

Note

A C–H Oxidation/Two-fold Cyclization Approach to Imidazopyrindoindole Scaffold Under Mild Oxidizing Conditions

Jia-Chen Xiang, Zi-Xuan Wang, Yan Cheng, Jin-Tian Ma,
Miao Wang, Bo-Cheng Tang, Yan-Dong Wu, and An-Xin Wu

J. Org. Chem., **Just Accepted Manuscript** • Publication Date (Web): 24 Nov 2017

Downloaded from <http://pubs.acs.org> on November 24, 2017

Just Accepted

“Just Accepted” manuscripts have been peer-reviewed and accepted for publication. They are posted online prior to technical editing, formatting for publication and author proofing. The American Chemical Society provides “Just Accepted” as a free service to the research community to expedite the dissemination of scientific material as soon as possible after acceptance. “Just Accepted” manuscripts appear in full in PDF format accompanied by an HTML abstract. “Just Accepted” manuscripts have been fully peer reviewed, but should not be considered the official version of record. They are accessible to all readers and citable by the Digital Object Identifier (DOI®). “Just Accepted” is an optional service offered to authors. Therefore, the “Just Accepted” Web site may not include all articles that will be published in the journal. After a manuscript is technically edited and formatted, it will be removed from the “Just Accepted” Web site and published as an ASAP article. Note that technical editing may introduce minor changes to the manuscript text and/or graphics which could affect content, and all legal disclaimers and ethical guidelines that apply to the journal pertain. ACS cannot be held responsible for errors or consequences arising from the use of information contained in these “Just Accepted” manuscripts.

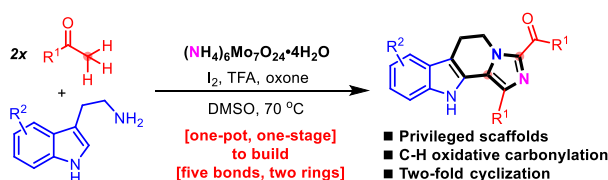
A C–H Oxidation/Two-fold Cyclization Approach to Imidazopyridoindole Scaffold Under Mild Oxidizing Conditions

Jia-Chen Xiang, Zi-Xuan Wang, Yan Cheng, Jin-Tian Ma, Miao Wang, Bo-Cheng Tang, Yan-Dong Wu and An-Xin Wu*

Key Laboratory of Pesticide & Chemical Biology, Ministry of Education, College of Chemistry, Central China Normal University, Hubei, Wuhan 430079, P. R. China

Supporting Information Placeholder

TOC Graphic:



ABSTRACT: An expeditious one-step synthesis of the imidazopyridoindole scaffold was achieved through the C–H oxidation/two-fold cyclization reaction of methyl ketone and tryptamine derivatives. Mild oxidizing conditions were employed to realize the efficient oxidative of C(sp³)–H bonds, while suppressing overoxidation of the intermediate and ensuring the cross-trapping of two in situ generated acylimine intermediates.

Imidazopyridoindole, which comprises a β -carboline system attached to an imidazole ring (Figure 1-a, i), is a privileged scaffold present in a variety of bioactive lead compounds.^{1–5} For example, compound **ii** has been used as a hypnotic and sedative,¹ while compound **iii** has shown anticonvulsive activity in the maximal electroshock seizure test.² Notably, compound **iv**, which was prepared via a four-step synthesis from resin-bound dipeptides,^{3a} is a bioavailable anti-Alzheimer agent that inhibits Ab25–35 neurotoxicity toward the rat pheochromocytoma PC-12 cell line.^{3b} Furthermore, Peganumine A (**v**), which contains an imidazopyridoindole scaffold, has been shown to be an anticancer drug candidate exhibiting significant cytotoxic effects.⁴ However, synthetic endeavors towards imidazopyridoindoles have been limited. A classic literature approach requires multi operation steps from commercially available materials tryptamine^{1,6} (Figure 1-b). Based on the leading strategy of BIOS,⁷ we focused on the bond construction of imidazopyridoindole in an attempt to develop an expeditious protocol for the synthesis of analogues of this value-added scaffold.

In our reaction design, methyl ketone and tryptamine were employed to produce the target using a cascade coupling reaction⁸ driven by C–H oxidation,⁹ followed by two-fold cyclization¹⁰ sequences. The cross-trapping of two in situ generated acylimine intermediates *2H*- β -carboline-acylimine (**T1**) and 1-imino-2-one derivative (**T2**) are considered as a key approach. However, **T1** is unable to be trapped by additional nitrogen donor, but could be rapidly transformed into fully aromatic β -carboline in high temperature and high oxidizing conditions.¹¹ As a result, the most challenging aspect of this synthesis was the modulation of the reaction pathway through versatile reactive intermediates.¹² We assumed that to

regulate the oxidative environment and strike a balance between ensuring that C–H oxidation runs smoothly and avoiding overoxidation of **T1**. Furthermore, the in situ trapping of **T1** is rarely reported but a significant way to develop new method for the synthesis of indole alkaloid-like skeletons. Herein, a successful execution of our logic design is reported, providing an unprecedented one-pot one-stage synthesis of imidazopyridoindoles (Figure 1-c).

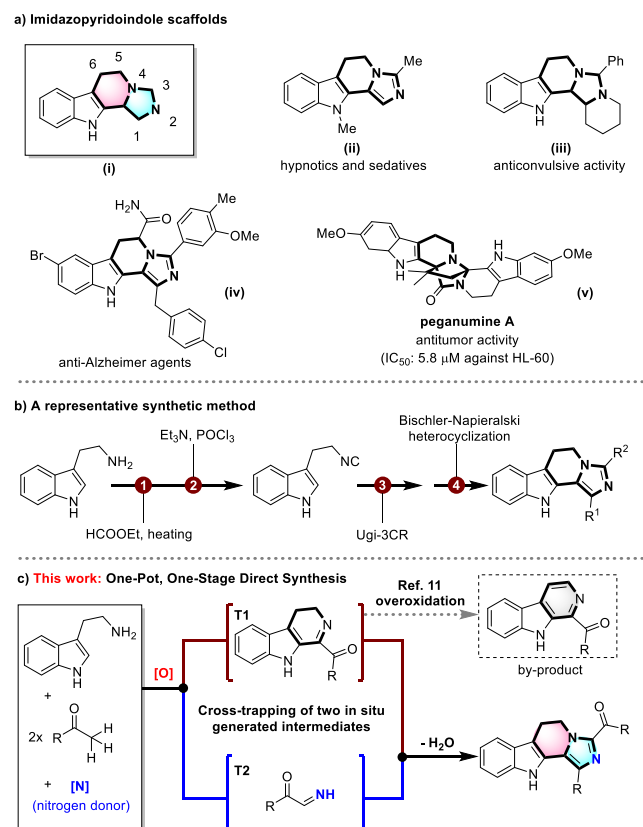
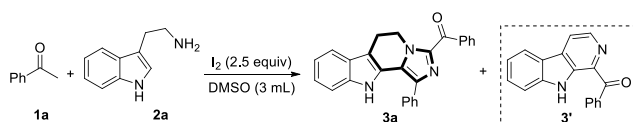


Figure 1. Representative Imidazopyridoindole Compounds and Related Synthetic Methods.

