 132.5, 131.4, 130.3, 128.5, 128.1, 127.3, 65.2, 61.5, 21.1, 14.3. 4o': <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.75 (s, 2H), 8.55 (s, 2H), 8.07 (s, 2H), 5.67 (s, 4H), 4.46 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 2.19 (s, 6H), 1.47 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  170.7, 166.7, 133.8, 133.1, 132.3, 130.0, 128.2, 127.9, 126.3, 65.2, 61.5, 21.1, 14.3. HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>8</sub>Na [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> m/z 489.1525, found 489.1530.



Benzyl 3-((4-Methylphenylsulfonamido)methyl)-2-naphthoate (4p). Pale yellow oil (222 mg, 99% yield);  $R_{\rm f} = 0.52$  (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1); IR (film)  $v_{\rm max}$  3277, 3031, 2944, 1707, 1278, 1150, 1040 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.45 (s, 1H), 7.82 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.60–7.56 (m, 1H), 7.54–7.44 (m, 7 H), 7.39–7.36 (m, 3H), 6.95 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.99 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 4.53 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.20 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  167.2, 142.7, 138.0, 135.7, 134.8, 133.2 (2C), 131.8, 130.9, 129.2, 128.9, 128.8 (2C), 128.6 (2C), 128.5, 127.7, 127.1, 126.9, 67.2, 47.4, 21.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>24</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S [M + H]<sup>+</sup> *m/z* 446.1426, found 446.1430.



**Benzyl 3-((4-Nitrophenylsulfonamido)methyl)-2-naphthoate (4q).** White solid (95 mg, 40% yield); m.p. 122 °C;  $R_f = 0.52$  (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1); IR (film)  $v_{max}$  3187, 1715, 1597, 1490, 1274, 1217, 1185, 1132, 957 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.38 (s, 1H), 7.80–7.73 (m, 4H), 7.64–7.60 (m, 4H), 7.55–7.51 (m, 1H), 7.50–7.42 (m, 5H), 6.27 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 5.38 (s, 2H), 4.61 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  167.2, 149.0, 147.0, 135.5, 134.5, 133.5, 132.2, 131.8, 131.4, 129.5, 128.9, 128.8 (2C), 128.6, 127.8, 127.6, 127.4, 125.5, 123.5, 67.4, 47.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>S [M + H]<sup>+</sup> *m/z* 477.1120, found 477.1106.



Benzyl 3-(Acetoxymethyl)-2-naphthoate (4r). White solid (142 mg, 85% yield); m.p. 74 °C;  $R_{\rm f} = 0.65$  (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1); IR (film)  $v_{\rm max}$  3061, 2985, 1716, 1455, 1278, 1240, 1130, 959 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.60 (s, 1H), 7.92–7.90 (m, 2H), 7.87–7.85 (m, 1H), 7.61–7.58 (m, 1H), 7.55–7.53 (m, 1H), 7.52–7.50 (m, 2H), 7.44–7.41 (m, 2H), 7.39–7.37 (m, 1H), 5.65 (s, 2H), 5.42 (s, 2H), 2.11 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  170.7, 166.7, 135.9, 134.7, 133.1, 132.8, 131.9, 128.9, 128.7 (2C), 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 127.7, 127.0, 126.5, 67.0, 65.1, 21.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> *m/z* 357.1103, found 357.1115.



**2-(Trimethylsilyl)ethyl 3-((4-Methylphenylsulfonamido)methyl)-2-naphthoate** (4s). Colorless oil (198 mg, 87% yield);  $R_{\rm f} = 0.53$  (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1); IR (film)  $v_{\rm max}$  3300, 3058, 2953, 1701, 1280, 1157, 1042 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.43 (s, 1H), 7.85–7.82 (m, 1H), 7.75–7.72 (m, 1H), 7.64 (s, 1H), 7.61–7.56 (m, 3H), 7.54–7.49 (m, 1H), 7.01–6.98 (m, 2H), 6.03 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 4.51 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 4.46–4.40 (m, 2H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 1.20–1.15 (m, 2H), 0.12 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  167.7, 142.7, 138.1, 134.7, 133.2, 133.0, 131.9, 130.9, 129.2, 128.7 (2C) , 127.7, 127.0, 126.9, 126.5, 63.9, 47.5, 21.3, 17.6, –1.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>30</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>SSi [M + H]<sup>+</sup> *m/z* 456.1665, found 456.1674.



