

Supporting Information

Transition-Metal-Free Reductive Hydroxymethylation of Isoquinolines

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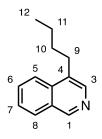
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Experimental

Unless stated otherwise, all chemicals were purchased from commercial suppliers (Sigma-Aldrich, Fluorochem, Alfa Aesar) and used without further purification. ¹H and ¹³C spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVIII400 Spectrometer (400 MHz, and 101 MHz respectively), in CDCl₃, DMSO-d6 or MeOD-d4, and referenced to residual solvent peaks. ²H spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVII500 (²H: 500 MHz) in CHCl₃, referenced to trace CDCl₃ solvent peaks. Chemical shifts (δ) are quoted in parts per million (ppm) to the nearest 0.01 for ¹H and 0.1 for ¹³C, coupling constants J are quoted in Hz to the nearest 0.1 and splitting are recorded as singlet (s), doublet (d), triplet (t), quartet (q), pentet (p), heptet (h), and multiplet (m). Assignments were based upon COSY, DEPT, HSQC, HMBC, and NOESY experiments. Chemical shifts and splitting patterns are recorded as observed. ¹H NMR yields were determined using a known quantity of trimethoxybenzene internal standard, which was added to the crude reaction mixture following evaporation under reduced pressure. Quantitative ¹H NMR experiments were run on a Bruker AVIII400 Spectrometer using a 25 second relaxation time between scans. The singlet at 6.08 ppm, allowed quantitative integration of known product peaks. Infrared spectra were recorded on a Bruker Tensor 27 FT-IR spectrometer fitted with an Attenuated Total Reflectance (ATR) sampling accessory. Absorption maxima are quoted in wavenumbers (cm⁻¹). Mass spectra were recorded on a Fisons Platform II spectrometer under electrospray ionisation (ESI). High resolution mass spectra are given to four decimal places and were recorded on a Bruker MicroTof (resolution = 10000 FWHM). Melting points (m.p.) were obtained using a Lecia VMGT heated-stage microscope. Analytical thin layer chromatography was performed on pre-coated silica gel aluminium sheets from Merck (TLC Silica Gel 60 F254s). Spots were visualized either by the quenching of UV fluorescence, and by staining with potassium permanganate or phosphomolybdic acid solution. All chiral compounds are racemic mixtures. ICP-OES analysis of the isoquinoliniums were conducted on an Agilent 5100/5110 SVDV instrument with a Burgener T-2100 polymeric parallel path nebulizer.

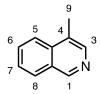
Synthesis of isoquinolines

General Procedure A: A solution of 4-bromoisoquinoline (1 equiv.), alkyl boronic acid (2 equiv.), potassium phosphate (4 equiv.), and SPhos (1 mol%) in toluene (10 mL per mmol) was sparged with argon for two minutes. Then Pd₂dba₃ (0.5 mol%) was added to this solution and the reaction mixture was heated at reflux for 12 h under a balloon of argon. The reaction was quenched with distilled water (10 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (20 mL x 3). The organic layers were combined and dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate, filtered and evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude material was purified by chromatography to give the pure product.



4-Butylisoquinoline (S1) The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A using butyl boronic acid (0.98 g, 9.62 mmol), and purified by silica gel chromatography (10-30% EtOAc in pentane) to give **S1** as a yellow oil (2.041 g, 99%). ¹H NMR: (CDCl₃) δ 9.12 (s, 1H), 8.37 (s, 1H), 8.05 – 7.94 (m, 2H), 7.73 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 6.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 6.9, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 3.07 – 2.96 (m, 2H), 1.73 (tt, *J* =

7.8, 6.6 Hz, 2H), 1.46 (h, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 0.97 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H) which is consistent with spectroscopic data reported previously.¹



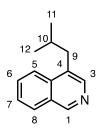
4-Methylisoquinoline (S2) To a solution of 4-bromoisoquinoline (1.00 g, 4.81 mmol) in THF (30 mL) under argon was added Ni(PPh)₃Cl₂ (26 mg, 1 mol%) and methylmagenisum bromide (1.92 mL, 5.77 mmol, 3 M in Et₂O). The solution was stirred at room temperature for 18 hours then acidified to pH 1-3 with 1M HCL and

extracted with EtOAc (3 x 30 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried (Na₂SO₄), and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude material was purified by silica gel chromatography (20% EtOAc in pentane) to give *isoquinoline* **S2** (0.35 g, 50%) as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR: (CDCl₃) δ 9.12 (s, 1H), 8.38 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 8.09 – 7.89 (m, 2H), 7.74 (ddd, *J* = 8.5, 6.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 6.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 2.63 (t, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 3H) which is consistent with the literature.¹

Alternatively:

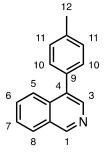
The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A using methyl boronic acid (0.576 mg, 9.62 mmol), and purified by silica gel chromatography (10-30% EtOAc in pentane) to give **S2** as a yellow oil (0.570 g, 81%).

¹ D. Chen, G. Xu, Q. Zhou, L. W. Chung, W. Tang, J. Am. Chem. Soc. **2017**, 139, 9767-9770



4-(iso-Butyl)isoquinoline (S3) The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure A using *iso*-butyl boronic acid (0.816 g, 8.00 mmol) to give **S3** as a yellow oil (0.758 g, 99%). This compound was used in the next reaction without further purification. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 9.09 (s, 1H), 8.31 (s, 1H), 7.98 – 7.85 (m, 2H), 7.66 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 6.8, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 6.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 2.82 (d, *J* = 7.2

Hz, 2H), 2.00 (dt, J = 13.5, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 0.94 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 6H).

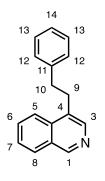


4-Tolylisoquinoline (S4) A solution of 4-bromoisoquinoline (1 equiv.), 4-(*p*-tolyl)boronic acid (1.2 equiv.), triphenylphosphine (10 mol%), and potassium carbonate (2.7 equiv.) in DME/ H_2O (25:5 mL) was sparged with argon. $Pd(OAc)_2$ (2.5 mol%) was added to the this solution, and the reaction mixture was heated at reflux for 18 h under a balloon of argon. The reaction was quenched with distilled water (10 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (20 mL x 3). The organic layer was dried over

anhydrous sodium sulphate, filtered and evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude compound was purified by silica gel chromatography (10-30% EtOAc in pentane) to give **S4** (1.05 g, 99%) as a red oil. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 9.24 (d, *J* = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 8.48 (s, 1H), 8.13 – 7.99 (m, 1H), 7.94 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.73 – 7.58 (m, 2H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.37 – 7.31 (m, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H) which is consistent with spectroscopic data reported previously.²

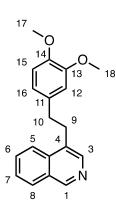
General Procedure B: A solution of 4-bromoisoquinoline (1 equiv.), the appropriate alkyne (1.1 equiv.), copper(I) iodide (6 mol%), triethylamine (10 equiv.), triphenylphosphine (6 mol%), and Pd(OAc)₂ (3 mol%) in MeCN (3 mL per mmol) was prepared under an argon atmosphere, and heated at reflux for 40 h. The reaction was quenched with aqueous sodium carbonate (10 mL) and extracted in CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL x 3). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate, filtered and evaporated under reduced pressure to give the crude compound, which was taken through to the next step without further purification. A solution of 10% Pd/C (20% w/w) in methanol was added to the crude product. The solution was sparged with hydrogen and the reaction mixture was stirred rigorously under a hydrogen atmosphere for 12 h, to give the product after purification by chromatography.

² V. K. Tiwari, G. G. Pawar, H. S. Jena, M. Kapor, *Chem. Commun.* **2014**, *50*, 7322-7325.



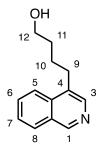
4-Phenethylisoquinoline (S5) The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure B using phenylacetylene (0.6 mL, 5.5mmol) and purified by silica gel chromatography (10-20% EtOAc in pentane) to give substrate **S5** (0.534 g, 46 %) as a red oil. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 9.14 (s, 1H, C¹H), 8.34 (s, 1 H, C³H), 8.02 (ddt, *J* = 13.2, 8.1, 1.0 Hz, 2H, C⁵⁺⁸H), 7.75 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 6.8, 1.4 Hz, C^{6/7}H), 7.62 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 6.9, 1.1 Hz, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 7.34 – 7.27 (m, 2H, 2 x ArH), 7.25 – 7.19 (m, 3H, 3 x ArH), 3.39 – 3.24 (m, 2H, 2 x C⁹H), 3.13 – 2.92 (m, 2H, 2 x C¹⁰H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 151.6 (C¹),

142.9 (C³), 141.4 (C^Q), 134.7 (C^Q), 130.8 (C^Q), 128.7 (3 x C^{Ar}), 128.6 (C^Q), 128.5 (2 x C^{Ar}), 128.5 (C^{5/8}), 127.0 (C^{6/7}), 127.0 (C^{6/7}), 122.9 (C^{5/8}), 37.0 (C¹⁰), 32.3 (C⁹). HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calculated for C₁₇H₁₆N [M+H]⁺ = 234.1279, found: 234.1277; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹): 3124, 2986, 1702, 1681, 1615, 1577, 1562, 1512, 1466, 630.



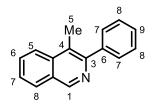
4-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenethyl)isoquinoline (S6) The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure B using 4-ethynyl-1,2-dimethoxybenzene (0.892 g, 5.5 mmol) and purified by silica gel chromatography (10-30% EtOAc in pentane) to give substrate **S6** (0.714 g, 49%) as a red oil. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 9.13 (s, 1H, C¹H), 8.33 (s, 1H, C³H), 8.00 (ddt, *J* = 7.2, 4.5, 1.0 Hz, 2H, C⁵⁺⁸H), 7.73 (ddd, *J* = 8.3, 6.9, 1.3 Hz, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 7.61 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 6.8, 1.0 Hz, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H, C¹⁵H), 6.74 (dd, J= 8.1, 2.0 Hz, 1H, C¹⁶H), 6.66 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H, C¹²H), 3.86 (s, 3H, 3 x C^{17/18}H), 3.81 (s, 3H, 3

x C^{17/18}**H)**, 3.34 – 3.25 (m, 2H, 2 x C⁹**H**), 3.03 – 2.96 (m, 2H, 2 x C¹⁰**H**); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 151.8 (C¹), 149.2 (C^Q), 147.9 (C^Q), 143.2 (C³), 135.1 (C^Q), 134.3 (C^Q), 131.1 (C^Q), 130.7 (C^{6/7}), 128.8 (C^Q), 128.8 (C^{5/8}), 127.3 (C^{6/7}), 123.2 (C^{5/8}), 120.6 (C¹²), 112.2 (C¹²), 111.7 (C¹⁵), 56.4 (C^{17/18}), 56.3 (C^{17/18}), 36.9 (C¹⁰), 32.7 (C⁹); HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calculated for C₁₉H₂₀NO₂ [M+H]⁺ = 294.1494, found: 294.1487. IR (neat) cm⁻¹: 3119, 3001, 2258, 2152, 2034, 1620, 1536, 1260, 1251, 1005.

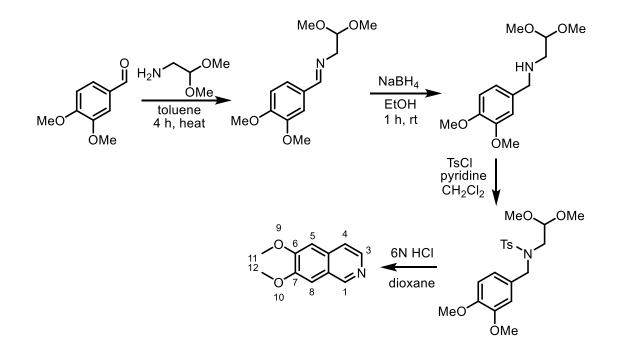


4-(Butan-1-ol)isoquinoline (S7) The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure B using 3-butyn-1-ol (0.45 mL, 6 mmol) to give substrate **S7** (0.875 g, 87%) as a red oil. This compound was used in the next reaction without further purification. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 9.11 (s, 1H, C¹H), 8.37 (s, 1H, C³H), 8.02 – 7.95 (m, 2H, C⁵⁺⁸H), 7.73 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 6.8, 1.4 Hz, 1H C^{6/7}H), 7.60 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 6.8, 1.1 Hz, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 3.71 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H, 2 x C¹²H), 3.10 – 2.98 (m, 2H, 2 x C⁹H), 1.89 –

1.80 (m, 2H, 2 x C¹⁰H), 1.76 – 1.67 (m, 2H, 2 x C¹¹H), 1.63 (s, 1H, OH).



3-Phenyl-4-methylisoquinoline (S8) The title compound was prepared according to the procedure of Donohoe.³



6,7-Dimethoxyquinoline (S9) The title compound was prepared from 3,4-dimethoxybenzaldehyde according a modified procedure of the one reported by Knochel.⁴ 3,4-Dimethoxybenzaldehyde (4.15 g, 25 mmol) and aminoacetaldehyde dimethylacetal (4.1 mL, 37.5 mmol) were heated at reflux in toluene (75 mL) using Dean-Stark apparatus. After the appropriate volume of water (ca. 4.5 mL) was collected in the Dean-Stark apparatus (approximately 4 hours) the reaction was cooled to room temperature and concentrated in vacuo. Note: the imine appeared to be unstable on TLC, and as such this reaction cannot be monitored by TLC. The material was dissolved in CH2Cl2 and dried (MgSO4), filtered, and concentrated in vacuo to give imine which was carried on without further purification.

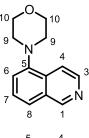
Imine (assume 25 mmol) was dissolved in EtOH (25 mL) and sodium borohydride (1.9 g, 50 mmol) was added portionwise. After 1 hour, TLC analysis indicated complete conversion and the reaction was concentrated in vacuo. The crude material was dissolved in H2O (50 mL) and CH2Cl (50 mL) and separated. The aqueous layer was further extracted with CH2Cl2 (2 x 50 mL). The organic layers were

³ T. J. Donohoe, B. S. Pilgrim, G. R. Jones, J. A. Bassuto, Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. 2012, 109, 11605-11608.