Our study commenced with the model reaction of acetophenone (**1a**) and tryptamine (**2a**) with 2.0 equiv of NH_4Cl at 110°C . To realize C–H oxidation, 2.5 equiv of I_2 and solvent DMSO, were used. TFA (1.0 equiv) was also added to promote C–H oxidation and the Pictet–Spengler reaction.¹³ The major product was the single cyclization product, β -carboline **3'**. To our delight, a small amount (<10% yield) of imidazopyridoindole **3a** was obtained (Table 1, entry 1). However, the high temperature had led to the strong oxidation environment generating **3'**. A lower temperature (70°C) was attempted in the presence of additional oxidant oxone (0.2 equiv) to ensure $\text{C}(\text{sp}^3)\text{--H}$ oxidation of acetophenone (**1a**). This resulted in a significant improvement, with a 31% yield of **3a** and suppression of **3'** generation (entry 2). Next, different nitrogen donors were investigated, of which ammonium molybdate gave the best result (85% of **3a** and <10% of **3'**) (entries 3–7). Yields were not further improved when switching TFA with other acids, such as TFAA, TfOH, HI, or Lewis acid $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (entries 8–11). Furthermore, a variety of oxidants were screened, but failed to improve the yields (entries 12–15). Finally, we optimized the nitrogen donor dosage with the results showing that 1/3 equiv of ammonium molybdate gave the best yield (entry 7).

Table 1. Reaction Optimization^(a).

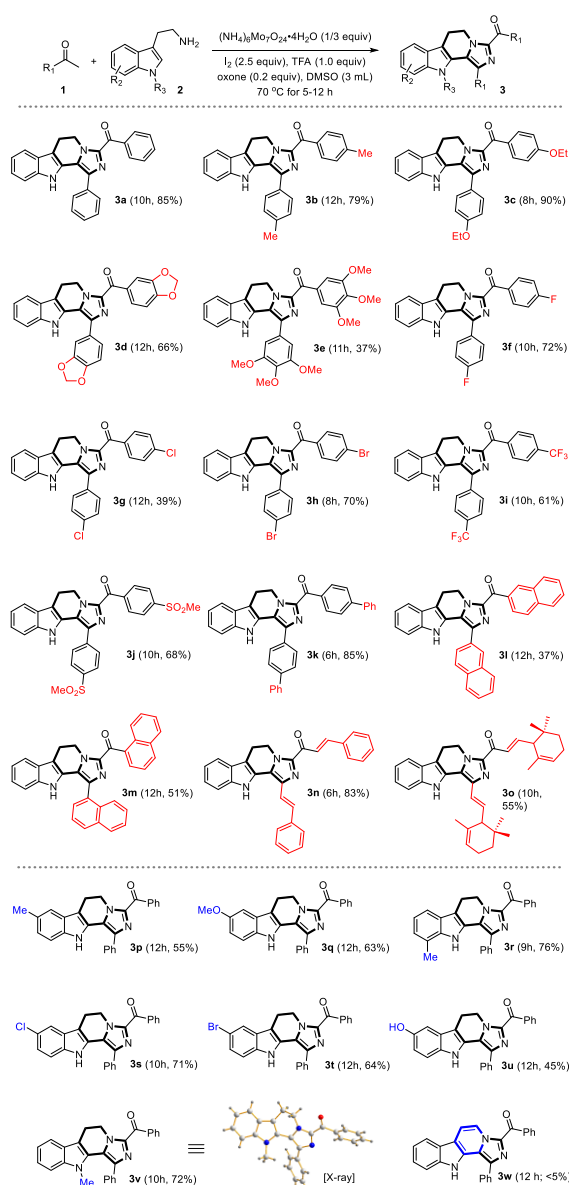


entry	[N] (2.0)	acid (1.0)	oxidant (0.2)	temp. (°C)	3a (3') (%) ^(b)
1	NH ₄ Cl	TFA	-	110	<10 (77)
2	NH ₄ Cl	TFA	oxone	70	31 (43)
3	NH ₄ OAc	TFA	oxone	70	trace
4	NH ₃ ·H ₂ O	TFA	oxone	70	trace
5	NH ₄ PF ₆	TFA	oxone	70	54 (27)
6	NH ₄ Al(SO ₄) ₂	TFA	oxone	70	trace
7	ammonium molybdate (1/3)	TFA	oxone	70	85 (<10)
8	AM ^(c) (1/3)	TFAA	oxone	70	trace
9	AM (1/3)	TfOH	oxone	70	67
10	AM (1/3)	HI ^(d)	oxone	70	trace
11	AM (1/3)	Cu(NO ₃) ₂ 3H ₂ O	oxone	70	trace
12	AM (1/3)	TFA	H ₂ O ₂	70	trace
13	AM (1/3)	TFA	Na ₂ S ₂ O ₄	70	49
14	AM (1/3)	TFA	K ₂ S ₂ O ₄	70	66
15	AM (1/3)	TFA	TBHP	70	21

^(a) Reaction conditions: **1a** (2.0 mmol), **2a** (1.0 mmol), acid, oxidant and I_2 (2.5 mmol) were added in DMSO (3.0 mL) and stirred for 10 h. Reactions were carried out in a pressure vessel. ^(b)Isolated yields. ^(c)AM = ammonium molybdate ((NH₄)₆Mo₇O₂₄·4H₂O). ^(d)Using hydriodic acid, 57 wt.% solution in H₂O. TFA = trifluoroacetic acid. Oxone = potassium peroxomonosulfate. TFAA = trifluoroacetic anhydride. TBHP = t-butyl hydroperoxide.

