Supporting Information

Iron-Catalyzed Photoinduced LMCT: a 1° C-H Abstraction Enables Skeletal Rearrangements and C(sp3)-H Alkylation

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Materials and Methods

Unless otherwise noted, all reactions were performed in oven-dried glassware and carried out under an atmosphere of nitrogen with magnetic stirring. All photochemical reactions were run in 1.5 dram vials fitted with Teflon caps under irradiation from a PR-160 Kessil 40W LED lamp with Teflon stir-bars under vigorous magnetic stirring. All photochemical reactions were set up in a nitrogen glovebox, although optimization experiments showed that the reactions could also be set up on the benchtop without significant loss of yield. Thin layer chromatography was performed on SiliCycle® 250 μm 60 Å plates. Visualization was accomplished with 254 nm ultraviolet light, 2,4 dinitrophenylhydrazine, iodine or potassium permanganate stains.

¹H NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker 400 or 500 MHz spectrometers at ambient temperature. Chemical shift is reported in parts per million (ppm) from CDCl₃ (7.26 ppm) with multiplicity (s = singlet, bs = broad singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, and m = multiplet) and coupling constants (Hz). ¹³C NMR was recorded on Bruker 500 or 400 MHz spectrometers (126 MHz) at ambient temperature. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm from CDCl³ (77.15 ppm). Mass spectra were recorded on an Agilent 7890B GC System 5977B MSD GCMS with an EI ionization method. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained from the Columbia University Chemistry Department Mass Spectrometry Facility on a Waters XEVO G2XS QToF mass spectrometer equipped with a UPC2 SFC inlet and a LockSpray source with one of the following three probes: electrospray ionization (ESI) probe, atmospheric pressure chemical ionization (APCI) probe, or atmospheric pressure solids analysis probe (ASAP). Infrared spectra were collected on a Perkin Elmer Spectrum Two FT-IR Spectrometer. UV-vis spectra were recorded on a Beckman-Coulter DU720 General Purpose UV/Vis Spectrophotometer.

Unless otherwise mentioned, all starting materials were obtained from commercial sources including Millipore-Sigma, TCI, and Alfa-Aesar. Anhydrous FeCl₃ and anhydrous acetonitrile were obtained from Millipore-Sigma.

Optimization Studies

To an oven-dried 1.5 dram vial was added FeCl₃ (25 mol%). A magnetic stir bar was added and the vial was transferred to a glovebox. Anhydrous acetonitrile (1 mL, 0.30 M) was then added, followed by pinacolone (5 equiv., 1.5 mmol) and benzyl acrylate (1 equiv., 0.3 mmol). The vial was sealed and then placed on a stir plate 2-3 inches away from a 390 nm Kessil lamp. Ambient temperature (28 °C) was maintained with the use of a fan above the set-up. After 36 hours, the reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo and flushed through a silica plug using dichloromethane as the eluent. The solvent was removed again in vacuo and the reaction yield and isomeric ratio determined by NMR using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as the internal standard.

Experiments at 60 °C were carried out with the fan turned off.

Mass balance

Control experiments in the absence of FeCl₃ (Table 1, Entry 5) resulted in complete polymerization of benzyl acrylate, likely promoted by the intense 390 nm LED irradiation. Thus, oligomerization pathways may unproductively consume some of the acceptor (the limiting reagent), leading to lowered yields. However, the fact that we are able to observe effective reaction (with yields of up to 70-80% with some substrates) suggests that the iron catalyst must play a role in suppressing runaway chain processes like polymerization. Even in sluggish reactions that do not reach completion, there is often unreacted benzyl acrylate remaining in the crude mixture. There is precedent for FeCl₃ acting as a polymerization inhibitor through chlorination of alkyl radical species.¹⁻³ Given the proposed mechanism of our reaction, with an Fe(II) species trapping the radical formed after Giese addition to form an Fe(III) enolate, it is possible that the structurally similar radical from a growing polymer chain could also be similarly trapped, which would also further chain growth.

UV-vis studies

Sample preparation (75 μ M FeCl₃ in MeCN)

FeCl₃ (12.1 mg, 0.075 mmol) was dissolved in 1.0 mL of acetonitrile. The resultant solution was stirred for 15 minutes, and a 3.0 μL aliquot was drawn and added to 3.0 mL of acetonitrile in a quartz cuvette.

Sample preparation (75 μM FeCl₃, 187.5 μM LiCl in MeCN)

FeCl₃ (12.1 mg, 0.075 mmol) and LiCl (7.9 mg, 0.1875 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) were dissolved in 1.0 mL of acetonitrile. The resultant solution was stirred for 15 minutes, and a 3.0 μL aliquot was drawn and added to 3.0 mL of acetonitrile in a quartz cuvette.

Mechanistic and Kinetic Studies

Relationship between acrylate concentration and R_M

To oven-dried 1.5 dram vials were added FeCl₃ (25 mol%). Magnetic stir bars were added and the vials were transferred to a glovebox. Anhydrous acetonitrile $(0.4 - 4.0 \text{ mL})$ was then added, followed by pinacolone (5 equiv., 1.0 mmol) and benzyl acrylate (1 equiv., 0.2 mmol). The initial concentration of benzyl acrylate was therefore varied from 0.05M to 0.50 M. The vials were sealed and then placed on a stir plate 2-3 inches away from a 390 nm Kessil lamp. No fan was used, allowing the temperature to reach 60 °C. After 36 hours, the reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo and flushed through a silica plug using dichloromethane as the eluent. The solvent was removed again in vacuo and the ratio of unrearranged over rearranged product, the isomeric ratio (*ir)*, was determined by NMR using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as the internal standard.

On the basis of the observed linear dependence of *ir* on [benzyl acrylate]₀, we propose the following model of the 1,2-rearrangement kinetics.

Abstraction of a C-H bond from pinacolone yields a primary radical A, which can be consumed by two possible reaction pathways. Direct addition to benzyl acrylate (**k1**) yields the unrearranged product. Rearrangement via a cyclopropyl intermediate to the more stable tertiary radical A' (**k2**) may also occur. A' may then be trapped by benzyl acrylate to yield the rearranged product.

The strong dependence of *ir* on the concentration of acrylate suggests against a Curtin-Hammett kinetics regime wherein A and A' are in rapid equilibrium and the ratio of products depends mainly on the barrier to radical addition to the acrylate. We would expect concentration to have little to no effect on *ir* in a Curtin-Hammett scenario, since both radical additions (of either the primary or tertiary radical) to benzyl acrylate would be bimolecular.

Determining k_1 via initial rate experiments

To an oven-dried 1.5 dram vial was added FeCl₃ (25 mol%). A magnetic stir bar was added and the vial was transferred to a glovebox. Anhydrous acetonitrile (3 mL) was then added, followed by di-tert-butyl ketone (2.5 equiv.) and benzyl acrylate (**1 equiv., 0.20 M**). The vial was sealed and then placed on a stir plate 2-3 inches away from a 390 nm Kessil lamp. Ambient temperature (28 °C) was maintained with the use of a fan above the set-up. After **3 hours**, the reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo and flushed through a silica plug using dichloromethane as the eluent. The solvent was removed again in vacuo and the reaction yield and R_M determined by NMR using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as the internal standard.

From the earlier equation, we can find **k1**, the rate constant for addition of the primary radical to benzyl acrylate. The value of \mathbf{k}_2 for di-tert-butylketone is known to be 1.7 \times 10⁵ s⁻¹ at 25 °C in CCl₄.⁴

$$
ir = \frac{k_1}{k_2} [B]_0
$$

We found a *ir* value of 0.272. This gave $\mathbf{k}_1 = 2.3 \times 10^5 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ under our reaction conditions (28^oC in MeCN). Given the similar structure of the primary radical formed from initial HAT, we assumed an equivalent **k¹** value for the addition of the pinacolone primary radical to benzyl acrylate.