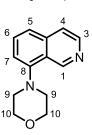
combined, dried (MgSO4), filtered, and concentrated in vacuo to give pure amine (4.45 g, 70% over 2 steps) as a colourless oil.

The amine (4.45 g, 17.5 mmol) was dissolved in CH2Cl2 (50 mL) and pyridine (2.1 mL) and cooled to 0 °C. Tosyl chloride (4.4 g, 22.75 mmol) was added portionwise and the reaction was stirred at room temperature for 14 hours. The reaction was quenched with saturated NaHCO3 solution (50 mL) and extracted with CH2Cl2 (3 x 50 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried (MgSO4), filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The crude material was purified by FCC (10-40% EtOAc in pentane) to give sulfonamide (5.56 g, 78%) as a yellow oil.

The sulfonamide (4.07 g, 10 mmol) was dissolved in dioxane (90 mL) and 6N HClaq (7 mL) was added. The solution was heated at reflux for 5 hours, cooled, and washed with Et2O (100 mL). The aqueous layer was made basic with NaOHaq and extracted with CH2Cl2. The organic layers were combined, dried (MgSO4), filtered and concentrated in vacuo. The crude material was purified by FCC (0-4% MeOH in CH2Cl2) to give isoquinoline **S9** (1.63 g, 86%) as a yellow oil which solidified on standing (ca. 1 hour). For each step, the spectroscopic data matched those previously reported by Knochel.⁴



5-Morpholinoisoquinoline (S10) The title compound was prepared from 5bromoisoquinoline according to the procedure of Novartis.⁵



8-Morpholinoisoquinoline (S11) To a three-necked flask fitted with a condenser was added 8-bromoisoquinoline (2.08 g, 10 mmol), cesium carbonate (6.5 g, 20 mmol), *rac*-BINAP (311 mg, 5 mol%), morpholine (1.75 mL, 20 mmol), and toluene 80 mL. The solution was sparged with argon for 10 minutes before palladium acetate (110 mg, 5 mol%) was added and the solution heated at reflux for 14 hours. The

solution as cooled to room temperature and diluted with 100 mL EtOAc and 100 mL water. The biphasic solution was separated, and the aqueous layer was further extracted with EtOAc (2 x 50 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried (MgSO₄), and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude material was purified by FCC (0-30% EtOAc in pentane) to yield *isoquionline* **X** (1.60 g, 75%) as an orange oil that solidified on standing (ca. 2 hours). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 9.61 (1H, s, C¹H), 8.52 (1H, d, *J* = 5.7 Hz, C³H), 7.65-7.58 (2H, m, C⁴H + C⁶H), 7.54-7.48 (1H, m, C⁵H), 7.17-7.11 (1H, m, C⁷H), 4.03-3.97 (4H, m, 2 x C⁹H₂), 3.21-3.15 (4H, m, 2 x C¹⁰H₂); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 148.8 (C¹), 143.0 (C^Q), 137.4 (C^Q), 130.7 (C³),

⁴ A. Metzger, M. A. Schade, P. Knochel, *Org. Lett.* **2008**, *10*, 1107-1110

⁵ D. Behnke, D. Carcache, P. Ertl, M. Koller, D. Orain, *US Patent* US2014/57902, **2014**, 754-755.

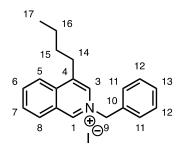
123.5 (C⁵), 121.8 (C⁴), 120.7 (C^Q + C⁶), 115.6 (C⁷), 67.2 (2 x C⁹), 53.8 (2 x C¹⁰); HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calculated for $C_{13}H_{15}NO_2$ [M+H]⁺: 215.11789, found: 215.11795; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹) 1616, 1566, 1521, 1494, 1393, 1232, 1113, 990, 847, 754.

Synthesis of isoquinolinium iodides

General Procedure C: A mixture of the appropriate isoquinoline (1 equiv.) and aryl halide (1.2 equiv.) in acetone (5 mL per mmol) was stirred in the dark at room temperature for 16 hours. The reaction mixture was filtered under reduced pressure. The resulting solid was washed with ether (50 mL) then dried under vacuum for 10 minutes to give the *N*-Ar-isoquinolinium iodide salts as solids.

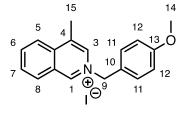
General Procedure D: A mixture of the appropriate isoquinoline (1 equiv.) and methyl iodide (2 equiv.) in CH_2Cl_2 (2.5 mL per mmol) was heated at 40 °C for 16 hours. The reaction mixture was filtered under reduced pressure. The resulting solid was washed with ether (50 mL) then dried under vacuum for 10 minutes to give the *N*-methyl-isoquinolinium iodide salts as solids.

General Procedure E: A mixture of the appropriate isoquinoline (1 equiv.) and alkyl iodide (2 equiv.) in 1,4-dioxane (2.5 mL per mmol) was heated at 90 °C for 16 hours. The reaction mixture was filtered under reduced pressure. The resulting solid was washed with ether (50 mL) then dried under vacuum for 10 minutes to give the *N*-alkyl-isoquinolinium iodide salts as solids.

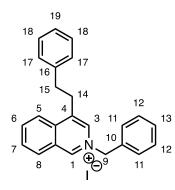


N-Benzyl-4-butylisoquinolinium iodide (1a) The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure C using 4-butylisoquinoline (0.300 g, 1.62 mmol) and benzyl iodide (0.24 mL, 1.94 mmol) to give salt 1a (0.652 g, 99 %) as a yellow solid. ¹H NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ 10.14 (s, 1H, C¹H), 8.77 (s, 1H, C³H), 8.53 (d, *J* = 8.18 Hz, 1H, C^{5/8}H), 8.45 (d, *J* = 8.51 Hz, 1H, C^{5/8}H), 8.29 (ddd, *J* = 8.37, 7.01, 1.29 Hz, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 8.09 (t, *J* =

7.58 Hz, 1H, $C^{6/7}$ H), 7.63 – 7.55 (m, 2H, 2 x ArH), 7.49 – 7.38 (m, 3H, 3 x ArH), 5.93 (s, 2H, 2 x C⁹H), 3.18 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H, 2 x C¹⁴H), 1.66 (p, *J* = 7.60, 2H, 2 x C¹⁵H), 1.38 (h, *J* = 7.36, 2H, 2 x C¹⁶H), 0.91 (t, *J* = 7.34, 3H, 3 x C¹⁷H); ¹³C NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ 148.3 (C¹), 139.2 (C^Q), 137.1 (C^{6/7}), 136.1 (C^Q), 134.4 (C^Q), 133.3 (C³), 131.4 (C^{5/8}), 131.1 (C^{6/7}), 129.3 (C^{Ar}), 129.2 (2 x C^{Ar}), 128.7 (2 x C^{Ar}), 127.4 (C^Q), 124.2 (C^{5/8}), 63.3 (C⁹), 31.7 (C¹⁵), 28.8 C¹⁴), 21.9 (C¹⁶), 13.7 (C¹⁷); HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calculated for C₂₀H₂₂N [M]⁺: 276.17468, found: 276.17462; m.p. (acetone) 146-148 °C; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹): 3081, 2511, 1784, 1699, 1456, 1250, 848, 835, 724, 677.

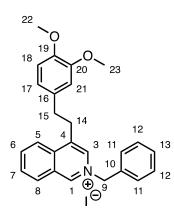


N-(*p*-Methoxy)benzyl-4-methylisoquinolinium iodide (1b) The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure C using 4-methylisoquinoline (0.285 g, 1.96 mmol) and *p*-methoxybenzyl iodide (0.34 mL, 2.35 mmol) to give salt **1b** (0.568 g, 99 %) as a yellow solid. ¹H NMR ((CD_3)₂SO) δ 10.11 (s, 1H, C¹H), 8.75 (s, 1H, C³H), 8.52 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H, C^{5/8}H), 8.36 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H, C^{5/8}H), 8.29 (ddd, J = 8.4, 6.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 8.09 (ddd, J = 8.2, 6.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 7.58 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H, 2 x C¹²H), 7.00 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H, 2 x C¹¹H), 5.83 (s, 2H, 2 x C⁹H), 3.75 (s, 3H, 3 x C¹⁴H), 2.76 (s, 3H, 3 x C¹⁵H); ¹³C NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ 160.0 (C^Q), 148.0 (C¹), 136.9 (C^{6/7}), 136.6 (C^Q), 135.2 (C^Q), 133.1 (C³), 131.1 (C^{5/8} + C^{6/7}), 130.6 (2 x C¹²), 126.9 (C^Q), 126.0 (C^Q), 124.4 (C^{5/8}), 114.5 (2 x C¹¹), 63.0 (C⁹), 55.3 (C¹⁵), 15.8 (C¹⁶); HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calculated for C₁₈H₁₈NO [M]⁺: 264.1383, found: 264.1384; m.p. (acetone) 203 – 205 °C; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹) 3345, 2547, 2160, 2033, 1977, 1606, 1514, 1252, 781, 766.



N-Benzyl-4-phenethylisoquinolinium iodide (1c) The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure C using 4-phenethylisoquinoline (0.534 g, 2.29 mmol) and benzyl iodide (0.34 mL, 2.75 mmol) to give salt 1c (0.683 g, 66 %) as a yellow solid. ¹H NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ 10.11 (s, 1H, C¹H), 8.71 (s, 1H, C³H), 8.57 – 8.48 (m, 2H, C⁵⁺⁸H), 8.29 (ddd, *J* = 8.5, 7.0, 1.3 Hz, 1H C^{6/7}H), 8.14 – 8.04 (m, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 7.51 – 7.41 (m, 5H, 5 x ArH), 7.27 – 7.16 (m, 5H, 5 x ArH), 5.88 (s, 2H, 2

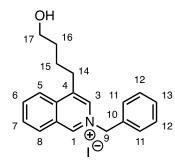
x C⁹H), 3.51 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2 x C¹⁴H), 3.05 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H, 2 x C¹⁵H); ¹³C NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ 148.5 (C¹H), 140.0 (C^Q), 138.1 (C^Q), 137.1 (C^{6/7}), 136.1 (C^Q), 134.3 (C^Q), 133.7 (C³), 131.4 (C^{5/8}), 131.1 (C^{6/7}), 129.24 (C^{Ar}), 129.20 (2 x C^{Ar}), 128.6 (2 x C^{Ar}), 128.5 (C^{Ar}), 128.4 (2 x C^{Ar}), 127.3 (C^Q), 126.3 (2 x C^{Ar}), 124.2 (C^{5/8}), 63.3 (C⁹), 35.1 (C¹⁵), 30.8 (C¹⁴); HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calculated for C₂₄H₂₂N [M]⁺: 324.17468, found: 324.17456; m.p. (acetone) 157 – 159 °C; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹): 3480, 3094, 2998, 2250, 2130, 1701, 1495, 1472, 728, 629.



N-Benzyl-4-(3,4-dimethoxyphenethyl)isoquinolinium iodide (1d) The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure C using 4-(3,4-dimethoxyphenethyl)isoquinoline (0.714 g, 2.43 mmol) and benzyl iodide (2.92 mmol) to give salt 1d (0.64 g, 68 %) as a yellow solid. ¹H NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ 10.10 (s, 1H, C¹H), 8.71 (s, 1H, C³H), 8.52 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H, C⁵⁺⁸H), 8.29 (ddd, *J* = 8.5, 7.0, 1.2, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 8.09 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 7.0, 1.0, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 7.48 – 7.37 (m, 5H, 5 x C^{Ar}H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 2.0, 1H, C²¹H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 8.2, 1H, C¹⁸H), 6.65 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 2.0, 1H, C¹⁷H), 5.89 (s,

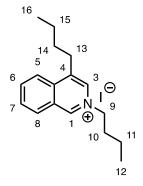
2H, 2 x C⁹H), 3.68 (d, J = 5.5, 6H, 3 x C²²H + 3 x C²³H), 3.50 (t, J = 7.7, 2H, 2 x C¹⁴H), 2.98 (t, J = 7.7, 2H, 2 x C¹⁵H); ¹³C NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ 148.7 (C^Q), 148.3 (C¹), 147.3 (C^Q), 138.3 (C^Q), 137.0 (C^{6/7}), 136.1 (C^Q), 134.2 (C^Q), 133.7 (C³), 132.3 (C^Q), 131.3 (C^{5/8}), 131.1 (C^{6/7}), 129.2 (C^{Ar}), 129.1 (2 x C^{Ar}), 128.4 (2 x C^{Ar}), 127.3 (C^Q), 124.2 (C^{5/8}), 120.3 (C¹⁷), 112.3 (C²¹), 111.7 (C¹⁸), 63.3 (C⁹), 55.49 (C^{22/23}), 55.46 (C^{22/23}), 34.8 (C¹⁵), 30.9 (C¹⁴); HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calculated for C₂₆H₂₆NO₂ [M]⁺: 384.1964, found: 384.1956;

m.p. (acetone) 213 – 215 °C; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹): 3100, 3056, 1624, 1589, 1530, 1261, 1313, 1067, 702, 658.