**2,6-Dimethylphenyl 3-(Phenoxymethyl)-2-naphthoate (4t)**. Colorless oil (160 mg, 73% yield);  $R_{\rm f} = 0.85$  (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1); IR (film)  $v_{\rm max}$  3033, 2920, 1726, 1280, 1162, 1110 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.96 (s, 1H), 8.29 (s, 1H), 8.02 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.69–7.63 (m, 1H), 7.62–7.57 (m, 1H), 7.33–7.28 (m, 2H), 7.17–7.12 (m, 3H), 7.10–7.06 (m, 2H), 7.00–6.95 (m, 1H), 5.67 (s, 2H), 2.27 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  164.7, 158.8, 148.3, 135.4 (2C), 133.2, 131.6, 130.4, 129.5, 129.0, 128.8, 128.0, 127.1, 126.9, 126.1, 124.5, 121.0, 114.8, 68.4, 16.5; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> *m/z* 405.1467, found 405.1463.



**1-(3-(Phenoxymethyl)naphthalen-2-yl)ethanone (4u)**. White solid (135 mg, 98% yield); m.p. 72 °C;  $R_{\rm f} = 0.72$  (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1); IR (film)  $v_{\rm max}$  3144, 1738, 1597, 1490, 1217, 1186, 956 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.36 (s, 1H), 8.19 (s, 1H), 7.93 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.64–7.53 (m, 2H), 7.35–7.32 (m, 2H), 7.11–7.08 (m, 2H), 7.02–6.99 (m, 1H), 5.57 (s, 2H), 2.76 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  201.0, 158.8, 134.8, 133.8, 131.8, 131.5, 129.7, 129.6, 128.8, 128.0, 126.9, 126.8, 121.0, 115.0, 68.7, 28.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>17</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> *m/z* 277.1229, found 277.1231.

## 4. Mechanistic Studies



#### 4.1 Synthesis of the Phosphonium Salt 5.

Ethyl 4-Bromo-3-oxobutanoate (S1). Prepared using the reported method<sup>13</sup> in 65% yield.



Ethyl 3-Oxo-4-phenoxybutanoate (S2). Prepared using the reported method<sup>14</sup> in 80% yield.

Ethyl 3-Hydroxy-4-phenoxybutanoate (S3). NaBH<sub>4</sub> (2 equiv) was added slowly to a stirring solution of the ketone S2 (1.2 mmol) in MeOH at 0 °C. Upon completion (TLC), the reaction was quenched through slow addition of water at 0 °C. The aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic phases were dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified through FCC to yield a pale yellow oil (70%).  $R_f = 0.30$  (hexane/EtOAc, 1:1); IR (film)  $v_{\text{max}}$  3466, 3015, 2970, 1730, 1599, 1495, 1172, 1041 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300

MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.36–7.30 (m, 2H), 7.04–6.94 (m, 3H), 4.51–4.43 (m, 1H), 4.24 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.05 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 2H), 3.16 (s, 1H), 2.73 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 2.71 (d, J = 4.5 Hz, 1H), 1.33 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  172.2, 158.4, 129.6, 121.2, 114.6, 70.7, 66.8, 60.9, 38.1, 14.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>17</sub>O<sub>4</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> m/z 225.1127, found 225.1126.