The experiment was then repeated with pinacolone as the substrate in place of di-tert-butyl ketone. We found an *ir* value of 1.6. Using the same equation above, we obtained a value for the rate constant of 1,2-migration for pinacolone, $k_2 = 2.9 \times 10^4$ s⁻¹. This value was then used to calculate the values of k_1 for acceptors other than benzyl acrylate.

Initial rate experiments with other acceptors

To an oven-dried 1.5 dram vial was added FeCl³ (25 mol%) and the appropriate acceptor (if solid) (**2 equiv., 0.20 M**). A magnetic stir bar was added and the vial was transferred to a glovebox. Anhydrous acetonitrile (3 mL) was then added, followed by pinacolone (2.5 equiv.) and the appropriate acceptor (if liquid) (**1 equiv., 0.20 M**). (In the reaction with acrylic acid, 1 equiv. of trifluoroacetic acid was also added at this point). The vial was sealed and then placed on a stir plate 2-3 inches away from a 390 nm Kessil lamp. Ambient temperature (28 °C) was maintained with the use of a fan above the set-up. After **1-12 hours**, the reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo and flushed through a silica plug using dichloromethane as the eluent. The solvent was removed again in vacuo and the reaction yield and *ir* determined by NMR using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as the internal standard.

Reaction time used:

- Maleic anhydride, N-methylmaleimide: 1 hour
- All other acceptors: 3 hours
- Dimethyl maleate: 12 hours

The reaction yields were generally below 20% within the time frame with accompanying low conversion of starting material, and the effective concentration of the acceptor was assumed to be equal to the initial concentration of acceptor (i.e. 0.20 M). For dimethyl maleate, no clear peak for the minor isomer could be observed even after 12 hours, so the *ir* is taken to be <1:10.

Comparison of rate constants to literature values

All rate constants given in units of $M⁻¹ s⁻¹$ at temperatures near 300K unless otherwise noted. #At pH 2.

We compared our measured rate constants with literature values for the addition of methyl and tert-butyl radicals.⁵⁻⁹ Our rate constants were generally in reasonable agreement with the literature values. Broadly speaking, our values were almost always smaller than the corresponding values for methyl radical or tert-butyl radical, which can be rationalized in terms of the pinacolyl radical being (1) significantly more sterically hindered than a methyl radical, though less so than a tert-butyl radical, (2) less nucleophilic than a tert-butyl radical (pentyl radical adds to methyl acrylate at a sixth of the rate of the 1,1-dimethylpropyl radical⁷) and (3) close to an electron-withdrawing carbonyl group. Comparing the rate constants for methyl/ethyl methacrylate and acrylonitrile, the pinacolyl radical has a rate constant of approximately one-third that of methyl radical. For disubstituted alkenes, the rate constant is roughly an order of magnitude smaller than that of methyl radical, which is likely due to the increased importance of steric effects in the addition to these acceptors. Tert-butyl radical adds to terminal alkenes (methyl acrylate and acrylonitrile) faster than methyl radical, but only adds at comparable or lower rates to the disubstituted alkenes (fumarate and maleate). Similar steric effects are likely at play for the neopentyl-like pinacolyl radical in our reactions.

Besides 8 alkenes for which absolute rate constant data was available (rate constants for the addition of hydroxyalkyl radicals to maleic anhydride are known¹⁰), we were also able to measure the rate constants for the 4 other alkenes for which the rate constants of alkyl radical addition were not known, to the best of our knowledge. As noted in the discussion, the rate constants for addition to maleic anhydride, N-methylmaleimide and benzylidenemalononitrile are significantly lower than expected on the basis of ionic electrophilicity. All three are much stronger electrophiles than the acrylates and acrylonitriles, but the rate constants of the former two are only slightly higher and that of the latter is significantly lower. Part of this discrepancy is likely attributable to the strong steric effects of the neopentyl radical, leading to a high sensitivity towards β-substitution on the alkene. With a large phenyl substituent, benzylidenemalononitrile likely causes significant steric hindrance for the approach of the bulky neopentyl radical to the alkene. The other factor that causes general 'compression' of the rate constant data to a fairly small range (only slightly more than an order of magnitude in our case) is the generally high exothermicity of Giese additions, given the formation of a C-C sigma bond at the expense of a pi bond. Giese addition transition states are therefore generally early,⁶ and hence broadly less sensitive to the electrophilicity or structural features of the acceptor compared to analogous ionic reactions that may be less thermodynamically downhill.

Increased concentration

To an oven-dried 1.5 dram vial was added FeCl₃ (25 mol%). A magnetic stir bar was added and the vial was transferred to a glovebox. Anhydrous acetonitrile (0.4 mL, **0.75 M**) was then added, followed by 2,4-dimethyl-3-pentanone (5 equiv.) and benzyl acrylate (1 equiv., 0.3 mmol). The vial was sealed and then placed on a stir plate 2-3 inches away from a 390 nm Kessil lamp. Ambient temperature (28 °C) was maintained with the use of a fan above the set-up. After 36 hours, the reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo and flushed through a silica plug using dichloromethane as the eluent. The solvent was removed again in vacuo and the reaction yield and *ir* determined by NMR using 1,3,5 trimethoxybenzene as the internal standard.

Portionwise addition of electrophile

To an oven-dried 1.5 dram vial was added FeCl₃ (25 mol%). A magnetic stir bar was added and the vial was transferred to a glovebox. Anhydrous acetonitrile (1 mL, **0.10 M**) was then added, followed by pinacolone (5 equiv.) and benzyl acrylate (**0.20 equiv.**). The vial was sealed and then placed on a stir plate 2-3 inches away from a 390 nm Kessil lamp. A fan was not used, allowing the temperature to reach 60 °C. Every 12 hours, the vial was transferred into a glovebox and another portion of benzyl acrylate (**0.20 equiv.**) was added, for a total of five portions. After 60 hours, the reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo and flushed through a silica plug using dichloromethane as the eluent. The solvent was removed again in vacuo and the reaction yield and *ir* determined by NMR using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as the internal standard.

Additional Products

Starting Material Preparation

4-(tert-butyl)phenyl acetate

Prepared in accordance to reported methods.¹¹

To a mixture of 4-tertbutylphenol (3.00 g, 20 mmol) and acetic anhydride (1.89 mL, 20 mmol) was added three drops of concentrated H_2SO_4 at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min and poured into water (10) mL), then extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 20 mL), dried with MgSO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure to yield the product as a pale yellow oil (3.71g, 96% yield). The NMR spectrum of the product was in agreement with literature precedent.^{12,13}

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.41 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.03 – 6.98 (m, 2H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 1.32 (s, 9H). **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ 169.84, 148.74, 148.45, 126.45, 120.98, 34.60, 31.54, 21.29.

2,2,5,5-tetramethylcyclopentanone

Prepared in accordance to reported methods.¹⁴

In a round-bottomed flask equipped with a reflux condenser, dimethyl sulfoxide (20 mL) was heated to 50 $^{\circ}$ C. Cyclopentanone (0.846 g, 10 mmol), methyl iodide (5.0 mL, 80 mmol) and potassium hydroxide (11.2 g, 200 mmol) were then added and the resultant mixture stirred for 1 h. The mixture was extracted with pentane (3×10mL). The combined organic phases were washed with deionized water $(3\times10 \text{ mL})$, dried with MgSO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The resultant crude product was then passed through a short plug of silica (5% ethyl acetate/hexanes) to obtain the product as a colorless oil (726 mg, 52% yield). The NMR spectrum of the product was in agreement with literature precedent.⁵

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.76 (s, 3H), 1.04 (s, 12H). ¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 227.22, 45.44, 35.01, 25.06. 3-methyl-3-phenylbutan-2-one

Prepared in accordance to reported methods.^{15,16}

To a stirring solution of 2-phenylisobutyric acid (1.23 g, 7.5 mmol) in diethyl ether (50 mL, 0.15M) at −30 °C was added a solution of methyllithium (1.6 M in diethyl ether, 14.0 mL, 3.0 equiv.) dropwise. The resulting solution was allowed to warm to room temperature and kept stirring for 1.5 h. The reaction was then cooled to 0° C and poured into iced hydrogen chloride solution, extracted with hexanes $(3\times20 \text{ mL})$. The organic phase was combined, dried with MgSO4, concentrated under reduced pressure and purified with column chromatography on silica gel (5% ethyl acetate/hexanes) to afford the product as a colorless oil (702 mg, 58% yield). The NMR spectrum of the product was in agreement with literature precedent.¹⁷

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.39 – 7.31 (m, 2H), 7.26 (m, 3H), 1.92 (s, 3H), 1.48 (s, 6H). **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ 211.31, 144.22, 128.89, 126.99, 126.07, 52.61, 25.66, 25.26.