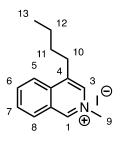
N-Benzyl-4-(butan-1-ol)isoquinolinium iodide (1e) The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure C using 4-(butan-1-ol)isoquinoline (0.875 g, 4.35 mmol) and benzyl iodide (0.65 mL, 5.22 mmol) to give salt 1e (1.221 g, 67 %) as a yellow solid. ¹H NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ 10.12 (s, 1H, C¹H), 8.76 (s, 1H, C³H), 8.52 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.1 Hz, 1H, C^{5/8}H), 8.45 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H, C^{5/8}H), (8.29 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 7.0, 1.3, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 8.08

(ddd, $J = 8.2, 7.0, 1.0, 1H, C^{6/7}H$), 7.59 – 7.55 (m, 2H, 2 x C^{Ar}H), 7.48 – 7.41 (m, 3H, 3 x C^{Ar}H), 5.93 (s, 2H, 2 x C⁹H), 4.45 (t, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H, OH), 3.44 (td, $J = 6.3, 5.0, 2H, 2 x C^{17}H$), 3.19 (t, $J = 7.8, 2H, 2 x C^{14}H$), 1.74 (dq, $J = 12.3, 7.6, 2H, 2 x C^{15}H$), 1.53 (p, $J = 6.5, 2H, 2 x C^{16}H$); ¹³C NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ 148.3 (C¹), 139.2 (C^Q), 137.0 (C^{6/7}), 136.1 (C^Q), 134.3 (C^Q), 133.2 (C³), 131.3 (C^{5/8}), 131.0 (C^{6/7}), 129.2 (C^{Ar}), 129.1 (2 x C^{Ar}), 128.6 (2 x C^{Ar}), 127.3 (C^Q), 124.1 (C^{5/8}), 63.3 (C⁹), 60.1 (C¹⁷), 31.9 (C¹⁶), 28.9 (C¹⁴), 26.2 (C¹⁵); HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calculated for C₂₀H₂₂NO [M]⁺: 292.1696, found: 292.1696; m.p. (acetone) 158 – 160 °C; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹) 3490, 3043, 2411, 1728, 1516, 1508, 1439, 1204, 971, 636.



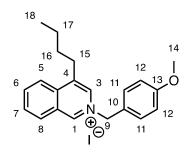
N-Butyl-4-butylisoquinolinium iodide (1f) The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure E using 4-butylisoquinoline (0.556 g, 3.00 mmol) and butyl iodide (0.68 mL, 6.00 mmol) to give salt 1f (1.02 g, 92 %) as a green solid. ¹H NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ 9.97 (s, 1H, C¹H), 8.73 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 1H, C³H), 8.51 – 8.41 (m, 2H, C⁵⁺⁸H), 8.28 (ddd, J = 8.4, 7.0, 1.3 Hz, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 8.07 (ddd, J = 8.1, 7.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 4.68 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H, 2 x C⁹H), 3.23 – 3.13 (m, 2H, 2 x C¹³H), 2.01 (p, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H, 2 x C¹⁰H), 1.71 (p, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H, 2 x

C¹⁴H), 1.44 (dt, *J* = 14.9, 7.4 Hz, 2H, 2 x C¹⁵H), 1.33 (dt, *J* = 14.7, 7.4 Hz, 2H, 2 x C¹¹H), 0.97 – 0.91 (m, 6H, 3 x C¹²H + 3 x C¹⁶H); ¹³C NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ 148.1 (C¹), 138.7 (C^Q), 136.7 (C^{6/7}), 135.9 (C^Q), 133.4 (C³), 131.1 (C^{5/8}), 130.9 (C^{6/7}), 127.2 (C^Q), 124.0 (C^{5/8}), 60.4 (C⁹), 32.4 (C¹⁰), 31.7 (C¹⁴), 28.8 (C¹³), 21.9 (C¹⁵), 18.9 (C¹¹), 13.7 (C^{12/16}), 13.4 (C^{12/16}); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for C₁₇H₂₄N [M]⁺ = 242.1903, found: 242. 1904; m.p. (1,4-dioxane) 134 – 136 °C; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹): 2958, 2926, 2857, 1639, 1458, 1437, 1343, 1178, 786, 762.



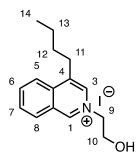
N-Methyl-4-butylisoquinolinium iodide (1g) The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure D using 4-butylisoquinoline (0.556 g, 3.00 mmol) to give salt **1g** (1.09 g, 99 %) as a yellow solid. ¹H NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ 9.88 (s, 1H, C¹H), 8.62 (s, 1H, C³H), 8.50 – 8.40 (m, 2H, C⁵⁺⁸H), 8.27 (ddd, *J* = 8.5, 6.9, 1.3 Hz, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 8.06 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 6.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 4.44 (s, 3H, 3 x C⁹H), 3.23 – 3.14 (m, 2H, 2 x C¹⁰H), 1.71 (tt, *J* = 9.1, 7.5 Hz, 2H, 2 x C¹¹H), 1.44 (h, *J* = 7.4 Hz,

2H, 2 x C¹²H), 0.95 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H, 3 x C¹³H); ¹³C NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ 148.8 (C¹), 138.1 (C³), 136.5 (C^{6/7}), 135.6 (C^Q), 134.4 (C³), 130.9 (C^{5/8}), 130.8 (C^{6/7}), 127.1 (C^Q), 124.0 (C^{5/8}), 47.8 (C⁹), 31.7 (C¹¹), 28.7 (C¹⁰), 22.0 (C¹²), 13.8 (C¹³); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for C₁₄H₁₈N [M]⁺ = 200.143, found: 200.1436; m.p. (CH₂Cl₂) 144 – 146 °C; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹): 2957, 2294, 2836, 1642, 1606, 1404, 1189, 857, 789, 759.



N-(*p*-Methoxy)benzyl-4-butylisoquinolinium iodide (1h) The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure C using 4-butylisoquinoline (0.371 g, 2.00 mmol) and *p*-methoxybenzyl iodide (0.34 mL, 2.40 mmol) to give salt **1h** (0.986 g, 99 %) as a white solid. ¹H NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ 10.11 (s, 1H, C¹H), 8.76 (d, *J* = 1.4, 1H, C³H), 8.53 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.3 Hz, 1H, C^{5/8}H), 8.44 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H, C^{5/8}H), 8.28 (ddd, *J* =

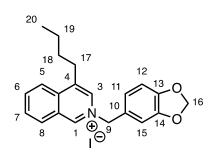
8.5, 7.0, 1.3 Hz, 1H, $C^{6/7}$ H), 8.08 (ddd, J = 8.1, 6.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H, $C^{6/7}$ H), 7.62 – 7.54 (m, 2H, 2 x C^{12} H), 7.05 – 6.95 (m, 2H, 2 x C^{11} H), 5.86 (s, 2H, 2 x C^{9} H), 3.76 (s, 3H, 3 x C^{14} H), 3.21 – 3.15 (m, 2H, 2 x C^{15} H), 1.72 – 1.63 (m, 2H, 2 x C^{16} H), 1.40 (h, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H, 2 x C^{17} H), 0.93 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H, 3 x C^{18} H); ¹³C NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ 159.9 (C^Q), 147.9 (C¹), 139.1 (C^Q), 136.9 (C^{6/7}), 136.0 (C^Q), 133.1 (C³), 131.3 (C^{5/8}), 131.0 (C^{6/7}), 130.6 (2 x C^{11}), 127.3 (C^Q), 126.2 (C^Q), 124.1 (C^{5/8}), 114.5 (2 x C^{12}), 63.0 (C⁹), 55.3 (C¹⁴), 31.7 (C¹⁶), 28.8 (C¹⁵), 21.9 (C¹⁷), 13.7 (C¹⁸); HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calculated for C₂₁H₂₄NO [M]⁺: 306.1852, found: 306.1852; m.p. (acetone) 164 – 166 °C; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹) 2981, 2361, 2160, 2029, 1976, 1642, 1607, 1512, 1251, 1024.



N-Hydroxyethyl-4-butylisoquinolinium iodide (1i) The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure E using 4-butylisoquinoline (0.371 g, 2.00 mmol) and iodoethanol (0.38 mL, 4.00 mmol) to give salt 1i (0.818 g, 92 %) as an orange solid. ¹H NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ 9.88 (s, 1H, C¹H), 8.68 (s, 1H, C³H), 8.54 (dt, *J* = 8.2, 1.0 Hz, 1H, C^{5/8}H), 8.45 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H, C^{5/8}H), 8.28 (ddd, *J* = 8.5, 7.0, 1.3 Hz, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 8.08 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 7.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H,

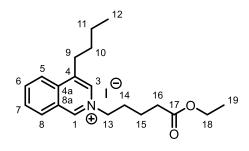
 $C^{6/7}$ H), 5.21 (t, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H, OH), 4.74 (t, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 2H, 2 x C⁹H), 3.96 (q, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 2H, 2 x C¹⁰H), 3.20 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H, 2 x C¹¹H), 1.72 (tt, *J* = 9.1, 7.6 Hz, 2H, 2 x C¹²H), 1.45 (h, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H, 2 x C¹³H), 1.44 (dt, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H, 3 x C¹⁴H); ¹³C NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) 148.5 (C¹), 138.3 (C^Q), 136.6 (C^{6/7}), 136.0 (C^Q), 133.6

(C³), 131.1 (C^{5/8}), 130.8 (C^{6/7}), 127.0 (C^Q), 124.0 (C^{5/8}), 63.1 (C⁹), 59.9 (C¹⁰), 31.6 (C¹²), 28.8 (C¹¹), 21.9 (C¹³), 13.7 (C¹⁴); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for C₁₅H₂₀NO [M]⁺ = 230.1539, found: 230.1539; m.p. (1,4-dioxane) 131 – 133 °C; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹) 3346, 3052, 2999, 2957, 2161, 1641, 1375, 1074, 1059, 767.



N-Piperonyl-4-butylisoquinolinium iodide (1j) The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure C using 4butylisoquinoline (0.371 g, 2.00 mmol) and piperonyl iodide (0.629 g, 2.40 mmol) to give salt 1j (0.986 g, 99 %) as a yellow solid. ¹H NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ 10.08 (s, 1H, C¹H), 8.75 (s, 1H, C³H), 8.52 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H, C^{5/8}H), 8.43 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 1.0 Hz, 1H, C^{5/8}H), 8.28 (ddd, *J* =

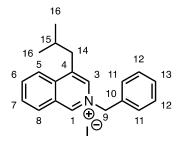
8.4, 6.9, 1.3 Hz, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 8.08 (ddd, J = 8.1, 7.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 7.27 (d, J = 1.7, 1H, C¹⁵H), 7.18 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.8 Hz, 1H, C¹¹H), 6.99 (d, J = 8.0, 1H, C¹²H), 6.04 (s, 2H, 2 x C¹⁶H), 5.81 (s, 2H, 2 x C⁹H), 3.22 – 3.12 (m, 2H, 2 x C¹⁷H), 1.73 – 1.61 (m, 2H, 2 x C¹⁸H), 1.40 (h, J = 7.3, 2H, 2 x C¹⁹H), 0.93 (t, J = 7.4, 3H, 3 x C²⁰H); ¹³C NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ 148.1 (C^Q), 148.0 (C¹), 147.8 (C^Q), 139.1 (C^Q), 136.9 (C^{6/7}), 136.0 (C^Q), 133.0 (C³), 131.4 (C^{5/8}), 131.0 (C^{6/7}), 127.7 (C^Q), 127.3 (C^Q), 124.1 (C^{5/8}), 123.3 (C¹¹), 109.3 (C¹⁵), 108.7 (C¹²), 101.5 (C¹⁶) 63.2 (C⁹), 31.7 (C¹⁸), 28.8 (C¹⁷), 21.9 (C¹⁹), 13.7 (C²⁰); HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calculated for C₂₁H₂₂NO₂ [M]⁺: 320.1645, found: 320.1645; m.p. (acetone) 191 – 193 °C; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹) 3050, 1630, 1555, 1504, 1499, 1284, 1100, 952, 741, 728.



Ethyl N-(1-pentanoate)-4-butylisoquinolinium iodide (1k)

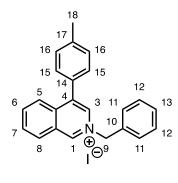
4-Butylisoquinoline (185 mg, 1 mmol) and ethyl 5iodopentanoate (370 mg, 1.5 mmol) were heated in dioxane (5 mL) at 90 °C for 14 hours. The reaction was cooled and concentrated *in vacuo*, the crude material was purified by FCC (0-5% MeOH:CH₂Cl₂) to give *salt* **1k** (420 mg, 95%) as a yellow

oil. ¹ H NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ 9.97 (s, 1H, C¹H), 8.72 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H, C³H), 8.50-8.43 (m, 2H, C⁵⁺⁸H), 8.28 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 6.9, 1.3 Hz, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 8.02 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 6.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 4.70 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H, C¹³H₂), 4.03 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H, C¹⁸H₂), 3.19 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H, C⁹H₂), 2.38 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H, C¹⁶H₂), 2.05 (p, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H, C¹⁴H₂), 1.76-1.68 (m, 2H, C¹⁰H₂), 1.60-1.53 (m, 2H, C¹⁵H₂), 1.48-1.39 (m, 2H, C¹¹H₂), 1.15 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H, C¹⁹H₃), 0.95 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H, C¹²H₂); ¹³C NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ 172.9 (C¹⁷), 148.6 (C¹), 139.2 (C), 137.2 (C^{6/7}), 136.4 (C), 133.9 (C³), 131.6 (C^{5/8}), 131.3 (C^{6/7}), 127.7 (C⁴), 124.5 (C^{5/8}), 60.7 (C¹³), 60.3 (C¹⁸), 33.2 (C¹⁶), 32.1 (C¹⁰), 30.2 (C¹⁴), 29.3 (C⁹), 22.4 (C¹¹), 21.4 (C¹⁵), 14.6 (C¹⁹), 14.2 (C¹²); HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calculated for C₂₀H₂₈NO₂ [M]⁺: 314.2115, found: 314.2114; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹): 2956, 1726 (C=O), 1640, 1444, 1373, 1177, 1028, 787, 759, 618.