Ethyl **3-Iodo-4-phenoxybutanoate** (S4). 2,6-Lutidine (1.2)equiv) and trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride (1.1 equiv) were added dropwise and successively to a solution of the alcohol S3 (0.2 mmol) in dry DCM at 0 °C under an inert atmosphere. The mixture was then stirred at the same temperature and monitored (TLC) for consumption of the starting material. After 1.5 h, the mixture was dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated under reduced pressure to obtain the crude product. Without purification, the crude product was dissolved in acetone and sodium iodide (1 equiv) was added. The resulting mixture was heated under reflux for 2 h and monitored (TLC) for consumption of the starting material. The reaction was quenched with water and the aqueous phase was extracted with DCM. The combined organic phases were dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified through FCC to yield a yellow/brown oil (80% over two steps).  $R_f = 0.72$  (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1); IR (film) v<sub>max</sub> 3043, 2979, 1733, 1597, 1494, 1185, 1029 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.36–7.30 (m, 2H), 7.06–7.00 (m, 1H), 6.96–6.93 (m, 2H), 4.70–4.60 (m, 1H), 4.35 (dd, J = 2.1, 10.2 Hz, 1H, 4.28–4.13 (m, 3H), 3.36 (dd, J = 2.4, 16.5 Hz, 1H), 3.03 (dd, J = 3.1, 16.5 Hz, 1H), 1.32 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  170.5, 157.8, 129.6, 121.6, 114.8, 72.7, 61.1, 42.2, 20.6, 14.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for  $C_{12}H_{16}IO_3 [M + H]^+$ *m*/*z* 335.0144, found 335.0155.



(4-Ethoxy-4-oxo-1-phenoxybutan-2-yl)triphenylphosphonium Iodide (5). The alkyl iodide S4 (668 mg, 2 mmol) and PPh<sub>3</sub> (1.2 equiv) were added to degassed dry toluene. The tube was sealed and heated at 140 °C for 7 days. The mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and then purified through FCC to obtain the phosphonium salt **5** as a yellow oil (4%). IR (film)  $v_{\text{max}}$  3088, 3027, 2874, 1732, 1603, 1495, 1177, 1030 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.91–7.87 (m, 6H), 7.78–7.75 (m, 3H), 7.69–7.65 (m, 6H), 7.16–7.13 (m, 2H), 6.92–6.89 (m, 1H), 6.54–6.52 (m, 2H), 5.43–5.38 (m, 1H), 4.54–4.44 (m, 2H), 4.08 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.18–3.11 (m, 1H), 3.00–2.92 (m, 1H), 1.18 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  169.7 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 12.6 Hz), 156.7, 135.0 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 3.0 Hz), 134.5 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 9.9 Hz), 130.3 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 12.5 Hz), 129.6, 122.2, 117.6 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 84.5 Hz), 114.2, 65.9 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 5.1 Hz), 62.1, 33.1, 32.3 (d, *J*<sub>CP</sub> = 50.1 Hz), 14.2; <sup>31</sup>P NMR (121 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  30.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>30</sub>O<sub>3</sub>P [M – I]<sup>+</sup> *m/z* 469.1933, found 469.1944.

## 4.2 Synthesis of the Lactol 6.



The starting material, ethyl 4-bromobut-2-ynoate, was prepared according to a reported procedure.<sup>15</sup>



Ethyl 2-(3-Hydroxy-1,3-dihydroisobenzofuran-1-yl)buta-2,3-dienoate (6). Prepared using the reported method in 30% yield.<sup>15</sup>  $R_{\rm f} = 0.32$  (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1); IR (film)  $v_{\rm max}$  3439, 3178, 2987, 1739, 1268 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Major isomer: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.46–7.39 (m, 3H), 7.25–7.22 (m, 1H), 6.42 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 5.81 (s, 1H), 5.38 (s, 2H), 4.68 (d, J = 12.0Hz, 1H), 4.21–4.08 (m, 2H), 1.25 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 215.2, 165.7, 140.1, 139.6, 129.3, 128.7, 123.0, 121.2, 102.2, 100.9, 81.8, 80.0, 61.4, 14.1. Minor isomer: 7.52–7.47 (m, 3H), 7.33–7.30 (m, 1H), 6.61 (dd, J = 2.1, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.25 (s, 1H), 5.29 (dd, J = 1.5, 14.4 Hz, 1H), 5.22 (dd, J = 1.5, 14.4 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.41 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 1.29 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 213.7, 165.5, 140.8, 139.4, 129.4, 128.5, 122.9, 122.2, 102.4, 101.6, 81.4, 79.9, 61.3, 14.2. HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> *m/z* 269.0790, found 269.0791.