2-*tert*-butylbenzothiazole

Pivaloyl chloride (1.20 g) was added at room temperature to a stirred solution of 2-aminobenzenethiol (1.25 g, 10 mmol) in THF (10 mL) and stirred at room temperature for 2 h when TLC monitoring revealed complete consumption of 2-aminobenzenethiol. Then 5 equivalents H_2SO_4 (980 mg) were added and the reaction was allowed to stir at room temperature for 1 h until complete consumption of the intermediate amide was noted by TLC. The reaction mixture was diluted with water and then brought to pH 10 by the slow addition of 1M NaOH. The solution was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 20 mL), washed with brine, dried over $Na₂SO₄$, and concentrated under reduced pressure to a yellow oil. This oil was further purified via silica gel flash column chromatography (20% ethyl acetate/hexanes) to furnish a colorless oil (1.03 g, 54% yield). The NMR spectrum of the product was in agreement with literature precedent.¹⁸

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.00 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.53 (s, 9H). **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ 182.03, 153.42, 135.14, 125.90, 124.68, 122.83, 121.62.

Standard Reaction Conditions

A) To an oven-dried 1.5 dram vial was added FeCl³ (25 mol%). Any solid reactants were also added at this stage. A magnetic stir bar was added and the vial was transferred to a glovebox. Anhydrous acetonitrile (1 mL, 0.30 M) was then added, followed by the C-H substrate (5 equiv., 1.5 mmol) and the electron-deficient alkene (1 equiv., 0.3 mmol). The vial was sealed and then placed on a stir plate 2-3 inches away from a 390 nm Kessil lamp. Ambient temperature (28 °C) was maintained with the use of a fan above the set-up. After 36 hours, the reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo and purified using silica gel flash column chromatography, using ethyl acetate/hexanes as the eluent.

B) Identical to standard reaction conditions A, but using 3 mL of anhydrous acetonitrile instead (0.10 M) and without a fan (allowing the reaction to reach a temperature of 60 °C due to the heat dissipated by the LED lamps).

C) [For acyl chlorides] Identical to standard reaction conditions A, but upon completion of the reaction, K3PO⁴ (1 equiv.) and ethanol (1 mL) were added. The solution was then stirred overnight to ensure complete solvolysis, then concentrated in vacuo and purified via silica gel flash column chromatography.

Characterization of Products

Nucleophile Scope

 $ir =$ the ratio of unrearranged to rearranged product.

3a/3b

Conditions A: Yield = 59% , *ir* = 1:1.4 Conditions B: Yield = $64\%, ir = 1:10$ From pinacolone

3a Benzyl 5,5-dimethyl-6-oxoheptanoate (unrearranged product) – minor

$$
\begin{array}{c}\n0 \\
\downarrow \\
\text{Me}\n\end{array}
$$
\n CO_2 Bn

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3) Characteristic peaks: δ 2.09 (s, 3H, C**H3**CO-), 1.10 (s, 6H, dimethyl). **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ 213.77, 176.45, 60.33, 47.66, 39.98, 37.35, 28.85, 25.08, 24.39, 24.31, 17.29, 14.37.

Using Conditions B: We were able to separate 40.1 mg of product from mixed fractions containing both isomers as well as 10.4 mg containing only the rearranged product.

ir for the mixed fractions determined by comparing the integral of the peaks at 2.12 ppm (s, 3H, C**H3**CO-) and 0.99 ppm (s, 6H, dimethyl) to those of the characteristic peaks. $ir = 1:7.4$

Taking into account the 10.4 mg of rearranged product isolated separately gives an overall $\dot{\mathbf{r}} = 1.10$.

3b Benzyl 4,4-dimethyl-6-oxoheptanoate (rearranged product) – major

$$
\begin{array}{c}\nO \text{ Me } \text{ Me} \\
\hline\n\end{array}
$$
 CO_2 Br

Colorless oil. $R_f = 0.40$ (5:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.41 – 7.29 (m, 5H), 5.11 (s, 2H), 2.40 – 2.26 (m, 4H), 2.12 (s, 3H), 1.77 – 1.63 (m, 2H), 0.99 (s, 6H). **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ 208.37, 173.77, 135.97, 128.59, 128.30, 128.26, 66.32, 53.55, 36.69, 33.08, 32.52, 29.62, 26.80. **IR**, film (cm-1): 2956, 1732, 1715, 1497, 1454, 1361, 1298, 1211, 971, 747, 698. **LRMS** m/z (EI): calculated for $C_{16}H_{22}O_3$ [M⁺] 262.16, found 262.1.

4a/4b

Conditions A: Yield = $54\%, i\mathbf{r} = 11:1$ Conditions B: Yield = 45%, *ir* = 1.6:1 (NMR yield) From 3-methyl-2-butanone and benzyl acrylate

4a Benzyl 5-methyl-6-oxoheptanoate (unrearranged product) – major

$$
Me \nightharpoonup^{O} CO2 Bn
$$

Yellow oil. $R_f = 0.45$ (5:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.39 – 7.31 (m, 5H), 5.11 (s, 2H), 2.49 (h, *J =* 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (td, *J =* 7.1, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 2.11 (s, 3H), 1.76 – 1.53 (m, 3H), 1.42 – 1.30 (m, 1H), 1.08 (d, *J =* 7.0 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ 212.21, 173.18, 136.12, 128.66, 128.33, 66.29, 46.95, 34.25, 32.13, 28.07, 22.67, 16.27.

IR, film (cm⁻¹): 2935, 1732, 1709, 1497, 1455, 1355, 1212, 1151, 1111, 747, 697. **LRMS** m/z (EI): calculated for $C_{15}H_{20}O_3$ [M⁺] 248.14, found 248.1.

4b Benzyl 4-methyl-6-oxoheptanoate (rearranged product) – minor

$$
\begin{array}{c}\n0 & \text{Me} \\
\hline\n\end{array}
$$
 CO₂ **Br**

¹**H** NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) Characteristic peaks: δ 0.90 (d, 3H, MeC(O)-CH₂-CHMe-). *ir* determined by comparing the integral of the peak at 1.08 ppm (MeC(O)-CHMe-CH₂-) to the characteristic peak at 0.90 ppm.

5a/5b

Conditions C: Yield = 30% , *ir* = 4:1 (Identical to Conditions A, but with additional workup in alkaline ethanol after completion) From pivaloyl chloride

5a Diethyl 2,2-dimethylhexanedioate (unrearranged product) – major

$$
EtO
$$
\n
$$
Me
$$
\n
$$
Me
$$
\n
$$
CO2Et
$$

Colorless oil. $R_f = 0.50$ (5:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3) δ 4.12 (d, *J =* 7.1, 4H), 2.27 (m, 2H), 1.61 – 1.48 (m, 4H), 1.25 (t, *J =* 7.1, 6H), 1.17 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ 177.87, 173.55, 60.45, 60.39, 42.17, 40.08, 34.78, 27.12, 25.19, 20.65, 14.38, 14.36. **IR**, film (cm-1): 2977, 1729, 1472, 1370, 1248, 1175, 1030.