With optimal conditions in hand, we tested the reaction scope using various substituted methyl ketones and tryptamine derivatives (Scheme 1). Aryl methyl ketones bearing electron-donating groups (4-Me, 4-OEt) gave good yields (**3b**, 79%; **3c**, 90%). However, when bearing more than one electron-donating substituents (3,4-OCH₂O, 3,4,5-OCH₃), desired imidazopyridoindoles **3d** and **3e** were furnished in relative low yields (66% and 37%, respectively). Aromatic ketones bearing halogen substituents, such as 4-F, 4-Cl, and 4-Br, afforded the corresponding products in moderate yields (**3f**, 72%; **3g**, 39%; **3h**, 70%), allowing further modifications. When electron-withdrawing substituents were employed, desired products bearing 4-CF₃, 4-SO₂Me, and 4-Ph groups were readily prepared (**3i**, 61%; **3j**, 68%; **3k**, 85%). Sterically hindered substituents 2-naphthyl methyl ketone and 1-naphthyl methyl ketone were also transformed into products with moderate yields (**3l**, 37%; **3m**, 51%) under these conditions. We investigated using unsaturated methyl ketones to further expand the scope. (E)-4-phenylbut-3-en-2-one afforded imidazopyridoindole **3n** smoothly

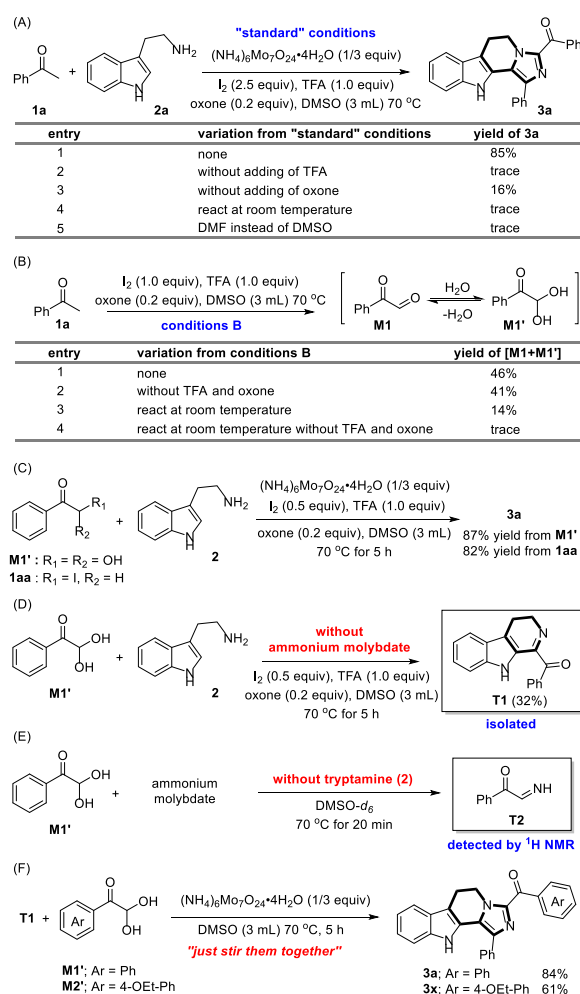
in 83% yield. Fatty chain substrate α -ionone was also applicable, producing **3o** in 55% yield. These results determined that sensitive groups were tolerated under these mild conditions. However, this reaction still has limitations in substrate scope. For example, simple ketone such as propan-2-one could not transform into desired product. Ethyl acetate, N-phenylacetamide and 4-phenylbut-3-yn-2-one are also failed to afford the corresponding imidazopyridindole derivatives. Next, we investigated tryptamine substrate scope. Tryptamines bearing electron-donating groups (5-Me, 5-OMe, and 7-Me) afforded **3p–3r** in moderate yields (55–76%). Sensitive halogens groups were also tolerated (**3s**, 71%; **3t**, 64%). Therefore, the electronic nature of the tryptamine substrates had little influence on the reactivity. To our delight, serotonin,¹⁴ which is a privileged scaffold in bioactivity studies, afforded **3u** in 45% yield. Furthermore, N-Me tryptamine congeners were well tolerated, furnishing desired product **3v** in reasonable yield (72%), for which the structure was unambiguously confirmed by X-ray crystallography (please see Supporting information Fig. S2 and Table S1). Natural tryptophan could not be converted to imidazopyridindole targets. Instead, a little trace of β -carboline-imidazo was obtained through decarboxylative oxidation (**3w**, <5%).



Scheme 1. Scope of Imidazopyridindole Synthesis.

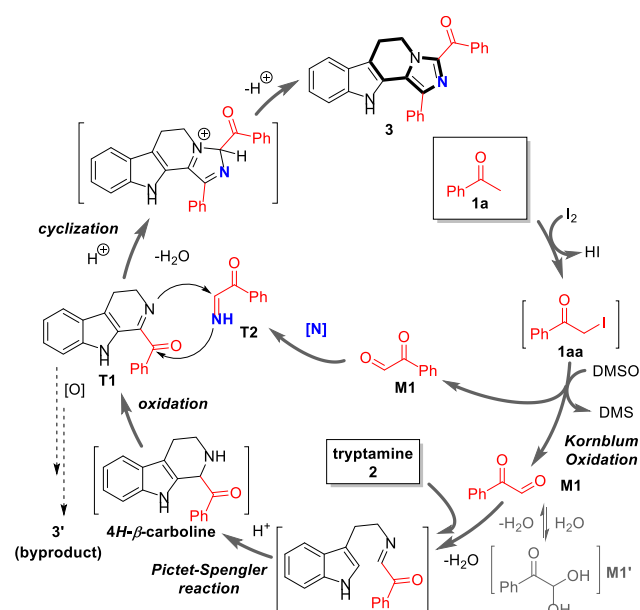
Next, we investigated the mechanism experimentally. The reaction of **1a** under standard conditions without

adding TFA or oxone, the yield of **3a** decreased sharply (Scheme 2-A, entries 2 and 3). When react at room temperature or replace DMSO to DMF, the transformation did not occur (Scheme 2-A, entries 4 and 5). These results determined that, acid, oxidant, proper heating temperature and DMSO are all necessary. Next, we conducted **1a** in a similar condition without adding tryptamine and nitrogen donor, oxidation product **M1** and its hydrate isomer **M1'** could be isolated with or without TFA and oxone. However, when reacted at room temperature, **M1** and **M1'** could only be detected with the addition of TFA and oxone which determined that TFA and oxone could promote C(sp³)-H oxidation approach in low temperature (Scheme 2-B). Using commercially available **M1'** or prepared 2-iodo-1-phenylethanone (**1aa**) with tryptamine (2:1 mole ratio) under standard conditions with 0.5 equiv of I₂, **3a** could be afforded in 87% and 82% yield, respectively (Scheme 2-C) which determined **M1** and **1aa** are key intermediates. To the same reaction without adding nitrogen donor, 2*H*- β -carboline-acylimine **T1** could be isolated in 32% yield (Scheme 2-D). Conducted **M1'** and ammonium molybdate (6: 1 mole ratio) in DMSO-*d*₆ for 20 min afford 2-imino-1-phenylethanone **T2** (Scheme 2-E, please see Supporting information Fig. S1). According to these results, we suggested that **T1** and **T2** are both key intermediates. Reaction of **T1**, ammonium molybdate and phenylglyoxal hydrated species (**M1'**) or 1-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2,2-dihydroxyethanone (**M2'**) gave desired products **3a** or asymmetric product **3x** in 84% and 61% yield, respectively (Scheme 2-F), the by-product is also **3'**. These results proved our hypothesis that the reaction pathway involving a cross-trapping of two in situ generated acylimine intermediates **T1** and **T2**.



Scheme 2. Control Experiments.