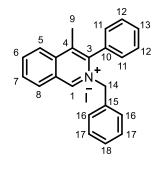
N-Benzyl-4-*iso***-butylisoquinolinium iodide (11)** The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure C using 4-*iso*-butylisoquinoline (0.758 g, 4.09 mmol) and benzyl iodide (0.62 mL, 4.91 mmol) to give salt **1I** (1.210 g, 99 %) as a yellow solid. ¹H NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ 10.16 (s, 1H, C¹H), 8.75 (d, *J* = 1.4, 1H, C³H), 8.53 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H, C^{5/8}H), 8.45 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 1.0 Hz, 1H, C^{5/8}H), 8.28 (ddd, *J* = 8.5, 7.0, 1.3 Hz,

1H, $C^{6/7}$ H), 8.08 (ddd, J = 8.1, 7.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H, $C^{6/7}$ H), 7.64 – 7.55 (m, 2H, 2 x C^{Ar} H), 7.49 – 7.40 (m, 3H, 3 x C^{Ar} H), 5.95 (s, 2H, 2 x C^{9} H), 3.05 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H, 2 x C^{14} H), 1.99 (h, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H, C^{15} H), 0.90 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 6H, 6 x C^{16} H); ¹³C NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ 148.3 (C¹), 138.0 (C^Q), 136.9 (C^{6/7}) 136.3 (C^Q), 134.4 (C^Q), 133.9 (C³), 131.3 (C^{5/8}), 131.0 (C^{6/7}), 129.2 (C^{Ar}), 129.1 (2 x C^{Ar}), 128.6 (2 x C^{Ar}), 127.4 (C^Q), 124.3 (C^{5/8}), 63.3 (C⁹), 37.7 (C¹⁴), 29.0 (C¹⁵), 22.1 (2 x C¹⁶); HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calculated for C₂₀H₂₂N [M]⁺: 276.1747, found: 276.1747; m.p. (acetone) 157-159 °C; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹): 3130, 2979, 2160, 2020, 1621, 1476, 1253, 1156, 889, 699.



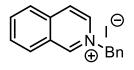
N-Benzyl-4-(*p*-tolyl)isoquinolinium iodide (1m) The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure C using 4-(*p*-tolyl)isoquinoline (1.05 g, 4.79 mmol) and benzyl iodide (0.72 mL, 5.75 mmol) to give salt 1m (1.603 g, 77 %) as a brown solid. ¹H NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ 10.27 (s, 1H, C¹H), 8.94 (s, 1H, C³H), 8.65 – 8.58 (m, 1H, C^{5/8}H), 8.26 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 6.9, 1.3 Hz, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 8.12 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 6.8 Hz, 2H, C^{5/8}H + C^{6/7}H), 7.69 – 7.62 (m, 2H, 2 x C^{Ar}H), 7.55 – 7.52 (2H, m, 2 x

 C^{15} H), 7.50 – 7.41 (m, 5H, 3 x C^{Ar} H + 2 x C^{16} H), 6.01 (s, 2H, 2 x C^{9} H), 2.44 (s, 3H, 3 x C^{18} H); ¹³C NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ 148.8 (C¹), 139.4 (C^Q), 138.5 (C^Q), 137.6 (C^{6/7}), 135.5 (C^Q), 134.3 (C^Q), 133.8 (C³), 131.3 (C^{5/8} + C^{5/8} or C^{6/7}), 131.3 (2 x C^{Ar}), 130.0 (2 x C^{Ar}), 130.0 (C^Q), 129.7 (C^{Ar}), 129.3 (C^{Ar}), 129.2 (C^{Ar}), 128.9 (2 x C^{Ar}), 127.8 (C^Q), 125.2 (C^{6/7} or C^{5/8}), 63.4 (C¹⁶), 20.9 (C¹⁸); HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calculated for C₂₃H₂₀N [M]⁺: 310.1590, found: 310.1590; m.p. (acetone) 155 – 157 °C; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹): 3456, 2966, 2160, 2033, 1979, 1632, 1400, 1179, 740, 664.

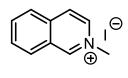


N-Butyl-4,5-dibutylisoquinolinium iodide (1n) The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure C using 3-phenyl-4-butylisoquinoline (0.318 g, 1.45 mmol) and benzyl iodide (0.26 mL, 2.00 mmol). FCC (0-6% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂) gave salt **1n** (0.511 g, 81%) as a yellow solid. ¹H NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ 10.30 (1H, s, C¹H), 8.62 (1H, dt, *J* = 8.2, 1.1 Hz, C^{5/8}H), 8.48 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.6, 1.0 Hz, C^{5/8}H), 8.37 (1H, ddd, *J* = 8.5, 6.9, 1.3

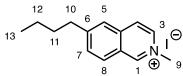
Hz, $C^{6/7}$ H), 8.16 (1H, ddd, J = 8.0, 6.9, 1.0 Hz, $C^{6/7}$ H), 7.64-7.55 (1H, m, ArH), 7.54-7.49 (2H, m, 2 x ArH), 7.32-7.22 (5H, m, 5 x ArH), 6.87-6.84 (2H, m, 2 x ArH), 5.72 (2H, s, C^{14} H₂), 2.42 (3H, s, C^{9} H₃); ¹³C NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ 149.9 (C¹), 143.5 (C^Q), 137.5 (C^{6/7}), 137.3 (C^Q), 134.4 (C^Q), 133.8 (C^Q), 131.3 (C^{5/8}), 131.1 (C^{6/7} + C^Q), 130.3 (ArC), 129.9 (2 x ArC), 129.0 (2 x ArC), 128.6 (2 x ArC), 128.5 (ArC), 127.2 (2 x ArC), 126.3 (C^Q), 124.9 (C^{5/8}), 62.5 (C¹⁴), 16.0 (C⁹); HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calculated for C₂₃H₂₀N [M]⁺: 310.15903, found: 310.15891; m.p. (acetone) 192 – 194 °C; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹) 1628, 1594, 1572, 1478, 1452, 1271, 1110, 776, 704, 694.



N-Benzyl-isoquinolinium iodide (10) The title compound was prepared according to literature precedence⁶ using isoquinoline purchased from Alfa Aesar.

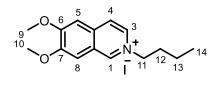


N-Methyl-isoquinolinium iodide (1p) The title compound was prepared according to literature precedence⁷ using isoquinoline purchased from Alfa Aesar



N-Methyl-6-butylisoquinolinium iodide (1q) The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure D using 6butylisoquinoline (0.432 g, 2.33 mmol) to give salt 1q (0.563 g, 86 %)

as a yellow solid. ¹H NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ 9.90 (s, 1H, C¹H), 8.64 (dd, *J* = 6.8, 1.4 Hz, 1H, C³H), 8.44 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H, C⁴H), 8.39 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H, C⁸H), 8.14 (s, 1H, C⁵H), 7.95 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 1.6 Hz, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 4.44 (s, 3H, 3 x C⁹H), 2.93 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H, 2 x C¹⁰H), 1.78 – 1.60 (m, 2H, 2 x C¹¹H), 1.35 (h, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H, 2 x C¹²H), 0.93 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H, 3 x C¹³H); ¹³C NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ 152.6 (C^Q), 149.9 (C¹), 136.9 (C⁴), 135.8 (C³), 132.6 (C⁷), 129.9 (C⁸), 125.6 (C^Q), 125.4 (C⁵), 124.6 (C⁴), 47.6 (C⁹), 35.4 (C¹⁰), 32.2 (C¹¹), 21.7 (C¹²), 13.7 (C¹³); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for C₁₄H₁₈N [M]⁺ = 200.1434, found: 200.1435. m.p. (CH₂Cl₂) 174 – 176 °C; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹): 2988, 2161, 1646, 1370, 1185, 1162, 934, 901, 828, 656.



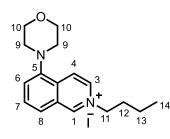
N-Butyl-6,7-dimethoxyisoquinolinium iodide (1r) The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure E using 6,7-dimethoxyisoquinoline (0.378 g, 2.00 mmol) and 1-iodobutane (0.3 mL, 2.40 mmol) to give salt **1r** (0.594 g, 80%) as

a peach solid. ¹H NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ) 9.64 (1H, s, C¹H), 8.59 (1H, dd, *J* = 6.7, 1.5 Hz, C³H), 8.30 (1H, d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, C⁴H), 7.77 (2H, app s, C⁵H + C⁸H), 4.63 (2H, t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, C¹¹H₂), 4.07 (3H, s, C^{9/10}H₃), 4.00 (3H, s, C^{9/10}H₃), 1.96 (2H, p, *J* = 7.4 Hz, C¹²H₂), 1.31 (2H, dq, *J* = 14.5, 7.5 Hz, C¹³H₂), 0.93 (3H, t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, C¹²H₂), 1.31 (2H, dq, *J* = 14.5, 7.5 Hz, C¹³H₂), 0.93 (3H, t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, C¹⁴H₂), 4.07 (3H, s, C¹⁴H₂), 0.93 (3H, t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, C¹⁴H₂), 0.93 (3H, t, *J* = 7.4 Hz), 0.93 (3H, t, *J* = 7.4 Hz),

⁶ Fang, Z; Wang, Y; Wang, Y Org. Lett. **2019**, *21*, 434-438.

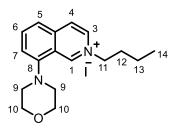
⁷ Xu, J.-H; Zheng, S.-C; Zhang, J.-W; Liu, X.-Y; Tan, B. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. **2016**, 55, 11834-11839.

 $C^{14}H_3$); ¹³C NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ 157.5 (C^Q), 152.5 (C^Q), 145.0 (C¹), 135.2 (C^Q), 133.6 (C³), 123.8 (C^Q), 123.4 (C⁴), 107.1 (C^{5/8}), 105.8 (C^{5/8}), 59.8 (C¹¹), 56.9 (C^{9/10}), 56.4 (C^{9/10}), 32.5 (C¹²), 18.8 (C¹³), 13.4 (C¹⁴); HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calculated for C₁₅H₂₀NO₂ [M]⁺: 246.14886, found: 246.14890; m.p. (acetone) 207 – 209 °C; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹) 1495, 1454, 1437, 1310, 1294, 1235, 1164, 991, 850, 753.



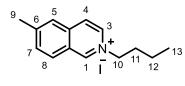
N-Butyl-5-morpholinoisoquinolinium iodide (1s) The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure E using 5morpholinoisoquinoline (0.428 g, 2.00 mmol) and 1-iodobutane (0.3 mL, 2.40 mmol) to give salt **1s** (0.612 g, 77%) as a yellow solid. ¹H NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ) 10.07 (1H, s, C¹H), 8.73 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.0, 1.5 Hz, C³H), 8.57

(1H, d, J = 6.9 Hz, C⁴H), 8.13 (1H, d, J = 8.2 Hz, C⁸H), 7.99 (1H, t, J = 7.9 Hz, C⁷H), 7.81 (1H, dd, J = 7.7, 1.1 Hz, C⁵H), 4.74 (2H, t, J = 7.4 Hz, C¹¹H₂), 3.93-3.86 (4H, m, 2 x C¹⁰H₂), 3.13-305 (4H, m, 2 x C⁹H₂), 1,99 (2H, p, J = 7.6 Hz, C¹²H₂), 1.35 (2H, h, J = 7.3 Hz, C¹³H₂), 0.93 (3H, t, J = 7.3 Hz, C¹⁴H₃); ¹³C NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ 149.9 (C^Q), 148.8 (C¹), 134.4 (C³), 132.4 (C^Q), 131.8 (C⁷), 128.7 (C^Q), 124.9 (C⁶), 124.5 (C⁸), 122.2 (C⁴), 66.3 (2 x C¹⁰), 60.3 (C¹¹), 52.8 (2 x C⁹), 32.5 (C¹²), 18.8 (C¹³), 13.4 (C¹⁴); HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calculated for C₁₇H₂₃N₂O [M]⁺: 271.18049, found: 271.18043; m.p. (acetone) 179 – 181 °C; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹) 1638, 1592, 1573, 1451, 1403, 1231, 1114, 1030, 837, 759.



N-Butyl-8-morpholinoisoquinolinium iodide (1t) The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure E using 8-morpholinoisoquinoline (0.428 g, 2.00 mmol) and 1-iodobutane (0.3 mL, 2.40 mmol) to give salt **1t** (0.610 g, 77%) as a yellow solid. ¹H NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ) 9.70 (1H, s, C¹H), 8.77 (1H, dd, *J* = 6.8, 1.4 Hz, C³H), 8.54

(1H, d, J = 6.8 Hz, C⁴H), 8.14 (1H, t, J = 8.0 Hz, C⁶H), 7.95 (1H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, C⁵H), 7.60 (1H, dd, J = 7.8, 0.9 Hz, C⁷H), 4.80 (2H, t, J = 7.5 Hz, C¹¹H₂), 3.97-3.92 (4H, m, 2 x C¹⁰H₂), 3.20-3.15 (4H, m, 2 x C⁹H₂), 1.97 (2H, p, J = 7.5 Hz, C¹²H₂), 1.36 (2H, h, J = 7.4 Hz, C¹³H₂), 0.94 (3H, t, J = 7.4 Hz, C¹⁴H₂); ¹³C NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ 152.5 (C^Q), 145.8 (C¹), 138.6 (C^Q), 137.6 (C⁶), 134.8 (C³), 126.1 (C⁴), 122.5 (C^Q), 121.4 (C⁵), 119.7 (C⁷), 66.0 (2 x C¹⁰), 60.5 (C¹¹), 53.6 (2 x C⁹), 32.7 (C¹²), 18.9 (C¹³), 13.4 (C¹⁴); HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calculated for C₁₇H₂₃N₂O [M]⁺: 271.18049, found: 271.18063; m.p. (acetone) 203 – 205 °C; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹) 1637, 1593, 1570, 1367, 1303, 1190, 1111, 1033, 804, 759.