HRMS m/z (ASAP): calculated for C₁₂H₂₂O₄ [M+H]⁺ 231.1596, found 231.1588.

5b Diethyl 2,2-dimethylhexanedioate (rearranged product) – minor

$$
\begin{array}{c}\n0 \text{ Me} \text{ Me} \\
\hline\n\end{array}
$$
 CO₂Et

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3) Characteristic peaks 2.33 – 2.29 (m, 2H), 2.18 (s, 2H, EtO2C-**CH2**-Me2-), 1.73 – 1.64 (m, 2H), 1.01 (s, 6H, EtO2C-CH2-**Me2**-).

 $$ 1.01 ppm.

6a/6b

Conditions A: Yield = 42% , $ir = 16:1$ Conditions B: Yield = 25% , $ir = 2.4:1$ (NMR yield) From tert-butylbenzene

6a Ethyl 5-methyl-5-phenylhexanoate (unrearranged product) – major

CO₂Et Me Me

Yellow oil. $Rf = 0.3$ (9:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.36 – 7.28 (m, 4H), 7.20 – 7.15 (m, 1H), 4.10 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.20 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.75 – 1.55 (m, 2H), 1.44 – 1.36 (m, 2H), 1.32 (s, 6H), 1.23 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ 173.65, 149.10, 128.10, 125.78, 125.50, 60.17, 43.94, 37.61, 34.82, 28.88, 20.41, 14.26.

IR, film (cm⁻¹): 2962, 1732, 1496, 1446, 1369, 1263, 1184, 1159, 1029, 932, 859, 764, 699, 566, 547 **LRMS** m/z (EI): calculated for $C_{15}H_{22}O_2$ [M⁺] 234.16, found 234.1.

6b Ethyl 4,4-dimethyl-5-phenylpentanoate (rearranged product) – minor

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3) 2.52 (s, 2H), 2.38 – 2.31 (m, 2H), 0.87 (s, 6H). *ir* determined by comparing the integral of the peak at 1.32 ppm (s, 6H, Ar-C**Me2**-CH2-) to the characteristic peak at 0.87 ppm (s, 6H, Ar-CH2-C**Me2**-).

7a/7b

Conditions A: Yield = 28% , $ir = 1:13$ Conditions B: Yield = 58% , $ir = <1:20$ (NMR yield) From 4'-tert-butylacetophenone

7a Ethyl 5-(4-acetylphenyl)-5-methylhexanoate (unrearranged product) – minor

^{**1H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) Characteristic peaks δ 2.19 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H, -CH₂-CO₂Et), 1.33 (s, 6H, Ar-CMe₂-)} *ir* determined by comparing the integrals of the peak at 0.85 ppm (s, 6H, Ar-CH₂-CMe₂-) to the characteristic peak at 1.33 ppm.

7b Ethyl 5-(4-acetylphenyl)-4,4-dimethylpentanoate (rearranged product) – major

Yellow oil. $R_f = 0.3$ (9:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.88 – 7.82 (m, 2H), 7.23 – 7.17 (m, 2H), 4.11 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.56 (overlapping singlets, 5H, CH₃C(O) + benzylic CH₂), 2.35 – 2.28 (m, 2H), 1.62 – 1.55 (m, 2H), 1.24 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.85 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ 197.96, 174.14, 144.76, 135.24, 130.81, 127.96, 60.45, 48.32, 36.81, 34.19, 29.80, 26.63, 26.38, 14.31.

IR, film (cm-1): 2961, 1730, 1681, 1506, 1414, 1358, 1266, 1182, 1125, 1021, 956, 826, 780, 689, 601, 585 **LRMS** m/z (EI): calculated for $C_{17}H_{24}O_3$ [M⁺] 276.17, found 276.1.

8a/8b

Conditions A: Yield = 30%, *ir* = 1:8 Conditions B: Yield = 54% , $ir = <1:20$ From 4-tert-butylbenzonitrile

8a Ethyl 5-(4-cyanophenyl)-5-methylhexanoate (unrearranged product) – minor

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3) Characteristic peaks δ 2.20 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H, -**CH2**-CO2Et), 1.31 (s, 6H, Ar**-**C**Me2**-) $$ at 1.31 ppm.

8b Ethyl 5-(4-cyanophenyl)-4,4-dimethylpentanoate (rearranged product) – major

Yellow oil. $R_f = 0.2$ (9:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.59 – 7.51 (m, 2H), 7.25 – 7.18 (m, 2H), 4.12 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.56 (s, 2H), 2.36 $- 2.27$ (m, 2H), $1.62 - 1.53$ (m, 2H), 1.24 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.85 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl3) δ 173.97, 144.62, 131.65, 131.32, 119.10, 110.11, 60.50, 48.50, 36.78, 34.25, 29.75, 26.30, 14.30.

IR, film (cm-1): 2961, 2871, 2227, 1729, 1607, 1505, 1469, 1416, 1370, 1297, 1263, 1177, 1127, 1024, 853, 826, 781, 566, 533

LRMS m/z (EI): calculated for $C_{16}H_{21}NO_2$ [M⁺] 259.16, found 259.1.

9a/9b

Conditions A: Yield = $46\%, ir = >20:1$ Conditions B: Yield = 35% , $ir = 1:1$ From 4-(tert-butyl)phenyl acetate

9a Ethyl 5-(4-acetoxyphenyl)-5-methylhexanoate (unrearranged product) – major

Yellow oil. $Rf = 0.3$ (9:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.35 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.04 – 6.90 (m, 2H), 4.09 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 2.20 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.66 – 1.55 (m, 2H), 1.41 (m, 2H), 1.30 (s, 6H), 1.23 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl3) δ 173.71, 169.72, 148.55, 146.78, 126.93, 121.04, 60.32, 44.06, 37.55, 34.89, 29.04, 21.30, 20.47, 14.37.

IR, film (cm-1): 2961, 1761, 1731, 1605, 1506, 1467, 1368, 1299, 1193, 1168, 1099, 1016, 911, 847, 662, 594, 564 **LRMS** m/z (EI): calculated for $C_{17}H_{24}O_4$ [M⁺] 292.17, found 292.1.

9b Ethyl 5-(4-acetoxyphenyl)-4,4-dimethylpentanoate (rearranged product) – minor

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.15 – 7.08 (m, 2H), 6.99 – 6.96 (m, 2H), 4.13 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.50 (s, 2H), 2.37 $- 2.30$ (m, 2H), $1.61 - 1.55$ (m, 2H), 1.26 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H), 0.86 (s, 6H).

ir determined by comparing the integral of the peak at 1.30 ppm (s, 6H, Ar-C**Me2**-CH2-) to the characteristic peak at 0.86 ppm (s, 6H, Ar-CH2-C**Me2**-).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl3) δ 174.36, 169.75, 149.10, 136.46, 131.53, 120.88, 60.47, 47.77, 36.78, 34.00, 29.90, 26.33, 21.30, 14.36. **LRMS** m/z (EI): calculated for $C_{17}H_{24}O_4$ [M⁺] 292.17, found 292.1. [Peaks assigned from the 1:1 mixture with the unrearranged product]

10b

Conditions A: Yield = 8% , $ir = <1:20$ Conditions B: Yield = 19% , $ir = <1:20$ From 3-methyl-3-phenylbutan-2-one

10b Ethyl 4-methyl-6-oxo-4-phenylheptanoate (rearranged product) – exclusive

$$
\underbrace{\qquad \qquad }_{\text{Me}}\text{Me} \qquad \qquad \text{Ch} \qquad \qquad }_{\text{CO}_2 \text{Et}}
$$

Pale yellow oil. $R_f = 0.3$ (5:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.36 – 7.29 (m, 4H), 7.20 (m, 1H), 4.05 (qd, J = 7.1, 2.1 Hz, 2H), 2.92 (d, J = 14.5 Hz, 1H), 2.61 (d, J = 14.5 Hz, 1H), 2.25 – 2.10 (m, 2H), 2.03 – 1.87 (m, 2H), 1.79 (s, 3H, **CH3**C(O)-, confirmed by HMBC), 1.45 (s, 3H), 1.20 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ 207.65, 173.77, 145.24, 128.64, 126.45, 126.19, 60.49, 56.24, 40.14, 37.72, 32.09, 29.59, 23.33, 14.29.