Based on the above results and related reports,¹⁵ a mechanism is proposed in Scheme 3. Initially, the combination of I₂, DMSO, TFA and oxone enabled oxidation of C (sp³)-H in methyl ketones in a relative low temperature gave phenylglyoxal **M1**. The Pictet–Spengler reaction of **M1** and tryptamine then afforded the 4H- β -carboline intermediate which is unstable. It could transform into 2H- β -carboline-acylimine **T1** quickly. As a minor pathway, **T1** could undergo overoxidation to generate β -carboline **3'** as a byproduct. However, under our mild oxidizing conditions, **T1** could be trapped by acylimine intermediates **T2** which generated in situ through the condensation of a nitrogen donor with another **M1**. Cyclization and proton transformation realize imidazole formation, affording the desired product, imidazopyridoindole **3**.

**Scheme 3.** Possible Reaction Mechanism.

In conclusion, we report the straightforward synthesis of value-added imidazopyridoindole scaffolds from simple materials. Mild oxidizing reaction conditions were chosen to generate 2H- β -carboline-acylimine, which could be trapped by subsequent cross-trapping without overoxidation. Using this approach, a wide library of imidazopyridoindoles with diverse substitution diversity can be readily prepared. The trapping strategy of 2H- β -carboline-acylimine intermediate will also give inspirations to prepare other indole alkaloid-like targets.

Experimental Section

General

All substrates and reagents were commercially available and used without further purification. TLC analysis was performed using pre-coated glass plates. Column chromatography was performed using alkaline aluminum oxide (200–300 mesh). IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer PE-983 infrared spectrometer as KBr pellets with absorption in cm⁻¹. ¹H spectra were recorded in CDCl₃ or DMSO-*d*₆ on 600 MHz NMR spectrometers and resonances (δ) are given in parts per million relative to tetramethylsilane. Data are

reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet q = quadruple), coupling constants (Hz) and integration. ^{13}C spectra were recorded in CDCl_3 or $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ on 150 MHz. NMR spectrometers and resonances (δ) are given in ppm. HRMS were obtained on a Bruker 7-tesla FT-ICR MS equipped with an electrospray source. The X-ray crystal structure determinations were obtained on a Bruker SMART APEX CCD system. Melting points were determined using XT-4 apparatus.

General procedure for the synthesis

A mixture of acetophenone **1a** (2.0 mmol), tryptamine **2a** (1.0 mmol), $(\text{NH}_4)_6\text{Mo}_7\text{O}_{24}\cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (ammonium molybdate) (0.33 mmol), trifluoroacetic acid (1.0 mmol), I_2 (2.5 mmol), potassium peroxomonosulfate (0.2 mmol) and DMSO (3.0 mL) were added in a pressure vessel, then stirred at 70 °C for 10 h. Then added 50 mL water and 30 mL saturated brine solution to the mixture and extracted with EtOAc 3 times (3×50 mL). The extract was washed with 10% $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ solution, dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (eluent: petroleum ether /EtOAc=7/1) to afford the product **3a** as yellow crystalline solid (330 mg, 85%).

Analytical Data for Compounds 3

phenyl(1-phenyl-6,11-dihydro-5H-imidazo [1',5':1,2]pyrido[3,4-b]indol-3-yl)methanone: (3a)

Yellow crystalline solid; 330 mg, 85% yield. mp = 214-215 °C; IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 1630, 1426, 1259, 1002, 907, 771, 676, cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.44 – 8.29 (m, 3H), 7.79 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.56 – 7.50 (m, 2H), 7.49 – 7.43 (m, 4H), 7.41 – 7.36 (m, 1H), 7.24 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.20 – 7.16 (m, 1H), 7.15 – 7.10 (m, 1H), 4.83 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.20 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 183.5, 142.4, 137.3, 136.7, 136.6, 134.4, 132.6, 131.0, 129.0, 128.13, 128.0, 127.7, 125.8, 124.8, 123.3, 120.4, 118.6, 111.4, 110.4, 103.7, 44.3, 20.7. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_3\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 390.1601, found 390.1605.

p-tolyl(1-(p-tolyl)-6,11-dihydro-5H-imidazo [1',5':1,2]pyrido[3,4-b]indol-3-yl)methanone: (3b)

Yellow crystalline solid; 327 mg, 79% yield. mp = 152-154 °C; IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 1623, 1603, 1438, 1328, 1261, 1177, 961, 906, 742 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.34 (s, 1H), 8.29 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.31 – 7.23 (m, 5H), 7.20 – 7.17 (m, 1H), 7.16 – 7.12 (m, 1H), 4.83 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.22 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 183.3, 143.5, 142.6, 138.0, 136.8, 136.6, 134.8, 131.6, 131.2, 129.8, 128.7, 127.6, 125.9, 125.0, 124.4, 123.1, 120.4, 118.6, 111.4, 110.1, 44.3, 21.7, 21.3, 20.8. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_3\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 418.1914, found 418.1910.

(4-ethoxyphenyl)(1-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-6,11-dihydro-5H-imidazo[1',5':1,2]pyrido[3,4-b]indol-3-yl)methanone: (3c)

Yellow crystalline solid; 429 mg, 90% yield. mp = 217-218 °C; IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 1618, 1598, 1444, , 1333, 1253, 1169, 1044 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.51 (s, 1H), 8.36 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.16-7.10 (m, 2H), 6.96 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.77 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.03-3.97 (m, 4H), 3.17 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.40 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.36 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 181.9, 162.7,

158.8, 142.5, 136.6, 136.3, 133.3, 129.9, 129.0, 126.6, 125.8, 125.2, 123.9, 122.9, 120.2, 118.4, 114.8, 113.6, 111.4, 109.7, 63.5, 63.4, 44.2, 20.7, 14.7. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{30}H_{28}N_3O_3^+$ (M+H)⁺ 478.2125, found 478.2137.

benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl(1-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-6,11-dihydro-5H-imidazo[1',5':1,2]pyrido[3,4-b]indol-3-yl)methanone: (3d)

Yellow crystalline solid; 315 mg, 66% yield. mp = 242-243 °C; IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 1620, 1479, 1256, 1027, 1005 cm^{-1} ; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.31 (s, 1H), 8.15 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (s, 1H), 7.58 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (s, 1H), 7.27 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 7.24 – 7.21 (m, 1H), 7.19 – 7.14 (m, 1H), 6.97 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.08-6.05 (m, 4H), 4.86 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.25 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 180.5, 151.4, 147.7, 147.2, 147.1, 141.9, 137.6, 135.6, 131.3, 127.9, 127.6, 125.5, 124.7, 124.2, 122.5, 121.2, 119.7, 118.5, 112.5, 110.3, 110.0, 108.9, 107.9, 102.0, 101.2, 79.2, 44.2, 20.2. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{28}H_{20}N_3O_5^+$ (M+H)⁺ 478.1397, found 478.1399.