## 4.3 Experimental Procedures for Eqs 3-6.



NaH (1 equiv) was added slowly to a solution of the phosphonium salt **5** (1 equiv) and *o*-phthalaldehyde (13.4 mg, 0.10 mmol) in toluene (1 mL) at room temperature. After stirring the mixture at room temperature for 4 h, the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified through FCC to yield the naphthalene derivative **4i** (70%).



Ethyl buta-2,3-dienoate was added in one batch to a solution of triphenylphosphine (1 equiv), *o*-phthalaldehyde (13.4 mg, 0.10 mmol), phenol (1 equiv), and sodium iodide (1 equiv) in toluene (1 mL) at room temperature. After stirring the mixture at room temperature for 4 h, the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified through FCC to yield the naphthalene derivative **4i** (69%).



Phenol (9.4 mg, 0.1 mmol) was added to a solution of the lactol **6** (1 equiv) and triphenylphosphine (1 equiv) in toluene (1 mL) at room temperature. After stirring the mixture at room temperature for 30 min, the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified through FCC to yield the naphthalene derivative **4i** (45%).



Ethyl buta-2,3-dienoate was added in one batch to a solution of triphenylphosphine (1 equiv), *o*-phthalaldehyde (13.4 mg, 0.1 mmol), and phenol (1 equiv) in toluene (1 mL) at room temperature. After stirring the mixture at room temperature for 6 h, the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified through FCC to yield the naphthalene derivative **4i** (70%).

#### 4.4 HRMS Traces of the Reaction

Whereas peaks corresponding to triphenylphosphine  $([M + H]^+, m/z \ 263.0990)$ , triphenylphosphine oxide  $([M + H]^+, m/z \ 279.0939)$ , the phosphonium dienolate **A**  $([M + H]^+, m/z \ 375.1514)$ , the  $\gamma$ -umpolung addition adduct **B**  $([M + Na]^+, m/z \ 491.1752)$ , and the aldol addition product **F**  $([M + H]^+, m/z \ 509.1882)$  were clearly visible in the HRMS traces of the crude reaction mixture, the signal for the product **4i** (M + H = 307.1334) was not detected during the entire duration of the reaction. Therefore, parallel multicomponent reactions were set up and analyzed using HPLC to monitor the progress of the reaction.

Ethyl buta-2,3-dienoate (1 equiv) was added in one batch to a solution of triphenylphosphine (1 equiv), *o*-phthalaldehyde (13.4 mg, 0.1 mmol), and phenol (1 equiv) in toluene (1 mL) at room temperature. After 1 min, 3 min, 5 min, 10 min, 40 min, 2 h, 4 h, and 6 h, an aliquot (5  $\mu$  L) of the reaction mixture was taken and diluted with DCM (1 mL). A portion (5  $\mu$  L) of each solution was dissolved in methanol (1 mL) and then a sample (0.2  $\mu$  L) was injected for HRMS analysis. The desired product **4i** was formed at 3 min (8.3% yield according to the HPLC analysis), at which point the peak corresponding to the  $\gamma$ -addition product **B** ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, *m/z* 491.1752) was clearly visible, while the peak corresponding to the aldol adduct **F** ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>, *m/z* 509. 1882) was barely visible. The reaction steadily progressed (according to HPLC analysis, with a growing phosphine oxide peak ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>, *m/z* 279.0939)), but the aldol adduct **F** peak was clearly visible only after 2 h (52.4% yield of **4i**). After 6 h (72.2% yield of **4i**), the reaction had reached completion, with the peaks corresponding to both **B** and **F** being barely visible.



Figure S1. HRMS monitoring of the reaction.