N-Butyl-6-methylisoquinolinium iodide (1u) The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure E using 6-methylisoquinoline (0.286 g, 2.00 mmol) and 1-iodobutane (0.3 mL, 2.40 mmol). FCC (0-4% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂) gave salt **1u** (0.447 g, 68%)

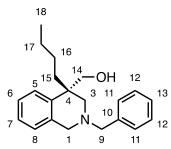
as a yellow solid. ¹H NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ) 10.00 (1H, s, C¹H), 8.75 (1H, dd, J = 6.8, 1.5 HZ, C³H), 8.46 (1H,

d, J = 6.8 Hz, C^{4} H), 8.38 (1H, d, J = 8.5 Hz, C^{8} H), 8.13 (1H, s, C^{5} H), 7.92 (1H, dd, J = 8.5, 1.7 Hz, C^{7} H), 4.68 (2H, t, J = 7.4 Hz, C^{10} H₂), 2.66 (3H, s, C^{9} H₃), 1.99 (2H, p, J = 7.5 Hz, C^{11} H₂), 1.34 (2H, h, J = 7.4 Hz, C^{12} H₂), 0.93 (3H, t, J = 7.4 Hz, C^{13} H₃); ¹³C NMR ((CD₃)₂SO) δ 149.1 (C^{Q}), 148.5 (C^{1}), 137.1 (C^{Q}), 135.0 (C^{3}), 133.3 (C^{7}), 130.0 (C^{8}), 126.0 (C^{5}), 125.6 (C^{Q}), 125.0 (C^{4}), 60.3 (C^{10}), 32.4 (C^{11}), 22.2 (C^{9}), 18.9 (C^{12}), 13.4 (C^{13}); HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calculated for C_{14} H₁₈N [M]⁺: 200.14338, found: 200.14352; m.p. (acetone) 95 – 97 °C; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹) 1644, 1606, 1571, 1539, 1462, 1366, 1186, 1112, 815, 717.

Transition metal free reductive hydroxymethylation

General Procedure F: A mixture of the appropriate isoquinolinium iodide (0.25 mmol, 1 equiv.), potassium methoxide (10 equiv.), and paraformaldehyde (120 equiv.) in methanol (0.25 mL) was heated at 65 °C for 24 hours in a sealed microwave vial. The reaction mixture was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure, quenched with distilled water (10 mL) and extracted in EtOAc (20 mL x 3). The organic layer was dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate, filtered and evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude compound was purified using chromatography to obtain the pure product.

rac-N-Benzyl-4-butyl-4-hydroxymethyltetrahydroisoquinoline (2a) The title compound was



prepared according to General Procedure F using *N*-benzyl-4-butylisoquinolinium iodide (100.8 mg) and purified by silica gel chromatography (10-20% EtOAc in pentane) to give THIQ **2a** as a yellow oil (47 mg, 64%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.36 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 4H, 4 x C^{Ar}H), 7.34 – 7.19 (m, 3H, 3 x C^{Ar}H), 7.13 (td, *J* = 7.4, 1.6 Hz, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 6.98 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.3 Hz, 1H, C^{5/8}H), 5.65 (s, 1H, OH), 3.85 (dd, *J* = 14.8, 1.9 Hz, 1H,

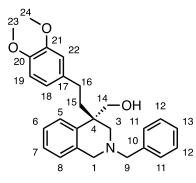
C¹**H**), 3.78 (d, *J* = 9.9 Hz, 1H, C¹⁴**H**), 3.70 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1H, C⁹**H**), 3.63 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H, C⁹**H**), 3.60 (dd, *J* = 7.1, 2.7 Hz, 1H, C¹⁴**H**), 3.32 (d, *J* = 14.6 Hz, 1H, C¹**H**), 2.98 (dd, *J* = 11.4, 1.9 Hz, 1H, C³**H**), 2.64 (dd, *J* = 11.4, 2.7 Hz, 1H, C³**H**), 1.67 (ddd, *J* = 14.0, 12.2, 4.6 Hz, 1H, C¹⁵**H**), 1.39 (ddd, *J* = 14.0, 12.1, 4.7 Hz, 1H, C¹⁵**H**), 1.30 – 1.17 (m, 2H, 2 x C¹⁷**H**), 1.16 – 0.93 (m, 2H, 2 x C¹⁶**H**), 0.84 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H, 3 x C¹⁸**H**); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 138.0 (C^Q), 136.9 (C^Q), 135.6 (C^Q), 129.1 (2 x C^{Ar}), 128.6 (2 x C^{Ar}), 127.6 (C^{Ar}), 127.0 (C^{Ar}), 126.2 (C^{Ar}), 126.0 (C^{Ar}), 125.7 (C^{Ar}), 76.3 (C¹⁴), 63.1 (C⁹), 60.9 (C³), 56.8 (C¹), 42.1 (C^Q), 35.0 (C¹⁵), 26.0 (C¹⁶), 23.5 (C¹⁷), 13.9 (C¹⁸); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for C₂₁H₂₈NO [M + H]⁺ = 310.2171, found 310.2163; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹): 3402, 2980, 2861, 2835, 1522, 1498, 1248, 1207, 729, 653.

 (CDCI_3) δ 7.34 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H, C^{5/8}H), 7.28 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 2H, 2 x C¹²H), 7.25 – 7.21 (m, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 7.15 (td, J = 7.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 7.00 (dd, J = 7.5, 1.4 Hz, 1H, C^{5/8}H), 6.90 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H, 2 x C¹¹H), 5.75 – 5.57 (m, 1H, OH), 3.89 (dd, J = 14.9, 1.8 Hz, 1H, C¹H), 3.82 (s, 3H, 3 x C¹⁴H), 3.75 (d, J = 9.9 Hz, 1H, C⁹H), 3.64 (dd, J = 9.9, 2.7 Hz, 1H, C⁹H), 3.60 (d, J = 1.1 Hz, 2H, 2 x C¹⁵H), 3.35 (d, J = 14.8 Hz, 1H, C¹**H**), 3.04 (dd, *J* = 11.4, 1.9 Hz, 1H, C³**H**), 2.43 (dd, *J* = 11.4, 2.7 Hz, 1H, C³**H**), 1.15 (s, 3H, 3 x C¹⁶**H**); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 159.0 (C^Q), 139.6 (C^Q), 134.9 (C^Q), 130.3 (2 x C¹²), 128.9 (C^Q), 127.0 (C^{6/7}), 126.2 (C^{6/7}), 126.1 (C^{5/8}), 125.5 (C^{5/8}), 113.9 (2 x C¹¹), 76.2 (C⁹), 63.5 (C³), 62.2 (C¹⁵), 56.7 (C¹), 55.3 (C¹⁴), 38.9 (C^Q), 22.4 (C¹⁶); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for C₁₉H₂₄NO₂ [M + H]⁺ = 298.1807, found: 298.104; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹): 3312, 3120, 2891, 1657, 1538, 1488, 1281, 1045, 742, 711.

rac-N-Benzyl-4-phenethyl-4-hydroxymethyltetrahydroisoquinoline (2c) The title compound was prepared according to General Procedure F using N-benzyl-4-(3,4-18 phenethyl)isoquinolinium iodide (112.8 mg) and purified by silica gel chromatography (10-30% EtOAc in pentane) to give THIQ 2c as a OH 12 yellow oil (50 mg, 56%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.39 – 7.36 (m, 4H, 4 x 13 C^{Ar}**H**), 7.36 – 7.27 (m, 4H, 4 x C^{Ar}**H**), 7.25 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H, C^{Ar}**H**), 7.20 10 9 -7.14 (m, 2H, 2 x C^{Ar}H), 7.10 (dd, J = 8.1, 1.4 Hz, 2H, 2 x C^{Ar}H), 7.03

(dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H, C^{Ar}H), 5.55 (s, 1H, OH), 3.88 (dd, *J* = 14.8, 1.8 Hz, 1H, C¹H), 3.81 (d, *J* = 9.9 Hz, 1H, C¹⁴H), 3.73 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1H, C⁹H), 3.68 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, C⁹H), 3.65 (dd, 1H, C¹⁴H), 3.39 (d, *J* = 14.7 Hz, 1H, C¹H), 3.06 (dd, J = 11.3, 1.9 Hz, 1H, C³H), 2.75 (dd, J = 11.3, 2.7 Hz, 1H, C³H), 2.45 (td, J = 13.0, 5.4 Hz, 1H, C¹⁶H), 2.35 (ddd, J = 13.3, 12.5, 4.5 Hz, 1H, C¹⁶H), 1.99 (ddd, J = 14.1, 12.5, 4.5 Hz, 1H, C¹⁵H), 1.72 (ddd, J = 14.1, 12.2, 5.4 Hz, 1H, C¹⁵H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 142.2 (C^Q), 137.4 (C^Q), 136.8 (C^Q), 135.7 (C^Q), 129.1 (2 x C^{Ar}), 128.6 (2 x C^{Ar}), 128.33 (2 x C^{Ar}), 128.30 (2 x C^{Ar}), 127.6 (C^{Ar}), 127.1 (C^{Ar}), 126.3 (C^{Ar}), 126.1 (C^{Ar}), 125.8 (C^{Ar}), 125.6 (C^{Ar}), 75.9 (C¹⁴), 63.0 (C⁹), 60.5 (C³), 56.7 (C¹), 42.3 (C^Q), 37.3 (C¹⁵), 30.3 (C^{16}) ; HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for $C_{25}H_{28}NO [M + H]^+ = 358.2171$, found: 358.2163; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹): 3328, 3005, 2934, 2910, 2887, 1553, 1503, 1109, 1084, 758.

rac-N-Benzyl-4-(3,4-dimethoxyphenethyl)-4-hydroxymethyltetrahydroisoquinoline (2d) The title



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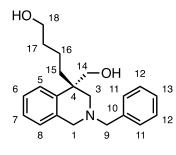
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compound was prepared according to General Procedure F using Nbenzyl-4-(3,4-dimethoxyphenethyl)isoquinolinium iodide (175.3 mg) and purified by silica gel chromatography (10-40% EtOAc in pentane) to give THIQ 2d as a yellow oil (65 mg, 62%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.37 (d, J = 4.5 Hz, 4H, 4 x C^{Ar}H), 7.36 – 7.28 (m, 3H, 3 x C^{Ar}**H**), 7.18 (td, *J* = 7.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H, C^{6/7}**H**), 7.03 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.3 Hz, 1H, C^{5/8}H), 6.77 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H, C¹⁹H), 6.63 (dd, J = 8.1, 2.0 Hz, 1H,

C¹⁸H), 6.59 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H, C²²H), 5.55 (s, 1H, OH), 3.91 – 3.86 (m, 1H, C¹H), 3.85 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 6H, 3 $x C^{23}H + 3 x C^{24}H$, 3.82 (d, J = 9.9 Hz, 1H, $C^{14}H$), 3.72 (d, J = 12.8 Hz, 1H, $C^{9}H$), 3.69 – 3.64 (m, 2H, $C^{9+14}H$), 3.38 (d, J = 14.7 Hz, 1H, C¹H), 3.06 (dd, J = 11.3, 1.8 Hz, 1H, C³H), 2.73 (dd, J = 11.4, 2.6 Hz, 1H, C³H), 2.41 (td, J = 13.1, 5.4 Hz, 1H, C¹⁶H), 2.30 (ddd, J = 13.7, 12.1, 4.5 Hz, 1H, C¹⁶H), 1.98 (ddd, J = 14.1, 12.4, 4.6 Hz, 1H, C¹⁵H), 1.72 (ddd, J = 14.1, 12.1, 5.4 Hz, 1H, C¹⁶H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 148.8 (C^Q), 147.1 (C^Q), 137.5 (C^Q), 136.8 (C^Q), 135.7 (C^Q), 134.9 (C^Q), 129.1 (2 x C^{Ar}), 128.6 (2 x C^{Ar}), 127.6 (C^{Ar}), 127.2 (C^{Ar}), 126.4 (C^{5/8}), 126.2 (C^{6/7}), 125.6 (C^{Ar}), 119.8 (C¹⁸), 111.4 (C²²), 111.2 (C¹⁹), 76.1 (C¹⁴), 63.1 (C⁹), 60.6 (C³), 56.8 (C¹), 55.9 (C^{23/24}), 55.8 (C^{23/24}), 42.4 (C^Q), 37.3 (C¹⁵), 30.0 (C¹⁶); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for C₂₇H₃₂NO₃ [M + H]⁺ = 418.2382, found: 418.2366. IR (neat) (cm⁻¹): 3351, 2910, 2887, 1652, 1528, 1469, 1283, 1275, 1100, 732.