IR, film (cm⁻¹): 2978, 1731, 1446, 1376, 1299, 1180, 1031, 765, 702, 547 **LRMS** m/z (EI): calculated for $C_{15}H_{22}O_2$ [M⁺] 262.16, found 262.1.

11b

Conditions A: Yield = 37% , $ir = <1:20$ Conditions B: Yield = 41% , *ir* = <1:20 From 2,2,5,5-tetramethylcyclopentanone

11b Benzyl 3-(1,4,4-trimethyl-3-oxocyclohexyl)propanoate (rearranged product) – exclusive product

Colorless oil. $R_f = 0.35$ (9:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.40 – 7.29 (m, 5H), 5.11 (s, 2H), 2.38 – 2.27 (m, 3H), 2.11 (dd, J = 13.8, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 1.72 – 1.61 (m, 5H), 1.54 – 1.46 (m, 1H), 1.10 (s, 3H), 1.08 (s, 3H), 0.87 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ 215.63, 173.62, 135.97, 128.70, 128.43, 128.41, 66.51, 49.66, 44.33, 38.80, 36.67, 36.42, 32.46, 29.05, 25.28, 25.17, 24.36.

IR, film (cm-1): 2960, 2929, 2867, 1733, 1703, 1497, 1455, 1422, 1384, 1365, 1303, 1214, 1161, 1079, 1028, 967, 910, 747, 698, 507

LRMS m/z (EI): calculated for $C_{19}H_{26}O_3$ [M⁺] 302.19, found 302.2.

11c Benzyl 3-(2,2,4,4-tetramethyl-3-oxocyclopentyl)propanoate – side product (alkylation at methylene positions) Conditions A: Yield $= 15\%$ Conditions B: Yield = 20%

Colorless oil. $R_f = 0.4$ (9:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.40 – 7.29 (m, 5H), 5.14 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 2H), 2.48 (ddd, J = 15.2, 9.2, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 2.39 (ddd, J = 15.8, 8.9, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 1.87 (dd, J = 12.5, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 1.79 (dddd, J = 12.2, 10.2, 6.1, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 1.54 (ddd, J = 13.3, 10.2, 8.9, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 1.42 – 1.31 (m, 1H), 1.09 (s, 3H), 1.04 (s, 3H), 0.95 (s, 3H), 0.82 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ 226.94, 173.42, 136.05, 128.71, 128.49, 128.45, 66.44, 48.46, 44.88, 43.25, 41.26, 32.80, 25.85, 25.35, 25.06, 23.99, 18.79.

IR, film (cm-1): 2961, 2868, 1733, 1497, 1457, 1362, 1215, 1166, 1133, 1063, 1028, 903, 750, 698, 580, 487 **LRMS** m/z (EI): calculated for $C_{19}H_{26}O_3$ [M⁺] 302.19, found 302.2.

12a/12b

Modified Conditions A: Yield = 20% , $ir = 1.4:1$

Modified Conditions B: Yield = 44% , $ir = 1:1.6$

(5 equiv. of CF₃COOH was used as an additive under both conditions. 50 mol% of FeCl₃ was used.) From 2,6-di-*tert*-butyl-4-methylpyridine

12a Ethyl 5-(6-(tert-butyl)-4-methylpyridin-2-yl)-5-methylhexanoate (unrearranged product)

$$
tBu
$$

Colorless oil. $R_f = 0.6$ (9:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3) δ 6.89 (s, 1H), 6.85 (s, 1H), 4.08 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 2.18 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.77 – 1.69 (m, 2H), 1.44 – 1.37 (m, 2H), 1.32 (s, 9H), 1.31 (s, 6H), 1.22 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ 174.06, 167.60, 166.08, 146.57, 117.29, 116.34, 60.20, 42.78, 40.42, 37.51, 35.23, 30.26, 28.03, 21.63, 20.72, 14.37. **IR**, film (cm⁻¹): 2958, 1736, 1600, 1567, 1265, 1185, 853

LRMS m/z (EI): calculated for $C_{19}H_{31}NO_2$ [M⁺] 305.24, found 305.1

12b Ethyl 5-(6-(tert-butyl)-4-methylpyridin-2-yl)-4,4-dimethylpentanoate (rearranged product)

Colorless oil. $R_f = 0.5$ (9:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3) δ 6.93 (s, 1H), 6.68 (s, 1H), 4.11 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.59 (s, 2H), 2.55 – 2.45 (m, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 1.63 – 1.47 (m, 3H), 1.31 (s, 9H), 1.25 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.92 (s, 6H). **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ 174.79, 168.18, 158.07, 146.26, 122.49, 116.97, 60.25, 49.13, 37.26, 36.22, 34.19, 30.27, 30.03, 27.61, 21.33, 14.39. **IR**, film (cm⁻¹): 2955, 2868, 1735, 1602, 1566, 1253, 1185, 855 **LRMS** m/z (EI): calculated for $C_{19}H_{31}NO_2$ [M⁺] 305.24, found 305.1

13b

Modified Conditions A: Yield = Trace Modified Conditions B: Yield = 34% , $ir = <1:20$ (5 equiv. of CF3COOH was used as an additive under both conditions) From 2-*tert*-butylbenzothiazole

13b Ethyl 5-(benzo[d]thiazol-2-yl)-4,4-dimethylpentanoate (rearranged product) – exclusive product

$$
\bigotimes_{S} N_{\text{Me}} \text{Me}
$$

Colorless oil. $R_f = 0.4$ (5:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.99 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 1.2, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (ddd, *J* = 7.9, 1.3, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (ddd, *J* = 8.3, 7.2, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (ddd, *J* = 7.9, 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 4.13 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.02 (s, 2H), 2.52 – 2.22 (m, 2H), 1.97 – 1.69 (m, 2H), 1.26 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.07 (s, 6H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl3) δ 173.93, 168.12, 153.30, 135.48, 125.85, 124.75, 122.73, 121.29, 60.41, 45.91,

36.77, 34.27, 29.70, 26.79, 14.23.

IR, film (cm⁻¹): 2959, 1733, 1512, 1436, 1242, 1169, 760

LRMS m/z (EI): calculated for $C_{16}H_{21}NO_2S$ [M⁺] 291.13, found 291.1

Acceptor Scope

ir = the ratio of unrearranged to rearranged product.

14a/14b

Conditions A: Yield = 38% , $ir = 1:1$ Conditions B: Yield = 57% , $ir = 1:8$ (NMR yield) From maleic anhydride

14a 3-(2,2-dimethyl-3-oxobutyl)dihydrofuran-2,5-dione (unrearranged product) – minor

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3) δ 3.15 – 3.05 (m, 1H), 3.05 – 2.94 (m, 1H), 2.70 (dd, J = 18.3, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.30 (dd, J $= 14.4, 3.7$ Hz, 1H), 2.15 (s, 3H), 1.82 (dd, J = 14.4, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.23 (s, 3H), 1.21 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ 212.85, 174.26, 169.78, 47.27, 40.54, 38.19, 36.31, 25.40, 25.22, 24.71. **LRMS** m/z (EI): calculated for $C_{10}H_{14}O_4$ [M⁺] 198.09, found 198.1.