(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)(1-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-6,11-dihydro-5H-imidazo[1',5':1,2]pyrido[3,4-b]indol-3-yl)methanone: (3e)

Yellow crystalline solid; 209 mg, 37% yield. mp = 261-264 °C; IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 1631, 1576, 1465, 1451, 1336, 1326, 1127, 1003, 767 cm^{-1} ; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 11.09 (s, 1H), 7.90 (s, 2H), 7.58 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.20 – 7.10 (m, 3H), 7.10 – 7.04 (m, 1H), 4.78 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 3.89 (s, 6H), 3.81-3.79 (m, 9H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.21 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 180.7, 153.3, 152.3, 141.8, 137.7, 137.1, 135.7, 132.0, 129.1, 125.4, 124.7, 122.8, 119.8, 118.6, 112.4, 110.9, 108.5, 104.0, 60.3, 60.1, 55.9, 55.5, 44.4, 20.2. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{32}H_{32}N_3O_7^+$ (M+H)⁺ 570.2235, found 570.2233.

(4-fluorophenyl)(1-(4-fluorophenyl)-6,11-dihydro-5H-imidazo[1',5':1,2]pyrido[3,4-b]indol-3-yl)methanone: (3f)

Yellow crystalline solid; 307 mg, 72% yield. mp = 243-245 °C; IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 1666, 1632, 1598, 1437, 1223, 1154, 907 cm^{-1} ; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.51 – 8.39 (m, 2H), 8.20 (s, 1H), 7.81 – 7.72 (m, 2H), 7.58 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.25-7.13 (m, 6H), 4.87 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.26 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 181.9, 166.5, 161.9, 142.3, 136.7, 135.8, 133.7, 133.7, 133.6, 133.6, 130.5, 129.6, 129.5, 125.8, 124.8, 124.6, 123.6, 120.6, 118.8, 116.3, 116.1, 115.3, 115.1, 111.5, 110.8, 44.5, 20.8. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{26}H_{18}F_2N_3O^+$ (M+H)⁺ 426.1412, found 426.1415.

(4-chlorophenyl)(1-(4-chlorophenyl)-6,11-dihydro-5H-imidazo[1',5':1,2]pyrido[3,4-b]indol-3-yl)methanone: (3g)

Orange crystalline solid; 187 mg, 39% yield. mp = 286-287 °C; IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 1635, 1586, 1438, 1284, 1089, 960, 741 cm^{-1} ; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.95 (s, 1H), 8.30 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.79 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.66 – 7.50 (m, 5H), 7.44 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.19 – 7.12 (m, 1H), 7.10 – 7.04

(m, 1H), 4.74 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.20 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 181.4, 141.9, 137.8, 135.9, 134.8, 132.6, 132.5, 132.4, 129.1, 129.0, 128.3, 125.5, 125.4, 124.3, 122.8, 119.8, 118.7, 112.5, 111.1, 44.2, 20.3. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{17}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_3\text{ONa}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$ 480.0641, found 480.0636.

(4-bromophenyl)(1-(4-bromophenyl)-6,11-dihydro-5H-imidazo[1',5':1,2]pyrido[3,4-b]indol-3-yl)methanone: (3h)

Orange powder solid; 381 mg, 70% yield. mp = 277-278 °C; IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 1636, 1440, 1259, 903, 831, 740 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.28 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 8.20 (s, 1H), 7.70 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.62 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.59 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.24 (s, 1H), 7.20 – 7.16 (m, 1H), 4.89 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.27 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 182.3, 142.4, 136.8, 136.1, 135.7, 133.3, 132.6, 132.4, 131.4, 129.3, 128.1, 125.8, 125.2, 124.4, 123.8, 122.4, 120.7, 118.9, 111.6, 111.2, 44.5, 20.8. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{18}\text{Br}_2\text{N}_3\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 545.98111, found 545.98114.

(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)(1-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-6,11-dihydro-5H-imidazo[1',5':1,2]pyrido[3,4-b]indol-3-yl)methanone: (3i)

Yellow crystalline solid; 322 mg, 61% yield. mp = 228-230 °C; IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 1643, 1620, 1326, 1119, 1108, 1066, cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.47 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 8.20 (s, 1H), 7.94 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.78 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.74 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.20 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.91 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.29 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 182.4, 142.4, 140.2, 137.9, 136.9, 135.5, 134.0, 133.7, 131.2, 130.3, 130.0, 129.9, 127.8, 126.2, 126.0, 125.7, 125.0, 124.8, 124.6, 124.0, 123.1, 122.8, 120.9, 119.0, 111.8, 111.6, 103.9, 44.5, 20.8. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{18}\text{F}_6\text{N}_3\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 526.1349, found 526.1347.

(4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl)(1-(4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl)-6,11-dihydro-5H-imidazo[1',5':1,2]pyrido[3,4-b]indol-3-yl)methanone: (3j)

Orange crystalline solid; 386 mg, 68% yield. mp = 237-240 °C; IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 1637, 1441, 1330, 1295, 1151, 780 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 11.12 (s, 1H), 8.43 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 8.17 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.11 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 8.04 (s, 3H), 7.62 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.21 – 7.15 (m, 1H), 7.12 – 7.05 (m, 1H), 4.79 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.32 (s, 3H), 3.28 (s, 3H), 3.24 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 181.9, 143.7, 142.1, 141.4, 139.6, 138.6, 138.0, 134.6, 131.4, 130.2, 128.0, 127.8, 127.4, 126.7, 126.6, 125.5, 124.0, 123.2, 120.0, 118.9, 112.6, 111.9, 44.2, 43.7, 43.3, 20.2. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_3\text{O}_5\text{S}_2\text{Na}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 568.0971, found 568.1000.

[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl(1-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-6,11-dihydro-5H-imidazo[1',5':1,2]pyrido[3,4-b]indol-3-yl)methanone: (3k)

Yellow crystalline solid; 461 mg, 85% yield. mp = 185-186 °C; IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 1631, 1600, 1440, 1264, 909, 747, 694 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.54 (s, 1H), 8.38 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.83 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 7H), 7.42 – 7.38 (m, 2H), 7.35 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 7.31 – 7.27 (m, 1H), 7.20 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.14 – 7.10 (m, 1H), 4.68 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.08 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 182.9, 145.2, 142.7, 140.7, 140.3, 140.1, 136.8, 136.4, 136.1, 133.3, 131.6, 128.8, 128.1, 127.7, 127.5, 127.3, 126.9, 126.6, 125.8, 124.9, 123.3, 120.4, 118.7, 111.6, 110.6, 44.3, 20.7. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{38}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_3\text{O}^+$ (M+H) $^+$ 542.2227, found 542.2214.