#### 4.5 HPLC Monitoring of the Conversion

Eight parallel multicomponent reactions were set up. Ethyl buta-2,3-dienoate (1 equiv) was added in one batch to a solution of triphenylphosphine (1 equiv), o-phthalaldehyde (13.4 mg, 0.1 mmol), and phenol (1 equiv) in toluene (1 mL) at room temperature. The reactions were quenched after 1 min, 3 min, 10 min, 40 min, 2 h, 4 h, 6 h, and 8 h by passing the reaction pipette mixtures through small column, elution with EtOAc (10 mL). а 1-Chloro-2,4-dinitrobenzene (0.1 mmol) was added as the internal standard to each collected solution. An aliquot (0.1 mL) of each of the above solutions was diluted with DCM (1 mL) and then a sample (10  $\mu$  L) was injected into the HPLC apparatus. The conversions of the reaction were determined through HPLC using a Shimadzu CBM Lite system and a REGIS (R,R)-DACH DNB analytical (diameter: 4.5 mm) column, with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/hexane (9:1) as the eluent.



1. Product 4i and internal standard 1-chloro-2,4-dinitrobenzene in 1:1 ratio



## 2. Product 4i and internal standard 1-chloro-2,4-dinitrobenzene after 1 min

3. Product 4i and internal standard 1-chloro-2,4-dinitrobenzene after 3 min



4. Product 4i and internal standard 1-chloro-2,4-dinitrobenzene after 10 min



5. Product 4i and internal standard 1-chloro-2,4-dinitrobenzene after 40 min



6. Product 4i and internal standard 1-chloro-2,4-dinitrobenzene after 2 h



Retention Time	Area	Area %	Height	Height %
7.783	2919579	22.31	96464	21.17
11.200	10165845	77.69	359139	78.83
Totals				
	13085424	100.00	455603	100.00

7. Product 4i and internal standard 1-chloro-2,4-dinitrobenzene after 4 h



8. Product 4i and internal standard 1-chloro-2,4-dinitrobenzene after 6 h



9. Product 4i and internal standard 1-chloro-2,4-dinitrobenzene after 8 h



Time	Yield of <b>4i</b>
1 min	1%
3 min	8.3%
10 min	31.3%
40 min	37.5%
2 h	52.4%
4 h	63.2%
6 h	72.2%
8 h	73.5%

# 5. Aldol/Wittig reaction

## 5.1 Optimization of Conditions for the Two-Component Reaction

To determine the optimal reaction conditions, several reaction variables were tested, including

solvents, phosphines, and reaction temperatures. The reaction of *o*-phthalaldehyde (1a), ethyl 2,3-pentadienoate, and triphenylphosphine as mediator was tested to establish the reaction conditions (Table S3). A screen of several solvents revealed that toluene gave the best yield (80%) (entries 1–7). Having selected toluene as the best solvent, several other phosphines were examined. Tris(4-fluorophenyl)phosphine also gave the desired product, but the yield was lower that that obtained using triphenylphosphine (entry 8). Tris(2-furyl)phosphine failed produce desired When tributylphosphine any product (entry 9). and to ethyldiphenylphosphine were used as mediators, the yields of the desired product increased to 87 and 94%, respectively (entries 10-11). An examination of the reaction temperature revealed that the naphthalene 7a was obtained from reactions run at 0 and 50 °C in 97 and 84% yields, respectively (entries 12-13). Thus, the optimized reaction conditions were established as using ethyldiphenylphosphine as the mediator in toluene at room temperature. Although the reaction yield was slightly higher when run at 0 °C, the reaction was performed at room temperature for ease of operation.

Table S3. Optimization for the aldol/Wittig reaction.<sup>a</sup>

	СНО	+ OEt Phosphine OOEt Solvent	OEt 7a	
entry	solvent	phosphine	temp	yield
			(°C)	(%) <sup>b</sup>
1	DCM	PPh <sub>3</sub>	rt	70
2	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	PPh <sub>3</sub>	rt	58