14b 3-(2-methyl-4-oxopentan-2-yl)dihydrofuran-2,5-dione (rearranged product) – major

Colorless oil. $R_f = 0.30$ (4:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate, 1% acetic acid). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl3)) 1H NMR δ 3.88 (dd, *J =* 10.2, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 3.11 – 2.87 (m, 2H), 2.78 (dd, *J =* 18.9, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (d, *J =* 17.9 Hz, 1H), 2.15 (s, 3H), 1.11 (s, 3H), 1.04 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ 207.92, 172.53, 170.10, 51.49, 46.73, 34.84, 31.76, 31.06, 25.50, 24.24. **IR**, film (cm-1): 2967, 1859, 1775, 1707, 1471, 1413, 1366, 1294, 1219, 1159, 1074, 1054, 915, 722. **LRMS** m/z (EI): calculated for $C_{10}H_{14}O_4$ [M⁺] 198.09, found 198.1.

15a/15b

Conditions A: Yield = $86\%, ir = 1:1.2$ Conditions B: Yield = 51% , $ir = 1:8$ (NMR yield) From N-methylmaleimide

15a 3-(2,2-dimethyl-3-oxobutyl)-1-methylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (unrearranged product)

Colorless oil. $R_f = 0.3$ (1:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3)) δ 2.95 (s, 3H), 2.84 (dd, *J =* 18.2, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 2.65 (tdd, *J =* 9.1, 5.2, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 2.42 – 2.28 (m, 2H), 2.18 (s, 3H), 1.62 (dd, *J =* 14.3, 9.7 Hz, 1H), 1.19 (overlapping singlets, *J =* 4.3Hz, 6H). **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ 213.02, 180.07, 176.43, 47.44, 41.30, 37.32, 36.75, 25.43, 25.11, 25.07, 24.79. **IR**, film (cm-1): 2969, 1775, 1690, 1435, 1383, 1358, 1280, 1124, 877.

LRMS m/z (EI): calculated for $C_{11}H_{17}NO_3$ [M⁺] 211.11, found 211.1.

15b 1-methyl-3-(2-methyl-4-oxopentan-2-yl)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (rearranged product)

Colorless oil. $R_f = 0.35$ (1:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3) δ 3.43 (dd, *J =* 9.3, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.04 (d, *J =* 17.5 Hz, 1H), 2.93 (s, 3H), 2.70 (dd, *J =* 18.5, 9.3 Hz, 1H), 2.54 – 2.40 (m, 2H), 2.15 (s, 3H), 1.08 (s, 3H), 0.93 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ 208.20, 179.02, 176.63, 52.05, 45.79, 34.85, 31.89, 31.23, 25.63, 24.68, 23.82. **IR**, film (cm⁻¹): 2961, 1770, 1688, 1434, 1382, 1366, 1280, 1157, 1122, 952, 697. **LRMS** m/z (EI): calculated for $C_{11}H_{17}NO_3$ [M⁺] 211.11, found 211.1.

The two isomers could be isolated separately. *ir* for Conditions A was determined from the isolated yields of the two products.

For Conditions B, *ir* was determined by comparing the combined integrals of the methyl peaks at 1.19 (overlapping singlets, 6H) to that of the methyl peaks at 1.08 (s, 3H) and 0.93 (s, 3H).

Ratio found $= 1:7.7$

NMR yield = 6% :45% (combined = 51%) using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as internal standard.

16a/16b

Conditions A: Yield = 54% , *ir* = 1:1.4 Conditions B: Yield = $66\%,$ $ir = 1:10$ From acrylonitrile

16a 5,5-dimethyl-6-oxoheptanenitrile (unrearranged product) – minor

$$
M_{\rm He}\left(\frac{1}{100}\right)_{\rm Me}
$$

¹H NMR Characteristic peaks: 1.13 (s, 6H, -C**Me2**-)

ir was determined by the relative integral of the characteristic peak at 1.13 ppm against the integral of the peak at 1.01 ppm (s, 6H).

16b 4,4-dimethyl-6-oxoheptanenitrile (rearranged product) – major

$$
\begin{array}{c}\nO \text{ Me } \text{ Me} \\
\hline\n\end{array}
$$

Colorless oil. $R_f = 0.40$ (3:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 2.34 (s, 2H), 2.28 (m, 2H), 2.11 (s, 3H), 1.78 (m, 2H), 1.01 (s, 6H). **¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl3)** δ 207.74, 120.29, 77.47, 77.15, 76.83, 52.86, 36.59, 33.18, 32.35, 26.90, 12.53. IR, film (cm⁻¹): 2961, 2875, 2246, 1705, 1472, 1424, 1363, 1214, 1158, 1133, 975, 922, 756, 605, 536. **LRMS** m/z (EI): calculated for C_9H_15NO [M⁺] 153.12, found 153.1.

17a/17b Conditions A: Yield = 35% , $ir = 1.2:1$ Conditions B: Yield = 47% , *ir* = 1:9

From ethyl methacrylate

17a Ethyl 2,5,5-trimethyl-6-oxoheptanoate (unrearranged product) – minor

$$
Me
$$
\n Me \n CO_2Et

¹**H** NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) Characteristic peaks: δ 1.08 (overlapping singlets, $J = 5.3$ Hz, 6H, MeC(O)-CMe₂- $CH₂-$

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ 213.77, 176.45, 60.33, 47.66, 39.98, 37.35, 28.85, 25.08, 24.39, 24.31, 17.29, 14.37.

ir was determined by the relative integral of the characteristic peak at 1.08 ppm against the peak at 0.95 ppm (MeC(O)-CH2-C**Me**2-).

17b Ethyl 2,4,4-trimethyl-6-oxoheptanoate (rearranged product) – major

$$
\begin{array}{c}\nO \text{ Me } \text{ Me }\stackrel{\text{Me } \text{ Me}}{\bigwedge} \\
\downarrow \text{CO}_2 \text{E} \\
\end{array}
$$

Colorless oil. $R_f = 0.45$ (5:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3) δ 4.09 (q, *J =* 7.1, 2H), 2.45 (dqd, *J =* 9.8, 7.0, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 2.37 – 2.26 (m, 2H), 2.09 (s, 3H), 1.92 (dd, *J =* 14.2, 9.4 Hz, 1H), 1.35 (dd, *J =* 14.2, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 1.23 (t, *J =* 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.13 (d, *J =* 7.0 Hz, 3H), 0.95 (overlapping singlets, *J =* 2.5 Hz, 6H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ 208.56, 177.74, 60.39, 53.92, 45.88, 36.04, 33.83, 32.56, 27.31, 27.08, 20.43, 14.23. **IR**, film (cm-1): 2972, 1729, 1705, 1463, 1363, 1249, 1155, 1096, 1054, 1025.

LRMS m/z (EI): calculated for $C_{12}H_{22}O_3$ [M⁺] 214.16, found 214.2.

18a/18b

Conditions A: Yield = 25% , $ir = 1:1$ Conditions B: Yield = 41% , *ir* = 1:7 From phenyl vinyl sulfone

18a 3,3-dimethyl-6-(phenylsulfonyl)hexan-2-one (unrearranged product) – minor

$$
Me \over
$$
 SO_2 Ph

¹H NMR Characteristic peaks: 2.08 (s, 3H, -CO**Me**), 1.09 (s, 6H, -C**Me2**-) *ir* was determined by the relative integral of the characteristic peak at 1.09 ppm against the integral of the peak at 0.95 ppm (s, 6H).

18b 4,4-dimethyl-6-(phenylsulfonyl)hexan-2-one (rearranged product) – major

$$
\underbrace{\qquad \qquad }_{\text{Me}}\text{Me} \qquad \qquad \text{SO}_2\text{Ph}
$$

Yellow oil. $R_f = 0.50$ (1:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.94 – 7.84 (m, 2H), 7.70 – 7.61 (m, 1H), 7.62 – 7.48 (m, 2H), 3.19 – 2.98 (m, 2H), 2.27 (s, 2H), 2.07 (s, 3H), $1.79 - 1.69$ (m, 2H), 0.95 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl3) δ 207.66, 139.13, 133.82, 129.40, 128.16, 53.21, 52.50, 33.94, 32.94, 32.45, 26.98. **IR**, film (cm-1): 2959, 2874, 1709, 1473, 1447, 1408, 1363, 1218, 1145, 1087, 1025, 999, 745, 690, 587, 562, 538. **LRMS** m/z (EI): calculated for $C_{14}H_{20}O_3S$ [M⁺] 268.11, found 268.1.