**naphthalen-2-yl(1-(naphthalen-2-yl)-6,11-dihydro-5H-imidazo[1',5':1,2]pyrido[3,4-b]indol-3-yl)metha
none: (3l)**

Yellow crystalline solid; 181 mg, 37% yield. mp = 198-200 °C; IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 1688, 1629, 1441, 1021, 783 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.45 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 8.11 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (dd, J = 16.4, 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.87 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.72 – 7.67 (m, 2H), 7.57 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 7.54 – 7.49 (m, 3H), 7.44 – 7.40 (m, 1H), 7.16 – 7.11 (m, 2H), 7.09 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 5.15 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.38 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 186.73, 143.46, 136.70, 135.54, 135.51, 135.27, 134.11, 133.85, 132.19, 131.88, 131.29, 130.61, 129.29, 128.43, 128.38, 127.71, 127.17, 126.90, 126.66, 126.35, 126.07, 125.88, 125.77, 125.58, 125.40, 124.56, 124.33, 123.33, 120.44, 118.78, 111.39, 110.27, 77.21, 77.00, 76.79, 44.57, 20.93. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_3\text{O}^+$ (M+H) $^+$ 490.19139, found 490.19138.

**naphthalen-1-yl(1-(naphthalen-1-yl)-6,11-dihydro-5H-imidazo[1',5':1,2]pyrido[3,4-b]indol-3-yl)metha
none: (3m)**

Yellow crystalline solid; 250 mg, 51% yield. mp = 111-112 °C; IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 1629, 1590, 1463, 1331, 1251, 903, 783, 775, 727 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 10.41 (s, 1H), 8.28 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.01-7.96 (m, 4H), 7.64-7.56 (m, 6H), 7.51 – 7.47 (m, 1H), 7.36 – 7.32 (m, 1H), 7.30 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.12 – 7.08 (m, 1H), 7.08 – 7.04 (m, 1H), 5.06 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.35 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 186.4, 142.8, 137.7, 136.2, 135.3, 133.8, 133.1, 131.6, 131.2, 130.7, 130.5, 129.1, 128.6, 128.4, 128.1, 127.6, 127.1, 127.1, 126.2, 126.1, 125.9, 125.9, 125.5, 124.6, 124.3, 122.6, 119.6, 118.6, 112.4, 110.2, 44.2, 20.3. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_3\text{O}^+$ (M+H) $^+$ 490.19139, found 490.1938.

**(E)-3-phenyl-1-(1-((E)-styryl)-6,11-dihydro-5H-imidazo[1',5':1,2]pyrido[3,4-b]indol-3-yl)prop-2-en-1-o
ne: (3n)**

Yellow powder; 366 mg, 83% yield. mp = 234-247 °C; IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 1644, 1633, 1599, 1574, 1447, 1260, 1040, 802 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.57 (s, 1H), 8.16 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 7.71-7.70 (m, 2H), 7.61 (s, 1H), 7.60 – 7.57 (m, 2H), 7.46 (s, 1H), 7.42-7.40 (m, 3H), 7.38 (s, 1H), 7.32 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.25 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 7.21-7.18 (m, 2H), 4.87 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H),

3.18 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 180.1, 143.4, 143.3, 137.7, 137.0, 135.0, 134.7, 130.7, 130.4, 128.8, 128.7, 127.9, 126.7, 126.5, 126.1, 125.1, 123.6, 123.2, 120.8, 119.0, 118.5, 111.6, 111.3, 44.0, 20.8. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_3\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 442.1914, found 442.1915.

(E)-3-(2,6,6-trimethylcyclohex-2-en-1-yl)-1-(1-((E)-2-(2,6,6-trimethylcyclohex-2-en-1-yl)vinyl)-6,11-dihydro-5H-imidazo[1',5':1,2]pyrido[3,4-b]indol-3-yl)prop-2-en-1-one: (3o)

Yellow oil; 293 mg, 55% yield. IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 1632.43, cm^{-1} ; IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 1653, 1447, 1420, 1283, 1095, 1025, 801 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.55 (s, 1H), 7.56 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.44 (d, $J = 15.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.17 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.97 (dd, $J = 15.6, 10.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.57 (d, $J = 15.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.41 (dd, $J = 15.6, 10.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.56 (s, 1H), 5.46 (s, 1H), 4.91 (s, 1H), 4.83 (d, $J = 4.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.17 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.43 (d, $J = 10.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.32 (d, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.08 (s, 2H), 2.04 (s, 2H), 1.72 (s, 3H), 1.58 (s, 3H), 1.24-1.22 (m, 2H), 0.96 (s, 3H), 0.93 (s, 6H), 0.87 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 180.1, 149.4, 142.8, 137.3, 135.0, 134.3, 133.5, 132.1, 127.5, 125.9, 125.4, 125.1, 123.2, 122.2, 121.5, 120.4, 118.7, 111.4, 110.3, 55.1, 54.3, 43.9, 32.5, 32.1, 31.2, 31.1, 28.0, 27.7, 26.8, 26.6, 23.0, 22.8, 22.8, 20.8. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{44}\text{N}_3\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 534.3479, found 534.3478.

(8-methyl-1-phenyl-6,11-dihydro-5H-imidazo[1',5':1,2]pyrido[3,4-b]indol-3-yl)(phenyl)methanone:

(3p)

Yellow crystalline solid; 221 mg, 55% yield. mp = 236-238 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 1727, 1627, 1449, 1276, 1025, 798 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.43 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 8.31 (s, 1H), 7.84 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.59 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.55 – 7.47 (m, 4H), 7.44 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.39 (s, 1H), 7.19 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.87 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.23 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.50 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 183.7, 142.5, 137.5, 135.0, 134.6, 132.7, 131.1, 129.9, 129.2, 128.2, 128.1, 128.0, 127.8, 126.1, 125.1, 124.9, 118.4, 111.1, 110.1, 44.5, 21.5, 20.8. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_3\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 404.1757, found 404.1758.

(8-methoxy-1-phenyl-6,11-dihydro-5H-imidazo[1',5':1,2]pyrido[3,4-b]indol-3-yl)(phenyl)methanone:

(3q)

Yellow crystalline solid; 264 mg, 63% yield. mp = 171-174 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 1627, 1450, 1428, 1414, 1325, 1288, 1176, 924, 697 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.39 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 8.19 (s, 1H), 7.81 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.56 (s, 1H), 7.49-7.41 (m, 4H), 7.43 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.98 (s, 1H), 6.87 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.95 – 4.82 (m, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.29 – 3.16 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 183.5, 154.5, 142.4, 137.4, 136.7, 134.4, 132.6, 131.7, 131.0, 129.0, 128.1, 127.9, 127.7, 126.2, 125.4, 124.9, 113.6, 112.2, 110.1, 100.0, 55.7, 44.3, 20.7. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 420.1707, found 420.1709.

(10-methyl-1-phenyl-6,11-dihydro-5H-imidazo[1',5':1,2]pyrido[3,4-b]indol-3-yl)(phenyl)methanone:

(3r)

Yellow powder; 306 mg, 76% yield. mp = 126-127 °C; IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 1634, 1451, 1433, 1261, 1022, 802, 680, cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.38 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 8.19 (s, 1H), 7.83 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.53 – 7.36 (m, 7H), 7.04 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 4.81 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.16 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 183.4, 142.4, 137.3, 136.6, 136.1, 134.5, 132.6, 130.9, 128.9, 128.2, 127.9, 127.6, 125.3, 124.9, 124.4, 123.8, 120.6, 120.3, 116.4, 110.9, 44.3, 20.8, 16.3. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_3\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 404.1757, found 404.1759.