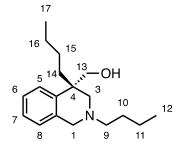
rac-N-Benzyl-4-(butan-1-ol)-4-hydroxymethyltetrahydroisoquinoline (2e) The title compound was



prepared according to General Procedure F using *N*-benzyl-4-(butan-1ol)isoquinolinium iodide (101.5 mg) and purified by column chromatography (10-40% EtOAc in pentane) to give THIQ **2e** as a yellow oil (56 mg, 69%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.38 – 7.33 (m, 4H, 4 x C^{Ar}H), 7.34 – 7.19 (m, 3H, 3 x C^{Ar}H), 7.13 (ddd, *J* = 8.5, 6.8, 1.8 Hz, 1H, C^{Ar}H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 7.6, 1H, C^{Ar}H), 3.84 (dd, *J* = 14.8, 1.8 Hz, 1H, C¹H), 3.77 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz,

1H, C^{14} H), 3.69 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1H, C^{9} H), 3.63 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H, C^{9} H), 3.60 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.9 Hz, 1H, C^{14} H), 3.50 (dd, *J* = 6.7, 3.3 Hz, 2H, 2 x C^{18} H), 3.33 (d, *J* = 14.6 Hz, 1H, C^{1} H), 2.97 (dd, *J* = 11.4, 1.8 Hz, 1H, C^{3} H), 2.65 (dd, *J* = 11.4, 2.6 Hz, 1H, C^{3} H), 1.69 (ddd, *J* = 13.9, 12.5, 4.4 Hz, 1H, C^{16} H), 1.50 – 1.43 (m, 2H, 2 x C^{17} H), 1.42 – 1.36 (m, 1H, C^{16} H), 1.28 – 1.15 (m, 1H, C^{15} H), 1.15 – 0.98 (m, 1H, C^{15} H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 137.7 (C^Q), 136.7 (C^Q), 135.5 (C^Q), 129.0 (2 x C^{Ar}), 128.5 (2 x C^{Ar}), 127.5 (C^{Ar}), 127.0 (C^{Ar}), 126.2 (C^{Ar}), 126.0 (C^{Ar}), 125.5 (C^{Ar}), 76.0 (C¹⁴), 63.0 (C⁹), 62.3 (C¹⁸), 60.6 (C³), 56.6 (C¹), 42.0 (C^Q), 34.9 (C¹⁶), 33.2 (C¹⁷), 20.2 (C¹⁵); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for C₂₁H₂₈NO₂ [M + H]⁺ = 326.2120, found: 326.2114; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹): 3394, 2900, 2876, 1561, 1489, 1172, 1125, 900, 741, 720.

rac-N-Butyl-4-butyl-4-hydroxymethyltetrahydroisoquinoline (2f) The title compound was prepared

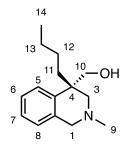


according to General Procedure F using *N*-butyl-4-butylisoquinolinium iodide (92.3 mg) and purified by silica gel chromatography (5–10% EtOAc in pentane) to give THIQ **2f** as a yellow oil (40 mg, 58%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.28 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H, C^{5/8}H), 7.23 (m, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 7.15 (td, *J* = 7.3, 1.6 Hz, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 7.04 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H, C^{5/8}H), 6.02 (s, 1H, OH), 3.93 (dd, *J* = 14.6, 1.9 Hz, 1H, C¹H), 3.86 (d, *J* = 9.7 Hz, 1H,

C¹³**H**), 3.62 (dd, J = 9.7, 2.9 Hz, 1H, C¹³**H**), 3.27 (dd, J = 14.6, 1.1 Hz, 1H, C¹**H**), 2.97 (dd, J = 11.4, 1.9 Hz, 1H, C³**H**), 2.57 (dd, J = 11.4, 2.9 Hz, 1H, C³**H**), 2.52 – 2.43 (m, 2H, 2 x C⁹**H**), 1.72 – 1.52 (m, 3H, C¹⁴**H** + 2 x C¹⁰**H**), 1.47 – 1.32 (m, 3H, C¹⁴**H** + 2 x C¹¹**H**), 1.32 – 1.21 (m, 2H, 2 x C¹⁶**H**), 1.19 – 0.99 (m, 2H, 2 x C¹⁵**H**), 0.95 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H, 3 x C¹²**H**), 0.85 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H, 3 x C¹⁷**H**); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 138.3 (C^Q), 135.8 (C^Q), 126.9 (C^{6/7}), 126.1 (C^{5/8}), 125.87 (C^{6/7}), 125.85 (C^{5/8}), 76.6 (C¹³), 61.5 (C³), 58.0 (C⁹), 56.9 (C¹), 41.8

 (C^{Q}) , 35.0 (C^{14}) , 28.9 (C^{10}) , 26.0 (C^{15}) , 23.5 (C^{16}) , 20.5 (C^{11}) , 13.94 (C^{12}) , 13.88 (C^{17}) ; HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for $C_{18}H_{30}NO [M + H]^+ = 276.2249$, found: 276.2318; IR (neat) (cm^{-1}) : 3381, 3347, 3004, 2991, 2874, 1438, 1426, 1161, 1123, 728.

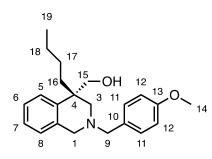
rac-N-Methyl-4-butyl-4-hydroxymethyltetrahydroisoquinoline (2g) The title compound was



prepared according to General Procedure F using *N*-methyl-4butylisoquinolinium iodide (81.8 mg) and purified by silica gel chromatography (10-30% EtOAc in pentane with 1% Et₃N) to give THIQ **2g** as a white solid (47 mg, 68%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.28 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.6 Hz, 1H, C^{5/8}H), 7.23 (dt, *J* = 7.8, 1.0 Hz, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 7.15 (td, *J* = 7.3, 1.6 Hz, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 7.06 – 7.00 (m, 1H, C^{5/8}H), 5.92 (m, 1H, OH), 3.86 (s, 1H, C¹H), 3.85 – 3.80 (m, 1H, C¹⁰H), 3.61 (dd, *J* = 9.7, 2.8 Hz,

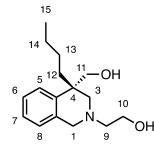
1H, C¹⁰H), 3.28 (dd, J = 14.5, 1.1 Hz, 1H, C¹H), 2.88 (dd, J = 11.4, 1.9 Hz, 1H, C³H), 2.57 (dd, J = 11.4, 2.9 Hz, 1H, C³H), 2.42 (s, 3H, 3 x C⁹H), 1.66 (ddd, J = 13.9, 12.1, 4.7 Hz, 1H, C¹¹H), 1.41 (ddd, J = 14.0, 12.0, 4.7 Hz, 1H, C¹¹H), 1.32 – 1.20 (m, 2H, 2 x C¹³H), 1.18 – 0.97 (m, 2H, 2 x C¹²H), 0.84 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H, 3 x C¹⁴H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 137.9 (C^Q), 135.7 (C^Q), 127.0 (C^{6/7}), 126.0 (C^{5/8}), 126.9 (C^{6/7}), 125.7 (C^{5/8}), 76.7 (C¹⁰), 63.1 (C³), 58.7 (C¹), 45.7 (C⁹), 42.0 (C^Q), 35.0 (C¹¹), 26.1 (C¹²), 23.5 (C¹³), 13.9 (C¹⁴); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for C₁₅H₂₄NO [M + H]⁺ = 234.1858, found: 234.1853; m.p. (chloroform) 83 – 85 °C; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹): 3230, 3010, 2931, 2918, 1476, 1465, 1223, 1204, 705, 692.

rac-N-(p-Methoxybenzyl)-4-butyl-4-hydroxymethyltetrahydroisoquinoline (2h) The title compound



was prepared according to General Procedure F using *N*-(*p*-methoxybenzyl)-4-butylisoquinolinium iodide (108.3 mg) and purified by silica gel chromatography (10–30% EtOAc in pentane) to give THIQ **2h** as a yellow oil (63 mg, 74%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.29 – 7.24 (m, 3H, C^{5/8}H + 2 x C¹²H), 7.23 (m, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 7.13 (td, *J* = 7.3, 1.6 Hz, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 7.00 – 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H, C^{5/8}H), 6.92 –

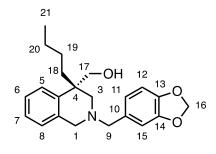
6.86 (m, 2H, 2 x C¹¹H), 5.66 (s, 1H, OH), 3.86 – 3.80 (m, 4H, C¹H + 3 x C¹⁴H), 3.76 (d, J = 9.8 Hz, 1H, C¹⁵H), 3.66 – 3.52 (m, 3H, C¹⁵H + 2 x C⁹H), 3.30 (d, J = 14.6 Hz, 1H, C¹H), 2.97 (dd, J = 11.4, 1.9 Hz, 1H, C³H), 2.60 (dd, J = 11.4, 2.7 Hz, 1H, C³H), 1.66 (ddd, J = 14.0, 12.2, 4.6 Hz, 1H, C¹⁶H), 1.38 (ddd, J = 13.9, 12.0, 4.7 Hz, 1H, C¹⁶H), 1.30 – 1.18 (m, 2H, 2 x C¹⁸H), 1.17 – 0.91 (m, 2H, 2 x C¹⁷H), 0.84 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H, 3 x C¹⁹H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 159.0 (C^Q), 138.2 (C^Q), 135.7 (C^Q), 130.3 (2 x C¹²), 128.9 (C^Q), 127.0 (C^{6/7}), 126.2 (C^{5/8}), 125.9 (C^{6/7}), 125.7 (C^{5/8}), 113.9 (2 x C¹¹), 76.3 (C¹⁵), 62.4 (C⁹), 60.7 (C³), 56.7 (C¹), 55.3 (C¹⁴), 42.1 (C^Q), 35.0 (C¹⁶), 26.1 (C¹⁷), 23.5 (C¹⁸), 13.9 (C¹⁹); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for C₂₂H₃₀NO₂ [M + H]⁺ = 340.2277, found: 340.2266. IR (neat) (cm⁻¹): 3402, 3058, 2997, 1634, 1524, 1486, 1272, 1089, 781, 766. rac-N-Hydroxyethyl-4-butyl-4-hydroxymethyltetrahydroisoquinoline (2i) The title compound was



prepared according to General Procedure F using *N*-Hydroxyethyl-4butylisoquinolinium iodide (89.3 mg) and purified by silica gel chromatography (2% methanol in CH₂Cl₂) to give THIQ **2i** as a yellow oil (34 mg, 54%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.29 – 7.25 (m, 1H, C^{5/8}H), 7.23 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 7.15 (td, *J* = 7.3, 1.7 Hz, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 7.06 – 7.00 (m, 1H, C^{5/8}H), 3.89 (dd, *J* = 14.6, 1.8 Hz, 1H, C¹H), 3.84 – 3.70 (m, 3H, 2 x C⁹H + C¹¹H), 3.67

(dd, J = 10.0, 2.1 Hz, 1H, C¹¹H), 3.44 (d, J = 14.5 Hz, 1H, C¹H), 3.02 (dd, J = 11.5, 1.9 Hz, 1H, C³H), 2.77 – 2.51 (m, 3H, C³H + 2 x C¹⁰H), 1.68 (ddd, J = 14.0, 12.2, 4.6 Hz, 1H, C¹²H), 1.46 (ddd, J = 14.0, 12.1, 4.6 Hz, 1H, C¹²H), 1.32 – 1.19 (m, 2H, 2 x C¹⁴H), 1.18 – 0.94 (m, 2H, 2 x C¹³H), 0.84 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H, 3 x C¹⁵H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 138.1 (C^Q), 135.6 (C^Q), 127.0 (C^{6/7}), 126.2 (C^{5/8}), 126.0 (C^{5/8}), 125.9 (C^{6/7}), 75.1 (C¹¹), 59.9 (C³), 59.6 (C¹⁰), 59.0 (C⁹), 57.3 (C¹), 42.2 (C^Q), 35.2 (C¹²), 26.1 (C¹³), 23.4 (C¹⁴), 13.9 (C¹⁵); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for C₁₆H₂₆NO₂ [MH⁺] = 264.1965, found: 264.1957; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹): 3410, 2951, 2908, 1459, 1441, 1168, 824, 755, 743, 690.

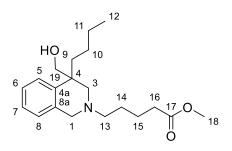
rac-N-Piperonyl-4-butyl-4-hydroxymethyltetrahydroisoquinoline (2j) The title compound was



prepared according to General Procedure F using *N*-piperonyl-4butylisoquinolinium iodide (111.8 mg) and purified by silica gel chromatography (10-20% EtOAc in pentane) to give THIQ **2j** as a yellow oil (56 mg, 69%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.27 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 1H, C^{5/8}H), 7.23 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 7.2, 1.4 Hz, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 7.13 (td, *J* = 7.3, 1.6 Hz, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 6.99 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.3 Hz, 1H, C^{5/8}H), 6.84 (d, *J* =

0.8 Hz, 1H, C¹⁵H), 6.82 – 6.76 (m, 2H, C¹¹⁺¹²H), 5.96 (q, J = 1.4 Hz, 2H, 2 x C¹⁶H), 5.45 (s, 1H, OH), 3.83 (dd, J = 14.6, 1.8 Hz, 1H, C¹H), 3.77 (d, J = 9.8 Hz, 1H, C¹⁷H), 3.60 (d, J = 12.3 Hz, 2H, C⁹⁺¹⁴H), 3.52 (d, J = 12.7 Hz, 1H, C⁹H), 3.29 (d, J = 14.6 Hz, 1H, C¹H)), 2.97 (dd, J = 11.4, 1.9 Hz, 1H, C³H), 2.60 (dd, J = 11.4, 2.7 Hz, 1H, C³H), 1.67 (ddd, J = 14.0, 12.2, 4.6 Hz, 1H, C¹⁸H), 1.40 (ddd, J = 14.0, 12.1, 4.7 Hz, 1H, C¹⁸H), 1.30 – 1.19 (m, 2H, 2 x C²⁰H), 1.17 – 0.91 (m, 2H, 2 x C¹⁹H), 0.84 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H, 3 x C²¹H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 147.9 (C^Q), 147.0 (C^Q), 138.1 (C^Q), 135.6 (C^Q), 130.7 (C^Q), 127.0 (C^{6/7}), 126.2 (C^{5/8}), 126.0 (C^{6/7}), 125.7 (C^{5/8}), 122.4 (C^{11/12}), 109.5 (C¹⁵), 108.2 (C^{11/12}), 101.1 (C¹⁶), 76.2 (C¹⁷), 62.9 (C⁹), 60.7 (C³), 56.6 (C¹), 42.1 (C^Q), 35.1 (C¹⁸), 26.1 (C¹⁹), 23.5 (C²⁰), 13.9 (C²¹); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for C₂₂H₂₈NO₃ [M + H]⁺ = 354.2069, found: 354.2059; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹): 3415, 2902, 2881, 1524, 1500, 1427, 1218, 1041, 905, 767.

rac-N-Methyl 5-pentanoate-4-butyl-4-hydroxymethyltetrahydroisoquinoline (2k)



The title compound is prepared according to General Procedure F using salt **1k** (110 mg, 0.25 mmol). The crude material was purified by FCC (0-30% EtOAc:pentane) to give THIQ **2k** (51 mg, 64%) as a colourless oil.