19a/19b

Conditions A: Yield = $46\%, ir = 1:1.7$ Conditions B: Yield = 61% , $ir = 1:10$ From N-phenylacrylamide

19a 5,5-dimethyl-6-oxo-N-phenylheptanamide (unrearranged product) – minor

¹H NMR Characteristic peaks: 2.12 (s, 3H, -CO**Me**), 1.57 (m, 4H, -C**H2**C**H2**CH2CONHPh), 1.12 (s, 6H, -C**Me2**-) *ir* was determined by the relative integral of the characteristic peak at 1.12 ppm against the integral of the peak at 1.00 ppm.

19b 4,4-dimethyl-6-oxo-N-phenylheptanamide (rearranged product) – major

Yellow oil. $R_f = 0.30$ (1:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.95 (broad s, 1H), 7.54 (m, 2H), 7.35 – 7.19 (m, 2H, overlaps with CHCl³ peak), 7.06 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.43 – 2.24 (m, 4H), 2.14 (s, 3H), 1.84 – 1.65 (m, 2H), 1.00 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl3) δ 209.68, 172.02, 138.36, 128.98, 124.08, 119.86, 53.07, 37.32, 33.66, 33.23, 32.91, 27.48.

IR, film (cm⁻¹): 3306 (broad), 3137, 3061, 2959, 1697, 1662, 1600, 1542, 1499, 1442, 1362, 1313, 1251, 1156, 966, 903, 756, 694, 549, 508.

LRMS m/z (EI): calculated for $C_{15}H_{21}NO_2$ [M⁺] 247.16, found 247.1.

20a/20b

Conditions A: Yield = 43% , $ir = 1:3$

Conditions B: Yield = 62% , $ir = 1:15$

1 equiv. of trifluoroacetic acid was used as an additive under both conditions, but the procedure was otherwise identical.

From acrylic acid

20a 5,5-dimethyl-6-oxoheptanoic acid (unrearranged product) – minor

$$
\begin{array}{c}\n0 \\
\hline\n\text{Me} \\
\text{Me} \\
\end{array}
$$
\n
$$
\begin{array}{c}\n0 \\
\hline\n\text{COOH}\n\end{array}
$$

¹H NMR Characteristic peaks: 2.08 (s, 3H, -CO**Me**), 1.11 (s, 6H, -C**Me2**-)

ir was determined by the relative integral of the characteristic peak at 1.11 ppm against the integral of the peak at 0.99 ppm.

20b 4,4-dimethyl-6-oxoheptanoic acid (rearranged product) – major

Colorless oil. $R_f = 0.40$ (4:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate, 1% acetic acid).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3) δ 10.18 (s, 1H), 2.37 – 2.24 (m, 2H), 2.12 (s, 3H), 1.77 – 1.59 (m, 2H), 0.99 (s, 6H). **¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl3)** δ 208.75, 180.25, 53.58, 36.42, 33.14, 32.57, 29.49, 26.90. **IR**, film (cm-1): 3500-2500 (broad), 2959, 2875, 1702, 1471, 1415, 1363, 1300, 1214, 1158, 1046, 926, 608, 532. **LRMS** m/z (EI): calculated for $C_9H_{16}O_3$ [M⁺] 172.11, found 172.1.

21a/21b

Conditions A: Yield = 63% , *ir* = 1:2.3 Conditions B: Yield = 73% , $ir = 1:14$ From fumaronitrile

21a 2-(2,2-dimethyl-3-oxobutyl)succinonitrile (unrearranged product) – minor

$$
M_{\rm He}\left(\frac{1}{100}\right)_{\rm MeCN} \text{C_N}
$$

¹H NMR Characteristic peaks: δ 2.91 (dtd, *J* = 8.1, 6.3, 5.0 Hz, 1H, methine C**H**), 1.32 (s, 3H), 1.23 (s, 3H) (MeC(O)-C**Me2**-CH2-)

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ 212.47, 119.84, 115.77, 47.35, 40.38, 25.76, 25.18, 24.80, 23.91, 22.65.

 R_M was determined by the relative integral of the characteristic peak at 1.32 ppm (s, 3H) against half the integral of the peak at 1.14 ppm (overlapping singlets, 6H, MeC(O)-CH2-C**Me**2-).

21b 2-(2-methyl-4-oxopentan-2-yl)succinonitrile (rearranged product) – major

$$
Me
$$
\n Me \n Me \n CR \n CN \n CN

Colorless oil. $R_f = 0.40$ (3:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl3) δ 3.68 (dd, *J =* 8.7, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 2.71 – 2.57 (m, 3H), 2.49 (d, *J =* 18.0 Hz, 1H), 2.14 (s, 3H), 1.14 (overlapping singlets, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 6H) **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ 207.01, 118.32, 116.63, 51.29, 36.67, 35.46, 31.70, 25.18, 24.09, 16.69. IR, film (cm⁻¹): 2971, 2243, 1708, 1470, 1421, 1364, 1181, 1157, 1055, 1033, 1005, 626, 554. **LRMS** m/z (EI): calculated for $C_{10}H_{14}N_2O$ [M⁺] 178.11, found 178.1.

22a/22b

Conditions A: Yield = 32% , *ir* = 1:5 Conditions B: Yield = 50% , $ir = 1:18$. Ratio of $22b:22c = 6:1$ From dimethyl fumarate

Conditions A: Yield = 32% , *ir* = 1:15 Conditions B: Yield = 50% , *ir* < 1:20. Ratio of $22b:22c = 5:1$ From dimethyl maleate

22a Dimethyl 2-(2,2-dimethyl-3-oxobutyl)succinate (unrearranged product) – minor

$$
M = \n\begin{array}{ccc}\n\bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\
\bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\
\bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\
\bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet\n\end{array}
$$

¹H NMR Characteristic peaks: 3.65 (s, 3H, -CO2**Me**), 3.63 (s, 3H, -CO2**Me**), 1.18 (s, 3H, -C**Me2**-), 1.12 (s, 3H, - C**Me2**-)

ir was determined by the relative integral of the characteristic peak at 1.18 ppm and 1.12 ppm against the integral of the peaks at 1.10 ppm and 1.02 ppm.

22b Dimethyl 2-(2-methyl-4-oxopentan-2-yl)succinate (rearranged product) – major

$$
M e \n\begin{array}{c}\nO \n\text{Me} \\
O \n\end{array}
$$
\n CO_2 \n CO_2 \n CO_2

Yellow oil. $R_f = 0.25$ (1:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3) δ 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.04 (dd, *J* = 12.0, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 2.76 (dd, *J* = 16.7, 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.54 (d, *J* = 16.6 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (dd, *J* = 16.7, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 2.32 (d, *J* = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 2.11 (s, 3H), 1.10 (s, 3H), 1.02 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ 207.37, 174.44, 172.86, 52.08, 51.95, 51.64, 49.14, 35.10, 32.27, 32.14, 25.59, 25.18.

IR, film (cm⁻¹): 2955, 1728, 1436, 1364, 1261, 1191, 1159, 1092, 999, 925, 887, 845, 736, 667, 609, 500. **LRMS** m/z (EI): calculated for $C_{12}H_{20}O_5$ [M⁺] 244.13, found 244.1.

22c Dimethyl-3-hydroxy-3,5,5-trimethylcyclopentane-1,2-dicarboxylate (rearranged and cyclized product)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3) Characteristic peaks: δ 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.22 (d, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 1H), 3.15 (d, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 1H), 1.85 (d, *J* = 14.0 Hz, 1H), 1.69 (d, *J* = 14.0 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 3H), 1.27 (s, 3H), 0.87 (s, 3H). The ratio of acyclic:cyclic product was determined by the relative integral of the characteristic peaks at 1.41 ppm and 1.27 ppm against the integral of the peaks at 1.10 ppm and 1.02 ppm.