(8-chloro-1-phenyl-6,11-dihydro-5H-imidazo[1',5':1,2]pyrido[3,4-b]indol-3-yl)(phenyl)methanone: (3s)

Yellow crystalline solid; 300 mg, 71% yield. mp = 232-233 °C; IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 1637, 1277, 1049, 1025, 1005, 674 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 11.09 (s, 1H), 8.28 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 7.80 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 7.66 (s, 2H), 7.58 – 7.49 (m, 4H), 7.45 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.74-4.72 (m, 2H), 3.20-3.19 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 183.45, 142.49, 137.15, 137.02, 134.99, 134.13, 132.66, 130.89, 129.02, 128.12, 127.89, 127.62, 126.77, 126.11, 125.90, 124.20, 123.22, 117.94, 112.51, 109.62, 44.18, 20.52. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{19}\text{ClN}_3\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 424.12112, found 424.12112.

(8-bromo-1-phenyl-6,11-dihydro-5H-imidazo[1',5':1,2]pyrido[3,4-b]indol-3-yl)(phenyl)methanone: (3t)

Yellow crystalline solid; 298 mg, 64% yield. mp = 214-217 °C; IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 1626, 1449, 1431, 1275, 962, 789, 687 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.39 (s, 1H), 8.36 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.78 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (s, 1H), 7.57 – 7.54 (m, 1H), 7.50 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.43 – 7.40 (m, 1H), 7.25 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.85 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.18 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 183.7, 142.7, 137.2, 135.2, 134.3, 132.8, 131.0, 129.2, 128.3, 128.0, 127.8, 127.6, 126.0, 124.2, 121.3, 113.6, 112.8, 109.6, 44.3, 20.6. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{19}\text{BrN}_3\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 468.0706, found 468.0707.

(8-hydroxy-1-phenyl-6,11-dihydro-5H-imidazo[1',5':1,2]pyrido[3,4-b]indol-3-yl)(phenyl)methanone: (3u)

Yellow crystalline solid; 182 mg, 45% yield. mp = 243-245 °C; IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 1634, 1451, 1432, 1293, 1046, 976, 695 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 10.91 (s, 1H), 9.42 (s, 1H), 8.28 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.78 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.62 – 7.46 (m, 4H), 7.43 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.76-4.74 (m, 2H), 3.50-3.48 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 182.9, 146.9, 142.0, 137.3, 136.2, 133.8, 132.8, 130.7, 129.0, 128.1, 127.8, 127.4, 125.9, 124.5, 123.6, 113.6, 111.8, 109.6, 108.9, 44.2, 21.5. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 406.15500, found 406.15503.

(11-methyl-1-phenyl-6,11-dihydro-5H-imidazo[1',5':1,2]pyrido[3,4-b]indol-3-yl)(phenyl)methanone:

(3v)

Yellow crystalline solid; 290 mg, 72% yield. mp = 161-164 °C; IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 1631, 1453, 1434, 1267, 902, 742, 731, 695, cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 8.31 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.71 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 3.20 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 3.18 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 182.8, 142.4, 139.5, 137.2, 136.6, 134.9, 132.9, 130.7, 128.7, 128.4, 128.2, 128.1, 125.7, 124.3, 122.8, 120.2, 119.0, 111.8, 110.7, 44.1, 33.5, 20.9. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_3\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 404.1757, found 404.1759.

(4-ethoxyphenyl)(1-phenyl-6,11-dihydro-5H-imidazo[1',5':1,2]pyrido[3,4-b]indol-3-yl)methanone: (3x)

Yellow crystalline solid; 262 mg, 61% yield. mp = 190-192 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 10.87 (s, 1H), 8.35 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.83 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.58 – 7.47 (m, 3H), 7.46-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.14 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (t, J = 10.2 Hz, 3H), 4.69 (s, 2H), 4.10 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.17 (s, 2H), 1.35 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 181.2, 162.5, 142.4, 137.7, 135.6, 134.0, 133.2, 129.6, 129.0, 127.7, 127.3, 125.6, 124.8, 124.4, 122.6, 119.7, 118.5, 113.9, 112.6, 110.5, 63.6, 44.1, 20.3, 14.6. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 434.18630, found 434.18631.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT**Supporting Information**

Crystallographic data and copies of the ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra are involved. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

AUTHOR INFORMATION**Corresponding Author**

E-mail: chwuax@mail.ccnu.edu.cn.

Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We are grateful to the National Natural Science Foundation of China (Grant Nos. 21472056 and 21602070) and the Fundamental Research Funds for the Central Universities (CCNU15ZX002 and CCNU16A05002) for financial support. This work was also supported by the 111 Project B17019. We acknowledge an Excellent Doctoral Dissertation Cultivation Grant from Central China Normal University (2015YBYB089).

REFERENCES

- 1 J. B. Fourtillan, M. Fourtillan, O. Karam, F. Zunino, J. C. Jacquesy, J. P. Tafani, Dihydroimidazo[5,1-a]- β -carboline derivatives, method for preparing same and use thereof as medicine US20060089372 A1.