¹ H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.30-7.23 (m, 2H, C^{5/8}H + C^{6/7}H), 7.16 (td, *J* = 7.3, 1.7 Hz, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 7.04 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.3 Hz, C^{5/8}H), 3.92 (dd, *J*

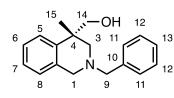
= 14.6, 1.8 Hz, 1H, $C^{1}H_{2}$), 3.84 (d, J = 9.8 Hz, 1H, $C^{19}H$), 3.68 (s, 3H, $C^{18}H_{3}$), 3.63 (dd, J = 9.8, 2.7 Hz, 1H, $C^{19}H_{2}$), 3.29 (d, J = 14.5 Hz, 1H, $C^{1}H_{2}$), 2.96 (dd, J = 11.4, 1.9 Hz, 1H, $C^{3}H_{2}$), 2.57 (dd, J = 11.4, 2.8 Hz, 1H, $C^{3}H_{2}$), 2.51 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H, $C^{13}H_{2}$), 2.37 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H, $C^{16}H_{2}$), 1.73-1.62 (m, 5H, 2 x $C^{14}H_{2}$ + 2 x $C^{15}H_{2}$ + $C^{9}H_{2}$), 1.42 (ddd, J = 14.0, 12.0, 4.7 Hz, 1H, $C^{9}H_{2}$), 1.31-1.20 (m, 2H, $C^{11}H_{2}$), 1.14-0.99 (m, 2H, $C^{10}H_{2}$), 0.85 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H, $C^{12}H_{3}$);

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 173.8 (C¹⁷), 138.2 (C), 135.6 (C), 127.0 (C^{5/6/7/8}), 126.1 (C^{5/8}), 125.9 (C^{6/7}), 125.7 (C^{5/6/7/8}), 76.4 (C¹⁹), 61.3 (C³), 57.9 (C¹³), 56.9 (C¹), 51.5 (C¹⁸), 41.9 (C⁴), 35.0 (C⁹), 33.7 (C¹⁶), 26.3 (C^{14/15}), 26.1 (C¹⁰), 23.5 (C¹¹), 22.7 (C^{14/15}), 13.9 (C¹²); HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calculated for C₂₀H₃₂NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 334.2377, found: 334.2377; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹): 2931, 1734 (C=O), 1491, 1452, 1171, 1039, 907, 760, 730, 619.

Tandem methylation-hydroxymethylation

General Procedure G: A mixture of the appropriate isoquinolinium iodide (0.25 mmol, 1 equiv.), potassium methoxide (12 equiv.), and paraformaldehyde (120 equiv.) in methanol (0.25 mL) was heated at 65 °C for 24 hours in a sealed microwave vial. The reaction mixture was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure, quenched with distilled water (10 mL) and extracted in EtOAc (20 mL x 3). The organic layers were combined and dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate, filtered and evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude compound was purified by chromatography.

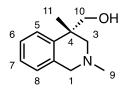
rac-N-Benzyl-4-methyl-4-hydroxymethyltetrahydroisoquinoline (20) The title compound was



prepared according to General Procedure G using *N*-benzylisoquinolinium iodide⁸ (86.8 mg) and purified by silica gel chromatography (10-30% EtOAc in pentane) to give THIQ **20** as a yellow oil (40 mg, 54%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.38 – 7.35 (m, 4H, 4 x C^{Ar}H), 7.35 –

7.29 (m, 2H, 2 x C^{Ar}H), 7.27 – 7.22 (m, 1H, C^{Ar}H), 7.16 (td, J = 7.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H, C^{Ar}H), 7.00 (dq, J = 7.6, 0.7 Hz, C^{Ar}H), 5.54 (s, 1H, OH), 3.90 (dd, J = 14.9, 1.8 Hz, 1H, C¹H), 3.77 (d, J = 9.9 Hz, 1H, C¹⁴H), 3.72 – 3.66 (m, 2H, 2 x C⁹H), 3.66 – 3.63 (m, 1H, C¹⁴H), 3.38 (dd, J = 14.8, 1.0 Hz, 1H, C¹H), 3.06 (dd, J = 11.4, 1.9 Hz, 1H, C³H), 2.48 (dd, J = 11.4, 2.6 Hz, 1H, C³H), 1.16 (s, 3H, 3 x C¹⁵H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 139.5 (C^Q), 136.9 (C^Q), 134.8 (C^Q), 129.1 (2 x C^{Ar}), 128.6 (2 x C^{Ar}), 127.6 (C^{Ar}), 127.1 (C^{Ar}), 126.2 (C^{Ar}), 126.1 (C^{Ar}), 125.5 (C^{Ar}), 76.2 (C¹⁴), 63.7 (C³), 62.9 (C⁹), 56.7 (C¹), 38.9 (C^Q), 22.3 (C¹⁵); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for C₁₈H₂₂NO [M + H]⁺ = 268.1696, found: 268.1696; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹): 3027, 2930, 2807, 1493, 1452, 1140, 1092, 1030, 757, 690.

rac-N-Methyl-4-methyl-4-hydroxymethyltetrahydroisoquinoline (2p) The title compound was



prepared according to General Procedure G using *N*-methyl-isoquinolinium iodide⁹ (67.8 mg) and purified by silica gel chromatography (50-70% EtOAc in pentane with 1% Et₃N) to give THIQ **2p** as a yellow oil (28 mg, 58%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.36 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H, C^{5/8}H), 7.25 (tt, *J* = 7.8, 1.1 Hz, 1H, C^{6/7}H),

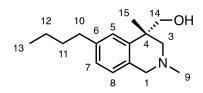
7.17 (td, J = 7.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 7.04 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.1 Hz, 1H, C^{5/8}H), 3.89 (dd, J = 14.7, 1.8 Hz, 1H, C¹H), 3.84 (d, J = 9.9 Hz, 1H, C¹⁰H), 3.66 (dd, J = 9.9, 2.6 Hz, 1H, C¹⁰H), 3.32 (d, J = 14.7 Hz, 1H, C¹H), 2.95 (dd, J = 11.4, 1.8 Hz, 1H, C³H), 2.45 – 2.40 (m, 4H, 3 x C⁹H + C³H), 1.16 (s, 3H, 3 x C¹¹H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 139.2 (C^Q), 134.9 (C^Q), 127.0 (C^{6/7}), 126.2 (C^{6/7}), 125.9 (C^{5/8}), 125.5 (C^{5/8}), 76.6 (C¹⁰), 65.9 (C³),

⁸ Z. Fang, Y. Wang, Y. Wang, Org. Lett. **2019**, 21, 434-438.

⁹ F. Zeng, C.-F. Chen, Org. Chem Biomol. **2015**, *13*, 1988-1991.

58.6 (C¹), 45.5 (C⁹), 38.7 (C^Q), 22.4 (C¹¹); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for $C_{12}H_{18}NO [M + H]^+ =$ 192.1388, found: 192.1385. IR (neat) (cm⁻¹): 3280, 3041, 2916, 1421, 1402, 1058, 1049, 767, 743.

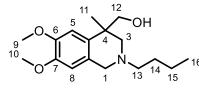
rac-N-Benzyl-6-butyl-4-methyl-4-hydroxymethyltetrahydroisoquinoline (2q) The title compound



was prepared according to General Procedure G using *N*-methyl-6butylisoquinolinium iodide (81.8 mg) and purified by silica gel chromatography (10-30% EtOAc in pentane with 1% Et₃N) to give THIQ **2q** as a yellow oil (23 mg, 34%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.14 (d, *J* =

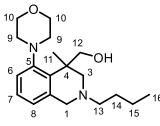
1.7 Hz, 1H, C⁵H), 6.99 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.7 Hz, 1H, C⁷H), 6.95 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H, C⁸H), 3.94 – 3.76 (m, 2H, C¹⁺¹⁴H), 3.66 (dd, J = 9.8, 2.8 Hz, 1H, C¹⁴H), 3.28 (d, J = 14.5 Hz, 1H, C¹H), 2.93 (dd, J = 11.4, 1.8 Hz, 1H, C³H), 2.62 – 2.51 (m, 2H, C¹⁰H), 2.43 – 2.39 (m, 4H, 3 x C⁹H + C³H), 1.65 – 1.52 (m, 2H, C¹¹H), 1.42 – 1.25 (m, 2H, 2 x C¹²H), 1.15 (s, 3H, 3 x C¹⁵H), 0.93 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H, 3 x C¹³H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 141.6 (C^Q), 138.9 (C^Q), 132.2 (C^Q), 126.4 (C⁷), 125.7 (C⁸), 125.4 (C⁵), 76.7 (C¹⁴), 66.1 (C³), 58.5 (C¹), 45.6 (C⁹), 38.7 (C^Q), 35.6 (C¹⁰), 33.7 (C¹¹), 22.5 (C¹²), 22.4 (C¹⁵), 14.0 (C¹³); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for C₁₆H₂₆NO [M + H]⁺ = 248.2014, found: 248.2011; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹): 3005, 2809, 1500, 1418, 1209, 1184, 1141, 1050, 749, 721.

rac-N-Butyl-6,7-dimethoxy-4-methyl-4-hydroxymethyltetrahydroisoquinoline (2r) The title



compound was prepared according to General Procedure G using *N*-butyl-6,7-dimethoxyisoquinolinium iodide (93 mg) and purified by silica gel chromatography (10-40% EtOAc in pentane) to give THIQ **2r** as a colourless oil (37 mg, 51%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 6.80 (1H,

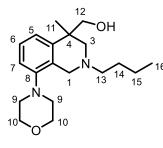
s, C^{5/8}H), 6.54 (1H, s, C^{5/8}H), 3.91 (1H, dd, J = 14.4, 1.7 Hz, C¹H₂), 3.87 (3H, s, C^{9/10}H₃), 3.84 (3H, s, C^{9/10}H₃), 3.82 (1H, d, J = 9.9 Hz, C¹²H₂), 3.65 (1H, dd, J = 9.9, 2.8 Hz, C¹²H₂), 3.26 (1H, d, J = 14.3 Hz, C¹H₂), 3.03 (1H, dd, J = 11.3, 1.7 Hz, C³H₂), 2.55-2.43 (2H, m, C¹³H₂), 2.40 (1H, dd, J = 11.4, 2.9 Hz, C³H₂), 1.64-1.55 (2H, m, C¹⁴H₂), 1.43-1.33 (2H, m, C¹⁵H₂), 1.14 (3H, s, C¹¹H₃), 0.95 (3H, t, J = 7.3 Hz, C¹⁶H₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 148.2 (C^Q), 147.7 (C^Q), 131.4 (C^Q), 127.2 (C^Q), 108.8 (C^{5/8}), 108.2 (C^{5/8}), 76.1 (C¹²), 64.4 (C³), 57.8 (C¹³), 56.4 (C¹), 56.0 (C^{9/10}), 55.8 (C^{9/10}), 38.4 (C⁴), 28.9 (C¹⁴), 22.5 (C¹¹), 20.5 (C¹⁵), 13.9 (C¹⁶); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for C₁₇H₂₈NO₃ [M + H]⁺ = 294.20637, found: 294.20621; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹): 2958, 1512, 1465, 1364, 1253, 1155, 1065, 907, 857, 726. rac-N-Butyl-5-morpholino-4-methyl-4-hydroxymethyltetrahydroisoquinoline (2s) The title



compound was prepared according to General Procedure G using *N*butyl-5-morpholinoisoquinolinium iodide (100 mg) and purified by silica gel chromatography (10-40% EtOAc in pentane) to give THIQ **2s** as a white solid (50 mg, 63%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.26 (1H, d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, C⁸H), 7.21 (1H, t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, C⁷H), 6.94 (1H, d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, C⁶H), 4.15 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.9,

2.8 Hz, $C^{12}H_2$), 3.95 (1H, dd, J = 14.7, 1.9 Hz, $C^{1}H_2$), 3.90 (2H, tt, J = 11.3, 2.9 Hz, 2 x $C^{10}H_2$), 3.80 (1H, d, J = 9.9 Hz, $C^{12}H_2$), 3.74 (2H, tt, J = 11.3, 2.5 Hz, 2 x $C^{10}H_2$), 3.33 (1H, d, J = 14.6 Hz, $C^{1}H_2$), 3.10 (1H, td, J = 11.6, 3.2 Hz, $C^{9}H_2$), 2.96 (2H, app td, J = 11.8, 3.2 Hz, $C^{3}H_2 + C^{9}H_2$), 2.73 (2H, ddd, J = 11.7, 4.1, 2.2 Hz, 2 x $C^{9}H_2$), 2.48 (2H, dq, J = 19.4, 6.8, 5.2 Hz, $C^{13}H_2$), 2.38 (1H, dd, J = 11.6, 2.8 Hz, $C^{3}H_2$), 1.60 (2H, dq, J = 7.9, 5.6 Hz, $C^{14}H_2$), 1.44-1.34 (5H, m, $C^{11}H_3 + C^{15}H_2$), 0.95 (3H, t, J = 7.3 Hz, $C^{16}H_2$); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 153.3 (C^Q), 136.9 (C^Q), 127.0 (C⁷), 124.8 (C⁶), 123.8 (C⁸), 114.1 (C^Q), 74.3 (C¹²), 67.6 (C³), 67.2 (2 x C¹⁰), 57.8 (C¹ + C¹³), 55.1 (C⁹), 53.9 (C⁹), 40.0 (C^Q), 28.8 (C¹⁴), 22.2 (C¹¹), 20.5 (C¹⁵), 13.9 (C¹⁶); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for C₁₉H₃₁N₂O₂ [M + H]⁺ = 319.23800, found: 319.23795; m.p. (CH₂Cl₂) 143 – 145 °C; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹): 2956, 1605, 1570, 1539, 1462, 1365, 1338, 1259, 1111, 752.