3	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	PPh <sub>3</sub>	rt	42
4	THF	PPh <sub>3</sub>	rt	67
5	PhH	PPh <sub>3</sub>	rt	77
6	toluene	PPh <sub>3</sub>	rt	80
7	1,4-dioxane	PPh <sub>3</sub>	rt	66
8	toluene	Tris(4-fluorophenyl)phosphine	rt	70
9	toluene	Tris(2-furyl)phosphine	rt	NR
10	toluene	PBu <sub>3</sub>	rt	87
11	toluene	EtPh <sub>2</sub> P	rt	94 (95) <sup>c</sup>
12	toluene	EtPh <sub>2</sub> P	0	97
13	toluene	EtPh <sub>2</sub> P	50	84

<sup>*a*</sup>Conditions: **1a** (0.2 mmol), a phosphine (1 equiv), and ethyl 2,3-pentadienoate (2 equiv) were dissolved in a tested solvent (8 mL). <sup>*b*</sup>Based on <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic analysis of the crude product (using 2,4-dinitro-1-chlorobenzene as the internal standard). <sup>*c*</sup>Isolated yield.

## **5.2 Experimental Procedures**

## General Procedure for the Synthesis of the Naphthalene Derivatives 7a-g

*o*-Phthalaldehyde (0.2 mmol), EtPh<sub>2</sub>P (1 equiv), and toluene (4 mL) were added sequentially to a flame-dried flask (25 mL) at room temperature. A  $\gamma$ -substituted allenoate (2 equiv) was added to the flask and then the mixture was stirred under Ar at room temperature. After completion of the reaction (TLC), the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the

product purified through silica gel FCC to yield the desired naphthalene product 7a-g.

## Characterization Data for Naphthalene Derivatives 7a-g



Ethyl 3-Vinyl-2-naphthoate (7a). Pale yellow oil (43 mg, 97% yield);  $R_{\rm f} = 0.72$ (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1); IR (film)  $v_{\rm max}$  3025, 2979, 1726, 1258, 1226, 1075, 737 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.45 (s, 1H), 7.98 (s, 1H), 7.90–7.84 (m, 2H), 7.59–7.47 (m, 3H), 5.72 (dd, J = 1.5, 17.1 Hz, 1H), 5.38 (dd, J = 1.5, 10.8 Hz, 1H), 4.43 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.45 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  167.5, 136.5, 136.1, 134.9, 131.9, 131.5, 128.7, 128.3, 127.8, 127.4, 126.6, 126.5, 115.9, 61.2, 14.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>15</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> *m/z* 227.1072, found 227.1065.



Ethyl 6,7-Dichloro-3-vinyl-2-naphthoate (7b). Pale yellow oil (54 mg, 93% yield);  $R_{\rm f} = 0.75$  (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1); IR (film)  $v_{\rm max}$  3286, 3178, 3144, 1716, 1598, 1490, 1185, 1027, 957 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.34 (s, 1H), 7.99 (s, 1H), 7.95 (s, 1H), 7.86 (s, 1H), 7.48 (dd, J = 11, 17.5 Hz, 1H) 5.71 (dd, J = 1.5, 17.5 Hz, 1H), 5.41 (dd, J = 1.5, 11 Hz, 1H), 4.43 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.44 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.8, 137.4, 135.8, 133.6, 132.8, 131.0, 130.6, 130.3, 129.5, 128.6 (2C), 125.3, 116.9, 61.5, 14.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for [M + H]<sup>+</sup> m/z C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>C<sub>12</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 295.0293, found 295.0282.



Ethyl 3-Vinylanthracene-2-carboxylate (7c). Pale yellow oil (55 mg, 100% yield);  $R_{\rm f} = 0.72$ (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1); IR (film)  $v_{\rm max}$  2982, 1720, 1277, 1228, 1075, 748 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.64 (s, 1H), 8.46 (s, 1H), 8.38 (s, 1H), 8.10 (s, 1H), 8.00 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.57–7.47 (m, 3H), 5.76 (dd, J = 1.5, 17 Hz, 1H), 5.39 (dd, J = 1.5, 16 Hz, 1H), 4.46 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.48 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  167.4, 136.7, 135.0, 133.2, 132.7, 132.2, 132.0, 129.8, 128.5, 128.2, 128.0, 127.3, 126.5, 126.2, 125.8, 115.6, 61.2, 14.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>17</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> *m/z* 277.1229, found 277.1227.