24a/24b

Conditions A: Yield = 57% , $ir = 1:8.6$ Conditions B: Yield = 70% , $ir = <1:20$ From benzylidenemalononitrile

24a 2-hydroxy-2,3,3-trimethyl-5-phenylcyclopentane-1,1-dicarbonitrile (unrearranged product) – minor

¹H NMR Characteristic peaks: δ 2.55 (broad s, 1H, -C(O**H**)Me-) 1.62 (s, 3H, -C(OH)**Me**-), 1.35 (s, 3H, -C**Me2**-), 1.18 (s, 3H, -C**Me2**-)

ir was determined by the relative integral of the characteristic peak at 1.35 ppm against the integral of the peak at 1.06 ppm (s, 3H).

24b 2-hydroxy-2,4,4-trimethyl-5-phenylcyclopentane-1,1-dicarbonitrile (rearranged product) – major

White solid. $R_f = 0.40$ (3:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.63 – 7.54 (m, 2H), 7.46 – 7.35 (m, 3H), 3.90 (s, 1H), 2.73 (broad d, *J =* 2.0 Hz, 1H), 2.21 – 2.08 (m, 2H), 1.74 (s, 3H), 1.21 (s, 3H), 1.06 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ 133.28, 130.00, 128.74, 128.63, 115.82, 114.30, 83.69, 61.15, 52.57, 52.06, 40.88, 31.64, 27.87, 24.39.

IR, film (cm-1): 3482 (broad), 2968, 2932, 2252, 1498, 1453, 1389, 1367, 1220, 1194, 1172, 1121, 1070, 1052, 951, 935, 853, 732, 700, 528.

LRMS m/z (EI): calculated for $C_{16}H_{18}N_2O$ [M⁺] 254.14, found 254.1.

The relative stereochemistry of **24b** was assigned by X-ray crystallography. Please refer to the cif file for further information.

Additional Products

25a/25b

Conditions A: Yield = 60% , *ir* = 3:1 Conditions B: Yield = 56% , $ir = 1:3$ From 2,4-dimethyl-3-pentanone

25a Benzyl 5,7-dimethyl-6-oxooctanoate (unrearranged product) – major

$$
\begin{array}{c}\n0 \\
\downarrow \\
\hline\n\text{Me}\n\end{array}
$$
 CO₂ _{Bin}

Yield = 65%, yellow oil. $R_f = 0.40$ (5:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.41 – 7.24 (m, 5H), 5.11 (s, 2H), 2.69 (m, 2H), 2.45 – 2.22 (m, 2H), 1.74 – 1.46 (m, 3H), 1.38 – 1.18 (m, 1H), 1.15 – 0.97 (m, 9H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ 217.90, 173.15, 136.08, 128.57, 128.23, 66.19, 44.11, 39.62, 34.28, 32.39, 22.86, 18.34, 16.81.

IR, film (cm-1): 2966, 2933, 2873, 1734, 1708, 1497, 1456, 1381, 1242, 1212, 1159, 1027, 1001, 738, 697. **LRMS** m/z (EI): calculated for $C_{17}H_{24}O_3$ [M⁺] 276.17, found 276.2.

25b Benzyl 4,7-dimethyl-6-oxooctanoate (rearranged product)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3) Characteristic peaks: δ 2.54 (sept, *J =* 6.9 Hz, 1H, (CH3)2C**H**C(O)-CH2-CHMe-), 2.05 (tdt, *J =* 8.0, 6.9, 5.6 Hz, 1H, Me2CHC(O)-CH2-C**H**Me-), 0.89 (d, *J =* 6.7 Hz, 3H, Me2CHC(O)-CH2-CH**Me**-).

ir determined by comparing the integral of the peak at 2.69 ppm (overlapping sept., 2H, Me₂CHC(O)-CHMe-CH₂-). to the sum of the characteristic peaks at 2.54 ppm (sept.,) and 2.05 ppm (m,).

26a/26b

Conditions A: Yield = 69% , $ir = 1:7$ Conditions B: Yield = 60%, *ir* = 1:20 From di-tert-butyl ketone

26a Benzyl 5,5,7,7-tetramethyl-6-oxooctanoate (unrearranged product) – minor

$$
tBu
$$

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3) Characteristic peaks δ 1.23 (s, 6H, Me3CC(O)-C**Me2**-), 1.21 (s, 9H, **Me3**CC(O)- CMe_{2-}

ir determined by comparing the integrals of the peak at 0.99 ppm (s, 6H, Me₃CC(O)-CH₂-CMe₂-) and 1.10 ppm (s, 9H, **Me3**CC(O)-CH2-CMe2-) to the characteristic peaks at 1.23 ppm and 1.21 ppm respectively. **LRMS** m/z (EI): calculated for $C_{19}H_{28}O_3$ [M⁺] 304.20, found 304.2.

26b Benzyl 4,4,7,7-tetramethyl-6-oxooctanoate (rearranged product) – major

Yellow oil. $Rf = 0.3$ (9:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.40 – 7.24 (m, 5H), 5.10 (s, 2H), 2.37 (s, 2H), 2.34 – 2.28 (m, 2H), 1.81 – 1.73 (m, 2H), 1.10 (s, 9H), 0.99 (s, 6H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl3) δ 214.94, 173.95, 136.17, 128.64, 128.33, 128.27, 66.31, 45.90, 44.86, 36.71, 32.78, 29.83, 26.94, 26.47. **IR**, film (cm-1): 2957, 1734, 1705, 1456, 1385, 1365, 1297, 1153, 1067, 1004, 975, 915, 844, 746, 697, 579, 501 **LRMS** m/z (EI): calculated for $C_{19}H_{28}O_3$ [M⁺] 304.20, found 304.2.

27a/27b

Conditions A: Yield = 54% , $ir = 11:1$ Conditions B: Yield = 44% , $ir = 1.3:1$ (NMR yield) From 3-methyl-2-butanone and ethyl acrylate

27a Ethyl 5-methyl-6-oxoheptanoate (unrearranged product) – major

$$
\begin{array}{c}\n 0 \\
 \hline\n \text{Me} \\
 \hline\n \text{Me}\n \end{array}
$$
\n CO_2Et

Colorless oil. $R_f = 0.40$ (5:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate). **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl3) δ 4.10 (q, *J =* 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.50 (h, *J =* 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.28 (td, *J =* 7.3, 2.0 Hz, 2H), 2.12 (s, 3H), 1.72 – 1.47 (m, 3H), 1.41 – 1.31 (m, 1H), 1.23 (t, *J =* 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.08 (d, *J =* 7.0 Hz, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ 212.41, 173.43, 60.40, 46.99, 34.29, 32.17, 28.14, 22.68, 16.30, 14.34. **IR**, film (cm-1): 2972, 2939, 1731, 1711, 1459, 1370, 1246, 1178, 1156, 1097, 1031. **LRMS** m/z (EI): calculated for $C10H18O_3$ [M⁺] 186.13, found 186.2.

27b Ethyl 4-methyl-6-oxoheptanoate (rearranged product) – minor

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3) Characteristic peaks: δ 2.11 (s, 3H, **Me**C(O)-CH2-CHMe-) 0.89 (d, 3H, MeC(O)-CH2- CH**Me**-).

ir determined by comparing the integral of the peak at 1.08 ppm (MeC(O)-CHMe-CH₂-) to the characteristic peak at 0.89 ppm.

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NMR Spectra

yk-1-543-2 F9-11 dry carbon.23.fid

NHPh,

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O Me Me

19b

yk-1-542-2 F11-16 dry.187.fid

Me[/]Me
19a

M

NHPh,

J

-
20000- -19000

 -18000

 -17000