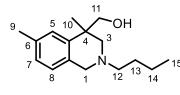
rac-N-Butyl-8-morpholino-4-methyl-4-hydroxymethyltetrahydroisoquinoline (2t) The title



compound was prepared according to General Procedure G using *N*-butyl-8-morpholinoisoquinolinium iodide (100 mg) and purified by silica gel chromatography (20-30% EtOAc in pentane) to give THIQ **2t** as a yellow oil (42 mg, 53%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.27 (1H, t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, C⁶H), 7.16 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.1 Hz, C⁵H), 6.99 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.2 Hz, C⁷H), 4.34 (1H, dd, *J* = 15.3, 2.0 Hz, C¹H₂), 3.90-3.78 (5H, m, 4 x C¹⁰H₂ + C¹²H₂), 3.70 (1H,

dd, J = 9.9, 2.8 Hz, $C^{12}H_2$), 3.10-2.96 (4H, m, $C^1H_2 + C^3H_2 + 2 \times C^9H_2$), 2.82-2.76 (2H, m, 2 $\times C^9H_2$), 2.60-2.48 (2H, m, $C^{13}H_2$), 2.40 (1H, dd, J = 11.4, 2.8 Hz, C^3H_2), 1.64 (2H, app dddd, J = 14.5, 8.2, 6.9, 2.1 Hz, $C^{14}H_2$), 1.41 (2H, h, J = 7.4 Hz, $C^{15}H_2$), 1.17 (3H, s, $C^{11}H_2$), 0.97 (3H, t, J = 7.4 Hz, $C^{16}H_3$); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 149.1 (C^Q), 141.1 (C^Q), 130.6 (C^Q), 127.5 (C⁶), 121.4 (C⁵), 117.8 (C⁷), C¹² is obscured by the CDCl₃ at around 77.0 ppm as confirmed by HSQC, 67.5 (2 $\times C^{10}$), 64.1 (C³), 58.2 (C¹³), 53.6 (C¹), 52.7 (2 $\times C^9$), 39.1 (C⁴), 29.0 (C¹⁴), 22.8 (C¹¹), 20.6 (C¹⁵), 14.0 (C¹⁶); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for C₁₉H₃₁N₂O₂ [M + H]⁺ = 319.23800, found: 319.23801; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹): 2957, 1584, 1449, 1373, 1328, 1115, 1045, 958, 795, 728.

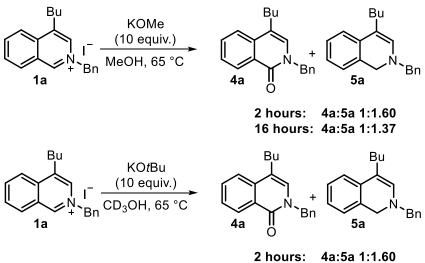
rac-N-Butyl-6-methyl-4-methyl-4-hydroxymethyltetrahydroisoquinoline (2u) The title compound



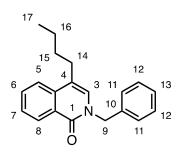
was prepared according to General Procedure G using *N*-butyl-6methylisoquinolinium iodide (82 mg) and purified by silica gel chromatography (5-20% EtOAc in pentane) to give THIQ **2u** as a colourless oil (26 mg, 42%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.15 (1H, s, C⁵H), 7.00

(1H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, $C^{7/8}$ H), 6.95 (1H, d, J = 7.8 Hz, $C^{7/8}$ H), 3.96 (1H, d, J = 14.5 Hz, C^{1} H₂), 3.83 (1H, d, J = 9.9 Hz, C^{11} H₂), 3.67 (1H, dd, J = 9.9, 2.8 Hz, C^{11} H₂), 3.30 (1H, d, J = 14.5 Hz, C^{1} H₂), 3.05 (1H, dd, J = 11.4, 1.8 Hz, C^{3} H₂), 2.51 (1H, td, J = 7.0, 3.8 Hz, C^{12} H₂), 2.42 (1H, dd, J = 11.4, 2.8 Hz, C^{3} H₂), 2.34 (3H, s, C^{9} H₃), 1.61 (2H, qd, J = 7.1, 6.6, 2.6 Hz, C^{13} H₂), 1.39 (2H, h, J = 7.4 Hz, C^{14} H₂), 1.16 (3H, s, C^{10} H₃), 0.96 (3H, t, J = 7.3 Hz, C^{15} H₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 139.3 (C^Q), 136.5 (C^Q), 131,2 (C^Q), 127.2 (C^{7/8}), 126.0 (C⁵ + C^{7/8}), 76.3 (C¹¹), 64.3 (C³), 57.9 (C¹²), 56.5 (C¹), 38.6 (C⁴), 28.8 (C¹³), 22.4 (C¹⁰), 21.3 (C⁹), 20.5 (C¹⁴), 13.9 (C¹⁵); HRMS (ESI) Exact mass calculated for C₁₆H₂₆NO [M + H]⁺ = 248.20199, found: 248.20091; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹): 2959, 1513, 1465, 1365, 1253, 1156, 1065, 906, 725, 646,

Mechanistic Experiments

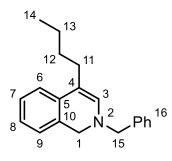


no deuterium incorporation



N-Benzyl-4-butyl-2-isoquinolinone (4a) 4-Butylisoquinolinium iodide (40 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1 equiv.) and KOMe (10 equiv.) were heated in MeOH at 65 °C for 16 hours in a sealed microwave vial. The reaction mixture was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure, quenched with distilled water (10 mL) and extracted in EtOAc (20 mL x 3). The organic layer was dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate, filtered and

evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude material was purified by column chromatography (2% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂) to give the title compound **4a** (18 mg, 62%). We suspect that compound **4a** can be formed at least partially by air oxidation of **5a**. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 8.53 (dt, *J* = 8.1, 1.0 Hz, 1H, C^{5/8}H), 7.75 – 7.60 (m, 2H, C^{5/8}H + C^{6/7}H), 7.50 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 6.5, 1.8 Hz, 1H, C^{6/7}H), 7.38 – 7.27 (m, 5H, 5 x C^{Ar}H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 0.9 Hz, 1H, C³H), 5.22 (s, 2H, C⁹H), 2.72 – 2.50 (m, 2H, C¹⁴H), 1.66 – 1.51 (m, 2H, C¹⁵H), 1.39 (h, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H, C¹⁶H), 0.93 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H, C¹⁷H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 161.9 (C^Q), 137.1 (C^Q), 136.7 (C^Q), 132.0 (C^{5/8} or C^{6/7}), 128.8 (C³), 128.8 (2 x C^{Ar}), 128.6 (C^{5/8}), 127.8 (2 x C^{Ar}), 127.7 (C^{Ar}), 126.6 (C^{6/7}), 126.4 (C^Q), 122.9 (C^{5/8} or C^{6/7}), 116.9 (C^Q), 51.6 (C⁹), 31.6 (C¹⁵), 29.2 (C¹⁴), 22.6 (C¹⁶), 13.9 (C¹⁷); HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calculated for C₂₀H₂₂NO [M + H]⁺ = 292.1696, found: 292.1698; IR (neat) (cm⁻¹): 3042, 2989, 1705, 1692, 1680, 1504, 1385, 812, 780, 668.

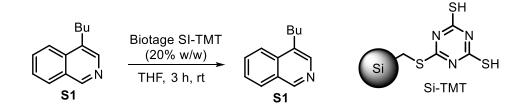


N-Benzyl-4-butyl-2-dihydroisoquinolinine (5a) The crude NMR indicated the presence of compound 5a with the following NMR spectra: ¹H NMR (CD₃OD) δ 7.36-7.34 (5H, m, 5 x Ar⁶²H), 7.13 (1H, td, *J* = 7.5, 1.4 Hz, C^{7/8}H), 7.01-6.98 (1H, m, C^{7/8}H), 6.96 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.2, 1.3 Hz, C^{6/9}H), 6.88 (1H, ddd, *J* = 7.5, 1.6, 0.8 Hz, C^{6/9}H), 6.16 (1H, s, C³H), 4.10 (2H, s, C^{1/15}H₂), 3.97 (2H, s, C^{1/15}H), 2.32 (2H, t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, C¹¹H₂), 1.54-1.38 (4H, m, $C^{12}H_2 + C^{13}H_2$), 0.95 (3H, t, J = 7.3 Hz, $C^{14}H_3$), which correlated well with related compounds reported by others.¹⁰

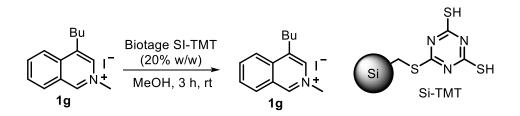
¹⁰ M. Kihara, J. Andoh, C. Yoshida, *Heterocycles*, **2000**, *53*, 359-372.

Palladium Scavenging Experiments

Two substrates were treated with Biotage ISOLUTE SI-TMT scavenging resin, particularly effective at removing trace quantities of palladium, rhodium, ruthenium, nickel, and platinum. Following treatment, these compounds showed no change of reactivity



4-Butylisoquinoline **S1** (200 mg) was dissolved in THF (20 mL) and Biotage ISOLUTE Si-TMT scavenging resin (40 mg, 20% w/w) was added and the solution was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. The solution was filtered and concentrated *in vacuo* to return "*purified*" **S1**. This material was reacted with benzyl iodide (0.2 mL) to form salt **1a** which was subjected to the standard reaction conditions and gave **2a** in 65% (16 hours) and 49% (6 hours) indicating no loss of reactivity.



N-Methyl-4-butylisoquinolinium iodide **1g** (400 mg) was dissolved in MeOH (20 mL) and Biotage ISOLUTE Si-TMT scavenging resin (80 mg, 20% w/w) was added and the solution was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. The solution was filtered and concentrated *in vacuo* to return "*purified*" **1g**. This material was subjected to the standard reaction conditions and gave **2g** in 70% (16 hours) indicating no loss of reactivity.

ICP-MS analysis of salt **1a** and **1g** before and after treatment with Pd-scavenging resins determined that in all cases the Pd-contamination was less than 5 ppm (the detection limit of the machine).

Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry of KOMe (ICP-MS)

Sample Preparation: To a solution of potassium methoxide (2 g) in MeOH, was added HCl (2-3 equiv., 2M in Et₂O). The reaction was stirred for 10 minutes then concentrated *in vacuo* to furnish potassium chloride. Potassium chloride (1 g) was dissolved in 18 megohm water (10 ml), 1 mL of this solution was further diluted in 18 megohm water (10 mL).

The ICP-MS was undertaken by Phil Holdship (Department of Earth Science, University of Oxford).

The potassium methoxide sample (purchased from Sigma Aldrich) gave the following trace metal quantities:

<u>Platinum Metals:</u> Ru (0 ppm), Rh (0.037 ppm), Pd (0.141 ppm), Ir (0.681 ppm), Pt (0 ppm), Au (1.87 ppm).

<u>Other:</u> V (12.6 ppm), Cr (11.1 ppm), Mn (1.5 ppm), Cu (0.27 ppm), Zn (23.3 ppm), Ga (0.23 ppm), Zr (0.68 ppm), Mo (0.80 ppm), Sc (0.24 ppm), Rb (214.6 ppm), Sr (3.8 ppm), Ce (0.012 ppm), Pr (0.005 ppm), Nd (0.14 ppm), Eu (0.004 ppm), Dy (0.009 ppm), Er (0.005 ppm) Ti (1.6 ppm), Se (8.3 ppm), Cd (0.097 ppm), Sn (0.28 ppm), Pb (1.51 ppm).

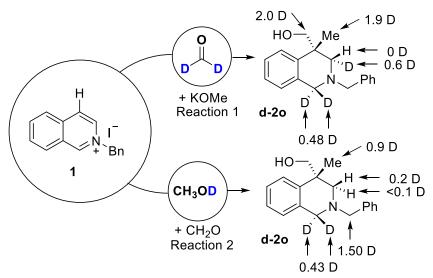
The following metals were tested for and found not to be present: Co, Ge, Nb, As, Y, La, Sm, Gd, Tb, Ho, Tm, Yb, Lu, U, W, Re.

Deuterium Labelling Studies

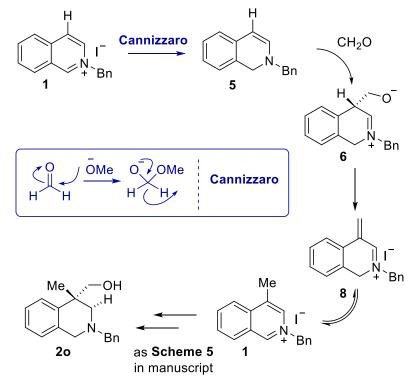
d⁴-MeOH and CH₃OD were purchased from Sigma Aldrich and Cambridge Isotope Laboratories respectively and used without further purification.

d²-Paraformaldehyde was purchased from Sigma Aldrich and used without further purification.

All reactions were performed following General Procedure F, using deuterated reagents where specified in the reaction scheme.



Tandem Methylation-Hydroxymethylation Mechanism



Scheme S1: Tandem methylation-hydroxymethylation reaction

To further understand the tandem methylation-hydroxymethylation process, the standard reaction but using paraformaldehyde-d² instead was undertaken (Reaction 1, Scheme S1) and **d-2o** was isolated with deuterium incorporation in the C1 (0.96D), one proton at the C3 (0.6D), the CH₂OH (2.0D), and the methyl (1.9D) positions. Similarly, when using CH₃OD in place of MeOH (Reaction 2, Scheme S1) deuterium incorporation was observed in the C1 (0.86D), benzylic (1.50D), C3 (0.3D) and methyl (0.9D) positions. In line with these results, we propose the following mechanism for tandem process (Scheme S1): Reduction of **1** and the trapping of formaldehyde, in the same manner as Scheme 5 in the manuscript, leads to the formation of intermediate **6**. At this point, elimination of -OH leads to exocyclic alkene **8** which can undergo an isomerization to form *N*-benzyl-4-methylisoquinolinum iodide **1** which then participates in the identical mechanism explained in Scheme 5 in the manuscript to furnish the methylated-hydroxymethylated product **2o**. This mechanism is consistent with our deuterium studies, particularly the presence of ≈1 proton in the methyl group when paraformalhyded² is used and ≈1 deuterium in the methyl group when CH₃OD is used.