(*E*)-Ethyl 3-(But-1-en-1-yl)-2-naphthoate (7d). Pale yellow oil (48 mg, 95% yield);  $R_{\rm f} = 0.72$  (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1); IR (film)  $v_{\rm max}$  3178, 2987, 1715, 1597, 1266, 1185, 1028, 958 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.41 (s, 1H), 7.93 (s, 1H), 7.87 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (d, J = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 6.25 (dt, J = 6.5, 15.5 Hz, 1H), 4.43 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.35–2.29 (m, 2H), 1.45 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.16 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  167.8, 136.0, 135.0, 134.9, 131.4 (2C), 128.7, 128.1, 128.0, 127.5, 127.4, 126.1 (2C), 61.1, 26.3, 14.4, 13.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>19</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> m/z 255.1385, found 255.1382.



(*E*)-Ethyl 3-(2-Cyclopentylvinyl)-2-naphthoate (7e). Pale yellow oil (56 mg, 96% yield);  $R_{\rm f}$ = 0.82 (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1); IR (film)  $v_{\rm max}$  3178, 2952, 1723, 1266, 1200, 1059 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H S34 NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.40 (s, 1H), 7.94 (s, 1H), 7.86 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d, J = 16 Hz, 1H), 6.20 (dd, J = 7.5, 15.5 Hz, 1H), 4.43 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.75–2.67 (m, 1H), 1.96–1.90 (m, 2H), 1.78–1.70 (m, 2H), 1.69–1.60 (m, 2H), 1.51–1.48 (m, 2H), 1.45 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  167.8, 137.9, 135.9, 135.0, 131.4 (2C), 128.7, 128.1, 127.5 (2C), 127.0, 126.1, 125.9, 61.1, 44.0, 33.2, 25.3, 14.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>23</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> m/z 295.1690, found 295.1698.



*tert*-Butyl 3-Vinyl-2-naphthoate (7f). Pale yellow oil (49 mg, 97% yield);  $R_f = 0.75$ (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1); IR (film)  $v_{\text{max}}$  3292, 2978, 1771, 1597, 1287, 1168, 1097, 957 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.35 (s, 1H), 7.95 (s, 1H), 7.88 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.50–7.44 (m, 2H), 5.70 (dd, J = 1.5, 17 Hz, 1H), 5.36 (dd, J = 1.5, 11 Hz, 1H), 1.65 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.9, 136.8, 135.9, 134.7, 131.9, 131.1, 129.1, 128.6, 128.0, 127.7, 126.4 (2C), 115.5, 81.7, 28.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>19</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> m/z 255.1385, found 255.1381.



**Benzyl 3-Vinyl-2-naphthoate (7g).** Pale yellow oil (54 mg, 93% yield);  $R_{\rm f} = 0.75$ (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1); IR (film) v<sub>max</sub> 3289, 3178, 3144, 1713, 1598, 1490, 1186, 1028, 957 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.50 (s, 1H), 7.98 (s, 1H), 7.89–7.85 (m, 2H), 7.58– 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.51–7.50 (m, 3H), 7.44–7.41 (m, 2H), 7.38–7.37 (m, 1H), 5.73 (dd, J = 1.5, 17Hz, 1H), 5.42 (s, 2H), 5.38 (dd, J = 1.5, 11 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  167.2, 835 136.5, 136.3, 136.0, 135.0, 131.8 (2C), 128.8, 128.7, 128.4 (2C), 128.3, 127.8, 126.8, 126.6 (2C), 116.0, 67.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for  $C_{20}H_{17}O_2$  [M + H]<sup>+</sup> m/z 289.1229, found 289.1227.