- 1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
- 2 M. Stanislaw, D. Malgorzata, E. Chojnacka-Wojcik, E. Tatar-czynska, A. Lewandowska, *Pol. J. Pharmacol. Pharm.* **1986**, *38*, 403-405.
- 3 (a) R. A. Houghten, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* **1985**, *82*, 5131-5135. (b) N. Reixach, E. Crooks, J. M. Ostresh, R. A. Houghten, S. E. Blondelle, *J. Struct. Biol.* **2000**, *130*, 247-258. (c) J. M. Ostresh, R. A. Houghten, US Patent 5856107, **1999**. (d) Nefzi, A. Ostresh, J. M. Yu, J. P. Houghten, R. A. J. *Org. Chem.* **2004**, *69*, 3603-3609.
- 4 (a) K. B. Wang, Y. T. Di, Y. Bao, C. M. Yuan, G. Chen, D. H. Li, J. Bai, H. P. He, X. J. Hao, Y. H. Pei, Y. K. Jing, Z. L. Li, H. M. Hua, *Org. Lett.* **2014**, *16*, 4028-4031. (b) C. Piemontesi, Q. Wang, J. P. Zhu, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2016**, *138*, 11148-11151.
- 5 (a) R. A. Glennon, B. Grella, R. J. Tyacke, A. Lau, J. Westa-way, A. L. Hudson, *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **2004**, *14*, 527-529. (b) B. Juskowiak, E. Galezowsk, N. Koczorowska. T. W. Hermann, *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **2004**, *14*, 3627-3630. (c) J. M. Ostresh, Preparation and biological activity of imidaz-opyridindole and imidazopyridobenzothiophene combinatorial libraries. WO 9834112, A1 (d) C. Brochu, C. Grand-Maitre, M. Joly, C. Kuhn, M. Bertrand-Laperle, M. Pesant, Preparation of tetrahydro-azafluorene analogs as hepatitis C inhibitors. WO 2013026162, A1.
- 6 (a) A. Silvani, G. Lesma, S. Crippa, V. Vece, *Tetrahedron*, **2014**, *70*, 3994-4001. (b) J. M. Saya, B. Oppelaar, R. C. Cioc, G. Heijden, C. M. L. V. Velde, R. V. A. Orru, E. Ruijter, *Chem. Commun.* **2016**, *52*, 12482-12485. (c) I. W. Elliott, *J. Org. Chem.*, **1962**, *27*, 3302-3305. (d) Y. Kanaoka, E. Sato, O. Yonemitsu, *Tetrahedron*, **1968**, *24*, 2591-2594.
- 7 (a) A. Noren-Muller, J. I. Reis-Corrêa, H. Prinz, C. Rosenbaum, K. Saxena, H. J. Schwalbe, D. Vestweber, G. Cagna, S. Schunk, O. Schwarz, H. Schiewe, H. Waldmann, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **2006**, *103*, 10606-10611. (b) E. Ruijter, R. Scheffelaar, R. V. A. Orru, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, *50*, 6234-6246.
- 8 (a) C. L. Sun, B. J. Li, Z. J. Shi, *Chem. Rev.* **2011**, *111*, 1293-1314; (b) C. J. Li, *Acc. Chem. Res.* **2009**, *42*, 335-344. (c) X. Chen, K. M. Engle, D. H. Wang, J. Q. Yu, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2009**, *48*, 5094-5115.
- 9 (a) E. J. Horn, B. R. Rosen, Y. Chen, J. Z. Tang, K. Chen, M. D. Eastgate, P. S. Baran, *Nature* **2016**, *533*, 77-81. (b) Y. Ka-wamata, M. Yan, Z. Q. Liu, D. H. Bao, J. S. Chen, J. T. Starr, P. S. Baran, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2017**, *139*, 7448-7451. (c) Y. F. Liang, X. Y. Li, X. Y. Wang, M. C. Zou, C. H. Tang, Y. J. Liang, S. Song, N. Jiao, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2016**, *138*, 12271-12277. (d) W. Zhou, W. Y. Fan, Q. J. Jiang, Y. F. Liang, N. Jiao, *Org. Lett.* **2015**, *17*, 2542-2545. (e) K. Moriyama, M. Takemura, H. Togo, *Org. Lett.* **2012**, *14*, 2414-2417. (f) H. Peng, A. J. Lin, Y. Zhang, H. L. Jiang, J. C. Zhou, Y. X. Cheng, C. J. Zhu, H. W. Hu, *ACS Catal.* **2012**, *2*, 163-167.
- 10 (a) S. Z. Jiang, X. Y. Zeng, X. Liang, T. Lei, K. Wei, Y. R. Yang, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2016**, *55*, 4044-4048. (b) K. Mori, K. Kurihara, S. Yabe, M. Yamanaka, T. Akiyama, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2014**, *136*, 3744-3747. (c) L. N. Guo, X. H. Duan, X. Y. Liu, J. Hu, H. P. Bi, Y. M. Liang, *Org. Lett.* **2007**, *9*, 5425-5428. (d) Z. H. Ren, H. Guan, Z. Y. M. Liang, *J. Org. Chem.* **2009**, *74*, 3145-3147. (e) W. H. Chiou, Y. H. Lin, G. T. Chen, Y. K. Gao, Y. C. Tseng, C. L. Kao, J. C. Tsai, *Chem. Commun.*, **2011**, *47*, 3562-3564. (f) T. J. Li, Z. Q. Liu, H. M. Yin, C. S. Yao, B. Jiang, X. S. Wang, S. J. Tu, X. L. Li, G. G. Li, *J. Org. Chem.* **2013**, *78*, 11414-11420. (g) J. M. Tang, B. Q. Xu, X. Mao, H. Y. Yang, X. X. Wang, X. Lv, *J. Org. Chem.* **2015**, *80*, 11108-11114. (h) H. Y. Zhao, Y. C. Wang, X. L. Cao, Q. F. Pang, H. S. Wang, Y. M. Pan, *RSC Adv.* **2017**, *7*, 24011-24014.
- 11 (a) M. D. García, A. J. Wilson, D. P. G. Emmerson, P. R. Jenkins, *Chem. Commun.* **2006**, 2586-2588. (b) A. Kulkarni, M. Abid, B. Torok, X. D. Huang, *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2009**, *50*, 1791-1794. (c)

- 1
2
3 T. H. Trieu, J. Dong, Q. Zhang, B. Zheng, T. Z. Meng, X. Lu, X. X. Shi, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2013**,
4 3271–3277. (d) Zhu, Y. P.; Liu, M. C.; Cai, Q.; Jia, F. C.; Wu, A. X. *Chem. Eur. J.* **2013**, *19*,
5 10132–10137.
6
7 12 S. Y. Liu, W. F. Yao, Y. Liu, Q. H. Wei, J. H. Chen, X. Wu, F. Xia, W. H. Hu, *Sci. Adv.* **2017**, *3*,
8 e1602467.
9
10 13 J. Stöckigt, A. P. Antonchick, F. R. Wu, H. Waldmann, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, *50*, 8538–8564
11 and references cited therein.
12
13 14 (a) M. Dukat, P. D. Mosier, R. Kolanos, B. L. Roth, R. A. Glen-non, *J. Med. Chem.* **2008**, *51*,
14 603–611. (b) S. G. Yuan, Q. Peng, K. Palczewski, H. Vogel, S. Filipek, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2016**,
15 55, 8661–8665.
16
17 15 (a) C. Zhang, C. K. De, R. Mal, D. Seidel, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2008**, *130*, 416–417. (b) C. Zhang, D.
18 Das, D. Seidel, *Chem. Sci.*, **2011**, *2*, 233–236. (c) R. Salame, E. Gravel, K. Leblanc, E. Poupon, *Org.*
19 *Lett.* **2009**, *11*, 1891–1894. (d) H. H. Fang, X. Y. Wu, L. L. Nie, X. Y. Dai, J. Chen, W. G. Cao, G.
20 Zhao, *Org. Lett.* **2010**, *12*, 5366–5369. (e) C. A. Holloway, M. E. Muratore, R. L. Storer, D. J.
21 Dixon, *Org. Lett.* **2010**, *12*, 4720–4723. (f) D. Chandrasekhar, S. Borra, J. S. Kapure, G. S. Shivaji,
22 G. Srinivasulu, R. A. Maurya, *Org. Chem. Front.*, **2015**, *2*, 1308–1312. (g) D. Zhu, J. Sun, C. G.
23 Yan, *RSC Adv.*, **2014**, *4*, 62817–62826.
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60