6. Application



Ethyl 3-(Acetoxymethyl)anthracene-2-carboxylate (9). Pale yellow solid (85%); m.p. 142 °C;  $R_f = 0.51$  (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1); IR (film)  $v_{max}$  3286, 3176, 1737, 1490, 1217, 1184, 1030 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.74 (s, 1H), 8.51 (s, 1H), 8.41 (s, 1H), 8.03– 8.00 (m, 3H), 7.54–7.49 (m, 2H), 5.65 (s, 2H), 4.45 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.18 (s, 3H), 1.46 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  170.8, 167.0, 133.8, 133.3, 132.2, 131.8, 131.6, 129.8, 128.5, 128.4, 128.2, 128.2, 126.7, 126.3, 126.0, 65.4, 61.3, 21.1, 14.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> *m/z* 345.1103, found 345.1114.



Ethyl 3-(Acetoxymethyl)tetracene-2-carboxylate (11). Red solid (72%); m.p. 356 °C;  $R_{\rm f} = 0.32$  (hexane/EtOAc, 1:1); IR (film)  $v_{\rm max}$  3053, 2983, 1740, 1456, 1217, 1177, 1031 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.82–8.80 (m, 2H), 8.74–8.69 (m, 3H), 8.08–8.04 (m, 3H), 7.50–7.47 (m, 2H), 5.69 (s, 2H), 4.50 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.23 (s, 3H), 1.52 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  170.8, 166.9, 134.4, 132.3, 131.8, 131.3, 131.1, 131.0,
130.5, 129.5, 128.9, 128.7, 128.4, 128.3, 127.0, 126.5 (2C), 125.9, 125.7, 86.8, 65.5, 61.3,
21.1, 14.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF) Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>21</sub>O<sub>4</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> m/z 373.1440, found 373.1447.

# 7. Photophysical Studies

#### 7.1 Absorption and Fluorescence Spectra of 4g, 9, and 11

UV–Vis spectra were recorded using an Ocean Optics USB2000 spectrophotometer equipped with a DT-MINI-2-GS light source. The spectra were recorded using a 1-mm quartz cuvette, with spectra-grade DCM as the solvent.



Figure S2. UV–Vis absorbance spectra of compounds 4g (blue line), 9 (green line), and 11 (red line), with logarithms of extinction coefficients.

### 7.2 Fluorescence Quantum Yield in the Solution State

Fluorescence spectra were recorded using an Edinburgh Instruments FLSP920 spectrometer equipped with a Xe900 xenon bulb. The spectra were recorded using a 1-mm quartz cuvette, with spectra-grade cyclohexane as the solvent. The relative fluorescence quantum yield was measured using anthracene ( $\Phi_{\rm f}$  = 0.27 in ethanol) as the standard, using the following equation

$$\Phi_u = \Phi_s \frac{A_s F_u \eta_r^2}{A_u F_s \eta_s^2}$$

where  $A_s$  and  $A_u$  are the absorbances of the standard and unknown samples, respectively, at the excitation wavelength;  $F_s$  and  $F_u$  are the integrated fluorescence intensities, respectively; and  $\eta$  is for the refractive index of the solvent used.<sup>16</sup> Here, the samples herein excited at 315 nm, with the absorbance at the excitation wavelength being less than 0.1. The lifetime of the compounds was not obtained because of the low absorbance at 303 nm (the emitting wavelength of the equipped pulsed diode laser).



Figure S3. Linear plots of the absorbance and fluorescence intensities for anthracene (purple line) and compounds 4g (blue line), 9 (green line), and 11 (red line).

 Table S4:
 Summary of photophysical data.

compound	$\varepsilon$ (M <sup>-1</sup> cm <sup>-1</sup> )	excitation (nm)	emission (nm)	quantum yield
COOEt OAc	$7.7 \times 10^3$ (281 nm), $1.6 \times 10^3$ (336 nm)	280, 290, 326, 336	342, 359, 376	0.18
COOEt OAc	$9.7 \times 10^4$ (263 nm), $3.6 \times 10^3$ (359 nm)	270, 341, 358, 378, 396	406, 431, 461, 488	0.69
COOEt OAc	$7.9 \times 10^4 (291)$ nm), $2.4 \times 10^3$ (457 nm)	289, 317, 452, 480	495, 531, 574	0.15

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# 9. 1H and 13C NMR Spectra of All New Compounds













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S69





7e



7f




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